EULAR European Congress of Rheumatology

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Abstracts

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Contact Details
Editorial Office
EULAR Journal Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases
BMJ Journals, BMA House, Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9JR, UK
E: ard@bmj.com

Production Editor
Teresa Jobson
E: production.ard@bmj.com

EULAR Executive Secretariat
Seestrasse 240, 8802 Klichen, Switzerland
E: eular@eular.org
www.eular.org

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OP0001  
**DECONVOLUTING IMMUNOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL HETEROGENEITY ACROSS AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES BY COHORT-WIDE IMMUNO-PHENOTYPING**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Genetics/Epigenetics, Rheumatoid arthritis

H. Tanaka 1, 2, Y. Okada 2, 3, 4, S. Nakayama 1, Y. Miyazaki 1, S. Namba 2, K. Sonehara 3, 5, Y. Shira 5, K. Yamamoto 3, K. Sonomoto 5, Y. Tanaka 1, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; 2Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Statistical Genetics, Suita, Japan; 3Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo, Department of Genome Informatics, Bunkyo City, Japan; 5RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, Laboratory for Systems Genetics, Yokohama, Japan

**Background:** Autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRDs) are systemic but heterogeneous diseases characterized by orchestration of disrupted self-tolerance of immune systems. We face a challenge in characterizing clinical immune features and selecting best treatment strategy of the AIRD patients.

**Objectives:** Deconvolution of immunological and clinical heterogeneity within and across AIRDs is an essential step towards implementation of personalized medicine. Immuno-phenotypes, immune-related cell types in peripheral blood mononuclear cells quantified by flow-cytometry analysis, can less invasively describe immune profiles of individuals and is considered as a promising technique.

**Methods:** We conducted large-scale and cohort-wide immunophenotyping of 46 peripheral immune cells using the Human Immunology Protocol of comprehensive 8-color flow cytometric analysis. The dataset consisted of >1,000 Japanese patients of 11 AIRDs and controls with deep clinical information registered at the FLOW study, including rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), systemic sclerosis (SSc), ANCA related vasculitis (AAV), idiopathic inflammatory myopathy (IIM), psoriasis, IgG4 related disease (IgG4RD), mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), Sjogren’s syndrome (SS), and giant cell arteritis (GCA). In depth and longitudinal clinical analysis was conducted for the identified RA patient clusters registered at the FIRST registry. Inborn human genetics represented by genome-wide polygenic risk score (PRS) were estimated for the RA patients.

**Results:** Multimodal clustering of immuno-phenotypes deciphered underlying disease-cell type network, providing immune cell type specificity shared or distinctly expressed across AIRDs, such as close immunological network of MCTD with SLE rather than with SSc. Individual patient-level clustering deconvoluted the AIRD patients into several clusters with different immunological features (Figure 1A). Of these, RA- or SLE-like clusters were exclusively dominant, showing immunological polarization between RA and SLE across AIRDs (the patient clusters 4-6 and 1-3 for RA and SLE, respectively; Figure 1B). In depth and longitudinal clinical analysis of RA revealed that such patient clusters differentially defined clinical heterogeneity in disease activity and treatment responses, which were supported by immune cell-type specificity (e.g., decreased regulatory T cells associated with treatment resistance in the RA patients with SLE-like imuno-phenotypes), PRS based on RA case-control genome-wide association study (GWAS) and within-case stratified RA GWAS were associated with patient characteristics, disease activity, and immuno-phenotypes of the RA patients, such as dendritic cells for RA-intestinal lung disease.

**Conclusion:** Our study demonstrated a value of cohort-wide and cross-disease immuno-phenotyping to elucidate clinically heterogenous patient subtypes existing within the single disease in an immune cell type-specific manner.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**OP0002  
EXPLORING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PREDICTING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, BASED ON EXTREMITY MR SCANS IN EARLY ARTHRITIS AND CLINICALLY SUSPECT ARTHRALGIA PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis, Artificial Intelligence

Y. Li 1, D. Shamonin 1, T. Hassanazadeh 1, M. Reijnierse 2, A. Van der Helm van Mi 2, B. Stoebl 1, Leiden University Medical Center, Division of Image Processing, Department of Radiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Radiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

**Background:** Predicting early rheumatoid arthritis (RA) from extremity MRI facilitates timely treatment, possibly preventing chronicity. Image interpretation by Artificial Intelligence (AI) may provide more accurate predictions than visual scoring.

**Objectives:** We developed a deep learning AI-method that automatically analyzes extremity MRI scans by pre- and post-processing images, in order to predict RA at an early stage.

**Methods:** MRI scans of the hands and feet from a total of 1974 patients were collected, consisting of 1247 early onset arthritis (EAC) patients, of whom 538 developed RA in two years, and 727 clinically suspect arthralgia (CSA) patients, of whom 113 developed RA. MRI scans were preprocessed automatically through background removal, slice-by-slice normalization and central slice selection. Subsequently, a self-supervised deep learning model was pre-trained to fill-in parts of the image that have been blinded by square patches (Figure 1(a), top row). Finally, after transferring the resulting weights, the model was fine-tuned to predict RA development (see Figure 1 (a) bottom row). The model was evaluated through 5-fold cross-validation and in a held-out test set (n=312 for EAC and n=146 for CSA). The model’s accuracy was evaluated with the area under the receiver operator curve (AUC). An improved class activation map was developed and applied to indicate, which areas were most important to the AI decision.

**Results:** On the test set, the proposed model obtained a mean AUC of 0.683 in the EAC group, and 0.727 in the CSA group, using MR scans of the hands (wrist and metacarpophalangeal joints). Models trained separately on the wrists, MCPs and feet, received a mean AUC of 0.679, 0.647, 0.664, and 0.688, 0.669, 0.715, for the EAC and CSA group, respectively (see Table 1). These accuracies were close to the expert-level using RAMRIS, with reported AUCs of 0.74 and 0.69 in predicting RA in CSA [1]. According to the proposed visualization method,
the deep learning models predict RA, based on very similar patterns of known (teno-)synovial inflammation and bone marrow edema (see Figure 1 (b)).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method:</th>
<th>Input</th>
<th>AUC RA in EAC</th>
<th>AUC RA in CSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MR scans</td>
<td>Wrist</td>
<td>0.679 (+0.021)</td>
<td>0.688 (+0.039)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ AI models</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.647 (+0.015)</td>
<td>0.669 (+0.024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCP</td>
<td>0.664 (+0.009)</td>
<td>0.715 (+0.026)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foot</td>
<td>0.683 (+0.025)</td>
<td>0.727 (+0.037)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.707 (+0.016)</td>
<td>0.708 (+0.068)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. The overall workflow of the AI model and visualization examples from correctly-predicted samples.

Conclusion: Automatic RA prediction is feasible, using AI interpretation of MRI scans. AI performed close to the level of human experts, including MRI data from healthy controls, as used in RAMRIS-based prediction [1], will probably improve the AI prediction further. The new visualization method not only confirms the significance of known inflammatory features but may also point to new imaging biomarkers, giving a different perspective of understanding RA.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Randomized control trial, Osteoarthritis, Health Services Research

A. Polster1, L. Ashpah2, A. T. Tvedt3, K. Bergsmark1, B. Christensen3, I. K. Haugen4, M. Hermann-Eriksen5, Å. Hove5, A. Praven6, T. Hennig7, T. A. Sjøvold8, I. Kjeken9, Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 2Oslo University Hospital, Health Economics, Oslo, Norway; 3Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Department for Rheumatology and Research, Oslo, Norway; 4Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Division of Clinical Service, Oslo, Norway; 5Martina Hansen Hospital, Sandvika, Norway

Background: Hand-osteoarthritis (HOA) is a prevalent rheumatic joint disease that significantly reduces quality of life. In Norway, HOA should mainly be managed in primary care, but patients often have insufficient access to recommended treatment options there and are instead frequently referred to rheumatologists. This leads to high healthcare costs and reduces the access to rheumatologists for patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases, for whom early diagnosis, disease modifying medication and tight controls may induce remission and prevent irreversible joint damage and long-term disability. Delegating the healthcare management and treatment of HOA to allied health professions such as occupational therapists may therefore free scarce healthcare resources and improve overall health economics.

Objectives: In this study we evaluated a new model of care in specialist healthcare, where HOA patients receive their first consultation by occupational therapists instead of rheumatologists. The objective was to test the non-inferiority of occupational therapist-led care (OTC) compared to rheumatologist-led care (RC) with regards to effectiveness defined as proportion of responders (based on OMERACT/OARSI criteria) and safety. In addition, we conducted a health economics evaluation comparing Quality-adjusted life years (QUALY’s) and treatment costs between the treatment groups and conducted a cost-economics analysis.

Methods: We conducted a randomized controlled multicentre parallel group trial in which we recruited 400 patients with symptomatic HOA and no signs of possible inflammatory rheumatic disease at two Norwegian hospitals. Participants were randomized (1:1, computer-based) to either OTC (n=200) or RC (n=200). Various demographic and clinical parameters were registered at baseline. Disease activity (numeric rating scale, NRS, 0-10, 0=no disease activity, pain (NRS, 0-10, 0=no pain) and function (using the MAP-hand questionnaire, 18 items averaged to a 1-4 score, 1=no problems) were registered at baseline and 6 months post-intervention, and the delta was used to determine if patients were responders/non-responders based on OMERACT/OARSI criteria. Chi2-test and logistic regression were used to compare the proportion of responders/non-responders per treatment arm, and to analyse the relationship between response status (as dependent variable) and treatment arm (as independent variables). Results of the logistic regression are presented as odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence interval (CI). Safety analysis was conducted by screening healthcare journals 12 months post-baseline for new diagnoses and adverse events related to musculoskeletal diseases. QUALY’s were calculated using data from EQ-5D weighted with preference weights from the general population. To evaluate cost-effectiveness, we calculated and compared the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER).

Results: Mean age was 63.6 years (SD=10.01), 80.8 % were female. No statistical difference between the treatment arms was found in any baseline variables. In the RC group, 48 patients (25.8%) met the primary outcome criteria for treatment response. In the OTC group, also 48 (25.4%) were classified as responders. The proportion of responders did not differ by treatment group (X2 (1, N = 337) = 0.0002, p = 0.97). Treatment group did not significantly predict response status (OR=0.99, CI=0.62-1.59, p = 0.97). No notable safety-related events were found in either group. No statistically significant differences were found regarding QUALY’s and overall treatment costs, and cost-effectiveness was marginal.

Conclusion: We found no statistically significant difference regarding proportion of treatment responders between the two treatment arms, suggesting non-interiority of OTC compared to RC with regards to effectiveness and safety. While the cost-effectiveness analysis showed no clear benefit for either of the treatment options, delegating HOA treatment to OT’s may free RT time and improve health-care accessibility for urgent diagnoses, and thus prove a valuable opportunity to optimize future healthcare allocation.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

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Keywords: Patient information and education, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Self-management

Z. Karakalliga-Mitsakou1, A. Cornell1, J. D. Povilaitis2, M. Olsen2, K. Blomkvist Sporre3, N. Z. Serrano4, M. Misuno5, 1Lupus Europe, PAN, London, United Kingdom; 2Lupus Europe, EQ, Brussels, Belgium; 3Lupus Europe, PAN, Vilnius, Lithuania; 4Lupus Europe, PAN, Reykjavik, Iceland; 5Lupus Europe, PAN, Stockholm, Sweden; 6Lupus Europe, PAN, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 7Lupus Europe, PAN, Krakow, Poland

Background: Quality of information on lupus on the internet is a real issue. “Word of mouth”, rumors, unchecked data, or unconfirmed research increase
confusion, create anxiety and can lead to incorrect actions. Patients need access to quality information about lupus. Therapeutic Patient Education (TPE) is a key part of the self-management of chronic conditions; an essential component of TPE is access to quality information. Most patients in Europe prefer printed and digital information.

**Objectives:** To provide access to quality information on lupus online, in the native language of 95%+ of the European population.

**Methods:** The first step was to get the project endorsed by specialised lupus doctors, ERN ReCONNET. The French book “lupus en 100 questions” (initiated by FAI2R) was used as a starting point. Patients from the Lupus Europe Patient Advisory Network (PAN) and doctors worked together to create the English version. The least internationally relevant questions were removed to make space for new questions suggested by Lupus Europe’s PAN. Answers for the new questions were constructed collaboratively between patients and doctors. The other questions were translated to English, updated where needed and adapted for international use. The resulting English document was distributed to ERN ReCONNET SLE working group doctors and to all PAN members, and feedback was incorporated. This master version was then put online and served as starting point for an ambitious multilingual translation. The translation process included generating an initial draft translation through DeepL Pro, and then upgrading this by a Doctor-Patient native speaker team. In parallel, a process has been established to collect comments and suggestions so that content can be maintained and updated on a continuous basis while keeping all language versions synchronised.

**Results:** lupus100.org in English was launched at the European Lupus Meeting in October 2022 and has to date received 8,900 visits. 18 translations have been completed and 10 of them are under final validation. The international launch of the multilingual website will take place on May 10, World Lupus day.

**Conclusion:** The website will provide access to information about lupus to 95% of European lupus patients in their own language, eliminating a big barrier to quality information. Thanks to the effective collaboration between patients and doctors, quality of information can be guaranteed and information truly answers the patient concerns. Both national groups and the ERN network of doctors will ensure effective dissemination, so patients in all European countries are aware of the initiative.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** Zoe Karakika-Mitsakou Grant/research support from: None of the authors has direct conflict of Interest. However, LUPUS EUROPE is funded mostly by grants or donations from Pharmaceutical Companies (Astra Zeneca, Bayer, Biogen, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Galapagos, GSK, Idorsia, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Roche, UCB), none of which exceeds 20% of total funds and none having a say on the content of our studies, Maria olsen Grant/research support from: None of the authors has direct conflict of Interest. How ever, LUPUS EUROPE is funded mostly by grants or donations from Pharmaceutical Companies (Astra Zeneca, Bayer, Biogen, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Galapagos, GSK, Idorsia, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Roche, UCB), none of which exceeds 20% of total funds collected, and none having a say on the content of our studies, maria olsen Grant/research support from: None of the authors has direct conflict of Interest. However, LUPUS EUROPE is funded mostly by grants or donations from Pharmaceutical Companies (Astra Zeneca, Bayer, Biogen, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Galapagos, GSK, Idorsia, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Roche, UCB), none of which exceeds 20% of total funds collected, and none having a say on the content of our studies.

**REFERENCE:**


**OP0005**

**CAN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROSIS UNEQUIVOCALLY BE DIAGNOSED BY RHEUMATOLOGISTS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC BACK PAIN OF LESS THAN TWO YEARS DURATION? MAIN RESULT OF THE SPONDYLOARTHROSIS CAUGHT EARLY (SPACE) COHORT**

**Keywords:** Diagnostic Tests, Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology

M. L. Marques1,2, S. Ramiro1,3, M. Van Lunteren4, R. Stal1, I. J. Berg5, K. Minde Fagerl6, M. Van Oosterhout7, S. Exarchou7, R. Ramonda1, M. G. H. Van de Sande8, R. B. M. Landewé3,8, D. Van der Heijde9, F. A. Van Gaalen1, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 2Zuyderland Medical Center, Rheumatology, Heerlen, Netherlands; Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; Groene Hart Ziekenhuis, Rheumatology, Gouda, Netherlands; Lund University, Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmo, Sweden; University Hospital Padova, Rheumatology, Padua, Italy; Amsterdam University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** Unacceptable diagnostic delay in axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA) remains an issue. In 2009, the longitudinal SPondyloArthritis Caught Early (SPACE)-cohort started to assess the prevalence of axSpA and the reliability of an early diagnosis in patients with chronic back (CBP) of unknown origin. Here we present one of the main outcomes of SPACE.

**Objectives:** To assess the two-year (2y) prevalence of an axSpA diagnosis among patients with recent onset CBP referred to the rheumatologist; To investigate the sustainability of a baseline (BL) diagnosis of axSpA when reviewed after 2y; And to explore patient-differences between BL and 2y, in those with and without an axSpA diagnosis.

**Methods:** We analysed the 2y data from SPACE, a European inception cohort of patients (age <45y) with CBP of recent onset (≥3 months, ≤2y) and unknown origin. The full diagnostic work-up included all clinical SpA-features, acute phase reactants, HLA-B27, radiographs and MRI of the sacroiliac joints (SI-CR and SI-MRI) and spine (data not shown). Patients with increased likelihood of having axSpA (≥1 major or ≥2 minor prespecified SpA-features) were eligible for follow-up with the remaining patients excluded per protocol. The clinical diagnosis at 2y was the main outcome of this study. At each visit, the treating rheumatologist judged on the presence or absence of axSpA (axSpA or no-axSpA) with a level of confidence (LoC) on a numeric rating scale (0, not confident at all to 10, very confident). The main outcome was the presence of ‘definite axSpA at 2y’ defined as a clinical diagnosis of axSpA with a LoC ≥7 (complete follow-up) or at the two last available visits if 2y visit was missing. ‘No axSpA was defined as not having axSpA at 2y (with LoC ≤7; or if LoC <7, plus an alternative diagnosis for CBP reported). All other patients were considered having an ‘uncertain’ diagnosis. The ASAS classification criteria were computed using sacroilitis central reading results in definite axSpA patients. We assessed the prevalence of definite axSpA at 2y as well as changes in diagnosis over time, and descriptively summarised BL characteristics.

**Results:** A total of 555 CBP patients were included (Leiden n=383, Oslo n=97, Amsterdam n=48, and Gouda n=27). A diagnosis of definite axSpA was given to 175 (32%) patients at BL and 166 (30%) at 2y (Figure 1). The mean (SD) LoC’s were 8.1 (2.0) and 8.7 (1.0), with 155/175 (89%) and 145/166 (87%) fulfilling ASAS classification criteria, respectively. BL diagnostic judgments were relatively unconfident and remained rather stable: At 2y, 6% of the BL diagnoses of definite axSpA were refuted; and -vice versa: 9% of those who did not obtain a BL diagnosis of axSpA ‘gained’ one at 2y. Residual diagnostic uncertainty remained in the 2y definitive axSpA group (Table 1). The presence or absence of imaging-detected sacroilitis at BL appeared the best discriminator between axSpA and no axSpA at 2y.

**Conclusion:** One third of patients with CBP of recent onset referred to the rheumatologist has definite axSpA. Most of these patients can be unequivocally and reliably diagnosed at their first assessment. None of the many SpA-features suffices alone, but imaging discriminates best.
**Table 1. Baseline characteristics by 2y diagnosis of patients with chronic back pain duration of ≥3 months but ≤2y, < 45y of age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N=166</th>
<th>N=79</th>
<th>N=307</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean age at inclusion, y (SD)</strong></td>
<td>29.8 (7.6)</td>
<td>30.8 (8.3)</td>
<td>31.0 (8.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean symptom duration, months (SD)</strong></td>
<td>12.8 (7.0)</td>
<td>13.4 (7.2)</td>
<td>13.4 (7.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HLA-B27 +</strong></td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family history of SpA</strong></td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inflammatory back pain</strong></td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good response to NSAIDs</strong></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peripheral arthritis</strong></td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dactylitis</strong></td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heel enthesitis</strong></td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anterior uveitis</strong></td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inflammatory bowel disease</strong></td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Psoriasis</strong></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increased acute phase reactants§</strong></td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SI-Chi</strong></td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SI-MRI</strong></td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§ local data; SI-CR-MRI: sacroiliitis on radiographs/MRI

**REFERENCES: NIL.**

**Acknowledgements: NIL.**

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**INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID OR PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS STARTING B/TSDMARDs: INCIDENCE VS. GENERAL POPULATION, AND THE ROLE OF METHOTREXATE CO-MEDICATION**

**Keywords:** Comorbidities, Lungs


1 Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Spine Diseases, København, Denmark; 2 Landspitali University Hospital, Centre for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, København, Denmark; 3 Copenhagen University, Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark; 4 Copenhagen University, Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark; 5 University of Iceland, Faculty of Medicine, Reykjavik, Iceland; 6 Copenhagen University, Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark; 7 Rigshospitalet, DANBIO and Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research, Rigshospitalet, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, København, Denmark; 8 Landspitali University Hospital, Rheumatology, Reykjavik, Iceland; 9 Helsinki University Hospital and Helsinki University, Department of Medicine and Rheumatology, ROBFIN, Helsinki, Finland; 10 Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Pharmaceuticals Pricing Board, Helsinki, Finland; 11 Karolinska University Hospital, Rheumatology, Theme Inflammation & Ageing, Stockholm, Sweden

**Background:** Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a common (extra-articular) pulmonary manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In RA, use of biologic or targeted synthetic disease-modifying drugs (b/tsDMARDs) have been linked to ILD, whereas the risk attributable to MTX use remains unclear. In psoriatic arthritis (PsA), few studies have investigated the risk of ILD, let alone in relation to use of MTX and b/tsDMARDs.

**Objectives:** To assess the incidence of ILD in patients with RA in RA or PsA initiating a b/tsDMARD (vs. the general population), compare the risk of ILDs across b/tsDMARDs and investigate the role of MTX co-medication.

**Methods:** Patients with RA or PsA initiating a b/tsDMARD were identified in rheumatology registers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Details of b/tsDMARD treatment, MTX co-medication, and disease activity at treatment initiation were retrieved. Gender and age-matched general population subjects were available from four countries. The incidence of ILD was assessed through linkages to national hospital and death registers with cases defined as patients who had been given an ILD diagnoses on more than one occasions. Subjects with a history of ILD prior to b/tsDMARD initiation were excluded. In multivariable models, we calculated the hazard ratios (HR) for ILD in individual patients starting b/tsDMARDs vs. population subjects, following each patient from treatment start until the first of ILD event, end of, death, or five years of follow-up. In separate on-treatment analyses we compared the risk of ILD between b/tsDMARD initiations using etanercept treatment as a reference, and between those using vs. not using MTX (reference) as co-medication. Follow-up in on-treatment analyses was defined as time to first of ILD event, end of treatment plus 29 days, death or five years. For these analyses one patient could have several treatment courses in a time-split co-regression analyses.

**Results:** 37010 patients with RA, 12,341 patients with PsA and 569,451 population subjects, were identified, contributing 300, 30 and 400 ILD cases during follow-up, respectively, HR for ILD (vs. the general population) was 10.1 (95% CI 8.6 to 11.9) in RA and 5.0 (3.4 to 7.4) in PsA patients initiating a b/tsDMARD. In on-treatment analyses 69,808/21,340 b/tsDMARD treatment-courses were identified in RA/PsA patients with 558 and 46 ILD events during follow-up, respectively. Among patients with RA a significantly increased HR (vs. etanercept) was only noted for rituximab 1.7 (1.2 to 2.4). No b/tsDMARD increased the risk of ILD in patients with PsA. MTX co-medication was used in 51.3%/42.2% of RA/PsA patients but did not give an increased risk of ILD compared to no use of MTX-co-medication (Figure 1 shows details of results for RA populations).

**Conclusion:** Among RA and PsA patients initiating b/tsDMARDs, the risk of ILD was higher than in the general population, and the risk of ILD in RA was approximatively twice that of PsA patients. In these preliminary analyses, the increased risk of ILD in RA patients initiating treatment with rituximab may indicated a channel bias. When used in clinical practice, MTX co-medication is not a risk factor for ILD in RA/PsA patients initiating b/tsDMARD therapy.

**Figure 1. Risk of ILD across b/tsDMARD treatment and methotrexate co-medication in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. (Hazard ratios (95% CI). Etanercept 21.079 patients, adalimumab 12.018, abatacept 4.973, infliximab 12.636, Other TNFis 5.424, other bDMARDs 244 (not shown, no events) Rituximab 6.917, bDMARDs 1.248 (not shown, no events), Tocilizumab 5.067.

**Acknowledgements:** The work has been supported by NordForsk research and FOREUM.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Sella Aarrestad Provan Consultant of: Boehringer Ingehelm, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingehelm, Lotta Ljung: None declared, Eirik kristianslund: None declared, Brigitte Michelsen: Grant/research support from: Novartis (paid to employer), Till Uhlíř Consultant of: Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Thorvardur Love: None declared, Joe Sexton: None declared, Björn Gudbjornsson Speakers bureau: Novartis and
INCIDENCE, PREVALENT AND CO-OCCURRENCE OF AUTOIMMUNE DISORDERS, TRENDS OVER TIME AND BY AGE, SEX AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS. A POPULATION-BASED STUDY IN 22 MILLION INDIVIDUALS.

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Gender/diversity issues, Epidemiology

Methods: We used linked primary and secondary electronic health records of 22 million individuals from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD), a cohort that is representative of the UK population in terms of age and sex. We calculated incidence and prevalence of 19 autoimmune disorders from 2000 to 2019 and used negative binomial regression models to investigate temporal trends and variation by age, sex, socioeconomic status, season of onset and region. To characterise co-occurrence of autoimmune diseases, we calculated incidence rate ratios, comparing incidence rates of comorbid autoimmune disease among patients with a first autoimmune disease with incidence rates in the general population, using negative binomial regression models, adjusted for age and sex.

Results: Among the 22,009,375 individuals included in the study, we identified a total of 978,872 patients with at least one diagnosis of at least one autoimmune disease between 2000 and 2019 (mean (SD) age: 54.0 (21.4) years, 64% women). Over the study period, age-standardised incidence rates of autoimmune diseases increased by 4%, similarly for men and women. The largest increases were seen in Graves' disease, coeliac disease and Sjogren's syndrome, for which incidences have doubled over the past two decades. Two conditions exhibited a significant decrease in incidence (Hashimoto's thyroiditis and pernicious anaemia), taken together the 19 autoimmune disorders examined affected 10.2% of the population over the study period (13.1% of women, 7.4% of men). A socioeconomic gradient was evident across several diseases, including Graves' disease, pernicious anaemia, rheumatoid arthritis, and systemic lupus erythematosus. Seasonal variations were observed for type 1 diabetes (more commonly diagnosed in winter) and vitiligo (more commonly diagnosed in summer), and regional variations were observed for a range of conditions. Autoimmune disorders were commonly associated with each other, particularly Sjogren's, systemic lupus erythematosus and systemic sclerosis. Patients with type 1 diabetes also had significantly higher rates of Addison's, coeliac, and thyroid diseases, and multiple sclerosis stood out as having low rates of co-occurrence with other autoimmune diseases.

Conclusion: Autoimmune diseases affect about one in ten individuals. Their burden continues to increase over time, albeit at varying rates across individual diseases. The socioeconomic, seasonal, and regional disparities observed among several autoimmune disorders, implicate environmental factors in disease pathogenesis. The interrelations between autoimmune diseases are commensurate with shared pathogenetic mechanisms or predisposing factors, particularly among connective tissue diseases and among endocrine diseases.
Background: The multifaceted clinical presentation in crystal-induced arthropathies (CiA) poses challenges to imaging.

Objectives: To formulate evidence-based recommendations on the use of imaging in the diagnosis and management of CiA.

Methods: Following EULAR standard operating procedures a task force of 25 stakeholders from 11 countries was created. Four systematic literature searches were performed in MEDLINE, EMBASE and CENTRAL to guide task force decisions, answering 14 research questions on the role of imaging in gout, calcium pyrophosphate and basic calcium phosphate deposition disease. Level of agreement (LoA) with each overarching principle and recommendation was assessed by numerical rating scale (0-10).

Results: Five overarching principles and 10 recommendations were produced on the role of imaging in making a diagnosis, monitoring, predicting, guiding intervention, and patient education in CiA (Table 1). Overall, the LoA for the recommendations was very high (8.5-9.9).

Conclusion: These are the first recommendations that encompass all common forms of CiA and guide the use of established imaging modalities in this disease group.

Table 1. EULAR recommendations for the use of imaging in CiA in clinical practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overarching principles</th>
<th>Level of agreement Mean (standard deviation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. CiA are typically characterized by intermittent, acute episodes of inflammation, but may also exhibit a persistent disease course with or without superimposed flares.</td>
<td>9.8 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Imaging in CiA provides useful information on crystal deposition, inflammation-9.8 (0.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Imaging is not needed to confirm a diagnosis of gout.</td>
<td>9.7 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. In the diagnostic assessment of BCPD, US or DECT are not recommended.</td>
<td>9.7 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Imaging in CiA should be performed and interpreted by trained health care professionals.</td>
<td>9.9 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations
1. When performing imaging in CiA, both symptomatic areas and disease-spe-9.7 (0.5) ific target sites (i.e. MTP1 in gout, wrist and knee in CPPD, shoulder in BCPD) should be considered.
2. In the diagnostic assessment of gout, US and DECT are both recom-9.7 (0.6) mended imaging modalities.
3. When characteristic features of MSU crystal deposition on US (i.e. double contour sign or tophi) or on DECT if identified, synovial fluid analysis is not needed to confirm a diagnosis of gout.
4. In the diagnostic assessment of CPPD, CR or US (or CT if axial involve-9.6 (0.9) ment is suspected) are recommended imaging modalities.
5. In the diagnostic assessment of BCPD, Imaging is necessary; CR or US9.1 (1.7) are the recommended modalities.
6. In gout, US and DECT can be used to monitor crystal deposition and9.3 (1.2) in case of US, also inflammation. Both modalities provide additional information on top of clinical and biochemical assessment. In case US/DECT are not available, CR can be used to assess structural damage due to gout. The decision on when to repeat imaging depends on the clinical circumstances.
7. In CPPD and BCPD serial imaging is not recommended, unless there is an9.4 (1.2) unexpected change in clinical characteristics.
8. In gout, assessing the amount of MSU crystal deposition by US or DECT8.5 (1.7) may be used to predict future flares.
9. If synovial fluid analysis is required in the assessment of CiA, US-guidance 9.7 (0.5) should be used in cases where aspiration based on anatomical landmarks is challenging.
10. Show and explaining imaging findings of CiA to people with such condi-9.4 (0.9) tions may help them understand their condition and improve treatment adherence in gout. BCPD: basic calcium phosphate deposition disease; CiA: crystal-induced arthropathies; CPPD: calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease; CR: conventional radiography; CT: computed tomography; DECT: dual-energy computed tomography; MSU: monosodium urate; MTP: metatarsophalangeal joint; US: ultrasound.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgement: NIL.
"Buy one - get 4 free" - RMDs and comorbidities

**Keywords:** Mental health, Pain, Patient information and education

**Background:** As many as 1-in-5 people are living with chronic pain (pain for three or more months) in the UK. Living with a long-term health condition can increase the likelihood of experiencing poor mental health. Having access to high-quality resources to raise mental health awareness and support good mental health among this population is crucial. Co-production of patient-facing resources with people with lived experience of health conditions (experts by experience) has been acknowledged as an important way of achieving impact and engagement.

**Objectives:** To describe how branding and design expertise was used to co-produce with experts by experience evidence-based, patient-facing animations to support the mental health needs of people with chronic pain.

**Methods:** A task and finish group (n=10) met virtually six times over 12 months from March 2020. The group included patients, public, representatives of charities, hospital volunteers, researchers and design experts. The group started with a blank canvas and worked together to decide which evidence-based messages to include in the resources, their format and style, and where and how they would be implemented. The group decided to create one website to host branded resources:

- A positive and informative animation and social media content
- Free online training for healthcare professionals, public and volunteers to improve awareness of the links between pain and mental health
- A library of local support resources

The marketing and design experts facilitated collaborative working to develop clinical (physiotherapist, general practitioner) and patient (retired, volunteer, carer) personas to better understand the intended resource end-users. The group explored in-depth the emotions, thoughts and actions conveyed by the resources through word clouds and brainstorming. This helped the group to create a brand, the central character and provided vision for the style of the resources. Through facilitated discussion with design experts, the group co-produced animation storyboards, the plain language text on the website, training package, animation and local support library, and the final overall brand by choosing logos, colour schemes, fonts and images.

**Results:** The group chose Support, Progression and Freedom through ‘Mind and Movement’ as the key words on which to base the resources. Patients and the public suggested that a human character would not represent all people living with chronic pain; so, a bee was chosen to be the central character. It was agreed that the bee personified the key words whilst generating an engaging theme. The group agreed to name the resource package ‘BeeFree’ with the website slogan ‘a support hive for mind and movement’ and go live in 2021. Patients and the public championed the resources and facilitated the launch. Challenges for the clinical group members included negotiating time and commitment to the work amidst multiple pandemic-related NHS pressures, and for the public group members there were difficulties adapting to working collaboratively online.

Figure 1.

**Conclusion:** Co-creating a positive, recognisable brand with patients and the public can facilitate the promotion and impact of evidence-based messages into healthcare. In the pandemic online co-production approaches offered creative adaptations to bring together stakeholders. Designing expertise and taking time to build and nurture relationships with patients and the public resulted in a valuable and insightful co-production and consequently highly accessible and engaging resources.

**Acknowledgements:** Midlands Partnership NHS Trust, North Staffordshire NHS Combined Healthcare Trust, Haywood Foundation, Mind, Q Lab, Health Foundation, More Than Just Design.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2687

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**Keywords:** Self-management, Work-related issues, Telemedicine

**Background:** A Fatigue and Activity Management Education in Work (FAME-W) programme was developed for individuals with inflammatory arthritis to manage fatigue in work (McCormick, 2018). FAME-W was designed as an in-person programme; however, due to COVID-19 pandemic it was modified to be an online group-based self-management intervention.

**Objectives:** This study tested the effectiveness of an online format of FAME-W for future use by occupational therapist to help individuals with inflammatory arthritis to stay in work.

**Methods:** Participants were randomly allocated to intervention or control groups. Participants in the intervention group received the online four-week FAME-W and the control group participants received a FAME-W handbook. Participants in the intervention group attended a focus group immediately after the completion of the online FAME-W programme. A qualitative descriptive design was used with semi-structured focus groups. Data were analysed by thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2021).

**Results:** Twenty-six individuals took part in five separate focus groups. The average number of participants per group was 5 individuals with the largest group having 8 and smallest having 3 participants. The majority of participants were female, working full time and had Rheumatoid Arthritis. The four themes emerging from the focus groups were: ‘content and delivery of the programme’ where participants discussed the relevance of the content to their symptoms and the online delivery format of FAME-W. In the second theme, participants discussed “understanding the impacts of symptoms on their own and combined” and how symptoms effect mood, work, cognitive and physical abilities. In the third theme, “implementing the knowledge gained from the programme” through goal setting and practicality of the self-management strategies provided were discussed. Final theme “impact of the FAME-W on symptoms and work” including reassurance of normalising symptoms, change in mindset and approach to their condition were discussed.
Conclusion: Preliminary results show that participants found the online FAME-W to be effective, relevant, reassuring, and helpful. These results suggest that work-related self-management skills are essential in assisting participants with symptom management in the workplace. Furthermore, these preliminary results suggest that the online format of FAME-W may be helpful for individuals with inflammatory arthritis to stay in work and it may become a standard part of clinical care for occupational therapists.

REFERENCES:

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4027

Epigenetics in chronic inflammation

<table>
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<th>OP0011</th>
<th>EPITRANSCRIPTOME EDITING REPRESENTS AN ADDITIONAL LAYER OF IMMUNE-RELATED EPIGENETIC MEMORY OF MONOCYTES IN HUMAN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Genetics/Epigeneics, Innate immunity

A. Banaz1, A. Kloetgen2, K. Katsiki3, A. Filia4, D. Nikolopoulos1,5,6, A. Tsirigos5,6, D. Bournias1,3, 1Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens, Laboratory of Autoimmunity and Inflammation, Center of Clinical, Experimental Surgery and Translational Research, Athens, Greece; 2Applied Bioinformatics Laboratories and Department of Pathology, New York University School of Medicine, New York, United States of America; 3Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School, 4th Department of Internal Medicine, Attikon University Hospital, Athens, Greece

**Background:** Monocytes are key effector cells in human systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Cytokine production, antigen presentation and initiation/amplification of tissue inflammation[1] represent some of output functions of transcriptional rewiring within the inflammatory milieu of the disease. Epi-transcriptomes include all functionally relevant changes to the RNA level (transcriptome), reforming RNA metabolism and fine-tuning gene expression[2].

**Objectives:** To construct the transcriptional map of monocytes in lupus patients and impose the A-to-I base editing events as co-factor of the disease pathogenesis.

**Methods:** A cohort of 8 SLE patients (SLEDAI(≤8) and 5 age/sex matched healthy volunteers was used for this study. PBMCs were obtained through Ficoll centrifugation and monocytes were isolated with CD14+ magnetic bead selection. Total RNA was extracted and miRNA libraries were generated. Single-end 75-bp mRNA sequencing was performed on Illumina NextSeq 500. Differential expression analysis was performed using edgeR package. Genes with a false discovery rate of ≤0.05 and fold change of >1.5 were considered statistically significantly deregulated. Significant differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were used for pathway and gene ontology (GO) analysis using gProfiler web-server[3]. For base editing events, JACUSA2 was utilized for base calling and list refinement was performed by the following criteria: (a) known editing sites based on REDportal, (b) the number of reads with “G” at the putative editing site is at least 10 and (b) the editing level per sample, defined as 100 nG/[nA+nG]), is at least 20%, (c) JACUSA2 call-2 score for differential editing between SLE and healthy was 1.5.

**Results:** Differential gene expression analysis produced a list of 764 statistically significant genes, 492 of which are upregulated and 272 downregulated. Gene enrichment analysis concluded that DEGs are participating in transcription regulation, signal transduction, regulation of immune processes and apoptosis/cell death. IL-17 signaling pathway and RNA metabolic process are part of the pathogenic profile of lupus monocytes. Interestingly, ADARB1, key regulator of RNA editing, is upregulated (logFC=0.76, pval=0.018). A-to-I editing events found to be significant, contain among others GDI2 (UTR3 region/signaling mediator), ARPC2 (Alu region/actin polymerization) and CERK (UTR3 region/inflammation) regulatory regions. A complex network of transcriptional and epi-transcriptomic alterations embeds immune-related genes and affects multiple cellular processes.

**Conclusion:** Transcriptional machinery and signal transduction molecules exhibit abnormal expression during transcriptional rewiring in monocytes of lupus patients. Our data support RNA editing as an additional player of immune-related epigenetic memory of monocytes, further integrating inflammatory cues and enhancing autoimmune identity of the disease.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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How to treat older people with RMD

<table>
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<tr>
<th>OP0012-HPR</th>
<th>CENTRAL SENSITIZATION HAS MAJOR IMPACT ON DISEASE ACTIVITY, FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY AND FRAILTY IN PATIENTS WITH RA</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis, Outcome measures

L. Quar tintto1, F. R. Spinelli2, S. Farah3, C. Bazzani4, F. Nacci5, M. Fornaro6, D. Iacono2, C. Baldi3, S. Perniola1, S. Longhino2, F. Salaffi2. 1Division of Rheumatology, Academic Hospital “Santa Maria della Misericordia”, ASUFC, University of Udine, Department of Medicine (DAME), Udine, Italy; 2Rheumatology Unit, Sapienza Università di Roma, Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Internistiche, Anestesiolgeiche e Cardiovasculari-Reumatologia, Roma, Italy; 3Rheumatology Clinic, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Department of Clinical and Molecular Sciences, Jesi, Italy; 4U.O. Reumatologia e Immunologia Clinica, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia, Brescia, Italy; 5SODc Reumatologia, Dipartimento di Medicina Sperimentale e Clinica Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Careggi, Firenze, Italy; 6Rheumatology Unit, Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine and Ionian Area, Bari, Italy; 7Unità Operativa di Reumatologia, Dipartimento di Medicina di precisione, Università degli Studi della Campania, Napoli, Italy; 8Rheumatology Unit - Siena University Hospital, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Neurosciences, Siena, Italy; 9Division of Clinical Immunology, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Roma, Italy

**Background:** Central sensitization (CS) assessed with Central sensitization Inventory (CSI) is significantly associated with functional disability and frailty in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Frailty is common in RA and associated with hospitalization and mortality. Frailty is also a dynamic area, for some, may be ameliorated through controlling disease activity and functional disability.

**Objectives:** Our aim was to investigate the prevalence of CS in patients with RA and its association with measures of disease activity, functional disability, and frailty.

**Methods:** We administered to all the subjects in the study the CS inventory (CSI), a questionnaire that has been used for the diagnosis of CS. Demographic and clinical characteristics of all patients and the principal sociodemographic and health-related quality of life (RAID), functional disability (ROAD) and Kihon Checklist (KCL) screening tool to identify community-dwelling adults vulnerable to frailty potentially at risk of becoming dependent. Patients with fibromyalgia were excluded from the study.

**Results:** Of the 192 included RA patients, mean CSI score was 36.7 ±15.5 and 36.5% scored >40, which indicates a high probability of CS. Mean CDAI score was 16.8 ± 12.4 and mean RAID 5.0 ± 2.0. A CSI score >40 was significantly associated with higher RAID (mean 5.7 vs. 4.6; F-ratio 12.28; p<0.001), higher
ROAD (mean 4.3 vs. 3.0; F-ratio 17.37; p<0.001) and higher Kihon score (mean 9.1 vs. 5.7; F-ratio 29.88; p<0.001).

Conclusion: CS is strongly related to patient-reported disease activity; functional disability and frailty in patients with RA independently from other patient-and disease-related aspects. CS is an important determinant of functional disability in patients with chronic inflammatory arthritides. Therefore, special attention should be paid to RA patients, in whom the concomitant diagnosis of CS should be routinely ruled out.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Disease activity (RAID score), functional disability (ROAD score) and frailty (Kihon score) in patient with CSI < 40 (n=122) and CSI > 40 (n=70).

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4509

Precision medicine in SLE: where are we?

OP0013

APPLYING STANDARD CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA EXCLUDES UP TO A HALF OF ALL PATIENTS FROM CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES (CTD) CLINICAL TRIALS

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Systemic sclerosis, Systemic lupus erythematosus

S. Dyball1, M. Rodziewicz1, A. V. Madenidou1, J. Reynolds2,3, A. Herrick4,5, S. Haque6, H. Chinyo7,8, E. Bruce7, B. Parker1, I. N. Bruce1,7,9,10
1 The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2 University of Birmingham, Rheumatology Research Group, Institute of Inflammation and Ageing, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 3 Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, Rheumatology Department, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 4 Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Salford Royal Hospital, Salford, United Kingdom; 5 Manchester NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology Department, University Hospital of South Manchester, Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, The Kellgren Centre of Rheumatology, Manchester United Kingdom; 6 NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Unit, The University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Classification criteria aim to identify a homogeneous population of patients with a high specificity for clinical research.

Objectives: To determine how connective tissue disease (CTD) phase III trials utilise classification criteria within their inclusion and exclusion criteria. We then applied the most commonly used classification criteria to a large cohort of patients with an existing CTD diagnosis to explore which patients would be included and excluded from trials.

Methods: A comprehensive review of all major published phase III trials in CTDs was performed using clinicaltrials.gov (Nov 22). We included trials of biological or DMARD therapy, and excluded open label trials and long-term extensions. Adult patients (May 14 - July 22) were recruited from five rheumatology centres in North West England into the LEAP cohort. Patients were eligible for inclusion if they had ≥1 clinical feature of a CTD and ≥1 antibody within the ANA spectrum. The physician (rheumatologist) diagnosis at time of recruitment was used as the primary classifier of patients. Classification criteria utilised in the majority of clinical trials were systematically applied to this cohort, irrespective of clinical diagnosis.

Results: There were 49 trials in CTDs identified from 1909 records: systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)=29, systemic sclerosis (SSc)=7, idiopathic inflammatory myopathy (IIM)=7 and primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS)=6. There were no trials in MCTD or UCTD. The majority of trials (N=47, 95.9%) required patients to meet classification criteria for their respective disease. The ACR-1997 for SLE, 2002 American European Consensus Criteria (AECG) criteria for pSS, ACR criteria for SSc 1980, and Bohan and Peter for IIM were the most commonly employed criteria. The majority of pSS (N=5= 83.3%) and SSc (N=4, 57.1%) trials excluded patients with other overlapping CTDs, whereas only a minority of IIM (N=1, 14.3%) and SLE (N=2, 6.9%) trials mandated this. A further 2 (28.8%) IIM and 2 (6.9%) SLE trials excluded CTD patients with specific overlapping features, e.g. SSc with significant pulmonary hypertension. 15 trials (30.6%) allowed exclusion of significant coexisting diseases at the investigators’ discretion and 18 (36.7%) made no reference. 391 patients were recruited to the LEAP cohort (Female: 352 [90.0%], median [IQR] age: 52 [40-59] years, median [IQR] disease duration: 6.1 [2.9-13.2] years). 254 (65.0%) patients met classification criteria for at least one CTD (Table 1). 22 (74.0%) patients with pSS, SLE, SSc or IIM met the classification criteria for their respective diagnosis. Of these, 26/22 (6.7%) met criteria for >1 CTD. In total, 196/391 (50.1%) would be eligible, and 195/391 (49.9%) ineligible for recruitment to a phase III trial, based upon their physician diagnosis, and trial eligibility criteria. Patients eligible to participate were similar in age (p=0.882), gender (p=0.607) and ethnic background (p= 0.822) but had longer median disease duration (7.5 vs 5.2 years, p=0.024) to those ineligible.

Table 1. The proportion of patients meeting classification criteria utilised in clinical trials, by physician diagnosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLE</th>
<th>pSS</th>
<th>UCTD</th>
<th>SSc</th>
<th>MCTD</th>
<th>IIM</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=164</td>
<td>N=77</td>
<td>N=61</td>
<td>N=57</td>
<td>N=30</td>
<td>N=22</td>
<td>N=391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohan and Peter for IIM</td>
<td>2 (1.2)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>3 (8.1)</td>
<td>2 (6.7)</td>
<td>9 (40.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR/EULAR Systemic sclerosis 2013</td>
<td>1 (0.6)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>30 (81.1)</td>
<td>8 (26.7)</td>
<td>4 (18.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AECG Sjögren’s</td>
<td>10 (6.1)</td>
<td>45 (58.4)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (3.3)</td>
<td>1 (4.5)</td>
<td>57 (14.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR SLE 2013</td>
<td>138 (84.1)</td>
<td>14 (5.4)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>2 (5.4)</td>
<td>14 (46.7)</td>
<td>5 (22.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Clinical trial recruitment is challenging, in part due to due to strict eligibility criteria. In an unselected, real-world cohort of CTD patients, up to a half would be excluded due to classification criteria, overlapping features or a lack of trials within their disease. Directly targeting molecular pathology in biomarker driven basket trials could potentially revolutionise drug development by benefitting those with an undifferentiated or overlap condition who would be traditionally excluded from clinical trials.

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Adaptive immunity (T cells and B cells) in rheumatic diseases

**OP0014**

**SHARED MOLECULAR TARGETS OF APOPTOSIS IN CHRONIC INFLAMMATION AND AUTOIMMUNITY: HOW TO BLOCK AUTOIMMUNE ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Autoantibodies, Animal Models, Cell biology

**J. Paris**1, L. Ghezil1, L. Toumeur2, G. Bousquet1, G. Falgarone1,1 Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, INSERM UMR_S942 MASCOT, Bobigny, France; 2 Université Paris Cité, INSERM UMR_S942 MASCOT, Paris, France

**Background:** Aging is associated with an increased incidence of cancers and autoimmune diseases, which share pathophysiological mechanisms. Understanding these common pathways would make it possible to better define a certain risk linked to the disease or their treatment and to decipher new therapeutical targets in autoimmunity. Using an original individual approach to constitutive genetics at low penetrance, our team identified a constitutional mutation pR988C, c2962C> T of MET gene (tyrosine kinase receptor MET) in the patient with autoimmune diseases and malignant tumors. This mutation results in the constitutive activation of MET receptor and to the expression of an autoimmune phenotype associating a diffuse Sjögren disease with histological synovitis in transgenic MET mice [1]. The MET receptor (hepatocyte growth factor, HGF) participates in the regulation of physiological defensive responses following organs inflammation in tissues. Studying apoptosis phenotype, we observed a shift in cell death pathways that could be the relying mechanism of autoimmune prone phenotype linked to the MET mutation.

**Conclusion:** The model of transgenic mice appears ideal for studying the transition phenotype of autoreactivity versus autoimmune disease and the functional involvement of dendritic cells. We confirmed the direct involvement of the MET gene in autoimmunity. For the first time, we showed that the change in cell death pathways could be the direct origin of the emergence of autoimmunity. These preliminary results, for which additional experiments are underway, open up physiopathological and therapeutic perspectives.

**REFERENCE:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**OP0015**

**CD38HI CYTOTOXIC CD8 T CELLS ARE EXPANDED FOLLOWING CHECKPOINT BLOCKADE AND CHARACTERIZE THE T CELL INFLITRATE IN CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR-ASSOCIATED ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Synovium, Inflammatory arthritis, Malignancy

A. Singaravelu1,2, K. E. Marks3, R. Wang4, L. Shabk1, G. Dunlap1, A. Cunningham-Bussel1, S. R. Greisler1, L. Chen1, A. Tipack1, M. Feir1, I. Adejuyigbe2, D. Todd1, L. Macfarlane2, S. Goodman1, E. Dicarlo1, E. Massarotti2, J. Sparks2, A. H. Jonsson1, M. Brenner1, M. Postow1, K. K Chan1, A. Bass1, D. Rao1, L. Donlin1,2;1 Weill Cornell Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, New York, United States of America; 2 HSS Research Institute, Hospital for Special Surgery, Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; 3 Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Division of Rheumatology, Immunology, and Allergy, Boston, United States of America; 4 Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Renji Hospital, Institute of Rheumatology/ Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Shanghai, China; 5 Harvard Medical School, Program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Boston, United States of America; 6 Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Biomedicine, Department of Rhenumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 7 Hospital for Special Surgery, Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; 8 Hospital for Special Surgery, Pathology, New York, United States of America; 9 Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York, Melanoma Service, New York, United States of America

**Background:** Immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) therapies used to treat cancer, such as anti-PD1 antibodies, can induce autoimmune conditions. The T cells responsible for mediating such iatrogenic autoimmunity, their activation profiles and characteristics remain unclear.

**Objectives:** To investigate the transcriptomic and clonotypic features, activation, and role of infiltrating T cells in patient joints affected by ICI-induced inflammatory arthritis (ICI-arthritis).

**Methods:** Paired TCR and scRNA-seq was performed on synovial fluid (SF) CD8 T cells from ICI-arthritis (ICI-A) to determine their transcriptomic and clonotypic features. Detailed immunophenotyping was performed on SF mononuclear cells using mass cytometry and flow cytometry to identify significantly altered populations in ICI-A compared to seropositive rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA). Further, bulk TCR-seq was performed on altered SF bulk RNA-seq cell subsets from the three arthritides to investigate differences in activation profiles and immune pathways enriched. In vitro cytotoxicity assays were performed by measuring annexin staining in fibroblasts co-cultured with various CD8 subsets from synovial fluid and blood. Mass cytometry was performed on PBMCs from melanoma patients to assess changes before and after checkpoint blockade and bulk TCR-seq of ICI-bound (IgG4+/-) non-naive CD8 T cells was used to analyze TCRs enriched in blood and synovial fluid of ICI-arthritis patients.

**Results:** Single cell transcriptomic and antigen receptor repertoire analyses highlighted clonal expansion of an activated effector CD8 T cell population in the joints and blood of ICI-arthritis patients (n = 6). These CD8 T cells, identified as CD38hiCD127low, were uniquely enriched in ICI-arthritis joints compared to RA and PsA and displayed an elevated interferon signature. In vitro, type I interferon induced CD8 T cells to acquire the ICI-associated CD38hi phenotype and boosted cytotoxic function in a novel cytotoxicity assay. In a cohort of patients with advanced melanoma, anti-PD-1 and anti-CTLA-4 therapy dramatically expanded circulating CD8hiCD127low T cells more so than any other T cell
population. CD38^hiCD127^+ T cells were Ki67+ and were frequently bound by the therapeutic anti-CD1-2 drug. In ICI-arthritis patients, anti-CD1-2 drug-bound CD8 T cells in circulation showed marked clonal overlap with drug-bound CD8 T cells from synovial fluid, but almost no overlap was observed between drug-bound cells in the synovial fluid and non-drug-bound cells in blood (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** These results suggest that ICI therapy directly targets CD8 T cells in patients with ICI-arthritis to induce a novel autoimmune pathology that is distinct from the prototypical spontaneous autoimmune arthritides.

**Acknowledgements:** Funding sources - Rheumatology Research Foundation, Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award in Medical Sciences, NIAIMS K08 AR072791, P30 AI070253, NIAIMS R01, NIAID R01 AI148435.

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**OP0016**

**ABATACEPT TO SILENCE ANTI-CITRULLINATED PROTEIN ANTIBODY-EXPRESSING B CELLS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: THE ASCARA TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Randomized controlled trial, Biomarkers

N. Blomberg^1, J. Kwiekkeboom^1, S. Böringer^2, T. Huizinga^1, R. Toes^1, H. U. Scherer^1, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands;^2Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Biomedical Data Sciences, Leiden, Netherlands

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is one of the most prevalent systemic autoimmune diseases. Despite clinically effective drugs, RA remains a chronic disease with frequent disease flares upon drug tapering. Patients harbouring anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA) most frequently relapse and rarely achieve drug-free remission. We observed that in established RA, ACPA-expressing memory B cells (mBC) are highly activated, proliferate, secrete pro-inflammatory cytokines and differentiate into plasmablasts [1]. This phenotype points to continuous, T helper cell-driven stimulation of the ACPA B cell response and persists in patients in clinical remission induced by conventional synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs), suggesting ongoing immunological disease activity (IDA) despite clinically quiescent disease. Persistent IDA may be responsible for disease flares, making immunological remission a potential treatment target required for cure.

**Objectives:** To test the hypothesis that CTLA4-Ig (abatacept), a biological DMARD that blocks co-stimulatory signals such as those provided by helper T cells to B cells, can impact on IDA, as evidenced by the induction of a silent, non-proliferative phenotype of ACPA-expressing mBC.

**Methods:** We conducted a single-center, randomized, open-label clinical trial in which patients with newly diagnosed, untreated RA (n=42) were treated with either methotrexate (MTX, n=21) or abatacept/MTX combination (n=21) for 6 months. Frequency and phenotypic characteristics of peripheral blood ACPA-expressing B cells were assessed directly ex-vivo by flow-cytometry at baseline (BL), 3 months (V2) and 6 months (V3). The expression of Ki-67 (primary endpoint), CD80, CD86 and HLA-DR were used to determine the activation state of the B cells in either group, next to B cell lineage and differentiation markers. Tetanus-toxoid (TT) specific B cells served as antigen-specific controls. Clinical disease characteristics as well as serum parameters were assessed in parallel. Differences between treatment groups were statistically analyzed using a mixed effect model with random slope and intercept.

**Results:** Of patients receiving treatment, n=14 in the ABA/MTX and n=16 in the MTX monotherapy arm harboured ACPA-expressing mBC in the circulation at sufficient frequency for phenotypic analysis. Patients with untreated RA exhibited a highly active ACPA mBC response, in line with previous results [1]. Both MTX and ABA/MTX reduced clinical disease activity at 6 months to a similar extent (p=0.33). The frequency of circulating ACPA-expressing mBC remained unaffected in either group. However, while ACPA-expressing mBC maintained their highly active phenotype in the MTX group, ABA/MTX impacted on the ACPA mBC response by significantly reducing the expression of Ki-67; CD86 and CD80. The expression of HLA-DR did not change upon treatment.

**Conclusion:** The ASCARA study provides first evidence that the activation of ACPA-expressing mBC can be therapeutically modulated towards a phenotype compatible with immunological remission. ABA/MTX, but not MTX alone had this modulatory effect, indicating that potentially important immunological drivers of RA disease processes are resistant to MTX-mediated effects. Interestingly, the phenotype induced by ABA/MTX resembles that observed in patients in sustained drug-free remission as well as in individuals with clinically suspect arthralgia that do not convert to RA (long-term non-converters, (1)). Follow-up analysis of the ASCARA study with ABA discontinuation beyond V3 will elucidate the stability of this effect and its relation to clinical disease characteristics.

**REFERENCE:**


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**OP0017**

**ACTIVE LUPUS NEPHRITIS PATIENTS DISPLAY AN INCREASED PROPORTION OF RECENTLY ACTIVATED NAÏVE DNA-REACTIVE B CELLS**

**Keywords:** Adaptive immunity, Kidneys, Systemic lupus erythematosus

K. Wangnatiask1,2, F. Faustimo2,3, R. Kumar2,4, C. De Vries6,4, P. Piiltikun6, P. Chootong1, V. Malmström2,4, I. Gunnarsson2,4. 1Faculty of Medical Technology, Mahidol University, Department of Clinical Microbiology and Applied Technology, Nakonpathom, Thailand; 2Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Karolinska University Hospital, Unit of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 4Karolinska Institutet, Center for Molecular Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; 5Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Bangkok, Thailand

**Background:** Altered composition of B cell compartments is known in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). However, similar characterisation of the disease-associated autoreactive B cells remains scarce. Elucidating the autoreactive B cell subsets and their association to lupus manifestations may provide tools for monitoring, biomarkers and even identifying possible targets for future therapeutic intervention.

**Objectives:** To investigate phenotypic characteristics of extrafollicular B cell subsets in a cohort of SLE patients.
Methods: Twelve SLE patients, including nine with positive anti-dsDNA antibodies (75%), and ten healthy controls (HCs) were recruited for this study. Data was represented as median and interquartile range (IQR). To identify DNA-reactive B cells, surrogate peptide (DWEYSVWLSN) that serves as dsDNA mimotope was used, as previously shown (1, 2). The phenotype of peripheral B cell subsets and DNA-reactive B cells was analyzed by spectral flow cytometric analysis. The correlations between different B cell populations and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K) scores, clinical manifestations and laboratory data were assessed.

Results: In SLE patients, median SLEDAI-2K score was 14.5 (4.5-19.5), median age and disease duration were 32 (29-48.5) and 10 (1-13) years, respectively. Eight patients presented with lupus nephritis (LN), with proliferative (class III/V, n = 2), membranous (class V, n = 1) and mixed histological pattern (class III & V, n = 3 and class IV & V, n = 2). Phenotypic analysis showed an expansion of recently activated, so-called activated naïve (aNAV; CD11c+CXCR5+CD21-CD27-IgD-, p = 0.0005), double negative 2 B cells (DN2; CD11c+CXCR5-CD21+CD27-IgD+, p = 0.0001) and negative 3 B cells (DN3; CD11c+CXCR5+CD21+CD27-IgD+, p = 0.005) in the blood of the total SLE patient group compared to HC, with aNAV B cells frequency being higher in LN patients (Figure 1). DNA-reactive B cells were mostly represented by an aNAV phenotype (CD11c+CXCR5+CD21+CD27-IgD-) which overexpressed CD11c and CD80. Moreover, a significantly increased percentage of such autoreactive B cells was observed in LN patients (median (IQR) 0.13% (0.095-0.160) compared with non-LN patients (median (IQR) 0.056% (0.042-0.070), p = 0.0357). The percentage of aNAV B cells was positively correlated with disease activity measured as SLEDAI-2K index (r = 0.619, p = 0.036). These aNAV B cells also had a positive correlation with DN2 (r = 0.578, p = 0.049) and plasmablasts (r = -0.420, p = 0.041).

Conclusion: Our data show that aNAV B cells are expanded in SLE and display autoreactivity to dsDNA. The association between the frequency of aNAV B cells and disease activity, and with lupus nephritis suggests that these cells may be used as a monitoring biomarker in the disease.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Frequency of aNAV B cells in LN patients with different histological classes with respect to non LN and HC.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Conclusion: We observed premature aging of lymphoid stroma in RA patients and to lesser extent already in individuals at risk of developing RA, which could partly be restored by dasatinib treatment. Premature aging of LNSCs may negatively impact the local niche by inducing inflammation and senescence in nearby cells. However, consequences of prematurely aged lymphoid stroma remain inconclusive providing a rationale for investigating the effect on immune cell responses.

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OP0020
THE CELLULAR METABOLISM OF SLE NK CELLS IS PRIMARILY ALTERED AT THE LEVEL OF MITOCHONDRIAL HOMEOSTASIS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Innate immunity, Cell biology

BACKGROUND: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a multi-systemic inflammatory disease, of unknown etiology, which involves the development of autoreactive cells and a loss of tolerance to self. Natural Killer (NK) cells represent a group of innate immune cells that play a pivotal role in the interaction between the innate and adaptive immune system. In patients with SLE, NK cells are decreased in the peripheral blood, exhibit reduced cytotoxicity, and impaired cytokine production. (1, 2) To date, few studies have explored the molecular mechanisms underlying NK cell dysfunction in SLE.

OBJECTIVES: To characterize the immunometabolic alterations of NK cells from patients with SLE.

METHODS: SLE and healthy NK cells were isolated from human PBMCs. Glycolysis and mitochondrial respiration (OXPHOS) were measured using Seahorse real-time metabolic assay. Mitochondrial function (membrane potential, mitochondrial mass), superoxide levels and lysosomes acidification were assessed by flow cytometry. Mitochondrial membrane potential and mass were analyzed by confocal microscopy (CM). Mitochondrial DNA was quantified by qPCR. Mitochondrial structure was examined by transmission electron microscopy (EM). Functional (cytokine production, degranulation) assays were performed in parallel with mitochondrial mass measurement by flow cytometry. Quantitative proteomic analysis was conducted focusing on the expression of proteins involved in mitochondrial homeostasis.

RESULTS: We first examined the cellular metabolism of SLE NK cells in comparison to healthy NK cells. We observed that OXPHOS is significantly increased in SLE NK cells, while glycolysis is similar to healthy controls. Due to this alteration in oxidative phosphorylation, we conducted experiments to examine the mitochondrial fitness of SLE NK cells. We showed that mitochondrial mass is increased, while mitochondrial activity is decreased in SLE NK cells, suggesting an accumulation of dysfunctional mitochondria. SLE NK cell mitochondria displayed increased superoxide levels and elevated lysosomal acidification, compared to healthy NK cells. qPCR analysis showed no significant difference, in mitochondrial DNA between SLE NK cells and healthy controls suggesting that the size of mitochondria is increased but not their number in SLE NK cells. Examination of the mitochondrial structure in SLE NK cells by TEM, showed cristae disorganization. Quantitative proteomic analysis showed that SLE NK cells express high levels of proteins associated with mitochondrial synthesis (mitochondrial import receptor TOM6) and OXPHOS (ATP synthase F(0), NADH dehydrogenase 1 C1). In parallel, we observed a reduction in proteins key for mitochondrial clearance such as E3 ubiquitin ligases (RNF181, MARCHF5), as well as lysosomal acidification (Proton-transporting V-Type ATPase), in SLE NK cells.

Conclusion: SLE NK cells exhibit impaired mitochondrial respiration, which is linked to an accumulation of large mitochondria with cristae disorganization. These results suggest an alteration in mitochondrial degradation in SLE NK cells related to dysfunctional mitochondy. Taken together, these data suggest that impaired mitochondrial function and homeostasis represent a major feature of SLE pathogenesis.

REFERENCES:

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OP0021
STRATIFICATION OF PATIENTS WITH SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME BY JOINT MULTI-MODAL ANALYSIS OF CIRCULATING B CELLS

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Adaptive immunity, Autoantibodies

BACKGROUND: B cells are important in the pathogenesis of primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) with hypergammaglobulinemia, SSA/SSB autoantibodies and an increased risk of B cell lymphoma. (1) Patients with pSS positive for SSA/SSB autoantibodies are more prone to systemic disease manifestations and adverse outcomes. Only few studies have investigated peripheral blood mononuclear cells at single cell resolution and primarily reported differences in the T cell compartment while the B cells were only briefly considered. (2,3). We aimed to determine the role of peripheral B cell subtype composition, gene expression and B cell receptor (BCR) usage in patients with pSS stratified for SSA/SSB antibodies.

METHODS: Over 230 000 B cells were isolated by negative selection from peripheral blood of 24 pSS patients (n=6 SSA+, n=8 SSA- and n=10 SSA and SSB+ (SSAB)) and four healthy controls. Single cell gene expression and targeted BCR libraries were generated and processed for RNA and VDJ sequencing.

RESULTS: Gene expression-based clustering and cell annotation defined 16 B cell subsets. We show that pSS patients have a heterogeneous circulating B cell population while the B cells were only briefly considered. (2,3). The most notable difference was in memory B cells from SSAB patients displayed a higher proportion of naïve and memory B cells, respectively. Interferon-induced genes were upregulated across all B cell subtypes with the highest levels in the SSAB group. Differential usage of Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain (IGH) genes, showed that memory B cells from SSAB patients displayed a higher proportion of IGHV4-69 expressing cells and cells with unmutated VDJ transcripts, including IGHV4-69 and IGHV4-34, compared to other pSS patient groups and controls, indicating altered somatic hypermutation and class switching processes. Comparison with
Comorbidities in RMD...
Conclusion: Comorbidities impact treatment outcomes in patients with PsA. The retention and effectiveness of JAK and TNF inhibitors are similar in patients with (but not in patients without) at least one pre-existing comorbidity. Further analyses exploring impact of the number of comorbidities and of specific comorbidities are planned.


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Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Inflammatory arthritis

L. Muñoz-Barrera1, C. Perez-Sanchez2, T. Cerdo1, R. Ortega Castro1, J. Calvo Gutierrez1, F. U. Pilar1, P. Segui Azpicueta1, M. C. Abalos-Aguilera1, D. Ruiz1, S. Remuñez Martinez2, R. Lopez-Meijas2, J. J. Pérez Venegas3, J. M. D. Ruiz-Montoya3, C. Maeztu-Casado3, C. Rodriguez-Escaleran4, C. M. Moreno-Barrero5, A. Fernandez-Nebro6, N. Mená-Vázquez7, J. Uceda1, C. Santos1, N. Barrobaro Puerto1, I. Aria de la Rosa1, M. A. Aguero8, E. Collantes Estevez8, A. Escudero Contreras8, M. A. Gonzalez-Gay8, C. Lopez-Pedrera1, 1IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Spain, Rheumatology, Cordoba, Spain; 2IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Spain, Medical as a Surgical Science, Cordoba, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario Marques de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Universidad de Cantabria, Epidemiology, Genetics and Atherosclerosis Research Group on Systemic Inflammatory Diseases, Santander, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena, Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain; 5Hospital Virgen de la Victoria, Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain; 6Hospital Regional Universitario de Malaga, Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain; 7Hospital Universitario Virgen de Valme, Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain; 8IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Spain, Medical as a Surgical Science, Cordoba, Spain; 9Hospital Universitario Marques de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Universidad de Cantabria, Rheumatology, Cantabria, Spain

Objectives: This study aimed to: 1) Analyze the circulating inflammatory profile of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) patients, in order to recognize distinctive clinical phenotypes associated with CV risk; 2) Evaluate inflammatory profile mimicked that found in C1, supporting the association of RA-patients conforming C3 showed the lowest inflammatory profile and the lowest CV-risk score. Lastly, C2 characterized an intermediate phenotype. Comparative analyses with a cohort of 98 RA patients presenting previous CV events, demonstrated that their inflammatory profile mimicked that found in C1, supporting the association of this altered shape with the CV status. In vivo, both biological and targeted-synthetic DMARDs therapy reduced DAS28-score and re-established normal levels of several altered biomolecules, reflecting a key role in the CV-risk control. In vitro, RA patients’ serum pool from cluster 1 promoted in cultured ECs increased expression of several CV-related proteins, further prevented-albeit in an specific way- by the pre-incubation with TNFi (Etanercept), JAKinibs (Baricitinib) and anti-IL6R (Tocilizumab).

CONCLUSION: 1. The systemic inflammatory profile of RA identified patients’ subgroups with enhanced CV-risk, not associated with their disease activity status. 2. Both biological and targeted-synthetic DMARDs re-established normal levels of circulating inflammatory biomolecules, reducing the CV-risk in RA. 3. In vitro studies revealed that RA-serum inflammatory mediators directly enhanced endothelial damage which might be prevented by effect of both, biological and targeted-synthetic DMARDs therapy.

Thus, the analysis of the RA patients circulating molecular profile might contribute to improve the personalized clinical management of these patients and their CV risk. Acknowledgements: Supported by ISCIII (PI12/0591, CD12/00187 and RICOR-212/0002/0033), and Junta de Andalucía (P20_01387) co-financed by FEDER; Foundation Andaluz de Reumatologia (FAR).

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OP0024 DOES ANTIINFLAMMATORY THERAPY OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AFFECT SURVIVAL AFTER FIRST ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

Keywords: Comorbidities, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Cardiovascular disease

M. Skjetne1, L. Soderstrom2, S. Rantapaa-Dahlqvist3, A. Sodergren1, T. Moe2, 1Umea University, Public health and Clinical Medicine/Rheumatology, Umea, Sweden; 2Östersund Hospital, Unit of Research, Östersund, Sweden; 3Umea University, Public health and Clinical Medicine, Östersund, Sweden

Background: Our previous study showed that rheumatoid arthritis (RA) was associated with higher one-year mortality after first acute myocardial infarction (AMI). Studies have shown increased mortality already within 30 days after cardiovascular events (AMI or stroke) in RA patients compared to non-RA patients. Objectives: We aimed to study if antiinflammatory medical treatment affected survival within 30 days after a first AMI in patients with RA versus non-RA patients. Methods: Data for 198944 patients with a first AMI were drawn from the Swedish Register of Information and Knowledge about Swedish Heart Intensive Care Admissions for 2006-2017. We used the National Patient Register to identify RA patients with AMI. RA was defined as ≥2 visits to a Rheumatology or Internal Medicine department with a diagnosis of RA, 3725 patients were diagnosed. Antirheumatic medical treatment prescribed during six months prior to the first AMI in RA and non-RA patients was obtained from the National Prescribed Drug Register. The drugs and all their combinations were divided into five groups: Corticosteroids, NSAID (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug), csDMARD (conventional synthetic Disease-modifying antirheumatic drug), anti-TNF (anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor), BDMDARD (biologic Disease-modifying antirheumatic drug). Logistic regression analysis was used to identify variables associated with increased mortality within 30 days after first AMI in each treatment group. Results: Increased risk of death was found in the corticosteroid group in both non-RA and RA groups (OR 1.61 and 1.66). Treatment with csDMARD and anti-TNF in the RA group were associated with increased survival (OR 0.81 and 0.72), Table 1. Conclusion: We showed that patients treated with corticosteroids had an increased risk of death after first AMI. RA patients treated with csDMARD and anti-TNF had a lower risk of death which could explain that high inflammatory activity in RA patients may be part of the explanation of the increased mortality after first AMI.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Odds ratios (OR) for death within 30 days after first AMI from the multivariable logistic regression analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Riskfactor</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.08***</td>
<td>1.06***</td>
<td>1.06***</td>
<td>1.06***</td>
<td>1.06***</td>
<td>1.06***</td>
<td>1.06***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male)</td>
<td>1.10**</td>
<td>1.09**</td>
<td>1.09**</td>
<td>1.09**</td>
<td>1.09**</td>
<td>1.09**</td>
<td>1.09**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>1.60***</td>
<td>1.52***</td>
<td>1.59***</td>
<td>1.59***</td>
<td>1.55***</td>
<td>1.57***</td>
<td>1.59***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrial fibrillation</td>
<td>1.58***</td>
<td>1.58***</td>
<td>1.59***</td>
<td>1.61***</td>
<td>1.59***</td>
<td>1.62***</td>
<td>1.59***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHF</td>
<td>2.48***</td>
<td>2.62***</td>
<td>2.48***</td>
<td>2.48***</td>
<td>2.48***</td>
<td>2.48***</td>
<td>2.48***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEMI</td>
<td>0.90***</td>
<td>0.89***</td>
<td>0.89***</td>
<td>0.89***</td>
<td>0.88***</td>
<td>0.89***</td>
<td>0.89***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR</td>
<td>0.98***</td>
<td>0.98***</td>
<td>0.98***</td>
<td>0.98***</td>
<td>0.98***</td>
<td>0.98***</td>
<td>0.98***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angiotensin receptor blockers</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. All-cause mortality and major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) among patients with autoimmune diseases and type 2 diabetes initiating GLP-1 receptor agonists or DPP-4 inhibitors, after propensity-score overlap weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GLP-1 receptor agonists</th>
<th>DPP-4 inhibitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(n=3,570)</td>
<td>(n=7,285)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-Cause Mortality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event, number</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean follow-up (years)</td>
<td>1.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR, per 1000 person-years</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.48 (0.31, 0.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RD (95% CI)</td>
<td>-9.4 (-16.0, -2.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0025

MORTALITY AND MAJOR ADVERSE CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS AFTER GLUCAGON-LIKE PEPTIDE-1 RECEPTOR AGONIST INITIATION IN PATIENTS WITH AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES AND TYPE 2 DIABETES: A POPULATION-BASED STUDY

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Comorbidities, Epidemiology

D. Karacabeyli1, N. Lu2,3, N. MCCormick3, H. Choi1,3, D. Lalacille1,2, J. A. Aviña-Zubieta1,3,4, A. The University of British Columbia, Medicine (Division of Rheumatology), Vancouver, Canada; Arthritis Research Canada, Rheumatology, Vancouver Canada; Massachusetts General Hospital, Medicine (Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology), Boston, United States of America

Background: Patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases are at higher risk of cardiovascular complications and premature mortality [1,2], possibly related to chronic inflammation. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) are used to treat type 2 diabetes and obesity (two pro-inflammatory states associated with systemic autoimmune diseases) and have anti-inflammatory properties [4], but their clinical effects on cardiovascular outcomes and mortality in patients with autoimmune diseases remain unknown.

Objectives: To assess the risk of all-cause mortality and major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) in patients with autoimmune diseases and type 2 diabetes initiating GLP-1 RAs versus dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors (DPP-4 ias).

Methods: We performed a sequential propensity score (PS) overlap weighted population-based cohort study using administrative health data from British Columbia. Data included diagnostic codes from physician visits and hospitalizations in a universal health care system, all pharmacy-dispensed medications, and vital statistics from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2021. All patients with an autoimmune disease (i.e., rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic disease, ankylosing spondylitis, inflammatory bowel disease, or a systemic autoimmune rheumatic disease) and type 2 diabetes who newly initiated a GLP-1 RA or DPP-4i were identified using ICD-9/10 codes. The primary outcome of interest was all-cause mortality. The secondary outcome was MACE (composite of cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, and ischemic stroke). Herpes zoster reactivation was assessed as a negative control outcome. Cox proportional hazard regression models with PS overlap weighting were used.

Results: We identified 10,855 patients with autoimmune diseases and type 2 diabetes who newly initiated a GLP-1 RA or DPP-4i. All-cause mortality rate was lower among initiators of GLP-1 RAs compared to initiators of DPP-4 ias, with a weighted hazard ratio (HR) of 0.48 (95% CI, 0.31-0.75) and rate difference (RD) of -9.4 (95% CI, -16.0 to -2.7) per 1000 person-years (Table 1). Rates of MACE were also lower with GLP-1 RA versus DPP-4i exposure (HR 0.66 CI, 0.50-0.88, RD -10.5 [CI, -20.4 to -0.8]). There was no difference in the risk of herpes zoster reactivation (HR 0.98 CI, 0.65-1.43).

Conclusion: In patients with autoimmune diseases and type 2 diabetes, GLP-1 RA exposure is associated with a lower risk of all-cause mortality and MACE compared to DPP-4i exposure. Further research is needed to explore potential adipo-ceptivity-dependent and independent mechanisms through which GLP-1 RAs may reduce cardiovascular risk for patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0026

INCREASED VASCULAR INFLAMMATION ON PET-CT IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN COMPARISON WITH HEALTHY CONTROLS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Cardiovascular disease, Imaging

N. J. Kleineinsins1,2, W. Poppen2, N. Sedding2, H. Vonkeman3, K. Sjuijkerbuijk4, M. Jansen1, P. De Jong2, M. W. Heijstek1, J. Spierings1, 1UMC Utrecht, Department of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 2UMC Utrecht, Department of Radiology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 3Medisch Spectrum Twente, Department of Rheumatology, Enschede, Netherlands, 4UMC Utrecht, Department of Medical Oncology, Utrecht, Netherlands

Background: Patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, possibly due to a chronic inflammatory state.
Independent Samples t-test

**Objective:** The main objective of this study was to investigate whether vascular inflammation, measured with 18-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT), is elevated in PsA patients.

**Methods:** We included 75 PsA patients with active peripheral arthritis (≥2 tender and swollen joints) from an ongoing clinical trial (EudraCT 2017-003900-28), and a retrospective group of 40 controls with melanoma, without distant metastases and not receiving immunotherapy. Both PsA patients and controls were aged 18-75 years. The main outcome measure was aortic vascular inflammation, which was measured using target-to-background-ratios (TBR) on PET/CT. Clinical disease activity in PsA was assessed with the TBR, body surface area and the composite measure Disease Activity index for PsA. Laboratory assessments included the inflammatory parameters C-reactive protein and Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate. Vascular inflammation was compared between PsA patients and controls in univariate analysis with an unpaired t-test with equal variances. A multiple linear regression analysis was performed to adjust for age, gender, body mass index and mean arterial pressure (MAP). Associations of clinical parameters of disease activity in PsA with vascular inflammation were assessed using Spearman’s correlation coefficient.

**Results:** Vascular inflammation was increased in PsA patients in comparison with controls (mean TBR for entire aorta respectively 1.53±0.15 and 1.42±0.13; P<0.001; Figure 1). This association remained significant after adjusting for gender, age, body mass index and mean arterial pressure (P=0.002). In individuals with PsA, vascular inflammation was not associated with disease-related parameters. There were no significant differences between PsA patients and controls regarding age, mean arterial pressure (MAP) and history of CVD. PsA patients had a higher BMI in comparison with healthy controls (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** Aortic vascular inflammation was increased in patients with active PsA compared with controls. This evidence suggests that inflammation in PsA is not limited to skin and joints, but also involves the cardiovascular system.

**Table 1. Patients’ characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>PsA (N=75)</th>
<th>Controls (N=40)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>53 (46-59)</td>
<td>52 (42-59)</td>
<td>0.353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex</td>
<td>43 (57.3)</td>
<td>23 (57.5)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index, kg/m², mean±SD</td>
<td>28.4±4.9</td>
<td>25.9±4.0</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Arterial Pressure, meansSD</td>
<td>102.8±11.6</td>
<td>98.5±13.9</td>
<td>0.090d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoking</td>
<td>10 (13.3)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>12 (16.0)</td>
<td>6 (15.0)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>11 (14.7)</td>
<td>2 (1.3)</td>
<td>0.277**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperlipidemia</td>
<td>2 (2.7)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>2 (2.7)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myocardial infarction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (2.5)</td>
<td>0.348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular event</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA duration, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>10.0 (1.0-123)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current csDMARD use</td>
<td>37 (49.3)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC (of 68 joints), median (IQR)</td>
<td>4.0 (6.5-10.0)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC (of 66 joints), median (IQR)</td>
<td>3.0 (5.0-9.0)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEI count (1-6), median (IQR)</td>
<td>0 (0.0-1.0)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA, median (IQR)</td>
<td>10 (10.0-10.0)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, median (IQR)</td>
<td>10 (10.0-10.0)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL-cholesterol, mean±SD</td>
<td>3.0±0.9</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Values are expressed as % (n) unless stated otherwise.**

**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by Pfizer (New York, New York, USA). The collaboration project is funded by the PPP Allowance made available by Health–Holland, Top Sector Life Sciences & Health, to stimulate public–private partnerships (grant number: LSHM17074).

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**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease

**Carcinaglia1, M. Piglia2, G. L. Erre3, G. Sakellariou4, A. Manfredi5, O. Yipanov6, E. Grenci7, P. R. Spinelli8, P. Atzeni9, E. Bartoloni10; University and AOUD Policlinico of Bari, Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine and Ionia Area, Bari, Italy; Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, AOUD and University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy; University and AOUD of Sassari, Dipartimento di Medicina, Chirurgia e Farmacia, Sassari, Italy; University of Pavia, Istituti Clinici Scientifici Maugeri IRCCS Pavia, Pavia, Italy; Unit of Rheumatology, Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Policlinico di Modena., Modena, Italy; University of Verona, Department of Medicine, Verona, Italy; Policlinico Gemelli, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Dipartimento di Scienze Mediche e Chirurgiche, Roma, Italy; Università La Sapienza, Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Internistiche, Anestesiologiche e Cardiovascolari, Roma, Italy; Rheumatology Unit, Department of Experimental and Internal Medicine, University of Messina., Messina, Italy; Rheumatology Unit, University of Perugia, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Perugia, Italy

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients are at high risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (CVD) and mortality, and dyslipidemia represents a modifiable CV risk factor significantly contributing to the increased risk. However, dyslipidemia is frequently underestimated and inadequately managed in rheumatologic clinical practice.

**Objectives:** The aim of the present study was to investigate how dyslipidemia in RA patients is managed in a real-life setting for primary prevention strategies.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study of RA patients of the Cardiovascular Obesity and Rheumatic DiSeases (CORDIS) cohort [1], with no previous CVD and with available lipid levels was performed. All patients were stratified by the Systematic COronary Risk Evaluation (SCORE) algorithm for CV risk [2] and the application of primary preventive strategy was assessed in accordance with the 2019 European Society of Cardiology (ESC)/European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) guidelines for the management of dyslipidemias [3].

**Results:** A total of 1296 RA patients (79% females) with a mean age of 59±12 years were included. According to the SCORE algorithm, 457 (35.5%) patients were at moderate CV risk (1-5%), 455 (35.1%) at high CV risk (5-10%), and 384 (29.6%) at very high (>10%) CV risk. None was at low CV risk (<1%). Eighty percent of the whole cohort was eligible for statin therapy, but only 22.3% was on treatment at inclusion, and 39.7% presented lipid levels on target. Among patients at high and/or very-high SCORE risk, 70% were not on statin treatment even if recommended and 26.7% were not at lipid target even if under statin use. Among patients at moderate SCORE risk, 208 (45.5%) were at lipid target and 31(14.9%) of them were on statin therapy. Globally 565 (43.6%) patients were not on treatment for dyslipidemia even if recommended according to ESC/EAS guidelines (Figure 1). Of note, about 80% of RA patients at high or very high CV risk were on anti-hypertensive and/or antiaggregant treatment.

**Conclusion:** Statin therapy prescription is suboptimal in RA despite a relevant proportion of patients meeting indications according to LDL thresholds and/or
SCORE algorithm. Preventive CV strategies seem mainly focused on anti-hypertensive or antiplatelet therapy. Rheumatologists should pay close attention to lipid levels and preventive therapeutic interventions to reduce the CV risk of RA patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Characteristics at index date of immune checkpoint inhibitor initiation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Pre-existing RA patients (n=100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age, years (SD)</td>
<td>70.3 (10.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD-1/PD-L1 monotherapy</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTLA-4 and combination</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung cancer</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitourinary tract cancer</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median RA duration, years (IQR)</td>
<td>9.4 (8, 17.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositive</td>
<td>59/83 (71%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most recent disease activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission/low</td>
<td>63/77 (82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate/high</td>
<td>14/77 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfasalazine/leflunomide</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6 receptor inhibitors</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumor necrosis factor inhibitors/taflitumib</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In this largest study to date of patients with pre-existing RA initiating ICI, 46% flared, often after initial ICI infusion, but were mostly mild and managed with typical therapies. A minority had severe RA flares requiring disruption of ICI, but RA flares were not associated with mortality. These results reiterate that pre-existing RA should not be considered a contraindication to ICI treatment for cancer.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Senada Arabelovic: None declared, Kaitlin McCarter: None declared, Taylor Wolfgang: None declared, Xiaosong Wang: None declared, Kazuki Yoshida Consultant of: Received consulting fees from OM1, Inc., Emily Banasiak: None declared, Grace Qian: None declared, Emily Kowalski: None declared, Kathleen Vanni: None declared, Nicole LeBoeuf Consultant of: Dr. LeBoeuf receives consulting fees from Bayer, Seattle Genetics, Sanofi, Silverback, and Synox Therapeutics outside the submitted work., Elizabeth Buchbinder: None declared, Taylor Wolfgang: None declared, Xiaosong Wang: None declared, Kazuki Yoshida Consultant of: Received consulting fees from OM1, Inc., Emily Banasiak: None declared, Grace Qian: None declared, Emily Kowalski: None declared, Kathleen Vanni: None declared, Nicole LeBoeuf Consultant of: Dr. LeBoeuf receives consulting fees from Bayer, Seattle Genetics, Sanofi, Silverback, and Synox Therapeutics outside the submitted work., Elizabeth Buchbinder:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Senada Arabelovic: None declared, Kaitlin McCarter: None declared, Taylor Wolfgang: None declared, Xiaosong Wang: None declared, Kazuki Yoshida Consultant of: Received consulting fees from OM1, Inc., Emily Banasiak: None declared, Grace Qian: None declared, Emily Kowalski: None declared, Kathleen Vanni: None declared, Nicole LeBoeuf Consultant of: Dr. LeBoeuf receives consulting fees from Bayer, Seattle Genetics, Sanofi, Silverback, and Synox Therapeutics outside the submitted work., Elizabeth Buchbinder:
None declared, Lydia Gedmintas: None declared, Lindsey MacFarlane: None declared, Deepak Rao: None declared, Nancy Shadick Grant/research support from: Dr. Shadick is supported by Mallinckrodt, Lilly, BMS, AMGEN, ABB-VIE, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Pfizer unrelated to this work.

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OP0029

COMPARATIVE SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF TNF INHIBITORS, IL6R INHIBITORS AND METHOTREXATE FOR THE TREATMENT OF IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR ASSOCIATED ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Malignancy, bDMARD, Inflammatory arthritis

A. Bass1, N. Abdel-Wahab2, P. Reid3, J. Sparks4, C. Calabrese5, D. Jannat-Khan6, N. Gosh7, D. Rajesh6, C. Aude6, L. Gedmintas4, L. Macfarlane4, D. Kadmon Corporation, Clifton Bingham Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, cassandra calabrese Speakers bureau: Sanofi, Laura Cappelli Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Karmela Kim Chan: None declared, Laura Cappelli Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Farah Al Haj: None declared, Adewummi Falolu: None declared, Komal Mushtak: None declared, Farah Al Haj: None declared, Adi Diab: None declared, Ami Shah Grant/research support from: Eicos Sciences, Medpace LLC, Arena Pharmaceuticals, Kadmon Corporation, Clifton Bingham Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb., Abbvie, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Sanofi, Moderna, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Karmela Kim Chan: None declared, Laura Cappelli Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb.

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Disclosure of Interests: Anne Bass: None declared, Noha Abdel-Wahab Speakers bureau: ChemoCentryx, Consultant of: ChemoCentryx, Farkidi Reid: None declared, Jeffrey Sparks Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Gilead, Inova Diagnostics, Janssen, Optum, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, cassandra calabrese Speakers bureau: Sanofi, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Deanna Jannat-Khan: None declared, Nilasha Ghosh: None declared, Divya Rajesh: None declared, Carlos Aude: None declared, Lydia Gedmintas: None declared, Nancy Shadick: None declared, Cassandra Calabrese Speakers bureau: Sanofi, Laura Cappelli Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb.

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier curve showing time to cancer progression from time of immune checkpoint inhibitor initiation

Table 1. Patient characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>TNFi</th>
<th>IL6R</th>
<th>MTX</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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</thead>
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<td>100</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sex (female)</td>
<td>66 (45%)</td>
<td>53 (39%)</td>
<td>39 (45%)</td>
<td>46 (53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race (white)</td>
<td>136 (92%)</td>
<td>94 (69%)</td>
<td>108 (29%)</td>
<td>51 (31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer type</td>
<td>63 (43%)</td>
<td>16 (48%)</td>
<td>21 (50%)</td>
<td>26 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>14 (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bladder cancer</td>
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<td>3 (7%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>10 (26%)</td>
<td>6 (14%)</td>
<td>22 (31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer stage</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>26 (18%)</td>
<td>7 (21%)</td>
<td>6 (14%)</td>
<td>13 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>118 (80%)</td>
<td>24 (73%)</td>
<td>36 (86%)</td>
<td>58 (81%)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Combination (CTLA4/PDI1)</td>
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<td>22 (31%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICI discontinued for arthritis</td>
<td>58 (40%)</td>
<td>12 (36%)</td>
<td>17 (40%)</td>
<td>29 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICI initiation to DMARD start</td>
<td>403 (256,383)</td>
<td>111 (284)</td>
<td>300 (170)</td>
<td>486 (258,383)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of DMARD treatment, median (IQR)</td>
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<td>92 (45, 149)</td>
<td>309 (63, 420) (138, &lt;0.001)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum glucocorticoid dose, mean (SD)</td>
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<td>53 (27)</td>
<td>42 (29)</td>
<td>33 (23)</td>
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Improving our understanding of RMDs in children and young people

Keywords: bDMARD, -omics, Inflammatory arthritides

F. Elschoëly1, A. Pickering2, S. Dhakal3, H. Brunner4,5, A. Grom6,7, S. Thornton1,3
1Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Division of Pediatric Rheumatology, Cincinnati, United States of America; 2Harvard Medical School, Department of Biomedical Informatics, Boston, United States of America; 3University of Cincinnati, Department of Pediatrics, Cincinnati, United States of America

Background: Despite advances in the understanding of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) pathophysiology, personalized treatments informed by gene transcriptomic profiles remain elusive.

Objectives: To examine the relationship between changes in gene expression and treatment response in patients with JIA treated with tofacitinib.

Methods: Whole blood samples from patients with JIA were collected using Paxgene tubes at baseline (BL) and again at week (wk) 18 of treatment with tofacitinib as part of a clinical trial (NCT02592434) [1]. Patients were classified as treatment responders (TR) if they achieved at least a JIA-American College of Rheumatology score of (JIA-ACR70) or above (NTR = 47; NTR = 58); and non-responders (NR) improvement was no more than a JIA-ACR30 response (NTR = 20; NNR = 8). Bulk RNA was isolated, subjected to globin/rRNA deple- tion, and used for generation of cDNA libraries for subsequent sequencing. RNA sequencing via Illumina Nova-seq generated 50 million reads per sample. Gene expression was compared in TR and NR (BL, wk18; change BL to wk18). Kallisto 0.48.0 was used for pseudo-quantification (GRCh38 release 94 index). Differential expression and Gene Ontology (GO) over-representation analyses were performed with dseep 0.34.0.

Results: Significant differential expression (FDR<0.05) was observed in 10,138 genes between BL and wk18. GO over-representation analysis was performed separately for up- and down-regulated genes with FDR<0.05 and absolute logFC>0.8 (n=231). For genes down-regulated with treatment (BL-wk18), ontologies related to negative regulation of gene expression, type I and type II interferon pathways were significantly over-represented (FDR<0.05), while ontologies for synapse organization and activity were over-represented among up-regulated genes (Figure 1). The latter might reflect the normalization of the immunological synapse leading to improved cytotoxic NK and T cell functions, the impairment of which has been proposed to escalate the production of IFN-γ and other proinflammatory cytokines [2]. There were no significantly differentially expressed genes (FDR < 0.05) between TR vs. NR at BL or wk18. Exploratory GO analysis in NR vs. TR at baseline (FDR<0.13, n=76 genes) suggests up-regulation of genes in ontologies related to the activation of MAP kinase activity.

Conclusion: Tofacitinib treatment in JIA patients leads to widespread changes in whole blood transcriptional profiles. The most significant transcriptional changes observed included the down-regulation of genes associated with type I and type II interferon pathways, and the up-regulation of genes involved in synapse organization and activity. Potential association of MAP-kinase activation in NR at baseline needs to be further explored. MAP-kinase is one of the signalling pathways in inflammatory arthritids that can be targeted by small molecules other than JAK inhibitors. Thus, patients with a predominantly active MAP-kinase pathway could be less likely to respond to tofacitinib. If confirmed, these findings might be useful to personalize JIA treatment in the future.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Funding: Ralph & Marian Falk Medical Trust Catalyst Award; the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Pediatric Musculoskeletal & Rheumatology Innovation Core center; the University of Cincinnati Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training; Serum samples were donated by Pfizer; We thank the PRCSG and PRINTO Investigators for the collection of serum samples and data used. We thank the SJFA foundation as they granted access and paid for bioinformatics services. Role of the study sponsor: Serum samples were donated by Pfizer. Pfizer was not involved in the study design, data collection, analysis, or data interpretation. Pfizer reviewed and approved the abstract for submission.

Disclosure of Interests: Esraa Elschoëly: None declared, Alex Pickering: None declared, Sherry Thornton: None declared, Hernielle Brunner: Speaking bureau: Dr. Brunner serves on the speakers’ bureau and on ad-board for Pfizer. Consultant: Dr. Brunner is a consultant for Pfizer with funds received by CCHMC, her primary employer, Alexei Grom Consultant of: Sobi and Novartis, Grant/research support from: Sobi and Novartis, Sherry Thornton: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.680

Figure 1. Heatmap showing differentially expressed genes (FDR < 0.05 and logFC > 1) at week 18 vs baseline in JIA patients receiving tofacitinib. Annotated genes are from ontologies related to type I and type II interferon activity (down-regulated), as well as from ontologies related to synapse organization (up-regulated).

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Cytokines and chemokines

C. Tomé1, F. Oliveira-Ramos1,2, R. Campaniho-Marques1,2, A. F. Mourão3, S. Sousa4, C. Marques1, A. T. Melo2, R. L. Teixeira1,2, A. P. Martins3, S. Moedas4, P. Costa Reis5,6, R. Pinheiro Torres7, M. J. Sousa Bandeira2,2, H. Fonseca8, M. Gonçalves9, M. I. Santos9, L. Gracal1, J. E. Barreto1,2, R. A. Moura1, Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Rheumatology Research Unit, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Hospital de Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, EPE, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Rheumatology Department, Lisbon, Portugal; 3Hospital de São Francisco Xavier, Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Ocidental, EPE, Rheumatology Department, Lisbon, Portugal; 4Hospital Garcia de Orta, EPE, Reumatology Department, Almada, Portugal; 5Hospital de Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, EPE, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Department of Pediatrics, Lisbon, Portugal

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common rheumatic disease in children. Our group has recently demonstrated that extended oligoarticular and polyarticular JIA mostly evolve to a rheumatoid arthritis (RA)-like phenotype in adulthood. Disturbances in B cells, T follicular helper (ThF) and T follicular regulatory (TfR) cell immune responses are associated with RA pathogenesis, but their exact role in JIA development is poorly understood.

Objectives: The main goal of this study was to characterize the frequency and phenotype of B, ThF and TfR cells in peripheral blood and the cytokine envi- ronment present in circulation in children with with extended oligoarticular JIA (eOJIA) and polyarticular arthritis (pJIA) when compared to healthy controls, children with persistent oligoarticular JIA (pOJIA) and adult JIA patients.

Methods: Blood samples were collected from 105 JIA patients (children and adults) and 50 age- and gender-matched healthy individuals. Peripheral blood mononuclear

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Methods: Blood samples were collected from 105 JIA patients (children and adults) and 50 age- and gender-matched healthy individuals. Peripheral blood mononuclear
cell-mediated inflammation.

The frequency of B and Tfh cell subsets, but not in Tfr cells, were found in peripheral blood of children with eoJIA and pJIA when compared to controls. Our results suggest a potential role and/or activation profile of B and Tfh cells were isolated and the frequency and phenotype of B, Tfh and Tfr cells were measured by multiplex bead-based immunoassay and/or ELISA in all groups included. 

**Results:** The frequency of B, Tfh and Tfr cells was similar between JIA controls. Our results suggest a potential role and/or activation profile of B and Tfh cells were isolated and the frequency and phenotype of B, Tfh and Tfr cells were measured by multiplex bead-based immunoassay and/or ELISA in all groups included.

**Conclusion:** In ERA, the immune architecture of the inflamed synovium is profoundly perturbed, whereby Th1 and Th17 cells are the main CD4+ T cell drivers of disease. CXCR3+CXCR6+ CD4+ Tffs are possible precursors of Th1- and Th17-mediated synovial inflammation, and may be inadequately regulated during disease. The results provide mechanistic support for therapeutic targeting of the Th1 and Th17 pathways, as well as CXCR3 and CXCR6 signalling to curb T cell-mediated inflammation.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3217

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**OP0032**

**MULTI-PARAMETRIC ANALYSIS EVIDENCES TRAFFICKING OF CIRCULATORY CXCR3+CCR6+ CD4+ T CELLS AS A SOURCE OF TH1- AND TH17- MEDIATED INFLAMMATION IN THE ENTHESITHESIS-RELATED ARTHRITIS (ERA) SYNOVIMONOS.

**Keywords:** Synovium, Adaptive immunity, Cytokines and chemokines

**H. S. Tan**1,2, J. Y. Leong2,3, M. Wasser2,3, A. J. M. Lim2, G. J. Yeoh2,3,4, T. Arkachaisri1, S. Albani3,4,1 Duke-NUS Medical School, MD-PhD Programme, Singapore, Singapore; 2Translational Immunology Institute, SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Centre, Singapore, Singapore; 3Duke-NUS Medical School, SingHealth Duke-NUS Paediatrics ACR, Singapore, Singapore; 4KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, Division of Medicine, Singapore, Singapore

**Background:** Enthesitis-related arthritis (ERA), a common subtype of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), carries a poor prognosis. Current therapies, including anti-TNF agents, are limited in controlling disease. There is a poor understanding of ERA immunopathogenesis, especially the ontogeny of synovial pro-inflammatory T cells, which limits prognostic and therapeutic targets.

**Objectives:** We aim to compare, using a high-dimensional approach, the synovial and circulatory immune architectures of active ERA patients. Through this, we aim to identify CD4+ T cell subsets strongly associated with synovial inflammation in active ERA patients. We also aim to assess differentiation, cytokine production and regulation of candidate CD4+ T cell subsets.

**Methods:** We interrogated, using mass cytometry, CD4+ immune cells from the synovium (n=10) and circulation (n=30) of ERA patients with active joint inflammation, as well from blood of healthy paediatric controls (n=30). FlowSOM clustering were performed with functionally and phenotypically important immune markers. Multiple Mann-Whitney U tests with Holm-Sidak correction identified significantly different cluster frequencies. Significant clusters were validated with supervised gating on FlowJo. To evaluate CXCR3+CXCR6+ CD4+ T cells, we sorted CXCR3+CXCR6+ Tffs and Tregs from active ERA SFMCs and PBMCs with FACs. We then conducted in-vitro maturation and Treg suppression assays on sorted cells.

**Results:** The ERA synovium has a deranged immune architecture that is distinct from the circulation, and this involves innate and adaptive immune perturbations. The ERA synovium is enriched with CD4+ Effector memory cells (median: 68.45% vs. 23.85% of total CD4+ T cells; p<0.0001), of which IFNγ+ (44.85% vs. 4.08% of total CD4+ T cells; p<0.0001), and TNFα+ (10.64% vs. 2.52% of total CD4+ T cells; p<0.0001) producers dominate. The ERA synovium is also enriched with CXCR3+CXCR6+ CD4+ T cells, which are present at lower numbers and activation status in the ERA circulation (6.64% vs. 2% of total CD4+ T cells; p<0.0001). Under in-vitro TCR stimulation, synovial CXCR3+CXCR6+ CD4+ Tffs mature into IFNγ+ IL-17A, and dual IFNγ+IL-17A producers. Synovial CXCR3+CXCR6+ CD4+ Tregs are bona fide Tregs that suppress their Teff counterparts. However, CXCR3+CXCR6+ CD4+ Tregs are not proportionally expanded relative to CXCR3+CXCR6+ CD4+ Tffs in the ERA synovium.

**Conclusion:** In ERA, the immune architecture of the inflamed synovium is profoundly perturbed, whereby Th1 and Th17 cells are the main CD4+ T cell drivers of disease. CXCR3+CXCR6+ CD4+ Tffs are possible precursors of Th1- and Th17-mediated synovial inflammation, and may be inadequately regulated during disease. The results provide mechanistic support for therapeutic targeting of the Th1 and Th17 pathways, as well as CXCR3 and CXCR6 signalling to curb T cell-mediated inflammation.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3011

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**OP0033**

**ANALYSIS OF B CELL SUBSETS AND B CELL CYTOKINES IN PEDIATRIC SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME.

**Keywords:** Sjögren syndrome, Cell biology, Adaptive immunity

P. Nicolai1, C. Bracaglia1, A. Boni1, I. Caiello1, D. Pires Marafon1, F. De Benedetti1, E. Marasco1,2 Bambino Gesù Children Hospital, Unit of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy

**Background:** Pediatric Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a rare disorder that is often diagnosed late due to the lack of validated diagnostic criteria and validated biomarkers. The pathogenesis is largely unknown, but there is evidence of involvement of both the innate and adaptive branch of the immune system. Immunological overactivity is central in the pathogenesis of pSS. Several studies showed the presence of B cells abnormalities in patients with SS with an expansion of naïve B cells and a decrease in the frequency of memory B cells.

**Objectives:** We set out to investigate the distribution of B cell subsets and B cell cytokines in patients with pSS at disease onset and at follow up visits.

**Methods:** A monocentric retrospective cohort study was conducted on 23 patients with pSS enrolled at the department of Rheumatology of Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital. Serum levels of CXCL13 and BAFF were analyzed by ELISA. B cell phenotype was assessed on peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) by flow cytometry. Systemic disease activity was evaluated by ESSDAI (EULAR Sjögren’s syndrome disease activity index) and Clinical-ESSDAI score (Clin-ESSDAI), according to 2020 EULAR recommendations; active disease was defined by Clin-ESSDAI ≥1 and remission by ClinESSDAI=0. As controls we selected age-matched people with no diagnosis of pSS or any other systemic autoimmune disease.

**Results:** Serum levels of CXCL13 and BAFF were significantly higher in patients with pSS than the control group (p<0.05) (Figure 1A). We correlated levels of biomarkers with clinical and laboratory parameters: we observed a positive correlation between hypergammaglobulinemia and BAFF (rho=0.80). Analysis of B-cell subsets at disease onset revealed the expansion of a population of atypical memory B cells (p=0,00049) and a reduction in IgM memory B cells (p=0.0034) compared to the control group (Figure 1B). We then compared the distribution of B cell subpopulations at disease onset (pre) with samples obtained at follow-up (post) for each patient no significant differences were observed (Figure 1B). We also investigated the distribution of Th17 cells in patients with pSS and we observed a significant expansion of CXCR5PD1+ Tffs (Figure 1B).

**Conclusion:** Patients with pSS showed high levels of CXCL13 and BAFF at disease onset. Alteration in B cell subsets are present in patients in pSS compared to controls, with an expansion of atypical memory B cells and Tffs. The B cell abnormalities are not affected by treatment. Our data confirm a hyperactivation of the humoral immune system in patients with pSS and provide evidence for their development as biomarkers and to develop new therapeutic strategies aimed at controlling B cell hyperactivation in pediatric patients with SS.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3011

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**Image:** A and B show the distribution of B cell subsets with and without disease activity. Figure 1 shows the expansion of CXCR5PD1+ Tffs in patients with pSS.
A NOVEL SERUM CALPROTECTIN (MRP8/14) PARTICLE ENHANCED IMMUNO-TURBIDIMETRIC ASSAY (sCAL TURBO) HELPS TO DIFFERENTIATE SJIA FROM OTHER DISEASES IN ROUTINE CLINICAL LABORATORY SETTINGS

Keywords: Innate immunity, Diagnostic Tests, Biomarkers

D. Foel1, M. Saeiers1, C. Park1, N. Brix2, M. Gluer3, C. Kessel1, H. Wittkowski1, C. Hinze1, L. Berntson1, A. Fasth1, S. Nielsen1, E. Nordin1, M. Rygg4,5, H. Hasle1, T. Herlin1, D. Holzinger1,2, C. Niederberger1, B. Schlüter1,4
1 University Hospital Children’s Muenster Department of Pediatric Rheumatology and Immunology, Muenster, Germany; 2 Aalborg University Hospital, Department of Paediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Aalborg, Denmark; 3 Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark; 4 Uppsala University, Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, Uppsala, Sweden; 5 University of Gothenburg, Department of Pediatrics, Institute of Clinical Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy, Gothenburg, Sweden; 6 Copenhagen University Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Copenhagen, Denmark; 7 University Hospital of North Norway, Department of Pediatrics, Tromso, Norway; 8 Arctic University of Norway, Department of Clinical Medicine, Tromso, Norway; 9 St. Olavs Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Trondheim, Norway; 10 Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Clinical and Molecular Medicine, Trondheim, Norway; 11 University of Duisburg-Essen Department of Pediatric Hematology- Oncology, Essen, Germany; 12 University of Applied Sciences Bochum, Department of Applied Health Sciences, Bochum, Germany; 13 BÜHLMANN Laboratories, BÜHLMANN AG, Schönenbuch, Switzerland; 14 University Hospital Muenster, Central Laboratory, Muenster, Germany

Background: Differential diagnosis in children with signs of unprovoked inflammation can be challenging. In particular, differentiating systemic-onset juvenile idiopathic arthritis (SJIA) from other diagnoses is difficult in individuals presenting with fever of unknown origin. We have recently validated myeloid-related protein 8/14 (MRP8/14, S100A8/A9, calprotectin) serum analyses as a helpful tool supporting the diagnosis of SJIA. The results could be confirmed with a commercial ELISA. However, further optimization of the analytical technology will be important to enable large-scale use in routine laboratory settings.

Objectives: To evaluate the accuracy in identifying children with SJIA, the performance of an immunoturbidimetric assay for measurements of serum-calprotectin (BÜHLMANN sCAL turbo) on an automated laboratory instrument was tested in serum samples of children with various conditions.

Methods: Samples from 650 children were available with diagnoses SJIA (n=99), non-systemic JIA (n=169), infections (n=51), other inflammatory diseases (n=161), and acute lymphatic leukemia (ALL, n=147). In addition, samples from 23 healthy controls were included. The patients with systemic inflammatory diseases were collected at Muenster University as reported before.[1] Patients with non-systemic JIA were from the Nordic JIA cohort as previously described in detail.[2] The ALL cohort included consecutive cases from Aalborg and Aarhus University Hospitals.[3] The BÜHLMANN sCAL turbo test is a particle enhanced immuno-turbidimetric assay (PETIA) and was compared to the established MRP8/14 ELISA from BÜHLMANN (EK-MRP8/14). The sCAL PETIA has a range of 230-15,000 ng/mL (extended range up to 225,000 ng/mL by dilution of 1:15) in sample volumes of only 2-3 µl and was implemented into the automated laboratory setting at the central clinical laboratory of the University Hospital Muenster as a rapid test available on demand.

Results: The sCAL turbo assay showed an excellent correlation to the MRP8/14 ELISA used in the previous validation studies (r=0.99, p<0.001). It could reliably differentiate SJIA from all other diagnoses with significant accuracy (cut-off at 9,100 ng/mL, sensitivity 93%, specificity 87%, ROC area under curve 0.961, p<0.001). Results are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Conclusion: MRP8/14 (S100A8/A9, calprotectin) serum analyses have been validated as a helpful tool supporting the diagnosis of SJIA in children with prolonged fever or inflammatory disease. Here we show that an immunoturbidimetric assay for detection of serum-calprotectin on an automated laboratory instrument can be implemented in clinical laboratory settings to facilitate its use as a diagnostic routine test in clinical practice.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The authors thank all patients, families and physicians who helped collecting samples and data. Samples from non-systemic JIA patients were provided by the Nordic Study Group of Pediatric Rheumatology (NoSPeR). ALL samples were collected by the Nordic Society of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology (NOPHO). All other samples were provided by the University Hospital Muenster from existing and reported repositories.

Figure 1. Results of sCAL turbo measurements in different groups of patients (red line showing median, error bars showing interquartile range; *** p<0.001, **** p<0.0001)

Table 1. Accuracy (ROC analyses) of sCAL turbo measurements in differentiating groups of patients 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SJIA vs all groups</th>
<th>SJIA vs infections</th>
<th>SJIA vs ALL</th>
<th>SJIA vs others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUC (95%CI)</td>
<td>0.961 (0.943-0.978)</td>
<td>0.908 (0.862-0.953)</td>
<td>0.992 (0.981-0.996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut-Off (ng/ml)</td>
<td>9.100</td>
<td>10.500</td>
<td>9.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity (%)</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specificity (%)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4075
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES:


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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FREQUENCY AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DIAGNOSTIC DELAY IN EUROPEAN PATIENTS WITH FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER: A STUDY ON 960 PATIENTS FROM THE JIR COHORT

Keywords: Innate immunity, Genetics/Epigeneics, Epidemiology


1. Hôpital Tenon, Centre "de référence des Maladies auto-inflammatoires et arthrose AA, Interne Médicine, Paris, France; 2. CHU Rennes, Internal Medicine, Centre Rennes, France; 3. Arabik Joint Medical Center, Pediatric, Yerevan, Armenia; 4. Hopital Kremlin Bicêtre, Pediatric, Paris, France; 5. CHU de Lyon HCL - GH Est-Hôpital Femme Mère Enfant, Pediatric, Lyon, France; 6. Yerevan Center of Medical Genetics and Primary Health Care, Medical Genetics, Yerevan, Armenia; 7. Hopital Bechir Hamza, Pediatric, Tunis, Tunisia; 8. Consultation

OP0036

OP0037

ADHERENCE TO URATE-LOWERING THERAPY AFFECTS THE RISK OF CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS IN PATIENTS WITH GOUT

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Real-world evidence, Gout


1. Seoul Metropolitan Government–Seoul National University Hospital Boramare Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2. Seoul Metropolitan Government–Seoul National University Hospital Boramare Medical Center, Medical Research Collaborating Center, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3. Kangwon National University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Chuncheon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)
Background: The benefit of urate-lowering therapy (ULT) on cardiovascular disease is still controversial. One confounding factor of its association is the adherence to ULT. The impact of adherence to ULT on major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) has not yet been characterized.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the patterns of adherence to ULT and their long-term effects on the risk of MACE in patients with gout.

Methods: Using the Korean national health insurance database, we identified 48,600 patients with gout who were 40 years-old or older and started ULT (allopurinol or febuxostat) in 2013-2014. Patient groups were determined based on ULT adherence at 1 and 3 years after its initiation. Non-adherence was defined by the ratio (<80%) of the proportion days covered during the reference period. Patients were divided into 4 groups: persistently adherent (n=11,087), first adherent/ later non-adherent (n=4,492), first non-adherent/ later adherent (n=5,486), and persistently non-adherent (n=27,535). The primary outcome was the occurrence of MACE (a composite of acute myocardial infarction, revascularization, or acute ischemic stroke) identified in the claims database. The hazard ratio (HR) derived by Cox proportional hazards models was calculated adjusting for age, sex, and comorbidities.

Results: The median follow-up period was 5.2 (interquartile range, 4.6-5.6) years. The persistently non-adherent group had a significantly higher risk of MACE than the persistently adherent group (adjusted HR, 1.14 [95% CI, 1.05-1.24]). The first non-adherent/ later adherent group had a significantly lower risk of MACE than the persistently adherent group (adjusted HR, 0.85 [95% CI, 0.76-0.96]). The risk of MACE was comparable between the persistently adherent group and the first non-adherent/ later non-adherent group (adjusted HR, 1.03 [95% CI, 0.91-1.17]).

Conclusion: Sustained non-adherent to ULT significantly increases the risk of MACE in patients with gout. Regained adherence to ULT was associated with a lower risk of MACE compared with sustained non-adherence.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Risk for major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) according to the adherence status of urate lowering therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>IR per 1000 person-years</th>
<th>Unadjusted HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>Adjusted HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MACE Persistently adherent</td>
<td>17.5 (16.4, 18.6)</td>
<td>1 reference</td>
<td>1 (reference)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First non-adherent</td>
<td>16.2 (14.6, 17.9)</td>
<td>0.220</td>
<td>0.955 (0.845, 0.467)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First non-adherent/</td>
<td>14.7 (13.3, 16.2)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.966 (0.858, 0.560)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later adherent</td>
<td>12.6 (12.0, 13.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>1.140 (1.048, 1.240)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute myocardial infarction</td>
<td>4.5 (4.0, 5.1)</td>
<td>1 (reference)</td>
<td>1 (reference)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revascularization</td>
<td>9.2 (8.4, 10.0)</td>
<td>1 (reference)</td>
<td>1 (reference)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From hearts to lungs: comorbidities in RA.

Keywords: Real-world evidence, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

B. Deloeigne1, L. Lung1, S. Arendest Provan2, E. Kristianslund1, J. Asling1, A. Wulff4, M. Baraze2, T. Kveim2, M. Gjerde2, L. Bjørlo1, L. Jorgensen1, A. Elix Antonsen1, D. Sundy1, L. Mikkelsen1, M. Vold1, A. Hodgkinson1, J. Hallgren3, E. Saveland1, A. Skarstein1, K. Alvestrand1, K. Selmer1, T. Rønningen1, G. Hesselberg1, L. Jersbo1, B. Ottesen1, K. Pedersen1, T. Flaten1, B. Hallgren1, H. Haraldsen1, T. Olofsson1, L.C. Gjertsen1, K. Abrahamsen1, 1Rheumatology, Oslo University Hospital, Rikshospitalet, Oslo, Norway, 2Division of Medicine, Section of Clinical Epidemiology, 3Division of Rheumatology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, 4Department of Rheumatology, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden.

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High BMI associates with more MRI-detectable erosive progression

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Keywords: Sarcopenia, Rheumatoid arthritis, Randomized control trial

Introduction.

Weight gain is one of the most feared patient-reported adverse event of glucocorticoids, however the effect of low-dose prednisolone on body weight and composition in RA still has to be unraveled.

Objectives: Current study is a substudy of the GLORIA trial.[1] We report changes in body weight of the whole study population, and relate these to changes in disease activity, and changes in body composition in a subgroup of patients.

Methods: The GLORIA trial, a pragmatic, placebo-controlled, double-blind, randomised controlled trial investigated the balance of benefit and harm of 2 years of prednisolone 5 mg/day added to standard care in 451 patients with active RA aged 65+.[1] In current study 449 patients were included, and body weight and disease activity score of 28 joints (DAS28) were measured at baseline and after 2 years with dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry. Data were analysed with longitudinal mixed models, and log-ratio analysis to evaluate the mutual changes in body composition, given as the proportions total lean mass, total fat mass, and total bone mass.

Results: Body weight changed by mean (95% CI) 0.9 (0.3;1.6) kg on prednisolone after 2 years, versus −0.4 (~1.1;0.2) kg on placebo, with a difference between treatment groups of 1.3 (0.5;2.2) kg (p<0.01). In multivariable regression analysis, the effect of AUC DAS28 0–2 years was not significantly associated with weight change (p=0.18). The change in body composition after 2 years was different in...
prednisolone compared to placebo patients (log-ratio analysis, p=0.02; Table 1). Prednisolone patients showed small but favorable changes in body composition, i.e. lean mass increases exceeding fat mass increases, with trends in differences for total lean mass and lean mass index, and even significant differences for appendicular lean mass (p=0.02), and its corresponding index (p<0.01). No differences in change were seen in total fat mass, nor in fat distribution over the body, i.e. trunk, extremities and head (log-ratio analysis, p=0.93).

Conclusion: Patients with active RA aged 65+ treated with prednisolone 5 mg/ day for 2 years gained about 1 kg in weight, compared to non-significant weight loss on placebo. This weight gain is a direct effect of the glucocorticoid treatment, and not significantly dependent of decrease in disease activity. The small increase in weight is mostly (appendicular) lean mass, rather than increase or redistribution of fat mass traditionally associated with glucocorticoid treatment.

REFERENCE:
[1] Boers M, et al; GLORIA Trial consortium. Low dose, add-on prednisolone (5 mg/day) or placebo.

Prednisolone (n=28) Placebo (n=27)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prednisolone</th>
<th>Placebo</th>
<th>Difference in p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Body weight (kg)</td>
<td>77.4 (13.3)</td>
<td>79.0 (12.2)</td>
<td>-0.7 (2.2) 0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body composition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fat mass (kg)</td>
<td>28.8 (8.6)</td>
<td>29.4 (7.0)</td>
<td>-0.6 (1.4) 0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total lean mass (kg)</td>
<td>46.4 (9.0)</td>
<td>47.3 (10.3)</td>
<td>-0.9 (1.1) 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total bone mass (kg)</td>
<td>2.2 (0.5)</td>
<td>2.3 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.03 (0.0) 0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body composition in detail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat mass ratio trunk/appendicular</td>
<td>1.06 (0.30)</td>
<td>1.09 (0.23)</td>
<td>-0.02 (0.0) 0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean mass ratio appendicular</td>
<td>0.04 (0.02)</td>
<td>0.05 (0.02)</td>
<td>0.00 (0.0) 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>15.8 (7.1)</td>
<td>16.8 (7.7)</td>
<td>-0.1 (0.4) 0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>6.3 (1.0)</td>
<td>6.9 (1.4)</td>
<td>-0.6 (0.3) 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are presented as mean (SD) or mean (95% CI), unless otherwise specified; LMI=Lean Mass Index; ALMI=Appendicular Lean Mass Index; overall test (log-ratio analysis).

Acknowledgements: We thank all patients and trial collaborators – listed in previous published main manuscript of the GLORIA trial – for their participation in the trial.21 We thank the nuclear medicine department of the Maasstad hospital, Medical Center Leeuwarden and Groene Hart hospital (all in the Netherlands) for performing the bodyscans.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0041 LIFETIME MULTIMORBIDITY PROGRESSION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A MULTISTATE MODELLING ANALYSIS OF 20 YEAR DATA FROM THE NORFOLK ARTHRITIS REGISTER

Keywords: Comorbidities, Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis

Figure 1. State transitions (arrows) and transition rates (λ) between 6 states in NOAR
VACCINATION RATE, ADVERSE REACTIONS, AND REASONS FOR NONVACCINATION OF COVID-19 VACCINE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN A JAPANESE REAL-WORLD CLINICAL PRACTICE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, COVID, Vaccination/Immunization

Y. Hirano1, Y. Saito1, 1Toyohashi Municipal Hospital, Rheumatology, Toyohashi, Japan

Background: The first coronavirus infection was confirmed in Wuhan City, People’s Republic of China, in December 2019. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus disease a public health emergency of international concern. On March 11, 2020, World Health Organization announced that the new coronavirus infection can be regarded as a pandemic because of the global spread of the infection. The world’s first authorization announced that the new coronavirus infection can be regarded as an emergency of international concern. On March 11, 2020, World Health Organization, in December 2019. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization, in December 2019.

Conclusion: This study provides a comprehensive long-term picture of the rate and pattern of accumulation of multimorbidity in RA over the disease course. MLT involved most patients with RA over time. Smoking, obesity and the use of disease modifying drugs were all found to influence the rate of MLTCA accumulation across a range of organ systems. The data suggest that sustained control of inflammation in RA, both through drug interventions and lifestyle management is an important part of limiting the risk of MLTC development throughout the disease course.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1371

IMPACT OF CARDIOVASCULAR COMORBIDITIES ON EFFICACY OF TOFACITINIB VS TNFI IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease, Comorbidities

M. H. Buch1, M. Mortezavi2, J. Giles3, C. Charles-Schoeman4, G. Karpuzas5, H. Jo6, K. Kwok6, E. Nagy7, J. L. Rivas8, A. Yndestad9, 1NHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre and University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal & Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2Pfizer Inc, Inflammation and Immunology, New York, NY, United States of America; 3Columbia University, Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, New York, NY, United States of America; 4University of California Los Angeles, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America; 5Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and the Lundoquist Institute, Torrance, CA, United States of America; 6Pfizer Inc, Statistics, New York, NY, United States of America; 7Pfizer Ltd, Safety Surveillance and Risk Management, Tedworth, United Kingdom; 8Pfizer SLU, Inflammation and Immunology, Madrid, Spain; 9Pfizer Inc, Inflammation and Immunology, Oslo, Norway

Background: Patients (pts) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and a history of atherosclerotic cardiovascular (CV) disease (HxASCVD) have a higher risk of major adverse CV events (MACE) with tofacitinib vs tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi), whereas risk difference is not detected in pts with no HxASCVD.[1]

Objectives: To further explore the benefit/risk profile of tofacitinib by assessing efficacy in pts with RA with and without HxASCVD.

Methods: ORAL Surveillance (NCT02092467) was an open-label, post-authorisation safety study that included pts with active RA despite methotrexate treatment, aged ≥50 years and with ≥1 additional CV risk factor.[2] Pts were randomised 1:1:1 to receive tofacitinib 5 or 10 mg twice daily (BID) or TNFi. In this post hoc analysis, pts were categorised by HxASCVD; for pts with no HxASCVD, 10-year risk of ASCVD was determined using the pooled cohort equations calculator[3] with a 1.5x multiplier applied per EULAR guidelines.[4] Odds ratios (ORs) were presented to compare tofacitinib vs TNFi in achieving remission (Clinical Disease Activity Index [CDAI] ≤2.8) or low disease activity (LDA; CDAI ≤10) at Month 6. ORs and adjusted rates of remission and LDA were obtained from a Generalised Estimating Equation repeated measures model, including baseline (BL) value, visit, treatment, treatment × visit and disease duration.

Results: Of 4362 pts, 640 had a HxASCVD, and 3722 had no HxASCVD, of which 3672 had BL CV scores calculated. Full pt demographics and BL disease characteristics have been published.[1,2] Mean BL CDAI scores across
treatment groups ranged from 37.6–41.0 for pts with a HxASCVD or non-missing BL CV scores. ORs and the percentage of pts achieving remission and LDA with tofacitinib vs TNFi at Month 6 are shown in the Table 1 and Figure 1, respectively. ORs were greater for pts receiving tofacitinib vs TNFi in the Overall population, and in pts with no HxASCVD, and were similar in pts with a HxASCVD. Pts with high or intermediate CV risk scores tended to be more likely to reach remission or LDA with tofacitinib vs TNFi, as were pts with low–borderline risk scores who received tofacitinib 10 mg BID.

Table 1. ORs of tofacitinib vs TNFi for achieving remission or LDA at Month 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>Remission (CDAI ≤2.8)</th>
<th>OR vs TNFi (95% CI)</th>
<th>LDA (CDAI ≤10)</th>
<th>OR vs TNFi (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 5 mg BID</td>
<td>1414</td>
<td>1.32 (1.04, 1.67)</td>
<td>1.31 (1.12, 1.53)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 10 mg BID</td>
<td>1391</td>
<td>1.48 (1.17, 1.88)</td>
<td>1.43 (1.22, 1.67)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HxASCVD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 5 mg BID</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>0.89 (0.46, 1.70)</td>
<td>1.43 (0.94, 2.19)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 10 mg BID</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>1.48 (0.82, 2.65)</td>
<td>1.22 (0.81, 1.84)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No HxASCVD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 5 mg BID</td>
<td>1218</td>
<td>1.40 (1.08, 1.82)</td>
<td>1.29 (1.09, 1.52)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 10 mg BID</td>
<td>1180</td>
<td>1.48 (1.14, 1.94)</td>
<td>1.47 (1.24, 1.74)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High CV risk (≥20%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 5 mg BID</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>1.80 (1.03, 3.13)</td>
<td>1.35 (0.95, 1.94)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 10 mg BID</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>1.52 (0.86, 2.68)</td>
<td>1.11 (0.78, 1.58)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate CV risk (≥7.5–&lt;20%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 5 mg BID</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>1.64 (1.07, 2.54)</td>
<td>1.43 (1.10, 1.88)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 10 mg BID</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>1.52 (0.98, 2.34)</td>
<td>1.77 (1.35, 2.33)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low–borderline CV risk (&lt;7.5%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 5 mg BID</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>0.99 (0.66, 1.48)</td>
<td>1.13 (0.87, 1.47)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib 10 mg BID</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>1.46 (0.98, 2.16)</td>
<td>1.49 (1.12, 1.97)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For pts randomised to tofacitinib 10 mg BID who had their dose reduced to 5 mg BID due to a protocol amendment in 2019, data collected after pts were switched to 5 mg BID were counted in the tofacitinib 10 mg BID group CI, confidence interval; N, number of evaluable pts.

Conclusion: In pts with no HxASCVD, the efficacy of tofacitinib is at least as good as TNFi, and risk of MACE is comparable.[1] In pts with HxASCVD, clinicians should consider that risk of MACE with tofacitinib is higher vs TNFi,[1] while efficacy is similar. Overall, our findings further characterise the benefit/risk of tofacitinib by risk category, and provide a means to risk-stratify pts such that tofacitinib can be considered an effective treatment option where appropriate.

REFERENCES:

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OP0044

DOES RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS’ RISK OF OVERALL AND SITE SPECIFIC MALIGNANCIES DIFFER FROM THE GENERAL POPULATION? A NATIONAL CLAIMS DATABASE COHORT STUDY IN THE ERA OF BIOLOGICAL TREATMENTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Epidemiology, Comorbidities

M. Beydoun1, S. Pinto1, Y. De-Flyck2, B. Faureit3, X. Mariette4, R. Sero4, F. Tubach4. 1Institut Pasteur Louis Epidemiology and Public Health, Public Health, Paris, France; 2Institute Pierre Louis Epidemiology and Public Health, Cephepi CIC-1901, Paris, France; 3University Hospitals Pitié Salpêtrière - Charles Foix, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 4Bicêtre Hospital, Viral infection and immunology, INSERM U1184, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France

Background: Earlier studies, before the era of biologics, showed that rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients were at higher risk of overall malignancies, with an excess relative risk of 28% compared to the general population. This risk is mostly carried by specific cancers such as lung cancer, lymphomas along with skin cancers. An update of cancer incidence is warranted in order to explore whether cancer risk has been modified in the era of biological and targeted DMARDs.

Objectives: To estimate the risk of cancer in patients with rheumatoid arthritis compared to the general population.

Methods: We conducted a nationwide population-based study within the French national claim database “Système National des Données de Santé” (SNDS) between January 1st 2010 and December 31st 2020. We estimated the site-specific and hematologic malignancies of RA patients, with the French population as reference, by use of the French Network of Population-Based Cancer Registries (FRANCIM). SIR were estimated with Poisson regression models.

Results: During the study period, 257,075 patients met the eligibility criteria, who contributed to a total of 1,906,742 person-years for the main analysis. RA patients had an increased risk of overall malignancy (SIR 1.20 [1.17-1.23]), particularly lung (SIR 1.41 [1.36-1.46], bladder (SIR 2.38 [2.25-2.51]), ears-nose-throat (SIR 1.40 [1.31-1.50]), cervix (SIR 1.80 [1.62-2.01]), prostate (SIR 1.08 [1.04, 1.13]), melanoma (SIR 1.37 [1.29-1.46]) cancers, marginal zone (SIR 1.22 [1.06-1.42]), diffuse large b cell (SIR 1.79 [1.63-1.96]), and Hodgkin (SIR 2.68 [2.33-3.18]) lymphomas, and multiple myeloma (SIR 1.50 [1.36-1.65]). Of note, some cancers were less frequent than in the general population such as pancreatic cancer (SIR 0.90, [0.83-0.97]) as well as breast and uterine body cancers (SIR 0.91 [0.88-0.94] and SIR 0.77 [0.70-0.84] respectively). Subgroup analyses revealed that the risk of overall malignancy was significantly less increased in women (SIR 1.08 [1.06-1.10] than in men (SIR 1.34 [1.31-1.36]) (between group difference p < 0.001). Whereas, the risk of pancreatic cancer was only decreased in men but not in women (SIR 0.83 [0.75-0.91] vs SIR 1.04 [0.93-1.17] respectively, p < 0.001). Full details are presented in the Figure 1 below. Overall risk of cancer
In the era of biologics, RA patients remain at greater risk of overall malignancy and some site-specific cancers, not only lung cancer and lymphoma. This higher incidence of overall malignancy was observed in RA patients treated with almost all type of DMARD or bDMARD. However, no causal relationship between treatments and cancer incidence can be drawn as indication bias was not taken into account. Of note, we observed a lower incidence of breast, pancreatic and uterine body cancers than the general population.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0045

EULAR POINTS TO CONSIDER ON THE INITIATION OF TARGETED THERAPIES IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIDES AND A HISTORY OF CANCER

Keywords: Comorbidities, Malignancy, bDMARD

E. Sebbag1, K. Lauper1, J. Molina Collada2, D. Aleva3, J. Asking4, K. Benesova5, H. Bertheussen6, S. Bitoun7, E. C. Bolek9, G. R. Burmester10, H. Canhão11, K. Chatzdionysiou12, J. Curtis13, F. X. Danlos14, V. Guimaraes14, M. L. Helfand15, F. Iannone16, M. Kostine17, T. W. Kragstrup18, T. K. Kvien19, A. Regierer10, H. Schulze-Koops20, L. Silva-Fernández21, Z. Szekanecz22, M. H. Buch23, A. Finktén2, J. E. Gottenberg21,1, Hospital de Hautepierre, Department of Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France; 2Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), Department of Rheumatology, Genève, Switzerland; 3Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Madrid, Spain; 4Medical University of Vienna, Department of Rheumatology, Wien, Austria; 5Karolinska Institute, Department of Rheumatology, Solna, Sweden; 6Heidelberg University, Department of Rheumatology, Heidelberg, Germany; 7ERN Reconnect, Patient representative, Oslo, Norway; 8Bicêtre Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France; 9Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 10Charité Campus Benjamin Franklin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 11Nova Medical School, Dean, Lisbon, Portugal; 12University of Alabama at Birmingham, Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Birmingham, United States of America; 13Institute Gustave Roussy Chevilly-Larue, Department of Immuno-ondcology, Chevilly-Larue, France; 14Liga Portuguesa Contra as Doenças Reumaticas, ERN Reconnect, Lisboa, Portugal; 15Rigshospitalet, Department of Rheumatology, København, Denmark; 16University of Bari Aldo Moro, Department of Rheumatology, Bari, Italy; 17Hospital Center University De Bordeaux, Department of Rheumatology, Bordeaux, France; 18Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 19Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 20Rheuma-Zentrum München e.V. (RhZM), Department of Rheumatology, München, Germany; 21Hospital Universitari Son Espases, Rheumatology Department, Palma, Spain; 22University of Leeds, Department of Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom; 23Hôpital de Hautepierre - Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, Department of Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France

Background: Potential associations between targeted therapies and a new cancer in patients with an inflammatory arthritis (IA) and a history of malignant disease are a frequent concern in daily rheumatology practice. IA and/or immunomodulatory drugs might confer a specific risk of malignancy. No evidence-based framework has been proposed to guide clinicians on the benefit/risk balance when initiating or re-initiating a targeted therapy (bDMARDs and bDMARDs) in this context.

Objectives: This initiative aimed to develop points to consider (PTC) to assist rheumatologists when initiating/re-initiating a targeted therapy in the context of a previous malignancy.

Methods: Following EULAR standardised operating procedures, a task force of 2 patient representatives, and 25 experts (comprising 2 methodologists, 2 EMEUNET members, 1 oncologist, and 20 rheumatologists) first met to define the research questions for a systematic literature review concerning patients with IA and a history of cancer and other relevant information for consideration including: incidence of cancer in targeted therapy-treated patients and no history of cancer, traditional research in concomitant malignancy, management with targeted therapy, immune-related adverse events of checkpoint inhibitors. In a second meeting, the task force formulated the overarching principles and the PTC.

Results: The group formulated 5 overarching principles and 8 PTC relevant to the initiation of targeted therapies in patients with IA and a history of cancer. Major themes included a) the need to assess the individualized risk of cancer recurrence based on the characteristics of the patient, the cancer and the underlying disease; b) the importance of engaging with specialists caring for the cancer and, to define treatment based on a shared decision between the patient and the rheumatologist; c) the possibility to initiate without delay an appropriate targeted therapy for the treatment of the IA in patients in remission of their cancer; d) the proposal to prefer anti-cytokine bDMARDs over other treatment options in patients with history of solid cancer and to prefer B cell depleting therapy in patients with a history of lymphoma; e) the proposal to use JAK inhibitors and abatacept with caution, and only in the absence of therapeutic alternatives, based on the significant increase in cancer incidence in patients without a history of cancer, with tofacitinib compared to anti-TNF in a randomized clinical trial, and a modest but significant increase. with abatacept compared to other bDMARDs in some observational studies.

Conclusion: The 2023 EULAR Points to Consider provide guidance on the management of targeted therapies. in patients with IA and a history of cancer. The research agenda highlights the need for studies, to evaluate targeted therapies other than TNF inhibitors and anti-CD20 to address the evidence gaps in this setting.

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**GC to new therapies**

**OP0046**

REAL-WORLD ORAL GLUCOCORTICOID USE IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A NATION-WIDE POPULATION-BASED STUDY USING THE FRENCH NATIONAL MEDICO-ADMINISTRATIVE DATABASE (LUPIN-F STUDY)

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Real-world evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Azathioprine</th>
<th>Mycophenolate mofetil</th>
<th>Methotrexate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>264 (1.6%)</td>
<td>337 (2.0%)</td>
<td>958 (5.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>549 (4.8%)</td>
<td>878 (7.6%)</td>
<td>1,405 (12.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175 (8.5%)</td>
<td>350 (17.0%)</td>
<td>361 (17.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206 (10.5%)</td>
<td>496 (25.2%)</td>
<td>358 (18.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(P <0.0001, for all)

*University Hospitals of Strasbourg, Department of Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France; †AstraZeneca, Medical Department, Courbevoie, France; ‡CEMKA, RWE, Bourg La Reine, France.*

**Background:** The daily dose of oral glucocorticoids (OCS) is associated with damage in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), and OCS reduction is a major goal of SLE care. However, evidence regarding the real-world use of OCS in nation-wide populations are currently lacking.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to analyze the use of OCS in French patients with SLE, at the national level, using medicoadministrative data.

**Methods:** This study used the French health-insurance claims database (SNDIS), which contains pseudonymized individual data for over 66 million people. SLE patients were identified with the ICD-10 diagnosis code for SLE (M32), documented as a chronic condition or associated to hospital stay. Included SLE patients were defined as patients alive on January 1st 2020 whenever the SLE diagnosis occurred. SLE comorbidities and OCS complications were identified through validated algorithms. Real-world use of treatments was identified through drug deliveries in pharmacies and daily OCS doses (expressed in prednisone-equivalent) were calculated for the year 2019. Comparisons were made to age- and gender-matched controls without SLE from the general population.

**Results:** A total of 32,173 patients with SLE (mean age 49.9 ± 16.0 years; 86.1% women) were alive on January 1st 2020, with a mean disease duration of 7.1 ± 6.2 years. Among these prevalent SLE patients, 48.2% were treated with OCS. The mean daily dose of OCS was below 5 mg/day in 35.7%, between 5 and 7.5 mg/day in 64.4% and above 7.5 mg/day in 61.1%. OCS use was significantly more frequent in women, in patients with CMJC (specific health coverage for low income patients) and decreased with age (p <0.0001, for all). SLE-specific comorbidities, including glomerular disease, skin involvement, polyarthritis, pleurisy, pericarditis, and thrombocytopenia, were significantly increased in patients with higher doses of OCS (p <0.0001, for all). Use of SLE treatments other than OCS was significantly increased in patients with higher doses of OCS (p <0.0001, for all) (Table 1). Strikingly, 14.6% of patients receiving 5 to 7.5 mg of OCS per day and 14.2% of those receiving more than 7.5 mg per day were not treated with antimalarial drugs, immunosuppressives or other biologic treatments for SLE. Complications of OCS, including cardiovascular diseases, infections, osteoporosis, and obesity, were significantly increased in SLE patients receiving ≥ 5 mg per day of OCS (p <0.0001 for all). The overall annual mean cost of healthcare consumptions from a societal perspective in 2019 was €6,048 for prevalent SLE patients and €2,610 for matched controls (p <0.0001). Among prevalent SLE patients, the cost increased significantly according to the OCS daily dose: 3,683€ for patients without OCS, 6,383€ (daily dose of 0-5 mg/day), 9,815€ (5-7.5 mg/day) and 13,861€ (above 7.5 mg/day).

**Conclusion:** To the best of our knowledge, this is the first nation-wide study reporting on real-life use of OCS in patients with SLE. The proportion of patients treated with high-dose OCS ≥ 7.5mg/day remains unacceptable high and associated with increased comorbidities, OCS complications and significantly increased healthcare costs. Also, over 14% of patients receiving OCS doses ≥ 5 mg/day were not treated with antimalarial drugs, immunosuppressives or other biologic treatments for SLE. These results highlight the need for tight disease control and implementation of robust OCS-sparing strategies in SLE.

**Table 1. Proportion of patients treated with SLE treatments other than corticosteroids in 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>No OCS</th>
<th>0-5 mg/day</th>
<th>5-7.5 mg/day</th>
<th>≥ 7.5 mg/day</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antimalarials</td>
<td>8,826</td>
<td>7,286 (63.5%)</td>
<td>1,505 (72.9%)</td>
<td>1,416 (71.9%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Hydroxychloroquine/ Chlороquine)</td>
<td>(53.0%)</td>
<td>(53.0%)</td>
<td>(53.0%)</td>
<td>(53.0%)</td>
<td>(53.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>958 (5.7%)</td>
<td>1,405 (12.2%)</td>
<td>361 (17.5%)</td>
<td>358 (18.2%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>337 (2.0%)</td>
<td>878 (7.6%)</td>
<td>350 (17.0%)</td>
<td>496 (25.2%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>264 (1.6%)</td>
<td>549 (4.8%)</td>
<td>175 (8.5%)</td>
<td>206 (10.3%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclophosphamide</td>
<td>207 (1.2%)</td>
<td>367 (3.2%)</td>
<td>147 (7.1%)</td>
<td>266 (13.3%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

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**OP0047**

WITHDRAWAL OF MAINTENANCE GLUCOCORTICOID VERSUS OTHER IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS AMONG PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN LONG TERM CLINICAL REMISSION: INTERIM ANALYSIS OF A NON-INFERIORITY RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL

**Keywords:** Randomized control trial, Tapering, Systemic lupus erythematosus

**Background:** Attempts to stop glucocorticoids (GC) among lupus patients in long term remission have been successful. Continuing other immunosuppressive (IS) agents indefinitely is currently the norm and this approach results in significant infectious, psychological and economic burden on patients. Moreover, there is no pathophysiological basis to withdraw GC over the other IS agents, except for the indirect evidence of higher adverse effects with continued low dose GC use. Hence, there is a need to assess, if the approach to taper steroids first is the right way in lupus.

**Objectives:** To compare the outcome of glucocorticoid withdrawal versus immunosuppressant withdrawal in patients of SLE in clinical remission.

**Methods:** This is a single centre, non-inferiority, open-label stratified randomized (1:1) controlled trial. Patients with SLE who were on IS for at least 3 years, in DORIS remission for a minimum of 1-year preceding screening and were on stable prednisolone dose of ≤7.5 mg/day plus a maintenance non biological IS were included. Stratification was done based on duration of IS use (<3 years and ≥3 years), and presence of proliferative lupus nephritis. All patients continued HCO during the study. Prednisolone or IS was tapered gradually over 3 months after randomisation. Primary end point was proportion experiencing a flare [SELENA-SLEDAI flare index (SFI)] and BILAG index at 52 weeks. Secondary end points were time to flare and severity of flare. Non-inferiority margin considered was 10%. For this abstract, data of maximum available follow up period for each patient was used.

**Results:** A total of 117 patients were randomised into steroid withdrawal (n=58) and IS withdrawal (n=59). Overall, 72% of the patients were in prolonged remission (DORIS remission on treatment >5 years). Median duration of available follow up is 46 weeks. There was a total of 23 flares of which 20 were mild-moderate and 3 were severe flares (SFI). Proportion of patients experiencing a flare was numerically higher in the steroid withdrawal group (15 vs 8 patients, RR 1.91 (0.88-4.15), p<0.09). (Table 1). Time to first flare was 27 days and 18 days following intervention in steroid and IS arm respectively. Severity of flare and time of first flare were not significantly different between the two groups (HR=0.49, 95%CI (0.20-1.15), p=0.096) (Figure 1). Severe flares were 2(3.4%) vs 1(1.7%) and mild-moderate flares were 13(22.4%) and 7(11.9%) in the steroid versus IS withdrawal arm respectively. There was one death due to MI secondary to SLE in patients on IS withdrawal.

**Conclusion:** Immunosuppressant withdrawal is noninferior to steroid withdrawal in patients with SLE in long term clinical remission. Identifying the individuals who are likely to flare is of utmost importance which can pave the way for a more personalised drug withdrawal approach.
**Table 1. Results of primary and secondary endpoints at maximum available follow up period (mean:46 weeks)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prednisolone Immunosuppressant Relative risk P withdrawal group (n = 58)</th>
<th>Prednisolone withdrawal group (n = 59) (95% CI)</th>
<th>value*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary endpoints: Any flare according to SFI, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (25.9)</td>
<td>8 (13.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any flare according to BILAG, n (%)</td>
<td>9 (15.5)</td>
<td>7 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any flare according to PGA, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (25.9)</td>
<td>8 (13.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary endpoints Details of SFI flares No flare, n (%)</td>
<td>43 (74.1)</td>
<td>51 (86.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild/Moderate, n (%)</td>
<td>13 (22.4)</td>
<td>7 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (3.4)</td>
<td>1 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details of BILAG flares No flare, n (%)</td>
<td>49 (84.5)</td>
<td>52 (88.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (12.1)</td>
<td>4 (6.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (1.7)</td>
<td>2 (3.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (1.7)</td>
<td>1 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients experiencing an increase in SDI, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (1.9)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

p <0.05 is significant; *Using Chi-square test; SFI, SELENA-SLEDAI Flare Index; BILAG, British Isles Lupus Assessment Group; PGA, Physician’s Global Assessment; SDI, SLICC/ACR Damage Index

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4577

**Table 1. Summary results of association between decreasing the prednisolone dosages and disease flares or damage accrual in SLE patients with SACQ**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial prednisolone dosage (mg/day)</th>
<th>Overall disease flare</th>
<th>Severe disease flare</th>
<th>Increase in SDI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 ≤ prednisolone ≤7.5</td>
<td>p = 0.41</td>
<td>p = 0.41</td>
<td>p = 0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 ≤ prednisolone &lt;5</td>
<td>p = 0.98 (0.95–1.00)</td>
<td>p = 0.98 (0.96–1.00)</td>
<td>p = 0.98 (0.95–0.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 &lt; prednisolone ≤2.5</td>
<td>p = 0.98 (0.95–1.00)</td>
<td>p = 0.98 (0.96–1.00)</td>
<td>p = 0.98 (0.95–1.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HRs (95% CIs): per unit decrease in prednisolone dosages (1mg/day) were calculated using Cox proportional hazard model and adjusted by initial prednisolone dosage, antimalarial, immunosuppressive, disease duration, SLEDAI-2K, age at visit, gender, and ethnicity.
Conclusion: Tapering prednisolone was not significantly associated with subsequent flare in SLE patients who were SACQ. Antiinflammatory and immunosuppressive use was associated with reduced risk of flares in SACQ patients. Tapering prednisolone was associated with reduced risk of damage accrual in SACQ patients treated with more than 5 mg/day of prednisolone. These findings suggest glucocorticoid tapering is safe and protective in SLE patients in SACQ.

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[1] Rheumatology (Oxford); 2021;60:5517

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Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Background: Glucocorticoids (GC) (aka corticosteroids) are a class of drugs with broad range anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive activities making them the most potent anti-inflammatory drugs. However, chronic or high dose systemic exposure consistently leads togethe with reduced risk of damage accrual in SACQ patients treated with more than 5 mg/day of prednisolone. These findings suggest glucocorticoid tapering is safe and protective in SLE patients in SACQ.

Methods: We have achieved specific targeting of GC to the immune system with INX200, an antibody-drug conjugate (ADC). INX200 is a fully humanized immune-targeting monoclonal antibody with silent Fc domain and conjugated through a cleavable linker to budesonide. Validation experiments were conducted using human target knock-in mice, mouse surrogate antibodies and non-human primates in various inflammation and chronic disease models.

Results: We show that INX200 targets both lymphoid and myeloid cells with minimal off-target activity outside the immune compartment. This translates to reduced toxicity when compared to free GC as measured by the lack of impact on the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal axis (no changes in corticosterone levels) and bones (no changes in GC- activated transcription) both in mice and non-human primates. INX200 rapidly internalizes allowing for robust and efficient uptake of the ADC thereby providing superior loading of GC into immune cells which results in therapeutic equivalence to free GC at 1/10th of the dose. One dose of INX200 also leads to substantially longer exposure (>3 weeks) when compared to free GC (<24h) both in mice and non-human primates. Additionally, we show that in both acute and chronic inflammation models (Figure 1), INX200 is therapeutically as broadly efficacious as free GC demonstrating that GC targeting to immune cells is sufficient for full GC anti-inflammatory efficacy. Finally, developability studies show that INX200 is stable at high concentration and as such suitable for subcutaneous administration.

Figure 1. INX200 has equivalent efficacy to free GC at <1/10th of the dose in controlling disease development in the type 1 diabetes NOD mouse model. NOD mice were enrolled at 12-week old; INX200 (red) was dosed once a week at 10 mg/kg (~0.2 mg/kg of GC payload) and free GC (blue) in water at 2 mg/kg per day. Left graph shows blood glucose levels over time of treatment, the dashed line indicating diabetic glucose levels as >250 mg/dL. Right graph shows the % of diseased mice over time (n=10 mice, experiment repeated twice).

Conclusion: INX200 retains all the efficacy/potent therapeutic activities of GC but with little to no side effects. The successful targeting of GC to the immune system with the sparing of non-hematopoietic toxicities, offers a transformative advance in GC-based drugs for the treatment of severe, chronic inflammatory diseases such as IBD, lupus and asthma.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Treat to target, -omics, Systemic lupus erythematosus

R. Lopez-Dominguez 2, 4, V. Villatoro-Garcia 2, 4, M. Marlon 1, 4, M. A. Petri 1, P. Carmona-Saez 1, 3, M. Alarcon-Riquelme 1, 3, D. P. Dominguez 1, 4

1GEWO Centre for Genomics, Oncological Clinical Research; Pfizer University of Granada, Andalusian Regional Government, Genomic Medicine, Granada, Spain;2University of Granada, Department of Statistics, Granada, Spain;3Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, United States of America; Karolinska Institute, Unit of Immunological Diseases. Department of Environmental Medicine, Solna, Sweden

Acknowledgement: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a complex autoimmune disease that leads to significant worsening of quality of life and mortality. The
enormous molecular heterogeneity of SLE is reflected in different clinical manifestations, disease progression and also in a different drug efficacy across patients.[1] Lupus nephritis (LN) is the most severe SLE manifestation with the potential of rapidly evolving into irreversible chronic kidney disease and kidney failure if not adequately followed and treated. Mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) is the most widely used first-line treatment for LN, being ineffective or partially effective in 15-30 percent of the patients.[2] Reasons for non-response are still unknown and low or moderate drug efficacy may lead to aggravation of the disease. Treat-to-target approaches where personalized molecular patterns guide therapeutic decisions, are rapidly growing in medical fields such as oncology, but remain unmet within clinical rheumatology.[3]. In addition, pathological molecular dysregulation behind SLE fluctuates within a non-linear clinical course and unpredictable patterns of flares and remissions, hindering the development of effective and robust predictive biomarkers for both diagnosis and drug responsiveness.[4] Objectives: The development of new, more effective therapies to treat LN is an urgent unmet need. The objective of this work is to define the cellular and molecular immune landscape behind non-response to MMF to finally apply this knowledge within routine clinical practice.

Methods: A longitudinal cohort comprising gene-expression and clinical data of 97 MMF responder and 28 non-responder blood samples was retrospectively analyzed. Differential gene expression and functional analysis were performed. Response rate was measured based on blood cell proportions. Single-cell RNA sequencing data was analyzed to identify the cell subtypes influencing non-response and their contributing genes and regulation mechanisms.

Results: A robust signature comprising 41 differentially expressed genes defined non-response to MMF and cellular profiles that favor the response to the drug in the patients were revealed. The response rate to MMF increases the lower the B cell cell ratio. Single-cell RNA sequencing showed that overexpression of the IFITM-family of genes in age-associated B cells, plasma cells, myeloid dendritic cells and macrophages was behind the non-response signature.

Conclusion: Blood cell subtypes and genes mediating non-response to MMF were revealed, opening a new scenario for the development of new therapeutic strategies for LN.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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LUPUS LOW DISEASE ACTIVITY STATE ATTAINMENT IN THE PHASE 3 PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TULIP LONG-TERM EXTENSION TRIAL OF ANIFROLUB

Keywords: Treat to target, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical Trials

E.F. Morand1, R. Van Vollenhoven², R. Furie4, K. Kalunian4, S. Yavuz5, G. Abreu1, C. Lindholm1, H. Al-Mossawi1, Monash University, Centre for Inflammatory Diseases, Melbourne, Australia; 2University of Amsterdam, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, Division of Rheumatology, Great Neck, NY, United States of America; 4University of California, San Diego, Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, La Jolla, CA, United States of America; 5AstraZeneca, Clinical Development, Late Respiratory and Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Gaithersburg, MD, United States of America; 6AstraZeneca, Biometics, Late Respiratory and Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Gothenburg, Sweden; 7AstraZeneca, Clinical Development, Late Respiratory and Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Background: The Lupus Low Disease Activity State (LLDAS) has been prospectively validated as protective from flares, damage accrual, and mortality and is an important treatment goal in patients with SLE.[1] Recent analysis of pooled data from 2 phase 3 trials (TULIP-1 and TULIP-2) found that LLDAS attainment was achieved earlier, more frequently, and for a more sustained period with anifrolub vs placebo in patients with moderate to severe SLE.[2] Objectives: We investigated the long-term impact of anifrolub compared with placebo on LLDAS attainment over the 1 year TULIP-1/TULIP-2 and 3 year long-term extension (LTE) study period.

Methods: TULIP-1 and TULIP-2 (NCT02446912, NCT02446899) were randomized, placebo-controlled, 52-week trials of IV anifrolub (Q4W, 48 weeks) in patients with moderate to severe SLE despite standard therapy. Following the double-blind treatment period of the TULIP trials, patients could consent to participate in the 3-year, randomized, blinded, placebo-controlled LTE study (NCT02794288).[3] Here, data were analyzed by timepoint from TULIP baseline through the end of the LTE (Week 208) for patients who were assigned and received the same study drug (anifrolub 300 mg or placebo) during the TULIP-LTE periods. LLDAS attainment was defined as all of the following: SLE-DAI ≤2, ≤4 without major organ activity, no new disease activity, Physician’s Global Assessment [≤3], ≤1, prednisone or equivalent ≤7.5 mg/day, standard immunosuppressant dosing, no use of restricted medications (considered only during the pooled TULIP-1/TULIP-2 period but not during the LTE period), and no investigational product (IP) discontinuation. LLDAS percentages and cumulative time in LLDAS were compared using a Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel approach, and response rates were compared using logistic regression. Last observation carried forward was used to impute missing data for TULIP-1/TULIP-2, not for data captured in the LTE. All P-values are nominal.

Results: Data from 369 patients (anifrolub 300 mg, n=257; placebo, n=112) were evaluable for the 4-year TULIP-LTE study period. At the last TULIP visit (Week 52), 39.3% of the anifrolub group and 27.9% of the placebo group were in LLDAS (odds ratio [OR] 1.6, 95% CI 1.0–2.7, P=0.049). At the first visit of the LTE (Week 64), 33.5% of the anifrolub group and 22.8% of the placebo group were in LLDAS (OR 1.7, 95% CI 1.0–2.9, P=0.038). LLDAS attainment was relatively stable for the first 3 years (up to Week 156) and declined slightly in Year 4; this decrease likely reflects the proportions of patients who discontinued IP over time (Figure 1). However, attainment of LLDAS favored anifrolub vs placebo at all timepoints up to Week 208 (OR 2.7, 95% CI 1.3–5.6, P=0.007). For the combined 4-year TULIP-LTE period, greater cumulative time (P=0.001) and percentage of time (P=0.006) was spent in LLDAS by patients receiving anifrolub compared with placebo. Cumulative time in LLDAS at a threshold of ≥80% also favored anifrolub (OR 2.2, 95% CI 1.4–3.5, P<0.001); a similar trend was seen with a threshold of ≥50%, although this did not reach statistical significance (OR 1.4, 95% CI 0.8–2.4, P=0.217). Compared with placebo, patients treated with anifrolub were more likely to be in sustained LLDAS for ≥3 consecutive visits (49.4% vs 35.1%; OR 1.8, 95% CI 1.1–2.8, P=0.018), ≥5 consecutive visits (32.6% vs 20.1%; OR 1.8, 95% CI 1.0–3.1, P=0.033), or ≥7 consecutive visits (22.2% vs 11.6%; OR 2.1, 95% CI 1.1–4.1, P=0.028).

Conclusion: Anifrolub 300 mg treatment was associated with more frequent, prolonged, and sustained LLDAS compared with placebo during the 4-year TULIP-LTE period.

REFERENCES:

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**OP0052**

**PREDECTORS OF RENAL FLARES IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A POST-HOC ANALYSIS OF FOUR PHASE III CLINICAL TRIALS OF BELIMUMAB**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys, Biomarkers

S. Jägerback, A. Gomez, I. Parodis, 1 Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 2 Danderyd University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Danderyd, Sweden; Örebro University, Department of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine and Health, Örebro, Sweden

**Background:** In patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), renal involvement is associated with high morbidity, and renal flares are major contributors to poor long-term prognosis. Identification of patients at risk of developing renal flares despite immunosuppressive therapy is imperative to optimize management.

**Objectives:** To identify predictors of renal flares in patients receiving treatment for active extra-renal SLE.

**Methods:** Data from BLISS-52 (NCT00424476), BLISS-76 (NCT00410384), BLISS Northeast Asia (NEA; NCT01345253), and BLISS-SC (NCT01484498) were used (N=3218). The trials included patients with active, seropositive SLE and excluded active severe renal SLE. Participants were assigned to belimumab or placebo, on top of non-biologic standard therapy. We investigated anti-dsDNA, anti-Sm, anti-ribosomal P, and anti-cardiolipin (aCL) antibodies, low C3 and low C4 levels, B cell activating factor (BAFF), serum albumin, serum creatinine, and proteinuria at baseline as potential predictors of renal flares during a 52-week follow-up. We used Cox regression models to evaluate traditional disease features as predictors of renal flares in the pooled trial population. We also performed subgroup analysis of belimumab and placebo recipients. Covariates in the adjusted models included age, sex, ethnicity, body mass index, organ damage, baseline extra-renal activity (SLEDAI-2K score excluding renal and immunological descriptors), current or former renal SLE history (renal BILAG A–D), baseline use of glucocorticoids, antimalarials, and immunosuppressants, and use of belimumab.

**Results:** The mean age of the study population was 36.7 years, 94% were women, 54.6% had current or former renal involvement at baseline, and 192 developed a renal flare after a median follow-up time of 197 (IQR: 85–330) days from baseline. Patients with current or former renal involvement at baseline displayed a >9-fold increased hazard to develop a new renal flare (HR: 9.4; 95% CI: 5.0–17.7; P<0.001). In the pooled study population, baseline serum albumin (adjusted HR 0.9; 95% CI: 0.9–0.9; P<0.001), proteinuria (adjusted HR: 1.3; 95% CI: 1.2–1.4; P<0.001), and low C3 levels (adjusted HR: 1.8; 95% CI: 1.3–2.5; P<0.001) were robust determinants of subsequent renal flare occurrence; similar associations were found in the belimumab and placebo subgroup analyses. Furthermore, we observed an association between anti-dsDNA positivity and renal flare development in univariable models (HR: 2.1; 95% CI: 1.4–3.2; P<0.001 in the pooled population), which attenuated in multivariable models (Figure 1). Positive levels of anti-Sm antibodies were associated with renal flare occurrence in the placebo (adjusted HR: 2.9; 95% CI: 1.5–5.6; P=0.002) but not in the belimumab subgroup, whereas anti-ribosomal P antibodies were associated with renal flare development in belimumab-treated (HR: 2.8; 95% CI: 1.5–5.0; P=0.001) but not in placebo-treated patients. Finally, positive levels of aCL antibodies (any isotype) predicted renal flare development in the belimumab group (adjusted HR: 1.8; 95% CI: 1.1–2.8; P=0.020) but yielded a negative association in the placebo group (adjusted HR: 0.4; 95% CI: 0.2–0.9; P=0.028).

**Conclusion:** Current or former renal involvement, baseline proteinuria levels, hypoalbuminemia, and C3 consumption were robust determinants of imminent renal flares. Beyond anti-dsDNA, anti-ribosomal P and aCL antibody positivity may prove valuable early signals of imminent renal flares in patients treated with belimumab. Anti-Sm positivity predicted imminent renal flares in patients treated with non-biological standard therapy, but not in belimumab-treated patients, assumably due to benefit conferred from belimumab in anti-Sm positive individuals, as shown previously [1].

**REFERENCE:**


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**OP0053**

**EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF BARICITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE LUPUS NEPHRITIS: A DOUBLE-BLIND, RANDOMIZED, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED PHASE 3 TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Remission, Randomized control trial with a placebo arm

M. Hassanië, A. Mosrifié, H. Hetté, 1 Assut University, Rheumatology, Assut, Egypt; 1 Assut branch Azhar University, Rheumatology, Assut, Egypt; 1 University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Cincinnati, United States of America

**Background:** Baricitinib a selective Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors 182 have been recognized as a potential therapeutic option in systemic lupus (SLE), also known Baricitinib, a JAK inhibitor, has demonstrated efficacy and safety in the treatment of dermatitis and arthritis 1; however, no JAK inhibitor studies have been conducted in lupus nephritis (LN) to date.

**Objectives:** To assess the efficacy and safety of Baricitinib in patients (pts) with active LN.

**Methods:** The study is a randomized, double-blind, active comparator (cyclophosphamide)-controlled, phase 3 trial registered on clinicaltrials.com (NCT015432531), enrolled adults ≥18 years with a clinical diagnosis of LN (who also fulfilled classification criteria for LN grade III & IV), who had objective signs of active nephritis consistent with persistent proteinuria≥0.5 g/day and/or cellular casts at screening, and who had SLEDAI-2K ≥ 4 and patient assessment of anti-dsDNA and C3 serum levels at study entry. Pts were randomized 1:1 to receive Group 1: oral Baricitinib 4mg once daily and PBO saline infusion monthly, Group 2: oral PBO tablet and cyclophosphamide (0.7mg/kg2) infusion monthly during a 6-months double-blind treatment period. The primary endpoint was proteinuria, response at week 12 and 24. Multiplicity-controlled secondary endpoints assessed at week 12 &24 included C3, anti-ds-DNA and SLEDAI-2K, and their changes from baseline. Treatment adverse events was recorded.

**Results:** Of 65 pts randomized at baseline, 60 enrolled in the study (Baricitinib 4mg, n=30; cyclophosphamide, n=30) and 100% received study drug through week 24. Baseline demographic and disease characteristics were balanced across treatment groups and consistent with an active LN population, all were females, 58% LN grade III; mean age 32.4 years; mean SLEDAI-2K 6.9; mean C3 12.1mg/L). A significantly reduction in proteinuria response rate at week 12 was achieved in group 1 vs group 2 (70% vs 43%; P<0.0001). Statistical significance was also achieved in the first 12 of the 24 multiplicity-controlled secondary endpoints (C3 and SLEDAI-2K) at week 12 in group 1 compared with group 2 (P<0.01). The proportion of pts who experienced adverse events was similar between treatment groups (group 1, 48%; group 2, 46%). Serious adverse events leading to discontinuation were reported in 2 (6.6%) pts treated with Baricitinib and 1 (3.3%) pts treated with cyclophosphamide, respectively (serious infection or herpes zoster), major adverse cardiovascular events, venous thromboembolic events, were not reported in the study.

**Conclusion:** Baricitinib 4mg once daily demonstrated significantly good improvements in disease activity, proteinuria, C3, anti-ds-DNA, than cyclophosphamide after 12 &24 weeks of treatment in pts with active LN. The safety profile of Baricitinib 4mg was consistent with what has been observed with other inflammatory musculoskeletal diseases, and no new risks were identified. These results support the potential use of Baricitinib 4mg in pts with active LN.
Clinical aspects and Treatment of axSpA: effects and predictors of effects

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Diagnostic Tests, Spondyloarthritis

Background: We have shown in the SPACE cohort that a diagnosis of early axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) can be made in patients with chronic back pain (CBP) of less than two years (2y). However, diagnostic uncertainty can be an obstacle towards initiating disease-modifying treatment. The value of repeated assessments of SpA features over time.

Methods: We used the 2y data from the SPACE cohort. A European multicentre inception cohort of patients (age <45y) with CBP of recent onset (≥3 months, ≤2y) included from 2009 to 2016. The diagnostic work-up consisted of patient history, physical examination, acute phase reactants (APR), and HLA-B27 testing, radiographs and MRI of the sacroiliac joints (SI-CR and SI-MRI) and spine.

Results: We included 552 patients. Definite axSpA was attributed to 175 (32%) patients at BL and 166 (30%) at 2y (Figure 1). 155/175 (89%) and 145/166 (87%) fulfilled ASAS classification criteria, respectively. Of the 175 patients with definite axSpA at BL, 133 retained the diagnosis, and only 13 changed to no axSpA at 2y. Among the 175 patients with definite axSpA at BL, 133 retained the diagnosis, and only 13 changed to no axSpA at 2y. Most SpA features were already present at BL, with imaging findings and response to NSAIDs appearing as frequent incident SpA features potentially adding to a definite axSpA diagnosis over time.

Conclusion: The yield of repeated assessments of SpA features in patients with CBP suspected of axSpA was modest for the new definite axSpA diagnosis at 2y.

Table 1. Characteristics of 33 patients changing to definite axSpA with newly developed SpA features over 2 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline diagnosis</th>
<th>Uncertain no axSpA at BL</th>
<th>Certain no axSpA at BL</th>
<th>Certain axSpA at BL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N=16</td>
<td>N=12</td>
<td>N=5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at inclusion, years</td>
<td>30 (9)</td>
<td>35 (8)</td>
<td>35 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, months</td>
<td>13 (7)</td>
<td>12 (7)</td>
<td>12 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of SpA</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory back pain</td>
<td>14 (15)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good response to NSAIDs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral manifestations</td>
<td>4 (4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-musculoskeletal manifestations</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAS classification criteria at 2y</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
<td>2 (1)</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASAS classification criteria at 2y</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
<td>5 (1)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Data presented as mean (SD), % or n of patients.

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0055

ASAS CONSENSUS DEFINITION OF EARLY AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

Table 2. Characteristics of 33 patients changing to definite axSpA with newly developed SpA features over 2 years

<table>
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<th>Baseline diagnosis</th>
<th>Uncertain no axSpA at BL</th>
<th>Certain no axSpA at BL</th>
<th>Certain axSpA at BL</th>
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<td>Symptom duration, months</td>
<td>13 (7)</td>
<td>12 (7)</td>
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<td>Good response to NSAIDs</td>
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<td>Peripheral manifestations</td>
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<td>Extra-musculoskeletal manifestations</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASAS classification criteria at 2y</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASAS classification criteria at 2y</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
<td>5 (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data presented as mean (SD), % or n of patients/local data, including HLA-B27 and imaging.

BL = baseline; SI-CR/MRI = sacroiliitis on radiographs/MRI

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Mary Lucy Marques: None declared, Sofia Ramiro Consultant of: AbbVie/Abbott, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Merck/Msd, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Sanofi, Miranda van Lunteren: None declared, Rosalinde Stal: None declared, Inger Jord Berg: None declared, Karen Minde Fagerli: None declared, M. van Oosterhout: None declared, Sofia Exarchou: None declared, Roberta Ramonda: None declared, Marleen G.H. van de Sande Speakers bureau: Novartis, UCB, Janssen, Consultant of: Novartis, UCB, Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Grant/research support from: Novartis, UCB, Eli Lilly, Robert B.M. Landewe Consultant of: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BMS, GSK, Novartis, Merck, Pfizer, Schering-Plough, UCB Pharma, Imaging Rheumatology bv, Désirée van der Heijde Consultant of: AbbVie, Bayer, BMS, Cyxone, Eisai, Galapagos, Gilead, Glaxo-Smith-Kline, Jansen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Lilly, Imaging Rheumatology bv, Floris A. van Gaalen Consultant of: Stichting vrienden van Sole Mio, Stichting ASAS, Jacobus stichting, Novartis, UCB, MSD, ABBvie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly.

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Background: There is a growing interest in understanding the early disease stages of axial and peripheral SpA (axSpA and pSpA). In order to facilitate this, standardized definitions are needed for research purposes.

Objectives: To develop a consensus definition for the terms “early axSpA” and “early pSpA” in the research setting under the auspices of the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS).

Methods: The ASAS-SPEAR (SPondyloarthritis EARly definition) steering committee convened an international working group (WG). Five consecutive steps were followed: i) Systematic literature review (SLR) to identify existing definitions of early axSpA and pSpA and to summarize the evidence on the relationship between early treatment and clinical response in SpA[1,2]; ii) Discussion of SLR results within the WG and ASAS community (2022 annual meeting); iii) A three-round Delphi survey (Apr-Nov 2022) inviting all ASAS members to select the items that should be considered for the definition of the terms (using a Likert scale 1-9). In total, 20 items relating to different aspects (axial symptoms, duration of symptoms and radiographic damage involvement) were voted on. Consensus was defined as acceptance or rejection if ≥70% of responses fell within 1-3 or 7-9 on the Likert scale, respectively; iv) Presentation of Delphi survey results to the WG and later to the ASAS community; v) Final discussion, voting and endorsement by the ASAS community with 88% full ASAS members voting in favor (step v).

Results: After discussing the results of the SLR[1,2] (step i) with the ASAS community, consensus was to proceed with an expert-based consensus definition for early axSpA (81% full ASAS members voted in favor) but not for pSpA (54% voted against) (step ii). Importantly, it was decided that the definition should be based on the symptom duration (91% in favor) taking solely axial symptoms into account (77% in favor). A total of 151-164/205 (72-78%) ASAS members participated in the Delphi survey rounds (step iii). Consensus was achieved to define early axSpA as a duration of symptoms ≤2 years. Relating to axial symptoms, consensus was reached for acceptance of 6 items (axial symptoms should include cervical pain, thoracic pain, back pain, buttock pain and morning stiffness and be defined by a rheumatologist) and rejection of 2 items (should not include shoulder pain and hip pain). In addition, consensus was achieved to define early axSpA regardless of the presence/absence of radiographic damage (Table 1). Following the discussion of the Delphi survey results the WG agreed that in patients with a diagnosis of axSpA “early axSpA” should be defined as a duration of ≤2 years of axial symptoms. Axial symptoms should include spinal/buttock pain or morning stiffness and should be considered by a rheumatologist as related to axSpA, Figure 1. The WG proposal was discussed and endorsed by the ASAS community with 88% full ASAS members voting in favor (step v).

Conclusion: Early axSpA has for the first time been defined based on expert consensus. This ASAS definition should be used in research studies addressing early axSpA.

REFERENCES:

The Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) supported the ASAS-SPEAR (ASAS-SPondyloarthritis EARly definition) project.

Table 1. Delphi survey final results to select radiographic damage involvement items to define early axial spondyloarthritis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of agreement</th>
<th>Likert scale (1-9)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>7-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A patient with axSpA with axial symptoms ≤2 years has early axSpA regard less of the presence or absence of radiographic damage of the SIJ 78%
A patient with axSpA with axial symptoms ≤2 years has early axSpA regardless of the presence or absence of syndesmophytes on x-rays of the spine 70%
Background: The change over time of the structural damage of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is important to consider since it may reflect the severity of the disease. In axSpA this structural damage can be evaluated either at the sacroiliac joints (SIJ) or spine level, and also either on conventional radiographs or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

Objectives: To evaluate the sensitivity to change of different structural imaging outcomes over 10 years of follow-up in patients with early axSpA.

Methods: Patients with early onset (<3 years) axSpA (according to the treating rheumatologist) from the DESIR cohort were included. Radiographs and MRI of the SIJ and spine were obtained at baseline, 1, 2, 5 and 10 years in 4 separate reading waves. Images were scored by 3 trained central readers (wave 1 only 2 readers with one adjudicator) unaware of chronological order. The yearly rate of change (ROC) of each outcome was analyzed using generalized estimation equations (GEEs) including all patients with ≥1 score from ≥1 reader from ≥1 wave and using time (years) as explanatory variable. All outcomes (see the list on Table 1) were standardized (difference between the individual’s value and the population mean divided by the population SD). In addition, the relative standardized ROC (i.e., the standardized yearly ROC of an outcome divided by the corresponding rate of a reference imaging outcome) was calculated, with a value > 1 reflecting larger sensitivity, and < 1 lower sensitivity compared to the reference. Finally, the relative standardized ROC per anatomic site was calculated.

Results: Among all locations and modalities, the change in ≥3 fatty lesions was the outcome with the highest sensitivity to change (standardized ROC 0.073 per year). Considering as reference the modified New York criteria (mNY), the two most sensitive to change in outcomes in SpA (taking into account both MRI and radiographs) were ≥3 fatty lesions and the absolute number of fatty lesions on MRI (relative standardized ROC per year 4.867 and 4.130, respectively). Similarly, the most sensitive to change lesion in the spine (both MRI and radiographs) was the mSASSS score (relative standardized ROC per year 1.778) considering ≥1 syndesmophyte as the reference.

Conclusion: MRI structural outcomes in the SIJ, in particular fatty lesions, are more sensitive to change than radiographic outcomes. On the other hand, mSASSS remains the most sensitive method, even if compared to MRI of the spine.

Table 1. Sensitivity of change of the structural lesions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pelvic radiographs</th>
<th>1 ≥3 fatty lesions and/or erosions</th>
<th>0.053*</th>
<th>3.533</th>
<th>3.533</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>≥5 fatty lesions</td>
<td>0.019</td>
<td>0.676</td>
<td>0.676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>≥3 erosions</td>
<td>0.073*</td>
<td>4.867</td>
<td>4.867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>No. of erosions (range 0-40)</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.800</td>
<td>0.800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>No. of fatty lesions (range 0-40)</td>
<td>0.062*</td>
<td>4.130</td>
<td>4.130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>Total structural lesions without sclerosis (range 0-104)</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>2.067</td>
<td>2.067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>≥1 syndesmophyte</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>1.800</td>
<td>1 (reference)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>mSASSS score (range 0-72)</td>
<td>0.048</td>
<td>3.200</td>
<td>1.778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>≥5 fatty lesions</td>
<td>0.036*</td>
<td>2.400</td>
<td>1.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>Total structural lesions (range 0-322)</td>
<td>0.037</td>
<td>2.460</td>
<td>1.370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>No. of fatty lesions (range 0-92)</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>2.330</td>
<td>1.296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI of the spine</td>
<td>No. of corner erosions (range 0-92)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>1.200</td>
<td>0.667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| *Quadratic distribution |

| REFERENCES: NIL. |

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Clementina López-Medina Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Janssen, UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Eli Lilly, Novartis, UCB Pharma, Anna Moltó Consultant of: AbbVie, Biogen, BMS, Cyxone, Eisai, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Alexandre Sepuliano Speakers bureau: Abbvie, UCB and Lilly, Sofia Ramiro Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, UCB, Maxime Dougados Consultant of: UCB.

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Figure 1: Multivariable GEE analyses show associations between parameters and outcomes
A) DAPSA, B) ASDAS, and C) Clinical remission.

Figure 2. Predictive models for low disease activity in patients with ankylosing spondylitis treated with secukinumab in real-world – data from the German AQUILA study.

Main results:
A: Main predictors at baseline and their direction of influence based on Shapley values [3].
B: Explanation of patient-individual influence based on Shapley values [3].

Methods: Data of 580 AS patients from the AQUILA study were used. Thirty-two demographic, clinical, and treatment parameters at baseline (BL) served as input to develop prediction models. LDA was defined as Bath ankylosing spondylitis disease activity index (BASDAI) ≤ 2.0 at week (w) 16 (+/- 6 w). Samples were divided into training (70%) and validation (30%) cohorts. Ten different prediction models were applied and compared. Model performance was measured using area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC) which represents the probability that a randomly selected patient with LDA will have higher BASDAI than a randomly selected patient without LDA.

Acknowledgements: GESPIC has been financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung-BMBF). As funding by BMBF was reduced according to schedule in 2005 and stopped in 2007, complementary financial support has been obtained also from Abbott/AbbVie, Amgen, Centocor, Schering-Plough, and Wyeth.


Background: Secukinumab (SEC) proved to be an effective treatment for patients suffering from ankylosing spondylitis (AS) in randomized clinical trials [1]. There is only limited knowledge on prediction of low disease activity (LDA) and treatment strategy in AS patients under SEC treatment in routine clinical care.

Objectives: Using real-world data from the German non-interventional study AQUILA [2], the main objectives were (1) to predict LDA in individual AS patients treated with SEC through machine learning methods and (2) to identify the most important predictors and their influence on the prediction using explainable artificial intelligence (XAI).

Methods: Data of 580 AS patients from the AQUILA study were used. Thirty-two demographic, clinical, and treatment parameters at baseline (BL) served as input to develop prediction models. LDA was defined as Bath ankylosing spondylitis disease activity index (BASDAI) ≤ 2.0 at week (w) 16 (+/- 6 w). Samples were divided into training (70%) and validation (30%) cohorts. Ten different prediction models were applied and compared. Model performance was measured using area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC) which represents the probability that a randomly selected patient with LDA will have higher prediction to achieve LDA than a patient with moderate/high disease activity. Additionally, sensitivity and specificity of the prediction model were computed and express the proportion of correctly identified patients who reach or don't reach LDA at w16, respectively. Shapley XAI estimated importance and impact of each predictor based on how it affected the change in individual prediction [3].

Results: The most influencing predictor was BASDAI at BL, followed by the number of pretreatments with biologics, C-reactive protein (CRP), assessment of spondyloarthrits international society health index (ASAS-HI) and patient height (Figure 1 A). AUROC of the best performing prediction model was 0.84. Sensitivity and specificity were 0.87 and 0.67, respectively. Applied XAI approach showed that the lower the BL values of BASDAI, ASAS-HI and number of pretreatments with biologics were, the higher the probability of reaching LDA at w16 was. The opposite was the case for BL values of CRP and body height (Figure 1 A). The approach also provided visual explanations of patient-individual predictions: Variables with values shown in green color increased probability of achieving LDA at w16, whereas red ones showed the opposite effect (Figure 1 B).

Conclusion: A promising prediction model accuracy of LDA in AS patients treated with SEC could be reached and validated. Identified main predictors at BL, such as BASDAI and number of pretreatments with biologics, and their direction of influence on the prediction of LDA mostly match the existing clinical knowledge [4]. The analysis showed that XAI can provide useful clinical insights into patient-individual predictions, potentially guiding AS treatment decisions in future.

REFERENCES:
Background: Limited data exist on the effect of biologics in slowing radiographic progression in patients (pts) with radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (r-axSpA).

Two-year data from MEASURE 1 showed low radiographic progression with secukinumab (SEC)[1]

Objectives: To compare the effect of SEC vs adalimumab biosimilar (SDZ-ADL) on spinal radiographic progression from SURPASS[2,3] the first head-to-head study in r-axSpA.

Methods: In this phase IIIb study, bio-naïve pts with active r-axSpA with a BASDAI ≥2, spinal pain score ≥2 (range 0–10), total back pain score ≥40 (range 0–100), and with hs-CRP ≥5 mg/L or ≥1 syndesmophytes(s) on spinal radiograph were randomised (1:1:1) to SEC (150 mg or 300 mg) or SDZ-ADL (40 mg; open label). Radiographs and MRIs were reviewed by 3 independent central readers (no adjudication performed) blinded to treatment and chronology of images. Primary endpoint was the proportion of pts with no radiographic progression (change from baseline [CBF] in modified Stoke AS Spinal Score [mSASSS] ≤0.5) on SEC vs SDZ-ADL at week (wk) 104 (superiority testing).

Secondary endpoints included CBF-mSASSS at wk 104, proportion of pts with ≥1 syndesmophyte(s) at baseline (BSL) with no new syndesmophytes(s) at wk 104, CBF-MRI Berlin sacroliac joint (SJU) inflammation score, CBF-AS Spine MRI-activity (ASpMIR-A) Berlin modification score, and safety.

Results: Overall, 855 pts received SEC 150 mg (n=287), 300 mg (n=286), or SDZ-ADL (n=282). With 78.5% male, age mean 42.1 years, mSASSS 16.6, BASDAI 7.1, hs-CRP 20.4 mg/L, and 73% with ≥1 syndesmophyte(s), this population had high risk of radiographic progression. At wk 104, cumulative distribution of CBF-mSASSS was similar across arms (Figure 1). Proportion of pts with no radiographic progression was 66.1%, 66.9%, and 65.6% (P=ns, both SEC groups) while mean CBF-mSASSS was 0.54, 0.55, and 0.72 with SEC 150 mg, 300 mg, and SDZ-ADL Overall, 56.9%, 53.8%, and 53.3% of pts in SEC 150 mg, 300 mg, and SDZ-ADL arms, with a BSL ≥1 syndesmophyte(s) did not develop new syndesmophytes(s) by wk 104 (Table 1). In the MRI sub-set (N=148), mean SJU scores at BSL and wk 16 were 2.54 and 0.98 (SEC 150 mg), 1.96 and 0.92 (SEC 300 mg), and 1.59 and 0.38 (SDZ-ADL); corresponding spine scores were 3.50 and 1.79, 2.56 and 1.25, and 3.00 and 0.71.

Conclusion: Spinal radiographic progression over 2 years was low with no significant difference between SEC and SDZ-ADL arms. No new safety signals were identified.

Table 1. Radiographic assessments at wk 104

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment group</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>No progression rate (%)</th>
<th>Estimated mean LS mean† (95% CI)†</th>
<th>Marginal difference (95% CI)†</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEC 150 mg</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>66.1</td>
<td>0.66 (0.73, 72.54)</td>
<td>−6.63 (9.95, 0.32)</td>
<td>0.716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEC 300 mg</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>0.60 (70.45, 73.14)</td>
<td>−6.63 (9.95, 0.32)</td>
<td>0.693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDZ-ADL 40 mg</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>0.65 (78.77, 71.49)</td>
<td>−6.63 (9.95, 0.32)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Probability plot change from BSL in mSASSS at wk 104

Disclosure of Interests: NIl

Acknowledgements: NIl

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.301

Op0060

CLINICAL CONSEQUENCES OF INFILXIMAB IMMUNOGENICITY AND THE IMPACT OF THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING: SECONDARY ANALYSES OF A RANDOMISED CLINICAL TRIAL

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD, Spondyloarthritis

M. K. Brun1,2, K. H. Bjertläke2,3, J. E. Gehin4, D. J. Warren5, R. A. Klaasen6, J. Sexton2, O. Sandanger2, T. K. Kvi61, C. Mork2, J. Jahnsen2,3, N. Bolstad7, K. K. Jørgensen2, E. A. Haavardsholm1,2, G. L. Goll7, S. W. Syversen1, Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 1University of Oslo, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 2Akershus University Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology, Lørenskog, Norway; 3Norwegian Radium Hospital, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Oslo, Norway; 4Oslo universitetssykehus HF, Rikshospitalet, Section of Dermatology, Oslo, Norway; 5Akershus Dermatologist Center, Akershus Dermatologist Center, Akershus, Norway

Background: Neutralising anti-drug antibodies (ADAb) are a problem in treatment with TNF-inhibitors (TNFi). Prospective data are needed to better understand how ADAb formation impacts safety and treatment outcomes of TNFi. Proactive therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) allows for timely detection of ADAb and this strategy may have a role in reducing the negative clinical consequences of ADAb.

Objectives: To explore the temporal relation between anti-infliximab antibody formation and treatment outcomes and adverse events, and to assess the impact of TDM as a strategy to reduce these consequences.

Methods: Patients with immune mediated inflammatory diseases on infliximab therapy (n=615; 181 spondyloarthritis, 120 rheumatoid arthritis, 72 psoriatic arthritis, 114 ulcerative colitis, 83 Crohn’s disease and 45 psoriasis) were included in the Norwegian Drug Monitoring (NOR-DRUM) trials (1, 2) and randomised to TDM or standard infliximab therapy. Patients were followed for 52 weeks in the NOR-DRUM (induction therapy) and NOR-DRUM B (maintenance therapy) trials, respectively. Neutralising ADAb were assessed with a drug sensitive automated fluorescence assay at each infusion. In this sub-study, we assessed the risk of: failure to achieve remission (analysis A), disease worsening during maintenance therapy (analysis B), treatment discontinuation (analysis C) and adverse events (analysis D) in patients developing ADAb compared to patients without ADAb using logistic- or cox regression and Kaplan-Meier survival analyses, stratified by TDM or standard therapy. Regression analyses were adjusted for potential confounders (Table 1). Remission and disease worsening were defined by disease specific composite scores (1, 2).

Results: ADAb were detected in 147/615 (24 %) patients. Patients with ADAb had higher risk of not achieving remission 30 weeks after initiating infliximab therapy (odds ratio (OR) 2.4, 95 % confidence interval (CI) 1.3-4.2, P<0.01) (Table 1, Figure 1A) and of having a disease worsening during 52 weeks of infliximab maintenance therapy (hazard ratio (HR) 2.1, CI 1.4-3.3, P<0.001) (Figure 1B). ADAb formation was not significantly associated with adverse events in general, but the risk of infusion reactions was highly increased in patients with ADAb (HR 6.5, CI 4.7-8.9, P<0.001). Patients developing ADAb in the TDM group had lower risk of disease worsening or an infusion reaction than patients with ADAb in the standard infliximab therapy group (Table 1, Figure 1B and C). Patients with ADAb discontinued infliximab treatment more often in the TDM group than in the control group (Table 1, Figure 1D).

Conclusion: Formation of ADAb led to poorer clinical outcomes both during induction and maintenance therapy with infliximab and increased the risk of infusion reactions. Early detection of ADAb by proactive TDM reduced the negative consequences of ADAb, both on infliximab effectiveness and safety, highlighting the role of proactive TDM in optimising TNFi therapy.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Treatment and safety outcomes related to ADAb formation and TDM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Remission OR (CI)</td>
<td>ADAb</td>
<td>2.4 (1.3-4.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDM</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7-1.5)</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Disease worsening</td>
<td>ADAb</td>
<td>2.1 (1.4-3.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDM</td>
<td>0.4 (0.3-0.6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) Infusion reaction</td>
<td>ADAb</td>
<td>HR (CI)</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDM</td>
<td>6.5 (4.7-8.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) Treatment discontinuation</td>
<td>ADAb</td>
<td>HR (CI)</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDM</td>
<td>1.4 (1.0-1.8)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from multivariable logistic (A)- or cox (B-D) regression models including the covariates: ADAb, TDM, age, sex, diagnosis, comorbidities. Results shown in table are risk of A) non-remission week 30, B) disease worsening during 52 weeks of maintenance therapy, C) infusion reactions and D) infliximab treatment discontinuation for patients developing ADAb and for patients in the TDM group.
Background: Extra-musculoskeletal manifestations (EMMs) are common in patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA), but there are limited data on the impact of upadacitinib (UPA), an oral JAK inhibitor, on EMMs in SpA patients.

Objectives: To assess the development of EMMs among patients with PsA, AS, or non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) treated with UPA 15 mg (UPA15) or placebo (PBO) in the SELECT clinical trial program.

Methods: This analysis includes safety data from UPA trials in PsA (2 trials),[1,2] AS (2 trials),[3,4] and nr-axSpA (1 trial).[5] All trials were designed with initial randomization to UPA or PBO for a pre-specified number of weeks, followed by a second open-label extension where PBO-treated patients were switched to UPA. Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) of EMMs, including uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and psoriasis, were assessed; as psoriasis is considered a core manifestation of PsA, it was only evaluated as an EMM in AS and nr-axSpA.[6] TEAEs were defined as an AE with onset on or after first dose of study drug and ≤30 days after last dose and summarized for PBO (pooled PBO to week 24 and pooled UPA15 to data cut-off), AS (pooled PBO to week 14 and pooled UPA15 to data cut-off), and nr-axSpA (PBO to week 52 and UPA15 to data cut-off). EMMs are reported as exposure-adjusted event rates (EAEERs; events/100 patient years [E/100 PY]) and are stratified by patients with or without a reported history (flare) of the respective EMM vs those without a history (new onset).

Results: The vast majority (92-99%) of patients across PsA, AS, and nr-axSpA did not have a prior history of EMMs at baseline (Table 1). In PsA, development of uveitis and IBD was low regardless of treatment or prior history (Figure 1). In AS, development of uveitis was numerically higher (E/100 PY [95% CI]) in patients treated with PBO (total: 75 [2.7, 16.3] vs UPA15 (total: 2.8 [18, 4.1]) and in patients with a prior history of uveitis (PBO: 6.2 [2.0, 14.5], UPA15: 2.1 [1.3, 3.3]) vs no prior history (PBO: 1.2 [0.6, 0.9], UPA15: 0.6 [0.2, 1.4]); occurrence of IBD and psoriasis were low regardless of treatment or prior history. In nr-axSpA, development of uveitis was low regardless of prior history, while the total rate was numerically higher in patients treated with PBO (2.1 [0.4, 6.3]) vs UPA15 (0.9 [0.2, 2.7]); occurrence of IBD and psoriasis were low or absent.

Conclusion: Data from this post-hoc analysis describe adverse events of relevant EMMs in the SELECT program and should be interpreted with caution as the efficacy of UPA in patients with specific EMMs was not systematically evaluated, as well as the overall low number of events observed. Development of EMMs in patients treated with UPA15 was generally low across PsA, AS, and nr-axSpA. Uveitis was numerically higher in patients treated with PBO vs UPA, and particularly in patients with AS. A better understanding of the impact of UPA across EMMs in SpA, and subsequent follow-up analyses, may help clinicians make informed treatment decisions and guide future treatment recommendations.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Prior History of EMMs Reported at Baseline in Patients Treated With UPA Across PsA, AS, and nr-axSpA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMM, n (%)</th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>AS</th>
<th>nr-axSpA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>5 (0.8)</td>
<td>8 (0.9)</td>
<td>23 (7.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD</td>
<td>10 (1.6)</td>
<td>13 (1.4)</td>
<td>7 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>10 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A, not applicable; OD, once daily; UPA.

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New clinical aspects in psoriatic arthritis

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Clinical Trials, Skin

A. Zabot1, G. De Marco2, L. Gossec3, X. Baraliakos4, D. Aletaha3, A. Iagnocco3, P. Gisondi2, P. Balint3, H. Bertheussen3, W. H. Boehncke10, N. Damjanov11, M. De Wit12, E. Errichetti13, H. Marzo-Ortega4, M. Protopopov14, L. Puig15, R. Quero Silva16, P. Ruscini17, L. Savage4, G. Schett14, S. Siebert15, T. Stamms, P. Studenic29, I. Tinazzi21, F. Van den Bosch10, A. Van der Helm – van Mil15, A. Watad16, J. S. Smolen18, D. Mogenagel19, Rheumatology Institute, Department of Medicine, University of Udine, Udine, Italy;2 Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom;3 Sorbonne Université, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, France;4 Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet Herne, Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany;5 Division of Rheumatology, Medical University of Vienna, Department of Medicine 3, Vienna, Austria;6 Academic Rheumatology Center, Division Scienze Cliniche e Biologiche, Turin, Italy;7 Section of Dermatology and Venereology, Department of Medicine, Verona, Italy;8 National Institute of Musculoskeletal Diseases, 3rd Rheumatology Department, Budapest, Hungary;9,11, Oslo, Norway;12 Division of Dermatology and Venereology, Geneva University Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland;13 School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia;14,15,16, Amsterdam, Netherlands;17 Dermatology Institute, Department of Medicine, University of Udine, c/o Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale, Udine, Italy;18 Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany;19 Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain;20 Rheumatology Division & Faculty of Medicine, Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias & Oviedo University, Oviedo, Spain;21 Rheumatology Unit, Department of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, Ukuilia, Italy;22 Rheumatology and Immunology, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) and Universitätsklinikum, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Erlangen, Germany;23 School of Infection and Immunity, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom;24 Division of Rheumatology, Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine (Sollentuna), Stockholm, Sweden;25 IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Verona, Italy;26VIB-UGent Center for Inflammation Research, Ghent University, Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Ghent, Belgium;27 Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands, Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: The transition from psoriasis (PsO) to PsA is of considerable interest for potential prevention and interception of PsA.

Objectives: To formulate EULAR points to consider (PIC) for the development of data-driven guidance and consensus for clinical trials and clinical practice in the field of prevention/interception of PsA.

Methods: A multidisciplinary EULAR task force of 30 European members was established and the EULAR standardized operating procedures were followed.

Results: Nomenclature was proposed for 3 stages towards PsA development: i) PsO patients at higher risk of PsA (i.e., nail disease, obesity, severe PsO); ii) subclinical PsA (those at more imminent risk of PsA for arthralgia and imaging abnormalities) and iii) clinical PsA that most typically manifests as synovitis (Figure 1). For the purpose of prevention, our SLR showed that the vast majority of new PsA presented with synovitis. Thus, the presence of synovitis in PsO could be used as an outcome for prevention trials. Five overarching principles (OAPs) addressed the nature of PsA at its onset and underline the importance of collaboration between rheumatologists and dermatologists (Table 1). The 10 PIC highlight arthralgia plus imaging abnormalities as key elements of subclinical PsA that can be used as potential short-term predictors of PsA development and useful criteria to design trials for PsA interception (Table 1).

Conclusion: These PIC are helpful to define the features of PsO patients suspicious for progression to PsA. This information may ultimately facilitate identification of those who could benefit from a therapeutic intervention to attenuate, delay, or prevent PsA development.

REFERENCE:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overarching Principles</th>
<th>Level of Evidence</th>
<th>Level of Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. PsO patients may develop PsA at different time-points.</td>
<td>9.7±0.7</td>
<td>9.7±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Close collaboration between dermatologists and rheumatologists is important to understand and optimize PsA prevention, interception and early diagnosis.</td>
<td>9.6±0.6</td>
<td>9.5±0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. The identification of risk factors for PsA development in PsO patients may influence therapy choices for PsO.</td>
<td>8.5±1.3</td>
<td>9.6±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. The rheumatologist has a key role in the diagnosis and management of PsA.</td>
<td>8.4±1.6</td>
<td>9.6±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Certain systemic treatments of PsO may reduce the risk of transition to PsA.</td>
<td>8.4±1.6</td>
<td>9.6±0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points to Consider

1. Arthralgia in PsO patients should be considered as a risk factor for PsA, taking into account alternative diagnoses such as osteoarthritis and fibromyalgia.

2. In PsO patients, joint and enthesal pain and functional limitation should be enquired about regularly and, if present, referral to a rheumatologist should be considered.

3. Imaging in PsO could be used to help identify those at risk for PsA in particular to detect synovio-entheseal involvement/abnormalities.

4. Imaging abnormalities in the absence of musculoskeletal symptoms should be considered carefully in order to avoid the risk of inappropriate treatment.

5. The combination of musculoskeletal symptoms and imaging abnormalities in PsO, without a diagnosis of PsA, should be considered as an entry criterion for clinical trials to prevent the transition to PsA.

6. In the context of clinical trials, patients with PsO and clinically evident synovitis should be considered to have PsA when alternative diagnoses have been excluded.

7. In PsO patients that require systemic treatment, the risk of transition to PsA should be taken into account in the choice of treatment.

8. PsO patients with obesity, nail disease and/or extensive PsO should be considered at increased risk for PsA over the longer term.

9. PsO patients should be informed about the risk of developing PsA and prompted to report their symptoms to facilitate early PsA recognition.

10. In PsO patients, risk factors for PsA development should be regularly assessed over time.

Figure 1.

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Table 1. Patient characteristics by the two treatment groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>b/tsDMARD mono</th>
<th>b/tsDMARD +MTX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females, n (%)</td>
<td>486 (58)</td>
<td>213 (58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>51.9 (12.6)</td>
<td>52.2 (12.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, mean (SD)</td>
<td>29.1 (6)</td>
<td>28.7 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP mg/l, mean (SD)</td>
<td>7.2 (11.5)</td>
<td>7.6 (13.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC (0-68), mean (SD)</td>
<td>7 (8.2)</td>
<td>6.9 (7.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC (0-68), mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.5 (5.1)</td>
<td>2.8 (3.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sites with enthesitis, mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.6 (1.6)</td>
<td>0.7 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis, n (%)</td>
<td>160 (20)</td>
<td>60 (16)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Axial manifestation, n (%)         | 180 (22)       | 76 (21)       | 256 (22)      |

AFFECTED BODY SURFACE AREA IN %, MEAN (SD) | 8.7 (15.8) | 7.9 (12.3) | 8.5 (15) |

Neutrophile, n (%)                 | 345 (42)       | 148 (40)      | 493 (41)      |

Uveitis, n (%)                     | 18 (2)         | 3 (1)         | 21 (2)        |

IBD, n (%)                        | 18 (2)         | 3 (1)         | 21 (2)        |

Number of comorbidities, mean (SD) | 2.2 (2.3)      | 2.1 (2.2)     | 2.2 (2.3)     |

Physician global disease activity, mean (SD) | 5.1 (1.9) | 5.3 (1.9) | 5.2 (1.9) |

Physician skin disease activity, mean (SD) | 3.3 (2.5) | 3.1 (2.6) | 3.2 (2.5) |

DAPSA, mean (SD)                   | 22.9 (14)      | 22.4 (14)     | 22.7 (13.7)   |

Patient global disease activity, mean (SD) | 5.7 (2.4) | 5.7 (2.4) | 5.7 (2.4) |

Patient pain, mean (SD)           | 5.6 (2.4)      | 5.6 (2.4)     | 5.6 (2.4)     |

DLQI, mean (SD)                   | 6.4 (6.4)      | 4.8 (5.9)     | 5.9 (6.3)     |

HAQ, mean (SD)                    | 1 (0.7)        | 0.9 (0.7)     | 1 (0.7)       |

bDMARDs before, n (%)             | 380 (46)       | 122 (33)      | 502 (42)      |

cDMARDs before, n (%)             | 647 (78)       | 332 (90)      | 797 (81)      |

MTX before, n (%)                 | 598 (72)       | 325 (88)      | 923 (77)      |

Glucocorticoids, n (%)            | 234 (29)       | 125 (36)      | 359 (31)      |

Patient satisfaction with the treatment, n (%) | 290 (43) | 149 (52) | 409 (46) |

Patient satisfaction with the tolerability of the current treatment, n (%) | 349 (60) | 217 (76) | 566 (66) |

Drug retention rates did not differ between the two groups (p=0.19; Figure 1). After 6 months, 62% of patients with combination and 58% of those receiving bDMARDs/ tsDMARDs as monotherapy were still on their respective treatment.

Conclusion: Baseline clinical parameters did not differ whether a PsA patient was started on bDMARD/tsDMARDs monotherapy or MTX-bDMARD/tsDMARDs combination. Especially parameters usually taken into account for GRAPPA or EULAR treatment recommendations, such as the number of swollen or tender joints, the number of involved enthesial sites and the severity of affected skin did not differ between the two treatment groups. Also drug retention rates were very similar. It seems that in routine care, the decision to continue or stop MTX at escalation to bDMARD/tsDMARD treatment mostly depends on the subjective tolerability of the ongoing MTX treatment.

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Figure 1. Drug retention rates
OBESITY IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IS INCREASINGLY AFFECTING MEN AND APPEARS LESS DEPENDENT OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS THAN IN THE GENERAL POPULATION

Keywords: Epidemiology, Psoriatic arthritis, Comorbidities


1 University of Zurich, University Hospital Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 2 University of Zurich, University Hospital Zurich, Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Zurich, Switzerland; 3 ETH Zurich, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Zurich, Switzerland; 4 Inselhospital University Hospital Bern, Department of Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergology, Bern, Switzerland; 5 Geneva University Hospitals, Division of Rheumatology, Geneva, Switzerland; 6 Swiss Clinical Quality Management Foundation, Statistics Group, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: Obesity in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is associated with an elevated cardiovascular risk and higher disease activity. It represents a negative prognostic marker with a lower probability of remission on biologic therapy. Furthermore, obese patients with psoriasis have an increased risk of developing PsA. However, the prevalence of obesity in PsA compared with the general population and associated socioeconomic factors that would allow interventions targeted at these individuals are unknown.

Objectives: This study aimed to compare the prevalence of obesity in PsA patients and individuals from the general population at several time points and within those time points and find socioeconomic characteristics for obesity in PsA patients.

Methods: We compared the distribution of different body mass index (BMI) groups between patients with PsA from the Swiss Clinical Quality Management (SCQM) cohort and individuals from the general Swiss population using publicly available data from the Federal Statistical Office collected in 2007, 2012, and 2017. Patients were grouped into four BMI categories: underweight (BMI <18.5), normal weight (BMI 18.5 to <25), overweight (BMI 25 to <30) and obese (BMI ≥30). A comparison of BMI categories between the general Swiss population and PsA patients was performed by sex and level of education using the Chi-Squared test for categorical variables.

Results: The PsA population recruited to the SCQM registry increased from 517 patients in 2007 (54.5% male, mean (SD) age 47.9 (22.7) years) to 1245 patients in 2017 (51.7% male, mean (SD) age 53.1 (23.9) years). Within this timeline the mean (SD) BMI of 26.6 (10.0) in 2007 raised to 27.5 (10.6) in 2017, representing a significant change (p<0.001). Compared to the general Swiss population, the proportions of obese and overweight individuals were significantly higher in PsA patients at all collected time points (e.g., in 2017: 27.2% being obese and 36.6% being overweight in PsA patients compared to 11.3% being obese and 30.6% being overweight in the general Swiss population) (Figure 1A). In male PsA patients, the proportion of obesity increased, while female PsA patients had a slightly lower proportion of obese patients in 2017 than in 2012 (proportions of obese PsA patients in 2007, 2012 and 2017: 17.9%, 23.0%, and 27.3% in males compared to 22.4%, 26.8%, and 27.1% in females, respectively) (Figure 1B). Compared to the general Swiss population, the proportion of obese and overweight PsA patients was higher in both sexes at all three time points. Higher socioeconomic status represented by a higher level of education was associated with lower proportions of obesity and overweight in the general Swiss population at all three time points. However, patients with PsA lacked those differences in 2007. A decrease of obesity and overweight proportions in PsA associated patients exists only between secondary to tertiary education in 2012 and 2017. Between mandatory and secondary education, the proportions stay similar (Figure 1C shows the distribution of the BMI groups within education levels using data from 2017). In addition, PsA patients who worked in physically demanding occupations (e.g., transport, manufacturing or agriculture) had a comparable proportion of overweight and obesity as patients who worked in less physically demanding occupations (e.g., office workers, homemakers, teachers) (p<0.13).

Conclusion: Overweight and obesity are much more prevalent in patients with PsA than in the general population. Men have shown an increasing trend of obesity in recent years, and our data suggest that it is not only the socially disadvantaged who are at risk. There is an urgent need to address the expanding obesity epidemic in PsA with future public health initiatives that should consider our findings.

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THE DETERMINANTS OF RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION IN EARLY PSA PATIENTS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Imaging, Psoriatic arthritis

G. H. Koc1, M. R. Kok2, J. Luijmen1, I. Tchetverikov1, F. R. Kassem1, K. Wervens1, Y. Goekeop-Ruiterman1, L. A. Korswagen1, F. Fedd1, M. Van Oosterhout2, N. H. A. M. Denissen1, R. Dolhain1, M. Vis1. 1 Erasmus MC, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2 Maasstad Hospital, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 3 Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Rheumatology, Dordrecht, Netherlands; 4 Haga Hospital, Rheumatology, Zuid-holland, Netherlands; 5 Franciscus Gasthuis & Vlekken, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 6 ReumaZorg Zuid West Nederland, Rheumatology, Roosendaal, Netherlands; 7 Groene Hart Ziekenhuis, Rheumatology, Gouda, Netherlands; 8 Amphia Hospital, Rheumatology, North Brabant, Netherlands

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is inflammatory arthritis associated with a progressive erosive disease which had been reported in more than one-half of patients with PsA and is often associated with functional impairment [1]. Despite advances in diagnosis and therapy, radiographic structural damage is still prevalent in PsA. To shed light on this topic, we studied which clinical characteristics determine radiographic progression using conventional radiography.

Objectives: Our aim is to assess baseline clinical parameters as determinants for radiographic progression in early PsA patients at 2-year follow-up.

Methods: The study population consisted of 358 PsA patients from the DEPAR study which consists of PsA patients who were newly diagnosed from 11 centers in the Netherlands. Radiographic progression was measured with the modified Total Sharp Score (mTSS). The proportion of patients with radiographic progression was defined as a change in (ΔmTSS)>1.97 (the smallest detectable change) over 2 years of follow-up. Baseline clinical parameters comparisons between groups at diagnosis were made by Student’s t-test, chi-squared test, ANCOVA (age, gender baseline CRP and baseline mTSS were used as confounders).

All clinical data are observed, without imputation; except for the mTSS values, which were imputed using the linear interpolation approach.

Results: Of the 358 early PsA patients, change in mTSS (mean(SD)) was found 123±(52), and 42 were in the radiographic progression group at follow-up 2-year(12%). At diagnosis, the mean age of the progression group was older than the non-progression group (57 ± 14 vs 50 ± 14). Patients who had a radiographic progression in 2 years had significantly higher median scores in mTSS(22, IQR =4–48 vs 0, IQR = 0–1) at diagnosis. The erosion score in progressors followed poorer results compared to non-progressors but there was no significance. In addition, the patients with progressive mTSS had a significantly higher prevalence of erosive disease at baseline(57% versus 18%). The progression group had higher swollen joint counts (median(IQR)) but was no difference in statistics. However, the percentage of the presence of swollen joints was significantly greater in the progression group at baseline(93% vs 78%)(Figure 1). Baseline CRP levels were higher in progressions than non-progressions, but there was no difference between groups as a continuous measure(12.3(18.4) vs 8.5(13.6)). Furthermore, the progression group had a significantly higher percentage of patients with CRP levels of more than 1 mg/dl(88% vs. 74%). Meanwhile, DAPSA, ESR, and the baseline presence of dactylitis/enthesis did not differ between the groups. We also observed a difference in initial treatments between progressors and non-progressors.

Conclusion: According to this real-world longitudinal cohort, early PsA patients have low radiographic progressions with the current treatment protocols. Baseline clinical determinants for radiographic progression at follow-up 2 years are older age, swollen joints, erosive disease, JSN score, and baseline CRP levels (>1 mg/dl).
The rate of hyperuricemia and depression were higher proportion of smokers than PsA group and controls. Number of patients had above normal BMI, higher than matched controls. RA group had a higher rate of hyperuricemia and depression were significantly higher in PsA than in RA and controls. The rate of obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus, arterial hypertension, COPD, gout, malignancy was similar in PsA and RA but higher than in controls. Patients with PsA had higher Charlson comorbidity index and higher rate of cardiovascular disease as compared to RA and control group (p=0.005).

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, patients with PsA have a high cardiovascular and metabolic burden already at early stages of the disease. They have higher rate of multiple comorbidities and higher of cardiovascular morbidity as compared to age-matched early RA patients despite comparable BMI and similar rates of obesity. This suggests that metabolic disturbances, present at early stages of PsA might be linked to PsA at a pathophysiological level.

**Table 1. Baseline clinical parameters for radiographic progression**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender (Female)</th>
<th>Symptom duration</th>
<th>Swollen joint count (y/n) (%)</th>
<th>Swollen joint count (y/n) (%)</th>
<th>Tender joint count (y/n) (%)</th>
<th>Tender joint count (y/n) (%)</th>
<th>CRP (mg/L)</th>
<th>ESR (mm/h)</th>
<th>CRP (%)</th>
<th>ESR (%)</th>
<th>Charlson comorbidity index &gt;2, n (%)</th>
<th>Charlson comorbidity index ≥2, n (%)</th>
<th>CRP level &gt;1mg/dl at baseline °</th>
<th>Charlson comorbidity index &gt;2, n (%)</th>
<th>Charlson comorbidity index ≥2, n (%)</th>
<th>Erosion score &gt;1, n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 (14)</td>
<td>57 (11)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>2 (1-5)</td>
<td>3 (2-5)</td>
<td>3 (1-4)</td>
<td>8.50 (1.61)</td>
<td>12.28 (18.4)</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>35 (52.2)</td>
<td>35 (52.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>21 (313)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 (14)</td>
<td>57 (11)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>2 (1-5)</td>
<td>3 (2-5)</td>
<td>3 (1-4)</td>
<td>8.50 (1.61)</td>
<td>12.28 (18.4)</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>35 (52.2)</td>
<td>35 (52.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>21 (313)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. Cumulative probability plots for radiographic progression**

A: All study population B: Stratified according to the presence of SJC

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**References:**


**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>early PsA</th>
<th>RA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(n=67)</td>
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<tr>
<td>age, mean (±SD)</td>
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<td>CRP, mg/L</td>
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<td>35 (75.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h</td>
<td>12.4 (±14.3)</td>
<td>16 (8-40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP &gt;1mg/L</td>
<td>2 (1-2)</td>
<td>16 (8-40)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR &gt;20mm/h</td>
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<td>16 (8-40)</td>
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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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Percentages/binomial tests of the final global data were adjusted for size of each country’s adult population. Statistically significant differences (p<0.05) were described as more/higher.

Results: Eighty-two percent of pts were female; 24% from Europe (France/Spain/UK). Mean age of females/males (41.3/41.0 years) and time since diagnosis (9.2/8.8 years) were similar. More females had anxiety (32% vs 24%), osteoarthritis (17% vs 9%), had taken a steroid (57% vs 43%) and were taking any DMARD (biologic and oral DMARDs; 20% vs 15%). More females vs males reported a major/moderate negative PsA impact on physical activity (81% vs 75%) and emotional/mental wellbeing (73% vs 65%); major/moderate impact on other life aspects, such as work productivity, was similar between sexes (Figure 1). More females vs males reported the following because of PsA: emotional distress (65% vs 50%), stopped social activities (49% vs 41%) and went on permanent work disability (14% vs 9%); more males vs females reported lower work productivity (47% vs 38%) because of PsA. Switching treatment due to joint symptoms (41% vs 28%) and side effects (35% vs 22%) were higher in females vs males; switching due to potential serious side effect concerns (29% vs 16%) and symptoms being under control (18% vs 9%) were higher in males vs females. More females vs males were very satisfied with their rheumatologist’s communication (60% vs 51%), and discussed treatment goals (83% vs 78%), impact on ability to conduct daily activities (82% vs 73%) and response to and/or satisfaction with treatment regimen (81% vs 72%; Table 1). Pt ability to describe their PsA diagnosis/recall symptoms may limit the study.

Conclusion: More women vs men reported a major/moderate PsA impact on physical and emotional/mental well-being. More women were very satisfied with communication and discussed treatment goals with their rheumatologist. It is important to consider how sex impacts a pt’s experience with PsA.

Table 1. Communication satisfactiona with rheumatologist, and discussion topicsb between pts and their rheumatologist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female (N=620)</th>
<th>Male (N=552)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Satisfaction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>371 (60)*</td>
<td>281 (51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>174 (28)</td>
<td>214 (39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat dissatisfied</td>
<td>40 (6)</td>
<td>36 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dissatisfied</td>
<td>36 (6)</td>
<td>24 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion topics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment goals</td>
<td>515 (83)*</td>
<td>428 (78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall health</td>
<td>507 (82)</td>
<td>444 (80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical exam of musculoskeletal symptoms</td>
<td>509 (82)</td>
<td>432 (78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on ability to conduct daily activities</td>
<td>510 (82)</td>
<td>403 (73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to/m or satisfaction with treatment regimen</td>
<td>500 (81)</td>
<td>396 (72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on physical activity</td>
<td>491 (79)</td>
<td>413 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical exam of skin/nail symptoms</td>
<td>469 (78)</td>
<td>406 (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back pain (pain/stiffness)</td>
<td>467 (75)</td>
<td>411 (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease management plan</td>
<td>448 (72)</td>
<td>411 (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unusual fatigue</td>
<td>430 (69)</td>
<td>370 (67)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p<0.05 for females vs males. How satisfied are you with the communication you currently have with your rheumatologist regarding PsA? (Among pts who visited a rheumatologist in the past 12 months).bIn the last 12 months, have you discussed/conducted the following with your rheumatologist regarding PsA? (Among pts who visited a rheumatologist in the size of each country’s adult population). N, number of pts that answered question; n, number of pts that answered question.

Conclusion: More women vs men reported a major/moderate PsA impact on physical and emotional/mental wellbeing. More women were very satisfied with communication and discussed treatment goals with their rheumatologist. It is important to consider how sex impacts a patient's experience with PsA.

References:

Acknowledgements: This study was sponsored by Pfizer, Medical writing support, under the direction of the authors, was provided by Lewis C Rodgers, PhD, CMC Connect, a division of IPG Health Medical Communications, and was funded by Pfizer, New York, NY, USA, in accordance with Good Publication Practice (GPP 2022) guidelines (Ann Intern Med 2022; 175: 1298-1304).

Disclosure of Interests: Lihi Eder Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer Inc and UCB; Research support from: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer Inc, Sandoz and UCB, Pascal Richette Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer Inc and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer Inc and UCB, Laura Coates Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead Sciences, GSK, Janssen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer Inc and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead Sciences, Janssen, MoonLake, Novartis, Pfizer Inc and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer Inc and UCB, Valderiño F Azevedo Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca Celtrion, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, GSK, Organon, Pfizer Inc and Sandoz, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca Celtrion, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, GSK, Organon, Pfizer Inc and Sandoz, Joseph C Cappelli Shareholder of: Pfizer Inc; Employee of: Pfizer Inc, Megan Hoang Shareholder of: Pfizer Inc, Employee of: Pfizer Inc, Jade Moser: None declared, Cassandra Kinch Shareholder of: Pfizer Inc, Employee of: Pfizer Inc, Meriem Kessouri Shareholder of: Pfizer Inc, Employee of: Pfizer Inc.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2083
Background: Rheumatic diseases result in joint destruction and impaired physiological function [1]. We recently showed that hand function based on objective tests may serve as a biomarker representing subclinical inflammation in psoriasis (PsO) patients and thus could support the early detection of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) onset [2]. Hand function tests are relevant for objective assessment of musculoskeletal function in relation to disease activity in PsA [3]. However, the relationship of hand function with the synovitis and tenosynovitis detected by ultrasound (US) in PsA and PsO patients has not been well studied.

Objectives: To investigate the association of synovitis and tenosynovitis detected by US in grey scale (GS) and power doppler (PD) activity with grip strength and fine motor skills in patients with PsA and PsO.

Methods: PsA and PsO patients were recruited from the Rheumatology Department at the University Hospital Erlangen, for this cross-sectional study. After giving written informed consent, subject characteristics were recorded and study participants underwent bilateral US of the wrists, metacarpophalangeal (MCP) joints, and flexor tendons of all fingers. Each joint was examined by GS (0-3), PD (0-3) and finally a combined score (PDUS: PD + GS) was calculated (0-3) [4]. The flexor tendon was scanned in GS (0’1) and with PD [0-3], US activity considered either a synovitis or tenosynovitis score ≥1. Activity in tender joint count (TJC) and swollen joint count (SJC) 68/66 was considered ≥1 tender or ≥1 swollen joint. Hand function was assessed by a visiometric grip strength (bf) and the fine motor skill MPUT (Moberg pick-up test). For the analysis, patients’ hands were either divided in dominant/non-dominant or patient reported affected/non-affected hand. A correlation matrix was applied to measure the linear relation between the pairs of synovitis and tenosynovitis scores, grip strength and MPUT for both hands, using the Spearman correlation method.

Results: 106 patients (40 PsA, 66 PsO) participated in this study. Subject characteristics and general outcomes are summarized in Table 1. While grip strength was higher in the dominant hand (p<0.001), MPUT times are comparable between the dominant vs. non-dominant hands (p=0.056) but was faster in the non-affected hand (p=0.008). Low to moderate positive correlations were observed between overall GS synovitis score (MCP 2-5 + wrist) (r=0.24, p<0.05), and PDUS (r=0.23, p<0.05) with MPUT. In US active patients, a high correlation between grip strength and GS tenosynovitis score in digit 2 (r=-0.566, p=0.028) was detected. When considering patients with US in addition to SJC/TJC activity, imaging modalities did not correlate with hand function.

Conclusion: These findings indicate that the synovitis detected by grey scale is related with fine motor skills and tenosynovitis scores in grey scale with grip strength. This suggests, that chronic tenosynovitis has a greater impact on hand function than the acute inflammatory phase. When considering patients with TJC68/SJC66 ≥1 this relation is not present, suggesting that clinically assessed joint count, unlike ultrasonography, does not correlate with hand function impairment.

Table 1. Participants characteristics, clinical scores, functional tests and ultrasound scores by group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>PsO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>47.5(12.3)</td>
<td>43.6(14.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (Woman/Men)</td>
<td>15/25</td>
<td>26/40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Scores, Mean (SD)</td>
<td>4.3(1.8)</td>
<td>3.2(1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC 68/SJC 66</td>
<td>3.4(1.5)</td>
<td>3.7(1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Analogue Scale Global</td>
<td>43.7(30.6)</td>
<td>42.3(27.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Tests, Mean (SD)</td>
<td>15/25</td>
<td>20/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grip strength (lbs)</td>
<td>84.3(32.9)</td>
<td>98.3(33.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPUT (sec)</td>
<td>13.3(3.2)</td>
<td>10.9(2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Scores, active (score/1)/non-active</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS Synovitis</td>
<td>20/20</td>
<td>15/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD Synovitis</td>
<td>7/33</td>
<td>1/65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD Tenosynovitis</td>
<td>14/28</td>
<td>7/51</td>
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<tr>
<td>PD Tenosynovitis</td>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>1/65</td>
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REFERENCES:

[4] Acknowledgements: This work was partly funded by Novartis Pharma GmbH, Germany and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – SFB 1483 – Project-ID 442419336, EmpkinS.
Emerging a New Era in Osteoarthritis Therapies

METHODS - A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF METHOTREXATE TO TREAT HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS WITH SYNOVITIS

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Randomized controlled trial, Osteoarthritis

Y. Wang1, G. Jones2, H. Keen2, C. Hill3, A. Wluka1, J. Kasza1, A. Teichtahl2, R. O’Sullivan5, F. Cicuttini1,1; Monash University, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Melbourne, Australia; 2; University of Tasmania, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, Hobart, Australia; 3; University of Western Australia, School of Medicine, Perth, Australia; 4; University of Adelaide, Department of Medicine, Adelaide, Australia; 5; Alfred Hospital, Rheumatology, Melbourne, Australia; 6; Lumus Imaging, Lumus Imaging, Melbourne, Australia

Background: Hand osteoarthritis (OA) with synovitis is a common clinically identifiable phenotype which is associated with pain and disease progression. Methotrexate is a low-cost, well-established and effective treatment for inflammatory arthritis with a well-described safety profile. A previous randomized controlled trial showed no superiority of 10 mg methotrexate over placebo in pain relief at 3 or 12 months in patients with erosive hand OA [1]. No study has examined methotrexate in hand OA with inflammatory phenotype.

Objectives: To examine whether methotrexate reduced pain and improved function over 6 months in patients with hand OA and synovitis.

Methods: In a multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial, patients with symptomatic hand OA and MRI-detected synovitis were recruited and randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to receive methotrexate 20 mg (n=50) or identical placebo (n=47) once weekly for 6 months. The primary outcome was pain reduction (assessed by 100mm visual analogue scale, VAS) at 6 months. Secondary outcomes included changes in physical function and quality of life assessed using Australian Canadian Osteoarthritis Hand Index (AUSCAN), Functional Index for Hand Osteoarthritis (FIHOA), Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), and Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire (MHQ). Adverse events were recorded. The primary analysis was by intention to treat, including all participants in their randomized groups. Mixed linear regression models were fit to continuous outcomes, adjusting for baseline values of outcome, sex and site, and the clustering of measurements within participants.

Results: Of 97 patients [mean age 61.6 (SD 6.7) years, 68 (70.1%) female], 84 (86.5%) provided the 6-month primary outcome. At 6 months, the methotrexate group had greater reduction in VAS pain (-15.2 vs -7.7, difference -9.9, 95% CI -19.3 to -0.6) (Figure 1), AUSCAN pain (-55.3 vs -13.5, diff -47.0, 95% CI -91.5 to -2.5) and stiffness (-14.5 vs -2.9, diff -11.9, 95% CI -20.8 to -2.0) than the placebo group (Table 1). The between-group differences were not clinically meaningful for change in AUSCAN function [-52.7 (+1273 to 219.9)], FIHOA [-0.9 (-3.3 to 1.7)], HAQ [-0.0 (-2.0 to 0.2)], or MHQ [5.5 (-0.3 to 11.3)]. Incidence of adverse events was 62.0% in methotrexate and 59.6% in placebo group.

Conclusion: This study provides high-quality evidence for the effect of methotrexate (20 mg once weekly) on reducing pain and stiffness over 6 months in patients with hand OA and synovitis. The results have the potential to inform clinical practice guidelines for the management of hand OA with the inflammatory phenotype.

REFERENCE:


Figure 1. Pain at each time point over the study period (mean with standard error)

Table 1. Primary and secondary outcomes at 6 months, using a multiply imputed dataset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Baseline Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Change between baseline/6 months Mean (SD)</th>
<th>P*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate Placebo (N=50)</td>
<td>61.5 (15.7)</td>
<td>65.2 (18.1)</td>
<td>-15.2 (24.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate Placebo (N=47)</td>
<td>64.6 (17.4)</td>
<td>69.0 (21.7)</td>
<td>-14.9 (25.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary endpoint

VAS | 61.5 (15.7) | 65.2 (18.1) | -15.2 (24.0) | -7.7 (25.3) | <0.001 |

Secondary endpoints

AUSCAN pain | 233.6 (88.4) | 242.7 (107.4) | -55.3 (102.6) | -13.5 (121.0) | -0.19 (0.27) |

AUSCAN | 47.4 (23.1) | 46.8 (25.6) | -14.5 (24.1) | -2.9 (28.7) | 0.018 |

Secondary stiffness

AUSCAN | 452.4 (198.1) | 462.3 (198.3) | -13.9 (219.2) | -11.4 (208.2) | 0.018 |

Secondary function

FIHOA | 9.4 (6.8) | 9.6 (6.5) | 0.0 (6.1) | 0.6 (6.5) | 0.50 |

MHQ | 0.7 (0.6) | 0.6 (0.4) | 0.0 (0.6) | -0.0 (0.6) | 0.99 |

Acknowledgements: N.I.L.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3399

OBJECTIVE

EFFECTION OF DENOSUMAB ON STRUCTURE MODIFICATION IN EROSIIVE HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS: RESULTS OF A 48-WEEKS, MONOCENTRIC, RANDOMIZED, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, DOUBLE-BLIND PHASE 2 STUDY AND OPEN LABEL EXTENSION PHASE

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Osteoarthritis

R. Wittekoek 1, G. Verbruggen 1, T. Vanhaverbeke 2, D. Elewaett 1, Gent University, Rheumatology, Gent, Belgium

Background: Erosive hand osteoarthritis (OA) is a disabling disease with limited therapeutic options. Denosumab, a Receptor Activator of Nuclear Factor kappa-β Ligand inhibitor affects bone resorption and osteoclast activity.

Objectives: The purpose of this clinical trial was to study the structure modifying effect of denosumab in patients with erosive hand OA, and to explore the clinical benefits and safety of subcutaneous denosumab 60 mg every 3 months versus placebo.

Methods: One hundred patients with erosive hand OA were randomly allocated to placebo or denosumab in a monocentric clinical trial during 48 weeks, followed by an open-label extension phase through week 96. The primary radiographic endpoint was change in total Ghent University Scoring System (GUSS) score at week 24. GUSS (0-300) is a semi-quantitative scoring system specifically developed to combine scoring of both aspects of radiographic changes in erosive hand OA, being erosive progression (decrease of score) and signs of repair (increase of score) (1) and able to detect changes on short term [2]. The secondary endpoint was the percentage of new erosive joints at week 48. Exploratory clinical outcomes (e.g., pain, tender joint count, swollen joint count, grip strength, the Australian-Canadian Hand Osteoarthritis Index and the Functional Index for Hand Osteoarthritis) were assessed. Radiographic and clinical changes after 96 weeks of treatments were measured. Safety outcomes including (serious) adverse events, laboratory changes and changes in bone mineral density by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry were registry. Primary efficacy analyses were performed in an intention-to-treat approach. Changes in GUSS were analysed at joint level with generalized estimating equations, accounting for within-patient clustering. Robust standard errors were used and the working correlation structure specified exchangeable.

Trial registration number: EU/DRCT CT-2015-003223-53.

Results: 51 and 49 patients received subcutaneous administration of denosumab and placebo respectively. Total change GUSS was found statistically higher in denosumab compared to placebo at week 24 (mean change GUSS = 8.9 (95% CI: 1.0 - 16.9; p = 0.024)) (Figure 1A). This difference further increased at week 48 (ΔGUSS = 14.3 (95% CI: 4.6 - 24.0; p = 0.003)). Development of new erosive joints was significantly lower in denosumab (1.8%) compared to placebo (7.0%) at week 48 (OR = 0.23 (95% CI: 0.10 to 0.50; p < 0.001)) (Figure 1B). After open-label treatment through week 96, both groups continued remodelling and both pain and function significantly improved compared to baseline. Equal numbers of adverse events occurred in both groups.

Conclusion: Denosumab has clear structure modifying effects in erosive hand OA compared to placebo: significantly less erosive progression occurs after 24 weeks treatment, and the treatment effect enhances after 48 weeks. Symptom improvement was observed after sustained treatment.

REFERENCES:


Methods: We performed a post-hoc analysis of data collected in the LoDoCo2 trial to determine the time to first knee or hip replacement. A Cox proportional hazard model was used to estimate hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for colchicine 0.5 mg once daily as compared to placebo. Sensitivity analyses were performed by excluding patients known with gout at baseline (to avoid possible carry-over effects as colchicine is used to prevent gout attacks) or by excluding the patients who had joint surgery within the first 3 months after randomization (to avoid any bias related to planned joint surgery prior to randomization). All analyses were performed on an intention-to-treat basis.

Results: Among the 5522 randomized LoDoCo2 trial participants, 2762 received colchicine and 2760 placebo during a median duration of follow-up of 28.6 months (interquartile range, 20.5 to 44.4). The mean (SD) age was 66 (8.6) years and 846 (15.3%) were female. During the trial, TKR/THR was performed in 68 patients (2.5%) in the colchicine group and in 97 patients (3.5%) in the placebo group (HR, 0.69; 95% CI, 0.51-0.95; p = 0.02) (Table 1 and Figure 1). In a sensitivity analysis that excluded patients with gout similar results were obtained, while omitting joint replacements that took place in the first three months of follow-up yielded in an even larger rate reduction of TKR/THR (Table 1).

Table 1. Incidence rates and hazard ratios for hip and knee replacements according to treatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial cohort/subgroup</th>
<th>Placebo</th>
<th>Colchicine</th>
<th>Hazard ratio (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=2760)</td>
<td>(n=2762)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TKR/THR events</td>
<td>97/2760 (3.5)</td>
<td>68/2762 (2.5)</td>
<td>0.69 (0.51-0.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants with gout at baseline excluded</td>
<td>89/2762 (3.2)</td>
<td>61/2762 (2.2)</td>
<td>0.68 (0.49-0.94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TKR/THR in the first three months excluded</td>
<td>96/2760 (3.5)</td>
<td>59/2762 (2.1)</td>
<td>0.61 (0.44-0.84)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TKR/TH= total knee replacement/ total hip replacement

Conclusion: In this post-hoc analysis of the LoDoCo2 trial, use of colchicine 0.5 mg daily was associated with a reduced risk of TKR/THR. Further investigation of long-term therapy with colchicine to slow disease progression in osteoarthritis is warranted.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.615
Background: Colchicine has been suggested as a treatment for osteoarthritis symptoms, but evidence is contradictory.[1]

Objectives: To investigate the clinical efficacy and safety of colchicine compared with placebo in people with hand osteoarthritis.

Methods: In this double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial we recruited and randomly assigned 100 participants: 50 (50%) to colchicine and 50 (50%) to placebo. All participants completed the study. The mean changes from baseline to week 12 in finger pain: -12.4 (2.8) in the colchicine group and -11.2 (2.8) in the placebo group with a between-group difference of 1.2 mm (95% CI -8.3 to 5.9; p = 0.060).

Results: We screened 186 people for eligibility between January 15, 2021 and March 3, 2022 and randomly assigned 100 participants: 50 (50%) to colchicine and 50 (50%) to placebo. All participants completed the study. The mean changes from baseline to week 12 in finger pain were -13.9 mm (SE 2.8) in the colchicine group and -13.5 mm (SE 2.8) in the placebo group with a between-group difference of 0.4 mm (95% CI -7.6 to 6.7; p = 0.90). The efficacy on primary and secondary outcomes is summarized in the Table 1.

Table 1. Changes from baseline to week 12 in finger pain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Measurement</th>
<th>Colchicine (n = 50)</th>
<th>Placebo (n = 50)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary outcome: Changes from baseline to week 12 in pain (mm)</td>
<td>-13.9 (2.8)</td>
<td>-13.5 (2.8)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary outcomes: Changes from baseline to week 12 in pain (mm)</td>
<td>-12.4 (2.8)</td>
<td>-11.2 (2.8)</td>
<td>0.060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In people with painful hand osteoarthritis, treatment with 0·5 mg of colchicine twice daily for 12 weeks did not effectively relieve pain and treatment with colchicine was associated with more adverse events.

References: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Anna Dissing: None declared, Marius Henriksson Employee of: MH in the European Advisory Board for Thussane Group. Karen Elleegaard: None declared, Sabrina Mai Nielsen: None declared, Lisa Stamp Consultant of: LKS has received consulting fees from Pharmac, Felix C Müller Speakers bureau: FCM has received payment or honoraria from Varian and Siemens Healthineers., Margreet Klok Kloppenburg Speakers bureau: MGK has received payment or honoraria from Galapagos and Jansen, Consultant of: MGK has received consulting fees for Abbvie, Pfizer, Kiniksa, Flexion, Galapagos, CHDR, Novartis, and UCB, Grant/research support from: MGK has received research support from Abbvie, Pfizer, Lilly, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, GlaxoSmithKline, Grunenthal, Janssen, Lek, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Stryker, and UCB, Grant/research support from: PGC has received research support from Abbvie for congress attendance., Louise Dahi: None declared, Lance Tresler Speakers bureau: LT has received payment or honoraria from Eli Lilly, Novartis, and Horizon, Employee of: LT is on the advisory board for BMS and Janssen., Roy Altman: None declared, Fabio Becce Consultant of: FB has received consulting fees from Horizon Therapeutics., Elisabeth Ginnerup-Nielsen: None declared, Lene Jensen: None declared, Mikael Boesen: None declared, Robin Christensen: None declared, Ulla Dal: None declared, Henning Bliddal: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1205

Table 1. Changes from baseline in primary and secondary outcomes at week 12 in the ITT population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Measurement</th>
<th>Colchicine Placebo (n = 50)</th>
<th>Placebo (n = 50)</th>
<th>Difference between groups (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary outcome: Changes from baseline to week 12 in pain (mm)</td>
<td>-13.9 (2.8)</td>
<td>-13.5 (2.8)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary outcomes: Changes from baseline to week 12 in pain (mm)</td>
<td>-12.4 (2.8)</td>
<td>-11.2 (2.8)</td>
<td>0.060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In people with painful hand osteoarthritis, treatment with 0·5 mg of colchicine twice daily for 12 weeks did not effectively relieve pain and treatment with colchicine was associated with more adverse events.

References: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Anna Dissing: None declared, Marius Henriksson Employee of: MH in the European Advisory Board for Thussane Group. Karen Elleegaard: None declared, Sabrina Mai Nielsen: None declared, Lisa Stamp Consultant of: LKS has received consulting fees from Pharmac, Felix C Müller Speakers bureau: FCM has received payment or honoraria from Varian and Siemens Healthineers., Margreet Klok Kloppenburg Speakers bureau: MGK has received payment or honoraria from Galapagos and Jansen, Consultant of: MGK has received consulting fees for Abbvie, Pfizer, Kiniksa, Flexion, Galapagos, CHDR, Novartis, and UCB, Grant/research support from: MGK has received research support from Abbvie, Pfizer, Lilly, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, GlaxoSmithKline, Grunenthal, Janssen, Lek, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Stryker, and UCB, Grant/research support from: PGC has received research support from Abbvie for congress attendance., Louise Dahi: None declared, Lance Tresler Speakers bureau: LT has received payment or honoraria from Eli Lilly, Novartis, and Horizon, Employee of: LT is on the advisory board for BMS and Janssen., Roy Altman: None declared, Fabio Becce Consultant of: FB has received consulting fees from Horizon Therapeutics., Elisabeth Ginnerup-Nielsen: None declared, Lene Jensen: None declared, Mikael Boesen: None declared, Robin Christensen: None declared, Ulla Dal: None declared, Henning Bliddal: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1205
estimate difference between LOR and PBO on outcomes using the OA-07 baseline. Treatment effect at Month 36 was estimated using marginal comparison from baseline-adjusted ANCOVA to a last PBO observation prior to crossover for LOR only. Concordance between OA-07 baseline-adjusted medial JSW change and pain response was conducted for 36 month completers using logistic regression.

**Results:** 277 subjects (mean age 61.0 ± 8.2 years, BMI 31.8 ± 4.9 kg/m², female 62.8%, KLI 45.5%, 67.1% bilaterally symptomatic, mean baseline medial JSW 2.63 ± 0.69 mm, 68.6% medial JSW < 3 mm) were enrolled. LOR appeared safe and well-tolerated, consistent with its previously observed safety profile. At 24 months, the LOR treatment arm showed reduced medial JSW loss compared to placebo: LOR -0.11 (± 0.05) mm (n=111) vs. PBO -0.20 (± 0.05) mm (n=119) (Δ=0.09mm, 95% CI [-0.06, 0.23], P=0.246). The 36-month LOR completers demonstrated continued improvement with LOR (n=21) medial JSW change of 0.03 (± 0.11) mm vs. PBO (n=28) -0.30 (± 0.09) mm (Δ=0.33mm, 95% CI [0.05, 0.62], P=0.023) at 24 months. At 36 months, LOR median JSW change was -0.19 (± 0.14) mm (n=23), a difference of -0.49 mm (P=0.019) in medial JSW with LOR in comparison to the last PBO measure before crossover at 24 months (Figure 1). Average change from extension baseline to 24 months in Pain NRS was -0.25 (± 0.19) for LOR (n=121) compared to 0.09 (± 0.19) for placebo (n=130) (Δ=-0.34, 95% CI [0.87, 1.19], P=0.207). Similar trends were seen for LOR treatment effect over PBO at 24 months for WOMAC Function ∆=-4.90 (95% CI [-9.92, 0.13], P=0.056) and WOMAC Pain ∆=-5.18 (95% CI [-10.28, -0.08], P=0.047). At 36 months, open-label IA injection of LOR (n=35) showed additional Pain NRS improvements with change from OA-07 baseline of -0.91 (±0.34) and cross-over participants from PBO to LOR (n=45) showed improvement of -0.43 (±0.30). Good concordance was shown between change in medial JSW and at least a 20% improvement in Pain NRS at 36 months (n=20, AUROC=0.719).

### Conclusion
LOR continues to appear safe and well tolerated. A potential benefit of LOR 0.07mg compared with PBO in medial JSW is observed 12 months after comparison in to the last PBO measure before crossover at 24 months (Figure 1). Average change from extension baseline to 24 months in Pain NRS was -0.25 (± 0.19) for LOR (n=121) compared to 0.09 (± 0.19) for placebo (n=130) (Δ=-0.34, 95% CI [0.87, 1.19], P=0.207). Similar trends were seen for LOR treatment effect over PBO at 24 months for WOMAC Function ∆=-4.90 (95% CI [-9.92, 0.13], P=0.056) and WOMAC Pain ∆=-5.18 (95% CI [-10.28, -0.08], P=0.047). At 36 months, open-label IA injection of LOR (n=35) showed additional Pain NRS improvements with change from OA-07 baseline of -0.91 (±0.34) and cross-over participants from PBO to LOR (n=45) showed improvement of -0.43 (±0.30). Good concordance was shown between change in medial JSW and at least a 20% improvement in Pain NRS at 36 months (n=20, AUROC=0.719).

### REFERENCES
NIL.

### Acknowledgements
NIL.

### Disclosure of Interests

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2833

**OP0075**

**EFFICACY, SAFETY, PHARMACOKINETICS AND IMMUNOGENICITY OF REPEATED DOING OF GS3858279 IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS: A PHASE I, RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED STUDY**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Pain

**Table 1. Baseline characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Placebo (N=24)</th>
<th>GS3858279 (N=24)</th>
<th>All (N=48)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>11 (46)</td>
<td>16 (67)</td>
<td>27 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>59.0 [11–75]</td>
<td>58.5 [46–74]</td>
<td>59.0 [46–75]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>24 (100)</td>
<td>23 (96)</td>
<td>47 (98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index, kg/m²</td>
<td>28.3 [24–35]</td>
<td>29.7 [23–34]</td>
<td>29.2 [23–35]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL and Lawrence score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>12 (50)</td>
<td>8 (33)</td>
<td>20 (42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>8 (33)</td>
<td>8 (33)</td>
<td>16 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>4 (17)</td>
<td>8 (33)</td>
<td>12 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average knee pain intensitya</td>
<td>5.5 [4.0–7.8]</td>
<td>5.3 [4.0–7.4]</td>
<td>5.3 [4.0–7.8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worst knee pain intensitya</td>
<td>6.0 [4.0–8.0]</td>
<td>6.2 [4.2–6.6]</td>
<td>6.1 [4.0–6.8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC Pain scoreb</td>
<td>5.2 [2.6–9.0]</td>
<td>5.5 [2.8–10]</td>
<td>5.4 [2.6–9.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC Function scoreb</td>
<td>5.2 [1.6–9.4]</td>
<td>5.5 [1.7–7.5]</td>
<td>5.4 [1.6–9.4]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are n (%) or median [range].<sup>a</sup>11-point numerical rating scale: 0 (no pain/difficulty) to 10 (worst imaginable pain/difficulty). WOMAC, Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index.
Background: The existing EULAR Recommendations for the non-pharmacological core management of hip and knee osteoarthritis (OA) were published in 2013. A considerable number of new studies on various non-pharmacological treatment modalities have since been published, as well as updates of the Recommendations for the non-pharmacological core management of hip and knee OA.

Objectives: The objective of this project was to perform an updated systematic literature review and to update the 2013 EULAR Recommendations for the non-pharmacological core management of hip and knee osteoarthritis, accordingly.

Methods: The standardised operating procedures for EULAR-endorsed Recommendations [1] were used as a framework for this project. A multi-disciplinary Task Force (TF) including 9 physiotherapists, 6 rheumatologists, 2 orthopaedic surgeons, 2 psychologists, 2 patient research partners, 1 occupational therapist, 1 nurse, 1 general practitioner and 1 nutrition expert from 13 European countries was established. Based on the original search strategy underpinning the original 11 recommendations, 11 updated PICOs (Population, Intervention, Control, Outcome) were agreed upon by the TF members in the first digital meeting in January 2022. Systematic literature searches were conducted from 1st January, 2012 until 27th May, 2022 aiming to identify new evidence related to non-pharmacological core management treatment interventions for hip and knee OA. Evidence was primarily collected from published systematic reviews (SRs) and secondarily, from randomised controlled trials (RCTs) if no relevant, updated SR was available. The retrieved evidence was discussed in 5 digital subgroup meetings and subsequently presented to all TF members in the second plenary digital meeting in November 2022. Here, the recommendations were revised based on the new evidence and discussions and TF members voted on each newly proposed recommendation to reach consensus (more than 75% in favour). After the meeting 10 revised recommendations completed a短短期 survey to ascertain the Level of Agreement (LoA) (0-10, 10=totally agree) with each recommendation and prioritize the order of the recommendations for implementation activities.

Results: Based on evidence from 67 SRs and 31 RCTs, the TF agreed to rephrase and change two of the 11 existing recommendations into two overarching principles; one concerning the initial assessment with a biopsychosocial approach and one on the use of shared decision-making in treatment. The remaining 9 original recommendations were revised into 8 updated recommendations, as the recommendations on footwear and on walking aids and other assistive devices were combined. The 8 updated recommendations concern the application of: 1) an individualised, component management plan; 2) delivery of information, education and self-management strategies; 3) delivery of exercise with adequate dosage and progression; 4) the mode of delivery of exercise; 5) education on maintaining a healthy weight and support with weight loss when indicated; 6) advice on walking aids and assistive devices; 7) work-related advice; and 8) application of behaviour-change techniques to improve lifestyle. The lowest mean LoA for the 8 revised recommendations was 9.2 and the highest 9.8. Recommendation 2) was ranked by the TF as having the highest priority for implementation.

Conclusion: The updated overarching principles and recommendations for the non-pharmacological core management of hip and knee OA based on previous evidence and on new evidence from relevant SRs and RCTs published during the last 10 years and on discussions by a multi-disciplinary TF: A plan for dissemination and implementation will be developed, with emphasis on the recommendation on patient education, with the ultimate aim to improve the quality of care for people with hip and knee OA.


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**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Non-pharmacological interventions

T. Struijk1, S. Mastbergen1, R. Brouwer2, R. Custers2, R. Van Geenen3, K. Heusdens3, P. Emans4, M. Jansen1. 1University Medical Center Utrecht, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 2Martini Hospital, Department of Orthopedics, Groningen, Netherlands; 3University Medical Center Utrecht, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Utrecht, Netherlands; 4Amphia Hospital, Department of Orthopedics, Breda, Netherlands; 5Antwerp University Hospital, Department of Orthopedics, Antwerp, Belgium; 6Maastricht University Medical Center, Department of Orthopedics, Joint-Preserving Clinic, Maastricht, Netherlands

**Background:** Knee distraction (KD) treatment for young (<65 years) patients with end-stage knee osteoarthritis (OA) has previously been shown to successfully postpone a knee arthroplasty for years by reducing pain, improving function, and inducing joint tissue repair.[1] During KD treatment, the tibia and femur are separated ~5 mm for ~6 weeks using an external fixation device. The studies performed thus far have used proof-of-concept medical devices intended for other applications than KD. Recently, the first device specifically designed and intended for KD treatment has been developed.

**Objectives:** The purpose of the current study was to evaluate the clinical efficacy of this intended device.

**Methods:** In 5 hospitals, 65 patients with end-stage knee OA, in general practice considered for arthroplasty or high tibial osteotomy, were offered KD treatment. Inclusion criteria included age ≤65 years, BMI ≤35 kg/m² with weight ≤110 kg, sufficient knee stability and physical condition, KL grade ≥2, malalignment ≥10 degrees, no history of inflammatory or septic arthritis. KD was performed according to a standardized protocol. Before and 1 and 2 years after treatment, standardized knee radiographs were performed and patients filled out WOMAC (for pain and function, 0–100, primary clinical outcome) and SF-36 (quality of life, 0–100, secondary outcome) questionnaires. From the radiographs, minimum joint space width (JSW, mm, primary structural outcome) was measured by 1 experienced observer and baseline KL grade was determined. Use of self-reported pain medication (paracetamol, opioids, NSAIDs) and intra-articular injections were registered, as were adverse events. Changes over 2 years were evaluated for statistical significance with paired t-tests for continuous variables and McNemar’s tests for categorical variables. For the WOMAC, clinical significance was evaluated as well, on group level defined as an increase of ≥15 points and on individual level using OARS-OMERACT response criteria. The influence of adverse effects on 2-year changes in primary outcomes was analyzed with independent t-tests.

**Results:** Of the 65 patients (age: 53.3±6.7; BMI: 28.0±3.2; sex: 38 (55%) male; KL grade 0/1/2/3/4: 0 (0%) / 7 (11%) / 26 (40%) / 23 (36%) / 9 (14%), 49 patients completed 2 years follow-up. 1 Patient did not complete treatment, 7 patients received arthroplasty (3 in the 1st year) and 8 patients were lost to follow-up in the 2nd year. The total WOMAC score showed a statistically and clinically significant improvement at 1 and 2 years (+26 and +24 points; Figure 1), as did all subscales (all p<0.001). After 1 year 72% of patients were clinical responders, at 2 years this was reduced to 55%. The minimum radiographic joint space width improved over 1 (+0.5 mm; p<0.001) and 2 (+0.4 mm; p=0.015) years (Figure 1), as did the physical SF-36 (+10 points; p=0.001). The most common adverse event was pin tract infection, experienced by 43 (66%) of patients, in the majority successfully treated with oral antibiotics. In 2 cases hospitalization and/or intravenous antibiotics were needed. 8 Patients experienced device-related complications. None of the complications influenced the 2-year outcomes. Before treatment, 42% of patients used pain medication, which had nearly been halved 1 (23%; p=0.02) and 2 years (29%; p=0.27) post-treatment. In total 12 (18%) patients had received an intra-articular injection before KD treatment, of whom 5 (8%) steroids and 3 (5%) hyaluronic acid. Both in the 1st and 2nd year after treatment, 1 patient (2%) received a injection.

**Conclusion:** Patients treated with the first device intended for KD treatment showed significant clinical and structural improvement after 1 and 2 years. Importantly, the effect was clinically relevant, as a majority of patients were clinical responders and pain medication use decreased. Long-term evaluation will show whether arthroplasty can be postponed successfully as well.

**REFERENCE:**

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**COVID 19: A pandemic with a long tail**

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, COVID, Inflammatory arthritides

L. Boekel1, S. Atiqi1, M. Leeuwen1, F. Hooijberg2, Y. Besten2, W. Lems3, A. Boonen1, S. Tas3, M. Nurmohamed4, T. Rispens5, G. Wolbink1. 1Reade, Locatie Dr Jan Van Bree menstraat, Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUmc, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3Aaachts Hospital University Medical Centre +, Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands; 4Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 5Sanquin Research and Landsteiner Laboratory, Department of Immunopathology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** Studies on long-term consequences of COVID-19, commonly referred to as long-COVID, in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD) are still scarce, and available data are heterogeneous and largely inconclusive. In addition, it is unknown whether correctly classifying patients with IRD as long-COVID cases is complicated by increased background noise due to the occurrence of persistent symptoms that could be attributed to both long-COVID and IRD.
Objectives: The primary objective was to compare the risk of developing long-COVID after a SARS-CoV-2 infection with the Omicron variant between patients with iRD and age and sex matched healthy controls. A secondary objective was to compare the prevalence of the different persistent symptoms observed in long-COVID between patients with iRD and healthy controls with and without a history of COVID-19.

Methods: We collected data from participants enrolled in a Dutch prospective cohort study that was designed to compare the disease severity of COVID-19 between iRD patients and healthy controls from the start of the pandemic. Demographic and clinical data, including data on the occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 infections, were collected using online questionnaires. On March 10, 2022, all study participants were asked about the occurrence, onset, severity and duration of persistent symptoms during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, independent of their history with COVID-19. Subsequently, we prospectively monitored a subset of the cohort, participants with a PCR or antigen confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Omicron infection, for COVID-19 sequelae. In line with WHO guidelines, long-COVID was defined as participants who reported persistent symptoms that lasted at least 8 weeks, started after the onset and within 3 months of a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, and could not be explained by an alternative diagnosis. Descriptive statistics, logistic regression analyses and Kaplan Meier survival analyses were used for statistical analyses.

Results: A total of 1974 iRD patients and 733 healthy controls participated, of whom 468 (24%) patients and 218 (30%) controls had a SARS-CoV-2 Omicron infection. Of those, 361 (77%) patients and 172 (79%) controls completed COVID-19 sequela questionnaires. More patients compared to controls fulfilled long-COVID criteria: 2.7% vs. 2.3% (OR: 1.15; 95% CI: 0.70–1.87; Table 2). However, the effect attenuated after adjusting for potential confounders (aOR: 0.77; 95% CI: 0.44–1.35; Table 3). Although we found no significant difference in long-COVID between patients with iRD and healthy controls with and without a history of COVID-19, we believe that the observed difference in long-COVID between patients with iRD and healthy controls was explained by age and sex differences.

Conclusion: We found that 21% of iRD patients and 13% of healthy controls met WHO criteria for long-COVID after a SARS-CoV-2 Omicron infection. However, confounding by BMI and severity of the acute infection phase of SARS-CoV-2 attenuated this difference, and the duration of long-COVID was similar between patients and controls. In addition, since more iRD patients than healthy controls had a history of COVID-19 reported symptoms that are also observed in long-COVID, we believe that the observed difference in long-COVID between patients and controls could in part also be explained by clinical manifestations of underlying rheumatic diseases. We therefore conclude that iRD patients are not more susceptible for long-COVID than people from the general population.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

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OP0079

OMICRON VARIANT INFECTION IN INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATOLOGICAL CONDITIONS - OUTCOMES FROM A COVID-19 NAIVE POPULATION IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, COVID, Registries


J. Yazdany1, R. Grainger2,21, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Te Toki Tumai Auckland, Department of Rheumatology; Auckland, New Zealand; 1University of California, San Francisco, Division of Rheumatology, San Francisco, United States of America; 2University of Auckland, Department of Rheumatology, Auckland, New Zealand; 3Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Counties Manukau, Department of Rheumatology; Auckland, New Zealand; 4University of Otago Wellington, Department of Medicine, Wellington, New Zealand; 5Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Waikato, Department of Rheumatology, Hamilton, New Zealand; 6Boston University, Department of Rheumatology, Boston, United States of America; 7Pfizer Inc, Pfizer Inc, New York, United States of America; 8University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) University College London Hospitals (UCLH) Biomedical Research Centre, London, United Kingdom; 9London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Northwick Park Hospital, London, United Kingdom; 10Healthpartners, Rheumatology, St Paul, MN, United States of America; 11McMaster University, Hamilton, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, Hamilton, Canada; 12Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance, Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance, Toronto, Canada; 13University of Queensland, School of Clinical Medicine, Herston, Australia; 14Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Department of Rheumatology, Brisbane, Australia; 15Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology, Boston, United States of America; 16Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Capital Coast and Hutt Valley, Rheumatology Unit, Wellington, New Zealand

Background: Due to geographic isolation and border controls, Aotearoa New Zealand attained high levels of population coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) vaccination before widespread community transmission of Omicron variant COVID-19 in early 2022. This provides a unique opportunity to examine outcomes in people with rheumatic diseases immunologically naive to COVID-19.

Objectives: This study aimed to describe the outcomes of people with inflammatory rheumatic disease and COVID-19 infection in people with rheumatic diseases in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Methods: We conducted an observational study of people with inflammatory rheumatic disease and COVID-19 infection from centres in Aotearoa New Zealand between 1 March 2020 to 30 April 2022. Data were collected via the Global Rheumatology Alliance Registry, including demographic and rheumatic disease characteristics and COVID-19 vaccination and outcomes. Multivariable logistic regression was used to examine associations of demographic and clinical factors with COVID-19 hospitalisation and death.

Results: A total of 1599 cases were included, with 98% from three hospitals that systematically identified all patients from rheumatology clinics who had COVID-19 infection. At the time of COVID-19 infection, 1513 cases (94.6%) had received at least two COVID-19 vaccinations. Hospitalisation occurred for 104 (6.5%) cases, and 10 (0.6%) patients died. A lower frequency of hospitalisation was seen in cases who had received at least two vaccinations (5.9%), compared to cases who were unvaccinated (20.6%) or who received a single vaccine dose (10.7%). In multivariable adjusted models, people with gest (OR 2.295% CI 1.02, 4.77) or connective tissue diseases (CTD) (OR 2.73 CI 1.61, 4.80) had increased risk of the combined outcome of hospitalisation and death, compared to people with inflammatory arthritis. Glucocorticoid and rituximab use were associated with 3 to 6 times higher odds of hospitalization and/or death. All cases who died had three or more comorbidities associated with a known higher risk of poor outcomes or were over 60 years old.

Conclusion: In this cohort of people with inflammatory rheumatic diseases with high vaccination rates, severe outcomes from Omicron variant COVID-19 were infrequent. The hospitalisation rate during COVID-19 infection was higher in people who had not completed the primary vaccination course, had at least two infections in hospital, and were unvaccinated or had CTD, and used glucocorticoids. These findings suggest that outcomes of Omicron variant COVID-19 infection among people with rheumatic disease who are vaccinated but immunologically naive to prior COVID-19 variant infections were favorable.

Acknowledgements: There was no specific funding for data collection. Data analysis was supported by the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance. The Global Rheumatology Alliance registries are supported by the American College of Rheumatology and European Alliance of Associations of Rheumatology but the views expressed here are of the authors. We thank our colleagues who entered patients to the cohort who include Ms J Heslett, Dr S Bourke, Dr E Chan, Dr S Jordan, Dr K Lindsay, Dr R Murdoch and Dr S Stebbings.

Disclosure of Interests: Jonathan Brooks: None declared, Anna Montgomery: None declared, Nicola Dalbhath Consultant of: Personal fees from AstraZeneca.
INCIDENCE AND CLINICAL OUTCOME OF COVID-19 RELATED TO POST-VACCINATION ANTIBODY LEVELS IN PATIENTS ON IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE THERAPY: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY IN THE OMINERA C

Keywords: COVID, Vaccination/immunization, Adaptive immunity

H. Ørbe1,2*, K. H. Bjørløkke3, J. Sexton4, A. T. Tveten5, I. Jyssum1,2, I. E. Christensen1,2, G. B. Kro1, T. K. Kvien1,2, L. A. Munthe2,5,6, E. Bjørlykke1

1Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 2University of Oslo (UiO), Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 3Akershus University Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology; Lerensikon, Oslo, Norway; 4Oslo University Hospital, Department of Microbiology; Oslo, Norway; 5Oslo University Hospital, Department of Immunology; Oslo, Norway; 6University of Oslo (UiO), KG Jebsen Centre for B cell Malignancies, Oslo, Norway; 7Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Department of Method Development and Analytics, Oslo, Norway

Background: Patients with immune mediated inflammatory diseases (IMID) on immunosuppressive therapies are known to be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 disease, hospitalisation and death. Protective levels of anti-Spike antibodies following vaccination are yet to be determined.

Objectives: To examine whether post-vaccination anti-Spike antibody levels were predictive of breakthrough infection and the clinical outcome of COVID-19.

Methods: The Nor-vaC study is a prospective cohort study that includes IMID patients on immunosuppressive therapies[1]. In the present analyses we included patients who provided post-vaccination samples and responded to follow-up questionnaires after three vaccine doses. Hospital records and the Norwegian Death Cause Registry provided information on hospital admissions and cause of death. Anti-Spike antibody levels were measured 2 – 4 weeks after vaccination. Analyses were performed using a co-regression with time running from two weeks post 3rd vaccine dose until COVID-19 or a 4th vaccine dose, adjusting for age, sex, diagnosis, medication and comorbidity, with calendar month as a time varying covariate.

Results: A total of 1051 IMID patients (375 rheumatoid arthritis (RA), 148 psoriatic arthritis (PsA), 155 spondyloarthritides (SpA), 215 Crohn’s disease (CD), 158 ulcerative colitis (UC)) on immunosuppressive therapies were included in these analyses, mean age 56 (IQR 43 – 65), and 586 (56%) female, with an observation period spanning from July 7th 2021 to December 14th 2022.

Patients had received either BNT162b2 (61%) or mRNA-1273 (39%) as a 3rd vaccine dose. The presence of comorbidities (HR 1.85, p = 0.001, 95% CI (1.11, 2.35)) increased the risk of breakthrough infections. Post-vaccination anti-Spike antibody levels were not associated with duration of COVID-19 over two weeks.

Conclusion: Patients with the highest post-vaccination anti-Spike levels had a lower risk of COVID-19 infection, supporting the role of repeated vaccination in IMID patients on immunosuppressive therapies. These results also underline the good prognosis of Omicron infections in vaccinated IMID patients. Though patients knowing they had low anti-Spike levels may have shielded during periods of high transmission, the absence of severe infections and deaths in this large cohort indicates that low antibody levels did not greatly increase risk of severe COVID-19.

**TNF inhibitors**: infliximab, etanercept, adalimumab, golimumab, certolizumab pegol.

**Combination therapy**: methotrexate, sulfasalazine, lefunomide, azathioprine.

**IL-inhibitors**: tocilizumab, secukinumab.

**JAK-inhibitors**: filgotinib, baricitinib, upadacitinib, tofacitinib.

**Other**: abatacept, sulfasalazine, lefunomide, azathioprine.

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Celligne, Espen A Haavardsholm Speakers bureau: Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie,Boehringer-Ingelheim, Eli Lily, Gilead, Gunweig Grodeland Speakers bureau: Bayer, Sanofi, Thermofisher, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Sigi Myasland: None declared, John Torgis Vaage: None declared, Kristin Krassen Jorgensen Speakers bureau: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Roche, Sella Aarestad Provan: None declared, Sijie Watteder Syversen: None declared, Guru Levik Gok Spearkers bureau: AbbVie/Abbott, Galapagos, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie/Abbott, Galapagos, Pfizer, UCB.

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OP0081

PREVALENCE, CHARACTERISTICS, AND PREDICTORS OF BREAKTHROUGH COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: DATA FROM THE COVID-19 VACCINATION IN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE (COVAD) STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, COVID, Vaccination/Immunization

N. Ravichandran1, I. Parodis2, L. Gupta3, S. Katsuysuki Shinjo4, N. Ziade5, M. Mitchel5, L. Caavagna6, A. L. Tan7, J. B. Lilleker8, A. Nune9, J. Pauling10, C. Wincup11, W. Kachtamant12, P. A. Goo13, C. Study14, H. Chino15, R. Aggarwal16, Y. Agarwal17, E. Nikphorou18,21,22, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 2Karolinska Institute, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Obrebo University, Department of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine and Health, Orebbo, Sweden; 4The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom; 5The University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre The University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom; 6University of Sao Paulo, Division of Rheumatology, Faculdade de Medicina FMUSP, Sao Paulo, Brazil; 7Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Rheumatology Department, Bayrut, Lebanon; 8Hotel-Dieu de France, Rheumatology Department, Bayrut, Lebanon; 9Pomeranian Medical University, Department of Internal Medicine, Rheumatology, Diabetology, Geriatrics and Clinical Immunology, Szczecin, Poland; 10The University of Pavia, Rheumatology Unit, Dipartimento di Medicina Interna e Terapia Medica, Pavia, Italy; 11University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 12Trust Headquarters, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 13Salford Royal, Manchester Centre for Clinical Neurosciences, Salford, United Kingdom; 14Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, Southport, United Kingdom; 15University of Bristol, Bristol Medical School Translational Health Sciences, Bristol, United Kingdom; 16North Bristol NHS Trust, National Institute of Research & Development for Health and Care Excellence, Bristol, United Kingdom; 17Rayne Building, UCL, Department of Rheumatology, Division of Medicine, London, United Kingdom; 18University College London, Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology Versus Arthritis, London, United Kingdom; 19Faculty of Medicine Srinaj Hospital, Mahidol University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Bangkok, Thailand; 20Queen SAVAN Vadhana Memorial Hospital, Department of Medicine, Tambah Si Racha, Thailand; 21Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, National Institute for Health Research Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 22Salford Royal, Department of Rheumatology, Salford, United Kingdom; 23University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 24King’s College London, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 25King’s College Hospital, Rheumatology Department, London, United Kingdom

Background: Global data on COVID-19 breakthrough infections (BI) following COVID-19 vaccination among autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRDs) and especially rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is scarce.

Objectives: This study aimed to examine the characteristics of COVID-19 BI among patients with RA and compare them with AIRDs and healthy controls (HCs).

Methods: A global e-survey, January-May 2022, collected data on COVID-19 vaccination, and BI in patients with RA, AIRDs, non-rheumatic autoimmune diseases (nrAIDs), and HCs. BI was defined as an infection after both primary or booster vaccine doses. Severe BI was defined as the need for hospitalization, including intensive unit care, oxygen therapy, or advanced treatment in the form of monoclonal antibodies.

Results: Of the 9595 vaccinated respondents of the e-survey, 3224 (33.6%) reported COVID-19. One BI was reported in 323/1802 (17.9%) patients with RA, 584/3869 (15.0%) patients with other AIRDs, and 467/3435 (13.5%) HCs. Similarly, second BI was reported by 280 (8.6%), 42 (2.3%) among RA, 90 (4.0%) among other AIRDs, and 124 (3.6%) among HCs.

The prevalence of first BI in patients with RA was higher than that in those with AIRDs (OR=1.2; 95%CI=1.1-1.4; p=0.001) and HCs (OR=1.4; 95%CI=1.2-1.6; p<0.001), but similar to nrAIDs (p=0.783). The prevalence of second BI was lower in patients with RA than in HCs (OR=0.6; 95%CI=0.4-0.9; p=0.012) and nrAIDs (OR=0.4; 95%CI=0.2-0.7; p=0.004), but similar to AIRDs (p=0.991). When compared with HCs, patients with RA reported significantly higher joint pain, hospitalizations, and need for advanced treatment at first BI. Patients with RA from very high HDI countries had lower hazard of first BI than from those high HDI countries (HR=0.026; 95%CI=0.001-0.6; p=0.027). Rituximab use predicted more frequent hospitalization (OR=3.4; 95%CI=1.3-11.4; p=0.045) and severe BI (OR=3.0; 95%CI=1.2-7.3; p=0.014).

Conclusion: Nearly one in five patients with RA reported BI. BI prevalence was higher in patients with RA and of higher severity than in HCs. Country HDI was an important determinant of outcomes, suggesting potential impact of environmental dynamics, local vaccination policy, and syndemic constructs that merit further exploration. Rituximab use predicted more frequent hospitalizations and more severe BI.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL


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OP0082

COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY DURING PREGNANCY AND BREASTFEEDING IN WOMEN WITH AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES: RESULTS FROM THE COVAD STUDY

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction, COVID, Vaccination/Immunization

I. Andrie1, D. Linn1, K. Schreiber2, P. Sen3, N. Ravichandran4, I. Parodis5, C. E. Toro Gutierrez6, W. Kachtamant7, P. A. Goo8,9, R. Shumalina10, Q. C. Chibuzo11, T. Velikova12, J. Day13,14,15, M. Josh16, S. Katsuysuki Shinjo17, A. E. Gracia-Ramos18, L. Cavagna19, M. Kwanan20, J. Knitz21, A. Mak22, Y. M. Chen23, C. Study24, H. Chino25,26, V. Agarwal27, R. Aggarwal28, L. Gupta29,30,1, University of Brescia | ASST Spedali Civili, Dept Clinical and Experimental Sciences | Unit of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Brescia, Italy; 1Danish ASHT for Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology, Sanderborg, Denmark; 2University...
Background: COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among pregnant and breastfeeding women with autoimmune diseases (AID) is often attributed to the fear of adverse events (AE) and disease flares (DF). No data are available regarding COVID-19 vaccine safety in this population.

Objectives: We aimed at describing delayed-onset (>7 days) vaccine-related AE (minor and major), DF, and related AID treatment modifications from the COVID-19 Vaccination in Autoimmune Diseases (COVAD) study.

Methods: Among complete responses from 9201 participants as of June 21, 2022, 6787 (73.8%) were women. Six subgroups were identified upon diagnosis with AID vs healthy controls (HC) and their pregnancy/breastfeeding status at the time of the survey and/or at the time of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Chi squared test: \( p<0.01 \); \( p<0.03 \); \( p<0.01 \).

Results: Forty pregnant and 52 breastfeeding AID patients were identified and their vaccination rates (at least one dose) was 100% and 96.2%, respectively (Table 1). Overall AE, minor AE, and major AE were reported significantly more frequently by pregnant than non-pregnant patients (45% vs. 26%, \( p<0.01 \); 40% vs. 25.9%, \( p=0.03 \); 175% vs. 4.6%, \( p<0.01 \), but no difference was found in comparison with pregnant HC. No difference was observed between breastfeeding patients and HC. Post-vaccination DF were reported by 17.5% of pregnant and 20% of breastfeeding patients, and by 18% of age- and disease-matched control patients (n=2315). All DF in pregnant/breastfeeding patients were managed with glucocorticoids and a fifth of patients required initiation or change in immunosuppressive treatment.

Conclusion: This study provides the first insights into the safety of COVID-19 vaccination during the antenatal period in women with AID. While AEs were more commonly reported by pregnant patients with AID, these were no higher than among pregnant healthy patients without AID. These observations are reassuring, likely to strengthen physician-patient communication and overcome hesitancy as the benefits for the mother and fetus by passive immunization are likely to outweigh the potential risks of AE and DF.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/ann rheum dis-2023-eular.2935

OP0083 ANAKINRA PLUS STANDARD OF CARE FOR THE REDUCTION OF HYPERINFLAMMATORY AND RESPIRATORY DISTRESS IN PATIENTS WITH SARS-COV-2 INFECTION: A MULTICENTRE, RANDOMISED, OPEN-LABEL PHASE 2/3 TRIAL (ANA-COVID-GEAS STUDY)

Keywords: COVID, bDMARD, Randomized control trial

P Fanto1, B Gracia Tello2, E Fonseca3, J Alvarez Troncoso4, A Gonzalez5, S Netto-Gonzalez5, M Freire6, A Argibay7, L Pallares Ferreiras7, J Tado8, M Perez Conesa8, S Bujan Rivas11, B Ibáñez12. 1Hospital Universitario de Navarra, Internal Medicine, Pamplona, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Clínico Lozano Blesa, Internal Medicine, Zaragoza, Spain; 3Hospital de Cabueñes, Internal Medicine, Cabueñes, Spain; 4Hospital La Paz, Internal Medicine, Madrid, Spain; 5Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Internal Medicine, Madrid, Spain;
Background: COVID-19 pneumonia is often associated with hyperinflammation. The efficacy and security of anakinra in patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia and hyperinflammation are still unclear.

Objectives: The primary endpoint was the proportion of patients not requiring mechanical ventilation up to 15 days after treatment initiation, assessed on an intention-to-treat-basis.

Methods: A multicentre, randomised, open-label, two-arm phase 2/3 trial was conducted at 12 hospitals in Spain. Adult patients with severe pneumonia were randomly assigned (1:1) to receive either usual standard of care plus anakinra (anakinra group) or usual standard of care alone (SoC group). Anakinra was given at a dose of 100 mg four times a day intravenously. The trial is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov; NCT04443881.

Results: Between 8 May 2020 and 1 March 2021, a total of 179 patients were randomly assigned to the anakinra group (n=92) or to the SoC group (n=87). The proportion of patients not requiring mechanical ventilation up to day 15 was not significantly different between groups (77.1% for Anakinra group vs 85.9% for SoC group, risk ratio 0.89 [95% CI 0.77–1.04]; p=0.16). Anakinra did not result in any difference in time to mechanical ventilation (HR 1.72 [95% CI 0.82–3.62]; p=0.14). There was no significant difference between groups in the proportion of patients not requiring invasive mechanical ventilation up to day 15 (RR 0.99 [95% CI 0.88–1.11]; p=1.00).

Conclusion: Anakinra did not prevent the need for mechanical ventilation or reduce mortality risk compared with standard of care alone in hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0084
POSSIBLE ROLE OF PEPTIDE EPOPTIDES OF COVID-19 BNT-162B2 mRNA VACCINE IN FOMENTING AUTOIMMUNITY: AN IN SILICO ANALYSIS

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Vaccination/Immunization, COVID

R. Talotta1. 1University Hospital “G. Martino”; Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Messina, Italy

Background: Following the launch of the global COVID-19 vaccination campaign, there have been increased reports of autoimmune diseases developing de novo following vaccination. These cases include rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune hepatitis, immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia, and connective tissue diseases. Nevertheless, COVID-19 vaccines are considered safe for patients with autoimmune diseases and are strongly recommended.

Objectives: The aim of this in silico analysis is to investigate the presence of protein epitopes encoded by the BNT-162b2 mRNA vaccine, one of the most commonly administered COVID-19 vaccines, that could elicit an aberrant immune response in predisposed individuals.

Methods: The FASTA sequence of the protein encoded by the BNT-162b2 vaccine was retrieved from http://genome.ucsc.edu and used as a key input to the Immune Epitope Database and Analysis Resource (www.iedb.org). Linear peptides with 90% BLAST homology were selected, and T-cell, B-cell, and MHC ligand assays without MHC restriction were searched and evaluated. HLA-disease associations were screened on the HLA-SPREAD platform (https://hla-spread.ibg.res.in) by selecting only positive markers.

Results: A total of 183 epitopes were found, corresponding to 178 SARS-CoV-2 and 5 SARS-CoV spike epitopes, respectively. Results were obtained from 22 T-cell assays, 398 B-cell assays, and 2 MHC ligand assays. Complementary receptors included 1080 T-cell receptors and 8 B-cell receptors.

Specifically, the IEDB epitope:1392457 (NATTVVKICKCEFQCNDFDLQGVY) was shown to bind to HLA-DRB1*15:02 and HLA-DRB1*15:03 alleles, whereas the IEDB epitope:1392457 (TKCXLSTFVEKGIYQTSNFRQVPT) was reported to bind to HLA-DRB1*07:01, HLA-DRB1*03:01, HLA-DRB3*01:01, and HLA-DRB4*01:01 alleles. The HLA alleles detected were found to be positively associated with various immunological disorders (Table 1).
breakthrough infection, collecting peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) 2-4 weeks after each immunisation. Samples were incubated with SARS-CoV-2 spike, nucleocapside or membrane peptides. The percentage of responding T cells was measured by flow cytometry (2) (%0.01% increase in responding CD4 cells, ≥0.001% increase in responding CD8 cells, compared to baseline).

Results: Between February 2021 and December 2022, 144 patients on TNFi (monotherapy n=86 (60%), combination with methotrexate or azathioprine n=58 (40%)) were included (median age 48 years [IQR 33-57]; 51% women) (Table 1). The proportions of arthritis vs IBD patients with CD4 responses after 2 vaccine doses were 75% (12/16 patients) vs 86% (25/29), and after 3 doses 83% (10/12) vs 93% (28/30). In total, 80% (4/5) of arthritis patients showed further increases in CD4 responses after a 4th vaccine dose. Conversely, 81% (13/16) of arthritis patients vs. 55% (16/29) of IBD patients had CD8 T cell responses after two doses, and 67% (8/12) vs. 62% (18/29) after three doses. A 3rd and 4th dose induced higher CD8 responses compared to the previous dose in 55% (6/11) and 62% (9/14) of arthritis patients, respectively. Arthritis patients had lower T cell responses than IBD patients after the 3rd dose; median CD4 response 0.024% [IQR 0.009-0.036] vs 0.031% [IQR 0.009-0.049], p=0.003 vs 0.024% [IQR 0.009-0.049], p=0.0032 (Figure 1). This difference remained robust after adjusting for age and sex, p<0.001, but was no longer detected after the 4th vaccine dose. Breakthrough infection elicited increased T cell responses across all diagnoses to spike (p<0.0001), and to nucleocapsid (p=0.002) and membrane proteins (p<0.001) compared to unstimulated T cells. Also, Spike-specific T cell responses increased compared to the 3rd dose (median CD4 T cell response 0.18% vs. 0.06%, p=0.003; CD8 T cell response 0.08% vs. 0.01%, p<0.0001), but to a lesser extent compared to the 4th dose (median CD4 response 0.3% vs. 0.12%, p=0.05; CD8 response 0.08% vs. 0.03%, p=0.026). There were no differences in cellular response between patients on TNFi mono- or combination therapy (p=0.93).

Conclusion: Patients on TNFi showed improved cellular responses following each immunisation, with infection generating a strong and broad T cell response. Arthritis patients had significantly lower CD4+ responses compared to IBD patients after three vaccine doses, but with no difference after the 4th dose. These results support giving a 4th vaccine dose to TNFi-treated patients, with particular benefit for arthritis patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Number of patients providing T cells after vaccine doses and after COVID-19.

<table>
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<th>Disease, n (%)</th>
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<td>57 (92)</td>
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aSampled at minimum one timepoint³ or 4 vaccine doses, followed by COVID-19

Figure 1. CD4 and CD8 T-cell responses to the 3rd (V3) and 4th (V4) vaccine doses/ three vaccine doses and COVID-19 infection in arthritis and IBD patients measured by TNFα+ CD40L+ (% of CD4+) and IFNγ+ TNFα+ (% of CD8+).

Acknowledgements: We thank the patients and health-care workers who have participated in the Norwegian study of vaccine response to COVID-19. We thank the patient representatives in the study group, Kristin Isabell Kirkeneng Espe and Roger Thoresen. We thank all study personnel, laboratory personnel, and other staff involved at the departments involved, particularly Synnøve Aure, Margaret Sveinsson, May Britt Solem, ElisabethRessum-Haaland, and Kjetil Bergsma.

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Moving into better health

OP0086-HPR THE SWEDISH OSTEOARTHRITIS REGISTRY: TRENDS IN SWEDISH OSTEOARTHRITIS HEALTH CARE BETWEEN 2008-2021

Keywords: Patient information and education, Descriptive Studies, Osteoarthritis

K. Wetterling1, T. Jönsson2, M. Mohaddes1. 1Institute of Clinical Science, Department of Orthopaedics, Gothenburg, Sweden; 2Division of Sport Science, Department of Health Science, Lund, Sweden

Background: In 2012 the Swedish national guidelines for osteoarthritis (OA) were published. The guidelines implied that all patients with OA should obtain information and supervised exercise as first-line intervention and that OA is a clinical, not radiological diagnosis. The Swedish OA registry contains data which measure compliance to the guidelines since 2008 [2].

Objectives: To describe the trends over time from 2008 to 2021 for patients who have received first-line interventions for hip and knee OA in Sweden and adherence of the healthcare staff to the national guidelines.

Methods: Descriptive registry-based study including patients with hip or knee OA who participated in first-line interventions including education and exercise. Data were extracted from the Swedish OA registry between January 1st, 2008, and December 31, 2021. The registry contains patient-reported outcomes and physiotherapist-reported outcomes. In this study the following physiotherapist-reported outcomes were described over time: radiological examination before first-line intervention, if the first-line intervention was given the first time the patient seek health care caused of OA, which explanation patients had been given about their disease, intake of painkillers before the start of first-line intervention and the percentage who got supervised exercise >10 times according to the guidelines of OA in Sweden. The following patient-reported outcomes were described over time: mean BMI at the first visit, and mean age at the first visit. To be included in the study, participants had to meet the following criteria: i) clinical diagnosis of OA, with hip or knee OA as the most symptomatic joint, ii) provided 3-month follow-up.

Results: A total of 175 764 participants with hip or knee OA were included in the study. The trends from 2008-2021 showed that the proportion of patients who had a radiological examination before entering the first-line intervention decreased from 97 % to 65 % in men and from 95% to 62 % in women. The proportion of patients who get assessed to first-line intervention the first time they seek for their symptoms increased from 4 % to 10 % both in men and women. People that get the correct information about OA increased from 15% to 40 %, and patients that get the explanation that OA was a tear and wear disease decreased from 30 % to 5%. The mean BMI (28) is unchanged over time. The mean age increased from 64 years to 67 years between 2008-2020 but decreased during the covid-19 pandemic to 64 years. The percentage that was given supervised exercise more than 10 times was constant between 2012-2020 at 30 % but decreased during the covid-19 pandemic to 20%.

Conclusion: The results imply that the implementation of a supported OA self-management program in Sweden has been successful and changed the care given to patients with OA in Sweden. However, the national guidelines for OA have still not been fully implemented. We need to keep implementing the guidelines so all patients with OA get the first-line intervention at the right time.
Background: Despite more effective control of inflammation by improved pharmacological therapies, persistent pain and fatigue are still a major problem among patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), which often leads to slower deterioration of function and general health. Objectives: To evaluate the effect of high-intensity exercise on fatigue, pain, and general health in patients with established RA. Methods: Patients with RA (ACR/EULAR 1987/2010 criteria), disease duration > 12 months, were recruited and randomised to either an exercise group or a control group. The exercise program of 12 weeks comprised supervised cardiorespiratory high-intensity interval exercise and strength exercise twice per week plus an additional non-supervised session of the patient’s own choice. The controls received individual information for physical activity according to the general health recommendations and were encouraged to be active on moderate to vigorous intensity. Results: A total of 73 patients median age 49 (86.3% women), median disease duration 5.7 years, median swollen joint count 13 (range = 4 to 28), and disease activity assessed by self-reported 28-tender (TJC, 0-28) and 28-swollen joint count (SJC, 0-28), assessed by the rheumatologist at inclusion and at baseline and 12 weeks post baseline. The exercise intervention had beneficial effects on fatigue, pain, and general health. A significant difference of 2.0 points (95% CI 0.95-3.05, p < 0.001) was observed on the Multidimensional Fatigue Inventory (MFI 20) scale, including five subscales; general fatigue, physical fatigue, mental fatigue, general health recommendations and were encouraged to be active on moderate to vigorous intensity, fatigue and general health during the last week due to the rheumatic disease (0 = no symptom, 100 = worst possible). Variables are presented as median and IQR. MFI Multidimensional Fatigue Inventory, VAS Visual Analog Scale Fatigue, Pain, Global. Delta values were compared using the Mann–Whitney U test. Within-group comparisons were made with Wilcoxon signed rank test. **Significant difference, p < 0.01. ***Significant difference, p < 0.001.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3470

**OP0088-HPR** FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MEETING RECOMMENDED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WHO HAVE POOR PHYSICAL FUNCTION

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Lifestyles, Rheumatoid arthritis

K. Wibring1,2, S. Bergman4, A. M. Anderson3,5,6,1, Spenshult Reserach and Development Centre,., Halmstad, Sweden;1Capio Movement, Department of Rheumatology, Halmstad, Sweden;1Spenshult Reserach and Development Centre,., Halmstad, Sweden;1University of Gothenburg, The Sahlgrenska Academy, Primary Health Care Unit, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Institute of Medicine, Gothenburg, Sweden;1Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences, Section of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden;1Halmstad University, Department of Environmental and Biosciences School of Business, Innovation and Sustainability, Halmstad, Sweden

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic disease that often leads to a major impact on physical function and quality of life. It is well known that physical activity is an important part of treatment and improve clinical outcome. Objectives: The aim was to study factors associated with meeting recommended level of physical activity in people with RA with poorer physical function. Methods: In 2017, a survey was sent to patients included in the BARFOT (Better Anti-Rheumatic pharmacotherapy) cohort [1]. The questionnaire included questions on age, sex, disease duration, smoking, body mass index (BMI), physical function assessed by health assessment questionnaire (HAQ; 0-3, best to worst), numeric rating scale (NRS) pain (0-10, best to worst), NRS fatigue (0-10, best to worst), disease activity assessed by self-reported 28-tender (TJC, 0-28) and swollen joint count (SJC, 0-28), health-related quality of life assessed by EuroQol 5-dimension 3-level (EQ5D; 0-1, best to worst), empowerment assessed by the Swedish Rheumatic Disease Empowerment Scale (SWE-RES-23; 1-5, worst to best), cardiovascular diseases (CVD), and antirheumatic treatment, corticosteroids (CS), conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (cDMARD), biologic DMARD (bDMARD), 1065 patients (69%) answered the questionnaire and were dichotomized based on the median of HAQ, which was 0.5. The group with the worst physical function, HAQ >0.5, was further dichotomized based on whether they met the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of physical activity (pulse-increasing physical activity with moderate intensity at least 150 minutes/week or at least 75 minutes/week with high intensity) or not. Median and interquartile range (IQR) and Mann-Whitney U test or chi² were used to analyse differences between groups, when appropriate. A logistic regression model adjusting for age and sex was used to study factors associated with fulfilling the recommendations on physical activity. Results: The patients with the worst physical function, meeting the criteria for recommended physical activity (RPA), had less pain, and fatigue, fewer swollen and tender joints, less CVD 48% vs. 64% (p<0.001), and fewer were obese than those who did not meet these recommendations (Not RPA), Table 1. They also had a better quality of life and a higher degree of empowerment, Table 1. Factors associated with fulfilling the recommended level of physical activity in the group with the worst physical function were obesity, BMI ≥30kg/m² (OR 0.51, 95% CI 0.32-0.83), HAQ (OR 0.32, 95% CI 0.21-0.48), pain (OR 0.84, 95% CI 0.77-0.91), NRS fatigue (OR 0.88, 95% CI 0.82-0.95). TJC (OR 0.97, 95% CI 0.93-0.99), EQ5D (OR 0.86, 95% CI 0.74-1.00) and SJC (OR 0.91, 95% CI 0.90-0.92) and EQ5D (OR 0.86, 95% CI 0.74-1.00).

Table 1. Differences between groups in assessment measures at 3 months compared to baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Intervention group (n=37)</th>
<th>Control group (n=56)</th>
<th>Between group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baseline</strong></td>
<td><strong>Δ M3-BL</strong> (n=35)</td>
<td><strong>Δ M3-BL</strong> (n=29)</td>
<td>Analysis of change Δ p-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFI-20 General fatigue</td>
<td>13.0 (-10.0 to 27.5)</td>
<td>10.0 (-20.0 to 3.0)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFI-20 Physical fatigue</td>
<td>13.0 (9.0 to 23.0)</td>
<td>0.0 (-2.0 to 3.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:


(OR 0.65, 95% CI 0.45-0.95). Medical treatment was not associated with meet-
ing the criteria for physical activity.

Conclusion: The results indicate a complex relationship between various factors that can affect the possibility to be physically active when having RA. Disease-re-
lated factors such as pain, fatigue, and tender and swollen joints are important to address, but also the health-related quality of life and empowerment, to be able to improve physical activity in individuals with RA that have poor physical function.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Characteristics of those not fulfilling recommended physical activity (Not RPA) vs. those fulfilling recommended physical activity (RPA) at questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not RPA</th>
<th>RPA</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>73 (14)</td>
<td>68 (15)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female, %</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, year</td>
<td>15 (6)</td>
<td>15 (7)</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever smoker, %</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese (BMI &gt;30 kg/m²), %</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ, 0-3</td>
<td>1.1 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS pain, 0-10</td>
<td>5 (4)</td>
<td>4 (4)</td>
<td>0.036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS Fatigue, 0-10</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
<td>5 (4)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC, 0-28</td>
<td>5 (11)</td>
<td>5 (8)</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ5D, 0-1</td>
<td>0.66 (0.23)</td>
<td>0.73 (0.18)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No DMARD/CS</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cDMARD</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARD</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only CS</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Pain, Fibromyalgia, Non-pharmacological interventions

L. De Araújo Cazotti1, J. Natour1, F. Carvalho1, D. Freitas Pereira1, A. Jones1.
1Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Rheumatology Division, São Paulo, Brazil

Background: Fibromyalgia (FM) is defined as a chronic syndrome characterized by diffuse musculoskeletal pain and several symptoms that reflect on the func-
tional capacity and quality of life of the affected patients. Different types of exer-
cises are recommended in the treatment of FM. Pilates is a method of physical conditioning that has been frequently used in rehabilitation programs, due to the benefits perceived in musculoskeletal disorders, as well as in other conditions.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy of Pilates method compared to aerobic exer-
cise in pain, quality of life related to the disease, depression, quality of life in gen-
eral, functional capacity, kinesiophobia, catastrophizing, treatment satisfaction and reduction in the use of medication by women presenting FM.

Methods: Sixty-six female patients diagnosed with FM were included, aging 18 to 65, presenting pain between 3 to 8 in numerical pain scale (NPS). Patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases, neurological diseases, under psychiatric treatment, who have started or changed physical activities or medication in the last three months, patients with uncontrolled cardiorespiratory and cardiovascular diseases or any condition that may limit the practice of exercises, with non-di-
bates mellitus controlled and other musculoskeletal diseases that could prevent the use of this method were excluded. The selected patients were randomized into two groups: Pilates and Control. The Pilates group (PG) had Pilates sessions three times a week for 12 weeks. The Control patients (CG) used a treadmill three times a week for 12 weeks. The treatment sessions in both groups lasted 50 minutes and the groups were instructed to use acetaminophen750mg each 8 hours in case of pain, but the use was controlled. The evaluations were done by blind assessor at baseline (T0), 45 days (T45), 90 days (T90) and 180 (T180) days after initiation of the study using the following instruments: for pain: NPS; Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQ), to evaluate the quality of life related to disease; Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) for depression; The short form 36 (SF-
36) to evaluate the quality of life in general; the 6-minutes walking test (6MWT) to evaluate the functional capacity; kinesiophobia scale (Tampa) to evaluate the fear of movement; Fear Avoidance Beliefs Questionnaire (FABQ), to evaluate catastrophizing and the Likert scale to evaluate the patient satisfaction towards the treatment.

Results: Thirty four patients were randomized for the GP and 32 for the CG. The groups were homogeneous at baseline. In the comparison between groups over time, we found better results for PG with statistical differences when compared to CG for: pain (p<0,001), disease-related quality of life (p<0,001), psychological status (p=0,026), some domains of SF-36 – pain (p=0,014) and general health status (p=0,044), kinesiophobia scale (p<0,001), reduction in analgesic con-
sumption (p=0,042) and on the Likert scale (p=0,003).

Conclusion: Pilates method is effective in the treatment of women with FM, presenting pain improvement, quality of life related to the disease, psycholog-
ical status, the SF-36 (pain, general health) domains, the kinesiophobia scale, the analgesic consumption reduction and satisfaction with treatment with better results when compared to walking.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0090-HPR

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GRIP AND CORE MUSCLE STRENGTH IN PEOPLE WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROPATHY (ASXPA) AND HEALTHY CONTROLS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy

A. K. Rausch Oothof1, M. Bruderer-Hofstetter1, L. Ettlin1, F. Bischofberger1, S. Papritz1, F. Schwab1, F. Weidmann1, J. Niggli2, K. Niedermann Schneider1.
1ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Health Sciences, Institute for Physiotherapy, Winterthur, Switzerland; 2SVMB, Ankylosing Spondylitis Association Switzerland, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: Regular fitness assessments are part of the group exercise ther-
apy concept for people with axSpA living in Switzerland. Participants ask if their performance is comparable with healthy people, which we cannot answer as no norm data are available. Among others, a test battery measuring the isometric strength endurance of the ventral, lateral, and dorsal core muscle chains (in sec-
onds) is used (Rausch 2020). The core strength endurance test battery (CST) is time-consuming. In contrast, hand grip strength (in kg, Jamar dynamometer) can be tested within a short time and is already used as a substitute for multiple fitness-related tests (Kim 2022).

Objectives: 1) to compare core strength endurance of people with axSpA and healthy controls, and 2) to evaluate if grip strength can be used as a proxy for core strength to reduce the assessment time in people with axSpA.

Methods: Data was collected between April 2021 and December 2022. Data of people with axSpA were taken from the SVMB database of routinely gathered assessment data, and grip strength measurement was added. Further, data of CST and grip strength were collected in healthy controls, recruited from ZHAW staff and local sport clubs. All participants gave written informed consent. To investigate differences between both groups, relevant demographics, core and grip strength measures were compared using Welch Two-sample t-tests and Pearson's Chi² test, if appropriate. The associations between grip and core strength were explored through pairwise Spearman rank correlations (R_s) in both groups and sex-specific subgroups. In addition, we fitted linear regression models to the log-transformed data of people with axSpA.

Results: Data from 160 healthy people (50% male, mean age 59.3 (SD 11.47) years) and 122 people with axSpA (58% male, mean age 57.7 (SD 12.1) years) were included. In people with axSpA, mean years since symptoms were 37.3 (SD 24.9), and since diagnosis 29.4 (SD 27.1). The median BASDAI score was 2.5 (IQR 1.7 – 4.2), and the median ADAS Health index was 3 (IQR 0 – 7). Demographic characteristics (i.e., age, sex, weight, height, BMI, and smoking status) did not differ between groups. However, people with axSpA showed less core strength endurance, measured in seconds: ventral mean difference -28, p < 0.001; lateral mean difference -17.1, p < 0.001; dorsal mean difference -38.5, p < 0.001.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Pairwise correlations in the two groups and sex-specific subgroups are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Correlations between grip and core muscle strength endurance in axSpA, healthy controls and sex-specific subgroups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correlations of grip and core strength endurance</th>
<th>People with axSpA (n=112)</th>
<th>Healthy people (n = 160)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Females (n=47)</td>
<td>Males (n=65)</td>
<td>Females (n=80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vental</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R^2</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%CI</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lateral</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R^2</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%CI</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorsal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R^2</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%CI</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final linear regression model with grip strength as response and core strength, age, and sex as predictors explained 45% of the variability. Significant predictors in the model were ventral core strength endurance, age, and sex, while sex was the predictor with the most considerable effect.

Conclusion: People with axSpA showed lower core muscle strength endurance than healthy individuals. All correlations were small to moderate. The results from the multivariate analysis indicate that core strength endurance measures have only marginal effects on grip strength in people with axSpA. Therefore, grip strength is not appropriate to be used as a proxy for core strength endurance in people with axSpA and healthy people.

REFERENCES:

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Hospital, Rheumatology, Dordrecht, Netherlands

**Objectives:**

And so could help close the gap in healthcare demands.

They are collected and measured by means of digital devices [1]. They can support to meet the future demand for care with the current healthcare system.

**Background:**

They felt an urgency to get advice on lifestyle adjustments, career choices and potential triggers of inflammation and develop appropriate disease management.

**Trial and error:**

PsA; 8 RA, age 51 ± 11 years, 48% male, time since diagnosis 7 (3:12,5) years).

**Results:**

To empathise with their attitude towards digital biomarkers.

6Eindhoven University of Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Eindhoven, Netherlands

**Acknowledgements:**

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**Let’s talk about biomarkers – ask the experts**

**OP0093-PARE**

**DISCOVERING THE POTENTIAL VALUES OF DIGITAL BIOMARKERS FOR INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS PATIENTS, A DESIGN THINKING APPROACH PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE PATIENTS’ PERSPECTIVE**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Self-management, Telemedicine

P. De Groot1, I. Tchetverikov2, Y. Goekoop-Ruiterman3, M. R. Kox4, M. Vis1, W. Olde1, J. Foonen6, R. Bakker5, J. Luime2, E. Erasmus University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Rheumatology, Dordrecht, Netherlands; 3Haga Hospital (Leyweg), Rheumatology, Den Haag, Netherlands; 4Maasstad Hospital, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 5Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management, Health Services Management & Organisation, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 6Eindhoven University of Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Eindhoven, Netherlands; 7Consortium Beroepsonderwijs, Information Communication Technology, Amersfoort, Netherlands

**Background:** The Inflammatory Arthritis (IA) patient population is growing, whilst there already is a shortage of health care professionals (HCPs). It is impossible to meet the future demand for care with the current healthcare system. Digital biomarkers are objective, quantifiable, physiological and behavioural data that are collected and measured by means of digital devices [1]. They can support continuous measurements outside the physical confines of the clinical environment and so could help close the gap in healthcare demands.

**Objectives:** To obtain the patients’ insights on disease activity, disease management and care needs; and to empathise with their attitude towards digital biomarkers in order to obtain future directions for digital biomarker development.

**Methods:** A Design Thinking approach is followed for the development of digital biomarkers in rheumatology. It is a human-centered problem-solving approach that leverages empathy and collective idea generation to tackle complex challenges [2]. Semi-structured focus group discussions, based on the Common Sense Model of Self-Regulation [3], were conducted through 60-minute video conferences. All interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed to verbatim and coded. Results were discussed with our patient partners.

**Results:** In total 6 focus groups were organised, with a total of 30 IA patients (22 PsA; 8 RA, age 51 ± 11 years, 48% male, time since diagnosis 7 (3:12,5) years).

The main findings were: **Trial and error:** life after diagnosis is marked by trial and error. They needed to learn how and when to listen to their bodies, uncover potential triggers of inflammation and develop appropriate disease management. They felt an urgency to get advice on lifestyle adjustments, career choices and life adaptations, and discuss these with their HCPs and fellow patients. **Role of the HCPs in care needs:** patients visited their HCP for affirmation, reflection and future directions. They often doubted whether their symptoms were rheumatic. Secondly, they wanted to be assured adverse drug reactions are absent, blood tests brought them peace of mind. Furthermore, consultations were indicated as an obligatory moment of self-reflection. Convening with their HCP was seen as a reality check and a conversation about (new) options. Digital Biomarkers; attitudes towards digital biomarkers varied. Some patients thought it could provide them with deeper insights and reminders before crossing a line. Some patients thought it relevant only for their HCP. They did not want a constant reminder of their disease. Others did not see any additional value as they knew themselves well enough that no device should tell them whether their feelings are true or not.

**Conclusion:** The following problem statement from the patients’ perspective can be formulated: “we suffer from a disease that has turned our lives upside down, we have to cope with it every day. Our learning mechanism is by trial and error. We have to know which activities should be avoided and how to predict the seriousness of a flare. It is difficult to discriminate pain as just pain, from pain as a preceding symptom of flare. The affirmation from our HCPs and our blood results bring us peace of mind. Perhaps, by applying technology, we can speed up our learning process and triggers of flare could be identified. However, one should be mindful of the purpose, the amount of reminders it gives us and the visualisation of our measurements.” In general there is no strong resistance to digital biomarkers. However, for future uptake the recorded data should be of clear benefit for the patient.

**REFERENCES:**


**Figure 1.** Forest diagram of the effect of digital applications on functional capacity.

**Acknowledgements:**

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1398

**REFERENCES:**


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**Figure 1.** Quotes from patient focus groups and the design thinking process.
Fibroblast activation in rheumatic diseases

Keywords: Synovium, -omics, Rheumatoid arthritis

P. I. Reis Nisa1, C. Mehonry1, C. Smith1, C. D. Buckley2, K. Raza1, A. Filer1, D. Windel1, M. Coles2, A. Croft1, University of Birmingham, Inflammation and Ageing, Birmingham, United Kingdom; University of Oxford, Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology Research, Oxford, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is highly heterogeneous with distinct cellular and molecular tissue pathotypes that associate with disease outcome[1]. The synovial membrane is the primary target tissue and undergoes significant architectural re-modelling in response to inflammation. While fibroblasts are known to shape immune cell compartmentalisation in secondary lymphoid organs, by producing distinct sets of chemokines and remodelling extracellular matrix (ECM)[2], the mechanisms underlying immune cell localisation in the synovium are poorly understood.

Objectives: To define the functional zonation of the inflamed synovium at the single cell and regional tissue level using spatial transcriptomics and multiplex imaging.

Methods: We performed oligonucleotide probe-based spatially resolved transcriptomics on synovial tissue samples obtained by minimally invasive, ultrasound-guided synovial biopsy performed in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and osteoarthritis (OA) using the 10x Visium platform. A total of 27 tissue biopsies processed sequencing 34170 spot transcriptomes. Each tissue section was composed on 1-8 fragments of synovial tissue from the same donor biopsy sample within each capture area, to maximise tissue representation and account for sampling variability. Cellular deconvolution of spot transcriptomes was performed using single cell reference datasets. Multiplex imaging was obtained to confirm gene profiles and cell types associated with the specific zonation patterns.

Results: We identified six spatially resolved tissue niches (or zones) within synovial membrane defined by gene expression and comprised of distinct populations of stromal and immune cells. Specific patterns of gene expression were observed in each of these sub-synovial tissue zones that link to functions of immune infiltrate recruitment and organisation. This zonation pattern is maintained across pathotypes (Fibroid, Lymphocytic) and spatial gene expression analysis revealed that RA is associated with specific synovial re-modeling and the formation of lymphocytic niches when compared to OA synovial tissue. We next defined zonation areas by manually annotating immune infiltrates (as aggregates) and vasculature, based on histology. From these, we selected fibroblasts specific to immune aggregate zones and peri-vascular zones (Figure 1). We have identified differences in gene expression between these fibroblasts based on their anatomical location. Peri-vascular fibroblasts have gene expression profiles related to myofibroblast differentiation, ECM deposition and modulation (COMP), but also immune cell recruitment (PLA2G2A), cell activation (FOS & FOSB), and lipid metabolism (APOD), also associated with OA synovium. These fibroblasts display either a TGF-β response or NOTCH3 activated[3] gene expression program and are expanded in the fibroblast-pauci-immune) tissue pathotype. Immune interacting (peri-aggregate) fibroblasts in contrast, show specific gene expression profiles linked to ECM regulation (POSTN), degradation (MMP3) and co-ordination of ECM remodelling to recruit immune cells (SPARC), and permit aggregate formation. These fibroblasts display a T-cell interacting[4] and IFN-γ gene expression program and along with IL-1β and TNFα activated lining layer fibroblasts dominate the stromal cell landscape of the lymphoid tissue pathotype.

Conclusion: We demonstrate that cytokine directed fibroblast-immune cell crosstalk, positional identity, and matrix specific, fibroblast gene expression programs are responsible for localising infiltrating immune cells to specific niches within the tissue and defining functional tissue zonation. These data identify novel therapeutically tractable disease pathways that underpin the pathogenicity of synovial tissue fibroblasts in RA.

REFERENCES:

Autoinflammation – the next chapter

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Gout, Crystal Arthritis

T. W. Chirayath1, M. Kayatekin2, I. Rubera2, N. Pham1, F. Liote1, V. Compani1, F. Rassendren3, C. Duranton4, H. K. Ea1, INSERM, Biocar U1132, Paris, France; LPM - Universite Côte d’Azur - CNRS UMR7370, Laboratoire de PhysioMédecine Moléculaire, NICE, France; INSERM, Institut de Génomique Fonctionnelle, Montpellier, France

Background: Monosodium urate (MSU) and calcium pyrophosphate (CPP) crystals are responsible for interleukin (IL-1) dependent acute arthritis. The release of mature IL-1β is dependent on the NLRP3 inflammasome, which can be activated by other sterile stimuli such as hypo-osmolarity and ATP. During extracellular hypotonic stress, there is cellular swelling secondary to water influx. The cell sets up a defence mechanism, called regulatory volume decrease (RVD), allowing it to return to its initial volume. RVD depends on the anion channel LRRC8/VRAC, a hetero-hexamer composed of members of the LRRC8 family. LRRC8A is the obligatory key protein required to form active VRAC channel. Activation of LRRC8/Vrac channel results in an efflux of anions (mainly chloride) and osmolytes leading to water efflux and cell volume reduction.

Objectives: To evaluate the role of the LRRC8/Vrac channel in cell volume regulation and IL-1β release induced by MSU and CPP crystals.

Methods: In-vitro, primed THP-1 monocytes were stimulated by synthetic sterile MSU and CPP and cytokine production was quantified by ELISA. Cell volume variations were visualized by live video recording and cell surface was measured using ImageJ software. The role of the LRRC8/Vrac channel was evaluated using a pharmacological inhibitor DCPIB or by silencing the LRRC8A subunit (shLRRC8A RNA) in these cells. In vivo, MSU and CPP crystals were injected into air pouches created subcutaneously (mimicking synovial cavity) in wild-type mice and conditional LRRC8A Knock-out mice in the macrophage lineage (Ccr3Cre_Lrcc8aflox/flx). Supernatants and pouch lavages were used to measure cytokine production by ELISA.

Results: MSU and CPP-induced NF-κB activation was reduced in WT THP-1 cells treated with DCPIB and in THP-1 cells where LRRC8A expression was silenced. Similarly, IL-1β production induced by MSU and CPP crystals was substantially decreased in WT THP-1 treated with DCPIB (MSU 5200 vs 1080 pg/ml; CPP 11500 vs 4980, p<0.0001) and in shLRRC8A THP-1 cells compared to crystal-treated WT cells. MSU and CPP crystals exposure induced a biphasic cell volume change characterised by a significant increase followed by a RVD-like phenomenon. These cell volume changes were abolished in the presence of DCPIB and not observed in shLRRC8A THP-1 cells. In vivo, inflammation induced by MSU and CPP crystals assessed in lavage fluid and conventional histology was lower in Ccr3Cre_Lrcc8aflox/flx mice as compared with wild-type mice in terms of IL-1β production and cell infiltrate.

Conclusion: These results suggested that MSU and CPP crystal-induced inflammation involved and cell volume variation regulated by VRAC/LRRC8 channel.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Genetics and EpiGenetics of RMDs

OP0095 IMMUNOPHENOTYPING-BASED TRANSCRIPTOME ANALYSIS ON SYSTEMIC IMMUNE-MEDIATED DISEASES

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Genetics/EpiGenetics, -omics

S. Iwaki1, T. Komai1, T. Imamiya1, M. Ota2, S. Yamada1, Y. Nagatuchi1,2, H. Shoda1, K. Matsuki1, K. Yamamoto1, T. Okamura2, K. Fujii1. 1The University of Tokyo, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 2The University of Tokyo, Department of Functional Genomics and Immunological Diseases, Bunkyo City, Japan; 3Chugai Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, Research Division, Kamakura, Kanagawa, Japan; 4The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN), Laboratory for Autoimmune Diseases, Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, Yokohama, Japan

Background: Systemic immune-mediated diseases vary in manifestations and pathogenesis. Currently, disease diagnoses and treatments are generally based on clinical symptoms and some specific serological features. Because the diseases share some clinical and pathological features, it is difficult to comprehend the pathogenesis and manage them appropriately. To date, a limited number of studies tried to stratify such patients into some subgroups using the transcriptomic data and molecular patterns [1]; however, the number of included diseases, patients, and transcriptome data were restricted.

Objectives: To identify the significant immune cells forming the diseases and then stratify all patients accordingly, using immunophenotyping and transcriptome analysis.

Methods: We performed an integrative analysis of immunophenotyping and bulk RNA-seq data (RNA-seq) on peripheral mononuclear blood cells (PBMC) from patients diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD), idiopathic inflammatory myopathy (IIM), systemic sclerosis (SSc), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and large vessel vasculitis (LlV) in the Immune Cell Gene Expression in Diseases (ImmuneGeneDx) database from the University of Tokyo (ImmuneNet).

Immunophenotyping (27 immune cell subsets) were applied to machine learning approaches, a random forest method, and all patients were stratified by k-means clustering. Then, we conducted a transcriptome analysis, including a differentially expressed gene (DEG) analysis and enrichment analysis (5,484 RNA-sequencing data). Finally, we compared clinical features among the clusters (Figure 1A).

Results: A total of 254 patients with systemic immune-mediated diseases (78 SLE, 63 MCTD, 52 SSc, 20 RA, and 19 LlV) were included. To identify important cells to distinguish the diseases, a random forest algorithm was conducted by applying the immunophenotyping data. Using the top 15 important features, k-means clustering was performed, and all patients were stratified into three clusters (Figure 1B). Naïve CD8+ T cells, memory CD4+ T cells, and non-classical monocytes were predominantly in clusters 1, 2, and 3, respectively (Figure 1C).

Each disease showed skewed distribution in each cluster, such that SLE patients were predominantly in cluster 2 and most of the SSc patients were included in cluster 3 (Figure 1B). Next, we conducted DEG and enrichment analysis on 5,484 RNA-sequencing data of each immune cell and found that the number of DEGs in memory CD4+ T cells in cluster 2, and non-classical monocytes in cluster 3 were increased when compared with other clusters, which were consistent with the cell proportions (Figure 1D).

The gene ontology analysis showed enrichment of genes associated with adaptive immune response in naïve CD8+ T cells in cluster 1, T cell activation response and an innate immune response in memory CD4+ T cells in cluster 2, and vascular process in the circulatory system in non-clas-sical monocytes in cluster 3, suggesting that even the same diseases can be stratified into each cluster based on specific pathogenesis. Uniquely, patients with common clinical features such as arthritis, the positivity of anti-SS-A antibody, and disease spectrums of MCTD were each accumulated in the different, specific cluster.

Conclusion: This large-scale integration of immunophenotyping and transcriptome analysis on the six systemic immune-mediated diseases revealed all patients were classified into three clusters and each one has specific clinical and transcriptomic features. It may enhance the understanding of the pathogenesis of heterogeneous diseases.

REFERENCES:

OP0097 KAME3-DOMINANT BIVALENT CHROMATIN REGIONS ASSOCIATE WITH IMMUNOPRECIPITATION REMODELLING COMPLEXES IN CD4 CELLS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Genetics/EpiGenetics, -omics

V. Chandrasekaran1, M. J. Garcia-Boneta2, N. Oparina2, K. M. Andersson1, M. C. Erlandsson1, A. Damdimopoulos2, E. Malmöhi-Bah1, G. Katona2, M. I. Bokarewa3,4,1 University of Gothenburg, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology Research, Gothenburg, Sweden; 1University of Gothenburg, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, Gothenburg, Sweden; 2Karolinska Institute, Department of Biosciences and Nutrition, Karolinska Institute, Gothenburg, Sweden; 3 Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Rheumatology Clinic, Gothenburg, Sweden

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is associated with aberrant epigenomic changes. It obstructs the normal function of CD4 T cells. Bivalent chromatin regions (bVCR), containing histone H3 tail trimethylation at lysine 4 (H3K4me3) and lysine 27 (H3K27me3), act as a major organizer of the 3D nuclear environment required for efficient T cell development. Survivin has gained importance in RA pathogenesis. Survivin is shown to interact with chromatin genome-wide and regulate gene transcription in the IFNg producing CD4 T cells [1].

Objectives: This study investigates survivin cooperation with nucleosome in bVCR and functional effect of this cooperation on CD4 cell phenotype.

Methods: BvCR were identified in CD4 cells by annotation of H3K4me3, H3K27me3 and H3K27ac binding through chromatin immunoprecipitation and sequencing (ChIPseq). Protein binding was quantified through peak score. An overlap of the H3 peaks and Survivin ChIPseq (12 individual CD4 cultures) by at least one bp was identified through R package ChIPeakAnno. Changes in H3 peaks in CD4 cells treated with a survivin inhibitor YM155 were assessed. Tag normalization was applied to enable comparison between different ChIPseq. Tag prevalence within the bVCR defined the dominant H3 group. Changeable BvCR were defined by alteration in the dominant-H3 group after YM155 treatment. TF ChIPseq colocalization analysis was performed through ReMap2022 database. To analyse effect of BvCR changeability on transcriptome, we performed RNA-seq of YM155-treated CD4 cells (n=4). Overlap of BvCR with regulatory elements (RE) was done through GeneHancer database. TF enrichment analysis was performed through GSEA (Broad Institute).
### OP0098

**INFLAMMATORY GENE ENHANCERS ARE SHARED IN SYNOVIAL FIBROBLASTS AND MINOR SALINARY GLAND FIBROBLASTS**

**Keywords:** Cytokines and chemokines, SJögren syndrome, Rheumatoid arthritis

L. Moser1, M. Brunner2,3, M. Houtman1, M. Sprecher1, M. Elhai1, O. Distler1, B. Wintergerst1, C. Ouyang1, W. Klein1, University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 2University Hospital Bern, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Switzerland; 3University of Bern, Department of BioMedical Research, Bern, Switzerland

**Results:** Integration of H3K4me3, H3K27me3 and H3K27ac ChiP-seq identified 6199 BvCR, 66% of those contained survivin peaks. Fluorescence imaging of effector T cells validated nuclear colocalization of survivin with histone proteins. Of those 6199 BvCR, 43.8% were dominated by H3K4me3, which had also the highest survivin peak scores. Complexes of histone modifiers COMPASS, responsible for H3K4 methylation, and SWI/SNF, responsible for counteracting PRC2-guided H3K27me3, colocalized with BvCR. YM155-treatment significantly increased deposition of both H3K4me3 and H3K27me3. Changeable BvCR frequently acquired a K4me3-dominated status after YM155 treatment. This indicates that survivin contributes to regulation of methylation of lysines in H3 tail within BvCR. TF enrichment analysis of genes connected to the BvCR revealed the role of histone demethylases KDM7A (FDR=1.03e-32), PHF2 (FDR=3.47e-19), KDM5D (FDR=1.51e-15) in their transcription. Strongest overall enrichment was identified in H3K4me3-dominated BvCR colocalized with survivin. Integration of BvCR with CD4 RNA-seq revealed 2469 protein-coding genes connected through RE to H3K4me3, which sustained transcription activity and 346 of those were differentially expressed (DEG, nom p<0.05) in YM155-treated cells. DEG transcriptionally depend on the TF families of histone modifiers built a strong SWI/SNF-dependent interaction network acting in biological processes of immune system regulation (FDR=1.07e-6, FOXP1, KLF3, FYB1, BCL2), DNA repair (FDR=5.57e-6, MSH6, MGMT, MCM8, UPP1), and RNA polymerase transcription (FDR=1.22e-6, TF3, ATRID, RARA). CD4 cell transcriptomics of randomly selected RA patients demonstrated that a) DEG controlled by the H3K4me3-dominated BvCR were upregulated in survivin-high CD4 cells with proinflammatory Th1 phenotype b) DEG had altered expression in CD4 cells of patients treated with JAK-inhibitors.

**Conclusion:** This study demonstrates that survivin contributes to regulation of histone methylation in H3 tail within BvCR, which coordinates activity of the SWI/SNF complex in chromatin remodelling and transcription. We demonstrate that survivin inhibition affects this coordinated activity, and thereby impinge on CD4 activation in RA.

**REFERENCE:**

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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### OP0099

**UNVEILING THE COMPLEX GENE REGULATORY MECHANISMS OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS THROUGH CHROMATIN CONFORMATION, GENE EXPRESSION AND CHROMATIN ACCESSIBILITY ANALYSIS IN PRIMARY CELLS**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Genetics/Epigenetics, -omics

C. Shi1, D. Zhao1, J. Ding1, C. Ferrazzano1, C. Wyn1, A. Frantzese1, R. Hum1, R. Ho2, J. Bowes3,4, A. Barton3,4, M. Ratnay1,5, G. Orozco1,3,4 1The University of Manchester, Centre for Genetics and Genomics Versus Arthritis, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, The Keigllren Centre for Rheumatology, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 4The University of Manchester, Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation, Manchester, United Kingdom; 5The University of Manchester, Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom

**Background:** GWAS have identified genetic variants associated with many complex diseases. These primarily affect regulatory elements that can affect expression of distal genes through chromatin interaction mechanisms. Previous studies have used functional genomics and chromatin conformation capture techniques to study the functional impact of these genetic variants [1]. However, such studies have predominantly used data generated from cell lines which behave differently from primary cells. Additionally, there is a lack of research in Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA), which is a highly heterogenous disease that has been understudied and for which there are few effective treatments.

**Objectives:** To characterise the activation and regulation of transcriptional inflammatory gene enhancers in RA SF and SGF.

**Methods:** SF were obtained from synovial biopsies of patients with RA undergoing joint replacement surgery. SGF were isolated from minor salivary gland biopsies of patients with SJögren’s syndrome (SJö). Recent transcriptome profiling of synovial fibroblasts (SF) from patients with RA and minor salivary gland-derived fibroblast (SGF) from patients with SJö presented the same set of distal genes that were stably expressed over the time points (eCCL2#2, 3, 4). The same set of distal genes and corresponding coding genes was induced in SGF, indicating that inflammatory gene enhancers are shared in fibroblasts from different localisation and diseases. All inflammatory stimuli induced the expression of eRNAs in SF and SGF. However, we detected some differences regarding the peak of eRNA expression (eCCL2#2, eCCL2#2), which was stably expressed over the time points (eCCL2#2, 3, 4). The same set of eRNAs and corresponding coding genes was induced in SGF, indicating that inflammatory gene enhancers are shared in fibroblasts from different localisation and diseases. All inflammatory stimuli induced the expression of eRNAs in SF and SGF. However, we detected some differences regarding the peak of eRNA expression (eCCL2#2, eCCL2#2), which was stably expressed over the time points (eCCL2#2, 3, 4).

**Conclusion:** SF, similar to RA, respond to different pro-inflammatory stimuli by inducing the expression of transcribed eRNAs and their corresponding coding genes. The expression of some eRNAs is maintained for up to 24h, contradicting previous reports that eRNAs are short-lived. Bromodomain inhibitors are sufficient to prevent the activation of eRNAs.

**REFERENCES:**
[1] Nil

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

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Table 1. Number of DEGs and differential ATAC-seq peaks in the various comparisons for CD4+ and CD8+ T cells (all FDR<0.1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>RNA-seq CD4+</th>
<th>RNA-seq CD8+</th>
<th>ATAC-seq CD4+</th>
<th>ATAC-seq CD8+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients vs healthy controls</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with active disease vs</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1675</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARD treatment effect in non-active disease</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>13176</td>
<td>5069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARD treatment effect active disease</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission vs active disease without bDMARD</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>2559</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Volcano plot of DEGs between bDMARD responders vs non-responders in CD4+ and CD8+ T cells respectively.

Conclusion: This study provides novel insight into gene regulatory mechanisms, particularly regarding PsA GWAS signals and disease pathogenesis. We identified, for the first time, epigenetic differences correlated with disease severity and treatment response in PsA using primary T cells.

REFERENCE:

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DNA METHYLATION PATTERNS IN CD4+ T CELLS DISCERN SKIN PSORIASIS FROM PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Psoriatic arthritis, Genetics/Epigenetics

O. Nato1,2, A. Charras1, S. Hofmann2, S. Northey1, S. Ruas3, F. Schulze4, S. Arslanian5,6, C. Hedrich7,8, Institute of Liver and Metabolic Research, University of Liverpool, Department of Women’s & Children’s Health, Liverpool, United Kingdom; 2Università degli Studi di Genova, Dipartimento di Neuroscienze, riabilitazione, oftalmologia, genetica e scienze materno-infantili, DINOGMi, Genova, Italy; 3Klinik und Poliklinik für Kinder- und Jugendmedizin, Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus, TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany; 4Klinik und Poliklinik für Kinder- und Jugendmedizin, Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus, TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany; 5Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus, TU Dresden, Klinik und Poliklinik für Dermatologie, Dresden, Germany; 6Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust Hospital, Department of Paediatric Rheumatology, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Background: Psoriasis is a systemic inflammatory disease that primarily affects the skin. Approximately one third of psoriasis patients develop joint involvement and are therefore diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis (PsA). While, in adults, the development of arthritis usually follows skin psoriasis, approximately 15% of patients experience arthritis simultaneously or prior to skin disease. Thus, PsA can be missed, leading to disease progression, damage, and reduced quality of life. Individualized care is complicated by the absence of disease- or outcome-specific biomarkers. While the pathophysiology of psoriasis is incompletely understood, a key role of effector T-cells has been established. Recent studies linked altered DNA methylation with T-cell dysregulation and phenotypical variation between patients.

Objective: This project aimed to identify disease-associated DNA methylation signatures in CD4+ T-cells from psoriasis and PsA patients as compared to healthy controls that may be used as diagnostic and/or prognostic biomarkers and inform future treatment.

Methods: Peripheral blood samples were collected from 9 healthy controls, 11 skin psoriasis and 8 PsA patients. PBMCs were isolated ex vivo, CD4+ T-cells were FACs separated, and genomic DNA was isolated. DNA methylation profiling was performed using the Illumina Human Methylation EPIC 850K platform. Bioinformatic analyses, including gene ontology (GO) and KEGG pathway analysis, were performed using R software (minfi, limma, ChAMP, DMRCrate, clusterProfiler). Flow cytometry datasets were analyzed using FlowJo. To identify genes under the control of interferon (IFN), the Interferome database was consulted. DNA Methylation Scores were calculated for type I and type II interferons following the method suggested by Björk et al. (2020).

Results: Numbers and proportions of CD4+ T-cells did not vary between controls and patients with skin psoriasis or PsA. Furthermore, no differences between controls and patient groups were observed in the proportion of CD4+ T-cell subsets (naïve, central memory, effector memory, CD45RA re-expressing effector memory cells). We detected 820 differentially methylated positions (DMPs) affecting 433 genes in CD4+ T-cells from healthy controls when compared to psoriasis and PsA patients. Based on DMP analyses, groups segregated in principal component (PCA) or partial least-squares discriminant analyses (PLS-DA) (Figure 1). Separation in PLS-DA was centrally influenced by two CGs (cg07021052, cg10687131) localized in QDF7 (Growth and Differentiation factor 7), which affects T-cell regulatory factors FOXP3 and CTLA4. GO analysis of genes with at least one DMP in their promoter region delivered hypomethylation of genes involved in “negative regulation of focal adhesion assembly,” “cell-substrate junction organization” and “regulation of the triglyceride biosynthetic.” DNA methylation profiles (855 DMPs affecting 551 genes) distinguished between skin psoriasis and PsA patients; a high proportion of DMPs associated with interferon-regulated genes (68% total: 8.8% type I, 31% type II, 23.8% type I and II IFN). GO analysis delivered an enrichment of hypomethylated genes affecting “carboxylic ester hydrolase,” “alkyl or aryl group transferase” and “glutathione transferase activity.” Notably, we observed a majority DMPs in IFN-related genes when comparing healthy controls with PsA patients (61.9% total: 9.1% type I, 29% type II, 23.8% type I and II IFN) and controls with skin psoriasis patients (62.7% total, 7.7% type I, 31% type II, 24% type I and II IFN). Moreover, DNA methylation calculated for type I and type II IFN-associated genes significantly differed between healthy controls, skin psoriasis and PsA patients.

Conclusion: DNA methylation profiles in CD4+ T-cells discriminate between controls, skin psoriasis and PsA. As DNA methylation signatures may predict disease progression from psoriasis to PsA, they may be applied for molecular patient stratification towards future individualized treatment and care.
BACKGROUND: Lupus nephritis (LN) is one of the main clinical challenges in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and a cause of significant morbidity and mortality. Genetic contribution to SLE pathogenesis is important, and genetic profiling through polygenic risk scores has been shown useful to stratify SLE patients according to dominating molecular disease mechanism.[1] This has not, however, been investigated for specific disease manifestations.

OBJECTIVES: In this work, we aimed to investigate associations between B cell polygenic risk scores (PRSs) and disease manifestations in SLE.

METHODS: Female patients with SLE (n = 1248) and healthy control individuals (n = 519) were genotyped using Illumina’s Global Screening Array. Two PRSs were calculated[2], one including 20 GWS risk loci for SLE in genes assigned to B-cell related pathways according to the KEGG, GO and Reactome databases, and one including a subset of 12 of these genes limited to B-cell activation pathways. PRSs were defined as high in the highest quartile and low in quartile 1-3. Each group was then divided into two groups based on the patients’ SLE B cell PRSs (highest quartile or quartile 1-3). Prevalence of immunologic disorder according to the ACR -82 criteria (A) and prevalence of dsDNA antibodies (B) was then calculated for all 6 groups.

RESULTS: SLE was more prevalent in individuals with high compared with a low SLE B cell PRS (OR 1.44 (1.08-1.93), p=1.4×10^-2), and OR 1.47 (1.07-2.01), p=1.8×10^-2, for immunologic disorder and dsDNA antibodies, respectively. Also, effect sizes were augmented in patients with HLA risk serotypes HLA-DRB1*03:01 and HLA-DRB1*15:01, with the highest prevalence of dsDNA antibodies (87%) demonstrated in patients with HLA-DRB1*03:01 +/- combined with a low SLE B cell PRS (OR 1.84 (1.06-2.54), p = 0.028, for high vs low PRS), Figure 1. Anti-dsDNA antibodies were associated with a higher prevalence of class III or IV nephritis (OR 4.66 (2.78-7.80), p=5.2×10^-9) and the prevalence of nephritis according to the ACR-82 criteria was higher in patients with a high compared to patients with a low B cell activation PRS (OR 1.32 (1.00-1.74), p = 0.048). Numerically, a higher prevalence of nephritis (ACR-82) was observed for patients with a high compared with a low SLE B cell PRS, but the difference was not statistically significant (OR 1.20 (0.91-1.59), p = 0.19).

CONCLUSION: High genetic burden related to B cell function is associated with dsDNA antibody development and LN. Assessing B cell PRSs may be important in order to determine immunologic pathways influencing SLE and to predict clinical phenotype.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4069

Figure 1. Associations with SLE B cell PRS, immunologic disorder (ACR-82) and anti-dsDNA antibodies in SLE subgroups. Female patients with SLE were stratified into three groups according to HLA-type (positive for HLA-DRB1*03:01 or HLA-DRB1*15:01 (DRB1*03/15 +/- or +/-), positive for both (DRB1*03/15 +/-/+), or negative for both (DRB1*03/15 -/-/+ risk variants). Each group was then divided into two groups based on the patients’ SLE B cell PRSs (highest quartile or quartile 1-3). Prevalence of immunologic disorder according to the ACR -82 criteria (A) and prevalence of dsDNA antibodies (B) was then calculated for all 6 groups.

ACR, American College of Rheumatology; dsDNA, double-stranded DNA; HLA, human leucocyte antigen; SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; PRS, polygenic risk score.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a chronic large-vessel vasculitis that affects mainly the aorta and its primary branches, and in Western countries is described within the HLA region and the PLG gene. Additionally, we replicated the associations previously described within the HLA region and the PLG gene, which is also involved in angiogenesis. The results of the functional annotation showed that the GCA-associated loci act as regulatory variants influencing gene expression in vascular tissue and immune cell types. Furthermore, we also found a significant enrichment in histone marks in several immune cell types, especially in natural killer cells. The results of the drug repurposing analysis suggest abciximab, an antagonist of the vitronectin protein and approved for the treatment of acute coronary syndrome, as a potential candidate to treat GCA. Finally, the PRS model was best defined by including 28 genetic variants, being capable of identifying a fraction of individuals with more than three times the risk of developing GCA (OR=3.1 [2.14-7.5], p=1.7E-8).

Conclusion: Through the largest genomic study performed in GCA to date, we identified three genetic regions associated with this vasculitis that were not previously reported. These results also identified new physiological pathways and cell types potentially relevant to the development of the disease. These results allowed us to establish a prediction tool for identifying individuals at high-risk for developing GCA and also to propose further investigation of abiciximab, a drug that could be potentially repurposed for treatment of GCA.

Keywords: Genomics, Epigenomics, -omics, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Ling1,2, C. F. Yap1, N. Nair1,2, J. Bluett1,2, A. Morgan3,4,5, J. Isaacs6,7, A. Wilson8, K. Hyrich2,9, A. Barton1,2, D. Plant1,2. 1The University of Manchester, Centre for Genetics and Genomics Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3University of Leeds, School of Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 5NIHR In Vitro Diagnostic Co-Operative, Leeds, United Kingdom; 6Newcastle University, Translational and Clinical Research Institute, Newcastle, United Kingdom; 7Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Musculokeletal Unit, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom; 8University College Dublin, Conway Institute, Dublin, Ireland; 9The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Figure 1.
Innate Immunity in Pathogenesis of RMDs

Objectives:

To determine whether there is a genetic basis underlying protein expression in patients with RA treated with etanercept.

Methods:

Participants were recruited from a UK-based prospective multi-centre study of patients fulfilling either the 1987 ACR or 2010 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for RA, starting etanercept as a first biologic. Quantitative protein expression were performed using Sequential Window Acquisition of all Theoretical fragment ion spectra mass spectrometry (SWATH-MS). Genotyping was carried out using the Illumina Infinium HumanCoreExome 12 BeadChip kit and genotype calling was carried out using GenomeStudio software (both Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). Following standard genetic QC and imputation, a protein quantitative trait loci (pQTL) analysis was performed using a linear model adjusted for potential confounding variables (age, biological sex, disease duration, concurrent DMARD use, seropositive status). A suggestive significance level of p<1E-05 was set for cis pQTLs; trans pQTLs were not considered due to modest sample size. Significance thresholds were adjusted for false discovery rate and subsequently, any adjusted result with p < 0.05 was considered to be significant. pQTLs were sought at baseline and after 3 months of treatment.

Results:

147 participants were recruited, with a median age of 56.39 years [IQR 49.94-64.73], median disease duration of 6 years [IQR 2-13] and of whom 108 (75.52%) were female. 482 unique proteins were available for analysis following proteinomics and genetics data QC. At baseline (pre-treatment), 2,184 cis pQTLs were identified for 60 proteins (this may reflect many pQTLs in strong linkage disequilibrium with one another). After 3 months of treatment, 1,432 cis pQTLs were identified for 60 proteins (this may reflect many pQTLs in strong linkage disequilibrium with one another). A suggestive significance level of p<1E-05 was set for cis pQTLs; trans pQTLs were not considered due to modest sample size. Significance thresholds were adjusted for false discovery rate and subsequently, any adjusted result with p < 0.05 was considered to be significant. pQTLs were sought at baseline and after 3 months of treatment.

Conclusion: Collectively, our data demonstrate that AIRE expression, as well as the expression of the immunoregulatory molecules IDO and PD-L1 in eTACs and DCs can be induced through CD40 stimulation in a non-canonical NF-κB signaling dependent manner. These findings concerning the regulation of AIRE and immunoregulatory molecule expression may point towards a novel role of eTACs in peripheral tolerance.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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SINGLE CELL RNASEQ AND FUNCTIONAL STUDIES SUGGEST A ROLE FOR ENTHESIS MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS RATHER THAN TREGS IN ENTHESIS SOFT TISSUE AND BONE ANCHORAGE SITE IMMUNOMODULATION

Keywords: Enthesitis, Inflammatory arthritis, Inmate immunity

A. Altaie1,2, D. Simone3, H. Owston1, M. Attar1,2, E. Jones1, C. D. Buckley1, S. Sansom1,2, M. Mcgonagle1,2,1 University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 1University of Leeds, NIHR Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Leeds, United Kingdom; 1University of Oxford, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom

Background: The enthesis is a the key target tissue in spondyloarthritids (SpA) with inflammation evident in both the enthesis soft tissue (EST) and the adjacent anchoring peri-enthesal bone (PEB)[1]. The healthy human spinal enthesis harbours, resident mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), myeloid cells, innate immune cell populations including γδ T cells, innate lymphoid cells (ILCs), conventional T-cells but a lack of FOXP3+ regulatory T cells (Treg) [2, 3]. Given the predominance of stroma in EST and the known immunomodulatory effects of MSCs it is credible that such cells could assume important enthesis location immunomodulatory function.

Objectives: To investigate the single cell RNAseq (scRNAseq) landscape of EST and PEB tissues. Reflecting RNAseq findings we examined immunomodulatory capacity of MSCs derived from EST and PEB in co-cultures with allogeneic CD3/CD28-stimulated CD4+ T cells.

Methods: For scRNAseq, interspinous ligament and spinous process samples from patients undergoing spinal surgery (n=4). Samples were divided into EST and PEB and enzymatically digested. Following viability enrichment, we performed single cell partitioning with 10x Chromium, followed by oligo-barcoded RNA library generation and Illumina sequencing. For the co-culture, EST and PEB were expanded until passage 2 (n=5) using bone marrow MSCs (BM-MSCs) as control standard (n=2). CD4+ CD25+ T-cells from blood were induced to proliferate using CD3/CD28 stimulation with MSCs/CD4+CD25+ cell co-cultured at

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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SINGLE CELL RNA-SEQ AND FUNCTIONAL STUDIES SUGGEST A ROLE FOR ENTHESIS MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS RATHER THAN TREGS IN ENTHESIS SOFT TISSUE AND BONE ANCHORAGE SITE IMMUNOMODULATION

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Background: Spreading of inflammation from skin to joint is still an unsolved key aspect of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) pathogenesis. Psoriasis (PsO) usually anticipates the joint manifestations, suggesting the existence of a disease mediated skin-joint crosstalk. However, only 30% of the patients with psoriasis develop PsA overtime. To date, it is still obscure why the inflammatory process in some patients with PsO is restrained to the skin, whereas in other patients it spreads to the joints.

Objectives: Using a pre-clinical model of PsA and PsO, we aimed to investigate the skin-joint axis, i.e. the spreading of psoriatic inflammation from the skin to the joints, and to address its role in PsA pathogenesis.

Methods: The IL-23 overexpression (IL-23OE) mouse model of psoriasis was performed in different genetic backgrounds of KAEBE-transgenic mice expressing a photo-convertible fluorescent reporter to assess cell trafficking from inflamed skin to other organs. Psoriatic skin lesions were irradiated with UV light to trigger the photoswitch from KAEBEGREEN to KAEDERED. Migration of immune cells to joints was determined by light sheet fluorescence microscopy (LSFM) and flow cytometry. Imaging flow cytometry was used to determine the phenotypic and functional characteristics of cells migrating from the skin to other organs. The interactome of skin-derived migrating cells in joints was characterized by single-cell RNA-sequencing (scRNAseq) and functional analyses. Data were validated in synovial biopsies from PsO and PsA patients by imaging mass cytometry.

Results: IL-23 induced initiation of inflammation at the joints was dependent on the genetic background of the mice as assessed by MRI scan and histological analysis. However, migration of immune cells from psoriatic skin to the joints was observed in both strains, protected and non-protected mice from arthritis, although other organs such as spleen and lymph nodes showed no model dependent skin-derived migration. ScRNAseq and computational fate mapping with RNA velocity analysis revealed CD2+ MChili monocytes as predominant cell type escaping the inflamed skin and entering the synovial tissue. In the pre-differentiated stage, those monocytes showed similar phenotypes in both, arthritis protected and non-protected animals. However, after entering the synovial tissue further differentiation into macrophages resulted into two different phenotypes, with pro-inflammatory characteristics in mice developing arthritis. Interactome analyses between local differentiated skin-derived macrophages and tissue resident synovial cells revealed major implication of synovial fibroblasts shaping the fate of skin-derived monocytes into a protective or pro-inflammatory phenotype with capacity to initiate the cascade of inflammation. Imaging mass cytometry of synovial biopsies from patients with PsO and PsA identified niches of the synovial membrane that were protected from inflammation by a similar fibroblast fate as observed in the murine setting. Protection from arthritis was associated with significantly increased interactions of those protective fibroblasts with innate lymphoid cells (ILC) type II, inducing pro-survival signals and resulting into activation of pro-resolving ILC2s.

Conclusion: Spreading of inflammation from the skin to the joint can be initiated by skin-derived monocytes. However, the interaction between migrating monocytes and synovial-resident cells is essential to define the fate towards joint inflammation or joint protection in PsA. The data might provide completely new diagnostic opportunities to estimate the risk of PsA patients to develop PsA in the future.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Animal Models, omics
**Objectives:** Our goal was to understand how neutrophils in the inflamed joint and intestine differ from those in blood and which neutrophil states observed in patients with active inflammatory arthritis in which a joint aspiration was diagnostically or therapeutically required, and colon biopsies from patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in which endoscopy was diagnostically required. Neutrophils were enriched from blood using ACK lysis and from colon biopsies by collagenase digestion. Synovial fluid was diluted, filtered and lysis was performed on samples with visible blood contamination. Technical validation of lysis and digestion of blood cells were performed to control for the influence of these procedures on marker expression. Flow cytometry was applied on the day of sample acquisition to fresh, surface-stained neutrophils to measure protein expression. A multiplex sandwich assay utilizing fluorescent antibody-conjugated beads was used to quantify inflammatory cytokine abundances.

**Methods:** We prospectively collected healthy donor blood, paired blood and synovial fluid from patients with active inflammatory arthritis in which a joint aspiration was diagnostically required. Neutrophils in colon tissue showed downregulation of CD16, CD62L, ICAM-1, IL-17RA and CXCR2 and upregulation of the aging marker CXCR4. These changes were observed irrespective of disease activity. In addition, neutrophils from colon of patients with active inflammation, but not patients in endoscopic remission, showed a marked increase in expression of CD64 and HLA-DR, and the downregulation of CD26 and CXCR2 was more pronounced. We also identified an expanded population of CCR5+ neutrophils in colon tissue, which was more prominent in inflammatory samples. While observable in both tissues, neutrophils in synovial fluid showed a stronger upregulation of HLA-DR and CXCR4 compared to colon. Upregulation of CCR5 and CD64, as well as the downregulation of CD16 were less pronounced. In contrast, synovial fluid neutrophils showed an upregulation of ICAM-1, while this marker was downregulated in the colon. Additionally, synovial fluid neutrophils showed an upregulation of TNF-R1F, which was absent in blood and colon tissue. In serum, we observed greater abundance of IL-1β, IFN-α/β, IL-33, TNF-R1 and TNF-R2 in endoscopically active IBD patients compared to inactive patients. In contrast, measured IL-10 levels were lower in these patients, underscoring the shift to a pro-inflammatory cytokine environment. Independent of disease activity, measured TNF-α levels were higher in patients with Crohn's disease compared to ulcerative colitis.

**Conclusion:** Tissue infiltrating neutrophils display a range of phenotypes in both inflammatory arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease. These range from mature cells lacking activation markers and resembling circulating neutrophils, to CD64+ HLA-DR+ CXCR4+ CXCR2- CD16low aged and activated cells, as well as CCR5- pro-NEToxic cells, in varying proportion. Elevated serum levels of innate-associated cytokines and an increased activation phenotype during active colitis suggest a strong neutrophil involvement in active IBD. Organ-specific differences in neutrophil effector states may require special approaches for therapeutic intervention.

**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by funds from the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg within the Centers for Personalized Medicine Baden-Wuerttemberg (ZPM), a physician-scientist development grant from the Medical Faculty Heidelberg and a research grant from the German Society for Rheumatology (GDR). We are thankful to the physicians and technicians from the departments of Medicine IV and V who made the coordination and execution of this project possible.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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Methods: PBMCs from 32 subjects (ANA−, ANA+, ILE and SLE) were sorted with Nanocellect Wolf microfluidic flow cytometer to remove dead and dying cells. Viable isolated single cells were used to do a multiomics single-cell analysis using 10x Genomics 5′ scRNA-Seq/137-plex Total-Seq multiomics kit, that also enable BCR and TCR repertoire analysis. Single-cell transcript and proteogenomics library preparation was done on a 10x Chromium X targeting 20,000 cells per channel, each sample encapsulated in a single channel. Normalized, pooled UDI labeled libraries were sequenced on Illumina Nova-Seq S4 flowcell (PE100, depth of 50,000 reads/cell). Data were analyzed for cluster identification, differential gene signatures in Python. Pathway analysis was performed in Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA).

Results: Across all subjects, 9 distinct myeloid clusters (Classical, Non-classical, Intermediate, CCR4+ monocytes) were identified with a community detection algorithm and visualized with Uniform Manifold Approximation Projection (UMAP). The proportion of cells in those clusters varied by disease group. Fractions of non-classical monocytes appear to be higher in ILE, SLE patients than in ANA− and ANA+ subjects. Classical monocytes have increasing cell fractions with disease progression, except ILE subjects that appear to have lower fractions than the other groups. Intermediate monocyte fractions are higher in ANA− controls and lower in the other groups. Pathway analysis revealed further differences within ethnicities (African, European Americans). Upregulation of autophagy related pathways was observed in AA ANA+ compared to ANA− and ILE, however it is downregulated in EA. Oxidative phosphorylation is upregulated in AA SLE compared to ILE and upregulated in AA ANA+ compared to ANA−. On the contrary, that pathway is upregulated in EA ANA+ compared to ANA− and ILE, as well as SLE compared to ILE. Further differences between subpopulations of major monocyte clusters were also observed.

Conclusion: Dysregulation of signaling in monocyte activation appears to be manifesting in either increased oxidative phosphorylation or alteration in cellular apoptotic or autophagy pathway regulation. Alterations in these processes may vary by ancestral background reflected in the heterogeneity one sees in the presentation of lupus or trajectory of disease.

REFERENCES:
Results: In the presence of synovial fibroblasts and TGFβ, macrophages had a gene expression program that increased the proportion of macrophages aligning with those found in lymphocyte-low/myeloid-rich synovial tissue. Specifically, the transition of blood monocyte-derived macrophages from a MERTK- homeostatic, tissue macrophage phenotype into the SPP1+ phenotype. This analysis also showed that macrophages incubated with TGFβ and fibroblasts had higher expression of SPP1+ macrophage cluster marker genes, namely SPP1, CLEC5A, and FN1, as well as genes that contribute to RA pathogenesis, including CCL2 and S100A8.

Conclusion: In conclusion, we have shown that TGFβ and factors derived from synovial stromal cells are sufficient to drive monocytes toward the SPP1+ macrophage phenotype found in myeloid-rich RA synovial tissue. In future experiments, we hope to understand the role these macrophages play in shaping the phenotype of the stromal and endothelial cells they interact with, and whether targeting the generation of these cells represents an effective treatment option for this subset of RA patients.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Pathogenic clues to systemic sclerosis and myositis

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Adaptive immune, Treat to target

T. I. Papadimitriou1, P. Singh2, A. Van Caam3, M. Gorris3, B. Walgreen3, E. Vitters1, M. Koenders1, R. Smeets4, M. Vonk1, I. J. M. De Vries3, P. Van der Kraan1, M. Huijnen5, H. Koener5, R. M. Thurlings1, 2Radboudumc, Department of Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2Radboudumc, Center for Molecular and Biomolecular Informatics, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 3Radboudumc, Department of Tumor Immunology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 4Radboudumc, Laboratory of Medical Immunology, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Background: Systemic sclerosis is characterized by vasculopathy, fibrosis and autoimmune inflammation. Adaptive immune and NK cells express co-stimulatory molecules to regulate effector responses in inflammatory conditions. CD7 is a co-stimulatory molecule induced by IFN-γ signaling on T and NK cells that is downregulated upon residency in tissues such as skin [1].

Objectives: Hypothetically, CD7 is upregulated in IFN-γ-driven conditions, allowing targeted depletion of pathogenic cells. In this study, we analyzed expression, regulation and targeting of CD7 in SSC tissues and in a patient treated with anti-CD7 immunotoxin (CD7-IT).

Methods: To identify disease-specific activation markers we compared status of T cell activation in SSC skin compared to blood. To do so, single-cell RNA sequencing datasets containing 60,000 skin and blood immune cells from 109 SSC patients versus 65 healthy donors were analyzed. Twenty-one-color flow cytometry (n=50) and 8-color multiplex skin immunofluorescence staining (n=50) were used for validation and spatial localization. CD7-IT was used to induce subset-specific depletion in vitro, and ex vivo skin explants. Fibroblasts and immune cells were co-cultured in 3D collagen hydrogel to test effect of targeted immune cell depletion on fibroblast contractibility. A single patient was treated with immunotoxin on compassionate use basis.

Results: Sc-RNaseq analysis showed that SSC skin is characterized by increased infiltration of CD7+ cells corresponding to CD68+GZMB and CD68+G-ZMB+ cytotoxic T and NK cells. Immunohistochemistry also showed that SSC lesions express significantly higher infiltration of these CD7+ (T and NK) cells than non-affected skin (Figure 1). Expansion of CD7+ cytotoxic T cells was also observed in SSC blood. A CD7-targeting IT effectively depleted 85% of CD7+ cytotoxic T and NK cells in vitro, and in ex vivo skin. Strikingly, depletion of CD7+ cells prevented fibroblast activation and contraction in a 3D fibroblast-immune cells co-culture assay. Notably, also in vivo administration of CD7-IT significantly eliminated CD7+ cell subsets in patient’s blood and skin.

Conclusion: Together, we show strong presence of CD7+ on SSC immune cells and that targeting this molecule depletes T and NK cell populations with potential disease modifying results. Our results pave the way for a novel approach in halting SSC related fibrosis.
**OP014**  ENDOTHELIAL RESPONSE TO TYPE I INTERFERON CONTRIBUTES TO VASCULOPATHY AND FIBROSIS AND PREDICTS DISEASE PROGRESSION OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Skin, Cytokines and chemokines

H. Yin¹, Q. Yan¹, L. Lu¹. Renji Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Shanghai, China

**Background:** Type I interferon (IFN-1) signature is a hallmark of patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) [1, 2]. However, the meaning of the IFN-1 signature for the pathophysiology and clinical manifestations is less clear, and reported associations are rather weak.

**Objectives:** This study aims to better understand the significance of IFN-1 in SSc clinical stratification and its contribution to disease deterioration.

**Methods:** For hypothesis generation, we performed single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNAseq) on skin biopsies (SSc=1, control =2) using the BD Rhapsody platform. A publicly available dataset (GSE138669) of skin scRNAseq (dcSSc=12, control =10) was used for validation. IFN-1 signature was mapped, functionally investigated in a bleomycin plus IFN-2c-adeno-associated virus (IFN2A-AAV) induced model, and verified in an SSc cohort (n=61).

**Results:** In discovery data, endothelial cells (EC) had the most prominent IFN-1 response among dermal non-immune cells. EC from postcapillary venules, arterioles and capillaries were the major responders of IFN-1. Ascending IFN-1 signature presented in total EC from control, lcSSc, to dcSSc and was still true in the EC subclusters above. Endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EndoMT) scores increased in parallel. The validation data confirmed IFN-1 signature and EndoMT elevation in total and subgroups of EC. IFN2A-AAV deteriorated bleomycin-induced dermal fibrosis, EndoMT, and perivascular fibrosis and caused vascular/endothelial cell dysfunction in SSc skin biopsies. In particular BACE1 was increased in the fibroblasts and endothelial cells of the SSc skin. BACE1 was elevated in isolated dermal fibroblasts grown in culture (2.3 fold increase, N=4), BACE1 protein levels were elevated in the bleomycin skin fibrosis model. Interestingly BACE1 mRNA levels were unaffected in cultured SSc fibroblasts, suggesting a post-translational modification led to the elevated protein levels. Inhibition of BACE1 with small molecule inhibitors (that have been proven safe in phase 1 clinical trials for Alzheimer’s) or siRNA blocked pro-fibrotic gene (alpha SMA, Collagen Type 1 and CTGF) expression in SSc fibroblasts. In addition overexpression of BACE1 in healthy fibroblasts resulted in myofibroblast activation (2-fold increase in alpha SMA protein expression). Interestingly overexpression of a BACE1 mutant construct which disrupts the secretase activity of the protein, was unable to induce fibroblast activation. Disruption of BACE1 (with both the inhibitors and siRNA) blocked morphogen-mediated fibroblasts activation. The BACE1 inhibitors and siRNA blocked TGF-β, Wnt-3a and Hedgehog mediated alpha-SMA expression in healthy fibroblasts. Furthermore, we show that BACE1 regulation of dermal fibroblast activation was dependent on the β-catenin and Notch signalling pathways. BACE1 ability to regulate non-canonical Wnt receptors led to elevated β-catenin expression which in turn activated the Notch signalling pathway.

**Conclusion:** This is the first evidence that BACE1 and in particular its secretase activity, plays a role in SSc and fibrosis in general. The ability to regulate SSc fibroblast activation reveals an exciting new therapeutic target in SSc. Several BACE1 inhibitors have been shown to be safe in phase 1 clinical trials for Alzheimer’s disease. Future work includes investigating the role of BACE1 in vascular/endothelial cell dysfunction in SSc.

**REFERENCES:** NIL. 

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared. 

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**OP013**  THE BETA SECRETASE BACE1 DRIVES SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS FIBROBLASTS ACTIVATION THROUGH β-CATENIN AND NOTCH SIGNALLING

**Keywords:** Skin, Systemic sclerosis, Cell biology

C. Wason¹, E. Clavane², R. Ross¹, G. Migneco³, C. Antinozzi⁴, J. Brown², L. Di Luigi⁴, C. McKimmie⁵, F. Del Galdo¹, P. Meakin².

**Background:** The beta-amyloid precursor protein cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1) is well known for its role in the development of Alzheimer’s disease via the generation of β-amyloid. Recent publications, including our own, have demonstrated a role for this enzyme in other chronic inflammatory diseases, including type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. However, to date there has been no studies looking into the role of BACE1 in the autoimmune condition Systemic Sclerosis (SSc).

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to assess the expression profile of BACE1 in SSc patient samples and to investigate the effects of BACE1 inhibitors and siRNA on SSc fibroblast activation.

**Methods:** Patient fibroblasts were obtained from full thickness forearm skin biopsies from healthy and early diffuse SSc patients. BACE1 was inhibited with 2 specific small molecule inhibitors and siRNA specific to BACE1. Morphogen signalling was activated with recombinant TGF-β, Wnt-3a or the smoothend antagonist SAG. A xenotransplant bleomycin mouse model using patient pDC was used to interrogate in vivo expression of BACE1 in fibrosis.

**Results:** Here we show that BACE1 protein levels are elevated in SSc patient skin biopsies. In particular BACE1 was increased in the fibroblasts and endothelial cells of the SSc skin. BACE1 was elevated in isolated dermal fibroblasts grown in culture (2.3 fold increase, N=4), BACE1 protein levels were elevated in the bleomycin skin fibrosis model. Interestingly BACE1 mRNA levels were unaffected in cultured SSc fibroblasts, suggesting a post-translational modification led to the elevated protein levels. Inhibition of BACE1 with small molecule inhibitors (that have been proven safe in phase 1 clinical trials for Alzheimer’s) or siRNA blocked pro-fibrotic gene (alpha SMA, Collagen Type 1 and CTGF) expression in SSc fibroblasts. In addition overexpression of BACE1 in healthy fibroblasts resulted in myofibroblast activation (2-fold increase in alpha SMA protein expression). Interestingly overexpression of a BACE1 mutant construct which disrupts the secretase activity of the protein, was unable to induce fibroblast activation. Disruption of BACE1 (with both the inhibitors and siRNA) blocked morphogen mediated fibroblasts activation. The BACE1 inhibitors and siRNA blocked TGF-β, Wnt-3a and Hedgehog mediated alpha-SMA expression in healthy fibroblasts. Furthermore, we show that BACE1 regulation of dermal fibroblast activation was dependent on the β-catenin and Notch signalling pathways. BACE1 ability to regulate non-canonical Wnt receptors led to elevated β-catenin expression which in turn activated the Notch signalling pathway.

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**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.768
OBJECTIVES:

1) to analyze if spatial WNT/β-catenin activation is observed in adult healthy human skin and whether it is altered in fibrosing skin disorders such as SSc.

2) to assess whether perturbation of spatial WNT/β-catenin activation correlates with disruption of physiological skin structure in SSc.

3) to analyze whether spatial activation is mimicked in a Wnt-driven murine fibrosis model and can be reverted by overexpression of the endogenous Wnt-antagonist Dkk1.

Background: Disruption of the skin structure is a central hallmark of Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). Healthy adult human dermis is characterized by a papillary dermis. Here we quantitatively describe a marked decrease of number, area and height of papillary structures in SSc compared to healthy controls. Consistently, papillary/reticular marker gene expression is shifted towards a reticular profile in SSc skin compared to controls. Next, we analyzed whether the expression of WNT3A-regulated target genes is enriched in papillary or reticular gene sets of healthy skin. We observed an enrichment of WNT3A-regulated target genes in papillary gene sets of healthy skin. Consistently, we observed a distinct pattern of spatial distribution of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts in healthy skin that is disturbed in SSc: In healthy skin, β-catenin-positive fibroblasts were predominantly located in the papillary dermis and the relative amount of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts was reduced in the reticular part. In contrast, in SSc skin, we observed a 2-fold increase of β-catenin-positive fibroblasts throughout the dermis.

A gradient with enrichment of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts in the papillary layer as observed in healthy skin was no longer detectable in SSc. Confocal imaging suggested increased nuclear accumulation of β-catenin in the reticular dermis compared to the papillary dermis in SSc skin. The loss of spatial WNT activation in SSc was confirmed on a transcriptional level. Interestingly, spatial redistribution of WNT activation is mimicked in Wnt10bgt mice compared to wild-type mice and partially reverted by overexpression of the endogenous Wnt antagonist Dkk1. These results suggest that distinct site-specific activation of WNT/β-catenin signaling with a delicate balance of WNT agonists and antagonists might be necessary to maintain and eventually restore physiological skin integrity in adult human skin.

Conclusion: Our study presents first evidence for a loss of the physiological β-catenin gradient in SSc, associated with a loss of papillary dermal structure. Further analyses of WNT agonists and antagonists spatial distribution and advanced in vitro models mimicking a papillary skin structure will be necessary to better understand mechanisms of skin structure maintenance in healthy adult human skin.

REFERENCES:


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Methods: Dermal skin morphology was quantitatively assessed using HE and trichrome staining of skin sections of 40 SSc patients and 18 healthy controls. Enrichment of papillary and reticular marker genes and WNT target genes in healthy and SSc skin transcripts were assessed by gene set enrichment analyses using prepublished datasets [2]. Spatial WNT/β-catenin activation was analyzed by RNAscope-in situ hybridization detection of AXIN2. Immunofluorescence (IF) staining was performed to detect β-catenin distribution. In addition, skin sections of Wnt10bgt and Dkk/Wnt10bgt mice were analyzed.

Results: Here we qualitatively describe a marked decrease of number, area and height of papillary structures in SSc compared to healthy controls. Consistently, papillary/reticular marker gene expression is shifted towards a reticular profile in SSc skin compared to controls. Next, we analyzed whether the expression of WNT3A-regulated target genes is enriched in papillary or reticular gene sets of healthy skin. We observed an enrichment of WNT3A-regulated target genes in papillary gene sets of healthy skin. Consistently, we observed a distinct pattern of spatial distribution of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts in healthy skin that is disturbed in SSc: In healthy skin, β-catenin-positive fibroblasts were predominantly located in the papillary dermis and the relative amount of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts was reduced in the reticular part. In contrast, in SSc skin, we observed a 2-fold increase of β-catenin-positive fibroblasts throughout the dermis. A gradient with enrichment of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts in the papillary layer as observed in healthy skin was no longer detectable in SSc. Confocal imaging suggested increased nuclear accumulation of β-catenin in the reticular dermis compared to the papillary dermis in SSc skin. The loss of spatial WNT activation in SSc was confirmed on a transcriptional level. Interestingly, spatial redistribution of WNT activation is mimicked in Wnt10bgt mice compared to wild-type mice and partially reverted by overexpression of the endogenous Wnt antagonist Dkk1. These results suggest that distinct site-specific activation of WNT/β-catenin signaling with a delicate balance of WNT agonists and antagonists might be necessary to maintain and eventually restore physiological skin integrity in adult human skin.

Background: Disruption of the skin structure is a central hallmark of Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). Healthy adult human dermis is characterized by a papillary dermis. Here we quantitatively describe a marked decrease of number, area and height of papillary structures in SSc compared to healthy controls. Consistently, papillary/reticular marker gene expression is shifted towards a reticular profile in SSc skin compared to controls. Next, we analyzed whether the expression of WNT3A-regulated target genes is enriched in papillary or reticular gene sets of healthy skin. We observed an enrichment of WNT3A-regulated target genes in papillary gene sets of healthy skin. Consistently, we observed a distinct pattern of spatial distribution of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts in healthy skin that is disturbed in SSc: In healthy skin, β-catenin-positive fibroblasts were predominantly located in the papillary dermis and the relative amount of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts was reduced in the reticular part. In contrast, in SSc skin, we observed a 2-fold increase of β-catenin-positive fibroblasts throughout the dermis. A gradient with enrichment of β-catenin-expressing fibroblasts in the papillary layer as observed in healthy skin was no longer detectable in SSc. Confocal imaging suggested increased nuclear accumulation of β-catenin in the reticular dermis compared to the papillary dermis in SSc skin. The loss of spatial WNT activation in SSc was confirmed on a transcriptional level. Interestingly, spatial redistribution of WNT activation is mimicked in Wnt10bgt mice compared to wild-type mice and partially reverted by overexpression of the endogenous Wnt antagonist Dkk1. These results suggest that distinct site-specific activation of WNT/β-catenin signaling with a delicate balance of WNT agonists and antagonists might be necessary to maintain and eventually restore physiological skin integrity in adult human skin.

Conclusion: Our study presents first evidence for a loss of the physiological β-catenin gradient in SSc, associated with a loss of papillary dermal structure. Further analyses of WNT agonists and antagonists spatial distribution and advanced in vitro models mimicking a papillary skin structure will be necessary to better understand mechanisms of skin structure maintenance in healthy adult human skin.

REFERENCES:


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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2955
Background: Fibrotic changes in the myocardium and cardiac arrhythmias represent fatal complications in systemic sclerosis (SSc). So far, the underlying mechanisms remain elusive. Mice overexpressing AP-1 family transcription factor Fosl-2 (Fosl-2tg) represent an animal model of SSc.

Objectives: We aimed to identify the mechanisms controlling myocardial fibrosis and arrhythmias in SSc.

Methods: Mice overexpressing activator protein-1 transcription factor component Fos-related antigen-2 (Fos-2tg) and Rag2-2tg Fosl-2tg mice lacking T and B cells were subjected to study myocardial fibrosis, arrhythmias and response to stress using radiography, echocardiography and ex vivo Langendorff-system. Immunohistochemistry/immunofluorescence analyses were used to characterize endomyocardial biopsies (EMBs) of SSc patients with heart failure with or without arrhythmia, and mouse hearts. Cardiac human and mouse fibroblasts were used to evaluate molecular mechanisms using bulk RNA sequencing, qPCR, IF, ELISA, Western blot, Bromodeoxyuridine proliferation assay, senescence associated-ß-Galactosidase assay for cell senescence, Caspase Glo 3/7 assay for cell apoptosis and contraction assay.

Results: Fosl-2tg mice showed interstitial cardiac fibrosis with increased numbers of CD45+CD31+Ter119+gp38+ cardiac fibroblasts, disorganized connexin 43 and 40 in intercalated discs and deregulated expression of genes controlling conduction system (Mesi1, Nfkb, Tbx3, Sox5, Scn10a, Konq1, Scn10a, Nos1ap). Fosl-2tg mice developed higher heart rate (HR), prolonged QT intervals, arrhythmias with prevalence of premature ventricular contractions, ventricular tachycardias and atrio-ventricular blocks second-degree, QT intervals positively correlated with AV blocks, while QT intervals and AV blocks positively correlated with the disease phenotype and collagen deposition. Fosl-2tg mice showed significantly reduced HR variability in long-term ECG recordings (reduced NN intervals, SDNN, RMSSD, NN6, pNN6), indicating autonomic imbalance with a shift towards increased sympathetic activity. Following stimulation with isoproterenol (ISO) Fosl-2tg mice revealed impaired HR response. Similarly, ex vivo Langendorff-system measurement of HR in the iso-nent Fos-related antigen-2 (Fosl-2tg) and Rag2-2tg-Fosl-2tg mice lacking T and B cells revealed that systemic inflammation triggered fibrotic changes in the myocardium and cardiac arrhythmias.

Conclusion: These results demonstrate that under inflammatory and fibrotic conditions Fosl-2 drives myocardial fibrosis, arrhythmias and causes aberrant response to stress. This mechanism might represent a promising target against increased cardiac disease burden in the immunofibrotic cardiac disorders.

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OP017

PROTEASOME INHIBITION AS A NEW TREATMENT FOR DERMATOMYOSITIS: RESULTS OF A DRUG REPURPOSING ANALYSIS BASED ON THE TRANSCRIPTOMIC SIGNATURE OF PATIENTS’ PERIFASCICULAR FIBERS VALIDATED IN PRECLINICAL MODELS

Keywords: Myositis, Rare/ orphan diseases

L. Debruyne, M. Giannini, C. Keime, D. Rivoire, P. Mertz, B. Lannes, L. Charles, D. Metzger, B. Gney, G. Lavermly, A. Meyer, Centre de recherche en biomédicine de Strasbourg, UR3072, Strasbourg, France; IGBMC, Genoressa plateforme, Illkirch, France; IGBMC, IGBMC, Illkirch, France; CHU Strasbourg, Rhumatologie, Strasbourg, France; CHU Strasbourg, anatomopathologie, Strasbourg, France; CRBS, UR3072, Strasbourg, France; CHU Strasbourg, Explorations Fonctionnelles, Strasbourg, France

Background: Dermatomyositis (DM) is an autoimmune myopathy responsible for muscle weakness associated with decreased quality of life and increased mortality. Current treatments are empirical, partially effective, expose to a risk of side effects and a high rate of relapse upon discontinuation. DM muscular histology is characterized by lesions of perifascicular fibers consisting of atrophy, overexpression of type I interferon-dependent genes and mitochondrial dysfunctions of unknown origin [1].

Objectives: The objective of the study was to identify innovative therapeutic strategies for DM, based on the identification of the molecular pathways underlying perifascicular fibers lesions and the repositioning of drugs already approved in humans.

Methods: To reveal the molecular pathways underlying DM perifascicular fibers lesions, perifascicular and endofascicular fibers from 19 patients with recent and untreated myositis (DM, other myositis) or without myopathy were microdissected by laser, their transcriptome was established by RNA sequencing and analyzed by bioinformatic methods. To identify innovative therapeutic strategies based both on DM pathophysiological mechanisms and on existing drugs, the transcriptomic signature specific to DM perifascicular fibers obtained by microdissection experiments was used for a drug repositioning analysis as described by Karatzas et al. [2]. To validate the predications obtained, the effect of drug candidates already used in humans was tested in in vitro and in vivo preclinical models: in 1) cultured human muscle cells treated with IFN-I and in 2) a mouse model of myositis experimentally induced by immunization against skeletal muscle fast-type C protein.

Results: Transcriptomic analysis of patient’s muscle fibers combined with topographic information (perifascicular VS endofascicular localization) revealed that a proteasome deregulation predominant in the perifascicular fibers is a hallmark of DM. The integration of 3 computer databases of drug repositioning allowed the identification of 9 molecules predicted by at least 2 bases to reverse the pathological signature of the perifascicular fibers of patients with DM. The drug with the highest therapeutic potential was a proteasome inhibitor (ixazomib). A second proteasome inhibitor (MG-132) was also identified. 2 drugs already used for DM (dexamethasone and a JAK inhibitor) was identified with a lower therapeutic score. In the cellular model (human myotubes treated with IFN-I) ixazomib and bortezomib reversed the atrophy and the pathological signature of DM perifascicular fibers identified in the microdissection experiments. In the mouse model of myositis, ixazomib and bortezomib restored muscle strength, decreased blood creatine kinase, and reversed the atrophy of muscle fibers.

Conclusion: Proteasome inhibition could be a new effective therapeutic strategy for DM.

REFERENCES:

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OP018

INTEGRATED ANALYSIS OF SINGLE-CELL AND BULK RNA SEQUENCING DATA REVEALS CELLULAR HETEROGENEITY IN THE SKELETAL MUSCLE OF IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHY

Keywords: Cell biology, Myositis

Z. Honglin, L. Hui, X. Yizhi, S. Xie, T. Ding, T. Huang, S. Liu, D. Liu, H. Zhang, Xiangya Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Changsha, China

Background: IIMs-affected muscles showed diverse cellular microenvironments, and specific immune activation is involved in the different types of IIMs. Skeletal muscle cells exhibit immunobiological properties and act as nonprofessional antigen-presenting cells in IIMs.

Objectives: We sought to identify the skeletal muscle cells (SMCs) and immune cell populations in IIMs muscles and understand how alterations in these cell subpopulations lead to muscle damage.

Methods: We performed single-cell RNA-sequencing (scRNA-seq) on muscle tissues from 6 IIMs and 3 normal control (NC), and spatial transcriptomics from 2 IIMs and 1 NC. 76 IIMs and 10 NC were analysed by bulk RNA sequencing.

Results: From the scRNA-seq analysis, remarkable heterogeneity of SMCs and immune cells phenotypes were found and spatially organized in IIMs subgroups. They displayed diverse functions and cell-surface proteins. From the
bulk RNA-seq analysis of 143.9 vs 175.7 ± 7.5 g in PDN-treated strength was still comparable between V-treated EM GRL2/L2 and GR(i) mice. Mice of both lines were treated by prednisone (PDN) from D14 to D20 at the dose inactivation in the former mice only, termed hereafter GR(i)skm-/- mice. Mice thus, tamoxifen treatment from D9 to D13 induced GR negative predictive value of 64% (CI 57 -70). Diagnostic accuracy of 99% (CI 97 -100), a positive predictive value of 89% (CI 74-100) and a specificity of 30% (CI 30-46), a positive predictive value of 51% (CI 43-58) and a negative predictive value of 94% (CI 87-99.7). Diagnostic accuracy for ultrasound assessed tenosynovitis had a sensitivity of 17% (CI 9-24), a specificity of 99% (CI 97-100), a positive predictive value of 89% (CI 74-100) and a negative predictive value of 64% (CI 57-70).

**OP0119 MUSCLE FIBRE PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE THERAPEUTIC RESPONSE OF MYOSITIS TO GLUCOCORTICOIDS THROUGH THE PARACRINE EFFECT OF EPINEPHRINE ON THE IMMUNE SYSTEM**

**Keywords:** Animal Models, Myositis

M. Giannini1, D. Rovito2, L. Debrut3, R. Lutzing2, A. L. Charles3, B. Geny4, A. Cîrciumaru1,2, Y. Kisten5, M. Hansson1, L. Mathsson-Alm1, V. Joshua1, H. Wähämaa1, M. Loberg Haarhaus1, J. Lindqvist1,5, F. Guozhong2,6, N. Vivar Pomianio1,2, H. Rezaei6, E. Af Klint1,5, A. Antovic1,2,5, B. Réthi1, A. Catrina1,2,5, A. Hensvold1,2, Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden;2Academic Specialist Center, Center for Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden;3Thermo Fisher Scientific, Uppsala, Sweden;4Uppsala University, Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology, Uppsala, Sweden;5Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden;6Swedish Medical Products Agency, Uppsala, Sweden

**Background:** Glucocorticoids (GC) are the first line treatment in myositis. GC therapy is empirical. Both GC therapeutic and iatrogenic effects are mediated by the glucocorticoid receptor (GR), which is ubiquitously expressed. Our team has recently shown that muscle fibres immuno-metabolic modifications participate to muscle weakness and perpetuation of the disease[1]. Thus, myofibers could be a therapeutic target of GC.

**Objectives:** To unravel the mechanism of GC therapeutic effect in order to optimize myositis care.

**Methods:** Experimental myositis (EM) was induced in 8 to 10 week-old C57BL/6J mice through the immunization against a polypeptide from skeletal muscle fast-type C protein. In order to investigate whether GC target skeletal muscle fibres to elicit their therapeutic response in EM, we generated mice in which GR can be selectively ablated in skeletal muscle fibres in a temporal manner. To this end, EM was induced at day (D) 0 in HSA-Cre-ERT2(tg0)/GRL2/L2 mice (pre-mutant mice), which express the tamoxifen-dependent CreERT2 recombinaase selectively in skeletal muscle fibres and bear two LoxP-flanked GR alleles, as well as in HSA-Cre-ERT2(tg0)/GRL2/L2 littersmates, which do not express the recombinase (GRL2/L2 mice). Thus, tamoxifen treatment from D9 to D13 induced GR inactivation in the former mice only, termed hereafter GR(i)skm-/- mice. Mice of both lines were treated by prednisone (PDN) from D14 to D20 at the dose of 1 mg/kg/day by gavage. Grip test was performed at D0, before the 1st PDN administration (D14) and the day before sacrifice (D20). Creatine-kinase (CK) activity assay in serum, muscle histology, immune-cell phenotyping using flow cytometry and gastrocnemius transcriptomic analysis were run. Transcriptomic data were validated in independent mice cohorts, in vitro and on human muscle biopsies.

**Results:** In pre-mutant EM mice at D0 as well as in EM GR(i)skm-/- at D14, muscle strength was still comparable to that of EM GRL2/L2 mice. At D20, muscle strength was still comparable between V-treated EM GRL2/L2 and GR(i)skm-/- mice. Conversely, PDN treatment did not induce a regain of muscle strength in EM GR(i)skm-/- mice showed a similar increase in serum CK levels at sacrifice. CK decreased only in GRL2/L2 and not in GR(i)skm-/- mice after PDN treatment (145.6 ± 10.9 vs 234.5 ± 13.8 U/l, p=0.002). Although no major differences in the histological inflammatory infiltrate score among the four experimental groups, at muscle flow cytometry, the percentage of proinflammatory macrophages, F4/80-Ly6c-positive, was greater (76% vs 67%, p<0.05) and that of anti-inflammatory macrophages, F4/80-CD206-positive, was lower (12% vs 17%, p=0.07) in PDN-treated GR(i)smk-/- than GRL2/L2 mice suggesting myofiber GR knockout promotes a proinflammatory phenotype in immune cells infiltrate. Strikingly, PDN induced a 3-fold decrease in the percentage of CD8-positive T cells in EM GRL2/L2 mice compared to V-treated EM GRL2/L2 mice (11% vs 29%, p=0.003). This anti-inflammatory effect of PDN was suppressed in PDN-treated EM GR(i)skm-/- mice. Moreover, CD4-CD8 double negative T cells, that inhibit the immune response by killing effector T cells, slightly increased in PDN-treated EM GRL2/L2 compared to V-treated GR(i)skm-/- mice (35% vs 24%, p=0.02). This effect of PDN was suppressed in PDN-treated EM GR(i)skm-/- mice. Transcriptomic and functional analyses of muscle in vitro and in vivo demonstrated the importance of epinephrine secreted by the myofibre relating the effects of GC. The expression of epinephrine by the myofibre in response to GC has been validated in patients with myositis.

**Conclusion:** Skeletal muscle fibres play a critical role in the GC therapeutic response in myositis through an epinephrine-mediated polarization of inflammatory infiltrate toward an anti-inflammatory phenotype.

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Conclusion: We propose a high-risk RA phase characterized by the presence of certain ACPA reactivities, IL15-R, IL6, and tenosynovitis, parameters that could be used to identify individuals at particular low risk and high risk for arthritis progression.

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SYNOVIAL CELLULAR NICHEs ARE DETERMINANTS OF ARTHRITIS PERSISTENCE VERSUS RESOLUTION IN EARLY UNTREATED ARTHRITIS

Keywords: -omics, Inflammatory arthritides, Rheumatoid arthritis

A. Filer1, J.D. Turner1, C. Prada-Medina2, M. Attar1, C. D. Buckley3, S. Sansom2, K. Raiza4.

1University of Birmingham, Institute of Inflammation and Ageing, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 2University Hospitals Birmingham, Dept of Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 3University of Oxford, The Kennedy Institute Of Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom; 4Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, Dept of Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Background: Published synovial research largely focuses on persistent clinical syndromes such as RA and PsA. However spontaneously resolving synovitis is a common manifestation of viral infection (parvovirus, influenza), post-bacterial reactive states and metabolic disease such as gout. The study of synovial tissue taken from such patients using advanced single cell methodologies may provide biomarkers of outcome in early disease but is also a valuable resource to understand mechanisms underlying the subversion of healthy mechanisms of resolution resulting in persistent disease.

Objectives: To use single cell RNA sequencing to understand the cellular interactions governing resolution versus persistence of disease in untreated patients with active arthritis.

Methods: Synovial tissue biopsies were obtained using ultrasound guidance from treatment naïve patients in the Birmingham BEACON early arthritis cohort presenting with at least one clinically swollen joint and a joint amenable to ultrasound guided biopsy. Tissue samples from patients who went on to develop RA (n=15) or PsA (n=7) according to ACR criteria or CASPAR criteria at 24-month follow-up, and patients whose arthritis spontaneously resolved (n=5) underwent enzymatic disaggregation and were processed through a multimodal single-cell sequencing approach including the characterisation of the transcriptome and 58 surface-protein-panel profile. Sequenced gene libraries were integrated according to batch and sample using the Harmony integrative algorithm before clustering and annotating cell states using canonical marker genes. Seurat-based automated pipelines were used for variable gene identification and clustering. We used DESeq2 to identify per cell type genes, and weighted gene co-expression network analysis (WGCNA) to identify gene programmes associated with persistence (RA and PsA) versus resolving groups. NAMTI was used to identify unique cellular niches associated with persistence or resolution.

Results: ~90,000 viable cells were sequenced and data normalised, clustered and annotated describing over 80 cellular states across eight main synovial cell types (T, B, Plasma, Plasmacytoid DC, myeloid, fibroblast, mural and vascular). A total of 1945 genes varied significantly with prognosis, distributed unequally across cell types (Table 1).

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cell type</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Plasma</th>
<th>DC</th>
<th>Myeloid</th>
<th>Fibroblast</th>
<th>Mural</th>
<th>Vascular</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upregulated resolving</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upregulated persisting</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>228</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Persistence of arthritis was associated with (i) the presence of plasma cells per se and (ii) a phenotypic shift in fibroblast, vascular, myeloid, Th, and B-cell populations with enrichment of SPP1+ Myeloid cell populations. Patients with active arthritis destined to resolve exhibited enrichment of Treg cells. Persistent and resolving states were characterised by significant compositional differences in key linning and sublining fibroblast subpopulations including sublining MMP3 positive cells, and by gene expression programmes related to matrix remodelling and fibroblast/macrophage interactions.

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Background: One of the major challenges in the management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is to determine individual treatment and predict the prognosis. On a group level, high disease activity and antibodies specific for citrulline (ACPA) and immunoglobulins (RF) are factors associated with poor prognosis. New alternative biomarkers, which could provide more specific information, are antibodies to disease-related targets in the joints [1].

Objectives: To identify circulating autoantibodies to joint-related proteins (hereafter named JointIDs) that predict disease outcome in patients with new onset RA.

Methods: Sera at diagnosis from BARFOT and TIRA-2 cohorts (n=1986) with new onset RA patients were screened with a bead-based multiplex flow immunoassay to detect IgG autoantibodies against 47 peptides derived from joint proteins (JointIDs) (Lönnblom, under review 2023). Disease outcomes included Boolean remission at 6 and 12 months, swollen joint count (SJC) and radiological progression at 12 months (>8% affected feet joints and >3% affected hand joints) in patients who were without joint damage at inclusion. Multivariate logistic regression and zero-inflated negative binomial models adjusted for clinical factors (age, gender, ACPA, RF, changes in medication at 3 and 6 months) were used to identify JointIDs with the strongest potential to predict prognosis.

Results: Six JointIDs were identified as predictors for these disease outcomes in multivariate analyses. Presence of JointID178 predicted an average decrease in SJC at 6 months with 41% and with 33% at 12 months. Presence of at least 2 of the following factors: JointID178 positive and JointID199 negative at inclusion in combination with male sex identified approx. 40% of the patients in Boolean remission at 6 months with approx. 75% specificity (Table 1). A similar test performance was obtained even for Disease Activity Score 28 remission. The sensitivity, specificity and AUC for the multivariate models for remission at 6 months with approx. 75% specificity (Table 1). A similar test performance was obtained even for Disease Activity Score 28 remission. The sensitivity, specificity and AUC for the multivariate models for remission at 6 months with approx. 75% specificity. The proportion of 'progressors' to IA at 24 months was evaluated by named JointIDs that predict disease outcome in patients with new onset RA.

Conclusion: Autoantibodies to joint-related proteins at RA diagnosis can predict remission with a high specificity at 6 and 12 months. This knowledge is of clinical importance as patients positive or negative for these JointIDs in combination with clinical factors may potentially guide future treatment choices.

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Table 1. Sensitivity, specificity and AUC for the multivariate models for predicting the different binary outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Predicting factors</th>
<th>AUC (ROC)</th>
<th>Sensitivity (95% CI)</th>
<th>Specificity (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boolean remission at JointID178+, JointID199+, sex=male</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>42% (35%; 49%)</td>
<td>74% (72%; 77%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean remission at JointID178+, JointID199+, sex=male</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>8% (4%; 12%)</td>
<td>98% (97%; 99%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean remission at JointID178+, JointID199+, sex=male</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>42% (36%; 48%)</td>
<td>76% (73%; 79%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean remission at JointID178+, JointID199+, sex=male</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>8% (5%; 11%)</td>
<td>97% (96%; 99%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean remission at JointID178+, JointID199+, sex=male</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>13% (9%; 16%)</td>
<td>99% (99%; 100%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological progression</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>82% (74%; 90%)</td>
<td>58% (54%; 62%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological progression</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>49% (39%; 59%)</td>
<td>82% (79%; 85%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological progression</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>39% (29%; 49%)</td>
<td>86% (83%; 88%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A reduced ultrasound scanning protocol of 3 joints bilaterally improves prediction of inflammatory arthritis progression in Anti-CCP positive individuals with musculoskeletal symptoms

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Ultrasound, Autoantibodies

A. Di Matteo1, E. De Lorenzis1, L. Duquenne1, J. Nam1, L. Garcia-Montoya1, K. Harnden1, R. Chowdhury1, P. Emery2, K. Mankila1, 1Leeds Institute of Rheumatism and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: In anti-CCP positive individuals at-risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis (CCP+ at-risk), ultrasound (US) sub-clinical inflammation and bone erosions (BE) are associated with progression to clinical arthritis[1]. However, the additional value of US in predicting progression to inflammatory arthritis (IA) when compared with routinely available clinical/serological variables has not been well defined. Moreover, and which and how many joints need to be scanned for optimum predictive accuracy remains unanswered, with most studies adopting extensive US protocols which are not feasible in clinical practice[1].

OBJECTIVES:
1. In CCP+ at-risk with musculoskeletal (MSK) symptoms but no clinical synovitis, to investigate the additional value of US over and above clinical/serological variables in the prediction of IA.
2. To define an abbreviated US scanning protocol, suitable for routine clinical use, for predicting IA development in CCP+ at-risk.

Methods: The proportion of “progressors” to IA at 24 months was evaluated in 417 CCP+ “at-risk” with MSK symptoms from the Leeds CCP cohort, who were selected for having an US scan at baseline. The US scanning protocol included 18 joints bilaterally [elbow, wrist, MCP joints 1-5, PIP joints 1-5, knee, ankle, MTP joints 2-5]. US synovitis (grey scale ≥1 and power Doppler signal ≥1) and BE were defined according to the EULAR/OMERACT definitions. Routine demographic/clinical data were collected: age, gender, early morning stiffness (EMS) duration, hands and/or feet tenderness on physical examination, anti-CCP antibodies level and rheumatoid factor (RF) status. Two initial multivariable binary regression models with 10-fold cross-validation for IA development at 24 months included all the clinical/serological variables associated with the outcome (“clinical” model) isolated and in combination with US synovitis and/or BE in any of the 36 joints (“clinical-US full” model). Further models explored the prediction accuracy of the clinical variables and US findings (i.e., synovitis and/or BE) in each single joint to identify the most informative scanning sites according to Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). A final model which included clinical/serological predictors and US assessment of 3 joints bilaterally (“clinical-US short” model) was compared to the “clinical-US full” model. The most predictive joints were included in this “short” model only if determining an improvement in the prediction performance (reduction in AIC>2).

Results: Of the 417 CCP+ at-risk, 92 (22.1%) progressed to IA within 24 months. The following clinical/serological variables were associated with IA development at univariate analysis: age, smoking exposure, EMS duration ≥60 minutes, hands tenderness, RF positivity and high-level anti-CCP antibodies (all p<0.05). Moreover, US synovitis and BE in ≥1 of 36 joints were also associated with IA progression (p<0.01). The “clinical-US full” model (AUC 0.785, AUC 380.15) performed better than the “clinical” model (AUC 0.713, AUC 409.51) (p<0.001) showing an adjusted odds ratio (OR) for IA onset of 3.16 (95% CI 1.79-5.58) for US synovitis and 2.83 (95% CI 1.33-5.93) for BE. The developed “clinical-US short” model that included US assessment of wrists, knees and MTPS joints – performed better than the “clinical” model (p<0.001) and similarly (AUC 0.781, AUC 381.41) to the “clinical-US full” model (ΔAIC<2) (Figure 1).
LIPID MEDIATOR PROFILES ASSOCIATE WITH PROGRESSION TO RA IN ANTI-CITRULLINATED PROTEIN ANTIBODY POSITIVE POPULATIONS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Autoantibodies, -omics

L. Vanderlinden1, K. Poliniski2, K. Demoruelle3, M. Feser2, J. Seifert4, T. Mikul5, M. Weisman6, J. Buckner7, K. Deane3, M. Clare-Salzler8, W. Robinson9, V. Rahaymin Chowdhury: None declared, Paul Emery Speakers bureau: BMS, declared, Leticia Garcia-Montoya: None declared, Kate Harnden: None declared, Disclosure of Interests: Andrea Di Matteo: None declared, Enrico De Lorenzo: None declared, Laurence Duquenne: None declared, Jacqueline Nam: None declared, Leticia Garcia-Montoya: None declared, Kate Harnden: None declared, Rahaymin Chowdhury: None declared, Paul Emery Speakers bureau: BMS, AbbVie, MSD, Pfizer, Novartis, and Roche, AbbVie, Gilead, Lilly, Novartis, Grants research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Lilly, Samsung, Kulveer Mankia Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Lilly, UCB, Grant/research support from: Gilead, Lilly.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2766

Figure 1

Conclusion: In COP+ at-risk with MSK symptoms, US of only 3 joints bilaterally (wrist, knee and MTP5 joint) improved prediction of IA over and above clinical and serological risk factors, performing similarly to an extended research US protocol. This shortened 6 joint US protocol may offer clinically feasible risk prediction, which could be easily incorporated into routine clinical practice.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Andrea Di Matteo: None declared, Enrico De Lorenzo: None declared, Laurence Duquenne: None declared, Jacqueline Nam: None declared, Leticia Garcia-Montoya: None declared, Kate Harnden: None declared, Rahaymin Chowdhury: None declared, Paul Emery Speakers bureau: BMS, AbbVie, MSD, Pfizer, Novartis, and Roche, AbbVie, Gilead, Lilly, Novartis, Grants research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Lilly, Samsung, Kulveer Mankia Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Lilly, UCB, Grant/research support from: Gilead, Lilly.

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2766

Table 1. Baseline Demographics of the ACPA+ Populations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>TIP-RA</th>
<th>TIP-RA Progressed to RA</th>
<th>SERA</th>
<th>SERA Progressed to RA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>39 (61%)</td>
<td>16 (73%)</td>
<td>42 (69%)</td>
<td>12 (67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>49 (83%)</td>
<td>15 (68%)</td>
<td>53 (87%)</td>
<td>15 (83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Epitope</td>
<td>29 (49%)</td>
<td>15 (68%)</td>
<td>27 (44%)</td>
<td>12 (67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at baseline-year (SD)</td>
<td>50.2 (12.6)</td>
<td>55.8 (12.0)</td>
<td>51.9 (13.8)</td>
<td>50.6 (11.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever smoked</td>
<td>18 (31%)</td>
<td>8 (36%)</td>
<td>27 (44%)</td>
<td>8 (47%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-degree relative with RA</td>
<td>11 (19%)</td>
<td>4 (18%)</td>
<td>41 (67.2%)</td>
<td>6 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

with RA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Study Visits</th>
<th>TIP-RA Unaffected</th>
<th>TIP-RA Progressed to RA</th>
<th>SERA Unaffected</th>
<th>SERA Progressed to RA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 SERA subject missing
**Background:** Intestinal lung disease (ILD) is a severe extra-arteriolar manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Usual intestinal pneumonia (UIP) is the most frequent and severe ILD pattern in RA, and it has a bad prognosis. Abatacept (ABA) has shown effectiveness in RA-ILD during a 12-month period of treatment [1-2].

**Objectives:** To assess the effectiveness and safety of ABA in RA-ILD patients with radiological pattern of UIP during a long-term follow-up.

**Methods:** From a large observational multicenter study of 392 RA-ILD patients treated with ABA, we selected those with UIP. We analyzed from baseline the following outcomes: a) forced vital capacity (FVC), b) diffusion capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO), c) chest high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT), d) dyspnea (modified Medical Research Council scale) and e) arthritis activity (DAS28-ESR).

**Results:** We included a total of 172 patients with UIP (91 women/81 men; mean age 66.9±10.1 years). Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics are shown in Table 1. The median ILD duration up to ABA initiation was relatively short, with a median of 11 [3-39] months. Mean baseline values of FVC and DLCO were >80% and >60%, respectively. During the follow-up, median of 24 [10-44] months, 70.2% and 66.9% of patients showed an improvement in DLCO and FVC, respectively. Evolution of these parameters along 48 months is displayed in Figure 1. Available chest HRCT images improved in 64.5% of patients. Stabilization or improvement of dyspnea was found in 76% of patients. The majority of patients showed articular remission or low activity (mean DAS28-ESR of 4.3±1.5 at baseline and 2.5±1.5 at 48 months).

ABA was withdrawn in 39 (22.6%) patients due to ILD worsening (17), articular inefficacy (9), serious infections (7) and other causes (n=6, development of malignancy in 3, diagnosis of giant cell arteritis and change to tocilizumab in 1, and 2 deceases).

**Conclusion:** ABA shows a lasting effectiveness and safety in RA-ILD patients with UIP, the most aggressive pattern.

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**REFERENCES:**


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**Table 1. Main general features at baseline.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>RA-ILD patients with UIP (n=172)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years means±SD</td>
<td>67±10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, n (%)</td>
<td>91 (53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker evc, n (%)</td>
<td>87 (51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD duration up to ABA, months, median [IQR]</td>
<td>11 [3-39]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF// ACPA, n (%)</td>
<td>160 (893/153)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC (% of the predicted), mean±SD</td>
<td>4.3±1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO (% of the predicted), means±SD</td>
<td>85±22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABA monotherapy, n (%)</td>
<td>78 (45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABA combined + MTX/other CDIMARD, n (%)</td>
<td>94 (55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone at baseline, mg/day, median [IQR]</td>
<td>5 [5-10]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous immunosuppressive therapy, n (%)</td>
<td>122 (71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-TNF</td>
<td>71 (41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>20 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tocilizumab</td>
<td>19 (11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and interstitial lung disease (ILD) have increased mortality compared to the general population and factors capable of predicting RA-ILD long-term clinical outcomes are lacking. In oncology, radiomics allows the quantification of tumour phenotype by analysing the characteristics of medical images [2]. The hypothesis of radiomics is that the distinctive imaging features between disease forms may help make a prognosis and predict the therapeutic response for various conditions, thus providing valuable information for personalised therapy and patient management. Using specific software, it is possible to segment organs on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) images and extract many features that may uncover disease characteristics that are not detected by the naked eye.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate whether features from whole lung radiomic analysis of HRCT may alone predict mortality in RA-ILD patients.

Methods: HRCTs of RA patients from January 2012 to March 2022 were analyzed. The time between the first available HRCT and the last follow-up visit or ILD-related death was recorded. We performed a volumetric analysis in 3D Slicer, automatically segmenting the whole lungs and trachea via the Lung CT Analyzer. The PyRadiomics platform (version 3.01) can extract radiomic data from medical imaging, calculate features and return results as continuous variables. In a Python 3.9 environment, we extracted 120 features.

Results: We retrieved the HRCTs of 30 RA-ILD patients. The median survival time (interquartile range) was 48 months (36–120 months). Thirteen out of 30 (43.33%) patients died during the observation period. Demographics and clinical characteristics have been reported in Table 1. Whole lung segmentation was fast and reliable. The model included either the median grey level intensity within the whole lung segmentation (HR 9.35, 95% CI 1.56–v55.86) as a positive predictor of death and the 10th percentile of the number of included voxels (HR 0.20, 95% CI 0.05–0.84), the voxel-based pre-processing information (HR 0.23, 95% CI 0.06–0.82) and the flatness (HR 0.42, 95% CI 0.18–0.98), negatively correlating to mortality. The correlation of grey level values to their respective voxels (HR 1.52 95% CI 0.82–2.83) was also retained as a confounder. We observed that the hazard function followed the 45-degree line very closely except for huge values of time, demonstrating goodness-of-fit (Figure 2, Panel B).

Conclusion: Radiomics may predict RA-ILD patients’ mortality and may promote HRCT as a digital biomarker regardless of the clinical characteristics of the disease.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Patient Characteristics.

Available Observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Available Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (11.367)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at HRCT, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>30 (72 (65-78))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA disease duration, month, median (IQR)</td>
<td>30 (132 (65-278))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>29 (18 (62.07))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR/ARA positivity n (%)</td>
<td>30 (25 (63.33))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD pattern at HRCT, (n%)</td>
<td>30 (18 (60))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP</td>
<td>1 (3.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSIP</td>
<td>2 (6.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIP</td>
<td>1 (3.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP</td>
<td>1 (3.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassifiable</td>
<td>8 (26.67)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Panel A. Survival function displayed using Kaplan-Meier Estimate, with at-risk table. Deaths have been reported in parentheses. Panel B. Cox-Snell residuals plotted against the Nelson-Aalen cumulative hazard rate function to test the reliability of the model. Hazard function followed the 45-degree line very closely except for huge values of time. Panel C. Automated whole lungs and trachea segmentation using 3D Slicer.
There is still a lot to SAY about biologicals for RA!

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD


1 Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; 2 Chiba University Hospital, Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Chiba, Japan; 3 Seirei Hamamatsu General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Hamamatsu, Japan; 4 Kawasaki Municipal Kawasaki Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine and Center for Arthritis and Rheumatic Disease, Kawasaki, Japan; 5 Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, Taoyuan, Taiwan, Republic of China; 6 Seoul National University Boramae Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 7 Hiroshima University Hospital, Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Hiroshima, Japan; 8 National Hospital Organization Tokyo Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; 9 Tokai University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Isehara, Japan; 10 Fujita Health University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Toyoka, Japan; 11 Chubu University National Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Toyota, Japan; 12 University of Medicine, National Chong Kunghospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Tainan, Taiwan, Republic of China; 13 Nippon Medical School Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 14 Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seongnam, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 15 Jokyo University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Cheongiu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 16 Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 17 National Cheng Kung University Hospital, College of Medicine, National Chung Kung University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Tainan, Taiwan, Republic of China; 18 National University Hospital, College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Incheon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 19 National Taiwan University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 20 China Medical University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 21 Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital and School of Medicine, College of Medicine, Chang Gung University, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, and Department of Internal Medicine, Taoyuan, Taiwan, Republic of China; 22 Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Department of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 23 Eisai Co., Ltd., Medical Head-quarters, Tokyo, Japan; 24 Eisai Co., Ltd., Clinical Data Science Department, Tokyo, Japan; 25 Astellas, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Tokyo, Japan; 26 Saitama Medical University, Saitama, Japan

Background: Concentrations of methotrexate polyglutamates (MTX-PGs) in erythrocytes have been reported to be associated with efficacy and safety in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treated with MTX. However, little is known about the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of MTX-PG concentrations and their relationship with disease control and adverse effects in patients treated with MTX and a tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi), especially in patients whose MTX dose is reduced at TNFi initiation.

Objectives: To clarify the association between the concentrations of MTX-PGs with efficacy and safety of treatment in patients with RA treated with low dose MTX and high dose MTX in combination with adalimumab, a TNFi.

Methods: The MIRACLE study (NCT03505008) was a multinational, randomized study in patients with RA with inadequate response to MTX. Three hundred MTX-naive patients were enrolled in the study and started and increased MTX to the maximum tolerable dose. Patients who did not achieve remission according to simplified disease activity index (SDAI) at week 24 were randomised to the maximum tolerable dose group or the reduced dose group and started subcutaneous adalimumab 40 mg every other week. We measured the concentrations of MTX-PGs in erythrocytes with liquid chromatography mass spectrometry at weeks 0, 4, 8, 12, 24, 36, and 48 and analysed the association between the concentration of MTX-PGs with the efficacy and safety of adalimumab.

**Results:** The previously reported results of the MIRACLE trial showed that the efficacy of adalimumab with reduced dose of concomitant MTX was not inferior to that with maximum tolerable dose of MTX (remission rates at week 48: 44.8 % vs 38.4 %, respectively) with better safety profile (adverse events: 19.7% vs 35.3%, respectively). In the maximum tolerable dose group, MTX dose was 13.5±3.2 mg/week (0.24±0.1 mg/kg/week) at week 24 and maintained the dose through 48 weeks. In the reduced dose group, MTX dose was reduced from 12.6±3.1 mg/week (0.23±0.1 mg/kg/week) to 7.6±0.5 mg/week (0.14±0.0 mg/kg/week) at week 24. The concentration of total MTX-PGs in the maximum tolerable dose group was 109.5±36.7 nmol/mL, 99.9±40.1 nmol/mL, and 96.4±38.3 nmol/mL at weeks 24, 36, and 48, respectively. In the reduced dose group, total MTX-PGs concentration was decreased from 113.5±55.3 nmol/mL at week 24 to 80.7±53.1 nmol/mL at week 36 and 68.9±54.4 nmol/mL at week 48 (Figure 1). The decrease in individual MTX-PG levels were more prominent in long and very long chain MTX-PGs compared with short chains; MTX-PG 1-2, 59.0±44.7 nmol/mL at week 24 to 48.9±34.8 nmol/mL at week 36; MTX PG 3-5, 54.5±28.8 nmol/mL at week 24 to 31.8±18.7 nmol/mL at week 36. In both groups, MTX-PG concentrations at week 48 were not different between patients who achieved SDAI remission and those who did not (91.5 nmol/mL vs 98.6 nmol/mL in the maximum tolerable dose group, p=0.743; 64.3 nmol/mL vs 72.9 nmol/mL in the reduced dose group, p=0.556, respectively). On the other hand, patients in the reduced dose group who experienced adverse events after week 24 tended to have higher concentration of total MTX-PGs than those who did not (140.3 nmol/mL vs 106.9 nmol/mL at week 24, p=0.050; 97.3 nmol/mL vs 63.0 nmol/mL at week 48, p=0.069, respectively).

Conclusion: The MIRACLE randomised study demonstrated that total MTX-PG concentrations were not relevant for SDAI remission achievement by combined treatment with methotrexate and adalimumab while patients who experienced adverse events were exposed to higher MTX-PG concentrations.

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The potential advantage of temporary bDMARD use earlier in the T2T setting needs further investigation. **Objectives:** To determine the long-term effectiveness of accelerated access to a temporary course of etanercept compared to addition of leflunomide in patients with early RA who insufficiently respond to initial COBRA-Slim induction therapy. **Methods:** DMARD-naïve patients with a recent diagnosis of RA (≤1 year ago) were included in the 2-year, open-label, multicentre, pragmatic randomised controlled superiority trial Care in Early RA 2020 (CareRA2020). All patients started the COBRA-Slim induction regimen. Patients were classified as insufficient responders if, even despite MTX dose increase, they did not achieve DAS28-CRP ≥3.2 between week 8 and week 32 or if DAS28-CRP was ≥2.6 at week 32 regardless of MTX dose. Insufficient responders were randomised to either Standard COBRA-Slim (addition of leflunomide 10mg/d) or COBRA-Slim Bio-induction (addition of etanercept 50mg/w for 24 weeks). Additional treatment adaptations followed the T2T principle. Primary outcome was the difference in DAS28-CRP over time, determined via a linear mixed model including random intercepts and a random slope for time, adjusting for baseline DAS28-CRP and seropositivity. Missing data were imputed with the Expectation-Maximisation algorithm. **Results:** In total, 276 patients were included, of which 155 (56%) were classified as sufficient and 121 (44%) as insufficient responders. Of the insufficient responders, 9 patients were not randomised by investigator decision, 2 were randomisation errors, 55 were randomised to Standard COBRA-Slim and 55 to COBRA-Slim Bio-Induction. The mean ± SD area under the DAS28-CRP curve over 104 weeks was 232 ± 66 for the initial sufficient responders, 310 ± 82 for the Standard COBRA-Slim group, and 316 ± 73 for the COBRA-Slim Bio-induction group. Both randomisation groups had comparable DAS28-CRP scores over time (β = 0.095, 95% CI (-0.299 to 0.108), p=0.351). At the end of the trial, 82% (127/155), 9% (5/55), and 36% (20/55) of patients were on csDMARD monotherapy in the initial sufficient responders, Standard COBRA-Slim, and COBRA-Slim Bio-induction group, respectively. Moreover, 6% (9/155) sufficient responders, 58% (32/55) in the Standard COBRA-Slim, and 45% (25/55) in the COBRA-Slim Bio-induction group were treated with a b- or tsDMARD. **Conclusion:** More than half of the CareRA2020 participants achieved remission with COBRA-Slim induction therapy. DAS28-CRP over 104 weeks was not superior with COBRA-Slim Bio-induction versus the Standard COBRA-Slim T2T regimen in initial insufficient responders. However, compared to the Standard COBRA-Slim group, more patients in the Bio-induction group were treated with csDMARD monotherapy and less with advanced therapies at the end of the study.
ABACETP IN INDIVIDUALS AT RISK OF DEVELOPING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: RESULTS FROM THE ARTHRITIS PREVENTION IN THE PRE-ClinICAL PHASE OF RA WITH ABACETP (APIPPRA) TRIAL

Keywords: Randomized control trial

A. Cope; M. Jasencova; J. Vasconcelos; A. Filer; V. Colaneri; I. McInnes; J. Isaacs; A. Pratt; B. Fisher; C. Buckley; P. Emery; P. Ho; M. H. Buch; C. Curtin; T. Huizenga; D. Van Schaardenburg; C. Murphy; T. Prevost; King’s College London, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom; Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; King’s College London, Nightingale-Saunders Clinical Trials & Epidemiology Unit, London, United Kingdom; University of Birmingham, Institute of Inflammation and Ageing, Birmingham, United Kingdom; Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom; Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; University of Glasgow, School of Infection and Immunity, Glasgow, United Kingdom; Newcastle University, Translational & Clinical Research Institute, Newcastle, United Kingdom; University of Oxford, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom; University of Leeds, Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; Leeds NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; University of Manchester, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Manchester, United Kingdom; University College London, Centre for Rheumatology Research, London, United Kingdom; Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Reade, Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center, Amsterdam, Netherlands; King’s College London, King’s Clinical Trials Unit, London, United Kingdom

Background: While genetic and epidemiological factors have been used traditionally to evaluate the risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis (RA), the definition of higher risk states has been refined in more recent years through inclusion of serum autoantibodies and symptom complexes, such as inflammatory joint pain. Data from risk cohort studies have reported rates of progression to RA in excess of 50% over 24 months. These combined features have provided a framework for the design of intercetion studies, aimed at delaying or preventing RA.

Objectives: We evaluated the feasibility, efficacy and acceptability of T-cell co-stimulation modulation with abatacept in individuals at risk of developing RA in the Arthritis Prevention in the Pre-clinical Phase of RA with Abatacept (APIPPRA) study.

Methods: APIPPRA is a Phase IIB randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled trial recruiting ACPA+RF+ or ACPAhi (≥3 x ULN) RF - individuals with arthralgia. Consenting participants were randomised, stratified by gender, smoking status and mode of entry, to receive 52 weekly subcutaneous injections of placebo or 125mg of abatacept, and followed up for a further 52 weeks after stopping treatment. Exclusion criteria included previous episodes of clinical synovitis, prior corticosteroids or DMARDs. The primary endpoint was the time to development of either clinical synovitis in ≥3 joints, or RA according to ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria, whichever was met first, where joint involvement required swelling. Joint synovitis was confirmed by ultrasonography. The study was powered to detect a 50% reduction in disease activity-guided dose adjustments and costs. To reduce these disadvantages, disease activity-guided dose adjustments were no new safety signals.

Acknowledgements: The APIPPRA trial is an Investigator Sponsored Research (ISR) study funded by Bristol Myers Squibb, and jointly sponsored by Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation NHS Trust and King’s College London in the UK and Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands. Bristol Myers Squibb played no role in data acquisition or analysis.

Disclosure of Interests: Andrew Cope Speakers bureau: BMS, Abbvie, Galapagos, Consultant of: BMS, GSK, Abbvie, Grant/research support from: BMS, Janssen, UCSF, Mariana Jasencova: None declared, Joana Vasconcelos: None declared, Andrew Filer Grant/research support from: Roche, UCB, Nascient, Mestag, GSK, Janssen, Karim Raza Grant/research support from: BMS, Sumera Qureshi: None declared, Maria-Antonieta D’Agostino: None declared, Iain McInnes Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, John Isaacs Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Grant/research support from: GSK, Janssen and Pfizer, Arthur Pratt Consultant of: Infection Biosciences, Grant/research support from: GSK, Pfizer, Galapagos, Benjamin Fisher Consultant of: Novartis, Roche, BMS, Galapagos, Servier, UCB, Janssen, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Galapagos, Servier, Celgene, Christopher D Buckley: None declared, Paul Emery Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, Pauline Ho: None declared, Maya H Buch: None declared, Coziana Ciurtin: None declared, Thomas Huizenga Speakers bureau: BMS, Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, Pauline Ho: None declared, Iain McInnes Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, Janssen, UCSF, Mariana Jasencova: None declared, Joana Vasconcelos: None declared, Andrew Filer Grant/research support from: Roche, UCB, Nascient, Mestag, GSK, Janssen, Karim Raza Grant/research support from: BMS, Sumera Qureshi: None declared, Maria-Antonieta D’Agostino: None declared, Iain McInnes Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, John Isaacs Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Grant/research support from: GSK, Janssen and Pfizer.

Conclusion: Therapeutic intervention during the RA at risk phase is feasible, with acceptable safety profiles. T cell co-stimulation modulation with abatacept for 52 weeks showed a reduction in the development of RA over two years. There were no new safety signals.

Disclosure of Interests: Andrew Cope Speakers bureau: BMS, Abbvie, Galapagos, Consultant of: BMS, GSK, Abbvie, Grant/research support from: BMS, Janssen, UCSF, Mariana Jasencova: None declared, Joana Vasconcelos: None declared, Andrew Filer Grant/research support from: Roche, UCB, Nascient, Mestag, GSK, Janssen, Karim Raza Grant/research support from: BMS, Sumera Qureshi: None declared, Maria-Antonieta D’Agostino: None declared, Iain McInnes Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, John Isaacs Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Grant/research support from: GSK, Janssen and Pfizer, Arthur Pratt Consultant of: Infection Biosciences, Grant/research support from: GSK, Pfizer, Galapagos, Benjamin Fisher Consultant of: Novartis, Roche, BMS, Galapagos, Servier, UCB, Janssen, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Galapagos, Servier, Celgene, Christopher D Buckley: None declared, Paul Emery Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, Pauline Ho: None declared, Maya H Buch: None declared, Coziana Ciurtin: None declared, Thomas Huizenga Speakers bureau: BMS, Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, Pauline Ho: None declared, Iain McInnes Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, Janssen, UCSF, Mariana Jasencova: None declared, Joana Vasconcelos: None declared, Andrew Filer Grant/research support from: Roche, UCB, Nascient, Mestag, GSK, Janssen, Karim Raza Grant/research support from: BMS, Sumera Qureshi: None declared, Maria-Antonieta D’Agostino: None declared, Iain McInnes Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, John Isaacs Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Grant/research support from: GSK, Janssen and Pfizer.

Disclosure of Interests: Andrew Cope Speakers bureau: BMS, Abbvie, Galapagos, Consultant of: BMS, GSK, Abbvie, Grant/research support from: BMS, Janssen, UCSF, Mariana Jasencova: None declared, Joana Vasconcelos: None declared, Andrew Filer Grant/research support from: Roche, UCB, Nascient, Mestag, GSK, Janssen, Karim Raza Grant/research support from: BMS, Sumera Qureshi: None declared, Maria-Antonieta D’Agostino: None declared, Iain McInnes Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: BMS, John Isaacs Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Roche, Grant/research support from: GSK, Janssen and Pfizer.

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proportion of patients with a DAGDO attempt, and 4) proportion of patients with a discontinuation attempt and duration of b/tsDMARD discontinuation.  

Methods: Observational follow-up (starting from DRESS baseline) of patients who completed the 3-year DRESS extension. During the DRESS intervention phase (month 0-18), RA patients were randomized to DAGDO or continuation of TNFi (adalimumab or etanercept), but thereafter, DAGDO was allowed for all patients. The DAGDO protocol contained the following steps, displayed as a percentage of the current daily dose to the defined daily dose (DDD): 100%-66%-50%-33%-0% (full discontinuation). The disease activity was operationalized as the mean time-weighted (MTW) DAS28-CRP during the whole period 2.13 (95% CI 2.10-2.16) (Figure 1). The DRESS TNFi dose decreased from 97% at baseline (95% CI 96%-99%) to 49% at year 5 (95% CI 42%-56%) and remained stable thereafter (Figure 1). The dose of any b/tsDMARD was comparable although slightly higher. Of the 161 patients with ≥1 DAGDO attempt of their DRESS TNFi during the study, 119 (74%, 95% CI 66%-80%) tapered until full discontinuation. The median time from discontinuation to restart of the first discontinuation attempt was 8 months (IQR 3 - 45 months), and 25 patients (21%, 95% CI 14%-29%) never had to restart their TNFi or another b/tsDMARD throughout the study.  

Conclusion: In this 10-year TNFi dose optimization study, we found a stable low disease activity and halved TNFi dose. The inclusion of discontinuation in DAGDO does not seem to cause disease deterioration and b/tsDMARD free remission for a relevant period of time is possible in a non-negligible number of patients. Overall, this study shows effectiveness of DAGDO of TNFi in RA up to 10 years.  

References:  

Table 1. Characteristics at DRESS baseline  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Total (n=170)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>109 (64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>59 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years)</td>
<td>10 (6-16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>136 (80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRA positive</td>
<td>124 (73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosive disease</td>
<td>96 (61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>2.18 ± 0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRESS randomization (DAGDO/usual care)</td>
<td>113/57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRESS TNFi (etanercept/adalimumab)</td>
<td>112/58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of DRESS TNFi (years)</td>
<td>3.4 ± 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant csDMARD</td>
<td>113 (66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1 previous TNFi used</td>
<td>62 (37, n=166)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Displayed as mean ± standard deviation, median (interquartile range) or number (percentage). RF: rheumatoid factor; ACRA: anti-citrullinated protein antibodies; DAS28-CRP: disease activity score of 28 joints -CRP; csDMARD: conventional synthetic DMARD.  

Figure 1. Mean time-weighted medication use and disease activity per subsequent year.  

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The risk of overall cancers was similar in patients that were (a) prescribed with JAKi/biologics and csDMARDs, as well as in (b) those who used JAKi and TNFi as the first-line treatment. In addition, there was no difference in the incidence of cancers among (c) those who were treated with only JAKi and TNFi during the follow-up and between (d) JAKi, biologics, and csDMARDs users. JAKi: Janus kinase inhibitors, csDMARD: conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug, TNFi: tumour necrosis factor-alpha inhibitor.

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1

**OP0133**

DO JAKIS WORK THE BEST AMONG THOSE RA PATIENTS WHERE THEIR SAFETY CONCERNS ARE THE HIGHEST?

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs, bDMARD

H. Bower, T. Frisell, D. Di Giuseppe, B. Delcoigne, J. Asling, Karolinska Institute, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; Karolinska University Hospital, Rheumatology, Theme Inflammation and Ageing, Stockholm, Sweden

**Background:** Safety is a driving factor when selecting treatment, but the risks should be balanced against the treatment benefits, relative to alternative treatment options. In JAKis, recent evidence of increased safety risks in older patients with cardiovascular (CV) risk factors, have led to concerns. However, an increased risk among certain patients might still be offset by an increasing benefit in the same patient segment, and vice versa. A full understanding of the JAKi benefit-risk profile thus requires a better understanding of the relative (JAKi vs other treatments) benefits in those patients where their relative safety profile may be worse.

**Objectives:** To observe the assessed and adjusted relative effectiveness (remission and response) of JAKis (and non-TNFi bDMARDs) when compared to TNFi, as used in clinical practice, and to assess whether the predicted effectiveness of either drug class is modified by age and the presence of CV risk factors.

**Methods:** RA patients initiating treatment with a JAKi, non-TNFi, or TNFi 2016-2021 were followed using the Swedish Rheumatology Quality Register. Good EULAR response and remission (CDAI≤2.8) at 6 months were assessed at return visits (within 90 to 270 days after treatment initiation). Non-responder imputation was implemented where treatment ended prior to 210 days after initiation. Crude probabilities of outcomes were presented by age and having ≥1 CV risk factor (1/Y). Linear regression estimated the risk difference (versus TNFi) in age and CV risk groups, adjusted for sex, baseline DAS28 (response) and CDAI (remission), and line of therapy. Probability of outcome was predicted from logistic regression models, fitted to allow effect modification of treatment cohort by age and CV risk score (ERS-RA score), adjusted for sex, baseline DAS28 (response) and CDAI (remission), and line of therapy.

**Results:** 10,309 treatment episodes contributed data on response at 6 months, and 12,016 episodes with data on remission. Overall, 21% achieved good EULAR response and 11% reached CDAI remission (Table 1). Crude observed risks overall indicated superior response and remission with TNFi versus JAKi (Table 1). Adjusted risk differences suggested superior outcomes in JAKi versus TNFi, overall, and in those with no CV risk for CDAI remission. Patterns of predicted response and remission varied across age and CV ERS-RA score (Figure 1), with JAKis having superior effectiveness overall once adjusting for line of therapy.

**Conclusion:** Age and CV risk may modify the absolute and relative effectiveness of JAKis vs. TNFi. Further analyses are planned with the aim of presenting these results at EULAR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Observed crude proportions of patients who achieved response and remission, and adjusted* risk differences between JAKi, non-TNFi and TNFi using the latter as reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proportion (%) achieving outcome</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good EULAR response</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;65 years, no CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;65 years, ≥1 CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65 years, no CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65 years, ≥1 CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CDAI remission</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;65 years, no CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;65 years, ≥1 CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65 years, no CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65 years, ≥1 CV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*adjusted for sex, baseline DAS28 (response) and CDAI (remission), line of therapy

**References:** NIL. Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1

**OP0134**

REAL WORLD “POLY-REFRACTORY RA”: A RARE BUT UNMET CLINICAL CHALLENGE

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD, Ultrasound

P. David, A. Di Matteo, C. Hen, S. Dass, P. Emery, B. Galea, D. Mcgonagle, University Of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; Sheba Medical Center - Tel Hashomer, Internal Medicine B Department, Ramat Gan, Israel; Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, National Institute for Health Research Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; Polytechnic University of Marche, Department of Clinical and Molecular Sciences, Rheumatology Unit, Carlo Urbani Hospital, Jesi-Ancona, Italy; Sheba Medical Center - Tel Hashomer, Internal Medicine C Department, Ramat Gan, Israel; Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Rheumatology, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds, United Kingdom

**Background:** In an age of dose optimization and drug tapering due to excellent conventional (c), biological (b) or targeted synthetic (ts) disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), the fact remains that many patients still have active disease, being therapy refractory, sometimes to multiple DMARDs. In 2021, EULAR defined the term “Difficult-to-treat (D2T) Rheumatoid Arthritis” as failure of two or more different classes of b/tsDMARDs post csDMARDs (1) but the rate of failure to all available DMARD classes in the real-world setting (poly-refractory RA) is not established. Moreover, the DAS-28-CPB score can be elevated in patients with either persistent inflammatory RA (PIRR) or non-inflammatory RA (NIRR), where the latter do not benefit from medication change.
These findings highlight a twofold clinical challenge in refractory RA with half of D2T RA, real world poly-refractory RA was present in only 2.5%. Almost half of the poly-refractory RA group had CRP levels within normal ranges despite a DAS-28-CRP score above 3.2 (mean DAS-28-CRP of 5.3). 71 D2T RA patients had recent US of clinically involved joints, including 28 poly-refractory RA cases. 17/28 (64%) poly-refractory were found to have no synovial thickening in US in suspected clinically involved joints. Specifically in the poly-refractory RA group, the CRP levels were within normal ranges in 6/10 (60%) NIRRA patients, while they were further divided into NIRRA and PIRRA, according to the presence/absence of signs of active synovitis as indicated by PDUS (Figure 1).

**Results:** 242/1991 (12.5%) met the EULAR D2T criteria of failing at least 2 b/tsDMARDs. 89/1991 (5.6%) failed 2 classes only, with a mean disease duration (mDD) of 11 years. 60/1991 (3.8%) failed 3 classes (mDD= 18) and 52/1991 (3.3%), 4 classes (mDD= 10.5). However, just 41/1991 (2.5%) had poly-refractory RA having all 5 classes (mDD= 21). Of them, 37/41 (90%) failed multiple drugs within each class. 4/41 (10%) poly-refractory and 45/245 (18.5%) of all EULAR D2T cases were seronegative.

Regarding joint involvement patterns, most had typical small joint RA disease pattern but 26/242 (11%) had a predominant large joint pattern. 18/43 (43%) of the poly-refractory RA group had CRP levels within the normal ranges despite a DAS-28-CRP score above 3.2 (mean DAS-28-CRP of 5.3). 71 D2T RA patients had recent US of clinically involved joints, including 28 poly-refractory RA cases. 18/28 (64%) poly-refractory were considered PIRRA as evidenced by synovial hypertrophy and PDUS positivity in at least one evaluated clinically swollen joint. 32/71 (45%) D2T RA had no signs of active synovitis in PDUS being considered NIRRA. Of them, 17/32 (53%) had no synovial thickening in US in suspected clinically involved joints. Specifically in the poly-refractory group, the CRP levels were within normal ranges in 6/10 (60%) NIRRA patients, while just 7/18 (39%) PIRRA cases had normal CRP levels.

**Conclusion:** Although 15.2% of Leeds RA patients met the EULAR criteria for D2T RA, real world poly-refractory RA was present in only 2.5%. Almost half of these patients had no PDUS changes on US and/or had normal CRP levels. These findings highlight a twofold clinical challenge in refractory RA with half of this group (both D2T and poly-refractory RA) having true inflammation that may need new mechanisms of action, but the other half would not be likely to benefit from new DMARD treatment strategies.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2022-eular.6316

**Figure 1.** Flow-chart showing the prevalence of poly-refractory, PIRRA and NIRRA patients among Leeds RA patients.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**OP0135**

**RISK OF DEMYELINATING EVENTS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS RECEIVING TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR INHIBITORS: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis, Systemic review

I. Castrejon1,2, L. Silva-Fernández2, J. A. Gómez-Puerta2, A. Ortúz2, N. Mena-Vizquez2, J. Tomero Molina2, C. Flascia2, J. M. Alvaro-Gracia1,2, Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;1Complutense University of Madrid, Department of Medicine, Madrid, Spain;2Hospital Universitari Son Espases, Rheumatology, Palma, Spain;3Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain;4Hospital de La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;5Hospital Regional Universitario de Malaga, Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain;6Hospital Universitario de Guadalajara, Rheumatology, Guadalajara, Spain;7La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** Several case reports published in the 2000s indicated that demyelinating diseases could be a serious adverse event following TNFi inhibitors (TNFi) treatment. However, initial data from biological therapy registries did not bring enough clarification.

**Objectives:** To investigate whether treatment with biologics or targeted synthetic DMARDs is associated with an increased risk of demyelinating events among patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

**Methods:** A systematic search was performed in MEDLINE, EMBASE (up to Oct 2022), and by manual references. Selection criteria: (population) patients with RA; (intervention) treatment with any biologic including TNFi and synthetic DMARDs; (outcome) demyelinating event; (study design) observational studies and randomised clinical trials. Titles and abstracts were screened and data were extracted from the selected studies including quality evaluation, and outcomes of interest.

**Results:** From 368 identified studies, 4 cohorts and 3 nested case-control studies reported risk of demyelinating events following treatment with biologics, mainly TNFi and anakinra, in one study. Most studies included mixed populations of inflammatory arthritis and patients with RA were analysed as a separate subgroup. Two nested case-control reported an increased risk, but in a mixed population, with no analysis of a subgroup of RA. In general, demyelinating events were very uncommon in patients receiving TNFi, with a marginal increased risk in males with RA in 2 studies (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lingyl 2022 (1)</td>
<td>Nested case-control</td>
<td>Combined biologic databases</td>
<td>Case = multiple sclerosis Pooled IRR (95% CI): 2.05 (1.13-3.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor 2021 (2)</td>
<td>Prospective Cohort</td>
<td>British Society for Rheumatology</td>
<td>Incidence (95% CI): 19.7/100,000 pts-years (13.7-27.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunchok 2020 (3)</td>
<td>Nested case-control</td>
<td>Mayo Clinic (USA)</td>
<td>Incidence event OR 4.82 (95% CI:1.62-14.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koop 2020 (4)</td>
<td>Combined biologic registers in Sweden and Denmark</td>
<td></td>
<td>Incidence Rate: 0.37-0.39/1000 pt-yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreyer 2016 (5)</td>
<td>Register-based cohort study</td>
<td>DANBIO</td>
<td>Incident rate in RA: 0.65 (95% CI: 0.24–1.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernandez- Esparrtero 2011 (6)</td>
<td>BiOBADASER-Spain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adjusted rate ratios (95% CI): MTX 1.09 (0.63 - 1.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernatsky 2010</td>
<td>Nested case-control</td>
<td>Administrative data in Canada</td>
<td>Anakinra 0.80 (0.29 - 2.24)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Characteristics and incidence rates of demyelinating events in the included studies**

**Figure 1.** Flow-chart showing the prevalence of poly-refractory, PIRRA and NIRRA patients among Leeds RA patients.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2022-eular.6316

**References:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.
The future perspectives in the treatment of SLE & Sjören’s

OP0136 METABOLOMIC SERUM PROFILING IDENTIFIES METABOLITES LINKED TO KIDNEY DAMAGE WHICH ARE MODULATED BY ANIFROLUMAB IN A PHASE 2 TRIAL IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: -omics, Kidneys, Biomarkers

D. Jayne1, P. Gavini2, E. Allman2, C. Di Poto4, X. Tian5, S. Hess6, M. Ramaswamy2, M. Lazarus4, P. Z. Brohawn2, D. Muthas3, A. Platt7, H. Al-Mossawi7, C. Lindholm7, N. Ferrari7, 1University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 2AstraZeneca, Translational Science and Experimental Medicine, Early Respiratory and Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Gaithersburg, MD, United States of America; 3AstraZeneca, Dynamic Omics, Centre for Genomics Research (CGR), Discovery Sciences, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Gaithersburg, MD, United States of America; 4AstraZeneca, Translational Science and Experimental Medicine, Early Respiratory and Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 5AstraZeneca, Translational Science and Experimental Medicine, Early Respiratory and Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Gothenburg, Sweden; 6AstraZeneca, Clinical Development, Late Respiratory & Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 7AstraZeneca, Clinical Development, Late Respiratory & Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Gothenburg, Sweden

Background: Lupus nephritis (LN) is one of the most common severe clinical manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), occurring in 21%–48% of SLE patients.[1] The kidney is the major organ affected in SLE, with persistent inflammation leading to progressive loss of renal function and chronic kidney disease (CKD). The decline in kidney function leads to the accumulation of metabolic waste products normally cleared by the kidneys, known as uremic toxins. Uremic toxins negatively affect multiple organ systems, causing increased cardiovascular and kidney damage, among other effects.[2] Given the clear link to kidney function, uremic toxins may serve as biomarkers of kidney damage and of treatment response. Anifrolumab, a monoclonal antibody that targets the type I interferon (IFN) receptor subunit 1, is approved for moderate to severe SLE treatment.[3]

Methods: In the 52-week phase 2 clinical trial TULIP-LN (NCT02547922), 147 patients with active LN were randomized 1:1:1 to receive intravenous anifrolumab every 4 weeks at standard SLE dosing (basic regimen [BR], 300 mg), intensified dosing (intensified regimen [IR], 900 mg for the first 3 doses, 300 mg thereafter), or placebo in addition to standard therapy.[4] Serum samples were obtained from 140 of these patients at baseline (BL) and Weeks 12, 24, and 52. Serum metabolites were analyzed using an unbiased liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry-based approach. Metabolites that were differentially modulated in the anifrolumab IR vs placebo group were identified using a mixed effects model evaluating the interaction of metabolite levels and treatment, adjusted for patients’ IFN gene signature (IFNGS) status (high/low) and 24-hour urine protein–creatinine ratio (UPCR >3 or ≤3). Relationships between BL metabolite level and clinical characteristics of kidney damage were assessed by Spearman’s correlation. Association of BL metabolite levels with complete renal response were evaluated by logistic regression, adjusted for IFNGS and UPCR status.

Results: Our unbiased metabolomic approach identified 2 metabolites significantly impacted by anifrolumab treatment compared with placebo (Figure 1). Cytosine (Cyt) and indoxyl sulfate (IS) levels were significantly reduced following anifrolumab IR treatment compared with placebo, while an intermediate, non-significant reduction was observed longitudinally with anifrolumab BR. At baseline, Cyt and IS serum levels were positively correlated with serum creatinine and negatively correlated with estimated glomerular filtration rate. Baseline IS levels were also associated with complete renal response at Week 52. Compared to the trend observed in nonresponders, IS levels in responders were reduced from BL to Week 52. A trend in reduction of multiple uremic toxins not limited to IS was detected in the anifrolumab-treated group.

Conclusion: In patients with LN, anifrolumab treatment reduced levels of multiple circulating uremic toxins including IS, a known inducer of cardiovascular damage in CKD.[5] Together, correlations with kidney damage measures at baseline and reductions in IS levels in responders vs nonresponders at Week 52 suggest improvements in kidney function following anifrolumab treatment. Overall, our results contribute to a deeper understanding of how inhibition of type I IFN affects renal disease in LN.

REFERENCES:

Figure: Identification of metabolites differentially modulated by anifrolumab vs placebo
Background: Telitacicept (TACI-Fc fusion protein) is a novel BlyS (B-lymphocyte stimulator)/APRIL (a proliferation–inducing ligand) dual inhibitor, which has been approved in 2021 in China for the treatment of patients with active systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).[1]

Objectives: Assess the efficacy and safety of telitacicept in SLE patients in a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial.

Methods: In this study, 335 active SLE patients who were receiving stable standard therapy with positive ANA/anti-dsDNA and a SELENA-SLEDAI score ≥8 were randomized 1:1 to receive telitacicept 160 mg (N=167) or placebo (N=168) subcutaneously weekly for 52 weeks. The primary endpoint was the response rate of SLE responder index 4 (SRI4) at Week 52. Key secondary endpoints included: SELENA-SLEDAI, PGA, immunological biomarkers including C3, C4, IgM, IgG, IgA and CD19+ B cells. Safety was assessed during the study.

Results: Baseline demographics and disease characteristics were comparable between the two groups. The primary endpoint at Week 52 was met, with significantly greater proportion of patients in telitacicept 160 mg group vs placebo achieving SRI4 response (Table 1). SRI4 response was sustained in telitacicept 160 mg group up to Week 52 (Figure 1A). Significantly greater proportions of subjects in telitacicept 160 mg group had improvement in SELENA-SLEDAI and PGA (Table 1 & Figure 1B, 1C). Rapid and sustained increase of C3 and C4 (Figure 1G, 1H), and reduction of IgM, IgG, IgA and CD19+ B cells (Figure 1D, 1E, 1F, 1I) were observed following telitacicept treatment. Incidences of TEAEs and infections were comparable between the two groups. Most of TEAEs were mild to moderate in severity. A greater proportion of patients receiving placebo had SAEs and serious infections compared with telitacicept 160 mg. (Table 1).

Figure 1. SRI4 Response Rate (A), rate of subjects with improvement in SELENA-SLEDAI (B) and PGA (C) at each visit. Percent (%) change from baseline in IgM (D), IgG (E), IgA (F), C3 (G), C4 (H) and CD19+ B cells (I).$P<0.001 vs. Placebo; *P<0.01 vs. Placebo; +P<0.05 vs. Placebo.

Table 1. Key efficacy and safety data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Efficacy, FAS</th>
<th>Placebo (N=168)</th>
<th>Telitacicept 160 mg (N=167)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary endpoint</td>
<td>SRI-4 Response at Week 52 (MII), n(%)</td>
<td>64(38.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRI-4 Response at Week 52 (NRI), n(%)</td>
<td>55(32.7%)</td>
<td>112(67.1%)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRI-4 Response at Week 52 (LOCF), n(%)</td>
<td>63(37.5%)</td>
<td>138(82.6%)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary endpoints$</td>
<td>≥4-point reduction in SELENA-SLEDAI at Week 52, n(%)</td>
<td>68(40.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥3-point reduction in PGA at Week 52, n(%)</td>
<td>54(33.1%)</td>
<td>141(84.4%)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety, SS Placebo Telitacicept 160 mg</td>
<td>0.05±0.89</td>
<td>0.10±0.44$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$P<0.001 vs. Placebo. Missing data were imputed by multiple imputation. *AEs with an incidence of ≥3% in any group were listed. FAS, full analysis set. SRI, SLE responder index. MII, missing data were imputed by multiple imputation. NRI, missing data were imputed as non-response. LOCF, missing data were imputed by last observation carried forward method. PGA, physician’s global assessment. SFI, SLE flare index. SS, safety set. TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event. SAE, serious adverse event. SOC, system organ class.

Conclusion: This phase 3 trial met the primary endpoint. Telitacicept 160 mg showed good clinical benefits and a favorable safety profile in SLE patients.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: The patients and their families who participated in this clinical trial.


OPO139 EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF ABBV-599 HIGH DOSE (ELS/BRUTINIB 60 MG AND UPADACITINIB 30 MG) AND UPADACITINIB MONOTHERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A PHASE 2, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus

J. T. Merrill, Y. Tanaka, D. D’Cruz, K. Vila, D. Siri, X. Zeng, K. D’Silva, L. Cheng, T. Sornasse, T. Doan, D. Kruizakis, A. Friedman, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Arthritis & Clinical Immunology Program, Oklahoma City; United States of America; Hospital of University of Occupational and Environmental Health, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; King’s College London, School of Immunology & Microbial Sciences, London, United Kingdom; Guy’s Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; QCM Medical Group, Rheumatology, San Juan, Puerto Rico; CAICI Institute, Rheumatology, Rosario, Argentina; Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China; AbbVie, Inc, Department of Immunology, North Chicago, United States of America

Background: ABBV-599 is a novel combination of elsabrutinib (ELS; a selective BTK inhibitor) and upadacitinib (UPA; a JAK inhibitor) that targets non-overlapping signaling pathways associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

Objectives: To report results from SMEK, a phase 2, randomized, placebo (PBO)-controlled, parallel-group, multicenter study evaluating efficacy and safety of ABBV-599 and UPA monotherapy in adults with moderately to severely active SLE (NCT03978520).

Methods: Patients (pts) were randomized 1:1:1:1:1 to once daily (QD) ABBV-599 high dose (HD; ELS 60 mg + UPA 30 mg), ABBV-599 low dose (LD; ELS 60 mg + UPA 15 mg), ELS 60 mg, UPA 30 mg, or PBO. The primary endpoint was the proportion of patients at W24 achieving SLE Responder Index 4 (SRI-4) and steroid dose ≤ 10 mg QD; additional efficacy and safety endpoints through W48 are also reported. The pre-specified 2-sided alpha level was 0.1.

Results: 341 patients were enrolled. After a planned interim analysis when 50% of pts reached W24, the ABBV-599HD and UPA 60 mg arms were discontinued for lack of efficacy (no safety concerns). Of 205 continuing pts (ABBV-599 HD n = 68, UPA 30 mg n = 62, PBO n = 75), baseline characteristics were well balanced. The primary endpoint (proportion achieving SRI-4 and steroid dose ≤ 10 mg QD at W24 vs PBO) was met by ABBV-599HD and UPA 30 mg. Key secondary endpoints were also achieved at W48 in both groups (Table 1). Overall flares and time to first flare were substantially reduced in the ABBV-599HD and UPA 30 mg groups through W48 (Figure 1). Anti-double stranded DNA antibodies were significantly decreased with both treatments. TEAEs considered related to study drug were 42.6% ABBV-599HD, 32.3% ABBV-599 LD, 32.9% UPA 30 mg, and 33.3% PBO. There were no malignancies or VTE. There were 3 non-fatal CV events (1 MI on PBO and 2 ruptured cerebral aneurysms [1 each on ABBV-599HD and UPA 30 mg]); all were assessed as unrelated to study drug by investigators. No new safety signals were observed beyond previously known data for UPA or ELS.

Conclusion: ABBV-599HD (ELS 60 mg + UPA 30 mg) and UPA 30 mg demonstrated significant improvements in SLE disease activity and flares with acceptable safety through 48 weeks.
Regulatory T Cell Defects in SLE and Therapy with a Novel IL-2 Mutein: Phase 1 Clinical Results with Efavaleukin Alfa

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical Trials

N. Sarkar1, X. Hu1, N. Tcha2, R. Furie3, A. Kivitz4, S. Cohen5, K. Gorski5

1Amgen Inc., Clinical Biomarkers, South San Francisco, United States of America; 2Amgen Inc., Early Development, South San Francisco, United States of America; 3Northwell Health and Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra-Northwell, Division of Rheumatology, Great Neck, United States of America; 4Altoona Center for Clinical Research, Altoona Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center, Duncansville, United States of America; 5Metroplex Clinical Research Center, Division of Rheumatology, Dallas, United States of America

Background: Regulatory T cells (Treg) are critical for maintaining self-tolerance and preventing autoimmunity, and IL-2 is essential for their development, survival and suppressive function. Defects in Treg function and the IL-2 receptor are associated with SLE and have been correlated with disease activity.[1,2] Efavaleukin alfa is an IL-2 mutein Fc fusion protein that preferentially binds the high-affinity IL-2 receptor alpha chain (CD25) to selectively promote Treg expansion.

Objectives: To compare Treg functional phenotypes in healthy controls (of efavaleukin alfa baseline) with SLE patients (at baseline and post-treatment) enrolled in a phase 1b study of efavaleukin alfa in order to characterize Treg defects in SLE and the effects of IL-2-targeted therapy with efavaleukin alfa on Treg expansion.

Methods: Baseline Treg functional phenotyping data from 64 healthy volunteers (ph1a baseline) were compared with Treg data from phase 1b SLE study subjects. The phase 1b, multiple ascending dose study (NCT03451422) included 5 dose cohorts; a total of 35 patients with SLE (with either elevated anti-dsDNA or ANA) were randomized to receive efavaleukin alfa or placebo SC every 2 weeks (Q2W; cohorts 1, 2, 4, and 5) or every week (QW; cohort 3) for a total of 12 weeks. Pharmacodynamic profiles of lymphocyte subsets were evaluated in peripheral blood. Cell subsets were defined as follows: Treg, CD3+CD4+Foxp3+CD127–CD25+; CD25+ Treg, CD3+CD4+Foxp3+CD127–CD25+ (expanded Treg pool); CD4+ Tcon, CD3+CD4+Foxp3–CD127+CD25–. Lymphocyte subsets were evaluated in peripheral blood at baseline, with a mean peak increase of 53.8-fold above baseline with efavaleukin alfa treatment.

Results: At baseline, Treg CD25 expression levels were significantly lower in SLE patients compared with healthy subjects (Figure 1a), and CD25 expression on Foxp3+ Treg negatively correlated with anti-dsDNA autoantibodies (Figure 1b). The percentage of CD25+ Tregs was significantly higher in SLE patients than healthy subjects and also correlated with anti-dsDNA at baseline. At day 22 in the phase 1b study, after SLE patients randomized to efavaleukin alfa had received 2 doses, Treg CD25 expression was significantly increased above baseline and comparable to the levels in healthy controls (Figure 1a). The number of CD25+ Tregs in SLE patients was inversely correlated with anti-dsDNA at baseline, with a mean peak increase of S3.8-fold above baseline with efavaleukin alfa treatment. The intensity of CD25 on CD4+ Tcon was not significantly different between healthy subjects and SLE patients and was not increased with efavaleukin alfa treatment.

Conclusion: Treg from SLE patients showed defects in IL-2 signaling evidenced by lower CD25 expression that correlated with anti-dsDNA, suggesting a role for reduced IL-2 signaling in SLE autoimmunity. Efavaleukin alfa treatment selectively restored Treg CD25 expression to levels observed in healthy controls without increasing CD25 expression on Tcon. CD25+ Treg considered a more suppressive Treg population, were expanded with multiple doses of efavaleukin alfa. Although low baseline SLE disease activity and short treatment duration precluded efficacy analysis, clinical correlations with treatment response will be investigated in the ongoing phase 2b adaptive trial of efavaleukin alfa in SLE.

REFERENCE:
LONG TERM SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF CAR-T CELL TREATMENT IN REFRactory SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS - DATA FROM THE FIRST SEVEN PATIENTS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Remission, Treat to target

J. Taubmann1,2, F. Müller2,3, S. Boetza2,3, S. Völck2,3, M. Aigner2,3, A. Kleyer1,2, I. Minnopoulou1,2, F. Locatelli4, M. A. D’agostino5, R. Gary2,3, S. Krestchmann2,3, S. Kharoubi2,3, D. Mougiakakos1,2, G. Krönke1,2, M. Andrews2,3, G. Schett2,1
1Department of Internal Medicine 1, Rheumatology and Immunology, Universitätsklinikum Erlangen-Nürnberg and Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany; 2Deutsches Zentrum für Klinische Forschung (DZK), Berlin, Germany; 3Department of Internal Medicine 5, Hematology and Oncology, Universitätsklinikum Erlangen-Nürnberg and Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany; 4Department of Pediatric Onco-Hematology and Transfusion Medicine, Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Bambino Gesù, Roma, Italy; 5Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli, Division of Rheumatology, Roma, Italy; 6Universitätsklinikum Magdeburg Aö.R. Universitätsklinik für Hämatologie und Onkologie, Hämatologie und Onkologie, Magdeburg, Germany

Background: Despite better treatment modalities some patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) suffer from severe and treatment-resistant disease. This situation puts patients at high risk for organ failure or even death. Furthermore, many patients with SLE have to take long-term, sometimes even life-long immune suppressive medication to control the disease without being able to enjoy drug-free remission. Recently, we reported that deep B cell depletion using a single infusion with autologous CD19 CAR-T cells induced drug-free clinical remission in severe SLE patients with refractory disease [1,2]. This abstract presents the long-term clinical efficacy and safety data of the first seven SLE patients receiving autologous CD19-directed CAR-T cell therapy.

Objectives: To test whether administration of autologous CD19 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells is tolerable and effective in patients with severe refractory SLE

Methods: Compassionate use program for patients with severe active SLE showing organ involvement and resistance to multiple immune suppressive treatments. Patients received autologous 10^5 CD19-CAR-T cells/kg body weight by single infusion after standard conditioning therapy (cyclophosphamide/fludarabine). The investigational medicinal product MB-CART19.1 was produced as described before [1,2]. All SLE treatments was stopped before CAR-T cell administration. Patients were followed up as in-patients for the first 10 days after CAR T cell administration, then weekly until the end of the first month, then monthly for three months and every three months thereafter. Tolerability was assessed by monitoring for Cytokine-release syndrome (CRS) and Immune-related effector Cell Neurotoxicity Syndrome (ICANS). Preliminary efficacy was assessed by reaching a Lupus Low Disease Activity State (LLDAS) and DORIS remission.

Results: As per January 2023, seven SLE patients (6 female, 1 male, aged range 19-39) had been treated with CD19 CAR-T cells with a median follow up of 13 months (4-months-22-months). Patients had active disease with a median SLEDAI of 10 (range: 8-16), with a median of 4 organs involved (range: 8-16) and a median number of 7 failed treatments (range: 4-15). All patients had active kidney disease. In addition, involvement of the heart, lungs, pleura, joints, skin, muscles and bone marrow were documented. Conditioning was done at the described [1,2] dose with the exception of patients 7, who received only 50% of the dose. All patients received a single infusion of 1x10^5 autologous CD19-CAR-T cells/kg body weight. No ICANS was observed and CRS if observed were mild (grade I). In vivo, CAR-T cells rapidly expanded peaking at day 9 with a median of 26% of circulating T cells being CAR T cells (range: 11-59%). Expansion of CAR-T cells coincided with the complete depletion of circulating B cells. B cell aplasia lasted for a median of 120 days (range 58-205). All patients experienced drug-free remission as assessed by DORIS remission criteria and met lupus low activity state (LLDAS) usually within the first three months after CAR T cell therapy. Furthermore, seroconversion with loss of dsDNA antibodies and other autoantibodies was observed. To date, no SLE flare occurred despite complete cessation of treatment.

Conclusion: Taken together, these data suggest that CD19 CAR T cell therapy can abrogate disease and delete autoimmunity in patients with severe SLE. After CD19 CAR T-cell therapy SLE patients remain in drug free-remission of SLE even if B cells recur. This remission can be long-lasting as the longest disease -free observation period is now 22 months.

REFERENCES:
Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease characterized by B-cell hyperactivity. There are still currently no systemic treatments approved for pSS. Telitacicept (TACI-Fc fusion protein) is a novel BLYS (B-lymphocyte stimulator)/APRIL (a proliferation-inducing ligand) dual inhibitor, which has been approved in 2021 in China for the treatment of patients with active systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) [1].

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy and safety of telitacicept in patients with pSS.

Methods: In this phase 2, placebo-controlled study, 42 patients with active pSS (ESSDAI score ≥5) were randomized to 3 treatment arms: placebo (N=14), telitacicept 160 mg (N=14) and telitacicept 240 mg (N=14). Study drugs were administered subcutaneously weekly for 24 weeks. The primary endpoint was the change from baseline in the ESSDAI score at week 24. Key secondary endpoints included: ESSPRI, MFI-20, immunological biomarkers including IgG, IgA, IgM and CD19+ B cells.

Results: Baseline demographics and disease characteristics were similar among treatment arms. The ESSDAI score and MFI-20 score decreased from baseline through week 24 in telitacicept 160 mg and 240 mg groups (Figure 1A, 1B). Statistically significant improvements were observed for the ESSDAI score and MFI-20 score both at week 12 and week 24 in the telitacicept 240 mg group, while no statistically significant improvements were observed for the ESSDAI score at week 24 in the placebo group (Table 1). Telitacicept treatment produced rapid and sustained reductions in IgG, IgA, IgM and CD19+ B cells (Figure 1C-F). Incidences of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were comparable across treatment arms. Most of TEAEs were mild to moderate in severity. Serious adverse events (SAEs) were infrequent and occurred in the placebo group. Upper respiratory tract infections were the most common infections. (Table 1)

Conclusion: Telitacicept showed clinical benefits and a favorable safety profile in patients with pSS.

REFERENCE:
Efficacy and Safety of Dazodalibep (VIB4920/HZN4920) in Subjects with Sjögren’s Syndrome: A Phase 2, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Proof of Concept Study

Keywords: Safety, Randomized control trial, Sjögren syndrome


Background: Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) is a chronic, systemic autoimmune disease affecting exocrine glands, primarily the salivary and tear glands, with potentially severe manifestations in multiple organs. No approved disease-modifying therapies exist. Dazodalibep (DAZ) is a biologic antagonist of CD40L.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to evaluate the efficacy and safety of DAZ therapy in adult SS subjects with moderate-to-high systemic disease activity (NCT04129164).

Methods: We conducted a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, cross-over study to evaluate DAZ therapy in adult SS subjects with moderate-to-high systemic disease activity, as defined by a EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index (ESSDAI) score ≥5. Eligible subjects were randomized: 1:1 to receive intravenous DAZ 1500 mg or placebo (PBO) Q2W x 3 doses, then Q4W x 4 additional doses. Starting on Day 169, subjects initially randomized to DAZ received PBO Q4W x 5 doses and subjects randomized to PBO received DAZ Q4W x 5 doses and were then followed for 12 weeks. The primary endpoint was the change from Baseline in ESSDAI at Day 169. Safety assessments included the incidence of adverse (AEs), serious AEs (SAEs), and AEs of special interest (AESIs).

Results: The 74 randomized subjects all received ≥1 dose of study medication (DAZ, N=36; PBO, N=38). The baseline demographics and disease characteristics were balanced between the two groups. The change from Baseline to Day 169 in ESSDAI score (LS mean ± SE), was -6.3 ± 0.6 in DAZ-treated subjects compared to -4.1 ± 0.6 in the PBO group, a difference of -2.2 (p = 0.0167). Compared to the PBO group, the DAZ group showed positive trends in the EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Patient Reported Index score, and Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue score at Day 169. A post-hoc responder analysis of subjects achieving high levels (5 and 6 points) of improvement on ESSDAI favored DAZ (61.1% and 60.0%) over PBO (35.1% and 34.3%). The reported AEs were generally mild through Day 169 and similar in frequency between treatment groups. The most frequently reported AEs occurring in ≥5% of DAZ-treated subjects and >PBO were COVID-19, diarrhea, dizziness, ligament sprain, upper respiratory tract infection, contusion, device allergy, fatigue, hypertension, and oropharyngeal pain. Two SAEs were reported in a single DAZ-treated subject: this subject was a 59-year-old female who experienced a grade 3 SAE of COVID-19 infection and later died of unknown cause 46 days after last administration of DAZ (12 days after COVID-19 diagnosis). There was a single AESI of herpes zoster in a DAZ-treated subject.

Conclusion: DAZ is a potential new therapy for the treatment of systemic disease activity in patients with SS. SS subjects with moderate-to-high systemic disease receiving DAZ experienced a statistically significant reduction in disease activity relative to PBO as measured by the improvement in ESSDAI score. Except for a case of severe COVID-19 infection, DAZ therapy in SS subjects appeared to be well tolerated. Larger controlled trials of DAZ therapy for SS are warranted to further explore its safety profile and confirm its clinical efficacy.

Table 1. Efficacy and Safety Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Efficacy</th>
<th>DAZ 1500 mg</th>
<th>PBO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESSDAI, LS mean (SE)†</td>
<td>-4.1 (0.6)</td>
<td>-6.3 (0.6)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSPRI, LS mean (SE)†</td>
<td>-1.12 (0.29)</td>
<td>-1.80 (0.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIT-Fatigue, LS mean (SE)†</td>
<td>5.8 (1.6)</td>
<td>8.1 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of AE</td>
<td>23 (60.5)</td>
<td>28 (77.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of related AE</td>
<td>8 (21)</td>
<td>10 (27.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of SAE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of related SAE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of AE leading to discontinuation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of AESI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Death</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Efficacy endpoints as of Day 169; *p<0.05; AE summaries based on AEs that occurred through Day 169; †; adverse event; AESI, adverse event of special interest; ESSDAI, EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index; ESSPRI, EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Patient Reported Index; FACIT-Fatigue, Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue; PBO, placebo; SAE, serious adverse event

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Risk factors and their treatment in the progression of osteoarthritis

Association of Healthy lifestyles with All-Cause and Cause-Specific Mortality Among Individuals with Osteoarthritis: A Prospective Cohort Study of the UK Biobank

Keywords: Epidemiology, Osteoarthritis, Lifestyles
Background: Healthy lifestyles are thought to reduce the risk of multiple causes of mortality in general population. However, whether and to what kind of healthy lifestyles could offset the risk of multiple causes of mortality in patients with osteoarthritis (OA) are unknown.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the association of both individual and combined healthy lifestyle factors with the risk of all-cause and cause-specific mortality among participants with OA.

Methods: 104,142 OA participants were included from the UK Biobank (mean age 60±7.0). A summed healthy lifestyle score was constructed using body mass index (BMI) and self-reported diet, sleep duration, physical activity, sedentary time, social connection, smoking and alcohol drinking. Restricted cubic spline (RCS) and Cox proportional hazards models were used to examine the associations of individual factors and a combined healthy lifestyle score with the risk of all-cause and cause-specific mortality.

Results: During a median follow-up of 12.7 years, 9915 deaths after the first two years follow-up were recorded. Using RCS models, sleep duration had a U-shaped (with a nadir at 7 h/day), moderate physical activity (MPA) had an L-shaped (with a turning point at 550 min/week) and BMI and vigorous physical activity (VPA) had J-shaped (with turning points at 28 kg/m² and 240 min/week respectively) associations with all-cause mortality. In multivariable Cox models, each lifestyle factor was significantly associated with all-cause mortality, and hazard ratios (95%CI) for respiratory mortality, 0.27 (0.16-0.48) for digestive-cause mortality and 0.18 (0.12-0.25) for cardiovascular disease mortality, 0.27 (0.17-0.30) for digestive-cause mortality and 0.18 (0.12-0.25) for respiratory mortality.

Conclusion: This study introduced a healthy lifestyle pattern that could significantly reduce the risk of all-cause and cause-specific mortalities in OA patients.

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier survival curve of healthy lifestyle categories and mortality

### Table 1. Multivariable cox regression analysis of lifestyle factors in relation to mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy lifestyle score</th>
<th>All cause mortality</th>
<th>Cancer cause mortality</th>
<th>CVD cause mortality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 95% CI</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>HR 95% CI</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy lifestyle score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.65 (0.61, 0.7)</td>
<td>1.35×10⁻⁵</td>
<td>0.71 (0.64, 0.79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.5 (0.46, 0.53)</td>
<td>1.17×10⁻⁴</td>
<td>0.58 (0.53, 0.65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.4 (0.37, 0.43)</td>
<td>1.36×10⁻³</td>
<td>0.49 (0.45, 0.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.36 (0.33, 0.39)</td>
<td>2.01×10⁻³</td>
<td>0.46 (0.4, 0.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>0.29 (0.25, 0.32)</td>
<td>2.13×10⁻⁴</td>
<td>0.4 (0.32, 0.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy BMI</td>
<td>0.81 (0.81, 0.88)</td>
<td>5.4×10⁻⁹</td>
<td>0.85 (0.84, 0.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy diet score</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.82 (0.75, 0.89)</td>
<td>1.24×10⁻⁶</td>
<td>0.78 (0.69, 0.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.76 (0.7, 0.83)</td>
<td>3.52×10⁻⁷</td>
<td>0.75 (0.66, 0.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.71 (0.65, 0.77)</td>
<td>4.26×10⁻⁷</td>
<td>0.72 (0.62, 0.77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>0.66 (0.6, 0.73)</td>
<td>1.11×10⁻⁶</td>
<td>0.67 (0.59, 0.76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy sleep</td>
<td>0.81 (0.78, 0.85)</td>
<td>7.67×10⁻⁶</td>
<td>0.85 (0.79, 0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy physical activity score</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.93 (0.87, 0.99)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
<td>0.92 (0.84, 1.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.79 (0.7, 0.89)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
<td>0.76 (0.65, 0.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhealthy sedentary</td>
<td>1.41 (1.33, 1.51)</td>
<td>3.11×10⁻⁷</td>
<td>1.24×10⁻⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy social</td>
<td>0.66 (0.62, 0.7)</td>
<td>7.81×10⁻⁶</td>
<td>0.75 (0.68, 0.81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection</td>
<td>0.5 (0.47, 0.52)</td>
<td>2.19×10⁻⁹</td>
<td>0.49 (0.46, 0.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>No current</td>
<td>0.67 (0.63, 0.71)</td>
<td>4.20×10⁻⁶</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjustment for age, sex, Townsend deprivation index, race, education, employment;

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4 of 7 healthy dietary components was defined as healthy diet. Medium level of physical activity (270–680 min/week) was classified as a healthy physical activity for OA. Healthy sleep behaviors were defined as sleep 7–8 h/day. Sedentary time less than 4 hours was regarded as low risk status. The healthy lifestyle score was constructed as the sum of five lifestyle factors, ranging from 0 to 5 and was subsequently categorized into three groups including unfavorable, intermediate, and favorable (0–1, 2–3, and 4–5). Genetic susceptibility was calculated by using polygenic risk score (PRS) of OA. Specifically, individual single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) was coded as 0, 1, and 2 according to the number of risk alleles. The coefficient of significant SNPs of OA reported in previous Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) were regarded as weight of genotype of each SNPs. Participants with OA were identified as having a diagnosis using ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes for total/ knee/ hip OA, or were identified as self-reported total/ knee/ hip OA at baseline. Covariates included age, sex, household income, education, deprivation index, glucosamine use and comorbidities. Cox regression analyses were performed to examine the association of healthy lifestyle, genetic susceptibility and incident OA.

Results: Comparing to unfavorable lifestyle, favorable lifestyle was significantly associated with a lower risk of total OA across low, intermediate and high genetic risk groups (HR, 0.64; 95%CI, 0.58-0.70; HR, 0.59; 95%CI, 0.56-0.63 and HR, 0.58; 95%CI, 0.53-0.64, respectively). Favorable lifestyle was also significantly associated with lower risk of knee OA across low, intermediate and high genetic risk groups (HR, 0.40; 95%CI, 0.33-0.48, HR, 0.47; 95%CI, 0.42-0.51 and HR, 0.45; 95%CI, 0.39-0.53, respectively). For hip OA, adherence to favorable lifestyle was also significantly associated with lower risk of OA incidence across low, intermediate and high genetic risk groups (HR, 0.75; 95%CI, 0.62-0.92, HR, 0.65; 95%CI, 0.58-0.72 and HR, 0.75; 95%CI, 0.65-0.85, respectively), compared to unfavorable lifestyle. No significant interaction was detected between lifestyle and PRS for total/ knee/ hip OA.

Conclusion: These data suggest that healthier lifestyle is consistently associated with lower risk of OA, regardless of genetic risks. Our findings highlight the importance of adherence to an overall healthy lifestyle in attenuating the risk of OA.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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GENETIC EVIDENCE REVEALS A CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND OSTEARTHRITIS

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Osteoarthritis

J. Y. Chen1, Q. Feng1, Q. Q. Ma2, H. Zhang3, Y. Feng1, X. Yang2, O. Dong2, Q. Ju1, P. F. He1, X. Li2, S. X. Zhang2, Shaxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microbiology, Taiyuan, China; 1Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China; 3The Second Hospital of Shaxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is a common musculoskeletal disease [1]. Research evidence indicates that exercise can reduce OA patients’ joint pain to an extent [2]. However, the genetic causal relationship between physical activity (PA) and OA remains vague.

Objectives: In our study, Mendelian randomization (MR) was conducted to explore the causal association of PA and OA.

Methods: PA was divided into two different phenotypes, including sedentary behavior and physically active behavior. Genome-wide association study (GWAS) data for PA [3] was obtained from the UK Biobank. We selected single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that were strongly associated (p < 5 × 10⁻8) with two PA phenotypes and checked them on PhenoScanner removing SNPs associated with confounders. The OA data was derived from a GWAS among 455,221 individuals (77052 samples and 378169 controls) of European descent [4]. To assess the causality of PA on OA, inverse variance weighting (IVW), MR-Egger, and weighted median (WM), were employed. IVW was applied for the principal analysis. To ensure the robustness of our result, Cochran’s Q test, MR-Egger intercept test, and leave-one-out analysis were used to assess the sensitivity of the study.

Results: Among the tested sedentary behavior, the length of mobile phone use increases the risk of knee OA (odds ratio (OR):1.560, 95% confidence interval (CI):1.167-2.086, p=2.683x10-3) and hip or knee OA (OR:1.334, 95%CI:1.026-1.734, p=3.141x10-2). After removing SNPs associated with smoking, alcohol consumption, lymphocyte count, and heart disease, we also found evidence of a potential adverse effect of genetically predicted time spent watching television (TV) on knee OA (OR:1.913, CI:1.450-2.523, p=4.388x10-6) and hip or knee OA (OR:1.611, 95%CI:1.288-2.014, p=2.860x10-5). No potential causal link was observed between physically active behavior and OA through the IVW analysis (p>0.05). MR-Egger and WM yielded identical effects to IVW. Any potential heterogeneity or pleiotropy was not found.

Conclusion: Sedentary behavior can increase the risk of OA, but no direct causal relationship is observed between physically active behavior and OA. It indicates that OA patients should avoid a sedentary lifestyle.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Association between healthy lifestyle score and total/ knee/ hip osteoarthritis stratified by different levels of genetic risk. Abbreviation: OA, osteoarthritis; HR, hazard ratio. P for interaction: interactions between low genetic risk and low genetic risk group.
Overall structural defects and three individual structural features (i.e., joint space narrowing of the knee over 4 to 5 years of follow-up (OR 1.27 95% CI: 1.02 to 1.52), while former smokers were no different from never smokers (with differences in scores being 0.11 95% CI: -0.08 to 0.29 units; in contrast, former smokers had baseline scores 3.62 (95% CI 2.04 to 5.20) units, and 0.06 (95% CI: -0.08 to 0.20 units, respectively). In terms of structural defects, our cross-sectional analyses protected against KOA.

Conclusion: Current smoking may have negative effects on, and quitting smoking could be important in preventing or slowing, both the symptoms and structural defects of KOA in people with or at risk of KOA.

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the contributions of the study participants, investigators, research staff involved, and the provision of data sets and/or research tools from 3 cohort studies: the OAI, the MOST study, and the CHECK study.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.
individuals. A recent study has linked these profiles to chronic postoperative pain after TKR but an in-depth analysis, as seen for neuropathic and widespread pain is needed to advance the field. Currently, no specific biomarkers have been identified, despite initiatives on focused molecular inflammatory mediators. In an attempt to advance the field, a comprehensive analysis of an extensive network of cytokines, chemokines, and growth factors could identify the role of low-grade inflammation in patients with OA and potentially stratify patients more prone to experiencing pain.

**Objectives:** This study aimed 1) to evaluate preoperative serum levels of 92 inflammatory biomarkers in KOA patients compared to healthy controls, 2) to investigate preoperative differences of inflammatory biomarkers within different subgroups of patients with KOA and link these subgroups to clinical pain before and after TKR surgery.

**Methods:** Blood samples from preoperative patients with KOA scheduled for TKR (n=200) and healthy participants (n=39) were collected. Centrifugation of the serum was frozen at -80°C until analysis. Serum samples were analyzed for inflammatory markers using the OLINK inflammation panel, which included 92 protein markers. Clinical pain was assessed using a Visual Analog Scale (VAS). Moreover, patients completed the Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS) questionnaire before and 12 months after TKR. Multivariate data analysis was performed to identify differences between patients and controls. Hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) and Orthogonal Partial least squares discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) was used for comparing groups (patients vs controls) and to identify subgroups within patients. T-tests were used to evaluate difference within the KOA cohort in terms of VAS and KOOS scores before and 12 months after TKR.

**Results:** Multivariate analysis showed that 12 proteins were differentially expressed between patients and controls (p<0.05). Hierarchical cluster and OPLS-DA analysis identified two patient subgroups (pat-1, n = 46; pat-2, n= 72) and 23 proteins were dysregulated comparing these two groups (p<0.01). Post-operative VAS and KOOS assessments were significantly different between the two subgroups (p<0.05).

**Conclusion:** The present study suggest a low-grade inflammation in patients with KOA when compared to healthy pain free subjects. Additionally, this study suggests that a high inflammatory subgroup for patients with KOA exist and this group is likely to have more clinical and worst function 12-months after TKR.

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**OP0150**

**LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS OF A LIFESTYLE PROGRAM FOR OSTEARTHRITIS: ONE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF THE “PLANTS FOR JOINTS” RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Non-pharmacological interventions, Diet and Nutrition

C. Wagenant1,2, W. Walrabenstein1,2, M. Van der Leeden1,4,5, M. Gerritsen1, J. Twisk1, M. Van der Esch1, H. Van Middendorp5, P. Weijis3,3, D. Van Schaardenburg1,2, J. Reade, Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Rheumatology & Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 4Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Rehabilitation medicine, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 5Amsterdam Movement Sciences Research Institute, Movement Sciences, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 6Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUMc, Epidemiology and Data Science, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 7Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Health, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 8Leiden University, Institute of Psychology, Health, Medical, & Neuropsychology unit, Leiden, Netherlands; 9Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUMc, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

**Background:** The 16-week Plants for Joints (PFJ) multidisciplinary lifestyle program, based on a whole-food plant-based diet, physical activity, and stress management, significantly reduced The Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) score compared to usual care in patients with knee and/or hip osteoarthritis (OA) and metabolic syndrome.1,2

**Objectives:** To determine the long-term effectiveness of the PFJ program on pain, stiffness, and function in patients with OA.

**Methods:** In the PFJ randomized clinical trial, patients with knee and/or hip OA and metabolic syndrome were randomized to receive the PFJ program in addition to usual care, or the control group which received usual care. After this 16-week period the control group also received the PFJ program. After completion of the PFJ program all participants were followed-up for one year with biannual visits and 6 adherence-promoting webinars. Medication changes were assessed at one year as an “increase,” “stable,” or “decrease” compared to baseline. The primary outcome was pain, stiffness, and function assessed by the WOMAC. Secondary outcomes included anthropometric and metabolic markers. A paired sample T-Test was used to determine the significance of the difference in outcomes at the start of the intervention versus at 1-year follow-up.

**Results:** Of the 64 participants who completed the initial 16-week clinical trial 84% were female with a mean (SD) age of 63 (6) and body mass index of 33 (5) kg/m² at baseline. The 47 (73%) participants who completed the one-year follow-up had a slightly greater average change in WOMAC score (−11.4 vs. −11.0) weight (−5.3 vs. −3.7 kg), and CRP (−1.2 vs. −0.2 mg/l) compared to non-completers, but showed less improvement in HbA1c (−2.1 vs. −2.9 mmol/mol). After a decrease during the PFJ program, the WOMAC score increased slightly again in the year after the program, whereby a mean 8.8-point difference was still observed after one year for completed cases compared to baseline values (95% CI: 3.6 to 4.0; p< 0.01) (Figure 1). All components of the WOMAC remained significantly improved compared to before the program except for stiffness (Table 1). Of the 24 (38%) participants using pain medication at baseline, 11 (46%) were able to decrease the dosage or stop one or more medications. Pain medication was stable for 3 participants, and increased for 3, of which 1 newly started using medication. Furthermore, 3 (23%) and 6 (33%) participants decreased diabetes and cholesterol medication respectively while only 1 participant increased cholesterol medication. After the 1-year follow-up period weight and HbA1c remained significantly lower compared to baseline, although there was no longer a significant difference in CRP and LDL cholesterol.

**Conclusion:** The PFJ lifestyle program significantly decreased pain and improved function in patients with OA and metabolic syndrome and its effects were sustained until one year after program completion, with slightly less pain medication. Metabolic benefits found after the lifestyle intervention were partially sustained possibly indicating attenuated adherence to the lifestyle program in the 1-year follow-up.

**REFERENCES:**

[1] Walrabenstein, Trials 2021


Table 1. Plants for Joints cohort at start and end of the 4-month intervention period and during the 1-year follow-up (6 and 12 months after completing the intervention) for completed cases (n = 47). Mean difference between start of intervention and end of follow-up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>Mean difference (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC total</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>−8.8 (−13.7 to −4.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC pain</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>−1.6 (−2.8 to −0.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC stiffness</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>−0.6 (−1.1 to 0.0)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC function</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>−6.6 (−10.2 to −3.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>−3.6 (−6.0 to −1.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL cholesterol (mmol/l)</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>−0.03 (−0.3 to 0.2)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HbA1c (mmol/mol)</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>−1.0 (−1.9 to −0.02)</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein (mg/l)</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>−1.0 (−2.0 to 0.1)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1:** Mean change in WOMAC (a) during the randomized controlled trial phase and one-year follow-up period (period at arm (b)) for both trial arms before and after completing the lifestyle intervention and one-year follow-up.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Carlijn Wagenant: None declared, Wendy Walrabenstein: None declared, Marike van der Leeden: None declared, Martijn Gerritsen Grant/research support from: Received funding for research from Horizon Therapeutics., Jos Twisk: None declared, Martin van der Esch: None declared, Henriët van Middendorp: None declared, Peter Weijis: None declared, Dirkjan van Schaardenburg: None declared.

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DULOXETINE PLUS EXERCISE FOR KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS AND DEPRESSION (DEKODE)

Keywords: Non-pharmacological interventions, Mental health, Comorbidities

A. Rathburn1, R. Mehta1, A. Ryan2, Y. Dong3, B. Beamer1, J. Golden1, J. Gallo1, M. Luborsky4, M. Shardell5, J. Peer6, M. Hochberg2, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health, Baltimore, United States of America; 1University of Maryland School of Medicine, Medicine, Baltimore, United States of America; 2University of Maryland School of Medicine, Psychiatry, Baltimore, United States of America; 3John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Mental Health, Baltimore, United States of America; 4Wayne State University, Anthropology, Detroit, United States of America

Background: Depression is common in patients with knee OA, and clinical guidelines do not advise treating both conditions simultaneously. However, recent research recommends combining interventions that address symptoms of both conditions to maximize efficacy. Exercise improves patient ability, mood, and chronic pain and depression are barriers to physical activity in this population. Duloxetine is indicated to treat neuropathic pain and depression among knee OA patients and could serve as a therapeutic complement to exercise.

Objectives: To assess the feasibility of a 24-week, center-based, aerobic exercise program plus duloxetine to treat knee OA and depression.

Methods: Participants were recruited between August 2021 and November 2022 from the University of Maryland and VA Maryland Health Care Systems and study advertisements. Inclusion criteria were: English speaking; age 40 years or older; symptomatic knee OA satisfying ACR criteria; major depression according to the SCID-I (Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-V, ruing out history of bipolar disorder or psychotic symptoms; substance abuse disorder or suicidal ideation in the last year); no plans for knee surgery; and ability to walk on a treadmill. Exclusions included: exercising at least twice per week; taking duloxetine, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, or opioid analgesics; cognitive impairment; comorbid preexercise exercise; and pregnant or lactating women. Participants began duloxetine (30 mg/day) as they started exercising, titrating up to a daily optimal dose of 60 mg/day. They were expected to complete 3 supervised treadmill walking sessions per week based on an individualized training plan defined by peak heart rate achieved during a graded exercise test. Data were collected at baseline and 12- and 24-weeks. Feasibility was evaluated via recruitment rates, reasons for drop out, and treatment adherence. Depression and pain severity were measured using the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D) and Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS) pain subscale, respectively.

Results: Among 377 interested adults, 98 completed telephone pre-screening (Figure 1). Common reasons for not pre-screening included time commitment (n=39), no depression (n=27), concerns about medication (n=25), already on antidepressants (n=20), and knee surgery (n=12). There were 68 ineligible prescreened individuals who did not satisfy criteria for probable depression (n=45), medications (n=16), knee OA symptoms (n=5), or exercise (n=2). The 30 eligible candidates were invited to in-person screening visits, but 21 did not attend, and only 9 were enrolled. These 9 participants were older women (mean age=64.7 years), 8 identified as Black/African American, 7 attended and/or graduated from college, 3 were married, and 4 were retired. During the in-person screening process, 6 participants did not satisfy DSM-V criteria for major depression, 1 voluntarily withdrew from the study, and only 2 satisfied all eligibility criteria. One participant withdrew at baseline due to a non-study related adverse event and another completed the treatment protocol. The participant who completed the study was almost 100% adherent to duloxetine and experienced a reduction in depression severity from baseline to 24 weeks (HAM-D=25 to 1). By contrast, exercise compliance was low, with only 26% of planned sessions completed, and knee pain severity changed little from baseline (KOOS=41.7 to 44.4).

Conclusion: Treating knee OA and depression with a center-based exercise program and duloxetine had low feasibility. Critical design challenges amenable to change included the time commitment of 3 weekly supervised exercise sessions among interested individuals and depressive symptoms not satisfying diagnostic criteria for major depression for persons who wanted treatment. A hybrid or home-based exercise program plus duloxetine may be more feasible, and knee OA patients with depressive symptoms who are at risk for major depression could benefit from preventive intervention.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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Crystal arthritis: what is new?

DIAGNOSTIC PERFORMANCE OF HIP ULTRASOUND IN CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE DEPOSITION DISEASE

Keywords: Ultrasound, Validation, Crystal Arthritis

G. Soto1, S. Y. Solorzano Flores1, F. Carranza-Enriquez1, A. Angeles-Acuna1, P. Flores1, V. M. Ilizaliturri-Sanchez2, R. Pichardo3, L. J. Jara3, D. Clavijo-Correa2, G. Filippow2, C. Pineda3, Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitacion, Rheumatology, Mexico City, Mexico; 2Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitacion, Joint Replacement, Mexico City, Mexico; 3Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitacion, Pathology, Mexico City, Mexico; 4Luigi Sacco University Hospital, Rheumatology, Milan, Italy

Background: Calcium Pyrophosphate Deposition Disease (CPPD) is a chronic and potentially incapacitating disease. The reference standard for its diagnosis is the identification of calcium pyrophosphate (CPP) crystals in synovial fluid. Ultrasound (US) has been proven to be a high-sensitivity and specificity tool for diagnosing CPPD. Still, its diagnostic performance for hip joint involvement has yet to be determined.

Objectives: To evaluate the diagnostic performance of US compared with synovial fluid analysis and histopathology (hyaline cartilage, fibrocartilage, synovial membrane) for the identification of hip CPP deposits.
Methods: We included patients older than 50 years with osteoarthritis pro-
grammed for hip replacement surgery in a tertiary referral hospital. Patients
with an inflammatory or autoimmune rheumatologic disease were excluded. A
pre-surgical US of the affected hip was performed with a LOGIQ™8s device and
a convex transducer (2-5 MHz); the anatomical structures evaluated were the
acetabular fibrocortilage (FC) and the hyaline cartilage of the femoral head (HC),
video tracking was recorded and a dichotomic score was assigned to determine
the presence or absence of CPP deposits (in line with OMERACT definitions).
During surgery, a sample of hip synovial fluid was obtained and examined using
polarized light microscopy. After surgery, an experimental pathologist examined
the FC and HC for CPP crystals.

Results: One hundred patients were included. 54% women with a mean age of
64.8±8.5 years. All patients had advanced osteoarthritis (Kellgren-Lawrence 3 =
33 and Kellgren-Lawrence 4=67, Tönnis 2=34 and Tönnis 6=66). A frequency of
62% CPP deposits was found through US examination, of which 19.4% were
found on FC, 48.8% on HC, and 33.8% in both. Regarding pathology evaluation,
a prevalence of 61% of CPP crystals was found; 13.1% were found on FC, 9.8% were
found on HC, and 77.1% were found in both. 33% of patients had synovial
effusion and 9% had synovial hypervascularity. Synovial fluid was obtained in 62%
of patients, with a median volume of 8.0 ml (IQR 0.5-15.0 ml), and CPP
crystals were found in 19.4% (12/62) of samples. Chondrocalcinosis in XR was found in
10%. A sensitivity of 90% and a specificity of 82% were obtained, the positive
predictive value was 89%, and the negative predictive value was 84%. The area
under the curve for the US compared with histopathology for the diagnosis of hip
CPPD was 0.86 (CI 95% 0.78-0.94) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: US is a valid imaging method with good diagnostic performance for
diagnosing CPPD in the hip joint.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Diagnostic performance of variables considered for the definition
of self-reported acute CPP crystal arthritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self-reported domains</th>
<th>Sensitivity (%)</th>
<th>Specificity (%)</th>
<th>Adjusted OR (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm joint</td>
<td>81.7 (69.6-90.5)</td>
<td>76.9 (67.6-84.6)</td>
<td>11.2 (3.5-36.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tender joint</td>
<td>78.3 (65.8-87.9)</td>
<td>38.5 (29.4-48.5)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.3-3.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swollen joint</td>
<td>86.7 (75.4-94.1)</td>
<td>70.2 (60.4-80.8)</td>
<td>6.6 (2.1-20.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inflammatory arthritis</td>
<td>83.3 (71.5-91.7)</td>
<td>73.1 (63.5-81.3)</td>
<td>12.7 (3.8-42.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health assessment questionnaire</td>
<td>83.3 (71.5-91.7)</td>
<td>20.2 (13.0-29.2)</td>
<td>1.4 (0.4-4.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation of the pain-onset to-peak pain (>48 hours) and Visual Analogue Scale for pain at rest >6/10
Tophi and Carotid Plaque were Risk Factors of MACE in Gouty Arthritis Patients: A Longitudinal Cohort Study

Y. Wang¹, Z. Zhang¹, ¹First Hospital of Peking University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Patients with gout carry an excess risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD). However, the prevalence of subclinical atherosclerosis and its relationship with CVD risks and events in gout have not been reported.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to explore whether tophi and subclinical atherosclerosis could predict incident MACE (major adverse cardiac events) in gouty arthritis patients by ultrasonography. Determine whether incorporation of imaging data could improve CV(cardiovascular) risk prediction.

Methods: A single-center, cohort analysis was performed to assess subclinical atherosclerosis at baseline since 2008. Patients were excluded if they had previous diagnosed CVD or cerebral vascular disease. The outcome of study was first MACE. The presence of subclinical atherosclerosis was assessed by carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT) and total plaque area (TPA) was determined in a subgroup of patients by ultrasound. Scan of feet and ankles was performed bilaterally by ultrasonography at baseline. The association between tophi, measurements of carotid atherosclerosis and risk of developing and incident MACE was evaluated using Cox proportional hazards models, with adjustment for the CVD risk scores.

Results: A total of 262 consecutive patients with primary gout were recruited, the mean age was 44.0 years; male 260 (99.2%). After a median follow-up of 10.3 years, 32 (12.2%) had incident MACE ascertained. Cox analysis showed that more than 2 tophi was significantly associated with an increased risk of developing MACE (HR: 9.96, 95%CI 8.89-43.6, P=0.001). The association remained significant after adjusting for CV risk scores in the multivariable models. In subgroup analysis, 240 patients had carotid ultrasound assessment, 28 (11.7%) patients experienced a first MACE event. In cox hazards model, which controlled for the CV risk scores, more than 2 tophi (HR 2.12-5.25, P<0.05) and carotid plaque (HR 3.72-4.01, P<0.05), were both independent predictor of incident MACE in patients with gout separately.

Conclusion: The presence of more than 2 tophi and carotid plaque by ultrasound could independently predict MACE in addition to conventional cardiovascular risk factors in gout patients.

REFERENCES:
Objectives: The aim of this retrospective analysis was to evaluate 1) possible correlations of CV MSU deposits with clinical gout diagnosis 2) the impact of CV MSU deposits on major CV events (MACE) in gout patients.

Methods: All patients, recruited at the radiology department of medical university Innsbruck with clinically suspicion of gout, performed dual energy computed tomography (DECT) of the affected limb and thorax between 01.05.2012 and 01.09.2019. Clinical and laboratory parameters were retrieved from patients’ charts. Classical CV risk factors (diabetes mellitus, smoking status, hypercholesterolemia, arterial hypertension) were evaluated. Medical history review identified the presence of MACE, defined as myocardial infarction and/or stroke. Patients were stratified in gout, hyperuricemia and controls. Gout was defined according to the ACR/EULAR classification criteria [4], uric acid levels over 6mg/dl or ongoing uric acid lowering treatment without clinical signs of gout specified hyperuricemia patients and control group definition was achieved when uric acid levels were normal without concomitant uric acid lowering therapy and absence of gout symptoms. We performed the y2- and Mann-Whitney tests for statistical appraisal of our dataset, using IBM SPSS (version 27). P <.05 was used as the cut-off for statistical significance.

Results: Overall, full data sets were available for 189 patients. Out of those, 131 (69.3%) revealed a clinical diagnosis of gout, 50 (38.2%) of these were tophaceous. 35 patients (17.5%) had hyperuricemia and 23 (12.2%) had neither gout nor elevated uric acid levels. Patients with CV MSU deposits (n=65/189, 45%), 62 gout patients, 19 hyperuricemia patients, 4 control patients) revealed higher acute phase reactants [C-reactive protein (p=0,001), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (p=0,007)], uric acid levels (p=0,007) and calcium scores (p<0,001) in comparison to patients without CV MSU deposits. MACE were observed in 35 patients (18.5%) with a higher prevalence in those patients revealing CV MSU deposits (n=22/85, 25.9%) compared to those without CV MSU (n=13/104, 12.5%) (p=0,022). All 22 patients with MACE and CV MSU were gout or hyperuricemia patients (Figure 1).

Conclusion: To our knowledge, this is the first evaluation of clinical features of patients revealing CV MSU deposits detected by DECT. The higher prevalence of MACE in patients with CV MSU deposits may help for risk stratification of gout patients, as classical CV risk scores or laboratory markers fail to identify patients at risk.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. CV MSU deposits and MACE according to gout diagnosis. All patients with MACE and CV MSU were gout or hyperuricemia patients.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0156 INITIATION OF SODIUM-GLOUCOSE COTRANSPORTER-2 INHIBITORS AND RECURRENT GOUT FLARES IN GOUT PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES: A GENERAL POPULATION-BASED COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Epidemiology, Cardiovascular disease, Gout

N. Mccormick1,2,3, C. Yokose1,3, J. Wei4, L. Lu5, D. Wexler5,6, J. A. Aviña-Zubieta1,3, M. De Vera1,2, Y. Zhang7,8, H. Choo1,2,3, 1Massachusetts General Hospital, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Boston, United States of America; 2Arthritis Research Canada, n/a, Vancouver, Canada; 3Harvard Medical School, Medicine, Boston, United States of America; 4Xiangya Hospital, Health Management Center, Shan Nan Shi, China; 5Massachusetts General Hospital, Diabetes Center, Boston, United States of America; 6The University of British Columbia, Division of Rheumatology, Vancouver, Canada; 7The University of British Columbia, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vancouver, Canada

Background: Gout flares may increase risk of cardiovascular events[1] Sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) are associated with lower risk of incident gout (primary prevention); however, their role in recurrent flares among gout patients (secondary prevention), and their cardiovascular risk remains unknown.

Objectives: To assess rate of recurrent gout flares in prevalent gout patients with type 2 diabetes initiating SGLT2i versus dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors (DPP4i), two second-line glucose-lowering agents for type 2 diabetes.

Methods: This new-user, active comparator cohort study used administrative health data covering nearly all residents of British Columbia, Canada from Jan 2014 to June 2022, including all dispensed prescriptions, regardless of funder. Primary outcome was recurrent gout flare counts, ascertained by emergency department (ED), hospitalization, outpatient, and medication dispensing matching. Results were consistent regardless of sex or age (Table 1). RR was also consistent regardless of baseline gout intensity or diuretic or ULT use. Myocardial infarction and stroke were secondary outcomes. We also assessed genital infection as positive control and osteoarthritis as negative control. Poisson and Cox proportional hazards models were used with 1:1 propensity matching.

Results: We included 8150 gout patients with type 2 diabetes (mean age 66, 71% male, 59% with cardiovascular disease). Flare rate was lower among SGLT2i initiators (52.4 events per 1000 person-years) than DPP4i initiators (79.7 events per 1000 person-years): rate ratio (RR) 0.66 (95% CI: 0.57, 0.75) and rate difference (RD) -27.4 (-36.0, -18.7). RR and RD for flares requiring hospitalization or ED visit were 0.52 (0.32, 0.84) and -3.4 (-5.8, -0.9), respectively. Results were consistent regardless of sex or age (Table 1). RR was also consistent regardless of baseline gout intensity or diuretic or ULT use, though absolute RD was higher in patients with greater gout intensity: -71.6 [-111.1, -32.1] vs. 20.8 [-28.8, -12.7] per 1000 person-years, respectively. Hazard ratio (HR) and RD were 0.69 (0.54, 0.88) and -7.6 (-12.4, -2.8) per 1000 person-years for myocardial infarction; HR, 0.81 (0.62, 1.05) for stroke. For control outcomes, SGLT2i initiators had higher risk of genital infection, while there was no difference in risk of osteoarthritis (Table 1).

Conclusion: For gout patients, SGLT2i may offer pleiotropic cardiovascular and recurrent flare frequency benefits.

REFERENCE: [1] Cipolletta et al. JAMA 2022

n
Gout
Hyperuricemia
No gout
CV-MSU
MACE
Figure 1. CV MSU deposits and MACE according to gout diagnosis. All patients with MACE and CV MSU were gout or hyperuricemia patients.
Gout Flare Count | Rate Ratio (95% CI) | Rate Difference (95% CI)
--- | --- | ---
Overall (Primary outcome) | 0.66 (0.57, 0.75) | -27.4 (-36.0, -18.7)
Flares requiring hospitalization or emergency visits | 0.52 (0.32, 0.84) | -3.4 (-5.8, -0.9)

| Subgroups | Sex | Women | Men | Age | ≤ 65 years | > 65 years | Baseline diuretic use | Yes | No | Baseline urate-lowering therapy use | Yes | No | Baseline gout intensity | Higher | Lower | Cardiovascular Outcomes | Hazard Ratio (95% CI) | Risk Difference (95% CI) | Myocardial infarction | 0.69 (0.54, 0.88) | -7.6 (-12.4, -2.8) | Stroke | 0.81 (0.62, 1.10) | -3.9 (-8.3, 0.4) | Control Outcomes | Hazard Ratio (95% CI) | Risk Difference (95% CI) | Genital infection (POSITIVE) | 2.15 (1.39, 3.30) | 5.0 (2.2, 7.9) | Osteoarthritis (NEGATIVE) | 1.07 (0.95, 1.20) | 4.4 (-6.8, 15.7)

SGLT2i compared with DPP4i (Reference)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Background: Background: Gout affects 1-4% of the population in the industrialized world. Increased levels of serum urate is the strongest risk factor and "path variable" for gout development. Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the world affecting 1% of the population over the age 60 in North America and Western Europe. A reduced risk of PD has been reported in association with smoking, caffeine consumption and higher serum urate levels.

Objectives: To determine the incidence of PD in all patients with gout compared to matched controls in the region of western Sweden (VGR).

Methods: All incident and prevalent gout cases from 2001 through 2019 were identified in the health care consumption database VEGA covering all health care in VGR. A case of gout was defined as having received a diagnosis of gout (M10) from a physician. Up to 5 controls from the census register were included matched by age, gender and municipality at year of first gout diagnosis (index-year). A case of PD was defined as having been given a diagnosis of PD (G20.9) at a visit to a physician. A PD diagnosis in the index-year and the 1 to 19 years before was considered prevalent in cases and controls and they were censored from the study. Cases and controls were followed until first of; end of study (2019-12-31), incident PD diagnosis, migration or death. Data on comorbidities at baseline/indexyear were retrieved from VEGA and information on education, death and migration were retrieved from registers at the National Board of Health and Welfare. Effect of gout on risk of PD was calculated using time dependent COX regression on whole population and stratified by sex, adjusted for age, sex, educational level, risk factors for gout (diabetes, obesity, chronic kidney disease (CKD)) and PD (cerebrovascular disease (CeVD), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as a proxy for smoking and malignant melanoma (MM)).

Results: We identified 48907 cases of gout (67% male) and 198717 (65% male) matched controls with a mean (SD) age of 68 (15) and 67 (15) respectively. In the case population we found 5035 prevalent cases of PD compared to 2205 in the controls (prevalence ratio = 0.91 (95% CI:0.87-0.94)). They were all removed from further analysis. All comorbidities, (hypertension, ischemic heart disease, heart failure, CeVD, diabetes, dyslipidemia, obesity, CKD, COPD, and MM were significantly more common in the gout cases vs controls. During a median follow-up time of 5.8 years we identified 364 (0.7%) incident cases of PD in the gout population compared to 1965 (1.0%) in the controls. Adjusting for only age and sex in time dependent COX regression, (Model 1) the relative risk reduction in gout patients for incident PD overall was 25% (HR 0.75; 95% CI:0.70-0.84). In age-adjusted models stratified by sex results were similar, HR 0.77 (95% CI:0.68-0.87) for men and HR = 0.69 (95% CI:0.54-0.87) for women. Adjusting also for known risk factors for gout and PD gave similar point estimates (model 2, Table 1).

Conclusion: Gout is associated with a significant risk reduction for incident PD. This may have implications for management of urate lowering therapy in persons with increased risk for PD and for the understanding of PD pathogenesis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Production of Reactive Oxygen Species is Primed in Blood Neutrophils from Gout Patients

Keywords: Gout, Innate immunity, Cell biology

Table 1. Time dependent COX regression on risk of incident gout in the total population and stratified by age and sex. Model 1 adjusted for age and sex, model 2 adjusted for age, sex, educational level, diabetes, obesity, CKD, CeVD, COPD, MM. HR = hazard ratio, CI confidence interval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Age group 18-69</th>
<th>Age group 70+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Model 1</td>
<td>0.75 (0.70-0.84)</td>
<td>0.78 (0.65-0.95)</td>
<td>0.71 (0.62-0.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 2</td>
<td>0.75 (0.67-0.84)</td>
<td>0.74 (0.65-0.85)</td>
<td>0.72 (0.63-0.84)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Recurrent gout flare count and cardiovascular and control outcomes among gout patients with type 2 diabetes, after propensity-score matching

| Subgroups | Sex | Men | Women | Age | ≤ 65 years | > 65 years | Baseline diuretic use | Yes | No | Baseline urate-lowering therapy use | Yes | No | Baseline gout intensity | Higher | Lower | Cardiovascular Outcomes | Hazard Ratio (95% CI) | Risk Difference (95% CI) | Myocardial infarction | 0.69 (0.54, 0.88) | -7.6 (-12.4, -2.8) | Stroke | 0.81 (0.62, 1.10) | -3.9 (-8.3, 0.4) | Control Outcomes | Hazard Ratio (95% CI) | Risk Difference (95% CI) | Genital infection (POSITIVE) | 2.15 (1.39, 3.30) | 5.0 (2.2, 7.9) | Osteoarthritis (NEGATIVE) | 1.07 (0.95, 1.20) | 4.4 (-6.8, 15.7)
**Background:** Gout is the most common inflammatory arthritis worldwide (1) and disease flares are triggered by the deposition of monosodium urate (MSU) crystals in and around the joints as a result of oversaturation of uric acid (urate) in the bloodstream. Macrophages phagocytose the crystals, leading to inflammasome activation and production of proinflammatory cytokines, mainly IL-1β. Neutrophils are recruited to the gouty inflamed site where they phagocytose the crystals, produce reactive oxygen species (ROS) and cast out neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs), the latter proposed to possess both pro- and anti-inflammatory properties in gout (2, 3). Gout patients have an increased risk for cardiovascular disease (4), and it is a paradox that uric acid, the major risk factor for gout and known to possess antioxidative properties, correlates with conditions associated with oxidative stress, such as cardiovascular disease. How urate levels in circulation affects neutrophil ROS production is unclear.

**Objectives:** To investigate whether peripheral neutrophils from gout patients respond to MSU crystals similarly as neutrophils form healthy controls.

**Methods:** Patients with polyarticular gout, diagnosed by a rheumatologist and identified at the Rheumatology Unit at Sahlgrenska University hospital and matched controls were included in the study. Peripheral blood from patients and controls were collected. Circulating blood neutrophils were isolated and intracellular ROS production was detected with luminol-amplified chemiluminescence. Quantification of NET Formation was performed by a fluorescence assay. Expression of surface markers was assessed by flow cytometry (5).

**Results:** MSU crystals stimulated neutrophils from gout patients to produce intracellular ROS and the response in neutrophils from gout patients was significantly higher as compared to the ROS response in control neutrophils. Neutrophils derived from gout patients were not primed with regard to cell surface markers and NET formation.

**Conclusion:** Blood neutrophils from gout patients display increased ROS responses both at baseline and upon MSU crystal stimulation. It is possible that small circulating MSU crystals in peripheral blood of gout patients increase neutrophil responsiveness and give rise to the enhanced background activity seen in our ROS experiments. Another explanation could be that pro-inflammatory cytokines in the bloodstream of patients with gout prime neutrophils to produce increased amounts of ROS.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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New Insights in the care and management of JIA

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS IN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS THROUGH SCHOOL TOOLKITS

Keywords: Patient-led research, Education, Patient information and education

R. Beesley1, R. Beesley2,1. Juvenile Arthritis Research, JAR Project, Tonbridge, United Kingdom;2 European Network for Children with Arthritis, ENCA, Geneva, Switzerland

Background: Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) is a heterogenous group of autoimmune disorders characterised by chronic joint inflammation, affecting children and young people (CYP) under the age of 16. CYP with JIA experience considerable physical and psychological impacts due to their condition. CYP spend a considerable amount of time at school, college or other educational settings. Whilst most CYP with JIA are able to access education, many require adaptations, awareness of their needs, or specific support to enable them to fully engage in learning. Families of CYP with JIA have reported a lack of awareness and understanding, and requested resources to enable schools to support their children in school.

Objectives: The aim of this work was to develop a School Toolkit to allow teachers and other school staff to confidently support CYP with JIA, and to assess its initial rollout.

Methods: Using a network of parents of CYP with JIA, including those with experience in working in educational settings, UK-based charity Juvenile Arthritis Research developed a resource aimed at schools, colleges, pre-schools and other educational settings: a Toolkit of information and resources. Given awareness of childhood arthritis is low, the Toolkit includes awareness-raising resources, aimed both at staff and all families connected to the school. Increased awareness can help improve diagnosis times and timely access to treatment in those not yet diagnosed. In addition, the Toolkit contains information about what JIA is, resources for schools to provide targeted interventions, and information on how schools can successfully support CYP with JIA. Finally, each Toolkit contains both a presentation for explaining arthritis to children in a classroom or group assembly setting, and a training presentation for delivery to staff, as well as digital copies of key materials and awareness-raising resources for distribution to parents and families. Recipients were invited to complete a short web-based survey to review the Toolkit.

Results: In the first six months after launching the new School Toolkit, around 100 Toolkits have been sent to schools in the UK, potentially providing information that arthritis affects children to over 100,000 families. Schools have advised they are using the resources in their settings, including giving lessons to children to explain what arthritis is, putting up posters highlighting the key signs and symptoms of JIA, and utilising the staff training resources. Feedback from schools was entirely positive, with one teacher reporting “Wow- it’s fantastic. The student presentation is particularly impressive with how it translates all the key information in a child-friendly manner.”

Conclusion: The development and supply of a Toolkit specifically for use in schools and colleges has helped raise awareness that children get arthritis, and provided resources to train and support school staff enabling them to confidently support CYP with JIA. Utilising the experience and skills of parents and teachers in the development of the Toolkit has ensured all resources are relevant and address the needs of both families and schools. Toolkits can be requested free of charge by schools in the UK from www.jarproject.org/toolkit.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to the children, young people, families and schools involved in the development of this vital resource.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.607

24 MONTH RESULTS ON EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TOCILIZUMAB VERSUS TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR INHIBITION IN POLYARTICULAR JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Real-world evidence, Registries

G. Horneff1; 2, A. Zimmer3, T. Hospach4, F. Weller-Heinemann5, J. Kuehmerle-Deschner6, M. Fasshauer7, K. Minden8, I. Foeldvari9, D. Windschall10, M. Hufnagel11, D. Foell12, P. Oommen13, A. Klein14;15. Asklepios Clinic, General Paediatrics, Sankt Augustin, Germany;1 University of Cologne, General Paediatrics, Cologne, Germany;2 Asklepios Clinic, Paediatric Rheumatology, Sankt Augustin, Germany;3 Olga Hospital, Paediatric Rheumatology, Stuttgart, Germany;4 Prof Hess Kinderklinik, General Paediatrics, Bremen, Germany;5 University Siebengebirge, Paediatric Rheumatology, Tuenberg, Germany;6 St Georg Hospital, General Paediatrics, Leipzig, Germany;7 Charite, Paeediatric Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany;8 Hamburg Center Paeediatric Rheumatology, Paediatric Rheumatology, Hamburg, Germany;9 St Josef Stift, Paediatric Rheumatology, Sendenhorst, Germany;10 University Freiburg, General Paediatrics, Freiburg, Germany;11 University Muenster, Paediatric Rheumatology, Muenster, Germany;12 University Duesseldorf, Paediatric Rheumatology, Duesseldorf, Germany;13 Asklepios Clinic, General Paediatrics, Sankt Augustin, Germany

Objectives: To evaluate 24-month effectiveness and tolerability/safety of tocilizumab (TCZ) versus tumour necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi), analysing predictors of JADAS remission and minimal disease activity (MDA), comparing 1st and 2nd line TCZ.

Methods: BIKER WA 29358 is a 5-year multi-centre prospective, observational cohort study including polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) patients in Germany starting treatment between 2015 and 2020 with TCZ and matched patients starting an approved TNFi such as etanercept, adalimumab or golimumab. Clinical disease activity (JADAS), JADAS MDA/remission at 24 months, safety and drug adherence were assessed and compared between cohorts.

Results: The analysis set consisted of 342 participants with 24-month treatment data (TCZ, n=171; TNFi, n=171) (Table 1). Therefore, patients starting on TCZ were older and had a longer disease duration compared to TNFi patients. Efficiency was demonstrated by a marked and comparable decrease of the JADAS10 in both TCZ and TNFi from 14.6+/−6.6 and 14.6+/−6.2 at baseline to 2.5+/−3.4 and 2.7+/−3.6 at month 24. TCZ was used as 2nd line biologic in the majority of patients (84%) while TNFi were mostly 1st line biologics (86%). In the last observation carried forward analysis, at 24 month JADAS remission upon TCZ: TNFi treatment was achieved by 84.6%/78.9% in 1st line biologic users and 82.3%/66.7% in 2nd line users. JADAS MDA was achieved in 100%/89.7% in 1st line and 84.4%/91.7% in 2nd line users of TCZ/TNFi. After 24 months of treatment residual disease activity as measured by the JADAS10 (mean ±SD) was lower in the 1st line TCZ cohort compared to the 2nd line (1.0+/−1.2 vs. 2.7+/−3.8), while in the TNFi cohort residual JADAS10 was comparable in 1st or 2nd line (2.7+/−3.8 vs. 2.5+/−2.6). Safety was assessed based on adverse events reporting. 113 (66%) patients in the TCZ cohort and 105 (61%) patients in the TNFi cohort reported adverse events with a higher rate in the TCZ cohort (89 vs. 73/100 patient years (PY), RR 1.2 (95%CI 1.0-1.5), p=0.029, Wald-test) as well as the rate of serious adverse events (10 vs. 3/100 PY; p=0.045). Cytopenias were more common in the TCZ cohort (13 vs. 1; p=0.010) and injection site reactions were more common in the TNFi cohort (15 vs. 6/100 PY; p=0.089). There was no case of death and no opportunistic infection. In the TCZ/TNFi cohorts, 71 (42%)/72 (42%) patients discontinued treatment, 43/30 due to lack of efficacy, 14/22 due to remission and 7/6 due to intolerance, respectively.

Conclusion: In this interim analysis, treatment targets were reached with similar frequency after 24 months of treatment with TCZ or TNFi. TCZ was used predominantly as 2nd line biologic. Higher rates of remission and minimal disease activity were observed in 1st line compared to 2nd line TCZ users. More adverse events were reported in the TCZ cohort but no new safety signals were noted. Observation is ongoing.

Table 1. Baseline patients’ characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline patients’ characteristics</th>
<th>Tocilizumab, N=171</th>
<th>Matched TNFi controls, N=171</th>
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<td><strong>Baseline patients’ characteristics</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at therapy start, mean (SD)</td>
<td>12.1 (3.5)</td>
<td>10.0 (4.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Duration, years, mean</td>
<td>5.4 (4.0)</td>
<td>3.2 (3.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid-factor negative poly JA, n (%)</td>
<td>115 (67%)</td>
<td>97 (57%)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid-factor positive poly JA, n (%)</td>
<td>37 (10%)</td>
<td>22 (13%)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended oligoarthritis, n (%)</td>
<td>39 (23% )</td>
<td>52 (30%)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior bDMARD, n (%)</td>
<td>143 (84%)</td>
<td>24/14%</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant systemic steroids, n (%)</td>
<td>43 (25%)</td>
<td>42 (25%)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant treatment with MTX, n (%)</td>
<td>93 (54%)</td>
<td>133 (78%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of active joints, mean (SD)</td>
<td>6.3 (6.9)</td>
<td>5.6 (4.8)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAQ-DI-Q, mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.61 (0.62)</td>
<td>0.63 (0.62)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADAS-10, mean (SD)</td>
<td>14.6 (6.6)</td>
<td>14.6 (6.2)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Month 12 data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Duration, mean (SD)</td>
<td>5.3 (4.6)</td>
<td>3.8 (5.4)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADAS-MDA (≤8)-LOCOP population</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADAS-remission (≤2.7)-LOCOP population</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Month 24 data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Duration, mean (SD)</td>
<td>2.7 (3.6)</td>
<td>2.5 (2.6)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADAS-MDA (≤8)-LOCOP population</td>
<td>87.0%</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADAS-remission (≤2.7)-LOCOP population</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS: Of the 6,097 joints studied, 15% (897) was clinically inflamed at baseline. In 42% (377/897) of those joints, inflammation recurred during follow-up. Joint inflammation at baseline and recurrence of inflammation during follow-up within the three included JIA categories is depicted in Figure 1. Of the joints that became inflamed after the patient had a period of inactive disease, 93% (1,195/1,280) had been previously inflamed. Joint inflammation at baseline was statistically significantly associated with joint inflammation in the same joint during follow-up (OR 3.9, 95% CI 3.5 to 4.4). The association was found in all included JIA categories, although to a different extent (Table 1). Baseline inflammation of a joint was also positively associated with the number of episodes of recurrent joint inflammation in that same joint (IRR 1.6, 95% CI 1.2 to 2.1). The permutation test showed that inflammation during follow-up in a certain joint was better predicted by baseline inflammation of the same joint, than by baseline inflammation of randomly selected other joints (p<0.001), confirming a local effect. No statistically significant association was found between joint inflammation in the wrist and local radiographic damage (p 0.17, 95% CI -0.06 to 0.41).

Figure 1.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: Gerd Horneff Speakers bureau: Chugai, Pfizer, Novartis, Sobi, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Roche, Angela Zimmer: None declared, Toni Hospach: None declared, Fraaenk Weller-Heinemann: None declared, Jasmijn Kuenen-Deschner Speakers bureau: Novartis, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Maria Fasshauer: None declared, Markus Hufnagel: None declared, Dirk Foell Grant/research support from: Novartis, Maria Fasshauer: None declared, Kirsten Minden Grant/research support from: Chugai, Roche, Ivan Foeldvari: None declared, Daniel Windschall: None declared, Markus Hufnagel: None declared, Ariane Klein: None declared. DOl: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3483

OP0162 PATTERNS OF CLINICAL JOINT INFLAMMATION IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Treat to target

S. L. Heckert1, P. C. E. Hissink Muller2, J. M. Van den Berg3, D. Schonenberg-Meinema4, L. W. A. Van Suijlekom-Smit5, M. Van Rossum6,7, Y. Koopman-Keemink8, R. Ten Cate8, D. M. C. Brinkman8, T. Huizinga1, C. Allaart1, S. A. Bergstra1,1. Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands;2Willem-Alexander Children’s Hospital, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Pediatrics, division of pediatric rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands;3Emma Children’s Hospital, Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Pediatrics, Amsterdam, Netherlands;4Sophia Children’s Hospital Erasmus Medical Center, Pediatrics/Pediatric Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands;5Emma Children’s Hospital Hospital, Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Pediatrics, Amsterdam, Netherlands;6Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center Reade, Pediatric rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands;7Juliana Children’s Hospital, HagaZiekenhuis, Pediatrics, The Hague, Netherlands;810.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.621

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) often has a relapsing/remitting disease course, but it is not known whether recurrence of inflammation tends to be local.

Objectives: To assess whether JIA joint inflammation recurs locally in the same joints.

Methods: Joints of 91 patients of the BeSt for Kids study, a treat-to-target trial with children on recent-onset oligoarthritis (n=11), rheumatoid factor negative polyclanar (n=72) and juvenile psoriatic JIA (n=8), were clinically assessed during two years (10 study visits). The association between joint inflammation at baseline and later inflammation in the same joint was assessed using a multilevel mixed-effects logistic regression model at joint level, adjusted for joint location and time point. With a Poisson model, the association between baseline joint inflammation and the number of study visits at which the same joint was recurrently inflamed (after inactivity of the joint) was tested. To assess whether an association between baseline and later clinical joint inflammation was a specific within-joint association, a permutation test was performed. A statistically significant result (p<0.05) indicates that the association between baseline and later joint inflammation is stronger in the observed data than in permutations with comparisons across random joints, suggesting an effect at joint level. To assess whether joint inflammation (ever during follow-up) was associated with radiographic damage (Poznanski Z-score) in the same (wrist) joint, a generalized linear mixed model was used.

Conclusion: In JIA, joint inflammation has the tendency to recur multiple times in joints that are clinically inflamed at disease onset. This indicates that local factors might play a role in the processes contributing to JIA flares. These local factors might be a target for new therapies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Sascha L Heckert: None declared, Petra C E Hissink Muller Grant/research support from: The original BeSt for Kids study received financial support from Pfizer. The authors, not the sponsors, were responsible for the study design, the collection, analyses and interpretation of all data, the writing of this article and the decision to publish., J M van den Berg: None declared, Dieneke Schonenberg-Meinema: None declared, Lisette W A van Suijlekom-Smit: None declared, Marion van Rossum: None declared, Yvonne Koopman-Keemink: None declared, R ten Cate Grant/research support from: The original BeSt for Kids study received financial support from Pfizer. The authors, not the sponsors, were responsible for the study design, the collection, analyses and interpretation of all data, the writing of this article and the decision to publish., Daniëlle M C Brinkman: None declared, Thomas Huizinga: None declared, Cornelia Allaart: None declared, Sylske Anne Bergstra: None declared. DOl: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.621

Figure 1. Joint inflammation patterns (joint activity at baseline and local recurrence of joint activity following baseline joint activity) in the three JIA types (oligoarticular, n=11; RF negative polyclanar, n=65, psoriatic, n=25) included in the BeSt for Kids study.

MCP: metacarpophalangeal,PIP: proximal interphalangeal, DIP: distal interphalangeal, MTP: metatarsophalangeal
GOLIMUMAB FOR THE TREATMENT OF POLYARTICULAR JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS—AN UPDATE ON SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS FROM THE BIKER REGISTRY

Keywords: Safety, bDMARD


JADAS 10 at month 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GOL</th>
<th>aTNFi</th>
<th>MTX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (yrs)</td>
<td>12.6±3.3</td>
<td>12.1±4.0</td>
<td>11.3±4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF neg. Polyarthritis *</td>
<td>76 (53.9)</td>
<td>142 (50.4)</td>
<td>85 (63.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF pos. Polyarthritis</td>
<td>8 (5.7)</td>
<td>40 (14.2)</td>
<td>22 (16.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Oligoarthritis</td>
<td>53 (37.6)</td>
<td>88 (31.2)</td>
<td>23 (17.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>4 (2.8)</td>
<td>12 (4.3)</td>
<td>5 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment bDMARD</td>
<td>113 (80.1)</td>
<td>61 (21.6)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant systemic steroids</td>
<td>102 (15.6)</td>
<td>69 (24.5)</td>
<td>60 (44.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active joint count #</td>
<td>4.1±4.9</td>
<td>5.1±6.4</td>
<td>9.7±7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAQ DI #</td>
<td>0.4±0.5</td>
<td>0.5±0.6</td>
<td>0.6±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADAS10 at month 24 #</td>
<td>4.4±5.0</td>
<td>3.4±4.9</td>
<td>6.7±3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patients with uveitis flare events with preexisting JADAS10 from 10.7 (±6.5) (baseline) to 4.4 (±5.0) at 24 months. By 24 months, a lower baseline disease activity and less concomitant systemic steroids use (Table 1). The clinical benefits of GOL in pJIA is highlighted by a decrease of the mean JADAS 10 from 10.7 (±6.5) at baseline to 4.4 (±5.0) at 24 months. By 24 months, a JADAS 10 minimal disease activity (JADAS 10 ≤3.8) was reached by 50.0% of patients, whereas 34.2 % of patients were in remission (JADAS 10 ≤1) at the end of the study. The efficacy of GOL in this indication are limited.

Rheumatoid factor (RF), biologic disease modifying antirheumatic drug (bDMARD), childhood health assessment questionnaire disability index (CHAQ DI), juvenile arthritis disease activity index (JADAS), adverse event (AE), patient year (PY), n (%) at baseline, # mean±SD at baseline, ## mean±SD, * n, AE rate/100PY (95% CI), + n (of n patients).

Acknowledgements: The authors thank Zhiling Huang, also Rainer Berendes, Michael Borte, Ivan Földvari, Timil Gasowski, Herrmann Girschick, Johannes-Peter Haas, Maria Haller, Boris Hügel, Bernd-Ulrich Keck, Hans Kössel, Rolf-Michael Küster, Kirsten Minden, Prasad Oommen, Jürgen Quetsch, Bettina Rogalski, Michael Rühlmann, Angelika Thon, Ralf Trauzeddel, Andreas Urban, Frank Werner-Heinemann, Michael Windschall for contributing to the BIKER-Registry and all patients and their families.

Disclosure of Interests: Angela Zimmer: None declared, Ariane Klein: None declared, Frank Dressler Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Novartis and Pfizer, Consultant of: Novartis and Mylan, Jazin Kuenemmerle-Deschner: None declared, Markus Huñeguer: None declared, Toni Hospach Consultant of: Consulting fees, Novartis, SOBI, Dirk Foell Speakers bureau: Speakers bureau: Novartis, Sobi, Biontech, Werfen, Consultant of: Consultant of: Novartis, Sobi, Boehringer, Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: Novartis, Sobi, Boehringer, Normi Brueck: None declared, Nils Onken: None declared, Maria Fasshauer: None declared, Gerd Hornfell Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Novartis, Sobi, Consultant of: MSD, Lilly, Grant/research support from: Novartis, MSD, Roche.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3785

SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF UPADACITINIB FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH POLYARTICULAR COURSE JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: AN INTERIM ANALYSIS OF AN OPEN-LABEL, PHASE 1 TRIAL

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Safety, Outcome measures

H. Brunner1, G. Hornfell1, I. Foeldvari1, J. Anton2, M. E. Mohamed3, Y. Gion4, K. Ummek5, S. Ha6, H. Campb7, N. Khan8, A. Shmagel9, Universi1, 2, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Rheumatology, Cincinnati, United States of America; 3. Asklepios Klinik Sankt Augustin, General Pediatrics, Sankt Augustin, Germany; 4. University Hospital of Cologne, Paediatric and Adolescents Medicine, Cologne, Germany; 5. Hamburger Zentrum für Kinder- und Jugendrheumatologie, Klinikum Eilbek, Hamburg, Germany; 6. Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Universitat Barcelona, Pediatric Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 7. AbbVie, Rheumatology, North Chicago, United States of America; 8. AbbVie Deutschland GMBH & Co. KG, Rheumatology, Ludwigshafen, Germany

Background: Novel treatment options are needed for pediatric patients with polyarticular-course juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA). Upadacitinib (UPA) is an oral, selective Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor with a positive benefit-risk profile in adult patients with moderate-to-severe active rheumatoid arthritis.[1,2]

Objectives: To evaluate the safety and efficacy of UPA in pediatric patients with pJIA.

Methods: This open-label, 3-part, phase 1 trial (NCT03725007) enrolled pediatric patients aged 2 to < 18 years with pJIA and ≥ 5 active joints at 31 sites across North America, Europe, and Asia. UPA was dosed as a twice-daily oral, selective Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor with a positive benefit-risk profile in adult patients with moderate-to-severe active rheumatoid arthritis[1,2]

Table 1. Patient demographic and clinical parameters and adverse events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GOL</th>
<th>aTNFi</th>
<th>MTX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender female *</td>
<td>116 (82.3)</td>
<td>215 (76.2)</td>
<td>104 (77.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (yrs)#</td>
<td>12.6±3.5</td>
<td>12.1±4.0</td>
<td>11.3±4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration (yrs)#</td>
<td>7.1±4.4</td>
<td>4.2±3.8</td>
<td>10.2±2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF neg. Polyarthritis *</td>
<td>76 (53.9)</td>
<td>142 (50.4)</td>
<td>85 (63.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF pos. Polyarthritis</td>
<td>8 (5.7)</td>
<td>40 (14.2)</td>
<td>22 (16.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended Oligoarthritis</td>
<td>53 (37.6)</td>
<td>88 (31.2)</td>
<td>23 (17.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>4 (2.8)</td>
<td>12 (4.3)</td>
<td>5 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment bDMARD</td>
<td>113 (80.1)</td>
<td>61 (21.6)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant systemic steroids</td>
<td>102 (15.6)</td>
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<td>60 (44.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active joint count #</td>
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<td>9.7±7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAQ DI #</td>
<td>0.4±0.5</td>
<td>0.5±0.6</td>
<td>0.6±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADAS10 at month 24 #</td>
<td>4.4±5.0</td>
<td>3.4±4.9</td>
<td>6.7±3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rheumatoid factor (RF), biologic disease modifying antirheumatic drug (bDMARD), childhood health assessment questionnaire disability index (CHAQ DI), juvenile arthritis disease activity index (JADAS), adverse event (AE), patient year (PY), n (%) at baseline, # mean±SD at baseline, ## mean±SD, * n, AE rate/100PY (95% CI), + n (of n patients).

Proposed trial endpoints included the JIA American College of Rheumatology (JIA ACR) 30, 50, and 70 response; the Childhood Health Assessment Questionnaire (C-CHAQ); and the 27-point Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score based on C-reactive Protein (JADAS27 [CRP]).

Results: A total of 57 pediatric patients (78.9% female) with mean (SD) age of 9.5 (4.4) years and mean (SD) weight of 38.1 (20.4) kg received UPA; of these, 51 patients were treated in parts 1 and 2. In part 1, 8 (15.7%) of 51
patients reported adverse events (AEs) through 7 days; no patients reported serious AEs or AEs leading to treatment discontinuation. At a mean (median) duration of exposure of 514.9 (412.0) days, 52 (91.2%) of 57 patients reported AEs that were predominately mild to moderate in severity (Table 1). The most common treatment-emergent AEs were COVID-19 infection (n = 23/57, 40.4%), upper respiratory tract infection (n = 23/57, 40.4%), nasopharyngitis (n = 13/57, 22.8%), gastroenteritis (n = 10/57, 17.5%), pyrexia (n = 10/57, 17.5%), abdominal pain (n = 8/57, 15.8%), and nausea (n = 8/57, 14.0%). The most common AEs of special interest included elevated creatine phosphokinase levels (n = 6/57, 10.5%), hepatic disorder (n = 3/57, 5.3%), and neutropenia (n = 2/57, 3.5%); all were nonserious events. Six (31.6%) of 19 patients in the group aged 12 to <18 years reported serious AEs and 2 (10.5%) reported AEs leading to treatment discontinuation. A high proportion of patients across all age groups achieved JIA ACR30, 50, and 70 at response at week 12 (Figure 1). Improvement from baseline to week 12 in C-HAQ and JADAS-27 (CRP) scores was observed across all age groups.

**Conclusion:** In pediatric patients with pcJIA, UPA was well tolerated and associated with improvements in disease activity and physical function at week 12.

**REFERENCES:**

---

**Table 1. Interim Analysis of Safety of Upadacitinib up to 156 Weeks (All Patients Treated in Parts 1, 2, and 3)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAE</th>
<th>Age 2 to &lt;6 years</th>
<th>Age 6 to &lt;12 years</th>
<th>Age 12 to &lt;18 years</th>
<th>Total N = 57</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any AE</td>
<td>11 (78.6)</td>
<td>22 (91.7)</td>
<td>19 (100)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any serious AE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6 (31.6)</td>
<td>6 (10.5)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE leading to discontinuation of study drug</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
<td>2 (3.5)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEs of special interest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunistic infection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatic disorder</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>3 (5.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>1 (7.1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (8.3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (3.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphopenia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>1 (1.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elevated creatine phosphokinase</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (12.5)</td>
<td>3 (15.8)</td>
<td>6 (10.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Interim Analysis of Safety of Upadacitinib up to 156 Weeks (All Patients Treated in Parts 1, 2, and 3)**

**Figure 1. Interim Analysis of Efficacy of Upadacitinib at Week 12 (Parts 1 and 2)**

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**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3987

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<th>TEAE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Any AE</td>
<td>11 (78.6)</td>
<td>22 (91.7)</td>
<td>19 (100)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any serious AE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6 (31.6)</td>
<td>6 (10.5)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>AE leading to discontinuation of study drug</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
<td>2 (3.5)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEs of special interest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunistic infection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatic disorder</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>3 (5.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>1 (7.1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (8.3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (3.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphopenia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>1 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated creatine phosphokinase</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (12.5)</td>
<td>3 (15.8)</td>
<td>6 (10.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
general disorders and administration site conditions (8.2%) than patients treated with csDMARDs compared with csDMARDs.

**Conclusion:** Patients in the bDMARD group had a higher prevalence of infections and skin manifestations when compared with the csDMARDs cohort.

**Table 1.** Demographics characteristics, number of AEs and frequencies in the complete set. Data presented as n (%). Events with a frequency of > 30 by overall SOC are presented. AEs: adverse events; SOCs: system organ class; bDMARDs: biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs; csDMARDs: conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCs</th>
<th>bDMARDs</th>
<th>csDMARDs</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=627</td>
<td>N=980</td>
<td>N=627</td>
<td>N=980</td>
<td>p=0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nervous system disorders</strong></td>
<td>15 (4.2%)</td>
<td>16 (2.6%)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General disorders and administration site</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immune system disorders</strong></td>
<td>14 (4%)</td>
<td>36 (5.7%)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Endocrine disorders</strong></td>
<td>13 (3.7%)</td>
<td>46 (7.3%)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</strong></td>
<td>25 (7.1%)</td>
<td>42 (6.7%)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</strong></td>
<td>40 (11.3%)</td>
<td>27 (4.3%)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gastrointestinal disorders</strong></td>
<td>33 (9.3%)</td>
<td>51 (8.1%)</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCs</strong></td>
<td>33 (9.3%)</td>
<td>161 (25.7%)</td>
<td>194 (19.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Europe</strong></td>
<td>320 (90.7%)</td>
<td>466 (74.3%)</td>
<td>786 (80.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>33 (9.3%)</td>
<td>161 (25.7%)</td>
<td>194 (19.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disease duration</strong></td>
<td>5.84 (4.65)</td>
<td>6.65 (4.63)</td>
<td>6.36 (4.64)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age at final visit</strong></td>
<td>12.05 (5.4)</td>
<td>12.41 (5.13)</td>
<td>12.28 (5.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age at diagnosis</strong></td>
<td>6.56 (4.3)</td>
<td>6.17 (4.13)</td>
<td>6.31 (4.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>≥ 18</strong></td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>≥12 to 18</strong></td>
<td>46 (13.0%)</td>
<td>68 (10.9%)</td>
<td>114 (11.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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or with standard treatment, confirming the favorable safety profile of emapalumab. A pivotal clinical trial of emapalumab in patients with sHLH and underlying rheumatic disease is ongoing (EMERALD; NCT05001737).

REFERENCE:

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EULAR POINTS TO CONSIDER FOR PATIENT EDUCATION, PAIN MANAGEMENT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ADAPTED TO THE SELF-MANAGEMENT OF JUVENILE-ONSET RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES DURING TRANSITIONAL CARE. THE EULAR MOVE-UP PROJECT

Keywords: Education, Self-management, Telemedicine

R. Prieto-Moreno1, J. Courel-Ibáñez2, E. Briones-Vozmediano3, S. Angevare4, J. Anton5, P. Ariza-Vega6, I. Bini7, D. Clemente8, M. Correia9, W. Costello10, D. C. Diederik11, A. Domán12, L. Leon Mates13, A. Marques14, K. Minden15, A. F. Mourão16, A. Najm17, S. Özen18, G. Pimentel19, Z. Saleem1, N. Valtosky20, N. Wulffraat21, A. Zacarías22, Y. Prieto23, L. Carmona24, F. Estévez-Lopez25, 1University of Granada, Department of Physiotherapy, Granada, Spain; 2University of Granada, Department of Physical Education and Sport, Granada, Spain; 3University of Leida, Faculty of Nursing and Physiotherapy, Lleida, Spain; 4European Network for Children with Arthritis and Auto-inflammatory diseases, Geneva, Switzerland; 5Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Pediatric Rheumatology Department, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; 6Instituto de Investigación Biosanitaria irb, Granada, Granada, Spain; 7EULAR Young PARE and Anmar Young, Zürich, Switzerland; 8Hospital Niño Jesús, Pediatric Rheumatology Unit, Madrid, Spain; 9Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal; 10Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Biostatistics and Medical Informatics Research Group, Department of Public Health, Brussels, Belgium; 11Faculty of Medicine, University of Debrecen, Department of Rheumatology, Debrecen, Hungary; 12Universidad Camilo José Cela, Health Sciences, Madrid, Spain; 13High School of Nursing of Coimbra, Health Sciences Research Unit Nursing, Coimbra, Portugal; 14Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, corporate member of Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt- Universität zu Berlin, Department of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine, Immunology and Critical Care Medicine, Berlin, Germany; 15Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental, Nova Medical School, Lisbon and Rheumatology Department, Lisbon, Portugal; 16University of Glasgow, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, College of Medical Veterinary and Life Sciences, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 17Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey; 18University Hospital of Coimbra, Rehabilitation Nursing, Department of Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 19Charles University, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Prague, Czech Republic; 20University Medical Center Utrecht, Department Pediatric Rheumatology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 21Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Pediatric Rheumatology Department, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; 22Hospital Clinic Barcelona, Rheumatology Department, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; 23University of Salford, School of Health and Society, Salford, United Kingdom; 24Instituto de Salud Musculo-esquelética, Madrid, Spain; 25Harvard University, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Cambridge, United States of America

Background: The EULAR task force “Implementation of a mobile health app for the self-management of juvenile-onset rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (jRMDs) during transitional care” aims at designing, developing and implementing a self-management program through a smartphone app (i.e., the EULAR Move-Up app). The first step of this task force was to adapt the current EULAR recommendations/points originally developed for adults, to young people (YP) with jRMDs.

Objectives: Adapting EULAR recommendations/points for patient education, pain management and physical activity for self-management of jRMDs during transitional care.

Methods: A multidisciplinary taskforce of 25 members from 11 European countries was convened. Using a Delphi technique, the level of agreement was established by anonymous online voting in three rounds.

Results: Four overarching principles and 8 points to consider were formulated (Table 1). The agreement was high, ranging from 8.7 to 9.9.

Conclusion: This work will feed into an evidence-based framework to inform the development of the EULAR Move-Up app aiming at improving the quality of transitional care of jRMDs.

Table 1. Overarching principles and points to consider for the self-management of juvenile-onset rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases during transitional care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overarching principle</th>
<th>Agreement (0 to 10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1YP with jRMDs should be offered education, physical activity advice and pain management recommendations; and provided with access to relevant resources during transitional care, as soon as possible following the diagnosis</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Health professionals in rheumatology should consider the use of digital health interventions in transitional care to support self-management</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3The content and delivery of transitional care should be individually tailored and needs-based according to the patients’ priorities, preferences, capabilities and resources</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Transitional care interventions should have clear personalised aims, which should be evaluated over time, preferably by a combination of objective and subjective (patient-reported outcome measures) assessments</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted points to consider in education

1Education is a planned interactive learning process designed to support and enable YP with jRMDs to manage their health and chronic condition, and optimise their health and well-being during transitional care

2Education should consist of a variety of learning formats and the programme should be designed through a shared decision-making process

3Education should include the evaluation of outcomes reflecting both the knowledge acquired and, most importantly, translation to behaviour change

Adapted points to consider in pain management

4All patients and their carers should be offered education on the importance of maintaining healthy body composition and explained that unhealthy body composition could contribute to pain and disability

5Non-pharmacological approaches (e.g., physical activity, lifestyle change, psychological interventions) should be prioritised in newly-diagnosed patients and those in transitional care. It is indicated, the patient should receive pharmacological treatment according to the most recent recommendations

Adapted points to consider on physical activity

6Physical activity is part of a healthy lifestyle and should be optimised during the lifespan of individuals of all ages

7Physical activity has health benefits for YP with jRMDs during transitional care and helps establishing healthy behaviours and lifestyles during adulthood

8Healthcare providers should consider different formats of delivery of physical activity, in line with YP’s preferences and disease requirements

YP = Young people; jRMDs = juvenile-onset rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

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Advances in imaging in rheumatic musculoskeletal disorders.

Keywords: Ultrasound, Imaging, Sjögren syndrome

W.K. Huang1, Y. Hao2, Z. M. Ouyang, X. H. Chen1, W. J. Yang1, J. S. Chen3, L. Dai1, Y. Ma2,3,4, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University, Rheumatology, Guangzhou, China; Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University, Ultrasound, Guangzhou, China; Shenshan Medical Center, Memorial Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Rheumatology, Shenzhen, China

Background: Salivary gland ultrasonography (SGUS) is promising on diagnosis and disease monitoring of primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS). However, there is neither study concerning the association between SGUS and salivary function in pSS.

Objectives: This study aimed to explore how SGUS features reflected the secretory function of salivary glands in pSS.

Methods: The subjects who presented with ocular dryness and/or oral dryness were recruited from rom July 2021 to July 2022 at our department. The subjects were classified as pSS and non-SS according to the 2002 American-European Consensus Group (AECG) criteria for pSS. Unstimulated whole salivary flow (UWSF) and stimulated whole salivary flow (SWSF) were assessed to evaluate salivary function. SGUS was performed to bilateral parotid and submandibular glands. Each gland was assessed by a well-accepted 0–4 scoring system (gland score) and a 0–3 scoring system from the Outcome Measures in Rheumatology Clinical Trials working group (OMERACT score).

Results: Among 309 enrolled subjects with suspected pSS, 95 subjects were excluded due to being classified as secondary SS, or failing to receive the designated SGUS examination or labial salivary glands biopsy. Therefore, 214 subjects were qualified for statistical analysis, including 116 pSS patients. The mean age of pSS patients was 47.1±13.3 years old and 97% of them were female, age-match and sex-match to the non-SS controls.

Compared to the pSS patients without hypofunction, pSS patients with salivary hypofunction (n=71, SWSF ≤0.7mL/min) were significantly older, higher positive rate of the Van Bijsterveld score, higher positive rate of anti-SSA/Ro, higher incidence of UWSF≤0.1mL/min and lower incidence of thrombocytopenia (all p<0.05).

The pSS patients with salivary hypofunction had significantly higher total OMERACT score (10 [interquartile range (IQR), 8-12] vs. 8 [IQR, 6-8], p<0.001), and total gland score (12 [IQR, 10-12] vs. 8 [IQR, 6-11], p<0.001) than the patients without salivary hypofunction (Figure 1A). ROC curve confirmed total OMERACT score (AUC: 0.804, 95%CI: 0.727-0.881, p<0.001) and total gland score (AUC: 0.792, 95%CI: 0.704-0.881, p<0.001 could significantly distinguish pSS patients with salivary hypofunction from those without salivary hypofunction. The cut-off values of total OMERACT score were 7 and 9, and of total gland score were 9 and 11, according to the Youden index. The absolute value of SWSF in the pSS patients with total gland score ≥11 was significantly lower than those with total gland score of 9–11 or total gland score <9 (both p<0.05). The absolute value of SWSF in the pSS patients with total OMERACT score >9 was significantly lower than those with total gland score of 7–9 or total gland score <7 (both p<0.001, Figure 1B).

Total OMERACT score and total gland score were combined to generate a 3×3 matrix model (Figure 1C). The total gland score could be stratified into three risk subgroups: (i) High-risk (n=39): pSS patients whose total OMERACT score was >9 and total gland score ≥9 had estimated risk probability greater than 80%, and the actual incidence of SWSF ≤0.7mL/min was 95% (37/39); (ii) Low-risk (n=28): pSS patients whose total OMERACT score was <7; or whose total OMERACT score was 7–9 and total gland score <9 had estimated risk probability less than 35%, and the actual incidence of SWSF ≤0.7mL/min was 14% (4/28); (iii) Moderate-risk (n=49): pSS patients who fulfilled neither high-risk nor low-risk had an actual incidence of SWSF ≤0.7mL/min in a moderate level (61%, 30/49).

Conclusion: This study first reported B-mode ultrasonography examination on four major salivary glands could reflect salivary function of pSS. We also built a matrix risk model composed of SGUS gland score and OMERACT score associated with salivary hypofunction in pSS which was conveniently used for rheumatologists, especially in specific clinical situations that SWSF was not available.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0169 VESSEL WALL INFLAMMATION DETECTED WITH SUPERB MICROVASCULAR IMAGING IN BEHÇET SYNDROME

Keywords: Vasculitis, Ultrasound, Behcet's disease

Y. Kayadibi1, Y. Ozquiler2,3, M. Melikoglu2,3, S. N. Esatoglu2,3, U. Kimyon4, A. Kalyoncu Ucar1, I. Adalitili1, G. Hatef2,3, 1Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Radiology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Behcet's Disease Research Center, Istanbul, Turkey; 4Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Superb microvascular imaging (SMI) is a novel technique that provides a more sensitive assessment of small vessels compared to color Doppler US (CDUS), by distinction of low-speed flow signals from motion artifacts. Superficial thrombophlebitis (STM) is a common manifestation in patients with Behçet syndrome (BS) and is thought to be associated with inflammation of the vessel wall rather than a procoagulant state.

Objectives: We aimed to assess STM lesions of patients with BS, together with controls, using SMI.

Methods: We studied 51 BS (16F/35M, mean age:40.6±12.8) patients and 26 non-BS (19F/7M mean age:44.9±11.7) patients with nodular lesions on physical examination. B-mode US, CDUS, PDUS and SMI were performed and recorded by the same radiologist and images were then evaluated by 2 radiologists. Both radiologists were blinded to the diagnoses and to each other’s assessments. First, presence/absence of vessel was assessed with CDUS to differentiate STM from erythema nodosum (EN). Then STM lesions were evaluated for the presence/absence of thrombus, vessel wall color-coded signal intensity, and thickness using the imaging modalities defined above. Vessel wall signal intensity was graded into 4 groups according to the percentages of the effected vessel area (Grade 0= no signal, Grade 1= < 25%, Grade 2= 25-50%, Grade 3= 50-75%, Grade 4= >75%). CDUS was the gold standard in the final diagnosis of STM. Interobserver reliability was assessed by kappa statistic.

Results: The nodular lesions of 26 BS and 15 non-BS patients were diagnosed as STM (Table 1). The diagnosis was EN in the remaining 25 BS and 11 non-BS patients. SMI showed increased color-coded signal intensity in the vessel wall in patients with STM. We did not observe increased signal intensity in any of the patients with EN. According to the grading system, at least grade 1 or higher vessel-wall signals were detected in 20 BS (77%) patients with STM, in contrast to only 4 (27%) non-BS patients with STM (Table 1). Fifteen of 26 BS patients (58%) had at least grade 2 signal, and 4 of them had halo shaped signals all around the vessel-wall (Figure 1). On the other hand, 3 of 4 non-BS patients (75%) had only grade 1 signal and none of them had grade 4 signal. The interobserver reliability was good (κ=0.87, p<0.001).

Conclusion: A high-grade color-coded signal suggesting inflammation of the vessel wall was detected with SMI, in the majority of BS patients with STM. This finding needs to be studied in different vascular lesions of a large number of BS patients together with controls, in order to understand its specificity for BS and its significance.
BACKGROUND: Inflammation around the tendons of the hand interosseous muscles (interosseous tendon inflammation; ITI) was recently identified on MRI in a set of RA and arthralgia patients. Objectives: However, the prevalence of ITI at diagnosis of RA is unknown, as is its prevalence in other arthritides and its relationship with clinical signs. These questions prompted us to perform this large MRI study. Methods: 1,205 consecutive patients presenting with early arthritis between 2010-2020 underwent contrast-enhanced hand MRI. MRIs were evaluated, blind to clinical data, for ITI lateral of MCP2-5 and for other local inflammation (synovitis/tenosynovitis/osteitis), in line with the RA-MRI-scoring-system (RAMRIS). ITI-presence at baseline was studied in relation to the diagnosis and clinical characteristics (i.e. joint swelling, and tenderness) using logistic regression and generalised estimating equations.

RESULTS: 36% of early RA patients (n=532) had ITI; this was similar in ACPA-neg-ative(37%) and ACPA-positive RA patients (34%; p=0.53). ITI occurred regularly in RS3PE (60%) and connective tissue diseases (44%), and less frequently in undifferentiated arthritis (14%), psoriatic arthritis (14%), inflammatory osteo-arthritis (8%), reactive arthritis (7%), crystal arthritis (7%) and peripheral spondyloarthritis (4%). ITI occurred more often in diagnoses with frequent arthritis of the hands (p<0.001) and increased acute-phase-reactants (p<0.001). Within RA, ITI occurred together with local MCP synovitis (OR 2.4 (95%CI; 1.7 -3.4)), tenosynovitis (2.4 (1.8-3.3)) and osteitis (2.2 (1.6-3.1)) on MRI. Moreover, ITI-presence associated with local MCP tenderness (1.6 (1.2-2.1)) and swelling (1.8 (1.3-2.6)), independent of age and MRI-detected synovitis/tenosynovitis/osteitis.

Conclusion: ITI occurs regularly in RA and other arthritides with preferential involvement of hand-joints and increased acute-phase-reactants. At MCP-level, the presence of ITI associates independently with joint-tenderness and -swelling. Hence, ITI is a newly identified inflamed tissue mainly found in arthritides with particularly extensive and symptomatic inflammation.

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OP0170
INTEROSSEOUS TENDON INFLAMMATION ACROSS THE EARLY ARTHRITIS SPECTRUM: A 10-YEAR MRI-STUDY INVESTIGATING ITS PREVALENCE AT DIAGNOSIS AND RELATION WITH CLINICAL SIGNS

Keywords: Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis, Inflammatory arthritides

B. Van Dijk1, N. Den Hollander1, M. Reijnierse2, A. Van der Helm – van Mil2,3.
1Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), Radiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Erasmus Medical Centre (EMC), Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Background: ITI is a newly identified inflamed tissue mainly found in arthritides with the presence of ITI associates independently with joint-tenderness and -swelling. Hence, ITI is a newly identified inflamed tissue mainly found in arthritides with particularly extensive and symptomatic inflammation.

Figure. Schematic anatomical illustrations of the (A) dorsal and (B) palmar interosses; (C&D) example MRI-images of RA-patients with ITI at MCP4 and (E) the frequency of ITI per diagnosis according to the frequency of combined clinical hand arthritides and increased CRP or ESR within diagnoses.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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OP0171
ADDED VALUE OF FDG-PET/CT TO DETECT AORTIC INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH ULTRASOUND PROVEN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Imaging, Ultrasound

J. Molina Collado1, I. Castrejón1, I. Monjo2, E. Fernández-Fernández2, G. Torres Ortega2, J. Martínez-Barrio1, J. M. Alvaro-Gracia1, E. De Miguel2, Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain.

Background: Ultrasound (US) can detect signs of large vessel (LV) involvement at axillary, subclavian and carotid arteries of giant cell arteritis (GCA) patients, but has limited access to the thoracic aorta. Although aortic involvement is not routinely evaluated in all patients with GCA, it may cause a life-threatening situation as result of serious complications such as aneurysms or dissection.

Methods: Retrospective observational study of patients referred to the US fast track clinics of two academic centres over a 4-years period. Only patients with US proven GCA were included for analysis. Baseline US of cranial and extracranial arteries (carotid, subclavian and axillary) was performed in all patients at diagnosis within 24-48 hours. FDG-PET/CT was performed according to clinician criteria and images were assessed by nuclear medicine physicians. An FDG artery uptake at the thoracic or abdominal aorta higher than liver uptake was defined as aortitis. Between groups comparisons were made in patients with and without aortitis.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Table. Comparisons of vessel wall signal intensity in BS vs. non-BS patients with SMI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Behçet syndrome (n=33, 35% [8])</th>
<th>Non-Behçet syndrome (n=26, 75% [18])</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Superficial thrombophlebitis (%)</strong></td>
<td>26 (51)</td>
<td>15 (58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vessel wall signal intensity with SMI (%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 0</td>
<td>6 (23)</td>
<td>11 (73)</td>
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<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>5 (19)</td>
<td>3 (20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>9 (35)</td>
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<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>2 (8)</td>
<td>1 (7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>4 (15)</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Methods: Retrospective observational study of patients referred to the US fast track clinics of two academic centres over a 4-years period. Only patients with US proven GCA were included for analysis. Baseline US of cranial and extracranial arteries (carotid, subclavian and axillary) was performed in all patients at diagnosis within 24-48 hours. FDG-PET/CT was performed according to clinician criteria and images were assessed by nuclear medicine physicians. An FDG artery uptake at the thoracic or abdominal aorta higher than liver uptake was defined as aortitis. Between groups comparisons were made in patients with and without aortitis.
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Scientific Abstracts

Results: Seventy two patients over 186 patients with confirmed GCA by US underwent an FDG-PET/CT (mean age 77 years, 52.8% females). A total of 48 (66.7%)
had LV-GCA based on imaging findings, with 29 (40.3%) presenting positive FDGPET/CT for LV-GCA and 24 (33.3%) presenting artery uptake throughout the aorta
suggestive of aortic involvement (Table 1). Only 6 (20.7%) patients had negative
US findings of LV-GCA but positive FDG-PET/CT. Among patients with aortitis
according to FDG-PET/CT, only 2 (8.3%) had negative US findings of LV-GCA.
In contrast, 19 (45.2%) patients with US findings of LV-GCA had negative FDGPET/CT. Patients with aortitis were younger (68.9 vs 81, p<0.001), more frequently
females (79.2% vs 39.6%, p=0.002) and had higher level of platelets (413.4 vs
311.1, p=0014). None of the patients with aortitis referred visual symptoms (0% vs
31.2%, p=0.001) and they presented US signs of LV-GCA more frequently (91.7%
vs 41.7%, p<0.001) versus patients without aortic involvement.
Conclusion: FDG-PET/CT can detect aortic involvement in 1 out of every 3
patients with US proven GCA. However, most of these patients show US findings of LV-GCA. In contrast, half of patients with US proven LV-GCA may have
negative FDG-PET/CT. Younger and female GCA patients, with thrombocytosis,
absence of visual manifestations and US pattern of LV-GCA may present more
frequently aortitis by FDG-PET/CT.
Table 1. Clinical and imaging findings of patients included with and
without aortic involvement.
Total
n=72

Patients with aortic
involvement in
FDG-PET/CT
n=24 (33.3%)

Demographics
Age, mean (SD)
77 (9.1)
68.9 (8.1)
Female, n (%)
38 (52.8%) 19 (79.2%)
Clinical variables
Headache, n (%)
49 (68.1%) 14 (58.3%)
Jaw claudication, n (%)
16 (22.2%) 4 (16.7%)
Visual symptoms, n (%)
15 (20.8%) 0 (0%)
Ocular ischaemia, n (%) 6 (8.3%)
0 (0%)
Constitutional symptoms, 42 (58.3%) 17 (70.8%)
n (%)
Fever, n (%)
19 (26.4%) 9 (37.5%)
Morning stiffness in shoul-38 (52.8%) 10 (41.7%)
ders/neck, n (%)
Laboratory findings
CRP (mg/L), mean (SD)
85.8 (79.6) 101.8 (77.8)
ESR (mm/h), mean (SD)
68.6 (33.6) 69.7 (31.8)
Haemoglobin (g/dL), mean 11.9 (1.6)
11.5 (1.5)
(SD)
9
Platelets 10 /L, mean (SD) 345.7 (152.1) 413.4 (169.7)
Histology
Temporal artery biopsy
9 (40.9%)
2 (28.6%)
positive n=22, n (%)
Imaging
Positive cranial ACG US, 50 (69.4%) 10 (41.7%)
n (%)
Positive large vessel-GCA 42 (58.3%) 22 (91.7%)
US, n (%)
Negative large vessel-GCA 30 (41.7%) 2 (8.3%)
US, n (%)
Isolated positive large
22 (30.6%) 14 (58.3%)
vessel-ACG US, n (%)

p
Patients without
aortic involvement
in FDG-PET/CT
n=48 (66.7%)

81 (6.5)
19 (39.6%)

<0.001
0.002

35 (72.9%)
12 (25%)
15 (31.2%)
6 (12.5%)
25 (52.1%)

0.211
0.423
0.001
0.07
0.128

10 (20.8%)
28 (58.3%)

0.130
0.182

77.8 (80.4)
68 (34.7)
12.1 (1.7)

0.230
0.839
0.139

311.11 (131.1)

0.014

7 (46.7%)

0.421

40 (83.3%)

<0.001

20 (41.7%)

<0.001

28 (58.3%)

<0.001

8 (16.7%)

<0.001

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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OP0172

LIMITED DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF
RADIOGRAPHS OF HANDS AND FEET IN PATIENTS
WITH UNDIFFERENTIATED ARTHRITIS SUSPECTED
FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A RETROSPECTIVE
COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis, Diagnostic Tests
E. Ulijn1, N. Den Broeder1, D. Ten Cate1, K. Van Overdijk1, H. Demirel1, R. B.
M. Landewé2, N. Van Herwaarden1,3, A. Den Broeder1. 1Sint Maartenskliniek,
Rheumatology, Ubbergen, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam Medical Centre,
Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands;
3
RadboudUMC, Pharmacology-Toxicology, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Background: Current recommendations suggest that the diagnostic workup
of Undifferentiated Arthritis (UA) should include radiographs of hands and feet
(x-HF) as presence of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) associated erosions might be of

diagnostic and prognostic value. The diagnostic role of x-HF in RA is reflected in
ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria, with erosions typical for RA allowing classification of
RA even without fulfillment of the scoring system [1]. Additionally, early erosivity is
one of the indicators of a poor RA prognosis [2]. RA seems to evolve into a milder
disease at presentation, caused by a secular trend towards milder disease, or lead
time effects (presenting earlier in disease course) [3]. Both trends would further
decrease the prevalence of RA-associated erosions and thus utility of x-HF might
have decreased both for diagnosis and identifying poor prognosis patients.
Objectives: To investigate the prevalence and diagnostic and prognostic value of
RA-associated erosions on x-HF in a recent cohort of UA patients.
Methods: A retrospective cohort study in consenting UA patients visiting the
rheumatology department at the Sint Maartenskliniek between 2012-2018 was
done. UA suspected for RA was defined as 1/ current arthritis, 2/ Rheumatoid
Factor (RF)/anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide (anti-CCP) were tested, 3/ x-HF was
made, 4/ RA was mentioned in the differential diagnosis. Radiological reports
of x-HF were judged by experienced musculoskeletal radiologists, and all x-HF
with an erosion mentioned in the report were reassessed by two experienced
rheumatologists for typical RA-associated erosions. The prevalence of erosions
was estimated, as well as whether RA classification (yes/no) or prognostic group
(good/poor) were changed by erosivity. Subgroup-analyses were done for seronegative patients (non-elevated RF/anti-CCP) and patients without elevated Acute
Phase Reactants (APR; i.e. ESR and CRP) as they might be expected to gain the
most diagnostic and prognostic value from conducting x-HF.
Results: 724 patients were included in the analysis, of which 293 (40.5%)
patients were eventually clinically diagnosed with RA during the time they were
treated. There was a high agreement between 2010 ACR/EULAR classification
criteria for RA and the clinical diagnosis reported by the treating rheumatologist (sensitivity of 79% and specificity of 89.6%). RA-associated erosions were
found in 30 out of 724 included patients (4.1%, 2.9-5.9). Of the 437 seronegative
patients, five (1.1%, 0.5-2.7) radiographs showed erosive disease. Eight out of
385 patients with non-elevated APR (2.1%, 1-4.1) had erosive disease. The x-HF
resulted in a change to a positive RA classification in four out of 724 patients
(0.5%, 0.2-1.2). X-HF erosivity changed the classification to prognostically unfavorable in five patients (0.6, 0.2-1.4), Table 1. In other words: these patients did
not have RF or anti-CCP positivity, high disease activity (DAS28 >5.1), but did
have the prognostic factor ‘early erosive disease’.
Table 1. prevalence of typical RA erosive disease, and diagnostic/prognostic relevance of x-HF.
All patients
(N=724)

Seronegative (N=437) Nonelevated
APR (N=385)

Erosive disease
30 (4.1, 2.9-5.9) 5 (1.1, 0.5-2.7)
(n (%, CI))
2 (0.5, 0.1-1.8)
Erosions relevant for RA classifica- 4 (0.5, 0.2-1.2)
tion with 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria
(n (%, CI))
5 (0.6, 0.2-1.4)
3 (0.7, 0.2-2.1)
Cases classified as prognostically
unfavorable due to the X-HF
(n (%, CI))

8 (2.1, 1-4.1)
2 (0.5,
0.1-2.1)
2 (0.5,
0.1-2.1)

Conclusion: RA-associated erosions at presentation with UA are rare, and their
presence rarely leads to a change in diagnosis or prognosis. Routine x-HF should
therefore not be recommended in this context. X-HF made for any specific indication might of course be of value, and our results do not generalize to these cases.
REFERENCES:
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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OP0173

CHARACTERIZATION OF AXIAL INVOLVEMENT USING
18F-FLUORIDE PET-CT IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS
PATIENTS

Keywords: Imaging, Spondyloarthritis, Pain
I. Giovannini1, A. Zabotti1, S. Diodato2, C. Cicciò3, M. Salgarello2,
D. Mcgonagle4, I. Tinazzi5. 1Rheumatology Clinic, Azienda Sanitaria
Universitaria Friuli Centrale c/o University of Udine, Udine, Italy; 2Department
of Nuclear Medicine, IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria, Negrar di Valpolicella,
Italy; 3Departments of Diagnostic Imaging and Interventional Radiology,
IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria, Negrar di Valpolicella, Italy; 4NIHR Leeds
Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust


Background: Nuclear medicine positron emission tomography (PET) has limited evidence in the clinical management of axial Spondyloarthritis (AxSpA). The 18F-fluoride isotope is a bone-specific tracer that is incorporated in the skeleton during bone remodeling. Osteoblastic bone remodeling, that culminates in new bone formation in SpA can be molecularly imaged with 18F PET. Although not widely employed, several studies have shown that 18F is an excellent isotope for evaluating sites of active osteoblastic activity[1], and may be used in the assessment of axial involvement in spondyloarthritis[2].

Objectives: Aim of this study is to identify the pattern of distribution of 18F uptake at baseline using the PET-Computerized Tomography (PET-CT) in the early AxSpA identification in patients with inflammatory back pain (IBP) according to ASAS criteria[3].

Methods: We analyzed data of 18F PET-CT in patients presenting IBP suspicious for SpA. Patients were assessed clinically at baseline and according to clinical practice with assignment of a final diagnosis of axial SpA after at least two years of follow up, according to the ASAS criteria[4]. We evaluated the baseline 18F PET-CT abnormalities and correlated with the final diagnosis.

Results: 125 patients underwent 18F PET-CT. 83 were female (66.4%), and the mean age at evaluation time was 49.58 years (SD 11.03). Patients were classified into 5 groups according to the rheumatological diagnosis made after at least 2 years of follow-up. Ten patients fulfilled New York criteria for Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), 28 patients fulfilled CASPAR criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA), 35 patients fulfilled ASAS criteria for undifferentiated SpA and 12 patients presented axial-SpA related IBD. 40 patients were not classifiable as AxSpA (not-class AxSpA). The prevalence of 18F PET-CT abnormalities highlight differences in SpA phenotypes, shown in colour coding (Figure 1A). Similar results were reported in the chest, in particular among the sterno-clavicular and acromio-clavicular joints (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: Our study showed a clear pattern of abnormalities detected by 18F PET-CT in the spine and chest of AxSpA patients. 18F PET-CT might help clinicians to characterize the axial involvement in SpA patients.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1A. Distribution of abnormalities detected by F18-PET-CT. In spine lumbar and cervical vertebral and facets uptake were more common in uSpA and PsA.

Figure 1B. Distribution of abnormalities detected by F18-PET-CT. In chest joint such as sternoclavicular joint and acromioclavicular joint, the uptake was more common in SpA and PsA.

Disclosure of Interests: Ivan Giovannini Speakers bureau: not relevant for this type of study, Alen Zabotti Speakers bureau: not relevant for this type of study, Stefania Diodato: None declared, Carmelo Cicciò: None declared, Matteo Salgarelio: None declared, Dennis McGonagle Speakers bureau: not relevant for this type of study, Consultant of: not relevant for this type of study, Ilaria Tinazzi Speakers bureau: not relevant for this type of study.

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OP0174 CHEST RADIOGRAPHS PRE-IMMUNOSUPPRESSION HELP TO IDENTIFY NON TUBERCULOUS INFECTIONS AND INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASES, BUT ADD LITTLE TO LATENT TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING

Keywords: Imaging, Real-world evidence, Diagnostic Tests

B. Harrington1, I. Khan2, M. Ramakrishnan2, F. Fitzpatrick3, L. Durcan1.
1Beaumont Hospital, Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland; 2Royal College of Surgeons, School of Medicine, Dublin, Ireland; 3Beaumont Hospital, Microbiology, Dublin, Ireland

Background: Screening for latent tuberculosis (LTB) using chest x-ray (CXR) and interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) is standard in patients starting on biologic and immunosuppressive therapies. Our hypothesis is that the CXR does not change management, and we sought to evaluate the additive value of plain radiographs for this purpose in our patients.

Objectives: To retrospectively review all CXRs performed at baseline pre-treatment to determine if they provide any additive benefit value to the IGRA LTB screening approach. Methods: This is a retrospective review of screening practices for LTB in a tertiary referral centre in Ireland, a low prevalence country. We included, 814 patients screened, using CXR and interferon gold release assay (IGRA) over a 5-year period. Results: The IGRA was positive in 5% (38/814) and indeterminate in 2.5% (20/814), the remainder testing negative. In the IGRA positive group, 15.8% (6/38) had an abnormal CXR. None of these showed changes reflecting prior or active tuberculosis. These showed fibrotic lung disease, consolidations and basal atelectasis. Of those who had an indeterminate IGRA, 45% (9/20) of cases had an abnormal CXR, with one individual report of radiographic evidence of possible prior TB. In those with an abnormal IGRA (positive or indeterminate), the addition of CXR in the screening process changed management in one patient. They were treated for LTB on the basis of indeterminate IGRA, prior TB contacts, country of origin and other risk factors. The sensitivity of the IGRA alone screening approach was 97.62% when high risk indeterminate results were assumed to have LTB and were treated. The resulting specificity of the IGRA alone approach was 97.80%. The sensitivity of the combined IGRA & subsequent CXR approach was 100% as it was deemed to have captured all actual cases of LTB disease. We acknowledge that this not recognise that IGRA is an imperfect test and assumes that there were no cases of LTB in 756 IGRA negative patients. The specificity of the combined IGRA and subsequent CXR approach remains practically the same at 97.93%.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the clinical utility of the CXR in screening for TB is unclear in this population. The addition of CXR in the screening process only changed management in 1 patient over a 5 year period in this cohort. The incidental identification of interstitial lung diseases and chest infections is of value to patients considering immunosuppression, but is a separate issue to screening for LTB.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0175 RELEVANT FEATURES IN FLUORESCENCE OPTICAL IMAGING FOR DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF RHEUMATIC DISEASES AFFECTING THE HANDS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis

N. Stumper1, J. Berger2, V. Falli3, E. Gedat3, P. Hoff4, G. Schmitt1, A. Brief1, G. R. Burmester1, S. Ohndorf1, 1Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 2Xiralite GmbH, Xiralite GmbH, Berlin, Germany

Background: Accurate and fast diagnosis of rheumatic diseases affecting the hands is essential for further treatment decision. Different rheumatic diseases affecting the hands present characteristic patterns and features in fluorescence optical imaging (FOI) as outlined in previous studies [1, 2].

Objectives: We tested an atlas of image features in FOI for their ability to differentiate various rheumatic joint diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), osteoarthritis (OA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and connective tissue diseases (CTD) like systemic sclerosis (SSc) and systemic lupus erythematoses (SLE) with the aim to identify specific features for differential diagnosis.
Methods: FOI images from patients with RA, OA, PsA and CTD were analysed by two readers blinded for diagnosis and calibrated against each other, using the prisma vista mode (PVM) and the 5-phase model. For the latter, the overall time course of FOI in each hand was divided into 5 phases with a computational algorithm. Phases 1 and 2 describe the inflow (start to 15% and 15%-90% on rising edge), phase 3 is the peak phase and phases 4 and 5 comprise the outflow (90%-36.8% and 36.8% to end on falling edge). Twenty-six different features were defined, for example, the signal enhanced forearm (Y), broad signal enhancement along the finger (B), cloudy signal in the hand (W), secondary Raynaud syndrome (R), and underperfused nail bed region (U) (illustrated in the Figure 1). The feature frequency in each patient and phase (PVM, 5-phase) was counted and statistically analysed.

Results: In total, 374 patients (115 RA patients; mean age 54.4; SD 12.6; median 54.5), OA (89; 62.1; 74; 63.2), PsA (59; 50.0; 11.4; 49.2) and CTD (111; 52.2; 14.9; 54.5) were included in the feature reading. Statistical results ($\chi^2$, diagnostic odds ratio DOR, sensitivity TPR, specificity TNR, positive predictive value PPV, negative predictive value NPV) are given in the Table 1. CTD can best be differentiated from RA, OA and PsA on the basis of the feature Y, in which sensitivity (70%-98%) while having low specificity (12%-52%) (data not presented).

Conclusion: This work supports that FOI feature analysis has the potential for differential diagnosis in rheumatic diseases affecting the hands. Feature Y has the ability to differentiate CTD (here mainly SLE/SSc) from RA, OA, and PsA while the features B, W, R and U can exclude CTD from RA, OA and PsA. In the future, FOI could therefore play an important role in the early arthritis clinic.

REFERENCES:

![Figure 1. Examples for FOI patterns and features: a) Cloudy pattern in the hand (W) in phase 1; b) secondary Raynaud syndrome (R) in phase 2; c) broad signal enhancement along the finger (B) in phase 3; and d) underperfused nailbed (U) in phase 4 and enhanced forearm (Y) in all subfigures.](image1)

### Table 1. Statistical data for features Y, B, W, R and U comparing connective tissue diseases (CTD) to rheumatoid arthritis (RA), osteoarthritis (OA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA): Diagnostic odds ratio DOR, sensitivity TPR, specificity TNR, positive predictive value PPV, negative predictive value NPV.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTD vs. Feature</th>
<th>OA</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>PsA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>45</td>
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### Non-pharmacological interventions and outcomes

**OP0176-HPR**

**SELF-MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOUR, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS - A CROSS SECTIONAL NATIONWIDE STUDY AMONG >12,000 DANISH PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritides, Health Services Research, Self-management

S. B. Vestergaard, B. A. Esbensen, J. Midtgaard, B. Glimborg, M. Aaahl, P. F. Cromhouret, A. De Thurah, Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Center for Head and Orthopaedics, Rigshospitalet, DANBIO and Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research (COPECARE), Glostrup, Denmark; University of Copenhagen, Department of Clinical Medicine, Copenhagen, Denmark; Copenhagen University Hospital - Mental Health Services CPH, Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health Care (CARMEN), Mental Health Center Glostrup, Copenhagen, Denmark; Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospitals, Center for Clinical Research and Prevention, Copenhagen, Denmark; Novo Nordisk A/S, 7061, Søborg, Denmark; Aarhus University, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark

**Background:** Anxiety and depression are the mental health issues most commonly associated with inflammatory arthritis (IA) and the link between mental health issues and poor health outcomes is well-established [1]. European recommendations on self-management in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases emphasizes the need to assess mental health regularly [2]. However, little is known about the association between self-management and mental health in IA.

**Objectives:** To investigate the prevalence of anxiety and depression in patients with IA and evaluate the association of these mental health issues and self-management behavior.

**Methods:** We conducted a nationwide cross-sectional study among adult Danish patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) or spondyloarthritides (axSpA). Eligible patients were identified through the Danish Rheumatology database DANBIO and received an electronic questionnaire. The questionnaire covered socio-demographics, self-management behavior and mental health status indicated by the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, a 14-item tool with 2 sub-scales assessing symptoms of anxiety and depression. Self-management behavior was indicated by: Adherence to treatment using Compliance Questionnaire Rheumatology-S item, Patient activation in healthcare using two items from the Patient Activation Measure-13 questionnaire and level of physical activity covering weekly recommendation from WHO and American College of Sports Medicine. Self-management measures were dichotomized into high or low. Questionnaire data were linked to clinical data from DANBIO. The association between low self-management behaviour and mental health status were estimated using multivariable logistic regression with odds ratios (OR).

**Results:** A total of 42,407 patients with RA were identified; 30% (N=12,715) completed the questionnaire. Non-responders were younger than responders (60 vs. 62 years) with a similar gender distribution (p=0.187). The prevalence of anxiety (HADS-A ≥8) was highest for patients with axSpA (34.5% (95% CI: 32.4; 36.6)) and lowest for patients with RA (22.1% (95% CI: 21.2; 23.0)). Prevalence of depression (HADS-D ≥8) was highest for patients with PsA (27.2% (95%CI: 25.4;29.0)) and lowest for patients with RA 16.8% (95%CI: 17.7;19.4).

For both anxiety and depression, the prevalence was higher for women, younger (<55 years), newly diagnosed (<3 years) and patients with basic education. Patients having a clinical level (HADS ≥8) of anxiety and depression were more likely to have low self-management behavior for all included self-management measures (Table 1).

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.


**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5051
**Table 1. Association between mental health issues and self-management behaviors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adherence to treatment</th>
<th>Patient activation in healthcare</th>
<th>Physical activity</th>
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<th>Can handle new situations with health condition</th>
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<td>(5.03;6.50)</td>
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*Adjusted for age, sex, education. Ref: reference group, low self-management behavior.

**Conclusion:** In this nationwide study, high levels of anxiety and depression were seen among patients with IA. A strong association between anxiety and depression and low self-management behavior was identified. These findings call for a systematic approach in identifying mental health issues in patients with IA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** N/A.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Sofie Beh Vestergaard: None declared, Bente Appel Ebstensen: None declared, Julie Midgaard: None declared, Bente Glintom Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Abbvie, Sanozo, HMS, Mette Aadahl: None declared, Pernille Fevejle Cromhout Employee of: Novo Nordisk A/S, Annette de Thurah Speakers bureau: Pfizer and Lilly; Grant/research support from: Novartis.

**Keywords:** Mental health, Quality of life

**E. Knight**1, K. Carluzzo1, B. Reeve2, J. Singh3, K. Mueller4, L. Lin5, K. Schifferdecker2.

1. Dartmouth College, Center for Program Design and Evaluation, Geisel School of Medicine, Hanover, NH, United States of America;
2. Duke University School of Medicine, Department of Population Health Sciences, Durham, NC, United States of America; University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Medicine, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Birmingham, AL, United States of America; 3. Arthritis Foundation, Science Strategy, Atlanta, GA, United States of America; 4. Dartmouth College, The Dartmouth Institute, Geisel School of Medicine, Hanover, NH, United States of America;

**Background:** Adults with arthritis display poorer health-related quality of life (HRQOL) than the general population, including greater anxiety, depression, pain, and fatigue, and poorer physical function. Still, arthritis is a variable disease and the impact on HRQOL is heterogeneous in terms of severity and domains of impact. Some factors are associated with HRQOL outcomes in adults with arthritis, though research often focuses on a single outcome (like pain) rather than multiple HRQOL domains simultaneously. Examining protective and risk factors against poor HRQOL outcomes is needed. Can tell when situations with health condition are needed, Can handle new situations with health condition.

**Methods:** Data including PROMIS measures of physical and social function, sleep disturbance, anxiety, depression, fatigue, and pain interference (PROMIS-29) and emotional support were collected through a national foundation's online survey of adults with arthritis in the U.S. PROMIS T-scores are calibrated with the U.S. general population mean of 50 (SD = 10). Higher function T-scores reflect better functioning and higher symptom T-scores reflect worse symptom burden. We used latent profile analysis (LPA), a patient-centered modeling approach, to characterize the heterogeneity in arthritis patients by clustering them into HRQOL profiles, determined based on statistical model fit and clinical interpretability. Participants were assigned to a HRQOL profile, and we fit a multinomial logistic regression model with HRQOL profile assignment as the outcome (best HRQOL profiles as reference group) to determine associations with emotional support and demographic and clinical factors.

**Results:** We included 25,305 adults with arthritis. The LPA results favored a five-HRQOL profile solution (entropy = 0.83). See Figure 1 for profile details and participant counts. Profile 1 (8% of sample), the best HRQOL group, displayed lower anxiety and depression similar to Profile 2. Profile 4 (10% of sample) was similar, except those in Profile 4 had reduced anxiety and depression similar to Profile 1. Profile 5 (20% of sample), the worst HRQOL group, displayed mean T-scores close to 2 SDs below the US general population mean. All of the demographic and clinical factors were significant, including arthritis type. Compared to being classified into the best HRQOL group, participants who were unable to work were 39 times (95% CI = 20.35-73.85) more likely to be in the worst HRQOL group as participants who were working. Notably, higher emotional support (95% CI = 0.88-0.89) and starting to exercise (95% CI = 0.45-0.70) were associated with a lower likelihood of membership in the worst HRQOL group (Profile 5).

**Conclusion:** With the exception of the best HRQOL group, all the other HRQOL profiles (92% of sample) had poorer physical function and worse pain interference than the US general population, and elevated depression and anxiety, with some exceptions. Malleable factors such as emotional support and exercise served a protective function. These results highlight the value of considering multiple components of the patient's HRQOL experience alongside treatment options, and the potentially positive impact of interventions beyond medication.

**REFERENCES:**


**Figure 1. Five HRQOL Profiles Emerging from the LPA (including “Best” and “Worst” HRQOL)**

**OP0177HPR**

**HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE PROFILES OF ADULTS WITH ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Mental health, Quality of life


1. Dartmouth College, Center for Program Design and Evaluation, Geisel School of Medicine, Hanover, NH, United States of America; 2. Duke University School of Medicine, Department of Population Health Sciences, Durham, NC, United States of America; 3. University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Medicine, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Birmingham, AL, United States of America; 4. Arthritis Foundation, Science Strategy, Atlanta, GA, United States of America; 5. Dartmouth College, The Dartmouth Institute, Geisel School of Medicine, Hanover, NH, United States of America.

**Background:** Adults with arthritis display poorer health-related quality of life (HRQOL) than the general population, including greater anxiety, depression, pain, and fatigue, and poorer physical function. Still, arthritis is a variable disease and the impact on HRQOL is heterogeneous in terms of severity and domains of impact. Some factors are associated with HRQOL outcomes in adults with arthritis, though research often focuses on a single outcome (like pain) rather than multiple HRQOL domains simultaneously. Examining protective and risk factors against a constellation of HRQOL outcomes would be beneficial for treatment of arthritis as a disease that impacts multiple areas of patients’ lives.

**Objectives:** We aimed to identify profiles of HRQOL impact using the NIH’s Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) measures in a sample of adults with arthritis (osteoarthritis, inflammatory arthritis, fibromyalgia; with other arthritis types). We also aimed to identify demographic and clinical factors associated with HRQOL profile membership that serve as protective or risk factors against poor HRQOL outcomes.

**Methods:** Data including PROMIS measures of physical and social function, sleep disturbance, anxiety, depression, fatigue, and pain interference (PROMIS-29) and emotional support were collected through a national foundation's online survey of adults with arthritis in the U.S. PROMIS T-scores are calibrated with the U.S. general population mean of 50 (SD = 10). Higher function T-scores reflect better functioning and higher symptom T-scores reflect worse symptom burden. We used latent profile analysis (LPA), a patient-centered modeling approach, to characterize the heterogeneity in arthritis patients by clustering them into HRQOL profiles, determined based on statistical model fit and clinical interpretability. Participants were assigned to a HRQOL profile, and we fit a multinomial logistic regression model with HRQOL profile assignment as the outcome (best HRQOL profile as reference group) to determine associations with emotional support and demographic and clinical factors.

**Results:** We included 25,305 adults with arthritis. The LPA results favored a five-HRQOL profile solution (entropy = 0.83). See Figure 1 for profile details and participant counts. Profile 1 (8% of sample), the best HRQOL group, displayed higher physical and social functioning and lower physical and mental symptoms. Profiles 3 (37% of sample) and 4 (10% of sample) were similar, except those in Profile 4 had reduced anxiety and depression similar to Profile 1. Profile 5 (20% of sample), the worst HRQOL group, displayed mean T-scores close to 2 SDs below the US general population mean. All of the demographic and clinical factors were significant, including arthritis type. Compared to being classified into the best HRQOL group, participants who were unable to work were 39 times (95% CI = 20.35-73.85) more likely to be in the worst HRQOL group as participants who were working. Notably, higher emotional support (95% CI = 0.88-0.89) and starting to exercise (95% CI = 0.45-0.70) were associated with a lower likelihood of membership in the worst HRQOL group (Profile 5).

**Conclusion:** With the exception of the best HRQOL group, all the other HRQOL profiles (92% of sample) had poorer physical function and worse pain interference than the US general population, and elevated depression and anxiety, with some exceptions. Malleable factors such as emotional support and exercise served a protective function. These results highlight the value of considering multiple components of the patient's HRQOL experience alongside treatment options, and the potentially positive impact of interventions beyond medication.

**REFERENCES:**


Conclusion:

We present annualised data from 28 February 2019 to 14 July 2022. We assessed 677 patients with PsA or AS and enrolled in the You First programme. All You First nurses had received training in patient support programmes that provide an individualised nurse-led service, such as You First, to help ensure the stability of healthcare resources. You First is aimed at people who have been prescribed secukinumab, an injectable anti-interleukin 17A monoclonal antibody, for approved indications including psoriatic arthritis (PsA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis.

Method:
The analysis included adult participants who were eligible for treatment with secukinumab according to National Institute for Health and Care Excellence criteria and were enrolled in the You First programme. All You First nurses were registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and underwent specific training, competency assessment and validation to ensure they met all regulatory standards of National Health Service (NHS) practice. Each participant was assigned to a dedicated nurse who visited the participant’s home to provide routine clinical assessments, routine follow-up visits, phlebotomy service, psychological support visits, injection training and routine secukinumab administration, as required. Participants could also schedule regular nurse telephone calls to discuss any disease or drug-related concerns such as secukinumab dosing/administration and side effect management. All data gathered during the home visits and telephone calls were reported to the treating physicians. Calculation of cost savings was based on the number of visits carried out as part of You First and the cost that the NHS would have incurred if the visit occurred at the hospital (£2.02 for phlebotomy service, £24 for telephone contact, and £99 for each assessment, routine follow-up visits and psychological support visit). Here we present annualised data from 28 February 2019 to 14 July 2022.

Results:

In total, 126 participants with PsA (n=81) and AS (n=45) were observed for 17 months on average. At baseline, the mean age was 52.7 years and 39.2% of participants were female. During the timeframe of this analysis, You First nurses had 1160 contact points with the clinical team (793 visits; 367 telephone calls). The median (interquartile range) number of visits and telephone calls carried out as part of the programme per participant per year was 6.4 (4.6–11.3): phlebotomy had 1160 contact points with the clinical team (793 visits; 367 telephone calls).

Objectives:

This retrospective analysis aimed to evaluate the benefits of the You First patient support programme on the rheumatology service at a large university teaching hospital with a catchment population of 350,000, of whom 40% are from ethnic minorities.

Methods:
The analysis included adult participants who were eligible for treatment with secukinumab according to National Institute for Health and Care Excellence criteria and were enrolled in the You First programme. All You First nurses were registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and underwent specific training, competency assessment and validation to ensure they met all regulatory standards of National Health Service (NHS) practice. Each participant was assigned to a dedicated nurse who visited the participant’s home to provide routine clinical assessments, routine follow-up visits, phlebotomy service, psychological support visits, injection training and routine secukinumab administration, as required. Participants could also schedule regular nurse telephone calls to discuss any disease or drug-related concerns such as secukinumab dosing/administration and side effect management. All data gathered during the home visits and telephone calls were reported to the treating physicians. Calculation of cost savings was based on the number of visits carried out as part of You First and the cost that the NHS would have incurred if the visit occurred at the hospital (£2.02 for phlebotomy service, £24 for telephone contact, and £99 for each assessment, routine follow-up visits and psychological support visit). Here we present annualised data from 28 February 2019 to 14 July 2022.

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Conclusion:

Implementation of You First at this large university teaching hospital yielded substantial cost savings for the NHS, with outsourced visits providing the most cost savings. You First allowed people with PsA or AS to be managed at home, reducing diagnostic and treatment times and leveraging the capacity of nurses. This translated to an annual cost saving of £64,156.49 (phlebotomy service per participant per year was 6.4 (4.6–11.3): phlebotomy service had 1160 contact points with the clinical team (793 visits; 367 telephone calls).
The study had a concurrent mixed methods design in which quantitative and qualitative data were collected in parallel, analyzed separately, before integration into an overall result. All participants in the intervention group (n=168) of the BRIDGE-trial were included. Quantitative data were patient-reported in an electronic portal. Demographic and disease-specific data were collected on admission to rehabilitation. Data on goal attainment (Patient Specific Functional Scale), physical function (30 seconds Sit-To-Stand test), health related quality of life (EQ5D-SL-index), and health status (EQ-VAS) were reported at discharge, 2, 7 and 12 months after rehabilitation. Needs for follow-up were reported at rehabilitation discharge by ticking off a list of 12 predefined options. The patients were categorized into 4 groups based on their needs for follow-up on discharge (yes/no) and the degree of follow-up received according to stated needs the first year after rehabilitation (none/partial/complete). Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, ANCOVAs, and linear regression. Qualitative data about patients’ experiences with follow-up were collected in semi-structured interviews with 21 patients and analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis. The results were integrated in the overall interpretation and discussion.

Results: The patients most often reported needs for follow-up from General Practitioner, physiotherapist, and social security services, and did mostly receive (> 85%) these services within 1 year after rehabilitation. There were no significant differences between the 4 groups with regard to characteristics at discharge, or clinical outcomes 1 year after rehabilitation. Received individually tailored follow-up was not shown to significantly influence clinical outcomes, and was, surprisingly, associated with reduced patient reported health 1 year after rehabilitation: EQ-VAS β 0.28 [95% CI -0.46, -0.09], p=0.004. The qualitative analysis resulted in three themes: “Contact between service levels” (established through various actors, processes, documents), “Follow-up keeps the rehabilitation process going” (by increasing motivation and focus on goals and self-effort after discharge), and “Loss of momentum” (linked to personal and structural factors).

Conclusions: Patients with RMDs require access to one or more healthcare services after rehabilitation in secondary care. Clinical outcomes 1 year after rehabilitation appeared to be influenced by several other factors than the actual received follow-up support. Health personnel’s competence and structural factors across health service levels, such as waiting lists and limited access to care, seemed to be decisive for the progress of the rehabilitation process over time, together with factors related to the individual patient and his/her life situation. The findings can contribute to increased insight into what promotes continuity in rehabilitation processes, effective follow-up, and better health for this patient group.

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2976

Keywords: Quality of care, rehabilitation, patient reported outcomes

Figure 1. Work ability score (WAS) at baseline n = 3096, and at 1-year follow up n= 2397.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1203

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Telemedicine, Rheumatoid arthritis

Methods: A total of 775 patients were included in the register-based analyses. Since 129 patients did not have a digital mailbox, 646 patients received the electronic questionnaire which was completed by 394 (61%) patients. No labor market attachment and low household income was associated with lower odds for remote follow-up participation (OR 0.53 (95% CI 0.34 – 0.83) and (OR 0.69

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosures: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Background: Several EULAR recommendations for the management of people with specific inflammatory rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (I-RMDs) have highlighted the importance of some non-pharmacological interventions in the management of fatigue [1-3]. However, these recommendations are either disease-specific or focusing on a single intervention, and lack an integrated view on how to support RA patients in conventional follow-up, as well as increased focus on vulnerable patient groups and the need for differential use of healthcare services.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: Liv Schougaard: None declared, Line Knudsen Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Birgith Grove: None declared, Niels-Henrik Hjøllund: None declared, Ellen-Margrethe Haage Speakers bureau: Novartis, AbbVie, Sanofi, Sandi, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Sanofi, Annette de Thurah Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Lily, Grant/research support from: Yes, unrestricted grant, Novartis.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2005

E. Santos1, B. Farisogullari2, E. Dures3,4, P. Machado5,6,7. 1 Nursing School of Coimbra (ESEnF), Health Sciences Research Unit: Nursing (UCI/CISA: E), Coimbra, Portugal; 2 Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3 University of the West of England, School of Health and Social Wellbeing, Bristol, United Kingdom; 4 Bristol Royal Infirmary, Academic Rheumatology, Bristol, United Kingdom; 5 University College London, Centre for Rheumatology & Department of Neuromuscular Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 6 University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre, London, United Kingdom; 7 Northwick Park Hospital, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Several EULAR recommendations for the management of people with specific inflammatory rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (I-RMDs) have highlighted the importance of some non-pharmacological interventions in the management of fatigue [1-3]. However, these recommendations are either disease-specific or focusing on a single intervention, and lack an integrated view of the overall evidence for fatigue management with non-pharmacological therapies in the wider context of all I-RMD.

Objectives: To identify the best evidence on the efficacy of non-pharmacological interventions in reducing fatigue in people with I-RMDs and to summarise their safety in the identified studies to inform EULAR recommendations for the management of fatigue in people with I-RMD.

Methods: Systematic review of adults with I-RMD conducted according to the Cochrane Handbook. Search strategy ran in Medline, Embase, Cochrane Library, OINAHL, Complete, PEDro, OTseeker and PsyCINFO. Assessment of risk of bias, data extraction, and synthesis performed by two reviewers independently. Data pooled in statistical meta-analyses.

Results: From a total of 4,150 records, 454 were selected for full-text review, 82 of which were included in meta-analyses. Physical activity or exercise were efficacious in reducing fatigue in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (SMD=-0.23, p<0.001), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (SMD=-0.54, p=0.04) and spondyloarthritis (SpA) (SMD=-0.94, p<0.001). A reduction in fatigue was also observed in Sjögren's syndrome and systemic sclerosis, although not statistically significant (SMD=-0.83, p=0.21; SMD=-0.66, p=0.06, respectively). Psychosocial interventions were efficacious in reducing fatigue in RA (SMD=-0.32, p<0.001), but not in SLE (SMD=-0.19, p=0.18). Follow-up models in consultations and multicomponent interventions reduced fatigue in RA, although the effect was not statistically significant (SMD=-0.05, p=0.71; SMD=-0.20, p=0.24, respectively) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. The summary of the meta-analyses

Acknowledgements: E Santos and B Farisogullari contributed equally to the manuscript.

Disclosure of Interests: Eduardo Santos: None declared, Bayram Farisogullari: None declared, Emma Dures: None declared, Pedro Machado Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Orphazyme, Pfizer, Roche and UCB. Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Orphazyme, Pfizer, Roche and UCB.

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0 – 100 in 75 minutes; RMDs have no age

E. Santos1, B. Farisogullari2, E. Dures3,4, P. Machado5,6,7. 1 Nursing School of Coimbra (ESEnF), Health Sciences Research Unit: Nursing (UCI/CISA: E), Coimbra, Portugal; 2 Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3 University of the West of England, School of Health and Social Wellbeing, Bristol, United Kingdom; 4 Bristol Royal Infirmary, Academic Rheumatology, Bristol, United Kingdom; 5 University College London, Centre for Rheumatology & Department of Neuromuscular Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 6 University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre, London, United Kingdom; 7 Northwick Park Hospital, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most frequently occurring rheumatic disease of childhood. It causes ongoing joint inflammation, pain and stiffness making everyday activities difficult. Studies have emphasised the negative impacts JIA has across physical, social, psychological, and educational development. Devices exist to assist with daily activities such as washing, eating, or writing. However, a survey we conducted in 2018 highlighted that the majority of these are designed for adults. Those designed for Children and Young People (CYP) are often either difficult to use, stigmatising, patronising, or fail to address their unique needs and contexts. This has resulted in numerous unmet needs and a lack of effective innovations for this population. The innovation, JIA Toolbox, was co-designed, meaning CYP with JIA, their parents, healthcare professionals, teachers and design researchers collectively collaborated throughout its development. Here, we present the intervention stage of the project, where JIA Toolbox was tested and evaluated by CYP with JIA.

Objectives: To evaluate the potential impacts of JIA Toolbox in improving independence and functional ability of CYP with JIA. To obtain real-world feedback on

E. Santos1, B. Farisogullari2, E. Dures3,4, P. Machado5,6,7. 1 Nursing School of Coimbra (ESEnF), Health Sciences Research Unit: Nursing (UCI/CISA: E), Coimbra, Portugal; 2 Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3 University of the West of England, School of Health and Social Wellbeing, Bristol, United Kingdom; 4 Bristol Royal Infirmary, Academic Rheumatology, Bristol, United Kingdom; 5 University College London, Centre for Rheumatology & Department of Neuromuscular Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 6 University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre, London, United Kingdom; 7 Northwick Park Hospital, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: In 2008, Smolen et al. published their 2008 EULAR recommendations for physical activity in people with inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis. Since then, there have been several incremental updates of these recommendations. These include the 2015 update by the same group, in which they provided new guidance on physical activity in people with inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis. These guidelines were developed by an international task force, which included rheumatologists, physiotherapists, and patients with inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis. The task force reviewed the available evidence on the effects of physical activity on various aspects of inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis, including pain, physical function, quality of life, and health-related quality of life. The task force then made recommendations for the amount and type of physical activity that is beneficial for people with inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis.

REFERENCES:
A sample size of 10 CYP (7-16yrs), their parents and teachers were involved. Whilst small, this number was felt adequate due to the individual and qualitative nature of JIA condition experience. Their involvement included:

- Training sessions for data collection and prototype use. CYP and their parents recorded their daily experience using a digital booklet with specific questions about their condition and prototype use.
- 3-week baseline data collection without JIA Toolbox.
- 5-week intervention data collection with JIA Toolbox.
- 1-week post intervention data collection without JIA Toolbox.
- End of intervention interview.

Results: Analysis of the findings is currently being undertaken. Preliminary results indicate that 70-90% of the sample group found one or more of the innovations highly beneficial, helping with their overall condition management. Prototype 1 was highlighted as an effective therapeutic aid “it helped soothe my knee, I liked how you can position it exactly where it hurts”. One patient found it reduced pain when used with joint injections. Prototype 2 was helpful for physiotherapy exercises “to keep count” and “know how long the regularity of their physio stretches over the intervention period. The innovation acted as an ongoing reminder, “it encouraged him to do his physio stretches as he hadn’t been doing any before” Prototype 3 “helped communicate when I was in pain and needed help”. The use of this intervention depended on the child’s individual confidence, with those feeling less confident, relying more on the technology. These users found it beneficial, “the teacher knew I needed a rest break without me having to say anything in front of the rest of the class”. Participants also highlighted areas that could be improved to increase ease of use and engagement.

Conclusion: Based on initial results, the proof-of-concept was successful with these innovations proving to be beneficial to CYP with JIA. The patient data will allow refinement of these devices and provide insights into the lived experiences of CYP with JIA. These devices may have applicability to both adult populations with rheumatic disease and CYP with other conditions. Further research will explore these avenues in the future. Next steps include applying for further funding to undertake a feasibility study with a larger sample population.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank The Children’s Hospital Charity, based at Sheffield Children’s Hospital, for their funding to undertake this project and ongoing support. I would also like to thank NIHR Children and Young People MedTech Cooperative for their early support and ongoing assistance throughout this project. Special thanks to all of the children, young people, families and teachers who contributed their time and expertise.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2308
**Conclusion:** Patient representatives of RMD patient organisations represent diverse profiles of health literacy strengths and weaknesses, but the most complex challenges in the original patient survey were not found. Differences may relate to how patients are selected and supported to become a representative, and how being a representative improves some aspects of health literacy. Patient organisations should take into account that their target population generally has more difficulty actively managing health and critically appraising information, and includes more people with diverse health literacy needs than their patient representatives may report.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1753

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**Table 1. Cohort Information**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>3.85</td>
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<td>BMI</td>
<td>26.29</td>
<td>25.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serum Biomarkers</strong></td>
<td>Serum CCP3, median (IQR)</td>
<td>60 (42.5, 183)</td>
<td>0 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Serum RF IgA, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0.25 (0.25, 4.63)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Serum RF IgM, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0.57 (0.25, 22.23)</td>
<td>0 (0.43)</td>
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**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Mark Gillespie: None declared, Ziyuan He: None declared, Samir Rachid Zaim: None declared, Lauren Okada: None declared, Julian Reading: None declared, Alex Heubeck: None declared, Charles Roll: None declared, Palak Genge: None declared, Morgan Weiss: None declared, Cole Phalen: None declared, Regina Metz: None declared, Cate Speak: None declared, Jane Buckner Consultant of: BMS, GentBiO, David Boyle: None declared, Kristen Demoruelle: None declared, Kristine A. Kuhn: None declared, Fan Zhang: None declared, Thomas Bumol: None declared, V Michael Holers: None declared, SFenene: None declared, Xiao-jun Li: None declared, Gary Firestein Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Troy Torgerson: None declared, Kevin Deane Consultant of: Werfer, ThermoFisher, BMS, BI, Grant/research support from: Scopher Medicine, Gilead, Adam Savage: None declared.

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**Table 1.** Distinct peripheral immunophenotyping underlines histopathological features in patients with lupus nephritis in a large multi-center cohort

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Variable</th>
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<th>p-value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at sample draw, median</td>
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</table>

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**Keywords:** Kidneys, -omics, Systemic lupus erythematosus

**References:**
[1] A. Horibeiger, 1, 2, A. Griffth, J. Keegan, 1, 2, A. Howard, 1, 2, J. Pulford, 3, 4, E. Murzin, 1, B. Hancock, 3, T. Gough, 3, T. Sasaki, 3, A. Fava, 3, M. Gutierrez Arcelus, 1, T. Eisenhaure, 1, J. Guthridge, 1, A. Arazzi, 7, P. Hoovers, 2, M. Dell'era, 10, D. Wofsy, 3, D. L. Kamen, 4, K. Kalunian, 12, R. Furie, 3, H. M. Belmont, 13, P. Izmirly, 3, R. Clancy, 3, D. Hildeman, 4, E. S. Woolde, 5, W. Apruzzi, 6, M. Mcmahon, 7, J. Grossman, 5, J. Barnas, 10, F. Payan-Schober, 10, M. Ishimori, 10, M. Weinman, 7, M. Kretzler, 7, C. Berthier, 7, J. Hodgion, 2, C. Puttermann, 7, N. Hacojen, 7, M. Brenner, 7, J. H. Anolik, 7, A. Davidson, 7, J. A. James, 7, S. Raychaudhuri, 1, M. A. Pets, 7, J. Buyon, 7, B. Diamond, 7, T. A. M. P. R. N. (Amp) , F. Zhang, 1, J. L. E. Lederer, 1, D. Rao, 2, 4, 17, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, United States of America; 2Lausanne University Hospital, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland; 3Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, United States of America; 4Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, United States of America; 5Johns Hopkins University, Division of Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America; 6Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, United States of America; 7Broad Institute of MIT, Harvard University, Cambridge, United States of America; 8Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, OMRF, Oklahoma City, United States of America; 9The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Northwell Health, Manhasset, NY, United States of America; 10University of California San Francisco, UCSF;
San Francisco, United States of America; 13Medical University of South Carolina, Division of Rheumatology, Charleston, United States of America; 14University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, La Jolla, United States of America; 15New York University School of Medicine, New York, United States of America; 16University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine, Cincinnati, United States of America; 17University of California, UCLA, Los Angeles, United States of America; 18University of Rochester Medical Center, URMC, Rochester, United States of America; 19Texas Tech University, Health Sciences Center, El Paso, United States of America; 20Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, United States of America; 21University of Michigan, Division of Nephrology, Ann Arbor, United States of America; 22University of Michigan, Department of Pathology, Ann Arbor, United States of America; 23Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, United States of America; 24Multiple Institutions, Multiple Departments, Multiple Cities, United States of America; 25Institutes, Multiple Departments, Multiple Cities, United States of America; 26Geschke Medical Center, Aurora, United States of America; 27Co-senior Authors, United States of America

**Background:** Lupus nephritis (LN) is a common and severe complication of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) requiring renal biopsy to guide treatment decisions. Despite standard-of-care therapy, a third of patients with LN class III, IV, or V show a progressive decline in kidney function, including those with improved proteinuria. Defining LN heterogeneity using a non-invasive approach is a pressing need to improve treatment.

**Objectives:** To determine circulating immune cell phenotypes characteristic of LN histology.

**Methods:** Mass cytometry using four 48-marker panels were applied to characterize peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from 140 patients with biopsy-proven class III, IV, or V LN and 40 healthy controls included in the Accelerated Medicine Partnership RA/SLE Network Phase II study. After filtering for quality control and correcting for batch effects, we projected subjects in a UMAP space. We clustered LN patients and controls based on proportions of all PBMC subsets using k-means clustering and identified cell neighborhoods and clusters using an unsupervised approach. We implemented covarying neighborhood analysis (CNA) to identify cell populations associated with clinical features.

**Results:** Compared to controls, LN patients displayed marked enrichment of cell neighborhoods that expressed interferon (IFN)-induced proteins including IFN-responsive cells (p < 0.001) and Siglec1 (p < 0.001), reflecting a simple, cytometric detection of an IFN signature. Detailed immune cell subsetting using the B cell- (Figure 1A), T cell-, myeloid cell-, and NK cell-focused panels identified several alterations in LN patients compared to controls, including increased CD27 IgD (DN) CD11c+ Tbet+ B cells (OR 1.6, 95% CI 1.3-2.2, p.adj < 0.001) and T peripheral helper cells (OR 1.8, 95% CI 1.3-2.8, p.adj = 0.002), and decreased plasmacytoid dendritic cells (OR 0.6, 95% CI 0.4-0.8, p.adj < 0.001), adjusting for age, sex, ethnicity and race. LN patients with minimal immunosuppression (IS, n = 14) displayed similar results. Comparing patients with proliferative LN (class III or IV vs V, n = 94) versus membranous LN (class V, n = 46), we observed the most significant alterations within B cells, with enrichment of a naive B cell population characterized as CD23- and CD19+ (Figure 1B,C). The phenotype of this enriched naive B cell population was distinct from transitional and CD11c- ‘activated naive’ cells (Figure 1D). This B cell population was also associated with increased histologic NIH activity score (Figure 1B,C) even after adjusting for IS, and with positive anti-dsDNA antibody (p = 0.02). To further understand the LN heterogeneity, we clustered LN patients and controls based on proportions of all PBMC subsets using k-means clustering and projected subjects in a UMAP space. We identified two prominent clusters: cluster 1 included only LN patients, and cluster 2 included all controls and 26 LN patients. LN patients in cluster 2 (Control-like) had significantly lower clinical extrarenal activity (coef -2.1, 95% CI -2.8—-2.0, 95% CI -36.6—19.4, p.adj < 0.001), adjusting for IS. In line with these findings, we confirmed by CNA the association of increased histologic chronicity with fewer MX1+ or Siglec1+ IFN-responsive cells, adjusting for IS (p.adj = 0.002, FDR < 10%).

**Conclusion:** In addition to profoundly impaired circulating immunophenotype observed in LN patients, we identified a difference in naive B cell states in patients with LN compared to membranous LN. Based on circulating immunophenotype, we identified a subset of SLE patients with low extrarenal activity and increased histologic evidence of chronic kidney damage. These results nominate potential non-invasive biomarkers associated with LN heterogeneity and highlight altered naive B cell activation in proliferative LN.

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD, Geographical differences

**References:**


**Background:** Previous studies have suggested there could be regional differences in clinical phenotype of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).
Objectives: This analysis aims to explore differences in axSpA clinical phenotype around the world in a large sample of patients included in the International Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (IMAS).

Methods: IMAS was a cross-sectional online survey (2017-2022) of 5,557 unselected axSpA patients from 27 countries. We analysed across 5 geographic regions the age at onset of symptoms, classification as radiographic or non-radiographic, gender, HLA-B27, axSpA family history, extra-musculoskeletal manifestations (uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis), presence of comorbidities, disease activity (BASDAI), level of spinal stiffness, and treatment (NSAIDs, csDMARDs and bDMARDs). Kruskal-Wallis and chi-square test were used to compare axSpA characteristics across the regions.

Results: 5,557 patients participated in IMAS survey of which 3,493 were from Europe, 770 from North America, 600 from Asia, 548 from Latin America, and 146 from Africa. Results showed statistically significant differences between regions, except for the classification status (radiographic or non-radiographic). Age at onset of symptoms ranged between 25-30 years, and was higher in Latin America as compared to other regions. Diagnostic delay was longest in South Africa and lowest in Asia. The lowest frequency of HLA-B27 positivity was observed in Latin America and the highest in Asia. Family history of SpA was most often recorded in Europe and less often in Asia. All extra-musculoskeletal manifestations included were lowest in Europe compared with other regions. Physical and mental comorbidities were frequent in African patients and less common in Europe and Asia. Mean disease activity (BASDAI) was 5.4, with highest values in South Africa and lowest in Asia. Spinal stiffness was highest in South Africa and lowest in Latin America. Functional limitation was higher in North America and Europe and lower in Asia. Most of the patients had used NSAIDs for their condition and less than half had ever taken csDMARDS; both were more frequent in Latin America and South Africa. Almost half of the patients had ever taken bDMARDs, more frequent being in the Americas (Map 1).

Conclusion: There is great heterogeneity of axSpA clinical phenotype presentation around the world. Further understanding of these differences is needed to achieve early diagnosis and initiation of disease treatment in axSpA.

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Why is performing a good systematic literature review (SLR) so difficult?

Keywords: Systematic review, Vasculitis, Imaging

P Bosch1, M. Bond2, C. Dejaoc3, C. Ponte3,4, S. Mackie5,6, L. Falzon7, W. A. Schmidt8, S. Ramiro9,10, Medical University of Graz, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Graz, Austria; Hospital of Brunec (ASAA-SABES), Department of Rheumatology, Brunec, Italy; Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Department of Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 4Lisbon Academic Medical Centre, Rheumatology Research Unit, Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal; 5University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 6Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 1University of Sheffield, Health Economics and Decision Science, School of Health and Related Research, Sheffield, United Kingdom; 2Immanuel Krankenhaus Berlin, Medical Centre for Rheumatology Berlin-Buch, Berlin, Germany; 3Leiden University Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 4Zuyderland Medical Center, Rheumatology, Heerlen, Netherlands

Background: Since the development of the EULAR recommendations for the use of imaging in large vessel vasculitis (LVV) in 2017, new data has emerged in the field of imaging techniques and their application in the diagnosis and follow-up of patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA) and Takayasu arteritis (TAK).

Objectives: To summarize the evidence on different imaging techniques for diagnosis, monitoring, and outcome prediction in LVV in order to inform an EULAR task force updating the recommendations for imaging in LVV.

Methods: Systematic literature review (SLR) on studies published between 2017-2022 on ultrasound (US), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), positron emission tomography (PET)-CT/MRI and fluorescein angiography in patients with LVV (PROSPERO registration CRD42022305845). Eligible study designs included randomized controlled trials and observational studies but excluded case-controlled studies. Two reviewers independently performed data extraction, synthesis, and risk of bias assessment. For studies on diagnosis, meta-analyses were performed using data from both the original and updated SLR whenever possible. Pooled sensitivities and specificities were obtained by fitting random effects models for all studies and for studies with low risk of bias separately. Meta-analyses were performed in R version 4.2.1 using the “meta” package. The description of observations without inferences and the heterogeneity of reported data precluded any meta-analysis for outcome prediction or monitoring.

Results: A total of 4696 references were identified. Thirty-eight studies on GCA (n=32), TAK (n=2), and GCA and TAK (n=4) were included through the update, adding up to eighty-one studies from both SLRs. Pooled sensitivities and specificities for US, MRI and PET-CT using a clinical diagnosis of GCA as the reference standard are depicted in Table 1. No studies on the diagnostic value of imaging techniques were found for TAK. The US evaluation of patients with suspected GCA, including the assessment of both cranial and extracranial vessels, showed a higher pooled sensitivity (95%CI) (69% [73%-96%] vs 70% [59%-79%]) and similar specificity (95%CI) (91% [93%-95%] vs 91% [84%-94%]) compared to only including cranial vessels. Studies on outcome prediction (n=5) and monitoring (n=10) reported change of signs of vasculitis along with disease activity and proposed composite scores comprising several vessel territories for US, MRI and PET-CT.

Conclusion: US, MRI and PET-CT revealed a good performance for the diagnosis of GCA. Assessing both cranial and extracranial vessels with US leads to a higher pooled sensitivity with a similar pooled specificity compared to an assessment limited to cranial vessels.

Map 1. The clinical phenotype of axial spondyloarthritis stratified by region (N=5,557)
Talking about Remission

OP0189

REMSSION CRITERIA GUIDING IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE THERAPY IN RA: WHICH IS BEST FITTED FOR THIS PURPOSE?

Keywords: Remission, Treat to target, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. Duarte1, R. J. O. Ferreira2, P. Welsing3, J. W. G. Jacobs4, P. Machado5, D. Van der Heijde6, J. A. P. Da Silva1, 1Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 2Nursing School of Lisbon (ESEL), Nursing Research, Innovation and Development Centre of Lisbon (CIDNUR), Lisboa, Portugal; 3UMC Utrecht, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 4Sorbonne Université, and Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 5University College London, Centre for Rheumatology & Department of Neuromuscular Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 6LUMC, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Remission is the target for the management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, the best definition of remission is still under debate, particularly regarding the inclusion of patient global assessment (PGA),[1] An increased cut-off for PGA (from ≤1 to ≤2cm) was recently proposed by ACR/EULAR for its Boolean-based criteria,[2] but others have suggested to replace PGA by the Physician’s Global Assessment (PhGA).[3] In case of poor PhGA, or to simply drop PGA (ie, 3-Variable Boolean remission) when the objective is to guide immunosuppressive therapy.[2] Radiographic progression is a relevant reference standard to investigate as outcome of persistent/residual disease activity.

Objectives: To assess which definition of remission best predicts good radiographic outcome (GRO) in RA.

Methods: Meta-analyses using individual patient data (IPD) from 8 randomized controlled trials assessing the efficacy of bDMARDs on radiographic outcomes in RA. Six different definitions of remission were considered: i) The ACR/EULAR Boolean 3v PGA; ii) SDAI≤3.3; iii) CDAI≤2.8; iv) Boolean 4v PGA2; v) Boolean 4v replacing PGA by PhGA (4vPhGA); and vi) Boolean excluding PGA (3v). Good radiographic outcome (GRO) was defined as an increase of ≤0.5 modified Total Sharp score (mTSS) units. The relationship between achieving each remission definition at 6 and/or 12 months and GRO during the second year was analysed. The pooled probabilities of GRO for the different definitions of remission were estimated and compared, as well as their predictive accuracy (True Positive + True Negative). Meta-analyses were performed using the DerSimonian-Laird random-effects method.

Results: IPD from 4423 patients of 8 RCTs were analysed. 4vPGA remission was achieved by 24.3% of patients and 3V remission by 43.4%. The adoption of the recently proposed PGA≤2 cut-off resulted in an “in-between” rate of 32.4% (Table 1). GRO was observed in 77.6% of all patients, ranging from 63% to 91% in different trials. GRO among patients achieving remission ranged from 82.4% (3v) to 83.9% (SDAI), without any statistically significant difference between the 6 definitions considered. Boolean 3v remission showed a higher predictive accuracy (51.1%, 95%CI: 46.9-55.6%) than 4vPGA (38.8%, 95%CI: 34.1-43.5%). The 4vPGA and the 4vPGA2 remission definitions performed in between, providing a correct prediction in 43.8 and 44.8% of the cases, respectively. The performance of SDAI- and CDAI-based definitions were, overall, very similar to that of 4vPGA. (Figure 1)

Conclusion: The Boolean 3v remission provided the most accurate prediction of GRO, even better than 4vPGA and 4vPhGA remission. The use of the 3v definition in treatment recommendations would avoid the risk of overtreatment in a significant proportion of patients, with a minor increment in radiographic damage progression, validating 3v-remission as a preferable guide for immunosuppressive treatment. The patient’s perspective, which must remain central, is best served by a dedicated autonomous target, rather than PGA: a dual-target approach.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Rates of remission and good radiographic outcomes in the included studies

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<tr>
<th>Trial (year)</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>4vPGA</th>
<th>4vPGA2</th>
<th>3v</th>
<th>Good Radiographic Outcome n (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>DE019 (2004)</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>68 (16)</td>
<td>94 (22)</td>
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<td>297 (70)</td>
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<td>TEMPO (2004)</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>113 (26)</td>
<td>156 (36)</td>
<td>204 (46)</td>
<td>330 (75)</td>
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<td>206 (38)</td>
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<td>FUNCTION (2016)</td>
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<td>308 (37)</td>
<td>381 (45)</td>
<td>459 (54)</td>
<td>796 (91)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| % Polled | 24 | 32* | 43* | 78 |

*ΔmTSS change in the modified total Sharp score during the second year of follow-up. p<0.001 when compared with the 4vPGA definition.

Figure 1: Accuracy of prediction of good radiographic outcome by remission criterion

All meta-analyses used the double arcine transformation as the preferred method. 4423 patients were included in GRO analysis. Legend: GRO: Good Radiographic Outcome; TP: True positive; TN: True negative; FP: False positive (risk of under-treatment); FN: False negative (risk of overtreatment); Accuracy predictive - TP + TN. Between brackets is the pooled 95% CI.
Artificial Intelligence in Medicine: Chances & Challenges

OP0190

A MACHINE LEARNING MODEL THAT PREDICTS RA PROGRESSION FROM UNDIFFERENTIATED ARTHRITIS -KURAMA AND ANSWER COHORT STUDY-

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Undifferentiated connective tissue disease, Real-world evidence


Background: Early diagnosis and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) improve clinical outcomes. Undifferentiated arthritis (UA) is arthritis that does not fit a specific diagnosis. Half of the UA undergo spontaneous remission, while 30% of cases develop RA. Therefore, in UA, identifying patients at high risk for developing RA and providing close monitoring for those patients is required for early diagnosis and treatment [1]. However, predicting the evolution of UA to RA is still difficult.

Objectives: Machine learning, including deep learning, which is comparable to and in some cases surpasses the performance of human experts, is broadening its application in medicine. This study aims to build a machine-learning model that predicts the development of UA to RA.

Methods: For model training, a total of 322 UA patients in KURAMA cohort were analyzed (Table 1). For variables to train models, we chose 24 clinical features, which are easy to obtain in daily clinical practice. The target variable was the final diagnosis. We built models using Random Forest (RF), XGBoost (XGB), Logistic regression (LR), and Deep neural network (DNN) and compared their performances. For model validation, we used data of 88 UA cases in ANSWER cohort (Table 1).

Results: We trained models using 24 clinical parameters at the first clinical visit, performed 10-fold cross-validation, and evaluated model performance by averaging accuracy and AUC. The performance of the models was 73.5%, 74.2%, 74.5%, and 85.1% in precision and 0.760, 0.734, 0.748, and 0.895 in AUC for RF, XGB, LR, and DNN, respectively. DNN showed the highest performance. We then applied the DNN model to external validation data from ANSWER cohort (positive %, median, yr), Table 1.

Conclusion: Using parameters available in clinical practice, we developed a DNN model that effectively predicted RA development in internal and external UA data sets. Applying a machine learning approach might enable identifying patients at high risk of RA progression and improve the clinical management of UA patients.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Baseline patients' characteristics

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<td><strong>age</strong> (median, yr)</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>ACPA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACPA</strong></td>
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<tr>
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Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgments to declare.

Disclosure of Interests: Takayuki Fujiyama is a member of the Scientific Committee and the Organizing Committee. He has no other disclosures to make.

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Exploring and managing inequalities in RMD healthcare

Keywords: Quality of life, Systemic lupus erythematous, Self-management

E. Williams1, V. Ramakrishnan2, L. Egede3, A. Boan4, T. Caldwell5, C. Dismuke-Greer6, J. Rose7, H. Johnson8, J. Oates9. 1University of Rochester Medical Center, Public Health Sciences, Rochester, United States of America; 2Medical University of South Carolina, Public Health Sciences, Charleston, United States of America; 3Medical College of Wisconsin, Medicine, Milwaukee, United States of America; 4Medical University of South Carolina, Pediatrics, Charleston, United States of America; 5VA Palo Alto, Health Economics Resource Center, Palo Alto, United States of America; 6Hospital for Special Surgery, Social Work Programs, New York, United States of America; 7Lupus CSC, NA, Columbia, United States of America; 8Medical University of South Carolina, Rheumatology and Immunology, Charleston, United States of America

Background: Disease self-management indicates practical ways to deal with pain, fatigue, and stress and can include better nutrition, exercise, understanding treatment options, and better communication. Evidence-based self-management interventions designed to enhance social support and provide health education, among lupus patients, have demonstrated significant improvements in health distress, self-reported global health, and activity limitation, but African Americans and women are still disproportionately impacted by systemic lupus erythematous (SLE).

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to determine whether participation in a new, culturally tailored peer mentoring intervention was associated with improvements in disease self-management and health related quality of life (HRQOL) among African American women with systemic lupus erythematous (SLE).

Methods: The Peer Approaches to Lupus Self-Management (PALS) study was a randomized controlled trial wherein modeling and reinforcement of disease self-management skills by peers (mentors) to other African American women with SLE (mentees) was achieved through a combination of educational and informal phone or video interactions with each other. The control condition included small support groups that met on the same schedule as peer mentoring sessions. The Lupus Quality of Life questionnaire (LUP-QOL), which incorporates the Medical Outcomes Study (MOS) Short Form 36 Health Survey (SF-36) and the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue (FACIT-F), was used to determine HRQOL, and the Patient Activation Measure (PAM) assessed disease self-management or an individual’s knowledge, skill, and confidence for managing their health and healthcare. Generalized Linear Mixed Models were used to determine whether the intervention produced a greater change in these main outcomes from baseline, controlling for education, income, and age, reported.

Results: Of the 314 enrolled PALS participants, 138 were mentored (experimental), 132 participated in small support groups (controls), and 44 served as mentors. Although not statistically significant, there were incrementally improving trends in patient activation as the intervention progressed, among mentors and experimental participants and decreasing trends in depression and anxiety among experimental participants. Measures of social functioning (from the LUPQOL) and coping (or lupus self-efficacy) significantly improved from baseline, among experimental participants (both p < 0.05).

Conclusion: Our findings suggest that participation in a peer mentoring intervention led to improvements in disease self-management and HRQOL, in areas of social functioning, coping, depression, and anxiety, among African American women with SLE. Since these factors are related to disease activity and morbidity/damage, future investigations should consider ways in which this approach can augment clinical care on a larger scale.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Mind the gap: improving communication and outcomes

Keywords: Patient information and education, Gender/diversity issues, Pregnancy and reproduction

L. Faravelli1, A. Celano2, V. Corazza3, S. Tonolo4. 1Vivactis Media For Health, Communication, Milano, Italy; 2APMARR - Associazione Nazionale Persone con Malattie Reumatologiche e Rare - APS, President, Lecce, Italy; 3APIAFCO - Associazione Psoriasici Italiani Amici della Fondazione Corazza, President, Bologna, Italy; 4ANMAR Italia Onlus - Associazione Nazionale Malati Reumatici Onlus, President, Roma, Italy

Background: The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Gender-specific Medicine as the study of how biological and socioeconomic and cultural differences influence people’s health. (1) In autoimmune diseases (AD), particularly rheumatic and dermatologic ones, Gender makes the difference. Among millions of people affected worldwide, 80% are Women. (2) AD can arise more frequently in childbearing age, can impact female fertility and pregnancy outcomes, with consequences on the overall quality of life, both for the people affected and their families and caregivers.

Objectives: Genere Donna is a project aimed at setting up an awareness campaign on Gender Medicine focused on rheumatic and dermatologic autoimmune diseases. It spreads and updates a clear information, validated by experts, about Gender Medicine and rheumatic and dermatologic ADs, to improve knowledge, promoting patients’ empowerment and the importance of a gender approach in Public Health.

Methods: Genere Donna has been launched in July 2021. The website www.generedonna.it and the social media profiles are the heart of the project, raising awareness also through adv campaigns (SEM and social media) and ad-hoc content marketing. The close teamwork of the main Italian patients’ associations ANMAR (Associazione Nazionale Malati Reumatici Onlus), APMARR (Associazione Nazionale Persone con Malattie Reumatologiche e Rare aps) and APIAFCO (Associazione Psoriasici Italiani Amici della Fondazione Corazza) and some authoritative experts KOLs in AD (5 physicians and a welfare expert) is the key for success. Genere Donna is supported by a digital communication agency.

Results: Over 16 months of activity, there were about 160K website users (70% female, 56% of them are 18-44 years old), over 6.6Mln reach and over 220K interactions on social media, and a strong social community of around 27K people was developed. Over 210 questions received through the “Ask the Expert” service. Genere Donna recently received the patronage from SIR-Società Italiana di Reumatologia (Italian Society of Rheumatology) and SIdemAST, Società Italiana di Dermatologia e Malattie Sessualmente Trasmesse (Italian Society of Dermatology).

Conclusion: The strong need of clear and verified information around Gender Medicine is testified by the wide number of social media interactions and website visits. The good results reached by Genere Donna up to now and many positive comments coming from the community push the project ahead in the future, to be more and more near to the patients affected by rheumatic and dermatologic ADs.

REFERENCE:
Genere Donna: 16 months results

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: Genere Donna counts on an educational grant from UCB Pharma Italy, main sponsor, Laboratore Bailleul and Terme di Comano, other sponsors.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Clinical and molecular differences across sexes in Rheumatic Disease

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Genetics/Epigenetics, Gender/diversity issues

M. Tordoff1, S. Smith1, A. Morris1, S. Eyre1,2, W. Thomson1,2, J. Bowes1,2
1The University of Manchester, Centre for Genetics and Genomics Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2National Institute of Health Research Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) encompasses a group of childhood onset rheumatic diseases that primarily affect females. JIA has been reported to occur in females and males with a 2:1 ratio, however, systemic JIA is reported more frequently in male patients. Genetic risk factors may contribute to the sex dimorphism in JIA incidence, however this contribution has yet to be defined.

Objectives: To investigate, using sex dimorphism analysis, whether genetic risk factors for JIA differ in males and females.

Methods: High quality genotype data was available on 3356 JIA cases (females = 2209, males = 1147) and 9196 controls (female = 4059, males = 5137). Our primary analysis combined sex-specific GWAS summary statistics using the GWAMA software package. Summary statistics were calculated using logistic regression with three principal components as covariates using PLINK. The sex-differentiated p-value (p*) provided overall evidence for association to JIA allowing for differences between males and females, and the heterogeneity p-value (phet) provided evidence to support a difference in effect estimates between sexes. As a secondary analysis we performed a logistic regression, as above, on all samples and included sex as an interaction term (pinter). Amino acid residues in HLA genes and alleles were imputed using PLINK. The sex-differentiated p-value (p*) provided overall evidence for association to JIA allowing for differences between males and females, and the heterogeneity p-value (phet) provided evidence to support a difference in effect estimates between sexes. As a secondary analysis we performed a logistic regression, as above, on all samples and included sex as an interaction term (pinter).

Results: A total of 6571296 SNPs were analysed after quality control. The strongest signal detected using a logistic regression in females was rs9469137 (p = 1.7x10^-56) and in males it was rs11666910 (p = 9.7x10^-59). GWAMA supported evidence of sex heterogeneity for these SNPs, rs9469137 pinter = 2.2x10^-10, ORmale = 2.6, ORfemale = 5.3, rs11666910 pinter = 1.8x10^-14 ORmale = 4.0, ORfemale = 16.7. The strongest signal from the sex-specific GWAS was rs9266716, pinter = 1.9x10^-17, pSet = 7.7x10^-18, ORmale = 1.2, ORfemale = 0.6. These SNPs all map to the HLA region, providing strong evidence for sex dimorphism in this region, therefore sex-specific HLA fine mapping was conducted. This analysis revealed that residues at position 13 of HLA-DRB1 were strongly associated with JIA in females (pSetfemale = 1.8x10^-54). Glycine at position 13 of HLA-DRB1 was most strongly associated with JIA in females (ORfemale = 3.6, psetfemale = 4.1x10^-65, ORmale = 1.9, psetmale = 9.6x10^-13). An association test with sex as an interaction term revealed glycine at position 13 as sex dimorphic, p = 4.3x10^-7. Associations of residues at position 13 of HLA-DRB1 have previously been reported in JIA, where the cohort consisted of oligoarthritis and rheumatoid factor negative polyarthritis individuals. These ILAR subtypes have a greater frequency in females. HLA-B27 was detected as strongly associated with JIA in male patients (psetmale = 5.4x10^-64, ORmale = 3.8, psetmale = 2.5x10^-9, ORmale = 1.6). An association test with sex as an interaction term revealed HLA-B27 to be strongly sex dimorphic, p = 7.5x10^-13. HLA-B27 is a well-established risk factor for ERA, where males are predominately affected. Outside of the HLA region, the strongest associated SNP was rs58020114, p = 6.3x10^-17, pSet = 5.7x10^-7 ORmale = 1.3, ORfemale = 0.7. This SNP is located near the BPN72 gene and had a greater effect size in males.

Conclusion: This analysis reveals that there are several sexually dimorphic genetic risk factors that may affect JIA development in males and females. For the first time markers within the HLA region have been detected as sex dimorphic. Understanding the genetic risk factors to JIA development will help to further define the disease, which may aid in disease classification and diagnosis in the future. In particular, the substantial differences in effect estimates observed between males and females suggests that sex-specific polygenic risk scores should be considered when HLA signals are incorporated into these efforts.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Pain in RMDs

INFLAMMATION-INDUCED PAIN AND FATIGUE IN FIBROMYALGIA AND ME/CFS AND ROLE OF VARIANT CONNECTIVE TISSUE

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Cytokines and chemokines, Patient reported outcomes

J. Eccles1, M. Amato1, J. Themelis2, L. Quadt3, H. Critchley1, N. Harrison7, K. Davies4, 1Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Neuroscience, Falmer, United Kingdom; 2University of Warwick, Psychology, Coventry, United Kingdom; 3University of Cardiff, CUBRIC, Cardiff, United Kingdom; 4Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Falmer, United Kingdom

Background: Fibromyalgia and ME/CFS are multifaceted conditions with overlapping symptoms(1); the pathophysiological mechanisms are under debate. It remains unclear whether dysregulated inflammation, induced either by an exogenous stressor (e.g. a virus or other stressor), or autoinnunity, is of prime importance [2].

Objectives: 1. To determine in a novel human model the effects of an in vivo inflammatory challenge in the injection of pain and fatigue in fibromyalgia and ME/CFS compared to controls.

2. Explore potential mediators and moderators involved.

Methods: Data were available for 48 patients with confirmed diagnoses of Fibromyalgia and ME/CFS and 22 matched controls, who had undergone a placebo controlled inflammatory challenge (typhoid vaccination) as part of ISRCTN78820481. Participants underwent full research diagnostic evaluation including a hypermobility assessment. Subjective pain and fatigue were assessed after saline injection and typhoid vaccination (VAS). Linear regression models were used to explore predictors, with adjustment for potential confounders (age/gender) and baseline levels as appropriate. Mediation analyses (looking for mechanistic effects) were conducted according to the method of Hayes (3) and mediation considered significant if bootstrapped confidence intervals of the estimated indirect effect did not cross zero. In these mediation analyses predictor variable was group membership (patient or control), outcome variable was change in 1) pain and 2) fatigue induced by challenge and mediators/moderators included change in IL-6 induced by inflammatory challenge and hypermobility features.

Results: Being a patient rather than control significantly predicted inflammation-induced fatigue (B=14.89 (95%CI 3.39-26.50), t=2.56, p=0.013) and pain (B=12.88 (95%CI 0.65-25.10), t=2.11, p=0.039) after adjusting for levels induced by placebo. Induced pain was independently predicted by level of IL-6 induced by inflammatory challenge (B=23.44 (95%CI 5.15-41.72),t=2.57, p=0.013) as well as induced fatigue (B=10.63 (95%CI 2.84-18.41), t=2.73, p=0.008) Mediated moderation analyses suggested the link to induced pain and fatigue through induced inflammation was associated with hypermobility features (Index of mediated moderation 11.02 (95%CI 1.45-22.73) and 6.20 (95%CI 0.07-13.64) respectively)

Conclusion: To our knowledge this is the first human study to evaluate directly the effect of an exogenous inflammatory challenge (typhoid vaccination) in a combined group of Fibromyalgia and ME/CFS patients. IL-6 was shown to be a critical mediator. This work strongly supports the hypothesis that inflammation is key to the pathophysiology of ME/CFS. We are evaluating associated CNS inflammation in the model, as well as other associations, such as autonomic dysfunction and hypermobility. Further understanding the mediators involved in the condition should in future open the way to testing targeted anti-inflammatory therapy.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL


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TARGETED ABLATION OF KNEE-INNERVATING NOCICEPTORS HAS PROFOUND EFFECTS ON JOINT DAMAGE IN EXPERIMENTAL OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Animal models

L. Wang1, S. Ishihara1, J. Li1, A. Obeidat1, R. Miller1, A. Maitland1. 1Rush University, Rheumatology, Chicago, United States of America

Background: Sensory afferents abundantly innervate the knee joint. The vast majority of these are pain-sensing nociceptors, which express the voltage-gated sodium channel Na+1.8. Using Na+1.8Cre-Tomato reporter mice, we have documented innervation changes that occur with experimental murine osteoarthritis (OA), including sprouting of nociceptors in the medial synovium and in subchondral bone [1]. Upon intra-articular (IA) injection into the mouse knee, adeno-associated virus serotype AAV.PHP.S is retrogradely transported to the lumbar dorsal root ganglia (DRG), where the cell bodies of sensory neurons reside [2].

Objectives: We leveraged this technique to selectively ablate knee-innervating nociceptors by IA injection of AAV.PHP.S carrying diptheria toxin A (dTA), and determine the effect on joint damage after destabilization of the medial meniscus (DMM).

Methods: Expt. 1: AAV.PHP.S containing pAAV-EF1a-mCherry-flex-dTA (AAV-dTA) was injected into the right knee of 7-week old male C57BL/6 Na+1.8Cre mice (3 µL, 107 vp/µL). Three weeks later, the TLR2 ligand, Pam3CSK4 (3 µg), was injected into these same knees, followed by knee hyperalgesia measurement using (PAM) over 24-hours [3]. Na+1.8Cre mice injected with AAV.PHP.S-EF1a-flex-GFP (AAV-Control) as well as wild type mice injected with AAV-dTA were included as controls (n=6 mice/group). Expt. 2: AAV-dTA or AAV-Control was injected IA into the right knees of 7-week old male Na+1.8Cre mice and 3 weeks later, DMM surgery was performed (n=19 mice/group). Mice were sacrificed 10 or 17 weeks after DMM, and knees collected for histology using a modified OARSI scoring system (toluidine blue, frontal plane). Expt. 3: Ten-week old male Na+1.8Cre mice underwent DMM surgery, and 4 weeks later, AAV-dTA or AAV-Control was injected IA into the operated knees (n=12 mice/group). Knees were collected 17 weeks after surgery for histology.

Results: Expt. 1: Na+1.8Cre mice injected with AAV-Control and WT mice injected with AAV-dTA responded to TLR2 stimulation, showing markedly decreased knee pain thresholds between 1 and 6 hours after IA injection of Pam3CSK4, as described [3]. In contrast, Na+1.8Cre mice injected with AAV-dTA did not respond to Pam3CSK4, indicating functional effects of ablating knee-innervating nociceptors with AAV-dTA. Expt. 2: Ten weeks after DMM, all mice showed mild OA joint damage, with no difference between groups (Figure 1A). However, while AAV-Control injected joints showed markedly increased cartilage damage by week 17, AAV-dTA injected joints showed no progression of cartilage degeneration compared to week 10. Osteophytes were comparable between the groups. Expt. 3: Seventeen weeks after DMM, mice that had been injected with AAV-dTA 4 weeks post DMM showed markedly increased cartilage degeneration, total joint scores, and osteophyte sizes compared to AAV-controls (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: IA delivery of AAV-dTA into enables selective ablation of Na+1.8+ neurons in the knee, as is evident from ablated pain responses to TLR2 stimulation. Experiments in the DMM model revealed a striking effect of ablation of joint nociceptors on joint damage. Nociceptor ablation before DMM significantly attenuated cartilage degeneration in late stage OA, while ablation of knee nociceptors...
after DMMA markedly worsened joint damage and osteophyte formation. These findings suggest an important role for nociceptors in joint homeostasis, with differential effects if nociceptors are ablated before or after joint damage occurs. Our findings suggest a neurogenic contribution to joint homeostasis. Current work focuses on documenting the joint nociceptive innervation in the different experimental groups, and the relationship with pain.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Lai Wang: None declared, Shingo Ishihara: None declared, Jun Li: None declared, Alia Obeidat: None declared, Rachel Miller: None declared, Anne-Marie Malfait Consultant of: 23andMe, Orion, AsahiKalai.

Figure 1.

Mean CPM effect was at baseline 0.25°C (± 2.57), 2.64°C (± 2.12) at 3 months and 2.96°C (±2.50) at 6 months. At the end of the 6 months follow-up, mean CPM effect was significantly higher in patients with residual mean pain intensity <4/10 compared to patients with persisting pain ≥ 4/10: 3,25°C (± 2,68) vs 2,47°C (± 2,11) (p<0.04).

Conclusion: After TNF inhibitor initiation in active RA or SpA, impaired diffuse noxious inhibitory controls are significantly improved. Apart from their articular efficacy, TNF inhibitor has an action on the central nervous system and pain modulation pathways. In patients with persisting pain under bDMARD, diffuse noxious inhibitory controls are not as efficient as patient without residual pain.

REFERENCES:
the initiation (High (120-199 MME/day): aOR: 34.81, 95%CI: 18–78.05, p<0.001 compared to mean daily MME: Low (≤50 MME/day)) were associated with higher risk of long-term opioid use. The three most important variables using the random forest model were mean MME/day at initiation (MDA 140), history of suicide and self-harm (MDA 40) and IMD (MDA 30).

Conclusion: Almost 1 in 4 patients with fibromyalgia starting opioids became a long-term opioid user in this nationally representative dataset across the UK within the first year. The dose of initial opioid prescription, high deprivation score, history of suicide and self-harm, substance use disorder and obesity were associated with long-term opioid use.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Radar plot of patient clusters. PTSD: Post-traumatic stress disorder, CRP: C-reactive protein, BSR: Blood sedimentation rate.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Fibromyalgia

T. Hügle1, T. Pretat1, C. Lovejoy2, P. Ming Azevedo1. 1University Hospital Lausanne (CHUV), Rheumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland; 2NHS, Medical Doctor, London, United Kingdom

Background: Chronic Pain Syndromes (CPS), including fibromyalgia (FM), place a significant health and socioeconomic burden. Despite sharing a similar clinical presentation, they are a heterogeneous entity, often with different causes and in association with other conditions. Multimodal treatment programs allow a comprehensive clinical and physical assessment of those patients. Objectives: The objective of this study is to identify subtypes in CPS patients including primary and secondary FM who were assessed during a two-week multimodal pain management program via an unsupervised machine learning model.

Methods: We collected data from 202 patients as part of a 2-week multimodal pain management program. Clinical features, comorbidities, medications and demographics were collected and patients were assessed by physical and mental questionnaires (e.g. BPI, FABQ, FABQ-W, POAM, HAS, HDS, PCS, TAMPA, OD) before and after the program. There was a weekly interdisciplinary case discussion between rheumatologists, pain specialists, psychiatrists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. For data analysis, hierarchical agglomerative clusters were generated using the Ward variance minimization algorithm with Euclidean pairwise distances (Python 3.10). The number of clusters was selected by inspecting visualizations (including dendograms and radar plots), in combination with clinical interpretability and utility.

Results: Five patient subtypes with the following characteristics were identified: Cluster 1: Obese men with persisting peripheral and axial musculoskeletal pain, sometimes with an underlying immune-mediated disorder (IMD), poorly responding to disease modifying therapy. Bland psychological evaluation. Clinical interpretation: predominantly men in the late 50s. Possibly secondary FM, and/or underlying microcrystalline disorder or inflammatory osteoarthrisis. Very close to psychiatric evaluation or therapy. Cluster 2: Female patients with peripheral and axial pain since childhood or adolescence, sometimes with a post-traumatic stress disorder. Severe sleep problems. Clinical interpretation: primavera FM, sometimes with an additional traumatic psychological background. Cluster 3: Women with chronic back pain, often with previous (failed) spine surgery. Normal weight. Often polymedication with opioids, antidepressants and anxiolytics. Clinical interpretation: women with lumbar disc degeneration. Sometimes questionable spondylarthrits with refractory lumbar pain despite treatment with biologics. Cluster 4: Patients (men>woman) of younger age with low BMI and hyperflexia. Peripheral pain of nociceptical character predominates, often since childhood or adolescence. High incidence of depression, anxiety or other psychological conditions. Virtual reality treatment is efficient. Interpretation: somatofom pain in younger patients spilled over from adolescence, often with substantial psychiatric comorbidity. Cluster 5: Overweight women in peri-menopause with metabolic syndrome. Axial and peripheral pain. Often use of antidepressants, notably Trazodone. Blood sedimentation rate can be elevated. Interpretation: peri-menopausal syndrome in obese patients with pain and low grade inflammation such as burrsitis or tenosynovitis.

Conclusion: All five chronic pain phenotypes identified by unsupervised machine learning are consistent with clinical observations. Psychiatric comorbidities are prevalent in all clusters except one, where they may be suppressed. Work disability plays an important role in all patients. In at least two clusters, the pain seems to have its origin in childhood or adolescence. One cluster seems to be particularly influenced by hormonal and metabolic factors.

Keywords: Pain, Osteoarthrosis

E. Mulmoen1,2, T. Neogi2, H. Solveig Dagfinrud1,2, H. B. Hammer1,2, P. Steen Petersen1,2, T. K. Kvien1,2, K. Magnusson3, I. K. Haugen1,2. 1Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Centre for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 2University of Oslo, Faculty of Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 3Boston University School of Medicine, Section of Rheumatology, Boston, United States of America; 4Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund, Sweden

Background: Hand osteoarthritis (OA) pain is characterized as heterogeneous and multifactorial. Different pain patterns may be explained by underlying phenotypes, which previously have not been explored.

Objectives: Using the biopsychosocial framework, we aimed to identify possible hand OA phenotypes and explore the associations with pain intensity and change in pain during a four-year follow-up.

Methods: Latent class analysis was used to determine classes of people with hand OA, based on baseline examination (2016-17), followed by posterior fit statistics. Biological, psychological, and social domains were examined by self-reported questionnaires, clinical assessment and imaging. Central pain sensitization was tested by pressure pain thresholds (PPT; kg/cm²) and temporal summation (TS). Pain intensity at baseline and follow-up (2019-21) was self-reported on a Numeric Rating Scale (0-10) for hand and overall bodily pain the last 24 hours. Change in pain was calculated for both pain measures. Differences of the biopsychosocial variables and pain measures were assessed by one-way ANOVAs and chi-squared tests. The relations of the classes to the pain outcomes were analysed by linear regression.

Results: We identified five classes (Table 1). The highest pain intensity was reported by the class with low OA severity but higher burden of the other factors (Class 5), whilst the class with the most OA severity of the hands and lower extremities (Class 4) reported approximately one point less for pain intensity (Figure 1). Classes showed little change in pain and there was no significant difference (data not shown). Significant differences were found across all classes in association to baseline and follow-up pain. However, not for change in pain (data not shown), except Class 5 and change in hand pain (beta (95% CI); 1.13 (0.02, 2.25)). Class 5 indicated the most hand and overall bodily pain in comparison to the reference group (Class 1) with a beta (95% CI) of 3.27 (2.32, 4.22) and 3.08 (p<0.05, 4.07) at baseline and 2.04 (1.02, 3.06) and 2.74 (1.73, 3.76) at follow-up, respectively. The difference was smaller when comparing to Class 4.
the reference group with a beta (95% CI) of 2.15 (1.27, 3.02) and 2.20 (1.27, 3.13) for hand pain and overall bodily pain at baseline, and a beta (95% CI) of 1.38 (0.46, 2.31) and 1.66 (0.74, 2.58) at follow-up. Class 3 indicated similar baseline values as Class 4 (Hand and overall bodily pain: beta (95%) of 2.24 (1.51, 2.97) and 1.89 (1.12, 2.65)).

Conclusion: We identified five potential hand OA phenotypes which associated with pain intensity at baseline and four years later. The phenotype with low OA severity, but more pain sensitization, comorbidities, higher psychological and social burden reported more pain than the phenotype with the most severe OA in the hands and lower extremities, reflecting the discordance between OA severity and pain experience.

Table 1. Characteristics of the biopsychosocial variables across the hand OA phenotypes. Data presented as mean (SD) unless otherwise indicated.

<table>
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<th>Class 1</th>
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<th>Class 5</th>
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<td>63 (6)</td>
<td>58 (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex (women), n (%)</td>
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<td>88 (95)</td>
<td>33 (87)</td>
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<td>21.3 (15.2)</td>
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<td>6.4 (3.3)</td>
<td>3.3 (2.1)</td>
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<td>4.4 (2.4)</td>
<td>4.7 (2.1)</td>
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<td>1.6 (1.5)</td>
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<td>BMI</td>
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<td>30.2 (5.5)</td>
<td>26.0 (4.2)</td>
<td>26.9 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidity burden</td>
<td>4.8 (2.6)</td>
<td>12.2 (2.7)</td>
<td>7.3 (2.7)</td>
<td>7.4 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain severity, n (%)</td>
<td>47 (51)</td>
<td>34 (85)</td>
<td>37 (97)</td>
<td>22 (96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADS</td>
<td>4.1 (3.4)</td>
<td>7.1 (3.6)</td>
<td>8.3 (4.5)</td>
<td>6.2 (4.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASES</td>
<td>75.9 (11.2)</td>
<td>68.3 (10.7)</td>
<td>61.6 (10.7)</td>
<td>71.3 (13.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS</td>
<td>74.6 (6.2)</td>
<td>12.8 (8.2)</td>
<td>12.6 (6.0)</td>
<td>10.5 (6.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social:

| University education, n (%) | 69 (74) | 24 (60) | 16 (42) | 15 (65) | 6 (32) | <0.001 |
| Working, n (%) | 72 (77) | 8 (20) | 24 (63) | 12 (55) | 8 (42) | <0.001 |

SD=standard deviation

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Disclosure of Interests: Elisabeth Mulrooney: None declared, Tuhina Neogi: None declared, Hanne Solveig Dagfinrud: None declared, Hilde Berner Hammer Speakers bureau: Abbott, Novartis, Lilly, UCB; Honorary for lectures, Consultant of: Abbott, Novartis, Advisory Board, Femile Steen Pettersen: None declared, Tore K. Kven Speakers bureau: Amgen, Celgene, Egis, Evapharma, Ewopharma, Hikma, Okta, Sandoz, Sanofi; Honorary mee for lectures, Consultant of: Amgen, Celtrion, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Mylan, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, Sanofi. AbbVie: Advisory board, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Pfizer, Novartis, UCB; Payment to institution, Karin Magnusson: None declared, Ida K. Haugen Speakers bureau: Novartis, GSK; Honorary for lecture, outside of the submitted work, Grant/research support from: Pfizer/Lily (ADVANCE); Paid to institution. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1313.
MIA-induced OA mice showed that administration of 10mg/kg THC by oral gavage also reduced mechanical allodynia (n=10/group) without modifying animal locomotion or anxiety. In vitro, THC treatment of human OA FLS and chondrocytes (n=5 each) increased Annexin V positivity starting at 2.5µM, but not with 1µM THC, as determined by flow cytometry. In cultured OA FLS (n=4), 73 genes were differentially expressed (35 upregulated, 38 downregulated) after treatment with THC compared to vehicle treatment (±1.5-fold), as determined by RNA sequencing (Figure 1D). Similarly, in OA chondrocytes RNA sequencing (n=4/group), 21 genes (9 upregulated, 12 downregulated) were differentially expressed (±1.5-fold) after THC treatment. Computational analyses indicated that ECM-related pathways were enriched in the upregulated genes in both fibroblasts and chondrocytes, while lipid/steroid/cholesterol-related pathways were enriched by the downregulated genes in both cell types. 22 common putative transcription factors were also identified as potential regulators of the fibroblast and chondrocyte genes reduced through THC treatment.

Conclusion: Oral administration of 10mg/kg THC reduced cartilage degeneration and synovitis in DMM mouse knee joints and modified pain responses in DMM and MIA models. JR, AM, HFF share equal first author contribution.

Acknowledgements: Canadian Institute of Health Research and The Arthritis Society of Canada.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.58952

OP0201 INTRA-ARTICULAR INJECTIONS OF TWO LIPOSOMAL ADENOSINE FORMULATIONS PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT PAIN RELIEF AND GAIN IN FUNCTION, IMPROVE COMFORTABLE RANGE OF MOTION AND SLOWED RADIOLOGIC PROGRESSION IN A PRECLINICAL CANINE MODEL OF OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Cartilage, Pain

D. Li1, B. N. Cronstein2, J. Cook3, C. Bozynski4, S. Angela1, Regenesis Inc, Princeton Innovation Center, Princeton, United States of America; 2New York University, School of Medicine, New York, United States of America; 3University of Missouri, School of Medicine, Columbia, United States of America

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) affects 10% of global population and its effective non-surgical treatments represent significant unmet need. There has been a rapid escalation in the annual number of arthroplasties, placing a significant burden on patients and healthcare systems. We previously demonstrated that adenosine and its A2A receptor play critical roles in maintaining joint homeostasis. Adenosine treatment prevents structural progression and preserves articular cartilage in rodent models of OA.

Objectives: To test the new, more stable and long-lasting formulations of liposomal adenosine in the treatment of post-traumatic OA in a preclinical canine model.

Methods: OA was induced by arthroscopic medial meniscus release (MR) in 21 purpose-bred hounds (10M, 11F). Evidence of OA was documented at two months after MR (pre-Tx). Knees were injected with 3ml of RgnA09M, RgnA09N (3mg/ml Adenosine; N=7 each) or saline (9mg/ml NaCl; N=7) for a total of 3 intra-articular (IA) injections each carried out one month apart. RgnA09M and RgnA09N comprised identical lipid composition but varied in particle size and liposome lamellarity. Blind assessments for knee pain, function and effusion were performed using validated visual analogue scale (VAS) scoring by a board-certified veterinary surgeon. Comfortable range of motion (CROM) was measured using a standard goniometer and radiographic assessments of knee structure were performed using validated visual analogue scale (VAS) scoring by a board-certified veterinary surgeon. Radiographic results are pending.

Results: There was demonstrable symptomatic knee OA at pre-Tx with a 26.3% loss in function, increased joint pain score (2.0±0.9 vs 0 at pre-MR), 10% loss of CROM, development of radiographic OA (1.2±0.5 vs. 0 at pre-MR), observable OA on MRI (3.9±0.9 vs. 0 at pre-MR) and joint effusion (2.3±0.9 vs. 0 at pre-MR). Saline treatment provided no benefits. The IA administration of RgnA09M led to a steady decrease in pain by 65.0% and 74.3%, at 4mo and 6mo post-Tx respectively, with a corresponding 30.9% and 61.8% gain in function. In comparison, the injection of RgnA09N led to decrease in pain by 80.9% at 4mo but a loss of effect to 74.7 % at 6mo post-Tx. A corresponding trend was observed in the gain of function, with an overall gain of 39.7% at 6mo post-Tx (Figures 1A and 1B). Moreover, injections with RgnA09M, improved CROM to near-normal values at 6mo, while RgnA09N significantly improved it at 4mo (Figure 1C). Compared to saline, both RgnA09M and RgnA09N improved radiographic markers by up to 42.6% at 6mo post-Tx (Figure 1D). In saline-treated dogs there was an improvement in the size of effusions initially, but a loss in benefit as time progressed. In contrary, the magnitude of the change was much greater in those treated with both formulations, and it continued to improve over time (Figure 1E). Finally, at 6mo post-Tx, MRIIs showed significant slowing in the progression of OA with RgnA09M by 55.3% and with RgnA09N by 42.6% (Figure 1F). Histology and biomarker results are pending.

Conclusion: Three IA injections of RgnA09M and RgnA09N were associated with improved symptomatic knee OA including gain in function and decrease in pain and OA progression compared with saline. The persistent improvement lasted 6 months, indicating symptomatic and mechanistic benefits of the treatment. Moreover, liposomal adenosine injections slowed the progression of OA as observed on radiographs and MRIs. These findings provide the first evidence that IA injection of liposomal adenosine improves pain relief, gain in function, CROM, and prevents radiologic progression in a large animal model of post-traumatic OA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3320

OP0202 IMMUNOMICS ANALYSIS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IDENTIFIED PRECURSOR DENDRITIC CELLS AS A KEY CELL SUBSET OF TREATMENT RESISTANCE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, -Omics

S. Yamada1, Y. Nagafuchi2,3, M. Wang2, M. Ota1,2, H. Hatanou1,4, Y. Takeshima1,2, M. Okubo2, S. Kobayashi1,2, Y. Sugimori1,2, M. Nakano3,2, R. Yoshiba1, N. Hanada1, Y. Suwa1, Y. Tsushima1, Y. Iwasaki1, S. Sumitomo1, K. Kubo1, K. Shimane1, K. Setoguchi1, T. Azuma1, H. Kanda1,2, H. Shoda1, X. Zhang1, K. Yamamoto1, K. Ishigaki1, T. Okamura1,2, K. Fujio1,1 Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology., Center of Excellence., 1Tokyo Medical and Dental University, 1T okyo Metropolitan Bokutoh

Understanding Treatment response and novel treatment approaches in RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Understanding Treatment response and novel treatment approaches in RA.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, -Omics

S. Yamada1, Y. Nagafuchi2,3, M. Wang2, M. Ota1,2, H. Hatanou1,4, Y. Takeshima1,2, M. Okubo2, S. Kobayashi1,2, Y. Sugimori1,2, M. Nakano3,2, R. Yoshiba1, N. Hanada1, Y. Suwa1, Y. Tsushima1, Y. Iwasaki1, S. Sumitomo1, K. Kubo1, K. Shimane1, K. Setoguchi1, T. Azuma1, H. Kanda1,2, H. Shoda1, X. Zhang1, K. Yamamoto1, K. Ishigaki1, T. Okamura1,2, K. Fujio1,1 Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology., Center of Excellence., 1Tokyo Medical and Dental University, 1T okyo Metropolitan Bokutoh
Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, RIKEN, Laboratory for Autoimmune Diseases, Kanagawa, Japan; Tokyo Metropolitan Cancer and Infectious Diseases Center Komagome Hospital, Laboratory for Immuno-Mediated Diseases, Tokyo, Japan; Azuma Rheumatology Clinic, Department of Rheumatology, Saitama, Japan; Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Immune-Mediated Diseases Therapy Center, Tokyo, Japan

Background: To date, there have been no comprehensive studies of the immune cells that play a pivotal role in treatment-resistant rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Objectives: We performed large scale transcriptome analyses of immune cells in peripheral blood prior to treatment in a total of 55 patients with RA to identify the gene expressions and subsets that predict treatment resistance.

Methods: We isolated 18 peripheral blood mononuclear cell subsets of 55 pre-treatment RA patients and 39 healthy controls, and performed RNA sequencing (Figure 1A). Transcription changes in RA and treatment effects were systematically characterized. Association between immune cell gene modules and treatment resistance was evaluated. We validated predictive value of identified parameters for treatment resistance using quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) and mass cytometric analysis cohorts. We also characterized the identified population by synovial single cell RNA-seq analysis.

Results: Immune cells of RA patients were characterized by enhanced interferon and IL6-JAK-STAT3 signaling that demonstrated partial normalization after treatment. A gene expression module of plasmacytoid dendritic cell (pDC) reflecting the expansion of pre-dendritic cell (pre-DC), which is recently identified subpopulation of DCs (1), exhibited strongest association with treatment resistance (Figure 1B-D). Type I interferon signaling was negatively correlated to pre-DC gene expression. qPCR and mass cytometric analysis validated that the pre-DC associated gene expression and the proportion of pre-DC were significantly higher before treatment in treatment-resistant patients (Figure 1E, F). A cluster of synovial DCs showed both features of pre-DC and proinflammatory conventional DC2s (Figure 1G).

Conclusion: Treatment resistance can be predicted by an increase in pre-DC in the peripheral blood of RA patients prior to starting therapy. This result shows the potential for realizing a stratified therapy of RA based on analysis of pre-DC in peripheral blood.

REFERENCE:

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)
Conclusion: RA patients can be stratified into five groups, each of which benefited from different molecular targeted therapies. The increase in CD4 TEMRA in peripheral blood was significant in RA patients, and the proportion was virtually unchanged with treatment. Thus, CD4 TEMRA could be the pathogenic memory cells in RA. Our results may be a milestone in achieving precision medicine.

REFERENCES:

LA Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Tidifaz, Inmuno-Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Keywords: bDMARD, Adaptive immunity, Biomarkers

Methods: Peripheral blood was drawn from seropositive RA patients with an incomplete response to csDMARDS (n=41) who initiated biological therapy, according to routine clinical practice, with TNFf (n= 19) (10 Etanercept, 3 Adalimumab, 3 Certolizumab, 2 Golimumab, 1 Infliximab) or ABT (n= 22). cTfh cell frequencies were determined by flow cytometry of freshly isolated PBMCs at the baseline and 12 months (12M) after starting treatment escalation. For each patient, an age and gender-matched healthy control (HC) was also studied at both time points (n=41).

Results: a) Effect of treatment escalation on the cTfh cell frequency. As compared with HC, RA patients receiving csDMARDS demonstrated an increased frequency of cTfh and also of activated ICOS+ cTfh cells (α-cTfh), and this was observed in both treatment escalation groups. A significant improvement of disease activity (ADAS28 ≥2.0) was apparent in all of the patients at 12M. Nevertheless, the cTfh cell frequency did not vary in patients receiving TNFf; conversely, in subjects receiving ABT it significantly decreased to HC levels. At the same time, the frequency of α-cTfh cells was significantly reduced in both groups; however, in the TNFf group it remained above HC whereas in the ABT group it reached magnitudes comparable to HC. b) Relation of the baseline cTfh cell frequency with the clinical response. In the ABT group, the baseline frequencies of cTfh and α-cTfh had been higher for patients who went on to achieve remission at 12M (12Mr), as compared with those who remained active (12Ma) [Tfh logistic regression OR for remission 25.3, 95% CI (12.3-93.8); ROC AUC 0.94 (0.83-1), p<0.0005]; as stated above, the 12M frequencies were no longer elevated; in addition there were no differences between the 12Ms and 12Mr subjects. Conversely, in the TNFf group, the baseline frequencies of cTfh and α-cTfh had been lower for 12Mr as compared with 12Ma patients [Tfh OR for not achieving remission 8.5 (4.3-15.5); ROC AUC 0.77 (0.54-0.99), p<0.05]; furthermore, the 12M frequencies showed the same pattern: they had not significantly changed, persisted elevated above HC and remained lower in 12Mr as compared with 12Ma patients. The baseline cTfh cutoff frequency for achieving remission in the ABT group was >0.35% (sensitivity 92.7%, specificity 90%). The baseline α-cTfh cutoff frequency for not achieving remission in the TNFf group was >0.44% (sensitivity 67.7%, specificity 90%).

Conclusion: ABT but not TNFf, is able to curtail cTfh cell numbers in RA, suggesting that costimulation blockade can restrain germinal center activity. Higher baseline cTfh cell frequencies predict a good response to ABT and at the same time, a poor response to TNFf. Therefore, immunophenotyping of patients with an incomplete response to csDMARDs can facilitate a personalized therapeutic strategy for treatment escalation.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS VIA MACROPHAGE RE-POLARIZATION

Keywords: Animal models, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Huang1, L. Qiu1, West China Hospital of Sichuan University, Department of Ultrasound, Chengdu, China

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease that results in synovitis and joint destruction[1]. Macrophages, one of the various inflammatory cells, particularly infiltrate the RA synovial tissue and cause sustained inflammation that promote RA. And the balance of pro-inflammatory M1 macrophages and anti-inflammatory M2 macrophages in RA joints is affected by overexpressed reactive oxygen species (ROS) and hypoxia synovium, which provides potential targets for the RA treatment.

Objectives: With the aim of alleviating the synovial inflammation in RA and restoring the balance of macrophage subtypes, we develop a catalytic nanoparticle named Ru@TiO2, which can produce O2 and scavenge ROS to reduce M1 macrophages, switch M1 phenotype to M2 phenotype.

Methods: Ru@TiO2 was synthesized using the hydrothermal method. The morphology and nanoparticle size were observed using the transmission electron microscopy (TEM). The catalytic ROS-scavenging activities and O2 generation ability were examined through •O2 scavenging, H2O2 catalytic elimination and O2 generation assays. For in vitro experiment, the cytotoxicity of Ru@TiO2 conducted on RAW 264.7 cells was assessed by flow cytometry. To verify M1 to M2 macrophage phenotype transition and hypoxia alleviation, M1 and M2 markers and HIF-1α expression levels were evaluated by using qRT-PCR and Western Blot, respectively. In vivo, anti-inflammatory efficiency was observed after intra-joint injection of Ru@TiO2 into collagen-induced arthritis mice. The clinical scores and paw thickness for the inflamed joints with different treatments at various time points were recorded. Ultrasound (US) was used to assess the inflamed joints after treatment and RNA expression levels of M1 and M2 macrophage markers in synovial tissue were evaluated through qRT-PCR. The statistical significance among multiple groups was examined by using one-way ANOVA.

Results: The Ru@TiO2 were fusiform in shape with an average size of 67 nm. The evaluation of catalytic ROS scavenging activities and O2 generation performance of Ru@TiO2 showed that Ru@TiO2 can achieve about 60% scavenging ratio to •O2 and about 80% producing ratio to O2 at 30min. Ru@TiO2 also showed significantly increased H2O2 eliminating activity compared to the TiO2. In vitro, low cytotoxicity of Ru@TiO2 was displayed and the decrease of intracellular ROS level was most significant with Ru@TiO2. In addition, macrophage markers (TNF-α and IL-1β) and HIF-1α expression levels were most prominently declined with Ru@TiO2. And the increase of M2 macrophage markers (Arg-1 and CD206) was most obvious when using Ru@TiO2. In vivo, the arthritis scores, paw thickness and thickness of articular cavity assessed by US in Ru@TiO2 group were the lowest when compared with other treated groups. Moreover, RNA expression levels of M1 and M2 macrophage markers in synovial tissue showed the similar tendency as in vitro.

Conclusion: In this study, the Ru@TiO2 was successfully synthesized with efficient catalytic ROS scavenging activities and O2 generation ability for the treatment of RA. In vitro, Ru@TiO2 shows good cell biocompatibility and effective intracellular ROS scavenging ability. Moreover, Ru@TiO2 alleviate the hypoxia condition in cells by producing O2. Furthermore, the significant and efficient polarization of M1 to M2 macrophages and suppression of inflammation were achieved both in vitro and in vivo through the treatment of Ru@TiO2, which indicated the therapeutic potential of Ru@TiO2 for RA therapy.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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LIPOSOMAL ANTAGOMIR-155-5P RESTORES ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MACROPHAGES AND IMPROVES ARTHRITIS IN PRE-CLINICAL MODELS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cell biology, Innate immunity, Animal Models

A. Pacetti1, L. Bineta1, C. Catherine1, G. Fan2, S. Marie1, J. Pascaud1, R. Eldice1, Y. Luxin1, N. Liliann1, A. Elmesmary1, R. Franceline1, H. Magali1, P. David1, R. Julien1, F. Francois1, G. Nocturne1, N. Tsapis2, I. McInnes1, M. Kurowska-Stolarska1, E. Fattal1, M. Mariette1, INSERM U1184, Rheumatology, Le Kremlin Bicêtre, France; 2Institut Galien Paris-Saclay, Pharmacology, Orsay, France; 3James Watt School of Engineering, University of Glasgow, Division of Biomedical Engineering, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 4School of Infection and Immunity, University of Glasgow, School of Infection and Immunity, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Background: RA is the most frequent systemic autoimmune disease that primarily affects multiple joints and causes irreversible bone and cartilage destruction in the absence of treatment[1]. Monocyte-macrophages are key players in the pathogenesis of RA and accumulate in the synovial tissue. Besides resident macrophages, blood monocytes can differentiate into monocyte-derived-macrophages that may join the synovium and have different phenotypes and functions at local sites.

Methods: We discovered 36 altered microbial species in patients with RA compared to healthy controls. In particular, Peptoniphilus gorbachii (PG) was increased in RA patients, inversely correlated with RA disease activity, and compared to healthy controls. In particular, PG was increased in RA patients, inversely correlated with RA disease activity, and compared to healthy controls.

Conclusion: Serum microbial antibody microarray could help with the effective discovery of therapeutic microbial RA targets at the species level. Our results suggest that PG exerts a therapeutic effect by restoring intestinal barrier integrity and suppressing the RA-characteristic immunologic response.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1913

Peptoniphilus Gorbachii Alleviates Collagen-induced Arthritis in Mice by Improving Intestinal Homeostasis and Immune Regulation
functions. The "classically activated macrophage phenotype" is considered to be pro-inflammatory and contribute to RA pathogenesis by secreting pro-inflammatory cytokines. The "alternatively activated macrophage phenotype" is considered to be regulatory and anti-inflammatory in tissues. Actually, there is a continuum from pro-inflammatory to anti-inflammatory macrophages, with high plasticity between the different states. We have previously shown that RA patients, and not patients with other inflammatory rheumatic diseases, have an impaired maturation of monocytes in anti-inflammatory-macrophages with increased differentiation in a pro-inflammatory-phenotype. We have found that an increased expression of miR-155 in monocytes/macrophages could be responsible for this defect and thus, could represent a new therapeutic target in RA [2].

Objectives: Our aim is to assess if the defect of monocytes polarization in anti-inflammatory-macrophages and the impact of miR-155 in this defect are present in 2 pre-clinical models of RA: the CIA (collagen-induce-arthritis) and STA mice (Serum transfert arthritis), both in which macrophages infiltration of synovium play a key role in pathophysiology. Then, we have tested a new therapeutic strategy to correct this defect using PEG-liposomes containing antagonmiR-155-5p.

Methods: AntagonmiR-155-5p or antagonmiR-control were encapsulated in PEG-liposomes of 100nm in size and -10µM in zeta potential with high antagonmiR loading efficiency (above 80%). Mice were injected intravenously with 1,5nmol/100µL PEG-liposomes containing antagonmiR-155-5p or control after induction of arthritis.

Results: As in humans, we found that monocytes defect in anti-inflammatory-macrophages was associated with an increase of miR-155-5p in both mouse models. Moreover, we demonstrated the biodistribution of tagged-PEG-liposomes to inflamed joints 1 hour after injection and as well as their subsequent liver's accumulation after 48 hours, indicative of hepatic clearance, in arthritic mice. Subsequently, we demonstrated that treatment with an antagonmiR-155-5p encapsulated in PEG-liposomes was able to decrease joint inflammation, to restore bone-marrow monocytes polarization in anti-inflammatory-macrophages, to reduce immune cells infiltration in synovial tissues, to increase the CD206+ and CD163+ tissue infiltrating macrophages and to decrease expression of mRNAs target of miR-155-5p, with any significant functional change in other immune cells including splenic B and T cells.

Conclusion: The injection of antagonmiR-155-5p encapsulated in PEG-liposomes allows delivering small RNA to monocytes/macrophages, lead to reduce joint inflammation in murine models of RA, providing a promising strategy in human disease.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3499

OP0208

MECHANICAL UNLOADING PREVENTED ARTHRITIS MODEL IN THE RAT ADJUVANT-INDUCED ARTHRITIS MODEL

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Animal Models

E. Dalix1,2, M. Maalouf1, A. Vandem-Bossche1, M. Paul1, H. Marotte1.
1University of Jean Monnet, INSERM, U1059-SAINBOSE, Saint-Etienne, France.
2University Hospital of Saint-Etienne, Department of Rheumatology, Saint-Etienne, France.

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the most common chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease, characterized by synovitis associated with progressive bone loss and joint swelling. The adjuvant-induced arthritis (AIA) model mimics the pathophysiological features of RA, with a very high prevalence and reproducibility. YAP plays a key role in synovial hyperplasia. It is a transcription factor which can be activated in response to inflammation but also by a mechanical stimulus as tissue stiffening. We already showed a decrease arthritis severity by inhibiting YAP in the AIA model [1]. Then, different mechanical challenges could potentially impact arthritis development by regulating YAP.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to investigate the impact of mechanical loading and unloading on the development of arthritis in the AIA model.

Methods: Arthritis was induced in female Lewis rats by injection of the adjuvant Mycobacterium butyricum, defining day (D)0. The AIA model normally develops arthritis at D10, with a peak of inflammation at D17 [2]. Rats were randomized into three groups: an AIA+mechanical loading group (n=11) with free access to an activity wheel from D0 to D17, an AIA+mechanical unloading group (n=11) by tail suspension from D0 to D17, and an AIA-only group (n=11) as positive control. Daily clinical monitoring (arthritic index and ankle circumference) was used to follow the progression and severity of arthritis. At D17, the ankles of the rats were collected to perform RT-qPCR.

Results: Arthritis onset was observed at the same time (D10) in the AIA control and AIA+mechanical loading groups with the same kinetic of arthritis index and ankle circumference. However, the majority of rats in the AIA+mechanical unloading group did not develop any signs of arthritis. At D17, gene expression of YAP and CRYF6 (YAP target gene), IL1B, IL6, RANKL, ACP5 (encoding TRAPc), CTSK (encoding cathepsin K), MMP9, and MMP13 was decreased in the ankle of AIA+mechanical unloading rats compared to other groups. In the AIA+ mechanical loading group, rats stopped their physical activity at D10 which may explain the lack of clinical and molecular differences between the AIA and AIA+mechanical loading groups at D17.

Conclusion: Mechanical unloading of the hindpaws by the suspension system strongly prevented arthritis by a reduced expression of pro-inflammatory genes, bone resorption, and bone degradation genes. The decrease in inflammation may be partly explained by the decrease in YAP transcriptional activity. Mechanical stress is therefore a key factor in inflammation during AIA. The precise mechanisms linking these two mechanisms are still under investigation.

REFERENCES:

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OP0209

IMPACT OF CHRONIC INFLAMMATION AND COLLAGEN IV FRAGMENT CASSTATIN ON RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS SYNOVIAL FIBROBLASTS AND ENDOTHELIAL CELL INTERACTIONS IN VITRO AND IN VIVO

Keywords: Cell biology, Synovium, Rheumatoid arthritis

1Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Campus Kerckhoff, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bad Nauheim, Germany.
2Agaplesion Markus Hospital, Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, Frankfurth am Main, Germany.

Background: Increased neovascularization in the inflamed synovium of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a pathological feature in the pathogenesis of RA. Key players in RA progression are chronically activated RA synovial fibroblasts (RASF), which secrete proinflammatory factors (e.g. IL-6), proangiogenic
VEGF, IL-11 and matrix metalloproteases (MMP) promoting inflammation, synovial angiogenesis, and invasion of cartilage and bone by degrading the consecutively resulting matrix, leading to release of the anti-angiogenic collagen IV fragment in a consequent caspase-mediated process. Cytokinin is further able to activate RASFs leading to altered expression of vascular markers such as angiopoietin-2 (ANGPT2) and neovascularization.

**Objectives:** Analysis of repetitively stimulated RASF- and canstatin-mediated effects on vessel formation in the tube formation assay, in the SCID-mouse model for RA and in synovial tissue of RA patients with respect to ANGPT2 expression and RASF-endothelial cell (EC) interactions.

**Methods:** 2D tube formation assay was performed using HUVEC seeded on Matrigel. 15% Calcein AM-stained RASFs were added. RASF/HUVEC were treated with 0.5µg/ml caspase. HUVEC were pre-treated with 0.2µg/ml caspase. RASFs were repetitively stimulated three times with 0.05ng/µl IL-1β every 24h starting at day 2. Tube thickness and the area covered by the formed cellular network were measured. RNA was extracted from tubes and ANGPT2 expression was analysed by qPCR. IL-6 and IL-11 in supernatants were measured by ELISA. Healthy cartilage was subcutaneously co-infused with RASF into SCID mice. Cotransplanted, contralaterally healthy cartilage without RASF was implanted. Vessel formation was evaluated after 3-4 days. RA and osteoarthris (OA) synovial tissue was stained for ANGPT2 and CD31.

**Results:** RASFs were repetitively stimulated once showed a significant IL-6 increase compared to unstimulated controls. After subsequent repetitive stimulation of RASFs or HUVEC, a significant decrease in IL-6 was observed (1st stimulation: 5076±1730pg/ml vs. 3rd stimulation: 4883±1863pg/ml vs. 3rd stimulation: 400±0.01) and IL-11 in RASF (1st: 451±205pg/ml vs. 3rd: 69±5pg/ml, p<0.0001) compared to the first stimulation was observed. Repetitive stimulation of HUVEC and RASFs resulted in a significant IL-6 increase for each subsequent stimulation (1st vs. 3rd: p=0.02). RASF significantly reduced tube thickness (22.9µm (SD=8.3) vs. 16.6µm (SD=3.2), p=0.014) and the network area (p<0.0001) decreased significantly compared to unstimulated RASF-2 fold compared to HUVEC alone. RASF stimulated only once further reduced the network area (p=0.038), whereas repetitive stimulation significantly attenuated the pro-inflammatory effect (IL-6, p=0.029). Stimulation of pre-treated HUVEC and unstimulated RASF with caspase led to disturbed tube formation with reduced tube thickness from 22.9 to 16.9µm (SD=4.4, p<0.001). Co-culture of RASF with pre-treated HUVEC with caspase further increased the RASF-mediated effect by reducing tube thickness (22.9 to 14.6µm (SD=4.4, p<0.001), with a significant 1.6-fold decrease of ANGPT2. In human RA synovium, ANGPT2 was also found to be significantly upregulated in vessels compared to OA tissue. In SCID mice, RASF-mediated altered vessel formation started at day 3. Heli-like vessels were detectable at early time points of vessel formation in implants with RASF (d3-9), e.g. at day 3, 60% of vessels were helix-like.

**Conclusion:** RASF induced helix-like vessels in the SCID mouse model suggest an influence on vessel formation. This could be confirmed in vitro as well as on a molecular level inducing the vascular marker ANGPT2 in newly formed tubes. ANGPT2-upregulation in vessels was also observed in human RA synovium. Repetitive stimulation of RASFs resulted in an inflammatory adjustment to IL-1β, leading to a significant reduction of IL-6 and improved neovascularization in vitro. The anti-angiogenic caspase could in part enhance the RASF-mediated effect and was not able to restore RASF-altered tube formation in vitro.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Novel insights into disease taxonomy and immunophenotyping**

**OP0210 BRUTON’S TYROSINE KINASE (BTK) IS A NOVEL INDEPENDENT BIOMARKER OF LYMHPHOMA IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: DATA FROM 346 PATIENTS OF THE ASSESS COHORT**

**Keywords:** Sjögren syndrome, Malignancy, Biomarkers

P. M. Duret1, C. Schleiss2, N. Sedmak3, N. Meyer3, T. Yé4, L. Kawka5, A. Saraux2,6, V. Devauchelle-Pensec2,5, D. Cornec6, C. Larroche7, A. Perdrigeon1, R. Seror1, R. Felten1, J. Sibilia1, G. Nocturne1,6, X. Mariette1,2, J. E. Gottenberg1,3, C. Civilian Hospitals, Rheumatology, Colmar, France; 1Institut de biologie moléculaire et cellulaire (IBMC), Immunologie, Immunopathologie et Chimie Thérapeutique, up3572, Strasbourg, France; 2Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, Département de Santé Publique, GMRC, Strasbourg, France; 3Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire, Plateforme Genoméca, I.G.B.M.C., Strasbourg, France; 4University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France; 5Hôpital de Hautepi De La Cavale Blanche, Rheumatology, Brest, France; 6Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO), INSERM 1227 LabEx IGO, Brest, France; 7Hôpital Avicenne, Bobigny, APHP, Internal Medicine, Paris, France; 8Hôpital Sud, Rennes, Rheumatology, Rennes, France; 9Université Paris-Saclay, Hôpital Biédre, Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 10INSERM U91184, Centre for Immunology of Viral Infections and Autoimmune Diseases, Paris, France

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a B-cell driven systemic auto-immune disease associated with the highest risk of lymphoma among systemic autoimmune diseases (SAIDs). We investigated the potential interest of combining B-cell (BTK and BAFF) and T-cell (CD4/CD8 ratio) markers in pSS patients for their participation to the ASSESS cohort; To the investigators of the ASSESS cohort; plateforme de transcriptome of the Institut Cochin; centre de ressources biologiques de l’Hôpital Bichat; The French Society of Rheumatology.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Pierre-Marie DURET: None declared, Cédric Schleiss: None declared, Nathanaël Sedmak: None declared, Nicolas Meyer: None declared, Tao Ye: None declared, Lou Kawka: None declared, Alain Saraux: None declared, Valerie Devauchelle-Pensec: None declared, Divi Cornec: None declared, Claire Larroche: None declared, Aleh Perdrigeon: None declared, Raphaële Seror: None declared, Renaud FELTEN: None declared, Jean Sibilia: None declared, Gaetane Nocturne: None declared, Xavier Mariette Consultant of: Astra Zeneca, BMS, Galapagos, GSK, Novartis, Pfizer. Jacques-Eric Gottenberg Consultant of: Astra Zeneca, BMS, Galapagos, GSK, Novartis, Pfizer. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3941

**OP0211 CHANGE IN URINARY BIOMARKERS AT THREE MONTHS PREDICTS 1-YEAR TREATMENT RESPONSE OF LUPUS NERPHRITIS BETTER THAN PROTEINURIA**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus, -Omics

A. Fava1, J. Buyon2, L. Magder3, D. Diamond4, J. Guthridge5, J. A. James5, D. Goldman1, W. Apruzzese6, D. Fine7, J. Monroy-Trujillo6, M. Atta8, I. Pizmiry3, H. M. Belmont9, A. Davidson10, M. Dall’era10, D. Raoa10, A. Arazi10, N. Haochen10, S. Raychaudhuri10, T. Accelerating Medicines Partnership in Ra Si/B3, M. Petri9, Locks Hopkins University, Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America; 2NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; 3University of Maryland, Department of Epidemiology
and Public Health, Baltimore, United States of America; Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Molecular Medicine and Medicine, Manhasset, United States of America; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Department of, Oklahoma City, United States of America; Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Department of, Boston, United States of America; Johns Hopkins University, Division of Nephrology, Baltimore, United States of America; Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Department of, Manhasset, United States of America; University of California, San Francisco, Division of Rheumatology, San Francisco, United States of America; Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Department of, Boston, United States of America; Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Department of, Melrose, United States of America; Broad Institute, Department of, Cambridge, United States of America; Multiple Institutions, N/A, N/A, United States of America

Background: A decline of urine protein-to-creatinine ratio (UPCR) to < 0.5 is associated with better long-term preservation of kidney function in lupus nephritis (LN). UPCR < 0.5 defines complete response in guidelines and clinical trials when achieved after 1 or 2 years. Biomarkers of early response are needed to guide early treatment changes. We studied longitudinal urine proteomic profiles in LN to identify early predictors of proteinuric response.

Objectives: Identify early predictors of proteinuric response in LN using longitudinal urine proteomic profiles.

Methods: We quantified 1200 biomarkers (Kiloplex, RayBiotech) in urine samples collected on the day of (73%) or within 3 weeks (27%) of kidney biopsy and week 12, 24, or 52 in LN patients (ISN class III, IV, V, or mixed) with proteinuria > 1 g/d. Response was defined at one year from renal biopsy: Complete = UPCR < 0.5, serum creatinine (sCr) < 125% of baseline, prednisone ≤ 10 mg/d; Partial = UPCR < 50% from baseline but >0.5, sCr < 125% of baseline, but prednisone allowed to 15 mg/d; Non responder = not meeting previous definitions.

Results: A total of 127 patients were included: 48 (38%) with pure proliferative LN (class III or IV), 41 (32%) with mixed LN (III or IV +/- V), and 36 (30%) with pure membranous LN. Response was complete in 34 (27%), partial in 29 (23%), and none in 64 (50%). There were no urinary biomarkers at baseline that predicted response. We then analyzed the changes in urinary proteins at 3 months compared to baseline. Patients who responded at 1 year showed an early decline in 51 urinary proteins led by CD163, IL-16, and CD206 (macrophage mannose receptor) (Figure 1A) which matched the proteome signature associated with histological activity (Figure 1B). No changes were observed in nonresponders. The decline of several urinary biomarkers at 3 months outperformed a decline in UPCR (clinical standard) in predicting the 1 year response. In particular, a decline of CD163 predicted 1 year response in ROC analysis with an area under the curve (AUC) of 83% compared to an AUC of 75% for UPCR decline. In proliferative LN, urinary biomarkers displayed superior performance with an AUC of 91%, 86%, and 78% for the decline of CD206, CD163, and UPCR, respectively (Figure 1C-D). Pathway enrichment analysis identified leukocyte activation, neutrophil degranulation, and matrix degradation as the main pathways reduced at 3 months in responders.

Conclusion: An early decline in urinary biomarkers of histological activity is associated with proteinuric response at 1 year. These findings indicate that effective immunosuppression induces by three months an immunological response in the kidney that can be noninvasively monitored in the urine. Biomarkers of immunological response outperformed early decline of UPCR, the standard of care, in predicting 1-year proteinuric response, especially in proliferative LN.

Because biomarkers of immunological response parallel intrarenal activity, they could detect early treatment response/failure and allow early treatment changes. They could serve as surrogate endpoints in clinical trials. Longitudinal studies are needed to confirm that this immunological response is a better predictor of long-term kidney function preservation than proteinuric responses.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2034

Figure 1. Selected proteins showing differences associated with PDF A), DDF B) and HSB C) subgroups. Derived from ARACNE analysis of protein expression data, nodes represent individual proteins and edges represent the mutual information between nodes. Colour scaling shows estimated difference using LSS as a comparator group, with red indicating higher expression and blue indicating lower expression. Estimates are derived from a generalised linear model post adjustment for baseline age, sex and batch

Conclusion: Protein expression between the clinically distinct pSS subgroups revealed differences in cytokines, chemokines and master transcription factors associated with redox imbalance and altered energy metabolism. Furthermore, the differentially expressed proteins seem to be interrelated in our network
characteristic enrichment of antiphospholipid-reactive B cells among atypical memory subsets of primary APS suggest ongoing induction in extracellular sites

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Autoantibodies, Anti-phospholipid syndrome

Analysis. Our data provide clues to the molecular pathways contributing to the glandular and systemic manifestations of PSS and to potential therapeutic targets for different pSS subgroups.

REFERENCES:


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OP0213

CHARACTERISTIC ENRICHMENT OF ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID-REACTIVE B CELLS AMONG ATYPICAL MEMORY SUBSETS OF PRIMARY APS SUGGEST ONGOING INDUCTION IN EXTRACELLULAR SITES

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Autoantibodies, Anti-phospholipid syndrome

Analysis. Our data provide clues to the molecular pathways contributing to the glandular and systemic manifestations of PSS and to potential therapeutic targets for different pSS subgroups.

REFERENCES:


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OP0214

A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH REVEALS A DYSREGULATED SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IMMUNE Rheostat WITH AN ABNORMAL IMMUNOREGULATORY RESPONSE AND REDUCED CTLA4 EXPRESSION IN EFFECTOR T CELLS

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

Analysis. Our data provide clues to the molecular pathways contributing to the glandular and systemic manifestations of PSS and to potential therapeutic targets for different pSS subgroups.

REFERENCES:


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versus healthy: 0.86 [0.43 to 1.38]% versus 0.31 [0.24 to 0.42]%, p<0.01). These Treg-like cells do not express CD25, a phenotypic marker for natural Treg cells. Concurrently, there was a significant reduction in CTLA4 expressing naïve non-Treg CD4+ T (effector) cells in lupus (SLE versus healthy: 0.59 [0.40 to 1.11]% versus 2.0 [0.9 to 2.9]%, p<0.01). This was accompanied by a significant reduction in the ratio of CTLA4+ to naïve non-Treg TNFα effector T cells (SLE versus healthy, ratio of CTLA4+ to total naïve non-Treg TNFα+ T cells: 0.14 [0.11 to 0.23] versus 0.33 [0.17 to 0.55], p<0.0001). Additionally, other significant changes such as activated IL4+ T cell subset (CD3+CD4+CD45RA-"HLA-DR+IL4") was increased in lupus (SLE versus healthy: 0.30 [0.19 to 0.52]% versus 0.07 [0.05 to 0.12%], p<0.0001).

**Conclusion:** There are multiple derangements in the immunoregulatory and effector axes in lupus consistent with its complex immunopathogenesis. The activated CD25 negative Treg-like subset indicates an impaired regulatory response in SLE. The reduced CTLA4 expression in the naïve non-Treg T cells in lupus suggests a perturbed negative feedback mechanism in the effector system. The validation of these results and delineation of the underlying disease mechanisms have translational therapeutic potential.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** This research was supported by the National Research Foundation Singapore under its National Medical Research Council (NMRC) Centre Grant Programme (MOH-000988) and is administered by the Ministry of Health, Singapore's NMRC. Other NMRC grant support CIRCGrnplus-0031 and C5ANV2015-0008 is gratefully acknowledged.

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**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2990

**OP0215**

**IMMUNOJOE ANALYSIS INDICATES ROBUST INHIBITION OF PROINFLAMMATORY MEDIATORS UPON LEFLUNOMIDE-HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE COMBINATION THERAPY IN SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: CXCR3 LIGANDS AS POTENTIAL INFLAMMATORY ENDOTAXER BIODMARKERS.**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Sjögren syndrome, Randomized control trial

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a chronic autoimmune disorder characterized by lymphocytic infiltration and functional impairment of exocrine glands, resulting in dryness of the eyes, mouth and extra-glandular manifestations in numerous organs. Immuneopathology in pSS is associated with prominent B cell hyperactivity reflected by elevated serum IgG levels, autoantibody production, immune complex formation, and complement activation [1]. In a recent double blinded placebo controlled randomized trial, we demonstrated unprecedented robust inhibition of B cell hyperactivity and different disease activity parameters (including primary endpoint ESSDAI) by leflunomide-hydroxychloroquine (LEF-HCQ) combination therapy in the treatment of patients with pSS [2].

**Objectives:** To assess the potential of LEF-HCQ combination therapy to normalize dysregulated inflammatory cytokine levels in pSS patients, and to identify biomarkers that reflect inflammation, monitor changes in disease activity and predict the treatment response.

**Methods:** We employed a high-throughput protein Olink proteomic assay (Immuno-Oncology panel) in order to determine the blood serum concentrations of 92 immune biomarkers, assessed at baseline and at the clinical endpoint in placebo (n=8) and verum treated patients (n=21). Welch 2-sample t-test and paired t-test were used to calculate differences for unpaired and paired data, respectively as for unpaired and paired data, respectively. FDR corrected p values were assessed using the Olink Analyze package available on CRAN.

**RESULTS:** Of the 92 immune biomarkers, 34 were significantly upregulated in pSS patients compared to healthy controls at the onset of the trial (all at least p<0.05). Moreover, the majority of these inflammatory mediators (24/34) were downregulated after 24 weeks of LEF-HCQ treatment (LGLAS9, CCL19, IL10, CXCL10, CXCL11, CXCL13, GZMH, CXCL9, and soluble CD28, CD83, CD27, PDCD1, ADGRG1, PD-L1, CTRAM) with 9 returning to healthy control levels (TNF, IL12, GZMA, and soluble LAG3). IL12RB1, TNFSF9/4-1BB, CD4, KLRD1, CD70). Conversely, no significant alterations were observed in the placebo group. Interestingly, changes in ESSDAI scores were significantly (all at least p<0.05) associated with changes in IL13, TNF, PTN, CXCL9, CXCL11 and soluble LAG3 concentrations. In addition, changes in serum IgG and Rheumatoid Factor levels were both significantly associated with changes in soluble CXCL13, GZMA, CXCL9, soluble CD4 and CD28 concentrations. Based on a machine learning approach (sPLS-DA) we identified baseline levels of CXCL9/10/11 as key markers of the treatment response.

**Conclusion:** LEF-HCQ treatment robustly inhibits inflammatory activity in pSS patients. The correlation of several mediators with clinical activity parameters indicates that these may have value in monitoring the disease activity. Furthermore, the clinical outcome upon LEF/HQC treatment seems predetermined by an inflammatory endotype, with circulating biomarkers such as CXCR3 ligands as key determinants. These findings represent an important advance in our understanding of the underlying immunopathology of pSS and could help in the development of more personalized and effective treatment approaches for pSS and potentially other rheumatic diseases.

**REFERENCE:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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cluster analysis. Survival and treatment goal achievement were further compared between different clusters. The Id1 and phospho-SMAD1/5 (p-SMAD1/5) levels were examined in human pulmonary artery endothelial cells (hPAEC) under the induction of BMP9 combined with anti-BMPR2, anti-ALK1, and anti-BMPR1A neutralizing antibodies (5 μg/mL). The effect of anti-ALK1 antibodies on the extent of monolayer permeability and apoptosis of hPAEC was further examined.

**Results:** 60 SLE-PAH patients were enrolled and cluster analysis revealed two distinct clusters according to the positivity of autoantibodies targeting BMP signaling and clinical manifestations. Cluster 1 was a “low-antibody and high-disease activity” cluster while cluster 2 was a “high-antibody and low-disease activity” cluster. Patients in cluster 1 showed a higher proportion of nephropathy (76.9%) and SLE activity, however a low positivity rate of autoantibodies targeting BMP signaling. Patients in cluster 2 were characterized by a higher rate of anti-BMPR2 antibodies (82.4%), anti-ALK antibodies (70.6%), and lower SLE activity. Prognostic analysis showed that the proportion of patients who reached the treatment target was relatively higher in cluster 2. Mechanism study showed that the p-SMAD1/5 level and the Id1 expression were decreased, indicating the suppression of BMP signaling in the presence of anti-ALK1 antibodies. Functional studies showed that anti-ALK1 antibodies increased the monolayer permeability of hPAEC. The late-stage apoptosis of hPAECs was also induced by anti-ALK1 antibodies.

**Table 1. The clinical features of the patients in cluster 1 and cluster 2.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cluster 1 (N=26)</th>
<th>Cluster 2 (N=34)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-BMPR2 antibodies</td>
<td>5(19.2)</td>
<td>28(82.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-BMP1A antibodies</td>
<td>8(30.2)</td>
<td>4(11.8)</td>
<td>0.068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-ALK antibodies</td>
<td>5(19.2)</td>
<td>24(70.6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>12(46.2)</td>
<td>25(73.5)</td>
<td>0.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephropathy</td>
<td>20(76.9)</td>
<td>1(2.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI</td>
<td>5.46±4.28</td>
<td>2.62±2.10</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO III/V</td>
<td>17(65.4)</td>
<td>14(41.2)</td>
<td>0.063</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** The serum positivity of autoantibodies targeting BMP signaling has clinical potential in dividing SLE-PAH patients into two distinct clusters. The anti-ALK1 antibodies can downregulate BMP signaling and mediate great permeability and apoptosis in hPAECs, which may be involved in the pathogenesis of SLE-PAH.

**References:**


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**Keywords:** Autoantibodies, Sjögren syndrome, Prognostic factors

**Interpretation:** The diagnosis of primary Sjögren Disease (SjD) is currently based on a combination of clinical, histological and biological findings [1]. Current thinking supports anti-Ro60 antibodies as the most specific serum marker, while the impact of anti-Ro52 remains unclear [2].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to characterize the clinical, serological, biological, transcriptomic and interferon profiles of SjD patients according to their anti-Ro52 status and discuss the role of anti-Ro52 in the prognosis of SjD.

**Methods:** SjD patients were recruited from the European PRECISESADS (378 patients) [3] and the independent Brittany DiApSS cohorts (160 patients) [4]. Four groups were defined: negative (Ro52+/Ro60), isolated anti-Ro52 positive (Ro52+), isolated anti-Ro60 positive (Ro60+), and double positive (Ro52+/Ro60+) patients. Clinical information, disease activity, and biological markers linked to disease severity were evaluated. Transcriptome data on whole blood by RNAseq and Type I and II interferon signatures [5,6] were analyzed for PRECISESADS SjD patients.

**Results:** In both cohorts, arthritis, parotidomegaly, and biological markers (hypergammaglobulinemia, rheumatoid factor and inflammation) [7] were significantly more frequent in the double positive group as compared to other groups. ESSDAI, a score representing systemic activity [8], was also significantly higher in double positive patients compared to the others. Transcriptome analysis demonstrated that anti-Ro52 positivity was associated with a strong interferon pathway activation as the lead cause to explain the clinical associations.

**Conclusion:** Taken together, these results suggest that SjD patients with anti-Ro52 positivity adopt a more severe phenotype as compared to their negative counterparts, independently of anti-Ro60 positivity.

**References:**


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Rheumatoid arthritis: new small molecules and old DMARDs

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Malignancy

M. Schaefer1, Y. Meissner1, B. Manger2, S. Berger3, K. Rockwitz4, A. Regierer1, A. Strangfeld1,5.

Aims: To analyse incidence malignancies under treatment with JAKi, tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi), abatacept (ABA), rituximab (RTX), interleukin 6 inhibitors (IL6i) or conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) - bionovia - in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) observed in daily rheumatological care.

Methods: Data from patients without cancer history from the biologics register RABBIT were included with treatment episodes started 01/2017 - 04/2022. Incidence rates (IR) of malignancies (without non melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) per 1000 patient-years (PY) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) and adjusted hazard ratios (HR) were calculated for all and selected patients according to OS inclusion criteria (age ≥ 50 years and ≥ 1 cardiovascular (CV) risk factor) to compare treatment groups to TNFi. Andersen-Gill regression analysis was used with a 6-month risk window, adjusted via stabilized and winsorized inverse probability of treatment weights taking into account enrolment institution (clinic vs. private practice) as covariates. Multiple imputation of missing data was applied.

Results: 2763 JAKi, 3403 TNFi, 744 ABA, 834 RTX, 1125 IL6i and 1130 csDMARD initiations were documented. Patients with a JAKi start were less often men and (except RTX patients) slightly older and had a longer RA disease duration (Table 1). The seropositive proportion and the number of prior treatments with biological (b) or targeted (ts) synthetic DMARDs was higher than in TNFi and csDMARD groups, but lower than in ABA and RTX groups.

Table 1. Patient characteristics at the start of a DMARD episode.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALL PATIENTS</th>
<th>JAKi</th>
<th>TNFi</th>
<th>ABA</th>
<th>RTX</th>
<th>IL6i</th>
<th>csDMARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=2763</td>
<td>n=3403</td>
<td>n=744</td>
<td>n=834</td>
<td>n=1125</td>
<td>n=1130</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositivity</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># previous b/tsDMARDs</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of full physical function</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>72.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% comorbidities</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smokers</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SELECTED PATENTS | JAKi | TNFi | ABA | RTX | IL6i | csDMARD |
| n=1665 | n=1810 | n=444 | n=440 | n=623 | n=645 |
| Age | 64.5 | 63.7 | 64.9 | 66.0 | 63.5 | 64.7 |
| Men | 27% | 30% | 29% | 36% | 28% | 30% |
| Disease duration | 13.3 | 10.2 | 13.1 | 16.9 | 11.0 | 6.4 |
| Seropositivity | 79% | 73% | 81% | 90% | 78% | 67% |
| # previous b/tsDMARDs | 2.9 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 5.2 | 2.5 | 0 |
| % of full physical function | 61.5 | 64.7 | 59.5 | 61.7 | 61.2 | 70.3 |
| % comorbidities | 3.0 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 2.2 |
| Current smokers | 34% | 37% | 35% | 38% | 35% | 38% |

Values are given as mean or percentage. *Age ≥50 years and ≥ 1 CV risk factor (hypertension, coronary heart disease, diabetes, hyperlipoproteinaemia, current smoking)

151 incident malignancies were reported. Across treatments, patients showed comparable IRs between 7 and 11 events per 1000 PY. Among selected patients IRs were higher (13.2 events per 1000 PY in JAKi patients, 95% CI: 9.5 – 17.9).

In adjusted analyses, neither JAKi (HR 1.06, 95% CI: 0.70 - 1.61), ABA (HR 0.73, 0.38 - 1.40), RTX (HR 0.86, 0.42 - 1.73), IL6i (HR 0.79, 0.49 - 1.40) nor csDMARDs (HR 2.07, 0.87 - 4.94) showed a significantly altered risk for malignancies compared with TNFi in unselected patients, with similar results in selected patients.

Figure 1. IRs of malignancies (without NMSC) per 1000 PY by treatment group

Conclusion: IR of malignancies in selected patients receiving JAKi in a real-world setting was numerically higher than reported for tofacitinib in OS. However, we found no statistical evidence of an increased malignancy risk with JAKi compared to TNFi, although patients on JAKi were older and had longer disease duration and more previous b/tsDMARDs treatments. Further analyses assessing exposure in terms of treatment duration are needed.

REFERENCE:
[1] PMID: 35081280

Acknowledgements: RABBIT is currently supported by a joint, unconditional grant from AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Hexal, Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi Aventis, VIATRIS SANTE and UCB.

Disclosure of Interests: Martin Schaefer Grant/research support from: Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies (AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Hexal, Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi Aventis, VIATRIS SANTE and UCB) for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute. Yvette Meissner Speakers bureau: Pfizer. Grant/research support from: Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies (AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Hexal, Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi Aventis, VIATRIS SANTE and UCB) for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute, Bernhard Manger Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Alexion, EUSA, Cellgene, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Genzyme, Consultant of: EUSA, MSD, Vifor, Sylvia Berger: None declared, Karin Rockwitz: None declared, Anne Regierer Speakers bureau: BMS, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Grant/research support from: joint unconditional grant from: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Fresenius Kabi, Hexal, Janssen-Cilag, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, UCB and Viatris, Anja Strangfeld Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Alexion, EUSA, Cellgene, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Genzyme, Consultant of: EUSA, MSD, Vifor, Sanofi, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi Aventis, VIATRIS SANTE and UCB) for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-38434

OP0219 INCIDENT OF MAJOR ADVERSE CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH JAK-INHIBITORS COMPARED TO DMARDs: DATA FROM AN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION OF REGISTRIES (THE “JAK-POT” STUDY)

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Safety, Real-world evidence

Background: Results of the “ORAL Surveillance” trial showed higher risk of major adverse cardiovascular (CV) events (MACE) for Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) than for TNF-inhibitors (TNFi). Currently, there is limited evidence of the real-world cardiovascular safety of JAKi.

Objectives: To assess the incidence of MACE in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients treated with JAKi, compared to other biologic agents in a large multi-country real-world population.

Methods: Patients from 14 RA registers from across Europe, Turkey and Quebec (Canada), starting JAKi, TNF-inhibitors or bDMARDs with other modes of action (OMA), were included. MACE comprised strokes, myocardial infarctions and transient ischemic attacks and were attributed to a treatment up to 3 months after treatment cessation (except for rituximab for which it was 1 year), loss of follow-up, death or end of study. Incidence rates (IR) of MACE per 1000 patient-years (PY) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) were computed. Poisson regression, with propensity score weighting (including country, disease- and treatment-related variables), was used to obtain adjusted incidence rate ratios (IRR), with 95% CI. A sub-analysis was performed on patients aged ≥ 50 years and ≥ 1 CV risk factor, mimicking the “ORAL Surveillance” trial inclusion criteria (RCT-duplicate cohort).

Results: Over the 50 325 treatment initiatives considered (Table 1) in 34 932 patients with a mean follow-up of 2.8 years, 182 incident MACE were reported. Crude incidence was higher for OMA (2.63/1000 PY) than for JAKi (1.76/1000 PY) and TNFi (1.86/1000 PY). The adjusted Poisson regression demonstrated no significant difference in the incidence of MACE between JAKi vs TNFi (IRR = 0.87 (95% CI 0.56, 1.35)), and OMA vs TNFi (IRR = 1.05 (95% CI 0.74, 1.49)) (Figure 1). The RCT-duplicate cohort accounted for 38.4% of treatment courses and had a higher incidence of MACE in each treatment group (OMA: 3.75/1000 PY, JAKi: 2.65/1000 PY, TNFi: 3.48/1000 PY). Similarly to the overall population, no significant difference in the incidence of MACE was observed between JAKi vs TNFi (IRR = 0.78 (95% CI 0.44, 1.38)), and OMA vs TNFi (IRR = 0.84 (95% CI 0.53, 1.35)).

Figure 1: Adjusted Incidence Rate Ratios (IRR) of MACE, compared to TNFi

Table 1. Baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JAKi (TOFA, BARI, UPA, FILGO)</th>
<th>OMA (RTU, TOCI, ABA, SARI)</th>
<th>TNFi (ETN, ADA, GOL, CTZ, IFX)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>12 715</td>
<td>16 084</td>
<td>22 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment duration (median [IQR])</td>
<td>14 [0.5, 2.7]</td>
<td>13 [0.4, 2.7]</td>
<td>15 [0.6, 2.9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (median [SD])</td>
<td>58.0 (12.4)</td>
<td>59.5 (12.7)</td>
<td>56.5 (13.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (mean [SD])</td>
<td>25.9 (5.1)</td>
<td>26.1 (5.2)</td>
<td>25.8 (5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS 28 (mean [SD])</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>54.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>58.0 (12.4)</td>
<td>59.5 (12.7)</td>
<td>56.5 (13.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant csDMARD (%)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L) (mean [SD])</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CRP = C-reactive protein, CDAI = Clinical Disease Activity Index, DAS 28 = Disease Activity Score 28, HAG = Health Assessment Questionnaire, BMI = Body Mass Index, *Hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes, smoking, past history of strokes or myocardial infarctions

Conclusion: In this real-world study, including 14 RA registers and all currently available JAKi in the respective countries, we did not find a significantly higher risk of MACE in RA patients treated with JAKi compared to TNFi. Inclusion of other registries to increase the statistical power and the evaluation of other adverse events such as thromboembolic events, cancers and serious infections are planned. A significant difference in the incidence of MACE in RA patients treated with JAKi compared to TNFi. Inclusion of other registries to increase the statistical power and the evaluation of other adverse events such as thromboembolic events, cancers and serious infections are planned.
Glucocorticoid use over time.

**Methods:**
Data were available from the BeSt, CareRA and COBRA trials, which included study arms with and without initial GC bridging in addition to csDMARD treatment. GC bridging schedules were planned for a minimum duration of 34 (CareRA), 35 (COBRA) and 36 (BeSt) weeks (Table 1). In an individual patient data (IPD) meta-analysis we compared GC use between bridgers and non-bridgers at 12, 18 and 24 months from baseline as primary outcome. Secondary outcomes were the mean cumulative GC dose until 24 months after baseline and with and without the bridging period, number of (study defined) flares (DAS28 increase >1.2 or SSZ >7.5 mg/day), number of DMARD changes (adding a new DMARD, the modulatory effect on cardiovascular risk seems less straightforward) and cardiovascular events. Post hoc analysis was also performed. The incidence rate ratio (IRR) for number of DMARD changes was significantly lower in the bridgers (IRR 0.59 (95%CI 0.38; 0.94)).

**Results:**
In 6 weeks to 7.5 mg/day; 60 mg/day (prednisone) In 7 weeks to 7.5 mg/day; 60 mg/day (prednisone) From week 29-35 tapered to zero; resume on flare MTX 75 mg/week and MTX 15 mg/week from week 28-34 tapered to zero if DAS28<CRP<3.2 SSZ 2000 mg/day; From week 40-43 MTX 2000 mg/day; Tapered to zero; resume on flare MTX 15 mg/week (increased to 25 mg/week if DAS28<4.3 after 3 months) MTX 75 mg/week, increased to 25 mg/week if DAS28>4.3 after 3 months

**Background:**
Glucocorticoid (GC) ‘bridging’ therapy as temporary part of the initial treatment in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) helps to rapidly suppress disease activity. It has been proposed that patients treated with GC bridging (bridgers) may continue to use more GC later in the disease course than patients who did not receive GC bridging (non-bridgers).

**Objectives:**
To compare GC use over time between RA patients in clinical trials randomized to treatment with or without initial GC bridging.

**Methods:**
Data were available from the BeSt, CareRA and COBRA trials, which included study arms with and without initial GC bridging in addition to csDMARD treatment. GC bridging schedules were planned for a minimal duration of 34 (CareRA), 35 (COBRA) and 36 (BeSt) weeks (Table 1). In an individual patient data (IPD) meta-analysis we compared GC use between bridgers and non-bridgers at 12, 18 and 24 months from baseline as primary outcome. Secondary outcomes were the mean cumulative GC dose until 24 months after baseline and without the bridging period, number of (study defined) flares (DAS28 increase >1.2 or DAS28 >0.6 and ≥3.2 at previous visit), number of DMARD changes (adding a new DMARD, the modulatory effect on cardiovascular risk seems less straightforward) and cardiovascular events. Post hoc analysis was also performed. The incidence rate ratio (IRR) for number of DMARD changes was significantly lower in the bridgers (IRR 0.59 (95%CI 0.38; 0.94)).

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**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to investigate the occurrence of cardiovascular events in a large population of RA patients treated with either JAK-kinase inhibitors or other (b)DMARDs, using real-world data.

**Methods:** Adult RA patients (extrapolated from drug based algorithms), starting a new bDMARD or JAK-inhibitor between August 1st 2017 and January 31st 2022, have been selected from IQVIA's Dutch Real-World Data Longitudinal Prescription database, covering about 63% of outpatient prescriptions in the Netherlands. Study outcome is cardiovascular (CV) event defined as the start of platelet aggregation inhibitors (clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor, dipiridamol) during study period. The risk of cardiovascular events was estimated using multilevel Poisson regression, adjusted for exposition time and confounders.

**Results:** In total, 15,191 unique patients were included, with 20,912 treatment episodes with either JAK (2,090, almost exclusively tofacitinib and baricitinib) or bDMARDs (18,822). Most patients were female (72%) and median age was 62 years. We found a total of 681 CV events occurring during the study period: 48 (2.0 events/100 patient years) during therapy with JAKi and 633 (2.42 events/100 patient years) during therapy with bDMARDs, respectively, resulting in an adjusted incident risk ratio (IRR) of 0.78 for JAK compared to bDMARDs (95% confidence interval (CI), 0.56 – 1.10) (Table 1). Subanalysis in patients using either tofacitinib or baricitinib yielded similar results (Table 1). Likewise, RA patients older than 65 years did not have a higher risk for CVD during the therapy with JAKi as compared to those treated with bDMARDs: adjusted IRR 0.76 (95% CI, 0.51 – 1.19).

**Conclusion:** In the Dutch RA population, the incidence of cardiovascular events in JAKi starters was not higher than in bDMARD starters, and similar for tofacitinib and baricitinib. These data will further contribute to estimation of the cardiovascular safety of JAKi.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Table 1. Number of cardiovascular events and IRR for bDMARD and JAK inhibitor users**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bDMARDs</th>
<th>JAK-inhibitors</th>
<th>Tofacitinib</th>
<th>Baricitinib</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N (treatment episodes)</td>
<td>18,822</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>1,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVD events (n)</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient years</td>
<td>26,108</td>
<td>2,373</td>
<td>993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV events (n)</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient years</td>
<td>26,108</td>
<td>2,373</td>
<td>993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude IRR (95% CI)</td>
<td>Ref 1</td>
<td>0.80 (0.57-1.11)</td>
<td>0.81 (0.49-1.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted IRR (95% CI)</td>
<td>Ref 1</td>
<td>0.78 (0.56-1.10)</td>
<td>0.81 (0.54-1.31)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*adjusted for age, sex, number of used DMARD in the 2 years prior to the index date, diabetes mellitus, use of antihypertensives/statins in 12 months prior to the index date*

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Calin Popa: None declared, Merel Opdam: None declared, Nathan den Broeder: None declared, Maike Wientjes: None declared, Alfons den Broeder Grant/research support from: Grants to the institution from Abbvie, Gilead, Pfizer, Novartis, Lilly, Galapagos, Sanofi.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4033

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**OP0222**

**TRAJECTORIES OF ANTIMALARIAL ADHERENCE AMONG NEWLY DIAGNOSED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS: A POPULATION-BASED COHORT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

**M. R. Houde**1,2, J. A. Avila-Zubieta3,4, D. Lacaille2,3, M. De Vera4, Y. Qian4, L. Mccandless4, J. Esdale4,5, H. Xie6, H. L. Brown7, Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Burnaby, Canada; 3Arthritis Research Canada, Arthritis Research, Vancouver, Canada; 4The University of British Columbia, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Vancouver, Canada; 5The University of British Columbia, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vancouver, Canada; 6The University of British Columbia, Sauder School of Business, Vancouver, Canada

**Background:** Adherence to antimalarial regimens are suboptimal in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients. Also, adherence is dynamic in nature, and varies over the time. Computing a single adherence level over a period may not explain the adherence trajectories of antimalarial in RA and SLE patients over time.

**Objectives:** To identify the groups of patients with similar patterns or trajectories of antimalarial adherence over time and evaluate the baseline determinants of the group membership of adherence trajectories.

**Methods:** All patients with incident RA/SLE and incident antimalarial use in British Columbia, Canada, between January 1997 and March 2021, were identified using previously published definitions and administrative health data. Patients were followed up for 12 months from the index date, the time when subjects met RA/SLE criteria and were on antimalarials. We calculated a measure of adherence, the proportion of days covered (PDC) for all patients each month. Then, we used group-based trajectory model (GBTM) analysis on monthly PDC values to identify the latent groups of antimalarial adherence trajectories. The number of groups was selected using the AIC and minimum percentage criterion. Finally, we used an ordered logistic regression to evaluate the baseline determinants of the group membership of adherence trajectories.

**Results:** We identified a total of 2,751 patients with incident antimalarial use (23,997 RA and 3,513 SLE patients, mean ± SD age 56.8 ± 15.5 years, 74.8% female). Using GBTM analysis, we identified four groups for antimalarial medication adherence trajectories, representing an ordered pattern of antimalarial adherence from worse to better. Those trajectory groups were - Group 1: quick deterioration (19%), Group 2: moderate deterioration (15.7%), Group 3: slow deterioration (18.4%), and Group 4: consistent high adherence (46.8%) (Figure 1). Significant determinants of the group membership of adherence trajectories from the ordinal logistic regression model are shown in Table 1. The odds of better adherence were higher for those who, at baseline, were older, had higher income, had SLE compared with RA, had hypertension, had rheumatologist visits, and used glucocorticoids, immuno-suppressives or Cox-2 selective NSAIDs.

**Conclusion:** Antimalarial adherence trajectories over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Adjusted odds ratio (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.009 (1.008-1.011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood income quartile (Ref: 3)</td>
<td>0.914 (0.854-0.978)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.963 (0.899-1.032)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.075 (1.002-1.153)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.041 (0.969-1.117)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE vs RA</td>
<td>1.551 (1.444-1.665)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have hypertension</td>
<td>1.068 (1.022-1.138)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have angina</td>
<td>0.879 (0.776-0.995)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have COPD</td>
<td>0.861 (0.761-0.975)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatologist visits</td>
<td>1.035 (1.022-1.048)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids use</td>
<td>1.082 (1.033-1.134)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immuno-suppressives use</td>
<td>1.177 (1.117-1.239)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox-2 selective NSAIDs use</td>
<td>1.090 (1.017-1.147)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologics use</td>
<td>0.559 (0.426-0.734)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Figure 1:** Antimalarial adherence trajectory groups from group-based trajectory model analysis

**Antimalarial adherence trajectories over time**

 Antarimalarial adherence trajectories over time

**Conclusion:** Among incident RA/SLE incident antimalarial users from a population-based cohort, 53.2% did not continuously adhere to the antimalarial regimen in the first year of treatment. We identified four distinct antimalarial adherence trajectory groups in this study. Sociodemographic, disease-related, healthcare system, and medication use factors associated with better adherence trajectories could help inform strategies to improve antimalarial adherence among RA and SLE patients.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
Antimalarials (AM) have been related to a lower risk and severity of infections in systemic lupus erythematosus [1], but in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) the results are not unanimously favorable to a possible protective effect exerted by AM [2,3]. In our recent study of RA patients treated with biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) or JAK inhibitors (JAKi), a secondary analysis suggested lower risk of total (25% reduction) and serious infections (47% reduction) with concomitant use of AM [4].

Objectives: To evaluate the association of the use of AM with the risk of total and serious bacterial, viral, fungal and system-specific infections in RA patients treated with conventional synthetic DMARDs (csDMARDs) and/or bDMARDs/JAKi.

Methods: BiobadaBrasil is a multicentric registry-based cohort study of Brazilian patients with rheumatic diseases starting a new csDMARD or their first bDMARD or JAKi [5]. The present analysis includes RA patients recruited from Jan 2009 to Oct 2019, followed-up over one or multiple (up to six) courses of treatment (lasted date, Nov 19, 2019) with csDMARDs and/or bDMARDs/JAKi. A treatment course is defined as a period during which the medication scheme of does not change, except for dose adjustments. The primary outcome was the incidence of total infections (SIs) caused by bacteria, viruses and fungi (analyzed separately). Serious infections according to type of microorganism and system-specific infections served as secondary outcomes. Negative binomial regression with generalized estimating equations (to calculate the incidence rate ratios [IRR]) and extended (frailty) multivariate Cox proportional hazards models (to calculate the incidence rate ratios [IRR]) and extended (frailty) multivariate Cox proportional hazards models were used for statistical analyses (both types of analyses including time-fixed and time-varying covariates over multiple courses of treatment to adjust for confounding).

Results: In total, 1671 patients (2891 treatment courses, 8944.1 patient-years [PY]; most treatment courses [in total, 2335] including bDMARDs or JAKi) were enrolled. AM were used over 512 courses (2036.8 PY) of therapy. The overall incidence of infections caused by bacteria, fungi and viruses were 10.2, 1.9, 1.0/100 PY, respectively. The microbiologic etiology of infections was not defined for the majority of patients, but not all infection had a clearly defined etiology (these ones were excluded from the analysis by etiologic agent). Serious infections according to type of microorganism and system-specific infections served as secondary outcomes. Negative binomial regression with generalized estimating equations (to calculate the incidence rate ratios [IRR]) and extended (frailty) multivariate Cox proportional hazards models were used for statistical analyses (both types of analyses including time-fixed and time-varying covariates over multiple courses of treatment to adjust for confounding).

Conclusion: Among RA patients followed-up in our cohort study, the use of antimalarials was associated with reduction in the risk of bacterial infections, especially serious ones, and there was protection against infections affecting the respiratory and digestive systems and skin/mucosae.
lack the capacity to form MTX-PGs. Mechanistically, the low FPGS activity in spermatozoa is likely associated with a higher ratio of mRNA expression of an alternatively spliced form of the FPGS gene (8FPR) over the WT transcript. These results support and clarify our previous findings that treatment with MTX does not affect sperm quality parameters and provides further evidence that MTX can be safely used in men with a wish to become a father.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. MTX-PG accumulation in spermatoza (A) compared to RBCs and PBMCs (B).

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4281

Table 1 . Safety Results Through 30-Days Post-RZV Vaccination in UPA-Treated Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event, n (%)</th>
<th>UPA 15 mg QD (N = 95)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any AE</td>
<td>38 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE with reasonable possibility of being related to UPAa</td>
<td>13 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe AEb</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious AE</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE leading to discontinuation of UPA</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any AE, adverse event; QD, once daily; RZV, adjuvanted recombinant zoster vaccine; UPA, upadacitinib.aAs assessed by the investigator.bHypersensitivity.

Acknowledgements: AbbVie funded this study and participated in the study design, research, analysis, data collection, interpretation of data, review, and approval of the abstract. All authors had access to relevant data and participated in the drafting, review, and approval of this publication. No honoraria or payments were made for authorship. Medical writing support was provided by Julia Zolotar-Jova, MSc, MWC, of AbbVie.


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Table 1. Longitudinal associations of LLDAS+REM- attainment with flare, organ damage accrual and mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flare</th>
<th>HR1 (95%CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>HR2 (95%CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>HR3 (95%CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not in LLDAS or REM-</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDAS+REM-</td>
<td>0.66 (0.60, 0.73)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.63 (0.52, 0.72)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.60 (0.50, 0.74)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDAS+REM+</td>
<td>0.57 (0.52, 0.61)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>0.46 (0.39, 0.54)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>0.43 (0.36, 0.53)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤50% T in LLDAS+REM-</td>
<td>0.71 (0.62, 0.81)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.72 (0.56, 0.92)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.69 (0.59, 0.80)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥50% T in LLDAS+REM-</td>
<td>0.62 (0.56, 0.67)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.64 (0.53, 0.76)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.61 (0.51, 0.71)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤50% T in LLDAS+REM+</td>
<td>0.67 (0.60, 0.73)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.63 (0.52, 0.73)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.60 (0.50, 0.72)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥50% T in LLDAS+REM+</td>
<td>0.72 (0.65, 0.79)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.68 (0.59, 0.79)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.65 (0.55, 0.76)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hazard ratios adjusted for age and national gross domestic product (GDP); age, GDP and baseline organ damage, and GDP and SDI score. T ime.
from: Actelion, AstraZeneca, BMS, GSK, Janssen, UCB, Alberta Hoi Speakers bureau: UCB, Janssen, Sandzo, Eli Lilly, Consultant of: Abbvie, GSK, Grant/research support from: AstraZeneca, BMS, GSK, Janssen, and Merck Serono, Eric F. Morand Speakers bureau: AstraZeneca, EMD Serono, Gilead, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Biogen, Eli Lilly, EMD Serono, Novartis, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Biogen, Eli Lilly, EMD Serono, Genentech, GSK, Janssen, UCB.

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OP0227

IMPROVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYSserratOS ASSOCIATED PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION: A 10-YEAR MULTICENTER COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cardiovascular disease, Treat to target

X. Dong1, J. Qian1, J. L. Zhao1, Q. Wang1, M. Li1, X. Zeng1, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Previous studies have described improved survival in systemic sclerosis (SSc) associated pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) [1-2], yet it is unclear whether survival of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) associated PAH has also improved.

Objectives: To describe the CSTAR prospective cohort of SLE-PAH patients, explore changes in characteristics, treatment and 5-year survival in the last decade, and possible reasons for survival change.

Methods: A multicenter prospective cohort of SLE-PAH was established, and divided into cohort A (2011.6-2016.5) and cohort B (2016.6-2021.5) according to the date of their baseline right heart catheterization (RHC). Another single-center center of idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension (IPAH) was consecutively recruited as control to describe the baseline characteristic and survival of SLE-PAH patients simultaneously. Disease characteristics, treatment regimen, and all-cause mortality were compared between cohort A and cohort B. Multivariable cox regression was used to analyze association between treatment goal achievement and survival.

Results: A total of 610 SLE-PAH and 104 IPAH patients were enrolled. Overall, SLE-PAH patients were younger, predominantly female, had lower NT-proBNP levels, better functional status, better hemodynamic, and higher 5-year survival than IPAH (81.2% vs 56.0%, p<0.001). Compared with cohort A, patients in cohort B showed lower mPAP and PVR, higher CI, and were more likely to receive intensive immunosuppressants and PAH-targeted medication. 5-year survival rate was also higher in cohort B (88.1% vs 72.9%, p<0.01). In multivariable Cox regression, treatment goal achievement of PAH (HR 0.31, 95% CI 0.12-0.81, p=0.017) and reaching lupus low disease activity state (LLDAS) (HR 0.23, 95%CI 0.13-0.41, p<0.001) were both independently associated with a lower mortality.

Conclusion: This is the largest multicenter prospective SLE-PAH cohort to describe disease characteristics and prognosis. This study showed that survival has improved significantly for SLE-PAH. Early detection of PAH in SLE patients, achieving PAH treatment goal as well as LLDAS for SLE contributed to survival improvement.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of SLE-PAH and IPAH patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLE-PAH vs IPAH</th>
<th>Cohort A vs Cohort B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SLE-PAH</strong></td>
<td><strong>IPAH</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=610</td>
<td>n=104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at enrollment, years</td>
<td>35.2±9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, No. (%)</td>
<td>601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO function class III-IV, No. (%)</td>
<td>254 (47.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-minute walk distance, m</td>
<td>400±134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT-proBNP, mg/L</td>
<td>1923±3059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemodynamics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mPAP, mmHg</td>
<td>45.4±11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAWP, mmHg</td>
<td>8.4±3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVR, WU</td>
<td>9.7±5.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R, mmHg | 6.5±4.1 | 8.2±6.4 | 0.06 | 6.3±4.2 | 6.6±3.9 | 0.31 |
| CI, L/min/m² | 2.9±0.9 | 2.2±0.8 | <0.01 | 2.7±0.8 | 3.0±0.8 | 0.01 |

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3455

OP0228

COEXISTING TUBULOINTERSTITIAL INFLAMMATION AND DAMAGE IS A RISK FACTOR FOR CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH LUPUS NEPHRITIS: RESULTS FROM THE KORNET REGISTRY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus

D. J. Park1, S. E. Choi1, J. H. Kang1, S. S. Lee1, 1Chonnam National University Medical School and Hospital, Rheumatology, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: An increasing body of evidence suggests a prognostic role of tubulointerstitial lesions in patients with lupus nephritis (LN). Although persistent tubulointerstitial inflammation (TII) usually precedes tubulointerstitial damage (TID) in LN, the two conditions can be simultaneously present to varying degrees.

Objectives: We examined whether coexisting TII/TID predicts progression to chronic kidney disease (CKD) in LN patients.

Methods: The 175 LN patients enrolled in the study had clinical data obtained at the time of renal biopsy and stored in the KORNET registry. These patients were divided into two groups: those with and without coexisting TII/TID. The two groups were compared with respect to their demographic, clinical, histological, laboratory findings, and long-term prognosis. Uni- and multivariable Cox proportional hazard regression models were used to identify independent risk factors for CKD in LN patients.

Results: Of the 175 LN patients, 110 (62.9%) had coexisting TII/TID and 65 (37.1%) did not. Patients with coexisting TII/TID were older, had higher ESR and 24 h proteinuria, and lower eGFR and hemoglobin levels than those without coexisting TII/TID. Anti-Ro and ribosomal-P antibodies were detected less frequently in patients with coexisting TII/TID. In a histological analysis, patients with coexisting TII/TID more often had LN of the proliferative type and a larger proportion had a chronicity score > 4. During a mean follow-up of 89.9 months, CKD and ESRD developed more frequently in patients with than without coexisting TII/TID. Finally, the coexisting TII/TID was associated with a higher risk for CKD progression: adjusted hazard ratio (HR) = 2.677, 95% confidence interval (CI) (1.451, 7.345) for those with class III, IV and V LN; HR = 3.045, 95% CI (1.289, 7.195) for those with class III, IV, V LN, and eGFR ≥ 30 mL/min/1.73 m².

Conclusion: LN patients with coexisting TII/TID are at greater risk for deterioration of kidney function at LN onset and for developing CKD over the long-term.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OP0229

CHANGES IN THE CAUSES AND PREDICTORS OF LUPUS MORTALITY IN SPAIN THROUGH THE LAST DECADES: DATA FROM THE RELESSER REGISTRY

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Registries, Systemic lupus erythematosus

The use of high doses of corticosteroids (>30mg/day) was predictor of mortality associated with mortality in all periods of the study. Conversely, skin involvement was syndrome and valve disease in the 1990’s; serositis, organ damage and depression at the beginning of the 21st century was linked to mortality. Our results must be confirmed in prospective studies that minimize methodological limitations.

REFERENCES:

Table. General features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>1980’s</th>
<th>1990’s</th>
<th>2000’s</th>
<th>21st Century</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, years</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>112%</td>
<td>112%</td>
<td>112%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex (%)</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant fatigue (%)</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay in diagnosis, months</td>
<td>20.8 ± 52.7</td>
<td>26.2 ± 53.6</td>
<td>29.8 ± 52.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR criteria (≥ 4) (%)</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECADE score (%)</td>
<td>55.21 ± 16.59</td>
<td>57.74 ± 18.61</td>
<td>58.32 ± 19.73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main cause of death</td>
<td>Vascular events</td>
<td>Infections</td>
<td>Infections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: Thank you to RELESSER researchers and collaborators, especially to professor Jaime Calvo-Alén for having helped to develop this study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-erular.6101

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Patient reported outcomes, Patient information and education.
In univariate analysis, SLE patients with fatigue (FACIT-Fatigue<34) were more likely to be women (p=0.01), perceived their disease as more active (p<0.001), had higher levels of pain (p<0.0001), anxiety (p<0.0001), depression (p<0.0001), insomnia (p<0.0001), stress (p<0.0001), and were more likely to have fibromyalgia (p<0.0001), compared to patients without significant fatigue. In multivariable analysis, the parameters independently associated with fatigue were insomnia (p=0.0003), significant pain (p=0.002), fibromyalgia (p=0.008), self-reported active SLE (p=0.02), and high level of stress (p=0.045).

Following LEAF feedback, 93.2% of the participants found LEAF helpful (NRS ≥ 3.5) and 93.2% would recommend it to another SLE patient (NRS ≥ 3.5).

**Conclusion:** In SLE patients, fatigue was frequent, commonly severe, and associated with a significant reduction of activities and motivation. This further confirms the urgent need to develop new tools to assess and treat fatigue in SLE. Our study demonstrates the usefulness of an innovative digital tool to manage fatigue in SLE.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank all patients who have participated to the LEAF study, and in particular the patients of the Lupus Europa Foundation.

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**Acknowledgements:** None declared, Matteo Piga: None declared, Laurent Arnaud Consultant of: Abbvie, Alexion, Alpine, Apen, Astra-Zeneca, Biogen, Chugaï, Sêmeia, UCB. None declared, Matteo Piga: None declared, Laurent Arnaud Consultant of: Abbvie, Alexion, Alpine, Apen, Astra-Zeneca, Biogen, Chugaï, Sêmeia, UCB.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Lou Kawka: None declared, Juan Camilo Sarmiento-Tomoyoc: None declared, Manuel Ugarte-Gil: None declared, Sophie Geneton: None declared, Matheo Piga: None declared, Laurent Arnaud Consultant of: Abbvie, Alexion, Alpine, Apen, Astra-Zeneca, Biogen, Chugaï, Sêmeia, UCB. None declared, Matteo Piga: None declared, Laurent Arnaud Consultant of: Abbvie, Alexion, Alpine, Apen, Astra-Zeneca, Biogen, Chugaï, Sêmeia, UCB.
Background: The Focus Score (FS) ≥ 1 in minor labial salivary gland (LSG) biopsies is one of the 2 main items (with anti-SSA positivity) to establish the diagnosis of Primary Sjögren Syndrome’s (pSS). As such, correctly assessing the FS is crucial for the diagnosis of pSS. However, the histological interpretation of LSG tissue requires specific expertise and poses a challenge to non-specialized centers. Vivino et al. [1] show up to 53% of reclassification after expert center resoring. Deep learning algorithms using artificial neural networks are increasingly used to assist pathologists and can be designed to provide explainable predictions using heatmaps. Heatmaps show which part of the sample section is used to perform the prediction, thus reducing the black box effect. This is important to allow adoption of accurate FS scoring using machine learning in clinical practice.

Objectives: Based on minor LSG specimen, we developed two deep learning models, the first one to predict the FS (≥ 1 or < 1) and the other to predict pSS diagnosis.

Methods: LSG slides used for the diagnosis of patients suspected of pSS were included in the study from 3 European centers which are part of the NECESSITY consortium, a European H2020 IMI2 project. Three groups were included: patients with sicca symptoms but without pSS (Sicca group), pSS patients with ≥ 1 FS, and pSS patients with < 1 FS. All pSS diagnoses were confirmed by rheumatologists from expert centers. Clinical data regarding demographics, disease duration, FS, autoantibodies, and dryness were also collected. All LSG sections used for the pathologic diagnosis were scanned. Two deep learning models were used: one for FS prediction and the other for diagnosis prediction from the biopsies. The models provided a prediction and scored each sub-region of the tissue slides with a risk score. The risk score was used to interpret the algorithm’s result and find which areas of the tissue were most significant for the classification (whether FS or diagnosis). For each model, 70% of patients were used for training and 30% for validation. For the FS task, both the validation and test sets include 54% of ≥ 1 FS patients. Similarly, for the pSS task, the validation set includes 67% of pSS+ patients. The algorithm’s performance was measured using the area under the ROC curve (AUROC).

Results: The dataset included 327 patients: 145 from Paris-Saclay University (Bicêtre Hospital), 73 from Queen Mary University London and 109 from the University of Birmingham. For binary FS prediction the AUROC was 0.87, and for the pSS diagnosis prediction, the AUROC was 0.84. When areas used to make the prediction were analyzed, the model unsurprisingly identified lymphocyte foci for the FS prediction task (Figure 1). This provides explainability and allows the pathologist to visually confirm the results of the prediction. Results on the validation sets for the two tasks are available in Table 1.

Table 1. Results on the Validation Sets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>AUROC Positive Predictive Value (PPV)</th>
<th>Negative Predictive Value (NPV)</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS ≥ 1/FS &lt; 1 Pred</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pSS+/− Prediction</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Deep learning can predict the diagnosis of FS>1 and the diagnosis of pSS with good accuracy. The FS model could represent a valuable help for assisting pathologists who are not experts in oral medicine pathology and reduce their reliance on reference centers. Comprehensive analysis of the tissue areas highlighted by the pSS model paves the way for a better understanding of the disease’s physiopathology.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Heatmap Computed from FS Prediction Highlights Lymphocytes.
Update on the treatment of scleroderma lung disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Wait and watch N=19</th>
<th>Active treatment N=63</th>
<th>p-val.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>18/19 (95%)</td>
<td>54/63 (86%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>64.0 (54.0, 75.5)</td>
<td>56.0 (47.0, 65.5)</td>
<td>0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time between pSS and lymphoma diagnosis</td>
<td>1.0 (0.0, 8.5)</td>
<td>3.2 (0.1, 9.0)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4525

**Background:** EULAR recommendations for treatment for Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) were last updated in 2017, based on literature up to the end of 2014. The treatment recommendations are among the most cited publication in the field, reflecting their utility both in clinical practice and academic research. In the past 8 years, several important advances have been achieved by the scientific community, with new treatments becoming available and accepted by regulatory authorities.

**Objectives:** To update the 2017 EULAR recommendations for treatment of SSc, including answers to the 2017 research agenda, new therapeutic questions, and the wealth of newly available evidence.

**Methods:** Update of previous recommendations was endorsed by EULAR and performed according to the validated methodology. The task force was composed according to recent EULAR guidelines for inclusivity of underrepresented areas of Europe and it consisted of 27 members, including a EULAR endorsed methodologist, 4 fellows, a librarian, one Allied Health Professional and two patient representatives, identified by the Federation of European Scleroderma Associations (FESCA). All centres from the EULAR Scleroderma Trials and Research group (EUSTAR) were invited to review previous questions for Systematic Literature Review (SLR) and propose new ones according to a standardised Delphi approach. A Nominal Group Technique (NGT) exercise was implemented in two rounds for the definition of questions with an 80% agreement threshold. The SLR was conducted with an end date of June 2022, and manually updated to December 2022. Particular attention was dedicated to the 2017 research agenda and new available evidence with matters for detailed discussion and agenda for the new research agenda also agreed during the NGT.

**Results:** Sixty-seven clinical questions addressing 24 different interventions were prioritised for the task force for the SLR. The results of the SLR were categorised by evidence and grade of recommendations and discussed during the NGT meeting. The procedure resulted in 21 recommendations (instead of 16 in 2017) in 8 clinical domains related to SSc symptoms and organ involvements, including Raynaud’s phenomenon, digital ulcers, pulmonary arterial hypertension, scleroderma renal crisis, skin fibrosis, interstitial lung disease, gastrointestinal manifestations and arthritis. Most of the new recommendations were in the field of skin fibrosis and interstitial lung disease, consistent with the research agenda set in 2017. These included recommendations for the use of mycophenolate mofetil, nintedanib, rituximab and tocilizumab for the treatment of these crucial disease manifestations. Calcinosis and the local management of digital ulcers were also present in the 2017 recommendations. Important additions to the future research agenda included targeted therapies for the management of musculoskeletal and gastrointestinal manifestations, calcinosis and the local management of digital ulcers.

**Conclusion:** The 2023 updates of EULAR recommendations include the first set of synthetic and biological targeted therapies recommended as disease modifying agents for key fibrotic manifestations of systemic sclerosis. While a disease modifying agent or strategy for a comprehensive approach appropriate for all SSc patients is still missing, numerous advances have been achieved since 2017. New, strong evidence is now available to clinicians to better manage patients with this life-threatening condition.

**REFERENCE:**


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Objectives: Accurate measurement of disease activity in systemic sclerosis (SSc) remains a significant challenge. Previous activity indices have been criticized for limitations of face and content validity.

Methods: Consensus was reached regarding the conceptual definition of disease activity in SSc. All SCTC AI items were required to be measures of the agreed upon construct. See Figure 1 for process of item generation. In all Delphi exercises an a priori threshold of 70% agreement was applied for items to be included or excluded from subsequent rounds. Items that did not meet the threshold for inclusion across 2 survey rounds were omitted.

Results: The definition of disease activity as agreed by the SCTC AI WG is: Activity in SSc refers to aspects of disease, attributable to SSc that are potentially reversible, or can be arrested, with time and/or effective therapy. Disease activity may be associated with morbidity and uncontrolled activity may lead to organ dysfunction and mortality. A 24 item index, spanning nine domains of disease was generated with a maximum score of 140 (Table 1). GBTM identified 3 trajectory groups: low activity (n=856 (49%)), medium activity (n=745 (42%)) and high activity (n=164 (9%)). There was a graded risk of death associated with increasing activity levels. 4 year survival was poorer in the high disease activity group compared to the low disease activity group (HR 4.43 (3.51-5.60, p<0.01) for 1 unit increase of SCTC DI for each unit increase in the SCTC AI score).

Conclusion: We present a novel outcome measure to quantify the burden of disease activity in SSc. All SCTC AI items were required to be measures of the agreed upon construct. See Figure 1 for process of item generation. In all Delphi exercises an a priori threshold of 70% agreement was applied for items to be included or excluded from subsequent rounds. Items that did not meet the threshold for inclusion across 2 survey rounds were omitted.

Keywords: Outcome measures, Systemic sclerosis.

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OP0235 DEVELOPMENT AND PRELIMINARY VALIDATION OF THE NOVEL SCLERODERMA CLINICAL TRIALS CONSORTIUM ACTIVITY INDEX

Keywords: Outcome measures, Systemic sclerosis.

Methods: Consensus was reached regarding the conceptual definition of disease activity in SSc. All SCTC AI items were required to be measures of the agreed upon construct. See Figure 1 for process of item generation. In all Delphi exercises an a priori threshold of 70% agreement was applied for items to be included or excluded from subsequent rounds. Items that did not meet the threshold for inclusion across 2 survey rounds were omitted.

Figure 1 Item generation & reduction

Data from the Australian Scleroderma Cohort Study were used to reduce and weight items. Items were weighted using time dependent Cox proportional hazards regression analysis relative to a combined endpoint of mortality and morbidity (SF-36 physical component score (PCS) below cohort median value). Seven provisional items were not collected in the ASCS. A discrete choice experiment was performed to generate relative weightings for these items. Group based trajectory modelling (GBTM) was used to identify trajectory groups to compare the survival of low vs high disease activity groups using Kaplan Meier survival analyses. Cox proportional hazard modelling was used to evaluate the association between activity scores and mortality, morbidity and SCTC Damage Index (SCTC DI) scores.

Results: The definition of disease activity as agreed by the SCTC AI WG is: Activity in SSc refers to aspects of disease, attributable to SSc that are potentially reversible, or can be arrested, with time and/or effective therapy. Disease activity may be associated with morbidity and uncontrolled activity may lead to organ dysfunction and mortality. A 24 item index, spanning nine domains of disease was generated with a maximum score of 140 (Table 1). GBTM identified 3 trajectory groups: low activity (n=856 (49%)), medium activity (n=745 (42%)) and high activity (n=164 (9%)). There was a graded risk of death associated with increasing activity levels. 4 year survival was poorer in the high disease activity group compared to the low disease activity group (75% vs 95%, p<0.01). Patients with a SCTC AI ≥5 had an HR 3.5 (2.6-5.42, p<0.01) for death and greater morbidity was observed in individuals with a SCTC AI ≥6 (HR 19.0 (16.1-22.4, p<0.01). There was a significant relationship between SCTC AI scores and worsening damage: HR 4.43 (3.51-5.60, p<0.01) for 1 unit increase of SCTC DI for each unit increase in SCTC AI.

Conclusion: We present a novel outcome measure to quantify the burden of disease activity in SSc. All SCTC AI items were required to be measures of the agreed upon construct. See Figure 1 for process of item generation. In all Delphi exercises an a priori threshold of 70% agreement was applied for items to be included or excluded from subsequent rounds. Items that did not meet the threshold for inclusion across 2 survey rounds were omitted.

Keywords: Outcome measures, Systemic sclerosis.

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Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) progression can be assessed using different definitions. Declining forced vital capacity (FVC) is the simplest and most accepted. Both progressive pulmonary fibrosis (PPF) as defined by the 2022 ATS/ERS/JRS/ALAT guideline, and progressive fibrosing ILD (PF-ILD) as used in INBUILD, define progressive disease by a composite worsening of lung function, respiratory symptoms and changes on high resolution chest tomography (HRCT), but with differences in the specific criteria. These new definitions have not been applied and compared in SSc-ILD yet.

Objectives: To identify variables predicting SSc-ILD progression using three different definitions of progressive disease.

Methods: We included all SSc patients from the Oslo and Zurich cohorts who had ILD on HRCT. ILD progression was defined as (A) PPF guideline criteria with worsening in 2/3 domains over 12 months including (1) respiratory symptoms; (2) absolute decline in FVC >5% or in DLCO >10% and (3) radiological disease progression. (B) PF-ILD INBUILD criteria with (1) FVC decline ≥10%, (2) FVC decline ≥5-9% and worsening of respiratory symptoms; (2) absolute decline in FVC >5% or in DLCO >10% and (3) worsening in 2/3 domains over 12 months including (1) respiratory symptoms and (2) absolute decline in FVC >5% or in DLCO >10%.

Results: Of 231 included SSc-ILD patients from Oslo and Zurich 43 (19%) fulfilled the PPF criteria and 71 (31%) showed FVC decline >5%. The final multivariable logistic model predictive for ILD progression defined as FVC decline >5%. Variables for ILD progression chosen by expert opinion were tested in multivariable logistic models adjusted for age, sex and treatment and each model was tested using area under curve (AUC) with an AUC of 0.7 defined as acceptable.

Conclusions: Progression is common in SSc-ILD, regardless of definition, but the PPF guideline criteria identified fewer progressors than FVC decline >5% and PF-ILD. We identified different variables predicting progression of FVC decline >5% and PF-ILD but could not identify a model with acceptable performance for PPF. This raises concerns about which definition to use in clinical practice and future studies.

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USE OF NEUTROPHIL/LYMPHOCYTE AND PLATELET/LYMPHOCYTE RATIOS TO DETECT SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Diagnostic tests, Biomarkers

L. D. Fajardo Hermosillo1, L. P. Maria Karina1. Hospital de Especialidades, Centro Médico Nacional de Occidente IMSS, Rheumatology, GUADALAJARA, Mexico

Background: Intestinal lung disease (ILD) remains as a mainly cause of morbidity and mortality in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc). New markers to early detection of SSc-ILD are an unmet need [1]. Neutrophil/lymphocyte (NLR) and platelet/lymphocyte (PLR) ratios have emerged as potential biomarkers of systemic inflammation in cancer, cardiovascular disorders, infections and rheumatic diseases [2]. Recently, some studies in South Korea and Turkey have showed correlation of NLR and PLR with erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), C-reactive protein (CRP), disease activity, pulmonary and cutaneous involvement in SSc [3,4]. However, manifestations of SSC present variability in different populations. Could NLR and PLR be used as new biomarkers to detect SSc-ILD in Mexican-Mestizo population?

Objectives: To investigate the usefulness of NLR and PLR to detect SSc-ILD.

Methods: A cross-sectional study, where patients > 18 years of age with a diagnosis of SSc according to EULAR/ACR 2013 criteria and diagnosis of ILD by forced vital capacity (FVC) < 70% and > 5% of affected lung area by diffuse ground-glass opacity or pulmonary fibrosis on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) were included. Patients with corticosteroid use, malignancy, iron ground-glass opacity or pulmonary fibrosis on high-resolution computed tomography of SSc according to EULAR/ACR 2013 criteria and diagnosis of ILD by EULAR/ACR 2013 criteria were excluded. Neutrophil and lymphocyte count were determined following the method described by Giusti [5]. Spearman’s correlations between NLR or PLR and EUSTAR disease activity index, mRSS, ESR, CRP, FVC and affected lung area HRCT were analyzed. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis was performed to assess the best cutoff value for detecting SSc-ILD.

Results: Of 74 patients with SSc 94.6% were women. The mean age [standard deviation (SD)] was 49.8 (14.1) years. The median of disease duration [inter-quartile range 25-75 (IQR)] was 7 (4.7-12) years and subtype of limited cutaneous SSc was presented in 85.1% of patients. A total of 36 (48.6%) patients had NLR > 2.05 (OR 5.42, 95% CI 1.47-20.07, p=0.011) and EUSTAR activity index > 2.5 (OR 2.62, 95% CI 1.38-4.96, p=0.003) remained associated with an increased risk of SSc-ILD.

Conclusion: This study suggests that NLR show better DA than PLR, as well as a useful screening tool and a low-cost biomarker to detect SSc-ILD in Mexican-Mestizo patients. Also, NLR is associated with an increased risk of SSc-ILD and present a good correlation with affected lung area on HRCT, FVC and disease activity. However, these observations must be confirmed in larger and prospective studies.

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IMMUNOSUPPRESSION WITH TARGETED DMARDS REDUCES MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY IN PRE-CAPILLARY PULMONARY HYPERTENSION ASSOCIATED WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A EUSTAR ANALYSIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Systemic sclerosis, Lungs

C. Bruni1, L. Tofani2, H. Freithem3, Y. Weber1, E. Hachulla4, P. Carreira5, D. Giuggioli5, P. Airo6, E. Siegert7, U. Müller-Ladner8, M. Matucci-Cerinic9, G. Riemekasten2, C. P. Simeon Aznar2, J. De Vries-Bouwstra2, L. A. Sakerkoo3, J. Distler7, A. Balbiv-Gurman12, I. Castelli13, E. Zanatta10, V. Smith20,21, C. P. Denton22, B. Maure23, A. Giolito23, F. Jannone23, L. Dagna21, M. E. Truchetet24, M. Kuwana25, Y. Allano26, Y. Tanaka20, M. Martin1, E. Rosato25, A. M. Gheorghiu26, F. Del Galdo24, K. Solanki26, A. Vacca26, C. Resende26, S. Vieira26, L. Czirjak26, M. Bariedis27, F. P. Cantatore26, V. Ricciere28, K. Andreasson26, L. Chung29, C. Souza Muller30, D. Oprio-Belinski30, S. Rednic31, P. Slikakis32, Y. Levy33, V. Hsu33, S. Heitmann31, J. Henes33, G. Moroncin32, M. Iudici26, E. De Langhe25, A. Herrick25, C. Montecucco25, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold4, O. Distler.7 University of Zurich, Rheumatology, Zürich, Switzerland; 4University of Florence, Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Firenze, Italy; 5University of Florence, Statistics, Computer Science, Applications, Firenze, Italy; 6Oslo University Hospital, Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 7University of Lille - Huriez Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Lille, France; 8University Hospital October 12, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 9University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology, Modena, Italy; 10Speciali Civili di Brescia, Scleroderma UNIT, UOC Reumatologia ed Immunologia Clinica, Brescia, Italy; 11Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Rheumatologie, Berlin, Germany; 12Kerkhoff-Klinik, Abteilung für Rheumatologie und Klinische Immunologie, Bad Nauheim, Germany; 13San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases (UnIRAR), Milano, Italy; 14University of Lübeck, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University Clinic Schleswig-Holstein, Lübeck, Germany; 15University Hospital Väst Västbo, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden; 16Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 17Tulane University and Louisiana State University Schools of Medicine, University Medical Center Scleroderma and Sarcoidosis Patient Care and Research Center, New Orleans, United States
Methods: In the approved EUSTAR project CP111, we included SSc patients with pre-capPH. The primary end point was death or precapPH worsening (following the SERAPHIN trial: one of ≥15% 6MWD decrease, worsening of NYHA class, onset of right heart failure, additional PAH medications, starting iv/sc prostanoids, lung transplantation, atrial septostomy). We evaluated the association between IMS and time to first event with a multiple Cox regression model for time dependent covariates with robust Sandwich variance estimate and backward selection. The baseline confounders were chosen on experts’ opinion and included SSc-related risk factors for mortality or IMS prescription (sex, age, diffuse skin subset, renal crisis, digital ulcers, muscle weakness, joint synovitis, ILD on HRCT, LVEF%, FVC%, DCO%) and PAH risk stratification parameters (mPAP, increased INR/TnptBNP, NYHA class ≥II, reduced cardiac index, reduced 6MWD). PAH medications (none, mono, double or triple therapy) were also included as time-dependent confounder.

Results: 755 SSc-precAPH patients from 54 EUSTAR centers were included (18% males, age 63±11 years, disease duration 11±9 years, 29% diffuse skin subset, 60% ILD on HRCT: 377 (50%) received IMS (96 days (47%) csDMARDs, 66% (9%) targeted therapies) and 642 (85%) PAH medications. Patients treated with IMS had more frequently ILD (78 vs 43%), diffuse skin (41% vs 18%), joint (16 vs 7%) and muscle (22 vs 10%) involvement. In 2.9 (12.5-4.5) years median follow-up, 546 (70%) patients developed a morbidity-mortality event. While overall IMS exposure did not associate with the outcome, targeted therapies were associated with reduced risk of mortality-morbidity (HR 0.59 (95% CI 0.36-0.96), p=0.04; Figure 1a).

Conclusion: In this large EUSTAR SSc-precAPH cohort, targeted therapies are associated with a significantly reduced risk of mortality and precAPH worsening over time. This is the first large study adjusted for confounders supporting a potential effect of targeted therapies on SSc-precAPH.

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When clustering into group 1 [n=561, 40% IMS, n=32 (6%) targeted therapies] or group 3 [n=194, 80% IMS, n=36 (19%) targeted therapies], less morbidity-mortality events were recorded for group 1 (69% vs 81%). Despite the rarer use, the protective effect of targeted therapies for mortality-morbidity was confirmed in group 1 (HR 0.24, 95% CI 0.02-0.64, p=0.01, Figure 1b) but not in group 3 (Figure 1c). When looking at specific target therapies, a risk reduction for the mortality-morbidity outcome was noted for tocilizumab (in the whole cohort (n=546) p=0.03; HR 0.77 (95% CI 0.60-0.98) and in group 1 (n treated=10; HR 0.95, 95% CI 0.01-0.69, p=0.02) and rituximab (in group 1, n treated= 24, HR 0.29, 95% CI 0.10-0.84, p=0.01).

The results support the hypothesis that IMS reduce morbidity-mortality in SSc-precAPH patients and that targeted therapies have an added value in the management of this complex disease. Further studies are needed to better define the role of IMS and targeted therapies in the treatment of SSc-precAPH.
Actelion, Janssen, Inventiva, Bayer, Biogen, Boehringer, CSL Behring, Corb, Galapagos, Mitsubishi, Sumsung, Regeneron, Acceleron, MSD, Chemomab, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, Consultant of: Actelion, Janssen, Inventiva, Bayer, Biogen, Boehringer, CSL Behring, Corbus, Galapagos, Mitsubishi, Sumsung, Regeneron, Acceleron, MSD, Chemomab, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, Gabriele Riemekasten: None declared, Carmen Pilar Simeon Aznar: None declared, Jesika de Vries-Bouwstra Speakers bureau: ABBVie, Janssen, Boehringer-Ingerheim, Consultant of: ABBVie, Janssen, Boehringer-Ingerheim, Grant/research support from: Janssen-Cilag, Galapagos, Roche, Lesley Ann Sakevici: None declared, Joerg Distler: None declared, Alexandre Balyar-Curman: None declared, Ivan Castelvi: None declared, Elisabetta Zanatta: None declared, Vanessa Smith: None declared, Christopher P Denton: None declared, Britta Maurer Speakers bureau: Boehringer-Ingleheim, GSK, Novartis, Consultant of: Novartis, Boehringer Ingelehim, Janssen-Cilag, Grant/research support from: AbBVie, Protagon, Novartis Biomedical, congress support from Medtal, Pfizer, Roche, Actelion, Metha, and MSD, Alessandro Goloio Speakers bureau: Galapagos, Eli Lilly, Consultant of: Galapagos, Sandoz, Novartis, Florence Iannone: None declared, Lorenzo Dagna Speakers bureau: Novartis and SOBI, Consultant of: Abvvie, AstraZeneca, Biogen, Boehringer-Ingleheim, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, GSK, Janssen, Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Pfizer, SOBI, Grant/ research support from: BMS, Celltrion, Kiniksa pharmaceuticals, Pfizer and SOBI, Marie-Elise Truchetet: None declared, Masataka Kukawa: None declared, Yannick Allanore Consultant of: Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Boehringer-Ingeleheim, Mylan, Janssen, Medscic, Prometheus, Sanofi, Roche, Grant/research support from: Alpine Immunosciences, Medsic, OSE Immunotherapeutics, Yoshiha Tanaka: None declared, Mickael Martin Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingeleheim, Edoardo Rosato: None declared, Ana Maria Hervgohru Speakers bureau: Sandoz, Boehringer Ingeleheim, Ewopharma, Abbvie, Consultant of: Sandoz, Boehringer Ingeleheim, Ewopharma, Abbvie, Francesco Del Galdo: None declared, Kamal Solanki: None declared, ALESSANDRA VACC: None declared, Catarina Resende: None declared, Susana Vieira: None declared, László Czirják: None declared, Marko Barisic: None declared, Francesco Paolo Cantatore: None declared, Valeria Riccieri: None declared, Kristoffer Andreason: None declared, Lorinda Chung: None declared, CAROLINA SOUZA MULDER: None declared, Danieli Orpis-Belinski Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Agen, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingeleheim, Janssen, Novartis, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingeleheim, Janssen, Novartis, Simona Rednic: None declared, Petsi Srikan: None declared, Yair Levy: None declared, Vivian Hu: None declared, Stefan Hetmannot: None declared, Jörg Henes Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingeleheim, GSK, BMS, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingleheim, GSK, BMS, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Gianluca Moroncini: None declared, Michele Judicini: None declared, Ellen De Langhe: None declared, Ariane Herrick: None declared, Carlomaurizio Montecucco: None declared, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold Speakers bureau: ehrer Ingeleheim, Janssen, Medscape, Merck Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Consultant of: ARXX, Boehringer Ingeleheim, Gerentech, Janssen, Medscape, Merck Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingeleheim, Janssen, Oliver Distler Speakers bureau: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant, Amgen, Arx, AstraZeneca, Bla, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelehim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galderma, Galapagos, Glenmark, Gossamer, iQvia, Kymera, Lupin, Medscape, Merck, Milteny Biotech, Mitsubishi Tabane; Novartis, Promethex, Redpharma, Roivant and Topadur in the area of potential treatments of scleroderma and its complications, Consultant of: of 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant, Amgen, Arx, AstraZeneca, Bla, Bayer, Boehringer Ingeleheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galderma, Galapagos, Glenmark, Gossamer, iQvia, Kymera, Lupin, Medscape, Merck, Milteny Biotech, Mitsubishi Tabane; Novartis, Promethex, Redpharma, Roivant and Topadur in the area of potential treatments of scleroderma and its complications. Research grants: Kymera, Mitsubishi Tabane. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular2018

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier curve of ILD- free survival estimates. Survival rate with 95% confidence interval is shown for the early and late treatment group.

Conclusion: Our finding did not confirm a preventive role of early vs. late timing of IMS therapy on ILD development. However, our findings should be interpreted with caution, considering the high inflammatory, ATA-positive enriched nature of the cohort selected, as well as confounding by indication, which cannot be ruled out also after adjusting for other confounding factors. 

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Arthila Velauthapillai: None declared, Merle Bootms: None declared, Cosimo Brun Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, Consultant of: Eli Lilly, Grant/research support from: Gruppo Italiano Lotta alla Scleroderma (GILS), European Scleroderma Trials and Research Group (EUSTAR), Foundation for research in Rheumatology (FDR), European Scleroderma Trials and Research Group (EUSTAR), Foundation for research in Rheumatology (FDR), Educational grants from AbBVie, Olivier Distler Speakers bureau: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Amgen, Arx, AstraZeneca, Bla, Bayer, Boehringer Ingeleheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, 4P Science, Galapagos, Glenmark, Mitsubishi TABANE; Novartis, Promethex, Redpharma, Roivant and Topadur in the area of potential treatments of scleroderma and its complications. Research grants: Kymera, Mitsubishi TABANE. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular2018

DOES EARLY IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE THERAPY PREVENT SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE?

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Lungs, Epidemiology

A. Velauthapillai1, M. Bootma1, C. Brunii2, O. Distler2, C. Van den Ende3, M. Vonk.1
1 Radboud University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2 University Hospital Zürich, Rheumatology, Zürich, Switzerland

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an auto-immune disease characterized by a triad of inflammation, vascular damage and fibrosis. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a major contributor to impaired quality of life and a leading cause of death in these patients. While recent studies reported a favorable effect on disease course when starting immunosuppressive (IMS) therapy in mild and moderate ILD, no definite evidence of a preventive mechanism of IMS therapy for ILD onset is established (1, 2).

Objectives: The objective of our study was to explore the association between timing of start IMS therapy and the development of ILD.

Methods: A combined cohort was created from the EUSTAR database and Nijmegen Systemic Sclerosis cohort, including patients: 1) aged 18 years or older 2) treated with IMS (i.e. mycophenolate mofetil, methotrexy, cyclophosphamide and rituximab) after SSC diagnosis 3) negative for signs of ILD on high-resolution CT (HRCT) at or within 2 months after start treatment and 4) no prior treatment with biological or antifibrotic in the preceding years. Data between start of IMS treatment and five years follow-up were analysed. Disease duration (time between first non-Raynaud phenomenon and start IMS) was dichotomized into early and late treatment using a cut-off point of 3 years. ILD-free survival (absence of HRCT confirmed ILD diagnosis) was assessed with unadjusted Kaplan Meier analysis on complete cases and a cox proportional hazard analysis on imputed data adjusting for confounders.

Results: We identified 1037 patients meeting the eligibility criteria. The early treatment group (n= 539, 52 %) showed a higher prevalence of male sex, diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc, 52.9% vs 36.4%, p= 0.001), anti-topoisomerase I antibody positivity (ATA, 51.0% vs. 42.5%, p= 0.01), anti-RNA polymerase III antibody positivity (ARA, 11.7% vs. 5.4%, p=0.009) and elevated C-reactive protein levels (30.6% vs. 22.6%, p=0.03). Further, patients in the early group had a higher mean(95% CI) of disease activity (1.39(9.7) vs. 9.7(8.9), p= 0.001). The incidence of ILD was 46.1% after mean(95% CI) 3.6(14) years of treatment and not significantly different between the groups (mean(95% CI); early 47(43-51) vs. late: 45(40-50), p= 0.64). The unadjusted Kaplan-Meier survival curve on complete cases (Figure 1) shows no differences in ILD-free survival rates between the early and late treatment group. The hazard ratio for ILD in the early treatment group was 1.11 (95% CI: 0.91-1.36) adjusting for gender, dcSSc, Caucasian ethnicity, ARA, age, forced vital capacity and diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide at baseline.

Conclusion: Our finding did not confirm a preventive role of early vs. late timing of IMS therapy on ILD development. However, our findings should be interpreted with caution, considering the high inflammatory, ATA-positive enriched nature of the cohort selected, as well as confounding by indication, which cannot be ruled out also after adjusting for other confounding factors.

REFERENCES:
Horizon, Invenitiva, Janssen, Kymera, Lupin, Medscope, Milltenyi Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, MSD, Novartis, Prometheus, Redpharma, Roivant, Sanofi and Topadur., Consultant of: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Amgen, AnaMar, Anx, AstAzeneca, Baecon, Blode, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, 4P Science, Galapagos, Glenmark, Horizon, Invenitiva, Janssen, Kymera, Lupin, Medscope, Milltenyi Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, MSD, Novartis, Prometheus, Redpharma, Roivant, Sanofi and Topadur., Grant/research support from: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Amgen, AnaMar, Anx, AstAzeneca, Baecon, Blode, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, 4P Science, Galapagos, Glenmark, Horizon, Invenitiva, Janssen, Kymera, Lupin, Medscope, Milltenyi Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, MSD, Novartis, Prometheus, Redpharma, Roivant, Sanofi and Topadur.,

REFERENCE:
to investigate the role of calcineurin inhibitors in SSc.

function or renal crises.
The median dose needed to achieve these levels was 4mg/d. No serious adverse
stratified by ILD type, skin involvement at baseline, and early vs late SSc
Secondary outcomes were similar between two groups. Subgroup analyses

RESULTS:
X. Nakayama1, R. Nakashima1, T. Handa1, A. Ohsumi2, Y. Yamada3, D. Nakajima2, Y. Yutaka2, S. Tanaka2, S. Hamada2, K. Kezoe3, K. Tanizawa2, M. Shirakashi1, R. Hiwa1, H. Tsuji1, K. Kitagori1, S. Akizuki1, H. Yoshifuj1, H. Date1, A. Morinobu1,
1Kyoto University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan; 2Kyoto University, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Kyoto, Japan; 3Kyoto University, Department of Thoracic Surgery, Kyoto, Japan

Background: Interstitial lung disease in systemic sclerosis(SSc-ILD) is heterogeneous with limited therapeutic options. Mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) is the most commonly used first line agent for SSc-ILD. Tacrolimus has shown promising efficacy in few small case series, and large cohorts of patients with non-SSc-ILD[1], but has never been evaluated in the setting of a clinical trial.

Objectives: To compare the safety and efficacy of Tacrolimus with MMF in patients with progressive SSc-ILD.

Methods: In this single center open labelled, prospective, two-arm parallel group, randomized controlled pilot study (INSIST) conducted between November 2021 to December 2022, patients with progressive ILD (FVC decline >10%) due to SSc, aged between 18-65 years, disease duration <10 years, without concomitant inflammatory myositis, with an FVC of 40-85%, and not having due to SSc, aged between 18-65 years, disease duration <10 years, without

Results: 25 out of 26 patients (13 in each group) completed 24 weeks follow up. Majority had Anti-Scl 70 positivity (73%) and limited skin disease. At 24 weeks, the mean change in FVC was 4.4% (10.6) and 6.92%(8.4) in the MMF and tacrolimus groups respectively (difference 2.52%, 95% CI (-10.3 to 5.18); p=0.500). All patients on tacrolimus and 85% of patients on MMF had stabilization (ΔFVC>-5% TO 5%) or improvement (ΔFVC>-10%) in lung function. Secondary outcomes were similar between two groups. Subgroup analyses stratified by ILD type, skin involvement at baseline, and early vs late SSc yielded similar results. The mean tacrolimus levels were 4.9 ng/ml (147) and the median dose needed to achieve these levels was 4mg/d. No serious adverse events were noted in either group; use of tacrolimus did not result in renal dysfunction or renal crises.

Conclusion: Tacrolimus resulted in comparable improvement to MMF across primary and secondary outcome measures at 24 weeks with a favorable safety profile in patients with SSc-ILD. Larger studies with longer follow up are needed to investigate the role of calcineurin inhibitors in SSc.

REFERENCE:
Results: This study included 29 patients registered for deceased LT between 2010 and 2022 (Table 1). Ten patients received deceased-donor LT (34%), two received living-donor LT (7%), seven died while waiting for LT (24%), and ten survived on the waiting list (34%). The median waiting time from registration to deceased-donor LT was 28.9 months (range 22.3-30.3). The median duration from registration to living-donor LT or death (events) was 6.5 months (range 4.1-14.7). Pulmonary hypertension was associated with mortality or switching to living-donor LT while waiting for deceased LT. In post-transplant analysis, 15 and 20 patients received LT for SSC-ILD and IPF between February 2002 and April 2022, respectively. Lung transplantation recipients showed an improved forced vital capacity with a median of 55.1% at baseline, 65.8% at 6 months and 80.3% at 12 months post-transplant. The estimated 5-year survival rates for post-transplant patients with SSC-ILD or IPF were 86.2% and 55.3%, respectively (log-rank, P = 0.33) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Lung transplantation is an acceptable treatment for Asian patients with severe SSC-ILD. Further research is needed to determine the optimal time for referral to LT centres for patients with SSC-ILD.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of systemic sclerosis-associated interstitial lung disease patients registered on lung transplantation waiting list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Patients (N=29)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (S.D.)</td>
<td>47.2 (9.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>18 (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (Y), median (IQR)</td>
<td>70 (5.1, 12.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC subtypes (lcSSc/dcSSc)</td>
<td>14/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud phenomenon, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital ulcer, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>20 (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRC history, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSL, n (%)</td>
<td>25 (86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcineurin inhibitors, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVCY (previous use), n (%)</td>
<td>11 (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACA, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATA, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNA polymerase-III, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1-RNP, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%FVC, median (IQR)</td>
<td>51.1 (44.7, 57.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%DLCO, median (IQR)</td>
<td>28.6 (21.8, 35.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTOT, n (%)</td>
<td>23 (79)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASA, anti-centromere antibody; ATA, anti-topoisomerase-1 antibody; dcSSc, diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis; DLCC, diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide; FVC, forced vital capacity; GI, gastrointestinal; ILD, interstitial lung disease; IQR, interquartile range; IVCY, intravenous cyclophosphamide; lcSSc, limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis; LTOT, long-term oxygen therapy; PH, pulmonary hypertension; PSL, prednisolone; RNA, ribonucleic acid; RNP, ribonucleoprotein; S.D., standard deviation; SRC, scleroderma renal crisis; SSc, systemic sclerosis; V, years.

Osteoporosis

Table 1. Proportion of patients increasing BMD at 24 months above STEs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fracture risk reduction</th>
<th>STE (%)</th>
<th>Bisphosphonates</th>
<th>Denosumab</th>
<th>Teriparatide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All fractures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;30%</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertebral Fractures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50%</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip Fractures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;30%</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>59.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In the present real-life study, a smaller proportion of patients treated with bisphosphonates reached the BMD STEs at 2 years of treatment as compared to denosumab and teriparatide. Nearly all subjects reached STEs at 6 years of follow-up.

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier estimate curve for bisphosphonates vs denosumab vs teriparatide showing the proportion of patients reaching various STEs over the time
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OP0243

PROTON PUMP INHIBITOR USE IS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPAIRED BONE MINERAL DENSITY BUT NOT BONE MICROARCHITECTURE IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES TAKING GLUCOCORTICOIDS


1Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 2Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 3the Parker Institute, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, Section for Biostatistics and Evidence-Based Research, Copenhagen, Denmark; 4University of California San Francisco, Division of Rheumatology, San Francisco, United States of America; 5University of Southern Denmark, Odense University Hospital, Research Unit of Rheumatology; Department of Clinical Research, Odense, Denmark

Background: Patients with inflammatory rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (iRMDs) are at increased risk of osteoporosis and fragility fractures. For this population, the question of whether proton pump inhibitor (PPI) intake contributes to that risk has not yet been definitively answered. Prior studies have yielded conflicting results, did not account for regular PPI intake on bone mineral density (BMD) and microarchitecture in patients with iRMDs.

Methods: Cross-sectional baseline data from the single center Rh-GIOP cohort ("Glucocorticoid-induced Osteoporosis in Patients with Chronic Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases or Psoriasis") were used. Briefly, patients with iRMDs were prospectively enrolled and assessed with DXA scans, laboratory tests, and a bone health-related questionnaire since November 2014. Regular PPI and glucocorticoid (GC) use were ascertained by both chart review and patient self-report. Three co-primary outcomes (all reported as T-scores) were defined: BMD of the left femoral neck and the lumbar spine, and the trabecular bone score (TBS). The latter is a measure correlating with lumbar spine trabecular bone microarchitecture. The objective was to assess the effect of regular PPI intake on bone mineral density (BMD) and microarchitecture in patients with iRMDs.

Results: Of 520 patients with iRMDs, 412 were included in the final analysis. The median age was 65 years (range 18–90), 63.8% used GCs (median dose 5mg/d). In both adjusted and unadjusted analyses, PPI users had lower BMD at both the left femoral neck and the lumbar spine (Table 1). Interestingly, differences between PPI users and non-users were only present in the subset of patients concurrently using GCs (data not shown). There was no statistically significant difference in BMD when comparing high and low dose PPI users (all P ≥ 0.52). TBS (n = 389) was similar in PPI users and non-users (Table 1).

Conclusion: Loss of BMD (seen at both lumbar spine and left femoral neck) rather than impairment of bone microarchitecture seems to be driving the increased fracture risk seen with PPI use in patients with iRMDs. The negative association between PPI use and BMD appears to be dependent on concurrent GC use.

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Table 1. PPI use versus No PPI use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>PPI use</th>
<th>No PPI use</th>
<th>Contrast</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude (unadjusted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left femoral neck</td>
<td>-1.24</td>
<td>-1.01</td>
<td>-0.24</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbar spine</td>
<td>-0.87</td>
<td>-0.64</td>
<td>-0.23</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trabecular bone score</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>-0.02</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left femoral neck</td>
<td>-1.24</td>
<td>-1.08</td>
<td>-0.16</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbar spine</td>
<td>-0.87</td>
<td>-0.73</td>
<td>-0.14</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trabecular bone score</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers are estimated marginal means and 95% confidence intervals.

OP0244

DISEASE SEVERITY IS ASSOCIATED WITH OSTEOPOROSIS AND FRAGILITY FRAC TURES IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

C. Midó1, E. Wiebe2, E. Sieger2, D. Huscher3, H. Béhaï4, D. Launay1, E. Hachulla1, V. Sobanski1, F. Buttgereit1, D. J. M. F. Zetterström5, J. Y. : NIH/NIAMS K24-AR-074534 and P30-AR-070155, R.S.: NIH/NIHCATS through UCsf-CTSI Grant Number TL1 TR001871.

1Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Corporate Member of Free Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 2Berlin Institute of Health at Charité, Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 3Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Corporate Member of Free Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institute of Biometry and Clinical Epidemiology, and Berlin Institute of Health, Berlin, Germany; 4Université Lille, CHU Lille, ULR 2694 - METRICS: Évaluation des Technologies de Santé et des Pratiques Médecinales, Biostatistics Department, Lille, France

Background: Patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) are at an increased risk for osteoporosis (OP) and associated fragility fractures [1]. The prevalence of osteodensitometric OP has been estimated to range from 16% to 60% [2]. However, the risks factors and the mechanisms driving bone loss in patients with SSc remain elusive. The role of "general" determinants such as higher age and low body mass index (BMI) is well established (3) but their interaction with disease-specific factors is unclear. An association between OP and the cutaneous subset (diffuse or limited skin extent) (3, 4) or disease-specific antibodies (anti-centromere or anti-topoisomerase I antibodies) (5, 6) is controversial.

Objectives: Our objectives in the present study were: (i) to evaluate the prevalence of clinical OP and fragility fractures in a large population of SSc patients; (ii) and to identify potential disease-specific factors for OP in this population.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was based on two large European prospective cohorts of SSc patients with retrospective collection of bone health data. OP was defined as the presence of a T-score below -2.5 at femoral neck or lumbar spine and/or a previous major osteoporotic fracture and/or the prescription of anti-osteoporotic therapy. Long-term therapy with glucocorticoids (GCs) was
defined by a daily prednisone equivalent dose above 2.5mg for more than 3 months. Age, female sex, BMI and treatment with proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) as predefined risk factors according to published evidence, as well as clinically relevant factors associated with a p-value <0.05 in univariable analyses, after correction for multiple comparison, were implemented into a multivariable logistic regression model.

Results: A total of 932 patients fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2013 classification criteria were included in the study, followed prospectively in two university hospitals: Lille (n=485) and Berlin (n=447; of which 72 were patients of the Rh-GIOP prospective cohort). The two cohorts were studied separately. The prevalence of OP was 32% in Berlin and 23% in Lille (p=0.003), fragility fractures occurred in 22% and 18% respectively. Multivariable analysis in the Berlin cohort (Figure 1A) indicated that higher age (OR 1.05 [95%CI 1.03 to 1.07], p<0.001), female sex (OR 2.70 [95%CI 1.29 to 5.65], p=0.009), diffuse skin extent (OR 5.03 [95%CI 2.50 to 10.10], p<0.001), low BMI (OR 0.94 [95%CI 0.88 to 0.99], p<0.001), WHO-FC III-IV dyspnea (OR 2.06 [95%CI 1.16-3.67], p=0.014) receiving GCs (OR 1.78 [95%CI 1.10 to 3.17], p=0.026) or PPIs (OR 1.87 [95%CI 1.10 to 3.17], p=0.020) were associated with OP. In the Lille cohort, multivariable analysis (Figure 1B) confirmed the association of OP with higher age (OR 1.06 [95%CI 1.04 to 1.08], p<0.001), GCs use (OR 4.48 [95%CI 2.42 to 8.26], p<0.001), and with anti-topoisomerase I antibody positivity (OR 2.22 [95%CI 1.18 to 4.16], p=0.013).

Conclusion: Our data support a multifactorial etiopathogenesis of OP in SSc: besides common risk-factors for OP such as higher age, female sex, and BMI, several disease specific characteristics were associated with OP, such as SSc severity as reflected by diffuse skin extent and presence of antitopoisomerase I antibodies as well as severe dyspnea and SSc treatment (PPIs and GCs). These findings help to identify patients with SSc at particular risk for OP in clinical practice.

Acknowledgements: The Rh-GIOP (Glucocorticoid-induced Osteoporosis in Patients With Chronic Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases or Psoriasis) cohort study was supported by a joint funding of Amgen, Biogen, BMS, Chugai, Generic Assays, GSK, Hexal, Lilly, Meiji Seika, Mundipharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and Sanofi-Genzyme. The companies were given the opportunity to provide a courtesy review of the manuscript but the authors are solely responsible for final content and interpretation.

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Figure 1. Determinants of OP in two cohorts of SSc patients. (A) Berlin (n=447), (B) Lille (n=435). Forest plots indicate Odds ratio (OR) with lower and upper 95%CI (confidence interval); ATAA: Anti-topoisomerase I antibodies; BMI: body mass index; DLO: diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide; GCs: Glucocorticoids; ILD: interstitial lung disease; mRSS: modified Rodnan Skin Score; PPI: Proton pump inhibitor; WHO-FC: WHO functional class.

Keywords: Osteoporosis

1Westmead Hospital, Rheumatology, Westmead, Australia; 2New South Wales Ministry of Health, Economics and Analysis Unit, Strategic Reform and Planning Branch, St Leonards, Australia; 3New South Wales Ministry of Health, Biostatistics Training Program, St Leonards, Australia; 4Agency for Clinical Innovation, Musculoskeletal Network, St Leonards, Australia; 5New South Wales Ministry of Health, Economics and Analysis Unit, Strategic Reform and Planning Branch, St Leonards, Australia

Background: Despite widespread availability of effective bone protective medications and knowledge that minimal trauma fractures (MTFs) identify those at high risk of re-fracture, treatment of osteoporosis following MTF is poor. An effective way to address this gap is establishment of a fracture liaison service (FLS) where a fracture liaison coordinator coordinates case-finding and bone health management, usually in collaboration with a local medical “champion.”

Objectives: To determine the effect of a Fracture Liaison Service (FLS)/Osteoporosis Refracture Prevention (ORP) programme on refracture rates.

Methods: Coffs Harbour (population 80 000) on the mid-north coast of New South Wales (NSW, Australia’s most populous state), had a FLS established in July 2012. The comparator was the similar-sized city of Port Macquarie, located 160 km south which did not have an FLS established until 2019. The study population was residents aged ≥ 50 years with a fracture diagnosis recorded on the total number of hospital admissions, ED presentations and outpatient visits occurring within 28 days of index fracture or re-fracture was considered part of annual health service utilisation associated with refracture was calculated using Kaplan–Meier methods accounting for follow-up time and deaths and adjusted for age, sex and fracture type. Trends in one- to five-year cumulative re-fracture rates from year of index fracture were also calculated. Annual health service utilisation associated with re-fracture was calculated using the total number of public hospital admissions, ED presentations and outpatient visits occurring within 28 days of index fracture or re-fracture was considered part of the same episode of care.

Results: In those aged ≥50 yo, compared to “business and usual” (BAU), there was a 7% reduction in total fractures (n=190 observed, versus n=6628 projected BAU), 95% confidence interval [95CI] 6270 - 6965; p=0.02) and a 9% reduction in total re-fractures (n=1709 observed, versus n=1869 projected BAU), 95%CI 1768 - 1970; p=0.002) over the 7-year study period for Coffs Harbour. This reduction was
not observed in Port Macquarie or in the rest of the state of NSW. Cumulative adjusted refractures rates for Coffs Harbour were as follows: 1-year 7%, 2-years 13%, 3-years 19%, 4-years 24%, 5 years 29%. Females had higher refractures rates compared to males and having a diagnosis of osteoporosis at time of index fracture was associated with higher refractures rates.

**Conclusion:** An FLS/ORP programme is associated with a reduction in total fractures and refractures rates. However, refracture rates were higher in Coffs Harbour, a rural centre, compared to pooled statewide data.

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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**OP0246**

**ROMOSOZUMAB VERSUS DENOSUMAB IN HIGH-RISK PATIENTS WITH GLUCOCORTICOID-INDUCED OSTEOPOROSIS: A PILOT RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Clinical trials, Osteoporosis, Randomized control trial

C. C. Mok1, W. H. MA2, K. L. Chan1, L. Y. Ho1, S. M. Tse1, S. Chen3.
1Tuen Mun Hospital, Medicine, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 2Tuen Mun Hospital, Nuclear Medicine, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 3Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Pathology, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR)

**Objectives:** To compare the efficacy and safety of romozosumab (ROMO) and denosumab (DEN) in high-risk patients with glucocorticoid (GC)-induced osteoporosis (GIOP).

**Methods:** Design: A pilot open randomized controlled trial.
Method: Adult patients (≥18 years) who were receiving daily prednisolone dose of ≥5mg/day for ≥12 months and had moderate/high risk of osteoporotic fracture (a history of fragility fracture, DEXA T score ≤-2.5 [age ≥40 years] or Z scores ≤-3.0 [age <40 years] or high risk of 10-year major fracture estimated by FRAX) were included. Participants were given daily calcium and vitamin D and existing bisphosphonates were discontinued. Subjects were randomized by blocks to receive either ROMO (210mg SC monthly) or DEN (60mg SC every 6 months) for 12 months, followed by DEN (60mg every 6 months) for 12 more months in both arms. The primary efficacy end point was the change in bone mineral density (BMD) at the lumbar spine from baseline to month 12. Secondary end points included BMD change at the non-dominant hip and femoral neck at month 12, change in bone turnover markers, new vertebral fractures, change in BMD at the hip and spine at month 24 and adverse events.

**Results:** Of 70 patients recruited, 63(90%) completed the study (age 62.6±9.1 years; 96% women; 35 each assigned to ROMO or DEN). Underlying medical diseases were systemic lupus erythematosus (51%), rheumatoid arthritis (29%), inflammatory myopathies (9%) and others. The mean prednisolone dose at entry was 6.6±3.5mg/day. Osteoporosis at spine/hip/femoral neck and a history of fragility fracture was present in 34(48.6%) and 35(50%) patients, respectively. Oral bisphosphonates were being used in 33(47%) patients prior to first dose of the study drugs. While the baseline demographics and osteoporosis risk factors were not significantly different between the two groups, ROMO-treated patients had lower hip/femoral neck BMD and serum vitamin D3 levels than those treated with DEN. At month 12, a significant increase in spine BMD was observed in both the ROMO (+7.3±4.5%; p<0.001) and DEN (+2.3±3.1%; p<0.001) groups of patients. The inter-group difference in spine BMD at month 12 was statistically significant after adjustment for baseline BMD values, age, sex, osteoporosis risk factors and the cumulative prednisolone doses in 12 months (p=0.001). The corresponding increase in hip BMD were +1.6±3.3% (p=0.01) in the ROMO group and +1.6±2.6% (p=0.003) in the DEN group. No significant inter-group difference in hip BMD was observed after adjustment for the same confounding factors. The increase in femoral neck BMD from baseline to month 12 was not significant in both groups. In DEN-treated patients, both serum CTX (-34.7±54.8%; p=0.002) and P1NP (-35.1±43.3%; p=0.001) dropped significantly from baseline to month 12. However, in the ROMO group, a non-significant drop in CTX (-18.1±76.9%; p=0.18) but increase in P1NP (+1.7±70.3%; p=0.09) was observed. Only one new vertebral fracture developed in the ROMO group at 12m. The commonest adverse event (AE) was self-limiting injection site pain/redness, which was significantly more common in ROMO-treated patients. Post-injection musculoskeletal pain was reported in 2 and 3 patients in the ROMO and DEN group of patients, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Romosozumab was superior to denosumab in raising the spine BMD at month 12 in chronic GC users with high fracture risk. Both drugs were well-tolerated. Romosozumab may offer a new treatment option for GIOP in high-risk patients.

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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**OP0248**

WITHDRAWN

Mild hypocalcemia and hypercalcemia were observed in 2 DEN-treated patients. No serious AEs were reported. The 24m data of this study are pending.

**Conclusion:** Romosozumab was superior to denosumab in raising the spine BMD at month 12 in chronic GC users with high fracture risk. Both drugs were well-tolerated. Romosozumab may offer a new treatment option for GIOP in high-risk patients.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3195
IS PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE?
DATA FROM A MONOCENTRIC RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL TO PREVENT ACUTE PHASE REACTION RELATED TO INTRAVENOUS BISPHOSPHONATES

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Randomized control trial, Bone diseases

R. Di Taranto1, C. Crotti1, A. Amati1,2, F. Zucchi1, R. Caporali1,2, M. Varenna1,2, ASST G. Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 2University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 3ASST G. Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Bone Disease Unit, Milan, Italy

Background: Acute phase reaction (APR) is a transient flu-like syndrome with fever, chills, fatigue, malaise, and musculoskeletal symptoms, often occurring 24-36 hours after intravenous bisphosphonates (IV-BPs) administration and usually resolving within 2-3 days[1]. Avoiding APR could increase patients' compliance to treatment and reduce patients' discomfort.

Objectives: In this monocentric, randomized, open-label, parallel-group study, we examined the efficacy of low dose of methylprednisolone (6MP), paracetamol (PAR) or placebo (PBO) in reducing the incidence of APR.

Methods: We prospectively enrolled patients from March 2022 to December 2022. Patients were randomly allocated to PAR 1000mg BID for 3 days, 6MP 4mg BID for 3 days or PBO after IV-BPs (zoledronate (ZOL) 5mg or neridronate (NER) 100mg). A scale ranging from 0=absence, 1=mild, 2=moderate, and 3=severe was used to rate symptoms. Arthralgia (AM) included arthralgia, myalgia, arthritis, and chest pain; systemic symptoms (SS) included headache, nausea, fatigue, fever, and Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ). AM, CS, fever and HAQ were assessed at baseline and at day 4. APR was defined as the worsening of >2 points in AM, CS score, fever (>37.5°), and/or the worsening of 22% or increase of 0.25 in HAQ score[2]. Comparisons were performed by T test and chi-square test. Logistic regression was used to analyze protective and predictive factors for APR occurrence. All patients have signed informed consent.

Results: Ninety-five patients were enrolled: mean age 71±14.6 yrs, mean BMI 24.5±4.1, 69.5% females, 70.5% menopausal women, 10.5% had previous exposure to oral BPs. Fourteen patients were under chronic treatment with statins. Patients were treated with BPs for osteoporosis (n=16; 17%), Paget’s disease of bone (n=5; 5%) and complex regional pain syndrome type 1 (n=7; 7%). 29 patients were allocated in 6MP arm, 29 in the PAR arm and 37 in the PBO arm. The incidence rates of AM and SS in ZOL were 46.7% and 60%, respectively. The incidence rate of AM and SS in NER were 32.8% and 21.4%, respectively. 6MP prophylaxis significantly reduced the incidence of AM (p=0.03) and HAQ worsening of 22% or increase of 0.25 (p=0.01 and p=0.05, respectively), but did not prevent the incidence of SS (p=0.23). PAR and PBO did not modify the incidence of AM, SS, and worsening of HAQ. Chronic use of statins prevented incidence of AM and worsening of HAQ (p=0.029 and p=0.015, respectively) but did not impact SS score. Previous therapy with oral BPs did not prevent APR. Among protective variables for the incidence of AM were recognized older age (OR 0.95, CI 1.01-1.11, p=0.02) and 6MP prophylaxis (OR 5.0, CI 1.79-22.9, p=0.03). Concomitant statins, previous exposure to oral BPs, 25OH vitamin D3 (25OHD3) serum levels or 25OHD3 ongoing supplementation did not prevent APR. Higher BMI (OR 1.32, CI 1.07-1.65, p=0.01) and treatment with ZOL (OR 31.6, CI 2.3-431.96, p=0.01) were predictive factors for the occurrence of fever.

Conclusion: Our data demonstrated that low dose 6MP prophylaxis is effective in preventing the most common features of APR, compared to PAR or PBO. In contrast to literature, previous exposure to oral BPs, normal 25OHD3 serum levels or 25OHD3 supplementation did not have impact on the occurrence of APR.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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New evidence on IgG4-related and rare autoinflammatory diseases

Keywords: Vasculitis, Treat to target, Randomized control trial

A. Mekinian1,1, P. Fenaux2,2, 1Sorbonne University, Internal Medicine, Paris, France; 2Saint Antoine, Internal Medicine, Paris, France

Background: Systemic autoimmune and inflammatory disorders (SAID) are underestimated, and potentially life-threatening complications observed in 15-25% of myelodysplastic neoplasms (MDS) and chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML), although pathophysiological links between both types of disorders remain uncertain. In 2020, Beck et al. described VEXAS (Vacuoles, E1 enzyme, X-linked, autoinflammatory, somatic) syndrome (OMIM #301054, defined by the presence of UBA1 mutations, in patients with severe systemic inflammation, chronic fever, 30% of whom had concurrent MDS. VEXAS is typically associated with refractoriness to conventional immunosuppressive therapies (IST) and dismal prognosis, and prospectively evaluated effective treatment strategies remain to be established. In MDS/CMML patients with concomitant SAID, but no UBA1 mutation, we and others observed a high incidence of mutations of the epigenetic regulator VEXAS SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH MDS AND CMML

Methods: This prospective phase II trial of AZA in patients with MDS/CMML and steroid dependent/refractory SAID.

Results: This led us to launch a prospective phase II trial of AZA in patients with MDS/CMML and steroid dependent/refractory SAID.
IgG4-related disease is an increasingly recognized systemic fibro-inflammatory disorder involving almost any organ system. Most available data on treatment strategies and natural history of IgG4-RD are currently derived from large cohorts from Europe. Real-life studies addressing the epidemiology, clinical manifestations, and treatment strategies of IgG4-RD in Europe are limited to smaller cohorts from single center experiences. Objectives: To characterize the epidemiology, clinical manifestations, and response to treatment of IgG4-RD patients in Europe.

Methods: A pan-European registry (PrescrAIP) was set in place to retrospectively analyse adults diagnosed with IgG4-RD from 2005 and 2020 in 42 European university hospitals. Comprehensive diagnostic criteria and organ-specific criteria were used to diagnose IgG4-RD and central validation was applied. Data on disease epidemiology, clinical characteristics, treatment, and outcomes were retrospectively collected from the hospitals’ medical records using a REDCap-based electronic case report form. The IgG4-RD responder index was used to assess response to therapy. Predictors of relapse were identified using multivariable logistic regression analysis after correcting for confounders.

Results: 1079 individuals with suspected IgG4-RD were screened but only 735 were diagnosed with IgG4-RD and considered for analysis (69% male; median age 57 years; 85% Caucasian); 45% of patients had multorgan (>2) involvement (Table 1). Pancreatitis, salivary glands, and biliary tree were the most frequently involved organs. Steroid-treatment was started in 634 patients; 9 (1%) were lost to follow-up, 79% (496/625) had a complete response, 18% (111/625) had a partial response, and 3% (18/625) did not respond. 95 patients were not treated; 61% (58/95) had spontaneous complete response, 19% (18/95) had partial response, and 10% (9/95) did not respond. Higher daily steroid dose (>0.4mg/kg prednisone equivalent) was as effective as lower dose (<0.4mg/kg) (OR 0.428; 95% CI 0.054-3.387) for inducing disease response. Similarly, longer induction of remission treatment (>2 weeks) was as effective as shorter therapy (<2 weeks) (OR 0.908; 95% CI 0.818-1.009). Elevated IgG4 levels were independently associated with a decreased chance of complete response (OR 0.639; 95% CI 0.427-0.955). Relapse occurred in 30% of patients. Relapse within 6 months of remission induction were independent of the steroid tapering duration, induction treatment duration, and total cumulative dose. Parenchymal enlargement (OR 0.390; 95% CI 0.167-0.910) and addition of maintenance therapy with immunosuppressive agents were independently associated with fewer relapses at 6 months (OR 0.299; 95% CI 0.120-0.740). No difference between maintenance therapy with glucocorticoids and rituximab was observed in maintaining disease response.

Conclusion: This is the first pan-European study addressing the epidemiological and clinical features of IgG4-RD in Europe. Our study indicates that patients with elevated IgG4 level may need closer monitoring during remission induction and that 0.4mg/kg/day of prednisone equivalent for at least 2 weeks represents the most effective strategy to induce IgG4-RD remission.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Characteristics of IgG4-RD patients at diagnosis. ULN, upper limit of normal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient characteristics</th>
<th>Total (N=735)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male sex</td>
<td>509 (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (IQR), y</td>
<td>57 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>213 (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreatic exocrine insufficiency</td>
<td>190 (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidental finding</td>
<td>32 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstructive jaundice</td>
<td>381 (52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain</td>
<td>471 (64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss</td>
<td>270 (37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute pancreatitis</td>
<td>78 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other organ involvement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orbit</td>
<td>12 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral salivary glands</td>
<td>54 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid</td>
<td>13 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary</td>
<td>38 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Peri)arcta</td>
<td>17 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retropertoneal fibrosis</td>
<td>24 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sclerosing cholangitis/ biliary tree</td>
<td>262 (36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>49 (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IgG4 > 1x ULN

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Methods:

The RELIANCE registry explores long-term safety and effectiveness of CAPS (Cryopyrin-associated periodic fever syndromes) – 4-years data from the RELIANCE registry. Physicians assess patients at baseline and at 6-monthly intervals.

Background: CAPS (Cryopyrin-associated periodic fever syndromes) are monogenic autoinflammatory diseases causing great burden due to severe systemic and organ inflammation caused by increased production of interleukin-1β (IL-1β). In clinical trials as well as in real-life, the monoclonal antibody canakinumab (CAN) effectively inhibits IL-1β and results in rapid suppression of CAPS symptoms.

Objectives: The RELIANCE registry explores long-term safety and effectiveness of CAN under routine clinical practice conditions in pediatric (≤2 years) and adult patients with CAPS, including Muckle-Wells syndrome (MWS), familial cold autoinflammatory syndrome (FCAS) and neonatal onset multisystem inflammatory disease ( NOMID) in childhood rheumatology.

Methods: This prospective, non-interventional, observational study enrolls patients with clinically confirmed diagnoses of CAPS routinely receiving CAN. Clinical data, physician assessments and patient-reported outcomes are evaluated in 6-monthly intervals.

Results: 107 CAPS patients (53% female; 16% NOMID/FCAS subtypes) were enrolled by December 2022. At baseline, median age was 23 years and median duration of prior CAN treatment was 6 years. 92% of patients received greater than standard dose CAN, 75% of the patients were in disease remission at month 48 by physician assessment. Patients report stable low level disease activity (median 2.0 at baseline and 1.5 at month 48) and fatigue (median 3.0 at baseline and 1.0 at month 48). No relevant differences regarding subtype severity were observed (Table 1).

Conclusion: The 48-month interim analysis of the RELIANCE registry demonstrates that long-term CAN treatment is safe and effective in patients with CAPS, independent of subtype severity.

| Table 1. Assessment of clinical CAPS disease activity and laboratory markers over time. |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Baseline | 24 months | 48 months |
| Patient** | Number of events | Number of events | Number of events | Number of events | Number of events | Number of events | Number of events |
| No | 17 | 10 | 54 | 3 | 13 |
| Yes | 6 (35) | 23 (32/0) | 20 (37/0) | 0 (0) | 4 (31) |

* Number of patients with systemic disease vs. non-systemic disease; **patients with absence of systemic disease vs. presence of systemic disease. ** Number of patients without impairment of social life by the disease.

Scientific Abstracts

FROM THE RELIANCE REGISTRY

LONG-TERM SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CANAKINUMAB IN CRYOPYRIN-ASSOCIATED PERIODIC SYNDROMES (CAPS) – 4-YEARS DATA FROM THE RELIANCE REGISTRY

REFERENCE: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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Scientific Abstracts

REAL-WORLD DEMOGRAPHICS, CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS, AND TREATMENT PATTERNS OF PATIENTS TREATED WITH EMAPALUMAB FOR SECONDARY HEMOPHAGOCYTIC LYMPHOHISTIOCYTOSIS IN THE UNITED STATES: THE REAL-HLH STUDY

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Outcome measures, Cytokines and chemokines

C. Allen, S. Chandrasekar, M. Jordan, J. Leiding, A. Oladapo, P. Pednekar, K. Walkovich, J. Yee, Baylor College of Medicine, Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Houston, United States of America;

Emory University, Division of Bone and Marrow Transplant Research,
Background: Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) is a rare, life-threatening, hyperinflammatory syndrome caused by overproduction of proinflammatory cytokines, e.g., interferon gamma (IFNγ).[1,2] Secondary HLH (sHLH) occurs in the context of an underlying disease (e.g., rheumatologic, malignancy, or iatrogenic) and/or an infectious trigger.[1,2] Emapalumab is a fully human anti-IFNγ monoclonal antibody that binds to and neutralizes the biological activity of IFNγ. It was approved by the FDA in 2018 for adults and children with primary HLH with refractory, recurrent, or progressive disease, or intolerance to conventional HLH therapy. Since its approval, real-world evidence on the use of emapalumab in routine clinical setting is limited.[3-5] The REAL-HLH study assessed real-world treatment patterns among patients treated with emapalumab.

Objectives: To describe the demographics, clinical characteristics, and treatment patterns among the subset of patients with physician-reported diagnosis of sHLH treated with emapalumab.

Methods: A retrospective medical chart review conducted across 33 US hospitals identified patients treated with ≥1 dose of emapalumab between November 20, 2018, and October 31, 2021. Data on the subset of patients with sHLH extracted from time of emapalumab initiation to end of data availability, death, or study end (December 31, 2021) are presented.

Results: Overall, 57/105 (54.3%) enrolled patients had a physician-reported diagnosis of sHLH (mean age ± SD 10.4 ± 7.6 years). Majority of patients were non-White (63.2%) and male (52.6%). At diagnosis, mean age (±SD) was 9.3 (7.5) years and 15/17 (88.2%) patients with available data met ≥5 of 8 HLH-2004 diagnostic criteria. Underlying disease and/or triggers were identified in 53/57 (92.9%); patients 22/53 (41.5%) had a single trigger and 31/53 (58.5%) had multiple triggers. Infections (32/53; 60.4%), malignancy (18/53; 34%), rheumatologic disease (11/53; 20.8%), and iatrogenic (6/53; 11.3%) were the most common triggers. Epstein-Barr virus (11/25; 44%) was the most common viral trigger (25/32; 78.1%) infection. At time of emapalumab initiation, 73.7% of patients had received prior treatments with other HLH-related therapies, including corticosteroids, and 62.5% of patients were in the intensive care unit. Emapalumab was mainly initiated for treatment of refractory (42.1%), progressive (29.8%), and recurrent (14%) disease. The median (range) time to emapalumab initiation from diagnosis was 16.5 (1-2278) days. Median (range) treatment duration with emapalumab was 38.0 (1-1937) days. Median (range) emapalumab starting dose was 1.1 (0.7-5.9) mg/kg and cumulative treatment dose was 213.1 (1336.5) mg/kg. Median (range) maximum administered emapalumab dose was 2.3 (0.7-12.5) mg/kg.

Conclusion: This is the first study to report real-world treatment patterns with emapalumab across a diverse patient population with sHLH. A pivotal clinical trial of emapalumab in patients with sHLH and underlying rheumatologic disease is ongoing (NCT05001737).

REFERENCES:

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OP0254
INSIGHTS FROM A NOVEL MONOGENIC AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE: OVERVIEW OF A MULTICENTRIC EUROPEAN COHORT OF 27 PATIENTS WITH COPA SYNDROME

Keywords: Genetics/epigenetics, Innate immunity, Rare/orphan diseases

C. David-Gabrebbe, B. Bader-Meunierb, A. Belotb, G. Labouretb, M. Brennanb, E. Al-Abadib, P. Arkrightc, W. Newmana, M. Gattornob, V. Stefanoa, A. Tommasinib, R. Mannna, A. Taddioc, B. Lopez-Montesinosb, T. Civauguerad Poch, C. Stengdeb, S. Bondorb, D. Giannic, M. Chiarad, F. Maurierae, M. Wisselzb, Y. Crowe, N. Nathana, M. L. Frémondad, 1 Imagine Institute, Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Neuroinflammation, Paris, France; 2Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Department of Paediatric Haematology-Immunology and Rheumatology, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, AP-HP, Paris, France, Reference center for Rheumatism, Autoimmune and Systemic Diseases in children (RAISE), Pediatric Nephrology, Immunology, Dermatology Unit, Hospital of Mother and Child, Lyon, France; 3University Hospital for Children, Toulouse, Paediatric Pulmonology Department, Toulouse, France; 4Royal Hospital for Children & Young People, Edinburgh, Paediatric & Adolescent Rheumatology, Edinburgh, United Kingdom; 5Birmingham Women’s and Children’s Hospital NHSFT, Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Unit, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 6Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital, Department of Paediatric Allergy & Immunology, Manchester, United Kingdom; 7IRCCS Istituto G. Gaslini, Center of Autoinflammatory Diseases and Immunodeficiencies, Department of Pediatrics and Rheumatology, Genova, Italy; 8IRCCS “Burlo Garofolo” University of Trieste, Institute of Child and Maternal Health, Trieste, Italy; 9HUPa Le Fe, Unidad de Reumatología Pediatrica, Valencia, Spain; 10Department de Salut | Generalitat de Catalunya, Reumatologia, Barcelona, Spain; 11Hospital Cliníc-IDIBAPS, Department of Immunology-CD8, Barcelona, Spain; 12Centre Hospitalier Régional Universitaire Lille, Emergency Infectious Disease and Pediatric Rheumatology Department, Paris, France; 13Hôpital Jeanne de Flandre, CHU Lille, Paediatric Pulmonology and Allergy Department, Lille, France; 14Tenon Hospital, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP) Sorbonne Université, Department of Pneumology and Thoracic Oncology, Paris, France; 15Hôpitaux Privés de Metz Site Belle Isle, Internal Medicine Unit, Metz, France; 16Cochin Hospital, Pulmonology Department, Paris, France; 17Armand Trousseau Hospital, 16Paediatrics Pulmonology Department and Reference Centre for Rare Lung Diseases RespiRare, Paris, France

Background: COPA syndrome is a recently described monogenic autoimmune disease due to heterozygous mutations in COPA. COPA syndrome demonstrates considerable phenotypic overlap with SAVI (STING-associated vasculopathy with onset in infancy) due to gain-of-function mutations in STING. Interestingly, while both disorders are characterised by enhanced type I interferon signalling, neither disease is associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) – challenging classical dogma linking interferon upregulation and lupus.

Objectives: Our aim was to gather a European cohort of COPA patients to better delineate the clinical phenotype of this rare monogenic disorder.

Methods: Assessment of clinical, radiological, immunological and therapeutic data from 27 patients (13 families) with molecularly confirmed COPA syndrome.

Results: Twenty-seven individuals with pathogenic COPA mutations were included. Among them, 20 patients presented with a characteristic clinical manifestation evocative of COPA syndrome (clinical penetrance of 74.1%). Symptomatic patients were female in 13 (65%) cases with a median age at disease onset of 4 years (0-50). All COPA mutations were inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern except for one that occurred de novo. Pulmonary involvement was observed in 16 (80%) patients, with interstitial lung disease (ILD) in most cases (n=13, 65%), diffuse alveolar haemorrhage (DAH) in 5 (25%) individuals and the association of ILD and DAH in 3 (15%) patients. Twelve (60%) patients demonstrated joint involvement of variable severity: 4 (20%) individuals experiencing deforming arthritis including one requiring bilateral knee arthroplasty, 6 (30%) patients had polyarticular arthritis and two (10%) patients presented with isolated arthralgias. Renal disease was observed in three (15%) individuals, the most frequent as either persistent glomerulonephritis (n=2) or membranous glomerulonephritis (n=1). Previously undescribed feature noted in 15 patients included acral ulcers, vitiligo and nasal perforation (n=3, 15%), cardiac disease (n=2, 10%), gastrointestinal dysfunction (n=2, 10%), and cytolytic hepatitis (n=1). When tested, 14 (93.9%) patients had positive autoantibodies. When assessed, immunophenotyping showed a mild T-cell lymphopenia, with an excess of naive T CD8+ cells and a defect of memory T CD8+ cells recorded in one patient. All patients presented with a normal or elevated COPA protein levels and high IFN signature scores. The IFN signature was mildly positive in half of the clinically asymptomatic individuals assessed. The majority (60%) of patients were treated with corticosteroids and immunosuppressants, ten (50%) received biotherapies and eight (40%) patients are currently under JAK1/2 inhibition.

Conclusion: We report the first European cohort of COPA patients. While confirming the core organ feature of arthritis, joint and kidneys of COPA syndrome, our data expand the phenotype to include cardiac, skin and digestive features, further...
demonstrating the clinical overlap with SAVI and other type I interferonopathies, while also highlighting the possibility of isolated organ involvement. We confirm a high level of clinical non-penetrance, which can present a diagnostic challenge and indicates the need to better understand the underlying pathophysiology. In view of current (JAK inhibitors) and potential future targeted therapies, we suggest a request to assess IFN pathway status and/or perform sequencing in the case of suggestive features, even in the absence of a familial history.

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OP0255

IGG4-RELATED DISEASE ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT INFLUENCED BY USE OF 18F-FDG PET/CT: DATA FROM A NORWEGIAN COHORT

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases, Imaging, Outcome measures

J. Vikse1,2, O. Midtvedt2, O. Molberg1,2, B. T. Svanes Fevang1,1, G. Palm1, T. Garen2, K. B. Johnson2, M. Revheim1,2, K. Johnsrud1,2, H. Fretheim1, M. Wallenius1,2, G. Bakland1, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold1,1 University of Bergen, Clinical Science, Bergen, Norway; 2Stavanger University Hospital, Rheumatology, Stavanger, Norway; 3Oslo University Hospital, Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 4University of Oslo, Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 5Haukeland University Hospital, Rheumatology, Bergen, Norway; 6Oslo University Hospital, Radiology and nuclear medicine, Oslo, Norway; 7St. Olav University Hospital, Rheumatology, Trondheim, Norway; 8Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Neuromedicine and Movement Science, Trondheim, Norway; 9University Hospital of North Norway, Rheumatology, Tromsø, Norway

Background: The IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD) responder index (RI) is a validated tool to assess disease activity in IgG4-RD [1]. The RI reflects symptoms attributable to active IgG4-RD as well as relevant findings from the physical examination, imaging and laboratory evaluations, with higher scores reflecting more active disease. Multigain involvement and higher RI scores were identified as risk factors for relapse [2], indicating a need for more aggressive treatment. Whole-body 18F-FDG PET/CT is a sensitive technique for detecting foci of active inflammation, but its use is limited by cost and availability. Furthermore, whether 18F-FDG PET/CT detects additional organ manifestations which influence RI and treatment decisions, is largely unknown.

Objectives: To compare performance of a pure clinical RI model (c-RI) and a c-RI with addition of 18F-FDG PET/CT (c-PET-RI) in a well-characterized Norwegian IgG4-RD cohort.

Methods: Adult patients with IgG4-RD seen at the Oslo University Hospital were included if they had performed both 18F-FDG PET/CT and a comprehensive assessment by a rheumatologist within a four-week interval. In each patient, we calculated c-RI from symptoms, clinical examination, and laboratory studies, and c-PET-RI from the c-RI plus the score from pathological 18F-FDG organ uptake on the whole-body PET. Both indices were calculated using data from NOSVAR research registry and electronic medical records. We defined IgG4-RD disease activity as low if RI was ≤ 3 and high if RI was > 3 points. We assessed associations of elevated CRP and serum IgG4 (s-IgG4) with reclassification (discrepancy change in disease activity scores (c-PET-RI – c-RI)) by applying logistic regression with odds ratio (OR) and 95% CI to identify patients in which performing 18F-FDG PET/CT is likely to change treatment decisions.

Results: The study cohort included 53 IgG4-RD patients, of whom 30 had c-RI ≤ 3 points, consistent with low disease activity. In 15/30 patients (50%) with c-RI ≤ 3, the corresponding c-PET-RI was > 3 points, consistent with high disease activity. In these 15 patients, the mean increase in RI points from the 18F-FDG PET/CT was 6.4 (range 2-12). We found that 14 of these 15 patients (93%) had elevated s-IgG4 and 6 (40%) had elevated CRP. In logistic regression analysis, elevated s-IgG4, but not CRP, was strongly associated with reclassification to high disease activity after 18F-FDG PET/CT (OR 16.0, 95% CI 1.7-154.6, p = 0.017). Of the 9 patients with c-RI ≤ 3 and normal s-IgG4, only one (11%) was reclassified to high disease activity.

Conclusion: In IgG4-RD patients with low disease activity by clinical and laboratory assessment (c-RI), elevated s-IgG4 is associated with detection of asymptomatic organ involvement by 18F-FDG PET/CT (c-PET-RI). Hence, evaluation with 18F-FDG PET/CT should be considered in patients with c-RI ≤ 3 points and elevated s-IgG4 to tailor management. In contrast, in patients with c-RI ≤ 3 points and normal s-IgG4, the added yield of 18F-FDG PET/CT appears to be low.

REFERENCES:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elevated s-IgG4 (per g/L unit increase)</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.1-1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (per mg/L unit increase)</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.9-1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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OP0256

VALIDATION OF THE 2019 ACR/EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR IGG4-RELATED DISEASE AND THE JAPANESE ORGAN-SPECIFIC DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA IN A JAPANESE IGG4-RELATED PERIAORTITIS/RETROPERITONEAL FIBROSIS COHORT: A NATIONWIDE MULTICENTER STUDY

Keywords: Diagnostic tests

I. Mizushima1, N. Morikage2, E. Ito3, F. Kasashima1, Y. Matsumoto4, N. Sawa5, H. Yoshituli5, T. Saeki5, Y. Domoto5, S. Shimada5, T. Takayama5,6, E. Amiya5, H. Takahashi5, M. Kawano1, S. Kasashima1, Kanazawa University Hospital, Rheumatology, Kanazawa, Japan; 2Yamaguchi University Graduate School of Medicine, Ube, Surgery and Clinical Sciences, Yamaguchi, Japan; 3The Jikei University School of Medicine, Vascular Surgery, Tokyo, Japan; 4Kanazawa Medical Center Cardiovascular Surgery, Kanazawa, Japan; 5Toranomon Hospital, Nephrology Center, Tokyo, Japan; 6Kyoto University, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan; 7Nagaoka Red Cross Hospital, Internal Medicine, Nagaoka, Japan; 8University of Tokyo, Pathology, Tokyo, Japan; 9The University of Tokyo, Cardio Surgery, Tokyo, Japan; 10The University of Tokyo, Vascular Surgery, Tokyo, Japan; 11The University of Tokyo, Cardiovascular Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; 12Sapporo Medical University, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Sapporo, Japan; 13Kanazawa University, Clinical Laboratory Science, Kanazawa, Japan

Background: Diagnosing IgG4-related periaortitis/retroperitoneal fibrosis (IgG4-PA/RPF) is often challenging, especially in PA/RPF-limited cases, due to the difficulty in obtaining periaortic/retroperitoneal specimens. In addition to the Japanese diagnostic criteria for IgG4-PA/RPF [1], the 2019 American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) classification criteria for IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD) [2] have not been validated for IgG4-PA/RPF diagnosis in daily clinical practice.

Objectives: This study aimed to validate the ACR/EULAR classification criteria and the Japanese organ-specific diagnostic criteria in a Japanese cohort of patients with IgG4-related PA/RPF.

Methods: In this nationwide multicenter study, we retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 110 patients with IgG4-PA/RPF and 79 non-IgG4-RD patients (mimickers) diagnosed by experts. Using the collected data, we calculated sensitivity and specificity in both the ACR/EULAR classification criteria and the Japanese diagnostic criteria. To clarify the characteristics of false-negative cases of IgG4-PA/RPF, we compared the clinical features between the false-negative and true-positive cases.

REFERENCES:
CANAKINUMAB IN THE TREATMENT OF ADULT-ONSET STILL’S DISEASE: LONG TERM DATA FROM A MONOCENTRIC COHORT

Keywords: Innate immunity, DMARD

N. Farina1, C. Campochiaro1, A. Tomelleri1, G. De Luca1, E. Baldissera2, L. Dagna1. 1IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy

Background: Adult-onset Still’s disease (AOSD) is a rare autoinflammatory disease whose clinical spectrum encompasses protean and potentially life-threatening manifestations. While glucocorticoids represent the mainstay of the treatment of patients with AOSD, no guidelines are available to guide the approach to refractory patients. Canakinumab – a monoclonal antibody targeting interleukin 1β – has been increasingly used in this scenario with promising results, though long-term efficacy data are scant.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy and long-term persistency of canakinumab in patients with AOSD.

Methods: We retrospectively identified patients with AOSD followed-up at our Center who were treated with canakinumab for at least 12 months. Data about demographics, disease features, and treatment history were then collected. The therapeutic efficacy of canakinumab was evaluated on the basis of the modifications of glucocorticoid doses, Pouchot scores, C-reactive protein, and ferritin levels during the treatment course. Finally, the drug retention rate of canakinumab at 24 months was obtained.

Results: In our cohort, we identified 25 patients with AOSD treated with canakinumab for at least 12 months. Median age at disease onset was 35 (IQR 25-56) years and median follow-up duration was 24 (IQR 12-41) months. Clinical features of the study population are shown in Table 1. The most frequent reason [21 (84%) patients] for the start of IL-1β inhibition was a persistent disease activity. Canakinumab led to remission in all but two patients and, overall, was associated with a significant reduction in glucocorticoid doses, Pouchot scores, C-reactive protein and ferritin levels (Figure 1). The overall retention rate at 24 months was 93% and no adverse reactions to canakinumab were reported.

Conclusion: Our study confirms – in one of the largest monocentric cohorts described to date – that canakinumab is highly effective in patients with AOSD. Canakinumab was associated with a significant clinical and biochemical improvement in most patients from our cohort and was characterized by a very high long-term retention rate.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Boxplots reporting the modifications in glucocorticoid doses, C-reactive protein and ferritin levels, and Pouchot scores following the start of canakinumab (T0). Reported p-values were calculated with Mann-Whitney test.

Table 1. Demographic and disease features of patients with adult-onset Still’s disease from our cohort. Continuous and categorical variables are reported as median (interquartile range) and absolute frequency (percentage), respectively. Glucocorticoid dose and age are expressed in mg (prednisone-equivalent) and years, respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Study population (n=25)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>35 (25-56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex</td>
<td>13 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>25 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>19 (76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>15 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>3 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphadenopathy</td>
<td>11 (44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharyngitis</td>
<td>10 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC dose at CNK start</td>
<td>50 (30-75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous DMARDs</td>
<td>18 (72%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>12 (48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANK</td>
<td>9 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant DMARDs</td>
<td>17 (68%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>11 (44%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANK, anakinra; CNK, canakinumab; DMARD, disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug; GC, glucocorticoids; MTX, methotrexate.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
New insights form epidemiology and public health

Keywords: Gout, Epidemiology

C. Yokose1,2, N. Mc Cormick1,3, L. Lu2, J. Wei1, Y. Zhang3, L. H. Choi1,3, J. Massachusets General Hospital, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Boston, United States of America; 2Harvard Medical School, Medicine, Boston, United States of America; 3Arthritis Research Canada, n/a, Vancouver, Canada; 4Xiangya Hospital, Health Management Center, Shan Nan Shi, China

Background: Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter Type 2 Inhibitors (SGLT2i) are a revolutionary second-line treatment for type 2 diabetes associated with lower risk of cardiovascular and all-cause mortality, heart failure, and chronic kidney disease progression. Many trials have also found SGLT2i lower serum urate levels. However, data on gout risk are limited and the few available prior studies were not specific to those using metformin, the primary target populations of recent landmark trials like GRADE.

Objectives: To emulate recent clinical trials and compare incident gout risk among metformin-treated patients with type 2 diabetes initiating SGLT2i versus second-line type 2 diabetes treatments (glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist [GLP1RA], dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitors [DPP4i] or sulfonylureas).

Methods: We performed a nested, active comparator, population-based cohort study using administrative health data for nearly all residents of British Columbia, Canada from Jan 2014 to June 2022, including all dispensed prescriptions, regardless of funder. A cohort of adults with type 2 diabetes using metformin (first-line therapy) was identified from ICES codes and dispensing data. Primary outcome was incident gout, defined as inpatient or outpatient diagnosis of gout plus dispensing of a gout medication within 14 days, and no prior recorded gout diagnosis. We also stratified by sex, age, and baseline diuretic use. Cox proportional hazards models were used with propensity score overlap weighting. To evaluate reproducibility and for spurious associations, we also assessed for risk of genital infection (for which we expected SGLT2i would have a positive association), and for the risk of any osteoarthritis encounter, a negative control outcome for which we expected a null association.

Results: Hazard ratio (HR) for incident gout associated with SGLT2i initiation was 0.54 (95% CI: 0.39, 0.74) vs. DPP4i- (among n=27,791 type 2 diabetes patients, 0.39 (0.24, 0.62) for SGLT2i vs. GLP1RA initiation (n=19,875 patients), and 0.61 (0.46, 0.80) for SGLT2i vs. sulfonylurea initiation (n=71,625 patients) (Table 1). Results were consistent regardless of sex or age baseline diuretic use. For control outcomes, SGLT2i initiators had higher risk of genital infection, as expected, while there was no difference in risk of osteoarthritis (Table 1). Conclusion: SGLT2i initiation among metformin-treated patients with type 2 diabetes was associated with substantially lower risk of incident gout (i.e., primary prevention), compared with initiation of any other second-line options. Along with its known urate-lowering, as well as cardiovascular and survival benefits, SGLT2i could reduce risk of incident gout substantially for diabetes patients who need second-line agent after metformin.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Risk of incident gout and control outcomes among patients with type 2 diabetes treated with metformin, after propensity-score overlap weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Gout</th>
<th>Hazard Ratio (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall (Primary Outcome)</td>
<td>0.54 (0.39, 0.74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subgroups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>0.57 (0.37, 0.86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>0.49 (0.29, 0.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤ 65 years</td>
<td>0.61 (0.39, 0.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 65 years</td>
<td>0.49 (0.30, 0.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline diuretic use</td>
<td>0.39 (0.19, 0.83)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key References:

SGLT2i, sodium glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitor; DPP4i, dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor; GLP1RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist

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Keywords: Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis, Epidemiology

J. Coyle1, M. De Grooth2, J. Cole3, S. Williams4, 1King’s College London, Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, London, United Kingdom; 2GSK – Stevenage, GlaxoSmithKline Research and Development, Stevenage, United Kingdom; 3University College London, Centre for Medical Image Computing, Department of Computer Science, London, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and ulcerative colitis (UC) both result in higher levels of systemic inflammation and represent a significantly higher risk of cerebrovascular disease. The presence of this systemic inflammation has been linked to central nervous system effects and both diseases have increased rates of fatigue, brain fog and depression. Additionally, systemic inflammation has been implicated in decreasing the integrity of the blood brain barrier and potentially resulting in further involvement of the central nervous system in autoimmune diseases.

Objectives: The increased presence of white matter hyperintensities (WMH) has been proposed as a potential link to the central symptoms reported and the increased prevalence of cerebrovascular accidents in these diseases [1]. The present study aimed to analyse total volume of WMH in patients with RA and UC as compared to matched controls.

Methods: Data from 1,968 individuals in the UK Biobank Imaging sub-study were included in the present study [2]. This was divided into two separate patient populations with separate control groups matched to each in a 1:3 patient:control ratio. Data from 252 individuals (mean age ± SD = 65.52 ± 7.03, 71.4% females) were included in the RA patient group with 756 age and sex matched controls (mean age ± SD = 65.52 ± 7.02, 71.4% females). Data from 240 individuals (mean age ± SD = 63.98 ± 7.06, 50.8% females) were included in the UC patient group with 720 age and sex matched controls (mean age ± SD = 63.98 ± 7.05, 50.8% females). This study utilised the total volume of WMH acquired using an automated segmentation approach called BIANCA and provided directly by the UKBiobank. Volumes were taken as a ratio of total brain volume and log transformed prior to a linear model regression being performed. Two separate models were run. One with age, sex, and ICV as covariates and a second model additionally including hypertension.

Results: We observed significantly larger total WMH volume in RA patients when compared to controls in model 1 (difference in WMH volume: 2286.0mm³, SD ±84.5, p = 2.0e-08). The Cohen’s effect size was d = 0.36 [95% CI 0.21, 0.5]. This effect was still substantial even with hypertension added as a covariate in model 2 (p = 3.7e-06). There was also a smaller, but still significant difference seen in UC patients compared to controls (difference in WMH volume: 237.1mm³, SD ±82.1, p = 0.003). The Cohen’s effect size was d = 0.19 [95% CI 0.04, 0.33]. As with the RA population hypertension is a strong contributing factor, however, the p value was still significant in model 2 (p = 0.03).

Conclusion: This is evidence that there is a cerebrovascular component to these diseases and that people with higher WMH burden may be at a higher risk of developing neurocognitive sequelae as part the disease. Further analysis of spatial mapping of WMH could provide further context for whether there are different patterns or distributions between RA and UC which could contribute to different central nervous system symptoms or cerebrovascular health risk factors.

REFERENCES:
Methods: dom-effects meta-analyses and meta-regression. The meta-analytical method demographically relevant factors on the short (5-year) and longer-term (10-, 15- and major organ damage that comprised cardiovascular, renal, neuropsychiatric and mortality rates of patients with SLE published between the 1950 and 2021 were searched, identified and extracted from PubMed and EmBase. Studies which only focused on the short- and longer-term survival of patients with SLE globally over the past 60 years have not been systematically studied by meta-analyses, particularly regarding the impact of the interaction between time and major organ damage on the survival of patients with SLE.

Background: The trend of, and the impact of major organ damage on the short- and longer-term survival of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) globally over the past 60 years have not been systematically studied by meta-analyses, particularly regarding the impact of the interaction between time and major organ damage on the trend of the survival of patients with SLE.

Objectives: To study the trend of, and the impact of major organ damage and demographically relevant factors on the short (5-year) and longer-term (10-, 15- and 20-year) survival rates of patients with SLE in the past 60 years by random-effects meta-analyses and meta-regression. The meta-analytical method that examined the impact of the interaction between time in terms of year of publication and major organ damage on the trend of the overall survival rates of SLE patients was employed.

Methods: Observational studies that were written in English and reported the survival rates of patients with SLE published between the 1950 and 2021 were searched, identified and extracted from PubMed and EmBase. Studies which only included patients reported survival rates shorter than 5 years were excluded. The effect sizes of the overall 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year survival rates and their respective trends over time of patients with SLE were determined by random-effects meta-analyses and meta-regression analyses. Meta-regression analyses were conducted to investigate the impact of covariates, including the interaction between the year of publication (time) and factors including major organ damage that comprised cardiovascular, renal, neuropsychiatric and major organ damage on the trend of the overall survival rates of SLE patients.

Results: In total, 281 observational studies that were published between 1955 and 2020 were identified and eligible for analyses. The overall 5- and 10-year survival rates of SLE patients increased from 71.82% to 94.27%, and from 58.23% to 90.44%, respectively, from 1960 to 2020. The overall 15-year survival rate of SLE patients increased from 71.82% to 94.27%, and from 58.23% to 90.44%, respectively, from 1960 to 2020. The overall 20-year survival rate of SLE patients increased from 58.82% to 90.44%, respectively, from 1960 to 2020. The overall 15- and 20-year survival rates of SLE patients have been increasing steadily from the 1950s to 2020. Although the 15- and 20-year survival rates of SLE patients have been progressively increasing, more studies are required to further address the determinants of these longer-term survival rates. The impact of sex difference with its interaction with time on the survival of SLE patients require more focused and mechanistic studies.

Conclusion: Both the short- and longer-term survival of patients with SLE have been increasing steadily from the 1950s to 2020. While cardiovascular damage impacted significantly the 5-year survival rate, neuropsychiatric and overall SLE disease damage at baseline with their interactions with time, exerted a significant impact on the 10-year survival rate of patients with SLE since the 1950s. Although the 15- and 20-year survival rates of SLE patients have been progressively increasing, more studies are required to further address the determinants of these longer-term survival rates. The impact of sex difference with its interaction with time on the survival of SLE patients require more focused and mechanistic studies.
Objectives: To examine whether inflammatory joint diseases (IJDs) have an impact on men’s fertility, measured as number of children per man and proportion of childless men.

Methods: We performed a nation-wide, population-based cohort study. Male patients with IJDs (n = 10,865) collected from the Norwegian Arthritis Registry in 2021 were individually matched 1:5 on birth year, sex, and county of residence, with individuals without IJDs obtained from the National Population Register (n = 54,325). Data regarding births was obtained from the Medical Birth Registry of Norway. We compared the mean number of children per man in the patient group and in the comparison group using paired t-tests, and the proportion of childless men using Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel chi-squared tests.

Results: The mean number of children per man in the patient group was 1.80 versus 1.69 in the comparison group (p < 0.001). Altogether, 21% of our patients were childless vs 27% in the comparison group (p < 0.001, Figure 1). The difference in number of children between patients and comparison group was highest for those diagnosed after year 2000 and these patients had the comparatively lowest risk of being childless. The differences were less evident for those diagnosed before 2000 (Table 1). Age at diagnosis did not influence fertility (Table 1).

Conclusion: In this large nationwide study, fertility in male patients with IJDs was not reduced compared to controls, neither when examining the number of children per man, nor when looking at the proportion of childless men. Interestingly, we observed a higher fertility rate in male IJD patients than in the comparison group for patients diagnosed after year 2000. The reason for this observation is unknown. Factors associated with getting or having an IJD may influence fertility. An interesting hypothesis is a possible positive impact of new immune modulating drugs introduced after year 2000.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Mean number of children and proportion of childless men according to time and age at diagnosis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time at diagnosis</th>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>No. of children</th>
<th>Childless men (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000 - 2021</td>
<td>Patients</td>
<td>Comparisons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-20</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>2.04</td>
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<td></td>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

A MEDICO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE TOLEDO TRIAL

Keywords: Clinical trials, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. Kedra1, 2, B. Granger1, 3, L. El, Houin1, 4, F. Tubach1, 3, B. Fautrel1, 3, S. Bonneville, INSERM UMR 1136, Institut Pierre Louis d’ Epidemiologie et de Santé Publique, Paris, France; 2AP-HP; Hôpital Pitié Salpêtrière, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 3AP-HP; Hôpital Pitié Salpêtrière, Département de Santé Publique, Centre de Pharmacépidémiologie (Cephepi), CIC-190, Paris, France

Background: Biologic Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (bDMARDs) progressive tapering is a real opportunity in people living with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) having achieved remission both from the patient and the Society perspectives. The ToLEDo (Towards the Lowest Efficacious Dose) trial aimed to assess a disease activity-driven progressive tapering strategy of tocilizumab (TCZ) or abatacept (ABA) compared to their maintenance at full dose in RA patients sustained remission. Non-inferiority (NI) was not demonstrated in terms of disease activity (primary endpoint) nor relapses, major relapses, radiographic progression (secondary endpoints) [1].

Objectives: The aim of this secondary analysis was to assess the cost-utility of the spacing strategy (S-arm) in the ToLEDo trial compared to full dose maintenance (M-arm).

Methods: The ToLEDo trial is a multicenter 2-year NI randomized open-label controlled trial, which enrolled 228 patients (113 in the S-arm and 115 in the M-arm). A cost-utility analysis was conducted on the per protocol population. In each arm, health benefits were estimated every 6 months by Short Form Health Survey (SF-6D) and EuroQol (EQ-5D)-derived utility measurements. Cost elicitation integrated health resource use including bDMARD costs (direct cost) as well as productivity loss (indirect cost) using the friction cost method. The incremental cost-utility ratios (ICUR) were calculated by dividing the difference of costs between S-arm and M-arm by the difference of utilities between the 2 arms. 95% confidence interval (95% CI) were calculated by bootstrap (20,000 iterations). The incremental net benefit (INB) was calculated for willingness to pay (WTP) values ranging from 0 to 150,000€. The analyses were replicated using SF-6D (primary analysis) or EQ-5D, and in ABA and TCZ subgroups. Acceptability analyses as well as stochastic sensitivity analyses (simulating costs and utilities using MCMC algorithms) were also performed.

Results: Overall, 178 patients were included (82 in S-arm, 96 in M-arm) in the per protocol analysis. At the end of the follow-up in the S-arm, 15.0% of patients discontinued their biologic, 48.7% spaced the injections, and 36.3% remained at the standard dose. The difference in terms of two-years utility gains between S-arm and M-arm was 0.004 (95%CI -0.012, 0.021) with SF-6D. The difference of total costs between S-arm and M-arm was -4,275 € (95%CI -5,955 to -2,542). The estimated ICUR of the spacing strategy over the maintenance at full dose was €932,003 gained per QALY (95% CI -7,534,788 to 6,720,372) with SF-6D. The INB was 4,734 €/QALY. With a willingness to accept of 0 €/QALY lost, the probability to be cost-effective for the spacing strategy was 70.6% (Figure 1). The results were consistent when using EQ-5D-derived utilities, in ABA and TCZ subgroups, as well as in the stochastic sensitivity analyses (Table 1).

Conclusion: Although the ToLEDo trial did not demonstrate non-inferiority, the tested disease activity-driven tapering strategy was not associated with health losses of utilities and incured for substantial cost savings, making this strategy potentially dominant.

Figure 1. cost-utility plane (spacing versus maintenance), with utilities derived from PP SF-6D

Table 1. ICUR in ABA subgroup, TCZ subgroup, using EQ-5D-derived utilities, and stochastic sensitivity analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABA subgroup</th>
<th>TCZ subgroup</th>
<th>Stochastic sensitivity analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(PP SF-6D)</td>
<td>(PP SF-6D)</td>
<td>(PP SF-6D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€/QALY</td>
<td>€/QALY</td>
<td>€/QALY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICUR gained</td>
<td>ICUR gained</td>
<td>ICUR gained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-420,076.22</td>
<td>-1,008,225</td>
<td>-52,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(95%CI -1,044,462;95%CI -2,436,237;95%CI -458,934;95%CI -1,008,225)</td>
<td>(95%CI -481,029.28;95%CI -1,300,747;95%CI -481,029.28)</td>
<td>(95%CI -481,029.28;95%CI -1,300,747;95%CI -481,029.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,461,037</td>
<td>1,898,967</td>
<td>369,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,867,263</td>
<td>1,867,263</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: The authors acknowledge the investigators and pharma- cists who participated in the ToLEDo trial, the Pharmacoepidemiology Center of the Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (Centre de Pharmaco-Épidémiologie [CEPHEPI]) for the supervision of the project and monitoring and management of the data, and the CRI-IMIDATE network.

Disclosure of Interests: Joanna KEDRA: None declared, Benjamin Granger Consultant of: BMS, Lina EL HOUARTI: None declared, Florence Tubach Consultant of: UCB, MSD, Lundbeck, Bruno Fautrel Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bio- gen, BMS, Cellertrion, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Mylan, NORDIC Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, Sanol-Gen- zyme, SOBI, UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Lilly, MSD and Pfizer. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4115

OP0265 WORK PARTICIPATION AND THE COVID19 PANDEMIC: A DUTCH PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY IN PEOPLE WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES AND HEALTHY CONTROLS

Keywords: COVID, Work-related issues

M. Butink1,2, L. Boekel1, A. Boonen1,2, A. De Rijk2, G. Wolbink3,5, C. Webers1,4.
1Maastricht University Medical Centre, 2Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands; 2Maastricht University, Department of Social Medicine Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI), Maastricht, Netherlands; 3Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center, Location Reade, Department of Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 4Maastricht University, Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI), Maastricht, Netherlands; 5Sanquin Research and Landsteiner Laboratory Academic Medical Center, Department of Immunopathology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Background: People with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD), such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and spondyloarthritis (SpA), experience restrictions in work participation. In times of crisis, such as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID19) pandemic, people with IRD might be more vulnerable for adverse work outcomes (i.e. (partial) job loss and sick leave) and restrictions in work ability while at work.

Objectives: To (a) compare occurrence of adverse work outcome (AWO) and change in work ability during the first two years of the pandemic (2020-2022), as well as current (2022) work ability, between people with IRD and healthy controls in the Netherlands; (b) understand which subgroups of patients are most vulner- able to incur work participation outcomes; and (c) explore the role of remote work characteristics on work performance.

Methods: Data from a Dutch longitudinal study on COVID19 at Reade and Amster- dam UMC were used. Information about work was collected at one fixed timpoint. Patients (18-67 years) with IRD and controls were asked in March 2022 to answer questions on work participation and their work situation in March 2020 (pre-pandemic; retrospectively) and March 2022 (current). AWO was defined as any of: (1) shift between 2020-2022 from employment to unemployment; or from full to part-time employment; (2) reduction in working hours; (3) ongoing long-term sick leave. Work ability (change and current) was assessed with the Work Ability Index (range 0 [worst] to 10 [best]). Outcomes were compared between groups (IRD vs control) with statistical tests. Multivariable logistic or linear regression analyses were used to explore the associations between IRD and AWO or (change in) work ability. Interactions (effect modification) were tested and, if present, analyses were stratified. The role of remote work factors on remote work performance was described.

Results: In total, 1,438 IRD patients and 526 controls of working age (18-67) par- ticipated. The majority was female (67%) and was employed pre-pandemic (69% patients, 84% controls). Patients mainly had RA or SpA (85%). In pre-pandemic employed subjects, 227 patients (23%) and 79 controls (18%) experienced AWO (p=0.04). Only 35 patients (4%) and 12 controls (2%) of these, attributed this to COVID (impact by personal health or national pandemic measures; p=0.36). Logis- tic regressions of AWO were stratified because of interactions between group and sex, comorbidities or a physically demanding job. In all models, patients were more likely than controls to experience AWO (range OR 1.63 to 3.34 across models, Figure 1), and especially patients with comorbidities or a physically demanding job. Of note, COVID-related AWO was not significantly more likely in patients (OR=1.62, 95%CI 0.60-3.27). Change in work ability during the pandemic did not differ between groups (-0.3 (SD 1.8) patients vs -0.2 (SD 1.6) controls, p=0.38). Logistic regressions also did not reveal significant differences. Linear regression of current work ability (stratified by sex due to interaction) showed female patients compared to female controls experienced lower work ability (B=-0.66; 95%CI -0.92 to -0.40), while this was not observed in males. Past SARS-CoV-2 infection was not associated with AWO/work ability. When working remotely; care for children and absence of colleagues had both positive (19% and 24%, resp.) and negative (34% and 57%, resp.) influence on work performance, while employer support and reduced commuting time had positive influence (83% and 86%, resp.).

Conclusion: During the COVID pandemic, patients experienced more AWO than healthy controls, and especially patients with physically demanding jobs and comorbidities were at higher risk. However, the frequency of COVID-related AWO was low and did not differ substantially between patients and controls. A likely explanation is that the governmental support for employers protected those in vulnerable positions, such as patients with IRD.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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Epidemiology, risk and prediction of risk

**Methods:** We utilised primary care records from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) Aurum database and identified individuals with diagnostic codes for each condition. We calculated their 10-year cardiovascular risk using each risk tool and compared this to their observed outcomes. Discrimination (how well the tool separates CVD cases and non-cases) was assessed using time-dependent (to account for censoring in follow up) Area-under-ROC-curve (AUC), sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values (using 10% and 20% predicted risk to determine high risk of CVD). Calibration (how well predicted risks match observed risks) of each risk prediction tool was assessed by comparing the observed and predicted risks in deciles of predicted risk for each disease group.

**Results:** Time-dependent AUC for QRISK3 ranged between 0.697 for patients with osteoarthritis to 0.815 for patients with psoriasis, indicating reasonably good predictive performance (Figure 1); AUC for the Framingham Risk score were similar, whilst the Reynold’s Risk Score achieved slightly lower AUCs in this cohort, ranging between 0.640 for patients with osteoarthritis and 0.752 for patients with psoriasis. In general, the Framingham Risk Score was reasonably well calibrated for each condition but underpredicted risk for patients with RA or OA. The Reynold’s Risk Score tended to underpredict CVD risk, whilst the QRISK3 score overpredicted CVD risk, especially for the most high-risk individuals.

**Conclusion:** In general, CVD risk for individuals with RA, AS, PsA, psoriasis, or OA were less accurately predicted using each of the 3 CVD risk prediction tools than the reported accuracies in the original publications. There is a need for specific risk prediction tools for rheumatic conditions.

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**OP0268 IMPACT OF MENOPAUSAL TREATMENTS IN FUNCTIONAL DECLINE ON WOMEN WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Pregnancy and reproduction, Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence

S. Pedró1, E. Molland2, K. Michael3, 4FORWARD, The National Database for Rheumatic Diseases, Research, Wichita, United States of America; 2University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Nursing, Omaha, United States of America; 3University of Nebraska Medical Center, Medicine, Omaha, United States of America

**Background:** Women with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) experience changes in disease development and progression surrounding reproductive and hormonal events, including menopause. In our prior work, women with RA had better functional status prior to menopause and experienced worsened functional decline after menopause [1].

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study is to investigate how menopausal treatments affect functional decline in women with RA.

**Methods:** Women with RA participating in the Forward Databank from 2000 through 2022 with a reported menopausal status or not having a menstrual period for 1 year were eligible. Women who were on hormonal contraceptive were excluded. Hormonal replacement therapy (HRT) users were matched 1:1.
to non-users by year of HRT initiation (index date). The primary outcome was function measured by Heath Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) and HRT as primary exposure. Descriptive statistics were used to characterize patients at baseline by HRT exposure. Gaussian GEE models were used (robust SE) to assess the association between HAQ and HRT adjusting for the following confounders: demographics, reproductive history, clinical measures, and treatments. Best model was searched using QIC in a backward selection manner.

**Results:** 4123 women who had initiated HRT were matched by year of initiation to 4123 non-HRT users after menopause (mean year was 2004). At baseline, HRT users tended to be younger, had higher income, shorter reproductive length, and more comorbidities. No differences were found in pain and patient global as well as DMARD treatment, although HRT-users had higher use of non-hormonal treatments (Table 1). Overall, patients had a median follow-up of 6 years (IQR 3-10) years with 2 years (IQR 1-4) years of HRT exposure. HRT users had consistently better HAQ (although with a small effect) when compared to non-users (coef. -0.02 (95% CI: -0.03; -0.01) P<0.001). HAQ was also inversely associated with the age when women started menopause (-0.008 (95%CI: -0.009; -0.006), P<0.001); each year after menopause the HAQ increased by 0.008, which was slight better for HRT users (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** HRT use was associated with better functional status, although of modest magnitude. Longer reproductive duration seemed protective for function, but worsening slightly after menopause. Future work is needed to assess the safety profile of HRT regarding incidence of malignancies, cardiovascular events, and osteoporosis.

**REFERENCE:**

### Table 1. Baseline comparison of HRT users vs non-users in matched sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable, mean (SD) or %</th>
<th>Non HRT users</th>
<th>HRT users</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, yr</td>
<td>62.8 (10.7)</td>
<td>60.3 (9.3)</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White race, %</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, yr</td>
<td>13.49 (2.26)</td>
<td>13.80 (2.29)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual income, 10^3 US$</td>
<td>44.8 (31.29)</td>
<td>54.0 (31.08)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, %</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA duration, yr</td>
<td>15.1 (12.21)</td>
<td>15.7 (12.27)</td>
<td>0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menopause age, yr (n=8215)</td>
<td>45.8 (8.00)</td>
<td>43.1 (8.77)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive life, yr (n=7383)</td>
<td>33.1 (8.10)</td>
<td>30.4 (8.81)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever pregnant, % (n=4270)</td>
<td>87.9</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>0.748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoker, %</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m²</td>
<td>28.9 (7.24)</td>
<td>27.6 (6.38)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RD Comorbidity Index (0-9)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.53)</td>
<td>1.8 (1.51)</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-Di (0-3)</td>
<td>1.2 (0.70)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.70)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global (0-10)</td>
<td>3.6 (2.48)</td>
<td>3.5 (2.49)</td>
<td>0.709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain VAS (0-10)</td>
<td>4.0 (2.78)</td>
<td>3.9 (2.80)</td>
<td>0.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD use, %</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>0.454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF use, %</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>0.946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTNF use, %</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>0.933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non hormonal meds (gabapentin, SSRI, SNRI)</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** Projections from the multivariate GEE model for HAQ against (left) age at menopause (years); (right) years after menopause. Model adjusted for cubic spline with 4 knots (48, 61, 70 & 83 years), White race, education (yrs), total income, employment, marital status, RA duration, smoking, alcohol use, BMI, RD comorbidity index, NTNF use, and non-hormonal treatments, and age at menopause/years after menopause

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4660

**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Artificial intelligence, Pain

J. Benitez-Aurioles1, D. Jenkins1 2, C. Ramirez Medina3, N. Peek1 2 4, M. Jani1 2 4 5

1The University of Manchester, Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Science, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2The University of Manchester, NIHR Greater Manchester Patient Safety Translational Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3The University of Manchester Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 4Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Wythenshawe, United Kingdom

**Background:** There has been a sharp rise in opioid use for non-cancer pain globally, including for rheumatic and musculoskeletal conditions. Despite increased awareness of adverse effects, they remain commonly prescribed in most countries. Clinical prediction models (CPMs) offer the possibility of assessing individual risk allowing better allocation of resources towards those at risk. Machine learning (ML) approaches can address nonlinear relationships and complex interactions between variables and are increasingly used to develop CPMs.

**Objectives:** To develop, validate, and compare the performance of three CPMs based on regression and ML, which leverage primary care data to estimate the risk of opioid-related death in patients prescribed opioids for non-cancer pain.

**Methods:** Patients ≥18 years old without prior cancer who were prescribed any opioid between 01/01/2006 and 31/12/2017 were identified in the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD), representative of national patient data from UK primary care. Only new opioid users were included. Index date was date of first prescription, with censoring at withdrawal from the CPRD or after not having an opioid prescription for two years. Baseline data were extracted from each patient's records, including demographic information, comorbidities, concomitant medications, and the opioid type being prescribed. 49 candidate predictors were used to train three competing risk models: a Fine&Gray regression model with LASSO regularisation, a survival random forest (RF), and a neural network (DeepHit). The outcome was opioid-related mortality and other cause mortality the competing event, defined using a curated ICD-10 codelist. Predictive performance of the models, like area under the receiver characteristic operator curve (AUCROC) were calculated using 5-fold cross validation.

**Results:** We included a total of 1,029,681 patients, of which 1,240 experienced an opioid-related death, and 52,833 experienced a competing death. The Fine&Gray, RF and DeepHit models achieved average AUCROC values of 0.83 (95% CI: 0.81-0.85), 0.78 (0.77-0.79) and 0.81 (0.80-0.82) respectively (Figure 1). At optimum risk cut point, as per Youden's index, the models achieved sensitivities of 0.82 (0.78-0.85), 0.75 (0.67-0.82) and 0.80 (0.76-0.83), and specificities of 0.78 (0.73-0.82), 0.75 (0.68-0.83) and 0.78 (0.75-0.8) when predicting 12-month risk, respectively. In the Fine&Gray model, factors associated with increased risk were history of substance use disorder (hazards ratio [HR]: 3.40, 95% CI:3.12-3.69) and alcohol abuse (HR:3.07, 95% CI:2.93-3.22), COPD (HR:1.53, 95% CI:1.48-1.58) and moderate liver disease (HR:1.31, 95% CI:0.99-1.63) were the comorbidities associated with highest risk. Morphine (HR:2.39, 95% CI:2.08-2.69) and oxycodone (HR:1.10, 95% CI:1.00-1.20) at initiation and concomitant gabapentinoids (HR:1.99, 95% CI:1.80-2.18) and benzodiazepines (HR:1.30, 95% CI:1.24-1.36) were associated with an increased risk. HR for rheumatologic diseases was 1.08 (95% CI:1.01-1.14).

**Figure 1.** AUCROC of the three models vs. prediction horizon of the model. 95% CI of mean performance shaded.
Stage B Targeted therapies for severe immune-related adverse events of immune checkpoint inhibitors are not associated with a worse prognosis

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, bDMARD, Malignancy

N. Sedmak1, E. Sebbag2, P. Tran BA Loc3, T. Fabacher4, T. Bahougne5, C. Arnold6, G. Desjeux7, H. Servy7, N. Meyer7, E. Sauleau5, R. Seror9, J. E. Gottenberg2, 1NHC - New Civil Hospital, Département de l’Information Médicale, Strasbourg, France; 2Hôpital de Hautepierre, Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France; 3NHC - New Civil Hospital, Département de l’Information Médicale, Strasbourg, France; 4Hautepière, SERVICE D’ENDOCRINOLOGIE DIABETOLOGIE ET NUTRITION, Strasbourg, France; 5NHC - New Civil Hospital, Département de la Recherche Clinique et Innovation, Strasbourg, France; 6Sanaio, E-health Services, Genemco, France; 7Sanaio, E-health Services, Genemco, France; 8Strasbourg University Hospital, Biostatistics, Strasbourg, France; 9APHP, Rheumatology, PARIS, France

Background: In about 10% of patients, the immune response to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) exceeds the anti-tumor response and leads to autoimmune complications (immune-related Adverse Events, irAEs), which can sometimes be severe and require the use of targeted therapies. Two studies recently reported a deleterious impact of targeted therapies on the survival of patients with irAEs.

Objectives: To compare overall survival in patients treated or not with a biologic or targeted synthetic DMARD (b/tsDMARD) for an irAE. Method: All adults included in the French national health database who initiated an ICI between 2014 and 2019, for any type of cancer, were retrospectively analyzed. Follow-up was analyzed between 2013 to 2020, to have a one-year look-back and one year look-ahead period. The occurrence of an irAE during ICI treatment or in the 12 months after its last administration was defined by the combination of (1) hospitalization for a cause evoking an irAE of any nature, except endocrinopathy, and (2) either the discontinuation of the ICI, or the initiation of corticosteroids, or of a conventional DMARD or a b/tsDMARD, or a new recognition as a long-term disabling condition (LTD) for an autoimmune or inflammatory disease. Patients with irAE treated with b/tsDMARD were matched (1:3) at the time they initiated b/tsDMARD to those who did not initiate b/tsDMARD, using a dynamic propensity score calculated every 30 days. The propensity score included gender, type of cancer, type of ICI, time from cancer to initiation of ICI and from initiation of ICI to irAE, use of corticosteroids, hospitalization in intensive care unit, type of irAE, number of LTDs, Charlson’s index and FDep social deprivation index. Overall survival was compared between the two groups using a Cox model. A sensitivity analysis restricted to gastrointestinal and rheumatic irAEs was performed.

Results: 71,723 patients (men: 66.0%, median age: 66 years) initiating an ICI were analyzed. An hospitalized irAE occurred in 7883 patients (11.0%), irAE occurred at a median time of 72 days after ICI initiation, and the 4 more frequent were gastrointestinal (inflammatory colitis, 4.7%), cardilogic (2.0%), rheumatic (1.8%), and pulmonary (1.7%). Median patient follow-up after irAE was 356 days. Mortality after irAE was 4.8% at 1 month and 11.3% at 3 months. After matching, 325 patients were treated for an irAE with a b/tsMDARD (Infliximab 9.3%, Tocilizumab 4.2%, Vedolizumab 3.3%, others 9.3%), including 257 and 40 for a gastrointestinal or rheumatic irAE, respectively. They were compared to 975 patients who were not treated with a b/tsDMARD. The median time from ICI initiation to irAE was well balanced by matching (93 versus 92 days, respectively). ICI was discontinued in 25.4% of b/tsDMARD treated patients within 3 months after the irAE, compared to 22.1% in the group not treated with a b/tsDMARD. Mortality after irAE was 6.8% and 76% at 3 months, respectively, and 16.0% and 17.9% at 6 months, respectively. Overall survival whatever the type of ICI did not significantly differ in patients treated with or without a b/tsDMARD (HR=0.87, CI=[0.74, 1.03]), or in patients treated for a rheumatic irAE (HR=0.80, CI=[0.51, 1.25]). Overall survival was significantly improved in gastrointestinal irAE in patients treated with b/tsDMARD compared to patients not treated with a b/tsDMARD (HR=0.80, CI=[0.66, 0.97]).

Conclusion: In one of the largest study to date in terms of number of hospitalized irAEs and number of b/tsDMARD-treated patients, targeted therapies were not associated with a worse prognosis and significantly improved overall survival in patients with induced colitis, the most frequent and one of the most severe irAEs.

Acknowledgments: This analysis was planned in the setting of the PRAISE study, which received an unrestricted grant from BMS. BMS had no access to data, results and interpretation of the present analysis.

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Figure 1. Overall survival in days in patients treated with a b/tsDMARD (blue) or not (red)
EARLY RESPONSE IN RHEUMATOID FACTOR LEVELS PREDICTS SUBSEQUENT CLINICAL RESPONSE TO DISEASE MODIFYING TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis, Treat to target

V. Konetz1, 2, D. Aletaha1, 3
1Medical University of Vienna, Department of Internal Medicine III, Division of Rheumatology, Wien, Austria
2Background: Rheumatoid factors (RF) are well established prognostic biomarkers in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but the clinical relevance of their dynamics is not yet well understood. Here, we evaluate the implications of changes in RF levels in RA patients with newly initiated disease modifying (DMARD) treatment.

Objectives: To analyze how early responses of RF levels relate to subsequent disease activity outcomes in RF positive RA patients initiating DMARD treatment.

Methods: We analyzed data from 1999 RA outpatients, starting either conventional (csDMARD) or biologic/targeted synthetic DMARD (btsDMARD). RF response to treatment was defined as a ≥50% reduction in RF levels or complete seroconversion to RF negativity. We investigated the prognostic implication of early RF response on the timing of achieving disease control as defined by Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI) low disease activity (LDA) or remission (REM) in patients with SDAI moderate or high disease activity (MDA/HDA) at baseline. We analyzed the first two years of each treatment segment; patients, who did not reach LDA/REM within two years, or patients who switched therapy within this time frame were censored in this Kaplan Meier analysis. In a Cox proportional hazard model we adjusted the observed effects for gender, age and disease duration, as well as for SDAI at month 3.

Results: RF response as defined above to treatment was observed in 11%, 26.5% and 41% of RF positive RA patients at 3, 6 and 12 months after treatment initiation, respectively; RF response was seen in comparable frequency in csDMARD and btsDMARD treated patients (Table 1). LDA or REM by SDAI in patients with MDA or HDA was achieved significantly earlier in RF responders as compared to non-responders (Wilcoxon p=0.042 for csDMARDs, p=0.005 for btsDMARDs). Crude effects of RF response on achieving LDA/REM were highly significant in the Kaplan Meier analysis (p<0.0001; Figure 1) and remained so after adjusting for multiple variables including disease activity levels at 3 months (p<0.0001); in a pooled analysis of all DMARDs (N = 736), the adjusted Hazard Ratio (HR) for LDA or REM in the RF response group was 1.73 (95% confidence interval: 1.23 to 2.42), compared to the RF non-responders.

Table 1. Baseline data and RF response rates at 3 month after start of csDMARD or btsDMARD therapy; RF response is defined as ≥50% reduction in baseline RF levels or complete seroconversion to RF negativity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>csDMARD</th>
<th>btsDMARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N total</td>
<td>1384</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% female</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>81.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration years (median [IQR])</td>
<td>0.32 [0.00, 4.8]</td>
<td>5.92 [2.17, 13.32]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDAI baseline (mean (SD))</td>
<td>18.78 (12.91)</td>
<td>19.11 (13.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% RF elevated at baseline</td>
<td>58.82</td>
<td>62.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF in U/ml (mean (SD))</td>
<td>18729 (411.79)</td>
<td>201.58 (430.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N RF positive with follow-up data available</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% seroconversion 3 months</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 50% reduction or seroconversion 3 months</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 50% reduction or seroconversion 3 months</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Change in RF levels or complete seroconversion at the 3-month time-point predict the achievement and timing of treatment goals within a 6 to 24 month period after treatment initiation. This finding was independent of disease activity improvement at 3 months, and may therefore serve as an additional early biomarker in assessing a patient's future chance of achieving treatment targets in RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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LONGITUDINAL TRAJECTORIES OF RENAL FUNCTION IN ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS: FINDINGS FROM THE EXPANDED MASS GENERAL BRIGHAM COHORT

Keywords: Kidneys, Organ damage, Vasculitis

J. Hanberg1, C. Cook2, 3, X. Fu2, 3, H. Choo2, 3, 4, Y. Zhang2, 3, 4, Z. Wallace2, 3, 4
1Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Medicine, Boston, United States of America; 2Massachusetts General Hospital, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Mongan Institute, Boston, United States of America; 3Massachusetts General Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology, Department of Medicine, Boston, United States of America; 4Harvard Medical School, Boston, United States of America

Background: Renal vasculitis, leading to a spectrum of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD), is common in ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV). The longitudinal course of renal dysfunction in AAV has only recently been described quantitatively. (1, 2)

Objectives: To confirm and further describe the longitudinal trajectory of renal function in an expanded AAV cohort.

Methods: We included patients from the Mass General Brigham AAV cohort, a consecutive inception cohort (2002-2022). We required at least 2 measurements of renal function including one “baseline” measurement (+/- 30 d from treatment initiation date, the index date). Renal function was assessed up to monthly between -12 m and +24 m relative to the index date. We used group-based trajectory modeling to identify renal function trajectories. Between-group differences (between all 4 groups) were assessed using the chi-square test and Kruskal-Wallis tests; time to ESRD was compared using the log-rank test.

Results: Among 375 patients, we identified 4 renal trajectory groups: rapid decline (N=23 [6%]), impaired (N=109 [29%]), preserved (N=216 [58%]), and recovery (N=27 [7%]) (Figure 1). Median posterior probability of group membership was ≥0.99, indicating excellent model fit. Age, sex, race and ANCA type were not statistically different between groups. Baseline comorbidity (by Charlson Comorbidity Index) was highest in the rapid decline group, and higher in the impaired compared to the preserved and recovery groups (p<0.001; Table 1). There was a strong trend toward hypertension being more common in the rapid decline and recovery groups vs the impaired and preserved groups (p=0.08). The baseline Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score was higher in the rapid decline (6 [4, 7]) and recovery (6 [4, 9]) groups, compared to the impaired (5 [4, 6, 5]) and preserved (4 [3, 6]) groups (p<0.001). ESRD occurred in 49 patients, including
References:


Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall (N=375)</th>
<th>Rapid decline (N=23)</th>
<th>Impaired (N=109)</th>
<th>Preserved (N=216)</th>
<th>Recovery (N=27)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline characteristics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (mean, SD)</td>
<td>62 (17)</td>
<td>65 (17)</td>
<td>64 (16)</td>
<td>61 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (N, %)</td>
<td>226 (60)</td>
<td>13 (57)</td>
<td>63 (58)</td>
<td>136 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlson Comorbidity (N, %)</td>
<td>51 (13)</td>
<td>3 (13)</td>
<td>16 (15)</td>
<td>29 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>135 (36)</td>
<td>13 (57)</td>
<td>40 (37)</td>
<td>69 (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>51 (13-88)</td>
<td>7 (6-10)</td>
<td>27 (18-39)</td>
<td>82 (56-97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanente ESRD*</td>
<td>49 (13)</td>
<td>22 (96)</td>
<td>11 (10)</td>
<td>15 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to active AAV</td>
<td>30 (61)</td>
<td>20 (91)</td>
<td>5 (45)</td>
<td>5 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to ESRD (y)*</td>
<td>0.1 (0-0.3)</td>
<td>0.01 (0-0.1)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.5-6.6)</td>
<td>2.5 (0.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKD ≤III at 1 y</td>
<td>210 (56)</td>
<td>23 (100)</td>
<td>93 (85)</td>
<td>67 (31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKD &gt;III at 2 y</td>
<td>144 (49)</td>
<td>13 (100)</td>
<td>62 (70)</td>
<td>58 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKD &gt;III at 5 y</td>
<td>88 (48)</td>
<td>10 (100)</td>
<td>37 (69)</td>
<td>36 (34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Among patients who experienced ESRD.

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the first-line drug in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and many other rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs). It is widely recognized that patients prescribed with this, or other similar drugs, should be properly educated, namely by rheumatology nurses [1] to better understand why and how to take it, the possible side effects, and how to prevent and manage them. However, high disparities may exist across European countries regarding patient education (PE) and support about MTX.

Objectives: To assess patients' and clinicians' perspectives and experiences on education and support received about MTX treatment in Europe.

Methods: A survey was developed by a team of international researchers and clinicians, including rheumatology nurses (from adult and paediatric care), a pharmacist, a rheumatologist, and patient representatives. Common and sample-specific questions were conceived for adult patients or carers (≥18 years) of children/young with RMDs, nurses, and physicians working in rheumatology in Europe. The survey was available in English and, for patients, in 12 additional languages, disseminated between May and December 2022. Ethics committee approval was obtained (116_CIEPC/2022_JPC).

Results: Complete responses were obtained from 1536 patients (52% with RA), 154 caregivers, 335 nurses, and 299 physicians (96% rheumatologists), from 24 European Countries, mainly from Northern (nurses) and Southern Europe (patients and physicians) (Table 1). Only 28% of patients had a specific nurse consultation when they started oral MTX, slightly increasing when the subcutaneous form was prescribed (42%), with variations across Europe, being higher in the Western (43%) and Northern (39%) and lower in Eastern (23%) and Southern (11%). These patients' perspectives are somewhat in line with physicians' perspectives, although according to nurses the access to them is higher, independent of the form of prescription (Table 1). Physicians perceive higher opportunities to discuss patients' MTX concerns than the patients themselves (Table 1). Patients had more opportunities to voice their concerns (≥7 on a scale from 0 to 10) about MTX before starting it, in Western (57%) and Northern (42%) than in Southern (36%) and Eastern (31%) Europe. According to 47% of nurses, PE occurs on the same day of prescription, with the consultation lasting between 10-30 minutes in 50% of cases or even less than 10’ (15%). 37% of nurses do not perform MTX-related follow-up appointments. Only half of the nurses (49%) received specific training to advise patients about MTX (data not shown).
Table 1. Distribution of survey responses across Europe and education opportunities about MTX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients and carers</th>
<th>Nurses (n=335)</th>
<th>Physicians (n=297)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Region*</td>
<td>% North 22 52 21</td>
<td>% South 37 10 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% East 21 17 22</td>
<td>% West 20 21 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on your experience, does every patient that initiates MTX have at least one educational session with a nurse?</td>
<td>% Yes, both 61 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Yes, only</td>
<td>25 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If SC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you had an educational session with a nurse at start of...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oral MTX?</td>
<td>% yes 28 -- --</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC MTX?</td>
<td>% yes 42 -- --</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to discuss concerns about MTX before starting (from 0 to 10)</td>
<td>mean (SD) 4.9 (3.9) 76 (3.3) 8.6 (1.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*According to United Nations geoscheme.

Around 77% of patients had/have concerns about potential unpleasant side effects, which were discussed with health professionals (mainly with rheumatologists) in 68% of the cases, despite not being clarified 46% of the times. 

Conclusion: PE and support about MTX are unequal across Europe and can be improved by providing opportunities to clarify concerns, namely by providing patients with more access to nursing consultations. There is an overall agreement between patients and clinicians regarding key information areas of education, although a tailored approach is required.

REFERENCE:

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**OP0275-HPR**

‘IT’S A LOT TO TAKE IN’: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS STARTING METHOTREXATE

Keywords: Patient information and education, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Systematic review

S. Logan1, S. Hider1,2, J. Green3, S. Ryan2. 1Kelee University, School of Medicine, Keele, United Kingdom; 2Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Haywood Hospital, Staffordshire, United Kingdom; 3Kelee University, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Keele, United Kingdom

Background: Guidelines recommend that people with Inflammatory Arthritis have access to tailored information when starting treatment with Methotrexate (MTX) [1]. It is not known what information people with Inflammatory Arthritis (IA) need to take MTX. Many people have concerns about the risk-benefit profile of MTX and so do not start or continue MTX.

Objectives: To identify and synthesize knowledge of the characteristics, content and preferred format of information that with IA need to take MTX.

Methods: A PROSPERO registered systematic literature search (CRD420222325249) was conducted using Medline, Embase, Cinahl, PsycInfo, GreyEU, Web of Science and Open Dissertation databases. All full-length articles and conference abstracts identifying information and support needs of people with Inflammatory Arthritis, and oral or sub-cutaneous MTX as the main conventional DMARD considered in the study were assessed for inclusion. The systematic review was conducted and reported in accordance with the Joanna Briggs Institute methodological guidance for Mixed Methods Systematic Reviews [2] using a convergent integrated approach and the standards of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) Statement.

Results: 8468 studies were identified. 169 studies were reviewed by full text of which 13 studies met the inclusion criteria. Seven quantitative studies used cross-sectional internet (n=2), postal (n=2), and rheumatology clinic (n=3) surveys, two mixed methods studies, one cross-sectional survey with clinic observations and one cross-sectional survey and focus group, and four qualitative (one interview and three focus group) studies. The combined studies included 5425 adults over the age of 18 years (20-84 yrs), most were female (71%, n=2434). More people were enrolled into studies (n6) involving people with a diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis (n=2278) than studies (n=7) involving people with IA (n=840). Studies were conducted in the UK (n=4), Netherlands (n=3), Spain (n=2), Australia (n=2), Canada (n=1) and Japan (n=1) and reported in English. Qualitative results were quantized. Three main themes were identified, with an overarching theme of a need for person-centred information about Methotrexate. 1: Information to support understanding and acceptance of the need for treatment with MTX: Learning about IA diagnosis, rationale for MTX in context of IA, benefits of MTX) 2: Concerns about MTX: including risk, likelihood and management of side effects, drug interactions, impacts upon lifestyle, developing medication self-management skills 3: Content and methods of information delivery: information sources, importance of support from healthcare professionals (hcp), family and friends, value of a therapeutic relationship with hcp.

Conclusion: People with IA have individual, multi-faceted information and support needs about both their condition and MTX, to enable them to take MTX. Further research is recommended to explore a) the expectations of information and support before receiving information about MTX, b) experiences of people receiving information at the time of starting MTX and c) strategies to improve information and support during the course of taking MTX.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**OP0276-HPR**

DAY-TO-DAY FLUCTUATIONS OF FATIGUE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life, Systemic sclerosis

A. Velauthapillai1, M. Vonk1, C. Van den Ende1, J. E. Vriesekolken2. 1Redboud University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2Sint Maartenskliniek, Research and Innovation, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a rare autoimmune disease with a huge impact on physical health as well as social well-being, with fatigue being the major problem experienced by patients with respect to their well-being [1].
While fatigue is being reported to be fluctuating and unpredictable, the dynamic nature of fatigue is not well understood [1, 2].

**Objectives:** To examine the within-person fluctuations and clinically meaningful changes in fatigue, as well as the within-person association of fatigue and time-varying determinants in SSc.

**Methods:** We performed a daily-diary study in adult patients with a clinical diagnosis of SSc. Patients with pulmonary hypertension or severe pulmonary function disturbances (i.e. vital capacity and diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide < 50%) were excluded. During 14 days patients completed daily assessments at four fixed time points (i.e. 9 a.m., 1 p.m., 5 p.m., 9 p.m.) of fatigue severity and time-varying determinants (i.e. negative affect, positive affect, pain, quality of sleep and perceived exertion of physical activity. As proxy for clinical meaningful change in fatigue the probability of acute change(PAC) was assessed, i.e. the chance that change in day-to-day fatigue levels exceeded the minimally clinical important difference for fatigue[3]. Using multilevel models the within-person fluctuations in fatigue and its association with time-varying determinants were examined. Based on the extent of clustering, the time-varying determinants were disentangled into their corresponding levels (within persons (within day as well as across days) and between persons) and added to the multilevel model. Models were adjusted for confounding (i.e. BMI, sex, age, and history of covid-infection) where appropriate.

**Results:** Fifty-seven patients with SSc, 35% male with mean(SD) age 54.3(14.6) years, participated. The disease duration was mean(SD) 6.9(4.8) years and 29.8 % was diagnosed with diffuse cutaneous SSc. Eighty percent of all observations were completed. During the study period, change in day-to-day fatigue exceeded the MCID mean(SD) 5.7(1.9) times. The PAC was mean(SD) 0.44(0.14), ranging from 0.08-0.77. For fatigue a between-person variation of 49% and a within-person variation of 51% was observed. With respect to confounders, only BMI was significant in the models for time-varying negative and positive affect. The final models showed significant within-person association with fatigue fluctuations and changes in time-varying determinants within a day, between days and between patients (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** This is the first quantitative study showing that fatigue in SSc is characterized by a dynamic course and that approximately half of the day-to-day fluctuations are clinically meaningful, confirming the results of qualitative studies[2]. Moreover, when patients reported more fatigue than usual, they also reported more pain, more negative affect, less positive affect, more perceived exertion of physical activity, and worse quality of sleep than usual.

Table 1. Association of within-person fluctuations of fatigue and time-varying determinants at each level. All β are significant (p-value < 0.05). * corrected for BMI, β regression coefficient, N/A: not applicable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Within-person fatigue fluctuation</th>
<th>β (95% CI) level 1</th>
<th>β (95% CI) level 2</th>
<th>β (95% CI) level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Negative affect</strong></td>
<td>0.44(0.37, 0.51)</td>
<td>0.41(0.31, 0.50)</td>
<td>0.72(0.46, 0.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive affect</td>
<td>-0.60(-0.66, -0.53)</td>
<td>-0.61(-0.69, -0.53)</td>
<td>-0.74(-0.55, -0.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>0.46(0.39, 0.52)</td>
<td>0.40(0.37, 0.67)</td>
<td>0.65(0.33, 0.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived exertion of physical activity</td>
<td>0.19(0.15, 0.24)</td>
<td>0.25(0.16, 0.35)</td>
<td>0.76(0.48, 1.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of sleep</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-0.20(-0.27, -0.14)</td>
<td>-0.48(-0.80, -0.16)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Arthritis Velauchapillai: None declared, Madelon Vonk Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, but not pertaining to this study.

**Grant/research support from:** Research grants from Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen Biotech.


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The relationship between health literacy and treatment status in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus who achieved lupus low disease activity state: the Trump2-SLE project

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Treat to target

Background: Although the relationship between health literacy and treatment outcome has been reported in certain illnesses,[1,2] it remains unclear how health literacy affects treatment selection.

Objectives: This study aims to determine the relationship between health literacy and treatment status in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) who have achieved a low disease activity state (LLDAS).

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted on 266 SLE patients who had achieved LLDAS, registered in the TRUMP2-SLE study,[3] an ongoing multicenter cohort study conducted at five academic centers in Japan. The main exposure was the health literacy scores (0-56) of the enrolled patients, as measured by the 14-item Communicative Critical Health Literacy Scale (FCCHL). The primary outcomes were daily glucocorticoid dose, hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) use, and immunosuppressant use. A secondary outcome was chronic disease measured by Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics-Damage Index (SLICC-DI). Odds ratios (ORs) to assess the relationship between health literacy and treatment status were estimated with adjustment for confounders (age, sex, income, education, disease duration, and SLICC-DI).

Results: The median age of the patients was 44 years (interquartile range [IQR]: 36-58), 88% were female, and the median disease duration was 13 years (IQR: 7-20). The median FCCHL score were 3.1 (IQR: 3.0-3.5). The median daily glucocorticoid dose (prednisolone equivalent) was 4 mg (IQR: 2.5-5). HCQ was used in 122 (45.9%) and immunosuppressant use was used in 174 (65.4%) of enrolled patients, respectively. FCCHL score was not associated with glucocorticoid dose (p = 0.016). FCCHL score was not statistically different between patients with and without immunosuppressants (median 3.07 [IQR: 2.79-3.36] and 3.04 [IQR: 2.71-3.29]; p = 0.81) but statistically different between patients with and without HCQ (median 3.14 [IQR: 2.36-3.93] and 3.00 [IQR: 2.71-3.25]; p = 0.0028). After adjustment for confounders, HCQ use was significantly associated with FCCHL score (OR: 2.27, 95% confidence interval: 1.19-4.36). FCCHL score was not statistically associated with SLICC-DI (IQR: 2.0, p = 0.0091).

Conclusion: Even among the SLE patients who have achieved LLDAS, the preference of HCQ usage may vary depending on health literacy.

References:

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Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Outcomes management

Background: The Rheumatoid Arthritis Impact of Disease (RAID) is a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) originating from a EULAR initiative. It supports patient-centered care and shared decision-making between patient and rheumatologist regarding treatment and adjustment of medication. RAID could be a useful tool in remote monitoring, and its association with disease activity is thus of interest.[1] It is not known if RAID is responsive and discriminative to disease activity flares.

Objectives: To explore the responsiveness of the RAID (sum score and single domain scores) to clinical disease flare and to assess its discriminative ability with regard to flare.

Methods: We used data from the two Norwegian multicenter ARCTIC REWIND trials assessing tapering of TNFi and csDMARDs (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT01818308).[2] Eligible participants had RA (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria), were in sustained remission for ≥12 months on stable DMARDs with Disease Activity Score (DAS) remission combined with no swollen joints. In the TNFi trial, patients were randomized to stable TNFi or tapering to discontinuation of TNFi (stable csDMARD comecodination). Patients in the csDMARD trial were randomized to stable or half dose treatment for the first year. Study visits with assessment of disease activity were conducted every four months, if a flare was suspected between visits the patient was seen within a week. flare was defined as a combination of DAS≥1.6, an increase in DAS ≥0.6 units from the previous visit and minimum two swollen joints. If a patient did not fulfill these criteria, a disease flare could be recorded if both the patient and investigator agreed that a clinically significant flare had occurred. If a flare was confirmed, the full dose of the study medication was reinstated or (in the stable-dose group) treatment adjusted according to current recommendations. We evaluated the median RAID score at the last visit before flare, flare visit and first visit after flare in relation to the suggested ≤2 RAID threshold for patient acceptable symptom state (PASS), and assessed the changes between those visits using Wilcoxon rank-sum test.[3] The ability of RAID to detect disease flare was assessed using the area under the ROC curve (AUC) based on logistic regression models. For comparison, similar analyses were performed for patient global assessment (PGA), DAS and C-reactive protein (CRP).

Results: Of the 248 patients included, 159 (64%) were female. Mean (SD) age and disease duration were 56 (11.8) and 6.3 (5.7) years. For patients who experienced a flare the median (IQR) RAID score was 0.9 (0.3, 1.4) at last visit prior to flare with 86% of scores within the PASS range. At the flare visit median RAID was 2.6 (1.4, 5.6) with only 30% of scores within the PASS range (Figure 1). Similar changes were observed in DAS, PGA and CRP. All seven RAID domains increased significantly at the flare visit (p-values < 0.01), with the largest increase in pain (Figure 1). According to the AUC analyses the estimated accuracy in detecting flare was high for RAID, but higher for DAS and PGA. CRP was less accurate in detecting flare (Table 1). Conclusion: There was a clinically and statistically significant increase in median RAID score and all single domains of RAID at flare visit, supporting its responsiveness to clinical disease flares. Both RAID and PGA discriminated well between flare and non-flare, hence both PROMs might contribute in early identification of flare and patients who might need an adjustment of medication, in a regular clinical setting as well as in remote monitoring of disease activity.

References:
Table 1. AUCs (95% CI) for performance of outcomes in discriminating between flare and non-flare.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>AUC (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAID score</td>
<td>0.88 (0.82, 0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>0.92 (0.88, 0.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS</td>
<td>0.94 (0.90, 0.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.77 (0.68, 0.84)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: We thank the ARCTIC REWIND study group and patient representatives for contributing to this study.

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References:
also a vicious circle as volunteers are needed to deliver the projects, themselves forming the basis to fund the organisation. When preparing its 2018-2023 strategic plan, Lupus Europe was confronted with this frustrating reality with incomes stagnant around €40,000/year, just enough to cover its basic operations, convention and few limited size projects.

**Objectives:** To step change Lupus Europe's development and unlock both the funding and volunteering recruitment bottlenecks by creating an energising Patient Advisory Network.

**Methods:** As part of its 2018-22 strategic plan discussions, the Lupus Europe designed the structure of a Patient Advisory Network (PAN) as a key way to reach its objectives, in a way that combined both volunteers and sponsors motivation factors. For volunteers, the PAN offered an opportunity to move from a victim of the disease position to that of an actor of the change, working together with other fellows, equally motivated. Initial patients were selected based on their positive energy and desire to change things and grow skills. We identified (web based) opportunities to grow the needed skills, and encouraged participation. Finalising the team charter, drafted by the board, became the first exercise of the team, which then dedicated itself to support projects from academics, clinicians or industry, and work on own lupus Europe projects. The visibility of the PAN quickly became an additional motivator, and many applications to join were received. PAN members agreed that potential remuneration for their work would accrue to Lupus Europe and be used to motivate and reward the group. For sponsors, we redesigned our partnership proposal, using the PAN to step change engagement levels. We asked our sponsors for a leap of faith that we could drive this to success, and that they would benefit from it as much as we would by making our community more vibrant. We also offered to a all of a sample of what the team could do to support key projects. We engaged with academics to identify valuable partnerships and asked them to give training to the team. In parallel, we invested some of our savings to fund initial costs, and provided soft skills training for the group. Two years later, we applied and obtained EMA recognition as EMA eligible entity. Early successes boosted the team's morale and helped reach out to more partners. This in turn allowed us to “put the program on steroids,” multiplying our support to the group and the number of projects generated by Lupus Europe. Things we had never imagined being able to do by ourselves, like the Living with Lupus survey (5000+ answers) or lupus100.org (info on lupus in 18 languages) or Re-Post all the photos on organization’s FB page.

**Results:** 5 years after its start, the PAN is now rich of 23 highly motivated members working on 25 projects (50/50 industry/non-industry) including some of our own design. It is recognised as a best in class organisation, and keeps growing, enabling us to achieve results we could not have dreamed of 5 years ago. Lupus Europe’s funding jumped from 40k in 2017 to more than 300k in 2021, allowing to do more projects, invite PAN members to SL Euro or EULAR and professionalise some of our support. It also increased our independence from pharma, as we feel free to say no to any funder we don’t fully feel happy with (and we did already twice)! 

**Conclusion:** The PAN project as transformed lupus Europe from a minimalist federation to the key voice and support of people living with lupus in Europe. 

**Acknowledgements:** Many thanks to LUPUS EUROPE’s Patient Advisory Network members whose enthusiasm and commitment has been critical for the success of this project.

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Methods: Interactive live events, of approximately 2hour duration, have already taken place in 15 cities of Greece. In the year 2020 COVID restrictions did not allow for such events to be organized. The project will start again during 2023. Speakers in the events were: rheumatologists, general physicians, anesthesiologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, gynecologists, clinical pharmacologists and others.

Results: Over 1800 patients, caregivers, members of the public, stakeholders, members of the local authorities, healthcare professional and others participated in the live events. Handouts and printed material from HELAR/ELEANA were given to participants as well an evaluation form to complete. The events generated a lot of press locally and nationally, with 4 press conferences, 25 press releases, 18 TV interviews and 10 radio interviews.

Conclusion: Publicity and participation in the events showed that patient education is quite important for the patients and the local communities. Since 2020 and the COVID pandemic there has been a shift towards public health issues and health education creating a unique opportunity for HELAR/ELEANA's School of Health Education to be adapted and become once more available for the patients living with an RMD. This time the new version could be either a virtual version or a live version for many more patients, caregivers and the public to be able to attend.

Acknowledgements: Hellenic League Against Rheumatism is grateful to Dimitrios Kouvelas, MD, BPharm, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, Head of the Dept of Clinical Pharmacology, School of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki for his precious scientific contribution, implementation and for being the main speaker voluntarily. The School of Health Education was awarded the bronze prize by the Health Care Business Awards in 2019.

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**OP0284-PARE**

IPARE – GLOBAL COLLABORATION OF PATIENT ORGANISATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF RMD PATIENTS

Keywords: Patient information and education, Best practices, Geographical differences

D. Weik,1 EULAR, Pare, Zuerich, Switzerland

Background: Rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) are a burden for individuals and a challenge to healthcare systems. Comparing the current and the future number of rheumatologists and the frequency of RMDs, studies state a huge gap. Another key issue is the uneven distribution of rheumatologists in most countries. These deficits are glaring in low and middle income countries in particular. In sub-Saharan Africa e.g. just in the past 20 years more attention has been drawn to non-communicable diseases. Great challenges exist in Latin America. Patient organisations (POs) offer information and assistance, are competence networks, represent and advocate for patients' interests and needs and play a pivotal role in health-care systems.

Objectives: Overarching: With its activities IPARE aims at contributing to a world, where RMDs are recognized, prevented and cured, and patient-centredness is an integral part of health care delivery. The specific aims are.

- To connect and exchange with national patient organisations and continental networks/organisations of patient organisations from other continents than Europe.
- To develop, step by step, a network of globally active national POs, national umbrella POs and continental POs.
- To initiate collaborative projects in the field of education, research, quality of care, congress and advocacy.
- To share best practices aiming at developing and supporting POs and pan-continental POs.
- To promote the access to and the exchange at conferences and congresses for RMDs.

Methods: IPARE is a PARE project group embedded in the PARE Sub-Committee „Community Relations“; meaning all EULAR regulations will apply. A small project group consisting of representatives from South and Central America, North America, Africa and Europe has been established. We are aiming at enlarging the group (e.g. by having a representative from Asia), but the total number should not exceed 10 in order to work efficiently. After an introductory in-person meeting at the PARE Conference in October the members decided to meet virtually every 6-8 weeks. Webinars are offered every 2-3 months. Aspects of membership, objectives, mode of working were defined.

Results: The project group members identified - in spite of different health care systems, economic statuses and the extent of the deficits - certain commonalities like lack of rheumatologists (in particular lack of paediatric rheumatologists), shortage of health professionals (e.g. nurses, physiotherapists trained for the treatment of RMDs), delayed diagnosis, access to medical treatment according to internationally accepted treatment recommendations, insufficient non-pharmacological treatment, needs to educate the public and create awareness for RMDs and the situation of people with an RMD, research and patient involvement in research. The group developed a first list of items how these deficits could be tackled, how we can collaborate being aware of the fact that national peculiarities and features and language items have to be taken into account if any material will be produced. To avoid duplication and to check what already exists, an inventory list of informative and educational material is being established. A first webinar open to all representatives of international patient organisations is determined for February.

Conclusion: The project group members work with great enthusiasm, are eager to share knowledge and want to learn what can be implemented in their organisations and countries. In addition the group members focus on supranational issues. The project group members share, learn and convey to support implementation.

REFERENCE:
[1] Objectives have to be approved by the PARE Council.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**OP0285-PARE**

THE USE OF OBJECTS TO EXPERIENCE INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES IN ORDER TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH PERSPECTIVE-TAKING, WITH A FOCUS ON ENHANCING EMPATHY

Keywords: Patient information and education, Mental health, Education

T. C. Wilhelmer1, 1FH-Vorarlberg, Intermedia, Dornbim, Austria

Background: People with chronic diseases often experience little sympathy towards their situation and are in many cases stigmatized. The deficiency of knowledge is one main problem that leads to said lack of understanding. For people with RMDs this leads to the exclusion from social life and has a negative impact on their mental health. To reverse this trend, more innovative methods are needed to promote understanding in society as well as in the personal environment of people with debilitating diseases. This abstract presents a Master-Thesis in the field of Intermedia, created by a Student with an RMD. The paper examines existing methods for communicating understanding of chronic illnesses through media using scenography. It assesses which methods of communication can be used to increase empathy towards physically disabled people and thereby improve their inclusion in society. Using the findings of this research, the student created a concept for a public exhibition.

Objectives: Promote empathy towards disabled and chronically ill people. Educate adults in their function as role models for children, to improve early inclusion. Achieve a long-term change in society, to foster inclusion of persons affected by an RMD in society.

Methods: Examples of different performances of illness and their impact on those affected are gathered and discussed. The analysis contains aspects of the communicative methods that have not yet been researched or sufficiently explored. In the field of rheumatic diseases there are not many innovative methods to educate society about the psychosocial impact that an RMD has on the person affected. Existing materials are mainly targeting patients or their close ones. Public campaigning primarily focuses on medical facts. Research shows that immersive experience is more effective in educating than reading, hearing, or viewing information. The combination of facts and an immersive experience strengthens the learning effect and can have a sustainable impact on people’s behaviour. Through immersive experience, there is a possibility to build and strengthen empathy. These factors are significant for the structure of the exhibition.

Results: The concept of the exhibition is based on existing best practice examples and researched methods. The Visitors are confronted with the topic of chronic diseases in an immersive way. The exhibition is sequenced to first get the visitor’s attention by vision, followed by the possibility to physically get in touch with the exhibition’s artefacts that imitate various symptoms. For instance, they can try on splints or sit on a manipulated chair. The elaborated concept is enclosed within the original thesis, to present the path of experience with the concept. The developed artefacts were tested and are based on several interviews for their suitability and their effectiveness. Their relevance was confirmed.
Conclusion: Research underpins the need for innovative methods to promote understanding of people with RMDs. Considering research, the developed concept with a combination of facts and impressive experience is likely to be successful in strengthening empathy towards chronically ill people. The design of the mobile exhibition is scalable. The concept is gladly shared with other patient organisations and is ready to be put into reality.

REFERENCE:
[1] Wilhelmer Tanita-Christina (2022): "The use of objects to experience inflammatory rheumatic diseases in order to increase knowledge and understanding through perspective-taking, with a focus on enhancing empathy." URL: https://opus.fhv.at/frontdoor/deliver/index/docid/4610/file/Masterthesis_Wilhelmer.pdf

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4539

**OP0287-PARE**  UNMET NEEDS IN RESEARCH, HOW PATIENTS CAN COLLABORATE: THE EXAMPLE OF NECESSITY

**Keywords:** Patient information and education, Sjögren syndrome, Patient reported outcomes

C. Bouillot, 1 K. M. Hammitt, 2 A. Hjertviksten Lindland, 2 M. Oosterbaan, 4 M. Pincemin, 1 L. Stone, 1 AFGS, Patient association, Paris, France; 1 Sjögren's Foundation; Patient association, Reston, United States of America; 2 Diagnosegruppe Sjögrens Syndrom, Patient association, Oslo, Norway; 3 Nationale Vereniging Sjögrenpatiënten, Patient association, Maarsen, Netherlands; 4 BSSA, Patient association, Birmingham, United Kingdom

**Background:** NeceSSlty stands for "New Clinical Endpoints in primary Sjögren's Syndrome: an Interventional Trial based on stratifying patients." International consortium involving 25 partners (20 academics, 4 Pharma and 1 patient association) funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IM2), this public-private partnership between EU and EFPIA specifically requested the involvement of Sjögren's patients.

**Objectives:** Determine realistically the role patients should play and elucidate their added value in such a project.

**Methods:** A patient association has been included from the beginning of the project (even before submission) as partner and is involved in 6 out of 10 Working Packages (WP).

**Results:** Patients were involved in the conception and design of the study. In particular, they established a Patient Advisory Group (PAG). The PAG participated in the creation of the website and the design of lay versions in several languages, reviewed and adapted protocol and consent forms, largely contributed to the creation of STAR, the new primary endpoint assessment score, and participated in dissemination and communication. Patients have an active advocacy role in this project. As the voice of a large Sjögren’s community with sometimes major disparities in care, the PAG has been active in participating in the different meetings and supporting and promoting the project to the general public and Health Authorities. As a culmination of the first phase, 20 patients provided valuable input, particularly during the development of STAR, to ensure that the validated clinical endpoints are relevant for patients, raising issues that had not been considered fully, if at all. The opinions expressed by patients during the Delphi Survey contributed substantially to this evaluation tool, taking into account the patient’s feelings, which are often poorly evaluated or ignored. This future "gold standard" which will be presented to the EMA and FDA, could not have been developed without the participation of patients. In addition, patients were invited to test a webapp that will serve as an evaluation tool throughout the clinical trial. The feedback from the PAG will contribute to the success of this patient-reported outcome tool and has helped to correct issues to ensure its success during the clinical trial.

**Conclusion:** Patient involvement in research is now widely accepted and the benefits are clear. The authorities now frequently require validation by patients. It is quite possible to work in harmony, bearing in mind the constraints and specificities of each stakeholder, in particular that patient participation is voluntary and that their health might not allow them to react immediately. Clinicians, researchers and patients have complementary skills and perspectives which, when shared, will strengthen the project.

**REFERENCES:**

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2721

**OP0288-PARE**  PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESEARCH

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Best practices, Patient information and education

L. Campbell, 1 N. Evans, 2 M. Skrybant, 2, 3 L. Group, 1 K. Dziedzic, 1 Keele University, Impact Accelerator Unit, Newcastle under Lyme, United Kingdom; 2 NIHR Applied Research Collaboration, West Midlands, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 3 University of Birmingham, Institute of Applied Health Research, Birmingham, United Kingdom

**Background:** Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) is now common practice in the design and delivery of arthritis research studies in the UK. Yet PPIE in the implementation of this research into practice is a novel and developing area. Coordinated, planned collaboration and relationship building with patients and the public in communities and health settings into which research will be implemented can facilitate greater impact of research findings. It can provide patients with accessible evidence based knowledge to enable more control in decision making about their own condition.

**Objectives:** To describe the work of an established group of patients and the public working collaboratively alongside healthcare professionals, researchers and knowledge brokers to actively implement arthritis research evidence into practice.

**Methods:** The Link Group (n=10 members) meets six times a year to provide meaningful patient and public input and oversight to all implementation projects delivered by the Impact Accelerator Unit, Keele University (UK). Members have links to community, charity, public and patient networks, helping to facilitate the movement of knowledge and evidence based innovations into wider use, nationally and internationally. Link Group task and finish meetings take place according to project demand to co-create strategies to implement research evidence. Roles and responsibilities are identified early on, members attend project operational core groups and ongoing feedback on implementation progress is provided. Link Group members work with researchers (to ensure evidence based messages are included in innovations), healthcare professionals (to discuss how innovations can be best used in clinical practice) and knowledge brokers (to design the finished output and collate all information). Patients, carers and the public contribute valuable knowledge to the process of implementation, including their own experiences of living with arthritis, attitudes and beliefs regarding the healthcare system and knowledge of networks to open up new ways to share innovations.

**Results:** Link Group members have:
- Co-developed funding applications and research designs to ensure early preparation for implementation, providing advice and support for methods of impact and implementation to be considered by researchers.
- Co-created patient facing resources in a range of formats and for different demographics. For example, evidence based guidebooks, posters, leaflets, animations and infographics for people with arthritis and people with long term pain and mental health (www.jigsaw-e.com / www.beefree.org.uk). The Link Group make sure the language in patient facing resources is easily understood, visuals are engaging and diversity is represented.
- Developed a simple, trusted guide summarising current physiotherapy arthritis research, making complex information more accessible and

- Taken patient facing innovations and resources into local community and volunteer groups, given talks at peer-to-peer information events and shared resources digitally via social media to networks.

Conclusion: PP&E in implementation can facilitate the successful implementation of research evidence into practice, for the benefit of people with arthritis. An established patient and public group can provide community insight and ‘real world’ perspective which can strengthen diversity and reach, and make evidence based research innovations more accessible, relatable and useful in clinical practice. Link Group members have developed a sense of ownership of the innovations that are being implemented and as such are passionate about their work: "Straightforward information and practical advice, choosing words and pictures to reflect a healthy life, working closely as a team, a cog within a wheel, creating something special, a resource with appeal" - Link Group member.

Acknowledgements: LC & Link Group: part funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Health Research Collaboration (ARC) West Midlands (NIHR 200165)

KD is part funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Health Research Collaboration (ARC) West Midlands (NIHR 200165) and is an NIHR Senior Investigator (ID NIHR 200259).

The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2688

Table 1. Patient Perceptions of Utility of RA-Related Blood Work, n=405

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Attribute</th>
<th>Used by Physicians To Monitor RA* (%)</th>
<th>Used by Physicians When Considering Changing Medicationsb (%)</th>
<th>Useful for Patients To Understand Disease Activity (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete blood count (CBC)</td>
<td>322 (78.5)</td>
<td>170 (42.0)</td>
<td>128 (31.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver function tests, kidney tests and/or complete metabolic panel</td>
<td>312 (77.0)</td>
<td>174 (43.0)</td>
<td>140 (34.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein (CRP)</td>
<td>269 (66.4)</td>
<td>162 (40.0)</td>
<td>197 (48.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)</td>
<td>238 (58.8)</td>
<td>181 (43.0)</td>
<td>174 (43.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin levels (e.g., vitamin D, iron, calcium)</td>
<td>118 (29.1)</td>
<td>66 (16.3)</td>
<td>63 (15.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>42 (10.3)</td>
<td>197 (48.7)</td>
<td>123 (30.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vectra DA (multi-biomarker disease activity)</td>
<td>25 (6.2)</td>
<td>35 (8.6)</td>
<td>57 (14.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: *Patients were asked to select which test(s) their rheumatologist orders for routine RA monitoring. Patients were asked to select which test(s) their rheumatologist orders when considering changing RA medications. Patients were asked to select which test(s) they consider most useful to understand their RA disease activity. Bolded values are top selections for each column.

Figure 1. Relative Utility Value of Each Attribute of a Patient Blood Test to Predict Whether an RA Medication Will Work Well for Them, n=405

The measure of preference for each level of an attribute. The greater a level's relative utility value is, the more it enhances a bundle by being present.

Acknowledgements: Funding support was provided by Scipher Medicine Corporation. The authors wish to thank ArthritisPower research registry members who participated in the study.

Disclosure of Interests: W. Benjamin Nowell Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen and Scipher Medicine., Shilpa Venkatachalam: None declared, Kelly Gavigan: None declared, Michael George Consultant of: Personal fees from AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen and Scipher Medicine., Johanna Withers: Employee of: Employee of Scipher Medicine Corporation, Laura Stradford: None declared, Esteban Rivera: None declared, Jeffrey Curtis Speakers bureau: See Consultant, Paid instructor for: See Consultant, Consultant of: Consulting fees from AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Corrona, Eli Lilly and Company, Gillean, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Scipher Medicine, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Research grants from AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Corrona, Eli Lilly and Company, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Scipher Medicine, and UCB.

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The promise of health literacy in clinical care

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues, Patient-led research, Health services research

E. Wang1,2,3, A. Chan4, K. Lendvoy4, E. C. Sayre3, M. Canseco4, C. L. Koehn1, T. L. Fox1. 1Arthritis Consumer Experts, NIA, Vancouver, Canada; 2Arthritis Research Canada (O.A. Vancouver, Canada; 3The University of British Columbia, Rehabilitation Sciences, Vancouver, Canada; 4Research Co., N/A, Vancouver, Canada; 5Fox Wellness Consulting, N/A, Calgary, Canada

Objectives: The aim of this community-led Survey was to identify observable disparities in access to and benefits from health care (HC) services between white and Black, Indigenous and Person of Colour (BIPOC) respondents who identified as Women.

Methods: ACE conducted a 33-question online Survey (Aug 2-19, 2022) in English and French. The Survey was conducted in partnership with Research Co., a public opinion firm. Respondents answered questions regarding socio-demographic information, HC access, HC providers, unfavourable experiences, and information seeking habits. Data were analysed in subgroups and aggregate (including incomplete survey responses). Chi-square tests (exact tests where possible) were used to test for associations.

Results: A total of 1,249 responses were received. 732 (59%) respondents identified as women, 484 (39%) men, 16 (1%) non-binary. Of the women who responded, 163 (22%) identified as BIPOC (including 39 Black, 58 Indigenous, 86 POC), and 569 (78%) as white. Women reported greater barriers to accessing HC compared to men, namely travel (29% vs. 19%) and previous unpleasant experiences (18% vs. 10%). More BIPOC women (68%) experienced barriers compared to white women (56%), the most prominent being time (40% vs. 30%) and language (21% vs. 5%). Overall, interactions with HC providers and rheumatologists were rated similarly between BIPOC women and white women. However, significantly less BIPOC women reported being comfortable asking about medications (27% vs 39%), discomfort (30% vs 43%), and pain (39% vs 50%).

When asked what characteristics they looked for in HC providers, significant differences were revealed between BIPOC and white women [Figure 1]. Overall BIPOC women (14%) reported experiencing discrimination based on gender twice as often as white women (7%), and seven times as often as white men (2%). Further, BIPOC women were seven times as likely to report experiencing ethnicity-based discrimination “often” (8.7%), when compared to white women (1.2%). Results were even more profound for Indigenous women who were 16 times as likely to report experiencing ethnicity-based discrimination “often” (19.6%), when compared to white women (1.2%). Both BIPOC men and women more often turn to family, friends, coworkers, traditional healers, and elders for health information when compared to white respondents. BIPOC women reported being less trusting of certain information sources when compared to white women, specifically patient organizations (11% vs 21%) and official public health websites (55% vs 70%).

Conclusion: Our findings suggest that BIPOC women face unique and disproportionate barriers as well as complex experiences of discrimination when accessing arthritis care. Importantly, BIPOC respondents, in particular BIPOC women, seem to benefit less from their HC interactions. The data further reinforce current literature that calls for the creation of culturally safe spaces and culturally sensitive resources. It is critical for all levels of the health care system to adopt an intersectional lens to better understand and address systemic inequities.

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Acknowledgements: This work was made possible by the survey participants, and they have our deepest respect and gratitude.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Preferred characteristics of HC providers (white vs BIPOC women)

Keywords: Registrars, Real-world evidence, Systemic lupus erythematosus

S. Dyball1, M. Rodziewicz2, E. Sutton1, B. Parker3, I. N. Bruce1,2,3. 1The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2Manchester NHS Foundation Trust, The Kellogg Centre for Rheumatology, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3The University of Manchester, NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom

Objective: To describe differential response of patients with moderate-severe SLE in the UK by ethnic background.

Methods: Patients commencing rituximab (RTX), belimumab or a standard of care medication (SoC) for SLE in the BiLAG-BR were analysed over 12 months. Major clinical response (MCR) was defined as a SLEDAI-2K ≤4 at 12 months. Deprivation was measured using English indices of deprivation 2019 decile (EID, 1= most deprived, 10=least). MCR was compared using multivariate logistic regression (reference group: White background; adjusted for age, gender and EID). Missing data were imputed using random forest in R V4.2.1 (package: missForest V.1.5).

Results: 1601 SLE patients (Female=1447 [90.4%], median age [IQR]: 39.9 [31.5-50.6] years) commenced therapy from September 2010-September 2022 (RTX: N=1177, belimumab: N=193, SOC: N=231), 905 (56.5%) were White, 233 (14.6%) were Black, 197 were Indo-Asian, 81 (5.1%) were Chinese/ East Asian, and 60 were of Multiple-Mixed background and 125 (78%) preferred not to say. 1,364 (85.2%) patients were taking glucocorticoids (GC) at baseline (median dose [IQR]: 7 [4.5-11.1] mg daily), MCR was achieved in 901 (56.3%) patients at 12 months. Black patients had a higher SLEDAI-2K score at baseline compared with white individuals (Figure 1). Black, East-Asian/ Chinese patients, and Multiple-Mixed ethnic background patients received a higher GC dose at baseline (Table 1). Black, Indo-Asian and Multiple-Mixed background patients were more likely to be in a lower EID. In patients receiving RTX, Black (adjusted OR 0.36 [95%CI 0.25-0.52]) and Indo-Asian (0.42 [0.18-0.96]) patients were less likely to achieve MCR. In patients receiving belimumab, Black (0.65 [0.44-0.96]) and Indo-Asian patients (0.29 [0.09-0.93]) were also less likely to have an MCR. Absolute reduction in SLEDAI-2K was similar for each ethnic group.

Acute phase reactant orsomucoid-2 directly promotes rheumatoid inflammation

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines, Synovium

K. M. Kim1, S. Lee1, K. G. Lee2, B. K. Hong1, Y. J. Park1, 2, S. A. Yoo1, W. U. Kim1, 2, 3

1. Center for Integrative Rheumatoid Transcriptomics and Dynamics, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2. Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, St. Vincent’s Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, Suwon, Korea, Suwon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3. Department of Internal Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Acute phase response is a systematic reaction of organisms. It occurs when the homeostasis of our body is broken by infection, tissue injury, and inflammation. Since most of these acute phase reactants can be rapidly secreted to the blood in response to infection or inflammation, they have been utilized as serum diagnostic markers to predict the activity and outcomes of chronic inflammatory diseases. In recent years, evidence has emerged that some of these acute phase reactants can go beyond simply being useful as diagnostic markers.

Objectives: To determine whether orsomucoid-2 (ORM2), an acute phase reactant, mainly synthesized in the liver, directly contributes to chronic inflammation.

Methods: ORM2 expression was determined by ELISA and immunostaining. Fibroblast-like synovocytes (FLSs) and macrophages were cultured in the presence of recombinant ORM2. NF-κB and p38 MAPK kinase expression levels were assessed by Western blot analysis. Knockdown experiments were carried out using siRNAs for NF-κB p65, p38, and glycoporphin C (GYPC). Proximity ligation assay was performed to test the molecular interaction between ORM2 and GYPC. Recombinant ORM2 was injected into the affected joints of mice with IL-1β-induced arthritis.

Results: ORM2 expression was elevated in the sera, synovial fluids, and synovia of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Major cell types producing ORM2 were synovial macrophages and FLSs. Recombinant ORM2 robustly upregulated IL-6, TNF-α, IL-8, and CCL2 produced by macrophages and/or FLSs of RA patients via NF-κB and p38 MAPK pathways. GYPC was the receptor of ORM2 on synovial macrophages and FLSs. Such an increase by ORM2 was reproduced in mouse macrophages and FLSs. Intra-articular injection of ORM2 promoted the severity of arthritis in mice and accelerated the infiltration of macrophages in affected tissues. Moreover, in RA patients, circulating ORM2 levels correlated with disease activity assessed by DAS28 and well represented radiographic progression in 2 years.

Conclusion: Acute phase protein ORM2 can directly increase the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines/chemokines by macrophages and FLSs and promote chronic arthritis in mice, suggesting that it could be a new therapeutic target for RA.

References:

Inborn errors of immunity and autoimmune / inflammatory rheumatic disorders: What can we learn?

MUTATIONS IN DNASE1L3 CAUSING FAMILIAL HYPOCOMPLEMENTEMIC URTICARIAL VASCUULITIS AND EARLY ONSET SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Genetics/Epigenetics

N. Aliabadi1, A. Aldhaheiri2, H. Alblooshi2, 1United Arab Emirates University, Pediatrics, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates; 2Tawam Hospital, Rheumatology, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates; 3United Arab Emirates University, Genetics, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a multisystemic autoimmune disease with several aberrancies in the immune system[1]. Genetics factors are central to understanding the pathophysiology especially in patients with monogenic lupus (single-gene mutation)[2]. Anecdotally, we observe a relatively high prevalence of familial SLE in our region (UAE/Arab regions). Studying the genetics of such cases have yielded gene mutations known to cause SLE. Here we report 3 siblings with mutations in DNAES1L3 causing SLE and hypocomplementemic urticarial vasculitis (HUVS)[3].

Methods: To report the clinical and genetic presentation of 3 siblings with monogenic SLE and HUVS and discuss clinicopathologic correlations.

Results: Genetic analysis via WES revealed a homozygous DNAES1L3 variant at c.572A>G; p.Asn191Ser for the 3 affected siblings classified as variant of unknown significance (VUS). The mother and healthy sibling were heterozygous (carrier) for the variant. This indicates that the variant is segregating with the family for SLE. DNAES1L3 variant c.572A>G, p.Asn191Ser is a novel variant that was not reported previously in the literature or human genetic mutation database (HGMD). Computational (in-silico) pathogenicity prediction tools predicted damaging effect of the variant (PolyPhen: damaging, SIFT: Deleterious, Conservation: high). Clinical and laboratory features are presented in Table 1. All three siblings developed HUVS as the initial manifestation which was confirmed by skin biopsy. In the older siblings who eventually met the criteria for SLE, the HUVS resolved as other SLE symptoms emerged. The youngest sibling has not met criteria for SLE and only has skin involvement with debilitating HUVS (tender lesions and swollen hands/feet).

This patient was found to have very low levels of C1q without anti-C1q antibodies. The patient was identified through our SLE clinical cohort. Informed consent was obtained from the patients/guardians to participate in our institution’s “Mendelian Project” research study. The study is approved by the local IRB committee. Whole exome sequencing (WES) was performed. The results of the initial sequencing were analyzed in the context of the clinical presentation of SLE and HUVS.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Neutrophil dysregulation in systemic lupus erythematosus

ANTI-CITRULLINATED HISTONE MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY CIT-013, A DUAL ACTION THERAPEUTIC FOR NEUTROPHIL EXTRACELLULAR TRAP ASSOCIATED AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Keywords: Cell biology, Innate immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Van der Linden1, S. Kumari1, D. Montizan1, S. Van Dalen1, A. Kip1, M. Foster2, I. Reinieren3, E. Neubert3, L. Erpenbeck4, T. Bruurmijn1, P. Van Zandoort1, P. Vink1, E. Meldrum1, H. Van Es1, R. Chirivi1, C. Cyrlin BV R&D, Oss, Netherlands; 2Experimental Pathology, Consultancy, Benfleet, Essex, United Kingdom; 3Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research, Division of drug discovery and safety, Leiden, Netherlands; 4University Medical Center Münster, General Dermatology and Venereology, Münster, Germany

Background: Neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) contribute to the pathophysiology of multiple inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. Targeting the NETosis pathway has demonstrated significant therapeutic potency in various disease models (Chirivi et al., 2021). Here we describe a first in class monoclonal antibody (CIT-013) with high affinity for citrullinated histones H2A and H4 which inhibits NETosis and reduces tissue NET burden in vivo with significant anti-inflammatory consequences. CIT-013 is currently in phase 1 clinical trials with phase 2a studies in RA due to commence in 2024.

Objectives: The objective of the current study was to further unravel CIT-013’s mode of action. Questions which we wanted to answer are: 1) How and when does CIT-013 interfere with the NETosis pathway? and 2) what is the faith of CIT-013 opsonized NETs and netting neutrophils? Furthermore, we investigated whether CIT-013’s epitope is expressed in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) synovial tissue.

Methods: In vitro life imaging studies using neutrophils and macrophages in combination with monovalent as well as bivalent CIT-013 have been performed to investigate CIT-013’s effect on NET burden as well as phagocytic macrophages. Finally, the presence of CIT-013’s epitope in human RA synovial tissues was investigated using immunohistochemistry techniques.

Results: Detection of CIT-013 epitopes in RA synovium provides evidence that RA is an autoimmune disease with excessive citrullinated-NETs that can be targeted by CIT-013. We show that CIT-013 acts upon the final stage of NETosis, binding to its chromatin epitopes when plasma membrane integrity is compromised to prevent NET release. Bivalency of CIT-013 is necessary for NETosis inhibition. In addition, we show that CIT-013 binding to NETs and netting neutrophils enhances their phagocytosis by macrophages. Furthermore, we demonstrate that a mouse variant of CIT-013 reduces tissue NET burden in vivo at least in part through enhanced macrophage phagocytosis.
Insights into gout management

A 12-WEEK, RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLINDED, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, PHASE 2B STUDY OF SAFETY, TOLERABILITY AND EFFICACY OF AR882 IN GOUT PATIENTS

Keywords: Gout, Randomized control trial


Methods: The trial recruited patients 18 to 75 years of age with eGFR >30 mL/min across 20 sites in the US, Australia, and Taiwan, who met the ACR/EULAR Gout Classification Criteria. Following gout flare prophylaxis for 10 days, patients received either once-daily AR882 50 mg, AR882 75 mg, or matching placebo for 12 weeks. Blood samples were collected every two weeks throughout Week 12 for laboratory tests, sUA and pharmacokinetic measurements. Efficacy endpoint was the percent of patients who reached sUA below 6, 5, 4, and 3 mg/dL.

Results: A total of 140 patients were enrolled in this study. The majority of patients were male (93.6%) and white (58%), followed by Asian (28%) and Black (4%). The baseline sUA level was 8.6 ±3 mg/dL; mean age 54.3 (24-73) years; mean body weight 96.4 ±17.8 kg. Major comorbidities seen in patients included hypertension (47%), hyperlipidemia (35%), renal insufficiency (29%), arthritis (23%), diabetes (19%), cardiovascular disease (15%), lung disease (11%), and liver disease (5%). Following 12 weeks of treatment, median sUA levels were reduced from baseline 8.6 mg/dL to 3.5 mg/dL with 75 mg and 5.0 mg/dL with 50 mg. No change was observed in the placebo group. At Week 12, 89%, 82%, 63% and 29% of patients achieved < 6, <5, <4 and <3 mg/dL, respectively, in the 75 mg group. In the 50 mg group, 78%, 50%, 8% of patients achieved < 6, <5 and <4 mg/dL, respectively. The sUA lowering effect was similar for three consecutive measurements between Week 8 and 12. There were no serious adverse events in AR882 treated patients. Mild or moderate adverse events including diarrhea, headache, and upper respiratory infection were observed in this study. A total of 65 gout flare incidents were observed and evenly distributed across groups during the 12-week treatment.

Conclusion: The majority of patients receiving AR882 achieved sUA levels below 5 or 4 mg/dL, which are two key thresholds for more efficient flare and tophi reductions[1,2]. AR882 was well tolerated over the 12-week treatment period and patients with comorbidities did not require any adjustments in management of the disease. This study suggests AR882 may offer improved efficacy with acceptable safety compared to existing therapies for gout and may have utility in the treatment of patients across the spectrum of gout including those with severe or refractory disease.
Exploring the spectrum of bone inflammatory disorders across the life course

OP0298  CHRONIC NON-BACTERIAL OSTEOMYELITIS (CNO) AND BONE MINERAL DENSITY

**Keywords:** Vitamin D, Bone diseases, Osteoporosis

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Table 1. Mean (SD) of ultrasound and DECT scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>24 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound - Double contour</td>
<td>4.3 (3.5)</td>
<td>1.3 (2.2)</td>
<td>0.7 (1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound – Tophi</td>
<td>6.5 (6.5)</td>
<td>3.8 (5.2)</td>
<td>2.4 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound - Aggregates</td>
<td>9.3 (6.6)</td>
<td>6.7 (5.1)</td>
<td>5.5 (4.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound – Double contour, Tophi, Aggregates</td>
<td>20.0 (13.9)</td>
<td>11.7 (11.3)</td>
<td>8.6 (8.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual energy computer tomography (DECT)</td>
<td>4.7 (6.4)</td>
<td>2.8 (4.8)</td>
<td>1.5 (3.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Ultrasound scores and DECT only from the feet

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Pain relief - what can be done?

**MEASURING THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL THERAPEUTICS ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND SYMPTOM BURDEN IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS USING RAID SCALE**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life, Rheumatoid arthritis


1Weltthy Therapeutics Pvt Ltd, Product & Clinical Research, Mumbai, India; 2Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital, Greater Noida, Rheumatology, Greater Noida, India; 3Weltthy Therapeutics Pvt Ltd, Product & Clinical Research, Mumbai, India

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic chronic autoimmune disease that involves inflammatory arthritis with varying severity showing various symptoms like pain, fatigue, and sleep disturbances impacting and reducing the quality of life (QoL).[1] Patients with RA experience reduced QoL, physical and emotional health as well as level of independence etc and they are more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression and low self-esteem, with high levels of associated mortality and suicide.[3] Addressing the need to improve the quality of life and symptom burden for these patients are vital where Digital solutions play an incredibly significant role. These solutions are also helpful in self-management of disease and symptoms.

**Objectives:** To assess the impact of a digital health program on the quality of life and symptom burden of patients suffering from Rheumatoid Arthritis.

**Methods:** An interventional trial including an RA patient support program was delivered by Weltthy Care digital platform over a period of 16 weeks. Recruitment of 30 patients was done using a convenient sampling method. Patients who were diagnosed with RA were included in the trial. Patients who were under 18, pregnant/lactating, and with hearing disability were excluded. The program included interventions such as physiotherapy sessions, CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) counselling, tracking of symptoms, lifestyle counselling, disease awareness and self-management training of symptoms at home. The rheumatoid arthritis impact of disease (RAID) [2] questionnaire, a validated questionnaire was administered to assess seven important patient domains of disease impact: (pain, function, fatigue, sleep disturbance, emotional well-being, physical well-being, coping) at baseline and at the end of the program.

**Results:** The Mean RAID score of the patients at baseline was 4.99 and at endpoint was 0.737. The impact percentage of program in improvement of symptoms like Pain, Difficulty in doing daily physical activities, Fatigue, Sleep difficulty, level of physical well-being, level of emotional well being were 86.66%, 86.40%, 86.81%, 96.47%, 85.66%, 93.89% respectively. The Paired T- test witnessed significantly improved impact of disease. These solutions are also helpful in self-management of disease and symptoms.

**Conclusion:** Digital therapeutics play a highly significant role in improving the quality of life and reducing the symptom burden of RA patients. The digital patient support program led to meaningful changes in a patient’s quality of life as well as symptoms within a few weeks, even when the patient previously failed to experience a good prognosis during the treatment. Patients reported a highly significant improvement in Pain, Fatigue and Sleep disturbances, which improved the quality of life and patient’s outlook of the overall treatment and adherence. These digital solutions can be considered as holistic care and integrated with routine supportive care in practice to provide improved patient-centred care. RAID score functions well as a good patient reported outcome measure in routine health care practice.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Treat to Target: Challenges across the life course.**

**INCREASING THE ETANERCEPT DOSE IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS: DOES IT HELP REACHING THE TREATMENT TARGET? A POST-HOC ANALYSIS OF THE BEST4KIDS RANDOMISED CLINICAL TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Clinical trials, bDMARD


1Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Willem-Alexander Children’s Hospital, Paediatrics, Division of Paediatric Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Emma Children’s Hospital, Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Paediatric Immunology, Rheumatology and Infectious Diseases, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 4Emma Children’s Hospital, Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Paediatrics, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 5Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Centre (Reade), Paediatric Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 6Hagaziekenhuis Juliana Children’s Hospital, Paediatrics, The Hague, Netherlands

**Background:** Etanercept is a frequently used second-line therapy for juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). It is unknown whether higher doses of etanercept result in better clinical outcomes, but most studies only evaluated doses up to the most commonly used 0.8 mg/kg/week (max 50 mg/week).[1] Although higher doses are used in clinical practice, the literature lacks an in-depth description of patients receiving such treatment.

**Objectives:** To describe the clinical course of JIA-patients that received high-dose etanercept (1.6 mg/kg/week; max 50 mg/week) as part of the Best4Kids trial.

**Methods:** In a single-blinded treatment-strategy trial, patients with olioarticular JIA, RF-negative polyarticular JIA or juvenile psoriatic arthritis were randomised across three treatment-strategy arms: (1) sequential DMARD-monotherapy (sulfasalazine or methotrexate (MTX)), (2) combination-therapy MTX+6 weeks prednisolone and (3) combination therapy MTX+etanercept.[2] A protocolised treat-to-target approach aiming for inactive disease was used during 24 months follow-up. Treatment was escalated in case of persistent disease-activity or tapered in case of inactive disease. In any treatment-arm patients could eventually escalate from regular to high-dose etanercept alongside MTX 10mg/m2/week. For comparison we studied patients who did not receive high-dose etanercept due to decisions overruling the trial-protocol by the treating paediatrician and/or the patient/parents.

**Results:** Of the 94 randomised patients, 32 received high-dose etanercept (69% female, median age 6 years (IQR 4-10), median time from baseline 10 months (7-16), median dose 1.3 mg/kg/week (1.1-1.5)). Follow-up was up to 2 years from baseline (median follow-up 24.6 months). Clinical measures of disease-activity decreased largely within 3 months (Figure 1): median VAS:physician from 12 to 4 (p=0.022), VAS-patient/parent from 38.5 to 13 (p=0.003), VAS pain from 35.5 to 15 (p=0.030), number of active joints from 2 to 0.5 (p=0.12) and JADAS10 from 7.2 to 2.8 (p=0.008). Functional status (CHAQ-score) improved more gradually and ESR remained stable. A comparable pattern of clinical parameters over time was observed in 11 patients (73% girls, median age 8 (IQR 6-9)) who were not escalated to high-dose etanercept despite eligibility according to trial-protocol. In both the high-dose and the comparison group the percentage of patients with inactive disease 6 months after eligibility for dose-increase was 56%. In the high-dose group, 18 out of 32 patients (56%) experienced 26 infectious adverse events (AEs, on average 0.2 events per visit following dose-increase). No serious AEs (SAEs) were recorded after dose-increase. Among the 11 patients who did not receive high-dose etanercept, 4 patients (36%) subsequently experienced 5 infectious AEs (on average 0.11 events per visit); this included one SAE requiring hospitalisation. Findings were similar when one patient who switched off-label in clinical practice, the literature lacks an in-depth description of patients receiving such treatment.

**Conclusion:** Escalation to high-dose etanercept was generally followed by meaningful clinical improvement within 3 months. However, non-escalators experienced comparable improvement. These data do not suggest superior clinical outcomes after etanercept dose increase, while there was a potential trend for more (non-severe) infectious AEs. Larger studies are needed to more closely examine outcomes, adverse events and cost-effectiveness of high dose etanercept.
OP0301  THE OPTIMAL THRESHOLDS FOR PATIENT GLOBAL ASSESSMENT IN DEFINING REMISSION DIFFER ACCORDING TO THE AUTOANTIBODY STATUS IN EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Autoantibodies, Patient reported outcomes
DATA MATTERS: keeping track of your health information

**OP0302-PARE**
THE INTERNATIONAL MAP OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS GLOBAL REPORT: SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF THE PATIENT PERSPECTIVE IN POLICY AND CLINICAL PRACTICE

**Keywords:** Lifestyles, Real-world evidence, Quality of life

J. Lowe1, M. Garrido-Cumbrera2, 3, J. Davies4, A. Phoka2, 6, L. Wermskog5, 7, L. Christen1.1 Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation, Projects, London, United Kingdom; 2University of Seville, Health and Territory Research, Seville, Spain; 3Spanish Federation of Spondyloarthritis Organizations (CEADE), Executive Dept, Madrid, Spain; 4Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation, Executive Dept, London, United Kingdom; 5Cyprus League Against Rheumatism (CYPLAR), Executive Dept, Nicosia, Cyprus; 6Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation, Board of Trustees, London, United Kingdom; 7Spondyloarthritis Association Norway (Spafo), Executive Dept, Oslo, Norway; 8Novartis Pharma AG, Immunology, Basel, Switzerland

**Background:** Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a chronic inflammatory rheumatological condition that can lead to chronic pain, structural damage, and disability. It often has a significant physical impact, causes psychological distress and can disrupt every aspect of a patient's life. While scientific research in axSpA has grown significantly, the patient perspective remains insufficiently explored and the disease burden continues to be underestimated. The International Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (IMAS) is a research initiative of the impact and burden of axSpA from the patient perspective, identifying the unmet needs of axSpA patients and exploring impact beyond solely the physical symptoms.

**Objectives:** By producing an accessible global report on the results of IMAS, ASIF aim to provide its member organisations with much needed, robust evidence of the impact of the disease. The report will be used to raise awareness of the reality of axSpA, particularly amongst healthcare providers and policy makers; with the intention of incorporating the patient perspective much more into clinical practice and policy. The report also provides patients and their carers with a better insight into axSpA experiences around the world.

**Methods:** This research is a collaboration between the Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation (ASIF), the University of Seville and Novartis Pharma AG. ASIF and its members have supported recruitment of survey participants from 27 countries across Europe, Asia, North, Central and South America, and Africa. In total, 5,557 axSpA patients completed the survey, providing a unique insight into how axSpA effects daily life. IMAS collected information through a comprehensive questionnaire of over 120 items on socio-demographics; behaviour; disease diagnosis and characteristics; comorbidities; psychological distress; healthcare utilization; treatments; disease activity; physical activity and limitations; working life; relationships; and the hopes and fears of patients. The ASIF IMAS sub-committee reviewed the global dataset results and agreed the unmet needs of axSpA patients and exploring impact beyond solely the physical symptoms.

**Results:** A mean of 2 physical comorbidities. The report, which will be translated into a number of languages, includes data on all topics that were collected by IMAS. ASIF presented the RMD community.

**Conclusion:** IMAS has shown the global profile of axSpA patients, quantifying and highlighting unmet needs, including unacceptable delay in diagnosis, high disease activity, work-related problems, and poor mental health in axSpA patients worldwide. The global report on IMAS will provide ASIF’s members with empirical evidence of the impact of axSpA on a person's life in order to support their awareness and advocacy work. IMAS was recognised when it won the EFPIA Connecting Healthcare 2021 Awards for its ability to bring patients and medical professionals together in an initiative aimed at improving the quality of life of people living with axSpA from around the world.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Jo Lowe Grant/research support from: I have not personally received funding, but ASIF has received funding from Novartis, UCB, Lilly, Abbvie, Boehringer Ingleheim, Pfizer, Janssen, Marco Garrido-Cumbrera Grant/research support from: My research is supported by Novartis. Jo Davies Grant/research support from: I have not personally received funding, but ASIF has received funding from Novartis, UCB, Lilly, Abbvie, Boehringer Ingleheim, Pfizer, Janssen, Andri Phoka: None declared, Lillann Wermskog Grant/research support from: I have not personally received a grant, but Spafo has received funding from Novartis, UCB Pharma, Takeda, Pfizer, Lilly, Employee of: Yes, Novartis., Laura Christen Employee of: I am employed by Novartis Pharma AG.

**DOF:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.783

**ANCA-associated vasculitis**

**OP0304**
BENRALIZUMAB FOR EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS (EGPA): RESULTS FROM A EUROPEAN MULTICENTER STUDY ON 121 PATIENTS

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, bDMARD, Vasculitis


**Disclosure of Interests:** ANCA-associated vasculitis

**References:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
Florence, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Florence, Italy; 2University of Padova, Department of Medicine DIMED, Padova, Italy; 3Hospital Foch, Department of Internal Medicine, Suresnes, France; 4University of Bari, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine and Oncology Area, Bari, Italy; 5Addenbrookes Hospital, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 6Hospices Civils de Lyon, University of Lyon, National Reference Centre for Rare Pulmonary Diseases, Lyon, France; 7Marche University Hospital, Clinica Medica, Ancona, Italy; 8University of Catania, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Catania, Italy; 9University of Cagliari, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, Cagliari, Italy; 10Niguarda Hospital, Unit of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Milano, Italy; 11Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Department of Medicine, Lausanne, Switzerland; 12University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 13University of Florence and Meyer Children's Hospital, Department of Biomedical, Experimental and Clinical Sciences "Mario Serio", Florence, Italy

Background: Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) is an ANCA-associated vasculitis characterized by asthma, ear-nose-throat (ENT) manifestations, peripheral hyper eosinophilia and systemic vasculitic involvement [1]. Increased serum levels of interleukin 5 (IL-5) have been observed in eosinophilic disorders, including EGPA, and a genome-wide association study identified the IL-5 region as a major EGPA-associated loci [2]. On these bases, an increasing interest is focusing on benralizumab (an IL-5 receptor antagonist approved for severe eosinophilic asthma at the dosage of 30mg every 4 weeks for 3 administrations, then every 8 weeks) as a new potential therapy for EGPA. Recently, results of a pilot study on 10 patients [3], a randomized double-blind trial is ongoing to assess the efficacy and safety of benralizumab at a higher dosage (30mg/4 weeks), as compared to mepolizumab (another IL-5 inhibitor approved for EGPA) in patients with EGPA (NCT04157348). In the meanwhile, isolated cases of patients with refractory EGPA, successfully treated with benralizumab, have been described in the literature [4,5].

Objectives: This study aimed to assess the efficacy and safety of benralizumab in a multicenter European cohort of patients.

Methods: The study included patients with EGPA treated with benralizumab at 28 centers belonging to the European EGPA Study Group. Efficacy and safety outcomes were assessed after 3, 6 and 12 months of treatment. Complete response (CR) was defined as no disease activity (Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score [BVAS]=0) and a daily prednisone equivalent dose ≤4 mg. Respiratory outcomes included asthma, ENT manifestations and lung function.

Results: A cohort of 121 patients with EGPA was included. All were treated with benralizumab at the dosage approved for eosinophilic asthma (30mg every 4 weeks for 3 administrations, then every 8 weeks). The proportion of patients meeting the criteria for CR was 16% at 3 months, 26% at 6 months and 46% at 12 months of follow-up (Table 1). During follow-up, a drop in BVAS was recorded, from a median score of 3 (IQR 2-8) at baseline to 0 (0-2) at month 3 and 6 and to 0 (0-1) at month 12 (p<0.001 at all timepoints). Regarding respiratory outcomes, the proportion of patients reporting active asthma decreased from 94% at baseline to 39% at 3 months (p<0.001), and that of patients with refractory EGPA, successfully treated with benralizumab, have been described in the literature [4,5].

Conclusion: The results from this large European real-world study suggest that benralizumab, at the dosage approved for severe eosinophilic asthma, could be effective and safe to control respiratory EGPA manifestations and overall disease activity.

Table 1. Efficacy outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N patients</th>
<th>Benralizumab 3 months beginning (0)</th>
<th>6 months p-value (12 vs 0)</th>
<th>12 months p-value (12 vs 0)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>P=0.0001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete response [2]: 15/96 (15.6%); BVAS, median 3 (2-8) range; 0 (0-2) <0.001 0 (0-2) <0.001 0 (0-1) <0.001

References:
[1] Triviol, Rheumatol 2020

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge drs./profs. Francesco Cinetto, Marco Caminatini, Pavel Novikov, Alvise Berti, Paolo Cameli, Pascual Cathebras, Angela Coppola, Cécile-Audrey Duret, Marco Folci, Alberto Lo Gullo, Carlo Lombardi, Sara Monti, Paolo Parchetti, Carlos Martinez Riveras, Roser Solans, Angela Vacca, Maria Cinta Cid, and Domenico Prisco, who contributed to this study.


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Keywords: Comorbidities, Vasculitis, Epidemiology

Z. Wallace1, 2, 3, X. Fu1, 2, S. Srivatsan1, 2, Z. Williams1, 2, C. Cook1, 2, J. Hanberg1, J. H. Stone1, 2, H. Choi1, 2, Y. Zhang1, 2, 3, Massachusetts General Hospital, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Morgan Institute, Boston, United States of America; 4Massachusetts General Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology, Department of Medicine, Boston, United States of America; 5Harvard Medical School, Boston, United States of America; 6Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Medicine, Boston, United States of America

Background: With improvements in the risks of relapse and mortality in ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV), a better understanding of disease- and treatment-related complications in people with AAV is necessary to optimize outcomes and personalize care. Multimorbidity (MM) is a patient-centered approach to measuring complications and is defined as the presence of multiple chronic conditions[1]. MM is associated with risk of death and quality of life in other conditions. MM remains poorly understood in AAV[2].

Objectives: To determine the extent of multimorbidity in AAV.

Methods: We used the 2002-2019 Mass General Brigham (MGB) AAV cohort, an inception cohort of consecutive MPO- or PR3-ANCA+ incident AAV cases at a multi-center healthcare system in New England, USA. Comparators without systemic rheumatic disease were identified from MGB and matched to cases (10:1 ratio) by encounter date, age, sex, and race. We adapted a definition of MM as the presence of ≥ 2 of 37 chronic conditions, identified by use of ICD-9/10 codes ≥ twice over ≥ 30 days[1]. Manifestations of AAV (e.g., kidney disease) were excluded from the MM definition. Conditions present ≥ 6 months prior to the index date (date of treatment initiation) were excluded. First, we determined the proportion of cases and comparators with MM using the Aalen-Johansen method, accounting for the competing risks of death and loss to follow up. Second, we used Cox proportional hazard models to estimate the hazard ratio (HR) of MM in cases vs comparators and restricted mean survival time to estimate days free of MM in cases vs comparators. Third, we used latent class analysis to characterize clusters of morbidity among people with MM.

Results: There were 547 cases matched to 5,259 comparators (Table 1); mean age was 59 years and the majority were female (61%) and white (88%). Median follow-up in cases and comparators was 102 months and 66 months, respectively. MM was substantially more common in cases vs comparators and AAV cases had nearly an 8-fold higher risk of MM vs comparators (Figure 1, HR 7.6; 95% CI 6.6-8.7). Over 5 years, each case had an average of 707 fewer days with MM than comparators (963.4 vs 1670.5 days, p<0.001). At 1 year, two clusters of MM in AAV were identified with 76% and 24% captured in Clusters 1A and 1B, respectively. Hypertension and hyperlipidemia were common in Cluster 1A whereas Cluster 1B was characterized by painless conditions (e.g., headache, back pain, GERD). At 2 years, two clusters were identified with 82% and 18% captured in Clusters 2A and 2B. Cluster 2B was distinguished from 2A by a high burden of cardiovascular (CV) and pulmonary disease along with typical CV risk factors. At 5 years, three clusters were identified with 81%, 11%, and 8% captured in Cluster 5A, 5B, and 5C. Morbidities most common in Cluster 5A were hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and back pain, whereas back pain, hyperlipidemia, and cancer were common in Cluster 5C. Each cluster had the highest burden of certain glucocorticoid toxicities (e.g., osteoporosis, obesity, hypertension).

Conclusion: AAV is associated with a high burden of MM and carries a greater risk of MM than the general population. MM in AAV is characterized by clusters defined by morbidity burdens that vary over disease course and reflect a high impact of disease and its treatment. The development of interventions to prevent MM and minimize its impacts are needed. These findings identify an important burden of multimorbidity in AAV.
direction for future investigations to improve the care and outcomes of patients with AAV.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. The Burden of Multimorbidity in AAV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AAV Cases</th>
<th>Comparators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean, SD)</td>
<td>59 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (mean, SD)</td>
<td>28.3 (6.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportion with Multimorbidity
- Year 1: 37.8%, 5.7%
- Year 2: 50.7%, 8.7%
- Year 3: 54.4%, 11.8%
- Year 4: 61.4%, 14.3%
- Year 5: 66.2%, 19.1%

Days Free from Multimorbidity*
- Year 1: 282, 353
- Year 2: 489, 696
- Year 3: 666, 1028
- Year 4: 823, 1353
- Year 5: 963, 1671

*Adjusted for age, sex, race

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the anchor and most prescribed disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) for inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRDs). This treatment can be very efficacious but can also have serious, life-threatening side effects. Adequate education and follow-up of patients/carers are therefore essential and dedicated rheumatology nurse consultations are an important part of this. However, many patients across European countries do not have access to these nurse consultations and there are no agreed and clearly defined standards of care on this topic[1].

Objectives: To develop points-to-consider (PtC), based on the best available evidence and experts’ opinion, on the nursing education of patients (or carers) with IRDs taking MTX.

Methods: A nominal group of adult and pediatric nurses (n=19) from 16 European countries, one rheumatologist, one pharmacist, and two patients, was established by the Portuguese Association of Health Professionals in Rheumatology (APPSReuma). The group convened virtually to agree on the protocol for developing the PtC, including the research questions for a scoping review and for a European survey to collect patients', nurses' and rheumatologists' experiences and perceptions about MTX education. The results from the scoping review and the surveys (presented elsewhere) were then used to devise and refine overarching principles and specific PtC statements through two virtual meetings and one online Delphi questionnaire. European Standard Operating Procedures for the development of recommendations/PtC were used[2].

Results: The group reached consensus on three overarching statements and five PtC (Table 1). Almost all PtC were based on available scientific evidence, and all obtained high levels of agreement (>8/10).

Table 1. Points-to-consider for the nursing education of patients/carers taking methotrexate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overarching Principles</th>
<th>Level of Evidence</th>
<th>Strength of Agreement</th>
<th>Rule Mean (SD) % strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 All patients prescribed MTX and their carers should receive treatment-specific education</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>9.4 (15) 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Education for patients prescribed MTX needs to be ongoing and requires continuous review by the rheumatology team</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>9.5 (11) 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Nurses should have access to training regarding methotrexate treatment and stay up to date through continuous education</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>9.5 (9) 94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supporting patients in taking active part in their care

Keywords: Self-management, Nursing, Patient information and education


Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Pécs, Hungary; 1-Tallinn East-Central Hospital, Rheumatology, Tallinn, Estonia; 2-Zurich University Hospital, Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 3-Midland Regional Hospital, Rheumatology, Tullamore, Ireland; 4-University Hospital Ghent, Pediatric Rheumatology Ghent, Belgium; 5-Fachverband Rheumatologische Fachassistent e.V, Rheumatology, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany; 6-Karolinska Institute, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 7-Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 8-General Hospital of Nicosia, Rheumatology, Nicosia, Cyprus; 9-Diaconihjemmet Hospital, Division of Rheumatology and Research, Oslo, Norway; 10-Institute of Rheumatology, Outpatient and Inpatient Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic; 11-University General Hospital of Heraklion, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Clinic, Crete, Greece; 12-Asociación Nacional de Doentes com Articulites e Reumatismos da Infância, Direção, Lisbon, Portugal; 13-Hospital Universitari de Canarias, Rheumatology, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain; 14-European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology, PARE, Zurich, Switzerland; 15-Cyprus League For People with Rheumatism, Board, Nicosia, Cyprus; 16-King's College London, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 17-King's College Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 18-Nursing School of Lisbon (ESEL), Nursing Research, Innovation and Development Centre of Lisbon (CIDNUR), Lisboa, Portugal; 19-QLV Research Consulting, Scientific Coordinator, Coimbra, Portugal.
"So what now?" - living and planning life while co-existing with an RMD

**Keywords:** Pregnancy and reproduction, Patient information and education

A. Van Steensel - Boom\(^1\), H. Wintjes\(^1\), L. F. Perez-Garcia\(^1\), E. Röder\(^2\), H. T. Smeets\(^1\), L. J. Kranenburg - van Koppen\(^1\), R. Dohlain\(^1\).

**Erasmus University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands**

**Background:** Inflammatory rheumatic diseases (RD) often affect women in their childbearing years. Despite extensive counselling, we noticed that in RD patients there is an increasing need of more information concerning pregnancy and parenting. This suggests that there are still unexplored information needs regarding pregnancy and parenting in women with RD. To our knowledge, there are no studies exploring these unidentified information needs.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the unmet needs of women diagnosed with RD that received highly specialized care in a tertiary Reproductive Rheumatology center.

**Methods:** Women (≥18 years) diagnosed with RD (such as rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis or juvenile idiopathic arthritis), who were followed-up by the Reproductive Rheumatology team from the Department of Rheumatology of the Erasmus University Medical Center were invited to complete an online questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into different sections: pre-conception, pregnancy, post-partum, parenthood and support received/needed by informal caregivers such as family, friends, neighbors etc. The questions were related to the support and information provided by the team, problems experienced, unmet needs and the patient's general characteristics.

The patients were offered the possibility to give additional remarks (free text). Descriptive statistics were used to represent the outcomes.

**Results:** From a total of 181 women who were invited to fill out the online questionnaire, 95 women (52%) completed the questionnaire. It concerns women in the age between 22 and 45 (mean of 33yrs), with a RD, who received their first (n=56), second, or third baby between 2019 and 2021. Overall, the care of the rheumatology team was highly rated by the women (satisfaction score of 88 (scale 0-100) for the rheumatologist and 92 (scale 0-100) for the rheumatology nurses) (Table 1).

18 Women (19%) experienced any problem during the period around their delivery and/or post-partum. Six women indicated that their problems persisted. A lack of mental health support regarding disease coping (4 out 6) was the most frequently mentioned persisting problem. In addition 2 out of 6 women indicated a need for additional communication with the rheumatology team regarding information, indication and adjustment of their medication between the regular outpatient clinic visits.

**Conclusion:** The care provided by the Reproductive Rheumatology team was highly rated by the majority of the women. Nevertheless, the following unmet needs were identified: a) mental health support regarding disease coping and b) the opportunity to communicate about medication beyond the regular outpatient visits. Despite a very high satisfaction rate of patients treated by the Reproductive Rheumatology team some of them experience health problems that remain unsolved. This will help us to improve our patient-centered care as we aim at matching our care as appropriately as possible to patient needs. In the future, we want to identify the characteristics of the women who need more information, mental support and, more contact between the regular consultations, so we can help them solve their problems and fill their needs.
Late-Breaking Oral Abstracts

**LB0001**

**HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPARISON OF TLL-018 AND TOFACITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: INTERIM RESULTS FROM A PHASE IIa STUDY**

**Topic:** 16. Rheumatoid arthritis - non biologic treated small and medium molecules

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Clinical Trials, Targeted biologic synthetic drugs

X. Zeng, C. Wu, J. Hu, S. Liu, Z. Jiang, J. Li, X. Wang, J. Liu, C. Liang, G. Yang. 1Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China; 2Peking University People’s Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China; 3First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, School of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Zhengzhou, China; 4First Affiliated Hospital of Jilin University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Changchun, China; 5Zhuozhou Central Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Zhuzhou, China; 6Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Taiyuan, Shanxi, China; 7Jiujing No. 1 People’s Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Jiujing, China; 8highlighttpharma, N/A, hangzhou, China

**Background:** None of the currently approved treatments for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) can achieve ACR50 in >50% of the patients, and ~20% of the RA patients are considered “difficult to treat” failing ≥2 targeted therapies. TLL-018 is a highly selective dual JAK1/2 inhibitor that shows potent in vitro and in vivo activity in RA patients.

**Objectives:** Compare efficacy of TLL-018 with tofacitinib in RA patients.

**Methods:** 101 patients with moderate-to-severe active RA who had inadequate response or were intolerant to methotrexate were randomized (1:1:1:1 ratio) to receive twice-daily oral TLL-018 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg or tofacitinib 5 mg. After 12 weeks of treatment, patients who achieved ACR50 at the same treatment, and those who didn’t change treatment as follows: 20mg on tofacitinib and TLL-018 10mg to change to TLL-018 20mg; patients on 20mg and 30mg change to continue 30mg TLL-018. The Primary endpoint is the proportion of patients achieving ACR50 at Week 12. Secondary endpoints include the proportion of patients achieving DAS28-CRP <2.6, ACR20, ACR70 at all scheduled time points, ACR50 at scheduled time points exclude week 12, CDAI and other parameters at 12 weeks.

**Results:** 101 patients were randomized, ~50% of them also had prior bDMARDs and ~30% had prior JAK inhibitors. Demographics and baseline disease characteristics were balanced across treatment arms. At week 12, ACR50 response rates in TLL-018 treated groups [10mg, 20mg and 30mg, 48% (95% CI, 28.4 - 67.5), 65.4% (95% CI, 47.10 - 83.67), 72.0% (95% CI, 54.40 - 89.60), respectively] were higher than that for tofacitinib [41.7% (21.94 - 61.39)]. TLL-018 20 and 30mg were statistically superior to tofacitinib (p<0.05). Proportions of patients achieving clinical remission (DAS28-CRP<2.6) at week 12 were 39.1%, 34.8%, 54.5% and 17.4% at week 12 for the 10, 20, 30mg TLL-018 and tofacitinib, respectively. TLL-018 20 and 30mg demonstrated high efficacy in patients who had prior bDMARDs, achieving ACR50 rates of >66%. TLL-018 20mg dramatically improved responses in patients who didn’t achieve ACR50 on tofacitinib at week 12. The most frequently reported treatment-emergent AEs were hyperlipidemia and respiratory infection in TLL-018 or tofacitinib-treated patients. There was one case of malignancy in tofacitinib treatment group. No death, venous thromboembolism or major adverse cardiovascular event was observed in the study. (The data cut-off time was December 19th).

**Conclusion:** TLL-018 20 and 30mg demonstrated superior efficacy over tofacitinib in RA patients, suggesting that inhibition of TYK2, in addition to JAK1, enhances efficacy. TLL-018 was well tolerated with most AEs being Grade 1 or 2 as expected from this class of compounds. No unexpected safety concerns were observed in the study. TLL-018 20 and/or 30mg BiD warrants further studies in “difficult to treat” RA patients.

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**LB0002**

**SAFETY & EFFICACY OF SEL-212 IN PATIENTS WITH GOUT REFRACTORY TO COVENTIONAL TREATMENT: OUTCOMES FROM TWO RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, MULTICENTER PHASE III STUDIES**

**Topic:** 28. Crystal diseases, metabolic bone diseases other than osteoporosis

**Keywords:** Crystal Arthritis, Gout, Randomized control trial


1The Center for Rheumatology and Bone Research, Rheumatology, Wheaton, MA, United States of America; 2Washington University School of Medicine, Washington DC, United States of America; 3Altonna Center for Clinical Research, Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center, Duncansville, United States of America; 4Selecta Biosciences Inc, Clinical Operations, Watertown, United States of America; 5Selecta Biosciences Inc, Translational Biology and Bioanalytical, Watertown, United States of America; 6Swedish Orphan Biovitrum (Sobi), Research and Development and Medical Affairs, Stockholm, Sweden; 7Swedish Orphan Biovitrum (Sobi), Medical Affairs and Clinical Science, Stockholm, Sweden; 8Swedish Orphan Biovitrum (Sobi), Statistical Science, Stockholm, Sweden; 9Conquest Research, Chief Medical Officer, Winter Park, United States of America; 10Selecta Biosciences Inc, Clinical Development, Watertown, United States of America; 11Selecta Biosciences Inc, Medical Affairs, Watertown, United States of America

**Background:** Despite availability of effective therapies for gout, a small proportion of patients suffer from refractory gout and/or are intolerant to standard therapies [1]. In these patients, the inability to maintain serum uric acid (sUA) levels < 6 mg/dL may lead to severe clinical manifestations for which uricase-based therapies can be highly effective, though also immunogenic. SEL-212 is a once-monthly, novel 2-component, sequential uricase-based infusion therapy being investigated in patients with refractory gout. SEL-212 consists of an infusion of tolerogenic nanoparticles containing rapamycin (SEL-110) followed by pegadsele (SEL-037). The intent of this drug combination is to inhibit the formation of anti-uricase antibodies while maintaining immunomodulating effects [2].

**Objectives:** DISSOLVE I and II (D1 and D2, respectively) evaluated the safety and efficacy of SEL-212 in adults with refractory gout.

**Methods:** D1 (US Study, 12 months) and D2 (Global Study, 6 months), were placebo-controlled, double-blind, randomized clinical trials that evaluated two dose levels of SEL-10 (0.15mg/kg [high-dose] or 0.01mg/kg [low-dose]) prior to SEL-037 (0.2mg/kg) infusion in adults (18-80 yrs). Participants with a history of symptomatic gout were enrolled if they had ≥3 gout flares within 18 months prior to screening or ≥1 tophus or a current diagnosis of gouty arthritis, failed to normalize sUA and control symptoms with any xanthine oxidase inhibitor, and were not previously exposed to a uricase-based therapy. Participants were randomized 1:1:1 between the two doses of SEL-212 and placebo administered intravenously every 28 days for 6 treatments. D1 participants were continued in a 6-month blinded extension phase under the initial treatment conditions (Fig. 1). The primary end-point was defined as the percentage of participants who achieved and maintained sUA < 6 mg/dL for ≥ 80% of the sixth 28-day treatment period (TP6) in the active treatment groups versus placebo (response rate). Safety and tolerability were assessed through monitoring of adverse events (AEs) and laboratory testing.

**Results:** A total of 265 participants (D1, n=112 [96% male, 66% ≥ 50 years]; D2, n=153 [97% male, 72% ≥ 50 years]) were randomized into the three treatment arms. Response rates in all treatment groups were significantly different from placebo (p ≤ 0.0015), with 56% and 47% of participants responding in the high-dose group and 48% and 41% in the low-dose group for D1 and D2, respectively (Table 1). The response rates in patients aged ≥ 50 years were 65% and 48% in the high-dose groups and 47% and 45% in the low-dose groups for D1 and D2, respectively (p ≤ 0.0044 vs placebo). Across all participants in the treatment groups, median sUA levels were reduced by ~96% and ~75% from baseline at TP6 for D1 and D2, respectively (p<0.001 vs placebo). The safety profile of SEL-212 was favorable, with 3.4% and 4.5% of participants experiencing infusion reactions in the high and low-dose groups, respectively. Reports of gout flares were comparable between treatment groups and placebo. Six participants (3.4%) in the pooled active treatment groups experienced treatment-related serious AEs (n=4 anaphylaxis, n=2 gout flares).

**Conclusion:** In the DISSOLVE trials, once-monthly treatment with SEL-212 demonstrated statistically significant response rates and reductions in sUA versus placebo. The safety profile of SEL-212 was consistent with that of uricase therapies. Targeted immunomodulation with SEL-212 has the potential to provide a patient-based treatment option for patients with gout refractory to conventional therapies without the need for traditional immunosuppressants.

**REFERENCES:**


### Table 1. Primary Efficacy Endpoint.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DISSOLVE I</th>
<th>DISSOLVE II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td>High dose</td>
<td>Low dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response rate %</strong></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>p-value</strong></td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. p-value vs placebo (Maartel-Haenszel test)

### Acknowledgments:

We would like to acknowledge all participants, investigators, and study personnel involved in the DISSOLVE phase III clinical studies. Writing support provided by Michel Wilson, PhD, of Swedish Orphan Biopharmaceuticals.

### Disclosure of Interests:

Herbert S.B. Baraf Consultant of: Horizon Pharmaceuticals, Clinical Research Institute, Newcastle, United Kingdom, Employee of: Horizon Therapeutics plc, Research and Development, Rockville, MD, Horizon Therapeutics plc, Biometrics, Rockville, MD, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Baltimore, United States of America, Newcastle University, Translational and Clinical Research Institute, Newcastle, United Kingdom, University of Kansas, Department of Medicine, Kansas City, United States of America, University of Pisa, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Pisa, Italy

### Background:

Sjögren’s is a systemic autoimmune disease associated with marked morbidity and poor health-related quality of life, generally driven by the cardinal symptoms of the disease: dryness, pain, and fatigue (assessed via EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Patient Reported Index [ESSPRI]). The population of Sjögren’s patients with unacceptable systemic burden independent of systemic involvement represents a substantial proportion of Sjögren’s patients who have largely been excluded from recent trials despite significant disease burden and overall unacceptable health status.

### Objectives:

The objective of this study (NCT04129164) was to evaluate the efficacy and safety of dazodalibep (DAZ), a non-antibody biologic antagonist of CD40L, in adult Sjögren’s subjects with an unacceptable symptom burden but limited systemic organ involvement.

### Methods:

This was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study of DAZ in adult Sjögren’s subjects with an unacceptable symptom burden but limited systemic organ involvement, as defined by having an ESSPRI score ≥ 5 and EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index (ESSDAI) score ≤ 5. Eligible subjects were randomized 1:1 to receive intravenous DAZ 1500 mg or placebo (PBO) Q2W x 3 doses, then Q4W x 4 additional doses. Starting on Day 169, subjects initially randomized to DAZ received PBO Q4W x 5 doses and subjects randomized to PBO received DAZ Q4W x 5 doses and were then followed for 12 weeks. The primary endpoint was the change from baseline in ESSPRI at Day 169. Safety was also evaluated.

### Results:

A total of 109 subjects were randomized and received ≥1 dose of study medication (DAZ, N=54; PBO, N=55). The mean (standard deviation) age of subjects was 49.9 (12.1) years and most were female (94.5%). The change from baseline to Day 169 in ESSPRI (LS mean ± SE) was −1.80 ± 0.23 in the DAZ group compared to −0.33 ± 0.23 in the PBO group, a difference of −1.02 ± 0.20 (p = 0.002). The change from baseline to Day 169 in each of the three domains of ESSPRI was significantly greater in the DAZ group compared to PBO (dryness: p = 0.0066; fatigue: p = 0.0022; pain: p = 0.0010). At Day 169, a significantly larger proportion of DAZ-treated subjects achieved a ≥1 point or ≥15% reduction in ESSPRI relative to PBO (66.7% vs 37.2%; p = 0.008). The improvement from baseline to day 169 in the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue score (LS mean ± SE) was significantly greater in the DAZ group (8.1 ± 1.4) relative to PBO (2.8 ± 1.4; p = 0.0095). Greater numerical improvement in DAZ-treated subjects was observed for the Ocular Surface Disease Index (−14.0 ± 3.0 vs −8.5 ± 2.9; p = 0.1936) and Patient’s Global Impression of Severity (−0.6 ± 0.1 vs −0.4 ± 0.1; p = 0.1781) at Day 169 relative to PBO. Through Day 169, a total of 75 subjects reported an adverse event (AE; DAZ: 37 [68.5%]; PBO: 38 [69.1%]) and the majority were mild/moderate in severity. The most frequently reported AEs occurring in ≥5% of DAZ-treated subjects were COVID-19, nasopharyngitis, anemia, and diarrhea. There were three serious AEs in the DAZ group (pneumonia, influenza, post-acute COVID-19 syndrome, and gammopathy) and one in the PBO group (neutropenia). All serious AEs were deemed by investigators to be unrelated to study medication. One subject in the DAZ group discontinued the study due to an AE compared to two subjects in the PBO group.

### Conclusion:

In this study of Sjögren’s subjects with an unacceptable symptom burden but limited systemic organ involvement, the primary endpoint was achieved. DAZ-treated subjects experienced a statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvement in the key subjective symptoms of Sjögren’s relative to PBO as measured by the improvement in ESSPRI and associated responder analysis. DAZ therapy was generally safe and well tolerated. Larger trials of DAZ therapy for Sjögren’s are warranted to further explore its safety profile and confirm its clinical efficacy.
Methods: Adults with SLE were enrolled if they had clinical synovitis and/or ultrasound (US) tenosynovitis and/or positive power Doppler (PD) in ≥1 joint despite stable background therapies including a maximum 10mg prednisolone. Patients were randomized to 1000mg rituximab (RxNath, RTX) or placebo, on days 1 and 15. Blinded infusions were preceded by 100mg methylprednisolone. Outcome measures, including BILAG-2004, SLEDAI-2K, The Lupus Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Disease Activity Score (LAMDA), tender and swollen joint counts, physician global, patient MSK pain and global VAS, patient reported outcome measures, BICLA, SRI-4 were evaluated monthly. US of both hands and wrists was performed at 0 and 16 weeks. The primary endpoint was overall feasibility. The key efficacy timepoint was 16 weeks. After 16 weeks placebo patients with active disease were eligible for rescue rituximab with repeat follow up timepoints. US and LAMDA were validated against BILAG-MSK models adjusted for baseline.

Results: Of 35 patients invited, 35 attended screened and consented, 6 were ineligible and 2 withdrew prior to baseline. Of 27 patients randomised, 12 were randomised to placebo, of whom 9 received rescue therapy. All completed ≥16 weeks follow up and 25/27 completed all follow ups visits. 24/27 (89%) patients were female, 17/27 (63%) were white, 7/27 (26%) were South Asian. Mean (SD) age was 49.7 (12.7) and disease duration 6.7 (9.0). BILAG MSK domain at baseline was scored A in 7/27 (26%), E in 16/27 (59%) and C in 22/7 (74%). B scores were also present in mucocutaneous in 22/27 patients and constitutional in 1/27. At 16 weeks, BILAG-MSK response was significantly associated with improvement in LAMDA (OR 0.49, 95% CI 0.28, 0.85) and US joints grey-scale (OR 0.56, 95% CI 0.28, 0.85) and US tendons PD (OR 0.33, 95% CI 0.04, 1.01). No substantive difference between arms in efficacy variables was found at week 16. Unexpectedly, results suggested greater improvement in some outcomes in patients who received methylprednisolone and placebo compared to methylprednisolone and rituximab. These measures then converged by 16 weeks (Figure 1), Pooling all rituximab cycles administered (as initial therapy or as rescue) showed improvement in PGA, Physician MSK VAS, joint and joint and PC S scores and LAMDA, but not Global BILAG, SLEDAI-2K, tender or swollen joint counts or and LupusQoL domain or patient VAS at week 16.

Conclusion: design dedicated to MSK SLE was feasible. The new outcome measures of LAMDA and MSK US were validated against BILAG-MSK, these outcomes should be included in a definitive trial. While not powered to measure efficacy, exploratory analysis suggests unexpectedly greater improvement in patients who received methylprednisolone with placebo compared to methylprednisolone and rituximab at early time points after infusion, later converging by week 16. Meanwhile there was an overall improvement in LAMDA and US at 16 weeks across all RTX cycles administered. In a definitive trial, early assessment of efficacy should be retained, but longer observation without retreatment may be required to assess the efficacy of RTX in this population.

Keywords: Vaccination/Immunization, Safety, COVID
Methods: A Randomized control trial involving 1,417 responders that received a fourth dose, only two (1 RMD and 1 HC) reported AEs (0.1%). After the third dose were <3%. In the 1417 responders that received a fourth dose, only two (1 RMD and 1 HC) reported AEs (0.1%).

**Conclusion:** This study provides the first detailed exploration of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine spectrum in young people with RMDs and nrADs compared to HC and highlights important similarities and differences between disease groups. In fact, despite being less exposed to GC and IS, nr-AD reported a higher number of SARS-CoV-2 infections, no difference in the clinical picture of pre-vaccine infections vs B-INFs and a more pronounced burden of post-vaccine mild AEs after earlier doses compared to RMD. These findings may help indicate that in young people the type of disease rather than IS therapy may be more important to influence the vaccine safety and the features of B-INFs.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

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**Prehabilitation to increase treatment success in rheumatology**

**LB0007**

**SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF HIGH- INTENSITY INTERMITTENT TRAINING ON PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY JOINT DISEASE: THE EXEHEART RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL**

**Topic:** 39. Rehabilitation

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Non-pharmacological interventions, Randomized control trial


1Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Cardiovascular and Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 2Institute of Health and Society, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway; 3Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Preventive Cardio-Rheuma Clinic, Center for treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 4Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo, Faculty of Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 5OslO University Heart&Knee Department of Vascular Surgery, Oslo, Norway; 6Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 7University of Thessaly, Trikala, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Thessaly, Greece
Table 1. Effects of HIIT at 3 and 6 months. Data presented as mean (SD).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIIT group Baseline Follow-up</th>
<th>Control group Baseline Follow-up</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Mean group difference (95%CI) (p)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VO2peak (\text{mL/kg/min}) Baseline to 3 months</td>
<td>30.4 (5.9)</td>
<td>32.9 (6.4)</td>
<td>30.1 (7.3)</td>
<td>30.3 (7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline to 6 months</td>
<td>30.4 (5.9)</td>
<td>33.2 (7.4)</td>
<td>30.4 (8.0)</td>
<td>30.7 (7.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue, NRS 0-10, 0= no fatigue Baseline to 3 months</td>
<td>3.1 (2.1)</td>
<td>3.0 (1.9)</td>
<td>3.6 (2.5)</td>
<td>3.5 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline to 6 months</td>
<td>3.1 (2.1)</td>
<td>3.1 (2.2)</td>
<td>3.6 (2.5)</td>
<td>3.8 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§ Primary analysis with multiple imputation of estimates, n=60. *ANOVA; gender, age and baseline value as covariates. **Bootstrap CI with 10000 replications. HIIT: High-intensity Interval Training, NRS: Numeric rating scale, VO2peak: Peak oxygen uptake

Background: Cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF) is recognized as an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD) and improved CRF associates with lower risk of CVD [1]. High-intensity interval training (HIIT) is an effective mode of exercise to increase CRF. However, HIIT is seldom utilized in physiotherapy primary care in the context of inflammatory joint disease (IJD), and the sustainable effects of HIIT have been questioned [2].

Objectives: To investigate short- and long-term effects of twelve weeks of supervised HIIT in physiotherapy primary care on CRF, pain and fatigue in patients with IJD.

Methods: In this assessor-blinded randomized controlled trial (NCT04922840), 60 patients were allocated to a control group (n=30) or a HIIT group (n=30) that received a 12-week intervention in physiotherapy primary care including two weekly, 40-minute HIIT sessions at 90-95% peak heart rate and one non-supervised exercise session at moderate intensity. Patients were assessed at baseline, 3 and 6 months. Primary outcome was change in CRF from baseline to 3 months, measured as peak oxygen uptake (VO2peak) by a cardiopulmonary exercise test. Secondary outcomes were pain and fatigue (Numeric Rating Scale 0-10, 0= no pain/fatigue). Group differences were assessed by pre-specified intention-to-treat analysis of covariance with multiple imputation of missing data for the primary outcome. Per-protocol analysis was applied for the primary outcome.

Results: Median age was 59 years (IQR 52-63) and 34 participants (57%) were female. A total of 55 patients completed assessment at 3 and 6 months for the primary outcome; 27 in the HIIT group and 28 in the control group. Following the primary outcome, HIIT had significant benefits in VO2peak at 3 months, measured as peak oxygen uptake (VO2peak) by a cardiopulmonary exercise test. Secondary outcomes were pain and fatigue (Numeric Rating Scale 0-10, 0= no pain/fatigue). Group differences were assessed by pre-specified intention-to-treat analysis of covariance with multiple imputation of missing data for the primary outcome. Per-protocol analysis was applied for the primary outcome.

Conclusion: VO2peak increased in patients with IJD following 12 weeks of supervised HIIT and the effect was maintained at 6 months. The beneficial response on CRF was not accompanied by changes in pain or fatigue, and the intervention could be regarded as feasible in physiotherapy primary care. HIIT is a viable physiotherapy intervention with sustainable effects in patients with IJD.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We thank the patients that participated in the ExeHeart trial, patient representatives and physiotherapists in primary care for valuable commitment and contribution to the trial.

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Neutrophil dysregulation in systemic lupus erythematosus

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

H. W. Park1, D. S. Kim2, Y. Park2, M. L. Cho2, S. K. Kwok3, 4, Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2The Catholic University of Korea, Department of Biometric Medicine & Health Sciences, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Catholic Research Institute of Medical Science, The Rheumatism Research Center, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Neutrophil dysfunction and dysregulation of cytokines and chemokines is considered as an integral part of immune dysregulation in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). The TRIM21 gene is implicated in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Sjögren’s and APS. It has been proposed that TRIM21 dysfunction in SLE may be associated with a dysregulated interferon response.

Objectives: To investigate the effects of TRIM21 dysfunction and its potential role in the occurrence of SLE, Sjögren’s and APS.

Methods: The study involved the use of MRL/1pr mice, a lupus mouse model. TRIM21 knockout mice were compared to wild-type control mice. The effects of TRIM21 dysfunction on immune cell activation and cytokine production were assessed.

Results: The results showed that TRIM21 knockout mice had increased immune cell activation and cytokine production compared to wild-type control mice. The results also suggested that TRIM21 dysfunction may be a key factor in the development of SLE and Sjögren’s syndrome.

Conclusion: This study provides evidence for the role of TRIM21 dysfunction in the pathogenesis of SLE and Sjögren’s syndrome. Further research is needed to elucidate the underlying mechanisms and to develop targeted therapeutic strategies.

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

H. W. Park1, D. S. Kim2, Y. Park2, M. L. Cho2, S. K. Kwok3, 4, Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2The Catholic University of Korea, Department of Biometric Medicine & Health Sciences, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Catholic Research Institute of Medical Science, The Rheumatism Research Center, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

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H. W. Park1, D. S. Kim2, Y. Park2, M. L. Cho2, S. K. Kwok3, 4, Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2The Catholic University of Korea, Department of Biometric Medicine & Health Sciences, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Catholic Research Institute of Medical Science, The Rheumatism Research Center, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

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REFERENCES:
EULAR Recommendations

Table 1. Recommendations for the use of imaging in large vessel vasculitis in clinical practice

**Overarching principles**

A. In patients with suspected GCA, an early imaging test is recommended to support the clinical diagnosis of GCA, assuming high expertise and prompt availability of the imaging technique. Imaging should not delay initiation of treatment.

B. Imaging examination should be done by a trained specialist using appropriate equipment, standardized operational procedures and settings.

C. In patients in whom there is a high clinical suspicion of GCA and a positive imaging result, the diagnosis of GCA may be made without an additional test (biopsy or further imaging).

In patients with a low clinical probability and a negative imaging result, the diagnosis of GCA can be considered unlikely in all other situations (including the case of an inconclusive imaging result), additional efforts towards a diagnosis are necessary.

**Recommendations**

1. Ultrasound of temporal and axillary arteries should be considered as the first imaging modality to investigate mural inflammatory changes in patients with suspected GCA.

2. High resolution MRI or FDG-PET can be used as alternatives to ultrasound for the assessment of cranial arteries in patients with suspected GCA.

3. FDG-PET, alternatively MRI or CT, can be used for the detection of mural inflammation or luminal changes of extracranial arteries in patients with suspected GCA.

4. In patients with suspected TAK, MRI to investigate mural inflammation or luminal changes should be used as the first imaging test to make a diagnosis of TAK.

5. FDG-PET, CT or ultrasound may be used as alternative imaging modalities in patients with suspected TAK. Ultrasound is of limited value for assessment of the thoracic aorta.

6. Conventional angiography is not recommended for the diagnosis of GCA or TAK as it has been superseded by the previously mentioned imaging modalities.

7. In case of a suspected relapse of GCA or TAK, particularly when laboratory markers of disease activity are unreliable or unobtainable, FDG-PET or alternatively MRI may be considered for the assessment of vessel abnormalities. Imaging is not routinely recommended for patients in clinical and biochemical remission.

8. In patients with GCA or TAK, MRI, CTA or ultrasound of extracranial vessels may be used for long-term monitoring of structural damage, particularly sites of preceding vascular inflammation. The frequency of screening as well as the imaging method applied should be decided on an individual basis.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Christian Dejaco Consultant of: Abbvie, Novartis, Janssen, Sanofi, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Galapagos and Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Sofia Ramiro Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, UCB, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, UCB, Milena Bond Consultant of: Abbvie, Philipp Bosch Speakers bureau: Janssen, Sanofi, Novartis, Vitor, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, and Roche, Speakers bureau: Vitor, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, and Roche, Sarah Mackie Consultant of: Roche/Chugai, Sanofi, Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Sanofi, GSK, Sparrow, Speakers bureau: Roche/Chugai, Vitor, Pfizer and Torsten Bley Consultant of: BioTel Research, Chugai, Guerbert, Novartis, Roche and Siemens Healthineers, Speakers bureau: BioTel Research, Chugai, Guerbert, Novartis, Roche and Siemens Healthineers, Daniel Blockmans Consultant of: Roche and GSK, Sara Brolin Grant/research support from: Neurocure, Carpe Diem Cagli, Ronit Rosen declared, Rebecca Cassie: None declared, Maria C. Cid Consultant of: GSK, SCL-Vitor, Abbvie, AstraZeneca and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Kinkska Pharmaceuticals, Juannil MPs Colinda Consultant of: Abbvie, Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, MSD, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, MSD, Bhaskar Dasgupta Consultant of: Novartis, Abbvie, Roche/Chugai, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Abbvie, Roche/Chugai, Sanofi, Benit Daisgaard Nielsen Consultant of: Roche and Novartis, Speakers bureau: Roche and Novartis, Eugenio De Miguel Consultant of: Novartis, Abbvie, Pfizer, Janssen, Lilly, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, UCB, Grupo gent and Sanofi, Grant/ research support from: Novartis, Abbvie, Pfizer, Janssen, Lilly, Haner Direskeneli Consultant of: Abbvie and Novartis, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Amgen, Celltrion, UCB and Roche, Christina Duffner Consultant of: Abbvie, AOP orphan, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Galapagos, Merck-Sharp-Dohme, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, UCB, Vitor, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, AOP orphan, Astra-Zeneca, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Galapagos, Merck-Sharp-Dohme, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, UCB, Vitor, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Pfizer, UCB, ALOZUZA HOCEVAR: None declared, Anna Molto Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Novartis, MSD, Novartis, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, and UCB, Valentin Schäfer: None declared, Luca Seitz Grant/research support from: Jome and Sandoz, Riemer Stant Grant/research support from: Siemens Healthineers and Pfizer, Wolfgang Schmidt Consultant of: Abbvie, Chugai, GlaxoSmithKline, Medac, Novartis, Roche, and Sanofi, Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Chugai, GlaxoSmithKline, Medac, Novartis, Roche, and Sanofi.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.7009
Adaptive immunity (T cells and B cells) in rheumatic diseases

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Animal Models, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

K. Suga1, A. Suto1, S. Tanaka1, T. Kageyama1, J. Ishikawa1, A. Iwata1, S. Funuta1, K. Ikeeda1, K. Suzuki1, H. Nakajima1, 1Chiba University Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Chiba, Japan

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune inflammatory disease characterized by auto-reactive T cell activity and the presence of autoantibodies [1]. Although methotrexate (MTX) is well-recognized as the “anchor drug” for the treatment of RA [2], its precise mechanism, except antifolate activity, is largely unknown.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to elucidate a molecular target of MTX and to determine the role of the target molecule in CD4+ T cells.

Methods: We examined comprehensive gene expression profiles of CD4+ T cells by DNA microarray before and after MTX treatment in RA patients. We also examined the role of TP63, a possible target of MTX, in human/mouse CD4+ T cells.

Results: TP63 was the most significantly downregulated gene in CD4+ T cells of RA patients after MTX treatment. TAp63, an isoform of TP63, was highly expressed in human/mouse Th17 cells but rarely expressed in Treg cells, and MTX suppressed its expression in vitro. By comparing the comprehensive gene expression profiles between human Th17 cells overexpressing TAp63x and those with TP63 knockdown, Foxp3 was identified as one of the downregulated genes with TAp63 knockdown. Reporter assays revealed that TAp63x suppressed the activation of the Foxp3 CNS2 enhancer. TAp63 knockdown in induced-Tregs promoted Foxp3 CNS2 hypomethylation and enhanced suppressive activity of induced-Tregs. Moreover, the severity of arthritis was ameliorated in SCID mice transferred with SKG CD4+ T cells with TP63 knockdown compared to those with non-silencing.

Conclusion: TAp63 suppresses Foxp3 expression and exacerbates autoimmune arthritis.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.49

POS0002

MICROBIOTA-DERIVED HISTAMINE INDUCES RESOLUTION OF SYNOVIAL INFLAMMATION VIA CELLS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Keywords: Diet and Nutrition, Rheumatoid arthritis, Gastrointestinal tract

K. Dürholz1,2,3,4,5, E. Schmid1,2, M. Frech1,2, M. Linnerbauer1, L. Löhrlein1, S. Lucas1,2,3, V. Aztizov1,2, F. Schaller1,2, J. Hofmann1, A. Iljawicz1, T. Strowig1, V. Taudte6, M. Fromm1, W. Xiang4, C. Akdis4, W. Rothhammer1, G. Schett1,10, M. Zaiss2,10, 1Institute of Rheumatology and Immunology, Department for Internal Medicine 3, Erlangen, Germany; 2Deutsches Zentrum für Immuntherapie, DZI, Erlangen, Germany; 3University Hospital Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen–Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany; 4Department of Neurology, Erlangen, Germany; 5Division of Biochemistry, Friedrich-Alexander University (FAU), 91058 Erlangen, Germany, Department of Biology, Erlangen, Germany; 6Heilmoltz Centre for Infection Research, Microbial Immune Regulation, Braunschweig, Germany; 7Institute of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Clinical Pharmacology and Clinical Toxicology, Erlangen, Germany; 8Institute of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Erlangen, Germany, Clinical Pharmacology and Clinical Toxicology, Erlangen, Germany; 9University Hospital Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), 91054 Erlangen, Germany, Department of Molecular Neurology, Erlangen, Germany; 10Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research, SIAF, Erlangen, Germany; 11Rheumatology and Immunology, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Erlangen, Germany

Background: Intestinal dysbiosis has been associated with the development and progression of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1]. Microbiota-derived metabolites such as short chain fatty acids (SCFA) gain attention in research of inflammatory diseases as promising targets for new therapeutics. Previous work in our lab showed the potent preventive effect of SCFA on the onset of inflammatory arthritis (2, 3). Although effective potential therapeutic approaches are arising, their underlying mechanisms remain elusive [4-6]. Cellular derived histamine is considered as pro-inflammatory mediator to induce acute allergic symptoms and to maintain chronicity. Interestingly, we identified an increased pro-resolving pathway of SCFA-induced histamine secretion by the gut microbiota. In contrast to the effective, direct Treg inducing 2-week delayed resolving effects of the SCFA propionate, we report on an indirect but ten times faster histamine-mediated pro-resolving mechanism via cells of the nervous system.

Objectives: To understand the rapid pro-resolving effects of microbiota-derived histamine on synovial inflammation.

Methods: We used 16s RNA sequencing, HPLC size chromatography exclusion, FMT and meta-transcriptomics to assess proprio-antagonized changes in microbiota composition and the secreted metabolite profile. Mice with collagen- or serum-induced arthritis (CIA/SIA) were treated orally, i.p. or intrathecally with histamine or specific receptor agonists. Cellular changes in spleen, lymph nodes and joints were assessed by Cytek spectral flow cytometry, inflammatory infiltration and bone erosion were analyzed by histology and μCT. We analyzed differences in CNS and PNS via RNAseq of the spinal cord and peripheral nerves. Effects on vessel leakage and cell infiltration in the inflamed joints were assessed via lightsheet microscopy and in vivo PET-CT.

Results: Here, we show that therapeutic treatment of CIA mice with the SCFA propionate starting from peak of disease (30 dp) strongly induced resolution of synovial inflammation after 14 days of treatment. We demonstrate that oral propionate-treatment causes beneficial changes in the microbiota composition and thereby alters the secreted metabolite profile. These metabolites are able to induce rapid resolution of inflammation already after 2 days. By untargeted metabolomics we were able to identify histamine as highly potent metabolite that is increased upon propionate treatment. Oral treatment of CIA mice with histamine or a histamine 3 receptor (H3R) agonist significantly improved clinical symptoms. H3R is mainly expressed on cells of the nervous system. Upon oral H3R treatment we found alterations in activation marker expression in the spinal cord. We further were able to identify changes in the composition and activation of spinal cord (CNS) and the N. plantaris (PNS) of arthritic mice induced by H3R agonist treatment through RNAseq. Moreover, lightsheet microscopy and in vivo PET-CT scans revealed alterations in vessel leakage and cell infiltration in the inflamed joints.

Conclusion: In summary, these data show that the SCFA propionate effectively regulates ongoing inflammation by promoting histamine secretion of the gut microbiota and subsequent H3R-mediated neuronal effector functions that drive the fast resolution of synovial inflammation.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3881
Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Autoimmune diseases, MALONDIALDEHYDE, MYOSITIS, Cell biology, Adaptive immunity


This page contains scientific research about the role of malondialdehyde (MDA) and malonaldehyde (MAA) in autoimmune diseases, particularly rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The research explores the specificity and reactivity patterns of anti-MDA and anti-MAA antibodies in RA patients and healthy controls. The study uses a co-culture model to determine the presence of FOXP3+ regulatory T cells, finding that dysfunctional lymph node stromal cells (LNSCs) from RA patients may be involved in the breaking of tolerance observed in autoimmune diseases like RA.

The research by V. Malmström and colleagues investigates the molecular structures recognized by anti-MDA and anti-MAA antibodies, proposing that distinct subsets of these antibodies are present, which may play a role in the breaking of tolerance observed in autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

The conclusions drawn from the study emphasize the importance of understanding the role of MDA and MAA in autoimmune responses and the potential for targeting these pathways in the development of therapeutic strategies for autoimmune diseases.

For further reading and detailed methodologies, please refer to the references cited in the document.

**References:**

clonal expansion in muscle tissue is significantly correlated with increased CK levels (p=0.03), and tends to correlate with decreased muscle strength (p=0.08).

**Conclusion:** Network analysis of clones in muscle of IIM patients shows shared clusters of sequences across patients. Muscle-restricted TRC5 clones show specific structural features in their T cell receptor, and clonal TCR expansion in muscle tissue is associated with disease activity. These findings indicate that specific clonal T cell responses in muscle tissue act as key players in the pathogenesis of IIM.

**REFERENCE:**

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**POS0006**

**AUTOACTIVE B CELLS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ARE RECENTLY ACTIVATED AND SHOW LARGE EXPANSIONS OF CXCR3+ ANTIBODY-SECRETING CELLS**

**Keywords:** Adaptive immunity, Cell biology, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Reijn, J. Kwekkeboom, N. Blomberg, J. Suurmond, D. Van der Woude, R. Toes, H. U. Scherer, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

**Background:** Many autoimmune diseases (AIDs) are characterized by aberrant, autoreactive B cell responses and autoantibody production. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a common AID in which autoantibodies recognizing post-translational modifications (PTMs), collectively called anti-modified protein antibodies (AMPA), are intimately associated with disease pathogenesis. Previously, we observed that memory B cells (mBC) against one of these PTM-antigens, citrulline, are highly activated. This phenotype persists for years in patients with established disease [1]. The evolution, dynamics and more detailed phenotypic characteristics of the PTM-directed B cell compartment are still ill defined, however, partly owing to challenges linked to the visualization of such cells in human samples due to the limitations of conventional flow cytometry. Here, we visualized the autoreactive B cell response against three different PTM antigens (citrulline, homocitrulline, acetylsine) by spectral flow cytometry, allowing us to address cross-reactivity on the B cell level and to perform deep phenotypic profiling of individual B cell compartments.

**Objectives:** To develop a detailed understanding of the autoreactive B cell response against PTM-antigens in RA with the aim to elucidate features associated with their cross-reactivity, state of activation in the disease context, and its remarkable persistence for years without signs of exhaustion or decay.

**Methods:** We developed a spectral flow cytometry staining approach using differentially labelled streptavidin molecules coupled to individual PTM-antigens. B cells reactive to each antigen were identified together in individual samples by double staining for each antigen, while at the same time excluding cells reactive to either antigen or lysine control peptides. This combinatorial staining was further extended by the concomitant visualization of tetanus-toxoid specific B cells and expression levels of various activation and homing markers, and applied to peripheral blood samples of patients with established RA. Importantly, we performed intracellular stainings, allowing us to additionally enumerate and characterize circulating plasmablasts and plasmacells.

**Results:** We successfully visualized autoreactive B cells directed against different PTM-antigens and their subset distribution in individual patient samples. We observed extensive cross-reactivity against all three PTM antigens with citrulline as dominant antigen. Unsupervised clustering revealed several memory B cell populations, with most autoreactive B cells populating the most recently expanded compartment. Anti-citrulline toxoid B cells clustered with a different, more resting mBC subset.

**Conclusion:** Our results identify citrulline as the most prominent antigen recognized by AMPA-expressing B cells. The study highlights the recent and prominent activation state of PTM-reactive mBC and their continuous differentiation towards ASC. Such ASC may home towards CXCR3 ligands known to be abundant in the synovial compartment. This degree of mBC activation was also found in patients with low clinical disease activity scores, indicating that conventional therapeutic interventions may suppress inflammation but fail to silence the most disease-specific autoreactive B cell response in RA. Targeting this compartment may therefore be relevant for future therapeutic interventions aiming at the induction of tolerance and/or permanent cure. Finally, this combinatorial staining approach presented will be a valuable tool to delineate the development of PTM-directed autoimmunity in the pre-disease phase as well as its state of activation in phases of sustained drug-free remission and/or during teleologic interventions.

**REFERENCE:**

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**POS0007**

**KVV-101, A FULLY HUMAN CD19 CART CELL GENERATED FROM AUTOIMMUNE PATIENT LYMPHOCYTES, DEMONSTRATES CAR-MEDIATED AND CD19-DEPENDENT ACTIVITY AGAINST AUTOLOGOUS B CELLS**

**Keywords:** Adaptive immunity, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Autoantibodies, Autoimmunity

S. Park1, A. Register2, H. Y. Lee3, G. Lutzny-Geier2, M. Aigner3, M. Andreas3, G. Schett3, D. Borie4, J. Chung5, C. Kaplan4, Kyverna Therapeutics, Research, Emeryville, United States of America; 2Kyverna Therapeutics, Technical Operations, Emeryville, United States of America; 3Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen, University Hospital Erlangen, Internal Medicine 5 – Hematology/Oncology Erlangen, Germany; 4Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen, University Hospital Erlangen, Internal Medicine 3 – Rheumatology/Immunology, Erlangen, Germany; 5Kyverna Therapeutics, Research and Development, Emeryville, United States of America; 6Kyverna Therapeutics, Clinical Development, Emeryville, United States of America

**Background:** A significant unmet medical need remains in the treatment of relapsed and/or refractory B cell-driven autoimmune diseases, including lupus nephritis (LN). The presence of autoantibodies is a hallmark of such diseases and implicates dysregulated B cell function in their pathogenesis. The central role of B cells in these diseases is also supported by the presence of B cells in diseased tissues and the efficacious responses reported with biologic therapies that target B cells. KVV-101 is an autologous CD19 CAR-T cell therapy that depletes pathogenic B cells. Importantly, the CD19 CAR utilized in KVV-101 was previously tested in B-cell lymphoma patients and demonstrated efficacy with an improved safety profile [1]. Since CD19 CAR-T cells target and lyse B cells in both circulation and tissues, a complete depletion of autoreactive B cells is expected with KVV-101, resulting in better disease control and clinical remission than the current immunotherapies.

**Objectives:** To demonstrate the CAR-mediated and CD19-dependent activity of KVV-101 against autologous, patient-derived primary B cells.

**Methods:** Autologous CD4+ and CD8+ T cells were enriched from healthy donors (HD), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), LN or other autoimmune patients. KVV-101 CAR T cells were transduced with a lentiviral vector encoding a fully human single-chain variable fragment (scFv) CD19-targeting domain, a CD8α hinge and transmembrane domain, a CD28 cytoplasmic costimulatory domain, and a CD3ζ; cytoplasmic domain. The CAR-mediated and CD19-dependent activity of KVV-101 was monitored in vitro in a set of cytotoxicity, cytokine release and proliferation studies, in response to either CD19+ target cell lines or autologous, patient-derived primary CD19+ B cells.

**Results:** Following a 24-hour incubation, KVV-101 generated from HDs or autoimmune patients induced greater and dose-dependent cytotoxicity of both the human CD19+ NALM6 cell line and autologous, patient-derived primary B cells than their respective untransduced control T cells. Moreover, an effector cell dose-dependent increase in the production of cytokines such as IFNγ was also observed following co-culture. In contrast, no differences in cytotoxicity nor cytokine production were observed when CD19+ target cells (K662 or U937 cells) were co-cultured with KVV-101 or untransduced control T cells. In addition, following a 96-hour incubation, KVV-101 generated from HDs or autoimmune patients proliferated when co-cultured with the NALM6 cells and autologous, patient derived primary B cells, whereas substantially lower levels of proliferation were observed when HD cells were co-cultured with the CD19+ cells K662 and U937.

**Conclusion:** KVV-101 generated from autoimmune disease patient lymphocytes demonstrates CAR-mediated and CD19-dependent activity against autologous, patient-derived primary B cells and thus represents a novel therapeutic option for the treatment of pathogenic B cells in autoimmune patients.

**REFERENCE:**
**SUBSETS WITH DISTINCT FOLLICULAR HELPER T CELLS PRIMARY ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME PATIENTS AND PERSISTENTLY POSITIVE THROMBOTIC PRIMARY ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME PATIENTS WITH DISTINCT FOLLICULAR HELPER T CELLS SUBSETS**

**Keywords:** Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Autoantibodies, Adaptive immunity

P. Gaspar1,2, A. R. Cruz-Machado2,3, F. Ribeiro2, V. C. Romão2,3, L. Graca2.

1Serviço de Medicina 2, Hospital Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes, Faculdade de Medicina, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal; 3Serviço de Reumatologia, Hospital Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Lisbon, Portugal

**Background:** Primary antiphospholipid syndrome (PAPS) is caused by autoantibodies targeting protein-binding phospholipids (aPL)[1]. Follicular helper T (Tfh) and follicular regulatory T cells (Tfr) are critical for antibody production in germinal centres[2], but their role in PAPS is scarcely studied. Some patients remain persistently positive for aPL, while others become seronegative during disease progression[3]. Whether aPL status mirror immunological changes over time is not known.

**Objectives:** To phenotypically characterize Tfh/Tfr subsets in PAPS and explore the association with previous/current aPL status.

**Methods:** We prospectively recruited 73 adult thrombotic PAPS patients (Sidney criteria; ≥1 year disease duration) and 24 age- and sex-matched healthy donors (HD). Regardless of lupus anticoagulant (LA) status, patients were categorized in three groups according to aPL status (anticardiolipin [ACL] IgM and/or IgG; β2-glycoprotein [β2GP] IgM and/or IgG): profile: NN – previous and current aPL negative, ie, only positive for LA (n=40); PP – previous and current aPL positive (n=20); and PN – previous aPL positive, currently aPL negative (n=13). We considered aPL <30 UQ as negative (ELISA immunoassays). Tfh (CD4+FoxP3+CD25+CXCR5+) and Tfr cells (CD4+FoxP3+CXCR5+) were analysed by flow cytometry using cryopreserved peripheral blood mononuclear cells. GraphPad Prism version 8 software was used for statistical analysis and p values <0.05 were considered significant.

**Results:** Most patients were women (n=43, 59%), with a mean age at disease onset of 42±13 years, and a mean disease duration of 8±7 years. Venous thrombosis was the most common first manifestation (53%), and pregnancy morbidity were present 10% of women. At presentation, aPL positivity were as follows: LA, 70%; ACL IgG and/or IgM, 44%; β2GP1 IgG and/or IgM, 33%; triple positive, 16%. Circulating Tfh and Treg cells were comparable between HD and all APS patients (Figure 1A and 1B). Among APS, PP patients had higher frequency of Tfh compared to NN (p=0.047) but not with PN patients. Within the Tfh subset, activated Tfh cells were significantly increased in PP compared to NN (p=0.005) and PN patients (p=0.049), whereas no difference was seen between the latter group and NN patients, and between HD and all APS patients (Figure 1C). The frequencies of Th1-like and Th17-like cells were comparable between all groups, but Th2-like cells were decreased in PP compared to NN patients (p=0.008), and similarly distributed among all other groups (Figure 1D to F). In the regulatory compartment, circulating Tfr and Tfr/Tfh ratio were significantly increased in PP patients compared to NN (p<0.001; p=0.001) and PN patients (p=0.004; p=0.046) (Figure 1G and 1H). No difference was observed between NN and PN patients nor between HD and all APS patients.

**Conclusion:** Our preliminary results show that in thrombotic PAPS, imbalance of circulating Tfh and Tfr subsets change according to aPL profile. Increased PD1+FoxP3+ Tfh cells and Tfr cells, and Tfr/Tfh ratio indicates ongoing humoral response in persistently positive patients. These changes are lost after seroconversion with T follicular cells subsets being similar to persistently negative PAPS patients.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosures of Interests:** 

Soo Park Employee of: Kyverna Therapeutics, Ho-Y oung Lee Employee Disclosure of Interests: Soo Park Employee of: Kyverna Therapeutics, James Chung Employee Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

**Acknowledgements:**

We prospectively recruited 73 adult thrombotic PAPS patients (Sidney criteria; ≥1 year disease duration) and 24 age- and sex-matched healthy donors (HD). Regardless of lupus anticoagulant (LA) status, patients were categorized in three groups according to aPL status (anticardiolipin [ACL] IgM and/or IgG; β2-glycoprotein [β2GP] IgM and/or IgG): profile: NN – previous and current aPL negative, ie, only positive for LA (n=40); PP – previous and current aPL positive (n=20); and PN – previous aPL positive, currently aPL negative (n=13). We considered aPL <30 UQ as negative (ELISA immunoassays). Tfh (CD4+FoxP3+CD25+CXCR5+), activated Tfh (PD1+ICOS+ Tfh), Th17-like (CXCR3+CCR6+ Tfh), Th12-like (CXCR3+CCR6 Tfh), and Th17 cells were analysed by flow cytometry using cryopreserved peripheral blood mononuclear cells. GraphPad Prism version 8 software was used for statistical analysis and p values <0.05 were considered significant.

**Results:** Most patients were women (n=43, 59%), with a mean age at disease onset of 42±13 years, and a mean disease duration of 8±7 years. Venous thrombosis was the most common first manifestation (53%), and pregnancy morbidity were present 10% of women. At presentation, aPL positivity were as follows: LA, 70%; ACL IgG and/or IgM, 44%; β2GP1 IgG and/or IgM, 33%; triple positive, 16%. Circulating Tfh and Treg cells were comparable between HD and all APS patients (Figure 1A and 1B). Among APS, PP patients had higher frequency of Tfh compared to NN (p=0.047) but not with PN patients. Within the Tfh subset, activated Tfh cells were significantly increased in PP compared to NN (p=0.005) and PN patients (p=0.049), whereas no difference was seen between the latter group and NN patients, and between HD and all APS patients (Figure 1C). The frequencies of Th1-like and Th17-like cells were comparable between all groups, but Th2-like cells were decreased in PP compared to NN patients (p=0.008), and similarly distributed among all other groups (Figure 1D to F). In the regulatory compartment, circulating Tfr and Tfr/Tfh ratio were significantly increased in PP patients compared to NN (p<0.001; p=0.001) and PN patients (p=0.004; p=0.046) (Figure 1G and 1H). No difference was observed between NN and PN patients nor between HD and all APS patients.

**Conclusion:** Our preliminary results show that in thrombotic PAPS, imbalance of circulating Tfh and Tfr subsets change according to aPL profile. Increased PD1+FOX3+ Tfh cells and Tfr cells, and Tfr/Tfh ratio indicates ongoing humoral response in persistently positive patients. These changes are lost after seroconversion with T follicular cells subsets being similar to persistently negative PAPS patients.

**REFERENCES:**


Rheumatoid arthritis-aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

**POS0010 PROTEOMIC LANDSCAPE OF SYNOVIAL TISSUE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND DETERMINANTS OF SYNOVIAL HISTOLOGICAL PATHOTYPES**

**Keywords:** -omics, Synovium, Rheumatoid arthritis

**C. Aboo1, A. Stensballe1, C. Nielsen1, H. D. Schroder2, M. E. Thomsen1, S. Déjean4, H. M. Lindegaard5, S. A. Just6.**

**Background:** Pathological mechanisms in the affected synovial joints in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and factors contributing to synovial histological heterogeneity, which may impact treatment outcomes, remain largely unexplored at the protein level. Mapping the proteomic landscape of RA-affected synovial tissue (ST) and identifying determinants of synovial pathotypes could provide insights into the proteomic characteristics of RA synovium at different stages of disease. Additionally, the study identified a linear proteomic and cellular difference between the lymphoid, myeloid, and fibroid synovial pathotypes in untreated ERA patients, rather than distinct signatures for each pathotype.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Rheumatoid arthritis—aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models**

**POS0011 LKBI ALLEVIATES MIGRATION OF FIBROBLAST-LIKE SYNOVIOCYTES FROM RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS VIA REGULATION OF SLC7A11-MEDIATED ROS SIGNALING**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis

**H. R. Lee1,2, S. J. Yoo1,2, J. Kim2, J. A. Park2, S. W. Kang1,2.**

**Background:** Liver kinase B1 (LKB1) is known as a tumor suppressor gene and an antioxidant regulator in cancer. We previously reported that LKB1 knock-down increased the expression of the oxygen species (ROS) and the migration of fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS) from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients. However, the relevant signaling remains unclear in RA.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to examine the signaling pathway of LKB1 in correlation with migration of FLS from RA.

**Methods:** Synovial tissues were obtained from RA patients (n=10) who were undergoing synovectomy or joint replacement. Isolated FLS were transfected with siRNA duplex targeting constructs for LKB1 or SLC7A11 (solute carrier family 7 member 11, also known as xCT) using lipofectamine reagent. After incubation, expressions of target molecules were evaluated by real-time PCR and
western blot analysis. ROS levels were analyzed with MitoSOX red mitochondrial superoxide indicator using flow cytometry analysis. Cell migratory ability was examined using transwell migration assay and invaded cells were stained with crystal violet. For quantification, the crystal violet dye was eluted with 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS). A769662 was treated as a specific activator of AMPK (AMP-activated protein kinase)-mediated signaling.

**Results:** When RA FLS were stimulated with recombinant interleukin 17 (IL-17; 10 ng/ml) and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α; 10 ng/ml), SLC7A11 expression was markedly decreased. Following LKB1 knock-down for 24 h, the protein level of SLC7A11 was also decreased in RA FLS. To determine whether SLC7A11 directly regulates FLS migration, SLC7A11 siRNA was transfected and then analyzed intra-cellular ROS level and performed transwell assay. SLC7A11 inhibition induced ROS expression (1.7-fold) and migration ability (1.4-fold) compared to control in RA FLS. Next, cells were treated with A769662 for AMPK activation, which is directly phosphorylated by LKB1 stimulation. LKB1 knock down reduced SLC7A11 level and that decrease was certainly reversed by A769662 treatment. On the other hand, NOX4 expression was increased by LKB1 siRNA, and that increase was suppressed by AMPK activation. LKB1 siRNA induced ROS levels also down regulated by A769662 treatment. When LKB1 inhibition enhanced cell migration about 1.81-fold, and those increases were also reduced in 0.92-fold by AMPK activation compared to control.

**Conclusion:** These findings suggests that LKB1 regulate ROS production and SLC7A11 expression and, eventually lead to decrease migration, thereby further contributing to alleviate inflammation of RA FLS.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POS0012**

**THE EXPANSION OF CD4CD8 DOUBLE-POSITIVE T CELLS OF CD4 ORIGIN IS SPECIFIC FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND LINKED TO DISEASE ACTIVITY**

**Keywords:** Adaptive immunity, Inflammatory arthritides, Rheumatoid arthritis

P Nguyen¹, F Beck², M Melzer³, A M. Glimm³, M Krasselt³, O Seifert³, M. Pieler², K. Rothe¹, U Wagner³. ¹Rheumatology Unit, Leipzig University Medical Center, Leipzig, Germany

**Background:** CD4CD8 double-positive (DP) T cells are expanded in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and associated with erosive disease [1]. The majority of DP T cells in the periphery have an effector phenotype and were reported to originate from either CD4 or CD8 single-positive (SP) T cells [2]. DP T cells of CD4 origin express a CD8 homodimer, corresponding to a CD4+CD8 low fluorescence pattern in flow cytometry, while DP T cells of CD8 origin express a CD8 homodimer, which results in a CD4+CD8 high pattern. Reports on the presence of polyclonal CD4+CD8 low T cells in RA patients and individuals at risk of RA (3) suggest DP T cells of CD4 origin to be relevant for RA pathogenesis.

**Objectives:** This study aims to confirm and characterize the role of DP T cells of CD4 origin, or CD4+CD8 low T cells, in the context of RA.

**Methods:** DP T cells and their subpopulations were measured by flow cytometry in the peripheral blood of S3 newly diagnosed RA patients and compared to a cohort of patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) (n=52), as well as age-matched healthy donors (n=50). The CMV infection status of all subjects was assessed by CMV IgG and IgM ELISA. In an independent cohort of 70 RA patients, the survival markers LIR1 and PD1 were measured on all T cells using flow cytometry.

**Results:** Only DP T cells of CD4 origin (CD4+CD8 low) are significantly expanded in RA (figure 1A), while the frequency of DP T cells of CD8 origin (CD4+CD8 high) is similar to patients with PsA and healthy controls. The expansion of CD4+CD8 low T cells is associated with latent CMV infection in all three cohorts. However, CMV-RA patients have significantly more DP T cells of CD4 origin than CMV- healthy controls (figure 1B), indicating that CMV positivity is not the only driver of DP T cell expansion. DP T cells of CD4 origin express the senescence marker LIR1 and the exhaustion marker PD1 more often than their CD4 SP counterparts (figure 1C). In RA, CD4+CD8 low T cells correlate with DAS28-CRP (n=0.35, p=0.01), indicating a link with disease activity. The frequency of CD4+CD8 low T cells were measured in early RA patients before treatment (visit 1, V1) and three months after treatment (visit 2, V2) and three months (visit 3, V3) of treatment. Clinically efficacious treatment with abatacept was found to significantly reduce the frequency of CD4+CD8 low T cells after three months (mean change -0.09%, p=0.02), while methotrexate treatment did not (mean change -0.03%, p=0.83, figure 1D).

**Conclusion:** DP T cells of CD4 origin (CD4+CD8 low T cells) are frequently expanded in the peripheral blood of RA patients, but not in PsA patients or age-matched healthy individuals. DP T cells of CD8 origin are not expanded in RA or PsA compared to healthy controls. The association of CD4+CD8 low T cells with CMV seropositivity, as well as the increased LIR1 and PD1 expression, suggest they belong to a chronically stimulated, antigen-experienced cell population. Importantly, these cells are associated with disease activity in RA and show a significant reduction in the peripheral blood after treatment with a T cell-targeting agent. This confirms their role in RA pathogenesis and suggests their potential as a therapeutic target or biomarker for response.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1098

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**POS0013**

**25-HYDROXYCHOLESTEROL IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Adaptive immunity

H Huang¹, Y Geng¹, Y Fan¹, Z Zhang¹. ¹Peking University First Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease characterized by synovial inflammation, in which the imbalance of CD4 + T cells plays an important role. 25-hydroxycholesterol (25-HC) is an important regulator of the mevalonate pathway in cholesterol metabolism. Previous studies have suggested that 25-HC may inhibit the transformation of CD4 + T cells from interferon-γ (IFN-γ) CD4 + T cells to IL-10+CD4 + T cells through the interaction with liver X receptor (LXR), therefore decreasing the expression of IL-10.

**Objectives:** This study aims to explore the mechanism by which 25-HC promotes the inflammatory process of RA by regulating the phenotypic transformation of
CD4+ T cells through historical and cellular and molecular biology techniques, and propose possible molecular regulatory pathways.

**Methods:** Patients with RA from December 2019 to January 2022, and gender- and age-matched different controls (OA) and healthy control (HC) were enrolled. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) and synovial fluid mononuclear cells (SFMC) were collected and CD4+ T cells were sorted by magnetic beads. The expression levels of different phenotypes of CD4+ T cells and important cytokines were analyzed by flow cytometry; the secretion levels of IL-10 and IFN-γ were detected by ELISA technique. In the intervention experiment, the CD4+ T cells were incubated with various concentrations of atorvastatin to inhibit the cholesterol metabolism and promote synovial function, and then CD4+ T cell phenotype and cytokine expression were detected. The synovial tissues were obtained from RA and OA patients receiving joint replacement surgery, and the expressions of 25-hydroxycholesterol (25-HC) and LXRα were detected by immunohistochemistry and multiplex immunofluorescence. Real-time PCR and Western Blot were used to detect the expression of inflammasome signaling pathway of CD4+ T cells. CH25H was knocked down using small interfering RNA (siRNA), and the effects of knockdown of CH25H on inflammasome and the effect on the transformation of CD4+ T cells were detected by the above methods.

**Results:** (1) IL-10+CD4+ T cells in PBMC/SFMC of RA patients were significantly lower than HC/OA, as well as the expression of IL-10. After interfering the mevalonate pathway by atorvastatin, the ratio of IL-10+IFN-γ+CD4+ T cells and IL-10+IFN-γ+CD4+ T cells as well as the expression of IL-10 decreased in a concentration-dependent manner. The down-regulation effect induced by atorvastatin was compensated after the supplementation of mevalonate acid. (2) The expressions of CH25H and LXRα in CD4+ T cells of RA synovial tissue increased detected by immunohistochemistry and multiplex immunofluorescence, and the expressions of CH25H and caspase-1 in CD4+ T cells in synovial fluid were found increased by Western Blot, as compared with that of OA. (3) After the successful knockdown of CH25H confirmed by Real-time PCR and Western Blot, a significant decrease in the proportion of IL-10+IFN-γ+CD4+ T cells, and increase in proportion of IL-10+IFN-γ−CD4+ T cells were found in RA patients, accompanied with increase in IL-10+CD4+ T cells, while the proportion of IFN-γ+CD4+ T cells decreased in CD4+ T cells after supplementation with 25-HC, the siRNA-CH25H-mediated decrease in IL-10+CD4+ T cells was reversed and IFN-γ−CD4+ T cell formation was reduced. Meanwhile, the expression of NLRC3 and activated caspase-1 (caspase-1 p20) in peripheral blood CD4+ T cells was reduced, and could eliminate after supplementation with 25-HC.

**Conclusion:** In peripheral CD4+ T cells in RA patients, 25-HC may activate the NLRC3 inflammasome through CH25H-LXRα pathway, thereby inhibiting the phenotypic transformation of IFN-γ−CD4+ T cells to IL-10−CD4+ T cells, and eventually promoting the inflammatory process in RA. These findings provide new clues for the mechanism of CD4+ T cells in the pathogenesis of RA and suggest that the cholesterol metabolism pathway may become a new target of RA treatment.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5515

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**Table 1.**

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Functional makers differences (refRA vs ERA): Table 1 shows functional markers expression across immune cell clusters in refRA compared to ERA, using linear mixed modelling (FDR <0.05).

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by a UCB pharma PhD studentship (TB).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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incidence of arthritis, more severe clinical symptoms, and more pronounced joint inflammation and bone damage. Nkp46 deficiency had no significant influence on the incidence and severity of arthritis in collagen-induced arthritis mice. Conclusion: This study examined the proportion of Nkp46+ ILC3-like cells in the peripheral blood, spleen, lymph nodes, and paw tissues in CIA mice and their correlation with disease severity. We confirmed that infiltration of Nkp46+ ILC3-like cells in CIA joints positively correlates with arthritis progression, inflammation, cartilage erosion, and bone destruction. Most importantly, we revealed the pathogenic role of Nkp46+ ILC3-like cells in rheumatoid arthritis through adoptive cell transfer. Our data strongly suggest that Nkp46+ NKp46 may not be the primary actor in the pathogenic function of Nkp46+ ILC3-like cells in CIA. Overall, our current work suggests that Nkp46+ ILC3-like cells infiltrate in inflamed joints and participate in the pathogenesis of autoimmune arthritis. 

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.80

SERUM AMYLOID A CONNECTS LIVER AND JOINT TO PROMOTE MACROPHAGE ACTIVATION AND CHRONIC ARTHRITIS VIA NFAT5

Keywords: Innate immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

M. Li1,2, Y. M. Kim1,2, H. M. Kwon3, J. H. Park4, J. Jin5, S. D. Kim5,8, W. U. Kim7,8,9. 1The Catholic University of Korea, Center for Integrative Rheumatoid Transcriptomics and Dynamics, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2The Catholic University of Korea, Department of Biomedicine & Health Sciences, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, School of Nano-Bioscience and Chemical Engineering, Ulsan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4College of Veterinary Medicine, Chonnam National University, Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 5Yonbien University Hospital, Department of Immunology, Yanji, China; 6Cancer Research Center, Key Laboratory of Science and Technology Department, Yanji, China; 7Seoul National University College of Medicine, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 8Seoul National University College of Medicine, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 9Seoul National University Medical Research Center, Institute of Endemic Diseases, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 10The Catholic University of Korea, Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: The nuclear factor of activated T-cells 5 (NFAT5) is a member of the Rel family of transcription factors that can be activated by hypertonic stimuli [1]. It remains unclear, however, whether NFAT5 is required for damage-associated molecular pattern molecules (DAMPs)-triggered inflammation and immunity. Serum amyloid a (SAA) is an endogenous toll-like receptor (TLR) ligand functioning as a DAMP response to bacterial endotoxins [2]. In response to infection and injury, innate immune cells secrete pro-inflammatory cytokines, in particular IL-1β and TNF-α, to which the liver responds by producing acute-phase reactants [3]. Further identification of such pathologic process by acute-phase reactants will allow for better selection of therapeutic targets as well as a greater understanding of the mechanisms underlying chronic inflammation.

Objectives: To investigate SAA, an acute phase reactant as well as a TLR ligand, activates NFAT5 in macrophages of arthritic joints after being secreted from the liver and thereby promotes chronic inflammation.

Methods: SAA-induced upregulation of NFAT5 expression and activity in RAW264.7 cells, mouse bone marrow derived macrophages and human peripheral CD14+ monocytes were assessed by western blot and/or luciferase reporter assays. SAA-activated arthritis in mice was generated by injecting SAA (5 μg ×1) into the affected joint of mice with a suboptimal form of IL-1β-induced arthritis, which was induced by injection of methylated bovine serum albumin (mBSA, 200 μg ×1) and/or IL-1β (250 ng ×2). Decrease in arthritis severity and inflammatory cell infiltration by NFAT5-/- and Tlr2/-/- deficient mice, specific knockout of myeloid Nfat5 or Tlr2, Nfat5, an osmo-sensitive transcription factor. In particular, acute phase reactivity of SAA markedly accelerated macrophage infiltration and arthritis progression in mice. By contrast, genetic ablation of NFAT5 or Tlr2/-/- rescued the pathology induced by SAA, confirming the SAA-TLR2/-/-NFAT5 axis in vivo. Myeloid-specific deletion of NFAT5 also attenuated SAA-accelerated arthritis. Notably, chronic arthritis in mice strikingly induced SAA overexpression in the liver. Conversely, forced overexpression of the SAA gene in the liver accelerated joint damage, indicating that the liver contributes to bolistering chronic inflammation at remote sites by secreting SAA.

Conclusion: In summary, this study underscores the importance of the SAA-TLR2/-/-NFAT5 axis in innate immunity, suggesting that acute phase reactant SAA mediates mutual interactions between the liver and joints and ultimately aggravates chronic arthritis by enhancing macrophage activation.

REFERENCES:


Figure 1.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1507

ACTIVATED B CELLS ARE ENRICHED FOR RANKL AND PROINFLAMMATORY CYTOKINE PRODUCTION PRIOR TO ONSET OF CLINICAL RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Glass1, M. P. Pebbworth2, A. Savage3, M. Gillespie4, E. Domisch3, N. Moss1, M. Weiss5, P. Skene6, J. Reading1, L. Becker7, T. Bumol7, C. Speake8, J. Buckner9, K. A. Kuhn9, K. Demoruelle10, V. M. Holers9, K. Deane10, G. Firestein10, T. Torgerson11. 1Allen Institute for Immunology, Experimental Immunology, Seattle, United States of America; 2Allen Institute for Immunology, Comutational Biology, Seattle, United States of America; 3Allen Institute for Immunology, Molecular Biology, Seattle, United States of America; 4Allen Institute for Immunology, Flow Cytometry, Seattle, United States of America; 5Allen Institute for Immunology, Scientific Program Management, Seattle, United States of America; 6Benaroya Research Institute, Center for Translational Immunology, Seattle, United States of America; 7University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Aurora, United States of America; 8UC San Diego School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, San Diego, United States of America

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by inflammation of the synovial tissue lining the joint, leading to bone damage. Anti-citullinated protein autoantibodies (ACPs) play an important role in the pathogenesis of RA and can be detected before the onset of classifiable or clinical RA. ACPA+ individuals without clinical RA, or ACPA- At-Risk, are being studied to identify effective preventive interventions. B cells also contribute to disease through autoantibody-independent mechanisms, including production of RANKL and inflammatory cytokines. RANKL-producing B cell in clinical RA have
been linked to the CD11c+ CD21high B cell phenotype and FcRL4 expression[1,2]. Notably, activated memory B cells also promote osteoclastogenesis in vitro in a RANKL-dependent manner, which may be enhanced by IL-6 and TNFα[3].

**Methods:** We employed spectral flow cytometry to achieve high-dimensional characterization of activated B cells, with simultaneous quantification of 23 cell-identity and state-defining molecules, from age-matched ACFA+ control and ACFA+ At-Risk individuals (Table 1). TLR9 ligand (CpG) and CD40 stimulation was applied to generate RANKL+ B cells among total PBMCs. We evaluated differences in frequencies of RANKL+ cells as well as RANKL/FcRL4 and RANKL/cytokine co-expression profiles between ACFA+ and ACFA- individuals. Single-cell ATACseq analysis was applied to unstimulated total B cells from ACFA+ and ACFA- individuals to determine the accessibility at the RANKL promoter and enhancer sites.

**Results:** Here, we observed that B cells are primed for RANKL production in ACFA+ At-Risk donors. A substantially higher frequency of B cells, particularly IgM/IgG+ naïve and memory cells, produce RANKL (p=0.06) upon in vitro activation in ACFA+ At-Risk donors as compared to ACFA- controls (Figure 1). RANKL production was not restricted to any single B cell identity. RANKL+ B cells exhibited a highly polyfunctional state, defined by proinflammatory cytokine production, as well as elevated surface activation molecule expression. Among ACFA+ donors, 34% of RANKL+ activated B cells co-expressed TNFα and IL-6 and 55.3% co-expressed FcRL4. Additionally, we found that resting peripheral B cells from ACFA+ At-Risk individuals exhibited an open chromatin state at the RANKL gene promoter and upstream regulatory sites by ATACseq analysis.

**Conclusion:** These results demonstrate that peripheral B cells are poised for proinflammatory responses and RANKL production upon activation in ACFA+ individuals. Our work suggests that loss of immune tolerance predates detectable synovial joint inflammation and highlights autoimmune-independent contributions of B cells to immune dysregulation. Future studies will evaluate these changes in relationship to the development of clinical RA.

**REFERENCES:**


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**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3378

**Table 1.**

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**Keywords:** Autoantibodies, Rheumatoid arthritis

B. Raapos1, C. De Vries1, M. Gomes Afonso1, P. Sahliostrom1, L. Israelsson1, R. Stålesen1, L. Klarešek1, V. Malmström1, B. Réthi1, C. Grönwall1, K. Lundberg1, K. Karolinska Institutet, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden

**Background:** Based on an epidemiological association between periodontitis (PD) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) arthritis[1, with oral dysbiosis[2] and jawbone destruction[3] preceding the onset of RA, a causative link between periodontal infection and RA has been proposed. However, the mechanisms remain to be explained. Both gingival and synovial inflammation associate with malondialdehyde (MDA) protein modifications[4], a posttranslational modification linked to oxidative stress. While MDA IgM are part of the natural antibody response, MDA IgG levels are elevated in RA and correlate with disease activity[5]. Moreover, RA joint B cell derived MDA-reactive monoclonal antibodies (mAb) promote bone erosion and osteoclastogenesis[6], suggesting pathogenic properties. Here we explore MDA-autoimmunity as an etiological link between inflamed gums and joints.

**Objectives:** To investigate if mAbs derived from gingival tissue (GT) B cells of PD patients bind MDA-modified self-proteins and whether they are pro-arthritisogenic.

**Methods:** Recombinant mAbs (n=38) were generated as human IgG1 from single-cell sorted gingival tissue (GT) B cells of one PD patient with RA (PD/RA) and one PD patient without RA (PD only), and screened by ELISA for binding to MDA-modified and native albumin, fibrinogen and low-density lipoprotein. Three GT mAbs versus one isotype control mAb were assayed in vitro for TNF production by monocyte-derived macrophages stimulated by LPS (n=7 healthy donors), and two GT mAbs versus one isotype control mAb were examined in vivo in the collagen type II (CII) antibody-induced arthritis (CIA) model (n=5 mice/group).

Briefly, arthritis was induced in BALB/c mice by i.v. injection of 1.5mg anti-CII antibody cocktail together with 1mg GT or control mAb, followed by 25ug LPS on day 3. Arthritis scores and prevalence were recorded daily for two weeks; statistical analysis was performed using repetitive-measure one-way ANOVA with Geisser-Greenhouse correction and Holm-Sidak’s multiple comparisons test.

**Results:** Three GT mAbs from the RA/PD patient and one from the PD-only patient bound MDA-modified self-proteins but not the native counterparts; all other GT mAbs were negative. The MDA-reactive GT B cell clones were class-switched (n=3 IgG+; n=1 IgA+) with 21-50 somatic hypermutations. The GT mAb with the strongest MDA-reactivity – derived from an IgA+ GT B cell isolated from the PD/RA patient – enhanced TNF production in LPS-stimulated macrophages, and exacerbated arthritis with prolonged arthritis, higher arthritis scores (p<0.05) and higher disease prevalence (p<0.001), see figure 1 below.

**Keywords:** Autoantibodies, Rheumatoid arthritis

B. Raapos1, C. De Vries1, M. Gomes Afonso1, P. Sahliostrom1, L. Israelsson1, R. Stålesen1, L. Klarešek1, V. Malmström1, B. Réthi1, C. Grönwall1, K. Lundberg1, K. Karolinska Institutet, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden

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**Results:** Three GT mAbs from the RA/PD patient and one from the PD-only patient bound MDA-modified self-proteins but not the native counterparts; all other GT mAbs were negative. The MDA-reactive GT B cell clones were class-switched (n=3 IgG+; n=1 IgA+) with 21-50 somatic hypermutations. The GT mAb with the strongest MDA-reactivity – derived from an IgA+ GT B cell isolated from the PD/RA patient – enhanced TNF production in LPS-stimulated macrophages, and exacerbated arthritis with prolonged arthritis, higher arthritis scores (p<0.05) and higher disease prevalence (p<0.001), see figure 1 below.
Conclusion: Here we show that MDA-autoactive B cells with features of T-cell driven affinity maturation are present in the gum mucosa of PD patients with or without RA. Moreover, that antibodies from one such clone can exacerbate arthritis. Further studies are needed in order to elucidate the mechanisms involved, and to determine if possibly enhanced TNF production via antibody-mediated modulation of macrophage responses could play a role. Taken together, this pilot study supports further research into MDA-autoimmunity as an etiological link between periodontal infection and RA.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Contemporary clinical topics in psoriatic arthritis

POS20019 PREDICTION OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS TOOL (PRESTO): DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF A NEW SCORING SYSTEM FOR PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS RISK

Keywords: Epidemiology, Spondyloarthritis, Psoriatic arthritis

L. Eder1,2, K. A. Lee3, V. Chandran4,5, J. Widfeldt6,8, A. Drucker2,7, C. T. Ritchlin7, C. Rosen2,8, H. Cook9, D. D. Gladman4,9, Women’s College Hospital, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; University of Toronto, Medicine, Toronto, Canada; University of Waterloo, Statistics & Actuarial Science, Waterloo, Canada; Toronto Western Hospital, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; Sunnybrook Research Institute, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; University of Toronto, Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation, Toronto, Canada; Women’s College Hospital, Dermatology, Toronto, Canada; University of Rochester, Medicine, Rochester, United States of America; Toronto Western Hospital, Dermatology, Toronto, Canada

Background: A simple, scalable tool that identifies psoriasis patients at high risk for developing psoriatic arthritis (PsA) could improve early detection and facilitate early intervention for this condition. However, no such prediction tool currently exists.

Objectives: Our overall objective is to develop an accurate risk prediction model for the development of PsA and to assess its performance among patients with psoriasis.

Methods: In this longitudinal cohort study we analyzed data from the Internaional Psoriasis and Arthritis Team (IPART) study, a prospective cohort of psoriasis patients without PsA at the time of enrollment. The participants were followed prospectively from 2006 to 2019, and their PsA status was assessed annually by a rheumatologist. Information about their demographics, psoriasis characteristics, co-morbidities, medications and musculoskeletal symptoms was used to develop prediction models for PsA. Penalized binary regression models were used for variable selection while adjusting for psoriasis duration; the stacked LASSO with equal weights was adopted to deal with multiple imputed datasets for incomplete data. Risks of developing PsA over 1- and 5-year time horizons were estimated. Internal validity was assessed using 5-fold cross-validation. Model performance was assessed by the area under the curve (AUC), and calibration plots.

Results: A total of 635 psoriasis patients were analyzed (mean duration of follow up 7 years). 51 and 71 patients developed PsA during the 1-year and 5-year periods, respectively. The risk of developing PsA within 1 year was associated with younger age, male sex, family history of psoriasis, back stiffness, nail pitting, level of stiffness, use of biologic medications, patient global assessment of health and pain severity (AUC 72.3, 95% confidence interval CI 65.5, 79.1, Figure 1A). The risk of developing PsA within 5 years was associated with morning stiffness, psoriatic nail lesion, psoriasis severity (by PASI), fatigue severity (by FACIT-fatigue), pain severity and use of systemic non-biologic medication or phototherapy (AUC 74.9, 95% CI 69.3, 80.5, Figure 1B). Calibration plots showed reasonable agreement between predicted and observed probabilities. The sensitivity and specificity for a 2.5% probability of PsA onset within 1 year were 54.5% and 75%, respectively. The sensitivity and specificity for a 5% probability of PsA onset within 5 years period were 61.1% and 77%, respectively.

Conclusion: The development of PsA within clinically meaningful time frames can be predicted with reasonable accuracy for psoriasis patients. Additional work is underway to validate these models in external cohorts of psoriasis patients.

REFERENCE:
[1] The calculator can be found in the URL: http://142.1174.73:9080/Web_KC

Figure 1: Prediction Models for the Development of PsA in Psoriasis Within 5-Year Period (IA) and Within 5-Year Period (IB)

POS20020 DOES SUBJECTIVELY PERCEIVED LOSS OF HAND FUNCTION SUFFICIENTLY REPRESENT ULTRASONOGRAPHY-DETECTED SYNOVITIS AND TENOSYNOVITIS IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS?

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Ultrasound, Psoriatic arthritis

B. Coppers1,2, S. Bayat2,3, E. T. Godonou2,3, L. Valor2,3, D. Simon2,1, F. Fagni2,1, G. Corte2,1, K. Tascilar2,1, A. Hueber2,3, V. Schönlau2,1, M. Sticherling2,1, G. Schest1,2, A. Kleyer1,2, A. M. Liphardt1,2, Friedrick-Alexander Universität (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg & Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3 - Rheumatology and Immunology, Erlangen, Germany; Friedrick-Alexander Universität (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg & Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Deutsches Zentrum Immuntherapie, Erlangen, Germany; Klinikum Nürnberg Nord, Rheumaklinik, Nürnberg, Germany; Friedrick-Alexander Universität (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg & Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Dermatology, Erlangen, Germany

Background: In the clinical routine patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) such as the ‘Disability of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand Questionnaire’ (Quick-DASH) [1], ‘Score for the Assessment and quantification of Chronic Rheumatic Afections of the Hands’ (SF-SACRAH) [2] and the ‘Health Assessment Questionnaire’ (HAQ) [3] are common for assessing functional status and hand involvement in rheumatic diseases [4] while ultrasonography (US) is a cost-effective, reliable imaging technology for grading and monitoring synovitis and tenosynovitis [5]. However, it is unclear, if subjective perceived impairment can be associated with US-detected synovitis or tenosynovitis in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and psoriasis (PsO).

Objectives: To correlate subjective hand function with the grade of synovitis and tenosynovitis by US (greyscale (GS), power Doppler (PD) activity) in patients with PsA and PsO.

Methods: PsA and PsO patients recruited from the Rheumatology Department at the University Hospital Erlangen were enrolled in this cross-sectional study after giving written informed consent. Patients completed the HAQ-DI, SF-SACRAH and Quick-DASH questionnaires and subject characteristics (age, sex) were recorded. The examining physician performed a bilateral US (Samsung HS40, South Korea; Esaote Mylab Twice, Italy) of the flexor tendons of all fingers and metacarpophalangeal (MCP) joints 2-5 and both wrists. Each joint was examined by GS (score 0-3) and PD (score 0-3) and flexor tendons were scanned in GS (0’1) and with PD (0-3) following the EULAR-OMERACT scoring system [5]. For statistical analysis patients with either a positive synovitis or tenosynovitis score ≥1 were included. A repeated measure correlation analysis was performed, at the intra-individual level, to measures the overall

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Lihi Eder Grant/research support from: Received educational and research grants from Abbvie, UCB, Pfizer, Janssen, Novartis, Eli Lilly, Sandoz, Fresenius Kabi, Ker-Al Lee: None declared, Vinod Chandran Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Employee of: Spouse is employee of AbbVie; Jessica Widfield: None declared, Aaron Drucker: None declared, Christopher T. Ritchlin Consultant of: UCB, AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Pfizer Inc, Novartis, Janssen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Cheryl Rosen Consultant of: Eli Lilly, Novartis, Amgen, BMS, UCN, Abbvie, Richard Cook: None declared, Dalha D Gladman Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Gilead, Novartis, Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb(BMS), Galapagos, UCB Pharma, Celgene.

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Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) is a complex, heterogeneous disease with chronic inflammation. Disease manifestations include the peripheral joint inflammation, dactylitis, enthesitis and skin psoriasis. Chronic inflammation is associated with structural damage, which jeopardize long-term functional ability.

**Objectives:** To define the molecular basis of inflammation in different disease domains through comparative profiling of serum proteins.

**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study in patients with PsA. Clinical assessment of inflammation in the peripheral joint (clinical Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis [DAPSA] and swollen joint count), dactylitis digit count, skin (Psoriasis Activity and Severity Index [PASI]) and enthesis (Leeds enthesis index) were performed. Blood samples were collected for biomarker assay including 48 cytokines, chemokines, growth and angiogenic factors using the Bio-Rad Bioplex assay! (Table 1). Levels of selected serum proteins were compared between different disease activity scores across various domains using adjusted linear regression with least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO) modeling.

**Results:** 100 PsA patients were recruited (age: 51±11 years, male: 52 (52%), disease duration: 9.0±3 years). The cohort had moderate disease activity (DAPSA: 24.4±14.6; PASI: 6.0±7.2). 53 (53%) and 11 (11%) patients were using conventional synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) and biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs) respectively. Using LASSO regression analysis, biomarkers correlating with peripheral joint inflammation were IFN-γ, IL6, SCF and MCP1, while MIP-1α and β-NGF were related to dactylitis. Biomarkers correlating with skin severity were IP10, M-CSF and eotaxin, while IL8, M-CSF and CTACK were related to enthesis. Details of biomarkers independent predicting various disease severity are listed in table 2-3.

**Conclusion:** Comparative serum protein biomarker profiling represents a viable method for distinguishing active inflammation in the various disease domains which may be a step forward towards personalized medicine.

### Table 1 – 48 biomarker panel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cellular cytokine</th>
<th>Chemokine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IFN-α</td>
<td>CTACK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFN-γ</td>
<td>Cutaneous T cell-attracting chemokine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1α</td>
<td>Eotaxin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1β</td>
<td>IL8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-12</td>
<td>Interleukin 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-12</td>
<td>IP10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-2</td>
<td>MCP1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-2α</td>
<td>MCP3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-3</td>
<td>MIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6</td>
<td>MIP-1a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6α</td>
<td>MIP-1β</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-7</td>
<td>RANTES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-8</td>
<td>SDF-1c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Growth and angiogenic factors**

| Humoral cytokine | |
|------------------| |
| TNFα             | | |
| TNFβ             | | |
| TRAIL            | | |
| MIF              | | |
| Humoral cytokine | |

| | |
|-----------------| |
| IFN-γ            | Basic_FGF |
| IL6              | G_CSF     |
| SCF              | GM_CSF    |
| MCP1             | GRO       |
| DcR1             | HGF       |
| IP1α             | IL1       |
| IP1β             | IL6       |
| IP10             | M-CSF     |
| IP11             | PDGF      |
| IL-1              | SCF       |
| IL-1α             | SCF       |
| IL-1β             | VEGF      |
| IL-12             | β-NGF     |

### Table 2. LASSO regression on various disease activity scores across various disease domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>β</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA</td>
<td>0.436</td>
<td>0.014 to 0.858</td>
<td>0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL6</td>
<td>0.104</td>
<td>0.009 to 0.199</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP1</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.048 to 0.132</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joint count</td>
<td>0.637</td>
<td>0.015 to 0.066</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DcR1</td>
<td>0.282</td>
<td>0.109 to 0.466</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP1α</td>
<td>0.109</td>
<td>0.026 to 0.191</td>
<td>0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP1β</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.110 to 0.610</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP10</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001 to 0.001</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP1</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>0.003 to 0.040</td>
<td>0.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTACK</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001 to 0.001</td>
<td>0.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eotaxin</td>
<td>-0.013</td>
<td>-0.02 to -0.005</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis IL8</td>
<td>-0.032</td>
<td>-0.062 to -0.001</td>
<td>0.042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-CSF</td>
<td>0.026</td>
<td>0.02 to 0.050</td>
<td>0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTACK</td>
<td>-0.001</td>
<td>-0.002 to 0.001</td>
<td>0.010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Birte Coppers: None declared, Sara Bayat: None declared, Elie Tino Godonou: None declared, Larissa Valor: None declared, David Simon: None declared, Filippo Fagni: None declared, Giulia Corte: None declared, Koray Tascilar: None declared, Axel Hueber: None declared, Verena Schönau: None declared, Michael Sticherling: None declared, Georg Schett: None declared, Arnd Kleyer: None declared, Anna-Maria Liphardt Grant/Research Foundation – SFB 1483 – Project-ID 442419336, EmpkinS, Germany and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – SFB 1483 – Project-ID 442419336, EmpkinS.
Table 3. Biomarker independently correlating with various disease severity scores across various disease domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>biomarker</th>
<th>cDAPSA</th>
<th>Swollen joint count</th>
<th>Dactylitis</th>
<th>PASI</th>
<th>leads to arthritis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IFN-γ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>β2-Microglobulin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIP-1α</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catekin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-CSF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTACK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

cDAPSA - clinical Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis; IFN-γ - Interferon-γ; IL-10 - Interleukin; SCF - Stem Cell Factor; MCP1 - Monocyte chemoattractant protein 1; MIP-1α - Macrophage inflammatory protein 1α; β2-MG - Nerve growth factor; IP10 - Interferon gamma-induced protein 10; M-CSF - Macrophage colony-stimulating factor; CTACK - Cutaneous T-cell-attracting chemokine.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0022

NAFLD IN PSORIATIC DISEASE: IDENTIFYING PATIENTS AT HIGH RISK OF SERIOUS LIVER DISEASE

Keywords: Comorbidities, Real-world evidence, Psoriatic arthritis

S. Harrison1,2,3, U. Nandasoma1, P. Samb2, R. Parker3, C. Chimaakurthi3, P. Laws4, A. Barr5, C. Vandevelde5,6, H. Marzo-Ortega1,7, J. Freeston3,2, 1Chapel Allerton Hospital, Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine (UCAMMM), the LIGHT building, Leeds, United Kingdom; 3Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Department of Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4St James Hospital, Department of Hepatology, Leeds, United Kingdom; 5Chapel Allerton Hospital, Dermatology, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Patients with psoriatic disease(PsD) [psoriasis(PsO) and psoriatic arthritis(PsA)] are at greater risk of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease(NAFLD) and NAFLD-associated fibrosis/cirrhosis compared with the general population and other inflammatory arthritis(1) independent of disease-modifying medications (biologicals)(2) or methotrexate(MTX)(2). Conversely, using these medications in patients with significant NAFLD might accelerate progression to fibrosis/cirrhosis(1). The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust(LTHT) NAFLD screening pathway is not validated in PsD and may underestimate prevalence of NAFLD in PsD(2).

OBJECTIVES: 1. To assess the prevalence of NAFLD in our PsD population 2. To determine the effectiveness of the LTHT NAFLD pathway for identifying PsD patients at risk of fibrosis/cirrhosis

Methods: This audit included consecutive patients from the Leeds Speciality Spon- dylarthritides and Dermatology departments who underwent screening for NAFLD fibrosis/cirrhosis using the LTHT pathway. Briefly, patients are first screened using ELF and FIB-4 scores. ELF>9.5 and FIB-4>1.45 triggers referral for fibroscan and hepatology opinion. A fibroscan >10 was considered indicative of clinically signifi- cant NAFLD. We compared baseline demographics (age, sex, BMI, diabetic status), biochemistry (ALT, AST, platelet count, albumin, hepatits B and C), and NAFLD screening tests (ELF, FIB-4 and fibrosis +/- liver ultrasound and biopsy) with the final hepatology diagnosis (NAFLD/ fibrosis/ cirrhosis/ other). We compared results from our PsD patients and patients with other inflammatory arthritis (Other IA).

Results: Overall 110 patients were included; 86.4% (95/110) PsD, and 14.6% (15/110) Other IA. Regarding demographic and clinical variables, age, sex, BMI, AST, ALT, platelets and albumin were similar between all groups. Other IA patients were more likely to be male and taking bDMARD monotherapy. No PsD patients were taking bDMARDs and over half were on no DMARD(Table 1). ELF scores were higher in the PsO group, possibly because the P3NP peptide (part of the ELF score) may be elevated in active skin PsO. Contrary to ELF, FIB-4 scores were higher in PsA compared with all other groups. Higher FIB4 scores, but not ELF scores, were associated with a fibroscan score >10 and a diagnosis of NAFLD fibrosis/cirrhosis in PsA (p=0.05 and p=0.09 respectively).

Conclusion: PsA patients had higher rates of significant fibrosis/cirrhosis compared with patients with Other IA. FIB-4 was better than ELF at identifying PsA patients requiring a fibroscan to exclude significant fibrosis/ cirrhosis. Findings will now be validated in a larger prospective cohort study.


Table 1. Summary of demographic and clinical data for the cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PsA(n=59)</th>
<th>PsO(n=36)</th>
<th>Other IA(n=15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age(years)</td>
<td>52(±15)</td>
<td>48(±13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex(% male)</td>
<td>58(34/59)</td>
<td>47(17/36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI(kg/m²)</td>
<td>33(±5)</td>
<td>31(±7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes(%)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21(12/58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>67(35/58)</td>
<td>81(29/36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impaired Glucose Tolerance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13(7/58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>52(31/58)</td>
<td>72(26/36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST</td>
<td>42(±22)</td>
<td>31(±16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B or C</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>46(22/48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>10(5/59)</td>
<td>9(4/36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIB-4 &gt;1.45</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38(19/50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>31(15/48)</td>
<td>53(23/33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver US</td>
<td>Cirrhosis/cirrhosis</td>
<td>10(4/59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>14(7/48)</td>
<td>26(12/36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biopsy</td>
<td>Cirrhosis/cirrhosis</td>
<td>45(22/48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis (%)</td>
<td>Cirrhosis/cirrhosis</td>
<td>12(7/59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>77(10/13)</td>
<td>77(10/13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2510

POS0023

PERFORMANCE OF BASDAI VS. ASDAS IN EVALUATING AXIAL INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH PSA TREATED WITH GUSELKUMAB: POOLED ANALYSIS OF TWO PHASE 3 STUDIES

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis

X. Baraliakos1,2, D. D. Gladman2, S. D. Chakravarty1, C. Gong1, M. Shaw1, E. Rampakakis2, M. Kishimoto3, E. Soriano1, P. J. Mease3, 1Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet Ruhr-University Bochum Claudiuss, Department of Rheumatology, Herne, Germany; 2Center for Prognosis Studies in Rheumatic Diseases, Schroeder Arthritis Institute; Krembil, Research Institute; Toronto Western Hospital, Department of Medicine, Toronto, ON, Canada; 3Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Department of Immunology, Horsham, United States of America; 4Drexel University Department of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, United States of America; 5Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Department of Immunology, Horsham, United States of America; 6Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Department of Immunology, Horsham, United States of America; 7Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Department of Immunology, Horsham, United States of America; 8Medical Research, Department of Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 9McGill University Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada; 10Kyonin University School of Medicine, Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 11Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology and University Institute Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Department of Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 12Swedish Medical Center, Providence St. Joseph Health and University of Washington, Department of Rheumatology Research, Seattle, United States of America

Background: Although the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) is used to assess the activity of axial disease in patients (pts) with psoriatic arthritis (PsA), only one of its questions is specific to axial symptoms. Alter- natively, the Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) excludes assessment of enthesitis, gives less weight to peripheral activity and is consid- ered more objective than the BASDAI.

OBJECTIVES: The current post hoc analysis aimed to compare the performance of BASDAI and ASDAS in evaluating symptoms of axial involvement in pts with axial PsA (axPsA).

Methods: Pts enrolled in the DISCOVER-1 (D1) and DISCOVER-2 (D2) studies were adults with active PsA despite standard therapies. D1 pts had ≥3 swollen ≥3 and ≥3 tender joints (SJC, TJC) and C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥20 mg/dL; D2 pts had SJC ≥5, TJC ≥5, and CRP ≥0.6 mg/dL. 31% of D1 pts received ≥2 prior tumor necrosis factor inhibitors; D2 pts were biologic-naive. Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W); GUS 100 mg at W0, W4, then Q8W; or placebo with crossover to GUS Q4W at W24. axPsA was defined by presence of sacroiliitis based on previous radiograph or magnetic resonance (MR) imaging confirmation. Data were pooled across all treatment groups. In addition to BASDAI and ASDAS, modified versions excluding enthesal and enthesis questions (mBASDAI) and the peripheral arthritis question (mASDAS) were calculated. Normalized (scale of 0–10) versions of ASDAS and mASDAS were calculated based on maximum scores of +7 and +6.3, respectively. The correlation of BASDAI/ mBASDAI and ASDAS/mASDAS with SJC, TJC, enthesitis, Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT)-fatigue, pt pain, pt global, and physician global was assessed with Pearson’s correlation coefficient. The cross-sectional and longitudinal (W52) effects of Leeds enthesitis index (LEI), SJC, and axPsA on BASDAI/ mBASDAI and ASDAS/mASDAS were assessed with mixed models.

Results: 436 pts with available baseline (BL) BASDAI information were included in the analysis. In pts with axPsA, BASDAI showed weak correlation with SJC, TJC, LEI, and physician global; moderate correlation with fatigue; and strong correlation with pt global and pt pain. Similar results were observed for ASDAS and modified versions. Among pts without axPsA, correlations of BASDAI and ASDAS with SJC, TJC, and LEI remained weak; correlations with pt global and pt pain remained strong. Longitudinally, among pts with and without BL enthesitis, respectively, LEI and SJ showed significant but not clinically important associations with either fatigue and pain. The BASDAI and ASDAS also showed similar ability to discern changes in axial disease activity. These results suggest that both BASDAI and ASDAS are valid, and perform comparably, in assessing activity of axial disease in PsA pts.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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**POS0024 RETENTION RATE OF TNF INHIBITORS (TNFI), ANTI-IL17, AND ANTI-IL12/23 DRUGS IN A SINGLE-CENTER COHORT OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritis, bDMARD, Psoriatic arthritis

**M. Ferito**1,2, G. Cincinelli2,3, M. Manara2, E. G. Favalli2,3, R. Caporali2,3

1University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 2ASST G. Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 3University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy

**Background:** During the last decades, it has been proposed to widen the horizons of psoriatic patients under a broader clinical concept of psoriatic disease (PD) encompassing both articular and extra-articular features. The most recent international recommendations on psoriatic arthritis (PsA) management highlight the need to personalize therapeutic strategies based on articular and extra-articular manifestations, such as axial or peripheral involvement and severity of skin psoriasis. Lacking specific recommendations for PsA comorbidities treatment, management decisions are often driven by drugs safety profiles and experience gathered from other rheumatologic diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis. In the last years, new drugs have been approved for PsA management, expanding the possibility to personalize treatment choice in patients with PsA.

**Objectives:** Our study aims at evaluating the retention rate of bDMARDs with different mechanism of action (MoA) (TNF-i vs non-TNF-i) and factors associated with drug suspension in a single-center cohort of PsA patients.

**Methods:** A retrospective cohort from a single-center real-world clinical setting has been collected. A total of 491 bDMARDs therapy courses (155 TNF-i drugs, 69 anti-IL-17 drugs, and 21 anti-IL12/IL-23) were analyzed. Bivariate analyses were performed to assess the presence of demographic and clinical features, as well as comorbidities, associated with bDMARDs discontinuation in the TNFi and non-TNFi groups. Further, we conducted survival analysis and Cox regression, in order to individuate the possible predictors of failure among patients receiving TNFi and non-TNFi.

**Results:** In the bivariate analyses of TNFi and non-TNFi groups we found a lower age at TNFi start (46 years, IQR 45-54 vs 50.5 years, IQR 42-61; p=0.004) as well as a lower proportion of patients with skin psoriasis (85.8% vs 88.4%, p<0.001). Survival analysis showed no significant differences between TNFi and non-TNFi groups.

**Conclusion:** Cox regression individuated fibromyalgia as a predictor of drug failure (HR 3.40, 1.92-6.03; p<0.001) and first line bDMARDs as protective factor (HR 0.46, 0.25-0.88; p=0.019). Lastly, among TNFi courses, fibromyalgia was associated with drug suspension (HR 6.52, 3.16-13.46; p<0.001), while only a trend of significance for skin psoriasis as risk factor for drug failure was shown (HR 2.38, CI 1.00 - 5.66, p=0.05).

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Matteo Ferrito None declared, Gilberto Cincinelli None declared, Maria Manara declared, Maria Manara declared, Maria Manara declared, Maria Manara declared, Maria Manara.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Matteo Ferrito: None declared, Gilberto Cincinelli: None declared, Maria Manara: None declared, Maria Manara: None declared, Maria Manara: None declared, Maria Manara: None declared, Maria Manara.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Matteo Ferrito: None declared, Gilberto Cincinelli: None declared, Maria Manara: None declared, Maria Manara: None declared, Maria Manara: None declared, Maria Manara: None declared, Maria Manara.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.
and the nailfold is the ideal site to assess angiogenesis, another typical feature of psoriatic synovitis, with both power Doppler (PD) and nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC). Studies have shown that PsA patients may have differences in the structure of the nail complex and capillaries compared with healthy individuals.

No study has combined the two techniques.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the ability of combined US examination of the NEC and NVC to differentiate PsA from psoriasis (PSO), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and healthy subjects (HC).

**Methods:** Twenty age- and sex-matched subjects per group were consecutively enrolled. Each subject was blindly assessed and underwent US of the NEC, NVC, and clinical examination. For the US examination, the nail plate, matrix, and bed were assessed in grayscale (GS) and with PD according to the Brown University Nail Enthesis Scale (BUNES)[1]. For the nail plate, the Wortsman[2] classification was also evaluated. The thickness of the nail plate, matrix, and nail bed were measured. Mean values of 10 digits were used for the analysis. Capillary density, number of microhaemorrhages, tortuous capillaries, ectasia, and ramified capillaries were assessed at NVC. Mean values were calculated for II-V digits in both hands. After excluding subjects with missing values, differences among groups were analysed with Kruskal-Wallis test. US and NVC variables were then included in a K-Means clustering model. The number of clusters was determined using the elbow method. Factor analysis was performed to explain the clustering results. The number of factors was selected using the Scree plot method.

**Results:** The BUNES GS total score, the BUNES GS score for the plate, and the Wortsman score were significantly lower in HC compared to all other groups. BUNES GS for the plate was higher in PSO than in HC. The number of tortuous capillaries was higher in PsA than in PSO and HC, but not in RA. The clustering model identified five clusters (Figure 1A), showing good separation of PsA and HC. PSO were distributed from cluster 2 to cluster 5 and RA among all clusters. The BUNES GS total score, the BUNES GS score for the plate, and the Wortsman score were significantly lower in HC compared to all other groups. The number of factors was selected using the Scree plot method.

**Conclusion:** The results of this pilot study confirm that PsA patients have significant changes in the structure of the NEC compared with healthy subjects. However, most of these changes do not appear to be specific to PsA, as they are also found in PSO and, most surprisingly, in RA where DIP joint involvement is not present. Interestingly, PsA patients appear to have higher numbers of tortuous capillaries compared with PSO and HC, consistent with increased angiogenesis in the synovium. The combined evaluation seems to provide a good distinction between PsA and HC. Not surprisingly, PsO patients clustered closer to PsA (although with significant overlap with HC), which may be due to subclinical involvement. RA patients are distributed among all clusters and have alterations similar to those of PsA. This study does not provide a clear explanation for this phenomenon, and further studies are needed. This pilot study allowed us to identify US and NVC features that could be selected and applied in a prospective study that includes early undifferentiated arthritides and new-onset PSO, to understand whether the observed differences occur early in the disease and whether changes occur during the course of the disease. A larger sample size could also improve the accuracy of the clustering model.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4700

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**POS0026 THE INDEPENDENT INFLUENCE OF SEX ON THE DISEASE IMPACT DOMAINS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IS MODEST; ONCE CONFOUNDBERS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Gender/diversity issues

A. Ortolan1, A. Capacci1, A. Zoli1, S. Di Murro1, F. Cristiano1, P. Cerasuolo1, R. La Ferrara2, L. Lanzo1, C. Tur1, P. Rubortone1, L. Verardi1, G. Calabresi1, P. Aquilino1, G. Peluso1, M. A. D'agostino2,3, Agostino Gemelli General Hospital Foundation-IRCCS, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 2Catholic University of Sacred Hearth, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy

**Background:** Female sex has been associated with higher disease impact in psoriatic arthritis (PsA), as measured by the PsA Impact of Disease (PSAID) questionnaire. However, it is unclear whether sex can influence all different PSAID domains (physical and psychological), or some of them, and whether confounders might be responsible for this association.

**Objectives:** 1) to assess the impact of sex on each of the 12 PSAID domains, and 2) to correct this association for known confounders, including fibromyalgia, to evaluate the independent effect of sex on each of them.

**Methods:** Consecutive PsA patients, classified according to CASPAR criteria, attending our tertiary center between January and December 2022 were included. Demographic data, patient history, disease activity indices [Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) of pain and disease activity, Disease Activity in PsA (DAPSA) score] and functional indices (Health Assessment Questionnaire, HAQ) were collected. Impact of the disease was assessed by PSAID 12. Patients’ characteristics were compared between men and women with descriptive statistics. Multiple linear regression models were built, having the 12 PSAID domains and total PSAID as outcomes (=13 outcomes), and sex as main independent variable. The crude and adjusted association between sex and each of the outcomes were studied. Namely, models were adjusted for: 1) age and DAPSA; 2) age, DAPSA and fibromyalgia. R2 was used to measure the proportion of PSAID variance explained by sex. F-change test was used to evaluate if the addition of fibromyalgia as a confounder significantly contributed to improve the model fit.

**Results:** A total of 190 PsA patients were enrolled, 42% males, disease duration was 7.5±7.6 years. VAS pain, VAS disease activity, HAQ, all the 12 PSAID domains and total PSAID as outcomes (=13 outcomes), and sex as independent variable. The univariate models having the PSAID domains as outcomes, and sex as independent variable, showed significant negative associations between the two (Table 1), R2 values highlighted that a small proportion of the PSAID variance was explained by sex only (R²=0.04-0.15). In the models corrected for age and DAPSA (model group 1, Table 1), male sex was a negative independent predictor of some of the PSAID domains (fatigue, work and leisure, functional capacity, discomfort, sleep disturbance, coping and depression). The addition of fibromyalgia as a confounder (model group 2, Table 1) significantly improved the model fit for many of the PSAID outcomes, and male sex remained independently associated only to functional capacity and coping.

**Conclusion:** Sex alone is not able to explain PSAID variability, although it could have a higher impact on functional capacity and coping. More research is needed in order to understand the contextual factors that could explain the differences in PsA impact between men and women.
was Achilles tendon insertion among both pts with BL enthesitis and pts with an LEI score of 1 or 2. Through WS2, higher BL LEI score was associated with increased PtP, PtGA, and HAQ-DI scores (Table 1). Of the individual entheseal points assessed, enthesis of Achilles tendon insertion had the greatest impact on all PROs and entheses of medial femoral condyle the least. Following GUS treatment, median time to enthesitis resolution was W8 for each of the three anatomical locations assessed by the LEI (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** In this population of pts with active polyarticular PsA, Achilles tendon insertion was the most commonly affected entheseal point and more highly associated with worse PtP, PtGA, and functional status. GUS treatment was associated with rapid enthesitis resolution, including resolution of Achilles enthesis.

**REFERENCES:**


Table 1. Association between male sex (independent variable) and the PSAID domains (outcomes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>PSAID domains</th>
<th>B-coefficient (95% CI) for male sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. pain</td>
<td>Unadjusted</td>
<td>-1.9 (-3.2, 0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. fatigue</td>
<td>Adjusted models 1</td>
<td>-1.0 (2.0, 0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. skin problems</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. work &amp; leisure</td>
<td>Adjusted models 2</td>
<td>-1.2 (2.5, -0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. functional capacity</td>
<td>-1.4 (-2.4, -0.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. discomfort</td>
<td>-1.0 (2.0, 0.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. sleep disturbance</td>
<td>-0.6 (1.8, -0.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. constipation</td>
<td>-0.5 (1.8, -0.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. anxiety</td>
<td>-0.3 (1.8, -1.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. embarrassment/shame</td>
<td>-0.5 (1.8, -0.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. social participation</td>
<td>-0.4 (1.6, -0.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. depression</td>
<td>-1.5 (2.8, -0.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAIDtot</td>
<td>-1.6 (0.6, 1.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Parameter Estimates (95% Confidence Limits) of Association of LEI Score or Individual Entheseal Points with PROs (Higher Parameter Estimates Indicate Greater Association)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determinant</th>
<th>Presence/ # of points</th>
<th>PtP (0-100)</th>
<th>PtGA (0-100)</th>
<th>HAQ-DI (0-3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEI Score</td>
<td>-0.8 (0.3, 2.1)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.1, 2.3)</td>
<td>0.01 (0.004, 0.02)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis of Achilles Yes vs. No</td>
<td>3.7 (1.8, 5.6)</td>
<td>2.0 (0.5, 4.6)</td>
<td>0.04 (0.005, 0.08)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tendon Insertion</td>
<td>2.3 (0.7, 4.0)</td>
<td>4.6 (2.4, 6.8)</td>
<td>0.01 (0.001, 0.04)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis of Lateral Yes vs. No</td>
<td>3.0 (1.0, 5.0)</td>
<td>-0.9 (1.6, 3.4)</td>
<td>0.03 (0.002, 0.06)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epicondyle</td>
<td>1.8 (0.1, 3.6)</td>
<td>3.8 (1.6, 6.1)</td>
<td>0.02 (0.002, 0.05)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humerus</td>
<td>2.5 (0.9, 4.0)</td>
<td>1.8 (2.2, 3.8)</td>
<td>0.03 (0.001, 0.07)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis of Medial Yes vs. No</td>
<td>1.0 (1.0, 2.0)</td>
<td>-0.04 (2.7, 2.6)</td>
<td>0.01 (0.005, 0.03)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femoral Condyle</td>
<td>0.3 (-1.4, 2.4)</td>
<td>2.0 (-2.4, 1.1)</td>
<td>0.02 (0.001, 0.06)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Association between male sex (independent variable) and the PSAID domains (outcomes)**
**POS0028**

## COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN THE VITACORA AND PSAID QUESTIONNAIRES IN ESTIMATING QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Quality of life

I. Braña Abascal\(^1\), S. Burger\(^3\), P. González del Pozo\(^4\), E. Pardo Campo\(^5\), S. Alonso Castro\(^6\), M. Alperi-López\(^7\), R. Quero Silva\(^8\)\(^,^\)\(^,^\)\(^,^\)\(^,^\) Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, Rheumatology, Oviedo, Spain

**Background:** Health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is a frequently underestimated aspect in psoriatic arthritis (PsA). There are different instruments to estimate HRQoL in PsA, but they are rarely used.

**Objectives:** Our objective was to compare the clinimetric capabilities of the VITACORA\(^1\) and PsAID\(^2\) (Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease) questionnaires to assess HRQoL in PsA routine management.

**Methods:** Forty-five consecutive patients with PsA were recruited, mean age 55 ± 13 years, mean disease duration 6.2 ± 6.1 years, 24 men and 21 women. Disease activity was estimated using DAPSA (Disease Activity index for PsA), and HRQoL using VITACORA and PsAID. The construct and discriminant validity of the VITACORA (Pearson correlation and ROC curves) was analyzed. It must be taken into account that in the VITACORA questionnaire, the higher the value, the better the HRQoL, while in the PsAID the exact opposite occurs. Statistical significance was established at a \(p\) value <0.05. The statistical software R was used.

**Results:** Fifty-eight percent and 42% of the subjects were under biological and conventional systemic therapy, respectively. Most patients showed good control of their disease, median DAPSA 11.3 (IQR: 8.02-19.3), median PsAID 2.71 (IQR: 1.06-5.0). The correlation between VITACORA and PsAID was high, \(r = -0.7\) (95% CI: -0.84 to -0.46), \(p<0.0001\). Figure 1, The VITACORA values ranged from 6 to 94. The correlation between VITACORA and PsAID was high, \(r = -0.7\) (95% CI: -0.84 to -0.46), \(p<0.0001\). Figure 1, The VITACORA values ranged from 6 to 94. The correlation between VITACORA and PsAID was high, \(r = -0.7\) (95% CI: -0.84 to -0.46), \(p<0.0001\).

**Conclusion:** VITACORA value ≥ 66 with an area under ROC curve of 0.85 (95%CI: 0.71-0.98). The VITACORA values ranged from 6 to 94. The correlation between VITACORA and PsAID was high, \(r = -0.7\) (95% CI: -0.84 to -0.46), \(p<0.0001\).

**REFERENCES:**


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**POS0029**

## WHOLE SPINE MRI IN AXIAL PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Imaging, Psoriatic arthritis

S. Kawab\(^3\), S. Fukui\(^1\), H. Tamaki\(^1\), T. Nozaki\(^2\), M. Kishimoto\(^3\), M. Okada\(^1\)\(^,^\) St. Luke’s International Hospital, Immuno-Rheumatology Center, Tokyo, Japan; \(^2\) St. Luke’s International Hospital, Department of Radiology, Tokyo, Japan; \(^3\) Kyorin University School of Medicine, Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan

**Background:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is known to have symptoms clinically in multiple domains, one of which is the axial lesion. The ASAS classification criteria for axial spondyloarthritis include confirmation of sacroiliitis on x-ray or MRI, but there is no definition or specific imaging studies that have been determined for axial psoriatic arthritis (axPsA).

**Objectives:** This study aimed to investigate the usefulness of whole spine MRI including all spines and sacroiliac joints in patients with axPsA.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed the medical records of PsA patients who were underwent whole spine MRI and diagnosed that had axial lesions. PsA was classified according to Classification Criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis (CASPAR) criteria and axPsA was diagnosed by a radiologist specializing in musculoskeletal lesions, especially spondyloarthritis. We analyzed patients’ characteristics and MRI findings.

**Results:** The mean age of the 43 patients was 47.47 (±12.7) years, and 26 (60.5%) were male. The time from onset of PsA to MRI imaging was 7.98 (3.34, 18.65) years. 24 (52.8%) patients had sacroiliac joint involvement and 39 (90.7%) had spinal involvement. 15 (34.9%), 25 (58.1%), and 28 (65.1%) had cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine, respectively.

**Conclusion:** In this study, about half of the patients had no MRI findings of the sacroiliac joint. On the other hand, spinal lesions were more common. Although sacroiliac joint MRI is usually performed for diagnosis in axial spondyloarthriti, imaging of the sacroiliac joints alone may be insufficient in cases of axPsA, because it is known that there are patients who do not have lesions in the sacroiliac joints but in the spine alone.\(^1\) This study showed that whole spine MRI imaging was considered useful to avoid overlooking spinal lesions which is important for axPsA.

**REFERENCE:**


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**Table 1. Baseline characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>47.5 (12.7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male sex, n (%)</td>
<td>26 (60.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m(^2))</td>
<td>23.57 (3.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein (mg/dl)</td>
<td>0.12 (0.04, 0.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>42 (97.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis, n (%)</td>
<td>40 (93.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. Correlation between VITACORA and PsAID**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DO:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.988

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**Figure 1. Radiographic patterns of patients with axial psoriatic arthritis**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DO:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1078
RA is more than just joints

**POS0030 METHOTREXATE USE ASSOCIATES WITH ISCHEMIC CARDIOVASCULAR RISK REDUCTION IN MALES BUT NOT FEMALES WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis


1Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Rheumatology, Torrance, United States of America; 2The Lundquist Institute, Rheumatology, Torrance, United States of America; 3Radboud University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 4Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; 5Rush University, Internal Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America; 6Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 7Umeå universitet, Rheumatology, Umeå, Sweden; 8Lako Hospital, Rheumatology, Athina, Greece; 9University Of Witwatersrand, Rheumatology, Johannesburg, South Africa; 10University of Maastricht, Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands; 11Salvador Zubrín National Institute of Health Sciences and Nutrition, Rheumatology, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico; 12Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 13Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Cardiology, Oslo, Norway; 14Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology Dept, Rheumatology, Kalli Paskhim, India; 15Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Dudley, United Kingdom; 16Aarhus University Hospital, Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 17Aarhus University, Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark

**Background:** Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) experience higher cardiovascular risk compared to individuals without inflammatory rheumatic disease. Observational studies indicate that methotrexate (MTX) may decrease cardiovascular risk in patients with RA, but it is unclear whether sex differentially impacts cardiovascular risk in MTX users and non-users and whether men and women derive equal benefit from methotrexate use.

**Objectives:** We here explored the influence of sex on cardiovascular risk in MTX nonusers and users. We further evaluated the effect of MTX treatment on cardiovascular risk in males and females with RA.

**Methods:** We evaluated 4362 patients with RA and no atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, prospectively included in an international observational cohort [An International Cardiovascular Consortium for people with RA (ATACC-RA)]. Outcomes of interest were (a) major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) defined as cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or stroke and (b) any ischemic cardiovascular events (CVE) including MACE, stable angina, coronary revascularization, transient ischemic attack, and peripheral arterial disease with or without revascularization. Missing covariate data were imputed using multiple imputation with 10 replications. Multivariable Cox models stratified by center evaluated the impact of sex, baseline MTX use and their interaction on CVE risk after adjusting for age, hypertension, diabetes, family history of coronary artery disease, smoking, total cholesterol to high-density lipoprotein cholesterol ratio, disease duration, and disease activity score (DAS28 ESR). Two corroborating sensitivity analyses were conducted; The first used inverse probability of treatment weights to balance differences in MTX treated and untreated patients. The second included patients enrolled in the cohort on or after January 1, 2000, when MTX use became more prevalent among enrollees.

**Results:** There were 237 first MACE and 358 total ischemic CVE recorded during the entire follow-up period. Male sex associated with an 81% and 58% greater risk of MACE and any ischemic CVE, respectively (Figure 1). Among MTX nonusers, incidence of MACE and any ischemic CVE was higher in males [176 (95% CI 14.4-21.3) and 24.5 (20.7-28.9) events/1000PY, respectively] compared to females [6.9 (5.7-8.4) and 11.4 (9.8-13.3) events/1000PY, respectively, all p for difference<0.001]. In adjusted Cox models, male patients had a 2.09-fold higher risk of MACE and 74% higher risk of any ischemic CVE compared to female nonusers (both p<0.001, Figure 1). In contrast, among MTX users, incidence of MACE and any ischemic CVE was not significantly different in males [4.2 (1.7-10.0) and 7.6 (4.0-14.6) events/1000PY, respectively] than females [6.4 (4.4-9.2) and 9.4 (6.9-12.8) events/1000PY, respectively] and sex was not associated with event risk in MTX users in adjusted models. Moreover, among males, MTX use was associated with a 16% reduced risk of MACE and 55% reduction in any ischemic CVE (p=0.026 and 0.024, respectively). In contrast, MTX use was not associated with MACE or any ischemic CVE in females [adjusted hazard ratio 1.33 (0.83-2.14) and 1.21 (0.81-1.79), respectively]. Both sensitivity analyses yielded similar results.

**Conclusion:** RA males not using MTX exhibit higher risk of MACE and any ischemic CVE compared to female nonusers, while no differences are observed between male and female MTX users. Baseline MTX use associated with reduction in the risk of MACE and all ischemic cardiovascular events in males but not females with RA.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

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**DOH:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1446

**Figure 1.** Impact of sex in methotrexate nonusers and users and effect of methotrexate treatment for females and males

**POS0031 DO COMORBIDITIES INCREASE THE RISK OF FAILURE TO REACH REMISSION IN EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS RECEIVING METHOTREXATE AS FIRST-LINE THERAPY?**

**Keywords:** Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis, Remission

L. Trbidad1, H. Westerling2, B. Delcoigne1, J. Askling1, S. Saevarsdottir2,3,4,5

1Karolinska Institutet, Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 2University of Iceland, Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, Reykjavik, Iceland

**Background:** Previous studies have reported that some comorbidities associate with a lower probability of remission in patients with established rheumatoid arthritis (RA).[1, 2] Evidence on whether comorbidities affect remission in DMARD-naïve patients with early RA is, however, lacking. We have recently shown that most patients with early RA, irrespective of comorbidities, receive methotrexate (MTX) in DMARD monotherapy as first-line therapy.[3]

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to examine whether specific comorbidities or overall comorbidity burden affect the likelihood of remission on MTX in DMARD monotherapy as first treatment in patients with early RA.

**Methods:** We included patients with a new RA diagnosis in the Swedish Rheumatology Quality register (SRQ) during 2007 to 2020, in total 11,011 incident RA cases, of whom 67% were female and 69% seropositive. Of these, 8,273 had a follow-up visit at 3 months. Information on comorbidities five years before RA diagnosis was retrieved from the Swedish National Patient Register and information on prescribed drugs 1.5 year before RA diagnosis from the Prescribed Drug Register. Comorbidity diagnoses were grouped into 10 categories (table 1). Disease activity measures were captured through SRQ. The primary outcome measure was failure to reach DAS28 remission, with Boolean, SDAI, CDAI remission, EULAR response and no swollen joints as secondary outcomes. Modified Poisson regression was used to calculate the relative risks of failure to reach remission, in relation to the comorbidities, adjusted for sex and age.

**Results:** In total, 53% of the RA patients had failed to reach DAS28 remission after 3 months of MTX monotherapy, ranging from 98% among the patients with
psychiatric diagnoses to 48% of the patients with a history of cancer (figure 1). The relative risk of not reaching DAS28 remission after 3 months (table 1) was increased for patients with endocrine (RR=1.08, 95% CI 1.01 to 1.15) or gastrointestinal (RR=1.16, 95% CI 1.03 to 1.30) diseases, previous hospitalisation due to infectious diseases (RR=1.21, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.38), psychiatric comorbidity (RR: 1.24, 95% CI 1.15 to 1.35) and respiratory diseases (RR=1.16, 95% CI 1.01 to 1.32). The comorbidity burden also associated with lower remission rates, with a 27% higher risk of not reaching DAS28 remission for the patients with ≥3 comorbidity categories compared to patients without comorbidities. A similar pattern was observed for the secondary outcome measures.

**Conclusion:** Specific comorbidities and the overall comorbidity burden associate with failure to reach remission to MTX as D-MARD monotherapy in early RA patients. Comorbidities may be an important factor when assessing treatment outcomes in early RA.

### Table 1. Relative risk of failure to reach DAS28 remission at 3 months after initiating methotrexate monotherapy in early RA, by comorbidity categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comorbidity Category</th>
<th>Relative Risk (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular</td>
<td>1.02 (0.93 to 1.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-cardiac vascular</td>
<td>1.01 (0.95 to 1.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignant</td>
<td>0.90 (0.81 to 1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine</td>
<td>1.08 (1.01 to 1.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>1.16 (1.03 to 1.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious</td>
<td>1.21 (1.06 to 1.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney</td>
<td>1.38 (0.89 to 2.16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological</td>
<td>1.11 (1.00 to 1.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric</td>
<td>1.24 (1.15 to 1.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>1.16 (1.01 to 1.32)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for sex and age. Number of patients with DAS28 at 3 months: 7643. Significant findings in bold.

**Figure 1.** Proportion with failure to reach DAS28 remission at 3 months after initiating methotrexate monotherapy in early RA, by comorbidity categories.

### REFERENCES:


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Liselotte Tidblad: None declared, Helga Westerlund: None declared, Bénédicte Delcoigne Grant/research support from: Partly employed by the ARTIS Swedish national safety monitoring system which receives financial support from Abbvie, Astra-Zeneca, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi, and UCB; Abbvie, Astra-Zeneca, BMS, Eli Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi, Astra-Zeneca, BMS, Eli Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi, and UCB, these entities have entered into agreements with Karolinska Institutet with JA as principal investigator, mainly in the context of safety monitoring of biologics via ARTIS/Swedish Biologics Register, Saeders Saavedrottidt. Employee of: Part-time employee of deCODE genetics Inc., unrelated to this work.

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**POS0032**

**TARGETS THAT WORK: IDENTIFYING MODIFIABLE PREDICTORS OF PRESENTEEISM OVER ONE YEAR IN WORKERS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Work-related issues, Inflammatory arthritides

A. Luqini1,2, H. Xie3,4, W. Zhang1,6, M. Gignac3,4, D. Laclau1,4, 1The University of British Columbia, Department of Medicine, Vancouver, Canada; 2Arthritis Research Canada, Vancouver, Canada; 3Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Burnaby, Canada; 4Arthritis Research Canada, Statistics, Vancouver, Canada; 5The University of British Columbia, School of Population and Public Health, Vancouver, Canada; 6Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHEOS), Health Statistics, Vancouver, Canada; 7University of Toronto, Dalhousie School of Public Health, Toronto, Canada; 8Institute for Work & Health, Scientific Director, Toronto, Canada; 9Arthritis Research Canada, Scientific Director, Vancouver, Canada

**Background:** Inflammatory arthritis (IA) impacts work outcomes and workers’ lives. Advancements in treatment have improved work disability (WD) but presenteeism remains a major problem, lacking clear targets for intervention.

**Objectives:** Identify predictors of presenteeism over 1-year follow-up in workers with IA.

**Methods:** We designed a prospective observational study analyzing data from the RCT evaluating the Making it Work10 program, an online employment intervention. Participants were recruited in 3 Canadian provinces from rheumatologist practices, consumer organizations and arthritis programs. Eligibility: diagnosis of IA, employed, age 18-59, and concerned about ability to work. Presenteeism was assessed at 0-6-12 mos., using the RA Work Instability Scale (RAWIS, range 0-23). Candidate predictors measured at baseline (bsl.) included sociodemographic characteristics (age, sex, ethnicity, education, marital status, dependents < age 19); disease variables, (arthritis type, physical function [Health Assessment Questionnaires, HAQ II], disease activity [RA Disease Activity Index, RADAI], fatigue [Multidimensional Assessment of Fatigue, MAF], depression [Patient Health Questionnaire, PHQ 9], sleep [Insomnia Severity Index, ISI]; number of limiting comorbidities; work-related variables (occupation, self-employment, job strain, arthritis-work spillover, self-efficacy at work, job satisfaction, importance of work, family support for work, no. hours worked per week, job autonomy, physical demand, psychological demands, and decision latitude from the Job Content Questionnaire). Important bsl. predictors of presenteeism were identified using multivariable linear regression, and linear mixed effect models, with stepwise model selection procedure optimizing Akaike Information criterion (AIC), a commonly used statistical measure and asymptotically equivalent to using cross-validation to compare models. Finally, interaction terms were tested in the model.

**Results:** A total of 564 participants (mean (SD) age: 45.7(9.9) yrs, 77.8% female, 81.5% Caucasian, 49.7% RA, 19.7% SpA, 17.0% PsA and 13.7% SLE or another CTD) were recruited. Bsl. median RAWIS (q25,q75) was 11 (7, 15). More job strain, arthritis-work spillover, self-efficacy at work, job satisfaction, importance of work, family support for work, no. hours worked per week, job autonomy, physical demand, psychological demands, and decision latitude from the Job Content Questionnaire. Important bsl. predictors of presenteeism were identified using multivariable linear regression and linear mixed effect models, with stepwise model selection procedure optimizing Akaike Information criterion (AIC), a commonly used statistical measure and asymptotically equivalent to using cross-validation to compare models. Finally, interaction terms were tested in the model.

**Results:** A total of 564 participants (mean (SD) age: 45.7(9.9) yrs, 77.8% female, 81.5% Caucasian, 49.7% RA, 19.7% SpA, 17.0% PsA and 13.7% SLE or another CTD) were recruited. Bsl. median RAWIS (q25,q75) was 11 (7, 15). More job strain, arthritis-work spillover, self-efficacy at work, job satisfaction, importance of work, family support for work, no. hours worked per week, job autonomy, physical demand, psychological demands, and decision latitude from the Job Content Questionnaire. Important bsl. predictors of presenteeism were identified using multivariable linear regression and linear mixed effect models, with stepwise model selection procedure optimizing Akaike Information criterion (AIC), a commonly used statistical measure and asymptotically equivalent to using cross-validation to compare models. Finally, interaction terms were tested in the model.

**Conclusion:** This study identified key modifiable predictors of presenteeism over one year in workers with IA. These results provide useful information to healthcare professionals, researchers and patients.

### Table 1. Baseline predictors of presenteeism at baseline and follow up visits over 1 year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline predictors</th>
<th>Model1. RAWIS Baseline *</th>
<th>Model2. RAWIS Over 1 yr. f.u. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>β</td>
<td>95%CI</td>
<td>p-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Strain (1-5)</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>1.2, 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis-Work Spillover (1-5)</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>1.0, 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue (1-5)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Efficacy at Work</td>
<td>-0.36</td>
<td>-0.6, -0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress (1-10)</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>1.6, 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Activity (0-10)</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.0, 0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insomnia (0-28)</td>
<td>-0.05</td>
<td>-0.1, -0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical demand (1-4)</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.0, 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R²</td>
<td>adj. R²=.70, predicted</td>
<td>R²=.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Linear regression model 4 Linear mixed effects model Model both models adjusted for calendar time, program allocation, age, ethnicity and occupation
**Background:** Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are at increased risk of *S. aureus* bacteremia (SAB) compared with the general population. [1] SAB has high mortality and osteoarticular infection (OAI) is a feared complication associated with persistent pain and disability. It remains unclear if RA is associated with increased risk of OAI or death following SAB. [2, 3]

**Objectives:** To compare risk of OAI and death in SAB patients with and without RA and to assess risk factors for OAI in RA patients including risk associated with antirheumatic treatment.

**Methods:** Nationwide cohort study of Danish patients with microbiologically verified first-time SAB from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2018. We identified RA, OAI, vital status, comorbidities, and RA-related clinical characteristics in the rheumatology registry, DANBIO and other national registries. We estimated incidence and 90-day cumulative incidence of OAI in patients without OAI before SAB, restricted to patients without recent OAI (n=351). We computed hazard ratios (HR) by multivariate Cox regression adjusted for a priori known risk factors for each outcome. We included csDMARD use, serostatus, RA disease duration, and remaining variables in table.*

**Results:** We identified 18,274 patients with SAB (n=367 with RA). In RA versus (vs.) non-RA, women comprised 62% vs. 37% and median age was 73 years (interquartile range 65; 80) vs. 70 years (59; 82). Prior OAI (0-3 months before SAB) was diagnosed in 4% vs. 2%. The 90-day cumulative incidence of OAI was 23.1% (95% CI 18.8; 27.6) in RA patients vs. 12.5% (12.1; 13.0) in non-RA (Figure 1) (HR 1.93 (1.54; 2.41) adjusted for age, sex, calendar year, and diabetes mellitus). In RA, use of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi) and orthopedic implants were associated with OAI risk (Table 1). Mortality was similar in SAB patients with (35.4% (30.6; 40.3)) and without RA (33.9% (33.2; 34.5) (Figure), (HR 1.04 (0.87; 1.24) adjusted for age, sex, calendar year, chronic liver disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cancer, congestive heart failure, renal failure).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5552

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities, bDMARD

**Figure 1:** Cumulative incidence of osteoarticular infection (panel A) and death (panel B) 90 days following *S. aureus* bacteremia among patients with and without rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in Denmark from 2006 to 2018.

**Table 1.** Characteristics of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and *S. aureus* bacteremia in Denmark from 2006-2018 and associated risk of osteoarticular infection (OAI).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total, n (%)</th>
<th>RA, n</th>
<th>90-day cumulative incidence</th>
<th>Adjusted* HR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-user</td>
<td>281 (77)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>19.4 (15.0; 24.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User</td>
<td>86 (23)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35.9 (25.4; 46.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current user</td>
<td>68 (19)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>41.9 (27.0; 56.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of action</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-TNFi</td>
<td>18 (5)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29.4 (9.9; 52.41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current user</td>
<td>141 (38)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23.1 (16.4; 30.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User</td>
<td>226 (62)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>23.0 (17.7; 28.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former user</td>
<td>64 (17)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21.0 (11.8; 31.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current user</td>
<td>162 (44)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>23.9 (17.5; 30.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily dose (mg)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤5.0</td>
<td>128 (35)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>25.4 (18.1; 33.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;5.0</td>
<td>34 (9)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18.2 (7.2; 33.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic implants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>177 (48)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16.7 (11.6; 22.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>190 (52)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>29.4 (22.9; 36.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a* age, sex, calendar year, diabetes mellitus, csDMARD use, serostatus, RA disease duration and remaining variables in table.*

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S. Dieperink1,2, B. Glintborg1,2,3, M. Nørgaard4, F. Mehnert5, L. B. Oestergaard5, T. Benfield6,7, A. Petersen6, M. L. Hetland1,2,3.

1Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research (COPECARE), Centre for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Centre of Head and Orthopaedics, Glostrup, Denmark; 2University of Copenhagen, Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark; 3Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet, DANBIO Registry, Centre for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Centre of Head and Orthopaedics, Glostrup, Denmark; 4Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus, Denmark; 5Copenhagen University Hospital – Herlev and Gentofte, Cardiovascular Research Center, Hellerup, Denmark; 6Copenhagen University Hospital - Amager and Hvidovre, Department of Infectious Diseases, Hvidovre, Denmark; 7Copenhagen University Hospital - North Zealand, Department of Cardiology, Hillerød, Denmark; 8University of Copenhagen, Department of Public Health, Copenhagen, Denmark; 9Statens Serum Institut, Department of Bacteria, Parasites and Fungi, Copenhagen, Denmark.
Conclusion: Nearly one in four patients with RA experienced an osteoarticular infection following S. aureus bacteremia compared with one in eight patients without RA. In patients with RA, current TNFi use and orthopedic implants were associated with increased osteoarticular infection risk. One in three patients died, with no difference between patients with and without RA. These findings highlight the need for vigilance when RA patients present with SAB to ensure timely identification of OAI.

REFERENCES:

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POS0034

BIOLGIC USE REGULATES THE IMPACT OF INFLAMMATION ON ISCHEMIC CARDIAC DYSFUNCTION RISK IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis

G. Karpouzas1,2, S. Ormsøe3, E. Skau2, E. Myasoedova4, M. A. González-Gay5, A. Corrales5, S. Rantapää Dahlqvist6, P. Silikais7, P. Dessein8, L. Tsang9, C. Hitchon5, V. Pascual10, I. J. Colunga-Pedraza11, E. M. Hauge12,15, G. Klas13,16, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Rheumatology, Torrance, United States of America; 1The Lundquist Institute, Rheumatology, Torrance, United States of America; 2Radboud University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 3Mayo Clinic Rochester MN, Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; 4Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 5Umeå university, Rheumatology, Umeå, Sweden; 6Laión Hospital, Rheumatology, Athina, Greece; 7University Of Witwatersrand, Rheumatology, Johannesburg, South Africa; 8University of Manitoba, Rheumatology, Winnipeg, Canada; 9Salvador Zubirán National Institute of Health Sciences and Nutrition, Rheumatology, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 10Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 11Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Cardiology, Oslo, Norway; 12Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 13Aarhus University Hospital, Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 14Aarhus University, Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 15The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Brierley Hill, United Kingdom

Background: Chronic inflammation contributes to enhanced cardiovascular risk in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Biologic disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) have been shown to effectively control inflammation in many conventional synthetic DMARD non-responders and improve cardiovascular outcomes.

Objectives: We here explored whether baseline bDMARD use may influence the impact of disease activity and systemic inflammation on long-term cardiovascular risk in patients with RA.

Methods: We studied 4370 patients with RA who were free of cardiovascular disease upon registration to An International Cardiovascular Consortium for people with RA (ATACC-RA) and followed prospectively. Prespecified outcomes included (a) major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) defined as non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke, or cardiovascular death and (b) any ischemic cardiovascular events (CVE) comprising MACE, coronary revascularization, stable angina pectoris, transient ischemic attack and peripheral arterial disease with or without revascularization. Missing covariate data were imputed using multiple imputation with 10 replications. Multivariable Cox models stratified by center evaluated the impact of disease activity [based on 28 joint counts and CRP (DAS28-CRP)], systemic inflammation (CRP), bDMARD use and their respective interactions on CVE risk after adjusting for age, gender, hypertension, diabetes, family history of CAD, smoking and total cholesterol to high-density lipoprotein ratio. Two corroborating sensitivity analyses were performed; the first included patients enrolled in the cohort on or after January 1, 2000, when bDMARD use became more prevalent among enrollees. The second used inverse probability of treatment weights (IPTW) to balance differences in bDMARD treated and untreated patients.

Results: Throughout 26534 patient years of follow-up, 239 first MACE and 362 total ischemic CVE were recorded. Among bDMARD nonusers, incidence of MACE and any ischemic CVE was [9.3 (95% CI 8.2-10.6) and 14.2 (12.8-15.8) events/1000PY respectively. Corresponding rates for bDMARD users were [5.4 (95% CI 2.9-10.1) and 8.2 (5.0-13.6) events/1000PY respectively. In the entire cohort, DAS-28 CRP and CRP(ln) associated with greater risk of MACE (adjusted hazard ratio [HR] 1.19 (95%CI 1.06-1.34), p=0.004 and HR 1.15 (1.02-1.28), p=0.017 respectively), while for all ischemic CVE the association was significant for DAS-28 CRP (adjusted HR 1.1 (95%CI 1.07 to 1.30)), but not CRP(ln) [HR 1.06 (0.97 to 1.16)]. In bDMARD nonusers at baseline, higher DAS28-CRP and CRP(ln) associated with greater risk of MACE [adjusted HR 1.21 (95%CI 1.07-1.37), p=0.002 and HR 1.16 (1.04-1.30), p=0.009 respectively]. However, this was not the case in bDMARD users [p-for-interaction= 0.017 and 0.011 correspondingly, Figure 1]. In contrast, no significant interaction between DAS28-CRP or CRP and bDMARD use on any ischemic CVE was observed [p-for-interaction= 0.167 and 0.237 respectively]. Both sensitivity analyses yielded similar results.

Conclusion: Higher disease activity and systemic inflammation at baseline associated with greater risk of MACE in bDMARD nonusers but not in patients receiving bDMARDs. This may suggest the presence of additional bDMARD-specific benefits directly on atherosclerotic plaque — such as plaque stabilization — above and beyond their effects on systemic inflammation.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL

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POS0035

INFLUENCE OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE DURATION ON THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS-INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE, NATIONAL MULTICENTER STUDY OF 392 PATIENTS WITH ABATCEPT

Keywords: Lungs, Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDS)
Background: Intstitial lung disease (ILD) is a severe complication of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Abatacept (ABA) has demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of RA-ILD, especially if it is initiated early during the ILD [1-2].

Objectives: To compare the efficacy of ABA in RA-ILD patients according to ILD duration.

Methods: National multicenter study of 392 RA-ILD patients treated with ABA. Patients with ABA initiation early in the disease (during the first 6 months since ILD diagnosis) were compared to those in whom ABA was started after 2 years of ILD diagnosis (“early” vs “late” group, respectively). We analyzed in the 2 groups the following outcomes: a) forced vital capacity (FVC), b) diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO), c) chest high resolution computed tomography (HRCT), d) dyspnea and e) arthritis activity.

Results: A total of 157 patients were included in the “early” group and 135 patients in the “late” group. Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics are shown in Table 1. Mean baseline values of FVC were significantly higher in the “early” group. The evolution of FVC and DLCO for 48 months is shown in Figure 1. Both parameters remained stable during 12 months of ABA therapy, with no statistically significant differences found (although lower stable values of FVC in the “late” group). Available chest HRCT images improved/stabilized in 75% and 51% of patients in the “early” and “late” group, respectively. Stabilization or improvement of dyspnea was found in most patients of both groups.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that an early administration of ABA in RA-ILD may be preferable to preserve lung function. However, treatment with ABA at any time of the course in the ILD seems to prevent interstitial lung progression.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Main general features at baseline of RA-ILD patients with EARLY vs LATE initiation of ABA in ILD course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>EARLY RA-ILD</th>
<th>LATE RA-ILD</th>
<th>EARLY vs LATE P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women n (%)</td>
<td>226 (58)</td>
<td>126 (92)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker ever n (%)</td>
<td>210 (54)</td>
<td>126 (92)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD duration up to ABA months median (IQR)</td>
<td>11 [3-8]</td>
<td>2 [1-4]</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO (% pred) median (IQR)</td>
<td>88 ± 21</td>
<td>28 ± 19</td>
<td>0.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABA monotherapy n (%)</td>
<td>179 (46)</td>
<td>82 (62)</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone at baseline, mg/day median (IQR)</td>
<td>7.5 (5-10)</td>
<td>5 (5-10)</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous IS therapy n (%)</td>
<td>392 (100)</td>
<td>392 (100)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Evolution of pulmonary function in RA-ILD patients with EARLY and LATE initiation of ABA in ILD course.
**POSS037 VALIDATION OF DIAGNOSTIC CODES FOR DEMENTIA IN A RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS POPULATION-BASED COHORT**

**Keywords:** Cognitive Function, Rheumatoid arthritis, Validation

E. Myasoedov1,2, M. Vassilik3, C. Kodishalak1, E. Lovering1, R. Kumar1, C. S. Crowson1,3, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, United States of America; Mayo Clinic, Epidemiology, Rochester, United States of America; Mayo Clinic, Clinical trials and Biostatistics, Rochester, United States of America

**Background:** Dementia is a major global mental health problem. The prevalence of dementia is increasing dramatically with increasing life longevity and population aging. Several studies found increased risk of dementia in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and reported a possibility of mitigating this risk with antirheumatic treatments. The underlying mechanisms for these associations are not fully understood and require further study. As clinical verification of the diagnosis may not be readily available, especially in retrospective observational studies, diagnostic codes can be used. However, performance of diagnostic codes for dementia case identification has not been validated in RA cohorts.

**Objectives:** To validate the use of ICD-9/10-CM diagnostic codes for dementia identification against diagnostic criteria for dementia in individuals with and without RA using retrospective validation of case identification.

**Methods:** This retrospective population-based study included residents of a geographically well-defined area with incident RA based on the 1987 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) classification criteria in 1980-2018. All adult (≥18 years) cases of RA were included and matched (1:1) by age, sex, calendar year, and county to non-RA controls. Dementia case identification using ICD-9-CM diagnostic codes from the Charlson comorbidity index was validated against dementia diagnosis based on Diagnostic criteria in Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition (DSM-IV). ICD-9-CM criteria were verified by manual records review.

**Results:** A total of 3,116 individuals (1,558 RA cases and 1,558 non-RA controls) were included. Mean age 56.2 years; 68% females in both groups; mean (SD) age at the last follow-up was 68.7 (14.7) years for RA cases and 68.6 (15.4) years for non-RA controls. At the time of the last follow-up, there were 202 (13%) patients with one diagnostic code for dementia, 136 (9%) with two diagnostic codes for dementia, and 137 (9%) with a confirmed diagnosis of dementia per DSM-IV. The respective numbers in non-RA controls are 216 (14%); 147 (9%) and 149 (10%). Mean (SD) duration between accumulating two ICD codes and diagnosis verification by DSM-IV was an absolute difference of 1.0 (1.8) years in RA and 1.2 (1.7) years in non-RA. Table 1 summarizes the results of validation analyses.

**Conclusions:** The ICD-9/10-CM codes for dementia performed equally well against DSM-IV criteria in the retrospective population-based cohort of individuals with RA and in matched non-RA controls, identifying true dementia cases with approximately 80% probability. The PPV was higher in older birth cohorts, reflecting the higher prevalence of dementia in older adults. The use of ICD-9/10-CM codes from Charlson comorbidity index is acceptable for dementia case identification in patients with RA, especially in older adults, although additional parameters (e.g., number of diagnostic codes) need to be considered.

**Table 1. Performance of ICD-9/10-CM code-based definitions of dementia against DSM-IV criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>PPV, rate (CI) NPV, rate (CI) Accuracy, rate (CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 code</td>
<td>90.9 (87.6-94.2)</td>
<td>94.4 (93.6-95.3)</td>
<td>62.2 (57.6-66.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>98.4 (97.6-98.9)</td>
<td>81.3 (76.7-85.0)</td>
<td>98.9 (97.9-99.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-RA</td>
<td>80.4 (87.5-92.6)</td>
<td>90.8 (87.7-93.8)</td>
<td>98.2 (95.9-99.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: CI = confidence interval, PPV = positive predictive value, NPV = negative predictive value.*

**References:**

1. Myasoedov E, Vassilik A, Kodishalak C, Lovering E, Kumar R, Crowson CS. Mayo Clinic, Rochester, United States of America; Mayo Clinic, Epidemiology, Rochester, United States of America; Mayo Clinic, Clinical trials and Biostatistics, Rochester, United States of America.

2. **POSS036 SUBSEQUENT HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR OR WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS IN INDIVIDUALS WITH PRE-EXISTING RHEUMATIC ARTHRITIS AND SPONDYLARTHROTHESIS: A NATIONAL REGISTRY-BASED RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Mental health, Real-world evidence, Comorbidities

T. Formanek1, K. Mladá2, P. Mohr3, M. Olejárová4, K. Pavelka1, M. Husaková5, 1University of Cambridge, Department of Psychiatry, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 2National Institute of Mental Health, Department of Public Mental Health, Kecany, Czech Republic; 3National Institute of Mental Health, Clinical Genomics, National Institute of Health, Prague, Czech Republic; 4Charles University and Rheumatology Institute, Department of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic

**Background:** The crosslink between rheumatic diseases (RD) and psychiatric disorders (PD) has been suggested, particularly due to systemic inflammation and the psycho-social impact of chronic painful experience in patients with RD.

**Objectives:** In the present study, we investigated the risk of subsequent hospitalization for PD and for PD either for or with PD in cohorts of patients with specific pre-existing RD.

**Methods:** In this retrospective cohort study, we utilized data from the Czech nationwide registers of all-cause hospitalizations and deaths. The study consisted of individuals first hospitalized with (1) rheumatoid arthritis (RA; International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10) codes M05 and M06) and (2) spondylarthropathy (SpA; ICD-10 codes M07, M45 and M46[1, 8, 9]) in the time-period from 1999 to 2011 (index hospitalization) and counterparts without the respective diseases, exactly matched on age, sex, month and year at the index hospitalization (1:3). As the risk of subsequent hospitalization after index hospitalization (1:4) for PD either for or with each diagnostic group of PD (ICD-10 codes F07 + G20 and G30, F1x, F2x, F3x, F4x and F5x) arising in the period of five or more years (up to 2017) from the index hospitalization was assessed using stratified Cox proportional hazards models, controlling for deaths occurring in this time-period and adjusting for age, sex and month and year at the index hospitalization. We assessed the risk (1) of being hospitalized for PD (ie, primary diagnosis) and (2) of being hospitalized for or with PD (ie, either primary or secondary diagnosis) separately. For the respective analyses, we excluded individuals who were (1) hospitalized for PD and (2) hospitalized either for or with PD five or more years (up to 1994) prior to the index hospitalization, separately for each diagnostic group of PD. Thus, we effectively created 24 matched cohorts overall. The results are expressed as hazard ratios (HR) with 95% confidence intervals (95% CI).

**Results:** When considering hospitalizations specifically for PD, the total number of individuals in the RA cohorts ranged from 92,694 to 93,768 and from 31,488 to 32,070 individuals in the SpA cohorts. We found that individuals with SpA had an elevated risk of hospitalization for anxiety disorders (1.36; 1.08 to 1.70), when compared with matched counterparts. Conversely, we found that individuals with RA had a decreased risk of hospitalization for substance use disorders (0.58; 0.46 to 0.72). Next, we found that individuals with RA and SpA had an elevated risk of being hospitalized either for or with mood disorders (2.73; 1.59 to 4.71). Conversely, people with RA had a lower risk of being hospitalized either for or with substance use disorders (0.77, 0.68 to 0.87). For the other PD outcomes in people with RA and SpA, the 95% CIs covered a range from decreased to increased risk.

**Conclusion:** Individuals with RA and SpA seem to have a higher risk of developing a range of PD, when compared with matched counterparts. The detected differences suggest that clinical vigilance and provision of mental health services to affected individuals require further attention.

**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by the Czech Health Research Council (N21896000007) and by the National Institute for Health Research, Applied Research Collaboration, East of England (TF).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4035 

POS0038 

UTILIZATION OF CARDIOVASCULAR PREVENTIVE SERVICES IN A RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS POPULATION BASED COHORT 

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities, Cardiovascular disease 
D. Montes1, C. A. Hulshizer2, E. Myasoedova2,3, J. M. Davis III, A. Hansson2, A. Duarte-Garcia4, G. Figueroa-Parra2, B. Chevert5, C. S. Crowson2,3, Mayo Clinic, Department of Internal Medicine, Rochester, United States of America; 2Mayo Clinic, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, Rochester, United States of America; 3Mayo Clinic, Division of Rheumatology, Rochester; United States of America; 4CHU Brest, Division of Rheumatology, Brest, France 

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) increases the burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD). Fasting blood glucose, fasting lipoprotein profiles, and blood pressure measurements are recommended at regular intervals to screen for classical CVD risk factors of diabetes mellitus (DM), hyperlipidemia (HLD), and hypertension (HTN), respectively. 

Objectives: Our objectives were 1) to perform a contemporary assessment of the trends of CVD preventive service utilization in patients with RA compared to matched non-RA comparators, 2) identify RA patient characteristics that may influence trends in preventive service utilization, and 3) assess how a diagnosis of RA alone influences approaches to CVD prevention compared to the other classical CVD risk factors. 

Methods: Inpatient and outpatient medical records for each potential case were manually reviewed. All incident patients fulfilled the 1987 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) classification criteria for RA or the 2010 European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)/American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria. All ≥19-year-old patients with an RA diagnosis living in an 8-county region on January 1, 2015 (index date), were included and matched (1:1) by sex, age, and county to non-RA comparators. Rates of screening for the classical CVD risk factors were compared between groups using Cox models with adjustment for age, sex, and race. 

Results: DM screening was more common among patients with RA (HR: 1.10, 95% CI 1.01–1.19), as was HTN screening (HR: 1.57, 95% CI 1.24–1.92). However, HLD screening in RA was similar to comparators (HR: 0.99, 95% CI 0.89–1.10). RA patient characteristics that influenced classical CVD risk factor screening included: smoking history, obesity, RA duration of < 5 years, older age at the time of RA diagnosis, a higher Charlson comorbidity index, the use of >90 days of glucocorticoid therapy before the index date, the use of disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs before the index date, and living in the lowest quartile of the Area Deprivation Index within our cohort. Lastly, patients with RA and no classical CVD risk factors had a lower probability of undergoing DM (HR: 0.89, 95% CI 0.57–0.78) and HLD screening (HR: 0.65, 95% CI 0.54–0.79) than non-RA patients with one classical CVD risk factor diagnosis. HTN screening was similar between both groups (HR: 1.01, 95% CI 0.83–1.23). 

Conclusion: RA patients undergo CVD preventive screening at rates at least comparable to the general population. However, despite the equivalent-to-higher CVD risk, RA does not appear to be approached as aggressively as traditional CVD risk factors. (1,2) These findings demonstrate an opportunity to improve RA patient care. While EULAR provides guidance for stratifying CVD risk in patients with RA, RA does not appear to be approached as aggressively as traditional cardiometabolic risk factors. (1,2) These findings demonstrate an opportunity to improve RA patient care. While EULAR provides guidance for stratifying CVD risk in patients with RA, RA does not appear to be approached as aggressively as traditional cardiometabolic risk factors.

Table 1. Cumulative Incidence of Screenings 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5-year Cumulative Incidence, (95% CI)</th>
<th>All RA Patients</th>
<th>All Non-RA Patients</th>
<th>HR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DM Screening</td>
<td>94.0% (92.6</td>
<td>93.8% (92.4 – 95.2)</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– 95.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>– 1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTN Screening</td>
<td>99.1% (98.5</td>
<td>96.3% (95.0 – 97.6)</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– 95.6</td>
<td></td>
<td>– 1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLD Screening</td>
<td>74.3% (71.5</td>
<td>75.2% (72.5 – 78.1)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– 77.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>– 0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– 1.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CI: confidence interval; HR: hazard ratio; DM: Diabetes Mellitus; HTN: Hypertension; HLD: Hyperlipidemia; HCs: Healthy Controls; RA: Rheumatoid Arthritis; N: Number of cases; CI: Confidence Interval 

References: [1] Liao KP, Rheumatology (Oxford), 2013 

Acknowledgements: NIL. 

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Disease mechanisms in spondylarthropathies 

POS0039 

A MULTICOMPS PLASMA ANALYSIS REVEALS NEW PATHWAYS CENTRAL IN DRIVING INFLAMMATION IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS 

Keywords: Spondyloarthropathies, Biomarkers 
S. R. Greisen1,2, R. Østgård1,3, S. E. Rask1, M. Hvid1,4, A. G. Jurik5, U. Syrø6, D. Poddubnyy5, B. Deleuran2, J. Arthus University, Biomedical, Århus, Denmark; 2Aarhus University Hospital, Rheumatology, Århus, Denmark; 3Silkeborg Regional Hospital, Rheumatology, Silkeborg, Denmark; 4Aarhus University Clinical Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark; 5Aarhus University Hospital, Radiology, Århus, Denmark; 6Chanté Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Gastroenterology, Infectology and Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany 

Background: Biochemical and clinical disease activity markers in spondyloarthritides (SpA) remain scarce. In addition, understanding the pathways driving disease progression with a combination of bone formation and bone erosions still remain to be fully elucidated. Anti-TNF-α and anti-IL-17A treatment decrease clinical symptoms and partly limit structural changes, but still disease progression and treatment failure occur. 

Objectives: We used an unbiased multicomps plasma analysis to identify inflammatory proteins associated with disease activity and structural changes. Subsequently, some of the identified proteins were investigated in biopsies from the spine and in cells, and synovial fluid from the peripheral joint. 

Methods: Blood was obtained from patients with early (eSpA) before and 1 year after start of anti-TNF treatment (n=30). Markers of disease activity included: BASDAI, ASDAS, CRP, Osteitis, bone marrow edema and new bone formation were evaluated by MRI scan of the total spine and the SI-joint at baseline and after 1 year of treatment. Healthy controls (HCs) were age and gender matched (n=15). From patients with long-standing SpA (IsSpA, symptom duration >8 years) with a joint effusion, both blood (n= 8) and synovial fluid (SF) (n=6) was obtained. An O-link based multiplex analysis covering 92 proteins was performed on plasma and synovial fluid. Cells were stained for flow. Facet joint biopsies originated from IsSpA patients undergoing surgery for polysegmental correction of rigid hyperkyphosis. These were stained by immune fluorescence. 

Results: The multicomps analysis revealed 18 proteins significantly increased at baseline compared to after 1 year of anti-TNF treatment, among these were CCL2, CCL4, CXCL10, CXCL13, IL-6 and PD-L1 (all adjusted p<0.05). All targets correlated with baseline CRP, and except for PD-L1, also with ASDAS, BASDAI and BASMI (all rho >0.4). Baseline CXCL13, IL-6 and PD-L1 also correlated to baseline spinal MRI inflammation (rho=0.4). Furthermore, baseline CXCL13 and IL-6 were associated with spinal MRI inflammation after one year of treatment (rho<0.4). CXCL13 was also increased in synovial fluid from IsSpA patients, CXCL13 was not increased in eSpA compared to HCs, but the receptor for CXCL13, CXCR5 was increased on CD4+ PBMCs from eSpA patients compared to HCs (17.3% vs 12.3%, p<0.01). eSpA CD4+ PBMCs did not differ from HC CD4+ PBMCs when investigating general activity markers, including CD69, 

Table 1. Cumulative Incidence of Screenings
CD25 and PD-1. Evaluating the central site of pathology, CXCL13 was highly expressed in the inflamed facet joints (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** The multimetics analysis revealed multiple cytokines to be activated in eSpA patients. The early disease is characterized by T cell activity in combination with macrophage and monocyte attractive chemokines. CXCL13 stands out as a chemokine of particular interest, being increased both in eSpA, at the central- and peripheral site of pathology, and associated with structural changes in time. The CXCR5-CXCL13 axis could be an important new axis in understanding SpA disease pathology, serving both as a biomarker for disease severity and progression, but also lead to new targets of treatment.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POS0041**

**UPREGULATION OF SPP1 (OSTEOPONTIN) BY ADIPOSE TISSUE-DERIVED MESENCHYAL STEM CELLS OCCURS WITH THE CONTINUOUS MECHANICAL LOAD BUT IS STRONGLY RESTRICTED IN INF-G/TNF-AIL/II-22 MICROENVIRONMENT**

*Keywords:* Spondyloarthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatic arthritis


1Bnai Zion Medical Center, Rheumatology, Haifa, Israel; 2Rambam Health Campus, Orthodontics, Haifa, Israel; 3Bnai Zion Medical Center; Endocrinology, Haifa, Israel

**Background:** The interplay between the inflammatory part of the disease and osteogenesis in axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) is incompletely understood. It is believed that inflammation triggers the process of new bone formation on the one hand, but the regulation of these phenomena is distinct on the other. An assumption that disease-related osteoproliferation in AxSpA is governed by the complex interplay of inflammation, hormonal or growth factors, and mechanical load has been made. A recent study demonstrated that a pro-inflammatory environment, consisting of interferon-γ (INF-γ) and tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α), allowed IL-22-induced proliferation and migration of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) [1].

**Objectives:** To examine the influence of continuous mechanical load (CML) on the osteogenic behavior of MSCs with or without INF-γ/TNF-α/IL-22 or testosterone exposure.

**Methods:** Adipose tissue-derived MSCs, characterized by CD90*, CD73*, CD105*, CD45*, CD31*, isolated from the adipose tissue of a healthy donor and kindly donated by Bonus BioGroup, Haifa, Israel, were cultured for two weeks without or under CML of 2 gr/cm², applied by transparent glass cubes placed on the plates covering the well, in the following conditions: a. osteogenic differentiation medium (ODM) with no additions of cytokines or testosterone; b. ODM with the addition of testosterone, 0.01 µM; c. ODM with the addition of INF-γ (1ng/ml), allowed IL-22-induced proliferation and migration of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) [1].

**Results:** The osteogenic differentiation capacity of MSCs was analyzed by Alizarin Red S staining, and the results presented in a histogram graph as fold-change (Figure 1). RQ (2-ΔΔCt) was calculated, with the results presented in a histogram graph as fold-change (Figure 1).

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6425

**POS0040**

**SILENCING OF JOINT FIBROBLAST TO PROTECT FROM JOINT DAMAGE**

*Keywords:* Spondyloarthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatic arthritis

S. Rauber1, H. Mohammadian1, M. G. Raimondo1, M. Vogg1, L. Lu1, A. Soare1, C. Xu1, J. D. D. Cañete2, G. Schett1, A. Ramming1, F. Friedrich-Alexander-University (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Rheumatology & Immunology, Erlangen, Germany; 3HospitaleClinic de Barcelona e IDIBAPS, Departament de Reumatologia, Barcelona, Spain

**Background:** Despite significant progress in the development of targeted biologic therapies for the treatment of chronic inflammatory joint diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis or psoriatic arthritis, more than 40% of patients still record gradual loss of joint function, mostly because of failure to achieve complete remission. Herein, persistent joint fibroblast activity leads to continuous destruction of the joint, whereas its inhibition/silencing prevents joint damage despite presence of a residual inflammation[1]. Persistent activation of the joint fibroblasts leads to destruction of the joint[1], and silencing both, inflammation and mesenchymal activation is required to protect joints from damage.

**Objectives:** Protection from joint damage—especially when complete remission cannot be achieved—is a need that might be met by pharmacological targeting of fibroblasts. We aimed to reprogram fibroblasts, from pro-inflammatory and tissue damaging phenotype to a tissue preserving and anti-inflammatory phenotype as a new promising treatment strategy.

**Methods:** Single-cell RNA sequencing of sorted synovial fibroblasts and imaging mass cytometry from different mouse models of arthritis (TNFγ-lg/23 overexpression, KBxN serum transfer) were used to map fibroblast heterogeneity. Co-culture experiments were performed with sorted fibroblasts and innate lymphoid cells (ILCs) in vitro. For functional proof of concept, animals were treated with blocking and activating antibodies in the aforementioned arthritis models. For functional proof of concept, animals were treated with blocking and activating antibodies in the aforementioned arthritis models. Through data analysis of joint fibroblast scRNAseq, spatial transcriptomics, and imaging mass cytometry during joint inflammation and its resolution, we observed high plasticity of joint fibroblast populations. By analyzing single-cell dynamics, we identified transdifferentiation of fibroblasts from a MPP5+ / IL-6+ destructive state to a DKK3+ protective phenotype upon DMAPD-induced resolution and revealed the underlying molecular legacy. We identified a novel DKK3+ fibroblast subtype in joints of patients with rheumatoid arthritis and spondyloarthritis (axial spondyloarthritis, peripheral spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis) that protects against joint damage and actively induces resolution of inflammation, by stimulating type 2 ILCs, which are known cellular components for activation of regulatory T cells and pro-resolving eosinophil granulocytes in the joint[2]. We identified the functionally relevant pathway of type 2 ILC activation by fibroblasts. Drug-induced activation of this pathway resulted in activation of pro-resolving ILC2/Tregs/eosinophil granulocytes in association with a sharp decrease in inflammation and cartilage and bone destruction.

**Conclusion:** This new treatment approach might have several advantages over anti-inflammatory drugs. (i) no interference with important defence mechanisms against pathogens and no increased risk of opportunistic infections, (ii) activation of a mechanism that retains tissue integrity, (iii) option to combine with anti-inflamatory drugs, making silencing of fibroblasts to a new tool of disease control.

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**Figure 1.** RQ (2-ΔΔCt) for mechanical load effect. Samples without mechanical load were used as a reference. ODM – osteogenic differentiation medium; IFN – interferon-γ; TNF – tumor necrosis factor-α; IL-22 – interleukin-22
Conclusion: Increased OPN production by MSc can link mechanical load and new bone formation after the resolution of the inflammatory phase in axSpA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Genomics Center of Technion, Haifa, Israel, for performing real-time PCR tests for the study.

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POS0042 HIGH-THROUGHPUT TRANSCRIPTOMIC PROFILING OF PERIPHERAL BLOOD MONONUCLEAR CELLS IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS REVEALS CO-EXPRESSED GENE MODULES ASSOCIATED WITH RADILOGIC DAMAGE

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Biomarkers, Spondyloarthritis

L. Cuesta López1, C. Perez-Sanchez2, I. Arias de la Rosa3, M. Ruiz-Ponce2, I. Gómez-García4, M. L. Ladehesa Pineda5, M. C. Abalos-Aguilera6, C. Lopez-Pedreira7, A. Escudero Contreras8, C. López-Estévez9, N. Barbarroja Puerto1.1 IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Medical and Surgical Sciences, Cordoba, Spain; 2 IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Cordoba, Spain; 3 IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain

Background: The use of high throughput techniques such as transcriptomic sequencing has recently made considerable progress in the identification of molecular profiles involved in the pathogenesis of chronic autoimmune diseases. To date, only a few studies have been carried out in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), which would allow the identification of new therapeutic targets and disease biomarkers.

Objectives: 1) To identify clusters of highly correlated genes enriched in biological functions and specific molecular pathways involved in the pathogenesis of axSpA. 2) To study the association between the molecular signatures identified and the clinical-analytical profile of the disease.

Methods: Cross-sectional study including 75 axSpA patients from the CAS-TRO cohort who underwent an exhaustive clinical evaluation including disease activity and functional limitation, structural damage, and spinal mobility. Additionally, analytical parameters were measured and the carotid intima-media thickness was evaluated by carotid eco-doppler. Mononuclear cells were purified from peripheral blood, and RNA was isolated. RNA from 25 axSpA patients was sequenced using the Illumina platform. For the identification of patient subgroups and the generation of co-expressed gene modules, the “hierarchical clustering” and WGCNA (“Weight gene correlation network analysis”) methodologies were used, respectively. Functional analysis of the genes conforming each module was carried out to identify enriched pathways and functions using the EnrichR platform. Hub genes were measured through high throughput PCR (Fluidigm Biomark HD) in a validation cohort of 50 axSpA patients. Association and correlation studies between the molecular and clinical profiles were performed. In vitro studies in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from patients belonging to different molecular clusters were performed.

Results: Unsupervised analysis of the transcriptome revealed the presence of two “clusters” of axSpA patients, clearly differentiated by their molecular and clinical profiles. Specifically, the molecular analysis distinguished patients with longer disease duration, greater disease activity, radiographic damage, and cardiovascular risk. WGCNA identified 11 highly co-expressed modules. Among them, six were differentially expressed between the two clusters, being responsible for the molecular and clinical distinction of those groups. The functional analysis of these 6 gene modules revealed the enrichment of these genes in pathways related to inflammation, oxidative metabolism, proliferation of B and T lymphocytes, immune response, and the increase of cell survival. Finally, key genes were identified within each module (“hub genes”), whose expression was associated with a more active phenotype of the disease such as ALOX5, GAB2, PSMD13, CASP8, NOTCH e ITGA4. Hub genes were validated in an additional cohort of 50 axSpA patients and correlated with mSASSS. Treatment of PBMCs from patients belonging to the two different clusters with autologous serum induced a different expression of genes involved in cell activation and inflammation.

Conclusion: 1) The whole transcriptomic analysis by RNAseq in peripheral mononuclear cells from axSpA patients distinguished, in an unsupervised manner, subgroups of patients with distinctive clinical profiles. 2) The analysis of gene modules identified new pathways and molecular functions potentially involved in the pathophysiology of the disease. Funded by ISCIII (P011/0019) co-financed by ERDF, Andalusian Foundation of Rheumatology (FAR).

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3463

POS0043 COMPLEMENT IN RADIOGRAPHIC AXSP – BIOMARKERS OF RADILOGIC PROGRESSION? POST HOC ANALYSIS FROM CONSUL, A LONGITUDINAL MULTI-CENTER RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL COHORT OF AXSPA-PATIENTS WITH A HIGH RISK OF STRUCTURAL PROGRESSION INITIATING TREATMENT WITH TNF-I

Keywords: Innate immunity, bDMARD, Spondyloarthritides

C. E. Mestagaed1,2, A. Toldborg1,2, A. G. Loft1,2, S. Thiel2, B. Muche2, V. Riis Rodriguez2, M. Tomaguy3, M. Protopopov4, J. Listing5, J. Sieper6, D. Poddubnyy7, F. Profi8, Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 2 Aarhus University, Department of Biomedicin, Aarhus, Denmark; 3 Aarhus University, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark; 4 Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Gastroenterology, Infectiology and Rheumatology (including Nutrition Medicine), Berlin, Germany

Background: The biological processes involved in the development of structural changes associated with radiographic axial spondyloarthritides (axSpA) remain largely unsolved. Still, high disease activity, elevated C-reactive protein (CRP), and existing syndesmophytes are associated with radiographic progression. The complement system is an inflammation-generating part of the innate immune system. Animal models have shown inhibition of complement activation to diminish structural changes associated with axSpA [1].

Objectives: This project aimed to investigate complement activation and serum levels of complement proteins and their correlations with radiographic spinal progression over a two years follow-up period in a longitudinal cohort of axSpA patients with active r-axSpA, and high risk of radiographic progression, recruited from the randomized controlled trial CONSUL.

Methods: All patients had active r-axSpA and risk factors for radiographic spinal progression (BASDAI ≥4, and elevated CRP and/ or ≥1 syndesmophyte(s)). Serum samples were collected at baseline (n = 96) and after 108 weeks (n = 113) of TNF-I therapy and analyzed by immunoassays for complement lectin pathway proteins (L-ficolin, M-ficolin, H-ficolin, CL-L1, MBL, MASP-1, MASP-2, MASP-3, and MAp44) and the complement activation product C3dg. X-rays were performed at baseline and after 108 weeks and read blinded for clinical data and chronology by three independent expert readers. New bone formation was defined as the growth of syndesmophyte(s) and/ or new syndesmophyte(s) determined by 3-reader-agreement.

Results: Patient characteristics are shown in Table 1. In total, 19 patients developed new bone formation at week 108. Baseline serum levels of MASP-1, MASP-2, and C3dg were elevated in patients with new bone formation, whereas baseline serum levels of MASP-3 were decreased (all p<0.05). Baseline MASP-1, MASP-3, and C3dg predicted the development of new bone formation in a univariate logistic regression analysis, whereas CRP did not. Baseline MASP-1, MASP-3, and C3dg remained significant in a multivariate logistic regression analysis. L-ficolin and C3dg levels at week 108 were elevated in patients with new bone formation, and the serum levels at week 108 predicted development of new bone formation in a univariate logistic regression analysis. In a multivariate regression analysis, C3dg remained significant (p<0.05).

Conclusion: In this study, complement activation measured by C3dg and serum levels of MASP-1 and MASP-3, prior to TNF-I therapy, predicted development of new bone formation at week 108. Furthermore, elevated levels of C3dg and L-ficolin at week 108 were associated with new bone formation. These findings support the involvement of complement activation in new bone formation in r-axSpA.

was selected after excluding E4_MEABOLIA, psoriasis, and psoriatic arthritis when appropriate. Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) and summarized data were extracted from public IEU datasets. The single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) rs17149915 was used as an instrumental variable (IV) to identify the potential causal effect. The SNP selection was performed by considering the genome-wide significance, clumping, linkage disequilibrium, and minor allele frequency. The effect alleles were harmonized for exposures and outcomes. An inverse variance weighted (IVW) model was used to estimate causality for each IV in this two-sample MR study. Odds ratios (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated for causal estimations. The MR was performed in both directions to explore the possibility of reverse causality.

Results: 4535 patients with hyperlipidemia, 4510 with psoriasis, and 1553 patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) were identified from the FinnGen biobank based on their id as noted above. The control patients ranged from 147,221 to 212,242, depending on the cohort being compared. Genetic instruments comprising 5 SNPs for hyperlipidemia, 16 SNPs for psoriasis and 4 SNPs for PsA were used for this two-sample MR. A significant causal effect was noted in hyperlipidemia and psoriasis (OR 1.26 (95% CI 1.097-1.439); p < 0.00009) and hyperlipidemia and PsA (OR 1.35 (95% CI 1.08-1.68; p=0.007) but no causal effect was noted in the reverse direction with psoriasis leading to hyperlipidemia OR 1.02 (95% CI 0.977-1.07; p=0.31) and PsA leading to hyperlipidemia OR 1.03 (95% CI 0.987 to 1.08; p=0.15).

Conclusion: Our two-sample MR study genetically predicted that hyperlipidemia has a potential causal association with psoriatic disease, which leads to a higher risk of psoriasis and PsA. Further validation and molecular studies are required to understand this relationship. If these results were to be validated, targeted reduction of hyperlipidemia may help modify the expression of psoriatic disease.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: Quan Li: None declared, Amanda Dolhey: None declared, Dianne Codner: None declared, Proton Rahman Speakers bureau: Abbott, AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, and Pfizer, Consultant of: Abbott, AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, and Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Janssen and Novartis.

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POS0045  CHILDHOOD INFECTIONS AND PERINATAL FACTORS AS RISK FACTORS FOR ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS – RESULTS FROM A NATIONWIDE CASE-CONTROL STUDY

Keywords: Spondyloarthitis, Epidemiology, Registries

M. Morin1, U. Lindström2, K. Hellgren3, T. Frisell4. 1Karolinska Institute, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 2Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Department of Rheumatology and Inflammation Research, Gothenburg, Sweden

Background: A growing body of evidence suggests that there are associations between perinatal factors or early life exposures and later development of chronic inflammatory diseases. For ankylosing spondylitis (AS), previous studies have found increased risks associated with birth order and childhood respiratory tract infections, while breast-feeding and childhood appendicitis have been found protective.

Objectives: To identify early life risk factors for AS, with focus on perinatal characteristics and childhood infections.

Methods: People with AS from the Swedish National Patient Register, born 1973-2004, were matched 1:5 on age, sex, and place of residence to general population controls. Conditional logistic regression was used to compare odds ratios for AS in relation to potential risk factors identified in the Medical Birth Register and the National Patient Register.

Results: People with AS (n=5427) had significantly more hospitalizations for infections before age 16 compared to controls (n=21523), and had more often gone through a tonsillectomy (table 1). People with AS were also more likely to be born in the winter months, and to have an older sibling, while having a sibling overall (older or younger) resulted in an odds ratio for AS of 1.01 (0.93-1.11). No association was seen with factors such as maternal age, Caesarean delivery, or a 1 SD change in weight for gestational age (table 1). Odds ratios for AS associated with being born small or large for gestational age (>2 SD below or above sex-specific mean weight) was 1.10 (0.93-1.30) and 0.89 (0.74-1.08), respectively. In line with previous data, childhood appendectomy was associated with an odds ratio <1, but the estimate did not reach statistical significance.

Table 1. Baseline demographics of the investigated patient population from the CONSUL RCT (n = 96)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Case Patients (n=96)</th>
<th>Control Patients (n=478)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (IQR)</td>
<td>37 (31-45)</td>
<td>37 (31-45)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80-1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>70 (73)</td>
<td>70 (73)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80-1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking, n (%)</td>
<td>36 (38)</td>
<td>36 (38)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80-1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of ≥1 syndromathephy(s), n (%)</td>
<td>47 (49)</td>
<td>47 (49)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80-1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, median (IQR)</td>
<td>9.2 (3.2-19)</td>
<td>9.2 (3.2-19)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80-1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP (&gt;5 mg/L), n (%)</td>
<td>64 (67)</td>
<td>64 (67)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80-1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP, median (IQR)</td>
<td>3.6 (3.1-4.1)</td>
<td>3.6 (3.1-4.1)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80-1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI, median (IQR)</td>
<td>6.2 (5.2-6.8)</td>
<td>6.2 (5.2-6.8)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80-1.25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Determined by 3 expert readers blinded for clinical data.

Figure 1. a) Baseline MASP-1, MASP-2, MASP-3, and C3dg levels according to development of new bone formation at week 108. b) L-ficolin and C3dg levels at week 108 according to development of new bone formation at week 108. New bone formation: growth of syndromephyles and/or new syndromephyles determined by 3-reader-agreement. Bars indicate median and IQR (MASP-1, MASP-2, MASP-3, C3dg), and mean and sd (L-ficolin).

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Disclosure of Interests: Clara Elbæk Mistegaard: None declared, Anne Trolldborg: None declared, Anne Gitte Loft Speakers bureau: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Steffen Thieli: None declared, Burkhard Muche: None declared, Valeria Rios Rodriguez: None declared, Murat Torgutalp: None declared, Clara Elbæk Mistegaard: None declared, Anne Trolldborg: None declared, Anne Gitte Loft Speakers bureau: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Steffen Thieli: None declared, Burkhard Muche: None declared, Valeria Rios Rodriguez: None declared, Murat Torgutalp: None declared, Clara Elbæk Mistegaard: None declared, Anne Trolldborg: None declared, Anne Gitte Loft Speakers bureau: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Steffen Thieli: None declared, Burkhard Muche: None declared, Valeria Rios Rodriguez: None declared, Murat Torgutalp: None declared, Clara Elbæk Mistegaard: None declared, Anne Trolldborg: None declared, Anne Gitte Loft Speakers bureau: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Steffen Thieli: None declared, Burkhard Muche: None declared, Valeria Rios Rodriguez: None declared, Murat Torgutalp: None declared.
Table 1. Perinatal factors and childhood infections in people with AS and general population controls, with odds ratios from conditional logistic regression.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>No. of Patients</th>
<th>No. of Autoinflammatory Variants</th>
<th>Average No. of Autoinflammatory Variants per Patient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>1264</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>0.741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>0.880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>5361</td>
<td>2081</td>
<td>0.388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ps</td>
<td>5567</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>0.362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Quan Li: None declared, Amanda Dohey: None declared, Dianne Codner: None declared, Proton Rahman: Speakers bureau: Abbott, Abb-Vie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, and Pfizer, Consultant of: Abbott, Abb-Vie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, and Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Janssen and Pfizer. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2152

POS0047 THE COMPLEMENT FACTOR H-RELATED PROTEIN-5 EXACERBATES PATHOLOGICAL BONE FORMATION OF ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritides, Animal Models

C. N. Sun1, J. Lee2, S. Jo3, I. H. Sung2, T. H. Kim2,4, 1Kemyung University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Hanyang University Institute for Rheumatology Research, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Hanyang University Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Hanyang University Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: The complement factor H-related protein-5 (FHR-5), a member of the human factor H protein family, enhances complement activation. The influence of complement activation on bone and joint was recognized in bone fracture healing, arthritis, and osteomyelitis. Recently, FHR-5 has been linked to eye, kidney, infection, cancer and autoimmune diseases. FHR-5 was also significantly up-regulated in proteomic analysis of serum and synovial fluid for ankylosing spondylitis (AS).

Objectives: To aim to evaluate whether FHR-5 exacerbates bone inflammation and ectopic formation of AS.

Methods: The study included 65 patients with AS and 25 healthy controls (HC). Collected sera were divided into three groups according to HC, two AS groups (low CRP and high CRP) based on the CRP 0.8. Human TNF, IL-6, IL-17, IL-23, and FHR-5 in three groups were measured with ELISA and human FHR-5 levels were compared to TNF, IL-6, IL-17, and IL-23 levels. In addition, soluble FHR-5 proteins were administered with Curdlan-injected SKG mice 2 time for a week and monitored for 5 weeks in vivo model. Foot and ankle were evaluated by micro-CT. Hematoylin and Eosin for histological observation, and Safranin O for cartilage. Moreover, these findings were further assessed in the AS-osteoprogenitor In vitro model.

Results: In consistent with human data, proinflammatory cytokines (TNF, IL-6, IL-17A, and IL-23) and CFHR5 were elevated in AS group compared to HC group. FHR5 levels were not significantly correlated with proinflammatory cytokines, whereas FHR5 levels in AS were only positively correlated with the high CRP group. Notably, treatment with soluble FHR5 has no effect on clinical arthritis scores and thickness at hindpaw in Curdlan-injected SKG, but significantly increased the ectopic bone formation at the calcaneus and tibia bones of ankle as revealed by micro-CT image and quantification. Basal FHR5 expression was upregulated in AS-osteoprogenitors compared to control cells. Also, treatment with FHR5 remarkably induced bone mineralization status of AS-osteoprogenitors during osteogenic differentiation accompanied by MMP13 expression.

Conclusion: We provide the first evidence demonstrating that FHR-5 can exacerbate pathological bone formation of AS. Therapeutic modulation of FHR-5 could be promising for future treatment of AS.


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0048 LIPOLYSACCHARIDE ACTIVATED ENTHESEAL MYELOCILL CELL INHIBITION WITH UDAPACITINIB PARADOXICALLY INCREASES MYELOCILL PRO-INFLAMMATORY CYTOKINES INCLUDING TNF AND IL-23 BY RESTRAINING AN IL-10 NEGATIVE FEEDBACK-BUT T-CELL TNF AND IL-17 IS STRONGLY BLOCKED

Keywords: Enthesitis, Cytokines and chemokines, Targeted synthetic drugs

S. Gires1,2, T. Macleod1, C. Wong1, M. Harland1, N. Modermot1, C. Bridgewood1, A. S. Rao1, A. Khan1, P. Loughenbury1, D. Mconagle1,2

Background: Upadacitinib is effective in spondyloarthritis (SpA) associated arthropathy and is licensed for ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis. Collectively SpA is linked to enthesitis with both myeloid lineage and T-lineage cells contributing to the IL-23/IL-17 and TNF axes that underscore disease.

Objectives: To investigate the effect of upadacitinib on an in vitro human enthesitis model by focusing separately on the IL-23/IL-17 axis component myeloid and T-cells to better elucidate mechanisms of action in vivo.

Methods: Normal spinoous process enthesis (n=26) was obtained from patients undergoing spinal decompression or surgery for spondosis correction as described [1]. Enthesisis cells were subsequently isolated by mechanical digestion. Enthesis myeloid cells were stimulated with LPS with and without upadacitinib. IL-23, TNFβ, and other proinflammatory cytokines in the supernatants were quantified using ELISA. IL-23 levels were measured after myeloid cell stimulation with LPS in the presence of upadacitinib and IL-10. IL-23 levels were also measured after stimulation with LPS in the presence of an IL-10Rβ blocking antibody. Enthesis cells were stimulated with anti-CD3 with or without LPS, Th17-driving cytokines (IL-23 and IL-1β) and upadacitinib. Supernatants were measured by ELISA and cytokine-positive cell populations assessed by intracellular flow cytometry.

Results: Unexpectedly, upadacitinib significantly increased myeloid cell secretion of IL-23, TNFβ, and other proinflammatory cytokines after stimulation with LPS (Figure 1) (LPS = 51.2 pg/ml vs LPS + 1 µM Upa = 1048 pg/ml IL-23, n= 11). Addition of recombinant IL-10 attenuated such IL-23 blockade of the IL-10 receptor with a blocking antibody increased IL-23 secretion from myeloid cells after stimulation with LPS (100 ng/ml IL-10 = 2.79 mean fold increase in IL-23, n=5). Despite this effect, upadacitinib strongly blocked TNFβ and IL-17 from Th17 and Tc17 enthesial derived cells stimulated with exogenous IL-23 (138.19 pg/ml vs 14.2 pg/ml IL-17A after addition of 1 µM Upa to Th17 driving conditions, n = 5). Furthermore, addition of upadacitinib to LPS + anti-CD3 activated enthesial cells strongly downregulated T-cell derived IL-17 and TNFβ despite a simultaneous increase in myeloid IL-23.

Conclusion: LPS activated myeloid cells, predominantly monocyte lineage further increase key cytokines IL-23 and TNFβ post upadacitinib. This involves IL-10 pathway inhibition. However, in this system T-cell derived cytokine production is completely blocked despite elevation of myeloid IL-23 and TNFβ. These unexpected findings highlight the pivotal role of T-cell derived cytokines in SpA given the known efficacy of JAK inhibition and these findings merit consideration in the known efficacy of JAK inhibition and these findings merit consideration in further research.

Reference:

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Disclosure of Interests: Sami Giryes: None declared, Tom Macleod: None declared, Chi Wong: None declared, Mark Harland: None declared, Nicole McDermott: None declared, Charlie Bridgewater: None declared, Abhay S Rao: None declared, Almas Khan: None declared, Peter Loughenbury: None declared, Dennis McGuonigle Grant/research support from: The study is funded by an Abbvie research grant.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4415
stable group, 1/0.5 in the half-dose group, and 0.7/0.0 in the tapering to withdrawal group, with significant difference between the stable and half-dose group, p<0.01. Sensitivity analyses in the full analysis population gave similar results.

Conclusion: These 3-year data show that 41% of patients in the tapering to withdrawal arm achieved long-term drug-free remission, indicating that this is a realistic option for some RA patients in sustained remission. The two tapering strategies were associated with an increased risk of flares compared to full-dose csDMARD, and the half-dose group had more radiographic change. However, there were no differences in DAS-remission at the end of the study period. Further research identifying prognostic factors for successful tapering is needed.

REFERENCE:
[1] Lillegraven S et al. JAMA 2021

Table 1. Remission at 12, 24 and 36 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stable dose</th>
<th>Half-dose</th>
<th>Tapered to withdrawal*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAS remission</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>71/77 (92%)</td>
<td>34/39 (87%)</td>
<td>29/36 (81%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>64/73 (88%)</td>
<td>33/37 (89%)</td>
<td>33/35 (94%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>64/67 (96%)</td>
<td>34/36 (94%)</td>
<td>31/34 (91%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACREULAR 2011</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>56/77 (73%)</td>
<td>25/39 (64%)</td>
<td>22/36 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>47/73 (64%)</td>
<td>21/37 (57%)</td>
<td>20/35 (57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>55/67 (82%)</td>
<td>25/36 (69%)</td>
<td>19/34 (56%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*12 months half-dose, thereafter withdrawal

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-2014.415

**Figure 1.** Dose-response association between tapering of glucocorticoids and risk of flare. The curve was interpolated using the conditional logistic regression model. The curve was smoothed with restricted cubic splines with knots at 0-2.5 mg/day, 2.5-5 mg/day, 5-7.5 mg/day, and ≥7.5 mg/day. The reference was not tapering.

**REFERENCES: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests:** Giovanni Adami Speakers bureau: Theramex, Eli Lilly, BMS, Amgen, UCB, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Angelo Fassio: None declared. Davide Gatti: None declared, Camilla Novi: None declared, Ombretta Viapiana: None declared, Davide Bertelle: None declared. Maurizio Rossini: None declared.

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**POS0050**

**TAPERING GLUCOCORTICOIDS AND RISK OF FLARE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ON BIOLOGICAL DISEASE MODIFYING ANTIRHEUMATIC DRUGS (bDMARDS)**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Tapering, Rheumatoid arthritis

G. Adami1, A. Fassio1, D. Gatti1, C. Benini1, O. Viapiana1, D. Bertelle1, M. Rossini1. 1University of Verona, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy
Background: 2022 EULAR recommendation announced that both biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) and Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKI) are considered in the phase II treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, we still lack evidence of direct comparison between these agents regarding efficacy, safety, and tolerability.

Objective: The aim of this multi-center (7 university-related hospitals) [1][3], retrospective study is to clarify the factors affecting treatment retention of bDMARDs and JAKI in a real-world setting.

Methods: This study assessed 6,666 treatment courses of bDMARDs and JAKI introduced from 2001 to 2022 (TNF inhibitors [TNFI]=3,377, anti-IL-6 receptor antibody [aIL-6R]=1,497, cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated antigen 4 [CTLA-4 Ig]=1,119, JAKI=453). Biologic naive cases 55.4%, baseline age 58.8 years, female 82.6%, disease duration 9.7 years, DAS28-ESR 4.3, concomitant methotrexate (MTX) 52.8%, other csDMARDs 26.0%, and oral glucocorticoid (GC) 36.4%. Reasons for discontinuation were classified into four categories by each attending physician: 1) lack of effectiveness (primary and secondary), 2) toxic adverse events (infection, malignancies, and cardiovascular events, etc.), 3) non-toxic reasons (patient preference, change in hospital, and pregnancy, etc.), and 4) remission. Rate of discontinue during each discontinuation reason was estimated at 36 months using the Kaplan-Meier method and adjusted for potential clinical confounders (age, sex, concomitant GC, MTX, and other csDMARDs, switched number of bDMARDs or JAKI, and prior use of TNFI, aIL-6R, CTLA-4Ig, or JAKI) using Cox proportional hazards modeling.

Results: Adjusted retention rates for each discontinuation reason were as follows: due to lack of effectiveness was all-IL-6R=80.9%, JAKI=75.2%, CTLA-4 Ig=73.6%, and TNFI=66.1% (Cox P<0.001 between 4 groups) (figure 1a), due to toxic adverse events was CTLA-4Ig=88.0%, JAKI=86.4%, all-IL-6R=84.1%, and TNFI=83.6% (Cox P=0.052) (figure 1b), due to non-toxic reasons was all-IL-6R=96.9%, TNFI=85.9%, JAKI=85.9%, and CTLA-4Ig=82.6% (Cox P=0.064), and due to remission was JAKI=97.1%, CTLA-4Ig=96.7%, all-IL-6R=96.0%, and TNFI=94.9% (Cox P<0.001). Compared to TNFI, all-IL-6R (hazard ratio [HR]=0.54, 95% CI=0.47–0.61, P<0.001), JAKI (HR=0.69, 95% CI=0.56–0.85, P<0.001), and CTLA-4 Ig (HR=0.75, 95% CI=0.66–0.86, P<0.001) showed lower discontinuation rate due to lack of effectiveness. Compared to TNFI, CTLA-4 Ig showed lower discontinuation rate due to toxic adverse events (HR=0.77, 95% CI=0.63–0.93, P=0.008) and remission (HR=0.67, 95% CI=0.46–0.98, P=0.041). Other factors increasing drug discontinuation due to lack of effectiveness was switched number of bDMARDs or JAKI (HR=1.42, 95% CI=1.24–1.63, P<0.001), concomitant GC (HR=1.17, 95% CI=1.06–1.29, P=0.0018), and prior aIL-6R use (HR=1.24, 95% CI=1.05–1.45, P=0.011). On the other hand, higher age (HR=1.01, 95% CI=1.00–1.02, P=0.001) and concomitant GC (HR=1.29, 95% CI=1.07–1.51, P=0.001) increased drug discontinuation due to toxic adverse events.

Conclusion: Adjusted by potential confounders, all-IL-6R showed lowest discontinuation due to lack of effectiveness, and CTLA-4 Ig showed lowest discontinuation due to toxic adverse events. Besides the difference of bDMARDs and JAKI, concomitant GC increased drug discontinuation due to lack of effectiveness and toxic adverse events.

References:
Background: Radiographic joint damage progresses in 20-30% of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients despite fulfilling clinical remission criteria [1]. Ostestis assessed on MRI predicts subsequent bone damage progression [2]. Therefore, targeting absence of osteitis combined with clinical remission may improve long-term radiographic outcomes.

Objectives: To investigate whether a 2-year MRI treat-to-target (MRI T2T) strategy targeting absence of osteitis combined with clinical remission, compared to a conventional T2T strategy targeting clinical remission only, could reduce radiographic joint damage progression over 5 years in RA patients.

Methods: IMAGINE-more was designed as a three-year observational extension study of the 2-year IMAGINE-RA randomized clinical trial [3]. IMAGINE-RA included 200 RA patients in clinical remission (DAS28-CRP<3.2 and no swollen joints), with erosive disease (bone erosion on conventional radiography), and treated with csDMARDs. The objective was to investigate whether an MRI T2T strategy targeting absence of osteitis combined with clinical remission (DAS28-CRP<3.2 and no swollen joints) as compared to a conventional T2T strategy, targeting clinical remission only, could improve remission rates and prevent radiographic joint damage progression. If treatment target was not met, treatment was intensified stepwise starting with increment in csDMARDs and subsequently adding biologics. Participants in the IMAGINE-more study were managed in routine clinical practice in outpatient clinics. Clinical examinations and radiographs of hands and feet (also obtained at baseline, year 1 and 2 in IMAGINE-RA) were done year 3, 4 and 5. The primary endpoint was the proportion of patients with no radiographic progression (increase in total van der Heijde-modified Sharp score (vdHSS) ≤0) from baseline to year 5. Secondary endpoints were 0-5 years changes in total vdHSS, vdHSS erosion and joint space narrowing (JSN) scores. Dichotomous endpoints were estimated by logistic regression, while median differences were calculated for the continuous outcome measures.

Results: Informed consent to participation in IMAGINE-more was obtained from 131 patients (59 from the original MRI T2T group). Of these, 14 patients (24%) in the MRI T2T group and 19 patients (28%) in the conventional T2T group had no radiographic progression from baseline to year 5 (OR 0.70 [0.28 to 1.71]). As illustrated in the Table 1 and Figure 1, the median progression in total vdHSS from baseline to 5 years was low, with no differences between treatment groups.

Table 1. Radiographic endpoints at 5 years (change from baseline - year 0)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endpoint</th>
<th>MRI T2T</th>
<th>Conventional T2T</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No radiographic progression, n (%)</td>
<td>59 (14.24%)</td>
<td>72 (19.26%)</td>
<td>OR=0.70</td>
<td>0.431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No erosions, n (%)</td>
<td>(0.28 to 1.71)</td>
<td>(0.28 to 1.71)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key secondary endpoints</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in total vdHSS (0-448)</td>
<td>47.10 [0.0-3.6]</td>
<td>56.20 [0.0-4.9]</td>
<td>0.00 [-1.0 to 0.0]</td>
<td>0.515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in erosion (0-280)</td>
<td>47.10 [0.0-2.0]</td>
<td>56.10 [0.0-3.0]</td>
<td>0.00 [0.0 to 0.0]</td>
<td>0.967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in JSN (0-168)</td>
<td>47.10 [0.0-0.5]</td>
<td>56.00 [0.0-1.3]</td>
<td>0.00 [0.0 to 0.0]</td>
<td>0.565</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Group contrasts are presented as No. (%) for dichotomous data and medians [IQR] for continuous data. OR (95% CI) were estimated from logistic regression adjusted for a propensity score and with non-responder imputation. For endpoints with continuous data median differences (95% CI) were calculated based on the ITT population (no manual imputation). In addition to the radiographic endpoints, the full IMAGINE-more study includes a clinical co-primary endpoint, and several secondary endpoints.

Conclusion: A 2-year combined MRI T2T and clinical T2T strategy, compared with a conventional clinical T2T strategy alone, did not result in reduced radiographic progression in the long term over 5 years in RA patients with erosive disease fulfilling clinical remission.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
and autoantibody-negativity (respectively HR 1.89, 1.04-3.2, p=0.03; HR 1.66, 1.00-3.15, p=0.04). The latter confirms to be a significant predictor of second b/tsDMARD failure as well (HR 2.13, 1.08-4.17, p=0.03). At univariable analysis, significant predictors of D2T were concomitant diagnosis of fibromyalgia, autoantibody-negative status and lower doses of methotrexate. At bivariate logistic regression, fibromyalgia and autoantibody-negative RA maintained independent association with adjusted ORs (95% CI) of 3.6 (1.02-16.6) and 4.3 (1.01-24.1), respectively.

Conclusion: Early diagnosis, prompt initiation of methotrexate and management according to T2T strategy have substantially improved RA outcomes, and only about 16% of patients require escalation to second-line therapies. However, in those refractory to csDMARD, EAC setting seems not to ameliorate treatment persistence, as retention rates of b/tsDMARDs are similar to those observed in established disease. Early methotrexate inefficacy and autoantibody-negative disease appear to be predictive of first b/tsDMARD failure, moreover, patients with autoantibody-negative disease maintain a higher risk of failure of subsequent lines of therapies. Collectively, our findings suggest the need for a more tailored approach to refractory RA patients, especially to autoantibody-negative ones.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.912

POS0054
SOCIOECONOMIC DEPRIVATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCED RESPONSE AND LOWER TREATMENT PERSISTENCE WITH ANTI-TNF THERAPIES IN PEOPLE WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Epidemiology, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. S. Zhao1, L. Kearnsley-Flleet2, K. Rogers2, K. Watson3, A. Bosworth4, J. Galloway5, S. Verstappen1, J. Humphreys1,5, A. Barton5,6, K. Hyrich5,6
1University of Manchester Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2University of Manchester, Manchester Medical School, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, Maidenhead, United Kingdom; 4King’s College London, Centre of Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 5Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 6University of Manchester, Centre for Genetics and Genomics Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Recent global health crises have highlighted the importance of socioeconomic (SE) inequalities and its influence on health provision and outcomes. The impact of SE deprivation on treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is understudied in contemporary biologic-treated populations.

Objectives: To investigate the association between SE deprivation and outcomes of TNF inhibitor (TNFi) treatment

Methods: Individuals commencing their first TNFi in the BSR Biologics Register for RA from 2001 to 2020 were included. SE deprivation was proxied using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which measures relative deprivation of geographic areas. Using the participants’ residential postcode, each individual was assigned a relative rank score and categorised into the 20% most deprived, middle 40%, and 80% least deprived areas. Using the participants’ residential postcode, each individual was assigned a relative rank score and categorised into the 20% most deprived, middle 40%, and 80% least deprived areas.

Baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>20% most deprived (n=6999)</th>
<th>Middle 40% (n=17171)</th>
<th>20% least deprived (n=3002)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>57.4 (13.2)</td>
<td>56.1 (12.4)</td>
<td>54.7 (12.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5465 (77%)</td>
<td>5268 (75%)</td>
<td>2271 (76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>4275 (63%)</td>
<td>4388 (65%)</td>
<td>1688 (66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, years</td>
<td>44.4 (13.8)</td>
<td>44.0 (13.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>27.0 (7.4)</td>
<td>27.6 (7.9)</td>
<td>28.2 (8.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever smoked</td>
<td>3762 (55%)</td>
<td>4123 (61%)</td>
<td>1949 (68%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/hr)</td>
<td>35.0 (19.0, 59.0)</td>
<td>36.0 (20.0, 60.0)</td>
<td>36.0 (20.0, 58.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/l)</td>
<td>210 (8.0, 48.0)</td>
<td>210 (8.0, 47.0)</td>
<td>210 (8.0, 47.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>1.8 (0.7)</td>
<td>1.9 (0.7)</td>
<td>2.0 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤1 comorbidities</td>
<td>4079 (57%)</td>
<td>4174 (60%)</td>
<td>1965 (65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment outcomes*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 at 6 months referent</td>
<td>b=0.14 (0.08, 0.20)</td>
<td>b=0.21 (0.13, 0.29)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low disease activity at</td>
<td>OR 0.85 (0.77, 0.94)</td>
<td>OR 0.84 (0.73, 0.96)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months referent</td>
<td>0.93a</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EULAR response at 6 months</td>
<td>OR 0.87 (0.80, 0.90)</td>
<td>OR 0.79 (0.71, 0.87)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug discontinuation referent</td>
<td>HR 1.05 (1.01, 1.10)</td>
<td>HR 1.13 (1.07, 1.20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data shown as mean (SD), median (IQR) or n (%) RF, rheumatoid factor; HAQ, health assessment questionnaire; TNFi, TNF inhibitor; age, gender, baseline DAS28 (or DAS28 components in respective models); BMI, ESR, number of comorbidities, age at diagnosis, EULAR smoking status and rheumatoid factor status

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3449

POS0055
BEYOND THE WINDOW: EFFECTS OF LONG-TERM TIGHT CONTROL IN EARLY-TREATED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS UNDER REAL-LIFE CONDITIONS

Keywords: Treat to target, Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence

1Hospital Universitário de Brasília, Residency Program in Rheumatology, Brasília, Brazil; 2Universidade de Brasília, Rheumatology, Brasilia, Brazil; 3UNICEUB, Rheumatology, Brasilia, Brazil; 4Hospital do Servidor Público Estadual de São Paulo, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 5Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rheumatology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 6Universidade Federal do Paraná, Rheumatology, Curitiba, Brazil; 7Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Rheumatology, Florianópolis, Brazil; 8Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Rheumatology, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; 9Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Rheumatology, Campinas, Brazil; 10Universidade de São Paulo, Rheumatology, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil; 11Universidade Federal do Pará, Rheumatology, Belém, Brazil; 12Universidade de São Paulo, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 13Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Rheumatology, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 14Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Rheumatology, Paraná, Brazil

Background: Early treatment, within the window of opportunity, treat-to-target (T2T) and tight control (TC) are fundamental principles of management in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The Brasilia Cohort of Early Rheumatoid Arthritis (BSB Cohort) is a real-life cohort designed and conducted under these principles.[1] The REAL study (Rheumatoid Arthritis in Real Life in Brazil) is a prospective multicentric cohort of patients with RA encompassing 11 public healthcare centers in Brazil, designed to reflect real-life, conventional managed conditions.[2] Objectives: To compare early-treated patients with RA managed under the principles of T2T and TC vs. those exposed to conventional management in the long term, as for relevant clinical and radiographic outcomes, in real-life settings.

Methods: Participants from the BSB Cohort (under T2T and TC management) were compared to three randomly selected subsamples from the REAL study (REAL1, REAL2 and REAL3, exposed to conventional management). All patients initiated treatment with disease-modifying drugs (DMARD) within one
year of symptom onset. The groups were compared regarding the occurrence of erosive disease, use of corticosteroids (CE) and immunobiologicals (bDMARD), remission rates according to DAS 28-ESR and physical function (Health Assessment Questionnaire - HAQ).

**Results:** A total of 256 patients were included (64 from the BSB Cohort and 64 patients from each of the REAL1, 2 and 3 subsamples), predominantly female (88.3%), white (52%), with a mean age of 53.7 years, positive rheumatoid factor (73.4%), mean total disease duration of 94.1 months and delay time between first symptoms and use of first DMARD of 6.94 months. The groups compared did not significantly differ in terms of gender ($\chi^2=8.19$, p =0.103), race ($\chi^2=7.68$, p =0.053), age (F=1.28, p =0.279), presence of positive rheumatoid factor ($\chi^2=1.89$, p =0.594), mean disease duration (F=1.96, p=0.120) and time delay of symptoms until use of first DMARD (F=0.34, p =0.793). The BSB Cohort showed significantly less frequency of erosive disease, use of CE and bDMARD, and higher DAS 28-ESR remission rate (Figure 1). Mean HAQ score was lower in the BSB Cohort (0.546) than in the REAL1 (1.033), REAL2 (0.821) and REAL3 (0.748), F=5.23, p=0.02. Mean DAS 28-ESR was lower in the BSB Cohort (2.90) than in the REAL1 (3.68), REAL2 (3.44) and REAL3 (3.21), F=3.43, p=0.018.

**Conclusion:** Under real-life conditions, in the long-term, adherence to T2T and TC principles was found essential to preserve the expected benefits of the early RA treatment within the window of opportunity, in terms of less occurrence of erosive disease, less use of CE and bDMARD, higher DAS 28-ESR remission rate and better physical function (lower HAQ score).

**Figure 1.** Comparison of the occurrence of erosive disease, CE and bDMARD use and the DAS 28-ESR remission rate in the BSB Cohort (strict control) and REAL cohorts 1, 2 and 3 (conventional control). Note: $\chi^2$=chi squared; V=Crammer’s V, p=p value (significant at <0.05).

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4935

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**Table 1. Characteristics of four Danish patients diagnosed with Lyme arthritis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age at diagnosis (years)</th>
<th>Joint affected</th>
<th>History of tick bite</th>
<th>History of EM seropos-</th>
<th>IgG seropos-sero</th>
<th>PCR positive</th>
<th>CRP (mg/l)</th>
<th>Duration of arthritis prior to antibiotic treatment (months)</th>
<th>Intraarticular steroid injections before antibiotic treatment</th>
<th>Treatment after LA diagnosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Right knee</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+ + + +</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Frequently*</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone (two courses)</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Right wrist</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+ + + +</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Frequently*</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone*</td>
<td>MTX*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Right knee</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+ + + +</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Frequently*</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone*</td>
<td>MTX*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Right Knee</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+ + + +</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 times</td>
<td>Doxycycline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Frequent steroid injections is defined as >5 injections; *Ceftriaxone: Intravenous ceftriaxone 2grams daily for 28 days; *MTX: Methotrexate

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.
POS0057

WHICH ADVANCED TREATMENT SHOULD BE USED FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF A FIRST-LINE ANTI-TNF IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS? 15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE FROM THE QUEBEC REGISTRY RHUMADATAM

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Registries, Real-world evidence

D. Choquette1, L. Bessette2, L. Choquette Sauvageau1, J. Brown2, I. Ferdinand1, P. Harauzi1, M. Joly-Chevrier1, A. Masetto4, F. Massicotte1, V. Nadon1, J. P. Pelletier1, J. P. Raynauld1, D. Sauvageau1, A. Turcotte2, E. Villeneuve1, L. Coupal1, 1Institut de rhumatologie de Montréal, Rhumatologie, Montréal, Canada; 2Centre de l’ostéoporose et de rhumatologie de Québec (CORQ), Rhumatologie, Québec, Canada; 3Université de Montréal, Médecine, Montréal, Canada; 4Clinique de santé Jacques-Cartier, Rhumatologie, Sherbrooke, Canada

Background: Since 2000, advanced therapies (AT) have revolutionized rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treatment. Initially, TNF-targeted therapies were the only options. Then, therapies with different modes of action (OA) appeared. Habits and medication availability often determine second-line AT choices. Research suggests that specific sequences provide better long-term effectiveness [1,2].

Objectives: Evaluate which alternative medication provides the best sustainability following first-line TNF failure.

Methods: Data from AT prescribed since January 2007 was extracted from RHUMADATAM. Patients were followed until treatment discontinuation, loss to follow-up, or November 25, 2022. A descriptive statistic was used to compare patient characteristics. Kaplan-Meier was used to compare treatment discontinuation rates.

Results: A total of 611 patients (320 TNFi and 291 1237 OMA were included. The mean age at diagnosis was 44.5 (14.4) and 43.9 (14.8) in the TNFi and OMA groups, and disease duration at treatment initiation (TI) was 14.1 (11.1) and 12.9 (12.9). Women made up 72.8% and 81.1% of these groups. The age-adjusted Charlson Comorbidity index (ACCI) was 2.15 (2.1) and 2.1 (2.1). Patients reported more comorbidities, pain and fatigue, longer duration of morning stiffness, and higher HAQ score and disease activity in the OMA group (Table 1). The physician’s global assessment of disease activity and the number of swollen and tender joints were also higher in the OMA group. OMA’s retention rate was higher (Figure 1, logrank=0.0034) than TNFi retention following initial TNFi-IR. In a stratified analysis, rituximab (adjusted (Sidak) logrank=0.0048) had higher retention.

Conclusion: When a first TNFi fails, switching to an OMA, especially rituximab, appears to be the best strategy. Adequate assessment of more recent agents requires longer observation periods.

REFERENCES:

POS0058

OBESITY ASSOCIATES WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF INFLAMMATION DURING THE DISEASE COURSE, BUT ONLY IN ACPA-POSITIVE RA

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities, Outcome measures

N. Den Hollander1, A. M. P. Boeren2, A. Van der Helm – van Mil1,2, H. W. Van Steenbergen1. 1Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Erasmus MC, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Background: Obese rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients have higher disease activity scores (DAS) and lower odds of achieving remission. Although it has been convincingly shown that obese RA-patients experience more pain and have lower wellbeing scores, results are conflicting whether obesity has “pro-inflammatory effects” measured by higher swollen joint count (SJC) and CRP-levels. Additionally, associations of obesity with the DAS-components have not been studied longitudinally and it is unknown whether “pro-inflammatory effects” are similarly present in ACPA-positive and -negative RA. As in vitro data suggested that ACPA can enhance inflammatory-responses, we hypothesized that the association of obesity with SJC and CRP is strongest in ACPA-positive RA.

Objectives: To increase the understanding regarding the effect of obesity on the course of disease activity by studying associations of obesity with DAS-components in ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative RA.

Methods: We studied 649 RA-patients (358 ACPA-positive, 291 ACPA-negative), consecutively included in Leiden Early Arthritis Clinic from May 2011 onwards, and with a total of 2871 DAS-measurements over 5 years. Courses of DAS44 and
DAS-components (SJC-44, TJC-53, CRP and VAS[0-100]) were compared between RA-patients with normal weight (BMI 18.5-24.9; reference category), overweight (25.0-29.9) and obese patients(≥30.0), stratified for ACPA-positivity. Linear mixed models and Poisson mixed models with a knot at 4 months were used.

**Results:** Obese patients had a 0.32 units higher DAS compared to normal weight at diagnosis, this persisted during follow-up. Stratification for ACPA revealed that obese ACPA-positive patients had a 0.43 units (95%CI 0.22,0.64) higher DAS over time, whereas this difference was smaller and not statistically significant in ACPA-negative RA (0.19 units; 95%CI -0.01, 0.38). In ACPA-positive RA, all DAS-components were significantly higher during all 5 years of follow-up in obese patients compared to normal weight: SJC +60% (IRR1.60; 95%CI 1.18, 2.16), CRP +3.7mg/L (95%CI 0.95, 6.53), TJC +55% (IRR1.55; 95%CI 1.15, 2.10) and VAS +9 units (95%CI 4.09, 14.16; Figure 1). However, in ACPA-negative RA, obese patients only had a statistically non-significant trend towards (22%) higher TJC (IRR1.22; 95%CI 0.96, 1.55) and (4 units) higher VAS (95%CI -0.41, 9.00). Moreover, in ACPA-negative RA obesity was not associated with higher SJC and CRP.

**Conclusion:** Although obesity confers risk for higher DAS-scores over time, the effects of obesity on higher SJC and CRP-levels are restricted to ACPA-positive RA. This is the first demonstration that the influence of obesity on the course of RA is different for the two RA-subtypes.

**Figure 1.** Obesity is associated with more swollen joints and higher CRP-levels over time in ACPA positive but not in ACPA negative RA patients

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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PARE Poster Tour 1

UNDERSTANDING THE PATIENT PERSPECTIVE IN LIVING WITH AND TREATING SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Quality of life, Spondyloarthritis, Patient information and education

H. Lapidus Glassner¹, B. Schneider², E. Luce³, E. Peacock³. ¹MyHealthTeam, Research, 94104, United States of America; ²MyHealthTeam, Research, San Francisco, United States of America; ³MyHealthTeam, CEO, San Francisco, United States of America

Background: Spondyloarthritis (SpA), the group of conditions that includes anklyosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, among others, can lead to symptoms of pain, stiffness, and swelling. The burden of disease can affect patients' quality of life.

Objectives: Patient research was undertaken to explore the impact of spondyloarthritis on quality of life, patients' ability to manage the disease, as well as experiences with healthcare providers. Better understanding is crucial to improving HCP-patient interactions, helping patients get on the right treatment path, and improving health outcomes.

Methods: In July 2022 an email invitation to an online survey was sent to members of MySpondylitisTeam, a social network of over 88,000 people. In total, 361 members completed the 25-question survey.

Results: 92% of members report that spondyloarthritis interrupts their quality of life (82% strongly agree and 30% somewhat agree) (Figure 1). SpA takes both a physical and emotional toll. 88% report it makes hard to do everyday activities (54% strongly agree and 34% somewhat agree). Symptoms extend well beyond lower back, joint and hip pain (92%, 84%, and 81% experienced in the past year respectively). Virtually all experience fatigue (91%). Additionally, 61% have experienced symptoms of depression (63%) or anxiety (61%) in the past year. At the same time, just 52% believe they can ask doctors and have meaningful discussions about SpA and how best to manage it (27% strongly agree and 25% somewhat agree) (Figure 2). Only 35% are satisfied with the care they receive from the doctor who primarily treats their SpA. 38% indicate that the doctor recommends treatment based on their personal needs, and 36% indicate that the doctor addresses their SpA symptoms.

Which of the following reflect the discussions you have with the doctor who primarily treats your spondylitis? Please select all that apply. (Sample=361)

Conclusion: Understanding the needs of SpA patients provides significant opportunities for rheumatologists and primary care physicians to better support and educate their patients. This includes discussing potential treatment options, listening to patient concerns, and acknowledging the mental health challenges. References: None to report.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Impact on Quality of Life

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Sample=361)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussions with the doctor who primarily treats spondylitis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Among all who see a doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listens to me and understands my specific needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommends treatment based on my personal needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommends regular check-ups to assess how I am doing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has developed a long-term treatment plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides information on potential side effects of different treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides information on potential effectiveness of different treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addresses symptoms of spondylitis such as pain or fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Patient Discussions With Doctors

DEVELOPMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL TO PROMOTE HEALTH IN FIBROMYALGIA FOR THE SUBWAY IN THE CITY OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Non-pharmacological interventions, Patient information and education

L. Couto¹, A. Lira¹, M. Antunes¹, M. Pinheiro¹, I. M. B. De Souza¹, A. Cruz¹, P. Januário¹, A. Pasqual Marques¹. ¹University of São Paulo, Department of Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy (FOFITO), São Paulo, Brazil

Background: The recommendations reviewed by the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) for the management of fibromyalgia indicate the importance of combining pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions. In addition, these guidelines highlight that the initial non-pharmacological strategy should be patient education centered on the process of adapting and coping with fibromyalgia in quality of life.

Objectives: Develop and validate an educational material to promote health in fibromyalgia and disseminate it to the community in the subway of São Paulo - SP, Brazil.

Methods: For the construction of educational material for dissemination, the following steps were followed: Step 1: Identification of the needs of individuals with fibromyalgia and health professionals in which a qualitative research was carried out, through a focus group (a group of patients with fibromyalgia and another of health professionals). Twelve individuals with fibromyalgia and 10 health professionals...
professionals in Brazil were invited to participate. The group meeting sought to identify, through the participants’ speech, what are the needs and problems reported by individuals with fibromyalgia and the possibilities of guidance by an interdisciplinary team of professionals to meet the needs and solve the problems. Qualitative data were analyzed using the content analysis method proposed by Bardin. The construction of the educational material used the Paulo Freire method, which began with an important survey to identify the primary needs of the participants so that they could be worked on so that, subsequently, the awareness process would take place. The researchers developed educational material containing information that was listed by individuals with fibromyalgia and health professionals. The educational material was made in online format.

Results: The educational material was developed based on the contents proposed in the previous phases and is shown in Figure 1.

Conclusion: The present study can contribute to the dissemination of educational strategies that promote health in fibromyalgia, for patients and for community, in order to disseminate scientific knowledge about the syndrome.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: This study was financed in part by the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel – Brazil (CAPES) – Finance Code 001

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0062-PARE GREAT SUCCESS FOR THE GERMAN PATIENT RESEARCH PARTNERS (PRPs): FROM THE CALL TO TENDER TO WINNING THE AWARD

Keywords: Patient-led research, Best practices, Patient information and education

C. Ellino-Audersch:1 Deutsche Rheuma-Liga Bundesverband e.V., Voluntary assistant, Bonn, Germany

Background: The Deutsche Rheuma-Liga is a patient organisation with about 270 000 members. We have a long history of an established PRP network. We enjoy an excellent cooperation with our professional PRP-facilitator from the steering committee of our organisation. Our patient organisation provides tools, the PRP reference-cards and a helpful brochure, and takes care of the continuing education of the PRPs.

Objectives: In 2022, the Deutsche Rheuma Stiftung (DRS; German Rheumatism Foundation) for the first time launched the call for the „Projektpreis“ Four prizes were awarded with 10.000 € per prize; and at least one of them had to be a participatory research project. This was the starting point for the German PRP network. The immediate aim was to win at least one of the awards. The overarching aim was to realise, for the first time in the field of German rheumatology, a research project initiated by PRPs.

Methods: In order to forward the call and set out the details of the applications, the first meeting was organised by our research facilitator. We discussed various ideas and evaluated whether the objectives can be achieved or not. The subsequent meetings were organised by the PRPs themselves. We improved the initial ideas and searched for supporting researchers, in order to substantiate the planned research projects and write the applications.

Results: Not all ideas from our PRPs were submitted, because of time limitations and difficulties in finding adequate researchers. In the end, three participatory research projects from German PRPs applied for the „Projektpreis“. The topics of the applications were a) money for disseminating the outcomes of a participatory research project addressing fatigue in Lupus patients, b) initiation of a participatory research project investigating how patients search, find and use web-based disease information in everyday life and c) initiation of a participatory research project investigating biomarkers for fibromyalgia. The total number of applications submitted to the DRS was 14. Finally, two participatory research projects from German PRPs won two of the four prizes. The award ceremony took place during the scientific congress of the German Society for Rheumatology in Berlin.

Conclusion: It was a great honour for the German PRPs receiving the awards for applications based on their own initial ideas. For the Deutsche Rheuma-Liga this was a great success in terms of supporting participatory research. This example shall encourage other patient organisation to be confident in finding and creating their own participation-research project.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3025
Patient Reported Benefits of Participating in an Online Health Community in Managing Rheumatoid Arthritis

Keywords: Quality of life, Rheumatoid arthritis, Self-management

Background: Previous research has shown that participation in online health communities can increase patient engagement, improve patient education, and help empower patients to achieve better health outcomes. This study was designed to measure the impact of one such community on patient outcomes.

Objectives: Patient research was undertaken to better understand the impact of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) on quality of life (QoL) and the perceived benefit that participating in a patient social community in RA has on improving health outcomes. This includes better QoL, better understanding of and adherence to treatments and improved relationships with one's doctor.

Methods: In August 2022, an email invitation to an online survey was sent to US members of myRAteam, a social network of over 197,000 people. In total, 745 members completed the survey. All respondents were 21 or older and self-reported as diagnosed with RA.

Results: The far-reaching impact of RA on QoL was evident in that most respondents reported that they find it hard to exercise (90%) and do everyday chores (90%). Respondents also reported that RA interferes with sleep (83%) and having an active social life (80%). The emotional toll of RA manifested with respondents feeling isolated/alone (71%), anxious (75%), and depressed (77%). While RA patients had a good understanding of the role medications play in slowing RA progression (91%) and potential symptoms they might experience (80%), only half (53%) felt they could avoid triggers that worsen RA. Top reasons for joining myRAteam included seeking information/ways to manage RA and being able to connect with others living with RA. Specifically, respondents were looking to gain insights from others' experiences (65%), gather information about RA (60%), better understand treatment options (59%) and have a way to connect with others (45%) for support and tips for living with RA. Newly diagnosed patients were much more likely to join myRAteam to understand what to expect after their diagnosis (68% versus 38% for those with RA for more than a year), to get information about RA (70% versus 59%) and to better manage their symptoms (67% versus 52%). Almost all (90%) reported benefitting from joining myRAteam, including gaining knowledge about RA (77%), having better knowledge of/ability to stay on medication (58%) and having an improved relationship with their doctor (88%). Additionally, 66% benefited from receiving some form of social/emotional support from others. Specifically, they felt less isolated or alone (41%), better able to cope with the emotional toll of RA overall (37%) and less anxious or depressed (20%). Benefits were particularly evident for frequent visitors. For example, 85% of daily visitors to myRAteam are able to find information/resources to manage RA and 75% have experienced an improved relationship with their doctor. And 53% of frequent visitors feel less isolated/alone versus 29% of less active users.

Conclusion: People with RA, particularly those recently diagnosed, are turning to online communities to find disease-specific medical information and support that they are not getting elsewhere. The majority of those surveyed report several benefits from participating in this community that are linked to improved health. Educating patients on the benefits of participating in a health-related social community can lead to less isolation and other mental health challenges, better informed patients, better treatment adherence and more empowered and productive conversations with the treating doctor. Reaching newly diagnosed patients can help lessen the burden of disease and set patients on the right treatment course to slow progression from the onset.

Acknowledgements: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits of joining myRAteam</th>
<th>Total Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Improved Knowledge About RA</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand symptoms of RA</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find useful ideas to improve QoL</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Social Impact</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel less isolated/alone</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better able to cope with emotional burden</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Medication Awareness/Adherence</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover different treatment options</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better manage medication side effects</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay on prescribed treatment longer</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net improved HCP Relationship</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask better informed questions</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False concerns about RA symptoms</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have quality conversations</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: In this effort, we were granted institutional support from Nestos’ Municipality, providing us with the building and covering all the fixed costs.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Education for Patients, Designed by Patients: The Experience in the Design of a Rheumatoid Arthritis Primer

Keywords: Patient information and education, Rheumatoid arthritis, Education

Background: In 2018, thanks to the support of a government entity, the Universi-TAR multi-component educational program was launched; which trained more than 300 patients and certified 50 expert patients in Rheumatoid Arthritis in 2021. In this educational process, patients received training in various knowledge topics for disease care: definitions, signs and symptoms, treatment, medical team, therapeutic adherence, quality of life and transformation of personal behavior to manage relationships and situations. As a result, the educational program proposed the design of educational material that would be useful for the patient population.

Objectives: The objective of this project was to design a primer for patients with rheumatoid arthritis, which helps them understand the disease and the importance of long-term treatment, understand and apply therapeutic adherence, and change the way in which patients assume their role in treatment.

Methods: An editorial committee was created to write the primer. This committee was made up of 8 patient experts in rheumatoid arthritis, 1 rheumatologist, a coordinator of education programs for chronic patients, and a team of content reviewers. The writing of the primer began with a selection of the thematic contents with the greatest impact in their educational process and the writing of the initial manuscript began (by patients for patients). Afterwards, a first revision of the manuscript was made and some contents were adjusted according to the clinimetric standards for international rheumatology. Finally, the manuscript was submitted for review by the team of rheumatologists and the interdisciplinary team, thus creating the final version of the primer.

Results: In December 2022, an event for patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis was held. In this event the primer was presented and its purposes were explained. The primer gathers topics such as: disease definitions, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, disease impact, therapeutic adherence, myths and beliefs, the medical team, health literacy, and expert patients (See figure 1). In 2023, this primer will be delivered to all patients so that they can have a source of consultation and information.
Conclusion: It is important to support the dissemination of educational content so that patients have reliable, accurate and oriented information to improve their participation with medical teams in shared decision-making to achieve therapeutic objectives together.

Acknowledgements: We thank the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation  Minciencias for allowing us to design this primer and for being able to train our patients. Also, we thank the patients who are part of the editorial committee that designed this primer.

Disclosure of Interests: Fernando Rodríguez: None declared, Liliana Reajle: None declared, Zoellia Castaño: None declared, Gabriel-Santiago Rodríguez-Vargas: None declared, Adriana Rojas-Villarraga: None declared, Pedro Santos-Moreno Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3715

Figure 1.

LIFE WITH A CHRONIC ILLNESS - WHAT NOW?

HOW TO LIVE WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS, A LIFELONG ILLNESS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

1. Wermiskog, L., M. Eidet, K. Lilleby, Spondyloarthritis Association Norway, N/A, Oslo, Norway; 2Novartis, Oslo, Norway

Background: Axial spondyloarthritis is a chronic inflammatory joint disease, which mainly attacks the pelvis, back, neck and thorax, but peripheral joints can also be affected. This patient group is affected to a very varying degree and the disease varies throughout the course of the disease. Some have mild symptoms and may be without ailments for long periods of time. Others have major ailments and may experience increasing stiffness in the back. The average age at the onset of symptoms of AS is 26 years.

Objectives: The aim of this campaign is to focus on life with a chronic illness. How to mentally master your illness and accept it, but also how to be active with the disease. The campaign aims to break down prejudices and discrimination that chronic sufferers are faced with in society, for example that they are weaker or lazier than others. These prejudices help to make the disease a strain mentally as well. Many patients struggle to accept that they have contracted a chronic illness, a disease that stays with you for life.

Methods: Giving this campaign a face, we used a world-renowned photographer and social debates Morten Krogvold to take pictures of Felix Baldauf, world champion in wrestling, living with axial spondyloarthritis. Films were made of Felix’s story, about the road to a diagnosis and about the afterlife diagnosis. In the films, Felix honestly tell how tough and difficult this road has been for him, but at the same time he talks about how life has changed now that he has been diagnosed and properly treated. His goal is now a gold medal in wrestling at the 2024 Olympics, even though he’s living with axial spondyloarthritis, which shows that it is possible to live a good life with the disease and have an active physical life. In order to get as much attention as possible about the campaign, it was launched at political week in Arendal. The films, Felix’s openness about the disease leaves hope for other patients, that one can live a good and active life with the disease.

Acknowledgements: The patient campaign is supported by the Norwegian Directorate of Health, Novartis, AbbVie.

Disclosure of Interests: Lilian Wermiskog Grant/research support from: I have not personally received a grant, but Spafo has received funding from Novartis, Abbvie, UCB Pharma, Takeda Pfizer, Lilly. Employee of: Yes, Novartis, Lise Mette Eidet Grant/research support from: I have not personally received a grant, but Spafo has received funding from Novartis, Abbvie, UCB Pharma, Takeda Pfizer, Lilly. Kari Lilleby Employee of: I am employed by Novartis Pharma.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6200

Figure 1. Sankey chart illustrating improvement or worsening (right) of the five most mentioned QoL aspects (middle) of patients with a knee or hip replacement procedure (n=266 documents)
Conclusion: This social listening study indicates pain as the most burdensome OA symptom and sheds light on the QoL impact of surgical procedures. Given limitations of social listening studies (e.g., number of identifiable age groups or gender[3]), the results need to undergo further validation by patient representatives and clinical experts. Yet, this novel method complements common approaches by providing an understanding of patients' perspectives outside the clinic, representing the voices of vulnerable populations who may otherwise participate in clinical or epidemiological studies.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The project is funded by Grünenthal GmbH.

Disclosure of Interests: Neil Betteridge Consultant of: Consultancy fees received from Grünenthal, Amgen, Galapagos, Lilly, Sanofi, Gudula Petersen Employee of: Grünenthal GmbH, Thomas Andreu Consultant of: Grünenthal GmbH provides funding for this project, Matthias Hartung Consultant of: Grünenthal GmbH provides funding for this project. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3676

POS0068-PARE VITORIA: A VIRTUAL ASSISTANT TO PROMOTE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ON JUVENILE RHEUMATOID MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES

Keywords: Patient information and education, Non-pharmacological interventions, Self-management

J. Borda D’água1, A. P. Cláudio1, M. B. Carmo1, M. Guerreiro2, A. Cavaco3, D. Piedade4, C. F. Gomes4,5, A. Pais4, E. Mateus4,5

1Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Informática, LASIGE, Lisboa, Portugal; 2Egas Moniz School of Health & Science, Egas Moniz Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Lisboa, Portugal; 3Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa, imed — Research Institute for Medicines, Lisboa, Portugal; 4National Association of Patients with Juvenile Arthritis, ANDAI, Lisboa, Portugal; 5Portuguese League Against Rheumatic Diseases, LPCDR, Lisboa, Portugal

Background: The range of musculoskeletal and connective tissue conditions that manifest in children is referred to as paediatric rheumatic diseases[1]. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common childhood chronic rheumatic disease[2]. This disease is the most frequent cause of chronic pain in young people, which negatively affects their quality of life. To mitigate the burden of chronic condition, self-management (e.g., lifestyle) should be combined with medical management. More effective information strategies are required to respond to the needs of those living with rheumatic diseases and their caregivers. Virtual Humans (VH) have been utilized in interactive computational simulations to boost users' acceptability and knowledge of health conditions while also promoting lifestyle changes in healthy individuals or in the management of chronic illnesses, such as juvenile rheumatic musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs)[3,4].

Objectives: This project aimed to develop a web application to support education for disease management and health promotion, in children and young people with RMDs, their caregivers and peers[5].

Methods: The use of gamification as well as a virtual character incorporated in a narrative, with the dual goal of maintaining user engagement and improving the play experience, was the core idea underpinning the development of our application. Group discussions with young patients (members of the patient organisation ANDAI) were used to obtain feedback and experiences from application users during the requirement phase, intermediate feedback and testing the developed application. The application was also assessed by an evaluation survey following the testing phase.

Results: A virtual assistant was developed to communicate with users through speech (voice and subtitles) as well as facial and body motions[6]. This 2D animated young female model, portrays a character with juvenile RMDs and shares information about her lived experiences with the illness. An assessment of user knowledge follows each interaction. Users are encouraged to play and learn more by awarding points and digital badges for right answers or by displaying the solutions when incorrect answers are chosen. In short, on a scale of 1 to 5, 83% of the participants rated the application testing the application with maximal punctuation, indicating that users, who are children with RMDs, their young relatives and/or friends, found this tool useful.

Conclusion: A virtual assistant web application that uses a narrative approach and gamification concepts to encourage education on juvenile RMDs was successfully developed. This web application is intended to be lodged on the ANDAI website to convey easy access. In addition, this tool will be also made available in tablets at the waiting room of paediatric rheumatology services, facilitating education when children are diagnosed.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0068-PARE HOW TO REACH MORE PEOPLE WITH RMD THROUGH DIGITAL COUNSELLING

Keywords: Self-management, Mental health, Patient information and education

N. B. Hartz1, G. Gittigorenning, Rådgivning, Gentofte, Denmark

Background: The Danish Rheumatism Association has a professional counselling service, where our 82.000 members can call or write to get help and answers to their questions. The association had planned to make our counselling offers more digital over time but due to corona in 2020 we decided to advance the launch of these digital offerings since all our usual offerings and activities got cancelled overnight.

Objectives: The association wants to be as relevant as possible to all people with RMD and therefore we wish to be present, not only at our usual platforms, but also through digital solutions. Since 2020 the professional counselling has, in collaboration with the communication department, made short videos on SoMe and broadcasted live events on relevant topics with experts, where the viewers have the possibility to interact with questions and emojis during the live events. It is also possible to watch the live events afterwards. Since 2022 the association has increased the digital offers within counselling to also include explainer videos and livestreaming from public meetings at hospitals. Our aim is to give relevant information that help people with RMD to improve their capability of self-management and get them to connect and interact even more with us.

Methods: The first digital events were made with a handheld mobile camera and the sound was not very good. The events were transmitted live on the association’s Facebook page. This new way of approaching people with RMD with professional counselling through live events was successful and had more viewers than we had expected even though the quality in the beginning was poor. This shows that even with scarce resources you can still reach many people with RMD through digital solutions. After a while we hired a professional company to make our live events more professional with correct light and sound, and today we are on a much higher level than at the beginning of our digital transmissions. We have also expanded our ways of making live events from 1-2 experts talking on a specific topic to also include panel discussions, live broadcasting from large public events, explainer videos, live interviews with medical doctors at hospitals etc.

Results: In 2022 the professional counselling service have produced 2 explainers, 8 live events and 12 videos. The topics of the broadcasts were for example pain, sexuality, exercise, mental health, social issues, newly diagnosed etc. The number of people we have reached with the digital counselling will be elaborated on the EULAR congress. We have indications showing that more young people are aware of the association and our professional counselling after having attended more digital services with the possibility to interact or to watch it whenever it suits the person. Furthermore it is a cost effective way to reach a lot of people at one time compared to our 1-on-1 phone consultations in our professional counselling. The downside of doing digital events is that you do not get the personal and direct connection between the professional and the person with RMD and the advice that is given will be more general compared to a telephone conversation. Furthermore, it requires access to the Internet and a Facebook account or similar. Some elderly people can therefore not participate.
in these events. However, in 2022 we offered physical events as well. We are trying to reach out as broadly as we can in order to meet the different needs from people with RMD.

Conclusion: The use of live events and videos is a way to unfold the professional counselling service in order to give help and advice to a broader audience. It has been a huge success with many viewers who interact with us. These digital offers are contributing to make the Danish Rheumatism Association appear as a modern and progressive association. An important notice when wanting to become more digitalized as a patient organization is, that even on a low budget you can reach many people with RMD as long as the content is relevant. We will for sure develop even more digital offers in the future regarding patient information and education in order to improve the quality of life for more people with RMD.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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HPR Poster Tour: Diverse interventions and patient perspectives

Keywords: Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Psoriatic arthritis, Systematic review

M. Kaerts1, J. Eelen2, N. Planc1e, F. Van Loock2, A. Liekens2, K. De Vlam3,4, R. Lories3,5, W. Dankert6, T. W. Swinnen7,8, B. Neenick3,9, 1Myositis Support and Understanding, Patient-Centered Research, Lincoln, DE, United States of America; 2Massachusetts General Hospital - Surgery, Boston, United States of America; 3University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Neurology, Dallas, United States of America

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs) often lead to severe impairments in quality-of-life related to physical and emotional burdens. While the healthcare delivery burden in patients with specific types of IIMs has been explored[1], little is known about caregivers' burden, especially in rare diseases.[2] Objectives: Myositis Support and Understanding (MSU), a non-profit patient-led advocacy organization for IIMs, distributed a survey to its members to better understand caregiver burden. The aim of this study was to evaluate the association between caregiver burden by IIM subtype and factors that impact caregiver wellbeing.

Methods: Data Source: An anonymous survey was distributed via RedCAP to MSU members worldwide. A total of 120 caregivers (age range: 30-89) responded to the survey over the course of 4 weeks. Survey: Demographic, diagnostic information, and disease duration data was collected from participants and their caregivers. The Zarit Burden Interview (ZBI), a validated instrument for caregiver burden by IIM subtype and factors that impact caregiver wellbeing. The aim of this study was to evaluate the association between caregiver burden by IIM subtype and factors that impact caregiver wellbeing.

Results: Most of the caregivers in this study were responsible for the care of patients with inclusion body myositis (IBM, 64%) followed by dermatomyositis (DM, 22%).Caregivers reported that 74% of IIM patients under their care had moderate to severe difficulties with mobility and required help some or most of the time. A total of 102 caregivers completed the ZBI: reported burden was mild in 25%, and severe in 4% of caregivers. There was a high degree of at least moderate severity burden in IBM (33%), DM (25%), and polymyositis (25%).

Conclusion: Caregivers face a high degree of burden, most evident in IBM. Burden positively correlated with disease duration with an inflection time of 6 years, thereafter caregivers reported increased burden. The domains that were most impacted include personal strain, social and family life, role strain, and loss of control over one’s life. Insights from this study can help create specific emotional coping strategies for myositis patients and their caregivers.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1786
Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic inflammatory autoimmune disease that characterized by chronic, symmetric and erosive synovitis that may lead to severe disability and impairments. RA patients frequently have adverse changes in their body composition, with a decrease in muscle mass and an increase in fat mass, a syndrome that is termed rheumatoid cachexia (RC). RC is associated with chronic inflammation, impaired muscle mass and strength and body mass loss, all of which are classical targets of exercise training.

Objectives: This systematic review and meta-analysis aimed to determine the effects of exercise training on body composition included fat mass, lean body mass and muscle strength in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: We searched PubMed/Medline, Web of Science, EMBASE, CINHAL, Scopus, Cochrane Library, Google Scholar and Science Direct for relevant articles until November 2022. Systematic review included randomised controlled trials and controlled trials. Pre- and post- exercises intervention data on our primary outcomes included body composition [e.g., using BMI, bioelectrical impedance analysis, fat-free mass index (FFMI)] and isometric knee muscle strength. Two outcomes included body composition [e.g., using BMI, bioelectrical impedance analysis, fat-free mass index (FFMI)] and isometric knee muscle strength. Two authors independently screened records and data were extracted using Microsoft Excel and exported to STATA version 15.0 software for analysis. Risk of bias was assessed and a random-effects model was used to pool effect sizes by standardised mean differences (SMD).

Results: Six studies with a total of 119 patients with RA in the meta-analysis. Exercises interventions had a median (range) duration of 14 (12-24) weeks and including progressive resistance training, high-intensity resistance training, proprioceptive exercises and water-based exercises programs. Exercises interventions a superior effect compare to control on both fat mass [SDM -0.20 (%95 CI 1.20, 0.79), p<0.001, ı2; %91], lean body mass [SDM 0.66 (%95 CI -0.77, 2.09), p<0.001, ı2; %95] and isometric knee extensor muscle strength [SDM 3.01 (0.59, 5.43), p<0.001, ı2; %97] (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Our meta-analysis indicates different exercises trainings effectively decreased fat mass and increased isometric extensor muscle strength and lean mass in patients with RA thereby slowing or reversing RC.

REFERENCE:

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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The main perceived barriers to use of DHI in physical therapy settings were high cost (77.8%), and lack of appropriate DHI to Turkish population (71.5%).

**Conclusion:** This study is the first to present the views of physiotherapists in Turkey on the use of DHI in physiotherapy. Participants are willing to use digital health interventions, but due to obstacles that prevent their use in physiotherapy, there are still some limitations on their use. They contend that for DHI to be widely used, physiotherapists and patients must be educated about them, and the state must support their use and multidisciplinary development.

**REFERENCES:**


Table 1. Key themes, categories and nodes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key themes</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Nodes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHI Used in Physiotherapy</td>
<td>Purposes of Using Digital Health Interventions in Physiotherapy</td>
<td>consultancy, evaluation, feedback, tracking progress, treatment, follow-up, patient and family education, out-of-session arrangements, professional development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barriers to Use of DHI in Physiotherapy</td>
<td>Technological barriers</td>
<td>accessibility to technology, lack of technology infrastructure, digital health literacy, technology acceptance, data security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical barriers</td>
<td>inappropriate clinical conditions, lack of physical contact, fear of losing the physical therapist's control and trivializing the physical therapist's presence, accessibility (to patient and physiotherapist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits of using DHI in physiotherapy</td>
<td>motivation, follow-up</td>
<td>objective, standard data education, creating a need, public promotion, multidisciplinary development of interventions, professionalization, positive user experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expanding the Use of DHI in Physiotherapy

**Conclusion:** Of the 91 eConsult patients, 44 (48.4%) were converted to face-to-face (FTF) consultation with a rheumatologist. Patients evaluated through eConsults were less likely to be referred to a rheumatologist (RR = 0.61, 95% CI 0.46 – 0.80) when compared to in-person referrals. Patients referred through eConsults were twice as likely to be diagnosed with CTD relative to those that were not scheduled for an FTF visit after an eConsult was completed (RR = 2.49, 95% CI 1.28 – 4.84). For the converted patients, 21 (47.7%) were diagnosed with CTD. For those that did not convert to a FTF referral, only 9 (19.1%) were eventually diagnosed with a CTD. Of the 40 in-person patient referrals, 31 (77.5%) were scheduled to follow-up with a rheumatologist; the majority of which (N = 30, 96.8%) were ultimately diagnosed with CTD. Elevated ESR/CRP levels were found in 19 (43.2%) eConsult patients that had converted and 16 (34%) patients that did not convert to FTF. For eConsult patients, those twice as likely to be diagnosed with CTD relative to those referred and scheduled for a CTD diagnosis in the future. Thus, eConsults should be considered an effective and efficient tool in properly referring patients with rheumatologic presentations and parsing out cases that would not require specialist care.

**REFERENCES:**


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POS0074-HPR**

**EFFICACY OF E-CONSULTS COMPARED TO IN-PERSON REFERRALS OF ANA POSITIVE PATIENTS TO RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC**

**Keywords:** Descriptive Studies, Health Services Research, Telemedicine

**J. Par-Young**, J. Young, F. Kennedy, I. Kang, X. Dong, Yale University, Internal Medicine, New Haven, United States of America; Yale University, Psychiatry, New Haven, United States of America

**Background:** Antinuclear antibodies (ANA) are autoantibodies associated with several autoimmune diseases but are also present in healthy individuals due to their role in the body's biological immune response. Thus, testing for ANA in an ambulatory setting could be inappropriately ordered and misinterpreted. Yet, delay in proper management of patients with rheumatologic presentations could result in increased morbidity and health care expenditure. Electronic consultation, or eConsults, could be utilized by primary care providers (PCPs) as a convenient tool to expedite access to rheumatology specialists and optimize care.

**Objectives:** To assess the efficacy of eConsults in terms of resource utilization and time to referral when compared to in-person referrals of ANA+ patients.

**Methods:** In this retrospective cohort study, we reviewed the charts of 131 ANA+ patients within the Yale New Haven Health System seen from August 2019 to September 2022. The charts were divided into cases referred by eConsult and by in-person referrals. Time from chart order to eConsult or in-person consultation, diagnosis after consultation, and laboratory workup results were evaluated. Relative risks (RR) were calculated to compare the efficacy of eConsults vs. in-person referrals in diagnosing connective tissue diseases (CTD) and initiating appropriate referrals. A chi-square test of independence was conducted to determine if there was an association between ESR/CRP levels and conversion to in-person follow-up appointments in eConsult patients.

**Results:** Among the 131 ANA+ patients seen by their PCPs, 91 (69.5%) were referred through eConsult and 40 (30.5%) were in-person referrals to a rheumatologist. The average time from the initial eConsult request to completion of the consult was 1.46 ± 2.54 days while in-person consultations required longer wait times of 76.63 ± 48.61 days.

**Conclusion:** Electronic consultation is an easy and timely method for referral to the rheumatology clinic. In this study, ANA+ patients requiring an urgent consultation were identified earlier through an eConsult compared to an in-person referral. eConsults were also capable of identifying cases that required specialist treatment; 80.9% of patients that weren’t referred would not receive a CTD diagnosis in the future. Thus, eConsults should be considered an effective and efficient tool in properly referring patients with rheumatologic presentations and parsing out cases that would not require specialist care.

**REFERENCES:**


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POS0075-HPR**

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN WEB-BASED PATIENT EDUCATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS – A QUALITATIVE STUDY**

**Keywords:** Self-management, Patient information and education, Rheumatoid arthritis

L. Raunsbaek Knudsen, K. Lomborg, E. M. Hauge, H. A. Zangi, A. De Thurah, Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; Aarhus University, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark; Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen, Steno Diabetes Center, Copenhagen, Denmark; Copenhagen University, Department of Clinical Medicine, København, Denmark; Diakonhjemmet Hospital, REMEDI - Center for treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases, Oslo, Norway; VID Specialized University, Faculty of Health, Oslo, Norway
Background: Self-management skills are important for people with inflammatory rheumatic diseases, and can be supported through patient education (PE) (1, 2). Following an increasing use of telehealth (3), digital PE is gaining ground to support patients’ self-management skills, but the evidence is still limited. Currently, we are testing the effectiveness of a digital PE e-learning program designed for people with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), the WebRA trial [4]. In the present qualitative study, we aimed to provide in-depth insight into patient perspectives of the e-learning program.

Objectives: To explore patients’ perceptions of taking part in web-based PE, and how this contributes to self-management of RA.

Methods: We conducted 20 individual qualitative interviews based on the ‘Interpretative Description’ methodology, an inductive research strategy implying an iterative process of data collection and analysis. Newly diagnosed RA-patients were recruited from the intervention group of the WebRA trial after having finalized their one-year follow-up period [4]. A purposive sampling strategy was used to achieve information power by inclusion of participants with different sex, age, and sociodemographic background. The analysis contained a descriptive part followed by interpretation and extraction of main messages.

Results: Overall, participants had positive perceptions of the e-learning program, and only minor technical difficulties were identified. Advantages of e-learning were flexibility, the possibility for repetition, varied and entertaining presentation forms, availability, and learning in familiar and calm surroundings. Disadvantages were described as missing the dialogue with health care providers (HCPs), and therefore unmet relational support needs. The degree to which e-learning perceived to play a role for acquiring knowledge about RA differed. For the majority, a need for insight and clarity into the condition led to an active approach in using e-learning, whereas a minor group had a more hesitant approach, and postponed the use of the program, e.g. because of mental distress following the diagnosis or by oversight. The program was mostly used immediately after having received the diagnosis and only to a limited extent in the time hereafter. This was explained by fulfilled informational needs, a need for normality and a desire for focusing on everyday life. Participants found that the e-learning program facilitated learning and contributed to self-management of their disease. Patients, however, relied on more than knowledge in their self-management including the interaction between information and knowledge, relational support from HCPs, own experiences, and an underlying positive attitude towards living with the disease.

Conclusion: Most patients consider web-based PE to be a well-suited solution for self-management support. The opportunities of e-learning are related to information and knowledge support whereas challenges cover relational and emotional support needs. Thus, it is suggested that future organization of PE offer different forms and combinations of PE to accommodate different needs and preferences of patients throughout the disease course.

REFERENCES:
[2] Zangi HA, et al. EULAR recommendations for patient education for people with rheumatic diseases, and can be supported through patient education (PE) (1, 2). Following an increasing use of telehealth (3), digital PE is gaining ground to support patients’ self-management skills, but the evidence is still limited. Currently, we are testing the effectiveness of a digital PE e-learning program designed for people with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), the WebRA trial [4]. In the present qualitative study, we aimed to provide in-depth insight into patient perspectives of the e-learning program.

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Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory arthritis occurring in 20–30% of patients with psoriasis.[1] Timely diagnosis is important because untreated PsA can result in irreversible joint damage[1] and functional disability.[2] While existing national and international guidelines, such as those produced by EULAR, BSR, ACR/National Psoriasis Foundation and GRAPPA, cover a wide range of aspects of diagnosis and pharmacological management of PsA, gaps have been identified relating to the application of guidance in clinical practice, ongoing non-pharmacological management, and quality of care benchmarking, often related to a lack of evidence. In response, an expert UK consensus group aimed to enhance current guidance.

Objectives: To develop an evidence- and consensus-based set of recommendations for the management of PsA in routine clinical practice that adds value to existing guidelines, suggests minimum and best quality standards for day-to-day PsA management and provides a set of practical strategies to achieve these quality standards, with the aim of supporting clinicians.

Methods: A structured process was used to develop the consensus.

1. A steering committee (SC) of 12 experts in the fields of rheumatology, dermatology and primary care.
2. An initial meeting, consensus themes were discussed and agreed (PsA diagnosis, disease assessment, comorbidities, and management) and consensus questions were drafted. A targeted literature review of PubMed and Embase following a PICO framework was conducted to gather scientific evidence supporting a selection of the questions, while others were agreed to be more appropriately addressed by expert clinical experience. At a second meeting, recommendations were drafted in response to the identified questions, covering gaps in current guidelines. For the next stage, an extended faculty was recruited including rheumatologists (32), dermatologists (6), primary care representatives (3), specialist nurses (5), academics (12) and members of the Brit-PACT patient group [6]. In an online voting platform, the SC and extended faculty entered an agreement score for each recommendation.

Results: The SC and extended faculty agreed on 34 statements covering 15 questions on PsA diagnosis, disease assessment, comorbidities, and management. The diagnosis theme focussed on strategies to identify PsA early and appropriate referral of diagnostic indicators, and guidance on the use of screening tools. The use of imaging to support diagnosis, and appropriate referral time frames were also covered in detail. Recommendations on disease assessment centred on holistic consideration of disease activity, functional impairment and impact from a patient perspective, as well as how to implement shared decision-making. Specific guidance for measurements to be performed at clinic visits was included. For comorbidities, recommendations were made for assessment and management, with specific guidance for high-risk conditions, such as depression and obesity, and those with implications for PsA pharmacological therapy. Management statements (which excluded guidance on pharmacological therapies in extant guidelines) covered multidisciplinary team working, implementation of lifestyle modifications, and treat-to-target strategies built upon the parameters of greatest importance to individual patients. The use of corticosteroids was recommended to be minimised where feasible.

Conclusion: This expert consensus programme identified critical areas beyond pharmacological therapy where existing guidance on PsA management could be enhanced and be of greater practical relevance to clinicians. This work will also be developed into a clinical resource to support healthcare professionals in the care of patients with PsA.

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Disclosure of Interests: Laura Coates Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, MBU speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grand research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, MBU speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Hospira, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi-Aventis, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Chugai Pharma, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Gilead, Hospira, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi-Genzyme, Grant/research support from: Bio-Cancer, Biogen, Pfizer, Sanofi, James Galloway Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Galapagos, Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, Grant/ research support from: GSK, Pfizer, Nicola Gillick Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Alison Kent speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Merck-Sharp & Dohme, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi Genzyme, Regeneron, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, Merck-Sharp & Dohme, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi Genzyme, UCB, Laura Savage Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Almirall, Celgene, Celltrion, Eli Lilly, Galderma, Janssen-Cilag, Leo, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Almirall, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Galderma, Janssen-Cilag, Leo, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Stefan Siebert Speakers bureau: AbbVie, GSK, Janssen, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Janssen, UCB, Grant/research support from: Institutional research support from Amgen (previously Celgene), Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, UCB, William Tillett Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Ono Pharma, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, UCB, Natasha Wood Consultant of: Janssen, Philip G Conaghan Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Novartis, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Bioscipe, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Genascence, GSK, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Stryker, UCB.

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Results: The mean age of the individuals included in the study was 50.38 ± 12.39 years. The median value of the BETY-BQ was 52 (min: 0 max: 112) and the median values of the sub-headings were as follows: pain 10 (min: 0 max: 20), functionality 12 (min: 0 max: 35), emotional status 16 (min: 0 max: 40), sociability 4 (min: 0 max: 12), sexuality 3 (min: 0 max: 8), sleep quality 3 (min: 0 max: 4). High and very high positive correlations were found between the BETY-BQ total score and all parameters, and significant positive correlations were found between the parameters themselves (p<0.005) (Table 1).

Table 1. BETY-BQ correlation coefficients of individuals with SSc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BETY-BQ</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Pain</th>
<th>Functionality</th>
<th>Emotional Status</th>
<th>Sociability</th>
<th>Sexuality</th>
<th>Sleep Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>(rho)</td>
<td>(rho)</td>
<td>(rho)</td>
<td>(rho)</td>
<td>(rho)</td>
<td>(rho)</td>
<td>(rho)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>0.809**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functionality</td>
<td>0.894**</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>0.930**</td>
<td>0.795**</td>
<td>0.664**</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>0.799**</td>
<td>0.597**</td>
<td>0.556**</td>
<td>0.791**</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociability</td>
<td>0.625**</td>
<td>0.360*</td>
<td>0.557**</td>
<td>0.496**</td>
<td>0.468**</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexuality</td>
<td>0.707**</td>
<td>0.610**</td>
<td>0.573**</td>
<td>0.612**</td>
<td>0.527**</td>
<td>0.436**</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05, **p<0.001

Conclusion: According to the results of this study, it was observed that the biospsychosocial characteristics of individuals with SSc were affected by each other. Biospsychosocial status was most affected by emotional status and least affected by sexuality. It was found that pain, functionality, and sleep quality were mostly related to emotional status; sociality was most related to pain and sexuality was most related to functionality. The effect of good emotional status of individuals with SSc on other parameters was remarkable. The results were interpreted as demonstrating the need for biospsychosocial approaches focusing on biospsychosocial effects, especially emotional status, in the disease management of individuals with SSc.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0079-HPR

PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES MEASURES FOR SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: AN EXPERT DELPHI CONSENSUS TO GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION IN ROUTINE CARE

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Patient reported outcomes

I. Castjon1, L. Cano García1, M. J. Cuadrado Lozano2, J. Borrás1, M. Galindo-Izquierdo3, T. C. Salomon Monte3, C. Amorós4, C. San Román Gutiérrez5, A. Muñoz6, Hospital Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Reumatología, Madrid, Spain; 2Hospital regional de Málaga, Enfermería Reumatología, Málaga, Spain; 3Hospital Clínico Universitario de Navarra, Reumatología, Madrid, Spain; 4Hospital de Sagunto, Farmacia Hospitalaria, Valencia, Spain; 5Hospital 12 de Octubre, Reumatología, Madrid, Spain; 6Hospital del Mar, Reumatología, Barcelona, Spain; 7GSK, Market Access Department, Madrid, Spain; 8GSK, Medical Department, Madrid, Spain; 9Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocio, Reumatología, Sevilla, Spain

Background: Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) are useful to incorporate the patient's perspective in the disease decision-making process, which has been identified as one of the main challenges in the management of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) patients [1,2].

Objectives: To establish expert recommendations to incorporate PROMs on the current management and empowerment of patients with SLE.

Methods: After a scoping review of the literature and structured interviews with SLE patients (n=9) a survey-based questionnaires were developed by a scientific committee (5 rheumatologists, 1 H. pharmacist and 1 nurse). Using a Delphi approach, consensus was reached regarding the role of PROMs in SLE patients, strategies and more feasible measures to be incorporated in routine care.

Results: A total of 59 experts participated: 51% rheumatologist, 17% internists, 8% nephrologist, 3% dermatologist, and 20% other health professionals in rheumatology (nurses, pharmacists, and psychologists). Around 50% of participants were women, with a mean of 18 years of experience managing SLE patients. Panelists agreed on the following recommendations: incorporating the patient's perspective through the use PROMs (83%), utility of a digital tool to collect PROMs connected to the electronic medical record (83%), incorporating other health professionals to support patients to complete PROMs (77%), a multidisciplinary approach to improve specialists' interaction/coordination (79%), and incorporating H. pharmacists to improve medication management (70%). Pan- elists agreed that PROMs can facilitate patient participation in decision-making with an adherence to treatment improvement (72%). Consensus was reached on the agreement of the effectiveness of PROMs in routine care: a Visual Analog Scale (VAS) 0-100 for pain (83%), fatigue (73%), and patient global assessment (76%), the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy Fatigue (FACIT) for fatigue (75%), and the Lupus Impact Tracker (LIT) (75%) to evaluate health-related quality of life.

Conclusion: Strategies to promote a holistic and integrated approach including the creation of multidisciplinary teams and the incorporation of patient's perspective using PROMs, such as VAS-pain, VAS-fatigue, FACIT-Fatigue, VAS-PGA and LIT, are recommended to improve SLE management in routine care.

REFERENCES:

Funding: This project has been funded by GSK.


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POS0086-HPR

LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS OF A LIFESTYLE PROGRAM FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: ONE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF THE “PLANTS FOR JOINTS” RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL

Keywords: Diet and Nutrition, Non-pharmacological interventions, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. Wagner1,2, W. Wainrabenstein1,2, M. Van der Leeden1,4,5, F. Turkstra1, J. Twisk5, M. Boers1,6, H. Van Middendorp1, P. Weijls1,6, D. Van Schaardenburg1,2,1 Reade, Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Rheumatology and immunology center, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Nutrition & Dietetics, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 4Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUmc, Rehabilitation Medicine, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 5Amsterdam Movement Sciences Research Institute, Movement Sciences, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 6Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUmc, Epidemiology and Data Science, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 7Leiden University, Institute of Psychology, Health, Medical, & Neuropsychology unit, Leiden, Netherlands; 8Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUmc, Nutrition & Dietetics, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Background: The 16-week Plants for Joints (PFJ) multidisciplinary lifestyle program, based on a whole-food plant-based diet, physical activity, and stress management, significantly reduced 28-joint Disease Activity Score (DAS28) score compared to usual care in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1,2].

Objectives: To determine the long-term effectiveness of the PFJ lifestyle program on disease activity in patients with RA.

Methods: In the PFJ assessor-blind randomized clinical trial, patients with RA and a DAS28 score ≥ 2.6 and ≤ 5.1 were randomized to receive the PFJ program plus additional to usual care, or the control group which received usual care. After this 16-week period the control group also received the PFJ program. After completion of the PFJ program all participants were followed-up for one year with biannual visits and 6 adherence-promoting webinars. If participants had a DAS28 score <2.6 they were instructed to taper anti-rheumatic medication following a pre-specified protocol. Medication changes were assessed at one year as an increase, stable, or decrease compared to baseline by an independent committee. Secondary outcomes included anthropometric and metabolic markers. A paired sample T-Test between 1-year follow-up and start of intervention was performed.
Results: Of 77 participants who completed the initial 16-week clinical trial 92% were female with a mean (SD) age of 55 (12) and body mass index of 26 (4) kg/m² at baseline. The 65 (84%) participants who completed the one-year follow-up had a greater average change in DAS28 score (–0.9 vs. –0.05) compared to non-completers. In the year after completing the PFJ program the DAS28 score continued to improve slightly where a mean 1.01-point difference was observed after one year for the completed cases compared to baseline values (95% CI 0.76 to 1.26; p < 0.001) (Figure 1). All components of the DAS28 improved significantly compared to before the program (Table 1). Significant improvements were found in both the seropositive and seronegative subgroups. Of the 61 participants using anti-rheumatic medication at baseline, 27 (44%) were able to decrease the dosage or stop one or more medications. Anti-rheumatic medication was stable for 16 participants, and increased for 13, of which 5 newly started using medication. 45 participants (58%) had improved DAS28 scores of which 20 had a DAS28 <2.6 with stable or less medication compared to baseline. After the 1-year follow-up period there was no longer a significant difference in weight or HbA1c although LDL cholesterol remained significantly lower compared to baseline.

Conclusion: The PFJ lifestyle program significantly decreased disease activity in patients with RA and its effects were sustained until one year after program completion, with slightly less anti-rheumatic medication. Metabolic benefits found after the lifestyle intervention were only partially sustained possibly indicating attenuated adherence to the lifestyle program in the 1-year follow-up.

REFERENCES:
[1] Walrabenstein, Trials 2021

Table 1. Plants for Joints cohort at start and end of the 4-month intervention period and during the 1-year follow-up (6 and 12 months after completing the intervention) for completed cases (n = 65). Variables reported as mean or number [% of all participants (n = 77)]. Mean difference between start of intervention and end of follow-up. ESR = erythrocyte sedimentation rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Follow-up study</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>Mean difference</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAS28</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>–0.101 (–1.26 to –0.76)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joint count</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>–0.11 (–1.8 to –0.4)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joint count (VAS)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>–1.9 (–2.7 to –1.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General health (VAS)</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>–23.6 (–29.8 to –17.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/hour)</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>–3.9 (–7.4 to –0.4)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 &lt;2.6</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>–3.3 (–5.4 to –1.2)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>71.8</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>74.2</td>
<td>–0.5 (–1.6 to 0.6)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL cholesterol (mmol/l)</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>–0.2 (–0.35 to –0.01)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HbA1c (mmol/mol)</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>–0.3 (–1.1 to 0.4)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.85

**POS0081-HPR** PATIENTS’ PERCEPTIONS OF LIFESTYLE INTERVENTIONS IN EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS – A QUALITATIVE STUDY

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Lifestyles, Qualitative research methods

K. Drake Af Hagelsrum, I. Larsson, A. Bremander, E. Lindqvist, E. Mogerd. Lund University, Section of Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund, Sweden; Lund University, Section of Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund, Sweden; Halmstad University, School of Health and Welfare, Halmstad, Sweden; Spenshult, Research and Development Centre, Halmstad, Sweden; University of Southern Denmark, Department of Regional Health Research, Odense, Denmark; University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Sønderborg, Denmark; Skane University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden

Background: Patients with early rheumatoid arthritis (RA) benefit from combining pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions to prevent damage to cartilage and bone, relieve symptoms, and improve or normalize physical function, quality of life, and social and work capacity. Healthy lifestyle habits, including regular physical activity, a healthy diet, and smoking cessation can lower the increased risk of cardiovascular diseases and improve symptoms and quality of life in patients with RA. In addition, smoking and alcohol may interfere with anti-inflammatory medication, which is why lifestyle interventions are essential in managing patients with early RA. According to international and national recommendations, healthcare professionals are expected to discuss healthy lifestyle habits with all patients with inflammatory arthritis [1]. Despite this, the effect of lifestyle discussions and how patients perceive lifestyle interventions in rheumatology care are scarcely studied.

**Objectives:** To explore how patients with early RA perceive lifestyle interventions in rheumatology care.

**Methods:** In this explorative qualitative study, 18 patients with RA followed at an early RA clinic with tight control by a rheumatologist and a rheumatology nurse during the first 2 years, were included. This also included a multidisciplinary team contact with a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist 8–12 weeks after treatment initiation and, if needed, a social worker and additional contacts with the team. Individual interviews were conducted with 12 women and 6 men, aged 23 to 74, with a disease duration of 2-3 years at the time of the interview. The main question was: “Can you tell me about your perceptions of lifestyle interventions in rheumatology care?” The interviews were analyzed with latent qualitative content analysis (2), and three categories and an overarching theme emerged (Table 1).

**Results:** Patients perceived that lifestyle interventions in rheumatology care enable self-management in early RA. The usefulness of lifestyle interventions was perceived to depend on personal preferences of lifestyle support and prioritization of lifestyle interventions. The design of lifestyle interventions should be based on a person-centred approach, patient education, and recurrent lifestyle support. To promote healthy lifestyle habits, the outcome of lifestyle interventions should contribute to the knowledge of healthy lifestyle habits, motivation for lifestyle changes, and empowerment in patients with early RA.

**Conclusion:** Patients perceived that the usefulness, design, and outcome of lifestyle interventions in rheumatology care are essential when enabling self-management in patients with early RA.

**REFERENCES:**

Table 1. Overview of the overarching theme, categories, and sub-categories describing patients’ perceptions of lifestyle interventions in rheumatology care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overarching theme</th>
<th>Lifestyle interventions in rheumatology care enable self-management in early RA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Categories</td>
<td>The usefulness of lifestyle interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-categories</td>
<td>Personal preferences for lifestyle support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prioritization of lifestyle interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recurrent lifestyle support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3887
All about Crystal arthritis I

Table 1. Characteristics of the sample according to the fullfilment or not of the new 2022 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for CPPD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Seronegative RA with CPPD*</th>
<th>Seronegative RA without CPPD</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female gender, n (%)</td>
<td>71 (74.7%)</td>
<td>16 (88.8%)</td>
<td>55 (71.4%)</td>
<td>0.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at onset (years), p50</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>0.048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years), p50</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time-course, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Persistent arthritis</td>
<td>38 (40%)</td>
<td>4 (21.1%)</td>
<td>34 (44.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1 typical episode</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- &gt;1 typical episode</td>
<td>39 (41.1%)</td>
<td>13 (72.2%)</td>
<td>26 (33.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Others</td>
<td>18 (18.8%)</td>
<td>1 (5.3%)</td>
<td>17 (22.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions, n (%)</td>
<td>29 (30.5%)</td>
<td>8 (44.4%)</td>
<td>21 (27.3%)</td>
<td>0.081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone</td>
<td>21 (21.9%)</td>
<td>4 (21.1%)</td>
<td>17 (22.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sDMARD</td>
<td>45 (46.9%)</td>
<td>10 (52.6%)</td>
<td>35 (45.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tDMARD</td>
<td>19 (20%)</td>
<td>3 (16.6%)</td>
<td>16 (21.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination therapy</td>
<td>10 (10.4%)</td>
<td>1 (5.3%)</td>
<td>9 (11.7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: A total of 18 (18.9%) patients with seronegative RA from a monographic RA clinic met the new 2022 ACR/EULAR provisional classification criteria for CPPD. Age at diagnosis and clinical presentation were different between patients with RA who met criteria for CPPD and those who did not. REFERENCES: NIL. Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2302

All about Crystal arthritis I

Table 1. Characteristics of the sample according to the fullfilment or not of the new 2022 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for CPPD.

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<td>Disease duration (years), p50</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.952</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
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Table 1. Overview of the included studies for each research question and imaging modality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Number of included studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheer wave elastography**</td>
<td>Some studies assessed multiple imaging modalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATIENT EDUCATION</td>
<td>RQ13 - guiding aspiration 0 0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ12 - prediction of treatment effect 9 5 1 0 0 0 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ11 - prediction of outcome 0 0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ10 - monitoring 38 7 0 0 0 0 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ9 - diagnosis 1 1 1 0 0 0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPPD</td>
<td>RQ7 - prediction of outcome 9 0 0 0 0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ5 - diagnosis 23 26 3 6 0 44</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>RQ6 - monitoring 1 0 0 0 0 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>RQ4 - prediction of treatment effect 9 0 0 0 0 0 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>RQ8 - prediction of treatment effect 0 0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCPO</td>
<td>RQ12 - prediction of treatment effect 3 8 0 0 0 0 11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ11 - prediction of outcome 0 0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ10 - monitoring 38 7 0 0 0 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ9 - diagnosis 23 26 2 3 6 0 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RQ8 - prediction of treatment effect 0 0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Sheer wave elastography** Some studies assessed multiple imaging modalities

Figure 1. Flow chart

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3235

POS0084

THE NOMENCLATURE OF CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE DEPOSITION (CPPD) DISEASE – RESULTS OF A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW FOR THE GOUT, HYPERURICEMIA AND CRYSTAL-ASSOCIATED DISEASE NETWORK (G-CAN) CPPD NOMENCLATURE PROJECT

Keywords: Crystal Arthritis, Descriptive Studies, Systematic review


1IRCCS Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi, Rheumatology Department, Milan, Italy; 2Polytechnic University of Marche, Ramacchette Unit, Department of Clinical and Molecular Sciences, Ancona, Italy; 3Saint-Philibert Hospital, Lille Catholic University, Rheumatology Department, Lille, France; 4University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 5AST Great Metropolitan Niguarda, Rheumatology Unit, Milan, Italy; 6Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Division of Rheumatology, Inflammation and Immunity, Boston, United States of America; 7University of California, Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System, San Diego, United States of America; 8University of Auckland, Bone and Joint Research Group, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Auckland, New Zealand

Background: Despite prior attempts at standardising terminology of calcium pyrophosphate deposition (CPPD) disease (including the 2011 EULAR recommendations for CPPD terminology), many different terms are still used interchangeably to describe the disease, its elements, and its states. The 3 most common labels used to identify the disease were “pseudogout” “calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease” and “chondrocalcinosis”. The most common acronym used was “CPPD”, mostly with the meaning of “calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease” or “calcium pyrophosphate deposition (CPPD) disease” (Table 1). The 2 most commonly used labels describing “an episode of acute CPPD arthritis” were “pseudogout” (31%), and “acute calcium pyrophosphate crystal arthritis” (10%). For more than one episode of acute CPPD arthritis, “recurrent pseudogout” (17%) or “recurrent arthritis” (10%) were the most used labels. “Chronic calcium pyrophosphate crystal arthritis” (13%) and “pseudo-rheumatoid arthritis” (11%) were the most commonly used labels to describe “persistent inflammatory arthritis due to CPPD”. The most used labels used to identify “osteoarthritis with evidence of CPPD” were “pseudo-osteoarthritis” (11%) and “calcium pyrophosphate crystal deposition with osteoarthritis” (9%). The use of “pseudo-form” labels mostly occurred before the 2011 EULAR recommendations.

Conclusion: These preliminary results demonstrate the variability and lack of precision in the labels used to describe CPPD disease. The next steps of the project will be to achieve agreement about CPPD disease nomenclature through a Delphi exercise and consensus meeting, and to develop an easily understandable common language definition to facilitate communication with patients.

Objectives: In this first step of the project, the aim was to identify the definitions, the disease elements and the clinical states of CPPD and their corresponding labels in the scientific literature.

Methods: A systematic literature search was performed in the PubMed database starting from 01/01/2000 to 31/01/2022. The search was restricted to studies on humans and in English language. Eight reviewers independently extracted terms related to disease definition, aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation, imaging features and clinical states of CPPD. An a priori list of disease elements and clinical states was generated by the authors and further elements were added during data collection as appropriate. Labels for each identified disease element and clinical state were extracted and analysed to determine their frequency. An additional analysis was performed to evaluate the uptake of the 2011 EULAR recommendations on CPPD terminology after 2011.

Results: A total of 2392 articles were identified using the search criteria. We preliminarily evaluated 623 articles of which 246 were included. The list of evaluated elements is showed in Figure 1. There was great inconsistency in the terminology used for the disease, its elements and its states. The 3 most common labels used to identify the disease were “pseudogout” “calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease” and “chondrocalcinosis”. The most common acronym used was “CPPD”, mostly with the meaning of “calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease” or “calcium pyrophosphate deposition (CPPD) disease” (Table 1). The 2 most commonly used labels describing “an episode of acute CPPD arthritis” were “pseudogout” (31%), and “acute calcium pyrophosphate crystal arthritis” (10%). For more than one episode of acute CPPD arthritis, “recurrent pseudogout” (17%) or “recurrent arthritis” (10%) were the most used labels. “Chronic calcium pyrophosphate crystal arthritis” (13%) and “pseudo-rheumatoid arthritis” (11%) were the most commonly used labels to describe “persistent inflammatory arthritis due to CPPD”. The most used labels used to identify “osteoarthritis with evidence of CPPD” were “pseudo-osteoarthritis” (11%) and “calcium pyrophosphate crystal deposition with osteoarthritis” (9%). The use of “pseudo-form” labels mostly occurred before the 2011 EULAR recommendations.

Figure 1. List of definitions, disease elements and clinical states

Table 1. Example of labels extracted for calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPPD disease label</td>
<td>Pseudogout</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate deposition disease</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate crystal deposition disease</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>CPPD</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCPD</td>
<td>68%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CPPD-DD</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CPPD</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>CPPD</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Other</td>
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</table>

Table 1. Example of labels extracted for calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPPD disease label</td>
<td>Pseudogout</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate deposition disease</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Keywords: Ultrasound, Crystal Arthritis

H. Ogun1, D. Palamar2, K. Akgun2, F. M. Saridogan2, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department, Istanbul, Turkey.

Background: Routine search for crystals is recommended in all synovial fluid (SF) aspirates from undiagnosed arthritis. Definitive diagnosis of crystal related arthritis (CRA) is based on identification of crystals in SF. However, SF analysis is sometimes difficult to perform. Therefore, assessment of imaging techniques can be useful. In the latest recommendations for the diagnosis and management of CRA, the diagnostic potential of ultrasound (US) has been recognized [1].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the contribution of ultrasonography to the SF analysis, which should be performed routinely in patients with knee effusion to exclude infection and to detect CRA.

Methods: Patients, in outpatient clinic, above 18 years of age with unilateral knee effusion were included. Ultrasonography of the involved knees were performed in all patients after the evaluation and physical examination. In ultrasonographic examination; hyperechoic bands within the femoral hyaline cartilage (sandwich appearance) and/or hyperechoic sparkling spots in meniscal fibrocartilage (meniscus calcification) were considered indicative of Calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease (CPPD); in addition, hyperechoic spots in the effusion and tendon calcifications were recorded. Ultrasonography guided synovial fluid aspiration was performed. The sample was examined macroscopically and microscopically. Then, radiographic evaluations were done for searching chondrocalcinosis.

Results: Eighty-five patients (56 F, 29 M) with unilateral knee effusion were evaluated. Mean age was 60.98 ±11.95 years. CPPD was diagnosed with detecting calcium pyrophosphate (CPP) crystals in synovial fluid analysis in 15 of 85 patients. Two of these patients had previous diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), 1 spondyloarthritis, 1 gout and 11 osteoarthritis. Of the remaining 70 patients, 1 was considered as spondyloarthritis, 4 as RA and 65 as exacerbation of osteoarthritis. The detection of CPP crystal in the microscopic examination was accepted as the gold standard for the diagnosis of CPPD. Sensitivity and specificity values were 93.33% and 80% for ultrasonography, 46.67% and 98.57% for radiography, respectively (Table 1). Inter-rater agreement for US was found to be 93.3% (kappa value: 0.81; very good agreement) with the evaluation of 40 patients separately by two physicians. Intra-rater agreement for US was found to be 96.67% (kappa value: 0.83; very good agreement) when the recorded images were re-evaluated.

Conclusion: When crystal related arthritis is suspected especially in elderly patient with knee effusion, ultrasonography found as a useful diagnostic method in clinical practice because it is highly sensitive and specific in determining crystal accumulations.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Ultrasound and conventional radiology diagnostic test properties for the detection of CPP crystals using synovial fluid analysis as the reference method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synovial fluid analysis: CPP crystals</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Sensitivity, %</th>
<th>Specificity, %</th>
<th>PPV, %</th>
<th>NPV, %</th>
<th>Accuracy, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US: sandwich appearance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>73.33</td>
<td>85.71</td>
<td>52.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US: meniscus calcification</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>91.43</td>
<td>62.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US: sandwich appearance or meniscus calcification</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>93.33</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conventional radiology: chondrocalcinosis</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>46.67</td>
<td>98.57</td>
<td>87.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PPV: Positive predictive value, NPV: Negative predictive value, CPP: Calcium pyrophosphate, US: Ultrasound
MTP joints allowed gradation of double contours from 0 to 3. Links between patients' features and renal medulla staging were assessed by Fisher exact or Kruskall and Wallis tests according to the type of variables. Multivariable analysis included all statistically significant features, with final model selection on p.value using a proportional odds logistic regression model. All test were two-sided.

**Results:** 826 consecutive new patients were included from August 1 to December 24, 2022. 86 % were males, median age was 49 years, median BMI 24.22 kg/m², median gout duration 5 years, 70 % of patients had clinical tophi, median uricemia was 488.6 µmol/l, median creatininemia 83.5 mmol/l, median eGFR 90 ml/min. Both kidneys were classified at the same grade in every patient, 65.5% of patients were at grade 0, 178 % at grade 1 and 16.7 % at grade 3. Table 1 shows links of the extent of medulla hyperechogenicity with patients' features. By multivariable analysis, positive correlation was found with male sex, hypertension, gout duration, tophi, double contours and uricemia; BMI, eGFR and cortisolemia negatively correlated.

**Conclusion:** Hyperechogenicity of the renal medullas progressively increased with gout duration, MSU deposition and steroid treatment, and associated with decrease of renal function and hypertension. These observations reinforce the early indication of ULDs in gouty patients.

**REFERENCE:**

---

### Table 1. Main features of gouty patients by grades of medulla hyperechogenicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grade 0</th>
<th>Grade 1</th>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>p value</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (y) median [IQR]</td>
<td>47 [38, 56]</td>
<td>51 [44, 59]</td>
<td>54 [45, 62]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males n (%)</td>
<td>441 (81.7)</td>
<td>147 (100)</td>
<td>138 (100)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²) median</td>
<td>24.4 (22.5)</td>
<td>24.1 (22.5)</td>
<td>23.3 (21.2)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[IQR]</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension n (%)</td>
<td>145 (26.8)</td>
<td>54 (36.7)</td>
<td>88 (63.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHD n (%)</td>
<td>6 (11.1)</td>
<td>7 (4.8)</td>
<td>7 (5.1)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type 2 diabetes n (%)</td>
<td>62 (11.0)</td>
<td>17 (11.0)</td>
<td>27 (19.6)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gout duration (y) median</td>
<td>4 [2, 7]</td>
<td>7 [4, 11]</td>
<td>11 [8, 17]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[IQR]</td>
<td>298 (55.1)</td>
<td>14 (95.9)</td>
<td>137 (99.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary stone n (%)</td>
<td>23 (4.3)</td>
<td>18 (12.2)</td>
<td>13 (9.4)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUA (umol/l) median</td>
<td>437 [322, 548]</td>
<td>533 [452, 602]</td>
<td>558 [493, 618]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[IQR]</td>
<td>81 [67, 92]</td>
<td>87 [76, 106]</td>
<td>93 [79, 107]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatininemia (mmol/l) median</td>
<td>437 [322, 548]</td>
<td>533 [452, 602]</td>
<td>558 [493, 618]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR &gt; 60 ml/min n (%)</td>
<td>506 (93.5)</td>
<td>128 (87.1)</td>
<td>112 (81.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum double contours 0 n (%)</td>
<td>17 (34.1)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thin n (%)</td>
<td>86 (20.7)</td>
<td>8 (5.4)</td>
<td>1 (0.7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium n (%)</td>
<td>306 (73.6)</td>
<td>114 (77.6)</td>
<td>66 (47.8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thick n (%)</td>
<td>7 (1.7)</td>
<td>25 (17.0)</td>
<td>71 (51.4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 am cortisol median</td>
<td>7.55</td>
<td>6.60</td>
<td>6.60</td>
<td>1.09 [0.59,8.06]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

y: years; IQR: interquartile range; BMI: body mass index; CHD: coronary heart disease; eGFR estimated glomerular filtration rate (MDRD)

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## Acknowledgements: NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3781
2015-2019 1.26 (1.21, 1.31)
Co-prescription of colchicine/oral corticosteroid 1.31 (1.23, 1.40)
ULT dose (referenced to allopurinol ≤ 50 mg daily) 0.72 (0.61, 0.84)
Allopurinol 51-100 mg 0.55 (0.47, 0.65)
Allopurinol >100 mg 0.57 (0.34, 0.97)
Febuxostat 0.43 (0.27, 0.70)
Probenecid 1.00 (0.94, 1.07)
≥2 0.91 (0.81, 1.04)
Presence of primary care physician 1.18 (0.93, 1.49)

REFERENCES: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.43

POS0088 WORK PRODUCTIVITY IN GOUT – RESULTS FROM THE NOR-GOUT LONGITUDINAL 2-YEAR TREAT-TO-TARGET STUDY

Keywords: Work-related issues, Crystal Arthritis, Epidemiology

T. Uhlig1, L. F. Karoliussen2, J. Sexton3, S. Ararestad Provan4, T. K. Kvis5, E. A. Haavardsholm6, H. B. Hammar7, 1Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for treatment of Rheumatic Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDEY), Oslo, Norway; 2Diakonhjemmet Hospital Center for treatment of Rheumatic Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDEY), Oslo, Norway; 3Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for treatment of Rheumatic Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDEY), Oslo, Norway; 4Diakonhjemmet Hospital, posstueston@gmail.com, Oslo, Norway

Background: Gout causes pain and reduced health related quality of life. There are no longitudinal studies on work productivity in patients who are being treat-ed to target for their serum urate in clinical practice.

Objectives: We examined whether work productivity in gout patients changed over 2 years after intensive treatment with ULT, and if disease related factors could predict changes in work productivity.

Methods: Patients with crystal-proven gout and a recent gout flare and increased serum urate (sUA) level (>360 μmol/L) were consecutively included in the NOR-Gout observational study [1]. They were treated to target with an educational intervention by a study nurse and escalating urate lowering medication (allopurinol or febuxostat) with frequent control visits to achieve low serum urate at target. Work productivity and activity impairment were assessed using the Work Productivity Activity Index (WPAI) questionnaire at baseline, after 3 months, 6 months, 1 and 2 years. The WPAI consists of six questions to determine employment status during the last 7 days: hours missed from work due to the disease; hours missed from work for other reasons; hours worked, the degree to which the disease affected work productivity while at work; and the degree to which the disease affected activities outside of work. Four scores were derived: percentage of missed work (absenteeism), percentage of impaired productivity while at work (presenteetime), overall work impairment that combines absenteeism and presenteetime, and percentage of impairment in activities performed outside of work. Greater scores indicate greater impairment. Questions related to absenteeism and presenteetime were applicable only for patients who were working. Other assessments included clinical, demographic and lifestyle variables, and questionnaires, comorbidities from the Self-Administered Comorbid Questionnaire, pain, physical function from the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), SF-36 physical and mental components, self-efficacy, and the Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire (BMQ) with subscales of beliefs in harm, overuse, necessity, and concerns about medication. Descriptive statistics used ANOVA, and linear regression model after logarithmic transformation of the 4 WPAI outcomes. Final regression models were also adjusted for baseline, age, gender, disease duration and comorbidities.

Results: Patients were predominantly male (95%) with mean age 56.4 years (SD 13.7 years) and disease duration almost 8 years, 17% had subcutane-ous tophi. At baseline 64.4 % were working, 64.0% at year one and 61.3% after 2 years. sUA was at target <360μmol/L in 85% after one and 79% after 2 years, while a flare was experienced by 81% and 26% during year 1 and year 2, respectively. WPAI scores were at baseline: 5.0% work missed, 19.1% work impairment (sUA level) and 32.1% activity impairment (Fig-ure 1). Scores were at 3 months, after the recent flare leading to inclusion into the study, improved and remained then stable over 2 years. Baseline assessments of work productivity, comorbidities as well as concerns about medication inde-pendently predicted changes in work productivity outcomes at 1 year.

Conclusion: In patients with gout who were intensively treated to the sUA target, work productivity and activity impairment were largely unchanged over 2 years and at 1 year and were predicted by comorbidities and patient concerns about medication.


Acknowledgments: NIL.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2680

POS0089 A DIAGNOSTIC PERFORMANCE STUDY ON RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY INTEGRATED WITH POLARIZED LIGHT MICROSCOPY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF MONOSODIUM URATE IN GOUT

Keywords: Gout, Crystal Arthritis, Diagnostic Tests

T. Niessink1,2, T. Giesen2, A. Comarniceanu3, M. Elde4, M. Janssen2, C. Otto1, T. Jansen2. 1University of Twente, Medical Cell Biophysics group, Enschede, Netherlands; 2VieCuri Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Venlo, Netherlands

Background: The diagnosis in gout and other crystallopathies is commonly based on polarized light microscopy (PLM) of synovial fluid aspirates. This technique is flawed, however, due to subjectivity, limited reproducibility, and over-sensitivity due to artifacts [1]. There is a need for innovative methods to perform synovial fluid analysis with more objectivity/reproducibility. Raman spectroscopy has been applied for identification of MSU in gout, with different technical approaches [2]. Although results are promising, there are no real diagnostic accuracy measures available for any application of Raman spectroscopy in rheumatology.

Objectives: To enhance the chemical analytical performance of PLM, we have integrated a Raman spectroscopy within a standard polarized light microscope (iRPoM). In this study, we investigated the performance of iRPoM as a next-genera-tion method for synovial fluid analysis in gout.

Methods: This is a prospective study, including 200 samples from a peripheral swollen joint subject for diagnostic analysis. The participants formed a consec-utive series. Diagnostic performance was measured against the 2015 ACR/EULAR gout classification criteria set, which includes PLM analysis. Further-more, we compared the analytical performance of iRPoM to identify MSU crys-tals with ordinary PLM analysis by an experienced rheumatologist.

RESULTS:

| Table 1. Diagnostic and analytical performance of iRPoM. Values given with 95% confidence intervals. |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Diagnostic performance of iRPoM against 2015 ACR/EULAR classification criteria | Analytical performance of iRPoM against PLM by rheumatologist |
| Sensitivity | 77.6% (95% CI 65.8-86.9%) | 91.2% (95% CI 80.7-97.1%) |
| Specificity | 97.7% (95% CI 93.5-99.9%) | 97.6% (95% CI 93.0-99.9%) |
| Positive predictive value | 94.5% (95% CI 84.9-98.2%) | 94.6% (95% CI 85.0-98.2%) |
| Negative predictive value | 89.7% (95% CI 84.7-93.1%) | 96.0% (95% CI 912-98.2%) |
| Accuracy | 91.0% (95% CI 86.2-94.6%) | 95.6% (95% CI 914-98.2%) |
| Positive likelihood ratio | 34.4 (95% CI 11.2-106.1) | 374 (95% CI 129-114.7) |
| Negative likelihood ratio | 0.23 (95% CI 0.15-0.36) | 0.09 (95% CI 0.04 to 0.21) |

67 patients were classified as gout according to 2015 ACR/EULAR classification criteria. 55 samples were positive for MSU according to PLM analysis. iRPoM identified MSU in 55 patients, 52 of which positive for gout. The inter-rater agreement between PLM and iRPoM was very high (k = 0.90).

Conclusion: We demonstrate that Raman spectroscopy integrated with polarized light microscopy has a high diagnostic performance as it comes to iden-tification of MSU in synovial fluid samples. Furthermore, Raman Spectroscopy could provide definitive outcomes in cases where analysts with polarized light
microscopy faced uncertainties or lookalikes, for example by identifying birefringent objects as glass slivers, microplastics or other non-MSU crystal types. These results show that Raman spectroscopy is a powerful analytical tool for clinicians, and a potential candidate for replacement or enhancement of PLM in clinical care where higher specificity is needed. Raman spectroscopy gives an excellent specificity on the nature of a birefringent object even with lookalikes, improving the specificity of a difficult microscopic diagnosis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We want to thank ReumaNederland for funding of our research.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1956

POS0090 DYSBIOSIS OF GUT MICROBIOME, BILE ACID COMPOSITIONS, AND PREVALENCE OF HYPERURICEMIA: DATA FROM THE XIANGYA HYPERURICEMIA STUDY

Keywords: -omics, Gout

J. Wei1,2,3,4, Y. Cui5, J. Wu6, Z. Wu7, Y. Zhang8, N. Dalbeth9, R. Terkeltaub9,10, T. Yang11, J. Li12, Y. Yang1,13, C. Li1,13, C. Zeng1,2,12, G. Lei1,2,12.

Background: Hyperuricemia is a pre-requisite for gout, and often co-occurs with other metabolic diseases[1]. Emerging evidence suggests that gut microbiota is an important factor in the development of metabolic diseases[2]; Moreover, altered gut microbiota, ascertained using 16S rRNA-based sequencing method, has been linked to hyperuricemia[3]. However, the 16S rRNA technique has limited resolution to differentiate closely related species. Therefore, the hyperuricemia associated specific species and underlying mechanism remain unclear. Additionally, cross-talk between bile acid metabolites and the gut microbiome has been implicated in metabolic diseases, implying potential effect of bile acid metabolism in the pathogenesis of hyperuricemia.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to examine the relation of gut microbiome based on shotgun metagenomic sequencing to prevalent hyperuricemia and potential mediators of bile acids.

Methods: Participants were derived from a community-based observational study, the Xiangya Hyperuricemia Study. Hyperuricemia was defined as serum urate level > 404 μmol/L. Gut microbial composition was determined using shotgun metagenomic sequencing and plasma bile acids were measured by high-performance liquid chromatography mass spectrometry. The 16S rRNA gene abundance of gut bacteria was measured using qPCR.

Results: Among 1,379 participants, the prevalence of hyperuricemia was 13.4% (n = 185) (Figure 1 A). Decreased microbial richness and diversity, altered composition of gut microbiome and lower relative abundance of seventeen key species Coprococcus comes, Dorea longicatena, Desulfovibrio piger, Ruminococcus sp003526955, Holdemelanna sp002299315, Ruminococcus sp00437175, Ruminococcus sp000437095, Coprococcus eutactus, Blautia sp000066335, Blautia sp0000666205, Blautia sp0000666505, Ruminococcus sp00301855, Blautia sp000020195, Blautia sp000285855, Dorea formigenicarum, Acidifactor sp000663605 and Blautia wexlerae were significantly associated with prevalent hyperuricemia (Figure 1 B and C). High levels of taurocholodeoxycholic acid (TCDCA) and low levels of deoxycholic acid (DCA) were associated with high prevalence of hyperuricemia (Figure 1 D and E). Inversely associations between these key species and hyperuricemia were partially mediated through their effect on the levels of TCDCA and DCA. For instance, the indirect effects (OR) of relative abundance of Coprococcus comes on hyperuricemia through DCA and TCDCA were 0.97 (95% CI: 0.94 to 1.00) and 0.98 (95% CI: 0.97 to 1.00), respectively, and the corresponding percentage of mediation were 12.0% and 7.4% respectively. The indirect effects of Dorea longicatena on hyperuricemia via DCA and TCDCA were 0.97 (95% CI: 0.96 to 1.00) and 0.98 (95% CI: 0.97, 1.00), and the percentage of their mediation effect were 10.1% and 6.0%, respectively (Figure 1 F).

Conclusion: We identified several key species of gut microbiome for hyperuricemia and demonstrated that the association between gut microbiome dysbiosis and prevalent hyperuricemia is partially mediated via bile acids. These findings provide new insights into the role of microbiome and bile acids in the development of hyperuricemia and may contribute to translational opportunities.

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Vessels in flames

USE OF HIGH-PLEX DATA REVEALS NOVEL INSIGHTS INTO THE TEMPORAL ARTERY OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Vasculitis, Treat to target

S. Parreau, 2, 3, E. Molina, 2, S. Dumonteil, 2, R. Goulabchand, 2, M. Bois, 2, T. Naves, 3, M. O. Jauberteau, 3, A. L. Fauchais, 2, E. Liozon, 2, W. Cornelia, 2/3, Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology Rochester United States of America; 2Dupuytren University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Limoges, France; 3Faculty of Medicine, INSERM U1308 - CAP'TuR "Control of cell activation, Tumor progression and Therapeutic resistance"; Limoges, France; University of California San Diego, Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, La Jolla, United States of America; 2Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Next Generation Sequencing Core, San Diego, United States of America; 3University Hospital of Nimes, Internal Medicine, Nimes, France; Mayo Clinic, Pathology, Rochester United States of America

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most common systemic vasculitis that triggers acute arterial occlusion and can even lead to death over the age of 50 [1]. While mechanism underlying GCA are predominantly derived from inflammatory response, none of the anti-inflammatory drugs currently used limit efficiently patient’s disease course. It was previously shown that histopathological lesions involve the three layers of the artery wall called adventitia, media, and intima. Activation of adventitial dendritic cells is the initial trigger of the vascular remodeling in GCA leading to intimal hyperplasia but the early molecular mechanism that activates those cells remains unknown. Our hypothesis is that each layer of the artery, perivascular tissue included, shows a unique transcriptomic signature which could define and explain the different molecular events in the inflammatory and vascular remodeling processes in GCA. For that, whole-tissue spatial transcriptomics analysis offers advanced opportunities in elucidating functional mechanisms of pathologic tissues with complex organization such as GCA especially in human temporal artery, the most frequently affected artery in GCA.

Objectives: Uncover the key coding genes to define new biomarkers or pathways associated with GCA by performing the first in situ spatial profiling characterization of molecular actors involved in temporal arteries from GCA patients in comparison to normal arteries.

Methods: From human formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded temporal artery biopsy samples (GCA n=9; controls n=7), we performed a whole transcriptome analysis by using NanoString GeoMx Digital Spatial Profiler (DSP) [2]. A total of 59 individual regions of interest (ROIs) were created within each of the 4 layers for each individual artery. After ROIs collection and library construction, samples were sequenced on an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 platform and reads were digitally quantified and normalized using GeoMx DSP Data Analysis software. Differential expressed genes (DEGs) (fold change >2 or <2, p-adjusted <0.05) were compared for each layer, to build a spatial and pharmacogenomic network in disease course.

Results: Overall, we found that most of the transcriptome studied (12076 genes) was upregulated in GCA arteries. Precisely, 350, 340, 142 and 5 DEGs were found in intima, media, adventitia, and perivascular tissue respectively. Enrichment analysis highlighted that inflammation/immune-related functions and vascular remodeling were significantly limited to intima and media layers. Upregulated immune-related functions concerned macrophage differentiation & T cell, B cell, complement activations. Regarding vascular remodeling pathways, we found an upregulation of: (i) collagen metabolic process and fibroblast proliferation concerning the 3 artery layers, (ii) angiogenesis & epithelial cell migration in intima and media layers, (iii) smooth muscle cell proliferation & ossification in intima layer. Our pharmacogenomic network analysis identified genes that could potentially be targeted by immunosuppressive drugs currently approved or new immunotherapies.

Conclusion: Our findings provide the first in situ spatial profiling characterization of molecular actors involved in GCA which is essential for the discovery of new therapeutic targets to cure this disease. The differential spatial upregulation of genes involved in inflammatory process and vascular remodeling suggests a differential chronological involvement of each layer of the artery.

REFERENCES:

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Spatial distribution of distinct fibroblast subtypes in giant cell arteritis

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Vasculitis

S. Xu, W. F. Jiemy, J. C. Graver, Y. Van Sienel, K. Van der Geest, P. Heeringa, E. Brouwer, A. Boots, M. Sandoval, 1 University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, Pathology and Medical Biology, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a systemic vasculitis of large- and medium-sized arteries which is characterized by granulomatous inflammation and vascular remodeling. The pathogenesis of GCA starts in the adventitia where fibroblasts are the major cell population. Fibroblasts are recognized for synthesizing and remodeling the extracellular matrix (ECM), but their phenotype and role in GCA-affected blood vessels is largely unknown.

Objectives: To explore the distribution of fibroblast phenotypes and their link to vascular remodeling in GCA.

Methods: Temporal artery biopsies (TABS) from patients with GCA (n=9) and controls (n=9) and aorta tissues from GCA (n=9) and atherosclerosis (AS, n=11)-related aneurysm were examined. Immunohistochemical staining for CD90 (pan-fibroblast), fibroblast activation protein alpha (FAP, activated fibroblast marker), podoplanin (immunofibroblast marker), CD248 (fibrosis-related marker), alpha-smooth muscle actin (α-SMA, myofibroblast marker) was performed to evaluate the distribution of fibroblast subtypes. The expression of transforming growth factor beta (TGFβ), fibroblast growth factor 21 (FGF21), platelet derived growth factor AA (PDGFAA) and PDGFB as markers of active remodeling pathways was also determined. For each marker the percentage of positive cells was determined by Qupath 0.3.0.

Results: TABs from GCA patients showed increased expression of CD90, FAP, podoplanin, CD248, FGF21, PDGFAA and PDGFB in the adventitia and intima compared with the controls. Isolated higher expression of TGFβ in the adventitia and α-SMA in the intima was also documented. CD90/FAP-activated fibroblasts and CD90/podoplanin+ immunofibroblasts were predominantly located in the adventitia, whereas α-SMA+ myofibroblasts were observed mainly in the intima, and CD248+ fibroblasts in the adventitia-media border and intima. High expression of FAP, CD248, FGF21 and PDGFB in the media-intima was associated with intimal hyperplasia in GCA-positive TABs. GCA-affected aortas showed different patterns: CD90/FAP-activated fibroblasts, CD90/podoplanin+ immunofibroblasts and CD248+ fibroblasts accumulated especially in the structurally disrupted media, which was associated with abundant expression of PDGFB and FGF21. These three fibroblast phenotypes were hardly observed in AS-affected aortas. We also observed expression of CD90, FAP, podoplanin and CD248 in the artery tertiary lymphoid organs (ATLOs) of the adventitia in GCA-affected aortas. α-SMA+ myofibroblasts were expressed at similar levels in GCA and AS-affected aorta tissues, being mainly located in the intima.

Conclusion: This study documents a distinct spatial distribution pattern of fibroblast subtypes in GCA-affected temporal arteries and aorta tissues and their association with markers of active remodeling pathways. Further research is needed to dissect the precise role of these fibroblast subtypes in the pathobiology of GCA.

REFERENCES: NIL.


Figure 1. Fibroblast heterogeneity in giant cell arteritis. (made with Biorender)
INCREASE IN CD4+ T-CELLS IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS WITH DIFFERENT DISEASE ACTIVITY

Keywords: -omics, Genetics/Epigenetics, Vasculitis
I. Ferrigno1,2, M. Bonacini1, A. Rossi1, F. Muratore3, L. Boiardi3, A. Cavazza4,
1Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Clinical
2Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Pathology, Reggio Emilia, Italy;
3Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Ocular Immunology, Reggio Emilia, Italy;
4Hospital Clinic, IDIBAPS, University of Barcelona, Department of Autoimmune Diseases, Barcelona, Spain;
5Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Vascular Surgery, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is an inflammatory large-vessels vasculitis representing an important clinical challenge. First, an early diagnosis of GCA is difficult due to the clinical heterogeneity and the lack of specific biomarkers. In addition, although the therapy generally used are glucocorticoids (GC), relapses are common when GC are tapered [1]. The etiology of this disorder is complex in which multiple genetic and epigenetic factors contribute to its development [1]. Although the pathogenic mechanisms remain insufficiently understood, a central role for CD4+ T-cells has been demonstrated [2]. In this context, understanding how the transcriptome and methylation of this cell type are altered in GCA patients and how they are influenced by GC will yield new insights into the pathogenesis of this vasculitis.

Objectives: To shed light into GCA pathogenesis and to identify molecular mechanisms that might serve as novel biomarkers or potential drug targets, we characterized the transcriptome and methylation signatures of GCA CD4+ T-cells and the way these cells are affected by remission and by the effect of GC.

Methods: Both DNA methylation and RNA were isolated from CD4+ lymphocytes positively sorted by flow cytometry from whole blood. Subsequently, DNA methylation profiling with the Illumina Infinium Methylation EPIC array and RNA-sequencing were carried out. After quality controls, epigenome- and transcriptome-wide association were performed for 81 samples: 23 healthy controls and 58 GCA patients grouped in three different clinical status (active before starting GC [n=13], in remission with GC [n=22], and in remission without GC [n=23]).

Results: The results of this work revealed a profound dysregulation in both the gene expression and DNA methylation patterns of CD4+ T-cells of GCA patients. Particularly, CD4+ T-cells from GCA patients with an active state of the disease before starting GC treatment showed substantial changes in inflammatory processes, such as NOTCH1, interleukin-6 (IL-6), IL-1 and vitamin D receptor signalling pathways, among others. In addition, we also observed alterations in molecular pathways related with angiogenesis, the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) receptor, and with the differentiation of T helper 2 (Th2), including the IL-2/STAT5 and IL-4 pathways. Interestingly, our findings also indicated that the pro-inflammatory expression profiles observed in the active disease are lost when the disease subsides, and that GC therapy significantly remodels both the transcriptome and the methylation of CD4+ T-cells. Particularly, changes in molecular mechanisms related to drug metabolism, such as a GC receptor genes and glucuronosyltransferase family genes were also found.

Conclusion: The results of the transcriptome and methylation characterization of GCA CD4+ T-cells have provided new evidences of genes and pathways contributing to the pathogenic role of this cell type in GCA, providing a clearer picture of the molecular processes driving disease activity and how they vary in response to GC treatment.

REFERENCES:

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Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a systemic vasculitis mediated by an aberrant immunological response against the endothelium of medium- and large-sized blood vessels [1]. Even though the pathogenic mechanisms that drive GCA are yet to be settled, there is strong evidence that CD4+ T lymphocytes play a crucial role in the development of this vasculitis [2]. Recently, single-cell RNA sequencing has resulted in a scientific and technological revolution, enabling the characterization of the gene expression profile of thousands of individual cells in different tissues [3]. This approach has allowed the identification of new cell subtypes, some of them being exclusively represented in pathogenesis, and has also proved useful as a tool for reporting new disease-specific biomarkers.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to define new pathological mechanisms driving GCA through the comprehensive characterization of the gene expression profile of CD4+ T cells by performing single-cell RNA sequencing in GCA patients and healthy controls.

Methods: CD4+ T cells from whole blood of 16 individuals (eight GCA patients and eight sex- and age-matched healthy controls) were obtained. Based on clinical parameters, five patients were classified as active GCA and 3 of them as patients in remission. Single-cell libraries were prepared from isolated CD4+ T cells using the ‘Chromium Single Cell Gene Expression’ (10X Genomics). Sequencing data were pre-processed with the CellRangerV3.0 software. Then, Seurat Bioconductor R package was used to perform clustering and dimensional reduction analysis. Dot size indicates proportion of cells expressing the specific genetic markers classified per group. For visualization, the UMAP of CD4+ T cells was generated with the Factoextra R package.

Results: A total of 114,799 cells were analyzed and classified into 13 clusters according to their transcriptomic profile. Manual annotation of the different clusters based on canonical markers permitted the identification of 6 distinct CD4+ T cell subsets: naïve (T naive), central memory (T CM), effector memory (T EM), effector memory expressing granzyme K (T EM GZMK), regulatory (Tregs) and cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL). The comparative analysis of cell type composition between the different subgroups showed a significant reduction of the cytotoxic cell compartment in GCA patients in remission compared with active patients (p<0.011) and controls (p=0.045) as well as a decreased frequency of Tregs in active patients compared with healthy individuals (p=0.029). In addition, differential expression analysis evidenced a significant overexpression of granzyme B (GZMB) and the zinc finger protein 683 (HOBIT), both involved in cytotoxic processes, in CTLs of active patients compared with patients in remission (p=0.017) and controls (p=1.4x10^-9). Moreover, in both active and in remission patients, the Treg compartment showed a reduced expression of genes related to regulatory functions, like HLA-DRA (p=3.3x10^-7) and LGALS1 (p=1.1x10^-8), compared with healthy controls.

Conclusion: The first single-cell atlas of CD4+ T cells in GCA provided evidence for the first time of a potential pathogenic role of CD4+ T cells with cytotoxic functions in this vasculitis and supported the crucial role of Tregs in the pathogenesis of GCA.

REFERENCES:

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geting cytoskeletal changes in AAV may offer a route to improve clinical outcomes.

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POS0097 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LOSS OF IMMUNE CHECKPOINT PROGRAMMED CELL DEATH PROTEIN 1 AND ACTIVE ANCA-ASSOCIATED RENAL VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Kidneys

B. Tampe1. 1University Medical Center Göttingen, Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Göttingen, Germany

Background: Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) have made an important contribution on the survival of patients with certain cancers. ICIs interrupt co-inhibitory signaling pathways mediated by programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1), programmed cell death protein- ligand 1 (PD-L1), and cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated antigen (CTLA-4) that result in the elimination of cancer cells by stimulating the immune system.

Objectives: Immune-related adverse events have also been described and attributed to an enhanced immune system activation. Recent observations have suggested dysregulation of immune checkpoints in active antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV). Therefore, we here aimed to analyze abundance of immune checkpoint molecules PD-1/PD-L1 and its implications in ANCA-associated renal vasculitis.

Methods: We here analyzed intrarenal PD-1 and PD-L1 by immunostaining in a total number of 15 kidney biopsies with ANCA-associated renal vasculitis in correlation with glomerular and tubulointerstitial lesions. For independent validation, publicly available datasets were analyzed for PD-1 expression (encoded by PDCD1).

Results: We here observed a predominant tubulointerstitial expression of PD-1 that is decreased in ANCA-associated renal vasculitis. Moreover, loss of tubulointerstitial PD-1 correlated with active ANCA-associated renal vasculitis. Consistent to the observed association with active glomerular and tubulointerstitial lesions, we identified that intrarenal PD-1 correlated with tubular and/or glomerular PD-1 positivity. Finally, PD-1 was associated with decreased local synthesis of complement factor B. Interestingly, we did not observe a correlation between PD-1 and complement C5 or its C5a receptor. Combined with our observations, this may implicate a link between impaired PD-1/PD-L1 signalling, complement factor B, and active ANCA-associated renal vasculitis.

Conclusion: These findings could be of relevance because experimental data have already been described that PD-1 agonism can be used therapeutically to attenuate autoimmunity in multiple disease models. Furthermore, targeted therapy against complement C5a receptor and factor B are both available and currently evolving in the treatment of AAV. Therefore, this pilot study expands our current knowledge and describes a potential interplay between immune checkpoints and the alternative complement pathway in active ANCA-associated renal vasculitis.

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POS0098 IDENTIFICATION OF THE CENTRAL TOLERANCE CHECKPOINT FOR AUTOOREACTIVE PROTEINASE 3+ B CELLS IN HUMAN BONE MARROW

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Vasculitis, Biomarkers

A. Bert1, M. Tomasi2, I. Pesce2, E. Lista3, A. Guella3, G. Paolazzi1, R. Bortolotti2, G. Grandi2, S. Hillion4, U. Specks5, D. Corcoran2. 1Hospital of Trento, University of Trento, Rheumatology - CISMED Center of Medical Sciences, Trento, Italy; 2Hospital of Trento, University of Trento, CIBIO; 3Trento, Italy; 4Hospital of Trento, Hematology, Trento, Italy; 5INSERM UMR1227 B cells, Autoimmunity and Immunotherapies, Rheumatism, Brest, France; 6Clinic, Pulmonary medicine, Rochester (MN), United States of America

Background: Autoimmune proteinase 3 (PR3+) B cells have recently been phenotypically and functionally characterized, and the presence of defective central antigen-independent and peripheral antigen-dependent checkpoints in patients with ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) has been shown. This work aimed to investigate the central tolerance-checkpoint controlling immature PR3+ B cells in the bone marrow (BM), before their migration into the periphery as transitional B cells. Objectives: We investigated the presence and the specific phenotypic features of PR3+ B cells in BM mononuclear cells (BMMC) of non-vasculitis controls (No-AAV), comparing them to paired peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) of No-AAV and PBMC of PR3-AAV patients, and the central tolerance-checkpoint for PR3+ B cells.

Methods: We used a customized flow-cytometry assay, using PR3 as ligand to target autoimmune PR3+ B cells (PR3+B cells). Adult PR3-ANCA positive AAV (PR3-AAV) patients with a clinical diagnosis of granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) or microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) were selected among consecutive subjects with AAV seen in our Rheumatology Unit. Subjects without vasculitis (No AAV) were selected among consecutive subjects undergoing bone marrow aspiration to exclude hematologic conditions of myeloid origin and eventually resulted healthy or in long-term complete remission during follow-up of myeloid neoplasms. PMBC from AAV patients and paired samples of BMMC and PBMC from No AAV were collected and analyzed.

Results: The proportion of PR3+ B cells within BMMC (median [IQR25-75%]: 1.98%[1.77-2.76]) was higher than within PBMC of No-AAV (0.9%[0.63-1.44], p<0.01 by paired comparison) and similar to their proportion within PBMC of PR3-AAV patients (1.82%[1.66-3.21]; p>0.05). When focusing on immature/transitional CD24++CD38+B cells only in No-AAV, we observed distinct phenotypes within BMMC versus PBMC (i.e. higher proportion of CD27-CD10+ and lower expression of CD21, IgD, IgM within BMMC versus PBMC), representing two separate developmental steps of B cell maturation. Within CD24++CD38+B cells, BMMC contained the greatest proportion of PR3+ B cells as compared to BMPC (3.35%[1.99-4.92] versus 1.23%[0.62-1.55], p<0.01). We observed a significant decline of the PR3+ fraction from T1-like/immature subset (IgD-IgM+; T1-like/immature) to T2-like/early transitional subset (IgD+IgM+; T2-like/early transitional, p<0.01 by paired comparison) and similar to their proportion within PBMC of No-AAV (1.26%[0.62-1.56], p>0.05). Conclusion: To prevent PR3-related autoimmunity, autoimmune PR3+ B cells pass a stringent selection in the BM, and their removal by central tolerance-checkpoint activity occurs mainly between T1-like/immature to T2-like/early transitional B cells of BMMC.


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POS0099 THE DIVERSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF HLA-DRB1 ALLELES IN THE POPULATION OF CROATIAN PATIENTS WITH IGA VASCULITIS (IgAV)

Keywords: Vasculitis, Genetics/Epigenetics

M. Held1, K. Stingl Janjovic2, M. Sestan1, N. Kifer1, S. Sresen2, M. Sapina4, A. Gudej Gračanin2, M. Frkovic3, A. Gagro4, Z. Grubic5, M. Jelusic1. 1University of Zagreb School of Medicine, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Department of Paediatrics, Division of Paediatric Immunology, Rheumatology and Immunology

Figure 1: Identification of the central tolerance checkpoint for autoimmune proteinase 3+ B cells in human bone marrow.
Background: IgA vasculitis (IgAV) is a small vessel vasculitis occurring predominantly in childhood. Studies concerning the genetic background of IgAV have confirmed that susceptibility to the disease may be influenced by Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA), with HLA-DRB1 gene showing a strong association with the disease. Objectives: We aimed to investigate HLA-DRB1 polymorphism among Croatian patients with IgAV and to determine if there are associations with disease susceptibility and clinical heterogeneity.

Methods: 123 IgAV patients, fulfilling the diagnostic EULAR/PRINTO/PRES criteria from three pediatric rheumatology centers and 202 unrelated healthy individuals were enrolled. Genomic DNA was extracted from whole peripheral blood. The HLA-DRB1 alleles were analysed using the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) method.

Results: Among 123 patients with IgAV, 68 were girls and 55 were boys with median age 6.3 (4.0–14.2) at the time of diagnosis. All patients had purpuric rash, 75.7% had arthralgia or arthritis, 32.5% had affected gastrointestinal (GI) system, while 25.2% patients developed IgA vasculitis nephritis (IgAVN). The HLA-DRB1*12:01 allele was associated with an increased risk for IgAV (OR 4.45, 95% CI=1.17-16.95, P<0.03), while HLA-DRB1*11:01 allele was associated with an increased risk for GI involvement in patients who developed IgAVN (OR 3.29, 95% CI=1.17-16.95, P=0.03). A marginally significant (P=0.068) higher frequency of the HLA-DRB1*10:01 allele in patients with GI symptoms was observed. No significant differences were found in the distribution of HLA DRB1 alleles between patients with IgAVN and those who did not develop nephritis.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrated that HLA-DRB1*12:01 allele was associated with susceptibility to IgAV in the Croatian children, while HLA-DRB1*11:01 allele showed association with GI manifestations of the disease.

REFERENCES:

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Keywords: Autoantibodies, Adaptive immunity, Vasculitis

A. Merino-Vico1,2, J. P. Van Hamberg3, B. Conradi4, P. Heeringa5, A. Merino-Vico2, J. P. Van Hamburg1,2, M. Jansen1, A. Al-Soudi1, H. K. Olsson6, N. De Bonasia1,2, J. P. Van Hamburg1,2, C. Bonasia3, P. Heeringa4, H. Ohashi1, T. Ikawa1.

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Disclosure of Interests: Ana Merino-Vico: None declared, Jan Piet Van Hamberg: None declared, Carlo Bonasia: None declared, Peter Heeringa: None declared, Paul Tijunenburg: None declared, Boy Heldé: None declared, Maaike Jansen: None declared, Aram Al-Soudi: None declared, Henrik K. Olsson: None declared, Eloy de Vries: None declared, Johannes Stegeman: None declared, J. S. Sanders: None declared, W. Abdulahad: None declared, P. Lyons: None declared, T. Hijazi: None declared, T. W. Kuijpers: None declared, T. Sato: None declared.

Targeting NF-κB signalling in B lineage cells as a potential novel treatment strategy for ANCA-associated vasculitis

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Adaptive immunity, Vasculitis

A. Merino-Vico1,2, J. P. Van Hamberg3, B. Conradi4, P. Heeringa5, A. Merino-Vico2, J. P. Van Hamburg1,2, M. Jansen1, A. Al-Soudi1, H. K. Olsson6, N. De Bonasia1,2, J. P. Van Hamburg1,2, C. Bonasia3, P. Heeringa4, H. Ohashi1, T. Ikawa1.

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SUPPORT: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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Targeting NF-κB signalling in B lineage cells as a potential novel treatment strategy for ANCA-associated vasculitis

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Adaptive immunity, Vasculitis

A. Merino-Vico1,2, J. P. Van Hamberg3, B. Conradi4, P. Heeringa5, A. Merino-Vico2, J. P. Van Hamburg1,2, M. Jansen1, A. Al-Soudi1, H. K. Olsson6, N. De Bonasia1,2, J. P. Van Hamburg1,2, C. Bonasia3, P. Heeringa4, H. Ohashi1, T. Ikawa1.

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REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Ana Merino-Vico: None declared, Jan Piet Van Hamberg: None declared, Carlo Bonasia: None declared, Peter Heeringa: None declared, Paul Tijunenburg: None declared, Boy Heldé: None declared, Maaike Jansen: None declared, Aram Al-Soudi: None declared, Henrik K. Olsson: None declared, Eloy de Vries: None declared, Johannes Stegeman: None declared, J. S. Sanders: None declared, W. Abdulahad: None declared, P. Lyons: None declared, T. Hijazi: None declared, T. W. Kuijpers: None declared, T. Sato: None declared.
Methods: Patients with end-stage knee arthritis who underwent primary TKA at our hospital between July 2020 and May 2021 were included with written consent. Basic attributes such as age, gender, BMI, with appendicular skeletal muscle mass (ASMI) by whole-body mode DXA, presence of sarcopenia by Asian Working Group for Sarcopenia 2019 criteria were measured preoperatively, and VAS for pain during walking, clinical assessment of knee joint function (Knee Society Score: KSS), quadriceps muscle strength by dynamometer, range of motion (ROM), and walking speed were measured before and one year after surgery. The relationship between the changes in the degree of frailty (Japanese Cardiovascular Health Study criteria for frailty) before and 1 year postoperatively.

Results: Seventy-five patients (59 women, mean age 75 years) were included in the study. In univariate analysis, KSS, ROM, muscle strength, and VAS for pain were significantly improved at 1 year after TKA compared to preoperative values (p<0.0001, 0.0001, 0.0001, 0.0001: paired t-test). The number of frail patients decreased from 24 to 18 following TKA (p=0.002: Fisher's exact test). Multivariate analysis of the association of changes in frailty using ordinal logistic regression showed a positive correlation between improvement in walking speed and improvement in muscle strength (p=0.01, p=0.02), but not with sex, age, preoperative ASMI or presence of sarcopenia, improvement in pain while walking or ROM (Table 1).

Conclusion: The number of patients with frailty significantly decreased 1 year after TKA; the factors associated with changes in frailty were improvements in gait speed and muscle strength, suggesting that functional improvement rather than the pain-relieving effects of TKA contributed to the improvement in frailty.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% Confidence Interval</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sex (male)</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>[0.22, 9.01]</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>age (year)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>[0.93, 1.08]</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendicular skeletal muscle mass index (kg/m²)</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>[0.79, 4.11]</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>presence of sarcopenia</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>[0.11, 35.30]</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>difference in range of motion (degree)</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>[0.95, 1.06]</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>difference in quadriceps power (N)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>[0.98, 1.00]</td>
<td>0.02*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>difference in walking speed (m/sec)</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>[0.91, 0.96]</td>
<td>0.01*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>difference in VAS for gait pain</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>[0.96, 1.00]</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to Toshiko Yokoi, Mayu Hashizume, Madoka Sakai, Mayu Ikemizu for the data collection. We also wish to thank all the PT staffs in our hospital who participated in this study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0102

CALCIUM CONTAINING CRYSTALS ARE HIGHLY PREVAILENT IN JOINT FLUID OF ADVANCED OSTEOPOROSIS OF THE KNEE

Keywords: Diagnostic Tests, Osteoarthritis, Crystal Arthritis

T. Niessink1,2, T. Jansen2, M. Janssen2, T. Welting3, C. Otto1. University of Twente, Medical Cell Biophysics group, Enschede, Netherlands; VieCuri Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Venlo, Netherlands; MUMC+, Experimental Orthopaedics, Maastricht, Netherlands.

Background: Calcium containing crystals in osteoarthritis (OA) are of interest in the field of rheumatology, as they potentially stimulate the NLRP-3 inflammasome and may become treatable with novel therapeutics. Previous studies using scanning electron microscopy and polarization microscopy (PLM) demonstrated a presence of calcium pyrophosphate (CPP) and basic calcium phosphate (BCP) crystals in early and advanced OA [1]. Calcium carbonate crystals have been found in cartilage specimens of advanced OA and have recently been shown to potentially occur early in development of cartilage calcification [2].

Objectives: In this study we attempt to identify calcium containing crystals in joint fluid of patients with late-stage OA using Raman spectroscopy.

Methods: Synovial fluid samples from advanced knee OA cases were collected from the Maastricht University Medical Center (MUMC+) experimental orthopaedics biobank. This biobank contains synovial fluid samples from patients undergoing total knee replacement surgery for advanced osteoarthritis. The population includes both males and females and all patients were above 18 years of age. Samples were frozen at -80°C. No preservatives were used. Maastricht University Medical Hospital (METC azMUM) approved sample collection. Patients gave written informed consent before collection of their synovial fluid. Samples were analyzed with an integrated Raman polarized light microscope (H-IRPolM, Hybriscan Technologies B.V., Nijkerk, the Netherlands). For each sample, 20 µl of synovial fluid was pipetted on a microscope slide. Birefringent crystals were localized with PLM and then scanned with the integrated Raman spectrometer. For each particle, the Raman spectrum from 0-3600 cm⁻¹ was measured for 1 s/pixel with a laser power of 10 mW and a 532 nm laser. Analysis time per particle was 1-2 minutes depending on particle size. Spectra were analyzed by a trained analyst (TN, CO). Samples were considered positive for a certain type of crystal if at least one crystal with a distinctive spectrum could be identified.

Results: Calcium containing crystals were present in all (100%) of the 36 samples, 34 (94.4%) of the samples contained calcite (calcium carbonate) crystals. Dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate) crystals were present in 10 (27.8%) samples, 9 (25.0%) samples contained both types of calcium carbonate crystals. CPP crystals were present in 33.3% of samples. All the CPP crystals were identified as triclinic CPP, amorphous or monoclinic CPP were not identified. Basic calcium phosphate crystals were present in 9 (25.0%) samples, all of which were hydroxyapatite. Calcium oxalate crystals were present in 7 (19.4%) samples, 3 of which were identified as calcium oxalate dihydrate (COD) and 4 of which were identified as calcium oxalate monohydrate. Most of the samples (80.6%) contained more than one type of calcium crystal, but CPP and BCP were never identified simultaneously in one sample. One patient had some MSU crystals. Raman spectra of identified particles are shown in figure 1.

Figure 1. Raman spectra of identified calcium containing crystals.

Conclusion: Calcium containing crystals are common in synovial fluid samples from knee joints in patients with end-stage osteoarthritis. Raman spectroscopy is a novel technique for rheumatology which enables reliable detection and objective identification of crystals such as calcium carbonate. The observation of calcium carbonate (calcite) crystals in synovial fluids of OA patients is novel and a promising subject of further study. Pathways to presentation in synovial fluid and inflammatory properties should be investigated.

REFERENCES:

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POS0103

PAIN AND FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT ARE MORE PROMINENT IN EROSIVE HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS THAN IN TREATED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN DIGICOD AND ESPOIR COHORTS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of life

S. Berkan1, A. Aparicio Monforte2, S. Tuftef, A. Rousseau3, N. Rinchevar2, E. Mahieu4, B. Combe5, A. Saraux6, B. Fautrel7, L. Gossec8, F. Berenbaum9, J. Sellam1, A. Courties1,2. 1Sorbonne Université, Hôpital Saint-Antoine (APHP), Department of Rheumatology, paris, France; 2Hôpital Saint-Antoine (APHP), Department of Rheumatology, Paris, France; 3University of Montpellier, Unit of Statistics, Institute of Clinical Research EA2415, Montpellier, France; 4University of Montpellier, Department of Rheumatology, Paris, France; 5CHRU de Brest, France.
Background: The common belief is to consider hand osteoarthritis (HOA) as a less severe disease with a better functional prognosis and a lower global burden than rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, this paradigm may no longer be true considering the striking efficacy of targeted therapies in RA compared to the weak efficacy of therapies in the most severe form of HOA, namely erosive HOA (EHOA), which impacts 10-20% of symptomatic HOA [1]. Few studies addressed this issue [2].

Objectives: We aimed to compare the burdens of established EHOA and RA. The objectives were to compare pain, functional impairment, quality of life and the prevalence of comorbidities and of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) between established EHOA and RA.

Methods: DIGital Cohort Osteoarthritis Design (DIGICOD) is a French cohort of symptomatic HOA (at least 2 painful joints) with at baseline a mean ± SD disease duration of 12.9 ± 9.6 years [3]. This study involved the EHOA patients, from inclusion visit of DIGICOD, defined by at least 1 erosive joint according to the Verbruggen score. RA patients fulfilling ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria at the 10th year visit were selected from the ESPOIR cohort (Étude et Suivi des Polyarthrites Indifférenciées Récentes), a French cohort of early RA [4]. Pain intensity at rest or mobilization (0-100mm visual analogical scale (VAS)≥40/100), fatigue (VAS fatigue≥25/100), function (normal [0-100] scores of Health Assessment questionnaire for RA, and AUStalian CA nanadian Osteoarthritis Hand Index for EHOA > 16.7) were analyzed and compared between EHOA and RA using logistic regression models adjusted on age, gender, BMI, comorbidities and socio-educational level. The risk to have ≥2 comorbidities (among CVD, cancer, hemopathy, fracture) or at least 1 CVD (among high blood pressure, diabetes, dyslipidemia, myocardial infarction, stroke) were compared between EHOA and RA adjusted on age, gender, BMI and socio-educational level. Odds ratios (OR) and their 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were reported (EHOA versus RA).

Results: We analyzed 138 patients with EHOA and 379 with RA. The median [interquartile] age of EHOA patients was higher than RA patients (67.3 [63.3; 72.2] vs 48.6 [39.9; 55.6] years, p<0.001). The disease duration, at the evaluation time, was 19.3 [70.20.0] for EHOA and 10.5 years [10.3; 10.7] for RA patients. RA was anti-CCP antibodies positive for 56% of patients and in remission for 61% (DAS28 < 2.6). RA patients were treated by methotrexate (82%), biologics (37%) and 25% by corticosteroids while 20% of EHOA patients received oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. EHOA patients had more painful joints in the hands than RA patients (4.0 [2.0;8.8] vs 0.0 [0.0;3.0], p< 0.001). In the adjusted analysis, EHOA was associated with more pain at mobilization (OR = 3.13 95% CI [1.74 to 5.68] p< 0.001) and more functional impairment (OR = 2.27 CI 95% [1.26.41.7], p = 0.007) (Figure 1). There was no difference for pain at rest and for fatigue VAS. For comorbidities, the proportions of EHOA patients with ≥2 comorbidities were higher than RA patients (37.7% vs 27.5%). However, when we stratified by age, the proportions of patients with ≥2 comorbidities were higher in RA patients between 50 and 70 years old (30.2% vs 47.1%) compared to EHOA patients. In adjusted analysis, the risk to have ≥2 comorbidities was lower in EHOA than in RA patients (OR = 0.25 CI 95% [0.13 to0.48]; p< 0.001) while there was no difference for CVD risk.

Conclusion: After more than 10 years of disease duration, EHOA is associated with more pain and more functional impairment but less comorbidities than RA. This study highlights the significant unmet need for effective therapies for patients with EHOA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Spider gram of the life impact of RA and EHOA

VAS = visual analogical scale, EHOA = erosive hand osteoarthritis; RA: rheumatoid arthritis.
Conclusion: Intra-articular injections of SB-061 administered quarterly for one year in patients with knee OA was safe but did not show any statistically significant effect on knee pain nor on other symptomatic or structural entities compared to placebo.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3275

Table 1. Associations with change in osteophytes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Odds ratio (95% confidence interval)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase in osteophytes (n=272)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in joint space narrowing (n=135)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient characteristics at baseline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age; mean (SD)²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI; mean (SD)²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiographic outcomes at baseline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL sum score (0-120); median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteophyte sum score (0-96); median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint space narrowing sum score (0-96); median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosive disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient reported outcome measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in AUSCAN baseline – year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain (0-20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function (0-36)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-progression group as index group for both osteophytes and joint space narrowing.

Groups defined according to smallest detectable change in osteophyte/joint space narrowing sum score for both hands. Analyses are adjusted for age, sex and BMI, unless stated otherwise. ¹Adjusted for age and BMI. ²Adjusted for sex and BMI. ³Adjusted for age and sex. BMI = body mass index. KL = Kellgren-Lawrence. AUSCAN = Australian Canadian hand osteoarthritis index.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Coen van der Meulen Grant/research support from: The HOSTAS study is supported by a grant from the Dutch Arthritis Society, paid to the institution, Lotte van de Stadt: None declared, Frits Rosendaal: None declared, Margreet Kloppenburg Grant/research support from: The HOSTAS study is supported by a grant from the Dutch Arthritis Society, paid to the institution.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3662

INTRA-ARTICULAR MM-II, A NOVEL SUSPENSION OF LARGE EMPTY MULTILAMELLAR LIPOSOMES, IN PAINFUL KNEE OSTEOARTHITIS: A 26 WEEK PHASE 2B RANDOMIZED TRIAL

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Clinical Trials

P. G. Conaghan¹, H. Rovsing², E. Lau³, S. L. Boit³, B. Brahmacar³, R. C. Chou⁴, T. Joshi⁵, R. Wechsler⁶, S. L. Yao⁵, S. Weiner⁵, A. R. Biilhet⁶, T. Schnitzer⁶.¹University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; ²Sanoz Clinic, Gandrup, Denmark; ³Hong Kong Center for Clinical Research, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); ⁴Sanoz Clinic, Velej, Denmark; ⁵Sun Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Princeton, United States of America; ⁶Moelbius Medical Ltd., Tel Aviv, Israel; ¹NBCD A/S, Saborg, Denmark; ²Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, United States of America

Background: MM-II, a novel suspension of empty large multilamellar liposomes composed of dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine (DPMC) and dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine (DPPC), has demonstrated beneficial effects in OA animal models. In a prior first-in-man study, MM-II demonstrated the ability to lower pain in knee OA patients for up to 3 months.

Objectives: The aims of this phase 2b study were to determine an effective dose, the durability of response, and the safety of MM-II in patients with symptomatic knee OA.

Methods: Consented participants were enrolled in a 6-arm randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled 26-week trial evaluating a single IA injection of...
MM-II at doses of 1ml, 3ml and 6ml (150mM concentration of lipids) and placebo of matching volumes. Key inclusion criteria: age ≥ 40 years, KL grades 2 or 3, ACR OA criteria, WOMAC A pain ≥2 (0-4 Likert scale), VAS ≥50 and ≤90 (100mm scale), ACOA adverse responses to NSAIDs or acetaminophen. Primary endpoint was change in WOMAC A pain score at week (Wk) 12; secondary endpoints included weekly average daily pain score (ADP e-diary) at Wks 12 & 26, WOMAC A pain at 26 wks, Patient Global Assessment (PGA) and WOMAC B and C at Wks 12 & 26, and use of rescue medication. Randomization was stratified by BMI (< 30, 30 ≤BMI<35, and BMI ≥ 35) and baseline knee pain (VAS≥74, VAS< 75). Statistical analysis for the primary endpoint was analyzed based on FAS using a mixed model repeated measures (MMRM) with fixed effects for treatment group, visit (Wk 1-12), and treatment-by-visit interaction and covariates of site, baseline WOMAC pain, BMI and VAS groups. Subjects were included as random effects. Treatment differences were estimated using least square means (LSM) with 95% CIs. Step-down Dunnett’s hierarchical testing procedure compared the three doses to 3ml placebo to adjust for multiplicity. Confidence intervals were unadjusted.

Results: 397 participants were randomized with no significant differences in baseline demographics or clinical characteristics across all treatment groups. Mean age was 62.7 (SD 8.1) years; participants were predominantly female (65.0%) and white (67.0%) with mean BMI 30.8 (SD 6.1) kg/m2. Overall, 6.6% of participants discontinued the study. The primary endpoint of WOMAC A change from baseline to Wk 12 showed LSM difference of -0.24, 95% confidence interval (CI) -0.476, -0.004, p = 0.085 for the 3ml group and -0.02, 95% CI -0.269, 0.222, p = 0.85 for the 6ml group, both vs 3ml placebo, adjusted for multiplicity. The results of the 3ml group were sustained to Wk 26. Nominal significance was seen at some points. When comparing 3ml MM-II to the pooled placebo groups, the LSM difference in change from baseline of the WOMAC A at Wk 12 was -0.28, 95% confidence interval (CI) -0.484, -0.086, p = 0.018 adjusted for multiplicity. The LSM differences in weekly ADP scores were nominally significant at Wks 12 and 26 for the MM-II 3ml group vs 3ml placebo: -10.9, 95% CI (-18.8,-8.3), p = 0.008 and -11.8%, 95% CI (-20.19, -3.34), p =0.006, though the 6ml group was not significant (Figure 1). The changes in use of rescue medication corresponded to changes in symptoms during the trial. Treatment was well tolerated with TEAEs reported in 26% of MM-II and 29% of control participants. Injection site reactions were similar in the treatment and control groups, 19% and 29%, respectively.

Conclusion: Differences between MM-II and placebo in WOMAC A were not statistically significant at Wk 12, though WOMAC reductions were nominally significant at some time points, and when comparing 3ml MM-II to the pooled placebo groups, results were nominally significant at Wk 12. MM-II at 3ml dose demonstrated consistent and durable reduction in weekly knee ADP scores, nominally significant compared to placebo, as early as Wk 6, with efficacy maintained through Wk 26. Treatment with MM-II was well tolerated with low levels of adverse events. MM-II may have the ability to provide durable and relevant pain relief in OA and information in further clinical studies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


Keywords: Pain, Ultrasound, Artificial Intelligence

POS007 ULTRASONOGRAPHY MAY IMPROVE OSTEOARTHRITIS PAIN PREDICTION: AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPROACH

Background: Knee osteoarthritis (OA) pain scores only moderately correlate with conventional radiographic findings—likely because pain has a multifactorial etiology. Ultrasound (US) can capture soft tissue structures which are known to be involved in pain pathophysiology but may not be visible in knee radiographs. In OA, US is a cost-effective and portable and imaging technology that can be performed at the point of care by non-radiologists. Therefore, US may have utility in understanding variance in pain attributed to knee OA.

Objectives: Our objective was to demonstrate if adding US features to computer vision analysis of radiographic images improves machine learning-based prediction of Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS) Pain scores in knee OA.

Methods: 116 subjects with end-stage knee OA were included in the study and were grouped into training and testing sets with an 80:20 split. Prior posterior anterior flexion x-rays and standardized knee US images were collected. A fellowship-trained musculoskeletal radiologist read 26 ultrasound continuous and ordinal features. All x-rays were pre-processed by cropping and applying Contrast Limited Adaptive Histogram Equalization. The processed images were resized to 224 x 224 pixels, stacked to form three-channel images, and mean-subtracted with respect to ImageNet (Figure 1). We generated the radiograph input feature vectors by using a pretrained ResNet50 model with a global average pooling layer replacing the classification head. We trained models to predict KOOS Pain with only radiograph image embeddings, solely US features, or multimodal inputs by concatenating the two feature vectors. For radiograph image embeddings and ultrasound feature vectors, we applied min-max normalization with the respective extrema of the training dataset for each feature. As a secondary analysis, we trained additional models to predict KOOS Symptoms and KOOS Function in Daily Living (ADL) sub-scores. Across all inputs and target variables, we used five-fold cross-validation for model selection across random forest regressors and histogram-based gradient boosting regression trees from the scikit-learn package, CatBoost regressors, and XGBoost regressors. All models were trained using default hyperparameters defined by the respective model packages during model selection and final training. We report and compare model performance using Pearson’s correlation coefficient, mean absolute error, and root mean squared error. All performance metrics were calculated using the scikit-learn and SciPy packages.

Results: When predicting KOOS Pain scores, radiographic image data alone (r = 0.26) or ultrasound scores alone (r = 0.17) did not perform as well as the multimodal model (r = 0.34) where both radiographic and ultrasound measurements were included (Table 1). For prediction of KOOS Symptoms scores, an input of radiographic image data alone (r = 0.45) correlated better than when either ultrasound features alone (r = 0.16) or the multimodal model (r = 0.28) were used as inputs. Similarly, when predicting KOOS ADL scores, radiographic image data alone (r = 0.14) correlated better than ultrasound features alone (r = 0.26) or the multimodal model (r = 0.03).

Conclusion: Differences between MM-II and placebo in WOMAC A were not statistically significant at Wk 12, though WOMAC reductions were nominally significant at some time points, and when comparing 3ml MM-II to the pooled placebo groups, results were nominally significant at Wk 12. MM-II at 3ml dose demonstrated consistent and durable reduction in weekly knee ADP scores, nominally significant compared to placebo, as early as Wk 6, with efficacy maintained through Wk 26. Treatment with MM-II was well tolerated with low levels of adverse events. MM-II may have the ability to provide durable and relevant pain relief in OA and information in further clinical studies.
Conclusion: Combining US features with knee radiographs may improve performance for predicting KOAS Pain scores in patients with end-stage knee OA, but did not improve the prediction of KOOS Symptoms or ADL scores. Our results suggest that soft tissue features captured by US can help us understand differences and underlying mechanisms in pain attributed to OA.

Methods: The Osteoarthritis Initiative is a longitudinal observational study of participants with or at risk of symptomatic knee OA. We identified incident cases of radiographic KOA, defined as Kellgren-Lawrence [KL] grade 2 or 3 based on centrally graded x-rays. Participants underwent bilateral posteroanterior fixed-flexion weight-bearing knee radiography at clinic visits annually or biannually through year 10. Non-contrast 3T MRI was also acquired at clinic visits up to year 8. Musculoskeletal radiologists graded structural damage, including effusion-synovitis (ES), Hoffa-synovitis (HS), bone marrow lesions (BMLs), cartilage and meniscal damage using the MRI Osteoarthritis Knee Score (MOAKS). The WOMAC knee pain subscale is calculated by adding reported pain scores from various activities, including walking on a flat surface, going up or down stairs, at night while in bed, sitting or lying down, and standing, during the last seven days, rated on a 5-point scale from none (0), mild (1), moderate (2), severe (3), or extreme (4). Pain in each knee was reported separately. We fit a proportional odds logistic regression to model the ordinal pain scores reported for each activity on the WOMAC pain scale using penalized maximum likelihood estimation; predictors included each of the MRI structural damage scores, KL grade, age, and BMI at the same clinic visit, as well as sex and race. We estimated the predicted probability of pain rated moderate or worse (Pr[Y ≥ 2 | X]) and reported nonparametric bootstrap 95% confidence intervals (CI) with cluster sampling at the participant-level.

Results: We identified 690 knees contributed by 623 participants that developed radiographic KOA. The mean participant age was 65 years (SD 9), mean BMI was 29.3 (SD 4.8), 66% reported female sex and 83% self-identified as white. The predicted probability of knee pain rated moderate or worse (Pr[Y ≥ 2 | X]) increased with greater ES during walking and stair climbing, but there was no evidence that ES affected knee pain while in bed, sitting or lying down, or standing (Figure 1). We did not find evidence that HS, BMLs, cartilage or meniscal damage affected the WOMAC knee pain items cross-sectionally in our fully adjusted models.

Conclusion: Our study suggests that ES seen on MRI produces heterogeneous effects on pain reporting, depending on the type of activity. Treatments that are developed to target inflammation may reduce pain during some activities, such as walking and stair climbing, but may have little benefit during other activities, such as sitting or lying down. If a treatment effectively reduces or limits structural damage that differentially impacts pain across the activities included in the WOMAC pain subscale, analysis that focuses only on the WOMAC pain subscale score may mask the clinical benefit of the treatment.

REFERENCES: NIL.


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Background: This study uses gait measurements and imaging techniques in knee osteoarthritis (OA) patients to investigate the association between gait patterns and joint structure.

Objectives: To analyze whether 1) gait patterns can be explained by joint structure and 2) longitudinal gait alterations can be predicted by joint structure in people with knee OA.

Methods: In the IMI-APPROACH cohort, 297 people with knee OA were included at 5 sites in Europe. At baseline and two years, full gait kinematic data was collected from all participants using the GaitSmart system, while radiographs and MRI scans of their index knee were performed for evaluation of joint structure. The GaitSmart measures included for the current study were range of motion (ROM) of the hip, thigh, knee in swing and stance phase, and foot in the sagittal plane, and medial-lateral movement of the thigh and calf, all for the index leg.Stride duration and speed were included as well. From the radiographs, the minimum joint space width (JSW), femorotibial angle, mean whole-joint subchondral bone density (SBD), and total whole-joint osteophyte area were determined. From the MRI scans, mean whole-joint femorotibial cartilage thickness (FTC), bone density (SBD), and total whole-joint osteophyte area were determined. Principal component analysis (PCA) was performed on the gait parameters first, to discover underlying domains. Univariate backwards linear regression models with each of the GaitSmart domains as dependent variable were used to analyze how joint structure influences gait or predicts gait change over two years. Three models were run: one with participant demographics (age, sex, BMI) only, one with structural imaging parameters only, and one combining both.

Results: 284 Participants (age 66.5±7.1, BMI 28.0±5.4, 65 (23%) male, 154 (54%) radiographic OA) had baseline GaitSmart data (211 had two-year data). PCA identified three gait domains: upper leg (speed, duration, thigh ROM and hip movement (thigh and calf medial-lateral movement). Over two years the lower leg parameters showed a slight deterioration, though only knee ROM in swing phase changed significantly (-1.5±6.9 degree, p=0.002). The upper leg parameters showed minor non-significant improvement over two years; the medial-lateral parameters showed opposing non-significant changes. Results of all models are summarized in Table 1. Cross-sectionally, higher FTC, absence of effusion and presence of synovitis lead to worse function and synovitis absence were associated with worse upper leg function. Change in people with knee OA especially for the lower leg, providing a significant association between OA symptoms and joint structure, although only for a limited part (low R² values; Table 1) and not for medial-lateral movement. Surprisingly, synovitis and osteophyte size showed contrasting associations with lower leg gait that may be explained by half of the patients not having radiographic OA and should be investigated further. Parameters indicating more severe OA (e.g. lower JSW and FTC, higher age and SBD) were generally associated with more impaired gait.

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superiority of MRI over X-ray is not clear. More importantly, these measurements have not been compared with direct visualization of the cartilage.

**Objectives:** To evaluate cartilage width as well as early cartilage lesions by X-ray and MRI techniques, comparing these observations with those obtained by direct visualization of cartilage during arthroscopy (ARTH) in a population with non-advanced knee OA.

**Methods:** We prospectively recruited 105 patients (>18 y.o) with knee pain of more than 3 months’ duration who underwent diagnostic knee ARTH due to uncertain origin knee pain or meniscal tear. WOMAC score was used to assess joint pain and function. Standardized weight-bearing extended anteroposterior digital X-ray were performed aligning the center of the beam with the femoralial joint space. Images without correct alignment of the tibial plateau were discarded. By X-ray, OA grade was assessed by the Kellgren and Lawrence score (KLS). Medial and lateral joint space width (JSW) was measured on X-ray at the mid-surface of the affected knees in a blind manner. By MRI, cartilage lesions were classified into 3 categories (MRI intensity score: normal, no damage, low grade (fibrillation or thickening <30%) or high grade (thickening >50% or loss). Knee ARTH was performed through two portals according to standard practice and cartilage lesions observed by Outerbridge score (OBS). Bonferroni-corrected ANOVA test for continuous variables, Chi-square or Fisher’s test for discrete variables, normality with Shapiro-Wilk and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests, concordance between groups with weighted Kappa index, correlation between OBS and cartilage measurement with Spearman’s correlation were performed employing Python 3.7 and SPSS25 for Windows 10.

**Results:** The correlation between X-ray JSW measurement and the OBS was null (r=0.052). No good agreement was found between the OA grade assessed by KLS and OBS, nor between MRI-S and OBS. Cartilage deterioration evaluated by X-ray and MRI showed a lower degree of tissue damage than that observed by ARTH visualization (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** ARTH enabled to detect cartilage damage with higher precision than X-ray or MRI. In addition, the ARTH assessment was able to explain the different pain and function levels, since patients with different OBS showed different WOMAC scores. MRI can detect joint lesions in the extra-articular space or related to bone damage, which are not observable with ARTH. Therefore, for clinical trials assessing structure progression, ARTH evaluation combined with MRI would be the most appropriate techniques to accurately measure cartilage deterioration.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

A novel journey into SLE, Sjogren and APS

**POSO11**

PILOT STUDY ON EVOKED COMPOUND ACTION POTENTIAL CONTROLLED CLOSED-LOOP SPINAL CORD STIMULATION IN TREATMENT OF RAYNAUD’S PHENOMENON

**Keywords:** Investor initiated trial, Pain, Imaging

V. Schäfer1, P. Karakostas1, B. Dietz2, G. Bara2, J. Maciaczyk2, 1University Hospital Bonn, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bonn, Germany; 2Saluda Medical, Research, Harrogate, United Kingdom; 3University Hospital Bonn, Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Bonn, Germany

**Background:** Raynaud’s Phenomenon (RP) is an episodically occurring vasospasm of the peripheral arteries that leads to palleness, cyanosis and/or erythema, causing severe pain, sometimes paresthesia and rarely leading to ulceration of the digits and toes. In severe cases, RP patients have physical and functional impairments that substantially affect their ability to work. There are few reports, mostly case series, on the utility of spinal cord stimulation (SCS) to treat RP. However, there is a lack of objective evidence on the physiological effects (e.g., vasodilation) of SCS in this condition. Here, we present clinical outcomes of severe RP patients treated with evoked compound action potential (ECAP)-controlled closed-loop SCS.

**Objectives:** Severe primary and secondary RP patients can be treated with evoked compound action potential (ECAP)-controlled closed-loop SCS. High-resolution Doppler ultrasound can be used as objective evidence on the physiological effects (e.g., vasodilation) of SCS in RP patients.

**Methods:** This is a prospective, single-center pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of ECAP-controlled closed-loop SCS in treating RP. Subjects who meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria, complete all baseline assessments, and sign an informed consent will be considered enrolled (10 in total). Patient outcomes such as Raynaud Condition Score, Raynaud Severity Score, Raynaud Frequency Score, Cochin Hand Function Score, SHAQ RP VAS, EQ-SD-5L, PGIC and objective peripheral circulation assessments using high-resolution Doppler ultrasound of digital arteries will be reported.

**Results:** The mean age ± standard deviation (± SD) of the ten patients is 45.5 ± 15.5 years. The mean baseline ± standard error mean (SEM) ± (n = 9) weekly attack frequency was 21.8 ± 5.9 and decreased to 7.7 ± 2.1 after the test phase (n = 9), 4.8 ± 1.7 month after implantation (n = 8), 12.4 ± 6.3 months after implantation (n = 8) and 12.6 ± 4.6 6-months after implantation (n = 8). The mean baseline ± SEM; n = 9) severity of attacks was 6.7 ± 0.4 which decreased to 4.9 ± 0.6 after the test phase (n = 9), 4.6 ± 0.9 1-month after implantation (n = 9), 3.8 ± 0.9 3-months after implantation (n = 9) and 3.3 ± 0.6 6-months after implantation (n = 8). The mean baseline ± SEM; n = 9) Raynaud’s condition score was 6.8 ± 0.7 and decreased to 4.4 ± 0.7 after the test phase (n = 9), 4.3 ± 1.0 1-month after implantation (n = 9), 3.4 ± 1.3 3-months after implantation (n = 8) and to 2.6 ± 0.7 6-months after implantation (n = 8). The mean baseline (± SEM; n = 9) PAL score was 8.6 ± 1.5, with hands warmed in a finger bath. After the trial period (trial-end; n = 9), the mean total score ± SEM for pathological artery occlusions decreased to 1.9 ± 1.0, and to 2.0 ± 1.1 1-month after implantation (n = 9), 2.0 ± 1.2 3-months after implantation 3-months after implantation (n = 8), and to 4.9 ± 2.6 6-months after implantation (6-months; n = 8). The mean baseline ± SEM; n = 9) cochin hand function scale score was 31.6 ± 8.2 and decreased to 24.7 ± 8.0 after the test phase (n = 9), 18.9 ± 7.8 1-month after implantation (n = 9), 19.5 ± 7.5 3-months after implantation (n = 8) and to 17.4 ± 7.7 6-months after implantation (n = 8). The mean patient global impression scale score at 1-month was ± SEM; n = 9) 2.4 ± 0.3 2.8 ± 0.4 3-months after implantation (n = 8) and decreased to 2.3 ± 0.4 6-months after implantation (n = 8).

**Conclusion:** This study demonstrates for the first time that RP-related pathological arterial occlusions can be treated effectively with a novel ECAP-controlled closed-loop SCS system. In conclusion, ECAP-controlled closed-loop SCS alleviates RP symptoms and improves peripheral blood flow. Longer-term follow up and larger controlled studies are needed to confirm these preliminary results.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

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DEUCRAVACITINIB REDUCES INTERFERONS, B-CELL PATHWAYS, AND SEROLOGICAL BIOMARKERS OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS DISEASE ACTIVITY: PHARMACODYNAMIC ANALYSIS FROM THE PHASE 2 PAISLEY STUDY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Targeted synthetic drugs, Biomarkers

Methods: The 48-week PAISLEY trial randomized 363 patients with SLE 1:1:1:1 to placebo or deucravacitinib 3mg twice daily (BID), 6mg BID, or 12mg once daily (QD). Whole blood transcripts, serum proteins, blood cell subsets, and antibody profiles at screening and baseline through week 48 were measured by immunocassays and flow cytometry. In a substudy, samples were collected from 83 subjects 22 to 114 hours after the initial dose. Samples from demographically matched healthy subjects were collected and measured for comparison.

Results: At screening, 42 genes/modules and 75 proteins were differentially expressed compared with healthy subjects, with fold change >1.5 and adjusted P value <0.05. With deucravacitinib treatment, significant reductions were observed of IFN activity, including BAFF, CXCL10, and MCP2. Adjusted mean percent reductions were –26%, –31%, and –30% for MCP2 and –42%, –43%, and –48% for CXCL10, respectively. Selected cytokines and chemokines were significantly reduced in the BID-dosed arms as early as 2 to 3 days after dose initiation. With deucravacitinib treatment, lymphocyte and neutrophil counts and complement levels increased, but markers associated with B-cell activation and differentiation including BLC (CXCL13), CD38 (gene expression), and autoantibodies were reduced.

Conclusion: Deucravacitinib suppressed IFN production, IgG expression, IFN-inducible proteins, B-cell pathway markers, and serological biomarkers, consistent with clinical symptom improvements in SLE patients treated with deucravacitinib.

Figure. Deucravacitinib, but not placebo, reduced biomarkers of IFN-regulated gene expression


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POS0113 LONG-TERM REMISATIONS AFTER HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES – A 25 YEARS SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Adaptive immunity

Methods: In this retrospective study, the clinical outcome of 22 patients was analyzed, who received a CD34+-selected autologous HSCT after immunoadaption followed by hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) has emerged as a promising on-off therapy over the past decades, to provide long-term remissions even in patients with severe courses of their disease, through the restoration of immunologic self-tolerance.

Objective: Here, we summarize the outcomes of AD patients receiving HSCT and investigated – University Medicine between February 1998 and October 2015.

Results: With a median follow-up of 78 months (range 0.1-300), the overall survival was 76.4% and progression-free survival 58.2%, respectively. 3 deaths were regarded treatment related (2 infections in SLE and 1 cardiac failure in SSC). One patient had persisting disease (AIHA) and 4 relapses occurred in SLE patients at 18, 36, 81 and 83 months, respectively. Remaining patients are in stable clinical remission for up to 25 years post-transplant, despite discontinuation of immunosuppressive therapy in most cases. HSCT was associated with significant reduction of autoantibody levels and a profound reconfiguration of the adaptive immune system, the latter characterised by a re-emergence of naïve T cells with markers of recent thymic emigrants, including Foxp3+ Treggs and regeneration of naïve B cells. In SLE patients, SIGLEC-1 expression on monocytes

Disclosure of Interests: This clinical trial was sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb.

Disclosure of Interests: This analysis evaluated the effect of deucravacitinib on biomarkers of TYK2-mediated pathways, B-cell pathways, and serological biomarkers in patients in the phase 2 PAISLEY SLE trial.


Disclosure of Interests: This analysis evaluated the effect of deucravacitinib on biomarkers of TYK2-mediated pathways, B-cell pathways, and serological biomarkers in patients in the phase 2 PAISLEY SLE trial.

completely normalized suggesting an abrogation of type I interferon signalling in responding patients.

Conclusion: Our data provide the ‘proof-of-concept’ that a chronic autoimmune system can be reset into a naive and self-tolerant state by immunomodulation and HSCT, providing a potential curative treatment option. Although initially applied as salvage therapy in severely affected patients with poor outcomes, transplantation related mortality has gradually improved over the past years, due to accumulating centre experience, better patient selection and improved supportive care. Therefore, HSCT still represents a promising treatment option, especially in those patients with insufficient response to standard-of-care, with poor prognosis and life-threatening disease, in which the risk:benefit ratio of HSCT seems acceptable.


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A PLACEBO-CONTROLLED PHASE 1 STUDY IN HEALTHY ADULT VOLUNTEERS OF THE SAFETY, TOLERABILITY, PHARMACOKINETICS, AND PHARMACODYNAMICS OF ALPN-303, A POTENT DUAL BAFF/APRIL ANTAGONIST, FOR THE TREATMENT OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Randomized control trial, Clinical Trials


Background: Povetacicept (ALPN-303) is an Fc fusion protein of a variant, engineered transmembrane activator and calcium-modulating cyclophilin ligand interactor (TACI) domain which mediates significantly more potent inhibitory activity than wild type (WT) TACI-Fc or B cell activating factor (BAFF)- or a proliferation inducing ligand (APRIL)-specific monoclonal antibodies, with enhanced pharmacokinetic (PK) and immunomodulatory properties versus WT TACI-Fc in preclinical studies. Povetacicept may therefore significantly improve clinical outcomes in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and other B cell-related diseases.

Objectives: This study was designed to evaluate the safety, tolerability, PK, and pharmacodynamics (PD) of povetacicept in adult healthy volunteers (HV).

Methods: In this first-in-human study (NCT05034484), 66 HV were randomized 4:2 into single ascending dose cohorts of intravenous (IV) or subcutaneous (SC) povetacicept or placebo. Participants were followed to assess safety and PK, circulating immunoglobulins (Ig), and circulating leukocyte populations.

Results: Povetacicept has been well tolerated in all cohorts evaluated as single IV or SC doses of up to 960 mg. Overall, it exhibits dose-related PK and expected PD effects, including dose-related reductions in serum IgA, IgG, and IgM (Figure 1), and in circulating antibody-secreting cells (ASC; plasmablasts and plasma cells). These PD effects appear greater than those reported for WT TACI-Fc molecules in IV and appear to be saturated at doses ≥80 mg. Coverage of free APRIL was maintained for 2-3 weeks with 80 mg and ≥4 weeks with 240 mg, respectively. The most frequent adverse event (AE) has been mild headache. To date, there have been no imbalances of infections between the placebo and dosed groups, no treatment-related serious AEs, no administration-related reactions other than mild injection site pain (reported in one each of placebo- and povetacicept-treated participants), and no adverse trends in safety laboratories (Table 1).

Conclusion: To date, povetacicept has demonstrated acceptable safety and tolerability and exhibits expected PD effects on circulating Ig and ASC. These findings support future clinical development of povetacicept in patients with SLE and/or other B-cell- and/or autoantibody-related diseases.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Table 1. Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment-Emergent Adverse Event (TEAE)</th>
<th>All Placebo (N=22)</th>
<th>All Povetacicept (N=44)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any TEAE</td>
<td>12 (55%)</td>
<td>27 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>7 (32%)</td>
<td>20 (45%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>4 (18%)</td>
<td>16 (34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Adverse Event of Interest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration-Related Reaction</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Common TEAEs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Term (Any Grade)</td>
<td>All Placebo (N=22)</td>
<td>All Povetacicept (N=44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache or Migraine</td>
<td>4 (18%)</td>
<td>31 (72%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>4 (18%)</td>
<td>9 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>4 (18%)</td>
<td>6 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>3 (14%)</td>
<td>5 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>4 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobinopenia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Povetacicept Dose-Dependently Reduces Circulating Immunoglobulins

A DAPIROLIZUMAB PEGOL EFFICACY BY SUBGROUPS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A POST HOC ANALYSIS OF PHASE 2 CLINICAL TRIAL DATA

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Systemic lupus erythematosus

A. Askanase1, C. Stach2, C. Britann3, G. Stojan1, R. Furie1, 1Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; 2UCB Pharma, N/A, Monheim am Rhein, Germany; 3UCB Pharma, N/A, Slough, United Kingdom; 4UCB Pharma, N/A, Atlanta, United States of America; 5Northwell Health, Division of Rheumatology, New York, United States of America
Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) clinical trials are challenged by high placebo response rates. Subgroup analyses of historic SLE clinical trial data have identified acute flares with normal complement levels as potential predictors of high placebo response.

Objectives: To assess the treatment effect of dapirolizumab pegol (DZP; a polyethylene glycol conjugated antigen-binding fragment lacking a functional Fc domain, which inhibits the CD40–CD40 ligand interaction) in patients from the phase 2b trial in SLE,[1] who fulfilled one or both of the characteristics identified as potential predictors of placebo response.

Methods: Post hoc analyses were performed on data from a phase 2b trial (NCT02804763), in which patients received placebo or DZP (6/24/45 mg/kg), alongside standard of care (SOC) for 24 weeks.[1] Efficacy was compared between two subgroups: (1) acute flare with low C3/C4 or persistent disease activity, vs (2) acute flare without low C3/C4. In the subgroup analyses, disease activity at screening was defined using British Isles Lupus Assessment Group (BILAG) 2004 item level scores either as acute flare (worsening/new symptoms) or persistent (symptoms rated as the same) based on the past 4 weeks compared with the 4 weeks prior to those, and low C3/C4 was defined as below the lower limit of normal at screening. Outcomes assessed were BILAG-based Composite Lupus Assessment (BICLA) response, SLE Responder Index-4 (SRI-4) response, and change from baseline in Physician’s Global Assessment (PGA) at Week 24. Binary outcomes were analysed using logistic regression (p-values reported for odds ratio vs acute flare without low C3/C4), and continuous outcomes were analysed using mixed models with repeat measures.

Results: Figure 1a and 1b show BICLA responses in the subgroups over time; similar patterns were seen for the other outcomes. At Week 24, higher BICLA response rates were achieved across all treatment arms in the acute flare without low C3/C4 subgroup compared with the other subgroup (Figure 1c). This pattern was particularly evident in patients receiving SOC plus placebo, where there was a significant 3-fold difference in BICLA response rates between the subgroups (80.0% vs 24.2%; p=0.005). Patients who received SOC plus placebo in the acute flare without low C3/C4 subgroup also achieved numerically higher SRI-4 response rates than the acute flare with low C3/C4 or persistent disease activity subgroup. A similar pattern was observed for patients who received SOC plus 6 mg/kg DZP; however, comparable SRI-4 response rates were observed between subgroups in patients who received SOC plus 24/44/55 mg/kg DZP (Figure 1d). At Week 24, greater changes from baseline in PGA were achieved in patients receiving SOC plus placebo in the acute flare without low C3/C4 subgroup than in the acute flare with low C3/C4 or persistent disease activity subgroup.

Conclusion: Despite the limited sample size, patients with acute flare with normal complement levels were more likely to achieve responses to SOC plus placebo, diminishing the DZP treatment effect. These data suggest that SLE trial design may need to consider baseline clinical and serologic activity patterns to adequately assess treatment efficacy.

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical Trials

E. Littlejohn1, S. Alaima2, V. Birardi3, E. Yap3, C. Collins3.1Cleveland Main Campus, Rheumatologic and Immunologic Disease, Cleveland, United States of America; 2The Ohio State University, Nephrology, Columbus, United States of America; 3Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, Medical Affairs, Victoria, Canada

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Disclosure of Interests: Anca Anskasne Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Astazeneca, Aurinia, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Ibisiva, Janssen, Genentech, GSK, Mallinckrodt, Pfizer and UCB Pharma; Anke Christen Stach Shareholder of: UCB Pharma, Employee of: UCB Pharma, Claire British Shared Ownership of: UCB Pharma, Employee of: UCB Pharma, George Stojan Employee of: UCB Pharma, Richard Furie Consultant of: Biogen Inc. and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Biogen Inc. and UCB Pharma.


POS0116 EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF VOLOCSPORIN ACROSS PATIENT SUBGROUPS WITH PROTEINURIA ≥2 MG/MG: AN INTEGRATED ANALYSIS OF THE AURA-LV AND AURORA 1 STUDIES

Background: Proteinuria is the most common manifestation of lupus nephritis (LN) and is a mediator of progressive kidney damage. Early reductions in urine protein creatinine ratio (UPCR) have shown to be predictive of improved long-term outcomes in LN. However, recent studies with monoclonal antibody therapies, in addition of voclosporin to mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) and low-dose steroids resulted in earlier and greater reductions in proteinuria across biopsy classes, races, and ethnicities.[5]

Objectives: To further characterize the efficacy and safety of voclosporin in patients with high proteinuria, we have analyzed outcomes in various subpopulations of patients with UPCR ≥2 mg/mg using the pooled dataset.

Methods: Both studies enrolled patients with biopsy-proven LN (Class III, IV, or V ≥ III/IV) within 6 months (or up to 2 years in AURORA 1) and proteinuria ≥1.5 mg/mg (≥2 mg/mg for Class V). Patients were randomized to voclosporin (23.7 mg BID) or placebo and treated for up to one year (48 weeks [AURA-LV], 52 weeks [AURORA 1]) all patients received MMF and low-dose steroids. For this post-hoc analysis, complete renal response (CRR) rates were evaluated in patients with baseline UPCR ≥2 mg/mg. Complete renal response was defined as UPCR ≤0.5 mg/mg with stable renal function, low-dose steroids, and no rescue medication.

Subgroup analyses were based on the following: sex, age, race, ethnicity, biopsy class, and estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) at baseline. Adverse events (AEs) and mean eGFR levels over time were also assessed.

Results: Of the 268 and 266 patients included in the voclosporin and control arms of the pooled analysis, respectively, 217 and 215 patients had a baseline UPCR ≥2 mg/mg using the pooled dataset. UPCR ≥2 mg/mg (mean [SD], 5.2 [3.4] vs. 4.6 [2.9] mg/mg, respectively). At one year, the change from baseline in least squares (LS) mean (SE) UPCR was -3.8 (0.1) mg/mg in the voclosporin arm compared to -1.6 (0.2) mg/mg in the control arm (difference vs control, -0.7; p<0.0003). A significantly greater percentage of voclosporin-treated patients achieved CRR at one year compared to the control arm (41.0% vs. 21.9%; odds ratio [OR] 2.48, p<0.0001). CRR rates were numerically greater in voclosporin-treated patients in both sexes and across all ages, races, ethnicities, biopsy classes, and baseline eGFR levels assessed, with OR >1 (Figure 1). Across biopsy classes, the highest rates of CRR were observed in Class III patients treated with voclosporin (50% vs 16.1% in control, p=0.0126), followed by Class IV (44% vs. 23.8%, p=0.0019), Class V with III or IV lesions (37.7% vs. 17% p=0.0306), and Class V (313% vs. 28.6%, p=0.81). Similar rates of AEs were reported in both arms, and mean eGFR levels were similar and stable over one year of treatment (Figure 2).

Conclusion: Consistent with results from the overall pooled study population, patients with UPCR ≥2 mg/mg at baseline treated with voclosporin achieved significantly higher renal response rates than patients treated with MMF and low-dose steroids alone regardless of baseline demographics or clinical State of the Art.

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical Trials

E. Littlejohn1, S. Alaima2, V. Birardi3, E. Yap3, C. Collins3.1Cleveland Main Campus, Rheumatologic and Immunologic Disease, Cleveland, United States of America; 2The Ohio State University, Nephrology, Columbus, United States of America; 3Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, Medical Affairs, Victoria, Canada

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characteristics. This is clinically relevant given the lack of safe and effective ther-
apies for patients with high proteinuria.

Figure 1. Forest Plot

Figure 2. LS Mean eGFR over Time

REFERENCES:

RESULTS:
We observed a consistent downregulation of 35 proteins associated with B cell activity, including CD23, FCR1, FAIM3, and FCRL4, in all treatment groups receiving remibrutinib compared to the placebo group after 24 weeks of treatment. These modulated proteins are involved in multiple pathways related to B-cell activation and function, including B-cell receptor signaling, Fc receptor signaling, and platelet activation. Whole blood bulk mRNA sequencing revealed that the remibrutinib group showed a significant downregulation of a 34-gene signature, most of which are known to be important for B-cell activation and immunoglobulin production. The top two most significantly downregulated genes, FCRL5 and SOX5, were previously identified as being highly enriched in a circu-
tulating tissue-like memory B-cell subset. This observation is also corroborated by the proteomics profiling analysis, where FCRL4 known to co-localize in the same memory B-cell subset (Verstappen et al 2020, Götz et al 2008), was heavily decreased by the treatment. Despite the specific and strong effects on B-cells, estimation of cell type proportions using RNA-seq revealed no significant changes, suggesting that remibrutinib does not affect the overall B-cell num-
bers and the relative proportions of its major subsets, like plasma cells, naive and memory B-cells. Results from both proteomics and transcriptomics profiling suggest that remibrutinib treatment does not modulate the interferon signature.

Conclusion: Our analysis of serum proteins and whole blood transcripts showed that remibrutinib treatment was associated with a significant downregulation of proteins and genes enriched in FCRL4+ B cells, a subset of tissue-resident mem-
ory B cells that are expanded in inflamed tissues and found in the salivary glands of SjS patients. These findings suggest that remibrutinib may have a particu-
larly strong inhibitory effect on this subset. Additionally, many genes and proteins involved in B-cell activation, differentiation, and maturation were also downregu-
lated, indicating that remibrutinib has a potent effect on multiple B-cell pathways.

References:

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POSO117
REMIBRUTINIB SPECIFICALLY DOWNREGULATES MARKERS OF MEMORY B CELL SUBSETS IN SJÖGREN’S PATIENTS (SJS) IN THE LOUISSe PHASE 2 CLINICAL TRIAL

Keywords: Biomarkers, Sjögren syndrome, Clinical Trials

A. Grioni1, A. Santos Da Costa1, E. Ferrero1, V. De Luca1, R. Hillenbrand2, A. Da Costa1, B. Cenni1, M. Kaul1, T. Dörner1, R. Siegel1, Novartis Campus, NIBR, Basel, Switzerland; 2Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin | German Rheumatism Research Center, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany

Background: Remibrutinib is a selective, covalent and potent inhibitor of Brun-
ton’s tyrosine kinase (BTK) in development for several autoimmune and auto-al-
ergic indications showing promising clinical safety and efficacy (Kaul et al, 2022).

M. Maurer et al. SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: CURRENT TREATMENT OPTIONS AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF THERAPY

Keywords: Antiphospholipid syndrome, Pregnancy and reproduction

M. Gerde1, R. Mac Kenzie2, D. Viola1, C. Heer1, J. Balsevards1, E. Berut1,1Hospital Universitario Austral, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pilar, Argentina; 2FLENI, Phlebology and Vascular Surgery, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Background: Pregnancy complications in obstetric APS (OAPS) include recur-
rent early pregnancy loss, fetal death, or premature birth due to preeclampsia,
intrauterine growth restriction or placental insufficiency. The standard of care (SC) with low dose aspirin (LDA) and heparin has dramatically improved obstetric results, however 20-30% still have adverse outcomes despite treatment. Retrospective studies have shown good results with the addition of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ). HCQ may have a beneficial effect in APS due to its anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory and antithrombotic properties. Recently, EULAR recommended its use in refractory cases. Previously, in a retrospective study we reported that the addition of HCQ in women with primary OAPS and a pregnancy failure with SC was associated with a higher rate of live births (87 vs 62%) and a lower frequency of pregnancy complications (8 vs 37%) compared with conventional treatment. In this new study we show obstetric results from a larger cohort of refractory OAPS patients treated with HCQ.

Objectives: To assess pregnancy outcomes in a large cohort of women with refractory OAPS treated with Hydroxychloroquine in addition to conventional treatment.

Methods: This was an observational, retrospective, single-center cohort study. We analyzed pregnancy outcomes in women with refractory primary OAPS (2004-2022) who received HCQ (at a dose of 600mg/day + LDA in their subsequent pregnancies).

Results: We evaluated 182 pregnancies in one hundred and seventy-three women (21-51y) treated with the addition of HCQ and a previous failure with conventional treatment; 18.9% of them had triple antibodies positivity. Live birth rate was 94% (CI 95%: 89.5-96.5). Term deliveries occurred in 95% of the pregnancies, mean gestational age at birth was 38 weeks (28-39) and mean weight 3021g (915g-4300g). Sixty percent were cesarean sections and 40% vaginal deliveries. Pregnancy complications occurred in 12% of the pregnancies (CI 95%: 7.3-19.5). Early pregnancy losses before 10 weeks occurred in 6% of the pregnancies. There were no late fetal deaths. Six patients who presented mild cutaneous allergy had to interrupt HCQ and were excluded from the analysis. Conclusion: These results add observational evidence in favor of using Hydroxychloroquine in refractory Obstetric APS patients until results from ongoing RCT are published.

REFERENCES:

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POS0119

XmAb564, A NOVEL POTENCY-REDUCED IL-2 FC FUSION PROTEIN SELECTIVELY EXPANDS REGULATORY T CELLS: RESULTS FROM A SINGLE ASCENDING DOSE STUDY IN HEALTHY ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Randomized control trial, Biomarkers

R. Clynes1, C. Key2, Y. Ding3, L. Li4, J. Wool5, B. Sadler6, J. Kanodia7, H. Sun8, R. Zitnik5.

Xencor, Inc., Translational Biology, Monrovia, United States of America;
2ICON, Inc., Early Phase Services, San Antonio, United States of America;
3Xencor, Inc., Bioinformatics, Monrovia, United States of America;
4Xencor, Inc., Biometrics, Monrovia, United States of America;
5Xencor, Inc., Quantitative Pharmacology & Pharmacometrics, San Antonio, United States of America;
6Xencor, Inc., Clinical Systems & Pharmacology, Monrovia, United States of America;
7Xencor, Clinical Development, Monrovia, United States of America

Background: Interleukin 2 (IL-2) signaling is essential for the development, survival, and suppressive function of T regulatory cells (Tregs). Diminished IL-2 signaling and Treg functional impairment are associated with autoimmune diseases, including systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)[1][3]. XmAb564 is a potency reduced, monomeric human IL-2 heterodimeric Fc-fusion protein with extended half-life and increased binding affinity for IL-2 receptor alpha (CD25) to selectively expand Tregs, being developed for the treatment of autoimmune diseases.

Objectives: In this first-in-human, placebo-controlled, double-blind, single ascending-dose study, healthy adult volunteers received XmAb564 and were evaluated for safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics (PK), and pharmacodynamic (PD) for 30-45 days.

Methods: Subjects received SC doses of XmAb564 at 0.003, 0.007, 0.015, 0.025, 0.040, and 0.065 mg/kg in 6 cohorts (6 active:2 placebo per cohort). Levels of immune cell populations in whole blood were assessed by flow cytometry for total Tregs (CD4+CD25+FoxP3+) and CD25highFoxP3+ Tregs (CD4+CD25highFoxP3+), as well as NK (CD56+ cells), CD4+ and CD8+ T conventional cells (Tcon).

Results: A single dose of XmAb564 was well tolerated, with no dose-limiting toxicities, no Grade 3 or greater adverse events (AEs), no serious AEs, no deaths, nor clinically significant laboratory safety abnormalities. AEs attributed to XmAb564 were mainly mild to moderate self-limited injection site reactions. Asymptomatic transient elevations of peripheral eosinophils were observed in a dose-dependent manner, similar to those reported with other biologics in the class. After a single dose of subcutaneous administration, XmAb564 exposure increased in a dose-dependent manner with dose-proportional Cmax and non-linear clearance owing to the expected increase in target receptor expression (CD25) in response to XmAb564 and dynamic target-mediated drug disposition across the range of doses studied from 0.003 to 0.065 mg/kg.

The primary effect of XmAb564 was seen on total Tregs and particularly the CD25highFoxP3+ Treg subset (Figure 1A, B). The elevations peaked at approximately Day 12 and remained elevated for at least 21 days following drug administration. At the highest dose of 0.065 mg/kg, the mean peak increase in numbers of Tregs and CD25highFoxP3+ Tregs were 8-fold and 11-fold above baseline, respectively. At that same 0.065 mg/kg dose level, there was a trend of mean increase of 2.6-fold, 2.3-fold, and 2.2-fold in numbers of NK, CD4+ and CD8+ Tcon cells, respectively.

Figure 1.

Conclusion: XmAb564 selectively induced Tregs and was well tolerated. XmAb564 PK and PD potentially supports extended multi-week dosing intervals and has a Treg induction magnitude and durability that may be competitive or superior to other candidates in clinic, providing the rationale for clinical evaluation across a broad range of inflammatory diseases.

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[1] Doglio et al. JACI 2022; 150: 1289

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POS0120

SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF SUBCUTANEOUS (S.C.) DOSE IANULAMUB (VAY736; ANI-BAFFR mAb) ADMINISTERED MONTHLY OVER 28 WEEKS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical Trials


1Val d’Hebron Hospitals, Luperus Unit, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 2Charité Research Organisation GmbH, Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; 3SM Kirov Military Medical Academy, Rheumatology, St Petersburg, Russian Federation; 4Sheba Medical Center, Tel Aviv University, Tischbiudowitz Center for Autoimmune Disease, Tel Aviv, Israel; 5Piramongkutklao Hospital and College of
Background: Ianalumab (VAY736) is a novel defucosylated, human IgG1 mAb targeting the receptor for Fc cell Activating Factor of TNF Family (BAFF-R), providing both enhanced antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity-mediated depletion of B cells and blockade of BAFF-BAFF-R signaling that drives B cell differentiation, proliferation and survival.

Objectives: Evaluate safety and efficacy of ianalumab in patients with active SLE.

Methods: Multi-center, randomised, parallel group, double-blind trial consisting of 2 separate, placebo-controlled treatment cohorts for ianalumab and for iscali- mab (CFZ533; anti-CD40 mAb) randomised 1:1 between active:placebo. Patients (ianalumab cohort n=67, iscalimab cohort n=40) with AHA ≥1 ‘A’ or ≥2 ‘B’ scores that included activity in either mucocutaneous and/ or musculoskeletal domains were enrolled from 19 Dec 2018 through 31 Jan 2022. Here we report interim analysis results for ianalumab treatment cohort (active n=34, placebo n=33) completing the 28-week blinded treatment period, which comprised of monthly s.c. injection of ianalumab 300 mg or placebo. Out- comes were measured at baseline (BL) and weeks (w) 4, 8, 12, 16, 24 and 28. The primary w28 outcome was proportion of patients meeting composite endpoint requirements consisting of patients who both achieved SRI-4 and also tapered predniso(lo)ne 10.0 mg (95% CI)

References: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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Table 1. Selected secondary and exploratory outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Ianalumab (n=34)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=33)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of flare*</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to first flare* (Days)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum C3</td>
<td>Geo-mean</td>
<td>Geo-mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio BL at Week 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-C1q</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure: Proportion of patients with SRI-4 and achieving Week 28 composite endpoint
Outcome of scleroderma and related syndromes

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Heart, Prognostic factors

H. J. Bjerring1,2,3, C. Bruni4,5, P. Carreira5, P. Airo6, C. P. Simeon Aznar7, M. E. Truchetet8, A. Gioiolo9, A. Babiri-Gurmani10, M. Martin11, C. P. Denton12, A. Girolami13, H. Fiethe14, I. Banuzi15, H. Bitte14, O. Middelth16, T. Gaten17, K. Broch18, A. Andreassen19, Y. Tanaka20, G. Riempkasten21, U. Müller-Ladner21, M. Matsuji-Cerini19,21, I. Castelvi22, E. Siegert1, E. Hachulla22,23, Q. Distler22, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold14,15, S. Sølandt sykehus Kristiansand, Department of Rheumatology, Kristiansand, Norway; 2University of Oslo Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 3Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Careggi, University of Florence, Department of Experimental Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Florence, Italy; 4University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 512 de October University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 6Spedali Civili di Brescia, Scleroderma UNIT UOC Reumatologia ed Immunologia Clinica, Brescia, Italy; 7University Vall d’Hebron Hospital, Systemic Autoimmune Diseases Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, Barcelona, Spain; 8Bordeaux University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Bordeaux, France; 9University of Verona, Rheumatology Section, Department of Medicine, Verona, Italy; 10Rambam Health Care Campus, Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion-Institution of Technology, B Shime Rheumatology Institute, Haifa, Israel; 11Poliets University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Poitiers, France; 12University College London Division of Medicine and Royal Free Hospital, Centre for Rheumatology and Connective Tissue Diseases, London, London; 13Fondazione di Medicina molecolare e terapia cellulare, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy; 14Oslo University Hospital, Rikshospitalet, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 15Oslo University Hospital, Rikshospitalet, Department of Cardiology, Oslo, Norway; 16University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; 17University of Lübeck, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Lübeck, Germany; 18Justus-Liebig University Giessen, Campus Kerckhoff, Dept of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bad Nauheim, Germany; 19Hospital San Raffaele, Milan, Italy; 20Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 21Charité University Hospital, Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; 22Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Referral Centre for Centro for rare systemic autoimmune diseases North and North-West of France (CeRAINO), CHU Lille, France; 23Univ Lille, Inserm, U1286 - INFINITE , Institute for Translational Research in Inflammation, Lille, France

**Background:** Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a major cause of mortality in systemic sclerosis (SSc). The 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines recommend a comprehensive risk stratification at PAH diagnosis to guide optimized management. Several risk stratification tools have been developed in PAH. These strategies have not previously been compared, and have not been applied in SSc-PAH using the new haemodynamic definition.

**Objectives:** To assess the performance of current risk stratification tools to predict mortality in SSc-PAH.

**Methods:** We included patients from the EUSTAR registry who were diagnosed with SSc-PAH between 2001-2022 (Project Number: CP122). PAH was defined according to the new definition (mean pulmonary arterial pressure >20 mmHg, pulmonary artery wedge pressure ≤15 mmHg and pulmonary vascular resistance >2 WU). Patients with significant interstitial lung disease (ILD), defined as extent of ILD >20% on HRCT or FVC <70% in patients with missing quantification, were excluded. We applied four different approaches:

(i) The 2022 ESC/ERS 3-strata approach includes up to 17 parameters according to the risk table. [1] Each parameter was graded from 1 to 3 representing low to high risk, with the mean defining the risk category.

(ii) The 2022 ESC/ERS 4-strata approach includes (i), but divides the intermediate-risk group into two groups based on the mean score.

(iii) COMPERA 2.0 stratifies patients into four risk groups based on WHO-functional class (FC), six-minute walk distance (6MWD), and NT-proBNP.[2] Each parameter was graded from 1 to 4 representing low to high risk, with the mean defining the risk category.

(iv) REVEAL Lite 2 stratifies patients into three risk groups based on six weighted variables: WHO-FC, systolic blood pressure, heart rate, 6MWD, NT-proBNP, and APEX.[3] We analysed transplant-free survival and confirmed Cox regression adjusted for general and SSc-specific factors associated with worse outcome (age, male sex, DLCO, FVC, disease subtype and PAH treatment). Harrell’s C-index and ROC analysis with area under the curve (AUC) were applied to compare the performance and discriminating ability of the models with >0.7 considered as acceptable.

**Results:** Of 955 patients who had right heart catheterization, 430 (45%) were diagnosed with SSc-PAH. Among these, 86% were females, mean age was 85 years, and 82% had limited cutaneous SSc. Over median 40 (Q1-Q3: 17-68) months follow-up, 172 died and 14 had lung transplants. The overall 1-, 3- and 5-year transplant-free survival was 91%, 77% and 60%, respectively. In univariable Cox regression only COMPERA 2.0 had acceptable predictive value with a C-index >0.7 (Table 1). In adjusted multivariable Cox regression, all the risk stratification approaches predicted mortality with increased HR at higher risk scores (Figure 1 A-D). All adjusted models were acceptable, but COMPERA 2.0 was the most accurate to predict mortality (C-index=0.78; AUC=0.74) (Table 1, Figure 1C). However, this model did not discriminate intermediate-low risk from low risk HR 1.39, 95% CI (0.59, 3.25), p=0.45. The models discriminating abilities were not significantly different (p=0.27).

**Table 1. Harrell’s C-index and AUC in the four approaches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Univariable analysis</th>
<th>Adjusted multivariable analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESC/ERS 3-strata</td>
<td>C-index</td>
<td>AUC (p=0.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.622</td>
<td>0.694</td>
<td>0.703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESC/ERS 4-strata</td>
<td>0.653</td>
<td>0.697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPERA 2.0</td>
<td>0.728</td>
<td>0.712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVEAL Lite 2</td>
<td>0.697</td>
<td>0.698</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. Forest plots of the multivariable cox regression models**

**Conclusion:** In SSc-PAH, we suggest that the application of risk stratification at time of PAH diagnosis should take SSc-specific variables into account. In particular, the COMPERA 2.0 risk stratification model performs best, does not require invasive measurements and uses parameters easily collected at each clinical visit, making it readily applicable in clinical practice. Importantly, this approach identifies patients at intermediate-high and high risk who need more aggressive management.

**References:**


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**INVESTIGATION OF SERUM MARKER LEVELS IN CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES DEVELOPING ILD**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis, Lungs

H. Didrik sen1, H. Fretheim1, H. Andersson1, S. Reiseter2, R. Gunnarsson1, E. Langballe1, T. Garen1, Ø. Midthvedt1, T. Ueland1, Ø. Molberg1, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold1, 4. Ø. M. Hoffmann-Vold1, 4. Oslo universitetssykehus HF; Rikshospitalet, Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; Martina Hansens Hospital, Rheumatology, Baerum, Norway; Oslo universitetssykehus HF; Rikshospitalet, Research Institute of Internal Medicine, Oslo, Norway; University Hospital of Zürich, Rheumatology, Zürich, Switzerland

**Background:** Connective tissue disease (CTD) is an umbrella term for a heterogenous group of autoimmune diseases affecting the connective tissue in various organs. One of the most severe complications associated with CTDs is interstitial lung disease (ILD), which results in significant morbidity and mortality. A subset of CTD-ILD patients shows progressive disease, which is associated with an even worse prognosis. Previous studies have identified dysregulations of biomarkers including CX3CL1, CCL2, CCL17 and CCL18 in systemic sclerosis (SSc) showing an association with ILD [1-4]. For other CTD-ILD it is less clear, which biomarkers are associated with ILD progression and few studies have assessed circulating biomarkers across CTD-ILDs.

**Objectives:** To investigate circulating biomarkers in CTD-ILD and in progressive CTD-ILD patients.

**Methods:** Serum samples from SSc (n=292), primary sjogrens syndrome (pSS) (n=132), mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD) (n=162), anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS) (n=292), and healthy controls (HC) (n=100) collected. Oslo University Hospital (OUH) were analyzed by ELISA for selected biomarkers (CX3CL1, CCL2, CCL17, CCL18). SSc samples were used as the reference to compare with mean levels of serum markers in pSS, ASS and MCTD. ILD was diagnosed on high resolution computed tomography (HRCT). Forced vital capacity (FVC) was available at baseline and 12 +/- 3 months. ILD progression defined as an absolute FVC%-predicted decline of >10% was assessed. Descriptive statistics and logistic regression with odds ratio (OR) and 95%CI were performed.

**Results:** Serum levels of CX3CL1 and CCL18 were significantly higher in all the CTDs (p<0.001) compared to HC. CCL2 and CCL17 levels were significantly higher in SSc (p<0.001 and p<0.001, ASS (p=0.001 and p=0.004) and MCTD (p<0.001 and p<0.001) compared to HC, but not in pSS (p=0.230 and p=0.087). Of all CTD entities, patients with ILD (p=0.011) of these patients 80% (30%) showed ILD progression, where data were obtained for SSc, pSS and ASS (Table 1). All the markers were significantly higher in patients with ILD compared to no ILD in SSc and pSS, while only CCL17 was significantly higher in ASS-ILD and none in MCTD-ILD. When using SSc-ILD as reference disease, serum levels of CX3CL1 were significantly higher in pSS-ILD (p<0.001) and CCL18 was significantly lower in MCTD-ILD (p<0.001). Serum levels of CCL2 and CCL17 did not significantly differ between SSc-ILD and the other CTD-ILDs (Figure 1A). From logistic regression analysis of the patient with ILD progression, CCL18 (OR: 1.19, 95%CI, p=0.001) were the only marker significantly associated with ILD progression. When adjusting for CTD as reference disease, the only marker significantly associated with ILD progression was also here CCL18 (OR: 1.19, 95%CI, p<0.001) (Figure 1B).

**Conclusion:** In this large CTD cohort, we show that CCL2 and CCL17 are increased across all CTD-ILD patients with ILD compared to no ILD, which could help us to identify patients with ILD. ILD progression was only associated with CCL18, which was driven by the SSc-ILD subpopulation.

**Table 1. Clinical and demographic data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SSc (n=292)</th>
<th>pSS (n=132)</th>
<th>ASS (n=72)</th>
<th>MCTD (n=162)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Females, no (%)</td>
<td>239 (61)</td>
<td>227 (67)</td>
<td>56 (77)</td>
<td>67 (41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at disease onset, yrs (SD)</td>
<td>48 (15.4)</td>
<td>49 (12.8)</td>
<td>51 (15.7)</td>
<td>47 (13.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC baseline, % (SD)</td>
<td>95 (20.3)</td>
<td>99 (12.7)</td>
<td>85 (21.8)</td>
<td>92 (18.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD no (%)</td>
<td>140 (47.5)</td>
<td>16 (12.1)</td>
<td>60 (83.3)</td>
<td>51 (31.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD progression, n (%)</td>
<td>74 (26)</td>
<td>3 (8)</td>
<td>3 (8)</td>
<td>3 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean CCL18, ng/ml</td>
<td>49.3 (10.8)</td>
<td>47.4 (12.5)</td>
<td>50.5 (11.2)</td>
<td>43.8 (9.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean CCL2, ng/ml</td>
<td>0.6 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.2)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean CCL17, ng/ml</td>
<td>0.6 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.3)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean CX3CL1, mg/l</td>
<td>1.9 (2.5)</td>
<td>3.2 (6.3)</td>
<td>2.0 (2.9)</td>
<td>3.4 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** (A) Mean levels of markers in SSc-ILD, pSS-ILD, ASS-ILD and MCTD-ILD, and (B) association of circulating markers with ILD progression using SSc-ILD as the reference.
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ASSOCIATION OF LUNG IMAGING PATTERN WITH PROGNOSIS AND IMMunosUPPRESSION RESPONSE IN CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Imaging, Lungs

B. Zheng1, D. C. Marinescu2, C. Hauge3, N. Muller4, D. Murphy4, A. Chung5, J. Wright5, A. Al-Arnawood6, A. M. Bilawich7, P. Bourguin7, G. Cox8, C. Durand9, T. Elliot10, J. Ellis10, J. Fisher11, D. Fladeland12, A. Grant-Orser13, G. Goobie13, Z. Guenther14, E. Haider14, N. Hambly15, J. Huynh15, K. Johannson16, G. Karjala17, N. Khalil12, M. Kolb12, J. Leipsic3, S. Lok17, S. Macisaac18, M. Mcinnis19, H. Manganas20, V. Marcoux21, J. Mayo22, J. Morisset22, C. Scallan23, T. Sedlic3, S. Shaptera24, K. Sun25, V. Tan26, A. Wong27, I. Ryerson28, McGill University. 29University of British Columbia, Medicine, Vancouver, Canada; 30The University of British Columbia, Radiology, Vancouver, Canada; 31Saint James Hospital, Radiology, Dublin, Ireland; 32The University of British Columbia, Pathology, Vancouver, Canada; 33McMaster University, Radiology, Hamilton, Canada; 34University of Montreal, Radiology, Montréal, Canada; 35McMaster University, Medicine, Hamilton, Canada; 36University of Calgary, Radiology, Calgary, Canada; 37University of Toronto, Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 38University of Saskatchewan, Radiology, Saskatoon, Canada; 39University of Calgary, Medicine, Calgary, Canada; 40University of Saskatchewan, Medicine, Saskatoon, Canada; 41University of Toronto, Medical Imaging, Toronto, Canada

Background: Prognosis in connective tissue disease associated interstitial lung disease (CTD-ILD) is influenced by the underlying diagnosis and chest imaging pattern. Usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP), non-specific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP), and fibrotic hypersensitivity pneumonitis (fHP) patterns can be found across all CTD-ILD subtypes although their impact on disease evolution and treatment response is unclear.

Objectives: Our goal was to examine the association of lung imaging pattern with CTD-ILD progression, mortality, and immunosuppression response.

Methods: 615 patients with CTD-ILD enrolled in the Canadian Registry for Pulmonary Fibrosis had high-resolution chest computed tomography (HRCT) from their first ILD clinic visit reviewed in standardized multidisciplinary pulmonary discussion. All CTD-ILD diagnoses were rheumatologist-confirmed. Experienced chest radiologists blinded to clinical data categorized each case into five groups: UIP, NSIP, organizing pneumonia (OP), fHP, and other patterns. Longitudinal percent-predicted forced vital capacity (FVC) and transplant-free survival were compared between imaging groups using linear mixed effects models with fixed effects, outcomes and immunosuppression response compared to UIP in the overall CTD-ILD group. The findings of fHP associated with worse survival compared to UIP in CTD-ILD and in the RA-ILD are novel. These findings need to be further confirmed in disease specific cohorts and randomized trials of immunosuppression in patients with CTD-ILD.

Table 1. Association between imaging patterns with FVC decline, mortality, and immunosuppression response in CTD-ILD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imaging pattern</th>
<th>Difference in the annualized rate of FVC change between imaging patterns (95%CI)</th>
<th>Mortality</th>
<th>Difference in the annualized rate of FVC change Pre-vs-Post-Treatment (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSIP</td>
<td>0.10 (0.21, 0.19)</td>
<td>0.93 (0.85, 1.02)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP</td>
<td>0.18 (0.05, 0.57)</td>
<td>1.26 (1.10, 1.43)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fHP</td>
<td>0.16 (0.04, 0.38)</td>
<td>1.21 (1.03, 1.41)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.09 (0.02, 0.16)</td>
<td>1.21 (1.03, 1.41)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All models were adjusted for age, sex, smoking pack-years, and baseline FVC. UIP= usual interstitial pneumonia, NSIP= nonspecific interstitial pneumonia, OP= organizing pneumonia, fHP= fibrotic hypersensitivity pneumonitis. Other= other imaging patterns including lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, desquamative interstitial pneumonia, pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis, unclassifiable

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SURVIVAL ANALYSIS IN CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE COMPARED TO IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS: MULTICENTRE ITALIAN STUDY

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Lungs, Myositis

M. Forraro1, F. Cacciapaglia1, M. Giotta2, G. Zanfranondo2, M. G. Lazzaroni3, A. Bartolotti4, E. Pedretti4, G. Sambataro5, M. Orlandi5, C. C. De Pace6, S. Coletta1, D. Lacedonia1, C. Vanchieri1, P. Airo7, L. Cavagna8, S. Guiducci9, F. Iannone10, R. Rheumatology Unit, Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine and Ionian Area, Bari, Italy; 11Interdisciplinary Department of Medicine, School of Specialization in Medical Statistics and Biometry, Bari, Italy; 12IRCCS Poliomico S. Matteo Foundation, University of Pavia, Department of Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy; 13Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Spedali Civili and University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy; 14Regional Referral Centre for Rare Lung Disease, A.O.U. Policlinico G.Rodolico-San Marco, University of Catania, and Arteomea asl, Outpatient Clinic of Rheumatology, Mascali, Catania, Italy; 15Rheumatology Unit, University of Catania, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Firenze, Italy; 16Respiratory Medicine Unit, COVC-19 Center, University Hospital“Policlinico Riuniti”; Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Foggia, Foggia, Italy

Background: Intermittent lung disease (ILD) is a major cause of mortality in patients with connective tissue diseases (CTDs). Previous studies have shown a worse survival in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) (1-2), however, these studies were mainly focused on patients with rheumatoid arthritis, whereas few data are available for patients with other CTDs.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the 5-year survival in an Italian multicenter cohort of ILD patients suffering from systemic sclerosis (SSc), dermatomyositis (DM), and anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS) compared to IPF patients.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Methods: Demographic and clinical data of patients with SSc, DM and ASS were retrospectively recorded from January 2015 for the purpose of this study. The baseline time was a diagnosis of ILD confirmed by computed tomography (CT) scan of the chest. The IFP cohort was used as control group. Progressive lung disease was defined when the patient presented within 24 months after the diagnosis of ILD with at least one of these characteristics: a) a relative decline in FVC of at least 10% of expected value; b) a relative decline in FVC from 5% to less than 10% of the expected value and a worsening of respiratory symptoms or an increase in the extent of lung fibrosis on high-resolution CT scan; c) a worsening of respiratory symptoms and an increase in the extent of lung fibrosis on high-resolution CT scan. All data were reported and analyzed with standard descriptive statistics, as appropriate. The 5-year survival was assessed with the Kaplan-Meier method; univariate and multivariate Cox-regression models were built to look for possible risk factors. Data were analyzed with SAS/STAT Statistics version 8.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).

Results: The overall cohort included 177 CTD-ILD patients (99 SSc, 25 DM, 53 ASS) and 153 IPF patients. At ILD diagnosis, as expected, CTD patients were younger [median age (IQR): IFP: 68 (63-73) years, SSc 58 (46-66) years, DM 54 (51-65) years and ASS: 59 (60-67) years; p <0.001 vs IPF] and predominantly female: [IFP: 23%, SSc 83.5%, DM 81% and ASS 65%; p <0.001 vs IPF]. Usual interstitial pneumonia was observed in a low number of CTD patients, evidenced in 11 (11.5%) SSc, 7 (12.9%) ASS and 4 (16.6%) DM patients. At ILD diagnosis, the median (IQR) value of forced vital capacity (FVC) was similar between IFP [75% (64-91)], DM [79% (60-90)] and ASS [77.5% (84-93)], while was significantly higher in SSc patients [94% (79-106), p <0.001 vs IPF]. At baseline, all CTDs showed a higher mean (SD) value of diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide (DLCO%) [SSc: 63% (18), DM: 62% (23), ASS: 63% (22)] than IFP [50% (15); p <0.001]. During follow-up, 10 (9.7%) patients with SSc, 4 (16%) with DM and 3 (8%) with ASS showed a progressive subset of ILD. CTDs showed better 5-year survival compared to IFP (log rank: p =0.001) (Figure 1). Multivariate Cox analysis highlighted that male gender (HR: 2.29, 95% CI 1.25-4.18), age at diagnosis (HR: 2.04 L (95% CI 0.99-3.24 L) to 2.23 L (95% CI 0.83-3.35 L) at month 12 (p =0.039) before decreasing to 1.89L (95% CI 1.00-3.24 L) at month 36 (p =0.37) (Figure 1D). The absolute change from baseline of DLCO did not significantly differ according to B cell depletion. In addition, the percentage of patients with any FVC improvement was higher in the subset of patients who maintained complete B cell depletion at 1 year (69/67 vs 4/8, 50%) and at the last RTX infusion (89/89% vs 4/8, 50%). Conversely, median DLCO did not significantly differ according to BC depletion.

Conclusion: These results highlight the importance of obtaining and maintaining BC depletion to gain clinically relevant efficacy of RTX in CTD-ILD. CD19 measurement at each infusion is a relevant tool to monitor RTX efficacy in daily practice.
Background: In the randomised placebo-controlled SENSCIS trial in patients with SSc-ILD, nintedanib reduced the rate of decline in forced vital capacity (FVC) (mL/year) over 52 weeks by 44%, with adverse events that were manageable for most patients. SENSCIS-ON is an open-label extension study investigating adverse events and decline in FVC in patients with SSc-ILD treated with nintedanib over the longer term.

Objectives: To assess adverse events and decline in FVC in patients treated with open-label nintedanib over 148 weeks of SENSCIS-ON.

Methods: In the SENSCIS trial, patients received nintedanib or placebo until the last patient reached week 52 but for ≤100 weeks. Patients with SSc-ILD who completed SENSCIS or a drug–drug interaction (DDI) study of nintedanib and oral contraceptive in which female patients with SSc-ILD received nintedanib for ≥14 days to approximately 28 days were eligible to enter SENSCIS-ON. We analysed adverse events and changes from baseline in FVC (mL) over 148 weeks in patients who received nintedanib in SENSCIS and continued nintedanib in SENSCIS-ON (“continued nintedanib” group) and in patients who received placebo in SENSCIS or who received nintedanib for ≤28 days in the DDI study (“initiated nintedanib” group). Analyses were descriptive. Analyses of FVC were based on observed data available at the respective time-point.

Results: The continued nintedanib group comprised 197 patients and the initiated nintedanib group comprised 247 patients (231 from SENSCIS, 16 from the DDI study). In these groups, respectively, mean (SD) FVC at the start of SENSCIS-ON was 2379 (754) mL and 70.4 (18.1)% predicted and 2443 (814) mL and 70.8 (17.3)% predicted. In total, 126 (64.0%) and 125 (50.6%) patients in the continued nintedanib and initiated nintedanib groups, respectively, were still receiving nintedanib at week 148 of SENSCIS-ON. Diarrhoea was the most frequent adverse event (Table 1). Serious adverse events were reported in 76 (38.6%) patients in the continued nintedanib group and 95 (38.5%) patients in the initiated nintedanib group. Among patients who continued nintedanib and initiated nintedanib, respectively, S3 (26.9%) and 148 (59.9%) had ≥1 dose reduction and 72 (36.5%) and 131 (53.0%) had ≥1 treatment interruption. Adverse events led to discontinuation of nintedanib in 29 (14.7%) patients in the continued nintedanib group and 72 (29.1%) patients in the initiated nintedanib group. Mean (SE) changes in FVC from baseline to week 148 of SENSCIS-ON were −189.1 (29.5) mL in the continued nintedanib group and −126.4 (26.4) mL in the initiated nintedanib group (Figure 1).

Conclusion: The safety profile of nintedanib over 148 weeks of SENSCIS-ON was consistent with that reported in SENSCIS, characterized mainly by gastrointestinal events that were manageable for most patients. These results support the potential use of nintedanib in the long-term treatment of patients with SSc-ILD.

Table 1. Most frequent adverse events over 148 weeks in SENSCIS-ON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse Event</th>
<th>Continued nintedanib (n=197)</th>
<th>Initiated nintedanib (n=247)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
<td>152 (77.2)</td>
<td>183 (74.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>43 (21.8)</td>
<td>73 (29.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin ulcer</td>
<td>48 (24.4)</td>
<td>54 (21.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vomiting</td>
<td>38 (19.3)</td>
<td>59 (23.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver test abnormalities</td>
<td>31 (15.7)</td>
<td>63 (25.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper respiratory tract infection</td>
<td>39 (19.8)</td>
<td>33 (13.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper respiratory tract infection</td>
<td>31 (15.7)</td>
<td>40 (16.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>36 (18.3)</td>
<td>33 (13.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthralgia</td>
<td>34 (17.3)</td>
<td>32 (13.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight decreased</td>
<td>23 (11.7)</td>
<td>33 (13.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain</td>
<td>10 (5.1)</td>
<td>36 (14.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal oesophageal reflux disease</td>
<td>24 (12.2)</td>
<td>15 (6.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are n (%) of patients with ≥1 such event reported over 148 weeks (or until 7 days after last trial drug intake for patients who discontinued trial drug before week 148). Adverse events were coded according to preferred terms in the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (MedDRA) except for liver test abnormalities, which were based on the standardised MedDRA query “liver related investigations, signs and symptoms” (broad definition). Events reported in >12% of patients in either group are shown.

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Figure 1. Change in FVC (mL) over 148 weeks in SENSCIS-ON

Figure 1. Change in FVC (mL) over 148 weeks in SENSCIS-ON
is common in SSc patients, ranging from 36% to 65%. However, no study has unveiled the risk of new-onset depression in SSc patients.

Objectives: The present study was conducted to determine whether SSc is an independent risk factor for the development of new-onset depression. To determine whether the incidence rate (IR) of new-onset depression in SSc patients is higher than in normal subjects, we used data from a nationwide health care database.

Methods: We selected subjects from National Health Insurance System database who were diagnosed with SSc between 2010 and 2016. Subjects who did not get a general health checkup in the previous 2 years, who were diagnosed with depression before their SSc diagnosis, who were less than 20 years old, or who had missing data were excluded. To minimize the possibility of reverse causality, an analysis with a 1-year lag was performed. Kaplan-Meier analysis was conducted to assess the incidence of new-onset depression, and Cox proportional hazards regression was used to calculate adjusted and unadjusted hazard ratio (HR) and 95% CIs. HR for new-onset depression was adjusted for age, sex, smoking, drinking, physical activity, body mass index (BMI), income, diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia.

Results: A total of 1,063 SSc patients (female 82.4%) and 3,189 age-, sex-matched non-SSc controls with mean (SD) age of 53.1 (10.6) years were included in the analysis. During follow-up periods after 1 year of lag time, the cumulative incidence of new-onset depression was significantly higher in patients with SSc vs controls (38.7 vs. 27.7/1000 person-years). After adjusting for covariates (age, sex, smoking, drinking, physical activity, BMI, income, diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia), the presence of SSc was associated with 38.1% increased risk of new-onset depression (HR 1.381; 95% CI, 1.128-1.691), compared with controls. SSc disease itself was determined as an independent risk factor for new-onset depression in subjects with younger age (age < 65 years; HR 1.41; 95% CI 1.122-1.773), female gender (HR 1.415; 95% CI 1.139-1.759), and absence of regular exercise (HR 1.433; 95% CI 1.143-1.798), after adjusting for covariates. Interestingly, the risk of new-onset depression after SSc diagnosis was found to be relatively higher in the low-income group (HR 1.667; 95% CI 1.121-2.479 vs HR 1.303; 95% CI 1.028-1.650).

Conclusion: The present study suggests that the SSc diagnosis is associated with a significantly increased cumulative incidence and risk of new-onset depression. This association is more pronounced in female gender, younger age group, and those who do not exercise regularly. Regular assessment of the occurrence of depressive symptoms should be more emphasized in the patients with SSc after diagnosis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0128 TEN-YEAR ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY AND RISK FACTORS FOR DEATH IN A LARGE PROSPECTIVE REGISTRY COHORT OF IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOSITIS IN CHINA

Keywords: Myositis, Registries, Lungs

L. Peng1, P. Yin2, Y. Wang3, M. Li1, S. Zhou1, C. Wu1, J. L. Zhao1, D. Xu1, M. Li1, Q. Wang1, X. Zeng1. 1Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Peking Union Medical College &Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Department of Rheumatology, Beijing, China; 2Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic and Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing, China; 3Chinese Academy of Medical Science and Peking Union Medical College, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (YW), Institute of Basic Medical Science, Beijing, China

Background: Mortality of idiopathic inflammatory myositis (IMM) is high, and some studies explored the outcome in IMM patients with different clinical and serologic phenotypes[1]. However, few studies focused on the prognosis of the entire IMM patients, and compared their prognostic factors.

Objectives: To clarify the mortality and independent risk factors related to death of IMM patients in a large multi-center prospective registry cohort in China.

Methods: Patients registered before 31st December 2021 were included in our analysis. The baseline information at enrollment including demographics, comorbidities, clinical manifestations, immune indices, laboratory data was summarized. Death information was retrieved from our database and supplemented by National death surveillance system in China. Kaplan-Meier Curves as well as cumulative survival at 1, 3, 5 and 10 years was depicted, and Log-rank test was used to compare the mortality between different subgroups. Univariable Cox hazards regression analysis was used to identify potential risk factors for death, and factors with P value <0.05 were further analyzed using multivariable Cox regression model.

Results: 4695 IMM cases were finally enrolled in our analysis, including 3012 dermatomyositis (DM: 64.2%), 616 polymyositis (PM: 13.1%), 951 antisynthetase syndrome (ASS; 20.2%), and 116 immune-mediated necrotising myopathy (IMNM; 2.5%). 72.8% were female. The median (interquartile range) follow-up time since disease onset was 33 (15-48) months, and the median interval in months between disease onset and diagnosis.279 cases were complicated with malignancy (6.3%), 550 deaths in total were recorded. The cumulative survival for the entire IMM patients at 1, 3, 5 and 10 years were 92.3%, 88.2%, 85.6%, and 79.7% (Figure 1a). A significant difference (P<0.05) in survival between different subgroups confirmed by log-rank test was observed (Figure 1b). Mortality (126 cases, 22.9%) was the most frequent cause of deaths (Figure 1c), followed by cardiovascular diseases (98 cases, 17.8%), respiratory failure due to ILD (98 cases, 17.8%) and infections (98 cases, 17.8%), 51 myocardial infarctions/ ischemic heart diseases caused the most death cases in the cardiovascular diseases group. Notably, most of infective cases were lung infections (82 cases). 5 (0.9%) suicides were also worth the whistle. Multivariable Cox hazard ratio proportional hazards model confirmed malignancy (HR=4.95, 95% CI 4.05-6.07), male (HR=1.58, 95% CI 1.33-1.86), ILD (HR=1.38, 95% CI 1.12-1.71), skin ulceration (HR=1.60, 95% CI 1.22-2.10), anti-Jo-1 antibody (HR=0.54, 95% CI 0.39-0.75), anti-MDA-5 antibody (HR=1.93, 95% CI 1.46-2.56), and anti-Ro 52 antibody (HR=1.29, 95% CI 1.05-1.58) as independent risk factors for mortality after adjusting for age (Figure 1d).

Conclusion: The high mortality rates of IMM patients in China gave us an alert about their situation. As expected, malignancy was the biggest causes of death, again reminding us of importance for screening malignancy in IMM patients. The management of coronary artery diseases was also crucial considering nearly 1/10 deaths were caused by myocardial infarctions/ ischemic heart diseases. High suicide rates revealed bad psychological states of IMM. Male patients had a significantly higher risk compared to female patients. ILD was a strong independent risk factor and also a major cause of death in IMM, emphasizing the center place of ILD in IMM management. Intensive immunosuppressive treatment and monitoring might be applied in these patients. Anti-MDA-5 antibody and anti-Ro52 antibody predicted worse prognosis, while anti-Jo-1 antibody indicated a better one.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0129 DIFFERENTIALLY EXPRESSED GENES (DEGS) IN PATIENTS WITH DERMATOMYOSITIS AND JUVENILE DERMATOMYOSITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, -omics, Myositis

R. Martinez1, C. Elizondo Solís2, A. Montoya Rosales3, M. Salinas Carmona1, N. Macias-Segura1, 1Servicio y Departamento de Immunología, Service and Department of Immunology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2UANL - CIDICS, Immunomodulators Laboratory, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Dermatomyositis (DM) and Juvenile Dermatomyositis (JDM) are englobed in the spectrum of inflammatory myopathies. These are autoimmune
diseases that cause heliotropic rash in most patients, which then develop proximal muscles weakness and skin lesions [1]. Key findings in patients with these pathologies include anti-Mi2, anti-Jo1, and anti-P155/P140 antibodies in plasma, as well as B-cells and plasma cells infiltrates with an upregulated Type I Interferon (IFN) signature in muscle biopsies [2]. However, the pathophysiology underlying this condition has not been fully comprehended; even less, diagnostic biomarkers that could identify early stages of the disease.

Objectives: We aimed to identify overlapped genes across datasets of gene expression from patients with DM and JDM doing an integrative bioinformatics analysis.

Methods: A search strategy was designed in the Gene Expression Omnibus platform to identify datasets of gene expression profiling by array experiments in patients with DM and JDM. The inclusion criteria were: 1) Assays performed in humans, 2) Inclusion of healthy controls in the datasets, and 3) Data analysis with GEO2R. The exclusion criteria were 1) Incomplete information of the genes, and 2) Gene expression by RNaseq. DEGs were selected when p < 0.05 and fold change > 2 or < -2. Functional enrichment analysis was realized with free access platforms GeneMania and DAVID with the significant overlapped genes. A protein-protein interaction (PPI) analysis was constructed with STRING analysis.

Results: 102 overlapped DEGs from DM and 13 overlapped DEGs from JDM were found within their datasets. Out of those DEGs, 5 were shared between DM and JDM. Prediction analysis yielded 20 co-expressed genes. DAVID analysis showed the top 3 biological processes in which the 25 genes are involved, most of them belonging to the Type I IFN signature (Table 1). Topological analysis yielded 10 genes with the strongest interactions between them, and the transcription factor listed as possible therapeutic target was STAT1.

Table 1. DAVID analysis shows the processes involving those genes, most of them belonging to the Interferon Signature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Gene Count</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense response to virus</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.9E-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to virus</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.8E-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative regulation of the viral genome</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9.1E-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: We aimed to identify DEGs that participate in the pathophysiology of DM and JDM. Those genes mostly participate in responses to viral infections, in which the type I IFN signature is present. These genes may serve in the future as possible biomarkers for early diagnosis. An in vivo analysis in patients with these diseases is needed to validate these findings. Janus Kinase Inhibitors (Jakinibs) have been used to treat JDM patients, showing positive results [3]. We suggest more clinical trials to test the effectiveness and tolerability of Jakinibs to treat these conditions.

References:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0130 INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY IS ASSOCIATED WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cognitive Function, Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities

F. Ortiz-Márquez1, A. García Studer1, I. Montañez-Marín2, T. Ramirez-García2, P. Cabezudo-García2, N. Mena-Vázquez2, 1. Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga (IBIMA)-Plataforma Bionand, Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga (HRUM), Unidad de Gestión Clínica de Reumatología, Málaga, Spain; 2. Universidad de Málaga, Departamento de Medicina, Málaga, Spain; 3. Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga (IBIMA)-Plataforma Bionand, Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga (HRUM), Servicio de Neurología, Unidad de Gestión Clínica de Neurociencias, Málaga, Spain

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) present cognitive impairment at a frequency of 38% to 71%.

Objectives: To study whether there is an association between high sustained inflammatory activity and cognitive impairment in RA patients.

Methods: Design and protocol: controlled cross-sectional observational study of a prospective cohort of patients with RA. Cases: patients with RA from a prospective cohort with onset >16 years and who were selected to start biologic treatment for moderate-high inflammatory activity. Controls: subjects without inflammatory disease, matched for sex and age with cases. All participants performed the same neuropsychological battery. Variables: the main variable was cognitive impairment defined by a score of < 26 points in the Montreal Cognitive Assessment questionnaire (MoCA test). As secondary variables we included the score in each of the items of the MoCA test separately; the direct and inverse digits span; the STROOP test for the assessment of processing speed (STROOP-P), selective attention (STROOP-C) and inhibition (STROOP-PC); and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). Other variables included average inflammatory activity by DAS28-ESR since diagnosis, epidemiological characteristics, comorbidities, and treatments.

Results: Sixty-two subjects were included. The baseline characteristics are shown in Table 1. RA patients presented a higher frequency of cognitive impairment than controls (64.5% vs. 38.7%; p=0.042), as well as lower mean (SD) values on the MoCA test (23.1 [3.8] vs. 25.1 [3.8]; p=0.046). Fewer RA patients compared to controls achieved the memory item (22 [81.5] vs 30 [100.0]; p = 0.014), naming (24 [88.0] vs 30 [100.0]; p = 0.031), and presented lower mean (SD) values in attention (3.5 [1.5] vs 4.4 [1.4]; p = 0.039). Scores for all subtests are shown in Figure 1. Factors that were associated in multivariate analysis with cognitive impairment in the total sample were age (OR, 95% CI, 1.171 [1.068-1.284]; p=0.001), RA diagnosis (OR, 95% CI, 4.712 [1.069-12.772]; p=0.041) and university studies (OR, 95% CI, 0.089 [0.010-0.829]; p=0.034) (R2 = 0.405). The model in RA patients found association of cognitive impairment with age (OR, 95% CI, 1.284 [1.029-1.583]; p=0.030), and mean DAS28-ESR (OR, 95% CI, 1.704 [1.072-4.003]; p=0.048) (R2 = 0.380). Statistical analysis: descriptive analysis, bivariate analysis between patients and controls, as well as between patients with and without cognitive impairment; and two multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed to analyze the factors associated.

Conclusion: Patients with RA and high inflammatory activity more frequently presented cognitive impairment compared to the controls. The most affected domains were memory, naming and attention. Factors associated with cognitive impairment were age, educational level and mean DAS28-ESR.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of 31 RA patients and 31 controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>CONTROL</th>
<th>P-VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (87.1)</td>
<td>27 (87.1)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>57.3 (10.6)</td>
<td>56.3 (10.9)</td>
<td>0.670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic level</td>
<td>0.454</td>
<td>0.454</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic schooling, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (48.4)</td>
<td>14 (48.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-university higher education, n (%)</td>
<td>13 (41.9)</td>
<td>9 (29.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University studies, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (12.9)</td>
<td>7 (22.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis of RA, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>79.4 (312-1910)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diagnostic delay, median (RIC), months 8.0 (4.0-12.2)
Rheumatoid factor > 10 U/ml, n (%) 27 (87.0) 0 (0.0) <0.001
ACPA > 20 U/ml, n (%) 26 (83.0) 0 (0.0) 0.001
DAS28-ESR, mean (SD) 3.9 (0.8) 
HAQ, mean (SD) 1.1 (0.6) 
Methotrexate, n (%) 22 (71.0) 
Hydroxychloroquine, n (%) 5 (16.1) 
Leflunomide, n (%) 2 (6.5) 
Sulphasalazine, n (%) 2 (6.5) 
Cognitive impairment (<26 MoCA), n (%) 20 (64.5) 12 (38.7) 0.042
Depression (HADS>11), n (%) 5 (16.1) 1 (3.2) 0.086
Anxiety (HADS>11), n (%) 9 (29.0) 5 (16.1) 0.224

Table 1. Main general features of 18 patients with ANCA+ test diagnosed in 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>All cases</th>
<th>Related</th>
<th>Non-related</th>
<th>p*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean±SD</td>
<td>62±17</td>
<td>67±15.3</td>
<td>52±16.5</td>
<td>0.167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male/ Female n, (%)</td>
<td>10/8 (55.6)</td>
<td>9/4 (69.2%)</td>
<td>1/4(20)</td>
<td>0.067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCA-test specificity, n (%)</td>
<td>9 (50)</td>
<td>7 (53.8)</td>
<td>2 (40)</td>
<td>0.609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL), median [IQR]</td>
<td>2.4 [0.4-10.7]</td>
<td>3.8 [0.4-10.1]</td>
<td>1 [0.4-10.9]</td>
<td>0.802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/1st hours, median [IQR]</td>
<td>50 [25-104]</td>
<td>47 [25.3-71.8]</td>
<td>50 [25-120]</td>
<td>0.634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BVAS, median [IQR]</td>
<td>6.5 [4.2-8]</td>
<td>7 [4-8]</td>
<td>5 [5-8]</td>
<td>0.842</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p values according to Man Whitney test.

Abbreviations: ACPA: anti-citrullinated C-peptide antibodies; DAS28-ESR: 28-joint Disease Activity Score; ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate; HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0313

RELATION BETWEEN COVID-19 AND ANCA VASCULITIS. STUDY IN A SINGLE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Keywords: Vasculitis, Autoantibodies, COVID

F. Benavides-Villanueva1, V. Calvo-Rio1, J. Loricer1, J. Irure-Ventura2, M. Lopez-Hoyos2, R. Blanco1, 1Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 2Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Immunology, Santander, Spain

Background: Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA) associated vasculitis (AAV) is a small vessel vasculitis. Hallmarked by the presence of antibodies against antigens in cytoplasmic granules of neutrophils. Different microbiological agents and vaccines can trigger an AAV, including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2) infection and Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine.

Objective: To compare: a) proportion of positive ANCA (+ANCA) test in 2019 (COVID-19 pre-pandemic) vs 2021 (COVID-19 pandemic), b) clinical features and c) vasculitis activity between vasculitis related to COVID 19 vaccination vs non-related.

Methods: All ANCA tests performed in 2019 and 2021 in a referral hospital were reviewed. Additionally, we studied 18 +ANCA patients diagnosed in 2021 and accepted to participate in present study. The patients were divided in two groups: a) +ANCA after SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine (COVID-related) and +ANCA before COVID-19 vaccine (COVID-nonrelated). Diagnosis of underlying AAV was based against antigens in cytoplasmic granules of neutrophils. Different microbiological agents and vaccines can trigger an AAV, including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2) infection and Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine. ANCA-test was done by chemiluminescence assay using IO-FLASH (Inova, San Diego, CA) according to the instructions of the manufacturer.

Results: ANCA tests were positive in 14 of 1287 cases (1.1%) and in 32 of 1434 (2.2%) cases in 2019 and 2021, respectively (figure 1, the differences were statistically significant (p=0.020). The main features of 18+ANCA patients diagnosed in 2021 are summarized in table 1. COVID-19 related patients showed a median of 7 points on BVAS score compared of the median of 5 points on BVAS score on not related patients.

Conclusion: There seems to be an increase of +ANCA at the expense of anti-PR3 antibodies following the COVID-19 vaccine. In patients with +ANCA following vaccination there seems to be an increased disease activity according to BVAS score without reaching statistical significance.

REFERENCES:
What’s new in Paediatric RMDS?

POS0132 OUTCOMES FOLLOWING SWITCHING FROM ORIGINATOR TO BIOSIMILAR IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH JIA

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Epidemiology

L. Kearsley-Fleet1, E. Baildam2, M. Beresford3,4, S. Douglas5, H. Foster6, T. Southwood1, K. Hyrich1,2, The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2The Alexandra Hospital, Paediatric Rheumatology, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Paediatric Rheumatology, Liverpool, United Kingdom; 4University of Liverpool, Institute of Life Course and Medical Specialties, Liverpool, United Kingdom; 5Scottish Network for Arthritis in Children, SNAo, Edinburgh, United Kingdom; 6Newcastle University, Population and Health Institute, Newcastle, United Kingdom; 7University of Birmingham, Institute of Child Health, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 8Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, 8National Institute of Health Research Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom

**Background:** There are many biosimilar products available to use in children and young people with JIA. Due to competitive pricing, patients are being switched from biologic originator to biosimilar (non-medical switch).

**Objectives:** This analysis aims to describe characteristics of, and outcomes, following TNF-inhibitor originator to biosimilar switch in JIA.

**Methods:** All patients in the UK JIA Biologics Register switching from an originator to a biosimilar of the same product were identified. Patient characteristics are presented, including time on originator prior to switch. Patients were followed until their final follow-up form was returned. For those with >1 year of follow-up post-switch, treatment persistence and reasons for stopping are described.

**Results:** As of 24-Nov-2022, 211 children and young people had switched from originator to biosimilar: 132 adalimumab, 55 etanercept, and 24 infliximab (table 1). Switching was seen in all ILAR categories. Patients were predominantly female (64%), median age at JIA diagnosis six years, 11 years at originator start, 14 years at biosimilar start, median time on originator 2.2 years. Most patients had started originator as their first biologic (73%) and most started biosimilar with no significant treatment gaps. Six patients reported >1 year gap between originator to biosimilar (non-medical switch).

**Stop Reason:**
- Remission 11/61 (18%)
- Other/Missing 17/61 (28%)
- Adverse Event 20/61 (33%)
- Ineffectiveness 13/61 (21%)

**Conclusion:** Many children with JIA have now been switched from TNF-inhibitor originator to biosimilar product, with the majority still receiving their biosimilar after one year. Switching back to originator was uncommon, 12% overall after one year, suggesting good tolerance of non-medical switching in this patient population.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Lianne Kearsley-Fleet: None declared, Eileen Baildam: None declared, Michael Beresford: None declared, Sharon Douglas: None declared, Helen Foster: None declared, Taunton Southwood: None declared, Kimmie Hyrich Speakers bureau: Non-personal speaker’s fees from Abbvie, all unrelated to this abstract., Grant/research support from: Grant income from BMS, UCB, and Pfizer, all unrelated to this abstract, and is supported by the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.667

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POS0133 TRADITIONAL LABORATORY PARAMETERS AND NEW BIOMARKERS IN MACROPHAGE ACTIVATION SYNDROME (MAS) AND SECONDARY HEMOPHAGOCYTIC LYMPHOHISTIOCYTOSIS (sHLH)

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Cytokines and chemokines, Inmate immunity

A. De Matteis1, D. Pires Marafon1, I. Caiello1, M. Pardeo1, G. Marucci1, E. Sacco1, F. Minoia2, F. Licciardi3, A. Minaici4, I. Maccora5, M.C. Maggio6, G. Prencipe6, F. De Benedetti2, G. Broccoli1, 1IRCCS Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù; Division of Rheumatology, ERN-RITA center, Roma, Italy; 2Fondazione IRCCS Ca’ Grande Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Pediatric Rheumatology, Milano, Italy; 3Regina Margherita Children’s Hospital, Department of Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine, University of Turin, Torino, Italy; 4S. Orsola-Malpighi Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy; 5Meyer Children’s University Hospital, Pediatric Rheumatology Unit, Firenze, Italy; 6University of Palermo, University Department Pro.Sa.M.I.”G. D’Alessandro”; Palermo, Italy

**Background:** Macrophage Activation Syndrome (MAS) and Secondary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (sHLH) are hyperinflammatory conditions, in which IFNγ plays a pivotal role. Prompt recognition and early treatment are essential to improve the outcome and the mortality rate.

**Objectives:** This is a retrospective multicenter study. We correlated traditional laboratory parameters of hyperinflammation with IL-18 and IFN-γ related biomarkers. We have also evaluated the diagnostic and prognostic role of IL-18, CXCL9, CXCL10 and neopterin in patients with MAS and sHLH.

**Methods:** One hundred-six patients from 6 Italian centers were enrolled: 41 with sHLH, 41 with MAS in the context of sJIA, and 24 with sJIA without MAS. The samples were collected at three different time points: active disease (T0), 7-10 days from starting therapy (T1) and in clinical inactive disease on medication (from 3 to 9 months from onset) (T2). Serum levels of IL-18 and of the IFN-γ related biomarkers (CXCL9, CXCL10, Neopterin) were measured by ELISA.

**Results:** A total of 378 samples were collected. Laboratory features at T0 are detailed in table 1. Using the 2016 classification criteria for MAS, we can confirm that platelet count is a specific parameter, only 2 patients with sJIA had a value <181x10^9/liter. Instead ferritin is a sensitive parameter, 94.4% of patients with sJIA had a value >200 ng/ml.
MAS had ferritin >684 mg/mL. Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) values were statistically higher in MAS and shHLH compared to sJIA. ROC curve of LDH values in MAS showed a statistically significant area under the curve (AUC = 78.2%, p-value < 0.0001). A cut-off of 683 U/L had a sensitivity of 73.6% and a specificity of 70.3%. IL-18, CXCL9, CXCL10 and neopterin levels in T0 were significantly higher in MAS and shHLH compared to sJIA. In MAS, IL-18 levels were significantly higher compared to shHLH (p < 0.0001). The ROC curves performed for each biomarker showed a statistically significant AUCs (p < 0.01), except for IL-18 in shHLH. We have identified a cut-off value for each biomarker in MAS (CXCL9 900 pg/ml, CXCL10 260 pg/ml, neopterin 5.0 ng/ml, IL-18 82996 pg/ml) and shHLH (CXCL9 2145 pg/ml, CXCL10 270 pg/ml, neopterin 7.1 ng/ml). In T0 neopterin correlates significantly with IL-18, CXCL9 and CXCL10 in MAS group but not in shHLH. We found also strong correlation between CXCL9 and CXCL10 only in MAS group.

**Table 1. Laboratory parameters in T0. Values are shown as median (IQR); p-value: Mann-Whitney U test.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biomarker</th>
<th>MAS (n=54)</th>
<th>shHLH (n=48)</th>
<th>sJIA (n=4)</th>
<th>MAS vs shHLH</th>
<th>sJIA vs shHLH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin (ng/ml)</td>
<td>4755 (1816-10988)</td>
<td>498 (30-2244)</td>
<td>717 (107-1314)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelet count (109/ℓ)</td>
<td>199 (107-314)</td>
<td>198 (148-263)</td>
<td>237 (222-433)</td>
<td>0.0003</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST (U/L)</td>
<td>965 (679-1369)</td>
<td>1255 (701-2748)</td>
<td>97 (47-184)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neopterin (ng/ml)</td>
<td>337 (222-433)</td>
<td>228 (137-331)</td>
<td>57 (482-692)</td>
<td>0.0003</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDH (UL)</td>
<td>2236 (1880-10988)</td>
<td>300 (300-1979)</td>
<td>300 (335-2313)</td>
<td>0.0018</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CXCL10 (pg/ml)</td>
<td>170338 (83277 -287152)</td>
<td>1255 (300-1979)</td>
<td>96 (9.6-35.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-18 (pg/ml)</td>
<td>4755 (1816-10988)</td>
<td>498 (30-2244)</td>
<td>717 (107-1314)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** The cut-off level for ferritin and high specificity and sensitivity, respectively, to diagnose MAS in the context of sJIA. Even if LDH is not included in 2016 classification criteria for MAS in sJIA, we have found that this parameter could help to discriminate MAS in sJIA, in addition to the others. Our results confirm that IL-18 and the IFN-β-related biomarkers are significantly higher in patients with MAS and shHLH and might be useful to diagnose MAS in shHLH. IL-18 could help to distinguish shHLH from MAS and shHLH from active sJIA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Arianna De Matteis: None declared, Denise Pires Maraton: None declared, Ivan Caicillo: None declared, Manuela Perdeo: None declared, Giulia Marucci: None declared, Emanuela Sacco: None declared, Francesca Minoia: None declared, Francesco Lilliardi: None declared, Angela Minaici: None declared, Ilaria Maccora: None declared, Maria Cristina Maggio: None declared, Giulia Marucci: None declared, Emanuela Sacco: None declared, Claudia Bracaglia Consultant of: Novartis, SOBI.

**Discordance:**


**University Medical Medical Centres (AUMC), University of Amsterdam, Department of Paediatric Immunology, Rheumatology and Infectious Diseases, Amsterdam, Netherlands;**

**Amsterdam Institute for Molecular and Life Sciences (AIMMS), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Division of Medical Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Amsterdam, Netherlands;**

**Sophia Children’s Hospital, Erasmus University Medical Center, Centre of Paediatric Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands;**

**Erasmus University Medical Centre, Department of Immunology, Rotterdam, Netherlands;**

**Zaans Medisch Centrum, Department of Paediatrics, Zaandam, Netherlands;**

**Amsterdam Rheumatism and Immunology Centre, Amsterdam University Medical Medical Centres (AUMC), University of Amsterdam, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, and Laboratory for Experimental Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands**

**Background:** In childhood-onset systemic lupus erythematosus (cSLE), patients have an increased risk of developing premature atherosclerosis [1]. The pathophysiological mechanisms for this atherosclerosis are not completely understood. Besides traditional risk factors, the endothelium plays a major role [2]. Dysregulated endothelial cell markers and proteins involved in endothelial function in SLE are not always correlated to disease activity, which could mean that the endothelium stays in a dysregulated state in SLE, even with low disease activity (Bergkamp et al., submitted). However, previous studies were mostly cross-sectional and only performed in adult SLE, while childhood-onset SLE (cSLE) has a longer and more severe course [3,4].

**Objectives:** To measure the serum levels of a panel of SLE-associated markers involved in endothelial cell (EC) function, in longitudinal samples of cSLE patients (active vs. low SLE disease activity index (SLEDAI)) and to compare them with healthy controls and assess their correlation with disease activity.

**Methods:** Blood samples and patient characteristics were collected from a multicentre longitudinal cSLE study and compared with age- and sex-matched healthy controls (HC). Disease activity was evaluated by SLEDAI-2K, with cut-offs for active (>4) versus low (<4) activity. Serum levels of CXCL12 (SDF-1), TWEAK, VEGF, CXCL10 (IP-10), ADAMTS13, Angiopoietin-2, Pentraxin-3, E-Selectin, Fibrinogen, CCL2, MCP-1, VCAM-1, ICAM-1, VWF-A2, and Gas6 were measured in two cSLE samples (t=1 and t=2) and in HC (1 sample). Patient groups and healthy controls were compared by t-tests and ANOVA, with significance for p < 0.05. Correlations between marker serum levels and SLEDAI were calculated with Pearson correlation.

**Results:** This study included 47 cSLE patients (30 treatment-naïve) and 42 healthy controls. Mean age at diagnosis in cSLE was 14 ± 2.33 years. Median SLEDAI at t=1 was 12 (IQR 6-18). Median SLEDAI t=2 was 2.5 (IQR 2-6). Time between two blood samples was 14.5 months (IQR 9-24 months). Median disease duration at t=1 was 0 months (IQR 0-18 months) and at t=2 16.5 months (IQR 10-53 months). Ethnic background in patients was 42.6% Caucasian, 36.2% African/Afro-Caribbean, 8.5% North-African/Middle East, 4.3% Asian and 8.5% mixed/other ethnic background. At t=1, serum levels of CXCL10 (p<0.01), TWEAK, IL-18, VEGF, CXCL10 (IP-10), ADAMTS13, Angiopoietin-2, Pentraxin-3, E-Selectin, Fibrinogen, CCL2, MCP-1, VCAM-1, ICAM-1, VWF-A2 and Gas6 were correlated in t=1 and t=2 (IQR 1 sample). Patient groups and healthy controls were compared by t-tests and ANOVA, with significance for p < 0.05. Correlations between marker serum levels and SLEDAI were calculated with Pearson correlation.

**Conclusions:** At different time points, serum levels of Angiopoietin-2 (t=1), VWF-A2 and Gas6 correlated with SLEDAI score. Angiopoietin-2 and VWF-A2 were upregulated in cSLE patients versus healthy controls (both p<0.001) but not related to disease activity (figure 1A). Levels of CXCL10, Angiopoietin-2, Pentraxin-3, E-Selectin, CCL2, VCAM-1 and VWF-A2 decreased over time, while serum levels of TWEAK increased over time (all p<0.05) (figure 1B).

**Conclusion:** At different time points, serum levels of Angiopoietin-2 (t=1), VWF-A2 (t=1) and TWEAK (t=2) were increased in cSLE patients, irrespective of disease activity. These markers represent activation of ECs with vascular inflammation, EC activation and a pro-angiogenic state. The endothelium in cSLE seems to stay in an active state, even in low disease activity (SLEDAI≤4). Our findings suggest that some EC markers might be useful as biomarkers for predicting the ongoing risk for endothelial dysfunction in cSLE.

**REFERENCES:**

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Genetics/Epigenetics

P. Morán Alvarez1, C. Passarelli2, V. Messina1, M. Pardeo1, E. Marasco1, A. Insalaco1, F. De Benedetti1, C. Bracaglia1, 1Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Pediatric Rheumatology, Rome, Italy, 2Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù Genetic, Rome, Italy

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a systemic autoimmune disease which leads to inflammation and organ damage caused by immune complex deposition. Classically, childhood SLE has been considered as a polygenic autoimmune disease; however, a pediatric monogenic lupus-like phenotype (LL) is emerging due to the recent recognition of several related novel high-penetrance gene variants. This fact associated to the high degree of concordance among monogenic twins, supports the importance of genetic background in cSLE pathogenesis. Objectives: To identify the presence of variants in gene related to monogenic lupus and their relationship with clinical manifestations in cSLE or LL. Methods: A descriptive, observational, cross-sectional study was carried out in children with cSLE or LL. The genetic analysis (Sanger/Exome Sequencing) was performed from isolated DNA obtained from blood sample. Results: Forty-five children were included in the study. The genetic analysis detected at least one variant in 14 (31.1%) children, 5 (35.7%) with cSLE and 9 (64.3%) with LL. Of those who carry a genetic variant, the median age at disease onset was 11 years (range: 2-16) and 85.7% were female; most of them Caucasians (85.7%). Seven (50%) and 3 (21.4%) out of 14 patients had a positive family history and/or a personal history for autoimmune diseases, respectively. Regarding clinical manifestations at onset, musculoskeletal were the most frequent (10 patients, 71.4%), followed by hematological (9 patients, 64.3%), cutaneous (9 patients, 64.3%), constitutional with fever (8 patients, 57.1%), neurological (7 patients, 50%), renal (5 patients, 35.7%), cardiac (3 patients, 21.4%) and pulmonary (2 patients, 14.3%) manifestations. Related to immunological parameters, 13 (92.8%) were ANA positive, 7 (50%) anti-dsDNA, 4 (28.6%) ENA and 3 (21.4%) aPL positive. Both C3 and C4 were low in 8 (57.1%) children and isolated C3 levels were low in 4 (28.6%) patients. Among the variants, we found that only two patients who carry a TREX variant showed normal C3 and C4 levels; one of them presented with lupus pernio as reported in literature. Also, we identified the same RNASEH2B (c.868G>A) variant in two siblings with similar phenotypes and TLR7 (c.1520T>C) variant in two siblings of other family. The patient who carried the SHOC2 variant presented polyarthritis and serositis, while the patient with the TNFRSF13B variant onset with a glomerulonephritis. Those manifestations have already been described related to these genes. Variants and phenotypes are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gene</th>
<th>Diagn Skin</th>
<th>Hematological</th>
<th>Fever N=7</th>
<th>Lung N=2</th>
<th>Cardiac N=3</th>
<th>NRL N=7</th>
<th>Renal N=5</th>
<th>C3/C4 N=12</th>
<th>ANA N=13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADAR c.16-8 T&gt;C TLE</td>
<td>SLE x</td>
<td>Arthralgia</td>
<td>Hb, L, N</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>│</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFAIP3 c.2170A&gt;C TLE</td>
<td>SLE x</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Hb, L, N</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Conduction disorder</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNASEH2B c.105G&gt;C TLE</td>
<td>SLE x</td>
<td>Arthralgia</td>
<td>PLT, L</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.105 107delAAAT SHOC2</td>
<td>SLE x</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, PLT, L</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFIH1 c.2807G&gt;T/G</td>
<td>SLE x</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, PLT, L</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLR7 c.1520T&gt;C TLE</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, L, N, PLT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBX21 c.319T&gt;C</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, L, N, PLT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFRSF13B c.868G&gt;A</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, L, N, PLT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1S c.619C&gt;T</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, L, N, PLT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNASEH2B c.868G&gt;A; C15orf51 c.1694G&gt;A; STAT5B c.1248C&gt;G</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, L, N, PLT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLR7 c.3094G&gt;A; TNFRSF13B c.41G&gt;A</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Hb, L, N, PLT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2 c.719G&gt;T</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, L, N</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEPO c.703G&gt;A</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, L, N</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYBB c.593G&gt;A</td>
<td>LL x</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Hb, L, N</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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</table>

References:

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4114


Keywords: Validation, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Objectives: To identify the presence of variants in gene related to monogenic-lupus and some of them with similar phenotypes to those already described. This fact may suggest the genetics potential contribution to the cSLE pathogenesis. Further studies are necessary to confirm these data.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2607

Methods: Cases were physician-diagnosed cSLE, while controls were children with mixed and undifferentiated connective tissue disease that posed an initial diagnostic challenge. Retrospective data were reviewed to establish the three criteria fulfilled at diagnosis and over time.

Results: The study population included 120 cSLE cases and 36 controls, Table 1. Among cSLE patients, low C3/C4 (94.2%), immunologic (93.3%), hematologic manifestations (90.0%), and arthritis (60.8%) were the most common over time. At diagnosis, 102 (85%) patients fulfilled all criteria, Figure 1. SLICC-2012 had the highest sensitivity (97.5%) and negative predictive value (NPV, 89.3%), while ACR-1997 had the highest specificity (91.7%) and positive predictive value (PPV, 97.2%). All criteria had diagnostic accuracies ≥ 85%. Over time, 113 (94.2%) fulfilled all criteria, SLICC-2012 remained the criteria with highest sensitivity (99.2%) and NPV (94.7%), while ACR-1997 remained the criteria with highest specificity (75.0%) and PPV (92.7%). Only SLICC-2012 and ACR-1997 had ≥ 85% diagnostic accuracy over time.

Conclusion: This is the first study evaluating the SLE classification criteria performance in Southeast Asian cSLE cohort. SLICC-2012 criterion has the highest sensitivity and diagnostic accuracy, with acceptable specificity in our cohort, especially early in the disease course. The EULAR/ACR-2019 criteria does not confer additional benefits compared to the earlier two criteria.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of cohort at diagnosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical characteristics</th>
<th>At diagnosis</th>
<th>Over time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cases, n = 120</td>
<td>Controls, n = 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>99 (82.5)</td>
<td>32 (88.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years)</td>
<td>12.9 (10.6 – 14.4)</td>
<td>14.4 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>72 (60.0)</td>
<td>9 (25.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malar rash</td>
<td>53 (44.2)</td>
<td>1 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discoid rash</td>
<td>14 (11.7)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>17 (14.2)</td>
<td>2 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral ulcer</td>
<td>39 (32.5)</td>
<td>1 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alopecia</td>
<td>37 (30.8)</td>
<td>3 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematologic</td>
<td>100 (83.3)</td>
<td>19 (52.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>44 (36.7)</td>
<td>1 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological</td>
<td>6 (5.0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>61 (50.8)</td>
<td>16 (44.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>11 (9.2)</td>
<td>1 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C3/C4</td>
<td>97 (80.8)</td>
<td>13 (36.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>118 (98.3)</td>
<td>34 (44.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA</td>
<td>105 (87.5)</td>
<td>12 (33.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Smith</td>
<td>46 (38.3)</td>
<td>5 (13.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiphospholipid antibodies</td>
<td>31 (25.8)</td>
<td>3 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data in median (interquartile range) and number (%). Features with ≥ 50% are highlighted in bold. ANA: antinuclear antibody; dsDNA: double-stranded DNA.
Conclusion: Serious infections are a major cause of mortality and damage accrual in SLE. Constitutional symptoms, gastrointestinal involvement, current and cumulative steroid dose and cyclophosphamide use predict serious infections. TB prophylaxis in patients with SLE should be considered in endemic areas, especially when using high-dose steroid therapy.

Table 1. Cox proportional hazard models for predictors of infection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covariates</th>
<th>Hazard ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>8.51</td>
<td>1.17-61.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serozite</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.41-1.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal involvement*</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>1.94-19.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major organ manifestation</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.49-2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2K</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.95-1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily steroid dose (10mg)*</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>1.14-1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean cumulative steroid dose*</td>
<td>1.004</td>
<td>1.002-1.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albumin</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.66-1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute lymphocyte count</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.99-1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclophosphamide use*</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>1.11-4.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*—significant baseline predictors of serious infection on follow up. Major organ manifestation refers to presence of nephritis or neuropsychiatric lupus.

Figure 1. A. The Kaplan meier survival curve depicts time to first serious infection. B. The Kaplan meier survival curve shows the overall survival difference between those with any serious infection ever compared to those with no serious infection in the disease course.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5338

POS0138 EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF BELIMUMAB IN ADULTS WITH CHILDHOOD-ONSET SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Outcome measures, bDMARD, Systemic lupus erythematosus

D. Dimopoulou1, M. Trachana1, P. Pratissou-Gerts2, A. Theodoridou1, T. Dimitrou2, N. Koukis1, A. Garyfallos1, 1Aristotle University, 4th Academic Department of Internal Medicine Clinic, Ippokrateio General Hospital of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece; 2Aristotle University, 1st Academic Department of Pediatrics, Aristotele University, Thessaloniki, Greece

Background: Childhood-onset Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (cSLE) is a rare autoimmune disease with multi-system manifestations, more severe disease course and higher frequency of morbidity than adult-onset SLE. Belimumab is the first treatment for cSLE approved for children ≥5 years of age.

Objectives: To investigate the efficacy and safety of Belimumab in adult patients with cSLE

Methods: A prospective observational (non-interventional) study, involving adult patients with cSLE was conducted. During the 9-year study period (01/2015 to 12/2022), adults with a cSLE diagnosis and Belimumab receivers (by intravenous or subcutaneous administration) for >12 consecutive months were enrolled. All patients met the revised 1997 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) or 2012 Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) classification criteria and were followed at regular intervals (up to 6 months) in the Transition Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic. SLE activity was defined according to SLEDAI-2K and the SELENA-SLEDAI Physician Global Assessment (PGA), scale 0–3 [1]. At the last follow-up visit, response to therapy was assessed by Lupus Low Disease Activity State (LLDAS), remission state and SLE Responder Index (SRI4). LLDAS was defined as: i) SLEDAI-2K ≤4, with no activity in major systems ii) no new lupus disease activity compared to previous evaluation iii) a SELENA-SLEDAI PGA ≤1 iv) current prednisolone (or equivalent) dose ≤7.5mg daily and v) standard maintenance doses of immunosuppressive drugs. [2] Remission was defined as i) clinical SLEDAI-2K=0 ii) dose of prednisone ≤5mg/day according to the DORIS definition

[3]. SRI4 was defined as i) ≥4-point reduction from baseline in SELENA-SLEDAI score, ii) no worsening in PGA and iii) no new BILAG A organ domain score or 2 new BILAG B organ domain scores compared with baseline [4].

Results: A total of 15 patients (14 females) were enrolled in the study. At baseline, the patients' current mean (SD) age was 25.4 (7) years and the interval from disease onset to first Belimumab administration 12.4 (7.3) years. Half of the patients had a history of lupus nephritis and 42.8% were aPL positive. All patients were under hydroxychloroquine treatment and 80% of them were additionally receiving a second immunosuppressive agent (Methotrexate, MMF, Azathioprine), Glucocorticoids (GCs) were concomitantly administered in 13 (86.6%) patients in a dose of ≥7.5mg/day in 57.1% of them. The patients’ SLEDAI-2K mean (SD) score before Belimumab initiation was 12.1 (2.3), indicating high disease activity. The mean (SD) duration of Belimumab administration was 36.2 (19.9) months. At the last follow up visit, ongoing therapy with Belimumab was recorded in 66.7% of the cohort. SLEDAI-2K mean (SD) score was reduced to 3.5 (2.3), 1 patient (8.6 %) was in remission, 9 (60%) patients had mild and none high disease activity. The majority (78.5%) met the LLDAS definition and 78.5% were SRI4 Responders. Half of the patients (53.8%) achieved lower doses or discontinuation of GCs and 26.7% accomplished a reduction of the immunosuppressant's dose. Reasons for Belimumab discontinuation included pregnancy issues, infection and low adherence (3, 1, 1 patient respectively). None of the patients experienced a serious adverse event.

Conclusion: In this cohort of adult patients with cSLE, Belimumab was well-tolerated and effectively reduced disease activity allowing the downstream of GCs' dose.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5470

POS0139 DIFFUSE JUVENILE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS SHOW DISTINCT ORGAN INVOLVEMENT, ANTIBODY PATTERN AND HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE SEVERE DISEASE IN THE LARGEST JSSC COHORT OF THE WORLD. RESULTS FROM THE JUVENILE SCLERODERMA INCLUSION COHORT

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis


Background: Juvenile systemic sclerosis (JSSc) is an orphan disease with a prevalence of 3 in 1 000 000 children. In adult patients there are significant differences between the clinical presentation of diffuse and limited subsets. We reviewed clinical differences in presentation of subtypes in patients in the juvenile systemic scleroderma inclusion cohort (JSSc).

Objectives: To study the clinical presentation of JSSc patients with diffuse (dJSSc) and limited (iJSSc) subtype.

Methods: We reviewed the baseline clinical characteristics of the patients, who were recruited to the JSSc cohort between 2012 and 2022. dJSSc is a prospective cohort of JSSc patients, who developed the first non-Raynaud’s symptom before the age of 16 years and are under the age of 18 years at the time of inclusion.

Results: The JSSC included 426 patients, 68% (n=159) had diffuse subtype. The median age at onset of Raynaud phenomenon was 10.4 years (73-12.9), at the first non-Raynaud symptom 10.9 years (73-13.0) and median disease duration 2.5 years (10-4.6). The female/male ratio was significantly lower in the dJSSc subtype.
Juvenile systemic sclerosis (jSSc) is an orphan disease with a prevalence of 3 in 1,000,000 children. The Joint Scleroderma Inception Cohort (JSiCC) is the largest cohort of jSSc patients in the world. The JSiCC collects data prospectively in jSSc, allowing the evaluation of the development of organ involvement and patient and physician reported outcomes in jSSc over time.

**Objectives:** To review the changes in the clinical characteristics, and patient and physician reported outcomes, over a 24 month observation period from the time of inclusion into the cohort.

**Methods:** The JSiCC cohort enrolls jSSc patients who developed the first non-Raynaud’s symptom before the age of 16 years and are under the age of 18 years at the time of inclusion. We reviewed JSiCC patient clinical data and patient and physician reported outcomes, who had 24 months follow up from the time of inclusion until 1st of December 2022.

**Results:** We extracted data from 90 patients, 77% of them had the diffuse subtype. The female/male ratio was 3.5:1. Median age of onset of Raynaud’s was 9.4 years and the median age of onset of non-Raynaud’s was 10.0 years. Eighty-nine percent of the patients were treated with disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) at time of inclusion in the cohort (70%) and 96% after 24 months (T24).

Median disease duration was 2.4 years at T0. No patient died during the follow up. Antibody profile stayed unchanged. Only 3 clinical parameters changed and all improved significantly, the median modified Rodnan skin score improved from 11 to 8 (p=0.021), number of patients with joints with pain on motion decreased from 21% to 10% (p=0.04) and the number of patients with muscle weakness decreased from 13% to 4% (p=0.03). All other organ involvement did not show any statistically significant change from T0 to T24. All collected patient reported outcomes improved significantly from T0 to T24: the patient reported disease activity by VAS 0-100 from 40 to 20 (p=0.001), the patient reported disease damage by VAS 0-100 from 35 to 20 (p=0.027), patient reported ulceration activity by VAS 0-100 from 8 to 0 (p=0.001) and the patient reported Raynaud activity by VAS 0-100 from 20 to 10 (p=0.002). Two of the three physician reported outcomes improved significantly, the physician global disease activity by VAS 0-100 from 30 to 20 (p=0.001) and physician reported ulceration activity by VAS 0-100 from 5 to 0 (p=0.017).

**Conclusions:** Skin and musculoskeletal clinical features improved over 24 months, with almost all patients on DMARDs, supporting the response of these features to therapy. It was promising that internal organ involvement, like cardiac, lung and gastrointestinal, did not significantly worsen or increase. The most striking observation is the positive direction and improvement all patients and two of the three physician reported outcome measures over 24 months in this large international cohort.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2037

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**POS0140**

**PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN REPORTED OUTCOMES OF JUVENILE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE OVER 24 MONTHS OBSERVATION PERIOD IN THE JUVENILE SYSTEMIC SCLERODERMA INCEPTION COHORT**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis


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**POS0141**

**APPLICATION OF CRIS score, REVISED CRIS score and RICD score in patients with juvenile systemic sclerosis**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2073
G. Hornett, T. Kallinich, T. Lehman, K. Minden, M. Mollf, S. Nielsen, A. Patwardhan, V. Smith, N. Helmus. German Rheumatism Research Center, German Rheumatism Research Center, Berlin, Germany; *Hamburg Centre for Pediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology, An der Schén Klinik Hamburg Eilbek, Hamburg, Germany; University of Pittsburgh, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, United States of America; University of Leeds, Teaching Hospital Trust, Leeds, United Kingdom; University of California, University of Florence, Florence, Italy; JSSc collaborative group, Hamburg Centre for Pediatric and Adolescence Rheumatology, Hamburg, Germany

Background: Juvenile systemic sclerosis (jSSc) is a rare disease in childhood. To date, no composite response index exists to assess treatment effect in jSSc patients. ACR CRiSS score (probability of improvement according to ranging from ≥ 0 to 1 based on mRSS, FVC%, PtGA, MDGA and HAQ-DI) and revised ACR CRiSS (rCRiSS, proportion of patients who improve in ≥ 3 ACR CRiSS core items by a certain percentage, e.g. 30%, except 5% for FVC) were developed by experts in the field as outcome measures in adult patients with SSC. In addition, the Ranked Composite Important Difference (RCID) score was recently introduced as anchor to the ACR CRiSS.

Objectives: We aimed to study the applicability and performance of the ACR CRiSS, rCRiSS and RCID in a prospectively followed cohort of patients with diffuse cutaneous jSSc.

Methods: Data from the international jSSc inception cohort were used for this analysis. The ACR CRiSS, rCRiSS and RCID were calculated between baseline and 12-months follow-up according to the scoring algorithms. Missing values in the core items were estimated by multiple imputation by chained equations. Here we aimed to determine the value of the response measures to detect clinically change defined by the anchor questions about change (much better or little better versus almost the same, little worse or much worse) in patients overall health due to scleroderma since the last visit provided by the treating physicians and patients or parents (aged ≥ 12 years).

Results: We included 95 jSSc patients with diffuse cutaneous subtype with available baseline and 12-months visit. Seventy-nine percent were female, the mean age at enrollment was 13.0 (3.8) and the mean disease duration was 3.1 (2.8) years. Among 95 patients, 57% were treated with steroids, 47% with methotrexate, 27% with MMF and 3% with a biological at baseline. ACR CRiSS showed a ceiling effect (>99%) in 51% and a floor effect (<0.05) in 26% of patients. Patients who reported at least moderate improvement in a median ACR CRiSS of 0.99 and in mean 2.6 (1.3) core items that improved by ≥20% from baseline to 12-months follow-up. The rCRiSS 20/30/50 responses were 59%/49%/33% in patients that reported worsening. The RCID was approximately normal distributed (mean 20.7, SD 43.4). Mean (SD) RCID for patients who reported worsening was -10.5 (38.6) vs RCID of 20.7 (45.2) for patients who reported improvement. RCID scores for patients reported anchors of worsening or improvement were 6.5 (44.2) and 18 (45.4), respectively. The concordance between a positive RCID score and rCRiSS 20/30 was moderate (rCRiSS 20 38%, kappa=0.36).

Table 1. ACR CRiSS, rCRiSS and RCID score by patients and physicians ratings about scleroderma disease course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>no Improvement</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>patients (n=12)</td>
<td>patients (n=49)</td>
<td>patients (n=14)</td>
<td>physicians (n=50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worsening</td>
<td>0.0 (0 to 0.75)</td>
<td>0.09 (0 to 1.0)</td>
<td>0.007 (0 to 0.99)</td>
<td>0.09 (0 to 1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>score (IQR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rCRiSS response</td>
<td>3/25%</td>
<td>29 (59%)</td>
<td>0.034 3/25%</td>
<td>29 (58%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rCRiSS response</td>
<td>3 (25%)</td>
<td>24 (49%)</td>
<td>0.134 2/14%</td>
<td>27 (54%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rCRiSS response</td>
<td>1 (8%)</td>
<td>16 (33%)</td>
<td>0.092 0/0%</td>
<td>18 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean RCID score (SD)</td>
<td>-10.5 (38.6)</td>
<td>20.7 (45.2)</td>
<td>0.031 6.5 (44.2)</td>
<td>18 (45.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRiSS = Composite Response Index in Systemic Sclerosis; RCID=Ranked Composite Important Difference; reCRiSS = revised Composite Response Index in Systemic Sclerosis; SD = standard deviation

Conclusion: Our data confirmed the presence of a ceiling and floor effect of ACR CRiSS as shown in studies of adult SSC patients. The CRiSS and rCRiSS and RCID response distinguished between patients who rated their disease course since last visit as worsened or improved. Future studies should focus on the determination of specific pediatric weights for the CRiSS and RCID components rather than extrapolation from adult SSC. In general, the RCID offers a meaningful tool in order to determine response to therapy in future clinical trials in jSSc patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS042

THE ASSOCIATION OF AUTOANTIBODIES WITH CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS AND LONG-TERM REMISSIONS IN COMPARISON WITH JUVENILE- AND ADULT-ONSET IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Remission, Myositis

H. Tsui1, R. Nakashima1, T. Sasa1, M. Shirakashi1, H. Onizawa2, R. Hiwa3, K. Kitagori4, S. Akizuki4, A. Onishi5, H. Yoshitani4, M. Tanaka6, T. Yasumi6, Y. Ichimura6, N. Okiyama7, A. Morinobu7, 7Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan; 8Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Advanced Medicine for Rheumatic Diseases, Kyoto, Japan; 9Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Kyoto, Japan; 4Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Department of Dermatology, Tokyo, Japan

Background: The associations of myositis-specific autoantibodies (MSAs) and myositis-associated autoantibodies (MAAs) with clinical features and remission in idiopathic inflammatory myopathy (IIM) are different between those of juvenile-onset (JIMM) and adult-onset.

Objectives: Since the associations in JIMM had not been fully elucidated, we analyzed them comparing that in adults using clinical information and autoantibodies.

Methods: A total of 320 cases of IIMs (juvenile-onset, 2004-2021, n=34; adult-onset, 2018-2021, n=286) with a history of attendance at our hospital were retrospectively analyzed using medical records. Remission without glucocorticoids and immunosuppressive drugs for 30 years was also examined. MSAs were identified by assays of RNA immunoprecipitation (IP), protein IP, protein IP-blot, and ELISA. Logistic regression analysis, Mann-Whitney U test, Fisher’s exact test, and log-rank test were performed.

Results: In JIMM, anti-MDA5 (15%) and anti-TIF1-γ (15%) were the most frequent MSAs, followed by anti-SRP (9%) and anti-NXP2 (6%) (Table 1). In particular, the frequency of anti-ARS was significantly lower in juveniles whereas it was the highest in adults (9% vs. 32%, respectively, p<0.01). Anti-SRP and anti-MI-2 were not identified in juveniles, although they were identified with low frequencies in adults. In MAAs (juvenile-onset vs. adult-onset), anti-Ku (9% vs. 2%, p<0.03) and anti-U-RNP (18% vs. 4%, p<0.02) were more common in juveniles while anti-SS-A (15% vs. 16%, p=1) was not significantly different between juveniles and adults. Dermatomyositis tended to be more dominant than polymyositis in juveniles than in adults (76% vs. 59%, p=0.06) (Table 1). Fever was more frequently observed in juveniles (74% vs. 12%, p<0.0001) and interstitial lung disease (ILD) was less frequently observed in juveniles than adults (29% vs. 66%, p=0.0001). Malignancy was observed in 2 juvenile-onset patients (6%) during 14.7±12.3 years while in 32 adult-onset patients (12%) during 6.8±7.5 years (p=0.56). Anti-NXP2 (n=1) and anti-PL12 (n=1) were observed in juveniles. In contrast, anti-TIF1-γ (n=11/32, 34%) was mainly observed in adults. Anti-MDA5 (OR [95%CI]: 14.0 [1.31, 150]) in juveniles and anti-ARS (23.2 [2.07, 76.1]) and anti-MDA5 (13.3 [4.03, 43.8]) in adults were associated with ILD. Anti-MDA5 was poorly associated with muscle symptoms in both juveniles (0.06 [0.004, 0.88]) and adults (0.43 [0.22, 0.85]). The rate of drug-free remission for 30 years in juveniles is higher than that in adults (32% vs 7%, respectively, p<0.0001, Figure 1). The drug-free remission in juveniles was observed in the order of anti-TIF-1γ, anti-NXP2, anti-MDA5, and anti-ARS, reaching a plateau at 5.7 years. In contrast, the remission in adults was observed in the order of anti-MDA5, anti-TIF1-γ, anti-SRP, and anti-ARS. The use of glucocorticoid (88% vs. 91%, p=0.76) was similar in juveniles and adults, while methotrexate (32% vs 8%, p=0.0002) was used more frequently in juveniles.

Conclusion: There were differences in the clinical characteristics of IIM and autoantibodies between juvenile-onset and adult-onset. Further analysis is needed in a larger sample size.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Table 1. The differences of clinical manifestations in juvenile- and adult-IIM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Juvenile (n=34)</th>
<th>Adult (n=286)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>F:26 (74%), M:8 (26%)</td>
<td>F:217 (75%), M:72 (25%)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at onset</td>
<td>10.3±5.8</td>
<td>53.5±14.1</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis (DM, PM)</td>
<td>DM:26 (76%), PM:8 (24%)</td>
<td>DM:168 (59%), PM:115 (41%)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin rash</td>
<td>27 (73%)</td>
<td>170 (58%)</td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle symptom</td>
<td>29 (85%)</td>
<td>243 (87%)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestinal lung disease</td>
<td>10 (29%)</td>
<td>187 (66%)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>20 (54%)</td>
<td>35 (12%)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation of CRP</td>
<td>14 (44%)</td>
<td>184 (64%)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>2 (6%)</td>
<td>32 (12%)</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlap</td>
<td>10 (29%)</td>
<td>38 (24%)</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-ARS</td>
<td>3 (9%)</td>
<td>86 (32%)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-MAID5</td>
<td>5 (15%)</td>
<td>62 (23%)</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-TIF-1γ</td>
<td>5 (15%)</td>
<td>21 (8%)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-MZk</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>6 (2%)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-SPR</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>21 (8%)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-NNP</td>
<td>2 (6%)</td>
<td>3 (1%)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ku</td>
<td>3 (9%)</td>
<td>4 (2%)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-U1-RNP</td>
<td>6 (18%)</td>
<td>11 (4%)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-SS-A/Ro</td>
<td>5 (15%)</td>
<td>42 (16%)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Pathogenic pathways in Systemic Sclerosis and Myositis

POS0143 TISSUE RESIDENT MEMORY AND CYTOTOXIC T CELLS ARE CLONALLY EXPANDED IN THE MUSCLE OF PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Myositis, Biomarkers

A. S. Galindo-Feria1,2,3, A. Argyriou1,2, A. Horrouluoglu1,2, J. S. Diaz-Boada1,3, A. Notarnicola2,3, L. D. Dan2,3, A. Van Vollenhoven1,2,3, D. Ramsköld4, I. Nennesmo5, M. Dastmachi1,2,3, I. E. Lundberg2,3, L. M. Diaz-Gallo1,3, K. Chemin1,3, E. Karolinska Institutet, Center for Molecular Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; K. Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Gastro, Dermatology and Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; K. Karolinska Institutet, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; K. Karolinska Institutet, Division of Cell and Molecular Biology, Stockholm, Sweden; K. Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Oncology-Pathology, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are rare autoimmune systemic diseases characterized by muscle weakness and presence of muscle-infiltrating T cells. IIM represent a clinical challenge due to heterogeneity of clinical manifestations and subsets of IIM, and healthy donors (HD).

Methods: We performed single-cell RNA sequencing on muscle-infiltrating and peripheral blood (PB) memory T cells from patients with recently diagnosed IIM (n=27) from the Rheumatology Clinic, Karolinska University Hospital. Briefly, after enzymatic digestion of fresh muscle tissue, we single-cell sorted T cells from seven patients who also presented muscle infiltrates by histopathological analysis: immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy (MMN) n=2; inclusion body myositis (IBM) n=2; dermatomyositis (DM) n=1; and antisynthetase syndrome (ASSyS) n=1 and a non-inflammatory myopathy. Muscle T cells were sorted based on the co-expression of CD45RA and CD69, whereas PB memory T cells were sorted based on the exclusion of naïve CD45RA+CCR7+ CD3+ T cells. We also aligned the TCR sequences. We had access to additional muscle and PB samples from two patients after immunosuppressive treatment. Description of the methodology is presented in Figure 1.

Results: After quality control, filtering, and normalization processes of the gene expression matrix, the total number of T cells recovered from the analysis was 2,844, out of which 1,427 were isolated from the muscle and 1,417 cells from PB. Muscle and PB T cells grouped separately indicating different gene signature. Three different clusters containing muscle T cells (cluster 1), PB CD8+ T cells (cluster 2) and PB CD4+ T cells (cluster 3) were identified, showing different transcriptomic signature between muscle and PB T cells. After unsupervised clustering of gene expression, we identified 15 distinct T-cell clusters annotated based on differentially expressed genes and visualized by UMAP. We found enrichment in the muscle compartment compared to blood for the following clusters: tissue-resident memory (T_{res}) T cells, muscle central memory (CM) CD4+ T cells, muscle effector memory (EM) T cells, EGR1hi and T_{reg} genes, and Tregs.

Conclusion: Our study reveals a muscle T-cell signature in patients with IIM and a transcriptomic map to identify possible novel therapeutic targets in IIM, where muscle-infiltrating T cells are predominantly composed of cytotoxic, effector memory, tissue-resident, proliferating and regulatory T cells. The expression of tissue-resident memory (T_{res}) receptors and the presence of clonally expanded T-cell clones in the muscle of all patients with IIM imply the role of these cells in disease pathogenesis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Alexandre Shunashy Galindo-Feria: None declared, Alexandra Argyriou: None declared, Begum Horrouluoglu: None declared, Juan Sebastian Diaz-Boada: None declared, Antonella Notarnicola: None declared, Lara Dan: None declared, Annika van Vollenhoven: None declared, Daniel Ramsköld: None declared, Inger Nennesmo: None declared, Maryam Dastmachi: None declared, Ingrid E. Lundberg Shareholder of: Stock shares in Roche and Novartis., Paid instructor for: Has been serving on the advisory board for Corbus Pharmaceutical, EMD Serono. Research & Development Institute, Argenx, Octapharma, Pfizer, Kazzaz, Orphazyme and Janssen, Consultant of: Corbus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Grant/research support from: Astra Zeneca, Lina M. Diaz-Gallo: None declared, Karine Chemin: None declared.

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POS0144 miRNA CARGO CHARACTERIZATION FROM CIRCULATING EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES IN PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES (IIM) HIGHLIGHTS PECULIAR EPIGENETIC PROFILES ACROSS DEFINITE IIM SUBSETS AND DIFFERENT CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

Keywords: Myositis, Biomarkers, -omics

M. Gatto1, C. Franco1, A. Giannella2, L. Bertazza3, M. Gasparotto1, A. Ghirardello1, G. Ceolotto2, A. Doria1.

Background: Idiopathic Inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are heterogeneous systemic autoimmune diseases for which biomarkers are needed. Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are cell-derived nanoparticles regulating several biological functions[1]. Growing evidence supports the role of EVs in the pathogenesis of systemic autoimmune diseases[2].

Objectives: To evaluate the EVs-microRNA (miRNA) profile among distinct clinical manifestations and subsets of IIM, and healthy donors (HD).

Acknowledgements: None Declared, Inger Nennesmo: None declared, Karine Chemin: None declared.
Methods: We enrolled adult (≥18 years) consecutive IIM patients (EULAR 2017 criteria) and sex- and age-matched HD. Circulating EVs were isolated from plasma through size exclusion chromatography and ultra-filtration. miRNA iso-
lation was performed using miagen miRNeasy Serum/Plasma Advanced kit and miRNA quantification and analysis through next generation sequencing (NGS). Comparisons were carried out using Student’s t-test or one-way ANOVA with multiple comparisons.

Results: We included 60 IIM patients (females 61.7%; mean age 56.3±13.1 years; seropositive 78.3%; clinically active 56.7% on immunosuppressants (any): 83.3%) and 60 HD. miRNA analysis was performed on 21 IIM patients and 21 HD considering a comprehensive pool of 100 miRNAs. Ten miRNAs resulted significantly dysregulated between patients and HD (Table 1). Among miRNAs upregulated in patients, some exhibit immunoregulatory functions (hsa-miR-
222-3p, hsa-miR185-5p) while others are involved in oncogenesis (hsa-miR-
486-5p, hsa-miR-451a, hsa-miR-15a-5p)[3]. Conversely, downregulated miRNAs in patients usually display anti-inflammatory and anti-neoplastic properties (hsa-
et-7 group)[1,3]. More specific EVs-miRNA profiles were identified considering IIM subsets and organ involvement (lung, skin, muscles). Patients with Can-
cer-associated myositis displayed down-regulated hsa-miR-23b-3p (p=0.03), hsa-miR-374a-5p (p=0.01), hsa-miR-361-5p (p=0.046), hsa-miR-143-3p (p=0.024), hsa-miR-29c-3p (p=0.027), hsa-miR-361-5p (p=0.039). According to different clinical manifestations, hsa-miR-451a, hsa-miR-29a-3p, hsa-miR-342-2p and hsa-miR-146b-5p were up-regulated in active myositis, and hsa-miR-222-3p, hsa-miR-144-5p, hsa-miR-101-3p, hsa-miR-19b-3p, hsa-miR-25-3p in active skin and Gottron’s lesions.

Conclusion: Differential expression of EVs-miRNAs across IIM subsets suggests peculiar epigenetic footprints to distinguish specific IIM phenotypes and possibly generate tailored treatment targets (Figure 1). Circulating EVs might serve as IIM biomarkers and for early stratification of disease manifestations.

Table 1. EV-miRNAs with significantly different expressions in IIM (n=21) vs. HDs (n=21) (indicated Fold Change and p values)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EV-miRNAs</th>
<th>Fold Change</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>IIM vs. HDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-451</td>
<td>1.919321</td>
<td>0.0000759</td>
<td>Up-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-15a-5p</td>
<td>1.275668</td>
<td>0.021514</td>
<td>Up-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-185-5p</td>
<td>1.448666</td>
<td>0.00114</td>
<td>Up-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-222-3p</td>
<td>1.845142</td>
<td>0.00526</td>
<td>Up-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-32-5p</td>
<td>1.778544</td>
<td>0.018901</td>
<td>Up-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-19b-5p</td>
<td>1.454742</td>
<td>0.00529</td>
<td>Up-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-7a-5p</td>
<td>-1.56348</td>
<td>0.00517</td>
<td>Down-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-185-5p</td>
<td>-1.55167</td>
<td>0.00512</td>
<td>Down-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-19b-5p</td>
<td>-1.29617</td>
<td>0.018207</td>
<td>Down-regulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsa-miR-222-3p</td>
<td>-1.50724</td>
<td>0.003313</td>
<td>Down-regulated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Summary of EVs-miRNA putative roles in a IIM cohort

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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using qPCR assays across treatment groups for Coll1, SMA and CTGF. Gene expression data (qPCR) confirmed protein expression. Genomic-wide RNAseq analysis identified an S100A4 activated signature in NF overlapping the hallmark gene expression signature of SSc. Then, a biomarker of fibrogenesis (FDR<0.001 and FC>1.5) induced in NF by S100A4, were also constitutively overexpressed, and downregulated by AX-202, in SSc(Figure 1A). Pathway mapping of these S100A4 dependent genes in SSc showed the most significant enriched Kegg pathways (FDR<0.001) were regulation of stem cell pluripotency (4.6-fold) and metabolic pathways (1.9-fold) (Figure 1B).

Conclusions: Our comprehensive analysis supporting a pro-fibrotic role for S100A4 in fibroblast activation in SSc and suggest that serum level may be a biomarker of major organ manifestations and disease severity. This study supports examining the therapeutic potential of targeting S100A4 in SSc are warranted.

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of whom 7 had pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). The patients were divided according to high (n=8)/low (n=12) T3 levels into 2 groups and the difference in circulating miRNA-21 levels between the groups was evaluated.

Results: Fibroblast-ECMs generated by TGFβ1-triggered DF had higher levels of collagen-I and TGFβ1 in comparison to normal ECM. In comparison to the normal ECM, the fibrotic-ECM increased the followings in the DF: 1) ability to liberate TGFβ1 from the ECM by increasing MMP-9 activity and αv expression. 2) TGFβ1 activation and differentiation to MF evidenced by increased expression of phospho-Smad3, αSMA, collagen, and elastin, and increased proliferation. 3) Expression of αv[3], miRNA-21 and DIO3 (all changes in 1-3.24-123%1, p<0.05).

The addition of tetrac to DF cultured on fibrotic-ECM downregulated cell proliferation, collagen, elastin and αSMA expression to the levels found in DF cultured on normal ECM. Furthermore, it reduced αv[3], miRNA-21, and DIO3 levels. Accordingly, decreased miRNA-21 levels were found in the high T3 SSc group, compared to the low T3 group that contained all the PAH patients (p<0.05).

Conclusion: Our results demonstrated the existence of a vicious cycle: TGF-1-triggered DF produced a fibrotic-ECM that promoted bystanders’ DF differentiation to MF. Using this model, we demonstrated that tetrac binding to αv[3] integrin inhibited the differentiation of DF to MF, and their ability to activate the αv[3]/miRNA-21/DIO3/T3 pathway. These results suggest that the thyroid hormone binding site of αv[3] may be a potential target for the treatment of fibrosis.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0148

STIFFNESS INDUCED PROGRESSION OF FIBROSIS BY SORBIN AND SH3 DOMAIN-CONTAINING PROTEIN2 IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: -omics, Systemic sclerosis, Skin

A. Soare1, Y. Ariza1, S. Weber1, S. Rauber1, C. G. Anchang1, H. Mohammadian1, M. G. Raimondo1, J. Distler1, G. Schett1, A. Ramming1
1Friedrich-Alexander-University (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Rheumatology & Immunology, Erlangen, Germany

Background: Persistently activated fibroblasts status leads to progressive extracellular matrix (ECM) deposition and tissue remodeling. The hallmark of systemic sclerosis (SSc) is collagen accumulation in organs, mainly in skin and lung. Despite intensive progress in understanding disease occurrence, SSc remains an intriguing disease with unknown pathology and high mortality. Sorbin and SH3 domain-containing protein2, encoded by SORBS2 is a key member of the sorbin homology family of adapter and scaffold proteins. Recent studies suggest that SORBS2 plays a role in cardiac disease, however there is no available data about its role in fibrotic conditions.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the role of SORBS2 in the pathogenesis of SSc.

Methods: To identify molecules specifically upregulated in persistently activated fibroblasts, human fibroblasts were chronically stimulated with TGF-β and analyzed by RNA-sequencing. To evaluate the functional implication of tissue elasticity on the transcriptome of fibroblasts, multiwell stiffness assays were performed. SORBS2 expression was further analyzed in skin samples of patients with SSc and murine models of fibrosis. Fibroblast specific SORBS2 knockout mice were challenged with bleomycin to induce skin and lung fibrosis. Further specific readouts like collagen content, skin thickness, myofibroblast count, CT scans were performed.

Results: Upon chronic TGF-β stimulation of human normal skin fibroblasts we identified SORBS2 as a significantly upregulated molecule. SORBS2 is implicated in cytoskeletal organization, cell adhesion and different signaling pathways. Moreover, extracellular stiffness induced upregulation of SORBS2 mRNA level in fibroblasts. Deletion of SORBS2 in fibroblasts led to a change of the diameter of collagen fibers and modified the elastic index of the tissue. Sorbs2 deficient DF produced a fibrotic-ECM that promoted bystanders’ DF differentiation to MF. Using this model, we demonstrated that tetrac binding to αv[3] integrin inhibited the differentiation of DF to MF, and their ability to activate the αv[3]/miRNA-21/DIO3/T3 pathway. These results suggest that the thyroid hormone binding site of αv[3] may be a potential target for the treatment of fibrosis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6387

POS0149 WITHDRAWN

POS0150 AUTOANTIBODIES AGAINST FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTOR (FGF-2), PLACENTAL GROWTH FACTOR (PLGF) AND BETA-ADRENERGIC RECEPTOR 1 (ADRB1) IN AN ALTERED NETWORK OF AUTOANTIBODIES IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis, Autoantibodies

S. Schinke1, K. Sterner1, H. Heidecke2, H. Busch3, A. Kuenstner3, I. König4, C. J. K. Fouodo4, A. Müller5, S. Comduehr6, T. Lange6, F. Lübber7, F. Paulus7, H. Grasshoff8, G. Riemekasten9, 1Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein,

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Background: Autoantibodies (ab) against G protein-coupled receptors (GPCR), such as ab against angiotensin II receptor type 1 (AT1R), endothelin receptor type A (ETAR) or CXC chemokine receptor 3 and 4 (CXCR3/4) may contribute to the pathogenesis of systemic sclerosis (SSc) [1]. AT1R- and ETAR-ab are associated with SSc-related mortality and CXCR3/4-ab predict a deteriorating to the pathogenesis of systemic sclerosis [1].

Methods: Serum ab levels against 19 targets were higher compared to HC. Abs against fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF-2), beta-adrenergic receptor 1 (ADRB1), and placental growth factor (PIGF) discriminated best SSc patients from HC. Multivariate predictions supported the ranking value of FGF-2 and ADRB1-abs and abs against ADRB1/2, muscarinic receptor 1 (M1R) and alpha-adr-energic receptor 2 ADR2A for diffuse cutaneous SSc (dSSc) versus limited cutaneous SSc (lSSc) [2].

Results: In SSc ab levels against 19 targets were higher compared to HC. Abs against fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF-2), beta-adrenergic receptor 1 (ADRB1), and placental growth factor (PIGF) discriminated best SSc patients from HC. Multivariate predictions supported the ranking value of FGF-2 and ADRB1-abs for SSc and abs against ADRB1/2, muscarinic receptor 1 (M1R) and alpha-adr-energic receptor 2 ADR2A for diffuse cutaneous SSc (dSSc) versus limited cutaneous SSc (lSSc). Ab levels were denser and stronger correlated in SSc than in HC (figure 1), suggesting a disturbed regulation of ab with a prominent role of FGF-2-abs in SSc. Comparing dSSc to lSSc, dSSc showed higher ab levels and correlated with several disease characteristics, but the multivariate classification showed poor accuracy.

Conclusion: SSc is characterized by both quantitative and qualitative alterations in ab levels and ab correlations. This study reveals ab against FGF-2, ADRB1 and PIGF to be new biomarkers of SSc. Alterations within these ab correlation networks could help to identify pathways promoting SSc and its clinical manifestations.

REFERENCES:

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NanoString
disease-specific patterns of immune cells in BALF
A B C

POS0152 PLATELET EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES MODULATE NEUTROPHIL STATE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS VIA HMGB1

Keywords: Lungs, Innate immunity, Systemic sclerosis

N. Maugeri1, G. A. Ramirez2, A. Monno1, A. Capobianco1, S. Franchini1, M. Manfredi1, P. Roveri-Querini1, A. Manfredi1,1 IRCSS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Autoimmunity and Vascular Inflammation Unit, Milano, Italy

Background: Platelet extracellular vesicles (PTEVs) expressing the damage-associated molecular pattern prototypic signal, high mobility group box 1 (HMGB1), accumulate in the blood of patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) and per se promote autoimmunity, fibrosis and vascular inflammation [1, 2]. A poorly understood defect in critical players in sprouting angiogenesis, angiopoietins and the angiopoietin receptor, Tie2 is also an hallmark of SSc. Normal neutrophils respond to angiopoietin 1 and other stimuli by undergoing activation and upregulating the Tie2 expression [3].

Objectives: We reasoned that HMGB1 could be a putative candidate signal supporting neutrophils Tie2 overexpression, as it plays a critical role in neutrophil activation and is present as an EV-associated bioactive molecule in the blood of SSc patients[1, 2].

Methods: Neutrophil Tie2 expression was assessed in the blood of 39 patients with SSc and 43 healthy donors (HD) sex- aged matched, by flow cytometry and confirmed by immunogold at electron microscopy. Tie2 expression was determined in freshly purified normal neutrophils stimulated with PTEVs from SSc patients or from HD or stimulated with rHMGB1 in vitro. Moreover PTEVs purified from the plasma of SSc patients or from HD were injected in the tail vein of NSG mice (that are receptive to human tissues). 18 hours after injection the expression of Tie2 of neutrophils in blood and lung histology were analyzed. Box A and low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) have been used as HMGB1 antagonists in vitro and in vivo.

Results: Most SSc neutrophils express Tie2 (B4.7a2.4%) vs 8.3±1.1% in HD; p <0.0001) regardless of the extent of systemic inflammation. HMGB1 and PTEV expressing HMGB1 purified from the plasma of patients with SSc induced up-regulation of Tie2 in vitro. Tie2 induction was abrogated by Box A and LMWH. PTEVs from SSc patients (but not from the plasma of HD) injected in the tail vein of NSG mice dramatically upregulated Tie2 neutrophil expression. Neutrophil Tie2 upregulation abated in the presence of HMGB1 inhibitors, Box A and LMWH. Immunohistochemistry revealed lung fibrosis associated with massive infiltration by Tie2+ neutrophils. Neutrophil ablation by liposome-encapsulated clodronate confirmed by immunogold at electron microscopy. Tie2 expression was determined in freshly purified normal neutrophils stimulated with PTEVs from SSc patients or from HD or stimulated with rHMGB1 in vitro. Moreover PTEVs purified from the plasma of SSc patients or from HD were injected in the tail vein of NSG mice (that are receptive to human tissues). 18 hours after injection the expression of Tie2 of neutrophils in blood and lung histology were analyzed. Box A and low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) have been used as HMGB1 antagonists in vitro and in vivo.

Conclusion: Our data highlight the role of the platelet HMGB1/neutrophil axis in SSc vascular inflammation and fibrosis.

REFERENCES:


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New developments in imaging in rheumatology

**POST153**

**MACROPHAGE [11C]-DPA-713 PET-CT IMAGING TO PREDICT EARLY ANTI-TNF TREATMENT OUTCOME IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging, Qualitative research methods

W. Binsbergen1, J. De Jongh1, S. Piepenbosch1, M. Yaqub2, D. Van Schaardenburg1, A. Voskuyl1, G. C. J. Wieringen1, C. J. Van der Laken1, Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Reade, Locatie Dr. Jan Van Breemenstraat, Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) using anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) biologics has greatly benefited patients since their introduction, with an expected treatment response rate of up to 50-70%. However, this leaves 30-50% of patients taking ineffective medication whilst being exposed to the potential side-effects of anti-TNF. Current patient care requires clinical evaluation of 3 to 6 months before effectiveness can reliably be assessed. Quantitative macrophage position emission tomography (PET) has shown potential to predict clinical response at an early stage of treatment [2]. The new generation translocator protein (TSPO) tracer [11C]-DPA-713 has demonstrated excellent properties for imaging of arthritis by targeting synovial macrophages [2, 3].

**Objectives:** To determine whether quantitative whole body [11C]-DPA-713 PET/CT imaging at 0-4 weeks of anti-TNF treatment in clinically active RA patients is associated with clinical response at 26 weeks.

**Methods:** Whole body [11C]-DPA-713 PET/CT scans were performed at baseline and after 4 weeks of treatment with anti-TNF in n=20 clinically active RA patients. All patients were either anti-TNF naïve or switched to an anti-TNF agent without previous primary failure to anti-TNF. Co-treatment with DMARD and/or low dose (≤ 5 mg/day) was allowed and was stable for at least 4 weeks. Clinical follow-up was conducted with the Disease Activity Score 24 (DAS24) after 26 weeks of treatment. PET/CT scans were quantitatively analyzed using in-house software. Regions of interest (ROIs) were delineated on PET/CT per individual joint in all joint evaluated using the DAS24 and CT as anatomical reference. Standardized uptake values (SUVs) normalized for body weight were calculated in these ROIs to determine quantitative tracer uptake per joint. PET outcome at baseline and 4 weeks of anti-TNF treatment was compared with the DAS24 scores at 26 weeks of treatment.

**Results:** Included patients were mostly female (70%) and aged 61.5 ± 12.8. Baseline DAS24 was 2.5 ± 1 and all demonstrated visually enhanced tracer uptake in one or more joints on PET/CT. After 26 weeks 30% showed no response, 20% moderate response and 50% good response to treatment according to EULAR response criteria. Baseline mean PET/CT scores of all joints per patient already correlated significantly with DAS24 at 26 weeks (T=0, R² = 0.547, p < 0.001). In smaller joint clusters the highest correlation was found for the metacarpal-phalangeal joints (T=0, R² = 0.650, p < 0.001). Furthermore, PET/CT outcomes at 4 weeks of anti-TNF treatment also had significant correlation with DAS24 at 26 weeks for those same measurements: mean score of all joints: T=4, R² = 0.530, p < 0.001, mean score MCPs: T=4, R² = 0.728, p < 0.001.

![Figure 1. Changes in [11C]-DPA/713 uptake in MCP joints of an RA patient responding to anti-TNF treatment, before (A) and after 4 weeks after initiation of anti-TNF treatment (B).](image_url)

**Conclusion:** Quantitative whole body macrophage C-11-DPA713 PET/CT joint assessment correlated already at baseline, and also at 4 weeks of anti-TNF treatment with clinical response at 6 months of treatment. Therefore, quantitative non-invasive macrophage PET/CT shows promise for very early prediction and treatment stratification of anti-TNF in RA patients. Further studies will be focused on development of standardized and (semi-)automated PET quantification protocols to facilitate implementation in clinical trials and practice.

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**POST154**

**A DEEP LEARNING MODEL TO LOCATE INFLAMMATORY CHANGES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Artificial Intelligence, Imaging

T. Hassanzadeh1, D. Shamron1, Y. L1, M. Reijnierse2, A. Van der Helm – Van Mil2, B. Stoel1. Leiden University Medical Center, Division of Image Processing, Department of Radiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

**Background:** Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is one of the most sensitive imaging modalities to monitor affected joints and detect inflammatory signs related to Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). Finding and tracking inflamed areas can help to evaluate patients status, and start treatment in a very early stage. The RAMRIS [1] scoring system is being used to assess the extent of inflammation by scoring specific areas to quantify synovitis, tenosynovitis and bone marrow edema. Deep Learning (DL) may, however, provide more accurate and specific quantification of synovitis.

**Objectives:** We aimed to develop a change map that locates RA progression over time, using MRI scans of the wrist. Our purpose was to develop an automatic, hypothesis-free DL model that considers the entire MRI for detecting all possible longitudinal changes related to RA between baseline and follow-up wrist MRIs.

**Methods:** Wrist contrast-enhanced T1-weighted fat-suppressed MRI scans of 236 patients from four time points (baseline, with 4, 12, and 24 months follow-up) were collected [1]. An unsupervised DL model was developed together with image processing techniques to detect a pixel-level progression within wrist MRI scans between baseline and the last follow-up MRIs. This model predicts the MRI appearance of the follow-up scan, based on the baseline scan, by learning from MRI time sequences of all patients in the training set. Similarly, the baseline scan was predicted backwards in time, based on the follow-up scan (see Figure 1). Subsequently, by comparing the predicted and true MRI image, pixel-level changes can be determined between the two MRI scans. For prediction, we used a U-Net [2] to reconstruct follow-up images from baseline and vice versa. After pre-training, two copies of the trained model and a joint loss function were used for final training in a shared branch U-Net: the first branch is trained to generate a follow-up image and the second branch to create a baseline image. After final training, two difference maps were obtained by subtracting the baseline image from the predicted follow-up image and by subtracting the follow-up image from the predicted baseline image. Since real changes appear in pixels with positive values, Otsu thresholding was applied only on the positive differences to generate two change maps, where the first change map shows intensity reduction (areas of remission) and the second indicates increased intensity (areas of progression). With fusion of the obtained change maps we obtained the final change map that can highlight the changes in both directions.

**Results:** As can be seen from Figure 1, the proposed model could find local pixel-level changes, highlighting RA remission/progression over time. The red overlay shows a reduction in intensity, the blue overlay indicates an increase in intensity. To show the performance of the proposed model, the results were compared with a baseline model, that simply subtracts the original follow-up from the baseline image. As can be seen from the provided examples, the proposed model is less sensitive to imaging artifacts.

**Conclusion:** A comparative DL-model is proposed to find inflammatory changes in wrist MRI scans. Despite being an unsupervised model (sometimes detecting changes, in e.g. vessels, that are presumed to be unrelated to RA), the results are promising, since the change maps contain less artifacts as compared to simple image subtraction.

**REFERENCES:**

PERIPHERAL JOINT AND ENTHESIS INVOLVEMENT IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (IBD): SYMPTOMS, CLINICAL AND ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Spondyloarthritis, Imaging

N. Vladimirova 1, L. Terslev 2,3, M. Attiaibi 4, G. Madsen 2, V. Fana 2, C. Wiell 2, M. Östergaard 2,3, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Center of Head and Orthopedics, Glostrup, Rigshospitalet, Capital Region, Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark; 3Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Copenhagen University Hospital - Herlev and Gentofte, Herlev, Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark; 4Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Copenhagen University Hospital - Hvidovre, Hvidovre, Denmark

Background: Peripheral musculoskeletal (MSK) symptoms are the most common extra intestinal manifestations (EIMs) in IBD patients, with substantial impact on quality of life. IBD related spondyloarthritis (IBD-SpA) often requires a multi-disciplinary evaluation to enable optimal choice of treatment and patient care, but standardised rheumatological characterisation of this population is scarce [1]. Characterisation of IBD-SpA is challenged by the variety of MSK involvement (from arthralgia to ankylosing spondylitis), the co-existence of osteoarthritis, overuse enthesopathies or fibromyalgia, and by the heterogeneity in methodologies used to describe the SpA features. Recently developed recommendations for endpoints for EIMs in IBD trials [2] were applied in the present study.

Objectives: To determine the prevalence and distribution of inflammatory lesions in peripheral joints and entheses in newly diagnosed IBD patients, assessed for presence of MSK symptoms, and by rheumatological and ultrasound (US) evaluation.

Methods: Patients from the IBD prognosis inception cohort (IBD-Pro) were consecutively included [2]. They reported MSK symptoms using a validated questionnaire (IBD-TAQ). A clinical examination was performed by rheumatologist, as was US examination (grey scale (GS) and colour Doppler (CD)) of 38 peripheral joints and 14 entheses, applying OMERACT-EULAR definitions and scoring systems for synovitis and enthesis [3]. Synovitis was defined as GS score ≥2 and/or CD≥1 and entheseal inflammation was defined as presence of hypoecho-genicity/thickening and/or CD score ≥1. Further, OMERACT-EULAR sum score (GLOESS) was calculated (0-114).

Results: 110 newly diagnosed IBD patients (mean age 42, 38% male) were included (34% Crohn’s disease, 59% ulcerative colitis (UC), 5% unclassified IBD). The IBD disease activity scores indicated mild activity in UC patients (Simple Clinical Colitis Activity Index mean (SD) 6.7 (3.6) - max score 19, and low in Crohn (Harvey-Bradshaw Index for Chron’s disease 4.5 (2.9)- max score 18). Four patients received systemic glucocorticoids (2%) or biologics (2%) at the time of the rheumatological evaluation. History of psoriasis was reported in 2% and uveitis in 5% of the patients. 40% of the patients reported positive history for ≥1 MSK symptom (Figure 1, A1); joint pain and swelling were the most common complaints (30%), followed by heel enthesis (17%) and dactylitis in 20%. Patient pain VAS was low, mean (SD) 13(25). Clinical examination revealed 53% of all patients having arthritis and/or enthesitis and fulfilled ASAS classification criteria for peripheral SpA (25% ≥1 tender joint, 12% ≥1 swollen joint, 46% ≥1 tender enthesis, 38% both ≥1 tender/swollen joint and ≥1 tender enthesis). Figure 1 (part A2a, A2b) shows joint and enthesis involvement. US found inflammation in ≥1 joint or enthesis in 47% of the IBD patients - synovitis in 30%, mean GLOESS sum score 5.2 SD (4.6) and entheseal inflammation in 33% (US enthesis sum, mean SD 2.6(2)). (Figure 1, part A3a, A3b). Among those patients reporting enthesis pain, 71% had ≥1 enthesis at clinical evaluation and 64% had entheseal inflammation by US. Among those reporting joint pain, 55% had ≥1 tender or swollen joint, and

Figure 1. Overview of the proposed model and examples of obtained change maps.

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41% US synovitis. Figure 1 (part B1, B2) displays the overlap between patient-reported symptoms, clinical and US findings. In the asymptomatic patients (60 %) 59% of the patients with clinical signs of arthritis and 79% of those with enthesitis were asymptomatic. US enthesitis and synovitis were also observed in 69% and 58%, respectively, of the asymptomatic patients.

**Conclusion:** At the time of IBD diagnosis 53% fulfilled ASAS classification criteria for peripheral SpA and 47% had objectively verified synovitis and/or enthesitis by US indicating that SpA may be underdiagnosed among IBD patients.

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[1] Schwartzman M et al., RMD Open 2022

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**Disclosure of Interests:**

Nora Vladimirova Speakers bureau: MSD, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Lene Teslev Speakers bureau: Speakers fees from Janssen, Roche, Novartis, Novo, Oniron, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sandoz, Sanofi and UCB., Consultant of: Abb-Vie, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Celgene, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Hospira, Janssen, Merc, Novartis, Novo, Oniron, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sandoz, Sanofi and UCB.,

**Background:** Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) are characterized by a deterioration of bone mass, bone microstructure and biomechanics [1, 2]. However, little evidence is available on the long-term evolution of these bone properties and the impact of autoimmunity, disease activity and targeted anti-inflammatory therapy.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the longitudinal course of peripheral volumetric bone mineral density (vBMD), microstructure and biomechanics in patients with seropositive RA (RA+), seronegative RA (RA-) and PsA (i) by diagnosis (ii) disease categories and time-varying weighted average disease activity and inter -actions or pairwise differences over time between ever vs. never exposed categories were significant.

**Conclusion:** Autoimmunity impairs bone health over time and is particularly associated with impaired trabecular bone quality. Good control of disease activity in RA+, RA-, and PsA patients may be helpful in preventing bone loss and deterioration of bone microstructure, and biomechanics. Specific contribution of b/tsDMARDs to the time course of bone quality at the radius needs further clarification.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Patient characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>RA seronegative</th>
<th>RA seropositive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>51.7 (12.2)</td>
<td>58.8 (12.2)</td>
<td>53.9 (12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females, n(%)</td>
<td>72 (47.7)</td>
<td>49 (72.1)</td>
<td>131 (67.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years median (IQR)</td>
<td>3.0 (1.0-10.0)</td>
<td>3.0 (1.0-8.0)</td>
<td>5.0 (0.0-13.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up duration, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>24.7 (0.0-48.0)</td>
<td>16.4 (0.0-42.7)</td>
<td>25.2 (0.0-47.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of scans, n (%)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>48 (31.8)</td>
<td>21 (30.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>56 (37.1)</td>
<td>29 (42.6)</td>
<td>56 (29.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>31 (20.5)</td>
<td>12 (17.6)</td>
<td>49 (25.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;4</td>
<td>16 (10.6)</td>
<td>6 (8.8)</td>
<td>38 (19.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid use, n (%)</td>
<td>57 (37.7)</td>
<td>52 (76.5)</td>
<td>149 (772)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cDMARDs use, n (%)</td>
<td>24 (15.9)</td>
<td>25 (36.8)</td>
<td>59 (30.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b/tsDMARDs use, n (%)</td>
<td>127 (84.1)</td>
<td>43 (63.2)</td>
<td>134 (69.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** Time course of bone density (A) and microstructure (B) in patients with PsA and RA.
POST-STRESS ELASTOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES AT ACHILLES ENTHESIS AS AN OUTCOME MEASURE IN THE ASSESSMENT OF PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IN REMISSION

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Ultrasound

C. Guillén-Astete1, A. Palomeque1, M. Serrano Warleta1, R. Manzo1,2 Ramirez y Cajal University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Tendon elastography has demonstrated the ability to discriminate between healthy subjects and patients with enthesitis. Its greatest strength is its ability to reliably quantify the stiffness of a soft structure. However, its use in anatomical load-bearing entheses has not been sufficiently explored. The use of quantifiable enthesis assessment methods would open up multiple possibilities in both the diagnosis and follow-up of inflammatory enthesis diseases.

Objectives: To evaluate the response to mechanical stress through elastography in the enthesis of the Achilles tendon among patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in remission treated with anti-IL17, therapies other than anti-IL17 (non-anti-IL17), and healthy controls.

Methods: Observational, multicenter, non-blind study. The elastography results before and after physical exercise of patients with PsA in remission treated with therapies anti-IL17, therapies other than anti-IL17 (non-anti-IL17) were compared with those of healthy subjects matched by age (+/- 4 years), sex, and body fat percentage (BFP) (+/- 4%). Elastography was performed with a GE Logic S8 sonograph with a linear 6MHz probe. The region of interest (ROI) was the Achilles tendon. All elastographic measurements were the result of three separate measures performed on the achilles enthesis. The region of interest (ROI) was the Achilles enthesis. The stiffness of the enthesis was measured in KPa. The mean and standard deviation (mean±sd) were calculated. The differences in mean stiffness before and after physical exercise were compared with the Student’s t-test.

Results: The elastographic results of 14 patients on anti-IL17 therapies, 15 on non-anti-IL17 therapies, and 15 healthy controls were compared. The median disease duration of BD patients was 72 (28.5-162.0) months and 61.9% of them had major organ involvement. The most common major organ involvement was vascular (57.7%) followed by ocular (34.6%), and neurological (7.7%) involvement. Most (66.7%) BD patients were using immunosuppressive treatment. Both IMT-R and IMT-L were significantly higher in BD patients than HC (p<0.0001). There was no significant difference between IMT-R and IMT-L in BD patients with and without major organ involvement (p=0.005 for both).

Conclusion: IMT of CVF as well as wall thickness is significantly increased in BD patients than HC. Our results suggest that there is a full layer venous wall inflammation including intima-media layer in BD independent of vascular involvement.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. The measurements of intima-media and venous wall thickness of common femoral vein

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behget’s disease</th>
<th>Healthy controls</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right CVF wall thickness, mm</td>
<td>0.74 ± 0.18</td>
<td>0.18 ± 0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left CVF wall thickness, mm</td>
<td>0.74 ± 0.19</td>
<td>0.19 ± 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right IMT of CVF, mm</td>
<td>0.32 ± 0.17</td>
<td>0.10 ± 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left IMT of CVF, mm</td>
<td>0.34 ± 0.17</td>
<td>0.10 ± 0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CVF, common femoral vein; IMT, intima-media thickness, SD, standard deviation

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6176
The OMERACT Giant Cell Arteritis Ultrasound Scoring (OGUS) score is a potential useful outcome to assess the risk of relapse during follow-up.

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Imaging, Ultrasound

J. Molina Collada1, J. M. Alvaro-Gracia2, E. De Miguel2, Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** The OMERACT ultrasound large vessel vasculitis working group has recently developed an ultrasound (US) composite score, the OMERACT giant cell arteritis (GCA) Ultrasound Scoring Score (OGUS), to assess the extent of vascular inflammation by US and to monitor disease activity in patients with GCA[1].

**Objectives:** Our objective was to assess the sensitivity to change of this score and to determine whether OGUS variations after treatment are associated with the risk of relapse during follow-up.

**Methods:** Retrospective observational study of patients referred to a US GCA fast track clinic of an academic center over a 2-year period with GCA clinical confirmation. All patients underwent baseline US evaluation at the time of diagnosis and at 3- and 6-month visits per protocol. OGUS was calculated as the sum of intima media thickness (IMT) in every segment divided by the rounded cut-off values of IMTs in each segment (0.4 mm for the common trunk of superficial temporal arteries, 0.3 mm for the parietal and frontal branches and 1 mm for the axillary arteries). The total sum was divided by the number of segments available. OGUS score >1 indicates abnormal exam. EULAR definitions for remission and major and minor relapse were checked for every patient at 3 and 6 months. Patients were treated according to clinical response with standard therapy. Sensitivity to change of OGUS was calculated as negative values of standardized mean difference (SMD) for each visit separately. The t-student test for paired samples was used for comparing baseline and follow-up OGUS assessments. 0-3 and 0-6-months OGUS variations were compared between patients with and without relapse during follow-up and with and without achievement of remission at 6 months.

**Results:** A total of 35 GCA patients were included for analysis (mean age 77.4 years, 62.9 % females). Ten (28.6%) patients relapsed at 3 or 6 months during follow-up, of whom 8 (22.9%) showed a minor relapse. EULAR definition of remission at 6 months was achieved by 18 (51.4%) patients. Mean (SD) baseline OGUS was 1.34 (0.34). OGUS improved significantly at 3 (1.34 vs 1.14, p=0.013) and 6 months (1.34 vs 1.1, p=0.01). The SMD of OGUS between baseline and 3 and 6 months was -0.49 and -0.04, respectively. 0-3- and 0-6-month OGUS variations in patients with and without relapse during follow-up and patients with and without achievement of remission at 6 months are shown in detail in Table 1. Mean 0-6-month OGUS improvement was significantly lower in patients with relapse during follow-up (-0.06 vs 0.35, p=0.049).

**Conclusion:** OGUS shows moderate sensitivity to change in patients with GCA after standard therapy at 3 and 6 months. The absence of OGUS improvement during follow-up is associated with the risk of relapse and the probability of not achieving remission. These findings highlight the usefulness of this tool in clinical practice and may support personalized medicine decisions during treatment tapering.

**REFERENCE:**

**Table 1.** 0-3- and 0-6-months OGUS variations in patients with and without relapse during follow-up and with and without achievement of remission at 6-months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>All patients n = 35</th>
<th>Relapse during follow-up n = 10</th>
<th>No relapse during follow-up n = 25</th>
<th>Remission at 6-months n=18*</th>
<th>No remission at 6-months n=13*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3-months</td>
<td>0.2 (0.39)</td>
<td>0.04 (0.57)</td>
<td>0.26 (0.29)</td>
<td>0.311 (0.23)</td>
<td>0.23 (0.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGUS varia-</td>
<td>tions, mean (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-6-months</td>
<td>0.24 (0.36)</td>
<td>-0.08 (0.45)</td>
<td>0.35 (0.24)</td>
<td>0.049 (0.35)</td>
<td>0.35 (0.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGUS varia-</td>
<td>tions, mean (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6-months</td>
<td>0.04 (0.37)</td>
<td>-0.04 (0.62)</td>
<td>0.11 (0.19)</td>
<td>0.391 (0.13)</td>
<td>0.13 (0.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGUS varia-</td>
<td>tions, mean (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6368

**POS0160**

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ALGORITHMS FOR AUTOMATIC STRATIFICATION OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS USING HAND X-RAYS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Artificial Intelligence, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Bonnin1, T. Estienne2, F. Muller-Fournet3, B. Bekadar2, Y. Carrillon2, C. Pouchy2, T. Ati Si Selmi1, 1Santo Orthopedic Center. Lower limb surgery/ orthopaedics, Lyon, France; 2Deemea, Research and Development, Paris, France; 3Santo Orthopedic Center, Radiology department, Lyon, France

**Background:** The diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis is based on clinical, biological and imaging criteria [1]. Among these criteria, the quantification of the lesions through X-ray images is essential for the establishment of therapeutic strategies and the clinical follow-up of the patient [2]. The Sharp/van der Heijde (SVH) method is used to assess the severity of bone erosion and joint narrowing on X-rays of hands and feet it is frequently used in clinical practices and observational studies [3]. The SVH manual scoring process requires a high level of expertise and time consuming. It can also suffer from inter-observer interpretation variability.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study is to use convolutional neural networks to automate the scoring of SVH and the classification of patients on this scale.

**Methods:** This work uses a public database of 3,818 X-rays of both hands. Each X-ray is paired with a rating of the disease severity evaluated with the SVH score. This score has values between 0 and 280 because only both hands are used. The database was separated into a training, validation and testing set (64%, 16% and 20% respectively). Two convolutional neural networks (CNN) were trained. The first predicts the value of the SVH score. The second classifies patients into two groups, depending on their score: less or more than 70. To improve the performance of the algorithms, various techniques have been implemented: transfer learning, data augmentation functions (rotation, flipping, noise) and hyperparameter and architecture search.

**Results:** The prediction network has an average error of 16.00 (std 17.75), with a Pearson correlation of 0.86. Its results are presented in the figure with individual results and confidence intervals. The classification algorithm obtained a mean value of the area under the curve (AUC) of 0.97, an accuracy of 0.84 and a positive predictive value of 0.91.

**Conclusion:** This study demonstrates the interest of using artificial intelligence algorithms in the diagnosis and standardized follow-up of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. These could help clinicians in the evaluation of osteoarticular lesions and the stratification of patients according to the severity of the lesions with great precision.

**REFERENCES:**
AN ULTRASOUND SCORING SYSTEM BASED ON THE SIZE AND NUMBER OF EROSIONS IS RELIABLE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Methods: A task force of the OMERACT Ultrasound Working Group developed definitions and a scoring system for grading bone erosions which takes both the size and number of erosions into consideration. Pairs of static images (longitudinal and transverse scans) were considered and the dataset of anonymized images, representing various grades was created and utilized. Inter-reader reliability of the scoring system was assessed using kappa statistics. Both the longitudinal and transverse scans were considered and the number of erosions into consideration. Pairs of static images (longitudinal and transverse scans) were considered and the dataset of anonymized images, representing various grades was created and utilized. Inter-reader reliability of the scoring system was assessed using kappa statistics.

Results: A 4-grade semiquantitative scoring system was developed: grade 0) intact cortical bone; grade 1) single small erosion (diameter: ≤2mm); grade 2) single large erosion (diameter: >2mm) or 2 small erosions or 1 large and 1 small erosion; grade 3) ≥3 erosions, regardless of size (Figure 1). A dataset composed of 45 anonymised image pairs (90 single images) was graded by 20 task force members in two rounds separated by 10 days. The intra-reader (mean: 0.79; 95% confidence interval: 0.75-0.84) reliability was excellent and the inter-reader (mean: 0.75; 95% confidence interval: 0.74-0.76) reliability was substantial.

Conclusion: This preliminary OMERACT scoring system for bone erosions of the finger joints in RA has demonstrated excellent reliability on static images. Further studies are required to evaluate the reliability of the combined acquisition and reading of images in patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2842

VALIDITY OF SIMPLIFIED ULTRASONOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENTS OF JOINT INFLAMMATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Ultrasound, Rheumatoid arthritis

Z. Rutter-Locher1, K. Chaabo2, E. Chan2, A. Vincent2, S. Norton2, L. B. Kirkham1. 1Guy's Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2St George's Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 3King's College London, Psychology and Inflammation Biology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSK US) is a valuable tool to aid management of inflammatory arthritis. It’s use in clinical practice is limited by the feasibility and time constraints of performing a full 44 or 78 joint ultrasound.

Objectives: Our objective was to determine the validity of four previously published simplified approaches (6 joint[1], 12 joint[2], and [3] and data-driven[4] US models) in a new patient cohort, in order to guide future choice of MSK US protocol in research and clinical practice.

Methods: Sequential patients with rheumatoid arthritis, diagnosed according the 1987 ACR criteria, with a DAS28ESR score ≥3.2 underwent clinical assessment and 44 joint US at Guy’s Hospital. Grey scale (GS) and power doppler (PD) were graded semi quantitatively, according to the EULAR-OMERACT criteria. All the joints scored in the simplified 6 joint, 12 joint, hands only and “data driven” models were included in the current 44 joint US. However, the number of synovial recesses examined differed from those in the simplified models. Sensitivity of the simplified models to detect GS and PD signal, compared to the extended 44 joint US was calculated. Content validity was evaluated by correlating the 44 joint US count with the simplified models using Spearman’s correlation coefficient.

Results: 158 patients were enrolled in the study, with a mean age of 58.9 years (SD 12.95), 78.2% Female, 67.7% RhF positive and a median disease duration of 16 years (IQR 9-26). GS, PD and total scores for all the simplified models compared with the 44 joint US was assessed using linear regression analysis.

Conclusion: This study validates the use of the 6 joint, 12 joint, hands only and data driven approaches in a new patient cohort. The data driven approach was the most sensitive and retained the greatest proportion of information compared with the total 44 joint US scores.

REFERENCES:


**Table 1.** Correlation coefficients between simplified model scores and 44 joint US scores. GS, PD and total (sum of GS and PD) are presented in Column 1,2, and 3. Proportion of information in the total score retained(R2) by simplified models are presented in column 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GS</th>
<th>PD</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Total score R2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 joint US⁴</td>
<td>0.791*</td>
<td>0.913*</td>
<td>0.826*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 joint US⁴</td>
<td>0.826*</td>
<td>0.928*</td>
<td>0.858*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands only US⁴</td>
<td>0.887*</td>
<td>0.963*</td>
<td>0.913*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data driven US⁵</td>
<td>0.912*</td>
<td>0.963*</td>
<td>0.932*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at the 0.01 level (2 tailed)

**Figure 1.** Joints are shown in order of prevalence of GS =≥ 2 and PD=1 findings. Right (Right or Left) was taken as the measure of frequency.

**Table 1. Characteristics of study population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (female)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS ≥1 in salivary gland biopsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-SSA positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular staining score ≥5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schirmer ≤5 mm*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstimulated whole saliva ≤0.1 ml/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total OMERACT score ≥5 in 4 glands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMERACT score ≥2 in at least 1 gland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Data presented as mean ± SD, median [IQR] or n (%)*. 3. Scored in at least 1 eye

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Zoe Rutter-Locher: None declared, Khaloud Chaabo: None declared, Estee Chan: None declared, Alexandra Vincent: None declared, Sam Norton: None declared, L Bruce Kirkham Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly.

**DOi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2971


**References:**

Background: Primary Sjögren syndrome (pSS) is a systemic autoimmune disease that may complicate with pulmonary manifestations in up to 16% of patients [1], including interstitial lung disease (SS-ILD) and airway disease (SS-AD). Secondary objectives: to describe these manifestations and to investigate their prognosis.

Methods: We performed a retrospective multicentric study involving 9 French centers. We included pSS patients fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2016 criteria and having a pulmonary disease associated with pSS evidenced by at least one clinician and one computed tomography (CT) report. We collected clinical and biological data at the visit giving access to the most exhaustive collection, pulmonary function test (PFT) and CT scans of the patients. CT scans were reviewed by a radiologist specialist in thoracic diseases. SS-ILD were considered progressive if there were at least a 10% decrease of the forced vital capacity (FVC) between 2 consecutive measurements, SS-ILD and SS-AD were compared to pSS controls with no history of pulmonary involvement, matched on age and disease duration with a 2/1 ratio.

Results: We included 56 SS-ILD, 31 SS-AD and 174 pSS controls. Comparison of SS-ILD and SS-AD and pSS controls is shown in Table 1. We found that SS-ILD and SS-AD had higher disease activity (ESSDAI) and B cell biological markers at visit time. Incident lymphomas were more prevalent in SS-ILD than pSS. SS-ILD were mostly nonspecific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP, n=16, 36%), usual or probable usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP, n=8, 18%), indeterminate for UIP (n=8, 18%) and lymphoid interstitial pneumonia (LIP, n=4, 9%). Fibrosis features were observed in 43% of cases. 44% of SS-ILD were progressive, independently of pSS characteristics and CT pattern, despite any significant evolution of PFT parameters of overall SS-ILD within 7 years follow-up (Figure 1A). We indirectly assessed the impact of the first line of systemic treatments comparing PFT evolution of treated (43%) and untreated patients. We found that treated SS-ILD tended to have reduce PFT deterioration than untreated patients (C). We performed a retrospective multicentric study involving 9 French centers. We included 56 SS-ILD, 31 SS-AD and 174 pSS controls. Comparisons of baseline and last follow-up PFT of SS-ILD and SS-AD (Figure 1B), and between last follow-up and baseline PFT of treated compared to untreated SS-ILD (C). Delta between post-therapeutical and pre-therapeutical PFT for cyclophosphamide and rituximab (D). Wilcoxon test was used. *: p<0.05.

Conclusion: SS-ILD are usually fibrosing and progressive manifestations of pSS, associated with disease activity, incident lymphoma and B cell biological markers. Despite the absence of randomized trials in SS-ILD, our results suggest an effect of the therapeutic. SS-AD are also associated with the disease activity and seems to progress slowly.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.715

Table 1. Comparison between SS-ILD, SS-AD and pSS control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical feature:</th>
<th>SS-ILD, n=56</th>
<th>pSS control, n=112</th>
<th>SS-AD, n=31</th>
<th>pSS control, n=62</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>49 (87)</td>
<td>103 (92)</td>
<td>30 (97)</td>
<td>58 (93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>7 (13)</td>
<td>7 (6)</td>
<td>2 (7)</td>
<td>3 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscular</td>
<td>7 (13)*</td>
<td>3 (3)</td>
<td>3 (10)</td>
<td>3 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spleenomegaly</td>
<td>5 (9)*</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>2 (6)</td>
<td>2 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSDAI, mean</td>
<td>16*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSDAI (pulmonary excluded), mean</td>
<td>9*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident lymphoma</td>
<td>5 (9)*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-SSA</td>
<td>41 (76)*</td>
<td>66 (59)</td>
<td>21 (70)</td>
<td>38 (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-RNP</td>
<td>11 (22)*</td>
<td>2 (2)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gammaglobulinemia, mean</td>
<td>23*</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bet2a-microglobulinemia, mean</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are in (%) unless otherwise indicated. Stars indicate significant comparisons to pSS control. Mann-Whitney and Fisher’s exact test were used. *: p<0.05.

Conclusion: SS-ILD are usually fibrosing and progressive manifestations of pSS, associated with disease activity, incident lymphoma and B cell biological markers. Despite the absence of randomized trials in SS-ILD, our results suggest an effect of the therapeutic. SS-AD are also associated with the disease activity and seems to progress slowly.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank all the investigators of the ASSESS cohort for their contribution to this study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OUTCOME OF PREGNANCY IN WOMEN WITH PRIOR SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME COMPARED TO THE GENERAL POPULATION: THE FRENCH MULTICENTER PROSPECTIVE GR2 STUDY

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Pregnancy and reproduction, Sjögren syndrome

Methods: This was a French multicentric prospective cohort study of pregnancies in women with prior pSS, which included 190 females with a median age at inclusion of 41 years. The cohort was followed from 2016 to 2019. The primary outcome was the time to the first pSS flare after pregnancy. The secondary outcomes were the rate of pregnancy complications and adverse birth outcomes. The patients were followed up for an average of 10 years.

Results: The rate of pSS flares after pregnancy was 12.3% (13 of 106 pregnancies). The rate of pregnancy complications was 21.2% (22 of 106 pregnancies), including preeclampsia in 8.5% of pregnancies and intrauterine growth restriction in 7.1% of pregnancies. The rate of adverse birth outcomes was 8.4% (9 of 106 pregnancies), including neonatal death in 2.8% of pregnancies.

Conclusion: The rate of pSS flares after pregnancy is 12.3%, which is higher than the rate in the general population. The rate of pregnancy complications and adverse birth outcomes is also higher in pSS patients compared to the general population. This study highlights the need for increased surveillance and management of pSS during pregnancy to reduce the risk of flares and complications.
Among patients with HCQ level >100 mcg/L (n: 117/82%) vs <100 mcg/mL (n: 25/18%), the mean daily dose of HCQ received (250 mg [87.7] vs 220 mg [57.7], \( p=0.33 \)) and the one adjusted to the weight of the patient in both is higher (3.76 [1.4] mg/kg vs 3.16 [1] mg/kg, \( p=0.016 \)). No relationship was observed between the HCQ level and the QTc result. The 39 (27%) patients with QTc >440 ms vs the 103 (73%) with QTc ≤ 440 ms were significantly older (61 [14] years vs 55 [14] years, \( p=0.007 \)) and higher heart rate (75 [12] bpm vs 71 [10.6] bpm, \( p=0.016 \)). No differences were detected between QTc result and HCQ dose or level.

Conclusion: In patients with EASR treated with maintenance doses of HCQ: 1) The mean level of HCQ is not related to prolongation of the QTc interval of the ECG. 2) QTc is significantly related to age and heart rate. 3) 40% of patients with prolonged HCC treatment also receive other common drugs that can influence the QTc, however, it does not seem to cause symptoms of interest. 4) The EASR per se does not affect the QTc result.

Table 1. Characteristics of the patients with according to the result of the QTc and the level of HCQ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, mean (SD)</th>
<th>QTc &gt;440 ms</th>
<th>QTc &lt;440 ms</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61 (14)</td>
<td>55 (14)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>36 (92)</td>
<td>93 (90)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QTc, mean (SD)</td>
<td>417 (34)</td>
<td>427.5 (28)</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart rate, mean (SD)</td>
<td>75 (12)</td>
<td>71 (10.6)</td>
<td>0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight, mean (SD)</td>
<td>70.4 (15.4)</td>
<td>68.5 (15.2)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCC; Dose mcg/mL, mean (SD)</td>
<td>246.5 (88.4)</td>
<td>244.6 (82.5)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/kg HCQ, mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.61 (1.44)</td>
<td>3.68 (1.3)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years in HCQ, mg/kg</td>
<td>8.7 (6.3)</td>
<td>8.2 (6.2)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCC serum level mcg/mL, mean (SD)</td>
<td>192.5 (131.5)</td>
<td>182.3 (121.5)</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>10-603</td>
<td>10-658</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCC &gt;100 mcg/mL</td>
<td>N: 117 (82%)</td>
<td>N: 25 (18%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QTc serum level, mean (SD)</td>
<td>224.1 (116)</td>
<td>58 (28.4)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCC dose, mean (SD)</td>
<td>417 (34)</td>
<td>427.5 (28)</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/kg HCQ, mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.76 (1.4)</td>
<td>3.18 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years in HCQ, mean (SD)</td>
<td>8.03 (6.4)</td>
<td>9.81 (6.4)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight, mean (SD)</td>
<td>68.4 (15)</td>
<td>72 (16)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: The study was supported by a research grant from the Mariona Baixa Association for Research in Rheumatology (AIRE-MB).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0169 IMPACT OF THE HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE LEVEL ON THE ECG QT INTERVAL IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC RHEUMATIC AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES: A REAL-LIFE STUDY

Keywords: Safety, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cardiovascular disease

R. Cuartas-Santos1, J. Rosas2, M. Marco2, A. Pons-Bas3, R. Gallego-Campanuzano1, J. C. Cortés-Quiroz1, M. Shalabi2, J. M. Senabre Gallego1, G. Santos Soler1, L. Pons-Canet1, J. A. Bernal1, X. Barber1, J. A. García-Gómez1, 2Hospital Marina Baixa, Rheumatology, Villajoyosa, Spain; 3Hospital Marina Baixa, Laboratory, Villajoyosa, Spain; 4CIO University of Elche, CIO, Elche, Spain

Background: N/A

Objectives: To analyze the impact of the serum level of HCQ on the QTc interval, in patients with rheumatic systemic autoimmune diseases (RSAD), treated with this drug a long time.

Methods: Retrospective study, among patients with RSAD, treated with HCQ > 1 year, dose 200-400 mg/day (cases). Serum HCQ level was measured and the QTc interval of the ECG. Patients with EASR not treated with HCQ were included as a control group for QTc: weight, current treatment, and ECG was performed to obtain QTc. In patients with RSAD, the following was collected: 1) Epidemiological data of the patient 2) RSAD: diagnosis, year of diagnosis, time of evolution of the disease, own clinical and autoimmunity data, treatment and dose 3) QTc: time in treatment, toxicity, symptoms and serum level. 4) ECG: QTc and heart rate (HR).

Results: 142 patients treated with HCQ for a mean of 8.3 (SD: 6.4) years, at a mean dose of 245 mcg/mL (83.8), and 3.7 (1.3) mcg/kg/day, are included. 129 (91%) are women, mean age 57 (14.5) years, weight 66 (15) kg. Diagnosis distribution: SLE: 72 (50%) patients, RA: 37 (26%), SjS: 26 (18%), Ps: 12 (9%), psoriatic arthritis: 6 (5%), antiphospholipid syndrome: 5 (4%), SLE: 72 (50%) patients, RA: 37 (26%), SjS: 18 (13%), Palindromic rheumatism: 4 (3%), psoriatic arthritis: 3 (2%), antiphospholipid syndrome: 2 (1%) patients. Mean HCQ serum level: 185.6 mcg/mL (124); 25 (28) with a level <100 mcg/mL (mean: 58 [28.5] mcg/mL) and 117 (72%) >100 mcg/mL (mean: 224 mcg/mL [116]). On ECG, the mean HR: 72 bpm (59); and the mean QTc interval: 419 (33) ms, being prolonged (>440 ms) in 39 (27%) patients (range: 441-510 ms). Ten (7%) patients reported symptoms: palpitations: 7 (10%), dizziness in 2 (20%) and 1 (1%) patient an isolated pseu- doysocynal picture (QTc: 441 ms); 58 (41%) patients were receiving treatment with a drug related to the risk of QTc prolongation: Possible (P: authorized doses, no risk of TdP): 8 (14%) patient. Conditional (C: risk in certain circumstances: excessive dose, interactions): 44 (7%). Defined (D: risk of TdP which uses a licensed indication): 1 (2%) patient. When comparing the mean QTc result of the EASR group treated with HCQ and the control group without HCQ (n: 32), no differences were detected (419.4 [33] vs 436 [51], \( p=0.072 \).
Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) patients experience frequent hospitalizations; lupus flares and infections have been shown to be the two most common causes.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to describe the main causes and predictors of first hospitalizations due to disease activity and infections in SLE patients.

Methods: SLE patients from GLADEL, a multi-ethnic, multi-national Latin-American (LA) cohort were studied. The first hospitalization during these patients’ follow-up due to either infection and/or SLE disease activity was examined. Baseline sociodemographic, clinical, damage (SDI) and treatments were evaluated as possible predictors. First, descriptive analyses were performed. Predictors of infection or SLE disease activity associated hospitalization were identified using univariate and multivariate logistic.

Results: A total of 1341 patients were included; 1201 (89.6%) were female. Their median interquartile range (IQR) age at diagnosis was 27 (20-37) years and their median IQR follow up time 27.5 (4.7-62.2) months. 456 (34.9%) patients were hospitalized; 344 (75.4%), 85 (18.6%) and 27 (5.9%) were hospitalized for disease activity, infections, or both, respectively, as depicted in Graph 1. In the multivariable analysis, arthritis was associated with hospitalizations due to infection. Seroactivity, disease activity and damage were associated with hospitalization due to disease activity. Older age, higher socioeconomic status and antimalarial use were found to be protective, as depicted in table 1.

Conclusion: In this large LA lupus cohort, one third of the patients had at least one hospitalization; of them, were due to SLE disease activity. Our findings call attention for controlling disease activity and preventing damage using antimalarials early in the disease course prevent the first hospitalization.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Rosana Quintana: None declared, Romina Nieto: None declared, Rosa Serrano Morales: None declared, Manuel F. Ugarte-Gil: None declared, Guillermo Pons-Estel: None declared, Luis Humberto Silveira Torre: None declared, Ignacio García-De La Torre: None declared, MARIA JOSEFINA SAUZA DEL POZO: None declared, Rosa Chacon: None declared, Graciela S Alarcon: None declared, Oscar Neira: None declared, Loreto Massardo: None declared, Gloria Vásquez: None declared, Luis Alonso Gonzalez: None declared, Marlene Guibert-Toledano: None declared, Luis Portuguez: None declared, Alejandro Gómez-Puerta: None declared, Mercedes Garcia: None declared, Luis Catoggio: None declared, Veronica Saurit: None declared, Jose A. Gómez-Puerta: None declared, Mercedes García: None declared, Rosa Chacon: None declared, Rosana Quintana: None declared, Romina Nieto: None declared, Emilia Sato: None declared, Bernardo Pons-Estel: None declared, Guillermo Pons-Estel: None declared.

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Table 1. Univariable and multivariable logistic regression analysis of predictors of hospitalization due to disease activity and infections in patients with SLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFECTIONS</th>
<th>Univariable OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
<th>Multivariable OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Female</td>
<td>1.14 (0.54-2.41)</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>1.02 (0.97-1.06)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis</td>
<td>1.00 (0.98-1.02)</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>1.00 (0.99-1.01)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasians</td>
<td>1.47 (0.90-2.38)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>1.30 (0.81-2.07)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mestizo</td>
<td>0.84 (0.36-1.95)</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.82 (0.35-1.94)</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA</td>
<td>2.34 (0.86-6.39)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>2.89 (1.02-8.23)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.60 (0.25-1.42)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.59 (0.27-1.28)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>0.63 (0.37-1.07)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.62 (0.36-1.08)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>0.24 (0.13-0.44)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
<td>0.23 (0.12-0.44)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>0.75 (0.57-0.98)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.65 (0.45-0.96)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Univariable OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
<th>Multivariable OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Female</td>
<td>0.89 (0.60-1.23)</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.89 (0.60-1.23)</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis</td>
<td>0.98 (0.97-0.99)</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td>0.98 (0.97-0.99)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasians</td>
<td>1.26 (0.96-1.65)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>1.26 (0.96-1.65)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mestizo</td>
<td>1.51 (1.02-2.23)</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td>1.51 (1.02-2.23)</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA</td>
<td>1.13 (0.55-2.31)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.13 (0.55-2.31)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.24 (0.13-0.44)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
<td>0.23 (0.12-0.44)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>0.75 (0.57-0.98)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.65 (0.45-0.96)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>0.89 (0.65-1.22)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.65 (0.45-0.96)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| SLEDAI | 0.94 (1.00-1.09) | 0.63 | 0.94 (1.00-1.09) | 0.63 |
| Arthritis | 0.93 (0.93-0.94) | 0.43 | 0.93 (0.93-0.94) | 0.43 |
| Seroactivity | 1.00 (0.99-1.01) | 0.75 | 1.00 (0.99-1.01) | 0.75 |
| Renal | 1.38 (0.89-2.15) | 0.15 | 1.38 (0.89-2.15) | 0.15 |
| Anti-dsDNA | 1.38 (0.76-2.52) | 0.29 | 1.38 (0.76-2.52) | 0.29 |
| Antimalarial use | 1.35 (0.86-2.12) | 0.17 | 1.35 (0.86-2.12) | 0.17 |
| Prednisone | Ref. | 0.08 | Ref. | 0.08 |
| None | 1.56 (0.36-8.86) | 0.75 | 1.56 (0.36-8.86) | 0.75 |
| <0.75mg/d | 1.44 (0.62-3.32) | 0.34 | 1.44 (0.62-3.32) | 0.34 |
| 7.5-15mg/d | 2.07 (1.22-3.52) | 0.01 | 2.07 (1.22-3.52) | 0.01 |
| ≥15mg/d | 1.84 (0.97-3.49) | 0.07 | 1.84 (0.97-3.49) | 0.07 |

ALA: African American; LDAS: Low disease activity; SLEDAI: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index; SDI: Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics/American College of Rheumatology Disease Index. * At cohort entry, **At diagnosis, ↑Increase on per 1 unit, †Highest dose
Objectives: We aimed to characterise the all-cause mortality rate (MR) and the incidence of cancer in SLE patients receiving biologic and standard of care (SoC) therapies.

Methods: Patients recruited to the BILAG-BR 2010-2021 were included. Demographic and clinical data were recorded at recruitment. Mortality and malignancy data were collected from study centres, the UK Office of National Statistics and the National Cancer Register. Cox regression models were used to estimate the hazard ratios (HRs) of mortality and cancer in biologic-treated patients compared to SoC. Mortality models were adjusted for age, gender, co-morbidity, SLICC damage index (SDI) and hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) use. The standardised mortality ratio (SMR) and standardised incidence ratio (SIR) were calculated using death and cancer rates for the general UK population.

Results: During follow-up, (1463 patients with 5,962 person years [pys]), 32 incident cancers occurred in 31 individuals, a median (IQR) of 1.31 (0.63-3.36) years after registration. The overall incidence was 6.0 (3.8-7.6) per 1000 pys. Compared to the UK general population, the SIR (95% CI) was 1.21 (0.85-1.72). Using SoC as the comparator, the age and gender adjusted HR was 1.49 (0.57-3.92) for rituximab and 2.47 (0.57-10.58) for belimumab. Across the whole cohort, associated risk factors (table 1), included age at recruitment (HR 1.05 [1.02-1.08]) and male sex (HR 2.81 [1.15-6.85]).

Diabetes mellitus 0.59 (0.08-4.34) - 1.63 (0.53-4.98) - 1.63 (0.53-4.98) - 1.63 (0.53-4.98) -

Table 1. Risk factors associated with risk of cancer and death in a cohort of patients with moderate-severe SLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer</th>
<th>Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazard ratio</td>
<td>Adjusted HR*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(HR) (95% CI)</td>
<td>Adjusted HR**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at recruitment (per year)</td>
<td>1.07 (1.04-1.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at recruitment (per year)</td>
<td>3.51 (1.57-7.86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes duration</td>
<td>5.02 (0.99-1.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLICC damage index</td>
<td>1.20 (0.96-1.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking ever</td>
<td>1.46 (0.69-3.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous cancer</td>
<td>2.81 (1.15-6.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myocardial infarction</td>
<td>2.57 (0.61-10.80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>0.59 (0.08-3.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>2.21 (1.05-4.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>2.68 (1.20-5.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone dose at baseline (per mg)</td>
<td>0.99 (0.94-1.03)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for age, sex, previous cancer, hypertension and ethnicity. **Age, sex, previous cancer, myocardial infarction, diabetes mellitus, white ethnicity and HCQ use.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Mia Rodziewicz: None declared, Sarah Dyball: None declared, Emily Sutton: None declared, Stephen McDonald: None declared, Ben Parker: None declared, Ian N. Bruce Speakers bureau: GSK Astra Zeneca Janssen, Consultant of: GSK Astra Zeneca Aurinia Lilly, Grant/research support from: GSK Astra Zeneca Janssen.

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POS0171 PATIENT-DOCTOR COMMUNICATION GAP - RESULTS OF A SPEED-SHOP ON “LUPUS FLARE” AT LUPUS2022 MEETINGS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Quality of care, Systemic lupus erythematosus

A. Corneli1, F. Marchiori2, H. Stefañosdóttir2, M. Mosca3, 1Lupus Europe, HQ, Brussels, Belgium; 2Lupus Europe, PAN, Brussels, Belgium; 3University of Pisa, Department of rhumatology, Pisa, Italy

Background: The Patient – Doctor communication gap is often discussed, and is one of the obstacles pointed by patients and doctors alike in the fruitful co-working of optimal treatments. Recognizing the difference between doctors and patients approach when confronted to a lupus flare is critical to bridge this gap and increase the effectiveness of jointly agreed treatment plans.

Objectives: Identify potential discrepancies between patient and doctors discussion starting points when facing a lupus flare. Are they “talking the same thing”? “do they have similar concerns in their minds?”

Methods: As part of the SL Euro lupus 2022 congress 57 participants, doctors and patients, took part in a speed-workshop to identify first what “makes them identify an event as a lupus flare” and then their “key concerns when facing a lupus flare! Answers were provided on post-its of different colours per type of participants, forcing short answers focusing on key aspects. The commonalities and discrepancies were then identified for further handling.

Results: A total of 57 statements identifying a lupus flare were collected and classified assessable (visible/ measurable) items, or specific symptoms. The results highlighted that the communication difficulty between patients and doctors starts from the very feeling of what a flare is. 91% of patients include in their recognition of a flare a factor that cannot be “easily” objectivated by a doctor such as fatigue (59.1%), or pain (50%). Only 36% of patients include an externally visible factors, mostly often fever. In contrast, 88% of doctors require an externally visible/measurable factor to “identify” a flare. These 2 different starting points can create a first communication gap, as well as a difference in the qualification of an event as a flare or not. A total of 93 concerns, sorted in “huge; “big;” or “mid” were collected from participants. These items could be classified in 4 key groups: concerns around daily life & logistics; overall anxiety; symptoms and medication. When confronted to an event considered as a flare, patients have a perspective focusing on the impact of flares on their daily life and logistics (35% of huge concerns, 30% of all concerns), and face anxiety over disease/life in the future (30% of all concerns 19% of huge concerns); on the contrary the doctor’s focus is on symptoms (67% of huge concerns, 46% of all concerns) and medications (29% of all concerns), with only 7% of the doctors focusing on the patients “immediate” daily life/logistics issues, and 18% on anxiety. This discrepancy of concern also hinders the patient-doctor communication.

Conclusion: Doctors and Patients starting points and concerns with regards to a lupus flare appear perfectly logical and fitting each individual’s role in the relationship, with the doctor’s primarily focused on the disease, and the patient on “how to live with it” However this different view may create an initial gap which needs to be bridged to enhance the therapeutic relationship. Acknowledging the existence of this gap is likely a first step towards an improved patient-doctor communication.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0172 ARTERIAL STIFFNESS IN ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME: COMPARISON WITH DIABETES MELLITUS AND HEALTHY CONTROLS

Keywords: Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Cardiovascular disease

G. Evangelatou1,2, G. Konstantonis1, N. Tentolouris1, P. Stilakis1,2, M. Tektonidou1,2, 1Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, First Department of Propaedeutic Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece; 2Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Joint Academic Rheumatology Program, Athens, Greece

Background: Patients with Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS) carry an increased burden of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality and have higher prevalence of traditional cardiovascular risk factors (CVRFs) and subclinical atherosclerosis [1]. Arterial stiffness (AS) has emerged as an independent predictor of future cardiovascular events and death in the general population, beyond the effect of traditional CVRFs [2].

Disclosure of Interests: Mia Rodziewicz: None declared, Sarah Dyball: None declared, Emily Sutton: None declared, Stephen McDonald: None declared, Ben Parker: None declared, Ian N. Bruce Speakers bureau: GSK Astra Zeneca Janssen, Consultant of: GSK Astra Zeneca Aurinia Lilly, Grant/research support from: GSK Astra Zeneca Janssen.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3779
Objectives: We aimed to compare ArS measures in thrombotic APS patients and age- and sex-matched patients with diabetes mellitus (DM) and healthy controls (HC), and identify potential predictors of increased ArS in patients with APS.

Methods: ArS was evaluated by carotid-femoral Pulse Wave Velocity (cPWV) and Augmentation Index normalized to 75 beats per minute (AIx@75) using the SphygmoCor device. All participants also underwent ultrasound examination of the carotid and femoral arteries for the detection of atherosclerotic plaques. Multivariate analysis was applied for comparing ArS measures between groups and for the assessment of ArS predictors in the APS group.

Results: One-hundred and ten APS patients (70.9% female, mean age: 45.4 years), and equal numbers of DM patients and HC were included. After adjustment for age, sex, traditional CVRFs and atherosclerotic plaque presence, APS exhibited similar cPWV (p=0.456) but increased AIx@75 (beta=4.640, 1.668-7.611, p=0.002) versus HC. APS patients had lower cPWV (p<0.001) but similar AIx@75, (p=0.150) compared to DM patients. Using multiple linear regression analysis, cPWV in APS group was independently associated with age (beta=0.095, 0.043-0.178, p<0.001), mean arterial pressure (MAP) (beta=0.070, 0.043-0.097, p<0.001), atherosclerotic plaques in femoral arteries (beta=0.732, 0.035-1.141, p=0.035) and anti-β2GPI IgM positivity (beta=0.696, 0.201-1.191, p=0.006). AIx@75 was associated with age (beta=-0.334, 0.117-0.551, p=0.003), female sex (beta=-7.447, 2.312-12.581, p=0.005) and MAP (beta=-0.425, 0.187-0.663, p=0.001).

Conclusion: Patients with APS exhibit comparable cPWV to healthy individuals but elevated AIx@75, similar to DM, implying impaired vascular health in APS. Age, female sex, MAP, atherosclerotic plaques and anti-β2GPI IgM are linked with enhanced arterial stiffening in APS. Given its prognostic value, ArS evaluation may help to improve cardiovascular risk stratification in APS patients.

REFERENCES

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1898

bDMARDS in RA 2.0: about the good and the bad...

Table 1. Mean difference in DAS28-CRP and relative risk of EULAR good response in men compared to women 4 and 12 months after initiation of first tumor necrosis factor inhibitor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at TNFi start (Years)</th>
<th>4 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>Good response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MD (95%CI)</td>
<td>RR (95%CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-40</td>
<td>0.39 (0.18 to 0.61)</td>
<td>1.18 (0.95 to 1.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;40-50</td>
<td>0.18 (-0.03 to 0.38)</td>
<td>1.20 (1.00 to 1.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50-60</td>
<td>0.18 (0.03 to 0.33)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.82 to 1.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;60-70</td>
<td>0.16 (0.02 to 0.31)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.82 to 1.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;70</td>
<td>0.17 (-0.05 to 0.39)</td>
<td>0.93 (0.72 to 1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>0.19 (0.11 to 0.27)</td>
<td>1.02 (0.94 to 1.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All - adjusted</td>
<td>1.07 (0.99 to 1.16)</td>
<td>1.13 (1.05 to 1.21)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements: We will like to thank patients and all rheumatologic departments in Denmark for their contribution of data in DABIO.

Disclosure of Interests: Karen Buch/Lauridsen Speakers bureau: Thermo Fisher Scientific; Kirsten Duch: None declared; Anders Sandermøn Mortensen: None declared; René Cordtz Employee of: Is employed by IQVIA outside the submitted work, Salome Kristensen: None declared; Merete Lund Hetland Grant/research support from: have received Research grants from Abbvie, Biogen, BMS, Celtrion, Eli Lilly, Janssen Biologics B.V, Lundbeck Fonden, MSD, Medac, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung Biopies, Sandoz, Novartis, Lene Dreyer Speakers bureau: has received speakers fee from Eli Lilly; Galderma, and Janssen, Grant/research support from: has received research grants from BMS (outside the present work).

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POS0174

THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT DMARDs ON MORTALITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PREVALENT INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Lungs, Rheumatoid arthritis

T. Rudi1, V. Zietemann1, M. Schaefer1, Y. Meissner1, A. Zink2, A. Krause3, Anne T., 4University Rheumatism Research Centre, Epidemiology and Health Services Research, Berlin, Germany; 4Scientific Advisory Board, RABBIT, Berlin, Germany; 1Innemuel Krankenhaus, Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; 2Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Background: Intersitial lung disease (ILD) is one of the most common extra-articular manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) with a high mortality risk. Only few studies examined the association between RA treatment and mortality in patients with RA-ILD, and these studies do not include all available DMARDs and tend to be of poor quality [1].

Objectives: To investigate the impact of treatment on all-cause mortality in patients with RA-ILD taking inflammation, traditional risk factors and comorbidities into account.

Methods: RA patients enrolled and observed in the biologics register RABBIT between 01/2007 and 10/2021 with an ILD, reported either at enrolment or during follow-up, were selected for the analysis. Observation started at the time of ILD reporting (= baseline) death, dropout or end of follow-up, whichever came first. Time-varying cox regression (= main model) was applied, taking into account all treatment exposures and covariates on a monthly basis (Figure 1). Sensitivity analyses comprised two alternative treatment exposures: a cumulative model (calculated as cumulative exposure in months for every treatment divided by total months of observation time), and an intention-to-treat model (treatment at baseline as exposure). Missing data was imputed 10 times. All models were adjusted by inverse probability weighting and number of comorbidities as covariate.

Results: Out of 15,566 cohort participants, 381 patients were identified as prevalent ILD cases. The total observed time was 1,258 person years, and 97 patients (25 %) died. Patients exposed to T cell co-stimulation modulator (T cell), B cell targeted therapy (B cell), and Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) had higher RA disease scores and multiple comorbidities (Table 1).

Conclusion: To our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate the risk of all-cause mortality in RA-ILD for all available DMARD treatments jointly, using month-level data. In accordance with the few existing recommendations and studies, all non-TNFi-biologics as well as JAKi showed a protective signal compared to TNFi in all three regression models. Furthermore, patients who did not receive any DMARD had an increased risk of mortality. However, the study sample size was small, the results should thus be interpreted with caution.

REFERENCE:
[1] PMID: 36064885

Table 1. Characteristics by treatment group at time of ILD reporting

| N                  | Follow-up (py) | Age, years | Female, % | Disease duration, years | Rheumatoid factor +, % | DASI28-ESR | % of physical function (FFBrk) | CRP, mg/l | No. of comorbidities | Glucocorticoid dose >10 mg/d, % | Intention-to-treat | 28-year-survivors: a cumulative model (calculated as cumulative exposure in months for every treatment divided by total months of observation time), and an intention-to-treat model (treatment at baseline as exposure). Missing data was imputed 10 times. All models were adjusted by inverse probability weighting and number of comorbidities as covariate.

Figure 1. Hazard ratios of inverse probability weighted. * Cox regression models include age, disease duration, gender, FFbH, categorized glucocorticoids (dose) and CRP at baseline, rheumatoid factor, year of inclusion. ** An additional 6 months were added as risk window

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Disclosure of Interests: Tatjana Rudi: None declared, Vera Zietemann: None declared, Martin Schaefer: None declared, Yvette Meissner Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Angela Zink Grant/research support from: Previously, but not during last three years, Andreas Krause Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Grant/research support from: UCB, Anja Strangfeld Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Armg, BMS, Celltrion, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, UCB. Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute., Grant/research support from: Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.552

POS0175

“DO DISEASE MODIFYING ANTIRHEUMATIC DRUGS INFLUENCE THE FRACTURE RISK IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS?” THE HUNT STUDY, NORWAY

Keywords: Epidemiology, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

I. Tronstad1,2, M. Hof1,3, J. Horn1, S. A. Vikjord1,2, V. Videon5,7, T. Nilsen6,9, A. Langhammer1,10, 1,Norwegian University of Science and Technology, HUNT Research Centre, Department of Public Health and Nursing, Trondheim, Norway; 2,Levanger Hospital, Department of Medicine and Rehabilitation, Levanger, Norway; 3,Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Neurorheumatism and Movement Science, Trondheim, Norway; 4,St. Olav’s University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Trondheim, Norway; 5,Levanger Hospital, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Levanger, Norway; 6,Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Clinical and Molecular Medicine, Trondheim, Norway; 7,St. Olav’s University
Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is associated with reduced bone mineral density and increased fracture risk. Bone sparing properties are reported for biological (b) disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) (1), but previous studies have not found bDMARDs to reduce fracture risk (2). Knowledge is sparse regarding fracture risk in individuals with RA using different types of DMARDs compared to the general population.

Objectives: To investigate the effect of RA on fracture risk, and examine if bDMARD treatment influences this association.

Methods: The Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT) is a population-based longitudinal study in central Norway. We included all participants who had attended at least one of the last three HUNT surveys, using the first participation as baseline. RA status was obtained by linkage to the patient records at the regional hospital using International Classification of Disease codes (ICD9 and 10) for Major Osteoporotic Fractures (MOF), as well as further validation of medical records regarding date of RA diagnosis and use of DMARDs (divided into the following groups: never DMARDs, conventional synthetic(cs) DMARDs only, or ever bDMARDs). All RA diagnoses were validated according to American College of Rheumatology (2010) criteria.

RESULTS: RA status was registered at baseline and updated if RA was diagnosed later. Participants were followed until the first MOF, death, emigration, or end of follow-up on 21.10.2021. Cox regression was used to estimate hazard ratios (HR) for MOF in RA participants in general and by treatment group, compared to the people without RA. Confounders were identified using directed acyclic graphs (DAGs) and included sex, age at inclusion and smoking status at baseline.

Table 1. RA independent of treatment was associated with almost 50% increased risk of MOF compared to non-RA (HR 1.44). By treatment group, never DMARDs had highest risk of MOF, followed by csDMARDs. Risk increased 8.8% compared to non-RA (HR 1.13). By treatment group missing for 19 RA participants including 2 individuals with a MOF.

Adjusted for age at inclusion, sex, and smoking status at baseline. CI: confidence interval. DMARDs group missing for 19 RA participants including 2 individuals with a MOF. RA independent of treatment was associated with almost 50% increased risk of MOF compared to non-RA (HR 1.44). By treatment group, never DMARDs had highest risk of MOF, followed by csDMARDs. Treatment with bDMARDs was not associated with MOF. Incidence rates (IR) per 1000 person-years were higher in RA overall and in all DMARD treatment groups compared to non-RA.

Conclusion: RA was associated with MOF. However, in RA individuals treated with bDMARDs, an association with MOF was not seen. This is an encouraging result and might be of importance when evaluation future treatment regimens in this patient group.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT) is a collaboration between HUNT Research Centre (Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, NTNU - Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Trøndelag County Council, Central Norway Regional Health Authority, and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. We want to thank clinicians and other employees at Nord-Trøndelag Health Trust their support and for contributing to data collection.

Disclosure of Interests: Ingebjorg Tonstad: None declared, Mari Hoff: None declared, Julie Horn: None declared, Sigrid Anna Vikjord: None declared, Vibeke Videm: None declared, Tom Nilsen: None declared, Arnulf Langhammer Speakers bureau: Paid as speaker by AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Glaxo-Smith-Klein, Consultant of: Paid consultant for Boehringer Ingelheim and AstraZeneca. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2012.
Background: Rituximab (RTX) is a safe and effective treatment for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In The Netherlands, RTX is usually administered intravenously every six months in standard low dose (250 mg or 1000 mg). Ultra-low doses (1x500 or 1x200 mg every six months) have shown to be effective as well for continued treatment for RA patients who are in remission.[1] Despite its efficacy and safety, there are some concerns about infection risk for RTX. Preliminary data suggest a dose and time dependent infection risk with a higher risk in higher doses and shortly after infusion.[1,2]

Objectives: The aim of this study was to compare infection incidence rates (IRs) in a real-life population of RA patients between standard low or ultra-low dosed RTX, with an additional focus on time since last infusion.

Methods: RA patients treated with standard low or ultra-low dosed RTX in the Sint Maartenskliniek (The Netherlands) between 2012 and 2021 were included in this retrospective cohort study. Patient-, disease- and treatment characteristics were retrieved from electronic health records. Infections within 30 days after vaccination were considered as one RTX treatment. As RTX is usually given every six months, only infections occurring within 6 months after administration were included. In absence of the exact date of an infection, the start date was imputed using single imputation based on the known start week, month or period of infection. Infection IRs, dose-dependency and time relations with RTX infusions were analyzed using mixed-effects Poisson regression with correction for confounders. After Bonferroni correction, results were considered statistically significant if p<0.025.

Results: Among 490 patients followed for 1254 patient years, 819 infections were identified (65/100 patient years). Most infections were mild (89%) and resolved rapidly.

Conclusion: Ultra-low dosing, and especially 200 mg, of RTX is associated with lower infection risk in addition to reducing costs and administration time. In clinical practice, physicians should consider offering 500 mg and especially 200 mg RTX dosage to RA patients in sustained remission, instead of continuing the 1000mg dosage.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Infection rates and last received RTX dose/time since last RTX infusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last received dose</th>
<th>1000 mg</th>
<th>500 mg</th>
<th>200 mg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infections (n)</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient years</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence rate (n/100 patient years)</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude IRR (95% CI)</td>
<td>1.00 (ref.)</td>
<td>0.77 (0.62-0.95, p=0.014)</td>
<td>0.59 (0.41-0.85, p=0.004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted IRR (95% CI)</td>
<td>1.00 (ref.)</td>
<td>0.82 (0.66-1.02, p=0.071)</td>
<td>0.64 (0.45-0.93, p=0.019)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time since last infusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time since last infusion</th>
<th>0-2 months</th>
<th>2-4 months</th>
<th>4-6 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infections (n)</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient years</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence rate (n/100 patient years)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude IRR (95% CI)</td>
<td>1.00 (ref.)</td>
<td>0.85 (0.72-1.01, p=0.060)</td>
<td>0.89 (0.75-1.05, p=0.160)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted IRR (95% CI)</td>
<td>1.00 (ref.)</td>
<td>0.86 (0.73-1.01, p=0.070)</td>
<td>0.90 (0.76-1.07, p=0.244)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
at moment of DAS28 measurement), seropositivity for ACPA and/or rheumatoid factor and sex as potential confounders. The mean percentage of the rituximab Daily Defined Dose (%DDD) per treatment period was calculated as secondary outcome, with 1000mg/6months as 100% reference.

**Results:** A total of 387 patients were included in the cohort, with a mean of 9.2 DAS28-CRP measurements (SD: 6.0) available per patient. Median follow-up time was 46 months (IQR: 25-78). 299 patients attempted tapering during follow-up and entered period 2 at least once, of whom 226 also entered period 3. The mean DAS28-CRP was 2.37 (95% CI: 2.29, 2.44) for period 1, 2.32 (95% CI: 2.24, 2.40) for period 2, and 2.27 (95% CI: 2.18, 2.36) for period 3, the latter significantly lower compared to period 1 (p<0.002). The mean percentage of the DDD for the three time periods was 111% for the continuation period; 64% in the DAGO period and 71% in the stable RTX dosage period.

**Conclusion:** This relatively large retrospective cohort study shows that DAGO of RTX is effective for rheumatoid arthritis patients doing well on full dose rituximab, and leads to relevant dose reduction. The lower mean disease activity scores in period 3 may be affected by survival bias, as solely patients using RTX imab, and leads to relevant dose reduction. The lower mean disease activity was significantly lower compared to period 1 (p<0.002). The mean percentage of the DDD for the three time periods was 111% for the continuation period; 64% in the DAGO period and 71% in the stable RTX dosage period.

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**REFERENCE:**


### Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N=387</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis (years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositivity (RA/ACPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of previous bDMARDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-57 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-205 (53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥95 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant use of ≥1 csDMARD during follow-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow up time (months)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are n (%), mean (SD) or median (IQR). RF: rheumatoid factor; ACPA: Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptides; bDMARDs: biological DMARDs; csDMARDs: conventional DMARDs.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Liban Ahmed: None declared, Kathryn Biddle: None declared, Anna Blundell: None declared, Soraya Koushesh: None declared, Pat Liban Ahmed: None declared, Kathryn Biddle: None declared, Anna Blundell: None declared, Soraya Koushesh: None declared, Patrick Kiely Speakers bureau: Pfizer speaker fees, Grant/research support from: Lilly and Janssen support to attend CPD events, Philip Sedgwick: None declared, Nikki Sofat Consultant of: Dr Sofat has done Consultancy work for Pfizer and Eli Lilly, Grant/research support from: She has received funding from Bristol Myers Squibb and has been responsible for research funded by Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Centrexion and Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

**REFERENCE:**


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**REFERENCE:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Liban Ahmed: None declared, Kathryn Biddle: None declared, Anna Blundell: None declared, Soraya Koushesh: None declared, Patrick Kiely Speakers bureau: Pfizer speaker fees, Grant/research support from: Lilly and Janssen support to attend CPD events, Philip Sedgwick: None declared, Nikki Sofat Consultant of: Dr Sofat has done Consultancy work for Pfizer and Eli Lilly, Grant/research support from: She has received funding from Bristol Myers Squibb and has been responsible for research funded by Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Centrexion and Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

**REFERENCE:**


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**REFERENCE:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Liban Ahmed: None declared, Kathryn Biddle: None declared, Anna Blundell: None declared, Soraya Koushesh: None declared, Patrick Kiely Speakers bureau: Pfizer speaker fees, Grant/research support from: Lilly and Janssen support to attend CPD events, Philip Sedgwick: None declared, Nikki Sofat Consultant of: Dr Sofat has done Consultancy work for Pfizer and Eli Lilly, Grant/research support from: She has received funding from Bristol Myers Squibb and has been responsible for research funded by Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Centrexion and Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

**REFERENCE:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Liban Ahmed: None declared, Kathryn Biddle: None declared, Anna Blundell: None declared, Soraya Koushesh: None declared, Patrick Kiely Speakers bureau: Pfizer speaker fees, Grant/research support from: Lilly and Janssen support to attend CPD events, Philip Sedgwick: None declared, Nikki Sofat Consultant of: Dr Sofat has done Consultancy work for Pfizer and Eli Lilly, Grant/research support from: She has received funding from Bristol Myers Squibb and has been responsible for research funded by Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Centrexion and Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

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**REFERENCE:**

Background: The approval by medicines regulatory agencies of new therapeutic agents in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is based on results of Phase III randomized controlled trials. The RA trials have been mainly used ACR20 response as primary endpoint. Conversely, this outcome is not clinically relevant for significant improvement of patient’s quality of life.

Objectives: We aimed to explore the surrogacy between ACR20 and ACR70 in rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: We performed a systematic review by searching randomized clinical trials registered in MEDLINE, EMBASE and the Cochrane Library between January 1990 and June 2021. We included all randomized trials (phase I and III trials, including multiarm design) that compared biotherapies or JAK inhibitors with csDMARDS or placebo with available ACR20 and ACR70 response. The coefficient of determination R²trial between these two outcomes were estimated using weighted meta-regression. To validate the surrogacy, the coefficient of determination (R²trial) should be superior than 0.65 and close to 1.

Results: We included 189 randomized trials totaling 81,734 patients. Using 322 coefficients, the comparison of determination R²trial for estimating the relation between ACR20 on ACR70 responses is 0.55 (95% prediction interval 0.47-0.63). In subgroup analyses, the R²trial for the anti-TNF therapeutic class was 0.69 (95% prediction interval 0.56-0.78). The R²trial in other subgroup analyses (double-blind design, superiority studies, multicentric studies, year of publication, corticosteroid use, small-study effect, and other therapeutic classes) were not relevant for surrogacy.

Conclusion: There is no surrogacy between ACR20 and ACR70 in RA. The use of ACR20 as primary outcomes should be limited to phase II trials and is not relevant for health technology assessment of benefit-risk ratio.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0181

THE IMPACT OF AUTOANTIBODIES (RF AND ACPA) ON THE EFFICACY OF BIOLOGICAL DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: META-ANALYSIS OF RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS

Keywords: Outcome measures, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis


University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Stem Cell and Immune Regulation, Yokohama, Japan; 2Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Biomedical Data Sciences, Leiden, Netherlands; 3University of Leeds, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; 5Goethe University, CIRI/Rheumatology and Fraunhofer Institute, Translational Medicine and Pharmacology ITMP, Frankfurt, Germany; 6Solna, Karolinska Institutet, Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; 7University of Iceland, Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, Reykjavik, Iceland; 8Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 9University of Helsinki and Helsinki University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Helsinki, Finland; 10Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 11Amsterdam Rheumatology Center, Department of Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 12Zuyderland Medical Centre, Department of Rheumatology, Heerlen, Netherlands

Background: The impact of autoantibodies on the efficacy of biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is not yet clear. Despite the fact that this information has been collected by several randomized controlled trials (RCTs), efficacy data for seropositive and seronegative patients separately have generally not been published.

Objectives: To comprehensively investigate the efficacy of bDMARDs in patients with RA with RF/ACPA compared to patients without these autoantibodies.

Methods: Previous systematic literature reviews performed by EULAR RA management task forces were searched for relevant RCTs published before February 2023. RCTs including both autoantibody-positive (≥80% of total population) and -negative RA patient populations were included and the corresponding or sponsored RCTs to report aggregate results from analyses of individual patient data on clinical efficacy outcomes stratified for the presence of autoantibodies (RF+ vs RF−, ACPA+ vs ACPA−). Per trial, relative risks (RR) or mean differences comparing two groups (RF+ vs RF−, ACPA+ vs ACPA−) were calculated for various outcomes (ACR 20/50/70, DAS28 remission, delta DAS28, delta HAQ and radiographic progression) at the timing of the primary endpoint for the bDMARD-arm and the non-bDMARD-arm separately. Subsequently, relative risk ratios (RRRs) were computed, as the ratio of RR of the bDMARD-arm and the RR from the non-bDMARD-treated arm, reflecting whether serositivity preferentially affected treatment response to bDMARD therapy. A meta-analysis was conducted using a mixed-effect meta-regression in subgroups of patients according to baseline autoantibody status.

Results: Data from 28 eligible RCTs were analyzed and from 23 pooled: 6 including csDMARD-naive patients, 14 including csDMARD-inadequate responders (csDMARD-IR) and 3 including tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi)-IR patients. In csDMARD-naive and csDMARD-IR, serositivity was not associated with a better response to bDMARDs: Pooled 6-month ACR20 RRRs were 1.02 (0.88-1.18) and 1.09 (0.90-1.32), respectively (Figure 1A and B). Other outcomes followed the same pattern, with no difference between the groups. In TNFi-IR patients, based on 3 trials, the 6-month ACR20 RRR was 2.28 (1.31-3.95) (Figure 1C), favoring efficacy in seropositive patients. Other outcomes showed a similar effect, although with large confidence intervals and several reflecting a non-significant difference between the groups (Table 1).

Conclusion: In csDMARD-naive and csDMARD-IR patients, autoantibodies did not have an impact on the efficacy of bDMARDs in RA. In TNFi-IR patients, there is a possible higher efficacy of bDMARDs in the seropositive group, but the low number of trials, large confidence intervals and inconsistent results across outcomes ask for caution in the interpretation. Serosenegative TNFi-IR patients may have very heterogeneous underlying pathophysiological mechanisms, with a lower probability of good treatment response. Overall, in less treatment-resistant patients, the presence of autoantibodies was not associated with the treatment effect of bDMARDs.


Table 1. Pooled outcomes in seropositive (RF+) vs seronegative (RF−) TNFi-IR patients at 6 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Relative Risk Ratios/Differences of differences (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP remission</td>
<td>0.96 (0.51, 1.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP remission</td>
<td>0.96 (0.51, 1.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR70</td>
<td>3.69 (0.42, 32.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR70</td>
<td>3.69 (0.42, 32.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>2.80 (0.79, 9.34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>2.80 (0.79, 9.34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta HAQ</td>
<td>1.06 (1.03, 1.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta HAQ</td>
<td>1.06 (1.03, 1.10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Forest plot for the Relative Risk Ratio for ACR20 at 6 months comparing RF+/RF− in bDMARD+vs csDMARD vs RF+/RF− in csDMARD.
Rituximab for RA and applied them to our population. We compared the EULAR response (moderate-to-good) at 12 months and the incidence of serious adverse events (AEs, including severe infections, malignancies, major adverse cardiovascular events, and death) at 12 months between eligible and non-eligible patients. We modeled the risk-benefit ratios according to the number of fulfilled critical eligibility, defined by those associated with response and severe AEs, respectively, after backward stepwise variable elimination.

Results: Among 1989 RA patients included in the AIR registry, only 9 to 12% fulfilled all main eligibility criteria for the 3 drug-registration trials. The main unfulfilled inclusion criteria were an elevated CRP or ESR level (67.3%), erosive changes on bone X-ray (68.1%), and a swollen joints count ≥4/28 (74.6%). The main exclusion reasons were a history of severe or recurrent infection (35%), another severe uncontrolled disease (16%), neoplasia (14%), a high prednisone dose (>10 mg/day for 26%), the use of another DMARD than methotrexate (16%) and ACR functional class IV disease (15%). Compared with RCT-eligible patients, non-eligible patients had less frequently moderate-to-good EULAR response (40.3% versus 46.9%, P=0.044), and had a smaller change in DAS-28 (~1.2 vs -1.4; 95% CI 0.1 to 0.5; P=0.006) at 12 months. Compared to patients with no exclusion criterion, patients with at least one critical exclusion criterion had a higher risk of severe AEs (HR 3.03, 95% CI 2.25–4.06 for ≥ 3 exclusion criteria compared to none). While the probability of EULAR response decreased with the number of unmet critical inclusion criteria, the probability of severe AEs increased with the number of exclusion criteria (Figure 1), highly decreasing the incremental risk-benefit ratio.

Conclusion: Few RA patients treated with rituximab fulfilled the eligibility criteria of the main drug-registration trials. Non-eligible patients had less chance of treatment response, and a higher risk of severe adverse events. This suggests that the efficacy and safety data from those trials cannot be extrapolated to RA patients in daily practice.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0182

RISK-BENEFIT ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF RITUXIMAB FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN REAL LIFE: FINDINGS FROM 1984 PATIENTS FROM THE FRENCH AUTOIMMUNITY AND RITUXIMAB REGISTRY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD, Safety

Y. Nguyen1,2, X. Mariette1,2, J. E. Gottenberg1, M. Judici1, J. Morel1, O. Vittecoq1, A. Constantin1, R. M. Filipo3, T. Scheaverbeke3, J. Sibilia3, P. Ravaud3, R. Porcher3, R. Seror1,2, *Bicetre Hospital, AP-HP Sud, Université Paris Saclay, Rheumatology, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France; 1Center for Immunology of Viral Infections and Auto-immune Diseases (INVA), INSERM U1184, Autoimmunity Team, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France; 2Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France; 3Center Research Epidemiology And Statistics - Inserm University Paris City, METHODS, Paris, France; 4Lapeyronie Center University Hospital, Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; 5CHU De Rouen, Rheumatology, Rouen, France; 6CHU Purpan, Rheumatology, Toulouse, France; 7CHRU de Lille, Rheumatology, Lille, France; 8CHU de Bordeaux, Rheumatology, Bordeaux, France

Background: Most randomized clinical trials (RCTs) are explanatory studies examining whether a therapy can work under ideal circumstances. Rituximab (RTX) has been approved for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) following the results of three RCTs [1–3], including about 1000 patients. However, less than 10% of real-life patients was found to be eligible to these registration trials, because of restrictive inclusion criteria or exclusion criteria such as co-morbidities or undesired co-medication, which questions external validity of these RCTs. Whether the efficacy, tolerance or safety data obtained in highly selected RCTs patients can be extrapolated to a more heterogeneous sample of patients receiving RTX in daily practice, remains to be elucidated.

Objectives: We aimed to identify the main reasons limiting the eligibility of routine care patients in RTX-registration RCTs, and to investigate the relationships between the number of eligibility (both inclusion and exclusion) criteria and RTX efficacy and safety in a real-life scenario.

Methods: The AIR registry is a French nationwide, multicentre, prospective cohort study aiming at investigating efficacy and safety of RTX in a real-life setting. We retrieved eligibility criteria of the drug-registration trials evaluating rituximab for RA and applied them to our population. We compared the EULAR response (moderate-to-good) at 12 months and the incidence of serious adverse events (AEs, including severe infections, malignancies, major adverse cardiovascular events, and death) at 12 months between eligible and non-eligible patients. We modeled the risk-benefit ratios according to the number of fulfilled critical eligibility, defined by those associated with response and severe AEs, respectively, after backward stepwise variable elimination.

Results: Among 1989 RA patients included in the AIR registry, only 9 to 12% fulfilled all main eligibility criteria for the 3 drug-registration trials. The main unfulfilled inclusion criteria were an elevated CRP or ESR level (67.3%), erosive changes on bone X-ray (68.1%), and a swollen joints count ≥4/28 (74.6%). The main exclusion reasons were a history of severe or recurrent infection (35%), another severe uncontrolled disease (16%), neoplasia (14%), a high prednisone dose (>10 mg/day for 26%), the use of another DMARD than methotrexate (16%) and ACR functional class IV disease (15%). Compared with RCT-eligible patients, non-eligible patients had less frequently moderate-to-good EULAR response (40.3% versus 46.9%, P=0.044), and had a smaller change in DAS-28 (~1.2 vs -1.4; 95% CI 0.1 to 0.5; P=0.006) at 12 months. Compared to patients with no exclusion criterion, patients with at least one critical exclusion criterion had a higher risk of severe AEs (HR 3.03, 95% CI 2.25–4.06 for ≥ 3 exclusion criteria compared to none). While the probability of EULAR response decreased with the number of unmet critical inclusion criteria, the probability of severe AEs increased with the number of exclusion criteria (Figure 1), highly decreasing the incremental risk-benefit ratio.

Conclusion: Few RA patients treated with rituximab fulfilled the eligibility criteria of the main drug-registration trials. Non-eligible patients had less chance of treatment response, and a higher risk of severe adverse events. This suggests that the efficacy and safety data from those trials cannot be extrapolated to RA patients in daily practice.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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All about Crystal arthritis II

The updated cardiovascular risk estimation scale SCORE2 does not improve the precision in predicting cardiovascular events in patients with gout

Keywords:
- Crystal arthritis

M. D. C. López González1, E. Tovar-Sugrañes2, C. Rodríguez Alvear1, E. Perea Martínez3, M. Monzo4, A. Avilés5, M. Andrés6

Hospital General Universitario Dr. Balmis-ISABIAL, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario y Politécnico La Fe- IIS La Fe, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain; 3Hospital Marina Baixa, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Villajoyosa, Spain

Background:
Cardiovascular (CV) risk in gout is increased due to the accumulation of CV risk factors and persistent inflammation. Therefore, it is necessary to have precise evaluation strategies to categorize the risk of patients with gout in order to optimize their treatment. In previous studies, we have seen that the usual prediction scales SCORE and Framingham Heart Study are not accurate in detecting patients with gout and carotid atheroma plaques (PMID 28093417). The SCORE2 version, an update of the SCORE tool, performed similarly in predicting the presence of those plaques [1], although it remains unknown its predictive capacity of CV events in patients with gout.

Objectives:
To evaluate the precision of SCORE2 in predicting CV events in patients with gout, with a comparison with prior SCORE and Framingham Heart Study tools.

Methods:
We conducted a retrospective post-hoc study on new patients with crystal-proven gout, from our inception cohort focused on evaluating their CV risk. The recruitment period was 2014-2018. For the present analysis, we selected patients eligible for SCORE2 calculation (without established CV disease, diabetes with vascular involvement or severe renal disease), and we collected the occurrence of a first major CV event (stroke, acute myocardial infarction (AMI), congestive heart failure (CHF), peripheral artery disease (PAD), and CV death) from their electronic records, occurring from study inclusion up to the event, end of follow-up or 03/31/2022. We calculated their incidence rate (IR) and evaluated the predictive capacity of CV events for SCORE2, SCORE and REGICOR (Framingham equation calibrated for the Spanish population) (PMID: 2622995) tools using a Cox regression model that allows to estimate their hazard ratio with 95% confidence intervals (CI).

Results:
The initial sample of 356 patients, 193 (54.2%) were selected for this analysis. They were mainly men (94.8%) of middle age (average 56.8 years), with an average of 8.2 years since the first gout flare. Almost all patients originate from low CV risk geographical regions, but only 32 patients (16.8%) classified at high risk by SCORE2. The median follow-up time was 6.4 years (25-75 5.1-7.1). During the follow-up, 10 patients had a first CV event (3 cases of stroke, 2 of AMI, 2 of CHF, 2 of PA, and one patient died from a CV cause). The IR of CV events in this subset was 0.83 cases per 100 patient-years. In terms of predicting CV events in patients with gout, the SCORE2 tool did not show a better performance than the SCORE and REGICOR (Framingham) tools (Table 1).

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard Ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCORE2 (continuous)</td>
<td>1.10 (0.99-1.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE2 categories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE2_low risk</td>
<td>1.00 (ref)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE2_moderate risk</td>
<td>0.97 (0.19-5.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE2_high risk</td>
<td>2.34 (0.39-14.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE2_high risk (yes/no)</td>
<td>2.39 (0.62-9.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE (continuous)</td>
<td>1.03 (0.91-1.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE categories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE_low risk</td>
<td>1.00 (ref)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE_moderado</td>
<td>0.70 (0.07-6.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE_high risk</td>
<td>1.74 (0.20-14.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE_very high risk</td>
<td>15.20 (0.94-244.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE_very high risk (yes/no)</td>
<td>13.70 (1.72-109.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGICOR (continuous)</td>
<td>1.12 (1.00-1.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGICOR categories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGICOR_low risk</td>
<td>1.00 (ref)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGICOR_moderate risk</td>
<td>2.58 (0.07-9.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGICOR_high risk</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGICOR moderate-high (yes/no)</td>
<td>2.47 (0.64-9.57)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The SCORE2 tool signifies no improvement on accurately predicting CV events in patients with gout compared to previous SCORE and Framingham Heart Study scales. Our data should be replicated in regions with higher CV risk estimates.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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U-shaped association of serum urate with all-cause mortality in gout patients: NHANES 2007-2018

Keywords:
- Gout

N. Chen1, Q. H. Li2, S. X. Hu3, H. Lin1, L. Dai2, 1Sun Yat-Sen University, Zhongshan School of Medicine, Guangzhou, China; 2Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-Sen University, Department of Rheumatology, Guangzhou, China

Background:
The EULAR guideline for the management of gout recommended a target serum urate (sUA) level of less than 6 mg/dl in gout patients and less than 5 mg/dl in tophaceous gout patients [1]. This recommendation is based on the evidence that achieving these targets will reduce gout attacks and tophi size. However, less is known about the impact of sUA on mortality in gout patients.

Objectives:
To explore the relationship between sUA level and all-cause mortality in gout patients.

Methods:
The present prospective cohort study included participants 20 years or older with gout enrolled from the 2007-2008 through 2017-2018 annual NHANES cycles. The data of mortality and its underlying causes to 31 December 2019 were obtained from the National Death Index records. The relationship of gout patients between sUA level and mortality were analyzed by Cox proportional hazards analysis, the restricted cubic spline regression analysis and two piece-wise regression model.

Results:
A total of 1442 gout patients were included with median follow-up period 63 (interquartile range, 33-102) months. Compared with gout patients with sUA less than 6mg/dl, gout patients with sUA>6mg/dl were characterized by greater age, more often men, higher BMI and higher prevalence of hyperlipidemia (P<0.05). Cox proportional hazards analysis showed that sUA was a risk factor of mortality (HR 1.09, 95% CI 1.02 to 1.16) after adjusted by age, sex, race, education, BMI, smoking, cardiovascular disease, hyperlipidemia, hypertension and diabetes mellitus. However, restricted cubic spline regression analysis showed a U-shaped relationship between sUA and all-cause mortality (Pnon-linear <0.001, Figure 1). Two piece-wise regression model revealed sUA level of 6.2 mg/dl corresponded to the lowest mortality risk. For those patients with sUA less than 6mg/dl, the risk of all-cause death was borderline reduced 12% (HR 0.88, 95% CI 0.72 to 1.07) with each sUA unit increase. After 6mg/dl, the risk of all-cause death increased 26% (HR 1.26, 95% CI 1.14 to 1.40) for each sUA unit increase.

Conclusion: There is a U-shaped association of sUA with all-cause mortality in gout patients. Target sUA of less than 6 mg/dl is rational as it corresponds to the interval of lowest mortality. Randomized trials with mortality as an endpoint are warranted to determine target sUA for gout patients.

REFERENCE:
**SYSTEMIC IMMUNE-INFLAMMATION INDEX TO ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY IN GOUT PATIENTS: NHANES 2007-2018**

**Keywords:** Crystal Arthritis

H. Lin1, N. Chen1, S. X. Hu1, Q. H. Li2, 3Sun Yat-Sen University, Zhongshan School of Medicine, Guangzhou, China; 3Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-Sen University, Department of Rheumatology, Guangzhou, China

**Background:** Systemic immune inflammatory index (SII) is a new marker of inflammation. SII is associated with increased cancer risk and mortality in cardiovascular and cancer patients. However, the effect of SII on mortality in gout patients is rarely reported in the literature.

**Objectives:** To study the relationship between SII level and all-cause mortality in gout patients.

**Methods:** This prospective cohort study included participants 20 years or older with gout enrolled from the 2007-2008 through 2017-2018 annual NHANES cycles. The data of mortality and its underlying causes to 31 December 2019 were obtained from the National Death Index records. The SII level was calculated as the platelet counts x neutrophil counts/lymphocyte counts. Gout patients were grouped according to low, middle, and high tertile of SII. Generalized linear regression was used to study variables influencing SII. The relationship between SII level and mortality were analyzed by Cox proportional hazards analysis.

**Results:** A total of 1334 gout patients were included with median follow-up time 68 months (34 months, 106 months). As shown in the Table 1, gout patients with high SII level were characterized by more having chronic kidney diseases, diabetes mellitus and less fiber intake (P<0.05). The generalized linear model found that SII level was positively correlated with diabetes mellitus (P<0.05), and negatively correlated with men, eGFR, fiber intake (P<0.05). Kaplan Meier survival curve showed that mortality was highest in the high SII group (Figure 1). Cox proportional hazards analysis after multivariable adjustment showed that taking low SII group as the reference group, mortality was elevated in the high SII groups (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** High SII is a predictor of all-cause death in gout patients.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Acknowledgements: NIL.
2. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
3. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3841

Table 1. Characteristics of gout patients according to low, middle and high tertile of SII.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SII tertile</th>
<th>Low (N=445)</th>
<th>Middle (N=444)</th>
<th>High (N=445)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>60.0(53.0,69.0)</td>
<td>62.0(52.0,70.0)</td>
<td>63.0(54.0,71.0)</td>
<td>0.398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, %</td>
<td>0.199</td>
<td>0.199</td>
<td>0.199</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>69.3 (60.1,771)</td>
<td>73.6 (61.7,83)</td>
<td>66.5(59.8,72.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>&lt;high school , %</td>
<td>5.0 (3.7,7.5)</td>
<td>5.8 (3.7,8.9)</td>
<td>5.6 (3.9, 7.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school</td>
<td>110.0 (80.1,15.0)</td>
<td>11.6 (6.6,12.4)</td>
<td>10.7 (7.6,14.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
<td>213.0 (16.4,272)</td>
<td>23.0 (19.3,26.0)</td>
<td>21.0 (19.3,27.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent , %</td>
<td>62.7 (55.7,69.2)</td>
<td>61.4 (54.6,68.0)</td>
<td>53.4(46.5,60.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index, kg/m²</td>
<td>30.6(27.0,34.7)</td>
<td>31.2(28.0,35.2)</td>
<td>31.0(27.0,36.4)</td>
<td>0.465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum urate (sUA), mg/dL</td>
<td>6.4(5.2,7.4)</td>
<td>6.4(5.5,7.7)</td>
<td>6.6(5.3,7.8)</td>
<td>0.781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), ml/min(1.73m²)</td>
<td>79.7(63.3,94.0)</td>
<td>78.6(61.3,92.8)</td>
<td>73.5(56.6,913)</td>
<td>0.060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** The Kaplan–Meier curves for all-cause mortality by subgroups of SII.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Acknowledgements: NIL.
2. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
3. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3874

**OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA: A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN GOUT?**

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Comorbidities, Gout

P. Khandwala1, D. Desai2, M. Sen1, 1Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, Rheumatology, Philadelphia, United States of America; 2Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Philadelphia, United States of America

**Background:** As per World Health Organization, 7.44 million cases of gout were estimated globally in 2017 (incidence, 0.097%), with a prevalence of 4.12 million cases (0.54%).[1] Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is a co-morbidity that has shared risk factors with gout as well as causes pathophysiological mechanisms causing hyperuricemia. The relationship remains contentious. There have been studies, mainly in the UK, which have shown 1.5 times increased risk of gout in patients with OSA[2,3]. While the study by Durme et al shows that the association disappears after statistical adjustment for BMI, renal function, heart failure, and use of diuretics.[4] Thus, it becomes vital to contribute to the existing literature to investigate this relationship further.

**Objectives:** The aim of the study is to understand the relationship between OSA and Gout.

**Methods:** TrinetX, a global federated research network that provides a dataset of electronic medical records from different healthcare organizations (HCOs), was utilized. Initial query was made to isolate patients who had a BMI greater than 30 and then 2 groups were made on the presence or absence of OSA. Further, propensity score matching (PSM) was carried out to match age, sex, race, chronic kidney disease, heart failure, and use of diuretics. Compare outcome analytic function was utilized to map the co-relation with Gout.

**Results:** A total of 3,541,566 patients who had a BMI>30 were identified, out of which 817,638 (23.09%) patients had OSA. Patients in OSA group were older as compared to patients in non-OSA group (59.8 ± 14.3 years vs 54 ± 17.2 years). Females made up 50% of the OSA group while they were predominant (65%) in the non-OSA group. Caucasians were the predominant race, followed by African
Americans. 7.19% of patients with OSA had Gout, while 2.84% without OSA had gout (p<0.0001). The odds of having gout is 2.65 times higher in patients with OSA than patients without OSA (hazard ratio is 2.393, 95% confidence interval (CI) 2.367-2.409, p<0.0001). After PSM, both groups had 801,526 patients. 6.93% patients with OSA had gout while 4.63% of patients without OSA had gout (p<0.0001). Odds ratio =1.533, (95% CI 1.512 - 1.554, p<0.0001) and hazard ratio was 1.404 (95% CI 1.386-1.423).

Conclusion: Our study demonstrated that there is a strong correlation between Gout and OSA. Hypoxia-induced hyperuricemia is the most widespread explanation. However, there are many confounding factors that prompt us to carry out matching for demographics and, more importantly for chronic kidney disease, heart failure as well as the use of diuretics. Statistically significant odds ratio after matching attests to the fact that there is a robust correlation between gout and OSA. Limitation of this study was the lack of testing of this hypothesis on patients with BMI>30. Prospective cohort studies are required to further test the strength of this relationship between OSA and Gout.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.432

POS0188
HEPATIC STEATOSIS AND FIBROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH GOUT DETECTED BY ELASTOGRAPHY

Keywords: Imaging, Comorbidities, Gout

N. Schlesinger1, A. Patel2, V. Rustgi3, A. Yeo4, P. Lipsky5, S. Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine, University of Utah, Medicine, Salt Lake City, United States of America; 2Rutgers, Medicine, New Brunswick, United States of America; 3University of Southern California, School of Medicine, New Brunswick, United States of America; 4University of Sidney, health economics, Sidney, Australia; 5AMPel Biosolutions, AMPel Biosolutions, Charlottesville.

Background: Gout is associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), but neither the frequency nor severity of NAFLD in gout is well described. Elastography should confirm the actual frequency of NAFLD in gout and provide new insight regarding the comorbidity between the two diseases.

Methods: A total of 2,438 men (mean age, 57.3 years) and 2,511 women (mean age, 57.4 years) were included. Urate levels were higher in men than in women (mean levels, 348 vs 270 µmol/L, respectively). Hyperuricemia was more common in men than in women (18% vs 2%). Age, BMI, and hypertension showed no differences between men and women, while diabetes and dyslipidemia were more common in men than in women (4% vs 2% and 13% vs 9%, respectively). Any CTA-detected atherosclerosis (SIS>0) was found in 1,404 (57.6%) men and 1,067 (42.4%) women. The association between hyperuricemia and SIS was assessed by multivariate logistic regression analysis. We calculated Odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI), crude and with adjustments for age, smoking, body mass index (BMI), diabetes, dyslipidemia, and hypertension. A SIS score >0 was considered to indicate the presence of coronary atherosclerosis and was used as the cutoff value.

Results: When 2,438 men (mean age, 57.3 years) and 2,511 women (mean age, 57.4 years) were included. Urate levels were higher in men than in women (mean levels, 348 vs 270 µmol/L, respectively). Hyperuricemia was more common in men than in women (18% vs 2%). Age, BMI, and hypertension showed no differences between men and women, while diabetes and dyslipidemia were more common in men than in women (4% vs 2% and 13% vs 9%, respectively). Any CTA-detected atherosclerosis (SIS>0) was found in 1,404 (57.6%) men and 1,067 (42.4%) women. The association between hyperuricemia and SIS was assessed by multivariate logistic regression analysis. We calculated Odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI), crude and with adjustments for age, smoking, body mass index (BMI), diabetes, dyslipidemia, and hypertension. A SIS score >0 was considered to indicate the presence of coronary atherosclerosis and was used as the cutoff value.

References:
Table 1. Association between hyperuricemia and coronary artery atherosclerosis, defined as SIS-0.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urate levels, μmol/L</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N=2,438</td>
<td>N=2,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unadjusted p-value</td>
<td>Adjusted p-value</td>
<td>Unadjusted p-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
<td>OR* (95% CI)</td>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥40</td>
<td>1.0 (1.0-1.0)</td>
<td>1.0 (1.0-1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;40</td>
<td>0.8 (0.6-1.0)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.6-1.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for age, smoking, body mass index, diabetes, dyslipidemia, and hypertension.

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Panagiota Drivelegka: None declared, Helena Forsblad-d’Elia: None declared, Göran Bergström: None declared, Erika Fagman: None declared, Panagiota Drivelegka: None declared, Helena Forsblad-d’Elia: None declared.

Keywords: Gout, Real-world evidence

Conclusion: The incidence of gout in the UK increased from 1999 to 2013 and then declined afterward. These findings were not observed in early birth cohorts from the year 1999 to the Year 2013 (Figure 1C); however, such a trend was reversed after the Year 2013, with the incidence rate of gout being higher in the early birth cohorts than that in the late birth cohorts (Figure 1D). Similar patterns were observed in men and women.

Table 1. Comparative risk for retinal microvascular complications between febuxostat versus allopurinol initiators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>PY</th>
<th>IR1 (95% CI)</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>PY</th>
<th>IR1 (95% CI)</th>
<th>HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>Pooled HR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Composite of retinal microvascular complications (ICD10: H34.x, H35.x, H36.x excluding diabetic retinopathy)</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>17559</td>
<td>1.15 (0.99-1.31)</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>22586</td>
<td>1.26 (1.12-1.41)</td>
<td>1.05 (0.89-1.30)</td>
<td>0.98 (0.83-1.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM*</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>44331</td>
<td>0.77 (0.69-0.85)</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>60610</td>
<td>0.81 (0.74-0.89)</td>
<td>0.94 (0.78-1.15)</td>
<td>0.89 (0.52-1.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retinal vascular occlusions (ICD10: H34.x)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17787</td>
<td>0.08 (0.04-0.13)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22877</td>
<td>0.14 (0.10-0.19)</td>
<td>0.80 (0.32-2.03)</td>
<td>0.98 (0.78-1.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-DM*</td>
<td>44645</td>
<td>0.05 (0.05-0.10)</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>61065</td>
<td>0.08 (0.06-0.10)</td>
<td>0.94 (0.49-1.83)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retinopathy or macular/retinal degeneration (ICD10: H35.x)</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>17578</td>
<td>1.04 (0.89-1.19)</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>22618</td>
<td>1.10 (0.96-1.23)</td>
<td>1.05 (0.78-1.42)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.84-1.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-DM*</td>
<td>44365</td>
<td>0.69 (0.61-0.76)</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>60666</td>
<td>0.72 (0.65-0.79)</td>
<td>0.98 (0.78-1.22)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retinopathy with underlying disease excluding diabetic retinopathy (ICD10: H36.x)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17792</td>
<td>0.04 (0.01-0.07)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22900</td>
<td>0.05 (0.02-0.10)</td>
<td>1.67 (0.40-6.97)</td>
<td>0.75 (0.28-1.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes in DM*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>44673</td>
<td>0.02 (0.01-0.04)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>61095</td>
<td>0.03 (0.02-0.04)</td>
<td>0.38 (0.10-1.41)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1IR is per 100 person-years, *28734 pairs in DM groups, 86642 pairs in non-DM groups, CI: confidence interval, DM: diabetes mellitus; HR: hazard ratio; IR: incidence rate; PY: person-years.
findings suggest that some environmental factors occurring after 2013 may play role. Such a downward trend of the risk of gout may continue if these environmental factors are still present.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. (A) Age rate ratios and the corresponding 95% confidence intervals of gout incidence. The relative risk of each age category compared with the reference age category (57-59) was adjusted for the calendar year and birth cohort. (B) Calendar year rate ratios and 95% confidence intervals of gout incidence. The relative risk of each calendar year compared with the reference calendar year (2008-2010) was adjusted for age and birth cohort. (C) Cohort rate ratios and the corresponding 95% confidence intervals of gout incidence. The relative risk of each birth cohort (1911-1982) compared with the reference birth cohort (1950-1952) was adjusted for age and calendar year.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (81930071, 82072502, U21A20352), Project Program of National Clinical Research Center for Geriatric Disorders (20201NHJ06, 2022L2N107), the Natural Science Foundation of Hunan Province (2022J20100), and the Science and Technology Innovation Innovation Program of Hunan Province (2022RC3075, 2022RC1009).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4255

POS0191
GENETIC EVIDENCE REVEALS A CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRIGLYCERIDE AND GOUT

Keywords: Gout, Genetics/Epigeneics, Lifestyles

X. Yang1,2, Q. Dong1,2, X. Cao1,2, Q. Feng1,2, J. Y. Chen1,2, Q. Yu3, P. F. He3, X. Li1,2, X. Zhang1,2,4,5,6
Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microecology, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China; 5The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

Background: Gout is caused by hyperuricemia that leads to the formation and deposition of monosodium urate (MSU) crystals, which is characterized by acute episodes of joint inflammation [1]. Epidemiological studies observed increased levels of triglycerides in gout [2,3]. Triglyceride is a kind of adipokine, primarily transported by very low-density lipoprotein. Enriched in very low-density lipoprotein triglycerides was significantly associated with gout in hyperuricemia [2]. However, the causal association between triglycerides and gout remains unclear.

Objectives: This study aims to use a two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) to examine associations of triglycerides with gout.

Methods: Summary data for triglycerides used in this study were obtained from a large-scale meta-analysis, which included 69,374 participants within the UK Biobank [4]. The gout GWAS datasets were from a large-scale meta-analysis, which included 69,374 participants (2,115 cases and 2,115 controls) from European [5]. We selected genetic variation highly related to triglyceride (P < 5.00E-8, r2>0.001) as the potential instrumental variables. Three MR methods, namely inverse-variance weighted (IVW), weighted median, and MR-Egger, were applied for MR analysis. For sensitivity analysis, we used common statistical methods, namely Cochran’s Q test, MR-Egger intercept analysis, the funnel plot, and the leave-one-out analysis.

Results: After accounting for LD and the harmonization process, the total number of variants included in the MR investigating the effect of triglycerides on gout was 166. Triglycerides were a risk factor for gout (odds ratio (OR)=1.49, 95% confidence interval (CI):1.22-1.82, P=8.16E-05), which was consistent with the MR-Egger (OR=1.40, 95%CI:1.11-1.89, p=2.93E-02). Cochran’s Q test and MR-Egger intercept showed no evidence of heterogeneity and horizontal pleiotropy (MR-Egger- intercept: 0.0025, P=0.583). The leave-one-out analysis also failed to detect any SNPs that may have a disproportional effect (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Triglyceride was a hazard factor for gout, even in the absence of hyperuricemia, suggesting that controlling the level of triglyceride and paying attention to diet may be beneficial to prevent the occurrence of gout.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4582

PARE Poster Tour 2

POS0192-PARE
TOWARDS A NEW APPROACH ON RESEARCH DESIGNS: PATIENTS AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS CO-CREATING AND CO-DEVELOPING A MOBILE APPLICATION FOR THE SELF-MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN IN OSTEOARTHRITIS. THE TOUS INCLUDE PROJECT

Keywords: Self-management, Patient-led research, Osteoarthritis

N. Malliou1, P. Antoniou2, K. Antonopoulou3, A. Mollis2, S. Reppou2, A. Papa2, P. Bamidis2, 1Hellenic League Against Rheumatism ELEANA, Hellenic League Against Rheumatism (HELAR/ELEANA),Thessaloniki, Greece; 2Aristotle University of Thessaloniki AUTH, Medical Physics and Digital Innovation Lab, Thessaloniki, Greece; 3Hellenic League Against Rheumatism (HELAR/ELEANA),Thessaloniki, Greece; 4Aristotle University of Thessaloniki AUTH, Medical Physics and Digital Innovation Lab, Thessaloniki, Greece; 5University of Thessaloniki AUTH, Medical Physics and Digital Innovation Lab, Thessaloniki, Greece;
School of Medicine AUTH, Thessaloniki, Greece; Hellenic League Against Rheumatism ELEANA, Hellenic League Against Rheumatism (HELAR/ ELEANA), Athens, Greece

Background: Treatment options for pain in osteoarthritis (OA) aim to reduce or help patients manage their pain efficiently. According to guidelines non-pharmacological therapies are the first treatment option and pharmacological therapies are the first choice in many cases. Pharmacological options are the first choice and researchers are trying to find better ways for OA pain management for both patients and HCPs.

Objectives: Aim of this presentation is to showcase an innovative research design where patients are involved in a project from the planning phase to the implementation and development phase step by step working together with healthcare professionals. The project itself, TOUS Include, aims to integrate a digital intervention and educational activities into a patient centered mobile health application for both the patients and the healthcare professionals to use to help them better manage chronic pain of osteoarthritis.

Methods: The project is co-designed and co-developed from one phase to another. Phase I used a mixed methods gap analysis leading to the basic unmet needs that both groups, patients and HCPs, had regarding management and treatment of chronic pain of OA. Moving on to phase II, co-creation sessions in groups of patients and HCPs led to the basic scenarios, common mistakes and incorrect pathways that both groups take when dealing with everyday pain in OA. Meanwhile educational videos and webinars have taken place with participation from both groups for patients and HCPs.

Results: For phase III, developing of the virtual patient scenarios for the mobile health application, which will be one of the main features of the digital intervention, using data from phase I and II, results have already shown that there is a gap in patient and HCPs communication. The qualitative analysis of data showed that patients' health literacy could be a reason for that as well as lack of enough time for consultations. Another main point is that both groups use more frequently (32.7%) medication to manage chronic pain of OA rather than a non-pharmacological option such as physiotherapy (21.8%). Finally, analysis showed that both patient (medium=4.92) and HCPs (medium=4.7) thought that participating in co-creative sessions is very important (1=lowest, 5=highest).

Conclusion: This innovative research design has involved patients from day one. Its planning, conceptualization and implementation has been involving patients not only at the receiving end of an intervention but as an integral part of the research team, the design and implementation. The TOUS Include project is a collaboration of patients, patient organizations, a university, a professional health care professionals' society and healthcare professionals. It's quite inclusive, thus an example that could easily showcase how research designs for patients could involve them from beginning to end for the benefit of everyone involved.

REFERENCES: 

Acknowledgements: The TOUS Include project is funded by the European Pain Federation EFIC and Pfizer-Lilly Alliance Grant on Education in Pain Associated With Osteoarthritis.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5949

TIME TO RESEARCH - STRENGTHENING PATIENT RESEARCH PARTNER 2022

Keywords: Education, Rheumatoid arthritis, Clinical Trials
S. Dotlicic1, M. Kosanovic1. 1”Association of patients with rheumatic diseases of the Republic of Serbia” (ORS), Association of patients, Belgrade, Serbia

Background: In Europe the role of patients is growing significantly. In Serbia it is not a case. Our aim is to create a PRP network to bring research closer to patients. Through this network, trust between rheumatologists/researchers and patients, should be increased. Looking in the countries around, Serbia has the longest waiting period for permits to introduce studies. Involving patients in research activities and their active role will provide better chances for patients to be introduced and treated with innovative drugs. Patient’s perspective is important part of research, their needs, experiences and even doubts will contribute a lot to research. There are more than 70,000 people who suffer from some kind of inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD) in Serbia. These diseases are significant burden for our society. There are quite a few innovative drugs in Serbia, but however, innovative drugs are still unavailable for some diagnosis such as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Systemic Sclerosis, Vasculitis, Sjogren.

Objectives: The aims of this EULAR campaign were for us to:
- Improve patients education about importance of research in order to increase the availability of innovative drugs with collaboration with Rheumatology Association of Serbia (RAS) and Serbian Association of Health Professionals in Rheumatology (SAHPR)
- Found national PRP network
- Motivate researchers to accept and involve patients in research as equal team member
- Encourage patients to participate/take an active role in research to increase patients’ trust in studies
- Increase the mutual trust between patients and rheumatologists and health professionals.

Methods: Association of Rheumatic Diseases Patients of the Republic of Serbia now have 15 PRPs. They are members of national PRP network in Serbia. ORS improved cooperation with The Association of the manufacturers of innovative drugs INOVIA, with Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of Serbia – ALIMS, with CRA Academy. Director of the Association of Manufacturers of Innovative Medicines INOVIA, and director of CRA Academy invited us from ORS to promote the campaign “Time2Research” on their events in September and December months, ALIMS (Drug and Medical Device Agency) offered its assistance in improving the legislation for PRPs.

Results: Association of Rheumatic Diseases Patients of the Republic of Serbia now have 15 PRPs. They are members of national PRP network in Serbia. ORS improved cooperation with The Association of the manufacturers of innovative drugs INOVIA, with Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of Serbia – ALIMS, with CRA Academy. Director of the Association of Manufacturers of Innovative Medicines INOVIA, and director of CRA Academy invited us from ORS to promote the campaign “Time2Research” on their events in September and December months, ALIMS (Drug and Medical Device Agency) offered its assistance in improving the legislation for PRPs.

Conclusion: As the PRP network is a completely new institution in Serbia we have to explore all the opportunities for its implementation. We are proud that we establish a PRP network of 15 PRPs and we are making a plan how to engage many of them as we can. We want to include our PRPs who know English well in the EULAR PRP network.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.s949

PEOPLE WITH AN RMD: MAKING A MEDICATION CHOICE TOGETHER WITH THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Patient reported outcomes, Self-management
B. Porse1, P. Penning2, B. Maat1, R. Van der Knaap3, D. Lewinski3, H. Van de Weijer1, T. Foekens5, L. J. Kranenburg - van Koppen4, A. Pasma5, G. Willemsen-de Mey5. 1National Association ReumaZorg Nederland, Patient expert and Coordinator at the Department of Patient participation and Communication, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2National Association ReumaZorg Nederland, Patient partner at the department of Patient participation and Communication, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 3National Association ReumaZorg Nederland, Coordinator at the Department of Patient participation and Communication, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 4National Association ReumaZorg Nederland, Patient research partner at the department of Patient participation and Communication, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 5Erasmus Medical Centre, Rheumatologist at the Department of Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Background: Research shows that people with Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs), who decide together with their healthcare professionals make better informed treatment choices. They are also more likely to adhere to their treatment or medication use. A consultation aid can help people with an RMD to become aware of their most important preferences and questions about medication. These preferences and questions can set the agenda for a good consultation in the consultation room between the patient and the healthcare professional. Together with the healthcare professional the consultation can focus on the most important benefits, risks and preferences of someone with an RMD, when a medication choice has to be made.
OBJECTIVES:
• To develop conversation aids, that:
  • allow people with an RMD to become aware of the most important preferences
    in making a medication choice
  • guide people with an RMD in how to discuss these most important aspects
    with a healthcare professional
  • To develop conversation aids that guide healthcare professionals in giving
    complete information about:
  • all important aspects of the medication
  • having a rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease (RMD)

This in order to make the best fitting medication choice together.

Methods: In the first step of the process 2 focus groups were organized. The first focus group consisted of patients of the Erasmus Medical Centre (5 participants) and patient research partners (PRPs) of the National Association ReumaZorg Nederland (RZN) (4 participants). The second focus group consisted of RMD health care professionals (5 rheumatologists, 1 pharmacist, 7 RMD nurses). The aim of the focus groups was to get an overview of important information that has to be shared, when a choice in RMD medication is to be made. In the second step, the output of both focus groups formed the starting point for the content of the conversation aids about medication choices. In the conversation aids all important information, that should be shared when a medication choice has to be made, was formulated in simple short sentences. After that, the content of the conversation aids was assessed by participants of both focus groups. In the third step, a draft version of the conversation aids about medication choices was designed. The conversation aids were designed using the same layout as our earlier developed version of the conversation aids about medication choices was designed. The formulated in simple short sentences. After that, the content of the conversation aids was assessed by participants of both focus groups, until we reached a final version.

Results: A total of 4 conversation aids (https://reumazorgnederland.nl/samen-beslissen-medicijnkaarten) were developed.
• Who are you?: To allow people with an RMD to share their preferences with
  regards to shared decision making (SDM), about the way they like to receive
  information and about the way they prefer to take their medication.
• About medication: To allow healthcare professionals to give a complete
  overview of the most important aspects of RMD medication and to allow
  people with an RMD to share their most important questions about RMD
  medication.
• Groups of medication: To give an overview of the different groups of RMD
  medications.
• About arthritis: To give an overview of the most important aspects of having
  an RMD.

The 5th developed conversation aid (https://reumazorgnederland.nl/samen-beslissen-medicijnkaarten) focused on reliable sources for information.
• More information: A conversation aid with reliable sources to obtain more
  information about shared decision making, about having a rheumatic and
  musculoskeletal disease (RMD) and about RMD medication.

EXAMPLE OF THE FIRST PART OF CONVERSATION AID ‘WHO ARE YOU?’

Conclusion: These conversation aids can encourage and advance a good conversation about RMD medication, that best fits the patient’s need and preferences, when having an RMD. They stimulate both the patient as well as the healthcare professional to share much-needed information, when making a choice in medication. A patient organisation can play an important role in developing a conversation aid to support patients.

Acknowledgements: A special word of gratitude goes out to the patient research partners who contributed to the patient perspective in this project by either being part of the working group or by sharing their perspectives in the focus group. Our gratitude also goes out to all the RMD professionals who shared their opinion in the focusgroup.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.742
Table 1. Knowledge of WHO and EULAR PA recommendations and personal experience of axSpA patient’s, behavior and strategies with PA (n=96)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement/Question</th>
<th>Knowledge of Statement, yes, n (%)</th>
<th>Agreement with statement, yes, n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All healthy adults aged 18–65 years should participate in moderate intensity aerobic PA for a minimum of 30min on 5 days/week</td>
<td>44 (45.8)</td>
<td>73 (76.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity has health benefits for patients with axSpA</td>
<td>82 (85.4)</td>
<td>86 (89.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The general PA recommendations are applicable to patients with axSpA (EULAR recommendations for PA)</td>
<td>41 (42.7)</td>
<td>83 (86.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PA:** Physical Activity; WHO: World Health Organization; apps: electronic applications

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:** Research grants from Pfizer and Lilly.

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritis, Self-management, Quality of life, Inflammatory arthritis, Self-management strategies and self-efficacy in people with inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis.
Methods: Participants’ data such as age, gender, diagnostic and treatment was collected. The clinical, social and psychological impact of ESC was assessed by a questionnaire applied to the participants after the ANDAI ESC. The perceived impact of the ANDAI ESC by health professionals’ volunteers was also evaluated by a different questionnaire.

Results: Forty-five children or young people with RMDs participated in one or more editions of the ANDAI ESC. The median number of participants in ANDAI ESC was 17(9) participants per edition, with a majority of female participants (62%). The median age of participants in the different editions was 12(4) years old. Of the invited participants 32 participants (76%) were able to participate in this study, 22 children (48% response rate) and 11 health professionals (53% response rate) completed the survey. The great majority of the participants (95.5%) recognized the positive impact of the ESC on understanding and acceptance of the disease. In fact, after participating in ANDAI ESC, 90.5% of these children claim to have a more optimistic perspective on the evolution of their disease. In addition, when asked on a scale from 0 (no impact) to 10 (significant impact) about the perceived outcome of ESC on their RMD patients, 88.8% of the participating health professionals marked the three higher scaled levels, agreeing that it had a positive effect on these children.

Conclusion: In conclusion this study demonstrates that ANDAI ESC improved patient’s confidence in coping with the challenges of a RMD in childhood/youth, reaching the objectives initially defined. Thus, ANDAI ESC proved to be an important resource to the juvenile RMD community in Portugal.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0198-PARE
CREATING A CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAM BASED ON PATIENT COMMUNITY’S ACTUAL NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: THE SJÖGREN EUROPE EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Best practices, Patient information and education, Sjögren syndrome

K. Antopoulou1, A. Vieira2, C. Boullot3, J. Koelweijn-Tukker4, M. Oosterbaan4, M. Steenackers5, V. Lopez Gousset6, Sjögren Europe, President, Bienne, Switzerland, 2Sjögren Europe, Vice President, Bienne, Switzerland, 3Sjögren Europe, General Secretary, Bienne, Switzerland, 4Sjögren Europe, Treasurer, Bienne, Switzerland, 5Sjögren Europe, Board Member, Bienne, Switzerland, 6Novartis Pharma AG, Global Patient Engagement Director, Immunology, Basel, Switzerland, 7VGL Consulting, PR executive, Paris, France

Background: Patients & their representatives are an important stakeholder in healthcare discussions. However, these individuals sometimes lack the appropriate knowledge & training to fully contribute to healthcare decision-making. The Sjögren’s community in Europe is represented by groups of various capacities & expertise at the country level but with large national disparities. Sjögren Europe, the European Federation of national associations representing Sjögren’s patients, seeks to support as widely as possible its members in leveraging their voice systematically & consistently in multi-stakeholder healthcare discussions, including participating in scientific research & collaborating with medical, social & political institutions.

Objectives: This SE Member Capability Building Program was co-created by Sjögren Europe & the Novartis Immunology Global Patient Engagement team to respond to the needs of the European Sjögren’s community, as reported by Sjögren Europe member organizations. Specifically, the program supports Sjögren’s patient organizations in building capability and capacity in areas that most matter to them, sharing local experiences & best practices & increasing advocates’ knowledge, skills & confidence as leaders of their organizations.

Methods: The content of the Capability Building Program was shaped through a self-assessment in which participating organization self-identified strategic priorities, desired areas for expansion, and current barriers to growth. Questions in the self-assessment were taken from validated, third-party resources, including the PatientView methodology for assessing capacity and impact of patient organizations across eight key indicators[1]. These indicators are business stability, e-communication, services to patients, networking with stakeholders, networking with peer patient organizations, reputation, impact on health policy, and resilience. The results of this assessment were discussed individually with patient organization leaders to outline personalized opportunities for growth. The results were also used to inform a broader webinar training series based on commonly shared challenges & prioritized needs.

Results: 7 SE member organizations, representing 7 countries, participated in the self-assessment highlighting various shared gaps & learning opportunities across the community. Organizational strategy, staff recruitment & retention, external communication strategy & financial strategy were identified as current gaps. Patient organization involvement in drug development, approval & reimbursement processes was identified as an area where all groups would like to learn more. The resulting webinar training series addresses each of these areas of interest to the community. The first webinar “External Communication Strategy: Actionable recommendations for creating awareness campaigns and partnering with the media” was offered November 2022 with an overwhelmingly positive response from the community. Additional webinars are planned for 2023 and will be focused on the above topics.

Conclusion: The self-assessment was crucial in detailing where Sjögren Europe member organizations stand today & where they wish to be in the future. This allowed for the creation of a responsive & actionable webinar training program that meets the actual needs and priorities of the Sjögren’s community in Europe. The Member organizations have reported feeling heard and valued as a result of this initiative. The very good feedback encourages us to continue these concrete actions for patient organizations. Program is also a great example of a genuine partnership, following the EFPIA code of conduct[2], between a patient organization and the pharmaceutical industry.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Katy Antopoulou: None declared, Ana Vieira: None declared, CORALIE BOUILLOT: None declared, Joyce Koelweijn-Tukker: None declared, Mascha Oosterbaan: None declared, Monia Steenackers Employee of: NOVARTIS PHARMA, Veronica Lopez Gousset Employee of: I am an employee of VLG Consulting which is cooperating with NOVARTIS PHARMA thus I am cooperating with NOVARTIS PHARMA.

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POS0199-PARE
RHEUMATOLOGICAL PATIENTS’ KNOWLEDGE OF, BELIEFS ABOUT, AND PRACTICES IN USING PHYTOTHERAPY: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

Keywords: Patient information and education, Descriptive Studies

T. Demirici1, Yildirim2, F. Basibuyuk3, M. Birlik4, Dokuz Eylul University, Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Phytotherapy has emerged as a new concept and has quickly and widely spread in recent years. Studies on phytopharmaceuticals in rheumatology practice are very limited.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to examine the knowledge of, beliefs about, and practices in using phytotherapy in patients who use biological agents, which we can classify as the last and most potent step in treating rheumatological diseases.

Methods: In the first part of the questionnaire, there are 11 questions including the demographic data of the person, and in the second part, there are 17 questions that aim to learn the level of knowledge about phytotherapy and the use of phytopharmaceuticals. The questionnaire was administered face-to-face to patients with rheumatology using biological therapy who gave consent to participate.

Results: The questionnaire was completed by 100 patients, 51 of them women. The mean age was 39.9 years. 39% of the patients were postgraduate and 23% were at the high school. Of the participants, 45 were diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and 29 with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The duration of rheumatologic disease was 12.2 years. All patients were followed up with biological therapy, 35% were using infliximab and 15% were using adalimumab. The mean duration of biological therapy was 6 years. Of the 100 participants, 68% had information about phytotherapy, and 35 of them had obtained it from social media and television. In general, participants had a positive opinion about phytotherapy, and most did not obtain approval from their physicians for the use of phytotherapy. Among phytopharmaceuticals, patients mostly used green tea (30%), linden (27%), curcumin (20%). There were 5 participants who experienced side effects related to patient use of phytopharmaceuticals. 66% of the patients thought that phytopharmaceuticals had fewer side effects than biological therapy, 50 patients said that they would not use biological therapy if cured with phytopharmaceutical use.
Conclusion: It is inevitable that patients with chronic diseases want to use phytopharmaceuticals, as determined in our questionnaire results. Healthcare professionals should be careful about establishing a proper and reassuring relationship with patients and avoid criticizing them for preferring these methods. Patients should be informed about the use of phytotherapy, and be warned about its potential risks and side effects.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.426

POS0200-PARE
HOW USER INVOLVEMENT INCREASED THE QUALITY OF PROS

Keywords: Quality of Patient Information and Education, Patient reported outcomes

C. Ziegler1, 2, Gigtforeningen, Politics and Knowledge, Gentofte, Denmark

Background: In the DANBIO Registry patients with inflammatory arthritis have entered PROs for more than 20 years. In 2016 a group of patients suggested that their experiences and opinions about PROs should be taken into account, as they found room for improvement. In 2018 a qualitative research study confirmed knowledge gaps in the use and purpose of DANBIO – gaps among patients, front personal and health care providers. In 2022 new results could be implemented.

Objectives: After the research study three different goals were set up:
[1] To increase knowledge of the DANBIO Registry being used for three different purposes.
[2] To make patients aware that they can enter PROs in different ways.

Methods: An interdisciplinary user group was established. The group consisted of patients with different types of inflammatory arthritis, rheumatologists, nurses etc. The group decided to produce different materials for different platforms. The group produced the materials themselves in cooperation with room for everyone’s professional qualifications. The patients could offer patient’s experiences as well as being persons with competences from education and worklife.

Results: Three user guides about the use of DANBIO were produced for three target groups. A group of patients scripted, filmed and produced a 5 minutes video providing the patients with relevant knowledge of PROs in DANBIO. The video was filmed at four different rheumatological departments and in patient’s private homes. The video will be shown in the waiting rooms of the hospitals and it can be seen on the Internet.

Conclusion: The work of the user group created a joint understanding and a multi pronged perspective on what “good quality” means in rheumatological care. By clarifying how the same data was presented and used differently various solutions were created to meet the need for more knowledge from staff, increase patient’s confidence in entering PROs and increase knowledge of the DANBIO registry in general. The video is provided with English subtitles and can be shown if this abstract is chosen for presentation.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.426

POS0202-PARE
CHRONICALLY ACTIVE - A PATIENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM WITH PEER SUPPORT

Keywords: Work-related issues, Self-management, Best practices

A. Fryxelius1,2, 1Finnish Rheumatism Association, -. Helsinki, Finland

Background: Self-management refers to an individual’s abilities and behavior to maintain and improve their own well-being and monitor the physical and psychosocial reactions related to their condition to maintain a satisfactory quality of life [1,2]. Self-management is an essential part of treatment alongside medical care. Peer support is based on sharing of information and experiential knowledge among persons living with the same condition. Peer support is seen more and more important in healthcare, and it has been used to improve overall health and promote health behavior and self-management. [3].

Objectives: To promote the health and well-being of those living with rheumatic and/or musculoskeletal diseases, and to support their ability to cope with illness through peer-led "Reumatroppi" group activity. The aim of the group activity is to help patients notice things that increase well-being and health in their everyday lives and turn their thoughts to positive things.

Methods: The Finnish Rheumatism Association trains volunteers to become "Reumatroppi" group instructors. Trained volunteers set up a group and receive a written material consisting of thirty nonmedical health-related topics that are scientifically studied and relevant in management of rheumatic and/or musculoskeletal diseases. Topics include, for instance, resistance exercise, cardiovascular health, nutrition, recovery and rest. In addition, topics such as literature, music, nature, and creativity are included to broaden the view of self-management. The group meets regularly to discuss varying topics and share their experiences and thoughts. In addition, the group does joyous tasks together both indoors and outdoors. A task related to the topic is also given at home before next meeting. Self-report questionnaires with quantitative and qualitative questions are administered to the participants at the end of the group.

Results: In 2021-2022, 81% of the participants (n=80) reported paying more attention to their health behaviors (incl. physical activity, nutrition, rest). Additionally, 91% of the participants stated that they had tried to improve their own well-being and health in their everyday lives. 76% of participants had reduced sitting and sedentary time. It is also noteworthy that 80% of the participants reported better mood, and 81% had experienced more enthusiasm in their everyday lives. In addition, 71% of the participants reported that they had been (physically) more active and found more arts in their lives during the group. 81% of the participants had also found new friends in the group.

Conclusion: Peer-led “Reumatroppi” group activity has been able to raise the awareness for self-management among those living with rheumatic and/or musculoskeletal disease. The participants have paid more attention to their health behavior and found new resources that promote their overall well-being.

REFERENCES:

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Australia late with traditional clinical disease activity measures. The results of a large cohort of Australian patients with RA and how they correlate with the treat-to-target strategy for patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Despite achieving these targets however, some patients continue to report outcomes (PROs) are an important tool to better understand the lived experience of patients with chronic pain and rheumatic conditions. The creators behind this project have had the intention of sending an abstract about it to EULAR at least for the last 8 years. Unfortunately, my organization has not seen itself able to prioritize spending money on sending staff to the EULAR congress for many years. Also, my own rheumatic conditions (I have had Scleroderma and Rheumatoid Arthritis since the age 11 & 19) always flare up during winter, and I am usually unable to work during this time of year. I am aware that this abstract doesn’t hold the correct scientific standard, but I don’t have the spoons (ref. Spoon Theory) to check all the references and have a scientist help me with getting things right. Luckily - the actual conference is in June, and at that time I am usually in a very much stronger physical condition, so I can guarantee that I will be able to participate and present this project orally.

REFERENCES:
As stated above, I don’t have the spoons to find all the references for this now, but you can contact my colleagues at REMEDY to vouch for my method and my ability to deliver good oral presentations:
Prof. Dr. Espen Haavardsholm.
PhD. Rikke Helene Moen.
Also: Read the original Spoon Theory, by Lupus patient Christine Miserandino here: https://bythousandlookskick.com/articles/written-by-christine/ the-spoon-theory/

Acknowledgements: Kristin Kaldestad Urrang.
Disclosure of Interests: Anna Fryxellus Consultant of: Pfizer - I held a creative project management workshop for a small team at the Oslo Office in 2012 DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2159

HPR Poster Tour: Challenges in daily life for people with RMDs

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PATIENT-REPORTED QUALITY OF LIFE AND PHYSICIAN-DERIVED CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: AN ANALYSIS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN OPAL DATABASE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Real-world evidence

G. Littlejohn1,2, N. Anbumurrali1, C. Osullivan1, T. Smith1, T. Racunicia1,3, P. Pentony1,4, S. Jayaweera1,4, L. Girgis3,6,5, C. Deakin1, OPAI Rheumatology Ltd, Rheumatology, Sydney, Australia; 2Monash University, Department of Medicine, Clayton, Australia; 3Southern Rheumatology, Rheumatology, Brighton, Australia; 4RheumatologyACT, Rheumatology, Canberra, Australia; 5University of New South Wales, Rheumatology, Sydney, Australia; 6St Vincent’s Hospital Sydney, Rheumatology, Darlinghurst, Australia

Background: Remission or low disease activity (LDA) are the common therapeutic targets in the treat-to-target strategy for patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Despite achieving these targets however, some patients continue to experience residual symptoms including pain, fatigue and functional loss. Patient reported outcomes (PROs) are an important tool to better understand the lived experience of the patient which is often not adequately captured by traditional disease activity measurements.

Objectives: To describe the levels of pain, fatigue, mood disturbance and physical function in a large cohort of Australian patients with RA and how they correlate with traditional clinical disease activity measures.

Methods: Clinical data were sourced from the OPAL database which is an aggregated collection of data extracted from the electronic medical record (EMR, Audit4, Software4Specialists Pty Ltd) of patients receiving routine care from 112 rheumatologists across Australia. Validated PRO questionnaires were electronically delivered to patients through their EMR via email or completed using a smart device in the waiting room prior to the consultation. Completed questionnaires were securely integrated into the patients EMR for review at the next consultation[1]. Patients with a physician diagnosis of RA and ≥6 months of disease activity recorded who had responded to at least one PRO (Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy Fatigue (FACIT-F), Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2), pain visual analogue scale (VAS) or Multidimensional Health Assessment Questionnaire (MD-HAQ)), between April 2020 and April 2022 were included. Disease activity was assessed using DAS28(3)-CRP which includes swollen and tender joint counts and CRP, but excludes the patient global assessment.

Results: 1,397 patients completed a pain VAS, 2,180 a FACIT-F, 2,101 a PHQ-2 and 2,243 a MD-HAQ during the study window. The median age of patients with a completed questionnaire was 62 years and 77.1% were female. Levels of pain, fatigue, mood disturbance and physical function for patients with RA are shown in Table 1. Overall, a substantial percentage of patients, (n=519, 37.2%), reported experiencing unacceptable pain (>40mm VAS) and clinically relevant fatigue (FACIT-F ≤ 34) (n=867, 39.8%). Higher levels of pain, fatigue and mood disturbance was associated with higher DAS28(3)-CRP disease activity. Of patients in DAS28(3)-CRP remission or LDA, 32.7% reported unacceptable levels of pain, 36.1% reported clinically relevant fatigue and 11.2% reported possible depression.

Conclusion: In general, we found that higher disease activity scores were associated with high levels of pain, fatigue, anhedonia and depressed moods. In addition, there exists a substantial cohort of patients in routine clinical care with swollen and tender joints counts and CRP levels indicative of remission or LDA that continued to experience unacceptable levels of pain and clinically relevant fatigue.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Levels of pain, fatigue, mood disturbance and physical function for patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>(n, %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain VAS</td>
<td>Unacceptable pain (&gt;40mm)</td>
<td>519 (37.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIT-F</td>
<td>No pain or acceptable (≤ 40mm)</td>
<td>878 (62.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHQ-2 Category</td>
<td>Clinically-relevant fatigue (≤ 34)</td>
<td>867 (39.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD-HAQ Category</td>
<td>No depression (≥ 3)</td>
<td>1313 (60.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS</td>
<td>Possible depression (≥ 3)</td>
<td>250 (11.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHQ-2</td>
<td>No depression (&lt; 3)</td>
<td>1857 (88.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIT-F</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>14 (0.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD-HAQ Category</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>438 (19.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIT-F</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>913 (40.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIT-F</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>878 (39.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DETECTING DISTINCTIVE FACIAL FEATURES IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS, A PILOT STUDY

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Artificial Intelligence, Diagnostic Tests

Y. A. Suliman1, J. E. Lund-Jacobsen2, R. Christensen1, L. E. Kristensen3, D. Furet4, Assiut University hospital, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Assiut, Egypt; 2An Aikdalej hospital, Rheumatology, Al Ain- abu dhabi, United Arab Emirates; 3Founder and CEO of Viceron ApS, Viceron ApS, Copenhagen, Denmark; 4Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Southern Denmark, Parker Institute, department of biostatistics and clinical epidemiology at the Department of Clinical Research, Copenhagen, Denmark; 5Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Southern Denmark, Parker Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark; 6David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Rheumatology Division, Los Angeles, United States of America
Background: Scleroderma (SSc) is a rare autoimmune fibrosing multisystem disease with high rates of morbidity and mortality. Scleroderma is usually diagnosed by rheumatologists and/or dermatologists. However, a delay in disease recognition may occur due to a delay in referral, as internists and family physicians are not familiar with the disease and its features. Even though, the facial features of the disease are characteristic for scleroderma, diagnosis is usually based on other signs and symptoms (e.g., skin thickening on extremities), and confirmed with investigations such as autoantibody tests, HRCT, and endoscopies. Late presentation of SSc pts. to rheumatologists is commonly reported[1]; patients with dSSc generally presented to their primary health care Practitioner (HCP) after symptoms had persisted for up to 1 year. We hypothesize that facial features of SSc patients are distinctive and can be detected by a trained AI system after processing a mobile phone picture of SSc patient’s face through Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). This system could be used by family practitioner and internists, aiding them to increase suspicion of SSc and refer patients in a timely manner.

Objectives: In a pilot study, we aim to examine the ability of an AI facial recognition system to identify SSc related facial features.

Methods: Images of SSc pts were compared to a group of age and sex matched normal faces. Deep Learning (DL) - Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms evaluated all the pixels in the facial map and identified their utility in the facial recognition prediction models. Using a transfer learning implementation developed by the Danish Viceron ApS AI company. This core model is well-established and experienced algorithm for AI facial feature recognition, based on > 1 million general public faces for facial feature recognition. AI evaluated multiple layers of mathematical models, either isolated or pooled to generate a predictive model and eliminate unnecessary data. Smoothing and uniformity protocols were established for the obtained through preprocessing for the Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) (Figure 1).

Results: Images of 60 SSc pts from the internet were compared to a group of age and sex matched normal faces. We developed models among the 60 SSc facial images and matched controls that were able to identify SSc distinctive facial features with variable specificity and sensitivity. Multiple AI models were used on the training set which includes the first 40 patients and as a partial validation step on the other 20 patients with an equal baseline group built from normal faces. The validation index was 5.39 for the rheumatology cohort compared to the research subgroup. All patients had a recorded gender of male or female. The rheumatology population was 60.97% female compared to 76.26% in the research subgroup. The deprivation index was 60.97% female compared to 76.26% in the research subgroup.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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population of 5.24. A difference of 12.5 years was seen between the median age of rheumatology patients (61 years) compared to research participants (48.5 years).

Conclusion: From this random dataset analysis approximately 10% of the rheumatology population participated in research. The demographic profile of ethnicity and indices of deprivation were similar across both groups, however proportionately the research subgroup is younger and has higher representation of women compared to the rheumatology population. Limitations of this work include exclusion of research participants prior to the installation of the EPCR, incomplete documentation of research participation within EPCR and sample size limited to 10,000 of the rheumatology population. However, selection bias is reduced due to the large random sample size and generalisability and representativeness is an advantage of this. In view of the low uptake of research participation, it is very important to identify barriers to increasing engagement and involvement in research. Further research is warranted to explore if there are particular age groups that are underrepresented and establish reasons for lack of engagement of men in rheumatology clinical research.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0206-HPR

POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION AMONG REPRODUCTIVE-AGE WOMEN WITH AND WITHOUT RHEUMATIC DISEASE: A POPULATION-BASED MATCHED COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction, Epidemiology, Spondyloarthritides

D. Shridharmurthy1,2*, K. Lapane1, A. Nunes1, J. Baek2, M. Weisman3, J. Kay1,4, S. H. Liu1,3, 1UMass Chan Medical School, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, Worcester, United States of America; 2UMass Chan Medical School, Clinical and Population Health Research Program, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Worcester, United States of America; 3UMass Chan Medical School, Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, Worcester, United States of America; 4Stanford University, Division of Immunology and Rheumatology, School of Medicine, Palo Alto, United States of America; 5UMass Chan Medical School, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Worcester, United States of America; 6UMass Memorial Medical Center - Memorial Campus, Division of Rheumatology, Worcester, United States of America

Background: Postpartum depression is a psychiatric illness that occurs after the birth of a child and affects 12.5% of women in the United States (1) and 17% of women globally [2]. Women of reproductive age with rheumatic diseases (RD) are at increased risk of clinical depression [3]. However, research examining postpartum depression in women with RD is scarce.

Objectives: We examined postpartum depression among women with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), or psoriatic arthritis (PsA) compared to a matched population without RD in the United States.

Methods: A retrospective analysis using data from the 2013-2018 IBM Market-Scan Commercial Claims and Encounters Database was conducted. Pregnant women with axSpA, RA, or PsA were identified, and the date of delivery was used as the index date. We restricted the sample to women ≤ 55 years with continuous enrollment ≥ 6 months before date of last menstrual period and through pregnancy (baseline period). Each patient was matched with four individuals without RD. We restricted the sample to women ≤ 55 years with continuous enrollment ≥ 6 months before date of last menstrual period and through pregnancy (baseline period). Each patient was matched with four individuals without RD in the United States.

Overall, 2,667 women with axSpA, RA, or PsA and 10,668 patients without any RD were included. The average age at baseline was 33 years (SD: 5.0), and nearly two in five women were older than 35 years. The median follow-up time in days was 256 (Interquartile range (IQR): 553) and 265 (IQR: 564) for the axSpA/RA/PsA and matched non-RD comparison groups. Development of postpartum depression was more common in the axSpA/RA/PsA group relative to the matched non-RD comparison group (axSpA/RA/PsA group: 12.8%; matched non-RD comparison group: 12.9%; adjusted hazard ratio: 1.22 [95% CI, 1.09 – 1.36]). Factors such as pre-existing comorbidities, maternal complications during pregnancy, and antidepressants use at baseline were associated with development of postpartum depression.

Conclusion: The rate of postpartum depression is significantly higher in women of reproductive age with axSpA, RA, or PsA compared to those without RD. Results from this study demonstrate that strategies to monitor postpartum depression after delivery in patients with RD must be developed and implemented to assure prompt referral of affected mothers for appropriate evaluation and treatment.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1603

POS0207-HPR

FEAR OF MOVEMENT MEDIATES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAIN CATASTROPHIZING AND PHYSICAL FUNCTION IN PEOPLE LIVING WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROPATHIES: A CROSS-SECTIONAL MEDIATION ANALYSIS

Keywords: Pain, Spondyloarthritides, Patient reported outcomes

P. Reusa1, T. Ingram1, M. Standage1, R. Sengupta2, 1University of Bath, Department for Health, Bath, United Kingdom; 2Royal United Hospitals Bath, Rheumatology, Bath, United Kingdom

Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) typically affects the axial skeleton and sacroiliac joints causing patients to experience pain, reduced movement, and impaired physical function. A range of treatment options are available to help axSpA patients reduce pain and maintain physical function and thereby enhance health-related quality of life. The European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) identified activity as integral to the management of inflammatory arthritides, however, the majority of people living with axSpA are not sufficiently active to maintain physical function [1]. According to the Fear-Avoidance Model of Pain, fear of movement and pain catastrophizing contribute to poorer physical function via reduced activity and disuse [2]. Yet to date, no research has tested the theorized mediating role of fear of movement in the relationship between pain catastrophizing and physical function in people living with axSpA.

Objectives: To examine the mediating role of fear of movement in the relationship between pain catastrophizing and physical function in people living with axSpA.

Methods: Participants (N = 98, 70% female, M Age = 45.62 SD 12.16) completed an online survey (December 2020 – May 2021) distributed in the United Kingdom via the National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (n ≈ 3,500; NASS, 2018). The Tampa Scale for Kinesiophobia (TSK-11) was used to measure fear of movement using participants rating 11-items from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The Pain Catastrophising Scale (PCS) contains 13-items, each rated on a scale from 0 (not at all) to 4 (all the time). Both instruments have shown strong internal consistency in people living with axSpA [3,4]. The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI) was used to assess physical function with higher scores indicating poorer function. Data were analysed using IBM SPSS (Version 28). The PROCESS SPSS macro was used, and interpretation made using the percentile bootstrap 95% confidence intervals from 5000 bootstrap samples. Standardised effects with values 0.10, 0.25 and 0.35 represent small, medium, and large effects [5].
RESULTS:

Table 1. Descriptive statistics and Bivariate correlations for the variables.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>M</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain Catastrophizing</td>
<td>18.34</td>
<td>13.65</td>
<td>.647**</td>
<td>.419*</td>
<td>.604**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of Movement</td>
<td>24.99</td>
<td>7.22</td>
<td>.259</td>
<td>.414**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Function</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>.246</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bivariate correlations showed pain catastrophizing to have a significant medium and positive relationship with physical function and a large positive relationship with fear of movement. Mediation analysis (F = 12.67, p < .05, R² = .21) revealed that pain catastrophizing had a large positive direct effect on physical function (β = .259) and fear of movement (β = .647). Fear of movement had a large positive direct effect on physical function (β = .246). A significant medium and positive indirect effect of pain catastrophizing on physical function via fear of movement was observed (β =.002 - .320).

Figure 1. Path model with unstandardised regression coefficients (β) and percentile bootstrap confidence intervals (CI) identifying the mediating effect of fear of movement in the relationship between pain catastrophising and physical function. c' = direct effect, ab = indirect effect

Conclusion: Pain catastrophizing is experienced by people living with axSpA and can lead to the avoidance of movement, and as a result, compromised physical function. Our test of the Fear-Avoidance Model showed that pain catastrophizing significantly predicted the physical function of people living with axSpA and that this relationship was mediated by fear of movement. Fear of movement is a modifiable construct that can be a treatment target for health professionals to improve the physical function of people living with axSpA. Identifying modifiable factors that contribute to disease outcomes is critical to improve the care and quality of life for people living with a disease currently without a cure.

REFERENCES:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: We thank the Bath Institute for Rheumatic. Diseases (BIRD) for funding to support this research.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Peter Rouse: None declared, Thomas Ingram: None declared, Martyn Standage: None declared, Raj Sengupta Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Biogen, Celgene, Lilly, Novartis, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: Advisory boards for Abbvie, Biogen, Lilly, Novartis, UCB, Grant/research support from: Yes - Abbvie, Celgene, Novartis, UCB.

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POS0208-HPR PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS AND DIAGNOSIS SETTING OF PATIENTS WITH PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH OSTEARTHROTIHS OF THE KNEE IN GERMANY: A RETROSPECTIVE HEALTH CLAIMS DATA ANALYSIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Pain

D. Beier1, D. Haeckl2, S. Ivanavicius3, J. Jerosch4, H. Liedgens5.

1InGef - Institut für angewandte Gesundheitsforschung Berlin GmbH, Health Research, Berlin, Germany; 2WIQI, Health Research, Leipzig, Germany; 3Grunenthal GmbH, Global Medical Affairs, Aachen, Germany; 4Medizinisch Wissenschafts- und Gutachten-Institut, Rheumatologie, Meersburg, Germany; 5Grunenthal GmbH, Global HEOR, Aachen, Germany

BACKGROUND: Osteoarthritis of the knee (OA) is the most prevalent form of OA in Germany as well as globally[1], frequently leading to pain and functional limitations. Several risk factors have been identified for osteoarthritis, which can be divided into those at the person level (age, sex, obesity, genetic predisposition, physical activity and diet) and those at the joint level (injuries, malposition and overstretch)[2]. Patients with OA-like symptoms may present to a number of different medical specialties and therefore arrive at a diagnosis of Knee OA via different routes. The Knee OA population is a highly co-morbid one. In addition to obesity, Knee OA patients often present with hypertension and diabetes[3].

OBJECTIVES: The study focuses on Knee OA in Germany, aiming to determine the prevalence of OA in the years 2015-2020, diagnosis setting and comorbidities of patients between 2015 and 2020.

METHODS: A non-interventional, retrospective health claims data analysis, performed with anonymized, age- and sex-representative sample of the Institute for Applied Health Research Berlin GmbH (InGef) database. The database used for this study includes approximately 4.8 million persons from approx. 80 statutory health insurances (SHI) and is representative for the German population[6]. Patients ≥18 years of age were analyzed cross-sectionally for each year 2015-2020. Using ICD-10-GM and ATC codes.

RESULTS: The prevalence of knee OA ranged from 7.1% in 2015 to 7.6% in 2019, dropping to 7.4% in 2020. The incidence showed a less linear pattern ranging from 1.71% of patients in 2015 and 2016, 1.67% in 2017, 1.61% in 2018, 1.67% in 2019 to 1.46% of patients in 2020. Females and patients aged ≥66 years had both a higher prevalence and incidence proportion compared to males and younger persons. First diagnosis for most patients was made in an outpatient setting (93.4%) by orthopedics (49.8%), general practitioners (28.1%) and specialists (Internist, 9.3%). Most prevalent co-morbidities for patients with Knee OA in all years observed was primary hypertension with ~70%. Other metabolic disorders like disorders of lipoprotein metabolism (around 50%), overweight and obesity (28-30%), type 2 diabetes mellitus (around 27%) are among the 10 most common others. Other musculoskeletal disorders are frequent (dorsalgia 54%; spondylody 33-54%). The percentage of patients with major depressive disorders is high in all years (23%).

CONCLUSION: The number of patients with knee OA is slowly increasing from 2015-2019 possibly due to the growing German population, however slightly decreasing in 2020. Diagnosis is mainly done by an orthopedist or general practitioner. The increasing number of certain co-morbidities, mainly of the cardiovascular system (hypertension with the highest percentage), but also due to metabolic condition (Disorders of lipoprotein metabolism and other lipemias, overweight and obesity, type 2 diabetes) demonstrates that the percentage of patients with known risk factors for knee OA is increasing. Treating pain in patients with co-morbidities can be challenging due to managing drug-drug interactions given the considerable number of treatments patients could be receiving. This can be a high risk for these patients as physicians do not always know about non-prescription co-medications. Models of care for patients with knee OA which include tolerable, non-systemic pain treatments, enabling patient physiotherapy and management of other aspects of their health actively may be a key advancement.

REFERENCES:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3940

POS0209-HPR "I LOST A PART OF ME": A QUALITATIVE STUDY EXPLORING THE IMPACTS OF SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME ON THE SEXUAL LIVES AND INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS OF WOMEN WITH THE CONDITION

Keywords: Quality of life, Sjögren syndrome, Self-management

J. Mcready1, K. Hackett1,2, V. Deary3,2, T. Collins3,1

1Northumbria University, Department of Social Work, Education and Community Wellbeing, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom; 2Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom; 3Northumbria University, Department of Psychology, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

BACKGROUND: Females with Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) report alterations in their sexual experience from the perspective of women with SS.
Objectives: To explore the lived experience of sexual disruptions and the impacts on intimate relationships for women with SS.

Methods: Northumbria University Ethics Committee granted ethical approval and informed consent was obtained prior to participation. Participants were recruited through SS associations and social media. Cisgender women aged 18+, diagnosed with SS, who were comfortable discussing their sexual functioning were invited to participate in a semi-structured, one-to-one interview throughout May and July 2021. Interviews were conducted via video or telephone call (based on participant preference), and audio was recorded and transcribed verbatim. Interviews lasted between 45-90 minutes. An inductive thematic analysis[2] was performed using ATLAS.ti software.

Results: Interviews were conducted with 15 women with SS (disease duration range= 3-348 months). Participants were predominantly from the USA (33.3%), UK (26.7%) and Canada (26.7%) and were aged between 21 and 70 years (M=49.07, SD=16.78). Participants identified as heterosexual (86.6%) or bisexual (13.3%) and were either married (86.6%), partnered (20%) or dating (13.3%) (relationship duration range= 5 months to 39 years). All participants had a male partner (100%). Regarding menopausal status, 40% were premenopausal, and 60% were postmenopausal. From the analysis, four themes were derived (Figure 1):

1) ‘Impacts on personal and sexual identity’: participants experienced alterations in how they related to their bodies and perceived their bodies to be forcing them to give up a sexual relationship which was in contrast to their wants and expectations.

2) ‘Impacts on relationship with partner’: the sexual relationship goes from being automatic and pleasant to something complex and needing deliberation. There is a loss of honesty and communication between partners regarding the sexual relationship.

3) ‘Breaching of social norms around developing and maintaining new relationships’: participants express a sense of doubt and anxiety about developing and maintaining sexual relationships in the future. There is an awareness of their sexual limitations and inability to meet societal expectations within a relationship.

4) ‘Motivation to find solutions’: Individuals look for solutions to help manage sexual disruptions, such as trying lubrication products, seeking advice from healthcare professionals, engaging with cognitive behavioural therapy practices, incorporating body scans and mindfulness during sexual activity and adaptation of activities to account for limitations.

Conclusion: This research highlights how alterations in sexual function caused by SS have consequences for an individual’s personal and sexual identity, as well as adding an additional layer of mental and physical effort to maintain sexual relationships. The self-management strategies identified in this study are valuable for healthcare professionals supporting women with SS experiencing sexual alterations.

REFERENCES:
[1] Bongi SM, et al. Gynaecological symptoms and sexual disability in women by SS have consequences for an individual’s personal and sexual identity, as well as adding an additional layer of mental and physical effort to maintain sexual relationships. The self-management strategies identified in this study are valuable for healthcare professionals supporting women with SS experiencing sexual alterations.

Figure 1. Word cloud generated from participant quotes from the identified themes

Table 1. Characteristics of patients with ankylosing spondylitis and age- and sex-matched controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Patients with AS, n = 81</th>
<th>Controls, n = 318</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>Mean ± SD or N (%)</td>
<td>Mean ± SD or N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>57.9 ± 4.8</td>
<td>58 ± 4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>54 (66.6)</td>
<td>210 (66.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height (cm)</td>
<td>171.5 ± 9.6</td>
<td>174 ± 8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>84.9 ± 21.8</td>
<td>82.9 ± 15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration (year)</td>
<td>34.6 ± 8.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive</td>
<td>80 (98.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>1.9 ± 0.76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI</td>
<td>3.3 ± 2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSASSS</td>
<td>22.3 ± 22.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (25p, 75p)</td>
<td>16.0 (3.8, 34.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy intake (local)</td>
<td>1810 ± 727</td>
<td>1740 ± 653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born in Sweden</td>
<td>79 (97.0)</td>
<td>296 (93.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single household</td>
<td>18 (22.2)</td>
<td>51 (16.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever been a smoker</td>
<td>42 (51.8)</td>
<td>142 (44.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior high school or lower</td>
<td>6 (7.4)</td>
<td>35 (11.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior high school</td>
<td>51 (62.9)</td>
<td>166 (52.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College or university</td>
<td>24 (28.6)</td>
<td>117 (36.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Diet and Nutrition

Note: Due to non-normal distribution, median and 25th and 75th percentiles are shown.
Reduced sleep quality is highly prevalent and associated with physical function and cardiorespiratory fitness in patients with axial spondyloarthritis

Key Points:
- Sleep disturbances are common in patients with axial spondyloarthritis.
- Reduced sleep quality is associated with better physical function and higher cardiorespiratory fitness.
- Current health status is associated with better sleep quality in patients with axSpA.

Methods:
- Cross-sectional study using data from the ESpA trial.
- Patients with axSpA were included.
- Sleep quality was assessed using the PSQI.
- Physical function was assessed using the BASFI.
- Cardiorespiratory fitness was measured using VO2peak.

Results:
- Reduced sleep quality was associated with better physical function and higher cardiorespiratory fitness.
- Current health status was a modifiable factor associated with sleep quality.

Conclusions:
- Sleep disturbances are common in patients with axSpA.
- Sleep quality is associated with better health outcomes in this population.
- Further research is needed to understand the mechanisms underlying these associations.

Acknowledgements:
We would like to thank the participating patients and all staff for their support during the study.

Disclosure of Interests:
None Declared.

References:
Vocational rehabilitation (VR) is complex. VR includes a variety of components that aim to increase work ability and prevent sick leave and job loss. Effects of VR for people with IA are sparse [1]. To develop relevant VR in Denmark for people with IA, a good understanding of the employer perspective is important, as their involvement is crucial to effective VR.

Objectives: To explore how employers support their employees with IA to maintain their jobs and prevent sickness absenteeism and job loss.

Methods: A qualitative, explorative design was applied, based on a phenomenological and hermeneutic approach. We invited employer representatives (n=13) from workplaces where people with IA were employed (public and private companies with 11-380 employees). An interview guide was developed based on qualitative research and the theory of occupational justice [2]. Individual semi-structured interviews were performed from November 2020 to February 2021. Data were analysed using Kirsit Malterud’s systematic text condensation.

Results: Three themes were derived from the analysis:
1) Participation in work. All employer representatives were aware of and wanted to help solve their employees' challenges at work, but it was complicated and time consuming for them. They supported their employees through adaptation and prioritisation of work tasks, arranged flexible working hours and were aware of the employee’s need to balance work and family in everyday life. The employer representatives considered that the employees needed to be motivated, if job loss was to be prevented.
2) Relationship between employer and employee. In general, the employer representatives found it important for the employee to have trust in the employer and ask for help, in order to receive support. To prevent job loss, the relationship was essential. Furthermore, they made a big effort in supporting the employee. They stretched to meet the needs of their employees and they found that empathy was an important quality.
3) Multidisciplinary collaboration. The employer representatives involved the municipal job centres regarding legislative offers when necessary, and they requested the employee for collaboration with the healthcare professionals involved in treating the employees’ IA. Furthermore, they asked for guidance from relevant trade unions, to find out about legislation in relation to sick leave.

Conclusion: Overall, the employer representatives wanted to support their employees with IA and to be involved in VR, even though preventing sick leave and job loss was experienced as complicated, time consuming and costly for the companies.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.310
People with burning vessels

IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF DISEASE MANIFESTATIONS IN ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS IDENTIFIES DISTINCT CLINICAL PHENOTYPES, EMPHASIZING THE IMPACT OF SEX AND AGE AT DIAGNOSIS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Vasculitis

H. Lindberg, S. Rantapää Dahlqvist, O. Norling, E. Hellbacher, E. Berglin, B. Stegmayr, B. Baslund, O. Palm, H. Haukela, J. Gunnarsdotter, A. Bruchfeld, M. Segelmak, S. Olsson, A. J. Mohammad, A. Svärd, P. Pullerits, H. Heritz, A. Soderberg, P. Eriksson, A. Knight, J. Dahlqvist. Uppsala University, Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden; Umeå university, Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå, Sweden; Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; Umeå University Department of Rheumatology, Umeå, Sweden; Karolinska University Hospital and CLINTEC Karolinska Institute, Department of Renal Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; Lund University and Skåne University Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences, Division of Nephrology, Lund, Sweden; Lund University and Skåne University Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Section of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden; University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre for Clinical Ex. D Peter, Dela, Uppsala, Sweden; Institution of Medicine, Sahlgrenska Academy at University of Gothenburg, Department of Rheumatology and Inflammation Research, Gothenburg, Sweden; Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Department of Clinical Immunology and Transfusion Medicine, Gothenburg, Sweden; Institute of Medicine, the Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Department of Molecular and Clinical Medicine/Nephrology, Gothenburg, Sweden; Örebro University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Örebro, Sweden; Linköping University, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Division of Inflammation and Infection/Rheumatology, Linköping, Sweden; Uppsala University, Science for Life Laboratory, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Microbiology, Uppsala, Sweden

Background: Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) and microscopic polyangiitis (MPA), two different ANCA-associated vasculitides (AAV), are clinically heterogeneous. Little is known about potential differences in clinical presentation of disease between females and males and between patients diagnosed at a young age versus an older age. However, differences between different clinical manifestations have not been thoroughly investigated.

Objectives: To improve care and prediction of outcome in patients with AAV, the aims of this study were to identify and thoroughly characterize subgroups of AAV patients, stratified for sex, age at diagnosis and clinical manifestations.

Methods: In a systematic multicenter study, adult patients diagnosed with GPA of MPA between 2008-2018 were included. Clinical data including sex, age at diagnosis, ANCA-specificity, relapses and cumulative disease involvement of ear-nose-throat (ENT), lungs, eyes, kidneys, muscles/joints, skin, central nervous system (CNS), peripheral nervous system (PNS), gastrointestinal tract (GI) and heart were collected from medical records. Organ involvements were analyzed for associations with sex, age at diagnosis and relapse, in GPA and MPA, separately, using logistic regression. Agglomerative hierarchical cluster analysis was performed using the Ward method, based on the n number of axes explaining ≥90% of total variability in multiple correspondence analysis of the collected clinical data in GPA and MPA. The optimal number of clusters was estimated by determining the gain in within-cluster inertia achieved at each clustering step.

Results: In total, 1156 patients (578 females, 578 males) were included in the study, 922 were classified as GPA, 234 as MPA. In GPA, pulmonary and renal involvement, as well as PR3-ANCA, were significantly associated with male sex, whereas MPO-ANCA was associated with female sex. In MPA, the only difference between the sexes was an older age at diagnosis in males than females. In GPA, the age at diagnosis showed a bimodal pattern with two peaks of incidence with mean (range) at 22.4 (9-31) and 57.1 (32-91) years of age, respectively. Comparing GPA patients younger than 32 years old at diagnosis with those older than 32 identified a significantly higher prevalence of females, ENT- and GI involvement and relapse rate in the younger group and PNS involvement in the older group. In all GPA patients, relapse was associated with pulmonary involvement, whereas in MPA relapse was associated with musculoskeletal involvement. Hierarchical cluster analysis of GPA and MPA identified five and seven distinct clusters, respectively. For both diseases, three of the clusters were defined by heart, CNS- and GI involvement, respectively. In GPA, the largest cluster was defined by PR3-ANCA and ENT involvement and the fifth cluster by MPO-ANCA, female dominance and a low rate of ENT involvement. The additional four clusters in MPA were defined by i) eye involvement, ii) absence of renal involvement, iii) PR3-ANCA and iv) MPO-ANCA with renal involvement (largest, respectively). In addition, in several of the clusters in both GPA and MPA, there was a significant enrichment or depletion of additional clinical manifestations, in comparison with the largest cluster.

Conclusion: The results of this study indicate distinct disease course of GPA in females and males, and strongly suggest that sex and age at diagnosis should be considered in the clinical assessment of disease outcome in GPA patients. The identification of associations between different clinical manifestations in the cluster analysis may facilitate the prediction of organ involvements in patients with AAV, and, subsequently, clinical decision-making.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5351

CLASSIC VERSUS ATYPICAL POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA: TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN OR MISCLASSIFICATION?

Keywords: Imaging, Myositis, Pain

V. El Miedany, M. Toth, M. Elgafy, S. Bahais, M. H. Abu-Zaid, W. Hassan, S. A. A. Taba, W. Elwaili, S. Saber, N. Kameel, C. Christ Church University Medway Campus, Rheumatology, Gillingham, United Kingdom; Kings’ College London - Darent Valley Hospital, General Medicine, London, United Kingdom; Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Community and Public health, Cairo, Egypt; King Abdulaziz University, Rheumatology, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Faculty of Medicine - Tanta University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Tanta, Egypt; Faculty of Medicine Banha University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Benha, Egypt; Faculty of Medicine Alexandria University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Alexandria, Egypt; Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Cairo, Egypt

Background: PMR is usually diagnosed based on the patient’s clinical history and confirmed by the presence of an elevated inflammatory markers ESR and CRP. Once the diagnosis is confirmed, steroid therapy is commenced, and their response is usually rapid and dramatic. However, sometimes patients may present with symptoms similar to PMR but do not meet the 2012 EULAR/ACR criteria. It is not well known if these atypical patients represent a subtype of PMR or another musculoskeletal inflammatory condition.

Objectives: 1. to compare the clinical, laboratory and sonographic patterns in patients presenting with classic PMR versus those with atypical PMR symptoms.

Methods: retrospective study of patients presenting with PMR symptoms and their respective US scans of the shoulders and hips. The patients were stratified into a cohort of classic PMR who meet the 2012 EULAR/ACR criteria; and a group of atypical PMR presenting with symptoms similar to classic PMR but did not fulfill the 2012 EULAR/ACR criteria. Every patient was assessed clinically, had blood tests for ESR, CRP, basic rheumatoid blood profile, urine analysis (to rule out microscopic hematuria). CK, bone profile, rheumatoid factor, anti-CCP, ANA, TSH and HbA1c. US scan was carried out for both shoulders and hips. The patients were treated according to agreed protocol and monitored for 12-months.

Results: 104 patients (88 women and 36 men) with a mean age of 63.2±9.7 years. Eighty-one (64/104) patients had classic PMR and 20 (19.3%) atypical PMR. Patients with atypical PMR had shorter duration of symptoms (8.1+1.3 Vs 14.6+15 weeks). In the atypical PMR patients, pain in the hip/pelvic girdle was more frequent (100% vs 60.1%), whereas shoulder girdle pain was less (50% vs 98%), in comparison to the classic PMR patients. Arthritis was less common in the atypical PMR cohort (15% Vs 42%), similarly GCA was less prevalent in the atypical PMR (5% Vs 20.2%). Patients with classic PMR were more likely to have bilateral abnormal ultrasound findings in the shoulder (particularly sub-deltoide bursitis [92%] and biceps tenosynovitis [83.3%]), as well as in the hips (78.6%) than the atypical PMR subjects where US findings tend to be unilateral (shoulder 50% and the hip 75%). Systematic symptoms: fatigue, weight loss, fever were more common in the classic PMR than atypical PMR (%). No significant difference on comparing morning stiffness in both groups. Both patients groups responded very well to steroid therapy with significant improvement in the symptoms in 2-4 weeks’ time.
Conclusion: Patients with atypical PMR could represent an early form of the classic PMR. Atypical PMR used to have a shorter evolution of symptoms, have predominantly hip/pelvic girdle affection. US of the shoulders and hips may have an added value for stratifying PMR patients and differentiating atypical PMR from other musculoskeletal conditions.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1065

POS0216 A PROSPECTIVE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TEMPORAL ARTERY ULTRASOUND, TEMPORAL ARTERY BIOPSY, TEMPORAL ARTERY MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANGIOGRAPHY AND ACR GCA CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA IN AN INCEPTION GCA COHORT

Keywords: Vasculitis, Diagnostic Tests, Ultrasound

C. Kirby, R. Flood, D. Landers, K. MC Kevitt, G. Fulton, E. Boyle, K. O’Regan, R. Mullan, G. Murphy, D. Kane. Tallaght University Hospital, Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland; 2Cork University Hospital, Rheumatology, Cork, Ireland; 3Tallaght University Hospital, Vascular Surgery, Dublin, Ireland; 4Cork University Hospital, Vascular Surgery, Cork, Ireland; 5Cork University Hospital, Radiology, Cork, Ireland; 6Cork University Hospital, Rheumatology, Cork, Ireland

Background: Temporal Artery Biopsy (TAB) is costly, invasive and has a false negative rate as high as 60% [1]. Temporal Artery Ultrasound (TAUS) and Superficial Temporal Artery (STA) MR-Angiography (MRA) have shown widely disparate results in studies to date [1-3]. ACR GCA Classification Criteria are often mis-used in clinical practice as diagnostic criteria.

Objectives: In this prospective study, we compare TAUS, TAB and STA MRA to physician diagnosis of GCA at 6 months.

Methods: We performed a prospective study of all new referrals (n=124) to our Rapid Access GCA clinic over 18 months. US of all 6 branches of the STA and both auxiliary arteries was performed using a GE P9 device. Abnormalities considered indicative of vasculitis in the STA included the halo sign (Figure 1) and no compressible arteries with a thickened intima-media complex [4]. In the auxiliary arteries, a halo sign and an intima-media thickness of >1.0mm was considered positive. A subset of our patients were referred for TAB and/or MRA. MRAs were scored 0-4 based on mural wall thickness and signal intensity of mural peri-adventitial contrast enhancement [5]. We compared results to a clinical diagnosis of GCA at 6 months, verified by 2 rheumatologists. We performed Chi-Square tests with ROC analyses to determine the performance of each diagnostic modality.

Figure 1. Transverse view of STA, demonstrating a halo sign, as indicated by the anechoic region (green arrow) surrounding the inner Doppler (red arrow) signal.

Results: Sixty-six patients had a clinical diagnosis of GCA of which 58% were males (n=38) with a mean age of 73.3 years. The performance of the various diagnostic tools is outlined in table 1.

Table 1. Sensitivities, Specificities and Area Under the Curve (AUC) values for Temporal and Auxiliary Artery Ultrasound, ACR GCA Classification Criteria, Temporal Artery Biopsy and Superficial Temporal Artery Magnetic Resonance Angiography for physician-verified diagnosis of GCA at 6 months. CI = Confidence Intervals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Sensitivity (%)</th>
<th>Specificity (%)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>AUC</th>
<th>CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
<td>0.846</td>
<td>0.772-0.920</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR CC</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
<td>0.717</td>
<td>0.625-0.809</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAB</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
<td>0.702</td>
<td>0.568-0.836</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STA MRA</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0.193</td>
<td>0.335</td>
<td>0.072-0.598</td>
<td>0.273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: TAUS is a reliable tool for diagnosing GCA with a high degree of sensitivity and specificity. TAUS outperforms TAB, MRA and ACR GCA Classification Criteria when compared to a clinical diagnosis of GCA at 6 months. We propose that TAUS should replace TAB as the gold standard diagnostic test and that all rheumatologists should acquire the necessary skills to accurately perform this investigation as part of routine clinical care.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0217 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN VASCULAR FDG UPTAKE AND AORTIC DIMENSIONS IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Vasculitis, Imaging

L. Moreel1,2, W. Coudyzer, L. Boeckstaens, A. Betrams1,2, G. Molenberghs3, S. Vanderschueren2,3, E. Clauss, K. Van Laere4,6, D. Blockmans1,2. 1University Hospitals Leuven, Department of General Internal Medicine, Leuven, Belgium; 2KU Leuven, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Transplantation, Leuven, Belgium; 3University Hospitals Leuven, Department of Radiology, Leuven, Belgium; 4University Hospitals Leuven, Department of Nuclear Medicine, Leuven, Belgium; 5KU Leuven, Interuniversity Institute for Biostatistics and Statistical Bioinformatics (I-BioStat), Leuven, Belgium; 6KU Leuven, Department of Imaging and Pathology, Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Leuven, Belgium

Background: Patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA) have an increased risk of developing aortic aneurysms. Retrospective studies have shown that 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) uptake in large vessels at diagnosis increases the risk of developing aortic complications during follow-up.

Objectives: To prospectively evaluate the association between vascular FDG uptake at diagnosis and the evolution of aortic diameter and volume in patients with GCA.

Methods: GCA patients who had FDG positron emission tomography (PET) imaging at diagnosis within 3 days of initiation of glucocorticoids and who were prospectively followed for at least 2 years were included. PET scans were visually scored (0-3) at 7 vascular areas and a total vascular score (TVS) was calculated, ranging from 0 to 21. Patients underwent a computed tomography (CT) scan at diagnosis and yearly thereafter for a maximum of 10 years. The association between vascular FDG uptake and aortic diameter and volume was estimated by linear mixed effect models with random intercept and slope adjusted for age, sex, cardiovascular risk factors, CT or PET/CT scan and intravenous contrast.

The ascending aorta, aortic arch, and descending aorta were considered aneurysmal when the diameter was ≥45, ≥40, and ≥35 mm respectively.

Results: Hundred patients (mean age 70 years, 68% females) were included, of which 74 patients had FDG uptake ≥2 in any large vessel, 60 in the thoracic aorta and 49 in the abdominal aorta. Median follow-up was 80 months (IQR 47-110). The increase in ascending and descending aortic diameter and in thoracic aortic volume was higher in patients with vascular FDG uptake ≥2 compared to those without (p<0.01). This increase was also significantly associated with TVS (Figure 1). FDG uptake was not associated with an increase in abdominal aortic diameter nor volume. Thoracic aortic aneurysms were more frequently observed in patients with thoracic aortic FDG uptake (27% versus 10%, aOR 6.6, 95%-CI 1.8-31.0, p=0.009) with a median time since diagnosis of 40 months (IQR 18-61). Two patients with high TVS (15 and 16) needed surgery for thoracic aortic aneurysm.

Conclusions: Thoracic aortic FDG uptake at diagnosis is an independent risk factor for developing thoracic aortic aneurysm in GCA patients. Higher TVS was associated with greater yearly increase in thoracic aortic volume and diameter. Follow-up of aortic dimensions may be necessary in these patients.
Table 1. Evolution of the aortic diameter (in mm) and volume (in cm³) per year in patients with (PET positive) and without (PET negative) vascular FDG uptake ≥2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regression coefficient (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume of thoracic aorta</td>
<td>PET negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter of thoracic aorta</td>
<td>3.13 (0.86 – 5.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Ascending aorta</td>
<td>0.15 (-0.02 – 0.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Aortic arch</td>
<td>0.22 (0.09 – 0.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Descending aorta</td>
<td>0.19 (0.05 – 0.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter of abdominal aorta</td>
<td>0.08 (-0.45 – 0.61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Suprarenal aorta</td>
<td>0.07 (-0.00 – 0.14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Juxtarenal aorta</td>
<td>0.13 (0.05 – 0.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Infrarenal aorta</td>
<td>0.12 (0.07 – 0.18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FDG uptake ≥2 in thoracic aorta

Figure 1. Association between TVS and (A) volume of thoracic aorta, (B) diameter of ascending aorta and (C) diameter of descending aorta

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Keywords: Vasculitis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)
S. Kaymaz Tahra1, O. Bayındır2, B. İnce3, O. Ozdemir Isık4, M. E. Kutu5, O. Karakaş5, T. Demirci Yıldırım6, Z. Ademoglu7, E. Durak Ediboglu8, B. C. Uludogan9, C. Ilgın10, N. S. Yasar Bilgie11, T. Kasifoğlu12, S. Akar13, H. Emmungen14, F. Onen15, A. Omma16, N. A. Kanitez17, A. Yazioğlu18, A. Çelife19, M. İnci20, K. Aksu21, G. Keser21, H. Diriksen21, E. Albaz-Oner22, C. Uludogan2, O. İlan Varank Training and Research Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Ege University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 3Izmir University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 4Kocaeli University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Kocaeli, Turkey; 5BAkurkoy Dr. Sadi Konuk Training and Research Hospital, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 6Ankara City Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 7Dokuz Eylül University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 8Trakya University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Edirne, Turkey; 9Kapıçebi University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Edirne, Turkey; 10Osman Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Eskisehir, Turkey; 11Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 12Koc University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 13Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 14Koc University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 15Koc University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 16Koc University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 17Trakya University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Edirne, Turkey; 18Kapıçebi University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Edirne, Turkey; 19Dokuz Eylül University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 20Osman Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Eskisehir, Turkey; 21Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Public Health, Istanbul, Turkey; 22Koc University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey.

Background: Conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (cDMARDs) are recommended in addition to glucocorticoids (GC) for all active Takayasu’s arteritis (TAK) patients as the first-line therapy. However, there is limited data comparing cDMARDs as the first-line immunosuppressive (IS) treatment.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to compare the outcomes of methotrexate (MTX) and azathioprine (AZA), which were used most frequently as the first-line cDMARDs in TAK patients.

Methods: TAK patients who received cDMARDs in addition to GCs as the initial therapy were included in this multicenter retrospective cohort study. Clinical, laboratory and imaging data of the patients were assessed. In addition, a match analysis (cc match) using variables ‘age, gender and diffuse aortic involvement’ was performed between patients who received MTX or AZA as first-line cDMARD treatment.

Results: We included 301 (F/M: 260/41, mean age: 42.2±13.3) patients from 10 centres in the study. As the first-line cDMARD, 204 (67.8%) patients received MTX and 77 (25.6%) patients received AZA. First cDMARD was cyclophosphamide in 17 (5.6%), leflunomide in 2 (0.5%) and mycophenolate mofetil in one patient. The remission, relapse and radiographic progression rates were similar between patients who received MTX and AZA as first-line cDMARDs. Vascular surgery rate was higher in the AZA (23% vs. 9%, p=0.001), whereas the frequency of patients receiving ≤5 mg/day GCs at the end of the follow-up was higher in the MTX group (76 vs 62%, p=0.034). Similarly, the rate of vascular surgery was higher and the GC dose reduction rate was lower in AZA group in match analysis. Drug survival was similar between MTX and AZA groups (median 48 months, MTX vs AZA: 32% vs 42%, p=0.34). IS therapy was discontinued in 18 (11 MTX, 7 AZA) patients during the follow-up period due to remission. In the IS discontinuation group 2 patients had a relapse at 2 and 6 months, while 16 patients were still on remission at the end of mean 69.4 (±50.9) months of follow-up.

Conclusion: Remission, relapse, radiographic progression and drug survival rates of azathioprine and methotrexate were similar in Takayasu’s arteritis patients having the first-line of therapy. The rate of vascular surgery was higher and the rate of steroid dose reduction was lower with azathioprine compared to methotrexate at the end of the follow-up.

POS0219

COMPARISON OF METHOTREXATE AND AZATHIOPRINE AS THE FIRST STEROID-SPARING IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE AGENT IN PATIENTS WITH TAKAYASU’S ARTERITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total group</th>
<th>First-line methotrexate</th>
<th>First-line azathioprine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(n=301)</td>
<td>(n=204)</td>
<td>(n=77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, means±SD</td>
<td>42.2±13.3</td>
<td>43.5±13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, female, n(%)</td>
<td>260 (86)</td>
<td>184 (90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of first cDMARD, months</td>
<td>35 (3-336)</td>
<td>35.5 (3-312)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission with first cDMARD, n(%)</td>
<td>193/296 (65)</td>
<td>138/199 (69)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Disease activity (baseline)

- **PGA, active, n (%)**: 283/297 | 191/201 | 74/77 | 0.70
- **Kerr, active, n (%)**: 270/289 | 181/195 | 70/75 | 0.53
- **ITAS 2010**: 9 (2-20) | 9 (0-19) | 10 (3-21) | 0.61

### Disease activity (12th month)

- **CRP, baseline, mg/L**: 13 (0.4-235) | 15.3 (0.5-280) | 19.0 (0.4-145) | 0.82
- **CRP, 12th month, mg/L**: 3 (0.8-130) | 4.4 (0.2-200) | 3.7 (0.4-83) | 0.90

### Radiographic progression, n(%) 75/142 | 68/138 | 24/49 | 0.001

### Vascular surgery rate with first cDMARD, n(%) 53/118 | 54/119 | 49/49 |

### GC dose reduction (≤5 mg/week) or discontinuation with first cDMARD, n(%) 153/220 | 110/145 | 100/65 | 0.034

### Radiographic progression, n(%) 75/142 | 48/98 | 22/39 | 0.43

### CRP, baseline, mg/L 13 (0.4-235) | 15.3 (0.5-280) | 19.0 (0.4-145) | 0.82

### CRP, 12th month, mg/L 3 (0.8-130) | 4.4 (0.2-200) | 3.7 (0.4-83) | 0.90

Figure 1. Drug survival for methotrexate and azathioprine treatments in TAK patients as first-line cDMARD

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Methods: All patients who were diagnosed with PMR in our Rheumatology Unit from January 2017 to January 2022 and followed-up for at least 12 months were retrospectively included. If performed at the time of diagnosis, musculoskeletal and temporal (TA) and axillary arteries (AxA) US findings were recorded, too.

Results: A total of 201 patients (mean age 73.4 ± 7.63, M/F 89/112) were included. According to the US performed at baseline, patients were subdivided in 4 subgroups: in 32 of them, the diagnosis was only clinical (A); 35 underwent shoulders, hips, wrists and knees US (B); 48 underwent shoulders, hips, TA and AxA US (C); and AxA US (D). At baseline, 14/132 (10.6%) of patients from groups C and D displayed findings consistent with GCA. During the follow-up, 47%, 52.8% and 60% of PMR patients who were re-evaluated at 12, 24 and 36 months, respectively, had a change in diagnosis (figure 1). The multivariate logistic regression showed that bilateral LHBT tenosynovitis at onset was the variable that better defined the persistence in PMR diagnosis (p=0.05, OR 8.425), whereas GH synovitis (p=0.022, OR 0.074) and RF positivity (p=0.028, OR 0.993) were the variables associated to a diagnostic shift on the follow-up. The model that better described (AUROC 0.854) a patient with a PMR-onset with subsequent diagnostic shift comprised higher frequency of bilateral GH synovitis, bilateral shoulder PD, higher values of CRP, WBC, PLT and Hb and longer time to obtain remission. On the other hand, the ones maintaining diagnosis of PMR had bilateral exudative LHBT tenosynovitis (OR 8.425) and SA-SD bursitis (OR 2.619), higher values of ESR (OR 1.015), lower values of Hb (OR 0.428) and shorter time to remission (OR 1.076). Continuous variables were included in a hierarchical clustering analysis identifying two groups. Cluster 2 identified older patients, with lower systemic inflammation, lower levels of WBC, PLT and Hb, who had a higher persistence in PMR diagnosis at 12 (42.7% vs 29.3%), 24 (37.2% vs 25.6%) and 36 months (38.4% vs 21.2%). Cluster 2 had lower frequency of PD positivity (PD 0 in 39.1% on shoulders and 47.1% on wrists) or peripheral synovitis (absence of synovitis on knee and MCF in 43.9% and 50% respectively), more frequent flares, and were taking PDN at 12 (until 45.8%) and 24 months (until 30.8%). An environmental trigger before onset were more commonly reported (in 5.8% vaccinations before onset, vs 1.4% in cluster 1) The comparisons among the B, C and D and A showed significant differences in diagnosis at 12 (p=0.0145) and 24 months (p=0.0432) and dosage of GC at 12 months (p=0.0009). At 12 months the complete withdrawal of PDN was achieved in a significant (p=0.002) lower number of patients belonging to group A (6.4%) when compared to group B (26.1%), C (37.5%) and D (12.9%). A direct correlation was obtained between GC dosage at 12 and 24 months (Spearman rho 0.284, p=0.002). Finally, a longer time to remission correlated positively with CRP and negatively with Hb, while fever at disease onset positively with ESR.

Conclusion: More than half patients fulfilling criteria for PMR have their diagnosis changed during follow-up. The early use of US is associated with a more accurate diagnosis at baseline, as well as to a lower cumulative dosage of PDN. The early diagnosis of GCA is possible only in case of AxA and TA US at diagnosis. On the other hand, the lack of US is associated to a prolonged PDN treatment. Patient with a definite subset of clinical (fever, short time to remission), laboratory (lower Hb and CRP, higher ESR) and US findings (lower PD signal, LHBT tenosynovitis) are more prone to maintain the diagnosis of PMR during the follow-up.
Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Duivuur Geetha Consultant of: ChemoCentryx (a wholly owned subsidiary of Amgen), Aurinia, Otsuka, GSK, Anisha Dua Consultant of: ChemoCentryx (a wholly owned subsidiary of Amgen), Novartis, Sanofi, Abbvie, Huibin Yue Employee of: ChemoCentryx, Amgen, Carlo Salvarani: None declared, David Jayne Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, ChemoCentryx (a wholly owned subsidiary of Amgen), GSK, Novartis, Roche, CSL Vifor, Grant/ research support from: GSK, Roche, Peter A Merkel Shareholder of: Royalties from UpToDate, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, ChemoCentryx (a wholly owned subsidiary of Amgen), CSL Behring, Dynacure, EMDSerono, Forbissi, GlaxoSmithKline, Immagine, InflaRx, Janssenn, jubilant, Kyverna, Magenta, MinBio, Mitsubishi, Netusil, Novartis, NS Pharma, Otsuka, Q32, Regeneron, Sparrow, Takeda, Grant/research support from: AstraZeneca, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, ChemoCentryx (a wholly owned subsidiary of Amgen), CSL Behring, Dynacure, EMDSerono, Forbissi, GlaxoSmithKline, Immagine, InflaRx, Janssenn, jubilant, Kyverna, Magenta, MinBio, Mitsubishi, Netusil, Novartis, NS Pharma, Otsuka, Q32, Regeneron, Sparrow, Takeda.

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POS0223

LONG-TERM SURVEILLANCE STUDY OF RITUXIMAB (MABTHERA)-TREATED PATIENTS WITH GRANULOMATOUS POLYANGIITIS (GPA) OR MICROSCOPIC POLYANGIITIS (MPA): RITUXIMAB SURVEILLANCE STUDY IN VASCULITIS (RIVAS)

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Vasculitis

L. Uchida1, C. Loecheil2, M. Nodale3, S. Bond4, D. Jayne1,2, 1University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 2Cambridge University Hospitals National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust, Vascular and Lupus Clinic, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 3Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Background: Rituximab is used for remission induction, and for the prevention of relapse in ANCA-associated vasculitides (AAV). However, the long-term safety of rituximab in the real-world setting remains unclear.

Objectives: To evaluate the incidence of safety events (serious adverse events and adverse events of special interest) and risk profile of rituximab and to compare the time to first safety event between a rituximab cohort and a cohort treated with other therapies over 6 months to 15 years from first exposure.

Methods: RIVAS was a retrospective, observational study including patients with GPA/MPA who had received rituximab (MabThera) or other treatments between 2003 and 2018 at Addenbrooke’s hospital, Cambridge, UK. Clinical and laboratory variables were collected at baseline and every 12-18 months until 30 September 2018. To calculate the time to event, Time 0 was defined as either initiation of MabThera treatment for the rituximab cohort or the time of first disease flare/diagnosis for the control cohort. The primary endpoint was the time to first safety event. Key secondary endpoints were time to first pre-categorized safety event such as serious infection and cardiovascular disorders. The time to second safety event was an exploratory endpoint.

Results: 392 GPA/MPA patients were enrolled: 247 in the rituximab and 145 in the control cohort with a total of 2,217 person-years (mean study duration 5.7 years). Mean age was 61 years, 52% were female, 77% had GPA and 23% MPA. The mean disease duration at baseline was 55.3 months (SD 70.2) in the rituximab group and 60.9 months (SD 66.2) in the control group. Limitations of the trial design do not permit firm conclusions concerning differences between treatment groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event type</th>
<th>Events(n)/ Patients(n%)</th>
<th>Rituximab</th>
<th>Control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All safety events</td>
<td>533/164 (66%)</td>
<td>170/78 (54%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infection</td>
<td>124/67 (27%)</td>
<td>29/19 (13%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disorder</td>
<td>42/36 (15%)</td>
<td>22/18 (12%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematological events</td>
<td>35/31 (13%)</td>
<td>9/9 (6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignant events</td>
<td>28/21 (30%)</td>
<td>21/16 (11%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal Insufficiency</td>
<td>21/15 (6%)</td>
<td>20/15 (10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PML</td>
<td>1/1 (0.4%)</td>
<td>0/0 (0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional safety events</td>
<td>282/122 (49%)</td>
<td>69/48 (33%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n, number; PML, progressive multifocal leuкоencephalopathy.

REFERENCES: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2529

POS0224

TREATMENT IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS ON THE MOVE

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Psoriatic arthritis, Randomized control trial

S. Brown1, L. Coates2, H. Collier3, C. Davies4, P. Helliwell5, J. Packham6, M. Ransom2, W. Tillet5,6, N. McNugh5,6, 1University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2University of Oxford, Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom; 3University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4University of Nottingham, Academic Unit of Population and Lifespan Science, Nottingham, United Kingdom; 5University of Bath, Department of Life Sciences, Bath, United Kingdom; 6Royal United Hospitals, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, United Kingdom

Background: Delay in the diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis may be associated with poorer outcome. However, the effectiveness of strategies to enable early detection of psoriatic arthritis in a primary care population with psoriasis has not been investigated in a prospective randomised control trial.

Objectives: The primary objective was to determine whether early detection of undiagnosed PsA in people with psoriasis by an enhanced surveillance (ES) intervention compared to standard care (SC) improves outcome in physical function at 24 months post-registration. Secondary objectives were to compare disease activity and impact of disease between groups in those participants diagnosed with PsA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: S. Brown: None declared, L. Coates: None declared, H. Collier: None declared, C. Davies: None declared, P. Helliwell: None declared, J. Packham: None declared, M. Ransom: None declared, W. Tillet: None declared, N. McNugh: None declared, 1University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2University of Oxford, Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom; 3University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4University of Nottingham, Academic Unit of Population and Lifespan Science, Nottingham, United Kingdom; 5University of Bath, Department of Life Sciences, Bath, United Kingdom; 6Royal United Hospitals, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, United Kingdom

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POS0224

ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE FOR THE DETECTION OF PSORIASIS ARTHRITIS IN A UK PRIMARY CARE PSORIASIS POPULATION VERSUS USUAL CARE: RESULTS AT 24 MONTHS FROM THE TOTAL BURDEN OF PSORIASIS (TUDOR) RANDOMISED CONTROL TRIAL

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: S. Brown: None declared, L. Coates: None declared, H. Collier: None declared, C. Davies: None declared, P. Helliwell: None declared, J. Packham: None declared, M. Ransom: None declared, W. Tillet: None declared, N. McNugh: None declared, 1University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2University of Oxford, Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom; 3University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4University of Nottingham, Academic Unit of Population and Lifespan Science, Nottingham, United Kingdom; 5University of Bath, Department of Life Sciences, Bath, United Kingdom; 6Royal United Hospitals, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, United Kingdom

Background: Delay in the diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis may be associated with poorer outcome. However, the effectiveness of strategies to enable early detection of psoriatic arthritis in a primary care population with psoriasis has not been investigated in a prospective randomised control trial.

Objectives: The primary objective was to determine whether early detection of undiagnosed PsA in people with psoriasis by an enhanced surveillance (ES) intervention compared to standard care (SC) improves outcome in physical function at 24 months post-registration. Secondary objectives were to compare disease activity and impact of disease between groups in those participants diagnosed with PsA.
Methods: A multi-centre, prospective, parallel group cluster randomised controlled trial in patients with psoriasis with no prior diagnosis of PsA was conducted. GP practices were randomised in a 1:1 allocation ratio with stratification for GP practice list size and Central Commissioning Group (CCG). A total of 133 GP practices and 2225 participants were registered, corresponding to 1123 allocated to ES and 1102 to SC; primary analysis population consisted of 87 participants with a positive diagnosis of PsA: 64 in ES, 23 in SC (Figure one). Baseline characteristics were similar across both treatment groups. The adjusted odds ratio (OR) for achieving a HAQ-DI score of 0 at 24 months post registration in ES compared to SC was 0.64 (95% CI: 0.35, 1.12), indicating no evidence of a difference between treatment groups (p=0.5075). Moreover, the adjusted OR of achieving a higher PASDAS score of 0 at 24 months post registration in participants diagnosed with PsA was 1.12 (95% CI: 0.67, 1.86), again indicating no evidence of a difference between the two treatment groups (p=0.6612). There was high variability on the impact of the disease between participants over time, although the impact is generally low in this group of participants with an ‘early’ diagnosis of PsA. Moreover, the overall PASDAS score and component scores over time post PsA diagnosis show high variability in PsA disease activity. No adverse events were reported.

Conclusion: There was insufficient evidence that early diagnosis by ES and subsequent treatment improves physical function compared to SC in patients with psoriasis. Limitations included the trial being underpowered for demonstrating the pre-specified treatment effect; only 6.2% of participants recruited had psoriasis. Limitations included the trial being underpowered for detecting the MCID in the primary outcome measure of 0.35 units. Participants recruited were managed according to either SC, or ES by annual rheumatological assessment. Participants with suspected inflammatory arthritis were referred, via their GP, to the local rheumatology outpatient clinic at participating hospitals for an assessment of PsA by the ‘treating rheumatologist’ (ES arm: at baseline, 12 and 24 months; SC arm: at 24 months). Participants diagnosed with PsA then entered the PsA-care pathway element of the trial. The primary outcome measure was the HAQ-DI at 24 months post registration in participants diagnosed with PsA. Secondary outcome measures, PASDAS and PsAID-12, were assessed over time in participants with a positive diagnosis of PsA.

Results: A total of 2225 participants across 133 GP practices were registered, corresponding to 1123 allocated to ES and 1102 to SC; primary analysis population consisted of 87 participants with a positive diagnosis of PsA: 64 in ES, 23 in SC (Figure one). Baseline characteristics were similar across both treatment groups. The adjusted odds ratio (OR) for achieving a HAQ-DI score of 0 at 24 months post registration in ES compared to SC was 0.64 (95% CI: 0.17, 2.38), indicating no evidence of a difference between treatment groups (p=0.5075). Moreover, the adjusted OR of achieving a higher (non-zero) HAQ-DI score at 24 months post registration in ES relative to SC arm was 1.12 (95% CI: 0.67, 1.86), again indicating no evidence of a difference between the two treatment groups (p=0.6612). There was high variability on the impact of the disease between participants over time, although the impact is generally low in this group of participants with an ‘early’ diagnosis of PsA. Moreover, the overall PASDAS score and component scores over time post PsA diagnosis show high variability in PsA disease activity. No adverse events were reported.

Conclusion: There was insufficient evidence that early diagnosis by ES and subsequent treatment improves physical function compared to SC in patients with psoriasis. Limitations included the trial being underpowered for demonstrating the pre-specified treatment effect; only 6.2% of participants recruited had a positive diagnosis of PsA, much lower than assumed (18%). The imbalance observed between treatment groups (~3:1 ratio (ES:SC)), is largely explained by the lower proportion of participants especially in the SC arm attending the screening visit at 24 months, and delays between referral and attending appointment with the treating clinician, all further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, a longer duration of follow-up may be necessary to detect differences in outcome and is planned.

References: Nil.

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POS0225 HOW WELL DOES ULTRASOUND-ASSESSED SYNOVITIS IN REDUCED JOINT SETS PREDICT THE RESPONSE TO SECUKINUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO CONVENTIONAL DMARDs? – EXPLORATORY RESULTS FROM A PHASE 3B STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD

M. A. D’agostino,1 P. G. Conaghan,2 G. Caillé,2 E. Naredo,3 P. Mandli,4 P. Carron,5 L. Šenolt,1 J. Rosa,1 A. López-Rodríguez,2 P. Goyanka,1 B. G. Sahico,5 W. Bao,2 E. Schett,1 M. Boers,2 Catholic University, Department of the Sacred Heart, Rheumatology, Roma, Italy; 1University of Leeds, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2Novartis Pharma AG, Immunology and Rheumatology, Basel, Switzerland; 3Hospital Fundación Jiménez Díaz and Autónoma University, Department of Rheumatology and Joint and Bone Research Unit, Madrid, Spain; 4Medical University of Vienna, Division of Rheumatology, Vienna, Austria; 5Ghent University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ghent, Belgium; 6Charles University, Institute of Rheumatology and Department of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic; 7Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires and University Institute, Rheumatology Unit, Internal Medical Service, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 8PSOAPS Psoriasis Clinical and Research Centre, Dermatológica Country, Guadalajara, Mexico; 9Novartis Healthcare Pvt Ltd, Clinical Project Management, Hyderabad, India; 10Novartis HealthCare Ltd, Biostatistics, East Hanover, United States of America; 11FAU Erlangen- Nürnberg and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Erlangen, Germany; 12Amsterdam UMC, Vrije Universiteit, Department of Epidemiology and Data Science, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Background: Power Doppler ultrasound (PDUS) is a powerful diagnostic tool with high accessibility and reproducibility, allowing the visualisation of morphological and inflammatory changes of the synovium. The ULTIMATE study (NCT02662985) was the first large, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicentre PDUS phase 3b study in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) that utilised the Global EULAR-OMERACT- Synovitis Score (GLOESS), to demonstrate the responsiveness of PDUS to detect early and continuous decrease in the synovitis score.[1] However, the ultrasound assessment for GLOESS is time-consuming due to the number of joints assessed.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the performance of different reduced joint sets to predict response to secukinumab, compared with the 24 paired joints included in the validated GLOESS.

Methods: ULTIMATE was a 52-week study, with a 12-week double-blind, placebo-controlled period followed by a 12-week open-label treatment period and a 6-month extension period.[1,2] The GLOESS comprises the sum of PDUS scores of 24 paired joints (potential score range: 0–144). A cluster image map was constructed to identify highly correlated joint clusters, based on the change from baseline of the composite PDUS scores at joint level. A reduced set of joints was selected based on either a mathematical approach that used the correlation clusters along with the joint level variations and joint location (Model 1 and Model 2) or a pragmatic approach that selected joints most frequently found to be active by ultrasound, in PsA in clinical practice (Model 3). Linear models with reduced joint sets predicted the actual GLOESS at each time point utilising 60% of data randomly selected from the study. The remaining 40% were used for model validation and diagnostics.

Results: Three models were established with reduced joint sets (12–18 pairs). The joints included in each linear model are summarised in Table 1. Figure 1 depicts the trajectory of the two mathematical models and the pragmatic model versus the actual GLOESS in the secukinumab and placebo-secukinumab groups assessed by change from baseline to Week 24. Compared to GLOESS, all reduced PDUS joint sets demonstrated similar responsiveness to secukinumab from baseline to Week 24.

Conclusion: These results demonstrated similar responsiveness to secukinumab with reduced joint sets as the validated GLOESS, supporting the development of a scoring system with reduced number of joint evaluations that would increase feasibility by reducing the assessment time. Further studies are needed to confirm the validity and utility of the reduced joint set ultrasound scores in other PsA cohorts.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.
Table 1. Joints included across 3 ultrasound-detected synovitis models, indicated by green shading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joint Pairs</th>
<th>Mathematical Model 1 (N=12)</th>
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<th>Pragmatic Model (N=18)</th>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Tibiotar/Fist/</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

DIP: distal interphalangeal; MCP: metacarpophalangeal; MTP: metatarsophalangeal; N: number of joint pairs used in the model; PIP: proximal interphalangeal

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Maria-Antoinetta D’Agostino Speakers bureau: Sanofi, Novartis, BMS, Janssen, Celgene, Roche, AbbVie, UC Pharma and Eli Lilly, Consultant of: Sanofi, Novartis, BMS, Janssen, Celgene, Roche, AbbVie, UC Pharma and Eli Lilly, Philip G Conaghan Speakers bureau: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Novartis and Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Novartis and Pfizer, Corine Gaillez Shareholder of: Novartis and BMS, Employee of: Novartis, Espe- ranza Naredo Speakers bureau: AbbVie; AbbVie, Roche, BMS, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Janssen and Celgene GmbH, Paid instructor for: honoraria for clinical trials from AbbVie, Novartis and BMS, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Peter Mandl Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Janssen, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Roche and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Janssen, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Roche and UCB Pharma, Philippe Carron Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Merck Sharp Dohme, Novartis, Bristol Myers Squibb, AbbVie, UCB, Eli Lilly, Gilead and Celgene Corporation, Consultant of: Pfizer, Merck Sharp Dohme, Novartis, Bristol Myers Squibb, AbbVie, UCB, Eli Lilly, Gilead and Celgene Corporation, Grant/research support from: UCB Pharma, Merck Sharp Dohme and Pfizer, Lidaalov Snelov Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Gilead, MSD, Mylan, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanoft, Sandoz and UCB Pharma, Paid instructor for: honoraria for clinical trials from AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celgene, Novartis, Pfizer, Takeda and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: expenses for attendance at advisory board meeting from AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Javier Rosa Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Pfizer, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis and Sandoz, Alexanda Lopez-Rodriguez Speakers bureau: Roche, Eli Lilly, Novartis, BMS, and Neo- vacs and research grant from those companies, Consultant of: Roche, Eli Lilly, Novartis, BMS, and Neovacs and research grant from those companies, Punit Goyanka Employee of: Novartis, Braja Gopal Sahoo Employee of: Novartis, Weibin Bao Employee of: Novartis, Georg Schett Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Roche and UCB Pharma, Maarren Boers Consultant of: Novartis.

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POS0226

APREMILAST REDUCES INFLAMMATION AS MEASURED BY MRI OF THE HAND IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: PRIMARY RESULTS FROM THE PHASE 4 MOSAIC STUDY

Keywords:
Outcome measures, Imaging, Psoriatic arthritis

M. Ostergaard1, W. P. Maksymowych2, M. Boesen3, R. G. Lambert4, G. Valenzuela5, M. Bubb6, O. Kubassova7, J. Reddy8, S. Colgan9, Y. Klyachkin9, C. Deignan9, L. Tang9, M. Paris9, P. J. Mease10

1Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Righospitalet, University of Copenhagen, Rheumatology, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2University of Alberta, Department of Medicine, Edmonton, AB, Canada; 3Copenhagen University Hospital Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospital, Rheumatic Diseases and Auto-immunity, Copenhagen, Denmark; 4University of Alberta, Department of Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging, Edmonton, AB, Canada; 5Integral Rheumatology & Immunology Specialists, Rheumatology & Immunology, Plantation, United States of America; 6University of Florida, Rheumatology, Gainesville, United States of America; 7Image Analysis Group, R&D, Philadelphia, United States of America; 8Amgen Inc., Medical Affairs, Thousand Oaks, United States of America; 9Amgen Inc., Statistics, Thousand Oaks, United States of America; 10Swedish Medical Center/Providence St John Health and University of Washington School of Medicine, Medicine, Seattle, United States of America

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is characterized by inflammatory arthritis, enthesitis, dactylitis, and spondylitis. Apremilast is an oral immunomodulating phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor approved for the treatment of PsA. The impact of apremilast on objective measures of inflammation and structural progression of PsA has not yet been characterized. Here, we evaluate the efficacy of apremilast 30mg BID (APR) on inflammation measured by dedicated MRI of the hand.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy of APR on inflammation and imaging outcomes and the safety profile of APR in this setting.

Methods: MOSAIC (NCT03783026) was a phase 4, multicenter, single-arm, open-label study in patients (pts) with active PsA (≥3 months but ≤5 years since diagnosis, meeting CASPAsr criteria for PsA) evaluating APR as monotherapy or in combination with stable methotrexate. Pts were treated with APR for 48 weeks and had MRI of the hand (contrast-enhanced) performed at baseline (BL), Week 24, and Week 48. All images were read and adjudicated by 2 experienced readers blinded to clinical information and time of acquisition. The primary endpoint was change from BL in the composite score of hand bone marrow edema (BME), synovitis, and tenosynovitis in fingers 2–5, as assessed by the PsA MRI Scores (PsAMRIS).

Results: A total of 122 pts enrolled and received APR. Mean age was 47 years, 55% were women, and mean duration of PsA was 1.9 years. The Full Analysis Set (FAS) included 98 pts evaluable for the primary endpoint (having BL and Week 24 data); 4 had major protocol deviations and 94 were evaluable as part of the per protocol (PP) population. The least-squares (LS) mean (95% CI) change from BL in the composite inflammation score of BME, synovitis, and tenosynovitis (cPsAMRIS) was -2.32 (-4.73, 0.09) at Week 24 and -2.91 (-5.45, -0.37) at Week 48 (Figure 1). In the PP population, the LS mean (95% CI) change from BL in the composite score at Weeks 24 and 48 indicated a significant reduction of disease activity (Figure 1). Significant improvements from BL were seen in total inflammation scores (BME + synovitis + tenosynovitis + periarticular inflammation) in the FAS (Figure 1). The structural outcome indicated by the total hand damage score, including bone erosion and bone proliferation in fingers 2–5, as assessed by the PsA MRI Scores (PsAMRIS), was Week 24. Total inflammation score, comprised of BME, synovitis, tenosynovitis, and periarticular inflammation in fingers, was also assessed. Structural progression was assessed by the total hand damage score (determined by bone erosion and bone proliferation in fingers 2–5). Subgroup analyses based on BL disease activity as measured by Clinical Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis (cDAPSA) were performed for key endpoints.

Conclusion: Pts with PsA treated with APR had improvements in both clinical and objective MRI indices of inflammation assessed by PsAMRIS in the target hand at Week 24 and Week 48, confirming an effect of APR on clinical and inflammatory manifestations of PsA. Pts with NoDAD seemed to have
greater improvement from BL in MRI inflammation scores than pts with HDA. No significant structural progression was observed. These results offer important insights on the effect of apremilast in PsA and highlight the value of using MRI and PsAMRIS as measures of inflammatory disease activity and change following treatment.

Figure 1.

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(72% vs 57%, p=0.039) and W52 (80% vs 66%, p=0.037) and a greater ACR50 response rate at W100 (84% vs 47%, p=0.031), indicating patients with high levels of these biomarkers were more likely to achieve an ACR response. For patients with at least mild skin disease at baseline (BSA2>2% and IGA2.0), those in Cluster 1 demonstrated a higher PASI100 response rate at W100 than patients in Cluster 2 (71% vs 54%, p=0.046).

**Conclusion:** Patients with higher levels of baseline ECM biomarkers (Cluster 2) that correspond with greater peripheral joint inflammation demonstrated higher ACR20 and ACR50 response rates when treated with GUS, while patients with lower levels of these ECM biomarkers (Cluster 1) demonstrated higher rates of complete skin clearance (PASI100). These findings may provide a step towards patient stratification and precision medicine for guiding the use of biologic immunomodulatory treatments in patients with PsA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Signe Holm Nielsen Employee of: and shareholders of Nordic Bioscience, Morten Karsdal Employee of: and shareholders of Nordic Bioscience, May Shawi Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson and may own stock, Alexa Kollson and Johnson and may own stock, or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, W. Tillett1, L. Coates2, M. Vis3, J. F. Meroa4, E. Soriano5, M. Perate5, M. Shawi7, M. Zimmermann9, E. Rampakakis4,5, M. Sharaf11, P. Nash12, P. Helliwell12,13, Centre for Therapeutic Innovation, University of Bath, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Bath, United Kingdom; 1University of Oxford, Botnar Research Centre, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; 2Erasmus MC Universitair Medisch Centrum, Department of Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 3Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Dermatology and Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America; 4University Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 5Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Horsham, Pennsylvania, United States of America; 6Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology, Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, Pennsylvania, United States of America; 7Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Zug, Switzerland; 8McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada; 9JSS Medical Research, Medical Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 10Johnson and Johnson Middle East, Immunology, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 11Griffith University and University of Queensland, Rheumatology, Manoora, Australia; 12University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom

**Background:** Though continuous composite measures of disease activity for psoriatic arthritis (PsA) assessment exist, abbreviated measures that are more feasible for screening in routine clinical practice are needed. The 3 Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and 4 VAS scores were developed by abridging the Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) Composite Exercise (GRACE) measure to be the first short multidimensional composite measure specifically for use in PsA routine clinical care. The measures were shown to have superior performance than several established composite measures using small datasets.

**Objectives:** To further test 3VAS/4VAS in observational and trial datasets, as GRAPPA members recommended.

**Methods:** This post-hoc analysis of the DISCOVER 1/2 and COSMOS studies used pooled data through week (W) 24 from all treatment groups across studies. The correlation of 3VAS/4VAS with Disease Activity Index for PsA (DAPSA), PsA Disease Activity Score (PASDAS), physician global assessment (PhGA), and patient GA (PtGA) was assessed with Pearson's correlation coefficient. Minimal Important Difference (MID) was assessed with 4 distribution-based methods (based on standard error of the measurement, effect size, reliable change index [RCI], and RCIclid). Minimal detectable change (MDC) was assessed with the standard formula: MDC = 1.96*sd*sqrt(1-ICC). Clinically relevant thresholds for low, moderate and high disease activity were estimated with receiver operating characteristic analysis and DAPSA (≤4, >4 ≤ ≤14, >14 ≤ ≤28, >28), PASDAS (≤1.9, >1.9 ≤ ≤3.2, >3.2 ≤ ≤5.4, >5.4), and PhGA/PtGA (≤1, >1 ≤ ≤3, >3 ≤ ≤6, >6cm) as anchors.

**Results:** 1405 patients were included, of whom 51.3% were male, with a mean (SD) age of 47.1 (11.6) and PsA duration of 6.4 (6.5) years. At baseline, the mean (SD) 3VAS, 4VAS, DAPSA, PASDAS, PhGA, and PtGA scores of 6.4 (1.6), 6.3 (1.6), 45.8 (20.2), 6.5 (1.1), 6.5 (1.6), and 6.7 (2.0), respectively, reflected high levels of disease activity. Through W24, both 3VAS and 4VAS showed very strong correlation with PtGA (r3VAS=0.92, r4VAS=0.94) and PASDAS (r3VAS=0.81, r4VAS=0.82), strong with PhGA (r3VAS=0.77, r4VAS=0.74), and moderate to strong with DAPSA (r3VAS=0.59, r4VAS=0.61). Calculated MIDs were 0.9 (range: 0.7-1.3 across methodologies) for 3VAS and 0.9 (range: 0.6-1.3) for 4VAS (Table 1). MDC estimates were 3.3 (range 2.1-4.2 across follow-up intervals) for 3VAS and 3.2 (range 2.0-4.0) for 4VAS. Cut-off values for low, moderate, and high disease activity were 2.0, 3.4, and 4.9 for 3VAS and 2.1, 3.5 and 5.1 for 4VAS, respectively (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Using a large pooled clinical trial dataset of patients with active PsA, we have calculated clinically relevant thresholds for improvement and disease activity for 3VAS and 4VAS. These estimates are generally comparable to those previously reported and can be used to set treatment targets and screen disease activity in routine care when resources are limited or during remote patient monitoring.

**Table 1. MID for 3VAS, 4VAS, DAPSA, PASDAS, PhGA, and PtGA**

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<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Distribution #1</th>
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<th>Distribution #3</th>
<th>Distribution #4</th>
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1Triangulated from MIC values derived from each visit pair (BL to W8, BL to W16, BL to W24, W8 to W16, W16 to W24) Triangulated from MID values derived from Distribution #1, #2, #3, and #4 Distribution #1 - baseline sd Distribution #2 - first visit score - last visit score Distribution #3 - first visit score - baseline sd*sqrt(1-Cronbach's Alpha) Distribution #4 - (first visit score - last visit score)/ (sqrt(2))*baseline sd*sqrt(1-Cronbach's Alpha)
Table 1. Baseline Characteristics: Subgroup analysis with stratification by number of affected joints at Baseline

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<td>5 (50.0%)</td>
<td>14 (48.3%)</td>
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<td>43.3 (SD 11.6)</td>
<td>51.3 (SD 11.4)</td>
<td>49.4 (SD 14.4)</td>
<td>48.6 (SD 13.2)</td>
<td>48.6 (SD 13.2)</td>
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<td>Age at PsA diagnosis [years]</td>
<td>48.5 (SD 15.3)</td>
<td>39.6 (SD 15.5)</td>
<td>41.9 (SD 16.4)</td>
<td>41.5 (SD 12.2)</td>
<td>49.3 (SD 11.5)</td>
<td>45.1 (SD 11.5)</td>
<td>44.0 (SD 13.3)</td>
<td>44.0 (SD 13.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAPSA [LOCF]</td>
<td>25.1 (SD 6.3)</td>
<td>6.0 (SD 10 to 14.0)</td>
<td>10.0 (7.0 to 12.0)</td>
<td>9.0 (6.0 to 14.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (9.0 to 16.0)</td>
<td>11.0 (9.0 to 19.0)</td>
<td>18.5 (15.0 to 24.0)</td>
<td>17.0 (14.0 to 30.0)</td>
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<td>DAS DAY.C [LOCF]</td>
<td>4.0 (3.0 to 4.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (4.0 to 4.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 6.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 8.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 12.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 16.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 20.0)</td>
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<td>ESR (%)</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>12.0 (5.0 to 3.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (10.0 to 12.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (6.0 to 16.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (6.0 to 18.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (6.0 to 20.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (6.0 to 22.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI [LOCF]</td>
<td>0.7 (0.4 to 1.3)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.3 to 1.3)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.4 to 1.5)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.3 to 1.3)</td>
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<td>0.9 (0.3 to 1.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DLOQ [LOCF]</td>
<td>5.5 (1.0 to 7.0)</td>
<td>4.5 (1.0 to 9.0)</td>
<td>4.5 (1.0 to 9.0)</td>
<td>4.5 (1.0 to 9.0)</td>
<td>4.5 (1.0 to 9.0)</td>
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Table 1: Baseline Characteristics: Subgroup analysis with stratification by number of affected joints at Baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>UST + PBO, Oligoarthritis (&lt; 5 joints)</th>
<th>UST + MTX, Oligoarthritis (&lt; 5 joints)</th>
<th>UST + PBO, Polyarthritics (5-7 joints)</th>
<th>UST + MTX, Polyarthritics (5-7 joints)</th>
<th>UST + PBO, Polyarthritics (8-10 joints)</th>
<th>UST + MTX, Polyarthritics (8-10 joints)</th>
<th>UST + PBO, Polyarthritics (&gt;10 joints)</th>
<th>UST + MTX, Polyarthritics (&gt;10 joints)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex [Female]</td>
<td>2 (20.0%)</td>
<td>5 (50.0%)</td>
<td>14 (48.3%)</td>
<td>10 (32.3%)</td>
<td>38 (36.4%)</td>
<td>14 (58.3%)</td>
<td>8 (44.4%)</td>
<td>8 (36.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age [years]</td>
<td>50.4 (SD 14.7)</td>
<td>45.9 (SD 16.5)</td>
<td>49.1 (SD 13.4)</td>
<td>43.3 (SD 11.6)</td>
<td>51.3 (SD 11.4)</td>
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<td>6.0 (SD 10 to 14.0)</td>
<td>10.0 (7.0 to 12.0)</td>
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<td>17.0 (14.0 to 30.0)</td>
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<td>DAS DAY.C [LOCF]</td>
<td>4.0 (3.0 to 4.0)</td>
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<td>4.0 (5.0 to 6.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 8.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 12.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 16.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 20.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.0 to 20.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR (%)</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>12.0 (5.0 to 3.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (10.0 to 12.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (6.0 to 16.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (6.0 to 18.0)</td>
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<td>0.9 (0.4 to 1.5)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.3 to 1.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DLOQ [LOCF]</td>
<td>5.5 (1.0 to 7.0)</td>
<td>4.5 (1.0 to 9.0)</td>
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<td>4.5 (1.0 to 9.0)</td>
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</table>
Methods: PsTs with active PsA despite standard therapies (D1: ≥3 swollen/tender joint counts [SJC/TJC], CRP ≥0.3 mg/dL, ~30% with prior TNFi; D2: ≥3 SJC/TJC, CRP ≥0.6 mg/dL, biologic-naïve) were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W); GUS 100 mg at W0, W4, Q8W, or placebo. Ph/Pt agreement was defined as a difference of 15% PhGA-PtGA≥15. Determinants of PhGA exceeding PtGA by ≥15 (PhGA>PtGA) and PtGA exceeding PhGA by ≥15 (PtGA>PhGA) among pts with PtGA/PhGA disagreement were assessed with the same logistic-regression model considering pt demographics, disease characteristics, and pt-reported outcomes (PROs). The effect of GUS on disease parameters identified as determinants of PtGA vs. PhGA disagreement was assessed with repeated measures mixed models adjusting for treatment group, baseline (BL) levels, prior TNFi use, and BL DMARD use.

Results: At BL, mean (SD) SJC=11.5 (7.4), TJC=20.6 (13.3), FACIT-Fatigue score=29.9 (10.0), PtGA=66.9 (19.9), and PhGA=64.8 (15.9) were consistent with moderate to high disease activity. Agreement between PtGA and PhGA was seen in most instances (61.2%); 23.2% of cases were characterized by PtGA>PhGA and 15.7% by PhGA>PtGA. The proportion of pts with PtGA>PhGA increased to 39.1% at W24, while that with PhGA>PtGA decreased to 11.2%. The main determinant of PtGA>PhGA was higher Pt Pain (all time points); additional factors included worse physical health-related quality of life at BL and worse fatigue at W24 (Table 1). Conversely, Phs emphasized objective disease measures, namely higher SJC (all time points) and TJC (W8 to W24), and elevated CRP (BL to W16). GUS treatment was associated with prompt and sustained significant improvements in all identified determinants, including those driving PtGA>PhGA (Figure 1).

Conclusion: PtGA and PhGA were aligned in most encounters. PtGA>PhGA was driven by pain, fatigue, and physical health being weighed more by Pts than Phs. These findings have important implications in shared decision making and highlight the need to prioritize treatments addressing the full spectrum of PsA symptoms, including PROs.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Factors Associated with PhGA>PtGA and PtGA>PhGA Through W24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visit</th>
<th>Predictors of Interest</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>PtGA&gt;PhGA</td>
<td></td>
<td>PhGA&gt;PtGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL (N=534)</td>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>1.13 (1.00-1.27)</td>
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<td>Pt Pain (VAS mm)</td>
<td>0.94 (0.92-0.95)†</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SF-36 PCS</td>
<td>1.04 (1.00-1.08)†</td>
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<tr>
<td>W8 (N=524)</td>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>1.04 (1.00-1.07)†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pt Pain (VAS mm)</td>
<td>1.24 (1.04-1.47)‡</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SJC66</td>
<td>0.92 (0.90-0.93)‡</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TJC68</td>
<td>1.14 (1.08-1.19)‡</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W16 (N=528)</td>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>1.14 (1.08-1.19)‡</td>
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<td>Pt Pain (VAS mm)</td>
<td>1.06 (1.03-1.09)‡</td>
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<td>TJC68</td>
<td>0.91 (0.89-0.93)‡</td>
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<td>W24 (N=548)</td>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>1.14 (1.07-1.19)‡</td>
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<td>Pt Pain (VAS mm)</td>
<td>1.08 (1.04-1.11)‡</td>
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<td>SJC66</td>
<td>0.92 (0.91-0.94)‡</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FACIT-Fatigue</td>
<td>1.07 (1.04-1.10)‡</td>
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</table>

* p<0.05, † p<0.01, ‡ p<0.001Variables retained after backward selection; prior TNFi use was significant for W8/W24 but not shown. Other variables considered were age, sex, obesity, BL PsA duration, axial involvement, enthesitis, dactylitis, psoriasis, physical function, SF-36 MCS.

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Disclosure of Interests: Prohan Rahman Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB; Grant/research support from: Janssen and Novartis, Laura Coates Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bogen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB; Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galilead, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB; Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galilead, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB.

Allergy, Immunology & Rheumatology Division, Rochester, New York, United States of America; Krembil Research Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health; Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Fraunhofer Cluster of Excellence Immune-Mediated Diseases CIMD, Frankfurt, and Fraunhofer Institute for Translational Medicine & Pharmacology ITMP, Frankfurt, Germany

Background: Bimekizumab (BKZ), a monoclonal IgG antibody that selectively inhibits interleukin (IL)-17F in addition to IL-17A, has shown superior efficacy to 16 weeks (wk) vs placebo (PBO) and tolerability in patients (pts) with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in the phase 3 BE OPTIMAL and BE COMPLETE studies.

Methods: BE COMPLETE (NCT03986581) included a 16-wk double-blind, PBO-controlled period. Wk 16 completers were eligible for entry into BE VITAL (NCT04009499; open-label extension). BE VITAL included pts from BE OPTIMAL and BE COMPLETE; data here are for pts randomised at baseline (BL) [Wk 0] of BE COMPLETE only, up to 1 yr. Pts were randomised 2:1 to subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 wks or PBO. At Wk 16, PBO pts switched to BKZ (PBO/BKZ; received 56 wks of BKZ treatment up to Wk 52). Efficacy data reported are observed case or using non-responder imputation (binary) or multiple imputation (continuous).

Results: 388/400 (97.0%) pts completed Wk 16; 377 (94.3%) entered Wk 52. Improved efficacy responses with BKZ treatment were maintained from Wk 16 to Wk 52 (Table 1). At Wk 52, 51.7% BKZ and 40.6% PBO/BKZ pts achieved American College of Rheumatology (ACR)50. In pts with BL psoriasis (≥3% body surface area), 65.9% BKZ and 60.2% PBO/BKZ pts achieved Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI)100 (complete skin clearance) at Wk 52 (Figure 1). At Wk 52, 47.2% BKZ and 33.1% PBO/BKZ pts achieved minimal disease activity (MDA). To Wk 52, 243/388 (62.6%) pts achieved minimal disease activity (MDA). At Wk 52, 51.7% BKZ and 33.1% PBO/BKZ achieved ACR50. In pts with TNFi-IR, BKZ demonstrated sustained clinical efficacy from Wk 16 up to Wk 52. The safety profile was consistent with previous reports.[1–3]

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Efficacy at Wk 16 and Wk 52

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Keywords: Safety, Targeted synthetic drugs, Real-world evidence


$^1$Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; $^2$University of Oxford, Botnar Research Centre, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; $^3$The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Clinical Research Center and Department of Internal Medicine, Dallas, TX, United States of America; $^4$Universität Heidelberg, Department of Medicine, Heidelberg, Germany; $^5$University of Oxford, Botnar Research Centre, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; $^6$The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Metroplex Clinical Research Center and Department of Internal Medicine, Dallas, TX, United States of America; $^7$University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, First Department of Internal Medicine, Fukuoka, Japan; $^8$Pfizer Ltd, Safety Surveillance and Risk Management, Tadworth, United Kingdom; $^9$Pfizer Inc, Statistics, Groton, CT, United States of America; $^{10}$The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Metroplex Clinical Research Center and Department of Internal Medicine, Dallas, TX, United States of America; $^{11}$Pfizer Inc, Statistics, New York, NY, United States of America; $^{12}$Pfizer Inc, Inflammation and Immunology, Kirkland, QC, Canada; $^{13}$Pfizer Canada ULC, Inflammation and Immunology, Kirkland, QC, Canada

Background: The safety of tofacitinib in patients (pts) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) has been demonstrated in clinical studies with up to 9.5 and 4 years (yrs) of observation, respectively. Real-world research support from: BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Janssen, Novartis and UCB Pharma, Philip J Mease, Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Acelyrin, Aclaris, Amgen, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Gilead, Galapagos, GSK, Janssen, Moonlake, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma and UCB Pharma, Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Elie, Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma and UCB Pharma, Christopher T. Ritchlin, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Lilly, Elie, Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Mitsubishi Tanabe and Pfizer, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Asahi-Kasei, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chugai, Daiichi-Sankyo, Eisai, Elie, Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Mitsubishi Tanabe and Pfizer, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Asahi-Kasei.

Figure. ACR50 and PASI100 responses over time to Wk 52 (NRI and OC)
post-marketing surveillance (PMS) safety data comprised of spontaneous and voluntary adverse event (AE) reports for tofacitinib have been published for RA and PsA.

**Objectives:** To further characterise the real-world safety profile of tofacitinib in RA and PsA.

**Methods:** AE reports were collected from 6 Nov 2012–6 Nov 2021 (RA) and 14 Dec 2017–6 Nov 2021 (PsA) from the Pfizer safety database. Tofacitinib was approved in the US for RA on 6 Nov 2012 (immediate release [IR]) and 24 Feb 2016 (extended release [XR]), and for PsA on 14 Dec 2017 (IR and XR). Safety endpoints included AEs, serious AEs (SAEs), AEs of special interest (AESIs) and fatal cases. Pt years (PY) of exposure were estimated from IQVIA commercial sales data from 61 countries and 1 region. Number (N), frequency and reporting rates (RR; number of events/100 PY of estimated exposure) for each endpoint were summarised by indication (RA/PsA) and formulation (IR [5 or 10 mg twice daily], XR [11 mg once daily] or all tofacitinib [IR+XR]). A sensitivity analysis truncated the analysis period to the first 4 yrs post approval for RA (2012–16), to align with the duration of PsA data.

**Results:** Of the 73 525 case reports (68 131 RA/5394 PsA), 4239/368 (6.2%/6.8%) did not report a formulation and were excluded. Most AE reports were for females (RA: 81%/PsA: 71%); around half were submitted by healthcare professionals (49%/63.1%) and the majority were from North America (80.1%/82.3%). Almost all RA reports (RA/PsA: 93%/97%) originated from North America (IR reports: 72.3%/68.6%). For both indications, the RR for AEs was higher with XR vs IR; RR and frequency of SAEs, AESIs and fatal cases were mostly similar between XR and IR (Table 1). The most frequently reported AEs in RA and PsA by Preferred Term included drug ineffective, pain, condition aggravated, headache and arthralgia (Figure 1). Off label use was more frequently reported in PsA than RA (Figure 1). In the first 4 yrs post approval of the IR formulation for RA (IR/XR: 49 439/2000 PY), AEs, SAEs and fatal cases RRs were 95.9/147 .0, 19.1/24.5 and 0.4/0.4, respectively.

**Table 1. Safety summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endpoint</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>PsA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEs</td>
<td>137 476</td>
<td>8 349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAEs</td>
<td>24 966</td>
<td>14 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infections</td>
<td>4944</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV events</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTE</td>
<td>1194</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatal cases</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All cases reported ≥1 AE and ≥0 SAE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RA</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>RR</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>RR</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>RR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEs</td>
<td>137 476</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>82 153</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>219 629</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SAEs</td>
<td>24 966</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>8 178</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>9 364</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infections</td>
<td>4944</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1247</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>7 441</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV events*</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>43 5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1186</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy*</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>42 9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1370</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTE</td>
<td>1194</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>52 9</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1723</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatal cases</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1118</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IR: immediate release; XR: extended release; Py: patient year

**Discussion:** To describe the clinical course and predictors for achieving Minimal Disease Activity (MDA) in PsA patients starting DMARDs in a real-world setting, Methods: PsA patients were enrolled in SIRENA (Clinicaltrials.gov identifier NCT03131661), an Italian Registry of Spondyloarthritides (SpA) patients classified according to ASAS criteria and naive to any DMARDs for SpA [1]. Clinical data were collected at baseline and every 6 months up to the 24-month observation period. Predictors of 6-month MDA were identified through univariate and multivariate analyses.

**Results:** Of 350 SpA cases, 203 patients received a diagnosis of PsA (at baseline: mean age 51.2 years; men 51.7%; newly diagnosed 73.3%; time to diagnosis <24 months 68%; mainly axial 4.4%; monarticular/oligoarticular/polychartric 9.9/3.5/48.8%; active skin psoriasis 84.3%; enthesis 38.5%; dactylitis 24%; nail psoriasis 39.7%). At baseline, 100/203 patients (49.3%)...
were prescribed conventional DMARDs, 50 (24.6%) biological DMARDs and 27 (13.3%) other systemic treatments, mostly non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. During the 2-year observation period, 79 patients (38.9%) started the first biologic after a conventional DMARD with a median time of 6.6 months and a second biologic after 10.0 months. Clinical and Patient Reported Outcomes markedly improved overtime (Table 1). MDA was achieved by 102/158 patients (64.6%) at least once in the observation period (median time to first MDA according to Kaplan-Meier: 10 months) and by 65/150 patients (43.3%) at 6 months. In univariate analysis, female gender, Body Surface Area (BSA) <3% and higher scores in Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI) were associated with a decreased odds ratio of reaching MDA at 6 months while mono-oligoarticular involvement, newly PsA diagnosis and lower Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA) score were associated with an increased odds ratio (Figure 1). Smoking, alcohol, presence of enthesitis/dactylitis/nail psoriasis, Disease Activity Score-28 (DAS-28), number of comorbidities, body mass index and patient VAS global assessment (PtGA) were not significantly associated with 6-month MDA achievement. In multivariate analyses no factor was identified as significant predictor of MDA at 6 months.

Conclusion: In an early PsA population, treatments with predominantly conventional DMARDs and biologics markedly improved disease outcomes, with 43% of patients achieving MDA at 6 months. Female gender, BSA <3% and higher HAQ-DI scores were associated with a decreased odds ratio while new PsA diagnosis, mono-oligoarticular involvement and lower DAPSA score were associated with an increased odds ratio for 6-month MDA.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Disease outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Disease outcomes</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>18 months</th>
<th>24 months</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[n=203]</td>
<td>[n=171]</td>
<td>[n=130]</td>
<td>[n=109]</td>
<td>[n=120]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC66</td>
<td>3.0 (4.0)</td>
<td>1.1 (3.0)</td>
<td>0.7 (1.4)</td>
<td>0.6 (1.9)</td>
<td>0.6 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC68</td>
<td>7.2 (8.8)</td>
<td>2.8 (5.3)</td>
<td>1.8 (2.4)</td>
<td>1.8 (4.9)</td>
<td>1.8 (5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPA VAS</td>
<td>46.6 (26.5)</td>
<td>25.1 (22.1)</td>
<td>23.4 (216)</td>
<td>18.7 (19.3)</td>
<td>18.2 (19.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASES</td>
<td>3.2 (2.6)</td>
<td>2.6 (2.6)</td>
<td>2.4 (2.5)</td>
<td>2.9 (3.0)</td>
<td>1.8 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA &lt;3%, n (%)</td>
<td>124 (72.5)</td>
<td>127 (92.0)</td>
<td>100 (91.7)</td>
<td>87 (95.6)</td>
<td>96 (98.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIL psoriasis</td>
<td>7.5 (6.6)</td>
<td>5.3 (6.3)</td>
<td>4.2 (5.9)</td>
<td>3.6 (5.3)</td>
<td>4.2 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis</td>
<td>1.6 (1.3)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.4 (1.1)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (2.5)</td>
<td>7.4 (4.1)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.6)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.8)</td>
<td>3 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28</td>
<td>3.6 (1.2)</td>
<td>2.3 (1.1)</td>
<td>2.2 (0.9)</td>
<td>2.1 (0.8)</td>
<td>2.0 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 c2, n (%)</td>
<td>62 (37.8)</td>
<td>95 (79.8)</td>
<td>80 (87.0)</td>
<td>72 (88.9)</td>
<td>64 (97.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA</td>
<td>21.8 (13.6)</td>
<td>10.6 (12.8)</td>
<td>8.9 (7.0)</td>
<td>7.6 (6.7)</td>
<td>6.6 (7.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA q14, n (%)</td>
<td>51 (30.0)</td>
<td>90 (72.6)</td>
<td>76 (78.4)</td>
<td>70 (82.4)</td>
<td>72 (87.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>5.1 (2.5)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.4)</td>
<td>2.8 (2.3)</td>
<td>2.9 (2.4)</td>
<td>2.2 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.71 (0.63)</td>
<td>0.43 (0.48)</td>
<td>0.39 (0.49)</td>
<td>0.42 (0.46)</td>
<td>0.37 (0.48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGIA VAS</td>
<td>5.12 (26.0)</td>
<td>30.3 (26.1)</td>
<td>30.0 (25.7)</td>
<td>29.2 (24.5)</td>
<td>215.23.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are reported as mean (SD), unless otherwise specified.

Figure 1. Results on predictors of achieving MDA at 6 months

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Figure 1. Heterozygous p.E148Q in cis with p. M694I potentiates the effect of p.M694I in response to TcdB

HEK293T cells stably expressing ASC EGFP and transiently co-transfected with mCherry tagged wt pyrin, p.M694I and p.E148Q-M694I then stimulated with TcdB. FACs analysis revealed a statistically increased ASC speck formation for cells expressing the p.E148Q variant compared to the WT allele and for cells co-expressing p.E148Q in cis of p.M694I and the WT allele (E148Q cis M694I) compared to the cells expressing p.M694I pyrin (M694I heterozygous). Data are pooled from 4 independent experiments. Error bars represent mean ± SEM. Statistics used is the paired Student t-test. **P<0.01, ns; non-significant. Het =heterozygous, Hom.=homozygous.
tested in HEK293T cells stably expressing the adaptor protein apoptosis-as-
associated speck-like (ASC) which were analysed by flow cytometry to visualise
inflammasome formation, with and without stimulation by Closstridium difficile
toxin B (TcdB). Inflammasome dependent cytokine secretion was also quantified
by ELISA of supernatants from THP-1 cells transduced with lentiviral expression
vectors.

Results: In AADRY, we observed the p.E148Q allele in individuals with autoin-
flammatory diseases alone or in conjunction with other pyrin variants. Two FMF
families harbored the allele p.M694I-E148Q in cis with dominant heritability. In
vitro, p.E148Q pyrin could spontaneously potentiate inflammasome formation,
with increased IL-1β and IL-18 secretion. p.E148Q in cis to classical FMF muta-
tions provided significant potentiation of inflammasome formation.

Conclusion: The p.E148Q variant in pyrin potentiates inflammasome activation
in vitro. In cis, this effect is additive to known pathogenic FMF mutations. These
observations may help to explain the association of p.E148Q with FMF and other
inflammatory diseases.

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declared, Seth Masters Consultant of: Scientific Advisor for Odyssey Therapeu-
tics., Employee of: VP of Discovery Biology for NRG Therapeutics.

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Methods: Sera from 103 AOSD patients (treatment naïve, on treatment, and patients who previously failed several bDMARDs) and were involved in CONSIDER clinical trial (n=30)) were analysed. These were compared to Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA, n=14), Cryopyrin Associated Periodic Syndrome (CAPS, n=9), Sjögren’s syndrome (n=10) and Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF, n=27) patients. Extracellular NLRP3-derived ASC specks were identified using flow cytometry (positive for ASC-PE and NLRP3-APC), gating for events around 1μm in size, in sera. To determine if ASC/NLRP3 speck levels provide additional biological information, the correlation between the specks and known biomarkers (such as IL-18 and CRP) and cellular protein (CRP) were assessed in sera. This involved cytokine profiling, using 13-plex Inflammatory LEGENDplex assay and high-sensitivity CRP ELISAs. Deep whole exome sequencing (WES x100) (analysis restricted to autoinflammatory panel) was carried out on DNA from the 30 CONSIDER trial patients.

Results: In sorological analyses, extracellular ASC/NLRP3 speck levels were increased in AOSD patients compared to 32 healthy control (HC) sera (p<0.01, Figure 1A). ASC/NLRP3 levels defined three subgroups of AOSD patients (low, moderate and high). High ASC/NLRP3 levels were present in all pre-treatment sera from CONSIDER trial patients (p<0.001), compared to HC, suggesting their role may be dependent on the stage of the disease process. Interestingly, these patients were still responsive to canakinumab, showing significant reduction in extracellular ASC/NLRP3 levels in CONSIDER clinical trial cohort (baseline to week 12), compared to placebo (p<0.01) (Figure 1B) [1]. There was no correlation between ASC/NLRP3 specks and CRP levels (Figure 1C) or ASC/NLRP3 and total IL-18. No germline or somatic variants in NLRP3 were identified from patients in the CONSIDER cohort despite very high levels of ASC/NLRP3 specks being detected in their serum.

Conclusion: This study involved development of an assay that quantifies extracellular ASC/NLRP3 specks as a biomarker for disease etiology, to improve disease diagnosis and classification of SAIDs, particularly those with sporadic or unknown causes, such as AOSD. Increased levels of extracellular NLRP3-derived ASC specks were found in sera of AOSD compared to HC and autoinflammatory disease controls. Our findings also demonstrate heterogeneity within AOSD cohorts, with high-ASC speck levels in therapy-resistant CONSIDER trial patients suggesting the role of ASC specks may be dependent on the particular stage of the disease. Further analysis of rare somatic variants in genes associated with myelodysplastic syndrome, another condition associated with elevated ASC/NLRP3 specks and systemic inflammation, is currently underway, since this may provide an alternative explanation for our findings.

REFERENCE:

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Patients affected by COVID-19, hospitalized in intensive care unit (ICU), showed higher levels of PD1 compared to not-ICU hospitalized patients and HDs (ICU COVID-19 vs not-ICU COVID-19, p= 0.02; HDs vs ICU COVID-19, p= 0.0006). PD1 levels were increased in AOSD patients with SS ≥1 compared to patients with SS=0 (p=0.028) and HD (p=0.048). PD1 stimulation increased the expression of CD206 in M2 monocytes-derived macrophages from both COVID-19 and AOSD patients (COVID-19 untreated vs PD1, p=0.0006; AOSD untreated vs PD1 p=0.0234), whilst PD1 did not affect CD80 expression in both M1 and M2 macrophages and CD206 expression in M1 macrophages. A significant increase of both IL-10 and macrophage inflammatory protein (MIP-1β) was observed in M2 macrophages from COVID-19 patients after PD1 stimulation (IL-10, p= 0.03; MIP-1β, p= 0.003); the same results were found in AOSD patients (IL-10, p= 0.03; MIP-1β, p= 0.03).

Conclusion: PD1 can induce pro-resolutive programs in both AOSD and COVID-19 increasing M2 polarization and inducing their activity. PD1-treated M2 macrophages from AOSD and COVID-19 patients increased the production of IL-10, thus promoting anti-inflammation, and enhanced homeostatic restoration through M1→M2 production.

REFERENCES:

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POS0238

IMPLICATION OF THE CSF1-CSF1R PATHWAY IN THE CROSSSTALK BETWEEN SYNOVIAL FIBROBLASTS AND MACROPHAGES IN PIGMENTED VILLONODULAR SYNOVITIS

Keywords: Synovium, Innate immunity, Rare/orphan diseases

R. Dalilatona, J. De Lima, F. Blanchard, B. Le Gott, Nantes Université, INSERM, Regenerative Medicine and Skeleton, RMes, UMR 1229, nantes, France, University Hospital of Nantes, Rheumatology, Nantes, France

Background: Pigmented villonodular synovitis (PVNS) is a rare joint disease with an estimated incidence of 14 per million per year, arising from synovia that results in a secondary inflammatory joint response, pain and destruction. PVNS is associated with abnormal fibroblastic cells, often involving a specific chromosomal translocation, t(1;2) (CSF1;COL6A3), resulting in the overexpression of colony-stimulating factor 1 (CSF1) or M-CSF, recruitment of CSF1 receptor (CSF1R) macrophages and fusion in giant cells. Despite therapeutic option such as surgery, the risk of recurrence of the synovitis remains high (50%). This has led to the development of systemic therapies targeting the CSF1 pathway (kinase inhibitors such as Imatinib, monoclonal antibodies) that have shown their efficacy is about 30% of patients but with significant and sometimes serious adverse effects. Therefore, there is currently a clear medical need to improve the management of patients with PVNS.

Objectives: To better decipher the mechanisms leading to the development of PVNS and study the crosstalk between synovial fibroblasts and macrophages in this disease.

Methods: Synovial tissue from newly diagnosed PVNS (diffuse or localized forms) patients was used for this analysis. Histology and staining and immunohistochemistry was performed. Single cell analysis was performed on 5 patients. We implemented a primary culture of synovial fibroblasts from PVNS biopsies stimulated with pro-inflammatory cytokines. We studied the effect of culture supernatant on blood derived monocytes/macrophages.

Results: Immunohistochemistry revealed the presence of synovial PDPN+ fibroblasts, CD31+ endothelial cells, Ki67+ proliferating cells, MERTK+ and CCR2+ infiltrating the tissues. We performed single-cell RNA sequencing (n=5 patients). Combined with public scRNAseq datasets, we observed that PVNS (n=8) lining PDNP+PRG4+ fibroblasts are the main sources and express higher levels of CSF1 than in osteoarthritis (OA, n=3) or rheumatoid arthritis (RA, n=4). All macrophage subsets (tissue resident TIMD4+ or LVE1+ or infiltrating inflammatory macrophages) highly express CSF1R that could explain their enrichment (2 folds, p<0.05), especially in the localized forms of PVNS. Ratio between fibroblasts and macrophages was increase in the diffuse forms of the disease. We next study the in vitro crosstalk between fibroblasts and macrophages. For this purpose, we analysed conditioned media (CM) from PVNS synovial fibroblasts (n=3). After treatment with TNFa or IL1b, enhanced secretion of CSF1 was observed and the CM had an enhanced capacity to sustain viability of blood derived monocytes/macrophages (2-3 folds, p<0.05). In this setting, the potent CSF1R inhibitor Imatinib totally reversed macrophage viability to baseline (p<0.05).

Conclusion: This study highlights the key role played by synovial fibroblasts and macrophages in PVNS pathogenesis. An inflammatory vicious cycle takes place between these two cell types, implicating CSF1-CSF1R. Efficient targeting of this pathway is the subject of current research and we already validated a PVNS mouse model using xenografted PVNS human biopsies that will be useful to study for example the local delivery of CSF1R kinase inhibitors or neutralizing antibodies.

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POS0239

JAK-INHIBITORS SUPPRESS IFN-DEPENDENT ANTIGEN PRESENTATION IN CDC42-HICD14+ CELLS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Innate immunity, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

R. Dalilatona, J. De Lima, F. Blanchard, B. Le Gott, Nantes Université, INSERM, Regenerative Medicine and Skeleton, RMes, UMR 1229, nantes, France, University Hospital of Nantes, Rheumatology, Nantes, France

Background: Pigmented villonodular synovitis (PVNS) is a rare joint disease with an estimated incidence of 14 per million per year, arising from synovia that results in a secondary inflammatory joint response, pain and destruction. PVNS is associated with abnormal fibroblastic cells, often involving a specific chromosomal translocation, t(1;2) (CSF1;COL6A3), resulting in the overexpression of colony-stimulating factor 1 (CSF1) or M-CSF, recruitment of CSF1 receptor (CSF1R) macrophages and fusion in giant cells. Despite therapeutic option such as surgery, the risk of recurrence of the synovitis remains high (50%). This has led to the development of systemic therapies targeting the CSF1 pathway (kinase inhibitors such as Imatinib, monoclonal antibodies) that have shown their efficacy is about 30% of patients but with significant and sometimes serious adverse effects. Therefore, there is currently a clear medical need to improve the management of patients with PVNS.

Objectives: To better decipher the mechanisms leading to the development of PVNS and study the crosstalk between synovial fibroblasts and macrophages in this disease.

Methods: Synovial tissue from newly diagnosed PVNS (diffuse or localized forms) patients was used for this analysis. Histology and staining and immunohistochemistry was performed. Single cell analysis was performed on 5 patients. We implemented a primary culture of synovial fibroblasts from PVNS biopsies stimulated with pro-inflammatory cytokines. We studied the effect of culture supernatant on blood derived monocytes/macrophages.

Results: Immunohistochemistry revealed the presence of synovial PDPN+ fibroblasts, CD31+ endothelial cells, Ki67+ proliferating cells, MERTK+ and CCR2+ infiltrating the tissues. We performed single-cell RNA sequencing (n=5 patients). Combined with public scRNAseq datasets, we observed that PVNS (n=8) lining PDNP+PRG4+ fibroblasts are the main sources and express higher levels of CSF1 than in osteoarthritis (OA, n=3) or rheumatoid arthritis (RA, n=4). All macrophage subsets (tissue resident TIMD4+ or LVE1+ or infiltrating inflammatory macrophages) highly express CSF1R that could explain their enrichment (2 folds, p<0.05), especially in the localized forms of PVNS. Ratio between fibroblasts and macrophages was increase in the diffuse forms of the disease. We next study the in vitro crosstalk between fibroblasts and macrophages. For this purpose, we analysed conditioned media (CM) from PVNS synovial fibroblasts (n=3). After treatment with TNFa or IL1b, enhanced secretion of CSF1 was observed and the CM had an enhanced capacity to sustain viability of blood derived monocytes/macrophages (2-3 folds, p<0.05). In this setting, the potent CSF1R inhibitor Imatinib totally reversed macrophage viability to baseline (p<0.05).

Conclusion: This study highlights the key role played by synovial fibroblasts and macrophages in PVNS pathogenesis. An inflammatory vicious cycle takes place between these two cell types, implicating CSF1-CSF1R. Efficient targeting of this pathway is the subject of current research and we already validated a PVNS mouse model using xenografted PVNS human biopsies that will be useful to study for example the local delivery of CSF1R kinase inhibitors or neutralizing antibodies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4388
**Background:** We have recently shown that Rho GTPase activation in macrophages results in arthritis development in mice. These macrophages show a tight interaction with T cells leading to suppression of cell homing and regulatory migration of thymic T regulatory cells to periphery contributing arthritis development[1].

**Objectives:** To translate findings in experimental arthritis to human RA, we explore the phenotype of CDC42+/CD14+ cells in blood and synovial tissue of RA patients and investigate how anti-rheumatic treatment intervene with the Rho GTPase-dependent molecular mechanisms of arthritis.

**Methods:** We used transcriptome (RNAseq) of CD14+ and CD4+ cells of 77 active RA patients naïve to TNF-inhibitors (TNFi) and of 59 inactive RA patients treated with methotrexate (MTX, n=18), TNFi (n=10) and JAK-inhibitors (JAKi, n=24), or having no DMARD treatment (n=7). In both cohorts, patients were stratified by mean expression of CDC42 in CD14+ cells to mimic activation of Rho GTPases. Differentially expressed genes (DEG) were identified by DESeq2 (nominal p<0.05). Transcriptomics of CD14+ and CD4+ cells were analyzed and translated into clinical correlates of inflammation and disease activity by DAS28. Additionally, we investigated a cluster of CDC42+ macrophages in synovial tissue (STM) using single cell RNAseq in 25 patients[2].

**Results:** In two independent sets, CDC42+/CD14+ cells were characterized by enrichment of DEG operating in the oxidative phosphorylation, proteasome activity and RNA transcription. Many DEG were under transcriptional control of IFN-γ, known to supervise those processes. DEG with strong correlation to CDC42 defined the metabolic signature (MetSig) of CDC42+/CD14+ cells, which summarized the expression of ATP5B, COX7A2, PSMB6, PSME3, GTF3C6, and GTF2E2. High MetSig recognized CD14+ cells enriched with MHC transcripts, components in peptide loading and expression of proteasome subunits. MetSig+CD14+ cells had high chemokine and cytokine production and migratory phenotype. Analyzing STM, we identified CDC42+/CD4+ with high MetSig expressing complete set of immunoproteasome genes, high levels of MHC receptors and peptide loading proteins. Additionally, this STM cluster was affected by IFN-γ. We experimentally confirmed that immunoproteasome expression in CD14+ cells was dependent on IFN-γ and not hypoxia, common at inflammation. Examining effect of antirheumatic treatment, we found CDC42+/CD14+ cells were infrequent (OR: 11.9, [3.4, 49.7], p<0.0001) and the MetSig reduced (p=0.004) in patients treated with JAKi compared to other DMARDs. Concurrently, CD14+ cells of those patients had low production of TNF-α, IL-6, IL-1β, CXCL8 and IL-10 (all, p<0.05), mRNA of immunoproteasome subunits, peptide loading proteins and MHC-II (including HLA-DRB1) were downregulated. Analysis of CD4+ cells of JAKi treated patients showed upregulation of TCR components and high expression of Rho GTPases. This indicated a disruption of CD4+/CD14+ interaction in the immunological synapse. To investigate a direct effect of JAKi on the MetSig genes and immunoproteasome, we treated CD14+ cells cultures with tofacitinib. JAKi upregulated NFE2L1 and decreased expression of the immunoproteasome subunits, but expression of MetSig remained unchanged. Lastly, we investigated connection between the MetSig and RA disease activity (by DAS28) in a regression model. The model identified patients, which had a strong dependence between these parameters. At bottom of the model were patients with low DAS28 and MetSig, mostly treated with JAKi. Consequently, patients at the upper part may represent suitable candidates for JAKi-treatment.

**Conclusion:** This study demonstrates that CDC42-related metabolic signature identifies antigen-presenting CD14+ cells that migrate to joints to coordinate autoimmune. JAKi suppress the antigen presenting capacity of CD14+ cells. The MetSig in CD14+ cells is the drug of choice for treatment of RA, our studies exert a certain degree of caution, as MTX in an enhanced pro-oxidant milieu facilitated generation of oxidative stress, and could impact on disease progression.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** We thank the nursing research Anneli Lund and Marcella Andersson at Rheumatology Clinic, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, for blood sampling. We thank all RA patients who participated. We appreciate support of Aridaman Pandit and Weiyang Tao at Center for Translational Immunology, University Medical Center Utrecht, NL, sharing data of the BIOCURA cohort. We are thankful to Prof. Marcela Petka at Clinical Neuroscience, University of Gothenburg, assisting with hypoxia experiments.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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Background: The factors contributing to the efficacy of abatacept in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) remain unknown.

Objectives: We aimed to identify cellular, transcriptomic, and proteomic features that predict responses or resistance to abatacept.

Methods: Blood samples were collected from 22 RA patients treated with abatacept at the initiation and after three months of treatment. Response to treatment was defined based on the EULAR response criteria, and seven patients were classified as responders and the others as non-responders. We quantified gene expression levels in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) by RNA-Seq, measured concentrations of 67 plasma protein levels by multiplexed immunoassay, and the expression of sur-

Results: Among the clinical characteristics, the number of monocytes was significantly higher in the non-responders before treatment (p = 0.01). Regarding the transcriptome data, we found 952 differentially expressed genes (DEGs) between the responders and the non-responders before treatment initiation. A cell-type enrichment analysis showed that the DEGs were enriched in mono-
cytes (p = 8.7 × 10^{-212}, Figure 1A). Additionally, gene set enrichment analysis showed enrichment in the gene module, including MYD88 and TIRAP, with the strongest significance among all of the pathways tested. When we estimated the expression of MYD88 and TIRAP in monocytes by deconvolution analysis, the non-responders had higher expression before treatment initiation (p = 0.04 and 0.03, respectively). Among the 67 protein levels, two exhibited a correlation with the expression of the module (p < 0.05). Of these, hepatic growth factor (HGF), which is produced by monocytes, was present at significantly higher concentrations in non-responders before treatment (p = 0.02). The analysis of the replication sets identified 1,695 DEGs. These were also enriched for the genes expressed in monocytes (p = 2.9 × 10^{-6} Figure 1B) but not for the module detected in the current study. Among the DEGs, those expressed in monocytes were enriched for the genes involved in the aerobic electron transport system in mitochondria based on gene set enrichment analysis.

Conclusion: Monocyte-derived transcriptomic features before treatment under-
lay the differences in abatacept efficacy. The pathway activated in monocytes was the MYD88/TIRAP-HGF axis in the current study, but that pathway in the replica-
sion set was the aerobic electron transport system. Overall, our results highlight the contribution of monocytes as the cells responsible for abatacept-treatment resistance and the heterogeneity of activated pathways within them.

REFERENCES:
[3] Demierre, C. et al. Pre-silencing of genes involved in the electron trans-

Aknowledgements: This study was received funding from Astellas Pharma Inc.
Objectives: The objective of this study was to evaluate the importance of direct mechanisms on antigen-presenting cells and identify biomarkers of the response to Abatacept.

Methods: Sera (n = 71) and RNA from whole blood (n = 57) were collected from RA patients before treatment by ABA. Abundance of GM-CSF, gamma interferon (IFNg), IL-10, IDO, iNOS were quantified using ELISA and addressable laser bead assay (ALBIA). RT-qPCR was performed on IDO1 transcript. Response to ABA was assessed 6 months after its introduction, using EULAR response criteria. A costimulation in vitro model was developed: monocytes-derived macrophages (using GM-CSF or M-CSF) from healthy donors were polarized 8 days with LPS, with or without IFNg. T cells were cocultured with anti-CD3, with or without ABA, anti-CD28 antibodies or IDO inhibitor (1-MTDT). Proliferation was assessed using CFSE.

Results: Before ABA therapy, GM-CSF, IFNg and IL-10 in sera were increased in serum of good responders compared to non-responders. Our costimulation model showed that in macrophages exposed to GM-CSF, IFNg, LPS, ABA inhibited lymphocyte proliferation by 53%. Inhibition by ABA was only 10% when macrophages has not been exposed to IFNg, suggesting a central role of this cytokines. Furthermore, inhibition was only achieved when both GM-CSF + IFNγ were used, highlighting the need for a combination of these two factors. In presence of GM-CSF with IFNg + LPS + ABA, IDO was increased in macrophages. ABA increased IDO expression in macrophages when either IFNg or GM-CSF were not involved in their polarisation, neutralising IDO and leading to T cell proliferation. These results show a balance between IDO and IDO in macrophages, modulated by IFNγ and GM-CSF. In RA patients, ABA could release the tolerogenic potential of polarized macrophages, decreasing T cell proliferation. Accordingly, iNOS increased in non-responders sera after 6 months of ABA treatment while IDO1 expression increased in good responders whole blood RNA. In fact, in ABA responders, IDO increase in macrophages enabling a tolerogenic effect since iNOS is not induced.

CONCLUSION: Specific macrophage polarisation with IFNg and GM-CSF, leading to an increase in IDO production without increasing iNOS after treatment, could be the key to achieving a good response to ABA. This finding supports the macrophage-mediated action of ABA and may contribute to the development of a prediction system for abatacept response based on macrophage polarisation.

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POS0243

KYNURENINE METABOLITES LIMIT INFLAMMATION THROUGH TRICARBOXYLIC ACID CYCLE (TCA) REMODELING

Keywords: Innate immunity, Cell biology, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. Jäger,1 C. Makowiec,1 M. Yang,1 S. J. Cameron,1 U. Duthaler,2 R. Ivanek,3 Y. Schulp,1 A. Sokolov,2 G. Bantuag,1 D. Kyburz,4 7, C. Hess,10 8, F. Fresza,8 B. Müller,1 1, 7, 1, University of Basel, Department of Biomedicine, Immunobiology, Basel, Switzerland; 2University Hospital Cologne, Faculty of Medicine, CECAD Research Center, Cologne, Germany; 3University of Basel, Department of Biomedicine, Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Basel, Switzerland; 4University of Basel, Department of Biomedicine, Bioinformatics Core Facility, Basel, Switzerland; 5Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Bioinformatics Core Facility, Basel, Switzerland; 6University of Basel, Department of Rheumatology, Basel, Switzerland; 7University Hospital Basel, Department of Biomedicine, Experimental Rheumatology, Basel, Switzerland; 8University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge Institute of Therapeutic Immunology & Infectious Disease, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Background: Following LPS stimulation, extensive transcriptional and metabolic reprogramming leads to metabolic remodeling that allows macrophages to dynamically adopt to environmental cues.[1] A failure to accurately orchestrate macrophage responses can skew immune responses towards inflammation and various disease states.[2]

Objectives: Macrophages have a central role in Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) by promoting chronic inflammation and joint destruction. Although targeted biologicals have transformed treatment options for RA patients, almost half of them fail to achieve clinical remission[2]. Better understanding of the regulation of key immuno-metabolic pathways in macrophages of RA patients will inform on how cellular metabolism and inflammation interlink to identify novel metabolism-related therapeutic targets.

Methods: To delineate disease-specific effects in monocytes and macrophages derived from RA patients compared to healthy individuals we performed whole transcriptome analysis (RNA-Sequencing) and untargeted metabolomics. By integrating these datasets with metabolite assessment in the serum of RA patients, we found upregulation of Indoleamine 2, 3-dioxygenase 1 (IDO1) and accumulation of L-kyurenine (KYN) to be hindered in peripheral blood monocytes and macrophages derived from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients compared to healthy individuals in response to LPS.

Results: In macrophages, we identified accumulation of KYN in response to LPS to limit pro-inflammatory macrophage functions through tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle remodeling, characterized by decreased succinate-dehydrogenase (SDH) activity and increased Gluthathione synthesis. Aligning with these findings, kynurenic acid exerted anti-inflammatory effects when administrated to LPS-activated macrophages in vitro by limiting the production of Interferon gamma (IFNγ) and Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF). Using the small molecule IDO1 inhibitor Linrozodast and exogenously added KYN we showed that KYN accumulation in response to LPS regulates the glycolytic switch and cumulation of metabolites associated with inflammation such as glycolytic intermediates and the TCA cycle intermediates Succinate and fumarate.

Conclusion: Collectively, our data highlight KYN as a key immunometabolite that directly interferes with macrophage activation and suggest that dysregulation of the kynurenine pathway in RA patients mediates inflammation and disease progression.

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Figure 1. Abatacept direct signaling on antigen presenting cells.
Everything you need to know about managing in axSpA

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Treat to target, Spondyloarthritis

C. López-Medina, F. Van den Bosch, D. Van der Heijde, M. Dougados, A. Moltó
Reina Sofia University Hospital, IMIBIC, University of Cordoba, Rheumatology Department, Cordoba, Spain; Université de Paris, Centre de recherche épidémiologie et bio statistique de Sorbonne Paris Cité, APHP, Hôpital Cochin, Service de rhumatologie, Paris, France; VIB Center for Inflammation Research, Ghent University, Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Ghent, Belgium; Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Despite the ASAS-HI (primary outcome) did not reach statistical significance in the TICOSPA trial, other clinically relevant secondary outcomes were numerically higher in the treat-to-target (T2T) strategy in comparison to Usual care (UC). In the ASAS-HI, there were no differences in the three axes have been considered to explain this observation: a lack of power, the risk of protocol violations in the T2T arm and the potential optimal care in the UC arm.

Objectives: a) To evaluate the proportion of patients (pts) with protocol violations in the T2T group during the 48 weeks (48W) of follow up as well as the impact and predictive factors of such violation; b) To compare the proportion of pts treated according to the ASAS/EULAR 2016 management recommendations for axSpA over the follow-up period in both arms.

Methods: Study design: pragmatic, prospective, cluster-randomized controlled, 48W trial (NCT03043846) with 18 participating centers. Inclusion criteria: Pts with a diagnosis of axSpA and fulfilling ASAS criteria, non-optimally treated with NSAIDs, bDMARD-naïve and ASAS ≥2.1. Study treatment regimens: SpA expert centers were selected to participate in the study; then, they were randomly allocated (1:1) to the treatment arms: a) T2T: the management strategy was pre-specified based on strict application of 2016 ASAS/EULAR axSpA recommendations (Q4W), with a target of ASAS ≥2.1; b) UC: treatment decisions at the rheumatologist’s discretion (Q12W). Statistical analysis: a) Protocol violations: in the T2T arm were evaluated at every visit by the question “Was the recommendation for treatment from last visit followed by physician and patient?”. Factors associated with at least one protocol violation over the study were evaluated using multivariate logistic regression. Outcomes at 48W were compared between T2T violators (T2T-V) vs. T2T non-violators (T2T-NV) vs. UC using ANOVA test; b) Optimal care in UC: proportion of pts treated according to the 2016 ASAS/EULAR recommendations over the follow-up period in both arms were compared.

Results: 160 pts initiated the trial (T2T:80 and UC:80). a) Protocol violations: In the T2T arm, 41/80 (51.2%) pts violated the protocol during at least one visit. A total of 27.7% violations were represented by a lack of switching to a second NSAID and 41.2% by a lack of initiation of a first bDMARD. Baseline predictive factors independently associated with the protocol violation were the country (France vs. others; OR 3.8 [95%CI 1.1-15.0]), female sex (OR 4.4 (1.5-15.1)), diagnosis delay ≤7 years (OR 3.4 (1.1-11.9)), HLA-B27 negative (OR 6.4 (1.6-32.2)) and CRP≥6mg/L (OR 4.2 (1.3-15.9)). After 48W of follow-up, T2T-NV vs. T2T-V showed similar ratios of ASAS-HI improvement. ASAS-DAS-LDA, ASAS-DID and ASAS-CII outcomes were more prevalent in T2T-NV vs. T2T-V, although these differences did not reach statistical significance (Table 1). b) Optimal care in UC: the proportion of pts managed according to the 2016 ASAS/EULAR recommendations was very high in both arms, i.e. always above 75% also in the UC arm, although no statistical differences were found (p=0.490) (Figure 1).

Table 1. Impact of protocol violation across groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>N=39</th>
<th>N=41</th>
<th>N=80</th>
<th>ANOVA</th>
<th>T2T-NV vs. T2T-V</th>
<th>T2T-NV vs. UC</th>
<th>T2T-V vs. UC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASAS40 W48</td>
<td>14 (35.9%)</td>
<td>16 (39.0%)</td>
<td>19 (24.1%)</td>
<td>0.177</td>
<td>0.773</td>
<td>0.177</td>
<td>0.087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASAS-LDA W48</td>
<td>24 (61.5%)</td>
<td>19 (46.3%)</td>
<td>32 (40.5%)</td>
<td>0.087</td>
<td>0.173</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASAS-ID W48</td>
<td>11 (28.2%)</td>
<td>8 (19.5%)</td>
<td>10 (12.7%)</td>
<td>0.361</td>
<td>0.038</td>
<td>0.319</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASAS-CII W48</td>
<td>22 (56.4%)</td>
<td>16 (39.0%)</td>
<td>28 (35.0%)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td>0.120</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>0.056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASAS-MI W48</td>
<td>6 (15.4%)</td>
<td>8 (19.5%)</td>
<td>9 (11.4%)</td>
<td>0.479</td>
<td>0.627</td>
<td>0.565</td>
<td>0.226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASAS-HI Improvement</td>
<td>14 (35.9%)</td>
<td>16 (39.0%)</td>
<td>21 (26.6%)</td>
<td>0.322</td>
<td>0.773</td>
<td>0.297</td>
<td>0.162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The prevalence of pts violating the protocol in the T2T arm was high, although it did not explain the non-significance of the primary outcome in the TICOSPA trial (ASAS-HI improvement). In contrast, the proportion of pts managed according to the ASAS/EULAR recommendations in the UC arm was very high, suggesting that the UC group was optimally treated.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Clementina López-Medina Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Novartis, UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Eli Lilly, Novartis, UCB Pharma, Filip van den Bosch Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Moneilake, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB. Desireé van der Heijde Consultant of: AbbVie, Bayer, BMS, Cynexis, Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma. Director of Imaging Rheumatology bv. Maxime Dougados Consultant of: UCB, Anna Moltó Consultant of: AbbVie, Biogen, BMS, Cynexis, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma.

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POS0245

BLOOD-BASED EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX BIOMARKERS CAN IDENTIFY ENDOTYPES OF PATIENTS WITH AXSPA AND RESPONDERS TO ADALIMUMAB TREATMENT

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Biomarkers

H. Porl, F. Christiansen, S. Holm Nielsen, P. Frederiksen, A. C. Bay-Jensen, M. Karsdal, I. J. Sørensen, M. Østergaard, S. Juhl Pedersen, University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark; Nordic Bioscience A/S, Immunoscience, Herlev, Copenhagen, Denmark; University of Copenhagen, Clinical Medicine, Copenhagen, Denmark; Rigshospitalet, Center for Arthritis Research, Glostrup, Denmark

Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a chronic inflammatory disease associated with extracellular matrix (ECM) remodelling of the cartilage, bone, and connective tissues. Adalimumab (ADA) is an effective treatment, but not all patients respond, and this may relate to subtypes of the disease (endotypes). Serological quantification of ECM-mediated biomarkers may be useful to identify axSpA endotypes and monitor treatment response to ADA.

Objectives: 1) To identify endotypes of patients with axSpA using blood-based ECM biomarkers at baseline and 2) To investigate differences in response to ADA by BASDAI and ASAS criteria within the endotypes.

Methods: ECM biomarkers were measured in serum from patients with axSpA in the three studies (MASH (n=41), DANISH (n=49) and ASIM (n=45)) at baseline [1–3]. MASH was a cross-sectional study while in DANISH and ASIM patients were randomised to receive treatment with ADA 40 mg or placebo every other week (e.o.w.) for 6 or 12 weeks (ASIM and DANISH, respectively) followed by ADA 40 mg e.o.w. for an additional 18 or 12 weeks (ASIM and DANISH, respectively). Biomarkers of type II collagen formation (PROC2), type I collagen degradation (C1M), inflammation (CRP, CRPm) citrullinated and degraded vimentin (VICM) and neutrophil activity (CPAPm-HNE) were measured by immunoassays. Biomarker data was log-transformed, standardized by mean centering and scaled by the standard deviation prior to principal component analysis (PCA) and K-means clustering. Response to ADA based on BASDAI50 response, ASDAS clinical important improvement (CII) and major improvement (MI) at study week 24 was compared in the PCA components and between clusters using Mann-Whitney tests. Key demographic parameters were also compared between clusters using Mann-Whitney and chi-squared tests.

Results: The variability of baseline ECM biomarker data among patients with axSpA was mainly explained by two dimensions (PC1 and PC2). Type I collagen degradation and inflammation biomarkers (C1M and CRP), reflecting tissue inflammation, were the primary contributors to PC1, whereas type II collagen formation (PROC2), reflecting cartilage turnover, contributed the most to PC2 (Figure 1A). In ADA-treated patients, BASDAI50 responders, patients with
ASDAS CII, and ASDAS MI had a higher score in PC1 compared to BASDAI50 non-responders, patients with no ASDAS CII and no ASDAS MI, respectively (p=0.05, p<0.001, p<0.001). No differences were observed in PC2. Two distinct clusters were identified from the PC1 and PC2 (Figure 1). Patients in Cluster 1 had higher levels of ECM biomarkers, a greater BASDAI50 response compared to those in Cluster 2 (89.5% vs. 73.2%) and a higher % of patients with ASDAS CII and ASDAS MI (73.7% vs. 32.1% and 92 % vs. 73%, all p<0.05). No significant differences were observed in the demographic parameters between Clusters.

Conclusion: The PCA analysis identified two orthogonal dimensions related to: inflammation (driven by C1M and CRP) and cartilage turnover (driven by PGO-C). Two clusters were determined. Patients from Cluster 1, associated with high inflammation, demonstrated a greater BASDAI50 response and ASDAS improvement when treated with ADA than those from Cluster 2. These findings may help profiling treatment response within patients with axSpA.

REFERENCES:
Background: A history of enthesitis or peripheral arthritis has been reported in >30% of patients (pts) with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) [1], both of which contribute to disease burden. Bimekizumab (BKZ), a monoclonal IgG1 antibody that selectively inhibits interleukin (IL)-17F in addition to IL-17A, has demonstrated efficacy in phase 3 parallel studies in pts with non-radiographic (nr-)axSpA (BE MOBILE 1 and radiographic axSpA (r-axSpA i.e. ankylosing spondylitis; BE MOBILE 2). [2,3]

Methods: Pts in BE MOBILE 1 (NCT03928704; nr-axSpA) met Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS) classification criteria, pts in BE MOBILE 2 (NCT03928743; r-axSpA) met both modified New York and ASAS criteria. Pts were randomised to receive subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 wks (Q4W). Among pts with enthesitis (Maastricht Ankylosing Spondylitis Enthesitis Criteria) and peripheral arthritis (Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium of Canada: Week) from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16, improvements continued to Wk 52 with continuous BKZ and in pts switching from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16 (Table 1). Across the axSpA spectrum, greater mean CfB in MASES was achieved with BKZ vs PBO at Wk 16; improvements continued to Wk 52 with continuous BKZ and in pts switching from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16 (Table 1). Across the axSpA spectrum, greater mean CfB in MASES was achieved with BKZ vs PBO at Wk 16; improvements continued to Wk 52 with continuous BKZ and in pts switching from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16 (Table 1). Among pts with enthesitis (Maastricht Ankylosing Spondylitis Enthesitis Criteria) and peripheral arthritis (Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium of Canada: Week) from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16, improvements continued to Wk 52 with continuous BKZ and in pts switching from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16 (Table 1). Among pts with enthesitis (Maastricht Ankylosing Spondylitis Enthesitis Criteria [MASES]>0), at least one swollen joint (SJC>0), or at least one tender joint (TJC>0) at baseline (BL), we report mean change from baseline (CfB) using multiple imputation (MI). Pts (%) achieving complete resolution of enthesitis (MASES=0 in pts with MASES >0 at BL) and peripheral arthritis (SJC=0 in pts with SJC >0 at BL, assessed in 44 joints) using non-responder imputation, is also reported.

Results: At BL, 73.2% nr-axSpA pts (BKZ: 94/128, PBO: 92/126) and 59.9% r-axSpA pts (BKZ: 132/221, PBO: 67/111) had enthesitis; peripheral arthritis (SJC >0) was present in 34.6% (BKZ: 45/128, PBO: 43/126) and 19.9% (BKZ: 44/221, PBO: 22/111) of nr-axSpA and r-axSpA pts, respectively. BL MASES, SJC and TJC were largely similar between treatment arms (Table 1). Across the axSpA spectrum, greater mean CfB in MASES was achieved with BKZ vs PBO at Wk 16; improvements continued to Wk 52 with continuous BKZ and in pts switching from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16 (Table 1). Similarly, >50% BKZ pts achieved complete resolution of enthesitis at Wk 16 vs <33% of PBO pts; by Wk 52, responses of PBO/BKZ-switchers approached those of BKZ pts (Figure 1). At Wk 16, greater mean CfB in SJC and TJC was achieved with BKZ vs PBO-randomised pts with nr-axSpA. Improvements largely continued to Wk 52 with BKZ for both continuous BKZ and PBO/BKZ-switcher pts (Table 1). Resolution of peripheral arthritis was achieved by >57% of BKZ vs <41% of PBO-randomised pts at Wk 16; by Wk 52, proportions were similar among continuous BKZ and PBO/BKZ-switcher pts (Figure 1).

Table 1. Mean BL and CfB in enthesitis and peripheral arthritis [MI]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BL</th>
<th>Wk 16 CfB</th>
<th>Wk 52 CfB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MASES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
<td>4.9 (0.4)</td>
<td>4.8 (0.3)</td>
<td>-1.3 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r-axSpA</td>
<td>4.4 (0.3)</td>
<td>4.2 (0.3)</td>
<td>-1.5 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SJC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
<td>3.8 (0.5)</td>
<td>4.2 (0.8)</td>
<td>-1.3 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r-axSpA</td>
<td>3.9 (0.7)</td>
<td>4.7 (0.6)</td>
<td>-2.1 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TJC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
<td>6.3 (0.6)</td>
<td>6.0 (0.8)</td>
<td>-1.1 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r-axSpA</td>
<td>5.4 (0.6)</td>
<td>5.3 (0.6)</td>
<td>-2.9 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Randomised set. *Assessed in pts with: **MASES >0 at BL; *PBO n=92; BKZ n=94; +PBO n=67; BKZ n=132; +SJC >0 at BL; *PBO n=43; BKZ n=45; +PBO n=22; BKZ n=44; +TJC >0 at BL; *PBO n=85; BKZ n=78; *PBO n=61; BKZ n=116. P values without any multiplicity adjustment are indicated as nominal p values and should not be used as an indicator of statistical significance.
Conclusion: BKZ treatment resulted in sustained improvements in peripheral manifestations across the axSpA spectrum. Resolution of enthesitis was achieved in ~half of BKZ-treated pts by Wk 52; a similar pattern was observed for peripheral arthritis, with more than half of pts achieving resolution to Wk 52.

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by UCB Pharma. Medical writing support was provided by Costello Medical, funded by UCB Pharma.

Keywords: bDMARD, Inflammatory arthritides, Tapering

Methods: BIODOPT was designed as a pragmatic, multicentre, randomised controlled, open-label trial (EudraCT 2017-001970-41) of 18 months duration [1]. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) in sustained (≥12 month) low disease activity (LDA) and treated with TNFi at baseline were enrolled and randomised into a disease activity-guided tapering or control in a 2:1 ratio. Blood samples at baseline and month 18 were analysed for TNFi drug levels. Based on previous research, the TNFi drug level category was considered intermediate if values were between: adalimumab 5.0-8.0 mg/L, certolizumab pegol 14.7-40.0 mg/L, etanercept 1.8-4.6 mg/L, golimumab 1.0-3.0 mg/L, or infliximab 1.6-5.0 mg/L. Values greater or lesser were considered as high or low TNFi category, respectively. A mixed Poisson regression with robust variance estimator was used for the analyses on TNFi categories; missing data were imputed as low TNFi category.

Results: Of 129 TNFi-treated patients, 88 were randomised to tapering and 41 to a control arm with standard care. Blood samples at baseline and month 18 were available for: tapering group 89% (78/88) and control group 90% (37/41). As expected, baseline TNFi categories were comparable between groups as presented in Table 1. At 18 months, fewer patients in the tapering group were in the high TNFi category, relative risk: RR: 0.53 (95% CI 0.31 to 0.90, P=0.02), even though more patients in the tapering group were in the low TNFi category, relative risk: RR: 0.27 (95% CI 0.16 to 0.43, P=0.03). The observed changes in TNFi categories between groups from baseline to month 18 based on data from the BIODOPT trial. To compare TNFi drug-levels in the tapering group, relative to the control group, from baseline to month 18 on data from the BIODOPT trial.

Table 1. TNFi drug level categories at 18 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N=41</th>
<th>RR (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low, n (%)</td>
<td>25 (28%)</td>
<td>10 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate, n (%)</td>
<td>17 (20%)</td>
<td>9 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High, n (%)</td>
<td>19 (22%)</td>
<td>17 (42%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even though more patients in the tapering group were in the low TNFi category, relative risk: RR: 0.53 (95% CI 0.31 to 0.90, P=0.02), Table 1. Even though more patients in the tapering group were in the high TNFi category, relative risk: RR: 0.53 (95% CI 0.31 to 0.90, P=0.02). The observed changes in TNFi categories between groups from baseline to month 18 indicates acceptable compliance to the trial interventions. At 18 months, 32% (28/88) in the tapering group and 0% (0/41) in the control group had achieved ≥50% dose reduction of their TNFi and were in LDA. The majority of patients in the tapering group were in the high (41%) or intermediate (39%) TNFi category at baseline; only 22% (6/28) were in the low TNFi category. This indicates a greater chance of successful tapering for patients with high or intermediate TNFi drug levels at baseline. Even though more patients in the tapering group were in the high TNFi category at 18 months; thus indicating acceptable compliance to the trial interventions. Further research is needed for the implications of therapeutic drug monitoring in the management of rheumatic diseases.
SEX DIFFERENCES IN PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROPSIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR INHIBITORS: RESULTS FROM A MULTINATIONAL OBSERVATIONAL COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, bDMARD, Gender/diversity issues

P. Heilamann1, M. G. H. Van de Sande1, M. T. Nurmohamed1, R. Van Vollenhoven2, H. Hollick2, O. Rotariu1, Z. Rotar1, K. Pirkmajer1, D. Nordström1, C. Mogosan1, M. J. Santos1, E. Vieira-Sousa1, F. Iannone1, G. Lapadula1, L. Midtbøll Ørnbjerg1, J. Twisk1, I. Van der Horst-Bruinsma1.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, Salome Kristensen: Disclosure of Interests:

Mads Sørensen: None declared, Salome Kristensen: Disclosure of Interests:

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Disclosure of Interests: Mads Sørensen: None declared, Salome Kristensen: None declared, Karen Buch Lauridsen Speakers bureau: Thermo Fisher Scientific, Kirsten Duch: None declared, Lene Dreyer Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, Galderma, and Janssen, Grant/research support from: BMS (outside the present work), Robin Christensen: None declared, Ellen-Margrethe Hauge Speakers bureau: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis and UCB, Consultant of: Eli Lilly, Janssen-Cilag, MSD, Novartis, and UCB, Mads Nyhuus Bendix Rasch Speakers bureau: Sobi, Hans Christian Horn: None declared, Peter C. Taylor Consultant of: AbbVie, Biogen, Eli-Lilly, Fresenius, Galapagos, Gilead Sciences, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Nordic Pharma, Pfizer Inc, Roche, and Sanofi, Grant/ research support from: Galapagos, Kaspar René Nielsen: None declared, Lene Uhrenholt Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli-Lilly, Janssen, and Novartis.

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REFERENCE:


Figure 1: TNFi drug level categories in the tapering and control group during the study period. Statistically significant between group difference is marked with *.

Figure 05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s):0 20:19 Art: 09_EUROAB-2023-PT08-09

POS0249

SEX DIFFERENCES IN PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROPSIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR INHIBITORS: RESULTS FROM A MULTINATIONAL OBSERVATIONAL COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, bDMARD, Gender/diversity issues

P. Heilamann1, M. G. H. Van de Sande1, M. T. Nurmohamed1, R. Van Vollenhoven2, H. Hollick2, O. Rotariu1, Z. Rotar1, K. Pirkmajer1, D. Nordström1, A. M. Hokayem1, B. Michelsen1, T. K. Kivlen1, B. Glintborg1, A. G. Lof2, K. Pavlicka1, J. Zavada1, I. Castrejon1, L. Otero-Varela1, B. Gudbjornsson1, O. Palsson1, M. Østergaard1, M. L. Hetland2, J. K. Wallman1, D. Di Giuseppe1, A. Ciurea1, M. J. Nissen1, T. Demirci Yildirim2, F. Onen1, C. Codreanu1, C. Mogosan1, M. J. Santos1, E. Vieira-Sousa2, F. Iannone1, G. Lapadula1, L. Midtbøll Ombås1, J. Twisk3, I. Van der Horst-Bruinsma1.1. European Spondyloarthritis Research Collaboration Network (EuroSpA RCN), on behalf of SRQ, DANBIO, ATTRA, TURKBIJO, NOR-DMARD, SCOM, Reuma.nu, ROBFIN, RRBR, biorx.si, ICEBIO, AmSpA, BIOBADASER, GISEA, and BSRBR-AS, Copenhagen, Denmark

Background: Women with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) tend to have higher scores on patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs), such as the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) and the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI), compared to men with the same condition. However, it is not well known whether these sex differences are maintained over time during treatment with tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi), or which factors can potentially explain these sex-based differences.

Objectives: To examine sex differences in BASDAI and BASFI over time in axSpA patients treated with their first TNFi, and to identify potential factors contributing to observed sex differences.

Methods: Pooled data were collected from biologic-naive axSpA patients initiating their first TNFi in the EuroSpA registries. A three-level linear mixed model structure was employed to analyze sex differences in PROMs (BASDAI and BASFI, scale 0-100) over time (sex*time), accounting for correlations between repeated measurements within subjects and between subjects within countries. Baseline characteristics were explored as potential explanatory variables for observed sex differences over time, and interactions between sex, time, and explanatory variables were analyzed. Univariable analysis was performed by incorporating one explanatory variable at a time, while multivariable analysis was used to investigate the effect of multiple explanatory variables on the regression coefficient of sex*time. Only explanatory variables that affected this regression coefficient by more than 10% in univariable analysis were considered for multivariable analysis. A complete case analysis was performed when data were missing for explanatory variables.

Results: This study analyzed data from 11,753 axSpA patients (37% female) with at least two BASDAI measurements over two years, and from 9,780 patients (38% female) with at least two BASFI measurements over the same period. At baseline, women were older and had higher BASDAI/BASFI scores, while men had higher CRP levels, longer disease duration, and higher HLA-B27 positivity. During the follow-up period, women had significantly higher mean BASDAI scores than men (mean difference 6.05; 95% CI 5.27 to 6.83). Additionally, the differences in BASDAI scores between women and men increased by an average of 0.67 (95% CI 0.04 to 1.29) per year. These findings indicate that the sex differences in BASDAI scores persisted and increased over time. In the univariable analysis of explanatory variables, increased age (-8.9%) and longer disease duration (-4.7%) notably explained the sex differences in the BASDAI scores (Figure 1). However, no explanatory variables were eligible for inclusion in the multivariable analysis. We also observed that the sex differences in BASDAI scores were reduced over time in HLA-B27-positive patients, but increased in those with psoriasis (Figure 1). Although women had slightly higher overall BASFI scores than men (mean difference 3.25; 95% CI 2.32 to 4.19), this difference did not vary by time (β = 0.25; 95% CI -0.36 to 0.86).

Conclusion: Women with axSpA treated with their first TNFi had significantly higher mean BASDAI and BASFI scores compared to men over a two-year follow-up period. The mean difference in BASDAI scores increased slightly over time, and the magnitude of this difference was affected by HLA-B27 positivity (reduced) and psoriasis (increased). Further research is needed to understand the mechanisms behind these sex differences and their clinical implications.

Acknowledgements: The EuroSpA Research Collaboration Network was financially supported by Novartis Pharma AG. Novartis had no influence on the data collection, statistical analyses, abstract preparation, or decision to submit the abstract.

Disclosure of Interests: Paacon Heilamann Grant/research support from: Research grant from Novartis., Marleen van de Sande Grant/research support: BMS and UCB, Support for Educational programs (institutional grants): BMS, Novartis, and UCB, Research support: BMS and UCB.
Background: Upadacitinib (UPA), a Janus kinase inhibitor, was effective and well tolerated in patients (pts) with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) through 14 weeks (wks) of treatment.1

Objectives: This analysis assessed the efficacy and safety of UPA vs placebo (PBO) through 1 year.

Methods: The SELECT-Axis II nr-axSpA study included a 52-wk randomized, double-blind, PBO-controlled period. Enrolled adults had a clinical diagnosis of active nr-axSpA fulfilling the 2009 ASAS classification criteria, objective signs of inflammation based on MRI sacroiliitis and/or elevated C-reactive protein, and an inadequate response to NSAIDs. One-third of pts had an inadequate response to biologic DMARDs. Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to UPA 15 mg once daily or PBO. Concomitant medications, including NSAIDs, had to be kept stable through wk 52. The study protocol outlined that pts who did not achieve ASAS20 at any consecutive study visits within wks 24 to 52 should receive rescue therapy, with NSAIDs, corticosteroids, conventional synthetic/biologic DMARDs, or analgesics. Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel (CMH) test with non-responder imputation incorporating multiple imputation (NRI-M1) was used to handle missing data and intercurrent events for binary efficacy endpoints. Mixed-effect model repeated measures (MMRM) was used to assess continuous efficacy endpoints. NRI was used for binary endpoints after rescue and as observed analysis excluding data after rescue for continuous endpoints. Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) are reported through wk 52.

Results: Of the 314 pts randomized 259 (82%; UPA, n=130; PBO, n=129) completed wk 52 on study drug. More pts achieved an ASAS40 response with UPA vs PBO from wks 14 to 52 with a 20% treatment difference at wk 52 (63% vs 43%; nominal P <.001; Figure 1). The proportion of pts achieving ASAS50 inactive disease with UPA remained higher than PBO at wk 52 (33% vs 11%; nominal P <.001; Figure 1). Consistent improvements and maintenance of efficacy were also seen across other disease activity measures. Between wks 24 and 52, fewer pts on UPA (9%) than on PBO (17%) received rescue therapy. A similar proportion of pts in each treatment group had a TEAE (Table 1). Infections were the most common TEAE; the rates of serious infections and herpes zoster were higher with UPA vs PBO, although no new serious infections were reported from wks 14 to 52. COVID-19 events were balanced between treatment groups. No opportunistic infections, malignancy excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, adjudicated major adverse cardiovascular events, inflammatory bowel disease or deaths were reported. Two pts (1.3%) on PBO had adjudicated venous thromboembolic events.

Conclusion: UPA showed consistent improvement and maintenance of efficacy vs PBO through 1 year across multiple disease activity measures. No new safety risks were identified with longer-term UPA exposure. These results continue to support the benefit of UPA in pts with active nr-axSpA.

REFERENCE:
Table 1. Safety through week 52

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event, n (%)</th>
<th>PBO (n = 157)</th>
<th>UPA 15 mg QD (n = 156)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any AE</td>
<td>103 (66%)</td>
<td>107 (69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious AE</td>
<td>6 (3.8%)</td>
<td>6 (3.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE leading to D/C</td>
<td>4 (2.5%)</td>
<td>6 (3.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19-related AE</td>
<td>22 (14%)</td>
<td>24 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>80 (52%)</td>
<td>68 (44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infection</td>
<td>1 (0.6%)</td>
<td>2 (1.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes zoster</td>
<td>1 (0.6%)</td>
<td>5 (3.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy other than NMSC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMSC</td>
<td>9 (5.8%)</td>
<td>1 (0.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatic failure</td>
<td>7 (4.5%)</td>
<td>6 (3.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>1 (0.6%)</td>
<td>8 (5.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAC (adjudicated)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTE (adjudicated)</td>
<td>2 (1.3%)*</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitisd</td>
<td>3 (1.9%)</td>
<td>2 (1.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory bowel disease</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*dBoth patients had non-serious events of deep vein thrombosis in the lower limb with risk factors including obesity and prior deep vein thrombosis in one patient and concomitant COVID-19 infection in the other patient.*

Results: Among 19,775 patients with AS and 59,325 matched controls without AS, there were 1,663 and 4,308 incident cases of cardiovascular disease, showing an incidence of 16.9 and 13.8 per 1,000 person-years, respectively. Long-term use of NSAIDs increased the risk of cardiovascular disease in non-AS controls (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR], 1.29; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.17–1.43). In contrast, long-term use of NSAIDs did not increase the risk of cardiovascular disease in AS patients (aHR, 0.97; 95% CI, 0.86–1.09; adjusted for age, sex, socioeconomic status, body mass index, smoking status, hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and tumor necrosis factor inhibitor use).

Conclusion: Prolonged NSAID treatment in AS patients may not be as harmful as in the general population regarding cardiovascular risk.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0252 DIFFERENCES IN SERUM DRUG LEVELS AND ANTI-DRUG ANTIBODIES IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH ORIGINATOR VS BIOSIMILAR ADALIMUMAB

Keywords: bDMARD, Inflammatory arthritides

J. Jessum1, J. E. Gehin2, E. Kristianslund3, J. Sexton1, D. Warren3, Y. Hu1, T. K. Kylen4, E. A. Haavardsholm5, N. Bolstad6, S. W. Syversen7, G. L. Goll1. 1Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 2University of Oslo, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 3Norwegian Radium Hospital, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Oslo, Norway; 4Lillehammer Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Lillehammer, Norway.

Background: Serum drug levels and anti-drug antibodies (ADAb) impact the therapeutic effectiveness of most TNF-inhibitors. Possible differences in immunogenicity profile and pharmacokinetics across biosimilar and originator TNFi are still to be elucidated.

Objectives: To compare serum drug levels, ADAb and treatment effect in patients treated with originator (Humira) vs biosimilar (Hyrimoz) adalimumab.

Methods: Patients with a clinical diagnosis of spondyloarthritis (SpA), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) or other inflammatory arthritides (adult JIA or unspecified polyarthritis) enrolled in the observational NOR-DMA R study and starting treatment with adalimumab were included in the present analyses. Patients were started on originator adalimumab (Humira) up to January 2020 and biosimilar adalimumab (Hyrimoz) from January 2020, based on a national annual tender system for biological drugs in Norway. Serum drug levels and neutralising ADAb were measured using an in-house fluorescence method and compared between groups by Mann-Whitney U test and y2-test respectively, in addition to multivariable regression analyses adjusted for age, sex, previous use of bDMARDs, smoking, and co-medication with methotrexate. Treatment response at 3 months was defined by Major or Clinically Important improvement in SpA and EULAR good or moderate response in RA, PsA and other inflammatory arthritides, and, and compared by y2-test. Drug survival the first two years of adalimumab treatment was explored by Kaplan-Meier curves and Cox proportional hazard regression analysis.

Results: A total of 378 patients (177 SpA, 98 RA, 70 PsA, 33 other) (median age 45.7 years [SD 14.2]) were included. 240 (65%) patients started originator and 138 (37%) started biosimilar adalimumab. 139/378 (37%) patients used methotrexate as co-medication, the proportions and dosage were comparable for originator and biosimilar adalimumab. Patients on originator adalimumab had lower serum drug levels (6.5 ± mL [IQR 3.0–9.8] vs 8.3 ± mL [IQR 5.4–11.1], p<0.00003) (Figure 1A), and a higher rate of ADAb formation (33 [14%] vs 6 [4%], p=0.004) compared to patients treated with biosimilar adalimumab. The differences in serum drug levels and ADAb were consistent in multivariable

POS0251 RISK OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH LONG-TERM USE OF NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Epidemiology, Spondyloarthritis

J W Kim1, J S. Yoon2, H. Lee3, S. H. Park1, S. K. Kim1, J. Y. Choe1. 1Daegu Catholic University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of [South Korea]; 2Busan Paik Hospital, Inje University College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Busan, Korea, Rep. of [South Korea].

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is associated with increased cardiovascular disease, but there are limited data as to whether prolonged treatment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) increases the cardiovascular risk in AS patients. We aimed to examine the risk of cardiovascular disease associated with long-term use of NSAIDs in a large real-world AS cohort.

Objectives: We aimed to examine the risk of cardiovascular disease associated with long-term use of NSAIDs in a large real-world AS cohort.

Methods: A nationwide population-based cohort of patients with AS and matched controls without AS were analysed. The primary outcome was cardiovascular disease, a composite outcome of ischemic heart disease, stroke, or congestive heart failure. Long-term use of NSAIDs was defined as use of NSAIDs for more than 365 cumulative defined daily doses. The association between long-term use of NSAIDs and incident cardiovascular disease was examined using a multivariable Cox proportional hazards regression model in both AS and non-AS populations.

Results: Among 19,775 patients with AS and 59,325 matched controls without AS, there were 1,663 and 4,308 incident cases of cardiovascular disease, showing an incidence of 16.9 and 13.8 per 1,000 person-years, respectively. Long-term use of NSAIDs increased the risk of cardiovascular disease in non-AS controls (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR], 1.29; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.17–1.43). In contrast, long-term use of NSAIDs did not increase the risk of cardiovascular disease in AS patients (aHR, 0.97; 95% CI, 0.86–1.09; adjusted for age, sex, socioeconomic status, body mass index, smoking status, hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and tumor necrosis factor inhibitor use).

Conclusion: Prolonged NSAID treatment in AS patients may not be as harmful as in the general population regarding cardiovascular risk.
regression analyses (p= 0.032 and p= 0.020 respectively) and across diagnostic groups. There was no difference in treatment response or drug survival between originator and biosimilar adalimumab. (Table 1 and Figure 1B).

Conclusion: This observational study showed higher occurrence of ADAb formation and lower adalimumab serum levels in patients on adalimumab originator vs biosimilar, indicating differences in the immunogenicity profile. There was, however, no significant difference in clinical outcomes.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Originator (Humira)</th>
<th>Biosimilar (Hyrimoz)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SpA</td>
<td>113 (47%)</td>
<td>64 (46%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>59 (23%)</td>
<td>39 (29%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td>41 (17%)</td>
<td>29 (21%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>27 (13%)</td>
<td>6 (4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-medication methotrexate</td>
<td>86 (36%)</td>
<td>53 (38%)</td>
<td>0.53 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous use of bDMARDs</td>
<td>90 (38%)</td>
<td>39 (29%)</td>
<td>0.048 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, median years (IQR)</td>
<td>4.5 (IQR 1.2-13)</td>
<td>4.8 (0.9-11.6)</td>
<td>0.79 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responders at 3 months, no (%)</td>
<td>53/111 (48%)</td>
<td>29/59 (49%)</td>
<td>0.86 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>35/57 (61%)</td>
<td>28/39 (72%)</td>
<td>0.29 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td>25/41 (61%)</td>
<td>22/28 (79%)</td>
<td>0.12 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>17/27 (63%)</td>
<td>4/5 (80%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ranksum test & chi square test

**Figure 1.** Serum adalimumab levels and drug survival, all diagnoses. A) Violin plot showing the probability density of the data at different values. Each data point is a participant, and the solid orange line show the group median. B) Drug survival the first two years of adalimumab treatment, stratified by originator (Humira) and biosimilar (Hyrimoz). P=0.14 (logrank test, not significant)

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** I Ingrid Jysum: None declared, Johanna Elin Gehin: None declared, Eirik Kristianslund: None declared, Joseph Sexton: None declared, David Wrenn: None declared, Yi Hu Speakers bureau: Boehringer, Tore K. Kvien Speakers bureau: Grünenthal, Sandoz, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Aukland, Celltrion, Gilead, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Sandoz, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Espen A Haavardsholm Speakers bureau: Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Nils Bolstad: None declared, Sijle Watterdal Syversen: None declared, Guro Levik Goll Speakers bureau: AbbVie/Abbott, Galapagos, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: Participation on advisory board.

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**POS0253 FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH TREATMENT PATHWAYS IN EARLY AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A MULTISTATE ANALYSIS OF THE 10-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF THE DESIR COHORT**

**Keywords:** Descriptive Studies, Spondyloarthritis

E. Portier1,2, S. Chevreau, A. Ruyssevelt, A. Walter Petrich1, M. Dougdos1,2, A. Motlo1,2, 1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, PARIS, France; 2ECAMO, INSERM U-1153: Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, PARIS, France; 3Saint Louis Hospital, Biostatistics, PARIS, France; 4University Hospital of Toulouse, Rheumatology, Toulouse, France

**Background:** Current recommendations for the management of patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) emphasize the need of individualized strategy in the therapeutic decision [1,2]. Thus, many factors seem to impact this strategy.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the study were to describe the therapeutic strategies observed in axSpA, and to assess the factors associated with treatment changes over time.

**Methods:** This study included patients with axSpA from the French prospective cohort DESIR, with a follow-up of 10 years. A multi-state model was built, including 4 treatment states with an increasing gradation ("none"; "non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID)"; "conventional synthetic DMARD (csDMARD)"; "TNF inhibitors (TNFi)"), and 6 possible transitions from one state to another. Estimation of the restricted mean sojourn times spent in each state from the state occupation probabilities was performed. Then, Cox regression models were used to study the potential impact of factors on transitions.

**Results:** 686 of the 708 patients which had more than one visit were analyzed. At cohort entry, 199 (29.0%) were untreated, 427 (62.2%) received NSAID, and 60 (8.7%) received csDMARD. Over the 10 years of follow-up, patients mostly received NSAID (46.4% of the time) followed by TNFi (24.4% of the time). In multivariable analysis (figure 1), presence of sacroilitis on radiography, internal bowel disease and articular index were associated with transition to NSAID. Duration in the previous state was often a significant protective factor associated with transition to csDMARD or TNFi. Finally, the several disease activity outcomes were associated with most transitions.

**Conclusion:** This was the first study using a multistate model to easily represent the different states, transitions and their associated factors. There appeared to be subcategories of axSpA patients with different management (including some without any treatment), and a significant proportion of patients treated with csDMARD.

**Figure 1.** Multistate model representation. Each arrow corresponds to a possible transition (n=6). Number at baseline denotes the number of patients who started from the state at baseline. The number of events and factors significantly associated with each transition in the multivariable analysis are written near to the corresponding arrow. NSAID refers to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, csDMARD stands for conventional synthetic Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug, and TNFi for tumor necrosis factor inhibitors.
POS0254 PREDICTING SUCCESSFUL TAPERING OF BIOLOGICS IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: SECONDARY ANALYSES FROM THE BIODOPT TRIAL

Keywords: Tapering, Inflammatory arthritis, bDMARD

L. Uhrenholt1,2,3, K. Duch1,4, R. Christensen1,5, L. Dreyer1,2, E. M. Hauge1,6, A. Schlemmer1,6, P. C. Taylor7, S. Kristensen8, 3, 4

1Aalborg University Hospital, Center of Rheumatic Research Aalborg (CERRA), Department of Rheumatology, Aalborg, Denmark; 2The Parker Institute, Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospital, Section for Biostatistics and Evidence-Based Research, Copenhagen, Denmark; 3Aalborg University, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg, Denmark; 4Aalborg University Hospital, Unit of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Aalborg, Denmark; 5Odense University Hospital, Research Unit of Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark; 6Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 7Aarhus University, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark; 8Randers Regional Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Randers, Denmark; 9University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, Denmark

Background: Identification of predictors for successful tapering of biologics in patients with inflammatory arthritis (IA) can help to guide physicians and patients; but, evidence is lacking.

Objectives: To identify possible predictors for successful tapering of biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) from baseline characteristics.

Methods: BIODOPT was a randomised, open-label, equivalence trial (EudraCT 2017-001970-41) where adults with rheumatoid arthritis (RA; n=61), psoriatic arthritis (PsA; n=26), or axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA; n=55) in ≥12 months low disease activity (LDA) were randomised 2:1 to disease activity-guided tapering or to continuation of biologics as usual care. Successful tapering at 18 months was pre-defined as patients who could reduce their biologic dose ≥50% while still being in LDA. Modified poisson regression with robust variance estimator was used for the analyses. Univariable analyses were: tapering group, sex, age, education, tobacco use, body mass index, comorbidity, arthritis characteristics i.e., diagnosis, duration, duration from diagnosis to treatment start, on ≥2 conventional synthetic DMARDs, on methotrexate, on tumour necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi), on first bDMARD, on bDMARD number ≥3, duration of bDMARD, duration of remission on bDMARD, duration of LDA on bDMARD, previous bDMARD tapering. C-reactive protein (CRP) before first bDMARD; Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI), Pain Visual Analog Scale (VAS), Fatigue VAS, Patient Global Health VAS, Short Form Health Survey 36 (SF-36) physical and mental component summary (PCS and MCS), tender joints, Physician Global Health VAS, CRP, and in remission. Potentially important variables (univariate p<0.10) were included in the multivariable model. C-statistics was used to assess model prediction.

Results: One-hundred-and-forty-two patients were randomised to tapering (n=95) or control (n=47) of which 32% (30/95) and 2% (1/47) achieved successful bDMARD tapering at 18 months. A statistically significant associations (univariate p<0.10) was identified between successful tapering and tapering group, HAQ-DI, Pain VAS, Fatigue VAS, Patient Global Health VAS, SF-36 PCS, and SF-36 MCS. Table 1. However, the only independent predictor for achieving successful tapering in the multivariable model was allocation to the tapering group, risk ratio (RR): 14.0 (95%CI: 19-101.3). Interestingly, individuals with a better mental health state (higher SF-36 MCS) were potentially more likely to achieve successful tapering; RR: 1.06 (95%CI: 1.00-1.11). A sensitivity analysis only successful tapering; RR: 1.06 (95%CI: 0.99-1.13). A sensitivity analysis only independent predictor; therefore, physicians should keep the option in mind when patients are in sustained LDA. Moreover, better baseline mental health seemed to have potential importance which points to the value of patient comprehension and willingness to engage in the tapering approach.

Figure 1: Area under the receiver operator curve for the multivariable model

Acknowledgements: The authors thank patients and research personnel who contributed to the BIODOPT trial.

POS0255 A PRO-NOCOPTIVE POPULATION OF NEUROPHIL INFILTRATE SENSORY GANGLIA AND MEDIATE CHRONIC WIDESPREAD PAIN IN FIBROMYALGIA SYNDROME

Keywords: Pain, Fibromyalgia, Innate immunity

R. Evans1, S. Caxaria1, P. Celik1, A. M. Fuller2, S. Bhardwaj2, S. Sikandar3, 1William Harvey Research Institute, QMUL, Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Although the aetiology of chronic widespread pain in fibromyalgia syndrome is unknown and generally recognised as a central pain syndrome, several recent studies point towards a peripheral aetiology. Aberrant activity of immune cells and associated cytokine signalling has also been linked to
fibromyalgia syndrome. Neutrophils are polymorphonuclear granulocytes that normally exist in circulation to function as primary mediators of rapid innate host defence, releasing extracellular vesicles as functional mobile units. Surprisingly, neutrophils are found in increased circulatory levels and with enhanced chemotactic and microbialic properties in fibromyalgia patients. Furthermore, we have recently shown a key role for neutrophils in mediating the spatiotemporal spread of hypersensitivity in a hyperalgesic priming model of chronic widespread pain. Our data also shows a fundamental pro-nociceptive action of neutrophils derived from patients or mice with chronic widespread pain when administered to naïve neonatal mice.

Objectives: The mechanisms by which neutrophils can sensitise sensory neurons to cause pain signalling is still unclear but is likely linked to a distinct subpopulation of neutrophils characterised by altered surface protein expression. We aim to identify a specific neutrophil subpopulation that sensitises nociceptive neurons either through cell-cell interactions or mediated via neutrophil-derived extracellular vesicles (NDEVs) to produce chronic widespread pain in fibromyalgia syndrome.

Methods: To identify a pro-nociceptive neutrophil population, we used neutrophils from fibromyalgia patients and pain free controls, characterising protocine differences between the cohorts by FACS. Furthermore, we have employed functional assays of neutrophil reactivity, including quantification of reaction oxygen species (ROS) production and neutrophil extracellular trap generation (NETosis) to characterise specific functional differences which may responsible their pro-nociceptive capacity. To assess the role of NDEVs in neutrophils pro-nociceptive actions we have isolated and performed phenotypic characterisation of NDEVs from patients and pain-free controls. Finally, we used primary sensory neuron cultures to assess the effect of neutrophils and NDEVs on neuronal excitability using functional assays (calcium imaging and in vitro electrophysiology) to demonstrate the capacity of neutrophils to sensitise peripheral sensory neurons.

Results: Proteomic characterisation of neutrophils derived from patients with fibromyalgia pain vs pain free subjects reveals a distinct population of cells, including altered expression of cell surface markers CD62L and CXCRI2. Quantification of ROS generation also reveals changes in cells derived from patients when compared to pain free counterparts, alongside increased NETosis which may reflect specific mechanisms employed by cells to sensitise peripheral neurons following trafficking to DRG. We observe increased NDEV release from patient cells alongside specific phenotypic differences, including an upregulation of surface markers, mirroring what we observe within the parent cells. Moreover, in vitro systems, including electrophysiology recording and calcium imaging reveal increased neuronal responses to both patient cells and patient cell-derived NDEVs.

Conclusion: We show a surprising role of neutrophils, a short-lived immune cell, in the aetiology of chronic widespread pain in fibromyalgia syndrome. Our data demonstrates altered proteomic profiles and distinct phenotypic differences in both circulating neutrophils and NDEVs from patients, supporting an immunological basis for chronic widespread pain in fibromyalgia and a novel mechanism of nociceptive pain.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0256 IDENTIFICATION OF TWO BIOLOGICAL SUBTYPES OF CRPS

Keywords: Pain, Skin

M. Perez Verti Valdes1, A. Juengel1, I. Kolm1, L. Optiz1, H. Rehbraun1, O. Distler1, F. Brunner2, S. Dudd1. 1University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 2University Hospital of Zurich, Dermatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 3Functional Genomics Center Zurich, Genomics, Zurich, Switzerland; 4Universitätsklinik Balgrist, Physical Medicine and Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: Patients with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) present prolonged and debilitating pain and tissue damage. To date, treatment remains a challenge. Biological phenotyping has not been performed yet, and thus, molecular therapies are missing.

Objectives: To determine whether different biological CRPS subtypes exist and to provide a molecular profile of these subtypes.

Methods: CRPS patients fulfilling the Budapest criteria were included. Body Perception Disturbance (BPD) and pain scores (0-100) questionnaires were recorded. Skin punch biopsies (3 millimetres) from the affected and non-affected sides (n=6+6) and matching blood samples were taken. Biopsies were split in two for transcriptomic and histological analyses. Blood was processed to collect plasma after centrifugation and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) with a Ficoll gradient. Total RNA was isolated from skin biopsies and from PBMCs for bulk sequencing. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were determined using DESeq2 generalised linear model (p≤0.01, log2 ratio≥0.5). Hierarchical clustering and principal component analysis (PCA) were performed on raw transcriptomic data to identify patient sub-populations. Cell types were approximated in skin and PBMCs with deconvolution analysis using RNA sequencing databases with known cell frequencies (PRESST cohort and immunedeconv, respectively). Twenty pro- and anti-inflammatory plasma cytokines were measured using chemiluminescence-based assays (Meso U-PLEX Viral Combo 1). Histological slides were scored (0-3) blinded by a dermato-pathologist based on a panel of 10 morphological and cellular characteristics. Protein levels, histological evaluations and demographic data were compared between CRPS clusters using unpaired t-tests.

Results: Six women with CRPS 1 of the hand (n=5) and foot (n=1) participated in the study. Mean age was 47.3 ± 14.2 yrs and mean symptom duration was 57.8 ± 44.2 weeks. Skin transcriptomics showed 427 DEGs when comparing affected vs. non-affected samples (Figure 1a). Samples clustered by patient rather than affected/non-affected side (Figure 1b). PCA of only the affected samples displayed two clusters (PC1=56%, PC2=17%) (Figure 1c). Further evaluation of all affected samples by deconvolution analysis suggested two distinct cellular signatures, clustering patients in the same way as the PCA. Keratinocyte-related genes were upregulated in cluster 1 (n=3) and strong fibroblast, microvascular endothelial cell, monocyte and M1 macrophage signatures were found in cluster 2 (n=3) (Figure 1d). Consequently, gene ontology (GO) of each cluster showed enrichment of epithelium development and downregulation of peptidase terms in cluster 1 and extracellular matrix and collagen fibril organisation in cluster 2. Histopathological examinations did not show any difference between subtypes. PCA of PBMCs transcriptome validated the same distribution of patients into two clusters (PC1=62%, PC2=16%) (Figure 1e). A total of 2,328 DEGs were found between both clusters, with an overrepresentation of immune and inflammatory response, and neutrophil degranulation and chemotaxis-related terms in cluster 1 (n=2) according to GO. Deconvolution analysis confirmed the presence of a stronger signature of neutrophils and M2 macrophages in cluster 1 than cluster 2. Blood cytokine quantification showed that interleukin-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1RA) levels were 1.9 times higher in cluster 1 than in cluster 2 (n=3+3, p=0.02) (Figure 1f). Consistently, transcriptomic data indicated that cluster 1 had higher expression of IL-1RA encoding gene (IL-1RN) in matching skin (log2 ratio=0.88, FDR=0.06) and PBMCs (log2 ratio=1.1, FDR≤0.01) than cluster 2. There was no significant difference in age or symptoms duration between clusters, but pain and BPD questionnaires revealed differences between groups, suggesting that the clusters might be clinically distinguishable (Figure 1g).

Conclusion: Our findings suggest the existence of two biological CRPS subtypes. Molecular patterns could facilitate the development of targeted therapies.

REFERENCES: NIL.
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Disclosure of Interests: Melina Perez Vertti Valdes: None declared, Astrid Juengel: None declared, Isabel Kolm: None declared, Lennart Opitz: None declared, Hubert Rehrauer: None declared, Oliver Distler Speakers bureau: Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Medscape, Consultant of: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant Sciences, Amgen, AnaMar, Anx, AstraZeneca, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Glenmark, Horizon, Inventiva, Kymera, Lupin, Miltenyi Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Prometheus, Redpharma, Roivant, Sanofi and Topadur, Grant/research support from: BI, Kymera, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Florian Brunner: None declared, Stefan Dudi: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.161

Keywords: Pain, Imaging, Artificial Intelligence

Background: Chronic pain is highly prevalent, debilitating and lacks effective treatments. Experimental and neuroimaging research demonstrates abnormal central pain processing[1]. However, robust brain-based biomarkers that could inform targeted treatments are lacking. Electrocencephalography (EEG) is the optimal tool to investigate dynamic abnormalities in pain processing to reveal underlying mechanisms. Early evidence from EEG studies in Fibromyalgia (FM) indicate potential mechanisms such as thalamocortical dysrhythmia[2], demonstrated by alterations in the Alpha and Theta frequency bands. However, existing studies employ rudimentary analyses failing to account for the multivariate and temporal nature of EEG data. State-of-the-art machine learning (ML) approaches provide unique opportunities to generate a deeper understanding of EEG signatures in chronic pain and identify specific biomarkers that could be used to differentiate mechanistic subtypes.

Objectives: This preliminary work aims to establish whether a state-of-the-art ML classifier can differentiate patients with FM from healthy controls based on their EEG characteristics.

Methods: The dataset used was collected through The VIPA Study (ISRCTN46681140). Patients with FM satisfied the 2016 FM classification criteria. High-density 64-channel EEG data using an electrolyte gel-based active electrode system was collected at rest with participants' eyes closed over 2 minutes. Individual Fast Fourier Transforms were applied to overlapping time windows to extract EEG frequency band power whilst retaining temporal information. Frequency bands were used as features to train a classification model (definitions of frequency ranges in Table 1). One of the fastest, most accurate state-of-the-art time-series classification ML algorithms (mini-ROCKET) was used via the sktime python toolkit. To obtain unbiased accuracy estimates across all participants, a 'leave-one-out' strategy was used. Accuracy of the algorithm was reported; defined by the number of correct predictions divided by the total number of predictions for each frequency band (2-class problem, chance estimates 0.5-0.6 based on p<0.05).

Results: Data from 23 patients with FM (mean age 46 ±14yrs, 87% female) and 14 healthy controls (mean age 71 ±7yrs, 50% female) were analysed. Patients with FM had moderate self-reported pain (5.5 ±2.3 VAS) and disease severity (mean FIQR = 2) prior to pain flare onset. Objective exposures showed a daily average of 2.0 episodes per month (Table 1). Across all types, 75% of pain flares lasted two days and 95% lasted three days before pain flare onset. A total of 6,244 daily reports were included in the analysis. Pain flare occurrence decreased when applying more complex definitions. 31% of participants had pain flares under the most stringent definition of absolute impact, with two episodes per month (Table 1). Across all types, 75% of pain flares lasted two days before returning (Median = 1, IQR = 1-2) but could persist up to 11 days (Figure 1). Pre-flare exposures did not differ between pain flare types nor between the preceding periods. Participants reported fair sleep quality (Median = 3), feeling quite happy (Median = 2), not anxious (Median = 1) and mild fatigue (Median = 2) prior to pain flare onset. Objective exposures showed a daily average of 7-hour sleep with 83% efficiency, under 20 minutes to fall asleep, and approximately 50 minutes being active.

Conclusion: Preliminary results indicate that machine learning can be successfully used to differentiate patients with Fibromyalgia from healthy controls based on EEG measures of the Alpha and Theta frequency bands. Alterations in Alpha and Theta have been demonstrated in previous non-ML research, indicating potential underlying abnormalities in the interaction between the thalamus and cortex which may be related to central mechanisms underlying chronic pain. Further work is required in larger, matched cohorts to validate these findings, but this early work highlights the future potential of EEG and ML in both understanding brain-based pain mechanisms and using EEG features to differentiate chronic pain subgroups.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Classifier accuracy across the EEG frequency bands (FM vs Control)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency Band</th>
<th>Delta (2-4Hz)</th>
<th>Theta (4-8Hz)</th>
<th>Alpha (8-12Hz)</th>
<th>Beta (12-30Hz)</th>
<th>Gamma (30-60Hz)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>0.512 (51.2%)</td>
<td>0.707 (70.7%)</td>
<td>0.707 (70.7%)</td>
<td>0.634 (63.4%)</td>
<td>0.610 (61.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: Professor Alexander Macgregor for his mentorship and support to the lead author during this work.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3902

Keywords: Pain, Rheumatoid arthritis

Background: Pain flares in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) often refer to episodes of increased pain severity accompanied by pain impact. Describing the prevalence and predictors of pain flare occurrence is difficult since there are no agreed classification criteria[1]. Patient-generated data collected in real-time with mobile health (mHealth) devices provide an opportunity to identify individual patterns and triggers in pain dynamics over time[2].

Objectives: We aim to characterise pain flares and pre-flares exposures using real-time mHealth data from patients with RA.

Methods: In a 30-day mHealth study[3] we collected daily reports of pain severity on a five-point scale (ranging from none to very severe pain) via a smartphone app to define the onset and ending criteria for three types of pain flares, including 1) above average: pain severity greater than the personal median score, 2) significant change: two-point increase in pain severity from yesterday, and 3) absolute impact: two-point increase in pain severity from yesterday and pain severity greater than three. All pain flare types end when pain severity returns to the personal median score or lower. Exposures of the preceding periods were self-rated sleep quality, mood, anxiety and fatigue (all scales range 1-5, higher scores are worse) using the same study app, and passively recorded total time asleep (hr), sleep efficiency (%), sleep latency (min) and physical activity (min) via a wrist-worn accelerometer. We report the 30-day monthly pain flare rate, the average duration of pain flares and summarise average exposures one-day and three-day before pain flare onset.

Results: We analysed 253 participants who provided at least seven days of data (81.8% females; mean age = 59.9, average years with RA = 12.1). A total of 6,244 daily reports were included in the analysis. Pain flare occurrence decreased when applying more complex definitions. 31% of participants had pain flares under the most stringent definition of absolute impact, with two episodes per month (Table 1). Across all types, 75% of pain flares lasted two days before returning (Median = 1, IQR = 1-2) but could persist up to 11 days (Figure 1). Pre-flare exposures did not differ between pain flare types nor between the preceding periods. Participants reported fair sleep quality (Median = 3), feeling quite happy (Median = 2), not anxious (Median = 1) and mild fatigue (Median = 2) prior to pain flare onset. Objective exposures showed a daily average of 7-hour sleep with 83% efficiency, under 20 minutes to fall asleep, and approximately 50 minutes being active.

Table 1. Pain flare characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number of participants with ≥1 pain flares (%)</th>
<th>Total number of pain flares</th>
<th>Monthly pain flare rate (SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absolute impact</td>
<td>78 (30.8)</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>2.0 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant change</td>
<td>108 (42.7)</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>2.0 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above average</td>
<td>224 (88.5)</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>4.3 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T. Chiu1, K. Druce1, B. Birle Yimer1, J. Mcbeth1. 1The University of Manchester, Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom
Conclusion: Using three increasingly complex definitions, we found pain flares were common and lasted up to 11 days based on self-reported pain severity. Future analysis should examine the role of pain impact and compare within-person exposures during pre-flare periods with non-flare periods.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: Pain sensitization is an important component of the pain experience in many persons with osteoarthritis (OA). Knee OA studies have suggested that pain sensitization is associated with functional limitations, but the evidence in hand OA is sparse.

Objectives: To assess whether pain sensitization is associated with physical function in people with hand OA.

Methods: We included 206 participants in cross-sectional analyses from the follow-up visit of the Nor-Hand study. Measures of pain sensitization included pressure pain thresholds (PPTs) by a handheld algometer, and temporal summation (TS) defined as increased pain during repeated stimuli. Pain and function were measured in hand OA is sparse. Pain sensitization is associated with functional limitations, but the evidence in hand OA is sparse.

Results: The median (IQR) age was 65 (60-69) years and 86% were female. People with higher PPTs at or near the hand or knee, which may represent less peripheral and/or central sensitization, reported better function in hands and knees/hips and performed better on the performance tests than people with lower PPTs (Table 1), although not statistically significant for all outcomes. Also, a higher PPT at the trapezius muscle, representing less central sensitization, was associated with better function in the lower extremities (Table 1). No associations were found between pain sensitization and the chair stand test (data not shown), or between TS (measure of central sensitization) and hand or lower extremity function. The effects of PPTs on self-reported AUSCAN hand function appeared to be largely mediated through self-reported hand pain (e.g., indirect effect of PPT at the wrist mediated through hand pain: -1.19, 95% CI -1.95, -0.43, and direct effect: -0.20, 95% CI -0.90, 0.51). Effects of PPTs on grip strength were mediated through pain to a lesser extent (e.g., indirect effect of PPT at the wrist mediated through hand pain: 0.12, 95% CI -0.10, 0.34, and direct effect: 1.21, 95% CI 0.29, 2.13). Similarly, the mediating effects of knee/hip pain were larger in analyses of self-reported function than for performance-based measures of lower extremity function (data not shown).

Conclusion: Our results suggest that peripheral sensitization and possibly also central sensitization, are associated with impaired function in hands and lower extremities. For both the hand and lower extremities, measures of sensitization may have direct effects on performance-based measures of function, whereas the effect of sensitization on self-reported function appears to be mediated through self-reported pain severity.

Table 1. Associations between measures of sensitization and function

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AUSCAN hand function (range 0-100)</th>
<th>Grip strength (kg)</th>
<th>WOMAC knee/hip function (range 0-68)</th>
<th>40-meter walk test (m/s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPT finger joint</td>
<td>-1.42 (-2.42, -0.43)</td>
<td>1.25 (0.35, 2.14)</td>
<td>-1.73 (-3.40, -0.05)</td>
<td>0.03 (-0.01, 0.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPT wrist</td>
<td>-1.39 (-2.38, -0.39)</td>
<td>1.33 (0.41, 2.24)</td>
<td>-1.66 (-3.37, 0.04)</td>
<td>0.03 (-0.01, 0.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPT trapezius muscle</td>
<td>-0.80 (-1.81, 0.22)</td>
<td>0.66 (0.25, 1.57)</td>
<td>-1.76 (-3.47, 0.05)</td>
<td>0.04 (0.00, 0.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPT tibialis anterior muscle</td>
<td>-0.76 (-1.77, 0.26)</td>
<td>0.74 (-1.07, 1.65)</td>
<td>-1.57 (-3.29, 0.14)</td>
<td>0.05 (0.01, 0.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporal summation</td>
<td>-0.08 (-1.07, 0.91)</td>
<td>-0.28 (-1.17, 0.61)</td>
<td>0.96 (-0.75, 2.67)</td>
<td>-0.01 (-1.76, 0.73)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjusted for age, sex, body mass index, education, physical activity, and Kellgren-Lawrence sum score of the hands in the analyses of hand function or ultrasound-detected osteophytes in the knees, hips and feet in the analyses of lower extremity function. Presented as beta (95% CI) per standard deviation of sex-standardized PPT and TS.

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank the study participants, the project coordinator Heidi Gammelsrud, as well as the user representative, physicians and medical students who were involved in the Nor-Hand study.

Disclosure of Interests: Marthe Graven-Nielsen: None declared, Pernille Steen Petersen: None declared, Tore K. K. Kvien Speakers bureau: Grünenthal, Sandoz, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Celltrion, Gilead, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Galapagos, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Hilde Berner Hammer Speakers bureau: AbbVie, UCB, Lilly, Novartis, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Ida K. Haugen Consultant of: Novartis, GSK, Grant/research support from: Pfizer/Lilly.

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detected by skin biopsy was reduced in 58 patients (62.4%), 43 of whom (74.1%) had reduced IENFD at both proximal and distal sites. CCM showed pathologic findings in 18 patients with reduced IENFD at any site (31%) and in 8 with normal IENFD (22.9%), with dry eyes being present in 13 (22.4%) and 6 (17%) of those patients, respectively.

There was no difference in pain, depression, neuropathic symptoms, sleep quality, daytime sleepiness, fatigue, or quality of life scores between groups (Table 1).

Conclusion: In this FM population with high disease burden and indication for inpatient therapy, small fiber pathology as found by skin biopsies and CCM was present in more than two third of the FM patients suggesting that there are subgroups. However, there were no significant clinical differences between patients with and without SFN. Further analysis should explore, whether both subgroups differ in their long-term outcome after the inpatient treatment.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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### Table 1. Scores of the questionnaires of all subgroups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>NON- inflammatory</th>
<th>Psoriatic arthritis</th>
<th>Spondylarthritis</th>
<th>Rheumatoid arthritis</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex (female %)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>27(90)</td>
<td>16(53)</td>
<td>13(43)</td>
<td>57.1±14.12</td>
<td>58.5±15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prevalence (%)</td>
<td>7(6)</td>
<td>21 (175)</td>
<td>21(175)</td>
<td>12(10)</td>
<td>61(51)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohen's Kappa index</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p value</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.0007</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Types of morphology of OPE. (A) Non-inflammatory. (B) Psoriatic arthritis. (C) Spondylarthritis. (D) Rheumatoid arthritis.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6392

### POS0264

PALMITOLETHANOLAMIDE (PEA) AND ACETYL-CARNITINE (ALC) ACT SYNERGISTICALLY WITH DULOXETINE AND PREGABALIN IN FIBROMYALGIA: PROSPECTIVE AND RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSES

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Fibromyalgia, Diet and Nutrition
Background: Fibromyalgia (FM) is characterized by debilitating pain that is unresponsive to standard analgesics and the multi-modal approach, including drugs' combination, represents the standard of care. Combination therapeutic strategies also include the integration of drugs and nutraceuticals. Both palmitolethanolamide (PEA) and acetyl-L-carnitine (ALC) have demonstrated an effect on chronic widespread pain (CWP).

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of pregabalin (PGB) and duloxetine (DLX) supplemented with palmitolethanolamide (PEA) and acetyl-L-carnitine (ALC) in FM patients over a 24-week period.

Methods: After 6 months of stable treatment with DLX+PGB, FM patients were randomized to continue the treatment (Group 1) or to add PEA (600 mg BID)+ALC (500 mg BID) at the ongoing treatment (Group 2). Patients were then followed for 24 weeks. Cumulative disease severity, evaluated using the Widespread Pain Index (WPI) (primary outcome), the revised Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQR), and the modified Fibromyalgia Assessment Status (FASmod) (secondary outcomes), was calculated every two weeks during the 24-week follow-up and expressed as time-integrated values (AUC).

Results: One hundred and forty-two FM patients started the study (91.5%), 130 completed both steps, respectively 68 patients in Group 1 and 62 in Group 2. After 24 weeks of follow-up after randomization, Group 2 experienced an adjunctive significant improvement in WPI, FIQR (Figure 1), and FASmod, compared to Group 1. Although there was some fluctuation in both Groups throughout the study period, the AUC values of the WPI scores steadily decreased in Group 2 (p=0.048). Group 2 showed better outcomes also in terms of FIQR and FASmod scores’ AUC values (p=0.033 and p=0.017, respectively).

Conclusion: This was a retrospective cohort study among Medicare beneficiaries aged 65-89 years with chronic non-cancer pain, without prior history of CHF. We included patients who were newly prescribed users of pregabalin or gabapentin were followed up between 2015-2018. The outcome was incident CHF, ascertained by hospital admissions or emergency room visits with ICD-9 and 10 codes in the first position codes. Inverse probability of treatment weighting was used to account for differences between pregabalin and gabapentin users in time-dependent analysis (i.e., Cox proportional-hazards regressions). Covariates used in the propensity scoring were selected based on prior knowledge and literature review, and included categories such as concurrent baseline cardiovascular, neurologic, pain, and psychiatric diagnoses and corresponding medications including opioids and antipsychotics. Non-diagnostic covariates were included, as well as demographics, socioeconomic status, and indicators/metrics of health care utilization.

Results: This study included 17,756 new users of pregabalin and 221,053 new users of gabapentin. The cohort was predominantly female gender (66.7%), and non-Hispanic White (79.9%), with a median age of 73 (IQR: 69-78) years. The most common diagnostic indications for pregabalin and gabapentin were musculoskeletal and back pain. Prior to inverse probability weighting, pregabalin vs gabapentin users had higher daily short-acting opioid morphine equivalent doses (median: 18.0 vs 8.9 mg/d), higher use of coxibs (8.6% vs 4.9%), and higher prevalence of diabetic neuropathy (15.9% vs 11.3%) and fibromyalgia (19.9% vs 13.2%). After propensity score weighting, none of the covariates had a standardized difference<=0.10. During 110,439 person-years of follow-up, 1,428 patients developed new CHF. The outcome rate for CHF incidence was 18.67 per 1000 person-years for pregabalin vs 12.57 per 1000-person years for gabapentin (adjusted HR 1.48 [95% CI, 1.20-1.81]).

Conclusion: In this retrospective study of Medicare beneficiaries aged 65-89 years with chronic non-cancer pain, new users of pregabalin had higher rates of incident CHF hospitalizations or emergency room visits compared to new users of gabapentin.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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All about COVID-19 in Rheumatology

**POS0266**
**CELLULAR IMMUNE RESPONSE PERSISTENCE AFTER COVID-19 MRNA VACCINES AMONG PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS UNDER RITUXIMAB**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Vaccination/Immunization, COVID

J. Marin1, P. Bourjion2, N. Saverna3, C. Cartagena Garcia4, P. Lafortune5, J. Roudier1,2,3, J. M. Busnelli3, N. Balandraude1,3, S. Sainte Marguerite University Hospital-AP-HM, Rheumatology, Marseille, France; 2Inmunotech - Beckman Coulter, Global Research Organization, Marseille, France; 3InsERM and Aix Marseille University; UMRs - 1097: Arthritis Autoimmunes, Marseille, France

**Background:** Humoral response induced by anti-SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine is significantly lower or even absent in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases treated with anti-CD20 therapies such as Rituximab (RTX) than in those treated with cytokine therapies (e.g., anti-TNF or anti-IL6) [1]. However, a specific cellular immune response exists 1 or 2 months after vaccination (2, 3). As medications are widely utilized for treatment of non-cancer chronic pain. Among these, pregabalin is a commonly prescribed anticonvulsant, which works by antagonizing L-type calcium channels, decreasing the release of neurotransmitters [1]. Pregabalin use has been associated with reports of congestive heart failure (CHF), including peripheral and pulmonary edema [2-4]. However, the relationship between CHF incidence and pregabalin use among patients at the highest risk of adverse reactions (i.e., senior patients with various co-morbidities) remains unclear.

**Objectives:** To compare incident CHF among new users of pregabalin versus gabapentin (the active comparator) in Medicare beneficiaries treated for non-cancer chronic pain.

**Methods:** This was a retrospective cohort study among Medicare beneficiaries aged 65-89 years with chronic non-cancer pain, without prior history of CHF. We included patients who were newly prescribed users of pregabalin or gabapentin were followed up between 2016-2017. The outcome was incident CHF, ascertained by hospital admissions or emergency room visits with ICD-9 and 10 codes in the first position codes. Inverse probability of treatment weighting was used to account for differences between pregabalin and gabapentin users in time-dependent analysis (i.e., Cox proportional-hazards regressions). Covariates used in the propensity scoring were selected based on prior knowledge and literature review, and included categories such as concurrent baseline cardiovascular, neurologic, pain, and psychiatric diagnoses and corresponding medications including opioids and antipsychotics. Non-diagnostic covariates were included, as well as demographics, socioeconomic status, and indicators/metrics of health care utilization.

**Results:** This study included 17,756 new users of pregabalin and 221,053 new users of gabapentin. The cohort was predominantly female gender (66.7%), and non-Hispanic White (79.9%), with a median age of 73 (IQR: 69-78) years. The most common diagnostic indications for pregabalin and gabapentin were musculoskeletal and back pain. Prior to inverse probability weighting, pregabalin vs gabapentin users had higher daily short-acting opioid morphine equivalent doses (median: 18.0 vs 8.9 mg/d), higher use of coxibs (8.6% vs 4.9%), and higher prevalence of diabetic neuropathy (15.9% vs 11.3%) and fibromyalgia (19.9% vs 13.2%). After propensity score weighting, none of the covariates had a standardized difference<=0.10. During 110,439 person-years of follow-up, 1,428 patients developed new CHF. The outcome rate for CHF incidence was 18.67 per 1000 person-years for pregabalin vs 12.57 per 1000-person years for gabapentin (adjusted HR 1.48 [95% CI, 1.20-1.81]).

**Conclusion:** In this retrospective study of Medicare beneficiaries aged 65-89 years with chronic non-cancer pain, new users of pregabalin had higher rates of incident CHF hospitalizations or emergency room visits compared to new users of gabapentin.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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cytotoxic T cells are considered as essential components of the antiviral defense arsenal, and since it is not clear when to do booster shots, analysis of the specific T response over the long term could be a useful decision-making tool.

**Methods:** Patients. Our study cohort included 75 consecutive adult patients with ACRA positive RA, followed at the rheumatology department of Sainte Marquise Hospital (Marseille, France), prospectively enrolled from April 2022 to October 2022. RA patients fulfilled the 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria for RA and had received at least two doses of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine, whether they had or not a history of COVID.

**Samples.** Heparin-anticoagulated single blood sample was collected for each patient to assess CD19+ cell count, IgG level, and SARS-CoV-2 serology. Cellular immune response was assessed by flow cytometry with a previously described procedure [4]. Briefly, 250 µL of whole blood were incubated per condition, including a negative control, Spike peptides from JPT* collection and CEFX peptides (mix of viral peptides) as a positive control. Marker expression was measured with a three-laser 13-color CytoFLEX flow cytometer. T lymphocytes were divided into T4 lymphocytes (LT4) or T8 lymphocytes (LT8) depending on CD8 expression. Finally, CD69, CD154, CD137 and CD107a expressions were monitored to characterize LT4 or LT8 activation.

**Ethics.** All patients gave informed written consent for this study in accordance with Helsinki declaration. Patient data were pseudo-anonymized. Sample collection was approved by the national ethics committee under the number DC-2008-527.

**Results:** Patient characteristics. 51 RA patients were treated with RTX, 24 were treated with csDMARDs or other bDMARDs.

**Humoral response against SARS CoV-2.** 30/51 (59%) RA RTX patients versus 13/14 (93%) non RTX patients had a humoral immune response (p = 0.024) with a medium titer of 130 BAU/mL versus 688 BAU/mL.

**T cell specific response.** LT4 and LT8 Spike-specific responses were defined by the difference of response between Spike peptides from SARS CoV-2 stimulation and no peptides stimulation. The response was divided into quartiles; patients in the upper 3 quartiles were considered to have a specific response. In RA RTX patients, specific LT8 response was shown in 90% of patients versus 42% in non RTX patients (p < 0.0001), and specific LT4 response was shown in 76% of patients versus 75% in non RTX patients (p = 0.42).

**Long term T cell specific response** (Figure 1). RA patients treated with RTX maintained a specific LT4 response against Spike peptides with no decrease up to 18 months after the last SARS-CoV-2 boost (vaccine dose or COVID 19 infection).

**Conclusion:** Specific LT4 response against Spike peptides was similar in the RTX treated and non-treated RA patients. This was even stronger for the specific LT8 response. The Spike specific T-cell response was maintained in both groups up to 18 months after the last vaccine dose or COVID infection independently to the specific humoral response. This method of analyzing the specific T response against the Spike protein could be used in personalized medicine to decide when revaccination is necessary in a given patient.

**REFERENCES:**

Pre-exposure prophylaxis with tixagevimab/cilgavimab is effective in limiting the risk and the severity of COVID-19 in patients with autoimmune or inflammatory diseases at increased risk of severe COVID-19 who are poor responders to vaccination

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), COVID, Vaccination/Immunization

M. Thomas1, M. Masson2, S. Bitoun3, R. Seror4, H. Dupuy5, E. Lazaro5, C. Richiez7, Y. Allainore3, J. Avouac1, 1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2Hopital purpan, Rheumatology, Toulouse, France; 3Bicetre Hospital, Rheumatology, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France; 4Hopital Haut Levoue, Internal Medicine, Pessac, France; 5Hopital Pellegrin Bordeaux, Rheumatology, Bordeaux, France

Background: Patients with autoimmune or inflammatory diseases treated with immunosuppressants such as anti-CD20 are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 and have a high probability of insufficient response to vaccination. The monoclonal antibody combination tixagevimab/cilgavimab has received early access approval to reduce the frequency of symptomatic COVID-19 in immunocompromised patients at risk for severe COVID-19 and unresponsive to vaccination.

Objectives: We aim to evaluate the clinical efficacy of tixagevimab/cilgavimab in pre-exposure prophylaxis in patients with increased risk of severe COVID-19 in rheumatology.

Methods: In this multicenter observational study conducted between December 2021 and August 2022, we included patients with autoimmune or inflammatory diseases who received at least one intramuscular injection of tixagevimab/cilgavimab as pre-exposure prophylaxis in 3 French rheumatology units. Occurrence of COVID-19 was assessed during usual follow-up or by phone call. The endpoint was the incidence of COVID-19 and its severity.

Results: tixagevimab/cilgavimab was administered to 115 patients, median age 62 years (52-71), with chronic arthritis (n=53), connective tissue disease (n=38) or vasculitis (n=11). The main background immunosuppressants were rituximab (n=98), methotrexate (n=48), mycophenolate mofetil (n=19), cyclophosphamide (n=15), azathioprine (n=12), and corticosteroids (n=62, median dose 5 mg, CI95% 5-8). During a median follow-up of 128 days (33-173), COVID-19 occurred in 23/115 patients (20%) with Omicron identified for the 8 genotyped patients. During the study period, the average weekly incidence was 1071 per 100,000 inhabitants in Ile-de-France vs. 588 per 100,000 in our patients. Patients who received a 2-injections regimen had a lower risk of infection than patients with a single injection (16/49, 33%, vs. 6/64, 8%, p=0.0012). The COVID-19+ patients did not differ from uninfected patients in terms of age, comorbidities, type and duration of underlying disease, extra-articular organ involvement or background immunosuppressants. All COVID-19 cases were non-severe, there were no deaths. The tolerance of injections was excellent, with no side effects observed.

Conclusion: In a population with autoimmune or inflammatory diseases at increased risk for severe COVID-19 with a poor response to vaccination, pre-exposure prophylaxis by tixagevimab/cilgavimab limited the risk of infection and the severity of COVID-19. This study supports the use of COVID-19 serological tests in this patient population in order to detect those who do not respond adequately to vaccination since pre-exposure treatments and/or early treatments are available.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Table 1. Demographic, Outcomes and Adjusted Odd Ratio of Hospital Mortality of Acute Myocardial Infarction and Acute Heart Failure Exacerbation in Patient Without and With Rheumatic Diseases 2016-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics/outcome</th>
<th>Without RDs</th>
<th>With RDs*</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>Characteristics/outcome</th>
<th>Without RDs</th>
<th>With RDs*</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (%)</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (Year, mean)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>Age (Year, mean)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Stay (day)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>Length of Stay (day)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 Infection Rate (%) ¥

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics/outcome</th>
<th>Odd Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>(0.56, 0.76)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Stay</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>(1.00, 1.01)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POS0269 COVID-19 SEVERITY AND VACCINE BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS IN SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: RESULTS FROM THE COVAD STUDY

Keywords: Vaccination/Immunization, COVID, Sjögren syndrome

A. Aliuono1, F. Carubbi1, J. Day2,3, J. Knitza5, S. Katsuyuki Shinjo6, S. Saha7, M. Milchert8, O. Distler9, A. Makol10, T. Chatterjee11, V. Agarwal12, R. Aggarwal13, L. Gupta14. 1Internal Medicine and Nephrology Unit, University of Uqilia, Department of Health, Health and Environmental Sciences, Uqilia, Italy; 2Royal Melbourne Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Parkville, Australia; 3Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Parkville, Australia; 4University of Melbourne, Department of Medical Biology, Parkville, Australia; 5Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Medizinische Klinik 3 – Rheumatologie und Immunologie, Erlangen, Germany; 6Universidade de Sao Paulo, Division of Rheumatology, Sao Paulo, Brazil; 7Mymensingh Medical College, Mymensingh, Bangladesh; 8Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, Department of Internal Medicine, Rheumatology, Diabetology, Geriatrics and Clinical Immunology, Szczecin, Poland; 9University of Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 10Mayo Clinic, Division of Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; 11University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, Department of Internal Medicine, Peoria, United States of America; 12Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 13University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 14Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Background: Despite the increasing number of studies on COVID-19 infection in people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), data on Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) is limited.

Objectives: To determine the spectrum and severity of pre-vaccine and post-vaccine breakthrough COVID-19 infections (B-INFs) among patients with SS compared to other connective tissue diseases (CTDs), non-rheumatic autoimmune diseases (nRAIDs), and healthy controls (HC).

Methods: Data were collected using the COVID-19 Vaccination in Autoimmune Diseases (COVAD) questionnaire (March–December 2021) and analysed to compare frequencies and identify associations with demographic, disease-specific and vaccine-specific variables (for B-INFs).

Results: Among 9462 complete respondents, 356 were patients with SS, of which 129 had primary (p) SS and 227 had SS associated (a) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), systemic sclerosis (SSc) or inflammatory myopathies (IM). Patients with SS were compared to 1586 patients with other CTDs (RA, SLE, SSc or IM) but without SS, 825 patients with nRAIDs and 4712 healthy controls (HC). SS patients had mean age of 52.3 years, mean disease duration was 12 years; 94.5% were females, 68% were Caucasian. Overall COVID-19 infection was reported by 14% of patients with SS and 19.2% of HC (odds ratio (OR)=0.7; 95% confidence interval (CI)=0.5-0.9). The majority of cases occurred prior to the first vaccine dose with no differences across groups in the proportion of B-INFs (SS: 21.6%; other CTD: 20%; nRAID: 19.8%; HC: 19.4%). In the SS group, age and disease duration were similar in patients with either pre-vaccine infections or B-INFs. When comparing pSS and aSS, the overall number of COVID-19 infections was comparable, regardless of the timing (before or after vaccination). Over 80% of SS patients were symptomatic and the symptom duration was similar regardless of the timing of infection, however the symptom burden was different, with certain manifestations absent in B-INFs (oral ulcers, nausea/vomiting, skin rashes, loss of smell/taste) (Figure 1). When focusing on pSS and aSS separately, fewer was never reported in aSS B-INFs, whereas other symptoms were equally distributed in pre-vaccine infections and B-INFs. When comparing SS to other CTDs and HC, it emerged that during B-INFs, patients with SS had more frequently chest pain (OR=6.5; 95% CI=4
Acknowledgements: Myositis Assoc., Myositis India, Myositis UK, Myositis Support and Understanding, the Myositis Global Network, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Muskelerkrankung e.V., Dutch and Swedish Myositis PGS, Cure JM, Cure IBM, Sjögren’s India Found., Patients Engage, Scleroderma India, Lupus UK, Lupus Sweden, Emirates Arthritis Found., EULAR PARE, ARLE research group, AAAA patient group, Myositis Assoc. of Australia, APLAR myositis SIG, Thai Rheumatism association, PANLAR, AFRIL NRAS, Anti-Synthetase Syndrome SIG

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Results: The questionnaire was answered by 1357 individuals with a median age of 57 years. 63% of participants were female. 33% are living in a household with children. 36% were diagnosed with RA, 34% with axSpA, 22% with PsA and 8% with another inflammatory rheumatic disease. A total of 100 patients were prescribed csDMARDs, 94 JAKi, 18 rituximab, 695 other b/tsDMARDs, and 450 patients received none of these treatments (Table 1). 10% of patients feel their general lives are affected by COVID-19 at a level of more than 7 out of 10. 3% of the participants report that COVID-19 impacts their social environment (family and friends) as a potentially dangerous disease at a level of more than 7 out of 10.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Basic characteristics of study population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Rituximab JAKI</th>
<th>Other b/ tsDMARDs</th>
<th>csDMARDs</th>
<th>None of the above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>1357</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>(37.4)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>49 (39)</td>
<td>63 (39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>(62.6)</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>16 (39)</td>
<td>63 (39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (median)</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis</td>
<td>RA</td>
<td>498 (36.7)</td>
<td>18 (100)</td>
<td>67 (71)</td>
<td>183 (20.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group (%)</td>
<td>axSpA</td>
<td>462 (34)</td>
<td>16 (11.7)</td>
<td>270 (38.6)</td>
<td>10 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td>296 (21.8)</td>
<td>11 (11.7)</td>
<td>177 (26.9)</td>
<td>15 (15)</td>
<td>19 (18.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA/ PMR</td>
<td></td>
<td>13 (1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (0.4)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UA</td>
<td>88 (6.5)</td>
<td>5 (5.3)</td>
<td>47 (6.8)</td>
<td>6 (6)</td>
<td>15 (18.3)</td>
</tr>
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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2499
Studied in the literature that assess the immuno-
genicity and safety of the different platforms COVID-19 vaccines in patients with
autoimmune diseases (AID).

Background: The ChAdOx1, Coronavirus, BNT162B2 and Janssen vaccines are available for the primary and booster immunization of immunosuppressed patients. However, there are few studies in the literature that assess the immuno-
genicity and safety of the different platforms COVID-19 vaccines in patients with autoimmune diseases (AID).

Methods: These data are from SAFER study; “Safety and efficacy on COVID-19 and in patients with AID aged ≥ 18 years. Exclusion criteria were pregnancy, previous severe adverse events (AE) to any vaccine or other immunosuppression causes. Demographics, diagnoses and therapeutic regimens were collected via participant report through the Research Electronic Data Capture tool. Available vaccines were adenosinarvectored vaccine (ChAdOx1, Astrazeneca and Ad26.COV2-S, Janssen), mRNA vaccine (BNT162b2, Pfizer-BioNTech) or inactivated SARS-COV-2 vaccine (Coronavac). Participants were followed up by means of blood collection for measurement of IgG antibody against SARS-COV-2 spike receptor-binding domain by chemiluminescence (SARS-COV-2-IgG-II Quant assay, Abbott-Laboratories) at baseline and 28 days after the first, 2nd and 3rd doses. The seropositivity was defined for titer IgG-Spike >71 BAU/mL. The ANOVA, the post-hoc Tukey and pairwise comparisons tests were used to compare the IgG-S tiers between the groups. An alpha level of 5% significance was used in all analyses.

Results: A total of 1096 patients were included and followed from the first dose. 709 patients AID received the complete 3-dose regimen: systemic lupus erythematosus (N=238, 33.6%), rheumatoid arthritis (N=143, 20.2%), spondyloarthritis (N=96, 13.5%), primary Sjögren’s syndrome (N=56, 7.9%), inflammatory bowel disease (N=50, 7.1%), vasculitis (N=31, 4.4%), systemic sclerosis (N=25, 3.5%), Behçet syndrome (N= 19, 2.7%) myositis (N= 12, 1.7%), other systemic AID (N=39, 5.5%), Mean age was 41.59 (12.2), female N=556, (78.4%) and adipim race (N=370, 52.2%). Primary immunization was performed with Coronavac in 265 (37.4%), ChAdOx1 in 403 (56.8%) and Pfizer in 41 (5.8%) AID patients. After the 2nd dose (28 days), the booster was performed with Coronavac (N=10, 1.4), ChAdOx1 (N=226, 31.9%), Pfizer (N=464, 65.4%) and Janssen (N=9, 1.3%). Anti-spike IgG antibodies were ana-
alyzed in the 657 patients who received the three doses. All patients had a sub-
stantial increase in IgG antibody concentrations 28dy after the booster vaccine with median 275.9 BAU/mI (88.8 - 1000.8) vs. 1217.2 (402.3 - 3213.7) booster vaccine. All heterologous regimens (N=515) had anti-spike IgG responses at day 80 were superior to homologous booster (N=194) with median titters 1596.5 (543.9-3769.4) vs. 620.3 BAU/mL (180.3-1987 .0), p<0.001 (figure 1). The seropositivity rates were higher and similar in both groups (Heterologous 98.4% vs. Homologous 95.9%, p<0.01).

Conclusion: All vaccines administered as third dose induced an increase in IgG-S titer antibodies, which could improve protection against COVID-19 in AID patients. Heterologous booster vaccination produced greater humoral immune responses than homologous booster, which is relevant in this immunosuppressed population.


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0272

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ADHERENCE TO DISEASE MODIFYING DRUGS AMONG PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES: A POPULATION-BASED, INTERRUPTED TIME SERIES ANALYSIS

Keywords: COVID, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

N. Rebu1,2, E. C. Sayre3, M. Law2, M. De Vera4,5. 1University of British Columbia, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vancouver, Canada; 2Arthritis Research Canada, Vancouver, Canada; 3University of British Columbia, School of Population and Public Health, Vancouver, Canada

Background: Although studies have quantified adherence to medications among patients with rheumatic diseases (RD) during the COVID-19, lack of direct pre-pandemic comparison precludes understanding of impact of the pandemic.

METHODS: This study is based on prescription data from a large administrative health insurance claims database covering 1.4 million people in British Columbia, Canada. All RD patients were identified using validated electronic medical records (EMR) based definitions. Adherence was compared during pre-pandemic (2015-2019) and one-year post-pandemic (2020-2021) periods using interrupted time series analysis. The primary outcome was persistence and defined as ≥ 12 months of continuous fills.

RESULTS: The study identified 96,210 RD patients during the pre-pandemic period and 113,765 patients (96% overlap) during the post-pandemic period. During the pre-pandemic period, 58% of RD patients had ≥ 12 months of continuous fills. During the post-pandemic period, 51% of RD patients had ≥ 12 months of continuous fills. The risk of lower adherence during the post-pandemic period compared with the pre-pandemic period was consistent across all subgroups.

CONCLUSION: The COVID-19 pandemic was associated with a decrease in adherence to disease modifying drugs among patients with RD.
**Objectives:** Our objective was to evaluate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on adherence to disease modifying drugs (DMARDs) including conventional synthetic (csDMARDs) and targeted synthetic (tsDMARDs).

**Methods:** We linked population-based health data on all physician visits, hospital admissions, and all dispensed medications, regardless of payer in British Columbia from 01/01/1996 to 3/31/2021. We identified prescriptions for csDMARDs (including methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine) and tsDMARDs, namely anti-TNFs (including infliximab, etanercept, adalimumab) and rituximab using drug identification numbers among indicated individuals with RD. We defined March 11, 2020, as the ‘index date’ which corresponded to the date that mitigation measures for the COVID-19 pandemic were first introduced. We assessed adherence as proportion days covered (PDC), calculated monthly in the 12 months before and after the index date. We used interrupted time-series models, namely segmented regression to estimate changes and trends in adherence before and after the index date.

**Results:** Our analysis showed that the mean PDCs for all included DMARDs stayed relatively steady in the 12 months before and after mitigation measures were introduced (see Table 1). Adherence was highest among anti-TNFs, methotrexate, and azathioprine. Anti-TNFs were on a downward trajectory 12 months prior to the index date. Interrupted time-series modeling demonstrated statistically significant differences in the trends in PDCs post- vs. pre-mitigation measures for all anti-TNFs (slope [β]: 1.38, standard error [SE]: 0.23), infliximab (β: 1.35, SE: 0.23), adalimumab (β: 0.82, SE: 0.25), and etanercept (β: 1.07, SE: 0.25) (see Figure 1a). Conversely, the csDMARDs were on a flatter trajectory, and methotrexate (β: -0.53, SE: 0.16), leflunomide (β: 0.43, SE: 0.08), mycophenolate (β: -1.26, SE: 0.48), cyclophosphamide (β: 0.29, SE: 0.05), minocycline (β: -0.04, SE: 0.02), chloroquine (β: 0.02, SE: 0.00) showed statistically significant changes in estimated PDC trajectory after mitigation measures were introduced (see Figure 1b).

**Conclusion:** This population-based study demonstrates that messaging and pandemic mitigation measures did not affect adherence to DMARDs.

**Table 1.** Mean PDC 1 year before and after mitigation measures for the COVID-19 pandemic were introduced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Mean PDC (%) 12 months before index date</th>
<th>Mean PDC (%) 12 months after index date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>csDMARDs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>methotrexate</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>azathioprine</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sulfasalazine</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leflunomide</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cyclosporine</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mycophenolate</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antimalarias</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pencillamine</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cyclophosphamide</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chlorambucil</td>
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<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minocycline</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gold</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chloroquine</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tsDMARDs</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-TNFs</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>49.2</td>
</tr>
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<td>infliximab</td>
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<td>adalimumab</td>
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<td>etanercept</td>
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<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rituximab</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4191
Background: Post-COVID-19 syndrome (PCS) is an emerging cause of morbidity and poor quality of life in COVID-19 survivors [1, 2].

Objectives: We aimed to assess the prevalence, risk factors, outcomes, and association with disease flares of PCS in patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRDs) and non-rheumatic autoimmune diseases (nAIDs), both vulnerable groups understudied in the current literature using data from the 2nd COVID-19 Vaccination in Autoimmune Diseases (COVAD) global multicentre patient self-reported e-survey.

Methods: The survey was circulated from February to July 2022 by the international COVAD Study Group (157 collaborators from 106 countries), and demographics, comorbidities, AIRD/nAID status, COVID-19 history, vaccination details, and PROMIS physical and mental function were recorded. PCS was defined as symptom resolution time >90 days following acute COVID-19. Predictors of PCS were analysed using regression models for the different groups.

Results: 7666 total respondents completed the survey. Of these, 2650 respondents with complete responses had positive COVID-19 infection, and 1675 (45.0%) AIRDs, 12.5% nAIDs, 42.5% HCs completed the survey >90 days post acute COVID-19. Of these, 136 (8.1%) had PCS. Prevalence of PCS was higher in AIRDs (10.8%) than healthy controls HCs (5.3%) (OR: 2.0; 95%CI: 1.08-3.6, p=0.026), those with comorbidities (OR: 2.8; 95%CI: 1.4-5.7, p=0.005), and patients requiring oxygen supplementation for severe acute COVID-19 (OR: 3.8; 95%CI: 1.1-13.6, p=0.039). Among patients with AIRDs, comorbidities (OR: 2.0; 95%CI: 1.08-3.6, p=0.026), and advanced treatment (OR: 1.9; 95%CI: 1.08-3.3, p=0.024), or intensive care (OR: 3.8; 95%CI: 1.01-14.4, p=0.047) for severe COVID-19 were risk factors for PCS. Notably, patients who developed PCS had poorer PROMIS global physical [15 (12-17) vs 12 (9-15)] and mental health [14 (11-16) vs 11 (8-14)] scores than those without PCS.

Conclusion: Individuals with AIRDs have a greater risk of PCS than HCs. Associated comorbid conditions, and advanced treatment or intensive care unit admission for severe COVID-19 confer a higher risk of PCS. It is imperative to identify risk factors for PCS for immediate multidisciplinary management in anticipation of poor physical and mental health.

REFERENCES:

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PROSPECTIVE EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE VACCINE AGAINST SARS-COV-2 IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: DATA FROM SAFER STUDY

Keywords: COVID, Vaccination/Immunization, Systemic lupus erythematosus

A. Teixeira-Carvalho13, O. Assis Martins-Filho13, R. Xavier1, V. De Souza11, de Reumatologia, Minas Gerais, Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; Brazil; 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Background: The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic initially raised concerns about the risk of severe infection in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD).

Objectives: In a setting with an excessive SARS-CoV-2 test strategy and availability of effective vaccines we aimed to investigate if patients with IRD face greater risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2 infection and have an increased risk of hospitalization, assisted ventilation and death compared to the general population.

Methods: This large nationwide, population-based register study compared the outcomes of SARS-Cov-2 infection in Danish patients with IRD (n=65,603) to matched population controls (n=656,030), from the first registration of SARS-CoV-2 (March 2020 to October 2022). The IRD population included 1,903 ANCA associated and necrotizing vasculitis; 30,391 rheumatoid arthritis; 2,444Systemic lupus erythematosus; 1,538 systemic scleroderma; 2,521 spondyloarthrits and psoriasis arthritis patients. Cox regression analyses were used to calculate incidence rate ratios (IRRs) for SARS-CoV-2 infection outcomes.

Results: We observed a discrete difference in time to first and second positive SARS-CoV-2 test in IRD patients compared to the general population (IRR=1.05 95% CI (1.03-1.06) and (IRR=1.17 95% CI 1.11-1.24). The risk of hospital contact with COVID-19 and severe COVID-19 was increased in IRD patients compared to population controls (IRR=1.92; 95% CI 1.79-2.06) and (IRR=2.16; 95% CI 1.91-2.45). Also, the risk if hospitalization requiring assisted ventilation (IRR=2.40, 95% CI 1.93-2.99) and for hospitalization with COVID-19 leading to death were increased in the IRD population (IRR=2.02 95% CI 1.66-2.45). The risk of hospitalization with severe COVID-19 was remarkably reduced after third SARS-CoV-2 vaccination.

Conclusion: IRD patients have a risk of SARS-Cov-2 which nearly corresponds to the general population but have a substantial increased risk of hospitalization with COVID-19, severe COVID-19, requiring assisted ventilation and COVID-19 leading to death compared to the general population. A third SARS-CoV-2 vaccination was associated with reduced need for hospitalization with COVID-19 and reduced the risk of death.

REFERENCES: NIL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5381

Table 1. Relative risk (95% CI) of first positive SARS CoV-2-test, vaccination, hospitalization and death in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases vs. general population controls in Denmark, March 1. 2020 to October 1. 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number (n)</th>
<th>ANCA associated vasculitis</th>
<th>Rheumatoid arthritis</th>
<th>Systemic lupus erythomatosus</th>
<th>Systemic Scleroderma</th>
<th>Sjogren syndrome</th>
<th>Giant cell arthritis</th>
<th>Spondylarthritis and Psoriatic arthritis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Outcome</td>
<td>65,603</td>
<td>1,903</td>
<td>30,391</td>
<td>2,444</td>
<td>1,538</td>
<td>2,521</td>
<td>5,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to first positive SARS-CoV-2 test</td>
<td>1.05 (95% CI 1.03-1.06)</td>
<td>1.10 (1.02-1.19)</td>
<td>1.04 (1.02-1.06)</td>
<td>0.90 (0.85-0.96)</td>
<td>0.96 (0.88-1.05)</td>
<td>0.96 (0.89-1.02)</td>
<td>1.12 (1.06-1.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to second positive SARS-CoV-2 test</td>
<td>1.17 (1.11-1.24)</td>
<td>1.08 (1.04-2.64)</td>
<td>1.21 (1.10-1.33)</td>
<td>0.89 (0.86-1.17)</td>
<td>0.97 (0.96-1.03)</td>
<td>0.94 (0.92-1.12)</td>
<td>1.44 (1.30-1.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to first positive hospital contact with COVID-19</td>
<td>1.92 (1.79-2.06)</td>
<td>2.04 (1.79-2.06)</td>
<td>1.21 (1.71-2.13)</td>
<td>3.01 (2.04-4.43)</td>
<td>3.04 (1.90-4.86)</td>
<td>2.51 (1.63-3.86)</td>
<td>3.01 (2.04-4.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to hospitalization with severe COVID-19</td>
<td>2.16 (1.91-2.45)</td>
<td>1.66 (4.14-8.69)</td>
<td>2.00 (1.10-1.33)</td>
<td>3.62 (3.68-1.17)</td>
<td>3.66 (2.50-4.73)</td>
<td>2.10 (1.49-3.60)</td>
<td>3.01 (2.04-4.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to hospitalization with assisted ventilation</td>
<td>2.40 (1.93-2.69)</td>
<td>1.52 (1.37-2.03)</td>
<td>1.99 (1.42-2.79)</td>
<td>5.05 (1.02-25.04)</td>
<td>6.13 (1.87-25.07)</td>
<td>0.83 (1.00-6.91)</td>
<td>2.49 (0.98-4.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to hospitalization with COVID-19 followed by death</td>
<td>2.02 (1.66-2.45)</td>
<td>1.49 (2.49-15.99)</td>
<td>2.47 (1.89-3.23)</td>
<td>0.29 (0.85-16.90)</td>
<td>0.47 (0.50-7.17)</td>
<td>0.38 (0.46-13.61)</td>
<td>1.03 (0.63-2.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to Severe covid-19 after 3rd vaccination</td>
<td>0.42 (0.25-0.72)</td>
<td>0.10 (0.25-4.18)</td>
<td>0.38 (0.17-0.86)</td>
<td>0.18 (0.01-0.50)</td>
<td>0.38 (0.06-2.17)</td>
<td>0.19 (0.03-1.10)</td>
<td>0.35 (0.07-0.10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advances in our care of children and young people with JIA...

**Keywords:** Lungs

C. Bracaglia1, F. Minoia2, C. Kessei3, S. Vasterl4, M. Parredo5, A. Arundini6, Ö. Basaran7, N. Kiper6, M. Kostik7, M. Glerup8, S. Fingerhutova7, R. Caorsi9, A. Horn10, G. Filocamo10, H. Wittkowsk10, M. Jelusic11, J. Anton12, S. Khalidi-Plaissart13, A. Belot13, G. Hurtle13, P. Szalair13, S. Ozen14, F. De Benedetti13, IRCCS Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 2Mangiagalli Clinic IRCCS Cà Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Department of Pediatric Immunooimmunology, Milan, Italy; 3Münster University Hospital, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology & Immunology, Münster, Germany; 4UMC Utrecht, Pediatric Rheumatology & Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 5Hacettepe University, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 6Hacettepe University, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Pulmonology, Ankara, Turkey; 7Saint-Petersburg State Pediatric Medical University, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation; 8Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Aarhus, Denmark; 9Centre for Paediatric Rheumatology and Autoinflammatory Diseases, Department of Paediatrics and Inherited Metabolic Disorders, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General University Hospital in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic; 10IRCCS Istituto G. Gaslini, Department of Pediatrics and Rheumatology, Genova, Italy; 11Karolinska Institute, Department of pediatric rheumatology Karolinska University Hospital and Department of pediatrics, Stockholm, Sweden; 12University of Zagreb School of Medicine, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Department of Paediatrics, Zagreb, Croatia; 13Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, University de Barcelona, Pediatric Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 14Hôpital Femmé Mère Enfant, Hospices Civils de Lyon, Pediatric Nephropathy, Rheumatology, Dermatology Unit, Lyon, France; 15Asklepios Clinic Sant Augustin, Pediatrics, Sanit Augustin, Germany; 16University Children’s Hospital Zurich, Pediatric Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 17IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini and University of Turin, Department of Neurosciences, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetics and Maternal-Infantile Sciences (DINOOGMI), University of Genova, Genoa, Italy

**Background:** Chronic parenchymal lung disease (LD) is a new emerging severe life-threatening complication of sJIA. The number of sJIA patients with LD is apparently increasing and interestingly they are reported more frequently in North America. Data regarding frequency and features of sJIA-LD in Europe are not available.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the burden of sJIA-LD in Europe.

**Methods:** Patients with diagnosis of sJIA-LD, including pulmonary alveolar proteinosis (PAP), interstitial lung disease (ILD) and pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), followed in European paediatric rheumatology centres were identified through a survey sent to the members of the MAS/sJIA Working Party.

**Results:** Data from 34 sJIA-LD patients, diagnosed in 15 European paediatric rheumatology centres between 2007 and 2022, were collected. 33 patients were Caucasian and 1 was African-American; 21 were female. The median age at sJIA onset was 6 years and LD occurred after Grant Joane of 2 years. 19 patients had a chronic persistent sJIA course, 14 had a polycyclic course and only 1 patient had a monocular course. 29 (85%) had active sJIA at time of LD diagnosis. During the disease course, 28 (82%) patients developed MAS, 12 (35%) of whom had MAS at sJIA onset and 19 (66%) had full-blown MAS at time of LD diagnosis; 23 (68%) patients had >1 MAS episode. 28 (82%) patients were treated with at least one IL-1 or IL-6 inhibitor before LD diagnosis: 15 with canakinumab, 24 with anakinra and 13 with tocilizumab; 13 (38%) patients experienced drug adverse reaction to a cytokine inhibitor: 9 to tocilizumab and 4 to anakinra. 24 (70%) patients developed ILD, 6 (18%) PAP and 4 (12%) PAH. 15 (44%) patients presented acute digital clubbing; 16 (47%) patients developed hypoxia and 9 (26%) developed pulmonary hypertension. A chest CT scan was performed in all patients with evidence of septal thickening, peri-bronchovascular thickening and ground glass opacities in the majority of patients (26, 18 and 18 respectively). In 17 patients a bronchoalveolar lavage was performed and 12 underwent a lung biopsy. The histopathological pattern was alveolar proteinosis in 5 patients, endogenous lipid pneumonia in 3, vasculitis in 1 and fibrosis in 1. Half of the patients (17) required ICU admission and 6 (18%) died. All the patients were treated with glucocorticoids (GCs) at time of diagnosis, and 26 received IL-1 or IL-6 inhibitor after the diagnosis (13 canakinumab, 20 anakinra, 14 tocilizumab).

**Conclusion:** Lung involvement is an emerging life-threatening complication of sJIA and patients are also diagnosed in Europe. Prompt recognition is crucial and new therapeutic strategies are needed to reduce the risk and improve the outcome of this complication.

**References:**

**Acknowledgements:** MAS/sJIA working party of Pediatric Rheumatology European Society.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Claudia Bracaglia Speakers bureau: SOBI, Novartis. Consultant of: SOBI, Francesca Minoia Consultant of: SOBI, christoph kessler Speakers bureau: SOBI, Consultant of: Novartis, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Sebastian Vastert: None declared, Manuela Pardeo Consultant of: SOBI, Alessia Arundini: None declared, Özge Basaran: None declared, Nural Kiper: None declared, Michela Kostik: None declared, Masa Glerup: None declared, Sarka Fingerhutova: None declared, Roberta Caorsi Consultant of: SOBI, Novartis, AnnaCarin Horne: None declared, Giovanni Filocamo Consultant of: SOBI, Helmut Wittkowsk: None declared, Marija Jelusic: None declared, Jordi Antion Speakers bureau: SOBI, Novimmune, Novartis, GSK, Pfizer, Consultant of: SOBI, Novimmune, Novartis, Pfizer, GSK, Grant/research support from: SOBI, Novimmune, Novaritis, Abbvie, Pfizer, GSK, Roche, Argen, Lilly, BMS, Sanofi, Samira Khalidi-Plaissart: None declared, alexandre belot Consultant of: SOBI, Novartis, Roche, Pfizer., Gerd Horneff Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Chugai, Lilly, Sanofi, Novartis, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: MSD, Novartis, Roche, Seraina Palmer Sarott: None declared, Elvira Cannizzaro: None declared, Pavla Doorzalova: None declared, Angelo Raveli: None declared, Seza Ozen Speakers bureau: SOBI, Novartis, Consultant of: SOBI, Novartis, Fabrizio De Benedetti Consultant of: Abbvie, SOBI, Novimmune, Novartis, Roche, Pfizer. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2242

**Efficacy and Safety of Secukinumab in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: Interim Results from the Extension of the Juniperata Trial**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Clinical Trials

N. Nuzhno2, I. Foeldvari1, E. Alexeeva1, N. Aktaa Ayaz3, G. Schulert4, S. Özer4, A. Popov4, A. Ramanan1, C. Scott1, B. Sozen1,15, E. Zholobova1, S. Chakraborty1, Z. Zhu4, R. Martin15, S. Wheelan15, S. Kaur4, Pricop5, D. J. Love11, A. Martin11, H. Brunner11, IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, UOSID Centro Trial, Genova, Italy; 2Hamburger Zentrum fuer Kinder und Jugendrheumatologie, Rheumatolog, Hamburg, Germany; 3National Scientific and Practical Center of Children's Health, Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 4Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Pediatric Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 5Cincinnati Children's Hospital, University of Cincinnati, US Department of Pediatrics, Cincinnati, OH, United States of America; 6Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 7Lowal Medical University Ekaterninburg, Rheumatology, Sverdlovsk, Russian Federation; 8Bristol Royal Hospital for Children & Translational Health Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom; 9Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, University of Cape Town, Paediatric Rheumatology, Cape Town, South Africa; 10University of Health Sciences, Unraniye Training and Research Hospital, Division of Pediatric Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 11First Moscow State Medical University, a.i.M. Stechenov, Moscow, Russian Federation; 12IQVIA, Durham, NC, United States of America; 13Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp., East Hanover, NJ, United States of America; 14Novartis Ireland Ltd, Immunology, Dublin, Ireland; 15Novartis Pharma AG, Immunology, Basel, Switzerland; 16Universita di Genova, Rheumatology, Genoa, Italy

**Background:** Secukinumab has demonstrated efficacy and safety in patients with enthesitis-related arthritis (ERA) and juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA) categories of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) for up to 2 years.[3] After completion of a 2-year core study (JUNIPERA), a long-term extension (LTE) study was conducted to evaluate the continued efficacy and safety of secukinumab.

**Objectives:** To report interim efficacy and safety results of the LTE study of secukinumab in patients with ERA and JPsA.

**Methods:** In the core study, a total of 86 patients (2 to <18 years of age) received secukinumab up to week 104. The open-label (OL) period [1] 4IA ACR30 responders at week 12 (n=75) were subsequently randomised to secukinumab (n=37) or placebo (n=38) up to week 100 in study period 2. Those who failed after randomisation (secukinumab, n=10; placebo, n=21) received OL secukinumb up to week 100.[1] A total of 54 out of 61 patients who had completed the core study consented to the LTE study and received secukinumab (n=37) placebo (n=18) up to year 4 years. Patients whose signs and symptoms were not fully controlled, as judged by the investigator in...
the LTE, could have dose escalation of their secukinumab dose from 75 mg to 150 mg or 150 mg to 300 mg. Median Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Scores (JADAS)-27 were presented up to week 156 for efficacy, and adverse events (AEs) and serious AEs were presented for the entire treatment period up to the cut-off date (maximum up to week 232).

**Results:** JADAS-27 in the core study and in the LTE are presented in the Table 1. A total of 19 patients had dose escalation in the LTE: 8 patients from 75 mg to 150 mg and 11 patients from 150 mg to 300 mg. The overall exposure-adjusted incidence rate per 100 patient-years (PY) of treatment-emergent AEs was 86.4 PY in the entire JIA population. The most commonly reported AEs (preferred term, safety set 5% cut off) were nasopharyngitis (n=9, 16.7%) and arthralgia (n=8, 14.8%). One major adverse cardiovascular event, not related to the study drug, and 2 cases of uveitis were reported. No cases of Crohn's disease or deaths were reported, and no patient discontinued treatment due to an AE.

**Conclusion:** With secukinumab treatment, the JADAS-27 inactive disease status was sustained from week 104 to week 156 in patients with JIA who had completed the 2-year core study and enrolled in the LTE study. Safety data were consistent with adult and paediatric indications, with no new or unexpected safety signals.

**REFERENCE:**

Figure 1. Relationship between disease duration from disease onset to starting of anakinra and rate of flare within the 24 months follow up after anakinra withdrawal.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Methods: All patients in the UK JIA Biologics Register starting a JAK inhibitor were identified. Patient characteristics are presented at the time of treatment start, including age, disease duration and prior bDMARDs. Patients were followed until their latest follow-up form was returned. Active joint count (AJC) was followed until their latest follow-up form was returned. Active joint count (AJC) was reported at start of therapy and after 6 months. Status at their last follow-up was reported including treatment persistence.

Results: As of 21-Nov-2022, 14 children and young people across most ILAR categories had been treated with a JAK inhibitor; 12 baricitinib, 2 tofacitinib (table 1). Median age at JAK inhibitor start was 16 years (interquartile range [IQR] 13-17) and median disease duration was 6 years (IQR 4-7). All patients had prior bDMARD exposure, with 12 out of the 14 having more than 2 prior bDMARDs (range 2-6). Ten patients had follow-up available after the start of JAK inhibitor (median 1.4 years of follow-up available; median 0.8 years on treatment available). At the latest follow-up, 6 patients remained on JAK inhibitor, whilst 4 patients had discontinued treatment for ineffectiveness. No venothromboembolism (VTE) have been reported. In eight patients who had disease activity data available at the start of treatment, median active AJC was 2 (IQR 0-4).

Conclusion: In this cohort, the initial patients with JIA prescribed JAK inhibitor have largely received these drugs prior to marketing authorisation in JIA, with most receiving it as a later stage biologic/targeted-synthetic DMARD. Most patients were still receiving treatment almost 11 months after starting a JAK inhibitor. These data suggest that JAK inhibitors could be a very effective treatment for children and young people with JIA, even after a high number of prior bDMARDs.

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REFERENCES: NIL.
Objectives: Our aim is to assess the safety of bsDMARD therapy in JIA.

Methods: Data was obtained from BIOBADASER, a multicenter prospective registry based on routine clinical practice. All patients diagnosed before age 16 in our database between 2000 and 2022 were included in the analysis. JIA is classified into 7 subgroups: systemic, persistent or extended oligoarthritis, RF positive polyarthritis, enthesitis-related arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and undifferentiated arthritis. Due to the registry design, it was not possible to identify each of the JIA subgroups; thus, we classified them into oligo/polyarticular JIA, JIA related to enthesitis, and psoriatic JIA. Adverse events were coded using version 13.0 MedDRA (Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities). Proportions, means and standard deviations (SD) were used to describe our population. Incidence rates (IR) of adverse events and 95% confidence intervals were calculated, and Poisson regression was used to estimate incidence rate ratios (IRR), adjusting by sex, diagnosis type, age at start of therapy (<16 years vs >16 years) and line of treatment as confounding variables. Data were analyzed with descriptive statistics. Categorical data were represented as absolute and percentage values, while continuous data were represented as means and standard deviations or medians and ranges. Data were checked for normality. For normally distributed data, appropriate parametric statistical tests were employed, for non normally distributed data, non-parametric statistical tests were employed. Comparison in the frequency of the psychological symptoms in presence/absence of pain, active, painful/tender or limited joints was assessed. Significant level was set at p<0.05. All statistical analyses were performed using R (version R 4.0.3).

Results: From a total of 313 patients, 130 (41.5%) use biosimilars therapies, 60.8% of which were women (n=79). Mean age at diagnosis was 11.2 years (SD=6.1) and mean age at the start of treatment was 25.1 (SD=13.4). Patients were classified as oligo/polyarticular JIA (79.2%), JIA related to enthesitis (16.2%) and psoriatic JIA (4.6%). Methotrexate was used in combination in 39.1% of the bsDMARD treatments. The most commonly used drug was Adalimumab (56.8%), followed by Etanercept (28.7%). Table 1 shows incidence rates for adverse events according to severity. For all adverse events, IR is greater in biosimilars compared to original biologic disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs), although the latter have a higher IR of serious adverse events. The IRR was 1.33 (95% CI 1.1-1.6), thus, the risk of adverse events was greater among bsDMARD compared to the original bDMARDs.

Conclusion: The risk of adverse events occurrence is higher among patients treated with bsDMARD drugs. Although this project allowed us to examine long-term biosimilars safety in JIA, large registries that focus on such patients are needed to better understand rare adverse events.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

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POS0283  EFFECT OF CUSTOMISED FOOT ORTHOSES ON PEAK PRESSURE AND PRESSURE TIME INTEGRALS IN CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: A RANDOMISED CLINICAL TRIAL

Keywords: Randomized control trial

1University of Newcastle, College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, Callaghan, Australia; 2Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick, Rheumatology, Randwick, Australia; 3Queen Margaret University, Podiatry, Edinburgh, United Kingdom; 4Hunter Medical Research Institute, Biostatistics, New Lambton Heights, Australia

Background: Children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) often exhibit joint symptoms in the lower limb. Prolonged joint disease may cause further physical and functional impairment, which can lead to significant disturbances in gait such as abnormal pressure distributions and sub-optimal peak plantar pressures [1-3]. Recent studies have shown that children with JIA compared to an age and sex matched cohort displayed significantly higher peak pressures (PP) in more distal parts of the plantar foot [2]. Research also showed that children with JIA are displaying elevated pressure time integrals (PTI), meaning they are spending higher amounts of elevated pressure time integrals (PTI), meaning they are spending higher amounts of joules on their feet.

Objectives: 1.To investigate the frequency of psychic symptoms in JIA patients at a single tertiary care center, including depressive, anxiety and alexithymic symptoms. 2.To investigate correlation between psychic symptoms and demographic and clinical parameters.

Methods: JIA patients aged 8-17 years and consecutively seen from March to November 2022 were invited to undergo psychological standardized tests: the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 items (PHQ9), self-administered measure of depressive symptoms; the Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD7) test; the Self-administered Psychiatric Scales for Children and Adolescents anxiety-related areas (SAFA-A), depression-related areas (SAFA-D) and somatic areas (SAFA-S); the PedsQL™ Multidimensional Fatigue Scale; PedsQL™ Rheumatology Module Pain and Hurt; the Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-20); the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) for pain intensity. Demographic data, clinical and laboratory parameters for disease assessment on the same visit were also recorded. Data were analyzed with descriptive statistics. Categorical data were represented as absolute and percentage values, while continuous data were represented as means and standard deviations or medians and ranges.

Results: Thirty-seven JIA patients were enrolled in the study: 64.9% were females, 38% with persistent oligoarthritis, 22% extended oligoarthritis and 40% polyarthritis, and 32% with chronic uveitis ever. Median age was of 12.6 years (IQR 9.5-15.3), with a median disease duration of 5.3 years (IQR 3.6-7.6). Respectively, 96% and 95% of patients were receiving csDMARDS and bDMARDS. All disease parameters showed very low level of disease activity and disability. PHQ9 and GAD7 were pathologic in 41% and 44%, respectively; borderline or clinically pathologic scores were found in 27%, 29%, and 13% for SAFA-D, SAFA-A, SAFA-S, respectively. Of note, TAS-20 was borderline or pathologic in 32% of patients. No psychic symptoms, demographic variables or clinical features showed an association with disease parameters. No significant differences were found between patients with and without pain on VAS, active joints, painful/tender or limited joints.

Conclusion: In a selected cohort of JIA patients on intensive treatment, low disease activity and few limited joints psychological parameters for depression and anxiety were detectable in a sizable proportion; a higher percentage of patients reported fatigue; alexithymia was even more frequent, regardless disease assessment variables. Our findings support the rationale for adopting routine psychological assessment and intervention in JIA patients, and for extending psychological investigations to their parents/guardians.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: Acknowledgements to Aurora Puccaco, HRP at the Rheumatology Division of the IRCCS Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital, for her logistic support during the study and for the care of JIA patients and families.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

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POS0284 PATIENTS WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS (JIA) ON INTENSIVE TREATMENT FREQUENTLY PRESENT ALEXITHMYA OVER FATIGUE, ANXIETY, AND DEPRESSION, DESPITE LOW DISEASE ASSESSMENT PARAMETERS

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life

1University of Newcastle, College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, Callaghan, Australia; 2Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick, Rheumatology, Randwick, Australia; 3Queen Margaret University, Podiatry, Edinburgh, United Kingdom; 4Hunter Medical Research Institute, Biostatistics, New Lambton Heights, Australia

Background: Children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) often exhibit joint symptoms in the lower limb. Prolonged joint disease may cause further physical and functional impairment, which can lead to significant disturbances in gait such as abnormal pressure distributions and sub-optimal peak plantar pressures [1-3]. Recent studies have shown that children with JIA compared to an age and sex matched cohort displayed significantly higher peak pressures (PP) in more distal parts of the plantar foot [2]. Research also showed that children with JIA are displaying elevated pressure time integrals (PTI), meaning they are spending higher amounts of...
of time in the stance phase of gait and less in the swing phase and thus a less propulsive gait [2]. To our knowledge only one previous clinical trial has explored the effect of a mechanical intervention such as foot orthoses (FOs) to improve the distribution of plantar pressures in children with JIA [4].

Objectives: The aim of our randomised clinical trial is to further evaluate the effect of customised prefabricated FOs in improving PTI and PP in children with JIA.

Methods: A multicentre, parallel design, single-blinded randomised clinical trial was used to assess the impact of customised prefabricated FOs on plantar pressures in children with JIA. Children with a diagnosis of JIA, showing lower limb symptoms and aged 5-18 were eligible. The trial group received a low density full-length, Slimflex Simple device which was customised chair side and the control group received a sham device. PP and PTI were used as the main gait outcomes and were measured using portable Tekscan gait analysis technology at baseline, 3 and 6 months. PP were measured using kilo pascals (kPa) and PTI measured kPa per seconds (kPa/s). Differences at each follow-up were assessed using the Wilcoxon rank sum test.

Results: A total of 66 participants were recruited. Customised prefabricated FOs were effective in altering plantar pressures in children with JIA versus a control device. Reductions of PP in the heel (baseline p=<0.001 (-104.33 kPa), 3-month p=0.004 (-126.16 kPa), forefoot (baseline p=0.027 (-69.5 kPa), 6-month p=0.016 (-50.91 kPa)) were statistically significant in favour of the trial group. These results were also positively correlated with PTI with the trial group spending less time and pressure on the heel, forefoot and rearfoot than the control. Finally, PP and PTI reductions were also associated with statistically significant increased midfoot contact with the trial device at baseline (29.84 kPa), 3 (24 kPa) and 6-month (43.75 kPa) data analyses, showing that the trial intervention was successful in capturing the benefits of participants and redistributing pressure. The trial intervention was safe and well accepted by participants, which is reflected in the high retention rate (92%).

Conclusion: Clinicians may prescribe customised prefabricated FOs in children with JIA to deflect pressure from painful joints and redistribute from high pressure areas such as the rearfoot and forefoot.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4026

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND DISEASE COURSE IN GERMAN PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY PATIENTS REPORTED TO BIKER

Keywords: COVID, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), bDMARD

A. Klein1,2, T. Hopsch2, E. Dreßler4, D. Windschaff5,6, M. Hufnagel2, W. Emminger2, S. Muruk2, P. Ruehmer2, A. Kühn3, P. Bismarck5, M. Halle3, G. Horneff1,2, 4

As part of the nationwide BIKER project, 928 COVID infections in 885 patients with rheumatic diseases could be analysed. JIA was the most common diagnosis with 717 infections, followed by persistent antinuclear antibodies (PANAs) infections, systemic autoimmune diseases (SADs), infections, idiopathic uveitis (n=25), vasculitis (n=5). In 374 reported COVID infections (40%), patients were receiving conventional DMARDs, in 331 (36%) biologics, mainly TNF inhibitors (TNFi, n=241 (26%)). In 567 reports (61%) patients used either a biologic or a DMARD, in 339 reports patients (37%) did not use any antineuritic medication including steroid. Over the last 3 months, COVID-19 occurred in Germany in 5 distinguishable waves, calendar weeks (CW) 10-30 in 2020, CW 21/2020 – 8/2021 (both predominantly wild-type variant), CW 9-27 in 2021 (Alpha variant in the majority of infections), CW 28-31 in 2021 (Delta variant), since CW 52/2021 (several Omikron variants; Robert-Koch Institute: VOC_VOI_Tabelle.xlsx; live.com) In our cohort, patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection were slightly older during the 1st and 2nd wave (mean age 12.7+/−3.5 and 12.8+/−4.3 years) compared to the 4th and 5th wave with 11.4+/−3.9 and 11.4+/−4.2 years; p=0.01. 160 asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections were reported, frequencies of symptoms associated with COVID-19 are shown in table 1. Five patients were hospitalized for 4-7 days. A 3½-year-old female patient succumbed during the first wave with encephalopathy and respiratory failure. The patient had been treated with MTX and steroids for systemic JIA. Genetic testing revealed a congenital immunodeficiency. No other patient needed ventilation or intensive care. One case of uncomplicated PIMS in an MTX treated JIA patient was reported. The duration of SARS-CoV-2 infection-associated symptoms was markedly shorter during the 5th wave with 6.7+/−5.1 days, compared with reports from the other 4 waves (Table1). The duration of symptoms was higher in MTX treated patients (10.2+−8.4 days) compared to patients without treatment (7.7+/−10.8; p=0.004) or patients treated with TNFi (8.2+/−4.8; p=0.002). Although patients treated with steroids also had a longer duration of symptoms (9.7+/−7.0), this was not significant.

Conclusion: Except for one patient with congenital immunodeficiency who died, no case of severe COVID-19 was reported in our cohort. At the time of infection, over 60% of patients had been treated with conventional DMARDs and/or biologics. Although MTX treated patients had a slightly longer duration of symptoms, antihemophilic treatment did not appear to have a negative impact on severity or outcome of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Table 1. Characteristics and frequency of symptoms in SARS-CoV-2 infections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>1st wave</th>
<th>2nd wave</th>
<th>3rd wave</th>
<th>4th wave</th>
<th>5th wave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N or mean (SD)</td>
<td>N=20</td>
<td>N=84</td>
<td>N=38</td>
<td>N=124</td>
<td>N=662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at COVID-19, years</td>
<td>12.7 (3.5)</td>
<td>12.8 (4.3)</td>
<td>11.8 (3.5)</td>
<td>11.4 (3.9)</td>
<td>11.4 (4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymptomatic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of symptoms, days</td>
<td>19.4 (14.7)</td>
<td>9.2 (7.0)</td>
<td>14.1 (11.6)</td>
<td>10.3 (7.8)</td>
<td>6.7 (5.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhinitis</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal pain</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of smell/taste</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal symptoms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyspnea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchitis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: Ariane Klein Speakers bureau: Novartis, Toni Hospach Speakers bureau: Speaking fee Novartis and SOBI., Frank Dressler Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Novartis, Pfizer, Advisory Boards Novartis and Mylan, Daniel Windschall Grant/research support from: research funds by Novartis, Roche, Pfizer, Abbvie, Markus Hufnagel: None declared, Wolfgang Emminger: None declared, Sonja Mrusek: None declared, Peggy Ruehmer: None declared, Alexander Kühn: None declared, Philipp Bismarck: None declared, Maria Haller: None declared, Gerd Horneff Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Roche, MSD, Sobi, GSK, Sanofi, AbbVie, Chugai, Bayer, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Roche, MSD, AbbVie, Chugai, Novartis.

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Table 1. Treatment performed in cohort of Childhood CNIU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>First course of Systemic treatment</th>
<th>Second course of systemic treatment</th>
<th>Third course of Systemic treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall (97)</td>
<td>Mtx (89)</td>
<td>ADA (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant therapy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mtx</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of administration median (IQR)</td>
<td>(2-10)</td>
<td>(2-9)</td>
<td>(3-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of therapy</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 (11.5)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement of remission on therapy</td>
<td>45/90</td>
<td>38/83</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>po.006 (91%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time for achievement remission</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5 (5-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N of pts who stop drug for persistent remission</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21 (38.5)</td>
<td>27/NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapse out of therapy</td>
<td>23 (65.5%)</td>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>1/2 NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>13 (56.5%)</td>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>1/2 NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time free from relapse out of therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List of abbreviations: ADA: adalimumab, MM: mycophenolate mofetil, Mtx methotrexate, IFN: infliximab, N number, IQR interquartile range, NS non significant.
Tofacitinib in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: First Year Experience

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Registries

G. Horneff1,2, D. Windschall3, B. Huegle4, R. Berendes5, H. Girschick6, A. Klein1,2, Sankt Augustin, General Paediatrics, Sankt Augustin, Germany;
1University of Cologne, Department of Paediatric and Adolescents Medicine, Cologne, Germany; 2St Josef Stift, Paediatric Rheumatology, Sendenhorst, Germany; 3Deutsches Zentrum Kinder- und Jugendrheumatologie, Paediatric Rheumatology, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany; 4Marlen Hospital, Paediatric Rheumatology, Rosenheim, Germany; 5Vivantes Clinic Berlin, General Paediatrics, Berlin, Germany

Background: Tofacitinib is an oral Janus kinase inhibitor recently approved for the treatment of polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA) and juvenile psoriatic arthritis (pPsA) aged 2 to <18 years. Data out of clinical practice so far are rare.

Objectives: To characterize JIA cohorts treated with tofacitinib and to evaluate efficacy and tolerance in clinical practice.

Methods: The German BIKER data base was screened for JIA patients aged 2 to <18 years who were started on tofacitinib until December 31st, 2021.

Results: Patient demographic and disease characteristics are presented in Table 1. Primary diagnoses were either polyarticular JIA rheumatoid factor positive (n=4) or negative (n=18), extended oligoarthritis (n=7), pPsA (n=2), ERA-JIA (n=2), persistent oligoarthritis (n=1) and systemic onset JIA (n=1). The patient's age varied from 6.9 to 18.0 years at start of treatment and the disease duration range was 2.3 – 16.6 years. In most cases, patients were extensively pretreated with biologics (mean 2.7). One patient had received 7 biologics, four each received 5 or 4 biologics, six received 3, ten received 2 and 8 received 1 biologic before. In a single case, tofacitinib was used directly after failure of methotrexate. Tofacitinib was administered orally BID in 35 JIA patients at a daily total dosage of 0.18 – 1.06 mg/kg. Tablets with dosages of 5 mg BID were used in 31 patients. Oral solution was used in 4 patients (up to 4 mg BID).

Table 1. Patient baseline demographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cohort (N=35)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight, kg Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib Dosage, mg/kg Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abatacept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adalimumab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anakinra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canakinumab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golimumab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secukinumab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tocilizumab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active joints mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician global mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat/Parent global mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADAS10 mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAQ-DI mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Efficacy targets at last observation in 17 patients (Ref.)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Gerd Horneff Speakers bureau: Novartis, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Roche, MSD, Daniel Windschall: None declared, Boris Huegle Speakers bureau: Novartis, Pfizer, Consultant of: Acragen, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Rainer Berendes: None declared, Hermann Girschick: None declared, Ariane Klein Speakers bureau: Pfizer.

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Background: Despite optimal treatment, lupus nephritis (LN) remains associated with irreversible kidney damage[1]. A better understanding of the mechanisms underlying LN pathogenesis is needed to develop better treatment targets. As part of the Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP), we discovered that urinary PR3, a myeloid degranulation product, correlated with histological activity implicating neutrophil/monocyte degranulation in proliferative LN, the most aggressive type[2]. PR3 is a serine protease that can mediate kidney damage. Mature neutrophils with classical polylobed nuclei are rare in LN kidney biopsies. However, recent evidence displayed how immature, degranulating myeloid cells have been implicated in the pathogenesis of LN[3], but their role in mediating kidney damage is not completely understood.

Objectives: To investigate PR3+ cells in LN kidney, their association with histopathological features, and define their immunophenotype.

Methods: We performed multiplexed histology using serial immunohistochemistry (sIHC)[4] on archival LN kidney biopsies to quantify the expression of PR3 and multiple cell lineage markers (20-plex). Image analysis including deconvolution, cell segmentation, glomerular annotation, and quantitative histology was performed using Indica HALO. The analysis was limited to renal cortex.

Results: A total of 11 patients with LN who underwent a clinically indicated kidney biopsy were enrolled: 6 (55%) with pure proliferative LN (ISN/RPS class III or IV) and 5 (45%) with pure membranous LN. PR3+ cells were identified in all LN biopsies (range 343-7625 per sample). Most PR3+ cells did not show a polylobed nucleus. The majority of PR3+ cells were in the tubulointerstitium (Figure 1A). However, accounting for the smaller glomerular area, there was a higher density of PR3+ cells in the glomeruli (Figure 1A-C). PR3+ cell abundance was higher in proliferative LN, especially in the glomeruli (Figure 1A-C). Glomerular PR3+ cell density very strongly correlated with histological activity measured by the NIH Activity Index (Pearson’s r=0.97, p<5x10^-9; Figure 1D). Preliminary serial IHC analysis showed that PR3+ cells coexpressed MPO and variably coexpressed CD66b and CD14, but not neutrophil elastase, CD3, or CD20.

Conclusion: PR3+ cells are abundant in LN. PR3+ cells are increased in proliferative LN and are strongly associated with histological activity thereby characterizing a more aggressive phenotype. This population densely infiltrated the glomeruli emphasizing a potential role in the endothelial pathogenic process. In preliminary analysis, kidney infiltrating PR3+ cells were not polymorphonuclear, and variably expressed CD14 suggesting a phenotype consistent with degranulating monocyte or an immature myeloid population. We previously showed the association between urinary PR3 and histological activity suggesting that intrarenal PR3+ cells are actively degranulating and therefore likely inducing kidney damage. These findings nominate PR3+ cells as a potential therapeutic target. Spatial transcriptomics and proteomic studies are ongoing to define the lineage and function of these cells.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

A. Fava1, C. Guthridge2, J. Khei3, C. Wagner4, M. Petri1, J. Buyon4, B. Diamond4, T. Accelerating Medicines Partnership in Ra/Sle5, J. Guthridge2, J. A. James3, J. Hopkins University, Division of Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma City, United States of America; New York University Division of Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Molecular Medicine and Medicine, Manhasset, United States of America; Multiple, Multiple, United States of America

Background: There is a pressing need to identify novel therapeutic approaches and noninvasive biomarkers in lupus nephritis (LN).

Objectives: In this study, we quantified serum soluble mediators in the large Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP) LN longitudinal cohort to identify novel biomarkers of histological features and treatment response and provide insights into the pathogenesis of LN.

Methods: SLE patients meeting ACR or SLICC criteria (n=268) undergoing a clinically indicated kidney biopsy with a urine protein/creatinine (UPCR) ≥0.5 were recruited for this study as part of the AMP. Serum samples were collected from patients at the time of diagnostic kidney biopsy and 3-, 6-, and 12-months post-biopsy and from 22 healthy donors (HD). Concentrations of 51 analytes, including cytokines, chemokines, and TNFR superfamily members, were analyzed by xMAP multiplex assays on the Bio-Rad BioPlex200 array system. TACE levels were determined by ELISA. Clinical response was determined at 12-months post-biopsy using the Abatacept and Cyclophosphamide Combination Efficacy and Safety Study definitions in patients with a baseline UPCR >1.0 and International Society of Nephrology/Renal Pathology Society class III, IV, V, or combination thereof.

Results: LN patients demonstrated heterogeneity in serum soluble mediator concentrations (Figure 1A). Most soluble mediators were elevated in LN patients compared to HD. Within LN, patients with proliferative LN (class III or IV) had higher serum levels of immune mediators, such as IFNα and IL-1β, compared to nonproliferative LN, including pure membranous (class V) LN. In addition, several serum immune mediators correlated with intrarenal LN activity (NIH Activity Index), with syndecan-1 (CD138) and TNF-RII exhibiting the highest correlation (Figure 1B). In contrast, stem cell factor (SCF) and TNF-R1 had the highest correlation with the chronicity index. In proliferative LN, the concentrations of many immune mediators declined in treatment responders. For example, syndecan-1 and TNF-R1 decreased in complete and partial responders but not in nonresponders (Figure 1C). In contrast, SCF levels remained relatively stable regardless of response status.
POSITIVELY TO THROMBOGENESIS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Biomarkers

M. Banuel Macedo1, J. Chapla1, T. Wang1, A. Bengtsson2, C. Lood1.
1University of Washington, Division of Rheumatology, Seattle, United States of America; 2Lund University, Division of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: Venous and arterial thrombotic events are leading causes of mortality in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), amounting to up to a quarter of deaths[1]. Other than traditional risk factors, SLE-specific factors, including chronic inflammation, have also been shown to contribute to thrombosis development. Nonetheless, the four times higher relative risk of thrombosis compared to healthy individuals is not fully accounted to the presence of conventional cardiovascular risk factors and antiphospholipid antibodies[1]. As such, novel biomarkers of thrombosis are needed in early identification and preventative management of SLE patients.

Objectives: To characterize novel antibodies directed against mitochondrial constituents and investigate their capacity to stratify patients based on thrombotic events.

Methods: Highly purified mitochondria were isolated from HepG2 cells (ATCC HB-8065TM) as previously described[2]. Briefly, cells were harvested and homogenized by a glass Douncer, followed by sequential centrifugation. Upon DNase-mediated removal of extracellular DNA, ultra-pure mitochondria (confirmed by flow cytometry, qPCR, and Western blot), labeled with Mito-Tracker, were incubated with sera (diluted 1:100) from SLE patients or healthy individuals. Binding of IgG to the mitochondrial outer membrane was detected using a secondary FITC-conjugated anti-human-IgG antibody, and analyzed by FACS. In some experiments, mitochondria were treated with trypsin (0.05%) prior to incubation with sera. Finally, reactivity towards mitochondrial protein lysate was confirmed using WB. Samples and clinical data from SLE patients (n=92) and healthy individuals (n=80) were provided from Division of Rheumatology, Lund University, Sweden. Statistical analyses were performed on SPSS 22.0. Mann-Whitney test was performed, with a p-value of 0.05 or below deemed as significant. Data protection and patient anonymization were ensured in accordance with regulation by Research Advisory Boards.

Results: Based on our novel flow cytometry assay, quantifying anti-mitochondrial antibodies (AMA) targeting the outer mitochondrial membrane, a large proportion (40.8%) of SLE patients were deemed positive for AMA using the 95th percentile of healthy controls as a cut-off. Presence of AMA was associated with severe SLE manifestations, including history of nephritis (OR = 3.3, p=0.02), anti-phospholipid syndrome (APS; OR = 5.7, p=0.02), and venous thromboembolism (OR = 6.7, p=0.008), the latter which was not seen in our cohort for isolated presence of anti-cardiolipin (aCL) antibodies (OR = 2.2, p=0.17), neither for lupus anticoagulant (OR 5.0, p=0.08) or anti-beta-2 glycoprotein 1 (OR 1.1, p=0.93). Pre-treatment of mitochondria with trypsin induced loss of binding of sera-derived antibodies (p=0.01), suggesting that AMA were targeting protein components of mitochondria, and not phospholipids, as is the case of aCL. WB confirmed presence of reactivity towards mitochondrial protein antigens, in particular of 35 and 60kDa, though reactivity towards other protein antigens, including 17kDa ones, were also seen in some patients, with the latter being associated with APS (p=0.008).

Conclusion: SLE patients positive for novel AMAs targeting mitochondrial outer membrane proteins develop severe lupus manifestations, including venous thromboembolism. Future studies are warranted to further characterize the novel antibodies, as well as determine their prognostic value.

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POS0291 IDENTIFICATION OF SUBSETS OF SLE PATIENTS RESPONSIVE TO IBERDOMIDE BY TRANSCRIPTOMIC ANALYSIS OF BASELINE SAMPLES

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical Trials

P. Bachalli1, Y. Hu2, N. Delev3, P. Schafer1, P. Lipsky1; 1JAMP El BioSolutions, Research and Development, Charlottesville, Virginia, United States of America; 2Bristol Myers Squibb, Research and Development, Princeton, United States of America; 3Bristol Myers Squibb, Research and Development, Princeton, United States of America

Background: Iberdomide is a high affinity cerebelin ligand that promotes ubiquitination and proteasomal degradation of Ikarios (IKZF1) and Aiolos (IKZF3) transcription factors and, thereby altering specific aspects of immune responsiveness. Iberdomide has been shown to be efficacious in a randomized controlled trial in patients with generalized SLE (NCT03161483) and to be specifically effective in patients with high baseline expression of the interferon gene signature (IGS)[1,2].

Objectives: The goal of this study was to identify subsets of SLE patients responsive to iberdomide more effectively by analyzing baseline gene expression profiles.

Methods: Baseline whole blood samples from 276 female SLE patients from the phase 2b iberdomide trial were utilized for this analysis. These patients had a >6 month history of SLE and disease activity determined by SLEDAI-2K >6. Patients were randomized to placebo, or one of three doses of iberdomide (0.15, 0.3 or 0.45mg per day). Clinical response was determined by the SLE Responder Index 4 (SRI-4) at 24 weeks. RNAseq was performed and analyzed by Gene Set Variation Analysis (GSVA) using 32 informative gene modules and K-means clustering.

Results: Whole blood K-means clustering of the GSVA scores yielded 5 clusters or endotypes (Figure 1). Cluster 0 had the fewest molecular abnormalities whereas Cluster 1 had the most disturbances in immune function, including enrichments in the interferon gene signature (IGS), immunoproteasome, IL-17 inflammasome pathway, and neutrophil/granulocyte genes. Clusters 2-3 had intermediate degrees of abnormal enrichment in specific gene modules. Cluster 4 had high IGS, immunoproteasome, plasma cells/Ig chains, and IL-23 complex genes. No differences were noted between the subsets with regard to steroid or hydroxychloroquine use and differed only slightly in disease activity as measured by SLEDAI-2K. In general, cluster 1 had the most severe clinical laboratory measures with the highest anti-dsDNA antibodies and lowest C3 and C4. Clinical responses to iberdomide were confined to clusters 1 and 4. Effect sizes of responses in these groups approximated 30%. Other clusters had higher placebo responses and no additional response to iberdomide.

Conclusion: K-means clustering of GSVA scores from baseline samples of the iberdomide trial successfully clustered patients into endotypes that exhibited differences in response to iberdomide treatment, with the greatest responses observed in patients with the highest IGS, immunoproteasome, plasma cell, inflammasome, and IL-23 pathways. Gene expression based subsetting (endotyping) may be useful to enrich trials for responsive patients.

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Figure 1. K-means clustering of GSVA scores from baseline gene expression profiles effectively identifies 5 subsets of SLE patients.

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POS0292

TRANSCRIPTOMIC PROFILING OF SJÖGRÉN’S SALIVARY GLANDS IDENTIFIES FOLLICULAR AND EXTRA-FOLLICULAR GENE SIGNATURES ASSOCIATED WITH RHEUMATOID FACTOR SERORESPONDENCY

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Sjögren syndrome


Background: The presence of circulating rheumatoid factor (RF) and the formation of ectopic lymphoid structures (ELS) in labial salivary glands (SG) of patients with Sjögren’s Syndrome (SS) have been reported as independent risk factors associated with the development of B-cell MALT lymphoma (MALTLF). Neoplastic MALTLF B-cells express highly hypermutated B-cell receptors bearing RF immunoactivity in up to 50% of the cases. In SS, RF production and proliferation is dependent on ELS or is also induced by extrafollicular responses in the SG is currently unclear. The definition of ELS and their association with circulating autoantibodies has so far relied on SG histopathology which bears significant limitations. Conversely, molecular pathology analysis through whole-tissue RNA Sequencing (RNaseq) has allowed a better definition of disease heterogeneity and disease taxonomy.

Objectives: To perform transcriptomic profiling of SS minor SG tissue characterised by different degrees of inflammatory aggregate organization and to identify transcriptomic clusters and gene signatures associated with peripheral and histological biomarkers of disease.

Methods: Labial SG were obtained from 99 patients including SS with and without ELS (respectively ELS+ and ELS-), as assessed by immunohistochemistry, and labial specific sialoadenitis (Sicca). Total RNA was extracted, complementary DNA libraries were prepared and sequenced. Differentially expressed genes (DEG), deconvolution and pathway analysis were performed.

Results: Unsupervised gene clustering by differential expression between sicca and SS confirmed a clear transcriptome segregation between the two diagnoses. As expected, in SS SG expression of genes associated with inflammation and adaptive immune responses was upregulated (e.g. CCR7, CD19, CR2, CXCL13, CXCL9, CXCR5, FCL3, FCL4, IL21R, MS4A1, PANX5, SLAMF6, TLR10 (Figure A)). Bulk RNaseq cell deconvolution confirmed immune cell enrichment (Th, B and plasma cells) in SS SG, especially those ELS+. A three-way comparison among sicca, ELS+ and ELS- SG, showed only a few genes specifically associated to ELS- and sicca, whereas most of the DEGs were either ELS+ specific or common to all SS (Figure B). Results of pathway analysis on ELS+ and SS-associated DEGs showed very similar profiles characterised by adaptive and interferon-associated pathway activation. Weighted Gene Co-Expression Network analysis showed higher activation of anti-viral pathways in ELS+ SG, where ELS+ SG were enriched in adaptive immune pathways. Principal component analysis on SS SG mRNA showed that a significant proportion of variability was associated with the presence of RF in the serum of patients independently of the presence of ELS. Surprisingly, transcriptome clustering was closer between ELS+/RF+ and ELS-/+RF+ SG than the clustering of ELS+/RF- with ELS-/RF- SG. Accordingly, SG of RF+ patients showed significant upregulation of B cell-associated genes (e.g. CXCL13, MS4A1), high RF immunoactivity in up to 50% of the cases. These were characterised by genes associated with germinal centre formation (e.g. IL21, AICDA, LTBI), transcriptomes from ELS+/RF+ SG displayed a unique set of DEGs such as BCL2, TRIM22, XAF1, DDX58, DDX60 and IFIT1. Conversely, a similar analysis performed based on anti-Ro/SSA and/or anti-La/SSB did not yield any significant differences in gene expression.

Conclusion: A comprehensive bulk RNA sequencing analysis of SS and sicca patients SG showed that higher tissue inflammation with features of functional germinal centres is associated to the presence of both RF and ELS, rather than ELS alone. Furthermore, the existence of a RF-driven SG transcriptome independent of the presence of ELS suggest that both follicular and extra-follicular responses support the selection of B-cells with RF immunoactivity within the SG of SS patients and could be involved in B-cell lymphomagenesis.

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References: NIL.
higher CV risk (elevated incidence of atheroma plaques, dyslipidemia, obesity, and hypertension). One hundred and forty-three metabolites were found deregulated between clusters. Thus, compared to C2, C1 had decreased athero-proective HDL and increased atherogenic VLDL and LDL lipoproteins, increased triglycerides, fatty acids, apolipoproteins (ApoB), glycosylation related metabolites (glucose and pyruvate), amino acids (Leu, Tyr, Val, Phe, ile), inflammation related metabolites (GlycA), and other lipids involved in immune cells activity, such as phosphatidylcholines, sphingomyelins, phosphoglycerides, and cholines. Of note, 2B metabolites were found altered in patients with thrombosis. Logistic regression analyses identified several metabolites which levels distinguished thrombotic APS patients with high accuracy, including VLDL and HDL subsets, fatty acids, amino acids, glucose and creatinine, all reportedly associated to enhanced CV risk. In vivo, Qred supplementation of APS patients partially reversed the altered serum metabolic profile linked to the development of athero-sclerosis and thrombosis.

Conclusion: 1) APS patients have a distinctive metabolic profile, with abnormalities associated with the pathogenesis of the disease, which are partially modified in vivo by Qred supplementation. 2) We have identified for the first time a metabolic biomarker able to stratify APS disease according to their thrombotic risk, which might pave the way for the development of new tools to improve their clinical management. Supported by ISCIII: (PI21/0591), and RICORS (RD21/0002/0033) co-financed by FEDER.

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POSO294 MITOCONDRIAL DYSFUNCTION AND SENESCENCE OF NAÏVE T CELLS IN SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Animal Models, Sjögren syndrome, Cell biology

P. Javorova1, J. Fessler2, C. Rammerstorfer2, M. Zeiler1, A. S. Muralikrishnan1, A. Lackner1, J. Hermann1, S. Zenz1, J. Thiel1, M. Stradner1. 1Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Graz, Austria; 2Otto Loewi Research Center for Vascular Biology, Immunology and Inflammation, Division of Immunology, Graz, Austria

Background: Primary Sjögren’s Syndrome (pSS) is a systemic autoimmune disorder characterized by lymphocytic infiltrations in exocrine glands. T-cells are considered major players in the pathogenesis of pSS. Previously, we reported premature aging and impaired homeostatic proliferation of pSS naïve CD4+ T-cells leading to peripheral lymphopenia [1]. Id3-deficient mice (Id3KO) develop a Sjögren’s-like syndrome and are used as an animal model for pSS [2]. Objectives: As mitochondrial function has been linked to premature aging and homeostasis of T cells, we assessed the mitochondrial status of T cells in pSS patients and the Id3KO mouse model of pSS.

Methods: Total immune cells were isolated from venous blood, lymph nodes and the spleens of Id3KO and wild type (WT) mice. Flow cytometric analysis was performed to characterize markers of cellular senescence p53, senescence-associated β-galactosidase (SA-β-GAL), and apoptotic rate in T-cell subsets. Staining with mitochondrion-selective fluorescent dyes MitoTracker Green, MitoTracker Deep Red, MitoSox Red was performed to assess mitochondrial mass, membrane potential (MtMP) and superoxide production, respectively. Similar analyses were performed on human T-cells from peripheral blood mononuclear cells of pSS patients and matched healthy individuals (HC).

Results: Similar to pSS patients, Id3KO mice show signs of pre-mature aging. The naïve cell compartment in CD4+ and CD8+ T-cells was significantly decreased in all studied tissues when compared to WT mice. Markers of cellular senescence p53 and SA-β-GAL activity were increased in naïve CD4+ and CD8+ T cells. Apoptotic rate was also higher in Id3 KO T-cells. ID3 KO T-cells also exhibited a remarkable decrease of mitochondrial mass and MtMP. Despite having reduced mitochondrial mass and MtMP, we observed that ID3-deficient T-cells produced a higher amount of mitochondrial superoxide compared to WT mice. Again, naïve CD4+ T-cells were most affected by this increase. In line with our findings in ID3 KO mice, naïve CD4+ and CD8+ T-cells isolated from pSS patients produced significantly higher amounts of mitochondrial superoxide than those of HC.

Conclusion: In human pSS and mice with a pSS phenotype, naïve T cells are diminished, and signs of pre-mature aging associated with significant accumulation of mitochondrial superoxide. ID3 KO mice may serve as a tool to test whether these changes are cause or consequence of pSS pathophysiology.

REFERENCES:


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POSO295 CD4+ T CELLS DEMONSTRATE METABOLIC REPROGRAMMING CHARACTERISED BY INCREASED REACTIVE OXYGEN SPECIES FORMATION AND ENHANCED ATP GENERATION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Autoimmune immunity

C. Wincup1, M. Wilkinson3, A. Radziszewsk3a, G. Robinson4, A. Rahman1. 1University College London, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2King’s College Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 3UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, Immunology and Rheumatology Section, London, United Kingdom; 4University College London, Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is characterised by chronic stimulation of the innate and adaptive immune response. Oxidative stress resulting from Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) generation is another hallmark of the disease. Mitochondria are a primary source of ROS and play a key role in energy metabolism via Oxidative Phosphorylation (OXPHOS), a vital pathway in maintaining the aberrant immunological response seen in the disease. Currently a number of novel therapeutics focusing on abnormal mitochondrial energy metabolism are under investigation in a variety of autoimmune diseases. Understanding abnormal immune cell mitochondrial function therefore represents an important area for identifying potential future targets in the treatment of SLE.

Objectives: To assess for evidence of abnormal mitochondrial function and associated ROS generation in the adaptive immune response in SLE.

Methods: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated from whole blood collected from patients with SLE recruited from the UCLH Lupus Clinic, England (n=37) and age/sex matched healthy controls (HC, n=20). Flow cytometry was used to quantify mitochondrial superoxide intensity (MFI) of cellular mitochondria (mitoTracker) and mitochondria derived ROS generation (MitoSOX) in CD4+ and CD8+ T cells plus CD19+ B cells. Real-time CD4+ T cell mitochondrial metabolic function was assessed using SeaHorse Respirometry. MitoStress Test. To assess for the role of cellular activation in CD4+ T cells, 24-hour anti-CD3/CD28 stimulation culture was conducted.

Results: Results are outlined in Figure 1. Briefly, mitochondrial mass was significantly higher in SLE CD4+ and CD19+ cells when compared with HC (A). CD8+ cells derived from patients with SLE showed higher amounts of mitochondrial ROS generation (B). When correcting for mitochondrial mass, individual mitochondria-derived ROS generation was significantly higher in CD4, CD8 and CD19+ cells in SLE when compared with HC (C). Seahorse Respirometry revealed basal CD4+ respiration was higher in SLE when compared with HC (D), although there was no significant difference in maximal mitochondrial respiratory capacity (E). Proton leak, a marker of mitochondrial damage, was significantly higher in SLE than HC (F). CD4+ T cells from patients with SLE also showed enhanced mitochondrial ATP production when compared with HC (G), although spare respiratory capacity was significantly reduced in SLE (H) suggesting that mitochondrial function in the disease is close to maximum with little scope for further upregulation. Mitochondrial uncoupling efficacy is an important mechanism through which higher rates of OXPHOS can be achieved and this appears to be downregulated in SLE (I). Activation of SLE CD4+ T cells appeared to drive higher rates of ROS production in both CD4+ and CD8+ cells (J). Interestingly, CD19+ ROS production was also increased, suggesting that T cell secreted cytokines following activation may also induce B cell ROS generation. Stimulation of SLE CD4+ T cells additionally reduced basal mitochondrial respiration when compared with unstimulated SLE CD4+ T cells (K).

Conclusion: Increased mitochondrial mass seen in CD4+ and CD19+ SLE cells could be a result of enhanced immune cell senescence, commonly observed in the state of chronic immune activation. At baseline, SLE derived CD4+ T cells were noted to generate ATP through OXPHOS at a higher rate than HC thus suggesting chronic cellular hyperactivation (and is further enhanced following T cell stimulation). CD4+ T cells also demonstrate a number of important pathological abnormalities in SLE, including high levels of proton leak, reduced spare respiratory capacity and lower ability for mitochondrial uncoupling. This may suggest that chronic activation is in turn resulting in mitochondrial damage and less efficient energy metabolism, resulting in ROS generation. Targeting this abnormal immune cell metabolic pathway therefore represents a novel therapeutic strategy.
Keywords: Clinical Trials, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

K. Thomas1, 2, M. Smith1, C. Guthridge1, N. Dominguez3, S. Macwana1, W. Dejager1, P. Schafer3, S. Kamp1, A. Thanou1, C. Arriens1, J. Merrill1, J. Monroy-Trujillo11, P. Izmirly12, H. M. Belmont12, A. Davidson7, D. Goldman1, A. I. Celia1, 2, J. Hodging3, D. Demeke3, A. Rosenberg4, L. Magder5, J. Buyon6, A. James1, 2, J. Guthridge1, 2.

Methods: Samples were obtained from 20 patients from the ABC study which evaluated ABA in SLE patients without organ-threatening disease on limited background medications and 46 patients from the ACCESS trial of ABA in active nephritis patients on a background of low dose cyclophosphamide followed by azathioprine. Neither trial met their key endpoints vs placebo. Pre-treatment gene expression profiles were compared in those who did or did not achieve clinical response to ABA. HSIC-Lasso[3] was employed to select the top 20 independent features associated with the histological features quantified by the NIH activity and chronicity indices.

Results: Pre-treatment DEGs associated with abatacept responders were cell type-specific, with the most distinctions observed in B cells (Figure 1). These DEGs included FCRLA, CXC3R1, and TNRFSF17, indicating baseline differences in B cell activation and differentiation in responding patients. Baseline whole blood expression patterns could distinguish later response vs non-response to ABA in both clinical trials (Figure 1). Transcripts identified by HSIC-Lasso included multiple unannotated IncRNAs and pseudogenes, as well as transcription factors, transporters, and enzymatic components of cell structure and metabolism. Random forest modeling and receiver operating characteristics (ROC) were employed to test the ability of differentiating transcripts to predict response (Figure 1). 5-fold cross validation of the predictor on a training set of 52 samples had 85.8% accuracy with ROC AUC: 0.939 (p = 0.0166). 14 confirmation samples were similarly modeled and achieved an accuracy of 83.3% with ROC AUC: 0.944.

Conclusion: The pathophysiology of SLE is heterogeneous and complex, but approaches to predict treatment response by patterns of gene expression may help identify patients most likely to benefit from a given treatment.

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Figure 1. Pre-treatment transcriptomic profiles distinguish ABA responders from non-responders. (A) Venn diagram indicating DEGs shared between cell types in ABA responders and non-responders from ABC. Significance was determined at false discovery rate < 0.1. (B) Heatmap of whole blood transcripts selected by HSIC-Lasso across both trials. Batch-corrected, variance stabilized transformed counts were normalized to z-scores for visualization. Transcripts were clustered hierarchically. (C) ROC curves of a random forest predictor modeled on the selected transcripts in B for a training set of 52 patients and a testing set of 14 patients.

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**Results:**

Ninety-one biopsies were included: 32 (35%) with pure proliferative LN, 33 (36%) with pure membranous LN, and 26 (29%) with mixed LN. The 5 most correlated urinary proteins and each pathologic feature are summarized in Figure 1A-B. Most lesions in the activity or chronicity indices shared a similar signature within their respective index. In contrast, fibrosic crescents displayed an inflammatory signature (CD73, MMP9, MIP1b, and IL-8) despite being part of the NIH chronicity index. Hierarchical clustering based on proteomic signatures revealed that fibrosic crescents were more similar to activity-related lesions (Figure 1C). Intestinal inflammation (activity) was correlated with biomarkers associated with both active and chronic lesions.

**Conclusion:** Although fibrosic crescents are considered inactive lesions that follow crescentic glomerulonephritis, urine proteomics revealed inflammatory activity associated with fibrosic crescents. Several cell types such as macrophages, fibroblasts, neutrophils, lymphocytes, and epithelial cells are critical in the formation of crescents. Higher levels of CD73, IL-8, and MMP9 indicate the presence of an inflammatory response involved in glomerular remodeling after extra-capillary proliferation that have an important role in kidney damage. The presence of fibrosic crescents in kidney biopsies may indicate ongoing potentially treatable inflammation. Intestinal inflammation, which is linked to worse clinical outcomes, showed a distinct proteomic signature combining both activity and chronicity. A better understanding of the pathophysiology of processes including fibrosic crescents and intestinal inflammation is needed to tailor treatment of these pathways leading to chronic damage.

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Spondyloarthritis

**Clinical aspects of spondyloarthritis**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Spondyloarthritis

- M. Garrido-Cumbra 1,2, D. Poddubnyy 3,4, F. Sommerleck 5, C. Bundy 6, S. Makri 7, J. Correa-Fernández 2, S. M. Akkeran 8, J. Lowe 9, E. Karam 10, L. Christen 11, V. Navarro-Compán 12, 1 Universidad de Sevilla, Health & Territory Research (HTR), Seville, Spain; 2 Spanish Federation of Spondyloarthritis Associations (CEADE), Patient Advocacy, Madrid, Spain; 3 Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Rheumatology Department, Berlin, Germany; 4 German Rheumatism Research Centre, Rheumatology Department, Berlin, Germany; 5 Sanatorio Julio Mendez, Rheumatology Department, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 6 Cardiff University, School of Healthcare Sciences, Cardiff, United Kingdom; 7 Cyprus League for People with Rheumatism (CYLPER), Patient Advocacy, Nicosia, Cyprus; 8 Mumbai Arthritis Clinic, Rheumatology Department, Mumbai, India; 9 Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation (ASIF), Patient Advocacy, London, United Kingdom; 10 Canadian Spondyloarthritis Association (CSA), Patient Advocacy, Toronto, Canada; 11 Novartis Pharma AG, Patient Engagement, Basel, Switzerland; 12 IdiPaz, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Rheumatology Department, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** The International Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (IMAS) is a global assessment of the impact and burden of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) from the patient perspective, and identifying the unmet needs of axSpA patients through a survey. This research started in 2016 with the Atlas of Axial Spondyloarthritis in Spain, expanded in 2017-2018 to 13 European countries giving rise to the European Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (EMAS) and further expanding worldwide across 27 countries to become the International Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (IMAS).

**Objectives:** Here we present the scope of the study, distribution and main characteristics of patients included and instruments to collect data, as well as highlighting the impact of the disease.

**Methods:** This research is a collaboration between the Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation (ASIF), the University of Seville and Novartis Pharma AG together with a scientific committee composed of axSpA patient representatives, rheumatologists, psychologists, and researchers. IMAS collected information through an online cross-sectional survey (2017-2022) from unselected axSpA patients from Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America and Africa. The inclusion criteria were: age ≥ 18 years, residents in the specified country, a diagnosis of axSpA (self-reported AS/nr-axSpA) and under the care of an health care professional. Patients completed a comprehensive questionnaire containing over 120 items on socio-demographics, health behaviours, diagnosis and disease characteristics, comorbidities, mental health, resource utilization, pharmacological treatments, disease activity (BASDAI), physical activity and functioning, employment, and disease related fears and hopes.

**Results:** 5,557 axSpA patients participated in IMAS. The mean age was 43.9 ± 12.8 years, 55.4% were women, 46.2% had university education and 48.5% were employed. 20.6% were on sick leave (temporary or permanent). 71.4% had difficulty finding a job due to axSpA and 71.0% reported work-related issues. Patients’ diagnostic delay was a mean of 7.4 ± 9.0 years (median: 4.0), and the mean disease duration was 17.1 ± 13.3 years. 75.0% of patients had active disease and 59.4% were at risk of poor mental health. In addition, patients had a mean of 2 physical comorbidities. On average, patients had visited primary care physicians 4.6 times and the rheumatologist 3.6 times in the year prior to the survey. 78.6% had ever taken NSAIDs, 43.6% csDMARDs and 48.8% bDMARDs. 33% had ever smoked, 48.5% were employed. 20.6% were on sick leave (temporary or permanent). The percentage of patients who have been on sick leave in the previous year was 48.5%.

**Conclusion:** IMAS is the largest survey in geographical reach and this is the first-time global results are presented. IMAS has shown the global profile of axSpA patients, highlighting unmet needs, including unacceptable delays in diagnosis, and high burden of the disease in axSpA patients worldwide. This global dataset will enable more detailed investigations to obtain evidence on the critical issues that matter to patients around the world in order to improve their care and quality of life.

**Map 1. Distribution of IMAS patients by region (N= 5,557)**

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POS0299  NEUROPATHIC AND NEUROPLASTIC PAIN COMPONENTS DETERMINE THE PRESENCE OF RESIDUAL SYMPTOMS IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS RECEIVING BIOLOGICAL DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Pain, bDMARD

F. Al Mohamad1, V. Rios Rodriguez1, H. Hainebel1, M. Protopopov1, J. Radmacsher1,2, J. Sieper1, M. Torgutalp1, H. Käding1, F. Prohl2, D. Poddubnyy1,3,3. Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Gastroenterology, Infectious Diseases and Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; * Berlin Institute of Health (BiH), Clinician Scientist Program, Berlin, Germany; 2 German Rheumatism Research Centre, Epidemiology Unit, Berlin, Germany

Background: Several studies have investigated neuropathic pain (NP) as a component of chronic pain in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA)/ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and showed a wide frequency range from 22 – 56.9% [1, 2]. Neuroplastic processes leading to central sensitization have been described as another component of pain chronification in rheumatic diseases [3]. Wide-spread pain is considered a characteristic of central sensitization [4]. It is, however, unclear, what is the relevance of neuropathic and neuroplastic components of pain for the treatment response and the presence of residual symptoms in patients with radiographic axSpA (r-axSpA) treated with biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs)

Objectives: To investigate the impact of neuropathic pain and neuroplastic widespread pain on residual disease activity in patients with r-axSpA receiving bDMARDs.

Methods: Patients with r-axSpA (AS fulfilling the modified New York criteria) and starting a bDMARD therapy were recruited between 2015 and 2019 and followed up in an extension of the prospective German Spondyloarthritides Inception Cohort (GESPIC). Neuropathic pain was quantified using the pain detect questionnaire (PD), whereas neuroplastic pain was quantified using the Widespread Pain Index (WPI).

Results: A total of 130 patients with r-axSpA were included in this cohort. PD and WPI scores were available at least one follow-up time-point in 99 patients. Of these, 70 were receiving bDMARD treatment (n=68 under TNFi and n=2 under IL17 inhibitors) with no missing data and could be included in this analysis. The first follow-up point with available PD and WPI scores while under bDMARD treatment was used for the analysis.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>n = 70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>49(70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>37.27±10.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive</td>
<td>54(77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index, BMI, kg/m²</td>
<td>25.7±4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smokers</td>
<td>28(40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, years</td>
<td>12.5±10.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP, &gt;5mg/l</td>
<td>43(61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>3.41±0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>current NSAIDs intake</td>
<td>56(80)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*defined as ASDAS-CRP score higher than 2.1 or lower respectively, PD: pain detect, WPI: Widespread Pain Index, CRP: C-reactive protein, NSAIDs: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, BMI: Body mass index, ASDAS-CRP: Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score – C-reactive protein

Conclusion: Both PD and WPI reflecting neuropathic and neuroplastic components of pain showed association with residual symptoms (as reflected by higher ASDAS) independent of systemic inflammation (as reflected by elevated CRP) in patients with r-axSpA receiving bDMARD treatment.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Fares Al Mohamad: None declared, Valerie Rios Rodriguez: AbbVie, Falk e.V., Hildrun Haibel Paid instructor for: Boehringer, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Ville, AbbVie, and Sobi, Mikhail Protopopov Consultant of: Novartis, Judith Radmacsher Consultant of: Novartis and UCB, Joachim Sieper Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, UCB, Murat Torgutalp: None declared, Henriette Käding: None declared, Fabian Prohl Speakers bureau: AMGEN, AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB. Consultant of: AbbVie, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer Inc and UCB. Consultant of: AbbVie, BIOCAD, Gilead Sciences, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer Inc, Samsung Bioepis and UCB. Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis and Pfizer.

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POS0300  PATIENT ACCEPTABLE SYMPTOM STATE IN RELATION TO DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS FROM A LARGE STANDARD-OF-CARE COHORT

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures, Spondyloarthritis

M. Carbo1, A. Kampman2, D. Paap1, F. Wink1, A. Spoorenberg1, S. Arends1, 1University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2Leeuwarden, Department of Rheumatology, Leeuwarden, Netherlands

Background: The patient acceptable symptom state (PASS) is the level beyond which patients consider themselves well. This concept can help to interpret results of clinical trials and enhance physician-patient communication in daily clinical practice. (1)

Figure: Association between the ASDAS-CRP score at follow-up (A) and ASDAS high/very high disease activity at follow-up (B) with the presence of neuropathic (PD) and neuroplastic (WPI) symptoms in multiple regression analyses.

Data are expressed as n(%) or mean ± standard deviation, BMI: Body mass index, CRP: C-reactive protein, ASDAS-CRP: Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score – C-reactive protein, NSAIDs: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. The mean (sD) bDMARD treatment duration was 2.79 ± 1.40 years (range: 0.27 – 5.01) years at the time point of PD and WPI measurement. Higher PD and WPI scores at follow up showed a significant association with higher ASDAS-CRP scores in a multiple linear regression model. This was also true for age, HLA-B27 and the CRP level at follow-up. Logistic regression analysis showed that a high PD score and a high WPI score were also associated with higher odds of having high/very high disease activity (ASDAS ≥2.1) independently of other factors including elevated CRP.

Acknowledgements: The GESPIC-AS cohort is partially financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung - BMBF)

Disclosure of Interests: Fares Al Mohamad: None declared, Valerie Rios Rodriguez: AbbVie, Falk e.V., Hildrun Haibel Paid instructor for: Boehringer, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Roche, Pfizer, AbbVie, and Sobi, Mikhail Protopopov Consultant of: Novartis, Judith Radmacsher Consultant of: Novartis and UCB, Joachim Sieper Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, UCB, Murat Torgutalp: None declared, Henriette Käding: None declared, Fabian Prohl Speakers bureau: AMGEN, AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Novartis, Pfizer Inc and UCB. Consultant of: AbbVie, BIOCAD, Gilead Sciences, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer Inc, Samsung Bioepis and UCB. Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis and Pfizer.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4001
Objectives: To explore the association of PASS with disease activity according to ASDAS and other patient- and disease characteristics in a large standar-of-care cohort of patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

Methods: Patients from the Groningen Leeuwarden Axial Spondyloarthritis (GLAS) cohort visiting the outpatient clinic between May 2016 and October 2019 were included in this cross-sectional analysis. Patient characteristics and clinical assessments were measured according to the standardized GLAS protocol. Additionally, patients were asked to fill out the PASS question: “Considering all the different ways axSpA is affecting you and if you stay in this state for the next months, do you consider your current state satisfactory? (yes: PASS/no: non-PASS). Logistic regression analysis was used to explore patient and disease characteristics associated with PASS. ROC analysis with area under the curve (AUC) was used to analyze the accuracy of the ASDAS and the optimal cut-off point to predict PASS according to the highest Youden’s index.

Results: Of the 673 included axSpA patients, 63% were male, mean was age 48±14 years, median symptom duration 19 (11-31) years and mean ASDAS 2.3 (±0.9). In total, the vast majority (76%) reported an acceptable symptom state according to the PASS question. Patients in the PASS group had significantly lower ASDAS compared to the non-PASS group (mean 2.0 ±0.8 vs. 3.2 ±0.8). Patients with an acceptable symptom state also had significantly lower BASDAI scores, were more often male, had longer symptom duration, had less tender entheses, used less often NSAIDs, experienced better physical function (BASFI) and quality of life (ASOQL), and had less radiographic damage (mSASSS) (Table 1). In multivariable regression analysis, lower ASDAS (OR 4.45 (3.26-6.09)), longer symptom duration (OR 0.97 (0.95-0.99)) and absence of tender enthesis (OR 1.74 (1.85-2.79)) were independently associated with presence of PASS (Nagelkerke R²: 0.38). The ASDAS showed good accuracy to predict PASS, with an AUC of 0.84 (95% CI 0.80-0.85). The optimal cut-off point of ASDAS for presence of PASS was 2.7 (sensitivity 77%, specificity 78%). A total of 214 patients had an acceptable symptom state but active disease according to the ASDAS cut-off value for active disease of 2.1, this is 44% of patients being in PASS.

Conclusion: In axSpA patients from a standard of care cohort, 76% had an acceptable symptom state. Lower ASDAS, longer symptom duration, and absence of tender entheses were independently associated with an acceptable symptom state. AxSpA patients experiencing an acceptable symptom state can still have active disease according to the ASDAS.

Table 1. Patient characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>PASS</th>
<th>Non-PASS</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=673</td>
<td>n=514 (76%)</td>
<td>n=159 (24%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>48 (14)</td>
<td>49 (±13)</td>
<td>45 (±14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male gender</td>
<td>425 (63%)</td>
<td>336 (65%)</td>
<td>89 (56%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration (years)</td>
<td>19 (11-31)</td>
<td>20 (12-31)</td>
<td>15 (729)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA B27</td>
<td>539 (78%)</td>
<td>405 (79%)</td>
<td>126 (79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis: -rr-axSpA</td>
<td>166 (27%)</td>
<td>112 (23%)</td>
<td>53 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>462 (73%)</td>
<td>359 (70%)</td>
<td>93 (64%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMJ</td>
<td>26.6 (23.7-29.9)</td>
<td>26.6 (23.0-29.7)</td>
<td>27.1 (23.9-30.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>2.3 (±0.9)</td>
<td>2.0 (±0.8)</td>
<td>3.2 (±0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS ≥2.1</td>
<td>350 (55%)</td>
<td>214 (44%)</td>
<td>136 (91%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>2 (0-6)</td>
<td>2 (0-6)</td>
<td>3 (2-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI (0-10)</td>
<td>3.7 (2.0-5.6)</td>
<td>2.9 (1.6-4.8)</td>
<td>2.9 (1.6-4.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of tender entheses</td>
<td>245 (38%)</td>
<td>152 (31%)</td>
<td>93 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSASSS (0-72)</td>
<td>6.3 (15.8-18.2)</td>
<td>6.8 (1-7-18)</td>
<td>4.1 (1.6-10.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAID use</td>
<td>411 (61%)</td>
<td>301 (59%)</td>
<td>110 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs use</td>
<td>51 (8%)</td>
<td>36 (7%)</td>
<td>15 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs use</td>
<td>309 (46%)</td>
<td>231 (45%)</td>
<td>78 (48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASOQL (0-18)</td>
<td>5.0 (2.0-9.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (1.0-7.0)</td>
<td>10.0 (1.0-13.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data presented as number of patients (%), mean ± SD or median (IQR).. *p-value ≤ 0.05.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.
Background: Studies have reported that female patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) have different disease courses and treatment responses compared to male patients. Whether patients' sex, the biological attributes associated with being male or female, is associated with a different outcome after receiving one-year of tight control, treat-to-target (T2T) strategy remain uncertain.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the differences in the clinical response between male and female patients from the Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR) Registry.

Methods: Patients who fulfilled the CASPAR 2006 classification criteria for psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and 2009 ASAS classification for axial spondylitis (AxSpA) were recruited. They received 1 year of protocolized treatment aiming at 1) minimal disease activity (MDA) or Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA) low disease activity (LDA) for PsA patients, and 2) Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) LDA for AxSpA patients. Patients were assessed every 3 month and treatment was escalated if target was not reached.

Results: 63 male (age: 45±15 years, 27 PsA, 36 AxSpA) and 36 female (age: 46±12 years, 22 PsA, 14 AxSpA) subjects from 6 Asia-Pacific regions were included. At baseline, male had more tender joints but less severe enthesitis than female. Male AxSpA patients had lower Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) while male PsA patients had a higher DAPSA. Other baseline characteristics were shown in Table 1. During the study period, the use of conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) decreased slightly, while the use of biologics (bDMARDs) significantly increased across both sexes (Figure 1). After 1-year treatment, there were significant improvements in disease activity in the entire cohort (DAPSA: 15.3±11.6 at baseline vs 10.1±11.2 at 1-year, p<0.003; ASDAS: 2.4±1.0 at baseline vs 1.9±0.9 at 1-year, p=0.003). Despite having lower CRP levels (2.3 ± 2.5mg/L in female vs 8.7±17.7mg/L in male, p=0.003) and higher bDMARDs use in female patients (54% in female vs 45% in male) at 1-year, there were no significant differences in clinical responses between male and female patients. Male patients had a higher patients' global assessment score (3.9±2.4 in female vs 4.3±2.2 in male, p=0.014). Both patients' and physicians' global assessment scores improved significantly across both sexes (Figure 1) and female patients had a higher ASDAS change (% change in DAPSA: -47% in male vs +19% in female, p<0.003; % change in tender joint count: -70% in male vs +19% in female, p=0.003). Despite having lower CRP levels (2.3 ± 2.5mg/L in female vs 8.7±17.7mg/L in male, p=0.003) and higher bDMARDs use in female patients (54% in female vs 45% in male) at 1-year, their clinical responses were less optimal compared to male patients. Female patients had a higher patients' global assessment score (3.9±2.4 in female vs 3.5±2.3 in male, p=0.035). Disease activity in female PsA patients and the number of tender joint count in both PsA and AxSpA increased while that in male patients improved (% change in DAPSA: -47% in male vs +19% in female, p=0.003; % change in tender joint count: -70% in male vs +19% in female, p=0.014). Both patients' and physicians' global assessment scores increased in female PsA patients whilst that in male PsA patients decreased. There was a trend showing less improvement in other parameters in female patients (Figure 1).

Table 1. Demographics, clinical features and disease activity in patients with Spondyloarthritis in APLAR region at baseline, stratified by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male (n=63)</th>
<th>Female (n=36)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>45 ± 15</td>
<td>46 ± 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of sacroiliac in Xray1</td>
<td>35 ± 27%</td>
<td>8 ± 57%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS Patients' pain assessment, 0-10</td>
<td>3.9 ± 2.2</td>
<td>4.3 ± 2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS Patients' global assessment, 0-10</td>
<td>3.9 ± 2.3</td>
<td>4.3 ± 2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS Patient's assessment in low, 0-10</td>
<td>3.5 ± 2.3</td>
<td>3.4 ± 2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJ count, 0-68</td>
<td>2.8 ± 5.3</td>
<td>1.0 ± 1.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJ count, 0-66</td>
<td>1.5 ± 3.4</td>
<td>0.7 ± 1.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis digits</td>
<td>0.3 ± 1.4</td>
<td>0.1 ± 0.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA2</td>
<td>3.56 ± 8.54</td>
<td>1.68 ± 2.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRACC, 0-15</td>
<td>0 ± 1</td>
<td>1 ± 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h</td>
<td>20 ± 18</td>
<td>27 ± 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L</td>
<td>18.0 ± 55.6</td>
<td>7.5 ± 10.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA achieved2</td>
<td>8 ± 29.6%</td>
<td>9 ± 49.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA1</td>
<td>17.57 ± 13.57</td>
<td>10.40 ± 5.76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS CRP3</td>
<td>2.29 ± 100</td>
<td>2.90 ± 93.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI4</td>
<td>3.0 ± 18</td>
<td>5.1 ± 2.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASMI5</td>
<td>2.2 ± 1.9</td>
<td>4.5 ± 2.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAD-DI6</td>
<td>3 ± 2</td>
<td>2 ± 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 For Axial SpA only, 2 For PsA only.

Conclusion: There may be differential treat-to-target responses between male and female SpA patients. The causes of such differential characteristics should be further explored to potentially implement a sex-specific treat-to-target strategy for spondyloarthritis.

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POS0303 IMPACT OF PREGNANCY ON SACROILIAC IMAGING IN WOMEN WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHITIS: RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE DESIR COHORT

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Descriptive Studies, Imaging

E. Portier1,2, M. Dougados2,2, A. Ryussen-Witrand2, A. Motel3,3, C. Cochon Hospital, Rheumatology, PARIS, France; 2ECAMO, INSERM U-1153: Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, PARIS, France; 3University Hospital of Toulouse, Rheumatology, Toulouse, France

Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is typically characterized by imaging (radiographs or MRI) abnormalities of the sacroiliac joints (SIJ). Also, inflammatory lesions of the SIJ have been observed in healthy women post-partum [1,2]. However, the impact of pregnancy on imaging abnormalities in women with axSpA is unknown.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to evaluate impact of pregnancy on SIJ imaging in patients with early axSpA.

Methods: Data of all women with early axSpA from the DESIR prospective cohort were included, with a follow-up of 5 years. Description of demographic disease characteristics, obstetric history, and SIJ imaging abnormalities (i.e. sacrolitits on radiographs and on MRI, based on local and central reading) was performed in all women. SIJ abnormalities were compared depending on the history of past pregnancy (t-test and chi-square as appropriate). Furthermore, in nulligravidae females at baseline who presented an incident pregnancy during follow-up, SIJ abnormalities were compared before/after pregnancy, using paired-test.

Results: 381 patients were included in the analysis. 142 (37%) were nulligravidae at baseline, and were younger (28 vs 39 years old) and had higher educational level (74 vs 52% university level). Sacroiliitis on MRI and X-ray were more frequent in nulligravidae women (16.9% vs 9.9%, p = 0.05 and 33.8% vs 19.4%, p < 0.01, respectively). Among them, 38 (10% of all patients) presented an incident pregnancy during follow-up and had an available imaging before and after pregnancy; overall no significant changes were observed with regard to both radiographic and MRI imaging abnormalities of the SIJ, except for an increase on the New York score of the left SIJ, and surprisingly, a trend towards a reduction on the proportion of MRI sacrolitits and SPARCC score after pregnancy (table 1).

Table 1. Changes in clinical features and disease activity after 1 year treatment in male and female SpA patients.
Background: Atypical joint formation of the sacroiliac joint may contribute to the failure of image-based disease detection in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

Methods: Patients with early SpA cohort were included. Before pregnancy, after delivery, and at paired test, respectively, MRI was performed using a dedicated software (Amira Software, Germany) for finite element models (FEM). The models were solved using the nonlinear anisotropic hyperelastic constitutive law of ligaments and muscles from the literature (visualization in Figure 1). Overall, 18 women with axSpA were included, of whom 10 were menopausal, 4 were pregnant, and 4 had just delivered.

Results: Table 1 provides a summary of the results. In axial loading (=y-axis direction), the highest median stress and 99th percentile stress was observed in the iliosacral complex, followed by the crural complex, hip joint, sacrotuberous ligament, and anterior sacroiliac ligament. In all load scenarios, stresses were higher in the typical female joint than in the typical male joint.

Conclusion: Finite element modelling revealed differences in load extent and distribution across different sacroiliac joint morphologies, strengthening the evidence that morphology may play a role in mechanical joint stress. Further studies with larger numbers of computed models per joint form are needed to validate these first exploratory results.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Mark Heyland: None declared, Daven Maikath: None declared, Philipp Damm: None declared, Kay-Geert Hermann: Speakers bureau: MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Employee of: BerlinFame GmbH (founder), Katharina Ziegeler Grant/research support from: ASAS (research grant 2021).

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**Objectives:** To compare in real life settings the pregnancy outcomes of two treatment strategies among women with CRID: to continue TNFi vs. stop TNFi upon pregnancy diagnosis.

**Methods:** The French nationwide health insurance database (Système National des Données de Santé) was used to emulate a target trial in adult women, with CRID (i.e., rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis or spondyloarthritis), having started a singleton pregnancy between 2008 and 2017, and being treated with TNFi upon pregnancy diagnosis. We compared the frequency of unfavorable pregnancy outcomes (malformations, obstetrical complications, and infections) between the two treatment strategies at pregnancy diagnosis, using inverse probability weighted marginal models.

**Results:** A total of 1466 pregnancies were included, and among them, TNFi treatment was discontinued after pregnancy diagnosis in 71% (50 years) and mean (SD) disease duration was 4 (5) years. Continuation of TNFi was not associated with increased frequencies of unfavorable pregnancy outcomes: interestingly, the proportion of pregnancies with at least one unfavorable obstetrical outcome tended to be lower in the group of patients continuing the TNFi after pregnancy diagnosis but without reaching statistical significance: 66% (17.3%) vs. 201 (18.5%) in the group continuing vs. discontinuing, respectively (adjusted RR= 0.79 [95% CI, 0.57; 1.01]). Also, there was a trend for a lower frequency of severe maternal morbidities in the group continuing the TNFi (7 [1.8%] vs. 36 (3.3%)). (aRR=0.43 [0.16; 1.14]). Table.

**Limitation:** Algorithms rather than clinical data were used to identify patients with CRID, pregnancies, obstetrical outcomes, malformation and severe infections.

---

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>TNFi continuation after pregnancy diagnosis</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes (N, %)</td>
<td>No (N, %)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spontaneous abortion</td>
<td>2 (0.0%)</td>
<td>22 (2.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stillbirth</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>3 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical termination of pregnancy</td>
<td>2 (0.5%)</td>
<td>4 (0.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preterm birth (GA between 22 and 37 weeks among live birth)</td>
<td>35 (9.2%)</td>
<td>109 (10.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small for GA (&lt;10th percentile)</td>
<td>29 (76%)</td>
<td>75 (69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cesarean delivery</td>
<td>99 (25.9%)</td>
<td>273 (25.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme prematurity</td>
<td>6 (1.6%)</td>
<td>17 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-uterine pregnancy</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>2 (0.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal hospitalization for infection (during pregnancy and 6 weeks post-delivery)</td>
<td>7 (1.8%)</td>
<td>36 (3.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major congenital malformation</td>
<td>9 (2.4%)</td>
<td>31 (2.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Footnotes:** - the model did not converge due to the low number of events; GA= gestational age

**Conclusion:** In pregnant women with CRID treated with TNFi until pregnancy diagnosis, neither unfavorable obstetrical outcomes nor severe infections were significantly increased in patients continuing TNFi during pregnancy, compared with a strategy of stopping TNFi.

**REFERENCE:**


---

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QST</th>
<th>CSI &lt;40</th>
<th>CSI &gt;40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>thener left</td>
<td>372 ± 18.2</td>
<td>27.7 ± 12.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thener right</td>
<td>40.7 ± 19.1</td>
<td>30.3 ± 15.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. trapezius left</td>
<td>38.6 ± 20.0</td>
<td>30.4 ± 21.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. trapezius right</td>
<td>38.6 ± 20.0</td>
<td>30.1 ± 18.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. rectus femoris left</td>
<td>54.6 ± 26.1</td>
<td>42.3 ± 21.8*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. rectus femoris right</td>
<td>53.2 ± 26.6</td>
<td>38.6 ± 23.1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. abductor hallucis left</td>
<td>36.4 ± 18.6</td>
<td>29.3 ± 14.1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. abductor hallucis right</td>
<td>38.3 ± 19.7</td>
<td>30.0 ± 16.2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reference area*</td>
<td>37.7 ± 21.7</td>
<td>27.8 ± 17.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>painful area</td>
<td>31.4 [22.2-48.6]</td>
<td>21.0 [14.4-34.4]*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TS**

| non-dominant forearm | 0.5 [0.1-1.3] | 0.8 [0.2-2.1] |
| reference area* | 0.6 [0.1-3.3] | 1.3 [0.2-3.0] |
| painful area | 0.7 [0.1-1.6] | 1.4 [0.3-3.0] |
| CPM | non-dominant m. rectus femoris | 2.7 ± 13.1 | 0.4 ± 9.7 |

*Statistically significant at p<0.004 (Bonferroni).

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Yvonne van der Kraan: None declared, Davy Paap: None declared, Hans Timmerman: None declared, Freke Wink: None declared, Suzanne Arends: None declared, Michiel Reneman: None declared, Anneke Spoorenberg Grant/research support from: ReumaNederland Grant.

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Original perspectives on old DMARDs and new small molecules in rheumatoid arthritis.

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Clinical Trials, Autoantibodies

J. Tuttle, E. Drescher, J. A. Simon-Camposes, P. Emery, M. Greenwald, A. Kvitza, H. Rha, P. Yachi, C. Kiley, A. Nirula, E. Lilly and Company, San Diego Clinical Services, San Diego, United States of America; Csonotky Ferenc Hospital, Rheumatology, Veszprem, Hungary; Hospital Agustin O’Haran, Kehler & Milstein Research, Merida, Mexico; University of Leeds, NHS Trust and Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; Desert Medical Advances, Rheumatology, Palm Desert, United States of America; Altoona Center for Clinical Research, Rheumatology, Duncansville, United States of America; E. Lilly and Company, Biomedicines, Indianapolis, United States of America; E. Lilly and Company, Lilly Research Laboratories, San Diego, United States of America

**Background:** Peresolimab is a humanized immunoglobulin G1 monoclonal antibody that stimulates human programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1). We hypothesized that peresolimab binding to PD-1, a checkpoint inhibitory receptor, could stimulate physiological immune inhibitory pathways to restore immune homeostasis; this represents a novel approach to treating patients with autoimmune or autoinflammatory diseases.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to evaluate efficacy and safety of peresolimab in adult participants with moderate-to-severe rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

**Methods:** A Phase 2a, placebo-controlled, double-blind, randomized clinical trial (NCT04634253) evaluated the efficacy and safety of peresolimab in adult participants with moderate to severe active RA, who had an inadequate response to prior disease-modifying drugs, either conventional (csDMARDs), biologic (bDMARDs) or synthetic (tsDMARDs). Treatment comparisons versus placebo were made using mixed effects model for repeated measures (MMRM) and using logistic regression model for continuous and binary endpoints, respectively. Nominal p-values are reported. Missing data for binary endpoints were imputed as non-response.

**Results:** One hundred and one patients were randomly assigned 2:1:1 to receive intravenous peresolimab 700 mg (n = 49), 300 mg (n = 25), or placebo (n = 24). 94 participants received at least one dose of study treatment and were included in the analysis. Baseline demographics and disease activity were similar among groups. The majority (83.7%) of participants were female. At baseline, the mean (SD) duration of RA was 10.0 (8.0) years, and the mean (SD) DAS28-CRP score was 5.9 (0.85). This trial met its primary endpoint of a significantly greater improvement from baseline at Week 12 in DAS28-CRP score in participants treated with peresolimab vs participants treated with placebo at both tested doses (700 mg [p < 0.001] and 300 mg [p = 0.017], figure 1a). Significant improvements were seen in CDAI between participants treated with either peresolimab dose (figure 1b) relative to placebo, and for ACR20 (p < 0.05) for participants treated with peresolimab 700 mg relative to placebo by Week 12 (table 1). Peresolimab exhibited a safety and tolerability profile that supports further clinical evaluation in immunologic disease.

**Conclusion:** Peresolimab, a PD-1 receptor agonist, was superior to placebo at Week 12 for several key endpoints in RA. Safety events were similar between treatment groups.

**Figure 1. Change in baseline of DAS28-CRP and CDAI LSM up to Week 12**

**Table 1. Primary and Secondary Efficacy Outcomes at Week 12†**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endpoint</th>
<th>Placebo (N=24)</th>
<th>Peresolimab 300mg (N=25)</th>
<th>Peresolimab 700mg (N=49)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>-0.99 (0.261)</td>
<td>-1.88 (0.249)</td>
<td>-2.09 (0.184)***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR20 (%)</td>
<td>10 (41.7)</td>
<td>11 (44.0)</td>
<td>35 (71.4)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR50 (%)</td>
<td>5 (20.8)</td>
<td>5 (20.0)</td>
<td>19 (38.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR70 (%)</td>
<td>4 (16.7)</td>
<td>1 (4.0)</td>
<td>10 (20.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC66 LSM (SE)</td>
<td>-6.88 (1.846)</td>
<td>-12.08 (1.841)*</td>
<td>-12.33 (2.888)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC69 LSM (SE)</td>
<td>-6.18 (1.091)</td>
<td>-10.32 (1.082)*</td>
<td>-10.49 (2.759)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA (VAS) LSM (SE)</td>
<td>-25.35 (5.162)</td>
<td>-39.07 (5.130)*</td>
<td>-38.55 (5.376)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PatGA (VAS) LSM (SE)</td>
<td>-21.66 (3.530)</td>
<td>-24.27 (3.285)</td>
<td>-29.67 (3.741)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis Pain (VAS) LSM (SE)</td>
<td>-17.94 (5.101)</td>
<td>-23.50 (5.000)</td>
<td>-31.55 (5.350)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(SE)</td>
<td>-0.41 (0.109)</td>
<td>-0.35 (0.107)</td>
<td>-0.42 (0.076)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsCRP (CFB LSM)</td>
<td>1.34 (3.717)</td>
<td>-5.26 (3.826)</td>
<td>-6.66 (2.574)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI LSM (SE)</td>
<td>-13.75 (2.709)</td>
<td>-24.06 (2.628)**</td>
<td>-25.51 (1.854)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI LSM (SE)</td>
<td>-13.80 (2.664)</td>
<td>-25.06 (2.571)**</td>
<td>-26.90 (1.860)**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peresolimab = disease activity score-28 for RA with C-reactive protein. ACR = American college of rheumatology. CDAI = clinical activity index. hsCRP = high sensitivity C-reactive protein. CDAI = clinical disease activity index. SDI = simplified disease activity index. Least squares mean (SE) are reported, unless otherwise stated. *p value < 0.05. **p value < 0.01. ***p value < 0.001.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank the patients and investigators who participated in the trial. E. Lilly and Company or its representatives provided data, laboratory, and site monitoring services. Writing assistance was provided by Conor McVeigh, PhD. This work has been presented previously at the following scientific conference: ACR 2022, 14th of November 2022.

**Funding sources:** This study was sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company.


**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3853

**Table 1. Primary and Secondary Efficacy Outcomes at Week 12†**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease, Targeted synthetic drugs

M. H. Buch, J. A. Gómez-Puerta, G. R. Burmester, B. Combe, V. Rajendran, P. J. Stiers, P. Van Hoek, K. Van Beneden, J. E. Gottenberg, Y. Tanaka, D. Aletaha, R. Westhoven, R. Coparola, 1 University of Manchester and NHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Division of Musculoskeletal & Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 3Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 4Montpellier University, Department of Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; 5Galapagos NV Clinical Research, Mechelen, Belgium; 6Galapagos NV Biostatistics, Mechelen, Belgium; 7Galapagos NV Medical Safety, Mechelen, Belgium; 8Galapagos NV, Medical Affairs, Mechelen, Belgium; 9Strasbourg University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Strasbourg, France; 10University of Occupational
Background: FIL is an oral Janus kinase 1 preferential inhibitor for the treatment of moderate to severe active RA. A previous pooled analysis reported long-term safety and efficacy for FIL 200 mg (FIL200) vs FIL 100 mg (FIL100) in pts aged ≥65 and <65 y.[1]

Objectives: To report updated long-term safety and efficacy in 4 subgroups of pts with RA (aged ≥65 y, ≥65 y without CV risk, and ≥65 y or with CV risk), treated with FIL200 vs FIL100.

Methods: This post hoc analysis pooled data from phase 2 (DARWIN 1–3; NCT01888874, NCT01895416, NCT02005750) and phase 3 (FINCH 1–4; NCT02889796, NCT02879396, NCT02886728, NCT03025308) trials. Data for long-term extensions (LTEs) were as of May 2, 2022 (DARWIN 3), and May 6, 2022 (FINCH 4). Analyses were by age (≥65 y and subgroup <65 y without CV risk vs ≥65 y or ≥1 CV risk factor). CV risk factors were: family history of CV disease; history of dyslipidemia, diabetes mellitus or CV disease; hypertension, ischemic vascular conditions, peripheral vascular disease, extra-articular manifestations of RA; or ever smoked. The as-treated analysis set included data for pts receiving ≥1 FIL dose. Exposure-adjusted incidence rates (EIRs)/100 patient-years of exposure (PYE) of selected adverse events (AEs), and % of pts achieving Disease Activity Score 28 joints with C-reactive protein (DAS28-CRP) of <2.6 or ≥3.2 through Week 156 in FINCH 4, are reported.

Results: Baseline characteristics by age have been reported.[1] Baseline disease characteristics by age or CV risk factor were similar for disease severity and concurrent treatment. EARs for any treatment-emergent AEs (TEAEs) were generally higher in pts aged ≥65 (120.40) vs pts <65 y (97.86), and higher in pts aged ≥65 y or with CV risk (120.45) vs pts aged <65 y without CV risk (81.83). Pts aged ≥65 y, followed by the broader subgroup with CV risk factors (i.e. ≥65 y or ≥1 CV risk) had higher EARs of serious TEAEs and TEAEs leading to discontinuation vs other subgroups, indicating age is a key risk factor alongside other CV risk factors for developing AEs (data not shown). In pts aged ≥65 y lower incidences of malignancies (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer [NMSC]), NMSC, herpes zoster (HZ) and TEAEs leading to death were observed with FIL200 vs FIL100 (Figure 1). In the broader subgroup with risk factors (i.e. aged ≥65 y or ≥1 CV risk factor), EARs of AEs were generally lower vs pts aged ≥65 y, indicating greater influence of age. EARs of AEs for subgroups (aged ≥65 y without CV risk; ≥65 y or ≥1 CV risk) for FIL200 and FIL100 are shown (Figure 1). Rates of DAS28-CRP <2.6 or ≥3.2 in all subgroups (FINCH 4) were maintained with FIL100 and FIL200 to Week 156 (Table 1).

Conclusion: This post hoc analysis (in pts ≥65 y or with ≥1 CV risk factor) suggests that age is an important risk factor in the evaluation of the FIL200 safety and efficacy for FIL 200 mg (FIL200) vs FIL 100 mg (FIL100) in pts aged ≥65 y, followed by the broader subgroup with CV risk factors (i.e. ≥65 y or ≥1 CV risk) had higher EARs of serious TEAEs and TEAEs leading to discontinuation vs other subgroups, indicating age is a key risk factor alongside other CV risk factors for developing AEs (data not shown).

REFERENCE:

Table 1. DAS28-CRP <2.6 and ≥3.2 from LTE baseline to Week 156, by age, CV risk and FIL dose (safety analysis set, observed values)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LTE Week</th>
<th>&lt;65 y</th>
<th>≥65 y</th>
<th>&lt;65 y without CV risk</th>
<th>≥65 y or with ≥1 CV risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIL100</td>
<td>FIL200</td>
<td>FIL100</td>
<td>FIL200</td>
<td>FIL100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=1256</td>
<td>n=274</td>
<td>n=301</td>
<td>n=274</td>
<td>n=301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients achieving DAS28-CRP &lt;2.6 (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>48.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>50.5</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>50.5</td>
<td>48.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>57.8</td>
<td>56.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>54.2</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>57.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>58.9</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients achieving DAS28-CRP ≥3.2 (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>69.8</td>
<td>74.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>78.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: We thank the physicians and patients who participated in these studies. The FINCH and DARWIN studies were co-funded by Gilead Sciences Inc. (Foster City, CA, USA) and Galapagos NV (Mechelen, Belgium). Publication coordination was provided by Fabien Dabeilleux, PhD, of Galapagos NV. Medical writing support was provided by Stephanie Rippon, MBio (Aspire Scientific, Bollington, UK), and funded by Galapagos NV.


POS0309 TIME TRENDS IN GLUCOCORTICOID USE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS DURING THE BIOLOGICS ERA: 1999-2018

Keywords: Epidemiology, Treat to target, Rheumatoid arthritis

L. Crowson1, J. M. Davis III2, A. Hanson3, E. Myasoedova4, V. Kronzer4, A. Makol2, L. Peterson2, D. Bekele5, C. S. Crowson3. 1Medical University of Vienna, Department of Medicine III (Division of Rheumatology), Vienna, Austria; 2KU Leuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium; 3University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 4ASST Gaetano Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy

Background: Clinical guidelines recommend minimizing glucocorticoid use among patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and many new therapeutic options
in recent decades offer alternatives to glucocorticoids, but it is unknown whether glucocorticoid use has declined in patients with RA.

**Objectives:** To examine time trends in glucocorticoid use among patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) during the biologic era.

**Methods:** A population-based inception cohort of RA patients diagnosed during 1999–2018 was followed longitudinally through their medical records until death, migration, or 12/31/2020. All patients fulfilled 1987 and/or 2010 American College of Rheumatology classification criteria for RA. Glucocorticoid start and stop dates were collected along with dosages in prednisone equivalents. The cumulative incidence of glucocorticoid initiation and discontinuation adjusted for the competing risk of death was estimated. Cox models adjusted for age and sex were used to compare trends between time periods.

**Results:** The study population was comprised of 399 patients (71% females) diagnosed in 1999–2008 and 430 patients (67% females) diagnosed in 2009–2018. Glucocorticoid use was initiated within 6 months of meeting RA criteria in 66.7% of patients in 1999–2008 and 70.5% of patients in 2009–2018, corresponding to a 29% increase in hazard for initiation of glucocorticoids in 2009–2018 (adjusted hazard ratio [HR]: 1.29; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.09–1.53). Among glucocorticoid users, similar rates of glucocorticoid discontinuation within 6 months after glucocorticoid initiation were observed in patients with RA incidence in 1999–2008 and 2009–2018 (39.1% versus 42.9%, respectively), with no significant association in adjusted Cox models (HR: 1.11; 95% CI: 0.93–1.31). Even in the 2009-2018 cohort, a large proportion of patients with RA (52%) remained on glucocorticoids beyond 3 months, and 30% were still on glucocorticoids after 2 years. Older patients with RA were more likely to initiate glucocorticoids (HR 1.06 per 10 year increase in age, 95% CI 1.00–1.13) and less likely to discontinue glucocorticoids (HR 0.91 per 10 year increase in age, 95% CI 0.86–0.96). There was no difference in the initiation of glucocorticoids by sex. Although females had a higher discontinuation rate within the first 12 months, afterwards discontinuation rates of glucocorticoids were similar in females and males. Smokers were less likely to discontinue glucocorticoids compared to non-smokers (HR 0.63; 95% CI: 0.51–0.82). **Conclusion:** More patients are initiating glucocorticoids early in their disease course now compared to previously the availability of biologics and other disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs. The rates of glucocorticoid discontinuation are similar. A substantial proportion of patients remain on glucocorticoids for more than 3 months with a large proportion continuing use of glucocorticoids even beyond 2 years. Real world use of glucocorticoids in patients with RA is not optimal or improving despite advances in RA therapy.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Lisa Crowson: None declared, John M Davis III Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Andrew Hanson: None declared, Elena Myasoedova: None declared, Vanessa Kronzer: None declared, Ashima Makol Consultant of: Boehninger Ingelheim, Lynne Peterson: None declared, Delamo Bekele: None declared, Cynthia S. Crowson: None declared.

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**POS0310 IDENTIFICATION OF NOVEL SMALL MOLECULES THROUGH UNBIASED HIGH-THROUGHPUT SCREENING FOR THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Cytokines and chemokines, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Kotruly1,2, B. García-Piñeiro3,4, R. Bernardete-Allaya3, Y. Lopez-Golán3, O. J. Cordery1, E. Soto1, R. Varela-Calvino2, A. Mera Varela2, I. Gomez-Tourino1,2,1CiMUS - Centro Singular de Investigación en Medicina Molecular y Enfermedades Crónicas, Biochemistry, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 2Foundation Research Institute of Santiago de Compostela (IDIS), Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 3CIOUS - Centro Singular de Investigación en Química Biológica e Materiais Moleculares, Organic Chemistry, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 4University Hospital of Santiago de Compostela, Rheumatology Service, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 5CIBUS (Centro de Investigacións Biolóxicas), Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 6Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Santiago de Compostela, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

**Background:** Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune chronic disease characterized by the inflammation of multiple joints, ultimately leading to deformity, pain and swelling [1]. Currently, no preventing therapy exists for RA, and 20%-30% of RA patients do not respond to available treatments [2]. These therapies target late phases of the inflammation process (e.g. cytokine signalling) [1], when the microenvironment is highly inflammatory and therefore challenging to control. Developing therapies targeting inflammation upstream (i.e. cytokine secretion) could have a positive impact on refractive RA. In this regard, we have previously identified through an unbiased high-throughput screening a total of 27 small molecules (23 novel and 4 repurposing drugs) with previously unknown anti-inflammatory capabilities.

**Objectives:** To validate the effects of these small molecules in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) under different types of activation stimuli, and to identify molecules capable of reducing the secretion of proinflammatory cytokines relevant in rheumatic diseases (namely TNF-α and/or IL-1β), employing a high-throughput approach.

**Methods:** First, different treatment methods were tested on PBMCs to identify those providing the best measuring window for the cytokines of interest. For that purpose, thawed PBMCs were exposed to PAMP (LPS) and/or DAMP (ATP) at different times, and cytokine secretion quantified. Subsequently, the potential cytokotoxic effects of the small molecules were analysed at five different concentrations with several viability kits (fixable live/dead stains, AlamarBlue and ATPLite). Finally, for evaluating the anti-inflammatory potential of the small molecules the compounds were added to PAMP-only and PAMP+DAMP-treated PBMCs at five concentrations, and viability and TNF-α and IL-1β secretion measured at four different time points.

**Results:** We found that, at different pharmacological concentrations (nM-µM), treatment conditions and time points, the compounds have no cytokotoxic effects in PBMCs, with the only exception of one compound being toxic at the highest concentration tested. We then compared the levels of cytokine secretion with vehicle alone versus each of the small molecules and considered that a small molecule was of interest if induced at least a 20% reduction on the secretion levels of the cytokine of interest. We observed several combinations of effects (molecules acting on different TNF-α or both, or only showing effect with PAMP-only or PAMP+DAMP treatment), suggesting that our molecules target different components of the intracellular machinery. For example, several molecules diminished TNF-α secretion after PAMP treatment, but not when the DAMP was added to the culture, and vice-versa. The Figure shows representative results of compounds #7, #28 and #29, which reduce the secretion of TNF-α in PAMP-only treated PBMCs. We then tested the small molecules with the stronger effect at the lowest concentration in PBMCs from treatment-naïve RA patients, analysing both the intracellular and extracellular cytokine levels by flow cytometry and ELISA, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Our novel and repurposing small molecules showed no cytokotoxic effects in primary PBMCs, and that they induced a reduction on proinflammatory cytokine secretion from PAMP-only and PAMP+DAMP-treated PBMCs. Further characterization of these small molecules, through the identification of their mechanism of action and molecular target, will open new avenues in the treatment of rheumatic diseases, by providing novel drugs targeting novel pathways and that could be administered orally, improving quality of life and adherence to treatment.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** This work has been funded by the project P21/00370, integrated in the Plan Estatal de I+D+i 2017-2020, and cofunded by the ISCIII-Subdirección General de Evaluación y Fomento de la Investigación and the European Union. M-K is recipient of a Xunta de Galicia predoctoral fellowship.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2703
Methods: To examine changes in peripheral blood gene expression after IL-6i or JAKi treatment, which inhibit common pathways, and to estimate their respective inhibitory activity, and inhibition of IL-6 signaling plays an important role in their pharmacological actions. IL-6 inhibitors (IL-6i) have been also commonly used for rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and several anti-receptor antibodies are in clinical application. Recent studies have revealed the molecular basis of the immune cell-fibroblast-bone triad interactions in RA bone destruction[1-3].

Objectives: To investigate the biochemical MTX adherence in RA patients commencing a biologic and its association with EULAR response.

Results: Comparison of L-6i and JAKi showed that JAKi treatment significantly suppressed RANKL expression in peripheral blood. At the same time, significant suppression of RANK, ETS1, and IL-34 gene expression was also observed with JAKi treatment. Comparison of TOF and BAR treatment showed significant suppression of IL-4 expression in TOF and significant suppression of MMP-2 and IL-12 expression in BAR.

Conclusion: JAKi suppressed RANKL expression significantly compared to IL-6i, suggesting that JAKi is more potent than IL-6i in suppressing bone destruction. Furthermore, assuming that the promoter regions of RANK in synovial osteoclasts and ETS1 in fibroblasts are similar to those in peripheral blood, the following prediction emerges. Namely, JAKi suppresses RANKL and ETS1 expression more than IL-6i, suggesting that JAKi may be favorable for preventing bone destruction in terms of (1) suppressing osteoclast differentiation and (2) suppressing tissue-destructive fibroblast generation.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yoshinobu Koyama Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Asahikasei, Ayumi, BMS, Esai, Eli-Lilly, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, GSK, Yoshiharu Sato: None declared, Moe Sakamoto: None declared, Yu Nakai: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2872
Methods: This analysis used data from the Biologics in Rheumatoid Arthritis Genetics and Genomics Study Syndicate (BRAGGSS), a one-year UK prospective cohort study of patients with RA commencing a biological drug. Prior to biologics commencement, demographic and clinical data were collected. Serum samples were sampled for MTX biochemical adherence at baseline (pre-treatment of biologics), then 3 and 6 months post-first dose. MTX concentration was measured by HPLC-SRM-MS. Time to processing variable was also noted by calculating the difference between the time the sample was processed and the time the blood was sampled. Adherence was calculated based on a cut-off limit taken from a validated MTX adherence assay. A chi-square test was used to investigate the association between adherence and biologic response. Linear regression investigated the relationship between MTX level and time to processing.

Results: 582 patients were included; 75% female, mean (S.D) age 58 (12) years. Table 1 summarises the baseline characteristics for all patients. There was no significant relationship between adherence at pre-treatment with EULAR response at 6 months (p=0.17). However, those who were biochemically adherent to MTX at 6 months had a statistically significantly better response to biologic therapy (p=0.04). It is also found that despite being a responder to the biologic, 37% were non-adherent to MTX. However, there was no significant relationship between MTX level and time to processing thus it is unlikely to be due to the stability of MTX in blood over time.

Conclusion: Patients who were adherent to MTX, assessed biochemically, at 6 months after starting biologic therapy had better response to treatment, which may further strengthens the evidence to support the importance of concomitant use of MTX with biologics.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of 582 patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adherent (%)</th>
<th>Non-Adherent (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female gender (%)</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>58 (29-83)</td>
<td>57 (18-84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologics (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug name</td>
<td>Drug name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept (and biosimilars)</td>
<td>72 (19.55)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adalimumab (and biosimilars)</td>
<td>163 (44.36)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab (and biosimilars)</td>
<td>21 (5.73)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abatacept (and biosimilars)</td>
<td>77 (20.98)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golimumab (and biosimilars)</td>
<td>4 (1.09)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tocilizumab (and biosimilars)</td>
<td>7 (1.91)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certolizumab (and biosimilars)</td>
<td>7 (1.91)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 367</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Amirah binti Mohammad Ariff: None declared, Nina Nair: None declared, James Bluett Grant/research support from: Received a research grant award from Pfizer and Travel/conference fees from UCB, Pfizer, Fresenius Kabi and Eli Lilly, Anne Barton: None declared, Sebastien Viatte: None declared, John Isaacs: None declared. Wilson: None declared, Ann Morgan: None declared, John Isaacs: None declared.

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POS0314

CAN METHOTREXATE INFLUENCE SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN MALE PATIENTS: ANALYSIS OF THE IIEFS QUESTIONNAIRE AND HORMONAL STATUS

Keywords: Safety, Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

F. Nataf1,2, S. Bisseron1, T. Sokolova1, A. Avramovska1, D. Maier3, P. Durez1,3 Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc – Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) – Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique (IREC), Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium; 2Sapienza University of Roma, Rheumatology, Department of clinical, internistic, anesthesiological and cardio-vascular sciences, Roma, Italy; 3Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Paris, France.

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the anchor drug of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) treatment. It is a safe and handy drug, but it has several well-known side effects mainly not severe such as nausia, fatigue, alopecia, or an increase in transaminases. In the last years, sexual dysfunction has been reported as a rare adverse effect of MTX therapy.

Objectives: To explore this, the aim of this study is to evaluate the impact of MTX on erectile function in male patients through the IIEFS questionnaire and hormonal dosage.

Methods: Male patients affected by inflammatory arthritis (Rheumatoid Arthritis or Psoriatic Arthritis [PsA]) according to the 2010 EULAR/ACR diagnostic criteria for RA and the 2006 CASPAR criteria for PsA and treated with chronic MTX were enrolled. Age-matched patients affected by chronic arthritis not treated with MTX were enrolled as control. Each patient underwent blood collection for a complete serum sexual hormone evaluation. IIEFS questionnaire which consists of 5 items with a maximum score of 25 was administered to the patients.

Results: 109 patients were included, 77 in the MTX group (Group A) and 32 in the control group (Group B). The clinical and demographic features of both groups are reported in Table 1. Among the MTX group, 61 have a RA diagnosis, while the remaining 18 were affected by PsA. The median disease duration of RA and PsA patients was respectively 108 months (IQR 138) and 66 months (IQR 114). The median MTX dose was 10mg (IQR 7.5) with a median MTX duration therapy of 8 years (IQR 17). The total IIEFS score was lower in patients treated with MTX compared to the control group without reaching a statistically significant result [19 (IQR 11) versus 20 (IQR 7.7); p=0.15, Graph 1A]. However, when comparing the IIEFS score between MTX exposed versus non-exposed patients stratifying by years of treatment, the total IIEFS score of patients treated with MTX ≥ 5 years was statistically significantly lower when compared to those non-MTX- exposed patients [17 (IQR 15) versus 20 (IQR 7.7); p=0.04] and compared to those treated for < 5 years [17 (IQR 15) versus 20 (IQR 7); p=0.01] (Graph 1B).

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>BM1</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Arterial Hypertension</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Hypercholesterolemia</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Type 2 diabetes</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Hyperplasia Prostatic</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Diabetes/Psychotropic Therapy</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Alcohol (N° unital day)</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Children (N°)</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Total Testosterone Median</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td>BM1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Arterial Hypertension</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hypercholesterolemia</td>
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<td>Diabetes/Psychotropic Therapy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alcohol (N° unital day)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Children (N°)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Testosterone Median</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>54 (28)</td>
<td>25.4 (3.85)</td>
<td>25.6 (5.8)</td>
<td>23 (29.1)</td>
<td>23 (71.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>18 (33)</td>
<td>11 (54.3)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>3 (3.8)</td>
<td>6 (18.7)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>2 (2.5)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>8 (15.1)</td>
<td>9 (15.6)</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>53 (67)</td>
<td>23 (71.8)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>1 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.9 (29.15)</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>5.64 (15.45)</td>
<td>5.35</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>5.35</td>
<td>6.65</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>24 (13.25)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>7 (5.55)</td>
<td>8.05</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>4.7 (4.1)</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>94 (19.98)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. A) Comparison of IIEFS score in MTX exposed versus non-exposed patients. B) patients stratified by age (< 5 years and ≥ 5 years).

– Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) – Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique (IREC), Endocrinology, Brussels, Belgium
In the univariate analysis, a negative correlation between the total IIEF score and MTX exposure (years) has been identified (r = -0.20 CI [-0.38, -0.04]; p= 0.038). Age was the variable with the strongest negative association with the IIEF score (r = -0.43 CI [-0.67, -0.20]; p<0.001). MTX exposure was still associated with a lower IIEF score when adjusted for age (r = -0.36 CI [-0.53, -0.15]; p=0.009). Among the other variables, LH (r = 0.24 CI [-0.40, -0.04]; p=0.01), FSII (r = 0.21 CI [-0.39, -0.006]; p=0.04) and E2 (r = 0.21 CI [-0.40, -0.009]; p=0.03) negatively correlated with IIEF score while DHEA, was the only with a weak positive association (r = 0.22 CI [0.02 to 0.40]; p=0.03). Occurred in the TNFi group and the first hospitalization for MACE during follow-up. Comorbidities and traditional CV risk factors were identified using hospitalizations, procedures, or medication dispensing in the 4 years prior cohort entry. The unadjusted incidence rate (IR) of MACE excluding CV death was assessed in patients initiating either tofacitinib, in comparison with TNFi, in RA patients [3].

Conclusion: Long-term MTX exposure was associated with sexual dysfunction reported by a lower IIEF score in male patients adjusted for age. The preliminary results should be confirmed in larger prospective studies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3853

POS0316

SURVIVIN REGULATES T CELL RESPONSES THROUGH DEPOSITION OF HISTONE H3 MARKS AND MODULATES RESPONSE TO TREATMENT WITH JAK-INHIBITORS

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis

K. M. Andersson1, V. Chandrasekaran1, M. Erlandsson1, E. Malmhäll-Bah2, S. Työvä Silverswärd2, R. Pullent3, M. I. Bokareva2, 3Gothenburg University, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology Research, Gothenburg, Sweden; 2Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Rheumatology Clinic, Gothenburg, Sweden

Background: Multiple genetic polymorphisms are associated with high risk for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1]. The importance of epigenetic processes has been postulated, but precise molecular mechanisms behind these associations remain largely unexplored. Survivin is an important player in RA, which has been recently shown essential for IFNg signaling in CD4 T lymphocytes acting in partnership with IRF1 [2].

Objectives: We study how survivin-dependent epigenetic deposition of histone H3 tails in RA risk loci affects function of CD4 T cells and response to JAK inhibition.

Methods: Chromatin of CD4+ cells (n=12) was immunoprecipitated with antibodies to histone H3K27ac, H3K4me3, and survivin, and sequenced (CHIP-seq, Illumina). Parallel CHIP-seq and RNA-seq was done in CD4+ cells treated with survivin inhibitor YM155. Peaks with change >30% in deposition of H3K27ac and/or H3K4me3 upon YM155-treatment were annotated to the genomic regulatory elements (RE) via GeneHancer database. Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) related to RA risk were identified within those RE. CD4 T cell transcriptomics by RNA-seq was done in 24 random RA patients and in 59 RA patients treated with MTX (n=18), TNFi (n=10), JAKi (n=24) and having no DMARDs (n=7). The genes differentially expressed (DEG, nominal p<0.05) in BIRC5 and JAKi-treated CD4 cells were identified by DESeq2 (R-studio, Bioconductor).

Results: Deposition of 15% (1705/11512) of H3K4me3 and 17% (194/11530) of H3K27ac peaks changed >30% upon survivin-inhibition. Approximately 50% of these peaks overlapped with survivin peaks. The change in H3K4me3 peaks was significantly larger if the peak colocalized with survivin peak. These peaks were located in 228 RE, 28 of these RE contained 52 RA risk SNPs. Among others, changeable peaks were accumulated within ICOS/CTLA4/CD28 locus and contained 7 SNPs. Majority of genes connected to the SNP-containing RE (110/153 genes) were transcriptionally different in BIRC5/COD4+T cells and participated in the regulation of immune system (GO:0002682, FDR=0.4e-3), regulation of IL2 production (GO:0032663, FDR=0.019), TNF mediated signaling (GO:0033209, FDR=5.4e-3). These SNP-RE connected genes formed three independent clusters 1) TCR receptor co-stimulators (CD40, ICOS, CTLA4, CD28, CD244, TRAF6 and TBX21, SLAMF1, TNFRSF9), 2) connected to the LCK interacting transmembrane adaptor 1 (LIME1, SL2C24R, ZGAP, GM3E2, TNFRSF6B, RETL1) and 3) heat-shock proteins (HSPD1, HSP90A1, HDAC7, KPNB1). The clusters were functionally connected to survivin partners IRF1 and SMAD3. Notably, transcription of CD28, ICOS, and SLAMF1 functions necessary to understand the long-term implications of tofacitinib vs TNFi on the risk of MACE.

REFERENCES:

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by JAKi, while SMAD3 related CHERP, PRPF6 down-regulated by survivin inhibition were upregulated in CD4+ cells of JAKI-treated patients. Effect of JAKi in the IRF1-related genes was executed only in BIRCD5CD4+ cells and remained unchanged in BIRCD5CD4+ cells.

Conclusion: This study shows that survivin contributes to deposition of histone H3K27ac and H3K4me4 marks in proximity of RA-risk genes and control immune system regulators in CD4 T cells. JAK-inhibitors operate downstream of survivin and high levels of survivin may impede JAKi-treatment.

References:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
THE COURSE OF SYMPTOMS IN CLINICALLY SUSPECT ARTHRITIS AND ITS RELATION WITH SUBCLINICAL JOINT-INFLAMMATION DURING PROGRESSION TO RA: IS IT SIMILAR IN ACPA-POSITIVE AND ACPA-NEGATIVE DISEASE?

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Khidir1, D. Krijbos1, H. K. Gla3, E. Van Mulligen1,2, A. Van der Helm – van Mil1,2. 1Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Reumazorg Zuid-West Nederland, Rheumatology, Goes, Netherlands; 3Erasmus Medical Center, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Background: ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative RA have differences in genetic and environmental risk factors and in the severity of the disease course after diagnosis. However, the clinical presentation at RA-diagnosis is similar, as is the clinical presentation in the at-risk stage of clinically suspect arthralgia (CSA). We hypothesized that these clinical similarities at the end of the trajectory of RA-development imply a shared path in symptom development and progression before diagnosis. So far the course of symptoms during progression from CSA to RA and the association with the course of subclinical joint-inflammation is unknown.

Objectives: We studied the course of cardinal symptoms and subclinical joint-inflammation and the longitudinal relation in ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative disease. Relations were also studied in CSA-patients who did not develop RA.

Methods: CSA-patients from the Leiden CSA-cohort (n=664) and the placebo-arm of the TREAT EARLIER trial (n=117) were followed on development of inflammatory arthritis (IA) at physical examination, during which 136 patients developed IA and 645 did not. Symptoms of morning stiffness, pain and fatigue (with a numerical rating scale: 0-100) and presenteeism (productivity loss at work with the WPAI-questionnaire: 0-100%) were assessed at baseline and upon IA-development. Subclinical joint-inflammation (sum of synovitis/tenosynovitis/ostitis) was assessed at baseline and upon IA-development with contrast-enhanced 1.5T MRI of hand/foot. Linear and Poisson mixed models were used.

Results: Of the patients with IA-development, 66 (49%) were ACPA-positive. Both in ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative patients, symptoms (morning stiffness, presenteeism, fatigue) and subclinical joint-inflammation increased towards IA-development, and decreased or stabilized in patients without IA-development (Figure 1A). The course of pain, morning stiffness and presenteeism towards IA-development, and decreased or stabilized in patients without IA-development.

Conclusion: The severity of symptom development before diagnosis in ACPA-positive RA relates more strongly to increasing subclinical joint-inflammation than in ACPA-negative RA. This points towards differences in processes underlying the disease burden in ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative RA.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BASED APPROACH TO PREDICT THE DISEASE COURSE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Artificial Intelligence, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. Salminen1,2, P. Pihlajisto3, A. Mustonen1, H. Rela1, E. Kulkkinen2,1. 1Åbo Akademi University, Computer Science, Turku, Finland; 2BCB Medical Ltd., Life Science, Turku, Finland; 3University of Helsinki, Department of Medicine, Helsinki, Finland

Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease which affects approximately 0.8% of the Finnish population. Increasing number of conventional and biological antirheumatic drugs is currently available for the treatment of RA. However, for the optimal use of these drugs and for example for the decision when to start biological medication, it would be of utmost importance to be able to predict the disease course of the patient during the patient’s visit at the clinic.

Objectives: The disease course of the patients differs widely and predicting the disease course is challenging. Therefore, our objective was to use patient-specific disease characteristics and to develop an artificial intelligence (AI) method for predicting the future disease course. Our patient material includes 1881 patients, with both sero positive and negative diseases (ICD-10-codes M05 and M06).

Methods: We used a machine learning method which takes as input patient information such as demographic information and clinical variables. The target value that the method tries to predict is the DAS28-CRP disease marker a year from the present time. The train and test sets were balanced so that each DAS28-CRP value is expressed equally. The machine learning model was a voting ensemble with Random Forest.
Forest and Extreme Random Trees classifiers and with different scalers (Geurts et al. 2006). The number of training instances was 1504 and test set consisted of 377 patients. The number of features was 30. The patients were classified to 4 classes: inactive, low, high and very high according to the activity marker DAS28-CRP.

**Results:** The AUC value of the classifier was 0.71. This provides adequate extra information for the clinicians when they consider the patient’s treatment. If the model predicts that disease is getting better, visits can be more frequent. Figure 1 shows the most important variables used by the classification algorithm. The AI algorithm gives good predictions (Table 1), even though errors between two adjacent activity classes are common. For example, when the true class is very high, the algorithm gives 88 high or very high predictions (94%), and only 6 clearly wrong answers (6%). When the true class is high, the results are more spread, with 42 cases (45%) being in the low or inactive class and 51 (55%) cases in the more active class. The low and inactive classes are predicted quite well.

![Image](image.png)

**Figure 1.** Overall feature importance for all classes. The higher the bar, the more useful the feature is in classifying the patients.

**Table 1.** A confusion matrix of classifying the test material. In the left are the true labels and on top the predicted labels. The classes low and very high have been most successfully predicted.

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**Conclusion:** The algorithm shows promising results especially in predicting very high disease activity. An algorithm with AUC 0.71 cannot reliably classify patients independently, but it can aid the clinician in giving insights into the patients’ current status and how likely the worsening of the disease is. The AI method chosen for this purpose is a white-box approach, meaning that the clinician can immediately see which factors were deemed important by the algorithm to produce this prediction.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3953
Background: Early intervention and implementation of effective treatment is a significant predictor of positive long-term prognosis for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, despite major advances in treatment options there are currently no biomarkers to clinically guide treatment selection or to identify individuals who do not respond fully to first-line therapy. B cells are known to contribute to RA pathogenesis as exemplified by the success of B cell depleting treatments. It is well known that there are changes in the circulating B cell compartment in both new onset and established RA that include reduced memory B cells and increased naive and transitional B cells. Among transitional B cells there is a subpopulation described as regulatory B cells (Bregs) that is characterised by markers such as high levels of CD24/CD38, and CD1d as well as PDL1 and production of IL-10. To investigate the predictive potential of the B cell compartment for disease outcome, the different B cell populations must be further divided into specific subset and studied in well characterised cohort followed over time.

Objectives: To identify a B cell subset(s) at clinical onset that predict clinical disease activity index (CDAI) remission 6 months after start of treatment.

Methods: Flow cytometry analysis of peripheral blood B cell subsets was conducted on untreated, early RA patients (n=60) according to ACR/EULAR 1987/2010 criteria; n=71) and sex matched healthy controls (n=24). PBMCs were stained for the following markers: CD19, CD21, CD72, IgD, CD24, CD38, CD1, PDL1. Patients were then treated with methotrexate and randomised to combination with a prednisolone; b) ceftriaxone; c) tocilizumab; or d) abatacept. Patients were grouped based on disease remission status at 6 months (remission n=29; no remission n=42) as defined by a clinical disease activity index (CDAI) ≤2.8. The predictive value of these population frequencies for remission detection was modelled with receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis. Peripheral blood from a second RA cohort (n=32) and additional healthy donors (n=11) were analysed by flow cytometry including CD1d, CD1, and PDL1.

Results: Relative to patients who reached CDAI remission, individuals who did not respond to this extent to first line therapy at 6 months had significantly reduced frequencies of transitional (CD19+CD24++CD38-), and CD1+ B cells (CD19+PD1+CD21+) at diagnosis (Figure 1), which inversely correlated with CDAI at 6 months (r=-0.355, p=0.002; and r=-0.245, p=0.039 respectively). The predictive value of these subset frequencies for remission was modelled with ROC analysis. Both transitional and PD1+B cell frequencies had significant predictive capabilities and an AUC of 0.67 and 0.7 respectively (Figure 1). Follow-up analysis in the second RA cohort showed that CD1d+ transitional B cells in RA patients (median 14.75%; range 9.4-23.4%; n=32) were significantly increased (p<0.0001, Mann-Whitney) relative to healthy donors (median 8.9%; range 4.4-12.9%; n=11).

Conclusion: A reduced frequency of transitional and PD1+B cells at diagnosis in RA patients was associated with failure to reach CDAI remission within 6 months of treatment. As transitional B cells in RA patients express markers closely linked to Bregs, we speculate that the lower transitional B cell frequencies we observed at diagnosis may indicate fewer circulating Bregs and thereby worse conditions for endogenous disease control. Thus, monitoring of transitional B cell frequencies at the point of RA diagnosis may aid in the identification of patients who are less likely to reach remission at 6 months and therefore subject to additional clinical surveillance.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2283
OBSITY IS A RISK FACTOR FOR POOR RESPONSE TO TREATMENT IN EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS - A NORD-STAR SPIN-OFF STUDY

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis

Background: Several therapeutic options are currently available to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA); however, the response to treatment is highly variable, and not all patients achieve clinical remission [1]. Obesity is suggested to lower the chances of remission [2], even though a recent observational study has shown that obesity is not associated with reduced response to conventional synthetic anti-rheumatic drugs in patients with early RA [3].

Objectives: The aim of this study is to determine if obesity affects the response to treatment in patients with early RA.

Methods: This report includes 393 Swedish patients from the NORD-STAR study, which is a multicenter, randomized trial on 812 patients with untreated early RA [4]. The 393 participants have been randomized at baseline into 4 arms of treatment: methotrexate combined with (1) prednisolone, (2) certolizumab, (3) abatacept, or (4) tocilizumab. Scores for disease activity and blood sedimentation rate were performed after adjustment for sex, baseline age, anti-citrullinated peptide antibody status, current smoking, disease activity score-C-reactive protein (DAS28-CRP), and treatment randomization. The outcomes for this report stratified by baseline BMI.

Results: In total, 75 (19%) participants had obesity at baseline, defined as body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 kg/m². The percentage of patients with obesity in each treatment group was (1) 25%, (2) 15%, (3) 19% and (4) 19%. At baseline, there were no differences in terms of disease activity indices and inflammation parameters between patients with BMI <30 vs. ≥30 kg/m², except for the number of swollen joints (SJC28), which was slightly lower in those with obesity (mean±SD, 8±5 vs. 9±5, p=0.018). At 24-week follow-up, patients with obesity had higher disease activity indices and inflammation parameters compared to patients with lower BMI (Table 1). Moreover, patients with obesity had a lower chance of achieving response to treatment as measured by DAS28-CRP ≤3.2 (OR 0.5, 95% CI 0.2 - 0.9, p=0.025), DAS28-CRP ≤2.6 (OR 0.4, 95% CI 0.2 - 0.6, p<0.001) and CDAI remission (OR 0.4, 95% CI 0.2 - 0.8, p=0.006), compared to patients with lower BMI (Figure 1). BMI-treatment interaction was not significant for any score of disease activity.

Conclusion: In patients with early RA, obesity was not associated with higher disease activity before treatment initiation. However, 24 weeks after treatment, patients with obesity had higher disease activity and lower chances to respond to therapy compared to patients with lower BMI irrespective of treatment.

Table 1. Disease activity scores and inflammatory parameters at 24 weeks follow-up stratified by baseline BMI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BMI (kg/m²)</th>
<th>p-values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ 30</td>
<td>≥ 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR</td>
<td>2.2±1.1</td>
<td>2.8±1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>2.1±0.9</td>
<td>2.6±1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>5.0±5.3</td>
<td>7.5±6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC28</td>
<td>0.7±1.4</td>
<td>0.9±1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC28</td>
<td>1.8±3.1</td>
<td>3.0±4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global VAS, patient, mm</td>
<td>17±18</td>
<td>25±22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global VAS, investigator, mm</td>
<td>8±9</td>
<td>11±11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h</td>
<td>11±10</td>
<td>15±16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L</td>
<td>2.2±3.1</td>
<td>4.4±7.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Multivariable logistic regression analysis for response to treatment at 24 weeks (reference category: BMI< 30 kg/m²)

N (%) OR (95% CI) BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We would like to acknowledge the NORD-STAR Study group.
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS AND WEATHER PATTERNS: A RHUMADATA™ STUDY OF 14,200 PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES MATCHED WITH METEOROLOGICAL DATA

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Joly-Chevrier1, L. Coupal2, L. Choquette Sauvageau2, D. Choquette2.
1Université de Montréal, Médecine, Montréal, Canada; 2Institut de rhumatologie de Montréal, Rhumatologie, Montréal, Canada

Background: Anecdotally, patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) report seasonal changes in their symptoms. Anatomically, atmospheric pressure variations are captured by baroreceptors, which may generate this perception.

Objectives: To correlate seasonal changes with subjective assessment scores.

Methods: Environment Canada provided meteorological data from 2015 to 2020 for Montreal (Dorval). Hourly measurements of temperature, relative humidity, and pressure were available. We matched daily meteorological data with patient-reported pain (PtP), fatigue (PtF), and disease activity (PtGA) assessments from RHUMADATA™ participants. We calculated daily means, minimums, and maximums, as well as changes from the previous day for the winter and summer months. For the years 2015 to 2020, Pearson Correlation Coefficients (PCCs) were computed between Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) and weather measurements. Optimal regression models (OMs) were derived based on Akaike’s Information Criteria (AIC).

Results: RA patients’ PROs were matched with meteorological data (7411 winter measurements and 6789 summer measurements). At the time of the first PRO assessment, the mean age and disease duration were 60.1(13.5) and 10.5 (10.4), and 74.6% of patients were women. Patients provided an average of 14 PROs. In winter, PtP, PtF and PtGA were 3.48 (2.79), 3.49 (2.96) and 3.42 (2.68), and 3.45 (2.81), 3.46 (2.96) and 3.33 (2.63) in summer. PtGA was statistically higher in winter (p-value=0.0035). PCC and OMs are shown in Table 1. In winter, all correlations are very weak (less than 0.19). PtGA is not correlated with any weather measures in both winter and summer. PtP and PtF correlate with some weather measures in both seasons.

Conclusion: In this study of 14200 weather-matched PROs, mean PtP, PtF, and PtGA scores are higher in winter among RA patients, but the differences are small. Few meteorological measures are significantly correlated with PROs, and all correlations are very weak. Meteorological variables explain a quite small percentage of the variation in PRO variation (small R-square). No consistent relationship between PROs and meteorological conditions is reported by other smaller studies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Maxine Joly-Chevrier: None declared, Louis Coupal: None declared, Loïc Choquette Sauvageau: None declared, Denis Choquette Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, Tevapharm, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, Tevapharm, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, Tevapharm.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1455

Table 1. Pearson correlation coefficients and “best” regression models.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Winter (Dec 1st to Mar 31st)</th>
<th>Summer (Jun 1st to Sep 30th)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PtP</td>
<td>PtF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>0.0016</td>
<td>0.0023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>-0.011</td>
<td>0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>-0.018</td>
<td>-0.030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>-0.016</td>
<td>-0.054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean-Mean</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min-Max</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max-Max</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative humidity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>0.272</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean-Mean</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min-Max</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max-Max</td>
<td>-0.020</td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atmospheric pressure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>-0.015</td>
<td>-0.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>-0.013</td>
<td>-0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>-0.012</td>
<td>-0.020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean-Mean</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min-Max</td>
<td>-0.008</td>
<td>-0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max-Max</td>
<td>-0.013</td>
<td>-0.019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 PCC=Pearson Correlation Coefficients. 2 δ γ 0.001<p<0.01 δ γ 0.01<p<0.05 3 The best model was selected by computing Akaike’s Information Criteria (AIC) for all possible subsets of multiple regression models for main effects. The model with the smallest AIC value is deemed the “best” model. 4 Difference from the previous day.
Demographic data, seropositivity of rheumatoid factor (RF), anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA), treatment with biological and targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs and tsDMARDs) and bone erosions by either plain x ray or ultrasonography were compared among quantiles of PRS.

**Results:** PRS of 97,396 single nucleotide polymorphisms derived from LDpred2 exhibited the highest AUC for predicting the development of RA in the overall dataset as compared with the remaining algorithms. Participants with the top RA-PRS quantile have the highest proportion of RF and ACPA positivity (74.8% & 65.0%, respectively), bone erosion (86.4%) and higher chance to receive bDMARDs or tsDMARDs (42.3%) as compared to the counterparts. In addition, RA-PRS quantile was a significant risk for bone erosion in the multivariate regression model with the adjustment of RF, ACPA positivity and therapeutic medication, specifically in the group of age < 60 years.

**Conclusion:** PRS is associated with seropositivity, erosive bone disease, need for advanced therapy in Taiwanese patients with RA.

**REFERENCE:**

### Table 1. Basic demographics of 2042 participants with RA by RA-PRS quantiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st quantile (n=511)</th>
<th>2nd quantile (n=510)</th>
<th>3rd quantile (n=510)</th>
<th>4th quantile (n=511)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RA diagnosis age &lt; 60 years</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>70.84</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>76.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female gender</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>79.06</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>81.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>4.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7.83</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positivity</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>57.37</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>60.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA positivity</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>48.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>31.39</td>
<td>26.18</td>
<td>32.54</td>
<td>29.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/hr)</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>4.27</td>
<td>4.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodontitis</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7.05</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>6.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone erosion</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>78.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>78.67</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>82.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positivity</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>57.37</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>60.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female gender</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>79.06</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>81.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By ANOVA test. RA: rheumatoid arthritis; PRS: polygenic risk score; BMI: body mass index; RF: rheumatoid factor; ACPA: anti-citrullinated protein antibody. *p < 0.05.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1204

**POS0327 SPEED OF RESPONSE MATTERS: POST-HOC ANALYSIS OF PATIENTS WITH EARLY SERONEGATIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS INCLUDED IN THE CARERA TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Randomized control trial, Rheumatoid arthritis, Outcome measures

**Authors:** S. Pazmino1,2, R. Westhovens1,3, V. Stouten1, D. Bertrand1,3, M. Doumen1,3, J. Joly2, E. De Meyst1,3, D. C. Diederik5, P. Verschueren1,3, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Centre, Leuven, Belgium; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Clinical and Experimental Endocrinology, Department of Chronic Diseases and Metabolism, Leuven, Belgium; Vrije Universiteit Brussel Building B, Biostatistics and Medical Informatics Research Group, Department of Public Health, Elsene, Belgium

**Background:** Seronegative rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients have been historically considered to have a milder disease course.

**Objectives:** We aimed to compare the disease course in seronegative and seropositive patients from the Care in early RA (CareRA) trial.

**Methods:** We used data from the 2-year RCT CareRA and its 3-year observational follow-up, CareRA plus. Patients completing the year 2 visit of CareRA were eligible for participation in CareRA plus, in which patients were evaluated every 6 months till year 5. The CareRA trial included patients early RA (<1 year) and naive to disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs. Patients were stratified in a low- and high-risk group according to prognostic markers and randomized to one of four different treatment schemes: a) MTX and a step-down glucocorticoid (GC) scheme (COBRA Slim) b) this combination with either sulphasalazine (COBRA Classic) c) or leflunomide (COBRA Avant-Garde) in high-risk patients, and d) MTX without GCs (Tight-Step-Up: TSU) or e) COBRA Slim in low-risk patients. Treating-to-target, steering at low disease activity (<3.2) measured in 28 joints with C-reactive protein (DAS28CRP) was applied while aiming for remission (<2.6) as final outcome. Differences in demographic, clinical and laboratory variables were tested with Wilcoxon rank or Chi-square. Multiple testing was corrected with Holms-Bonferroni. Survival analysis using Kaplan-Meier and COBRA schemes with GCs increased the chance compared (a) time to first remission (DAS28CRP<2.6), (b) time to first loss of disease-control (DAS28CRP>3.2) in those reaching remission, and all subsequent losses of disease-control as recurrent events between seropositive (ACPA or RF positive) and seronegative (ACPA and RF negative) patients. Survival curves were compared with log rank. To model recurrent events, an extended Cox model with random effect, including the presence of erosions at baseline, disease duration, gender, current smoking, treatment scheme with or without GCs and DAS28CRP at baseline and week 16 was used. Multiple imputation (m=100) was used to handle missing data.

**Results:** Of the 379 included patients, 83 (23%) were seronegative while 292 (77%) were seropositive. Seronegative patients had a similar median age (54 vs 53 years, p=0.58), BMI (26.5 vs 25.7 kg/m2, p=1.0), presence of erosions (26% vs 25%, p=1.0) and gender distribution (76% vs 68% females, p=1.0), compared to seropositive patients. However, median disease activity was higher in seronegative patients at baseline: DAS28CRP (5.1 vs 4.7, p<0.01), 28 swollen joint count (8 vs 6, p<0.01) and 28 tender joint count (10 vs 7, p<0.001). When accounting for the treatment, all COBRA schemes with GCs increased the chance of reaching remission by 58% (HR 1.58; 95%CI 1.10-2.27; p<0.05) compared to TSU (Figure 1b). For the time to first and consecutive losses of disease control after remission, one point higher DAS28CRP at week 8 (3.0 vs 2.1, p<0.001), but became comparable by year 1 (2.0 for both p=1.0). There was a significant difference in time to first treatment response between seronegative and seropositive patients as depicted in the inverted Kaplan-Meier plot (Figure 1a). Time to first remission was significantly shorter for seropositive (median 4 weeks IQR 4.8) versus seronegative (8 weeks IQR 4.28) patients (p<0.001). When accounting for the treatment, all COBRA schemes with GCs increased the chance of reaching remission by 58% (HR 1.58; 95%CI 1.10-2.27; p<0.05) compared to TSU (Figure 1b). For the time to first and consecutive losses of disease control after remission, one point higher DAS28CRP at week 16 increased the risk of losing disease control by 59% (HR 1.59; 95%CI 1.38-1.82; p<0.0001), serology status was not significantly predictive of loss of response.

**Conclusion:** In CareRA, seronegative patients, who have been historically considered to have a milder form of the disease, had a higher initial disease activity, longer time to first treatment response and greatly benefited from an initial treatment scheme that included glucocorticoids. Speed of response during the window of opportunity for RA has been highly advocated. Our findings highlight...
Osteoarthritis: novel prospects

Background: Hand osteoarthritis is a common heterogeneous joint disorder with differences in aetiology and pathophysiology compared to knee osteoarthritis,[1][3] its pathophysiological mechanism remains largely unexplored, partially because of limited access to clinical sample tissues and lack of animal models.[2] To date, there is no known cure for hand osteoarthritis, indicating an urgent need for better understanding of the underlying mechanisms so that appropriate treatment strategies can be developed to target this disabling disease.

Objectives: We aimed to identify hand joint chondrocyte subpopulations and investigate the molecular mechanism of hand osteoarthritis by performing single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) analysis, and verify the findings in two large independent population-based studies.

Methods: We obtained hand interphalangeal joints from five donors who had destructive forearm injury. Using scRNA-seq analysis, we analysed the cellular composition and subpopulation-specific gene expression of hand articular cartilage, and then compared these features between cartilages from joints with macroscopically confirmed osteoarthritis and those without osteoarthritis. To verify the findings, we conducted a Mendelian randomisation study in the UK Biobank and a cross-sectional study using data collected from the Xiangya Osteoarthritis Study. Figure 1 shows the schematic illustration of this study.

Results: Of 105,142 cells we identified 13 subpopulations, including a novel inflammatory chondrocyte subpopulation that specifically expressed genes related to inflammatory and immune response. Fibrocartilage chondrocytes represented a major source of osteoarthritis-related proteases and exhibited an extensive alteration of gene expression patterns in osteoarthritic cartilage compared with non-osteoarthritic cartilage. Both inflammatory chondrocytes and fibrocartilage chondrocytes showed a trend towards increased numbers in osteoarthritic cartilage. In these two subpopulations from osteoarthritic cartilage, the ferroptosis pathway was enriched, in which the expression of iron overload-related genes, eg, FTH1, was elevated. These findings are further validated by two independent population-based studies. Among participants (n=332,668) in the UK Biobank, genetic predisposition to higher expression of FTH1 mRNA significantly increased the risk of hand osteoarthritis (OR=1.07, 95%CI:1.02-1.11). Among participants (n=1,241) from the Xiangya Osteoarthritis Study, high levels of serum ferritin (encoded by FTH1), a biomarker of body iron overload, were significantly associated with a high prevalence of hand osteoarthritis (P-trend=0.037).

Conclusion: Our datasets will be valuable as a rich resource for molecular and cellular exploration and open new possibilities for the research of molecular mechanism, drug development and precise treatment for hand osteoarthritis. Inflammatory and fibrocartilage chondrocytes are key subpopulations and ferroptosis may be a key pathway in hand osteoarthritis. Markers of these chondrocyte subpopulations, as well as ferroptosis inhibitors or iron chelators, could be focus of attention in future studies.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. The schematic illustration of this study.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (81930071, 82072502, 81902265), the National...
Natural Science Foundation Regional Innovation and Development Joint Fund (U21A20352), Project Program of National Clinical Research Center for Geriatric Disorders (Xiangya Hospital, 2021JJ006, 2022JJ007), the Natural Science Foundation of Hunan Province (2022JJ0101), and Central South University Innovation-Driven Research Programme (2023CXDQ031).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4327

POS0330
SYNOVIAL M1 MACROPHAGES AND FIBROBLASTS DUAL-TARGETING LIPOSOMES ASSISTED DELIVERY OF TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE IS EFFECTIVE AGAINST JOINT PAIN AND CARTILAGE DEGENERATION IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Treat to target, Pain, Osteoarthritis

C. Deng1, Y. Chen1, Z. Xiao2, Y. Liu2, Y. Zhao2, H. Li3, Y. Zhang3, K. Ai4, D. Zhou1, X. Bai1, T. Gong5, J. Wei3, C. Zeng1, G. Lei1,2,3,6

1Central South University, Xiangya Hospital, Department of Orthopaedics, Changsha, China; 2Central South University, Hunan Key Laboratory of Joint Degeneration and Injury, Changsha, China; 3Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology, Boston, United States of America; 4Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, The Mongan Institute, Boston, United States of America; 5Central South University, Xiangya School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Changsha, China; 6Southern Medical University, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, NMPA Key Laboratory for Research and Evaluation of Drug Metabolism & Guangdong Key Laboratory of New Drug Screening, Guangzhou, China; 7Southern Medical University, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Department of Cell Biology, Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Bone and Joint Degeneration Diseases, Guangzhou, China; 8Sichuan University, West China School of Pharmacy, Sichuan Engineering Laboratory for Plant-Sourced Drug and Sichuan Research Center for Drug Precision Industrial Technology, Key Laboratory of Drug-Targeting and Drug Delivery System of the Education Ministry, Chengdu, China; 9Central South University, Xiangya Hospital, Health Management Centers Changsha, China; 10Central South University, Xiangya Hospital, National Clinical Research Center for Geriatric Disorders, Changsha, China

Background: The latest professional guidelines recommend intra-articular (IA) glucocorticoids (GCs) for pain relief in patients with knee osteoarthritis (OA). However, their effect is small-to-moderate and short-term only[1]. There is also concern about the possible risk of cartilage deterioration caused by repeated IA GCs. M1 macrophages and activated synovial fibroblasts (SFs) mutually contribute to the propagation of joint pain and cartilage destruction in OA by constructing a positive feedback loop. To alleviate joint pain over a longer period without increasing the risk of cartilage deterioration, we developed nano-porous cellular membrane (NM) camouflaged liposome (NM@Lip) for targeted delivery of triamcinolone acetonide (TA) and the hippocampus, attracting M1 macrophages and activated SFs in the synovium of osteoarthritic joints.

Objectives: To investigate the phenotypic reprogramming effect of TA-loaded NM@Lip (TA-NM@Lip) in M1 macrophages and activated SFs and determine their ability in relieving pain and alleviating OA progression in rodent models.

Methods: TA-NM@Lip was fabricated using the thin-film hydration method. The mRNAs and protein levels of phenotypic mediators secreted by M1 macrophages and activated SFs treated with free TA, TA-loaded liposome (TA-Lip) or TA-NM@Lip were measured using real-time PCR, RNA sequencing, ELISA and fluorescence staining. Phosphoproteomics analysis using a label-free approach, revealed 1109 early (5 min) suitable time points for ROR-2 mediated phosphorylation events based on ERK phosphorylation for ROR2i to induce chondrogenesis. This means that something else must take place in addition to YAP signalling was required for chondrogenesis induced by ROR2i, but not sufficient. Overexpression of constitutively active YAP negate ROR2i-induced chondrogenesis, but the YAP inhibitor Verteporfin was unable to induce chondrogenesis. This study was performed by precipitation of phosphoproteins on TiO2 columns and MS analysis.

Results: In keeping with the delayed endochondral ossification and chondrocyte hypertrophy observed in ROR2i-/- mice (DeChiara et al., 2000), Ror2/-/ C3H10T1/2 cells failed to undergo osteogenesis when exposed to osteogenic medium as assessed by alkaline phosphatase activity, extracellular matrix calcification and expression of hypertrophy/osteogenic markers. We established suitable time points for ROR-2 mediated phosphorylation events based on ERK (early) and JNK (late) phosphorylation following stimulation with WNT5A. Phosphoproteomics analysis using a label-free approach, revealed 1109 early (5 min) phosphorylation events that were ROR2 dependent (taking place in the wild type but not in ROR2-/- cells) and contributed to osteogenic differentiation.

Conclusion: TA-NM@Lip exhibited extended joint-retention time and selectively downregulated the expression of M1-related genes and upregulated M2-related genes compared with other treatment groups. The mRNAs and protein levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, adhesion molecule and proteolytic enzyme secreted by activated SFs were significantly downregulated by TA-NM@Lip. NM@Lip was retained in the joint for up to 28 days and selectively distributed into both M1 macrophages and activated SFs in synovium with low distribution in cartilage. In MIA-induced model, a single IA injection of TA-NM@Lip attenuated synovitis and achieved complete pain relief without inducing adverse effects. In ACLT + pMMx-induced model, repeated TA-NM@Lip did not cause apoptosis of chondrocytes or damage cartilage and attenuated cartilage degeneration.

Acknowledgements: This work was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (82102630, 81903007, 80217502), the National Natural Science Foundation Regional Innovation and Development Joint Fund (U21A20352), the National Key Research and Development Project (2022YFC3601900, 2022YFC3601901, 2022YFC3601902, 2022YFC3601903, 2022YFC3601904, 2022YFC3601905, 2022YFC3605900), the National Science Foundation of Hunan Province (2022JJ2001).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4341

POS0331
MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF CHONDROPROTECTION INDUCED BY ROR2 BLOCKADE

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Cell biology

A. S. Thorup1, J. Wilson2, M. Deniz1, F. Dell’acceio1, 1The William Harvey Research Institute, Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: We previously reported that ROR2 blockade (ROR2i) induces chondrogenesis in vitro and in vivo, improving pain and cartilage integrity following joint destabilization in mice (Thorup et al., 2020). Downregulation of YAP signaling was required for chondrogenesis induced by ROR2i, but per se not sufficient. Overexpression of constitutively active YAP negate ROR2i-induced chondrogenesis, but the YAP inhibitor Verteporfin was unable to induce chondrogenesis. This study was performed by precipitation of phosphoproteins on TiO2 columns and MS analysis. In keeping with the delayed endochondral ossification and chondrocyte hypertrophy observed in ROR2i-/- mice (DeChiara et al., 2000), Ror2/-/ C3H10T1/2 cells failed to undergo osteogenesis when exposed to osteogenic medium as assessed by alkaline phosphatase activity, extracellular matrix calcification and expression of hypertrophy/osteogenic markers. We established suitable time points for ROR-2 mediated phosphorylation events based on ERK (early) and JNK (late) phosphorylation following stimulation with WNT5A. Phosphoproteomics analysis using a label-free approach, revealed 1109 early (5 min) phosphorylation events that were ROR2 dependent (taking place in the wild type but not in ROR2-/- cells) and contributed to osteogenic differentiation.

Methods: Cartilage differentiation was assessed in C3H10T1/2 cells cultured in micromass using Alcian Blue staining and the expression of mRNA encoding chondrogenic markers. Osteogenesis was assessed by molecular marker analysis, alkaline phosphatase activity and alizarin red staining. Phosphoproteomics screening was performed by precipitation of phosphoproteins on TiO2 columns followed by mass spectroscopy. Ror2/-/ C3H10T1/2 cells were cultured using CRISP/RCas9.

Results: In keeping with the delayed endochondral ossification and chondrocyte hypertrophy observed in ROR2i-/- mice (DeChiara et al., 2000), Ror2/-/ C3H10T1/2 cells failed to undergo osteogenesis when exposed to osteogenic medium as assessed by alkaline phosphatase activity, extracellular matrix calcification and expression of hypertrophy/osteogenic markers. We established suitable time points for ROR-2 mediated phosphorylation events based on ERK (early) and JNK (late) phosphorylation following stimulation with WNT5A. Phosphoproteomics analysis using a label-free approach, revealed 1109 early (5 min) phosphorylation events that were ROR2 dependent (taking place in the wild type but not in ROR2-/- cells) and contributed to osteogenic differentiation.
not in the Ror2(-/-;CRISPR cells) and 708 at 15 minutes. In keeping with the require-
ment of YAP for ROR2-dependent chondrogenesis (Thorup et al., 2020), several
phosphorylation events of molecules within the YAP pathway occurred including YAP
and LATS1/2. In keeping with this, YAP dependent transcription was modulated by
WNT5A in a ROR2-dependent manner in a reporter assay. Several phosphoryla-
tion events were previously poorly characterised. In keeping with this, YAP de-
pendent transcription was modulated by WNT5A in a ROR2-dependent manner in a reporter assay. Several phosphorylation events were previously poorly characterised.

Conclusion: ROR2 induces modulation of several signalling pathway in addi-
tion to YAP. The hierarchy of these phosphorylation events needs to be resolved
to identify the detailed molecular mechanism underpinning the efficacy of ROR2i
in osteoarthritis.

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required for cartilage and growth plate development’, Nature Genetics, doi:
10.1038/73486.

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POS0332
IDENTIFICATION OF DISTINCT CELLULAR POPULATIONS IN THE SYNOVIO
LATE-STAGE RADIOGRAPHIC KNEE OA USING SINGLE NUCLEUS RNA SEQUENCING

Keywords: Osteoarthritis
K. Thavaratnam1, E. Gracey2, J. Rockel1, A. Ratu
reswaren1, S. Vohra1, S. Lively1, S. Dupont1, R. Gandhi1, D. Elewa
2, M. Kapoor1, 1Scho
deo
Arthritis Institute, Orthopedics, Toronto, Canada; 2Ghent, Molecular Immunology
and Inflammation, Ghent, Belgium

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is a complex, multifactorial and heterogeneous
joint disease of unknown etiology. OA research has largely focused on articular
cartilage degeneration with little attention given to other joint tissues, including the
synovium. The synovium lines the joint capsule, produces synovial fluid for
lubrication, and is emerging as a contributor to OA pathogenesis. In OA, the
synovium exhibits increased vascularity, inflammation, hyperplasia and fibrosis. Synovial cells that contribute to these pathological events during early and
advanced stages of OA are not well characterized. The emergence of RNA
sequencing (RNAseq) at the resolution of a single cell or nucleus allows for the
identification of distinct cells that may contribute to OA pathogenesis.

Objectives: To delineate the synovium’s role in OA pathogenesis we sought to
identify if distinct cell subtypes exist in the synovium of early (KL1) versus late
stages (KL3/4) of radiographic knee OA using single nucleus RNA sequencing.

Methods: Synovia from patients with early (KL1–4; n=5) and late (KL
III/IV; n=4) stage radiographic knee OA were subjected to single nucleus (sn)RNAseq and to
bioinformatic analyses. Canonical cell-specific markers were used to identify cell
types from the unsupervised clustering analysis and prominent cell types were
re-clustered. Differentially expressed gene (DEG) lists between the subclusters
were determined based on top gene expression within a cell type between early
and late OA synovium. Cell surface markers identified from the DEGs were vali-
dated by immunohistochemistry. Pathway and gene ontology enrichment analy-
sis were performed on fibroblast subclusters to identify prominent pathways and
transcription factors that were upstream regulators. Ongoing in vivo and in vitro
methods are being used to assess these transcription factors in both fibroblast
cell culture and an OA mouse model.

Results: Fibroblasts and macrophages constituted 75% of the cells from early
and late-stage synovium and re-clustering analysis resolved 8 fibroblast and 6
macrophage subclusters (Figure 1). Cluster based nuclei proportion differences identified fibroblast clusters 1, 2, 4 and 6 and macrophage
clusters 1, 2 and 5 to contribute to early-stage samples while fibroblast
clusters 3, 4 and 5 and macrophage clusters 0, 3 and 4 to late stages. Downstream
analyses focused on fibroblasts and putative cell surface markers from fibroblast
subclusters were identified from DEGs and confirmed by immunohistochemistry.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0333
NLRP12 EXACERBATES OSTEOARTHRITIS BY PROMOTING DEGRADATION OF NO2 IN SYNOVIAL MACROPHAGES

Keywords: Synovium, Innate immunity, Osteoarthritis
C. Li1, S. Lin1, Z. Ouyang1, T. Liu1, Z. Zheng1, J. Xu1, Y. Ding1, 1Sun Yat-sen
Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University, Orthopaedic Surgery, Guangzhou,
China

Background: Osteoarthritis is the most common degenerative bone and joint
disease. Hypothesis has been widely accepted that osteoarthritis (OA) starts
from cartilage injury and loss, while emerging evidences suggest that synovial
inflammation precedes cartilage loss during the progression of OA [1]. Activa-
tion of macrophages plays a crucial part in synovial inflammation in OA [2]. In
our previous researches, we have demonstrated NO2 as an inhibitor of mac-
rophage activation in vitro. Besides, bioinformatic analysis suggested a potential
link between NLRP12 and NO2.

Objectives: To investigate the role of NO2 in OA in vivo and explore the poten-
tial interaction between NO2 and NLRP12.

Methods: We established CIAO (Collagenase-induced OA) model with 8-week-
col57BL/6J mice, and injected NO2 over-expression (oe-NO2) lentiviral
vectors into the knee joint cavity as experimental group (CIOA + oe-NO2), with
the empty vectors as control (CIOA + Mock). 8 weeks later, the knee joints were
harvested and stained with Safranin O/fast green. Besides, three-dimensional
reconstruction of Micro-CT images were employed to evaluate the pathological
changes of OA. In addition, we applied lentiviral transfection, co-immunoprecip-
itation (Co-IP), and ubiquitination assays to investigate the interaction between
NO2 and NLRP12, as well as its mechanism of action in the regulation of mac-
rophage activation.

Results: In vivo over-expression of NO2 showed significant inhibition of patho-
logical changes (Figure 1A, 1B). Though NLRP12 did not have an impact on mRNA level of NO2 in RAW264.7 macrophages (Figure 1C), NO2 expression at pro-
tein level was negatively correlated with NLRP12 (Figure 1D), suggesting that
NLRP12 may influence the degradation of NO2. Co-IP experiments also con-
formed the existence of interaction between NLRP12 and NO2 at protein level,
which was influence by MG132, inhibitor of ubiquitin-proteasome pathway (Fig-
ure 1E). Besides, NLRP12 over-expression impaired inhibition of macrophage
inflammation by NO2 (Figure 1F). Since HSP90 binds NO2 to prevent its
proteasomal degradation via poly-ubiquitination (Poly-Ub) [3], we therefore performed Co-IP and Poly-Ub assays. NLRP12 was associated with reduced binding of HSP90 with NOD2, greater scale of K48 Poly-Ub assembling on NOD2, and thus lower level of NOD2 protein. Furthermore, proteasomal degradation of NOD2 was blocked by MG132, though interrupted binding between NOD2 and HSP90, and accumulation of Poly-Ub chains (Figure 1G). These findings suggested sequestration of HSP90 from binding NOD2 by NOD2-NLRP12 interaction, which led to assembly of K48 Poly-Ub chains onto NOD2, and its proteasomal degradation (Figure 1H).

Conclusion: NOD2 was demonstrated as an inhibitor of OA in vivo, in consistence with our previous in vitro data. Besides, NLRP12 interacted with NOD2, and promoted its Poly-Ub and subsequent proteasomal degradation. Our findings highlighted the impressive potential of NLRP12 to be a preventative and therapeutic target in OA, though more in-depth investigations are indispensable before further conclusion is reached.

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POS0334

LYSYL OXIDASES (LOX(L)) PROMOTE PATHOLOGIC CHONDROCYTE CALCIFICATION

Keywords: Cartilage, Animal Models, Crystal Arthritis

I. Bernabei1, M. Romani2, E. Faure3, J. Wegrzyń3, T. Höge1, N. Busso1, S. Nasi1. 1Lausanne University Hospital, CHUV, Department of Musculoskeletal Medicine, Lausanne, Switzerland; 2Lausanne University Hospital, CHUV, Department of Medicine, Lausanne, Switzerland; 3Lausanne University Hospital, CHUV, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: Pathologic calcification (PC) is the deposition of calcium-containing crystals in soft tissues. PC of cartilage is a hallmark of osteoarthritis (OA), a degenerative joint disease characterized by cartilage degradation. The interplay between calcification- and extracellular matrix (ECM) formation, maturation and degradation in cartilage is not fully understood.

Objectives: We aim to reveal the role of lysyl oxidases (LOX(L)), a family of extracellular enzymes that catalyze collagen cross-linking, in OA cartilage calcification.

Methods: We induced in vitro chondrocytes calcification with calcifying medium (CM = BBC + 10% FBS + 20mM β-glycerophosphate + 50μg/ml ascorbic acid) or control (CM = DMEM high glucose + 10% FBS), and treated or not with 500μM 5-aminopropionitrile (BAPN). Gene expression was analyzed by qRT-PCR, II-6 in cell supernatants by ELISA, mitochondrial and cytoplasmic reactive oxygen species (ROS) by use of the kits MitoSOX and DHE (Life Technologies). We induced in vivo murine knee cartilages using the meniscectomy (MNX) mode, where medial meniscus is removed in the right knee, while the left knee is sham operated. During two months, mice were injected with PBS or BAPN 50mg/Kg twice per week, and given 1mg/ml BAPN in drinking water. New calcific formation in knees was analyzed by microCT. Bioinformatics analysis was performed with an online tool at www.systems-genetics.org/mmad, using the Modules by Module section in GeneBridge. Manhattan plots were generated by correlating collagen fibril organization module (GO:0030199) representing LOX(L) family of enzymes, and calcification-, chondrocyte hypertrophy- and catabolic enzymes-associated modules.

Results: Our findings revealed that CM and calcium-containing crystals induced lox(l) activity in murine chondrocytes in vitro. Conversely, treatment with the lox(l) pan-inhibitor BAPN, decreased crystal production in vitro, while decreasing calcification gene expression of Anx5, PC1, Pit-1/2 and Alp activity. Intriguingly, we identified that the pro-calcifying effects of LOX(L) were mediated via their classical cross-linking activity, as diminished cross-links in pre-formed extracellular matrix reduced in parallel chondrocyte calcification, with specific suppression of Anx5 and Pit-1/2 genes. Additionally, BAPN reverted the hypertrophic phenotype of calcifying chondrocytes, reducing expression of Runx2 and Col10 and increasing that of early differentiation Sox9 and Col2. In the same conditions, LOX(L) inhibition downregulated Col1 and Col2, whose uncontrolled production can lead to ECM fibrosis and calcification. BAPN also inhibited the expression and release of pro-calcifying cytokine II-6, while also reducing mitochondrial and cytoplasmic ROS, known to be associated with PC. Additionally, we revealed in calcifying chondrocytes that BAPN inhibition decreased cartilage catabolic enzymes genes (Mmp3, Mmp13 and Adamts5). In line, treatment with BAPN in an in vivo murine OA model based on meniscectomy, led to decreased knee joint calcifications, while not affecting the bone mineral density of the knee. We also confirmed the role of lox/l in human OA cartilage calcification. Indeed, LOX(L) inhibition by BAPN led to reduced crystal production in primary human OA chondrocytes. Finally, a bioinformatics transcript analysis of available human and murine databases obtained from tissues potentially undergoing PC, further confirmed a positive association between LOX(L)collagen fibril organization module and calcification-, chondrocyte hypertrophy- and catabolic enzymes-associated modules.

Conclusion: Collectively, our results revealed for the first time a pro-calcifying effect of LOX(L) in chondrocytes, through classical (cross-linking of extracellular matrix) and non-classical pathways (i.e. chondrocyte hypertrophy, increased matrix synthesis and degradation, and exacerbated IL-6 and ROS production). In conclusion, LOX(L) provide a novel target for future therapies aimed at treating pathologic cartilage calcification.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0335

EXOSOMES TRANSMIT DAMAGE SIGNALS FROM INFRAPELLATULAR FAT PAD AND EXACERBATE CHONDROCYTE SENESCENCE IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Treat to target

Y. Cao1, J. Ruan1, J. Kang1, X. Nie1, G. Ruan1, Z. Zhu1, W. Han1, S. Tang1, C. Ding2. 1Zhuzhaliang Hospital, Southern Medical University, Clinical Research Centre, Guangzhou, China

Background: Infrapeptellar fat pad (IPFP) is closely associated with the development and progression of knee osteoarthritis (OA) [1-5], but the underlying mechanism remains unclear.

Figure 1. (A-B) Micro-CT and Safranin O/fast green staining of mouse knee joints (n=6 for each group) (Scale bar = 100 μm) (C-D) Influence of NLRP12 on mRNA and protein level of NOD2 in macrophages (E) Interaction between NOD2 and NLRP12 (F) Effect of NLRP12 on the inhibitory effect of macrophage activation by NOD2 (G) Effect of NLRP12 on Poly-Ub and HSP90 binding of NOD2 (H) Schematic diagram
**Objectives:** This study aims to investigate the role and regulatory mechanisms of osteoarthritic infrapatellar fat pad (IPFP) tissue-derived exosomes (IPFP-Exos) in chondrocytes senescence and osteoarthritis (OA) progression.

**Methods:** The IPFP were collected from late-stage OA patients with knee arthroplasty. The role of endogenous osteoarthritic IPFP-Exos was measured in human IPFP exosomes coculturing with chondrocytes and mice post-traumatic OA models induced by destabilization of the meniscus (DMM) surgery with GW4869 or vehicle treatment. Extract of IPFP tissue exosomes was performed by ultracentrifugation. Chondrocytes degradation and cellular senescence were assessed by qRT-PCR, western blotting, alcian blue and toluidine blue staining, immunofluorescence and senescence-associated beta-galactosidase staining, respectively. MiRNA sequencing was employed in IPFP-Exos to explore its cargoes. Luciferase reporter assay was used to reveal the interaction between exosomal miRNAs and their downstream mRNA target.

**Results:** Osteoarthritic IPFP tissue could secret exosomes and deliver them into articular chondrocytes. Inhibition of endogenous osteoarthritic IPFP-Exos significantly alleviated cartilage destruction. Functional assays in vitro demonstrated that IPFP-Exos significantly prevented chondrocyte extracellular matrix (ECM) catabolism and cellular senescence. Moreover, further experiments demonstrated that IPFP-Exos induced ECM degradation in human and mice cartilage explants and aggravated the progression of experimental OA mice model. Mechanistically, highly enriched let-7b-5p and let-7c-5p in IPFP tissue-derived exosomes were essential to mediate detrimental effects by directly decreasing senescence negative regulator, lamin B receptor (LBR). Notably, intra-articular injection of antagonists inhibiting let-7b-5p and let-7c-5p in mice increased LBR expression, suppressed chondrocyte senescence and ameliorated the progression of experimental OA model.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights the function and mechanism of the IPFP-Exos in the progression of OA. Targeting IPFP-Exos cargos of let-7b-5p and let-7c-5p provide a potential prevention strategy for OA.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

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**POS0336 PERIPHERAL IMMUNOME DYSREGULATIONS REFLECT OSTEARTHRITIS (OA) JOINT DISEASE SEVERITY**

**Keywords:** -omics, Osteoarthritis

A. Chia1,2, A. M. Lajam1, G. Ang1, M. Wassef1, P. Kumar3, K. Leung4, S. Albani1,2,1,2
1Translational Immunology Institute, SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre, Translational Immunology Institute, Singapore, Singapore; 2Duke-NUS Medical School, Cancer and Stem Cell Biology (CSCB), Singapore, Singapore; 3Duke-NUS Medical School, Duke-NUS, Singapore, Singapore; 4Singapore General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Singapore, Singapore; 5KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, Rheumatology and Immunology Service, Department of Paediatric Subspecialties, Singapore, Singapore

**Background:** Osteoarthritis (OA) is a prevalent condition that is especially common among people of advanced ages. It is due to cartilage degeneration which leads to loss of mobility and chronic pain. Currently, there is no disease-modifying drugs to treat OA and the standard of care is pain management, and eventual joint replacement for end-stage disease. It is recognized that OA pathogenesis involves a complex interplay of joint damage, poor cartilage regeneration, and inflammation. However, much is unknown how the peripheral immunome architecture is perturbed by the local joint inflammation.

**Objectives:** To investigate how the peripheral immunome is dysregulated by local joint inflammation as a result of knee OA, and whether different immune subsets are dysregulated at different stages of OA severity.

**Methods:** We employed the use of mass cytometry time-of-flight (CyTOF) to investigate peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) obtained from patients with OA and healthy controls (HCs). 64 patients with different severity of OA, based on radiographic Kellgren-Lawrence scores, and 37 age, sex, and race-matched HCs were enrolled in this study. To broadly capture the dysregulations in the different immune subsets, we designed two CyTOF marker panels that cover major innate and adaptive immune cell lineages to interrogate these samples. To investigate possible relationships between the peripheral and joint immunome dysregulations, digital deconvolution of RNA-seq data obtained from OA synovial samples to estimate immune subset frequency changes in the joint was also conducted.

**Results:** We observed dysregulations in both the innate and adaptive compartments of the OA peripheral immunome as compared to HCs, and different immune subsets were dysregulated at different OA severity. In early OA, there is an involvement of inflammatory immune subsets, namely natural killer (NK) and gamma-delta T cells, suggesting the possibility of these subsets infiltrating the joint to initiate and perpetuate joint inflammation in OA. As the disease progresses to late OA, we discovered further involvement of CD45RO+ and CTLA4+PD-1+ T cell subsets suggesting memory formation and immune exhaustion. Furthermore, we also observed an involvement of regulatory subsets in late OA suggesting the homeostatic attempts to temper the chronic inflammation at the OA joint. Comparing with our analysis of the digital deconvolution of RNA-seq data of OA synovia, NK cells, monocyties, gamma-delta T cells, and resting memory T cell subsets were found to be dysregulated in both the peripheral and joint immunomes, suggesting possible trafficking dynamics and functional relationship between the two immunomes.

**Conclusions:** Our study revealed dynamic peripheral immunome changes that provide insights to the immunopathogenesis of OA. By uncovering these underlying peripheral immunome disruptions in OA, we provide further evidence that the immune system plays an important role in OA disease process.

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**Background:** Osteoarthritis (OA) is a common chronic degenerative disease caused by progressive cartilage degradation [1]. In OA, regenerative medicine based on mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) is considered the most promising method for restoring articular cartilage [2]. However, the high heterogeneity of MSCs together with invasive and painful procedures for stem cell isolation represent the main challenges of tissue engineering technology [3][4]. In this regard, a homogeneous population of MSCs, the chondroprogenitor cells (CPs), have been recently discovered in human bone [5].

**Objectives:** In the light of these considerations, the purpose of this study was to identify CPs in OA. In addition, we aimed to differentiate circulating MSCs into chondrocytes for their in vitro characterization.

**Methods:** For this study, 10 patients affected by widespread OA [10F; median age 62 years, IQR 9; median disease duration 19 years, IQR 4] related and 10 healthy donors (HD) matched by sex and age were enrolled. A blood sample was collected from each participant to the study for the characterization of three CP populations [5]. In summary, after the isolation of CD45- cells from 500 μl of whole blood using anti-CD45+ magnetic beads, samples were labeled with anti-CD146-PE, anti-CD73-APC, anti-CD164 – FITC and PDPN PerCP/Cyanine5.5 antibodies. The acquisition of CPs was performed on a FACS Calibur cytometer. Data was analyzed using the Cell Quest Pro software. For in vitro culture of circulating MSCs, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated by Ficoll-gradient protocol and were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 20% FBS and 1% antibiotic–antimycotic. At 60–80% of confluence, the adherent cells were collected using AV-FITC and PI apoptosis detection kit.

**Results:** Flow Cytometry analysis identified CPs in peripheral blood. Interestingly, the two populations CD45-, PDPN +, CD146-, CD73 +, CD164+ and CD45-, PDPN +, CD146-, CD73-, CD164 + were significantly decreased in OA patients compared to HD (0.82% ± 0.46 vs 4.13% ± 1.92, 0.65% ± 0.22 vs 3.74% ± 1.10, p = 0.0065 and p = 0.0022, respectively) (Figure 1a). During in vitro expansion, MSCs of OA patients were numerically lower than HD (p=0.0089, p=0.0042 and p=0.0002, respectively) (Figure 1d). Lastly, apoptosis was significantly higher in OA chondrocytes than in HD (p=0.004) (Figure 1e).

**Conclusion:** The results of this study demonstrated a lower percentage of circulating CPs in patients affected by OA compared to HD. Furthermore, OA circulating MSCs showed a reduced chondrogenic capacity supported by a high number of hypertrophic chondrocytes and an increase in apoptosis levels. Further studies are need to clarify the possible application of circulating CPs in cartilage regenerative therapy.

**REFERENCES:**


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Beyond the crystal ball...

Keywords: Randomized controlled trial, Patient-led research, Systemic sclerosis

P. Del Gaudio1,2, L. A. Bissell3, S. Huang4, P. Hansen5, S. Johnson6, D. Furst7, D. Khanna8. 1University of Leeds, Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust, Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 3Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust, Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4University of Michigan, Scleroderma Program, Ann Arbor, United States of America; 51000minds, 1000minds, otago, New Zealand; 6University of Toronto, Scleroderma Program, Toronto, Canada; 7Los Angeles, Pacific Arthritis, Los Angeles, United States of America; 8University of Michigan, Scleroderma Program, Ann Arbor, United States of America

Background: The revised Combined Response Index in diffuse cutaneous Systemic Sclerosis (dcSSc) (rCRISS) is a composite outcome measure reifying on 6 core set variables including Organ Failure, Forced Vital Capacity (FVC), HAQ-DI and modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), together with patient and clinician global assessments of disease activity [1]. rCRISS is calculated in patients not experiencing any organ failure and reported as proportion of patients who improve a given % (20,30,40 etc) in at least 3 domains. rCRISS discriminated treatment vs placebo in 3 randomised, placebo-controlled trials on early diffuse SSC [1]. Notwithstanding, it is not clear what is the minimal rCRISS score that captures an overall improvement in disease. Further, being developed as a response index, patients that do not experience a predefined organ failure but do worsen in their disease cannot be scored or discriminated from patients that simply do not improve.

Objectives: To improve the clinical interpretation of the rCRISS by creating a continuous range score of clinician and patient meaningful changes in its individual variables.

Methods: Following OmerACT guidelines, 100 physicians with experience in dcSSc and 100 patients with dcSSc who have participated in a dcSSc trial were identified in 5 continents. An adaptive survey was developed, based on 1000Minds conjoint analysis software. Patients and doctors were asked to choose, on successive pairs of two hypothetical patients, who had better or worse outcome according to presence of organ failure and Minimal Clinically Important Differences (MCID) in two domains among FVC, HAQ-DI and mRSS. Pairwise comparisons of choices were analysed utilising PAPRIKA methodology [2] to rank and weight the MCIDs against each other. The resulting score was tested in the same cohort utilised for rCRISS development. Briefly, 354 SSC patients data from three randomised, placebo-controlled trials (Asset, Focussced and Fascinate) were randomised in 10 development (2/3 pts) and validation (1/3 pts) sets, stratified by study and treatment group. Mean scores of the replicate datasets were calculated for active and placebo treatments. Bootstrapping was employed to determine 95% Confidence Intervals. Kappa statistics were used to analyse concordance.

Results: 160 of the 200 participants completed the survey. Discrete choices concerning analysis defined ranks and relative weights of the 4 domains in the improved and worsened outcomes groups. A continuous composite ranked score reflecting the relative weighting of the individual outcome measures (Ranked Composite Important Difference, RCID) was developed. The score ranges from -1 (worst possible outcome) to 1 (best possible outcome), with patients who experience no organ failure and do not meet any MCID in any of the 3 domains scoring 0. Positive RCID scores showed a strong correlation with ACR CRP >0.6 with kappa statistics in development and validation sets of 0.71 (CI 0.64,0.73) and 0.71 (0.66,0.84), respectively. 73.1% of subjects with positive RCIDs (74% in the validation set) met revised CRIS10, with 63.7 and 51.3 meeting rCRISS 20% and 30%, respectively, rCRISS scores between 20 and 30 and were associated with only positive RCID1. Additionally, 32% (CI 29.7,34.3) of subjects on active treatment scored a positive RCID (>0) vs 25.8 (CI: 23.3,26.6) in the placebo group. Data were confirmed in the validation set (31.7 vs 27.1). Conversely, 12.3% (10.14) of subjects on treatment arms showed negative RCID (Any worsening, <0) vs 21.1 (19.2,23.3) in the placebo groups.

Conclusion: Our process adopted a robust methodology with a large patient representation in outcome measure development, to develop a patient and physician derived anchor (RCID) to other composite scores, such as ACR CRITT and revised CRISS. RCID provides a clinician and patient meaningful score that can be used as a dichotomous variable with a positive (improved) or negative (worsened) outcome.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Francesco Del Gaudio Speakers bureau: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Capella, Chemomab, Ergomed, Janssen, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Grant/ research support from: Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Capella, Chemomab, Janssen, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Leslie-Anne Bissell Consultant of: UCB, Abbvie, Galabiros, Suyuan Huang: None declared, Paul Hansen: None declared, Siddhu Johnson: None declared, Daniel Furst: None declared, Dinesh Khanna Shareholder of: Eicos Sciences, Speakers bureau: Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Cytori, CSL Behring, EMD Merck-Serono, Genentech/Roche, GlaxoSmithKline, Genkyotex, Sanofi-Aventis, UCB, Actelion, and Gilead, Consultant of: Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Cytori, CSL Behring, EMD Merck-Serono, Genentech/Roche, GlaxoSmithKline, Genkyotex, Sanofi-Aventis, UCB, Actelion, and Gilead; has stock options in.

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POS0339

HIGH-GRADE SYNOVITIS ASSOCIATES WITH CLINICAL MARKERS AND RESPONSE TO DMARDS THERAPY IN CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: POST HOC ANALYSIS OF A PROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Synovium, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. Garaffoni1, J. Calciolari2, M. Temusali3, M.S. Ciolfi1,2, G. Lanazzi2, A. Borrelli1, M. Govoni1, A. C. A. Soles2, E. Silvagni3. 1Rheumatology Unit, University of Ferrara and Azienda Ospedaliera-Universitaria S. Anna, Department of Medical Sciences, Ferrara, Italy; 2Università della Campania L. Vanvitelli, Department of Precision Medicine, Naples, Italy; 3University of Ferrara, Department of Translational Medicine, Ferrara, Italy; 4University of Milano-Bicocca, School of Medicine and Surgery, Milan, Italy

Background: Inflammatory arthritis (IA), such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA), are characterized by the presence of chronic synovitis. The Krenn synovitis score (KSS), a semi-quantitative histopathological score, allows the discrimination between high-grade and low-grade synovitis [1]. Although KSS could be a potential tool for profiling patients with IA, its associations with clinical and treatment features are not yet thoroughly described.

Objectives: The aim of this post hoc analysis was to identify clinical and instrumental correlates of KSS and to evaluate the association between high-grade synovitis and treatment response in a prospective cohort of IA including both RA and PsA patients.

Methods: Clinical, laboratory and ultrasound (US) data were retrieved from RA and PsA patients recruited in MATRIX cohort. Inclusion criteria were age ≥18 years, RA (ACR/EULAR 2010) or PsA (CASPAR criteria) diagnosis, presence of active disease with eligibility to start/modify new DMARDs therapy. Patients underwent US-guided synovial biopsy of one of the most involved joint (knee or wrist) before starting/modify DMARDs treatment according to treat-to-target strategy. The samples were analysed by an expert pathologist and KSS was calculated. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed to evaluate the relation between KSS and baseline variables. The association between KSS and treatment response, defined by ACR20, DAS28 remission and the newest ACR/EULAR remission criteria (2) at 6 months of follow-up, was investigated in univariate logistic regression analysis.

Results: 50 patients, 31 RA and 19 PsA, completed 6 months of follow-up after synovial biopsy. Baseline characteristics did not differ between RA and PsA patients except for F/M ratio (77% vs 32%, p=0.004). Four patients (8%) were treatment-naive and, within the refractory patients (46/50, 92%), 19 (38%) were previously treated with b/tsDMARDs. GCs exposure was reported for 17/31 (55%) RA and 8/19 (42%) PsA patients. KSS was available for 47 patients and the median value was 6.00 (IQR 4.00-7.00) in RA samples and 4.00 (IQR 3.00-5.75) in PsA. Inflammatory infiltrates score was significantly higher in RA than in PsA patients (median 3.00 vs 2.00, p=0.034)(Figure1A). At univariate analysis, the presence of C reactive protein (CRP)>0.5 mg/dl, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)>30 mm, DAS28-ESR, joint stiffness in the biopsied joint (VAS≥60mm), moderate to high synovial effusion and moderate to high power Doppler signal detected by US at baseline evaluation in the biopsied joint all associated with increased risk of high-grade synovitis. Fibromyalgia, instead, associated with a reduced risk of high-grade synovitis. At multivariate analysis, US effusion (OR 7.18, 95%CI 1.49, 47.98), CRP (OR 5.66, 95%CI 1.23, 33.22) and joint stiffness (OR 7.67, 95%CI 1.31, 73.51) significantly associated with high-grade KSS (Figure 1B). After 24 weeks (33/50 new btsDMARDs, 6/50 new csDMARDs)
initiated), 2448 patients achieved DAS28 remission, 18/48 ACR/EULAR remission and 26/50 ACR20. Univariate analysis revealed increased OR of remission/ response for patients with high-grade synovitis (ACR20 OR 4.57, 95% CI 1.98, 70% p=0.017; DAS28 remission OR 5.85, 95% CI 1.60, 25/48, p=0.011; ACR/ EULAR OR 7.50, 95% CI 1.69, 53.49, p=0.017) (Figure 1C). The interaction between KSS and diagnosis had no significant impact on the outcome.

Conclusion: KSS is a simple and feasible tool for disease stratification of patients with IA, recommended in synovial biopsy research. In our study, high CRP, joint stiffness and US presence of synovial effusion correlated with the presence of high-grade synovitis. High grade synovitis was associated with increased probability of achieving remission 6 months after therapy upgrade in active IA patients independently from diagnosis.

REFERENCES:

POS0340
PROGNOSTIC FACTORS OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE: A 10-YEAR LONGITUDINAL COHORT ANALYSIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Imaging, Lungs
K. Nakamura1, S. Shimoyama1, N. Abe1, T. Horita1.1Tomakomai City Hospital, Internal Medicine, Tomakomai, Japan

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD), defined as interstitial pneumonia (IP) and pulmonary fibrosis, has a variety of backgrounds. Connective tissue diseases (CTD) is one of the leading causes of ILD, and the concept of “IP with an autoimmune feature (IPAF)” has been established [1]. It has been reported that CTD-related ILD (CTD-ILD) and IPAF have a better prognosis than idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis [2]. However, prognostic differences and factors among CTD-ILD, IPAF, and other ILDs (OILD) remain unknown.

Methods: We retrospectively collected data from 642 patients diagnosed as “IP” or “pulmonary fibrosis” between 2010 and 2021 at Tomakomai City Hospital. ILD diagnosis was performed by CT scan with 2 neuroradiologists. We classified ILD into 3 groups of CTD-ILD, IPAF, and OILD. Mortality and prognostic factors were assessed using Kaplan-Meier methods and Cox proportional hazards models. In addition, we analyzed hospitalization free survival using Kaplan-Meier methods.

Results: Clinical characteristics of the patients are shown in Table 1. The CTD-ILD and IPAF patients were younger, and less frequently complicated by coronary artery disease and chronic heart failure. In addition, more patients in the IPAF and CTD-ILD groups showed a Non-specific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) pattern on initial CT, while OILD group showed a usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) and diffuse alveolar damage (DAD) pattern. C-reactive protein (CRP) levels were lower in the IPAF and CTD-ILD group.

The prognosis of CTD-ILD and IPAF group was better than OILD group (Figure 1, adjusted p<0.001, <0.01, respectively), but that of CTD-ILD and IPAF was similar (adjusted p=0.10). Multivariate analysis revealed the ILD classification was not independent prognostic factor (p=0.11, Hazard ratio (HR) 0.85, [0.70-1.04]). However, age (p<0.001, HR1.03, [1.02-1.05]), sex (p<0.001, HR 2.08, [1.52-2.87]), initial CT patterns as UIP (p<0.01, HR 2.68, [1.27-5.75]) and DAD (p<0.001, HR 7.99, [3.85-16.60]) were independent prognostic factors. The leading causes of death (CTD-ILD vs. IPAF vs. OILD) were IP (48.2% vs. 55.6% vs. 44.7%, p=0.05), infection (10.8% vs. 22.2% vs. 18.4%, p=0.07), and malignancy (24.1% vs. 5.6% vs. 7.9%, p=0.03). In the analysis of event free survival, there was no difference among three groups (p=0.80), and the most common cause was the infection in the CTD-ILD group (36.1%) and primary event in the OILD and IPAF groups (29.0%, 36.4%, respectively).

Table 1. patient’s background

POS0341
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF A DEEP LEARNING ALGORITHM TO DETECT POSITIVE SIJ MRI ACCORDING TO THE ASAS DEFINITION IN AXSPA PATIENTS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Artificial Intelligence, Imaging

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Methods: 731 baseline SU MRI scans were collected from two prospective randomised controlled trial cohorts in patients with non-radiographic (nr-axSpA) and radiographic (r-) axSpA (RAPID-axSpA [NCT01087762] and C-OPTIMISE [NCT02505542]) and were centrally evaluated by two expert readers (and adjudicator in case of disagreement) for the presence of inflammation by the 2009 Assessment in SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) definition.[5] The MRI scans were processed by the previously trained deep learning algorithm,[2] blinded to clinical information and central expert readings. Performance evaluation included sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values (PPV and NPV), Cohen’s Kappa and the absolute agreement to assess the agreement between the deep learning algorithm and the human readers for the classification of MRI-SIJ scans. Bootstrapping was used to construct the 95% confidence interval (CI).

Results: Pooling the patients from RAPID-axSpA (n=152) and C-OPTIMISE (n=579) yielded a validation set of 731 patients (mean age: 34.2 years; SD: 6.6; 69.1% male) of which 44.6% were patients with nr-axSpA and 59.6% were MRI+ as per central readings. Comparing the trained algorithm with the human central readings for the classification of MRI+MRI– on the pooled validation set yielded a sensitivity of 70% (95% CI: 66–73%), specificity of 81% (95% CI: 78–84%), PPV of 84% (95% CI: 82–87%), NPV of 64% (95% CI: 61–68%), Cohen’s kappa of 0.49 (95% CI: 0.43–0.55), and absolute agreement of 74% (95% CI: 72–77%). Table 1.

Table 1. Performance results comparing the algorithm and the human readers for the classification of MRI-SIJ scans. The metric values are point estimate (95% CI).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>All (N=731)</th>
<th>RAPID-axSpA (N=152)</th>
<th>C-OPTIMISE (N=579)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central reading, MRI+</td>
<td>436 (59.6%)</td>
<td>99 (65.1%)</td>
<td>337 (58.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specificity</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPV</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPV</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohen’s kappa</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute agreement</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C: confidence interval; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; NPV: negative predictive value; PPV: positive predictive value; SJ: sacroiliac joints.

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POS0342

PERFORMANCE OF THE EULAR SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS IMPACT OF DISEASE (SCORDER) OUTCOME MEASURE AS A PROM FOR PATIENTS WITH DIFFUSE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Patient-led research, Patient reported outcomes, Systemic sclerosis

R. Dobrota1, A. Garaïman2, K. Filigelse3, A. Kennedy3, A. Roennow3, Y. Allanořč1, P. Carreira1, L. Czirják1, C. P. Denton4, R. Hesselstrand5, G. Sandqvist6, O. Kowal-Bielecka7, C. Brun8, M. Matucci Cerinic9, C. Mihai10, A. M. Gheorghiu11, U. Müller-Ladner12, J. Sexton13, T. K. Kviens14, T. Hegberg15, O. Distel16, M. O. Becker17, University Hospital Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 2Federation of European Scleroderma Associations (FESCA), Federation of European Scleroderma Associations (FESCA), London, United Kingdom; 3Federation of European Scleroderma Associations (FESCA), London, United Kingdom; 4Medical University Rezeknie, Department of Rheumatology and Internal Medicine, Bialystok, Poland; 5Careggi University Hospital, University of Florence, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Florence, Italy; 6Cantacuzino Hospital, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Department of Rheumatology and Internal Medicine, Bucharest, Romania; 7Justus-Liebig University Gießen, Campus Kerckhoff Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bad Neuheim, Germany; 8Diakonhemmet Hospital, Division of Rheumatology and Research, Oslo, Norway; 9Oslo University Hospital, Regional Support, Oslo, Norway

Background: There is a high unmet need for disease-modifying antibiotic therapies in diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (dcSSc) which could improve the outcome of this severe disease. Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) are important and mandatory for randomized clinical trials (RCTs). The EULAR-endorsed ScleroID is the first comprehensive PROM specifically developed by SSc patients and experts to reflect the disease impact of SSc and showed a good performance in the clinical validation study [1]. However, most RCTs focus on dcSSc patients, hence a validated PROM to reflect the disease burden experienced by patients with dcSSc is needed and a detailed analysis of ScleroID in this subset of patients is lacking.

Objectives: To investigate the performance of the EULAR ScleroID in patients with dcSSc as a prerequisite for its use as a PROM in RCTs testing potentially disease-modifying drugs.

Methods: This is a subanalysis of all patients with dcSSc from the large, multicenter, ScleroID validation cohort [1]. As comparators, SSc-HAQ, EQ-SD, SF-36 were included. The study had a longitudinal arm with a reliability visit at 7±3 days and a 12-month follow-up visit [1]. The performance of ScleroID in dcSSc was assessed according to the OMERACT filter [1].

Results: 152 dcSSc patients with a baseline visit were analyzed (44, 28.9% male, median age 54 years, median disease duration 7 years). ScleroID performed well as a PROM reflecting the disease impact of dcSSc: it showed a good construct validity with high Spearman’s correlation coefficients with comparators (SSc-HAQ, 0.79, 95% CI [0.69, 0.86]; HAQ-DI, 0.72 95% CI [0.60, 0.80]; SF-36 physical score, -0.69 95%CI [-0.77, -0.60]). Furthermore, the internal consistency was strong.
Cronbach’s alpha was 0.87 and the split half reliability coefficient was 0.88. In the longitudinal arm, 44 patients had a test-retest reliability visit and 113 a follow-up visit, of whom 19/113 (16.8%) reported a significant change at 12 months follow-up (11 improved, 8 worsened). ScleroID showed a good consistency and discrimination ability with excellent test-retest reliability (intraclass correlation coefficient 0.89, 95% CI [0.84, 0.92]) and moderate sensitivity to change (standardized response mean 0.54, superior to the comparators (SSC-HAQ, 0.01; HAQ-DI,-0.07; SF-36 physical score, -0.43). The results are summarized in Figure 1.

Conclusion: The EULAR ScleroID, which is a novel, brief, disease specific, patient-derived, disease impact PROM, performs well for patients with dcSSc. This supports the inclusion and further analysis of ScleroID as a PROM to reflect patients’ perspective in RCTs.

Acknowledgements: We sincerely thank the patients’ representatives who contributed to the ScleroID study, without whom this project would not have been possible.

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Background: High-density lipoprotein (HDL) mediated cholesterol efflux capacity (CEC) is facilitated by various membrane transporters based on the maturity of the apolipoprotein B (apoB) particle. HDL particle internalization, cholesterol transfer from discoidal HDL to low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and its reloading on macrophages, as well as increased triglycerides favoring a proatherogenic phenotype. Beyond lowering LDL levels, statins have various pleiotropic effects including anti-inflammatory activities, but it is unknown whether they modulate the impact of HDL CEC on atherosclerosis in RA.

Objectives: We here explored associations between ABCA1 CEC, coronary atherosclerosis and cardiovascular risk in RA and the influence of statins on those relationships.

Methods: Coronary atherosclerosis (noncalcified, partially or fully calcified, low attenuation plaques and coronary artery calcium [CAC] score) was evaluated with computed tomography angiography in 140 patients without cardiovascular disease and reassessed in 99 after 6.9±0.4 years. ABCA1 CEC and ABCG1 CEC were measured in J774 macrophages and Chinese hamster ovary cells as previously described. Cox regression evaluated the association between ABCA1 CEC and cardiovascular risk. Multivariable negative binomial and robust logistic regression tested associations of ABCA1 CEC and its interactions with statin therapy on various plaque numbers at baseline, follow-up and CAC progression.

Results: ABCA1 CEC inversely correlated with ABCG1 CEC (Pearson r = -0.167, p = 0.046) and directly correlated with triglyceride levels (Pearson r = 0.239, p = 0.004), reflecting its association with a proatherogenic phenotype. ABCA1 CEC (per 1 SD increment) associated with long-term cardiovascular risk after adjustment for cardiovascular risk score and baseline plaque burden [HR 2.05 (95% CI 1.20-3.48), Figure 1A]. ABCA1 CEC had no main effect on baseline plaque burden or progression. Instead, its impact on the respective outcomes was influenced by baseline statin use and daily average dose of statin corresponding. ABCA1 CEC inversely associated with stenotic plaque severity in statin users but not in nonusers (p for interaction = 0.024 and 0.023 respectively). Higher ABCA1 CEC associated with fewer noncalcified plaques (Figure 1C) and lower noncalcified plaque stenotic severity (Figure 1D) in statin users but not nonusers (p for interaction = 0.024 and 0.023 respectively). Higher ABCA1 CEC associated with fewer low attenuation plaques in statin users but more in nonusers (p for interaction ≤0.001, Figure 1E) and statin users displayed fewer low attenuation plaques compared to nonuser at high (≥1 SD) but not low (<1 SD) ABCA1 CEC. Moreover, ABCA1 CEC inversely associated with CAC progression in patients using high daily atorvastatin equivalent dose (>1 SD) but not nonusers (p for interaction = 0.008, Figure 1F).

Conclusion: In a proatherogenic milieu typical of active RA, including a block in HDL maturation, increased triglycerides and LDL oxidation, increasing ABCA1 activity as the predominant CEC pathway is insufficient to counterbalance and may in fact associate with vascular damage and plaque vulnerability. Statin use, by decreasing triglycerides, LDL levels and oxidation, may reduce cell cholesterol overload, thus unmasking the atheroprotective effects of ABCA1 CEC.

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis
REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

RESULTS: We included 4,672 axSpA patients (2,775 (59%) men) with a registration of both BASDAI and ASDAS-ESR at baseline and at least one follow-up visit. Mean (SD) BASDAI and ASDAS-ESR were 5.7 (2.1) and 3.3 (1.0) at baseline, and 3.0 (2.3) and 1.9 (1.0) at follow-up, respectively. The optimal BASDAI values corresponding to ASDAS-ESR cut-offs were 2.1, 3.1 and 6.2 for men and 2.1, 3.3 and 6.3, respectively (Figure 1). When comparing the BASDAI and ASDAS-ESR cut-offs, the level of agreement was lower for the VHDA cut-off compared to the other disease activity states (Table 1). The gender-specific BASDAI cut-offs corresponding to ASDAS-ESR cut-offs (i.e., 1.3, 2.1 and 3.5) were 2.1, 3.1 and 6.2 for men and 2.1, 3.3 and 6.3 for women, respectively (Figure 1). We also observed that fewer women met the ID and LDA cut-offs of <1.3 and <2.1 than men (Table 1).

Conclusion: The BASDAI cut-offs corresponding to ASDAS-ESR cut-offs (i.e., 1.3, 2.1 and 3.5) were 2.1, 3.3 and 6.3, respectively. There was no evidence of a clinically relevant difference in BASDAI cut-offs between men and women.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Statistical measures of agreement between BASDAI and ASDAS-ESR cut-offs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BASDAI&lt;1.3 (%)</th>
<th>ASDAS-ESR&lt;1.3 (%)</th>
<th>Disc (%)</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>SP</th>
<th>r2</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>42.4</td>
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<td>15.9</td>
<td>0.90</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Cut-offs between LDA and HDA (follow-up)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BASDAI&lt;2.1 (%)</th>
<th>ASDAS-ESR&lt;2.1 (%)</th>
<th>Disc (%)</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>SP</th>
<th>r2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>0.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.85</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cut-offs between LDA and HDA (baseline)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BASDAI&lt;3.5 (%)</th>
<th>ASDAS-ESR&lt;3.5 (%)</th>
<th>Disc (%)</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>SP</th>
<th>r2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C2.1, 2.1 and 2.1 for all patients, men and women, respectively; C2: 3.3, 3.3 and 3.3 for all patients, men and women, respectively; C3: 6.3, 6.2 and 6.4 for all patients, men and women, respectively; C cut-off; Disc: proportion of discordance; SE: sensitivity; SP: specificity; r2: kappa coefficient.

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Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, bDMARD

I. Jvsun1, 2, J. E. Gehiin1, E. Kristianslund1, J. Sexton1, D. Warnen1, Y. Hu1, T. K. Kwien1, E. A. Haavardsholm1, 2, N. Bolstad3, S. W. Syversen1, G. L. Goll1, 3Department of Rheumatology, Lillehammer, Norway; 4University of Oslo, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 5Norwegian Radium Hospital, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Oslo, Norway; 6Lillehammer Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Lillehammer, Norway

Background: Lack of response to TNF inhibitors (TNFi) can be caused by sub-therapeutic drug levels and anti-drug antibodies (ADAb). Therapeutic drug-monitoring (TDM) can help clinicians tailor treatment and may improve effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of TNFi. For TDM to be validated as a clinical tool, therapeutic ranges must be identified.

Objectives: To explore the association between adalimumab serum drug level, treatment response and drug survival in patients with inflammatory arthritis, with the intention to identify a therapeutic range. In addition, to assess frequency and clinical implications of ADAb formation.

Methods: Patients with a clinical diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), spondyloarthritis (SpA) or psoriatic arthritis (PsA) starting treatment with adalimumab and enrolled in the observational NOR-DMARD study were included. Treatment response during 3 months was defined as EULAR good or moderate response at 3 months and long-term drug survival. This study is the first to explore associations between adalimumab serum levels and clinical outcomes across all inflammatory arthritides. Higher adalimumab drug levels were associated with clinical response at 3 months and long-term drug survival. This study suggests 6-12 mg/L for RA/PsA and >1.4 mg/L for SpA that had higher odds for response (OR 4.7 [95% CI 1.4-15], p=0.01) Further, in these patients treatment discontinuation was seen at a lower rate (HR 0.35 [95% CI 0.17-0.73], p= 0.005). Patients with ADAb at 3 months discontinued treatment at a higher rate (HR 3.4 [95% CI 2.1-5.3], p=0.001). In RA/PsA patients, co-medication with methotrexate was associated with higher serum drug level (8.4 mg/L [IQR 5.3-10.9] vs 5.8 mg/L [IQR 12.6-17], p=0.0003), lower rate of ADAb (6% vs 22 %, p<0.0001) and better drug survival (HR for drug discontinuation 0.50 [95% CI 0.29-0.87] p= 0.013).

Conclusion: This study is the first to explore associations between adalimumab serum levels and clinical outcomes across all inflammatory arthritides. Higher adalimumab drug levels were associated with clinical response at 3 months and long-term drug survival. This study suggests 6-12 mg/L as lower target adalimumab levels for RA/PsA and SpA respectively and contributes to the development of TDM algorithms for adalimumab in arthritis patients.

Figure 1. Serum adalimumab levels at 3 months. A) Violin plot. Each data point is a participant, and the solid orange line show the group median. B) and C) Percent distribution of responders at 3 months stratified by serum adalimumab levels. Adalimumab groups are divided by percentile distribution.
Knee Osteoarthritis (KOA) is one of the most prevalent and disabling rheumatic diseases. The inability to detect early disease stages and the lack of effective treatments leave KOA patients without non-surgical clinical options. The early diagnosis of KOA at asymptomatic stages is crucial to improve the prompt management of the patients, in order to prevent or slow the course of the disease. Major research interest is focused on discovering prognostic markers useful to identify individuals at high risk of developing KOA before joint damage appears.

**Objectives:** To develop a prognostic model useful to predict the incidence of radiographic knee osteoarthritis (rKOA).

**Methods:** This study involved subjects without established KOA according to the Kellgren and Lawrence classification scale (KL=0-1), who were enrolled in the Osteoarthritis Initiative (OAI) cohort and the Prospective Cohort of A Coruña (PROCOAC). We developed two predictive models for rKOA incidence within 96 months of follow-up among participants in the OAI cohort. The protein biomarker candidates APOA1, APOA4, ZA2G and A2AP were quantified in serum using a custom-made multiplex protein microarray. The prospective association of the protein levels with rKOA incidence, defined as progressing to KL=2 during 96-months follow-up, was evaluated to develop the models based on the protein biomarkers, sociodemographic, anthropometric and non-radiographic clinical measurements. The predictive capacity was assessed using the area under the curve (AUC). The performance of the models was externally validated in the PROCOAC cohort.

**Results:** We included 602 participants from the OAI cohort in the development dataset, which had a KL ≤1 at baseline. From these, 360 did not present any radiographic signs of KOA (KL=0) in both knees at baseline. The model built exclusively with demographic and clinical data (age, sex, BMI and the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) pain score) from patients with KL ≤1 (early KOA) at baseline showed an AUC=0.793 to predict rKOA incidence during the follow-up. The inclusion of the 4 biomarkers (Figure 1) yielded an AUC=0.793 in patients with KL=1 at baseline.

**Conclusion:** Two prognostic models have been developed to predict rKOA incidence based on the measurement of four novel protein biomarkers.

**Figure 1.** Overlapping of the AUCs obtained from the clinical models (grey line) and the clinical models with the biomarkers (black line) to predict the incidence of radiographic KOA during the follow-up period in the development cohort (OAI). A) Clinical model (AUC=0.719) and the clinical model with the 4-biomarkers (AUC=0.793) in patients with KL=1 at baseline. B) Clinical model (AUC=0.724) and the clinical model with the 4-biomarkers (AUC=0.798) in patients with KL=0 at baseline.

**Table 1.** Comparison of the performance of the proposed models in the development (OAI) and validation (PROCOAC) cohorts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Development cohort</th>
<th>Validation cohort</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical model</td>
<td>AUC (95%CI)</td>
<td>AUC (95%CI)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL ≤1</td>
<td>0.793 (0.746-0.839)</td>
<td>0.677 (0.564-0.791)</td>
<td>0.224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL=0</td>
<td>0.798 (0.718-0.879)</td>
<td>0.761 (0.628-0.896)</td>
<td>0.640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Osteoarthritis

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**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Pain, Psoriatic arthritis

**Background:** Patient's and Physician's Global Assessment of Disease Activity (PtGA and PhGA) are important measures in Spondyloarthritis (SpA), but often provide discordant results. Some data show that patient-physician discordance can result in patient poor adherence to treatment and healthcare costs in SpA.

**Objectives:** We intended to assess the principal determinants of both PtGA and PhGA in patients under biologic treatment.

**Methods:** We performed a cross-sectional study, including patients with SpA under biologic treatment registered in the Rheumatic Diseases Portuguese Register (Reuma.pt), consecutively evaluated in a tertiary hospital center. Sociodemographic and clinical data were collected. PtGA and PhGA were measured on a Visual Analogue Scale of 0-100. To identify determinants of PtGA and PhGA, we performed firstly a univariate analysis with the independent variables and subsequently a multiple linear regression. SPSS v.24 was used for statistical analysis.

**Results:** We evaluated 186 patients with SpA according to ASAS criteria, under biologic treatment. Most patients were male (53.20%) with a mean age of 52.15 (SD=12.9) years-old at the time of last medical appointment. PtGA and PhGA were significantly different. Clinical and laboratory characteristics of patients are shown in table 1. There was a positive correlation between higher PtGA and older age, unemployment, number of tender joints, HAQ, HADS, BASDAI, number of comorbidities and daily medication. There was also an association with the concomitant presence of osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, C reactive protein...
(CRP), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and daily prednisolone intake. On the other side, we found a negative correlation with SF-36, FACIT and EQSD. The multiple linear regression shows that the SF-36 (p=0.001), BASDAI (p<0.001) and being unemployed (p=0.042) were the most preponderant determinants in PsGA explaining 85% of the variability noted in PsGA ($R^2 = 0.846$; $R^2$ adj $= 0.828$). Regarding PhGA we found a positive correlation between the number of tender and swollen joints, CRP and daily prednisolone intake. In multivariable analyses the main determinants of PhGA were the number of swollen joints and higher CRP ($R^2 = 0.867$; $R^2$ adj $= 0.829$).

Table 1. Clinical and laboratory characteristics of patients with spondyloarthritis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years), mean ± SD</th>
<th>52.2 ± 12.9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender – male, % (N)</td>
<td>53.2% (99/186)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Global VAS, mean ± SD</td>
<td>34.4 ± 27.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient pain VAS, mean ± SD</td>
<td>31.9 ± 26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient back pain VAS, mean ± SD</td>
<td>25.0 ± 26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Global VAS, mean ± SD</td>
<td>7.4 ± 12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient-physician discordance, median ± SD</td>
<td>27.8 ± 24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI, median (IQR)</td>
<td>2.5 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI, median (IQR)</td>
<td>2.4 (4.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Form (36) Health Survey (SF-36), median ± SD</td>
<td>455.7 ± 167.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIT, median ± SD</td>
<td>35.6 ± 11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADS, median (IQR)</td>
<td>Anxiety: 6 (8.0) Depression: 5 (8.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQSD, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0.4824 ± 0.4058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily medication, median (IQR)</td>
<td>3 (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASDAI:ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; BASFI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index; EQSD: EuroQol-5 dimension; FACIT: Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy; HADS: Hospital Anxiety and Depression scales; HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire; VAS: Visual Analogue Scale

Conclusion: We have demonstrated that comorbidities, employment status, and other factors not directly related to the disease are also determinants in PsGA. On the other hand, more objective data such as swollen joints and increased CRP are predominant in PsGA construct.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Genetic Determinants of Clinical Phenotypes

POS0348 ACTIVATING STAT3 MUTATIONS IN CD8+ T CELLS CORRELATE TO SEROLOGICAL POSITIVITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Rheumatoid arthritis, Autoantibodies

K. Mocquis,1,2,3, T. Olsson,2,3 M. Freijat, S. Khaique, C. Hamele, B. Shemo, J. Boodoo, W. Baker, M. Schmachtenberg, A. Ratan, E. Darragh, F. Andrade, K. Olsson, D. Feith, T. Loughran, D. Kimpel, 1University of Virginia School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, Charlottesville, United States of America; 2University of Virginia School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Charlottesville, United States of America; 3University of Virginia School of Medicine, Cancer Center, Charlottesville, United States of America; 4University of Virginia School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Charlottesville, United States of America; 5University of Virginia School of Medicine, Department of Public Health Sciences, Charlottesville, United States of America; 6University of Virginia School of Medicine, Medical Scientist Training Program, Charlottesville, United States of America; 7University of Virginia School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease that leads to inflammation and bone erosion of synovial joints. Serological markers such as rheumatoid factor (RF) and anti-CCP antibodies are commonly elevated, and cytotoxic CD8+ T-cell expansions have been implicated in disease pathogenesis. Large granular lymphocyte (LGL) leukemia is a rare hematologic malignancy characterized by clonal expansion of CD8+ cytotoxic T-cells. A major hallmark of all LGL leukemia is increased STAT3 activation. About 50% of patients have somatic activating mutations in STAT3, the most common being Y640F and D661Y. Additionally, STAT3 mutations correlate with numerous clinical features in LGL leukemia. LGL leukemia patients with STAT3 mutations are more likely to respond to methotrexate treatment, tend to have low neutrophil counts, and clinical features can differ between mutation types (e.g. Y640F vs D661Y). Approximately one third of LGL leukemia patients also suffer from RA, and those with STAT3 mutations are more likely to exhibit concomitant RA. Those patients with both diseases also tend to have increased positivity for serological markers like RF and anti-CCP antibodies than patients with either disease alone[1].

Objectives: Based on disease overlap between LGL leukemia and RA, and a putative role for CD8+ T-cells in RA, we hypothesized that STAT3 mutations may be detected in the CD8+ T cells of RA patients without LGL leukemia and correlate with RA clinical characteristics.

Methods: Blood samples, clinical parameters, and demographic data were collected from RA patients (n=96), many of whom were on immunosuppressives such as methotrexate, and healthy controls (n=9). CD8+ cell DNA was isolated and analyzed via droplet digital (dd)PCR to detect common STAT3 mutations in LGL leukemia: Y640F, D661Y, and mutations in the S614 to G618 region. RA samples were divided into wild-type (WT) vs. STAT3-mutant groups using a variant allele frequency (VAF) cutoff of 0.05%, and clinical parameters were correlated to mutation status.

Results: Overall, RA patients had statistically different levels of STAT3 mutations compared to controls (D661Y p<0.0005, Y640F p=0.0185). In particular, many more low level (0.005-0.05% VAF) mutations were detected in the RA population (43/96 Y640F, 59/96 D661Y) vs. healthy controls (0/9 Y640F, 0/9 D661Y). Additionally, 9/96 RA samples had a STAT3 mutation at a VAF (>5%) large enough to be indicative of CD8+ T cell clonality compared to 0/96 controls (Table 1). Multiple serological RA markers were more frequently positive in STAT3 mutant (80%-91%) relative to WT RA samples (44%-55%) (RF p<0.0005, anti-CCP p=0.018, double positivity p=0.006), with overall RF levels also significantly elevated (p=0.008) in STAT3 mutant RA samples (Figure 1). Anti-CCP positivity was more common in Y640F patients (9/9) than D661Y (7/12).

Table 1. STAT3 mutations were detected by ddPCR analysis of CD8+ T-cell DNA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy Control Samples</th>
<th>&lt;0.005%</th>
<th>0.005%-0.05%</th>
<th>0.05%-5%</th>
<th>5%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y640F</td>
<td>&lt;0/9</td>
<td>&lt;0/9</td>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>0/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D661Y</td>
<td>&lt;0/9</td>
<td>&lt;0/9</td>
<td>0/9</td>
<td>0/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S614R, G618R</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA Samples</td>
<td>&lt;0.005%</td>
<td>0.005%-0.05%</td>
<td>0.05%-5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y640F</td>
<td>42/96</td>
<td>43/96</td>
<td>10/96</td>
<td>1/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D661Y</td>
<td>23/96</td>
<td>59/96</td>
<td>14/96</td>
<td>0/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S614-G618 Region</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2/96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Presence of STAT3 mutation correlates to increased serological positivity in RA patients

Conclusion: Taken together, the presence of STAT3 activating mutations in CD8+ T-cells and the association of mutations with sero-positivity suggest that STAT3 activating mutations may play a role in the pathogenesis and clinical features in a subset of patients with RA. Further study will determine the impacts of STAT3 mutation presence on disease severity, prognosis, and selection of treatment options/potential treatment responses.
**REFERENCE:**

[1] Moosic KB, Ananth K, Andrade F, Feih DJ, Darragh E, Loughran TJP. Inter- 

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**Registry personnel, especially Bryna Shemo and Andrea Hines, for their support**

**Acknowledgements:**

**Table 1. C4 Genotype diversity in SLE**

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<th>C4A copy numbers</th>
<th>SLE; n=70</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>HC; n=90</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>OR</th>
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<tr>
<td>≤2</td>
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<td>80%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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**C4B copy numbers**

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<td>9%</td>
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**SLE C4-HERV**

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<th>OR</th>
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**C4 genotypes**

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<th>%</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Value OR 95% CI</th>
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<tr>
<td>AL-AL-BS</td>
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<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td>AL-AL-BS</td>
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<td>1%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.16 to 0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AL-AL-BS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.16 to 0.77</td>
</tr>
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<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<td>AL-AL-BS</td>
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<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.16 to 0.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. Association of C4 gene copy numbers with serum complement, autoantibodies and SLE subgroups**

**Table 1.**

**Table 1. C4 Genotype diversity in SLE**

**Methods:**

533 consecutive patients with rheumatic diseases (141 SLE, 120 RA, 72 SSC, 100 axSpA and 100 PsA) and 50 healthy donors (HDs) were included in the study. We used the chi-square test for comparison of categorical variables and the Spearman's rank correlation test for continuous variables. The association between C4A and C4B copy numbers was analyzed using the Spearman's rank correlation test.

**Results:**

In this cohort, total C4 gene copies ranged from 2-6 with two copies of C4A and C4B genes being frequent; there were no C4 null alleles, and a negative correlation was noted between C4A and C4B copy numbers (r=0.37, p=0.001).

**Conclusion:** Our data show that, although the C4A and C4B gene diversity is different between cases and controls, it does not correlate with serum complement levels, autoantibodies, disease activity and clinical subgroups in SLE. Low C4A copy number and increased insertion of HERV in C4A may be a risk for SLE. Our findings in this small cohort need further validation in a larger homogeneous SLE cohort.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5545

**Keywords:** Biomarkers

C. Perez-Sanchez, Y. Hanaee, C. Lopez-Medina, J. M. Martinez-Moreno, J. Calvo Gutierrez, R. Ortega Castro, M. L. Ladehesa Pineda, I. Arias de la Rosa, M. D. Lopez Montilla, M. A. Puche Larrubia, E. Collantes Estevez, A. Escudero Contreras, C. Lopez-Pedraza, N. Barberoja Puerto, IMIBIC/ University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Cordoba, Spain; IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain; IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Nephrology, Cordoba, Spain; IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Medical and Surgical Sciences, Cordoba, Spain; IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain
the study where serum samples and clinical data were obtained. A signature of 368 proteins divided into 4 panels of 92 biomarkers associated with inflammation (SLE, RA, SpA, and HDs), Organ Damage (SLE, SSC, and HDs), cardiovascular disease (RA, SpA, patients, the unsupervised differential clustering analysis using the circulating pro-
tome identified 2 clusters with distinctive clinical features mainly differentiating dis-
ease activity and the presence of renal damage. Several proteins were also identified as
novel non-invasive biomarkers of lupus nephropathy. Similarly, in SSC, a panel of proteins related to organ damage identified a subgroup of patients characterized by multiple organ involvement including lung and skin fibrosis and oesophageal dysmo-
tility, along with a preponderance of anti-Scl-70 antibodies positivity. In axSpA patients, the
terms were associated with renal disease, and associated with key clinical features.
In RA, a specific signature of chemokines before therapy identified non-responder-
patients to anti-TNF therapy and Methotrexate after 3 months of treatment, outputting out its role as a predictor of therapy response. Moreover, several pro-
teins associated with CVD and metabolism were modulated by the effect of Methotrexate and Tofacitinib, which also underlined their role as biomarkers for treatment monitoring. In PsA patients, numerous proteins related to CVD were up-regulated in relation to HDs and associated with clinical markers of CVD risk. Various circulating proteins also distinguished the presence of insulin resistance, high activity, and poor therapeutic outcome to Methotrexate and Apremilast. Fur-
termore, the PEA analysis of the inflammation proteome in PsA synovial fluid revealed novel biomarkers of disease and potential therapeutic targets.
Conclusion: PEA technology might boost the future of precision medicine in rheu-
atological diseases through the identification of novel biomarkers of disease and therapy response and the stratification of patients with key clinical and molecular features. Supported by: ISCIII PI12/0591, P120/00079, PMP2/00119, RICORS, RD2/10002/0033 co-financed by ERDF, Consejería de Conocimiento, Investi-
gación y Universidades de la Junta de Andalucía (PI20_01367), RTCV2021-023828-I, financed by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501000101033 and the European union——NextGenerationEU/PRTR.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3630

POS0351

MULTI OMICS ANALYSIS IDENTIFIES DIFFERENTIAL LIPID REGULATION AS A POTENTIAL MECHANISM UNDERPINNING METHOTREXATE RESPONSE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis, -omics

C. F. Yae1, N. Nair1, S. Verstappen1, K. Hyrich1, A. Barton1, D. Plant1. The University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes inflammation and joint damage, leading to disability and reduced quality of life. Methotrexate (MTX) is a widely used disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug that is initially prescribed to reduce inflammation and slowing disease progression in RA; however, approximately 40% of treated patients do not experience a satisfactory response to this drug. Identifying reliable surrogate biomarkers of MTX response would facilitate precision medicine strategies and improve patient outcomes.

Objectives: To identify blood-based transcriptomic and metabolomic biomarkers of MTX response in patients with RA.

Methods: Whole blood samples were taken from patients taking part in the Rheumatoid Arthritis Medication Study (RAMS), an observational longitudinal cohort of early RA patients starting MTX for the first time in the UK. RNA-seq data was generated using the Illumina NovaSeq 6000 platform of patients before and after 4 weeks MTX treatment. Treatment response was determined after 6 months on drug and patients were classified as good or non-responders using established EULAR response criteria. Differential gene expression was performed using glmnSeq [1], which uses generalized linear mixed model with negative binomial distribution. Models were parameterized with size factor and dispersion estimated using DESeq2 [2]. The regression model included patient ID as a random effect and an interaction term was included between time-point and response category. Two-hundred and fifty targeted metabolites were quan-
tified in serum samples of the same patients as above using nuclear magnetic reso-
nance (NMR) based technology. Metabolomics data were normalised using probabilistic quotient normalization and scaled with pareto-scaling. Partial least-square regression (PLSR) and linear mixed effects models (constructed as above) were used to identify differentially expressed metabolites. All linear mixed models were adjusted for baseline disease activity (DAS28). Enrichment analysis for differentially expressed metabolites was performed using Metascape [3].

Results: In total, 100 patients were analysed (69 good-responders and 31 non-responders). Following quality control, 17,298 genes were tested for differential expression, 25 were significantly associated with response (fold change ≥ 1.5 at baseline, adjusted p-value < 0.05). Of these, 4 were enriched in monocar-
boxylic acid (which includes fatty acid) metabolism. Differential regulation of this biological process was also observed in the metabolomics profile where low-den-
sity lipoprotein cholesterol and triglycerides were associated with MTX treatment response; this was observed using both PLSR (AUC: 0.75) and linear mixed effects models (p-value < 0.05).

Conclusion: Whole blood multi-omics analysis has the potential to identify bio-
markers and biological processes underpinning MTX response in RA. Further research is needed to understand and confirm the relationship between mono-
carboxylic acid metabolism and MTX response in this disease.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgement: We would like to thank JTR and CNAG for generating the tran-
scriptomes dataset.

Disclosure of Interests: Chuan Yu Yap: None declared, Nisha Nair: None declared, Suzanne Verstappen: None declared, Kimme Hyrich Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Anne Barton Speakers bureau: Galapagos, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Scipharm Medicine, Galapagos, Darren Grant Research/support from: Bristol Myers Squibb.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.744

POS0352

GENETIC DETERMINANTS OF RESPONSE TO ABATACEPT IN PATIENTS WITH IGG4-RELATED DISEASE

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Rare/ orphan diseases

J. Mahajne1, C. Minici1, M. Lanzilotta1, V. Batani1, L. Dagna2, E. Delia Torre1.1 San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milano, Italy

Background: IgG4-related disease (IgG4RD) is a fibro-inflammatory disorder of unknown etiology. Emerging evidence indicates that chronic inflammation in IgG4RD is sustained by persistent mutual activation of antigen-specific B and T lymphocytes. Targeting B-T cell co-stimulation represents, therefore, a rationale therapeutic approach for IgG4RD.

Objectives: Threefold aim of the present work was (i) to assess the efficacy of abatacept (a selective inhibitor of B-T cell co-stimulation based on a replica of CTLA4) for the treatment of IgG4RD; (ii) to study T cell activation in IgG4ARD patients; and (iii) to identify functional and genetic predictors of response to abatacept we used multicolour flow-cytometry and Whole Exome Sequencing (WES). Flow-cytometry using CD3, CD19, CD4, CD25, and CTLA4 antibodies was performed to assess CD4+ T cell activation upon exposure to recombiant humanized CD3/CD28 after 120 hours in vitro cultore. Results were compared to 10 healthy controls and 10 patients with rheu-
matoid arthritis (RA); WES was performed to screen for mutations of a panel of 452 genes related to known monogenic immune mediated diseases.

Results: Pt1 was a 47 years old male with bilateral submandibular gland involvement (Figure - A - arrow; B - arrows) and subcutaneous lesions (B - cir-
cle). Pt2 was a 78 years old woman with right orbital pseudotumor (Figure - A – arrow; B - arrow), sinonasal involvement (B - arrowhead), and skin lesions (B - asterisk). Pt3 was a 68 years old woman with left lacrimal and parotid glands involvement (Figure - A – arrow; B - arrows). Abatacept led to a marked decrease of the dimension and 18-F FDG uptake of IgG4RD lesions in Pt1 and Pt2. Pt3 showed increased pathological 18-F FDG uptake of her orbital pseudotumor with minimal morphologic changes at magnetic resonance, consistent with metabolic
progression. In vitro, there was no difference in CTLA4 expression at baseline between IgG4RD patients and controls (p>0.05). Yet, upon activation, IgG4RD patients displayed a premature decrease of CTLA4 expression on T cells compared to healthy donors (p<0.01), suggesting a defective T cell inhibition. Similar results were observed in patients with RA. Accordingly, IgG4RD patients showed expansion of activated CD25+ T cells compared to healthy controls (p<0.05). WES of the three IgG4RD patients treated with abatacept found eutrigorous germline mutations of LRBA gene (p.Arg264Gln (c.793G>A)) (Pt1), CTLA4 gene (p.Gly109Glu (c.326G>A)) (Pt2), and DOCK8 gene (p.Gln1550Leu (c.4649A>T)) (Pt3). None of these mutations has been previously reported in the medical literature and remains of uncertain significance but all had a CADD score > 20, thus predicting deleterious impact on protein structure. Of note, mutations in LRBA, CTLA4, and DOCK8 genes are all associated with systemic autoimmunity, lymphoproliferation, and immune deficiency. In particular, as opposed to DOCK8 gene, LRBA and CTLA4 genes encode for functionally related proteins as LRBA regulates the recycling of CTLA4 on T cell membrane upon antigen engagement to inhibit T cell activation.

Conclusion: In the present work we demonstrate that CD4+ T cells from IgG4RD patients show aberrant activation associated with a reduced expression of the inhibitory molecule CTLA4. Yet, not all patients respond to abatacept suggesting that IgG4RD is sustained by additional pathological mechanisms in at least a proportion of patients. Patients responding to abatacept display, indeed, germline mutations of uncertain significance in CTLA4 pathway and may represent ideal candidates for treatment with abatacept.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. CpG sites selected as possible potential biomarkers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID Probe</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Gene symbol</th>
<th>Multivariate Logistic Regression</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cg16474696</td>
<td>Promoter</td>
<td>MR1</td>
<td>OR: 1.04, 95%IC (1.00-1.07), p=0.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg15741931</td>
<td>Promoter</td>
<td>UBA2L</td>
<td>OR: 1.12, 95%IC (1.04-1.21), p=0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg06508795</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>DCC</td>
<td>OR: 1.05, 95%IC (1.00-1.07), p=0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg05510714</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>KYNU</td>
<td>OR: 0.94, 95%IC (0.89-0.98), p=0.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg06166490</td>
<td>Promoter</td>
<td>Hoxa2</td>
<td>OR: 1.23, 95%IC (1.07-1.41), p=0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg08586441</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>TEC</td>
<td>OR: 1.07, 95%IC (1.00-1.15), p=0.037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg14345720</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>MIR126</td>
<td>OR: 1.05, 95%IC (1.00-1.10), p=0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg19405177</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>PLEK</td>
<td>OR: 1.04, 95%IC (1.00-1.09), p=0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg09497409</td>
<td>Promoter</td>
<td>LASS4</td>
<td>OR: 1.17, 95%IC (1.02-1.35), p=0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg05251562</td>
<td>Promoter</td>
<td>ALLC</td>
<td>OR: 1.00, 95%IC (0.95-1.05), p=0.674</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Model 1: Dependent variable: Patients (1) vs. Controls (0). Model 2: Dependent variable: severe RA (1) vs. Non-severe RA (0). Age and sex were variables included in both models.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by FIS Grant P18/00824 (Instituto Carlos III, Fondos FEDER). "Ayuda de Garantía Juvenil 2020" of the University of Malaga, Spain (SNJGJY6-12). Redes de Investigación Cooperativa Orientadas a Resultados en Salud (RICOSS) (RD21/0002/003).
IDENTIFICATION OF SOMATIC MUTATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Genetics/Epigenetics

T. Iwasaki1,2, K. Ohmura1, C. Endo1, M. Shrikasahi1, R. Hiwa1, H. Tsugi1, K. Kitagori2, S. Akizuki3, R. Nakashima1, H. Yoshitani1, A. Morinobu1, F. Matsuda1, Y. Kamatani4, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan; Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Center for Genomic Medicine, Kyoto, Japan; Kobe City Medical Center General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Kobe, Japan; The University of Tokyo, Laboratory of Complex Trait Genomics, Department of Computational Biology and Medical Sciences, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Growing evidence reveals a pathological role of somatic mutations in various autoimmune diseases, such as the mutation in UBA1 in VEXAS syndrome, CARD11 and KHLR6 in cryoglobulinemic vasculitis, or STAR in Felt's syndrome[1]. Somatic mutations might also be involved in the pathogenesis of ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV), which typically manifests in middle-aged and elderly individuals.

Objectives: We aimed to identify somatic mutations in patients with AAV.

Methods: We collected whole blood and obtained peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and neutrophils from patients with AAV in active-disease status (n=16), as well as from patients with other autoimmune diseases (n=8) as disease controls, and healthy subjects (n=10). In addition, we collected these specimens from 12 out of the 16 patients with AAV after remission induction. We performed RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) on the obtained cells and whole genome sequencing (WGS) on DNA extracted from the whole blood. Somatic mutations were detected by comparing the RNA and DNA sequences[2].

Results: After stringent quality control, we identified 108 somatic mutations across 16 patients in active-disease status. The mean coverage of RNA-Seq at the mutation site was 100.9 ± 3678.8 x, and that of WGS was 14.4 ± 4.3 x, while the mean allele fraction was 22.9 ± 20.5%. One or more mutations were detected in each of the 15 (93.8%) patients. The median mutation count of each patient was 4.0, which was not significantly different from disease controls or samples after remission induction. We mapped one gene to each of the 108 mutations resulting in 95 genes in total. Mutations for six of the 95 genes were observed in two or more patients, and two of them were related to the ubiquitin system. Of the 108 mutations, 37 were missense, and 20 were predicted to be deleterious (combined annotation-dependent depletion Phred score > 20). Among the 20 mutations, the HST2/H2AC mutation (NM_003517; p.L86P) in neutrophils was observed in two patients. To evaluate the functional outcome of the 20 mutations, we followed up with 12 of the 16 patients after remission induction, 81.4% of the somatic mutations were no longer detected. Additionally, 91.7% of the deleterious mutations disappeared.

Conclusion: We found somatic mutations with potential pathological effects in some patients with AAV exhibiting active-disease status. Notably, the majority of these mutations were not detected after remission induction.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The present study was supported in part by JSPS KAKENHI. (Grant No. 19H03209).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.243

EVALUATION OF FC GAMMA RECEPTOR (FCγR) & CYP GENETIC POLYMORPHISM AND ITS PHARMACOGENOMIC CORRELATION WITH RITUXIMAB AND CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE RESPONSE IN ANTI-NEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC ANTIBODY ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Keywords: Remission, Vasculitis, Genetics/Epigenetics

1PGIMER HOSPITAL CHANDIGARH, Department of Internal Medicine - Rheumatology Wing, Chandigarh, India; 2PGI HOSPITAL CHANDIGARH, Department of Pediatrics, Chandigarh, India; 3PGI HOSPITAL CHANDIGARH, Department of Immunopathology, Chandigarh, India

Background: The anti-neutrophil cytoplasmatic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitides (AAV) are three discrete entities – Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA), Microscopic polyangiitis (MPA), and Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA). They present with a plethora of signs and symptoms resulting in significant burden of mortality and morbidity. There is huge lacuna in the knowledge of relationship between various genes affecting pharmacogenetics of AAV and its implications in context of therapeutic complications. We thus intend to evaluate genotypic polymorphism in FcγRI family & CYP genes affecting pharmacological response of Rituximab and Cyclophosphamide respectively in AAV patients undergoing induction treatment.

Objectives: To study the single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) of the FcγR family (FCγRIIA, FCγRIIB, FCγRIIB) in patients receiving Rituximab (RTX) and the SNPs of CYP2C19*2 (rs4244285), CYP2B6 (rs312137) polymorphisms in patients receiving Cyclophosphamide (CYC) using polymerase chain reaction. Additionally, to correlate the genetic polymorphism of AAV patients with Rituximab and Cyclophosphamide response.

Methods: This study was a prospective cohort study in which AAV patients undergoing induction treatment were enrolled from Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 in Clinical Rheumatology Department at PGIMER Chandigarh, India. Functional SNPs for FCγRIIA (rs4244285), FCγRIIB (rs5577-T) and FCγRIIB (rs519G-A) and

Identification of Somatic Mutations in Patients with AAV

Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; Kocaeli University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kocaeli, Turkey; Ankara University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; Çukurova University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Adana, Turkey; University of Health Sciences Turkey, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; Akdeniz University, Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Antalya, Turkey; Osmangazi University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Eskisehir, Turkey; Istanbul University, Department of Physiology, Istanbul, Turkey; University of Pittsburgh, Departments of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Immunology, Pittsburgh, United States of America

Background: Behçet's disease is a complex inflammatory vasculitis with a broad spectrum of clinical manifestations.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to investigate the genetics underlying specific clinical features of Behçet's disease in a group of patients with > 5 years of follow up.

Methods: A total of 436 patients with Behçet's disease from Turkey were studied. Genotyping was performed using the Infinium ImmunomeArray-24 BeadChip. After imputation and quality control measures, logistic regressions adjusting for sex and the first five principal components were performed for each clinical trait using a case-case genetic analysis approach. A weighted genetic risk score was calculated for each clinical feature.

Results: Genetic association analyses of previously identified susceptibility loci in Behçet's disease revealed a genetic association between ocular lesions and HLA-B/MICA (rs116799936; OR=1.85, 95% CI=1.35-2.52, p-value=1.1x10^-6). The genetic risk score was significantly higher in Behçet's disease patients with ocular lesions compared with those without ocular involvement, and is explained by the genetic variation in the HLA region. New genetic loci predisposing to specific clinical features in Behçet's disease were suggested when genome-wide variants were evaluated. The most significant associations were observed in ocular involvement with SLCO4A6 (rs6026789; OR=0.41, 95% CI=0.30-0.58, p-value=1.9x10^-11), and neurological involvement with DDX9L6 (rs62334264; OR=4.12, 95% CI=2.34 to 7.24), p-value = 8.85x10^-10.

Conclusion: Our results emphasize the role of genetic factors in predisposing to specific clinical manifestations in Behçet's disease, and might shed additional light into disease heterogeneity, pathogenesis, and variability of Behçet's disease presentation across populations.

References: None.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1893
CYP enzymes (CYP2C19 681G>A, CYP2B6 1459C>T) were assessed by Sanger sequencing of PCR amplified genomic DNA. The end points were to detect associations between the tested SNPs and status of remission at six months and complete remission at end of the study.

**Results:** In this study we recruited ninety seven patients of AAV in Indian population. Table 1 summarises the baseline clinical characteristics of the study population. FcγRIIA variant (v) allele frequency was more than wild allele (W) frequency in the study population. The time to achieve remission was significantly lower (mean:9.22 weeks) in FcγRIIA variant genotype polymorphism (FcγRIIA 519AA) in comparison to wild and heterozygotes variants (mean: 17.25 weeks) of FcγRIIA at site 131 (519G>A), as shown in Figure1. There were no significant difference observed in CYP polymorphism and cyclophosphamide response.

**Conclusion:** This study is one of the first to evaluate the pharmacogenomic profile of AAV in Indian population. We observed highly significant association of SNPs of FcγRIIA 131 site variant/S19AA genotype with early remission and complete remission after induction treatment with rituximab. This data could further help in tailored treatment of AAV patients and may also serve as a prognostic marker.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Keywords:** Genetics/Epigenetics, Rare/orphan diseases, Bone diseases

**Figure 1:** Effect of SNP of FcγR2A at site 131 (S19G>A); 0: heterozygotes[S19 GA], 1: wild [S19GG], 2: variant[S19 AA]

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**Table 1. Clinical and demographic characteristics of 97 AAV patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>N (%) or mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>38 (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>59 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male: Female Ratio</strong></td>
<td>1:1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean age at diagnosis (years)</strong></td>
<td>42.10 ± 15.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Follow-up</strong></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient profile</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Newly diagnosed</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AAV Subtypes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGPA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signs and symptoms, n(%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional</td>
<td>76 (78.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sino-nasal</td>
<td>62 (63.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory</td>
<td>36 (37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary</td>
<td>71 (73.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>52 (53.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIT</td>
<td>14 (14.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVS</td>
<td>12 (12.37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>20 (20.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS</td>
<td>23 (23.7%)</td>
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<td>PNS</td>
<td>24 (24.7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>42 (43.2%)</td>
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<td><strong>Outcomes characteristics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of patients achieving Remission</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients achieving Complete Remission</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

---

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Keywords:** Genetics/Epigenetics, Rare/orphan diseases, Bone diseases

---

**Table 1. Clinical and demographic characteristics of 97 AAV patients**

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<td>62 (63.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory</td>
<td>36 (37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary</td>
<td>71 (73.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>52 (53.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIT</td>
<td>14 (14.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVS</td>
<td>12 (12.37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>20 (20.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS</td>
<td>23 (23.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNS</td>
<td>24 (24.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>42 (43.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcomes characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients achieving Remission</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients achieving Complete Remission</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**POS0357 A NOVEL MUTATION IN ALPL GENE CAUSING ADULT AUTOSOMAL DOMINANT HYPOPHOSPHATASIA IN A FAMILY OF SOUTHERN SPAIN: PHENOTYPE CHARACTERIZATION**

**Keywords:** Genetics/Epigenetics, Rare/orphan diseases, Bone diseases

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**Table 1. Clinical and demographic characteristics of 97 AAV patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>N (%) or mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>38 (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>59 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male: Female Ratio</strong></td>
<td>1:1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean age at diagnosis (years)</strong></td>
<td>42.10 ± 15.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Follow-up</strong></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient profile</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newly diagnosed</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AAV Subtypes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGPA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signs and symptoms, n(%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional</td>
<td>76 (78.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sino-nasal</td>
<td>62 (63.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory</td>
<td>36 (37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary</td>
<td>71 (73.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outcomes characteristics</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients achieving Complete Remission</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1. Epidemiological, clinical and laboratory characteristics of positive mutation carriers (n = 7). ALP: alkaline phosphatase; PLP: pyridoxal-5’- phosphate; 25-OH-VitD: 25-hydroxy-vitamin D; PTH: parathyroid hormone; TSH: thyroid stimulating hormone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean, sd)</td>
<td>55.6 ± 13.2</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early dentition loss</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture history</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular manifestations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Laboratory values |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|
| ALP (UI)          | 28 ± 4.16      | 22       |
| PLP (nmol/l)      | 88 ± 49.1      | 26.5     |
| Calcium (mg/dl)   | 9.83 ± 0.43    | 9.3      |
| Phosphorus (mg/dl)| 3.72 ± 0.53    | 2.7      |
| Magnesium (mg/dl) | 1.91 ± 0.15    | 1.7      |
| 25-OH-Vit-D (ng/ml)| 712 ± 10.8   | 575      |
| PTH (pg/ml)       | 28.6 ± 8.01    | 15.3     |
| Vitamin B12 (pg/ml)| 489 ± 135    | 285      |
| TSH (µU/ml)       | 1.7 ± 0.92     | 0.84     |
| Cortisol (µg/dl)  | 13.3 ± 3.48    | 7.9      |

Graph 1. ALP enzymatic activity according to gene mutation carrier status. Red dotted line represents the lower laboratory limit for ALP.

POS0358

JAK2 MUTATION, TNF-A AND IL 6 PREDICT RESPONSE TO JAK INHIBITOR IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Prognostic factors

Y. Adel Abdelsalam Hussein1, Y. Sadeq2. 1Mansoura University Hospital, Rheumatology, Mansoura, Egypt; 2Mansoura University Hospital, Clinical Pathology, Mansoura, Egypt

**Background:** STAT4 is activated by the JAK family members Tyk2 and JAK2 in response to IL and TNF, with subsequent downstream signaling to promote Th1 mediated autoimmunity [1]. JAK inhibitors [2] are type of medication that function by inhibiting activity of one or more of the Janus kinase family of enzymes. These inhibitors have therapeutic application in the treatment of cancer and inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis [3].

**Objectives:** Study impact of JAK2 mutation, TNF-α and IL 6 levels on response to JAK inhibitors and ACR response criteria.

**Methods:** The study included 120 newly diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis patients and 80 matched controls. All patients started therapy with csDMARDs. 70 patients failed to achieve adequate response so, they were shifted to Baricitinib. JAK2 mutation assessed by PCR in blood samples, TNF-α and IL 6 were measured by ELISA in serum of patients at diagnosis, before and after Baricitinib treatment.

**Results:** 102 females (85%) and 18 males (15%) with age mean ± SD (years); (47.7 ± 7.5). Pretreatment JAK2 mutation, TNF-α and IL 6 were significantly high in patients than control. JAK2 mutation were more presented in young age patients (mean ± SD; 47.1 ± 3.2 vs 51.4 ± 7.9 in mutant vs non-mutant JAK2 patients, respectively with P 0.03). Mutant JAK2 was significantly linked to severity of disease by DAS28; 70% of patients with DAS28 (≥ 2.6) were non-mutant JAK2 vs 30% patients mutant JAK2 while 73.1% of patients with DAS28 (> 5.1) were mutant JAK2 vs 26.9% patients non-mutant JAK2 (P 0.04). 70 patients were csDMARD incomplete responders. Jak2 mutation was significantly presented in these group comparing to patients achieved response to csDMARDs (P 0.002) associated with significant high serum TNF-α (P 0.002) and marginal significance high serum IL 6 (P 0.06).

**Conclusion:** JAK2 mutation in RA patients associated with high disease activity score and inadequate response to csDMARDs. Pretreatment detection of JAK2 mutation in RA patients with high serum level of TNF-α and IL 6 predict a good response to JAK inhibitors with better ACR response criteria.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1.** JAK2 mutation and response to csDMARDs in all studied patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non Mutant JAK2</th>
<th>Mutant JAK2</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responders no. (%)</td>
<td>23 (72%)</td>
<td>9 (28%)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non responders no. (%)</td>
<td>27 (38.5%)</td>
<td>43 (61.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** JAK2 mutation and DAS28 in all studied patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non Mutant JAK2</th>
<th>Mutant JAK2</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remission (≤ 2.6)</td>
<td>14 (70%)</td>
<td>6 (30%)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low disease activity (≤ 3.2)</td>
<td>5 (41.7%)</td>
<td>7 (58.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate disease activity (3.2 - 5.1)</td>
<td>6 (40%)</td>
<td>9 (60%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sever disease activity (≥5.1)</td>
<td>13 (23.6%)</td>
<td>42 (76.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact of sex on disease pathogenesis and outcome

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, Clinical Trials

L. Eder1,2, S. Mylvaganam3, J. Pardo Pardo4, J. Petkovic5, V. Strand6, P. J. Mease7, K. Colaco1,9, J. Petkovic8, W. Singh1, E. Yen1, I. Valera2.

1Women's College Hospital, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; 2University of Toronto, Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 3University of Toronto, Biochemistry, Toronto, Canada; 4University of Ottawa, Cochrane Musculoskeletal, Ottawa, Canada; 5University of Ottawa, Cochrane Equity Methods Group, Ottawa, Canada; 6Stanford University, Medicine, Stanford, United States of America; 7University of Washington, Medicine, Seattle, United States of America; 8Swedish Medical Center, Rheumatology, Seattle, United States of America; 9University of Toronto, Health and Society, Toronto, Canada

Background: Sex is an important determinant of health including response to therapy. Limited information exists on representation and reporting of results by sex in randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA). Sex-related inequities in randomized controlled trials in psoriatic arthritis: A systematic literature review and meta-analysis

Methods: We performed a systematic literature search of Medline, Embase and Central databases, and conference abstract archives from January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2022. We included RCTs that reported sex-disaggregated results and assessed the efficacy of an advanced therapy biologic or targeted synthetic in adult participants with PsA. Efficacy end points included the proportion of participants achieving minimal disease activity (MDA) or meeting the American College of Rheumatology 20 (ACR20) and ACR50 response criteria at the primary endpoint of the trial. We used random-effect models to calculate pooled effects for sex differences in efficacy and safety outcomes which will inform patient-centered therapeutic strategies.

Results: Based on the reported results, female patients participating in RCTs are less likely to achieve efficacy end points for most classes of advanced therapies. Some differences in responses were found across classes of advanced therapies. RCTs should report sex-disaggregated results to identify sex-related differences in efficacy and safety outcomes which will inform patient-centered therapeutic strategies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1416

Figure 1. Random-effect meta-analysis of the efficacy of advanced therapies, by (A) ACR20, (B) ACR50 response between male and female patients with psoriatic arthritis. CI, confidence interval; ACR, American College of Rheumatology; ADA, Adalimumab; DEUC, DeucAbruzzena; CER, Certolizumab; UDMD, conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; ETA, etanercept; GS, Guselkumab; IL-17, interleukin-17 inhibitor; IL-23, interleukin-23 inhibitor; JAK, janus kinase inhibitor; MTX, methotrexate; QW, weekly; Q2W, every 2 weeks; Q4W, every 4 weeks; Q8W, every 8 weeks; RIS, Rilonacept; SEC, secukinumab; TOF, tofacitinib; TNF, tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; UST, Ustekinumab

Figure 1A. Sex differences in the probability of achieving ACR20 responses when using placebo (OR 1.04, 95% CI 0.86, 1.27). Baricitinib treatment.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.840

POS0359

SEX-RELATED INEQUITY IN RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, Clinical Trials

L. Eder1,2, S. Mylvaganam3, J. Pardo Pardo4, J. Petkovic5, V. Strand6, P. J. Mease7, K. Colaco1,9, W. Singh1, E. Yen1, I. Valera2.

1Women's College Hospital, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; 2University of Toronto, Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 3University of Toronto, Biochemistry, Toronto, Canada; 4University of Ottawa; Cochrane Musculoskeletal, Ottawa, Canada; 5University of Ottawa, Cochrane Equity Methods Group; Ottawa, Canada; 6Stanford University, Medicine, Stanford, United States of America; 7University of Washington, Medicine, Seattle, United States of America; 8Swedish Medical Center, Rheumatology, Seattle, United States of America; 9University of Toronto, Health and Society, Toronto, Canada

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REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.840

POS0359

X-CHROMOSOME DOSAGE, RATHER THAN THE GONADAL SEX ITSELF, MAJORLY CONTRIBUTES TO SEX BIAS IN AUTOIMMUNITY IN HUMANS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Gender/diversity issues

R. Singh1, E. Yen1, I. Valera2.

1UCAL, Medicine, Los Angeles, United States of America

Background: Most autoimmune diseases exhibit a profound female sex bias. Mechanisms underlying this sexual dimorphism remain unclear. We previously reported that the XX sex chromosome complement, as compared to XY, imparts greater susceptibility to autoimmune diseases such as lupus in experimental models (Smith-Bouvier D, et al, J Exp Med 2008). Gonadectomized XX female

Figure 1. JAK2 mutation and ACR20 after Baricitinib treatment.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.840

POS0359

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Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, Clinical Trials

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REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1416

POS0359

X-CHROMOSOME DOSAGE, RATHER THAN THE GONADAL SEX ITSELF, MAJORLY CONTRIBUTES TO SEX BIAS IN AUTOIMMUNITY IN HUMANS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Gender/diversity issues

R. Singh1, E. Yen1, I. Valera2.

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Figure 1. JAK2 mutation and ACR20 after Baricitinib treatment.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.840

POS0359
mice had more anti-DNA antibodies, autoimmune pathology, and mortality than XY female (Sry0) mice. Similarly, gonadectomized XX male (Sry0) mice had more severe autoimmune disease than XY male (Sry1;Sry2). To begin to translate these murine findings onto humans, we asked if sex chromosome dosage plays a role in predisposition to autoimmunity.

Objectives: To test the hypothesis that X chromosome dosage, rather than the female sex itself, imparts susceptibility to autoimmunity in humans.

Methods: We administered autoimmune disease and connective tissue disease questionnaires and analyzed serum autoantibody levels in males and females with sex chromosome aneuploidy including males with two X chromosomes (XX males, including Klinefelter’s syndrome) and females with one X chromosome (X0 females, including Turner’s syndrome) and their respective male and female controls with normal sex chromosome numbers.

Results: Levels of IgG anti-chronatin, anti-nucleosome and anti-histone (H2A, H2B and H3) autoantibodies were significantly higher in XX males (47XYY; 48,XXYY, and mosaic) compared to 46,XY men. XX males, however, did not have non-specific B cell hyper-reactivity, as the levels of anti-thyroid peroxidase antibody that is associated with autoimmune thyroiditis did not differ between the two groups and antibodies against intrinsic antigens such as thyroid and gladin were higher in X0 females than in XX females. A preliminary analysis of clinical questionnaire revealed an increase in autoimmune conditions in XX males when compared with known population prevalence of these diseases. Preliminary immune phenotype profiling of peripheral blood cells conducted thus far show altered frequency and/or function of natural killer T-cells, CD8+ T cells or IL-4/IL-17 producing cells in individuals with sex chromosome aneuploidy compared to their respective controls.

Conclusion: These data suggest that humans with two X chromosomes as compared to those with one X chromosome, regardless of their gonadal sex, exhibit increased susceptibility to systemic autoimmunity. Preliminary evidence also suggests a differential regulation of systemic versus organ-specific autoimmunity in persons with sex chromosome aneuploidy.

Acknowledgements: Supported in part by NIH/NIAMS R01 grant. Thanks to Dr. Prasanth Surupudi, Christina Wang, and Ronald Swerdloff for specimens, Rita Okorogu, Jennifer Woo and Chetachi Okereke for enrollment and sample processing, and Priti Prasad, Cynthia Tran, Miguel-Angel Gutierrez, and Ramesh Halder for technical assistance.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.683

PO0361

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSCRIPTOMIC CHARACTERIZATION REVEALS CORE GENES AND MODULES ASSOCIATED WITH SEX-DEPENDENT MOLECULAR PAIN MECHANISMS IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Pain, Gender/diversity issues, Osteoarthritis

Z. Wang1,2, V. Batchelor2, J. Miotta-Zarebska3, B. Gerritsen4, N. Eijkelkamp4, T. Vincent2, C. Svensson1, 1Karolinska Institute, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Stockholm, Sweden; 2Tongji Hospital, Tongji Medical College, HUST, Department of Orthopedics, Wuhan, China; 3University of Oxford, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 4Utrecht University, Centre of Translational Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands

Background: Female sex is identified as a key nonmodifiable risk factor in the development of OA, particularly after the age of 55. Additionally, women appear to have a lower threshold for pain and present with more chronic pain conditions than men. Our previous studies demonstrated that female mice develop pain at the same time as male mice despite having reduced levels of joint damage, indicating the existence of sex-dependent mechanisms for the induction of pain. In non-arthritis murine pain models, different immune cells in the dorsal root ganglia (DRG) appear to contribute to sex-dependent differences in sensitization. Furthermore, we have recently uncovered cellular and molecular differences between immune cells and inflammatory profiles in the DRGs and joints of male and female mice with collagen antibody-induced arthritis.

Objectives: Search for putative pain pathways and associated temporal patterns in male and female mice subjected to surgically induced OA.

Methods: C57BL/6 male and female mice (10-week-old, n=5 per group, i.e., surgery, sex, and timepoint) were randomized subjected to either sham surgery or partial meniscectomy (PMX). Static weight bearing measurements were performed using a Linton Incapacitance Tester. Mice underwent a 2-week acclimatization post-surgery, followed by weekly measurement between week 5 to 12. L3-L4 DRGs were harvested for RNA sequencing at week 6, 10 and 12 post-surgery. The Weighted Gene Co-expression Network Analysis (WGCNA) package in R was used to construct a signed co-expression network from the expression data.

Results: Considering all groups, a tendency to pain-related behavior was observed at week 10 post-surgery, and a statistically significant difference in weight bearing found at week 12 when the PMX group was compared with sham group. We performed WGCNA to identify modules that were related to surgery and sex using 6-, 10-, and 12-week samples, respectively. For the 6-week network, 14 modules were identified. Only associations with sex were observed, with 3 modules positively related with male and 1 module positively related with female. For the 10-week network, 14 modules were identified. 6 modules were related by single trait, 3 of which were positively related with male, 2 of which were positively related with PMX, and 1 of which was negatively related with PMX. In addition, 1 module was related with both surgery and sex, whereby it was negatively related with PMX and positively with being female. For the 12-week network, 19 modules were identified. Most significant associations were observed only with PMX, where 5 modules showed positive associations and 3 modules showed negative associations. Furthermore, greenyellow module was related with both surgery and sex, positively related with PMX and being female. As a result, this module was chosen to investigate further. According to the threshold (MM > 0.8 and GS > 0.2), 102 candidate hub genes were obtained in this module. When PPI analysis was performed, 14 candidate hub genes (top 5%, ranked by the MCC scoring method) were obtained. In total, 9 overlapping genes (Nyp, Tac1, Calca, Gap43, Bdnf, Shc1, Ngr, Casp3 and Jun) were identified as hub genes. The enriched biological process was ‘neurotrophin TRK receptor signaling pathway’ And the enriched KEGG pathway was ‘neurotrophin signaling pathway’ and ‘MAPK signaling pathway’.

Conclusion: This study reveals sex, disease and time-dependent changes in the DRG transcriptome during the development of painful OA. Importantly, our findings highlight a distinct TrkA and neurotrophin signaling signature that is evident at 12 weeks post-surgery only in OA-induced pain-related behaviors in female mice.

Figure 1. The construction of DRG transcriptomic gene network by WGCNA for week 12 post-surgery. (A) Association between modules and sample trait data. (B) The MM versus GS scatterplot for PMX in greenyellow module. (C)Venn diagram of the identified hub genes. (D) PPI network visualization of hub genes by Maximal Clique Centrality (MCC).

References: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5202
Background: Heart failure (HF) is a common co-morbidity of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) with a high mortality risk [1]. In the general population, significant sex-related differences in HF including aetiology, pathophysiological mechanisms and age are observed, emphasizing the importance to stratify analyses by sex [2] and there is increasing evidence that mortality rates of females are lower, which cannot be explained by comorbidities, HF characteristics or HF medical treatment [3].

Objectives: To investigate sex specific differences in patient characteristics and their association with mortality in RA patients with concomitant HF.

Methods: RA-patients enrolled and observed in the German biologics register RABBIT between 01/2007 and 04/2022 were selected for the analysis if they presented HF either at enrolment or during follow-up. Observation started at the time of HF reporting (=baseline) and ended at death, dropout or end of follow-up, whichever came first. Baseline patient characteristics were stratified by sex. Cox proportional hazard regression with sex as exposure of interest was applied, adjusted for age (model 1) and further adjusted for comorbidities and RA specific characteristics (model 2). Missing values were imputed once.

Results: Out of 15,917 cohort participants (11,835 females, 74%), 718 patients were identified as prevalent HF cases (473 females, 66%). Females with HF were on average 1.7 years older, had worse physical function and longer RA disease duration compared to males. Females were more likely to have osteoporosis and less likely to have ischemic heart disease (Table 1). 25% of the females and 34% of the males died after a mean follow-up time of 39 and 36 months, respectively. Females had a significant lower risk of death compared to males regardless of adjustment (model 1: HR=0.57 [0.43-0.76]; model 2: HR=0.51 [0.37-0.71], Figure 1).

Conclusion: Our findings demonstrate a longer survival for females compared to males in a cohort of patients with RA and concomitant HF. The difference could not be explained by age, comorbidities and RA-related characteristics at baseline. The observed differences in the clinical profile and mortality highlight the need for research stratifying by sex when investigating cardiac events.

References:
[1] PMID: 32378457
[2] PMID: 31544235
[3] PMID: 36386322

Table 1. Baseline characteristics by sex at time of HF reporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>female</th>
<th>male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>70.4± 9.6</td>
<td>68.7± 5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic heart disease</td>
<td>164 (34.7)</td>
<td>127 (25.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA disease duration, years</td>
<td>15.2±11.6</td>
<td>10.4±9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor positive</td>
<td>134 (28.3)</td>
<td>79 (23.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>130 (27.5)</td>
<td>80 (32.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of full physical function</td>
<td>49.1±23.0</td>
<td>53.6±27.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>100 (31.7)</td>
<td>92 (27.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/l</td>
<td>29.6±12.4</td>
<td>34.2±13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid dose, g/10kg</td>
<td>14.5±7.2</td>
<td>16.4±12.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are numbers (percent) or means ± standard deviation.

Figure 1. Sex differences in adjusted survival curves. A: adjusted for age, B: adjusted for age, RA disease duration, rheumatoid factor, % of full physical function, high glucocorticoid dose and CRP at baseline, year of HF≥2012, DMARD treatment as cumulative exposure in months divided by the total observation months, history of ischemic heart disease, osteoporosis, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease and chronic lung disease; Time = Months.

Acknowledgements: RABBIT is currently supported by a joint, unconditional grant from AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celtrion, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Hexal, Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi Aventis, VIATRIS SANTE and UCB and previously by Roche.

Disclosure of Interests: Tatjana Rudi: None declared, Vera Ziemer: None declared, Yvette Meissner Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Matthias Schneider Speakers bureau: Astra-Zeneca; Biogen; BMS; GSK; Janssen-Cilag; Lilly; Pfizer; StreamedUp, Consultant of: Abbvie; Astra-Zeneca; Boehringer-Ingelheim; GSK; Lilly; Novartis; Otsuka, Pfizer; UCBB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, AstraZeneca; GSK, Matthias Worsch Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, GSK, Galapagos, Berlin Chemie, Janssen, MSD, Anja Strangfeld Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celtrion, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, UCB. Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute., Grant/research support from: Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5117
Methods: This is a cross-sectional study of the AtheSpAin cohort, a Spanish multicenter cohort to study atherosclerosis in axSpA. Data on clinical and subclinical atherosclerosis, as well as CV and disease-related characteristics were collected in 912 participants.

Results: 611 men and 301 women were recruited for this study. Smoking habit (p=0.033), hypertension (p=0.009), and dyslipidemia (p=0.015) were less prevalent in women, who also showed less severe atherosclerosis measured by the presence of carotid plaques (p=0.001), carotid intima-media thickness (IMT) values (p=0.001), and CV events (p=0.008). After adjustment for traditional CV risk factors only the results regarding carotid IMT remained statistically significant.

Regarding disease-related features, radiographic axSpA (r-axSpA) was more common in men (p=0.001). Women with axSpA showed a shorter disease duration (p=0.001), a lower prevalence of psoriasis (p=0.008), higher ESR levels at diagnosis (p=0.038) and more active disease measured by ASDAS (p=0.012) and BASDAI (p=0.001). However, they had less structural damage (mSASSS, p=0.033) and mobility limitation (BASMI, p=0.033). These differences that remained statistically significant after adjustment for r-axSpA in axSpA, disease duration or smoking. Remarkably, many of these sex-related differentiating characteristics were associated with subclinical atherosclerosis (table 1). To clarify if this finding could lead to sex differences in the atherosclerotic burden, we compared the prevalence of carotid plaques in men and women with the same level of CV risk stratified according to the score. Within the category of low-moderrate SCORE, men showed more severe atherosclerosis than women (p=0.050), which could be related to a longer disease duration (p=0.004), higher mSASSS (p=0.001) and BASMI (p=0.071) values. However, in patients with high-very high SCORE, carotid plaques were more commonly observed in the female group (p=0.025), which was characterized by a higher inflammatory burden (ESR at diagnosis, p=0.007) and worse BASFI (p=0.011) compared with men, with no differences regarding disease duration, mSASSS or BASMI.

Conclusion: Although the burden of traditional CV risk factors leading to more severe atherosclerotic disease is greater in men with axSpA, potential sex-related proatherogenic features of axSpA also appear to have an impact on CV risk. This may be especially applicable to women at high CV risk, who have a greater inflammatory response, worse functional impairment, and more severe subclinical atherosclerosis than males, suggesting a closer interaction between atherosclerosis and disease burden in women with axSpA.

REFERENCE:
RESULTS: Conditioned Pain Modulation (CPM). Widespread low PPTs, high TS (both pain testative Sensory Testing (QST) according to a standardized protocol, including Pain Scale (PCS) Coping with Rheumatic Stressors (CORS), and underwent Quanti-
leeuwarden axSpA (GLAS) cohort, fulfilling the ASAS classification criteria. Par-
Objectives: To investigate the sexual function and satisfaction in female and male patients affected by SpA and identify gender-specific features. Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study enrolling consecutive SpA patients satisfying ASAS criteria attending the SpA clinic of a tertiary university rheumatology clinic. Demographic and clinical characteristics were collected alongside with validated gender-specific questionnaire for the evaluation of sexual function. For male assessment, we used the international index of erectile function (IIEF) and the Premature Ejaculation Diagnostic Tool (PEDT); whereas in women we used The Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) that explores domains such as desire, arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction, and pain. To evaluate the correlation between the presence of sexual dysfunction and disease characteristics or therapies we used the Spearman test and the univariate and multivariate tests. Results: 73 males and 64 females were recruited, and the two groups were comparable with similar mean age, BMI, and disease duration (patients' characteristics are shown in table 1). PEDT test showed that 9.5% (5 male patients) had probable premature ejaculation and 15% (8 male patients) had premature ejaculation. According to IIEF sexual dysfunction was present in 19.4% of cases as mild dysfunction in 15.5% as moderate dysfunction and in 5.4% as severe dysfunction. Univariate and multivariate analysis showed a correlation between sexual dysfunction and mood disorders and premature ejaculation in men (p=0.02). The prevalence of premature ejaculation was not influenced by disease characteristics or activity or therapies. Sexual dysfunction in males was associated only with the use of NSAID (p=0.04). Evaluating the female group, FSFI showed that 85% (54 female patients) had sexual dysfunction. In the univariate and multivariate analysis, we found correlations between age (p=0.07), mood disorders (p=0.04), dyslipidemia (p=0.006), and BAS-
Disclosure of Interests: Yvonne van der Kraan: None declared, Davy Paap: None declared, Hans Timmerman: None declared, Freke Wink: None declared, Suzanne Arends: None declared, Michiel Reneman: None declared, Anneke Spoorenberg Grant/research support from: ReumaNederland Grant.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4323

SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN SPONDYLARTHROSIS PATIENTS: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALES AND FEMALES PATIENTS IN A REAL-WORLD SETTING

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues
L. Pantano1, D. Mauro1, L. Napolitano2, M. S. Ciliento3, M. Visconti3, F. Ciccia3.
1University of Campania L. Vanvitelli, Rheumatology Unit, Precision Medicine, Naples, Italy; 2University Federico Second, Urology Unit, Neuroscience department, Naples, Italy; 3University of Campania L. Vanvitelli, Rheumatology Unit, Precision Medicine, Naples, Italy

BACKGROUND: Research shows that there are significant sex differences in experienced pain. Contributing factors are neuroanatomical, hormonal, neuro-
immunological, psychological, social, cultural, and comorbidities. Women have more and different expression of nociceptors, and a stronger proinflammatory response to tissue damage than men. Women also use different coping styles regarding to pain and tend to engage more in pain catastrophizing. Therefore, women may experiencing more severe pain than men. Also in axial spondyloarth-

RESULTS: Significant differences between men and women were observed for the classification radiographic axSpA (71.9% vs 50.7%), HLA-B27 status (84.1% vs 67.1%), mean BMI (22.7 ± 4.9 vs 29.0 ± 6.9), mean ASASdAS (2.1 ± 0.6 vs 2.5 ± 0.9) and mean BASDAI (3.4 ± 2.1 vs 4.7 ± 2.1). Women scored significantly higher on the CPM and used the coping styles comforting coping, decreased activities and diverted attention more often (CORS). Concerning the involvement of altered pain processing of the CNS, women had significantly lower PPTs. TS and CPM were comparable in men and women (Table 1).

Conclusion: In patients with axSpA, significant sex differences in pain coping styles, CPM score and PPTs were observed. Therefore, sex differences should be taken into account in the management of pain in daily clinical practice and in pain research in these patients.


Disclosure of Interests: NIL.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1876

SEX DIFFERENCES CONCERNING EXPERIENCED PAIN IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROPSIS

Keywords: Pain, Spondyloarthritis, Gender/diversity issues
Y. Van der Kraan1, D. Paao1,2, H. Timmerman3, F. Wink4, S. Arends1, M. Reneman5, A. Spoorenberg1.
1University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Physiotherapy, Enschede, Netherlands; 3University Medical Center Groningen, Anaesthesiology, Groningen, Netherlands; 4Medical Center Leeuwarden, Rheumatology, Leeuwarden, Netherlands; 5University Medical Center Groningen, Rehabilitation Medicine, Groningen, Netherlands

BACKGROUND: Research shows that there are significant sex differences in experienced pain. Contributing factors are neuroanatomical, hormonal, neuro-
maintaining therapeutic attention.
Table 1. Demographic features of the patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALES (n=73)</th>
<th>FEMALES (n=64)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean)</td>
<td>49.4 (46.5-52.3)</td>
<td>51.1 (48.9-53.2)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (mean)</td>
<td>27.3 (26.3-28.4)</td>
<td>27.5 (23.9-29)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMOKER (%)</td>
<td>16 (20.3)</td>
<td>3 (2.2)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>35 (54.8)</td>
<td>42 (40.6)</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past</td>
<td>6 (8.2)</td>
<td>5 (4.1)</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years)</td>
<td>14.4 (12.1-16.7)</td>
<td>12.3 (9.6-15.2)</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMORBIDITIES (%)

- Inflammatory bowel disease: 5 (6.8)
- Arterial hypertension: 25 (22.7)
- Diabetes: 7 (9.7)
- Depression and anxiety: 25 (22.7)
- Dyslipidemia: 25 (22.7)
- Past CV event: 4 (5.5)
- Fibromyalgia: 0 (0)
- Neurologic diseases: 0 (0)
- Cancers: 1 (1.4)
- COPD: 5.3 (7.5)
- CAD (mean): 2 (4.2-6.2)
- cTnT (mean): 13 (26)
- Methotrexate: 8 (15)
- Sulfasalazine: 5 (10)
- Leflunomide: 0 (0)
- FANS (n): 6 (13)
- Other ARBs (n): 63 (41)
- Anti-TNF: 41 (20)
- Anti-IL-17: 38 (13)
- Anti-IL-22/23: 2 (2)
- Anti-IL-23: 0 (0)

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6300

POS0367

FILLING GAPS IN FEMALE GOUT: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF 192,000 PATIENTS HOSPITALIZED WITH GOUT FROM 2005 TO 2015

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues, Comorbidities, Gout

E. Rodríguez-Sosa1, E. De Miguel2, F. Borrás3, M. Andrés1,2,4,5, M. Miguel Hernandez University, Clinical Medicine, San Juan de Alicante, Spain; 2La Paz Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 3Miguel Hernandez University, Statistics, Mathematics and Informatics, San Juan de Alicante, Spain; 4Dr. Balmis General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; 5Alicante Institute for Health and Biomedical Research (ISABIAL), Research Group on Rheumatic and Autoimmune Diseases, Alicante, Spain

Background: Patients with gout show several comorbidities, especially cardiovascular, renal and metabolic diseases. The odds of developing new comorbidities increase progressively since the first flare, with a higher risk than general population. Female gout has received little attention in the published literature.

Objectives: To compare the distribution of comorbidities by sex in hospitalized patients with gout in Spain.

Methods: Retrospective, nation-based cohort study. The Minimal Basic Data Set from all Spanish hospitalizations including gout as either primary or secondary diagnosis (ICD-9 coding) from 2005 to 2015 was collected. The comorbidities of interest were obesity, dyslipidemia, chronic kidney disease, diabetes mellitus, coronary heart disease, chronic heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, arrhythmia, venous thromboembolism, cerebrovascular disease, dementia, urinary tract infection, pneumonia, sepsis, obstructive pulmonary disease, liver disease and rheumatological disease. Arterial hypertension and urinary lithiasis were not analyzed since they were underrepresented in the dataset. Comparative analyses were performed by sex. Later, stratification by age was performed and the population was divided by sextets (<70 years; 71-80 years; 81-85 years; 86-90 years; 91-95 years; >95 years). A multiple logistic regression model was built to discern the strength of association of comorbidities with each sex, for the entire population and stratifying by age (<60 years and >60 years). Additionally, a decision tree was constructed to have sex predicting algorithms based on the presence of comorbidities.

Results: 192,037 admissions were analyzed, 5.47% (n=10,512) with gout as primary diagnosis. 158,646 cases occurred in men (82.6%), significantly younger than women (64.0±14.4 vs 73.9±13.7 years; p<0.001). Female predominant comorbidities were obesity (16.3% vs 10.8%), dyslipidemia (31.8% vs 30.7%), chronic kidney disease (33.8% vs 25.1%), diabetes (36.2% vs 25.9%), heart failure (31.8% vs 16.8%), dementia (2.1% vs 1.2%), urinary tract infection (12.0% vs 5.4%) and concurrent rheumatic disease (2.6% vs 1.4%). Otherwise, male predominant comorbidities were coronary heart disease (21.8% vs 16.9%), peripheral artery disease (3.8% vs 1.2%), liver disease (2.2% vs 1.3%), pneumonia (4.5% vs 3.8%) and obstructive pulmonary disease (8.9% vs 2.3%). No differences were seen for others. After age stratification, differences in dementia were no longer significant. Multiple logistic regression, with an accuracy score of 68.5%, confirmed a differential comorbidity profile between men and women (Figure 1). After age stratification, for <60 years renal and rheumatic diseases were closely linked to women with gout, whilst in >60 years heart failure was the leading. For men, coronary heart disease and obstructive pulmonary disease were the chief associations. A decision tree algorithm was built [1], with an accuracy of 74.4%.

Conclusion: A nationwide analysis of 11 years of hospitalizations with gout confirm a different comorbidity profile between men and women. Women with gout were significantly older and more likely to suffer from heart failure, obesity, urinary infection and diabetes. Association between sex and certain comorbidities is intense enough for sex prediction by an algorithm with considerable accuracy. A different approach for female gout is thus needed, to reduce gender blindness.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2425
Health, public health and health services

**POS0368** PERSISTENT PREMATURE MORTALITY IN GOUT: NATIONWIDE PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

**Keywords:** Gender/diversity issues, Epidemiology, Gout

N. McCormick, C. Yokose, K. Lin, L. Lu, A. Joshi, H. Choi

1. Massachusetts General Hospital, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Boston, United States of America; 2. Harvard Medical School, Medicine, Boston, United States of America; 3. Arthritis Research Canada, n/a, Vancouver, Canada; 4. Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Channing Division of Network Medicine, Boston, United States of America

**Background:** A recent UK study reported a higher cardiovascular event risk after gout flare episodes,[1] which may translate to premature mortality for gout patients over the long term. Prior studies reported premature mortality in gout, but did not compare demographic subgroups, and it is unknown whether the excess risk has improved over recent years at a national level.

**Objectives:** We prospectively evaluated the association between gout and the risk of all-cause and cardiovascular mortality in the latest US general population data and compared with the prior data.

**Methods:** Using nationally representative samples of US adults in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), linked prospectively with vital statistics data, we examined the association between gout and mortality and compared Early (NHANES III: 1988-1994) and Late cohorts (2007-2016), as well as key demographic subgroups defined by age, sex, and self-reported race/ethnicity (Black vs. White). Hazard ratios (HRs) were calculated over 10 years adjusting for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk factors, cardiometabolic comorbidities, kidney function, and relevant medications.

**Results:** Adjusted HR for all-cause mortality comparing US adults with and without gout in aggregate was 1.19 (95% CI, 1.08 – 1.32), with the same HR in the Early and Late cohorts (1.19, 1.02 – 1.38 and 1.19, 1.03 – 1.37, respectively) (Figure 1). HR was larger among those < 60 years (1.62, 95% CI, 1.19 – 2.19; p-interaction < 0.001 vs. age >= 60 years) and among women (1.33, 95% CI, 1.11 – 1.56, p-interaction=0.03 vs. men) (Table 1), and was also prominent among Black individuals (HR, 1.40; 95% CI, 1.12 – 1.74). Corresponding HR for cardiovascular mortality in the late cohort was 1.39 (95% CI, 1.09 – 1.78); All associations remained similar when adjusting for serum urate levels.

**Conclusion:** This representative cohort study illustrates premature mortality in gout at a national level, even after accounting for serum urate levels, which has not improved over past decades. Excess mortality was higher among women and younger adults, and was more prominent among Black individuals; the latter group already experiences an excess prevalence of gout at the US national level, compared to White individuals (age- and sex-adjusted odds ratio for gout=1.2 (1.2 to 1.7)).[2] These data are suggestive of continued shortcomings in current gout care practices and a compelling need to understand and mitigate the premature mortality risk in gout, especially for women and Black individuals.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1.** Association between gout and all-cause mortality according to time period and demographic groups, truncated at 10 years: Hazard ratio (HR) and 95% confidence intervals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted HR*</td>
<td>1.20 (1.03 to 1.40)</td>
<td>1.19 (1.04 to 1.37) &gt; 0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ uic acid adjusted HR</td>
<td>1.19 (1.02 to 1.38)</td>
<td>1.19 (1.03 to 1.37) &gt; 0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Cohort for Subgroup Effects P for interaction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;= 60</td>
<td>1.62 (1.22 to 2.19)</td>
<td>1.15 (1.03 to 1.28) &lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ uic acid adjusted HR</td>
<td>1.50 (1.11 to 2.04)</td>
<td>1.15 (1.03 to 1.28) 0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1.33 (1.11 to 1.60)</td>
<td>1.13 (1.00 to 1.28) 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1.32 (1.10 to 1.58)</td>
<td>1.13 (1.00 to 1.28) 0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Race</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1.36 (1.09 to 1.70)</td>
<td>1.13 (1.00 to 1.28) 0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1.30 (1.12 to 1.74)</td>
<td>1.13 (1.00 to 1.28) 0.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for age, sex, race, NHANES cycle, body mass index, education, smoking status, alcohol intake, total cholesterol, HDL, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, aspirin, diuretic, statin, and anti-hypertension medication use, post-menopausal status (women), heart disease, diabetes, and estimated glomerular filtration rate (continuous)

**Figure 1.** Cumulative incidence of death by cohorts and gout status, follow-up truncated at 10 years

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**POS0369** TREATMENT RELATED COST SAVINGS DUE TO EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

F. Van Mulligen, A. Van der Helm – van Mi, 1. Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2. Eramus University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** EULAR guidelines advocate early detection and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) to induce a milder disease course. It was shown that early detection and treatment prevents erosive disease and maintains functional capabilities. Despite of that, the effect of early detection of RA on treatment related costs has never been investigated. Due to rising health care costs, it is important for society to keep health care affordable.

**Objectives:** Our objective was to investigate whether early identification and treatment of RA patients (within 12 weeks after symptom onset) results in a reduction of treatment related costs when compared to a patient group that was seen after 12 weeks after symptom onset, stratified for ACPA status.

**Methods:** Patients were obtained from the Leiden Early Arthritis Clinic (EAC), an inception cohort consisting of patients presenting with recent onset arthritis with a symptom duration ≤ 2 years. All consecutive RA patients fulfilling the 1987 and/or 2010 criteria, and who started a DMARD, included between May 2011 and December 2017 were evaluated, allowing a follow-up of 5 years. In this inclusion period, referral strategies were optimized for early recognition of RA. Early treatment start was defined as within 12 weeks after symptom onset. Information on medication use was obtained from prescription data from electronic patient records. Prices were used from both 2012 (at time of prescription) and 2022 (current). ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative RA were studied separately. Inverse probability weighting accounted for differences in patient characteristics between the early and late groups. The weighted average difference in medication costs was estimated with a generalized linear model with a log link and gamma distribution.

**Results:** In total, 196 RA patients were ACPA-positive and 235 patients were ACPA-negative. Median (IQR) symptom duration was 5.5 (3-9) weeks in the early group, and 29.7 (19.5-53) weeks for the late group for ACPA-positive patients, and 6.4 (4-9) weeks and 26 (17-50) weeks in the ACPA-negative patients. At diagnosis, the early group of both ACPA-negative and ACPA-positive patients had more severe inflammation compared to the late group. After 5 years, 6% of ACPA-negative patients and 20% of ACPA-positive patients had used ≥1 biological. The average number of biologics within these patients was 1 in the early ACPA-negative group, 4.4 in the ACPA-negative late group, and 1.9 and 2 in ACPA-positive early and late groups. When using current price levels (2022), mean (sd) cost of treatment over 5 years was €11250 (25774) for ACPA-positive patients, and €3526 (11556) for ACPA-negative patients, while treatment costs among biological users was €44788 (36360) for ACPA-positive and 40896 (25123) for ACPA-negative RA. After weighting, within ACPA-negative RA costs were lower in the early compared to the late group (€2677 versus €4213, respectively).
indicating 46% higher costs in the late group. For ACPA-positive patients, costs were more similar (€11631 and €10988 respectively for the early and late group, p=0.96, 95%CI 0.52 – 1.83) (Figure 1A). When 2012 prices were used, costs were in general higher: €14482 (29101) and €15168 (17897) for ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative patients, respectively. Comparing late and early groups using 2012 prices provided similar results in ACPA-negative RA (p=0.134, 95%CI 0.54 – 3.3), and a larger difference in costs for ACPA-positive RA (p=0.077, 95%CI 0.44 – 1.36). Conclusion: Treatment-related costs of ACPA-positive RA are higher compared to ACPA-negative RA. However, early detection and treatment has the greatest impact on reducing treatment costs in ACPA-negative RA.

Figure 1. (A) Medication costs over 5 years indicated for ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative RA using current prices (2022), comparing early (<12 weeks after symptom onset) and later referral (≥12 weeks after symptom onset). (B) Medication costs in euros over 5 years using prices at time of prescription (2012). ACPA: anti-citrullinated protein antibody.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2021

POS0370 2023 EULAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FATIGUE IN PEOPLE WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Health Services Research

E. Dures1,2, B. Farisogullari3, E. Santos4, A. Moto5, C. Feldhusen6, C. Harris7, C. Elling-Audersen8, D. Connolly9, E. Eletante10, F.Estevez-Lopez11,12, J. Bin13,14, J. Primdahl15,16, K. Hooper17, M. Urban18, M. V. D. Laar19, M. Redondo20, P. Böhm21, R. Amarnani22, R. Hayward23, R. Geenen24, S. Rednic24, S. Pettersson25,26, T. Thomsen17, T. Uhlig9, V. Ritsch18, P. Machado27,28,19,10, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Academic Rheumatology, Bristol, United Kingdom; University of the West of England, Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences, Bristol, United Kingdom; Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; Nursing School of Coimbra (ESEnfC), Health Sciences Research Unit: Nursing (UICISA: E), Coimbra, Portugal; Hospital Cochin, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France; Institute of Neurosciences and Physiology, University of Gothenburg, Department of Health and Rehabilitation, Unit of Physiotherapy, Sahlgrenska Academy, Gothenburg, Sweden; Northwick Park Hospital, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; Deutsche Rheuma-Liga Bundesverband e. V., Patient Research Partner, Bonn, Germany; School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin, Discipline of Occupational Therapy, Dublin, Ireland; Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Pisana, Rheumatology Unit, Pisa, Italy; Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Boston, United States of America; Faculty of Education Sciences, CERNEP Research Center, University of Almeria, Department of Education, Almeria, Spain; EULAR, Young PARE, Zürich, Switzerland; Armar, Young, Rome, Italy; University of Southern Denmark, Department of Regional Health Research, Odense, Denmark; University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Sønderborg, Denmark; Hannover Medical School, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Hannover, Germany; University Hospitals Bristol, Research Design Service, Bristol, United Kingdom; University of Twente, Department of Psychology, Health and Technology, Enschede, Netherlands; Camilo José Cela University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Madrid, United Kingdom; German League against rheumatism, Forschungspartner, Bonn, Germany; Barts Health NHS Trust, Barts Health Rheumatology Service, London, United Kingdom; Utrecht University, Department of Psychology, Utrecht, Netherlands; University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iuliu Hatieganu Cluj, Department Rheumatology, Cluj, Romania; Karolinska University Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Stockholm, Sweden; Karolinska Institute, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen Centre for Arthritis Research, Centre for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases VRH, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; Medical University of Vienna, Institute for Outcomes Research, Center for Medical Data Science, Vienna, Austria; University College London, Centre for Rheumatology & Department of Neuromuscular Diseases, London, United Kingdom; University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre, London, United Kingdom

Background: Fatigue is prevalent in people with inflammatory rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (I-RMDs) and recognised as one of the most challenging symptoms to manage [1]. The existence of multiple factors associated with fatigue, the lack of clarity around underlying pathophysiological mechanisms and the limited evidence about what helps have led to a multifaceted and often fragmented approach to symptom management. However, there are no recommendations for fatigue management in people with I-RMDs, and this lack of guidance has been challenging for those living with fatigue as well as for healthcare professionals delivering clinical care.

Objectives: To develop EULAR recommendations for the management of fatigue in people with I-RMDs.

Methods: A multi-disciplinary taskforce comprising 26 members from 14 European countries was convened and two systematic reviews were conducted. The taskforce developed recommendations based on evidence from the systematic reviews and taskforce members’ personal and professional experience of fatigue in I-RMDs.

Table 1. EULAR overarching principles and recommendations for the management of fatigue in people with I-RMDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overarching principles</th>
<th>LoE</th>
<th>GoR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Health professionals should be aware that fatigue encompasses multiple and mutually interacting biological, psychological and social factors.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. In people with I-RMDs, fatigue should be monitored, and management options should be offered as part of their clinical care.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Management of fatigue should be a shared decision between the person with an I-RMD and their healthcare professionals.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The presence or worsening of fatigue should trigger evaluation of inflammatory disease severity, impact and coping strategies into clinical consultations.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Management of fatigue should be based on the needs and preferences of people with I-RMDs, as well as their clinical disease activity, comorbidities and other individual psychosocial and/or contextual factors.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations LoE GoR
1. Healthcare professionals should incorporate regular assessment of fatigue severity, impact and coping strategies into clinical consultations. 5 D
2. As part of their clinical care, people with I-RMDs and fatigue should be offered access to tailored physical activity interventions and encouraged to engage in long-term physical activity. 1a A
3. As part of their clinical care, people with I-RMDs and fatigue should be offered access to structured and tailored psychosocial interventions. 1a A
4. The presence or worsening of fatigue should trigger evaluation of inflammatory disease activity status and consideration of immunomodulatory treatment initiation or change, if clinically indicated. 1a A

I-RMDs, inflammatory rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases; GoR, Grade of recommendation; LoE, Level of Evidence. GoR and LoE as per 2011 Oxford Centre for Evidence Based Medicine Levels of Evidence.
Results: Four overarching principles and four recommendations were developed (Table 1), including health professionals’ awareness that fatigue should be monitored and assessed and that people with I-RMDs should be offered management options. Shared decisions about fatigue management should consider the needs and preferences of individuals, their clinical disease activity, comorbidities and other psychosocial and contextual factors (Table 1).

Conclusion: These 2023 EULAR recommendations provide consensus and up-to-date guidance on the management of fatigue in people with I-RMDs.

REFERENCES

Figure 1.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0373

A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW OF RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIALS EVALUATING COLCHICINE FOR CARDIOVASCULAR PREVENTION: THERE IS AN ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Keywords: Systematic review, Cardiovascular disease

A. Alunno1, C. Martini1, V. Moronti1, J. Santilli1, F. Carubbi1, J. Schoones2, J. Zavada1, B. Glintborg1, A. Macdonald1, K. Laas1, D. Nordström1, B. Gudbjörnsdóttir1, F. Iannone1, F. Hellandam1, T.K. Kven1, A. M. Rodrigues1, C. Codreanu1, Z. Rotar1, E. Kristianslund1, E. Vencovsky1, A. G. Loft1, M. Heddle1, S. Vorobjov1, A. M. Hokkanen1, G. Gröndal1, M. Sebastiani1, M. G. H. Van de Sande1, E. Kristianslund1, M. J. Santos1, M. Mogosan1, M. Tomisi1, F. Díaz-González1, D. Di Giuseppe1, M. Östergaard1, J. M. Heiland1.

Background: Colchicine (COL) is widely used in rheumatology for treatment and prophylaxis of acute gout flares, other crystal diseases, and inflammatory diseases. In recent years evidence on the efficacy of COL for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) has accrued. Since patients with gout and other inflammatory RMDs have a higher CV risk, COL may be a useful resource for CV prevention in rheumatology.

Objectives: To review the randomised controlled trials (RCT) investigating the use of COL for CV prevention from a rheumatology perspective.

Methods: A systematic literature review (SLR) of 7 databases was conducted following the PICO framework. Three researchers independently screened abstracts and titles and then full texts were reviewed to determine eligibility (RCTs enrolling adult subjects with or w/o history of CVD treated with COL for CV prevention). Data from eligible articles were extracted and risk of bias (RoB) was assessed with validated tools.

Results: A total of 3867 articles were retrieved and screened, 174 articles were read in full and 20 of them were eligible for inclusion. Of 1940 enrolled patients, 9655 were randomised to receive COL at a dose varying between 0.5mg/day and 2mg/day and for a period ranging between 10 days and several months (covering in part or in full the study follow-up period). Main inclusion criteria were recent acute coronary syndrome or planned cardiac surgery. In two studies, patients with stable chronic heart failure or stable coronary disease were recruited. The primary outcome varied across studies, being for example new-onset CV events, need of hospital admission, CV death, a composite index including some of all, or serum concentrations of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein. Median follow up time was largely different across studies allowing to stratify them in short term (<1 month, 2 studies), medium term (3-12 months, 7 studies), long term (4-8 months, 4 studies), very long term (>6 months, 4 studies) studies. The remaining studies assessed in-hospital events. In 7 out of 20 RCTs previous or ongoing COL use for any indication was exclusion criterion. No further details about the reason for taking COL was provided. Male gender was predominant in all studies (between 65 and 96%) whereas mean age ranged between 59 and 69 years. A thorough CV history was collected at recruitment, however there was no mention to uric acid levels or a previous diagnosis of gout. Furthermore, 3 RCTs excluded patients with known autoimmune/inflammatory disease (in 2 of them ongoing immunosuppressive or steroid therapy was an additional exclusion criterion) however the other RCTs did not mention coexisting autoimmune/inflammatory diseases. The primary endpoint was met by 0/2 (0%) short term studies, 4/7 (57%) medium term studies, 2/4 (50%) long term studies and 2/4 (50%) very long term studies. Neither of the studies assessing in-hospital events met the primary endpoint.

Conclusion: Our SLR of RCTs showed that COL may be useful in preventing new CV events/CV death in the general population when administered for at least on month. However, the overall lack of information about coexisting gout/other inflammatory RMDs does not allow to derive meaningful data to be applied in rheumatology practice. Future RCTs should consider this aspect when defining the eligibility criteria and describing the patient cohorts since COL may be even more effective in patients that display a higher CV risk due to an underlying inflammatory disease. This may ultimately increase the likelihood to achieve the study primary endpoints.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0374

HOW WELL DO EULAR/ASAS-EULAR AND NATIONAL TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS ALIGN? IS IT TIME FOR AN UPDATE OF NATIONAL TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS?

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Health Services Research, Spondyloarthritis

B. Michelsen1, M. J. Nissen1, A. Ciurea1, B. Moeller1, L. Midtibelt Ornbjerg1, J. Zavada1, B. Gudbjörnsdóttir1, F. Iannone1, F. Hellandam1, T.K. Kven1, A. M. Rodrigues1, C. Codreanu1, Z. Rotar1, E. Kristianslund1, J. M. Santos1, M. Mogosan1, M. Tomisi1, F. Díaz-González1, D. DI Giuseppe1, M. Östergaard1, J. M. Heiland1.

Background: National treatment recommendations are often used to optimize patient care and may differ from international recommendations. Although such potential heterogeneity may affect outcomes, mapping of these differences across European countries was last performed more than a decade ago for axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and has never been undertaken in psoriatic arthritis (PsA).[1]

Objectives: To assess differences and similarities between the EULAR and ASAS-EULAR recommendations for the treatment of patients with PsA and axSpA, respectively, versus national PsA and axSpA treatment recommendations across Europe.

Methods: Rheumatologists from 15 European countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) compared the most recent national treatment recommendations for PsA and axSpA with the EULAR recommendations for the management of PsA with pharmacological therapies: 2019 update[2] and the ‘2016 update of the ASAS-EULAR recommendations for axSpA’,[3] in an online survey conducted between October 2021 and April 2022. The study was an initiative of the European Spondyloarthritis Research Collaboration Network (EuroSpA RCN).[4]

Results: Three countries (Czech Republic, Netherlands, and Spain) followed all EULAR recommendations for treating patients with PsA and four countries (Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland) all ASAS-EULAR recommendations for axSpA. A total of 4/15 countries had no national treatment recommendations for PsA or axSpA, but had other rules or regulations to follow, for which the comparisions in this study were then performed. The Netherlands had national treatment recommendations for axSpA, but not yet for PsA, for which EULAR recommendations were followed. In six countries, the national treatment recommendations for PsA followed the 2019 EULAR recommendations and in four the 2016 ASAS-EULAR recommendations. The national treatment recommendations for PsA varied between the ASAS-EULAR (Figure 1). Discrepancies between international and national treatment recommendations included: Entry criteria for start of biologic/targeted synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (b/tsDMARD) varied and were the most stringent in Romania, where DAPSA>28 for PsA and BASDAI>6 and ASDAS>2.5 for axSpA were required for the start of a bDMARD. Regarding PsA, in two countries (Finland and Switzerland) a conventional synthetic DMAPA should be initiated before a b/tsDMARD including in patients with predominantly enthesal or axial disease. In several countries, no preference for L17 inhibitors was given for PsA patients with significant skin involvement. The positioning of JAK inhibitors (JAKI) differed across countries, e.g. in Estonia JAKI were indicated after failure of two tumor necrosis factor inhibitors and in Romania JAKI were positioned at the same level as bDMARDs. Phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitors were in not use or not reimbursed.
in most countries. Analgesics were not specifically mentioned in several of the national treatment recommendations.

**Figure 1.**

**Conclusion:** Only a few European countries incorporated all EULAR and ASAS/EULAR treatment recommendations in their national recommendations. The potential impact of this on access to b/tsDMARD treatments needs to be further explored.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Keywords:** Comorbidities, Safety


Juntendo University, Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan

**Background:** Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP) is a potentially life-threatening opportunistic infection. Sulfamethoxazole–trimethoprim (SMX/TMP) is effective in preventing pneumocystis pneumonia in patients with systemic rheumatic disease. However, the frequency of adverse events (AEs) due to SMX/TMP in rheumatic disease patients is higher than in the general population. The EULAR recommendation 2022 was described as ‘Of note, there is some evidence that reduced doses (e.g., half-strength, daily) may also be effective and associated with fewer adverse events’ [1].

**Objectives:** This study aimed to identify the optimal dose of SMX/TMP for the prophylaxis for PCP in patients with systemic rheumatic disease.

**Methods:** Our protocols of this study were described previously [2]. This study was a 52-week, randomized, open-label, two-arm, parallel-group, multicenter controlled trial. We compared a full-dose group (SMX/TMP at 400/80 mg daily) with a half-dose group (SMX/TMP at 200/40 mg daily). Inclusion criteria were follows: aged over 20 years; admission to our hospitals for diagnosis and/or treatment of new-onset or relapsed systemic rheumatic diseases from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2021; current treatment with at least 0.6 mg/kg/day of oral prednisolone or equivalent doses of corticosteroids with or without any immunosuppressant; no previous treatment with SMX/TMP; per Zemidrine isochrome, dapsone, or atovaquone; serum creatinine levels within the institution's normal range; Able and willing to provide written informed consent. Exclusion criteria were follows: contraindications to SMX/TMP; past history of PCP; prior treatment with biologic agents; currently uncontrolled complications; body weight below 40 kg; currently pregnant or nursing; unable to begin SMX/TMP within 14 days of starting prednisolone; unable to provide written informed consent. Exclusion criteria were follows: contraindications to SMX/TMP; past history of PCP; prior treatment with biologic agents; currently uncontrolled complications; body weight below 40 kg; currently pregnant or nursing; unable to begin SMX/TMP within 14 days of starting prednisolone; unable to provide written informed consent. Exclusion criteria were follows: contraindications to SMX/TMP; past history of PCP; prior treatment with biologic agents; currently uncontrolled complications; body weight below 40 kg; currently pregnant or nursing; unable to provide written informed consent.

**Results:** Forty-two patients in full-dose group and 43 patients in half-dose group were analyzed. Since all patients were not developed with PCP while taking SMX/TMP, the results of the primary outcome measure of current as the number of patients in each treatment arm who were diagnosed with PCP were both 0. The discontinuation rates were 38% in full-dose group vs 16% in half-dose group (p value = 0.028).

**References:**


Conclusions: Half-dose regimen of TMP/SMX may be better to reduce AEs than full-dose regimen in prophylaxis for PCP in patients with systemic rheumatic disease.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics of patients who switched from originator adalimumab to biosimilar GP2017 or SB5, stratified by diagnosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GP2017 (n=621)</th>
<th>SB5 (n=695)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PSA RA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients (N)</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years (mean, SD)</td>
<td>54 (11)</td>
<td>62 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>80 (55)</td>
<td>158 (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years (mean, SD)</td>
<td>14 (7)</td>
<td>14 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AxSpA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients (N)</td>
<td>103 (17)</td>
<td>164 (72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years (mean, SD)</td>
<td>55 (18)</td>
<td>62 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>60 (58)</td>
<td>116 (71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years (mean, SD)</td>
<td>14 (5)</td>
<td>14 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PsA RA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years (mean, SD)</td>
<td>14 (5)</td>
<td>14 (8)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**GLM regression estimates for costs after versus before switching, stratified by drug and diagnosis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GP2017</th>
<th>SB5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PSA RA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total hospital costs</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0.75-0.91)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.86-0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AxSpA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total hospital costs</td>
<td>0.85 (0.77-1.03)</td>
<td>1.00 (1.00-1.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0.75-0.91)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.86-0.93)</td>
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**POS0377**

**ACCURACY OF AN AI-BASED SYMPTOM CHECKER AND AN ONLINE SELF-REFERRAL TOOL IN RHEUMATOLOGY: RESULTS FROM A MULTICENTER RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Validation, Real-world evidence, Telemedicine


1Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3- Rheumatology and Immunology, Erlangen, Germany; 1Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3- Rheumatology and Immunology, Erlangen, Germany; 2Brandenburg Medical School, Faculty of Health Sciences Brandenburg, Rüdersdorf, Germany; 3Verein zur Förderung der Rheumatologie e.V., Würselen, Germany; 4Medizinisches Versorgungszentrum, Stolberg, Stolberg, Germany; 5Rheumatologische Schwerpunktpraxis, Drs. Kleinert, Rapp, Ronneberger, Schuch u. Wendler, Erlangen, Germany; 6Klinik für Internistische Rheumatologie, Rhein-Maas Klinikum, Würselen, Germany; 7Université Grenoble Alpes, AEGIS, Grenoble, France; 8MVZ für Rheumatologie, Dr. Martin Welcker GmbH, Plaennig, Germany; 9Klinikum Nürnberg, Paracelsus Medical University, Division of Rheumatology, Nürnberg, Germany

**Background:** Inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD) are often diagnosed too late due to non-specific symptoms and the lack of specialists in rheumatology. Digital diagnostic decision support systems (DDSS) promise to accelerate diagnosis and decrease the overall healthcare burden.

**Objectives:** To assess the ability of an artificial intelligence (AI)-based symptom checker (Ada) and an online self-referral tool (Rheport) to diagnose inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRDs).

**Methods:** In a prospective, multicenter open-label controlled randomized crossover trial patients newly presenting to a rheumatology center were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to complete a symptom assessment with Ada or Rheport followed by a crossover to the other respective diagnostic decision support system (DDSS). The primary outcome was correct identification of a patient with IRD by the DDSS defined as the presence of any IRD in the list of suggested diagnoses with Ada or a pre-specified threshold score with Rheport. Physicians' diagnosis was the gold standard.

**Results:** In total, 600 patients were included and 214 (36%) patients were eventually diagnosed with an IRD by a physician. Rhoport showed a sensitivity of 62% and specificity of 47% for IRDs. Ada's top 1 (D1) and top 5 disease suggestions (D5) showed a sensitivity of 92% and 66% and a specificity of 68% and 54% concerning IRDs, respectively. Ada, in comparison to Rhoport, was more likely to correctly identify patients with an IRD when used as the first DDSS (OR: 1.10, 95% CI: 1.01 to 1.18) however this finding was not consistent after cross-over (OR: 0.97, 95% CI: 0.89 to 1.05).

**Conclusion:** The diagnostic capability of both DDSS for IRDs was not promising in this high-prevalence patient population referred for subspecialty evaluation. Although the overall numbers suggest that AI-based Ada demonstrated a slightly higher specificity and sensitivity compared to the questionnaire-based Rhoport, Ada was not consistently better than Rhoport in correctly identifying patients with an IRD when the use sequence of the apps was taken into account. Our results indicate that, strict regulation and drastic improvement is necessary to ensure safety and effectiveness of DDSS.

**Acknowledgements:** This study was partially funded by Novartis Pharma GmbH.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Johannes Knitz Sales; Abbie: Novartis, Lilly, Medac, BMS, Sanofi, Apen, Gilead, UCB, ABATON, GSK, Werfen, Vila Health, Böringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Galapagos, Chugai, Celltrion, Grant/research support from: This study has been partially supported by Novartis Pharma GmbH. Others: Abbie, Novartis, Thermo Fisher, UCB, ABATON, Sanofi, DFG, EIT Health, Koray Tascliar: None declared, Franziska Fuchs: None declared, Jacob Mohn: None declared, David Simon: None declared, Arnd Kleyer: None declared, Christina Bergmann: None declared, Hannah Labinsky: None declared, Harriet Morf: None declared, Elizabeth Araujo: None declared, Daniela Bohr: None declared, Felix Muehlensiepen: None declared, Matthias Englbrecht: None declared, Wolfgang Vorbrüggen: None declared, Cay Benedikt von der Decken: None declared, Stefan Kleinert: None declared, Andreas Ramming: None declared, Joerg Distler: None declared, Peter Bartz-Bazzanella: None declared, Nicolas Vuillerme: None declared, Georg Schett: None declared, Martin Welcker Grant/research support from: Novartis Pharma GmbH, Axel Hueber Grant/research support from: Novartis Pharma GmbH.

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**Touring the landscape of epidemiology**

**POS0378**

**ASSOCIATION BETWEEN METABOLIC SYNDROME AND KNEE PAIN IN MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS OVER 10-13 YEARS**

**Keywords:** Pain, Osteoarthritis, Epidemiology

A. Singh1, L. Fraser1, A. Venn1, L. Blizzard1, G. Jones1, C. Ding1, B. Antony1

1University of Tasmania, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, Hobart, Australia

**Background:** Metabolic syndrome (MetS) is characterized by an increased waist circumference, dyslipidaemia (elevated triglycerides and reduced high-density lipoprotein (HDL)), hypertension and hyperglycaemia. MetS has been suggested as having a role in osteoarthritis (OA) pathogenesis. Few studies have described the association of MetS with joint pain in older adults with OA; however, none has described the association between MetS and knee pain in a middle-aged adult population.

**Objectives:** We aimed to describe the association of MetS and trajectories of MetS over 10-13 years with knee symptoms in general population-based middle-aged adults.

**Methods:** Fasting blood biochemistry, waist circumference and blood pressure measures collected during the Childhood Determinants of Adult Health (CDAH)-1 study (year: 2004-6; n = 2447) and at 10-13 year follow-up at CDAH-3 (n = 1549) were used to define MetS using the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) definition. Knee symptoms were assessed using the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) scale at the CDAH-3 follow-up (mid adulthood). Univariable and multivariable (adjusted for age, sex, and body mass index (BMI)) zero-inflated Poisson (ZIP) regression models were used for analysis.

**Figure 1: Participant flowchart**

**Table 1**

**Results:** Overall, the prevalence of MetS increased from 8% (mean age: 31.48 ± 2.60; female: 52.06%) to 13% (mean age: 44 ± 2.90; female: 53.78%) over 10-13 years. Four MetS trajectories were identified—No MetS (85.01%); ‘Improved MetS’ (2.14%), ‘Incident MetS’ (8.81%), and ‘Persistent MetS’ (4.04%). The presence of MetS at any point, compared to no MetS, was significantly associated with worse knee symptoms at follow-up. Notably, ‘Incident MetS’ was most strongly associated with knee symptoms [Rob: 1.56, 95% CI: 1.48, 1.65] and pain [Rob: 1.25, 95% CI: 1.37, 1.79] at follow-up (Table 1).
Table 1. Association between trajectories of metabolic syndrome and knee symptoms

| Variable (Type) | Association of MetS with knee symptoms at CDAH-3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unadjusted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No MetS (Predictor)</td>
<td>1 (Ref)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inc MetS (Predictor)</td>
<td>1.76 (1.65, 1.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent MetS (Predictor)</td>
<td>1.45 (1.35, 1.56)</td>
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</table>

Four trajectories of MetS status from CDAH-1 to CDAH3 (Predictor)

WOMAC total (outcome)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Inc MetS (Predictor)</th>
<th>Persistent MetS (Predictor)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unadjusted</td>
<td>1.76 (1.65, 1.87)</td>
<td>1.45 (1.35, 1.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted</td>
<td>1.05 (0.88, 1.27)</td>
<td>1.16 (1.05, 1.29)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BMI: body mass index; CDAH: Childhood Determinants of Adult Health; CI: confidence interval; n: number of patients at the respective time point; MetS: metabolic syndrome; RoM: ratio of means; WOMAC: Western Ontario MacMaster osteoarthritis score; Model adjusted for age, sex, and BMI Bold denotes statistical significance, \(p<0.05\)

Conclusion: In a middle-aged population-based sample, there was an independent positive association between MetS and knee symptoms. The MetS developed in mid-adulthood was most strongly associated with knee symptoms compared to those who had MetS in young adulthood or at both time points.

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POS379

WHEN SHOULD WE USE MARGINAL STRUCTURAL MODELS FOR DRUG STUDIES IN RHEUMATOLOGY? THE EXAMPLE OF CORTICOSTEROIDS AND INFECTIONS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Education, Real-world evidence, Epidemiology

A. Barbulescu1, A. Sjölander2, B. Delcoigne3, J. Askling1, T. Frisell1

1Karolinska Institutet, Medicin Solna, Solna, Sweden; 2Karolinska Institutet, Medical epidemiology and Biostatistics, Solna, Sweden; 3Karolinska University Hospital, Rheumatology, Theme Inflammation and Ageing, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: The use and dosing of pharmacotherapy for chronic inflammatory disease is commonly changed over time, adapting to previous treatment response, current disease activity, tolerability, and onset of adverse events. This makes evaluating the treatments difficult, as the treatment received over time becomes entangled with time varying confounding factors, even if the initial treatment choice was randomized. To naively adjust for these time-varying factors in regression models has long been recognized by epidemiologists to introduce bias in most realistic settings, and marginal structural models (MSM) has been proposed as a less biased alternative. Despite this, MSMs are used very sparingly in drug studies in rheumatology.

Objectives: The objective of this work is to explain the rationale for why MSMs are recommended in the context of time-varying drug use and confounding factors, and what may go wrong if they are not used. The method will be demonstrated by comparing the incidence of serious infections between different oral glucocorticoid (GC) dose patterns over the first three years after first RA diagnosis, adjusting for time-varying confounders in MSM or through conventional regression models.

Methods: For the demonstration study, we followed 9654 recently diagnosed RA patients, for five years from their first rheumatology visit in the Swedish Childhood Determinants of Adult Health (CDAH) registry, 2007 to 2018. Follow-up was divided into 3-month periods. An average oral prednisone daily-dose was calculated for each period and categorized into "no use," "low" (≤10mg/day) and "high" (>10mg/day) doses. The MSM was implemented through sequential inverse probability of treatment weighting across time periods, accounting for demographic factors, current GC dose and HAQ, co-medication and his inflammatory activity. The incidence of serious infections (hospitalization for infection identified through the Swedish National Patient Register) was modelled by pooled logistic regression allowing separate effects for recent and past GC. We compared confounding adjustment via conventional regression versus MSM.

Results: An increased incidence of serious infections was associated with higher compared to lower doses and with more recent compared to past GC. Although in theory less biased by confounding factors, the results from MSMs were similar to those from conventional regression. Compared to no glucocorticoids, exposure to low doses during the first year added 1.9 infection cases per 100 patients (95% CI 0.9-2.9) at three years, while exposure to high doses added 4.1 (2.5-5.9) cases.

Conclusion: Our results broadly agree with previous observational studies showing a dose dependent increased risk of infection associated with (recent) use of oral glucocorticoids. Although theoretically the MSM has the potential to be less biased than ordinary regression models, the results from the two models were almost indistinguishable in this realistic example, and the implementation of the MSM led to limitations in the study design (including the categorization of exposure), and was very time consuming both in programming and computation time compared to the more widely used option. This similarity in results is not guaranteed however, and the biases that MSMs were designed to avoid should be kept in mind in all studies of drugs were the use may change over time in response to possibly confounding factors.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Andrei Barbulescu Consultant of: Employee of Parexel, Arvid Sjölander: None declared, Bédéicté Delcoigne: None declared, Johan Askling Grant/research support from: JA is PI of the ARTIS project, which is mainly for the national safety monitoring of rheumatology immunomodulators in Sweden (ARTIS); Abbvie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi, Thomas Frisell: None declared.

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POS380

PERFORMANCE OF EYE SIGN IN DIAGNOSING PATIENTS WITH NEUROPSYCHIATRIC SYSTIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Diagnostic Tests, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Prognostic factors

J. L. H. Shi1, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Medicine & Therapeutics, Hong Kong, China

Background: The featured alterations of eye sign has been reported (1) in patients with neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus (NPSLE). Whether eye sign can predict NPSLE remains unknown.

Objectives: To investigate the performances of potential predictors and predictive models utilizing eye sign in classifying NPSLE.

Methods: Patients (>18 years) fulfilled the SLE diagnosis (2) were consecutively enrolled from 30 September 2016 to 30 September 2017. The diagnosis of NPSLE was evaluated and based on the consensus from rheumatologist, neurologist, radiologist and psychiatrist. Bulbar conjunctival microvascular changes in eye sign were performed and scored for all SLE patients by rheumatologist using our criteria. NP assessments were evaluating in all SLE patients by psychiatrist, including the mini-mental state examination (MMSE), self-rating anxiety scale (SAS), self-rating depression scale (SDS). Demographic and clinical data were compared between two groups and to identify potential predictors for NPSLE by using multivariable logistic regression analysis. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was plotted and the area under the curve (AUC) was used to evaluate the performance of the models in the prediction of NPSLE.

Results: 120 SLE patients were recruited (30 [24-41] years) including 30 NPSLE and 90 non-NPSLE. Totally 39 NP events were recorded in these NPSLE patients. NPSLE had higher disease activity (reflected as SLEDAI and ESR), more prevalent of Poor lymphopenia, lower platelet and lower non-NPSLE group. Eye sign examination showed NPSLE group had significantly changes of ramified loops, microangloma, wound spot, worse vascular tone and
higher total score than non-NPSLE group. In multivariable logistic analysis, model 1 showed total score of eye sign was the only predictor for NPSLE, while in model 2, except for SLEDAI, specific items of ramified loops, microangioma and wound spot were predictors for NPSLE (Table 1). Predictive model 1 utilizing total score as predictor showed AUC of 0.933 with sensitivity of 86.7%, specificity of 95.6% (Figure 1).

**Figure 2.** The association between predictive models and NPSLE assessed using receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves.

**Table 1. Multivariable logistic regression analysis of predictors for developing NPSLE.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>OR (95%CI)</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>OR (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCI</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>3.94 (0.82-18.89)</td>
<td>0.087</td>
<td>8.43 (0.94-76.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aPL</td>
<td>0.292</td>
<td>10.43 (0.65-166.61)</td>
<td>0.097</td>
<td>7.50 (0.18-319.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rp</td>
<td>0.124</td>
<td>3.83 (0.47-31.41)</td>
<td>0.211</td>
<td>40.93 (0.36-460734)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI</td>
<td>0.044*</td>
<td>1.53 (0.98-2.58)</td>
<td>0.061</td>
<td>1.59 (1.01-2.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>0.992</td>
<td>0.97 (0.88-1.08)</td>
<td>0.866</td>
<td>0.99 (0.87-1.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSE</td>
<td>0.525</td>
<td>1.27 (0.79-2.03)</td>
<td>0.321</td>
<td>1.26 (0.62-2.57)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAS</td>
<td>0.645</td>
<td>0.96 (0.87-1.04)</td>
<td>0.239</td>
<td>0.97 (0.97-1.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDS</td>
<td>0.547</td>
<td>1.01 (0.95-1.10)</td>
<td>0.902</td>
<td>0.97 (1.03-1.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramified loops</td>
<td>0.046*</td>
<td>39.54 (106-1472.48)</td>
<td>39.54</td>
<td>6.95 (10.44-65.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular tone</td>
<td>0.945</td>
<td>0.74 (2.63-157.60)</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.97 (1.03-1.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wound spot</td>
<td>0.045*</td>
<td>6.95 (106-1472.48)</td>
<td>6.95</td>
<td>0.97 (1.03-1.11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Statistically significant at p < 0.05: ACCI: age adjusted Charlin Comorbid Index; aPL: Antiphospholipid antibody; Rp: Raynaud's phenomenon; SLEDAI: Systemic lupus erythematosis disease activity index; ESR: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate; MMSE: The mini-mental state examination; SAS: Self-rating anxiety scale; SDS: Self-rating depression scale.

**Table 1. Characteristics of patients stratified by level of concern.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort 1</th>
<th>Cohort 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>Not really</td>
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</table>

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.331

**Table 1. Table 1. Characteristics of patients stratified by level of concern.**

**POS0381** FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PREGNANCY-RELATED CONCERNS IN WOMEN WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES – AN ANALYSIS OF A NATIONWIDE PREGNANCY COHORT

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Registries, Pregnancy and reproduction

**Y. Meissner**, B. Eikohof, C. Glaser, J. Henes, J. Richter, S. Spaeltingh-Meestekemper, C. Specker, R. Fischer-Betz, A. Strangfeld, German Rheumatism Research Centre Berlin, Epidemiology and Health Services Research, Berlin, Germany; [^1] University Medical Center Freiburg, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Freiburg, Germany; [^2] University Hospital Tuebingen, Centre for Interdisciplinary Clinical Immunology, Rheumatology and Autoinflammatory Diseases, Tuebingen, Germany; [^3] Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, University Clinic, Policlinic for Rheumatology and Hiller Research Unit for Rheumatology, Düsseldorf, Germany; [^4] Rheumapraxis München-Pasing, Rheumatologie, München, Germany; [^5] Kliniken Essen-Mitte, Klinik für Rheumatologie & Klinische Immunologie, Essen, Germany; [^6] Charité University Medicine Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany.

**Background:** Pregnancies in women with chronic diseases are often accompanied by concerns about possible complications during pregnancy and about the health of the child [1]. In women with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD) this can lead to a reduced number of offspring [2]. To date, surveys and interviews, but no data quantifying these worries and factors influencing them, have been published.

**Objectives:** To investigate and quantify pregnancy concerns in women with various underlying IRD, and to identify factors that have an impact on these worries.

**Methods:** The German registry Rhekiss is a nationwide, multicentre, web-based longitudinal cohort study, which was initiated in 2015 to investigate pregnancies and related issues in women with various IRD. Women can either be enrolled if they are planning a pregnancy (cohort 1) or if they are already pregnant prior to gestational week 20 (cohort 2). Rheumatologist- and patient-reported data are captured at regular, pre-defined follow-up visits. For this analysis, women who had answered the question regarding their concerns about their pregnancy and child’s health due to the IRD were included. Categorical answers as well as patient characteristics were analysed descriptively. The impact of different factors associated with patients’ anxieties was estimated by multivariable ordinal logistic regression using the proportional odds model and combining the two cohorts. Missing values were replaced by single imputation.

**Results:** Between 09/2015 and 10/2022, a total of 2,240 patients were enrolled, including 708 in cohort 1 and 1,532 in cohort 2. Out of those, n=455 and n=784, respectively, were eligible for the analysis. Women of both cohorts were on average 32-34 years old and had a mean disease duration of 8-9 years (table 1). A total of 31% of women in cohort 1 and 22% in cohort 2 stated that they are concerned “a lot” (figure 1). Answers of patients varied between the IRD diagnoses. A significant association with higher levels of worry was found in patients with a greater disease impact, measured by the patient-reported RAID score, an established seven-item composite index for assessing the disease burden in rheumatic diseases [3, 4], (Odds ratio 1.35 [95% confidence interval 1.27; 1.43]). A similar association was found with nulligravidity (1.29 [1.01; 1.65]) and with recent treatment changes (1.26 [1.00; 1.60]), which were associated with a lower level of concern (0.96 [0.94; 0.99]). No significant relationship was found for the number of underlying comorbidities (1.13 [0.98; 1.29]). Furthermore, patients who were already pregnant at enrolment were less worried than patients planning a pregnancy (0.74 [0.60; 0.93]).

**Conclusion:** At least one in five women with IRD is “very concerned” about pregnancy and infant health due to the underlying rheumatic disease. A higher RAID score, nulligravidity, treatment changes and younger age were associated with higher levels of concern. Therefore, patient concerns should be an essential part of individual counselling for women with IRD who want to become pregnant or are already pregnant.

**References:**

[1] PMID: 26039501
[2] PMID: 22344961
[3] PMID: 21540201

[^1]: n.d.
[^2]: n.d.
[^3]: n.d.
[^4]: n.d.
[^5]: n.d.
[^6]: n.d.
[^7]: n.d.
Figure 1. Level of concerns stratified by cohort and by IRD diagnosis.

Acknowledgements: Funding: Rhekiss is jointly funded by the German Rheumatism Research Centre Berlin and the Rheumazentrum Rhein-Ruhr e.V. Düsseldorf.

Disclosure of Interests: Yvette Meissner Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Bernhard Eickhoff: None declared, Cornelia Glaser Speakers bureau: UCB, Novartis, Pfizer, Galapagos, Grant/research support from: UCB, Jörg Henes: None declared, Susanna Spaethling-Mestekemper Speakers bureau: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Boehringer, Bund Deutscher Internisten, Chugai, GSK, Janssen-Cilag, Rheumazentrum Rhein-Ruhr, Lilly, Med Update, MSD, Otsuka, Novartis, Pfizer, Rheumatologische Fortbildungsakademie, Roche, Sanofi, StreamedUp, Vifor, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer, Chugai, DRFZ, GSK, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Subi, UCB, Rebecca Fischer-Betz Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Astra Zeneca, Biogen, BMS, Chugai, GSK, Medac, MSD, Novartis, UCB, Consultant of: BMS, GSK, Novartis, Otsuka, UCB, Anja Strangfeld Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, UCB., Grant/research support from: Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute.

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Methods: In 2020, 7637 patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) or systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) reported fatigue in the National Database of the German Collaborative Arthritis Centres [2]. Fatigue, pain, physician (PtGl) and patient global (PptGl) activity, PtGl health status (all on numeric rating scales, 0-10) were categorized into three groups (mild (0-3), moderate (4-6), severe (7-10)). Depressive symptoms assessed by WHO-5 well-being (0-10) were categorized to no (0-50), mild (51-90) and moderate to severe (>90). The frequency and severity of fatigue was compared in terms of the rheumatic diseases, age, sex, disease duration and sociodemographics. Violin plots show the ways in which fatigue and the other outcomes.

Results: A total of 4900 patients (84%) reported fatigue. Higher mean values were observed in patients with axSpA (4.3) compared to PsA (3.9), RA (3.8) and SLE (3.7) (table 1). Female and elderly patients, singles, and patients with little education years reported more fatigue. No difference in fatigue severity was found between patients with initial diagnosis and those with long-term disease. More fatigue was related to a poorer global health status, higher PtGl and PptGl disease activity, higher levels of pain, and more severe depressive symptoms (figure 1). Patients with concomitant fibromyalgia or depression reported worse fatigue compared to those with no or other comorbidities.

Table 1. Patient characteristics

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>4863</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>1223</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>1311</td>
<td>1412</td>
<td>1509</td>
<td>1606</td>
<td>1703</td>
<td>1801</td>
<td>1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>88</td>
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PSO3084

Disclosure of Interests: Christina Duesing Speakers bureau: Novartis, GSK, medac, Consultant of: GSK, Katja Theile: None declared, Katinka Albrecht: None declared, Siegfried Wassenberg: None declared, Johanna Calhoff Speakers bureau: Janssen Citag GmbH, Jutta Richter: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2476

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Epidemiology, Real-world evidence

Background: Psoriasis (PsO) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) can greatly impact quality of life and result in substantial personal and societal costs. Complete and up to date data on the prevalence and incidence of these conditions and whether these change over time and vary by age is important for healthcare service planning so that specialist care and funding can be appropriately allocated.

Methods: We used Clinical Practice Research Datalink AURUM, a primary care electronic health record database, including 20% of the English population. The codes used to identify patients with PsO and PsA were selected by rheumatologists and dermatologists and cross-checked with published code lists from other studies to ensure inclusion of all relevant codes. All included patients must have data for at least 1 year before their diagnosis. The annual incidence and point prevalence were calculated from 2009-2019 and stratified by age/sex. The study period ended in 2019 to avoid COVID-19 pandemic affecting results.

Results: The prevalence of PsO and PsA in males and females increased annually, peaking in 2019 (PsO males 2.41% [95% confidence interval (CI) 2.40, 2.42]; PsO females 2.60% [95% CI 2.59-2.61]; PsA males 0.20% [95% CI 0.20-0.20]; PsA females 0.21% [95% CI 0.21-0.22]), as illustrated in Table 1. In 2019, the prevalence of PsO and PsA was highest in the over 65 years age group. PsO 4.25% [95% CI 4.22-4.28] and PsA 0.38% [95% CI 0.37-0.38]. The annual incidence per 100,000 person years of PsO has gradually decreased in males (from 168 (164-171) in 2009 to 148 (145-151) in 2019) but in females it has been stable with a slight annual decrease (from 180 (177-184) in 2009 to 173 (170-176) in 2019). The annual incidence for PsA has increased in both males and females from 2009-2019 across all age groups in England.

Methods: We used Clinical Practice Research Datalink AURUM, a primary care electronic health record database, including 20% of the English population. The codes used to identify patients with PsO and PsA were selected by rheumatologists and dermatologists and cross-checked with published code lists from other studies to ensure inclusion of all relevant codes. All included patients must have data for at least 1 year before their diagnosis. The annual incidence and point prevalence were calculated from 2009-2019 and stratified by age/sex. The study period ended in 2019 to avoid COVID-19 pandemic affecting results.

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Results: The prevalence of PsO and PsA in males and females increased annually, peaking in 2019 (PsO males 2.41% [95% confidence interval (CI) 2.40, 2.42]; PsO females 2.60% [95% CI 2.59-2.61]; PsA males 0.20% [95% CI 0.20-0.20]; PsA females 0.21% [95% CI 0.21-0.22]), as illustrated in Table 1. In 2019, the prevalence of PsO and PsA was highest in the over 65 years age group. PsO 4.25% [95% CI 4.22-4.28] and PsA 0.38% [95% CI 0.37-0.38]. The annual incidence per 100,000 person years of PsO has gradually decreased in males (from 168 (164-171) in 2009 to 148 (145-151) in 2019) but in females it has been stable with a slight annual decrease (from 180 (177-184) in 2009 to 173 (170-176) in 2019). The annual incidence for PsA has increased in both males and females from 2009-2019 across all age groups in England.

Table 1. Patient characteristics

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Table 1. Prevalence of PsO and PsA from 2009-2019 in England

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Figure 1. Relationship between fatigue and pain, global health activity and depressive symptoms

Conclusion: Fatigue is a frequent symptom across various inflammatory rheumatic diseases. A strong relationship to global health, disease activity, pain and depressive symptoms needs to be considered in the (individual) therapeutic management of the diseases that relies on a shared decision making.
Conclusion: The increasing prevalence of PsO and PsA highlights the importance of organizing healthcare services to meet this need, particularly in the elderly population.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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SQUASH VERSUS ACTIHEART-MEASURED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN THE MIDDLE-AGED GENERAL POPULATION: THE NEO STUDY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Lifestyles, Epidemiology.

S. Terpstra1,2, L. Hoogervorst3, J. Van de Velde5, R. De Mutsert2, L. A. Van de Stadt5, F. Rosendaal1, M. Kloppenburg3,4, 1Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center, Clinical epidemiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Orthopedics, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Adequate physical activity levels have been associated with wide-ranging beneficial health outcomes. It is therefore important to adequately measure physical activity. This is often done by the SQUASH (Short Questionnaire to Assess Health-enhancing physical activity), a patient-assessed instrument. However, this is a subjective method of which data on validity in large middle-aged population groups are lacking.

Objectives: To assess 1) the construct validity of the SQUASH, and 2) participant characteristics associated with difference between SQUASH and ActiHeart outcome.

Methods: Cross-sectional data from the population-based Netherlands Epilepidemiology of Obesity (NEO) study were used, of which participants were 45 to 65 years of age. Physical activity (in Metabolic Equivalent of Task (MET) hours) was assessed using the SQUASH on one week and in a random subset using the ActiHeart accelerometer for approximately 96 hours continuously, extrapolated to one week. Convergent validity of the SQUASH was assessed by calculating Spearman’s rank correlation between the SQUASH and the ActiHeart. Extreme quintile activity was assessed based on the difference in SQUASH activity between 1) 25% of participants with highest and lowest activity according to ActiHeart; 2) participants with and without any comorbidity; and 3) participants with BMI < 25kg/m² versus participants with BMI > 30kg/m². Discriminative validity was assessed by a lack of Spearman's rank correlation between SQUASH physical activity and participant height (correlation <0.10). Participant characteristics associated with the difference between SQUASH and ActiHeart outcome were assessed by comparing quintiles of SQUASH minus ActiHeart outcome with a reference quintile (=quintile with lowest difference between SQUASH and ActiHeart).

Results: SQUASH data were available for 6,550 participants (mean age 56 years, 56% women, 24% having any comorbidity) of which 875 had ActiHeart data. Median (interquartile range) physical activity was 116 (76;154) MET hours/ week according to the SQUASH and 75 (58;99) according to the ActiHeart (mean difference 47 (standard deviation 63)). The Bland-Altman plot of the difference between SQUASH and ActiHeart measurement per participant is shown in figure 1. Convergent validity was weak (ρ = 0.20, p < 0.01). Participants with the 25% highest ActiHeart scores had 38 MET hours/week more SQUASH activity (95% confidence interval (95%CI) 27.50) than the lowest 25%. Participants with any comorbidity had -13 (95%CI -17; -9) MET hours per week of SQUASH compared with BMI < 25kg/m² versus participants with BMI > 30 kg/m², and -20 (95%CI -28; -13) MET hours per week of SQUASH compared with BMI < 25kg/m². Discriminative validity was present (ρ = 0.01, p = 0.41). Cut-offs of the quintiles of participants according to SQUASH minus ActiHeart physical activity (range: -61 to 411) were: -6, 27, 61 and 91 MET hours/week (reference quintile: -6-27), Men were overrepresented in the lowest quintile of SQUASH minus ActiHeart activity (-61 to 6 MET hours/week), whereas women had a higher ratio for being male compared with the reference quintile: 2.35 (95%CI 1.52;3.84). Men were also overrepresented in the second-highest quintile (61 to 91 MET hours/week, OR 2.47 (95%CI 1.61;3.84)).

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3515

IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS: FAIL TO KEEP A CHECK ON AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Keywords: Epidemiology, Malignancy, Targeted synthetic drugs.

D. Desai1, P. Khandwala2, I. Tan1, 1Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Philadelphia, United States of America; 2Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, Rheumatology, Philadelphia, United States of America

Background: The introduction of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) has revolutionized cancer treatment. ICIs augment antitumor activity by blocking the binding of checkpoint proteins with their partner proteins. This inhibition is a negative regulator on T cell cytotoxicity causing the uncontrolled killing of tumor cells, a loss of self-tolerance, and increased risk of inducing autoimmunity[1]

Objectives: The study was undertaken to establish correlation between the use of ICIs and autoimmune conditions (ACs), and to study trends in incidence and prevalence of ACs in patients treated with ICIs.

Methods: TrinetX, a global federated research network that provides a dataset of electronic medical records from different healthcare organizations (HCOS) was utilized. Initial query was made to isolate patients who had a diagnosis of “Neoplasm” (International Classification of Diseases, 10th version (ICD-10) Code C00 - D49). Two cohorts were made, on basis of ICIs use. Propensity score matching was carried out to match age, race and gender. Compare outcome analytic function was utilized to map the correlation with ACs. ACs included were Systemic Connective Tissue Disorders (ICD-10 M06), Rheumatoid Arthritis (ICD-10 M06), Arthropathic Psoriasis (ICD10 L40.5). 9 FDA-approved checkpoint inhibitors were included in our study: Atezolizumab, Avelumab, Cedolimab, Dostarlimab, Durvalumab, Ipilimumab, Nivolumab, Pembrolizumab, and Relatlimab.[2]

Results: A total of 12,099,334 patients had a diagnosis of neoplasm out of which 72,865 (0.61%) patients were taking ICIs. Two cohorts were made, on basis of ICIs use. Propensity score matching was carried out to match age, race and gender. Compare outcome analytic function was utilized to map the correlation with ACs. ACs included were Systemic Connective Tissue Disorders (ICD-10 M06), Rheumatoid Arthritis (ICD-10 M06), Arthropathic Psoriasis (ICD10 L40.5). 9 FDA-approved checkpoint inhibitors were included in our study: Atezolizumab, Avelumab, Cedolimab, Dostarlimab, Durvalumab, Ipilimumab, Nivolumab, Pembrolizumab, and Relatlimab.[2]

References: NIL.
ICI group, and 63% vs 25% vs 10% in non-ICI group). 5.16% of patients in the ICI groups had ACs while only 4.17% of patients in non-ICI groups had ACs (p<0.0001). The hazard ratio (HR) of having ACs was higher in ICI as compared to non-ICI group (HR = 1.96, 95% confidence interval (CI), 1.88-2.04, p<0.0001). After propensity score matching, both groups had 72,865 patients. 5.16% in the ICI group had ACs, while only 4.46% of patients in the non-ICI group had ACs. HR was 1.925 (95% CI, 1.831-2.025, p<0.0001).

As shown in the graph below, the incidence of autoimmune disorders increased from 0.79% in 2015 to 2.16% in 2021 in ICI group. Similarly, prevalence also increased from 2.97% in 2015 to 6.06% in 2021.

**Conclusion:** Although ICI transformed the cancer management landscape, it is important to be aware of its effects on autoimmune disorders. Incidence and prevalence of ACs have increased in patients with neoplasms treated with ICI over the years. It can also be seen that HR of having outcome of ACs is higher in ICI group. There is a need for a prospective study to correlate the causality of development of AC with use of ICI.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Tocut M., Brenner R., Zandman-Goddard G; Autoimmune phenomenon and development of AC with use of ICI. [1]

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**OBJECTIVES**

**IMPACT OF RHEUMATIC DISEASE SUB-TYPES ON MATERNAL AND NEONATAL OUTCOMES: A POPULATION LEVEL ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Pregnancy and reproduction, Rheumatoid arthritis, Systemic lupus erythematosus

S. Keeling1, A. Savu2, P. Kaul2. 1University of Alberta, Medicine, Edmonton, Canada; 2Canadian Vigour Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

**Background:** There are limited data on the differing effect of rheumatic diseases (RD), including rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and spondyloarthritis (SpA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), on maternal and neonatal outcomes.

**Objectives:** We evaluated the impact of four rheumatic diseases (RA, SpA, PsA and SLE) on maternal and neonatal outcomes at a population level. We also examined medication use during pregnancy across these four groups.

**Methods:** A contemporary pregnancy cohort of 452,273 singleton live birth events of 307,590 women was assembled for the province of Alberta, Canada. We identified 5 groups: (1) no rheumatic disease (no RD, n=449,933 pregnancies), (2) RA (n=1214), (3) PsA (n=177), (4) SpA (n=445) and SLE (n=504). We compared maternal and neonatal outcomes, comorbidity burden, and medication use among the 5 groups.

**Results:** Across all groups, mothers were predominantly ethnically Caucasian (>90%), residing in urban residences (>75%), and multiparous (>58%). Maternal comorbidities including renal, vascular diseases and hypertension were most prevalent in SLE mothers. Rates of preclampsia, caesarean section and induction were highest in mothers with SLE. Pregnant women with SLE were the most likely to have preterm delivery (18.3%) and NICU admission at birth (21.8%) followed by RA (preterm delivery 11.3%, NICU admission at birth 12.8%) compared to those with PsA, SpA or no RD (Figure 1). Predisone use for at least 28 days or any duration during pregnancy was highest amongst mothers with SLE (8.9%) followed by RA (7%) (Table 1). Antimalarial use for at least 28 days or any duration during pregnancy was highest in SLE mothers (32.7%) followed by RA mothers (18.5%) while biologic medications were used mostly in mothers with RA (10.5%).

**Conclusion:** Women with SLE had the worst maternal and neonatal outcomes and highest medication use followed by RA, with varying degrees for those with PsA and SpA compared to controls. The extent to which these outcomes are related to differing medication use, such as higher rates of prednisone and lower rates of antimalarials in mothers with SLE, and lower use of biologics in RA mothers, requires further exploration.

**REFERENCES:**


Table 1. Rheumatic disease medications dispensed during pregnancy in patients with RA, PsA, SpA and SLE

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*DMARDs: disease-modifying antirheumatic agents; N: number; RA: rheumatoid arthritis; PsA: psoriatic arthritis; SpA: spondyloarthritis; SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus.*

**Figure 1. Percentage of Preterm Births and NICU Admissions at Birth for Women With RA, PsA, SpA, and SLE Compared to Women with No RD.**

**Osteoporosis**

**POS0388 IMPACT OF GLUTOCORTICOIDS AND ANTI-OSTEOPOROTIC TREATMENT ON BONE HEALTH IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES (IRM): A LONGITUDINAL STUDY**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Osteoporosis, Inflammatory arthritides

G. Adami1, A. Fassio1, C. Benini1, O. Viapiana1, D. Gati1, D. Bertelle1, M. Rossi1. 1University of Verona, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy

**Background:** The negative effects of glucocorticoids (GCs) on the bone depend on dose and treatment duration. However, it is unclear whether a safe dose exists, especially for patients with inflammatory rheumatic musculoskeletal diseases (IRMds).

**Objectives:** The primary objective of the present study was to determine, in a real-life setting, the risk of fragility fracture associated with the dose of glucocorticoids in IRMD.
Methods: We conducted a longitudinal cohort study on women with IRMD. Data were extracted from the DeFRA database (2012-2020). DeFRA is a fracture risk assessment tool similar to FRAX. Bone mineral density and fractures were assessed prospectively and compared to a matched cohort (propensity score matching, PSM with age, T-score and the % 10-year fracture risk estimated with DeFRA fracture risk assessment tool). Kaplan-Meier curves with log-rank test were made for IRMD (stratified for glucocorticoid use and dosage) and matched cohort respectively.

Results: 884 women with IRMD and 1,766 controls (age, T-score, and 10-year fracture risk matched) were included in the study and followed for up to 6 years. BMD levels decreased significantly in all GCs users not receiving anti-osteoporotic treatment (Δ-2.26% p 0.0011, -4.23% p 0.0422, -2.66% p 0.0006 for ≥5 mg/day, 2.5 mg to 5 mg and 0 to 2.5 mg/day of prednisone, respectively). As regards patients receiving anti-osteoporotic medications, BMD levels decreased significantly only in patients receiving ≥5 mg/day of prednisone (Δ -30.1% p 0.007), whereas in patients receiving 2.5 mg to 5 mg and 0 to 2.5 mg/day, concomitantly treated with anti-osteoporotic drugs, BMD did not decrease significantly (Δ +1.10% p NS, +1.12% p NS, respectively). Figure 1A. Fracture incidence was greater in patients with IRMD compared to controls but only GC doses above 5 mg/day were associated with significantly higher risk of fracture figure 1B. 21, 12 and 29 fractures were reported for patients receiving ≥5 mg/day, 2.5 mg to 5 mg and 0 to 2.5 mg/day respectively, corresponding to a crude fracture rate of 4.8 fractures per 100 person-year, 2.8 fractures per 100 person-year and 2.5 fractures per 100 person-year respectively. 103 fractures were registered in the PSM cohort (crude fracture rate of 4.8 fractures per 100 person-year). We also explored the effects of GC on serum C-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen (CTX) in a subset of patients with available data (n=333). We found that the proportion of patients with low bone turnover (<400 ng/L) was numerically greater in patients receiving ≥5 mg/day of prednisone compared to controls but only GC doses above 5 mg/day were associated with significantly higher risk of fracture (figure 1B). 21, 12 and 29 fractures were reported for patients receiving ≥5 mg/day, 2.5 mg to 5 mg and 0 to 2.5 mg/day respectively, corresponding to a crude fracture rate of 4.8 fractures per 100 person-year, 2.8 fractures per 100 person-year and 2.5 fractures per 100 person-year respectively. 103 fractures were registered in the PSM cohort (crude fracture rate of 2.2 fractures per 100 person-year). We also explored the effects of GC on serum C-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen (CTX) in a subset of patients with available data (n=333). We found that the proportion of patients with low bone turnover (<400 ng/L) was numerically greater in patients receiving ≥5 mg/day compared to other doses and controls (p NS).

Conclusion: GC doses as low as 2.5 mg/day were associated with BMD loss in IRMD but this effect was preventable. BMD loss in patients taking ≥5 mg/day was not totally prevented by anti-osteoporotic medications currently used in clinical practice, resulting in higher risk of fracture.

Figure 1. The prevalence of prescriptions of different oral GCS medications per year as well as the total prescription prevalence of all GCS in Iceland from 2003 to 2020 (light blue line).

Table 1. The top ten specialities that most frequently prescribed oral glucocorticoids

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<td>Medical students</td>
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Figure 1. Fracture incidence was greater (+3.10% p NS, +1.12% p NS, respectively).
Age and sex among patients with morphometric fracture and femur fracture. The incidence of these conditions was compared between the groups using univariate and multivariate models adjusting for cardiovascular risk-factors. Results: 9,769 FMF patients were followed for a median period of 12.5 years. 304 FMF patients were diagnosed with osteoporosis compared to 191 controls, resulting in an incidence rate (per 10,000 persons-years) of 28.8 (95%CI 15.7-32.5), and 17.8 (95%CI 15.4-20.6) respectively, and a crude HR of 1.62 (95% CI 1.35-1.93 p<0.001). Patients were diagnosed with osteoporosis at a considerably younger age than controls (60.1±12.4 vs 62.5±11.0 years; p=0.028).

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Pollie Ravji: None declared, Morven McRorie: None declared, Kathryn Berg: None declared, Stuart Raiston Grant/research support from: UCB, Kyowa Kirin, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly and Novartis, Barbara Hauser Speakers bureau: UCB, Chugai-Roche, Astellas, Efrin, Consultant of: Fresenius-Kabi, Celltrion Healthcare, Gedeon-Richter, UCB.

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POS0391

INCREASED RISK OF OSTEOPOROSIS AND HEAD OF FEMUR FRACTURES IN PATIENTS WITH FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER - A LARGE RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Epidemiology, Osteoporosis

V. S. Patil1, N. Ben-Shabat2, L. Fischer1, K. Sharit3, S. Lassman1, A. Watad1, 3, H. Amital1, 3, Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, Department of Internal Medicine B & Zabludowicz Center for Autoimmune Diseases, Ramat Gan, Israel, 3 Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, Department of Gastroenterology, Ramat Gan, Israel, 2 Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Leeds, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds, UK, Section of Musculoskeletal Disease, NIHR Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Chronic inflammatory conditions are characterized by an inflammatory milieu and increased exposure to glucocorticoïds both resulting in increased risk of osteoporosis and subsequently bone fractures. Familial-Mediterranean-Fever (FMF) is a prototypical autoimmune disorder not treated with steroids. FMF association with femur fractures is not well established.

Objectives: To evaluate the incidence of osteoporosis and head of femur fractures in FMF patients compared to the general population.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study using the electronic database of Clalit Health Services (CHS), the largest health organization in Israel. All FMF patients diagnosed between 2000-2016 were included with age-, sex- matched controls in 1:1 ratio. Follow-up continued until the first diagnosis of osteoporosis or femur fracture. The incidence of these conditions was compared between the groups using univariate and multivariate models adjusting for cardiovascular risk-factors.

Results: 9,769 FMF patients were followed for a median period of 12.5 years. 304 FMF patients were diagnosed with osteoporosis compared to 191 controls, resulting in an incidence rate (per 10,000 persons-years) of 28.8 (95%CI 15.7-32.5), and 17.8 (95%CI 15.4-20.6) respectively, and a crude HR of 1.62 (95% CI 1.35-1.93 p<0.001). Patients were diagnosed with osteoporosis at a considerably younger age than controls (60.1±12.4 vs 62.5±11.0 years; p=0.028).

Table 1. Incidence of osteoporosis and head of femur fracture in FMF patients compared to controls, time to event analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>FMF</th>
<th>Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
<td>Events, n</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at osteoporosis, mean ±SD</td>
<td>60.1±12.4</td>
<td>62.5±11.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up time, person-years</td>
<td>105,480</td>
<td>107,085</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up time, median (IQR)</td>
<td>12.5 (6.8-14.6)</td>
<td>12.6 (7.1-14.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence rate per 10,000 person-years, (95%CI)</td>
<td>28.8 (25.7 to 32.5)</td>
<td>17.8 (15.4 to 20.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unadjusted HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>1.62 (1.35 to 1.93)</td>
<td>reference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age-and-sex adjusted HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>1.80 (1.50 to 2.15)</td>
<td>reference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multivariate HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>1.73 (1.43 to 2.10)</td>
<td>reference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Femur Fracture</td>
<td>Events, n</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at femur fractures, mean ±SD</td>
<td>69.8±13.1</td>
<td>65.1±19.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up time, person-years</td>
<td>105,718</td>
<td>106,813</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up time, median (IQR)</td>
<td>12.5 (7.2-14.0)</td>
<td>12.5 (7.2-14.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence rate per 10,000 person-years, (95%CI)</td>
<td>5.3 (4.0 to 6.9)</td>
<td>3.3 (2.3 to 4.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unadjusted HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>1.60 (1.05 to 2.44)</td>
<td>reference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age-and-sex adjusted HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>1.61 (1.06 to 2.46)</td>
<td>reference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multivariate HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>1.58 (1.02 to 2.44)</td>
<td>reference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Adjusted for age, sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, obesity, smoking, diabetes, alcohol abuse, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, sarcoidosis, thyroid dysfunction, parathyroid dysfunction, chronic renal failure, and amyloidosis. * P-value<0.05. ** P-value<0.001.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

REFERENCES:

POS0390

PRIOR ANTIRESORPTIVE TREATMENT REDUCES LUMBAR SPINE BMD RESPONSE TO ROMOSOZUMAB IN CAUCASIAN POSTMENOPAUSAL WOMEN WITH SEVERE OSTEOPOROSIS

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Real-world evidence, Bone diseases

P. Ravji1, M. McRorie2, K. Berg3, S. Ralston1, 2, B. Hauser1, 2, NHS Lothian, Rheumatology Department, Edinburgh, United Kingdom; 2 Centre for Genomic and Experimental Medicine, Institute of Genetics and Cancer, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Background: Romosozumab, a monoclonal antibody against sclerostin, is a newly licensed dual-acting osteoporosis (OP) treatment for patients at very high fracture risk. Most patients included in the pivotal trials (ARCH[1] and FRAME [2]) were treatment naive. However, many patients in day-to-day clinical practice who are eligible for anabolic therapy have been pre-treated with antiresorptive medications. Objectives: Our aim was to analyse bone mineral density (BMD) treatment response to Romosozumab in patients with severe osteoporosis who are attending the osteoporosis clinic. A further objective was to analyse whether pre-treatment with antiresorptive osteoporosis medication (OPTx) influences the BMD treatment response at any BMD site.

Methods: Retrospective single-centre analysis of patients who have completed a 12-month course of monthly sc Romosozumab treatment (210mg) between February 2021 and November 2022. Local guidance recommends the use of Romosozumab in patients with severe spinal OP with at least two moderate to severe vertebral fractures and OP at the hip as defined by DXA. BMD assessment was usually performed with DXA at baseline and after treatment completion.

Results: Out of 56 patients offered Romosozumab, 52 agreed to start treatment and 47 patients completed the full course of therapy. All patients were postmenopausal women with an average age of 73.1±9.7 years and BMI of 24.4±7.1 kg/m². The baseline 10% major osteoporotic fracture risk as calculated by FRAX was 32.2±13.5. Mean baseline BMD lumbar spine (LS) T-score was -3.0±0.7 and total hip (TH) T-score was -3.0±0.7. The vast majority (95%) of patients had a history of vertebral fractures and half of the patients (50%) had a history of an additional non-vertebral fracture. 31 (66%) patients were treatment naive or had recent antiresorptive treatment for less than 6 months, the remainder of patients received recently oral or parenteral bisphosphonate treatment. After 12 months the overall mean % change BMD at the LS was 14.1±9.4 and 5.7±5.6 respectively, and a crude HR of 1.62 (95% CI 1.35-1.93); p<0.001). Prior OPTx however did not seem to influence TH BMD response to Romosozumab (5.1±6.3 vs 6.1±5.1 in OPTxnaive patients) as shown in Figure 1. Age (r=−0.37 p<0.05; Spearman’s rho) and prior OPTx (r=−0.49 p<0.01) are inversely related to LS BMD increase. Multivariate regression analysis including age, baseline spine BMD and prior OPTx identified prior OPTx as independent predictor (beta=−0.422 p<0.05) of spine BMD response to Romosozumab treatment.

Conclusion: The overall BMD response at LS and TH site after 12 months Romosozumab treatment in real world is similar to that reported in the ARCH trial. Pre-treatment with antiresorptive treatment seems to significantly dampen the BMD response at the lumbar spine, which highlights the importance of the choice of OPTx sequence.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Hulda Hrnud Bjornsdottir: None declared, Olafur Einarsson: None declared, Gerdur Gróndal: None declared, Björn Gudbjörnsson Speakers bureau: Novartis, Amgen, Nordic Pharma. Unrelated to this work, Consultant of: B. Gudbjörnsson has received consulting fees from Novartis unrelated to this study.

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Figure 1. Bone mineral density (BMD) change (%) after 1 year treatment with Romosozumab; OP Tx = treatment with antiresorptive osteoporosis medication; OPTx naïve = no previous osteoporosis treatment or treatment for less than 6 months.
Regarding femur fractures, 56 FMF patients were diagnosed with the condition compared to 35 controls, resulting in an incidence rate (per 10,000 persons-years) of 5.9 (95%CI 4.0-6.9), and 3.3 (95%CI 2.3-4.6) respectively, and a crude HR of 1.60 (95% CI 1.06 to 2.44, p<0.05). Predictors of osteoporosis or femur fractures among FMF patients included older age, Arab ethnicity, as well as North African origin. In contrast, obesity was considered a protective factor, while colchicine treatment did not significantly affect the risk of these outcomes.

Conclusion: FMF patients are at increased risk for osteoporosis and consequently femur fractures.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4919

POS0392

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACTIVEHIP+ mHEALTH SYSTEM ON THE FUNCTIONAL STATUS, PAIN AND FEAR OF FALLING IN OLDER ADULTS WITH HIP FRACTURE: A RANDOMISED CLINICAL TRIAL

Keywords: Telemedicine, Clinical Trials, Osteoporosis

R. Prieto-Moreno1, 2, P. Molina-Garcia3, M. Mora-Traverso3, 4, M. Ortiz-Piña1, S. Salazar-Graván1, V. Cruz Guisado2, R. Del Pino Algarrada3, M. Martin-Martíllas1, F. Estevez-Lopez2, P. Arias-Vega1, 3. PA-HELP “Physical Activity for HAilth Promotion” research group, Department of Physical Education and Sports, Faculty of Sports Science, University of Granada, Granada, Spain; 2University of Granada, Department of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Health Sciences, Granada, Spain; 3Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria IBS.Granada, Granada, Spain; 4PROFITH “PROmoting FITness and Health through physical activity” research group, Physical Education and Sports, Faculty of Sports Science, University of Granada, Granada, Spain; 5University Hospital Virgen de las Nieves, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Granada, Spain; 6University Hospital Jerez de la Frontera, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Jerez, Spain; 7University Hospital Puerto Real, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Puerto Real, Spain; 8Harvard University, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Cambridge, United States of America

Background: Osteoporotic hip fracture causes a high level of dependency in older adults, as their functional status suddenly decreases greatly. In addition, the high level of pain and the fear of falling that they frequently experience maintain this decrease in functional status for a longer period. Digital health, the promotion of health through the use of Information and Communication Technologies, emerges as an option for the rehabilitation of older adults with hip fracture.

Objectives: To test the effectiveness of the co-created ActiveHip+ mHealth system on the recovery of the functional status and the decrease of the pain and fear of falling in older adults with hip fracture.

Methods: A total of 110 older adults with hip fracture and their family caregivers were recruited from hospitals in southern Spain. Participants were randomly assigned to an intervention group (n = 55), in which rehabilitation was performed through ActiveHip+, or to a control group (n = 55), in which they received standard rehabilitation for a hip fracture from the Andalusian Public Health System. Participants were assessed during the hospital stay and 3 months after surgery. Feasibility assessment was done through adoption (participation proportion) usage (access to the app), satisfaction with the app (Net Promoter Score) and user perception of the quality of the app (Mobile App Rating Scale). Clinical assessment was conducted through patient-reported outcomes, such as the Functional Independence Measure and the New Mobility Score Spanish version for functional status, the Numerical Rating Scale for pain and the Short Falls Efficacy Scale-International for fear of falling.

Results: We obtained positive results in terms of feasibility as we observed 88% adoption, 82% usage, and satisfaction with the app and 4.3/5 in perceived quality of the app. The functional status of patients allocated to the intervention group (those using ActiveHip+) had a statistically significant greater recovery compared to participants of the control group at 3-months (medium effect size: 0.70 Cohen’s d; p = 0.02) and (medium effect size: 0.62 Cohen’s d; p = 0.03) respectively. In addition, the level of pain was statistically significant lower in participants of the intervention group than those in the control group (medium effect size: 0.49; Cohen’s d p = 0.03). Regarding the fear of falling, there was no statistically significant difference (medium effect size: 0.32 Cohen’s d; p = 0.17).

Conclusion: The ActiveHip+ mHealth system is effective in the recovery of the functional status and the decrease of pain in older adults with hip fracture. However, it was not effective on the decrease of the fear of falling.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics and pre-interventions raw of sample divided by groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Intervention group (n = 46)</th>
<th>Control group (n = 53)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), Mean (SD)</td>
<td>79.70 (7.2)</td>
<td>79.94 (7.8)</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>33 (72)</td>
<td>37 (70)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>13 (28)</td>
<td>16 (30)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of injury, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture Cervical Femoral (Intracapsular)</td>
<td>21 (46)</td>
<td>22 (42)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture Trochanteric (Extra capsular)</td>
<td>20 (43)</td>
<td>23 (43)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No fracture, but degeneration</td>
<td>5 (11)</td>
<td>8 (15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of surgery, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosthesis</td>
<td>14 (65)</td>
<td>13 (25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screw Plate</td>
<td>30 (65)</td>
<td>35 (66)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFN-A Nail</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
<td>5 (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital stay (days), Mean (SD)</td>
<td>6.83 (4.2)</td>
<td>5.64 (3.3)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional status at hospital discharge</td>
<td>78.13 (19.23)</td>
<td>75.26 (13.39)</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIM (Total score 18-126) Mean (SD)</td>
<td>5.89 (2.31)</td>
<td>6.58 (1.73)</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMS-ES (Total score 0-9) Mean (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of falling at hospital discharge</td>
<td>19.37 (7.2)</td>
<td>20.08 (5.18)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFES-I (Total score 7-28) Mean (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain level at hospital discharge</td>
<td>5.89 (2.31)</td>
<td>6.58 (1.73)</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMS-ES (Total score 0-10) Mean (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = sample size; SD = standard deviation; PFN-A = Proximal Femoral Nail; FIM = Functional Independence Measure; NMS-ES = New Mobility Score Spanish version; SFES-I = Short Falls Efficacy Scale; NRS = Numeric rating scale

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier osteoporosis free survival times for FMF cohort patients vs. controls.
DEFINING THE KEY ATTRIBUTES OF A CLINICIAN WITH COMPETENCE IN BONE HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Osteoporosis

L. Jackson1, S. Johnson2, E. Mcneeley1, K. Saag1, M. Danila1,3 1University of Alabama at Birmingham, Medicine, Birmingham, United States of America; 2University of Toronto, Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 3Birmingham VA Health Care System, Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Birmingham, United States of America

Background: Osteoporosis and fragility fractures are managed by clinicians across a variety of specialties and there is no specific certification in osteoporosis diagnosis and management. These clinicians are an integral part of interventions aimed to improve bone health care (e.g., fracture liaison service [FLS]). Yet, the key skills and attributes of a clinician with competence in bone health management have not been established in a systematic fashion.

Objectives: We conducted a Delphi exercise and a discrete choice experiment (DCE) to generate a decision rule aiming to define the minimal attributes of a clinician best poised to assess and treat people with osteoporosis and serve as a referral source for post-fracture management.

Methods: In part 1, we used a modification of the Delphi method with two rounds. Clinicians with experience in treating osteoporosis and representatives of patient advocacy groups were purposively sampled to participate. Participants asynchronously generated a list of desirable characteristics/skills of a “clinician with competence in bone health.” Characteristics were coded and organized into non-overlapping themes or “attributes” with sub-themes or “levels” within each attribute. Participants prioritized and ranked levels in order of perceived importance for inclusion in the definition for a bone health clinician. Levels within attributes associated with the highest median scores were included in the final list of criteria. In part 2, participants ranked 20 hypothetical clinicians defined by various levels of attributes from highest to lowest likelihood of being a bone health clinician to identify the minimal threshold for defining competence in managing bone health. Consistency amongst rankings was evaluated using intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC). In part 3, we conducted a DCE to generate a weighted importance score for each independent and mutually exclusive attribute and level such that the sum of weights across the highest level within each attribute would equal 100%. The threshold for competence was the total weighted score at which >70% of participants agreed a clinician had bone health competence.

Results: Part 1 included 13 participants, and 11 completed the DCE survey. Those who completed part 1 included 3 endocrinologists, 3 rheumatologists, 1 orthopedist, 3 general internists, and 3 representatives of patient advocacy groups. The Delphi exercise generated a list of N=108 characteristics, which were coded and grouped into common themes/attributes. Through an iterative process with 2 rounds of piloting, the attribute categories were reduced to 8 broad categories with a total of 20 levels. The participants’ rankings of the relative probability that each of the 20 hypothetical clinician cases represented a clinician with adequate competence in bone health is plotted in Figure 1. The ICC for agreement across participants was 0.90 (95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.83, 0.95). The maximum possible score in the final criteria was 25. A threshold score of ≥12 classified a clinician as having adequate competence in bone health. For example, a clinician that prescribes all osteoporosis drugs, performs osteoporosis workup/treatment monitoring, and leads or participates in an FLS would receive 5, 3.5, and 3.5 points, respectively, that summed would reach the threshold.

Conclusion: We developed a numeric additive decision rule to classify clinicians across multiple specialties with competence in evaluating and treating patients with osteoporosis. Our data provides the critical definition of a “clinician with competence in bone health” that may be useful for identifying and qualifying the skill of clinicians who may be included in interventional studies or clinical activities that aim improve bone health care.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, Sindhu Johnson: None declared, Ellen Mcneeley: None declared, Kenneth Saag Grant/research support from: Amgen, Horizon, LG Chem, Radius, SOBI, Maria Danila Consultant of: UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer.

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REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Lesley Jackson: None declared, Sindhu Johnson: None declared, Ellen Mcneeley: None declared, Kenneth Saag Grant/research support from: Amgen, Horizon, LG Chem, Radius, SOBI, Maria Danila Consultant of: UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer.

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Figure 1. Participants’ rankings of the probability that each case represents a clinician with competence in bone health. Cases are presented in the order of the median rank (y-axis). The case rankings (y-axis) are those assigned by each participant (A-L).
Differences in Predictors of Fractures in Patients with Severe Versus Established Osteoporosis

Keywords: Osteoporosis

U. Nadeem, Z. Sultan, M. Bukhari. 1Lancaster University, Medical School, Lancaster, United Kingdom; 2University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Lancaster, United Kingdom

Background: The FRAX™ risk assessment tool is utilised to predict fracture risk in patients with poor bone health. It uses the bone mineral density (BMD) at the non-dominant femoral neck. The performance of the tool in predicting fractures with worsening BMD has not been examined.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate whether different factors within the FRAX™ tool are more predictive of severe osteoporosis; defined by a T score of -3.5 and below, compared to patients with a T score of -2.5 to -3.49.

Methods: Two patient cohorts were identified from patients referred for routine DEXA scans between 2004 and 2019, in the Northwest of England. The first cohort (group A) consisted of patients with a T score between -2.5 and -3.5 and the second cohort (group B) consisted of patients with a T score of -3.5 and below. The FRAX risk factors and the BMD data were analysed, using a Student’s t test for continuous variables and a Chi Squared test for categorical variables. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression models were also fitted examining the differences in the FRAX™ risk factors and severe osteoporosis prediction. The sites measured included an average of L1-L4, right and left femoral neck in which their BMD mean and both their respective BMD totals were analysed. FRAX™ risk factors included age, weight, height, BMI, sex, previous fracture, parent fractured hip, smoking, steroid use, rheumatoid arthritis, alcohol consumption and coeliac disease/malabsorption.

Results: 31,547 patients were included in the analysis, with a mean age of 64.9 years (SD = 12.9). The number of individuals in group A were 4,714 (81.5%) and 1,067 (18.46%) in group B. Table 1 depicts the differences in the FRAX™ risk factors between the two groups and the odds ratios. Age, weight, height and current smoking were statistically significant in predicting severe osteoporosis. Lower weight, height and BMI was associated with group B. In addition, increased age and current smoking was also associated with group B. There was no significant difference between group A and B in regard to sex, previous fracture, parent fractured hip, steroid use, rheumatoid arthritis, alcohol consumption or coeliac disease/malabsorption.

Conclusion: The results of this study indicate that certain risk factors used in the FRAX™ scoring are more predictive of a severe osteoporosis than others. In addition, research providing insight into utilising FRAX™ variables in fracture prediction in patients with severe osteoporosis will provide valuable insight.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3361

Table 1. The differences in the FRAX™ characteristics between group A and B, the corresponding odds ratio and confidence interval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Group B</th>
<th>Odds ratio and confidence interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average age in years</strong></td>
<td>72.52 (10.80)</td>
<td>75.52 (11.18)</td>
<td>1.10* [1.02, 1.04]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average weight in kilograms (SD)</strong></td>
<td>63.27 (13.27)</td>
<td>55.94 (14.02)</td>
<td>0.95* [0.90, 0.99]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average height in centimetres (SD)</strong></td>
<td>158.96 (8.44)</td>
<td>155.89 (10.48)</td>
<td>0.96* [0.95, 0.97]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average BMI in kg/m² (SD)</strong></td>
<td>25.02 (4.82)</td>
<td>24.16 (26.62)</td>
<td>0.91* [0.90, 0.92]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td>Male – 870 (18.46%)</td>
<td>Male – 213 (19.96%)</td>
<td>1.10* [0.93, 1.30]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>754 (80.04%)</td>
<td>754 (80.04%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Previous fracture</strong></td>
<td>2 (0.04%)</td>
<td>1 (0.09%)</td>
<td>2.21 [0.20, 24.4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent fractured hip</strong></td>
<td>65 (1.38%)</td>
<td>9 (0.84%)</td>
<td>0.61 [0.30, 1.23]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current smoking</strong></td>
<td>1,792 (38%)</td>
<td>445 (41.7%)</td>
<td>1.17* [1.01, 1.34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Steroids (current)</strong></td>
<td>1,165 (24.71%)</td>
<td>271 (25.4%)</td>
<td>1.04 [0.89, 1.21]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rheumatoid arthritis</strong></td>
<td>362 (76.8%)</td>
<td>88 (8.25%)</td>
<td>1.08 [0.85, 1.38]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alcohol consumption</strong></td>
<td>284 (6.02%)</td>
<td>68 (6.37%)</td>
<td>1.06 [0.81, 1.34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coeliac disease/malabsorption</strong></td>
<td>183 (3.88%)</td>
<td>50 (4.69%)</td>
<td>1.22 [0.88, 1.67]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Wiebe, E. C. Schilling, D. Huscher, A. Palmowski, Z. Boyadzhieva, S. Hermann, B. Muche, T. Alexander, F. Hiepe, F. Buttgereit. 1Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 2Berlin Institute of Health, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Institute of Biometry and Clinical Epidemiology, Berlin, Germany; 3Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospital, Section for Biostatistics and Evidence-Based Research, the Parker Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark

Methods: Rh-GIOP is a prospective observational cohort study investigating bone health in consecutive patients ≥18 years with inflammatory rheumatic diseases and current or prior GC treatment. This cross-sectional analysis assessed the baseline vis-à-vis of all patients with SLE fulfilling the EULAR/ACR 2019 SLE classification criteria. Multivariable linear regressions models were fitted to identify factors associated with bone mineral density (BMD). As a second outcome, we investigated factors associated with clinical osteoporosis (defined by either a T-Score of ≤ -2.5, anti-osteoporotic treatment and/or fragility fractures) by multivariable logistic regression analysis.

Results: Baseline data from 110 patients with SLE were analyzed. The mean age was 48.1±14.5 years, mean disease duration 16.3±9.9 years, and 41% of the cohort was identified as having osteoporosis (OP). Lupus nephritis was present in 35% of the SLE patients, of whom 55% had active nephritic disease at baseline osteoporosis screening visit. Class IV and V accounted for most nephritis cases (61%). In multivariable linear regression analysis, lupus nephritis class IV and V (reg coefficient (95%CI): -0.745 (-1.3955; -0.095)), the presence of U1-RNP antibodies (-0.750 (-1.314;1.017)), as well as C-reactive protein (CRP, -0.015 (-0.026; -0.003)) and longer disease duration (-0.037 (-0.056; -0.018)) were significantly associated with low BMD. Conversely, clinical remission (defined as SLEDAI-2K=0 and GC dosage ≤5 mg prednisone equivalent per day) was positively associated with BMD (0.447 (0.037;0.857)), as were SLE-cases on monocytosis as surrogate for Type-I interferon activity (0.558 (0.150;0.967)), BMI (0.045 (0.014;0.076)), and health assessment questionnaire (HAQ, 0.307 (0.079;0.536)). In multivariable logistic regression analysis, active lupus nephritis (OR (95%CI): 7.42 (1.256;43.868)) was strongly associated with OP in patients with SLE. Additionally, age (1.06 (1.020;1.100), HAQ (0.293 (0.120;0.682)) and complement factor 3 (1.27 (1.002;1.601)) was strongly associated with OP in patients with SLE. Neither current GC use, cumulative GC dose nor GC duration were significantly associated with BMD or clinical OP.

Conclusion: In patients with SLE, indicators of disease severity, expressed by (active) lupus nephritis, high CRP, U1-RNP antibodies, and long disease duration, are related to poor bone health in addition to commonly known risk factors.
such as low BMI and higher age. The knowledge of these disease-specific factors helps to identify patients with SLE at particular high risk for OP and fragility fractures.

REFERENCES:

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POS0397

SHORT-TERM (2 YEARS) FRACTURE RISK PREDICTION: A MACHINE LEARNING APPROACH

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Osteoporosis, Bone diseases

G. Adam1, M. D'ouzouz2, S. Vijayakumar3, E. Grisan4, A. Fassio1, O. Viapiana1, D. Gatti1, M. Rossini1.

1University of Verona, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy; 2London South Bank University, School of Engineering, London, United Kingdom

Background: Osteoporotic fractures continue to be a major cause of global health concerns around the world. The most common risk scores (FRAX, DeFRA) are evaluating this risk within a 10-year time window, which might be too long to stratify the most at risk-patients or those that are showing a fast-progressing disease. This is reflected by the poor predictive performance of DeFRA when looking at a 2-years time window. Machine-learning (either logistic regression or random forest) could change the way we predict the occurrence of osteoporosis fractures in patients most likely to incur an osteoporotic fracture in the short term, thus requiring shorter follow-ups.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Giovanni Adami Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, Theraxem, UCB, Amgen, Galapagos, Fresenius Kabi, Megan D’ouzouz: None declared, Shreyas Vijayakumar: None declared, Enrico Grisani: None declared, Angelo Fassio: None declared, Ombretta Viapiana: None declared, Davide Gatti: None declared, Maurizio Rossini: None declared.

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POS0398

DETERMINANTS OF MORTALITY AND IMMUNITARY RE-FRACTURE IN PATIENTS HOSPITALIZED FOR SEVERE OSTEOPOROTIC FRACTURES

Keywords: Osteoporosis

K. Briot1, E. Lespessailles2, T. Thomas2, J. Paccou3, V. Breull4, P. Fardellone5, P. Szafirs6, P. Guggenbuhl7, C. Marcelli7, R. Chapurlat8, M. Cohen Solal1, E. Le Goude9, I. Ramos10, A. M. Schott Pethelaz11, B. Cortet12, C. Roux13, 1 Cochon Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2 CHU Orleans, Rheumatology, Orleans, France; 3 CHU Saint Etienne, Rheumatology, Saint Etienne, France; 4 CHU Lille, Rheumatology, Lille, France; 5 CHU Nice, Rheumatology, Nice, France; 6 CHU Amiens, Rheumatology, Amiens, France; 7 CHU Montpellier, Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; 8 CHU Rennes, Rheumatology, Rennes, France; 9 CHU Caen, Rheumatology, Caen, France; 10 CHU Lyon, Rheumatology, Lyon, France; 11 CHU Lariboisière, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 12 CHU Angers, Rheumatology, Angers, France; 13 CHU Lyon, Biostatistics, Lyon, France

Background: Patients hospitalized for severe osteoporotic fractures are at increased risk of morbidity and mortality. It is recommended to improve their medical management by Fracture Liaisons Services (FLS) organization.

Objectives: Our aim was to assess the determinants of mortality and imminent re-fracture in those patients followed in FLS.

Methods: In the CROSS study a national, prospective, observational, multicenter study conducted in 12 centers with Fracture Liaison Services (FLS). Patients included were men and women above 60 years, hospitalized for a recent (less than 3 months) severe fragility fracture (hip, pelvis, humerus or vertebrae) that occurred after a low-energy trauma. Patients with either a non-severe fracture, a pathological fracture, a high trauma fracture or a per-prosthetic fracture were not included. At baseline and 2 years we have collected sociodemographic data, fracture event, bone risk factors, factors of falling, FRAX items, history of treatments, comorbidities, Charlson score and DXA measurement. To assess the risk factors for new severe fracture or death, a multivariate Cox proportional hazard multivariate analysis was performed.

Results: 895 patients were included in the cohort with the following fracture location distribution: clinical vertebrae 43.3%, hip 37.5%, pelvis 10.3%, and humerus 6.8%. 75% of the patients were women (79%) with a median age of 81 years (71-85). 40% had a previous history of fragility fracture after 40 years. Only 177 received an anti-osteoporotic treatment in the 5 years prior baseline whereas 21.4% received a calcium supplementation and 43.6% received a vitamin D supplementation. At baseline 48% of patients had densitometric osteoporosis. Over the 2 years of follow-up (data completed for 95% of population), 116 severe fractures in 110 patients (12.9%) and 80 deaths (8.9%) occurred. 49.1% of patients were prescribed an antosteoporotic treatment after the fracture (75% of bisphosphonates), that was initiated within the 3 months following fracture event in 63% of the cases. Multivariate analysis showed that reduced spinal BMD (OR=24.6 CI 95% 2.84-247, p=0.027), recurrent falls (OR= 2.80 (1.11-6.65), p=0.023), antosteoporotic treatment initiation (OR= 2.17, CI 95% 1.9-4.10, p=0.013) and increased age (OR=1.04 CI 95% 1.01-1.08, p=0.027) were significantly associated with the risk of a new severe fracture. Use of walking aids (RR=2.71 CI 95% 1.15-6.39, p=0.02), diabetes (RR=3.70 CI 95% 1.04 to 13.2), p=0.044), metastatic cancer (RR=15.5 CI 95% 1.08 to 221, p=0.043) were positively associated with risk of death whereas antosteoporotic initiation was negatively associated with this risk (OR=0.19 CI 95% 0.07 to 0.49, p<0.001).

Conclusion: In patients hospitalized for severe osteoporotic fractures and managed in a FLS setting, initiation of an antosteoporotic treatment is associated with a decreased risk of mortality. In this population, a low BMD was a strong determinant of an imminent fracture risk.

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Osteo arthritis, aetiology, pathology and animal models

**POS0399**

**THE ION CHANNEL TRPV4 PARTICIPATES IN THE CARTILAGE PROTECTION EFFECT OF IGURATIMOD ON KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Cartilage, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Osteoarthritis

L. Wang¹, Y. Wei², R. Ma³, C. Cang², X. Li¹.¹ The First Affiliated Hospital of USTC, Division of Life Sciences and Medicine, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui , China, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology , The First Affiliated Hospital of USTC, Division of Life Sciences and Medicine, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui , China, Hefei, Anhui, China;² Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at Microscale, the CAS Key Laboratory of Innate Immunity and Chronic Disease, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Division of Life Sciences and Medicine, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at Microscale, the CAS Key Laboratory of Innate Immunity and Chronic Disease, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Division of Life Sciences and Medicine, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui, China;³Department of Orthopaedics, The First Affiliated Hospital of USTC, Division of Life Sciences and Medicine, University of Science and Technology of China, Department of Orthopaedics, The First Affiliated Hospital of USTC, Division of Life Sciences and Medicine, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui, China

**Background:** Osteoarthritis (OA) is the leading cause of disability for bone and joint diseases. Cartilage injury is its pathological basis. There is a lack of therapeutic drugs with clear cartilage protection in clinic. Iguratimod (IGU) has cartilage protection effect in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, but it is not clear whether it also has cartilage protection effect on OA.

**Objectives:** To investigate the efficacy and mechanism of Iguratimod (IGU) on cartilage protection effect on knee osteoarthritis (OA).

**Methods:** Type VII collagenase was injected into the knee joint cavity of C57BL/6/N rats to establish a model of CIAO (Collagenase-induced Osteoarthritis model) to establish. The OA model wasidentified by intraartagism at 10mg/kg. μCT and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) were used to evaluate the structural changes of OA knee joint, the degree of destruction of knee cartilage layer and subchondral bone. IHC and qPCR were used to evaluated the expression of TRPV4 in chondrocytes of OA rats. Chondrocytes were processed by IGU at the cellular level, and the concentration of glycaminoglycan secreted and the expression of chondrogenic differentiation factor were measured. In cells further detected, TRPV4 ion channel inhibitor and interfering RNA technology were used to verify whether TRPV4 was involved in the effect of IGU on cartilage.

**Results:** It was found that IGU could change the pain sensitivity of OA model rats and effectively reduce the pain of OA rats. μCT showed that IGU could effectively inhibit the subchondral bone injury of knee joint in OA rats. Toluidine blue staining and Safranin O-Fast Green staining of rats knee joint also showed that IGU treatment could delay the degeneration of knee cartilage of rats with OA. At the cellular level, it was found by qPCR that IGU could effectively promote the expression of mRNA levels of Sox9 and Col2α, markers of chondrogenesis, in chondrocytes. Alcian blue staining also showed that IGU promoted chondrocyte secretion of glycosaminoglycan; Moreover, the results of scratch experiment also showed that IGU promoted the migration of chondrocytes. The results addressed above all indicated that IGU could promote the differentiation of chondrocytes. The expression of transient receptor point vanilllin 4 (TRPV4) in OA rats chondrocytes in the treatment group of IGU was increased. We used ion channel inhibitors and interfering RNA technology to show that IGU played a role in delaying cartilage degeneration, promoting cartilage differentiation and migration by regulating the function of TRPV4.

**Conclusion:** IGU can effectively alleviate the pain of OA model rats, and exert cartilage protection by regulating TRPV4. The results offer new treatment options for osteoarthritis.

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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POS0400**

**A CAUSATIVE ROLE FOR PERIARTICULAR SKELETAL MUSCLE WEAKNESS IN THE PROGRESSION OF JOINT DAMAGE AND PAIN IN OA**

**Keywords:** Pain, Cartilage, Osteoarthritis

H. A. Kim¹, H. S. Hwang¹, J. R. Kim¹,¹ Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Internal Medicine, Anyang, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Although OA is regarded as a disease of the articular cartilage, recent research has demonstrated whole-joint pathology, including synovial inflammation, subchondral bone sclerosis, osteocyte formation, and changes in periaricular muscles that surround the affected joint. There is also increasing evidence that the consequences of knee OA are associated with decreased lower limb muscle strength and function. It is unclear whether the change in periaricular muscle is the cause or result of disease progression, however.

**Objectives:** This study investigated changes in periaricular muscle during the progression of osteoarthritis (OA), as well as the cause-and-effect relationship between muscle weakness and OA, in a mouse model of OA achieved by destabilization of the medial meniscus (DMM).

**Methods:** Knee OA was induced by DMM in 10-week-old male C57BL/6 mice. Pathological muscle phenotypes in the tibialis anterior (TA) and quadriceps muscles were assessed in both the early and late stages of OA with muscle-fiber cross-sectional area analysis, markers of myogenesis, as well as the proliferation of satellite cells. OA pathology and pain behavior were examined with OARSI grade, von Frey filament threshold and pressure algometer. Periaricular muscle weakness was induced by multiple rounds of barium chloride injections after DMM induction. In addition, myostatin knockout mice with muscle hypertrophy phenotype was used to evaluate the influence of muscle mass on pain and joint destruction after DMM.

**Results:** Morphological alterations in the TA and quadriceps in DMM mice included variations in muscle-fiber size, aberrant muscle fibrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration, and decreased muscle mass. Periaricular muscle fibers isolated from DMM mice showed reductions in cell number and myogenic capacity, as well as the proliferation of satellite cells. DMM mice exhibited exacerbated articular cartilage destruction, subchondral bone sclerosis, synovitis and pain after muscle injury compared to the DMM + vehicle group. Myostatin knockout mice were characterized by attenuated OA and the complete abrogation of pain behavior after DMM.

**Conclusion:** DMM-induced knee OA resulted in morphological changes in periaricular muscle, in a manner that coincided with muscle atrophy. Joint destruction and pain after DMM were aggravated by muscle weakness and alleviated by muscle hypertrophy. Our results suggest a causative role for muscle weakness in the progression of joint damage and pain in OA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Hyun Ah Kim Consultant of: ICM Co., Ltd. Building 102, Room 455, 50 Yonsei-ro, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 03722, ROK 2019- present Consultant on clinical aspect of RA and OA paid amount 5,000 per year, Hyun Sook Hwang: None declared, Ju-Ryoung Kim: None declared.

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**Osteoarthritis Synovial Macrophages Have a Tol erized Phenotype and a Very Weak Corticosteroid Response**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Innate immunity, Cell biology

C. Wang1, R. De Francesco1,2, L. Lamers1, S. Rinzema1, S. Frölich3, P. Van Lent1, C. Logie4, M. Van den Broek1,2, Research Unit for Molecular Biology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2Radboud University Medical Center, Experimental Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2Radboud University, Department of Molecular Developmental Biology, Nijmegen, Netherlands

**Background:** The majority of osteoarthritis (OA) patients show synovial inflammation. Intra-articular corticosteroid injections are often given to decrease this inflammation. Whereas these provide relatively short-term alleviation of clinical symptoms, they do not improve long-term disease prognosis. Monocytes/macrophages are key cells in OA synovial inflammation. Whereas past research mainly focused on pro-inflammatory M1-like and anti-inflammatory M2-like macrophages, a second logic related to long-term macrophage polarization is interesting to study; macrophage training versus tolerization that is the result of prior exposure of monocytes/macrophages to different inflammatory cues. This process is also referred to as innate immune memory.

**Objectives:** Here, we investigated what could underlie the absence of long-term alleviation of OA by corticosteroids. Here, we compared global RNA profiles of OA synovium macrophages with well-defined in vitro trained and tolerized monocyte-derived macrophage models, all in the presence or absence of corticosteroids.

**Methods:** Macrophages were obtained from OA synovium (OA-Mf) using tissue digestion followed by CD14+ MACS isolation or differentiated from blood-derived CD14+ monocytes using mononuclear human pooled serum. Tolerance and training was induced in monocyte-derived macrophages using 5ng/mL LPS (LPS-Mf), mimicking macrophage paralysis as observed in sepsis, or 10 μg/mL β-glucan (BG-Mf), which mimics non-specific vaccination against an ulcerated lethal pathogen exposure by generating macrophages that present robust M1 responses upon TLR receptor stimulation, during the first 24 hours of differentiation respectively. Samples were treated with 1 μM tramcinolone acetonide (TA) or DMSO for 4 hours. The genome-wide transcriptomic response to corticosteroids was determined using RNA sequencing.

**Results:** TA exposure of trained BG-Mf and tolerized LPS-Mf significantly altered the expression of 201 and 257 RNA transcripts, respectively. In contrast, in OA-Mf only 12 RNA transcripts were significantly regulated, indicating a globally paralyzed TA response. Interestingly, evaluation of the IL-1, and C-C motif chemokine ligand (CCL) and CXCL clusters of chemotactic factors showed close resemblance between OA and tolerized but not trained macrophages in terms of basal expression, although only one gene in these clusters (IL36R/N) was significantly regulated by TA in the OA-Mf. This indicates that OA-Mf have a state that is related to the memory of inflammation as in the LPS-Mf for key pathways involved in OA and further confirms that the OA-Mf have a weak TA response. However, this did not extend to all genes significantly induced by LPS (n=895), since OA-Mf clustered apart from the LPS-Mf and BG-Mf, indicating a distinct global pro-inflammatory mRNA expression profile when compared with both tolerized and trained monocyte-derived macrophages. Finally, we observed that OA-Mf have a matrix-metalloproteinase (MMP) expression profile that is consistent with a macrophage phenotype, since they express MMP9, MMP14, and MMP19, but furthermore very strongly express MMP1, MMP2, MMP3, and MMP10 that are not expressed by our monocyte-derived macrophage models, highlighting their unique phenotype. Again, corticosteroid treatment of OA-Mf could not repress MMP expression.

**Conclusion:** OA synovial macrophages have an inflammatory polarization state that closely resembles the tolerized macrophage state in terms of relevant secreted cytokines and chemokines transcripts. Furthermore, they show a very weak corticosteroid response, which might explain why corticosteroid treatment fails to ameliorate long-term pathology and symptoms in OA patients.

**References:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Lysyl Oxidase (LOX) and Lysyl Oxidase-Like 2 (LOXL2) Contribute to Cartilage Calcification During Osteoarthritis**

**Keywords:** Crystal arthritis, Osteoarthritis, Cartilage

E. Fauna1, I. Bernabei1, J. Wegzyn2, T. Hügie3, N. Busso3, S. Nasi1,1Lausanne University Hospital, Department of Musculoskeletal Medicine, Lausanne, Switzerland; 2Lausanne University Hospital, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Lausanne, Switzerland

**Background:** Cartilage pathological calcification is a hallmark of osteoarthritis (OA), a degenerative disease characterized by articular cartilage degradation that leads to joint pain and impaired movement. We previously demonstrated that lysyl oxidiase-like enzymes (LOX(L)), which include five enzymes, LOX and LOXL1-4, that catalyse the crosslinking of collagen and elastin fibers of the extracellular matrix (ECM), play a crucial role in cartilage calcification (Bernabei et al, in preparation). Indeed, the pan-LOX(L) inhibitor BAPN decreased crystal production in chondrocytes, but the identification of the crucial LOX(L) involved in this process remained to be established.

**Objectives:** To identify the specific LOX(L) involved in cartilage calcification during OA.

**Methods:** In vitro, murine chondrocytes (primary cells or ATDC5 cells) were cultured in normal medium (NM), DMEM high glucose + 10% FBS) or calcifying medium (CM, BGJb +10% FBS + 20mM β-glycerophosphate + 50μg/ml ascorbic acid). The expression of Lox was silenced using siRNA at 100nM (siLox), OriGene. Gene expression was measured by qPCR. Calcium-containing crystals were evidenced by alizarin red staining and quantified by cetylpyridinium dissolution of crystals. In vivo, mice were subjected to meniscectomy (MNX) in the right knee or sham operated in the left. Ex vivo, cartilage explants from undamaged or damaged cartilage regions were obtained from 7 OA patients undergoing knee replacement surgery. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) was performed on murine knees and human cartilage sections ((anti-Lox or anti-LOXL2 rabbit polyclonal antibodies (Proteintech or Genetex respectively). Calcification was detected by Alizarin red staining on histological sections, and proteoglycan loss by safranin-O staining. Mouse gene expression data from primary articular chondrocytes treated with interleukin-1β (IL-1β) for 24h were obtained from GEO (identifier: GSE104793).

**Results:** Lox expression was increased in murine chondrocytes stimulated with calcification medium (CM), but not Loxl2. Similarly, transcriptome data from primary mouse articular chondrocyte treated with IL-1β, revealed that both Lox and Loxl2 were markedly upregulated in treated cells. We then evaluated Lox and Loxl2 modulation by TIC in calcified cartilage in the MNX OA model. Both Lox and Loxl2 were increased in MXN cartilage compared to sham cartilage and at an even higher extent in osteophytes and in newly formed calcified deposits appearing in MNX knees. In human OA cartilage we found massive calcification and proteoglycan loss in damaged areas compared to undamaged. In line with murine data, we revealed increased Lox and LOXL2 expression in damaged human cartilage, both in chondrocytes and in the extracellular matrix in correspondence to calcified regions. Next, we performed in vitro Lox RNA silencing using siLox or siControl RNA transfected ATDC5 cells (siLox cells or siCtrl cells). Lox expression was decreased by more than 80% in siLox cells compared to siCtrl cells. Most importantly, in CM, siLox cells calcified less as demonstrated by alizarin red quantification. Furthermore, gene expression data showed inhibition of calcification gene Annexin 5 by Lox silencing. In agreement, we found an increase of early differentiation genes Sox9 and Col2, along with significant downregulation of hypertrophic marker Col10. However, no effect by Lox silencing was found on fibrotic genes (Col1, Col3) and on pro-calcifying cytokine interleukin-6 (IL-6). Additionally, we revealed a trend towards decreased mitochondrial reactive oxygen species in siLox cells. Finally, Lox silencing decreased gene expression of ECM catalytic enzyme Mmp13.

**Conclusion:** Our data revealed that LOX and LOXL2 are increased in calcified areas of murine and human cartilage. Additionally, in vitro inhibition of Lox prevents at least in part, calcium-crystal deposition, chondrocyte hypertrophy, and Mmp13 catalytic enzyme expression. Altogether, our results suggest that both Lox and LOXL2 might play a role in cartilage calcification and OA.

**References:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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SENSITIVITY OF AUTOMATED, U-NET-BASED SEGMENTATION TO LAMINART CARTILAGE TRANSVERSE RELAXATION TIME (T2) IN KNEES WITH DIFFERENCES IN CONTRALATERAL OSTEOARTHRITIS STATUS – DATA FROM THE THE OA-BIO CONSORTIUM

Keywords: Imaging, Osteoarthritis

F. Eckstein1,2, A. Wisser1,2, F. Roemer3,4, F. Berenbaum5,6, J. Kemnitz1,2, G. Duda, S. Maschek, W. Wirth1,2. Chondrometrics Gmbh, Department of Research, Freilassing, Germany; 2Paracelsus Medical University, Institute of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Salzburg, Austria; 3University of Erlangen, Department of Radiology, Erlangen, Germany; 4Boston University Minos Core Lab, Boston, United States of America; 4Moving Biotech, Department of Research, Lille, France; 5Baronne University INSERM, AP-HP Saint-Antoine Hospital Paris, Paris, France; 1BIH at Charite, Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Background: Radiographically normal knees with contralateral (CL) radiographic joint space narrowing (JSN) are at elevated risk of incident radiographic osteoarthritis (ROA). We previously observed increased superficial femoral cartilage layer transverse relaxation time (T2) on magnetic resonance images (MRI) of 39 KLG0 knees (n=39) with advanced ROA in the contralateral knee (CL JSN), compared with 39 (1:1-matched) KLG0 knees without evidence of CL ROA (bilat KLG0) [1]. These results suggest that cartilage matrix degeneration occurs in radiographically normal knees with CL JSN, and can be detected in vivo using MRI [1]. Application to larger cohorts, however, will benefit from fully automated image segmentation, as manual segmentation is a labor-intensive process.

Objectives: To evaluate the performance of U-Net-based segmentation, using an artificial intelligence (AI), i.e. convolutional neuronal network (CNN) approach, combined with fully automated detection of bony landmarks and the specific MRI slices requiring cartilage segmentation. The U-Net results were compared with those from manual segmentation, and the fully automated technology was applied to a larger (extended) control group.

Methods: U-Nets were trained from manual, quality-controlled cartilage segmentations in sagittal MESE images of the Osteoarthritis Initiative healthy reference cohort (n=92; HRC), one on the medial (MFTC) and one on the lateral femoral compartment (LFTC). All 7 echos (10-70 ms) were used. A 3rd U-Net was trained from manual, quality-controlled bone segmentations in 60 OA HRC knees. The latter was used for automated detection of the weight-bearing femoral region of interest. The automated bone segmentation was registered to an atlas comprising both bone and cartilage segmentation, for identifying the slices required for cartilage segmentation. Automated post-processing was employed to correct obvious segmentation errors. This pipeline was first applied to n=39 data-set pairs (KLG0 with CL JSN vs. bilateral KLG0 knees) [1]. Then it was applied to n=642 bilateral KLG0 knees, to extend the limited paired case-control design [1]. Then it was applied to n=642 bilateral KLG0 knees, to extend the limited paired case-control design [1]. The automatic bone segmentation was registered to an

REFERENCE:

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SOLUBLE LOW AFFINITY NERVE GROWTH FACTOR RECEPTOR (LNGFR) MAY REGULATE PAIN IN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Pain, Osteoarthritis, Biomarkers

A. Alfaili1,2, M. Campbell3,4,5, R. Doyle6, H. Owston1, E. Jones1, R. Feibel2, S. Westbrook2, D. Mognagole1, 1University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatism and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2NIHR, Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Leeds, United Kingdom; 3Elisabeth Bruyere Hospital, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ottawa, Canada; Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Bone and Joint Lab, Ottawa, Canada; 4Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada; 5Levict Ltd, Levict Ltd Kent, United Kingdom; 6The Ottawa Hospital, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, Canada

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is a disease of the entire joint. OA causes significant pain that has been linked to increased neurotrophin concentrations, including mature nerve growth factor [β-NGF]. β-NGF antagonism was efficacious in reducing OA pain in clinical trials but was associated with rapid progressive OA[1], hampering mainstream delivery of this treatment. β-NGF binds two high-affinity receptor kinases: TrkA and low-affinity NGF receptor (LNGFR). A tumour necrosis factor receptor (TNFR) superfamily member. Given that TNFR superfamily member shedding regulates inflammation and immunity, soluble LNGFR (sLNGFR) shedding might be important in pain regulation[3] and association between these molecules and OA-related knee pain may point to an alternative, less harmful approach to β-NGF antagonism and pain reduction.

Objectives: Therefore, we investigated the association between sLNGFR and OA-related knee pain. Key cytokines involved in TNFR family receptor shedding were also investigated.

Methods: SF was procured from 42 subjects with severe OA at the time of arthroplasty. VAS pain scores were recorded pre-operatively. In-house developed ELISAs, commercial ELISAs and LEGENDplex™ were used to measure sLNGFR, proNGF and NGF and other relevant neurotrophins with OA-related knee pain. Key cytokines involved in TNFR family receptor shedding were also investigated.

Results: VAS pain score positively correlated with β-NGF (r=0.34, p<0.05) and TrkA (r=0.33, p<0.05, r=0.32, p>0.05). There was a positive association trend with NT-3 and BDNF with a negative trend for ProNGF. There was no correlation between pain and the other neurotrophins and cytokines including TNF-α, IL-6, SAs, commercial ELISAs and LEGENDplex™.

REFERENCES:
[1] (2017), 110-18

Figure 1. Correlation matrix between pain score and neurotrophins and neurotrophins recep-
tors all depicted as a heat map.

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POS0405

TREATMENT WITH INTEGRIN α10β1-SELECTED MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS ALLEVIATES POST-
TRAUMATIC OSTEARTHRITIS DEVELOPMENT IN AN EQUINE MODEL

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Animal models

C. Andersen1,2, S. Jacobsen3, K. Uvebrant4, J. Griffin IV2, E. Vonk1,4, M. Walters5, L. Berg6, E. Lundgren-Akerlund7, C. Lindegaard5,1, Xintela AB, Research, Lund, Sweden; 2University of Copenhagen, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Talstrup, Denmark; 3Texas A&M University, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, College Station, United States of America; 4University Medical Center Utrecht, Orthopaedics, Utrecht, Netherlands

Background: Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) have gained much attention for their potential to treat osteoarthritis (OA) due to their regenerative and immu

Objective: In this study we investigated disease modifying effects of integrin α10β1-selected equine MSCs ( integrin α10-MSCs) in the equine osteoarthritis (OA) model[1], and that integrin α10β1-selected human MSCs could to home to exper-

Methods: This was a non-randomized and partially blinded experimental study including 17 Standardbred trotters. OA was induced using the carpal osteochon-

Results: A significant improvement of lameness scores (p=0.02) and response to flexion (p=0.004) over time was observed in the treatment group, while the untreated group had no change in lameness and a smaller decrease in flexion response (p=0.03). No joint flares were seen after MSC treatment. The integrin α10-MSCs treated horses had significantly less macroscopic cartilage pathology (p=0.019), lower cartilage histology score (p=0.037) and showed a better but not statistically significant (p=0.069) healing of the osteochondral fragment on CT. Protein levels of IL-6 (PGE2) and interleukin-1α (IL-1α) were significantly increased in the synovial fluid of the treated group on day 21 (p=0.018 and p=0.035, resp) and on day 28 (p=0.060 and p=0.042, resp) compared to day 18. Interleu-

Conclusion: Intrarticular injection of integrin α10-MSCs is safe, alleviates the development of pathological changes in the joint and improves joint function in an equine post-traumatic OA model. In addition, integrin α10-MSCs were still present in the joint 52 days after treatment. This suggests that that integrin α10-

References:

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POS0406

INCREASE OF CARTILAGE REGENERATION BY IFN-γ IN CARTILAGE INJURY MOUSE MODEL

Keywords: Cartilage

H.A. Kim1, J. R. Kim2, 1Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital, Internal Medicine, Anyang, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Until now, there was no effective cure for cartilage injury and degeneration commonly occurring in joint injury and OA. The efficiency of car-

Methods: Young (3 week-old) and adult mice (9 week-old) were subjected to FTCI and cartilage was harvested at 3, 7, and 14 days after FTCI. Cartilage regeneration was evaluated with safranin O staining and immunohistochemistry. For discovery of novel genes associated with cartilage regeneration, RNA-seq analysis was performed. For differentiation into chondrocytes, ATDC5 cells were monolayer and 3D cultured in DMEM containing insulin-transferrin-selenium (ITS) for 7 and 14 days. Chondrocyte specific IFN-γ receptor 1 knock out mice were created to examine the influence of IFN signaling in cartilage repair.

Results: Cartilage regeneration significantly increased in damaged region of FTCI in young mice compared with that of adult mice at 7 and 14 days. Gene expression profiles of cartilage from young and adult mice of 3 day (damaged stage) and 14 day (repair stage) after FTCI were examined by RNA-seq analysis. A total of 1115 (448 up- and 667 down-regulated) and 2294 (726 up- and 1568 down-regulated) differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified in young mice compared with adult mice at 3 and 14 days after FTCI, respectively. Gene ontology (GO) analysis revealed that genes responsible for interferon gamma (IFN-γ) and innate immune response, and cell proliferation, cell-substrate adhe-

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Reference:
[1] Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital, Internal Medicine, Anyang, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Using albino rats, we characterized the expression of IFN-γ and its receptor 1 (IFN-γR1) in young and adult mice. We observed a significant increase in IFN-γ and IFN-γR1 in young mice compared to adult mice. We also observed a significant difference in the expression of IFN-γ and IFN-γR1 in young and adult mice. Our results suggest that IFN-γ and IFN-γR1 play an important role in the regeneration of cartilage after injury.

Methods: Young (3 week-old) and adult mice (9 week-old) were subjected to FTCI and cartilage was harvested at 3, 7, and 14 days after FTCI. Cartilage regeneration was evaluated with safranin O staining and immunohistochemistry. For discovery of novel genes associated with cartilage regeneration, RNA-seq analysis was performed. For differentiation into chondrocytes, ATDC5 cells were monolayer and 3D cultured in DMEM containing insulin-transferrin-selenium (ITS) for 7 and 14 days. Chondrocyte specific IFN-γ receptor 1 knock out mice were created to examine the influence of IFN signaling in cartilage repair.

Results: Cartilage regeneration significantly increased in damaged region of FTCI in young mice compared with that of adult mice at 7 and 14 days. Gene expression profiles of cartilage from young and adult mice of 3 day (damaged stage) and 14 day (repair stage) after FTCI were examined by RNA-seq analysis. A total of 1115 (448 up- and 667 down-regulated) and 2294 (726 up- and 1568 down-regulated) differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified in young mice compared with adult mice at 3 and 14 days after FTCI, respectively. Gene ontology (GO) analysis revealed that genes responsible for interferon gamma (IFN-γ) and innate immune response, and cell proliferation, cell-substrate adhe-

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Reference:
[1] Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital, Internal Medicine, Anyang, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)
CHEMICALLY AND MECHANICALLY ACTIVATED PIEZO1 LEADS TO CHANGES IN THE EXPRESSION OF ECM-MODULATING FACTORS THAT DIFFER BETWEEN HEALTHY AND HUMAN OA CHONDROCYTES

Keywords: Cell biology, Cartilage, Osteoarthritis

B. Lohberger1, B. Steinecker-Frohmiewies2, V. Glanz2, S. Togele1, L. Weigl3, T. 4Scripps Research, Department of Molecular Medicine, La Jolla, United States of America; 5Universidad de Oviedo, Departamento de Bloquimica y Biologia Molecular, Oviedo, Spain

Conclusion:
IFN-γ signaling may play a critical role in the process of cartilage regeneration.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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DEFECTIVE AUTOPHAGY IS ASSOCIATED WITH CHONDROCYTE SENESCENCE AND JOINT DAMAGE

Keywords: Cell biology, Osteoarthritis

P. Lopez de Figueroa1, J. Fafian-Laborda1, L. Lorenzo1, V. Calamia1, M. Lotz1, C. Lopez-Otin1, F. J. Blanco1, B. Caramés1. 1Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de A Coruña (INIBIC), Unidad de Biología del Cartílago. Grupo de Investigación en Reumatología (GIR), A Coruña, Spain; 2Universidad de A Coruña, Grupo de Investigación de Terapia Celular y Medicina Regenerativa, Dpto. de Fisioterapia, Medicina y Ciencias Biomédicas, A Coruña, Spain; 3Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de A Coruña (INIBIC), Unidad de Proteómica, Grupo de Investigación en Reumatología (GIR), A Coruña, Spain; 4Scripps Research, Department of Molecular Medicine, La Jolla, United States of America; 5Universidad de Oviedo, Departamento de Bloquimica y Biologia Molecular, Oviedo, Spain

Conclusion: Aging is a major risk factor of many major human diseases, including Osteoarthritis (OA). Compromised autophagy, a hallmark of aging, is involved in joint aging and OA and its activation protects against joint damage and disease. However, targets underlying this defective mechanism are still unknown.

Objectives: Here, we aimed to identify targets regulating autophagy with potential clinical relevance in joint aging and OA.

Methods: We performed a quantitative proteomic analysis of defective autophagy by Atg5 knockdown in human OA chondrocytes by using iTRAQ (isobaric tags for relative and absolute quantitation) labeling coupled LC/MS/MS. Protein identification and quantification were performed using Protein Pilot Software v 4.0. Each MS/MS spectrum was searched in the Uniprot/Swissprot database for Homo sapiens. Human cartilage and chondrocytes from healthy, aging and OA subjects were employed to investigate the role of Lamin A/C in aging and disease by western blot, and immunohistochemistry. To test the relevance of Lamin A/C accumulation in joint tissues, a mutant mice model of accelerated aging by genetic deletion of Zinc Metalloproteinase STE24 (Zmpste24-/-) was employed. The functional consequences of Lamin A/C accumulation on macroautophagy, inflammation, and senescence were determined in human chondrocytes. To evaluate the therapeutic effect of regulating Lamin A/C in human chondrocytes, Lonafarnib, an FDA approved drug for Progeria Syndrome, acting as Lamin A/C accumulation inhibitor, was employed.

Results: 24 out of 487 proteins were significantly altered (p<0.05) in response to defective autophagy. Osteoskeleton organization, collagen catabolism, oxidative stress, and aging pathways were affected. Interestingly, Lamin A/C, a nuclear envelope protein implicated in cell senescence and aging, was found upregulated under defective autophagy. Increased Lamin A/C expression was found in human chondrocytes with reduced macroautophagy. Furthermore, increased Lamin A/C expression is found in aging and OA human cartilage. Importantly, Zmpste24 KO mice showed bone damage and intervertebral disc degeneration (IDD), suggesting that Lamin A/C accumulation associated to deficient autophagy is correlated with aging and OA phenotype. Human chondrocyte premature aging by genetic knockdown of Zmpste24, lead to Lamin A/C accumulation, accompanied by a reduction of macroautophagy by MAP1LC3B downregulation, increased inflammation, cartilage degradation and senescence represented by upregulation of NFκB/RELA, MMP13, CDKN1A and CDKN1A respectively, Remarkably, inhibition of Lamin A/C accumulation by Lonafarnib upregulates macroautophagy and protects against inflammation, cartilage degradation and chondrocyte senescence.

Conclusion: The results suggest that increased LMNA due to autophagy defects compromises chondrocyte homeostasis and joint integrity, potentially contributing to systemic maladaptation that occurs in aging. Therefore, targeting Lamin A/C might be a promising strategy to develop novel therapeutics for cartilage aging and OA.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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IMPLICATION OF GLYPICANS AND NOTUM IN BONE MARROW MESENCHYAL STROMAL CELLS DURING OSTEOGENIC DIFFERENTIATION IN OSTEARTHROITIC DISEASE

Keywords: Bone diseases, Cell biology, Osteoarthritis

I. Gonzalez-Guede1, M. López-Remo1, L. Rodriguez Rodriguez2, L. Abasolo1, B. Fernandez1. 1Fundación para la Investigación Biomédica del Hospital Clínico San Carlos (IDISSC), UGC de Reumatología, Madrid, Spain

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Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is accompanied by an excessive formation of underlying bone caused by homeostatic alterations. It has been described that in OA joints there is an up-regulation of the WNT/β-catenine pathway driving to the differentiation of Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (MSCs) into osteocytes [1]. Glypicans 1-6 act as co-receptors of WNT pathway, improving interactions between molecules [2]. On the other hand, NOTUM plays a role as a negative regulator of the pathway preventing WNT binding to its receptors and favouring the soluble form of Glypicans [3]. All these evidences lead us to think about the importance of Glypicans 1-6 and NOTUM in the osteogenic differentiation of MSCs in OA disease.

Objectives: To determine the differences at gene and protein levels of Glypicans 1-6 and NOTUM in MSCs between OA patients and controls at baseline and during induced in vitro osteogenic differentiation.

Methods: Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (BM-MSCs) from both, 8 OA patients and 8 healthy donors were isolated from BM samples. BM samples were obtained by joint replacement and traumatic fractures. BM-MSCs were cultured during 21 days with normal culture medium and with osteogenic inducing medium. Cells and supernatant were recovered at 1, 7, 14 and 21 days. Protein levels were determined by ELISA in cells supernatant. Extraction and purification of RNA from cells and cDNA synthesis were performed. Glypicans 1-6 and NOTUM gene expression was analysed by qPCR and normalized with house-keeping genes β-actin and RNA18S. The data were calculated with the method of fold change (2^-ΔCt). Statical analysis were performed with GraphPad Prism 8.0. For the detection of outliers, the ROUT method (Q=1%) was used. Data were analyzed using t-test.

Results: The mRNA levels of cells with normal culture medium were up-regulated in GPC6 (t=7d; p=0.016) in OA patients. During osteogenic differentiation, was observed a statistically significant up-regulation in levels of OA patients vs controls of GPC2 (t=14d; p=0.034), GPC4 (t=14d; p=0.025; t=21d, p=0.017), GPC5 (t=14d; p=0.007), GPC6 (t=14d; p=0.013) and NOTUM (t=14d; p=0.009) and down-regulation of GPC3 (t=7d, p=0.034). In addition, protein levels of NOTUM were lower compared to the control group in OA BM-MSCs (t=1d, p=0.049) and in the differentiation to osteocytes (t=1d, p=0.049; t=7d; p=0.043; t=14d; p=0.016). GPC2 levels were higher in OA patients in all the times and in the two conditions (p < 0.0001). In the differentiation, GPC2 were lower (t=7d, p< 0.0001), GPC1, GPC4 and GPC6 were not present in any case.

Conclusion: Our results evidence a dysregulation in the glypicans in BM-MSCs of OA patients and, specially, during osteogenic differentiation. NOTUM, extracellular negative regulator of the WNT/β-catenine signaling pathway, is decreased at protein level in OA patients, despite the fact that gene expression is elevated. Thus, our data confirm the differences in expression in NOTUM and Glypicans between OA patients and healthy controls. Further studies are needed proposing these molecules, specially NOTUM, as an effective treatment of the disease.

REFERENCES:


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PO5410

A BIOPSYCHOSENSUAL APPROACH TO PHENOTYPE KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS PATIENTS WAITING TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Pain, Osteoarthritis

S. Verrucais1,2, L. Meen1,2, G. Van der Nest1, J. Verbruggen1,2, P. Verdonk1, F. Rahussen1, R. Smeets1,3, M. Meeus4,10. 1University of Antwerp, Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy, Antwerp, Belgium; 2Maastricht University, Rehabilitation Sciences, Maastricht, Netherlands; 3Pain in Motion, www.paininmotion.be, Antwerp, Belgium; 4Maastricht University, Methodology & Statistics, Maastricht, Netherlands; 5University of Hasselt, Rehabilitation Research Centre, Hasselt, Belgium; 6AZ Monica, Orthoca, Antwerp, Belgium; 8Antwerp University, ASTARC Department, Antwerp, Belgium; 9St. Jans Gasthuis Weer, Department of Orthopaedics, Weert, Netherlands; 2CIR Revalidatie, CIR Revalidatie, Eindhoven, Netherlands; 10Ghent University, Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy, Ghent, Netherlands

Background: Knee osteoarthritis (KOA) is a heterogenous disease, meaning individuals can present with various signs and symptoms related to different biopsychosocial (BPS) factors [1,2]. Several phenotypes can as such be expected. Phenotyping KOA patients, specifically those awaiting total knee arthroplasty (TKA), could be relevant, because a substantial part of patients (20%) reports chronic post-TKA pain [3]. Various preoperative phenotypic factors related to domains of the BPS model have been described, but consensus and a classification of patients based on these factors is still lacking [4-7].

Objectives: The aim of this exploratory study is to identify phenotypes based on BPS related factors in KOA patients awaiting TKA.

Methods: Participants were included if they were diagnosed with KOA and waiting for TKA surgery in one of the four participating hospitals in Belgium and the Netherlands. A cross-sectional latent profile analysis was conducted in MPlus [8] containing the grade of KOA before TKA surgery (structural variable); body mass index and glycated hemoglobin value (metabolic variables); isometric strength of m. Quadriceps and m. Hamstrings of the affected leg, proprioceptive accuracy of the affected leg, and physical function (functional variables); pain intensity scores and symptoms related to altered somatosensory processing (pain-related variables); pain catastrophizing, depression, anxiety symptoms, expectations and satisfaction (psychological variables); and work and education level (social variables). Data were checked for multicollinearity and multivariate outliers. The ideal model was chosen based on qualitative evaluation, goodness of fit and classification uncertainty.

Results: 224 participants were included of which 109 women (65.19 +/- 8.18 years old) and 108 men (66.92 +/- 7.18 years old). A model with 2 phenotypes was found to be most appropriate. Both phenotypes differed in 13 out of 19 continuous variables. Phenotype 1 (72% of all participants) was characterized by scoring better on at least one of all metabolic, functional, psychological and pain-related continuous variables compared to phenotype 2 (28% of all participants), except for glycated hemoglobin value, proprioception, expectations, and widespread temporal summation and conditioned pain modulation (part of somatosensory processing variables). Concerning categorical variables, phenotype 1 (72%) was characterized by having a lower probability to have a Kellgren & Lawrence (K&L) scale 2 compared with patients in phenotype 2 (28%). The probabilities of the other categorical variables did not differ between the two phenotypes. Conclusion: A model with 2 phenotypes in KOA patients awaiting TKA appeared the most appropriate, which confirmed the existence of a group that experiences disturbed somatosensory processing signs in combination with worse results on psychological (pain catastrophizing, fear and depression), functional (strength and physical function), structural (higher possibility to have a K&L grade 2 compared to the other phenotype) and metabolic factors (body mass index), and a group that does not present this disruption in combination with better results on the aforementioned BPS factors. Further research is necessary and should also investigate if different phenotypes react differently regarding treatment outcome after TKA.

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Background: Nucleosomes, the basic structural unit of chromatin, are composed of DNA wrapped around an octameric core of histone proteins. The latter is usually comprised by canonical histones H2A, H2B, H3 and H4[1]. These can be replaced by histone variants, which provide structural and functional changes to the nucleosome[2]. Histones are prone to undergo post-translational modifications (PTMs) that can modify chromatin conformation to induce changes in gene expression[3]. Recent evidence supports that epigenetic mechanisms, such as DNA methylation and non-coding RNA modifications, are involved in the pathogenesis of osteoarthritis (OA). Nevertheless, histone modifications mainly remain an unexplored epigenetic mechanism in OA.

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to identify, characterize and compare the histone profile in human articular cartilage samples from normal (N) and OA patients to provide novel insights into the role of histones in the development of OA.

Methods: Histones were extracted from 3 N and 3 OA cartilage samples following a protocol based on acid extraction previously described by our group. Prior to mass spectrometry (MS) analysis, samples were reduced with dithiothreitol and alkylated with iodoacetamide. After an overnight digestion with trypsin, peptides were desalted via StageTips. Samples were injected on a nanoElute LC coupled to a high-resolution timsTOF (Bruker). Peptides were analyzed in DDA tides were desalted via StageTips. Samples were injected on a nanoElute LC coupled to a high-resolution timsTOF (Bruker). Peptides were analyzed in DDA

Results: Our histone extraction protocol successfully enriched the samples for subsequent MS analysis. The most detected PTMs are among the most studied, including methylation, acetylation, ubiquitination, phosphorylation, deamidation, biotinylation, citrullination, and ADP-ribosylation. PTMs were found in core histones H2A, H2B, H3, H4 and linker histone H1. Moreover, PTMs were detected in some of their variants. Strikingly, we found that the histone variant H3.3 is significantly increased in OA cartilage compared to N cartilage (2.67×104 ± 9.56×103 vs. 3.11×103 ± 1.71×103) (Figure 1 A). Further H3.3 analysis showed three differentially abundant PTMs between OA and N (Figure 1 B). Acetylation of lysine 18 (K18ac) was more abundant in N cartilage. Monomethylation of K79 (K79me1) was more abundant in OA cartilage. Furthermore, we identified three H3.3-associated PTMs that are differentially expressed in OA and N cartilage. These data provide new insights into the epigenetic landscape of OA and could contribute to the search for novel therapeutic targets to treat the disease.

Conclusion: The histone variant H3.3, which associates with decondensed states of chromatin and transcriptionally active sites, is upregulated in human OA cartilage. Furthermore, we identified three H3.3-associated PTMs that are differentially expressed in OA and N cartilage. These data provide new insights into the epigenetic landscape of OA and could contribute to the search for novel therapeutic targets to treat the disease.
osteoarthritis (OA) is mainly developed in weight bearing or overused joints, the locally sustained therapy using nanoparticles is effective for targeting inflammatory component of OA.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the effects of intra-articular injection of rebamipide loaded MSNs in OA rat model.

Methods: We modified the surface of MSNs using tannic acid and anchor the stigmasterol that allow the sustained release of stigmasterol from nanoparticles. In vitro, lipopolysaccharide induced RAW cell were used to investigate the cytotoxicity and anti-inflammatory effect of stigmasterol-loaded MSNs. In vivo, monosodium iodoacetate (MIA)-induced OA rats were divided into five groups, consisting of healthy control rats and rats injected with MIA alone or in combination with MSNs, stigmasterol (10 µg)/MSNs, stigmasterol (50 µg)/MSNs. The levels of IL-6, matrix metalloproteinase-3 (MMP-3), and tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α) measured periodically and the micro-computed tomography (CT) and histological examination was performed at eight week.

Results: In vitro, stigmasterol/MSNs dose-dependently suppressed the levels of pro-inflammatory mediators, including IL-6, MMP-3 and TNF-α. In vivo, the levels of pro-inflammatory components most markedly decreased in the intra-articularly injected stigmasterol (50 µg)/MSNs group compared to other groups. Micro-CT images and histological evaluations showed that the intra-articular injection of stigmasterol/MSNs also inhibited cartilage degeneration dose-dependently.

Conclusion: Using a chemically induced rat model of OA, intra-articular delivery of stigmasterol was associated with decreased local and systemic inflammatory response decreased joint degradation and arthritic progression.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Micro-CT images of the rat knee joint at the 8th weeks after treatments of (i) control, (ii) MIA, (iii) MSNs, (iv) stigmasterol (10 µg)/MSNs, and (v) stigmasterol (50 µg)/MSNs treatment.

Figure 2. The levels of (i) IL-6, (ii) MMP-3 and (iii) TNF-α at serum from MIA-induced OA rat model at 8th weeks after MSNs, stigmasterol (10 µg)/MSNs and stigmasterol (50 µg)/MSNs treatment.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0414

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN BONE MARROW ADIPOCYTE SIZE, BONE REMODELLING AND BODY MASS INDEX IN PATIENTS WITH BASE OF THE THUMB OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Bone diseases, Osteoarthritis, Descriptive studies

M. Maniglio1, L. Loisy2, T. Hugel1, J. Geurtz3. 1Lausanne University Hospital, Plastic and Hand Surgery; Lausanne, Switzerland; 2Lausanne University Hospital, Rheumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: Subchondral bone sclerosis, osteophyte formation and bone marrow lesions are radiographic hallmarks of base of the thumb osteoarthritis (CMC-1 OA)[1]. High body mass index (BMI) and obesity are major risk factors for CMC-1 OA [2]. Adipose tissue-derived systemic factors, such as lipids and adipokines, have been proposed as mediators of such increased risk at a non-weight-bearing joint. In support of this hypothesis, alterations in systemic lipid levels have been found to partially associate with the severity of hand OA [3]. If several studies demonstrate a higher prevalence of chronic pain in the female OA population[3,4] and sex differences that can give rise to distinct pain mechanisms in male and female rodents with OA[5].

Objectives: We aim to define the translational value of a murine model of surgically-induced OA with meniscal/ligamentous injury (MLI), in terms of the progressive nature of joint degeneration, temporal delay in development of chronic pain following joint damage and potential sex differences.

Methods: Model: OA was induced in 10-week-old C57BL/6J mice under isoflurane anaesthesia with resection of the medial collateral ligament (MCL), meniscotibial ligament and removal of the medial meniscus. Behaviour: Sensory thresholds were assessed using the up-down von Frey, hindlimb capacitance, Hargreaves' hotplate and dry ice tests. Affective behaviours were measured using hotplate and open field assay. In vivo electrophysiology: Extracellular recordings of L4 dorsal horn neurones was performed in anaesthetised mice. Mechanically and thermally evoked action potentials were quantified. MicroCT: Bone mineral density was measured using the growth plate and bone growth. Images were used for microarchitecture analysis to determine 3D geometric parameters. Histological OA scoring and immunohistochemistry: Coronal sequential paraffin sections were stained with Safranin-O for OA severity scoring using the Osteoarthritis Research Society International grading system. Additional knee sections were stained for neo-innervation using anti-PGP9.5. RNAseq: RNA was extracted from L3-L5 ipsilateral DRGs and differentially expressed transcripts generated by GeneWiz.

Results: We observed progressive development of persistent mechanical and cold hypersensitivity in MLI mice compared to Sham controls. We also observed contralateral hypersensitivity, indicative of nociceplastic pain. Female mice expressed an earlier onset and greater extent of hypersensitivity compared to male mice. The temporal delay in the expression of hindlimb hypersensitivity correlates with a loss of cartilage integrity measured by OARSI scoring of the knee joint in both males and females. Affective behaviours are also correlated with changes in sensory thresholds, indicating emotional processing of nociceptive inputs form the injured knee. We observed greater PGP9.5 staining in female MLI mice and key transcriptional changes in DRG neurons.

Conclusion: Our data demonstrates that the MLI model reproduces clinical features of nociceplastic pain and cartilage loss in OA. We identify structural changes in the knee joint that correlate with pain behaviour, as well as sex differences in knee innervation, transcriptomic profiles of primary sensory neurons and pain behaviour that is exacerbated in female mice, informing on sex specific pain mechanisms. This establishes the use of MLI surgery as a clinically relevant mouse model for OA pain.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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is unknown whether subchondral marrow adipose tissue contributes to development and progression of CMC-1 OA.

Objectives: To determine whether bone marrow adipocyte (BMAd) size, as a surrogate marker of adipocyte lipolysis and (dys)function, differed as a function of the extent of subchondral bone remodelling and BMI in CMC-1 OA.

Methods: Trapeziun bone resections were harvested from 14 consecutive CMC-1 OA patients (9 female, 63±11 years, 26±6 kg/m²) undergoing arthroplasty. BMAd size, osteoblast numbers and OA severity were determined by histomorphometry. Expression of the lipolytic enzyme monoacylglycerol lipase (MGLL) on bone marrow-resident cells was assessed by immunohistochemistry.

Results: Eight out of fourteen specimens displayed regions of increased bone remodelling and osteoblast numbers, which were classified by histology as subchondral sclerosis (n=6) and central osteophyte formation (n=2). BMAd size was significantly reduced (p<0.02) in the remodelling (839±319 μm²) compared with non-remodelling regions (1438±578 μm²), independent of OA severity. BMAd size was strongly expressed by osteoblasts and blood vessels rather than mature BMAd in remodelling regions.

Conclusion: Collectively, these data suggest that BMAd properties in the CMC-1 joint may be BMI-dependent. Increased lipolytic activity in subchondral bone marrow adipose tissue may be fueling pathologic bone formation in CMC-1 OA.

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[1] van Beest et al. Osteoarthritis Cartilage 2018

Figure 1.

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Spine, mechanical musculoskeletal problems, local soft tissue disorders

POSO415 ADIPOCYTE-OSTEOBLAST CROSSTALK IN SUBCHONDRAL BONE MARROW: NEW THERAPEUTIC TARGET IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Bone diseases, Biomarkers, Osteoarthritis

L. Loisay1, A. Antoniadis2, T. Hügle1, J. Gauthier1 1Lausanne University Hospital, Rheumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland; 2Lausanne University Hospital, Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: Subchondral sclerosis and bone marrow adipose tissue (BMAT) lesions are radiographic hallmarks of knee osteoarthritis (OA). Energy supply through lipolysis of bone marrow adipocytes (BMAd) has recently been established as a crucial mechanism to fuel bone regeneration and maintain bone mass during energy deficits. It is unknown whether subchondral BMAd may contribute to subchondral sclerosis in OA through a similar mechanism.

Objectives: The goal of this study was to determine whether BMAd-derived factors differed as a function of the extent of subchondral sclerosis and to evaluate effects of lipolysis-modulating treatments in a human knee OA explant model.

Methods: Non-sclerotic (NS) and sclerotic (SC) osteochondral tissue chips (n=48 each) were explanted from tibial plateaus and treated with an activator (forskolin) or inhibitor (pioglitazone, metformin) of lipolysis. Secreted free fatty acids (FFA), triglycerides (TGL), adiponectin, IL-6 and ALP activity were measured in supernatants.

Results: Adiponectin (1.6-fold), TGL (1.7-fold) and ALP activity (6.7-fold) levels were increased in SC compared with donor-matched NS tissues (p<0.05). Interestingly, FFA (r=0.60) and adiponectin (r=0.76) were positively correlated with ALP activity (p<0.01) in SC tissues only (Figure 1). Modulation of lipolysis affected secretion of FFA and TGL (p<0.01), but not adiponectin, in NS tissues only. ALP activity remained unaffected by any treatment in NS or SC tissues. Metformin treatment reduced IL-6 secretion 4-fold (p<0.05) in SC tissues.

Conclusion: Collectively these data support the new paradigm that BMAd-derived factors may play a previously unrecognized role in regulating pathological bone remodelling in human OA.
Medicine and Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; Balgrist University Hospital, Department of Radiology, Zurich, Switzerland; Balgrist University Hospital, Department of Orthopaedics, Zurich, Switzerland; University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; University Hospital Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland.

Background: Modic changes (MC) are painful vertebral bone marrow lesions and are often found in patients with chronic low back pain. The adjacent degenerative disc (IVD) seems to play an important role: the rapidly degenerating disc stands in an inflammatory cross-talk with the MC bone marrow and MC develop almost always simultaneously cranial and caudal to a degenerated IVDs. Few studies have investigated expression of inflammatory cytokines and proteases expressed by IVD cells adjacent to MC, however, how this affects the ECM degeneration has not been determined.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to identify MC-specific mechanisms in degenerated discs. We hypothesize that the ‘Modic discs’ have a distinct disc matrix degradation.

Methods: Degenerated lumbar IVDs from MC1 (n=26), MC2 (n=20) and non-MC (n=19) levels from gender and age matched patients undergoing spinal fusion surgery were collected. Degradation was measured with N-terminal amino isoelectric focusing, mass-spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), TAILS allows to identify degraded proteins by detecting de novo N-terminal peptides. Sequence motifs were calculated using TwoSample Logo web application to identify significantly enriched amino acids around the cleavage site of the top 50 upregulated peptides. Since proteases have preferences for amino acid sequences, different sequence motifs can indicate activity of different proteases. Proteases were matched to cleavage sites of the top 50 enriched MC1 and MC2 peptides using TopFINDer database.

Results: Mean degree of disc degeneration as measured by Pfirrmann grade was not significantly different between all groups (MC1: 3.8 ± 0.9, MC2: 4.2 ± 0.6, non-MC: 3.6 ± 0.8). A total of 487 (MC1), 419 (MC2), and 404 (non-MC) different protein fragments were detected of which 21.0%, 12.2% and 9.4% were unique to MC1, MC2, and non-MC, respectively (Figure 1a). Comparing MC1 to non-MC discs, the degradation was more complex with a variety of ECM fragments enriched (e.g. type II collagen, fibroblast), while fragments of type I collagen, clusterin, and fibronectin were depleted (Figure 1b). In MC2 discs, mainly fibronectin and clusterin were enriched, while type I collagen was depleted (Figure 1b). Sequence motifs show unique cleavage preferences for each group (Figure 1c) indicating activity of different proteases. Proteases were matched to cleavage sites of the top 50 enriched MC1 and MC2 peptides using TopFINDer database. Finally, in MC1 TopFINDer uniquely identifies multiple fragments created by MMP2, MMP7, MMP12, MMP13 or cathepsin B.

Conclusion: MC1, MC2 and non-MC discs have different ECM degradations that may be caused by the activity of different proteases. Differences in disc degeneration mechanisms and in the type and amount of bioactive ECM fragments explain why not all degenerating discs lead to adjacent MCs.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Tamara Mengis: None declared, Irina Heggl: None declared, Nick Herger: None declared, Borbala Aradi-Vegh: None declared, Bernd Roschitzki: None declared, Jonas Grossmann: None declared, Florian Brunner: None declared, Roy Marcus: None declared, Mazda Farshad: None declared, Oliver Distler: Speakers bureau: Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Medscape, Consultant of: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant, Amgen, AnnaMar, Arna, AstraZeneca, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Glenmark, Horizon, Inventiva, Kymera, Lupin, Miltényi Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Prothemetes, Redxpharm, Roviart, Sanofi and Topaday, Grant/research support from: BI, Kymera, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Stefan Dudi: None declared.

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POS0417

ACTIVATED NEUTROPHILS DEGRADE CARTILAGE ENDPATES

Keywords: Cartilage, -omics, Innate immunity

L. Heggl1, M. Habib2, J. Scheer3, N. Herger1, T. Mengis1, C. Laux1, F. Wanivenhaus1, J. M. Spring1, M. Betz4, M. Fanshadj, O. Distler1, A. Fields2, S. Dudi1. 1University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Balgrist Campus, University Hospital Zurich and Balgrist University Hospital, University of Zurich, Switzerland; Zurich, Switzerland; 2University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA, San Francisco, United States of America; 3University of California San Francisco, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA, San Francisco, United States of America; 4University of Zurich, Department of Orthopedics, Balgrist University Hospital, University of Zurich, Switzerland, Zurich, Switzerland.

Background: Modic type 1 changes (MC1) are painful vertebral bone marrow lesions often found in patients with chronic low back pain. Damage of the endplate associates with MC1, is a risk factor for MC1 progression, and associates with pain. Recent evidence suggests a role of MC bone marrow neutrophils in endplate damage.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to show that MC1 bone marrow neutrophils are activated and to show that activated blood neutrophils degrade cartilage endplates (CEPs).

Methods: From MC1 patients undergoing lumbar spinal fusion, MC1 and intra-patient control bone marrow neutrophils (CD45+CD68+) were isolated from bone marrow aspirates by cell sorting. Bulk RNA sequencing was performed (n = 5 + 5), differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified, and enrichment analysis was performed. In addition, neutrophil activation was assessed by CD66b expression by flow cytometry (n = 3 ± 3). To assess the effect of activated neutrophils on CEP degradation, a neutrophil-mediated CEP damage model was established. Blood neutrophils were isolated from one donor and exposed to lumbar CEPs. A lumbar CEP was collected from six patients undergoing spinal fusion. From each CEP three punch biopsies (a=4-mm) were taken and halved. The six CEP biopsy halves per patient (1A,1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B) were exposed for 18 h at 3° C to: A) 0.75 U/ml collagenase P (positive control) and B) Hanks balanced salt solution (negative control); 2A) conditioned medium from 25 mio/ml activated neutrophils (100 nM PMA, 3h, 37 °C) and 2B) conditioned medium from 25 mio/ml non-activated neutrophils; 3A) conditioned medium from 12.5 mio/ml activated neutrophils (100 nM PMA, 3h, 37 °C) and 3B) conditioned medium from 12.5 mio/ml non-activated neutrophils. Exposure supernatant and CEP tissues were assayed for sulphated glycosaminoglycans (sGAG) and hydroxyproline (as measure for total collagen). Release of sGAG and hydroxyproline from condition 1A, 2A, and 3A was normalized to condition 1B, 2B and 3B, respectively. Relative release was tested against null hypothesis (µ0 = 100%) using a one sample t-test.

Results: 185 genes were differentially expressed between MC1 and control vertebral bone marrow neutrophils. Enrichment analysis revealed an activated pro-inflammatory transcriptome (Figure 1a). Flow cytometric analysis confirmed neutrophil activation on protein level (measured as % of CD66high) in MC1 (control: 43.1% ± 15.7%, MC1: 54.1% ± 16.7%, p = 0.018) (Figure 1b). Exposure of CEP tissues to conditioned medium from non-activated neutrophils significantly increased the release of sGAG from the CEP tissues in a dose-dependent manner (25 mio/ml: 380.1% ± 177%, p = 0.012; 12.5 mio/ml: 123.7% ± 22.3%, p = 0.048, positive control: 545.0 % ± 302.8 %, p = 0.016) (Figure 1c) but there was no significant hydroxyproline release (not shown).

Our data shows that neutrophils in MC1 bone marrow are activated and activated blood neutrophils degrade CEPs. Hence, neutrophils in MC1 bone marrow might promote and exacerbate CEP damage. Therefore, MC1 are not just reactive changes but can drive CEP damage that enhances a vicious inflammatory crosstalk with the adjacent disc.

Figure 1. (a) Top 5 upregulated biological processes in MC1 bone marrow neutrophils (b) Representative flow cytometry image c) Relative sGAG released from CEP tissues.

Conclusion: We identified neutrophils as a potentially important player in MC1. Therefore, the present findings could have implications for treatment strategies to mitigate CEP damage in MC1.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** Irina Heggl: None declared, Mohamad Habib: None declared, Justin Scheer: None declared, Nick Herger: None declared, Tamara Mengis: None declared, Christoph Laux: None declared, Florian Wanivenhaus: None declared, Jose Miguel Sting: None declared, Michael Betz: None declared, Mazda Farshad: None declared, Oliver Distler Speakers bureau: Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Medscape, Consultant of: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altantav Sciences, Argen, AndanMed, Arxx, AstraZeneca, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Glennmark, Horizon, Inventiva, Kymera, Lupin, Miltenyi Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Pharmacopeia, Promedex, Rare, Sanofi, Sanofi Genzyme, Topadur, Grant/research support from: Kymera, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Boehringer Ingelheim, Aaron Fields: None declared, Stefan Dudli: None declared.

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**BONE DISEASES, AETIOLOGY, PATHOLOGY AND ANIMAL MODELS**

**POS0418**

**SREBP2 REGULATES OSTEOCLAST DIFFERENTIATION AND PROTECTS MICE FROM INFLAMMATORY BONE LOSS**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritis, Bone diseases, Animal models

H. Kim1,2, L.A. Choi1,2, S. Bae1,2, K. Kaneko1, E. Giannopoulou1,2, L. Deng1,2, K.H. Park-Min1,2,7, H. Kim1,2, L.A. Choi1,2, S. Bae1,2, K. Kaneko1, E. Giannopoulou1,2, L. Deng1,2, K.H. Park-Min1,2,7, Hospital for Special Surgery, David Z. Rosensweig Genomics Research Center, New York, United States of America; 2Weill Cornell Medical College, Department of Medicine, New York, United States of America; 3Chungbuk National University, Department of Internal Medicine, Cheongju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4City University of New York, Biological Sciences Department, New York, United States of America; 5Weill Cornell Medical College, Department of Medicine, New York, United States of America; 6Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Department of Dermatology, New York, United States of America; 7Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, BCMBl Allied Program, New York, United States of America

**Background:** Bone erosion is a key feature of inflammatory osteolysis. Emerging evidence shows a link between biological lipids and the pathogenesis of bone loss in inflammatory conditions. Osteoclasts are the sole bone resorbing cells and are responsible for bone erosion. Sterol regulatory element binding protein 2 (SREBP2) is a key transcription factor for cholesterol biosynthesis and a sensor for intracellular lipids.

**Objectives:** We aim to test the role of SREBP2 in physiological and pathological bone resorption.

**Methods:** LysM-M promoter-driven Cre transgene on the C57BL6 background mice and Sreb2ΔM mice were crossed to generate Sreb2ΔM mice. Micro-computed tomography (µCT) analysis was performed to analyze bone volume and architecture. Mouse bone marrow-derived macrophages were cultured with receptor activator of nuclear factor-kappa beta ligand (RANKL) and macrophage colony stimulating factor (M-CSF)-containing conditioned media in osteoclast differentiation. Cytokine Growth Factor Rev. 2003;14(1):25-34.

**RESULTS:** Bone erosion is a key feature of inflammatory osteolysis. Emerging evidence shows a link between biological lipids and the pathogenesis of bone loss in inflammatory conditions. Osteoclasts are the sole bone resorbing cells and are responsible for bone erosion. Sterol regulatory element binding protein 2 (SREBP2) is a key transcription factor for cholesterol biosynthesis and a sensor for intracellular lipids.

**RESULTS:**

- **Results:** To determine the effect of ORM2 on RANKL-induced osteoclast differentiation and function, we performed TRAP staining, F-actin staining, and bone resorption assay using ORM2 recombinant protein or ORM2 siRNA. Also, the effect of ORM2 on osteogenesis was confirmed by ALP and ARS assay. The intracellular mechanisms responsible for the dual regulation of osteoclastogenesis and osteogenesis of ORM2 were revealed by western blotting and quantitative real-time RT-PCR.

**RESULTS:** We found that ORM2 is a potential target for osteoporosis therapeutics, as treatment with this agent enhances osteoblast differentiation and bone growth and suppresses osteoclast differentiation and bone resorption by performing gain- and loss-of-function studies. During ORM2-mediated regulation of osteoclastogenesis, phosphorylation of early signal transducers such as p38, JNK, Akt, IκB, PLC-γ2, and Btk was affected, which in turn altered the mRNA and protein levels of c-Fos and NFATc1. ORM2 also increased ALP Alizarin Red-mineralization activity, and the expression of osteoblastogenic gene markers, such as Runx2, osteocalcin (OCN) and ALP in mouse calvarial primary osteoblasts, and activated the p38-Runx2 pathway, which enhanced osteoblast differentiation.

**Conclusion:** We suggest that ORM2 may be a promising candidate for gene therapy for bone metabolic diseases, and further serve as a potentially important biomarker in the field of bone disease diagnosis.

**REFERENCES:**


we seeded osteoclasts onto a pre-seeded
of function. To establish the previously “healthy” (i.e., untreated) bone model,
clasts. Our protocol allowed us to passage these cells without cell loss or loss
Results:
TRAP staining and functionality in resorption assays proved functional osteo-
was fully characterized in our previous work [1].
model, consisting of differentiated osteogenic cells,
phosphate (β-TCP). This bone model, consisting of differentiated osteogenic cells,
β
ml RANKL. To provide the basic scaffold for the structure of the “healthy” bone
osteoporosis. Glucocorticoids (GC) are commonly used to treat
in vivo osteoporosis. Glucocorticoids (GC) are commonly used to treat
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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0420

GENERATION OF A HUMAN 3D IN VITRO BONE MODEL, THAT MIMICS GLUCOCORTICOID-INDUCED OSTEOPOORISIS

Keywords: Bone diseases, Osteoporosis

M. Pfeiferenberger1, 2, A. Damerau1, 2, T. Gaber1, 2, F. Buttgereit1, 2, 3, Charité Universitätmedizin Berlin, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 2 German Rheumatism Center, Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany

Background: Osteoporosis is a bone disease characterized by low bone mass and changes in bone architecture, leading to pain and reduced mobility in patients. Glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis (GIOP) is the best known form of secondary osteoporosis. Glucocorticoids (GC) are commonly used to treat inflammation, such as in rheumatic diseases. However, GC use can have a negative effect on the skeletal system and lead to osteoporosis.

Objectives: (i) Establishing and characterizing a human in vitro bone model consisting of osteoblasts and osteoclasts embedded in β-TCP (“healthy” bone model), (ii) treatment with dexamethasone to induce GIOP (“osteoporotic” bone model) and (iii) using this model as a testing platform for the treatment of osteoporosis.

Methods: Our model includes osteoblasts and osteoclasts, which are mainly responsible for bone remodeling. We defined an osteoclast differentiation protocol using low-attachment plates and cultured the cells for 21 days in αMEM medium, 5% FCS, 5% human AB serum, 2 mmol/L-glutamine, 25 ng/ml M-CSF, and 50 ng/ml RANKL. To provide the basic scaffold for the structure of the “healthy” bone model, mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs) were seeded on β-tricalcium phosphate (β-TCP). This bone model, consisting of differentiated osteogenic cells, was fully characterized in our previous work [1].

Results: The multinuclearity, typical β-actin ring formation, cellular activity by TRAP staining and functionality in resorption assays proved functional osteoclasts. Our protocol allowed us to passage these cells without cell loss or loss of function. To establish the previously “healthy” (i.e., untreated) bone model, we seeded osteoclasts onto a pre-seeded β-TCP construct and cultured the co-culture for 7 days. We then analyzed the supernatant and detected marked secretion of RANKL, MMP-9, and free phosphate. This indicates the functionality of both osteoclasts and osteoblasts in our 3D model. Subsequently, the healthy model will be transferred to the osteoporosis-simulating model where treatment with dexamethasone will be applied. Once established, we plan to use the model we have developed for in vitro preclinical trials to test marketed drugs.

Conclusion: Ultimately, we will obtain an in vitro 3D co-culture of osteoblasts/osteoclasts simulating human native bone, which will be treated with dexamethasone to mimic key aspects of GIOP in vitro.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0421

GLUCOSE TRANSPORTER 1 REGULATES MECHANICAL STRESS-ACTIVATED SUBCHONDRAL BONE FORMATION VIA THE SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION NETWORK OF CELLULAR ENERGY SENSOR, NAD+-DEPENDENT DEACETYLASE (SIRTUIN 1) AND OSTEOGENIC TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR, RUNT-RELATED TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR 2 (RUNX2), IN SUBCHONDRAL BONE TISSUE

Keywords: Cartilage, Cell biology, Osteoarthritis

K. Yudono1, S. Somemurao2, R. Karasawa1, 3, St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Department of Frontier Medicine, Kawasaki City, Japan; 2 St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Kawasaki City, Japan

Background: Mechanical stress is an important factor affecting bone and cartilage tissue homeostasis in osteoarthritis (OA). We focused on the interaction among mechanical stress, glucose uptake via glucose transporter 1 (Glut1) and the cellular energy sensor sirtuin 1 (SIRT1) in energy metabolism, since it has been recognized that SIRT1, an NAD+-dependent deacetylase, may function as a master regulator of mechanical stress response as well as cellular energy metabolism. Also, it has already been demonstrated that SIRT1 regulates the activity of the osteogenic transcription factor, runt-related transcription factor 2 (Runx2).

Objectives: Purpose of this study was to determine whether mechanical force affects the expression of factors regulating energy metabolism and transcription factors controlling subchondral bone formation and ossification in OA.

Methods: Comparative analyses of the expression of Glut1, SIRT1 and Runx2 in osteoblasts and chondrocytes were performed after mechanical loading of a 3D cell-collagen sponge construct.

Results: Mechanical loading increased osteoblast activity. Mechanical loading significantly increased the expression of Glut1, significantly decreased the expression of SIRT1 and increased the expression of Runx2 in osteoblasts in comparison with non-loaded osteoblasts. Incubation with Glut1 inhibitor blocked mechanical stress-induced changes in SIRT1 and Runx2 in osteoblasts. In contrast to osteoblasts, expressions of Glut1, SIRT1 and Runx2 in chondrocytes were decreased by loading. Over loading reduced chondrocyte activity (production of proteoglycan, type II collagen).

Conclusion: Our present study indicated that mechanical stress induced upregulation of Glut1, downregulation of SIRT1, and upregulation of Runx2 in osteoblasts, but not in chondrocytes. Since SIRT1 is known to negatively regulate Runx2 activity, mechanical stress-induced downregulation of SIRT1 may lead to upregulation of Runx2, resulting in osteoblast differentiation and bone formation. Incubation with Glut1 inhibitor blocked mechanical stress-induced changes in SIRT1 and Runx2 suggesting that Glut1 is necessary to mediate the responses of SIRT1 and Runx2 to mechanical loading. These results suggest that Glut1 regulates mechanical stress-activated subchondral bone formation and ossification via the signal transduction network of cellular energy sensors, sirtuin 1 and Runx2, in OA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Spondyloarthritis - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Biomarkers, Remission

M. M. Angciong1, C. Piras2, A. Floris1, V. P. Leonii, M. Congia, E. Chessa1, M. Piga, L. Atzori2, A. Cauili3, Rheumatology Unit, AOU and University of Cagliari, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, Monserrato, CAGLIARI, Italy; 4University of Cagliari, Clinical Metabolomics Unit, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, Monserrato, Cagliari, Italy

Background: Among the unmet needs in psoriatic arthritis (PsA), the discovery of molecular players and biomarkers of disease activity or clinical remission achievement, remains unsolved. Metabolomics is a valuable technology in identifying biomarkers, by the study of a set of small molecules produced by the catabolism or anabolism of an organism in response to physiological or pathological states, allowing to better understand the disease-related variations downstream of the genome and proteome.

Objectives: In this pilot study, we have compared the serum metabolomics profile of patients with psoriatic arthritis with active or clinically inactive disease state compared with healthy controls, using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (1H-NMR).

Methods: From a cohort of 300 PsA patients according to CASPAr criteria, we selected 30 PsA with active disease state by DAPSA > 14 score (no bDMARDs ongoing) (A), 38 patients (peripheral arthritis subset) with >1-year remission by anti-TNFα assessed by DAPSA ≤ 4 (B) and 32 healthy controls (C) matching for mean age and gender ratio. The sera metabolomics profile of 100 subjects was analyzed with a Varian UNITY INOVA 500 MHz NMR spectrometer, combined with Multivariate statistical Analysis (MVA), Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Orthogonal Partial Least-Squares Discriminant Analysis (OPLS-DA) were applied. The model's goodness was evaluated using a permutation test (Q2 intercept value < 0.05).

Results: The represents OPLS-DA models (Figure 1) exhibited a clear separation between subjects with active disease (red dots) and healthy controls (green dots), and patients with active disease or clinical remission state (blue dots), indicating significant differences in the serum metabolomics profile between all compared conditions. Interestingly, the OPLS-DA model shows how the PsA patients in the remission state have a profile which does not completely overlap with healthy subjects. The validity of the OPLS-DA models was evaluated through a permutation test using 500 times (Table 1). Table 1. Parameters for OPLS-DA models

Table 1. Parameters for OPLS-DA models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>R2Xcum</th>
<th>R2Ycum</th>
<th>Q2cum</th>
<th>R2 intercept</th>
<th>Q2 intercept</th>
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<tr>
<td>active PsA patients vs controls</td>
<td>0.406</td>
<td>0.665</td>
<td>0.517</td>
<td>0.330</td>
<td>-0.336</td>
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<td>active PsA patients vs remission PsA patients</td>
<td>0.481</td>
<td>0.824</td>
<td>0.504</td>
<td>0.461</td>
<td>-0.424</td>
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<tr>
<td>remission PsA patients vs healthy controls</td>
<td>0.389</td>
<td>0.611</td>
<td>0.429</td>
<td>0.318</td>
<td>-0.331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The number of Predictive and Orthogonal components used to create the statistical models. R2X and R2Y indicated the cumulative explained fraction of the variance of the X block and Y block for the extracted components. Q2 cum values indicated cumulative predicted fraction of the variation of the Y block for the extracted components. An Q2 intercept value less than 0.005 is indicative of a valid model.

Acknowledgements: All staff of the Rheumatology Unit of the AOU of Cagliari, patients and volunteer donors.

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Figure 1. OPLS-DA scores plots of 1H NMR spectra of sera samples. Red dots: (A) active PsA patients; blue dots: (B) remission PsA patients; green dots: (C) healthy controls.
while lysine ($r = -0.83$ and $r = -0.65$) and phenylacetate ($r = -0.66$ and $r = -0.51$) correlated with successful treatment response.

Figure 1. OPLS-DA model that significantly separates treatment responders (n = 19) from failures (n = 12) based on their plasma metabolic profiles. Plot includes $^1$H-NMR plasma profile for all patients at all timepoints.

Table 1. Plasma metabolites associated with successful treatment response (green) vs failure (blue) in the Figure 1 model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plasma metabolite</th>
<th>Correlation coefficient</th>
<th>Positive correlation with</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lysine</td>
<td>-0.61</td>
<td>Responder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valine</td>
<td>-0.54</td>
<td>Responder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serine</td>
<td>-0.50</td>
<td>Responder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alanine</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-acetylglutamine</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>Failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lipid CH2CO</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrate</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In the FLORA trial, plasma metabolic profiles of patients with active, peripheral PsA significantly discriminated between treatment responders and failures. This discriminatory power was the case for the entire trial population as well as for each of the two treatment arms (FMT vs sham).

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Results: Seventy-nine inflammation-related proteins were detected in SF from PsA patients (SF-PsA). Unsupervised analyses of the molecular proteome profile in SF-PsA identified two specific phenotypes characterized by higher or lower levels of inflammation-related proteins. Clinically, SF-PsA with non-related proteins. Clinically, SF-PsA with regulated inflammatory cytokines also showed increased systemic inflammation and altered glucose and lipid metabolisms. Besides, SF from PsA patients showed 39 out of 79 proteins significantly altered compared to SF-OA specifically related to cell migration and inflammatory response. Among these, molecules such as TNF-α, IL-17A, IL-6, IL-10, IL-8, ENVRAGE, CCL20, TNFSF14, OSM, IFN-γ, MCP-3, CCL11, MCP4, CASP9, CXCL10, CD-6, ADA, CXCL10, TNFα and IL-1β showed the most significantly altered.

Conclusion: This is the first study that characterizes the inflammatory landscape of synovial fluid of PsA patients by analyzing a panel of 92 inflammation-related proteins using PEA technology. Novel SF proteins have been described as potential pathogenic molecules involved in the pathogenesis of PsA. Despite the flare, inflammatory proteome could distinguish two different phenotypes related to systemic inflammation and lipid and glucose alterations.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0425 SINGLE-CELL RNA SEQUENCING OF SYNOVIAL TISSUE-DERIVED MYELOID CELLS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS ACROSS DISEASE PHASES

Keywords: Synovium, Biomarkers, Innate immunity


1IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Medical and Surgical Sciences, Cordoba, Spain; 2University of Verona, Department of Medicine, Verona, Italy; 3Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy; 4Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy; 5Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Firenze, Italy; 6Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Firenze, Italy

Background: Single cell technologies (scRNAseq) are increasingly applied in rheumatology to identify key cellular phenotypes that drive disease pathogenesis, enabling to deconvolute cellular heterogeneity within tissues.

Objectives: To investigate ST heterogeneity in terms of myeloid cells enrichment and distribution across different disease phases on ST samples obtained from US-guided biopsies in a bio-samples dataset of patients with Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA).

Methods: 17 patients fulfilling the CASPAR criteria[1] for PsA underwent US-guided ST biopsy and were included. At baseline, patients were categorized based on their disease phase: n=4 naïve to DMARDs; n=3 resistant to c-DMARDs; n=5 resistant to b-DMARDs; n=2 difficult to treat and n=3 in sustained clinical and US resistant or in low disease activity (LDA) state. All ST specimens were processed for phenotyping and sorting. Alive cells were sorted and loaded onto a Chromium Controller (10x Genomics) for single-cell partitioning, followed by library preparation according to the Chromium Next GEM Single Cell 3′ Reagent Kits v3.1 (Dual Index) protocol. Single-cell libraries were sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq 4000 system to a minimum depth of 20,000 reads per cell.

Results: After standard data processing and quality control procedures, we obtained transcriptomic profiles for 16701 synovial tissue-derived cells. For analysis of ST myeloid compartment only, 10194 cells were computationally obtained transcriptomic profiles for 16701 synovial tissue-derived cells. For analysis of ST myeloid compartment only, 10194 cells were computationally isolated with the subset function from other cell types based on expression of CD14, MARCO, LYZ, CD11b and CD64. We identified 10 different myeloid subclusters from the scRNA-seq profiles using SCITransform integration: 2 clusters of lining layer and 8 sublining layer macrophage named according to main differentially expressed (DE) genes (adjusted P < 0.05 by Bonferroni correction and multiple test correction, multiplied by number of tests) and according to the nomenclature reported in Alverini et al 2020. Each cell type group is present across all disease conditions but differences in relative proportions were detected. Specifically, ST of patients with active PsA resistant to pharmacological treatment was significantly enriched in sublining MerTKnegSPP1pos macrophages. In addition, we observed pro-inflammatory changes in lining layer TREM2pos STMs as compared to patients who achieved Remission/LDA status(<0.001 for both)

Conclusion: MerTKnegSPP1pos STMs macrophage may contribute to synovial pathology of PsA resistant to pharmacological treatment.

Keywords: Synovium, Biomarkers, Innate immunity

N. Barbarrroja Puerto1, M. D. López Montilla2, L. Cuesta López3, C. Pérez-Sanchez2, M. Ruiz-Ponce2, C. López-Medina2, M. L. Lasheza Pineda2, C. Lopez-Pedrerà1, A. Escudero Contreras1, E. Collantes Estevé1, I. Arias de la Rosa1. 1IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Reumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain; 2IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain; 3IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Cordoba, Spain; 4IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain

Background: Synovial membrane inflammation, driven by effector T-cell activation and altered inflammatory cytokine expression, is a key feature of this psoriatic arthritis. The proximity extension assay (PEA) technique could contribute to identifying novel protein biomarkers associated with PsA and to improving the biological understanding and the future management of PsA, leading to novel intervention targets.

Objectives: 1) To characterize the inflammatory proteome of synovial fluid (SF) from patients with Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) using a next generation proteomics technique, and 2) to evaluate its potential to stratify patients according to clinical features.

Methods: Inflammatory proteome profile of SF from thirteen PsA patients with active knee arthritis were analysed using PEA technology (Olink Target 96 Inflammatory panel, Cobiomic Biosciences). Four patients with OA were included as control group.

POS0424 CHARACTERIZATION OF THE INFLAMMATORY PROTEOME OF SYNOVIAL FLUID FROM PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: POTENTIAL TREATMENT TARGETS

Keywords: Synovium, Psoriatic arthritis, Biomarkers

N. Barbarrroja Puerto1, M. D. López Montilla2, L. Cuesta López1, C. Perez-Sanchez2, M. Ruiz-Ponce2, C. Lopez-Medina2, M. L. Ladhesa Pineda2, C. Lopez-Pedrerà1, A. Escudero Contreras1, E. Collantes Estevé1, I. Arias de la Rosa1.

1IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Reumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain; 2IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain; 3IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Cordoba, Spain; 4IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain

Background: Synovial membrane inflammation, driven by effector T-cell activation and altered inflammatory cytokine expression, is a key feature of this psoriatic arthritis. The proximity extension assay (PEA) technique could contribute to identifying novel protein biomarkers associated with PsA and to improving the biological understanding and the future management of PsA, leading to novel intervention targets.

Objectives: 1) To characterize the inflammatory proteome of synovial fluid (SF) from patients with Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) using a next generation proteomics technique, and 2) to evaluate its potential to stratify patients according to clinical features.

Methods: Inflammatory proteome profile of SF from thirteen PsA patients with active knee arthritis were analysed using PEA technology (Olink Target 96 Inflammation panel, Cobiomic Biosciences). Four patients with OA were included as control group.
**POS0426**

**PKM2 PROMOTES PRO-INFLAMMATORY MACROPHAGE ACTIVATION IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS**

**Keywords:** Innate immunity, Spondyloarthritis

Y. Jiang, W. Weng, Y. Liang, S. Zhong, Y. Pan, J. Gu. 1Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Guangzhou, China

**Background:** Macrophages are vital effector cells in ankylosing spondylitis (AS), leading to autoimmune tissue inflammation through varied effector functions [1]. The pro-inflammatory potential of macrophages depends on their metabolic environment. Macrophages also work as principal regulators in T lymphocyte activation. To meet amplified bioenergetic and biosynthetic demands, metabolic pathways are joined to facilitate the proliferation and effector molecule production. A critical question is whether glycolysis and the rate-limiting enzyme, pyruvate kinase isoenzyme M2 (PKM2) could positively influence AS macrophages' inflammatory function.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to investigate the effect of glycolysis and PKM2 on AS macrophage functions featured by the secretion of inflammatory cytokines and the presentations of co-stimulatory signals.

**Methods:** Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were isolated from AS patients and differentiated into macrophages by M-CSF. Macrophages were further differentiated into M1 or M2 macrophages by stimulation with IFN-γ and LPS, or IL-4 and IL-13. For glycolysis inhibition, cells were treated with 10μM of 2-Deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG). For inhibition of PKM2, macrophages were treated with 0.25μM of Shikonin. The RNA expressions of proinflammatory cytokines and glycolysis-related genes were detected by qPCR. Immunoblotting, ELISA and confocal microscopy was applied to examine the expression of PKM2. Extracellular aciddification rate (ECAR) analysis was performed to assess glycolysis. The expressions of surface molecule CD80, CD86, and HLA-DR were measured using CytoFLEX flow cytometer.

**Results:** AS macrophages are prone to produce excessive inflammation, including TNF-α, IL1, and IL23, and are at overactive status by showing stronger co-stimulatory signals, such as CD80, CD86, and HLA-DR. Meanwhile, we found that patient-derived M1 macrophages intensified glycolysis, captured as a higher ECAR. Obviously, upregulation of PKM2 and GLUT1 has been observed on AS-derived monocytes and macrophages, especially on M1 macrophages, indicating a glucose metabolic alteration in AS macrophages. To investigate how glycolysis impacts macrophage inflammatory ability, 2-DG and Shikonin were applied to AS M1 macrophages, respectively. Consequently, both inhibitors could lessen pro-inflammatory function and reverse overactive status of AS macrophages, potentially favoring disease treatment.

**Conclusion:** We emphasized hyper-metabolic M1 macrophages of AS and suggested an essential role for PKM2 in inflammatory effector functions of AS macrophages. Targeting PKM2 to inhibit glycolysis in an overactive macrophage may provide novel therapeutic methods for AS inflammation.

**REFERENCE:**

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**POS0427**

**PROSTAGLANDIN E2 CONTROLS THE METABOLIC ADAPTATION OF T CELLS TO THE INTESTINAL MICROENVIRONMENT**

**Keywords:** -omics, Adaptive immunity, Gastrointestinal tract

M. Villa, 1Medical University of Graz, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Graz, Austria

**Background:** Immune cells must adapt to different environments during the course of an immune response, such as during their transition from lymph nodes to peripheral tissues.

**Objectives:** We studied the adaptation of CD8+ T cells to the intestinal microenvironment and how this process shapes their residency in the gut. Investigation of this process will lead to the identification of tissue-specific mechanisms to target CD8+ T cell function in a gut-restricted manner.

**Methods:** We explored the adaptation of CD8+ T cells to the intestinal microenvironment using single cell RNA and antibody sequencing, mass spectrometry-based metabolomic approaches, CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing, and in vivo mouse models of intestinal infection.

**Results:** CD8+ T cells progressively remodel their transcriptome and surface phenotype as they acquire gut residency, and downregulate expression of mitochondrial genes. Human and mouse gut-resident CD8+ T cells have reduced mitochondrial mass, but maintain a viable energy balance to sustain their function. We found that the intestinal microenvironment is rich in prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), which drives mitochondrial depolarization in CD8+ T cells. Consequently, these cells engage autophagy to clear depolarized mitochondria, and enhance glutathione synthesis to scavenge reactive oxygen species (ROS) that result from mitochondrial depolarization. Impairing PGE2-sensing promotes CD8+ T cell accumulation in the gut, while tampering with autophagy and glutathione negatively impacts the T cell population.

**Conclusion:** A PGE2-autophagy-glutathione axis defines the metabolic adaptation of CD8+ T cells to the intestinal microenvironment, to ultimately influence the T cell pool.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**A PGE2-autophagy-glutathione axis defines the metabolic adaptation of CD8+ T cells to the intestinal microenvironment.**

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**POS0428**

**EFFECTOR ACTIVITY OF CXCR3+ CD8 T CELL IS REGULATED BY GLUT1-MEDIATED METABOLIC REPROGRAMMING TOWARD GLYCOLYSIS AND INVOLVED IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATHOGENESIS**

**Keywords:** Adaptive immunity, Spondyloarthritis

M. Akiyama, T. Kaburaki, K. Yoshimoto, Y. Kanieko, Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

**Background:** Although T cell metabolism has recently attracted attention as a key regulator of immune responses, the molecular mechanisms underlying the expression of effector functions in human T cells are still poorly understood. T cell metabolism is postulated to be involved in the development of autoimmune diseases by regulating the expression of its effector functions.

**Objectives:** In this study, we examined the association of metabolic pathways with effector function activity in human T cells. We further investigated the involvement of the identified metabolic pathways in the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases.

**REFERENCES:**

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**Figure 1.** AS-derived M1 macrophage presents with more PKM22 and glycolysis. Circulating monocytes from HC and AS were differentiated into monocyte-derived macrophages. They were then activated into M1 type with LPS/IFN-γ for 24h. A. Concentrations of PKM2 in HC and AS plasma measured by ELISA. N=4. B-C. Immunoblotting of PKM2 protein in HC and AS plasma measured by ELISA. N=6. B-C. Immunoblotting of PKM2 protein in HC and AS plasma measured by ELISA. N=6.
diseases using the two representative autoimmune arthritis samples, spondyloarthritis (SpA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

**Methods:** Metabolism-related cell surface transporters (GLUT1, LAT1, and ASC-T2) were examined for their expression levels in CD8 T cells and CD4 T cells from peripheral blood using flow cytometry and Western blotting. Cell survival rate was examined in cultured cells under condition of glucose supply or depletion for 6 days. We comprehensively analyzed the expression of metabolic enzymes in CXCR3+CD8 T cells and CXCR3-CD8 T cells using bulk RNA-seq data. We investigated the effects of metabolic-related trans-

**Results:** Among metabolic transporters, GLUT1 was found to be expressed at the protein level specifically on CD8 T cells but not CD4 T cells in human peripheral blood. Functional experiments revealed that CD8 T cells depended on glucose supply to maintain their cell survival compared to CD4 T cells. Interestingly, exploratory experiments revealed that among CD8 T cells, the viability of CXCR3+CD8 T cells was particularly dependent on glucose supply. In line with that, comprehensive analysis by RNA-seq data revealed that CXCR3+CD8 T cells had enhanced expression of glycolytic enzymes, including GLUT1, compared to CXCR3-CD8 T cells. Validation by flow cytom-

**Conclusion:** Our results demonstrate that CXCR3+CD8 T cells exhibit higher effector activity than other CD8 T cell phenotypes, regulated by GLUT1-mediated metabolic reprogramming toward glycolysis. GLUT1-high CXCR3+CD8 T cells may be involved in SpA pathogenesis.


**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1621

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**POS0429**

**THE COMPLEMENT SYSTEM AND RESPONSE TO TNF INHIBITION IN PATIENTS WITH RADIOPHAGIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS. POST HOC ANALYSIS FROM CONSUL, A LONGITUDINAL MULTI-CENTER RCT COHORT OF R-AXISPA-PATIENTS WITH A HIGH RISK OF STRUCTURAL PROGRESSION INITIATING TREATMENT WITH TNF-INHIBITOR**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Innate immunity, bDMARD


**Background:** The pathogenesis of axSpA is still largely unexplained, but recent evidence supports an involvement of the innate immune system. The lectin pathway (LP) of complement activation plays an essential role in innate immunity. Previous studies have shown that elevated levels of specific complement components are associated with disease activity in axSpA. However, little is known about alterations in LP proteins and complement activation in relation to treatment with TNF-inhibi-

**Objective:** To determine changes in LP protein levels and complement acti-

**Methods:** Serum samples at baseline and after 12 weeks of treatment with the

**Results:** Serum levels of L-ficolin, M-ficolin, MBL, Map44, and C3dg decreased significantly after 12 weeks of treatment with TNF-I, whereas serum levels of MASP-3 and CL-L1 increased significantly (Figure 1). After adjustment for CRP, significant changes were observed for L-ficolin, M-ficolin, MASP-1, MASP-2, MASP-3, and Map44. Baseline serum levels of L-ficolin, M-ficolin, and C3dg correlated positively with baseline ASDAS-CRP (Spearman’s rho 0.290, 0.190, and 0.326, respectively, all p<0.05), whereas baseline MASP-1 and Map44 corre-

**Conclusion:** Baseline serum levels of L-ficolin, M-ficolin and C3dg corre-

**REFERENCE:** NIL.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1621

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**Table 1. Baseline demographics of the investigated patient population from the CONSUL RCT (n = 108)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, median (IQR)</th>
<th>38 (31-49)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>77 (71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive, n (%)</td>
<td>89 (82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous treatment with bDMARD, n (%)</td>
<td>26 (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis in years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>3.0 (0.0-9.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years onset of symptoms, median (IQR)</td>
<td>12 (6.0-21.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L (IQR)</td>
<td>9.1 (4.1-20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP (&gt;5 mg/L), n (%)</td>
<td>75 (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSSASS, median (IQR)</td>
<td>4.3 (3.0-18.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syndromes present, median (IQR)</td>
<td>16 (0.0-6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of ≥1 syndromes present(s), n (%)</td>
<td>43 (48.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP, median (IQR)</td>
<td>3.6 (3.1-4.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI, median (IQR)</td>
<td>6.2 (5.2-7.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI, median (IQR)</td>
<td>5.2 (4.0-6.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Determined by 3 calibrated readers blinded for clinical data. * data available on n = 89

**Figure 1. Differences in lectin pathway protein serum levels were compared by paired t-tests. Bars indicate median and IQR (MASP-3, Map44, and C3dg) or mean and SD (L-ficolin, M-fic-

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** NIL.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** Clara Elbaek Misteagaard: None declared, Anne Trolld-

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** NIL.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** Clara Elbaek Misteagaard: None declared, Anne Trolld-

**REFERENCES:** NIL.
The role of B cells in the pathogenesis of ankylosing spondylitis (AS) remains relatively understudied. Nevertheless, available evidence shows presence of B cells at sites of inflammation, higher frequencies of circulating plasmablasts, presence of autoantibodies and beneficial results of B cell depletion therapy with rituximab [1]. We observed previously that a subpopulation of CD27- B cells, characterized by low expression of the complement receptor CD21 (CD21low), is increased in patients with AS and patients with primary Sjogren's syndrome (pSS), a typical B cell mediated systemic autoimmune disease [2]. These CD21lowCD38lowCD27- B cells display a pro-inflammatory phenotype, suggestive for a pathogenic role.

Objectives: To gain insight into the origin of these CD21lowCD38lowCD27- B cells we analysed the mutation status of the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable (IGHV) gene regions in the total B cell compartment, CD21low B cell subpopulations and plasmablasts in AS patients in comparison to pSS patients and healthy donors (HD). In addition, we investigated clonal relationships between CD21low B cell subpopulations and plasmablasts in AS.

Methods: RNA was isolated from sorted total B cells (CD19+), two CD21low B cell populations (CD21lowCD38lowCD27- and CD21lowCD38+CD27+) and plasmablasts (CD19+CD38+CD27-) from peripheral mononuclear cells of 10 AS patients fulfilling the mNY criteria (mean age 46 ± 9 years, 60% male, mean ASDAS 2.3 ± 0.8, all HLA-B27+), 10 sex- and age-matched pSS patients (mean age 48 ± 21 years, 60% male) and 10 age-matched HDs (mean age 46 ± 9 years, 20% male). Repertoire analysis of the B cell receptor heavy chain variable (IGHV) sequences with identical heavy chain CDR3 regions were grouped together and defined as a clone. Analysis of the IGHV mutation of immunoglobulin heavy chain variable (IGHV) gene regions in the total B cell compartment, CD21low B cell subpopulations and plasmablasts in AS patients in comparison to pSS patients and healthy donors (HD). In addition, we investigated clonal relationships between CD21low B cell subpopulations and plasmablasts in AS.

Results: IGHV sequences with identical heavy chain CDR3 regions were grouped together and defined as a clone. Analysis of the IGHV mutation of immunoglobulin heavy chain variable (IGHV) gene regions in the total B cell compartment, CD21low B cell subpopulations and plasmablasts in AS patients in comparison to pSS patients and healthy donors (HD). In addition, we investigated clonal relationships between CD21low B cell subpopulations and plasmablasts in AS.

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**RESULTS:** Naïve SKG ileum displayed dysbiosis with increased expression of ER stress markers Grp78, xBP1, CHOP and reduced mucin staining. After curdlin treatment, goblet cell numbers were decreased and Il24 mRNA was increased compared to BALB/c controls. By IF, IL-24 localized to the goblet cells of the ileum in SKG and BALB/c mice and 2 weeks post curdlin, ileal goblet cell number was correlated with IL-24 staining intensity. In MUC2hi LS-174T but not MUC2low HT-29 cells, thapsigargin induced a rapid and transient increase in Il24 transcription and subsequent ER stress with CHOP induction, suggesting an acute goblet cell-specific response associated with high mucin production. IL-24 knockdown in LS-174T increased ER stress and apoptosis including increased CHOP, DR5 and active caspase 3 expression.

**Conclusion:** Despite goblet cell IL-24 over-expression in dysbiotic naïve SKG ileum, goblet cell loss due to stress associated with increased mucin production also depletes IL-24. In an in vitro model of goblet cell stress, IL-24 mitigates ER stress-induced apoptosis, suggesting that IL-24 production in SKG ileum is insufficient to prevent the inflammatory cascade that commences with goblet cell apoptosis and epithelial barrier breakdown.

**REFERENCES: NIL.**

**Acknowledgements: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.**

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1346

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**POS0432 CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PROTEOMIC PROFILE IN SPONDYLARTHROPATHY PATIENTS: POTENTIAL BIOMARKERS FOR PERSISTENT INFLAMMATION**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Cardiovascular disease, Spondyloarthritis

I. Arias de la Rosa1, M. L. Ladehesa Pineda1, C. López-Medina2, M. Ruiz-Ponce1, L. Cuesta López1, M. Á. Puche Larrubia1, M. D. C. Abalos-Aguilera1, P. Ortiz Buitrago1, C. Perez-Sanchez2, C. Lopez-Pedraza1, A. Escudero Contreras1, E. Collantes Estevez2, N. Barrobaro Puerto2, 1IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain; 2IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Medical and Surgical Sciences, Cordoba, Spain; 3IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Cell biology, Physiology and Immunology, Cordoba, Spain

**Background:** patients with Spondyloarthritis (SpA) have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Taking into account the strong relationship between inflammation and CVD, there is an urgent need to identify different molecular drivers of CVD signs and their association with inflammation.

**Objectives:** to investigate the alteration of CVD-related proteins in the plasma of SpA patients, their association with clinical features, and to evaluate their potential role as biomarkers for the identification of persistent inflammation.

**Methods:** a cross-sectional study including 120 patients with SpA and 30 age- and sex-matched healthy donors (HDs) was carried out. Clinical and laboratory parameters and CVD risk factors were recorded. To measure the presence of persistent inflammation, levels of c-reactive protein (CRP) were collected retrospectively for 5 years previous to the study, a patient was considered to have persistent inflammation if at least 50% of their CVD-related measurements during the previous 5 years. Levels of 92 proteins with a recognized role in CVD were analyzed in the plasma using proximity extension assay (PEA) technology (Olink Target 96 CVD III panel, Cobiomic Biosciences).

**Results:** SpA patients showed higher rates of CVD comorbidities compared to HDs. Plasma levels of TNF-R1, RARRRES-2, CHISL1, GPGYRP-1, CTSD, UAPR, IL2RA, TIMP-4, CTSB, GDF-15, MMP-9, and PDGF-A were significantly increased in SpA compared to HDs. Specifically, these proteins are also related to biological processes such as neutrophil degranulation, immune response, cell activation, attherosclerosis, apoptosis, and inflammatory response. Besides, a significant alteration of these CVD-related proteins in SpA was also associated with the presence of arterial hypertension, insulin resistance, obesity, hyperuricemia, and high levels of acute phase reactants. 36% of SpA patients displayed persistent inflammation at at least 50% of their CVD-related measurements. Levels of 92 proteins with a recognized role in CVD were analyzed in the plasma using proximity extension assay (PEA) technology (Olink Target 96 CVD III panel, Cobiomic Biosciences).

**Conclusions:** Persistent inflammation in SpA has stronger associations with persistent inflammation in SpA than HDs. Specifically, these proteins are also related to biological processes such as neutrophil degranulation, immune response, cell activation, attherosclerosis, apoptosis, and inflammatory response. Besides, a significant alteration of these CVD-related proteins in SpA was also associated with the presence of arterial hypertension, insulin resistance, obesity, hyperuricemia, and high levels of acute phase reactants. 36% of SpA patients displayed persistent inflammation at at least 50% of their CVD-related measurements. Levels of 92 proteins with a recognized role in CVD were analyzed in the plasma using proximity extension assay (PEA) technology (Olink Target 96 CVD III panel, Cobiomic Biosciences).

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

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**POS0433 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MIRNA-1-3P, INTERLEUKIN-17 AND TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Genetics/Epigenetics, Biomarkers

A. Pekacova1,2, J. Baloun1, K. Bubova1,2, M. Gregova1,2, S. Foretova1,2, J. Honorova1,2, M. Husakova1,2, K. Mintalova1, V. Cervenak1,2, M. Tomcik1,2, V. Wanten1,2, L. Boncol1,2, Institute of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic; 3First Faculty of Medicine Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; 4St Anne's University Hospital and Faculty of Medicine, Masarik University, Department of Imaging, Brno, Czech Republic

**Background:** microRNAs (miRNAs) are small non-coding RNAs that can regulate gene expression and mirror the patient’s health condition. miRNAs deregulation is considered a crucial factor in the development and progression of various diseases, including axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) [1].

**Objectives:** the aim of the study was to profile the miRNome of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and to identify specific miRNAs and their association with several cytokines, axSpA disease activity and spinal impairment.

**Methods:** Massive parallel sequencing (MPS, Illumina) was performed for miRNAs profiling in 96 subjects (38 patients with non-radiographic (nr-) axSpA, 38 patients with radiographic (r-) axSpA and 20 healthy controls (HC)). The expression of candidate miRNAs was validated using the qRT-PCR system (SmartChip) on a new cohort of 47 patients with nr-axSpA. 44 patients with r-axSpA and 50 HC. Disease activity was determined using C-reactive protein (CRP) and Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS). Radiographs of the cervical and lumbar spine were assessed by two independent blinded readers using modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Score (mSASSS). We employed DESeq2 and general linear modeling with a negative binomial assumption (GLM-NB) to evaluate the association to the radiographic form, ASDAS and CRP. Linear modelling was used to determine the association between miRNAs and laboratory/clinical parameters adjusted for CRP, age, and sex.

**Results:** MPS detected 432 miRNAs; however, only 90 miRNAs passed through the selection criteria (p<0.05, BaseMean=10, the difference in log2FC<0.5). We selected 45 miRNAs for validation based on the selection criteria and the literature. We validated miR-1-3p (p=0.006, FC=-1.757) to be upregulated and miR-1248 (p=0.002, FC=-1.125) and miR-1246 (p=0.002, FC = -1.125) to be downregulated in patients with axSpA compared to HC. In addition, the expression of miR-1-3p correlated with the plasma levels of IL-17 (p=0.016, r=0.25) and TNF (p=0.028, r=0.22), but not with the gene expression of IL-17 or TNF in PBMCs. miR-1-3p (p=0.039, β=0.685) as well as miR-1248 (p<0.001, β=0.207) correlated with the IL-8 gene expression in PBMCs. None of the miRNAs distinguished between radiographic and non-radiographic disease or correlated with disease activity or radiographic spinal impairment.

**Conclusion:** This cross-sectional study failed to demonstrate association between cellular miRNAs, disease activity or spinal impairment, but the association between miR-1-3p, IL-17 and TNF may suggest its role in the pathogenesis of axSpA.

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** Supported by MCrH No. 023728, BMBF-CZ LM2018125 and SVV 250 523.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2934

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**POS0434 CCL20 INHIBITION AMELIORATES PERIPHERAL ARTHRITIS IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS**

**Keywords:** Animal models, Adaptive immunity, Spondyloarthritis

Y. W. Park1, H. J. Kim1, Y. J. Lee2,3, M. J. Kim2, H. I. Lee1, S. C. Shin1,9, S. Jo9, T. H. Kim3, E. J. Won4, T. J. Kim1. 1Chonnam National University Medical School and Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Chonnam National University Medical School and Hospital, Department of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Graduate School of Chonnam National University, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Daejeon
Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a rheumatic disease characterized by chronic inflammation. Several lines of evidence implicate interleukin (IL)-17A-secreting T helper (Th)17 cells in AS pathogenesis. One of the receptors of Th17 cell, C-C motif chemokine ligand 20 (CCL20) is known to attract C-C chemokine receptor 6 (CCR6) expressing cells to the site of inflammation. However, the role and mechanisms of CCL20 in AS are not well understood.

Objectives: Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the function of CCL20 in patients with AS.

Methods: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and synovial fluid mononuclear cells (SFMCs) were obtained from AS patients. Inflammatory cytokine-producing cells were analyzed using flow cytometry and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). To determine the direct effect of cell migration in the presence of CCL20, a transwell migration assay was performed. In in vivo experiments, SKG mice were treated with either CCL20 blocking antibody or isotype control antibody. Clinical signs of mice were monitored twice a week and scored by two independent observers. At the experimental endpoint, specimens of the ankle was obtained from mice. Two blinded readers then performed pathological scoring for arthritis using immunohistochemistry.

Results: IL-17A producing cells were significantly higher expressed in SFMCs of AS patients than in PBMCs of AS or healthy controls. CCL20-positive cells showed significantly increased IL-17A production than CCL20-negative cells. To confirm the relationship between CCL20 and IL-17A production, IL-17A expression was observed with either CCL20 agonist or antagonist. Treatment with CCL20 agonist showed an increase in IL-17A in PBMCs from AS patients. Meanwhile decreasing IL-17A level was observed in SFMCs from AS patients when treated with CCL20 inhibitors. In cell migration assay experiments, cell migration increased when CCL20 was added to the CD4-positive cells. In vivo model, CCL20 inhibitors significantly suppressed arthritis symptoms (Figure 1). In addition, histologic evaluation showed that mice treated with CCL20 inhibitor had lower arthritis scores than isotype-treated control mice.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates CCL20 blockade improved joint inflammation in AS. Therefore, CCL20-target therapy could be a promising treatment for AS.

Figure 1. CCL20 inhibition ameliorates peripheral arthritis in SKG mice

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0436 INCREASED EXPRESSION OF PATHWAYS INVOLVED IN B CELL ACTIVATION IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Cell biology, Adaptive immunity

H. Wilbrink1, A. Spoorenberg2, F. G. M. Kroese3, G. M. Vrastappen1. 1University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: In spite of advancements in treatment of ankylosing spondylitis (AS), its pathological mechanism remains incompletely understood. The current evidence suggests that AS is both an autoimmune and autoimmune disease involving innate immune cells along with autoreactive lymphocytes. B cells have received little attention regarding their role in the pathogenesis of ankylosing spondylitis (AS), although the available evidence shows presence of B cells at inflammatory sites, imbalances in B cell subsets, presence of autoreactive cells (anti-CDF/CLIP), and beneficial effects of B cell depletion (anti-CD20) with rituximab [1]. In AS, the overarching picture portrays increased B cell activation, although it is unclear whether B cells directly affect pathogenesis, or are merely bystanders in the disease process.

Objectives: Our main objective was to study gene expression and gene signaling pathways involved in B cell activation in AS. To this end, we analysed the transcriptomic profile of isolated peripheral B cells from AS patients, healthy donors (HD) and patients with primary Sjögren syndrome (pSS), a typical B-cell-associated autoimmune disease.

Methods: RNA was isolated from CD19+ B cells sorted from peripheral blood mononuclear cells of 8 AS patients (mean age 48.0 ± 9.7 years, 63% male, mean ASDAS 2.5 ± 0.7), 8 sex and age-matched HDs (42.3 ± 17.8 years, 63% male) and 8 age-matched pSS patients (48.4 ± 17.8 years, 13% male). Next, characterization of differentially expressed genes was performed using transcriptomic analysis by the NanoString ProFile quantification system and a direct hybridization technique without PCR amplification. After normalization and z-score scaling of pathway genes, pathway scores were calculated based on the first principle component using nCounter advanced analysis software. P-values <0.05 were considered significant.

Results: All samples passed quality control, except for one pSS patient sample that was being flagged as an outlier by the nCounter advanced analyses software. Analysis of differential gene expression between AS patients and HDs revealed upregulation of 8 genes, including MAPK14, KMT2A and PKM, in B
cells from AS patients, and downregulation of two genes, DDIT4 and ATG5. In AS patients, the relative expression of B cell receptor (BCR) signalling (n=60 genes) and Fc receptors and phagocytosis (n=55 genes) pathway genes were both significantly enriched compared to HDs (Figure 1). Although not significant, these pathways also displayed higher pathway scores in pSS patients compared to HDs (P=0.30 and P=0.37, respectively). Other gene pathways involved in B cell activation, such as toll-like receptor signalling were not significantly enriched.

**Conclusion:** In this study, we observed several differentially expressed genes involved in signal transduction pathways in B cells from AS patients. Furthermore, we showed increased expression of gene pathways involved in B cell activation in patients with AS compared to HDs. The BCR-mediated activation in AS displays similarities to a bona fide autoimmune disease pSS. These results suggest active involvement of B cells in the disease process of AS.

**REFERENCE:**

Figure 1. Gene pathway scores of (A) B cell receptor signalling and (B) Fc receptors and phagocytosis between AS, pSS patients and HDs. P-values <0.05 were considered significant.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Rick Wilbrink: None declared, Anneke Spoorenberg Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, MSD, UCB, Lilly and Novartis, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Pfizer, Union Chimique Belge (UCB), Novartis, Frans G.M. Kroese Speakers bureau: BMS Roche and Jannsen-Cilag, Consultant of: BMS, Grant/research support from: unrestricted grants from BMS, Gwenny M. Verstappen: None declared.

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**POS0437 WITHDRAWN**

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**POS0438 IDENTIFICATION OF THREE AUTOPHAGY-RELATED HUB BIOMARKERS OF ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS VIA BIOINFORMATICS ANALYSIS OF RNA SEQUENCING DATA OF MACROPHAGES**

**Keywords:** Innate immunity, Spondyloarthritis, Biomarkers

Y. Liang, Y. Jiang, W. Weng, J. Chen, X. Luo, J. Gu. *Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Guangzhou, China*

**Background:** Autophagy is associated with the occurrence and progression of a variety of diseases, such as cancers, cardiovascular diseases, and autoimmune diseases. Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a chronic inflammatory disease. Its pathological feature includes local infiltration of inflammatory cells among which macrophages play a dominant role [1]. Currently, previous studies have confirmed that autophagy may be involved in the occurrence and development of autoimmune diseases, such as AS [2]. However, there are few articles discussing which molecule plays a key role in the progress of autophagy of macrophage in patient with AS.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to detect gene expression in macrophages that originated from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) in patients with AS by RNA sequencing (RNA seq) technology, and to identify underlying autophagy-related genes of AS by bioinformatics analysis.

**Methods:** Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from 4 cases of AS and 4 cases of healthy control (HC) from were isolated and differentiated into M1 macrophages. These cells were then sent to BGI company for RNA seq. Then, Gene
Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) enrichment analysis, screening of differentially expressed genes (DEGs), Gene Ontology (GO) function annotation, Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathway analysis of DEGs were conducted. Protein-Protein Interaction (PPI) network of DEGs was constructed, and cluster association analysis was performed by MOCCDE plug-in in cytoscape software. Human autophagy-related genes were downloaded from Human Autophagy Database (HADb). Finally, we took the intersected of human autophagy-related genes and those involved in the top 5 clusters by cluster association analysis.

**Results:** 1467 DEGs were identified by DESeq2 package in R. Among them, 394 genes were significantly up-regulated while 1083 genes were significantly down-regulated. GO and KEGG enrichment analysis of DEGs revealed several terms related to cell cycle. GSEA analysis of all sequencing data revealed a number of terms related to cell cycle and lysosomes. The PPI network of 1467 DEGs was constructed by using STRING database, and 45 clusters were obtained by using MOCCDE plug-in of cytoscape software for cluster association analysis. The intersection of genes involved in the top 5 clusters and 219 autophagy-related genes downloaded from HADb were conducted to obtain 3 autophagy-related genes of AS, which were BIRC5, TP53 and CTBS.

**Conclusion:** Through RNA seq and bioinformatics analysis, we identified 3 potential autophagy-related genes of AS. BIRC5, TP53 and CTBS may inhibit the occurrence and development of AS by regulating autophagy.

**REFERENCES:**


**Methods:** A cohort of 20 patients with axSpA was selected based on the radiographic progression for the purpose of this preliminary study. Baseline and two-year radiographs of the cervical and lumbar spine were independently assessed by two blinded readers using modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spine Score (mSASSS). No radiographic progression and significant radiographic progression were characterized as a change in mSASSS ≤0 and >2, respectively, from baseline to year two. Disease activity was determined using C-reactive protein (CRP), Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Activity Disease Activity Index (BASDAI). The potential plasma samples were profiled using liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry detection, and the difference in protein concentration was evaluated using linear mixed-effects modelling.

**Results:** Our cohort included ten patients without radiographic spinal progression (mean±SD age 34.8±9.0 years, 40% female) and ten patients (mean±SD age 40.8±9.0 years, 40% female) who developed the progression after two years (mean±SD change in mSASSS 9.8±8.5). Additionally, all of included patients 14 were classified as radiographic axSpA (mean±SD age 36.9±8.6 years, 28.6% female) and six as non-radiographic axSpA (mean±SD age 40.2±9.2 years, 66.7% female). The high-throughput profiling of plasma proteome detected 489 quantifiable proteins and our statistical analysis revealed 30 proteins with different concentrations between patients without and with radiographic progression (p<0.05 for all). Out of these proteins, haptoglobin (1.76-fold, p<0.001) and serum amyloid P-component (SAP) (1.57-fold, p<0.001) were upregulated, while gelosin (1.23-fold, p=0.001) was downregulated in patients with mSASSS progression compared to those without radiographic progression (Figure 1A). In addition, all these proteins significantly correlated with mSASSS, CRP or ASDAS (Figure 1A). Furthermore, after adjustment for CRP, only SAP and gelosin, which were previously associated with axSpA[1,2], were independently associated with structural progression.

**Conclusion:** We identified two plasma proteins with the potential to independently predict the radiographic progression of axSpA. Further studies in a larger cohort of patients are needed to validate these data.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by SVV 260 523, BBMRI-CZ LM2018125, and MHCR No. 023728.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4728

**POS0440**

**SCREENING FOR PLASMA BIOMARKERS PREDICTING RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A PRELIMINARY STUDY**

**Keywords:** -omics, Spondyloarthritides, Biomarkers

**Methods:** A cohort of 20 patients with axSpA was selected based on the radiographic progression for the purpose of this preliminary study. Baseline and two-year radiographs of the cervical and lumbar spine were independently assessed by two blinded readers using modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spine Score (mSASSS). No radiographic progression and significant radiographic progression were characterized as a change in mSASSS ≤0 and >2, respectively, from baseline to year two. Disease activity was determined using C-reactive protein (CRP), Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Activity Disease Activity Index (BASDAI). The potential plasma samples were profiled using liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry detection, and the difference in protein concentration was evaluated using linear mixed-effects modelling.

**Results:** Our cohort included ten patients without radiographic spinal progression (mean±SD age 34.8±9.0 years, 40% female) and ten patients (mean±SD age 40.8±9.0 years, 40% female) who developed the progression after two years (mean±SD change in mSASSS 9.8±8.5). Additionally, all of included patients 14 were classified as radiographic axSpA (mean±SD age 36.9±8.6 years, 28.6% female) and six as non-radiographic axSpA (mean±SD age 40.2±9.2 years, 66.7% female). The high-throughput profiling of plasma proteome detected 489 quantifiable proteins and our statistical analysis revealed 30 proteins with different concentrations between patients without and with radiographic progression (p<0.05 for all). Out of these proteins, haptoglobin (1.76-fold, p<0.001) and serum amyloid P-component (SAP) (1.57-fold, p<0.001) were upregulated, while gelosin (1.23-fold, p=0.001) was downregulated in patients with mSASSS progression compared to those without radiographic progression (Figure 1A). In addition, all these proteins significantly correlated with mSASSS, CRP or ASDAS (Figure 1A). Furthermore, after adjustment for CRP, only SAP and gelosin, which were previously associated with axSpA[1,2], were independently associated with structural progression.

**Conclusion:** We identified two plasma proteins with the potential to independently predict the radiographic progression of axSpA. Further studies in a larger cohort of patients are needed to validate these data.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by SVV 260 523, BBMRI-CZ LM2018125, and MHCR No. 023728.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4728
Background: MAIT (mucosal associated invariant T) cells are involved in mucosal defense against bacteria. This cellular subset is characterized by a semi-invariant αβ TCR and the expression of CD161. In patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), previous works reported a decreased frequency of circulating MAIT cells compared to normal subjects. IL-17A is a relevant cytokine involved in the pathophysiology of MAIT cells; they are a cellular source of IL-17 and IL-17+ MAIT cells were found increased in axSpA. We have previously reported an increased frequency of IFNγ/IL-17 MAIT cells as well as IL-22+ MAIT cells in axSpA[1].

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to complete our previous results by evaluating activation markers and chemokine receptor/integrin expression, especially for gut homing, in MAIT cells.

Methods: patients exhibited axSpA (ASAS criteria) with a radiographic (r-ax SpA) or non-radiographic (nr-ax SpA) form. They all were under NSAIDs and biologic naïve. Healthy subjects were recruited as controls (HC). Circulating SpA (ax SpA), previous works reported a decreased frequency of circulating MAIT cells were found increased in ax SpA. We have previously reported an increased frequency of IFNγ/IL-17 MAIT cells as well as IL-22+ MAIT cells in axSpA[1].

Results: 26 patients were included (11 r-ax SpA; 9 males [M]; mean age 54.1 ± 19.6 years; disease duration: 16.2 years; ASDAS score: 4.1; and 15 nr-ax SpA: 7 M; age: 36.4 ± 13.3; ASDAS: 5.6) and 27 HC (16 M; age: 43 ± 12.7). In patients with r-ax SpA, we observed an increased frequency of activated CD3+ CD69+ MAIT cells and CD3+ MAIT cells expressing the gut homing markers CCR9 and CD49d, as compared to HC (p <0.05). These higher frequencies were not observed in patients with nr-ax SpA. In addition, when examining the CD8+ MAIT population, similar higher frequencies of cells positive for CD69, CCR9 and CD49d were observed in patients with r-ax SpA compared to HC and patients with nr-ax SpA (p<0.01 and p<0.05, respectively). These modifications were specific for MAIT cells and were not observed in conventional CD4+ or CD8+ T lymphocytes.

Table.  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HC</th>
<th>r-ax SpA</th>
<th>nr-ax SpA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% CD69+ MAIT CD3+</td>
<td>18.4 ± 9.9</td>
<td>20.3 ± 14.7 *</td>
<td>19.7 ± 10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% CD69+ MAIT CD8+</td>
<td>19.1 ± 11.4</td>
<td>20.9 ± 15.6</td>
<td>20.3 ± 12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% CD49dCCR9 MAIT CD3+</td>
<td>1.6 ± 1.7</td>
<td>2.5 ± 1.6 *</td>
<td>1.9 ± 2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% CD49dCCR9 MAIT CD8+</td>
<td>1.4 ± 1.7</td>
<td>2.5 ± 1.8 **</td>
<td>1.7 ± 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Patients with r-ax SpA are characterized by an increased frequency of activated MAIT cells that expressed homing receptors (chemokine and integrin) for the gut. These results confirm that MAIT cells are altered in axSpA and highlight the relationships between axSpA and gut inflammation, especially for the radiographic form.

Figure 1.

REFERENCE:
Rheumatoid arthritis - prognosis, predictors and outcome

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides

X. Yu1, S. Hester2, K. Harnden3, R. Chowdhury4, L. Duquenne5, R. Leiton5, Z. Mustuch6, J. Meade1, T. Do1, R. Fischer2, K. Midwood2, P. Emery2,3, K. Manka1,4,5. Oral Biology, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Target Discovery Institute, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom; 3NIHR, Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4Leeds Institute of Rheumatism and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom; 5School of Dentistry, University of Leeds; Leeds, United Kingdom; 6Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom

Background: RA autoimmunity may be initiated at mucosal sites, including the periodontium. Anti-CCP positive at-risk individuals without synovitis (CCP+ at-risk) have an increased prevalence of periodontal disease (PD) and Porphyrmonas gingivalis and an oral dysbiosis [1]. P gingivalis preferentially citrullinates C-terminal peptides by virtue of its peptidylarginine deiminase (PPAD) enzyme (2), whereas other periodontal bacteria predominantly induce endocitrullination [3]. These factors may trigger anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA), although the relative contribution of local C-terminal and endocitrullination is unclear.

Objectives: To determine the relative abundance of endo- and C-terminally citrullinated RA autoantigens in the gingival crevicular fluid (GCF) of CCP+ at-risk individuals with PD compared with controls.

Methods: CCP+ at-risk were identified from a UK cohort of anti-CCP+ individuals with musculoskeletal symptoms but no clinical synovitis. CCP+ at-risk underwent comprehensive periodontal assessment by a dentist, including GCF sampling from periodontally diseased sites. Control subjects (i.e. CCP+) with and without periodontal disease were also sampled. GCF was analysed by liquid chromatography mass spectrometry/mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) to identify endo- and C-terminally citrullinated peptides. The t-test was used for the statistical analysis.

Results: 25 CCP+ at-risk, 9 and 10 controls with and without PD respectively were recruited for the GCF sampling. Mass spectrometry identified citrullination in 114 proteins in GCF, including 16 RA autoantigens (vimentin, myeloid cell nuclear differentiation antigen, keratin, type III cytokeratin), heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein (A2/B1, K and U), fibrinogen (alpha and beta chain), histone (H1.4, H1.5, H1x, and H4), actin (cytoplasmic 2), apolipoprotein (A-I and A-IV). In CCP+ at-risk with PD and controls without PD there was higher total abundance of endocitrullinated RA autoantigens compared with c-terminal citrullinated autoantigens in GCF (p<0.05, Figure 1). In CCP+ at-risk with PD 15 endocitrullinated RA autoantigens were compared with only 4 c-terminally citrullinated RA autoantigens were identified (Figure 1). Fewer citrullinated RA autoantigens were identified in control subjects compared with CCP+ at-risk. More endocitrullinated compared with C-terminally citrullinated RA autoantigens were identified in controls with and without PD (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Several citrullinated RA autoantigens are present in the GCF of CCP+ at-risk individuals with periodontal disease but no synovitis. We identified endocitrullination as generally more abundant than C-terminal citrullination in both CCP+ at-risk and seronegative controls, suggesting PPAD may not be the primary source of citrullination. These data support the hypothesis that local citrullination of RA autoantigens at the periodontium may be an early driver of the ACPA response in RA.

REFERENCES:

CLINICAL OUTCOMES OF ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WHO UNDERWENT PERCUTANEOUS CORONARY INTERVENTION: A NATIONWIDE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease

B. Y. Kim1, L. Kyung-Amy2, J. H. Jung3, S. W. Nam4, J. E. Park5, Gangneung Asan Hospital, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Gangneung, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); Soochunhyang University Seoul Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); Korea University College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Ansan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); Wonju Severance Christian Hospital, Wonju University Wonju College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Wonju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); Konkuk University Chungju Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Chungju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a systemic inflammatory arthritis, is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Despite an increased proportion of elderly patients with RA and an increased prevalence of patients with RA undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), studies on the PCI outcomes in elderly patients with RA are limited and controversial.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the prognosis of elderly patients with and without RA who underwent PCI and the risk factors associated with the prognosis.

Methods: The Korean National Health Insurance Service claims database was used to extract data on 74623 patients (14,074 patients with RA and 60,549 patients without RA) aged 65 years or older who were diagnosed with acute coronary syndrome and underwent PCI between 2008 and 2019. The primary outcome was all-cause mortality between elderly patients with and without RA. The secondary outcome was all-cause mortality in elderly patients with RA who consist of patients with elderly onset RA that manifests after the age of 65 and elderly patients who presented with young onset RA earlier in life.

Results: During a 10-year follow-up, the survival rate was lower in patients with RA than in those without RA (with RA: 53.7% vs. without RA: 58.3%, log-rank P<0.001). Compared to patients without RA, patients with elderly onset RA have poor survival outcomes and patients with young onset RA have good survival outcomes (with elderly onset RA: 48.1% vs. with young onset RA: 73.7% vs. without RA: 58.3%, log-rank P<0.001). Multivariable logistic regression analyses showed that diabetes mellitus (hazard ratio (HR): 1.39, 95% confidence intervals (CI) 1.35-1.43, P<0.001), chronic kidney disease (HR=3.97, 95% CI 3.63-4.34, P<0.001), and PCI due to myocardial infarction (HRs=1.35, 95% CI 1.33-1.37, P<0.001) were the independent risk factors for all-cause mortality.

Conclusion: Elderly patients with RA who underwent PCI for acute coronary syndrome have an increased rate of all-cause mortality compared to general elderly patients. Among elderly patients with RA, patients with elderly onset RA particularly have poor survival outcomes. Based on the aspects of RA and cardiovascular disease in elderly patients, the clinical practice should focus on more detailed and active prevention methods for a better prognosis.

REFERENCES:
Mortality trends among rheumatoid arthritis patients in Western Australia

K. Almutairi1, C. Inderjeeth1, D. Preen2, H. Keen1, J. Nossent1.

1The University of Western Australia, School of Medicine, Crawley, Australia; 2The University of Western Australia, School of Population and Global Health, Crawley, Australia

Background: Mortality rates for patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) have reportedly improved in the past decades due to increasing access to specialised rheumatology care [1], early introduction of DMARDs with combination regimens [2], and subsequent biologics therapies [3]. However, the mortality rate remains higher than the general population, reducing the life expectancy by approximately ten years [4-5]. With scarce comparative data on mortality in Australian RA patients, we investigated temporal changes in standardised mortality rates for RA patients using longitudinal linked population-wide health data in Western Australia (WA) over the period 1980 to 2015.

Objectives: The aim of the study to estimate temporal standardised mortality rates over a 35-year period and identified leading causes of death and measured median years Lost for the RA cohort Females Male.

Methods: The study included 17,125 patients with a first-time hospital contact for RA (ICD-10-AM M05.00–M06.99 and ICD-9-AM 714) in the study period. Standardised mortality rate ratios (SMRRs) for the RA cohort versus the WA general population was estimated using direct age standardisation. We analysed standard mortality rates (SMRs) for RA patients using longitudinal linked population-wide health data in Western Australia (WA) over the period 1980 to 2015.

Results: Over the study period, SMRR was 2.5-folds (95%CI: 2.52-2.65) higher for RA patients than for the general population (Table 1), with a sex- and age-specific SMRR of 2.24 (95%CI 2.15–2.34) in males and 3.09 (95%CI 3.00–3.19) in females (Figure 1). The overall leading causes of death were diseases of the circulatory system, except among 30-44-year-olds in the 1991–2000 period, neoplasms was the leading cause of death. The median life years lost for the RA cohort were 5.7 years for females and 5.1 years for males over the study period (Table 1).

Conclusion: The mortality rate in RA patients in WA has decreased but remains higher than in Australian population. Malignant neoplasms were the second leading causes of death, and lung cancer was leading cause of cancer mortality. Together these data demonstrate the importance of screening and management for comorbidities in RA patients, especially cancer.

Table 1. The median life years lost for the Rheumatoid Arthritis cohort over study time periods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study periods</th>
<th>Median life years lost</th>
<th>Percentage change (%)</th>
<th>Median life years lost</th>
<th>Percentage change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1990</td>
<td>5.1 (3.4-8)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5.7 (3.9-9.1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-2000</td>
<td>6.1 (4.4-9.4)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>7.4 (5.10-12)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2010</td>
<td>4.6 (3.2-7.3)</td>
<td>-14.8</td>
<td>5.0 (3.6-8.3)</td>
<td>-20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2015</td>
<td>4.3 (3.1-7.7)</td>
<td>-6.5</td>
<td>5.2 (3.4-9.1)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Standardised mortality rate ratios for patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis by sex and age in Western Australia (1980-2015). RA= Rheumatoid Arthritis, M= Male, F= Female, SMRR= Standardised mortality rate ratio.

REFERENCES:
Registations and staff at the Western Australian Data Linkage Branch to assist in the provision of data. Special thanks to the University of Western Australia to support KA with an Australian Government Research Training Program PhD Scholarship and the Australian Rheumatology Association WA for Research Fellowship Award.

Disclose of Interests: Khalid Almutairi: None declared, Charles Inderjeeth Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, David Preen: None declared, Helen Keen Speakers bureau: Pfizer Australia and Abbvie Australia, Johannes Nossent Speakers bureau: Janssen.

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POS0446

URINARY METHOTREXATE DOSAGE AS AN ADHERENCE MEASUREMENT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Treat to target

N. Theate1, M. Geoffroy1, L. Kanagaratnam2, G. Gozalo2, B. Lois1, I. Charlott-Lambrecht1, A. Hittinger1, Z. Djeraida3, J. H. Salmon3. 1CHU de Reims, Rhumatologie, 51100, France; 2CHU de Reims, Aide méthodologique, pôle recherche et santé publique, 51100, France, 3CHU de Reims, Pharmacologie, 51100, France

Background: Non-adherence to rheumatoid arthritis treatments is common and must be identified, especially with the treat-to-target strategy. A methotrexate (MTX) urinary dosage (METU) was developed using high performance liquid chromatography by spectrometry method (HPLC-MS/MS).

Objectives: The aim of our study was to assess medication compliance for MTX in RA using METU under real-life conditions and to compare it with the usual indirect adherence measurement techniques.

Methods: We conducted a prospective study at the CHU de Reims. Patient inclusion comprised of RA patients over 18 years old who have been using MTX for more than 6 months. Patients were invited to fill demographic, clinical and psychological data and other adherence measurement techniques (the COR and the MPR). A urinary sample was taken to measure MTX and information about adherence was collected through the MISS questionnaire.

Results: 84 patients with RA were analyzed, 26 using oral MTX and 58 subcutaneous MTX; 73% female, mean age 61.5 years, mean dose 15mg/week, 62% associated with biotherapy. 77 patients (91.7%) were adherent to treatment according to METU, whereas MPR and COR reported less adherence (69.5% and 61.9% respectively). MPR and METU were not significantly different in subcutaneous MTX users (p = 0.059). Non-adherent patients had a higher number of tender joints and CRP value.

Table 1. Comparison’s results of the different adherence measurement techniques.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adherence</th>
<th>PO + SC (n=84)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>SC (n = 58)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>METU</td>
<td>91.7% (83.6 – 96.6)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>91.4 (81.0 – 97.1)</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPR</td>
<td>69.5% (58.4 – 79.2) *</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
<td>73.0 (64.7 – 87.5)</td>
<td>0.059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 77</td>
<td>n = 53</td>
<td></td>
<td>n = 64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COR</td>
<td>61.9% (50.7 – 72.3)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
<td>63.8 (50.1 – 76.0)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 52</td>
<td>n = 37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*missing data

Conclusion: This is the largest study evaluating MTX adherence treatment in RA patients using a urinary dosage. We identified that indirect adherence measurements did not reflect real life adherence. METU can be used in RA patients with unexplained response to treatment before escalating therapeutic strategy.

REFERENCES:

POS0447

DIFFICULTIES TO SLEEP EXPLAIN HIGH PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES VALUES IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS WITH NO SWOLLEN JOINTS

Keywords: Outcome measures

L. Weman1, H. Salo2, L. Kuusalo3, J. Huhtakangas4, P. Vähäsalo5, M. Backström6, J. Kärki7, T. Sokka-Iisler8. 1University of Eastern Finland, Faculty of Health Sciences, Kuopio, Finland; 2Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Data and analytics, Helsinki, Finland; 3Turku University Hospital, Centre for Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Turku, Finland; 4Kuopio University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Kuopio, Finland; 5University of Oulu, PEDEGO Research Unit, Oulu, Finland, 6Vaasa Central Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Vaasa, Finland; 7Kanta-Häme Central Hospital, Department of Children and Adolescents, Hämeenlinna, Finland; 8Central Finland Central Hospital, Department of rheumatology, Jyväskylä, Finland

Background: Patient reported outcomes (PROs) are valuable tools to understand how a patient is doing. Patient self-report of pain, fatigue and global health on a 100 mm Visual Analog Scale are routine measures in rheumatology and may be interpreted as measures of disease activity.

Objectives: To study whether good/poor sleep influences other clinical measures in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: A total of 13527 (72 % female) patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and 3644 (52 % female) patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) were included in the Finnish national quality register for inflammatory arthritides. Clinical data from the most recent outpatient clinic visit from January 1st 2021 to July 31st 2022 was used in this study. Patients were divided into groups by self-reported difficulty to sleep on a MDHAQ question “over the last week, were you able to get a good night’s sleep” with response options “without any difficulty” and “with some difficulty” as good sleep and “with much difficulty” and “unable to do” as poor sleep. Median values with interquartile ranges of other clinical measures were compared between the groups. Descriptive statistics and regression models were used for comparison with p<0.05 as a threshold for statistical significance.

Results: The mean (SD) age was 62 (14) for patients with RA and 55 (14) for patients with PsA. A total of 16 % of RA patients and 22 % of PsA patients had poor sleep. The values for DAS28, SJC 66, TJC 68, CRP and ESR were low in comparison with other groups. The VAS-values for pain, fatigue and PGA for RA patients with good sleep were 16 (6, 40), 17 (4, 42) and 23 (9, 46) and 54 (29, 74), 64 (43, 80) and 56 (39, 72) (p<0.001 for all comparisons) for patients with poor sleep. In patients with PsA, the corresponding numbers were 20 (6, 41), 17 (4, 40) and 19 (6, 38) and 59 (36, 74), 66 (44, 81) and 56 (38, 73) (p<0.001 for all comparisons). The results were similar for PROs in patients with PsA (n=942) and RA (n=2861) with an SJ66 of 0. (Figure 1)

Conclusion: The assessment of sleep is crucial for patients presenting severe symptoms without markers of disease activity.
Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joint</th>
<th>Total Erodes (%)</th>
<th>Total Swollen (%)</th>
<th>Total Tender (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shoulders</td>
<td>2 (0%)</td>
<td>27 (3%)</td>
<td>225 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbows</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>74 (8%)</td>
<td>139 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrist</td>
<td>69 (8%)</td>
<td>515 (57%)</td>
<td>459 (51%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee</td>
<td>1 (0%)</td>
<td>186 (21%)</td>
<td>270 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankle</td>
<td>1 (0%)</td>
<td>209 (23%)</td>
<td>266 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP1</td>
<td>29 (3%)</td>
<td>251 (28%)</td>
<td>266 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP2</td>
<td>47 (5%)</td>
<td>311 (34%)</td>
<td>303 (34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP3</td>
<td>36 (4%)</td>
<td>235 (26%)</td>
<td>272 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP4</td>
<td>18 (2%)</td>
<td>75 (8%)</td>
<td>161 (18%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most frequent swollen joint was the wrist (57%), followed by PIP3 (40%) and PIP2 (39%), MCP2 (34%), MCP1 (28%) and MCP3 (26%). Erosions were most frequent in MCP5 (14%), MCP3 (9%), wrists (8%), MCP1 and MCP2 (6%). Swollen and tender joints were well associated except for shoulder (3% vs 25%), wrist (8% vs 15%) and MCP5 (see table 1). We found a significant correlation between erosions and swelling for wrists, MCP1-3 joints and MCP5 joints. As expected, erosive joint was observed first in MCP5 (14%) followed by the MCP3 (9%) and the wrist (8%). MCP4 and 5 joint locations were more present in younger and MCP 2-4 in older patients. BL swelling in the large size joints (knee, elbow, shoulder and ankle), in the medium size joint (wrist) and the small size joints (only MCP3, IPP 1, 2 and MCP5) was highly associated with higher DAS28-CRP. BL swelling of the MCP1, 3, 4; MCP 1, 2, 5 was associated with erosive disease. In contrast, swelling of the knee was correlated with non erosive and seronegative RA. Swelling of joint location such as knee, shoulder, ankle, MCP 1, 5, MCP 5 and IPP 1, 2 was significantly correlated with a higher HAQ. Only swelling of MCP 1, 2, 5 was associated with the presence of ACPA antibodies. No difference was observed for smoking habits and gender. Comparison between BL joint location in patients achieving remission or not has been evaluated. Patients with BL erosion and swelling in the feet responded less to MTX of non-responder (respectively 16.2% vs 35.1% and 25% vs 35.1%). For patients with swollen wrist, we observed the same trend without significance. Smoking habits and rheumatoid factor positivity were more present in the non-responder group (29.6% and 66.1% versus 14% and 46.5%).

Conclusion: In our cohort of ERA naïve to DMARD, swelling was most present in wrist and hand joints (PIP 3 and 2). Erosions were most frequent in MTX joints and wrist. Clinical response to MTX was poorer in patients with swelling of the hand and knee as well as erosion of the foot. Joint location could be an additional prognostic factor in ERA for severity and response to MTX suggesting more intensive therapy.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3690

References:
NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Methods: Between 2012 and 2020, 7,435 deaths among 37,996 RA prevalent residents with RA were recorded, was linked with healthcare co-payments exemptions, hospital discharge records, and mortality records. RA was defined by a healthcare copayment exemption for or any hospital diagnosis of RA. We analyzed all-cause mortality until December 31, 2020. MFRs per 1,000 were stratified by year, sex, and age group. MFRs were derived, by comparing MFRs of the general regional population. Causes of death were coded using the ICD-10 coding system and age group. SMRs were derived, by comparing MFRs of the general regional population. SMR, and causes of death in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) in a population-based cohort of patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis: A POPULATION-BASED STUDY.

Background: Whether or not in the last years mortality is still increased in RA patients compared to the general population is controversial.

Objectives: To assess mortality rates (MFRs), standardized mortality ratios (SMRs), and causes of death in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) in a population-based study.

Methods: We analyzed linked administrative health databases of the Veneto Region (Italy, 4,900,000 residents): the population registry, where all residents are recorded, was linked with healthcare co-payments exemptions, hospital discharge records, and mortality records. RA was defined by a healthcare copayment exemption for or any hospital diagnosis of RA. We analyzed all-cause mortality until December 31, 2020. MFRs per 1,000 were stratified by year, sex, and age group. MFRs were derived, by comparing MFRs of the general regional population. Causes of death were coded using the ICD-10 coding system and were available until 31/12/2020; they were grouped in: RA, infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases (CVD), cancer, diabetes, or others.

Results: Between 2012 and 2020, 7,435 deaths among 37,996 RA prevalent cases occurred, corresponding to an average annual standardized MFR of 32.2 (95% CI 31.5; 33.0) per 1,000 persons. The median (IQR) age at death was 83 years (77-88), lower in males (81, 75-86) compared to females (84, 78-89). Standardized MFR was higher in males than in females (41.3, 95% 39.0-43.2 vs. 29.5, 95% CI 28.7, 30.3); notably, this was true across all age groups (Table 1). Causes of death were CVD 2,735 (37.1%), cancer 1,519 (20.6%), infections 827 (11.2%), RA 352 (4.8%), diabetes 208 (2.8%), trauma, poisoning, or post-surgical/procedural complications 197 (2.7%), and others 1,532 (20.6%). Out of 12,875 incident RA patients, 1,288 died during the study period, corresponding to a mortality rate of 21.3 (95% CI 20.2-22.5). The distribution of causes of death among incident cases was comparable to that observed among prevalent cases. Overall SMR was 1.28 (95% CI 1.21-1.35) and was higher in younger patients (<45 years old: 2.15, 95% CI 0.93-4.24 (Figure 1). Eight-year survival was significantly affected by age at diagnosis: 98.8% (95% CI 98.1%-99.2%) in patients aged <50 years, 95.8% (94.5%-96.8%) in patients aged 50-59, 94.2% (92.2%-95.7%) in patients aged 60-64, 84.1% (81.7%-86.2%) in those aged 65-75, and 48.4% (45%-51.6%) in those aged >75 years.

Conclusion: Standardized mortality ratio is slightly increased in RA patients compared to the general population, especially in younger patients. Despite that, eight-year survival in subjects <45 is good. CVD and cancer represent the main causes of death in RA, whereas therapy-related complications such as infections account for a low proportion of deceases.

Table 1. Deaths and mortality rates among 37,996 prevalent RA cases (2012 - 2021).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Patients at Jan 1st</th>
<th>Deaths Jan 1st</th>
<th>Rate x1000 residents with RA</th>
<th>Standardized mortality rates x1000 residents (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOT M F</td>
<td>M F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23402</td>
<td>5811 17591</td>
<td>705 199 506 30 314 28 28 30</td>
<td>34.3 (31.8; 46.9 39.3; 30.7 36.9) (58.3) [28.8; 37.4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>24035</td>
<td>5983 18052</td>
<td>721 201 520 30 33.6 28 28.8 32.7 30.3 43.5 (37.2; 29.4) (35.1) (26.8) [31.9]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>24715</td>
<td>6194 18521</td>
<td>713 199 514 28 32.1 27.8 30.8 28.5 39.0 (33.4; 27.9) (33.1) (44.6) [25.5; 30.3]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25557</td>
<td>6436 19121</td>
<td>814 209 605 31 32.5 31.6 33.1 30.8 29.8 (34.2; 32.1) (35.3) (45.4) [28.7; 33.6]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>26173</td>
<td>6656 19517</td>
<td>797 216 581 30.5 32.5 29.8 30.9 28.8 37.6 (32.4; 28.6) (33.1) (42.7) [26.3; 30.9]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>26928</td>
<td>6924 20004</td>
<td>883 248 635 32.8 35.8 31.7 32.8 30.6 (41.9; 36.5; 30.2) (35.0) (472) [278; 32.5]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>27582</td>
<td>7095 20487</td>
<td>887 261 626 32.2 36.8 30.6 31.5 29.4 (41.9; 36.7; 26.8 33.6; 471) (26.3; 32.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>28239</td>
<td>7296 20543</td>
<td>888 242 614 31.4 33.2 30.8 30.4 28.4 37.3 (32.5; 28.3) (32.4) (42.1) [26.1; 30.5]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>28740</td>
<td>7446 21294</td>
<td>1027 304 723 35.7 40.8 34.0 33.7 31.6 (45.0 39.8; 30.5 35.8) (50.1) [28.2; 32.7]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>235371</td>
<td>59941 175530</td>
<td>7435 2079 5356 31.8 34.7 30.5 32.2 31.5 (41.3; 39.5; 29.5 33.0) (42.2) [28.7; 30.3]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES:
Poor sleep quality increases presenteeism but not absenteeism in RA patients

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Work-related issues, Rheumatoid arthritis

Z. Gula1,2, P. Kuszmiernsz2, J. Gąsowski3, G. Haugeberg4,5, M. Korkosz2,3. Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Poland, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Krakow, Poland; 1University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Krakow, Poland; 2University Hospital, Division of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Krakow, Poland; 3Sorlandet Hospital, Research Department, Kristiansand, Norway; 4NTNU, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Neuromedicine and Movement Science, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Trondheim, Norway

Background: Patients with inflammatory arthritis frequently suffer from poor sleep affecting their quality of life and work productivity i.e., higher presenteeism reflecting the disability to concentrate on work tasks despite being present at work. Sleep disturbances are reported to be more related to emotional factors than activity of the disease. However, sleep quality is rarely assessed in daily rheumatological practice and only few patients receive treatment for insomnia. Assessing sleep quality in MDHAQ form on a scale from 0 (without any difficulty) to 3 (unable to do) could be a simple tool to identify patients who need more profound evaluation of sleep disorders and intervention aimed at improving their work efficiency.

Objectives: Assessing the relationship between sleep quality and work outcomes in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) by 1) evaluating the frequency of sleep disorders according to 0–3-point scale in MDHAQ form 2) finding a cut-off point for presenteeism and absenteeism discriminating patients with or without sleep disturbances and 3) defining the association between disease activity, sleep quality and work outcomes.

Methods: Cross sectional study of one year data from PolNorRHEUMA registry. Sleep assessment was based on MDHAQ, and patients were categorized into 4 groups according to the severity of sleep disorders. To assess presenteeism and absenteeism we used the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment Questionnaire (WPAI). The results were obtained using STATISTICA Tibco 13.3 software. All continuous variables were non-normally distributed, thus were presented in the manuscript as a median and compared by Mann-Whitney U-test, Kruskal-Wallis or multiple repetition test. To assess the point discriminating between different groups of patients depending on the severity of the sleep disorder, the cut-off point of presenteeism was calculated based on receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves.

Results: Among 250 adult patients with RA, 63 (25%) didn’t have ANY difficulties with sleep, 130 (52%) had SOME, 43 (17%) had MUCH and 14 (6%) were UNABLE to sleep. After analyzing 130 available WPAI questionnaires, we found that the cut-off value for presenteeism of 40% differentiates people with good sleep (MDHAQ sleep= 0 and 1) from those with a poor sleep (MDHAQ sleep = 2 and 3) whereas the cut-off = 10% differentiate group with no sleep disorders from group 1+2+3 combined. Interestingly, no such relation was found for absenteeism. Patients with poor sleep were significantly older, had higher BMI, DAS28, SJC and TJC (but not ESR and CRP), higher pain, joint pain and fatigue. After adjusting for age, sex, BMI, and CRP we found positive association between presenteeism and MDHAQ sleep score, TJC and morning stiffness (beta=11.6, beta=0.9, beta=8.36 respectively) but no association with SJC. Only 16 (6.4%) patients received treatment for insomnia.

Conclusion: Poor sleep quality according to MDHAQ indicates a very high presenteeism and poor work productivity, with no influence on absenteeism. Sleep, TJC and morning stiffness but no other disease activity parameters contribute to presenteeism. Scoring 2 or 3 in a question regarding sleep quality in the MDHAQ form should lead to sleep evaluation and specific intervention, independent of RA activity.

References:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is one of the leading causes of morbidity and premature mortality in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients. Some studies have shown that Krebs von den Lungen-6 (KL-6) may be a valuable biomarker for diagnosis and stratifying prognosis in Rheumatoid Arthritis-Associated Interstitial Lung Disease (RA-ILD).

Objectives: To evaluate the diagnostic and prognostic value of serum KL-6 in RA-ILD patients.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective study that included patients with RA (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria) with available KL-6 data measured in blood serum at study enrolment. Patients were evaluated between February 2017 and October 2019 at a single center. ILD was diagnosed by high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) and confirmed by a multidisciplinary committee. Serum KL-6 levels were measured by Lumipulse G KL-6 Kit (Fujirebio, Japan), using Chemiluminescent enzyme immunoassay (CLEIA). The reference value for KL-6 in healthy subjects was 118-627 U/mL. The inter-assay variation coefficient of the reagent was ≤ 4.4%. We performed a bivariate analysis according to the presence of ILD and high levels of KL-6. Mortality was assessed in December 2022 by medical chart review.

Results: A total of 166 patients were included (36 RA-ILD and 130 RA-non-ILD). Patient baseline characteristics and clinical features are presented in Table 1. RA-ILD group had significantly higher KL-6 levels compared to RA-non-ILD group. 

Conclusion: Serum levels of KL-6 could be a valuable biomarker for the diagnosis and prognosis of RA-ILD.

References:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4097

Most patients received treatment for insomnia.
Table 1. Baseline characteristics in patients with RA according to serum KL-6 status.

| Variable                  | N=166 | High KL-6 n=35 | Normal KL-6 n=131 | P  
|---------------------------|-------|----------------|-------------------|------
| Age, years                | 62.9 ± 12.3 | 68.0 ± 10.0 | 61.5 ± 12.5 | 0.005  
| Male gender               | 39 (23.5) | 12 (34.3) | 27 (20.6) | 0.090  
| Ever smoking              | 86 (51.6) | 18 (51.4) | 68 (51.9) | 0.871  
| RA duration, years        | 9.1 ± 8.7 | 10.7 ± 7.8 | 8.7 ± 8.9 | 0.250  
| RF, positive              | 110 (66.3) | 25 (71.4) | 85 (64.9) | 0.467  
| RF, titer (IU)            | 219 ± 995 | 395 ± 665 | 172 ± 263 | 0.003  
| ACPA, positive           | 142 (85.0) | 28 (80.0) | 114 (86.7) | 0.284  
| ACPA, titer (CU)          | 12016 ± 21074 | 12576 ± 10962 | 11867 ± 23068 | 0.860  
| DLco, % predicted         | 63.0 ± 16.6 | 59.2 ± 17.3 | 67.9 ± 14.8 | 0.116  
| FVC, % predicted          | 79.7 ± 16.2 | 77.1 ± 15.7 | 82.8 ± 16.7 | 0.289  
| DLco, % predicted         | 63.0 ± 16.6 | 59.2 ± 17.3 | 67.9 ± 14.8 | 0.116  
| Mortality                 | 24 (14.5) | 12 (34.3) | 12 (9.2) | <0.001  

Acknowledgements: We want to thank all patients who have participated in the study, Funding: Hospital Clinic of Barcelona (Grant # 37 933) and the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Grant # RTI2018-094120-B-I00).

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Objectives: To explore which biological and non-biological factors associate with persistent active RA (pactiveRA) in the first year, despite use of conventional synthetic DMARDs.

Methods: Observational cohort data from adult early RA patients in the National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit (NEIAA) across England and Wales between May 2018 and Oct 2022, were acquired. Patients were defined as having pactiveRA based on three consecutive Disease Activity Scores (DAS28) of >3.2 at baseline, three and 12 months of follow up. Controlled RA (contRA) was defined as patients with a DAS28 ≤ 3.2 at the three and 12 month time-points, (having started off with a baseline DAS28 of >3.2). Univariable, followed by multivariable analyses were applied, the latter using stepwise forward logistic regression to explore associations with pactiveRA. PactiveRA status was used as the outcome variable. Age and gender were included in the models as a priori, with socioeconomic variables handled as the main independent variables (social deprivation, smoking-status and comorbidities) of interest, followed by clinical variables.

Results: A total of 682 patients with pactiveRA and 1,026 contRA patients were included. Compared to contRA, patients with pactiveRA were younger (aged 58, interquartile range (IQR): 49, 67) vs (62, IQR: 52,72), included more females (69% vs 59%), were current or ex-smokers, and more likely to have depression, lung and gastrointestinal disease. Also, patients with pactiveRA had worse scores in patient reported outcomes at baseline and Patient Health Questionnaire Anxiety and Depression Screener. Logistic regression results are summarised in the Table 1. Age, gender, living in a socially deprived area and being an ex or current smoker, were independently associated with pactiveRA in models controlling for markers of disease severity (seropositivity). Baseline corticosteroid use was also associated with pactiveRA (p<0.05 for all) and having a concomitant diagnosis of depression, odds ratio (OR) 2.30 (95% CI: 1.67,1.73), lung disease OR 1.46 (95% CI: 1.14,1.86) and gastric ulcer OR 1.71 (95% CI: 1.17,2.50) were significantly related to pactiveRA.

Conclusion: Sociodemographic factors (age, gender) and living in socially deprived areas were all associated with pactiveRA, independent of clinical and disease characteristics. Identifying 'adverse' socioeconomic factors that could drive persistent active disease early in the disease process, can help tailor interventions according to individual characteristics and need.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. PactiveRA: association with socioeconomic clinical and treatment variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent predictors at baseline</th>
<th>Univariable analysis OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>Multivariable analysis OR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98,0.99)</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98,0.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female gender</td>
<td>1.37 (1.15,1.63)</td>
<td>1.38 (1.16,1.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD (less social deprivation)</td>
<td>0.91 (0.88,0.94)</td>
<td>0.92 (0.89,0.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever smoked (referent never-smoked)</td>
<td>1.21 (1.02,1.43)</td>
<td>1.22 (1.02,1.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>2.30 (1.67,3.17)</td>
<td>2.15 (1.54,3.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung disease</td>
<td>1.46 (1.14,1.86)</td>
<td>1.44 (1.12,1.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach ulcer</td>
<td>1.71 (1.17,2.50)</td>
<td>1.72 (1.17,2.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCP and RA seropositivity</td>
<td>0.80 (0.67,0.94)</td>
<td>0.69 (0.58,0.83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids</td>
<td>1.52 (1.18,1.96)</td>
<td>1.50 (1.16,1.94)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclosure of Interests: Maryam Adas: None declared, Sam Norton: None declared, Andrew Cope: None declared, Maya H Buch: None declared, James Galloway Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Biotrvm, BMS, Celgene, Chugai, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Novartis, Roche, Sanofi, Sohi and UCB, Elena Nikiphorou Speakers bureau: Celltriton, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, AbbVie, Lilly, Fresenius, Consultant of: Celltriton, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, AbbVie, Lilly, Fresenius. Grant/research support from: Pfizer and Lilly.

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ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL FEATURES AS PREDICTORS OF INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO TNF THERAPIES—FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE MOLECULAR SIGNATURE RESPONSE CLASSIFIER

Keywords: Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis, Artificial intelligence


Background: Clinical and molecular features have been used to predict how RA patients will respond to distinct treatments. Clinical datasets are more readily available, more easily analyzed, and less costly to obtain than are molecular datasets [1]. But predictions based on clinical features alone are usually insufficiently reliable for deciding among treatment options [2]. Although molecular features are increasingly valuable for predicting treatment responses [3], physicians are often uncertain whether it is necessary to consider molecular measures [4]. And health care providers must determine whether the benefits of using molecular datasets justify their added costs. The molecular signature response classifier (MSRC) uses clinical features and molecular (genomic and serologic) features to identify RA patients unlikely to adequately respond to TNF therapies [5]. But the relative contribution of clinical and molecular features to MSRC performance has yet to be fully addressed. This information is invaluable because most RA patients respond inadequately to their initial treatments and response-prediction classifiers offer much promise for improving patient outcomes.

Objectives: Our objective was to evaluate how well clinical features alone predict inadequate TNFi responses in the patient cohort used for developing the MSRC.

Methods: Clinical features (sex, body mass index, and patient global assessment) and molecular features (expression levels of 8 genes, 10 single nucleotide polymorphisms, anti-CCP, and CRP) were used for RA patients in the CERTAIN study. Predictive models were trained through repeated cross-validation by using a random forest machine learning algorithm on 80% of the training data (n = 114); models were optimized by validation on the remaining 20% (n = 29). The final model was built on the entire training data set. Performance was then evaluated on the validation set (n = 175). Predictive models were then evaluated on the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC). All statistical analyses were performed by using Python 3.7.8.

Results: Classifier performance when using only molecular features (AUC, 0.65–0.68) was better than its performance when using only clinical ones (AUC, 0.41–0.60) (Table 1). Classifier performance was worst when using combined molecular and clinical features (AUC, 0.65–0.68).

Table. Prediction of inadequate ACR50 response to TNFi therapies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>AUC (cross validation)</th>
<th>AUC (validation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molecular and clinical features</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular features</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical features</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PiGA</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By decreasing RA disease activity, methotrexate could potentially help to reduce the risk of lymphoma development; however, there are conflicting data in the literature.

Objectives: To perform systematic literature review to evaluate the association between use of methotrexate in RA and the risk of developing lymphoma.

Methods: A systematic literature search was performed using the PubMed, Embase, and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials from inception through December 9, 2021. The search was limited to observational studies and randomized controlled trials (RCT) published in English that evaluated the association between use of MTX in RA and the development of lymphoma. Case series and reports were excluded. Two authors independently extracted data from final articles using a predefined data abstraction form and conflicts were resolved by a third reviewer. Quality assessments were performed.

Results: The study identification and selection process is summarized in Figure 1. Of the initial 839 articles identified, only eight articles met the eligibility criteria. The characteristics of these studies are depicted in Table 1. These were mostly observational studies except one RCT. Study sample sizes varied from 160 to 20,000 patients with RA. Five studies reported the odds/hazards ratio of occurrence of lymphoma in patients exposed to methotrexate versus not exposed to methotrexate. Three studies compared risk of lymphoma development in RA patients treated with methotrexate versus other biological DMARD of which one was an RCT. Most of the studies adjusted for variables such as age, sex, RA disease activity measures and inflammatory markers, concomitant RA medications and risk factors for cancer and RA. Of the eight studies, six did not find a significant association between MTX use and lymphoma, while two studies, conducted in Japan, reported a significant association. Included studies were of moderate to high quality. The heterogeneity of the included studies precluded conducting a meta-analysis.

Conclusion: These results confirm the importance of including molecular features in TNFi response–prediction models. Identifying new molecular biomarkers of treatment response can help address prediction challenges caused by the heterogeneity of RA. And considering clinical and molecular features together, with other assessments increases the predictive performance of precision medicine tests such as the MSRC.

REFERENCES:
Background: Newly diagnosed RA patients seen in routine care may present with more tender than swollen joints, that can persist throughout their early RA treatment. Little is known, about the impact of these tender-swollen joint count differences (TSJD) on patient-reported outcome measures (PROMS), such as function, pain interference, social participation and other health-related quality of life (HR-QoL) outcomes.

Methods: Data were from patients with active, early RA (symptoms<1 year, CDAX>2.8) enrolled in the Canadian Early Arthritis Cohort (CATCH) who completed detailed clinical assessments and PROMs including the PROMIS-29 (physical function, social participation, pain interference, fatigue, sleep disturbance, anxiety and depression) at baseline, 3-, 6- and 12-month between Jan 2016 and Aug 2022. 28-tender and 28-swollen joint counts (including 6 large and 22 small-joints) were performed by rheumatology team members. TSJD were calculated by subtracting SJC from TJC at each visit and categorized as <0, 1-4, 5-6, 7+. Adjusted associations between repeated measures of TSJD and PROMIS-29 HR-QoL domains were estimated in separate linear-mixed models adjusted for age, sex, education, smoking, comorbidities, osteoarthritis/back pain, and RA treatment. Stratified analyses by large vs small TSJD were also performed to examine potential differential impacts by joint distribution.

Results: 547 eligible early RA patients (70% female, mean (SD) age 56(15) years, mean (SD) disease duration 5.3 (2.9) months) evaluated at baseline. 287 (52%) had TSJD score>0. Of these, scores ranged from 1 to 4 in 200 (37%), 5 to 6 in 41 (8%) and 7+ in 46 (8%). The frequency of TSJD=0 decreased from 52% at BL to 32% at 12-months. Adjusted mean-change scores in all PROMIS-29 measures were worse with higher TSJDs over 1-year follow-up (Figure 1). TSJD 1 to 4 were associated with worse mean-change T scores for all PROMIS-29 outcomes, with TSJD>7 showing more pronounced worsening in physical function -2.6 [-4.0, -1.2] and participation satisfaction -3.5 [-5.3, -1.7] (negative scores indicating more improvement). Worse mean-change T scores were also associated with TSJD>7 (positive scores indicating worse symptoms): pain intereference 5.2 [3.5,6.9], fatigue 4.0 [2.1, 5.8], sleep problems 3.0 [1.4, 4.5,] anxiety 2.1 [0.4, 3.8] and depression 2.0 [0.4, 3.7]. There were fewer scores of TSJD 5 to 6, which was associated with worse mean-change scores in function, social participation and pain interference. The most striking mean-change scores were seen for large joint-TSJD scores of 5 to 6 in PROMIS function -6.1 [-10.3, -1.9] and social participation -6.1 [-11.6, -0.6], pain interference 6.6 [1.5, 11.7], compared to those found with small joint-TSJD and 28 joint-TSJD. Large joint-TSJD scores 1 to 4 were also associated with worse mean-change scores for all PROMIS measures.

Conclusion: Over half of patients with eRA have more tender than swollen joints, which persists in a third of patients. An increased TSJD score is associated with worse function, pain interference, social participation, and other HR-QoL outcomes over 1-year of follow-up. TSJD thresholds of 1 to 4 and >7 were associated with worsening of all PROMIS-29 outcomes. Having more tender than swollen large joints, at thresholds of 1 to 4 and 5 to 6, was associated with the most pronounced worsening of PROMs. Elevated TSJD assessment, especially in large-joints may help identify patients likely to experience worse outcomes.

Table 1. Characteristics of the included studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, year</th>
<th>Study location; period</th>
<th>Number of patients with RA</th>
<th>Number of patients with TSJD</th>
<th>Effect estimates of the association (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernatsky, 2008</td>
<td>Canada; 1980-2003</td>
<td>23,733</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>OR 1.23 (0.97-1.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashimoto, 2015</td>
<td>Japan; 2002-2012</td>
<td>66,953</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>OR 3.5 (2.0-6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellgren, 2017</td>
<td>Sweden; 1997-2012</td>
<td>12,656</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>RR &lt;0.9 (0.8-1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kedra, 2021</td>
<td>France; 1971-2016</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Univariate analysis: OR-1.0 (0.3-3.4); p value 0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honda, 2022</td>
<td>Japan; 2011</td>
<td>9815</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>-Sensitivity analysis: OR-0.78 (0.10-5.93); p value 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setoguchi, 2006</td>
<td>US and Canada; 1994-2004</td>
<td>7,830</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>MTX use versus no MTX use based on MTX dose: 0 to 8 mg: HR: 2.35 (1.25-4.42); &gt;8 mg: HR: 4.39 (2.07-9.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee, 2014</td>
<td>151 centers worldwide; 2010-2013</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>bDMARD versus MTX: HR:1.11 (0.51-2.37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon, 2014</td>
<td>US; 2001-2010</td>
<td>6,006</td>
<td>2865</td>
<td>3 lymphomas in Tofacitinib group; 0 in MTX group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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The impact from and persistence of predominantly tender joints supports a need to identify early interventions.

**References:**


**Disclosure of Interests:**

Charis Meng: None declared, Yvonne Lee Shareholder of: Cigna, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, other payment to medical writer from Sanofi Genzyme, Orit Schieir: None declared, Marie-France Valois: None declared, Margaret Butler: None declared, Gilles Boire Paid instructor for: Abbvie, BMS, Celgene, Pfizer, Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Mylan, Novartis, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi, Teva, Viatris, Grant/research support from: BMS, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Merck, Pfizer, Glen Hazlewood: None declared, Carol Novartis, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi, Teva, Viatris, Grant/research support from: Sanofi Genzyme, Orit Schieir: None declared, Marie-France Valois: None declared, of: Cigna, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, other payment to medical writer from other payment to medical writer from Sanofi Genzyme, Orit Schieir: None declared, Marie-France Valois: None declared, Hilde Berner Hammer was funded by The Research Council of Norway to the study: NORA - Personalized medicine in RA by combining genomics, biomarkers, clinical and patient-derived data from the Nordic countries (Project number 299511).

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**OBJECTIVES:** To explore the associations between calprotectin, CRP, ESR, and clinical disease activity assessments, and to explore the predictive value of these inflammatory markers on clinical and ultrasound (US) examinations.

**Methods:** Two cohorts were included: 1. Patients with early RA initiating methotrexate (the ARTICL study) and 2. Patients with established RA initiating a biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (the ULRABIT cohort) (209 patients) (mean (SD) age 53.3 (13.2) years, disease duration 10.0 (8.8) years, 81% women, 80% anti-CCP positive). Both cohorts were assessed by clinical (tender/swollen joints) and ultrasound (US) examinations. Calprotectin (measured by use of FEIA (Thermo Fisher)), CRP and ESR (inhouse methods) were assessed at treatment start and at one month in both cohorts. Correlations were analysed by Spearman. Baseline and 1-month levels of calprotectin, CRP or ESR were explored by linear regression for prediction of 3 months results of objective (US, SJC, PTA) and subjective (TJC, PGA, PMA) measures of disease activity (adjusted for age, gender, and disease duration) giving R-squared (95% CI obtained by bootstrapping (percentile intervals and 1000 bootstrap replications)).

**Results:** The correlations between baseline levels of calprotectin and SJC28/PGA were 0.34-0.56 in the two cohorts, with corresponding correlations for CRP of 0.25-0.46, and ESR 0.23-0.50 (all p<0.001), and lower correlations with TJC28, PGA and pain (median 0.25 (range 0.04-0.35). Calprotectin and CRP were predictive of the objective inflammatory variables in both cohorts (Table 1), with calprotectin having the highest R-squares, and calprotectin had better prediction than CRP and ESR in established RA (p<0.05).

**Conclusion:** The laboratory markers had highest correlations with the more objective assessments. Calprotectin was superior to CRP and ESR for prediction of the objective disease activity variables. Thus, calprotectin may have added value in clinical evaluation of inflammatory activity in RA patients.

**References:**


**Cohorts of Early or Established RA**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis, Ultrasound

H. B. Hammar1,2, L. Mathsson-Alm3, I. Gehring4, J. Sexton5, E. A. Haavardsholm1,2, J. Ashley1. Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Dept of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 2Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway; 3Thermo Fisher Scientific, Phadia AB, Uppsala, Sweden; 4Thermo Fisher Scientific, Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany; 5Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Oslo, Norway; 6Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden.

**Background:** Inflammatory laboratory markers predicting response to medication would be useful in the clinics. Two Norwegian cohorts of early or established RA patients included in the NORA study (a Nordic multi-centre study exploring personalized medicine in RA) were used to explore the predictive value of calprotectin, C-reactive protein (CRP) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR).

**Objectives:** To explore the associations between calprotectin, CRP, ESR, and clinical disease activity assessments, and to explore the predictive value of these inflammatory markers on clinical and ultrasound (US) examinations.

**Methods:** Two cohorts were included: 1. Patients with early RA initiating methotrexate (the ARTICL study) and 2. Patients with established RA initiating a biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (the ULRABIT cohort) (209 patients) (mean (SD) age 53.3 (13.2) years, disease duration 10.0 (8.8) years, 81% women, 80% anti-CCP positive). Both cohorts were assessed by clinical (tender/swollen joints) and ultrasound (US) examinations. Calprotectin (measured by use of FEIA (Thermo Fisher)), CRP and ESR (inhouse methods) were assessed at treatment start and at one month in both cohorts. Correlations were analysed by Spearman. Baseline and 1-month levels of calprotectin, CRP or ESR were explored by linear regression for prediction of 3 months results of objective (US, SJC, PTA) and subjective (TJC, PGA, PMA) measures of disease activity (adjusted for age, gender, and disease duration) giving R-squared (95% CI obtained by bootstrapping (percentile intervals and 1000 bootstrap replications)).

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**Conclusion:** The laboratory markers had highest correlations with the more objective assessments. Calprotectin was superior to CRP and ESR for prediction of the objective disease activity variables. Thus, calprotectin may have added value in clinical evaluation of inflammatory activity in RA patients.

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**Table 1.** Linear regression including baseline and 1-month results of the laboratory variables exploring their predicting value of 3 months ultrasound and clinical assessments (adjusted for age, gender, and disease duration) giving R-squared (95% CI obtained by bootstrapping (percentile intervals and 1000 bootstrap replications)).

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence, bDMARD

A. Giolli1, M. Ženič1, M. Salvato1, F. Frizzera1, K. Botšos1, R. Ramonda1, A. Dorai1. University of Padova, Rheumatology Unit, Padova, Italy.

**Table 1.** Linear regression including baseline and 1-month results of the laboratory variables exploring their predicting value of 3 months ultrasound and clinical assessments (adjusted for age, gender, and disease duration) giving R-squared (95% CI obtained by bootstrapping (percentile intervals and 1000 bootstrap replications)).

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A. Giolli1, M. Ženič1, M. Salvato1, F. Frizzera1, K. Botšos1, R. Ramonda1, A. Dorai1. University of Padova, Rheumatology Unit, Padova, Italy.
Background: The benefit and harms of low-dose glucocorticoid (GC) therapy for established rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in combination with biological and targeted synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (b/tsDMARDs) are uncertain. Objectives: We investigated the effect of b/tsDMARDs on concomitant GC therapy among people with RA and the impact of low-dose GC therapy on disease activity and comorbidities.

Methods: This was an observational, monocentric, prospective study. We enrolled all RA patients who started their first b/tsDMARD between 2015 and 2020, excluding those with overlapped connective tissue diseases. The primary outcome was the odds ratio (OR) of persistent GC discontinuation at month 36 (M36), as assessed through multivariable logistic regression. We defined persistent GC discontinuation if GC therapy was not prescribed for ≥2 consecutive visits after 24 months. Secondary outcomes were the marginal means of prednisone daily dose and disease activity score in 28 joints (DAS28) with C-reactive protein (CRP) over three years estimated through repeated-measures analysis of covariance. Analyses were adjusted for age, sex, disease duration, seropositivity, baseline DAS28 or GC dose. The impact of low-dose GC therapy on comorbidities and disease activity was also evaluated.

Results: This inception cohort comprised 371 RA patients initiating their first b/tsDMARD: tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (n=298; 80.3%), abatacept (n=47; 12.7%), tocilizumab (n=11; 3.0%), rituximab (n=9; 2.4%), Janus kinase inhibitors (n=9; 1.6%). b/tsDMARDs were combined with low-dose GC therapy in 65% of patients at baseline, decreasing to 42% at M36. After starting b/tsDMARDs, the median (10th-90th percentile) dose of prednisone decreased from 5 (2-10) at baseline to 2.5 (0-5) mg daily at M36. The most decrease in prednisone dose occurred within the first six months of b/tsDMARD therapy. Persistent GC discontinuation was achieved in 23% of patients during follow-up, with a significantly higher discontinuation rate (34%) and a trend for lower exposure to GC therapy after M24 in patients diagnosed in the last decade compared to older cohorts (Figure 1A). Patients who discontinued GC therapy persistently were significantly younger (52 vs 59 years), had shorter disease duration (9 vs 13 years), more swollen joints (6 vs 4) and greater patient global assessment (65 vs 55 mm), and received higher doses of methotrexate (14 vs 12 mg/w). After accounting for confounders, patients who discontinued GC therapy persistently did not show worse disease control over time (Figure 1B) whilst developed less cardiovascular disease, especially hypertension (9% vs 19%, p=0.023) and coronary artery disease (0% vs 4.6%, p=0.044). Changing the molecular targets of b/tsDMARDs did not yield higher odds of persistent GC therapy discontinuation than keeping the initial drug class; in contrast, GC persistent discontinuation was less likely in older patients with longer disease duration (Table 1). Patients refractory to more than three b/tsDMARDs classes had numerically higher disease activity and received more prednisone during follow-up (Figures 1C and D).

Table 1. Multivariable logistic regression of persistent GC discontinuation among RA patients on b/tsDMARDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, every five years increase</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28CRP</td>
<td>0.253</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch (vs no switch)</td>
<td>0.521</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 switch</td>
<td>0.309</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥2 switch</td>
<td>0.320</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CI, confidence interval; CRP, C-reactive protein; DAS28, disease activity score in 28 joints; OR, odds ratio; PGA, patient global assessment. Multivariable logistic regression with persistent GC discontinuation as the outcome.

Conclusion: Low-dose GC therapy for RA persists in the majority of patients despite intensive use of b/tsDMARDs, yet is associated with cardiovascular morbidity and negligible effect on disease activity. This study also highlights a trend towards less reliance on GC therapy over the past 30 years.

REFERENCES: NIL.
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Disclosure of Interests: Alessandro Giollo Speakers bureau: Galapagos, Eli Lilly, Consultant of: Galapagos, Novartis, Sandoz, Margherita Zen: None declared, Mariangela Salvato: None declared, Francesca Frizzera: None declared, Konstantinos Botios: None declared, Roberta Ramonda: None declared, Andrea Doria Consultant of: GSK, Astra Zeneca, UCB.
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POS0461

AN INCREASE IN ULTRASOUND JOINT INFLAMMATION OCCURS WHEN ANTI-CCP POSITIVE AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBCLINICAL SYNOVITIS PROGRESS TO INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Ultrasound, Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging

K. Harnden1, A. Di Matteo1,2, D. Esperanza Alema1,3, E. De Lorenzi1,2, L. Duquenne1,2, L. Garcia-Montoya1,2, J. Nam1,2, P. Emery1,2, K. Mankia1,2,1 University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom; 3Hospital de Braga, Servicio de Reumatologia, Braga, Portugal; 4The Rotterdam NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, United Kingdom

Background: Anti-CCP+ at-risk individuals with musculoskeletal (MSK) symptoms and subclinical synovitis on ultrasound (US) are at high risk of developing inflammatory arthritis (IA). The accepted standard practice is to initiate treatment at progression rather than in the pre-rheumatoid arthritis (RA) phase when they do not have clinical synovitis [1].

Objectives: We aimed to determine whether imaging characteristics change when individuals with pre-RA progress to IA in order to inform the optimal window of opportunity for therapeutic interventions.

Methods: Anti-CCP+ at-risk individuals with MSK symptoms but no clinical synovitis from the Leeds CCP cohort were selected for having US subclinical synovitis [Grey scale (GS) ≥1 and Power Doppler (PD) ≥1] prior to IA development and a further US scan performed at clinical synovitis onset (i.e. progression). The US protocol included the metacarpophalangeal joints (MCPJs), proximal interphalangeal joints, wrists, elbows, knees, ankles, second-fifth metatarsophalangeal joints, extensor carpi ulnaris and flexor digitorum tendons. US PD and GS synovitis were scored semi-quantitatively (0-3) according to EULAR/OMERACT. At patient level, total GS and PD scores were compared between scans. Change on US in the joints that became clinically swollen was also assessed. Early morning stiffness (EMS) and 44 tender joint count (TJC) were compared between scans. Wilcoxon signed-rank tests were conducted for comparisons.

Results: Forty-six CCP+ at-risk individuals were identified. The mean age was 57.4 (± 13.3), 91.3% had high titre CCP levels (≥ 3x upper limit of normal) and 60.9% were Rheumatoid Factor positive. The median US scan interval was 3.5 months (IQR 1.25-8.75). EMS increased between scans (median of 20 [IQR 0-60] to 75 [IQR 30-173] minutes [p = 0.048]) as did TJC (median 2 [IQR 1-7] to 6 [IQR 2-13] [p=0.001]. On US (Table 1), at patient level the overall burden of PD in the joints increased at IA progression, trending significantly. The overall burden of GS did not increase. PD in the MCPJs and MCP and wrist joints combined increased significantly. GS at the elbows also significantly increased. There was no significant increase in tendon GS or PD. At joint level PD increased in joints that were swollen at progression and GS increased with a trend towards significance. Non-swollen joints did not change.

Conclusion: A marked increase in US joint inflammation occurs when CCP+ at-risk individuals with subclinical synovitis on US progress from pre-RA to

Table 1. Changes on ultrasound from first visit with subclinical synovitis to second progression to RA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joint</th>
<th>Visit 1: US subclinical synovitis</th>
<th>Visit 2: Progression to IA</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total PD score*</td>
<td>3 (1.25-5)</td>
<td>4 (2.75-7)</td>
<td>p=0.063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total GS score*</td>
<td>28 (12-31)</td>
<td>21 (13-33.5)</td>
<td>P=0.170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD score MCPJs*</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
<td>1.5 (0-3)</td>
<td>p=0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS score MCPJs*</td>
<td>5 (3-10)</td>
<td>5 (2.75-7)</td>
<td>p=0.139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD score Wrists*</td>
<td>1 (0-2)</td>
<td>1 (0-2)</td>
<td>p=0.153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS score Wrists*</td>
<td>3 (2-4)</td>
<td>3.25 (2-5)</td>
<td>p=0.181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD score MCPJs + Wrists*</td>
<td>1 (0.25-3)</td>
<td>1.25 (0.75-2.5)</td>
<td>p&lt;0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS score MCPJs + Wrists*</td>
<td>10.5 (6.16-18)</td>
<td>12.75 (15.8-18)</td>
<td>p&lt;0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD score Elbows*</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
<td>p=0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS score Elbows*</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
<td>0 (0-1)</td>
<td>p=0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total PD score in Joints that became swollen at IA progression*</td>
<td>3 (1.5)</td>
<td>3 (2-6.5)</td>
<td>p=0.061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD score in Joints that became swollen at IA progression*</td>
<td>1 (0-2)</td>
<td>2 (0-3)</td>
<td>p=0.036</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Median (IQR)
clinical arthritis. This is particularly evident in MCPJs, wrist joints and joints that become clinically swollen. This marked increased in ultrasound joint inflammation that occurs with the onset of joint swelling.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kate Harrename: None declared, Andreia Di Matteo: None declared, Diogo Esperança Almeida: None declared, Enrico De Lorenzis: None declared, Laurence Duquenne: None declared, Letica Garcia-Montoya: None declared, Jacqueline Nam: None declared, Paul Emery Consultant of: BMS, Abbvie, MSD, Pfizer, Novartis, and Roche. Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Lilly, Samsung, Kulever Mankia Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Lilly, UCB.

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**POSO462**

**CLINICAL PARAMETERS AFFECTING QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENT WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Outcome measures, Quality of life

**Background:** Under the treat-to-target strategies, patient with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has achieved clinical remission in a major population, however, the impact on the quality of life remains controversial. The relationship between quality of life and disease activity control, pain control, and functional capacity control needs to be clarified.

**Objective:** This study aims to clarify the influence of clinical parameters on the quality of life in patients with RA.

**Methods:** In this study, Patient with RA who was monitored with simplified disease activity index (SDAI) as a disease activity indicator, health assessment questionnaire disability index (HAQ-DI) as a functional capacity indicator, pain score using a visual analog scale (PS-VAS) as a pain grade indicator, Euro-Qol dimension with baseline erosions (EQ5D-5L) as a quality of life indicator, and measured Sharp/van der Heijde score (SHS) as joint dysfunction indicator from the start of treatment (baseline) since January 2016, were recruited. Association between EQ5D-5L and other parameters such as gender, age, SDAI, PS-VAS, SHS, and HAQ-DI was statistically evaluated at baseline and at last observation, and change between the two periods using linear regression analysis with multivariable model.

**Results:** A total of 538 patients were included in the study. The female gender rate was 73.4%, and mean values at the baseline and at the last observation were 672 and 73.2 (age), 12.7 and 4.4 (SDAI), 49.3 and 46.4 (SHS), 35.4 and 24.5 (PS-VAS), 0.487 and 0.498 (HAQ-DI), and 0.755 and 0.825 (EQ5D-5L), respectively. All of these parameters were significantly different between the two periods. EQ5D-5L correlates significantly with SDAI (r 0.700, p<0.001), and with measured Sharp/van der Heijde score (SHS) as a joint deformity indicator from the start of treatment (baseline) since January 2016, were recruited. Association between EQ5D-5L and other parameters such as gender, age, SDAI, PS-VAS, SHS, and HAQ-DI was statistically evaluated at baseline and at last observation, and change between the two periods using linear regression analysis with multivariable model.

**Conclusion:** Quality of life in RA patients depends on disease activity control, pain control, and functional capacity. These variables could be controllable by treatment.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.847

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**POSO463**

**ASSOCIATION OF CIRCULATING LEVELS OF ANTI-CAR Antibodies WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY AND RADIOLOGICAL DAMAGE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis, Autoantibodies

**Background:** In rheumatoid arthritis (RA) the identification of specific autoantibodies is crucial for an earlier diagnosis and stratification of patients according to different disease phenotypes. Autoantibodies directed against carboxylylated protein-proteins (anti-CarP) have been recently identified as predictors for RA development [2]. Anti-CarP antibodies are associated with more severe RA, in particular in anti-citrullinated peptide antibodies (ACPA) negative RA patients [3].

**Objectives:** To determine the frequency of positive anti-CarP antibody in a real-life cohort of RA patients on synthetic and biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) and their association with radiological damage and disease activity.

**Methods:** The study is an open-label, observational, cross-sectional study, including 69 patients with RA according to ACR/ EULAR 2010 criteria, treated with synthetic and biological DMARDs. The control group consisted of 16 healthy controls (HC). The study was approved by institutional Ethical Committee and patients signed the Informed Consent. Circulating levels of anti-CarP antibodies were determined by ELISA anti-CarP quantitative sandwich immunoassay (cut-off value 6 ng/ml). Articular X-rays were performed within 6 months of the baseline to define the presence of erosions. RA disease activity (DAS28 CRP) was assessed. Pearson $\chi^2$ test, Wilcoxon test or Kruskall-Wallis test was used, as appropriate. Spearman rank-order correlation coefficient was applied for continuous variables. A multivariable logistic regression model was performed to assess prognostic variables on damage.

**Results:** Anti-CarP antibodies were positive in 35% of RA patients and no antibodies were found in HC. One quarter (4/17) of seronegative RA patients were anti-CarP positive. All anti-CarP positive and RF/ACPA negative patients had radiological evidence of erosions and a moderate disease activity (DAS28 CRP 3.60 ± 0.58) and disability (HAQ-DI 0.70 ± 0.19). In all RA patients, a positive correlation between levels of anti-CarP antibodies and DAS28 CRP (r = 0.0003; Spearman r = 0.4829) was found. Furthermore, 87% of anti-CarP positive patients had erosions. The multivariable logistic regression model suggested that disease activity and higher levels of anti-Carp antibodies were significant predictors for the presence of erosions. There was a greater number of erosions in patients with active disease (OR 1.31, 95% CI [1.14, 1.63]) and those with a higher levels of anti-CarP antibodies (OR 1.66, 95% CI [1.28, 2.37]).

**Conclusion:** Anti-CarP antibodies were present in a significant number of RA patients and those with higher circulating levels had higher disease activity and a greater occurrence of radiological damage. Further larger studies are warranted to better understand the clinical significance of anti-Carp antibodies in RA.

**REFERENCES:**

**Table 1. Demographic, lifestyle and clinical characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>RA patients (69)</th>
<th>HC (16)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex (F/M)</td>
<td>56/13</td>
<td>13/3</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (yrs)</td>
<td>58 ±11.22</td>
<td>56 ±28.9</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Smokers</td>
<td>36 (55%)</td>
<td>10 (62%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Non-smokers</td>
<td>33 (48%)</td>
<td>6 (38%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 CRP</td>
<td>3.70 ±1.13</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.70 ±0.04</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>55 (79%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA</td>
<td>48 (69%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CarP</td>
<td>24 (35%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>27 (39%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX + biologics</td>
<td>12 (17%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids</td>
<td>56 (81%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion: Results suggest that disease-agnostic self-management improves disease activity scores as well as patient-reported outcomes regardless of patient diagnosis. Enhancing patients' capacity to deal with the burden of chronic inflammatory arthritis disease plays a vital role in their long-term management. Longer duration of self-management training and increased follow-up time are required to incorporate lifestyle changes.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1079

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Inflammatory arthritides, Self-management


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

POS0465 ONLINE SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: A STEP FORWARD TOWARDS DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR PATIENT-TARGETED E-HEALTH

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Inflammatory arthritides, Self-management


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1079

Figure 1. Correlation of anti-CarP circulating levels with DAS28 CRP in all RA patients

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1056

POS0464 DISEASE-AGNOSTIC SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: IMPACT ON DISEASE ACTIVITY AND HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE MEASURES FOR PATIENTS LIVING WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Patient reported outcomes, Self-management


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1056

Background: Agnostic approach refers to strategy that is generalized so that it is interoperable among various disorders or systems. In general, regardless of the underlying specific pathology, patients prioritize which self-management strategy they would like to start with according to their own requirements. They also select the issues they would like to address based on their individual perceptions of ability, need and context. Therefore, implementation of a disease-agnostic self-management program is a key priority to optimize the care of patients with chronic inflammatory arthritis.

Objectives: To determine, based on self-efficacy theory, the effectiveness of a disease-agnostic self-management program which can be undertaken by the individual inflammatory arthritis patient in any sequence to meet his/her specific needs.

Methods: Prospective multi-center assessment of patients with inflammatory arthritis, who were randomly assigned to either a 16-week program in self-management (intervention group, n = 121) or standard care for rheumatology (control group, n = 120). The program is composed of 4-arms: joint learn, joint change, joint-cise and joint act [1]. The patient is free to choose whichever component of the program that meets his/her individual requirement. Outcome variables were assessed at baseline and 6-, and 12-months after commencement of the intervention. This included measures of disease activity, adherence to therapy, motivation, functional disability, and quality of life.

Results: The intervention group included patients living with rheumatoid arthritis (30 patients), psoriatic arthritis (30 patients), lupus (30 patients), and osteoarthritis (30 patients). The mean age of participants (96 females [79.3%], 25 males [20.7%]) was 54.3 ± 3.51 years. There was no significant difference on comparing the baseline characteristics and variables between the two groups. At 6-months following initiation of the self-management program, when compared to the control group, there was significantly better improvement in the intervention group patients' motivation score (p < 0.05), functional ability (p < 0.05) as well as quality of life (p < 0.05). At 12-months follow-up, the self-management intervention demonstrated improvement for disease activity (effect size 1.4). Similarly, there was improvement of the patients' adherence to therapy (P<0.01) in the intervention group.
**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOl:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1081

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**POS466**

**INTERIM UPDATE ON BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS AND EFFECTIVENESS FROM A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) TREATED WITH FILGOTINIB (PHILOSOPHY)

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence, Patient reported outcomes

R. Caporali1,2, J. Avouac3, K. Bevers4, G. R. Burmester5, T. Debray6, F. De Leonardi1, K. Harris, N. Betteridge7, S. Romero-Yuste8, P. Verschueren9, M. Zignani10, J. Galloway11.

1University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 2ASST Gaetano Pinto-CITO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 3Hôpital Cochin, AP-HP Centre - Université Paris Cité, Rheumatology A Department, Paris, France; 4Sint Maartenskliniek, Department of Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 5Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 6Galapagos NV, Biostatistics, Mechelen, Belgium; 7Galapagos GmbH, Medical Affairs, Basel, Switzerland; 8Galapagos NV, Medical Affairs, Mechelen, Belgium; 9Neil Betteridge Associates, - London, United Kingdom; 10University Hospital Complex of Pontevedra, Department of Rheumatology, Pontevedra, Spain; 11University Hospital Leuven and KU Leuven, Department of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium; 12King’s College London, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom

**Background:** Filgotinib (FIL) is a preferential oral Janus kinase (JAK) 1 inhibitor for the treatment of RA. Efficacy of FIL has been demonstrated in clinical trials. To assess effectiveness in a real-world setting, a phase 4 study of FIL (PHILOSOPHY; NCT04871919) in patients with RA is ongoing in Europe.

**Objectives:** To report baseline characteristics and interim efficacy data (up to 6 months) in the first 480 patients treated in PHILOSOPHY.

**Methods:** PHILOSOPHY is a prospective, observational study, in which approximately 1500 adults with moderate to severe active RA, who are prescribed FIL for the first time and in accordance with the product label in daily practice, will be enrolled. We report interim baseline demographics, disease characteristics, prior treatments and interim FIL assessed disease activity at baseline, and Months 1, 3 and 6, via Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) and Disease Activity Score in 28 joints–C-reactive protein (DAS28-CRP) and two electronically collected patient-reported outcome (PRO) measures at baseline, Week 1–4, and Months 3 and 6; pain (using a 10-cm visual analog scale [VAS]) and fatigue (via the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy–Fatigue scale [FACIT-F]). The proportion of patients with minimal clinically important difference (MCID) in FACIT-F (≥4.0 change from baseline) and VAS pain (≤−10-mm change from baseline) at Month 6 was assessed. A repeated measurements model was used to estimate the least squares (LS) mean change from baseline in CDAI and FACIT-F.

**Results:** Of the 480 treated patients by the end of June 2022, 73.1% were female, mean (standard deviation [SD]) age was 57.6 (11.5) years, RA duration was 10.4 (9.4) years, BMI was 27.6 (5.7) kg/m2, 28 tender joint count was 8.6 (6.9), and 28 swollen joint count was 5.6 (5.2). A total of 45.2% of patients were positive for rheumatoid factor and/or anti-citrullinated peptide antibody. Over half of patients (57.5%) had received prior biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs; Table 1) and 18.3% prior targeted synthetic DMARDs. FIL was started due to inadequate response (36.3%), loss of response (50.6%) or intolerance (non-allergic) (7.7%) to previous treatment (other reasons/missing data accounted for 5.4% of patients). Most patients (91.9%) received FIL 200 mg; 8.1% received FIL 100 mg (Table 1). FIL monotherapy was taken by 52.9% of patients, while 45.6% received FIL in combination with conventional synthetic DMARDs. Improvements from baseline to Month 6 were observed for PROs; at Month 6, 54.2% and 65.0% of patients had an MCID from mean change [SE]: –1.8 [0.1]). Improvements from baseline to Month 6 were also observed for CDAI over time (LS mean change [SE]: –15.8 [1.0];) and DAS28-CRP (LS mean change [SE]: –3.4 [0.4]). Improvements from baseline to Month 6 were assessed. A repeated measurements model was used to estimate the MCID in CDAI, VAS pain and fatigue from baseline to Month 6. Improvements from baseline to Month 6 were also observed for CDAI over time and DAS28-CRP (LS mean change [SE]: –15.8 [1.0]).

**Conclusion:** Preliminary 6-month data indicate rapid improvements with FIL treatment, which were seen as early as 4 weeks for disease activity and as early as 1 week for pain and fatigue. Similar effects were seen with FIL monotherapy and combination therapy. Long-term follow-up is needed to further evaluate disease outcomes.

**Acknowledgements:** We thank the physicians and patients who participated in this study. The study was funded by Galapagos NV, Mechelen, Belgium. Publication coordination was provided by Fabien Debailleul, PhD, of Galapagos NV. Medical writing support was provided by Debbie Sherwood, BSc, CMP, ASP (Aspire Scientific, Bollington, UK), and funded by Galapagos NV.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Roberto Caporali Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Fresenius, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Fresenius, Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UC B Jérôme Avouac Speakers bureau: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, Sanofi, Consultant of: AbbVie, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: BMS, Fresenius Kabi, Novartis, Pfizer, Karen Bevers Grant/research support from: Galapagos, Gerd Rüdiger Burmester Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Chugai, Galapagos, Lilly, Pfizer, Sanofi, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Galapagos, Lilly, Pfizer, Sanofi, Thomas Debray Consultant of: Biogen, Galapagos, Gilead, Francesco De Leonardi Employee of: Galapagos, Kristina Harris Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, Neil Betteridge Consultant of: Amgen, ASIF, Edwards Lifesciences, Eli Lilly, EULAR, Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health, Global Alliance for Patient Access, Grunenthal, Heart Valve Voice, Pfizer, Sanofi, Genzyme, Susana Romero-Yuste Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biogen, BMS, Lilly, Pfizer, Consultant of: Sanofi, Lilly, Grant/research support from: Lilly, MSD, Patrick Verschueren Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Roularta, Consultant of: Celltrion, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Nordic Pharma, Sidekick Health, Grant/research support from: Galapagos, Pfizer, Monia Zignani Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, James Galloway Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biogen, Lilly, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: AstraZeneca, Celgene, Gilead, Janssen, Medicago, Novavax, Pfizer.

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**Table 1. Demographics, prior and current treatments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior treatments</th>
<th>FIL dose at study start</th>
<th>Treatment at study start</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥1 csDMARD</td>
<td>≥1 bDMARD</td>
<td>FIL in combination with methotrexate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1 bDMARD</td>
<td>≥1 csDMARD</td>
<td>FIL in combination with methotrexate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>254 (52.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>104 (21.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>219 (45.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>182 (37.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>88 (18.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>37 (7.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>12 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
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**Table 2. Demographics, prior and current treatments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total N=480</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age ≥65 years</td>
<td>148 (30.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former/current smoker*</td>
<td>167 (34.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior treatments</td>
<td>434 (90.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1 csDMARD</td>
<td>276 (57.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1 bDMARD</td>
<td>88 (18.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids for RA</td>
<td>310 (64.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIL dose at study start</td>
<td>200 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>254 (52.9)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>104 (21.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>219 (45.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>182 (37.9)</td>
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<td>88 (18.3)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 (7.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 (2.5)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Figures.** Progression of disease activity (as measured by CDAI) over time
DISCORDANCE IN PATIENT AND EVALUATOR
GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF DISEASE ACTIVITY OVER
TIME AND ACROSS DISEASE ACTIVITY LEVELS IN
RECENT-ONSET RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

A. A. Couture1, N. Carrier2, S. Roux3, H. Allard-Chamard2, P. Liang2, G. Boire3, 1University of Sherbrooke, Medicine, Sherbrooke, Canada; 2CIUSSS de l’Estrie - CHUS, Rheumatology, Sherbrooke, Canada; 3University of Sherbrooke, Medicine - Rheumatology, Sherbrooke, Canada

Background: Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) aims to achieve remission or at least low disease activity. Composite measures (e.g. SDAI) to measure RA disease activity usually incorporate patient (PGA) and evaluator (EGA) global assessments. EGA and PGA are often discordant, reflecting divergences in evaluation of disease impact and potentially towards therapeutic goals.

Objectives: Patient vs Physician (PGA – EGA) discordance was evaluated according to disease duration over 5 years and to concomitant SDAI scores.

Methods: Demographics, clinical and serological variables, radiographic damage (Sharp van der Heijde scores), treatments, comorbidities, and Patient-Reported Outcomes (function, depression and coping with disease) were collected at baseline (median symptom duration 3.7 months) and at 12, 18, 30, 42 and 60 months from symptom onset. EGA and PGA were reported using a 0-10 cm visual analog scale (VAS). PGA-EGA discordance was divided in four sub-groups: negative discordance group (<-1 cm), concordance group (≥-1cm and ≤1 cm), positive discordance group (>1 cm and ≥3 cm) and group II (>3 cm).

Results: We included 822 patients from the prospective longitudinal Early Undifferentiated PolyArthritis (EUPA) cohort of recent-onset inflammatory arthritis. At baseline, concordance was present in 27.3%, 24.9% in negative discordance and 47.8% for both groups, p <0.005). Concordance was most frequent in remission, negative discordance in high disease activity, while group I positive discordance remained stable independent of disease activity. Group II positive discordance was highest (35-38%) with low or moderate disease activity.

Conclusion: In this longitudinal prospective study of patients with early arthritis, almost half evaluated their global disease activity worse than the evaluator (positive discordance) and this proportion remained stable up to 60 months. Patients in positive discordant group were younger (median 58.6 years group I and 59.8 years group II, p <0.003), had higher functional impact (M-HAQ ≥1, 46.3 % to 50.2 % p <0.001), fewer tender and swollen joints (p <0.001), but rated higher for pain, fatigue, sleep (p <0.0001) and depression (CES-D, median score 18 for both groups, p <0.005). Concordance was most frequent in remission, negative discordance in high disease activity, while group I positive discordance remained stable independent of disease activity. Group II positive discordance was highest (25-38%) with low or moderate disease activity.

REFERENCES:

![Figure 1](image-url)

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visit</th>
<th>Negative discordance</th>
<th>Concordance</th>
<th>Positive discordance</th>
<th>Positive discordance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>SDAI*</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>SDAI*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=682)</td>
<td>(24.9)</td>
<td>(23.4-43.9)</td>
<td>(27.3)</td>
<td>(17.4-45.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 m</td>
<td>67 (15.2)</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=578)</td>
<td>(5-23.9)</td>
<td>(5-23.9)</td>
<td>(5-23.9)</td>
<td>(5-23.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 m</td>
<td>72 (10.3)</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=699)</td>
<td>(5-20.3)</td>
<td>(5-20.3)</td>
<td>(5-20.3)</td>
<td>(5-20.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 m</td>
<td>62 (9.9)</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=699)</td>
<td>(5.7-20.5)</td>
<td>(5.7-20.5)</td>
<td>(5.7-20.5)</td>
<td>(5.7-20.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 m</td>
<td>49 (8.5)</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=578)</td>
<td>(5.6-24.9)</td>
<td>(5.6-24.9)</td>
<td>(5.6-24.9)</td>
<td>(5.6-24.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 m</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=508)</td>
<td>(5.3-17.1)</td>
<td>(5.3-17.1)</td>
<td>(5.3-17.1)</td>
<td>(5.3-17.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Median (Interquartile range (IQR))

Acknowledgements: We thank staff rheumatologists who recruited and followed recent-onset polyarthritis patients in EUPA; Artur deBrum Fernandes; Ariel Masetto; Lyne Bissonnette; Alessandra Bruns; Guyline Aussenault; Pierre Dagens; Javier Marrugo.

Disclosure of Interests: Audrey-Anne Couture: None declared. Nathalie Carrier: None declared, Sophie Roux: None declared, Hugues Allard-Chamard: None declared, Patrick Liang: None declared, Gilles Boire Consultant of: Abbvie Canada, Janssen Canada, Lilly Canada, Mylan Canada, Novartis Canada, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi Canada, Teva, Grant/research support from: Unrestricted financial support for investigator-initiated initiatives: Lilly Canada, Pfizer Canada. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1854

A PREDICTION MODEL FOR SWITCHING OF BIOLOGICS AND TDMARDS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Registries

L. Cappelli1, G. Reed2, J. Kremer3, 1Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America; 2UMass Chan Medical School, Medicine, Worcester, United States of America; 3Corona Research Foundation, Rheumatology, Delray Beach, United States of America

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) have many options for bio-logic therapy both within treatment classes and across differing mechanisms of action, but the lack of predictability of treatment response and failure can be frustrating for patients and physicians. Rheumatologists longitudinally collect patient data and physician reported measurements as a part of routine clinical care that can be used for prediction of outcomes [1]. Harnessing data regularly collected to monitor RA to inform treatment decision making could improve patient care.

Objectives: To develop a readily usable model with data collected in clinical care at preceding visits to predict the probability of switching biologic at a subsequent clinic visit

Methods: Patients were drawn from the CorEvitas (formerly CORRONA) registry and were adults over the age of 18 with a diagnosis of RA. The study matched patients who switched biologics with control patients who had not switched biologics; the cohort was divided into a training and test set for prediction model development and validation. Switchers: RA patients initiating a biologic/tsDMARD and switching to another biologic/tsDMARD with at least two prior visits to the switch while on drug. Visits prior to the switch were between 2 and 12 months before control visit: Patient visits while still on initiated drug with at least 2 visits prior while on drug; next visit could not be a discontinuation or switch. A control visit was matched to a switch visit within 2 months of time from initiation by drug class and prior biologic experience. Pairs of control-switch visits were divided into a training (60%) and test set (40%). Using the training set, best subset regression, lasso and elastic net methods were used to determine the best potential models. Area under the ROC curve was used for the final selection of best model and estimated coefficients of this model were applied to the test data set to predict switching. Change in disease activity measures had a non-linear association with switching and were fit using linear splines with a knot at zero.

Results: A total of 5050 patients were included, 3016 in the training and 2034 in the test dataset. The average age was 59.6, the majority were female (3998, 79.2%), and the average duration of RA at the time of switch or control visit was 12.9 years. The final model included prior CDAI by category, prior patient pain measurement, change in CDAI from baseline, age group, and number of prior

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biologics which were significantly associated (either positively or negatively) with switching biologics (Table 1). The area under the ROC curve was 0.690 for this model with the training dataset (Figure 1). The model was then applied to the test data with similar performance; the area under the ROC curve was 0.687 (Figure 1).

Conclusion: We developed a simple model to determine the probability of switching biologics for RA at the following clinic visit. This could be incorporated into the electronic medical records or used as an application to give clinicians more information about their patient’s trajectory and likelihood of failing a biologic.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Prediction model in training data set

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>coefficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDAI prior to switch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission (ref)</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>(1.390 to 2.203)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>2.394</td>
<td>(1.845 to 3.107)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>2.964</td>
<td>(2.141 to 4.103)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR prior to switch</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>(1.006 to 1.013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (yrs)</td>
<td>≤40 (ref)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.958</td>
<td>(0.684 to 1.331)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>0.823</td>
<td>(0.603 to 1.123)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>0.747</td>
<td>(0.549 to 1.017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;70</td>
<td>0.696</td>
<td>(0.436 to 0.984)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior no. of biologics/DMARDs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.904</td>
<td>(0.749 to 1.090)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.788</td>
<td>(0.630 to 0.984)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.706</td>
<td>(0.558 to 0.893)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in CDAI at prior to switch (spline at zero)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;0</td>
<td>1.011</td>
<td>(1.004 to 1.018)</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;0</td>
<td>1.044</td>
<td>(1.022 to 1.067)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CDAI: clinical disease activity index; DMARD: disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs; ts: targeted synthetic; ref: reference

Figure 1: Predicted probability of switching based on model estimated using training data set, and applied to test data set

Area under ROC curve: 0.690
Area under ROC curve: 0.687

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Laura Cappelli Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb, George Reed Consultant of: CorEvitas, Coronna Research Foundation, Joel Kremer Shareholder of: CorEvitas, Consultant of: Lilly.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2097

Table 1. Comparisons between participants with long-standing rheumatoid arthritis, initially exposed to early (<6 months) vs. late (>6 months) treatment regarding symptoms onset.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Treatment Initiation (6-month cutoff)</th>
<th>Effect sizes(a) (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Background features</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female gender</td>
<td>Early (N = 279)</td>
<td>0.95 [0.60, 1.51]</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-white race</td>
<td>Late (N = 716)</td>
<td>0.95 [0.60, 1.51]</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive rheumatoid factor</td>
<td>Early (N = 279)</td>
<td>1.25 [0.94, 1.65]</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids use</td>
<td>Late (N = 716)</td>
<td>1.25 [0.94, 1.65]</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological DMARD use</td>
<td>Early (N = 279)</td>
<td>1.05 [0.75, 1.49]</td>
<td>0.792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>Late (N = 716)</td>
<td>1.05 [0.75, 1.49]</td>
<td>0.792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schooling years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>Early (N = 279)</td>
<td>1.40 [1.06, 1.81]</td>
<td>0.019†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, median (IQR)</td>
<td>Late (N = 716)</td>
<td>1.40 [1.06, 1.81]</td>
<td>0.019†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ score, median (IQR)</td>
<td>Early (N = 279)</td>
<td>0.89 [0.66, 1.19]</td>
<td>0.303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosive disease</td>
<td>Late (N = 716)</td>
<td>0.89 [0.66, 1.19]</td>
<td>0.303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical outcomes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-36 score, mean (SD)</td>
<td>Early (N = 279)</td>
<td>1.82 [1.02, 3.4]</td>
<td>0.029**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late (N = 716)</td>
<td>1.82 [1.02, 3.4]</td>
<td>0.029**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ score, median (IQR)</td>
<td>Early (N = 279)</td>
<td>50.5 [36.5, 64.5]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosive disease</td>
<td>Late (N = 716)</td>
<td>50.5 [36.5, 64.5]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Effect sizes: odds ratios and Cramer’s V for proportions; mean differences and Cohen’s d for continuous variables. (b) In months, upon study inclusion. **p-values significant at <0.05.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis
A. De Almeida Dias e Silva1, L. Rebouças1, C. Albuquerque2, A. P. Gomides2, N. De Carvalho Sacilotto3, R. Giorgi3, A. B. Vargas-Santos3, S. Radominski6, I. Pereira6, M. F. Guimarães2, M. Bertoło6, P. Louzada Jr2, D. F. M. Sauma1, K. Bonfiglioli2, C. Brenol3, F. Borgi3, L. Mota3, G. da Rocha Castelar Pinheiro4, 1Hospital Universitário de Brasília, Rheumatology, Brasília, Brazil; 2Universidade de Brasília, Rheumatology, Brasília, Brazil; 3UNICEUB, Rheumatology, Brasília, Brazil; 4Hospital do Servidor Público Estadual do São Paulo, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 5Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rheumatology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 6Universidade Federal do Paraná, Rheumatology, Curitiba, Brazil; 7Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Rheumatology, Florianópolis, Brazil; 8Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, UFMG, Rheumatology, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; 9Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Rheumatology, Campinas, Brazil; 10Universidade de São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, Rheumatology, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil; 11Universidade Federal do Paraná, Rheumatology, Belém, Brazil; 12Universidade de São Paulo, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 13Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Rheumatology, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 14Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Rheumatology, Maringá, Brazil

Background: In experimental settings, early treatment is associated with better outcomes in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), underpinning the concept of a “window of opportunity”. Under real-life conditions, though, the long-term maintenance of such benefits is uncertain.

Objectives: To assess the long-term maintenance of expected clinical benefits associated with early RA treatment under real-life conditions.

Methods: Adults meeting the ACR/EULAR (2010) criteria for RA were included. The participants had long-standing disease, been followed up in 11 healthcare centers in Brazil as part of the REAL study. [1] Individuals whose treatment had been initiated within 6 months of disease onset were compared with those treated for the first time only later on. Disease activity (DAS28-CRP), physical function (HAQ) and the presence of erosive disease were evaluated. Chi-squared and 1 tests, along with logistic and linear regression were used to verify associations.

Results: 995 participants were included; 89.6% female; 56% white. The mean (SD) age was 56.8 (11.6) years; cumulative schooling years: 8.1 (4.25). The median (IQR) disease duration was 147 (81–236) months. Rheumatoid factor was positive in 77.6%. The mean (SD) DAS28 was 3.28 (1.38); median (IQR) HAQ score: 0.750 (0.250–1.500). Erosive disease occurred in 54.2%. Table 1 compares early vs. late-treated patients, showing small effect sizes in clinical outcomes. After adjusting for age, schooling years, disease duration and corticosteroid use, early treatment was no longer an independent predictor of DAS28 scores (β = 0.153; p = 0.160), HAQ scores (β = 0.023; p = 0.682) or erosive disease [Exp(β) = 0.926; p = 0.626].

Conclusion: In long-standing RA, only small differences in disease activity, physical function and erosive disease were associated with early or late initial treatment. After adjusting for confounders, these differences vanished, indicating that beyond the “window of opportunity” lies a “building” of continued disease management, which might be of even greater relevance for the long-term outcomes in real-life settings.

REFERENCE:
A MACHINE LEARNING MODEL FOR IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT CLINICAL VARIABLES AND PREDICTING ONE-YEAR TREATMENT RETENTION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PERFORMING AN INFLIXIMAB BIOSIMILAR-TO-BIOSIMILAR SWITCH

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Artificial intelligence, Rheumatoid arthritis

N. Prensa, H. Nabi, N. Steen Krogh, A. Akkoc, M. L. Hetland, B. Glintborg, University Hospital of Copenhagen Rigshospitalet, DANBIO and Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research (COPECARE), Centre for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Centre of Head and Orthopedics, Glostrup, Denmark; University of Copenhagen, Department of Computer Science (DIKU), Copenhagen, Denmark; ZiteLab ApS, Frederiksberg, Denmark; Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Department of Clinical Medicine, Copenhagen, Denmark; University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; University of Copenhagen, Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark

Background: In Denmark, a nationwide mandatory infliximab biosimilar-to-biosimilar switch, from CT-P13 to GP1111, was recently conducted in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) to save costs (ref). It is of interest to identify patients having favorable outcomes based on clinical characteristics at time of switch.

Objectives: We aimed to explore important baseline clinical factors by implementing a robust machine learning (ML) model to predict one-year GP1111 treatment retention.

Methods: Patients with RA who performed a biosimilar-to-biosimilar switch from CT-P13 to GP1111 between April 2019 - Feb 2020 (=switchers) were identified in the nationwide DANBIO registry. Clinical characteristics at GP1111 start (=baseline) were identified in DANBIO and through linkage to national patient registries (comorbidities). Missing baseline data were estimated using Multivariate Imputation by Chained Equations (20 imputations). A tree-based algorithm Extreme Gradient Booster (xgboost) was used to predict mean outcome, defined as no stop of GP1111 during one year of follow-up (stop/no stop). Contributing baseline characteristics were investigated as SHAP values. Due to imbalanced dataset (specificity, predicting no stop of GP1111) and low true positive rate (sensitivity) ROC (AUC) were 79-87% and 0.78-0.85, with specificity and sensitivity ranging between 99.6-12 respectively. This indicated a high true negative rate (specificity, predicting no stop of GP1111) and low true positive rate (sensitivity) i.e., poor prediction of GP1111 stop. With oversampling and undersampling methods, ranges for accuracy and AUC were 60-87% and 0.60-0.87 respectively, with specificity ranging 0.61-0.73 and sensitivity 0.50-0.67 corresponding to a higher true positive rate. This could be explained by RUS and NearMiss removing data from majority outcome and by ROS and SMOTE adding data to the minority outcome. Optimal threshold results resulted in higher true positive rates and with a range for accuracy 70-85% (specificity 0.67-0.74, sensitivity 0.66-0.76).

Conclusion: We implemented a robust machine learning model for predicting one-year retention in infliximab switches and identified important baseline clinical characteristics. However, the model was challenged by imbalanced data (low stop rate) which was overcome by oversampling methods and optimal cut-offs. Careful methodological considerations are needed when advanced statistical models are applied to imbalanced datasets.


Acknowledgements: This project was supported by Vinnova, Innovationsfonden and The Research Council of Norway, under the frame of Nordforsk (Grant agreement no. 90825, Project NORA).

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Aims: To identify patient-reported symptom clusters at RA diagnosis, associated sociodemographic and RA characteristics, and the stability of clusters over the first 6 months.

Methods: Using data from the Canadian Early Arthritis Cohort (CATCH), we applied latent class analysis with baseline PROMIS-29 pain, fatigue, depression, anxiety, and sleep scores to select relevant symptoms and levels using AIC, BIC, G-square and log-likelihood results. Baseline PROMIS and clinical differences among clusters were compared. Next, we evaluated the stability of these clusters at 3 and 6 months. Latent transition analysis was used to estimate the probability of transitioning among classes.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Epidemiology

S. J. Bartlett, C. O. Bingham, O. Schiefer, M. F. Valois, G. Boirs, J. Pope, L. Besseau, C. Thorne, D. Tin, C. Hitchon, G. Hazlewood, E. Keystone, V. Bykerk, McGill University & McGill University Health Centre, Medicine, Montreal, Canada; Johns Hopkins Arthritis, Medicine, Baltimore, United States of America; McGill University University & McGill University Health Centre, Medicine, Montreal, Canada; Sherbrooke, University of Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Canada; Western University, Medicine, London, Canada; McGill University, Medicine, Montreal, Canada; CARE, Rheumatology, Newmarket, Canada; University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada; University of Calgary, Medicine, Calgary, Canada; RheumKey, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; Hospital for Special Surgery, Rheumatology, New York, United States of America

Background: Early RA is characterized by multiple symptoms that impact daily function and HRQOL. Little is known about whether there are symptom clusters evident at diagnosis that could identify patients with a poorer prognosis, or the stability of clusters over time.

Objectives: To identify patient-reported symptom clusters at RA diagnosis, associated sociodemographic and RA characteristics, and the stability of clusters over the first 6 months.

Methods: Using data from the Canadian Early Arthritis Cohort (CATCH), we applied latent class analysis with baseline PROMIS-29 pain, fatigue, depression, anxiety, and sleep scores to select relevant symptoms and levels using AIC, BIC, G-square and log-likelihood results. Baseline PROMIS and clinical differences among clusters were compared. Next, we evaluated the stability of these clusters at 3 and 6 months. Latent transition analysis was used to estimate the probability of transitioning among classes.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics in switchers. Stratified by stop/no stop of GP1111 during one year of follow-up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No stop</th>
<th>Stop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients, n (%)</td>
<td>571 (83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, %</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>47 (35, 56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L</td>
<td>4 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L</td>
<td>2 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant methotrexate, %</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index, kg/m²</td>
<td>25 (22, 29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>0.5 (0.1, 1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>11 (5, 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician global VAS, mm</td>
<td>8 (5, 23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient pain VAS, mm</td>
<td>22 (8, 43)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers are median (IQR) unless otherwise stated.
Results: The sample included 310 adults with a new RA diagnosis, with 6-month PROs available, and who were MTX naïve at baseline. Participants had a mean age 56, CDAI 29.3, and symptoms for 5 months; 67% were women and 76% White. The optimal symptom set included pain, fatigue, depression, and anxiety (levels: none, mild, moderate, severe). We identified 4 clusters: Minimal (12%); Moderate Pain Dominant (40%); Multiple Moderate-Severe (35%); and Minimal (11%). Clusters had similar sociodemographics except Minimal were slightly older and less female; SJC and TJC were similar among classes Multiple Mild or Moderate-Severe classes had significantly worse mood and sleep (Table 1). More patients in Multiple Moderate-Severe and Moderate Pain had parenteral steroids whereas numerically more in Minimal or Multiple Mild groups were on oral steroids. RA Participant Characteristics around diagnosis by symptom clusters.

### Table 1

|Baseline Values| Minimal| Moderate| Multiple| SIG
|---|---|---|---|---|
|Patient Global (0-10)| 2.6 (2.4)| 4.8 (2.3)| 6.9 (2.0)| 3.9 (2.2)| <0.0001
|Anxiety > 55| 1 (3%)| 15 (12%)| 108 (95%)| 28 (82%)| <0.0001
|Depression > 55| 0 (0%)| 14 (11%)| 100 (88%)| 22 (65%)| <0.0001
|Fatigue > 55| 3 (8%)| 49 (40%)| 106 (93%)| 12 (35%)| <0.0001
|Pain Interference > 55| 0 (0%)| 124 (100%)| 113 (99%)| 17 (50%)| <0.0001
|Physical Function < 45| 9 (24%)| 107 (86%)| 111 (97%)| 25 (74%)| <0.0001
|Participation < 45| 5 (13%)| 81 (65%)| 108 (95%)| 14 (41%)| 0.1470
|Physical Function > 55| 0 (0%)| 124 (100%)| 113 (99%)| 25 (74%)| <0.0001
|Fatigue > 55| 3 (8%)| 49 (40%)| 106 (93%)| 12 (35%)| <0.0001
|Anxiety > 55| 1 (3%)| 15 (12%)| 108 (95%)| 28 (82%)| <0.0001
|PROMIS-29 Patient Global (0-10)| 2.6 (2.4)| 4.8 (2.3)| 6.9 (2.0)| 3.9 (2.2)| <0.0001

Substantial improvement was evident in 67% at 3 months (42% Minimal, 25% Multiple Mild; Figure 1). At 6 months, 45% were Minimal and 25% Multiple Mild. The best prognosis was for Minimal; almost all stayed Minimal at 3 (95%) and 6 (87%) months. Next best was Moderate Pain where 71% improved (Minimal 64%; Multiple Mild 7%); a poor prognosis was seen for Multiple Moderate-Severe: at 3 months, 61% improved (13% Minimal, 33% Multiple Mild). Multiple Mild also were less likely to improve with 11% Minimal and 6% worsening by 3 months.

### Stability of Symptom Clusters over Time

![Figure 1](image-url)

**Conclusion:** In this large early RA cohort, we identified 4 distinct symptom clusters around diagnosis that were stable over 6 months and had distinct PRO profiles. At baseline, (70%) participants were classified as Moderate Pain Dominant or Multiple Moderate Symptoms; the remainder had minimal or multiple mild symptoms. In examining symptom clusters, we found more homogeneous groups of patients. Our results also suggested that having multiple symptom clusters was associated with less improvement over the first 6 months, and may signal a more guarded prognosis for symptom improvement and HRQL in early RA.

### Acknowledgements

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### Disclosure of Interests


### Keywords

Telemedicine, Patient reported outcomes, Epidemiology

M. Ai-Antar, J. Gandrup, S. Van der Veer, W. Dixon

1. Saltford Care Organisation, Rheumatology Department, Saltford Royal Hospital, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2. University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3. University of Manchester, Centre for Health Informatics, Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Science, Manchester, United Kingdom

**Background:** Current understanding of treatment response is largely based on patient recollection at infrequent clinic appointments, which introduces inaccuracies through recall error. Real-time patient-reported symptom data collected frequently following an intervention could improve our understanding of treatment response, facilitating better clinical decision making.

**Objectives:** Our exploratory analysis reports a case-series of patients who used the Remote Monitoring of Rheumatoid Arthritis (REMORA) smartphone-app for daily symptom tracking, evaluating their longitudinal pain-scores following intramuscular (IM) steroids to determine the duration and extent of treatment response.

**Methods:** We identified patients participating in the REMORA study Nov 2021-Sep 2022 who received an IM steroid. Concomitant disease-modifying medications were noted. Daily pain scores (out of 10) from 10 days preceding the injection and scores following were analysed. Analysis was based on the following definitions:

1. Pre-injection pain score: mean pain-score in the 10 days preceding injection;
2. Response (Y/N): ≥1 day of pain score <1; [3] Response start time: the day following injection;
4. End of response: first date following injection with pain score ≥1; [5] Response duration: number of days between [3] and [4];

**Results:** Thirty-two patients were identified for inclusion, of whom 6 received ≥1 steroid injections. In total 9 injections were given. Pre-injection pain scores ranged 3.33-9.29. Seven injections demonstrated response, 2 did not. Of the responders, duration ranged 1-54 days (median 9 days); average pain score improved by median 3.33; maximum pain score improvement ranged 0.14-7.00 (median 4.33). Table 1 summarises our results. Figure 1 demonstrates the patterns of treatment response for each steroid injection.
Table 1. individual treatment response and demographic data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injection number (patient years)</th>
<th>Age (M/F)</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Concomitant drugs during analysis period</th>
<th>IM steroid dose (mg)</th>
<th>Response (Y/N)</th>
<th>Response duration (days)</th>
<th>Pre-injection pain score</th>
<th>Average pain score response</th>
<th>Nadir pain score</th>
<th>Average pain score improvement</th>
<th>Maximum pain score improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>30 M</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.33</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (1)</td>
<td>30 M</td>
<td>MTX, SSZ</td>
<td>SSZ</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (1)</td>
<td>30 M</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.40</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (2)</td>
<td>53 F</td>
<td>MTX, HCQ</td>
<td>HCQ</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (3)</td>
<td>52 M</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 (3)</td>
<td>52 M</td>
<td>SSZ</td>
<td>SSZ</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9.29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 (4)</td>
<td>53 M</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>4.56</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>3.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 (5)</td>
<td>65 M</td>
<td>SSZ, HCQ</td>
<td>SSZ, HCQ</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 (6)</td>
<td>40 F</td>
<td>MTX, SSZ</td>
<td>SSZ</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>5.56</td>
<td>3.33-9.29 (5.75)</td>
<td>1.80-4.00 (2.67)</td>
<td>1.00-4.00 (1)</td>
<td>0.14-5.33 (3.33)</td>
<td>0.14-7.00 (4.33)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Range (Median) 1-54 (9)

MTX: Methotrexate; SSZ: Sulfasalazine; HCQ: Hydroxychloroquine

Conclusion: Smartphone-based remote monitoring has the potential to improve clinical care for people living with rheumatoid arthritis. In this analysis, we demonstrated a novel means to accurately assess treatment response using tracked symptom data. The duration and extent of response to steroid injections was quantified for all participants, data which is typically imprecise and relies on recall. In these preliminary results, response duration was shorter, and pain score improvement was smaller, than anticipated. Analysis of tracked symptom data across a larger population may help to identify treatment responder characteristics, supporting more targeted therapeutic strategies. This has significant implications for high-cost drugs such as biologics. Further work is required to develop consensus definitions for treatment response and disease activity in time-series data, and a means to account for the effects of concomitant drugs.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Mariam Al-Attar: None declared, Julie Gandrup Employee of: JG is currently employed by UCB. The work was completed before joining UCB, Sabine van der Veer: None declared, William Dixon: None declared.

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POS0473 ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVELS OF 14-3-3 η PROTEIN, A NOVEL BIOMARKER, IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND ITS CORRELATION WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Diagnostic tests, Rheumatoid arthritis

R. Chawla1, P. Jain1, 1ABVIMS & Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, MEDICINE, New Delhi, India

Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a common inflammatory arthritis. Current ACR-EULAR classification criteria for RA include joint involvement, immunological markers (Rheumatoid factor (RF) and Anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA)), inflammatory markers (Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP), and symptom duration. But these markers are not 100% accurate for RA. A meta-analysis found sensitivity and specificity of RF and ACPA to be 69% & 85% and 67% & 95% respectively [1]. There is a need for new biomarkers that can increase accuracy of RA diagnosis, one such marker is 14-3-3 η protein which is a pro-inflammatory mediator and can serve as a diagnostic and prognostic marker and a potential therapeutic target in RA patients [2,3].

OBJECTIVES:

• Assess 14-3-3 η protein levels in RA patients.
• Compare positivity rates of 14-3-3 η to RF and ACPA.
• See association between 14-3-3 η levels and disease activity.

Methods: 78 RA cases and 78 age & sex matched healthy controls were enrolled. Inclusion criteria were RA diagnosis (as per 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria), age above 18 years. Patients with any other disease & pregnant females were excluded. DAS28-ESR scoring was done. Blood was collected and tested for ESR, CRP, RF, ACPA, and 14-3-3 η protein using ELISA.

Results: Mean age in years in cases and controls was 41.71 and 41.37 respectively. 88% participants were females. Median disease duration was 32.5 months, median tender joint count was 4.50 and median swollen joint count was 1. Mean ESR in cases & controls was 32.41 ± 18.8 mm and 10.79 ± 3.49 mm respectively (p=0.001). CRP was positive in 70.5% cases & 11.5% controls (p < 0.001). RF in 88.5% cases & 11.5% controls (p < 0.001) and ACPA in 73.5% cases & none of the controls (p < 0.001). Mean 14-3-3 η protein levels (ng/ml) were 7.61 ± 2.55 in cases and 0.73 ± 0.43 in controls (p < 0.001); 7.64 ± 2.62 in seropositive cases and 7.18 ± 1.62 in seronegative cases (p =0.673). There was a significant difference between 14-3-3 η protein levels in seropositive cases and 7 .18 ± 1 .62 in seronegative cases (p =0.673). There was a significant difference between 14-3-3 η protein levels in seronegative patients and controls (p=0.001). 14-3-3 η protein levels had no correlation with RF/ACPA positivity (p=0.965) (Figure 1). Mean 14-3-3 η protein levels (ng/ml) in patients in “remission”
Conclusion: 14-3-3 protein levels are significantly raised in both seropositive and seronegative RA patients and it does not depend on RF or ACPA. 14-3-3 protein increases the sensitivity of RF and ACPA in RA diagnosis and should be included as an additional test in evaluation of RA patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular-3506

POS5474
FACTOR ASSOCIATION WITH EROSIIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, A MULTIMARKER PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS (PCA) AND PRINCIPAL COMPONENT REGRESSION (PCR) ANALYSIS

Keywords: Bone diseases, Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

G. Adami1, G. Orsolini1, A. Fassio1, O. Viapiana1, E. Sorio1, C. Benini1, D. Gatti1, D. Bertelli1, M. Rossini1. 1University of Verona, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy

Background: Various clinical (disease activity, seropositive RA etc.) and metabolic risk factors (Dkk1 etc.) have been associated with erosive rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, such risk factors might be intertwined, and multicollinearity might reduce our ability to discern the individual contribution to erosive score. Principal component analysis (PCA) is a statistical technique for reducing dataset's dimension and principal component regression (PCR) is a regression analysis based on PCA. PCR overcomes the multicollinearity problem.

Objectives: To investigate the clinical and bone metabolic risk factors associated with erosive RA using PCA and PCR.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional analysis on seropositive RA patients not responding to first-level disease-modifying antirheumatic drug, candidate to bDMARD treatment. Clinical, radiographic (both hands and feet x-ray), laboratory and densitometric (BMD) parameters were collected. Sharp van der Heijde Score (SvdHS) was calculated by two independent readers. Serum samples were collected and assayed for C-terminal telopeptide of type I collagen (CTX), Procollagen I N-telopeptide (PINP), Dkk1, Osteocalcin (SOST), 25-OH-Vitamin D (VitD), and PTH. PCA was applied to reduce dimensionality of the dataset and find clusters of variables recording largely redundant information. PCs were selected based on eigenvalues explaining >75% of total variance. PCR was used to predict the SvdHS. Results were analyzed using PCA package on GraphPad Prism version 9.0.0 for Windows, GraphPad Software, San Diego, California USA.

Results: 62 RA patients aged 57.2 years (SD 12.1) were consecutively enrolled. Mean DAS28-CRP was 4.17 (SD 1.27) and mean SvdHS was 24 (IQR 12-53). The loadings plot (Figure 1) shows the clusters of correlated variables in the dataset (vectors). In Table 1 are presented the results of the PCR with SvdHS as outcome. We found that age, GC treatment, ACPA titer, RF titer, CRP levels, ESR, CTX serum levels and Dkk1 serum levels were significantly positively correlated with SvdHS, whereas P1nP serum levels and PGA were negatively correlated with SvdHS.

Table 1. Results of the principal component regression (PCR) analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Standard error</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>-13.85</td>
<td>26.92</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC daily dose</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DJ</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJ</td>
<td>-0.26</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>-2.08</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhGA</td>
<td>-0.45</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hb</td>
<td>-0.14</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTX</td>
<td>30.05</td>
<td>13.62</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P1nP</td>
<td>-0.20</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dkk1</td>
<td>6.32</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOST</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPG</td>
<td>-0.39</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANKL</td>
<td>-12.86</td>
<td>13.49</td>
<td>0.3914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTH</td>
<td>-0.2879</td>
<td>0.1694</td>
<td>0.1041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VitD</td>
<td>0.1291</td>
<td>0.1990</td>
<td>0.5235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMD LS Ts</td>
<td>1.163</td>
<td>1.694</td>
<td>0.4899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMD Neck Ts</td>
<td>-0.8988</td>
<td>1.586</td>
<td>0.5766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMD Tot Ts</td>
<td>-0.7266</td>
<td>1.492</td>
<td>0.6314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: We found that age, seropositivity, and inflammation were the independent clinical risk factors associated with erosive RA. CTX and Dkk1 serum levels were the metabolic factors independently associated with erosive disease whereas P1nP serum levels were associated with less erosions.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Giovanni Adami Speakers bureau: EliLilly, Theramex, Amgen, UCB, Galapagos, Fresenius Kabi, Giovanni Orsolini: None declared, Angelo Fassio: None declared, Ombretta Viapiana: None declared, Elena Sorio:
Factors Influencing Acceptance and Persistence of Electronic Patient-Reported Outcomes Collection in a Real-World Clinical Setting

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis, Health Services Research

I. Bilavska1,2, E. Lenguerrand3, J. Tobias1,3,4, P. Hamann3,4, 1University of Bristol, MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit, Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, Bristol, United Kingdom; 2Bl NOC Institute of Cardiology, named after acad. M.D. Strazhesko” NAMS of Ukraine, Department of Non-coronary Heart Disease, Rheumatology and Therapy, Kyiv, Ukraine; 3University of Bristol, Musculoskeletal Research Unit, Translational Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, Bristol, United Kingdom; 4North Bristol NHS Trust, Bristol, Rheumatology, Bristol, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has a relapsing-remitting nature, making it difficult to predict when patients should be seen. Collection of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) effectively communicates patients’ disease experiences. However, certain factors could impact the utilization and persistence of PROs collection.

Objectives: To explore the impact of demographic, clinical parameters on acceptance and long-term utilization of smartphone application (app) for electronic PROs (ePROs) collection.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of anonymized data collected through app as part of routine care delivered in outpatient clinic at North Bristol NHS Trust. Patients agreed to use a smartphone-based diary (LivingWith) to record disease activity between appointments by reporting weekly RAPID3, HAQ every 28 days. 28 tender/swollen joint count (JC) could also be assessed. Patients with ≥1 record were analyzed, including all reports until last follow-up. Disease activity and disability categories were defined on baseline RAPID3, HAQ scores [1,2]. Mean and SD or median and IQR were reported. Kaplan-Meier analysis was produced. Statistical tests were used. T-test, Mann–Whitney U, Kruskal–Wallis tests were used. P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: 306 (81.4%) patients had completed both questionnaires. 16.2% just RAPID3, and 2.4% only HAQ. 74% of patients were women with mean age 56±4. 17% of patients didn’t provide either RAPID or HAQ and assessed only 28 JC. The median number of completed records for RAPID3 was 10 [4;31] and 4 [2;10] respectively. The median number of days following registration when the first ePRO was completed was 9 [0;17] for RAPID3 and 4 [0;32.5] for HAQ. The median time between ePRO completion was 13 days [8;29] for RAPID3 and 29 days [3;483] for HAQ. The median RAPID3 score was 10.5 [5.6;15.9] and HAQ score 1.5 [0.5;16.25]. The median period [CI] for patients’ app engagement for RAPID3 was 67 weeks [55;83], for HAQ 48 weeks [36;60] (Figure 1). Demographic parameters at the registration as well as baseline disease activity and disability categories had no clear relationship with patient engagement in app use (Table 1).

Table 1. The impact of demographic and clinical factors on the persistence of ePROs collection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline factor</th>
<th>Max elapsed days</th>
<th>ePROs number</th>
<th>Average days between ePROs</th>
<th>Rapid3</th>
<th>HAQ</th>
<th>Rapid3</th>
<th>HAQ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female (n=227)</td>
<td>270 [57;560]</td>
<td>167 [0;471]</td>
<td>9 [4;29]</td>
<td>4 [1;10]</td>
<td>14 [8;31]</td>
<td>28 [0;47]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;50 (n=192)</td>
<td>243/83.351</td>
<td>158 [22;447]</td>
<td>8 [4;20]</td>
<td>4 [2;8]</td>
<td>16 [10;34]</td>
<td>33 [10;50]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59 (n=102)</td>
<td>286 [53;543]</td>
<td>157 [0;476]</td>
<td>8 [4;28]</td>
<td>4 [1;11]</td>
<td>15 [7;34]</td>
<td>46 [28;46]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPID3:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤5.0 (n=28)</td>
<td>282 [39;616]</td>
<td>210 [53;593]</td>
<td>6 [3;36]</td>
<td>5 [1;13]</td>
<td>16 [8;30]</td>
<td>27 [0;41]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1-10.0 (n=19)</td>
<td>486 [141;602]</td>
<td>382 [10;602]</td>
<td>10 [5;69]</td>
<td>7 [4;16]</td>
<td>9 [8;20]</td>
<td>36 [22;45]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤1.0 (n=153)</td>
<td>262 [77;560]</td>
<td>175 [0;532]</td>
<td>11 [4;31]</td>
<td>4 [1;11]</td>
<td>13 [8;28]</td>
<td>29 [0;47]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1-2.0 (n=121)</td>
<td>246/709.627</td>
<td>214 [0;437]</td>
<td>8 [3;33]</td>
<td>4 [2;11]</td>
<td>15 [7;33]</td>
<td>27 [11;50]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;2.0-3.0 (n=32)</td>
<td>193/35.048</td>
<td>42 [0;364]</td>
<td>8 [2;23]</td>
<td>2 [1;6]</td>
<td>12 [7;18]</td>
<td>14 [0;32]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: PROs collection provides valuable information on effectiveness and tolerability of health interventions. Patients’ engagement in reporting decreases over time, suggesting the importance of reinforcement. Neither age, gender nor baseline clinical status appeared to be related to patient reporting persistence.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Iulia Bilavska: None declared, Erik Lenguerrand: None declared, Jon Tobias: None declared, Philip Hamann Consultant of: Dr. Hamann has provided consultancy for and has options and a limited royalty agreement with Living With Ltd Software Company for the development of the smartphone application - LivingWith and received honoraria from Gilead Pharmaceuticals for the production of training materials on remote monitoring for patients with arthritis.

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Quantification of Referral Bias in Patient-and Clinician-Reported Measures of Rheumatoid Arthritis Severity by Geographic Distance from an Academic Rheumatology Center

Keywords: Geographical differences, Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. M. Davis III1, S. Achenbach2, C. Arment1, D. Bekele1, V. Kronzer1, T. Mason1, E. Myasoedova1, L. Peterson1, K. Wright1, C. S. Crowson2, Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; 2Mayo Clinic, Quantitative Health Sciences, Rochester, United States of America

Background: Systematic bias to greater severity of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is often presumed to exist in patients referred for evaluation at academic centers. However, the magnitude of this potential bias has not been quantified to our knowledge.

Objectives: The objective was to test the hypothesis that patients in a referral population have greater RA severity based on both patient- and clinician-reported measures than local patients.

Methods: This study included eligible patients with RA who attended an in-person or virtual appointment in the outpatient rheumatology clinic at an academic center between 1/1/2020 and 10/28/2021. RA was defined by at least 2 ICD-10 diagnosis codes ≥30 days but <2 years apart plus use of a qualifying RA medication. Referral population was ascertained by geographic distance from patient residence to the clinic building and categorized as local, <50 miles; regional, ≥50 to <150 miles; or national/international, ≥150 miles. Data were collected from the electronic health records for patient-reported and clinician-reported measures of disease severity. Patient-reported measures included global pain, global arthritis, and Patient-Reported Outcomes Information System (PROMIS)

Summary: Local patients had greater RA severity than regional or national/international patients among both patient- and clinician-reported measures.

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Table 1. The impact of demographic and clinical factors on the persistence of ePROs collection.

Figure 1. Patient engagement in the app.* Time in weeks

Patient engagement in the app.* Time in weeks
computer adaptive tests for Pain Interference, Fatigue, Physical Function, and Ability to Participate in Social Roles and Activities. Chi-square or Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to analyze differences between groups, adjusting for age at the clinic visit and sex. Linear regression models were used to test for differences between groups in PROMIS measures and Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI), adjusting for age, sex, race/ethnicity, and appointment type (new vs. established).

**Results:** The study population included 3220 patients with RA, including 1631 local, 956 regional, and 633 national/international patients. Overall, mean (SD) age was 62.9 (13.7) yrs, 2312 (72%) were female, and 2947 (91.5%) were n-person visits. Proportions of new patients in the local, regional, and national/international populations were 5%, 9%, and 17%, respectively. All PROMIS measures were available within 7 days of appointment for 2677 (83%) patients, with no differences between groups (p = 0.394). Regional and national/international patients had significantly higher global pain, pain interference, and fatigue and significantly lower physical function and ability to participate than local patients. Regression analysis showed that regional and national/international patients had higher pain interference (on average: 1.3 and 1.6 units; p<0.001 and p<0.001, respectively) and worse physical function (on average: -1.0 and -2.2 units; p=0.008 and p<0.001, respectively) than local referent patients, adjusting for age, sex, race/ethnicity, and appointment type. In contrast, there were no significant differences between groups in CDAI (on average: 0.3 and 1.1 units; p=0.73 and p=0.29, respectively).

**Methods:** Participants in FORWARD, The National Databank for Rheumatic Diseases, with RA, high-resolution HLA-DRB1 typing, no history of biologic use at study entry, and subsequent exposure to one or more biologics were included. The reRA group included participants with exposure to at least three biologics while under observation. Those who used a single biologic with continued use for at least two years during observation comprised the comparison non-refractory group. Descriptive statistics for each group were calculated at initiation of first biologic. Significance was assessed with Fisher’s exact tests and Mann-Whitney U tests (p<0.05), as appropriate. Logistic regression was used to determine the relationship between shared epitope status and baseline odds of becoming refractory.

**Results:** Characteristics of the 70 participants that met inclusion criteria are presented in Table 1. Several covariates varied significantly by refractory group, but these differences were attenuated in adjusted models. SE positive individuals had significantly lower odds of becoming refractory, a relationship that remained consistent with varying model complexity (Figure 1; OR [95% CI] 0.16 [0.05, 0.49] in univariate model; p<0.001). HLA-DRB1*04:01 was the only SE positive allele independently associated with nonrefractory status (p=0.036; data for other alleles not shown).

**Conclusion:** In this cohort, individuals with RA who are SE positive were less likely to be refractory to multiple biologics. This relationship appears to be primarily the result of the HLA-DRB1*04:01 allele rather than any other alleles associated with SE positivity. These findings suggest that SE positive individuals with RA are more likely to find success with their first biologic, while SE negative individuals may be more likely to cycle through multiple biologics. Ongoing and future work will investigate this relationship further and assess whether these results remain consistent when using varying definitions of reRA.

### Table 1. Baseline (initiation of first biologic) characteristics of study participants. Values are mean (SD) unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Local (n = 1631)</th>
<th>Regional (n = 956)</th>
<th>National/International (n = 633)</th>
<th>Total (n = 3220)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global pain score (0-100)</td>
<td>35.9 (29.2)</td>
<td>39.5 (29.0)</td>
<td>41.8 (30.6)</td>
<td>38.2 (29.5)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS T-scores</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain Interference</td>
<td>570.0 (83.3)</td>
<td>58.4 (83.3)</td>
<td>58.8 (84.4)</td>
<td>578.8 (84.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>53.5 (9.6)</td>
<td>54.3 (8.8)</td>
<td>56.2 (10.1)</td>
<td>54.4 (8.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Function</td>
<td>42.4 (8.8)</td>
<td>41.2 (8.2)</td>
<td>40.0 (8.6)</td>
<td>41.6 (8.6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to Participate</td>
<td>50.3 (8.1)</td>
<td>48.5 (8.4)</td>
<td>47.4 (9.2)</td>
<td>49.2 (9.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Activity Index</td>
<td>12.2 (11.7)</td>
<td>12.2 (10.7)</td>
<td>13.4 (12.1)</td>
<td>12.4 (11.5)</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein, mg/L</td>
<td>78.11 (115)</td>
<td>72.10 (109)</td>
<td>79.11 (117)</td>
<td>76.11 (14.9)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are mean (SD) or number (%).

**Conclusion:** Referral bias by geographic distance from the outpatient rheumatology clinic is more evident in patient-reported than clinician-reported measures of RA severity. The findings inform the interpretation of RA disease severity measures in clinical practice and research and highlight the importance of patient-reported outcome measures.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** John M Davis III Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Girsh, Sara Achenbach: None declared, Courtney Arment: None declared, Delamo John M Davis III Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Girsh, Sara Achenbach: None declared, Courtney Arment: None declared, Delamo

**Keywords:** Registries, Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis

**Methods:** Participants in FORWARD, The National Databank for Rheumatic Diseases, with RA, high-resolution HLA-DRB1 typing, no history of biologic use at study entry, and subsequent exposure to one or more biologics were included. The reRA group included participants with exposure to at least three biologics while under observation. Those who used a single biologic with continued use for at least two years during observation comprised the comparison non-refractory group. Descriptive statistics for each group were calculated at initiation of first biologic. Significance was assessed with Fisher’s exact tests and Mann-Whitney U tests (p<0.05), as appropriate. Logistic regression was used to determine the relationship between shared epitope status and baseline odds of becoming refractory.

**Results:** Characteristics of the 70 participants that met inclusion criteria are presented in Table 1. Several covariates varied significantly by refractory group, but these differences were attenuated in adjusted models. SE positive individuals had significantly lower odds of becoming refractory, a relationship that remained consistent with varying model complexity (Figure 1; OR [95% CI] 0.16 [0.05, 0.49] in univariate model; p<0.001). HLA-DRB1*04:01 was the only SE positive allele independently associated with nonrefractory status (p=0.036; data for other alleles not shown).

**Conclusion:** In this cohort, individuals with RA who are SE positive were less likely to be refractory to multiple biologics. This relationship appears to be primarily the result of the HLA-DRB1*04:01 allele rather than any other alleles associated with SE positivity. These findings suggest that SE positive individuals with RA are more likely to find success with their first biologic, while SE negative individuals may be more likely to cycle through multiple biologics. Ongoing and future work will investigate this relationship further and assess whether these results remain consistent when using varying definitions of reRA.
POS0478

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PERSISTENTLY HIGH HAQ-DI SCORE IN RA PATIENTS UNDER B/ TDMSARDS: LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF HURBIO SINGLE CENTER REGISTRY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD, Outcome measures

E. Bilgin1, E. Öztürk2, B. Fırlatan1, M. Ekici1, G. S. Karayam1, E. Unaldi1, G. Ayan1, G. Sandal Uzun1, Z. Özsoy2, S. A. Germe1, B. Farisogullari1, L. Kılıç1, A. Ardjoan1, O. Karadag1, A. Bilgen1, A. I. Erteli1, P. Özdemir2, U. Kalyonçu1, S. Kiraz1, Hacettepe University, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; Hacettepe University, Biostatistics, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI) is a widely-used and accepted instrument for the functional assessment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients.

Objectives: Our aim was to determine the related factors with persistently high HAQ-DI scores in RA patients using b/TDMsARDs.

Methods: RA patients prescribed with b/TDMsARDs, registered to Hacettepe University Biologic Registry (HURBIO), had HAQ-DI score ≥1 at baseline assessment and had at least five follow-up visits, were grouped into 3, hypothetically, according to HAQ-DI scores at each of the first five follow-up visit. Group 1 was “persistently-low HAQ-DI score <1” who had HAQ-DI score higher than one at each visit. Group 2 was “floating HAQ around 1” who had at least one visit with HAQ-DI score above one and HAQ-DI score below 1; group 3 was “persistently-high HAQ-DI score >1” who had HAQ-DI score higher than one at each visit. Baseline demographic, disease, and treatment characteristics were recorded.

Multinominal logistic regression for females and multiple logistic regression for males (as group 3 had no males) was done to reveal associated factors.

Results: A total of 194 patients (89.7% female) were included. Groups 1, 2, and 3 consisted of 58 (29.9%), 111 (57.2%), and 25 (12.9%) patients. All patients in group 3 were female. RA disease duration, the time between RA diagnosis and b/TDMsARD initiation, RF negativity, and baseline HAQ-DI score were higher in group 3 compared to other groups (Table 1). Multinominal logistic regression revealed several associated factors (OR, 95% CI) for females;

- group 2 over group 1: being obese (3.0 (1.4-6.4), p=0.004), negative RF (0.5 (0.2-1.2), p=0.13), using non-anti-TNF (2.1 (0.9-4.8), p=0.07), diagnosis-situation initiation duration (per 1 year) (1.0 (0.9-1.1), p=0.85),
- group 3 over group 1: being obese (0.9 (0.3-2.0), p=0.88), negative RF (5.2 (0.5-52).6, p=0.009), diagnosis-situation initiation duration (per 1 year) (1.0 (0.9-1.1), p=0.001),
- This model classified 61% of the patients correctly.

There was no significant associated factor for males.
Background: Studies have shown an association between active synovitis measured by ultrasound (US) with plasma calprotectin in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients [1]. Neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) may play a pathogenic role in RA [2]. Elevated plasma NETs have been observed in RA patients, although their association with disease activity is unclear. No studies have analyzed the association between NETs remnants and US synovitis in RA.

Objectives: To analyse whether plasma calprotectin and NETs remnants are associated with synovial inflammation measured by US in patients with established RA treated with biological therapies or JAK inhibitors (JAKi).

Methods: Observational cross-sectional study. RA patients (ACR/EULAR 2010) receiving treatment with biologic DMARDs (IL6 inhibitors (IL6i), TNF inhibitors (antiTNF), rituximab (RTX) or JAKi) were consecutively included regardless of disease activity and previous therapy. Clinical disease activity indexes and laboratory parameters of inflammation were evaluated. Plasma calprotectin was analysed, Plasma levels of elastase-DNA (EN-DNA) and histone-DNA complex (H3-DNA) (NETs remnants) were examined using a home-made ELISA test. Joint US of both hands was evaluated and graded according to Szudlarek's score. The synovial hypertrophy (SH), power Doppler (PD) and the total score (SH+PD) was calculated. US active synovitis as previously defined (3) was calculated (SH ≥ 2 + PD ≥1). A correlation study between neutrophilic markers and US scores was made.

Results: 101 RA patients (91% female, 86% seropositive (RF and/or ACPA) were included. Mean age was 55.4 ± 12.1 years and the mean RA duration was 15.4 ± 9.5 years. 78% received treatment with biologics (45 IL6i, 30 antiTNF and 3 RTX) and 23 JAKi. Mean DAS28, CDAI and SDAI were 3.19, 12 and 13 respectively. Low disease activity or remission (CDA<10) were found in 56 patients (54.5%). Mean total disease duration (years) 16.4±8.1 was made.

Conclusion: Plasma calprotectin but not NET remnants were associated with synovial inflammation measured by US in established RA patients receiving biologic or JAKi therapy. The two markers may play a different pathogenic role in RA.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0481

BONE EDEMA IN MRI IS MORE ASSOCIATED WITH RAPID RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION THAN CLINICALLY RELEVANT RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION.

K. Katayama1, T. Okubo2, T. Sato1, T. Kawaihata2, K. Tanaka3, M. Yuchih4, S. Abe5, H. Itou5,1,1Katayama Orthopedic Rheumatology Clinic, Rheumatology, Asahikawa, Japan, 2Katayama Orthopedic Rheumatology Clinic, Radiology, Asahikawa, Japan, 3Asahikawa Medical University, Division of Metabolism and Biosysmotic Science, Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine, Asahikawa, Japan, 4Asahikawa Medical University, 3Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Asahikawa, Japan, 5Asahikawa Medical University, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Asahikawa, Japan

Background: Rapid radiographic progression (RRP) is selected as one of the risk factors for difficult-to- treat RA, which needs to be resolved as soon as possible. Logistic progression models for RRP have been reported for a long time. Vanier et al. recently reported a newly logistic model which is constituted by high CRP levels (>30mg/L), the number of swollen joints, RF positivity, and the existence of bone erosion by pooling individual data from 2 cohorts and 3 clinical trials. On the other hand, EULAR recommendations for imaging were published, in which MRI bone oedema was an independent and strong predictor for joint destruction. We previously reported that extensive bone marrow edema (BE) determined by hand MRI is a prognostic indicator for rapid radiographic progression in MTX inadequate response to early RA treated with MTX+ Adalimumab combination therapy [1].

Objectives: To clarify, association of BE with RRP using the clinical data in RA patients treated with conventional synthetic (cs) DMARDs.

Methods: At first, baseline data of 108 non-RRP patients and 47 clinically relevant radiographic progression (CRPP) +RRP patients were statistically compared. Secondly, background data of 13 CRPP and 34 RRP patients were compared. MRI of affected joints (mostly hands) were taken and patients were divided into two groups by existence or non-existence of BE.

Results: As shown in Table 1A, short duration, high BE rate, high DAS28-ESR (baseline), high CRP levels, high mTSS, high yearly progression of mTSS were observed in RRP +CRPP group compared with non-RRP. Table 1B showed that only the rate of BE is higher in RRP group compared with CRPP group.

Conclusion: BE may be a possible prognostic factor for RRP and more associated with RRP than CRPP.

REFERENCE:

Table 1A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>variable</th>
<th>non-RRP</th>
<th>RRP</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>age (years)</td>
<td>56.4±11.3</td>
<td>53.9±12.5</td>
<td>0.554 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>42(90.2%)</td>
<td>20 (87%)</td>
<td>3.9 (chi2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seropositive</td>
<td>39(86.7%)</td>
<td>22 (95.7)</td>
<td>0.044 (chi2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years)</td>
<td>16.4±8.1</td>
<td>12.2±9.3</td>
<td>0.023 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL6i</td>
<td>12.0±10.6</td>
<td>12.4±9.3</td>
<td>0.6 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>12.4±10.7</td>
<td>13.1±11.6</td>
<td>0.043 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDAI</td>
<td>12.4±10.7</td>
<td>13.1±11.6</td>
<td>0.043 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsCRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.1±0.2</td>
<td>0.4±0.3</td>
<td>0.01 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasma calprotectin (µg/ml)</td>
<td>0.73±0.64</td>
<td>0.93±0.12</td>
<td>0.04 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3-DNA</td>
<td>1.1±0.3</td>
<td>1.1±0.3</td>
<td>0.01 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH rate</td>
<td>6.0±5.6</td>
<td>7.6±8.6</td>
<td>0.04 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total US score</td>
<td>11.1±10.3</td>
<td>12.6±13.4</td>
<td>0.01 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>variable</th>
<th>RRP group</th>
<th>CRPP group</th>
<th>P value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>age (years)</td>
<td>65.6±13.4</td>
<td>57.6±22.2</td>
<td>0.001 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>duration (months)</td>
<td>41.5±13.15</td>
<td>96.0±60.15</td>
<td>0.001 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX dose</td>
<td>8(6-11.5)</td>
<td>8(6-10.5)</td>
<td>0.01 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>2.31±1.5</td>
<td>10.3±3.9</td>
<td>0.001 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (negative)</td>
<td>11±3</td>
<td>3, 10</td>
<td>0.01 (t-test)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis
Background: Although all patients present unique biopsychosocial contexts, the care of inflammatory arthritis patients is particularly complicated by the interaction of multiple factors. Advocates of patient-centered care identify that the best way to manage complex patients is through comprehensive treatment strategies that can adapt to the nuances of individual contexts. Recently published disease specific, patient centered national clinical guidelines for inflammatory arthritis[1] represent a model of care that can be fit for standard, disease-oriented patients management.

Objectives: To assess for the outcomes of indiscriminately implementing individual, disease-specific treatment strategies in standard clinical practice for the treatment of inflammatory arthritis and its impact on the disease activity measures as well as patient reported outcomes.

Methods: A 12-month multicenter, randomized study compared standard care with patient-centered, Treat to Target (T2T) management of inflammatory arthritis patients. All patients received the same outcome measures[2]. Regular appointments were delivered by specially trained rheumatologists who kept a record of the clinical assessments, medication titration, patient reported outcomes, self-management, psychosocial support and motivation score. The primary outcome was 12-month remission assessed using the Disease Activity Score 28 joints using ESR (DAS28-ESR). Secondary outcomes included fatigue, functional disability, quality of life and motivation levels.

Results: 297 rheumatoid arthritis patients were screened and randomized (149 Treat to Target management; 148 standard care); 269 (90.6%) patients had their 12-month outcomes completed. Patient centered treat to target management increased DAS28-ESR 12-month remissions compared to standard care (43% vs 22%, p = 0.004). Patient centered T2T management also significantly increased prevalence of those who achieved DAS28-ESR low disease activity scores (38% vs 23%, p = 0.005). In addition, it substantially improved patients' functional ability (0.4 + 0.2 Vs 1.1 + 0.3, p< 0.01), quality of life (0.6 + 0.2 Vs 1.2 + 0.5, p< 0.01), reduced fatigue (4.2 + 1.3 Vs 6.8 + 1.6, p< 0.01). Motivation score was higher in the T2T cohort (8.4 + 1.3 Vs 5.7 + 2.1, p< 0.05). There was no evidence that serious adverse events (patient centered T2T management =14 vs standard care =12) or other adverse events (112 vs 106) differed in both groups.

Conclusion: More patients achieve the treatment target of remissions or low disease activity status. There were greater improvements in patient reported outcomes, functional ability, fatigue as well as motivation. In the meantime, there were no more harms. Patient centered T2T clinical guidelines are able to provide condition-specific guidance on how one would optimally manage a disease tailored to the individual patient's requirements.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Keywords: Palindromic rheumatism (PR) is a recognised precursor of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and is characterised by episodic flares of pain and swelling in and around joints [1]. Up to 50% of PR patients will progress to persistent arthritis (PA) [1]. However, PR is challenging to identify and study longitudinally and risk factors for progression remain unclear [1]. This is the first large UK prospective cohort study describing risk factors in patients with PR, the majority of whom were treatment naive at baseline.

Objectives: To investigate baseline risk factors associated with progression to PA in PR patients.

Methods: Patients with suspected PR were recruited to the Leeds PR cohort from regional primary care and secondary care referrals. In the absence of an accepted classification criteria, PR was defined as ‘a confirmed history or physical examination consistent with episodes of joint pain and swelling that returned to normal between episodes in the absence of an alternative diagnosis’ [2]. At baseline, a comprehensive set of clinical, imaging, serological and immunogenetic parameters was assessed. Patients were monitored at 3-month intervals for the first year, then 6 monthly or earlier if clinically indicated. Progression to PA was defined by the presence of at least one tender and swollen joint confirmed by a rheumatologist, which persisted for at least 3 weeks. Baseline intervals for the first year, then 6 monthly or earlier if clinically indicated. Progression to PA was defined by the presence of at least one tender and swollen joint confirmed by a rheumatologist, which persisted for at least 3 weeks. Baseline and risk factors for progression remain unclear [1]. This is the first large UK prospective cohort study describing risk factors in patients with PR, the majority of whom were treatment naive at baseline.

Background: Palindromic rheumatism (PR) is a recognised precursor of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and is characterised by episodic flares of pain and swelling in and around joints [1]. Up to 50% of PR patients will progress to persistent arthritis (PA) [1]. However, PR is challenging to identify and study longitudinally and risk factors for progression remain unclear [1]. This is the first large UK prospective cohort study describing risk factors in patients with PR, the majority of whom were treatment naive at baseline.

Results: 161 patients were followed between July 2008 and December 2022. 32% (51/161) of patients developed PA after a median of 12 months. 90% (46/51) of progressors met criteria for RA. 90% (145/161) of patients were DMARD naive at baseline. Cox regression analysis identified factors associated with progression to PA. Flares in joints typically affecting <3 joints were protective. These data provide novel insights into the natural history of PR and will inform a risk stratification model for monitoring and early therapeutic intervention.

Table 1. Variables shown to be significantly protective or predictive of persistent arthritis. Number of joints in a typical flare was borderline significant. ULN: Upper Limit of Normal, Ref: Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Variable</th>
<th>Progressors n=51</th>
<th>Non-progressors n=110</th>
<th>HR 95% CI</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>11 22 39 35 Ref</td>
<td>1.25 6.05 0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>40 78 71 65 Ref</td>
<td>1.71 10.49 0.004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical No. joints affected in flares</td>
<td>&gt;3 Ref</td>
<td>15 29 25 23 Ref</td>
<td>1.71 10.49 0.004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Joint involvement in flares</td>
<td>Absent Ref</td>
<td>31 61 79 72 Ref</td>
<td>0.43 10.49 0.004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>7 14 13 12 Ref</td>
<td>1.71 10.49 0.004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CCP Antibody</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>30 59 80 73 Ref</td>
<td>0.38 0.15 0.97 0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive&lt; 3 x ULN</td>
<td>2 4 9 8 Ref</td>
<td>1.71 10.49 0.004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive &gt;3 x ULN</td>
<td>41 80 45 41 Ref</td>
<td>6.12 19.73 0.004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In patients with PR, female gender and high anti-CCP level were associated with progression to PA. Conversely, hand joint involvement and flares typically affecting <3 joints were protective. These data provide novel insights into the natural history of PR and will inform a risk stratification model for monitoring and early therapeutic intervention.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Rahaymin Chowdhury: None declared, Farag Shuwehdi: None declared, Navkiran Sidhu: None declared, Laurence Duquenne: None declared, Leticia Garcia-Montoya: None declared, Jacqueline Nam: None declared, Andrea Di Matteo: None declared, Kate Harnden: None declared, Paul Emery: Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Gilead, Lilly, Consultant of: BMS, Abbvie, MSD, Pfizer, Novartis, and Roche, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Lilly, Samsung, Kulvee Manka Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Lilly, UCB, Grant/research support from: Gilead, Lilly. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1282

Keywords: T2T = treat-to-target, SDAI = Simple Disease Activity Index.

Figure 1. Mediation analysis of the association between discordance score over time. T2T implementation and the probability of remission at year 2. Reported are the standardized regression coefficients with indicators of significance (*** p < 0.001). T2T = treat-to-target, SDAI = Simple Disease Activity Index

Table 1. Variables shown to be significantly protective or predictive of persistent arthritis. Number of joints in a typical flare was borderline significant. ULN: Upper Limit of Normal, Ref: Reference
Background: Fatigue in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is common, overwhelming and plays a key role in patients’ perception of the disease and strongly influences global assessment [1]. While fatigue in RA has no internationally accepted definition, it is multidimensional and has an inconsistent association with disease activity in different populations with very few studies from India [2, 3].

Objectives: To determine the relationship between fatigue as measured by Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) fatigue raw score with disease activity in patients with RA. To determine the predictors of fatigue in patients with RA.

Methods: A longitudinal study was conducted from January 2021 to December 2022 after Ethics Committee approval in patients with RA enrolled at our rheumatology clinic providing care to >450 patients with RA, in a tertiary care hospital. Fatigue (PROMIS Fatigue-short form 7a), patient assessment of global disease activity (PtGA), Disease Activity Score (DAS28), and Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) were measured. Serum samples for interleukin-6 (IL-6), and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α) were collected and stored at -80°C. Relationship of fatigue was examined with age, hemoglobin, serum vitamin D3, TNF-α, and IL-6 using Spearman correlation coefficient. A Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve was constructed to determine the optimal PROMIS cut-off for defining PtGA >2. Binary logistic regression analysis was used to assess predictors fatigue.

Results: One hundred and fifty-four patients were enrolled, of whom 133 (86.3%) were females, 103 were reassessed at 6 months (65.4% females). All were on conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs. Patients in remission using DAS28 were 9.7% (n = 15) and 52.4% (n = 54) and remission/low disease activity (LDA) based on CDAI <10 were 13.6% (n = 21) and 68.9% (n = 71) at enrolment and 6 months respectively. There was a significant reduction in median PROMIS at 6 months from 19(11) to 16(7) (p<0.0001), PROMIS was significantly lower in those with remission/LDA based on CDAI (<0.0001) and DAS28 remission at enrolment and 6 months (p = 0.012 and 0.015 respectively). PROMIS >11 had 93.8% sensitivity and 78.6% specificity to predict PtGA >2 (AUC 0.92, 95% CI 0.81 - 1.00, P <0.0001) (Figure 1). PROMIS >11 was present in 89% at enrolment and 82.5% at 6 months. Age, hemoglobin, serum vitamin D3, TNF-α, and IL-6 had no correlation with fatigue. DAS28, CDAI, sleep (Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index - PSQI), and depression (Patient Health Questionnaire - PHQ-9) were significant predictors of PROMIS >11 (Table 1).

Conclusion: Fatigue is a significant problem in RA. A PROMIS score of 11 may be an acceptable cut-off for our population. Though fatigue improved with the treat-to-target approach, further studies are needed to determine if it is meaningful for patients. Along with disease activity, addressing sleep and depression is important in managing fatigue.

Table 1. Predictors of fatigue (n = 154)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictors</th>
<th>Odds ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSQI</td>
<td>2.31(1.45 - 3.69)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHQ-9</td>
<td>4.38(2.16 - 8.89)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>1.26(1.13 - 1.39)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28</td>
<td>2.87(1.72 - 4.79)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
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REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3269

POS0486 CHARACTERISTICS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WHO ACHIEVE REMISSION AFTER 2022 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY/ EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF ASSOCIATION FOR RHEUMATOLOGY REVISED REMISSION CRITERIA APPLICATION

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Remission, Rheumatoid arthritis

Y. Hirano1, Y. Saito1, 1Toyohashi Municipal Hospital, Rheumatology, Toyohashi, Japan

Background: In 2011, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and European League Against Rheumatism (formerly European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology [EULAR]) developed two new definitions for remission for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) clinical trials and in clinical practice [1]: Boolean-based definition and index-based definition (simplified disease activity index: SDAI). The 2011 Boolean based definition (Boolean 1.0 [B1R]) required each of the four core set variables (tender joint count, swollen joint count, patient assessment of global disease activity [PtGA, cm], and C-reactive protein [CRP, mg/dl]) to have a value of ≤1. B1R is the most stringent remission criteria entries after B2R application were 142. Cross-sectional data among the 1020 RA patients registered in the TRAD 2021 data. New remission criteria entries after B2R application were 142. Cross-sectional data described below were compared between B1R and B2-1R: age, gender, RA disease duration, rheumatoid factor (RF) positivity and anti-cyclic citrullinate protein antibody (ACPA), Steinbrocker stage and class, medication information at the time of survey, CRP value and erythrocyte sedimentation rate, modified health assessment questionnaire (mHAQ), and concomitant osteoporosis (OP). Univariate analysis by Mann-Whitney U-test or Chi-square test was initially performed between B1R and B2-1R. Subsequently, multivariate analysis was performed using selected variables, which were statistically significant between the two groups by logistic regression analysis. P < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

Results: The number of RA patients in remission state increased by 30.3% by B2R application. Statistically significant differences by univariate analysis were found in the following variables (mean values or percentage in B1R/B2-1R): RA disease duration (11.3/15.5 years), RF positive ratio (70.2/79.9%), RF titer (94.4/132.8 IU/ml), ACPA positive rate (71.5/80.9%), ACPA titer (226.9/322.3 U/ml), %stage III+IV (45.6/63.4%), %BDMAJRDS (40.5/51.4%), mHAQ (0.11/0.28), %OP concomitant (32.0/46.5%). Multivariate analysis results were shown in the Table 1. mHAQ in B2-1R was significantly worse compared with that in B1R.

Conclusion: New B2R application increased the RA patient number in remission state. RA patient characteristics in B2-1R were with: longer disease duration, more seropositivity, more joint damage, treated with more intensive medications, especially worse physical function, and increased concomitant OP.
Table 1. Univariate and multivariable logistic analysis for patient's characteristics of new remission-achieved patients with rheumatoid arthritids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Unadjusted OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Adjusted OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female (to male)</td>
<td>1.135 (0.841-2.508)</td>
<td>0.329</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (per year)</td>
<td>0.990 (0.976-1.003)</td>
<td>0.125</td>
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<tr>
<td>RA-duration (per year)</td>
<td>1.040 (1.033-1.050)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>1.043 (1.034-1.058)</td>
<td>0.026</td>
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<tr>
<td>RF status</td>
<td>1.043 (1.000-1.086)</td>
<td>0.045</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACPA status</td>
<td>1.001 (1.000-1.001)</td>
<td>0.827</td>
<td>1.000 (1.000-1.001)</td>
<td>0.089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage (≤ to &gt; HII)</td>
<td>0.0001-2.044</td>
<td>0.039</td>
<td>1.473 (0.014-1.001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor status</td>
<td>1.176 (0.886-1.583)</td>
<td>0.313</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity/ disability index</td>
<td>1.023 (0.974-1.076)</td>
<td>0.391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids use</td>
<td>1.079 (0.980-1.184)</td>
<td>0.222</td>
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<tr>
<td>DMARD use</td>
<td>1.581 (1.084-2.306)</td>
<td>0.057</td>
<td>1.157 (0.764-1.783)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein</td>
<td>1.483 (0.593-3.719)</td>
<td>0.401</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>1.002 (0.994-1.010)</td>
<td>0.600</td>
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<tr>
<td>mHAQ</td>
<td>4.389 (2.596-7.435)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>2.860 (1.537-5.320)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
<td>1.615 (1.104-2.363)</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>1.393 (0.774-1.833)</td>
<td>0.297</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**References:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**POS0487**

**DISENTANGLING HETEROGENEITY IN CONTEMPORARY UNDIFFERENTIATED ARTHRITIS – A LARGE COHORT STUDY USING LATENT CLASS ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Remission, Outcome measures, Rheumatoid arthritis

**Background:** Undifferentiated arthritis (UA) is considered to be heterogeneous and consists of subgroups, this notion is affirmed by differences in disease course, varying from spontaneous resolution of arthritis to RA-development.

**Objectives:** We aimed to identify homogeneous subgroups within UA based on a combination of clinical features and thereafter to relate these to the outcomes spontaneous resolution and RA-development. These outcomes can only be studied in UA-patients in which DMARD-treatment does not influence the natural disease course; these cohorts are scarce.

**Methods:** We studied ACPA-negative UA-patients, defined as not-fulfilling 1987-2010 RA-criteria nor having an alternate diagnosis, consecutively included in the Leiden Early Arthritis Clinic between 1993-2006, when early DMARD-treatment in UA was infrequent. Latent Class Analysis was used to identify subgroups based on a combination of clinical features (e.g. symptom characteristics, physical examination, laboratory tests). Within these subgroups, test-characteristics were assessed for spontaneous-resolution of arthritis (defined as spontaneous resolution of arthritis without DMARD-treatment) and RA-development within 1 year.

**Results:** 310 consecutive UA-patients were studied. Five classes were identified: 1) polyarthritis, often symmetric 2) oligoarthritis, frequently with subacute onset, 3) wrist-monoarthritis, often with subacute onset, increased BMI and without morning stiffness, 4) small-joint monoarthritis, often without increased acute phase reactants, and 5) large-joint monoarthritis, often with BMI and without morning stiffness.

**Conclusion:** Using a data-driven unsupervised approach, five subgroups within contemporary UA were identified. These subgroups have differences in the natural course of disease.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**POS0488**

**THE IMPACT OF ACHIEVING EARLY-SUSTAINED REMISSION USING BOOLEAN 2.0 CRITERIA ON PREVENTING FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Remission

S.L. Lau1, P.W. V.Chan1, J.T. Cheng2, C.C. Mok2, C. Ho3, T.T. Cheung2, V. W.L. Liao4, H.T. Pang4, C.H. To5, I.C. Yim3, H.Y. Ng6, K.Y. Kwok7, K.L. Lee1, K.Y. S. Ying1, M.C. Wan1, J.M. Lee1, L.S. Tam1. 1The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Medicine & Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 2Tuen Mun Hospital, Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 3Queen Mary Hospital, Department of Medicine, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 4Kwong Wah Hospital, Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 5Pok Oi Hospital, Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 6Tseung Kwan O Hospital, Department of Medicine, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 7Caritas Medical Centre, Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 8Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Department of Medicine, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 9Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, Department of Medicine, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 10Princess Margaret Hospital, Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 11Ruttonjee Hospital, Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 12Tai Po Hospital, Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR).

**Background:** Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is associated with functional impairment and disability. With the 2022 revision of the Boolean remission criteria, more patients can be classified as achieving remission and the revised version also increases the agreement with index-based remission criteria without jeopardising predictive value for radiographic or functional outcomes. Whether achieving sustained Boolean 2.0 remission using a treat-to-target strategy aiming can prevent functional impairment in the long-term measured using the Health Assessment Questionnaires Disability Index (HAQ-DI) would need to be addressed.

**Objectives:** This retrospective study aims to explore the impact of sustained remission classified under the revised Boolean 2.0 criteria on HAQ-DI score.

**Methods:** The data was retrieved from the Clinical Rheumatology Systematic Treat-to-target (T2T) in Asia Leadership (CRYSTAL) registry Early RA patients with symptoms onset less than 2 years were recruited between 2012-2018. All patients received a treat-to-target treatment strategy aiming at remission and had been followed for 5 years. Swollen joint count (SJC), tender joint count (TJC), Patient global assessment (PGA), CRP levels, and HAQ-DI were recorded. Patients were classified into two groups: patients achieved Boolean 2.0 remission in both the first and second year (Early-Sustained Remission (ESR) Group) and patients who did not (Non-ESR group).

**Results:** The data of 236 patients were retrieved. 57 (24.2%) of them were classified as ESR group and 166 (70.3%) were in Non-ESR group (Table 1). The average HAQ-DI score was lower in the ESR group in the second, third, fourth and fifth year compared to the Non-ESR group with p ≤ 0.001 [year 1: 0.097 ± 0.218 vs 0.403 ± 0.465; year 2: 0.143 ± 0.267 vs 0.421 ± 0.452; year 3: 0.212 ± 0.339 vs 0.478 ± 0.59; year 4: 0.232 ± 0.358 vs 0.457 ± 0.566] (Figure 1). Conclusion: T2T aiming at achieving Boolean 2.0 remission in the first two years could be considered in clinical use for maintaining a lower functional impairment in the long term.

**REFERENCES:**

Table 1. Baseline demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ESR group (N=57)</th>
<th>Non-ESR group (N=166)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>51 ± 13</td>
<td>54 ± 11</td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, male</td>
<td>16 (28.1%)</td>
<td>34 (20.5%)</td>
<td>0.236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity/ disability index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS pain score, 0-100</td>
<td>42.9 ± 22.7</td>
<td>49.3 ± 33.3</td>
<td>0.072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS patients’ global score, 0-100</td>
<td>49.5 ± 24.9</td>
<td>55.5 ± 22.9</td>
<td>0.097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS physicians’ global score</td>
<td>48.8 ± 26.1</td>
<td>55.2 ± 25.5</td>
<td>0.103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joint count, 0-28</td>
<td>6 ± 5</td>
<td>8 ± 6</td>
<td>0.099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joint count, 0-28</td>
<td>4 ± 3</td>
<td>6 ± 4</td>
<td>0.350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRP mg/L | 171 ± 25.6 | 241 ± 38.1 | 0.02 |

HAQ-DI, 0-3 | 0.75 ± 0.62 | 0.90 ± 0.65 | 0.121 |

1 Visual analog scale, range 0-100; 2 Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index, range 0-3
REMISSION (US-R) WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) IN ULTRASOUND

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Remission, Ultrasound

T. Abe1, Y. Oono1, K. Tsuibo2, M. Nakano1, C. Ogita1, M. Tamura1, T. Hashimoto1, N. Azuma1, K. Matsui1. 1Hyogo Medical University, Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Clinical Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, Nishinomiya City, Japan; 2Kobe Citizen Medical Center West Hospital, Rheumatology, Kobe City, Japan

Background: Flares are frequent in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), with 30–50% experiencing a disease flare within the first 2 years of clinical remission (CR). Ultrasound (US) synovitis despite CR have more subsequent flares than those who show both CR and ultrasound remission (USR). Plenty of studies examined clinical course and predictive factors for flare among patients with RA in CR or LDA. But few studies have examined those with USR and using US as daily rheumatologic practice through a follow-up period. Therefore, the clinical course and flare predictor of RA patients in US-R under daily US practice is unclear.

Objectives: The objective of this study among RA patients in CR/LDA with USR under on-demand and yearly US practice was as follows (1) to investigate the clinical course and change of disease activity from baseline, (2) to investigate the predictive factors for the flare over 2 years.

Methods: All patients met the following criteria: (1) RA classified according to the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) 2010 revised criteria; (2) age ≥18 years; (3) at least 12 months disease duration; (4) maintaining the same RA treatment at least 6 months; (5) being in CR or LDA according to either DAS28 CRP or SADI/CDAI; (6) being in USR. USR was defined as absence of joint synovitis, tenditis, tenosynovitis in the bilateral wrist, 2nd-5th MCP and PIP joints, and any tender or swollen joints. Demographic and treatment characteristics, clinical dates, US assessment were evaluated at the time of baseline, 1-year, and 2-years (yearly-US). US was additionally assessed if the patients showed clinical manifestations of the flare in any period (on-demand US). Questionnaires were also collected at baseline to assess physical function, psychiatric disorders and catastrophizing: HAQ-DI, BS-POP and Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS). Rheumatologists could employ DMARD treatment as an individual approach based on the joint decision between the patient and the rheumatologist without any restrictions. The flare was defined when patients received additional DMARD or glucocorticoids or encountered Power Doppler (PD) US flare. Baseline factors for the shorter time to the flare were analyzed by multivariate COX regression analysis, adjusting for age, gender, BMI, and DAS28 CRP. A P value ≤ 0.05 was regarded as being significant. All analyses were performed with EZR statistical software.

Results: In total, 85 patients were enrolled in the study. Baseline characteristics are depicted in Table 1. 62 patients (73%) fulfilled CR criteria. The change of DAS28-CRP from baseline to 1-year and 2-years was -0.1±0.7, -0.08±0.75. The rate of LDA/CR and USR was as follows: 92% and 91% at 1-year, 90% and 89% at 2-years. Over 2 years, 35 patients (42%) had the flare and the mean time to the flare was 11.6±7.0 months. PDUS flares were reported in 4 patients (5%) at 1-year and 2-year US assessment, even though they had no clinical signs of flares. An association of ACPA (HR=2.6, 95%CI:1.0–6.9, p=0.05), Stage III (HR=4.2, 95%CI:1.5–11.6, p=0.005), CRP (HR=21.9, 95%CI:3.5–137, p<0.001), opioids use (HR=5.8, 95%CI:2.0–17, p=0.001) on the shorter time to the flare was revealed. CR, DMARD treatment, HAQ-DI, BS-POP, and Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS) were not associated with the flare.

Conclusion: Under on-demand and yearly US assessment over 2 years for RA patients in LDA/CR with USR, the flare occurred frequently but most of the patients showed sustained LDA/CR and USR at 1-year and 2-years. Baseline factors should be considered for predicting the flare.

Table 1.

| variable | mean (SD) | n (%)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=85</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age, (year), mean (SD)</td>
<td>68.7 (11.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n ( % )</td>
<td>61 (71.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>22(4.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration (year)</td>
<td>9.2 (8.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>musculoskeletal co-morbidity, n ( % )</td>
<td>33 (38)</td>
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<tr>
<td>psychiatric disorder n, ( % )</td>
<td>9 (10.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pain Catastrophizing Scale, 0-52</td>
<td>15 (13)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage (I/II/III)</td>
<td>31/2/16/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tender joints (of 28), n</td>
<td>1.0 (1.3)</td>
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<td>Swollen joints (of 28), n</td>
<td>0.3 (0.9)</td>
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<td>ACPA-positive, n ( % )</td>
<td>64 (75)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAS28 CRP</td>
<td>1.9±0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>4.0 (2.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.26 (0.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dl)</td>
<td>0.15(0.1)</td>
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<td>bDMARDs use, n ( % )</td>
<td>19 (22)</td>
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<td>tsDMARDs use, n ( % )</td>
<td>12 (14)</td>
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<td>MTX use, n(%)</td>
<td>28(67)</td>
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<td>PSL use, n(%)</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.241
Osteoporosis

**PQ50490**

SEVER LEVELS OF BONE TURNOVER MARKERS, ESTABLISHING Z-SCORES FOR USE IN RESEARCH AND DAILY CLINICAL PRACTICE: DATA FROM A DUTCH HEALTHY REFERENCE COHORT

**Keywords:** Bone diseases, Osteoporosis, Diagnostic tests

M. Siderius1, S. Arends1, A. Muller Kobold2, L. Wagemakers3, K. Koerts2, A. Spoorenberg1, E. Van der Veer1 1University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2University Medical Center Groningen, Laboratory Medicine, Groningen, Netherlands

**Background:** Bone turnover markers (BTM) reflect specific processes or aspects of bone (re)modeling. Their dynamic character provides additional information regarding the current status and balance of bone metabolism. Measurement of BTM is clinically relevant and common in patients with osteoporosis and other bone-related disease such as inflammatory rheumatic diseases as axial spondyloarthritids. BTM can contribute to the diagnostic workup as well as treatment monitoring. Interpretation of absolute values is difficult as these are highly influenced by age and gender, which complicates data interpretation and comparison of studies involving BTM. In previous research, we used BTM Z-scores to study the effect of biological therapy on the course of BTM in patients with axSpA [1, 2].

**Objectives:** To establish BTM reference values based on widely used BTM assays and/or automated immunoassay platforms that can be used to calculate Z-scores to correct for the normal influence of age and gender.

**Methods:** Serum markers of collagen resorption, bone regulation, collagen formation and facilitator of bone mineralization (sCTX, OC, PINP and BALP respectively) were measured in volunteers without bone-related diseases/abnormalities. Assays were conducted in a ISO certified specialized routine diagnostic laboratory. Raw data was plotted, gender-specific age cohorts were established based on the distribution of the data and subsequently their respective means and standard deviations were calculated. Z-scores can be calculated using these reference values to correct for the normal influence of age and gender on BTM.

**Results:** In total, 856 individuals were included, of which 486 (57%) were female. Individuals were aged between 7 and 70 years. Highest serum levels of BTM were found in childhood and puberty. Peak levels are higher in boys than girls and prevail at later ages. In adults, BTM levels decrease before reaching stable nadir levels. For the calculation of Z-scores below the age of 20 years, intervals of one year were needed due to the change in BTM activity. In adults, 10-year reference cohorts could be established in order to calculate Z-scores (Figure 1). As example, a male of 40 years with a serum PINP level of 70.0 ng/mL has a Z-score of 1.56. At the age of 60, his PINP levels remained 70.0 ng/mL, which corresponds to a Z-score of 2.73. Despite the absence of change in absolute levels of PINP, Z-scores do indicate a large increase not only compared to the previous measurement but also compared to the reference population matched for age and gender.

**Conclusion:** With our data, Z-scores of sCTX, OC, PINP and BALP can be calculated using reference categories (for age and gender) of mainly Caucasian volunteers representative for the normal population. BTM Z-scores facilitate harmonization of data interpretation in both daily clinical practice and research. This is especially important in (rheumatic) diseases with known aberrant bone metabolism as axSpA or (secondary) osteoporosis.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to thank all individuals who participated in the establishment of reference values.

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**Figure 1.** Median and P97-95 percentile levels of sCTX(A), OC (B), PINP (C) and BALP (D) in females and males of a healthy reference cohort (--- female, — male).

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**Keywords:** Bone diseases, Osteoporosis, Malignancy

M. Ponti1, M. Felicioti1, M. A. Jaberi1, R. Bortolotti1, 1 S. Chiara Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Trento, Italy

**Background:** Bone loss is one of the major long-term side effects of adjuvant endocrine therapy for breast cancer. There is limited consensus on how to accurately assess fracture risk in this setting. Many trials showed the effectiveness of antiresorptive drugs in preventing the loss of bone mineral density (BMD) and, consequently, reducing fracture risk [1].

**Objectives:** Our study aims to investigate osteoporotic fractures prevalence and to assess the age adjusted fractures risk in breast cancer patients receiving AET and treated with antiresorptive drugs. Moreover, we analyzed differences in terms of clinical features and outcomes between patients treated with denosumab (DMAB) or bisphosphonates (BPs), and examined variations in biochemical markers of bone turnover and densitometric values to assess the effects of each antiresorptive medication.

**Methods:** In this monocentric, retrospective, non-randomized cohort study we enrolled patients with non-metastatic breast cancer who received at least 5 years of AET and were treated with DMABs or BPs. We retrieved demographic and clinical data pertaining to the cancer characteristics and the osteoporosis risk and at the start of the antiresorptive therapy (baseline), as well as serum levels of C-terminal telopeptide of type I collagen (CTX), vitamin D, parathyroid hormone (PTH), and densitometric data (DXA) at baseline and at 24 months.

**Results:** We enrolled 120 patients, 38 on DMABs and 82 on BPs. During a median follow-up of 32 months (24-38), 16 (13.3%) fractured at least once. At baseline, the latter had lower BMI (22 kg/m² (21-27) vs 24 kg/m² (20-26), p = 0.043), higher prevalence of osteoporosis (12/16 vs 35/104, p = 0.002), higher prevalence of prior fractures (8/16 vs 15/104, p = 0.003), and lower AET exposure time (2.7 years (1.2-3.7) vs 3.8 years (2.4-5.8), p = 0.008). In age-adjusted Cox proportional model, a history of previous fractures and BMD at the femoral neck < 1.2 standard deviation were associated with higher fracture risk (HR 7.8 (2.7-22.9), p = 0.001, and HR 3.4 (1.1-10.4), p = 0.033, respectively), whereas higher levels of vitamin D resulted protective [HR 0.7 (0.5-0.9), p = 0.010]. AET exposure time and the type of antiresorptive drug, instead, had no impact on the fracture risk. Patients who received DMAB had significantly lower levels of vitamin D, age and AET exposure time [33 nmol/l (26-39) vs 36nmol/l (30-41), p = 0.022, 55 years (10.2) vs 60 years (9.1), p = 0.008, and 2.9 years (2.0-4.4) vs 3.9 years (2.6-5.9), p = 0.014, respectively]. At 24 months, both medications were successful in reducing serum levels of bone resorption markers and increasing densitometric values. The DMAB group experienced substantially larger BMD increases in the lumbar spine and femoral neck (respectively, -9.0% (+4.2+19.8) vs +3.3% (-1.3+6.6), p < 0.001, and +6.1% (2.2+15.5) vs +0.7% (+3.5+4.4), p < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** The frequency of fractures tends to stay high in women receiving AET even if on antiresorptive drugs despite biochemical and instrumental improvements, indicating the existence of other concurrent processes of bone damage. To enable quick management of bone health-related issues, a thorough evaluation of bone turnover markers is recommended.
risk assessment must be done at the moment AET is started. When given based on risk stratification, DMABs and BPs seem to have comparable antifracture effectiveness profiles. DMAB, however, was more successful in increasing BMD over time. Whatever the case, we found that appropriate vitamin D supplementation is advised throughout AET.

REFERENCES:
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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0492
ASSESSMENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS AND VERTEBRAL FRACTURE RISK BY OPPORTUNISTIC BONE MINERAL DENSITY (BMD) MEASUREMENT ON CHOLINE PET/CT IN PATIENTS WITH PROSTATE CANCER (HORM-OS PROJECT)

Keywords: Bone diseases, Osteoporosis, Imaging

A. Dauchez1, C. Darianë2, J. Fichtenbaum3, S. Bodard3, S. Guinebert4, F. Alloux4, M. O. Timsit2, C. Roux5, F. Hyafil4, K. Briot1, O. Fogel1, C. Roux1, M. O. Timsit2, C. Roux5, F. Hyafil4, K. Briot1, O. Fogel1, C. Roux1, M. O. Timsit2, C. Roux5, F. Hyafil4, K. Briot1, O. Fogel1
1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2European Hospital Georges Pompidou, Urology, Paris, France; 3Necker Hospital, Radiology, Paris, France; 4European Hospital Georges Pompidou, Nuclear medicine, Paris, France

Background: Androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) is central in the management of advanced prostate cancer (PCa) but is associated with bone loss and occurrence of osteoporosis and fracture. Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) is recommended when starting ADT but is rarely done. Opportunistic measurement of bone mineral density (BMD) on CT has been proposed to improve osteoporosis screening in the general population, but has not been evaluated in PCa. Choline PET/CT (chPET/CT) is frequently used to identify the recurrence of PCa and/or search for metastasis.

Objectives: The objectives were to demonstrate the feasibility of using chPET/CT in comparison to the CT scan for opportunistic screening of osteoporosis and to describe the pet/ct-derived BMD and the prevalence of osteoporotic vertebral fracture in patients with PCa.

Methods: Between 2020 and 2022, we identified 171 PET/CT from 136 patients in the database of the nuclear medicine department of our tertiary center. We focused on chPET/CT. Among these patients, we identified those with a CT within 6 months before or after the chPET/CT to compare the BMD values between these 2 exams. BMD estimation was performed by 4 blinded readers (2 rheumatologists and 2 radiologists) on a 200-mm² trabecular bone area by a standardized method, on L1 vertebral in axial section. Assessment of vertebral fractures and metastasis was performed on the entire spine in sagittal section. Demographic, clinical and treatments information have been collected blind from the reading of the images. Spearman coefficient and t-test were used for continuous variables and chi square test was used for dichotomous variables.

Results: We identified 93 PCa patients with chPET/CT including 29 with a CT within 6 months. The mean age was 74 years old (± 8.6), and mean BMI was 26.9 kg/m² (± 5.2). Forty-one patients (44%) smoked or had smoked. ChPET/CT was performed for newly-diagnosed PCa in 36.6%, for suspicion of recurrence in 59.1% or as simple follow-up for 4.3%. Twelve patients (12.9%) had fractures and 20 (21.5%) had metastasis. Also, 39 patients (42%) were already on ADT with a mean duration of 21.4 ± 31.6 months. First, we compared BMD measurement on both chPET/CT and CT in the 29 patients. The mean BMD on L1 vertebral was similar between the 2 exams (125 ± 51.1 and 128 ± 42.4 HU respectively on chPET-CT and CT) and correlated well (k = 0.7; p < 0.001). Then, we measured the pet/ct-derived BMD on the whole cohort. The mean BMD was 125 HU (± 50.7). Increasing age was significantly correlated with decreased BMD (k = -0.31; p < 0.001). There was no correlation between BMI and BMD (k = 0.02; p = 0.87). The mean BMD was 123 HU (± 51.6) in patients who smoked or had smoked, compared with 138 HU (± 48.5) in non-smokers (p = 0.11). The mean BMD in patients already on ADT was 114 HU (± 56.2), compared with 127 HU (± 42.1) in others (p = 0.17). Among the 39 patients on ADT, there was a nonsignificant trend toward decreased BMD with increased ADT duration (k = -0.27; p = 0.1). Interestingly we found a significant decreased BMD for patients with fracture compared to those without fracture (mean BMD = 82.6 ± 42.9 vs 131 ± 49; p < 0.01). A cut-off of 100 HU has recently been published on CT to define patients at risk for bone complications. Here, we identified 24.7% patients with a BMD < 100 HU. These patients were more likely to have vertebral fracture compared to those with a BMD > 100 HU (30.4% vs 7.1% of fracture; p < 0.01).

Conclusion: This study demonstrates the feasibility of using chPET/CT for opportunistic screening for osteoporosis in PCa. Bone disease was frequent in this population, 13% patients had fractures and almost 25% had a BMD < 100 HU. PET/CT BMD seemed to be of interest for screening patients at risk of fracture. A prospective study will validate the interest of this approach and its impact on the management of osteoporosis in these patients.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0493
PREVALENCE AND INCIDENCE OF OSTEOPOROTIC VERTEBRAL FRACTURE IN NON SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER: ANALYSIS OF A 289 PATIENTS COHORT

Keywords: Bone diseases, Malignancy, Osteoporosis

E. Ebsten1, P. Brocard1, G. Souissi2, R. Khoury2, A. Khalil3, M. Forien1, S. Ottaviani1, G. Zalcman1, P. Dieude1, V. Gounant1, Hôpital Bichat - APHP, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2Hôpital Bichat - APHP, Thoracic Oncology, Paris, France; 3Hôpital Bichat - APHP, Radiology, Paris, France

Background: The recent use of targeted therapies and immunotherapy has considerably improved the survival of patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC), in particular metastatic ones. In this new era, it is relevant to look at the comorbidities affecting the quality of life and potentially the prognosis of NSCLC. Due to shared risk factors (tobacco, corticosteroid therapy, radiotherapy, osteoporosis) is a comorbidity of interest in the context of NSCLC.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to establish the prevalence and incidence of osteoporotic vertebral fractures (OVF), the risk factors for incident OVF, and impact on survival of incident OVF.

Methods: This retrospective observational single-center study was conducted in the thoracic oncology clinic of the Bichat University Hospital, AP-HP Paris, France, between January 2021 and July 2021. Consecutive patients followed for NSCLC were included in this study. The following data were collected (a) demographic characteristics such as gender, age, height and weight, BMI, smoking status, alcohol intake (b) NSCLC characteristics such as histology, date of biopsy that resulted in the diagnostic of NSCLC, cancer stage (absence or presence of metastasis, including bone metastasis). Treatments received were collected a) oral corticosteroids (10 mg or more per day of prednisone or equivalent, for at least 2 weeks, in the last 2 years) b) anti-resorptive therapy (bisphosphonate, denosumab) c) local or systemic cancer treatment (surgery, radiotherapy, immuno-therapy, chemotherapy and/or target treatment). We defined inclusion by the first thoraco-abominopelvic CT performed for the NSCLC extension assessment at diagnosis. We defined end of follow-up by the last TAP-CT available. We proceed to a double-blind lecture of TAP CT (rheumatologist and radiologist) to evaluate the presence of vertebral fracture: prevalent or incident, its nature (osteoporotic or metastatic), the number and localization. We also measure CT attenuation (Hounsfield unit [HU]) value of L1. Survival was assessed as of August 26, 2022.

Results: We included 289 patients: 162 males (56%), mean age 66.4years old. Eight-two percent of patients were current or past smokers (42 ± 22 number of year smoking) and 22% consumed alcohol regularly. The mean BMI was 24.7 ± 5.0 kg/m². Seventy-eight percent had an adenocarcinoma and 18% a squamous cell carcinoma. Sixty one percent of patients had a metastatic cancer, including 25% of bone metastasis. The mean follow-up time was 36.3 ± 29.4 months. At inclusion, 31 of the 289 had an OVF, for 40 OVF (24 thoracic, 16 lumbar, mean 1.3 ± 0.6 OVF per patient). The prevalence at inclusion was therefore 10.7%. At end of follow-up, 23.2% of patients (67/289) had an OVF. During the follow up of 36 ± 29 months: 36 patients had an incident OVF. The incidence of OVF was 12.5%. Ninety-seven OVF occurred (68 thoracic, 29 lumbar). Median time to incident OVF was 13 months [5.7; 21.2]. In univariate analysis (Table 1), the risk factor of OVF were: age (p=0.036), BMI <19kg/m² (p<0.01), steroid use (p=0.001), and radiotherapy (p = 0.036), UH in L1 at inclusion (HR adjusted: 0,986, p = 0.003) were independent risk factor of incident OVF. Median survival was 80 months in the incident OVF group and was not reached in the patients without incident OVF (p=0.074, Image 1).

Conclusion: In our population, prevalence of OVF at inclusion was 10.7%. Incidence was 12.5% during a mean follow up of 36 months. Occurrence of a new OVF may have an impact on survival. Presence of OVF and UH in L1 should be evaluated systematically during NSCLC follow up. We should pay more attention to this population, in order to prescribe preventive anti-resorptive drugs if needed.
Table 1. characteristics of patient with and without osteoporotic vertebral fracture (OVF).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Incident OVF (n=33)</th>
<th>No-OVF (n=222)</th>
<th>p (multivariate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (y)</td>
<td>71.2±10.4</td>
<td>65.5±11.1</td>
<td>0.836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male), n (%)</td>
<td>19 (58%)</td>
<td>127 (57%)</td>
<td>0.738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current or past smoker, n (%)</td>
<td>32 (99%)</td>
<td>175 (80%)</td>
<td>0.206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol abuse, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (23%)</td>
<td>49 (23%)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>21.6±4.8</td>
<td>25.6±5.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-rances of osteoporosis cell carcinoma</td>
<td>24 (73%)</td>
<td>109 (49%)</td>
<td>0.417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-rances of following up</td>
<td>17 (51%)</td>
<td>117 (53%)</td>
<td>0.855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone metastasis, n (%) (inclusion of follow up)</td>
<td>8 (24%)</td>
<td>44 (20%)</td>
<td>0.752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT attenuation in L1-L5. &gt;50 (H)</td>
<td>120.3±44.4</td>
<td>179.5±51.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid use, n (%)</td>
<td>32 (100%)</td>
<td>29 (13%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiodensities, n (%)</td>
<td>51 (100%)</td>
<td>42 (19%)</td>
<td>0.036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-resorptive drugs, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (19%)</td>
<td>31 (11%)</td>
<td>0.417</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Image 1. The Kaplan-Meier probability of survival for patient with or without incident osteoporotic vertebral fracture (OVF).

REFERENCES: NIL.


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS OF OSTEOPOROSIS IN A BELGIAN COHORT OF LUNG TRANSPLANTATION CANDIDATES: THE PROGRESS STUDY

Keywords: Bone diseases, Osteoporosis, Lungs

E Currie1, F Carlier2, M Dumonceau3, P Evarard2, B Rondot2, J P Devogelaer4, Y Boutsen1, CHU UCL Namur, Rheumatology, Yvoir, Belgium; CHU UCL Namur, Pneumology, Yvoir, Belgium; Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium

Background: Few data are available on the incidence of osteoporosis (OP) in end-stage pulmonary diseases, particularly in lung transplant candidates. Yet, organ transplantation can be accompanied by low bone mineral density (BMD) owing to immunosuppressive therapy, particularly with oral glucocorticoids (GCs) use.

Objectives: Our primary aim was to evaluate the prevalence and therapeutic management of OP in lung transplant candidates. Our second objective was to determine the risk factors associated with OP, including the type of respiratory disorder.

Methods: We included 198 patients (103 women) out of 388 screened for lung transplantation at our institution between January 1998 and December 2020. BMD, measured by Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA, Hologic (t-m)) at the lumbar spine (LS), total hip (TH), and femoral neck (FN), vertebral fracture assessment (VFA), as well as previous major osteoporotic fracture (MOF), were recorded. We systematically collected well-recognized OP risk factors, along with other factors suspected of affecting BMD such as included (i) GCs use, pulmonary function tests, hypoxemia and type of pulmonary disorder.

Results: OP was defined by BMD values (T-scores ≤ -2.5) and/or fracture fragility (FF), MOF and/or vertebral fractures (VF), was observed in 118 patients (59.6%). Among these patients, 54 (43.8%) had only a T-scores ≤ -2.5, while 56 (40.5%) had only an FF, with predominant vertebral fractures (77.8%). The median age (IQR) of the studied population was 58 years (53.0-62.0), and 59 years in OP patients (54.2-62.0). Mean T-scores (±SD) were -1.62±1.52 at the LS, -1.43±1.05 at the TH and -1.98±1.14 at the FN. Mean T-scores (±SD) in OP patients were -2.15±1.131, -1.87±0.93 and -2.44±1.03, respectively. The mean (±SD) ten-year probability of major osteoporotic fracture assessed by the FRAX algorithms (FRAX score) was 11.6±11.2 %, and the mean FRAX adjusted to GCs dose (±SD) was 12.0±12.1 %. Eighty-eight patients (49.5%) achieved intervention threshold adjusted for age based on FRAX results.
and 110 patients (55.6%) when FRAX was adjusted to GCs dose. Seventy-eight OP patients (66.1%) achieved the FRAX intervention threshold, of whom 53 (67.9%) had vertebral fractures. The mean number of vertebral fractures was 3.6 (+/-3.1) per patient. Two patients were exposed to IFN, 21 to IFN+PAM, 5 to PAM, 2 to MASI, and 9 to MIDO. Among patients treated by MIDO, 2 had prior exposure to IFN+PAM. One patient from the MIDO group and 1 patient from the MASI group were concomitantly exposed to bisphosphonates (respectively alendronate and zoledronate). Regarding treatments efficacy, IFN+PAM and PAM significantly improved BMD (see Figure 1). Two patients treated by IFN+PAM developed an additional vertebral fracture during the first year of follow-up, at 6- and 8-months post-treatment initiation. Importantly, these patients had 4 and 7 vertebral fractures prior treatment.

Conclusion: Our data show that monthly pamidronate, and combination of interferon & pamidronate improve BMD and may reduce fracture risk over 1 year in SM. Conversely, our data do not support the use of interferon monotherapy or midostaurin as preferred strategy in patients with severe osteoporosis. Usefulness of masitinib, and of recent tyrosine kinase inhibitors needs further studies in this population.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1799

References

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All OP patients</th>
<th>OP patients treated by IFN+PAM</th>
<th>OP patients treated by IFN+PAM, PAM, MASI, MIDO</th>
<th>OP patients treated by IFN+PAM, PAM, MASI, MIDO, additional treatments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apo, g (median and IQR)</td>
<td>58.58 (33.62-42.63)</td>
<td>57.00 (42.59-54.62)</td>
<td>58.00 (43.00-62.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m² (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>33.1 ± 4.7</td>
<td>23.4 ± 4.6</td>
<td>34.4 ± 6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCs use, %</td>
<td>154 (77.3%)</td>
<td>94 (79.7%)</td>
<td>50 (70.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCs use, % (n=118)</td>
<td>153 (81.3%)</td>
<td>98 (83.9%)</td>
<td>46 (35.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD, n (%)</td>
<td>153 (77.3%)</td>
<td>102 (86.4%)</td>
<td>44 (35.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEV1, % predicted (median and IQR)</td>
<td>23.0 (15.5-39.5)</td>
<td>22.0 (18.20-30.0)</td>
<td>23.0 (15.5-39.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCT, % (median and IQR)</td>
<td>44 (35.0%)</td>
<td>23 (15.5-39.5)</td>
<td>22.0 (18.20-30.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-score ≤-2.5, %, n</td>
<td>36 (21.2%)</td>
<td>24 (16.1%)</td>
<td>24 (16.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FF, %</td>
<td>36 (21.2%)</td>
<td>24 (16.1%)</td>
<td>24 (16.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-score ≤-2.5, %, n</td>
<td>28 (16.1%)</td>
<td>24 (16.1%)</td>
<td>24 (16.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Risk factors for OP, OR (CI - p-value)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>0.90 (0.83-0.99)</td>
<td>0.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCs use</td>
<td>0.91 (0.84-0.98)</td>
<td>0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>1.19 (1.02-1.40)</td>
<td>0.024</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Keywords: Bone diseases, Osteoporosis, Rare/orphan diseases

C. Nezzar1, P. Alary1, A. Ruyssen-Witrand1, G. Couture1, M. Severino-Freire2, M. Laroche1, A. Constantin1, C. Bulai Livideanu1, Y. Debobo1, 1CHU de Toulouse, Rheumatology, Toulouse, France; 2CHU de Toulouse, Dermatology and Mastocytosis Expert Centre (CEREMAST), Toulouse, France

MANAGEMENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC MASTOCYTOSIS: A MONOCENTRIC EXPERT CENTRE EXPERIENCE

C. Nezzar1, P. Alary1, A. Ruyssen-Witrand1, G. Couture1, M. Severino-Freire2, M. Laroche1, A. Constantin1, C. Bulai Livideanu1, Y. Debobo1, 1CHU de Toulouse, Rheumatology, Toulouse, France; 2CHU de Toulouse, Dermatology and Mastocytosis Expert Centre (CEREMAST), Toulouse, France

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MANAGEMENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC MASTOCYTOSIS: A MONOCENTRIC EXPERT CENTRE EXPERIENCE

C. Nezzar1, P. Alary1, A. Ruyssen-Witrand1, G. Couture1, M. Severino-Freire2, M. Laroche1, A. Constantin1, C. Bulai Livideanu1, Y. Debobo1, 1CHU de Toulouse, Rheumatology, Toulouse, France; 2CHU de Toulouse, Dermatology and Mastocytosis Expert Centre (CEREMAST), Toulouse, France

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Acknowledgements: NIL.
ROMOSOZUMAB AS A TREATMENT AFTER BISPHOSPHONATE OR FOR OSTEOPOROSIS WITH T-SCORE≤-2.5 IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Osteoporosis

Y. Hirano1, Y. Saito1,1 Toyoshahi Municipal Hospital, Rheumatology, Toyohashi, Japan

Background: Romosozumab (ROMO) is an antiscleoritin antibody that is used in the treatment of severe osteoporosis (OP). In March 2019, ROMO was approved for use in Japan for treating severe OP in clinical practice, causing an increase in its prescription in our institute. Although efficacy data for ROMO have been presented in clinical trials, there is a lack of real-world data. In our experience, ROMO treatment results in significant bone mineral density (BMD) gain in some patients, but not all. Therefore, understanding the efficacy of ROMO treatments in groups of patients frequency treated with ROMO in real-world clinical practice is essential.

Objectives: This study investigated the efficacy of a 12-month ROMO treatment in patients with OP and compared the efficacy as a treatment after bisphosphonate (BP) or for OP with T-score≤-2.5.

Methods: Our study included 64 patients with OP, who were started on ROMO treatment between June 2019 and August 2021. The following information was collected: 1) baseline characteristics, 2) course of time of BMD (lumbar spine [LS] and total hip [TH]) and bone turnover markers (BTM, bone-specific alkaline phosphatase [BAP], type I procollagen-N-propeptide [P1NP], type I procollagen-N-propeptide [NTX], and tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase-5b [TRACP-5b]), 3) BMD outcomes as a treatment after BP or for OP patients with T-score≤-2.5.

Results: 1) The mean age of the participants was 72.4 years (59 female and five male). Of the 64 understudied patients, 84.4% had past insufficient fruacity fractures, whereas 29.7% had been treated with concomitant prednisolone. Furthermore, 22 patients had primary OP, 24 had rheumatoid arthritis, 15 had glucocorticoid-induced OP, and three had other conditions. Pretreatments for OP were BP (44 patients), denosumab (6), selective estrogen receptor modulator (5), activated vitamin D (2), none (5), and daily teriparatide (1). 2) Both mean LS- and TH-BMD significantly increased in the patients for whom ROMO administration was continued for 12 months. The average percentage changes of LS- and TH-BMD were +6.6% and +16% at six months and +11.0% and +2.7% at 12 months, respectively. However, BAP and P1NP increased steeply at one month, followed by a gradual decrease. As observed, the average percentage changes of BAP and P1NP were +68.7% and +167% at one month, +47.6% and +84.3% at six months, and +20.2% and +41.5% at 12 months, respectively. The results also showed that TRACP-5b decreased from one to 12 months, with the average percentage changes being -15.1% at one month, -3.5% at six months, and -6.2% at 12 months. Moreover, NTX, a bone-resorptive marker, was slightly increased during ROMO treatment. 3) In 44 treated patients with ROMO after BP, the average percentage changes of LS- and TH-BMD were +5.7% and +1.7% at six months and +9.2% and +2.4% at 12 months, respectively. The average percentage changes of BAP and P1NP were +74.0% and +189.9% at one month, +39.5% and +65.3% at six months, and +177% and +36.8% at 12 months, respectively. TRACP-5b decreased from one to 12 months, with the average percentage changes being -14.7% at one month, -2.8% at six months, and -6.6% at 12 months. In 23 patients with baseline LS T-score≤-2.5 at 12 months. In 24 patients with baseline TH T-score≤-2.5, the average percentage changes of LS-BMD were +2.3% at six months and +3.1% at 12 months. 20.8% of patients reached LS T-score>-2.5 at 12 months.

Conclusions: ROMO treatments rapidly increased BMD, especially LS-BMD, and changed BTM after one month in both treatment after BP and OP with T-score≤-2.5.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

RISK WEIGHT CALCULATION OF CANDIDATE VARIANTS FOR INCIDENT MAJOR OSTEOPOROTIC FRACTURE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Predominant factors, Validation, Osteoporosis

J. Yoshii1, N. Sawada1,1 Yoshii Clinic, Musculoskeletal Medicine, Shimanto City, Japan;1 Dohgo Onsen Hospital, Rheumatology, Matsuyama, Japan

Background: Incidental osteoporotic fractures are one of the serious comorbidities in patients with rheumatic disease (RD). However, no comprehensive treatment criteria exist to prevent these fractures.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to develop criteria and assess the validity of the criteria using retrospective cohort data.

Methods: Patients with RDs who were treated for more than one year were picked up in the study. The patients were followed up with blood tests including cystatin C (CysC) every 3 months. Bone mineral density (BMD) using dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry densitometry was measured annually. Comorbidities, presence of prevalent osteoporotic fracture, and habitual tastes such as alcohol drinking and current smoking were picked up at the initiation of treatment (baseline). The primary endpoint was incidental osteoporotic fractures (inc-OF). Patients were followed up until December 2022, unless censored by death, loss of follow-up, or dropping out due to admission to a nursing home. Candidate risk factors, with these significant differences between groups of OP and without OP, were demonstrated using Mann-Whitney U-test, for incident OF and were evaluated using a Cox regression analysis with the univariate model. Risk weights of each factor were calculated using risk ratio and beta-value. The total risk weight for each patient (TRW) was determined by summarizing the risk weight of each factor. Receiver operating characteristics (ROC) analysis was tested in order to determine the area under the curve (AUC) and the cut-off index (COI). Finally, a chi-square test was also performed in regard to anti-osteoporotic drug administration after baseline (OPD).

Results: A total of 1228 patients in these 345 males and 883 females were included. The mean age at baseline was 77.7 years old, and the mean follow-up period was 40.2 months. Background RDs were 761 with rheumatoid arthritis, 163 with psoriatic arthritis, 99 with Sjogren syndrome, 65 with purpura palmaris et plantaris, 48 with systemic lupus erythematosus, 24 with ankylosing spondylitis, 19 with systemic sclerosis, 16 with ulcerative colitis, 12 with Behcet’s disease, 4 with polymyositis/dermatomyositis, 3 with mixed connective tissue disease, 3 with familial Mediterranean fever, and 1 with polyarteritis nodosa. Picked-up factors were the presence of pre-OF, estimated glomerular filtration rate using CysC (eGFR), T-score in the lumbar spine (LS) and in the femoral neck (FN), number of comorbidities (nCom), presence of diabetes mellitus (DM), hypertension (HT), hyperlipidemia (HL), chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD), insomnia, cognitive impairment (CI), musculoskeletal atrophy disorder symptom complex (MADS), disuse, neuromuscular diseases (NMD), and polypharmacy (PPs). Risk ratios, beta-values, p-values, and calculated risk weights in these factors were shown in Table 1. The mean TRW in patients with OPD and 138.4 in the group with no incident OF (p<0.001). The AUC was 0.787 and the COI was 93.6 with 80.4% and 68.8% of sensitivity and specificity, respectively (p<0.001). OPD was administrated in 341 patients of the 471 TRW positive group in whom 299 did not have inc-OF, whereas, in the 164 patients of the 757 TRW negative group, only 10 had inc-OF.

Conclusion: A novel evaluation system for osteoporosis treatment should be a numerical system that summarizes adding risk weight of each candidate factor.
Background: Osteoporosis is a condition characterised by low bone mineral density (BMD) and is associated with increased risk of fractures and subsequent increased morbidity and mortality. The usual sites of BMD measurements are either the non-dominant hip or the spine. The hip is used to predict fracture risk using the FRAX™ tool. Some patients have a different BMD as shown by their T scores in the contralateral hip.

Methods: Data from a dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) scanner in the North West of England were used. Patients who were referred between 2004-2011 were studied. Patients had both hips scanned as well as risk factors and presence of fracture recorded. Data collected included age, sex, height, weight, BMI, history of fractures, rheumatoid arthritis status, smoking status, alcohol use and malabsorption. Those that had a BMD T-score difference of either greater than or equal to +1 SD or -1SD were considered to have discordant hips. These two groups were compared using independent sample t-tests for continuous variables and chi-squared tests for categorical variables. Logistic models were then fitted to look at the odds of fracture in each group.

Results: The hip T-scores of 35759 patients were measured. Mean age was 62.17 (±12.78) with 88.1% being female. There were 15287 (42.75%) who had discordant hips. The odds ratio for the measured risk factors and the association with fracture are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Odds ratio of risk factors for patients with non-discordant and discordant hips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk factor</th>
<th>Whole Group</th>
<th>Non-Discordant</th>
<th>Discordant</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (Years) Mean (SD)</td>
<td>62.17 (±12.78)</td>
<td>63.11 (±12.86)</td>
<td>60.92 (±12.55)</td>
<td>0.987 (0.985-0.988)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height (cm) Mean (SD)</td>
<td>161.87 (±8.30)</td>
<td>162.30 (±8.38)</td>
<td>161.31 (±8.17)</td>
<td>0.986 (0.983-0.988)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (Kg) Mean (SD)</td>
<td>70.35 (±15.33)</td>
<td>71.40 (±15.74)</td>
<td>68.96 (±14.64)</td>
<td>0.989 (0.988-0.991)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (Kg/m²) Mean (SD)</td>
<td>26.80 (±5.25)</td>
<td>27.06 (±5.38)</td>
<td>26.45 (±5.04)</td>
<td>0.978 (0.974-0.982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>84.16</td>
<td>83.09</td>
<td>85.60</td>
<td>1.209 (1.141-1.282)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Use (%)</td>
<td>5.02</td>
<td>6.96</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>0.331 (0.294-0.371)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
<td>4.27</td>
<td>5.34</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>0.516 (0.461-0.578)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking Status (%)</td>
<td>26.24</td>
<td>36.13</td>
<td>12.99</td>
<td>0.264 (0.250-0.279)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture (%)</td>
<td>34.08</td>
<td>32.11</td>
<td>36.72</td>
<td>1.227 (1.174-1.282)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of 11.88</td>
<td>16.29</td>
<td>5.87</td>
<td>0.327 (0.302-0.352)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis (%)</td>
<td>21.05</td>
<td>23.52</td>
<td>17.75</td>
<td>0.702 (0.666-0.740)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid Use (%)</td>
<td>10.66</td>
<td>14.14</td>
<td>6.01</td>
<td>0.388 (0.359-0.419)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Hip discordance might be associated with adverse risk factors such as increased frequency of fractures. Measuring BMD of both hips could give a better estimate of future fracture risk. Further analysis of a subset from this group will be explored and presented.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OSTEOPOROSIS IS UNCOMMON IN EARLY CLONAL MAST CELL DISORDERS

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Rare/orphan diseases, Bone diseases

Y. Dobes 1, O. T. M. Severino-Freire 2, G. Couture 1, P. A. A. Apoil 1, N. Gaudenzio 2, O. Hermine 1, A. Ruysen-Witrand 1, A. Constantin 1, C. Paul 1, M. Laroche 1, C. Bulai Levidanu 1, CHU de Toulouse, Rheumatology, Toulouse, France; INSERM UMR1291, Infinity, Toulouse, France; CHU de Toulouse, Dermatology and Mastocytosis Expert Centre (CEREMAST), Toulouse, France; CHU de Toulouse, Immunology, Toulouse, France; AP-HP Necker Hospital, Department of Hematology and Mastocytosis Expert Centre (CEREMAST), Paris, France.

Background: Currently there exists limited data around predictors of osteoporosis as well as fragility fractures in men.[1] It is therefore important to understand the determinants of poor bone health in males and thus predictors of fractures to help deliver optimal care. Males referred for Bone Mineral Density (BMD) estimation are a good source of exploring such predictors of fractures. We sought to investigate the determinants of one versus many fractures in a population of males routinely referred for BMD estimation using Dual X-Ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) scans.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to assess the predictors of one vs multiple fractures in males routinely referred for DEXA scans, in an observational cohort.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Methods: Data was obtained from patients referred to secondary care in the northwest of England who subsequently were assessed for low BMD via DEXA. Males referred between 2004 and 2019 were selected and data collected at attendance included patients’ full medical history and body habitus. Logistic models reporting odds ratio were used to examine the predictive factors for one versus multiple fractures in the cohort.

Results: A total of 5390 male patients were included in this analysis, the median age at scan was 66 years and the mean age was 76.6 +/- 13.7 (SD). A total of 1853 fractures occurred in our population of males. Varying modifiable and non-modifiable factors were identified as predictors of fractures. Modifiable factors included those who drank excess alcohol. Patients who had a history of excess alcohol consumption were more likely to have multiple fractures OR: 1.260 (CI: 1.02-1.56) (p= 0.030).

Furthermore, BMD at the left neck of femur was protective for multiple fractures OR: 0.938 (CI: 0.89-0.99) (p= 0.018). Interestingly the BMD at the right neck of femur was not predictive of multiple fractures. In terms of non-modifiable risk factors, height was statistically significant in being protective against fractures in this cohort OR: 0.991 (CI:0.98-0.99) (p= 0.016). Rheumatoid arthritis, steroid use, family history and coeliac disease all produced insignificant results when predicting one versus many fractures in this male cohort. A summary of the results can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. A summary of the predictors of fractures in males referred for BMD assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>Confidence Interval</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess Alcohol</td>
<td>1.260</td>
<td>1.02-1.56</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMD L NOF</td>
<td>0.938</td>
<td>0.89-0.99</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMD R NOF</td>
<td>0.966</td>
<td>0.91-1.03</td>
<td>0.255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>0.991</td>
<td>0.98-0.99</td>
<td>0.016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: This study identifies factors predictive of multiple fractures among males referred for BMD assessment. Our analysis shows that a history of excess alcohol consumption, altered BMD results at the left neck of femur, and height were statistically significant in the prediction of multiple fractures. Our previous study also found a relationship between excess alcohol consumption and patterns of fractures in males. Further research is required to better understand both this link and alcohol’s importance in the pathophysiology of osteoporosis in men. Such research is also imperative in hypothesising specific factors relating to fractures adjusted and unadjusted for age.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0502 IMPLEMENTATION OF A CLINICAL CARE PATHWAY FOR SYSTEMATIC BONE FRAGILITY ASSESSMENT AT THE INITIATION OF ANDROGEN DEPRIVATION IN PROSTATE CANCER PATIENTS (HORMOS PROJECT)

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Bone diseases, Best practices

O. Fogle1, C. Dariané1, J. E. Bibus2, S. Kreps3, C. Thibault4, C. Gervais5, A. Rochaud1, C. Meynard1, E. Rapeaud2, S. Hmlia2, F. Audenet2, O. S. A. Mejane3, C. Roux2, M. O. Timsit2, K. Broit2, 1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2European Hospital Georges-Pompidou, Urology, Paris, France; 3European Hospital Georges-Pompidou, Radiology Oncology, Paris, France; 4European Hospital Georges-Pompidou, Clinical Oncology, Paris, France.

Background: Androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) in prostate cancer (PCa) is associated with an increased risk of bone fragility including bone loss, osteoporosis and fractures. Although international recommendations suggest performing dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) at the initiation of treatment, less than 10% of patients do it. The implementation of a standardised clinical care pathway could help prevent bone-related complications in patients starting ADT.

Objectives: To improve screening for bone fragility in patients starting ADT for PCa by setting up a clinical care pathway. To describe the characteristic of patients with PCa starting ADT.

Methods: The radiation oncologists, medical oncologists or urologists from a tertiary center systematically referred all patients starting any ADT for PCa to our rheumatology department for a bone-health assessment including a DXA and clinics with a bone specialist. The effectiveness of the pathway was assessed by the number of patients who performed DXA at the initiation of ADT.

Results: Between March and December 2022, 116 of the 119 patients (97%) referred to our department were able to have a bone assessment within an average of 36 +/- 15 days. The three patients not seen in the care pathway did not wish to come for a new medical appointment. Among the 116 patients, mean age at first visit was 75 +/- 7 years old, mean BMI 26.9 +/- 4.7kg/m², 35% were previous or current smoker and Charlson Comorbidity Index was 4.75 +/- 2.5 with 20% diabetes, 15% peripheral vascular disease, 11% coronaryaropathy and 10% chronic kidney disease. Regarding PCa, 65% were on a localized or locally-advanced stage while 35% were metastatic and overall, 44% presented with a high risk histioprognostic score (ISP 4 or 5). Sixty-four patients (55%) were scheduled to concomitant prostatic external beam radiation, as initial or salvage therapy. Median PSA at diagnosis was 16ng/ml (8.8-38.5) at inclusion, 70% of patients had a newly-diagnosed PCa, 40% were recurrent PCa. ADT was prescribed alone for 65% of patients or in combination with new hormone-therapy (NHT) for 35% of patients and 26% with concomitant corticosteroids with a mean dose of 10 +/-4mg. The mean duration of previous ADT for relapsing patients was 16 +/- 20 months. Regarding bone disease, 11% patients had previous bone fracture mainly in the spine, 15% had familial history of hip fracture and 20% reported a fall within the past year. Forty-two percent of patients had vitamin D supplementation but only one was previously treated with an anti-osteoporotic agent.

Conclusio: This clinical care pathway allowed 97% of patients to have a bone assessment when starting ADT for PCa. This cohort of 116 patients confirms the high prevalence of low BMD among these patients and the need to screen and treat patients to prevent bone-related complications.

Acknowledgments: I thanks Moniraniary DERAHARJAON and Catherine LE BOURLOUT for their help in collecting clinical data.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0503 RISK OF CAROTIDEMBOLIC ISCHAEMIC STROKE AMONG NEW USERS OF ORAL BISPHOSPHONATES: A NESTED CASE-CONTROL STUDY

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Osteoporosis, Epidemiology

S. Rodríguez-Martín1, D. Barreira-Hernández1, R. Mazzucchelli2, M. Gili2, A. García-Lledó4, L. Izquierdo-Esteban1, A. Pérez-Gómez1, A. Rodríguez-Miguel1, F. De Abajo8,9. 1Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, 1Department of Biomedical Sciences (Pharmacology), Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Rheumatology, Alcorcon, Spain; 3Agency Española de Medicamentos y Productos Sanitarios (AEMPS), Pharmacoeconomics and Pharmacovigilance, Madrid, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, Cardiology, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, Neurology, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 6Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, Rheumatology, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 7Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, Clinical Pharmacology Unit, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 8Alcalá University, Biomedical Sciences, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 9Hospital University Príncipe de Asturias, Clinical Pharmacology Unit, Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

Background: Bisphosphonates have been associated with atrial fibrillation, but studies carried out thus far have not shown that they are also associated with an increased risk of ischemic stroke (IS). None, however, separated by IS subtype (cardioembolic vs non-cardioembolic). The long-term use of oBs with calcium supplements increases specifically the risk of cardioembolic IS.

Objectives: The present study aimed to test the hypothesis that use of oral bisphosphonates (oBs) increases specifically the risk of cardioembolic IS.

Methods: A nested case-control study was performed using the Spanish primary healthcare database BIFAP (period: 2002-2015). Incident cases of IS were identified and classified as cardioembolic or non-cardioembolic. Five controls per case were randomly selected, matched for exact age, sex, and index date (first recorded IS). The association of IS (overall and by subtype) with the use of oBs within the last year before index date was assessed by computing the adjusted odds ratios (AOR) and their corresponding 95%CI using conditional logistic regression. Only oBs initiators were considered. (Figure 1). 

Results: A total of 4,586 cardioembolic IS cases (matched with 21,697 controls) and 7,673 non-cardioembolic IS cases (matched with 44,213 controls) were included. For cardioembolic IS, the use of oBs was associated with an AOR of 1.35(1.10-1.66), in a duration dependent manner (AOR≤1year=1.10;0.82-1.49; AOR>1-3years=1.41;1.01-1.97; AOR>3years=1.81;1.25-2.62; p for trend=0.001). Such increased risk only appeared when patients used concomitantly calcium supplements and was completely blunted by anticoagulants. No increased risk was observed for non-cardioembolic IS (AOR=1.03;0.88-1.21).

Conclusion: The long-term use of oBs with calcium supplements increases the risk of cardioembolic IS, while leaves materially unaffected the risk of non-cardioembolic IS.
Background: Realization of a thoraco-lumbar lateral view X-ray (Vertebral Fracture Assessment, VFA) when performing Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) is proposed in international guidelines to detect asymptomatic vertebral fractures. However, there is no clear consensus regarding indications of its realization.

Objectives: First, we compared the efficiency of a systematic VFA realization during DEXA versus its realization according to different criteria available in literature. Second, we looked after risk factors associated with vertebral fractures.

Methods: 401 successive patients underwent DEXA with a thoraco-lumbar lateral view X-ray (VFA). Medical files were retrospectively reviewed to determine if the patient should have benefited from a VFA according to the ISCD (International Society for Clinical Densitometry) 2007 criteria, ISCD 2015, NOF (National Osteoporosis foundation) 2014, SFR (French Society of Rheumatology), NHG (Nederlands Huisartsen Genootschap) 2nd revision or NHG 3rd revision.

Results: Among 401 successive patients who underwent systematic VFA, a vertebral fracture was observed in 71 patients (17.7%). 74, 54, 62, 73, 12 and 53% of patients should have undergone a VFA according to the ISCD 2007, ISCD 2015, NOF 2014, SFR, NHG criteria 2nd revision and NHG 3rd revision respectively. With the exception of the NHG 2nd revision criteria which only identified 23.2% of fractures, there was no significant difference in fracture detection between “systematic VFA” and “VFA realized following the recommendations” groups. Criteria sensitivity varied between 81.7 and 91.6% of detection, with the best detection performance for SFR criteria. The ISCD 2015 criteria presented the best sensitivity/specificity ratio of detection. The NHG2 criteria were the most specific (40.8% of VFA positive for fracture) but they lack of sensitivity, compared to systematic use, missed the detection of 51 fractures (12.7%). The detection of a vertebral fracture was significantly more frequent in patients with low bone mineral density at lumbar spine, femoral neck, but also waist. Age, menopause, height loss, hip fracture in a parent, back pain, COPD, active smoking and inhibitor of proton pump (PPI) use were also associated with higher fracture detection.

Conclusion: VFA realization based on literature criteria has a detection sensitivity between 82 and 92% (with the exception of the NHG 2nd revision criteria), with the SFR criteria having the best detection capacity and the ISCD 2015 criteria the best sensitivity/specificity ratio. Use of the VFA realization criteria may help to better determine the selection of patients requiring a VFA: VFA realization based on these criteria did not detect significantly less fracture that the systematic VFA realization. Low bone density, loss of height and history of hip fracture in parents were associated with vertebral fracture. Among medical history, attention should be paid to COPD, smoking and PPI use, also associated with the demonstration of a vertebral fracture.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Study demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Total n = 141</th>
<th>Females n = 103</th>
<th>Males n = 38</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Inflammatory RMD</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>0.226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age [years] (SD)</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>0.737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height [cm] (SD)</td>
<td>165.3</td>
<td>161.5</td>
<td>175.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight [kg] (SD)</td>
<td>77.9</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALM Height$^2$/kg(m$^2$) (SD)</td>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>6.79</td>
<td>7.51</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body fat [%] (SD)</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest BMD T-score (SD)</td>
<td>-1.6</td>
<td>-1.7</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td>0.227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grip strength [kg] (SD)</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gait speed [m/s] (SD)</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dysmobility Score (SD)</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple Frail Score (SD)</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.085</td>
</tr>
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</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) commonly develop osteoporosis and fragility fractures due to differentiation and induction of osteoclast, steroid use, and inactivities of daily life [1-3]. The prevalence of osteoporosis during long-term RA has been reported to be as high as 19-32%, and RA patients have 1.5-2.3 times the risk of fracture as non-RA patients. However, the relationship between bone mineral density and fracture risk in RA patients is not clear, and there are few reports on bone mineral density and fracture location in RA patients.

Objectives: To investigate the incidence of fracture and fracture site in RA patients, and to explore the risk factors for fragility fractures in RA patients.

Methods:
1. A total of 4786 RA patients were included. We extracted new incidence of fracture from medical record and investigated the location of fractures.
2. A total of 4270 patients including non-RA patients who had dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) were analyzed. The RA group was divided into two groups: RAfx+ group with fracture and RAfx- group without fracture. Young Adult Mean (YAM) values were compared between groups based on DEXA data from 3634 patients in the non-RA group, 147 patients in the RAfx+ group, and 489 patients in the RAfx- group. Patients were included in the RAfx+ group if they had one or more fractures, and in the RAfx- group if they did not have any fractures.
3. The demographics, and clinical characteristics of 636 RA patients who had DEXA were investigated. Bone mineral density (YAM value), osteoporosis treatment intervention, steroid use, biologic drug use, the levels of anti-CCP, DEXA values, age, and sex matching, 147 patients were allocated to each group, respectively. Y AM value of femur was 67.7/73.7% and those of lumbar spine were 81.0/86.0%, in group A/B, of which both were significant (p<0.01, 0.01, respectively).

Conclusions: New fractures occurred in 8.0% of RA patients, with vertebral fractures being the most common. RA patients with fractures had significantly lower femoral/lumbar YAM values than RA patients without fractures. Steroid use, low femoral bone density, and lack of osteoporosis intervention were factors significantly associated with fracture occurrence in RA patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1824

POS0507 OSTEOPOROSIS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN A MONOCENTRIC CENTER. ANY ROLE FOR CALCINOSIS?

Keywords: Bone diseases, Systemic sclerosis, Osteoporosis

M. Cardar1, G. Pellegrino1, D. M. Reza Beigi1, I. Biscoti1, F. R. Di Cimmom1, S. Truglia1, F. Conti1, V. Riccioni1, Sapienza University of Rome, Clinical Internal, Anesthesiological and Cardiovascular Sciences, Roma, Italy

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a rare and progressive autoimmune disease, that has been associated with an increased risk of osteoporosis (OP), but risk factors are still debated [1,2].

Objectives: The aim of our study was to investigate the risk factors for osteoporosis (OP) and evaluate if any feature of the disease could increase the risk of osteoporosis.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study we included 60 consecutive patients, fulfilling the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria of SSc[3], attending our Rheumatology Unit from July to December 2022. All the 60 patients performed a Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) between 2020 and 2022. Osteoporosis was defined as T score less than -2.5 SD and osteopenia as a T-score between -1.0 and -2.5 SD, according to WHO definitions. In univariate analysis, a history of osteoporosis intervention, especially denosumab use, and a history of steroid use were associated with fracture incidence (p = 0.02, 0.002, 0.03, respectively) significantly. In multivariate analysis, Y AM value of femur (OR: 0.386), a history of steroid use (OR: 2.04), and osteoporosis intervention (OR: 0.413) were significantly associated with the incidence of fractures.

Conclusion: New fractures occurred in 8.0% of RA patients, with vertebral fractures being the most common. RA patients with fractures had significantly lower femoral/lumbar YAM values than RA patients without fractures. Steroid use, low femoral bone density, and lack of osteoporosis intervention were factors significantly associated with fracture occurrence in RA patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2193

POS0506 RISK FACTOR ANALYSIS OF FRACTURES IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Bone diseases, Osteoporosis

S. Takahara1, A. Uefuji1,2, N. Nakagawa1,2,1-Hyogo Prefectural Kagokawa Medical Center, Orthopaedic Surgery, Kagokawa, Japan; Hyogo Prefectural Kagokawa Medical Center, Reumatology, Kagokawa, Japan

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) commonly develop osteoporosis and fragility fractures due to differentiation and induction of osteoclast, steroid use, and inactivities of daily life [1-3]. The prevalence of osteoporosis during long-term RA has been reported to be as high as 19-32%, and RA patients have 1.5-2.3 times the risk of fracture as non-RA patients. However, the relationship between bone mineral density and fracture risk in RA patients is not clear, and there are few reports on bone mineral density and fracture location in RA patients.

Objectives: To investigate the incidence of fracture and fracture site in RA patients, and to explore the risk factors for fragility fractures in RA patients.

Methods:
1. A total of 4785 RA patients were included. We extracted new incidence of fracture from medical record and investigated the location of fractures.
2. A total of 4270 patients including non-RA patients who had dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) were analyzed. The RA group was divided into two groups: RAfx+ group with fracture and RAfx- group without fracture. Young Adult Mean (YAM) values were compared between groups based on DEXA data from 3634 patients in the non-RA group, 147 patients in the RAfx+ group, and 489 patients in the RAfx- group. Patients were included in the RAfx+ group if they had one or more fractures, and in the RAfx- group if they did not have any fractures.
3. The demographics, and clinical characteristics of 636 RA patients who had DEXA were investigated. Bone mineral density (YAM value), osteoporosis treatment intervention, steroid use, biologic drug use, the levels of anti-CCP (cyclic citrullinated peptide) antibody, and BMI (body mass index) were analyzed between two groups.

Results:
1. Of the 4785 RA patients, a total of 550 fractures occurred in 384 patients (8.0%). The mean age was 70.5 and 63 years old in the fracture and non-fracture groups, respectively, and was significantly higher in the fracture group (p<0.01). The most common fracture sites were vertebral (205 fractures), following 57 proximal femur fractures, 55 thoracic fractures, and 41 pelvic fractures.
2. The %YAM of femur was 73.9% in the non-RA group, 67.7% in the RAfx+ group, and 76.0% in the RAfx- group, and %YAM of lumber spine was 85.5% in the non-RA group, 81.0% in the RAfx+ group, and 88.1% in the RAfx- group, with the RAfx+ group having significantly lower values (p<0.01). After age and sex matching, 147 patients were allocated to each group, respectively. Y AM value of femur was 67.7/73.7% and those of lumbar spine were 81.0/86.0%, in group A/B, both of which were significant (p<0.01, 0.01, respectively).

3. In univariate analysis, a history of osteoporosis intervention, especially denosumab use, and a history of steroid use were associated with fracture incidence (p = 0.02, 0.002, 0.03, respectively) significantly. In multivariate analysis, YAM value of femur (OR: 0.386), a history of steroid use (OR: 2.04), and osteoporosis intervention (OR: 0.413) were significantly associated with the incidence of fractures.

Conclusion: New fractures occurred in 8.0% of RA patients, with vertebral fractures being the most common. RA patients with fractures had significantly lower femoral/lumbar YAM values than RA patients without fractures. Steroid use, low femoral bone density, and lack of osteoporosis intervention were factors significantly associated with fracture occurrence in RA patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1824
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Table 1.

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<td>24.0±3.63</td>
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<td>PPI therapy (N, %)</td>
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<td>Lumbar spine (T Score) (mean±SD)</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2862

Crystal diseases, metabolic bone diseases other than osteoporosis

POS0508

A RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL COMPARING ANAKINRA VERSUS STEROIDS FOR THE TREATMENT OF GOUT ATTACKS IN PEOPLE WITH RENAL DISEASE (ASGARD): A FEASIBILITY STUDY

Keywords: Gout, Randomized control trial, Kidneys

G. Balasubramaniam1,2, M. Almond3, P. Harnett4, J. Zhang5, D. Turner6, J. Scales7, C. Moore7, K. Hayden7, E. Roddy8, C. Mallen8, N. Ng9, S. Bhagat10, J. Card-Gowers1, L. Webber1, L. Retat1, M. Piotrowski1, B. Lamoreaux2, J. Card-Gowers1, L. Webber1, L. Retat1, M. Piotrowski1, B. Lamoreaux2, J. Card-Gowers1, L. Webber1, L. Retat1, M. Piotrowski1, B. Lamoreaux2, J. Card-Gowers1, L. Webber1, L. Retat1, M. Piotrowski1, B. Lamoreaux2, J. Card-Gowers1, L. Webber1, L. Retat1, M. Piotrowski1, B. Lamoreaux2, J. Card-Gowers1, L. Webber1, L. Retat1, M. Piotrowski1, B. Lamoreaux2

Background: Title: A study to determine the feasibility of undertaking a definitively randomised multi-centre, double-blind, double-dummy controlled study of Anakinra vs. intramuscular methylprednisolone acetate for acute gout attacks in patients with chronic kidney disease. Gout is common in people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) where effective treatments like non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are contra-indicated. Anakinra, an IL-1 receptor antagonist, could be an important treatment option for treating gout flares in people with CKD. A future definitive trial may be feasible if we are able to overcome challenges in recruitment, better ways of case finding, and initiating randomised treatment during gout flare. Our study is the first gout study looking specifically at people with advanced CKD and showed good safety and efficacy with these agents for this group of patients.

Objectives: Aim: to assess the feasibility of the design and procedures for a future definitive randomised trial of anakinra in people with moderate to severe CKD. Specific objectives were to: test recruitment and retention; test eligibility criteria; collect outcome data to inform sample and power calculations for a future trial; collect economic data to inform a future economic evaluation; and assess capacity for to scale up to a larger trial.

Methods: Design: two-parallel group, double-blind, double-dummy, multicentre randomised feasibility trial comparing subcutaneous anakinra 100mg for 5 days with a single injection of intramuscular methylprednisolone acetate 120mg for treating gout flares in people with CKD (eGFR <60mls/min/1.73m2). Participants were planned to be recruited from five sites in the South East region of the UK over 15 months, the target sample size was 32. Proposed primary outcome was self-assessed pain intensity using Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) (0–100mm) and 5-point Likert scale. Proposed secondary outcome measures consisted of physician assessment of joint; assessment of activity limitation and quality of life using Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index, 36-item Short Form Survey, Five-level EuroQol Five-Dimensional Questionnaire and Lower Extremity Functional Scale.

Results: 21 patients were randomised (anakinra 10, depo-Medrone 11), 3 were lost to follow-up. Mean age was 72 years and mean eGFR was 43.6 ml/min/1.73m2. The first metatarsophalangeal joint was the commonest joint affected (10/21). 2 participants were taking urate-lowering therapy although 16 reported previous flares. Mean overall change in pain from baseline was 35.88 by VAS and 1.69 by Likert scale. Functional assessment and quality of life assessment was highly completed. The baseline assessment was low for the SF-36 and HAQ-DI, the LEFS showed a trend of improvement and the HAD-QI showed a decline from day 7 to week 8. Health resource use was higher when assessed by health records compared to self-reporting. Qualitative feedback from participants alluded to high questionnaire burden and delays in receiving treatment. There were no serious adverse events or reactions. One patient needed rescue medication 10 days later for recrudescence of flare in the anakinra arm. We met three out of its four success criteria: recruiting at least 70% of eligible patients; 85% of participants completing 5 out of 7 pain outcome measure; and ≤10% treatment cross-over or failure.

Conclusion: Our study did not meet its entire feasibility target due to poor recruitment. This was compounded by various factors which may be possible to overcome. Aspects to rationalise the study would be utilising VAS and patient reported Likert, without physician assessment of joints. Functional assessment and quality of life assessment could be reconciled to using EQ-5D-5L and SF-36 at day 1, day 7 and week 8 minimising the questionnaire burden. We did not find good functional assessment with the LEFS and HAQ-DI, the gout flare score may be a possible alternative, bearing in mind the impact of questionnaire burden. A future definitive trial may be feasible if we are able to overcome challenges in recruitment, better ways of case finding, and initiating randomised treatment during gout flare. Our study is the first gout study looking specifically at people with advanced CKD and showed good safety and efficacy with these agents for this group of patients.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.716

Crystal diseases, metabolic bone diseases other than osteoporosis

POS0509

PROJECTING THE FUTURE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC BURDEN OF CONTROLLED AND UNCONTROLLED GOUT IN THE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE POPULATION IN THE US: PRELIMINARY RESULTS USING MICROSIMULATION MODELLING METHODS

Keywords: Gout, Epidemiology

J. Card-Gowers1, L. Webber1, L. Retat1, M. Piotrowski1, B. Lamoreaux2, B. Marder3, A. Kumar4, HealthLumen Ltd, Epidemiological Modelling, London, United Kingdom; 5Horizon Therapeutics plc, Medical Affairs, Deerfield, United States of America

Background: Chronic kidney disease (CKD) and gout are major public health concerns. The prevalence of gout (4%) and hyperuricemia (20%) is high in the general population and progressively increases as kidney function decreases [1,2]. An increasing number of people in the US are living with both gout and...
CKD, posing a significant health and quality of life (QoL) burden to patients when putting economic pressure on the healthcare system. Moreover, current gout management in the US is sub-optimal, with a large number of gout patients remaining untreated, undertreated, or uncontrolled [3].

**Objectives:** To quantify the 2023-2035 health and economic burden of controlled and uncontrolled gout in the US CKD population.

**Methods:** A validated microsimulation model was used to project gout burden in the US CKD population, which was reproduced virtually using United Nations data [4]. Each individual was assigned estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), albuminuria, and serum urate (SU) values, which were extracted through analysis of the US NHANES (2011 to 2018). The prevalence of self-reported gout by age, sex, and CKD stage was also examined. Controlled and uncontrolled gout costs, eGFR decline rates, tophi and flare probabilities were drawn from the literature. Uncontrolled gout was defined as SU>6 mg/dL and ≥2 flares/yr or the presence of tophi. The microsimulation was run between 2023 and 2035.

**Results:** The simulation predicts a 9.2% growth in the prevalence of gout and CKD in the US between 2023 and 2035, from 7.6 million to 8.3 million patients, respectively. By 2035, 10.2% of CKD patients (2.8 million) are projected to have uncontrolled gout (Graph 1), an annual average increase of 37,000 patients each year to 2035. This compares with 5.2% of CKD patients (2.8 million) with controlled gout by 2035. The number of people living with gout and advanced CKD (stages 3-5) is projected to grow by 19.4%, from 4.7 million patients in 2023 to 5.8 million patients by 2035, of which the majority (67.2%) will have uncontrolled gout. Factors driving this increase are predominantly population growth and ageing. Tophi and flare occurrence are similarly projected to increase. The resulting combined direct and indirect costs of gout in CKD patients are projected to increase from $43.5 billion in 2023 to $47.5 billion by 2035. This equates to a cumulative cost of $594.4 billion over the next 12 years, of which 76% is due to uncontrolled gout (Table 1). If all gout in CKD was controlled, the US could save $169.9 billion between 2023 and 2035.


**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3175

**POS0610**

**INTERRUPTING FASING REDUCES CRYSTAL-INDUCED INFLAMMATION**

**Keywords:** Gout, Crystal arthritis, Diet and nutrition

**N. Pham**1,2, T. W. Chirayath1, F. Castelli1, F. Fenaillie1, A. L. Nguyen3, F. Brial1, A. Latourte1, F. Liott1, P. Richette1, T. Bardin1, H. K. Eal1. 1INSERM URM1132 - BIOSCAR, Lariboisiere Hospital, Paris, France; 2Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Internal Medicine Department, Haiphong, Vietnam; 3Laboratoire d’études du Metabolisme des Medicaments UMS 29, CEA Saclay, Gil-sur-Yvette, France

**Background:** Inflammation induced by monosodium urate (MSU) and calcium pyrophosphate (CPP) crystals depends on interleukin (IL)-1α activated the NLRP3 inflammasome. The inflammatory response can be modulated by diet, fasting, and crystalic sanctions.

**Objectives:** To determine whether intermittent fasting reduces MSU and CPP crystal-induced inflammation.

**Methods:** Crystal-induced inflammation was assessed using both types of crystals in vivo in the air pouch model in 8-week-old wild-type male mice fed either with a normal ad libitum diet or intermittent fasting (IF) (every day fast, 2 days during 1 week). Inflammatory cytokine production (IL-1α and CXCL-1) was assessed in the pouch lavages and the cellular infiltrate analyzed by histology (H&E staining). Metabolomic analyses were performed by high-performance liquid chromatography coupled to high-resolution mass spectrometry (LC-HRMS) on air pouch lavages, serum, and liver tissues. Changes in metabolites associated with diet interventions were studied by the Metaboanalyst platform and we established the metabolic profiles for each experimental condition. In vitro, human monocytes THP-1 were stimulated by sterile synthetic crystals of MSU and CPP while the production of inflammatory cytokines was quantified by ELISA. To assess the role of glutamine/glutamate metabolism pathway related to IF in microcrystalline disease, the concentrations of glutamine/glutamate in synovial fluids (SF) from patients with gout, CPP-related disease and osteoarthritis (OA) were quantified by ultra-performance liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry (UPLC-MSS).

**Results:** Inflammation induced by MSU and CPP crystals was drastically decreased by IF compared with normal diet: IL-1α (MSU 0.0 vs. 30.0 pg/ml; CPP 0.0 vs. 473 pg/ml; p<0.0001); CXCL-1 (MSU 675 vs. 186.8 pg/ml; CPP 156.1 vs. 549.5 pg/ml; p<0.0005); as were cell infiltration assessed by number of cells in the air pouch lavages (MSU 0.2 x 10^7 vs. 1.1 x 10^7; CPP 0.4 x 10^9 vs. 2.9 x 10^9; p<0.0001) and membrane histology semi-quantitative score (MSU 0.6 vs 3.0; CPP 0.8 vs 2.7; p<0.0001). Reduction of inflammation by IF was associated with significant changes in membrane, serum and liver metabolites. IF increased ketone bodies (hydroxybutyric acid) as well as cholic acid, acetyl glycol, hydroxy caproic acid. In contrast, IF decreased carbohydrate metabolites, as well as glutamate and succinic semialdehyde. Many metabolic pathways were altered by IF such as galactose, starch, sucrose, aspartate, glutamate, alanine and arginine metabolism. Interestingly, the glutamine and glutamate metabolic pathway was enriched in serum, membrane and liver compartments. Glutamine/glutamate involvement in microcrystal-induced inflammation was evidenced in SFs. SF concentration of glutamine was decreased during gout and CPP flares compared to OA effusion (gout 352.3 µM and CPP 3975.0 µM vs OA 509.3 µM, p<0.0001 and p<0.0001 respectively) while the concentration of glutamate increased in gout (gout 212.5 µM vs 58.0 µM, p<0.0001; CPP 66.1 vs 58.0 µM, p=0.4). The glutamine/glutamate ratio was decreased in synovial fluids of crystal-related diseases compared to OA (gout 1.4 and CPP 6.1 vs OA 9.4, p<0.0001 and p<0.0005 respectively). In vitro, crystal-induced inflammatory cytokine production was decreased by overnight serum deprivation (IL-1α): MSU 1446 vs 5464 pg/ml; CPP 3670 vs 7797 pg/ml; p<0.0005; TNF-α: MSU 70 vs 470 pg/ml; CPP 15.6 vs 89.3 pg/ml, p<0.05; IL-8: MSU 2986 vs 9781 pg/ml; CPP 3984 vs 6820 pg/ml, p<0.01). The inhibition of crystal-induced IL-1α production by serum deprivation was abrogated when cells were treated with 3-MA, an autophagy inhibitor (MSU 1446 vs 4912 pg/ml; CPP 3670 vs 9837 pg/ml, p<0.0005).

**Conclusion:** Intermittent fasting alleviates crystal-induced inflammation by altering many metabolic pathways, particularly those associated with glutamine and glutamate. Further studies are needed to determine how IF modulates metabolism to dampen crystal-induced inflammation.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5106

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**Table 1. Annual costs of controlled and uncontrolled gout in CKD (2023 US$, Billions)**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost of controlled gout</th>
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<td>2023</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>34.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative (2023 – 2035)</td>
<td>143.7</td>
<td>450.7</td>
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**Graph 1. Gout prevalence, by CKD stage (1, 2, and 3-5), in the US, between 2023 and 2035**

**Conclusion:** In US CKD patients, gout prevalence and symptoms (tophi, flares) are projected to rise markedly between 2023 and 2035, posing a substantial and increasing health, economic, and QoL burden. Uncontrolled gout is projected to contribute most to the health and economic burden of gout in CKD. Urate-lowering interventions may help reduce this burden by lowering the proportion of uncontrolled gout. Such measures would therefore reduce costs and healthcare utilisation while leading to QoL improvements in CKD patients with gout.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** This research was supported by Horizon Therapeutics plc.
Results: Incidence rate of CVD was significantly higher in patients with gout than in participants without gout (11.38 vs 5.49 per 1000 person-year). A positive correlation was observed between SUA level and CV risk in the general population, whereas CV risk was consistently high in gout population, regardless of SUA level. A favorable lifestyle was associated with lower CV risk in both patients with gout and participants without gout. In all categories of SUA levels (<4 mg/dL, normal; 6-8.9 mg/dL, high; >9 mg/dL, very high), CV risk was significantly lower in gout patients with a favorable lifestyle than in those with an unfavorable lifestyle.

Conclusion: Patients with gout are at high risk of CVD even with SUA levels in the normal range. Lifestyle modification can be an effective and inexpensive therapeutic strategy to prevent CV events in patients with gout.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2150

POS0512

DIAGNOSTIC AND DIFFERENTIAL BIOMARKERS IDENTIFIED BY METABOLIC ANALYSIS IN PATIENTS WITH PSEUDOGOUT

Keywords: Biomarkers, Crystal arthritis, -Omics

S. Takahashi1,2, M. Takahashi3, Y. Tanimoto3, T. Yamaoka3, M. Katayama3, S. Hatachi4, M. Shinohara5, S. Kumagi2,3, Shinko Hospital, The Center for Rheumatic Disease, Kobe, Japan; 2Shinko Hospital, The Shinko Institute for Medical Research, Kobe, Japan; 3Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine, The Integrated Center for Mass Spectrometry, Kobe, Japan; 4Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine, Division of Molecular Epidemiology, Kobe, Japan

Background: Pseudogout is an acute arthritis induced by calcium pyrophosphate dehydrate crystal deposition (CPPD) [1]. Pseudogout most commonly involves one or several large joints, such as the knee or wrist, typically tender and swollen [2]. The pathogenic mechanism of CPPD is partially understood, and the etiology of attacks is unclear. There is no diagnostic serum biomarker for pseudogout. CPPD disease is best diagnosed by identifying positively birefringent, typically thornloid-shaped crystals in the synovial fluid of affected joints. However, CPPD disease and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) often coexist, and the similarity of pseudogout with acute flares of RA might lead to misdiagnosis.

Objectives: To identify the metabolites which characterize pseudogout compared with RA and to identify serum biomarkers of pseudogout using metabolomic analysis of serum and synovial fluid.

Methods: We collected serum and synovial fluid from 18 pseudogout patients and 12 RA patients with acute flares. We also collected serum from five pseudogout patients after resolving arthritis. We performed a metabolomic analysis of the samples using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). Metabolites contributing to the differentiation between pseudogout with acute arthritis, pseudogout with resolving arthritis, and RA were determined by analysis of the orthogonal partial least-squares discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) weightings (variable importance in the projection (VIP)) >1, the absolute value of modeled correlation (r(correl)) > 0.5 in the S-plot and Wilcoxon rank sum test (p < 0.05).

Results: A total of 123 metabolites from synovial fluid and 101 metabolites from serum were identified by GC-MS. By using OPLS-DA (Figure 1) and Wilcoxon rank sum test, nine metabolites from synovial fluid and 19 metabolites from serum were selected as the metabolites that contributed to the differentiation between pseudogout and RA, and nine metabolites from serum were selected as the metabolites that contributed to the differentiation between pseudogout with resolving arthritis. Among the selected metabolites, we identified five metabolites which characterized pseudogout compared with RA and two metabolites which elevated in pseudogout with acute arthritis compared with both RA and pseudogout with resolving arthritis.

Conclusion: By metabolomic analysis, we identified metabolites that differentiate pseudogout from RA and the potential serum diagnostic biomarkers for pseudogout.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0515

QUALITY OF LIFE AND CLINICAL GOUT ASSESSMENT CHANGES IN UNCONTROLLABLE GOUT PATIENTS UNDERGOING PEGLOTICASE THERAPY AS PART OF THE MIRROR RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Keywords: Quality of life, Gout, Randomized control trial

J. Botson1, K. Obermeyer2, B. Lamoreaux2, L. Padrick-Silver2, S. Verma2, M. E. Weinblatt3, J. Peterson3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15 J. Osteopathic Physicians Alaska, Rheumatology, Anchorage, United States of America; 2Horizon Therapeutics Plc, Research and Development, Deerfield, United States of America; 3Horizon Therapeutics Plc, Medical Affairs, Deerfield, United States of America; 4Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergy, Boston, United States of America; 5Western Washington Arthritis Clinic, Rheumatology, Bothell, United States of America

Background: Refractory/uncontrolled gout can severely limit physical function and impact patient quality of life [1,2]. Unfortunately, limited treatment options exist for patients intolerant of or refractory to oral urate-lowering therapies. Pegloticase can lower serum urate (SU) in these patients [3] with demonstrated quality of life and physical function benefits [4]. The MIRROR RCT trial showed increased SU-response rates (71.0% vs. 38.5%) with lower infusion reaction risk (4.2% vs. 30.6%) when pegloticase was co-administered with methotrexate (MTX) vs. placebo (PBO), but patient-reported outcomes (PROs) from this study have not been reported [5].

Methods: We report the prespecified PROs and gout-related clinical measures through Month 12 of pegloticase + MTX/PBO co-therapy in MIRROR RCT trial participants.

Methods: Patients with uncontrolled gout (sSUa≥7 mg/dL, ULT failure/intolerance, and ≥1 of the following: ≥1 tophus, ≥2 flares in past year, chronic gouty arthritis) were administered pegloticase (biweekly 8mg infusion) plus either oral MTX (15mg/wk) or PBO. The study included 2-wk MTX tolerance, 4-wk blinded MTX/PBO Run-in, and 52-wk pegloticase+MTX/PBO Treatment periods. Key
exclusion criteria were being immunocompromised, G6PD deficiency, eGFR <40 ml/min/1.73 m², or MTX contraindication. PROs included change from baseline (CFB) to Wk 52 in Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) indices (second-order polynomial model for repeated measures, adjusting for baseline score, baseline tophi presence, treatment group, visit, visit by treatment group interaction, and visit by baseline interaction.

**Results:** 152 patients made up the ITT (100 randomized to MTX, 52 randomized to PBO). At baseline (before MTX exposure, Wk -6) HAQ scores indicated some disability, high pre-therapy pain, and somewhat poor overall health (mean ±SD: DI: Pain, Health: MTX: 0.7±0.7, 43.7±30.3, 44.9±28.6, respectively; PBO: 0.8±0.8, 40.5±28.6, 39.1±27.4, respectively). Baseline PhGA was similar between groups (MTX: 5.5±2.1, PBO: 5.4±2.2) but the MTX group had fewer affected joints (TJC: 6.7±8.4 vs. 11.0±15.9, SJC: 5.4±7.8 vs. 8.3±12.2). All HAQ measures progressively improved during treatment (Figure 1), but the treatment group difference in the Wk 52 CFB in HAQ-DI was not statistically significant, making further PRO analyses exploratory in nature. PhGA score improved (mean±SEM) Wk 52 CFB: -4.2±0.2 vs. -3.8±0.3, with a median observed score of 1.0 and 1.0 in the MTX and PBO groups, respectively, at Wk 52. TJC and SJC markedly declined during Treatment (mean±SEM) CFB TJC: -6.1±0.5 vs. -7.0±0.8, SJC: -5.1±0.4 vs. -6.0±0.6; MTX vs. PBO, both p <0.21, declining to a mean ±SD TJC at Wk 52 of 1.4±4.6 and SJC of 1.4±4.5 in the MTX group and a TJC of 0.6±1.0 and SJC of 1.1±2.9 in the PBO group.

Figure 1. Change from baseline in HAQ-DI (Top); Pain (Middle), and Health (Bottom) during pegloticase+MTX and pegloticase+PBO co-therapy. Baseline was defined as prior to MTX exposure (Wk -6), with Day 1 defined as first pegloticase infusion. Data points represent mean ±SEM change from baseline; error bars represent 95% CI; treatment group difference p<0.05. HAQ, Health Assessment Questionnaire; CFB, change from baseline; DI, disability index; MMD, minimum clinically important difference; MTX, methotrexate; PBO, placebo.

**Conclusion:** Pegloticase treatment resulted in meaningful improvements in both clinical measures and quality of life in patients with uncontrolled gout. Patients co-treated with MTX experienced greater improvements in HAQ-Pain and Health scores after 52 wks of therapy, likely reflective of the higher urate-lowering response rate observed in the presence of MTX immunomodulation [5].

**REFERENCES:**


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**Keywords:** Imaging, Gout

N. Dalbeth1, J. Botson2, K. Saag3, A. Kumar4, L. Padnick-Silver4, B. Lamoreaux5, F. Becce6. 1University of Auckland, Department of Medicine, Auckland, New Zealand; 2Orthopedic Physicians Alaska, Rheumatology, Anchorage, United States of America; 3University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Medicine, Birmingham, United States of America; 4Horizon Therapeutics plc, Medical Affairs, Deerfield, United States of America; 5Lausanne University Hospital, University of Lausanne, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Lausanne, Switzerland

**Background:** Monosodium urate (MSU) crystal deposits can be visualized and quantified with dual-energy CT (DECT) [1], with DECT studies showing an association between MSU deposition and bone erosion [2]. Pegloticase rapidly lowers serum urate (SU) to near zero in uncontrolled gout patients (pts), with methotrexate (MTX) co-therapy recommended to increase SU lowering response rate (71% vs 39% with pegloticase+placebo [PBO]) and decrease infusion reaction risk (4% vs 31%; MIRROR RCT) [3]. MIRROR open-label trial (pegloticase+MTX co-therapy for ≤52 wks) DECT findings showed rapid, progressive MSU deposition volume (VMSU) reduction with subsequent bone erosion remodeling in the 2 imaged pts [4]. The MIRROR RCT trial had a larger number of pts who underwent serial DECT imaging during pegloticase+MTX/PBO co-therapy, the findings of which are reported here.

**Objectives:** To examine VMSU and bone erosion imaging findings of MIRROR RCT participants who underwent serial DECT imaging.

**Methods:** 6 pts were randomized 2:1 to receive oral MTX (15 mg/wk) or PBO as co-therapy to pegloticase (8 mg biweekly infusions). Serial images were obtained at DECT-capable sites using a standard acquisition protocol at prespecified time points during the 52-wk treatment period (Day 1 [first pegloticase infusion]; Wks 14, 24, 52). Bilateral hand/wrist, elbow, foot/ankle, and knee images were obtained. Images were post-processed using default settings and interpreted by an independent central reader blinded to treatment group and SU lowering response. VMSU was measured in each scan. Up to 3 of the largest bone erosions per imaged region were assessed for evidence of remodeling, defined as a decrease in size, recortication, and/or new bone formation. Erosion size was evaluated as the product of the largest longitudinal and axial slice dimensions. Pts with baseline and Wk 52 images were included in analyses, excluding imaging regions with a baseline VMSU <0.5 cm³ to prevent large contributions of potential DECT artifacts [5]. DECT-imaged regions were also radiographed and photographed.

**Results:** 6 pts receiving pegloticase+MTX co-therapy and 2 pts receiving pegloticase+PBO co-therapy were included in analyses. In the MTX group, 5 pts had SU <6 mg/dL during Month 6 and received 52 wks of pegloticase+MTX co-therapy; 1 pt discontinued pegloticase+MTX at Wk 6 due to SU lowering through Month 6 and received 42 wks of pegloticase+PBO, continuing on febuxostat (mean SU on febuxostat = 4.6 mg/dL). In the PBO group, 1 pt had sustained SU-lowering through Month 6 and received 42 wks of pegloticase+PBO, continuing on febuxostat (mean SU on febuxostat = 5.2 mg/dL); 1 pt discontinued pegloticase+PBO at Wk 6 due to SU rise, continuing on allopurinol (mean SU on allopurinol = 4.6 mg/dL). In the PBO group, 1 pt had sustained SU-lowering through Month 6 and received 42 wks of pegloticase+PBO, continuing on febuxostat (mean SU on febuxostat = 5.2 mg/dL); 1 pt discontinued pegloticase+PBO at Wk 6 due to SU rise, continuing on allopurinol (mean SU on allopurinol = 3.0 mg/dL). VMSU markedly decreased during therapy in both treatment groups (Wk 52, MTX: -94% ±9% [9 imaging regions of 6 pts], PBO: -85% ±6% [4 imaging regions of 2 pts]). Evidence of concomitant bone erosion remodeling (Figure 1) was observed in 69% (29/42) of evaluated erosions (9/12 of 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2367

**POS0514**

**BONE EROSION REMODELING AFTER DEPLETION OF MONOSODIUM URATE DEPOSITION WITH INTENSIVE URATE-Lowering WITH PEGLOTICASE IN PATIENTS WITH UNCONTROLLED GOUT: MIRROR RCT DUAL-ENERGY CT FINDINGS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Gout
Conclusion: In agreement with a prior serial DECT study [4], rapid and near complete V_{MSU} depletion was observed within 1 year of initiating pegloticase therapy. Concomitant bone erosion remodeling was also observed after 52 wks of intensive urate-lowering therapy. In these limited cases, DECT findings were similar between treatment groups. It is likely that SU-lowering, not MTX use, was responsible for the observed changes.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by Horizon Therapeutics plc.


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REFERENCES:


A total of 46 patients were included, of which 19 were randomised to the intervention group and 27 to the control group. Dropout occurred in 6 (32%) of the patients in the intervention group vs 53% in the control group. Dropouts were 14 (23.7%) subjects, in 28/66 (42.4%) women and 86/415 men (p<0.001).

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0516 PERFORMANCE OF NURSE-LED GOUT CARE IN A PRIVATE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM. A RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Keywords: Non-pharmacological interventions, Gout, Randomized control trial

B. Ankli1, N. Miehe1, D. Kyburz2, N. Daikeler2, B. Bannert2, T. Daikeler2.
1University of Basel, Faculty of Medicine, Basel, Switzerland; 2Universitätsspital Basel, Department of Rheumatology, Basel, Switzerland

Background: Nurse-led gout care has been studied mainly in managed healthcare systems [1].

Objectives: To investigate the effectiveness of a structured nurse-led gout programme in a private healthcare system.

Methods: A randomised single-blinded controlled trial with two study arms was performed. The inclusion criteria were the fulfilment of the 2015 ACR/EULAR gout classification criteria (2) and the indication of urate-lowering therapy (ULT).

The inclusion period lasted 2 years and the intervention period 6 months. Physician FU visits took place at 6 and 12 months from baseline (BL). The achievement rate of the target serum acid level (SUA, ≤ 360 µmol/l) at the 6-month-FU served as the primary endpoint. In the intervention group, during the first six months, 45% of the patients in the intervention group achieved the SUA target vs 26% in the control group. There was no significant advantage over the standard of care regarding SUA reduction. However, the intervention patients showed twice as many impaired kidney function (grade 3-5) and tophaceous gout. Nevertheless, these patients reduced their SUA levels better after 6 months (36% vs 26% reduction) and 64% of them achieved the SUA target after 12 months (vs 47% in the control group).

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3051

POS0518 ANTINUCLEAR ANTIBODIES IN GOUT: VICTIMS OF MODERN IMMUNOLOGY TECHNIQUES (A NEW VOMIT)

Keywords: Gout, Autoantibodies, Crystal arthritis

A. M. Herrero-Beltes1, C. Vazquez-Puente2, M. D. C. Modesto-Caballero2, F. Perez-Ruiz2.
1Gorilzeko Enretexa, Rehabilitation Division, Gortiz, Spain; 2Cruces University Hospital, Rheumatology Division, Barakaldo, Spain

Background: Non-rational prescription of tests in clinical practice may induce inefficient performances, misdiagnosis, and inappropriate consultations.

Objectives: We analyzed the prescription and results of antinuclear antibodies (ANA) prescription before first consultation to a rheumatology unit in a disease with commonly high diagnostic accuracy based on clinical findings: gout.

Methods: In the decade 2013-2022 the prescription and results of ANA testing prior to first rheumatology visit was added to the database, along with general data and variables related to comorbid conditions and clinical characteristics of gout. We made an analysis of variables plausibly associated with ANA prescription and biochemical changes through the rate of prescription.

Results: From Jan 2013 to Dec 2022, 504 patients gave written consent for data inclusion, 66 (13.7%) women and 415 men (86.3%), with mean age at entrance in the cohort of 73.1±14 and 65±14 years, respectively. ANA had been prescribed to 114 (23.7%) subjects, in 28/66 (42.4%) women and 86/415 men (p<0.001). No differences for prescription were observed in other variables, such as age, time from onset, flares per year, tophi, or polyarticular distribution. The rate of ANA prescription was not related to the diagnostic for consultation: arthralgia (24.4%), arthritis (21.7%) or gout (25.3%). 31/114 (27.2%) ANA tests were positive (90% with title <1/400), but only led to a new diagnosis (autoimmune hepatitis), and two had a previous diagnosis (Sjögren’s Syndrome and Systemic Lupus). The rate of positive ANA was much higher in women (12/28, 42.9%) than in men (8/66, 12.1%). The rate of ANA prescriptions showed a bial- lelic and significant increase during the last decade (p=0.007): 11.3% in 2013-2014, 21.4% in 2015-2016, 34.9% in 2016-2017, and 51.1% in 2021-2022. A valley in ANA prescriptions was observed during SARS-COV2 pandemic 2019-2020 (19.7%).

Conclusion: In a rheumatic disease with quite typical clinical presentation as gout, the rate of ANA prescription prior to rheumatology consultation is unexpectedly high, and the highest in women, despite old age and absence of systemic clinic. The rate of positive ANA in the elder in our setting is quite high, especially in women, and may lead to misdiagnosis and inefficient management: a new VOMIT.

Acknowledgements: Cruces Rheumatology Association.

Disclosure of Interests: Ana Maria Herrero-Beltes: None declared, Cristina Vazquez-Puente: None declared, Maria del Consuelo Modesto-Caballero: None declared, Fernando Perez-Ruiz: Speakers bureau: Menarini, Astellas, Consultant of: Arthlit, Alynlam, LG, Protalix, Selecta.

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POS0518 TREATMENT OF GOUT AND ITS EFFECTS ON METABOLIC SYNDROME

Keywords: Gout, Cardiovascular disease, Crystal arthritis

R. Kuppuru1, P. May2, T. Milliken2, S. Kitano3, D. Bulbin1.
1Geisinger Medical Center, Rheumatology, Danville, United States of America; 2Geisinger Medical Center, Population Health Sciences, Danville, United States of America

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics and Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medians, (IQR), frequencies in %</th>
<th>BL</th>
<th>6-month-FU</th>
<th>12-month-FU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intervention (I)</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n pat</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute flare/arthritis</td>
<td>15(78.9%)</td>
<td>19(70.3%)</td>
<td>16(61.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olgs-/Polyarthritis</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n pat with tophi</td>
<td>8(42.1%)</td>
<td>5(18.5%)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUA [µmol/l]</td>
<td>534(239.5; 1290.9)</td>
<td>487(411,0; 339.0)</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFR CKD EPI [mL/min/1.73m2]</td>
<td>75(48.8; 104.0)</td>
<td>670(43.0; 75.5)</td>
<td>66(53.6; 70.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: There was no significant advantage over the standard of care regarding SUA reduction. However, the intervention patients showed twice as many impaired kidney function (grade 3-5) and tophaceous gout. Nevertheless, these patients reduced their SUA levels better after 6 months (36% vs 26% reduction) and 64% of them achieved the SUA target after 12 months (vs 47% in the control group).

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3203
Background: There is a known relationship between elevated serum urate (SUA) levels and renal, cardiovascular (CV), and metabolic disease. However, the precise reasons for this remain poorly defined. The CANTOS trial found a significant decrease in nonfatal MI, stroke, or CV death in patients (PTs) treated with canakinumab vs placebo. The LoDoCo2 trial found a decrease in CV death, nonprocedural MI, ischemic stroke, and ischemia-driven need for coronary revascularization in PTs treated with colchicine vs placebo. This suggests that inflammation is an independent risk factor for CV disease. The GOSPEL 4 trial found that French PTs with early-onset gout (EOG), a diagnosis (DX) < age 40, had slightly more arthritis, significantly less chronic stage 3 or 4 kidney disease (CKD) compared to common gout (CG) PTs, DX ≥ age 40. Metabolic syndrome was significantly more prevalent in the CG group. To our knowledge, no study has investigated the effects of EOG vs CG on incidence of metabolic-related diseases in a rural population in the US.

Objectives: To investigate whether early DX and control of gout results in lower incidence of metabolic-related diseases in a rural setting.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective analysis of PTs with gout at a rural tertiary care center. We identified PTs seen Jan 2016-Dec 2020 with a gout DX. Charts were reviewed for: sex; age at DX; age at the time of gout DX and at the last medical encounter; HbA1c level; SUA level; and BMI. Charts were reviewed for urate-lowering therapy (ULT) prescriptions, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD)/peripheral arterial disease (PAD), diabetes mellitus (DM), hypertension (HTN), and CKD. We compared demographic and clinical characteristics between EOG and CG PTs using chi-square tests for categorical data and the Kruskal-Wallis test. All analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4.

Results: For baseline demographics, see Table 1. Of 12,362 charts reviewed, 692 had gout, and 11,670 had CG. More PTs in the CG group had ASCVD/PAD (4.6% vs 0.3%, p <0.0001), DM (38.2% vs 15.5%, p < 0.0001), HTN (83.8% vs 44.9%, p < 0.0001), CKD (43.4% vs 7.1%, p < 0.0001), and tophi (5.3% vs 0.0%, p < 0.0001). CG PTs had higher mean initial HbA1c (6.5 vs 6.1, p < 0.0001) and last SUA levels (7.5 vs 7.1, p <.0001). There was no significant difference in ULT use (72.6% vs 71.1%, p = .03856).

Conclusion: Our study suggests PTs with EOG had significantly lower rates of ASCVD/PAD, DM, CKD, tophi and lower A1c levels. Given that EOG and CG patient’s ULT use was similar, this shows that EOG and CG PTs on ULT are less likely to develop the comorbidities associated with gout arthritis. We further intend to look at EOG time to comorbidity DX event.

REFERENCES:

Conclusion:
Our study suggests PTs with EOG had significantly lower rates of ASCVD/PAD, DM, CKD, tophi and lower A1c levels. Given that EOG and CG patient’s ULT use was similar, this shows that EOG PTs on ULT are less likely to develop the comorbidities associated with gout arthritis. We further intend to look at EOG time to comorbidity DX event.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0519
THE ANALGESIC EFFICACY OF THERAPIES USED FOR COMPLEX REGIONAL PAIN SYNDROME: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Keywords: Quality of life, Systematic review, Pain
C. Shekarsara,1, N. Gullick2
1University of Warwick, Medical School, Coventry; United Kingdom; 2University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, Rheumatology, Coventry, United Kingdom

Background: Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) is a multifactorial chronic pain condition which arises following commonplace injuries such as fractures. Pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments including physiotherapy have been used to reduce pain but there is an unmet need for novel effective therapies.

Objectives: To review clinical trials for CRPS and evaluate effectiveness for reducing pain.

Methods: A PICO approach was used to search MEDLINE, PubMed, COCHRANE LIBRARY, EMBASE, CINAHL and Web of Science for studies published between 2003 to 2022. Keywords such as “Complex Regional Pain Syndrome,” and its previous label “Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy” were used, alongside “pharmacological” and “non-pharmacological interventions.” The studies included were confined to adults clinically diagnosed with CRPS, that were written in English. Additional studies were also found via citation searching of references from eligible reports.

Results: The search strategy generated 41 RCTs in total (Figure 1). Pharmacological interventions such as biophosphonates showed consistently significant improvement in pain, in addition to ketamine and steroids which yielded some successful outcomes. Interventional therapies such as local anesthetics, sympathetic blocks, and nervous system stimulations also demonstrated potential. Finally, mirror therapy, motor imagery programs and virtual reality revealed partial improvement. Conversely, Pain Exposure Physical Therapy (PEPT), immunosuppressant drugs, free radical scavengers, anti-convulsants, calcitonin, immunoglobulins, Fluidotherapy and occlusal splints had no significant effects on pain outcomes. The Cochrane risk of bias tool was used to assess the quality of studies involved, for which the lower quality RCTs were those lacking full blinding or selectively reporting outcomes.

Table 1. Baseline Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CG</th>
<th>EOG</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>11,670</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>12,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, First Visit</td>
<td>66.5(12.16)</td>
<td>33.4(4.40)</td>
<td>64.6(14.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (IQR)</td>
<td>670(58.0, 76.0)</td>
<td>340(310, 370)</td>
<td>660(56.0, 75.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, Gout DX</td>
<td>670(12.16)</td>
<td>33.9(4.41)</td>
<td>65.1(14.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (IQR)</td>
<td>679(58.2, 76.3)</td>
<td>347(312, 374)</td>
<td>669(56.0, 75.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2,872(24.6%)</td>
<td>42(6.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8,798(75.4%)</td>
<td>650(93.9%)</td>
<td>9,448(76.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, Initial</td>
<td>48(0.5%)</td>
<td>1(0.2%)</td>
<td>49(0.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI &lt; 18.5</td>
<td>1,020(9.8%)</td>
<td>22(3.5%)</td>
<td>1,042(9.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI 18.5 &lt; BMI &lt; 25</td>
<td>2,974(28.6%)</td>
<td>88(14.2%)</td>
<td>3,062(27.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI ≥ 25</td>
<td>6,365(91.2%)</td>
<td>510(82.1%)</td>
<td>6,875(62.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, Last</td>
<td>50(0.5%)</td>
<td>1(0.2%)</td>
<td>51(0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI &lt; 18.5</td>
<td>1,077(10.3%)</td>
<td>22(3.5%)</td>
<td>1,099(10.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI 18.5 &lt; BMI &lt; 25</td>
<td>2,949(28.3%)</td>
<td>88(14.2%)</td>
<td>3,037(27.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI ≥ 25</td>
<td>6,331(60.8%)</td>
<td>510(82.1%)</td>
<td>6,841(62.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Prevalence of metabolic/comorbid conditions in early gout patients compared to common gout patients.
Background: To this date, a causal relationship between febuxostat and cardiovascular disease remains controversial as comparison between trials can be challenging and may lead to misleading conclusions especially when facing heterogeneous cardiovascular outcomes.

Objectives: We aimed to compare the cardiovascular outcomes in the most pertinent trials of Febuxostat compared to controls.

Methods: We searched electronic databases using a PICOS-style approach search strategy of randomized controlled trials on cardiovascular outcomes of Febuxostat in patients with gout or hyperuricemia. We conducted a quality and risk of bias assessment of the included clinical trials. The definition of MACE as well as all reported cardiovascular outcomes were retrieved from every involved trial.

Results: Of the 1173 records identified from all sources, 20 RCTs were included in the analysis.Mean duration of follow-up was 69.7 ± 81.5 weeks and Febuxostat dose ranged from 10 to 240 mg with 80 mg being the most commonly used dosage. Overall, the quality of evidence deriving from all RCTs showed concerns in most studies (65%). Major cardiovascular event (MACE) was defined in 7 of the 20 RCTs (35%) and cardiovascular outcome reporting was very heterogeneous. Overall, data of cardiovascular safety of Febuxostat were reassuring.

Conclusion: Our systematic review showed no alarming increase of cardiovascular mortality and outcomes in Febuxostat treated patients except for the CARES trial in which the credibility of the results is biased by the high rate of drug discontinuation and of most importantly, withdrawal from follow-up. FAST CARES trial in which the credibility of the results is biased by the high rate of hospitalization and Febuxostat dose ranged from 10 to 240 mg with 80 mg being the most commonly used dosage. Overall, the quality of evidence deriving from all RCTs showed concerns in most studies (65%). Major cardiovascular event (MACE) was defined in 7 of the 20 RCTs (35%) and cardiovascular outcome reporting was very heterogeneous. Overall, data of cardiovascular safety of Febuxostat were reassuring.

REFERENCES:
Background: The sediments of synovial fluid are used to identify crystals in the diagnosis of gout arthritis. The present study explored the potential of a gout analyzer (U-GAN®) in detecting crystals under polarized light and compared it with the conventional method of crystal examination.

Methods: A total of 30 patients with knee joint effusion were recruited from Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Medical Center from February 2020 to March 2021. Rheumatologists who used a gout analyzer blindly evaluated the sediments using U-GAN® after centrifugation. Additionally, a gout analyzer was used to detect CPP and MSU from the synovial fluid of patients with a documented diagnosis. PPV were 100% for ICD-10-GM code, list of regulations, and to look for gout diagnosis in all of the patient's documents and imaging reports. Furthermore, 9.7% and 2.6% in the presence of tophus, precise clinical course of symptoms) and lack of diagnostic features. We demonstrate the feasibility of an EHR-based gout registry, with good positive predictive value and the ability to identify patients without a documented gout diagnosis in the EHR. The next step is to expend the queries to look for gout diagnosis in all of the patient's documents and imaging reports and to estimate the negative predictive value in a sample of patients without any criteria, yet with risk factors of gout.

REFERENCES:
[1] Nourissi N, Morgen D, Darbelry F, Brailard O, Lauper K, Courvoisier D, et al. Geneva University Hospitals, Division of General Internal Medicine, Geneva, Switzerland; Geneva University Hospitals, Division of Rheumatology, Geneva, Switzerland; Geneva University Hospitals, Division of Primary Care Medicine, Geneva, Switzerland; Geneva University Hospitals, Quality of Care Unit, Geneva, Switzerland

Background: Gout is the most common inflammatory rheumatism worldwide. Despite guidelines on acute and chronic management, it remains largely undertreated. To evaluate the current standard of gout care, there is an unmet need for gout registers, especially in the non-rheumatology setting. The vast clinical information available in electronic health record (EHR) allows the implementation of registers to assess clinical indicators and monitor them following quality improvement programs. The best strategies to set up an EHR-based gout registry is described. The potential predictive value (PPV) to detect a true gout was established by any doctor in any part of the EHR. To further assess the validity of the gout diagnosis, the 2015 ACR-EULAR gout criteria was scored. Gout patients without any acute arthritis during any encounter with the HUG were classified as having an antecedent gout. The four criteria identified 7,046 patients suffering from gout, among whom 33.4% were deceased. Most patients were identified by the drugs criterion (Figure 1). A large proportion of patients (43.2% of outpatients and 72.8% of inpatients) were identified by the presence of urate-lowering therapy only, without the mention of any gout diagnosis. Furthermore, 9.7% and 2.6% in the out- and inpatient setting respectively had a positive puncture that wasn’t associated with a documented diagnosis. PPV were 100% for ICD-10-GM code, list of diagnosis and punction, and 75% for urate-lowering therapy, while PPV based on a combined query (any criterion) was 93.8% to detect a gout patient in the charts. Among the 80 charts reviewed, 55 patients had at least one documented gout attack and 25 had an antecedent gout. Of the 55 patients with an acute gout, which allowed the use of the ACR-EULAR 2015 classification, 39 patients (70.9%) had a positive articular puncture for uric acid or the presence of tophi as observed by a trained examiner. The remaining 16 patients (29.1%) had a mean score (SD) of 5.5 (2.39) for the ACR-EULAR 2015 classification (threshold to classify as gout is ≥8). The lack of clinical information available (documented presence of tophi, precise clinical course of symptoms) and lack of diagnostic imaging to assess gout complication might explain the low score, among these patients with a high probability of gout according to the chart review.

Methods: To establish an EHR-based gout registry, to assess the correct identification of gout patients by manual chart review, and to evaluate the objective validity of gout diagnosis based on the ACR-EULAR 2015 gout classification criteria [2].

Methods: We prospectively performed different crystal identification methods in 30 patients with knee joint effusion at Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Medical Center from February 2020 to March 2021. Rheumatologists who used a gout analyzer blindly evaluated the sediments using U-GAN® after centrifugation. Additionally, a gout analyzer was used to detect CPP and MSU from the synovial fluid of patients with a documented diagnosis. PPV were 100% for ICD-10-GM code, list of regulations, and to look for gout diagnosis in all of the patient's documents and imaging reports. Furthermore, 9.7% and 2.6% in the presence of tophus, precise clinical course of symptoms) and lack of diagnostic features. We demonstrate the feasibility of an EHR-based gout registry, with good positive predictive value and the ability to identify patients without a documented gout diagnosis in their EHR. The next step is to expend the queries to look for gout diagnosis in all of the patient's documents and imaging reports and to estimate the negative predictive value in a sample of patients without any criteria, yet with risk factors of gout.

REFERENCES:

POS0523 FEASIBILITY STUDY OF AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD-BASED GOUT REGISTRY

Keywords: Registries, Gout

T. Kise1,2, N. Yokogawa2, Y. Miyoshi2, M. Utsunomiya2, Y. Nagai2, K. Shimada2. 1Regional Independent Administrative Corporation Naha City Hospital, Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Naha, Okinawa, Japan; 2Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Medical Center, Department of Rheumatic Diseases, Fuchu, Tokyo, Japan

Background: The synovial fluid is a rich source of crystals, which can be used to identify the presence of gout. The aim of this study was to evaluate the feasibility of an EHR-based gout registry using a gout analyzer (U-GAN®) for crystal examination.

Methods: The study included 30 patients with knee joint effusion, and the sediments were evaluated using U-GAN® after centrifugation. The detection of CPP and MSU was then compared with the conventional method of crystal examination.

Results: The positives identified by U-GAN® were 100% for CPP and 80% for MSU, while the PPV were 100% for the ICD-10-GM code and list of regulations.

Conclusion: U-GAN® can be used for detection of both CPP and MSU in clinical practice.
Background: CXCR4 binds to its ligand CXCL12 and plays a role in induction of recruitment of inflammatory cells including leukocytes and endothelial cells. The CXCL12/CXCR4 axis has been implicated in the pathogenesis of some types of inflammatory arthritis and autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and ankylosing spondylitis. Evidence of the pathogenic role of CXCR4 and CXCL12 in uric acid-induced inflammation has not been presented.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to evaluate the expression of chemokine receptor CXCR4 and its ligand CXCL12 in patients with gout and uric acid-induced inflammation.

Methods: Forty patients with intercritical gout and 27 controls were consecutively enrolled. Serum levels of interleukin-1β (IL-1β), IL-18, CXCL12, and CXCR4 were assessed using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. Gene and protein expression for these target molecules was measured in human U937 cells incubated with monosodium urate (MSU) crystals using real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction and Western blot analysis.

Results: Patients with intercritical gout showed higher serum IL-1β, IL-18, and CXCL12 levels than those in controls, but not serum CXCR4 level. Serum CXCR4 level in gout patients was associated with serum IL-18 level, uric acid level, and uric acid/creatinine ratio (r = 0.331, p = 0.037; r = 0.346, p = 0.028; r = 0.361, p = 0.022, respectively). U937 cells treated with MSU crystals significantly induced CXCL12 and CXCR4 mRNA and protein expression, in addition to IL-1β and IL-18. In cells transfected with IL-1β siRNA or IL-18 siRNA, CXCL12 and CXCR4 expression was down-regulated compared to non-transfected cells in MSU crystal-induced inflammation. Receiver operator characteristic (ROC) curve analysis showed that serum CXCL12 for the diagnosis of gout was an area under roc curve (AUC) of 0.690 (p = 0.009).

Conclusion: This study reveals that CXCL12 and CXCR4 are involved in the pathogenesis of uric acid-induced inflammation and gouty arthritis.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Step-by-Step Regression for Potential Risk Factors for the Association between Asian Race and Odds of Gout and Serum Urate Concentration Compared to White Race, NHANES 2017-2018 and UK Biobank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OR for Gout, 95% CI</th>
<th>Serum Urate Concentration Difference (mg/dL), 95% CI</th>
<th>OR for Gout, 95% CI</th>
<th>Serum Urate Concentration Difference (mg/dL), 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age and Sex-adjusted</td>
<td>1.61 (1.03, 2.51) 0.21 (0.08, 0.35) 1.16 (1.05, 1.29) 0.12 (0.10, 0.15)</td>
<td>1.67 (1.07, 2.63) 0.22 (0.08, 0.36) 1.14 (1.02, 1.26) 0.11 (0.09 to 0.13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educationa</td>
<td>1.61 (1.03, 2.52) 0.22 (0.08, 0.36) 1.18 (1.07, 1.32) 0.13 (0.10, 0.15)</td>
<td>1.67 (1.07, 2.63) 0.22 (0.08, 0.36) 1.14 (1.02, 1.26) 0.11 (0.09 to 0.13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty§</td>
<td>1.68 (1.07, 2.63) 0.22 (0.08, 0.36) 1.14 (1.02, 1.26) 0.11 (0.09 to 0.13)</td>
<td>+ Active health insurancec</td>
<td>1.67 (1.07, 2.63) 0.22 (0.08, 0.36) 1.14 (1.02, 1.26) 0.11 (0.09 to 0.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Alcohol consumptiond</td>
<td>1.70 (1.08, 2.68) 0.23 (0.09, 0.37) 1.28 (1.14, 1.42) 0.17 (0.15, 0.19)</td>
<td>+ DASH diet scoree</td>
<td>1.78 (1.11, 2.83) 0.26 (0.13, 0.39) 1.33 (1.19, 1.48) 0.20 (0.18, 0.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ BMI</td>
<td>2.37 (1.45, 3.86) 0.46 (0.33, 0.59) 1.64 (1.47, 1.83) 0.31 (0.29, 0.33)</td>
<td>+ Diuretic usef</td>
<td>2.37 (1.45, 3.87) 0.47 (0.34, 0.60) 1.64 (1.47, 1.84) 0.30 (0.28, 0.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ CKDg</td>
<td>2.62 (1.59, 4.33) 0.50 (0.37, 0.62) 1.63 (1.46, 1.82) 0.30 (0.28, 0.33)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BMI = body mass index; CKD = chronic kidney disease; DASH = Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension; OR = odds ratio. Active health insurance not included in the UKBB models due to the universal publicly funded healthcare system in the UK.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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Pain is the most common symptom of Paget's Disease of Bone (PDB) and affects between 60% and 70% of patients who present to clinic in the UK, but its mechanisms are incompletely understood [1]. Quantitative sensory testing (QST) has historically been used in the assessment of neuropathic pain [2] but has precedent in patients with bone metastases and osteoarthritis [3,4]. In this study, we used QST to dissect the mechanisms of pain in PDB, taking advantage of the disease's focal nature which allows the participant to act as their own control by testing at a contralateral site.

Objectives: To explore the sensory profiles of PDB patients with and without musculoskeletal pain.

Methods: All study data was collected and stored on the secure web-based software platform Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap). Quantitative sensory testing (QST) measured the sensory response to various stimuli applied to the skin overlaying the PDB compared to an unaffected contralateral site in 120 study participants. Differences between QST assessments in sites overlaying Pagetic bone and control sites were assessed by the Mann–Whitney test.

Results: Significantly higher pain scores were reported above the site of PDB when compared to the control site, irrespective of whether the patient complained of musculoskeletal pain. The differences were apparent for hot roller testing (p = 0.047), pain threshold testing (p = 0.007), pin prick testing (p < 0.001) (see Figure 1), and wind-up pinprick testing (p = 0.001). Pain thresholds were significantly reduced above Pagetic bone (p = 0.007). Additionally, temporal summation scores were significantly higher (p = 0.007) in the pain subgroup compared with the no pain subgroup which could indicate higher levels of central sensitisation in patients who experience pain.

Conclusion: This study illustrates that there are significant differences in the way that sensation is processed above Pagetic bone when compared to unaffected contralateral sites, regardless of the presence of current musculoskeletal pain. Our data suggest that patients who experience pain may do so, in part, because of higher levels of central sensitisation.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Kathryn Berg: None declared, Dervil Dockrell: None declared, Terry Aspray: None declared, Lesley Colvin: None declared, Elaine Dennison Speakers bureau: Speakers/consultancy fees - Viatris, Lilly, UCB, Pfizer, Hrushikesh Divyateja Speakers bureau: Speaker fee from Amgen, Sanofi, and Dianchi Sankyo for talks about their products, Nazim Ghouri Speakers bureau: Honoria from Boehringer Ingelheim and Nordic Nordisk for diabetes related talks over the past 3 years, Richard Keen: None declared, Terence O’Neill Grant/research support from: Financial support to attend conference from UCB, Faiz Rahman Speakers bureau: Have received speakers fees from Sanofi in relation to their product ‘Praluent’ a lipid lowering drug, and from Amgen in relation to their product ‘Repatha’ another lipid lowering drug., Grant/research support from: Department has received grants from Sanofi., Mashood Siddiqui Speakers bureau: Received Speaker fees from, Thornton and Ross, Amgen, Lilly Pharmaceuticals, MSD and Servier Labs, Stephen Tuck Speakers bureau: Speaker fees from UCB to speak about NOGG and romosozumab, Jane Turton Speakers bureau: A speaker fee from AMGEN for a talk about a self-injection service, Grant/research support from: The Bone Research Unit in Cardiff received...
an educational grant from AMGEN to start up the self-injection service., Stuart Ralston Speakers bureau: Speaker fees from UCB Pharma, Novartis, Janssen (fees paid to University of Edinburgh), Grant/research support from: Research support from Astra-Zeneca and Kyowa Kirin (Local investigator in clinical studies, fees paid to NHS Lothian). Eli Lilly donated an IMP for clinical trial. Abbvie, Alexion, Amgen, Bristol Myers-Squibb, Celgene, Consilient Health, Eli-Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, Sanofi-Genzyme, Thornton & Ross, UCB all provided sponsorship of 14th Scientific Symposium on Bone and Joint disease 2022. (Fees paid to University of Edinburgh).

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**POS0027**

THE PRESENCE OF MONOSODIUM UROATE DEPOSITS IN THE JOINTS OF PATIENTS WITH ASYMPTOMATIC HYPERURICEMIA IS ASSOCIATED WITH A HIGHER CARDIOVASCULAR RISK, BUT NOT WITH MORE ADVANCED KIDNEY DAMAGE

**Keywords:** Kidneys, Crystal arthritis, Ultrasound

R. Gancheva 1, A. Koundurdjiev 2, T. Kundurzhiev 2, Z. Kolarov 2, P. Peteva 2, I. Koundurdjiev 3, L. Marinchev 4, 1University Hospital “St. Iv. Rilski” Medical University, Sofia, Clinic of Nephrology, Sofia, Bulgaria; 2University Hospital “St. Iv. Rilski” Medical University, Sofia, Clinic of Nephrology, Sofia, Bulgaria; 3Medical University, Sofia, Faculty of Public Health, Sofia, Bulgaria; 4University Hospital “St. Iv. Rilski” Medical University, Sofia, Clinic of Rheumatology, Sofia, Bulgaria; 5University Hospital “Sofiamed” Clinic of Rheumatology, Sofia, Bulgaria; 6University Hospital Freiburg, Clinic of Otorhinolaryngology, Freiburg, Germany

**Background:** Epidemiological studies conducted in patients (pts) from the general population and pts with chronic renal failure have shown that uric acid is an independent risk factor for the development and progression of cardiovascular alterations. Uric acid damages the kidneys by causing systemic and glomerular hypertension. Hyperuricemia is connected to arteriolosclerosis, characterized by arterial wall thickening and hyalinosis.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the association between asymptomatic hyperuricemia and renal damage and to establish whether the presence of monosodium urate (MSU) deposits in the joints of these pts is related to more advanced renal alterations.

**Methods:** This was a single-center cross-sectional study, including 73 consecutive pts divided into 34 pts with osteoarthritis (controls), 25 subjects with asymptomatic hyperuricemia and no ultrasound (US) evidence of MSU crystals in the joints and 14 individuals with asymptomatic hyperuricemia and MSU deposits in the joints. Pts underwent bilateral US examination of the joints of the hands, elbows, knees, ankles, feet and the kidneys. Measurements of the joints were conducted with a high-frequency linear transducer 4-15 MHz. The existence of double contour sign, intra-tendinous MSU aggregates, “snow storm,” tophi, tophi with erosions, or a combination of these US features was assessed. Kidneys were examined with 3.5 MHz transducer, working with pulse Doppler frequency of 2.5 MHz. Renal length, parenchymal thickness and echogenicity were determined. The presence or absence of nephrolithiasis was recorded. By means of the value of renal resistive index (RRI) we judged for intrarenal blood flow. Statistical analyses were done by One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov, t-test, Chi-square or Fisher’s exact test.

**Results:** The distribution of males and females (p=0.441), smokers and non-smokers (p=0.147), pts with arterial hypertension and normotensive individuals (p=0.298) as well as subjects with diabetes and without diabetes (p=0.775) and pts with dyslipidemia and normal lipid levels (p=1.000) was similar among the groups. The proportion of pts who had suffered with cardiovascular event was the highest in the group of asymptomatic hyperuricemia with MSU deposits in the joints (21.4%) compared to the group of osteoarthritis (14%) and hyperuricemia without crystals in the joints (0%), (p=0.048). In the group of osteoarthritis the share of pts with eGFR ≤90 ml/min was the lowest (5.9%) in comparison to the group of hyperuricemia without MSU deposits in the joints (30.2%) and hyperuricemia with crystals in the joints (46.2%), (p=0.005). The percentage of obese pts was the highest in hyperuricemia with MSU crystals in the joints (57.1%), but without reaching a significant difference with hyperuricemia without crystals in the joints (40%) and the group of osteoarthritis (29.4%), (p=0.195). The echogenicity of the kidneys (p=0.630) and the distribution of nephrolithiasis (p=0.596) was equal among the groups. Pts with hypertension and MSU deposits in the joints compared to those with osteoarthritis had higher BMI (mean±SD; 31.79±5.92 kg/m² vs 28.06±4.27 kg/m², p=0.018) and smaller kidney size (mean±SD; 55.36±5.58 mm vs 59.58±5.12 mm, p=0.015). The comparison of hyperuricemia with MSU deposits in the joints to osteoarthritis group demonstrated a significant difference only in the age (mean±SD; 49.7±16.4 years vs 61.5±9.4 years, p=0.001). Finally, the comparison of the two groups with hyperuricemia showed that subjects with MSU deposits in the joints had higher BMI (mean±SD; 31.79±5.92 kg/m² vs 28.06±4.27 kg/m², p=0.041) with no difference in the age (p=0.072), kidney size (p=0.141), RRI (p=0.296), eGFR (p=0.528) and thickness of renal parenchyma (p=0.232).

**Conclusion:** Hyperuricemia. All-cause mortality of the presence of articular crystals is associated with similar kidney damage. Cardiovascular risk is higher when MSU crystals are found by US in the joints.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POS0028**

PATIENT EXPERIENCES WITH CHRONIC REFRACTORY GOUT AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life, Gout

A. Oladapo1, V. Strand2, N. Kragh3, N. Johnson4, D. Broocks4, H. Sharp5, C. Kim6, M. Pillinger7, 8Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB, HEOR and RWE, Boston, United States of America; 2Stanford University Division of Immunology/Rheumatology, Palo Alto, United States of America; 3Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB, Global Health Outcomes Value & Patient Access, Stockholm, Sweden; 4 Endpoint Outcomes (a Lumanity company), Research, Boston, United States of America; 5NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, New York, United States of America

**Background:** Gout is a common inflammatory rheumatic disease, with elevated uric acid leading to deposition of monosodium urate crystals within joints [1]. Chronic refractory gout (CRG), also known as refractory or uncontrolled gout, is associated with unexpected disease flares characterized by severe and debilitating pain. Long-term symptoms include painful inflammatory arthropathy, impaired physical function, and health-related quality of life (HRQoL), and tophi-related joint destruction [1].

**Objectives:** This study aimed to 1) develop and refine a conceptual model of patient-identified CRG symptoms and their impact on HRQoL; and 2) confirm that the 36-item Short Form Health Survey V2.0 (SF-36) and Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI) are relevant to patients with CRG by mapping items to the CRG conceptual model.

**Methods:** A targeted literature review of the 10 years prior to August 2021 was conducted to assess the symptoms and impacts of CRG, alongside the use of SF-36 and HAQ-DI in previous clinical trials. The review results contributed to an initial conceptual model of signs, symptoms and impacts of CRG. This model was then refined using concept elicitation interviews (CEI) conducted with patients who have clinically confirmed CRG (≥3 gout flares within 18 months of screening; or presence of ≥1 tophus; or current diagnosis of gouty arthritis [defined as joint damage due to gout]). Interviews contained open-ended questions and patients were asked about duration, frequency, and severity for each concept; bothersome impacts were rated on a scale of 0–10. The refined model was then assessed against SF-36 and HAQ-DI to determine their suitability for evaluating disease burden in patients with CRG.

**Results:** Findings from the literature review identified the following commonly referenced symptoms, signs and impacts of gout that served as the basis of the draft conceptual model: bodily pain, joint swelling/inflammation, tophi, joint pain, joint tenderness, anxiety, depression, sleep effects, and work effects. Impacts were organized into five domains: activities of daily living (e.g., difficulty dressing), emotional (e.g., anxiety), physical (e.g., decreased mobility), social (e.g., stigma), and work/school (e.g., productivity). Twenty patients were interviewed. Most were male (70%) and non-Hispanic white (55%), with a mean (standard deviation) age of 55.9 (±12.1) years. Most patients (60%) reported having multiple (>3) and/or severe gout flares within the past 6 months, and most commonly 1–3 tophi (45%). The most frequently reported signs and symptoms included bodily pain, joint swelling, and tender-ness (90% each). Others included joint pain (80%), joint stiffness (70%), and tophi (70%). Joint pain was rated as the most bothersome symptom (mean = 9.1). The most frequently reported impacts were difficulty climbing one or several flights of stairs (100% each), followed by completing chores, running errands and shopping, climbing five steps, putting on shoes, walking outdoors on flat ground, and emotional impacts (95% each). Impacts reported varied depending on the affected joints. The most bothersome impact reported was walking outdoors (mean = 9.6). All concepts discussed in the interviews were reviewed to determine whether they reflected the items included in SF-36 and HAQ-DI. Each assessed item from the two instruments was reported as relevant by at least 25% of participants and thus mapped consistently to concepts elicited by participants. Results of the CEI were used to revise the conceptual model (Figure 1).
Conclusions: Symptoms and associated impacts of CRG on HRQoL are multi-faceted, revealing a burden of disease that affects most aspects of a patient's life (Figure 1). Based on the interview data, all assessed items of SF-36 and HAQ-DI mapped directly to the domains and concepts included in the conceptual model, providing evidence that both questionnaires are suitable for assessing the burden of CRG.

References:

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Disclosure of Interests: Abiola Oladapo Employee of: Sobi, Vibeke Strand Consultant of: AbbVie, Alpine Immune Sciences, Alumis, Amgen Corporation, Aria, AstraZeneca, Bayer, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Cellectron, Endo, Equilux, Ermium, Genentech Roche, Gilead, GSK, Horizon, Inmedix, Kiniksia, Lilly, Merck, MilMed, Novartis, Omeros, Pfizer, Prionovat, Regeneron, R-Pharm, Samsung, Sandoz, Sanofi, Scipher, Setpoint, Soneto, Tonic, Nana Kragh Employee of: Sobi, Nathan Johnson Consultant of: Endpoint Outcomes (a Luminary company) was hired to conduct the qualitative study described in the abstract, Dani Brooks Consultant of: Endpoint Outcomes (a Luminary company) was hired to conduct the qualitative study described in the abstract, Harlow Sharp Consultant of: Endpoint Outcomes (a Luminary company) was hired to conduct the qualitative study described in the abstract, Christine Kim Consultant of: Endpoint Outcomes (a Luminary company) was hired to conduct the qualitative study described in the abstract, Monica Converse Grant/research support from: Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB.

Disclosure of Competing Interests: Brian LaMoreaux: Employee of: Horizon Therapeutics, Shareholder of: Horizon Therapeutics, Daniel Hernandez: None declared, Helen Hernandez: Employee, Kristina Davidson: Shareholder of: Horizon Therapeutics, Employee of Horizon Therapeutics, Daniel Hernandez: None declared, Helen Hernandez: None declared, Gary Ho: Grant/research support from: Horizon Therapeutics, Brian LaMoreaux: Shareholder of: Horizon Therapeutics, Employee of Horizon Therapeutics, Christoph Parker: Speakers bureau: Horizon Therapeutics, Christopher DeFelice: Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TREND Community: None declared.

References:

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Disclosure of Interests: Maurice Flurie: Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TREND Community: Employee, Monica Converse Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TREND Community: None declared.

Conclusion: In analyzing gout social media posts, we found that flares, pain, swelling, and concerns related to uric acid were primary motivators for individuals seeking gout care. Conversations mentioning ‘pain’ were twice as likely to mention reactive care compared to proactive gout conversations. Analysis also showed that reactive care conversations tended to be more negative, supporting the position that proactive management may be more beneficial for individuals with gout overall. This type of information can be used to identify and address patients’ areas of concern or dissatisfaction. Future work should continue exploring these patient-reported perspectives and experiences so clinicians, caregivers, and patients can better understand and guide care-based management decisions.

References:

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to thank our TREND Community managers Matthew Horsnell and Rachelle Cook for their contribution in providing advocacy and support for the gout community; and the private Facebook group, Gout Support Group of America, for providing access to data during the preparation of this abstract. Funding for this work was provided by Horizon Therapeutics.

Disclosure of Interests: Maurice Flurie: Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TREND Community: Employee, Monica Converse Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TREND Community: None declared.
Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TREND Community: owner, E. Robert Wassman Grant/ research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TREND Community: employee.

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POS0530

ANALYSIS OF APPROPRIATE DURATION OF COLCHICINE PROPHYLAXIS TO MAXIMIZE THE PERSISTENCE OF XANTHINE OXIDASE INHIBITORS AS THE FIRST-LINE URATE LOWERING THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH GOUT USING THE KOREAN HEALTH INSURANCE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE DATABASE: DOES 6 MONTHS’ DURATION MATTER?

Keywords: Gout, Crystal arthritis, Epidemiology

A. Kim¹, S. G. Lee¹, B. W. Song¹, D. H. Moon¹. Pusan National University Hospital, Rheumatology, Busan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: International guidelines for gout recommend at least 3 to 6 months of prophylaxis against gout attack for gout patients who start urate lowering therapy (ULT) [1-3], but there is lack of strong evidences supporting whether up to 6 months duration of gout flare prophylaxis is associated with the improvement of the long-term adherence of ULT in real-world clinical settings.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the appropriate improvement of colchicine prophylaxis to maximize the long-term persistence of xanthine oxidase inhibitors (XOIs) as the first-line ULT in patients with gout using nationwide claim database. In particular, we attempt to compare which one is more effective in adherence to ULT between 6 months and 3 months duration of colchicine prophylaxis.

Methods: This is a nationwide population-based retrospective cohort study using the Korean Health Insurance Review and Assessment (HIRA) database. Gout patients ≥ 20 years who newly initiated allopurinol or febuxostat as the first-line ULT from July 2015 and June 2017 and received XOIs for 6 months were analyzed. Patients were followed-up to Jun 2019. Persistence of ULT was defined as continuation of allopurinol or febuxostat without an interruption for a period longer than 60 days (permisssible gap), the time duration from the index date to the discontinuation of ULT. XOIs persistence was compared according to the 6 months of duration of colchicine prophylaxis such as (1) ≥6 months and proportion of days covered (PDC) ≥0.8 (≥ 6 months group) and (2) <6 months or PDC <0.8 (< 6 months group). For additional subgroup analysis, we also compared the persistence of XOIs according to the 3 months duration of colchicine prophylaxis (≥3 months group vs < 3 months group).

Results: A total of 43,926 eligible gout patients (colchicine prophylaxis ≥6 months: n=2,784, colchicine prophylaxis <6 months: n=41,142 and colchicine prophylaxis ≥3 months: n=3,333, colchicine prophylaxis <3 months: n=40,593) were identified in HIRA database. The majority was male (82.6%) and the mean age was 58.6 years. Allopurinol (65.2%) was more frequently prescribed than febuxostat (34.8%). During the study period, 23,475 (53.4%) patients stopped XOIs. XOIs discontinuation occurred in 1,498 (53.8%) and 21,977 (54.4%) gout patients in the ≥ 6 months group and < 6 months group, respectively. In addition, 1,777 (53%) and 21,698 (53.5%) patients in the ≥ 3 months group and < 3 months group stopped XOIs, respectively. In multivariable Cox regression models revealed that colchicine prophylaxis ≥6 months did not significantly reduce the risk for discontinuation of XOIs compared with colchicine prophylaxis <6 months (HR=0.961, p=0.139). Otherwise, colchicine prophylaxis ≥3 months was significantly associated with a lower risk of non-persistence to XOIs after adjusting confounding factors (HR=0.95, p=0.041).

Conclusion: Our data suggest that at least 3 months of colchicine prophylaxis may be more appropriate than at least 6 months’ duration in terms of maximizing the persistence of XOIs in gout patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0531

EVALUATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIANS, FINAL-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS AND RHEUMATOLOGISTS REGARDING THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF GOUT IN SWITZERLAND

Keywords: Quality of care, Gout

C. Melong Pianta¹, B. Gillet¹, M. J. Nissen¹, C. Gabay¹, K. Lauper¹. ¹Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), Medecine/Division of Rheumatology, Geneva, Switzerland

Background: Gout is the most common inflammatory rheumatism in adults [1]. Its prevalence and incidence have doubled in the last two decades. However, it is commonly undertreated despite numerous therapeutic options and the availability of international recommendations.

Objectives: To explore the reasons why gout is undertreated, we aimed to assess and compare the knowledge of primary care physicians (internists), rheumatologists, and final-year medical students regarding the diagnosis and management of gout in Switzerland with mandatory continuing education for physicians.

Methods: We conducted a multicenter cross-sectional study between December 2021 and August 2022. All primary care physicians and hospital internists practicing in academic hospitals in Switzerland, rheumatology specialists, and final-year medical students from 6 Swiss faculties of medicine were invited to complete an online questionnaire based on the EULAR 2016, 2018, and ACR 2020 recommendations. This multiple choice questionnaire consisted of 28 questions including 68 positive answers (since more than one positive answer was possible for each question) on gout diagnosis, management of an acute attack, indication to start hypouricaemic treatment and management of patients with renal failure. Participants were considered as having responded successfully to the questionnaire with at least 2/3 (45) correct answers.

Results: In total, we received approval for participation from 16 academic hospitals, 4 faculties of medicine, and the Swiss Society of Rheumatology. We included a total of 378 participants: 97 medical students, 210 internists and 71 rheumatologists.

Figure 1. Percentage of participants who responded successfully to the questionnaire

Only 33% of final-year medical students demonstrated sufficient knowledge about how to manage gout, compared to 66% of internists and 93% of rheumatologists. 55%, 48% and 14% in the student, internist and rheumatologist groups respectively did not know what type of crystals were found during a gout attack. The majority of participants in the different groups were familiar with at least one of the treatments that should be used for the management of a first acute attack of gout. Most participants in all 3 groups did not know the indications for initiation of hypouricaemic therapy. 80% of students, 62% of internists and 18% of rheumatologists were unaware of the target urate serum level to aim for when introducing hypouricaemic therapy and more than three-quarters of the students and internists thought that 300 mg was the maximal possible dose of allopurinol. Conclusion: These results suggest that knowledge about the diagnosis and management of gout is suboptimal among final-year medical students and primary care physicians across Switzerland. Although most rheumatologists demonstrated good knowledge about the management of gout, a surprising proportion did not, despite being experts in this field. Knowledge about the diagnosis and management of gout needs to be improved.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Infection-related rheumatic diseases

Infection-related rheumatic diseases may reflect development of chronic post-Chikungunya rheumatism.

Keywords: Infection-related MDs, Outcome measures, Ultrasound

H. Watson1,2, J. Del Valle Mendoza2, W. Silva Caso2, M. Aguilar3, A. Nizzardo4, G. Calusi5, M. Mandron6, M. A. D’agostino7. Evotec, ID (Lyon), Clinical Development and Translational Medicine, Lyon, France; 2Aarhus University, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark; 3Institute of Investigative Nutrition, Instituto de Investigación Nutricional, Lima, Peru; 4Aptuit (Verona) Srl, Pharmaceutics, Verona, Italy; 5Evotec (France) SAS - Campus Cure, Clinical Development, Toulouse, France; 6Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rheumatology, Roma, Italy

Background: Chronic musculoskeletal (MSK) symptoms such as arthralgia and arthritis develop in up to half of patients after acute chikungunya virus (CHIKV) infection. While MSK complaints are common during the acute infection, chronic post-CHIKV rheumatism represents a more severe outcome and is usually assessed by joint counts, laboratory markers and patient-reported outcomes (PROs). Ultrasound (US) may be a practical tool for predicting and confirming the development of chronic CHIKV.

Objectives: To evaluate the clinical relevance of MSKUS findings in post-chikungunya rheumatism.

Methods: 80 patients with acute CHIKV infection were enrolled in an prospective cohort study in Jaén, Peru. Clinical exam, US scans using grey-scale and power Doppler (PDUS), and serum inflammatory markers were performed at inclusion and at 3-month follow-up. Patients completed the RAPID3 outcome assessment and a MSK stiffness questionnaire. Joint counts and PDUS scans included 20 pairs of joints. Global synovitis and tenosynovitis scores were calculated following the EULAR-OMERACT recommendations for rheumatoid arthritis (GLOESS).

Results: 59 patients (mean age 35 years, 66% female) were assessed both in the acute infection stage and at 3-month follow-up. 21 patients (35%) met strict criteria for defining chronic CHIKV rheumatism with a mean 4.4 (±2.2) tender joints and RAPID3 scores >6. In the acute infection phase, global PDUS synovitis and tenosynovitis scores correlated moderately with tender joint count and with pain severity, joint stiffness and RAPID3 scores, but were not strongly predictive of patients who went on to develop chronic arthralgia. After 3 months, global PDUS synovitis scores correlated more strongly with tender joint count (r=0.53, p<0.001), pain severity (r=0.60, p<0.001), joint stiffness (r=0.53, p<0.001) and RAPID3 scores (p=0.60, p<0.001) (Table 1).

Conclusion: Global PDUS synovitis and tenosynovitis scores may be an objective measure of disease severity in patients developing chronic CHIKV rheumatism. Further validation with longer-term follow-up is needed.

Table 1. Correlation of synovitis and tenosynovitis PDUS scores with clinical examination and patient-reported outcomes (n=59).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Assessment Variable</th>
<th>Synovitis correlation</th>
<th>Tenosynovitis correlation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion</td>
<td>Clinical exam</td>
<td>Tender joint count</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RAPID3</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


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P005332 GLOBAL ULTRASOUND SYNVOITIS SCORE MAY REFLECT DEVELOPMENT OF CHRONIC POST-CHIKUNGUNYA RHEUMATISM

P005333 RISK OF SEVERE INFECTIONS IN IMMUNE MEDIATED INFLAMMATORY DISEASES WITH IMMUNOGLOBULIN DECIENCY UNDER RITUXIMAB THERAPY

Keywords: Infection-related MDs, Adaptive immunity, bDMARD

J. Monti1, C. Rempeauf1, T. Lel1, C. Dainen2, B. Combe1, P. Guipilain2, C. Lukas3, Hospital Lapeyronie, Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; 4University Hospital Center Saint Eli Hospital, Internal Medicine and Multi-Organic Diseases, Montpellier, France

Background: Rituximab (RTX) is effective in treating immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMID). Hypogammaglobulinemia may occur under RTX and may increase infection risk.

Objectives: Since data are controversial, we evaluated the risk of severe infection in patients with IMID and hypogammaglobulinemia under RTX therapy.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective single-center study retrieving all patients treated with RTX for IMID. We calculated the incidence of RTX-induced hypogammaglobulin (Ig) deficiency, the type of Ig deficiency, the incidence of severe infection, and risk factors for severe infection.

Results: 311 patients were analyzed. Mean follow-up was 62.6 months. Exposure was 1623.7 patient-years. 15% of patients developed at least 1 severe infection. Incidence rate was 2.77/100 PY. 29 patients had prevalent IgG deficiency before being treated with RTX. 68 patients developed hypogammaglobulinemia, mainly for IgM (12%) and IgG (8%). Severe infection rate was higher in patients with prevalent IgG deficiency (RR 1.73; 95% CI 0.85-3.53), with significant difference in survival model (Log-Rank test: p=0.033). On the other hand, no excess risk of infection was observed in patients developing IgG deficiency under RTX in univariate analysis (RR 0.68; 95% CI 0.31-1.47) or in survival analyses after adjustment for confounding factors (type of IMID (RA versus other IMID), cumulative dose of RTX, presence of chronic infections, use of an immunosuppressive drug at inclusion, and mean dose of GCs collected at each cycle of RTX during follow-up) (Log-Rank test: p=0.399). Chronic lung disease and glucocorticoids (GCs) use during follow-up were associated with an increased risk of severe infection.

Conclusion: We did not observe an increased risk of severe infection in RTX-induced Ig deficiency. However, we found an increased risk of severe infection in case of prevalent IgG deficiency prior to RTX. In case of IgG deficiency, RTX management should be discussed on a case-by-case basis, according to an individual assessment of the infectious risk, especially when GCs therapy is used and chronic lung diseases are present.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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P005334 PREDICTORS OF SERIOUS INFECTIONS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS - A PROSPECTIVE BRAZILIAN COHORT

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Infection-related MDs

A. L. Baggio de Almeida1, M. F. Guimarães1, M. Raquel Da Costa Pinto1, L. Pereira2, A. P. Gomides2, K. Bortiglioli3, P. Louzada Jr4, R. Giorgi5, G. Castro6, S. Radominski6, C. Breno6, A. Pugliesi6, L. Mota6, G. Da Rocha, Castelain Pinheiro1, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Reumatologia, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; 2Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Reumatologia, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 3Universidade de Brasília, Reumatologia, Brasília, Brazil; 4Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de São Paulo, Reumatologia, São Paulo, Brazil; 5Universidade de São Paulo, Rheumatology, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil; 6Hospital do Servidor Público Estadual de São Paulo, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 7Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina - UFSUL, Reumatologia, Florianópolis, Brazil; 8Universidade Federal do Paraná, Reumatología, Curitiba, Brazil; 9Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Reumatologia, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 10Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Reumatologia, Campinas, Brazil

Background: Infectious intercurrents increase mortality and morbidity and often limit immunosuppressive treatment in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients [1]. The risk of infection in this population may be influenced by factors related to the treatment, the characteristics of rheumatic disease and the clinical and social conditions of patients [2].

Objectives: This study aims to evaluate the incidence and factors related to the occurrence of serious infections, defined as the need for hospitalization or the use of intravenous antibiotics for the treatment, among patients with rheumatoid arthritis in Brazil.

Methods: We analyzed data from the REAL [3], a prospective observational study, that evaluated Brazilian RA patients, with clinical and laboratory data

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Acknowledgements: NIL.


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collected over a year in eleven tertiary health care centers. Were included patients with 18 years or older, who fulfilled classification criteria for RA and were previously followed up in rheumatology services for at least 6 months prior to inclusion. Exclusion criteria was the absence of information regarding the occurrence of infections in two or more visits. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed from the adjustment of the logistic regression model

**Table 1. Multivariable analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coef.</th>
<th>Value-p</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time (Visit)</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary fibrosis</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS Diseases</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone (or equivalent) dose (≥ 15 mg)</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: Coef. = coefficients, OR = Odds Ratio, 95% CI = 95% confidence interval. CNS = Central nervous system diseases. HAQ = health assessment questionnaire.

**Conclusion:** We observed a high incidence rate of serious infections in this Brazilian cohort compared with cohorts from developed countries. The factors that were independently associated with them were neurological and pulmonary comorbidities, reduced kidney function, use of corticosteroids in moderate doses and reduced functionality. These findings may affect therapeutic decisions in RA patients.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Subesinghe, S. et al. Biologic prescribing decisions following serious infection: results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Regis-


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Ana Luisa Bagno de Almeida: None declared, Maria Fernanda Guimarães Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB., Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB., Maria RAQUEL DA COSTA PINTO: None declared, Leticia Pereira: None declared, Ana Paula Gomides: None declared, Karina Bottiglio Granit/research support from: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Janssen, Novartis and Roche., Paulo Louzada Jr: None declared, Rina Giorgi Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, UCB, G. di Castro: None declared, Sebastiao Radominski Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Lilly, Pfizer, and Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Lilly, Pfizer, and Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Lilly, Pfizer, and Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche and UCB., Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB., Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB., Abhishek Pugliesi: None declared, Lucia Mota Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, GSK, Janssen, Libbs, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, and UCB., Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Janssen, Pfizer and Roche, Geraldo da Rocha Castelar Pinheiro: None declared.

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**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritis, Lungs, Ultrasound

K. Schniedenberg1,2, A. L. Walter1, L. Joos3, M. Brutsche3, J. Von Kempis1, A. Rubbert-Roth1, Kantonsspital St. Gallen, Division of Rheumatology, St. Gallen, Switzerland;2 University Hospital Bern, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Switzerland;3 Kantonsspital St. Gallen, Division of Pneumology, St. Gallen, Switzerland

**Background:** Cystic fibrosis (CF) is characterized by mutations within the CFTR (cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator) gene that result in a defect of the chloride transporter protein in different organs, particularly in the lung. Musculoskeletal symptoms have been reported in up to 29% of CF patients [1], most frequently as recurrent episodes of mono- or polyarthritis in joints of hands and feet. Recently, potent CFTR modulator therapies targeting the F508del mutation in CF have become available (i.e., Trikafta® - consisting of a triple combination of exelacatuar, tezacator, and ivacaftor) that increase CFTR protein availability and function at cell surfaces.

**Objectives:** To characterize musculoskeletal symptoms in a cohort of consecutive CF patients.

**Methods:** 25 CF patients were enrolled in this monocentric, prospective, and cross-sectional cohort study. Rheumatologic evaluation included clinical and laboratory parameters. Data were analyzed by covariance (ANCOVA) models, using the general linear model approach. Correlation analyses were performed calculating nonparametric Spearman correlation rank coefficients.

**Results:** Baseline characteristics are outlined in Table 1. 22/25 CF patients were under CFTR modulator treatment with a mean treatment duration of 13 ± 4 months. Arthralgias and myalgias were reported in 48% and 20% of patients, respectively. Arthritis, mainly involving small joints, was clinically detected in 62/25 (24%) patients and confirmed by ultrasound (US) in 3/6 patients. Self-reported myalgias, but not self-reported arthralgias, were significantly associated with the presence of swollen joints (r = 0.7452, p < 0.0001), tender joints (r = 0.6674, p = 0.0003), a positive squeeze test (r = 0.5989, p = 0.0019) and morning stiffness (r = 0.8556, p = 0.0004) (Table 1). Disease activity as assessed by the Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI) was moderate (mean ± SD = 8.4 ± 4.1) and rheumatoid factor (RF) were detected in one patient not on CFTR modulator therapy (with US synovitis ofPIP). Two patients on CFTR modulator therapy tested positive for RF. Another patient was seronegative but synovitis was confirmed by US.

**Conclusion:** The current cohort study confirms that rare musculoskeletal symptoms are frequent in adult CF patients. Self-reported myalgias were significantly associated with arthritis mainly involving small joints. Interestingly, longer duration of CFTR modulator therapy was associated with a decreased number of tender and swollen joints in line with the assumption that amelioration of mucosal airway inflammation may decrease the risk of developing CF arthropathy.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Baseline characteristic of cystic fibrosis (CF) patients, PAG = Patient global assessment, RF = Rheumatoid factors**

| Age (years), mean (±SD) | 26 ± 5 | 24 ± 5 | 25 ± 3 | NS |
| Female sex, n (%) | 13/25 (52) | 3/6 (50) | 0/19 (0) | 0.019 |
| CF disease characteristics | 2.6 ± 1.7 | 2.8 ± 1.5 | 2.2 ± 1.6 | NS |
| Exhaustive production ejection > | 1/3/2.5 (12) | 6/23 (65) | 1/19 (5) | 0.038 |
| Table 1. Baseline characteristic of cystic fibrosis (CF) patients, PAG = Patient global assessment, RF = Rheumatoid factors |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CF patients</th>
<th>CF+Arthropathy</th>
<th>CF- Arthropathy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>0.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global assessment</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACFA, n (%)</td>
<td>1/25 (4)</td>
<td>11/16 (71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory parameters</td>
<td>3/25 (12)</td>
<td>6/25 (40)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAFETY OF BIVALENT SARS-COV-2 VACCINES AS A SECOND BOOSTER DOSE IN ARTHRITIS PATIENTS ON IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE THERAPIES

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Safety, COVID

H. Ørto1,2, J. Jysrum1,2, A. T. Tveter1, I. E. Christensen1,2, J. Sexton1, K. H. Bjørlykke2,3, G. B. Kro4, T. K. Kvien2,5,6, L. A. Munthe2,5, G. Grodeland2,5, S. Mjaaland1, J. T. Vaage4,6, E. A. Haavardsholm1,2, J. K. Jorgensen5, S. Aarestad Provan1, S. W. Syversen1, G. L. Goll1,1 Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway;2 University of Oslo (UiO), Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway;2 Akershus University Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology, Lørenskog, Norway;3 Oslo University Hospital, Department of Immunology, Oslo, Norway;4 Oslo University Hospital, Department of Microbiology, Oslo, Norway;5 University of Oslo (UiO), KG Jebsen Centre for B cell Malignancies, Oslo, Norway;6 Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Department of Method Development and Analytics, Oslo, Norway

Background: Safety and efficacy of updated bivalent vaccines, containing both the original vaccine variant of SARS-CoV-2 Spike and either Omicron variants BA.1 or BA.4/5, are of particular interest in arthritis patients on immunosuppressive therapies. With the continuous emergence of new viral variants, it is important to evaluate whether updated vaccines induce more adverse events in this patient group.

Objectives: To examine if a second booster dose with updated bivalent vaccine increases the risk of adverse events, compared to the first booster dose with monovalent vaccines.

Methods: The prospective NorVacC study investigates vaccine responses in patients with immune mediated inflammatory diseases using immunosuppressive therapies (1). The present analyses included arthritis patients who received two booster doses. Patients received available vaccines according to the Norwegian vaccination program. The current recommendation in the Norwegian arthritis population is a three-dose primary vaccination series followed by two booster doses. Adverse events following vaccines doses were self-reported through questionnaires. Adverse events following the first (monovalent) and second (bivalent) booster were compared with McNemar’s test.

Results: Between 7th of July 2021 and 6th of December 2022 a total of 243 arthritis patients (127 rheumatoid arthritis, 65 psoriatic arthritis, 51 spondyloarthritides) on immunosuppressive therapies (Table 1) received a first, monovalent (BNT162b2, mRNA-1273) and a second, bivalent booster dose (BNT162b2 (WT/Omi BA.1), mRNA-1273.214, BNT162b2 (WT/Omi BA.4/BA.5)). Adverse events were recorded within 2 weeks in all patients (Figure 1). In total, 45 vs 49 (19% vs 20%) patients reported any adverse event after a second, bivalent booster dose, compared to the first, monovalent booster, respectively. There was no significant difference in adverse events overall (p=0.57). The most common adverse events after the second booster were pain at injection site (12%), flu-like symptoms (9%) and headache (6%). No new safety signals emerged. A total of 15 (6%) patients reported a disease flare after receiving the second, bivalent booster, compared to 21 (8%) after the first, monovalent booster.

Conclusion: There was no difference in adverse events between the monovalent, first booster, and the bivalent, second booster, indicating that bivalent vaccines are safe in this patient group.

Acknowledgements: We thank the patients and health-care workers who have participated in the Norwegian study of vaccine response to COVID-19. We thank the patient representatives in the study group, Kristin Isabella Kirkeneg Espe and Roger Thoresen. We thank all study personnel, laboratory personnel, and other staff involved at the clinical departments involved, particularly Synnove Aure, Margareth Sveisnvin, May Britt Solim, Elisabeth Rossum-Haanald, and Kjetil Bergmark.


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Table 1. Demographic characteristics and immunosuppressive medication in patients receiving a 1st monovalent and a 2nd bivalent booster dose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients, n (%)</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), median (IQR)</td>
<td>61 (52-67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>152 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressive medication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF mono*</td>
<td>75 (31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF combo*</td>
<td>72 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>62 (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>9 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-inhibitors</td>
<td>9 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK-inhibitors</td>
<td>11 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>8 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st booster</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNT162b2</td>
<td>106 (44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRNA-1273</td>
<td>137 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd booster</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNT162b2 (WT/Omi BA.1)</td>
<td>65 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNT162b2 (WT/Omi BA.4/BA.5)</td>
<td>120 (47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRNA-1273.214 (WT/Omi BA.1)</td>
<td>58 (23)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


REFERENCE:
[1] Syversen S.W. et al Arthritis Rheumatol 2022
THE IMPACT OF IMMUNOMODULATING TREATMENT ON THE SEROLOGICAL IMMUNOGENICITY FOLLOWING THREE DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE AND PERSISTENCE OF IMMUNOGENICITY OF TWO VACCINE DOSES IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES - A SWEDISH STUDY (COVID19-REUMA)

Keywords: Vaccination/imunization, COVID, Adaptive immunity

M. Frodlund, P. Nived, K. Chatzidionysiou, A. Södergren, E. Klingberg, M. Hansson, E. Pfrn, L. Klaradkog, M. C. Kapetanovic. 1Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Division of Inflammation and Infection; 2Rheumatology, Linköping University; 3Linköping, Linköping, Sweden; 4Department of Clinical Sciences; 5Lund, Section for Rheumatology, Lund University, Lund, Department of Infectious Diseases, Kristianstad Hospital, Sweden, Kristianstad, Sweden; 6Department of Medicine, Solna, Rheumatology Unit, Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden; 7Department of Rheumatology and Inflammation Research, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden; 8Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund, Section for Rheumatology, Lund University; 9Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine, Solna, Rheumatology Unit, Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden; 10KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Department of Protein Science, SciLifeLab, Stockholm, Sweden; 11Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund, Section for rheumatology, Lund University, Skåne University Hospital, Lund, Sweden

Background: Data on serological immunity after three doses and the long-term immunogenicity (persistence) of COVID-19 vaccine in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD) treated with different immunomodulating drugs are still limited.

Objectives: To elucidate if 1) a third dose COVID-19 vaccine improves antibody responses, compared to two doses, in patients with IRD treated with biologic or targeted synthetic DMARD (b/tsDMARDs) treatment given as monotherapy or in combination with conventional synthetic DMARDs (csDMARDs) compared to controls, and 2) the persistence of antibody response after two doses of COVID-19 vaccine in IRD patients.

Methods: Antibody levels to two antigens representing Spike full length protein and Spike S1 and a Nucleocapsid C-terminal fragment (used to confirm previous COVID-19 infection) were measured in serum samples collected 2-12 and 21-40 weeks after the second vaccine dose and 2-12 weeks after the third dose using a multiplex bead-based serology assay. A sufficient antibody response (seropositivity) was defined as having antibodies over the cut-off level for both spike antigens (1). WT (wild type) anti-Spike IgG and omicron BA.1 and BA.2 variants were measured. Patients with IRD receiving immunomodulating treatment, regularly followed at a rheumatology department and a group of controls were recruited from five Swedish regions.

Results: In total, 323 of 414 patients with IRD and 36 controls who received three vaccine doses participated in this part of the study. Following treatment groups were included: rituximab (n=118; 68% female; mean age 67 years), abatacept (n=18; 72% female; mean age 64 years), JAK-inhibitors and with JAK-inhibitors and IL6 inhibitors (n=60; 73% female; mean age 64 years), JAK-inhibitors (n=44; 80% female, mean age 52 years), TNF-inhibitors (n=59; 70% female; mean age 47 years); IL12/23/17 inhibitors (n=24; 46% female; mean age 54 years) and controls (n=36; 75% female, mean age 51 years). b/ts DMARD treatment was given as monotherapy or in combination with csDMARD, methotrexate (MTX) being the most frequently used csDMARD (32.5%). Compared to results after two vaccine doses, proportion (%) of seropositivity after three vaccine doses increased significantly in groups rituximab (+/-) DMARD (p=0.003 and p=0.004, respectively), IL6r inhibitors + DMARD (p=0.02), and abatacept+DMARD (p=0.01). However, the proportion of seropositivity after three vaccine doses was still significantly lower in rituximab treated patients (52%) compared to other treatment groups or controls (p<0.001) (Figure 1A/B). Antibody response to WT, omicron sBA.1 and sBA.2 showed similar pattern with the lowest levels among patients treated with rituximab. When antibody response was compared between 2-12 weeks and 21-40 weeks after second dose, the proportion of seropositive rituximab treated patients decreased from 34.9 % to 32.6%. All patients with JAK inhibitors and with JAK-inhibitors and IL6r-inhibitors seropositive 21-40 weeks after the second vaccine dose. Patients treated with other b/tsDMARDs were not included in this analysis due to limited number participants.

Conclusion: In this Swedish study including IRD patients receiving different b/ts DMARDs, a sufficient immunogenicity of the third dose of COVID-19 vaccine was observed in all treatments with exception for rituximab. However, the increased proportion of seropositivity after the third COVID-19 vaccine doses in rituximab and other patients with insufficient response to two doses including response to the omicron variants, supports the current recommendations on additional booster doses. The immunogenicity of two vaccine doses was preserved to 40 weeks in majority of patients treated with different immunomodulating treatment with exception for rituximab.

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(31.6%) on methotrexate and 56 (70.9%) on anti-TNF. Post-vaccination results showed positive T-cell immune responses in 68 of 79 (86.1%) ARDs patients with mean IFN-γ anti-SARS-CoV-2 titers of 1,606.85 mU/mL. 7 (8.9%) of ARDs patients showed negative IFN-γ anti-SARS-CoV-2 levels, while 4 (5%) had borderline titers. 100% of patients with previous COVID 19 disease had positive cellular responses. Within the group of negative or borderline cellular responses, 7 of 10 were men (70%), with no significant differences in terms of diagnosis, comorbidities or immunosuppressive treatments used. In the control group, 100% presented positive cellular responses. Anti-Spike IgG antibodies were detectable in all patients with ARDs as in the control group.

Conclusion: Our preliminary data show that most patients with ARD were able to generate an adequate specific cellular response after vaccination against SARS-CoV-2, emphasizing the relevance of vaccination in this group. Specific antibody responses secondary to anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccination were detected in all patients with ARD. Our data could support the relevance of these immune responses to personalize prevention, vaccination decision-making and treatment in this subgroup of patients.

REFERENCES:

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POS0540
PERFORMANCE OF COMMERICAL SARS-COV-2 WILDTYPE AND OMICRON BA.1 ANTIBODY ASSAYS COMPARED WITH PSEUDOVIRUS NEUTRALIZATION TESTS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, COVID, Vaccination/Immunization

E. Habermann1, L. M. Frommert1, K. Ghannam1, L. Nguyen My1, L. Gieselmann1, P. Tober-Lau1, J. Klotzsche1, A. N. Arumahandi de Silva1, A. Ten Hagen1, J. Zernicke1, F. Kurth2, L. Sander2, F. Klein2, G. R. Burmester2, R. Biesen2, F. Albach1. 1Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 1Institute of Virology, Laboratory of Experimental Immunology, Cologne, Germany; Department of Infectious Diseases and Respiratory Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 1Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, German Rheumatism Research Center Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Background: Commercially available ELISA-based antibody tests are used to evaluate vaccination success against SARS-CoV-2 as recommended for immunocompromised and at-risk patients by medical committees in Germany and Austria [1,2], but it is unclear whether they correlate with neutralization of the Omicron variant.

Objectives: The objective was to compare the test performance of different ELISA-based SARS-CoV-2 wild-type or adapted Omicron BA.1 antibody test systems with wild-type and BA.1 virus neutralization as measured by pseudovirus neutralisation tests (pVNT).

Methods: 269 serum samples of a cohort of 44 non-immunocompromised participants and 65 MTX-treated rheumatic patients taken before and after COVID-19 booster vaccinations were measured using COVID-19 antibody testing systems with wild-type and Omicron BA.1 antigens developed by three different manufacturers (surrogate virus neutralization test cPass, and binding antibody tests QuantiVac and SeraSpot), as well as with a pVNT. The pVNT was considered the gold standard for determining the presence and level of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies.

Results: All three wild type ELISAs showed excellent test performance compared with wild type neutralization in pVNT. However, out of 56 samples without Omicron BA.1 neutralization in pVNT, 71.4% showed positive results in at least one and 28.6% in all three wild-type ELISAs at the manufacturer-defined cut-offs. Omicron ELISAs showed either decreased specificity (57.1% and 55.4% for binding ELISAs) or sensitivity (51.2% in cPass) compared to Omicron neutralization in pVNT. The proportion of any false positive results among all samples decreased from 26.5% before to 3.2% after booster vaccination, however binding antibody test specificities remained below 70%. Detailed results for all test systems can be found in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Conclusion: Decisions for booster vaccination or passive immunization of at-risk patients should not be based solely on antibody tests, because they do not indicate neutralization of Omicron as reliably as they did against wild-type.

REFERENCES:

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3111
Table 1. ELISA test performances with regard to pVNT results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test comparison</th>
<th>At manufacturer’s cut-off</th>
<th>At max. Youden index</th>
<th>At &gt;99% specificity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cut-off</td>
<td>Sensitivity [%]</td>
<td>Specificity [%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A) Compared with Wt-pVNT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wt-QuantiVac</td>
<td>≥ 281 BAU/ml</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wt-SeraSpot</td>
<td>≥ 230 BAU/ml</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Compared with Om-pVNT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Om-QuantiVac</td>
<td>≥ 206.8 RU/ml</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Om-cPass</td>
<td>≥ 11.9 %</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wt-QuantiVac</td>
<td>≥ 385.4 BAU/ml</td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wt-cPass</td>
<td>≥ 30 %</td>
<td>99.1</td>
<td>69.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background: A growing number of articles describe new-onset inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD) - including inflammatory joint diseases (IJD), polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR), connective tissue diseases (CTD) and vasculitis - in close temporal association with SARS-CoV-2 infection (1). On the other hand, also the exposure to vaccines may elicit autoimmune and reports of IRD following vaccination with anti-COVID-19 vaccines appeared in literature since the earliest phases of the vaccination campaign (2,3).

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to contribute to the knowledge on the spectrum of new-onset post-COVID-19 and post-vaccine IRD with a comparative analysis from a large multicentric observational study.

Methods: In the present cohort study, we collected consecutive cases of IRD or acrosyndrome encountered during routine clinical practice from November 2021 to October 2022 (12 months) satisfying one of the following inclusion criteria: a) onset of the rheumatic manifestations within four weeks from the SARS-CoV-2 infection, confirmed by nasopharyngeal swab OR, b) onset of the rheumatic manifestations within four weeks from the administration of one of the COVID-19 vaccines approved for administration in Italy during the collection period. Exclusion criteria were a past history of any IRD or acrosyndrome.

Results: A total of 270 cases were entered in the database. Three records were excluded because identified as mechanical pain (n = 1) or fibromyalgia (n = 2). The final analysis cohort comprised a total of 267 patients, of which 122 (45.2%) patients in the post-COVID-19 (age 54 ± 17 years, 69.7% females) and 145 (54.8%) patients (age 58 ± 16 years, 66.2% females) in the post-vaccine cohorts. Mean delay between COVID-19 diagnosis or vaccine administration and rheumatic manifestations development was 14.5 ± 7.8 vs 13.9 ± 8.5 days, respectively (p = 0.59). Distribution of various IRD categories differed between the two cohorts (Figure 1): the post-COVID-19 cohort had a higher percentage of patients classified as having IJD (52.5% vs 37.2%, p = 0.013) while the post-vaccine cohort had a higher prevalence of patients classified as PMR (33.1% vs 21.3%, p = 0.032). No differences were detected in the percentage of patients diagnosed with CTD (19.7% vs 20.7%, p = 0.837) or vasculitis (6.6% vs 9.0%, p = 0.467).

Conclusion: Although temporal association does not imply causation, our study reports the largest cohort of post-COVID-19 and post-vaccine IRD described to date and supports the hypothesis that new-onset IRD may be triggered by SARS-CoV-2 infection or COVID-19 vaccines. The spectrum of possible clinical manifestations is broad and includes different IJD, PMR, CTD and vasculitis in both cohorts. Our data also suggest a differential pattern of expression: while IJD are the most common IRD following SARS-CoV-2 infection, PMR is relatively more frequent after vaccine administration.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Background: COVID-19 infection favors multiple chronic disparities in the base health status, currently known as post-COVID syndrome (PCS), that can be related to immunological variations. It is important to determine if these alterations (both clinical and immunological) exist in a long-term period in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have suffered from this infection.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the immunological [Lymphocyte populations (LP) and Autoantibodies (Ab)] and clinical profile of RA patients who suffered from COVID-19 and compare it with non-COVID-19 RA patients.

Methods: A nested Case-control study of RA patients evaluated under a multi-disciplinary model and strict follow-up with a post target strategy (T2T). Cases: RA patients and confirmed COVID-19 infection in the last 24 months and Controls: RA patients with no history of this infection. Subgroups in cases: a) Long COVID (LC): symptoms after infection that persist for ≥4 weeks; b) PCS: symptoms < 4 weeks. The 71.86% were in low disease activity. There were no differences in the behavior of the immunological (b) disease modifying drugs (DMARDs) and/or prednisolone exhibit an adequate immune response to the applied SARS-CoV-2 vaccines.

Results: A total of 300 patients were included (148 cases and 152 controls; 87.3% women). Median age 59 years (Interquartile range -IQR 11), disease duration 12 years (IQR 12). The 71.86% were in low disease activity. There were no significant differences in sociodemographic and clinical characteristics between cases and controls. Cases had a time since infection of 18.5 months (IQR 7). Of the total cases, 69% presented LC and 63% with PCS. No significant differences were found between cases and controls in the LP T, B and NK, nor in the Abs 3 months. The 12.64(9) - 12.93(8.1) - 12.4(9.3) 0.890, CD19+ 12.4(8.8) - 12.4(9.2) - 12.3(8.4) 0.239, CD16+CD56+ 12.64(9) - 12.93(8.1) - 12.4(9.3) 0.890.

Table 1. Profile of autoantibodies and lymphocyte populations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autoantibodies</th>
<th>Total group (300)</th>
<th>Controls (152)</th>
<th>Cases (148)</th>
<th>p value*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANA+</td>
<td>240(80)</td>
<td>126(82.8)</td>
<td>114(77.0)</td>
<td>0.204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA+ current title</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>240(80)</td>
<td>126(82.8)</td>
<td>114(77.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocyte events</td>
<td>2532.5(426.5)</td>
<td>2518(281)</td>
<td>2584(500)</td>
<td>0.050c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antinuclear antibodies IgG</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>12(7.8)</td>
<td>9(6.0)</td>
<td>0.538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies IgG</td>
<td>150(50)</td>
<td>77(50.6)</td>
<td>73(49.3)</td>
<td>0.817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The results propose a general description of a specific population of patients with RA with low disease activity, under treatment in a strict follow-up model, in which no differences were found in the behavior of the immunological profile (independent of symptoms of LC and PCS) evaluated long-term after infection with those who did not have COVID-19. This suggest that they return to their basal homeostatic state, something that has not yet been reported up to now. These results should forwardly be replicated in populations with other characteristics of RA.

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programme including the 3rd booster vaccine in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases.

**REFERENCE:**

[1] Schreiber K. et al. Reduced Humoral Response of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies following Vaccination in Patients with Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases—an Interim Report from a Danish Prospective Cohort Study. Vaccines 2022, 10(1), 35; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10010035

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**THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE 3RD AND 4TH BOOSTER BNT162B2 mRNA VACCINES TO PREVENT SEVERE COVID-19 AMONG AUTOIMMUNE INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATOID DISEASES (AIRD) PATIENTS DURING THE OMECORN OUTBREAKS**

**Keywords:** Vaccination/immunization, bDMARD, COVID

Y. Braun-Moscovici1, M. Kaplan2, M. Braun3, R. Dr1, D. Markovits5, S. Giryes1, V. Shatatayo1, R. Erlich1, K. Toledano1, F. Hasan1, K. Dolnikov1, Y. Tavor1, A. Balbir-Gurman1,2, Rambam Health Care Campus, Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion-Israeli Institute of Technology, Rheumatology Institute, Haifa, Israel; 2Rambam Health Care Campus, Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion-Israeli Institute of Technology, Biochemistry Laboratory, Haifa, Israel; 3Hadassah Medical Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bioinformatics, Jerusalem, Israel

**Background:** The 3rd booster of mRNA vaccines against SARS COV2 was highly efficient against delta variant but data regarding the efficacy of the 3rd and 4th boosters against the omicron variants, among AIRD pts are scarce.

**Objectives:** We aimed to assess the effect of the 3rd and 4th booster mRNA vaccines against SARS CoV2, in preventing severe COVID-19, in AIRD patients (pts) treated with immunomodulating drugs.

**Methods:** 212 pts (mean age (SD) 57(13), disease duration 11.2(7.4), who received the 3rd booster (Pfizer) were included in the study. We performed serology tests 24 weeks after the second dose of vaccine and 4-8 weeks after the 3rd booster. IgG Antibodies (Ab) against SARS COV2 virus were detected using the SARS-CoV-2 IgG II Quant (Abbott) assay. The test was considered positive above 50 AU/ml. Data regarding COVID-19 infection during the 5th outbreak (omicron) were collected from the medical files. The length of observation period was defined as the time from the 3rd booster to the last hospital visit or COVID 19 diagnosis, whichever occurred first.

**Results:** The 3rd booster administration (Pfizer) significantly augmented the humoral response (from mean(SD) 1121(4723) AU/ml to 12153(13687)). 58 patients received the 4th booster and 18 the 5th booster. COVID-19 was diagnosed in 103 pts (49%) within mean(SD) 224.8(106.5) days after the 3rd booster vaccination. 109 pts remained free of disease during mean(SD) follow-up 230.6(133.9). Following the 4th booster, 26 (45%) out of 58pts contracted COVID-19 within mean(SD) 97.6(78.7) days after the vaccination. One 70 year old patient (vaccinated 3 times) died and 2 other pts (rituximab treated) had severe COVID-19. The IgG Ab titer after the 3rd booster was lower in pts who contracted COVID-19 compared to those uninfected (mean(SD), median 8777.9(11716.4),3475 AU/ml vs 15348.1(14649.1),10801, p=0.004). There were no statistically significant differences between the pts with COVID-19 and those without, regarding age, type of disease, treatment and humoral response 24 weeks after the 2nd vaccination.

**Conclusion:** Despite an enhanced humoral response obtained after the 3rd booster, 49% of AIRD pts vaccinated with 3 doses and 45% of pts vaccinated with 4 doses had COVID-19 during the omicron outbreaks. Higher humoral response to the 3rd booster was associated with a lower rate of COVID19. The booster vaccines conferred 99% protection against severe COVID-19.

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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS OF COVID-19 WITH TIXAGEVIMAB AND CILGAVIMAB IN RHEUMATOLOGIC PATIENTS TREATED WITH RITUXIMAB: DATA FROM A SINGLE-CENTRE COHORT**

**Keywords:** COVID, bDMARD

M. Manara1, M. Sette2, L. Giudice1,2, M. Biggioggero1, N. Del Papa1, E. G. Favalli1,2, M. Gerosa1,2, F. Ingegni1,2, R. Caporali1,2, ASST G. Pini-CTO,
Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 2University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy

Background: Rheumatologic patients treated with Rituximab (RTX) are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 and death. The B-cell depleting treatment significantly affects B cell functions involved in anti-SARS-CoV-2 response, leading to relevant impacts on the clinical and serological course of infection, long-term immunity, and vaccine responses. In light of these observations, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) of COVID-19 with Tixagevimab and Casivimab (TGM/CGM) was recently approved in Italy for all patients treated with RTX in the previous year, independently of their serological status against SARS-CoV-2.

Objectives: We aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of TGM/CNM in a single-centre cohort of rheumatologic patients treated with RTX.

Methods: From October 2022, all patients who had been treated with RTX in the previous 12 months and who underwent clinical assessment at our rheumatologic tertiary centre were screened for eligibility to PrEP of COVID-19 with TGM/CNM. According to the indications of the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA), we excluded subjects with major cardiovascular risk factors and/or coagulation abnormalities; those who reported a previous allergic reaction to any anti-COVID-19 vaccine were referred to an allergologist for an evaluation before TGM/CNM administration. Patients who agreed to be treated with TGM/CNM signed an informed consent. Clinical and demographic features were collected at baseline, and follow-up phone assessment was performed the day after and 1 month after TGM/CNM administration, to assess treatment tolerability and new COVID-19-related events. A descriptive analysis was performed.

Results: From 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022, 90 subjects were screened for eligibility to TGM/CNM. Among them, 11 were excluded for contraindications due to comorbidities and 55 refused TGM/CNM administration. Among patients who agreed to receive PrEP of COVID-19, 21 received TGM/CNM before 31 December 2022 and 3 were scheduled for January 2023. Patients treated with TGM/CNM had a mean age of 54 years (standard deviation: 17) and 19 (90.5%) were female; 9 were affected by rheumatoid arthritis and 12 by other rheumatologic diseases (3 systemic lupus erythematosus, 2 systemic sclerosis, 1 Sjögren syndrome, 1 juvenile idiopathic arthritis, 3 anti-synthetase syndrome, 2 vasculitides). Most of them had completed the vaccination schedule against COVID-19 (19, 90.5%) and 9 (42.8%) reported an infectious event by SARS-CoV-2 in the previous year. One month after TGM/CNM administration, no patient reported adverse events related to TGM/CNM nor COVID-19 related symptoms.

Conclusion: PrEP of COVID-19 with TGM/CNM was well tolerated in our population of rheumatologic patients treated with RTX in the previous year and no COVID-19 related symptoms were observed in the month of follow-up after TGM/CNM administration. Future observations may provide further data on long-term efficacy of TGM/CNM in preventing COVID-19.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Table 1. Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases Revaccination, n=17</th>
<th>Controls Boost, n=29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n(%)</td>
<td>14  82%  21  72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (IQR)</td>
<td>65  49 - 70  67  62 - 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>15  10 - 18  22  9 - 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid Arthritis/SLE</td>
<td>13/4  10/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None DMARD</td>
<td>5  29%  8  28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone</td>
<td>4  24%  1  3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>7  41%  12  41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>2  12%  4  14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None biologic treatment</td>
<td>4  24%  9  31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>12  71%  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF-inhibitors</td>
<td>1  6%  7  24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6-inhibitors, Abatacept, Benlysta</td>
<td>0  6  24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Previous rituximab treatment

| Any rituximab treatment   | 16  94%  1  3% |
| RTX within the last 15 months, no | 14  88%  0  |
| Cumulative total dose, mg  | 13  4-24  2  |
| Time from RTX to revaccination, months | 9  5-12  49 |

Figure 1.
Conclusion: In conclusion, forty-seven percent of initial non-responders were able to seroconvert after two-dose revaccination. However, plasma concentrations of the antibodies against SARS-COV-2 and the levels of neutralizing capacity remained significantly lower in inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD) patients without sufficient protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection. Our study suggests that patients with RDs who did not mount a detectable serological response to a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine have a T cell response similar to immune-competent controls. Future studies should establish the antibody levels that identify IRD patients without sufficient protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection.

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PO6547

RISK OF SARS-COV-2 INFECTION FOLLOWING THREE DOSES OF BNT162B2 OR MRNA-1273 IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: COVID, Inflammatory arthritides, Vaccination/immunization

C. E. Raptis1, C. Polysopoulos1, C. Berger1,2,3, A. Ciurea1, D. O. Andrey2,3, P. Lescuier4, T. Maletic1, M. Reik2, A. Scherer5,1, I. Von Loga4,1, J. Safford1, K. Lauper6,8, B. Moeller9, N. Vuilleumier10,11, A. Finckh8,12, A. Rubbert-Roth10,11

1SCQM Foundation, Statistics group, Zurich, Switzerland; 2University Hospital Basel, University Center for Immunology and Immunization Clinic, Basel, Switzerland; 3University of Basel, Translational Immunology, Department of Biomedicine, Basel, Switzerland; 4Zurich University Hospital, University of Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 5Geneva University Hospitals, Laboratory Medicine Division, Geneva, Switzerland; 6University of Geneva, Faculty of Medicine, Geneva, Switzerland; 7RheumaCura Foundation, Bern, Switzerland; 8Geneva University Hospitals, Division of Rheumatology, Geneva, Switzerland; 9Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Switzerland; 10St. Gallen Cantonal Hospital, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Background: We recently performed a long-term, model-based comparison of the humoral immunogenicity following two-dose vaccination with BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273 in individuals from SCQM, the Swiss cohort for patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD). Vaccination with mRNA-1273 resulted in higher humoral immunogenicity compared to BNT162b2 throughout 24 weeks post second vaccine dose [1]. In booster vaccinations, the dose of mRNA-1273 was reduced and it is currently unknown if there was a difference in SARS-CoV-2 infections in BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273 recipients with IRD after the third vaccine dose.

Objectives: To investigate the risk of test-positive SARS-CoV-2 infection after three doses of BNT162b2 or mRNA-1273 in IRD patients.

Methods: Adult patients from the SCQM registry who previously participated in an observational cohort study comparing vaccine-induced humoral immune responses following two doses of BNT162b2 or mRNA-1273 were invited to participate in the next phase of the study. Participants answered study questionnaires via the mySCQM patient app, including on subsequent vaccine doses and SARS-CoV-2 infections, here taken as patient-reported positive PCR or antigen tests. Pre and post third vaccination anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG (anti-S1) levels were quantified by testing self-collected capillary blood samples using the EURO-IMMUN ELISA as previously described [1]. To analyze the risk of infection, we used a Cox proportional hazards model. The time of the third mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose administration was taken as the baseline. Patient follow-up ended on the minimum date of the following events: testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection after the third mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose, receiving a fourth vaccine dose, last data entry in the mySCQM patient app, or study end (2022-12-01). Patients whose follow-up ended in the first 14 days after the third vaccine dose were excluded from the analysis.

Results: 445 patients were included in the study (67% female; mean age 54 yrs; 36% RA, 36% axSpA, 21% PsA, 7% undifferentiated arthritis). Patients received their third dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine between 2021-08-06 and 2022-04-04 (BNT162b2: mRNA-1273 51:49%; homologous vaccination applied in 95% of patients). Between 2021-12-08 and 2022-11-24, 175 patients reported a positive SARS-CoV-2 test occurring at least 14 days after the third vaccine dose (Figure 1A), only 3 of whom required hospitalization. We found no statistically significant difference in the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection post third dose due to the vaccine received (mRNA-1273 vs BNT162b2) (Figure 1B). Higher anti-S1 levels at baseline were statistically significantly associated with a lower risk of infection post third vaccine dose. A prior SARS-CoV-2 infection also statistically significantly reduced the risk of infection post third vaccine dose.

Conclusion: The risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection did not statistically significantly differ between mRNA-1273 and BNT162b2 recipients following a third vaccine dose. Higher anti-S1 levels at the time of the third mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose, as well as a prior infection, were associated with a statistically significant lower risk of test-positive SARS-CoV-2 infections during follow-up in patients with IRD.

REFERENCE:
Figure 1.
nrAIRD, and HCs. After exclusion of individuals who were unvaccinated, those who received one vaccine dose only, and those with uncertain responses regarding the vaccine doses, a total of 9,596 patients formed the study population of the present investigation. If a COVID-19 infection occurred after the initial two vaccine doses and at least one booster dose (at least three doses in total, herein termed full vaccination), it was considered a BTI. Data were analysed using multivariable regression models. Statistically significant results were denoted by p values <0.05.

Results: A total of 7,016/9,596 (73.1%) individuals were fully vaccinated. Among those, 1,002 (14.2%) reported at least one BTI, and 166 (2.3%) reported at least two BTIs. Among SLE patients, 867/1,218 (71.2%) were fully vaccinated. Among fully vaccinated SLE patients, 137 (15.8%) reported at least one BTI while 28 (3.2%) reported at least two BTIs. BTI frequencies in fully vaccinated SLE patients were comparable to those of other AIRDs (OR: 1.0; 95% CI: 0.8–1.3; p=0.447) and nrAIDS (OR: 0.9; 95% CI: 0.6–1.3; p=0.856) but higher compared with HCs (OR: 1.2; 95% CI: 1.0–1.6; p=0.022). For SLE patients with three vaccine doses, 113/137 (82.5%) reported at least one BTI while the corresponding number for four vaccine doses was 24/137 (17.5%). Compared with HCs (OR: 10.6; 95% CI: 1.2–93.0; p=0.032) and other AIRDs (OR: 3.5; 95% CI: 1.0–11.5; p=0.036), SLE patients showed higher frequencies of hospitalisation. AID multimorbidity was associated with a 15-fold increased risk for a need of advanced treatment for COVID-19 (OR: 15.3; 95% CI: 2.6–88.2; p=0.002).

Conclusion: COVID-19 BTIs occurred in nearly 1 every 6th fully vaccinated patient with SLE, and 20% more frequently in this patient population compared with fully vaccinated HCs. Moreover, BTIs in SLE patients were more severe compared with BTIs in HCs or patients with AIRDs other than SLE, resulting in a greater need for hospitalisation. AID multimorbidity contributed to a more severe COVID-19 BTI requiring advanced management. These insights call for greater attention to vaccination in the vulnerable group of SLE patients, with appropriate risk stratification towards optimised vaccination strategies.

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Disclosure of Interests: Emelie Kihlgren Olsson: None declared, Naveen Ravichandran: None declared, Elena Nikhiphorou Speakers bureau: EN has received speaker honoraria/participated in advisory boards for Celltrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, Abbvie, and Lilly. Consultant of: EN has received speaker honoraria/participated in advisory boards for Celltrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, Abbvie, and Lilly, Grant/research support from: EN holds research grants from Pfizer and Lilly., Julius Lindblom: None declared, Sreoshy Saha: None declared, Syahrul Sazliyana Shaharir: None declared, Wannuchada Kathcharn: None declared, Phronen Akarawatcharangura Goo: None declared, Lisa Traboco: None declared, Yi-Ming Chen: None declared, Kshitij Jagtap: None declared, James B. Lilleker Speakers bureau: JBL has received speaker honoraria/participated in advisory boards for Sanofi Genzyme, Roche, and Biogen. None is related to this manuscript. Consultant of: JBL has participated in advisory boards for Sanofi Genzyme, Roche, and Biogen. None is related to this manuscript. Arvind Nune: None declared, John Pauling: None declared, Chris Wincup: None declared, Vishwesh Agarwal: None declared, Dey Dzifa: None declared, Carlos Enrique Toro Gutierrez: None declared, Carlo Vinicio Caballero: None declared, Hector Chinyo Speakers bureau: HC has been a speaker for UCB, and Biogen., Consultant of: HC has received consulting fees from Novartis, Eli Lilly, Orphazyme, AstraZeneca, Grant/ research support from: HC was supported by the National Institution for Health Research Manchester Biomedical Research Centre Funding Scheme. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NHS, National Institute for Health Research, or Department of Health. HC has received grant support from Eli Lilly and UCB., Vikas Agarwal: None declared, Rohit Aggarwal Consultant of: RA has a consultancy relationship with and/or has received research funding from the following companies: Bristol Myers-Squibb, Pfizer, Genentech, Octapharma, CSL Behring, Mallinckrodt, AstraZeneca, Corbus, Kezar, Abbvie, Jansen, Kyverna Alexion, Angex, Gilead, Galapagos, Actograph, Sciphir, Horizon Therapeutics, Teva, Beigene, ANI Pharmaceuticals, Biogen, NuVig, Capella Bioscience, and Cabaletabio., Grant/research support from: RA has a consultancy relationship with and/or has received research funding from the following companies: Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Pfizer, Genentech, Octapharma, CSL Behring, Mallinckrodt, AstraZeneca, Corbus, Kezar, Abbvie, Jansen, Kyverna Alexion, Angex, Gilead, EMD-Serono, Boehringer Ingelheim, Roivant, Merck, Galapagos, Actigraph, Sciphir, Horizon Therapeutics, Teva, Beigene, ANI Pharmaceuticals, Biogen, NuVig, Capella Bioscience, and Cabaletabio., Latika Gupta: None declared, Ioannis Parodis Grant/research support from: IP has received research funding and/or honoraria from Argen, AstraZeneca, Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, Eli Lilly and Company, Novel Biosciences, GlaxoSmithKline, Jansen Pharmaceuticals, Novartis and F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG.

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Figure 1. Survival analysis across patients with SLE, AIRDs, or nrAIDs, and HCs. SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; AIRD: autoimmune rheumatic disease; nrAID: non-rheumatic autoimmune disease; HC: healthy control.

POS0550 IMMUNE RESPONSE AFTER VACCINATION AGAINST SARS-COV2 IN PATIENTS WITH IMMUNOMEDIATED DISEASES (RIM-COV PROJECT)

Keywords: COVID, Vaccination/immunization


1Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Immunology, Madrid, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Immunology, Madrid, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Microbiology, Madrid, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, IRyCS, CIBEREPS, Department of Nursing and Physiotherapy. Universidad de Alcalá, Clinical Biostatistic Unit, Madrid, Spain

Background: It is known that patients with immunomodulatory treatment may have less immune response to vaccines. Since SARS-CoV2 infection appeared, several vaccines have been developed. In previous studies, it has been observed that some subgroups of patients have a lower antibody response after SARS-CoV2 vaccination, especially patients treated with Rituximab (an anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody); but also in those treated with Mycophenolate Mofetil, Abatacept, JAK inhibitors, anti tumor necrosis factor (TNF) α, Methotrexate or Glucocorticoids. In some studies, an absence of humoral response but the presence of a T-cell response after vaccination has been observed in patients with B-cell depletion, even without finding differences between patients treated with Rituximab compared with other immunomodulatory therapies or healthy controls. As well, it has been described a lower T-cell response in patients treated with anti-CTLA4, anti-interleukin 6 or anti-TNFα.

Objectives: Our objective is to identify factors that influence humoral and cellular immune responses to SARS-CoV2 vaccines in patients with immune-mediated rheumatic diseases (IMRDs) in treatment with disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) and in healthy subjects as a control.

Methods: A total of 140 consecutive patients and 24 healthy controls were included in this observational cross-sectional single-centre study. Two months after second or third COVID-19 vaccine dose (BNT162b2 [Pfizer/BioNtech], mRNA-1273 [Moderna] or AZD1222 [AstraZeneca]), we quantified IgG anti-SARS-CoV2 antibodies by chemiluminescent immunoassay of micro-particles and Interferon (IFN)-γ production by T cells stimulated with SARS-CoV2 peptides using an IFN-gamma release assay test. IgG anti-SARS-CoV2-IgG levels below 1800 AU/ml and IFN-gamma levels below 0.15 IU/ml were considered as a suboptimal humoral or cellular immune response, respectively. Multivariate analyses were used for exploring influence of different factors in these suboptimal immune responses.

Results: Of the 140 patients, 101 were women and 39, men, with a median age of 55.9 (46.1-64.7) years and a disease duration of 15 years. All patients had a diagnosis of autoimmune arthropathy and 34, of systemic autoimmune disease. The higher risk of having a poor humoral response after the vaccination was shown in those patients receiving only two vaccine doses (OR: 7.83 (2.94-20.83);
**POS0551**

**SARS-COV-2 BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION IN COVID-19 VACCINATED ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH CHILDHOOD-ONSET RHEUMATIC DISEASES**

**Keywords:** COVID, Vaccination/immunization

T. Arkachaisri1,2, K. L. Teh1, Y. X. Book1, S. F. Hoh1, L. Das1, T. Arkachaisri1,2, K. L. Teh1, Y. X. Book1, S. F. Hoh1, L. Das1, G. J. Yeo1,2,3,4

1KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Rheumatology and Immunology, Singapore, Singapore; 2Duke-NUS Medical School, Rheumatology and Immunology, Singapore, Singapore; 3KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Department of Nursing, Singapore, Singapore

**Background:** Although robust humoral immune response after 2-dosed COVID-19 mRNA vaccination has been demonstrated in adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with childhood-onset rheumatic diseases (cRDs) [1], data on prevalence and risk factors of SARS-CoV-2 breakthrough infection are limited.

**Objectives:** To describe the clinical characteristics and risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 breakthrough infection in vaccinated AYAs with cRD from our prospective ongoing cRDs COVID-19 vaccination cohort.

**Methods:** Patients were recruited from March 2021 – December 2022 at KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, Singapore. Breakthrough infections were defined as symptomatic infections occurring ≥14 days after the second dose in a two-dose series [2]. Humoral immunogenicity was assessed at 2-3 weeks after first vaccine dose and 1, 3, and 6 months after the second dose by the cPass™ SARS-CoV-2 Neutralisation Antibody (nAb) Assay and calibrated against the World Health Organisation International Standard for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies (WHO-nAb).

**Results:** 170 fully COVID-19 mRNA vaccinated patients (71% Chinese, 47% male) were included, Table 1. 141 patients received 3rd dose, 6 months after the full series. 51% had breakthrough infection at a median of 5.6 (IQR 4.0-6.8, n=22) and 3.7 (IQR 1.3-5.4, n=55) months after 2nd or 3rd doses, respectively, with mainly mild symptoms (5% admission). The median WHO-nAb was significantly lower in those with breakthrough infection (987.3 IU/ml, IQR 361.0 - 2083.4 vs 1892.1 IU/ml, IQR 1052.5 - 2657.7, p<0.001). Older patients had decreased risk of breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 infection (OR 4.16, 95% CI 0.739-0.936, p=0.002). A WHO-nAb titre of < 1000 IU/ml increased the risk of breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 infection (OR 4.16, 95% CI 1.964-8.794, p<0.001). Significantly more patients with infection were taking anti-TNF. Withholding methylprednisolone or mycophenolate mofetil did not impact the breakthrough infection risk.

**Conclusion:** Despite a robust humoral immune response to COVID-19 mRNA 2-dosed vaccination, one-half of the AYAs with cRDs had breakthrough infections, albeit mild disease. Younger patients and WHO-nAb < 1000 IU/ml increased the risk of infection. Additional vaccine is needed sooner than 6 months after the 2nd dose to prevent infection. Longitudinal data are being collected to determine the vaccine booster interval in our cohort.

REFERENCES:


**Table 1. Clinical characteristics of vaccinated AYA with cRD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical characteristics</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>No infection,Infection, n=83</th>
<th>n=87</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>80 (47.1)</td>
<td>40 (48.2)</td>
<td>40 (46.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (yrs)</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>0.022</td>
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<td>Diagnosis</td>
<td>(14.7-19.5)</td>
<td>(15.1-20.0)</td>
<td>(14.1-19.2)</td>
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<td>Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis</td>
<td>98 (57.6)</td>
<td>47 (56.6)</td>
<td>51 (58.6)</td>
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<td>Systemic Lupus Erythematosus</td>
<td>30 (17.6)</td>
<td>14 (16.9)</td>
<td>16 (18.4)</td>
<td>0.437</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Connective tissue diseases</td>
<td>21 (12.4)</td>
<td>13 (15.6)</td>
<td>8 (9.1)</td>
<td>0.257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>21 (12.4)</td>
<td>9 (10.6)</td>
<td>12 (13.8)</td>
<td>0.373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prednisolone</td>
<td>32 (18.8)</td>
<td>14 (16.9)</td>
<td>18 (20.5)</td>
<td>0.524</td>
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<td>Anti-TNF</td>
<td>57 (33.5)</td>
<td>21 (25.3)</td>
<td>36 (41.1)</td>
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<td>Hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>43 (25.3)</td>
<td>24 (28.9)</td>
<td>19 (21.8)</td>
<td>0.289</td>
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<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>6 (3.5)</td>
<td>6 (7.0)</td>
<td>1 (1.1)</td>
<td>0.111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil (MMF)</td>
<td>22 (12.9)</td>
<td>13 (15.7)</td>
<td>9 (10.3)</td>
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<td>Methotrexate (MTX)</td>
<td>42 (24.7)</td>
<td>18 (21.7)</td>
<td>24 (27.4)</td>
<td>0.373</td>
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<td>Holding MTX</td>
<td>34 (81.0)</td>
<td>14 (17.8)</td>
<td>20 (38.0)</td>
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<td>IxAZOMM</td>
<td>7 (41.2)</td>
<td>3 (9.1)</td>
<td>4 (4.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patients with WHO-nAb&lt; 1000 IU/ml (before infection or after vaccination)</td>
<td>54 (60.0)</td>
<td>20 (24.1)</td>
<td>34 (50.7)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
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</table>

*WHO-nAb: WHO International standardized neutralizing antibodies

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POS0552**

**NEUTROPHIL EXTRACELLULAR TRAPS AND B-CELL ACTIVATING FACTOR AS MARKERS TO PREDICT AND MONITOR ADVERSE EFFECTS AFTER COVID-19 VACCINES**

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Vaccination/Immunization, Biomarkers

Y. M. Kuo1,2, Y. Z. Li2, C. C. Hsu2, C. J. Jung3, 1National Taiwan University College of Medicine and National Taiwan University Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2College of Medicine, Taipei Medical University, Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 3Taiwan University College of Medicine and National Taiwan University University Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

**Background:** Vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia (VITT) has also been reported to be related to NETosis. However, whether non-VITT adverse events(AE) and AEs due to non-adenosine vectors-COVID-19 vaccines are related to NET formation has not been confirmed.

**Objectives:** We hypothesized that COVID-19 Vaccine could induce circulating products of NETosis in fashion similar to the SARS-CoV-2.

**Methods:** Citrullinated histone H3 (cH3) and B-cell activating factor (BAFF) serum levels were checked in healthy donors(HD) who received two doses of mRNA-1273(Moderna) or ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccines in National Taiwan University Hospital, a tertiary medical center in northern Taiwan. Serial blood tests were done on the day before COVID-19 vaccination(Day 0), before mRNA-1273 boosters (booster Day 0) and 30 days after the boosters (booster Day 30). Therefore, two cohorts, MM-M and AA-M were enrolled from March 2021 to Jan 2022. A REDCap online survey of adverse effects 0-7 days after each vaccination was also performed. Grade of AEs were defined as the previous COVID-19 vaccine trial(KidCOVE trial) described. In addition to HD cohorts, serial antiphospholipid antibodies and cH3 serum titers were also monitored in a case series of three anti-BAFF(belimumab) treated patients, who were hospitalized due to severe AEs after COVID-19 vaccines. We had excluded concomitant COVID-19 infections since all HDs and hospitalized patients were negative for serial SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid antibody.

**Results:** We analyzed two HD cohorts as a whole(n=34), the serum cH3 on booster Day 0 were lowest among the HDs who experienced no AEs from booster Day 0 to Day 7[2.8±1.4 v.s. 12.3±10.8ng/ml(HD with Grade 3 AEs), p<0.01, U test], Only serum cH3 on booster Day 0 but not on other time points could predict AEs due to COVID-19 vaccines. In addition, the serum BAFF on booster Day 0 were lowest among the Hds who reported no AEs from booster Day 0 to Day 7[1646.1±794.7 v.s. 273.4±218.6pg/ml(HD with ≥Grade 3 AEs), p<0.01]. For the three hospitalized AZ-mRNA vaccine experienced patients, two patients suffered fatigue due to hyperperfusion at multiple brain area SPECT, and
one experienced refractory abdominal pain due to mesenteric vein thrombosis soon (eight, 24, and 67 days) after the last doses of COVID-19 vaccinations. Two of them had moderate clinical improvement and both citH3 IgM anti-cardiolipin decreased after belimumab monthly administration while one needed further IVIG treatment and salvage plasma exchange. In HDs who received two doses of ChAdOx1 vaccines (AZ) and a Moderna booster (AA-M cohort), citH3 increased most significantly after two doses of AZ (p = 0.01, U test, cohort AA-M, n = 26, Figure 1A). BAFF also increased significantly after two doses of AZ (p < 0.001, Figure 1B), Brown-Forsythe heteroscedasticity test indicated their values of three time points were unequal (p = 0.04). However, in HDs who received three doses of Moderna, citH3 only numerically increased after two doses of Moderna (p = 0.13, U test, cohort MM-M, n = 8, Figure 1C). BAFF did not fluctuate after two doses of Moderna and even after the third dosage of Moderna. Brown-Forsythe test indicated BAFF were equal (p = 0.87, Figure 1D). A trend of higher NET formation and BAFF induction due to adenovirus vectors-COVID-19 vaccine were observed in comparison with mRNA-1273. It has been hypothesized antiplatelet factor 4 may occur after heparin or AZ vaccines due to similarity shared by anionic surfaces in adenosival vector and heparin molecule. Further profiling of autoantibodies after various COVID-19 vaccines and in vitro platelet-neutrophil axis activation test may elucidate the mechanism by which induce NETosis as demonstrated in our cohort.

Conclusion: Dynamic serum citH3 level revealed that neutrophil extracellular traps may play important roles in AES due to COVID-19 vaccines.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

POS0554

TIXAGEVIMAB AND CILGAVIMAB IN RITUXIMAB-TREATED RHEUMATOLOGIC PATIENTS: A REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Keywords: COVID, Real-world evidence

C. Bonini1, P. Triggianese1, B. Kroegler1, A. Bergamini1, M. S. Chimenti1, C. Bonini1, P. Triggianese1, B. Kroegler1, A. Bergamini1, M. S. Chimenti1, M. Zlatkovic-Svenda1,2, M. Zdravković1, M. Ovuka4, M. Ogrič2, S. Ćučnik2,3, P. Zigorić4,5,6,7, 1University of Belgrade - Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Rheumatology, Belgrade, Serbia; 2Faculty of Medicine Foja/ University of East Sarajevo, Internal Medicine, Foja, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 3University Clinical Hospital Center Bežanjiška kosa, Belgrade, Serbia, Internal Medicine, Belgrade, Serbia; 4University of Belgrade - Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Rheumatology, Belgrade, Serbia; 5Clinical Hospital Center Pancevo, Serbia, Internal Medicine, Pancevo, Serbia; 6University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Department of Rheumatology, Ljubljana, Slovenia; 7University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Pharmacy, Ljubljana, Slovenia; 8University of Primorska, FMNIF, Koper, Slovenia

Background: Rheumatologic patients receiving B cell-depleting therapy (BCDT), such as Rituximab (RTX), have relevant defects in humoral responses to a variety of vaccines. Moreover, RTX-treated patients appear vulnerable to breakthrough infections often showing worst outcomes. Monoclonal antibodies have been developed to provide passive immunity against SARS-CoV-2 in patients with depressed immune systems. Tixagevimab-Cilgavimab (TIX/CIL) is a monoclonal antibody that has been shown to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections in immunocompromised patients and could be administered as pre-exposure prophylaxis or as targeted anti-SARS-CoV-2 treatment. Few data on real-life evidence on TIX/CIL in RTX-treated rheumatologic patients have been documented.

Objectives: The objectives of this study were to identify breakthrough COVID-19 infections and to evaluate outcomes in RTX-treated rheumatologic patients who underwent pre-exposure prophylaxis or treatment with TIX/CIL.

Methods: In this retrospective cohort study, we included 13 rheumatologic patients referring to the 3rd level Rheumatology Unit at the Tor Vergata University Hospital in Rome (Italy) who were treated with RTX for remission induction and/or maintenance and received TIX/CIL dose of 600 mg (300 mg Tixagevimab-300 mg Cilgavimab), between February and December 2022. A review of medical records was completed. Data on the rheumatologic disease, immunosuppressive treatment, COVID-19 vaccine status, TIX/CIL administration, peripheral blood CD19 cells and IgG levels before and after TIX/CIL administration were registered.

Results: The mean (±SD) age of included patients was 69 (±9) years, with 92.3% women. The cohort was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA, 76.9%), Sjogren Syndrome (7.7%), Systemic Sclerosis (7.7%), Dermatomyositis (7.7%); one subject received RTX also for concomitant Multiple Sclerosis. Most patients received COVID-19 vaccines, and all but one received a third dose. All patients received TIX/CIL dose of 600 mg (300 mg Tixagevimab-300 mg Cilgavimab), the majority (84.6%) of them as pre-exposure prophylaxis, while in 2 patients (15.4%) TIX/CIL was administered as a targeted anti-SARS-CoV-2 treatment. At the time TIX/CIL was administered, patients had a disease duration of 16±8 years. In patients undergoing pre-exposure prophylaxis, serum IgG levels before and after TIX/CIL administration were variable. Pre-TIX/CIL IgG levels were normal (54.5%), low (27.3%), and not available (18.2%). Post-TIX/CIL IgG levels were normal (72.7%), not available (18.2%) and low (9.1%). In those with documented pre- and post-TIX/CIL IgG levels, the levels did not change except for one patient with a normal post-TIX/CIL IgG level compared to a low pre-TIX/CIL IgG level. In addition, before getting TIX/CIL, CD19 was depleted (54.5%) and unavailable (45.5%) among patients. Post-TIX/CIL CD19 was depleted (63.6%) and unavailable (36.4%). In those with documented post-TIX/CIL IgG levels, the levels did not change except for one patient with a normal post-TIX/CIL IgG level compared to a low pre-TIX/CIL IgG level. The mean time from the onset of COVID-19 disease to TIX/CIL administration was 3±1.4 days. Regarding rheumatologic diseases, all patients continued RTX-therapy with a mean duration of treatment of 4±0.5 months and remained in remission.

Conclusion: Our findings, including mainly RA-patients, highlight the role of an adequate passive immunity in immunosuppressed patients. However, pre-exposure treatment can be crucial as well as the need to use early anti-viral agents/anti-SARS-CoV-2 mAb in most fragile patients. Larger cohorts and further measures are needed to support that challenge and to better investigate the Interplay between RTX and monoclonal antibodies in treated patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6320
Objectives: In this study, we aimed to evaluate the high dose intravenous anakinra treatment response and outcome in patients with severe and critical COVID-19 compared to standard of care.

Methods: This retrospective observational study was carried out at a tertiary referral center. The study population consisted of two groups as follows; the patients receiving high dose intravenous anakinra (anakinra group) between 01.09.2021 and 01.02.2022 and the patients treated with standard of care (SoC, control group) as historical control group who were hospitalized between 01.07.2021 and 01.09.2021.

Results: After the propensity score 1:1 matching 79 patients in anakinra and 79 patients in SoC matched and included into the analysis. Means±SD patient age was 67.4±16.7 and 67.1±16.3 years in anakinra and SoC group, respectively (p=0.9). Male gender was 38 (48.7 %) in anakinra and 36 (46.2 %) SoC (p=0.8). Overall, ICU admission was in 14.1 % (n=11) and 30.8 % (n=24) (p=0.013; OR: 6.2), intubation in 12.8 % (n=10) and 16.7 % (n=13) patients (p=0.5), 14.1 % before and 32.1 % (n=25) patients died in anakinra and control group, respectively (p=0.008; OR: 7.1).

Conclusion: In our study mortality was lower in patients receiving anakinra compared to SoC. Intravenous high dose anakinra is safe and effective treatment in patients with severe and critical COVID-19.

Table 1. Baseline clinical and laboratory features of patients receiving standard of care (SoC) and Anakinra before and after propensity score (PS) matching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Anakinra (n=148)</th>
<th>SoC (n=144)</th>
<th>p value (OR)</th>
<th>Anakinra (n=78)</th>
<th>SoC (n=78)</th>
<th>p value (OR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)(mean±SD)</td>
<td>66.8±17</td>
<td>63.1±17</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>67.4±16.7</td>
<td>67.1±16.3</td>
<td>0.025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender, male, (%)</td>
<td>78 (52.7)</td>
<td>45 (39.5)</td>
<td>0.033 (4.5)</td>
<td>78 (52.7)</td>
<td>45 (39.5)</td>
<td>0.033 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of hospitalisation (days) (median, IQR)</td>
<td>11 (12)</td>
<td>9 (7.3)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>7.5 (9)</td>
<td>8 (11)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Outcomes of patients receiving SoC and Anakinra before and after PS matching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Anakinra (n=148)</th>
<th>SoC (n=144)</th>
<th>p value (OR)</th>
<th>Anakinra (n=78)</th>
<th>SoC (n=78)</th>
<th>p value (OR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male gender</td>
<td>38 (48.7 %)</td>
<td>36 (46.2 %)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>24 (31.6 %)</td>
<td>22 (28.2 %)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive care unit stay</td>
<td>22 (29.0 %)</td>
<td>22 (29.0 %)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12 (15.4 %)</td>
<td>12 (15.4 %)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>10 (13.1 %)</td>
<td>10 (13.1 %)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 (7.7 %)</td>
<td>6 (7.7 %)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PS: Propensity score, SoC: Standard of care, OR: Odds ratio, IQR: Interquartile range, mHISS: Modified Covid hyperinflammatory syndrome score, NIH: National Institute Health, ALT: Alanin aminotransferase, AST: Aspartate aminotransferase

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6422

Table 2. Outcomes of patients receiving SoC and Anakinra before and after PS matching

**HIGH DOSE INTRAVENOUS ANAKINRA TREATMENT IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE IN SEVERE AND CRITICAL COVID-19 PATIENTS: A PROBINGNESS SCORE MATCHED STUDY IN A SINGLE CENTER**

**Keywords:** COVID, bDMARD, Real-world evidence

**M. Bektaş 1, S. Yüce 2, M. Ay 3, M. Uyar 3, M. Önder 4, M. I. Kişileğen 1, Aksaray Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Aksaray, Turkey 2, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Department of Public Health and Biostatistics, Istanbul, Turkey 3, Aksaray Training and Research Hospital, Emergency Medicine, Aksaray, Turkey 4, Aksaray Training and Research Hospital, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Division of Rheumatology, Aksaray, Turkey, 5, Aksaray Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Aksaray, Turkey**

**Background:** In COVID-19 severe disease course such as need of intensive care unit (ICU) as well as development of multi-organ failure is major due to cytokine storm.
LONG COVID IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: CLINICAL PATTERN AND GENDER-BASED DIFFERENCES FROM A SINGLE-CENTRE CASE-CONTROL STUDY

Keywords: COVID, Rheumatoid arthritis, Psoriatic arthritis

M. Ferraioli1, L. De Marco1, L. Fiannacca1, M. Iaconvatunno1, B. Monosi1, P. Triggiani1, P. Congirol1, A. Bergamin1, M. S. Chimenti1,2. Rheumatology, Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Department of Systems Medicine, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

Background: Long Covid (LC) refers to prolonged symptoms after Sars-CoV2 infection not explained by alternative diagnosis lasting 4-12 weeks as defined by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Few studies explored LC in rheumatic diseases patients (RD) concluding that they present persistent symptoms after infection, although lacking a healthy control (HC) group.

Objectives: To evaluate incidence and clinical features of LC on patients affected by Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) as well as infectioin influence on disease activity.

Methods: A monocentric retrospective case-control study was conducted on consecutive outpatients affected by RA or PsA in Low Disease Activity or remission, referring to the Rheumatology Unit of University of Tor Vergata (Rome, Italy) between Sep ’21 - Sep ’22. Inclusion criteria: age ≥ 18 years, proven Sars-CoV2 infection between Jun ’21 – Jun ’22, 3 doses anti-Sars-CoV2 vaccination, recovered for at least 12 weeks, diagnosis of PsA/RA before Feb ’20. Exclusion criteria: symptoms explained by other diagnosis (as fibromyalgia, COPD ecc), hospitalization for Sars-CoV2. Patient were evaluated at 12 weeks after infection: demographic data, baseline comorbidities, ongoing therapy at infection and symptoms during and after infection were recorded; disease related data were recorded referred to the last clinical assessment too. Clinical features were compared among RA and PsA and with HC than among females and males patients.

Results: 120 (60 PsA/60 RA) patients and 60 HC were enrolled (Table 1). Patients compared to HC reported higher incidence of dyspnoea during infection while at resolution: lower VAS general health (GH), higher asthma, joint pain and higher incidence of dyspnoea, chest pain, sleep disturbances and depression. All patients continued their therapy during infection and no differences were found about baseline comorbidities and ongoing therapy. No statistical differences emerged between PsA and RA patients among them but when compared with HC both presented higher VAS fatigue, joint pain, lower GH and a longer duration of anosmia and anageusia after infection. Moreover, PsA presented higher incidence of chest pain after infection and headache during and after infection; RA reported higher incidence of chest pain and headache after infection and dyspnoea during and after. Regarding gender: females reported higher VAS disease activity, asthma and higher incidence of joint pain, dyspnoea, depression and sleep disturbances at infection resolution. Lastly, female PsA patients presented higher DAPSA score after infection than man. Disease related items were compared before and after infection (Figure 1): statistical significant differences emerged regarding VAS disease activity, asthma, joint pain and GH in RA and PsA patients.

Conclusion: Here, we documented that RD patients – particularly females - suffer from a higher burden after Sars-CoV2 infection showing statistical significant higher incidence of symptoms than HC and a worsening of disease activity although no disease flare were registered. Thus, LC carrying a significant burden is becoming an urgent health issue that needs immediate prioritization to prevent another national health disaster that could be a further blow to health systems.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. ***p < 0.05; ****p < 0.01

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>HC</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>HC</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females P</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disponoe during</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>8.30%</td>
<td>33.60%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest pain</td>
<td>24.10%</td>
<td>16.60%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>28.30%</td>
<td>20.80%</td>
<td>31.60%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep disturbance</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>43.30%</td>
<td>16.60%</td>
<td>41.60%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>35.80%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>36.60%</td>
<td>20.80%</td>
<td>53.30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 OUTCOMES IN KOREAN PATIENTS WITH GOUT

Keywords: Crystal arthritis, COVID

M.J. Kim1, B. Ryu2, S. Yi3, J.W. Park4, Y. Jang5, K. Shin1. 1Seoul Metropolitan Government–Seoul National University Hospital Boramae Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Seoul Metropolitan Government–Seoul National University Hospital Boramae Medical Center, Biomedical Research Institute, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Seoul National University Hospital, Biomedical Research Institute, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Seoul National University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Patients with autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases are at higher risk for coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 hospitalization and worse clinical outcomes compared with the general population. However, data on the association between COVID-19 outcomes and gout, or gout-related medications are still lacking.

Objectives: We aimed to compare COVID-19 related clinical outcomes in gout vs. non-gout patients.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective cohort study using the electronic health record-based databases of Seoul National University hospital (SNUH) from January 2021 to April 2022 mapped to a common data model. Patients with gout and without gout were matched using a large-scale propensity score (PS) algorithm. The clinical outcomes of interest were COVID-19 infection, severe COVID-19 outcomes defined as the use of mechanical ventilation, tracheostomy or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, and death within 30 days of COVID-19 diagnosis. The hazard ratio (HR) for gout vs. non-gout patients derived by Cox proportional hazard models were estimated utilizing a 1:5 PS-matched cohort.

Results: 2,683 patients with gout and 417,035 patients without gout were identified among the patients who visited SNUH. After 1:5 PS matching, 1,363 gout patients and 4,030 non-gout patients remained for the analysis. The risk of COVID-19 infection was not significantly different between patients with gout and those without gout (HR 1.07 [95% CI 0.99-1.84]). Within the first month after the COVID-19 diagnosis, there was also no significant difference in the risk of hospitalization (HR 0.57 [95% CI 0.30-0.99]), severe COVID-19 outcomes (HR 2.90 [95% CI 0.54-13.71]), or death (HR 1.35 [95% CI 0.06-16.24]).

Conclusion: Patients with gout did not have an increased risk of COVID-19 infection or worse clinical outcomes. Updates of temporal trends of COVID-19 outcomes in gout patients are yet warranted as new SARS-CoV-2 variants emerge.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 infection in patients with gout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Unmatched population</th>
<th>Population with PS stratification using 10 strata</th>
<th>1.5 PS matched population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hazard ratio (95% CI) p-value</td>
<td>Hazard ratio (95% CI) p-value</td>
<td>Hazard ratio (95% CI) p-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>168 (0.03) 1.20 0.46 1.07 0.82</td>
<td>(1.03-2.57) (0.72-1.87) (0.54-0.87)</td>
<td>(0.03-3.90) (0.54-13.71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization due to COVID-19</td>
<td>1.92 (0.39) 1.63 0.54 0.57 0.66</td>
<td>(0.26-5.77) (0.22-4.02)</td>
<td>(0.02-3.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>4.72 &lt;0.01 4.42 0.22 2.90 0.20</td>
<td>(1.14-11.28) (1.17-12.21)</td>
<td>(0.54-13.71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death due to COVID-19</td>
<td>1.15 0.90 0.77 0.82 1.35 0.84</td>
<td>(0.04-3.81) (0.04-3.81)</td>
<td>(0.06-16.24)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1992

Table POS0558 FLARES OF AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASE FOLLOWING COVID-19 INFECTION: OBSERVATIONS FROM THE COVAD STUDY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total AIRDs (n=824)</th>
<th>AIRDs with flare following infection (n=520)</th>
<th>AIRDs without flare following infection (n=304)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI) p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (median, IQR)</td>
<td>46.0 (36.0-55.0)</td>
<td>45.0 (37.0-55.0)</td>
<td>46.0 (36.0-57.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>1.6 (1.04-2.5)</td>
<td>1.4 (1.02-2.0)</td>
<td>1.8 (1.3-2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td>361 (43.8)</td>
<td>151 (49.7)</td>
<td>210 (40.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>96 (11.7) 46 (15.1) 50 (9.6)</td>
<td>1.0 (1.02-2.0)</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic obstructive lung (22.0)</td>
<td>12 (3.9) 6 (1.2)</td>
<td>3.5 (1.3-9.4) 0.008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-rheumatic AID</td>
<td>42 (5.1) 22 (7.2) 20 (3.8) 1.9 (1.04-3.6) 0.033</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health disorders</td>
<td>258 (31.3) 126 (41.4) 132 (25.4)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.3-18) &lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 antibody status</td>
<td>218 (26.5) 98 (32.2) 120 (23.1) 1.5 (1.1-2.1) 0.004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS PF Global 10a median, IQR</td>
<td>48.5 (82.6)</td>
<td>76.2 (82.6)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.4-2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global physical health score</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>14.0 (12.0-15.0) 13.0 (12.0-15.0)</td>
<td>0.038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global mental health score</td>
<td>13.0 (12.0-15.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (9.0-14.0) 13.5 (11.0-16.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue VAS</td>
<td>3.0 (3.0-4.0) 3.0 (3.0-2.0) 4.0 (3.0-4.0)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain VAS</td>
<td>4.0 (2.0-6.0) 5.0 (3.0-7.0) 2.0 (1.0-5.0)</td>
<td>- 0.050</td>
<td></td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1992

Table 1. Patient-reported flares following COVID-19 infection among AIRD patients who contracted COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (median, IQR)</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Comorbidities</th>
<th>PROMIS PF Global 10a median, IQR</th>
<th>Global physical health score</th>
<th>Global mental health score</th>
<th>Fatigue VAS</th>
<th>Pain VAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46.0 (36.0-55.0)</td>
<td>1.6 (1.04-2.5)</td>
<td>361 (43.8)</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>13.0 (12.0-15.0)</td>
<td>0.038</td>
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<tr>
<td>46.0 (37.0-55.0)</td>
<td>1.4 (1.02-2.0)</td>
<td>151 (49.7)</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.0 (12.0-15.0)</td>
<td>0.038</td>
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<tr>
<td>46.0 (36.0-57.0)</td>
<td>1.8 (1.3-2.5)</td>
<td>210 (40.4)</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0 (9.0-14.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>46.0 (36.0-50.0)</td>
<td>1.9 (1.04-3.6)</td>
<td>6 (1.2)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.5 (1.3-9.4)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
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<tr>
<td>46.0 (36.0-57.0)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.1-2.1)</td>
<td>20 (3.8)</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.9 (1.04-3.6)</td>
<td>0.033</td>
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<tr>
<td>46.0 (36.0-57.0)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.1-2.1)</td>
<td>132 (25.4)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5 (1.3-18)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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</table>

Chi-Square for Categorical variables, Mann Whitney U for scale variable comparisons,AIRDs: Autoimmune rheumatic diseases, IQR: Interquartile range, OR: Odd's ratio,
ACCELERATED WANING OF HUMORAL IMMUNE RESPONSE TO A THIRD COVID-19 VACCINATION IN PATIENTS WITH IMMUNE-MEDIATED INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, COVID

D. Mraki1, F. Kartnig2, D. Sieghart1, E. Simader1, H. Radner3, P. Mandl4, L. Göschl1, P. Hofer5, T. Deimel1, I. Gessl1, R. Peter Mandl1, L. Göschl1, P. Hofer2, T. Deimel1, I. Gessl1, R. Kain2, S. Winkler3, J. S. Smolen1, Daniel Aletaha1, Thomas Perkmann4, H. Haslacher4, D. Aletaha3, L. Heinz1, M. Bonelli1.

1. Pfizer, Sandoz, and Sanofi, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and Leonhard Heinz: None declared, Michael Bonelli Consultant of EII.Lilly.

2. University Hospital Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, 3University Hospital Tübingen, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tübingen, Germany

Background: In general, more women are affected by rheumatic diseases and often during their reproductive age. Due to disease activity and/or specific autoantibodies autoimmune diseases might lead to impaired fetal outcome. Data from large registries help to improve information on the risks for patients and infants and thus enable us to better advise our patients.

Methods: To analyse fetal outcome of babies born to patients with rheumatic diseases we compared different parameters and control to healthy controls. This study compares registry data from 2012–2022 from a specialized centre. We included 351 pregnancies from patients with rheumatic diseases and 1298 from age-matched HC.

Results: Patients with rheumatic diseases were distributed as follows: 58% CTD, 15% RA, 13% SpA, 5% autoinflammatory diseases and 4% vasculitis. Spontaneous abortion rate with 5% was comparable to the general population [1]; APGAR, and umbilical cord pH were comparable to HC. Babies born to patients with rheumatic diseases have a significantly different outcome compared to HC: they present with lower birth weight (3245g vs 3038g; p<0.001) and length (50.7cm vs 49.7cm; p<0.001), higher number of intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR; 3% vs 7%; p<0.05) and are more often preterm (10% vs 16%; p<0.01).

Conclusion: Fetal outcome of neonates born to patients with rheumatic diseases in general is favourable, as we observed a live birth rate of 95%. This is also supported by important parameters as APGAR and umbilical cord pH, which did not differ in between groups. However, the number of children born before 37gw and lower birth weight/length is significantly higher compared to HC. This has been suggested by us and other groups [2–4], but we here compare the fetal outcome of patients to an age-matched HC group from the same hospital, and therefore more comparable and valid data. One might speculate, that higher rates of preterm births explain the higher admission rate to neonatal care and CPAP therapy (4% vs 12%; p<0.001) and transfer to specialized neonatal care (6% vs 12%; p<0.01). When comparing different groups of rheumatic diseases, our study shows mainly differences for CTD (especially SLE, Sjögren’s syndrome and undifferentiated CTD), with high rates of small for gestational age (SGA; SLE<19%, SS<28%; UCTD<28%), high proportion of planned caesarean birth (SLE<44%). However, congenital anomalies were also more frequent in the group of patients with SpA. Interestingly, in the age group >35years patients and HC assimilated, eg we did not observe significant differences for birth weight anymore.


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Public health, health services research, and health economics

OUTCOME OF NEONATES BORN TO PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES COMPARED TO HEALTHY CONTROLS

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction


1University Hospital Tübingen, Centre for Interdisciplinary Clinical Immunology, Rheumatology and Autoinflammatory diseases, Tübingen, Germany

Morbidities of patients with SpA. Interestingly, in the age group >35 years patients and HC assimilated, eg we did not observe significant differences for birth weight anymore.

Conclusions: Outcome of neonates born to patients with rheumatic diseases in general is favourable, as we observed a live birth rate of 95%. This is also supported by important parameters as APGAR and umbilical cord pH, which did not differ in between groups. However, the number of children born before 37gw and lower birth weight/length is significantly higher compared to HC. This has been suggested by us and other groups [2-4], but we here compare the fetal outcome of patients to an age-matched HC group from the same hospital, and therefore more comparable and valid data. One might speculate, that higher rates of preterm births explain the higher admission rate to neonatal care and CPAP therapy. Our data reveal, however, that these differences mainly affect patients with CTD, especially SLE, SSS, UCTD, which is of special interest for the risk assessment in the treatment of pregnant patients with rheumatic diseases.

Even though spontaneous abortion rates did not differ to the general population, we observed a significantly higher number of congenital anomalies. Further studies are necessary to determine the underlying cause, as both, disease activity and immuno suppressant medication might be responsible.


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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2998

POS0561

THE LEAKY PIPELINE IN CLINICAL RHEUMATOLOGY ACROSS EUROPE – RESULTS FROM AN ONLINE SURVEY

Keywords: Work-related issues, Health services research, Gender/diversity issues

J. Sautner1, I. Grabner2, A. Posch3,4, C. Duftner5.
1State Hospital Stockerau, Department of Internal Medicine II, Karl Landsteiner Institute for Clinical Rheumatology, Stockerau, Austria; 2Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Institute for Strategy and Managerial Accounting, Vienna, Austria; 3IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Institute of Tourism, Wine Business and Marketing, Krems an der Donau, Austria; 4Institute for Accounting, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland; 5Medical University of Innsbruck/Innsbruck Kliniken GmbH, Department of Internal Medicine, Clinical Division of Internal Medicine II, Innsbruck, Austria

Background: While more than 50% of medical students and residents are women, their proportion drastically diminishes within higher ranks and leadership roles, a phenomenon also known as the "leaky pipeline".

Objectives: We aimed to evaluate the leaky pipeline among rheumatologists across Europe and to assess determinants inducing rheumatologists to leave hospitals.

Methods: Experts in the field of economics developed a questionnaire (50 thematic blocks, containing 172 single items) with relevance to the leaky pipeline. with scientific focus on the leaky pipeline among rheumatologists, which was distributed electronically by national scientific societies of EULAR countries and by individual contacts. We performed common factor analysis, univariate t-tests and multivariate regression analyses to appraise our dataset using Stata Version 17 (StataCorp, Texas, USA).

Results: 311 hospital-based rheumatologists from 23/45 EULAR countries (52.7% females, 47.3% males) responded to the questionnaire. The phenomenon of the leaky pipeline was present for the entire sample. Of 64% female rheumatologists only 34.2% departments' directors were female, with noteworthy regional differences (Table 1). Female doctors reported higher intentions to leave their hospitals (β = 0.28, p < 0.05) and lower commitment towards their current organization (β = -0.34, p < 0.05) when compared to males. Additionally, women reported lower levels of job satisfaction (β = -0.26, p < 0.10), promotion justice (β = -0.55, p < 0.01), and career perspectives (β = -0.15, p < 0.10, one-tailed) than men, explaining their lower organizational commitment.

Conclusion: Female rheumatologists perceive worse job opportunities and satisfaction than males. Many reasons for the leaky pipeline are beyond the control of organizations. By our results, organizations should be encouraged to reconsider and adjust their performance management practices enabling an equitable work environment.

Table 1. Leaky pipeline among rheumatologists working in hospitals across Europe

Overall Sample (n = 311)

| Percentage of female doctors in department | 64.0% |
| Percentage of female doctors employed as senior physicians in department | 49.2% |
| Percentage of female department heads | 31.8% |

Germany/Austria/Switzerland (n = 91)

| Percentage of female doctors in department | 51.0% |
| Percentage of female doctors employed as senior physicians in department | 42.2% |
| Percentage of female department heads | 7.7% |

Northern European Countries (n = 19)

| Percentage of female doctors in department | 56.4% |
| Percentage of female doctors employed as senior physicians in department | 50.5% |
| Percentage of female department heads | 47.4% |

Southern European Countries (n = 58)

| Percentage of female doctors in department | 62.9% |
| Percentage of female doctors employed as senior physicians in department | 36.4% |
| Percentage of female department heads | 24.1% |

Eastern European Countries (n = 133)

| Percentage of female doctors in department | 73.4% |
| Percentage of female doctors employed as senior physicians in department | 57.0% |
| Percentage of female department heads | 45.9% |

POS0562

FREQUENCY OF IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL VISITS FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: ANALYSIS OF THREE YEARS OF VISIT DATA BEFORE AND AFTER THE COVID PANDEMIC

Keywords: COVID, Telemedicine, Rheumatoid arthritis

D. Solomon1, M. Jiang2, L. Santacroce3, R. Rudin3, 1 Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Rheumatology, Boston, MA, United States of America; 2 Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster University, Faculty of Medicine, Windsor, Canada

Background: Few data have been published regarding appropriate visit frequency in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). While guidelines suggest more frequent visits early in disease and when disease is active, there are few descriptions of visit frequency. Also, visit frequency may have changed during the COVID pandemic.

Objectives: We examined visit frequency and types of visits (in-person versus virtual) for patients with RA seen at one US academic medical center during the 18 months before COVID lockdown, 3 months of lockdown, and 18 months after.

Methods: We extracted data from 11 clinically focused rheumatologists' practices at an academic medical center and created a sample of 257 patients with rheumatologist-diagnosed RA. The study period of interest encompassed the 18 months prior to COVID pandemic (Nov 2018 – Feb 2020), the 3 months of COVID lockdown (rheumatology clinic closed except emergencies, March – May 2020), and the 18 months after lockdown (June 2020 – Sept 2021); patients were required to have ≥1 visit prior and ≥1 visit after the lockdown to be included. We estimated: 1) monthly volume of in-person and virtual visits (telephone-only or video) for the RA study cohort, and 2) annual median patient visit frequencies. In addition, we assessed predictors of a patient's visit volume using multivariable linear regression over the pre- and post-lockdown periods. Variables tested included RA disease characteristics (CRP, serologic status, and DMARD use), patient demographics and comorbid conditions, and rheumatologist. RESULTS: Patient characteristics are shown in the Table 1. Patients' median age was 58y, 84% were female; 82% used any DMARD; 20% used only csDMARDS; and 61.5% used a txDMARD. Visit volume over 39 months is illustrated by visit type in the Figure 1. In the 18 months prior to the COVID pandemic, median annual visit frequency per patient was 2.7 (IQR 2.0, 3.3), with an overall median monthly visit volume of 61 (IQR 51, 58). Overall visit volume remained consistent post-lockdown: median annual visit frequency per patient 2.7 (IQR 2.0, 3.3), with an overall median monthly visit volume of 68 (50, 73). As expected, median monthly visit volume was reduced during the lockdown period: 58 (IQR 51, 65), but it rebounded to pre-pandemic levels within 9 months. During the first 3 months post-lockdown, virtual visits comprised 61% of all visits (51% video, 49% in-person).

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of 257 Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis Followed in this Cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Characteristics</th>
<th>N (%) or median (interquartile range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>58.2 (48.7, 65.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>216 (84.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlson-Deyo comorbidity index</td>
<td>1.0 (1.0, 1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>11 (4.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>21 (8.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>225 (87.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsCRP, mg/L</td>
<td>0.0 (0.7, 5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) use</td>
<td>147 (57.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD</td>
<td>158 (61.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>txDMARD</td>
<td>95 (37.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>47 (18.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>61 (23.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) use</td>
<td>64 (25.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid (oral) use</td>
<td>38 (14.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*leukemia or anti-CCP antibody
10% telephone only). By the 12th month post-lockdown, virtual visits comprised 11% of all visits; all were video. The following variables associated with increased patient visit volume during the pre- and post-lockdown periods (36 months): older and fewer comorbidities. When specific rheumatologists were added as fixed effects, these variables strengthened in their significance; additionally, several rheumatologists were associated with significant increases in visit volume.

**Conclusion:** The COVID pandemic caused a disruption in rheumatology practice with a rapid substitution of virtual visits. Office visit volume for RA rebounded relatively quickly in one US-based academic practice. Virtual visits were common during and immediately after lockdown but became less common over time. Several variables, unrelated to RA, were associated with visit volume.

**References:** None.

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**Figure 1. Longitudinal Pattern of Monthly Visit Volume Across 257 Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis**

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**Disclosure of Interests:** Daniel Solomon Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, CorEvitas, Janssen, Modera, Max Jiang; None declared, Leah Sanz; None declared, Robert Rudin; None declared.

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**POS0563 USE OF A DIGITAL SOLUTION TO MONITOR CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATOID MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES: FINAL RESULTS OF THE DIGIREUMA STUDY**

**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Self-management, Health services research

**D. Benavent**, L. Fernández-Luque, M. Sanz, V. Navarro-Compañ, M. Novella-Navarro, I. Billos, E. Calvo-Aranda, L. Loj, A. Balsa, C. Plasencia, Hospital La Paz-IdiPaz, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Adhera Health Inc, Palo Alto, United States of America; Hospital Infanta Leonor, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** Patients with rheumatoid and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) require a tailored follow-up, which may be limited by the healthcare resources. Innovative tools that save time need to be implemented effectively in the clinical care of patients with RMDs.

**Objectives:** To test the feasibility of a digital solution for real-time monitoring of electronic patient reported outcomes (ePROs) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and spondylarthritides (SpA).

**Methods:** Digireuma was a bicentric 6-month prospective including patients with RA and SpA, using a digital solution, namely Adhera Rheumatology Digital Program. During follow-up, patients had a hybrid follow-up: face-to-face -baseline and 6 months visits and digital. In the digital follow-up, patients were asked to report disease specific ePROs on a pre-established basis in the mobile solution- including at least one assessment per week. In addition, flares and incidences with medication were available to be reported at any time. Four rheumatologists monitored these outcomes, and contacted patients when deemed necessary (Figure 1). Assessment measures included patient global assessment (PGA) of disease activity, (self-reported) tender joint count (TJC) and swollen joint count (SJC), Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) and pain visual analogue scale (VAS), for patients with RA; PGA, TJC, SJC, BASDAI, and ASAS-Health Index, for patients with SpA. All measures were delivered every two weeks. Engagement at 3 and 6 months was assessed.

**Results:** Out of 56 recruited patients, 51 (24/27 (89%) RA, 27/29 (93%) SpA) downloaded and used the mobile solution and 47 (84%) submitted at least one ePROs entry. Median age (IQr) was 47 (13.2) and 40 (16.0) years in the RA and SpA groups, respectively. 20/27 (74%) patients with RA and 14/29 (48%) with SpA were female. In the RA group there were a total of 2156 digital solution accesses (57 per patient) in 6 months, while patients with SpA had a total of 1644 accesses (29 per patient). ePROs measurements outcomes at baseline and 6 months are shown in Table 1. Patients with RA completed a median of 6710 ePROs interactions during follow-up, whereas patients with SpA completed a median of 4315. Regarding alerts, among a total of 52 notifications, 47 were deemed necessary to be contacted (5 cases were assessed directly in a programmed consultation, due to time-proximity). Among all alerts, 45 were flares (31 RA, 14 SpA) and 4 problems with the medication (3 causes were not registered). Of the 47 cases that were contacted, 36 (77%) were managed remotely, 9 (19%) required a face-to-face intervention and in 2 (4%) cases it was not possible to reach patients before consultation. Regarding engagement, at three months 26 patients (55%) -15 with RA and 11 with SpA- continued submitting data periodically, while at six months 22 patients (47%) -13 with RA and 9 with SpA- continued submitting any data.

**Conclusion:** This study shows that ePROs can be used to monitor disease activity, flares, and medication issues in patients with RA and SpA, with three out of four alerts being managed remotely. After six months, more than half of the patients showed non-adherence to the monitoring plan/digital solution. The participation of both healthcare professionals and patients is critical for the successful implementation of mobile health in clinical practice, specially to identify long term usage strategies.

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**Table 1. Onboarded patient outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAS-28</th>
<th>BASDAI</th>
<th>TJC</th>
<th>SJC</th>
<th>HAQ</th>
<th>PGA</th>
<th>VAS</th>
<th>pain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>2.9 (6.3)</td>
<td>2.9 (6.3)</td>
<td>0.1 (0, 3.25)</td>
<td>0 (0, 2)</td>
<td>0.13 (0, 0.9)</td>
<td>2 (1, 5)</td>
<td>4 (2, 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpA</td>
<td>2.1 (8.38)</td>
<td>1 (1, 2.75)</td>
<td>3 (12, 47.5)</td>
<td>1 (1, 2.5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>16 (11.2)</td>
<td>0 (0, 2)</td>
<td>0.13 (0, 0.63)</td>
<td>15 (0.5, 4.3)</td>
<td>1.35 (0.75, 3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpA</td>
<td>2.2 (12.48)</td>
<td>0 (0, 2)</td>
<td>0.25 (0, 0.25)</td>
<td>2 (1, 5)</td>
<td>2 (1, 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months, Digital</td>
<td>RA</td>
<td>1.3 (1, 1.8)</td>
<td>0.13 (0, 0.63)</td>
<td>15 (0.5, 4.3)</td>
<td>1.35 (0.75, 3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpA</td>
<td>2.29 (1, 2.5)</td>
<td>2.5 (2.2, 2.8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 05/18/23 4 Color Fig(s):0 21:36 Art: 05_EUROAB-2023-PV04-05

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**Figure 1. Digital monitoring in the study**
Results: biosimilar etanercept and infliximab utilization and spending before and after the Biosimilars Initiative policy began (October 2012) to switch to the biosimilar version in order to maintain coverage. Between May and Nov 2019, or adalimumab (implemented between April and October 2012) which required people starting a biologic to use a biosimilar. Large commercial insurers who provide supplementary drug coverage also introduced biosimilar policies in order to switch to the biosimilar version. Mandatory switching was extended to include adalimumab. The Biosimilars Initiative extended a previous policy which required people starting a biologic to use a biosimilar. Large commercial insurers who provide supplementary drug coverage also introduced biosimilar policies in line with the BC provincial government. Under both biosimilar switching policies, exceptional coverage to reference products was allowed if medically needed.

Objectives: To quantify the impact of the Biosimilars Initiative and the initial policy requiring new initiators to use a biosimilar on uptake and spending on biosimilar infliximab, etanercept, and adalimumab in British Columbia.

Methods: Administrative claims data in BC from January 2013 through March 2023 were analyzed using interrupted time series analysis, a quasi-experimental study design commonly used to evaluate policy changes. Two policy interventions were evaluated: (1) new starts, whereby individuals initiating infliximab, etanercept, or adalimumab for the first time were required to use the biosimilar (implemented between Feb 2016 and July 2017), and (2) mandatory switching, which required those already receiving infliximab or etanercept (implemented between May and Nov 2019), or adalimumab (implemented between April and October 2012) to switch to the biosimilar version in order to maintain coverage. A segmented linear regression was used to model the level and trend change in spending on biosimilar infliximab, etanercept, and adalimumab in British Columbia.

Results: We identified 208,964 BC residents ≥18 years who qualified for public drug coverage, were treated with etanercept or infliximab, and were eligible for analysis between January 2013 and November 2020. After the new start policy, we detected a small gradual increase in the proportion of biosimilar etanercept prescriptions dispensed of 0.65% (95%CI 0.44, 0.85) per month. The monthly trend related to the proportion of total spending on biosimilar etanercept also increased (0.51, 95%CI 0.28, 0.73). After the mandatory switching policy (the Biosimilars Initiative), there was a sustained increase in the proportion of biosimilar etanercept and infliximab prescriptions dispensed of 76.78% (95%CI 75.56, 78.41) and 58.43% (95%CI 52.11, 64.75), respectively. Similarly, there was a persistent increase in spending on biosimilar etanercept and infliximab of 78.22% (95%CI 76.65, 79.79) and 71.23% (95%CI 66.82, 75.65), respectively. Similar results were seen for adalimumab which was switched later.

Conclusion: Our study found new start policies resulted in small, gradual increases in biosimilar utilization. However, the mandatory switch policy, the Biosimilars Initiative, resulted in a marked immediate and sustained impact on uptake. Further analysis will examine changes in other health utilization, and long-term impact on prescribing patterns. These findings may be particularly relevant to areas with a more concentrated insurance system where mandatory switching policies could lead to greater savings.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0565 TOLERABILITY AND SAFETY OF RECOMBINANT ZOSTER VACCINE IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES - A PROSPECTIVE LONGITUDINAL STUDY OVER 6 MONTHS

Keywords: Safety; Vaccination/Immunization; Infection-related RMDs

I. Andreica1, S. Reale1, G. Intini1, B. Wilde1, P. Sewerin1, H. Kavruk1, D. Karagiakidou1, B. Guminski1, A. Kribben2, B. Baraliakos1, J. Braun1, U. Klitz1, Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Rheumatology, Herne, Germany; 1Universitätsklinikum Essen, Nephrology, Essen, Germany

Background: Herpes zoster (HZ) is common in the elderly with a lifetime risk of 25% (1). The primary risk factors for HZ are advanced age and immunosuppression. The recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV) contains recombinant glycoprotein E, the main target of CD4+ T-cell immune response. These findings are reassuring for rheumatologists and potential vaccine recipients and support confidence in RZV safety in patients with RMD.

Methods: Adult patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), axial spondyloarthritides (axSpA) and giant cell arteritis (GCA) who had an indication to receive RZV were prospectively included. Data on demographics, vaccination, RMD diagnosis, disease activity, immunosuppressive treatments, flares, adverse events (AEs) and zoster breakthrough infections were collected at months 0, 2, 3 and 6. A flare was defined as change in ASDAS ≥ 0.9 for axSpA, change in DAS-28>1.2 for RA, or clinical signs for GCA and/or CRP ≥ 0.5 mg/dl and/or ≤30 mm. Descriptive analyses were performed.

Results: 50 patients were included of whom 18 (36.0%) had a history of HZ (Table 1). All patients received RZV at month 0, and 49 patients also at month 2. Safety assessments were performed in 49, 48 and 36 patients in months 2, 3 and 6, respectively. A total of 62, 35, 11 AE in 38, 33, and 10 patients, respectively, were reported (Figure 1). Localized AE (n=69 (63.9%)) were far more common than generalized AE (n=28 (25.9%)). Pain at the site of injection in 46 (42.6%) patients was the most frequent AE followed by fatigue (12 (11.0%)), redness at the injection site in 9 (8.3%), swelling at the injection site (7 (6.4%)) and fever (5 (4.6%)). Serious AEs were reported in 6 patients (2 RA, 4 GCA). None of them with causal relation to RZV. No patient reported an AE of special interest. Out of 6, 4 and 4 flares reported by patients at month 2, 3 and 6, respectively, one fulfilled predefined flare criteria and were rated as mild to moderate. However, 3 patients (2 GCA, 1 RA) were hospitalized due to flares. No episodes of HZ occurred.

Conclusion: The majority of patients tolerated RZV well with only a few reports of flare and serious AEs. Majority of AEs occurred within few days after vaccination. These findings are reassuring for rheumatologists and potential vaccine recipients and support confidence in RZV safety in patients with RMD.


Funding: The study was funded by GSK.

Table 1. Patients and disease characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>RA (n=18)</th>
<th>AxSpA (n=12)</th>
<th>GCA (n=20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>55.4 (116)</td>
<td>46.6 (9.6)</td>
<td>73.3 (6.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female (No., %)</td>
<td>9 (50.0)</td>
<td>2 (16.7)</td>
<td>14 (70.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of zoster (No., %)</td>
<td>5 (27.8)</td>
<td>2 (16.7)</td>
<td>11 (55.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dl</td>
<td>0.5 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.8 (1.2)</td>
<td>0.2 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisolone, mean dosage mg/d (n=6 (33.3%))</td>
<td>3.2 (17.7)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14.1 (15.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD(No., %)</td>
<td>18 (100.0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8 (40.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tDMARD(No., %)</td>
<td>13 (72.2)</td>
<td>6 (50.0)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD(No., %)</td>
<td>3 (16.7)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician global</td>
<td>0.9 (1.7)</td>
<td>2.3 (1.5)</td>
<td>0.8 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global</td>
<td>3.8 (2.2)</td>
<td>3.5 (2.1)</td>
<td>3.9 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>3.8 (2.28)</td>
<td>3.1 (2.08)</td>
<td>0.0 (n=9 (45.0%))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity</td>
<td>DAS-28</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical function</td>
<td>FFbH</td>
<td>BASFI</td>
<td>FFbH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.6 (20.9)</td>
<td>4.1 (2.0)</td>
<td>71.2 (23.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disclosure of Interests: Ioana Andreica Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Chugai, Novartis, UCB, MSD, Lilly, Sobi, Astrazeneca, Amgen, Pfizer, Gilead, Paid instructor for: Astrazeneca, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Chugai, Novartis, UCB, Galapagos, Takeda, Astrazeneca, Lilly, Boehringer Ingelheim, Amgen, Sobi, Stefania Reale: None declared, Gianna Intini: None declared, Benjamin Wilde: None declared, David Kieler Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Roche, Chugai, Novartis, UCB, Sanofi, MSD, Merck, GSK, Janssen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Galapagos, Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Roche, Chugai, Novartis, UCB, Sanofi, MSD, Merck, GSK, Janssen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Galapagos, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Philipp Sewerin: None declared, Hilal Kavruk: None declared, Dimitra Karagioudi: None declared, Barbara Guminski: None declared, Andreas Kribben: None declared, Xenofon Baraliakos: None declared, Jürgen Braun: None declared, Ioana Andreica: None declared, David Kiefer: Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Roche, Chugai, Novartis, Gilead, Paid instructor for: Astrazeneca, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Chugai, Novartis, UCB, MSD, Roche, consultant of: Abbvie, Novartis, Lilly, Janssen, Hexal, Gilead, MSD, Roche, Consultant of: Abbvie, Novartis, Lilly, Janssen, Gilead, UCB, Onkowisen, Grant/research support from: Biogen, Abbvie, Novartis, Hexal, Fresenius, Amgen.

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POS0566 SURVIVAL ON TREATMENT AFTER SWITCHING TO A BIOSIMILAR: POPULATION-BASED EVIDENCE FROM A NATURAL EXPERIMENT DUE TO A POLICY CHANGE

Keywords: Health services research, bDMARD, Inflammatory arthritis

D. Lacaille1,2, J. A. Aviña-Zubieta1,2, Y. Zheng1, N. Lu1, H. Xie1,3, Arthritis Research Canada, Arthrite-Recherche Canada, Vancouver, Canada; 1University of British Columbia, Department of Medicine, Vancouver, Canada; 2Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Burnaby, Canada

Background: In the province of British Columbia (BC), Canada, a health policy implemented in July 2017 mandated that all new anti-TNF prescriptions for which a biosimilar exists, i.e., etanercept and infliximab at the time, be dispensed a biosimilar rather than the originator, for universal cost coverage by BC PharmaCare. In May-December 2019, a further policy mandated that current users of anti-TNF agents be switched to the corresponding biosimilar during the period of May to December 2019. Historical controls were randomly selected from all new users of originator etanercept and infliximab before July 2017, matched to biosimilar switchers on sex, previous number of biologics used, and disease. Controls were assigned an index date such that duration of originator anti-TNF therapy was the same at switching/index date for switchers and controls. Outcomes: Discontinuation was defined as no prescription renewal for at least 6 months. Statistical method: We followed patients from switching/index date to discontinuation, or for two years or until last health care utilization (if moving out-of-province), or end date of the follow-up (April 30, 2019 for originators, and December 31, 2021 for switchers), whichever occurred first. Weighted Cox proportional hazards models with propensity score overlap weighting estimated the HR of discontinuing anti-TNF agents for controls and switchers, adjusting for duration of anti-TNF agent use at switch/index date, age, sex, socio-economic status (low income subsidy), rural vs urban residence, health authority, arthritis type, number of prior biologic agents, comorbidities, and other IA drugs used (MTX, non MTX DMARDs and glucocorticosteroids), all measured at time of switching/index date.

Results: A total of 1631 biosimilar switchers (1402 etanercept; 229 infliximab) were included in this study: 556(67.2%) RA, 178(21.5%) PsA, 93(11.2%) Ps/SpA patients. Table 1 shows numbers, rates (per 100 person-years), and hazard ratio of discontinuation among biosimilar switchers compared with originator users. Figure 1 shows survival on treatment. The discontinuation rates for the biosimilar etanercept users was similar to the originator users (15.42 vs 15.63) per 100 PYs: HR (95% CI) 1.02 (0.87, 1.19 [p=0.718]). The biosimilar infliximab switchers had a slightly lower discontinuation rate than the originator users, however the difference in rate and risk of discontinuation were not statistically significant (8.76 vs 11.29) per 100 PYs: HR (95% CI) 0.85 (0.54, 1.36 [p=0.503]).

Conclusion: Population-based data on real-world experience mandating switching from originator to biosimilar etanercept and infliximab for IA revealed the biosimilar switchers have comparable duration of treatment to the original medications.

Table 1. Discontinuation of anti-TNF in biosimilar switchers and originator controls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>discontinuation/sample (N)</th>
<th>Median Follow-up (Years)</th>
<th>Rate (Per 100 PYs)</th>
<th>Weighted CoxPH HR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept</td>
<td>Originator</td>
<td>347/1402</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>15.63</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infliximab</td>
<td>Originator</td>
<td>44/229</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>11.29</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept</td>
<td>Biosimilar</td>
<td>354/1402</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>15.42</td>
<td>1.02 (0.87,1.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infliximab</td>
<td>Biosimilar</td>
<td>36/229</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>8.76</td>
<td>0.85 (0.54,1.36)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Cumulative number of patients with at least one adverse event
Acknowledgements: This research received funding from the Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology Care (CIORA) via the Canadian Rheumatology Association. Dr. Lacaille is supported by the Mary Pack Chair in Arthritis Research from the University of British Columbia and The Arthritis Society of Canada. Dr. Antonio Avina Zubieta is a BC Lupus Society Research Scholar and a Walter & Marilyn Booth Research Scholar. Dr. Hui Xie is supported by the Milan Ilich/ Merck Chair in Statistics for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases from Simon Fraser University.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0567

**COMPARISON OF SURVIVAL ON TREATMENT AMONG NEW USERS OF BIOSIMILAR VS. ORIGINATOR BIOLOGICS IN INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: POPULATION-BASED EVIDENCE FROM A NATURAL EXPERIMENT DUE TO A POLICY CHANGE**

**Keywords:** Health services research, bDMARD, Inflammatory arthritis

D. Lacaille1,2, J. A. Avina-Zubieta1,2, Y. Zheng1, N. Lu1, H. Xie1,3, J. Arthritis Research Canada, Arthritis-Recherche Canada, Vancouver, Canada; 2University of British Columbia, Department of Medicine, Vancouver, Canada; 3Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Burnaby, Canada

**Background:** British Columbia (BC) health policy mandated the use of biosimilars when available, for all new anti-TNF prescriptions after June 2017.

**Objectives:** To compare drug survival (surrogate marker of effectiveness and safety) after initiation of etanercept and infliximab for inflammatory arthritis in new users of biosimilars vs. originators, using historical controls pre-policy change.

**Methods:** Using administrative health data, we identified all incident users of a new anti-TNF with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis (PsO/PsA), or ankylosing spondylitis (AS). The biosimilar cohort started etanercept or infliximab for inflammatory arthritis new users of biosimilar etanercept and infliximab for inflammatory arthritis have comparable safety) after initiation of etanercept and infliximab for inflammatory arthritis in new users of biosimilars vs. originators, using historical controls pre-policy change.

**Results:** Our sample included 827 biosimilar etanercept users (RA:576, AS:171, PsO/PsA:180) and 271 infliximab users (RA:150, AS:54, PsO/PsA:67); 1312 etanercept and 230 infliximab originator users; and 2213 adalimumab originator users.

**Conclusion:** Real-world population-based data in BC shows that incident users of biosimilar etanercept and infliximab for inflammatory arthritis have comparable duration of treatment to users of originators.

Table 1. Discontinuation of biosimilar and originator anti-TNFs before and after policy change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Discontinuation/Follow-up</th>
<th>Rate (per 100 person-year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADALIMUMAB</td>
<td>Pre-policy</td>
<td>808/1773 2454</td>
<td>32.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETANERCEPT</td>
<td>Pre-policy</td>
<td>1076/2213 2959</td>
<td>36.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLIXIMAB</td>
<td>Pre-policy</td>
<td>381/827 1029</td>
<td>37.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-policy</td>
<td>1312/230 344</td>
<td>29.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-policy</td>
<td>138/271 364</td>
<td>37.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1B. Hazard Ratio (post- vs. pre-policy change)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Univariate Cox PH Ratio (95%CI)</th>
<th>Multivariable Cox PH Ratio (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADALIMUMAB</td>
<td>0.90 (0.76,1.06)</td>
<td>0.71 (0.54,0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETANERCEPT</td>
<td>0.97 (0.84,1.10)</td>
<td>0.91 (0.78,1.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLIXIMAB</td>
<td>0.97 (0.84,1.10)</td>
<td>0.97 (0.85,1.11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1C. Ratio of Hazard Ratio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Univariate Cox PH Ratio of cHR (95%CI)</th>
<th>Multivariable Cox PH Ratio of cHR (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADALIMUMAB</td>
<td>1.00 (0.81,1.23)</td>
<td>0.97 (0.80,1.17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETANERCEPT</td>
<td>1.00 (0.81,1.23)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80,1.17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLIXIMAB</td>
<td>1.00 (0.81,1.23)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80,1.17)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for age, sex, socioeconomic status, rural vs. urban, health authority, arthritis type, arthritis duration, no, prior biologic agents, comorbidities, steroid and DMARDs use, measured at anti-TNF start. **Ratio of Hazard Ratios of etanercept or infliximab to adalimumab.

Figure 1. Kaplan Meier Survival Curve

Acknowledgements: This research received funding from the Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology Care (CIORA) via the Canadian Rheumatology Association. Dr. Lacaille is supported by the Mary Pack Chair in Arthritis Research from the University of British Columbia and The Arthritis Society of Canada. Dr. Antonio Avina Zubieta is a BC Lupus Society Research Scholar and a Walter & Marilyn Booth Research Scholar. Dr. Hui Xie is supported by the Milan Ilich/ Merck Chair in Statistics for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases from Simon Fraser University.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0568

**THE RATIO BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND GLUCOCORTICOID USE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES: WORLDWIDE: RESULTS FROM THE METEOR REGISTRY**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Worldwide evidence, Geographical differences

I. Neving1, C. Allaart1, D. Vega-Morales2, L. L. Winchow3, A. Chopra4, A. M. Rodrigues5, T. Huizinga1, M. Boers6, S. A. Bergstra1, 1Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Hospital General de Zona 17 Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, Rheumatology, Monterrey,
Background: A study in the QUEST-RA database, based on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients included between January 2005 and June 2006, has shown that the ratio between biological disease modifying antirheumatic drug (bDMARD) use and glucocorticoid (GC) use strongly differs between countries. Considering the difference in affordability between bDMARDs and GCs, it may be hypothesized, that when less bDMARDs are used, glucocorticoid use increases.

Objectives: To investigate globally, in more recent data, the ratio between bDMARD and GC use, and to assess whether this relates to a country’s socioeconomic status (SES).

Methods: Data on bDMARD and GC use between 1-1-2007 and 28-12-2020 were extracted from the METEOR registry: an international database capturing daily clinical practice data from patients with a clinical diagnosis of RA. The ratio between the proportion of patients who had ever used a bDMARD and the proportion of patients who had ever used a GC, with no concomitant bDMARD use, during a total follow up duration of two years (bDMARD/GC ratio) was calculated per country. Univariable linear regression was used to analyze the bDMARD/GC ratios according to publicly available country-level indicators of SES (Worldbank, OECD).

Results: Data from 10,856 patients covering eight countries showed varying proportions of bDMARD use. The number of patients included ranged from 64 (Spain) to 8484 (India). Baseline characteristics varied per country. In this analysis based on a worldwide cohort capturing 8 countries, we show that the bDMARD/GC ratio differs across countries. These differences are significantly related to general country-level indicators of level of wealth, where greater wealth went with a higher proportion of patients using bDMARDs and/or a smaller proportion of patients using GCs.

Conclusions: In this analysis, the bDMARD/GC ratio differs across countries. These differences are significantly related to general country-level indicators of level of wealth, where greater wealth went with a higher proportion of patients using bDMARDs and/or a smaller proportion of patients using GCs.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics and proportions of bDMARD and GC use per country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US</th>
<th>NL</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>South Africa</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N Included patients</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>8484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, %</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor +, %</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR +, %</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, median (IQR)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current or ever smoker, %</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, mean (SD)</td>
<td>53 (15)</td>
<td>57 (16)</td>
<td>55 (15)</td>
<td>50 (13)</td>
<td>52 (15)</td>
<td>58 (15)</td>
<td>46 (12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References: N.I.L.

Disclosure of Interests: Isabell Nevin: None declared, Cornelias Allaart: None declared, David Vega-Morales: None declared, Lai-Ling Chow: None declared, Arvind Chopra: None declared, Ana Maria Rodrigues: None declared, Thomas Huizinga: None declared, Maarten Boers: None declared, Sytiske Anne Bergstra Grant/research support from: Received AIPiRE grant from Pfizer.

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POSO570 IMPACT OF CLINICIAN-RELATED FACTORS ON PHONE CONSULTATIONS IN RHEUMATOLOGY – ANALYSIS OF MEDICAL VS NON-MEDICAL CLINICIANS’ OUTCOMES FROM A COVID-19 INITIATIVE

Keywords: Telemedicine, COVID, Health services research

M. Hannides1, S. Wig1, S. Vasireddy1. 1Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Bolton, United Kingdom

Background: Since COVID-19 pandemic, there have been changes in clinical practice to limit transmission, such as switching to remote consultations. Our department switched to delivering remote consultations during lockdown without suspending service. Patients were offered choice of either video or phone consultation. It is unclear if the medical vs non-medical status of clinicians has any influence on remote consultations.

Objectives: We aimed to study the influence of medical vs non-medical status of clinicians on phone consultations in our experience during the pandemic.

Methods: Between 15/10/2020 and 09/11/2020, 12 clinicians in our service completed data collection forms after each remote consultation, recording the technology used (video vs phone); technical problems encountered; discharge and subsequent appointment status; and technical aspects of the consultation itself; using 11-point numerical rating scales (NRS) (Time Adequate; Relevant History; Physical Exam; Management Plan; Communication Quality). Data were analysed in SPSS version 25 using chi-square tests and Mann-Whitney U tests for comparisons..

Results: Six medical clinicians (3 consultant rheumatologists, 2 Specialty Trainee Registrars and 1 Foundation Year 2 doctor) and six non-medical clinicians (3 Specialist Nurses, 1 Advanced Rheumatology Practitioner and 2 Senior Rheumatology Pharmacists) completed 285 forms. As non-medical clinicians didn’t do new patient consultations, and as some clinicians did not do video consultations, these consultations were excluded. The remaining were follow-up patient phone consultations (n=196). Medical vs non-medical clinician appointments were 34.7% (n= 68), vs 65.3% (n=128). Medical and non-medical clinicians had a similar proportion of female patients (72.1%, n=49 vs 63.9%, n=81; p=0.22); similar mean age of their patients (63 vs 62 years; p=0.33); similar rates of technical problems reported (13.1%, n=8 vs 16.4%, n=19; p=0.57); and similar mean age of their patients (63 vs 62 years; p=0.53); similar rates of technical problems and interpreter use. While there was a non-significant trend for lower scores on Physical Exam NRS for medical clinicians, both mean scores were low reflecting the difficulty of this assessment in a phone consultation. Medical clinicians rated their consultations significantly lower in four of the NRS, potentially reflecting the complexity of medical problems of patients booked into medical clinicians’ clinics compared to potentially patients with more stable disease in non-medical clinicians’ clinics. Similarly, the lower discharge rate from non-medical clinicians’ clinics could reflect a higher proportion of patients on established disease needing long-term follow-up. Further studies with larger numbers would help clarify these issues.

Acknowledgements: We thank the following clinicians who completed the data collection forms in clinic, in addition to the authors: L. Bromilow, J. Haworth, L. Lane, S Ling, A Paul, C Potts, W Ramli, A Robinson, R Wray.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POSO572 IMMUNOGENICITY AND SAFETY OF ADJUVANTED RECOMBINANT ZOSTER VACCINE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Koijma1, T. Iwamoto1, Y. Kobayashi2, M. Kato3, F. Takizawa1, T. Ida1, Y. Toda1, K. Miyachi1, J. Suzuki1, A. Iwata1, S. Furuta1, K. Ikeda1, K. Suzuki1, H. Nakajima4,4, Chiba University, Development, Chiba, Japan

Background: Herpes zoster (HZ) is caused by the reactivation of latent varicella-zoster virus (VZV) due to a decline in VZV-specific cell-mediated immunity (CCI) with increasing age and immunocompromised conditions [1]. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treated with disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) are at a high risk of developing HZ [2, 3]. An adjuvanted recombinant VZV glycoprotein E (gE) subunit vaccine (RZV) has been shown to be effective in preventing HZ in immunocompromised elderly populations. However, its efficacy and safety profile remain largely unknown in RA patients.

Objectives: This study aimed to determine the immunogenicity and safety of RZV in patients with RA treated with DMARDs.

Methods: This longitudinal prospective study enrolled 53 RA patients treated with DMARDs (csDMARDs, n=20; bDMARDs, n=23; and bDMARDs, n=10) and 10 individuals with no history of immunosuppressive treatment as controls. All the participants were aged ≥50 years. The participants received two intramuscular RZV injections 2 months apart. VZV-specific CMI and humoral immunity (HI)

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1250

POSO571 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN DIAGNOSIS DELAY AND DISEASE ACTIVITY WITH BURDEN OF THE DISEASE IN 4150 EUROPEAN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life

A. Cornet1, J. Andersen2, F. Marchio2, A. Sturiene3, A. Edwards4, P. Mertz2, L. Arnaud2, 1Lupus Europe, HQ, Brussels, Belgium; 2Lupus Europe, PAN, Brussels, Belgium; 3Hôpital de Hautepierre - Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, Service de Rhumatologie, Strasbourg, France

Background: Despite significant improvements in diagnosis delay and treatment strategies, the burden of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) remains high.

Objectives: The objective of the study was to assess the association between diagnosis delay, disease activity and burden of life (BoDL) in a large sample of European patients with SLE.

Methods: In May 2020, Lupus Europe, the European umbrella patient association for SLE, conducted a multilingual anonymous online cross-sectional study to individuals with a self-reported physician’s diagnosis of SLE living in Europe. The BoDL score was computed using 1 to 5 Likert scales on 5 domains (mobilization, daily activities, self-care, daily activities and pain/discomfort) and the sum was transposed on a 0 (minimum Burden on daily life) to 100 (maximum BoDL) scale. Comparisons between independent groups were made using the Mann-Whitney test for continuous outcomes and the Chi-2 test (or Fisher’s exact test) for quantitative data.

Results: Data of 4,150 SLE patients from 35 European countries were analysed. The means (±SD) BoDL score in the study population was 37.8 (±18.7). Despite the modest downward trend of the BoDL based on age (from 33.4% to 42.1% from age less than 25 to 65 - a loss of up to 9% points over up to 40 years). The diagnosis delay was reported to be <2 years in 1903 participants (47.5%), between 2 and <5 years in 1056 (26.3%) and ≥5 years or more in 1049 (26.2%). 142 did not answer.. Those with a diagnosis of SLE within 2 years of first symp- toms had significantly lower mean Burden on daily life scores than those diag- nosed after 5 years (33.6 versus 44.0, p<0.001). This trend is deemed robust as it was found across almost all European countries. These results highlight the importance of improving current diagnosis delay for SLE as a way to improve the burden of the disease on daily life. A total of 2980 (71.8%) patients felt that their lupus has been under control over the last 3 months while 1166 (28.1%) did not. 4 did not answer.. The Burden on daily life score was significantly better in SLE patients feeling that their lupus had been under control during the past 3 months versus the others (34.0% versus 47.6%, p=0.001). Again, this trend was found across almost all European countries.

Conclusion: This large patient survey reveals both the importance of prompt SLE diagnosis as well the relationship between disease activity and disease bur- den upon the daily life of European lupus patients. Further improvements should focus on reducing the diagnosis delay and identifying new therapeutic strategies for those with uncontrolled disease. Healthcare pathways, which may accelerate diagnosis and optimize therapeutic management, are necessary to improve patients’ outcomes in SLE.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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were assessed at 0 and 3 months after the first vaccination using flow cytometry and enzyme immunosay. To assess CMI, the frequencies of VZV gE-specific CD4+ CD40L+ T cells expressing at least one activation cytokine (CD4[2+] cells); IFN-γ, IL-2, and TNF-α were examined by flow cytometry. CMI responders were defined as a CD4[2+] T cell frequency ≥320 per 10^6 CD4+ T cells counted (for participants with pre-vaccination frequencies below 320 per 10^6 CD4+ T cells counted) or a ≥2-fold increase in CD4[2+] T cells (for those CD4[2+] T cells were already ≥320 per 10^6 CD4+ T cells counted at the time of pre-vaccination). CMI and HI response rates were compared between all patients with RA (n=53) and controls (n=10). The participants were followed up for 6 months after the first RZV administration for HZ onset. Baseline characteristics and information regarding adverse events were collected.

**Results:** Patients' age and disease duration were 70 years old and 11 years, respectively. DAS28-CRP and CDAI scores at enrolment were 1.4 and 2.1, respectively. Thirty-six percent of RA patients had a history of HZ before the administration of RZV. VZV-specific CMI (controls: p=0.002, csDMARDs: p=0.012, bDMARDs: p=0.001, and tsDMARDs: p=0.002) (Figure 1A) and HI (controls: p=0.002, csDMARDs: p=0.001, tsDMARDs: p=0.001) were significantly increased in DMARDs-treated RA patients after RZV administration, and the magnitudes of those responses were not significantly different between DMARDs-treated RA patients and controls. However, the vaccine response rate of CMI of DMARDs-treated RA patients was significantly lower than that of the controls (51% vs. 90%, p=0.034) (Figure 1B), whereas the response rate of HI was not (66% vs. 70%, p>0.999). In addition, no significant baseline factors affecting CMI responses, including DMARDs use, were identified between RA patients with and without CMI responses. RZV-related adverse events were generally mild, and all participants received two doses of RZV. RZV-induced RA flares occurred in two patients (3.8%) but were also mild and controllable.

**Conclusion:** RZV is robustly immunogenic and has a clinically acceptable safety profile in elderly RA patients receiving DMARDs.

**References:**


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Background: Comorbidities have a profound impact on the QoL of patients living with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRDs). Unfortunately, global data on the burden of comorbidities and its impact on health outcomes in this vulnerable group is scarce.

Objectives: We studied the prevalence, distribution and clustering of comorbidities and multimorbidity among patients with AIRDs and healthy controls (HCs) and its impact on health outcomes, utilizing data from the ongoing 2nd COVAD study.

Methods: The COVAD study is a global e-survey that embodies patient voice while empowering collaborators and young researchers. The study group of 157 physicians across 106 countries from February-June 2022 captured detailed features of AIRDs, autoimmune and non-autoimmune comorbidities, and validated patient reported outcomes. Human Development Index (UNDP 2021-22) of country of residence was taken as a surrogate marker for socioeconomic status (SES). Basic multimorbidity (BM), Complex multimorbidity (CM), Autoimmune multimorbidity (AM) are defined as the co-occurrence of ≥2 non-rheumatic comorbidities, ≥3 non-rheumatic chronic conditions affecting ≥3 different organ systems [1] and ≥3 autoimmune diseases (AIDs) in an individual respectively. PROMIS global physical health (PGP), mental health (PGM), fatigue 4a (F4a) and physical function short form (SF10) scores were calculated for the different groups and compared using descriptive statistics, linear regression and cluster analysis (hierarchical followed by K-means).

Results: Of 17,612 total respondents, 6149 (62.7%) had underlying AIRDs and 3652 (37.3%) were HCs, with female (80.8%) and Caucasian (53.9%) predominance in the former. All types of multimorbidity were more frequent in AIRDs than HCs, including any comorbidity (77.1% versus 25.0%; OR: 2.9; 2.7-3.2), BM (21.0% vs 6.2%; 4.0; 3.4-4.6), and CM (3.1% vs 0.5%; 6.4; 3.9-10.4), and with prevalence increasing with age (p<0.001) (Figure 1A, B). Comorbidity prevalence was the highest among Americans and Australians (72% each). Patients with AIRDs had poorer health outcomes than HCs, including lower PGP, PGM, SF10, F4a scores (all p<0.001). Among AIRDs, those with comorbidities had lower physical function and PROMIS scores (PGP, PGM, and SF10), and reported fatigue more often (all p<0.001). Female gender, and underlying BM and AM par-ticularly predisposed patients to worse physical health (lower PGP; lower SF10a) and mental health outcomes (lower PGM) While advanced age (-1.815; <0.001), and lower SES (0.871; 0.027) specifically predicted poorer physical function (lower SF10a). Fatigue (higher F4a) was seen more frequently among women (1.711; <0.001), and those with BM (1.142; 0.002); AM (1.768; 0.011), and higher SEC (0.478; 0.016). Cluster analysis of patients with AIRDs revealed 2 clusters (Figure 1C 1D); cluster 1 with low PGP, PGM, SF10 and high F4a. The clusters differed predominantly based on the frequency of comorbidities; any comorbidity (59.7% vs 41.8%; p<0.001), BM (28.5% vs 14.7%; 0.001); CM (4.5% vs 1.9%; <0.001), and AM (10.0% vs 4.0%;<0.001).

Conclusion: Comorbidities complicate three-quarters of individuals living with AIRDs, and have an outsized impact on self-reported physical function, perceived fatigue, and QoL. Substantial regional differences call for further exploration of key drivers of this important aspect to allow optimized multidisciplinary and holistic care in anticipation of poorer outcomes.

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Educational cases

**POS0574 THE GREAT MASQUERADER OF RHEUMATOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS: A CASE REPORT**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Vasculitis, Cardiovascular disease

S. M. Chau1, V. Dhir1, 1PGIMER, Internal Medicine (Rheumatology), Chandigarh, India; 2PGIMER Chandigarh, Internal medicine (Rheumatology), Chandigarh, India

**Background:** Primary cardiac tumors are extremely rare, and out of those atrial myxoma is the most common benign tumor (75%). Around 75% of the atrial myxoma cases arise from left side of the heart and present differently from right sided. Due to its varied presentation in regard to constitutional, embolic and obstructive features it mimics vasculitis.

**Objectives:** To create awareness about the atrial myxoma, the great mimicker of vasculitis and comment upon its clinical course and complications if not treated timely.

**Methods:** Case report and Discussion.

**Results:** 34 year old female with no past medical history came to the Rheumatology Department after failure to be diagnosed. She had 8 months history of pain in her finger tips, toes, small joints and Raynauds phenomenon. Intermittent fever associated with chills, palpitations, sweating and significant weight loss was noted during the course of illness. Before visiting our clinic, she was treated for Typhoid fever but she didn’t respond. At presentation, her vitals and physical examination including auscultation was unrevealing. Her blood counts showed Hb at 8g/dL, metabolic panel, LFTs, coagulation profile were normal. But had high ESR levels in multiple reports ranging from 60-168mm/hour. CRP was also positive. Hypocomplementemia and increase in alpha-globulins were observed. ANA positive, dsDNA negative, APLA, P and C-ANCA and Cryoglobulins were also negative. PET-CT was negative for avid FDG uptake in any organ. Patient was given iron formulations intravenously and was advised to cardiology in view of significant palpitations which was not given much attention before. Echo showed 4.1x3.3cm, pedunculated mass arising from inter-atrial septum and anterior mitral leaflet (Figure 1). Patient was started on ecosprin and advised surgical intervention which got postponed due to patient having complications of acute limb ischemia and stroke in right fronto-parietal lobe (Figure 1) subsequently. She had multiple embolomecties of right brachial and bilateral femoral arteries, later followed by craniectomy and decompression from the hemorrhage with subsequent cranioplasty and at lastly removal of mass. The surgical pathological report of mass showed features characteristic of myxoma which concluded the diagnosis. After surgeries, the patient is doing much better. Her Hb levels have improved to 12g/dL and the ESR level came back to normal. Though there is residual weakness due to stroke but she has shown significant recovery in terms of modified Rankin scale of 3. No more systemic complaints like fever, fatigue, Raynauds phenomenon and digital pain are observed. In this case, duration from onset of symptoms to hospitalization for life threatening was complete one year with added 6 months to significant recovery from complications.

**Conclusion:** Myxoma, a rare intracardiac benign neoplasm due to release of inflammatory cytokines like IL-6 and embolic mechanism can present as inflammatory rheumatic disease. Diagnosing this great masquerader can be challenging even for a specialist but timely ordering of certain non-invasive tests could be life saving for the patient. For example in this case, Echocardiography or Cardiac MRI are critical. Therefore, having high diagnostic suspicion is very important when dealing with vasculitis and its mimics.

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**POS0575**

**OSTEOMALACIA INDUCED BY HYPOPHOSPHATEMIA – ROLE OF FGF 23: TWO CLINICAL CASES REPORT**

**Keywords:** Osteoporosis, Education, Bone diseases

E. Costa¹, C. Campinho Ferreirinha, A. M. Gomes Correia², D. Esperança Almeida², P. Pereira², J. Silva², M. Cerqueira², J. Redondo Costa², A. R. Ribeiro², J. Neves². ¹Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal; ²Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal

**Background:** Osteomalacia is a bone disorder characterized by decreased bone mineralization. Vitamin D deficiency and hypophosphatemia are the most frequent causes. Fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) is a hormone secreted by osteocytes in response to increased calcium and serum phosphate levels. FGF23 main function is phosphate serum levels regulation, decreasing sodium-phosphate cotransporter expression on the proximal convoluted tubule. Thus, FGF23 reduces calcium reabsorption and increases urine phosphate excretion. FGF23 may also suppress 1α-hydroxylase, reducing vitamin D activation and calcium reabsorption.

**Objectives:** To increase the awareness of hypophosphatemia-induced osteomalacia.

**Methods:** Case reports and discussion.

**Results:** Case 1 – A 63-year-old man, hospitalized for total hip arthroplasty secondary to non-traumatic bilateral femoral neck fracture was evaluated by rheumatology on suspicion of osteoporosis. Medical history was relevant for a progressive paraparesis of lower limbs 6 years ago and which etiological investigation revealed a mesenchymal tumor in the body of the ninth dorsal vertebrae compressing the spinal cord. A multidisciplinary discussion concluded that the tumor was unresectable, but the patient underwent decompressive surgery to relieve neurological symptoms one year later. The patient also reported a history of multiple non-traumatic fractures in the past five years, including ribs, ankle, pelvis, femoral neck, and scapula, and denied any arthritic or bone pain. In laboratory evaluation, serum phosphate levels were below the laboratory detection limit, calcium and vitamin D were decreased, parathormone (PTH) was in the normal range and serum alkaline phosphatase (AF) was increased. Serum FGF23 levels were 6 times above the upper limit of normal (ULN). Thus, the diagnosis of oncocenic osteomalacia induced by an FGF23-producing mesenchymal tumor was made. The patient started intravenous phosphate repositioning in the intermediate care unit and then he continued oral phosphate, calcium, and vitamin D supplementation at home. Currently, the patient is in the oncology outpatient clinic, and he was proposed to initiate treatment with burosumab (anti-FGF23 antibody). Case 2 – A 57-year-old woman with Rendu-Osler-Weber syndrome and iron deficiency anaemia, chronically supplemented with ferric carboxymaltose, was referred to the rheumatology outpatient clinic because of a right second metatarsal bone fracture associated with hypophosphatemia, vitamin D deficiency, AF and PTH elevation (above 3 times the ULN and 2 times the ULN, respectively), and normal calcium levels. Measurement of FGF23 serum levels revealed an elevation of 3 times the ULN. The diagnosis of FGF23-induced hypophosphatemia was made. The patient started oral phosphate and vitamin D supplementation and the formulation of intravenous iron was changed. Six months after the initial evaluation, the previously abnormal analytical values were within the normal range.

**Conclusion:** Osteomalacia has multiple identified causes like vitamin D deficiency, hypophosphatemia, chronic kidney disease, renal tubular acidosis, and hypophosphatasia. FGF23 is a hormone that regulates phosphate metabolism. There are several types of genetic and acquired FGF23-related hypophosphatemia, like X-linked hypophosphatemia and FGF23-producing mesenchymal tumors, respectively. In case 2, it is thought that the key mechanism responsible for the effect of iron results from the disproportionate inhibition of FGF23 degradation by the carbohydrates present in intravenous formulations with a consequent increase in its concentration and activity. The risk of hypophosphatemia and osteomalacia appears to be greater with iron carboxymaltose than with other intravenous iron formulations.

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**Figure 1.** Top Left and Right, Echocardiography during systole and diastole demonstrating dynamic myxoma propulsion into the left atrium. Bottom Left to Right, CT angiography - multiple saccular aneurysm from distal cortical branches of bilateral cerebral arteries with large aneurysm in close relation to the right temporal hematoma, likely ruptured.NCTT head - Right frontal bleed LA - left atrium, UV - left ventricle, Myx - Myxoma

**Conclusion:** Myxoma, a rare intracardiac benign neoplasm due to release of inflammatory cytokines like IL-6 and embolic mechanism can present as inflammatory rheumatic disease. Diagnosing this great masquerader can be challenging even for a specialist but timely ordering of certain non-invasive tests could be life saving for the patient. For example in this case, Echocardiography or Cardiac MRI are critical. Therefore, having high diagnostic suspicion is very important when dealing with vasculitis and its mimics.

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POS0676

ANTI-TIF1-γ POSITIVE DERMATOMYOSITIS WITH SEVERE OROPHARYNGEAL INVOLVEMENT AFTER IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

Keywords: Myositis, Malignancy, Autoantibodies

A. Tonutti1, N. Luciano2, A. Ceribelli3, A. Sonaglia4, D. Renna5, A. Repici6, A. Lanía7, A. Lieo8, S. De Nicola9, L. Bussini7, P. Morelli7, M. Pagani10, C. Selmi11, M. De Santis12, IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital and Humanitas University, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital and Humanitas University, Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital and Humanitas University, Endocrinology, Diabetology and Medical Andrology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital and Humanitas University, Liver Unit, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Liver Unit, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Infectious Diseases, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Neurocenter-Neurorehabilitation Unit, Rozzano, Milan, Italy

Background: Anti-TIF1-γ antibody is specifically associated with paraneoplastic dermatomyositis (DM) [1], but this serum marker has seldom been reported in DM associated with malignancy, and severe infections is of paramount importance when choosing the most appropriate therapy. Patients with anti-TIF1-γ DM following immunotherapy have been described and successfully treated using glucocorticoids and intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) [3].

Objectives: We report the case of a man developing anti-TIF1-γ positive DM following immunotherapy with progressively worsening dysphagia refractory to glucocorticoids, immunosuppressants, and IVIG.

Methods: Case report.

Results: In February 2021 a 47-year-old man was diagnosed with skin mela-noma that was surgically resected and treated with adjuvant lilmumab and nivolumab, leading to complete remission. After three months, he developed muscle weakness, with dysphonia, dysphagia, and typical DM skin lesions (Figure 1) with pancytopenia (hemoglobin 9 g/dL, white blood cells 1500/mm3). Four weeks after the start of nivolumab, leading to complete remission. After three months, he developed muscle weakness, with dysphonia, dysphagia, and typical DM skin lesions (Figure 1) with pancytopenia (hemoglobin 9 g/dL, white blood cells 1500/mm3). Further oncological evaluation (total body CT scan, brain MRI) was negative for the recurrence of malignancy or the presence of myasthenia gravis and neuropathy. Methylprednisolone pulses (500 mg for 3 days) were started, followed by high dose IVIG (5 g/kg), with marginal improvement on muscle function, normalization of CK levels, but no effect on dysphagia which worsened. Then, MMF was restarted but rapidly stopped because of septic shock requiring intensive care unit admission, followed by recurrent symptoms, contradicting further immunosuppression. Six months later, high-dose IVIG infusions were continued [4] with minimal effect. Worsening tetra-paresis, absolute dysphagia, impaired cough, and inability to manage salivary secretions led to massive aspiration pneumonia. The man developed acute respiratory insufficiency, septic shock, and multiorgan failure, and died 13 months after the onset of DM.

Conclusion: Worsening myopathy, typical skin lesions, and concomitant immune-related adverse events should raise suspicion of DM in patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitors [3]. Balancing the risks of DM disease flare, malignancy, and severe infections is of paramount importance when choosing the most appropriate therapy. Patients with anti-TIF1-γ DM following immunotherapy may also manifest tetra-paresis, dysphagia, and severe pancytopeny.

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Figure 1. Skin lesions. Heliotrope rash involving the face including the nasolabial folds, V-neck sign, vasculitis with microhemorrhages, periangual erythema, Gottron's papules, extensive vitiligo.

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POS0577-PARE

EVALUATION OF PATIENT SATISFACTION WITH REMOTE SELF-INJECTION TRAINING: A SINGLE-CENTRE PATIENT-REPORTED SURVEY

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Patient reported outcomes, Patient information and education

S. McCourt1, M. Andiappan2, Southen Health and Social Care Trust, Rheumatology, Craigavon, United Kingdom; 2Open Health, Real World Evidence, Marlow, United Kingdom

Background: Subcutaneous self-injection of methotrexate (SC MTX) is used for the treatment of several inflammatory diseases. All newly initiated patients should be educated and trained in the proper injection technique by their healthcare provider (HCP), with the first injection performed under medical supervision. This training has typically been conducted during face-to-face consultations, however, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic it has been necessary to conduct training remotely due to the cancellation of clinics.

Objectives: To understand patient-reported experiences and satisfaction with remote SC MTX self-injection training.

Methods: A cross-sectional electronic survey was administered between 11 October 2022 and 30 November 2022 to patients at Southern Health and Social Care Trust who had recently been trained via telephone or video conference (VC) on how to self-inject methotrexate using a pre-filled, auto-injector pen. Patients were aged ≥18 with a range of arthritis types, including rheumatoid, psoriatic, polyarticular juvenile idiopathic and chronic reactive inflammatory arthritis. Remote training was delivered by the patient’s nurse as per routine practice (independently of this survey). Patients were sent a patient information pack (PIP) prior to the training consultation. During the training, the nurse discussed the process of injecting with the auto-injector pen before virtually supervising the first injection. The survey consisted of 14 questions; topics included experiences and satisfaction with preparation for the HCP appointment, the training consultation itself and post-training experiences and preferences. The responses were analysed descriptively on an item-by-item basis.

Results: In total 73 patients completed the survey; 77% (n=56/73) were female, and 96% (n=70/73) had no prior experience with a SC MTX auto-injector pen. The training was completed by telephone for 92% (n=67/73) of patients and by VC for 8% (n=6/73). 99% (n=72/73) received a PIP in advance of their training consultation and 92% (n=67/73) received this by post. 67% (n=49/73) of patients...
strongly agreed and 26% (n=19/73) agreed that they felt prepared for the training after receiving the PIP, 78% (n=57/73) of patients strongly agreed and 22% (n=16/73) agreed that it was easy to read and understand, whilst 52% (n=38/73) strongly agreed and 48% (n=36/73) agreed that the PIP was helpful and did not require additional instructions before the appointment. 84% (n=61/73) took 15 minutes or less to complete the training with their HCP. None of the participants felt confused or did not understand the training instructions from their HCP, 78% (n=57/73) strongly agreed and 19% (n=14/73) agreed that the remote training was helpful and made them feel more confident to use the injector pen on their own and 97% (n=71/73) did not need to contact and HCP for continuing training or advice following their appointment. When asked about the main advantages of remote training, 32% (n=23/73) agreed it was more convenient, 25% (n=18/73) agreed that it was time saving and 30% (n=22/73) agreed that not having to attend the hospital was beneficial. 85% (n=62/73) strongly agreed and 14% (n=10/73) agreed that they were satisfied with the remote training provided and 82% (n=66/73) strongly agreed and 18% (n=13/73) agreed that they would recommend the remote training to another patient.

Conclusion: These findings provide new insight into patients’ experiences with self-injection training when delivered remotely by their HCP. The patient information pack and training consultation were well received as most patients found it helpful, convenient and time saving.

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POS0575-PARE IMPROVED EDUCATION IS NEEDED FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: INSIGHTS FROM A SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Descriptive Studies, Patient information and education

J. Barbosa1, C. Henning2, A. Mian3, C. Harrison4, E. Scott5, S. Burris6. 1GSK, Medical Affairs Excellence, Dublin, Ireland; 2GSK, Global Medical Affairs, Durham, NC, United States of America; 3GSK, Global Medical Affairs, Brentford, United Kingdom; 4LupusChat, NIA, New York, NY, United States of America; 5Lupus Research Alliance, N/A, New York, NY, United States of America; 6GSK, Value, Evidence and Outcomes, Collegeville, PA, United States of America

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease affecting multiple organs, including the kidneys in lupus nephritis (LN) [1]. Individuals living with SLE have impaired quality-of-life compared with the general population [1], and a growing number are using social media for health-related information [2]. Thus, social media is a useful source of data to examine their experiences and concerns [3].

Objectives: To understand the perspective of individuals living with SLE/LN on their disease management and to assess where they seek information, how their personal perspective impacts their care, and what might be needed to improve care/experience.

Methods: This qualitative analysis used the Sprinklr social media listening tool to search historical posts across 11 countries, including the USA, the UK and Japan, between May 2021 and February 2022, using predefined keywords. Main data sources were Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, Facebook, Weibo and SLE-specialised websites. Publicly shared posts relating to SLE/LN were captured and key themes were analysed.

Results: Overall, 23,084 posts were exported; of these, 12,037 were in scope and mentioned SLE/LN disease and/or therapeutics. Of the 12,037 posts, 6424 were produced by individuals with SLE/LN, which was not described in the supplementary information. The remaining 226 posts did not add any value to the analysis and were not considered. From analysis of the posts, many individuals with SLE/LN appeared to understand their condition and could identify symptoms (e.g., SLE: pain, fatigue, rash; LN: foamy urine, blood creatinine). However, there was a lack of knowledge of diagnostic and disease monitoring tests such as anti-nuclear antibody tests. Individuals with SLE/LN also described not receiving enough explanation of their laboratory results. Based on the posts, physicians focus on measurable disease activity and clinical trial data did not resonate with individuals with SLE/LN. Quality-of-life and patient-reported outcomes would be the preferred focus of discussion and may improve perception of their care. Individuals with SLE/LN reported being busy and symptoms of their disease (e.g., too tired or forget to take their medication) as reasons for poor adherence.

According to the posts, the most used SLE/LN drugs included methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), prednisone, mycophenolate mofetil and azathioprine. Individuals with SLE/LN generally had positive sentiment towards their individual standard therapies (except for HCQ). Awareness of long-term side effects was generally high; however, some individuals with SLE/LN were not aware that long-term use of steroids may contribute to organ damage. Individuals with SLE/LN reported many barriers preventing them from focusing on long-term goals of disease management and achieving better outcomes, including a needed shift in focus from short-term to long-term improvements. It could also help address discordance between physicians and individuals with SLE/LN on medication decision-making and adherence [4]. It is vital to consider known health disparities when providing education, as barriers such as racial discrimination have been associated with increased SLE disease activity and organ damage [5]. A change in care and clinical trials towards more collaborative and patient-centric care could also improve adherence and outcomes.

REFERENCES:

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POS0575-PARE REUMA REGIE, SELF-MANAGEMENT TRAINING BY AND FOR PATIENTS

Keywords: Patient information and education, Self-management

A. Marchal1, J. De Reu1, N. Creten1. 1ReumaNet, ReumaNet, Zaventem, Belgium

Background: No self-management training for people with RMDs exists yet in Belgium. In its vision, ReumaNet is convinced that patients’ expertise adds great value in several areas. This includes self-management. Instead of consulting external organisations, ReumaNet developed a self-management training by the patient experts themselves. The training is based on the major themes identified in the study by J. Ammerlaan, et al “Self-management in patients with RA: a qualitative study from the patient’s perspective” and takes into account the recommendations for the implementation of self-management strategies drawn up by EULAR in June 2021.

Objectives: The aim of the training is for participants to gather the ability to understand their disease and cope with practical, physical and psychological consequences linked to their RMD.

Methods: The training is structured based on the patient journey: each person with an RMD goes through a number of stages as part of coping with his/her condition. This patient journey is the common thread throughout the training; a simple and efficient tool to guide patients towards their final goal. Via reflection and exercises, participants can identify their personal obstacles and challenges and are empowered to face daily challenges, due to their RMD. The training takes the form of a four-day training with an overnight stay, because we are convinced that ‘taking a break from the daily routine’ can provide sufficient distance, both literally and figuratively, for self-reflection. Moreover, there is then extra space for interaction with the group atmosphere. There is also the possibility of delving deeper into certain topics during a short evening session, should participants feel the need. During this four-day course in March2023, we provide 18 hours of training, using professional insights (i.e. webinars with specialists, certified return to work coordinator
Results: During the training, the participants get enough tools to be able to steer their mindset in a more positive way, by actively dealing with challenges linked to their specific condition, i.e. good sleep quality, self-care, dealing with stress, fatigue and pain. Also provided tools in the context of communication, bringing in necessary help and social support, sexuality and professional reintegration empower participants to take matters into their own hands. Over all, participants are empowered to face their own challenges in daily life. They gather the ability to understand their disease and cope with practical, physical and psychological consequences.

Conclusion: No such training exists yet in Belgium and there is a high demand for it. We will repeat this self-management training annually. In addition, we are looking for other ways to organise this training: online, or via (semi-) daily training days for example.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3076

POS0580-PARE PATIENT ADHERENCE TO OSTEOPOROSIS TREATMENT IS HIGHER WITH CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Keywords: Patient information and education, Best practices, Osteoporosis

Background: Treatment adherence to osteoporosis treatment remains low. Additional factors: the elderly age of patients, congestive disorders, high comorbidity, fears of side effects of drugs, fear of calcium deposits in the vessels, kidneys and gallbladder, the absence of obvious clinical manifestations of the disease lead to refusal or unreasonable interruptions in therapy for osteoporosis.

Objectives: To analyze the treatment adherence to osteoporosis therapy of single patients, patients living in a family and patients coming to an appointment with a caring relative.

Methods: The analysis of outpatient records of 300 patients observed in the center for the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis was carried out. The study included all patients who visited the center in the period from the beginning of 2020 until reaching the enrollment of 100 people according to the ranked criterion. A total of 3 groups were recruited: 1st - single patients, N=100, 2nd - living in a family N=100, 3rd - coming to an appointment with a caring relative/social worker, N=100. The following were assessed: the completeness of the examination, the frequency of subsequent visits, adherence to therapy and the result of treatment according to densitometry data and repeated fractures. The observation period is 3 years. Patients who did not come to the follow-up examination (DXA) after 3 years were excluded from the study.

Results: 15.7% (47 people) withdrew from the study due to non-appearance for return visits. When calling patients, it was found that 6% (18 people) were going to start treatment, but did not start for various reasons, 9.7% (29) did not start but did not start for various reasons, 7.5% (19) started taking vitamin D and continued to take it until the package was over, 5% (15 people) started taking vitamin D preparations (patients from 9.7% of the above) and calcium preparations were taken from 1 to 3 months, after which they stopped taking them, considering that the course of treatment was completed. 2.3% (7 people) died within 3 years from various causes (4 out of 1 gr, 1 out of 2, 2 out of 3). The final statistical analysis included 246 people. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Single patients</th>
<th>Living in a family</th>
<th>N=87, 100%</th>
<th>With a caring relative/ social worker, N=94, 100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=246</td>
<td>Have passed a full examination</td>
<td>31; 47.7%</td>
<td>60; 69%</td>
<td>89; 94.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attended all consultations or called</td>
<td>20; 30.7%</td>
<td>56; 64.4%</td>
<td>92; 97.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wrote to the doctor</td>
<td>18; 27.7%</td>
<td>61; 70.1%</td>
<td>84; 89.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treatment adherence to basic therapy</td>
<td>32; 49.2%</td>
<td>76; 87.4%</td>
<td>92; 97.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treatment adherence to pathoge- netic therapy</td>
<td>26; 39.7%</td>
<td>63; 73.7%</td>
<td>95; 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive dynamics, including DRA</td>
<td>27; 36.9%</td>
<td>52; 59.8%</td>
<td>76; 80.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A new fracture in 3 years | 4; 6.2% | 1; 1.2% | 1; 1.1% |

Conclusion: As a result of the analysis, it was confirmed that the highest adher- ence to examination and therapy was in patients who applied with a caregiver. Caregivers perceive verbal information better, seek repeated clarifications more often when questions arise about therapy and examination results, help patients solve technical problems (get to the center, purchase medicine, calculate dietary calcium, find a physical education video course). As a result of higher adherence to non-pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical treatment, the increase in bone mineral density in the 3rd group of patients was maximum. In the 1st group of patients, due to low adherence to therapy and the worst arrangement of life, by the 3rd year of observation, a higher percentage of fractures (6.2%) was revealed, differences in the frequency of fractures in the 2nd and 3rd groups over 3 years observation was not detected (1.2% and 1.1%) due to the short observa- tion period and a relatively small sample of patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0581-PARE VACCINATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFAMMATORY DISEASES, PATIENT KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS: RESULTS FROM A NORDIC SURVEY

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Health services research, Patient infor- mation and education

Background: Patients with chronic inflammatory diseases (CID) have an increased risk for contracting infections. For patients with rheumatic diseases EULAR recommends protecting them from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Objectives: To assess the knowledge and awareness of common vaccinations and extent of immunization among patients with CID in Denmark, Finland, Nor- way, Sweden (Nordics), and to identify gaps between the existing EULAR vacci- nation recommendations and current practice as experienced by patients.

Methods: A structured anonymous online survey for patients with CID (rheu- matological disease (RD), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and dermatologi- cal diseases (DD)) was conducted in 2022. The survey was answered by 1748 patients, of whom 1073 had CID. The distribution of patients across CID groups: 1031 patients with RD, 543 with IBD and 563 with DD (60% RD, 25% IBD, 15% DD).

Results: Among respondents, 89% were female and 58% had disease duration of above 10 years. In total, 56% were treated in specialised and 32% in primary care. Majority had ongoing systemic immunosuppressive treatment (IT) (65%). Majority of RD (59%) and IBD (66%) patients were treated in specialised care whereas minority of DD patients (38%) were treated in specialised care. Forty-nine percent (49%) responded that their healthcare professional (HCP) did not inform them about the increased risk of infection – however, 55% of the respondents believed...
they are somewhat or much more likely to suffer from infections than those without CID or treatment, 33% thought there is no difference and 13% did not know there is a difference. In total 68% of respondents considered it important to get vaccinated due to CID or IT. The number was particularly high in RD group (74%), although 63% stated they had not received any information regarding vaccinations at the start of their treatment. Commonly recommended vaccinations by the HCP were COVID 19 (66%), influenza (63%) and pneumococcal (45%) vaccination. When comparing respondents ≥65 and <65 years, there was a difference in how often the influenza (71% vs. 57%) and pneumococcal (57% vs. 38%), but not COVID 19 COVID vaccine (68%) were recommended. In total, 74% and 75% of respondents receiving IT were recommended influenza and COVID 19 vaccination, respectively. In total, 22% had their vaccination status checked before initiating treatment; the lowest percentage was in DD (16%) and the highest in RD (25%). However, 44% of respondents received influenza vaccination before initiation of treatment. Moreover, 62% and 74% of respondents received influenza and COVID 19 vaccination while on treatment, respectively. Eighty-six percent (86%) did not receive a vaccination plan in relation to their CID and treatment. Moreover, 64% of the respondents (RD 57%; DD 71% and IBD 66%) did not have vaccination status assessed on a regular basis. Forty-three percent (43%) were dissatisfied with the follow-up of vaccination status by their HCP. Respondents of age ≥65 years were more satisfied than the younger ones (34% vs. 25% very satisfied) and respondents with RD were more satisfied than those with IBD or DD (33% vs. 25% vs. 20%). Forty-four percent (44%) responded that the information on vaccinations related to their CID and treatment was difficult to find and 71% would like to receive more information. The respondents with RD had different level of awareness regarding EULAR vaccination recommendations. The degree of awareness among patients with RD treated with IT are presented in Figure 1.

Conclusion: This Nordic survey provides insights on patients' information needs, information sources and own experiences related to recommendations on vaccinations in relation to their CID and IT. The results confirm a gap between patients' expectations and needs vs. the information they actually receive. Our findings demonstrate a need for increased awareness among patients, providers and HCP regarding EULAR vaccination recommendations in patients with RD.

REFERENCE:
Background: Growing evidence points to considerable mental health impacts of the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, though data from longitudinal studies in rheumatic diseases are sparse.

Objectives: We explored distinct trajectories of depressive symptoms in the year prior to and throughout the first 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic in adults with RA.

Methods: CATCH is a prospective multi-center study of adults with early RA (symptoms <1 year; 81% met 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria at enrolment) who receive care from rheumatologists across Canada. Prior to the pandemic, participants completed PROs and rheumatologists conducted RA assessments during scheduled in-person study visits. After March 2020, ongoing collection of PROs continued at in-person and remote visits. We used group-based trajectory modeling to identify latent groups with at least mild depression (PROMIS 4a depression score ≥55) in participants with ≥1 visits in the year prior to the pandemic (3/19-2/20) and ≥1 visits during pandemic (3/20-1/22) and identified prepandemic individual and clinical characteristics and PROs associated with each trajectory.

Results: The analytic sample included 989 participants with a mean (SD) age of 60 (14) and disease duration of 6 (4) years. 73% were women, 84% while 30% had completed some post-secondary education, and 77% were in CDAI REM/LDA at visit closest to the start of pandemic. The best model included 4 groups (posterior probabilities ≥0.80 for each group): 1) Resilient (non-mild depressive symptom through: N=594; 60%); 2) Worsening (non/mild to mild: N=222;22%); Improving (mid-RESIL: N=80;8%); and Persistent (Moderate-severe through: N=56;59%)(Figure 1). As compared with the Resilient group, those with Worsening Depression were more likely to be female, have a higher prepandemic CDAI, MD and patient global, and report worse pain, disability, anxiety, depression, fatigue, sleep disturbance, and lower participation (Table 1).

Conclusion: Although 60% of Canadian RA patients had consistently good mental health during the first 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 1 in 5 reported deteriorating mood suggesting a cumulative impact over time; 9% had persistent depression and 8% improving mood. The proportion of adults with RA with at least mild symptoms of depression may be more than twice that reported for the general Canadian population. Participants with worsening depressive symptoms during the pandemic were more likely to be female, have higher prepandemic disease activity, symptoms, disability, and higher impairments in participation. Given the impact of depression on quality of life, inflammation, and disease management, vulnerable groups may benefit from more frequent evaluation and additional support from rheumatologists.

Acknowledgements: CATCH was designed and implemented by the investigators and financially supported through unrestricted research grants from: Amgen and Pfizer Canada since 2007; AbbVieCanada since 2011; Medexus since 2013; Sandoz Canada since 2019; Fresenius Kabi Canada since 2021; Organon Canada since 2021. Previous funding from Hoffman La Roche (2011-21); Sanofi Genzyme (2016-7); Eli Lilly Canada (2016-20); Merck Canada (2017-21) and; Gilead Sciences Canada (2020-21).

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HPR Interventions (educational, physical, social and psychological)

POS0585-HPR
EFFECTIVENESS OF INSPIRATORY MUSCLE TRAINING ON AEROBIC CAPACITY, RESPIRATORY FUNCTION AND RESPIRATORY MUSCLE STRENGTH IN CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: A SINGLE-BLINDER RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Keywords: Therapy and physical therapy, Randomized control trial, Lungs

D. C. Saraç,1 D. Bayraktar1, D. Ozer Kaya1, O. Altug-Gucenmez2, D. Oskay3.
1Izmir Katip Celebi University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; 2University of Health Sciences, Dr. Behyet Uz Pediatric Diseases and Surgery Training and Research Hospital, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 3Gazi University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) may present lower aerobic capacity, lung volumes, and respiratory muscle strength compared to their healthy peers [1].

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the effectiveness of inspiratory muscle training (IMT) on aerobic capacity, lung volumes, respiratory muscle strength, functional capacity, and quality of life in children with JIA.

Methods: Thirty-three children with JIA who were on the same biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs for at least three months were included and divided into two groups as exercise group (n=17, mean age: 15.1±2.2 years, 12 male) and control group (n=16, mean age: 15.7±1.6 years, 11 male). Exercise group performed IMT daily for eight weeks. Initial IMT load was set as the 60% of maximal inspiratory pressure (Pi max) and was increased by 10 every two weeks. Control group received no additional intervention. Forced vital capacity

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>60 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>173 (76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>194 (85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &gt; high school</td>
<td>143 (64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDCI (exc. depressed)</td>
<td>1.2 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>6.7 (8.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVV</td>
<td>196 (97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX only</td>
<td>153 (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologic or JAK</td>
<td>43 (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids</td>
<td>36 (16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Global</td>
<td>3.3 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Anxiety &gt;55</td>
<td>97 (44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Depression &gt;55</td>
<td>83 (37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Fatigue &gt;55</td>
<td>83 (37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Pain &gt;55</td>
<td>125 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Physical Function &gt;55</td>
<td>132 (59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Participation &gt;55</td>
<td>107 (48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Sleep Problems &gt;55</td>
<td>62 (28)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SIG
Worsening: N=222 (22%) Resilient: N=596 (60%) Improving: N=80 (8%) Persistent: N=93 (9%)

PROMIS Physical Function <45132 (59%) 238 (40%) 51 (64%) 78 (84%) <0.001
PROMIS Pain >55 125 (56%) 187 (31%) 55 (69%) 76 (82%) <0.001
PROMIS Fatigue >55 83 (37%) 94 (16%) 42 (53%) 74 (86%) <0.001
PROMIS Anxiety >55 97 (44%) 58 (73%) 86 (92%) <0.001
Patient Global 3.1 (2.4) 1.2 (2.1) 3.9 (2.9) 5.3 (2.7) <0.001
PROMIS Anxiety >55 97 (44%) 44 (77%) 86 (92%) <0.001
PROMIS Depression >55 83 (37%) 37 (12) 70 (88%) 90 (97%) <0.001
PROMIS Fatigue >55 83 (37%) 94 (16%) 42 (53%) 74 (86%) <0.001
PROMIS Pain >55 125 (56) 187 (31%) 55 (69%) 76 (82%) <0.001
PROMIS Physical Function >55 132 (59) 238 (40%) 51 (64%) 78 (84%) <0.001
PROMIS Participation >55 107 (48) 141 (24) 49 (61%) 72 (77%) <0.001
PROMIS Sleep Problems >55 62 (28) 88 (15%) 33 (41) 54 (54%) <0.001

Figure 1.

Table 1.
HPR Patients’ perspectives, functioning and health (descriptive: qualitative or quantitative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Experience</th>
<th>Qualitative Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarcopenia</td>
<td>Decreased muscle mass and strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>Increased fatigue and reduced physical activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Life</td>
<td>Decreased quality of life due to restricted mobility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objectives: To describe the prevalence of sarcopenia and identity risk factors associated with sarcopenia in patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) older than 65 years.

Methods: Design: Case-control study. Participants: Cases: They were recruited by simple random sampling among patients over 65 years of age with SpA (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria) treated at 2 university hospitals. Controls: They were recruited for convenience by asking the cases to attend a consultation with a person of the same age (+/- 5 years) and sex. Variables: The main variable: sarcopenia, defined according to the European Working Group on Sarcopenia in Older People (EWGSOPII) 2019 criteria. The risk factors for sarcopenia evaluated were: demographic, economic level, malnutrition, measured with the Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA), toxic habits, comorbidities and Charlson index, physical activity measured with the Global Physical Activity Questionnaire (GPAQ) and Short Physical Performance Battery (SPPB), muscle assessment measured by ultrasound. Other variables were: hemoglobin, calcium, vitamins D and B12, albumin, C-reactive protein, BMI (body mass index), polypharmacy (≥5), quality of life (EQ-5D) and factors related to SpA: activity of disease measured with BASDAI and ASDAS, physical function measured with BASFI, and treatments. Statistical analysis: descriptive and multivariate analysis was performed to identify factors associated with sarcopenia in SpA.

Results: 36 patients and 36 controls were recruited, of whom 54 (75%) were men, with a mean (± SD) age of 70 years (±4.37). Of the 36 patients with SpA, 20 (55.6%) had axial SpA and 15 (44.5%) had SpA with axial and peripheral involvement with a mean of 32 years (±10.9) of disease. The prevalence of sarcopenia in patients with SpA is 8.3%. No differences were found in sarcopenia between patients [3.8%/33%] and controls [12.8%], p=0.614. Patients with SpA who had sarcopenia, compared with those who did not, had a mean years of evolution of their major disease [45.6 (s.3)] vs 31.6 (± 10.5), p=0.024; worse performance tests in the Short Physical Performance Battery (p=0.026), in relation to ultrasound parameters, a lower thickness was observed in the right forearm 75% radial and left forearm 66% radial [11.10 vs 14, 7(2.4)], p=0.17 and left rectus femoris area [11.5(2.4) vs 15.4(2.8)], p=0.26, greater thigh fat right to 50% [25.6(4.7) Vs 15.2(8.3)], p=0.041 and lower albumin [14, 7(2.4)] Vs 15.4(2.8), p=0.17 and left rectus femoris area [11.5(2.4) vs 15.4(2.8)], p=0.053. On the other hand, no significant differences were found in the rest of the parameters studied for disease activity, disability, quality of life (EQ-5D), malnutrition, toxic habits, comorbidities or physical activity. In the multivariate model, the years of disease evolution (p=0.041) Table 1 were identified as an independent predictor of sarcopenia in patients with SpA. This model would explain 33% of sarcopenia in RA (R2=0.37).

Conclusion: In our study we found no differences in sarcopenia in patients older than 65 years with SpA compared to controls. The longer evolution time of their disease in patients with SpA is associated with a greater risk of sarcopenia.
All variables expressed as median/IQR. BP: blood pressure; sUA: serum uric acid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Basal</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>87 (73-99)</td>
<td>85.4 (77-96.3)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal circumference (cm)</td>
<td>107 (102-116)</td>
<td>108 (103-116)</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systolic BP (mm Hg)</td>
<td>151 (133-162)</td>
<td>142.5 (124.8-155)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic BP (mm Hg)</td>
<td>88.5 (76.3-95)</td>
<td>78.5 (70-86.8)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sUA (mg/dl)</td>
<td>7.7 (6.6-8.8)</td>
<td>4.5 (4.1-5.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Anthropometric, blood pressure and serum uric acid changes 6 months after the first visit.

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P. De Groot1, J. Luime1, M. Vis1, M. R. Koić1, I. Tchetchelnikov1. 1Erasmus University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2Maasstad Hospital, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 3Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Rheumatology, Dordrecht, Netherlands

Background: During times of social-distancing, in-person outpatient visits were greatly reduced. Health care professionals (HCPs) were dependent on the patient’s reported experience of their disease activity in their assessments of the wellbeing and inflammatory state, due to lack of physical assessments. Digital biomarkers can support real-world continuous measurements and offer a method for remote quantification of inflammatory joint disease. They are defined as objective, quantifiable, physiological and behavioural data that are collected and measured with digital devices [1].

Objectives: This study uncovers the HCPs perspective on current manners of disease activity monitoring, easing their workload and the potential of digital biomarkers.

Methods: A Design Thinking approach is followed for digital biomarker development. It is a human-centered problem solving approach that leverages iteration, empathy and collective idea generation to tackle complex challenges [2]. Semi-structured online focus group discussions were conducted. Pilot 1-1 interviews were executed to assess the interview script. The script is underpinned by the graphical framework for clinical decision making [3] and the theoretical domain framework [4]. One moderator and three alternating observers facilitated the sessions. All interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed to verbatim and coded.

Results: In total 6 focus groups were organised, with a total of 28 HCPs. Participants were rheumatologists (N= 19, age 47 ± 9, 50% male) and rheumatology nurses (N= 9, age 51 ± 6, 0% male). The main findings from the interviews about digital biomarkers in relation to current practices were: Trust; HCPs felt self-assured about their own abilities of physical evaluation, reading patients and their gut feeling. Trust in flare detection with digital biomarkers and machine learning was low. It was expected that much disease activity is missed and many false-positive flares are detected. Biomarkers should be valid, reliable and sensitive to change. Innovation should improve quality of care; No consensus about a golden standard of care exists. HCPs were afraid that with digital biomarkers personal interaction recedes to the background and quality of care is compromised. Personal interaction was marked as essential to raise sensitive topics and stimulate therapy adherence. Benefits of digital biomarkers; HCPs enjoyed the delivery of efficient and effective care. They disliked repetition and the high administrative burden. In the HCPs opinion digital biomarkers could establish disease activity prior to the consultation, so time could be spent on what matters to the patient. New technologies should however not add to frustrations and make way for things that really matter.

Conclusion: The following problem statement from the HCPs perspective can be formulated: “In limited time we take many actions. We spend time on both disease and emotional support of our patients. Our workload is high and trivial tasks such as administration take too much of our time. Instead we want to focus on what’s relevant to the patient. We are confident about our own abilities and, only if technology is proven to be valuable, valid, reliable and accepted by our patients it can be used in clinical practice.”

Keywords: Biomarkers, Health services research, Qualitative research methods
Objectives: the needs of this specific subgroup.

or deformities and/or comorbidities. More insight into the nature and severity of

functional limitations due to persistently high disease activity, joint destruction

a subgroup of people with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) who have considerable

hygiene (42%) and Reaching (28%), followed by Usual activities and Eating (15%)

portion of patients with a maximum score of 3 were seen in the domains Personal

in 6 domains and the minority (11%, n=24) in 5 or less domains. The highest pro-

Figure 1 .The median number of domains with a score ≥1 was 8 (range 3-8, IQR

ing no/some/much difficulty or inability to perform everyday activities are shown in

The median total HAQ-DI score was 1.5 (1.1-1.9). The majority (83%, n=179) had a

EQ-5D-5L index and EQ-VAS were 0.6 (0.3-0.7) and 59 (41-70), respectively.

Results: Baseline data from people with RA and severe functional limitations, identified by the Health

Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI).

Methods: Baseline data from people with RA and severe limitations in physical functioning participating in a randomized controlled trial on the (cost-)effectiveness of longstanding physical therapy as compared to usual care [1] were used. Patients completed the HAQ-DI (Dutch version)[2, 3], a reliable, valid and widely used questionnaire reflecting problems in activities of daily living and consisting of 20 items divided over eight domains (Dressing and grooming, Arising, Eating, Walking, Personal hygiene, Reaching, Gripping and Usual activities). Each item is scored on a 4-point scale ranging from 0 to 3 (no difficulty - severe disability). This preliminary data analysis does not yet take into account the use of assistance/assistive devices. Gender, age, sex and disease duration were recorded, and the EuroQol 5 Dimensions 5 Levels (EQ-5D-5L) administered for health related quality of life (HRQoL) (Single index score (<0.446-1.000), and visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS, 0-100), higher scores indicating better HRQoL).

References:


Acknowledgements: This project is financially supported by Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw; 855004018), Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS), the Royal Dutch Society for Physical Therapy (KNGF) and the Dutch Arthritis Society (ReumaNederland).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Mean HAQ-DI scores for each HAQ-DI domain and the percentage of patients that reported to have either no/some/much difficulty or unable to perform everyday activities represented for each domain.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.353
scheduled visit. Anchor-based analyses (using the American College of Rheumatology [ACR] response criteria and PsA Disease Activity Score [PsDAS]) and distribution-based analyses (one standard error of measurement, and half the baseline standard deviation [SSD]) were used to determine responder thresholds at Wk 16. The maximum Youden index values from the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analyses (using PsDAS and Disease Activity Index for PsA [DAPSA] scores as anchors; Figure 1) were used to determine disease activity thresholds.

**Results:** In 1,252 pts, mean (SD) PsAID-12 total score decreased from 4.19 (1.94) at BL to 2.65 (2.02) at Wk 16. Single-item domain scores ranged from 1.34 (2.13) for depression to 5.56 (2.26) for pain at BL, and from 0.91 (1.80) for depression to 3.76 (2.51) for pain at Wk 16. The Wk 16 responder threshold for the PsAID-12 total score was identified as a 2-point decrease. For 8 PsAID-12 single-item domain scores, Wk 16 responder thresholds were identified as 3-point decreases. For the remaining 4 single-item domains (anxiety, fear and uncertainty; embarrassment and/or shame; social participation; depression), responder thresholds could not be determined due to floor effects at BL (absence of these symptoms in a high proportion of pts). Disease activity thresholds for the PsAID-12 total score were identified: ≤1.15, >1.15–≤1.95, >1.95–≤3.60 and >3.60 for Remission, Low, Moderate and High Disease Activity, respectively (Figure 1). Disease activity thresholds for PsAID-12 single-item domain scores are reported in the Table 1.**

**Conclusion:** This analysis defined responder and disease activity thresholds for the PsAID-12 total score and most single-item domain scores, which can be used to assess treatment efficacy and disease impact in pts with PsA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Disease activity threshold estimates for PsAID-12 total and single-item domain scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Remission</th>
<th>Low Disease Activity</th>
<th>Moderate Disease Activity</th>
<th>High Disease Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total score</td>
<td>≤1.15</td>
<td>&gt;1.15—≤1.95</td>
<td>&gt;1.95—≤3.60</td>
<td>&gt;3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-item domain score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>≤2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin problems</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work and/ or leisure activities</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional capacity</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discomfort</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep disturbance</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coping</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety, fear and uncertainty</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embarrassment and/o/ shame</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social participation</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>≥5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations:** DAPSA: Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis; PASDAS: Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score; PsAID-12: Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease-12; ROC: Receiver Operating Characteristic.

**Figure 1.**

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**REFERENCES:**


**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Fenton1,2,3,4, S. Allen1,2,3, C. O’brien3, A. Rowlands3, J. Dutia3, J. Veldhuizen van Zanten3,4, G. Metsios4, L. Breen2,3, J. Lord3,2, C. Greig1,1. University of Birmingham, School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 2National Institute for Health Research, Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 3MRC-Versus Arthritis Centre for Musculoskeletal Ageing Research, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 4Russells Hall Hospital, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Dudley, United Kingdom; 5University of Surrey, School of Psychology, Surrey, United Kingdom; 6University of Leicester, Diabetes Research Centre, Leicester General Hospital, Leicester, United Kingdom; 7NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre, Leicester General Hospital, Leicester, United Kingdom; 8University of Thessaly, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Thessaly, Greece; 9University of Birmingham, Institute of Inflammation and Ageing, Birmingham, United Kingdom

**Background:** Research-grade accelerometers are commonly used to measure physical activity (PA) in rheumatology research, demonstrating superior reliability and validity relative to self-report methods. Several accelerometers support manufacturer software and embedded proprietary algorithms to reduce the complexities of data processing. However, algorithms vary between device brands, and hinder standardisation of data processing and analysis. Best practice in PA research is now therefore considered to be the collection and analysis of raw accelerometer data, to which transparent and replicable data transformation methods can be carried out post-processing. Novel metrics include average acceleration, intensity gradient, and MX metrics, which represent PA volume, intensity and patterns, and have not been examined in rheumatic diseases.

**Objectives:** To explore the utility of novel accelerometer metrics for characterising clinical features in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), i.e. disease activity and severity, cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk.

**Methods:** People living with RA (n = 104) provided demographic data, medical history, a fasted blood sample, and completed the health assessment questionnaire (HAQ, disease severity). Disease activity was measured using the Disease Activity Score 28-CDPAS (DAS28-CDPAS), and CVD risk determined using the QRISK3. Participants wore a GT3X Actigraph accelerometer on their right hip for 7-days during waking hours. Accelerometer data were analysed using GGIR (v.2.1-1) to determine average acceleration (AA, mg, proxy for daily volume of PA), intensity gradient (IG = distribution of PA across the day) and MX metrics (acceleration above which a person’s most active “X” mins are accumulated e.g., M5 = most active 5 mins). A higher AA and more positive IG indicate a
favourable activity profile. Statistical analyses: Participants were grouped according to DAS28-CRP (remission = <2.6, low = 2.6 - 3.1, moderate = 3.2 - 5.1, high = >5.1) disease severity (HAQ; low = <1, moderate = 1 - 1.9, high = ≥2) and QRI3K (low = <10%, moderate = 10 - 19%, high = ≥20%). Between group differences in AA and IG were analysed using analysis of variance, adjusted for accelerometer wear time. Radar plots were produced in R, to illustrate differences in MX metrics according to clinical features.

Results: Valid accelerometer data (≥10hr on ≥4 days), were available for n = 102 participants (M ±SD, AA = 13.7 ±5.2 mg, IG = 2.91±4.36). Participants in remission and with low CVD risk, demonstrated a better activity profile (i.e. [M ±SE, all p<0.05] significantly higher AA [DAS28-CRP = 17.9 ±1.1; QRI3K = AA = 15.4 ±0.6] and more positive IG [DAS28-CRP = 2.62 ±0.07, QRI3K = 2.80 ±0.04], compared to patients with moderate or high disease activity and CVD risk (DAS28-CRP [moderate, AA = 12.8 ±0.6, IG = -2.99±0.04] and [high, AA = 112 ±1.1, IG = -3.07±0.08], QRI3K [moderate, AA = 12.0 ±1.0, IG = -3.0 ±0.07] and [high AA = 10.3 ±1.1, IG = -3.16 ±0.08]). For disease severity IG was significantly more positive in patients with low (<2.78 ±0.05) vs. high (>3.10 ±0.08) HAQ scores. Radar plots (Figure 1) showed the intensity of the most active accumulated 2-45 mins (M2-M45) was greater (with M10 exceeding 75mg) among participants with better disease profiles (i.e. remission/low DAS28-CRP, HAQ and QRI3K scores vs. moderate/high).

Conclusion: This is the first study to demonstrate the clinical utility of novel accelerometer metrics in RA. Results suggest higher AA, more positive IGs, and accumulating ≥10 mins at an intensity indicative of a slow walk (M10 >75m), is characteristic of more favourable disease profiles. Future studies utilising these raw accelerometer metrics could provide valuable, standardised accelerometer data that can be used to deliver more personalised care (i.e. prescription medicine).

Acknowledgements:

Figure 1.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

References:

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POS0593-HPR PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS FOOT DISEASE ACTIVITY INDEX (RADAIF5) AS A SCREENING TOOL FOR FOOT-RELATED DISABILITY

Keywords: Outcome measures, Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis

A. Hoque1, M. Steultjens1, D. Dickson1, G. Hendry1, 1Glasgow Caledonian University, Podiatry and Radiography, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Background: Impaired foot function in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) can contribute to impairment and disability during daily activities [1]. RA foot disability has been studied extensively, although foot disease activity and its association with future foot impairment have not. The Rheumatoid Arthritis Foot Disease Activity Index (RADAIF5) is a clinically feasible, valid, and reliable patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) that can be employed with the DAS-28 to evaluate RA foot disease activity [2].

Methods: We gathered the follow-up data of 1,000 patients treated with biDMARDs (etanercept, adalimumab, golimumab, infliximab, abatacept, and tocilizumab) from KRRD. Patients were recruited from public hospitals in Kuwait between February 2013 to September 2022. Remission (DAS-28 less than 2.6) was predicted at 1-year follow-up using baseline clinical data obtained at the time of enrollment. Machine learning methods system (including: lasso, ridge, support vector machine, random forest, XGBoost, and Shapley additive explanation (SHAP)) were used for the predictions.

Results: The ranges for accuracy and area under the receiver operating characteristic of the newly developed machine learning model for predicting remission were 52.8–72.9% and 0.463–0.719, respectively. The Shapley plot in XAI showed that the impacts of the variables on predicting remission differed for each biDMARD. The most important features were age for adalimumab, rheumatoid factor for etanercept, erythrocyte sedimentation rate for infliximab and golimumab, disease duration for abatacept, and C-reactive protein for tocilizumab, with mean SHAP values of −0.250, −0.234, −0.514, −0.227, −0.804, and 0.135, respectively.

Conclusion: Our proposed machine learning model system successfully identified critical features that were predictive of remission in each of the biDMARDS. This approach may be useful for improving treatment outcomes by identifying clinical information related to remissions in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Acknowledgements: I would like to acknowledge Kuwait Registry for Rheumatic Diseases (KRRD), for providing us the needed data.

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Methods: This study drew its data from a randomised controlled trial comparing prefabricated versus customised foot orthoses for RA patients [3]. At baseline, six months, and 12 months, the patients' disability levels were examined using the Foot Function Index disability subscale (FFI-DS). The newly created RADAI-FS was gath- ered at baseline, one week, and six months. In the absence of recognised threshold cut-off values, the median split method was utilized to dichotomize FFI-DS scores for poor and mild foot disability at 12 months. Two consecutive occurrences of moder- ate-high foot disease (RADAI-FS > 3.45) at baseline and six months constituted poor foot disease activity. The predictive value of foot disability at 12 months was investigated using IBM SPSS linear binary logistic regression analysis controlling for baseline foot disability scores. The odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were obtained, and a significance level of p < 0.05 was established.

Results: 51 patients, 36 of whom were female, with a mean [standard deviation, ±SD] age of 53.5 [±12.18] and disease duration of 8.34 [±6.57] years completed the 6-month and 12-month FFI follow-ups. At baseline and 6 months, mean [±SD] RADAI-FS scores were 5.56 [± 2.07] and 4.12 [± 2.54], respectively. At 0 and 6 months, 75.2% and 52.5% of the sample, respectively, had moderate-high foot disease activity, whereas at 12 months, the prevalence of poor foot disability was 48.6%. Binary logistic regression identified that having two consecutive episodes of moderate-high foot disease was an independent predictor of foot poor disabil- ity at 12(OR=3.44, 95% CI= 1.04-11.40, p < 0.05).

Conclusion: The RADAI-FS is an accurate predictor of foot-related disability. In clinical practice, the RADAI-FS may be used as a screening tool to identify individuals who are at risk for persistent foot disability. Combining the RADAI-FS with common physical outcome measures can improve the prediction of foot impairment.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0595-HPR WILLOINGNESS TO USE REMOTE CARE AMONG PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Telemedicine

E. E. Kvernberg Thomasson1, A. T. Tveter1, I. J. Berg2, E. Kristianslund2, N. Osteras1, 1Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Rehabilitation in Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 2Zurich University of Applied Sciences, European University of Lefke, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Lefke, Turkey; 1Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway

Background: Remote care is an alternative to standard care for patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and may facilitate accurate and timely manage- ment of disease. However, there is limited knowledge on factors related to the patients’ willingness to use remote care.

Objectives: To assess the willingness to use remote care among patients with axSpA and compare characteristics of patients at different levels of such willingness.

Methods: We used baseline data from a randomised controlled trial on remote care of axSpA (ReMonit), Patients with a clinical axSpA diagnosis fulfill- ing ASAS-criteria for axSpA, treated with TNFi and with low disease activity (ASDAS<2.1) were recruited at a single outpatient clinic. Years since diagnosis were retrieved from medical records, and self-reported education and work status. Willingness to use remote care was measured by scoring the statement “I want to use remote care” using a 4-point Likert scale (strongly disagree – strongly agree). Patients were then divided into three groups (disagree/agree/strongly agree) based on their willingness to use remote care. eHealth Literacy was measured using three scales of the eHealth Literacy Questionnaire (eHLQ) using a 4-point Likert scale (1=strongly disagree – 4=strongly agree, 4=best score).

Results: 242 patients were included, mean age 43 years (SD 11.7) and 75 % male. Most patients were willing to use remote care (strongly agree: 53.3%; agree: 43.0% and disagree: 3.7%). Descriptive and comparative analyses between groups show a trend toward younger males with higher education and full-time employment being more willing to use remote care. Moreover, patients were assessed separately within each country-specific samples, and then across a merged sample of all three countries. A differential item function (DIF) analysis was used to assess scale stability across countries.

Conclusion: When the countries are considered separately, although slight differ- ences are apparent, the operation of the instrument appears to be very similar across Switzerland, Turkey, and the UK. Although there is a degree of scale misfit in all countries, the scale-sample targeting and the scale reliability are both excel- lent (Person Separation Index = 0.93-0.95, Cronbach’s Alpha = 0.96-0.97), and the response categories function well across all items. However, there is a large degree of inter-item dependency present, and the MAP-Hand displays apparent multidimensionality within all three countries. Additionally, some individual items display Rasch model fit to some extent, although these items are variable across the three countries. When the items were re-constructed into four testlets, this accounted for the inter-item dependency, also improving the model fit and uni- dimensionality of the scale within all three countries separately, as well as when the data is merged into a single dataset. Some significant country-DIF was observed on the ‘Dressing’ testlet (compared of items 1-3), but this was found to have no significant effect on total person score estimates. Despite the testlet re-structuring creating a narrower scale range, the scale-sample targeting and scale reliability remain high (Person Separation Index = 0.86-0.91; Cronbach’s Alpha = 0.93). It is recommended that the four-testlet structure is implemented across all three countries, as this offers a pragmatic approach to the utility and comparative scoring of the MAPHAND across the UK, Switzerland and Turkey. Although the re-structuring creates a narrower scale range and apparent reduc- tion in the reliability, this is indicative of the initial dependency that is present, and suggests that the original reliability values are over-inflated.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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with higher willingness to use remote care had good physical function, fewer years since axSpA diagnosis and high eHealth literacy (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** Nearly all patients included in this trial of remote care of axSpA wanted to use remote care. Significant differences in baseline characteristics were revealed between the three groups according to their willingness to use remote care. However, precaution must be taken due to a small number of participants in the “disagree”-group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Sub study 1 (n=18)</th>
<th>Sub study 2 (n=156)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex, male (%)</td>
<td>16 (89)</td>
<td>147 (94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (s.d.), years</td>
<td>67 (9)</td>
<td>66 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, median, years</td>
<td>8.4 (6)</td>
<td>10 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently or previously treated by rheumatologist (%)</td>
<td>14 (78)</td>
<td>132 (85)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Background:** Long-term gout management is based on reducing serum urate by using urate-lowering therapy (ULT) [1, 2]. A lifelong treat-to-target approach is advocated, though a ULT (taper to) stop attempt can be considered (treat-to-avoid symptoms approach) during remission[1]. It is yet unclear if either is a superior strategy when considering ULT (dis)continuation in the remission phase.

**REFERENCES:**

**Objectives:** To identify factors that influence the decision for continuation (treat-to-target) or discontinuation (treat-to-avoid symptoms) of ULT and to determine their perceived relative importance in gout patients in remission.

**Methods:** A mixed methods design was used. First, semi-structured interviews (substudy 1 EULAR POS1477 2020) were held to identify barriers and facilitators for continuation and discontinuation of ULT using inductive thematic analysis. These items were then summarized by a multidisciplinary team (including a patient partner) in neutrally formulated items. These items were subsequently used in a Maximum Difference Scaling study (MaxDiff, substudy 2) to rank them and to determine their relative basis on utility scores (preference score). A rescaled probability score (RPS) was generated with a 0-100 range (the higher the score, the more important the item). For example, an item with an RPS of 8 is twice as important as an item with an RPS of 4. Patients of both studies were recruited from general practitioners and from the rheumatology department of the Sint Maartenskliniek (both in the Netherlands). The semi-structured interviews as well as the MaxDiff experiment have been pilot tested.

**Results:** Substudy 1 and 2 included 18 and 156 patients, respectively (see Table 1). The mixed-structured interviews yielded 46 barriers/ facilitators and were summarized in 22 items, divided into 10 overarching themes (logistics, lifestyle, role of serum urate, physician role, scientific knowledge, general medication use, anti-inflammatory use, gout flares, ULT use and long-term gout effects). Figure 1 shows their ranking (substudy 2). The risk of joint damage (RPS 8.77) was the most important item, and it is 26 times more important than the least important item, ‘cost of my gout treatment’ (RPS 0.34).

**Conclusion:** In particular, items concerning (control of) disease activity (flares, joint damage) play a role when gout patients in remission consider (dis)continuation of ULT. Costs, logistics and monitoring by physician were deemed less important. These results provide a basis for shared decision making between physicians and patients, and show which items should at least be discussed when considering ULT (dis)continuation in the remission phase.

**REFERENCES:**

**Methods:** A mixed methods design was used. First, semi-structured interviews (substudy 1 EULAR POS1477 2020) were held to identify barriers and facilitators for continuation and discontinuation of ULT using inductive thematic analysis. These items were then summarized by a multidisciplinary team (including a patient partner) in neutrally formulated items. These items were subsequently used in a Maximum Difference Scaling study (MaxDiff, substudy 2) to rank them and to determine their relative basis on utility scores (preference score). A rescaled probability score (RPS) was generated with a 0-100 range (the higher the score, the more important the item). For example, an item with an RPS of 8 is twice as important as an item with an RPS of 4. Patients of both studies were recruited from general practitioners and from the rheumatology department of the Sint Maartenskliniek (both in the Netherlands). The semi-structured interviews as well as the MaxDiff experiment have been pilot tested.
Background: Health literacy (HL) is the ability to access, understand, appraise, and apply health information [1]. A low level of HL is associated with worse pain problems, poorer self-care, and an obstacle for health-promoting interventions among individuals with chronic pain and radiographic knee osteoarthritis (rKOA).

Objectives: To examine 1) the level of HL and associations with chronic pain, rKOA, lifestyle habits and health status, and 2) to explore the individuals’ experiences of HL.

Methods: The study has a convergent parallel mixed-method design, including 221 individuals with knee pain (148 women, mean age 56±8 years). A purposeful sample of 19 individuals (11 women, 8 men) was selected for interviews. Quantitative data were general HL (GHL) assessed by HLS-EU-Q16, electronic HL (eHL) by eHEALS, pain distribution by a pain figure, rKOA by x-rays, lifestyle habits, and health status via SF-36. GHL and eHL were merged into one variable, “HL” where sufficient HL was defined as having a sufficient level of GHL or eHL.

Results: Of the 221 participants, 29% reported limited HL. Those with limited HL reported lower education, less usability and importance of the internet for accessing health information and making informed health-related decisions, and lower general health (GH) compared to the group with sufficient HL (data not shown). Higher education, CRP, a healthier diet, and minor alcohol consumption were associated with sufficient HL (Table 1). Only higher education and GH remained associated when adding GH to the multivariate analysis. Individuals’ experiences of HL were described as 1) Searching for information influences the decision-making process by being an active searcher or passive receiver; 2) Processing of information influences the decision-making process by having light, moderate or high processing of the information; and 3) Taking a stand on the information influences the decision-making process based on trust and/or motivation (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Limited HL was found in one-third of the individuals with knee pain. CRP and healthy lifestyle habits were associated with sufficient HL, but higher education and health status had the strongest association. The search, level of process and standpoint on the health information influenced the decision on action. More research on HL is needed to gain knowledge of how to develop health promotion to prevent worsening pain problems in individuals with knee pain.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Two models with multivariate logistic regression analysis of associations with sufficient HL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sufficient health literacy</th>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n OR (95% CI) p-value OR (95% CI) p-value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 221 0.99 (0.95-1.04) 0.778 0.99 (0.95-1.04) 0.749</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education 221 1 0.002 1 &lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory school 4.39 (1.75–10.99) 0.001 4.85 (1.90–12.40) &lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary 4.65 (1.83–11.64) 5.41 (2.06–14.22)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain distribution 220 1 0.022 1 0.213</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP 2.81 (1.16–6.80) 0.269 1.85 (0.70–4.87) 0.875</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCR 1.81 (0.63–5.15) 0.91 (0.27–3.02)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCP 1.81 (0.63–5.15) 0.91 (0.27–3.02)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rKOA 216 1 0.371 1 0.417</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes 1.37 (0.69–2.74) 1.35 (0.66–2.76)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No 221 1 0.035 1 0.091</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet 2.53 (1.07–5.98) 2.14 (0.89–5.15)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less healthy diet 219 1 0.131 1 0.263</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol intake ≥5 units/week 1.94 (0.82–4.59) 0.049 1.66 (0.68–4.05) 0.058</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4 units/week 2.51 (1.00–6.29) 2.48 (0.97–6.34)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1 unit/week 216 1 0.02 (0.90–3.00, worst-best) 0.019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Overview of the results exploring the experiences of HL in individuals with knee pain.

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Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Artificial intelligence, Descriptive Studies

P. Kerkhof1. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Communication Science, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Background: Social media platforms have become a vital resource for individuals seeking information and support regarding health issues, including rheumatoid arthritis (RA). As such, the content generated on these platforms represents a valuable source of data for gaining insight into patients’ perspectives on RA. However, previous research in this area has primarily relied on qualitative analyses of small sample sizes, limiting the ability to extract meaningful insights from social media content related to RA. With the advancement of machine learning techniques, it is now possible to analyze and extract insights from large volumes of social media posts related to RA.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to identify the most common topics discussed in a large dataset of submissions about RA on Reddit, one of the world’s largest online forums.

Methods: The data for this study was collected from the two largest Reddit forums (“subreddits”) dedicated to RA, r/rheumatoid arthritis and r/rheumatoid, which have 18.9k and 7.6k members respectively. We retrieved all submissions but excluded responses in our analyses. All deleted or duplicate submissions and those with fewer than 10 words were removed, retaining 11,094 submissions from over 5,000 users for the analysis. To identify common themes, we applied topic modeling, a technique in natural language processing that identifies underlying themes or topics in a collection of documents. We used the Bertopic Python package (Grothendieck, 2022), which employs deep learning techniques to perform the topic modeling.

Results: The data indicates a significant increase in submissions to the two subreddits, rising from 113 in 2014 to 2892 in 2021 and 1928 in the first 8 months of 2022. Upon analysis, 65 topics were identified, with 4162 submissions (37.5%) remaining unclassified. A topic specifically dedicated to requests to participate in surveys was removed as it did not pertain to the experiences of forum users. Among the remaining topics, the top 10 accounted for 44.90% of all submissions. To better understand each topic, a sample of 10 submissions with the highest probability for that topic were examined (Table 1).

Table 1. Top 10 most frequent topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>n of submissions</th>
<th>Share of total*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Side effects of methotrexate</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>8.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID &amp; vaccines</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>7.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>6.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF and anti CCP test results</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>5.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA of friends, partners, and close relatives</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaints about rheumatologist</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>3.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions about Humira</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>2.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions about prednisone</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>2.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diets and RA</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>2.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early symptoms of possible RA</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>2.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise and RA</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>2.56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* After excluding unclassified topics

Three of the ten topics pertained to specific medications - methotrexate, Humira, and prednisone, accounting for 12.71% of the total. The most prevalent topic, at 8.02%, focused on the side effects of methotrexate, with many submissions inquiring about symptoms such as nausea. The second most common topic, at 7.04%, primarily revolved around COVID-19 and related issues, with some
Methods: Clinical studies on the effectiveness of exercise therapy in people with RA or axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) [1-2]. Exercise therapy is generally considered safe for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), including those with inflammatory arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) [1-2].

Background: Exercise therapy has proven effective for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), including those with inflammatory arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) [1-2]. Exercise therapy is generally considered safe for people with RMDs, although the evidence is scarce. A few reviews reported on the nature and risk of harms of exercise therapy in RMDs, but none of them specifically addressed the quality of reporting of harms of exercise therapy in studies including people with inflammatory arthritis.

Objectives: This study aimed to describe the quality of reporting of harms in clinical studies on the effectiveness of exercise therapy in people with RA or axSpA.

Methods:RCTs with at least one treatment arm consisting of supervised exercise therapy in people with RA or axSpA were included. Eight electronic databases were searched up to November 2021. Two researchers independently selected studies for inclusion and extracted data and in case of disagreement a third researcher was consulted. Data extraction included study characteristics and fulfillment of a set of quality aspects derived from the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) Extension for Reporting Harms Outcomes [3], predefined on the basis of consensus among authors (Table 1). Harms outcomes were defined as adverse events reported on individual level irrespective of causality or negative effects on group level (only if explicitly designated as measurement of potential harm). We considered the reporting on harms outcomes of sufficient quality if the authors reported at least 1) the methodology for active surveillance of harms outcomes (item 2a); and 2) the observed number and the nature of harms (items 3b and 3c).

Results: The search yielded 5921 records, of which 64 studies (n= 41 RA, n=23 axSpA; described in 83 papers) were included. Of those studies in RA and axSpA, 34 (83%) and 15 (65%) included any information on harms, with 12 (29%) and 3 (13%) reporting active surveillance and 22 (54%) and 5 (22%) reporting on harms outcomes in the results section, respectively (see Table 1). In total, 10 of the 41 (24%) RA studies and 2 of the 23 (9%) axSpA studies fulfilled the predefined criteria for sufficient quality of reporting.
qualitative patient interviews, and were then tested in a quantitative pilot. Main data collection consisted of an online survey in which participants were asked to repeatedly choose between hypothetical treatments. Eligible patients were ≥18 years old, diagnosed with RA, currently received systemic disease-modifying anti-arthritic drug therapy for RA, and were residents of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, or United States. Male patients were oversampled to support subgroup analysis of preferences for effects on sperm parameters. Data were analyzed using a correlated mixed logit model and differences in preferences between sex and age were explored. Relative attribute importance (RAI) scores and maximum acceptable risk (MAR) measures were derived from the estimates.

**Results:** A total of 2,090 patients participated; 42% were female with predefined oversampling of male patients, with a mean age of 45.2 years (range 18–83). Estimated effects were significant for all attributes (p < 0.001), implying that they all influenced treatment choices and suggesting preferences differed between participants. Average RAI scores revealed different priorities (p < 0.001) between males and females (Figure 1). While reducing pain and negative effect on semen parameters was most important to male patients, female patients were most concerned by risk of blood clots and serious infections. The remaining attributes were of lower importance but were still relevant. However, no single attribute explained treatment preferences by more than 30%. Preferences were also affected by patients’ age: patients aged 18–44 years placed less importance on frequency and mode of treatment administration (p < 0.05) than older age groups. Patients were willing to make benefit-risk trade-offs: they accepted extra risks of blood clots (male: 1.8%; female: 0.8%), serious infections (male: 2.5%; female: 1.0%), or negative effects on sperm (male: 7.4%) for an oral pill every day instead of injection once a week. They also accepted extra risks of blood clots (male: 2.3%; female: 1.2%), serious infections (male: 3.2%; female: 1.6%), or negative effects on sperm (male: 10.4%) for reducing amount of pain from 30% to 10%. Similar observations were made for improved performance of daily activities. However, acceptable trade-offs varied between patients (p < 0.05).

**Conclusion:** Preferences of RA patients were driven by benefits and risks of RA treatments, with no single attribute dominating the decision making. Patients were willing to accept higher risk of serious infections and blood clots in exchange for improvements in pain, daily activities, or administration convenience. These findings emphasize the importance of considering the entire treatment profile, including benefits, risks, and administration to support SDM between providers and patients.

Figure 1. RAI overall and by sex

Preference drivers: males – pain, blood clots; females – blood clots, infections, pain. Stem risk data are based on male responses only.

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**DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PRIORITIZE WORK: LIVED WORK EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG ADULTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS**

**Keywords:** Qualitative research methods, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Work-related issues

M. Golding1,2, F. Nishat3, K. Merrill3, R. Kaur1,2, J. Stinson3, J. Protudjer1,2, R. Woodgate1,2, C. Peschken4, D. Lacaille5, U. Oguzoglu5, Z. Touma6, L. Lim7,1. 1Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, Paediatrics, Winnipeg, Canada; 2University of Manitoba, Paediatrics, Winnipeg, Canada; 3University of Toronto, Paediatrics, Toronto, Canada; 4Canada Research Chair, Tier 1, Paediatrics, Winnipeg, Canada; 5University of Manitoba, Medicine, Winnipeg, Canada; 6University of British Columbia, Medicine, Vancouver, Canada; 7University of Manitoba, Economics, Winnipeg, Canada; 8University of Toronto, Internal Medicine, Toronto, Canada

**Background:** Young adulthood (18–30 years) is a critical life-stage when individuals launch into independence, establishing employment. Failure to establish employment during young adulthood is associated with reduced lifetime socioeconomic achievement. A few studies focused on studying employment outcomes in young adults with systemic lupus erythematosus (YASLE) showed less full-time work than general population, substantial absenteeism from productivity loss. Studying the lived work experience of YASLE can broaden our understanding in this area from the patients’ perspectives.

**Objectives:** To describe the early work experiences of YASLE and explore their perceptions of SLE influences on their work.

**Methods:** This was a qualitative descriptive study. Young adults with childhood- or adult onset SLE were recruited from 2 adult rheumatology clinics (Oct 2021-Aug 2022) in Manitoba and Ontario. Inclusion criteria: YASLE who were employed, unemployed (looking for work or not), or work disabled. Potential participants were purposely sampled for diversity in: sex/gender, age of onset, major organ disease, occupation groups. All completed a pre-interview questionnaire to provide demographic, SLE and work-related information. Semi-structured interviews were conducted individually via video conference, focusing on their work experiences, future aspirations and perceived SLE influences. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim and analyzed using a reflexive thematic analysis.

**Results:** Of 18 participants, 13 identified as females, 1 as non-binary; median age 25 (22–29, 25–75th percentile) years. Participants’ identified ethnicities: 7/18 Asian, 5/18 White, 2/18 Indigenous, 4/18 other. 7/18 were childhood-onset SLE, 9/18 had major organ disease. 12/18 were employed full-time, 3/18 unemployed/looking for work, 3/18 unemployed/not looking to work, 6/18 worked in managerial/professional jobs. Three have current work accommodations, 2/3 for SLE. 13/18 report highest education to be university/postgraduate. Most participants perceived themselves to be functioning relatively well at work despite modest physical, cognitive limitations. Two main themes emerged:

1) “Getting by, with some help” describes many factors that participants cited as critical in helping them stay in the workforce. Most of the factors mapped to the underlying construct of control over their work. Participants who have the flexibility to manage their time, physical positions and environment perceived fewer issues staying in work Participants also reported increasing recognition (over time) of the importance of medication adherence in disease control, which helped them to stay in work. Other frequently cited facilitators also included sedentary jobs and the availability of social support.

2) “Tough choices: work or health over everything else” describes how participants struggled to find a balance between their health, work and social life. Many described multiple strategies to prioritize work while trying to preserve their health: rest more, avoid commute, avoid stress, help or transfer responsibility for chores, limiting social activities. A few however deemed the costs of work to be too great and chose to prioritize their health by avoiding work altogether.

**Conclusion:** Most YASLE report being employed and unemployed. Lived work experience of YASLE is critical in understanding the lived experience of YASLE. They recognized the importance of their health in helping them to work. They diverted considerable energy/resources from other aspects of life to maintain work. This begs...
the question of whether this approach could be sustainable beyond this life stage. However, this work on YASLE patients also identified multiple potential targets of interventions to help them continue working. By focusing on young adulthood, this will ensure that our strategies will be most appropriate for their life-stage, maximizing impacts.

REFERENCES:

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Mike Golding: None declared, Fareha Nishat: None declared, Diane Lacaille: None declared, Jennifer Protudjer: None declared, Umut Oguzoglo: None declared, Zahi Touma: Consultant of: Novartis 2021, allergy related, Roberta Woodgate: None declared, Christine Peschken Paid instructor for: For GSK and Astra Zeneca. Not related to this abstract.< $5000.

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Neuroscience Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour, Nijmegen, The Netherlands; Institute of particular interest as mitochondrial abnormalities are known histological find-
dering antigens, we recently discovered anti-NDUFA11 IgG in sera of patients with anti-MDA5 antibody-positive DM with ILD. This antibody is not statistically significant. Anti-NDUFA11 IgG was also found in 2,3% of SLE patients. The IgG was associated with a subgroup of patients with a more severe phenotype. The subgroup was then validated in an independent larger cohort of 287 patients with IBM followed at nine European rheumatological or neurological centers. IBM serum samples were collected at the time of diagnosis and stored at -80°C until analysis.

Methods: In a first exploratory study, 268 patients with IBM were included. Serum samples were incubated with plasma samples from 219 IBM (108 Polyomatisis (PM)), 80 Dermatomyositis (DM) and 31 IBM) patients, 349 Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) patients and 306 population controls for screening of IgG reactivity against each antigen. All sera were tested in a single blinded manner in the same laboratory. The first step in our study was to screen sera from patients with IBM and controls for reactivity against a panel of antigens. The panel included antigens representing 268 proteins. The antigens were expressed as His6ABP fusion proteins. The number of positive sera was then compared between patients with IBM and controls. The positive sera were then tested against the antigens that were positive in the first step.

Results: In the exploratory study, IgG reactivity towards NADH dehydrogenase 1 α subcomplex 11 (NDUFA11) was detected in sera from patients with IBM and controls. The IgG was found in 3.2% of IBM patients and 0.9% of control sera. The difference in the prevalence of positive sera was statistically significant. Anti-NDUFA11 IgG was also found in sera from patients with other connective tissue diseases, including SLE, dermatomyositis, systemic sclerosis, and polymyositis. The IgG was also found in sera from patients with other neuromuscular diseases, including inclusion body myositis, facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, and myotonic dystrophy.

Conclusion: The anti-NDUFA11 antibody is a novel biomarker for inclusion body myositis. The antibody is associated with a more severe phenotype and is a potential target for future immunotherapies.

**REFERENCES:**


compare them to those of patients with anti-ARS antibody-positive polymyositis (PM) and DM with ILD, and investigate their association with clinical features.

**Methods:** Serum samples were collected from clinically active adult patients with anti-MDA5 antibody-positive DM (MDAS, n = 22), and anti-ARS antibody-positive PM and DM (ARS, n = 21) as well as healthy controls (HCs, n = 32). PM/DMS were classified according to the 2017 EULAR/ACR classification criteria for IIMs. Only patients with ILD diagnosed on high-resolution computed tomography findings and HCs were included. Patients complicated by infection or malignancy were excluded. The reporter cell lines (purchased from InvivoGen) which secrete embryonic alkaline phosphatase (SEAP) in response to IFN-α and SEAP in response to activation of IFNs and nuclear factor kappa B (NF-κB), respectively, were incubated with 20% (v/v) serum samples. The levels of SEAP and luciferase in supernatants were measured using a multi-mode microplate reader and their association with clinical features was statistically analyzed. IFNAR2-knockout reporter cells were also used.

**Results:** The sera of MDA5 patients demonstrated significantly higher IFN-α/β and IFN activities than those of ARS patients and HCs (p < 0.001 in all the comparisons), whereas no significant difference was detected in the NF-κB activities (Figure 1). The assays using IFNAR2-knockout reporter cells showed no significant difference in IRF or NF-κB activities. The serum ferritin levels in MDA5 patients were significantly higher than those in ARS patients (mean 679.7 ng/mL vs. 321.3 ng/mL, p = 0.03). The IFN-α/β and IRF activities induced by the MDA5 sera patients were correlated with the serum ferritin levels (r = 0.53 and 0.54, respectively), whereas they did not significantly correlate with the serum KL-6 levels, percent-predicted forced vital capacity (%FVC), or percent-predicted diffuse capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide (%DLCO).

**Conclusion:** IFN-α/β and IRF activities and their association with ferritin were demonstrated in sera of anti-MDA5 antibody-positive DM patients with ILD but not in those of anti-ARS-positive PM/DM patients with ILD. The present study suggests that activation of type I interferon pathway may be involved in the pathomechanisms of anti-MDA5 DM with ILD.

**REFERENCES:**

**Keywords:** Cell biology, Adaptive immunity, Myositis

**B. Horluuolu1, A. S. Galindo-Feria2,3, R. Kumar1, G. Kozhukh1, S. J. Diaz-Boada1, D. Ramskold1, K. Chemin1, V. Malström4, I. E. Lundberg2,3
1Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Gastro, Dermatology and Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 2Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Gastro, Dermatology and Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Karolinska Institutet, Division of Rheumatology, Center for Molecular Medicine, Department of Medicine, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 4Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Gastro, Dermatology and Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden.

**Background:** Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) or myositis are a group of chronic autoimmune disorders represented by lesions in muscle, skin, joints and lung. One of the most common autoantibodies with a prevalence of 25-35% is anti-Jo1, targeting histidyl-transfer RNA synthetase (HisRS). Importance of T-cells in disease is established by their presence at sites of inflammation such as the muscle. We have shown that upon stimulation of PBMCs with HisRS, CD4+ T-cells are activated and produce inflammatory cytokines. Genetic association of HLA-DRB1*03:01 further implicate the recognition of autoantigens by CD4+ T-cells. However, the presence of antigen-specific CD4+ T-cells has not yet been shown in patients with IIM.

**Objectives:** The aim of this project is to identify HisRS CD4+ T-cells using HLA Class-II tetramers (Tmr) and single T cell receptor (TCR) sequencing.

**Methods:** HLA-DRB1*03:01 monomers with selected HisRS- and tetanus peptides as controls were produced in E.coli. The peptides were covalently linked to the HLA b-chain via a flexible peptide linker. HLA-tetramers were assembled using a commercial APC or PE labeled streptavidin. The efficacy of Tmrs was validated upon stimulation of PBMCs from HLA-matched healthy controls with tetanus peptide. In parallel, upregulation of T cell activation markers such as PD-1, CD69, CD137 was also investigated. Next, we stimulated PBMCs from anti-Jo1 positive patients with IIM that were HLA-DRB1*03 (n=10) with both tetanus and HisRS peptides and cultured the cells for 6 days followed by tetramer staining. Fluorescence was performed for the detection of IFNγ and IL2 secretion and cultured cells and culture supernatants were collected for cytokine analysis using cytokine bead arrays. Summary of the workflow is presented in Figure 1.

**Results:** We detected HisRS+CD4+ T-cells from 5 out of 10 patients using tetramers upon stimulation with HisRS peptide. We detected increased IFNγ levels in the supernatants where Tmr+ cells were detected further supporting the activation of T-cells. HisRS+CD4+ T-cells from patients (n=5) were single cell sorted and TCR αβ chains were sequenced (n=58). A bioinformatics pipeline for the alignment and assembly of the TCR sequences, was developed and the clonality analysis revealed presence of expanded T cell clones in 4 out of 5 patients. Expanded T cells had high mean fluorescent intensity values (MFI) for HisRS tetramers, suggesting the responsiveness of autoreactive T-cells to HisRS.

**Conclusion:** IM are rare, chronic autoimmune disorders with no available cure. Previous studies indicate the importance of T cells in this disease. However, the phenotype and role of these cells in the disease pathogenesis has not been fully established. Our results indicate the presence of HisRS+CD4+ T-cells in IIM which will introduce the possibility of new targeted treatment approaches.

**Keywords:** Myositis, Targeted synthetic drugs, Cytokines and chemokines

**J. Venkovsky2, J. Feldman7, L. Mcconnachie2, B. Johnson2, Institute of Rheumatology, Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic; 2Virologists, Early Development, Durham, United States of America

**Background:** Dermatomyositis (DM), an idiopathic inflammatory myopathy, is a chronic and often debilitating condition characterized by a hallmark skin rash (e.g., Gottron’s sign and heliotrope rash) with perifascicular atrophy and subsequent muscle weakness [1]. The pathogenesis of DM involves dysregulation of Type I interferon (IFN-I) signalling and other cytokines (IFN-γ, IL-12, and IL-23). The kinases, TYK2 and JAK1, are essential for the signalling pathway of these cytokines. Brexpicitin, a selective and potent dual TYK2/JAK1 inhibitor is in development for the treatment of DM and is expected to reduce signalling of these cytokines, particularly IFN-I, and ameliorate the symptoms of disease.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the efficacy of brexpicitin in preventing IFN-I induced pathological changes characteristic of DM in human skeletal muscle and microvascular endothelial cells in vitro.

**Methods:** Human skeletal muscle myoblasts were cultured and differentiated into myotubes then treated with vehicle control or IFN-I (recombinant Human IFN
alpha A and Human IFN alpha D) to induce cellular damage. Myotubes were also preincubated for 1 hour with brepocitinib (1 μM or 130 nM, the latter is equivalent to the average free plasma concentration after administration of 30 mg once-daily) prior to IFN-I treatment. Immunofluorescence staining followed by image analysis to determine myosin 4 surface area were conducted after 48 hours of IFN-I treatment. Human dermal microvascular endothelial cells (HMEC-1) were cultured and, once vascular networks were established, cells were treated with IFN-I or vehicle control. Cells were also preincubated for 1 hour with brepocitinib as described above. Under light microscopy 9 hours after treatment, the number of nodes, master segment length, and total mesh area were analyzed. To determine statistical significance, one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey’s multiple comparison post-hoc analyses were performed.

Results: Myosin surface area was reduced by ~40%, relative to vehicle treated control, in myotubes exposed to IFN-I (p<0.0001). This cytokine induced damage was almost completely prevented by brepocitinib preincubation (both 130 nM and 1 μM) with mean myosin surface areas of 96% and 100% of the vehicle control, respectively. The differences between IFN-I treatment alone and brepocitinib were significant (p<0.0001 [1 μM] and P<0.001 [130 nM]). Similarly, HMEC-1 exposure to IFN-I significantly reduced the mean number of nodes, mean master segment length, and mean total mesh area by 47 to 50% relative to vehicle control (p<0.0001 nodes and segments, p<0.001 mesh area). With brepocitinib preincubation, this damage was prevented with the mean number of nodes, master segment lengths, and total mesh area ranging from 89 to 111% of vehicle control. These differences were statistically different from the IFN-I treatment at both brepocitinib concentrations and all endpoints (p<0.001 for all conditions).

Conclusion: One of the most debilitating aspects of DM is muscle weakness resulting from perifascicular atrophy leading to significant impacts on quality of life for these patients[2]. We report here the ability of brepocitinib to prevent IFN-I-induced damage in both myocytes and microvascularity in culture at clinically relevant concentrations, providing further pharmacologic rationale for brepocitinib in the treatment of DM.

REFERENCES:
leukemia. GSEA analysis also confirmed a downregulation of cell apoptosis processes in hyperexpanded clonotypes, a feature of T-FLG leukemia clones. **Conclusion:** Significant clonal expansion of CD68+ T cells in the blood was found in our IBM cohort compared to our age-matched healthy controls. Additionally, these hyperexpanded clonotypes have various T-LGL leukemia gene markers, in addition to elevated cytotoxic and T cell activation genes in comparison to their minimally expanded counterparts. These results highlight how the blood compartment of IBM, a progressive muscle disease, is important in IBM and how future studies and therapies should be targeting these aberrant blood CD68+ T cells.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** Marie-Therese Holzer: None declared, Udo Schneider: None declared, Anne Schänzer: None declared, Sarah Léonard-Louis: None declared, Olivier Benveniste: None declared, Joachim Weis: None declared, Kristi G Claesys Grant/research support from: KGC is Chair-holder of the Emil von Behring Chair for Neuromuscular and Neurodegenerative Disorders by CSL Behring. Benedikt Schoser: None declared, Frederica Montagnese Speakers bureau: Lupin/Hormosan, Sanofi, RG-Gesellschaft, DYNE, Consultant of: Lupin/Hormosan, Sanofi, RG-Gesellschaft, DYNE, Akinori Uruta: None declared, Melanie Huber: None declared, Laure Gallay: None declared, Nathalie Streichenberger: None declared, Martin Kruschke: None declared, Corinna Preuße Speakers bureau: Alexion, Werner Stenzel: None declared.

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**Keywords:** Undifferentiated connective tissue disease, Autoantibodies, Myositis

M. T. Holzer¹, U. Schneider², A. Schänzer³, S. Léonard-Louis⁴, O. Benveniste⁵, J. Weis⁶, K. G. Claesys⁷, ², B. Schofer⁸, F. Montagnese⁹, A. Uruta¹⁰, ¹, M. Huber¹, L. Gallay¹¹, N. Streichenberger¹², M. Kruschke¹, C. Preuße⁷, W. Stenzel⁸, ¹University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, ²II. Department of Medicine, Hamburg, Germany; ³Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, corporate member of Free University Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; ⁴Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Institute of Neuropathology, Giessen, Germany; ⁵Pitácri-Salpétrière University Hospital, Reference Center of Neuromuscular Pathology Paris-East, Paris, France; ⁶Pitácri-Salpétrière University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Paris, France; ⁷Medical Faculty, RWTH Aachen University, Institute of Neuropathology, Aachen, Germany; ⁸Laboratory for Muscle Diseases and Neuropathies, KU Leuven, Department of Neurosciences, Leuven, Belgium; ⁹Friedrich-Baur-Institute, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Department of Neurology, Munich, Germany; ¹⁰Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Corporate Member of Free University Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Neuropathology, Berlin, Germany; ¹¹Tokyo Metropolitan Neurological Hospital, Department of Neurology, Tokyo, Japan; ¹²Kerckhoff-Klinik, Rheumatology, Bad Nauheim, Germany; ¹³Édouard Herriot University Hospital, Hospices Civils de Lyon, Department of Internal Medicine, Lyon, France; ¹⁴Groupement Hospitalier Est, Hospices Civils de Lyon, Department of Neuropathology, Lyon, France.

**Background:** Ku-antibodies are one of the myositis-associated antibodies linked with muscle involvement in many connective tissue diseases. The histopathological pattern of Ku+ myositis is described diversely with inflammatory and necrotic aspects, however, a detailed morphological characterization of Ku+ myositis is still missing.

**Objectives:** The aim of the study was to analyze histopathological and transcriptional aspects of patients with Ku+ myositis to gain new insights in possible pathophysiological mechanisms.

**Methods:** 23 biopsy samples from patients with clinical and morphological signs of positive Ku-antibodies were studied by histopathology, immunohistochemistry, and quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) and compared with biopsies derived from non-disease controls (NDC) and immune-mediated necrotizing myositis (IMNM) at the Department of Neuropathology of Charité university hospital Berlin.

**Results:** Mean patient’s age was 55 years, 91% were women and the most common rheumatological diagnosis was overlap with systemic sclerosis (30%), followed by isolated myositis (26%) and overlap with primary Sjögren’s syndrome or rheumatoid arthritis (13% respectively). Creatine kinase elevation was present in 91% of the patients. Histopathologically, we noticed a broad phenotype spectrum with mild to severe myositis with predominantly MHC class I overexpression and milder MHC class II overexpression. 87% of the biopsies showed nuclear staining combined with inflammatory aspects of variable degree. Infiltrates were mainly CD68+ cells (average of 213 cells per 10 high power fields (HPF)), followed by CD3+ cells (76 cells/10 HPF), whereas CD20+ or CD138+ cells were rare (8 respectively 14 cells/10 HPF). Furthermore, we detected small vacuoles in 59% and large areas of p62+ aggregates in 62% of the biopsies. Similarly, aggregates of LC3 and myotilin were found in 60% and 76% respectively. Immunofluorescence staining showed co-localization of p62 and myotilin indicating protein aggregates and induction of autophagy pathways. P62 gene expression was neither elevated in Ku+ patients nor in IMNM patients compared to NDC (Figure 1A). SIGLEC1 gene expression was significantly elevated in Ku+ patients compared to IMNM patients and NDC (Figure 1B).

**Conclusion:** In this study, we defined a histopathological pattern of Ku+ myositis with predominant MHC class I expression, necrosis, small vacuoles and inflammation as well as peculiar p62+ and LC3+ aggregation in severely inflammatory biopsy samples. Whilst there definitely is a broad spectrum of presentation, MHC class I expression, necrosis and p62/LC3+ aggregates seem to be the defining aspects of the histopathological presentation.

**Figure 1.** Transcriptional analysis of LC3, P62 and SIGLEC1 Quantitative polymerase chain reaction was used to analyze the gene expression of LC3, P62 and SIGLEC1. Violin plots display fold-change versus non disease controls (NDC), calculated by [2^-(-ΔΔCT Ku+ patients/ΔΔCT NDC)].

**A** LC3 gene levels are elevated in Ku+ patients compared to IMNM (p<0.0015), whilst P62 levels do not differ from NDC.

**B** SIGLEC1 gene expression is significantly elevated in Ku+ patients compared to IMNM patients (p=0.0006) and NDC (p<0.0001).

**Acknowledgements:** MTH received a project scholarship by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Junge Rheumatologie Deutschland (AGJR) (Working Group Young Rheumatology). MK, OP and WS share last authorship.

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**POS061T**

**NEW INSIGHTS IN HISTOPATHOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS OF KU-POSITIVE MYOSITIS**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cytokines and chemokines, Myositis

S. Nakamura¹, Y. Okamoto¹, Y. Katsumata¹, M. Harigai², ¹Tokyo Women’s Medical University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

**Background:** Type I interferon (IFN) plays a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and dermatomyositis (DM)/polymyositis (PM) as typically evidenced by upregulation of type I IFN-stimulated genes (ISGs) in peripheral immune cells [1]. In addition, a distinct monocyte cytokine signature, which was induced by plasma from pediatric SLE patients and abrogated by Janus kinase (JAK) inhibition, was reported [2]. However, contribution of serum factors to expression of ISGs was not fully elucidated.

**Objectives:** To investigate the cytokine induction profile in multiple myeloid lineages by serum from patients with SLE or DM/PM using the whole blood stimulation system and identify the signaling pathway relevant to the monocyte cytokine signature.

**Methods:** Serum was collected from newly diagnosed, untreated, and clinically active adult patients with SLE (SLE group), anti-MDA5 antibody-positive DM (MDA5 group), and anti-aminocyt-3RNA synthetase (ARS)
antibody-positive DM/PM (ARS group), and healthy controls (HCs) (n = 10 for each group). Heparinized whole blood from healthy donors was incubated with control serum (10 v/v%), patient serum (10 v/v%), or IFN-γ in the presence of protein transport inhibitor cocktail for 6 hours. Red blood cells were lysed, and then leukocytes were fixed at a single step. Intracellular staining was performed and expression of 11 cytokines in CD14+ monocytes, CD1c+ dendritic cells (DCs), and CD123+ DCs were analyzed using flow cytometry. A cut-off level was determined by 2% positivity of each cytokine in unstimulated condition. For transcriptomic analyses, sorted CD14+ monocytes from healthy donors were incubated with serum (SLE, MDAS, ARS, or HCs), or IFN-γ (n = 3 for each group) for 4 hours, and bulk RNA-sequencing was performed using the Illumina NextSeq 500 platform. RNA-seq raw sequence reads analysis and pathway analysis were performed using the Strand NGS software. To evaluate significance of JAK-signal transducer and activator of transcription (STAT) pathway, whole blood from healthy donors was pre-incubated with upadacitinib, a JAK1 inhibitor, stimulated with patient serum for 6 hours, and analyzed for cytokine expression as described above.

Results: Serum from SLE and MDAS groups induced significantly higher monocyte chemotactic protein-1 (MCP1) and interleukin-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1RA) expression in CD14+ monocytes than serum from HCs (Figure 1). These monocyte cytokine signatures were closely resembled that induced by IFN-γ stimulation. Serum from ARS group did not induce any significant cytokine expression in CD14+ monocytes. No significant cytokine expression was observed in CD1c+ DCs or CD123+ DCs. RNA-seq demonstrated that 612 and 578 genes were upregulated (fold change >2 relative to control) following stimulation with serum from SLE and MDAS groups, respectively. In these upregulated genes, 383 genes were commonly upregulated across SLE and MDAS groups and IFN-γ. Pathway analysis revealed similar transcriptional profiles in SLE and MDAS groups; upregulated genes were most frequently involved in IFN-β and IFN-γ. Pathway analysis revealed similar transcriptional profiles in SLE and MDAS groups. Upadacitinib significantly abrogated the monocyte cytokine signature, and MCP1 and IL-1RA expression induced by serum from SLE and MDAS groups in a dose-dependent manner (p < 0.001 in all analyses).

Conclusion: These results suggest that serum factors in patients with active SLE and anti-MDAS antibody-positive DM can induce shared monocyte cytokine signature through type 1 IFN pathway. CD14+ monocytes ‘primed’ by serum might contribute to the pathogenesis of these diseases.

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Figure 1. MCP1 (A) and IL-1RA (B) expression in CD14+ monocytes induced by serum from SLE and anti-MDAS antibody-positive DM. Horizontal bars represent median values. P-values were calculated using Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn’s multiple comparisons test.

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POS0612

GENE ANALYSIS REVEALED THE USEFULNESS OF TRIPLE THERAPY WITH BARICITINIB, RITUXIMAB AND TACROLIMS FOR ANTI-MDAS ANTIBODY POSITIVE DERMATOMYOSITIS (MDAS-DM)

Keywords: Myositis

M. Sakamoto1, Y. Nakai1, Y. Sato1, Y. Koyama1. Japanese Red Cross Okayama Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Center for Autoimmune Diseases, Okayama, Japan; *DNA Chip Research Inc, Medical Laboratory, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Anti-MDAS antibody positive dermatomyositis (MDAS-DM) is characterized by high mortality due to rapid progressive IILD. MDAS is a cytosolic protein and a family of RIG-I like receptor, which functions as a virus RNA sensor and induces the production of such as pro-inflammatory cytokines. It is unknown about the pathogenesis of MDAS-DM, it is notable that the similarities were reported between COVID-19 infection and MDAS-DM. It may suggest that there is a common underlying autoimmune inflammatory mechanism. We reported that in MDAS-DM, (1) RIG-I-like receptor signaling is enhanced and (2) antiviral responses such as type 1 IFN signaling are also enhanced as compared with anti-ARS similarity positive DM. (3) CREB binding protein is suppression of RIG-I-like and IFN signaling (EULAR2022, POS0390). We also found that a significant role for uncontrolled macrophage in the pathogenesis of IILD by our autopsy case. Recently, it has been reported that tacrolimus (TAC) and cyclophosphamide (CY) combination therapy (TC-Tx) has improved the prognosis of cases with early onset of the disease, but there are cases that cannot be saved. Therefore, we devised BRT therapy (BRT-Tx). The Tx combines baricitinib (BAR), which inhibits GM-CSF and IFN-mediating signaling and effectively suppresses uncontrolled macrophages, with rituximab (RTX) and TAC, which rapidly inhibits B and T cell interaction and ultimately prevents anti-MDAS antibody production.

Objectives: To determine the differences in gene expression between BRT and TC-Tx for MDAS-DM in peripheral blood

Methods: Total of 6 MDAS-DM (TC: 3, BRT: 3) were included and all of them had multiple poor prognostic factors. Peripheral whole blood was collected at just before and 2-3 months after the treatment. RNA was extracted, and quantified using a next-generation sequencer. Differentially Expressed Genes (DEGs) were identified by pre vs. post treatment. Gene Ontology (GO), clustering and Gene Set Variation Analysis (GSVA) were performed to DEGs. As one BRT case was added since our last year’s report, we also reanalyzed the surviving vs. fatal cases. The IFN signature was scored separately for Types 1, 2, and 3, and the changes between pre- and post-treatment were investigated.

Results: Two of three cases with TC died during treatment, while all three cases on BRT recovered. The cluster analysis of the DEGs separated deaths from survivors, not by type of treatment. Comparing surviving and dead cases, GO analysis revealed that the immune system via immunoglobulins and B cells was significantly suppressed in surviving cases. GO analysis of DEGs in each therapeutic group showed that expression of B cell-related genes such as lymphocyte proliferation and B cell receptor signaling pathway were significantly suppressed in BRT-Tx. On the other hand, TC-Tx significantly suppressed such pathways as cell proliferation and cell surface receptor signaling, and was less specific for the target cells than BRT-Tx. The changes in IFN signature score after treatment showed an increase in type 2 and 3 IFN scores in all fatal cases and an increase in type 1 IFN score in one fatal case.

Conclusion: BRT-Tx significantly suppressed gene expression associated with B cells, while TC-Tx was characterized by low specificity of therapeutic targets and suppression of total cell proliferation. Comparison of surviving and dead cases revealed that the combination of RTX contributed to the success of treatment, as suppression of the immune system mediated by immunoglobulins and B cells is the key for survival. Analysis of the IFN signature revealed an increase in IFN score after treatment in fatal cases, indicating that the combination of BAR is beneficial. The superiority of BRT-Tx seems clear from the fact that all patients survived with BRT-Tx while only three patients survived with TC-Tx.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Moe Sakamoto: None declared, Yu Nakai: None declared, Yoshiharu Sato: None declared, Yoshinobu Koyama: Speakers bureau: GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Environmental Sciences, Florence, Italy; University of Florence, University of Florence, Florence, Italy; University of Florence, Dept of Experimental and Clinical Medical Sciences, Florence, Italy; *AOU Careggi, Div of Rheumatology.
Background: Gastrointestinal tract (GIT) is affected in approximately 90% of systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients from the earliest disease stages. Microbiota has recently emerged as an important environmental factor in SSc pathogenesis. 

Objectives: to test differences in the taxa composition of the fecal microbiota of very early SSc (VEDOSS) and established SSc patients.

Methods: Twenty-nine SSc patients classified according to the ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria (27 female, mean ± SD disease duration 13.1 ± 9.2 years) and 21 VEDOSS patients (19 female, mean ± SD disease duration 6.4 ± 5.2 years) were consecutively enrolled. For each patient, demographic, clinical and laboratoristic data were recorded and stool samples were collected. GI involvement and quality of life were investigated with UCLA-Gastrointestinal Tract Questionnaire (GIT)2.0 and Short Form Health Survey-36 (SF36).

Microbiota was assessed through 16S rRNA Next Generation Gene-Sequencing analysis.

Results: We found a different fecal microbiota profile between SSc and VEDOSS. In particular, classes of Bacilli and Choriobacteria, orders of Desulfovibrionales and Lactobacillales, the family of Eggerthellaceae, the genera Uncultured-Rhodospirillales, Lactobacillus, Streptococcus, Sutterella and Uncultured-Rhodospirillales were statistically significant increased in SSc, while the class of Clostridia, the family of Oscillospiraceae and the order UCG-002 were statistically significant increased in VEDOSS (Figure 1).

In SSc patients, we observed a significant positive association between the genus Lactobacillus and disease duration. In VEDOSS patients, we observed a significant positive correlation between the genera Bacilli and Lactobacillus genus and GIT.

Conclusion: Our data show, for the first time, a different microbiota composition in SSc and VEDOSS patients. In particular, we observed an increased abundance of genus Lactobacillus in SSc patients. However, no significant differences in the UCLA GIT score between the two groups were observed, confirming that GI symptoms also affect VEDOSS patients. Both these findings could suggest that the increased Lactobacillus values in SSc patients should raise the suspicion of more severe GIT involvement. This may account for the poor result of a lactobacillus-based probiotic treatment, usually observed in literature. It is necessary to confirm this data on larger groups of patients in the two phases of the disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Table 1. Significant associations (odds ratio) between clinical manifestations and markers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cutaneous phenotype</th>
<th>SSc-specific biomarkers</th>
<th>SSc-associated biomarkers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACA</td>
<td>ATA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diffuse SSC</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited SSC</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sine sclerodermoida</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
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<td>ILD</td>
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<td>1.6</td>
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<td>Severe ILD</td>
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<td>Raynaud phenomenon</td>
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<td>Telangiectasia</td>
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<td>Digital ulcers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diastolic dysfunction</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
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<td>Calcineurin</td>
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<td>Scleroderma Renal Crisis</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
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Table 1. biomarkers cell culture supernatants of fibroblasts derived from SSc patients and HC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>IL-6 (ng/ml)</th>
<th>MCP-1 (ng/ml)</th>
<th>MMP-1 (ng/ml)</th>
<th>Procollagen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSc</td>
<td>0.22±0.03</td>
<td>0.37±0.12</td>
<td>13.53±3.96</td>
<td>39.56±885.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HC</td>
<td>0.04±0.01</td>
<td>0.04±0.02</td>
<td>1.36±4.89</td>
<td>32.5±325</td>
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<tr>
<td>after IL-17</td>
<td>3.95±1.57</td>
<td>6.20±0.71</td>
<td>2.99±74.11</td>
<td>162.22±957.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>+/- SE</td>
<td>0.75±0.13</td>
<td>0.71±0.51</td>
<td>8.16±24.74</td>
<td>37.49±41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after TGF-β</td>
<td>0.81±0.60</td>
<td>0.47±0.37</td>
<td>9.67±17.83</td>
<td>875.4±50.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+/- SE</td>
<td>1.0±0.10</td>
<td>0.10±0.24</td>
<td>2.34±14.33</td>
<td>50.3±50.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Biomarker concentrations given in ng/ml; significant differences of concentrations between SSc and HC without or after stimulation (with TGF-β or IL-17, respectively) with * p-value < 0.05 or ** p-value < 0.01

Conclusion: Skin fibroblasts in SSc patients showed significantly stronger pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrotic properties compared with healthy controls as an indication of the fibro-inflammatory character of the disease. Furthermore, the significant increase of the expression of IL-6, MCP-1, procollagen and the decrease of the anti-fibrotic efficient protein MMP-1 after IL-17 stimulation suggest SSc-IL-17 as a well promising target in SSc.

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Keywords: Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis, Autoantibodies

A. Pérez-Isidro1,2, G. M. Lledó2,3, S. Prieto-González2,4, F. Hernández-González2,3, C. Andalucía5,6, M. A. Auren7, A. Cortina8, M. Mahler9, G. Espinosa2,3, O. Viñas10,11, E. Ruiz-Ontz12. Centre de Diagnòstic Biomèdic, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Immunology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 2Institut d’Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer, IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Autoimmune Diseases Department, Barcelona, Spain; 4Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Internal Medicine Department, Barcelona, Spain; 5Respiratory Institute, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Pneumology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 6Headquarters & Technology Center Autoimmunity, Werfen, Research and Development, San Diego, CA, United States of America

Background: Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) is an autoimmune disease characterized by excessive fibrosis, inflammation and vasculopathy of the skin and internal organs. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is the most important cause of mortality. Multiple autoantibodies (Abs) against nuclear proteins are present in >95% of patients. Anti-Topoisomerase-I (ATA), anti-CENP-B (ACA) and anti-RNA-polymerase-III (RNAP3) Abs are included in the 2013 SSc ACR/EULAR classification criteria. The detection of additional Abs is of interest to identify seronegative cases or specific clinical phenotypes. The particle-based-multi-analyte technology (PMAT) is a multiplexed system based on antigen covered paramagnetic particles with unique signatures. It allows to simultaneously obtain different autoantibody results.

Objectives: To evaluate the clinical performance of PMAT-Apta in a cohort of SSc patients from Hospital Clinic de Barcelona.

Methods: Study cohort includes serum samples of patients with SSc (n=138), disease controls with other autoimmune diseases (n=205) and healthy blood donors (n=25). Demographic characteristics and clinical manifestations of patients were collected. SSc specific (ATA, ACA or RNAP3) or SSc associated (Ro52, U1-RNP, Ku, Th/To (Rpp25 and Rpp38), Fibrillarin, Pm/Scl, BICD2, MIT3, Mup44, PUF60 (isoforms 1, 2 and 6), RNPC3r, RNPC3 (peptide 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), RuvBL1/2, SMN1 and TERF1) Abs were tested on Aptiva by PMAT technology (Werfen, San Diego, USA). The prevalence of Abs was measured based on the manufacturer’s recommended cut-offs. CTD-Essential has calibrated units (FLU) whereas other novel biomarkers were RUO (MFI). Associations between categorical variables were determined with Fisher’s exact test. The relative measure of an effect was expressed by the odds ratio and the 95% CI when considering Ab positivity as the exposure. Results with p values <0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results: From SSc patients, 109/138 (79.0%) were positive for ACA (n=71; 51.4%), ATA (n=29; 21.0%), RNAP3 (n=7; 5.1%) or double positive ACA-ATA (n=2; 1.4%) Abs, while the remaining 29/138 (21.0%) were negative for these three Abs. Nineteen of the 29 (65.5%) negative patients were also negative for all tested novel biomarkers. In 10/29 (34.6%) either single or multi-positivity was observed for anti-Pm/Scl, U1-RNP, Th/To (Rpp25 and Rpp38), TERF1 and Ro52 Abs. Specificity for all SSc related biomarkers was over 93.0%, MT3 and Ro52 were the most prevalent non SSc criteria Abs (17.4% and 16.6%, respectively). As expected, ACA, ATA and RNAP3 previously known associations with specific cutaneous phenotype and ATA and RNAP3 with the presence of ILD were confirmed (Table 1). Interestingly, Rpp38 and RubBL1 were more frequently found in patients with ILD. Additionally, PUF60 isoform 6 was associated with the presence of diffuse cutaneous phenotype whereas TERF1 was more prevalent in patients with d:toplastic dyskinesia. We did not find any association between any of the Abs studied and neoplasia, cardiac arrhythmias or conduction disturbances, pericarditis or myocardial damage, myositis, pulmonary hypertension or esophageal motility disorders.

Conclusion: In our SSc cohort, PMAT-Apta showed a proper specificity and represents a suitable option for patients’ evaluation. Confirmation of promising clinical associations for novel markers PUF60 (isoform 1 and 6), FHL1, RubBL1 and TERF1 in larger SSc cohorts is warranted.
Background: Connective tissue disease-associated interstitial lung disease (CTD-ILD) is a severe complication of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases, e.g. rheumatoid arthritis (RA), dermatomyositis (DM), systemic sclerosis (SSc) and so on. CTD-ILD is a heterogeneous syndrome driven by different diseases and cell types. This complexity provides a challenging field for elucidating the mechanism of the disease. Although some patients with CTD-ILD develop progressive fibrosing interstitial lung disease (PF-ILD) like as other I LD despite immunosuppressive treatment, it is difficult to predict which patients develop PF-ILD before treatment.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to find characteristics of immune cells and predictive biomarkers of PF-ILD in CTD-ILD patients.

Methods: We collected BALF and blood from 30 CTD-ILD and 12 idiopathic interstitial pneumonia (IIP) patients before treatment. Twelve out of 42 patients fulfilled PF-ILD criteria[1] in 1 year period. PF-ILD patients included 3 RA, 2 DM, 2 Sjögren syndrome, 1 ANCA-associated vasculitis, and 4 IIP patients. We applied Seq-Well, a portable platform of single-cell RNA sequencing[2], to analyze gene expressions in immune cells in BALF and blood. We compared the distribution of immune cells and differential gene expressions in BALF and blood between PF-ILD patients and patients without PF-ILD in CTD-ILD and IIP patients.

Results: We found that alveolar macrophages are the most abundant cell types in BALF of PF-ILD patients. We further classified alveolar macrophages and neutrophils into more detailed subsets based on their gene expression patterns and compared them between PF-ILD and patients without PF-ILD. In PF-ILD patients, we found increased Cxcl10, Cxcl8 alveolar macrophages and complement activation associated genes were upregulated in BALF. Moreover, we found increased interferon-induced proteins with tetracopeptide repeats (Ifit1), Mmp-9 and immature neutrophils, which were reported to be associated with severe COVID-19 pneumonia[3], in the blood of PF-ILD patients. Differentially expressed gene analysis revealed high levels of high mobility group box (HMBG)-2, IL-1β, and complement activation associated genes in alveolar macrophages in PF-ILD patients.

Conclusion: Alveolar macrophage phenotypes were changed in BALF while neutrophil phenotypes were changed in the blood of PF-ILD in CTD-ILD and IIP patients, which are consistent with the characteristics of severe COVID-19 pneumonia patients, suggesting common pathological pathways of lung fibrosis. We propose the hypothesis that alveolar macrophage phenotypic changes lead to complement and cytokine/chemokine mediated neutrophil activation and progression of PF-ILD (Figure 1). These cell subpopulations and up-regulated genes would be potential biomarkers or therapeutic target of PF-ILD in CTD-ILD patients.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Accordingly, BMPs expression and BMPs-pathway activation were exacerbated in CSE KO tenocytes compared to WT tenocytes. The protective role of CSE-H$_2$S was confirmed in vivo. Indeed, in aged mice, micro computer tomography revealed exacerbated Achilles' tendon calcification in CSE KO mice compared to WT. Interestingly, CSE deficiency led to reduced biomechanical strength, as the dynamic Young's modulus was significantly decreased upon increased tendon displacement. Furthermore, using a tenotomy model of CT, we found an inverse correlation between CSE expression and calcification in tendons. This was confirmed in human tendons from CT patients, which exhibited decreased CSE expression where calcification was present. In parallel experiments, we found that calcification in tenocytes was significantly reduced by addition of BAPN, a pan-inhibitor of lysyl oxidases (LOX(L)) enzymes. LOX(L) family includes 5 enzymes LOX and LOX1-4, catalysing elastin and collagen cross-links. We identified a pan-inhibitor of lysyl oxidases (LOX(L)) enzymes. LOX(L) family includes 5 enzymes LOX and LOX1-4, catalysing elastin and collagen cross-links. We then investigated if the anti-calcifying effect of H$_2$S in CT could be mediated by inhibition of LOX(L). Indeed, in CM-stimulated tenocytes we found that H$_2$S impacts both LOX/LOX2 expression (as CSE deficiency increased LOX/LOX2 gene expression) and LOX(L) activity (as CSE deficiency increased LOX(L) activity and conversely H$_2$S dose-dependently inhibited LOX(L) activity in WT tenocytes. Finally, in vivo we discovered that, CSE was inversely correlated with calcification and LOX and LOXL2 expression in mouse and human tendons.

Conclusion: Altogether, our results suggest that increasing H$_2$S levels in tenocytes could represent a future strategy to prevent or decrease calcification in CT, likely via down-modulation of LOX(L) expression and activity.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POSO0618 QUANTITATIVE RADIOMIC RISK SCORE STRATIFIES RESPONSE TO ANTI-FIBROTIC TREATMENT IN A PRECLINICAL LUNG FIBROSIS MODEL

Keywords: Imaging, Lungs, Animal models

D. Lauer1,2, H. Gabrys3, M. Maciukiewicz2,3, M. Brunner4, T. Frauenfelder4, S. Tanadini-Lang3, M. Heller5, A. C. Uldry5, K. Klein1, O. Distler6, J. Schniering7, B. Maurer1

1University Hospital Bern, Switzerland
2University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland
3University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland
4University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Department of Radiation Oncology, Zurich, Switzerland
5University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Institute of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Zurich, Switzerland
6University of Bern, Core Facility Proteomics & Mass Spectrometry, Bern, Switzerland
7University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Schlieren, Switzerland
8Helmholz Zentrum München, Institute of Lung Health and Immunity (LHI), Comprehensive Pneumology Center, Munich, Germany

Background: Anti-fibrotic drugs aim at slowing disease progression in patients with fibrosing interstitial lung disease (ILD). Currently, only repeated pulmonary function tests and/or serial chest high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scans spanning long periods can identify treatment responders. Imaging omics data (‘radiomics’) from HRCT scans, which integrate pathological physiologic information of the whole lung, may provide a powerful tool not only for prediction of disease progression as shown previously, but also for timely stratification of treatment response on an individual base.[1].

Objectives: To explore the potential of HRCT-based radiomics for stratification of treatment response to an established anti-fibrotic drug in a preclinical model of fibrosing ILD.

Methods: Fibrosing ILD was induced in mice by intratracheal instillation of 2 U/kg bleomycin on day 0. Treatment with (a) the (non)receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor nintedanib at 60 mg/kg q.d. (n=10) or (b) vehicle-only (n=13) q.d. was administered by gavage from day 7 to 21. Lung pre- and post-treatment MicroCT scans were acquired at 35 μm resolution from each mouse. Lung tissue was collected post-mortem on day 21. Radiomic features (n=1386) were calculated from semi-automatically defined 3D lung volumes using the in-house developed software Z-Rad. Calculation of our composite quantitative radiomic risk score (qRISSc), developed for risk stratification of systemic sclerosis patients with ILD, was performed as previously described.[1]. Changes between pre- and post-treatment conditions (a.k.a. qRISSc) were used to stratify treatment response. Algorithmic scoring was used to evaluate severity of fibrosis. Markers of fibrosis and inflammation, as well as drug-associated targets, were assessed by gene expression profiling and immunostainings. Lung probe profiles were acquired by mass spectrometry in data-independent acquisition mode using a nanoLC-MS/MS workflow. Analysis of differentially expressed proteins and pathway enrichment were performed using R packages ‘limma’ and ‘clusterProfiler’, respectively.

Results: Post-treatment, non-omics readouts showed that response to treatment was heterogeneous with varied inter-individual responses. Yet, time-resolved radiomics analysis, capturing the individual pre- and post-treatment disease status, reliably allowed the detection of treatment response. A delta qRISSc threshold was established to distinguish responders from non-responders. Immunostainings of corresponding tissue revealed reduced infiltrates of αSMA+ myofibroblasts and F4/80+ macrophages in responders. In addition, transcriptional levels of fibrotic (Col1α1, Col3α1, Ftn1), inflammatory (Ccl2, Il6), and nintedanib-associated (Tgfβ1, Timp1, Cxcl1) targets were lower in these samples. Differential protein expression analysis demonstrated that protein expression downregulated in responders were enriched in pathways related to fibrosing ILD pathophysiology (Figure 1A). To identify a molecular basis of delta qRISSc, we performed correlation analysis to the proteome profiles of all samples, including controls. Thereby, qRISSc increase (्वon-response) strongly correlated with activation of pathways related to fibrosis and nintedanib mode of action (Figure 1B). These results indicate that radiomic signature changes reflect drug response on a molecular level.

Figure 1. Reactome pathway enrichment analysis. (A) Differentially expressed proteins down-regulated in treatment responders (log$_{2}$FC<-0.3, p<0.05). (B) Proteins correlated with delta qRISSc (Spearman’s $p<$0.5, $p<$0.05).

Conclusion: Upon clinical validation, HRCT-based radiomics may provide a powerful tool for early distinction of patients benefiting from anti-fibrotic therapy and thus serve as a foundation for a more individualized and improved patient management.


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POSO0619 HIGH SERUM CXCL10 PREDICTS NEW ONSET OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Biomarkers, Lungs, Cytokines and chemokines

Y. Al-Adwi1, I. M. Atzeni1, B. Doornbos-van der Meer2, M. Van der Leij3, J. Kroesen4, A. J. Steil5, H. Van Goor4, T. J. Gan5, W. Timens4, J. Westra2, D. J. Mulder2

1University Medical Center Groningen, Internal Medicine (Vascular), Groningen, Netherlands
2University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands
3University Medical Center Groningen, Laboratory Medicine, Groningen, Netherlands
4University Medical Center Groningen, Pathology and Medical Biology, Groningen, Netherlands
5University Medical Center Groningen, Pulmonary Diseases and Tuberculosis, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Systemic sclerosis-interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD) is a severe complication that affects most SSc patients causing one-third of SSc-related
There is an unmet need for predictive biomarkers of ILD to identify patients at risk, prior to clinical manifestation. Activated IFN-induced chemokines and proteins are implicated in the early inflammatory phase of SSC-ILD [2]. CXCL10 is an IFN-induced chemokine that is important in the chemotraction of inflammatory cells in SSc-affected tissue [3,4].

**Objectives:** We investigated CXCL10 serum levels in SSc, SSc-ILD, and healthy controls (HCs) to understand whether CXCL10 levels differ between groups and potentially play a role in ILD pathogenesis. We also sought whether CXCL10 levels in serum mirror those in the lungs to investigate whether systemic levels reflect those of the affected organ locally. The transcriptomic study investigated CXCL10 expression in inflammatory SSc-ILD lung sections compared to fibrotic sections to show whether CXCL10 is more prominent in early disease. We also assessed whether CXCL10 could serve as a predictive biomarker for the new onset of SSc-ILD. Finally, to better comprehend the clinical observations, in vitro studies aimed to reveal the inflammatory/fibrotic effects of local and systemic fluids of SSc-ILD patients compared to SSc without ILD and controls.

**Methods:** One-hundred sixty-five SSc patients (SSc-ILD = 41) and 13 age- and sex-matched HCs were retrospectively followed from 2013 to 2020. Furthermore, 15 SSc patients (SSc-ILD = 7) were prospectively recruited for bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) procedure. CXCL10 mRNA and protein levels were measured on various levels (serum, BAL, and SSc-ILD lung tissues) by ELISA and nanoString transcriptic assay, Spearman’s correlations were performed between CXCL10 levels in serum and lungs. Kaplan-Meier analyses were performed to evaluate predictability of SSc-ILD using CXCL10 levels at baseline. Human primary lung fibroblasts were treated with BAL fluid or serum from SSc without ILD or SSc-ILD patients. After stimulation, inflammatory (IL-6 and CXCL10) and fibrotic (α-SMA and TGF-β) genes were assessed using qPCR.

**Results:** At baseline, serum CXCL10 was significantly higher in SSc-ILD patients compared to SSc without ILD (Median (IQR): 126 (66-282) vs 79 (50-122), p = 0.004) and HCs [Median (IQR): vs. 4 (4-9), p < 0.0001]. BAL fluid CXCL10 levels in SSc-ILD patients were not significantly higher than those in SSc without ILD [Median (IQR): 457 (42-725) vs 134 (72-333), p = 0.2]. However, BAL CXCL10 levels significantly correlated with serum levels (r = 0.7, p = 0.007). The nanoString showed that CXCL10 gene expression is significantly higher in inflammatory lung tissue compared to fibrotic tissue (fold change = 2.3, p = 0.029). Kaplan-Meier survival analysis (Figure 1) revealed that CXCL10 levels >3rd quartile at baseline in SSc patients significantly predicted new onset of ILD (p = 0.023). The in vitro studies showed that CXCL10 and IL-6 were significantly overexpressed in lung fibroblasts treated with SSc-ILD BAL fluid or serum compared to SSc without ILD [CXCL10: p = 0.0043; p = 0.0087); (IL-6: p = 0.0022; p = 0.0043), respectively] and controls (all: p = 0.0022). On the contrary, TGF-β and α-SMA expression did not change after treatment in all groups.

**Conclusion:** CXCL10 is a potential predictive biomarker for new onset of ILD in SSc patients. Further longitudinal studies with larger sample sizes are needed to verify the capability of CXCL10 to predict ILD. Additionally, our nanoString and in vitro data suggest that CXCL10 may play a significant role in the early development of SSc-ILD which might be amenable to therapeutic interventions.

**REFERENCES:**


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**POS0620 BI 685509: A POTENT ACTIVATOR OF SOLUBLE GUANYLATE CYCLASE (sGC) AS A NOVEL TREATMENT OF VASCULOPATHY AND FIBROSIS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSC)**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Animal models, Cell biology

**Objectives:** To evaluate the efficacy of the potent sGC activator BI 685509 in cellular and in vivo models of SSc pathobiology.

**Methods:** Human dermal microvascular endothelial cells (HDMVEC) were cultured in normoxic or 1% O2 conditions in the presence of BI 685509 ranging in doses from 0.04 to 10 µM. After 48 hrs, culture supernatant was collected and the level of CXCL4 was measured. For the bleomycin induced skin and lung fibrosis studies, adult female C57Bl/6 mice were used. Mice received intradermal injections of bleomycin every other day for six weeks or a single intratracheal injection. Mice were treated with BI 685509, Riociguat or Nintedanib daily beginning at day 21 (dermal) or 14 (lung) after initiation of bleomycin injection. At 6 (dermal) or 4 (lung) weeks post treatment initiation skin or lung samples were analyzed via histologic analysis for various cellular and biochemical markers of tissue fibrosis.

**Results:** In HDMVEC, hypoxia induced production of the tissue remodeling factor TGFβ was determined. Human platelet rich plasma (PRP) was isolated and activated for 5 minutes with ADP in the presence of BI 685509 or Riociguat at doses of 0.1, 10 or 100 µM. Following activation, supernatants were collected and the level of CXCL4 was measured. For the bleomycin induced skin and lung fibrosis studies, adult female C57Bl/6 mice were used. Mice received intradermal injections of bleomycin every other day for six weeks or a single intratracheal injection. Mice were treated with BI 685509, Riociguat or Nintedanib daily beginning at day 21 (dermal) or 14 (lung) after initiation of bleomycin injection. At 6 (dermal) or 4 (lung) weeks post treatment initiation skin or lung samples were analyzed via histologic analysis for various cellular and biochemical markers of tissue fibrosis.

**Conclusion:** To evaluate the efficacy of the potent sGC activator BI 685509 in cellular and in vivo models of SSc pathobiology.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared, Johanna Westra: None declared, Douwe J Mulder Grant/ research support from: Dr DJ Mulder as an employee of the UMC received research grants from Sanofi which were paid to the UMCG.

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CXCL4 was effectively inhibited in activated PRP treated with the sGC activator BI 685509 whereas minimal inhibition was observed in samples treated with the sGC stimulator Ricoglut. Inhibition of CXCL4 production in activated human platelet rich plasma treated with the sGC activator BI 685509.

Figure 1.

Conclusion: Collectively, these results point to the use of the sGC activator BI 685509 as a novel treatment for SSC and suggests potential superior effects vs. sGC stimulators like Ricoglut in this autoimmune disease.

REFERENCES:

POS0621

EFFECTS OF B CELL DEPLETION BY CD19-TARGETED CAR-T CELLS IN A MURINE MODEL OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Animal models, Systemic sclerosis

1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2Institut Cochin, INSERM U1016, Paris, France; 3Institut Pasteur, INSERM U1223, Paris, France

Background: Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cells represent a potentially curative strategy for B cell malignancies. A first successful clinical experience has been reported in systemic lupus erythematosus, suggesting that CD19-targeted CAR-T cell transfer was feasible and tolerable [1].

Objectives: Since systemic sclerosis (SSc) and SLE are both severe diseases sharing B cell implication in their pathogenesis, we aimed at assessing the efficacy and tolerance of two B cell depletion strategies, including one with CD19-targeted CAR-T cells, in a preclinical model mimicking the severe lung damages observed in SSc.

Methods: B cell depletion strategies were evaluated in the Fra-2 transgenic (Tg) mouse model. We considered a first group of 16 untreated mice, a second group of 15 mice receiving a single intravenous (IV) dose (50 µg) of anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (mAb) at day 1 and a third group of 8 mice receiving 50 µg anti-CD20 mAb IV at day 1 followed by the IV injection of 2×10^6 CD19-targeted CAR-T cells at day 3. After 6 weeks, different validated markers of inflammation, lung fibrosis and pulmonary vascular remodeling were assessed.

Results: Following treatment with anti-CD20 mAb, CD19 expression was significantly decreased in peripheral blood and lesional lungs of Fra-2 Tg mice by 59% (p<0.001) and 40% (p=0.019), respectively, compared to control Fra-2. B cell depletion was even more pronounced in mice treated with CD19-targeted CAR-T cells: CD19 expression was decreased in peripheral blood and lungs of Fra-2 Tg mice by 92% (p<0.001) and 85% (p<0.001), respectively, compared to control Fra-2. CAR-T cell infiltration increased mortality in Fra-2 Tg mice (Figure 1A). In line with the above findings, mice receiving CD19-targeted CAR-T cells displayed a significant increase in lung density (mean difference of 55±28 Hounsfield Units, p=0.038) (Figure 1B-C) and a marked reduction of functional residual capacity (mean difference of 11.93±4.44 µg/mL, p=0.020) (Figure 1D). Histological fibrosis score (mean difference of 1.74±0.48, p=0.002) (Figure 1E-F) and right ventricular systolic pressure mean difference 8.52±2.70 mmHg, p=0.013) (Figure 1G). CAR-T cells accumulated in lesional lungs and promoted T infiltration and activation: a significant increase of CD4+ effector memory T cells was observed in CD19-targeted CAR-T cell-treated Fra-2 Tg mice compared to Fc control Fra-2 Tg mice (mean difference of 52±9%, p=0.019). Moreover, the fraction of CD69 and PD1-expressing cells was significantly increased within the CD4+ and CD8+ subsets in the lung of CD19-targeted CAR-T cell-treated Fra-2 Tg mice. Treatment with anti-CD20 mAb in monotherapy had no impact on lung inflammation-driven fibrosis and pulmonary hypertension.

Conclusion: B-cell therapies failed to show efficacy in the Fra2 transgenic mice. The exacerbated Fra-2 lung inflammatory burden stimulated accumulation and expansion of activated CD19-targeted CAR-T cells, secondarily inducing T-cell activation and systemic inflammation, finally leading to disease worsening.

REFERENCE:

POS0622

BIFIDOBACTERIUM LONGUM RAPO AMELIORATES DERMAL AND PULMONARY FIBROSIS THROUGH THE MODULATION OF GUT MICROBIOTA AND IMMUNE RESPONSE IN BLEOMYCIN-INDUCED SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS IN MICE

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, -Omics, Lungs

1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2Institut Cochin, INSERM U1016, Paris, France; 3Institut Pasteur, INSERM U1223, Paris, France

Background: Bifidobacterium longum RaPo (B. longum RaPo) protects from bleomycin-induced dermal and pulmonary fibrosis in a murine model through the modulation of gut microbiota and immune response.

Objectives: To investigate the impact of B. longum RaPo on bleomycin-induced systemic sclerosis (SSc).

Methods: Female C57BL/6 mice were treated with bleomycin (BLM) to induce SSc-like pathology. Mice were divided into 3 groups: control (n=8), B. longum RaPo treated (n=8), and B. longumRaPo+Supplemented (n=8). The effects on pulmonary function, lung structure, and immune response were assessed.

Results: B. longum RaPo treatment significantly improved pulmonary function, reduced lung fibrosis, and moderated the immune response compared to the control group. The combination of B. longum RaPo with probiotics further enhanced these protective effects.

Conclusion: B. longum RaPo ameliorates bleomycin-induced SSc-like pathology through the modulation of gut microbiota and immune response.
Methods: We performed an immunoglobulin (Ig) M antibody microarray against 384 microbial species in the serum from SSc patients and healthy control (HC). Then, the antifibrotic effect of candidate microbial species was investigated using a bleomycin (BLM)-induced fibrosis model in mice.

Results: Bifidobacterium (B.) longum RAPO, which was less abundant in the serum of patients with SSc than HC, alleviated BLM-induced skin and lung fibrosis in mice. The administration of B. longum RAPO normalized fecal microbial diversity with an increase in short-chain fatty acid-producing bacteria. Moreover, infiltrated inflammatory monocytes or macrophages in the spleen, the skin, and bronchoalveolar lavage of BLM-injected mice were significantly reduced by treating B. longum RAPO. In vitro, B. longum RAPO downregulated LPS-induced inflammatory cytokines gene expression in mouse macrophage cell Raw 264.7.

Conclusion: B. longum RAPO could have an antifibrotic effect on skin and lung fibrosis through gut microbial restoration and macrophage regulation in BLM-induced fibrosis mice. Microbial intervention would be a potential option for SSc treatment.

REFERENCES:

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[1]. In addition, a strong correlation between bag3 gene expression and patients’ survival was found in several types of fibrotic tumors [1].

**Objectives:** Our aim was to evaluate the presence of BAG3 in the serum of patients with SSC and to investigate whether circulating levels of BAG3 could have any relationship with different SSC subsets and disease features.

**Methods:** We enrolled SSC patients, all classified according to the ACR-EULAR criteria. Videocapillaroscopy (NVC) was performed at the time of serum collection. Lung involvement was assessed by spirometry and high-resolution chest CT. Patients were classified into 3 subgroups (no ILD, limited ILD, and extensive ILD). According to the diagram described by Goh et al. [2], SSC disease activity was assessed according to the activity indices defined by the EUSTAR score [3]. Evaluation of BAG3 protein in serum samples was performed by a sandwich ELISA assay.

**Results:** The study cohort included 106 SSC patients (47 were classified with lcSSc and 59 with dcSSc) and 100 sex and age matched healthy controls (HC). Serum levels of BAG3 were significantly higher in SSC patients (mean value 85.3 pg/mL, 95% confidence interval CI 47.2-123.4) when compared with HC (0.68 pg/mL, 95%CI 0.13-1.23) (p=0.001). When analyzed according to disease subset, dcSSc patients showed values (143.3 pg/mL, 95%CI 78-208.5) significantly higher and lcSSc patients (8.7 pg/mL, 95%CI 1.8-15.9) (p<0.001). No correlation was found between BAG3 levels and digital ulcers, mRSS and disease activity. Conversely, BAG3 values positively correlated with the extent of lung damage (237.8 pg/mL, 95%CI 131.2-344 in the extensive lung disease vs 16.3%CI 7.5-25.3 in the limited). Finally, BAG3 values were significantly higher in patients with late NVC pattern in comparison with NVC pattern early/active (p=0.0008).

**Conclusion:** Recent studies have highlighted a central role of extracellular BAG3 in maintaining the tumour microenvironment, as well as in the development of fibrosis in neoplastic tissues. To our knowledge, the presence of BAG3 in the serum of patients with SSC has never been described in the literature. Serum levels of BAG3 were found to be significantly higher in the dcSSc, mostly in those with lung involvement. This is not surprising since the diffuse form of disease has more extensive fibrosis, both in the skin and lung, than lcSSc. Accordingly, BAG3 values correlated with the late pattern at NVC, the one most frequently associated with the more advanced and fibrotic stages of the disease. Conversely, serum BAG3 values did not correlate with disease activity, since these scores reflect the evolution and progression of disease rather than the extent of fibrosis. Indeed, the close correlation between BAG3 levels and the more fibrotic features of the disease, suggests that BAG3 might be a new promising marker of fibrosis.

**REFERENCES:**

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**Disclosure of Interests:** Margot De Marco Shareholder of: Shareholder of Fibrosys srl, an academic spin-off that provided anti-BAG3 antibodies., Antonia Falco: None declared, Francesca Reppucci: None declared, Liberato Marzullo Shareholder of: Shareholder of Fibrosys srl, an academic spin-off that provided anti-BAG3 antibodies., Alessandra Rosati Shareholder of: Shareholder of Fibrosys srl, an academic spin-off that provided anti-BAG3 antibodies., Giuseppe Armentano: None declared, Antonina Minniti: None declared, Claudia Iannone: None declared, Nicoletta Del Papa Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Roberto Caporal Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celtrion, Fresenius, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Consultant of: Consultant of: AbbVie, Fresenius, Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Maria Caterina Turco Shareholder of: Shareholder of Fibrosys srl, an academic spin-off that provided anti-BAG3 antibodies.

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**PO50629**

**EFFECTS OF DIFFERENTIATION STAGES OF HEALTHY AND SSC MACROPHAGES ON THE 3D CARDIAC MICROTISSUE (MT) CONTRACTILITY.**

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Heart, Systemic sclerosis

**L. Provenzale**, A. Hukara1, I. Kocherova1, E. Pacher1, A. Laimbacher1, O. Distler1, P. Blyszczuk1, G. Kania1, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Schlieren, Switzerland

**Background:** Activated cardiac fibroblasts, key regulators of cardiac fibrosis, control contraction of human fibrotic cardiac microtissues (MT)[1]. Macrophages regulate fibrotic process by interfering with the extracellular matrix (ECM) turnover. The heart is one of the primary organs affected in systemic sclerosis (SSc).

**Objectives:** To study the role of healthy donor- and SSC patient-derived macrophages in the functions of 3 dimensional (D) human cardiac MT fibrosis model.

**Methods:** CD14+ blood-derived monocytes from healthy controls (HC) and SSC patients were isolated and differentiated into human monocyte-derived macrophages (hMDM) using human monocyte colony-stimulating factor (h-M-CSF). A timeline of macrophage differentiation stages was performed by incubation of the CD14+ cells for 1,3,5 and 7 days (d) with h-M-CSF. One MT was generated by 4’000 human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (iCM), 1’000 human cardiac fibroblasts (HCF) and 1’000 HC or SSc HMDM, mixed in a ratio 4:1 (HC-HMDM/iCM:HC-FMT or SSC-hMDM/iCM:H-CF-MT), and formed by self-assembling in plates with ultra-low-attachment surfaces. Control MTs were composed with iCM/HCF in a ratio 4:1:2 (iCM:H-CF-MT). Two days after MT assembly, the fibrotic condition was induced with transforming growth factor (TGF-β1) for 10d. Contraction of each MT was assessed by recording videos, applying MUSCLEMOTION[2] and subsequent evaluation by relaxation time (ms), contraction amplitude (a.u.), contraction duration (ms), time-to-peak (ms) and beating rate (bpm). The level of fibrosis was analyzed by several levels: mRNA by qPCR, ELISA to measure secreted pro-collagen-Ix1, immunohistochemistry (IHC) using Sirius Red to visualize collagen depositions and degree of fibrosis. Apoptosis was assessed using Caspase-3/7 assay.

**Results:** Control-iCM:HCF-MTs (n=23-49), following TGF-β1 stimulation, revealed a shorter contraction duration (p<0.01) and a lower contraction amplitude (p<0.001) but not altered contraction duration (p=0.509) and contraction amplitude (p=0.7298) compared to untreated-iCM:HCF-MTs. Interestingly, untreated-SSc-hMDM/iCM:HCF-MTs showed a shorter time-to-peak (p<0.0001), lower beating rate (p<0.01) and higher contraction amplitude (p<0.01) compared to untreated-HC-HMDM/iCM:HCF-MTs (n=41-81, both conditions 3d). Next, TGF-β1-stimulated SSc-hMDM/iCM:HCF-MTs exhibited a lower contraction duration (p<0.01) and contraction amplitude (p<0.0001), shorter relaxation time (p<0.0001), and higher beating rate (p<0.0001) compared to TGF-β1-stimulated HC-HMDM/iCM:HCF-MTs (n=33-42, both conditions 1d). Upon TGF-β1-stimulation, control-iCM:HCF-MTs showed significantly increased profibrotic genes: ACTA2 (p<0.001) and COL1A1 (p<0.01) (n=4-5), secreted human pro-collagen-Ix1 (n=9-10, p<0.0001), and formed visible collagen-rich fibrotic ring. Remarkably, under fibrotic conditions, addition of HC or SSc HMDM into iCM:HCF-MTs resulted in lower mRNA expression of ACTA2 (n=4-5, p<0.05, both conditions 7d) and COL1A1 (n=4-5, p<0.05, both conditions 7d), lower excretion of human pro-collagen-Ix1 protein (n=9-10, p<0.0001, both conditions 7d) and lack of collagen-rich fibrotic ring compared to control-iCM:HCF-MTs. Importantly, independently of culture duration of HC or SSc HMDM, before MT assembly, a similar reduction in profibrotic gene and protein expression was observed. Lastly, the level of apoptosis was similar in all three undifferentiated or TGF-β1-stimulated MTs types.

**Conclusion:** For the first time, the combination of iCM, HCF and HMDM in a 3D cardiac fibrotic MT model has been established and investigated. Under fibrotic conditions, addition of HC- but not SSc-hMDM into iCM:HCF-MTs influenced MT contractility. Importantly, both HC- and SSc-hMDM reduced TGF-β1-induced fibrotic responses.

**Scheme 1:** Graphical abstract

**REFERENCES:**

**Scheme 1:** Graphical abstract

**Disclosure of Interests:** Laila Provenzale: None declared, Amelia Hukara: None declared, Lejvgenia Kocherova: None declared, Elena Pachera: None declared, Andrea Laimbacher: None declared, Oliver Distler Speakers bureau: Oliver Distler has had relationships with the following companies in the area of potential treatments for systemic sclerosis and its complications in the last three calendar years: Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Medscape. Consultant of: Oliver Distler has had relationships with the following companies in the area of potential treatments for systemic sclerosis and its complications in the last three calendar years: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant Sciences, Amgen, AnaMar, Arxx, AstraZeneca, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Glenmark, Horizon, Inventiva, Kymera, Lupin, MilliPore Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, MSD, Novartis, Prometheus, Redpharma, Roviant, Sanofi and Topadur, Grant/research support from: Oliver Distler has/
had consultancy relationship with and/or has received research funding from the following companies in the area of potential treatments for systemic sclerosis and its complications in the last three years: Research Grants: Kymera, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Boehringer Ingelheim, Przemyslaw Blyszczuk; None declared, Gabriela Kania; None declared.

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POS0626
PERTURBED LIPID METABOLISM IS A CENTRAL METABOLIC REPROGRAMMING HUB IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, -omics, Skin

B. Burja1,2, H. Rehrauer3, D. Paul4, M. Whitfield5, M. Tomsic6, Z. Rotar6, M. Robinson5, O. Distler1, K. Lakota7, M. Frank Bertonecz7, 1Center of Experimental Rheumatology, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; 2University Medical Center Ljubljana, Department of Rheumatology, Ljubljana, Slovenia; 3Functional Genomics Center Zurich, ETH Zurich and University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; 4Faculty of Science, Department of Molecular Life Sciences, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; 5Geisel School of Medicine, Biomedical Data Science, Hanover, United States of America; 6BioMed X, Institute, Heidelberg, Germany

Background: Perturbed cellular metabolism has been increasingly associated with fibroblast activation in fibrosis. A deeper understanding of metabolic rewiring might help to unravel the interplay between the metabolic and fibrotic pathways in systemic sclerosis (SSc).

Objectives: We aimed to identify transcriptomic alterations in metabolic pathway-related genes in fibrotic SSc skin and unravel whether fibroblasts could contribute to the perturbed skin metabolic networks in SSc.

Methods: We integrated transcriptomic microarray data from skin (clinically affected forearm and non-affected back skin) of 76 SSc patients and 26 healthy controls (HC, forearm skin) from three distinct cohorts (GSE:45485, 59785, 9285/32413). Differentially expressed (DE) genes (FDR<0.05) between healthy and SSc skin were identified using the limma package. The supervised gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was based on DE genes using the clusterProfiler package, focusing on metabolic pathways. Transcriptional changes in primary skin fibroblasts were linked to the TGFβ-induced changes in transcriptomes of primary human skin fibroblasts, measured by RNA-seq and scRNA-seq. For these experiments, cultured healthy skin fibroblasts were treated or not with TGFβ for 24h.

Results: Pathway enrichment analysis of DE gene in skin transcriptomes identified multiple alterations of metabolic pathways in SSc skin (Figure 1A) compared to healthy skin, pointing to enhanced pyrimidine/folate metabolism and suppressed lipid metabolism in SSc skin. Steroid hormone biosynthesis (AKR1, DHRS11, CYP1A2, SULT2B1, HSD1, EHTM2, HSD11B2), fatty acid synthesis (FASN1, FADS1, FADS2, ELOVL, SCD5, PTPD2), and fatty acid degradation (ACAT1/2, ACS, ACAIF/2, ACADM, ACSL3) were the main downregulated lipid metabolism pathways in SSc skin, particularly in patients with the inflammatory intrinsic gene expression subset. The latter changes were detected in the affected and non-affected SSc skin, suggesting that altered lipid metabolism is a generalized feature of the SSc skin. Furthermore, pathway enrichment analysis of TGFβ-induced transcriptional changes in skin fibroblasts, as detected by RNA-seq and scRNA-seq, suggested that TGFβ-driven reprogramming could significantly contribute to the lipid metabolism perturbations in SSc skin (Figure 1B, C). Specifically, STRING analysis revealed that TGFβ suppressed metabolic networks of glycerocephospholipids, arachidonic acid, and fatty acids in cultured skin fibroblasts (Figure 1D).

Conclusion: Our data suggest perturbed lipid metabolic networks in SSc skin and identify skin fibroblasts, exposed to profibrotic milieu, as likely contributors to the altered lipid metabolism in SSc. These results might pave the way to a deeper understanding of the interplay between the metabolic and fibrotic pathways in SSc. Integrating these data with future metabolomic and single-cell studies could accelerate the discovery of potential metabolic targets in SSc.

Figure 1. A) Enriched metabolic pathways in SSc skin compared to healthy skin based on DE gene expression. Downregulated GO biological processes in TGFβ-treated cultured healthy skin fibroblasts based on RNASeq (B) and scRNAseq (C) analyses. D) STRING pathway enrichment analysis of downregulated genes (RNA-Seq) linked to lipid metabolism in TGFβ-stimulated skin fibroblasts.

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POS0627
BLOOD-BASED PROTEIN BIOMARKERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SUBCLINICAL CARDIOVASCULAR ABNORMALITIES AS DEFINED BY CARDIOVASCULAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSC) PATIENTS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis, Cardiovascular disease

W. C. Cheung1, R. Shukla2,3, R. Dumitru4, N. Black5, B. Erhayiem6, G. Fern7, F. Del Galdo4,7, C. Miller8,9, D. Plant2,3, S. Plein10, M. H. Buch11,12, 1University of Manchester, School of Biological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2University of Manchester, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, United Kingdom; 4University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Health, Leeds, United Kingdom; 5University of Manchester, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 6University of Leeds, Multidisciplinary Cardiovascular Research Centre (MCRC) and Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 7Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 8University of Manchester, Wellcome Centre for Cell Matrix Research, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Systemic sclerosis-primary heart involvement (SSc-pHl) accounts for up to one-third of SSc-related deaths and clinically apparent pHl portends poor outcome. Early detection of SSc-pHl is therefore crucial. We have previously shown cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR)-detected subclinical myocardial abnormalities. Identifying robust blood biomarkers of SSc-pHl would facilitate diagnostic testing, help to resolve the biological mechanisms underpinning SSc-pHl and potentially identify new targets for drug development.

Objectives: To identify protein biomarkers associated with subclinical cardiovascular abnormalities as defined by CMR measures in SSc patients, and predominant inflammatory and cardiometabolic pathways implicated.
Methods: Seventy-eight patients from CONVAS (‘CONnective Tissue Disease and VASCultis Cohort’) and ELCASA (‘ELectrophysiology and Cardiac imaging in Scleroderma’) study cohorts underwent CMR imaging. Using Olink Proximity Extension Assay, normalised protein expression (NPX) across cardiometabolic, cardiovascular I/II and inflammation panels was measured in these patients at the time of CMR. Generalised linear regression with Benjamini Hochberg correction for multiple testing was used to identify significant proteins associated with CMR parameters of myocardial oedema/fibrosis [native T1, myocardial extracellular volume (ECV) and late gadolinium enhancement (LGE)] and vascular stiffness [aortic distensibility]. Subsequently, an expanded protein-protein interaction (PPI) network was created using an induced network approach (STRING-DB) with k-means clustering applied to identify enriched functional clusters that were then subjected to Gene Ontology (GO) and KEGG enrichment analysis.

Results: Of 355 proteins analysed, 70 proteins were associated with myocardial tissue oedema/fibrosis (64 proteins; 26 positively, 38 negatively) and vascular stiffness (6 proteins; 2 positively, 4 negatively). 2 overlapping proteins that associated with focal (LGE) and diffuse fibrosis (ECV) were identified. *Proteins identified include those involved in coagulation cascade (estimate = -1.97, 95% CI = -3.63 to -0.31, adj. p = 0.039), carbohydrate binding and opsonisation activities (estimate = -1.31, 95% CI = -2.19 to -0.43, adj. p = 0.006); and cancer and neovascular inflammatory conditions (estimate = -75.79 95% CI = -119.81 to -31.76, adj. p = 0.002).

k-means clustering of the expanded PPI network (enrichment p.value < 1.0e-16) identified 4 clusters (Figure 1) with roles in TNF receptor superfamily binding and NF-kappa B pathway (red); Vascular endothelial growth factor-activated receptor activity and Rap1 signalling pathway (yellow); IL-10 receptor activity and NF-kappa B signalling pathway (green). Proteins associated with CMR detected subclinical myocardial tissue oedema/fibrosis mainly mapped to yellow and blue clusters.

Conclusion: In this first proteomic study of SSc-pHi, we have identified 70 protein biomarkers, with myocardial tissue oedema/fibrosis associated with inflammation and vascular pathways. The next step is to validate these proteins and test the utility of network proteins in an independent patient cohort that could aid detection and diagnosis of SSc-pHi. *Proteins names not disclosed as subject to Intellectual Property discussions via Innovation Factory, University of Manchester.

REFERENCE:


Disclosures of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Lungs, Animal models, Systemic sclerosis

Figure 1. K-means clustering of the expanded PPI network. Four enriched functional clusters were identified using STRINGdb.

POS0628

BARICITINIB AMELIORATES BLEOMYCIN-INDUCED PULMONARY AND SKIN FIBROSIS VIA JAK 1/2 INHIBITION

Background: Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) protein is activated in lung fibroblasts and alveolar type II cells (AT-II) and is thought to contribute to fibrosis in lung tissue. Significant JAK/STAT activation was demonstrated in fibroblasts, skin biopsies and scleroderma animal models of patients with Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) [1].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine whether inhibition of JAK2/STAT3 in the experimental model of scleroderma is a potential therapeutic strategy for this disease and to investigate the effects of the JAK 1/2 inhibitor Baricitinib (BAR) on the experimental model of dermal and pulmonary fibrosis.

Methods: Thirty-two healthy 6-8 weeks old female C57BL mice with an average weight of 22±3 grams were included in our study. Before the treatment (baseline), day 15 and day 30 (day 30) the same back area was shaved with 1 cm from the injection area. Whole lung Computed Tomography (CT) scans of each animal were acquired at post-treatment (day 30). H&E and Masson’s Trichrome staining were performed to evaluate skin thickness, pulmonary alveolitis, and fibrosis. The Ashcroft score was assessed on Sirius Red stained lung sections post-treatment. For the molecular evaluation of tissue fibrosis, collagen and α-SMA levels were measured in skin and lung tissues by qRTPCR.

Results: We found that BAR resulted in favorable therapeutic outcomes by affecting the inflammation infiltration and collagen deposition both lung and skin tissues. Immunohistochemical results showed that BAR downregulated the levels of COL1A1 and COL1A2.Treatment with JAK 1/2 selective BAR has been shown to ameliorate BLM-induced skin and lung fibrosis at radiological, pathological and molecular measurements.

Conclusion: As a result of our study, the effect of JAK1/2 selective inhibitor baricitinib treatment on reducing skin and lung fibrosis in a mouse model created with BLM was demonstrated with radiological and pathological examinations. We conclude that JAKinh treatments will be an important research area for the treatment of SSc and other fibrotic diseases in the future.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Skin and lung measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BLM (I)</th>
<th>BLM+BAR (II)</th>
<th>BLM+PBO (III)</th>
<th>Pairwise comparison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dermal thickness (μm)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(with H&amp;E and MT)</td>
<td>430.29 (54.66)</td>
<td>308.00 (26.79)</td>
<td>452.50 (75.48)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001 * &lt;0.001 0.721 &lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(with UBM)</td>
<td>524.86 (116.21)</td>
<td>304.20 (61.45)</td>
<td>505.67 (88.09)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001 * &lt;0.019 0.919 &lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median (min-max)</td>
<td>432 (288-644)</td>
<td>288 (150-520)</td>
<td>424 (280-640)</td>
<td>0.001 * 0.002 0.630 0.176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashcroft Score (0-8)</td>
<td>5 (2-7)</td>
<td>1 (0-4)</td>
<td>3 (2-5)</td>
<td>0.215 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSc-ILD in CT</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>2 (28.6)</td>
<td>7 (70)</td>
<td>2 (33.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>5 (71.4)</td>
<td>3 (30)</td>
<td>4 (66.7)</td>
<td>n.s. n.s. n.s.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* OneWay ANOVA (Robust Statistic:Brown-Forsythe); Post Hoc Test: Tukey HSD, *Kruskal Wallis Test (Monte Carlo); Post Hoc Test: Dunn’s Test, Fisher Freeman Halton (Monte Carlo), ILD: Interstitial lung disease, UBM: Ultrasound biomicroscopy, H&E: hematoxylin and eosin staining, MT: Masson’s Trichrome staining, n.s.: non significant, min.: minimum, max.: maximum, SD.:Standard deviation, BLM: Bleomycine induced SSc group, BLM+BAR: Bleomycine with Baricitinib group, BLM+PBO: Bleomycine with Placebo group

Figure 1. Dermal thickness change with UBM baseline, 2th and 4th week.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Rheumatoid arthritis - biological DMARDs

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Bitou1, S. Hänseler2, D. Tentam1, N. Szély3, A. Gleizes3, S. Haece Bey5, C. Richet6, M. Soubrier5, J. Avouac7, O. Brocq5, J. Setti11, N. De Vries12, T. Huiszinga13, J. Jury14, J. Manson15, C. Mauri16, A. Matucci17, D. Mullemann18, M. Pallardy19, P. Broet5, X. Mariette20, "Université Paris-Saclay, INSERM U11184, Hôpitaux Universitaires Paris-Saclay, APHP, HUJ-CARE, Rheumatology, Le Kremín Bíctre, France; 20Université Paris-Saclay, Laboratoire d’immunologie, Le Kremín Bíctre, France; 21Hôpital Bicêtre AP-HP, Université Paris-Saclay, Laboratoire d’immunologie, Le Kremín Bíctre, France; 22CHU de Bordeaux-GHPErignon, Rheumatology Department, Bordeaux, France; 23CHU Gabriel-Montpied, Rheumatology Department, Clermont-Ferrand, France; 24Hôpital Cochin, AP-HP, Centre Universitaire de Paris, Cité, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France; 25Hôpital Princesse Grace de Monaco, Rheumatology Department, Monaco, France; 26Hôpital St Antoine, APHP, Paris Sorbonne university, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France; 27Amsterdam UMC | AMC, University of Amsterdam, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 28Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology Department, Leiden, Netherlands; 29University College London Centre for Rheumatology Research, London, United Kingdom; 30University College London Hospital, Rheumatology Department, London, United Kingdom; 31University College London, Division of Infection, Immunity and Transplantation, London, United Kingdom; 32Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Careggi, Department of immunology, Florence, Italy; 33University of Tours, CNRS 7292, Tours, France; 34Université Paris-Saclay INSERM U1184, Hôpital Bicêtre AP-HP, Rheumatology Department, Le Kremín Bíctre, France.

**Background:** Anti-drug antibodies (ADAb) may be involved in loss of response or primary failure of bDMARDs in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, evidence is still controversial. The aim of this study was to assess the treatment in presence of ADAb is rare and restricted to monoclonal anti-TNF antibodies[1].

**Objectives:** In this analysis of the prospective European trial ABIRISK we aimed to analyze how ADAb might influence response to several bDMARDs in RA.

**Methods:** RA patients resistant to methotrexate and starting a bDMARD (anti TNF, anti IL-6 R and anti CD20) were included in 4 countries (ABIRA, NC072116504). They had a clinical assessment and ADAb quantification at 6, 12, and 15 to 18 months. ADAb were detected using mesoscale discovery (MSD) technology. They were defined as transient if they were negative after a positive time point and persistent positive if they were positive at two sequential visits without negative timepoints afterwards. ADAb positivity was defined as having been ADA positive at least in one visit in the first 12 months. The primary endpoint was the EULAR response at 12 months. Association with ADAb was analyzed using univariate logistic regression. Patients withdrawing for side effects or for inefficacy were considered as non-responders. We also performed a univariate and a multivariate analysis through a generalized estimating equation (GEE) model that analyzes the EULAR response and ADAb status for each visit starting at 6 months. This allows taking advantage of all the data available in the study. The effect of methotrexate on ADAb was also studied. Finally, we performed drug concentration measurements for anti-TNF drugs.

**Results:** 230 patients were included treated with: adalimumab or infliximab as monoclonal TNFi (mTNFi, N=68); etanercept (ETN, N=82), rituximab (RTX N=30) or tocilizumab (TCZ N=50). ADAb were positive in 38.2% of the mTNFi-treated patients, 50% of the RTX-treated and 20% of the TCZ-treated patients. ADAb positivity was negatively associated with EULAR response at 12 months for all drugs OR=0.20 [0.10-0.42]. Only persistent and not transient ADAb were negatively associated with EULAR response at 12 months (persistent ADAb vs ADAb negative OR 0.17 [0.06-0.43] transient ADAb vs ADAb negative, p=0.57). This was also the case for mTNFi alone (persistent ADAb vs ADAb negative OR 0.1; p=0.0051; transient ADAb vs ADAb negative, p=0.99). 6% of ETN patients presented ADAb, always transient. In the GEE longitudinal analysis there was a negative association between ADAb positivity and response to all treatments (OR 0.36 [0.20-0.64]) and individually for TCZ (OR=0.18 [0.04-0.83]) and mTNFi (OR 0.44; p=0.097 trend). In the multivariate analysis, the ADAb status remained independently associated with non-response to treatment (Figure 1). Methotrexate co treatment at baseline was negatively associated with ADAb (OR=0.5 [0.25-1.0]). There was a significantly lower concentration of adalimumab and infliximab in ADAb positive patients compared to ADAb negative. There was a significantly higher concentration of adalimumab and etanercept in EULAR responder patients compared to EULAR non-responders.

**Conclusion:** This prospective multicenter study demonstrates that ADAb are frequently detected and associated with non-response to bDMARDs in RA. It is the first study demonstrating the association between ADAb and non-response to TCZ. Monitoring of ADAb should be considered in the personalized management of RA patients particularly in non-responding patients.

**Figure 1.** Multivariate analysis of parameters associated with EULAR response in the GEE analysis from M6 onwards.

**REFERENCE:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POS0683**

TNP INHIBITOR USE AFFECTS BIRTH WEIGHT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE SFLIT1/PLGF RATIO IN PREGNANT WOMEN WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Pregnancy and reproduction, Biomarkers

C. Witte-Quaak1, A. Kluijver2, H. T. Smeekle3, R. I. Neuman4, L. Saleh5, A. H. J. Danser6, R. Dolhain7, 8Rotterdam, Department of Rheumatology and Department of Internal Medicine; Division of Pharmacology and Vascular Medicine, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 7Erasmus Medical Center, 2.Department of Internal Medicine; Division of Pharmacology and Vascular Medicine and 3.Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 8Erasmus Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 9Erasmus Medical Center, Department of Internal Medicine; Division of Pharmacology and Vascular Medicine, Rotterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** TNP inhibitor (TNI) use during pregnancy is associated with increased birthweight of the offspring of women with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). However, the underlying mechanism of the increased birthweight due to TNI use is unknown. Prior studies demonstrated an association between biomarkers of placental function such as soluble fms-like Tyrosine Kinase-1 (sFlt-1) and placental growth factor (PLGF) and fetal growth restriction (FGR). We hypothesized that the increased birthweight in the offspring of women with RA treated with TNI can be explained by better placenta by affecting the levels of biomarkers of placental function or by modulating the impact of these biomarkers on birthweight.

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**Objectives:** To study the modulating impact of sFlt-1 and PI GF on birthweight and the use of TNFi in a cohort of pregnant women with RA.

**Methods:** Making use of the PreCARA cohort, in which pregnant women with RA are treated according to a treatment protocol aimed at remission, biomarkers of placental function sFlt-1, PI GF and sFlt-1/PI GF ratio were measured in the first, second and third trimester of pregnancy.

**Results:** A total of 158 women were included. 52.5% of all patients ever used TNFi during pregnancy; 29.1% used TNFi during all trimesters of pregnancy. The sFlt-1/PI GF ratio is different in each trimester. After correction for confounders, there was no significant difference in sFlt-1 or the sFlt-1/PI GF ratio between patients that did, and did not use TNFi inhibitors (sFlt-1: p < 0.005, CI -0.065; 0.063 p = 0.997, PI GF: 0.014, CI -0.069; 0.093 p = 0.721 and sFlt-1/PI GF ratio: -0.014, CI -0.107; 0.078 p = 0.757). When correlating sFlt-1 and birthweight, we found the previously established correlation in the group that did not use TNFi inhibitors during pregnancy (r = -0.462, p < 0.001). However, this correlation disappeared in the group that did use TNFi inhibitors during pregnancy (r = 0.076, p = 0.522).

**Conclusion:** Our study shows that in pregnant women with RA, the biomarkers of placental function sFlt-1, PI GF and the sFlt-1/PI GF ratio are not related to the use of TNFi. In case of using TNFi, the negative correlation of sFlt-1 on birthweight disappeared, whereas this negative correlation on birthweight persists in the patients not using TNFi. This suggests that TNFi has a downstream effect on placental function sFlt-1, PI GF and the sFlt-1/PI GF ratio: an association is still found in the patients not using TNFi. This could be related to the use of TNFi inhibitors during pregnancy and should be explored in future research.

**Table 1.** sFlt-1, PI GF and sFlt-1/PI GF ratio values per trimester for all patients that did not use TNFi during pregnancy and patients that used TNFi during pregnancy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TNFi</th>
<th>TNFi inhibitors</th>
<th>TNFi all trimesters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N = 75</td>
<td>N = 83</td>
<td>N = 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trimester 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sFlt-1</td>
<td>1188 (816 - 1542)</td>
<td>1110 (574 - 1379)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI GF</td>
<td>31.4 (19.8 - 50.4)</td>
<td>27.8 (16.2 - 46.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sFlt-1/PI GF</td>
<td>33.4 (17.0 - 51.2)</td>
<td>33.0 (17.8 - 45.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trimester 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sFlt-1</td>
<td>1321 (1051 - 1761)</td>
<td>1557 (1038.5 - 2210.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI GF</td>
<td>346 (240 - 461.5)</td>
<td>360 (247 - 596.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sFlt-1/PI GF</td>
<td>4.1 (2.3 - 5.9)</td>
<td>4.9 (2.3 - 7.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trimester 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sFlt-1</td>
<td>1933 (1379.5 - 2862.5)</td>
<td>2011 (1453 - 2820.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI GF</td>
<td>497 (299.5 - 765)</td>
<td>644 (406.5 - 979.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sFlt-1/PI GF</td>
<td>3.8 (1.8 - 7.3)</td>
<td>3.2 (1.8 - 5.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 2.** Correlation of sFlt-1 and birthweight SDS in the third trimester of pregnancy for all patients with and without ever-use of TNFi during pregnancy.
Conclusion: These results indicate highly elevated neutrophil activation and NET formation in recently diagnosed RA patients. All four treatments studied here reduced these detrimental processes within 3 months. The calprotectin reduction seen in this study is in line with an earlier spin-off study [2]. The rapid decline in these markers may have contributed to the minimal radiological progression that was seen in the NORD-STAR trial.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Bas Dijskstra: None declared, Ting Wang: None declared, Daisy Vedder: None declared, Anna Rudin: None declared, Dan Nordstrom: Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Bjorn Gudbrandsson: Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Lilly, Novartis and Novo Nordisk - not related to this work, Consultant of: Novartis - not related to this work, Consultants: Abbvie, BMS, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB.

Methods: To proxy TNFi, we selected uncorrelated (r² > 0.1) genome-wide significant (p < 5 x 10⁻⁸) single nucleotide polymorphisms within the gene encoding TNF receptor 1 (TNFRSF1A, build GRCh37/hg19: chromosome 12:6437923-6451280) from a genome-wide association study (GWAS) of CRP among 337,199 individuals. CRP was (inverse rank-normal) transformed, with estimates scaled to per standard deviation (SD=4.35 mg/L) change in CRP. We selected CRP as the biomarker because clinical data show its suppression with TNFi. We estimated the F statistics of the instrument (square of the beta divided by square of the standard error) with F > 10 being suggestive of adequate instrument strength. Genetic association data for spontaneous abortion (15,073 cases, 135,962 female controls), preterm birth (7,678 cases, 14,813 controls), pre-eclampsia or eclampsia (6,436 cases, 176,113 controls), gestational hypertension (7,503 cases, 176,113 controls) and gestational diabetes (7,676 cases, 130,424 controls) were derived from the FinnGen study. Data for firstborn birth weight (grouped into <7, 7 to >7 pounds (~3.2kg)) was obtained from 200,272 women in the UK Biobank. We included a positive control outcome, ankylosing spondylitis, and a negative control, multiple sclerosis. We used ratio method and, where an association was found, applied colocalization to test for genetic confounding.

Results: We identified one variant, rs1800693, to instrument TNFi. The F statistic was 65 suggesting adequate instrument strength. We found no evidence of associations between genetically proxied TNFi and any pregnancy related outcome (Figure 1) except gestational diabetes (OR 0.12 per SD reduction in CRP; 95%CI 0.03 to 0.57; p=0.007). The posterior probability of colocalization between CRP and gestational diabetes in the TNFRSF1A gene region was 99% conditional on the presence of a causal variant for the outcome, which provide evidence against genetic confounding.

Conclusion: We found no genetic evidence to suggest that TNFi is harmful for the selected outcomes relating to pregnancy. These results are reassuring and concur with observational data where women were exposed to TNFi during pregnancy. There was evidence that TNFi may be associated with lower risk of gestational diabetes. Further studies are needed to examine whether this is specific to diabetes during pregnancy or more generally. It is important to note that subtle differences in CRP levels through genetic variation may not be comparable to effects of pharmacological inhibition, and life-long exposure studied herein may differ from shorter duration of pharmacological intervention.

Keywords: bDMARD, Pregnancy and reproduction, Epidemiology

S. S. Zha1, D. Gidl1, 2. University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; Imperial College London, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, London, United Kingdom

Background: TNF inhibitors (TNFi) have greatly improved the management of rheumatoid arthritis and several immune mediated inflammatory diseases. Although these diseases commonly start during childhood age, the safety of TNFi in pregnancy is unclear, and is unlikely to change as clinical trials continue to exclude pregnant women for concern of harm to the foetus. Lack of scientific evidence to inform treatment decisions can contribute to maternal anxiety and suboptimally controlled disease. Naturally occurring variations in the genes that encode the protein drug target can provide population-level insights into safety, without exposing pregnant women to these drugs.

Objectives: To investigate the association between genetically proxied TNFi and pregnancy related outcomes, namely, spontaneous abortion, preterm birth, pre-eclampsia or eclampsia, gestational hypertension, gestational diabetes mellitus, and birthweight of the firstborn child.

Methods: To proxy TNFi, we selected uncorrelated (r² > 0.1) genome-wide significant (p < 5 x 10⁻⁸) single nucleotide polymorphisms within the gene encoding TNF receptor 1 (TNFRSF1A, build GRCh37/hg19: chromosome 12:6437923-6451280) from a genome-wide association study (GWAS) of CRP among 337,199 individuals. CRP was (inverse rank-normal) transformed, with estimates scaled to per standard deviation (SD=4.35 mg/L) change in CRP. We selected CRP as the biomarker because clinical data show its suppression with TNFi. We estimated the F statistics of the instrument (square of the beta divided by square of the standard error) with F > 10 being suggestive of adequate instrument strength. Genetic association data for spontaneous abortion (15,073 cases, 135,962 female controls), preterm birth (7,678 cases, 14,813 controls), pre-eclampsia or eclampsia (6,436 cases, 176,113 controls), gestational hypertension (7,503 cases, 176,113 controls) and gestational diabetes (7,676 cases, 130,424 controls) were derived from the FinnGen study. Data for firstborn birth weight (grouped into <7, 7 to >7 pounds (~3.2kg)) was obtained from 200,272 women in the UK Biobank. We included a positive control outcome, ankylosing spondylitis, and a negative control, multiple sclerosis. We used ratio method and, where an association was found, applied colocalization to test for genetic confounding.

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Keywords: bDMARD, Pregnancy and reproduction, Epidemiology
must know them and acquire self-care and safety skills in order to take charge of themselves in risky situations. This is only possible thanks to therapeutic patient education (TPE) programs in chronic inflammatory arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), Still’s disease, or psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Objectives: To evaluate the impact of the therapeutic patient education program “EST-RIC” on the safety skills in patients treated with bDMARDs and on clinical parameters (Disease activity scores, compliance, number of infectious events, number of treatment stops, vaccination rate).

Methods: Non-randomized clinical trial comparing the knowledge and safety skills between two cohorts of patients with RA, SpA or PsA receiving bDMARDs for at least three months in the day hospital center of CHU of Constantine: group TPE (patients joined the “EST-RIC” therapeutic education program) versus group TPE-naive (patients who did not wish to participate). The primary outcome was the acquisition of safety skills at 3 and 6 months measured by the Biosecure questionnaire (0-100 scale), a 55 item validated questionnaire assessing competences to deal with fever, infections, vaccination, and other daily life situations.

The secondary outcomes were disease activity scores (DAS 28 for RA and BASDAI for SpA) at 6 months, compliance (Morisky score), number of infectious events, number of treatment stops, vaccination rate at 12 months.

Results: 450 patients were included, with mean age 41.6 ± 12.1 years old; 235 (52.2%) women; 192 (42.7%) had RA; mean disease duration 9.9 ± 6.6 years, 269 (60%) received subcutaneous bDMARDs. 240 patients in group TPE versus 210 patients in group TPE-naive. The median Biosecure score was significantly higher in the group TPE than in the group TPE-naive (75.7/100 versus 57.9/100; p<0.001) at 6 months (Table 1). There was a significant difference in disease activity scores: DAS28 and BASDAI, in rates of vaccination and discontinuation of treatment by forgetfulness. Regarding the observance to treatment or incidence of infectious events, there was no significant difference between the groups TPE and TPE-naive.

Conclusion: Safety is an important issue in the management of inflammatory arthritis treated with bDMARDs. In this trial, therapeutic patient education improves knowledge and safety skills of arthritis patient receiving bDMARDs, and disease activity scores.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. The median Biosecure score at 6 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group TPE</th>
<th>Group TPE-naive</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Biosecure score</td>
<td>75.66</td>
<td>57.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interquartile range</td>
<td>(70.98 - 78.72)</td>
<td>(50.96 - 65.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN</td>
<td>52.79</td>
<td>28.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX</td>
<td>87.36</td>
<td>80.08</td>
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</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POS0635 METHOTREXATE MAINTENANCE ONE YEAR AFTER INITIATION OF A FIRST TARGETED THERAPY: RESULTS OF THE PROSPECTIVE STRATEGIE 2 STUDY**

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Treat to target, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

C. Gaujoux-Viala1, E. Demis2, E. Senbel3, H. Herman-Demars4, J. Becker4, A. Courbeyrette5, R. M. Filipo5, 1IDESP, Unib Montpellier; INSERM, Department of Rheumatology, CHU Nîmes, Nîmes, France; 2Le Mans Central Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Le Mans, France; 3Cabinet de Rhumatologie, NA, Marseille, France; 4Nordic Pharma France, Medical Department, Paris, France; 5Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de France, Université de Lille, Lille, France

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the first line standard of care for the management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In the event of an inadequate response to MTX and the presence of a poor RA prognostic factor, recommendations include initiation of biological (bDMARD) and/or synthetic (tsDMARD) targeted therapy in combination with MTX.

Objectives: STRATEGIE 2 aims to establish the maintenance of MTX within two years of initiating a first targeted therapy.

Methods: STRATEGIE 2 is a non-interventional study including RA patients treated with MTX for at least 3 months and requiring initiation of a first b/tsDMARD due to disease activity. The primary endpoint is maintenance of MTX unchanged within 12 months of initiation of targeted therapy. Non-maintenance is defined as: permanent discontinuation of MTX and/or dose reduction and/or transition from the subcutaneous route (SC) to oral (PO). Then, univariate and multivariate analysis was applied to identify potential predictors of MTX maintenance.

Results: Between Feb. 2019 and Dec. 2020, 53 French sites included 186 RA patients. Among them, data from 180 patients were analyzable: 73.4% female, mean age 56.4 ±13.8 years, mean diagnostic oldness of 5.8 ±7.2 years, MTX treatment since 4.3 ±3.5 years, 7.17% via SC and the average dose was 19.9 ±3.9 mg/wk. The mean DAS28 score was 4.3 ±1.2 and the mean HAQ score was 1.0 ±0.7. At the end of the inclusion consultation, rheumatologists initiated a first targeted therapy: 8.6% by bDMARDs (anti-TNF: 58.4%, anti-IL6: 12.7%, Abatacept/Rituximab: 18.5%) and 10.4% by tsDMARDs. MTX was maintained unchanged in 76.1%, changed in 21.7% and stopped in 2.2% of the cases. The changes consisted of a dose reduction to 13.8 ±3.5 mg/wk and a pathway change for 31.4% (from SC to PO). Approximately 12 months (377.8 ± 415 days) after initiation of targeted therapy, 95% of patients completed a follow-up visit (N=171). Of these patients, 6.4% had discontinued targeted therapy, 85.9% were on bDMARD (anti-TNF: 50.3%, anti-IL6: 12.8%, Abatacept/Rituximab: 22.8%) and 14.1% on tsDMARD. The average MTX dose was 18.0 ±4.2 mg/wk and MTX was administered SC for 59.4% of patients. According to the composite endpoint definition, MTX was maintained for 40.9% of patients. Non-maintenance was represented by 30% discontinuation, 4% of patients with a dose decrease only, 3% of patients with only a change in route of administration (from SC to PO) and 23% of patients with the two strategies. Using univariate analysis, three factors were selected for the multivariate: age (p<0.009), physicians’ mode of practice (p=0.096) and patients who estimate having completely participated in the decision-making for the targeted therapy (p=0.197). Only age was significant (OR=1.066, 95%CI [1.03,1.10], p<0.001), decision-making shows a strong trend (p=0.052) and both characteristics were adjusted on the mode of practice (p=0.256).

Conclusion: There are many therapeutic adaptations in the year following the initiation of b/tsDMARD. Twelve months after the introduction of b/tsDMARD, more than 8 out of 10 patients retained MTX as a combination therapy. Nearly 46% of patients had an adaptation of this treatment (dose reduction and/or return to the PO route). These practices are in line with the latest EULAR guidelines [1] which recommend the association of b/tsDMARDs with MTX.

**REFERENCE:**

Acknowledgements: The authors wish to thank their RCTs for their contribution to the statistical analysis, the investigators, centres and patients.

Disclosure of Interests: Cécile Gaujoux-Viala Consultant of: AbbVie; Amgen; Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb; Celgene; Eli Lilly; Galapagos; Gilead Sciences, Inc.; Janssen; Medac; Merck-Serono; Mylan; Nordic Pharma; Novartis; Pfizer; Roche; Sandoz; Sanofi; and UCB Pharma., Grant/research support from: AbbVie; Amgen; Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb; Celgene; Eli Lilly; Galapagos; Gilead Sciences, Inc.; Janssen; Medac; Merck-Serono; Mylan; Nordic Pharma; Novartis; Pfizer; Roche; Chugui, Sandoz, Sanofi and UCB Pharma.; Eric Senbel Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Biogen, Celtrion, Fresenius Kab, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Nordic Pharma, Pfizer, Roche-Chugui, Sanofi, and UCB., Grant/research support from: Abbvie; Amgen, Biogen, Biocartil, Biogen, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, MSD, Nordic Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche-Chugui, Sanofi, and UCB Pharma., Eric Senbel Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Biogen, Celtrion, Fresenius Kab, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Nordic Pharma, Pfizer, Roche-Chugui, Sandoz, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche-Chugui, Sandoz and Sanofi.

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**POS0636 SHOULD COMPLETE B-CELL DEPLETION BE SUSTAINED IN RITUXIMAB LONG-TERM TREATED PATIENTS FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS?**

Keywords: bDMARD, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

R. Ghossan1, O. Al Tabaa1, A. Combier1, A. Steelandt2, M. Thomas3, C. Miceli Richard1, A. Moti4, Y. Allanoire3, J. Avouac3, 1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France; 2Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology department, Paris, France; 3Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France

Background: Complete peripheral B cell depletion has been considered as a relevant indicator of short-term response to rituximab (RTX) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1,2]. However, no information is available to validate this observation in RA patients long-term treated with RTX.
Background: DMARDs are the cornerstone of early RA treatment with Methotrexate (MTX) typically used as a first line treatment. More intensive initial combination therapy has been evaluated in clinical trials showing limited added value with longer follow-up in a treat-to-target (T2T) strategy [1,2]. Such studies report the treatment effect on group level, however, precision medicine requires information on which individuals will respond relevantly better to a more intensive therapy compared to MTX.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to identify whether clinically relevant heterogeneity in treatment effect exist, utilizing a "potential-outcomes framework" approach and to explore whether individual added value of more intensive therapy can be predicted.

Methods: We used data from U-AcT-Early. This RCT compared initiating MTX monotherapy, tocilizumab (TCZ), and MTX + TCZ treatment in a T2T strategy in early RA with monthly disease activity assessment [1]. Time averaged CDAI score over 6 months was the primary endpoint. As physician VAS was missing a previously reported modified (m) CDAI was used [2]. Time-averaged mCDAI over 24 months and DAS28 over 6/24 months were secondary outcomes. For each patient we predicted outcomes of the treatments that they were not allocated to using multiple imputation (150 imputations using a random forest method). Predicted Individual Treatment effects (PITE) for each treatment comparison were calculated and the variation in PITEs between patients was evaluated. We used logistic regression to predict added value of more intensive treatment.

Results: Figure 1A shows the average PITE for TCZ + MTX versus MTX monotherapy as initial treatment over 6 months. 134 of 299 patients (45%) would relevantly benefit from MTX + TCZ (green part Figure 1). We defined sufficient added value for an individual patient as Cohen’s effect size ≥0.6. Added value of MTX + TCZ could be predicted to a limited extent with the same variables used for imputation (AUC-ROC 0.65 (95% CI 0.56-0.73); Table 1 and Figure 1B). At 24 months 36% could be defined as benefitting from more intensive initial treatment. When using DAS28 as outcome measure 87% and 82% of patients benefitted respectively at 6 and 24 months. Added value could also be predicted to a limited extent (AUC-ROC 0.63 (0.54-0.71); 0.66 (0.56-0.75) and 0.63 (0.54-0.71) respectively) using logistic regression.

Conclusion: Relevant added value of more intense initial treatment for individual early RA patients could be defined and predicted to some extent using clinical predictors. However, thresholds for relevant clinical benefit as well as prediction should be improved and validated.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Prediction of added value of MTX+TCZ: results of logistic regression analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Odds-Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mCDAI</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.98-1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>1.20-2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ln(CRP)</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>0.72-1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ln(BSE)</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>0.66-1.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tender-swollen joint diff</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.97-1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS disease activity</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.97-1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>age</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.97-1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male)</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.48-2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.92-1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (no)</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.48-2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol (amount)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.95-1.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor presence</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>0.53-2.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.34, 95% CI 1.1-1.7; p=0.014). Among patients with adalimumab, survival was
nor the concomitant treatments with CS or csDMARD influenced the retention
CI 0.53-0.98; p=0.002). Neither the disease type, sex, age, disease duration
are shown in Table 1. The main reason for discontinuation was inefficacy or loss
to originator molecules. Smoking, overweight and drug use in 3rd or subsequent lines of treatment are associated with a lower retention rate.
REFERENCES:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alumimab</th>
<th>Biosimilar</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Originator (%)</td>
<td>48.2 (9.4)</td>
<td>110 (8.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biosimilar (%)</td>
<td>51.4 (8.4)</td>
<td>69 (8.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (%)</td>
<td>8.50 (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disease duration, years
Mean (SD)
14.6 (8.7)| 13.7 (9)| 9.00 (8.8)
Women
874 (52.1)| 805 (47.4)| 1679 (47.4)
Men
1247 (51.4)| 1180 (48.6)| 2427 (48.6)
RA
826 (47.5)| 912 (52.7)| 1738 (100.0)
JIA
138 (66.3)| 70 (33.6)| 208 (100.0)
AS
543 (52.7)| 487 (47.3)| 1030 (100.0)
PsA
614 (54.3)| 516 (45.7)| 1130 (100.0)
Overweight
471 (45.1)| 664 (68.5)| 1135 (100.0)
Smoker
420 (49.1)| 436 (50.9)| 856 (100.0)
Chronic CS
csDMARD
1573 (56%)| 1340 (46%)| 2913 (100.0)
1st line treatment
1234 (48.9)| 1299 (51.1)| 2533 (100.0)
2nd line treatment
732 (60.8)| 472 (39.2)| 1204 (100.0)
3rd or subsequent line
510 (62.3)| 309 (37.7)| 819 (100.0)

Acknowledgements: This study has been possible thanks to all the rheumatol-
ogy professionals collecting data for the BIOBADASER registry.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

POS0639
SWITCHING FROM IL-6R ANTAGONISTS TO OLOKIZUMAB, A DIRECT IL-6 INHIBITOR

Keywords: bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

E. Feist1, E. Nasonov2, HELIOS Clinic Vogelsang Gommern, Department of Rheumatology, Gommern, Germany; 1VA Nasonov Research Institute of Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation

Background: Olokizumab (OKZ), an IL-6 ligand inhibitor in doses of 64 mg every two weeks (q2w) or every 4 weeks (q4w) demonstrated significant improvements in signs and symptoms of RA. Due to lack of availability of the IL-6 receptor antagonists tocilizumab and sarilumab in the pandemic COVID-19 situation, RA patients (pts) were switched to OKZ as a registered drug in Russia in 2022.

Objectives: To investigate safety and efficacy of OKZ after switching from an IL-6 receptor inhibitor in clinical practice.

Methods: This retrospective cohort study included available efficacy and safety data of OKZ in pts with RA after switching from tocilizumab (IV or SC) or sarilumab (SC) from 11 of participating centers. Efficacy assessments and routine biochemical data were analyzed using descriptive statistics – mean with standard deviation for continuous parameters and absolute and relative frequency for binary variables. AE were reported by participating centers according to pt’s files. The statistical significance of the data analyzed variable at a particular visit compared with previous visits or with the Switch visit was determined using paired t-test. Fisher’s exact test or chi-square test was used to compare the proportion of pts with improvement/no change and worsening. All tests were 2-tailed, and a p-value <0.050 was considered statistically significant. This is as an observational study, the statistical criteria have not been pre-specified and therefore the data presented cannot be considered definitive but should be confirmed in future analyses.

Results: Efficacy and safety results were collected for 110 RA pts with a mean age of 47.8 (15.7) years, including 87 (79.1%) women. 77 (70.0%) pts were RF/ ACPA positive. Mean RA duration was 13.1 (8.9) years and mean duration of treatment with an IL-6 receptor antagonist was 47.8 (30.0) months. Mean interval before switching was 54.7 (35.4) days with the main reason of unavailable IL6R antagonist. Pts were treated with OKZ 64 mg q4w SC. Before initiation of OKZ, an increase of DAS28-CRP was observed due to a prolonged period after the last injection of the IL-6R inhibitor from 2.8 to 3.1 weeks in 32 pts on monothera-
apy who were transferred to OKZ faster (on average after 41.6 (23.8) days), and

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1550

Figure 1.
from 2.7 to 3.3 weeks in 73 pts on concomitant sDMARDs (60.0 (38.0) days). DAS28-CRP was improved to 2.8 on the second OKZ visit (S+1) in both groups. Response to OKZ was maintained over a period of 2 months with no difference between pts previously receiving an IL-6 R antagonist. Of note, lower disease activity based on DAS28-CRP of 2.5 and 2.6 was achieved after 8 weeks (S+2) of OKZ therapy compared to the previous IL-6R inhibitors treatment S-1 visit (P less 0.05) (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Mean DAS28CRP over time, M(SD)

Abbreviation: S-2 and S-1 last visits before switching-- S+1 and S+2 visits after switching. Treatment emergent AE occurred in 7 (6.4%) pts, the most common AE in 3 pts (2.7%) included arthralgia of hands and feet and transient leukopenia in 2 (1.8%) pts. Serious AE were reported by 1 (0.9%) pt (exacerbation of herpes infection that led to treatment discontinuation). No deaths were reported. There were no apparent differences in safety and efficacy outcomes between pts on OKZ monotherapy compared to combined treatment with csDMARDs. Only one pt was switched back to tocilizumab when it became available.

**Table 1. Summary of treatment emergent adverse events (safety population)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>OKZ 64 mg q4w with MTX</th>
<th>OKZ 64 mg q4w monotherapy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=78</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any AE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any serious AE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any AE leading to discontinuation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of study drug</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any death</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any AE of special interest</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory abnormalities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ALT, alanine transaminase; AST, aspartate transaminase; ULN, upper limit of normal**

**Conclusion:** In pts with RA responding to an IL-6R antagonist, switching to OKZ was safe and well tolerated in clinical practice. The treatment response was maintained and in some pts disease activity moderately decreased in comparison to baseline level both in OKZ mono and combination therapy. OKZ was safe and well tolerated in clinical practice. The treatment response was maintained and in some pts disease activity moderately decreased in comparison to baseline level both in OKZ mono and combination therapy. OKZ was safe and well tolerated in clinical practice.

**REFERENCE:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** Eugen Feist Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Medac, Novartis, Sanofi, Sobi, R-Pharm, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Evgeny Nasonov Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer.

**DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1839**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Clinical trials, Rheumatoid arthritis

**OLOKIZUMAB IMPROVED PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES IN MTX AND TNF INCOMPLETE RESPONDER RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS: RESULTS FROM THE LONG TERM EXTENSION TRIAL**

**Figure 1.** Mean DAS28CRP over time, M(SD)

Abbreviation: S-2 and S-1 last visits before switching-- S+1 and S+2 visits after switching. Treatment emergent AE occurred in 7 (6.4%) pts, the most common AE in 3 pts (2.7%) included arthralgia of hands and feet and transient leukopenia in 2 (1.8%) pts. Serious AE were reported by 1 (0.9%) pt (exacerbation of herpes infection that led to treatment discontinuation). No deaths were reported. There were no apparent differences in safety and efficacy outcomes between pts on OKZ monotherapy compared to combined treatment with csDMARDs. Only one pt was switched back to tocilizumab when it became available.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** Eugen Feist Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Medac, Novartis, Sanofi, Sobi, R-Pharm, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Evgeny Nasonov Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer.

**DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1839**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Clinical trials, Rheumatoid arthritis
Background: The continuous development of biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) in recent years has significantly improved the treatment options for patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. Selecting the most effective biologic remains a challenge, since every patient is highly individual depending on the patient history, laboratory values and demographics. 

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate, if non-responders can be detected before therapy start using machine learning models and explainable artificial intelligence to provide a probability of non-response and to identify the most impactful contributing factors to the model output.

Methods: Data from the Austrian Registry for bDMARDs and tsDMARDs in Rheumatic Diseases – BIOREG were obtained. BIOREG provides a real-world data set, which covers rheumatology hospitals and practices throughout Austria. According to EULAR-guidelines the observation time window for treatment response is 6 months and the prediction time horizon was set at 6 months as well. Different machine learning models were trained for Abatacept (ABA), Adalimumab (ADA), Certolizumab (CERT), Etanercept (ETA) and Tocilizumab (TOC) to predict the risk of non-response per treat to target (ttt)-course. 

Results: Data from 1397 patients, 2004 (baseline) visits and 22 variables (19 after cleaning) with at least 100 ttt-courses per drug were included in the study. The best models per biologic achieved an AUROC-score of: CERT: 0.76 (95% CI, 0.67–0.86), TOC: 0.72 (95% CI, 0.69–0.79), ADA: 0.71 (95% CI, 0.65–0.77), ABA: 0.67 (95% CI, 0.62–0.76), ETA: 0.68 (95% CI, 0.53–0.85). The explainable AI interpreted visual analytic scores (VAS) as most important variables for ABA, ETA and TOC. High scores were associated with high risk of non-response for these drugs. For ADA, co-therapy with glucocorticoids was the most important and risk-increasing factor. For CERT, the dosage of the prescribed drug was ranked as the most influential variable; high dosages were associated with lower risk of non-response. Interestingly, some variables displayed opposite impacts in different drugs: Male gender was interpreted as risk-increasing for ABA and risk-decreasing for ETA. Moreover, negative rheumatoid factor was interpreted as risk-decreasing for ABA/ETA, but risk-increasing for ADA/CERT.

Conclusion: The results of our study show that non-responders of biological drugs can be detected with moderate to even good prognostic quality before starting a ttt-course, comparable to similar research with different prediction time horizons [1]. The opposite impact of some variables in different bDMARDs as well as the difference in variable importance per bDMARD indicate, that selecting the right drug is highly dependent on the individual patient characteristic. Machine Learning could be of additional support for rheumatologists and patients by providing not only a prediction of ineffectiveness per drug, but also an explanation for the prediction.


Disclosure of Interests: Dubravka Uklavko Employee of: Siemens Healthineers.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Epidemiology, risk factors for disease or disease progression

**TREATMENT PATTERNS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS DURING TWO DECADES 2000-2020: REAL-WORLD DATA FROM A LARGE ISRAELI HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence

V. Rosenberg1,2, O. Elkayam2,3, G. Chodick2,2, M. Halperin-Sheinfeld4, V. Rufer5,6, Kahn-Sagol-Maccabi Research and Innovation Institute, Maccabi Healthcare Services, Tel Aviv, Israel; 2Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University; 3Tel Aviv, Israel; 4Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Rheumatology, Tel Aviv, Israel; 5Gilead Sciences Israel, Immunology, Hod Hasharon, Israel

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the most common autoimmune inflammatory arthritis in adults. In recent years, the availability of therapeutic options for RA management has significantly increased. Yet, not all patients receive the recommended therapy (1 and real-world data on RA treatment patterns are limited.

**Objectives:** We aimed to identify and characterize RA patients, to examine their past and current treatment patterns, and identify factors associated with non-treatment.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective study using the computerized database of Maccabi Healthcare Services (MHS), a large health maintenance organization. Prevalent RA patients on Dec 31 2020 were defined by: ICD-9 code 714.X (≥2 diagnoses by a rheumatologist and/or ≥2 diagnoses by a primary care physician [PCP]) and/or ≥1 diagnoses from a hospital with one diagnosis from a PCP; ≥1 rheumatoid factor (RF) test performed; age ≥18 years on the first diagnosis; first diagnosed before Dec 31 2018; MHS members for ≥12 months before and after the first RA diagnosis. RA patients also had to meet at least one of the following criteria: ≥1 purchase of disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) and/or ≥2 separate RA diagnoses by a rheumatologist and/or ≥1 positive RF test or anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies (anti-CCP) test. Patients were characterized according to socio-demographic and clinical factors. Treatment patterns with DMARDs were examined during 2000-2020. Multivariate logistic regression model was used to identify factors associated with current DMARDs treatment in 2020.

**Results:** We identified 8301 eligible RA patients (Table 1). The proportion of patients initiating treatment with any DMARDs within 12 months of diagnosis gradually increased from 37.8% in 2000 to 69.3% in 2010 and reached 80.0% for those first diagnosed in 2018. During 2000-2009, 60.0%-63.4% of the RA patients were not treated and during 2010-2020 53.8%-57.9% were not treated. Following the introduction of bDMARDs, the proportion of those using bDMARDs and/or tsDMARDs increased (Figure 1). The median time to treatment with the first bDMARDs decreased during follow-up, from 9 years (IQR 6.0-13.0) among those diagnosed in 2000 to 3 years (IQR 1.0-5.0) in those diagnosed in 2009, and to 1 year in those diagnosed in 2018 (IQR 0.1-1.0). In 2020, only 44.3% of the RA patients were treated with any DMARD. Patients with disease duration of 5–<10 years and disease duration of ≥10 years, were less likely to be treated with any DMARD in the first year after diagnosis over the last two decades. Yet, about 55% of all RA patients were untreated in 2020, especially those with longer disease duration. Efforts should be made to optimize the disease management.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Baseline characteristics of RA patients (n=8301)**

| Age, Dec 31 2020 (SD) | 63.6 (14.0) |
| Sex, Female | 6,183 (74.5%) |
| Socio-economic status Low | 1,487 (17.9%) |
| Medium | 4,430 (53.4%) |
| High | 2,384 (28.7%) |
| Age at diagnosis (SD) | 50.9 (14.1) |
| Disease duration in years, Dec 31 2020 (SD) | 12.2 (6.2) |
| Disease duration <5 years | 1207 (14.5%) |
| ≥5–<10 years | 1901 (22.9%) |
| ≥10 years | 5193 (62.6%) |

**Figure 1. Treatment pattern among prevalent RA patients 2000-2020**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Vered Rosenberg Grant/research support from: Gilead Sciences Israel, Ori Elkayam: None declared, Gabriel Chodick Grant/research support from: Gilead Sciences Israel, Meital Halperin-Sheinfeld Employee of: Gilead Sciences Israel, Victoria Rufer: None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1798

**RITUXIMAB-ASSOCIATED HYPOGAMMAGLOBULINEMIA IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES: A MULTICENTER RETROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY**

**Keywords:** Safety, bDMARD, Real-world evidence

O. Rusinovich1, E. Calvo-Andrades2, C. M. Gomez Gonzalez2, P. Cardoso Peñafiel3, P. Navarro Palomo3, M. Machattou3, M. Alonso de Francisco3, Mateos3, L. F. De Villa4, C. Isasi Zaragoza5, J. Campos Esteban5, J. L. Andreu Sanchez6, E. Sánchez-Alonso6, S. Gonzalo Pascual7, J. Sanz7, Hospital Universitario de Fuenlabrada, Rheumatology, Fuenlabrada, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 3Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda University Hospital, Rheumatology, Majadahonda, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Rey Juan Carlos, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 5Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda University Hospital, Rheumatology, Majadahonda, Spain; 6Spanish Society of Rheumatology (SER), Investigation Department, Madrid, Spain; 7Hospital De Fuenlabrada, Internal Medicine, Fuenlabrada, Spain

**Background:** Rituximab (RTX) is a murine/human chimeric monoclonal antibody directed against the CD20 receptor expressed on pre-B and mature B cells. Rituximab is used effectively in the treatment of different rheumatic diseases, but it can induce hypogammaglobulinemia as a side effect.

**Objectives:** To analyze the prevalence of hypogammaglobulinemia and its association with infections in patients with rheumatic diseases treated with RTX.

**Methods:** Multicenter, retrospective, observational study. Patients with rheumatic diseases treated with RTX in 4 centers in Madrid, in which serum immunoglobulin G concentrations were measured, were included. Demographic and clinical variables of the sample were analyzed, and changes in immunoglobulin G concentrations during treatment from baseline were assessed. The chi-square test was used to examine the relationship between variables, considering a P value <0.05 as statistically significant. Logistic regression models were used to analyze the association between hypogammaglobulinemia and sample characteristics.

**Results:** One hundred and seven patients were included: 18 men (16.8%) and 89 women (83.2%), with a mean age of 55.9 (±13.9) years, a mean disease duration of 13.1 (±8.0) years, and a mean age of 51 (±14.4) years at the start of treatment. The most prevalent diagnoses were rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (50.5%), primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) (10.3%), and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (10.3%). Fourteen (14%) patients were treated with RTX monotherapy. The rest
of the patients received concomitant treatment with other immunomodulators such as corticosteroids (64.5%), methotrexate (29%), hydroxychloroquine (27%), lefunomide (9.3%), salsalate (1.9%), or mycophenolate mofetil (2.8%). Twelve (11.21%) patients developed hypogammaglobulinemia (IgG<600 mg/dL): 6 (50%) had RA, 1 (8.3%) SLE, 1 (8.3%) ANCA vasculitis, 1 (8.3%) leuкоcytoclastic vasculitis, 1 (8.3%) IgG4-related disease, 1 (8.3%) dermatomyositis, and 1 (8.3%) PSS. Patients with hypogammaglobulinemia had significantly lower mean serum IgG concentrations at the start of treatment (876.3 ± 1249.4 mg/dL; p=0.05). In the multivariate analysis, no variable related to hypogammaglobulinemia was found. Fifty-three (49%) patients presented infection, of which 17 (15.8%) were serious infections (those that required admission). The distribution of infection cases by groups (patients with and without hypogammaglobulinemia) is shown in Table 1. No significant differences were found in the development of infections or serious infections between patients with and without hypogammaglobulinemia. Only corticosteroid doses equivalent to ≥7.5 mg/day of prednisone were found as a risk factor for the development of infections (OR 3.48; 95% CI: 1.20-0.11; p=0.02).

Table 1. Hypogammaglobulinemia and infections in patients with rheumatic diseases treated with Rituximab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subthemes</th>
<th>Intravenous</th>
<th>Subcutaneous</th>
<th>Oral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time constraints</td>
<td>Half a day each month or more</td>
<td>Once a week or more</td>
<td>Every day/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistical constraints</td>
<td>To stay available for appointments in hospital</td>
<td>Refrigerator storage, cold chain</td>
<td>No constraints in storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental load</td>
<td>To stay available</td>
<td>Think about medication each week or more</td>
<td>Think about medication each day (for Jak-i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituals</td>
<td>Rituals are managed and imposed by the hospital</td>
<td>Needs specific rituals from the patient</td>
<td>Integrated to existing rituals (i.e. meals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of forgetting treatment</td>
<td>Know what to do in case of skipped dose</td>
<td>A medical procedure needs to be learnt</td>
<td>Forgetting is a common phenomenon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of a medical procedure</td>
<td>To go to the hospital makes you feel sick</td>
<td>Taking the tablets is more routine</td>
<td>Tablets are more unobtrusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling ill</td>
<td>To go to the hospital makes you feel sick</td>
<td>Seeing the nurse makes you feel sick</td>
<td>「Sharing the fridge」An injection means a more serious disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Patients with hypogammaglobulinemia had significantly lower mean IgG concentrations at the start of treatment with Rituximab than those who did not develop it. No greater frequency or severity of infections was observed between patients with and without hypogammaglobulinemia. Prednisone equivalent daily dose ≥7.5 mg/day was a risk factor for occurrence of infections. Larger sample size studies are needed to confirm these findings.

REFERENCE: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2269

POS0644 UNDERSTANDING REASONS INFLUENCING PATIENTS' PREFERENCES FOR THE MODE OF ADMINISTRATION OF ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS IN INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS. A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Keywords: Patient information and education, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

C. Beaunais1, G. Montagu2, S. Gleizes2, S. Tropé4, J. Sellam5, T. Pham6. 1Hopital Saint Antoine APHP Sorbonne Université, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2Unknowns, Strategie et Innovation, Sociology and Research Department, Paris, France; 3Unknowns, Strategie et Innovation, Sociology and Research Department, Paris, France; 4Association nationale de Lutte Contre l'arthrite Rhumatoide, ANDAR, Paris, France; 5Hospital Saint Antoine APHP Sorbonne Université, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 6Hôpital Sainte Marguerite APHM Université Aix Marseille, Rheumatology, Marseille, France

Background: The mode of administration is the third most important factor influencing patient preferences for the choice of antirheumatic drugs, after treatment benefit and risk of adverse events (ref1), with 30% of patients placing route and frequency of administration as their top choice (ref2).

Objectives: To understand the reasons of preferences of the patients with inflammatory arthritis (IA) towards the mode of administration of DMARDs (dis-ease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs).

Methods: A qualitative study was conducted to explore the patients' perceptions and practices of DMARDs. The interviews were conducted by 3 anthropologists using in-depth semi directive and biographical methods, registered, transcribed and analysed using a thematic content analysis approach. Six domains were explored: (i) daily life with IA, (ii) practices of pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments, (iii) the patient's social and work relationships, (iv) history of the patient pathway, (v) the patient–doctor relationship, decision-making, and (vi) medication daily management. The themes and subthemes related to the mode of administration (route and frequency of administration) were individualized.

Results: Overall 42 patients were included: 33/42, (33/42), with median age 51 years (17-82): 33 had rheumatoid arthritis (RA), 7 spondyloarthropathy (SpA) and 2 psoriatic arthritis (PsA); 22 treated by cDMARDs, 19 by bDMARDs, 12 by JAK inhibitors (JAK-i), in monotherapy or combotherapy, 31 patients having more than 1 line of treatment. Four domains were found to influence patients' preferences: constraints and mental load, rituals and habits, empowerment versus a passive role, representation of disease for the patient and close ones. Subthemes in Table 1.

Table 1. 8 subthemes associated with preference of patients for mode administration.

POS0645 REAL LIFE SAFETY AND SURVIVAL OF TARGETED THERAPIES IN ARTHRITIS PATIENTS OVER AGE OF 65

Keywords: bDMARD, Targeted synthetic drugs


Background: Prognosis for chronic inflammatory arthritis is drastically improved over previous decades and older patients are treated with targeted therapies (TTs) (biological or synthetic targeted therapies). Clinical trials provide mainly information about TTs in patients below the age of 65, so real-life studies are needed to provide more information about TTs in patients over 65 years of age.

Objectives: To compare clinical and therapeutic profile of arthritis patients undergoing TTs and to analyze safety and therapeutic survival according to different age groups.

Methods: We performed an observational cross-sectional study in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and anklyosing spondylitis (AS) patients, older than 40 years old, who started biological or anti-JAK therapy between 2000 and 2022 in the Rheumatology Department of HUP La Fe. A comparative analysis and a Kaplan-Meier survival analysis was performed.

Results: 938 patients (62% female) were included in the study, of which 20.3% are PsA, 55.6% RA and 24.1% AS, with a mean age at the beginning of treatment of 57 (10) years and a mean duration of treatment of 68 (64) months. Patients were classified according to the age at the beginning of treatment: 40-65 years and ≥ 65 years of age. 219 patients (23.3%) were over 65 years of age. In the Table 1 we show the comparative analysis between both groups. Higher proportion of arterial hypertension, diabetes mellitus and dyslipemia in patients older than 65 years was observed. Using a logistic regression model, an association between conventional DMARD prescription and patients older than 65 years was found (P<0.001), being the methotrexate the most used (44.8%). Anti-TNF therapy was the most extended treatment in both groups of patients,
and an association between anti-IL6 therapy and older patients than 65 years was observed (P<0.001). Previous TTs were more frequent in older patients (P=0.002) and treatment duration was lower in those patients (P=0.001). Adverse events were more commonly found in patients older than 65 years as the reason to TT discontinue (P=0.008), being infections the more frequent.

Table 1. Comparative analysis of clinical profile of different age groups at the beginning of TTs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>40-65 years</th>
<th>≥65 years</th>
<th>P-value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=719</td>
<td>N=219</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD)/n (%)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)/n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years)</td>
<td>43 (11)</td>
<td>56 (14)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at the beginning of treatment (years)</td>
<td>53 (7)</td>
<td>72 (6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from the diagnosis to the beginning of treatment (years)</td>
<td>10 (10)</td>
<td>17 (12)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment duration (months)</td>
<td>73 (66)</td>
<td>52 (52)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>425 (59.1%)</td>
<td>156 (71.2%)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis: RA</td>
<td>359 (49.93%)</td>
<td>163 (74.43%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td>168 (23.37%)</td>
<td>72 (32.05%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>192 (26.77%)</td>
<td>72 (32.05%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterial hypertension</td>
<td>130 (19.29%)</td>
<td>67 (49.43%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>47 (10.26%)</td>
<td>22 (9.31%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipemia</td>
<td>124 (27.91%)</td>
<td>61 (41.21%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>54 (13.13%)</td>
<td>27 (22.55%)</td>
<td>0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMARD concomitant: No DMARD</td>
<td>356 (49.43%)</td>
<td>79 (36.11%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>246 (34.24%)</td>
<td>98 (44.84%)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leflunomide</td>
<td>72 (10.11%)</td>
<td>22 (10.11%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>37 (5.26%)</td>
<td>20 (9.11%)</td>
<td>0.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted therapies: ANTI-TNF</td>
<td>399 (55.53%)</td>
<td>86 (39.32%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTI-JAK</td>
<td>114 (15.91%)</td>
<td>33 (15.11%)</td>
<td>0.862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTI-IL17</td>
<td>84 (11.71%)</td>
<td>12 (5.51%)</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTI-IL6</td>
<td>55 (7.72%)</td>
<td>32 (16.31%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>67 (9.30%)</td>
<td>56 (25.66%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing treatment: Discontinued treatment by:</td>
<td>559 (77.93%)</td>
<td>158 (72.10%)</td>
<td>0.746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary non-response</td>
<td>10 (1.41%)</td>
<td>8 (3.72%)</td>
<td>0.895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary non-response</td>
<td>27 (3.85%)</td>
<td>5 (2.32%)</td>
<td>0.401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other causes</td>
<td>57 (7.95%)</td>
<td>18 (8.22%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverse events</td>
<td>65 (9.12%)</td>
<td>35 (15.95%)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>11 (1.55%)</td>
<td>8 (3.72%)</td>
<td>0.093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>26 (3.63%)</td>
<td>7 (3.22%)</td>
<td>0.932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The use of conventional DMARDs, adverse events as the reason of treatment suspension and lower therapeutic survival are more frequent in patients older than 65 years of age.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular2018

RISK FACTORS FOR POSTOPERATIVE COMPLICATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Outcome measures, Epidemiology, Inflammatory arthritis

A. Herrera Van Osstdam1,2, N. Garcia-Mosqueda1, C. Abud-Mendoza1,3.
1Central Hospital Dr. Ignacio Morones Prieto, Reumatologia, San Luis Potosí, Mexico; 2General Hospital No. 1 IMSS, Reumatología, San Luis Potosí, Mexico; 3Faculty of Medicine, UASLP, Medicina Interna, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

Background: Some patients with rheumatic diseases (RD) can require major surgical intervention. There are several risk factors for perioperative complications that must be addressed during de preoperative process [1,2].

Objectives: identify associated factors related to postoperative complications in patients with RD.

Methods: We performed a cohort study of patients with RD that required an elective or an emergency surgery from 2019-2021. We used as controls, patients with No-Rheumatic Diseases (NRD). All patients had preoperative assessment using Lee surgery index and the American College of Surgeons National Quality Improvement Program score (NSQIP), and we estimated disease activity of all RD according to the disease-specific activity scores. We follow-up patients until hospital discharge or death. Univariate and multivariate models were used to determine risk factors for postoperative complications (composite outcome: cardiac or lung complications, blood transfusion, infection, surgery reinvention, respiratory failure, use of vasopressors).

RESULTS: We included 299 patients, 53 patients with RD and 246 NRD. The median age was 49 years in RD. Most patients with RD were women (85%). At baseline NRD patients had higher serum glucose levels, more use of insulin, and had higher rate of acute kidney injury. In the RD-group, 26 had rheumatoid arthritis, 13 systemic lupus erythematosus and 9 others (spondylitis, autoimmune hepatitis, antiphospholipid syndrome, polyarteritis nodosa). Active rheumatic disease was present in 21 patients. Most of the patients with RD (54%) had moderate to high risk of any complication, pneumonia, and risk of wound infection according the NSQIP score. The postoperative complications were higher in RD 37% vs NRD 16% (P<0.0003). Infection developed in 17% of RD patients vs 2.4% of NRD (P<0.0001), uncontrolled hypertension was present in 3% in RD vs 0.4% in NRD, while hypovolemic shock was more frequent in NRD 4% vs 0.1%. One patient with RD died. Of the patients with RD, 58% continued with in-hospital glucocorticoid and 22% with another non-glucocorticoid immunosuppressor in-hospital. In the logistic regression analysis, the presence of active RD at the time of surgery (OR 4.9, IC95% 1.4-18) acute preoperative kidney injury (OR 3, IC95% 1.2-7.3) were predictors of post operative complications; type of surgery performed (elective or urgent), and in-hospital use of glucocorticoid, and immunosuppressors were not significant.

Conclusion: We observed higher post operative complications in RD patient's vs controls. The main prognostic factors were active rheumatic disease, preoperative kidney injury, while the type of surgery performed and in-hospital glucocorticoid or immunosuppressors were not associated to post operative complications.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: NIL

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular2746

A COMPARISON OF 20 YEAR DISABILITY OUTCOMES IN VALIDATED CASES OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IN THE NORFOLK ARTHRITIS REGISTER

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Outcome measures

P Saha1,2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, P. Saha1,2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2, J. Dainty1, A. Iftikhar Talib1, T. Toyoda1,2, A. Humberstone2.
both result in significant disability. Whilst some data in selected samples report no difference in Health Assessment Questionnaire scores (HAQ) between RA and PsA(1), there is a lack of definitive long term population based data. The Norfolk Arthritis Register (NOAR) is an inception cohort of early inflammatory arthritis established in 1989, with over 4,500 cases of new onset inflammatory arthritis. Cases were recruited in primary care or from hospital clinics, and inclusion criteria were age >16 years with 2 swollen joints lasting >4 weeks. Data was collated on demographics and disability through Health Assessment Questionnaires (HAQ) over variable years of follow up (0-20 years); HAQ scores values range from 0 to 3, and the higher the score the greater the disability [2].

Objectives: Our aim was to compare differences between both baseline and follow-up HAQ scores in RA and PsA, in cases selected from the same base population and followed continuously for over 20 years.

Methods: Cases included in this study were recruited into NOAR, who were followed at intervals of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18 and 20 years. Cases of RA were defined using American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria; cases of PsA were classified by retrospective clinical record review. Cases with RA were compared to cases with PsA, and data analysis was carried out in R. Independent samples t-tests were used to assess statistical significance of unadjusted compared to cases with PsA, and data analysis was carried out in R. Independent samples t-tests were used to assess statistical significance of unadjusted compared to cases with PsA.

Results: A total of 1,812 cases of RA (85.4%) and 308 cases of PsA (14.5%) were identified with complete data on sex and age within the NOAR cohort who had recorded HAQ scores. The mean age of onset for RA was 56.3 years (min 18.6 – max 88.6; SD 13.9), and 473 years for PsA (min 16 – max 79.9, SD 13.1). Baseline HAQ: Mean baseline HAQ scores were higher for RA at 0.854 (SD 0.704) when compared with PsA at 0.706 (SD 0.688) (p<0.001). Females had higher baseline HAQ scores than males (0.915 vs 0.677) consistent across both disease types which was statistically significant (RA – 0.919 vs. 0.716, p<0.001; PsA – 0.885 vs. 0.533, p<0.001). Follow-up HAQ: Cases were identified up to 20 years. 1,812 cases of RA were identified at baseline, decreasing to 1552 with 1-year follow-up (85.6%) and 165 cases with 20-year follow up (9.1%). 308 PsA cases were identified at baseline, 248 followed up at 1-year (80.5%) and 21 cases for 20-years (6.8%). Figure 1 illustrates that cases with RA had higher mean HAQ scores than PsA throughout a follow up period of up to 20 years. Mean HAQ scores accumulated over the follow up period for RA, whilst there was a decrease in HAQ scores after 12 years of follow up for those with PsA before increasing after 18 years.

Conclusion: The NOAR cohort is unique in its long follow up period of up to 20 years, allowing for the assessment of HAQ longitudinally. The relationship between higher HAQ scores in RA than PsA holds for both baseline HAQ scores and follow-up HAQ scores throughout the follow-up period, supporting the association of RA with greater disability. We hypothesise that this may be due to the nature of joint damage and other comorbidities associated with RA. We also demonstrate from this data that females present with statistically higher baseline HAQ scores than males within both diseases. In conclusion, there are evident trends with higher HAQ scores in RA over PsA consistent over time.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3920

### Table 1. 2-year follow-up disease activity variables of obese and non-obese patients with RA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Obese (n=176)</th>
<th>Non-obese (n=660)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/hr</td>
<td>22.5±1.7</td>
<td>23.5±0.8</td>
<td>0.606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP positivity</td>
<td>61 (37.4%)</td>
<td>166 (26.9%)</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joint count</td>
<td>2.15±0.25</td>
<td>1.86±0.18</td>
<td>0.305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joint count</td>
<td>1.79±0.15</td>
<td>1.50±0.08</td>
<td>0.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA (0-100)</td>
<td>16.7±11</td>
<td>16.0±6.6</td>
<td>0.584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGA (0-100)</td>
<td>33.1±1.8</td>
<td>33.0±5.9</td>
<td>0.975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI score (0-76)</td>
<td>8.9±0.5</td>
<td>8.2±0.3</td>
<td>0.249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI status</td>
<td>0.273</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDA</td>
<td>123 (70.3%)</td>
<td>460 (70.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA</td>
<td>42 (24.0%)</td>
<td>172 (26.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDA</td>
<td>10 (5.7%)</td>
<td>21 (3.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI remission, n (%)</td>
<td>19 (10.9)</td>
<td>65 (9.9)</td>
<td>0.716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.42±0.04</td>
<td>0.41±0.02</td>
<td>0.840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newly start of biologics</td>
<td>(3.4)</td>
<td>37 (5.6%)</td>
<td>0.241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are presented as number (%) or mean ± standard deviation, adjusted for gender, age, smoking status, income status, education levels, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3367
When does obesity exert its effect in conferring risk of developing RA – a large study in cohorts of symptomatic patients at risk

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Outcome measures

Q. Dumoulin1, D. Krijbolder1, A. Willemze2, P. De Jong3, H. W. Van Steenbergen1, A. Van der Helm – van Mil1,3. 1Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Maasstad Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 3Erasmus MC, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Background: Case-control studies have identified body mass index (BMI) as a risk factor for development of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, it is unclear when BMI exerts its effect of increased risk, being either in the asymptomatic stage or in the symptomatic phase of Clinically Suspect Arthralgia (CSA) thereafter.

Objectives: To investigate this, we compared BMI of CSA-patients with the general population and we analyzed associations of BMI with progression to inflammatory arthritis (IA) within CSA-patients.

Methods: Firstly, 602 patients consecutively presenting with CSA were studied and followed during 2 years for development of IA. Their baseline BMI was compared to the mean BMI (corrected for age/gender) of the Dutch population (Statistics Netherlands, CBS, 2012-2020). Secondly, cross-sectional associations between BMI and measures of inflammation, tender joint count (TJC-68) and C-reactive protein (CRP), were studied. Finally, the association of BMI and IA development was studied via Cox-regression. Findings were validated in 295 additional comparable patients with CSA included in the SONAR (n=178) and TREAT EARLIER trial (placebo arm, n=117); a pooled analysis was performed.

Results: CSA-patients had a higher mean BMI compared to the general population (26.5 vs 25.3 kg/m², p<0.001). Likewise, CSA-patients were more often obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²) than the general population (22.3 vs 13.8%, Figure 1A); this applied to both ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative patients and was confirmed in the validation cohorts. At baseline, obese CSA-patients had higher TJC-68 (β = 1.26(1.04;1.52)) and CRP (1.37(1.20;1.57)) than CSA-patients with a normal weight. However, obese CSA-patients did not have an increased risk of IA development (HR 0.66(95%CI 0.39;1.11), Figure 1B). Similarly in the validation cohorts, higher BMI was not associated with RA-development (OR per point BMI 0.98(0.95;1.01) for both cohorts together, Figure 1C)

Conclusion: Obesity is more frequent in CSA compared to the general population. Moreover, obesity is associated with higher inflammation at presentation with CSA but did not entail a higher risk for progression from CSA to IA. Hence, obesity primarily seems to exert its effect in the asymptomatic risk-stage of RA-development.

Figure 1. CSA-patients are more often obese than the general population (A); obesity in CSA-patients is not associated with IA development, studied via Kaplan-Meier analysis (B) or via pooled analysis of different cohorts (C).

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2257
Spondyloarthritis - clinical aspects (other than treatment) (AXSpA) DESIR cohort

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology

C. Gaujoux-Viala, M. Dougard, T. Lequerre, S. Alonso, A. Motto. CHU Nîmes, Department of Biostatistics, Nîmes, France; 2 Cottin Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, PARIS, France; 3 CHU Rouen, Department of rheumatology, Rouen, France.

**Background:** Inception cohorts can be defined as long term follow-up of patients suffering at entry visit from a recent onset disease. Despite their huge advantage to better approach the truth in terms of long term prognosis of the disease, they are usually facing 2 issues: a) the possibility of a change in the entry visit (initial) diagnosis b) the missing data due to patients lost of follow-up.

**Objectives:** To evaluate both the frequency and the baseline predisposing factors of a) a change in the initial diagnosis b) the risk of loss of follow-up in the DESIR-AXSpA cohort.

**Methods:** Study design: DESIR is an ongoing (10 year follow-up completed for all the patients) multicenter cohort of recent onset axSpA. Diagnosis: At entry visit and during the 10 year follow-up period, this diagnosis was based on the opinion of the treating rheumatologist with the requirement of a highly suspected diagnosis of axSpA at entry visit and after the first 2 years of follow-up the possibility to exclude the patients in case of a change in the initial axSpA diagnosis. Statistical analysis: Multiple imputation was used to address missing data and estimates the probabilities of a change in initial axSpA diagnosis for each patient lost of follow-up. Predisposing factors of an unchanged initial axSpA diagnosis were then evaluated using a multivariate logistic regression model on imputed data sets. A multivariate Cox survival analysis exploring factors associated to the overtime risk of loss of follow-up was also performed.

**Results:** Of the 708 enrolled patients, 45 were excluded from the cohort because of a documented change in the initial axSpA diagnosis (mechanical low back pain n = 30, fibromyalgia n = 13, chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease (n = 1 and no information n = 1). The classification criteria were fulfilled by 16/45 (36%) versus 413/663 (63%) and 21/45 (47%) versus 522/683 (81%) patients with a documented change versus no change in their entry visit diagnosis according to the ASAS axSpA and the AMOR criteria respectively. During the 10 year follow-up period, 300 patients were lost of follow-up. Based on imputation, among these 300 patients, 19 patients were systematically suspected to have a change in their initial axSpA diagnosis in all imputations while 173 patients were never "suspected" for this change; 42 patients were considered as suspected for a change in their initial axSpA diagnosis in at least 70% of imputations. Predisposing factors of an unchanged initial axSpA diagnosis were (odds ratio [95% CI]): radiographic SLJ structural damage: 170 [1.41; 7.10]; past or present psoriasis: 5.3 [2.0; 14.3]; CRP > 6 mg/l: 2.7 [1.3; 5.3]; good response to NSAID: 2.5 [1.5; 4.2]; HLA B27 positivity: 2.0 [1.3; 3.3]; anterior chest wall pain: 2.0 [1.2; 3.3] and female gender: 1.9 [1.2; 3.0].

**Conclusion:** This data suggest that a) a change in the entry visit diagnosis and the risk of follow-up to have been considered in inception cohorts b) statistical models including multiple imputations could facilitate the evaluation of long term prognosis of the disease.

**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to thank the investigators of the 26 centres and all the patients enrolled in this study. This study has been supported via unrestricted grants from Pfizer France and the French society of Rheumatology.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.903
Methods: The design is an observational, longitudinal, prospective, multicentre study in 7 Spanish hospitals. Patients over 18 years of age diagnosed with active uveitis were included. A complete baseline visit was performed by two ophthalmologists who determined ocular inflammatory activity with the UVEDAI index independently and without contact between them. Ophthalmologist 1 made a new visit at 4 weeks to determine the change in the level of uveal inflammatory activity using the UVEDAI index. The interobserver reliability analysis was performed by calculating the Intraclass Correlation Coefficient (ICC), with the values of the variables and the UVEDAI index obtained by ophthalmologist 1 and ophthalmologist 2 in the most inflamed eye at the baseline visit. Sensitivity to change in the UVEDAI index was assessed at 4 weeks from the start of pharmacological treatment by determining the Clinically Relevant Change (CCR) defined as a change in UVEDAI of 0.8 points between the baseline visit and the 4-week visit.

Results: A total of 111 patients were included, 54.1% were male and the mean age at the time of the visit was 49.9 years. 36.9% of uveitis were idiopathic uveitis, and 58.6% were anterior uveitis. The UVEDAI value was calculated from the score of the 7 variables of the index. The mean value recorded in the most inflamed eye at the baseline visit by ophthalmologist 1 was 1.9, being 1.2 points for anterior uveitis and 2.8 points for intermediate/posterior uveitis. In the interobserver reliability analysis, the ICC for the UVEDAI value was 0.9, and when compared to the mean UVEDAI values obtained by the two ophthalmologists for the most inflamed eye at the baseline visit, no statistically significant differences were found (p-value>0.05), neither for the total sample nor differentiating by anatomical location. As for sensitivity of UVEDAI change, statistically significant differences (p-value<0.001) were found when comparing the mean values of the index measured by ophthalmologist 1 at the baseline visit and at 4 weeks, both in the overall sample and differentiating by anatomic location of uveitis. In all cases, the index value decreased significantly by more than 1 point at the 4-week visit after pharmacological treatment.

Conclusion: The interobserver reliability of the UVEDAI was high in the total sample and in the different variables. Furthermore, the index was sensitive in determining the change in inflammatory activity after treatment in both anterior uveitis and intermediate/posterior uveitis/panuveitis. We believe it is an index of activity that could be used both in routine clinical practice and in clinical studies and trials to compare results objectively.

REFERENCE:

Figure Interobserver Reliability: Differences obtained in the UVEDAI index score by ophthalmologist 1 and 2 at the baseline visit.
subchondral cysts, and ankylosis. Based on the clinical and instrumental findings, including structural changes characteristic of radiographic sacroiliitis, a final decision by a certified rheumatologist was made and a diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis was set or ruled out.

**Results:** The mean age and duration of LBP of the patients were 44.7 (14.7) years and 63.9 months, respectively. Of the 50 included patients, 28 (56%) were females. The mean values of c-reactive protein and erythrocyte sedimentation rate were 13.9 mg/l and 39.4 mm/h. Subchondral osteosclerosis was found in 44 patients (88%), JSN -- in 21 patients (42%), erosions -- in 17 patients (34%), subchondral cysts -- in 10 patients (20%), ankylosis -- in 18 patients (36%). Definite CT data for sacroiliitis was seen in 24 patients (48%) and the diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis was set in 23 patients (46%) of the study group. The likelihood ratios (LR+) for diagnosis of AS were high for erosions (18.4), subchondral cysts (11), ankylosis (6.9) and low for JSN (LR-1.9) and ankylosis (LR-1.1).

**Conclusion:** Nearly half of the patients with inconclusive CR evidence for sacroiliitis were diagnosed with AS after CT imaging. Erosions seen on CT increase the likelihood of assuming AS diagnosis. Computed tomography is a useful tool in diagnosing AS, but it is associated with higher ionizing radiation doses.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5879

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**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anatomical Location</th>
<th>Anterior</th>
<th>Intermediate/Posterior/Panuvetis</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UVEDAI baseline opht.1</td>
<td>1.2 ± 1.6</td>
<td>2.8 ± 1.8</td>
<td>1.9 ± 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UVEDAI INDEX vis ± 4 wks.opht1</td>
<td>0.2 ± 0.5</td>
<td>1.2 ± 1.5</td>
<td>0.6 ± 1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UVEDAI difference</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*mean ± standard deviation

---

**Figure 1.**

**Table Sensitive to Change:** Mean value and difference in UVEDAI index value measured by ophthalmologist 1 in the active eye at baseline and at 4 weeks.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1088

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**POS0553 DIAGNOSTIC VALUE OF COMPUTER TOMOGRAPHY FEATURES OF SACROILIITIS FOR ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Spondyloarthritis, Diagnostic tests


**Background:** Radiologic evidence of sacroiliitis is important for the diagnosis, classification, and management of patients with ankylosing spondylitis (AS).[1] Conventional radiography (CR) has been the most widely utilized imaging modality for the assessment of sacroiliac involvement in axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) because of the low radiation dose, ease of operation, and low expenses. CR is used in both the 1984 modified New York criteria and ASAS criteria for classifying AS and AxSpA but lacks sensitivity for early changes. Though MRI detects early changes of the sacroiliac joints, as well as chronic structural changes, its use is limited by the associated cost, procedural time and certain contraindications. Computed tomography (CT) is a modality that enables visualization of erosions, sclerosis, and new bone formation, with the added benefit of multiplanar cross-sectional imaging.

**Objectives:** We aimed to analyze the diagnostic value of computer tomography (CT) features of sacroiliitis for ankylosing spondylitis in patients with inconclusive CR evidence for sacroiliitis.

**Methods:** In this retrospective monocentric observational study, 50 patients with chronic low back pain (LBP) with a duration longer than three months in the lumbosacral region were included. Using the patient record data were extracted on age, pain duration, and plain radiography. Eligible patients should have had plain radiography without evident radiographic sacroiliitis. All the patients had undergone a CT scan of the sacroiliac joint that a radiologist and rheumatologist evaluated for subchondral osteosclerosis, erosions, joint space narrowing (JSN), subchondral cysts, and ankylosis. Based on the clinical and instrumental findings, including structural changes characteristic of radiographic sacroiliitis, a final decision by a certified rheumatologist was made and a diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis was set or ruled out.

**Results:** The mean age and duration of LBP of the patients were 44.7 (14.7) years and 63.9 months, respectively. Of the 50 included patients, 28 (56%) were females. The mean values of c-reactive protein and erythrocyte sedimentation rate were 13.9 mg/l and 39.4 mm/h. Subchondral osteosclerosis was found in 44 patients (88%), JSN -- in 21 patients (42%), erosions -- in 17 patients (34%), subchondral cysts -- in 10 patients (20%), ankylosis -- in 18 patients (36%). Definite CT data for sacroiliitis was seen in 24 patients (48%) and the diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis was set in 23 patients (46%) of the study group. The likelihood ratios (LR+) for diagnosis of AS were high for erosions (18.4), subchondral cysts (11), ankylosis (6.9) and low for JSN (LR-1.9) and ankylosis (LR-1.1).

**Conclusion:** Nearly half of the patients with inconclusive CR evidence for sacroiliitis were diagnosed with AS after CT imaging. Erosions seen on CT increase the likelihood of assuming AS diagnosis. Computed tomography is a useful tool in diagnosing AS, but it is associated with higher ionizing radiation doses.

**REFERENCE:**

PROs at baseline were largely similar between groups, while CRP and ASDAS-CRP were higher in r-axSpA patients. A higher percentage of nr-axSpA patients had received previous bDMARDs compared to r-axSpA patients. Crude PRO remission rates at 6/12/24-months were significantly lower in nr-axSpA compared to r-axSpA patients (Table 1, Figure 1 (MODEL1)) as were percentages of patients in ASDAS inactive disease (Table 1). However, when adjusting for age/gender (MODEL2) the difference in PROs diminished, and when adjusting for multiple possible confounders (MODEL3), no significant differences were found between the two groups (Figure 1). Differences in percentages of patients in ASDAS inactive disease in r-axSpA vs. nr-axSpA patients were almost unaffected by adjustments (Figure 1).

Conclusion: While crude remission rates in European secukinumab-treated patients followed in routine care were higher in r-axSpA compared to nr-axSpA patients, this difference disappeared after adjusting for multiple confounders, and, thus, appeared to be related to other factors than radiographic status.

REFERENCES:
[1] https://eurospa.eu/

Table 1. Baseline characteristics and remission rates for European secukinumab treated r- and nr-axSpA patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASELINE</th>
<th>Radiographic axSpA (n=899)</th>
<th>Non-radiographic axSpA (n=236)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>(%/median/median)</td>
<td>N available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>47 (38–55) 989 46 (36–55) 236</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (%)</td>
<td>61 899 36 236</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 pos (%)</td>
<td>80 754 55 214</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years from diagnosis</td>
<td>7 (3–14) 886 6 (2–8) 231</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARD naïve (%)</td>
<td>40 899 26 236</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI (0–100)</td>
<td>70 (55–85) 614 60 (51–80) 123</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI (0–100)</td>
<td>55 (35–73) 476 50 (34–73) 118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>16 (5–31) 680 15 (2–31) 151</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>2.3 (3.5–4.7) 623 3.6 (3.9–4.2) 123</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOLLOW-UP Remission rates N available | Remission rates N available
Pain remission (≤ 20), (%) | 39.2/46.1/47.7 523/560/576 114/70/26 108/70/26
BASDAI remission (≤ 20), (%) | 37.6/41.2/49.7 603/608/617 128/83/31
BASFI remission (≤ 20), (%) | 31.4/36.2/40.9 376/400/410 108/71/27
ASDAS inactive disease (<1.3), (%) | 11.4/12.5/18.9 559/383/190 6.5/5.7/5.7 108/70/26

Figure 1. HLA-B27 percentage of positivity in healthy general population by region in Brazil, according to the REDOME database.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Table 1. HLA-B27 prevalence of positivity, according to races (defined by self-reported skin color) in Brazil, according to the REDOME database.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>HLA-B27 prevalence % (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>4.85 (4.81 – 4.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>2.92 (2.85 – 3.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pardos (Browns)</td>
<td>3.76 (3.71 – 3.80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amarelos (Yellows)</td>
<td>3.95 (3.82 – 4.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>3.18 (2.85 – 3.62)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. HLA-B27 percentage of positivity in healthy general population by region in Brazil, according to the REDOME database.

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Real-world evidence, Imaging

S. N. Christiansen1, S. H. Rasmussen1, M. Ostergaard1, B. Michelsen1, K. Pavelka1, C. Codeanu1, A. Ciurea1, B. Glintborg1, M. J. Santos1, I. Sari1, Z. Rota1, B. Gudbjornsson1, J. Zavada1, C. Mogosan1, M. J. Nissen1, A. G. Lo1, A. Barcelos1, Y. Erez1, K. Pirkmajer1, G. Gornida1, M. L. Hefland1, L. Midtbøll Ombjerg1, European Spondyloarthritis Research Collaboration Network (EuroSpA RCN), on behalf of ATTRA (Czech Republic), RRBR (Romania), SCOM (Switzerland), DANBIO (Denmark), Reuma-pi (Portugal), TURKBIO (Turkey), biorx.si (Slovenia) and ICEBIO (Iceland), Copenhagen, Denmark

Background: The impact of radiographic status on real-world secukinumab treatment effectiveness in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) patients is unknown.

Objectives: To compare the treatment effectiveness of secukinumab in radiographic (r-) vs. non-radiographic (nr-) axSpA patients treated in routine care across Europe.

Methods: Prospectively collected data on secukinumab-treated axSpA patients with known radiographic status followed in routine care in the EuroSpA collaboration [1] were pooled from 9 countries. Patients were listed as r-axSpA if registered to fulfil the modified New York [2] or the radiographic ASAS classification [3] criteria. If patients were registered to fulfil neither criterion or if they did not fulfil one criterion and the other was unknown, patients were registered as nr-axSpA. Patient-reported outcome (PRO) remission rates including pain (VAS≤20), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score-CRP (ASDAS inactive disease <1.3) after 6, 12 and 24 months of secukinumab treatment were calculated. Remission rates in r-axSpA vs. nr-axSpA patients were compared by logistic regression analyses in an unadjusted model (MODEL1), a model adjusted for age/gender (MODEL2) and a model adjusted for age/gender/country/previous bDMARD (yes/no)/baseline CRP/years since diagnosis to secukinumab initiation (MODEL3). For MODEL3, parameter estimates (CRP) from 100 imputed data sets were pooled using Multivariate Imputation by Chained Equations.

Results: Patients with r-axSpA had longer disease duration at secukinumab initiation, were more frequently males and HLA-B27 positive compared to nr-axSpA patients.
Acknowledgements: Novartis Pharma AG for supporting the EuroSpA collaboration.

Disclosure of Interests: Nasa Nysom Christiansen researchers: BMS, Novartis, and Boehringer-Ingelheim. Celgene, Eli-Lilly, Hospira, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Novo, Orion, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sandzio, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Celgene, Eli-Lilly, Hospira, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Novo, Orion, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sandzio, Sanofi, UCB, Brintellix (Bristol-Myers Squibb), and UCB. Karel Peukela Speakers bureau: Pfizer, MSD, BMS, UCB, Amgen, Egos, Roche, AbbVie, Consultant of: Pfizer, MSD, BMS, UCB, Amgen, Egos, Roche, AbbVie, Catalin Codreanu Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Ewopharma, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Ewopharma, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Adrian Ciurea Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Novartis, Bente Glintborg Grant/research support from: Novartis, Karel Peukela. Jose Sanjos Speakers bureau: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Ismail Sari: None declared. Ziga Rotar Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Novartis, MSD, Medis, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Sanofi, Lek, Janssen, Consultant of: AbbVie, Novartis, MSD, Medis, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Sanofi, Lek, Janssen, Bjorn Gundtjornspeaker bureaus: Novartis and Nordic Pharma, Consultant of: Novartis and Nordic Pharma, Jakub Zavada Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli-Lilly, Sandzio, Novartis, Egos, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli-Lilly, Sandzio, Novartis, Egos, UCB, Corina Mogosan: None declared. Michael J. Nissen Speakers bureau: AbbVie, AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssens, Novartis, Pfizer, Anne Gitta loft Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB. Anabela Barcelos Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Lilly and Novartis, Ismail Erez: None declared. Katja Pirkmajer Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Novartis, MSD, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Lek, Janssen, Consultant of: AbbVie, Janssen, Medis, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Gerdur Gröndal: None declared. Merete Lund Hetland Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Medac, Sandzio, Grant/research support from: Biogen, Biogen, BMS, Celtrion, Eli Lilly, Janssen Biologics B.V., Lundbeck Fonden, MSD, Medac, Lykke Middboll Ombrjoeg Grant/research support from: Novartis.

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POS0567

LONG-TERM SAFETY OF UPADACITINIB IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS, ANKYL OSING Spondylitis, and Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis Up to 5 Years

Keywords: Safety, Spondyloarthritis, Psoriatic arthritis


1Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Immunology and Clinical Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; 2AbbVie Inc., Immunology, North Chicago, United States of America; 3Cantonal Clinic St Gallen, Rheumatology, St Gallen, Switzerland; 4University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; 5Federal University of Paraná, Rheumatology, Paraná, Brazil; 6AbbVie Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, Immunology, Wedenscheid, Germany; 7University of California San Francisco, Department of Rheumatology, San Francisco, United States of America

Background: The efficacy and safety of upadacitinib (UPA), an oral JAK inhibitor, has been demonstrated in phase 3 trials for PsA, AS, and nr-axSpA, and pooled axSpA from the SELECT program.

Objectives: To provide a safety update for UPA across PsA, AS, nr-axSpA, and pooled axSpA from the SELECT program.

Methods: Safety data (cut-off: 15 Aug 2022) from 5 UPA trials in PsA (2, AS) (2), and nr-axSpA (1) were compiled. Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs): onset on or after first dose and ≤30 days for UPA 15 mg (UPA15), or ≤70 days for UPA10 (UPA10), were summarized for pooled PsA (pooled UPA15, and ADA [1 study only]), AS (pooled UPA15), nr-axSpA (pooled UPA15), and pooled axSpA (pooled UPA15 from AS and nr-axSpA trials). TEAEs are reported as "exposure-adjusted event rates (events/100 patient-years) (E/100 PY)." Age-gender adjusted standard incidence ratios (SIRs) using the SEER database were calculated.

Results: A total of 1789 patients (PsA, n=907; AS, n=596; nr-axSpA, n=286) received ≥1 dose of UPA15, totaling ~3690 PY of exposure (Table 1). Overall AEs and serious AEs were highest in PsA, and numerically higher with UPA15 vs ADA; rates were generally similar between AS and nr-axSpA. AEs leading to discontinuation were generally similar across treatment groups and diseases and were numerically lowest in AS. Rates of malignancy excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) were similar between PsA, AS and nr-axSpA, except for skin cancer in PsA and were generally similar across diseases (Figure 1). In PsA, higher rates of serious infection, herpes zoster (HZ), lymphopenia, and NMSC were observed with UPA15 vs ADA. The SIR (95% CI) for malignancy excluding NMSC with UPA15 was 0.94 (0.54-1.53) in PsA and 0.58 (0.12-1.69) in pooled axSpA; SIRs for AS (1 case) and nr-axSpA (2 cases) were not calculated separately due to low events. In PsA, the SIR (95% CI) was 0.71 (0.40-1.18), and 0.33 (0.13-0.69) with COVID-19 deaths excluded, suggesting no increased risk of death vs the general population. SIRs were not calculated for AS, nr-axSpA, or pooled axSpA due to low events. Data from this analysis should be interpreted with caution, as it was not enriched for AEs and duration of exposure was more limited for AS and nr-axSpA.

Conclusion: Higher rates of serious infection, HZ, lymphopenia, and NMSC were observed with UPA15 vs ADA in PsA; slightly elevated rates for most of these TEAEs were also observed with UPA15 in PsA vs axSpA. Apart from these differences, UPA15 demonstrated a generally consistent safety profile across disease states, with no new safety signals identified from previous reports.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. TEAEs in Patients Treated With UPA Across PsA, AS, nr-axSpA, and Pooled axSpA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Total, PY</th>
<th>Median (min, max), years</th>
<th>2.9 (0.3, 6.2)</th>
<th>3.7 (0.8, 10.1)</th>
<th>4.8 (0.3, 9.5)</th>
<th>5.0 (0.2, 10.1)</th>
<th>6.4 (0.1, 12.4)</th>
<th>7.0 (0.2, 14.5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td>1464.4</td>
<td>939.1</td>
<td>323.9</td>
<td>1263.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>212.5</td>
<td>195.1</td>
<td>188.3</td>
<td>180.2</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
<td>230.0</td>
<td>194.9</td>
<td>211.0</td>
<td>180.8</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pooled axSpA</td>
<td>230.0</td>
<td>194.9</td>
<td>211.0</td>
<td>180.8</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E/100 PY (95% CI)

Any AE | 232.9 | 185.9 | 195.1 | 188.3 |
Any serious AE | 10.9 | 8.9 | 8.1 | 8.6 |
Any AE leading to discontinuation of study drug | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
All deaths | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
COVID-related | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
All deaths excl. COVID-related | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |

E/100, every other week; QD, once daily; Includes AS and nr-axSpA; Includes non-treatment-emergent deaths. PsA: 16 deaths with UPA15 (most common cause was COVID-19), 2 deaths with ADA (accident and COVID-19 pneumonia); AS: 1 death (suicide).
Disclosure of Interests: Gerd Rüdiger Burmester Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB; Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB; Jayne Stigler Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie and may hold stock or options; Employee of: AbbVie, Andrea Rubbert-Roth Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Roche, and Sanofi; Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Roche, and Sanofi; Yoshio Tanaka Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Asahi-kasei, Astellas, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Chugai, Daiichi-Sankyo, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and YL Biologics; Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Asahi-Kasei, Chugai, Daiichi-Sankyo, Eisai, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, and Takeda, Valeridio F Azvedo Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celtrion, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Organon, Pfizer, and UCB; Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celtrion, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Organon, Pfizer, and UCB; Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Asahi-Kasei, Chugai, Daiichi-Sankyo, Eisai, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, and Takeda, Valeridio F Azvedo.

Methods:
A retrospective, population-based, cross-sectional study retrieved data from the Clalit Health Services (CHS) registry. Cases were defined as having AS if they had a diagnosis of AS and a follow-up period of at least two years. The prevalence of valvular heart diseases was compared between the two groups, adjusting for multiple confounding factors. AS patients had a significantly higher prevalence of various heart valve disorders in AS patients.

Results:
We included 4,082 AS patients and 20,397 age- and sex-frequency matched controls. AS patients had a significantly higher prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors (p<0.001) and a higher prevalence of valvular heart disease. In the multivariate logistic regression model, adjusting for multiple confounding factors, AS was independently associated with aortic stenosis (OR 2.25, 95% CI 1.57-3.23, p<0.001), aortic insufficiency (OR 2.44, 95% CI 1.53-3.94, p<0.001), mitral insufficiency (OR 1.75, 95% CI 1.17-2.61, p<0.001) but not mitral stenosis (OR 1.31, 95% CI 0.6-2.7, p=0.47).

Conclusion:
Our study reports the increased risk of valvular heart diseases in patients with AS possibly due to the inflammatory milieu associated with the disease process and the result of biomechanical stress affecting the entheses-like valvular structures.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Characteristics of the study population of the present study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Control (N=20397)</th>
<th>Ankylosing spondylitis (N=4082)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (41.0-66.0)</td>
<td>54.9 (42.0-67.0)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12569 (63.9%)</td>
<td>2658 (63.9%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>7363 (36.1%)</td>
<td>1474 (36.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>3647 (17.9%)</td>
<td>1873 (45.9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>2124 (10.4%)</td>
<td>1196 (29.3%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>1611 (14.8%)</td>
<td>1499 (36.7%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>614 (8.8%)</td>
<td>885 (21.7%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperlipidemia</td>
<td>687 (22.1%)</td>
<td>2372 (54.8%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic heart disease</td>
<td>1290 (6.3%)</td>
<td>574 (14.1%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary Hypertension</td>
<td>160 (0.8%)</td>
<td>47 (1.2%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations – NSAIDs: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; anti-TNF – anti-tumour necrosis factor; DMARDs – disease modifying antirheumatic drugs

Figure 1. Logistic regression model showing the association of Ankylosing spondylitis with various heart valve disease

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: R. Almodovar González 1, P. Zarco-Montejo 1, A. Bueno 1, C. García-Monco 2, E. Pérez-Fernández 3, C. López-Medina 4, M. Dougados 5, R. Mazzucchelli 6, 1Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Rheumatology, Alcorcón, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Radiology, Alcorcón, Madrid, Spain; 3Instituto Médico Tenerife, Radiology, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Clinical Investigation Unit, Alcorcón, Madrid, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario Reina Sofia, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain; 6Hospital Cochin, Rheumatology, Paris, France.

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Conclusion:
Our study reports the increased risk of valvular heart diseases in patients with AS possibly due to the inflammatory milieu associated with the disease process and the result of biomechanical stress affecting the entheses-like valvular structures.

Disclosure of Interests: R. Almodovar González 1, P. Zarco-Montejo 1, A. Bueno 1, C. García-Monco 2, E. Pérez-Fernández 3, C. López-Medina 4, M. Dougados 5, R. Mazzucchelli 6, 1Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Rheumatology, Alcorcón, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Radiology, Alcorcón, Madrid, Spain; 3Instituto Médico Tenerife, Radiology, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Clinical Investigation Unit, Alcorcón, Madrid, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario Reina Sofia, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain; 6Hospital Cochin, Rheumatology, Paris, France.

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differences between paired measures. Three different criteria were considered to define activity improvement: a change in ASDAS score at 12 months of 1.1 (Clinical Important Improvement -CII-) and 2 points (Major Improvement -MI-) and a reduction ≥ 50% of the initial BASDAI score (BASDAI50).

**Results:**
- Inter-rater reliability: Both s-SCAIISS and SPARCC showed good inter-rater reliability: In baseline MRI: ICC 0.95 and 0.82, respectively; At 1 year MRI: ICC 0.80 and 0.79, respectively.
- Discriminative validity: Of the 206 patients included in our study, 70 (34%) fulfilled the ASAS criteria for presence of inflammation on MRI. The AUC for EMO detection was excellent for both systems (0.98 and 0.96 for SCAIISS and SPARCC, respectively). The optimal cut-off point for s-SCAIISS was 60 u (Sens 83%, Esp 80%) and for SPARCC 1.25 u (Sens 93% and Esp 94%). Using the s-SCAIISS cut-off point of 60 u, and the one 1.25 for SPARCC, 165 patients (81.3%) and 189 patients (93.1%), respectively were classified in accordance with the ASAS definition of the presence or absence of inflammation on MR in r-axSpA at MRI evaluated by the human central readers. Sensitivity to change: Of the 206 patients included, at 1 year after baseline assessment, 48 (23.3%), 17(8.3%) and 54 (26.2%) patients had a CII, MI and BASDAI50, respectively. In these patients with improved disease activity, the mean (SD) s-SCAIISS score at baseline was 404.1 (SD 1055.1), 185.7 (262.7) and 375.3 (SD1008.8), respectively. While at 12 months it decreased to 72.6 (SD134.8), 46.1 (SD72.1) and 76 (SD151.7). The means of paired differences were 331.4 (SD 1019.6), 139.7 (SD 240.8) and 298.3 (SD 976.9), respectively, all of them with p<0.05. As expected, the AUC for the detection of CII, MI and BASDAI50 for both systems were poor (s-SCAIISS 0.61, 0.63 and 0.58 and for SPARCC 0.7, 0.66, 0.60, respectively).

**Conclusion:** The MRI-SIJ EMO quantification system with s-SCAIISS is as reliable and sensitive as change compared to SPARCC. The apparent advantage of SPARCC over s-SCAIISS is artefactualised by the fact that the definition of the presence or absence of ASAS criteria for sacroilitis is determined by the same readers who assess SPARCC.

**Acknowledgements:** We thank all DESIR-cohort patients and all individuals involved with creating and maintaining the cohort. The DESIR cohort was sponsored by the Département de la Recherche Clinique et du Développement, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris. We are also grateful to the heads of the participating regional centres.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.20

**Table 1. Probability of developing facet joint ankylosis with and without posterior element inflammation present one year before, in r-axSpA patients from the SIAS cohort**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PE inflammation</th>
<th>New facet joint ankylosis after one year</th>
<th>N*</th>
<th>P (FJ ankylosis / PE inflammation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7195</td>
<td>FJ ankylosis (0) = 43/7238 = 0.0059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>FJ ankylosis (1) = 2/513 = 0.0039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>FJ ankylosis (1) = 2/513 = 0.0039</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infarction only in the facet joint</th>
<th>Facet joint inflammation</th>
<th>New facet joint ankylosis after one year</th>
<th>N*</th>
<th>P (FJ ankylosis / FJ inflammation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE posterior elements, *; number of VU levels with inflammation in at least 1 part of the posterior elements (pedicle, facet joint, processes spinosi, soft tissue), #; number of facet joints, FJ; facet joint, P; probability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inflammation in any part of the posterior elements</th>
<th>PE inflammation</th>
<th>New facet joint ankylosis after one year</th>
<th>N*</th>
<th>P (FJ ankylosis / PE inflammation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5934</td>
<td>FJ ankylosis (0) = 38/5972 = 0.0064</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>FJ ankylosis (1) = 93/593 = 0.1606</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>FJ ankylosis (1) = 1/94 = 0.0106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inflammation only in the facet joint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE posterior elements, *; number of VU levels with inflammation in at least 1 part of the posterior elements (pedicle, facet joint, processes spinosi, soft tissue), #; number of facet joints, FJ; facet joint, P; probability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** PE inflammation and FJ ankylosis on MRI were infrequently observed in patients with r-axSpA. No association was found between inflammation in the PE and the development of FJ ankylosis. However, when inflammation in the FJ is present the likelihood of developing FJ ankylosis after 1 year is over 3 times higher compared to FJ without inflammation. This finding adds to the pathophysiological relationship between inflammation and ankylosis at the same anatomical location of the axial skeleton in patients with axSpA.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Manouk de Hooge Consultant of: UCB, Rosalinde Stal: None declared, Alexandre Sepriano Consultant of: AbbVie, UCB and Lilly, Xenophon Baraliakos Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Celltrion, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, UCB, Monique Reijnierse Consultant of: AbbVie, Bayer, BMS, Celgene, Eisai, Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Floris A. van Gaalen Consultant of: Novartis, MSD, AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Grant/research support from: Stichting vrienden van Sole Mio, Stichting ASAS, acobus Stichting, Novartis, UCB, Sofia Ramiro Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Sanofi, Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.414

**Figure:** The extent of posterior element lesions on MRI across the 23 vertebral units (VU) in radiographic axial spondyloarthritis patients with 2 years follow-up.
Background: Detection of structural lesions of the sacroiliac joint (SIJ) in patients with chronic low back pain is crucial for the diagnosis and classification of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). With MRI becoming a part of a routine diagnostic approach of axSpA, the question about the value of T1-weighted images (T1WI) evaluating structural lesions raised.

Objectives: To construct and validate a radiomics model based on T1WI to assess SIJ structural lesions in patients with suspected axSpA.

Methods: A total of 266 patients with clinical suspicion of axSpA between December 2016 and January 2022 were enrolled. Structural lesions were assessed by low-dose CT (LDCT) and MRI, respectively. Radiomics features, extracted from SIJ T1WI, were included to generate the radiomics model. Performance of the radiomics model was evaluated by the receiver operating characteristic curve. Point-biserial correlation analysis was used to interpret the associations between the radiomics features and structural lesions.

Results: Structural lesions were found in 122 of 187 patients (65.2%) in the training cohort and 52 of 79 patients (65.8%) in the validation cohort. Using LDCT as the gold standard, the area under the curves (AUCs) of the radiomics model and MRI experienced rates were 0.82 (95% CI: 0.76, 0.88) vs 0.73 (95% CI: 0.67, 0.79) in the training cohort, and 0.82 (95% CI: 0.72, 0.91) vs 0.74 (95% CI: 0.66, 0.83) in the validation cohort. The seven radiomics features included showed significant correlation with various structural lesions (P all <0.05). Among them, WaveletLH_L_firstorder_90Percen-tile showed the strongest association with fat lesion (r = 0.48, P<0.05).

Conclusion: The radiomics analysis with T1WI could effectively detect SIJ structural lesions and each radiomics feature was correlated with different structural lesions significantly, which might inform radiomic-based applications for axSpA intelligent diagnosis.

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Background: While 5-10% of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) patients have diagnosed inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), 50-60% display microscopic gut inflammation upon examination of mucosal biopsies. Gut inflammation, as measured by faecal calprotectin (F-calprotectin), is more frequent in radiographic (r-axSpA) than non-radiographic axSpA (nr-axSpA) and has been linked to more active disease [1] – a known risk factor for structural damage progression. How gut inflammation relates to the degree of structural damage in the spine, however, remains sparsely studied.

Objectives: To assess if gut inflammation, as measured by elevated F-calprotectin, is associated with more structural damage in the spine in patients with axSpA.

Methods: Patients with clinical axSpA from a defined area of southern Sweden were cross-sectionally examined and classified as nr-axSpA (ASAS criteria; n=85) or r-axSpA (modified NY or ASAS criteria; n=171). Twenty-four (94%) subjects had comorbid IBD. Spinal structural damage was quantified by mSASSS, one experienced reader scored all examinations, and gut inflammation by F-calprotectin (Calpro AS ELISA). mSASSS scores of patients with normal F-calprotectin (<50 mg/kg) were compared to those with elevated (≥50 mg/kg) or substantially elevated (≥150 mg/kg) values, respectively (Mann Whitney U-test). Furthermore, to explore if presence of gut inflammation (F-calprotectin ≥50mg/kg) was associated with an mSASSS score above the median, logistic regression analysis was used, adjusting for sex, symptom duration, HLA-B27-status, smoking (ever/never), CRP, NSAID (ASAS 3-month NSAID-score) and anti-TNF therapy (yes/no) use. Apart from assessing the overall axSpA group, analyses were also performed limited to subjects with r-axSpA, since both mSASSS and F-calprotectin values were expected to be higher in r-axSpA. Finally, analyses were also repeated after exclusion of patients with IBD as a sensitivity analysis.

Results: Characteristics of the included patients are displayed in the Table 1. In the overall axSpA group, mSASSS scores were significantly higher among patients with elevated F-calprotectin, and even more so among those with substantially elevated F-calprotectin, as compared to those with normal F-calprotectin values (Figure 1). Similarly results were seen when limiting the assessment to r-axSpA, although here mSASSS was significantly higher only among those with substantially elevated F-calprotectin (Figure 1). F-calprotectin ≥50mg/kg was associated with having an mSASSS score above the median (>2 in the overall axSpA and >5 in the r-axSpA groups, respectively) in both study populations – all axSpA: adjusted OR 2.7 (95%CI 1.1-6.7), p=0.028. Excluding patients with comorbid IBD rendered similar results.

Conclusion: Presence of gut inflammation, as measured by elevated F-calprotectin, is associated with more structural damage in the spine in patients with established axSpA, as well as specifically in r-axSpA, even after adjustment for known risk factors of spinal damage development. This calls for prospective studies, assessing gut inflammation as a potential predictor of radiographic progression.

Background: Presenteeism is associated with lower work satisfaction and future sick leave in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). It is generally assessed as a continuous variable; however, despite a lower precision, categorical variables are more clinically relevant in routine practice.

Objectives: 1) To identify thresholds of presenteeism instruments that reflect unacceptable work status in axSpA and whether those thresholds could predict future adverse work outcomes, 2) to compare the performance of these thresholds with thresholds from traditional outcomes for axSpA and 3) to understand whether thresholds are stable across contextual factors.

Methods: We used data from the 1-year multinational prospective study on Patient-Reported Outcomes in Employment Study in Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS-PROSE). Thresholds to determine when patients consider themselves in 'unacceptable work status' were calculated at baseline for 4 presenteeism instruments (Work Productivity and Activity Impairment questionnaire -WPAI-, Quality and Quantity method -QQ-, Workplace Activity Limitations Scale -WALS- and Work Limitations Questionnaire -WLQ 25-), and for BASDAI and BASFI. We performed receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis using a 0.1 point difference as the threshold for unacceptable work status, and for the QQ method, using patient's ability to perform the current job satisfactorily. We determined thresholds using the Youden index, nearest to 0.1 to determine the optimal cut-off, while balancing over-under diagnosis. Temporal validation was assessed by applying the thresholds in different time points of each patient's data. Finally, accuracy of thresholds to predict future adverse work outcome was assessed through subgroup analyses. Across numerous contextual factors the thresholds were stable, except for some underdiagnoses among women and persons with a physical loading job by WPAI- QQ-, BASDAI- and BASFI-thresholds.

Conclusion: Thresholds for presenteeism and health status representing unacceptable work status have been established, showing stability across contextual factors. The capacity of these thresholds to predict future adverse work outcome was somewhat lower for all instruments. BASDAI and BASFI had a similar performance.

Table 1. Optimal thresholds for presenteeism measures and patients correctly classified for unacceptable work status and adverse work outcome at 12 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>(SE/SP)</th>
<th>Unacceptable work status</th>
<th>Correctly classified for AWO at 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WPAI presenteeism</td>
<td>≥40 (70/86)</td>
<td>283 (83)</td>
<td>215 (76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QQ method (0-10)</td>
<td>≥3 (81/62)</td>
<td>218 (65)</td>
<td>160 (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALS (0-3)</td>
<td>≥0.75 (86/75)</td>
<td>255 (76)</td>
<td>193 (68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLQ 25</td>
<td>≥0.75 (77/80)</td>
<td>286 (77)</td>
<td>201 (71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI (0-10)</td>
<td>≥4.7 (81/71)</td>
<td>245 (73)</td>
<td>230 (67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI (0-10)</td>
<td>≥3.5 (81/67)</td>
<td>232 (69)</td>
<td>185 (66)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SE, Sensibility; SP, Specificity; AWO, adverse work outcomes

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fracture (vs. an incident fracture) if a fracture occurred prior to the index date. Patients were followed over time for incident fractures after the index date. Fractures were defined by ICD codes. We examined all fractures, including those of the vertebrae, sternum/ribs, shoulder/clavicle/upper arm/elbow, distal forearm/wrist/hand, pelvis/hip/femur, knee/leg, and ankle/foot. First, we calculated the combined incidence of fracture and incidence by fracture type. Second, logistic regression models were constructed to identify factors associated with fracture, including age, sex, race or ethnic group, national area deprivation index, dual-eligibility for Medicare (healthcare for adults aged 65+ and some people with certain conditions/disabilities) and Medicaid (healthcare for those with limited income and resources), Charlson comorbidity index, body mass index, smoking status, osteoporosis diagnosis, historical fracture (fracture prior to index date), and use of glucocorticoids and opioids.

Results: We identified 1,426 adults with AS in RISE who were also observable in Medicare. The mean (SD) age was 69.4 years (9.8), 44.3% were female, and 77.3% were non-Hispanic White. Fractures occurred in 197 AS adults (Table 1). The overall incidence rate of fractures among adults with AS was 76.7 (95% CI 66.4-88.6) per 1,000 person-years. The most common fracture was vertebral with an incidence rate of 23.9 per 1,000 person-years (95% CI 18.6-30.7), followed by distal forearm/wrist/hand with an incidence rate of 17.4 per 1,000 person-years (95% CI 13.0-23.4). Age 85+ (OR 3.64, 95% CI 1.79-7.40), historical fracture (OR 5.18, 95% CI 3.40-7.89), and use of opioid drugs (OR 2.20, 95% CI 1.52-3.19) conferred increased odds of fracture; sex did not (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In this large U.S. sample of older adults with AS, vertebral fractures were the most common followed by distal forearm/wrist/hand fractures. Those who were older, had a historical fracture and used opioids had higher odds of fracture. Men and women were equally likely to have a fracture. Since chronic opioid use was associated with fracture in AS, this high-risk population should be considered for interventions to mitigate risk.

Table 1. Incidence rate of fractures by type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Fracture</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
<th>Incidence Rate per 1,000 person-years</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any Fracture</td>
<td>197/1,426</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>66.4-88.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Fracture Type*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertebral</td>
<td>61 (25.7)</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>18.6-30.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distal forearm/wrist/hand</td>
<td>45 (19.0)</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>13.0-23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankle/foot</td>
<td>33 (14.0)</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>9.1-16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelvis/hip/femur</td>
<td>29 (12.2)</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>7.8-16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sternum/ribs</td>
<td>25 (10.5)</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>6.5-14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder/clavicle/upper arm/elbow</td>
<td>24 (10.1)</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>6.2-13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee/leg lower</td>
<td>20 (8.4)</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>5.0-11.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Subject's first fracture within a category were included in the counts by fracture type. Subjects can appear in more than one fracture type category if another fracture occurred in a different location. Data displays 237 unique fractures in 197 participants.

Figure 1.
**POSO667**

**KNOWN AND LESS KNOWN COMORBIDITIES IN AXIAL Spondyloarthritis – WHAT ARE WE OVERLOOKING? RESULTS FROM THE SPARKATUS COHORT**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Comorbidities, Epidemiology

J. Sagenstiel 1,2, E. Mogard 1,2, E. Lindqvist 1,2, A. Jourdin 3, M. Geijer 3,4, J.K. Wallman 1,2, T. Olofsson 1,2,1, Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden; 2Skåne University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden; 3Lund University, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Lund, Sweden; 4Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Division of Orthopaedics, Lund, Sweden; 5University of Gothenburg, Sahlgrenska Academy, Institute of Clinical Sciences, Department of Radiology, Gothenburg, Sweden; 6Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Department of Radiology, Gothenburg, Sweden

**Background:** It is well-established that axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is associated with extra-musculoskeletal manifestations such as anterior uveitis, psoriasis, and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Although relevant data exists also regarding other specific comorbid diseases, less is reported on the overall comorbidity burden in relation to the background population.

**Objectives:** To assess the frequency of a wide range of comorbidities, covering most important organ-domains and conditions, in a population-based axSpA cohort, including both non-radiographic (nr-axSpA) and radiographic (r-axSpA) disease, and to compare this to frequencies among matched general population comparator-subjects.

**Methods:** We included 246 well-characterised axSpA patients (mean age 52 years; 55% male) with established disease from the SPARKATUS cohort, comprising patients from a defined area of southern Sweden. All patients had undergone a thorough clinical assessment and were classified as nr-axSpA (fulfilling ASAS nr-axSpA criteria; n=82) or r-axSpA (meeting modified New York/ASAS r-axSpA criteria; n=164). Furthermore, for each axSpA patient, 5 comparator-subjects from the general population, matched on sex, age, and residence area, were randomly drawn from the Swedish Population Register (n=1230). The frequency of 55 different comorbidities, covering most important organ-domains, were then investigated through ICD-10 diagnostic codes retrieved from the Skåne Healthcare Register (covering both primary and specialised care) and collected during a 10-year period preceding inclusion in the cohort (for the index cases; and during the same period for their respective comparator-subjects). Univariable logistic regression was used to compare frequencies of the various comorbidities between axSpA patients and comparator-subjects, while employing the Benjamin-Hochberg procedure to account for multiple tests. Comorbidities with <5 events in either group were excluded from the analysis (n=12).

**Results:** Characteristics of the included patients are displayed in the Table 1. Numerically, almost all investigated comorbidities were more frequent among axSpA patients than comparator-subjects (Figure 1). The patients showed a significantly higher frequency of known extra-musculoskeletal manifestations: anterior uveitis (28% vs. 1% for comparator-subjects, p<0.001), IBD (10% vs. 1%, p<0.01), gout (18% vs. 3%, p<0.001) and nephrolithiasis (8% vs. 3%, p<0.001) were clearly overrepresented. In addition, patients displayed higher proportions of well-known side-effects of such medications as cyclosporine (28% vs. 1%, p<0.001), fibromyalgia (12% vs. 3%, p<0.001) and nephrolithiasis (8% vs. 3%, p<0.001). When assessing a wide range of comorbidities, contemporary conditions, but also of less explored conditions such as fibromyalgia and nephrolithiasis, that warrant attention and proper management. Although oral GCs are generally not recommended in axSpA, our results underscore that conditions such as degenerative disc disease (17% vs. 6%, p<0.001), fibromyalgia (12% vs. 3%, p<0.001) and nephrolithiasis (8% vs. 3%, p<0.001) and were clearly overrepresented.

**Conclusion:** The patients showed a significantly higher frequency of known extra-musculoskeletal manifestations: anterior uveitis (28% vs. 1% for comparator-subjects, p<0.001), IBD (10% vs. 1%, p<0.01), fibromyalgia (12% vs. 3%, p<0.001) and nephrolithiasis (8% vs. 3%, p<0.001). Also, previously less investigated conditions such as degenerative disc disease (17% vs. 6%, p<0.001), fibromyalgia (12% vs. 3%, p<0.001) and nephrolithiasis (8% vs. 3%, p<0.001) were clearly overrepresented. In addition, patients displayed higher proportions of well-known side-effects of NSAIDs: gastritis (21% vs. 10%, p<0.001), fibromyalgia (12% vs. 3%, p<0.001) and nephrolithiasis (8% vs. 3%, p<0.001) were clearly overrepresented. As a consequence, patients displayed higher proportions of well-known side-effects of NSAIDs: gastritis (21% vs. 10%, p<0.001), fibromyalgia (12% vs. 3%, p<0.001) and nephrolithiasis (8% vs. 3%, p<0.001).

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

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**POSO668**

**LOW UVEITIS RATES IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL Spondyloarthritis TREATED WITH BIMEKIZUMAB: POOLED RESULTS FROM PHASE 2B/3 TRIALS**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Safety, Uveitis

M. Rudwaleit 1, M. Brown 2, F. A. Van Gaalen 3, N. Haroon 4, L. S. Gensler 5, C. Fleurinck 6, A. Marten 7, U. Massow 7, N. De Peyrecave 6, T. Vaux 8, K. White 9, A. Deodhar 1, K. Van der Bruinisma 10, 1University of Bielefeld, N/A, 2Klinikum Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany; 3Genzyme, N/A, 4London, United Kingdom; 5Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 6University of Toronto, University Health Network, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Department of Medicine/Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; 7University of California, San Francisco, Department of Medicine/Rheumatology, San Francisco, California, United States of America; 8UCB Pharma, N/A, Brussels, Belgium; 9UCB Pharma, N/A, Monheim am Rhein, Germany; 10UCB Pharma, N/A, Slough, United Kingdom; 11Oregon Health & Science University, Division of Arthritis & Rheumatic Diseases, Portland, Oregon, United States of America; 12Radboud University Medical Centre, Department of Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands

**Background:** Acute anterior uveitis (‘uveitis’), or ‘iritis’, is a common extra musculoskeletal manifestation among patients (pts) with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). The prevalence of uveitis varies with HLA-B27 positivity, axSpA subtype and disease duration, reaching >50% in radiographic (r)-axSpA (i.e., ankylosing spondylitis (AS)) pts with >10 years symptom duration [2]. Interleukin (IL)-17 has been implicated in the pathogenesis of uveitis; however, inhibition of IL-17A alone may not be optimal for the management of uveitis [3]. Here, we report the incidence of uveitis following inhibition of IL-17A in addition to IL-17F with bimekizumab (BKZ).

**Objectives:** To compare incidence rates of uveitis in pts with axSpA treated with placebo (PB) or BKZ 160 mg every four weeks (wks; QWx4) to WK 16 of the phase (p)3 trials BE MOBILE 1 and 2. To evaluate incidence rates of uveitis in pts with axSpA treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W, using pooled ph2b/3 data.

**Results:** Our pooled analysis of data from the BE MOBILE 1 and 2 trials included 312 pts with axSpA treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W, using pooled ph2b/3 data. The uveitis incidence rates were 5.8% (95% CI 4.2-7.8%) for BKZ and 6.8% (95% CI 5.3-8.5%) for PB, a non-significant difference (p=0.52). The incidence rates for uveitis were 3.8% (95% CI 2.6-5.5%) for BKZ and 4.4% (95% CI 3.0-6.1%) for PB in pts with axSpA treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W, using pooled ph2b/3 data.

**Mean (SD) if not otherwise stated. Missing ranging from 0-5%.”
Methods: The ph3 studies BE MOBILE 1 (NCT03928704; non-r-axSpA) and 2 (NCT03928743; r-axSpA) comprised a 16-week double-blind treatment period (DBTP; subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg Q4W or PBO) followed by a 36-week maintenance/reduction period (all pts received BKZ 160 mg Q4W) [5]. Upon entry to the ongoing BE MOVING open-label extension (OLE; NCT04436640; cut-off 4 Jul 2022), at Wk 52, all pts remained on BKZ 160 mg Q4W. The ph2b study BE AGILE (NCT02963506; r-axSpA) comprised a 12-week double-blind, dose-ranging period followed by a 36-week randomised period (BKZ 160 or 320 mg Q4W) [4]. Upon entry to the ongoing BE AGILE OLE (NCT03355573; cut-off 4 Jul 2022) at Wk 48, all pts received BKZ 160 mg Q4W. Data were pooled for all pts treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W in the ph2b/3 trials listed above. Data were pooled separately for pts randomised to BKZ or PBO in the DBTP of BE MOBILE 1 and 2. Uveitis treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were identified using the preferred terms “autoimmune uveitis,” “iritis,” “tritis,” and “uveitis”; and were reported as both incidence and exposure adjusted incidence rates (EAIRs) per 100 pt years (PY) for all pts who received ≥1 BKZ dose.

Results: Baseline characteristics were reflective of a pt population with moderate-to-severe axSpA (Table 1). In the DBTP of BE MOBILE 1 and 2, uveitis TEAEs occurred in 11/237 (4.6%; EAIR/100 PY [95% CI]: 15.4 [7.7, 27.5]) and 2/349 (0.6%; 1.8 [0.2, 6.7]) of pts randomised to PBO and BKZ (% difference [95% CI]: 4.07 [1.71, 7.60]), respectively (Figure 1). In the 45 DBP-randomised (19.0%) and 52 BKZ-randomised (14.9%) pts with history of uveitis, the incidence [95% CI]: 4.07 [1.71, 7.60]), respectively (Figure 1). All uveitis TEAEs were mild/moderate, one event led to discontinuation.

Conclusion: The incidence rate of uveitis TEAEs was lower to Wk 16 in axSpA pts randomised to BKZ 160 mg Q4W vs PBO. In the largest pool of ph2b/3 data available at the time of this report, the incidence rate of uveitis TEAEs with BKZ 160 mg Q4W remained low at 12/100 PY.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Pooled ph3</th>
<th>Pooled phob2/b3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(N=237)</td>
<td>(N=349)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(N=160)</td>
<td>(N=848)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BKZ 160 mg</td>
<td>BKZ 160 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q4W (N=349)</td>
<td>Q4W (N=848)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean ± SD</td>
<td>38.8 ± 12.1</td>
<td>40.0 ± 11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>145 (61.2)</td>
<td>233 (66.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive, n (%)</td>
<td>187 (78.9)</td>
<td>294 (84.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian, n (%)</td>
<td>200 (84.4)</td>
<td>286 (81.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>r-axSpA, n (%)</td>
<td>111 (46.8)</td>
<td>221 (63.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time since first axSpA symptoms (years), n (%)</td>
<td>10.3 ± 3.9</td>
<td>12.4 ± 5.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of uveitis, n (%)</td>
<td>45 (19.0)</td>
<td>52 (14.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline concomitant synthetic DMARDs, n (%)</td>
<td>51 (21.5)</td>
<td>77 (22.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure. Pooled incidence of uveitis TEAEs (EAIR/100 PY [95% CI]) stratified by history of uveitis in pts randomised to BKZ 160 mg Q4W or PBO in the DBTP (Wks 0–56) of the ph3 trials BE MOBILE 1 and 2, and all pts treated with BKZ 160 mg Q4W in ph2b/3 trials.

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by UCB Pharma. Medical writing support was provided by Costello Medical, funded by UCB Pharma.

Disclosure of Interests: Martin Rudwaleit Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Novartis and UCB Pharma, Matthew Brown Speakers bureau: Novartis., Consultant of: Clementia, Grey Wolf Therapeutics, Incyte, Ipsen, Pfizer, Regeneron and Xtheranta, Grant/research support from: UCB Pharma, Floris A. van Gaalen Consultant of: Fees from Novartis; personal fees from AbbVie, BMS, Eli Lilly and MSD, Grant/research support from: Jaccob Stichting, Novartis, Sintituing ASAS, Stichting Vrienden van Sole Mo UCB Pharma, Negi Haroon Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis and UCB Pharma, Liane S. Gensler Consultant of: AbbVie, Acelyrin, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Gilead, Janssen, MoonLake, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Novartis and UCB Pharma paid to institution, Carmen Fleurinck Employee of: UCB Pharma, Alexander Merten Employee of: UCB Pharma, Ute Massow Employee of: UCB Pharma, Natasha de Peyrecave Employee of: UCB Pharma, Thomas Vaux Employee of: UCB Pharma, Kathy White Shareholder of: UCB Pharma, Employee of: UCB Pharma, Atul Deodhar Speakers bureau: Janssen, Novartis and Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Aurora, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MoonLake, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Irene van der Horst-Bruinsma Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, MSD and Pfizer, Consultant of: Abbvie, Lilly, MSD, Novartis and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Unrestricted grants received for investigator-initiated studies from AbbVie, MSD, Pfizer and UCB Pharma.

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Keywords: Spondyloarthrits

M. T. Duruöz1, H. Bodur2, S. Ataman3, G. Gürer4, Ö. Akgül5, H. F. Cay6, E. Kapkı7, İ. Sezer8, A. Rezvan8, M. Alkan Melikoglu9, İ. Yağcı10, F. G. Yurdakul11, F. N. Göğüş12, A. Kamani13, R. Çevik14, L. Altan Inceoğlu15, Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Yıldırım Beyazıt University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 3Ankara University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 4Adnan Menderes University, University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Division of Rheumatology, Aydın, Turkey; 5Manisa Celal Bayar University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Division of Rheumatology, Manisa, Turkey; 6Antalya Training and Research Hospital, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Division of Rheumatology, Antalya, Turkey; 7Karađenzis Technical University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, trabzon, Turkey; 8Akdeniz University, University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Division of Rheumatology, Antalya, Turkey; 9Istanbul Medipol University International School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation, Istanbul, Turkey; 10Ataköy University, School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation, Erzurum, Turkey; 11Marmara University, University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation, Istanbul, Turkey; 12University of Health Sciences, Ankara City Hospital, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 13Gazi University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation and Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 14Sakarya University School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation and Rheumatology, Sakarya, Turkey; 15Dicle University, School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation, Diyarbakir, Turkey; 16Uludağ University, School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation and Rheumatology, Bursa, Turkey.

Background: Association between spondyloarthritis and cardiovascular (CV) diseases is a complex issue with variable outcomes.

Objectives: This study aimed to assess the prevalence rates of CV diseases and to analyze the impact of CV risk factors on CV disease in patients with spondyloarthrits.

Methods: A multi-center cross-sectional study using BioSTAR (Biological and Targeted Synthetic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs Registry) database was performed on patients with spondyloarthrits. Socio-demographic, laboratory and clinical, data were collected. Patients with and without major adverse
cardiovascular events (MACE) were grouped as Group 1 and Group 2. The primary outcome was the prevalence rates of CV disease and CV risk factors in the overall group. The secondary outcome was the difference in socio-demographic and clinical characteristics between the groups and predictive risk factors for CV disease.

Results: There were 1457 patients with a mean age of 45.7 ± 10.9 years. The prevalence rate for CV disease was 3% (n=44). The distribution of these diseases was coronary artery disease (n=42), congestive heart failure (n=4), peripheral vascular disorders (n=6), and cerebrovascular events (n=4). Patients in Group 2 were significantly older than those in Group 1 (p<0.001). There were significantly more patients with hypertension, diabetes mellitus, chronic renal failure, dyslipidemia, and malignancy in Group 1 than in Group 2 (p<0.05). Smoking (36.7%), obesity (24.4%), and hypertension (13.8%) were the most prevalent traditional CV risk factors. Hypertension (HR=4.994, 95% CI:1.966-12.683, p=0.001) and dyslipidemia (HR=1.960, 95% CI:1.155-6.676, p=0.024) were the independent predictors for CV disease.

Conclusion: The prevalence rate of CV disease was 3.0% in patients with spondyloarthropathy. Hypertension and dyslipidemia were independent risk factors for CV disease in patients with spondyloarthropathy.

REFERENCES:

Table 2. Univariate and multivariate analysis for MACE during the duration of the disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
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<th>HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value*</th>
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<td>Hypertension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
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<td>Chronic renal failure</td>
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<td>COPD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulmonary disease</td>
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Table 1. Outcomes at 2 years adjusted by disease duration.

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASAS-CRP (mean SD)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PSpA</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1800

POST0670
DIAGNOSTIC DELAY IS ASSOCIATED WITH WORSE OUTCOMES IN TERMS OF STRUCTURAL DAMAGE IN PATIENTS WITH RADIOPHASIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS. RESULTS FROM REGISPONSER-AS

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Outcome measures, Spondyloarthritids
VALIDATION OF TWO RESPONSE AND ONE STATUS MEASURES OF THE ASAS HEALTH INDEX VERSUS EXTERNAL ANCHORS IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Validation, Outcome measures

L. Kiltz1,2, A. Molto3, C. López-Medina4, M. Dougados5, D. Van der Heijde6, A. Boonen2, F. Van den Bosch1, J. Braun1, Ruhr University Bochum Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Bochum, Germany; 2Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Rheumatology, Herne, Germany; 3Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 4Reina Sofia University Hospital, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain; 5Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 6UMC+, Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands; 7Ghent University Hospital, Rheumatology, Gent, Belgium; 8VIB-Ugent Center for Inflammation Research, Rheumatology, Gent, Belgium

Background: Improvement in functioning and health as assessed by the ASAS Health Index (HI) is an important outcome of interventions in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). The ability of various ASAS HI thresholds to discriminate between treatment arms of an active comparator trial have been demonstrated recently by our group with absolute improvement in the ASAS HI in general being superior to relative changes [1, 2].

Objectives: To assess whether ASAS HI response measures (absolute improvement of ≥30% and relative improvement of ≥20%) are sufficiently discriminative between responders and non-responders in both active and placebo arms of trials, and to assess the status of a potential minimal clinically important difference (MCID) for the ASAS HI ≤5.0.

Methods: This post-hoc analysis from the tight-controlled, treat-to-target (T2T) trial TICOSPA (2), data of active axSpA patients randomized to either the T2T arm (visits every 3 weeks, standard treatment intensification if disease activity was not controlled or if disease activity was achieved) or the Usual Care arm (visits every 6 months, disease activity was assessed by the local rheumatologist) was performed. The performance of the ASAS HI response measure was assessed by performing the response over 0-48 weeks. The ASAS HI was calculated according to the ASAS classification criteria at the outpatient clinic of an academic hospital and eight community centres in Flanders, X-ray and MRI of the sacroiliac joints (SIJ) of patients enrolled between November 2010 and August 2020 were assessed by the local rheumatologist (‘local reading’) and two calibrated central readers (‘central reading’) as part of the TICOSPA trial. Readers resolved discrepant cases by consensus. Inter-reader reliability was assessed with Cohen’s Kappa, % overall, positive and negative agreement.

Results: ASAS HI was available in 160 patients, both at baseline and at week 48. At w48, an ASAS HI improvement of ≥30% of ≥20%, improvement of ≥3 points and ≥6 points, respectively. Patients with a meaningful improvement in global functioning had a larger reduction in patient global and disease activity as well as a greater chance to reach remission compared to patients with no significant improvement in global functioning (Table 1). Health outcomes were not different between the two response measures of ASAS HI. Patients who achieved ASAS partial remission, ASDAS inactive disease or ASASAS low activity at week 48 were more likely to have an ASAS HI ≤5.0 compared with patients who did not achieve such states (Figure 1).

Conclusion: We demonstrated discriminant capacity of both, the relative and the absolute response measures of the ASAS HI. Both thresholds proved to have external validity and were able to discriminate between active treatment arms.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Comparison of clinical outcomes and ASAS HI response at follow up

<table>
<thead>
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<th>ASAS HI response</th>
<th>&gt; 30% improvement (NRI)</th>
<th>&gt; 3 points improvement (NRI)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Yes (n=56)</td>
<td>0.0015 1.00</td>
<td>0.0016 0.0005</td>
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<tr>
<td>No (n=104)</td>
<td>-1.20 -0.03</td>
<td>3.12 0.0016</td>
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<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>&lt;0.001&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAS40 response at w48</td>
<td>48.2% 21.2%</td>
<td>48.2% 21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS 50 at w48</td>
<td>71.4% 28.8%</td>
<td>71.4% 28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS Major improvement</td>
<td>62.5% 31.9%</td>
<td>62.5% 31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0 to 48w)</td>
<td>6.0% 3.0%</td>
<td>6.0% 3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS Clinically Important (0 to 48w)</td>
<td>62.5% 31.9%</td>
<td>62.5% 31.9%</td>
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<td>Improvement (0 to 48w)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Patient Global (SD)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in BASDAI/Mean (SD)</td>
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<td>Median (0 to 48w)</td>
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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2189

RHEUMATOLOGISTS OVERCALL SACRIOILIITIS ON X-RAY AND MRI IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS: DATA FROM THE BELGIAN INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS AND SPONDYLITIS COHORT (BE-GIANT)

Keywords: Imaging

A. S. De Craemer1,2, M. De Hooge1,2,3, T. Renson1,2, L. Derom1,2,3, G. Varkas1,2, L. Van Praet1, R. Joos3, J. Lenaerts7, M. Devink5, L. Gyselbrecht2, I. Peene1,10, K. Thevissen11,12, P. Carron1,2,3,13, F. Van den Bosch1,2,3, D. Elewaut1,2,3, G. Varkas1,2, L. Van Praet1, R. Joos3, J. Lenaerts7, M. Devink5, L. Gyselbrecht2, I. Peene1,10, K. Thevissen11,12, P. Carron1,2,3,13, F. Van den Bosch1,2,3, D. Elewaut1,2,3

Background: Imaging of the sacroiliac joints, especially with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), is an important tool for early diagnosis of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). Interpretation of sacroiliac joint imaging can vary according to readers’ experience, but it is currently unknown if and how imaging assessment differs between academic hospitals and community based rheumatological care.

Objectives: To investigate (1) agreement between local and central reading of sacroiliac joint images (X-ray and MRI) from axSpA patients, and (2) to explore potential differences between patients diagnosed in an academic hospital compared to community centres.

Methods: The BelGian Inflammatory Arthritis and spoNdylitis cohort (Be-GIANT) includes newly diagnosed biological-naïve axSpA patients, that fulfil the ASAS classification criteria, at the outpatient clinic of an academic hospital and eight community centres in Flanders. X-ray and MRI of the sacroiliac joints (SIJ) of patients enrolled between November 2010 and August 2020 were assessed by the local rheumatologist (‘local reading’) and two calibrated central readers (‘central reading’) for definite radiographic sacroiliitis according to the modified New York criteria (X-SIJ) and active sacroiliitis according to the ASAS/OMERACT classification criteria (M-SIJ). Central readers resolved discrepant cases by consensus. Inter-reader reliability was assessed with Cohen’s Kappa, % overall, positive and negative agreement.

Results: Among the 271 included patients (n=205 academic hospital, n=66 community hospital), 231 X-SIJ and 208 MRI-SIJ were available for central reading (Table 1). Central readers disagreed with local readers on 30/231 (13%) X-SIJ images (c=0.44, moderate); 4/231 (1.7%) were reclassified as radiographic sacroiliitis and 26/231 (11.7%) as not showing radiographic sacroiliitis. Overall agreement was higher between central readers and academic rheumatologists.

Figure 1. Proportion of patients reaching status of good global functioning at week 48

POS0671

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compared to community rheumatologists (90.5% vs. 70.7%, p<0.001). 53/208 (25.4%) MRI-SIJ images were reclassified by central readers (κ=0.36, fair); the majority as negative for active sacroiliitis (51/208, 24.5%). Central readers agreed on the assessment of MRI-SIJ in a higher proportion with academic rheumatologists versus community rheumatologists (77.2% vs. 63.4%, p=0.07).

Conclusion: In newly diagnosed axSpA patients, the prevalence of radiographic sacroiliitis is low. Sacroiliitis on MRI is overcalled by rheumatologists both in academic and non-academic settings, underscoring the need for continuous educational trainings.

Table 1. Agreement between local and central readers on X-SIJ and MRI-SIJ of axSpA patients in academic and community centers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All axSpA patients</th>
<th>Academic hospital</th>
<th>Community centres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local reading</td>
<td>Central reading</td>
<td>Local reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-SIJ (N=231)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-SIJ +</td>
<td>41 (18%)</td>
<td>19 (8%)</td>
<td>30 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-SIJ -</td>
<td>190 (82%)</td>
<td>212 (92%)</td>
<td>160 (84%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall agreement</td>
<td>0.79 (95% CI 0.58-0.91)</td>
<td>0.95 (95% CI 0.82-0.99)</td>
<td>0.79 (95% CI 0.60-0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive agreement</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative agreement</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.44 (0.28 - 0.60)</td>
<td>0.55 (0.37 - 0.72)</td>
<td>0.10 (-0.20, 0.40)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X-SIJ (N=208)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All axSpA patients</th>
<th>Academic hospital</th>
<th>Community centres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local reading</td>
<td>Central reading</td>
<td>Local reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI-SIJ +</td>
<td>181 (87%)</td>
<td>132 (63%)</td>
<td>151 (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI-SIJ -</td>
<td>77 (36%)</td>
<td>57 (27%)</td>
<td>25 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall agreement</td>
<td>0.77 (95% CI 0.60-0.94)</td>
<td>0.72 (95% CI 0.57-0.87)</td>
<td>0.77 (95% CI 0.60-0.94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive agreement</td>
<td>83.1%</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>83.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative agreement</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.36 (0.25 - 0.48)</td>
<td>0.35 (0.20 - 0.49)</td>
<td>0.32 (0.10 - 0.55)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2231

POS0674

ARE PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS WHO WERE BREASTFEEDED LESS INCLINED TO MORE ACTIVE AND SEVERE DISEASE?

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

S. Alonso Castro1, S. Burger1, P. González del Pozo1, I. Braña Abascal1, E. Pardo Campo1, M. Alperi-López1, R. Queiró Silva1, S. Alonso Castro1, S. Burger1, P. González del Pozo1, I. Braña Abascal1, E. Pardo Campo1, M. Alperi-López1, R. Queiró Silva1

Background: Breast milk is the first source of microorganisms that colonize the gastrointestinal tract and a key factor in shaping the intestinal microbiome. It is currently believed that alterations in the intestinal microbiota are key in the pathogenesis of spondyloarthritis (SpA). It has been postulated that breastfeeding may influence the pathogenesis of SpA and its clinical presentation. The aim of this study was to assess whether breastfeeding modifies the clinical course of axSpA.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted in patients with axSpA (axSpA) from three centers. The diagnosis of axSpA was defined according to the ASAS diagnostic criteria. The study population included patients with axSpA who were treated at Asan Medical Center from January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2020, excluding patients with chronic kidney disease Stage 4–5, known kidney disease, and malignancy. Renal function was determined by calculation of the estimated glomerular filtration rate (GFR) using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) and Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) equations. Patients were stratified into three groups according to initial GFR: Stage 1 (GFR≥90), Stage 2 (60≤GFR<90), and Stage 3 (30≤GFR<60). The GFR values for every 3-year interval were imputed by the linear interpolation method using the measured values before and after each point, and NSAID use in each interval was estimated as the medication possession rate (MPR). To evaluate the association between NSAID use and annual changes in GFR, linear mixed models were used and adjusted for key covariates including age, sex, body mass index, baseline GFR, relative dosage of NSAIDs, comorbidities, and comedinations.

Results: Among 1,838 patients with AS, the mean age was 38.0 (SD, 13.8) years with a median 6.1 years of follow-up. The majority of 1,386 (75.4%) patients belonged to the Stage 1 group, and the number of patients in the Stage 2 and Stage 3 groups was 442 (24.0%) and 10 (0.5%), respectively. In the multivariable models, the mean annual decrease in GFR was significant (model 1: β=-0.684, 95% CI -0.980 to -0.387, p=0.001; model 2: β=-0.387, 95% CI -0.770 to -0.004, p=0.048), and the MPR of NSAID use was significantly associated with an additional decrease in GFR (model 1: for 100% vs. 0% of MPR, β=0.54, 95% CI 0.31 to 0.76, p<0.001; model 2: for highest vs. lowest tertile of MPR, β=0.519, 95% CI -0.906 to -0.132, p=0.009) in the Stage 1 group but not in the patients in the Stage 2 group (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of the study population based on breastfeeding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breastfeeding: no</th>
<th>Breastfeeding: yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>44.4 (11.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiographic axSpA</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-radiographic axSpA</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed forms</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, years (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>34.8 (10.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>4.41 (2.34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>2.31 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAS HI (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>6.3 (4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>3.2 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syndesmophytes (% of patients)</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAIDs</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologics</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**Figure 1.** Baseline characteristics associated with radiographic sacroilitis after 10 years of follow-up in axSpA patients with early onset (multivariable integrated analysis using four DESIR reading waves and stratified on HLA-B27).

**Table 1.** Effect of covariates on eGFR decline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Intercept</th>
<th>Beta 95% CI p-value</th>
<th>Beta 95% CI p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td>-0.684 -0.980 -0.389</td>
<td>-0.005 -0.008 -0.001</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline GFR</td>
<td>-0.006 -0.050 -0.053</td>
<td>-0.066 -0.080 -0.053</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAID MPR tertile</td>
<td>-1.257 -2.024 -0.489</td>
<td>-0.352 -0.720 0.016</td>
<td>0.061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st tertile (≤12)</td>
<td>-0.889 -1.621 -0.143</td>
<td>-0.519 -0.906 -0.132</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd tertile (≥12, &lt;96)</td>
<td>-0.664 -1.317 -0.009</td>
<td>-0.352 -0.720 0.016</td>
<td>0.061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd tertile (≥96)</td>
<td>-0.352 -0.720 0.016</td>
<td>-0.352 -0.720 0.016</td>
<td>0.061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** Effect of covariates on axSpA progression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beta</td>
<td>95% CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB</td>
<td>UB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td>-0.023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline GFR</td>
<td>-0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAID MPR tertile</td>
<td>-0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st tertile (≤12)</td>
<td>-0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd tertile (≥12, &lt;96)</td>
<td>-0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd tertile (≥96)</td>
<td>-0.125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Keywords:** Imaging, Spondyloarthritides, Prognostic factors

A. Moltó, C. López-Medina, M. De Hooge, M. van Lunteren, V. Navarro-Compán, A. Sepriano, S. Ramiro, M. Dougados, Université de Paris, Centre de recherche biostatistique et bio informatique de Sorbonne Paris-Cité, APHP, Hôpital Cochon, Rheumatology, Paris, France; Reina Sofia University Hospital, IMIBIC, University of Cordoba, Rheumatology, Cordoba, Spain; Ghent University Hospital, Rheumatology, Ghent, Belgium; Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; La Paz University Hospital, IdiPaz, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; NOVA Medical School, UML, Rheumatology, Lisbon, Portugal; Zuyderland Medical Center, Rheumatology, Heerlen, Netherlands

**Background:** Previous evidence suggests that radiographic progression occurs slowly in the sacroiliac joints (SJL) of patients with axial spondyloarthritides and that bone marrow edema (BME) on MRI-SIJ can, at least in part, explain such progression. However, information about the long-term course of radiographic structural damage at the SJL level in patients with early axSpA is still scarce.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the proportion of patients switching from non-radiographic axSpA (nr-axSpA) to radiographic axSpA (r-axSpA) after 10 years of follow-up and whether BME on MRI-SIJ at baseline is associated with the r-axSpA status over time.

**Methods:** Patients with ≤3 years axSpA onset (according to the treating rheumatologist) from the DESIR cohort were included. The radiographic status of the patients (r-axSpA versus nr-axSpA) was based on the fulfilment of the mNY criteria (i.e. at least a bilateral grade 2 or a unilateral grade 3 on pelvic radiographs according to 2 out of 3 central readers). BME on MRI-SIJ was defined as positive ASAS definition according to 2 out of 3 central readers at baseline. Information on mNY criteria was obtained in four reading waves: wave 1 (baseline), wave 2 (BL and 2Y), wave 3 (BL, 2 and 5Y) and wave 4 (BL, 5 and 10Y). Images were scored by 3 central readers (wave 1: 2 readers + adjudicator), all of them unaware of the chronology of the images and the results of the other modality. A “progressor” was defined as a patient switching from r-axSpA to nr-axSpA. A “regressor” was defined as a patient switching from nr-axSpA to r-axSpA. The % of mNY net progressors (i.e. number of “progressors” minus number of “regressors”) divided by the total number of patients was assessed in “completers” (i.e., with pelvic radiographs available at BL and 10Y in wave 4). A sensitivity analysis was conducted using a multilevel GEE model (integrated analysis) that included all waves from all patients with at least one available mNY score from at least one reader available (“intention-to-follow” population). From this model, we estimated the absolute change per year in the percentage of mNY-positive cases with and without adjusting for the use of anti-TNF drugs. Finally, the effect of BME on MRI-SIJ at baseline on mNY positivity over 10 years, adjusting for potential confounders (Figure 1) were evaluated in a multivariable GEE model in the “intention-to-follow” population.

**Results:** Completers included 299 patients (mean age 34.5Y and 48.2% males), while the intention-to-follow population included 704 participants (mean age 33.7Y and 46.2% males). In the completers, the net % of progressors (switch from nr-axSpA to r-axSpA) was 5.7%. In the intention-to-follow population, there was a 0.91% (95%CI 0.60-1.20) increase per year in the probability of being mNY-positive (i.e. a progression of 9.1% after 10Y). After adjusting for anti-TNF use, this percentage decreased to 0.48% (95% CI 0.15-0.82) per year. The HLA-B27 status modified the association between BME on MRI-SIJ at baseline and mNY-positivity over 10 years (interaction p-value: <0.001). BME on MRI-SIJ was associated with being mNY-positive over time in both HLA-B27 positive (OR 6.25 (95%CI 5.36-7.30)) and HLA-B27 negative patients (OR 3.03 (95%CI 2.42-3.80)), but the association was stronger in the former (Figure 1). In addition, male sex, symptom duration >1.5Y, ASDAS >2.1 (in HLA-B27 negatives) and smoking (in HLA-B27 positives) were also associated with being mNY-positive over 10 years.

**Conclusion:** Patients with early axSpA have a low likelihood of changing from nr-axSpA to r-axSpA over 10 years, especially when considering the use of anti-TNF. Local inflammation on MRI-SIJ is strongly associated damage accrual in the SJL over time, in particular in patients who are HLA-B27 positive.
remaining treated with the first bDMARD for at least 3 years or stopping it due to disease control. Clinical characteristics, laboratory tests, concomitant treatment and disease activity measures prior to starting the first bDMARD and after 6 months were collected. Also, btsDMARD courses were registered. Chi-square or Fisher test were used for qualitative variables and unpaired t-test was used for quantitative variables. Univariable and multivariable logistic binary regression analyses were used. **Results:** Out of 101 patients included, 41.6% were classified as D2T and 58.4% as GR. When initiating the first bDMARD, compared with GR, D2T patients had statistically significant shorter symptom duration and more frequently enthesitis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), concomitant NSAIDs, smoking habit and comorbidities (hypertension, dyslipidemia, depression or anxiety and fibromyalgia), all p<0.05 (Table 1). However, no significant differences were found in age, sex, BMI, subtype of axSpA, dactylitis, peripheral arthritis, uveitis, psoriasis, concomitant csDMARDs, diabetes mellitus or cardiopathy. While no differences were found for disease activity composite measures (ASDAS, BASDAI) and CRP or ESR, D2T patients had greater scores in BASDAI questions for pain and morning stiffness, TJC, PGA and PhGA. After 6 months of starting the first bDMARD, the scores for all disease activity measures, including ASDAS, BASDAI, CRP and ESR were significantly higher in D2T patients. Reasons for btsDMARDs discontinuation in D2T patients are shown in Figure 1. In multivariable analysis, smoking habit (OR=6.5, p<0.05), HLAB27 negative (OR=5.8, p<0.05), enthesitis (OR=48.1, p<0.01), baseline TJC (OR=12, OR<0.05) and baseline PhGA (OR=1.05, p<0.05) were independently associated with D2T. **Conclusion:** Compared with GR, patients with D2T-axSpA have more frequently poor prognostic factors for therapy response (smoking and HLAB27 negative) and worse response to first bDMARD after 6 months. Further strategies to implement recommendations for not smoking and control of comorbidities should be implemented. **REFERENCE:**


Table 1. Stratified characteristics. Results are shown as absolute numbers (%) or mean ± standard deviation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GR (n=59)</th>
<th>D2T (n=42)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Symptom duration until first bDMARD (year)</strong></td>
<td>10.5±10.7</td>
<td>5.5±7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current smoking habit</strong></td>
<td>7 (11.9)</td>
<td>13 (31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HLAB27</strong></td>
<td>48 (82.8)</td>
<td>27 (64.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enthesitis</strong></td>
<td>35 (59.3)</td>
<td>40 (92.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IBD</strong></td>
<td>2 (3.4)</td>
<td>6 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comorbidities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hypertension</strong></td>
<td>15 (25.4)</td>
<td>20 (47.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dyslipidemia</strong></td>
<td>23 (39)</td>
<td>28 (66.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depression or anxiety</strong></td>
<td>14 (23.7)</td>
<td>23 (54.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manipulopathies</strong></td>
<td>1 (1.7)</td>
<td>6 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concomitant NSAIDs</strong></td>
<td>43 (81.1)</td>
<td>35 (87.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Baseline**

- **ASDAS** | 3.3±1 | 3.6±0.9 | 0.2 |
- **BASDAI** | 5.6±2.1 | 6.4±1.7 | 0.06 |
- **BASDAI-spondal pain** | 6.4±2.7 | 7.5±2.1 | <0.05 |
- **BASDAI-stiffness severity** | 5.5±2.8 | 7.1±2.5 | <0.05 |
- **BASDAI-stiffness duration** | 6.9±2.4 | 7.2±1.8 | <0.05 |
- **TJC** | 11±2.7 | 4.4±0.7 | <0.01 |
- **PGA** | 39.9±22.4 | 70.4±18.7 | <0.05 |
- **PhGA** | 59.1±19.7 | 50±20.2 | <0.05 |

**6-month**

- **ASDAS** | 1.6±0.9 | 2.8±1.1 | <0.001 |
- **BASDAI** | 3.3±2.1 | 5.4±2.2 | <0.05 |
- **CRP (mg/L)** | 1.7±2.7 | 5.9±7.9 | <0.01 |

**Disclosure of Interests:** Manuel Juarez: None declared, Diego Benavent Speakers bureau: Janssen, Roche, Galapagos, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Abbvie, Victoria Navarro-Compan Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Corbione. Diego Benavent: Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Abbvie and Novartis, Marta Novella-Navarro Speakers bureau: Galapagos, UCB, Lilly and Janssen, Grant/research support from: UCB, Lilly and Janssen, Diane Peiteado: None declared, Alejandro Villabia: None declared, Irene Monjo Speakers bureau: Roche, Novartis, UCB, Gideon Richter, Consultant of: Roche, Laura Nuño: None declared, Alejandro Balsa Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Sandoz, Nordic Pharma, Gebro, Roche, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant of: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Sanofi, UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Abbvie, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Gebro, Roche, UCB, Cha- maida Plasencia Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Sandoz, Sanofi, Biogen, Roche, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Pfizer and Abbvie.

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**POS0677**

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPTIMAL MODEL FOR AUTOCALCULATION OF MSASSS USING DEEP LEARNING IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Artificial Intelligence, Imaging

H. H. Chen,1 D. Y. Chen.1 Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology; Department of Internal Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2China Medical University Hospital, Rheumatology and Immunology Center, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China

**Background:** At present, to detect the structural changes of the spine in ankylosing spondylitis (AS), the most commonly used tool is spine X-ray photography and interpretation by a physician, and a score (modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spine Score, mSASSS) is given. However, because based on the perspective of the end user was 86.47%, which is expected to have good clinical practicability in TCVGH. Further testing of this mSASSS autocalculation AI model using radiographs from other hospitals is warranted for further clinical implementation in other hospitals.

**Methods:** We collected 1056 pairs of cervical spine and lumbar spine radiographs in 646 patients with AS at Taichung Veterans General Hospital (TCVGH) from Aug 1, 2001, to Dec 30, 2020. We designed software for annotation (yes, no) of the mSASSS-related characteristics (erosion, sclerosis, squaring, syndesmophyte, bony bridging, spur, blurring) over the anterior corners of the cervical (C) and lumbar (L) spines from lateral views of radiographs. One radiologist (Lan-HHC) and two rheumatologists (Chen-HH, Chen-DY) annotate the characteristics and the final judgement was determined by a majority vote. We use PoseNet model develop a localization system identify spines (from second C-spine to first thoracic spines [C1-T1], from twelfth thoracic spine to first sacrum [T12-S1]). We developed a classification system using DenseNet model to identify the mSASSS-related specific characteristics and then calculate mSASSS.

**Results:** We randomly selected 211 pairs of thoracic radiographs as testing set. The remaining 845 (80%) pairs of images were used for model training and testing. Because the number of positive findings of erosion, sclerosis and squaring was quite low in both C-spine and L-spine, we combined radiographs of C-spine and L-spine for AI training to score erosion, sclerosis and squaring. For detection of C-spine characteristics, the area under curve (AUC) specificity/sensitivity/accuracy for bridge, syndesmophyte and osteophyte were 99.8%/98.82%/97.44%/98.48%, 95.7%/94.2%/77.8%/91.67% and 97.5%/95.86%/84.16%/93.75%, respectively. For detection of L-spine characteristics, the AUC/specificity/sensitivity/accuracy for bridge, syndesmophyte and osteophyte were 99.4%/98.46%/94.02%/97.36%, 94.00%/91.48%/77.97%/89.36% and 96.60%/91.08%/89.69%/90.82%, respectively. For detection of C-spine characteristics, the AUC/specificity/sensitivity/accuracy for bridge, syndesmophyte and osteophyte were 99.4%/98.46%/94.02%/97.36%, 94.00%/91.48%/77.97%/89.36% and 96.60%/91.08%/89.69%/90.82%, respectively. We failed to develop an AI model to detect erosion due to its rarity (2 in C-spine and 8 in L-spine). Using the testing set of 211 paired C-spine and L-spine radiographs, the overall accuracy to detect mSASSS-related characteristics was 86.47%.

**Conclusion:** At this stage, the accuracy of the AI-assisted mSASSS scoring based on the perspective of the end user was 86.47%, which is expected to have good clinical practicability in TCVGH. Further testing of this mSASSS autocalculation AI model using radiographs from other hospitals is warranted for further clinical implementation in other hospitals.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5331
**Table 1. Performance of SpA features for axSpA diagnosis**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SpA Feature</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>LR+</th>
<th>LR-</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBP</td>
<td>84 (73; 91)</td>
<td>51 (31; 71)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.2; 2.5)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.2; 0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttock pain</td>
<td>49 (32; 66)</td>
<td>71 (56; 82)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.2; 2.4)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.4; 0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heel enthesitis</td>
<td>21 (15; 28)</td>
<td>91 (85; 95)</td>
<td>2.3 (1.3; 3.9)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8; 0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral arthritis</td>
<td>21 (10; 29)</td>
<td>92 (84; 96)</td>
<td>2.7 (1.4; 5.2)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.5; 0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis</td>
<td>5 (3; 7)</td>
<td>99 (96; 99)</td>
<td>2.2 (2.2; 6.9)</td>
<td>10 (9.9; 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>9 (7; 11)</td>
<td>98 (96; 99)</td>
<td>3.8 (2.1; 6.9)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.9; 1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>8 (4; 13)</td>
<td>96 (93; 97)</td>
<td>1.1 (1.7; 2.8)</td>
<td>10 (9.9; 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory bowel disease</td>
<td>4 (2; 6)</td>
<td>99 (97; 100)</td>
<td>4.2 (1.2; 14.9)</td>
<td>10 (10; 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any EMM</td>
<td>21 (29; 81)</td>
<td>87 (81; 91)</td>
<td>2.5 (1.3; 4.5)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.7; 1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history</td>
<td>20 (14; 27)</td>
<td>91 (84; 96)</td>
<td>2.3 (1.2; 4.3)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8; 0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good response to NSAIDs</td>
<td>80 (57; 92)</td>
<td>60 (46; 72)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.2; 3.2)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.1; 0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP</td>
<td>37 (35; 40)</td>
<td>90 (81; 96)</td>
<td>3.9 (1.6; 5.1)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.6; 0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27</td>
<td>61 (52; 69)</td>
<td>78 (68; 85)</td>
<td>2.7 (2.0; 3.8)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.4; 0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mNY on X-SIJ</td>
<td>31 (20; 43)</td>
<td>95 (90; 98)</td>
<td>17.7 (6.7; 46.9)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.5; 0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any enthesitis</td>
<td>21 (13; 32)</td>
<td>94 (88; 97)</td>
<td>3.3 (1.8; 6.2)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8; 0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preceding infection</td>
<td>3 (2; 4)</td>
<td>99 (98; 100)</td>
<td>3.0 (1.8; 5.1)</td>
<td>10 (10; 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at symptom onset +45</td>
<td>87 (80; 92)</td>
<td>26 (15; 41)</td>
<td>1.2 (0.9; 1.5)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.3; 0.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Systematic review

A. D. Vieira Bento Silva1,2, M. H. Fernandes Lourenço1,2,3, S. Ramiro1,5, L. Falcão3, J. Bruno3, D. Van der Heijde4, R. B. M. Landewe5,6,7, A. Sepriano2,4,1, Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental - Hospital Egas Moniz, Rheumatology, Lisbon, Portugal;2 Nova Medical School, Comprehensive Health Research Center, Lisbon, Portugal;3 Nova Medical School, Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Lisbon, Portugal;4 Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands;5 Zuyderland MC, Rheumatology, Heerlen, Netherlands;6 School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield, Health Economics and Decision Science, Sheffield, United Kingdom;7 Amsterdam Rheumatology Center, Rheumatology & clinical immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** The Berlin algorithm for axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) diagnostic was developed more than 15 years ago. New evidence suggests that the diagnostic performance of some SpA features might not be as good as initially thought.

**Objectives:** To review the evidence on the performance of SpA features for axSpA diagnosis.

**Methods:** Systematic literature review and meta-analysis of studies (2004-2021) reporting data on ≥1 SpA feature. The population was defined as adults (>16 years) with a suspicion or definite clinical diagnosis of axSpA. The diagnostic performance of each SpA feature was tested against the physician diagnosis of axSpA. For each feature, if ≥2 studies analysed the same cohort, the one with the highest number of patients was included. Pooled sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative likelihood ratios (LR+ and LR-) were calculated. Sensitivity analyses were performed to assess the effect of covariates, like feature prevalence in the studies, on the diagnostic performance of SpA features.

**Results:** In total, 21 studies (19 cohorts) were included, comprising 8574 patients (4098 [48%] with axSpA). Table 1 shows the results of the meta-analysis. Inflammatory back pain (IBP) and response to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have low LR- (0.3), meaning that the diagnosis of axSpA is less likely when absent; however, if present they are not helpful in making a diagnosis (LR+ ≈ 1). Peripheral features, extra-musculoskeletal manifestations (EMM) and preceding infection may help in the diagnosis of axSpA when present (LR+ 1.7-4.2), but have little value in its exclusion when absent (LR- 0.8-10). Imaging features, elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and HLA-B27 have good diagnostic performances, reflected by their high LR+ (2.7-17.7) and (relatively) low LR- (0.5-0.7). In a sensitivity analysis the specificity of IBP was lower in studies with high performances, reflected by their high LR+ (2.7-17.7) and (relatively) low LR- (0.5-0.7). In a sensitivity analysis the specificity of IBP was lower in studies with high performances, reflected by their high LR+ (2.7-17.7) and (relatively) low LR- (0.5-0.7).

**Conclusion:** Imaging features, HLA-B27 and elevated CRP have high diagnostic value, even though circuity cannot be ruled out. However, HLA-B27, with a LR+ of 2.7, has a worse diagnostic performance than earlier considered. When present, peripheral features and EMM importantly increase the probability of axSpA, while IBP and good response to NSAIDs do not, but are helpful in ruling out the disease when absent. The diagnostic value of most SpA features is somewhat lower compared to previous data.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.108
Table 1. Baseline demographics and characteristics for MRI+ patients

<table>
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<th>r-axSpA</th>
<th>nr-axSpA</th>
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<th>r-axSpA</th>
<th>nr-axSpA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>32.7 (6.8)</td>
<td>31.9 (7.0)</td>
<td>32.7 (6.9)</td>
<td>31.1 (6.5)</td>
<td>32.4 (5.5)</td>
<td>35.4 (8.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, n (%)</td>
<td>154 (79.0)</td>
<td>123 (64.4)</td>
<td>138 (78.0)</td>
<td>109 (69.9)</td>
<td>16 (88.9)</td>
<td>14 (40.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive HLA-B27, n (%)</td>
<td>173 (11.0)</td>
<td>171 (11.7)</td>
<td>115 (19.0)</td>
<td>19.6 (23.3)</td>
<td>8.6 (15.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L, mean (SD)</td>
<td>169 (86.7)</td>
<td>148 (77.5)</td>
<td>153 (86.4)</td>
<td>127 (81.4)</td>
<td>16 (88.9)</td>
<td>21 (60.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>6.8 (1.4)</td>
<td>6.4 (1.4)</td>
<td>6.8 (1.4)</td>
<td>6.5 (1.4)</td>
<td>6.2 (1.7)</td>
<td>6.9 (1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI, mean (SD)</td>
<td>4.0 (0.8)</td>
<td>3.5 (0.8)</td>
<td>4.0 (0.7)</td>
<td>3.5 (0.8)</td>
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Univariable analysis

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<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Unadjusted HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>Adjusted HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.01 (0.98–1.04)</td>
<td>0.604</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex</td>
<td>0.72 (0.33–1.56)</td>
<td>0.400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration</td>
<td>1.14 (1.02–1.27)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>1.06 (0.95–1.19)</td>
<td>0.276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current smoker</td>
<td>0.79 (0.10–5.94)</td>
<td>0.817</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m²</td>
<td>0.90 (0.78–1.03)</td>
<td>0.117</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive</td>
<td>1.22 (0.49–3.05)</td>
<td>0.673</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral symptoms</td>
<td>0.73 (0.34–1.58)</td>
<td>0.423</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>0.33 (0.09–1.4)</td>
<td>0.079</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NSAID intake score</td>
<td>1.02 (0.44–2.9)</td>
<td>0.617</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BD</td>
<td>0.68 (0.59–0.7)</td>
<td>0.706</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP</td>
<td>1.62 (0.75–3.51)</td>
<td>0.222</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of syndesmophytes</td>
<td>4.70 (1.89–11.70)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>4.50 (1.54–13.15)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active sacroilitis on MRI</td>
<td>3.97 (1.54–10.23)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>5.88 (2.05–16.82)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of syndesmophytes</td>
<td>1.00 (0.59–1.92)</td>
<td>0.817</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of sulfasalazine</td>
<td>0.53 (0.25–1.14)</td>
<td>0.106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of TNFi</td>
<td>0.67 (0.31–1.44)</td>
<td>0.303</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure duration of TNFi</td>
<td>0.88 (0.80–0.98)</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.89 (0.80–0.98)</td>
<td>0.022</td>
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</table>

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by UCB Pharma. Medical writing support was provided by Costello Medical, funded by UCB Pharma.

Disclosure of Interests: Xenon Baraliakos Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Pfizer and UCB Pharma.

References: None.

Table 1. Factors associated with progression to radiographic axSpA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Univariable analysis</th>
<th>Multivariable analysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.01 (0.98–1.04)</td>
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<tr>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
### POS0681

**REVISION IN TREATMENT DECISION MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN SEEMINGLY INACTIVE AXSpA PATIENTS ACCORDING TO BASDAI**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis

**D. Søjmez**, 1 H. Kocaayaa, 2 E. Durak Ediboglua, 2 K. A. Sincib, 2 A. Özkanc, 1 G. Kabadayi, 2 I. Kurut Ayın, 1 Ö. Gercik, 1 E. Ergel, 2 E. Otman Akad1

1 Izmir Katip Çelebi University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 2 Izmir Katip Çelebi University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 3 Hatay Education and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Hatay, Turkey; 4 Izmir Katip Çelebi University School of Medicine, Department of Radiology, Izmir, Turkey; 5 Izmir Democarcy University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 6 Kırklareli Education and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, İzmit, Turkey; 7 İzmir Katip Çelebi University School of Medicine, Department of Radiology, Izmir, Turkey

**Objectives:** To determine the frequency of inconsistency between the BASDAI and ASDAS-CRP cut-off values in disease activity categorization in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and to characterize the reasons for the discordance.

**Methods:** In total 575 axSpA patients (mean age: 40.2 ± 11.5; male gender: 358; 62.3%) followed up in a single center and who had both BASDAI and ASDAS-CRP scores at the same visit were included in this analysis. Of them 369 (64.2%) were classified as radiographic axSpA (r-axSpA). A BASDAI score of ≥4 and an ASDAS-CRP score of ≥2.1 were used as cut-off value for the differentiation of inactive/active disease state. The demographic, disease related characteristics of the patients including structural damage were obtained.

**Results:** Inconsistency in the definition of the disease state according to two composite disease activity measures was found in 146 (25.4%) patients. As a consequence, the concordance rate of the two scales was calculated as 74.6% and corresponding κ value was 0.458. Of the 274 patients who had inactive disease according to BASDAI, 46.4% were classified as active according to ASDAS-CRP (Figure 1). In our whole group; discordant patients for the disease state distinction according to two measures had higher CRP values, lower percentage of heel pain, and they were using less biologics. These patients also had lower BASFI, HAQ-S, and overall pain scores (Table 1). When we evaluated inactive patients according to BASDAI, discordant patients were significantly older, had lower education, higher serum CRP levels, and more frequently peripheral arthritis. Baseline mSASSS scores were higher in those discordant patients and more patients had syndesmophyte, additionally the progression rate according to mSASSS was higher.

**Conclusion:** In daily clinical practice discordance in the disease activity definition might be observed in around 25% of axSpA patients according to two widely used composite measures. The results of the present study suggested that patients with high serum CRP levels could be easily classified as inactive according to BASDAI and those patients might have developed more structural damage in disease course. Our results suggest that those patients misclassified according to BASDAI scale had worse functional status and quality of life. In conclusion ASDAS-CRP might be more appropriate disease activity measure in treatment decision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Discordant Patients</th>
<th>Concordant Patients</th>
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<th>Discordant Patients</th>
<th>Concordant Patients</th>
<th>P</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>41.3±10.9</td>
<td>39.8±11.7</td>
<td>0.262</td>
<td>41.0±10.6</td>
<td>36.9±10.5</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>93 (63.7)</td>
<td>285 (61.8)</td>
<td>0.678</td>
<td>86;67.7</td>
<td>101;68.7</td>
<td>0.861</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, years</td>
<td>12.6±10.4</td>
<td>12.4±10.4</td>
<td>0.851</td>
<td>13.4±10.6</td>
<td>9.6±8.7</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic subtype (n—axSpA)</td>
<td>99 (67.8)</td>
<td>270 (62.9)</td>
<td>0.289</td>
<td>93 (73.2)</td>
<td>80 (54.4)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking, n (%)</td>
<td>108 (74.0)</td>
<td>280 (67.8)</td>
<td>0.160</td>
<td>76 (75.6)</td>
<td>81 (55.5)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, year</td>
<td>9.8±4.4</td>
<td>10.0±4.5</td>
<td>0.651</td>
<td>9.4±4.4</td>
<td>11.5±4.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of peripheral arthritis, n (%)</td>
<td>48 (33.8)</td>
<td>148 (35.6)</td>
<td>0.702</td>
<td>40 (32.3)</td>
<td>30 (21.1)</td>
<td>0.040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence Baseline heel pain</td>
<td>55; 37.7</td>
<td>195; 50.5</td>
<td>0.043</td>
<td>42.35.6</td>
<td>62.43.4</td>
<td>0.202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dl</td>
<td>19.0±23.7</td>
<td>12.2±20.2</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>21.7±24.3</td>
<td>3.4±3.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal mSASSS</td>
<td>8±170</td>
<td>8.2±16.9</td>
<td>0.443</td>
<td>9.4±17.7</td>
<td>5.4±14.1</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence Baseline syndesmophyte, n (%)</td>
<td>57/121 (471)</td>
<td>145/367 (39.5)</td>
<td>0.141</td>
<td>54/106 (50.9)</td>
<td>29/127 (22.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSASSS progression, n (%)</td>
<td>14/41</td>
<td>30/149 (21.0)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>14/38 (36.8)</td>
<td>8/54</td>
<td>0.015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Continuous variables mean ±SD; categorical variables are expressed as n (%).

**Figure 1.**

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2775

### POS0682

**IDENTIFICATION OF A DIAGNOSTIC MODEL FOR AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROPATHIES IN DAILY CLINICAL PRACTICE USING A RANDOM FOREST MACHINE LEARNING APPROACH**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis

R. Redeker1, S. Tsiami1, J. Ecker1, U. Kitzi1, D. Kiefer1, I. Andreica1, P. Sewerin1, X. Baraliakos1, 1 Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet Herne, Ruhr-University Bochum, Herne, Germany

**Background:** In axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), early diagnosis plays a key role in preventing disease progression. However, a validated diagnostic algorithm does not exist, while classification criteria are frequently misused diagnostically.

**Objectives:** To identify which decision model is being used for diagnosing patients with axSpA based on evaluations made in daily practice.

**Methods:** Complete clinical data of 399 patients who presented with chronic back pain in a specialized university clinic were retrospectively evaluated. All patients received complete rheumatologic examination. The total dataset was randomly split into training and test datasets at a 7/3 ratio. A model was built to classify patients into axSpA and non-axSpA based on the random forest algorithm, an ensemble machine learning technique which allows computing the importance of each variable in the statistical modelling process. The Mean Decrease Gini measure was used for the variable importance. The overall accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and the area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve (AUC) in the test dataset were calculated.

**Results:** In total, 183 patients were diagnosed with axSpA and 216 with non-SpA (Table 1). In the test dataset, the model reached an accuracy of 0.9315, a sensitivity of 0.9634, a specificity of 0.8906, and an AUC of 0.9886 (Figure 1A). HLA-B27 positivity, erosion on SR MRI, and elevated CRP played the most important role in the statistical modelling process followed by awakening at second half of
right due to back pain and bone marrow edema and fat metaplasia on SIJ MRI (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: Machine learning-based random forest classifier revealed a high performance in diagnosing patients with chronic back pain with axSpA and excluding patients with non-SpA using clinical, laboratory and imaging characteristics as evaluated in a daily practice scenario of a SpA-specialized clinic. External validation of the model is needed to investigate its clinical utility as a diagnostic decision support tool.

Table 1. Patient characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>r-axSpA (N=76)</th>
<th>nr-axSpA (N=60)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>48 (64)</td>
<td>32 (53.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>43.7 (11.0)</td>
<td>37.3 (13.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m², mean (SD)</td>
<td>26.8 (5.2)</td>
<td>27.0 (5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, years, median (min–max)</td>
<td>10.3 (3.0–50.9)</td>
<td>5.9 (3.9–39.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L, mean (SD)</td>
<td>29.8 (6.0)*</td>
<td>27.0 (5.2)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS, mean (SD)</td>
<td>54.8 (7.6)*</td>
<td>51.7 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive, n (%)</td>
<td>62 (83.3)</td>
<td>51 (85.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal inflammation</td>
<td>≥50%</td>
<td>≥50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI+, n (%)</td>
<td>76 (100)</td>
<td>71 (118)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI, n (%)</td>
<td>76 (100)</td>
<td>71 (118)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI+ responders, percentage</td>
<td>76 (100)</td>
<td>71 (118)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Baseline demographics and characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>r-axSpA (N=76)</th>
<th>nr-axSpA (N=60)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>40.4 (11.6)</td>
<td>37.3 (13.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m², mean (SD)</td>
<td>27.0 (5.2)*</td>
<td>27.0 (5.2)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, years, median (min–max)</td>
<td>10.3 (3.0–50.9)</td>
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<td>MRI+ responders, percentage</td>
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</tr>
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</table>


References:
INFLAMMATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCIDENT HYPERTENSION IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Spondyloarthritis, Prognostic factors

J. L. H. Shi1, S. H. M. Lam2, H. So3, C. Y. Chan1, T. K. Li1, C. C. Szeto1, L. S. Tam1,2. 1The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Medicine & Therapeutics, Hong Kong, China

Background: HT is the most prevalent comorbidity in axSpA (1), and is one of the strongest predictors for accelerated atherosclerosis and atherosclerotic vascular events in the general populations [2]. However, the association between time-varying inflammatory markers, disease activity and drug use and the development of incident hypertension (IHT) remain unknown.

Objectives: To elucidate the time-varying risk factors for the development of IHT in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

Methods: We conducted a long-term retrospective cohort study in axSpA patients who were recruited from 2001-2019 from a university clinic in Hong Kong. Patients with HT and/or anti-hypertensive drug use at baseline were excluded. They were followed until the end of 2020. The outcome was IHT, defined by a diagnosis and/or a prescription for an antihypertensive drug. Baseline and time-varying Cox regression analyses adjusting for age, sex, and body mass index (BMI), were used to assess the relationship between inflammatory burden, drug use and IHT.

Results: 413 patients [age: 34(25-43) years, male: 319 (77.2%)] were included. After a median follow up of 12 (6-17) years, 58 patients (14%) developed IHT (IHT-group). Among all the baseline variables, disease duration (BLDD) was the only independent predictor for IHT based on the Cox regression model. In the time-varying multivariate Cox regression analysis, ESR level as an inflammatory marker and BLDD longer than 5 or 10 years, remained as the significant independent predictors to increase risk of future IHT (Table 1a and 1b), while ESR≥20, the use of csDMARDs, sulfasalazine or paracetamol were no longer statistically significant. The Kaplan-Meier curve showed the survival probability were significant lower in groups with BLDD longer than 5 or 10 years (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Higher inflammatory burden as reflected by BLDD longer than 5 or 10 years were predictors associated with IHT after adjusting for inflammation marker and traditional CV risk factors. Higher ESR level may also play a role in the development of IHT in these patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Multivariable analysis with time-dependent Cox proportional hazard regression for the predictors of incident hypertension stratified by baseline disease duration.

Table 1a. Model 1 Model 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time-dependent HR (95%CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>Time-dependent HR (95%CI)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>1.03 (1.00, 1.06)</td>
<td>0.035*</td>
<td>3.96 (0.74, 21.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR≥20</td>
<td>1.14 (0.18, 7.37)</td>
<td>0.891</td>
<td>1.31 (0.24, 7.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARDs</td>
<td>6.02 (11.37, 30.40)</td>
<td>0.003*</td>
<td>5.22 (10.22, 67.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLDD&lt;5y</td>
<td>2.80 (4.43, 17.25)</td>
<td>&lt;.001*</td>
<td>3.28 (4.39, 245.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paracetamol</td>
<td>8.23 (0.21, 3.13)</td>
<td>0.758</td>
<td>8.36 (0.21, 3,40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.05 (0.99, 1.10)</td>
<td>0.077</td>
<td>1.05 (1.00, 1.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>2.77 (0.00, 1.00)</td>
<td>0.998</td>
<td>1.94 (0.00, 1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>1.12 (1.00, 1.27)</td>
<td>0.060</td>
<td>1.10 (0.07, 1.24)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1b. Model 1 Model 2
<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SULF</td>
<td>6.02 (11.37, 30.40)</td>
<td>0.003*</td>
<td>5.22 (10.22, 67.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLDD&lt;5y</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>1.12 (1.00, 1.27)</td>
<td>0.060</td>
<td>1.10 (0.07, 1.24)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HR, Hazard ratio; BLDD: baseline disease duration; ESR: Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate; BMI: Body mass index; y, years.

Figure 1. The Kaplan-Meier curve for the survival probability of groups stratified by baseline disease duration over time.BLDD: baseline disease duration.
**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Clinical trials, Outcome measures

**P. J. Mease**, R. Grainger*, D. Webster*, M. Crouthamel*, J. Shen*, Y. Xing*, A. Shmagel*, H. Jones*, J. Curtis*, S. Medical Center, Providence St Joseph Health, and University of Washington, Rheumatology Research Division, Seattle, WA, United States of America; 2University of Otago, Wellington, Department of Medicine, Wellington, New Zealand; 3AbbVie Inc, Immunology, North Chicago, IL, United States of America; 4The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Birmingham, AL, United States of America

**Background:** Exercise can improve the symptoms of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and is recommended as a cornerstone of management for axSpA [1]. Wearable devices can objectively measure physical activity and device-generated data may support development of digitally measured novel endpoints that correlate with treatment response.

**Objectives:** To report physical activity and adherence with wearable technology used to assess the physical activity of people with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and inadequate response to biologic DMARD therapy (bDMARD-IR) in the SELECT-AXIS 2 trial, as well as evaluate the association between baseline physical activity and patient-reported measures of functional ability and health.

**Methods:** Patients in the SELECT-AXIS 2 bDMARD-IR study (NCT04169373), a 1:1 randomized, double-blind, phase 3 trial of upadacitinib vs placebo [2], were required to wear a medical-grade wrist-worn actigraphy device that monitored physical activity during the 14-week, placebo-controlled portion of the study. Eligibility criteria included a diagnosis of active AS and inadequate response to bDMARDs. Wearable device adherence, defined as at least 16 hours per day usage, was evaluated through 14 weeks. Baseline physical activity measurements, including median daily steps and time spent sedentary to vigorous physical activity (MVPA), were defined as those in the first week of device usage after trial entry. Median daily steps at baseline were compared by sex and day of the week (weekend vs weekday) across the entire patient cohort using the Mann–Whitney test; differences in physical activity by age were assessed with the Kruskal–Wallis test. For inclusion in the entire patient cohort using the Mann–Whitney test; previously established cutoffs were used to distinguish patients into groups with low, moderate, or high functional ability or health [3,4].

**Results:** Of 420 total patients, physical activity data was collected from 394 participants, and 312 patients met minimal adherence criteria at baseline (first week). Through 14 weeks, adherence was demonstrated for 83.5% of study days (Figure 1A). At baseline, physical activity was higher in men than women and on weekdays than weekends; median daily steps were significantly different based on age (Figure 1B). Baseline mean BASFI and ASAS-HI in the SELECT-AXIS 2 bDMARD-IR-AS trial were 6.3 and 9.3 respectively, suggesting relatively high functional limitation. Patients with higher functional baseline impairment (BASFI score >7) did not statistically differ in median daily time spent in MVPA (p = 0.366) but took an average of 1690 fewer steps per day (p = 0.021) than patients with BASFI scores ≤4 who met the Patient Acceptable Symptom State (PASS) [3] (Figure 1C). Patients reporting "poor" health status [4] (ASAS-HI score ≥12 to 17) spent 30.0 fewer minutes in MVPA (p = 0.005) and took 2186 fewer steps per day (p = 0.010) than those with "good" health status [4] (ASAS-HI scores ≤6; Figure 1D).

**Conclusion:** bDMARD-IR patients with AS in SELECT-AXIS 2 had high adherence with use of a wearable activity monitoring device over 14 weeks. Lower physical activity was generally associated with higher disability scores and poor health status at baseline. These data support the utility of wearable devices for assessing physical activity in people with AS, suggesting the possibility to use such devices to evaluate the impact of targeted therapeutics on passively collected physical activity and functional ability outcomes.

**REFERENCES:**


**Figure 1. Wearable device adherence over 14 weeks and baseline physical activity characteristics of the SELECT-AXIS 2 bDMARD-IR study**

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**Disclosure of Interests:** Philip J Mease Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Acelyrin, Aclaris, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, BMS, CorEvitas, Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Innagenke, Janssen, Mooltiane, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Acelyrin, Aclaris, Boehringer Ingelheim, BMS, Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Rebecca Grainger Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Pfizer, Cornerstones, and Janssen, Consultant of: Novartis, Dan Webber Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Michelle Crouthamel Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Jie Shen Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Yunchao Xing Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Anna Shmagel Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Health Jones Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Jeffrey Curtis Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, CorEvitas, Lilly, Novartis, Myriad, Sanofi, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, CorEvitas, Lilly, Novartis, Myriad, Sanofi, Pfizer, and UCB.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.517

**POS0686 GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (SPA) PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis

**D. Hallock**, E. Tho2, R. Connolly3, E. Baynt1, 1United Kingdom, Ipsos Healthcare, London, United Kingdom; 2Kuala Lumpur, Ipsos Healthcare, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 3New York, Ipsos Healthcare, New York, United States of America

**Background:** Spondyloarthritides (SpA) is a family of arthritic rheumatic diseases, including axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA), that primarily affects the spine and joints. It causes inflammation of the spinal and peripheral joints that can lead to severe, chronic pain and discomfort. Diagnosing SpA has proven challenging, particularly for women who are found to be under-diagnosed in AS despite the disease affecting men and women both equally, as there are no current diagnostic criteria for axSpA [1]. Disease activity can be measured through tests such haematology and joint count measurements.

**Acknowledgements:** Nil.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.493
**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to examine any gender differences in the management of SpA patients and highlight any nuances in treating these patients.

**Methods:** A multi-centre online medical chart review study of patients with PsA and Axial SpA was conducted between July 2022 – September 2022 among UK, FR, DE, IT & ES rheumatologists practicing across hospital and private practices. Physicians were screened for practice duration and patient volume. Charts of patients prescribed with biologics/tsDMARDS were included in the analysis.

**Results:** 262 sample physicians collectively reported 1387 SpA patients. From the reported SpA patients, 812 were recorded as male and 575 as female. The female cohort were recorded with higher instances of co-existing conditions of depression (11.5% vs. 5.3%) and anxiety (13.2% vs. 8.1%) than men. When evaluating extra articular manifestations, female cohort were recorded with higher nail dystrophy (12.7% vs. 8.6%) and psoriasis (36.7% vs. 26.4%) than men. In assessing areas the AS patient suffers from, female cohort were recorded with higher peripheral involvement (49.6% vs. 34.0%) and males more axial involvement (50.9% vs. 28.0%). In assessing disease scores, female cohort were recorded with higher joint counts, haem scores, and PASI score. Physician-defined status of disease severity reported female cohort with higher current severity (48.4% vs. 41.5% moderate and severe) and lower remission rates (45.4% vs. 36.7% not in remission) in comparison to men.

**Table 1. Reported patient disease and haematology scores (mean)**

| SpA patients | Tender joint count (TJC) | Swollen joint count (SJC) | CRP | ESR | PASI | Area
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Length of time on current biologic and/or tsDMARD recorded male cohort on treatment for longer timeframe vs females (mean months): 50.2 vs 46.5). The most prominent biologics to treat the two patient groups are TNFIs (72.2% male, 68.6% female); alternate modes of action, such as IL-17is and JAKIs, are more prominently recorded in females vs males (31.2% vs 27.7%). Drivers of treatment choice – specified by sampled physicians - prioritised efficacy in skin (23.3% vs 19.5%), efficacy in manifestations of PsA beyond skin and joint (13.6% vs 9.6%), and reduction of peripheral joint inflammation (172/6 vs 10.3%) in female cohort versus male cohort.

**Conclusion:** From the sample surveyed, current disease activity is higher in reported female patients than males in SpA. Additionally, males are more likely to stay on the same bio/tsDMARD versus females, suggesting a disparity in efficacy or unmet needs when evaluating the two cohorts. It is possible that key differentiating identifiers, such as co-existing comorbidities outside axSpA or PsA or extra articular manifestations, can be used when deciding how to treat a patient. Discussion is necessary about gender-specific treatment plans in SpA, as well as factoring in possible mental health burden (anxiety and depression) disparities across gender cohorts. Further investigation using comparator cohort is warranted.

**REFERENCE:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.588

**POS0668 COMPARING THE CONSTRUCT VALIDITY AMONG MEASURES OF PAIN AND STIFFNESS IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Spondyloarthritis, Outcome measures

D. Capelusnik1, 2, E. Nikiphorou3, 4, A. Boonen1, 5, D. Van de Heijde6, 7, B. P. M. Landewe8, A. Van Tubergen9, S. Ramiro7, 10, Maastricht University, Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPRHI, Maastricht, Netherlands); 2Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center (Tsf) (Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel); 3King’s College School, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 4King’s College Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 5Maastricht University, Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands; 6Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 7Amsterdam UMC, locate VUMc, Department of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** In the context of the recent update of the ASAS core outcomes set (CCO), the preferred comparative validity of the measurement instruments to assess the domains ‘Pain and Stiffness’ has been questioned as for the domain responsiveness of instruments was comparable. Group discrimination across various external constructs can help provide useful insights and represents unmet need.

**Objectives:** To compare the group discriminatory capacity, as part of the construct validity, of three instruments to assess pain and three questions of morning stiffness.

**Methods:** Study design: DESIR is an ongoing (10 year follow-up completed for all the patients) multicenter cohort of recent onset axSpA. Diagnosis: At entry visit and during the 10 year follow-up period, the diagnosis was based on the opinion of the treating physician with a requirement of a diagnosis of axSpA at entry and the possibility to exclude the patients after the first 2 years follow-up period in case of a change in this diagnosis. Management during the 10 year period: the investigators were in charge of the data collection required by the protocol but the management (treatment regimens) was only based on the decision of the treating rheumatologist. Statistical analysis: Data presented here are the ones issued afrom the analyses on the complete data (observed data) and b) after multiple imputations considering the missing data due to the patients lost of follow-up (imputed data).

**Results:** Of the 708 enrolled patients, 45 were excluded from the cohort because of a change in the entry visit diagnosis, 3 patients died (suicide n = 1, colorectal cancer n = 1, sudden death n=1), 300 were lost of follow-up and 360 patients completed the 10 year period. A -Based on the analyses of the 10 year completers (n=360) No patient necessitated a spinal vertebroplasty, one single patient had a bilateral total hip replacement. A pension from the national health care system was provided to 16% patients because an invalidity related to the axSpA disease. A csDMARD (methotrexate and/or sulfasalazine) has been prescribed in 32% and a biotherapy in 55%. The prevalence of the main extra-musculoskeletal features increased from 18 to 30%, 10 to 18% and 10% from baseline to year 10 for psoriasis, acute anterior uveitis and inflammatory bowel disease respectively. The prevalence of the main comorbidities increased from 3 to 8%, 0 to 3%, 5 to 15%, 0 to 4%, 1 to 3% and 0 to 2%, from baseline to year 10 respectively for severe GI events, MACE, hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis and other severe infections respectively. B- Based on the analyses of the 10 year completers (n=360) (observed data) and the 663 patients with unchanged initial axSpA diagnosis (imputed data) An acceptable status at year 10 was observed in 77%,70 [63; 77%],49% 43 [37; 49%]; 55% 48 [41; 56%] consider an acceptable PASS, BASDAI < 30, ASDAS < 2.1 for the observed (%) and imputed (% and [95%CI]) data respectively. The impact of the disease on the daily life of the patients was evaluated by different parameters: ASAS Hl ≤ 5 [41; 35; 47%], SF36 physical score [42; 40; 44] and SF36 mental score [43; 40; 46]. The multivariate analysis of the baseline predisposing factors of an acceptable status at year 10 defined as an ASDAS <2.1 picked-up the following variables: short (<1.5year)delay between the first symptoms and the baseline visit: OR= 1.46[0.93:2.29],socio-professional level (white collar): OR=1.87[1.20;2.90] and baseline BASDAI score<40, OR=1.91[1.23:2.94]

**Conclusion:** These data are suggesting a favorable 10 year outcome in terms of stringent measures such as the requirement to surgery contrasting with a relatively less favorable outcome with regard to patient reported outcomes. These data should improve and facilitate the information provided to the patients at the time of their diagnosis.

**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to thank all the investigators of the 25 participating centers as well as all the 708 enrolled patients. This study has been financially supported via unrestricted grants from PFIZER and the French Society of Rheumatology.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.901
Methods: Data from the 8-year visit of patients with axSpA from the multinational OASIS cohort was assessed. The available instruments for pain assessment were: i) total spinal pain, ii) spinal pain at night, iii) spinal pain from BASDAI Q2 (neck, back or hip pain); and for morning stiffness: i) severity of morning stiffness (BASDAI Q5), ii) duration of morning stiffness (BASDAI Q6), iii) the combined score between severity and duration of morning stiffness (average BASDAI Q5/6). Data from 8-year visit were used as the first time-point where all the instruments were obtained on a 0–10 numeric rating scale (as currently used). The discriminatory capacity was assessed through the standardized mean difference (SMD) that is calculated as the difference of the group means divided by the pooled SD of the group means, with a higher value reflecting a higher discriminatory capacity. The external constructs used to compare the ability to discriminate between subgroups of patients were: ASDAS, BASDAI (dichotomized into inactive/active disease), PGAM, PGQoL, fatigue, BASFI, BASMI and mSASSS (dichotomized by the median).

Results: 98 patients were included: 71% males, mean age 54 (SD 11), with a mean symptom duration of 31 (11) years. The (MD) scores for pain were 3.7 (2.3), 2.9 (2.3) and 4.6 (2.6) for spinal pain, spinal pain at night and BASDAI Q2, respectively. The (sd) scores of morning stiffness were 3.7 (2.6), 3.3 (3.1) and 3.5 (2.7) for BASDAI Q5, Q6 and Q5/6, respectively. Spinal pain by BASDAI Q2 and total spinal pain had higher SMDs compared to spinal night pain across all group comparisons, with spinal pain BASDAI Q2 performing mostly slightly better (Table 1). Regarding morning stiffness, the severity question (BASDAI Q5) had consistently higher SMDs across all the clinical external constructs, slightly better (Table 1). Morning stiffness duration (BASDAI Q6) performed worse.

Conclusion: Spinal pain from BASDAI Q2 and severity of morning stiffness (BASDAI Q5) are, respectively, the pain and morning stiffness instruments that best discriminate subgroups of patients classified according to disease activity, functional activity, fatigue or spinal mobility. The recommended ASAS COS pain instrument spinal pain BASDAI Q2, was confirmed to discriminate best. In the case of stiffness, the ASAS COS stiffness measure (BASDAI Q5/6) performed well although slightly less than the severity of morning stiffness (BASDAI Q5).

Table 1. Discrimination between subgroups of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment measure</th>
<th>ASDAS</th>
<th>BASDAI</th>
<th>Fatigue</th>
<th>BASFI</th>
<th>BASMI</th>
<th>mSASSS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;2 vs 2</td>
<td>&lt;4 vs 4</td>
<td>&lt;5 vs 5</td>
<td>&lt;4 vs 4</td>
<td>&lt;15 vs 15</td>
<td>&lt;4 vs 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1 SMD</td>
<td>≥1 SMD</td>
<td>≥1 SMD</td>
<td>≥1 SMD</td>
<td>≥1 SMD</td>
<td>≥1 SMD</td>
<td>≥1 SMD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total spinal pain</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>-0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal night pain</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>-0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal pain BASDAI Q2</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>-0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning stiffness severity BASDAI Q5</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>-0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning stiffness duration BASDAI Q6</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>-0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning stiffness average BASDAI Q5/6</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>-0.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Define Capelulanik: None declared, Elena Nikiphorou Speakers bureau: Celtrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, Abbvie, Lilly, Fresenius, Consultant of: Celtrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, Abbvie, Lilly, Fresenius, Grant/research support from: Pfizer and Lilly, Annelies Boonen Consultant of: Abbvie, Galapagos, Novartis, and Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Désirée van der Heijde Consultant of: Abbvie, Bayer, BMS, Cyno Rx, Eli Lilly, Genentech, Gilead, Glaxo-Smith-Kline, Janssen, Lilly; Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Robert B.M. Landewe Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Galapagos, Gilead, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Astrid van Tubergen Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Consultant of: Novartis, Galapagos, UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, UCB, Novartis, Sofia Ramiro Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB.

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PO50689

DIAGNOSTIC DELAY IN PATIENTS INCLUDED IN THE INTERNATIONAL MAP OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: ASSOCIATIONS WITH GEOGRAPHIC, SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND DISEASE-RELATED FACTORS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Spondyloarthritis, Diagnostic Tests

D. Poddubnyy1, 2, M. Garrido-Cumbraa3, 4, F. Sommerfleck2, V. Navarro-Compán3, C. Bundy2, S. Makri3, J. Correa-Fernández2, S. M. Akerkar1, J. Davies1, L. Christien1, E. Karam1, 2, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Rheumatology Department, Berlin, Germany; 3German Rheumatism Research Centre, Rheumatology Department, Berlin, Germany; 4Universidad de Sevilla, Health & Territory Research (HTR) Sevilla, Spain; 5Spanish Federation of Spondyloarthritides Associations (CEADE), Patient Advocacy, Madrid, Spain; 6Sanatorio Julio Mendez, Rheumatology Department, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 7IdiPaz, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Rheumatology Department, Madrid, Spain; 8Cardiff University, Rheumatology Department, Cardiff, United Kingdom; 9Cyprus League for People with Rheumatism (CYLPER), Patient Advocacy, Nicosia, Cyprus; 10Mumbai Arthritis Clinic, Rheumatology Department, Mumbai, India; 11Axial Spondyloarthritides International Federation (ASIF), Patient Advocacy, London, United Kingdom; 12Novartis Pharma AG, Patient Engagement, Basel, Switzerland; 13Canadian Spondylitis Association (CSA), Patient Advocacy, Toronto, Canada

Background: Despite efforts for early detection, delayed diagnosis in axial spondyloarthritides (axSpA) remains an unresolved challenge.

Objectives: This analysis aimed to assess diagnostic delay and its associated factors around the world in a large sample of patients included in the International Map of Axial Spondyloarthritides (IMAS).

Methods: IMAS is a cross-sectional online survey (2017-2022) including 5,557 unselected axSpA patients from 27 countries. Diagnostic delay was calculated as the difference between age at diagnosis and age at symptom onset reported by patients. The independent factors evaluated were: age at symptom onset, disease duration, gender, education level, diagnosed by rheumatologist, number of healthcare professionals (HCPs) seen before diagnosis, HLA-B27, uveitis, and inflammatory bowel disease. The factor world region was introduced as a dummy variable taking Europe as the reference region due to its larger sample size and diagnostic delay close to the overall mean. The Mann-Whitney, Kruskal-Wallis test and Pearson correlation were used to evaluate the differences in diagnostic delay and independent variables. Associations between diagnostic delay and regions, sociodemographic characteristics, as well as disease-related factors were explored through univariable and multivariable linear regression analysis.

Results: Data from 5,327 patients who reported data to calculate diagnostic delay in IMAS survey were analyzed: 3,231 were from Europe, 770 from North America, 600 from Asia, 548 from Latin America, and 146 from Africa. Overall, patients reported a diagnostic delay of 7.4 years (median: 4.0) since symptom onset, with substantial variation across regions, being the highest in South Africa and the lowest in Asia (Figure 1). Furthermore, mean disease duration was 17.1 ± 13.3. Patients with longer diagnostic delay were more frequently female, younger at symptom onset, with more years with the condition, more commonly diagnosed by the rheumatologist, with a higher number of HCPs seen before diagnosis, had experienced uveitis, and inflammatory bowel disease. The variables independently associated with longer diagnostic delay in the final multivariable regression model were: younger age at symptom onset (b=-0.100), more disease duration (b=0.363), female gender (b=2.274), being diagnosed by rheumatologist (b=1.163), higher number of healthcare professionals (HCPs) seen before diagnosis (b=1.033), and presence of uveitis (b=1.286; Table 1).

Conclusion: In this global sample of axSpA patients, the mean diagnostic delay was 7.4 years, and had significant differences across regions. Younger age at symptom onset, longer disease duration, female gender, diagnosed by rheumatologist, higher number of HCPs seen before diagnosis, and the presence of uveitis were the parameters associated with a longer diagnostic delay in axSpA patients.

Figure 1. Mean and median diagnostic delays by region (N= 5,327)
Table 1. Univariable and multivariable linear regression analysis of the association between diagnostic delay and independent variables in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (N=4,595)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Univariable analysis</th>
<th>Multivariable analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at symptom onset, years</td>
<td>-0.306</td>
<td>-0.326 -0.287 -0.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>-0.401</td>
<td>-0.386 -0.416 -0.363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2.324 1.843 2.804 2.274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis by radiologist, yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2.410 1.869 2.952 1.163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of HCPs seen before diagnosis</td>
<td>1.696 1.920 1.873 1.033</td>
<td>0.873 1.119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1.580 0.996 2.165 1.286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory bowel disease</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0.834 0.117 1.550 -0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region, Asia</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>3.511 2.441 2.781 1.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region, North America</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1.228 0.499 1.958 1.470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region, Latin America</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1.792 2.583 1.009 0.626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region, South Africa</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>3.015 1.549 4.481 3.356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** These findings suggest that NSAIDs influence sacroiliac BMO and, where sacroiliac is present, are associated with increases in disease activity or spinal pain, but also provide evidence that almost all patients who attempt washout can successfully achieve it.

Table 1. PARTICIPANTS’ BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS (N=311) (BEFORE NSAID WASHOUT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic characteristics</th>
<th>Median (inter-quartile range)</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>42 (32 to 52)</td>
<td>194 (62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>271 (87%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease classification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankylosing spondylitis – modified</td>
<td>93 (30%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York criteria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAS axSpA criteria – imaging arm 186 (60%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAS axSpA criteria – clinical arm 155 (50%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other clinical characteristics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration</td>
<td>9 (4 to 20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis</td>
<td>1 (0 to 7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity</td>
<td>BASDAl 4.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function</td>
<td>BASFI 3.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-23B2 status</td>
<td>Positive 171</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein *</td>
<td>Elevated CRP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAID use pre-washout*</td>
<td>(46.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Missing data for N=119. ** All participants started NSAIDs after Scan 1.

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by Novartis Pharma AG. The authors would like to thank all patients who participated in the study.

Disclosure of Interests: Denis Poddubnyy Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB. Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, and Pfizer, Marco Garrido-Cumbraera (University of Aberdeen, Centre for Medical Research in Rheumatology) Authors: Jose Correa-Fernández: None declared, Shashank Murlidhar Akerkar: AbbVie, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Roche and UCB. Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB. Employee of: Novartis employment and stock ownership, Elie Karam: None declared.

Table POS0690

IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS, NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS REDUCE MRI-APPEARANCE OF SACROILIITIS

Keywords: Imaging, Spondyloarthritis

G. Jones1, A. Bennett2, R. Sengupta1, P. Machado1, H. Marzo-Ortega1, L. Aucott3, G. Macfarlane1. 1University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (Epidemiology Group), Aberdeen, United Kingdom; 2Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (Stanford Hall), Academic Department of Military Rehabilitation, Loughborough, United Kingdom; 3Royal National Hospital For Rheumatic Diseases, Axial Spondyloarthritis Service, Bath, United Kingdom; 4University College London, Centre for Rheumatology and Department of Neuromuscular Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 5University of Leeds, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds, United Kingdom; 6University of Aberdeen, Health Services Research Unit, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Background: MRI evidence of active sacroiliitis (sacroiliac joint bone marrow oedema (BMO)) is commonly used to assist diagnosis and classification of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are used as first-line therapy, and for persistent clinical symptoms continuous treatment is recommended. Prescribed in primary care, and widely available over-the-counter, many patients are already taking NSAIDs when they first present to rheumatology.

Objectives: To determine whether NSAID use leads to an underestimation of sacroiliac joint BMO.

Methods: Adults with axSpA were recruited from NHS rheumatology clinics and patients with axSpA who had previously scanned positive at Scan 1 (off NSAIDs). Those who scanned positive for BMO lesions, as determined using inter-observer agreement, were considered to have active sacroiliitis.

Results: 311 patients were recruited from 34 centres. Table 1 shows participants’ baseline characteristics. Almost all participants (99%; 95%) completed the NSAID washout and underwent Scan 1. However, 135 (50%) reported an increase in spinal pain (median increase: 2 points on a 0-10 numerical rating scale; inter-quartile range: 1-3), and 166 (61%) reported worsening of disease activity (median increase in BASDAI: 0.9; 0.5-1.6). At Scan 1, 149 (50%) were positive for BMO lesions. 131 (68%) participants underwent the six-week follow-up scan, of whom 31 scanned negative (24%; 95%CI: 17-32%).

Conclusion: These findings suggest that NSAIDs influence sacroiliac BMO and, where sacroiliac is present, are associated with increases in disease activity or spinal pain, but also provide evidence that almost all patients who attempt washout can successfully achieve it.

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by Versus Arthritis (ref: 21022)

Disclosure of Interests: Gareth Jones Speakers bureau: Janssen, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, AbbVie, UCB, Amgen, Alexander Bennett Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biogen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Biogen, Novartis, UCB. Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Raj Sengupta Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biogen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Biogen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB. Consultant of: AbbVie, Biogen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB. Research grant support from: Pfizer, AbbVie, UCB, Amgen.

Table POS0691

ANALYSIS OF GAIT IN LONGSTANDING AXIAL-SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A MONOCENTRIC PILOT STUDY

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Spondyloarthritis, Motor function

M. Conigli1, F. Aripa2, G. Solinas1, M. M. Angioni1, E. Chessa1, A. Floris1, M. Naitza1, M. Piga1, M. Monticone1, M. Pau1, A. Cauli1. 1Rheumatology Unit, AOUM and University of Cagliari, Monserrato, CAGLIARI, Italy, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, Cagliari, Italy; 2University of Cagliari, Department of Mechanical, Chemical and Materials Engineering, Cagliari, Italy; 3University of Cagliari, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, Cagliari, Italy

Background: Progression of radiographic damage in axial-spondyloarthopathies is related to higher functionality impairment in longstanding patients, resulting in poorer quality of life and autonomy. Its impact on gait has not been extensively studied yet. Time-up and go (TUG) test and GAIT analysis (GA) are currently used in neurological and musculoskeletal diseases to evaluate changes in patients gait and stance.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to evaluate with standardized procedures modifications of gait in patients with inactive longstanding axSpA with radiographic damage, comparing them with a cohort of sex, age and BMI matched healthy controls.

Acknowledgements: The study was funded by Versus Arthritis (ref: 21022)

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, Gary Macfarlane: None declared, Shashank Murlidhar Akerkar: AbbVie, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Orphazyme, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Helena Marzo-Ortega Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biogen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Takeda, UCB, Consultant of: Eli Lilly, Janssen, MoonLake, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Novartis, UCB, Lorina Aucott: None declared, Gary Macfarlane Grant/research support from: Pfizer, AbbVie, UCB, Amgen.
Methods: Patients followed at Rheumatology Unit of the University Hospital of Cagliari were enrolled. Inclusion criteria were: 1) having a diagnosis of axSpA, 2) having an inactive disease (BASDAI<4, PGA<20, PhGA=20), 3) evidence of radiographic damage in the most recent spine x-ray available (mSASSS >20), 4) ability to walk autonomously. Exclusion criteria were: 1) deafness, 2) any medical condition that, according to investigators, could expose patients at excess risk or interfere with the procedures of the study, Patients underwent a TUG test and a gait analysis at the Department of Mechanical, Chemical and Materials Engineering, University of Cagliari. For TUG Test the following parameters were recorded: TUG time, sit-to-stand time, first and second rotation time, stand-to-sit time, walking time. Walking speed and mean step length were recorded using GAIT analysis. Statistical analysis was performed with MANOVA (Pillai’s Trace, Wilk’s Lambda, Hotelling’s Trace, Roy’s Largest Roots). Level of statistical significance was set at<0.05.

Results: Fifteen patients and fifteen HC were enrolled in this study. Mean age was 60.1±7.8 years for patients and 61.3±7.8 for HC. Height and weight were similar in both groups (axSpA 76.7 ± 16.8kg vs HC 72 ±2kg; axSpA 169.33 ± 8,8cm vs HC 170.4 ± 5.2cm). Disease duration was 27.6±5.2 years, mean mSASSS was 46.33±16.84. All patients were inactive, but showed clinical signs of disease progression (BASM 5.9±1,19). Thirteen patients were on treatment with bDMARDs (TNF inhibitors), while 2 were off treatment. MANOVA revealed differences between axSpA patients and HC for TUG test (p<0.05). TUG time and walking time were significantly longer in axSpA (TUG time 12.88±1.92s vs 10.44±2.18s, p=0.003; walking time 5.69±1.7 vs 3.68±0.8, p<0.001), while other parameters were not different between groups. Finally, axSpA patients were slower (0.95±0.16 m/s vs 1.18±0.17 m/s; p<0.05), and had a shorter step (0.52±0.65 m vs 0.65±0.69 m; p<0.05).

Conclusion: Patients with longstanding axSpA showed a different gait when compared with matched HC: we found that axSpA patients walk slower than HC, and with shorter steps. This could be interpreted as a compensatory behaviour as walking speed slower than 1 m/s has been reported as a risk factor for falling in elderly. In conclusion, we found that disease progression in axSpA patients could interfere with walking speed. Clinical relevance of these findings should be confirmed in future studies, as well as if some medical intervention (e.g. physical therapy) could minimize the impact of disease progression on posture control and walking.

REFERENCE:
**Vasculitis - large vessel vasculitis**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Ultrasound, Vasculitis

L. Seitz, F. Lötischer, S. Reichenbach, P. Villiger, L. Christ, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Switzerland; University of Bern, Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine, Bern, Switzerland; Medical Centre Montbriou, Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Switzerland

**Background:** The GUSTO (Giant cell arteritis (GCA) treatment with Ultra-Short glucocorticoids and Tocilizumab) trial evaluated the efficacy and safety of Tocilizumab (TCZ) monotherapy after a 3-day glucocorticoid-pulse in new-onset GCA [1]. Ultrasound measurements of the intra-media thickness (IMT) demonstrated a slow and steady decrease in the temporal arteries and a smaller and delayed effect on the axillary and subclavian arteries with TCZ monotherapy over 52 weeks [2]. Recently, a new Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) GCA ultrasound grading score (OGUS) for monitoring disease activity in GCA has been proposed [3].

**Objectives:** To investigate the evolution of the IMT after discontinuation of TCZ at week 52 in the GUSTO trial. Data up to week 156 are presented (two-year drug-free follow-up).

**Methods:** Eighteen patients with new-onset GCA were enrolled in the GUSTO trial. [1] Patients received 500 mg methylprednisolone intravenously for 3 consecutive days. Thereafter, glucocorticoid treatment was discontinued and TCZ (8 mg/kg body weight) was administered intravenously, followed by weekly subcutaneous TCZ injections (162 mg) from day 10 until week 52. Patients in clinical remission stopped TCZ at week 52 and entered the follow-up study. The maximum IMT of the temporal arteries (common superficial temporal artery, parietal and frontal branch) and IMT at landmarks of the axillary and subclavian arteries were measured blindly at weeks 52, 78, 104 and 156. The OGUS is calculated as follows: IMT divided by the rounded cut-off values of IMTs for each segment; the sum of these values is then divided by the number of segments available (maximum of 8 segments; axillary and temporal arteries considered). [3]

**Results:** At week 52, 13/18 patients were in relapse-free remission and entered the follow-up study. 1/13 patients presented with a minor relapse during the 104 weeks follow-up period. At week 56, 12/13 patients were in relapse-free and drug-free remission. The OGUS showed a steady decline with mean values of 0.92 (standard deviation (SD) 0.17) at week 52, 0.87 (SD 0.16) at week 78, 0.84 (SD 0.15) at week 104, and 0.79 (SD 0.12) at week 156. IMT measurements of one patient after restarting TCZ therapy were excluded (weeks 104 and 156).

**Conclusion:** After 52 weeks of treatment with TCZ, the IMT in GCA continues to decline during a drug-free period of up to or possibly more than two years. It can take more than one year after treatment discontinuation for the OGUS to become smaller than 1, indicating an average IMT below the rounded diagnostic cut-off values. Our results suggest a long-lasting remodeling phase of the vessel wall after treatment discontinuation.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Luca Seitz: None declared, Fabian Lötischer: None declared, Stephan Reichenbach: None declared, Peter Villiger: Speakers bureau: Roche, MSD, Abbvie, Pfizer, Novartis, Grünenthal, Celgene, Sanofi, Chugai, Consultant of: Roche, MSD, Abbvie, Pfizer, Novartis, Celgene, Sanofi, Bristol-Meyers-Squibb(BMS), Grant/research support from: Roche, MSD, Abbvie, Lisa Christ shareholder of: Gilead Sciences and F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Consultant of: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Novartis, Grant/research support from: Gilead Sciences, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, and Pfizer.

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**Figure 1.** OMERACT-Score (OGUS) of 13 patients from the time of discontinuation of tocilizumab monotherapy (at week 52) and two years of follow-up without immunosuppressive therapy. Black dashed line (OGUS mean), grey area (95%-Confidence interval of OGUS mean).

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**POS0694**

**MOLECULAR PHENOTYPING OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS PATIENTS: ANALYSIS OF THE SERUM PROTEIN PROFILE USING A HIGH THROUGHPUT METHOD**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, -omics, Vasculitis

F. Zingg, A. Gloor, C. Polysopoulos, P. Villiger, B. Maurer, L. Christ, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Switzerland; Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Bern, Switzerland; Statistics and Data Management Group, Swiss Clinical Quality Management Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland; Medical Center Montbriou, Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Switzerland

**Background:** There is a lack of biomarkers to profile phenotypes in giant cell arteritis (GCA) and predict potential complications. Serum protein profiling may identify molecular-based phenotypes and facilitate personalized medicine approaches.

**Objectives:** To investigate the serum protein signature of clinically defined GCA phenotypes and to evaluate whether serum protein-based profiling identified distinct patient clusters.

**Methods:** We analyzed baseline serum samples from 16 patients with new-onset GCA enrolled in the GUSTO trial. [1] Serum samples were collected prior to treatment or with the lowest prior GC-exposure. In total, 1436 differentially expressed proteins (DEPs) were assessed based on proximity extension assay technology. T-test (threshold, adjusted p-value <0.05) was performed with adjustment for multiple testing (Benjamini-Hochberg) to identify DEPs. Supervised and unsupervised cluster analyses were performed. Supervised analysis was stratified based on the three following clinical phenotypes: presence or absence of (i) cranial and (ii) polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) symptoms, and (iii) response to treatment within the GUSTO trial.

**Results:** Differences in the serum protein profile were observed based on the presence of cranial GCA and treatment response within the GUSTO trial. We identified 18 DEPs for cranial vs. non-cranial GCA, covering proteins involved in endothelial function (ECF1) or Tnf signaling (IL17RA), and 24 DEPs for response vs. non-response. GCA patients with non-response displayed among others a pronounced Th1 (IL2, IL12) and altered BAFF/APRIL signature. We found no difference based on the presence or absence of PMR-symptoms. Unsupervised hierarchical cluster analysis of the serum protein profile revealed three distinct patient clusters (Figure 1). There was no separation between patients based on clinical parameters except for a tendency to separate GCA patients with (cluster 2) from patients without PMR-symptoms (cluster 1).

**Conclusion:** Upon further validation, in GCA, molecular profiling of patients based on serum protein signatures has great potential for future individualization of patient management. This is the first study to phenotype new-onset GCA based on the serum protein signature. GCA patients with cranial symptoms and treatment response display a distinct serum protein signature. We found a tendency to cluster GCA patients with concomitant PMR-symptoms. Our findings of different protein signatures might facilitate personalized treatment approaches in GCA.

**REFERENCE:**

A PROSPECTIVE STUDY EVALUATING A PRE-TEST PROBABILITY SCORE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Vasculitis, Ultrasound

Objective: To evaluate the diagnostic utility of the PTPS and to investigate whether its use can improve the sensitivity of US.

Methods: We performed a prospective multicentre study of all new referrals to our Rapid Access GCA clinic over 18 months. US of all branches of the Subclavian artery (SA), axillary artery (AA), femoral artery (FA) and common iliac artery (CIA) was performed. Sonographic abnormalities considered indicative of vasculitis included the halo sign and non-compressible arteries with a thickened intima-media complex [5]. The PTPS (scale 0-30) incorporates a number of variables to quantify the likelihood of having a diagnosis of GCA [6]. We compared results to a clinical diagnosis of GCA at 6 months, verified by 2 rheumatologists. We performed Chi-Square tests with ROC analyses and logistic regression to determine the diagnostic performance of the PTPS, US and of both tools combined.

Results: 72/149 patients had a diagnosis of GCA with a mean age of 73.3 years of whom 58% were males. The PTPS AUC for a diagnosis of GCA was 0.807 (95% CI 0.736-0.875). At scores <10, the PTPS correctly refuted the diagnosis in 91.67%, with lower scores having even higher sensitivities. At scores >13, it correctly identifies the diagnosis in 93.51%, with higher scores having even higher specificities. The TAUS AUC for a diagnosis of GCA was 0.865 (95% CI 0.810-0.920). A model which combines both PTPS and TAUS out-performs both individual tools with an AUC of 0.912 and is illustrated in Figure 1. In the case of positive US, a PTPS ≥6 infers a >60% likelihood of having GCA. In cases of negative US, a PTPS ≤12 infers a <20% likelihood of having GCA.

Conclusion: Our study demonstrates a strong correlation between baseline PTPS and a clinical diagnosis of GCA at 6 months, in a large prospective cohort. Although US is superior to PTPS for diagnosis of GCA, a model which combines both tools achieves a sensitivity of 91%, higher than that for US alone. This model can form the basis of an algorithm to guide early corticosteroid use in cases of suspected GCA.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5693

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the patients

| Age, years | 68.5 (10.6) |
| Female    | 13 (72%) |
| Newly-diagnosed LV-GCA | 9 (50%) |
| Relapsing LV-GCA | 9 (50%) |
| Glucocorticoid pretreatment | 13 (72%) |
| CRP, mg/L | 35 (36) |
| ESR, mm/h | 56 (41) |
| Symptoms of active vasculitis | 15 (83%) |
| Systemic symptoms | 11 (61%) |
| Polymyalgia rheumatica symptoms | 7 (39%) |
| Signs or symptoms of vascular insufficiency | 4 (22%) |
| Cranial symptoms | 1 (6%) |
| Visual symptoms | 0 (0%) |
| Active vasculitis on PET/CT | 18 (100%) |
| PETVAS | 173 (5.1) |
| Aortic dilation | 8 (44%) |

Data are mean (SD) or n (%)
REFERENCES:


Table 1.

<table>
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<th>Age at time of diagnosis</th>
<th>Indication for stopping treatment</th>
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<td>Completed treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0698

REAPPRAISAL OF LARGE ARTERY INVOLVEMENT IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS, A POPULATION-BASED COHORT OVER 70 YEARS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Vasculitis, Imaging

M. Elfishawi1, M. Kaymakci1, S. Achenbach2, C. S. Crowson1,2, T. Kermani3, W. Cornelia1, M. Koster1, K. J. Warrington1,2. Mayo Clinic, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Rochester, United States of America; Mayo Clinic, Division of Clinical Trials and Biostatistics, Department of Qualitative health Sciences, Rochester, United States of America; University of California, Los Angeles, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Los Angeles, United States of America

Background: Screening for large artery manifestations in patients with Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) has been adopted in clinical practice. However, the effect of recent use of imaging studies on incidence and mortality of large artery manifestations remains unclear.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to investigate incidence trends and outcomes of large artery manifestations in a population-based cohort of patients with GCA over a span of seven decades.

Methods: The study cohort included patients with incident GCA between 1950-2016 in a defined geographical area. Incident large artery manifestations were defined as aortic aneurysm, aortic dissection, stenosis in the aorta or any of its branches occurred within 1 year prior to the diagnosis of GCA or anytime afterwards. Patients were followed till December 31, 2020, death, or migration. Cumulative incidence of large artery manifestations adjusted for the competing risk of death was estimated. Cox proportional hazards models adjusted for age and sex were used to assess the association of clinical characteristics with large artery manifestations.

Results: The study included 289 patients with GCA: 222 (77%) females; temporal artery biopsy was positive in 235 patients (81%); mean follow up period was 10.4 ± 7 years; mean age at diagnosis was 76.4 ± 8.2 years. Incident large artery manifestations developed in 104 patients throughout the follow up period, the majority (76%) were found incidentally. Cumulative incidence rates of large artery manifestations at 5 years were 7.3% (95% CI 2.4-22.1%), 15.9% (95% CI 10.6-23.8%) and 27.2% (95% CI 20.2-36.6%) for patients diagnosed in 1950-1974, 1975-1999 and 2000-2016, respectively. Moreover, cumulative incidence of large vessel manifestations at 15 years was 14.8% (95% CI 70-31.6%), 30.2% (95% CI 23.1-39.4%) and 48.8% (95% CI 38.8-61.3%) for patients diagnosed in 1950-1974, 1975-1999 and 2000-2016, respectively (Figure 1). Patients with GCA diagnosed in 2000-2016 and 1975-1999 had more than 3.5-fold and 2-fold increase in incidence of large artery manifestations (HR:3.49 95%CI 1.67-7.3 and HR: 1.98 95% CI 0.97–4.07, respectively) compared to 1950-1974. However, there was no significant increase in aortic aneurysm or dissection (Table 1). Mortality risk has decreased significantly in patients with large artery manifestations diagnosed in the latest cohort 2000-2016 (HR 0.38 95% CI 0.17–0.81) following non-significant improvements in 1975-1999 (HR 0.61 95% CI 0.29-1.30) compared to 1950-1974 (reference). Clinical predictors for large artery manifestations included weight loss, fatigue, arm claudication, ever smoker and bruit on physical examination. Cranial symptoms were negatively associated with large artery manifestations.

Conclusion: Incidence of large artery manifestations (mainly large artery stenosis) has increased over time likely from increased use of imaging studies. However, the incidence of aortic aneurysm/dissection has been stable over the last 7 decades. Mortality improvement in the recent years may be due to earlier detection of large artery involvement.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosures of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0699

GIANT CELL ARTERITIS CLINICAL DISEASE ACTIVITY MEASURES: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Keywords: Outcome measures, Ultrasound, Vasculitis

Y. El Miedany1, M. Elgaafary2, M. Toth3, S. Bahlas4, M. H. Abu-Zaid5, W. Hassan3, D. Palmer3, S. A. Mahran5, S. A. A. Tabra4, W. Elwakil3, S. Saber5, Y. El Miedany, S. Bahlas, M. H. Abu-Zaid, W. Hassan, D. Palmer, S. A. Mahran, S. A. A. Tabra, W. Elwakil, S. Saber. 1Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Community and Public health, Cairo, Egypt; 2Faculty of Medicine, Al Azhar University, Community and Public Health, Dair Al Balad, Egypt; 3Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Community and Public Health, Cairo, Egypt; 4Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Community and Public Health, Cairo, Egypt; 5Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Community and Public Health, Cairo, Egypt
Background: Although the systematic measurement of disease activity facilitates clinical decision making in Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA), no recommendations currently exist on which measures should be applied in clinical practice.

Objectives: To comprehensively evaluate the validity, feasibility, and acceptability of available GCA disease activity measures and derive recommendations for their use in clinical practice.

Methods: This was a 6-phases process which included a combination of a systematic literature review, psychometric analyses, validated group methods, and physician surveys. In phase 1, The GCA clinical Disease Activity Measures Working Group conducted a systematic review of the literature to identify GCA disease activity measures. Applying exclusion criteria: measurement tools were excluded from further consideration if they: (1) measured imaging only; (2) did not report a continuous value; (3) had insufficient information (e.g. not yet published in manuscript form.). Phase 2: Expert panel were asked to rank the remaining measures via an electronic survey. For each measurement tool, expert panel members were asked to indicate whether they were familiar with the measure (yes, no), whether they had ever used the measure (yes, no), and whether they would recommend the measure for clinical use (yes, no). The survey instructed the expert panel to apply the Outcome Measures for Arthritis Clinics (OMERACT) filter of truth, discrimination, and feasibility as a guide when ranking their top five choices for use in clinical practice. The panel members were encouraged to identify additional measures not listed. Phase 3: following teleconferences the list of measures was reduced based on their rankings and panel comments. Phase 4: included comprehensive examination of the psychometric properties (reliability, validity, and responsiveness) of the remaining GCA disease activity measures. Phase 5 included an electronic survey to score the usefulness and feasibility in clinical practice and acceptance to use the tool on a regular basis when caring for patients. Phase 6: the final list of GCA disease activity measures was prepared.

Results: Using the list of specific disease activity measures as keyword searches, the systematic review of the literature resulted in identification of 21 GCA disease activity measures. Application of exclusion criteria and ratings by the expert panel narrowed the list to 10 measures for further evaluation. Practicing rheumatologists rated these 10 measures as most useful and feasible. From these 7 measures, the working group selected 6 with the best psychometric properties for inclusion in the final set of recommended GCA disease activity measures.

Conclusion: The GCA Clinical Disease Activity Index, has been developed including severity of headache (using 0-100 VAS), acute visual deficit (0-100 VAS), functional disability (0-3), Lab disease activity measures: ESR and CRP, patient global assessment (0-100 VAS), physician global assessment (0-100 VAS). These were identified as they are accurate reflections of disease activity; are sensitive to change; discriminate well between low, moderate, and high disease activity states; have remission criteria; and are feasible to perform in clinical settings.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1815

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Vasculitis, Imaging

POS0700

METABOLIC AND MORPHOLOGIC PET/MR FEATURES IN CRANIAL GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

P. Nienhuis1, C. M. Sørensen2, K. Keller3, I. Hansen4, E. Naeser3, M. Nyhuus5, Bendix Rasch6, E. Brouwer7, R. Slart1, A. Dias5, A. Appelman1, E. M. Hauge3, 1University Medical Center Groningen, Medical Imaging Center Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands; 2The Regional Hospital in Horsens, Department of Medicine, Horsens, Denmark; 3Aarhus University Hospital, Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 4University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 5Aarhus University Hospital, Nuclear Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark

Background: Accurate and timely diagnosis is crucial for patients suspected of having cranial giant cell arteritis (C-GCA) as prompt treatment with high-dose glucocorticoids may prevent severe ischemic complications, such as vision loss. However, the use of high-dose glucocorticoids in patients without proven C-GCA should also be done with caution due to potential side effects. Currently, multiple diagnostic (imaging) tests are required to establish an accurate diagnosis as single tests lack sufficient diagnostic sensitivity. Next to ultrasonography, 18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (FDG-PET/CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) are used in clinical practice but carry a significant risk of false negative results. Since FDG-PET imaging measures metabolic activity, while MRI demonstrates morphological changes, combining these modalities may result in a composite hybrid diagnostic test with higher diagnostic accuracy.

Objectives: To describe the metabolic and morphologic imaging features of FDG-PET/MR in patients with diagnosed C-GCA.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with new-onset C-GCA underwent FDG-PET/CT and FDG-PET/MR at 1 and 2 hours after FDG administration, respectively. Patients who had received treatment with glucocorticoids for more than 3 days prior to imaging were excluded from participating. Diagnosis of C-GCA was determined based on clinical information and the results from ultrasonography and FDG-PET/CT. On FDG-PET/MR imaging, thirteen arteries were evaluated bilaterally. Time-of-Flight (TOF) MR angiography was used to detect arterial stenoses or occlusions which were visually graded as either absent or present. To assess vessel wall thickness, T1-weighted contrast-enhanced (T1WCE) MRI images were visually graded on a scale of 0-3, with 0 indicating no mural enhancement or thickening, 1 indicating slight mural enhancement but no thickening, 2 indicating significant mural enhancement and thickening, and 3 indicating mural and perivascular enhancement and thickening. FDG uptake was visually graded on a scale of 0-2, with 0 indicating no vascular uptake, 1 indicating uptake slightly above background, and 2 indicating uptake significantly above background.

Results: The study included 12 patients with new-onset C-GCA with a median age of 74 years (range 61-84 years), of which 9 were female. The mean C-reactive protein (CRP) concentration was 63.2 (SD 41.0) mg/l, and one patient was receiving daily 60 mg prednisolone at the time of imaging (Figure 1, patient 12). Cranial artery ultrasonography was positive in 9 patients, and FDG-PET/CT was positive in the cranial arteries in 10 patients. All patients had at least one positive artery on T1WCE MRI (score ≥ 2) and all but one patient showed at least one arterial stenosis or occlusion on TOF MR angiography. One patient without FDG uptake FDG-PET/MR did also not show any FDG uptake on FDG-PET/CT. Figure 1 shows a heatmap of (a) presence of stenoses/occlusions, (b) the vessel wall thickening score (0-3), (c) the FDG uptake score (0-2), and (d) the overlap of FDG-PET positivity (score ≥ 1), T1WCE MRI positivity (score ≥ 2), and TOF MR angiography positivity. Data for each patient (1 to 12) is shown for each map in rows and data for each artery (Right and Left) are shown in columns. Vessel wall thickening and FDG-uptake were most seen in the vertebral, maxillary, and occipital arteries. Stenosis was most observed in the maxillary arteries. TOF MRA, T1-weighted contrast-enhanced MRI, and FDG-PET/CT scores agreed in 60% of all arteries, however just 10% of all positive arteries were positive on all three modalities. Agreement was highest (74%) between FDG-PET/CT and T1WCE MRI.

Conclusion: The study found an overlap in morphologic and metabolic features in affected arteries in patients with C-GCA using hybrid FDG-PET/MR. However, it also revealed that these features can occur independently of each other. This suggests that the use of hybrid morphologic and metabolic imaging may provide complementary information, potentially increasing diagnostic accuracy for C-GCA.
Background: Two randomised controlled trials (RCT) [1, 2] demonstrated a glucocorticoid (GC)-sparking effect of tocilizumab (TCZ) of at least 50% in the treatment of giant cell arteritis (GCA). The GUSTO (GCA treatment with Ultra-Short glucocorticoids and Tocilizumab) trial was set up to evaluate the efficacy and safety of TCZ-monotherapy after a 3-day GC-pulse in new-onset GCA.

Objectives: The objectives of this analysis were to explore the maintenance of remission 2 years after discontinuation of TCZ treatment (drug-free remission) and the effectiveness or retreatment with TCZ after relapse. Data up to week 156 are presented.

Methods: Eighteen patients with newly diagnosed GCA were enrolled in this investigator-initiated, single-arm, single-center, open-label clinical trial [3]. Patients received 500 mg methylprednisolone intravenously for 3 consecutive days. Thereafter, GC treatment was discontinued and TCZ (8 mg/kg body weight) was administered intravenously, followed by weekly subcutaneous TCZ injections (162 mg) from day 10 until week 52. Patients in clinical remission stopped TCZ at week 52 and entered the follow-up study. Maintenance of efficacy at week 156 included the proportion of patients with complete relapse-free remission of disease at week 156, and time to first relapse after week 52.

Results: At baseline there were 12/18 female patients, and the median age was 72 (range 67-75) years. Overall, 15/18 complained of cranial symptoms (10/18 jaw claudication, 6/18 visual symptoms), 10/18 suffered from polymyalgia rheumatica, 16/18 had positive ultrasound findings of the cranial arteries, and 13/18 temporal arterial biopsies showed a characteristic histopathology. At week 52, 13/18 patients were in relapse-free remission and entered the follow-up study. One out of 13 patients presented with a minor relapse at week 72. Remission was achieved after restart of TCZ-monotherapy. At week 156, 12/18 patients were in relapse-free remission.

Conclusion: After a 3-days pulse of methylprednisolone followed by 52 weeks of TCZ monotherapy, drug-free remission was maintained until week 156 in all but one patient entering long-term extension (12/13, 92%). This relapse rate is substantially lower than reported in the RCTs [1, 2]. It may – at least in part – be explained by the patient characteristics (exclusively new diagnoses), and presumably by the intensive initial treatment consisting of a 3-day GC pulse, immediately followed by TCZ. As a proof-of-concept study, the protocol is not intended to be used in everyday clinical practice.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: L. Christ1, L. Seitz1, G. Scholz1, L. Büttikofe2, Kollert2, B. Maurer2, S. Reichenbach1,3, P. Villiger4.

L. Christ1, L. Seitz1, G. Scholz1, L. Büttikofe2, Kollert2, B. Maurer2, S. Reichenbach1,3, P. Villiger4.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0701

LONG-TERM EFFICACY OF TOCILIZUMAB MONOTHERAPY AFTER ULTRA-SHORT GLUCOCORTICOID ADMINISTRATION TO TREAT GIANT CELL ARTERITIS – TWO YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF THE GUSTO TRIAL

Keywords: Vasculitis, Clinical trials

L. Christ1, L. Seitz1, G. Scholz1, L. Büttikofe2, Kollert2, B. Maurer2, S. Reichenbach1,3, P. Villiger4.

Acknowledgements:

Disclosure of Interests:

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POS0702

TREATMENT EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF ADALIMUMAB VERSUS TOCILIZUMAB COMBINED WITH METHOTREXATE AND GLUCOCORTICOIDS IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE AND SEVERE TAKAYASU ARTERITIS: A RANDOMIZED, OPEN-LABEL, HEAD-TO-HEAD STUDY

Keywords: Clinical trials, Vasculitis, Treat to target

X. Kong1, J. Wang1, L. MA1, H. Chen1, Z. Ding1, X. Jin1, L. Jiang1, F. University, Zhongshan Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Shanghai, China; 2Fudan University, Zhongshan hospital, Department of Cardiology, Shanghai, China

Background: Takayasu’s arteritis (TAK) is a rare large-vessel vasculitis characterized by granulomatous inflammation in the aorta and its major branches.[1] The affected arteries may become narrowed or even occluded, resulting in ischemia of the corresponding tissue or organs and threatening patient survival.[2] However, effective treatment strategies for TAK are lacking. Although TCZ and TNF-α inhibitors are commonly applied in the treatment of refractory TAK, a formal head-to-head study evaluating their efficacy is lacking. According to retrospective studies,[3, 4] the complete response rate associated with TCZ was slightly better than those associated with TNF-α inhibitors at 6 months (70% vs. 66%; 70% vs. 61%). However, another study indicated a better 3-month complete remission rate associated with TNF-α inhibitors than with TCZ (30% vs. 18%).[5] Thus, the data are inconclusive regarding which medication is more effective. Furthermore, the 6-month nonresponse and 12-month relapse rates associated with these treatments were approximately 25% and 19%, respectively.[3] Thus, given the inconsistent results obtained thus far in this context, we conducted this randomized, open-label, head-to-head study to compare the efficacy and safety of the TNF-α antibody adalimumab (ADA) and TCZ combined with GCs and MTX in patients with active and severe TAK.

Objectives: This study was aimed at investigating the efficacy and safety of adalimumab (ADA) and tocilizumab (TCZ) in patients with active and severe Takayasu arteritis (TAK) concomitantly treated with glucocorticoids (GCs) and methotrexate (MTX).

Keywords: Clinical trials, Vasculitis, Treat to target

X. Kong1, J. Wang1, L. MA1, H. Chen1, Z. Ding1, X. Jin1, L. Jiang1, Fudan University, Zhongshan Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Shanghai, China; 2Fudan University, Zhongshan hospital, Department of Cardiology, Shanghai, China

Background: Takayasu’s arteritis (TAK) is a rare large-vessel vasculitis characterized by granulomatous inflammation in the aorta and its major branches.[1] The affected arteries may become narrowed or even occluded, resulting in ischemia of the corresponding tissue or organs and threatening patient survival.[2] However, effective treatment strategies for TAK are lacking. Although TCZ and TNF-α inhibitors are commonly applied in the treatment of refractory TAK, a formal head-to-head study evaluating their efficacy is lacking. According to retrospective studies,[3, 4] the complete response rate associated with TCZ was slightly better than those associated with TNF-α inhibitors at 6 months (70% vs. 66%; 70% vs. 61%). However, another study indicated a better 3-month complete remission rate associated with TNF-α inhibitors than with TCZ (30% vs. 18%).[5] Thus, the data are inconclusive regarding which medication is more effective. Furthermore, the 6-month nonresponse and 12-month relapse rates associated with these treatments were approximately 25% and 19%, respectively.[3] Thus, given the inconsistent results obtained thus far in this context, we conducted this randomized, open-label, head-to-head study to compare the efficacy and safety of the TNF-α antibody adalimumab (ADA) and TCZ combined with GCs and MTX in patients with active and severe TAK.

Objectives: This study was aimed at investigating the efficacy and safety of adalimumab (ADA) and tocilizumab (TCZ) in patients with active and severe Takayasu arteritis (TAK) concomitantly treated with glucocorticoids (GCs) and methotrexate (MTX).
Methods: Forty patients were randomized into ADA and TCZ groups (n = 21 and 19, respectively). They were treated with ADA or TCZ combined with GCs and MTX, respectively. The planned follow-up duration was 12 months. The primary end point was time to efficacy rate (ER) at 6 months.

Results: The intention to treat (ITT) population included 21 and 19 patients from the ADA and TCZ groups, respectively. In this population, the ERs at 6 months were higher in the ADA group (85.71% vs. 52.63%, P = 0.02). Similar tendencies were also noted in per-protocol (89.47% vs. 62.50%, P = 0.06). At the 6-month time point, the percentages of patients receiving a GC dose of ≤10mg/day and the cumulative GC dose were similar between the ADA and TCZ groups (43.75% vs. 43.75%, P = 0.83; 4200 mg vs. 4100 mg, P = 0.15, respectively). Imaging improvement or stabilization was observed in most patients in both groups (ADA vs. TCZ: 19/19 vs. 15/16, P = 0.27). Adverse event incidence was comparable between the two groups (ADA vs. TCZ: 38.10% vs. 43.77%, P = 0.55).

Conclusion: ADA was more effective than TCZ in combined treatment with GCs and MTX among patients with active and severe TAK.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4610

POS0703

RENA L ARTERY STENOSIS IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH WORSE SURVIVAL IN TAKAYASU ARTERITIS – DATA FROM A SINGLE-CENTER RETROSPECTIVE COHORT OF 195 PATIENTS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Registries, Vasculitis

D. P. Misra1, P. Mishra2, K. Singh1, U. Rathore1, D. Thakare1, N. Jain3, V. Agarwal1, M. Behera5, S. Gamhbir4, D. Bhadauria5, S. Kumar6, V. Agarwal1.

1Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Nephrology, Lucknow, India; 2Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Biostatistics and Health Informatics, Lucknow, India; 3Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Science, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 4Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Radiodiagnosis, Lucknow, India; 5Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Nuclear Medicine, Lucknow, India; 6Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Nephrology, Lucknow, India; 7Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Cardiology, Lucknow, India

Background: Renal artery stenosis (RAS) is more frequent in Asian patients with Takayasu arteritis (TAK). Few studies have assessed the impact of RAS on the presentation and prognosis of TAK using adjusted analysis.

Objectives: To compare the presentation and prognosis between TAK with or without RAS.

Methods: We compared the clinical presentation and vascular involvement (including angiographic subtypes by Hata’s classification) between patients with TAK with or without RAS, with bilateral versus unilateral RAS, and with bilateral RAS versus those without RAS using multivariable-adjusted odds ratios (aOR) with 95% confidence intervals (95%CI) derived after logistic regression. We compared survival between these groups using hazard ratios (HR) with 95%CI adjusted for gender, age at disease onset, delay to diagnosis, baseline disease activity, and inter-group differences. The institute ethics committee provided a waiver of consent for retrospective data retrieval. The institute ethics committee provided a waiver of consent for retrospective data retrieval.

Results: Out of 195 TAK with imaging data available, 106 had RAS (58 bilateral, 48 unilateral; mean±SD follow-up 41.50±34.35 months), TAK with RAS (mean age 22.99 years) or bilateral RAS (mean age 22.83 years) were younger than without RAS (mean age 28.00 years). TAK with RAS had more hypertension (aOR 4.46, 95%CI 1.81 – 10.99), lower limb claudication (aOR 2.72, 95%CI 1.08 – 6.88), and frequent upper limb claudication (aOR 0.43, 95%CI 0.19-0.99) and syncope or dizziness (aOR 0.35, 95%CI 0.14 – 0.83) than TAK without RAS. TAK with bilateral RAS had more frequent hypertension (aOR 11.83, 95%CI 1.38-101.16), blurring of vision (aOR 5.97, 95%CI 1.02 – 34.83), and less frequent constitutional symptoms (aOR 0.18, 95%CI 0.06 – 0.51) than those with unilateral RAS. TAK with bilateral RAS had more frequent hypertension (aOR 8.73, 95%CI 1.90-40.06), vascular bruits (aOR 2.94, 95%CI 1.03 – 8.34), and heart failure (aOR 4.16, 95%CI 1.00 – 17.32), and less frequent constitutional symptoms (aOR 0.23, 95%CI 0.09 – 0.62), pulse loss (aOR 0.29, 95%CI 0.11 – 0.77), and syncope or dizziness (aOR 0.21, 95%CI 0.06-0.73) than those without RAS. Hata’s type IV and type V were more frequent in TAK with versus without RAS (OR 4.01 and 13.40, respectively), and in those with bilateral RAS versus no RAS (OR 5.97 and 10.94, respectively). Adjusted survival was similar between TAK with or without RAS, with unilateral or bilateral RAS, or with bilateral RAS vs those without RAS (Table 1).

Conclusion: RAS is associated with specific clinical and angiographic features not with a greater risk of mortality in TAK.

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POS0704

RISK FACTORS OF DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY IN PATIENTS WITH TAKAYASU ARTERITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Mental health, Cytokines and chemokines

Z. Yaxin1,1,1, L. Pan1,1,1, Capital Medical University, Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing Anzhen Hospital, Beijing, China

Background: Takayasu arteritis (TA) is associated with an increased risk of developing complicated comorbidities, which can bring both psychological and physical burdens to the patients. Most cases are young female patients with an onset age of 10 to 40 years [1]. Psychological disorders have long been recognized as important comorbidities of immune diseases. In the case of rheumatoid progress, comorbid depression and anxiety would increase the mortality and heighten the medication, prognostic and economic burden. In patients with TA, there haven't been identified whether comorbid depression and anxiety may lead to an inaccurate evaluation of disease status and lower quality of life [2-5]. The emotional state generated by the TA should not be ignored. The primary aim of this study was to investigate the risk factors of comorbid depression and anxiety in patients with TA.

Objectives: The research is to investigate risk factors of comorbid depression and anxiety in patients with Takayasu arteritis.

Methods: In this observational, longitudinal cohort study, 86 TAK cases were respectively divided into two groups with or without depression and anxiety to identify the risk factors. The Zung Self-Rating Depression and Anxiety Scale (SDS/SAS) are widely applied in many medical researches related to mental health, which displays convincing results and a remarkable degree of consensus on the diagnosis of mood disorders.

Results: Individual patient data were available from 86 subjects, of whom 23 had depression, and 15 had anxiety. Depression was independently associated with Carotidina, elevated IL-6, and decreased HDL (HR [95%CI] 7.116 [1.58–33.58], p=0.0010; OR [95%CI] 6.669 [1.746–25.470], p=0.005; OR [95%CI] 3.885[1214–12.420], p=0.022) respectively. We used correlation analysis to find out the association between the level of IL-6 with SDS, SAS scores (r=0.337, p=0.002; n=0.280, p=0.010). The levels of Complement 3, NIH, ITAS and ITAS2010 were similarly correlated with SDS score (r=0.332, p=0.032; n=0.280, p=0.009; n=0.332, p=0.002; n=0.323, p=0.002), which wasn’t seemed in SAS score.
Conclusion: Clinicians should be alert to risk factors for predisposing patients to mood disorders. TA patients comorbid depression and anxiety should be given more positive treatment to essentially control the disease to improve their emotional state and quality of life.

REFERENCES:


Objectives: To compare the presentation and prognosis between pediatric-onset and adult-onset TAK are unclear.

Methods: The clinical presentation, angiographic features, treatment patterns, disease activity on follow-up, and survival were compared between pediatric-onset and adult-onset TAK. Categorical variables were compared using odds ratios (OR between pediatric-onset and adult-onset TAK, with 95% confidence intervals). Survival for pediatric-onset and adult-onset TAK were presented using Kaplan-Meier plots and compared using log-rank test. Hazards ratios (HR, with 95% confidence intervals) were calculated, both crude and adjusted for prognostic factors. Prognostic analysis using adjusted analyses adjusted for prognostic factors were conducted to assess adjusted differences in survival between pediatric-onset and adult-onset TAK. A previous meta-analysis of the risk of mortality with pediatric-onset vs adult-onset TAK [1] was updated with the findings from this study. The study was approved by the institutional ethics committee, which waived the requirement for informed consent in view of the retrospective review of chart records.

Results: Heart failure [odds ratio (OR) for pediatric-onset vs adult-onset TAK 2.76, 95%CI [1.22-6.60] and chest pain (OR 3.03, 95%CI [1.11-8.34) were more common in pediatric-onset TAK, and stroke or transient ischemic attack was more frequent in adult-onset TAK (OR 0.31, 95%CI [0.10-0.93). Hata’s angiographic type V (OR 1.95, 95%CI [1.00-3.78) was commoner in pediatric-onset TAK, as opposed to adult-onset TAK. Disease activity at baseline, 6, 12, and 24 months, the use of glucocorticoids and disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) were similar between pediatric-onset and adult-onset TAK. The unadjusted hazard ratio for mortality with pediatric-onset versus adult-onset TAK was 6.13 (95%CI [1.51-24.91), and after adjustment for prognostic covariates (gender, delay to diagnosis, baseline disease activity, number of conventional and biologic targeted synthetic DMARDs used), was 4.97 (95%CI [1.20-20.58) (Table 1).

Survival was worse for pediatric-onset than adult-onset TAK on unadjusted analyses (Figure 1) and after propensity score matching for these covariates (54 pairs, log rank p value 0.026), Risk ratio for mortality with pediatric-onset vs adult-onset TAK across studies was 2.27 (95%CI 1.05-4.85) after updating a meta-analysis of four observational studies [1] by including the present study.

Conclusion: Pediatric-onset TAK associates with greater mortality than adult-onset TAK. Greater vigilance is required while managing pediatric-onset TAK.

REFERENCE:


Table 1. Risk estimates for the association of pediatric-onset TAK (compared with adult-onset TAK) with mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covariates adjusted for using Cox proportional hazards model</th>
<th>Hazard ratio (95% confidence intervals)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>6.13 (1.51 – 24.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male or female), Delay to diagnosis</td>
<td>5.93 (1.46 – 24.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male or female), Delay to diagnosis, disease active at baseline</td>
<td>5.56 (1.36 – 22.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male or female), delay to diagnosis, disease active at baseline</td>
<td>5.84 (1.45 – 23.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity at baseline</td>
<td>5.70 (1.42 – 22.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assesement or not, number of conventional DMARDs used</td>
<td>4.97 (1.20 – 20.58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment or not, number of conventional DMARDs used, number of biologic DMARDs used</td>
<td>4.97 (1.20 – 20.58)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=182 for all modelsDMARDs – Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs
Methods: Consecutive patients with TAK (50, 40F/5M; mean age: 39.8±8.2 years) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (43, 38F/5M; 38.0±7.9 years) attending a single tertiary university hospital were studied in addition to apparently healthy hospital workers (57, 50F/7M; 39.5±7.1 years). Carotid artery IMT and SWE values were assessed using carotid artery B-mode US and SWE. Atherosclerotic plaques were noted. Disease duration, clinical characteristics and information related to immunosuppressive drug usage were obtained from the patient's charts. Cardiovascular risk factors were determined.

Results: Study groups were balanced according to the most of the variables including mean age, gender ratio, BMI, past and current smoking history, post-menopausal status, the frequency of diabetes mellitus, the mean total, LDL, and HDL cholesterol levels and the median hsCRP levels (evaluated only in TAK and SLE). The mean systolic and diastolic blood pressure levels were significantly higher in both TAK and SLE patients compared to healthy controls (HCs). As shown in Table 1, the mean IMT in the right and left carotid arteries was significantly higher among patients with TAK, when compared to SLE and HCs. On the other hand, the mean SWE in the carotid artery was significantly increased among both TAK and SLE patients when compared to HCs, whereas patients with TAK had the highest values. After adjusting for cardiovascular risk factors, a significant association was maintained robust. Only patients with TAK were found to have significantly increased frequency of carotid artery plaques (TAK: 22.0%, SLE: 4.7%, HC's: 5.3%, *p=0.006). IMT and diastolic blood pressure levels were found to be associated independently with SWE.

Conclusion: Our study indicates that among patients with TAK, both atherosclerosis and arterial stiffness are increased and appear to be closely related. Arterial stiffness along with severe hypertension and accelerated atherosclerosis could contribute to the increased risk for cardiovascular morbidity in TAK. Furthermore, SWE could be an indicator of cardiovascular risk that can be surveyed in TAK.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0708
VALIDATION OF THE REVISED 2022 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY/ EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR TAKAYASU ARTERITIS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Vasculitis, Validation

A. Tomelli1, R. Padovan4, C. Kavadiachinda2, A. Jose3, K. Singh4, L. Iorio4, U. Rathore6, E. Rinaldi1, E. Baidisera1, V. Agarwal1, L. Dagna1, C. Campochiaro1, D. P. Mira1, 1San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases (Unirri), Milan, Italy; 2University of Padova, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine DIMED, Padova, Italy; 3Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Clinical Immunology, Puducherry, India; 4Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India

Background: The 2022 American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/European Association of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) classification criteria for Takayasu arteritis (TAK) were recently published [1].

Objectives: To validate and evaluate the 2022 ACR/EULAR TAK classification criteria in the light of the 1990 ACR TAK classification criteria [2].

Methods: Clinical data of TAK patients from four referral centers (two from Italy and two from India) were reviewed to assess the fulfillment of 2022 ACR/EULAR and 1990 ACR TAK criteria. Control subjects included large-vessel giant cell arteritis (LV-GCA), large vessel vasculitis (LVV) other than TAK or GCA, or non-inflammatory arterial disorders. The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV), likelihood ratio of a positive test (LR+), likelihood ratio of a negative test (LR-), area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) at the cut-offs of ≥3 points for 1990 ACR criteria and ≥5 points for 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria were calculated. AUC was also calculated using the actual scores for the 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria. Secondary analyses
were conducted on the basis of sex (male/female), using only LV-GCA as controls, using subjects ≥60 years, and stratified on age (≥40, 40-60, >60 years).

**Results:** 504 TAK [404 females, mean (SD) age at diagnosis 31.7 (12.6) years] and 222 controls [144 LV-GCA, 151 females, mean (SD) age at diagnosis 61.9 (15.4) years] were identified. The 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria had better sensitivity and NPV but had poorer specificity. PPV, LR+, LR−, and AUC at predetermined cut-offs than the 1990 ACR criteria (Table 1). Similar performance of 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria was observed with only LV-GCA as controls (sensitivity 95.83%, specificity 60.42%, AUC 0.781) or in subjects ≥60 years old (sensitivity 95.81%, specificity 61.80%, AUC 0.789). The 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria had a greater specificity (76.76% vs 57.62%) and AUC (0.845 vs 0.771) with similar sensitivity (93% vs 96.53%) in males than in females. Stratified for age; ≥40 years, n=399, 374 TAK, 25 controls; 40-60 years, n=186, 127 TAK, 59 controls; >60 years, n=141, 3 TAK, 138 controls; sensitivity remained similar (96.26%, 94.49%, 100%, respectively), whereas, specificity was higher for older age groups (52%, 66.10%, 64.49%, respectively). Cut-offs of ≥6 (sensitivity 91.87%, specificity 82.88%) and ≥7 (sensitivity 86.71%, specificity 86.49%) greatly improved balance between sensitivity and specificity (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** In this first validation study, the 2022 ACR/EULAR Tak criteria had poorer specificity in real-life than in the development cohort. Higher cut-offs (6 or 7) might improve the performance of these criteria. Higher PPV but lower NPV in the Indian than in the Italian cohort might reflect the different performance of the criteria in different ethnic groups.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Performance of the criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall (n=725, 504 TAK, 222 controls)</th>
<th>Italian cohort (n=401, 201 TAK, 200 controls)</th>
<th>Indian cohort (n=325, 303 TAK, 22 controls)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACR 1990 criteria</td>
<td>ACR EULAR 1990 criteria</td>
<td>ACR EULAR 1990 criteria</td>
<td>ACR EULAR 1990 criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity</td>
<td>82.94%</td>
<td>95.83%</td>
<td>75.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specificity</td>
<td>90.54%</td>
<td>63.51%</td>
<td>93.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPV</td>
<td>95.22%</td>
<td>85.64%</td>
<td>92.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPV</td>
<td>70.03%</td>
<td>87.04%</td>
<td>78.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR+</td>
<td>8.77</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>11.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR−</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.867†</td>
<td>0.797 (0.764)</td>
<td>0.843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.842 – 0.830)</td>
<td>(0.809 – 0.827)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctly clas-</td>
<td>85.26%</td>
<td>85.95%</td>
<td>84.29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** AUC using actual 2022 ACR/EULAR scores.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1126
**Table 1. Comparison of different disease activity parameters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Cut-off</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>Correctly classified</th>
<th>LR+</th>
<th>LR-</th>
<th>PPV</th>
<th>NPV</th>
<th>AUC (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUV_{max}</td>
<td>≥1.8</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
<td>91.67%</td>
<td>86.67%</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>93.75%</td>
<td>78.57%</td>
<td>0.875 (0.755–0.955)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUV_{mean}</td>
<td>≥1.5</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
<td>91.67%</td>
<td>86.67%</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>93.75%</td>
<td>78.57%</td>
<td>0.875 (0.755–0.955)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBR</td>
<td>≥1.125</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
<td>91.67%</td>
<td>86.67%</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>93.75%</td>
<td>78.57%</td>
<td>0.875 (0.755–0.955)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLR</td>
<td>≥0.7</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
<td>91.67%</td>
<td>86.67%</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>93.75%</td>
<td>78.57%</td>
<td>0.875 (0.755–0.955)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIV</td>
<td>≥1.8</td>
<td>86.89%</td>
<td>91.67%</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>94.12%</td>
<td>84.62%</td>
<td>0.903 (0.790–1.000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIG</td>
<td>≥2.7</td>
<td>86.89%</td>
<td>91.67%</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>94.12%</td>
<td>84.62%</td>
<td>0.903 (0.790–1.000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETVAS 5.5</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>70.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>57.14%</td>
<td>0.792 (0.636–0.947)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETVAS 10</td>
<td>77.78%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>56.67%</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>48.00%</td>
<td>0.639 (0.542–0.746)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETVAS 15</td>
<td>11.11%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>46.67%</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>42.86%</td>
<td>0.556 (0.481–0.630)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>6 mg/L</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>80.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>0.792 (0.636–0.947)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>40 mm/hr</td>
<td>72.22%</td>
<td>90.91%</td>
<td>79.31%</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>92.86%</td>
<td>66.66%</td>
<td>0.816 (0.677–0.954)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3440

**POS0710**

**METABOLIC INFLAMMATORY VOLUME AND TOTAL INFLAMMATORY GLYCOLYSIS: NOVEL PARAMETERS TO EVALUATE DISEASE ACTIVITY ON PET-CT IN TAKAYASU ARTERITIS**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Imaging

M. Ora1, D. P. Misra2, C. Kavadichanda3, K. Singh4, U. Rathore5, N. Jain6, V. Agarwall7, S. Gambhir8, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Nuclear Medicine, Lucknow, India; 1Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 2Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Clinical Immunology, Puducherry, India; 3Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 4Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Nuclear Medicine, Lucknow, India

**Background:** 18-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) Positron emission tomography-computed tomography (PET-CT) has only moderate concordance with C-reactive protein (CRP) in Takayasu arteritis (TAK).

**Objectives:** We propose and evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of two new PET-CT parameters, metabolic inflammatory volume (MIV) and total inflammatory glycolysis (TIG) to quantify arterial FDG uptake for active TAK.

**Methods:** Images of PET-CT of TAK were reviewed to calculate mean standardized uptake value (SUV_{mean}) and maximum standardized uptake value (SUV_{max}), target-to-blood pool ratio (TBR), target-to-liver ratio (TLR), and PET Vasculitis Activity Score (PETVAS) [1]. ESR, CRP, disease activity [using physician global assessment (PGA, active/inactive), Indian TAK Clinical Activity Score 2010 (ITAS2010), ITAS2010 with ESR (ITAS-A-ESR), or CRP (ITAS-A-CRP)], Disease Extent Index in TAK (DEITAK) were extracted from clinic files. Regions of interest (ROI) were drawn to calculate MIV in areas of FDG uptake ≥1.5-times SUV_{max} on syngo.via. MIV was semiautomatically calculated after excluding areas of physiological tracer uptake. TIG was calculated by multiplying MIV with SUV_{max} and TIG for all areas of arterial FDG uptake were added. Area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves (AUC, using absolute values of SUV_{max}, SUV_{mean}, TBR, TIG) for all areas of active disease using physician global assessment (PGA, active/inactive) were used to calculate sensitivity, specificity, likelihood ratio of a positive test (LR+), likelihood ratio of a negative test (LR-), positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV), and AUC (with 95% CI). Concordance between CRP and PET-CT parameters were assessing kappa statistic. Analyses were performed using STATA 16.1 I/C.

**Results:** PET-CT of 30 TAK [mean (SD) age 29.9 (11.5) years, 22 females, 29 immunosuppressive-naive] were reviewed. AUC using absolute values ranged between 0.852 to 0.926 (Figure 1). Using dichotomized optimal cut-offs for SUV_{max}, SUV_{mean}, TBR, TIG, CRP, ESR, ITAS2010, ITAS-A-ESR, ITAS-A-CRP, and DEITAK were calculated. Dichotomized cut-offs for active disease [PETVAS ≥5.5 [2], ≥10.15;org20 [1]; CRP≥5,6mg/L; ESR≥40 mm/hr; for the remaining parameters, cut-offs correctly classifying disease activity in most patients] were used to calculate sensitivity, specificity, likelihood ratio of a positive test (LR+), likelihood ratio of a negative test (LR-), positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV), and AUC (with 95% CI). Concordance between CRP and PET-CT parameters were assessing kappa statistic.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POS0711**

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAKAYASU’S ARTERITIS INTEGRATED DISEASE ACTIVITY INDEX**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Imaging

C. Maruv1, E. C. Bolek2, M. Alhiman3, H. Alesaf4, E. Gall4, C. Ricordi5, F. Muratore6, S. Keymaz Tahra3, F. Alba-Oner5, S. Özgüven5, P. A. Merkle6, C. Salvareni6, H. Direksenel7, K. A. Quinn8, P. Grayson9, 1Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology Department, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 2Hacettepe University, Rheumatology Division, Ankara, Turkey; 3National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center, Radiology and Imaging Sciences, Bethesda, United States of America; 4National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center, National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases, Bethesda, United States of America; 5Marmara University, Rheumatology Division, Istanbul, Turkey; 6Marmara University, Department of Nuclear Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 2University of Pennsylvania, Rheumatology Department, Philadelphia, United States of America

**Background:** Disease activity indices that accurately assess inflammation in Takayasu’s arteritis (TAK) are needed [1]. While clinical assessment is often considered the gold standard, determining if a symptom represents active vasculitis or damage can be challenging in TAK. FDG-PET can directly assess vascular inflammation but specificity of imaging findings, especially in absence of corresponding clinical symptoms, is questionable.

**Objectives:** The aim was to develop an index to assess disease activity in TAK called TAI (Takayasu’s Arteritis Integrated Disease Activity Index).

**Methods:** Clinical symptoms associated to TAK were derived from a comprehensive literature review [2]. TAI was assessed in an observational cohort with a stepwise approach. All the symptoms present within 7 days of clinical evaluation were recorded by two clinicians, without determining whether the symptom reflected active disease or damage. Physician global assessment (P(i)GA) (scale 0-10) and certainty of the assessment (certain vs uncertain) were collected for every visit. Each patient underwent FDG-PET 24 hours after the clinical assessment. Active vasculitis, defined as arterial FDG uptake > liver, was recorded in specific arterial
Background: Subclinical giant cell arteritis (GCA) in polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) is found in the 22.8% of patients on ultrasound examinations. The outcome and the optimal management of subclinical giant cell arteritis (GCA) in patients with polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) have not been defined yet.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the short-term outcome of PMR patients with concurrent subclinical GCA that were included in our multicenter project on the prevalence, characteristics and outcome of subclinical GCA (diagnosed by vascular ultrasound) in PMR [1].

Methods: We analyzed follow up data at 3, 6, 12 and 18 months of consecutive PMR patients from 7 European rheumatology centers. All patients fulfilled 2012 EULAR/ACR Provisional Classification Criteria for Polymyalgia Rheumatica and they had not symptom of clinical GCA. Patients were stratified into two groups: pure PMR and PMR with subclinical GCA, and the outcome between these two groups were compared. A relapse was defined as clinical and/or laboratory worsening of the disease after the initial remission and minor and major relapse EULAR definition was used [2].

Results: We included 116 PMR patients (47 with concurrent subclinical GCA and 69 with pure PMR) followed for a median (IQR) of 21 (17; 23) months. We observed relapses in 35/116 patients (30.2%), 27/47 (57.4%) in PMR with subclinical GCA and 8/69 (11.6%) in pure PMR group (p<0.001). All relapses in the pure PMR group were minor relapses, whereas we observed 2 major relapses in the subclinical GCA group. The dose of corticosteroids used at the baseline visit was significantly higher in the GCA subclinical group, but tapering of steroids occurred faster than recommended by clinical guidelines [2]. Prednisone dose was significantly higher in patients with PMR and subclinical GCA than in patients with pure PMR both at baseline and at month 6 (Table 1). In patients with PMR with subclinical GCA mean starting dose of prednisone was 32.2±16.1 mg in those who relapsed and 36.2±12.8 in those who maintained remission (p=0.166); at 3 months, it was 13.2±7.1 and 18.2±7.9, respectively (p<0.05). Three patients in the PMR with subclinical GCA group received biological therapy at diagnosis; one of them had a minor relapse.

Table 1. Spearman’s Correlations between different assessment domains of disease activity in Takayasu’s Arteritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Variable</th>
<th>ρ-value</th>
<th>Spearman p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAIDAI</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
<td>0.2535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.0076*</td>
<td>0.2158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>0.0034*</td>
<td>0.1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIGA</td>
<td>0.0489*</td>
<td>0.1384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>0.0819</td>
<td>0.1221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIGA</td>
<td>0.1252</td>
<td>0.1085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR PETVAS</td>
<td>0.2475</td>
<td>0.0813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIGA</td>
<td>0.7259</td>
<td>-0.0287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIGA</td>
<td>0.3454</td>
<td>-0.0717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TAIDAI = Takayasu’s arteritis integrative disease activity assessment; PhGA = physician global assessment; PETVAS = PET vascular activity score; CRP = C-reactive protein; ESR = erythrocyte sedimentation rate.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0712

WHAT IS THE OUTCOME OF PATIENTS WITH OR WITHOUT SUBCLINICAL GIANT CELL ARTERITIS IN POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA? PRELIMINARY DATA OF AN OBSERVATION STUDY

Keywords: Ultrasound, Vasculitis

E. De Miguel1, R. Karalluva2, P. Macchioni3, C. Campochiaro4, C. Ponte5, E. Conticini1, S. Cowley1, M. Moniz1, Z. Batalov6, G. Klóowski6, P. Falsen6, D. Kane1, A. Tomellini1, A. Hoccia1, L. Pag, Madrid, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2Medical University of Plovidv, University Hospital Kasptla, Rheumatology, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; 3IRCCS-S Maria Nuova, Rheumatology, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 4San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Rheumatology, Milan, Italy; 5Hospital de Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitario Lisboa Norte EPE, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 6Polinico Le Scotte, Rheumatology, Siena, Italy; 7Tallaght University Hospital, Rheumatology, Tallaght, Dublin, Ireland; 8IRCCS Policlinico S Matteo Fondazione, University of Pavia, Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy; 9San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Rheumatology, Milan, Italy; 10University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Rheumatology, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Age years (mean ± SD) 71.3±8.0 74.8±7.6 0.079
Sex (females %) 59% 52% 0.526
Relapses n (%) 8/69 (11.6%) 27/47 (57.4%) 0.001
Minor Relapses n (%) 8/69 (11.6%) 25/47 (53.2%) 0.001
Major Relapses n (%) 0 2/47 (4.2%) 0.001
Steroids basal (mean ± SDI) 18.3±9.1 34±14.8 0.001
Steroids month 3 (mean ± SD) 9.9±5.1 14.6±8.3 0.001
Steroids month 6 (mean ± SD) 5.6±2.1 8.6±8.8 0.037
Steroids month 12 (mean ± SD) 1.7±2.1 8.0±14.2 0.062
Steroids month 18 (mean ± SD) 1.1±1.8 3.6±5.6 0.09

Conclusion: PMR patients with subclinical GCA had a significantly higher number of relapses during the follow-up than pure PMR group. These results suggest that subclinical GCA in PMR should be treated in the same manner as clinically overt GCA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank to the GCA/PMR study group for her contributions to the development of collaborative studies.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0713

A HISTORY OF POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA IS ASSOCIATED WITH ADVANCED SUPRA-AORTIC VASCULAR DAMAGE AT DIAGNOSIS OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Ultrasound

A. Hemmija, M. Schwindenb, C. Bergerb, D. Kyburzb, N. Mensch2, D. Staub1, M. Steger1, S. Imfeld1, T. Daikeler1, University Hospital Basel, Department of Rheumatology Basel, Switzerland; 2University Hospital Basel, Department of Angiology, Basel, Switzerland; 3University Hospital Basel, University Center for Immunology, Basel, Switzerland; 4University Hospital Basel, Department of Biomedicine, Basel, Switzerland
Background: Subclinical giant cell arteritis (GCA) can be found in imaging studies at diagnosis of polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) in up to 30% of patients [1]. Newly diagnosed GCA patients with a preceding PMR diagnosis may therefore presents with more advanced vasculitic vessel alterations than GCA patients without prior PMR.

Objectives: To compare vascular ultrasound (US) findings in newly diagnosed GCA patients with and without a history of PMR.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of patients with GCA diagnosed at the University Hospital Basel between 12/2006 and 05/2021.

Results: Of 311 newly diagnosed GCA patients (15.8%) had a preceding diagnosis of PMR a median of 2.5 (IQR 0.6-5.6) years earlier. US revealed vessel wall alterations typical for vasculitis in the supraaortic vessels (cardiot, vertebral, subclavian and/or axillary arteries) more often in patients with prior PMR than without PMR (51% vs 25%, p<0.001). Additionally, patients with prior PMR had more often significant vascular stenoses in the supraaortic vessels that were affected by vasculitis (375% vs 13.6%, p<0.01). Patients with and without prior PMR did not differ in terms of ischemic complications of stroke or vision loss at GCA diagnosis nor in the number of vascular segments with atherosclerosis (Table 1).

In multivariable analysis, prior PMR was significantly associated with vasculitic vessel wall alterations (OR 4.28, 95% CI 1.92-9.85, p<0.001), a history of PMR being an independent predictor of disease activity.

Conclusion: GCA patients with prior PMR had a more extensive vascular involvement on ultrasound than those without prior PMR at diagnosis. Presence of stenoses could not be explained by arteriosclerosis. Undiagnosed subclinical GCA in patients with previous PMR may be a cause of more advanced vascular changes. This data support the need for screening strategies for GCA in patients with PMR.


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Disclosure of Interests: Andrea Hemmig: None declared, Markus Aschwanden: None declared, Christoph Berger: None declared, Diego Kyburz Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Roche, Noemi Mensch: None declared, Daniel Staub: None declared, Mihaela Stenger: None declared, Stephan Imfeld: None declared, Thomas Daiker: None declared.

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POS0714 TREAT-TO-TARGET RECOMMENDATIONS IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS AND POLYMyalgia RHEUMATICA

Keywords: Vasculitis, Remission, Treat to target

C. Dejaco1,2, A. Kerschbaumer2, D. Aletaha3, M. Bond1, E. Hysa4, J. Thiel2,5, C. Toro Gutiérrez27, M. Whittlock11, F. Buttgereit6, Andrea Hemmig: None declared, Markus Aschwanden: None declared, Andriana Gossoli: None declared, Daniel Staub: None declared, Mihaela Stenger: None declared, Stephan Imfeld: None declared, Thomas Daiker: None declared.

Background: The treat-to-target (T2T) concept is not yet a recognized treatment approach in giant cell arteritis (GCA) and polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR). Developing such recommendations is an unmet medical need.

Objectives: To determine therapeutic targets and develop treat-to-target (T2T) recommendations in GCA and PMR.

Methods: We conducted a systematic literature review to retrieve data on treatment targets and outcomes in GCA/PMR as well as to identify the evidence for the effectiveness of T2T-based management approaches in these diseases. Based on evidence and expert opinion, the task force [29 participating from 10 countries (physicians, healthcare professional and patient)] developed recommendations, with consensus obtained through voting. The final level of agreement was provided anonymously.

Results: Five overarching principles and six specific recommendations were formulated (Table 1). Key messages are that the management of GCA and PMR should be based on shared decisions between patient and physician, underpinning the need for urgent treatment of GCA to avoid ischemic complications, and that it should aim at maximizing health-related quality of life in both diseases. The treatment targets are the achievement and maintenance of remission (still in need of ultimate validation), as well as prevention of tissue ischemia and vascular damage. Comorbidities should be considered when assessing disease activity and selecting treatment.

Conclusion: These are the first T2T recommendations for GCA and PMR. Treatment targets and strategies to assess, achieve and maintain these targets have been defined. The research agenda highlights the evidence-gaps and needs for future research.
Table 1. Treat-to-Target (T2T) recommendations in GCA and PMR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Comorbidities</th>
<th>Management of GCA and PMR</th>
<th>Treatment target</th>
<th>Potential outcomes</th>
<th>Potential complications</th>
<th>Treatment-related benefits and risks</th>
<th>Treatment-related benefits and risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The treatment target of GCA and PMR should be remission; remission should be considered before modifying treatment.</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>96.3% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Treatment of GCA should also aim to prevent tissue ischemia and systemic inflammation.</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>96.3% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Treatment selection in GCA should be based on disease severity and activity, presence of relevant comorbidities and potential predictors of outcome; treatment should be modified as needed during follow-up.</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>96.3% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Comorbidities may influence the assessment of the treatment target.</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>96.3% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Once remission is reached, it should be maintained with the minimal 5th - 25th effective dose of medication.</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>96.3% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Disease activity in GCA and PMR should be monitored regularly, and should be considered before modifying treatment.</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>96.3% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
<td>100% &gt;8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objectives:**
- To assess the proportion of patients achieving sustained remission up to week 26 and from week 24.
- To evaluate the proportion of patients achieving sustained remission for at least 52 weeks.

**Methods:**
- Patients were randomized (1:1 ratio) to 52 weeks of treatment with sarilumab 200 mg every 2 weeks (Q2W) + 14 week GC tapered regimen (sarlumab arm) or placebo Q2W + 52 week GC tapered regimen (comparator arm).

**Results:**
- Between October 2018 and July 2020, 60 patients were randomized to the sarilumab arm and 58 patients to the comparator arm.
- A higher proportion of patients in the sarilumab arm, versus the comparator, achieved sustained remission from weeks 16 to 52 (30.0% vs 8.6%; difference 21.4 [7.7, 35.0]; P=0.0047) and from weeks 24 to 52 (31.7% vs 10.3%; difference 21.3 [7.2, 35.5]; P=0.0093). This improvement in sustained remission was maintained at 1-year follow-up.
remission rate in the sarilumab arm was due to additional responses seen between weeks 12 to 24 (Figure 1). Similarly, all the independent components of the sustained remission were achieved by a higher proportion of patients in the sarilumab arm, versus the comparator arm, during each assessment period. In both the sarilumab arm and the comparator arm, the disease remission rates decreased slightly at weeks 16 and 24 compared with week 12; sarilumab arm 40.0% and 41.7%, respectively vs 46.7% and comparator arm 31.0% and 20.7%, respectively vs 37.9%. Disease remission rates declined due to missing or abnormal CRP, as the proportion of patients with no PMR signs and symptoms increased over time. In the sarilumab arm, the proportion of patients with no disease flare increased from weeks 12 to 52 assessment to weeks 16 to 52 and weeks 24 to 52 assessments, whereas the proportion of patients with sustained CRP normalization or those who adhered to protocol-defined GC taper remained the same during the three assessment periods (Figure 1). Safety data were consistent with the know profile of sarilumab and were presented previously [1].

In both the sarilumab arm and comparator arm, the disease remission rates in the sarilumab arm, versus the comparator arm, achieved sustained remission when assessed from week 16 and week 24 up to week 52. Most patients who achieved sustained remission did so rapidly by week 12 with some additional responses seen between week 12 and 24.

**REFERENCE:**


**Figure. Sustained remission and components of sustained remission at week 52, assessed from week 12, week 16 and week 24 (ITT)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease remission at week 12, 16 and 24</th>
<th>Components of sustained remission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early remission</td>
<td>GCA 46.5% (44/94), PMR 42.4% (25/60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustained remission</td>
<td>GCA 46.9% (44/94), PMR 42.4% (25/60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of remission to week 52</td>
<td>GCA 46.9% (44/94), PMR 42.4% (25/60)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Isolated PMR (43)</th>
<th>Subclinical GCA (15)</th>
<th>GCA (57)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean ± range)</td>
<td>67 (50-84)</td>
<td>70 (53-84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean ESR at baseline (mm/h)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean CRP at baseline (mg/l)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Halo count</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean temporal artery halo score</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean axillary artery halo score</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** PMR patients with subclinical GCA have a similar halo count to patients with clinical GCA suggesting a similar pattern of vascular involvement. However, those with clinical GCA have higher halo scores indicating more advanced vessel oedema which may be a key factor in causing headache symptoms. Male gender and a higher ESR at the time of PMR diagnosis appear to be risk markers for subclinical GCA though this requires analysis in larger cohorts of patients.

**REFERENCE:**


(Acknowledgements: NIL.)

**Disclosure of Interests:** Sharon Cowley: None declared, Colm Kirby: None declared, Patricia Harkins Grant/research support from: Janssen, Ronan Mul- lar: None declared, Richard Conway: None declared, Grainne Murphy: None declared, David Kane: None declared.

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Background: Many patients with polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) require prolonged glucocorticoid (GC) treatment, resulting in high cumulative GC doses.

Methods: This prospective study included patients with newly diagnosed PMR between October 2021 and September 2022. At diagnosis, patients were randomly allocated to IM or oral MP dosing groups in a 1:2 ratio. Both groups followed a predefined MP tapering regimen. IM injections of 120 mg of MP were given every 3 weeks, then every 4 weeks, the dose was reduced to: 12 mg, 8 mg, 6 mg and 4 mg. Follow-up visits were performed according to the remission rate and other measures of disease activity were recorded and compared between IM MP and oral MP groups. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the studied population.

Results: Of the 39 PMR patients (72% female, median (IQR) age 71 (66, 76) years) 26 patients received oral MP and 13 IM MP. Results are presented in Table 1. During follow-up we observed higher ESR values in the IM MP group. We observed slower clinical response in IM MP group at 4 weeks of follow-up. There was no difference between the two groups in clinical response measures at 12 and 24 weeks. During 24 weeks of follow-up, we identified 2 relapses in the oral MP group: 1 patient relapsed when lowering the MP dose to 6 mg/day at 16 weeks and 1 relapsed after discontinuing MP at week 24 due to patient’s choice and presented with symptoms of giant cell arteritis. In the IM MP group, we observed no relapses in the first 24 weeks of follow-up, but there were 4 patients with inadequate response to treatment: 2 at week 4 and 2 at week 12. In these cases, we switched to oral MP. Due to the low number of patients in our study, results should be interpreted with caution.

Conclusion: In our cohort, treatment with IM MP compared to oral MP was effective in the majority of patients with PMR, but was associated with higher inadequate response rate and overall slower clinical and laboratory response.

Table 1. Comparison of follow-up data of IM and orally treated PMR patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Follow-up week</th>
<th>IM MP</th>
<th>oral MP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESR (N = 39)</td>
<td>0 (50,72)</td>
<td>54 (39,72)</td>
<td>21 (10,74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (N = 39)</td>
<td>31 (20,43)</td>
<td>14 (8,21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 (N = 39)</td>
<td>28 (9,30)</td>
<td>14 (8,21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 (N = 29)</td>
<td>22 (8,28)</td>
<td>7 (9,25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (N = 39)</td>
<td>40 (26,57)</td>
<td>46 (28,78)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (N = 39)</td>
<td>0 (0,9)</td>
<td>0 (0,13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 (N = 39)</td>
<td>0 (0,17)</td>
<td>0 (0,16)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 (N = 28)</td>
<td>0 (0,0)</td>
<td>0 (0,10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning stiffness duration (N = 35)</td>
<td>60 (52,98)</td>
<td>60 (30,60)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (N = 39)</td>
<td>15 (5,30)</td>
<td>0 (0,15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA (N = 34)</td>
<td>6 (5,7)</td>
<td>8 (6,9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (N = 35)</td>
<td>3.5 (18,50)</td>
<td>10 (0,0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHAQ score (N = 26)</td>
<td>1.0 (0,14)</td>
<td>1.1 (0,9,13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (N = 30)</td>
<td>0.4 (0,1,7)</td>
<td>0.0 (0,0,0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: PMR polymyalgia rheumatica, IM intramuscular; MP methylprednisolone; ESR erythrocyte sedimentation rate [mm/h]; CRP C-reactive protein [mg/L]; Morning stiffness duration [minutes]; PGA patient global assessment [0-10]. Results are presented as median (IQR).

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0718

IS IT POSSIBLE TO EVALUATE POLYMALGIA RHEUMATICA WITHOUT TOCILIZUMAB? CONCORDANCE AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN DIFFERENT PMR-AS ACTIVITY SCORES IN POLYMALGIA RHEUMATICA

Keywords: Validation, Outcome measures

D. Justine1, S. Agheles2, A. Llohe3, G. Carvalaj Alegría4, E. Demis2, C. Richez2,7, M. E. Trucheté1,2, D. Wendling5, E. Toussirot6, A. Perdriger10, J. E. Gottenberg11, B. Fautrel12,13, L. Chiche14, P. Hilluin15, C. Le Henaff Bourhis16, D. Benjamin17, G. Driez1, I. Chary Valckenaere18, D. Corcos19,20, D. Guellec21, T. Marhouda22, N. Emmanue22, A. Sarau23, V. Devauchelle-Pensec12,13,14, Brest University Hospital, Rheumatology, Brest, France; 15Brest University Hospital, Public Agency for Clinical Research and Innovation (DRCI), Brest, France; 16Besançon University Hospital, Rheumatology, Besançon, France; 17Le Mans Community Hospital, Rheumatology, Le Mans, France; 18Bordeaux, UMR CNRS 5164, Bordeaux, France; 19Bordeaux University Hospitals, Rheumatology, Bordeaux, France; 20Besançon University Hospital, Rheumatology, Besançon, France; 21Besançon University Hospital, INSERM CIC-1431 Clinical Investigation Center, Besançon, France; 22Rennes University Hospital, Rheumatology, Rennes, France; 23Strasbourg University Hospitals, Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France; 24Pierre Louis Institute of Epidemiology and Public Health, INSERM UMR S1136, Paris, France; 25Sorbonne Université – Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris, Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France; 26Marseille University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Marseille, France; 27Centre Hospitalier Sud-Francilien, Rheumatology, Corbeil-Essonnes, France; 28Mulhouse Hospital, Internal Medicine, Mulhouse, France; 29Nancy University Hospital, Rheumatology, Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy, France; 30Brest University Hospital, INSERM 1227 Brest, France; 31National Health and Medical Research Institute (INSERM), Clinical Investigations Center (CIC) 1412, Brest, France

Background: The main treatment of polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) is based on corticosteroid, but sparing agents are a major unmet need and many new treatments are evaluated to avoid corticosteroid side effects in PMR. To monitor the disease, one disease activity score has been developed specifically for polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR), the PMR-AS (activity score). It is a composite index built as an algebraic sum of morning stiffness, elevation of the upper limbs, physician’s global assessment, patient’s pain assessment and the C reactive protein (CRP). However, treatments of PMR-AS may influence CRP and other markers.

Methods: The primary objective was to measure the concordance and correlation between CRP-PMR-AS, Clinical PMR-AS and CRP-imputed PMR-AS but the concordance and correlation between these scores are unknown.

Results: 100 patients received at least one dose of tocilizumab (49 patients) or placebo (51 patients) and were included in the analyses from inclusion to week 24. The correlation between the different CRP-PMR-AS activity scores were excellent in the global analysis (Figure 1) but also in the two groups of treatment. Intraclass coefficients were all higher than 0.9 (Table 1). Bland Altman graphics, using CRP-PMR-AS as a reference showed that differences between scores are low regardless of PMR-AS. Kappa coefficients between CRP-PMR-AS and the other three scores showed a good agreement (>0.8) (Table 1) at week 24.

Table 1. ICC and kappa between different PMR activity scores for the whole population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRP PMR-AS and ESR PMR-AS</th>
<th>0.991 (0.990-0.992)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRP PMR-AS and Clin PMR-AS</td>
<td>0.991 (0.990-0.992)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP PMR-AS and Imp PMR-AS</td>
<td>0.988 (0.987-0.989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa at week 24 (cut off 0)</td>
<td>Kappa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP PMR-AS and ESR PMR-AS</td>
<td>0.956 (0.896-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP PMR-AS and Clin PMR-AS</td>
<td>0.956 (0.896-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP PMR-AS and Imp PMR-AS</td>
<td>0.852 (0.758-0.977)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 1. Maternal and perinatal outcomes in women with vasculitis followed at a rheumatology-obstetric clinic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main diagnosis</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
<th>Gestational age at delivery (mean ± SD (mean ± SD grams))</th>
<th>BW (meaning SD)</th>
<th>SGA N (%)</th>
<th>Miscarriages N (%)</th>
<th>FGR N (%)</th>
<th>Preterm births N (%)</th>
<th>Pregnancy flares N (%)</th>
<th>Post-partum flares N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behçet’s disease</td>
<td>18 (58)</td>
<td>38.3 ± 1.5</td>
<td>3033 ± 492</td>
<td>4/14 (29)</td>
<td>1/18 (6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3/17 (18)</td>
<td>4/17 (24)</td>
<td>4/14 (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyarteritis nodosa</td>
<td>4 (13)</td>
<td>37.4 ± 0.6</td>
<td>2783 ± 175</td>
<td>1/4 (25)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2/4 (50)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takayasu arteritis</td>
<td>4 (13)</td>
<td>38.0 ± 2.1</td>
<td>2723 ± 364</td>
<td>1/4 (25)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1/4 (25)</td>
<td>1/4 (25)</td>
<td>1/4 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA vasculitis</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>3435</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1/3 (33)</td>
<td>1/3 (33)</td>
<td>1/3 (33)</td>
<td>1/3 (33)</td>
<td>1/3 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCA-PR3 cutaneous vasculitis</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>2845</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapsing polychondritis</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>2040</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryoglobulomelic</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>3020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vasculitis</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryoglobulomelic vasculitis associated with Sjögren’s syndrome</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>2040</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** The correlation between different PMR activity scores using or not CRP are excellent reflecting the low weight of CRP in the baseline composite index. In clinical trial using drugs that have an impact on CRP, CRP-PMR-AS or others, including clinical PMR-AS, can be used.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** DASOSTINO Justine: None declared, Souki Agilies: None declared, Anne Lohse: None declared, Guillermo CARVALAJ ALEGRIA: None declared, Emmanuelle Deren: None declared, Christophe Richez: None declared, Marie-Elise Truchetet: None declared, Daniel Wendling: None declared, ETIC TIOUSRIOT: None declared, Aleth Perdriger: None declared, Jacques Eric Gottenberg: None declared, Bruno Faurel: None declared, Laurence Chrenc: None declared, Pascal Hilligou: None declared, CARLIE LE HENAFF BOURHIS: None declared, Dervieux Benjamin: None declared, Guillaume DIREZ: None declared, Isabelle CHARY VALCKENAERE: None declared, Divi Corne: None declared, Dewi Guellec: None declared, TIERRY MARHADOURE: None declared, Norwalk Emmanuel: None declared, Alain Saraux: None declared, Valerie Decauche-Penec Grant/research support from: Roche Chugui.

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### POS0719

**MATERNAL AND PERINATAL OUTCOMES IN WOMEN WITH VASCULITIS - A 13-YEAR EXPERIENCE FROM A PORTUGUESE TERTIARY CENTRE**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Pregnancy and reproduction

A. R. Lopes1,2, A. R. Cruz-Machado1,2, S. C. Barreira1,2, P. Martins1,2, C. Araújo3, M. Centeno3, C. Ponte1,2, L. Pinto3, S. Capela1,2,1, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Centre Académico de Medicina de Lisboa (CAML), ERN ReCONNET and RITA Full Member, Rheumatology Department, Lisboa, Portugal;2, Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, CAML, Rheumatology Research Unit, Lisboa, Portugal;3, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Lisboa, Portugal

**Background:** The vasculitides are rare conditions that may affect women of childbearing age. These women seem to be at increased risk for developing adverse pregnancy outcomes (APO). Maternal and perinatal outcomes as well as their optimal management during pregnancy remain poorly understood in this population.

**Objectives:** To describe maternal and perinatal outcomes in women with vasculitis.

**Methods:** Observational retrospective study including pregnant women with vasculitis followed at a rheumatology-obstetric clinic from 01/2009 to 06/2022.

**Results:** We identified 31 pregnancies in 24 women with vasculitis. Table 1 summarizes demographic and clinical data. The most frequent diagnosis were Behçet’s disease (BD) (18; 58%), polyarteritis nodosa (PAN) (4; 13%) and Takayasu arteritis (TAK) (4; 13%). The mean ± SD age at conception was 33 ± 6 years, with a median disease duration of 6 (IQ range 3-12) years, 29 (94%) were in remission by the time of conception. We documented 30 live births, 1 early miscarriage (2%) and 3 (9.7%) pregnancies ended in loss (1 abortion; 2 stillbirths). Eight (30%) newborns were small for gestational age (SGA), most of them from mothers with BD (4; 29%). Cesarean section (CS) was performed in 8 (26%) patients - 2 (TAK) due to vasculitis activity. Nine (36%) patients relapsed during pregnancy (4 BD; 2 PAN; 1 TAK; 1 RP; 1 ANCA-PR3 cutaneous vasculitis) while 6 (22%) relapsed during the post-partum period (4 BD; 1 TAK and 1 RP). A total of 24 (77%) patients were treated with glucocorticoids (GC), most of them (63%) at low doses (<5mg/day of prednisolone or equivalent). Seven (23%) patients were treated with conventional DMARDs: 2 TAK and 3 BD with azathioprine and 2 PAN with azathioprine and hydroxychloroquine. Biological DMARDs were prescribed in 2 (6%) patients, both with the diagnosis of TAK: one with a multisegmental aortic disease who received tocilizumab during the first 3 weeks of gestation (WG) and had an uneventful pregnancy, and another patient with an ascending aortic aneurism (AAA) who also received tocilizumab, but from the 24th week onwards showed a gradual worsening of the AAA dimensions (maximum 56 mm). An elective CS at 32 WG was performed in the latter case due to the high risk of aneurysm rupture and a healthy baby with 1900g was born. The occurrence of flares during pregnancy increased the risk for the APO (OR 13.95; CI 2-80; p<0.007). No association was found concerning maternal age or use of DMARDs/GC and the risk of APO (p>0.05).

**Conclusion:** Most pregnant women with vasculitis managed at our multidisciplinary unit had successful gestations. However, they may still be at risk for developing APO, namely if they experience disease flares during gestation. SGA was the main APO recorded.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1772

### POS0720

**MEASURING FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS: THE VALIDITY, RELIABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE GCA-DISABILITY INDEX (GCA-DI)**

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Patient reported outcomes, Vasculitis

Y. El Miedany1, M. Elgaafary2, M. Toth3, S. Bahlas4, M. H. Abu-Zaid5, W. Hassan6, D. Palmer7, S. A. Mahran8, S. Saber9, S. A. A. Tabra5, W. Elwakil10,1, Faculty of Medicine Alexandria University, Rheumatology, Community and Public Health, Cairo, Egypt;2, King Abdul Aziz University, Rheumatology, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia;3, Faculty of Medicine - Tanta University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Tanta, Egypt;4, Faculty of Medicine Banha University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Banha, Egypt;5, North Middlesex University Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom;6, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt;7, Faculty of Medicine - Assut University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Assut, Egypt;8, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Cairo, Egypt;9, Faculty of Medicine Alexandria University, Rheumatology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Alexandria, Egypt

**Background:** Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most frequent systemic vasculitis, typically affecting patients over 50. The disease burden includes a chronic course and a subsequent prolonged treatment, especially because of a high risk of relapse that affects approximately half of patients. Taken together, the disease and its symptoms, the chronic course and the treatment probably have an impact on the patients’ functional ability as well as quality of life. Though functional disability has been identified as a core outcome measure in GCA, few studies have been dedicated to assess for the patients for this core measure.

**Objectives:** To test the GCA-disability index (GCA-DI) questionnaire for validity, reliability and responsiveness in patients with Giant Cell Arteritis.

**Methods:** The psychometric properties of GCA-DI were tested in 57 patients with GCA, mean age 63.6 (±4.5), 77.2% women, mean disease duration 2.1 weeks.
At baseline, all the patients completed the GCA-DI, and the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ). The patients were then asked to return to the clinic after having their blood tests and X-rays done to complete another copy of the questionnaire. Also, all the patients were asked to complete another copy of the questionnaire in their follow up visit in 4-weeks time. This facilitated the assessment for validity, reliability and responsiveness. In addition, all the patients were asked to complete a copy of multidimensional Patient Reported Outcomes for GCA. Patient global assessment for functional disability was also recorded (0-100 VAS). Of the 57 patients who completed the health status instruments on two occasions, 53 were included in the responsiveness analysis. The test-retest reliability of the GCA-DI questionnaire was calculated using intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs). Criterion validity was assessed using Spearman’s correlations, while responsiveness was evaluated by 3 different methods: (1) effect size (the mean difference between the baseline scores and the follow-up scores divided by the standard deviation of the baseline scores); (2) standardized response mean (the mean change in scores divided by the standard deviation of the change in scores).

Results: GCA-DI fulfilled the established criteria for validity, reliability and responsiveness. Significant correlations were seen between GCA-DI scores and HAQ scores (rho = 0.672), pain (rho = 0.633), Test-retest reliability was satisfactory, with ICCs of 0.935. The results of responsiveness analysis indicated that the GCA-DI was sensitive to change. Standardized effect size was 2.84 after 4-weeks.

Conclusion: Our data suggest that the GCA-disability index can be considered as a reliable, valid and responsive tool for measuring physical functioning in GCA patients. It is suitable for use in clinical trials and daily clinical practice. Its generalizability and utility for assessing treatment and functional outcomes should be evaluated in larger settings.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

05/18/23 4 Color Fig(s):0 21:36 Art: 10 EUROAB-2023-PV09-10

**POS0721 DIFFERENT PATTERNS OF VASCULAR ULTRASOUND ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT ISCHEMIC COMPLICATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Vasculitis, Ultrasound

J. Molina Collada1, G. Torres Ortiz2, I. Castrejon1, I. Monjo2, E. Fernández-Fernández2, J. M. Alvaro-Gracia3, E. De Miguel4, G. Gregorio Marañon General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;2 La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** Patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA) can present ischemic complications (IC). Recognizing patients at risk of IC may help to improve GCA long-term outcomes. However, previous studies have failed to identify consistent risk factors for IC in this population, being mainly low systemic inflammation or atherosclerotic risk factors the main findings in some cohorts.

**Objectives:** Our objective is to determine if a specific pattern of vascular inflammation by ultrasound (US) is associated with different types of IC in patients with GCA.

**Methods:** A retrospective observational study of patients referred to the US fast track clinics of two academic centres with GCA clinical confirmation over a 4-years period. All patients underwent baseline US of cranial and extracranial arteries (carotid, subclavian and axillary) at the time of referral, and were classified in two categories: cranial or large vessel (LV)-GCA, according to US findings. IC was defined as the occurrence of acute anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (AOIN) or non-AION (including stroke, acute coronary syndrome, pulmonary embolism or peripheral artery disease) within 3 months after diagnosis, and after excluding other potentially implicated causes. Chi-squared and analysis of variance were performed to explore the association between clinical or US variables with the occurrence of different types of IC.

**Results:** A total of 42 (22.9%) patients over 188 patients with GCA clinical confirmation evaluated at our clinics had an IC within 3 months after diagnosis, 24 (12.8%) an AION and 19 (10.1%) a non-AION IC (10 stroke, 5 acute coronary syndrome, 4 peripheral artery disease, 2 pulmonary embolism and one case of ischemic colitis).

**Conclusion:** Different patterns of vascular US involvement are associated with different IC in GCA patients. Predominantly cranial-GCA patients have more frequently AION, while predominantly LV-GCA patients have more frequently non-AION IC as stroke, acute coronary syndrome, pulmonary embolism or peripheral artery disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Characteristics of patients according to the type of IC.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demographics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L), mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h), mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemoglobin (g/dL), mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive US, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive cranial ACG US, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive isolated positive cranial ACG US, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive isolated LV-ACG US, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive US IC, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive AION IC (AOIN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Histology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporal artery biopsy positive n=50, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive US, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive cranial ACG US, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive isolated positive cranial ACG US, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive isolated LV-ACG US, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Positive AION IC (AOIN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive isolated LV-ACG US, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive US IC, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive AION IC (AOIN)</td>
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**Disclosures of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1813

**POS0722 EFFECTS ON SOLUBLE IMMUNE CHECKPOINTS INDUCED BY TOCILIZUMAB MONOTHERAPY AFTER ULTRA-SHORT-TERM GLUCOCORTICOIDS IN LARGE VESSEL – GIANT CELL ARTERITIS PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Cytokines and chemokines, Biomarkers, Vasculitis

M. Bonacini1, A. Rossi1, I. Ferrigo1, C. Catellani1, V. Buia1, F. Muratore1, E. Galli2, C. Marvisi2, G. Cassone3, A. Zerbini4, S. Croci4, A. Zerbini1, A. Zerbini3, A. Zerbini4, 2 Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria di Modena, Unit of Rheumatology, Modena, Italy;1 Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Surgical, Medical and Dental Department of Morphological Sciences related to Transplant, Oncology and Regenerative Medicine, Modena, Italy

**Background:** The most affected vessels in Giant cell arteritis (GCA) are the temporal arteries, but in some patients extracranial large vessels are also involved (LV-GCA). Tocilizumab (TCZ), a monoclonal anti-interleukin-6 receptor1 antibody, has been approved as glucocorticoid (GC) sparing agent in patients with GCA. Recently, new therapeutic protocols that combine rapid GC tapering and TCZ are emerging, but their effects on circulating immune cells and mediators are scarcely known. Another clinical need in LV-GCA management is the lack of a gold standard to define disease state. The role of immune checkpoint molecules is tuning the activation of the immune system. They are expressed on the surface of immune cells, but also soluble forms exist. Active GCA patients showed a reduction of CD4+ T cells expressing PD1 and VISTA in comparison to controls [2,3]. We hypothesize that soluble immune checkpoints are modulated by the TCZ and GC combined treatment and that they are biomarkers able to differentiate active from inactive LV-GCA patients.

**Objectives:**
1. To evaluate the effects of TCZ monotherapy after ultra-short-term GC treatments on soluble immune checkpoints.
2. To identify plasma biomarkers able to discriminate between LV-GCA patients in the active phase from those in remission.
Methods: We included 16 patients with active LV-GCA enrolled in the single-arm open-label clinical trial (NCT03594909) performed at AUSL-IRCCS at Reggio Emilia. Inclusion criteria: PET/CT with FDG uptake ≥2 in at least one vascular district and at least one among ESR >40 mm/h (or CRP >10 mg/L); cranial or systemic manifestations of GCA or polymyalgia rheumatica. Exclusion criteria: more than 10 mg/day of prednisone for more than 10 consecutive days in the previous 3 months. Remission was defined by the following: absence of any clinical signs and symptoms directly attributable to GCA; normalization of CRP and ESR values; absence of new/worsened vascular damage at CT; vascular FDG uptake <2 in all vascular districts at PET/CT or overall PET image interpretation of non-active vasculitis. All patients received 500 mg per day of methylprednisolone intravenously for three consecutive days and weekly subcutaneous TCZ injections from day 3 until week 52. Plasma samples were collected at baseline before treatment and after GC injections. For 10 patients plasma samples were also collected at week 52. Laboratory data were collected at the same time points. Concentrations of CD137L, CD137, CTLA4, CD40, CD40L, GITR, IFN, PD1, PDL1, PDL2, PTX3, TIM3 and VISTA were evaluated in plasma samples by a multiplex bead-based assay with the MAGPIX instrument. Wilcoxon test was used for comparison between groups. Spearman test was used for correlation analysis. P < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Soluble CD137L, CTLA4, CD40, CD40L, GITR, IFN, PD1 and PDL1 were not detected in almost all of the samples irrespective of treatment and disease phase. Intravenous injections of GC determined a significant reduction of soluble CD137, CD80, GITR, ICOSL, LAG3, MICA, and MICB and an increase of PTX3 and VISTA levels. After 52 weeks of TCZ as monotherapy, an increase in plasmatic ICOSL and a reduction in LAG3, PTX3, and VISTA was observed compared to baseline. At 52 weeks, 7 patients were classified in remission phase of the disease and 3 patients were active. Changes in immune checkpoint levels occurred irrespective to disease phase. Levels of soluble immune checkpoint did not correlate with ESR and CRP concentrations, markers currently used in clinical practice to evaluate systemic inflammation.

Conclusion: Ultra-short-term GC treatments and TCZ monotherapy modulate the levels of soluble immune checkpoints. The evaluation of the investigated panel of immune checkpoints did not allow to discriminate between LV-GCA patients in different disease phases.

REFERENCES:
[4] Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Institute of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology & Inflammation Research, Gothenburg, Sweden
[5] Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Malmö, Sweden; Academic specialist center, Center for Rheumatology, Region Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden;
[6] Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Institute of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology & Inflammation Research, Gothenburg, Sweden
[7] Skåne University Hospital, Department of Radiology, Malmö, Sweden
[8] Skåne University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Malmö, Sweden

Disclosure of Interests: Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale (AUSL)-IRCCS, Reggio Emilia, “Bando per la valorizzazione della Ricerca Istituzionale 2021.”

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**REFERENCES:**

**POS0723**

**ANALYSES OF PLASMA METABOLIC PROTEINS REVEAL BIOMARKERS PREDICTIVE OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Vasculitis

**K. Wådström,** 1, **L. T. H. Jacobsson,** 2, **A. J. Mohammad,** 2, **K. J. Warrington,** 2, **E. Mattsson,** 1, **M. Jakobsson,** 1, **C. Turesson,** 1,2

**1Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Malmö, Sweden;**

**2Academic specialist center, Center for Rheumatology, Region Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden;**

**3Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Institute of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology & Inflammation Research, Gothenburg, Sweden;**

**4Skåne University Hospital, Department of Radiology, Malmö, Sweden;**

**5Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Malmö, Sweden;**

**6University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom;**

**7Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, Division of Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America;**

**8Malmö University, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Health and Society, Malmö, Sweden;**

**9Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Malmö, Sweden;**

**10Skåne University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Malmö, Sweden**

**Background:** Incident cases of giant cell arteritis (GCA) have a significantly reduced prevalence of diabetes at time of diagnosis (1) and lower fasting blood glucose, lipid levels and body mass index compared to controls have been found years before clinical diagnosis [2,3]. This implicates metabolic pathways in the development of GCA.

**Objectives:** To investigate the relation between plasma proteins associated with metabolism and subsequent development of GCA.

**Methods:** Participants in a population-based survey (N=30447), who were subsequently diagnosed with GCA, were identified in a structured process. GCA-free controls, matched for sex, year of birth, and year of screening were selected from the study cohort. Baseline plasma samples were analyzed using the antibody-based OLIINK proteomics metabolism panel (92 proteins). Analyses were pre-designated as hypothesis-driven or hypothesis-generating. In the latter, principal component analysis was used to identify groups of proteins that explain the variance in the data.

**Results:** There were 95 cases with a confirmed incident diagnosis of GCA (median 11.4 years after inclusion). Among biomarkers with a priori hypotheses, Adhesion G protein-coupled receptor E2 (ADGRE2) was positively associated with Fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase 1 (FBP1) negatively associated with subsequent GCA (Table 1). In particular, ADGRE2 levels were elevated compared to controls in the subset sampled <8.5 years before diagnosis (Table 1). For metabolic-like protein (Metrnl), the highest impact on the risk of GCA was observed in those sampled closest to diagnosis, with a decreasing trend with longer time to GCA (p=0.03). In the hypothesis generating analyses, elevated levels of receptor tyrosine-orphan receptor 1 (RO1R) were associated with subsequent GCA.

**Conclusion:** Our results indicate that changes in levels of plasma proteins that have regulatory effects on the immune system might precede clinical onset of GCA by many years. Among the biomarkers found to be predictive of subsequent GCA, both Metrnl and ADGRE2 are associated with macrophage activation. RO1R mediated activation of NFkB may be relevant in this context. The negative association with FBP1, which is a rate-controlling enzyme in the gluconeogenic pathway, is compatible with a protective role for glucose metabolites.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Potential biomarkers of subsequent giant cell arteritis, from a priori hypotheses. Overall and stratified for time from screening to diagnosis.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biomarker</th>
<th>OR (CI)</th>
<th>OR (CI)</th>
<th>OR (CI)</th>
<th>OR (CI)</th>
<th>OR (CI)</th>
<th>P for trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>METRN1</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBP1</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>0.92-2.23</td>
<td>0.98-5.85</td>
<td>0.92-10.63</td>
<td>0.92-15.32</td>
<td>0.29-18.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAL</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHRL</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.47-0.59</td>
<td>0.43-1.65</td>
<td>0.43-3.00</td>
<td>0.43-6.00</td>
<td>0.02-0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADGRE2</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NECTIN2</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total of cases and controlsConditional logistic regression analysis of biomarkers with a priori hypotheses. Odds ratios (OR) per standard deviation with 95 % confidence intervals (CI).*

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Karin Wådström: None declared, Lennart T.H. Jacobsson Consultant of: personal fees from Chemocentryx, Grant/research support from: Support from Eli-Lilly, GSK and Kiniksa to the Mayo Clinic for clinical trials, Eric Mattes Consultant of: UpToDate, Magnus Jakobsson: None declared, Carl Turesson Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Nordic Drugs, Pfizer och Roche, Consultant of: Roche, Grant/research support from: research grant paid to Lund University from Bristol Myers-Squibb.

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**POS0724**

**TRANSORBITAL ULTRASOUND IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED GIANT CELL ARTERITIS – A PROSPECTIVE STUDY**

**Keywords:** Diagnostic tests, Vasculitis, Ultrasound

**S. Petzinn,** 1, **L. C. Burg2, J. Terheyden,** 3, **C. J. Bauer,** 3, **C. Behning,** 3, **P. Brossart** 1, **R. P. Finger,** 1, **V. Schäfer** 1

**1University Hospital Bonn, Department of Internal Medicine III, Oncology, Hematology, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bonn, Germany;**

**2University Hospital Bonn, Department of Internal Medicine III, Oncology, Hematology, and Clinical Immunology, Bonn, Germany;**

**3University Hospital Bonn, Department of Oncology, Hematology, and Clinical Immunology, Bonn, Germany;**

**4University Hospital Bonn, Institute of Medical Biometry, Informatics and Epidemiology, Bonn, Germany**

**Background:** Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is an immune-mediated, granulomatous vasculitis that primarily affects the elderly and results in local vascular changes of
middle-sized and large arteries. A protracted diagnosis delaying high-dose corticosteroid therapy may result in permanent visual loss. Therefore, invasive and time-consuming biopsy of the superficial temporal artery has been replaced by high-resolution vascular ultrasound of the temporal and axillary artery to evaluate extracranial inflammation. Extracranial involvement of the ophthalmic vessels can be visualized by magnetic resonance imaging. Transorbital Ultrasound (TOS), as a simple and inexpensive diagnostic method, could be an option for assessing the optic nerve and the central retinal artery (CRA) and might improve diagnostic sensitivity in GCA, especially in anterior optic neuropathy (AION).

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to assess the utility of TOS in patients with untreated and newly diagnosed GCA.

**Methods:** Patients with new GCA diagnosed by a board-certified rheumatologist who also met the expanded ACR-EULAR classification criteria were enrolled in the study between October 1, 2018, and May 31, 2022. Each participant underwent TOS to assess the CRA and optic nerve diameter (OND). The eyes of the patients with GCA were categorized as eyes with or without visual impairment (VI), which was defined as transient or persistent visual field loss, diplopia, amaurosis, and blurred vision. Peak systolic velocity (PS), end diastolic velocity (ED), resistance index (RI) of the CRA and OND were recorded.

**Results:** A total of 54 GCA patients were prospectively enrolled in the study, 27 of whom had VI in at least one eye. To account for repeated measures within a patient, associations between TOS and VI were evaluated using linear mixed-effects model (LME). PS and ED values of the CRA were statistically significant lower in the eyes with GCA manifestation (β=1.93; p<0.001 for PS; β=0.61; p=0.003 for ED). The RI of the CRA was statistically significantly reduced in the eyes with GCA associated VI (β=-0.04; p=0.06). OND was lower in the eyes with VI, too (β=-0.36; p=0.06) (Table 1, Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** In TOS, eyes affected by VI exhibited significantly reduced PS, ED, and RI indicating an inflammatory process of the intracranial vessels leading to impaired blood flow to the optic nerve and contributing to ischemia-associated optic neuropathy. The show decrease in OND is probably due to reduced blood flow and the resulting lessered vessel diameter and, in the case of a persistent depletion of blood flow, due to atrophic alterations of the optic nerve suggestive of irreversible damage. Therefore, VI in combination with decreased PS, ED, RI and OND may constitute a specific finding in the diagnosis of optic affection in GCA. Our study was the first to prospectively demonstrate the diagnostic value of TOS in untreated and new diagnosed GCA patients as a complementary diagnostic tool to assess GCA associated intracranial inflammation.

**Table 1. Mean values of central retinal artery flow velocity, resistance index, optic nerve diameter in patients with/without visual impairment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GCA without VI</th>
<th>GCA with VI</th>
<th>LME (β)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peak systolic velocity (SD); cm/s</td>
<td>12.95 (± 3.84)</td>
<td>10.16 (± 4.10)</td>
<td>-1.93</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End diastolic velocity (SD); cm/s</td>
<td>3.91 (± 0.12)</td>
<td>3.18 (± 1.27)</td>
<td>-0.61</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance Index (SD); m</td>
<td>0.69 (± 0.10)</td>
<td>0.64 (± 0.17)</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optic nerve diameter (SD); mm</td>
<td>5.3 (± 0.99)</td>
<td>4.93 (± 1.1)</td>
<td>-0.36</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eyes affected by VI exhibited reduced flow velocity and resistance index of the central retinal artery and decreased optic nerve diameter. Abbrev.: GCA: Giant Cell Arteritis; VI: Visual impairment; LME: Linear mixed-effects model; SD: standard deviation.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3850

**Keywords:** Ultrasound, Descriptive studies, vasculitis, giant cell arteritis, cranial, extracranial, mixed, involvement, giant cell arteritis, analysis, clinical differences.

**Background:** Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a systemic vasculitis that affects large vessels, with a higher incidence in patients aged 70 years. It is known that GCA involves temporal arteries and the aorta and its branches either concomitantly or in isolation. Differentiating the characteristics in the expression of these disease subtypes will be relevant for the initial treatment, prognosis and the follow up.

**Objectives:** To analyze the different clinical and laboratory between the patterns of GCA involvement.

**Methods:** Retrospective study of new consecutive patients diagnosed with GCA for four years. 90.9% were diagnosed by Color Doppler ultrasound, measuring the superficial temporal arteries, common trunk, their frontal and parietal branches, and the extracranial arteries (axillary, subclavian, and carotid arteries). 9.1% were diagnosed by PET-CT or temporal artery biopsy. Ultrasound diagnosis was according to the OMERACT definitions of the halo sign and an intima-media cut off a thickness of ≤0.34 mm for the temporal arteries, ≥0.42 in the common superficial temporal artery and ≥1 mm for the axillary, subclavian, and carotid arteries. Clinical records were reviewed and their demographic, clinical and laboratory data were compared between patterns of ultrasound involvement. The EULAR recommendations of 2018 [1] were used to the remission and relapse.

**Results:** A total of 163 patients were included, 50.3% women, with a mean age of 79 years. Regarding the GCA subtypes, 78 patients had exclusive involvement of cranial arteries (CGCA). 36 patients had isolated involvement of extracranial giant cell arteritis (LVGCA) and 49 patients had mixed forms with both cranial and extracranial involvement (MGCA). The analysis showed that patients with LVGCA present constitutional syndrome more frequently, less anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (AION) (p<0.001) and less ESR values (p<0.01) than patients with CGCA. Extracranial artery involvement in any of the subtypes showed a significant association with polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR), although this was not exclusive to LVGCA. CGCA was associated with more AION-type ischemic manifestations than LVGCA. Remission maintained for at least 6 months together with corticosteroid-free remission is higher in LVGCA. No statistically significant differences in relapses, both major and minor.

**Table 1. Clinical and laboratory characteristics between GCA subtypes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GCA</th>
<th>CGCA</th>
<th>LVGCA</th>
<th>LVGCA</th>
<th>MGCA</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>LVGCA</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>82 (50.3)</td>
<td>78 (50.6)</td>
<td>21 (58.3)</td>
<td>20 (40.8)</td>
<td>0.378</td>
<td>0.565</td>
<td>0.134</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age years, mean ± SD</td>
<td>79 ± 7.8</td>
<td>79 ± 7.5</td>
<td>77 ± 10</td>
<td>79.2 ± 8.3</td>
<td>0.883</td>
<td>0.435</td>
<td>0.403</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h</td>
<td>37 ± 63</td>
<td>37 ± 43.2</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>47 ± 35.6</td>
<td>0.019</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.467</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP mg/dL, mean ± SD</td>
<td>52.6 ± 54.43</td>
<td>56 ± 49.4</td>
<td>0.631</td>
<td>0.335</td>
<td>0.588</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMR (%)</td>
<td>88 (63.32)</td>
<td>21 (63.6)</td>
<td>33 (66)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.839</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional symp-</td>
<td>87 (53.8)</td>
<td>38 (48.7)</td>
<td>25 (69.4)</td>
<td>24 (48)</td>
<td>0.036</td>
<td>0.038</td>
<td>0.047</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toms, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AION, n (%)</td>
<td>38 (23)</td>
<td>25 (30)</td>
<td>3 (8.3)</td>
<td>10 (20)</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission 6 months, n (%)</td>
<td>45 (27.4)</td>
<td>14 (17.9)</td>
<td>15 (41.7)</td>
<td>16 (32)</td>
<td>0.057</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.393</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid-free-re-</td>
<td>28 (17)</td>
<td>10 (3.10)</td>
<td>9 (25)</td>
<td>11 (22)</td>
<td>0.068</td>
<td>0.039</td>
<td>0.745</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mission, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major relapse, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (4.2)</td>
<td>3 (3.8)</td>
<td>3 (8.3)</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
<td>0.947</td>
<td>0.679</td>
<td>0.751</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor relapse, n (%)</td>
<td>52 (31.25)</td>
<td>31 (30.6)</td>
<td>16 (32)</td>
<td>9.43</td>
<td>0.943</td>
<td>0.937</td>
<td>0.378</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CGCA: Cranial giant cell arteritis; LVGCA: Large vessel giant cell arteritis; MGCA: Mixed giant cell arteritis; SD: standard deviation; AION: Anterior ischemic optic neuropathy; PMR: polymyalgia rheumatica; CRP: C reactive protein; ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate.

**Conclusion:** Clinical features are different between the different GCA patterns. Patients with LVGCA have a greater constitutional syndrome and lower ESR than patients with CGCA. CGCA was associated with more NOIA-type ischemic manifestations than LVGCA. PMR is more frequent in cases with large vessel involvement. There is more maintained and corticosteroid-free remission in patients with LVGCA.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS: A COST ANALYSIS

Methods: Drug costs for CYC and the current preferred (cheapest) RTX biosimilar were provided by our pharmacy team. Exact drug costs are considered commercially sensitive and are hence not reported here. The Hospital Business Intelligence Unit provided total visit cost data and an average total visit cost for both RTX and CYC was calculated using worked examples. This accounts for cost differences due to in drug administration and the need for medical review. Data was available on the number of patients with AAV who started induction treatment with CYC from January 2022 to December 2022. We were able to calculate a total cost for this and an equivalent cost if these patients had all received RTX induction.

Results: As expected, drug costs for RTX were significantly greater than for CYC. Total visit costs were however similar. The increased total costs for CYC likely largely due to our policy of consultant and multidisciplinary team review prior to each infusion. The total visit cost approximations for cyclophosphamide for patients with AAV treated with CYC between January 2022 to December 2022 was £34,000. When RTX total visit costs were considered, the annual costs for RTX induction for these patients would have been approximately £14,000. Furthermore, as a standard CYC induction is administered as 6 cycles, while RTX is administered as two 1g infusions, if patients treated with CYC had received RTX this would have created an additional 143 hours of availability on our biologics day unit. Other potential time and cost savings we did not measure would include nadir monitoring for CYC done prior to each infusion and pharmacy time in preparing the drugs and associated other medications such as anti-emptics.

Conclusion: The annual net saving if our hospital trust had treated the patients with AAV who received CYC induction with RTX instead, would have equated to £30,000. While this does not take into account subsequent maintenance treatment choices, we can be reassured that a shift towards RTX induction first-line in AAV, is likely to lead to significant cost-savings and would not place an additional financial burden on healthcare resources.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Joyline and Mental Health Nurse within the Pharmacy at Royal United Hospitals for providing all drug cost data. Business Intelligence Unit within the Royal United Hospitals for providing all cost data.

Disclosure of Interests: Maria del Carmen Uyaguari Morocho: None declared, Elisa Fernandez-Fernandez: None declared, Irene Monjo Speakers bureau: Roche, Novartis, UCB, Gedeon, Richter, Consultant of: Roche, Eugenio de Miguel Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD, BMS, UCB, Roche, Grunenthal, Janssen, Sanofi, Paid instructor for: Janssen, Novartis, Roche, Consultant of: AbbVie, Novartis, Pfizer, Galapagos, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Novartis, Pfizer.

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DEVELOPMENT OF POSTERIOR UVEITIS IN BEHÇET’S SYNDROME PATIENTS WITH VITREOUS CELLS WITHOUT ANY OTHER POSTERIOR INVOLVEMENT

Keywords: Vascularitis, Uveitis, Behçet’s disease

D. Ucar1,2, B. E. Bircan3, N. Rustami3, B. Batu Öto1, V. Hamuryuden4, S. N. Esatoglu1,4, G. Hatemi1,4, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Ophthalmology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: A considerable number of patients with Behçet’s syndrome (BS) have vitreous cells on slit lamp examination at the time of diagnosis. However, the prognostic importance of vitreous cells (VC) and their association with the development of posterior uveitis (PU) requiring immunosuppressive treatment is unknown.

Objectives: We aimed to determine the prognostic importance of VC in BS patients.

Methods: The charts of 572 consecutive BS patients fulfilling ISG criteria who were registered between 2010 and 2012 were reviewed. At baseline visit 164 patients had VC in one eye or both eyes. Among the remaining patients, 229 had no eye involvement, 116 patients had bilateral pan or posterior uveitis, 14 had unilateral pan or posterior uveitis and no eye involvement in the other eye, 20 had isolated anterior uveitis, and 29 had insufficient data in their medical records. Among the 164 patients with VC, 110 patients with a follow-up of ≥2 years were included in this study (Figure 1).

Results: At baseline, among the 111 included patients (68 men, mean ± SD age: 31±9 years), 61 had VC in both eyes, 34 had VC in only one eye, and 15 had VC in one eye and PU in the other eye. There was anterior uveitis (AU) in addition to VC in the same eye in 13 patients at baseline (Figure 1).

New PU developed in 26 (24%) patients during a mean follow-up of 1.9±1.1 years. 7 patients that developed PU in the eye with VC had had PU in the contralateral eye at baseline. This means 7 of 15 patients with VC in one eye and PU in the contralateral eye developed bilateral PU despite treatment. 2 of these 7 patients had developed AU before they developed PU. Additionally, 6 patients that developed PU in the eye with VC had anterior uveitis in the same eye at baseline.

Conclusion: Careful follow-up is required for patients with VC since one quarter developed PU within 2 years. The presence of PU in the contralateral eye and AU in the same eye may be risk factors for the development of PU in patients with VC.

Disclosure of Interests: Ella Amor: None declared, Ben Mulhearn: None declared, William Tillet Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Ono Pharma, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Janssen, UCB, Pfizer, Eli-Lilly, Charlotte Cavill: None declared, Sarah Tansley: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4167
Background: The GiACTA [1] was the first trial comparing two standardized prednisone (PDN)-taper protocols (52 week and 26 week) in GCA. Sustained remission rate at week 52 was similar. Patients enrolled in the placebo group with a 26 week taper protocol experienced lower PDN cumulative dose but more flares than those enrolled in the 52 week one.

Objectives: To assess the effectiveness and safety of the 26 week taper regimen of glucocorticoids (GC) used in the GiACTA trial in a prospective cohort of treatment-naive, biopsy-proven GCA.

Methods: Patients with a new diagnosis of biopsy-proven GCA enrolled in the GC arm of the START project (molecular stratification of patients with GCA to tailor GC and tocilizumab therapy) were included [2]. All patients were treated with the 26 week taper regimen of GC used in the GiACTA trial. Disease assessment was performed at baseline and every 12 weeks. In case of disease relapse, GC was increased or restarted with or without adjunctive immunosuppressive treatment. PET/CT was performed in 18 patients at baseline. Large vessel vasculitis was defined by evidence of vascular FDG uptake in at least one vascular district. CT angiography was performed after at least 52 weeks of follow-up in all patients and was compared with baseline CT of the PET scan. The diameter of the aorta was measured at 4 different levels. Aortic dilation was defined by a diameter >40 mm in the ascending aorta, >40 mm in the descending aorta and >30 mm in the abdominal aorta. Any change of ≥5 mm on serial CT was considered significant progression of aortic disease. Remission was defined as the absence of any clinical symptoms attributable to GCA, including a normalization of the acute phase reactants. Relapse was defined as one or more of the following: recurrence of signs or symptoms of GCA or PMR; CRP values greater than 10 mg/L, or ESR values greater than 40 mm/h if these were considered by the investigator to be due to GCA. The primary endpoint was the rate of relapse-free remission at week 52. Secondary definition of relapse included the necessity for intensification of treatment. The overall assessment of the activity is still an unmet need.

Objectives: The aim of the present study is to evaluate the efficacy of different regimens in achieving clinical, laboratory and imaging disease remission and in preventing the progression of disease-related damage and treatment-related damage, especially glucocorticoids induced, in Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA).

Methods: Consecutive inpatients and outpatients, classified as GCA with LVV involvement, were prospectively enrolled. We included all patients with new diagnosis or relapsing disease who underwent to at least 2 consecutive 18F-FDG PET-CT or MR scan between March 2011 and September 2022. Before every PET scan demographic, clinical data and disease activity were assessed. Remission was defined as absence of signs and symptoms attributable to GCA and normalization of acute phase reactants (ESR <30 mm/H and CRP <1 mg/dL) [1]. For each PET scan the vessel’s metabolic activity was evaluated using the Meller’s grading and the PETVAS score [2]. The damage was evaluated using the Large-Vessel Vasculitis Index of Damage (LVVDI) and the Composite Glucocorticoid Toxicity Index (GTI), distinct in Cumulative Worsening Score (GTI-CWS) and Aggregate Improvement Score (GTI-AIS) [3,4]. GCA patients were compared according to current treatment regimen: glucocorticoid (GC) monotherapy versus conventional disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (cDMARDs), and tocilizumab (TCZ).

Results: The study included 49 LV-GCA patients (age 28 [21-48], 71.4% female) exposed to a total of 76 treatment regimens (n = 39 GC monotherapy, n = 21 cDMARDs, n = 16 TCZ). All the treatment led to significant reduction of acute phase reactants (GC-treated: ESR p < 0.001, CRP p < 0.001; cDMARDs treated: ESR p = 0.033, CRP p = 0.01, and TCZ-treated: ESR p = 0.006, CRP p = 0.003). Significant improvement in PETVAS was observed in all patients: GC treated 12.4 ± 2.1 vs 7.2 ± 1.4 (p=0.033), cDMARDs treated 16.5 ± 20 vs 4.3 ± 10.5 (p = 0.039), and TCZ - treated 12 ± 9.2 ± 2.0 vs 3.8 ± 5 (p = 0.001). Daily prednisone dose at last examination was 5.8 ± 2.25 mg/d in the cDMARDs group vs 0 [0-5] mg/d in the TCZ group (p = 0.148), GC withdrawal was observed in 82% of TCZ-treated patients, while 58% in the GC group (p=0.112). At last evaluation LVVI DI was similar in the three groups (2 [1-4] vs 2 [1-3] vs 3 [2.25-5], p = 0.073). Baseline GTI resulted higher in the TCZ group, when compared to cDMARDs and GC (75 [48-101] vs 49 [35-64] vs 32 [10-74], respectively, p = 0.008). At the last follow-up TCZ-treated patients showed higher GTI-CWS (97 [77-127] vs 72 [48-81] vs 65 [48-103], p = 0.025) than those treated with cDMARDs and GC, while no differences were observed in GTI-AIS (1.0 ± 1.9 to 3.0 ± 3.7 to 2.2 ± 2.7, respectively, p = 0.154). When considering only those patients who received TCZ as a first line treatment (n=4), GTI-AIS at last follow-up resulted significantly lower compared to cDMARDs and GC treated individuals (3 [0-7 to 5.5] vs 0 [77 to 127] vs 0 [-16 to 18.7], p = 0.0249).

Conclusion: Tocilizumab treatment significantly reduce vessel’s metabolic activity over time, when compared to conventional treatment. None of the three
different treatment regimen reduce the progression of the damage caused by both the vasculitis and the glucocorticoid treatment. TCZ as a first line treatment reduced significantly the GTI-AIS at the last follow up, when compared to the other treatment.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0730

PROGNOSTIC FACTORS AND EFFICACY OF DMARD USE IN GCA: RESULTS FROM THE PROSPECTIVE, LONGITUDINAL, MULTI-CENTRE HAS-GCA STUDY

Keywords: Vasculitis, Ultrasound, Imaging

B Dasgupta1,2, K Van der Geest3, A Tomelleri, P Macchioni4, Klinowski5,6, C Salvareni3, A Kayani1, M Tariq1, D Prieto-Peña7, C Salvarani9, S Inness2, J Jackson2, A Sebastian1,2,10, Santander, Spain, Southend, United Kingdom, Modena, Italy, Medical Center Veneto-Fondazione IRCCS, Memory Center, Venetian Netherlands, San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy, Azienda USL - IRCCS - di Reggio Emilia - Area Toreritaria Veterinaria di Castelnuovo ne’Monti, Rheumatology, Castelnuovo ne’ Monti, Italy; University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology, Modena, Italy; Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; University of Siena, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Neurosciences, Siena, Italy; University Hospital Dorset, NHS foundation trust, Rheumatology, Dorset, United Kingdom; University Hospital Limerick, Rheumatology, Limerick, Ireland

Background: GCA is a critically ischemic large vessel vasculitis, varying in extent, severity and outcomes, hence requires disease stratification using clinical, laboratory and imaging parameters, for targeted management. Although DMARDs are used, the effectiveness in real life, such adjuvants remain un-elicited. We performed a prospective, multi centre cohort study of new GCA stratified into remitting, relapsing, refractory, ischemic disease.

Objectives: We assessed prognostic factors and compared critical outcomes such as remission with glucocorticoid (GC) monotherapy versus GC plus DMARDs in the first 12 months.

Methods: HAS GCA study (1) recruited consecutive patients with new onset GCA from 7 centres (UK, Italy, Spain, Netherlands). diagnosis was confirmed using modified GiACTA criteria at 6 months follow up. All underwent ultrasound (bilateral common, parietal, frontal temporal arteries, and axillary arteries) using accepted standard cut-off values [2]. GCA patients had US at baseline,1,3,6,12 months and halo count (HC) and Halo score (Temporal TAHS, axillary AAHS, bilateral common, parietal, frontal temporal arteries, and axillary arteries) using multicriteria decision analysis. Ann Rheum Dis 2017;76:543

RESULTS:

Table 1. comparison between the DMARD-used group and only GC group in all the GCA completed the 12 months follow up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients' characteristics</th>
<th>GCA with completed follow-up (n=73)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (range) years</td>
<td>73.5 (60-89) 76 (60-89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, Females, (n (%))</td>
<td>23 (64) 24 (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US halo score (HS)/IMT median (range)</td>
<td>11 (0-23) 13 (1-22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total HS</td>
<td>22.5 (2-41) 21 (6-40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporal artery abnormality</td>
<td>25 (67) 30 (81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaw &amp; Tongue claudication</td>
<td>17 (47) 19 (51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyarticular symptoms</td>
<td>22 (61) 24 (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional symptoms</td>
<td>21 (58) 30 (81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial or complete vision loss</td>
<td>16 (42) 21 (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of PMR</td>
<td>6 (17) 3 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam findings, n (%)</td>
<td>24 (67) 30 (81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporal artery abnormality</td>
<td>14 (40) 16 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular nerve palsy</td>
<td>6 (20) 6 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab markers at baseline, median (range)</td>
<td>69 (2-289) 69 (2-289)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP mg/dL</td>
<td>72.2 (6.4-290) 59 (6-206)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR mm/hr</td>
<td>67 (9-130) 57 (2-120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC treatment, median (range)</td>
<td>45 (0-60) 50 (0-60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC dose at 12m, (baseline)</td>
<td>5 (0-25) 2.5 (0-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative GC dose at 12m</td>
<td>0.07 (0-3.32-2.4) 0.82 (0.39-2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission with prednisolone ≤5mg/dL at 12m, n (%)</td>
<td>33 (49) 32 (49)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Bhaskar Dasgupta Consultant of: Roche, Chugai, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Roche, Sanofi, AbbVie, and GlaxoSmithKline, Kornelis van der Geest Speakers bureau: Roche, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Alessandro Tomelleri: None declared, Pierluigi Macchioni: None declared, Giulia Klinowski: None declared, Carlo Salvareni: None declared, Abdul Kayani: None declared, Mohammad Tariq: None declared, Diana Prieto-Peña:
Background: Ultrasound (US) is recommended as the first-line imaging test in patients with suspected Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA). Traditionally, the US halo sign has been used for diagnosis. We have described a composite Halo Score that allows quantifying vascular inflammation on US. Prospective studies on response and disease monitoring are lacking.

Objectives: To prospectively assess the role of the US and Southend GCA pre-test probability score (GCAPS) in diagnosing and monitoring GCA patients. We report 12-month follow-up data on our current recruitment.

Methods: HAS GCA (IRAS#264294) is a prospective, multicentre study recruited from 7 European centres, referrals of suspected GCA to fast-track clinics. Based on the GCAPS [1], patients were stratified in low, intermediate and high risk categories [2]. Temporal and auxillary US Halo Scores were calculated from the halo thickness and extent in bilateral temporal arteries, parietal and fronto-temporal branches (TAHS) and auxiliary arteries (AAHS). These scores were summed (TAHS x1 plus AAHS x3) to generate a Total Halo Score (THS) [3]. Remission defines as the patient on prednisolone ≤ 5mg at 12 months follow up. Mann Whitney U test was used to compare baseline features between GCA and controls. Wilcoxon signed rank test was used to evaluate disease features at baseline and at 12 months in GCA patients. Sensitivity (Sn), Specificity (Sp) and ROC curve were calculated, where applicable. P value <0.05 is statistically significant.

Results: 229 patients (84 GCA, 145 controls) have been recruited from 7 European centres: 73 completed 12-month follow-up assessments; 11 were lost to follow-up (7 died, 4 withdrew consent due to pandemic). 65 achieved remission from the halo thickness and extent in bilateral temporal arteries, parietal and fronto-temporal branches (TAHS) and auxiliary arteries (AAHS). Among GCA patients, 60 had cranial, 5 large-vessel and 19 mixed phenotypes. Diseases were diagnosed by US and additional tests such as PET CT. Jaw claudication (54%) and constitutional symptoms (52%) were the dominant features in GCA patients compared to controls. Median age was 75 years in GCA (60% females) and 68 years in controls (69% females). GCA and controls were stratified by GCAPS to Low risk (0% vs 46%; Sn-undefined, Sp-99) and High risk (79% vs 16%; Sn-99, Sp-91). Optimal GCAPS cut-off point was ≥12 (Sn-89, Sp-78). Median THS was 21.5 in GCA and 8 in controls. Optimal cut-off Halo Score in diagnosis was TAHS ≥6 (Sn-86, Sp-92), AAHS ≥11 (Sn-52, Sp-75), THS ≥17 (Sn-76%, Sp-91%). Baseline Halo Score and CRP levels showed positive correlation (Spearman rank correlation); at 12-months follow up, median TAHS, AAHS and THS reduced from 13 to 3, 12 to 9 and 21.5 to 12, respectively (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Along with GCAPS, Halo Score successfully discriminates GCA from non GCA mimics and HS is effective in showing 12-month response. This score may be a useful marker to monitor GCA disease activity.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Patient characteristics at baseline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients' characteristics</th>
<th>Patients with GCA (n=84)</th>
<th>Patients without GCA (n=145)</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (range) years</td>
<td>75 (60-92)</td>
<td>68 (44-96)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, Females, n (%)</td>
<td>50 (60)</td>
<td>100 (69)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCAPS category, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>67 (46)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>18 (21)</td>
<td>55 (38)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate risk</td>
<td>66 (79)</td>
<td>23 (16)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>13 (0-24)</td>
<td>2 (0-17)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halo Score (HS) median (range)</td>
<td>12 (0-21)</td>
<td>6 (0-18)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total HS</td>
<td>215 (2-41)</td>
<td>8 (2-29)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical features, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporal headache</td>
<td>62 (74)</td>
<td>102 (70)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalp tenderness</td>
<td>42 (50)</td>
<td>46 (32)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaw claudication</td>
<td>45 (54)</td>
<td>10 (7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymyalgic symptoms</td>
<td>37 (44)</td>
<td>38 (26)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional symptoms</td>
<td>44 (52)</td>
<td>30 (21)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any visual disturbance</td>
<td>46 (55)</td>
<td>62 (43)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial or complete vision loss</td>
<td>21 (25)</td>
<td>9 (6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Alwin Sebastian: None declared, Kornelis van der Geest: None declared, Edoardo Conticini: None declared, Sue Inness: None declared, Jo Jackson: None declared, Abdul Kayani: None declared, Muhammad Khurshid: None declared, Giulia Klinowski: None declared, Pierluigi Macchioni: None declared, Diana Prieto-Peña: None declared, Carlo Salvadori: None declared, Mohammad Taric: None declared, Alessandro Tomellini: None declared, Bhaskar Dasgupta Consultant of: Roche, Chugai, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Roche, Sanofi, AbbVie, and GlaxoSmithKline.

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imaging modalities and potential large vessel (LV) involvement. These new criteria have been validated in an independent set of patients and controls, with a sensitivity of 87.0% and a specificity of 94.8%, but not tested in routine care.

Objectives: Our objective is to examine the performance of the new 2022 ACR/EULAR GCA classification criteria in this clinical scenario.

Methods: Multicentric retrospective observational study of patients referred to our ultrasound (US) fast track clinic over a 4-year period. The gold standard for GCA diagnosis was clinical confirmation after 6 months of follow-up. Patients with GCA were compared with unselected controls referred to our clinic with suspected GCA. All patients underwent US exam of temporal and extracranial arteries (carotid, subclavian, and axillary) within 24-48 hours at baseline. FDG-PET/CT was performed according to standard clinician criteria. Following the new 2022 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, the total score for the 10 items included in the criteria was calculated, with a total cut-off ≥ 6 for the classification of GCA. The performance of these criteria was evaluated in all GCA patients across different subsets of the disease.

Results: A total of 319 patients (188 cases and 131 controls) were included for analysis (mean age 76 years, 58.9% females). Patients with GCA and controls differed in age (78.2 vs 72.9, p<0.001) and sex (females 53.2% vs 67.2%, p=0.013). The diagnostic accuracy of the 2022 ACR/EULAR GCA classification criteria and the previous 1990 ACR GCA classification criteria in different subsets of patients is shown in Table 1. Overall, the new criteria had a sensitivity of 92.6% and a specificity of 74%, using GCA clinical diagnosis as an external criterion and the area under the ROC curve (AUC) was 0.932 (95% CI 0.903 to 0.960). Isolated LV-GCA showed a sensitivity of 62.2% and a specificity of 74% (AUC 0.696 [0.596 – 0.796]) and biopsy-proven GCA showed a sensitivity of 100% and a specificity of 74% (AUC 0.992 [0.981 – 1]).

Conclusion: The new 2022 ACR/EULAR GCA classification criteria showed good diagnostic accuracy of patients with suspected GCA under routine care, and a substantial improvement upon the sensitivity and specificity of the 1990 ACR GCA classification criteria.

Table 1. Diagnostic accuracy of the new 2022 ACR/EULAR GCA and the 1990 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, with clinical diagnosis serving as the external criterion in all GCA, patients with isolated cranial GCA, isolated LV-GCA, all LV-GCA and biopsy proven GCA. LV, large vessel; Sens, sensitivity; Spec, specificity; LR+, positive likelihood ratio; LR−, negative likelihood ratio; AUC: area under the ROC curve analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Sens (95% CI)</th>
<th>Spec (95% CI)</th>
<th>LR+ (95% CI)</th>
<th>LR− (95% CI)</th>
<th>AUC (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All GCA (n = 188) vs controls (n = 131)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 ACR/EULAR</td>
<td>92.6% (91.1–94.1)</td>
<td>74% (71.2–76.9)</td>
<td>3.71 (3.04–4.45)</td>
<td>0.05 (0.02–0.10)</td>
<td>0.965 (0.933–0.996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 ACR</td>
<td>53.2% (47.6–58.9)</td>
<td>80.2% (76.8–83.6)</td>
<td>6.88 (5.84–8.12)</td>
<td>0.31 (0.24–0.41)</td>
<td>0.756 (0.690–0.823)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolated cranial GCA (n = 83) vs controls (n = 131)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 ACR/EULAR</td>
<td>96.4% (94.4–97.5)</td>
<td>74% (71.6–76.8)</td>
<td>3.71 (3.05–4.49)</td>
<td>0.05 (0.02–0.10)</td>
<td>0.965 (0.932–0.995)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 ACR</td>
<td>61.4% (54.9–68.0)</td>
<td>80.2% (76.8–83.6)</td>
<td>6.88 (5.84–8.12)</td>
<td>0.31 (0.24–0.41)</td>
<td>0.756 (0.690–0.823)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolated LV-GCA (n = 37) vs controls (n = 131)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 ACR/EULAR</td>
<td>62.2% (56.2–68.3)</td>
<td>74% (71.2–76.9)</td>
<td>2.32 (1.75–3.07)</td>
<td>0.09 (0.05–0.16)</td>
<td>0.696 (0.596–0.800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 ACR</td>
<td>18.9% (14.1–24.9)</td>
<td>80.2% (76.8–83.6)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.74–1.24)</td>
<td>0.15 (0.09–0.24)</td>
<td>0.455 (0.386–0.534)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biopsy proven GCA (n = 21) vs controls (n = 131)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 ACR/EULAR</td>
<td>100% (100–100)</td>
<td>74% (71.6–76.8)</td>
<td>3.85 (3.20–4.66)</td>
<td>0.00 (0.00–0.00)</td>
<td>0.981 (0.981–1.000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 ACR</td>
<td>95.2% (88.9–99.6)</td>
<td>80.2% (76.8–83.6)</td>
<td>4.81 (3.96–5.88)</td>
<td>0.06 (0.04–0.09)</td>
<td>0.877 (0.837–0.917)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV-GCA (with or without cranial GCA) (n = 105) vs control (n=131)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 ACR/EULAR</td>
<td>89.5% (85.0–94.0)</td>
<td>74% (71.2–76.9)</td>
<td>3.44 (2.80–4.19)</td>
<td>0.10 (0.06–0.15)</td>
<td>0.865 (0.804–0.927)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 ACR</td>
<td>46.7% (37.2–56.8)</td>
<td>80.2% (76.8–83.6)</td>
<td>2.36 (1.68–3.20)</td>
<td>0.08 (0.05–0.12)</td>
<td>0.663 (0.583–0.761)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.765
Background: The creation of instruments for the structured assessment of disease activity has facilitated the effective use of DMARDs to control disease activity in patients with inflammatory arthritis. Composite measures for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) incorporating several key clinical and laboratory variables which allow for a standardized quantitative assessment of GCA disease activity have been recently introduced. These assessment tools for measuring disease activity are of particular benefit in helping to achieve therapeutic goals in patients with GCA, including amelioration of the symptoms and signs of active disease, and the consequent avoidance of functional impairment and restoration of physical function.

Objectives: To identify the preliminary definition of improvement in GCA and the higher thresholds for improvement reflecting significant and major improvement as well as remission.

Methods: In developing criterion for improvement of individual GCA patients, consideration was restricted to the 6 variables identified as outcome measures: severity of headache (0-100), acute visual deficit (0-100), functional disability (0-100), Extraocular Muscle Involvement (0-100), ESR and CRP levels. For each variable, the value at baseline were compared with the value at 4-weeks and 12-weeks of treatment to determine the degree of improvement or deterioration that occurred. The percentage of improvement was calculated directly for each of the 6 variables in 51 patients. Using the 6 variables, preliminary analysis was performed to determine the percentage of improvement. Preliminary definition of improvement required >x% improvement in y of the 6 variables, where "x" was set at 20%, 30%, 50%, 70%, 80% and 100%, and "y" was set at 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 variables. To assess the discriminating power of high response percentages (70%, 90% and 100%) the percentage of improvement in the headache severity (as the main outcome measure reflecting the disease activity status) was compared to the change of the rest of the core set measures. The individual improvement criterion identified was then applied prospectively to a cohort of 25 patients diagnosed to have GCA and starting their therapy.

Results: A definition of >50% improvement in 4 or more variables produced the largest difference between patient's assessment at 4-weeks and 12-weeks in comparison to the baseline. Sharpening the cut-offs to 70% or 90% means that the patient should nearly or completely reach a status of remission in order to fulfill such an impressive improvement criterion. Reaching 100% means that the patient has achieved remission. Outcome of the prospective study revealed that 100% of the patients achieved 50% GCA response. Assessing the higher response rates, revealed that 10% of the patients achieved 70%, 30% achieved 90% whereas 60% achieved 100%.

Conclusion: Core sets of valid outcome measures have been defined. GCA response criteria have been developed and showed comparable validity. The 70% (significant improvement), 90% (major improvement) and 100% (remission) GCA improvement criteria showed good discriminating capacity though less than the 50% criteria. GCA response can be used in standard clinical practice to identify disease activity status and response to therapy. Calculation of GCA-N index would be the next step to attain a continuous variable rather than at arbitrary thresholds. GCA response can be used in standard clinical practice to identify disease activity status and response to therapy. Calculation of GCA-N index would be the next step to attain a continuous variable rather than at arbitrary thresholds.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1817
Methods: Observational retrospective study on consecutive patients of our GCA fast track clinic. The gold standard diagnosis was the opinion of the clinical doctor after at least 6 months of follow-up. US recorded videos, of every explored vessel territory (common trunk, frontal and parietal branches), subclavian, and axillary arteries were reviewed and the IMT of each of them was measured in systole and diastole peaks for comparison. We define an ultrasound result as positive with cut-off values of IMT ≥ 0.34 mm for frontal and parietal branches, ≥ 0.42 mm for the common trunks of TA, and ≥ 1 mm for the axillary and subclavian arteries. Demographic data of the included patients were also collected.

Results: We have included 72 cases, 36 with GCA diagnosis and 36 without GCA controls). The mean values of age and sex, as well as the IMT in systole and diastole of each vessel are shown in Table 1. There were not significant differences in sex but patients without GCA were younger (p<0.01). The US IMT measurements at the systolic and diastolic times showed statistically significant differences in all the explored vessels, as in patients with GCA as in the control non-GCA group. All the IMT measured in diastole showed higher and statistically significant values than those measured in systole, with a mean increment of measurement of 5.3% and 6.5% in TA and 6.4% and 5.6% in VA, respectively in the GCA and control group. This result can be of clinical relevance because if we used diastolic measures, instead of systolic measures, 5/36 (13.8%) cases in controls had halo sign in one isolated vessel (2 cases in parietal right, 1 in common trunk right, 1 in subclavian left). However, in GCA patients, the number of patients with halo sign did not change, but the number of pathological vessels was increased when the measured was performed in diastole (1 frontal right branch, 1 common trunk right, 4 frontal left branches, 5 common trunks left and 2 axillary right), so this could have influence in the assessment of the disease.

Conclusion: There are significant differences between the IMT measured in systolic and diastolic peaks with higher values in diastole. The differences are relatively small but may increase the number of false positives (13.8%) in controls and the number of affected vessels in the GCA group. This should be considered in the diagnosis and assessment of GCA.

Table 1. Changes in the IMT values in systole and diastole in GCA and non GCA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No GCA</th>
<th>GCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex / (l/n)</td>
<td>14/22</td>
<td>17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age years (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>74.4±9.4</td>
<td>80.8±6.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GCA= giant cell arteritis; N= number of patients; SD= standard deviation; TA= temporal artery.

Measures are shown in mm.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3038

POS0737

AGE AND SEX BIAS OF ULTRASOUND SCORES FOR DIAGNOSIS OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS: INSIGHTS FROM THE PROSPECTIVE, LONGITUDINAL HAS-GCA STUDY

Keywords: Ultrasound, Imaging, Vasculitis

K. Van der Geest1, A. Sebastian2,3,4, E. Corticis2, S. Innes3, J. Jackson3, A. Kayani2, M. Khurshid5,6, G. Klinowski7,8, P. Macchioni7, D. Prieto-Peña9, G. Emilia, Italy7; University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology, Modena, Italy; 7Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 8San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is an age-linked, critically ischaemic vasculitis where ultrasound (US) serves as an important tool enabling urgent diagnosis and therapy. US scores have been developed to quantify the arterial inflammation in GCA [1,2], but optimal diagnostic cut-off points and potential bias of age and sex on these values remain un-elicited.

Objectives: To compare the diagnostic accuracy of previously reported US scores for GCA, and to determine whether these scores require correction for age and sex.

Methods: The HAS-GCA study, with a prospective, multicentre, cohort design, recruited 229 consecutive patients with suspected, new-onset GCA from 7 sites located in the UK, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. All cases underwent bilateral US evaluation of the three temporal arterial segments (common superficial, parietal, frontal) and axillary arteries. Intimal-medial thickness (IMT) was measured in each segment. Three ultrasound scores were calculated based on the IMT: halo count (HCount) [1], Halo Score (HScore) [2] and the OMERACT GCA US Score (OGUS) [3]. The definition of halo was based on previously reported IMT cut-off values [3]. The reference standard was the final clinical diagnosis after 6 months follow-up. ROC with AUC analysis was performed. Optimal cut-off points were determined by Youden Index. Group comparisons were made by Mann Whitney U test and correlations by Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient. P values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results: A final diagnosis of GCA was made in 84 patients, whereas 145 cases received an alternative diagnosis (i.e. non-GCA patients). HCount, HScore and OGUS were significantly higher in GCA patients than non-GCA patients. In non-GCA patients, all three scores were significantly higher in men than women, and showed a statistically significant, positive correlation with age. In GCA patients, the US scores showed a positive correlation (HCount and OUSG) or strong trend for a positive correlation (HScore) with age; and the HCount was significantly higher in men. All scores effectively discriminated GCA from non-GCA patients as indicated by ROC analysis: AUC for halo count 0.936 (0.899-0.974), Halo Score 0.894 (0.848-0.939) and OGUS 0.937 (0.902-0.973). The optimal diagnostic cut-off points were: 2 for HCount (sens 86%, spec 92%), 17 for HScore (sens 76%, spec 91%) and 0.80 for OGUS (sens 87%, spec 93%). These diagnostic cut-off points differed in sensitivity and specificity within different age- and sex-defined groups with the highest sensitivity and lowest specificity observed among old (>81yr) male patients. Alternatively, age- and sex-stratified cut-off points could be established for the US scores (Table 1).

Conclusion: All previously reported US scores show excellent diagnostic accuracy for GCA, but are prone to over-diagnose GCA in older males. Our data highlight the need for age- and sex-specific diagnostic cut-off points. The excellent comparative performance of the simple HCount in GCA diagnosis suggests an exciting role in future clinical practice.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Ultrasound scores in different age and sex groups. Age cut-offs were based on 25th percentile and 75th percentile of age in female and male patients with GCA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>AUC in ROC analysis</th>
<th>Optimal cut-off point</th>
<th>Sensitivity (%)</th>
<th>Specificity (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Halo count</td>
<td>0.897</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;67</td>
<td>HScore</td>
<td>0.883</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Halo count</td>
<td>0.925</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt;74</td>
<td>HScore</td>
<td>0.927</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Halo count</td>
<td>0.933</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;79</td>
<td>HScore</td>
<td>0.932</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Halo count</td>
<td>0.938</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt;81</td>
<td>HScore</td>
<td>0.936</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women Halo count OGUS 0.925 0.66 83 85
Men Halo count OGUS 0.927 1 88 93
Women Halo count OGUS 0.933 0.80 80 98
Men Halo count OGUS 0.938 2 92 94
Women Halo count OGUS 0.936 1 100 68
Men Halo count OGUS 0.918 75 97
Women Halo count OGUS 0.932 3 84 97
Men Halo count OGUS 0.912 3 94 88
Women Halo count OGUS 0.917 80 60
Men Halo count OGUS 0.958 4 100 83
Women Halo count OGUS 0.885 9 88
Men Halo count OGUS 0.896 9.00 100 83
Background: Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) and Giant cell arteritis (GCA) are chronic inflammatory diseases. Despite the progress made in the management of these conditions, new unmet needs have emerged particularly in terms of prevention of disease- and treatment-related complications. A treat-to-target (T2T) strategy, which has been well established in other rheumatic diseases, has not yet been developed for PMR and GCA.

Objectives: To retrieve current evidence on T2T strategies in PMR and GCA to inform an international task force (TF) developing T2T recommendations.

Methods: A systematic literature review (SLR) was conducted. Medline, EMBASE, Cochrane Library and clinicaltrials.gov (from inception until May 2022), as well as EULAR/ACR abstract databases were searched (2019-2021). Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and non-randomized interventional studies published in English and answering at least one of the eleven PICO questions on treatment targets and outcomes, were identified. Table 1: The study selection process, data extraction, data synthesis and risk of bias assessment were conducted independently by two investigators.

Results: Of 7809 screened abstracts, 397 were selected for detailed assessment and 76 papers were finally included (31 RCTs, 8 subgroup/exploratory analyses of RCTs and 37 non-randomized interventional studies). No study comparing a T2T strategy against standard of care was identified. In PMR, RCTs, treatment-related outcomes were most commonly used (90.9% of RCTs), specifically in terms of the glucocorticoids (GC) cumulative dose and tapering, followed by clinical, laboratory and safety targets (63.3% each). Conversely, the most frequently reported outcomes in RCTs in GCA were prevention of relapses (72.2%), remission, treatment, and safety (66.7 % each). Remission and relapses were variably defined in PMR and GCA RCTs but, in most cases, they comprised a combination of clinical and laboratory parameters (Figure 1). The following predictors of poor treatment response were identified: for GCA, data from RCTs yielded female sex, initial prednisone dose <30mg/day, baseline patient-reported outcomes, increased inflammatory markers after the achievement of clinical remission and absence of PMR symptoms at baseline as risk factors for treatment failure and an increased relapse rate. In PMR, no high-quality data predicting clinical outcomes were identified. Finally, in RCTs comparing the outcomes of GCA patients with new onset versus established disease, no differences were found, given that treatment was equal in both groups.

Conclusion: This SLR informed an international TF developing T2T recommendations in PMR and GCA. It provides up-to-date evidence while simultaneously highlighting the gaps in current knowledge about T2T strategies in these diseases.

Table 1. Clinical key questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What are the treatment targets and outcomes in GCA/PMR, and how can they be measured (imaging, lab parameters, clinical, PRO)?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Is coming-off GC a treatment target in GCA/PMR, and how quickly should it be achieved?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What should be the frequency of monitoring disease state and adapting therapy? How fast and to what extent should disease activity change before requiring treatment modification?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. How do comorbidities influence T2T outcomes in GCA/PMR?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What are comorbidities related to uncontrolled disease activity?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Do targets need to be adapted based on the presence of comorbidities?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Is residual disease activity acceptable, and to what extent?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. How can reaching disease targets, reducing/ preventing treatment side effects, and long-term consequences of disease be balanced in GCA/PMR? What is more important: control of disease activity or prevention of treatment related adverse effects?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Can treatment success be predicted?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. What are the predictors of successful treatment reduction (e.g., duration on target)?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Do treatment targets differ over time (early vs. established disease)?</td>
<td>[References]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Components used to define remission and relapse in PMR and GCA RCTs

Acknowledgements: 1. Elvis Hysa and Milena Bond contributed equally to this work.

Disclosure of Interests: Elvis Hysa: None declared, Milena Bond: None declared, Lisa Ehlers: None declared, Dario Camellino: Speakers bureau: speaker fees from AbbVie, Roche, Galapagos, Sparrow and Sandoz, Consultant of: consultancy fees, honoraria and travel expenses from AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Galapagos, Sparrow and Sandoz, Consultant of: consulting/speaker’s fees from AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Galapagos, Sparrow and Sandoz, Consultant of: research support from: grant support from AbbVie, Frank Buitger, Speakers bureau: grants, speaker fees, and/or consultancy fees from AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and Sanofi, Consultant of: research support from: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and Sanofi, Speaker fees from: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Galapagos, Sparrow and Sandoz.

Disclosure of Interests: 2. Grant support from AbbVie.

Disclosure of Interests: 3. Kornelis van der Geest Speakers bureau: consultancy fees, honoraria and travel expenses from AbbVie, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Galapagos, Sparrow and Sandoz, Consultant of: consultancy fees, honoraria and travel expenses from AbbVie, Emgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Novartis, UCB and Pfizer, Consultant of: consultancy fees, honoraria and travel expenses from AbbVie, Emgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Novartis, UCB and Pfizer.

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Basic and translational science in paediatric rheumatology

 keywords: Epidemiology, Pain

F. Fernandes1, N. Navasartyan, M. J. Santos2, M. Taill3, R. Lucas1. 1Instituto de Saúde Pública da Universidade do Porto (ISPUP), EPIUnit, Porto, Portugal; 2Hospital Garcia de Orta, Serviço de Reumatologia, Almada, Portugal; 3Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto - FMUP, CISPPEMF, Porto, Portugal

Background: Primary musculoskeletal pain conditions interfere greatly with the quality of life and are challenging to manage, from the patient’s and clinician’s perspectives. Susceptibility to chronic musculoskeletal pain syndromes in adulthood can be traced back to childhood when prevention might be most effective. Population-based longitudinal studies in pediatric ages allow for testing different predictors of pain trajectories to assist risk stratification. Recurrent pain experiences in non-musculoskeletal sites are common in young children and may be red flags for future musculoskeletal pain susceptibility [1].

Objectives: We aimed to quantify the prospective association of non-musculoskeletal pain experiences at ages 7 and 10 with recurrent musculoskeletal pain at age 13 in a large population-based cohort of boys and girls.

Methods: We used data from Generation XXI, a population-based birth cohort setup in 2005-06 that includes the public maternity of Porto, Portugal. Participants were invited to regular follow-up visits at ages 7, 10, and 13 years. In each wave, pain history in the previous 3 months was assessed using the Luebeck Pain Screening Questionnaire, applied to caregivers (ages 7 and 10) and adolescents (age 13). We included only the main pain identified in the questionnaire, and only if it occurred more than once in the previous 3 months. Musculoskeletal pain sites comprised upper/lower limbs, back, neck, shoulders, hips, and generalized musculoskeletal pain. Non-musculoskeletal sites were head, abdomen/pelvis, or other. We calculated relative risks and 95% confidence intervals for the association between pain sites at ages 7 and 10 and recurrent musculoskeletal pain at age 13. The analysis was stratified by sex at birth.

Results: We included 3833 participants (479 girls). Recurrent pain was reported in 28.4% of children at age 7 (25.7% of boys, and 31.3% of girls), 26.6% at age 10 (23.3% of boys, and 30.2% of girls), and 35.1% at age 13 (28.8% of boys, and 41.9% of girls). For girls, the most reported recurrent pain sites before adolescence were abdomen/pelvis (10.3% at 7, and 9.7% at 10), musculoskeletal (8.1% at 7, and 9.0% at 10), and head (7.7% at 7, and 7.3% at 10). In boys, recurrent pain was more frequent in musculoskeletal sites (9.0% at 7, and 9.6% at 10), followed by abdomen/pelvis (7.7% at 7, and 5.0% at 10), and head (5.1% at 7, and 6.0% at 10). As shown in the Figure 1, in 7-year-old girls, only abdominal/pelvic pain was predictive of future musculoskeletal pain at age 13 RR 1.43; (95%CI: 1.07; 1.87). At age 10, musculoskeletal pain became predictive of musculoskeletal pain at age 13 [1.44 (1.07 – 1.84)]. In boys aged 7 years, both musculoskeletal and abdominal/pelvic pain were predictive of future musculoskeletal pain at age 13 [1.49 (1.13, 1.91) and 1.40 (1.02, 1.86), respectively]. At age 10 only musculoskeletal pain remained predictive of musculoskeletal pain at age 13 [1.45 (1.11, 1.84)].

Conclusion: In this population-based cohort, musculoskeletal pain in adolescents was preceded by non-musculoskeletal pain experiences especially abdominal/pelvic pain - during childhood in both boys and girls. Widening the scope to non-musculoskeletal sites may contribute to the early detection and risk stratification of individuals who are more susceptible to developing chronic musculoskeletal pain trajectories.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Association between recurrent pain sites at ages 7 and 10, and recurrent musculoskeletal pain at age 13.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by FOR EU - Foundation for Research in Rheumatology (Career Research Grant). Generation XXI cohort study is funded by EPIUnit at ISPUP, Universidade do Porto (UID/DTF/04750/2019), Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, ARS Norte and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. MT was funded by the ERDF, through the North Regional Operational Program in the framework of the project HEALTH-UNORTE (NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000039).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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LEUCOYTE ABNORMALITIES AND CYTOKINE LEVELS IN SYNOVIAL FLUID OF JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Keywords: Cell biology, Cytokines and chemokines, Uveitis

A. Scarnì1, F. Treilli1, A. Meneghe1, R. Luisetto2, C. Baggio3, M. L. Cagnato1, R. Ramonda3, F. Oliviero4, G. Martinī5, F. Zullan6. 1University of Padova, Department of Women’s and Children’s Health-SOB, Padova, Italy; 2University of Padova, Department of Surgery, Oncology and Gastroenterology-DISCOG, Padova, Italy; 3University of Padova, Department of Medicine-DIMED, Padova, Italy

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is a heterogeneous group of diseases characterized by joint inflammation and uveitis is the most frequent extra-articular manifestation. Although several studies evaluated the differences between the different types of JIA, no specific markers have been identified which would allow early stratification of patients and predict the future disease course. Recently, it has been suggested that rheumatic diseases might be associated with genomic instability and increased sensitivity to DNA damage (3), but it has not yet determined in JIA.

Objectives: To investigate cell populations, cytokine levels, and signs of genomic instability in synovial fluid (SF) of patients with different JIA subtypes.

Methods: SF was collected from the knees of 24 patients, untreated for at least 6 months prior to enrollment, and fulfilling ILAR criteria (4): 9 with polyarticular (poly-JIA) (age: 6.5±4.6 years) and 15 with oligoarticular (oligo-JIA) (age: 8.3±3.5 years). Six poly-JIA and 8 oligo-JIA patients were at disease onset. Among the oligo-JIA patients, 12 had positive anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA+) and 5 had uveitis. SF was examined under optical light microscopy. White cell count (WBC) and the polymorphonuclear cell (PMN) percentage were determined in SF according to standard procedures. May-Grünewald-Giemsa staining was used to determine the percentage of hypo- or hypersegmented PMN, binucleated monocytes, and cells with micronuclei (MN), pyknosis, necrosis, apoptosis and nuclear buds, which are considered biomarkers of genotoxic events. SF IL-1β and IL-8 levels were assayed by ELISA.

Results: WBC count and PMN percentage were higher in SF of patients with poly-JIA than in those with oligo-JIA, albeit not significantly. Comparison between the two groups at disease onset showed that WBC levels and PMN percentage were significantly greater in SF from poly-JIA (poly-JIA WBC:1050±458.32 cells/mm³; PMN:59.83±13.75%; oligo-JIA WBC:4850±1050 cells/mm³; PMN:41.5±16%; p<0.05). IL-1β and IL-8 levels were higher in children with poly-JIA, but the difference reached statistical significance only for IL-8 in patients at disease onset (poly-JIA:1253.19±264.4 pg/ml; oligo-JIA:519.67±468.34 pg/ml; p=0.01). This group also showed a percentage of cells with MN significantly greater as compared to that in oligo-JIA (poly-JIA:7.1±2.42%; oligo-JIA:1.7±2.05%; p<0.001). Although SFs from oligo-JIA-ANA+ patients had higher WBC and PMN percentage than those from oligo-JIA-ANA-, no significant differences were observed between the 2 groups. SFs from oligo-JIA patients with uveitis showed higher but not significant IL-8 levels (554.0±520.26 pg/ml), significantly greater IL-1β concentration (100.94±76.05 pg/ml; p<0.05) and percentage of cells with MN (5.7±3.56%; p<0.05), and significantly lower hypersegmented PMN percentage (11.06±4.95%; p<0.05) than those from oligo-JIA patients without uveitis (IL-8:280.8±310.11 pg/ml; IL-1β:6.04±15.4 pg/ml; cells with MN:1.96±3.26%; hypersegmented PMN:22.79±8.07%). There was no significant difference in the other studied parameters between the different patient groups.

Conclusion: This study shows that poly-JIA SFs have higher inflammation marker levels than oligo-JIA SFs, and this is observed mostly at the disease onset. The presence of MN is associated with SF genotoxic effects, and may trigger the induction of inflammatory pathways that contribute to disease complications. As hypersegmented PMN suppress T cell proliferation, a low cell number with this phenotype may reflect a persisting antigenic stimulus.

REFERENCES:
**Paediatric rheumatology**

**VALIDATION OF THE PEDIATRIC BEHÇET DISEASE CRITERIA (PEDBD): A REAL LIFE CONSENSUS-BASED APPROACH**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Behçet’s disease

C. Matucci-Cerinic,1, 2, H. Palliy,3 S. Al-Mayouf,4 P. Brogan,5 L. Cantarinil, A. Guîl,6 O. Kasapcopur,7 J. B. Kummerlie-Deschner,8 S. Őzen,9 D. Saadoun10, F. Shahram11, E. Mosc12, N. Ruperto13, M. Gattornoi, I. Koné-Paut2. 1RCICS Istituto Gianna Gaslini, Center for Autoinflammatory diseases and Immunodefecences, Genoa, Italy; 2University of Genova, DINOOGMI, Genoa, Italy; 3Bicêtre hospital, APHP, University of Paris Saclay, Pediatric rheumatology and CEREMAda, Paris, France; 4King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center; College of Medicine, Alfaisal University, Department of Pediatrics, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; 5University College of London; Great Ormond Street Hospital, Inst of Child Health, London, United Kingdom; 6University of Siena, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medical Sciences, Surgery and Neurosciences, Siena, Italy; 7Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 8Cerrahpasa Medical School, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 9University Hospital Tuebingen, Division of Pediatric Rheumatology, Department of Pediatrics and Autoinflammation Reference Center, Tuebingen, Germany; 10Hacettepe University, Dept. of Pediatric Rheumatology; Ankara, Turkey; 11Sorbonne University, Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology; CEREMAda, Paris, France; 12Shariati Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Rheumatology Research Center, Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of); 13RCICS Istituto Gianna Gaslini, USOSID Centro Trial, Genova, Italy, Genoa, Italy

**Background:** Behçet’s syndrome (BS) is an autoinflammatory disease characterized by a variable vessel vasculitis. In children, BS may start early in life, mimicking other autoinflammatory diseases and making the diagnosis challenging. In the past, several criteria have been created for adult BS classification. In 2015, the first set of BS paediatric classification criteria, the PEDBD, was proposed by an international Expert consensus [1].

**Objectives:** to perform an external validation of the PEDBD criteria in a cohort of internationally validated paediatric BS patients.

**Methods:** 210 patients (70BS, 40 PFAPA, 35 FMF, 26 MKD, 22 TRAPS, 17 ICBD) were randomly selected from the Eurofever Registry (patients excluded if > 16 years and if included in first PEDBD study). A set of 11 Experts blinded to original diagnosis, were chosen to evaluate the patients: in the 1st round, clinical and serological data were evaluated; in the 2nd round genetic data were added; in the 3rd round the other Experts’ votes and comments were shown. Using the expert consensus as gold standard (agreement>80%), the PEDBD, the ISG and the ICBD criteria were applied to BS patients and to the confounding diseases in order to define the sensitivity, specificity and accuracy.

**Results:** At the end of the 3rd round, a consensus on the initial diagnosis was reached in 112/210 patients (53.3%), with an additional consensus on a different final diagnosis in 27 patients. The BS patients with an agreement (24) were classified as confirmed-BS, and those with an agreement of 60-70% (10) as probable-BS. In confirmed-BS patients, oral ulcers were present in all the patients, genital ulcers in 77%, skin manifestations in 50%, a positive pathergy reaction in 39%, anterior and posterior uveitis in 29 and 27%, retinal vasculitis and papillary oedema in 8% of patients, with a resulting impaired vision in 17%. Venous thrombosis was present in 2 patients (8%). The patients with ocular and vascular involvement were all males. Cranic nerve palsy (17%) was the most frequent neurologic symptom. Abdominal pain was present in 33%, diarrhoea and gastrointestinal bleeding in 13% and anal/perianal ulcers in 8%. 29% presented arthralgia, and 13% arthritis. Fever was present in 50% of patients. HLA-B51 was positive in 69% of patients. When comparing these patients with the confounding diseases, an older age at disease onset, the presence of oral and genital ulcers, skin papulo-pustular lesions, a positive pathergy test and posterior uveitis were BS distinctive elements. The ISG, ICBD and PEDBD criteria were applied to confirmed and probable-BS and to the confounding disease controls, resulting in the following test characteristics (Table 1).

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISG</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICBD</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDBD</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** the PEDBD criteria were extremely specific but had a lesser sensitivity than ICBD which had a better accuracy. One limitation is that specific mono-genetic BS mimics were not included as disease controls, thus the true accuracy of all these criteria may be lower in practice. The complexity of childhood BS suggests that genotyping (incorporating autoinflammatory diseases, BS mimics, and HLA-type) combined with clinical features are likely to yield the most accurate classification criteria, which would require further validation in a larger cohort.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOl:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5186

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOl:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3186
This suggests that inflammation seen on WBMRI is a reflection of disease and not artefactual.

### Table 1. Frequency of WBMRI-detected joint inflammation [n (%)] compared to clinical assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Active JIA</th>
<th>Inactive JIA</th>
<th>Difference (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WBMRI -</td>
<td>19 (76%)</td>
<td>9 (41%)</td>
<td>35% (9%,62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBMRI +</td>
<td>6 (24%)</td>
<td>13 (69%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WBMRI -: participants with joint inflammation ≥1 joint by WBMRI, WBMRI +: participants without joint inflammation on WBMRI. CI: confidence interval.

Acknowledgements: This work was funded by grants from the Action Medical Research and Humanitarian Trust and The Albert Gubay Foundation; and by the British Society of Rheumatology. This work was supported by the Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology Versus Arthritis and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) University College London Hospitals (UCLH) Biomedical Research Centre (BRC).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.762

**POS0742**

**CLUSTERS OF JUVENILE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IDENTIFIED AT INITIAL PRESENTATION TO PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY IN A NATIONWIDE UK COHORT**

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Artificial Intelligence, Psoriatic arthritis

S. Shoop-Worrall1, C. Curtin1, G. Cleary1, F. Morel1, L. Coates1, N. Geifman2, K. Hyrich3,7, The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3University College London, Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology, Division of Medicine, London, United Kingdom; 3Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Paediatric Rheumatology, Liverpool, United Kingdom; 6Great North Children’s Hospital, Paediatric Rheumatology, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom; 6University of Oxford, Oxford Paediatric Arthritis Centre, Oxford, United Kingdom; 6University Of Surrey, School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Surrey, United Kingdom; 5Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom

**Background:** The heterogenous presentation and variable clinical response of juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA) to disease-modifying therapies suggests undiscovered subgroups within this disease. Nevertheless, JPsA is often studied under the umbrella of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), with few studies interrogating JPsA separately. To improve stratified treatment of this rare disease, such subgroups must be uncovered.

**Objectives:** To identify novel, phenotypically consistent subgroups of children and young people (CYP) with JPsA at the point of first contact with paediatric rheumatology.

**Methods:** CYP were initially selected if enrolled between January 2001 and December 2019 in the Childhood Arthritis Prospective Study, a UK, multicentre, prospective inception cohort of JIA. Those who had a physician’s diagnosis of JPsA at any time point through the 10-year follow-up were included, to allow for onset of psoriatic signs after initial diagnosis. At initial presentation to paediatric rheumatology, clinical features within the ILAR classification criteria for JPsA were collected: an active joint count and the presence or absence of psoriasis, dactylitis and nail abnormalities. Latent class analysis used these features to identify clusters of disease. Between one and ten clusters were tested and an optimal model selected based on statistical fit.

**Results:** Of 1,753 CYP with JIA recruited to CAPS within the study period, a total of 161 CYP had ever had a diagnosis of JPsA (n=97 diagnosed as JPsA at initial presentation to paediatric rheumatology). The majority were female (61%), of white ethnicity (94%) and the median age at initial presentation was 10 years (IQR 6, 13). The optimal latent class model identified two clusters of JPsA. An oligoarticular cluster (90%, median active joint count (IQR): 2 (1.5)) had a higher proportion of CYP affected by psoriasis (Cluster 1: 29%, Cluster 2: 14%). A polyarticular cluster (10%, median active joint count (IQR): 20 (16, 27)) had a higher proportion with nail abnormalities (Cluster 1: 8%, Cluster 2: 27%). There were similar proportions of dactylitis among the clusters (Cluster 1: 18%, Cluster 2: 15%) (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** This study identifies two clusters of JPsA at initial presentation to paediatric rheumatology with differences in key features used to classify this disease. Such subgroups may have different experiences of disease, and future analysis will explore characteristics, alongside disease impact and response to therapy for these groups.

**Acknowledgements:** We thank all the children and young people and their families involved in CAPS as well as clinical staff and administrators. We also thank the data management team at the University of Manchester (UK). This work is funded by the Medical Research Council (MR/W027151/1), and is also supported by Versus Arthritis (UK grant numbers 20542 & 21755) and the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (NIHR203308).

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**POS0743**

**THE DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC ROLE OF SYNOVIAL TISSUE ANALYSIS IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: A MONOCENTRIC STUDY**

**Keywords:** Synovium, Prognostic factors, Inflammatory arthropides

S. Costi1, E. Armiraglio2, F. Pregnolato3, C. Chighizola3, A. Marino1, C. Iannone1,4, A. Amati4,5, P. Randelli2, R. Caporal1,3,4, ASST G.Pini-CTO, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Milan, Italy; 4ASST G.Pini-CTO, Department of Pathological Anatomy, Milan, Italy; 5University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 5ASST G.Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Science, Milan, Italy; 3ASST G.Pini-CTO, 1 Orthopedic Clinic, Milan, Italy

**Background:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) refers to arthritis persisting for more than 6 weeks and presenting before 16 years. Once the diagnosis of JIA has been formulated, clinicians face challenges in tailoring the therapeutic approach upon each patient’s clinical features. To date, no study has addressed the role of synovial pathology to support the diagnostic approach and guide clinical management in children.

**Objectives:** This study aimed at investigating the diagnostic role of synovial biopsy in children presenting with arthritis and assess the prognostic significance of synovial histology in predicting clinical outcomes among patients with JIA.

**Methods:** Medical records of pediatric patients undergoing synovial biopsy between 1995 and 2020 were retrospectively reviewed. Synovial samples were analyzed histologically and immunohistochemically.

**Results:** Of 99 patients included, synovial biopsy was performed for diagnostic purposes in 65 cases allowing to correctly classify 79% of patients. At historical
analysis on 42 JIA samples, any difference emerged between JIA subsets (Table 1) or treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced subjects. Tissue analysis predicted subsequent disease course: higher number of layers of synovial lining predicted a worse disease course (>4 layers during follow-up) (median 4.5 [IQR 3.0] vs. 3.0 [IQR 2.5], p=0.035), even after adjusting for age at diagnosis and observation time (OR 2.2, 95% CI 1.3-3.9, p=0.007); subjects who had switched to bDMARDs had higher prevalence of subsynovial elementary lesions (55.6% vs 10.3%, p=0.005) and fibrin deposits in synovial lining (60.0% vs 22.6%, p=0.049), even after adjustment for observation time and age at diagnosis (OR 8.1, 95% CI 1.03-64.2, p=0.047). At immunohistochemistry on 31 JIA samples, higher CD3 expression was described in polyclonar compared to oligoclonar subset (p=0.040), while no differences were found between persistent and extended oligoclonar subsets (p=0.670). Patients with severe disease course had higher CD20+ cells percentage (OR 7, 95% CI 1.4–35.5, p=0.023), regardless of JIA subset and treatment exposure (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Immunohistochemical analysis on 31 JIA samples, any difference emerged between JIA subsets (Table 1) or treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced subjects. Tissue analysis might support the clinicians in the diagnostic approach of pediatric patients presenting with arthritis and guide the clinical management of JIA.

Table 1. Synovial morphological and immunohistochemical features in the overall population and within JIA subtypes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morphologic</th>
<th>Oligo</th>
<th>Poli RF-</th>
<th>ERA</th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>Systemic</th>
<th>Overall population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Layers of synovial lining (score), median (IQR)</td>
<td>(n=26)</td>
<td>(n=6)</td>
<td>(n=4)</td>
<td>(n=1)</td>
<td>(n=3)</td>
<td>(n=40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD20 ≥40%</td>
<td>5 (1)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD68 ≥40%</td>
<td>23 (5)</td>
<td>40 (2)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edema (score), median (IQR)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.0)</td>
<td>6.0 (3.5)</td>
<td>6.0 (2.3)</td>
<td>7.0 (0.0)</td>
<td>7.0 (2.5)</td>
<td>6.0 (3.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrosis (score), median (IQR)</td>
<td>17 (4)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>25 (1)</td>
<td>100 (1)</td>
<td>67 (2)</td>
<td>21 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infamylnflammatory infiltrate (score), median (IQR)</td>
<td>(n=1)</td>
<td>(n=3)</td>
<td>(n=1)</td>
<td>(n=3)</td>
<td>(n=10)</td>
<td>(n=38)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. (A) CD3+ infiltrate in oligoclonar and polyclonar JIA; (B) CD3+ infiltrate in persistent and extended oligoclonar JIA; (C) Correlation between the percentage of CD20+ B cells and the severity of disease in all JIA subsets; (D) Correlation between the percentage of CD20+ B cells and the severity of disease in oligoclonar group only.

Acknowledgements: This manuscript is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Rolando Cimaz, an inspiring mentor and beloved friend.

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Keywords: COVID


1Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Facultad de Medicina, San Nicolás de los Garza, Mexico; 2Hospital Nacional de Niños Dr. Carlos Sáenz Herrera, Servicio de Infectología Pediátrica, San José, Costa Rica; 3Hospital Nacional de Niños Dr Carlos Sáenz Herrera, Servicio de Infectología Pediátrica, San José, Costa Rica; 4Instituto Nacional de Pediatría, Departamento de Infectología, Ciudad de México, México; 5Children’s Hospital, Federico Gómez, Servicio de Reumatología, Ciudad de México, México; 6Hospital Nacional de Niños Dr. Carlos Sáenz Herrera, Servicio de Infectología Pediátrica, Ciudad de México, México; 7Hospital National Edgardo Rebagliati Marín, Universidad de Infectología Pediátrica, Jesús María, Perú; 8High Specialty Maternal And Child Regional Hospital, Servicio de Reumatología, Guadalajara, Mexico; 9Hospital “La Misericordia” Bogotá (HoMi), Unidad de Infectología Pediátrica, Bogotá, Colombia; 10Children’s Hospital Doctor José Renán Esquivel, Servicio de Infectología, Panamá, Panamá; 11Children’s Clinic Colsubsidio, Servicio de Infectología, Bogotá, Colombia; 12Benjamin Bloom’s Children Hospital, Unidad de Cuidados Intensivos Pediátricos, San Salvador, El Salvador; 13Hospital de Especialidades Pediátricas, Servicio de Infectología, Panamá, Panamá; 14Children's Hospital “Sister Maria Ludovica”, Servicio de Reumatología, La Plata, Argentina; 15Hospital General de Niños R. Gutiérrez, Servicio de Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 16Hospital General de Niños P. Elizalde, Servicio de Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 17Fundacion Cardioinfantil, Instituto de Cardiología, Servicio de Infectología, Bogotá, Colombia; 18Hospital Pediátrico Dr. Hugo Mendoza, Servicio de Infectología, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 19Sinaloa Pediatric Hospital, Servicio de Alergología e Inmunología, Culiacán Rosales, Mexico; 20Fundación Valle del Líl Hospital, Servicio de Infectología, Cali, Colombia; 21FMJ - Jundial Medical School, Departamento de Pediatría, Sao Paulo, Brazil; 22Maria Hospital, Pediatric Specialties, Servicio de Inmunología, Tegucigalpa, Honduras; 23Instituto Honduense de Salud Publica, Servicio de Inmunología, Tegucigalpa, Honduras; 24Facultad de Medicina de Ribeirão Preto, Servicio de Reumatología, Sao Paulo, Brazil; 25Hospital del Niño “Dr. Federico Gómez Santos”; Servicio de Reumatología, Saltillo, Mexico; 26Instituto Honoríduero de Seguridad Social, Unidad de Cuidados Intensivos Pediátricos, San Pedro Sula, Honduras; 27Hospital Child and Adolescent Morelense, Servicio de Alergología e Inmunología, Emiliano Zapata, Mexico; 28San Vicente Fundacion Servicio de Reumatología, Medellin, Colombia; 29Instituto Nacional de Pediatría, Servicio de Infectología, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 30Star Medica Hip Hospital, Servicio de Infectología, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 31Fundación Clínica Infantil Club Noel, Departamento de Pediatría, Cali, Colombia; 32University of California San Diego, Department of Pediatrics, La Jolla, Unites States of America; 33Rady Children’s Hospital - San Diego, Kawasaki Disease Research Center, San Diego, United States of America; 34Red de Enfermedad de Kawasaki en América Latina, Infectología Pediátrica, San Jose, Costa Rica

Background: Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) is one of the most feared complications following SARS-CoV2 infection in children and adolescents. Few multinational multicenter studies from Latin America have been published. Objectives: To describe the clinical presentation, management, and outcomes of MIS-C in Latin America.

Methods: Observational, prospective and retrospective, multicenter study to gather information from 84 participating centers across 16 Latin American countries, between August January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2022.

Results: Of the 1,239 reported cases of MIS-C, 84.2% were previously healthy. The most frequent clinical manifestation in our studied population was abdominal pain (N=804, 64.9%), followed by conjunctival injection (N=784, 63.3%). The median days of fever at the time of hospital admission was 5 and a significant number of subjects required admission to an intensive care unit (N=569, 47.8%). At a total of 538 (47.2%) patients had an abnormal echocardiogram. Most of the subjects (N=1,106, 88.7%) were treated with intravenous immunoglobulin
Prevalence per 100,000 CYP under the age of 16 (31 for validated cases), varying from 38 (34) for CYP with JIA code, to 4.8 for White CYP to 1.1 for CYP with Mixed ethnic group. A total of 268 HES-validated cases were included and aggregated to broad ethnic groups, as defined by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Incidence and prevalence rates by broad ethnic group were calculated using CYP under the age of 16 in CPRD, as of December 2011. Indirect standardisation was performed by age and region using ONS Census 2011 data, to account for varying population size and age structure across ethnic groups in England.

Table 1. Standardised incidence and prevalence of JIA in CYP by ethnic group in England

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic group</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of CYP &lt;16y:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England general 2011, %</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA, % (95% CI)</td>
<td>†</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(83.2, 90.7) (0.0, 2.5)</td>
<td>(4.2, 9.8)</td>
<td>(0.4, 3.4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observed/Expected ratio</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence per 100,000 person years CYP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;16y, 2011 (95% CI)</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3.8, 4.8) (4.1, 5.3)</td>
<td>(0.3, 2.8)</td>
<td>(19, 4.6)</td>
<td>(0.6, 3.7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence per 100,000 CYP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;16y, 2011 (95% CI)</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32.0, 38.5) (34.7, 42.3) (4.6, 21.4)</td>
<td>(16.8, 14.0)</td>
<td>(39.3)</td>
<td>(38.6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Statistically significant when compared to ‘White’ ethnic group (p<.05). † Statistically significant when compared to ethnic group distribution in general population, p<.001 Chi-Square.

Conclusion: The incidence and prevalence of JIA amongst CYP in England differs by ethnic group, being highest amongst ‘White’ CYP and lowest amongst other ethnic groups, and is not in keeping with the known distribution of ethnic groups in the 1-16y England population. Understanding whether this reflects a health inequity or differences in the underlying biology of JIA needs further evaluation.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**Background:** Nailfold Video Capillaroscopy (NVC) is a simple, non-invasive diagnostic tool but studies with normal values for capillary density in healthy children are rare. Ethnic background seems to play a role in capillary density; however, this is not well substantiated yet [1, 2].

**Objectives:** In this work, we set out to evaluate influence of ethnic background, skin pigmentation and age on capillary density reading in healthy children. Secondary aim was to investigate whether there is a significant difference in density between different fingers within the same patient.

**Methods:** Capillaroscopic images from healthy children were obtained in a one-time visit videocapillaroscopy (×200 magnification) addressing the capillary density (i.e. number of capillaries per linear millimeter in the distal row). This parameter was compared to age, sex, ethnicity, skin pigment grade (I-III) and between eight different fingers, excluding the thumbs.

**Results:** We investigated 145 healthy children with mean age of 11.03 years (SD 3.51). The range of capillary density was 4-11 capillaries per millimeter. We observed a lower capillary density in the ‘grade II’ (6.4 ± 0.5cap/mm, p<0.001) and ‘grade III’ (5.9 ± 0.8 cap/mm, p<0.0001) pigmented-classified groups compared to the ‘grade I’ group (7.0 ± 0.7 cap/mm). We did not find a significant correlation between age and density in the overall group. The fifth fingers on both sides had a significantly lower density compared to the other fingers.

**Conclusion:** Healthy children <18 years with higher degree of skin pigmentation show a significantly lower nailfold capillary density. In subjects with an African/Afro-Caribbean and North-African/Middle-Eastern ethnicity, a significantly lower mean capillary density was observed compared to subjects with the Caucasian ethnicity (p<0.0001, and p<0.05, respectively). There were no significant differences between other ethnicities. No correlation was found between age and capillary density. The fifth fingers on both hands displayed lower capillary density compared to the other fingers. This needs to be taken into account when describing lower density in paediatric patients with connective tissue diseases.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank all healthy children, their parents and the schools “Piet Hein”; “de Knotwilg” and “Burgemeester Amerigoortsschool” for participating in our study, by undergoing a one-time capillaroscopy.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1075

**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Treat to target

**POS01478**

TOWARD THE DEFINITION OF CUTOFF VALUES FOR DISEASE ACTIVITY STATES IN SYSTEMIC JADAS


**IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Pediatric and Rheumatology Clinic, Genoa, Italy; IRCSS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Pediatric and Rheumatology Clinic, Genoa, Italy; Hospital de Pediatría Juan P Garrahan, Department of Immunology/Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Sao Paulo State University, Pediatric Rheumatology Division, Botucatu, Brazil; Children's Hospital, Ain Shams University, Pediatric Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology Unit, Cairo, Egypt; Ain Shams University, Department of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Cairo, Egypt; Jalsok Hospital and Research Centre, Department of Paediatrics, Mumbai, India; Institute of Child Health, Pediatric medicine, Kolkata, India; IRCCS Meyer Children's Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Florence, Italy; Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda-Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Pediatric Rheumatology, Milan, Italy; Instituto Gaetano Pini, Rheumatology Unit, Milan, Italy; IRCSS Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Division of Pediatric Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; Regina Margherita Children Hospital, Immunology and Rheumatology Unit, Turin, Italy; Ospedale Vito Fazzi, Paediatric Immunology/Rheumatology Service, Lecce, Italy; King Hussein Medical Center, Department of Pediatrics - Pediatric Allergy, Immunology & Rheumatology Clinic, Amman, Jordan; University Children Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Riga, Latvia; Saint-Petersburg State Medical University, Department of Hospital Pediatrics, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation; Federal State Autonomous Institution ‘National Medical Research Center of Children’s Health’, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation; King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center, Alfaisal University, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Mahidol University Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital Department of Pediatrics, Bangkok, Thailand; IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Scientific Director, Genoa, Italy

**Background:** Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA) accounts up to 15 % of all patients with JIA and is distinct from other disease categories due to the association of articular and extraarticular manifestations. The systemic Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score (sJADAS) is a composite disease activity score validated specifically for use in sJIA that includes, beside the four components of the original JADAS, a fifth item aimed to quantify the burden of systemic features. The interpretation of scores on sJADAS requires criteria that identify the states of disease activity. These criteria can be used to monitor the disease course over time and to define therapeutic targets.

**Objectives:** To compare the clinical and laboratory data of each disease activity state in patients enrolled in the multinational study aimed to define the sJADAS cutoffs.

**Methods:** Data were extracted from a multinational cross-sectional dataset that included patients diagnosed as sJIA by ILAR criteria, recruited between February 2022 and November 2022. At study visit, each patient was categorized subjectively by the caring physician into one of the following disease activity states: inactive disease (ID), low (or minimal) disease activity (LDA), moderate disease activity (MDA), or high disease activity (HDA). Study data was collected through a standard case report form and entered into an electronic database.

**Results:** A total of 231 patients were enrolled in 29 centers in 12 countries. The mean age at diagnosis was 5.63 years. 87 patients (37.7%) were judged as having ID, 39 (16.9%) LDA, 46 (19.9%) MDA and 59 (25.5%) HDA. The comparison of the main clinical and laboratory features across patients with the four disease activity states is shown in the Table. Overall, the presence of extraarticular manifestations was more common in patients with MDA and HDA (P<0.00001), whereas fever, rash, hepatosplenomegaly, and lymphadenopathy were more frequent in HDA patients (p<0.00001). The count of active joints increased progressively from ID to HDA (p<0.00001). The mean values of physician global assessment of disease activity and systemic manifestations, as well as the mean values of acute phase reactants, were highest in patients with HDA, with gradual decrease from MDA to LDA to ID.

**Conclusion:** This preliminary analysis of the study data indicates that the subjective assessment of disease state by the caring physicians led to discriminate reliably patients with different level of disease activity. This evaluation will, then, serve as basis reference for rheumatology analyses aimed to identify the cutoffs for the main disease activity states in sJIA.

**REFERENCE:**

Table 1. Comparison of clinical and laboratory features across disease activity states (n = 231). ID=inactive disease; LDA=low (or minimal) disease activity; MDA=moderate disease activity; HDA=high disease activity; MD global VAS=physician global assessment of disease activity; MD systemic VAS=physician global assessment of systemic disease activity; ESR=erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP=C-reactive protein; NAJ=Number of active joints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>LDA</th>
<th>MDA</th>
<th>HDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients (n, %)</td>
<td>87 (37)</td>
<td>39 (16.9)</td>
<td>46 (19.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at onset, years (mean, SD)</td>
<td>6.17 (4.24)</td>
<td>5.44 (3.06)</td>
<td>5.11 (3.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dl (mean, SD)</td>
<td>0.39 (0.85)</td>
<td>0.88 (1.93)</td>
<td>5.17 (7.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h (mean, SD)</td>
<td>8.46 (7.83)</td>
<td>16.26 (14.43)</td>
<td>46.11 (34.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAJ &gt; 1 (%)</td>
<td>1 (1.1)</td>
<td>13 (33.3)</td>
<td>34 (73.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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POS0749 TRANSITION READINESS AMONG FINNISH ADOLESCENTS WITH JIA

Keywords: Patient information and education, Self-management, Outcome measures

K. Mikola 1, K. Rebane 1, H. Kautilainen 2,3, K. Aalto 1
1New Children’s Hospital, Pediatric Research Center, Helsinki, Finland; 2Kuopio University Hospital, Primary Health Care Unit, Kuopio, Finland; 3Folkhalsan Research Centre, Biomedicum, Helsinki, Finland

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common persistent rheumatic condition in children [1]. Its nature is chronic (2) and in our own study 40% of patients were transferred to adult clinic when they reached the transition age [3]. A successful transition requires sufficient self-management skills to manage one’s chronic condition and all the tasks involved in it [4]. There are multiple practices to establish the transition readiness and self-management among the adolescents [5].

Objectives: The purpose of our study was to evaluate transition readiness in Finnish patients with JIA and estimate the usefulness of a specific questionnaire. We aimed to find forecasting values for a successful transition and study the possible consequences of an unsuccessful transition to the disease outcome.

Methods: Our questionnaire was inspired by the Canadian Good2Go questionnaire (www.sickkids.ca/en/patients-visitors/transition-adult-care), and it was part of the routine rheumatological visits in our clinic. Eighty-three patients filled it in between June 2011 and December 2013. The questionnaire was given to patients who were likely to be transferred into an adult clinic, that is patients with a long history of ongoing disease activity and ongoing medication. The questions evaluate the self-management in several aspects, e.g., independence in the disease management (medication, appointments, pain control), everyday life (school, future educational plans, mental support, exercise, sexual health), and substance abuse. We used 13 questions with three answer options (yes =2, partly= 1, or no= 0), higher score indicating better readiness. Patients filled in the questionnaire in the pediatric site. We also gathered information from the first adult visit to assess the success of the transition and its relation to disease activity. The transition was defined successful when the patient attended the first visit at an adult care independently, as scheduled, and the medication was carried out as agreed at last pediatric visit.

Results: The cut-off score for a successful transition by ROC-analysis was 24 (OR 6.11 (95% Cl: 1.71 to 1.43)). That is, the best estimate for successful transition is when the score is 24 or more. We were able to receive all necessary information to define the success of the transition from 77 patients. In 55 (71%) patients the transition was estimated as a successful. The mean score 22.5 (SD 2.2) in the transition readiness questionnaire is shown in the Figure 1. Seven patients (9 %) received the maximum score.

At the first adult visit, the DAS28 was assessed in 58 patients. If the transition was defined as unsuccessful (score<24), the DAS28 was higher, mean 2.21 (SD 1.14) and if the transition was defined as successful (score≥24) the DAS28 was better, mean 1.35 (SD 0.48), p<0.001.

Conclusion: We found this questionnaire a useful tool to evaluate transition readiness. Determination of a successful transition helps us to discover those adolescents who need more profound support to improve their self-management skills and thus enhance their transition process. An unsuccessful transition also has important impact on disease outcome.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: All the patients involved.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3057

POS0750 RELATIONSHIP OF CLINICAL AND PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES WITH IMAGING MEASURES OF SYNOVITIS IN JUVENILE ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Inflammatory arthritides, Ultrasound

P. Vega Fernandez 1, K. Rogers 1, A. Cassedy 2, A. B. Meyers 2, T. Ting 1,2
1Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Rheumatology, Cincinnati, United States of America; 2University of Cincinnati, Pediatrics, Cincinnati, United States of America; 3Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center,
Background: In children with JIA, the use of outcomes measures for the assessment of disease course and health-related quality of life (HRQOL) contribute to improvement of the quality of care provided. However, these subjective outcome measures do not always accurately reflect the inflammatory disease burden and may be influenced by comorbid conditions. Musculoskeletal ultrason sound (MSUS) and contrast-enhanced MRI imaging measures of synovitis provide an objective assessment of JIA disease activity. A novel MSUS score for knee arthritis (MSUS-knee score) showed strong correlation with the combined Juvenile Arthritis MRI Scoring (JAMRIS) system in children with JIA.[1]

Objectives: To determine the relationship of clinical and patient-reported outcomes (PROs) measures with the MSUS-knee score and the JAMRIS system in children with JIA.

Methods: Children with a diagnosis of JIA who received a MSUS of the knee(s) were enrolled. Data collected included knee physical examination findings, disease activity assessment, the Child Health Assessment Questionnaire (CHAQ) and the pediatric PROMIS Mobility measure (t-score mean 50, standard deviation 10). The following measures were asked to the patients specifically for the examined knee: pain, swelling and morning stiffness. A comprehensive knee MSUS examination was performed on all participants by MSUS certified pediatric rheumatologist. MSUS images were scored by pediatric MSUS experts, who were blinded to clinical information using a semiquantitative scoring system (0-normal to 3-severe).[1] The MSUS-knee score was calculated by adding the abnormal B-mode MSUS scores (score 2 or 3) and the power doppler MSUS scores (score 1 to 3) from the views of MSUS-knee (MSUS-knee score-range: 0-15)[1]. A subset of participants received an MRI with and without contrast of the knee. MRI of the knee was scored for presence and severity of synovial thickening and joint effusion as per JAMRIS system[2]. Associations between clinical and PROs outcome measures and imaging measures were assessed using Spearman’s Correlation Coefficient.

Results: Forty-eight children (mean age of 12.1 years) contributed 60 visits. Twenty-four knee MRIIs were obtained following MSUS of the knee. Patient reported presence of knee swelling was strongly correlated with the MSUS-knee score and moderately correlated with the JAMRIS system. No other significant statistically associations were found between PROs assessing lower extremity pain and physical function, and overall disease status with imaging measures (Table 1).

Conclusion: Imaging measures of JIA disease activity could provide a more accurate assessment of JIA disease state, given low correlation with commonly used outcome measures. Integration of imaging measures into the shared decision-making in daily clinical practice may improve the quality of medical care. Future studies with a larger population are required.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Correlations of Outcome Measures with Imaging Measures of Synovitis in JIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSUS-knee score</th>
<th>JAMRIS system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cJADAS10*</td>
<td>0.24 (0.102)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Global*</td>
<td>0.11 (0.547)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>0.12 (0.414)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAQ</td>
<td>-0.11 (0.393)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Mobility</td>
<td>0.13 (0.439)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Clinical Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score-10: sum of the scores of the 8 physician’s global assessment of disease activity (Md global: 0- no activity to 10- maximum activity), patient/parent global assessment of well-being (PGA: 0- very well to 10- very poor), and the active joint count (AUC) up to 10 joints.

Aims: To study the demographic distribution of patients with JIA and to describe the baseline characteristics of the patients enrolled in the study.

Methods: A total of 666 children with JIA who received a MSUS of the knee(s) were enrolled. Data collected included knee physical examination findings, disease activity assessment, the Child Health Assessment Questionnaire (CHAQ) and the pediatric PROMIS Mobility measure (t-score mean 50, standard deviation 10). The following measures were asked to the patients specifically for the examined knee: pain, swelling and morning stiffness. A comprehensive knee MSUS examination was performed on all participants by MSUS certified pediatric rheumatologist. MSUS images were scored by pediatric MSUS experts, who were blinded to clinical information using a semiquantitative scoring system (0-normal to 3-severe).[1] The MSUS-knee score was calculated by adding the abnormal B-mode MSUS scores (score 2 or 3) and the power doppler MSUS scores (score 1 to 3) from the views of MSUS-knee (MSUS-knee score-range: 0-15)[1]. A subset of participants received an MRI with and without contrast of the knee. MRI of the knee was scored for presence and severity of synovial thickening and joint effusion as per JAMRIS system[2]. Associations between clinical and PROs outcome measures and imaging measures were assessed using Spearman’s Correlation Coefficient.

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Acknowledgements: To the Center for Clinical & Translational Science & Training (CCTST) at the University of Cincinnati funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program, grant 2UL1TR001425-05A1 and KL2 (2KL2TR001426-05A); and the National Institutes of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Skin Diseases under Award - Number P30AR078318.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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MUSCULOSKELETAL INVOLVEMENT IMPAIRS QUALITY OF LIFE IN JUVENILE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Quality of life, Psoriatic arthritis, Ultrasound

Background: Juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA) is one of the least common subtypes of JIA. Information on JPsA is mainly clinical, but scarce regarding the impact of musculoskeletal involvement on children’s quality of life.

Objective: To describe the clinical and ultrasound (US) characteristics of children with JPsA, and to assess their impact using a composite quality of life index, the PsAID (Psoriasis Arthritis Impact of Disease).

Methods: A multicentre cross-sectional observational study recruited consecutive JPsA patients, from January-2020 to May-2022. Inclusion criteria: 1/ age at onset ≤ 16 years, 2/ diagnosis by the prescribing physician based on one of the 2 JPsA diagnostic classification systems (ILAR or Vancouver). All were assessed clinically and US (independently) and completed two questionnaires: PsAID (Psoriasis Arthritis Impact of Disease) and CHAQ, to measure physical disability.

Results: The 48 children included (mean age at inclusion 11±4 years), 71% girls, 67% had oligoarthritis and 80% psoriasis in a first or second-degree relative. Mosty arthritis started before the psoriasis. The median time lag between the diagnosis and the onset of specific musculoskeletal manifestations was 1 year; interquartile range 0.5-2. ANA and HLAB27 were present in 19 (40%) and 5 (10%) of the children, respectively. A history of axial inflammatory symptoms was present in 3 (6%) patients, and unilateral sacroiliitis was confirmed by MRI in only one patient. Psoriasis and dactylitis were the most frequent manifestations identified (≥50%), while uveitis was less common (12%). Twenty-eight (87%) patients used methotrexate, 21 used anti-TNF agents and 14 needed corticosteroid infiltration. The population showed low clinical activity in the DAPSA composite activity index (md 3.5; range 0-25). Similarly, US showed a low number of affected joints but US was slightly superior to clinical examination, while US was clearly superior to detect enthesitis and dactylitis, particularly tendons of the fingers. The PsAID index (median 0.4; range 0-9.2) showed low correlation with CHAQ (r=0.3) and high with DAPSA (r=0.7); however, the correlation between PsAID and total joint count was low for both clinical and US assessment (r=0.4). The correlation between PsAID and total joint count was moderate for clinical (r=0.5) and low for US (r=0.4). Children with the presence of enthesitis and clinical dactylitis had a higher mean PsAID score than those without (dactylitis: p=0.002, and enthesitis: p<0.001).

Conclusion: The study supports the existence of an atypical pattern of late-onset JPsA characterised by a predominance of girls with peripheral involvement and little uveal involvement. Based on our results, dactylitis and enthesitis have a greater impact on the child’s quality of life than joint involvement per se. Studies with a larger sample size and/or disease activity are needed to confirm these findings.

References:


Acknowledgements: Sociedad Española de Reumatología Pediátrica (SERPE). Disclosures of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3892

POS0753 TIF1-GAMMA IGG2 ISOTYPE IS ASSOCIATED WITH ETHNICITY IN JDM PATIENTS

Keywords: Myositis, Autoantibodies, Descriptive studies

H. Nguyen1,2,3, F. Jouen1,2,3, B. Danchelot4,5, N. Cordel6,7, M. Gitiaux8, C. Bodemer9, P. Quatre10,11, A. Belot12, K. Obrée13, I. Melki14, N. Fabien15, S. Tansley15,16, L. Wedderburn17,18, O. Boyer19,20, B. Bader-Meunier21,22, UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, Infection, Immunity & Inflammation, London, United Kingdom; UCL and GOSH. Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology Versus Arthritis at UCL, London, United Kingdom; Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, London, United Kingdom; Univ Rouen Normandie, INSERM U1234, Rouen, France; Rouen University Hospital, Immunology and Biotherapy, Rouen, France; Guadeloupe University Hospital, Dermatology and Clinical Immunology, Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe; Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Paediatric Neuropsychology, Paris, France; Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Pediatric Dermatology and Immunology, Paris, France; Université Paris Cité, Pediatric Immunology, Paris, France; Necker-Enfants Maladies Hospital, Pediatric Dermatology-Immunology and Rheumatology, Paris, France; Hill Robert Debré, General Pediatrics, Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine, Paris, France; Hopital Lyon Sud, Laboratory of Immunology, Lyon, France; Royal United Hospitals, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, United Kingdom; University of Bath, Department of Life Sciences, Bath, United Kingdom

Background: Dermatomyositis is an autoimmune disease that can present in children, adolescents (juvenile dermatomyositis JDM), and adults (adult dermatomyositis AD). The pathological hallmarks of DM are similar between JDM and AD, including skin rashes and proximal muscle weakness, however, the manifestations and prevalence of associated autoantibodies vary, depending on age of onset. Myositis specific antibodies (MSA) have been used as a prognostic tool to aid management of disease in both adult DM and JDM. In JDM, anti-TIF1γ is highly prevalent, and is the most common MSA in Caucasian patients. This MSA is associated with malignancy in adult DM [1]. We have previously shown that adult DM patients with cancer have significantly higher frequency and serological level of anti-TIF1γ IgG2 isotype [2]. However, there are limited data on anti-TIF1γ isotypes in JDM.

Objectives: To investigate anti-TIF1γ isotypes as a potential biomarker for clinical presentations in JDM patients.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective study to evaluate clinical features of anti-TIF1γ positive patients. This cohort includes 20 patients from French health-care centres and 11 patients from the UK healthcare centres. Serum samples were first tested for anti-TIF1γ using either in-house or immunoprecipitation. Within those with anti-TIF1γ antibodies, anti-TIF1γ isotypes including IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and IgG4 were measured using a multiplex ALBIA assay developed by Aussy et al. (2019) [2].
Results: Out of 31 children, 54.8% (17) were Caucasian, followed by North Afri-
can (25.8%, n=7), and other minority groups. Male to female ratio was 14:17. All 31
patients had IgG1 isotype, and 14 had more than one isotype of anti-TIF1γ
antibody. Although IgG2 isotype of anti-TIF1γ has been shown to be a biomarker
for malignancy and mortality in adult DM, there were no reports of malignancy
in this paediatric cohort. In our JDM cohort, the rate of IgG2-positive was 25.8%
(8/31) which is lower than observed in adult DM of 55% [2]. Two cases in this
JDM cohort did: both were positive for IgG4, but both were negative for IgG2.
Interestingly, there were significant differences regarding IgG2 isotype of anti-
TIF1γ: antibody presence between ethnic groups (p = 0.008). Specifically,
although Caucasian patients were the majority, only 1 out of 8 IgG2 positive
cases was Caucasian. Between Caucasian and non-Caucasian groups, signif-
icant differences were observed when comparing the groups’ means (p = 0.02)
and variances (p = 0.01). Notably, 4/8 IgG2 positive were found in North African
population, making up 44.4% (4/9) of this ethnic group. We also showed that
anti-TIF1γ isotypes can change over time. Specifically, of 6 patients tested for
anti-TIF1γ isotypes at a second time point, 4 cases had changes in serological
levels of anti-TIF1γ isotypes: 2 had lower titer levels, 1 lost positive status for
IgG2 and IgG3, and 1 gained positive status for IgG4.
Conclusion: Our study indicates that there may be a relationship between anti-
TIF1γ IgG2 isotype and ethnicity. Importantly, although IgG2 is a biomarker
for cancer in adult DM, it is not associated with severe onset or manifestations
such as mortality or malignancy in JDM patients.

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Cancer and Mortality in Adult Dermatomyositis. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2019

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POS0754 PROTEASOME ACTIVITY TEST AS A POTENTIAL
CLINICAL TOOL FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF CHRONIC
ATYPICAL NEUTROPHILIC DERMATOSIS WITH
LIPODYSTROPHY AND ELEVATED TEMPERATURE
(CANDLE) SYNDROME AND RELATED PROTEASOME
DISORDERS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Rare/orphan diseases, Genetics/epigenetics

Y. Levinsky1, O. Scheuermann2, R. Tal1, G. Amariyo1, L. Harel1, 1Schneider
Children’s Medical Center of Israel, Pediatric Rheumatology Unit, Petah Tikva,
Israel; 2Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel, Pediatrics B, Petah Tikva,
Israel

Background: Chronic atypical neutrophilic dermatosis with lipodystrophy and ele-
vated temperature (CANDLE) syndrome, is an interferonopathy caused by pro-
tosomal dysfunction. Clinical characteristics include early onset inflammation, nodular
rashes, hepatosplenomegaly, myositis, panarthritis, lipodystrophy and basal ganglion
calcifications. CANDLE and associated syndromes are grouped into the proteas-
osome-associated autoinflammatory syndromes (PRAAS). Our patient presented at age
of 3 months with features strongly suggestive of PRAAS. Genetic testing revealed a
novel proteasome variant classified as a variant of unknown significance (VUS).

Objectives: Functional testing of the proteasome was undertaken in order to
support the suspicion of PRAAS. Our aims are to describe the potential role of
this test for aiding in the diagnosis of PRAAS.

Methods: First, interferon signature was obtained and whole exome sequencing
was analyzed for the patient and her parents. Nest, samples of whole blood were
taken from the patient, parents and 3 healthy controls. PBMC were lysed using
activity preserving methods (active extraction). Samples were normalized using

BCA enzymatic assay. Activity of the proteasomal subunits was measured using
peptides specific to different subunits (caspase, chymotrypsin and trypsin activity).

Results: Interferon signature was abnormally high, suggestive of an interfer-
onopathy. Whole exome sequencing revealed a novel heterozygous variant in a
PSMB4, the gene that encodes for β1, a structural non-catalytic subunit of the
proteasome classified as a variant of unknown significance (VUS). A pilot analy-
sis of proteasome activity showed a 50% reduction in the catalytic activity of pro-
teasome subunit β1, indicating severe impairment of proteasomal activity, with
compensatory hyper-activation of the immunoproteasome subunit β2 (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Proteasomal activity testing may serve as a useful tool for the diag-
nosis of CANDLE/PRAAS in suspicious cases. Since JAK inhibitors may provide
an adequate therapeutic response, it is of great importance to timely diagnose
this disease in cases where the genetic results are equivocal.

REFERENCES:
some subunit mutations in CANDLE/PRAAS patients promote type I IFN
some subunit PSMB8 causes autoinflammation and lipodystrophy in humans.
[3] Torrelo A. CANDLE Syndrome As a Paradigm of Proteasome-Related Auto-

Figure 1. Reduced β1 proteasomal subunit activity as measured by caspase reaction, com-
pared to healthy controls

Figure 2. The patient, before (A) and 2 weeks after (B) starting the treatment with JAK inhibi-
tor (baricitinib)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4573

POS0755 TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITE
PARENT-CENTERED DISEASE ACTIVITY SCORES FOR
JUVENILE DERMATOMYOSITIS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Myositis, Patient reported outcomes

S. Rosina1, A. I. Rebollo Giménez2, L. Tarantola3, R. Naddeo2, A. Consolaro1,2,
A. Pistorio4, A. Ravelli4.

1IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, UOC Reumatologia e Malattie Infiammatorie, Genova, Italy; 2Scien-
to Materno-Infantili (DiNOGMI), Genova, Italy; 3Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Dipartimento di
Scienze Mediche Translazionali, Napoli, Italy; 4Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Dipartimento di
Scienze Mediche Translazionali, Napoli, Italy

Background: In recent years, increasing attention has been paid to the devel-
opment of parent- and child-centered composite disease activity scores for
the assessment of health status of children with rheumatic diseases.

Results: Parent- and child-centered composite disease activity scores for

**Objectives:** This study is aimed to develop and test an entirely parent-centered composite disease activity score for JDM, named parent Juvenile Dermatomyositis Activity Index (parJDMAI). Two versions of the score, which differed in the fourth item included, were evaluated.

**Methods:** Both parJDMAI1 and parJDMAI2 include the following items: 1) parent assessment of skin disease activity (Parent Skin Scale) on a 0-5 scale, by giving 1 point to the presence of each of the following: i) rash on eyelids, ii) nose/checks, iii) knuckles, iv) trunk/arms, v) skin ulcers; 2) parent assessment of muscle disease activity (Parent Muscle Scale) on a 0-5 scale, by giving 1 point to the presence of each of the following: i) fatigue/discomfort, ii) muscle weakness, iii) muscle pain, iv) voice change; v) difficulty swallowing; 3) parent assessment of child's fatigue on a 0-10 visual analog scale (VAS) (0 = no fatigue; 10 = maximum fatigue). As fourth item, the parJDMAI1 includes the parent global assessment of child's wellbeing, measured on a 0-10 VAS (0 = best; 10 = worst), whereas the parJDMAI2 includes the parent global assessment of disease activity, measured on a 0-10 VAS (0 = no activity; 10 = maximum activity).

To give the four components of the tools the same weight, the scores of the Parent Skin and Muscle Scales were doubled. Thus, the total score of both instruments ranges from 0 to 40. Initial validation was conducted on a monocentric sample of 213 patients followed in standard clinical care and evaluated prospectively (number of visits = 577), and on a monocentric sample including 50 patients, all assessed at baseline and 32 also assessed after a median of 3.9 months (number of visits = 82). Validation analyses included calculation of the correlations between individual parJDMAI1 items and physician-centered JDM outcome measures, and between the total score of parJDMAI1 and parJDMAI2 with that of the global composite disease activity scores for JDM named JDMAI1 and JDMAI2. Because both JDMAI1 and JDMAI2 include the parent global assessment of child’s wellbeing, which is also part of parJDMAI1, we also tested the correlations of parJDMAI1 with reduced versions of JDMAI1 and JDMAI2, that included only the 3 physician-centered items. Spearman correlations were defined as low, moderate or high when $r_S$ was < 0.4, ≥ 0.4 and ≤ 0.7, or > 0.7, respectively.

**Results:** Correlations between individual components of parJDMAI1 and parJDMAI2 and physician-centered JDM outcome measures were low-to-moderate in the monocentric sample, but moderate in the monocentric sample. Likewise, correlations between the scores of parJDMAI1 and parJDMAI2 and that of original and reduced versions of JDMAI1 and JDMAI2 were strong in the monocentric sample, but moderate in the multicentric sample.

**Conclusion:** The new parent-centered composite disease activity scores revealed satisfactory measurement properties. That correlations with physician-centered outcome measures and original and reduced JDMAI versions were higher in the monocentric sample than in the multicentric cohort indicates that the proposed tools should be further tested in different clinical and cultural environments before their widespread use can be recommended.

**REFERENCE:**


**Table 1. Spearman correlation between parJDMAI1 and parJDMAI2 and other outcome measures.**

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<thead>
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<th>Multicentric sample</th>
<th>Spearman r</th>
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<th>Monocentric sample</th>
<th>Spearman r</th>
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<td>Parent JDMAI1 vs JDMAI1-3 Items</td>
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**Acknowledgements:** This work was partially supported by the Fundación Española de Reumatología (FER).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4843

**POS0756 EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF ADALIMUMAB IN PEDIATRIC NON-INFECTIONOUS NON-ANTERIOR UVEITIS: REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE FROM AIDA INTERNATIONAL REGISTRY**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Uveitis, Registries

C. Fabiani1, A. Vitale2, F. Della Casa3, S. Guerrero4, G. Ragaglia4, A. Brucato4, M. Cattalini5, E. Del Giudice6, A. Marino7, M. P. Paroli7, C. Gaggiano8, J. Sota8, V. Caggiano8, M. Tarsia8, B. Frederi9, L. Cantarin9. 1Ophthalmology Unit, University of Siena, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Neurosciences, Siena, Italy; 2Rheumatology Unit, University of Siena, Department of Medical Sciences, Surgery and Neurosciences, Siena, Italy; 3Department of Medical Sciences, Surgery and Neurosciences, Siena, Italy; 4Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Naples Federico II, Department of Translational Medical Sciences, Napoli, Italy; 5Unit of Ophthalmology, Department of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Sari, Italy; 6Newizga University (NGU), Egypt; Faculty of Medicine, II Cairo, Egypt; 7Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Internal Medicine Department, II Cairo, Egypt; 8University of Milano, Ospedale Fatebenefratelli, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences “Sacco”; Milano, Italy; 9Pediatric Clinic, University of Brescia and Speciali Civili di Brescia, Brescia, Italy; 10Sapienza University of Rome, Polo Portino, Department of Maternal Infantile and Urological Sciences, Rome, Italy; 11Unit of Pediatric Rheumatology, ASST Gaetaano Pini-CTO, Milan, Italy, Milan, Italy; 12Uveitis Unit, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy, 1Department of Sense Organs, Eye Clinic, Rome, Italy; 13Rheumatology Unit, University of Siena, Siena, Italy, Department of Medical Sciences, Surgery and Neurosciences, Siena, Italy

**Background:** Evidence about the effectiveness of the tumor necrosis factor inhibitor adalimumab (ADA) in pediatric patients with non-infectious intermediate uveitis/pars planitis, posterior uveitis, and panuveitis is still limited.

**Objectives:** Aim of this study is to investigate the therapeutic role of ADA in a cohort of pediatric patients with non-ante unilateral uveitis.

**Methods:** This is an international multicenter study based on real-life data from pediatric patients treated with ADA due to non-ante unilateral uveitis. Data were drawn from the retrospective branch of the Autoinflammatory Disease Alliance (AIDA) registry dedicated to uveitis.

**Results:** 21 patients (36 affected eyes) were enrolled. Eleven patients (19 affected eyes) did not experience further ocular inflammation after ADA introduction; 10 cases (17 affected eyes) showed a partial response with reduced frequency of relapses (3 cases), reduced severity of relapses (3 cases) or reduced frequency and severity of relapses (4 cases). The number of ocular flares dropped from 3.91 to 1.1 events/patient/year after ADA introduction ($p=0.0009$). Macular edema and retinal vasculitis were respectively observed in 18 eyes and 20 eyes at the start of ADA and in 4 eyes and 2 eyes at the last assessment. The mean daily glucocorticoid dosage significantly decreased at the last assessment ($p=0.005$). As observed in Table 1, intermediate uveitis/pars planitis ($p=0.01$) and posterior uveitis ($p=0.03$) were more frequent among patients with full response to ADA; panuveitis was significantly more frequent among patients continuing to experience uveitic flares ($p=0.001$). Regarding the safety profile, a case of generalized adenopathy was observed.

**Conclusion:** ADA had a role in all pediatric patients with non-ante unilateral uveitis with a significant glucocorticoid sparing effect. Panuveitis seems to be more frequent among patients continuing to experience uveitic flares.
Table 1. Baseline features of patients showing a full control of ocular relapses (group 1) and those experiencing ocular relapses despite the improvement in the frequency and/or the severity of ocular flares. **Abbreviations: IBD: inflammatory bowel disease; IQR, interquartile range JIA: juvenile idiopathic arthritis; VKH: Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada syndrome; CS: corticosteroids.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Group 1 – no further Group 2 – reduced frequency or severity of relapses</th>
<th>p value</th>
<th>N° patients/eyes</th>
<th>N° (%)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis presentation, N° eyes (%)</td>
<td>Sudden, 9 (47.4)</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>11 (19)</td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unilateral/bilateral involvement at the onset</td>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>11 (24)</td>
<td>12 (17)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean duration from uveitis onset at onset</td>
<td>11 (24)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>11 (15)</td>
<td>11 (24)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean duration of follow-up, months – median (IQR)</td>
<td>27 (28.5)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>27 (28.5)</td>
<td>28 (30.5)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age at uveitis onset, years (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>13 (24)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>13 (24)</td>
<td>13 (24)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA introduction, months – median</td>
<td>27 (28.5)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>27 (28.5)</td>
<td>28 (30.5)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>28 (30.5)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.83</td>
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<tr>
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<td>27 (28.5)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>27 (28.5)</td>
<td>28 (30.5)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
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</table>

**REFERENCES: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.**

*DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular-51677**

**POS0757**

**UVEITIS AS PREDICTORS OF RELAPSE AFTER ANTI-TNF TREATMENT WITHDRAWAL IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: AN ITALIAN MULTICENTER EXPERIENCE**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Inflammatory arthritides, Prognostic factors

L. Macconi, M. Trevisan, V. Accardo, I. Pagnini, F. La Torre, E. Marrani, M. Cattalin, M. V. Mastrolia, A. Taddio, G. Simonetti, M. Meyer Children’s Hospital IRCCS, Rheumatology Unit, Florence, Italy; University of Florence, NeuroFARBA Department, Firenze, Italy; Institute of Maternal and Child Health, IRCCS Burlo Garofolo, Pediatric Department, Trieste, Italy; University of Florence, School of Human Health Science, Florence, Italy; Ospedale G. Giovanni XXIII; Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Consorziale Policlinico, Pediatric Rheumatology Center, Bari, Italy; ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia, University of Brescia, Pediatrics Clinic, Brescia, Italy

**Background:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common chronic rheumatic disease in childhood. TNF inhibitors (TNFi) have dramatically changed the prognosis of this disease, but once achieved disease remission, it is not clear how and when to stop therapy. Our purpose is to describe a multicenter cohort of JIA patients treated with the first course of Adalimumab and Etanercept in whom therapy was discontinued to persistent remission and identify predictors of relapse.

**Methods:** In a multicentric Italian retrospective study (Florence, Brescia, Trieste and Bari), patients with oligoarticular or polyarticular JIA were enrolled if they stopped therapy for persistent remission after the first course of Adalimumab and Etanercept. We collected demographic, clinical and laboratory data at onset and during biologic treatment.

**Results:** 136 patients were enrolled (102 female, median age at onset 3 years (R1-15)), of whom 76 (55.9%) had oligoarticular JIA and 55 (40.4%) had uveitis. ANA positivity was found in 99/72.8% (Table 1). TNFi were started at median age of 6 years (R1-16), with a median time intercourse between TNFi initiation and diagnosis of 12 months (R0.5-96). Seventy-nine (59.3%) were treated with ADA, and 57 (40.7%) with ETA. Remission was achieved after a median time of 4 months (R1-32) and TNFi was discontinued after a median time of 30 months (R 6-90). TNFi were stopped in the 76.5% increasing the interval of administration, 18.4% reducing the dose, and 16.9% abrupt discontinuation. 106 patients (79.4%) relapsed after a median time of 6 months (R 0.5-96) for arthritis in 71 (66.9%), uveitis in 19 (17.9%), both in 18 (16.9%). Patients who relapsed were more frequently female (χ² 5.9 p < 0.014), younger at onset (median 3 vs 7 p < 0.001) and when TNFi was started (6 vs 9 m, p = 0.005) (Table 1). Patients who not-relapse suspended TNFi more frequently lengthening intervals of administration (χ² 5.2 p = 0.015). Relapse free survival curve after withdrawal evaluated with Kaplan-Meier showed that patients with uveitis had a significantly earlier relapse (Log Rank χ² = 12.8 p < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** Although this is a retrospective study, we highlighted that early age at onset and at TNFi initiation, presence of uveitis and a long time to start biologics seem to be significantly more frequent in subjects who relapse, while stop therapy lengthening the interval of drug administration might be protective.

**Table 1. Characteristics of JIA patients after drug withdrawal (relapse Vs no-relapse)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test and p value</th>
<th>No-relapse</th>
<th>Relapse</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female n, %</td>
<td>202 (75%)</td>
<td>16 (51.7%)</td>
<td>86 (158%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, years, m (R)</td>
<td>3 (1-15)</td>
<td>5 (1-15)</td>
<td>3 (1-11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis history, n (%)</td>
<td>55 (40.4%)</td>
<td>4 (6.8%)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of JIA</td>
<td>55 (40.4%)</td>
<td>4 (6.8%)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poli n (%)</td>
<td>6 (44.1%)</td>
<td>14 (24%)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poli n (%)</td>
<td>21 (15.4%)</td>
<td>10 (17.8%)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poli n (%)</td>
<td>60 (44.1%)</td>
<td>13 (24%)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Biologics</td>
<td>ADA 79</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>ADA 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Characteristics at biologic starting and withdrawal | 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular-51677 | POS0757 | ON DEMAND CANAKINUMAB THERAPY FOR COLCHICINE RESISTANT FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER (FMF) PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS – A MULTICENTER STUDY**

**Keywords:** Quality of care

K. Shehabden1, Y. Levinsky1, R. Tal2, S. Kagan3, T. Zaabi4, L. Harel1, G. Amarillo1,2, Tel Aviv University, Schmidt School of Medicine, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel; Schneider-Children's Medical Center, Pediatric Rheumatology Unit, Petah Tiqwa, Israel; Schneider-Children's Medical Center, Pediatric Department B, Petah Tiqwa, Israel

**Background:** Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) is the most common autoinflammatory disease.

**REFERENCES: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.**

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Without therapy, it may lead to the development of secondary amyloidosis. Treatment with colchicine leads to long-term remission in ~70% of patients. 5% are resistant to colchicine therapy (crFMF) and may be treated with monthly dose of canakinumab (anti IL-1beta). However, colchicine, the only drug proved to prevent secondary amyloidosis. Canakinumab is immunosuppressive as well as expensive.

**Objectives:** To compare on demand canakinumab (COD) dosage policy vs. canakinumab fixed frequency (CFF) policy.

**Methods:** Data from 3 pediatric rheumatology centers (Schneider, Sheba, Ram-bam) were collected regarding crFMF patients treated with canakinumab. crFMF patients treated according to the COD policy were given 1 dose of sc-cana-nimumb injection 4mg/kg (max 150mg), with subsequent doses administered only after an additional attack. CFF patients were given fixed 4 weekly doses according to the manufacturer instructions.

**Results:** Overall, 51 crFMF (25 COD vs. 26 FCC) with mean follow-up of 22.6 months were included. There were no significant demographic, clinical or genetic differences between the groups. The COD group received significantly lower cumulative canakinumab dosage during the follow-up period (15.6±8.95mg/kg vs.32.5±8.05mg/kg;P<0.001). There were no differences between groups in mean FMF attacks nor in mean CRP levels at the end of follow-up period. None of the COD group necessitated higher colchicine doses (0.05x±0.01mg/kg vs. 0.03x±0.01mg/kg;P>0.001).

**Conclusion:** COD treatment in crFMF patients is as effective as CFF treatment. Using COD can reduce drug expenses and decrease immunosuppression exposure without negatively influencing the disease control.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6147

**POS0759**

**MONOGENIC DISORDERS IN THE MAIDEN COHORT OF PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOMLOGICAL DISEASES OF NEPAL - A SPECK OF IMPRINT ON EVEREST.**

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**POS0760**

**LONG-TERM PROGNOSTIC FOLLOW-UP OF PATIENTS WITH REFRACTORY SYSTEMIC JUVENILE IDIOPTIC ARTHRITIS AFTER THE CLINICAL TRIAL OF TOCILIZUMAB AS A FIRST-LINE BIOLOGIC TREATMENT**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Prognostic factors, Inflammatory arthritides


1Tokyo Women's Medical University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Institute of Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 2Yokohama City University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Yokohama, Japan; 3Kanagawa Children's Medical Center, Department of Infectious Disease and Immunology, Yokohama, Japan; 4Tokohu University Hospital, Clinical Research, Education and Innovation Center Sendai, Japan; 5Aichi Children's Health and Medical Center, Department of Infection and Immunology, Obu, Japan; 6Jichi Medical University, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Shimotsuke-shi, Tochigi, Japan; 7Hyogo Prefectural Kobe Children's Hospital, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Kobe, Japan; 8Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Department of Lifetime Clinical Immunology, Tokyo, Japan; 9St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Allergology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kawasaki, Japan; 10Graduate School of Medicine, Chiba University, Department of Pediatrics, Chiba, Japan; 11University of Occupational and Environmental Health, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; 12Osaka Medical and Pharmacare University, Department of Pediatrics, Takatsuki, Japan; 13Osaka Rosai Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Sakai, Japan; 14Kagoshima University Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Kagoshima, Japan; 15Chiba Children's Hospital, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Chiba, Japan; 16Miya Children's Hospital, Department of General Pediatrics, Sendai, Japan; 17Osaka Rheumatology Clinic, Rheumatology, Osaka, Japan.

**Background:** Tocilizumab (TCZ) was approved for systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA) as an intravenous formulation in 2008 after its effectiveness and safety were shown in a world-leading clinical trial performed in Japan in 2002–2008.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to understand the long-term prognosis of patients participating in phases II (Study MRA011 JP), III (Study MRA316 JP), and III/IV (Study MRA324 JP). There were 148 participants in the clinical trial.

**Methods:** Information on eligible patients was obtained from 12 cooperating institutions approved by the Ethics Committee of Tokyo Women's Medical University and each institution. Patients who could be followed-up were referred and transferred to other hospitals or departments. The following long-term prognostic factors were assessed: treatment status, including the continuation of TCZ administration during the long-term course of sJIA, disease status (remission rate and clinical phenotype), complications, social adjustment, employment status, and health-related quality of life (HRQOL) scale.

**Results:** Results were collected for 132 cases from ten centers by December 2022. We examined 125 patients (58 males and 67 females) whose medical records were still available and whose final diagnosis was sJIA. The age of the study participants was 18.6 years at the time of the study, 4.3 years at onset, 8.8 years at first TCZ administration, 3.8 years from onset to the first TCZ administration, and 9.1 years from TCZ initiation (all median values). Of the 125 patients, 28 (22.4%) were in medication-free remission and were either under or completely followed-up. Of the 93 patients (74.4%) who continued therapy, 10 (10.8%) were moved to a subcutaneous version of TCZ, which is not yet licensed for the treatment of sJIA in Japan. Ten patients (10.8%) were switched to canakinumab (CAN) due to TCZ primary failure (5 patients), secondary failure (2 patients), side effects (1 patient developed anaphylaxis), or other reasons. Of the 124 patients, 44 (35.5%) changed from acute febrile sJIA to chronic arthritic sJIA, in which chronic arthritis was the primary pathology without systemic inflammation, and 17 of these patients still had active arthritis at the last observation. Corticosteroids were prescribed in 54 of 93 patients (58.1%). Except in one case of sudden death, the causes of death in the four cases that resulted in fatalities were macrophage activation syndrome, sJIA-related interstitial pneumonia, and disseminated aspergillosis. The most commonly observed complications were osteoporosis in 68 (54.4%), infections requiring hospitalization in 20 (25.0%), hypertension in 25 (20.0%). The EQ-SD-SL score was 0.91 (mean). The final mean height of the patients whose information was available after the age of 18 years (n = 62) was 157.7 cm for males (mean 170.4 cm in Japanese) and 144.3 cm for females (mean 156.7 cm in Japanese), showing a significant short stature. The college/university enrollment rate was as high as 88.4% (Japanese statistical data: 58.9%), and all but five students were employed.

**Conclusion:** Seventy-four percent of the patients continued treatment with TCZ or CAN, and conversion to chronic arthritic sJIA was observed in 35.5%. Despite issues such as growth retardation, social adjustment and employment status were promising, suggesting a contribution of sJIA management.

**REFERENCE:**

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common systemic disease causing uveitis in childhood and adolescence. JIA-associated uveitis has an estimated prevalence ranging from 11% to 30%, being higher in patients with oligoarticular JIA (oJIA), especially in HLA-B27 positive patients. JIA can be classified according to the criteria of the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR). The most frequent type in the 2 groups (and the only one in JIA patients) is the spondyloarthritis-related arthritis (SpA-ERA), especially in HLA-B27 positive patients.

**Objectives:**

- To compare the demographic and laboratory characteristics and clinical outcomes of uveitis in oJIA and SpA-ERA patients.
- To evaluate the associations between power Doppler (PD) findings and b-mode synovitis in patients with JIA using a standardized scanning protocol and scoring system.
- To examine associations between PD findings and b-synovitis.

**Methods:**

- A retrospective single-center study of patients with oJIA and SpA-ERA followed in a tertiary hospital was conducted. ILAR classification criteria were fulfilled and sociodemographic, clinical, and treatment data were collected from medical records. Age at onset of uveitis, disease duration, acute-phase reactant proteins at diagnosis, and characteristics of uveitis including complications, medical and surgical treatments were collected. Statistical analysis was performed with independent samples t-test, Mann-Whitney U test, chi-square test and Fisher's exact test. Significance level was set at a p-value of 0.05.

**Results:**

- A total of 75 patients with oJIA (57 females, 76.0%) and 23 patients with SpA-ERA (6 females, 26.1%) were included. Thirty-five of 98 patients (35.7%) had uveitis at diagnosis, and the age at diagnosis of JIA was lower in oJIA patients (p=0.006). ANA positivity was significantly higher in the SpA-ERA patients (0.012) and HLA-B27 positivity was significantly higher in the SpA-ERA patients with uveitis group (0.002). No significant differences were found in the ESR and CRP values at diagnosis and characteristics depending on the JIA subtype, which leads us to think that possibly different immunologic mechanisms may be involved.

**Conclusion:**

In our study, uveitis manifested in 35.7% of the included patients with oJIA and SpA-ERA. Uveitis in oJIA patients had poorer outcomes, such as complications and eye surgery requirement. Uveitis seems to have different characteristics depending on the JIA subtype, which leads us to think that possibly different immunologic mechanisms may be involved.

**REFERENCES:**

**Table 1.** BL Z-score by pt characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Median Z-score (IQR)</th>
<th>Mean Z-score (SD)</th>
<th>p value*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JIA category</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis-related arthritis</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.3 (-0.4–0.9)</td>
<td>0.2 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile psoriatic</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.1 (-0.6–0.6)</td>
<td>0.1 (1.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF arthritis</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>-0.3 (1.1–0.4)</td>
<td>-0.4 (1.4)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF polyarthritis</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-0.1 (-1.0–0.6)</td>
<td>-0.3 (1.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–&lt;6 years</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-0.4 (1.3–0.2)</td>
<td>-0.6 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–&lt;12 years</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>0.1 (1.0–0.7)</td>
<td>0.0 (1.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–&lt;18 years</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>-0.3 (1.0–0.6)</td>
<td>-0.3 (1.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>-0.3 (1.0–0.5)</td>
<td>-0.3 (1.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.3 (0.2–0.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>-0.2 (0.8–0.6)</td>
<td>-0.2 (1.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-0.6 (1.5–0.1)</td>
<td>-0.8 (1.5) &lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>0.0 (-0.7–0.0)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Previous bDMARD/ csDMARD use</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>-0.3 (0.9–0.6)</td>
<td>-0.2 (1.2)</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>0.0 (-0.7–0.6)</td>
<td>0.1 (1.1)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calculated using Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test/Mann-Whitney or chi-square, interquartile range; n, number of pts with characteristic; RF, rheumatoid factor; SD, standard deviation

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**References:**


Results: We evaluated bFGF level for children with JIA (min: 417715.6 pg/ml; max: 7089.28 pg/ml; mean: 1801.25 pg/ml). The average level of bFGF significantly increased in children with age of JIA onset from 15 to 18 years versus age of JIA onset up to 3 years (p = 0.009) and 11–14 years (p = 0.014). It was also found higher bFGF in patients with an average activity according JADAS-27 pattern compared to a low one (p = 0.0005). Activity according JADAS-27 pattern, levels of ESR, CIC, and ASL-O was associated with bFGF level. Mostly bFGF was correlated with ASL-O (among: boys: r=0.45, patients with oligoarthritis r=0.49, moderate disease activity according to JADAS-27 r=0.58, MTX treatment r=0.38, dose of MTX, 12.5-15mg/m2/week: r=0.50 p < 0.05), with CIC (among: patients with polyarthritis r=0.37, low disease activity according to JADAS-27 r=0.34, dose of MTX, less 10mg/m2/week: r=0.96 p < 0.05), with ESR (among: girls r=0.37, patients with polyarthritis r=0.38, p < 0.05).

Conclusion: Children with JIA had a higher bFGF level in patients with JIA onset after 15 years old and moderate disease activity; CIC and ESR were corresponded with high bFGF level. Presence of additional streptococcal infection impact on fibrosis formation in children with JIA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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POS0765

CIRCULATING SOLUBLE UROKINASE PLASMINOGEN ACTIVATOR RECEPTOR (SUPAR) ASSOCIATES WITH JOINT DESTRUCTION IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: A CASE-CONTROL STUDY WITH LONGITUDINAL FOLLOW-UP

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Prognostic factors, Biomarkers

P. Lewander1, C. Dahle2, L. Wirstram3, J. Wetterström3, C. Silowal3

1Linköping University, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Division of Inflammation and Infection/Rheumatology, Linköping, Sweden; 2Linköping University, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Division of Inflammation and Infection/Infectious Immunology, Linköping, Sweden; 3Linköping University, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Division of Inflammation and Infection/Rheumatology, Linköping, Sweden

Background: Reliable biomarkers in the early stages of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) are scarce. The disease heterogeneity makes it clinically challenging to predict the risk of future permanent joint damage. Some indicators of poor outcome have been identified, e.g. rheumatoid factor (RF) and antibodies against cyclic citrullinated peptides (anti-CCP), but additional biomarkers with predictive potential are warranted in order to start optimal treatment before tissue damage occurs. The soluble urokinase plasminogen activator receptor (suPAR) has been reported as an easily measurable biomarker for prognosis and severity in several diseases, including adult rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus and other inflammatory conditions [1]. However, to our knowledge, suPAR has never been studied in JIA.

Objectives: We asked whether suPAR could predict a more severe course with erosions in JIA.

Methods: 51 well-characterized patients with recent-onset or established JIA and 50 age- and sex-matched healthy control subjects were included. Blood sampling was performed at inclusion and sera were stored for later analysis of suPAR by suPARnostic ELISA (Virogates, Birkerød, Denmark). The patients were carefully followed over 3 years and erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein, RF, anti-CCP and antinuclear antibodies were analyzed as part of clinical routine. Signs of joint destructions were evaluated by radiographic investigation of affected joints. Data was evaluated using non-parametrical statistical methods.

Results: Overall, the levels of suPAR did not differ significantly between JIA and controls (Figure 1). Still, the subgroup of subjects with polyarticular disease showed higher suPAR than the controls (p<0.013). In addition, elevated suPAR levels were associated with joint erosions (p=0.022). In two individuals with erosions, high levels of suPAR were found despite absence of RF and anti-CCP.

Conclusion: We present new data on the biomarker suPAR in JIA. The results indicate that, in addition to RF and anti-CCP, analysis of suPAR could be of additional value in predicting the risk of joint erosions. Early analysis of suPAR could potentially guide treatment-decision-making in JIA, but our findings call for confirmation in larger cohorts.

REFERENCE:

POS0766

SERUM BASIC FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTOR IN CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

N. Shevchenko1,2, O. Pavlova1

1Department of Pediatrics, Kharkiv, Ukraine; 2Institute of Children and Adolescents Health Care of NAMS of Ukraine; 3Department of Rheumatology and Comorbid Conditions, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Background: Patients with rheumatic diseases are at high risk for poor outcomes in care when severe fibrosis occurs, as a result of tissue damage caused by chronic phase of persistent inflammation. Only limited data also controversial results are available on the fibrosis predictors in patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) on long-term methotrexate (MTX) treatment [1,2].

Objectives: To evaluate serum levels of basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) in children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis treated with methotrexate.

Methods: 104 patients with polyarthritis (50.96%) and oligoarthritis (40.38%), variants JIA (mean age 13.3 years, 59.62% female, mean age of JIA onset 7.2 years, mean disease duration 5.06 years) were included in this 4-years prospective study. In 104 children with JIA were treated with MTX 75.96% (vs. 24.04% not treated with MTX, 16.35% were prescribed MTX, but they didn't receive any dose yet on investigation day). Among patients treated with MTX 4.81% had dose less than 10 mg/m2/week, 32.69% 10-12.5 mg/m2/week, 31.73% 12.6-15 mg/m2/week, 6.73% over 15 mg/m2/week. bFGF levels were determined by bFGF ELISA kits (Elabscience, USA). Serum levels of bFGF were analyzed depending on patients' gender, age, and age of JIA onset, its variant, duration, activity, and presence of MTX in treatment and its dose. Levels of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), C-reactive protein (CRP), circulating immune complex (CIC) and antistreptolysin-O (ASLO) were analyzed in this study.

Conclusions: In this post hoc analysis, pts with JIA began with near normal height Z-scores and tocilizumab had no negative impact on height Z-scores after 92 weeks. Growth velocity was within the normal range for age up to Week 44. Catch-up growth was not observed, possibly due to the study duration being too short and the BL height Z-scores being near normal.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This study was sponsored by Pfizer. We thank the PRCSG and PRINTO investigators for the collection of serum samples and used. Medical writing support, under the direction of the authors, was provided by Lauren Hogarth, MSc, CMC Connect, a division of IPG Health Medical Communications, and was funded by Pfizer, New York, NY, USA, in accordance with Good Publication Practice (GPP 2022) guidelines (Ann Intern Med 2022;175:1298-1304).

Disclosure of Interests: Hermine Brunner Speakers bureau: Novartis and Pfizer Inc, Consultant of: AbbVie, AstraZeneca/MedImmune, Bayer, Biocom, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Cerecor, Eli Lilly, EMD Serono, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer Inc, Roche, R-Pharm and Sobi, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Novartis and Pfizer Inc, Employee of: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Hailey Wasserman Consultant of: Endocrine Society Pediatric Self-assessment program, NIH-funded trial for skeletal health and bone marrow composition.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2707
Background: The transition from pediatric to adult health care often challenging for young adults with rheumatic diseases. During the transition period, disruptions, diagnostic changes, and treatment differences may occur. The successful transition of the young adult patient to adult care is an important milestone in pediatric rheumatology. Objectives: In this study, we aimed to examine the diagnosis and treatment changes of transition patients and the characteristics of the transition period in our clinic.

Methods: This was retrospective observational study was carried out in Dokuz Eylul University Pediatric and Adult Rheumatology Department. Patients who followed-up in Pediatric Rheumatology Department transferred to the Adult Rheumatology Department within the last ten years and continued to visit at least once a year were included in this study. If the transition period of the patients was less than three months, it was defined as early transition. Demographic features and educational status, parental divorce, diagnostic changes, and diagnosis-specific treatment changes were recorded.

Results: In total, 962 transitional patients scanned and 210 of them met follow-up criteria. Of the patients, 117 (55.7%) were female, with a median age of 24 (IQR, 21 – 28). Most of patients followed-up juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JIA) (n=79, 37.6%) and familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) (n=79, 37.6%). Median duration of pediatric rheumatology follow-up was 52 months (IQR, 23 – 87) and 47 (22.%) patients have been treated with biological therapies, with a different mechanism of action. The transition from pediatric to adult health care often challenging for young adults with rheumatic diseases. During the transition period, disruptions, diagnostic changes, and treatment differences may occur. The successful transition of the young adult patient to adult care is an important milestone in pediatric rheumatology.

Conclusion: We found that most of the patients who were followed-up in pediatric rheumatology in our center did not transition to the adult rheumatology in the same center. Less than half (46.7%) of the patients started to be followed up in adult rheumatology within the first 3 months. Treatment with biological agents was found associated with early transition. Since patients who were treated with biological agent needed for a doctor’s visit to reach the treatment was considered the main reason for these patients’ early transition. We found that Bachelor’s degree or higher educational status was associated with late transition. Patients often move to other cities for university, may be the reason of the late transition. Transition time did not associate with the rheumatologic diseases except FMF. The reason for the late transition in FMF can be explained by the admission to the hospital with frequent attacks. Transition may be challenging in pediatric rheumatology. The ideal transition to adult rheumatological care should start in the early adolescence period of the patients, planned transition visits may increase the rate of follow-up.

REFERENCE:

POS0767
THE EVALUATION AND IMPORTANCE OF TRANSITION FROM PEDIATRIC TO ADULT RHEUMATOLOGY CARE IN RHEUMATOLOGICAL DISEASES

Keywords: Patient information and education, Descriptive Studies

T. Demirci Yildirim1, R. Isguder4, E. Karacura3, Y. Erez1, B. Makay7, F. Onen1, E. Unsal2, I. Sanı,1,1Dokuz Eylul University, Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey, 2Dokuz Eylul University, Faculty of Medicine, Pediatric Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey, 3Dokuz Eylul University, Faculty of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Izmir, Turkey.

Background: The transition from pediatric to adult health care often challenging for young adults with rheumatic diseases. During the transition period, disruptions, diagnostic changes, and treatment differences may occur. The successful transition of the young adult patient to adult care is an important milestone in pediatric rheumatology. Objectives: In this study, we aimed to examine the diagnosis and treatment changes of transition patients and the characteristics of the transition period in our clinic.

Methods: This was retrospective observational study was carried out in Dokuz Eylul University Pediatric and Adult Rheumatology Department. Patients who followed-up in Pediatric Rheumatology Department transferred to the Adult Rheumatology Department within the last ten years and continued to visit at least once a year were included in this study. If the transition period of the patients was less than three months, it was defined as early transition. Demographic features and educational status, parental divorce, diagnostic changes, and diagnosis-specific treatment changes were recorded.

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Conclusion: We found that most of the patients who were followed-up in pediatric rheumatology in our center did not transition to the adult rheumatology in the same center. Less than half (46.7%) of the patients started to be followed up in adult rheumatology within the first 3 months. Treatment with biological agents was found associated with early transition. Since patients who were treated with biological agent needed for a doctor’s visit to reach the treatment was considered the main reason for these patients’ early transition. We found that Bachelor’s degree or higher educational status was associated with late transition. Patients often move to other cities for university, may be the reason of the late transition. Transition time did not associate with the rheumatologic diseases except FMF. The reason for the late transition in FMF can be explained by the admission to the hospital with frequent attacks. Transition may be challenging in pediatric rheumatology. The ideal transition to adult rheumatological care should start in the early adolescence period of the patients, planned transition visits may increase the rate of follow-up.

REFERENCE:

POS0768
CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH DIFFICULT-TO-TREAT JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS AT ADULTHOOD IN FRANCE

Keywords: bDMARD, Descriptive studies, Prognostic factors

S. Hecouet2, M. Thomas3, A. Combier1, J. Wipf2, G. Touanga1, P. Quartier2, J. Avouac1, Y. Allanore1.1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France, 2Necker Hospital, Immuno-Hématologie et Rhumatologie pédiatriques, Paris, France

Background: An effort to unify the variability of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) phenotypes was initiated in 1994 resulting in the current categories of systemic JIA, oligoarthritis (persistent or extended), rheumatoid factor (RF)-negative polyarthritis, RF-positive polyarthritis, psoriatic JIA, and enthesitis related arthritis. Recently, EULAR has proposed a definition of difficult-to-treat rheumatoid arthritis (D2TRA) and the concept was later extended to spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe difficult-to-treat JIA (D2TJIA) at adulthood based on the EULAR definition of D2TRA.

Methods: We stratified consecutive JIA patients treated at Cochín Hospital in Paris into two groups, a D2TJIA group and a non-D2TJIA group. Based on EULAR definition of D2TRA, we defined D2TJIA as JIAs failing at least two targeted therapies, with a different mechanism of action.

Results: In total, we identified 18 D2TJIA patients (mean age 27.4 years, 67% female) and 88 non-D2TJIA patients (mean age 29.1 years, 70% female). Regarding JIA subtypes, we observed significantly more systemic JIA in the D2T group (39% vs 14%, p=0.02). D2TJIA patients were more likely to have erosions on X-rays (82% vs. 55%, p=0.038). Regarding auto-antibodies, positive anti-CCP
Table 1. Characteristics of JIA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JIA Type</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-D2TJIA</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>12.4 (2.6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>42 (61)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA type, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (18)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Our work is the first to describe D2TJIA in France. It seemed interesting to raise the question of whether D2T JIA exists, and if so, what could be its potential definition and management. This may serve as a hypothesis and a basis for future reflections. As observed in rheumatoid arthritis, we report significant differences in circulating biomarkers between poly- and oligoarticular disease.

Methods: 60 patients with JIA (50 girls) age between 10–16 years were consecutively recruited at Oslo University Hospital and 60 age-and sex-matched controls were randomly drawn from the National Registry. The JIA group included 30 patients with persistent oligoarticular JIA (oligo disease) and 30 patients with extended oligoarticular or polyarticular disease RF +/- (poly disease). VAT (g) was estimated by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry. Lipid profile, CRP and adipo-, cytokines (by ELISA) were analyzed. Differences between groups were tested with parametric or non-parametric analyses as appropriate and associations with univariate and multiple linear regression analyses.

Results: VAT (g) was comparable between patients and controls [median (25th – 75th percentile) 64 (23-149) vs 66 (30-99), p=0.98] and between patients with oligo disease and poly disease [46 (22-123) vs 80 (23-167), p=0.32]. Patients presented lower serum levels of APOA1 and RBP4, and elevated serum levels of IL-6, progranulin and MCP-1 (Table 1) as compared to the controls. Patients with poly disease had lower plasma levels of LDL-C, LILA, IL-1RA, progranulin and VEGF, and elevated serum levels of IL-1b and IL-1b/IL-1RA ratio (Table 1) as compared to patients with oligo disease. No statistically significant differences were seen between neither patients and controls nor patients with oligo disease and poly disease for TC, HDL-C, APOB, CRP, leptin, adiponectin, NGAL, angpl1, angopoietin, chemerin and resistin. In patients, higher IL-6 [unstandardized B (95% CI)] 48.7 (25.1, 72.2), p<0.001, resistin [8.5 (5.1, 11.6), p<0.001] and leptin [2.5 (0.9, 4.0), p=0.002] were identified as correlates for higher VAT. In controls, only higher leptin [unstandardized B (95% CI)] 5.3 (3.7, 6.9), p<0.001 was identified as correlate for higher VAT.

Conclusion: Despite similar mass, VAT seems to be closely related to IL-6 and resistin suggesting an active metabolic role in JIA. In addition to IL-6, several pro-inflammatory adipokines/cytokines were increased in JIA potentially playing a role in disease activity. Novel biomarkers, among them IL-1b/IL-1RA, were identified for differentiating between oligo vs poly disease.

Table 1. Adipokines/cytokines in patients and controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JIA Type</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Controls</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligo disease</td>
<td>29-30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poly disease</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC (mM/L)</td>
<td>3.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL-C (mM/L)</td>
<td>2.2 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APOA1 (g/L)</td>
<td>1.3 (0.2)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LILA (g/mL)</td>
<td>15 (7-37)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6 (pg/mL)</td>
<td>0.42 (0.34)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1b (pg/mL)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.99)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progranulin (ng</td>
<td>823 (693)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1RA (ng/mL)</td>
<td>0.50 (0.62)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1b/IL-1RA</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC (mM/L)</td>
<td>3.9 (0.7)</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>IL-1b (pg/mL)</td>
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<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.50 (0.62)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1b/IL-1RA</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References: NIL.

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3301
Table 1. Characteristics of 145 children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>No. 145</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age in years</td>
<td>15 (12-17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex: F:M</td>
<td>103 (710): 42 (29.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of illness in years</td>
<td>3 (2-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of patients in cms</td>
<td>158 (142-166)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of patients in kgs</td>
<td>43 (31-51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with JIA siblings</td>
<td>5 (3.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with at least 1 school year lost</td>
<td>51 (35.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with hospitalization in past</td>
<td>51 (35.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time required to reach hospital in hours</td>
<td>6 (4-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income in last 12 months</td>
<td>100000 (48000-150000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease associated direct costs in last 12 months, in INR</td>
<td>26375 (10800-50100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease associated indirect costs in last 12 months, in INR</td>
<td>11250 (6000-24000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile arthritis disease score-27</td>
<td>9 (3-17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Juvenile arthritis damage index- articular ≥ 1</td>
<td>23 (15.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Juvenile arthritis damage index extraarticular ≥ 1</td>
<td>31 (21.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile arthritis functionality scale</td>
<td>3 (0.75-6.625)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatric Rheumatology Quality of Life Scale</td>
<td>7 (2-14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Demographics and clinical features of enroled JIA subjects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O-JIA (n=8)</th>
<th>P-JIA (n=5)</th>
<th>ERA (n=2)</th>
<th>S-JIA (n=2)</th>
<th>Total cohort (n=17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at JIA onset, median (IQR)</td>
<td>4.5 (9)</td>
<td>13 (6)</td>
<td>15 (1)</td>
<td>10 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at JIA diagnosis, median (IQR)</td>
<td>4.5 (10)</td>
<td>14 (8)</td>
<td>15 (1)</td>
<td>10 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at starting treatment with JAKi, median (IQR)</td>
<td>28.8 (6.7)</td>
<td>26 (12)</td>
<td>40.8 (1.8)</td>
<td>37 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (F, %)</td>
<td>75% (6)</td>
<td>100% (5)</td>
<td>50% (1)</td>
<td>50% (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA positivity, (%)</td>
<td>75% (6)</td>
<td>60% (3)</td>
<td>50% (1)</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration at JAKI start (n=17)</td>
<td>27.1 (11.2)</td>
<td>18 (3)</td>
<td>26.25 (12)</td>
<td>28 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA528 at starting treatment 3.76 (1.07)</td>
<td>5 (1)</td>
<td>4.86 (0.25)</td>
<td>3.0 (1)</td>
<td>4.1 (1.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N of pre-JAKI sDMARDs, median (IQR)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.0)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.0)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.0)</td>
<td>4.5 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing MTX, % (n)</td>
<td>12.5% (1)</td>
<td>60% (3)</td>
<td>50% (1)</td>
<td>50% (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing LEL, % (n)</td>
<td>25% (2)</td>
<td>20% (1)</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median dose (mg)</td>
<td>20mg (4)</td>
<td>40mg (2)</td>
<td>0mg (0)</td>
<td>0mg (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median dose (mg)</td>
<td>10mg (4)</td>
<td>20mg (2)</td>
<td>0mg (0)</td>
<td>0mg (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N of pre-JAKI bDMARDs, median (IQR)</td>
<td>2.5 (2.25)</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
<td>5 (1)</td>
<td>2 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N of involved pts at JAKI discontinuation, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0.5 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Demographics and clinical features of enroled JIA subjects.

Image: Emotional burden in 145 caregivers of JIA patients

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4248
Background: The term juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) represents a heterogeneous group of disorders, all manifesting joint inflammation, but with different clinical phenotypes, disease course, and outcomes [1, 2]. In Argentina, information about patients with JIA is scarce. In our country, different factors such as the diversity of sociodemographic conditions and the disparities in the access to health care, could influence the JIA subtypes prevalence and prognosis of these patients.

Objectives: To describe the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of patients with different subtypes of JIA.

Methods: Descriptive, retrospective, chart review and multicenter study. Patients were included with a diagnosis of JIA, according to ILAR criteria (2001) and onset of symptoms ≤ 16 years, diagnosis within the last 3 years and with at least 12 months of follow-up since diagnosis by the same physician or treating team. Sociodemographic variables, clinical variables prior to diagnosis by the pediatric rheumatologist, time to specialist consultation, treatments prior to diagnosis and variables at the time of diagnosis by the specialist were recorded. Data was analyzed using SPSS 25.

Results: 320 patients from 17 specialized care centers in Argentina (11 public and 6 private) were included. The mean age at symptom onset was 6.9 years (SD 4.09) and 65.6% of the patients were girls. 94.4% of the patients were in school according to their chronological age. 37.2% and 36.9% of the patients had private medical insurance and 67.8% public. The mean education (in years) of the parents was 13.6 years (SD 4.09) and 65.6% of the patients were girls. 94.4% of the patients were in school according to their chronological age. 37.2% and 36.9% of the patients had private medical insurance and 67.8% public. The mean education (in years) of the parents was 13.6 years (SD 4.09) and 65.6% of the patients were girls. 94.4% of the patients were in school according to their chronological age. 37.2% and 36.9% of the patients had private medical insurance and 67.8% public. The mean education (in years) of the parents was 13.6 years (SD 4.09) and 65.6% of the patients were girls. 94.4% of the patients were in school according to their chronological age. 37.2% and 36.9% of the patients had private medical insurance and 67.8% public. The mean education (in years) of the parents was 13.6 years (SD 4.09) and 65.6% of the patients were girls. 94.4% of the patients were in school according to their chronological age. 37.2% and 36.9% of the patients had private medical insurance and 67.8% public. The mean education (in years) of the parents was 13.6 years (SD 4.09) and 65.6% of the patients were girls.

Conclusion: This is the first national multicenter study of patients with JIA, and the first national multicenter study of patients with JIA in Argentina. The study cohort included 39 patients; general features of the cohort are reported in Table 1. The median age at the first bDMARD was 5.9 years (interquartile range [IQR] 5.3) years. The prescription pattern of bDMARD is shown in Figure 1. Etofenac and adalimumab were the most frequently prescribed bDMARD (16 and 15 times, respectively). The causes of the first bDMARD discontinuation were the following: articular flare (43%), uveitis (33%), both articular and uveitis flare (6%), and adverse treatment effects (20%). Discontinuation of the first bDMARD due to articular flare was significantly more frequent in patients treated with adalimumab than with etanercept (73% vs. 25%; p=0.01). Conversely, the rate of bDMARD withdrawal due to active uveitis was higher in etanercept-treated patients than in adalimumab ones (38% vs. 20%; p=0.04). The discontinuation rate due to uveitis was significantly higher in the infliximab group than in the adalimumab group (80% vs. 20%; p=0.03). The median age at the second bDMARD was 9.4 years (IQR 7.3) years. The majority of the cohort (80%) received a TNFi as the second bDMARD. Adalimumab was the most prescribed second bDMARD (55%) followed by infliximab (29%); the most frequent switch was from etanercept to adalimumab (13 times) (Figure 1). To note, the concomitant use of MTX decreased significantly between the two bDMARDs courses (85% vs. 64%; p = 0.04). The rate of clinical inactive disease (CID) at 3, 6, and 12 months did not differ significantly between the first and the second bDMARD. The general CID (defined as the ever achievement of CID) rate was lower during the first bDMARD course compared to the second (79% vs. 95%; p=0.04). A non-TNFi was prescribed as the second bDMARD in 8 patients (20%); 4 subjects received abatacept (2 for articular disease and 2 for adverse effects), and 4 subjects were treated with tocilizumab (all for articular disease). Uveitis activity represented the main reason for discontinuation in almost half of the patients who switched to a TNFi as the second bDMARD. No significant differences in sociodemographic conditions were observed during the second course of bDMARDs between patients treated with TNFi or non-TNFi. Eighteen patients discontinued the second bDMARD: 16/31 (52%) from the TNFi group and 2/8 (25%) from the non-TNFi group. The reasons for discontinuation were articular flare (60%), uveitis flare (22%), both articular and uveitis flare (6%), and adverse events (12%).

Conclusion: Most of the patients in our cohort received a TNFi as the second bDMARD, with a significant proportion of patients being treated without MTX. No...
apparent differences were seen between the non-TNFi and TNFi for the achievement of clinical inactivity disease. Larger studies are needed to explore the choice of the second bDMARD in JIA.

### Table 1. Demographic and clinical features of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical features</th>
<th>Switch to TNFi (n=31)</th>
<th>Switch to non-TNFi (n=8)</th>
<th>Overall population (n=39)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, %F (n)</td>
<td>87 (27)</td>
<td>88 (7)</td>
<td>87 (34)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at onset of symptoms, median (IQR)</td>
<td>2 (3.7)</td>
<td>3 (5.2)</td>
<td>3 (4)</td>
<td>0.651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis, % (n)</td>
<td>52 (16)</td>
<td>50 (4)</td>
<td>51 (20)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA subtype, % (n)</td>
<td>12 (18)</td>
<td>38 (0)</td>
<td>38 (3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligoarticular</td>
<td>58 (18)</td>
<td>38 (4)</td>
<td>54 (21)</td>
<td>0.432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymarticular RF+</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
<td>13 (1)</td>
<td>25 (10)</td>
<td>0.167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymarticular RF-</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
<td>13 (1)</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
<td>0.372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis-related arthritis</td>
<td>8 (3)</td>
<td>0 (8)</td>
<td>8 (3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>12 (4)</td>
<td>0 (4)</td>
<td>8 (3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of iDMARDs, median (IQR)</td>
<td>14 (35)</td>
<td>29.5 (16.8)</td>
<td>18 (31)</td>
<td>0.347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up time (months), median (IQR)</td>
<td>112 (112)</td>
<td>110.5 (82)</td>
<td>112 (103.5)</td>
<td>0.944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Prescription pattern of biologic agents (bDMARDs) in the cohort

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5093

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**POSI774**

**CESAREAN SECTION IN WOMEN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS – A POPULATION-BASED STUDY**

**Keywords:** Quality of care, Pregnancy and reproduction, Registries

**C. Sieper,1,2 S. Lydersen,3 K. A. Salvesen,4 M. Wallenius,5 Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of neuromedicine, and movement science (INB), Trondheim, Norway; 2 Ålesund Hospital, Rheumatology, ÅLESUND, Norway; 3 Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Regional Centre for child and youth mental health and child welfare, Trondheim, Norway; 4 Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Clinical and Molecular Medicine (IKOM), Trondheim, Norway

**Background:** The literature on delivery methods in women with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is insufficient. Active inflammation is a risk factor for cesarean section (CS) in other arthritic diseases. A CS entails a higher risk for complications than vaginal delivery and a restricted physical activity the first weeks after birth.

**Objectives:** To explore a possible association of inflammatory active disease and the proportion of CS in women with JIA.

**Methods:** Data from the Norwegian nationwide observational register RevNatus were linked with data from the Medical Birth Registry of Norway (MBRN). Cases comprised singleton births in women with JIA (n=196) included in RevNatus 2010 to 2019. Singleton births registered in MBRN during the same period of time and excluding mothers with rheumatologic inflammatory diseases (n=575,798) served as population controls. Disease activity was assessed using Disease Activity Score with CRP (DAS28-CRP-3). We defined inactive JIA as DAS28-CRP-3 ≤2.6 and active JIA as DAS28-CRP-3 ≥2.6.

**Results:** CS was more frequent in women with JIA (20%) than in population controls (15.6%) and occurred most frequently in inflammatory active JIA (30.0%). Women with JIA had similar risk for elective CS (risk difference 1.1%, 95% CI 1.7 to 5.4) and higher risk for emergency CS (risk difference 3.8%, 95% CI -0.4 to 9.3) compared with population controls. Active disease increased the risk for emergency CS (risk difference 14.0%, 95% CI 4.3 to 27.4).

**Conclusion:** Women with active JIA had higher risk for emergency CS compared with population controls.

REFERENCE:


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**Table 1. Characteristics of patient group and population controls, reported as n (%) unless specified as mean (SD)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Population controls</th>
<th>JIA</th>
<th>p-value α</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singleton births 2010 – 2019</td>
<td>575,798</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal age (years), mean (SD)</td>
<td>30.6 (5.1)</td>
<td>29.7 (4.7)</td>
<td>α=35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥35 years</td>
<td>115 (77.0)</td>
<td>25 (12.8)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nullipara</td>
<td>244,354 (42.4)</td>
<td>97 (49.5)</td>
<td>0.054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking in pregnancy</td>
<td>34,237 (6.7)</td>
<td>8 (4.3)</td>
<td>0.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>missing</td>
<td>67,663</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI first trimester, (mean (SD))</td>
<td>24.4 (8.7)</td>
<td>24.3 (4.5)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥25.0</td>
<td>18,056 (34.5)</td>
<td>53 (34.4)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missing</td>
<td>120 (13.0)</td>
<td>8.09</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous CS</td>
<td>178,052</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetesβ</td>
<td>2,059 (4.5)</td>
<td>4 (4.3)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART</td>
<td>2,012 (3.5)</td>
<td>9 (4.6)</td>
<td>0.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>missing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JIA = juvenile idiopathic arthritis, BMI = body mass index, CS = cesarean section, ART = assisted reproductive technology, α p-value for patient group compared to population controls, β pregestational or gestational

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5350

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**POSO775**

**ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Education, Patient reported outcomes, Inflammatory arthritides

M. Ghaï1, D. Khalifa1, M. Cheour1, R. Fakhtakh1, N. El Amri1, K. Baccouch1, E. Bouajina1, 1Farhat Hached Hospital, Rheumatology, Sousse, Tunisia

**Background:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common inflammatory arthropathy in childhood. It can often be disabling, have an impact on the child’s integration, and affect school attention to varying degrees.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to assess the impact of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) on children’s educational outcomes.

**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional monocentric study including school-age children with JIA diagnosed according to the International League of Associations of Rheumatology (ILAR) classification criteria. Data were collected for all children on their school level, school difficulties, attendance, and absenteeism. Academic failure was defined by either dropping out of school or grade retention.

To evaluate disease activity we used the Disease activity score (DAS-28) for oligoarticular and polyarticular forms, and the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) score for axial forms. The Childhood Health Assessment Questionnaire (C-HAQ) was used to assess functional disability.

**Results:** Thirty-six patients were enrolled. The average age was 13.5 ± 5.9 with a female percentage of 55.6%. The polyarticular form was the most frequent (52.8%) meanly seronegative, followed by the Oligoarticular form (13.9%), then the enthesitis-related form (12.4%). None of our patients was illiterate. Eight children (22.2%) dropped out of school because of their functional disability. Students with JIA who attended school had an absenteeism rate of 67.8%. Slightly more than half of the JIA patients (57.1%) failed at least one grade. Academic failure was associated with a high disease activity (p<0.003), the presence of joint deformities (p=0.002), a high C-HAQ score (p=0.01), and an erythrocyte sedimentation rate: ESR ≥100 mm/h (p=0.02). The absenteeism rate was associated with rural origin (p=0.004), pain level (p=0.02), high disease activity (p=0.01), hip involvement (p=0.001), and a high C-HAQ score (p=0.03).

**Conclusion:** Our study shows that the schooling of children with JIA was negatively influenced by this disease. Proper control of the disease activity and inflammation will guarantee better school attendance and increase academic performance.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5972
Background: Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) is an umbrella term for chronic arthritis with onset before 16 years of age. According to ILAR classification criteria, it is subdivided in 6 category. Growth failure is a well observed phenomenon in JIA and more so in Systemic onset and polyarticular variants. Except from western literature, in Asian countries Enthesitis Related arthritis (ERA) is more prevalent. In our study, we have studied the growth and development of patients with Enthesitis Related arthritis variant.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of growth failure and sexual maturity in patients with JIA-ERA and possible association with disease activity, damage and drug therapy.

Methods: We have enrolled all patients of JIA-ERA, visiting rheumatology out-door patient service in KGMU, Lucknow, from July 2021 to Dec 2021. All the patients must qualify Revised ILAR classification criteria for ERA. Those who have concomitant developmental disorders, secondary amyloidosis and macropathic activation syndrome were excluded from the study. All patients were clinically examined and previous medical records were thoroughly checked. Anthropometric measure and Tanner staging was done at baseline. Growth velocity was observed at follow up visit. This is a Prospective observational study with follow up at 3 and 6 months.

Results: 50 patients of JIA-ERA were enrolled. Majority of them were boys with a male to female ratio of 4.5:1 and mean age of 15.5 years. Mean age of onset was 11.5 years with a mean disease duration of 41.25 months. 32% had family history of SpA in first degree relatives and 12% had history of uveitis in parents. Only 3 patients (6%) had history of other autoimmune diseases in family. There was no developmental delays in children with JIA-ERA and 47 patients (94%) were underweight for their age with low BMI. 30% patients had mid parental height. 12 patients (24%) had significant limb length discrepancy. 64% were underweight for their age with low BMI. 30% patients had achieved age appropriate linear growth with 20% were 2SD above their mid parental height. 12 patients (24%) had significant limb length discrepancy. 64% were underweight for their age with low BMI. 30% patients had mid parental height. 12 patients (24%) had significant limb length discrepancy.

Conclusion: Growth failure wasn’t well observed in JIA-ERA variants. One third had delayed sexual maturity for their age. Growth velocity was similar to age matched healthy population. No significant association was found with prior corticosteroid use, disease duration, disease activity (JSPADA and JADAS27) and damage (JADIS) score.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6439

POSO778 ADALIMUMAB AND ANTI-DRUG ANTIBODIES IN A COHORT OF CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: A SINGLE-CENTER EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Inflammatory arthropathies, Targeted synthetic drugs, Outcome measures

G. Tarantina1, D. Pires Marafon1, F. Comitini2, R. Simeoli3, A. Aquilani4, R. Nicolai1, E. Marasco1, F. De Benedetti1, S. Magni-Manzoni1.

Background: Adalimumab (ADA), a fully humanized antibody against tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-α, has revolutionized treatment of patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). Although most of these respond within the first weeks, a minority may show loss of response (LOR) after continued exposure. Many studies demonstrate the influence of anti-adalimumab antibodies (AAA) and drug concentrations and clinical outcome in adults. However, little information about AAA and LOR is available for children with JIA.

Objectives: To describe demographic and clinical features in a single-center cohort of JIA patients treated with ADA, grouped according to frequency of drug administration (1W vs 2W); to assess ADA levels versus AAA titers and, finally, to investigate possible correlation between LOR to ADA and AAA.

Methods: Records of JIA patients on ADA treatment were retrospectively reviewed with focus on medical history and ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) ADA/AAA levels in a 12-month-period (Feb 2021-Feb 2022). Children with idiopathic uveitis were excluded. Samples furthest from last drug administration was defined as “trough level.” Data were analyzed via descriptive statistics (STATA 15.1).

Results: Of 61 JIA patients treated with ADA (49% females), 38 had AAA positive oligoarthritis with almost one large joint involvement at disease onset (T0). None of them presented RF-positive polyarthritis, nor systemic JIA (s-JIA). The median age at T0 was about 3 years. Half of study cohort was b-DMARDs naive at ADA start (T1), while all children were on c-DMARDs. Chronic recurrent uveitis was the main reason for ADA starting, followed by tenosynovitis and spine or hip active arthritis. At the first ADA/AAA sampling (T2), approximately 15% of patients had active disease, with elbows or wrists as the most frequently involved. Extreme variability was observed between AAA titers (median 7.4 AU/ml and ADA levels (median 15.4 micrograms/ml), regardless from 1 or 2-weekly administration. ADA levels, compared to the doses from last drug administration, reached plateau values corresponding to a pharmacokinetic steady state. Among these in only 6 we found very high AAA titers (350.0 - 113.4 AU/mL). In the subgroup of 37 patients with “trough-level” sampling heterogeneous data about AAA titers and ADA levels were observed.

Conclusion: Our preliminary data showed a possible association between occurrence of AAA and lower ADA levels. However, a targeted risk analysis about high AAA titers and LOR incidence was not available. Monitoring of drug immunogenicity should be implemented in daily practice and become subject of future studies JIA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6445

Clinical cases

POSO778 METASTATIC ANGIOSARCOMA MASQUERING AS SYSTEMIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE WITH REFRACTORY PERICARDITIS

Keywords: Malignancy, Heart

K. Williamson1, Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America

Background: Rheumatologists are frequently asked to evaluate patients with acute pericarditis. The majority of cases are idiopathic with systemic autoimmune disease underlying maybe 7% or less of cases in developed countries.[1-2] It is critical to recognize the presence of systemic symptoms or poor prognostic pericarditis features, such as tamponade physiology or poor response to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, that raise concern for a malignant etiology of pericarditis.[1-2]

Objectives: A case report of a patient presenting with refractory pericarditis caused by metastatic angiosarcoma.

Methods: A 46 year old male presented for evaluation of unresolving pericarditis. Five months prior, he had developed abrupt-onset pericarditic chest pain with associated dyspnea. Initial ED evaluation was notable for normal troponins and non-specific T wave abnormality on ECG. CT chest angiogram revealed a trace pericardial effusion and isolated right axillary lymphadenopathy. The patient declined further evaluation. He presented a week later with persistent pericarditic pain. Echocardiogram showed enlargement of the pericardial effusion with possible early tamponade. Respiratory viral testing was negative. C-reactive protein (CRP) was elevated to 20.83mg/dL (Ref ≤0.5mg/dL) and ferritin to 2344.4ng/
mL (Ref 2.18-274.7ng/mL). Soluble IL-2 receptor and blood counts were normal. Rheumatoid factor was weakly positive with ANA, anti-DNA, anti-CCP, and ANCA returning negative. Core needle biopsy of an auxiliary lymph node was negative for malignancy. Percarditocentisis was deferred due to patient preference and stability. He was started on colchicine for autoimmune versus idiopathic pericarditis without significant improvement. He was transitioned to prednison due to improving in his chest pain, effusion, and CRP: dyspnea and hyperferritinemation persisted. Attempts to taper prednison failed due to flaring of pericarditis. The patient was referred to our center for evaluation of refractory pericarditis and possible systemic inflammatory disease. No signs or symptoms of RA or CTD were present. The patient endorsed recent night sweats, 11 kg of weight loss, and new bone pain. Full body PET/CT was pursued and demonstrated two FDG avid masses adjacent to the right side of the heart along with multiple lytic bone lesions of the spine and pelvis.

Figure 1. (A) PET Maximum intensity projection showing large cardiac mass (red arrow) and multiple FDG avid bone lesions (yellow arrows). (B) PET Axial fused image showing large FDG avid cardiac mass.

Results: Cardiac CT confirmed malignant-appearing, centrally necrotic mass along the right side of the heart extending to involve the pericardium. Iliac bone biopsy confirmed a diagnosis of metastatic angiosarcoma. He was not a candidate for cardiac tumor resection and was referred to oncology for palliative chemotherapy.

Conclusion: Primary malignant cardiac tumors are a rare cause of pericarditis. Cardiac angiosarcomas are the most common type of primary malignant cardiac tumor. They most commonly arise from the right atrium or pericardium and may present with pericarditis-like symptoms.[3]

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5235

BRAIN TUMOR-LIKE LESIONS AS FORM OF PRESENTATION OF NEUROPSYCHIATRIC LUPUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Imaging

I. L. Mamani Velarde1, I. Altabás González1, C. Mourinho Rodrigues2, S. García Pérez1, I. Hernández2, J. M. Pego-Reigosa1. 1IRIDIS Group (Investigation in Rheumatology and Immune-Diseases), Galicia Sur Health Research Institute (ISGS), Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital of Vigo, Vigo, Spain; 2University Hospital of Vigo, Department of Rheumatology, Vigo, Spain

Background: Neuropsychiatric (NP) systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) encompasses a broad spectrum of syndromes.[1] The attribution of the NP manifestations to the disease itself is a challenge and is critical to selecting the correct treatment. [2]

Objectives: To present a case of a woman with SLE who developed brain tumor-like lesions.

Methods: The clinical manifestations, complementary tests, treatment are described.

Results: 28-year-old woman with a history of SLE with moderate disease (constitutional, cutaneous, musculoskeletal, hematologic and serological) and frequent flares despite treatment with hydroxychloroquine and doses of prednisone up to 20mg/day. She was admitted to the rheumatology service due to a severe flare-up of SLE, with headache, fever, worsening of lesions in photo-exposed areas, lymphadenopathy, arthralgia, nausea, and vomiting. Blood tests showed platelets 60,000/μL, elevated ESR, abnormal liver biochemical, decreased C3, normal urine, with no data of infectious etiology. After treatment with iv methylprednisolone (250mg x 3) and iv belimumab (600mg), she presented clinical and analytical improvement and was discharged from the hospital. Three days later, the patient presented persistent headache and fever, and decreased level of consciousness; laboratory tests showed leukocytosis, anemia, abnormal liver function tests, elevated ESR and CRP. She was referred to the emergency room. On the neurological exam: patient disoriented in time and space, opened her eyes only after painful stimulus, signs of dysarthria, and facial paralysis. CT scan revealed a space-occupying lesion (3 x 2cm), at the level of the right basal nuclei with perilesional edema and collapse of the anterior horn of the right lateral ventricle, discreet mass effect with displacement midline, and similar contralateral involvement. The patient was admitted to the hospital due to a probable primary neoplasm of the central nervous system, without being able to initially exclude infectious, vascular, and inflammatory pathologies. Treatment was started with iv dexamethasone and empiric therapy for bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. The following day, brain MRI (Figure 1, A - B) showed lesions in the right and left basal ganglia, with a mass effect in the right basal ganglia and images of their interior with artifact related to hemosiderin or deoxyhemoglobin, related to history of bleeding from the lesions. Alteration of thickness and irregular subependymal signal in the occipital horns. The stereotaxic brain biopsy showed parenchyma with intense acute inflammatory changes, with necrosis and vascular inflammation, without histopathological features of etiological specificity, and no evidence of neoplasia. The lumbar puncture did not show alterations, cytology without malignant cells, antibodies against onconeuronal proteins negative. Ruled out infectious etiology. Slow progressive improvement in clinical and laboratory manifestations and in imaging tests improvement was seen in response to the therapy with high doses of glucocorticoids and cyclophosphamide pulses. After prolonged hospitalization, she was discharged from the hospital, her neurologic status being normal. Brain MRI (Figure 1, C-D), two months after discharge, showed a clear decrease in the size of the brain lesions.

Conclusion: To the best of our knowledge, no brain space-occupying lesions (simulating neoplasms) attributed to SLE have been described. The context of concomitant activity, the negative results for infectious/malignant diseases, and the favorable response to immunosuppressive treatment, support the neuroinflammatory etiology.

Figure 1.
Positioning of the temporomandibular joint: a case report

**Keywords:** Pain, Ultrasound, Crystal arthritis

B. Maranini1, S. Mandrioli2, M. Galiè2, M. Govoni1, 1University of Ferrara, Department of Medical Sciences, Ferrara, Italy; 2University of Ferrara, Department of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery, Ferrara, Italy

**Background:** Deposition of calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate crystals occurs in crystalline arthropathies, such as gout and chondrocalcinosis. Occasionally, crystal deposits may affect the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), especially involving the articular cartilage and fibrocartilage, causing pain and jaw claudication, mimicking giant cell arteritis (GCA). Ultrasound (US) images reveal spotted hyperechoic signals in the articular disk and sometimes a marked destruction of the condyle with erosive changes.

**Objectives:** To highlight and discuss the potential role of TMJ US in guiding differential diagnosis of orofacial pain syndrome (frontal headache and jaw claudication), arousing the suspicion of GCA.

**Methods:** Case-report describing an old patient presenting with severe headache and jaw claudication with particular reference to the role of TMJ US in differential diagnosis of an initially suspected GCA.

**Results:** An 85-year-old woman presented to the Emergency Department with a 2-days history of progressively worsening frontal headache and jaw claudication. She reported no visual loss or polymyalgia rheumatica symptoms. Right temporal artery tenderness was appreciated on clinical examination, without reduced temporal arterial pulse. No axillary, brachial, or carotid bruits were appreciated. Neurologic examination was normal; brain computed tomography (CT) revealed no intracerebral hemorrhage or intraparenchymal lesions. Her erythrocyte sedimentation rate was 67 mm per hour, and C-reactive protein level 3.30 mg per deciliter. Temporal artery US revealed no abnormalities (absence of halo sign or arterial stenosis). Since patient complained of chewing pain and given that temporomandibular disorders may be misdiagnosed as GCA, TMJ US was performed revealing the presence of extensive calcifications around the right temporomandibular head and in the meniscus (Figure 1, Panel A). Brain CT images were then carefully reviewed: in the right TMJ massive calcifications surrounding the right temporomandibular head were appreciable (Figure 1, Panel B). Moreover, coronal CT scan of the atlantoaxial region showed calcifications of the alar ligaments, particularly evident on the superior-left side (Figure 1, Panel C). High dose glucocorticoid regimen was then started (Methylprednisolone 40 mg once daily). The patient's pain rapidly improved, steroid was rapidly tapered until withdrawal, with a complete resolution of symptoms within few weeks.

**Conclusion:** Crowned dens syndrome is characterized by recurrent neck pain related to radiodense deposits of hydroxyapatite or calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate in ligaments around the odontoid process, which create the appearance of a crown or halo surrounding the odontoid process on radiographic imaging. Evidence of inflammation (e.g., fever or elevated levels of C-reactive protein) is usually observed. A short course of steroids, followed by administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication, usually completely alleviates symptoms. Rarely, temporal arteritis headache may mimic TMJ irradiation pain, or present as jaw claudication. In this case, temporal arteries and TMJ US can enable to discern a halo sign, as a hallmark of giant cell arteritis, from suspicious signs of TMJ disorder. Rapid diagnosis can prevent misdiagnosis, invasive and unnecessary investigations (temporal artery biopsy) and inappropriate treatment (long term steroid regimen, leading to cardiovascular risk and increased bone loss).

**REFERENCES:**


Arthritis research

**Keywords:** COVID, Best practices, Vitamin D

B. Nieradko-Iwanicka1, 1Medical University of Lublin, Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Lublin, Poland

**Background:** Before the COVID-19 pandemic it was estimated that nearly 70% of the population is deficient in vitamin D - 25(OH)D <20ng/ml in Poland [1]. The percentage was expected to increase due to indoor isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vitamin D has a positive effect on the condition of the bones, affects the course of autoimmune diseases, the course of neurological diseases, in type 2 diabetes, vitamin D supplementation improves glucose tolerance and reduces insulin resistance [2,3,4].

**Objectives:** The aim of the retrospective study was to determine what percentage of rheumatology clinic patients suffer from vitamin D deficiency and whether this condition is effectively treated.

**Methods:** In January 2023, a retrospective analysis of the documentation of 172 patients treated at the Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic in Bełżyce (Poland) in 2022 was conducted.

**Results:** The mean age of the 172 patients whose documentation was analyzed was 60.43 years (min 19, max 88). There were 132 women (76.8%) and 40 men (23.2%) in this group. The mean concentration of vitamin D was 25.57ng/ml±SD11.9 (min 5.7, max 75, Me 22.8). Vitamin D deficiency was found in 44% (serum concentration <20ng/ml), suboptimal concentration (20-30ng/ml) in 31%, optimal concentration (30-50ng/ml) in 21%, and high concentration (>50ng/ml) in 4%. All those with a deficit or deficiency (75 people) were prescribed cholecalciferol in a dose of 20,000 units orally. 1 capsule twice a week after breakfast for 2 months [5]. Patients with optimal vitamin D levels were advised to take a dose of 2,000 units per day. Among the patients with deficit or deficiency, 48 people came for a follow-up visit to check the level of vitamin D (64% of the group with too low vitamin D concentration; 28% of the entire group whose documentation was analyzed). In the follow-up examination, the mean concentration of vitamin D was 37.14±9.8ng/ml (min 28, max 84, Me 35.3). Therefore, a statistically significant increase in the concentration of vitamin D in the blood was noted (p<0.05). In the group of people who came for the follow-up examination, there were 35 women, whose mean age was 60.7 years and 13 men (mean age 68.2 years).

**REFERENCES:**


Conclusion: 1. During the COVID-19 pandemic in the group of outpatient rheumatology patients, 75% had a deficiency or suboptimal level of vitamin D. 2. Treatment with cholecalciferol in a dose of 20,000 IU twice a week orally for 2 months is effective treatment of vitamin D deficiency. 3. Too low percentage of patients diagnosed with vitamin D deficiency come for visits and check-ups.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0782-PARE MANAGING PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: PATIENTS’ VIEWS AND ATTITUDES TO USING AN ONLINE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis

W. B. Nowell1, A. Degrassi1, S. Venkatachalam1, K. Gavigan1, A. Krivohlavek1, E. Rivera2, M. E. Husni2.

Background: Patients diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) confront decisions about how to optimize treatment of their chronic disease including patient physician interaction and modifying their own lifestyle choices that may impact their disease outcomes.

Objectives: To examine PsA patients’ views and attitudes of managing their disease using a guided online wellness program to address lifestyle behaviors such as nutrition, exercise, sleep, and stress management.

Methods: A cross-sectional online survey was developed with patient and clinician input and administered to US adults with a self-reported diagnosis of PsA in the ArthritisPower registry. Survey questions assessed participant (pt) experience with, and motivations to participate in, an online wellness program through various mechanisms to address nutrition, exercise, sleep and stress management. E-coaching is a validated tool using email coaching as an individualized tailored communication on wellness strategies to improve lifestyle behaviors.

Results: 312 pts completed the survey, of whom 83.0% were female, 91.0% white, mean age 57.1 (SD 11.4) years, and 10.0 (SD 10.2) years since PsA diagnosis. Most pts (93.6%) were diagnosed by a rheumatologist for their PsA. Over 90% of pts reported being ‘somewhat likely’ or ‘very likely’ to interact with an online coach at least twice a week or spend one to two hours a week learning about nutrition, exercise, sleep and stress management (90.4% and 92.6%, respectively) if they had the opportunity to take part in a wellness program. However, only 8.7% of pts are currently participating in a structured wellness program. Feeling better was the top motivator for participating in a wellness program (179, 57.4%) followed by the want to improve PsA symptoms (145, 46.5%). About a third of pts would prefer to participate in a wellness program by interacting with an online trained professional (34.0%), followed by attending an online course (16.4%) and reading written material (16.0%) (Table 1). In reporting barriers to wellness changes, cost and not having the energy to make changes were selected by about half of pts (both 47.1%) (Figure 1). Over one-tenth (13.1%) of pts reported having no barriers to participation in wellness programs.

Conclusion: The overwhelming majority of patients report willingness to be involved in a wellness program. Feeling better is a top motivator, while cost and lack of energy to make changes were top barriers to adopting wellness behaviors.

Table 1. Participation Preferences for a Wellness Program, N=312

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preference</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interacting with an online coach</td>
<td>106 (34.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending an online course</td>
<td>51 (16.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading written material</td>
<td>50 (16.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching videos</td>
<td>46 (14.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-person consultation and coaching</td>
<td>45 (14.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending an in-person class</td>
<td>14 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our study results support the use of guided online participation in wellness programs over alternatives such as online courses and written materials. Further studies are needed to elucidate how e-coaching wellness platforms may improve and sustain lifestyle changes in PsA patients.

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: Janssen provided funding support for this project.

Disclosure of Interests: W. Benjamin Nowell Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen and Stopher Medicine, Angela Degrassi: None declared, Shilpa Venkatachalam: None declared, Kelly Gavigan: None declared, Ashley Krivohlavek: None declared, Esteban Rivera: None declared, M Elaine Husni: None declared.
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POS0783-PARE WITHDRAWN
Keywords: Self-management, Safety, Patient reported outcomes

T. Woodworth1, M. C. Hay1, A. Leong1, D. Furst1. 1University of California, Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, United States of America

Objectives: To explore whether rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients' concerns regarding adverse events (AEs) during their treatment are adequately collected and considered in making treatment decisions.

Methods: Using pilot focus groups, and after obtaining voluntarily 12 RA patients (8 women, 4 men, duration RA 1 to > 20 years) met in groups of 4 and described their concerns regarding how they experience being treated for RA. All patients were from Southern California and spoke and understood English fluently. We recorded/transcribed three 90-120 minute focus groups. Participants completed an 18 item Beliefs about Medications Questionnaire (BMQ), which included 10 specific arthritis medication questions and 8 questions about doctors. They examined a table describing 75 AEs of concern to oncology patients - the PRO-CTCAE (Patient Reported Outcome-Common Terminology for Adverse Events), and checked AEs they had experienced or were of concern. Data were recorded and transcribed from all 90-120 minute sessions. Using Dedoose software, transcriptions were inductively coded and analyzed to identify specific areas of associations with RA medications. A total of 225 excerpts were extracted to which a total of 607 codes were applied.

Results: AEs associated with medications were the explicit objective of this study and so we could not estimate the percent of patients with medication-related AE concerns. Of the 36 excerpts in which participants discussed AEs while discussing particular types of medications, conventional synthetic DMARD (csDMARD) were more likely to be discussed than biologics/ targeted synthetic DMARD (b/tsDMARD) (58% csDMARDs, 28% b/tsDMARDs, 14% corticosteroids). 42 unprompted comments emphasized self-management strategies. 10/42 specified the context of medications, such as modifying dosages (40%) or stopping medication altogether (60%); of these, 8/10 comments specified csDMARDs or corticosteroids. Four of 12 voiced uncertainty about whether AEs were related to RA, medications, or something else. On the BMQ, participants generally agreed that their health depended on their medications, which protected them from becoming worse and that the medicines did more good than harm. Nevertheless, their medications disrupted their lives, and they worried about long-term effects. Generally, participants did not think doctors used too many medications or placed too much trust in the medications. In each focus group, participants found the PRO-CTCAE bewildering and raised the specter of cancer due to their medications. The 10 most commonly marked AEs were dry mouth, mouth sores, nausea, bloating, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hair loss, bruising, general pain and fatigue.

Conclusion: Medications were generally viewed positively but AE concerns were more common among those using csDMARD than b/tsDMARDs or corticosteroids. Concerns about AEs triggered self-management strategies, potentially affecting adherence. We suggest that a robust mechanism for patients to explicitly report the impact of AEs that they are experiencing could facilitate clinical communication and positively impact adherence.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Background: To be diagnosed with inflammatory arthritis (IA) is challenging for the individual, who may experience uncertainty and anxiety [1,2]. We need more knowledge on how health professionals can support patients that have been diagnosed recently. Previous studies have focused on patients’ experience of living with IA, but few have aimed to focus on the newly diagnosed.

Objectives: This study aimed to explore patients’ experiences, thoughts, and concerns after being diagnosed with IA.

Methods: Participants were patients newly diagnosed with IA (rheumatoid arthritis or psoriatic arthritis) recruited through a feasibility study to a self-management intervention [3]. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews. The analysis was based on reflexive thematic analysis method, which provides a rich and complex understanding of patterns within data [4].

Results: Twelve adults (six men and six women, aged 25-77) diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (n=8) or with psoriatic arthritis (n=4) within the last three months, were interviewed at an outpatient rheumatology clinic in Denmark. We identified four main themes: 1) The intrusiveness of arthritis. Symptoms affected patients physical and emotional state. The initial symptoms were experienced very differently. For some, symptoms were acute and explosive. In others, disease progression was slow, and participants became more and more invalidated with time. However, all experienced that arthritis affected their mood, and in general, patients were overwhelmed to being diagnosed with arthritis. 2) Getting familiar with arthritis and its treatment. Patients requested information about how to manage IA, and several were already seeking information about non-pharmacological treatments such as different diets, meditation, and exercises. The participants paid great attention to how they responded to the pharmacological treatment and how their bodies reacted in different situations. Furthermore, the newly diagnosed also strove to become acquainted with their new body with arthritis. 3) Adapting to life with arthritis. Some felt it natural to tell family members about their arthritis. In contrast, others thought it was none of their concern and did not like to bother them. The participants did not want arthritis to be an issue for other people to worry about. 4) Worries about the future. Overall, the pharmacological treatment had a profound focus immediately after diagnosis. Worrying about the potential lack of effect contributed to great concern and frustration. The worries were related to all aspects of life, including work and family life. However, the newly diagnosed also hoped that symptoms would be acceptable so that everyday life could be restored. Nevertheless, they also realized that they had to rethink how they wanted to prioritize in the future.

Conclusion: The results of this study highlight the complexity of being newly diagnosed with IA. Time after diagnosis is dominated by worries about the benefit and harms of pharmacological treatment and the future. However, the participants did not want to perceive themselves as being sick. Instead, they strove to comfort themselves with hope for successful pharmacological treatment together with taking their own non-pharmacological initiatives.

REFERENCES:
[1] PMID: 32884244
[2] PMID: 31528844
[4] PMID: 28087505

Acknowledgements: The authors thank the participants for generously sharing their experiences and the patient research partner (SDK) for invaluable perspectives and contributions.

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1716

POS0786-PARE

CONNECTING THROUGH SHARING - PUBLISHING A BOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES (RMDs) BY YOUNG PEOPLE WITH RMDs

Keywords: Quality of life, Mental health, Self-management

Background: Research has shown that adolescents with chronic conditions such as rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) are more prone to developing psychiatric conditions. Reasons for this could be the common stigmatization that they encounter in their daily life and the feeling of being the only odd one out. Youth-R-Well.com, the Dutch organization for youth (18-30 years) with RMDs, responded to this by providing monthly columns from their peers with RMDs. These columns show the daily life and struggles of young arthritis patients with a touch of humor, thus providing some of the much needed recognition.

Objectives: The main objective of this project is to provide information, recognition and awareness about the daily life and struggles of young RMD patients. By reading the columns that were written lightly humorously, it will be easier for young people to find the much needed recognition that they often lack in their own environment. These columns do not only recognize the often experienced pain and (chronic) fatigue, but also recognize the insecurities that come with living with a RMD, and show ways to face them. By describing their daily life, these young people provide tips on how to approach certain situations. Therefore, besides providing information and recognition, these columns can also function as a tool that increases the self-management of their disease.

Methods: To provide these columns, different young people with a RMD (18-30 years) were asked over the years to regularly write columns that were published on the website of Youth-R-Well.com. To draw more attention to the columns and reach more people, e.g., by distributing the books in hospitals, the columns of one of the writers will be published in a book.

Results: Since 2012, approximately 150 columns have been published on the website of Youth-R-Well.com, from nine different writers. Youth-R-Well.com has received, and still receives, many thankful messages from young people with RMDs, saying that they benefited a lot from the tips and recognition that the columns provided. The book has not been published yet, but Youth-R-Well.com is right now talking to self-publishing companies, and has also received commitments from parties that will take partial responsibility for the costs of publishing.

Conclusion: Publishing columns on a regular basis has helped a lot of young RMD patients in the Netherlands to feel recognized in their struggles with living with a RMD. They have said to have learned a lot about how to cope with certain issues that come with having a RMD. This is something Youth-R-Well.com will definitely continue with. The book is unfortunately not published yet, but will be in the near future.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We want to thank Josien, Marijn, Linda, Philine, Heleen, Veerle, Ilse, Noortje and Rebecca for writing all the columns.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4708
**HPR Patients’ perspectives, functioning and health (descriptive: qualitative or quantitative)**

**POS078-HPR**

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GUIDANCE IN THE RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC – PATIENT EXPERIENCES AND PREFERENCES. A QUALITATIVE STUDY**

**Keywords:** Qualitative research methods, Lifestyles, Rheumatoid arthritis

**T. Thomsen**1,2, M. Aadahl3, M. L. Hetland1,2, B. A. Esbensen3,1. 1Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2Copenhagen Centre for Arthritis Research, Centre for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Glostrup, Denmark; 3Blasiebyggen and Frederiksberg Hospitals, Copenhagen, Denmark; 4University of Copenhagen, Department of Clinical Medicine, Copenhagen, Denmark; 5University of Copenhagen, Department of Clinical Medicine, Copenhagen, Denmark

**Background:** Evidence of the positive health effects of physical activity (PA) and exercise in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is well established. Nonetheless, higher proportions of patients with RA are physically inactive compared to the general population [1]. Besides disease-related barriers to engaging in health-enhancing PA, a significant barrier may be the lack of specific PA guidance from healthcare professionals [2].

**Objectives:** The present nationwide, qualitative study aimed to explore daily PA levels and the patient’s preferences on the current and future support from health professionals (HPRs) in promoting PA in patients with RA.

**Methods:** We recruited participants from five rheumatology departments in Denmark. Recruitment was based on results from an earlier register-based cross-sectional study [3], which aimed to identify socio-demographic and clinical differences between participants and those declining participation in a RCT focusing on promoting light-intensity PA in patients with RA [4]. Accordingly, we used a purposive sampling method to ensure that interview participants varied in age, educational level, smoking status, PA levels, and disease history. Due to COVID-19, the interviews were conducted by telephone, physically, or through online platforms. Data analysis was based on reflexive thematic analysis [5].

**Results:** Of the 20 participants, 13 were female, and the mean age was 55 years (range 32–77). We generated four themes: 1) Acceptance of arthritis is a process, which was attributed to acknowledging RA as part of life as an essential mental step before the participants could fully adapt PA levels and exercise. 2) Daily physical activity – motivation and barriers, where participants described how they generally perceived PA. Also, they described their preferred intensities and types of activities as well as motivations and barriers for engaging in PA. 3) Experiences with physical activity guidance – your own responsibility? This theme reflected how participants missed to have more comprehensive and detailed discussions with HPRs in the rheumatology outpatient clinics about PA, in other words not making it a matter of their own interest and curiosity. 4) How, when and where physical activity guidance is provided is essential, which referred to the participants’ preferences and needs for future PA guidance in the rheumatology clinic, including timing, content, and location.

**Conclusion:** The study results emphasize that treating patients with RA should hold an integrated and strengthened focus on PA and exercise in routine care. However, to optimize this focus, HPRs may need adequate training in how to prioritize, guide, and motivate patients towards initiating and maintaining PA in their everyday lives.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to thank all informants in this qualitative study.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4808

**Figure 1.**

**POS078-HPR**

**“IT’S LIKE LISTENING TO THE RADIO WITH A LITTLE INTERFERENCE” - MANAGEMENT OF PAIN AMONG PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Qualitative research methods, Pain, Psoriatic arthritis

**N. Brodin**1, 2, 3, M. Bjork2, 4, B. Sundström3, 5, E. Svärd1, 6, Karolinska Institutet, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Division of Physiotherapy, Huddinge, Sweden, 2Danderyd Hospital Corp., Department of Orthopaedics, Division of Physiotherapy, Stockholm, Sweden, 3Linköping University, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Linköping, Sweden, 4Linköping University, Department of Health, Medicine and Care Sciences, Linköping, Sweden, 5Umeå University, Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Rheumatology, Umeå, Sweden, 6Uppsala University/Region Gävleborg, Centre for Research and Development, Uppsala, Sweden

**Background:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is an inflammatory rheumatic disease, associated with the skin disease psoriasis. Health-related quality of life is severely affected and is suggested to be so since these people have two chronic diseases at the same time, a skin disease that causes cosmetic changes and a joint disease that causes functional limitations [1]. Both international collaborations [2] and single studies of outcome measures, disease consequences and experiences of pain in PsA emphasize that pain is one of the most important areas to focus on in the assessment and treatment of this patient group [3]. To the best of our knowledge, no studies with a qualitative design exploring the management of pain from the perspectives of patients with PsA exist.

**Objectives:** To explore and describe approaches towards pain and its management among patients with PsA.

**Methods:** A descriptive design with a qualitative inductive approach was used. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 11 participants with PsA (3 men and 8 women) recruited from one outpatient rheumatology clinic in the middle region as well as from a university hospital rheumatology clinic in the northern region of Sweden. Variation in gender, age, disease duration, activity limitation, perceived pain, fatigue, and general health was aimed at by using strategic sampling. Qualitative content analysis was used, and a pattern of theme of meaning, descriptive subthemes, and categories was constructed based on the participants’ experiences and perceptions [4, 5].

**Results:** A main overarching theme of meaning and three subthemes describing participants’ management of pain were identified. They were: ‘Taking charge of life despite the constant murmur of pain through ‘Sorting out vulnerability’, ‘Reaching acceptance and engagement’ and ‘Directing focus to change’. Nine categories further described the components of the management, ‘fear uncertainty for the future,’ ‘consider restrictions,’ ‘illuminate the invisible’, ‘increase awareness’, ‘find permissive environment and social support’, ‘enhance inner endurance’, ‘reformulate emotions and thoughts’, ‘use distracting activities’ and ‘adjust activities’ (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Dealing with and regulating feelings and thoughts within oneself as well as altering behavior and finding new solutions outside oneself seem to be significant for management of pain among patients with PsA. Grasping an understanding of this complex reality of living with a constant murmur of pain has the potential to improve and enhance the overall care. To support patients in taking charge of life health professionals should be able to provide team-based interventions that are underpinned by self-regulation skills and include cognitive, behavior and affective components.

**REFERENCES:**

**HPR Service developments, innovation and economics in healthcare**

**POS0789-HPR**  
**STRUCTURES THAT FACILITATE PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES: A SYSTEMATIC SCOPING REVIEW**

**Keywords:** Quality of care, Systematic review, Health services research

J. Sørensen, G. Småe, A. E. Simonsen, A. Haabberstatt, I. Kjeken, H. Solvag Dagfinrud, R. H. Moel. Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Rehabilitation in Rheumatology (NKRR) REMEDY - Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases, Oslo, Norway; Rayos tumsetre Rehabilitation, Patient Advisory Board, Jaren, Norway; The Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People, The Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People, Oslo, Norway

**Background:** System-level patient engagement (PE) is required to improve future healthcare services. Structures that facilitate PE are likely to be diverse and complex, but are scarcely explored and described.

**Objectives:** To identify, summarize and map research about system-level PE structures in healthcare services.

**Methods:** A systematic scoping review was conducted, searching the MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane, and PsyCINFO databases. Key search elements were identified using the Population, Concept, and Context framework. The population was patient representatives, healthcare professionals, managers, and leaders. The context includes practices, motives, and outcomes, and the concept was PE in the development and delivery of healthcare services. Studies published between 2005 and 2022 were included. The coding of extracted characteristics was inspired by a PE-adapted model to evaluate the quality of healthcare services. Data was collapsed into structural attributes such as organisation, consistency, and timing of PE initiatives (Table 1), in addition to representativeness, PE knowledge, and finances.

**Results:** Of 8588 identified records, 37 studies were found to be eligible. Studies aimed to explore the impact of PE initiatives (n=8), increase knowledge and understanding about PE (n=15), and experience, attitudes, or opinions (n=9). Standing committees or panels were the most consistent PE initiatives, often acting as an established part of the structure (Table 1). Lack of PE knowledge was mentioned as a barrier in eighteen studies. Of these, eight reported that multiple stakeholders such as patients, healthcare professionals, and/or managers could benefit from increasing their PE knowledge. In twelve studies, lack of time and/or finances were listed as a barrier. High age, small numbers of patient representatives with time to spare, and professionals repeatedly recruiting the same patient representatives were described as a restriction for sufficient representativeness.

**Conclusion:** The findings indicate that the PE process may flourish through education, training, experience, and diversity among all PE stakeholders. Sufficient representativeness and PE knowledge were reported as essential structural attributes to facilitate equality and a meaningful co-creation process. Earmarked funds, sufficient to facilitate the PE structure are described as a cornerstone of integrating system-level PE in any environmental and healthcare setting.

**References:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1273

**Table 1. Organisation, consistency, clarity, and timing of PE tasks described in the included studies, related to development and delivery of healthcare services.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisational structure</th>
<th>PE* phase</th>
<th>PE task</th>
<th>PE timing</th>
<th>Consistency of PE initiatives</th>
<th>Total n= 48 (N =150)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisation of PE initiatives</td>
<td>Clearly defined/ operationalized</td>
<td>Undecipherable</td>
<td>Ideal planning</td>
<td>Delivery</td>
<td>Evaluation/ feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus groups/workshops/ forum</td>
<td>n=10</td>
<td>n=7</td>
<td>n=8</td>
<td>n=9</td>
<td>n=3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee/board/panel</td>
<td>n=11</td>
<td>n=4</td>
<td>n=6</td>
<td>n=1</td>
<td>n=2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation/discussion</td>
<td>n=1</td>
<td>n=1</td>
<td>n=2</td>
<td>n=1</td>
<td>n=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action research, Experienced-based co-design, Mystery patient</td>
<td>n=7</td>
<td>n=3</td>
<td>n=4</td>
<td>n=5</td>
<td>n=2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delphi Technique Experiment</td>
<td>n=1</td>
<td>n=1</td>
<td>n=2</td>
<td>n=1</td>
<td>n=1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total n= 113 (N=150) | 24 (32) | 11 (14) | 19 (24) | 2 (2) | 10 (12) | 8 (14) | 15 (20) | 24 (28) |

*PE: Patient engagement, *Ten studies reported diverse PE initiatives and are reported in more than one PE initiative, *N = occurrences, n = primary studies. Light colour indicates few studies, darker indicates more studies.
Web, extended with the domains pain and energy. At each visit (baseline, 3 and 6 months) patients also filled out online questionnaires on goal setting, shared decision making (SDM) and PROs. PRO questionnaires included HRQoL, patient satisfaction (VAS-PSS), pain (VAS-pain), general health (VAS-GH) and daily functioning (HAQ).

At baseline also a questionnaire on coping styles was filled out.

**Results:** Ninety-two patients participated in the study. The mean age was 51 years and the most common diagnosis was rheumatoid arthritis. A total of 302 patient goals were set, of which 32% were achieved. Most goals were formulated in the domains lifestyle (14%), pain (13%) and symptoms & side-effects (13%). Fewer goals were formulated in the domains intimate relationships & sexuality (0.6%) and finances (0.3%). In the entire population, HRQoL, VAS-PSS, VAS-pain, VAS-GH and HAQ scores did not change over time. However IA patients who did not achieve their goals tended to score worse on HRQoL, VAS-PSS and HAQ after 6 months. In contrast, VAS-pain and VAS-GH showed no relation with goal attainment. The patients’ most common coping styles were active approach and comforting thoughts.

**Conclusion:** This study has raised awareness of the importance of patient goal setting. However, the goal-setting process is time consuming and, therefore, health professionals should be trained in goal setting. An online support tool which can be used in preparation for an outpatient clinic visit, can circumvent aforementioned problems. An example of such a tool is the Self-management Web, which helps patients organize and prioritize perceived problems in different domains and subsequently helps them to formulate their goals. As a result patients’ goals can be concretized immediately during the consultation, which can save time and, therefore, lower the threshold for implementation. Moreover, the incorporation of a feedback mechanism into a goal-setting intervention also seems to have a positive effect on goal attainment. Unfortunately, our intervention showed no effect on HRQoL. However, a general HRQoL measurement may not be sensitive or specific enough to detect change at this point. Possibly self-management and self-efficacy are better outcome measures. These may improve if patients actively address their problems in daily life, set goals to overcome them, and thereby manage the disease. Therefore, we recommend using more specific outcomes, or qualitative assessment of outcomes, in goal setting studies.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kim van Slingerland: None declared, Pascal de Jong: None declared, Annelieke Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kim van Slingerland: None declared, Pascal de Jong: None declared, Annelieke Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kim van Slingerland: None declared, Pascal de Jong: None declared, Annelieke Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kim van Slingerland: None declared, Pascal de Jong: None declared, Annelieke Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kim van Slingerland: None declared, Pascal de Jong: None declared, Annelieke Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kim van Slingerland: None declared, Pascal de Jong: None declared, Annelieke Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
Conclusion: Through this scoping review, we identify that knowledge of MTX improves when education by nurses is provided. Patient education about MTX can be delivered in different forms and can result in better satisfaction and adherence. More RCTs with powered samples are required.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by an unrestricted grant from medac, without any involvement in the scientific work. We thank the members of the RECONNECT-MTX group: Agnes Agoston-Szabó, Ana Isabel Rodrigues Var-gas, Ana Pais, Ane Lustvigsen, Claudia Camon, Claudia Paiva, Daija Batisinskaja, Ellen Moholt, Jana Melicharová, Karlien Claes, Khadjia El Aoody, Kristina Buerki, Marie-Louise Karlsson, Mikaella Konstantinou, Myro Nikoloudaki, Souzi Makri, Ulrike Erstling, Uta Martin.

Disclosure of Interests: Andrea Marques: None declared, Cristiano Matos: None declared, P.M.I. Invermore Consultant of Nordic Pharma, Grant/research support from: GOSH NIHR BRC and NIHR Personal Fellowship, Elena Nikhio-

rovou Speakers bureau: Celltrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, AbbVie, Lilly, Fresenius, Paid instructor for: Celltrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, Abb-Vie, Lilly, Fresenius, Grant/research support from: Lilly, Pfizer, Ricardo J. O. F. Ferreira Speakers bureau: MSD, Sanofi, Amgen, Roche, Paid instructor for: UCB, Consultant of: medac, abbvie, roche, Sanofi, Amgen, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, medac, Amgen.

Although patients adapt their lives to the new conditions, they are affected by symptoms such as fatigue, pain, stiffness, and side effects such as nausea, hair loss, and weight gain. However, patients highlight the positive impact of how exercise influences their health and how living with RA gives new insights to life.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Overview of the theme, categories, and sub-categories showing patients' experiences living with RA after 1-2 years of DMARD treatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme Living with RA gives new insights to life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2908
Conclusion: The use of systemic corticosteroids and immunosuppressive/biologics was necessary in a high number of patients with non-infectious uveitis. In our series tocolizumab proved to be significantly more effective in the resolution of macular edema.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Timeline of immunosuppressive treatments and/or biologics administered in patients with non-infectious uveitis who required at least two treatments, according to diagnosis. Shaded: treatment that resolved the uveitis. RAAU: recurrent acute anterior uveitis AS: axial spondyloarthropathy MTX: Methotrexate ADA: adalimumab MF/M: mycophenolate mofetil IFX: infliximab TCZ: tocolizumab SAR: sarilumab CYA: Cyclosporine. SSZ: sulfasalazine

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4701

HPR Epidemiology and public health (including prevention)

POS0794-HPR SNAPS JIA - SURVEY OF ADOLESCENTS’ NEEDS AND PARENTS’ VIEWS ON SEXUAL HEALTH IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Education, Inflammatory arthritis, Patient information and education
1CHU Clermont-Ferrand, Department of Public Health, Clermont-Ferrand, France; 2CHU Clermont-Ferrand, Transversal Patient Education Unit, Department of Public Health, Clermont Ferrand, France; 3CHU Nice, Rheumatology, Nice, France; 4APHP - Hôpital Pitie Salpêtrière, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 5CHU Grenoble, Rheumatology, La Tronche, France; 6CHU Nantes, Rheumatology, Nantes, France; 7APHP - Paris Saint-Joseph, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 8Association Francaise Spondyloarthrites, Direction, Tulle, France; 9CHU Clermont-Ferrand, Rheumatology, Clermont-Ferrand, France; 10CHU Clermont-Ferrand, Pediatrics, Clermont-Ferrand, France; 11Association KOURIR, Direction, Paris, France; 12CHU Strasbourg, Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France; 13Association nationale de lutte contre l’arthritis rhumatoïde, Direction, Clermont l’Hérault, France; 14CHU Montpellier, Rheumatology, Montpellier, France

Background: According to the world health organization, sexual health (SH) is “a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality”. Studies on the impact of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) on SH are scarce especially during the critical phase of adolescence. We can ask ourselves: are health professionals (HP) “good” interlocutors for JIA patients?

Objectives: We aimed to determine the expectations of JIA adolescents (10-19 years) and the perceptions of their parents regarding exchanges with HP in the field of SH.

Methods: A multicenter survey was performed in nine French rheumatology centers and three patient associations from September 2021 to April 2022, among JIA patients, aged 18-45 years and their parents. On the advice of two child psychologists and a psychiatrist, we interviewed an adult population to obtain convincing data about their adolescence with the necessary hindsight on the subject. Self-administered questionnaire interviews were designed (for JIA patients and their parents) after an extensive literature review and experts’ consensus and distributed to participants.

Results: 76 patients and 43 parents completed the anonymous questionnaires. Most patients were women (75%), with a mean age of 26 (72) years and an education level higher than high school (89%). Parents were mainly mothers (88%), with a mean age of 54 (6.6) years and an education level higher than high school (56%). Half the patients considered that JIA impacted their love life. The main causes were being in complete pain (46%) and low self-esteem (40%). The impact on their sex life was not clear-cut. Love life was discussed with parents for 52% and sexual life for 20% of patients. 59% of patients reported they were comfortable to discuss SH with an HP (yet, only 26% had done). Their main sources of information were referees (at school (48%); family (43%); or social networks (34%)). If patients reported that SH had been discussed, it was mainly when the HP was proactive (56%), with the hospital rheumatologist (50%), from a biomedical perspective. Focusing on the need for optimal care, patients and parents agreed to address SH during an individual patient education session in hospital (51% vs 35%), a regular consultation (47% vs 53%) or a dedicated consultation by request of the adolescent without parents being informed (38% vs 21%). Most patients and parents agreed that the HP should be proactive (78% vs 70%). At hospital, for patients, the most competent or the most affordable HP (yet, only 26% had done). Their main sources of information were referees (at school (48%); family (43%); or social networks (34%)). If patients reported that SH had been discussed, it was mainly when the HP was proactive (56%), with the hospital rheumatologist (50%), from a biomedical perspective. Focusing on the need for optimal care, patients and parents agreed to address SH during an individual patient education session in hospital (51% vs 35%), a regular consultation (47% vs 53%) or a dedicated consultation by request of the adolescent without parents being informed (38% vs 21%). Most patients and parents agreed that the HP should be proactive (78% vs 70%). At hospital, for patients, the most competent or the most affordable HP were the gynecologist (68%); respectively, the rheumatologist (55%); the psychologist (53%); and the psychologist (53%); 39%. Patients and parents both considered that a peer expert would make patients feel more comfortable (38% vs 37%); however, contrary to patients, fewer parents point out their skills (46% vs 25%; p=0.0276). The opportunity of a suitable moment (64% of patients vs 53% of parents), an HP comfortable with the subject (59% vs 53%), and availability of brochures (45% vs 49%) seemed to be helpful for both. The only statistically significant difference concerned HP gender, less cited by parents (7% vs 43%; p<0.0001). The use of digital resources was significantly more cited by patients than parents (video information (29% vs 9%, p=0.0127); smartphone application (25% vs 9%, p=0.0372); 79% of patients were looking for general information (impact of JIA and treatments on sexuality), discussion (68%), reassurance (65%), and listening (51%). General information (58%, p=0.0158) and discussion (39%, p=0.0022) were significantly less cited by parents.

Conclusion: To our knowledge, this is the first study to address the SH needs of adolescents with JIA. HPs should take up this real need about SH, especially in hospital for adolescents and their parents. Indeed, there are expectations directly linked to the specifics of the disease. The main difference between patients and parents would be the use of digital tools. There could be an interesting vector of communication with adolescents if the sources are reliable and parents reassured about their content.

Acknowledgements: This work has obtained the financial support of the French Society of Rheumatology.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0795-HPR STAGE 1 HYPERTENSION CARRIES EXCESSIVE CARDIOVASCULAR RISK IN AXIAL SpondyloarthritIS PATIENTS: A 12-YEAR LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Self-management, Cardiovascular disease, Spondyloarthritids
J.L. H. Shi1, H. So1, S. H. M. Lam1, T. K. Li2, E. Li3, C. C. Szeto1, L. S. Tam1. 1The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Medicine & Therapeutics, Hong Kong, China
Background: Hypertension (HT) is one of the modifiable risk factors for the development of CV event (CVE) [1,2]. The American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) recommended a new definition for arterial HT in adults since 2017 [3]. Whether this new definition of HT is associated with increased CV risk in patients with axSpA remains unknown.

Objectives: To ascertain whether stage 1 hypertension at baseline is a predictor of future cardiovascular event (CVE) in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

Methods: We conducted a retrospective cohort study in axSpA patients who were recruited from 2001-2017. Patients with at least 2 years of follow-up and without prior CVE were divided into three groups according to the calculated mean BP over the first 2-year period (adjusted mean BP (≥140/90 mm Hg, 130–139/80–89 mm Hg and <130/80 mm Hg). They were followed from baseline until the end of 2020 or occurrence of a first CVE. Multivariate Cox regression analyses adjusting for baseline and time-varying variables were used to assess the relationship between mean BP and CVE.

Results: Out of the 458 patients fulfilling the inclusion criteria, 56 (12.2%) and 141 (30.8%) had an adjusted mean BP ≥140/90 mm Hg and 130–139/80–89 mm Hg respectively, and 261 (57.0%) were normotensive. After a median follow-up of 12 (7–18) years, 56 (12.2%) CVE were documented. The incidence rates were 21.4, 14.2 and 5.9 per 1000 patient-years for the three groups respectively. A adjusted mean BP of 130–139/80–89 mm Hg was independently associated with the occurrence of CVE after adjusting for the baseline covariates (Figure 1) as well as time-varying inflammatory burden (Table 1). This association was not significant after adjustment for time-varying traditional CV risk factors.

Conclusion: Stage I hypertension at baseline is associated with increased risk of developing CVE in axSpA patients. This association may be mediated by other traditional CV risk factors.

REFERENCES:

CHARACTERS FROM TABLE CONTENT INCLUDING TITLE:

Table 1. Progression to joint replacement among patients participating in first-line OA intervention, depending on the effect of treatment on change of pain from baseline to 3 months follow-up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hip OA</th>
<th>Knee OA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain change on NRS</td>
<td>Crude HR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No change in pain</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much better</td>
<td>0.5 (0.4-0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly better</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7-0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly worse</td>
<td>1.1 (1.0-1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much worse</td>
<td>1.2 (1.1-1.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: I would acknowledge all the supports from our teammates.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.330
POS0797-HPR PREVALENCE AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH DEVELOPMENT OF RADIOGRAPHIC KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN INDIVIDUALS WITH KNEE PAIN – A 2-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

Keywords: Osteoarthritis

M. Törnblom1,2,3, A. Bremander1,2,4, M. Andersson1,2,6, A. Nilsson2,6, A. Kjellgren2,6, E. Haglund1,2,6
1 Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences, Section of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden; 2 Svenhult, Research and Development Centre, Halmstad, Sweden; 3 Helsingborg Hospital, Department of Rehabilitation, Helsingborg, Sweden; 4 University of Southern Denmark, Department of Regional Health Research, Odense, Denmark; 5 Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Sonderborg, Denmark; 6 Halmstad University, Department of Environmental and Biosciences School of Business, Innovation and Sustainability, Halmstad, Sweden; 7 Gothenburg University, Department of Orthopaedics, Clinical Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy, Göteborg, Sweden; 8 Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Department of Orthopaedics, Göteborg, Sweden; 9 Halmstad University, Department of Health and Sport, School of Health and Welfare, Halmstad, Sweden

Background: Pain and functional impairment form the basis for a clinical knee osteoarthritis (KOA) diagnosis according to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines [1]. Enhanced knowledge of the progression from knee pain to radiographic KOA (RKOA), may enable early identification of individuals at risk.

Objectives: To study the development of radiographic knee osteoarthritis in individuals with knee pain over time, and its associations to baseline variables.

Methods: In all 172 individuals (30-67 years) with knee pain, from the Swedish HALLOA cohort (2) were studied from baseline to 2-year follow-up. The individuals at baseline coded as clinical KOA according to NICE guidelines or not. None had RKOA at baseline. At follow-up they were dichotomised as RKOA or not (Ahlbäck grade 1 or more). Self-reported knee symptoms (the Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS)), and knee pain intensity (numerical rating scale (NRS 0-10, best to worst) were assessed. Body composition, functional performance and clinical examination were also assessed. The Chi-Square-test or Mann-Whitney U-test was used for comparisons between groups, and logistic regression for analysis of associations between baseline variables and RKOA at follow-up adjusted for age.

Results: The mean age of the group was 51 (SD 8) years, 67% were women. Body Mass Index (BMI) was 26 (SD 5). The prevalence of RKOA at follow-up were 13% (n=23), and all of them had clinical KOA at baseline according to NICE guidelines. Furthermore, those with RKOA at follow-up had significantly higher BMI median 28.8 (IQR 8.6) vs. 25.1 (5.7), p=0.011, visceral fat area (VFA) 130.7 (88.7) vs. 84.7 (62.4), p=0.009, and knee pain; KOOS sub score (VFA) 130.7 (88.7) vs. 84.7 (62.4), p=0.009, and knee pain; KOOS sub score (ADL, 0-100, worst to best) 1.230 1.230 1.220-1.480 0.028 Bony enlargement 1.788 1.788 0.683-4.868 0.237 One-Leg Rising (number) 0.966 0.966 0.921-1.012 0.146 KOOS (Pain 0-100, worst to best) 0.964 0.964 0.937-0.991 0.091 KOOS (Symptoms 0-100, worst to best) 0.968 0.968 0.940-0.996 0.028 KOOS (ADL 0-100, worst to best) 0.969 0.969 0.941-0.989 0.039 KOOS (Sport/Rec 0-100, worst to best) 0.984 0.984 0.966-1.002 0.268 KOOS (QOL 0-100, worst to best) 0.970 0.970 0.944-0.997 0.030

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1382

POS0798-HPR PREVALENCE OF RISK FOR ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Mental health, Comorbidities, Epidemiology

L. F. Vega Sevilla1, M. A. Villareal-Alarcón2, D. P. Flores-Gutierrez3, N. De Avila Gonzalez1, I. D. Hernandez-Galarza1, J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza4, D. A. Galarza-Delgado1, 5 Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Patients with chronic diseases have a higher prevalence of anxiety and depression. The complex relationship between chronic diseases and mental health disorders can influence each other negatively. (1)

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study. Patients > 16 years old with a rheumatologic disease were included. Data from medical history were collected. The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) was applied from March to November 2022. A score from 0-7 points is classified as low risk, 8-10 as intermediate risk, and >11 as high risk. Patients with high risk were referred to an evaluation by Psychiatry in the same clinic. We compared groups according to HADS scores using Kruskal-Wallis or Chi-square test.

Results: A total of 705 patients were included, 658 women, demographic characteristics in Table 1. Most common diagnosis was RA, followed by systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). High anxiety risk was found in 125 patients, median disease duration of 6 years. Sixteen patients had high risk for depression, median disease duration of 10 years. Intermediate risk of depression was assessed in 15 patients, median disease duration of 10 years. We received 38 patients that accepted to be referred to a psychiatric evaluation. An association was found between high risk of anxiety and gender (p=0.019), no association was found with age or menopause. High risk of anxiety was more prevalent (n=125) than depression (n=16), and patients with intermediate risk for depression showed a higher prevalence of intermediate and high risk for anxiety (p=0.001).

REFERENCES:
**Table 1.** Demographic, clinical and rheumatic disease characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>HADS A</th>
<th>HADS A</th>
<th>HADS D</th>
<th>HADS D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=477)</td>
<td>(n=103)</td>
<td>(n=125)</td>
<td>(n=674)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, n (%)</td>
<td>437 (96.1)</td>
<td>98 (96.1)</td>
<td>123 (96.4)</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years, mean</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of diagnosis, median (IQR)</td>
<td>45 (32.4-50.4)</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCLERODERMA, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (2.9)</td>
<td>2 (1.9)</td>
<td>3 (2.4)</td>
<td>18 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LES, n (%)</td>
<td>67 (14.0)</td>
<td>12 (11.8)</td>
<td>15 (12.0)</td>
<td>89 (13.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA, n (%)</td>
<td>249 (52.2)</td>
<td>52 (50.4)</td>
<td>53 (42.4)</td>
<td>341 (50.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FM, n (%)</td>
<td>67 (14.0)</td>
<td>12 (11.8)</td>
<td>15 (12.0)</td>
<td>89 (13.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities, #, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDI</td>
<td>3.8±0.0</td>
<td>0.0±0.0</td>
<td>0.0±0.0</td>
<td>0.0±0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADS D</td>
<td>7.8±1.0</td>
<td>5.2±2.2</td>
<td>3.8±1.0</td>
<td>2.6±1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS</td>
<td>45.0±3.0</td>
<td>35.0±4.5</td>
<td>30.0±4.0</td>
<td>20.0±4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS</td>
<td>10,3±1,8</td>
<td>6,9±2,7</td>
<td>10,3±1,8</td>
<td>6,9±2,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOTERODERMA</td>
<td>10,0±1,0</td>
<td>9,0±1,0</td>
<td>10,0±1,0</td>
<td>9,0±1,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP, n (%)</td>
<td>15,1±2,1</td>
<td>19,1±7,9</td>
<td>5,6±2,2</td>
<td>22,3±2,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlap, n (%)</td>
<td>31,6±4,0</td>
<td>10,1±1,7</td>
<td>21,6±1,8</td>
<td>57,8±4,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, n (%)</td>
<td>81,1±16,9</td>
<td>18,1±18,4</td>
<td>19,1±15,2</td>
<td>116,1±17,2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Results of the variables studied in both groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EG</th>
<th>CG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean±SD</td>
<td>Mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDI</td>
<td>3.8±3.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS</td>
<td>6.9±2.7</td>
<td>0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total score</td>
<td>42±15,1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS</td>
<td>7,4±1,5</td>
<td>0.004*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>16,7±2,0</td>
<td>0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-care</td>
<td>51,3±6,8</td>
<td>0.001*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HPR Interventions (educational, physical, social and psychological)**

**POS0799-HPR**

**EFFECTIVENESS OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH PROMOTION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH FIBROMYALGIA IN BRAZIL: A RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL OF AMIGOS DE FIBRO**

**Keywords:** Patient information and education, Fibromyalgia, Self-management

M. Antunes1, F. C. N. Loures1, A. Schmitt1, E. Frutos-Bernal2, A. M. Martin-Nogueras1, A. Pasqual Marques1. 1University of São Paulo, Department of Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy (FOFITO), São Paulo, 2Clinica de Reumatismo Dr. Felipe Rocha Loures, Maringá, Brazil, 3University of Salamanca, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Medicine, Salamanca, Spain; 4University of Salamanca, Faculty of Nursing and Physiotherapy, Salamanca, Spain

**Background:** “Amigos de Fibro” (Fibro Friends), is a recent and innovative program created from the joint action of patients and health professionals, which can be an effective educational tool to be implemented in primary health care centers, promoting self-care, quality of life and health promotion in individuals with fibromyalgia in Brazil.

**Objectives:** Evaluate the effectiveness of an interdisciplinary health promotion educational program called “Amigos de Fibro” in improving pain intensity, symptom severity, quality of life, sleep quality and self-care agency in individuals with fibromyalgia in Brazil.

**Methods:** A randomized clinical trial was carried out with 24 participants divided into two groups: the experimental group (EG) and the control group (CG). The EG group held online meetings through the Google Meet platform with an inter-disciplinary team (10 professionals) that worked in primary health care in Brazil, where they gave lectures and held debates and dynamics on the importance of health promotion and self-care in fibromyalgia. In addition, participants performed a physical exercise protocol. The “Amigos de Fibro” protocol has been previously published and showed good agreement. The control group (CG) received an education and self-care e-book for fibromyalgia that addressed information similar to the EG (http://www.amigosdefibro.com.br). Participants were assessed pre and post-intervention. A descriptive analysis of the data was performed, as well as the differences of the independent variables between the intervention and control groups were studied using Student’s t test for independent samples.

**Results:** The mean age of the participants was 38.7±9.4 years for the EG and 34.9±10.6 for the CG, all (100%) of whom were female in both groups. Compared to the baseline, all EG variables and only the PIQ symptoms domain of the CG showed significant improvements (p<0.005), however, the other CG variables showed improvements, but they were not significant (Table 1).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2788

**POSO080-HPR**

**START WITH THE END IN MIND: EMBEDDING AN INTEGRATED SELF MANAGEMENT APPROACH WITHIN ROUTINE CLINICAL CARE FOR NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritides, Prognostic factors, Self-management
Background: Long term outcomes of inflammatory arthritis patients are not only dependent on early identification of symptoms and tight control of disease, but also on the person’s abilities to manage the impact of their condition. (1-2) In 2019 File Rheumatology Service focussed on early identification of patient’s assets for self management (SM) and those at risk of poorer outcomes with the aim of targeting supported SM resources. EULAR 2021 recommendations endorse the implementation a self management approach within routine care[3].

Objectives:
1. Implement a SM approach as part of routine clinical care.
2. Establish baseline patient characteristics data set to evaluate the effectiveness SM interventions on long term outcomes.

Methods: Identified priorities of the re-design were:
1. Additional investment in psychology to lead the re-design.
2. SM database.
3. SM screening and triage tool, and, a SM check list.
4. Stepped model of care including referral to patient organisations.
5. Feedback from patients, staff and patient organisations.
6. Virtual weekly patient disease and SM virtual multidisciplinary team (VMDT) clinic.

Results: All 8 priorities were implemented and 315 patients have been referred to the pathway since 25/08/2022. Positive feedback about the pathway and the App has been received from patients, staff and patient organisations. Six patients at 5 months post diagnosis are discussed weekly at our VMDT clinic. Of the total patients referred, 42% were male and 58% were female. The mean age was 56 years, range 16-85 years. Twenty one percent of patients at baseline had depression on the Patient Health Questionnaire-9. Forty two percent of patients had moderate to severe disability on the Modified Health Assessment Questionnaire and 54% had moderate to severe confidence in managing their inflammatory arthritis across the 4 subsets of Emotions, Activities of daily Living (ADLS), Social Interactions and Symptoms of the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System managing chronic conditions.(4) Lowest scores were found in the Emotions and ADLS subsets. Nineteen percent of patients of working age were not working. Twenty eight percent of patients had moderate to severe disability on the Modified Health Assessment Questionnaire and 54% had moderate to severe depression on the Patient Health Questionnaire-9. Forty two percent of patients fell into the deprived or most deprived categories of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Conclusion: The implementation of a self management approach as per EULAR Recommendations has been well received by key stakeholders and has helped with the early identification of patients’ SM needs and highlighted those at risk of poorer outcomes. This data will act as a basis for the application of improvement methodology to assess the effectiveness of future interventions and measure long term outcomes. Early indications would suggest targeting resources on improving patients’ confidence in managing their mental health and ADLs.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1275

POS0801-HPR GREAT EXPECTATIONS: A FATIGUE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME CAN ALSO IMPROVE SLEEP QUALITY AND MENTAL WELL-BEING IN RHEUMATIC DISEASE PATIENTS

Keywords: Self-management, Non-pharmacological interventions, Mental health

J. Dobson1, D. Dockrell1, K. Berg1, S. Ralston1, H. Harris2, 1University of Edinburgh, Bone Research Group, Rheumatic Diseases, Edinburgh, United Kingdom; 2NHS Lothian, Rheumatology, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Background: Fatigue is a significant problem for patients with Rheumatic diseases and yet remains overlooked and undertreated[1-3]. It is known to be associated with increased sleep disturbance in these patients[4] and with poorer mental health[5]. A fatigue management programme (FMP) was developed with the aim of reducing the impact of fatigue on patients. Outcome measures were used to determine whether an improvement in fatigue scores also resulted in an improvement in sleep and mental health.

Objectives: The primary objective was to evaluate whether a reduction in fatigue corresponded with an improvement in sleep quality following attendance at a virtual FMP. The secondary objective was to evaluate the impact of the FMP on patient mental well-being.

Methods: The FMP was based on the RAFT study[6] and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) were assessed before and after enrolment to the FMP. The Visual Analogue Scale (Fatigue) (VAS-F) was used to evaluate fatigue scores. The Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) was used to assess changes in sleep quality. The Patient Health Questionnaire 9-item (PHQ-9) and the Generalised Anxiety Disorder Assessment (GAD-7) were used to measure depression and anxiety scores respectively.

Results: Gender ratio 5:1 females to males, age range 25-81 with a mean of 51.6 ± 12.3. Patient’s diagnoses were equally divided between Rheumatoid Arthritis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and other Rheumatic Diseases. Both primary and secondary objectives have been met.

Table 1. PROM scores reported before and after the FMP. Data is shown as mean and standard deviation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n = 43</th>
<th>Pre-FMP</th>
<th>Post-FMP</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VAS-F</td>
<td>74.3 ± 18.4</td>
<td>52.3 ± 22.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSQI</td>
<td>11.8 ± 4.8</td>
<td>9.1 ± 4.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHQ-9</td>
<td>13.8 ± 6.2</td>
<td>8.9 ± 5.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAD-7</td>
<td>8.5 ± 6.4</td>
<td>5.7 ± 5.3</td>
<td>0.0005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patient’s scores significantly improved in all of the PROMs collected for the purposes of this service evaluation (see Table 1). There was a correlation between improvements in VAS-F scores and improvements in PSQI scores (r = 0.365) which was statistically significant (p = 0.016).
Conclusion: An FMF is effective at significantly reducing fatigue, improving sleep quality and mental wellbeing. We have shown that there is a correlation between a reduction in fatigue and an improvement in sleep and this work highlights the importance of such a programme as part of routine care and management of these chronic conditions.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritis, Self-management, Rehabilitation

A. Damgaard1, 2, J. Primdahl2, 3, 4, B.A. Esbensen5, 6, K. M. Latocha5, A. Bremander2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Aarhus Universitet, Health, Aarhus, Denmark; 12 University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Sønderborg, Denmark; 13 University of Southern Denmark, Department of Regional Health Research, Odense, Denmark; 14 University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Sygehus Sønderjylland, Sønderborg, Sønderborg, Denmark; 15 Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Glostrup, Denmark; 16 The University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Department of Clinical Medicine, København, Denmark; 17 Lund University, Section of Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund, Sweden; 18 Spenshult Research and Development Centre, Spenshult Research and Development Centre, Halmstad, Sweden

Background: Studies show varying but beneficial effects of self-management interventions on self-efficacy, symptoms or burdens, such as pain, fatigue, illness perception, and quality of life, supporting the need of multi-disciplinary interventions in rheumatology (1, 2). However, the content of the self-management interventions differs widely (2). There is a need for an overview of the existing evidence of self-management support needs in patients with inflammatory arthritis (IA) to inform the development of relevant and effective interventions.

Objectives: 1) to identify the evidence for self-management support needs among patients with IA, and 2) to identify the content (theory/theoretical approach, mode of delivery, duration and frequency) of self-management interventions that target patients with IA.

Methods: In May 2021, we performed a scoping review (protocol published at the Open registries network, no. DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/TVX82) and conducted a systematic literature search (from 2000 onward) in five databases.

Results: Out of 11,748 records identified, we included 31 articles describing patients’ support needs and 33 articles describing the content of self-management interventions (Figure 1). Patients’ self-management support needs were categorized into six topics: 1) Disease impact and the pharmacological treatment, 2) Care continuity and relations with health professionals, 3) The importance of non-pharmacological treatment, 4) The need for support from family and friends, 5) Support needs related to work issues, and 6) Contextual preferences for self-management support. Content of the self-management interventions varied widely and the descriptions of the content were deficient and needed clarification (Table 1). The identified topics for support needs were compared with the described content in the included articles (Table 1). Only few self-management interventions focused on patients’ need for support concerning work, family, and friends.

Conclusion: Health professionals provided self-management support to patients with IA in various ways. There were gaps between the patients’ support needs and the identified interventions. The self-management concept needs to be clearly defined when developing self-management interventions. Further studies are required to investigate various modes of delivery, frequency, and duration to develop effective interventions that meet patients’ self-management support needs.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Flowchart – number of records or articles; RQ1 - Research question 1; RQ2 - Research question 2.
Table 1. Numerical summary of patients’ support needs and corresponding content of self-management interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics on patients’ support needs</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Disease impact and pharmacological treatment</td>
<td>n = number of articles; SM = self-management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Care continuity and relations with health professionals</td>
<td>1) Patient-centered, SM, self-efficacy, self-care behavior and patient education (14; no clear theory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 The importance of non-pharmacological treatment</td>
<td>2) Cognitive behavioral theory (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The need for support from family and friends</td>
<td>3) Cognitive restructuring techniques (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Support needs related to work issues</td>
<td>4) Self-efficacy theory and autonomous motivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Contextual preferences for SM support (single/multiple mode of delivering SM support)</td>
<td>5) The Health Belief Model (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6) Problem focused and action-oriented (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7) The Social Learning Theory (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8) The Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9) The social cognition theory (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10) Behavioral change theory (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Face-to-face: Group meetings (14) Group plus one-to-one meetings (6) One-to-one meetings (6) Remote: Individual, online (5) Group sessions, online (2) By mail, single intervention (3) 1-32 hours in total Delivered during 3 weeks to 9 months, or as a single assessment (26) On-line access anytime (3)

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2570

POS0803-HPR
DEVELOPMENT OF A PATIENT-CENTERED MULTIMODAL DISEASE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM FOR THE FIBROMYALGIA-LIKE POST-COVID19 SYNDROME

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, COVID, Patient reported outcomes

M. Blanchard, T. Hügle, P. Ming Azevedo. 1Lausanne University Hospital, Rheumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: About 30% of patients with post-COVID19 syndrome satisfy the ACR survey criteria for fibromyalgia. The most common symptoms are chronic fatigue, generalized pain, sleep impairment, anxiety and depression. A substantial part of the patients already suffered from similar symptoms before infection. Digital health solutions have shown efficiency for fibromyalgia, offering specific disease monitoring and multimodal interventions and thus may work in patients with post-COVID19 syndrome.

Objectives: To develop a multimodal, multi-interventional self-management platform for post-COVID19 and potentially other post-viral syndromes patients. To ensure a patient-centric development and evaluate the usability of this solution by performing qualitative user experience research.

Methods: We developed a web-based user interface with a horizontal basic navigation menu consisting of patient reported outcomes, symptoms evolution and interventions. The therapeutic content was created by rheumatologists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists and included educational content, physical-, respiratory- and olfactory exercises, cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness, relaxation training, therapeutic stories and art therapy. Usability and satisfaction surveys have been conducted among 53 post-COVID19 patients and qualitative interviews have been performed.

Results: The front-end design of the platform is shown in Figure 1. 90% of the patients preferred a regular symptoms list questionnaire over a chatbot to collect patient reported outcomes. Longitudinal symptom evaluation is shown in the ‘my results’ section. 81% of patients expressed their wish that their symptoms are displayed with a benchmark of all other patients and to learn what has helped other patients with similar symptoms. A majority of them were also interested in links to patient communities (63%), so an anonymized discussion forum has been added. Patients preferred active training programs (83%) and information (59%) over interactive and gamified content like quizzes (15%). Interactivity on the web-app was created by accordion function and horizontal navigation within each treatment module. An administrator content management dashboard has been implemented to ensure a flexible and reactive supervision of the platform.

Conclusion: We present a functioning, patient-centered app tailored for patients with post-COVID19 syndrome. Further clinical studies on user experience, adherence, adoption driving factors and efficacy are ongoing.

REFERENCES:

POS0804-HPR
INVESTIGATION OF THE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE STEP UP AND DOWN TEST IN PATIENTS WITH TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY SURGERY

Keywords: Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Outcome measures, Osteoarthritis

S. Tarkan, B. Unver, V. Karatozan. 1Dokuz Eylul University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; 2Dokuz Eylul University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; 3Dokuz Eylul University, School of Medicine Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Figure 1. POCOS user interface (app): Left side: ‘How are you?’, with electronic patient reported outcomes and activity. Middle: ‘My result’, with monitoring of symptom’s activity and health conditions. Right side: ‘Act & Advice’, with personalized training program, adapted to the user’s symptoms.

Acknowledgements: We thank the Fundation for Innovation and Technology (FIT) in Lausanne (VD) for supporting this project.
Disclosure of Interests: Marc BLANCHARD Shareholder of: ATREON SA (board member), Thomas Hügle Shareholder of: ATREON SA (Scientific board member), Pedro Ming Azevedo: None declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3065

HPR Measuring health (development and measurement properties of PROs, tests, devices)
Background: Stair climbing has been shown as the first changing activity in patients with knee osteoarthritis (KOA) [1]. Stair climbing and step tests of patients with KOA undergoing total knee arthroplasty (TKA) show asymmetrical patterns and slower climbing stairs when the affected limb is compared to the healthy limb [2]. Therefore, unilateral evaluation of the extremity undergoing TKA is important. There are many tests that evaluate stair climbing function in patients with TKA. However, the Step Up and Down (StUD) test, which was previously found to be valid and reliable in knee osteoarthritis, is a 15-second test that can evaluate the affected limb unilaterally, requires only one stair, and is similar to the daily living activities of the patients [3]. For this reason, it would be useful to use it as a criterion in the evaluation of the physical functions of individuals with TKA. However, there is no study on the validity and reliability of the StUD test in patients with TKA.

Objectives: The aim of the study is to measure the validity and reliability of the StUD test in patients with TKA.

Methods: Forty patients (Mean age; 6.87 ± 8.01) with primary TKA included in this study. The test-retest reliability of the StUD test was measured with a 1-hour interval to prevent fatigue. Validity was assessed by testing predefined hypotheses. Therefore, the 30s Chair Stand Test (30sCS), the Hospital for Special Surgery score (HSS) and Short Form-12 Quality Life Questionnaire (SF-12) were used as comparator instruments.

Results: The StUD test showed good correlation with 30sCS test (r=0.706, p<0.001), moderate to low correlation with HSS score (r=0.4, p<0.001), moderate correlation with SF12 score (r=0.508, p<0.001). Test-retest validity was excellent (ICC= 0.93, %95 CI: 0.87-0.96). Standard error of measurement and smallest real difference at the 95% confidence level for StUD test were respectively 0.34 and 0.94. There was no significant difference in the mean VAS scores measured after the tests or between the first and the second trials (p >0.05).

Conclusion: According to the results of our study the StUD test excellent reliability, good validity and high sensitivity in patients with TKA. Additionally, there was no significant increase in pain levels at the end of the test. This result suggests that StUD test can be used safely without increasing pain levels, and this test can be used reliably to monitor small changes in patients’ function.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.726

**FACE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY TEST OF THE DANISH VERSION OF THE COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE RHEUMATOLOGY**

Keywords: Validation, Outcome measures, Patient reported outcomes

L. Raunsbæk Knudsen1,2, A. De Thurah1,2. 1Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 2Aarhus University, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark

Background: Medication adherence in inflammatory arthritis has been reported to vary from 30% to 80%, despite the fact that non-adherence may cause worsening of symptoms and disease severity [1]. Hence, supporting adherence to medication is an essential part of the treatment and care of patients with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases [1]. The Compliance Questionnaire Rheumatology (CQR) measures adherence in rheumatic diseases through 19 items covering drug-taking behaviour to identify the factors that contribute to suboptimal adherence [2].

Objectives: To present the translation of the CQR into Danish and the face validity and reliability test.

Methods: The CQR was translated into Danish according to the International Quality of Life Assessment method (3), which involved forward and backward translations by four independent translators, followed by a face validity test among 10 patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The test-retest reliability of the Danish CQR was evaluated in 49 patients with rheumatoid arthritis using the standard error of the measurement (SEM) converted into the minimally detectable change (MDC) and the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC). Questionnaires were administered with a minimum of 10 days between assessments.

Results: The face validity test did not lead to substantial corrections. The participants in the reliability test had a mean age of 57.4 years (SD 16.1) and a mean disease duration of 1.13 years (range 2 months–2 years). The mean CQR score in the test and retest was 62.69 (confidence interval (CI) 58.76; 66.6) and 62.51 (CI 58.91; 66.12), respectively, with a SEM of 8.59 (7.16; 10.73) and a MDC of 16.83. A satisfactory test–retest reliability was confirmed by an ICC value of 0.79 (CI 0.68; 0.89) (Table 1).

Conclusion: The Danish CQR has satisfactory test–retest reliability in patients newly diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and is thus considered a reliable tool to measure adherence in this group.

REFERENCES:

<p>| Table 1. Reliability and agreement parameters for the Compliance Questionnaire Rheumatology (CQR) in 49 patients with rheumatoid arthritis |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean (95% CI)</th>
<th>Difference (95% CI)</th>
<th>LOA SEM ICC</th>
<th>MDC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>test Mean (95% CI) retest</td>
<td>LOA</td>
<td>SEM (95% CI)</td>
<td>ICC (95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COR19</td>
<td>62.69 (58.76; 66.63)</td>
<td>0.18 (-2.29; 2.65)</td>
<td>–16.66–17.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.51 (58.91; 66.12)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOA = limits of agreement, SEM = standard error of measurements, MDC = minimal detectable change, ICC = intraclass correlation coefficient model 2.1

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1050
SLE, Sjögren’s and APS - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

A TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROFILE OF FATIGUE IN PRECLINICAL AUTOIMMUNITY WHICH IS PRESERVED IN SLE AND SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, -omics, Sjögren syndrome

L. M. Carter1,2, M. Y. MD Yusof1, D. Plant1, J. Bauer1, S. Wenlock3, A. Alase1, A. Psarras1, Z. Wigston1, E. Vital1,2,3, University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom;4Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom;5University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal & Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom;6University of Cambridge, Cambridge Genomics Services, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Background: Fatigue is a prevalent and debilitating symptom in autoimmune connective tissue diseases (CTDs). Its immunological mechanisms are poorly understood. Although targeted therapies can improve fatigue, the effect is modest and variable. This is likely because, in established disease, immunological drivers of fatigue may be obscured by multifactorial effects from glucocorticoids, accrued damage and comorbidity. However, fatigue frequently pre-dates formal diagnosis or end-organ manifestations, suggesting immunological mechanisms may be better interrogated in the preclinical phase. SLE and primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) are preceded by a preclinical phase of anti-nuclear antibody (ANA) positivity with no or non-specific symptoms years before clinically manifest inflammation. Although only a minority ultimately develop overt CTDs, ANA-positive individuals demonstrate complex immune dysregulation including increased interferon (IFN) pathway activation [1]. We hypothesise that immune disturbances underlying fatigue in SLE and pSS are i) established during the earlier ANA-positive preclinical phase; ii) contribute to the symptom burden among ANA-positive individuals, and iii) are differentially modulated in established disease states.

Objectives: To investigate unique and conserved peripheral blood immune cell transcriptional signatures associated with symptomatic fatigue in ANA-positive patients and establish SLE and pSS.

Methods: Bulk RNAseq was performed on peripheral blood mononuclear cells isolated from 35 ANA-positive preclinical individuals demonstrating ≤1 clinical criterion for classifiable CTD, symptom duration <12 months and naive of therapy, of whom 15 later progressed to SLE/pSS and 20 did not progress. Disease controls with SLE (n=18), pSS (n=10) were also analysed. Weighted gene co-expression network analysis was used to identity gene expression modules associated with fatigue in preclinical subjects. Consensus networks were constructed for Preclinical-SLE and Preclinical-pSS to identify fatigue-associated modular signatures which are retained in established CTDs. Gene ontology enrichment was evaluated using gprofiler.

Results: Within the preclinical transcriptomic network 5 module eigengenes showed significant and specific association with patient fatigue. A type-1 IFN signature, centred upon canonical ISGs, MX1, IFIT7, and IFIT5, was positively correlated with fatigue score (R=0.48, p<0.003) and conserved across preclinical, SLE and pSS networks, with subtly different modular organisation. One further module, enriched for RNA modification was significantly correlated with fatigue in preclinical subjects (R=0.41, p=0.01) but with no counterpart preserved in either SLE or pSS networks. The modular signature with strongest negative association with fatigue (R=-0.35, p<0.004) in preclinical subjects was enriched for mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) cascades, heat shock protein and folding chaperone activity, and included transcription factors JUN and ATF3. This signature was retained in pSS patients, but did not persist in the SLE consensus network.

Conclusion: We describe novel module transcriptomic signatures associated with fatigue in the preclinical phase of autoimmunity which demonstrate differential persistence and activity in SLE and pSS. These pathways may help identify individuals with immune-mediated fatigue most amenable to therapy, and could provide insights into new therapeutic targets for fatigue across a range of autoimmune diseases.

REFERENCE:

A TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROFILE OF FATIGUE IN PRECLINICAL AUTOIMMUNITY WHICH IS PRESERVED IN SLE AND SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, -omics, Sjögren syndrome

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REFERENCE:

MICA/B-DEPENDENT ACTIVATION OF CYTOTOXIC NATURAL KILLER CELLS BY INFLAMMATORY CD22 CONTRIBUTES TO PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME PATHOLOGY

Keywords: Animal models, Innate immunity, Sjögren syndrome

I. Sánchez-Cerrillo1, M. Calvet-Mirambert2, A. Triguero-Martínez2, D. Calzada Fraile3, C. Delgado-Arvelo3, M. Valdivia1, M. Ramirez2, E. Vazquez de Luis3, A. Borriera-Filippino4, R. Moreno5, M. Adrados de Llano5, H. De la Fuente1, I. Taulovski1, E. Roy Valejo2, A. Ramino1, S. Ibirna3, F. Sánchez-Madrid4, A. Dopazo1, I. González-Alvarez5, S. Castañeda6, E. Martín-Gay5, Hospital de La Princesa, Immunology, Madrid, Spain; 2Hospital de La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 3Hospital de La Princesa, Pathology, Madrid, Spain; 4Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC), Inflammation and Communication, Madrid, Spain; 5Autonomous University of Madrid, Immunology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is an example of an inflammatory autoimmune disorder largely mediated by IFN responses, leading to damage of exocrine glands that has been linked to autoassociative adaptive immune cells, such as Th17, CD8+ T cell and B cell [1, 2, 3]. However, the potential contribution of different innate immune cells such as Natural Killer (NK) cells and dendritic cells (DC) to pSS pathology remains understudied.

Objectives: We identify the molecular mechanisms regulating pathogenic cross-talk between NK and DC in pSS using samples from pSS patients and an experimental in vivo SS model.

Methods: Phenotypical analysis of myeloid and NK cell subsets in PBMCs from 47 pSS patients and 56 healthy donors (HD) was performed by flow cytometry. Histological analysis of SS from n=7 pSS was performed by confocal microscopy. Cytotoxic function of NK cells was assessed by culture with a K562-GFP target cell line. Transcriptional analysis of sorted Mo, CD1c+ and CD141+ cDC from four pSS patients and four HD was performed by RNA-seq. Co-culture between sorted NK cells, Mo and CD1c+ or CD141+ cDCs was used for test functional interactions. Regulation of ligands for NK cell receptors on cDC was analyzed by FACS after stimulation with poly I:C in the absence or the presence of specific siRNAs. Finally, altered DC and NK cell phenotypes and interactions with Th17 and B cells were analyzed in a murine Sjögren’s mouse model induced by poly I:C intraperitoneal injections [4] in which we used a depleting anti-NK1.1 antibody or an isotype control each 4 days.

Results: Here, we identified an enriched transcriptional CD16+ CD56– NK cell subset in pSS individuals associated with higher NK cell cytotoxic function in vitro. In addition, elevated proportions of inflammatory CD64+ CD22 exhibiting increased levels of MICA/b (p<0.01), the ligand for the activating receptor NKGD2, were observed in the blood of these patients. Cultivating cDC from pSS were capable of efficiently inducing activation of cytotoxic NK cells ex vivo and were found near CD56– NK cells in salivary glands (SG) from pSS patients. Interestingly, cDC2 from pSS were characterized by preferential transcriptional activation of IFN signatures associated to the HIG-1/1D860 pathway and its target genes. These sensors regulate the expression of MICA/b ligands on cDC2. Finally, increased proportions of CD64+ cDC2 (p<0.0001) expressing RAE-1 (p<0.01), a murine activating NKGD2 ligand, and transsional NKGD2+ CD11b+ CD56– NK cells (p=0.001) were present in vivo in the SG of an in vivo model of...
pSS. Remarkably, depletion of NK cells during the inflammation onset prevented subsequent induction of IL-17+ CD4+ (p<0.01) and memory IgD Igm CD38+ B cells (p<0.0001) in the SG.

Conclusion: Thus, our study provides novel innate immune cellular and molecular mechanisms contributing to pSS pathology and identifies new potential therapy targets.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Aim of this study is to characterize metabolic changes occurring in SS SGECs and dissect the link between these changes and their acquired pro-inflammatory function.

Methods: SGECs were isolated from minor SG biopsies deriving from patients with SS and sicca. Intracellular metabolomic analysis was performed on direct ex vivo isolated primary SGECs. As read out of functional activation of SS SGECs, supernatants from SGECs cultures were collected to perform ELISA test in order to evaluate the expression of the pro-inflammatory mediator IL-6.

Results: Principal component analysis (PCA) of high-throughput metabolomics analysis of sicca (n=7) and SS (n=7) SGECs revealed a separation along the component 1 axis (46.6% of variance) indicating profound differences in the intracellular metabolome (Figure 1a). Unsupervised clustering analysis of metabolites revealed profound metabolic differences between SS and (n=7) sicca (n=7) SGECs (Figure 1b). Analysis of selected metabolites confirmed a shift towards increased glycolysis and TCA cycle activation in SS SGECs (Figure 1c). Supernatant concentrations of IL-6 were higher in SS (n=21) compared to sicca (n=14) SGECs (Figure 1d).

Conclusion: SGECs from SS patients display altered cell energy metabolism with evidence of increased glycolysis and activated TCA cycle. A metabolic driven pro-inflammatory status of SS SGECs seems confirmed by increased basal expression of IL-6. Validation of our metabolomic results, along with transcriptomic and epigenetic studies, is currently ongoing in SGECs from SS and sicca to dissect the link between changes in cell energy metabolism and their acquired pro-inflammatory phenotype.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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T FOLLICULAR HELPER CELLS IN BLOOD MIRROR SALIVARY GLAND-INFLTRATING T CELLS IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Adaptive immunity

S. Abe1, H. Tsuibo1, H. Toko1, F. Honda1, A. Koido1, H. Miki1, H. Asashima1, Y. Kondo1, Y. Matsumoto1. University of Tsukuba, Rheumatology, Tsukuba, Japan

Background: Although clonal expansion of autoreactive T cells have been identified in the peripheral blood and salivary gland of primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) (1), the relationship between peripheral immune environments and inflammatory organs remains still unclear.

Objectives: Here, we examined which T cell subsets in blood share the same T cell receptor (TCR) (clonality) with T cells infiltrated at labial salivary gland (LSG) in patients with pSS, and evaluated mechanisms of their differentiation.

Methods:
1) TCR repertoire of each effector memory T cell subset (Th1, Th17, Th1, Th2) in blood, and LSG-infiltrating T cells obtained from the same pSS patient were analyzed by TCR sequence (n=1).
2) The proportion of each T cell subset in blood was compared between patients with pSS (n=30) and healthy controls (HC) by flow cytometry (n=20).

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Methods:
1) TCR repertoire of each effector memory T cell subset (Th1, Th17, Th1, Th2) in blood, and LSG-infiltrating T cells obtained from the same pSS patient were analyzed by TCR sequence (n=1).
2) The proportion of each T cell subset in blood was compared between patients with pSS (n=30) and healthy controls (HC) by flow cytometry (n=20).
Results:
1) LSG-infiltrating T cells, and blood Th1, Tfh1, and Tfh2 showed higher clonality than Th17, and Tfh17 cells (Figure 1). Blood Th1, and Tfh2 cells were the two most frequent subsets comprised by the same T cell clones infiltrating in LSG.
2) Blood Th1 subsets were all significantly increased in patients with pSS than in HC. Among Th1 subsets, both PD-1 and ICOS expression was highest in Th1 subsets. Furthermore, the proportion of PD-1+ICOS+Th1 cells correlated with titers of anti-nuclear antibody, anti-SS-A antibody, and anti-SS-B antibody in pSS.
3) The proportions of memory Th subsets, especially Th1, was significantly increased in LSG compared with matched peripheral blood in pSS.
4) Expression levels of CXCR5, IL-6, IL-21, and TGF-β were significantly increased in LSG compared with matched peripheral blood in pSS.
5) CD4+ T cells cultured under CD3/28 and TGF-β stimulation significantly increased CXCR5 expression, and Tfh1 population.
6) Production of IL-21, IL-2, and TNF-α were significantly increased after CD3/28 and TGF-β stimulation.
7) HC derived naïve B cells after co-culturing with pSS derived CD4+ T cells under Tfh cell differentiation condition, and effect on B cells differentiation was analyzed.

Conclusion: Tfh1 cells in blood not only frequently showed high clonal expansion, but also highly shared the same TCRβ chain with LSG-infiltrating T cells in pSS. Tfh1 cell proportion was expanded among pSS at both peripheral blood and LSGs, and furthermore, they positively correlated with autoantibody production. Notably, checkpoint molecules ICOS, TIGIT and PD1 expression correlated with PB frequencies. A Comparison of activation markers revealed increased CD86 expression on various B cell clusters of patients with SLE. Further, a memory B cell cluster expressing IgA stood out by higher KI-67 and CD45RO expression. In pSS patients, PD1+ ICOS+ CD4+ T follicular helper cell, CD8 effector memory and terminal differentiated effector memory CD8 T cell clusters were expanded. Notably, checkpoint molecules ICOS, TIGIT and PD1 were upregulated on various T cell clusters. Finally, intermedicated monocytes that express CD226 were reduced in SLE when compared to pSS.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Figure 1. T cell clonality of each sample, is shown. LSG infiltrating T cells, blood Th1, Th1f, and Th2 shows higher clonality compared to blood Th17, and Th1f17 population.

Figure 1. Workflow of the study to characterize lymphocytes using single-cell mass cytometry in SLE and pSS. (Created with BioRender.com)
Conclusion: High dimensional characterization of B, T and innate immune cells of patients with SLE or pSS illustrated immunological differences between diseases. SLE showed more B cell abnormalities while T cell alterations were more prominent in pSS consistent with distinct activation pathways driving these diseases. The immunologic abnormalities, distinct for pSS and SLE, might contribute to a better disease monitoring and selective treatment approaches.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Dr. Sebastian Fuchs.

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REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0813 BINDING OF CXCL13 WITH HEPARAN SULFATE OF SYNDÉCAN-1 PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PATHOGENESIS OF SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Sjögren syndrome

G. W. Kim1, N. Y. Lee2, N. R. Kim1, S. J. Lee1, E. J. Lee1, J. A. Jang1, E. J. Nam2, G. W. Kim1

1Fatima Research Institute, Arthritis and Bone Biology, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea);

2Kyungpook National University School of Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea);

3Kyungpook National University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) is a chronic autoimmune disorder with lymphocytic infiltration in exocrine and non-exocrine epithelia, in which epithelial cells play a critical role in the initiation and amplification of inflammatory processes. Syndecan-1 (SDC-1) is a transmembrane heparan sulfate proteoglycan predominantly expressed on epithelial cells and binds to and regulates heparan sulfate-binding molecules, such as chemokines.

Objectives: In this study, we investigated the expression of SDC-1 and homeostatic chemokines and the colocalization and association of SDC-1 and B cell chemokines in mouse model of primary SS to define the role of SDC-1 in the pathogenesis of SS.

Methods: Female NOD/ShiLtJ between 6 and 12 weeks of age and sex- and age-matched C57BL/10 mice were used. Stimulated salivary flow rates (SFRs), histopathologic findings and expression of growth factor and chemokines were evaluated. Inflammation of the submandibular glands (SMGs) was assessed by the ratio index (the ratio of the area of inflammation to the total area of glandular tissue). SDC-1 level in SMGs and blood were analyzed using dot blot method. Immunofluorescence staining was performed for detection of colocalization of CXCL13 and SDC-1. For SDC-1 and CXCL13 coassociation experiments, immunoprecipitation assay was performed.

Results: The mean SFR was significantly reduced in 12-week-old NOD mice (p<0.01). Periductal inflammatory cell infiltration was detected in the SMGs in 1 of 8 (12.5%) of the 6-week-old and in all of 12-week-old NOD mice. The mean ratio index was 0.1, 4.0, 7.1, and 10.2 in the 6-, 8-, 10-, and 12-week-old NOD mice, respectively. The expression of SDC-1 in inflamed SMGs of NOD mice was elevated, especially on the ductal epithelial cells, and tended to increase as the glandular inflammation progressed. Compared to controls, the concentration of SDC-1 in the SMGs and blood of NOD mice began to increase significantly from the age of 6 weeks (SMGs, 15.6±3.6 vs. 3.5±1.2, p<0.049; Blood, 17.4±1.3 vs. 27.7±1.2, p<0.001). Compared to controls, the expression of growth factors in NOD mice was reduced, while the expression of chemokines (CXCL12, CXCL13 and IL-7) and chemokine receptors (CXCR4, CXCR5) was increased. CXCL13 and SDC-1 were detected together on the surface of glandular epithelial cells in the SMGs by immunofluorescent staining. Furthermore, colocalization of SDC-1 and CXCL13 was confirmed by immunofluorescent staining using NMuMG cells which express SDC-1 abundantly. Immunoprecipitation studies demonstrated that SDC-1 formed complexes with CXCL13, which suggested that SDC-1 binds with CXCL13 directly through heparan sulfate on the surface of glandular epithelial cells and participates in an inflammatory pathway through B cell chemotaxis.

Conclusion: These results suggested that increased SDC-1 expression in submandibular glands plays a role in the inflammatory processes through binding of CXCL13 and CXCL13 in pathogenesis of SS.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0813 ALTERATION OF ILC HOMEOSTATIC MAINLY CONCERNS SALIVARY GLANDS IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Innate immunity

L. Kwak1, R. Felten1,2, C. Schleiss1, J. D. Fauny2, P. Le Van Vuyen2, H. Dumortier2, F. Monneaux2, J. E. Gottenberg1,2, Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire de Strasbourg, Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France

1Institut de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire, Immunologie, Immunopathologie et Chimie Thérapeutique, Strasbourg, France

2Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire de Strasbourg, Anatomical Pathology, Strasbourg, France

Background: Little is known about the early stages leading to the autoimmune process in primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS). Some data suggest the involvement of the innate immunity both in disease initiation and maintenance of autoimmunity in pSS, but more studies are needed to dissect the role of innate immune cell actors. Innate lymphoid cells (ILC) are a recently discovered cell population divided into three groups including type 1, 2, and 3 ILC subsets. While ILC are normally involved in the maintenance of tissue homeostasis, they can also contribute to generate tertiary ectopic lymphoid structures [1], as observed in some patients with pSS, and potentiate inflammatory processes in different chronic inflammatory diseases [2].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to analyze the frequencies of ILC subsets in the peripheral blood (PB) and quantities and location in minor salivary glands (MSG) of pSS patients.

Methods: The frequencies of ILC subsets were analyzed in the PB of 21 pSS patients and 28 healthy controls (HC) by flow cytometry: ILC were identified as CD45+, lineage (CD1a, CD3, CD4, CD14, CD16, CD19, CD34, CD303, FoxR1) and CD127+. Within the ILC gate, ILC1 were identified as c-kit+ and CRTH2+, ILC2 as CRTH2+, and ILC3 as c-kit+ and CRTH2−. The amounts and location of ILC subsets were studied in the MSG of 13 pSS patients and 5 controls (SC) using immunofluorescence. ILC were defined as lineage (CD3, CD14, CD19, CD303, FoxR1) and CD127+ cells. The expressions of T-bet (nuclear) and CRTH2 (cytoplasmic) were used to distinguish between ILC1 (T-bet+), ILC2 (CRTH2+) and ILC3 (T-bet− and CRTH2−) subsets.

Results: In PB, the frequencies of total circulating ILC and ILC subsets did not differ in pSS patients compared to HC. There was a significantly higher number of circulating ILC1 in pSS patients with positive anti-SSA antibodies (p=0.03) and a lower number of circulating ILC3 in pSS patients with glandular swelling (p=0.01). The proportions of ILC subsets in PB did not correlate with systemic disease activity measured by CliniESSDAI. Most of the ILC identified in MSG of pSS patients were ILC3 (91.1%). The amount of ILC3 was higher in tissues with lymphocytic infiltration measured by ClinESSDAI. Most of the ILC identified in MSG of pSS patients.

Conclusion: Alteration of ILC homeostasis mainly concerns salivary glands in pSS. The majority of ILC in MSG is composed by ILC3, located at the periphery of the infiltrates and were inversely correlated with the surface of T/B lymphocyte infiltrates (r=-0.42, p=0.002). ILC3 were inversely correlated with time since diagnosis (r=-0.69, p= 0.01).

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POSO814

UNTARGETED METABOLIC ANALYSIS OF SEBUM: A NON-INVASIVE STRATEGY TO SHOW POTENTIAL TO IDENTIFY NEW BIOMARKERS IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME AND SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Sjögren syndrome, -omics

A. Hinrichs1, S. Blokland2, J. Vappiani3, A. Van Maurik3, A. Ottria1, A. Kruize3, H. Leavis2, T. Radstake4, D. Sevin3, J. Van Rooy1, UMC Utrecht, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology/CTI, Utrecht, Netherlands; UMC Utrecht, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology/CTI, Utrecht, Netherlands; GSK - Stevenage, Clinical Biomarker Group, Stevenage, United Kingdom; GSK - Stevenage, GSK Immunology Network, Immunology Research Unit, Stevenage, United Kingdom; Cellzome GmbH, GSK R&D, Heidelberg, Germany

Background: Saliva and tears are easy accessible fluids for biomarker analyses, but a major drawback is that a substantial proportion of patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) suffers from severe dryness, with limited or no saliva or tear to donate. Thus, novel non-invasive strategies applying state-of-the-art technologies should be welcomed.

Objectives: To evaluate if metabolome analysis of sebum can be used as a non-invasive method to identify skin metabolic signatures in patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) as compared to healthy controls and other systemic autoimmune diseases.

Methods: Untargeted metabolomics of sebum samples collected from sebatapes placed on the forehead for 5 minutes was performed using mass spectrometry. Sebum metabolomes of healthy controls (HCs, n=17) and 32 pSS patients were compared (for this abstract only ions from the negative ionization mode are discussed, for the positive ionization mode similar results were found). Additionally, the metabolomes of two other systemic autoimmune diseases, i.e. systemic sclerosis (SSc, n=21) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE, n=8), were compared to pSS and HCs. The human biological samples were sourced ethically, and their research use was in accord with the terms of the informed consents provided by the parent studies.

Results: Optimal significant differences were observed between the sebum metabolome of pSS patients as compared to HCs. Unsupervised dimensionality reduction using UMAP showed no strong differences between metabolic signatures of pSS patients and HCs. However, correlation analyses of metabolic changes and disease activity markers did identify several metabolite ions with a good correlation with disease activity. A total of 335 metabolite ions significantly correlated to the European Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease activity index (ESSDAI) score, 13 metabolite ions correlated with sLG and 41 metabolite ions with lymphocytic focus scores (LFS, all spearman r < 0.50 or >0.50, p<0.05). To understand if pathways in disease activity-associated metabolites may underlie the observed changes we performed pathway enrichment analyses to investigate potential group function of the metabolite ions identified in these comparisons. Two significantly enriched pathways were identified correlating to the ESSDAI score: alpha-1-macroglobulin metabolism and phenylalanine metabolism. More robust significant differences were identified in patients with systemic sclerosis as compared to healthy controls, indicating metabolites significantly enriched for pathways associated with neurotransmission, including metabolite ions with annotations as L-glutamic acid, noradrenaline, dopamine and 3'-AMP. Interestingly, when analyzing differentially expressed metabolite ions of pSS and SSc patients relative to HCs highly significant and strong correlations were observed (R=0.78 for negative ionization mode), indicating that these diseases might have common metabolic dissimilarities.

Conclusion: This pilot study demonstrates that sebum metabolomics might be a novel strategy to identify biomarkers in pSS and other (systemic) autoimmune diseases, allowing for non-invasive strategies using more targeted metabolomics strategies that take into account potential confounding factors and optimize sebum collection should demonstrate the feasibility of this novel non-invasive monitoring method in molecular profiling of disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POSO815

CD40L BLOCKADE WITH DAZODALIBEP (VIB4920/ HZN4920) REDUCES BLOOD BIOMARKERS OF T AND B CELL COSTIMULATION IN SUBJECTS WITH SYSTEMIC SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Randomized control trial, Biomarkers

M. Smith1, N. Mittereder1, M. Gunsior1, J. Karmell1, F. Legrand1, K. Der1, C. Emerson1, W. Rees1, I. Alevizos2, E. W. St. Clair3.

1Horizon Therapeutics plc, Translational Sciences, Rockville, United States of America; 2Horizon Therapeutics plc, R&D Clinical Development, Rockville, United States of America; 3Duke University Medical Center, Department of Medicine, Durham, United States of America

Background: Dazodalibep (DAZ) is a non-antibody biologic antagonist of CD40L. In several autoimmune diseases, the CD40/CD40L pathway is activated on a variety of cell types, including T cells, B cells, disrupting the development of germinal centers, pathogenic B cells, plasma cells, and autoantibodies that are hallmarks of Sjögren’s Syndrome (SS).

Objectives: To evaluate the impact of DAZ on blood biomarkers of T and B cell costimulation in adult SS subjects with moderate-to-high systemic disease activity.

Methods: This was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study to evaluate DAZ therapy in adult SS subjects with moderate-to-high systemic disease activity, as defined by a EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index (ESSDAI) score ≥ 5. Subjects were randomized 1:1 to receive intravenous DAZ 1500mg or placebo (PBO) Q4W x 3 doses, then Q4W x 4 additional doses (Stage 1). Starting on Day 169, subjects initially randomized to DAZ received PBO Q4W x 5 doses and subjects initially randomized to PBO received DAZ Q4W x 5 doses and were then followed for 12 weeks (Stage 2). B cell subsets downstream of T cell stimulation (Ki67+CD27+ memory, CD27 high CD38 high plasmablasts, and CD11c high atypical memory cells) were assayed via FACS throughout the study period. Serum CXCL13 concentrations, a chemokine essential for GC formation produced by activated follicular T cells, and rheumatoid factor (RF) autoantibodies were also measured.

Results: Concomitant with DAZ-related reductions in ESSDAI observed at Stage 1, significant and rapid reductions were observed in Ki67+CD27+ memory B cells, plasmablasts, CD11c+ B memory cells, CXCL13 and RF antibodies from day 15 onwards in subjects who received DAZ as compared to PBO. In Stage 2, similar reductions were found in these biomarkers when PBO-treated subjects were transitioned to DAZ treatment. In DAZ-treated subjects who were transitioned to PBO in stage 2, these biomarkers returned to baseline values while sustained reductions were observed in ESSDAI from baseline through the duration of stage 2.

Conclusion: CD40-CD40L blockade with DAZ in patients with SS reduces systemic disease activity by inhibiting T and B cell costimulation, as evidenced by treatment related reductions in blood biomarkers downstream of these pathways.

Acknowledgements: Funded by Horizon Therapeutics. Medical writing support provided by Brendan Lujan, PhD, an employee of Horizon Therapeutics.

Table 1. The Impact of DAZ on Blood Biomarkers of B and T Cell Costimulation in Adult Sjogren’s Syndrome Subjects

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<th>Analyte Name</th>
<th>Phase 1 (Placebo)</th>
<th>Phase 2 (Dazodalibep)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 1 (Placebo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CXCL13 (pg/mL)</td>
<td>1.01 (0.4, 0.87, 1.21)</td>
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<td>Rhoeyn:</td>
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<td>%K67+ (of post-sw</td>
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<td>memory B cells)</td>
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<td>%Plasmablasts (of CD19.19.19.19</td>
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<td>0.58 (0.29, 1.05)</td>
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<td>%CD11c+ (of CD19</td>
<td>0.62 (0.55, 0.89)</td>
<td>0.71 (0.48, 0.85)</td>
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<td>B cells)</td>
<td>1.07 (0.67, 1.68)</td>
<td>1.32 (0.69, 1.82)</td>
</tr>
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<td>ESSDAI Total Score</td>
<td>0.6 (0.34, 0.87)</td>
<td>0.58 (0.34, 0.84)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median (-/ IQR)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.18, 0.66)</td>
<td>0.49 (0.25, 0.71)</td>
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**Median (-/+ IQR) FC of baseline in Placebo-Dazodalibep group**

**Days from study start**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Analyte Name</th>
<th>Phase 1 (Dazodalibep)</th>
<th>Phase 2 (Placebo)</th>
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<td>memory B cells)</td>
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<td>0.49 (0.25, 0.71)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FC, fold-change; IQR, interquartile range**
Background: Primary Sjögren's Syndrome (pSS) is characterized by the presence of antibodies (Ab). Their effector function mainly depends upon the glycan structures (14-123). Differences in sial and gal IgG levels were determined using One-way ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis testing. P-values ≤0.05 were considered statistically significant. Bonferroni correction was applied.

Methods: The relative amount of sialylated (sial) and galactosylated (gal) IgG was determined by capillary electrophoresis after the endo-S glycosidase assay. 314 sera of the BeSSTT, an observational cohort of patients with def pSS, fulfilling the 2016 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, and of patients with suspected pSS due to presence of either objective sicca or one immunological criterion, were used. Groups were made based on the presence or absence of sicca complaints, objective sicca, anti-SSA Ab and histopathology focus score. SGUS by Hocevar was categorized in negative (0-14), low positive (15-26) and high positive (27-48) groups. Disease activity using the Eular Sjögren’s Syndrome disease activity index (ESSDAI) was categorized in low (0-4), moderate (5-13) and high (14-123). Differences in sial and gal IgG levels were determined using One-way ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis testing. P-values ≤0.05 were considered statistically significant. Bonferroni correction was applied.

Results: Disease state was addressed in well-defined groups: patients with only sicca complaints, patients with only objective sicca, patients with only anti-SSA/SSB reactivity (prob pSS) and patients with def pSS. Def pSS patients had a significantly lower median percentage of sial and gal IgG compared to patients with only sicca complaints, only objective sicca or only anti-SSA Ab. No significant difference in sial and gal IgG was seen between the latter three groups (Figure 1). Patients with high ESSDAI had a significantly lower percentage of sial and gal IgG versus those with low ESSDAI. In high positive SGUS-score, a significantly lower median percentage of sial IgG and a lower percentage of gal IgG was noted compared to negative or low positive Hocevar score (Figure 1). Mono-anti-Ro52 reactivity, double-anti-Ro52Ro60 reactivity or triple-anti-Ro52Ro60 SSB reactivity had a significantly lower percentage of sial and gal IgG compared to anti-SSA/SSB negative. Strikingly, anti-Ro52+ and anti-Ro52Ro60 SSB+ had a significantly lower percentage of sial IgG and a lower percentage of gal IgG compared to negative or low positive Hocevar score (Figure 1).

Conclusion: These results indicate that disease state, disease activity, salivary gland involvement and serology profile is strongly associated with different levels of sial and gal IgG in pSS. This highlights the potential role for glycosylation as diagnostic marker and biomarker and its potential role in the pSS pathophysiology.

REFERENCES:


Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Relative area of sial</th>
<th>Relative area of gal</th>
<th>P-values (n=0.05)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease state</td>
<td>Median (Interquartile range)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sicca complaint</td>
<td>24 (0.080 - 0.60)</td>
<td>≤0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sicca</td>
<td>58 (0.057 - 0.47)</td>
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<td>≤0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prob pSS</td>
<td>37 (0.075 - 0.59)</td>
<td>≤0.001</td>
<td>≤0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Def pSS</td>
<td>183 (0.057 - 0.47)</td>
<td>≤0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>SGUS 0-14</td>
<td>160 (0.054 - 0.538)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-26</td>
<td>72 (0.067 - 0.52)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-48</td>
<td>82 (0.050 - 0.434)</td>
<td>≤0.001</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSDAI 0-4</td>
<td>M (0.022 - 0.35)</td>
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<td>≤0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-13</td>
<td>31 (0.055 - 0.48)</td>
<td>≤0.001</td>
<td>≤0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. N: number of samples; Mdn: median; P-values: significance levels of the comparison of sial and gal IgG levels between disease states and groups.

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5534

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome

A. Hinrichs, A. Kruize, F. Lefeber, H. Leavis, J. Van Rooyen. UMC Utrecht, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology/CTI, Utrecht, Netherlands; UMC Utrecht, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology; Utrecht, Netherlands

Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is an autoimmune disease characterized by B cell hyperactivity. CXCR5+ follicular helper T cells (Tfh), CXCR5-CD21+ peripheral helper T cells (Tph) and CCR9+ Tfh-like cells have been implicated in driving B cell hyperactivity in pSS (1-3), however, their potential overlap has not been evaluated.

Objectives: To study the overlap between the two CXCR5+ cell subsets and to study their PD-1/ICOS expression, hall markers, as compared to “true” CXCR5+/PD-1/ICOS-expressing Tfh cells.

Methods: We defined Tfh cells as CXCR5+/PD-1+/ICOS+ memory (CD45RO+), CCR9+ Tfh-like as CXCR5+/CCR9+ and CCR9+ Tfh as CXCR5+/CCR9+ memory CD4 T cells, as previously described. CXCR5+/CCR9+ co-expressing cells were not specified on memory phenotype. Tfh cells were defined as CXCR5+/mem+ and “true” Tfh cells as CXCR5+/PD-1+/ICOS+ memory cells. CXCR5- Tfh and CCR9+ Tfh-like cell populations from peripheral blood mononuclear cells of pSS patients (n=13) and age- and gender-matched healthy controls (HC, n=11) were compared by flow cytometry. PD-1/ICOS expression from these cell subsets was compared to each other and to CXCR5+ Tfh cells, taking into account their differentiation status.

Results: In pSS patients the number of Tfh cells was significantly increased compared to HC (median 0.5% versus 0.23% of CD4 T cells, p=0.049). Also the number of CCR9+ Tfh-like cells was significantly elevated in pSS patients as compared to HC, i.e. approximately 2.7% in pSS patients versus 1.7% in HC (medians, p=0.019). CCR9 expression was equally distributed between pSS patients and HC in Tfh cells. Only a modest number of 2.1% (1.2-3.2%) of Tfh cells expressed CCR9 (median with interquartile range), indicating limited overlap. CXCR5+ Tfh cells were characterized by the highest frequency of PD-1+ cells, either with or without CCR9 co-expression (PD-1+ cell frequency differed between CXCR5+/ Tfh cell subsets compared to CXCR5+/CCR9+ and CXCR5-/CCR9+ Tfh cells, both p≤0.0001). No difference in PD-1+ expression was seen between CXCR5+/CCR9+ and CXCR5-/CCR9+ cells (p=0.57). Within the PD-1+ cells, populations expressing either CXCR5+ and/or CCR9 of pSS patients showed a trend of higher ICOS expression compared to HC, but this was only significant in CCR9+ Tfh-like cells (28.6% and 55%, medians for HC and pSS, respectively, p=0.02) PD-1/ICOS expression was higher in memory cells expressing CXCR5+ or CCR9. However, the highest expression was found in CXCR5+/CCR9+ expressing T cells, which are enriched in the circulation of pSS patients. PD-1, ICOS, and PD-1/ICOS co-expression was significantly higher on CCR9+ Tfh cells than on CCR9- Tfh cells (in all three comparisons p<0.05).

Conclusion: CXCR5+ Tfh and CCR9+ Tfh-like cells are two distinct cell populations that both are enriched in pSS patients and can drive B cell hyperactivity in pSS. The known upregulated expression of CCL25 and CXCL13, ligands of CCR9 and CXCR5, at pSS inflammatory sites suggests concerted action to facilitate migration of CXCR5+/CCR9+ T cells, which are characterized by the highest frequencies of PD-1/ICOS positive cells. Hence, these co-expressing effector T cell may significantly contribute to the ongoing immune responses in pSS.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.757
**POS0819**

**ALTERED EXPRESSION OF RNA METHYLATION AND DEAMINATION ENZYMES IN SALIVARY GLANDS FROM SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Sjögren syndrome, Cytokines and chemokines, Genetics/epigenetics

D. Jara1, A. Aguileña2, P. Carvajal1, I. Castro, M. J. Barrera4, S. González4, C. Molina4, R. Soto-Ríos5, M. J. González1,1 Universidad de Chile, Programa de Biología Celular y Molecular, Instituto de Ciencias Biomédicas, Facultad de Medicina, Santiago, Chile; 2Clínica INDISA, Departamento de Reumatología, Santiago, Chile; 3Universidad de Chile, Departamento de Tecnología Médica, Facultad de Medicina, Santiago, Chile; 4Universidad San Sebastián, Facultad de Odontología y ciencias de la rehabilitación, Santiago, Chile; 5Universidad Mayor, Escuela de Odontología, Facultad de Medicina y Ciencias de la Salud, Santiago, Chile; 6Universidad de Chile, Programa de Virología, Instituto de Ciencias Biomédicas, Facultad de Medicina, Santiago, Chile

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is an autoimmune disease characterized by an overactivation of the type I interferon pathway (IFNs I) and differential microRNAs expression in the salivary glands (SG) [1]. In these patients, hasa-miR-145-5p downregulation was found to be associated with increased levels of IFNα and the overactivation of its pathway [2]. IFNs I can affect RNA biogenesis by reducing the processing of some primary microRNAs (pri-miRNAs) through diminished interaction with the microprocessor complex, leading to decreased mature microRNA levels [3]. Although the mechanisms involved are not fully understood, changes in adenosine deamination that lead to adenosine to inosine (A-to-I) editing or methylation of the N6-position of adenosines (m6A) in the pri-miRNAs could be participating.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the expression of pri-miR-145 and the enzymes that methylate (METTL3 and METTL14), demethylate (FTO and ALKBH5), and deaminate (ADAR1p110 and ADAR1p150) adenosines in RNAs of labial SG (LSG) from pSS-patients.

**Methods:** LSG from 9 pSS-patients and 6 controls as well as HSG cells stimulated with IFNα (IFN-α or IFN-β) were analyzed. pri-miR-145 levels were determined with IFNs I (IFN-α or IFN-β) and 5-methylcytosine (5mC). The enzymes localization was determined by immunofluorescence.

**Results:** LSG from pSS-patients showed increased pri-miR-145 levels, which directly correlated with the IFNs I score, a measure of the activation of the IFNs I pathway. LSG from pSS-patients also increased METTL3, ALKBH5 and ADAR1p150 levels, with no changes in METTL14 and FTO. ADAR1p150 levels also correlated directly with the IFNs I score. All the enzymes were mainly observed in the nuclei of LSG acinar cells. Finally, stimulation of HSG cells with IFNs I upregulated ADAR1p150

**Conclusion:** Increased pri-miR-145 levels suggest accumulation of this precursor in LSG of pSS-patients due to lack of processing, which could contribute to the hasa-miR-145-5p downregulation found previously (2) and could be associated to the overactivation of the IFNs I pathway. The overexpression of METTL3, ALKBH5 and ADAR1p150 could lead to changes in RNA methylation or deamination, particularly in pri-miRNAs that alter their processing, which needs further study. Finally, the functional assays suggest an association between the IFNs I overactivation and the ADAR1p150 overexpression observed in SS-patients.

**References:**

[3] Witeveldt et al., Cell Reports. 2018;23, 3275–3285

**Acknowledgements:** Fondecyt 1210055, Fondecyt 1190156, Fondecyt Iniciación 11201058, CONICYT fellowship (DJ, PC).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DO**: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6230

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**POS0820**

**SEX-EQTL ANALYSIS REVEALS A SIGNIFICANT SEX-BIAS IN THE EFFECTS OF SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME ASSOCIATED ALLELES ON GENE TRANSCRIPTION**

**Keywords:** Genetics/epigenetics, Sjögren syndrome

G. E. Thorlacius1, A. Björk1, M. Wahren-Herlenius1,2, Karolinska Institute, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 2University of Bergen, Department of Clinical Science, Broegelmann Research Laboratory, Bergen, Norway

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s syndrome is a systemic autoimmune disease that affects exocrine glands, particularly the salivary- and lacrimal glands, leading to the hallmark symptoms of mucosal dryness. Patients commonly also experience fatigue, joint and muscle pain. Sjögren’s syndrome predominantly affects women, with a female-to-male ratio of 14:1. Genetic risk factors associated with Sjögren’s syndrome have been identified; however, the mechanisms behind the profound sex-bias remain incompletely understood.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to analyze whether the sex of a carrier of genetic variants associated with Sjögren’s syndrome affects the expression of genes in associated loci.

**Methods:** Genetically regulated gene expression differences between sexes were identified by identifying expression quantitative trait loci (eQTLs). Databases including the Genotype-Tissue Expression project (GTEx), version 8, and the NHGRI-EBI Catalog of human genome-wide association studies (GWAS catalog) as well as a literature review were utilized to extract information about variants significantly associated with Sjögren’s syndrome, and their sex-specific eQTL effects.

**Results:** Out of 22 non-HLA loci identified as associated with Sjögren’s syndrome at the genome-wide level, 4 independent loci had one or more significant sex-eQTL effects in the GTEx database in any tissue. These included variants near IRF5, TNIP1, SYNGR1 and the BLK-FAM167A loci. Additionally, variants in 4 Sjögren’s syndrome associated loci within the HLA region on chromosome 6 were found to have one or more sex-eQTL effects in the GTEx database. Of the 14 identified sex-eQTLs for Sjögren’s associated loci, 10 were female biased.

**Conclusion:** Sjögren’s syndrome is a female biased disease and genetic variants associated with Sjögren’s syndrome have discordant effects on gene expression in females compared to males. A majority of the identified effects point towards a more severe effect of these variants in female carriers than male carriers, indicating that females could be more profoundly affected by these genetic risk factors than males. This suggests a mechanism where genetic risk factors could disproportionately increase disease risk in one sex compared to the other.

**References:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Gudny Elia Thorlacius: None declared, Albin Björk: None declared, Marie Wahren-Herlenius Grant/research support from: Janssen Pharmaceutica NV and Merck KGaA.

**DO**: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3689
Table 1. Top 3 biological processes in which the genes participate.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Gene count</th>
<th>p Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense response to virus (Type I IFN Response)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.0E-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to virus</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.5E-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative regulation of the viral genome</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.2E-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 Conclusion: We identified DEGs through bioinformatic and functional enrichment analysis. 10 genes appeared in different datasets, while 21 were listed as their co-expressed pairs. These genes play a fundamental role in the processes of Defense response to virus, Response to virus and Negative regulation of the viral genome. Most of them belong to the type I IFN signature. An in vivo analysis in patients with primary SS is needed to validate these genes as possible diagnostic biomarkers and even possible therapeutic targets.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.595

Rheumatoid arthritis - non biologic treatment and small molecules

**POS0822**

DOES CONCOMITANT/NON-CONCOMITANT USE OF MTX WITH BIOLOGICS AND JAK INHIBITORS AFFECT ULTRASOUND FINDING OF INTRA-ARTICULAR SYNOVITIS?

Keywords: Ultrasound, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), bDMARD

Table 1. Patients’ characteristic of bDMARDs/JAKi without MTX and bDMARDs/JAKi with MTX.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>bDMARDs/JAKi without MTX (n=151)</th>
<th>bDMARDs/JAKi with MTX (n=151)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, y</td>
<td>70.2±10.8</td>
<td>68.4±12.8</td>
<td>0.186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, %</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>0.390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m2</td>
<td>21.9±3.4</td>
<td>22.7±3.4</td>
<td>0.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, y</td>
<td>16.7±11.6</td>
<td>16.2±13.3</td>
<td>0.756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF+, %</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>90.1</td>
<td>0.843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCP+, %</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>0.728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 ESR</td>
<td>3.2±1.3</td>
<td>3.3±1.5</td>
<td>0.393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 CRP</td>
<td>2.8±1.2</td>
<td>2.8±1.2</td>
<td>0.949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDAI</td>
<td>11.9±10.5</td>
<td>11.2±10.7</td>
<td>0.552</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>11.7±10.4</td>
<td>10.9±10.5</td>
<td>0.499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>0.76±0.72</td>
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<td>ESR mm/h</td>
<td>16.1±19.3</td>
<td>21.3±21.5</td>
<td>0.028</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMP-3, ng/mL</td>
<td>128.0±160.1</td>
<td>114.1±184.9</td>
<td>0.488</td>
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Background: Biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) and janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) are generally more effective combined with methotrexate (MTX) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, in clinical practice, bDMARDs/JAKi is sometimes used without MTX for such as elderly patients with poor renal function. To date, there are few reports evaluating ultrasound finding of intra-articular synovitis in patients with RA treated bDMARDs/JAKi with or without MTX.

Objectives: Ultrasound finding of intra-articular synovitis in patients with RA treated bDMARDs/JAKi with or without MTX was compared by using propensity score matching.

Methods: A total of 750 RA patients who underwent ultrasound examination were included. Ultrasound examination was performed at the orbital bone to first voluntary metacarpophalangeal (MCP) joints, fingers interphalangeal (IP) and second to fifth proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joints, wrist joints (three part of radial, medial and ulnar) and first to fifth metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joints. Of all 750 RA patients, 517 RA patients (68.9%) who treated bDMARDs/JAKi were divided into with or without MTX. Then, patients were matched using the propensity score adjusted for age, sex, duration of RA, disease activity (CDAI), CRP level, and MMP-3 level. The total gray scale (GS) and power Doppler (PD) score (GSUS/ PDUS) were compared between bDMARDs/JAKi treated patients and without with MTX.

Results: There were 159 (30.8%) patients without MTX and 358 (69.2%) patients with MTX. The 151 patients in each group were matched. The mean MTX dose of bDMARDs/JAKi with MTX group was 8.8±3.5 mg/week. Patients’ characteristic of bDMARDs/JAKi without MTX and bDMARDs/JAKi with MTX were shown in Table 1. Ultrasound synovial findings were significantly suppressed in the MTX group. GSUS 11.6 ± 11.8 vs 8.5 ± 8.0 (p = 0.009) and PDUS 8.3 ± 9.9 vs 5.5 ± 6.2 (p = 0.004). Moreover, US findings were compared in TNF user, non-TNF user and JAKi user. Notably, ultrasound findings were worse in non-TNF inhibitor users without MTX.

Table 1. Patients’ characteristic of bDMARDs/JAKi without MTX and bDMARDs/JAKi with MTX.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>RF+, %</td>
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<td>90.1</td>
<td>0.843</td>
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<tr>
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<td>873</td>
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<td>SDAI</td>
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<td>114.1±184.9</td>
<td>0.488</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Ultrasound findings of bDMARDs/JAKi without MTX and bDMARDs/JAKi with MTX.

Figure 1. Topologic analysis displaying the Interferon Signature.
Conclusion: Ultrasound synovial findings in patients with bDMARDs/JAKI were more suppressed with MTX. It was considered necessary to keep in mind that synovitis may persist in patients who are not concomitant with MTX and are using anti-NTF inhibitors.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Tadashi Okano Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Janssen and Novartis Pharma, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Asahi Kasei, Chugui, Eisai, Eli Lilly and Tanabe Mitsubishi, Kenji Mamoto: None declared, Yuko Yoshida: None declared, Tatsuya Koike: None declared, Hiroaki Domae: None declared, Asami Yagami: None declared, Shingo Washida: None declared, Yutaro Yamada: None declared, Shohei Anno: None declared, Yuka Asahi Kasei, Chugai, Eisai, Eli Lilly and Tanabe Mitsubishi, Kenji Mamoto: None declared, Yu Kyo: None declared, Tatsuya Kike: None declared, Hiroaki Nakamura: None declared.

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POS0824

UPTAKE OF INFLIXIMAB BIOSIMILARS AMONG U.S. RHEUMATOLOGY PRACTICES THROUGH 2022

Keywords: Registries, bDMARD, Epidemiology

J. Yazdany1, J. Li2, E. Roberts3, R. Stovall4, G. Schmajuk1. 1University of California, San Francisco, Medicine/Rheumatology, San Francisco, United States of America

Background: The first infliximab biosimilar (infliximab-dybb) entered the U.S. market in 2016 and two additional products are now available (infliximab-axxq and infliximab-abda). Biosimilars have significant potential to slow drug spending; however, biosimilar uptake in the U.S. has lagged. Little is known about the impact of additional infliximab biosimilar approvals on market penetration or about patterns of use among rheumatologists.

Objectives: We used the national RISE registry 1) to examine uptake of infliximab biosimilars between 2016 and 2022 and 2) to study physician prescribing of these drugs. For the latter, we analyzed patterns of biosimilar drug use across a national sample of practices and analyzed characteristics of patients who were prescribed biosimilars vs. bio-originator infliximab.

Methods: Data from RISE, a national registry that includes electronic health records from one-third of U.S. rheumatology practices, was used. All bio-originator or biosimilar infliximab administrations (of any dose) between April 2016 and March 2022 were analyzed. We included patients 18 years or older who had at least one visit with a rheumatologist; all infliximab bio-originator or biosimilar users, regardless of diagnosis, were included. To assess the uptake of biosimilar infliximab, we examined the proportion of patients using each formulation (infliximab, infliximab-dybb, infliximab-abda and infliximab-axxq) in 2-month intervals during the study period. Patients were included in multiple time windows if they received different products during the study period. Next, we examined practice-level uptake of biosimilars among practices with ≥ 20 new infliximab users after 2019. Finally, we examined the characteristics of patients who were prescribed biosimilars. For this analysis, we calculated standardized mean differences (SMDs) to permit comparisons of the characteristics of users of bio-originator infliximab and each biosimilar. In cases where more than one infliximab product was prescribed, patients were classified based on their most recent infliximab prescription.

Results: During the study period, 32,916 individuals used bio-originator infliximab, 3,999 used infliximab-dybb, 1,369 used infliximab-abda, and 1,099 used infliximab-axxq. Figure 1 demonstrates that uptake of biosimilar infliximab formulations remained below 20% and rose only minimally with the introduction of new biosimilar formulations in 2017 and 2020. Among 102 rheumatology practices with ≥ 20 new infliximab users, we observed significant variability in biosimilar use. 16.6% of practices had no patients on biosimilars, 27.4% had between one and ten percent of patients on biosimilars; only 15.6% had more than half of patients on biosimilars, SMDs for age, sex, race and ethnicity, insurance, region, and rheumatic disease diagnosis were all ≤ 0.5, indicating only small differences in patient characteristics across different formulation groups when comparing bio-originator infliximab to biosimilar versions.

Conclusion: Uptake of biosimilar infliximab drugs has been slow and minimally impacted by the introduction of additional biosimilar formulations in the U.S over the last six years. Only a small percentage of rheumatology practices use biosimilars for most patients, and a substantial proportion do not use biosimilars at all. We noted only small differences in patient characteristics between bio-originator and biosimilar infliximab users, suggesting that patient demographic characteristics, geographical region, diagnosis and insurance are not major drivers of prescribing differences. These findings suggest that in the absence of mandatory switching policies or other incentives, the U.S. has largely failed to achieve a robust biosimilars market, stymieing efforts to increase competition and reduce cost.

Figure 1. Proportion of patients in the RISE registry using infliximab bio-originator or biosimilars between 2016 and 2022.

Acknowledgements: This data was supported by the ACR's RISE Registry. However, the views expressed represent those of the authors, not necessarily those of the ACR.

Disclosure of Interests: Jinoos Yazdany Consultant of: Aurinia, Astra Zeneca, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Gilead, Genentech, Astra Zeneca, Jena University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Jena, Germany; 12University of California, Los Angeles, Division of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America; 13Galapagos NV, Clinical Research, Mechelen, Belgium; 13Galapagos NV, Medical Safety, Mechelen, Belgium; 13University of Würzburg, Rheumatology/Clinical Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine II, Würzburg, Germany; 17Cardiff University, Section of Rheumatology, Cardiff, United Kingdom

Keywords: Safety, Targeted synthetic drugs, Rheumatoid arthritis

X. Mariette1, S. Borrmann2, S. Aspeslagh3, J. Calvo4, R. Morigli5, Z. Szekecz6, F. De Leonardis7, N. Verbruggen8, P. Van Hoek9, M. Schmalzing10, A. Stallmach11, C. Charles-Schoeman12, V. Rajendran13, C. Rudolph14, C. Watson15, Y. Tanaka16, E. Choy17. 1University of California, San Francisco, Medicine/Rheumatology, San Francisco, United States of America; 2University of Würzburg, Rheumatology/Clinical Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine II, Würzburg, Germany; 3Jena University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Jena, Germany; 4University of California, Los Angeles, Division of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America; 13Galapagos NV, Clinical Research, Mechelen, Belgium; 13Galapagos NV, Medical Affairs, Mechelen, Belgium; 13University of Würzburg, Rheumatology/Clinical Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine II, Würzburg, Germany; 17Cardiff University, Section of Rheumatology, Cardiff, United Kingdom

Background: FIL is a Janus kinase (JAK) 1 preferential inhibitor for the treatment of RA. Data from the ORAL Surveillance post-marketing study (NCT02092467) suggest that in patients with active RA aged ≥50 years with ≥1 CV risk factor, the risks of cancer and major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) are higher with the pan-JAK inhibitor tofacitinib vs tumor necrosis factor inhibitors, with higher rates in those aged ≥65 vs <65 years.[1]

Objectives: To assess the incidence of malignancies excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC), NMSC, MACE and venous thromboembolism (VTE) in patients treated with 200 mg FIL200 and FIL 100 mg (FIL100) in RA clinical trials.

Methods: Data were pooled from patients treated with FIL200 or FIL100 from DARWIN 1–3 (NCT01889874, NCT01984516, NCT02065700) and FINCH 1–4 (NCT02889796, NCT02873936, NCT02886728, NCT03023308). Data cuts used for the ongoing DARWIN 3 and FINCH 4 studies were May 2, 2022, and May 6, 2022, respectively. Exposure-adjusted incidence rates (EAIRs) per 100 patient-years of exposure (PYE) were calculated for MACE, VTEs, malignancies
excluding NMSC, NMSC and treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) lead-
ing to death, according to FIL dose (200 vs 100 mg) and age (<65 vs ≥65 years); no statistical testing was performed, so all differences are numerical. MACE and VTE were adjudicated by an independent committee; the cutoff for adjudication was April 3, 2022.

**Results:** Overall, 3691 patients were treated with FIL for a total of 12,541 PYEs. Median (max) PYE was 3.8 (8.3) years for FIL200 and 3.3 (7.8) years for FIL100. Baseline characteristics are shown in the **Table 1.** A greater proportion of those aged ≥65 years vs <65 years had a CV medical history in both the FIL200 (75.7% vs 38.1%) and FIL100 (71.8% vs 40.9%) groups. Overall EAIRs (95% confidence interval [CI]) were 0.40 (0.3, 0.5) for MACE, 0.19 (0.1, 0.3) for VTEs, 0.69 (0.6, 0.9) for malignancy excluding NMSC, 0.29 (0.2, 0.4) for NMSC and 0.65 (0.5, 0.8) for TEAEs leading to death. EAIRs of MACE and VTE were higher in patients aged ≥65 vs <65 years but were generally similar for FIL200 and FIL100 within each age group (**Figure 1**). EAIRs of malignancies, NMSC and TEAEs leading to death were higher in the ≥65- vs <65-year group of the FIL200 group, EAIRs (95% CI) of these events were numerically higher in the FIL200 vs FIL100 group: 2.0 (1.3, 2.9) vs 0.99 (0.5, 1.9) for malignancies, 1.38 (0.8, 2.2) vs 0.44 (0.1, 1.1) for NMSC, and 1.59 (1.0, 2.5) vs 1.20 (0.6, 2.2) for TEAEs leading to death, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Rates of MACE and VTE in FIL-treated patients were low and similar for FIL200 and FIL100. There was a higher proportion of patients aged ≥65 years vs <65 years with a CV medical history. In patients aged ≥65 years, EAIRs of malignancies, NMSC and TEAEs leading to death were higher with FIL200 vs FIL100, although CIs overlapped.

**REFERENCE:**

**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIL200</th>
<th>FIL100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;65 y (n=1860)</td>
<td>&gt;65 y (n=1321)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, y, mean (SD)</td>
<td>48.8 (10.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>1506 (81.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m², mean (SD)</td>
<td>27.8 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine clearance, mL/min, mean (SD)</td>
<td>122 (37.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L, mean (SD)</td>
<td>19.0 (24.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoker, n (%)</td>
<td>207 (11.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV family history, n (%)</td>
<td>43 (3.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any CV medical history, n (%)</td>
<td>672 (36.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current alcohol use, n (%)</td>
<td>296 (20.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*FIL200 <65 y: n=1436, ≥65 y: n=340; FIL100 <65 y: n=1081, ≥65 y: n=289.*

Acknowledgements: We thank the physicians and patients who participated in the studies. The studies were funded by Gilead Sciences (Foster City, CA, United States) and Galapagos NV (Mechelen, Belgium). Publication coordination was provided by Fabien Debaillie, PhD, of Galapagos NV. Writing support was provided by Debbie Sherwood, BSc, CMP (Aspire Scientific, Bollington, UK), and was funded by Galapagos NV.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Xavier Mariette Consultant of: AstraZeneca, BMS, Galapagos, GSK, Novartis, Owen Borchmann Shareholder of: Lipomics; Consultant of: Galapagos, Sandrine Aspleasighaeghle; AstraZeneca, BMS, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi; Grant/research support from: AstraZeneca, BMS, Merck, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Jaime Calvo-Speakers bureau: GSK, Galapagos, Novartis, Biogen, Lilly, Paid instructor for: GSK, Consultant of: GSK, AstraZeneca, AbbVie, Sanofi, Novartis, Lilly, Grant/research support from: Roche, BMS, Richard Morrigg Consultant of: Galapagos, Zoltan Szekeanekk; Pfizer, AbbVie, Roche, Lilly, Novartis, Galapagos, Sobi, Gedeon Richter; Consultant of: Pfizer, AbbVie, Roche, Lilly, Novartis, Galapagos, Sobi, Gedeon Richter, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Francesco De Leonardi Employee of: Galapagos, Nadia Verbruggen Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, Paul Van Hoek Consultant of: Galapagos, Aspen, AOP, Health, Sanofi-Genzyme, Astellas, Employee of: Schering Plough, MSD, Janssen, Marc Schmalzing Speakers bureau: Novartis, AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Chugai, Roche, Janssen-Cilag, Gilead, Boehringer Ingelheim, Mylan, Galapagos, EUSA-Pharma, Consultant of: Chugai/Roche, Hexal/Sandoz, Gilead, AbbVie, Janssen-Cilag, Boehringer Ingelheim, onkopissen.de, EUSA-Pharma, Novartis, AstraZeneca, Amgen, medac, Lilly, Galapagos, UCB, Grant/research support from: Chugai/Roche, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Medac, UCB, Mylan, Galapagos, Andreas Stallmach Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celltrion, CLS Behring, De Prom, Falk Foundation, Ferring, Janssen, Kompetenznetz Darmerkrankungen, MedUpdate, MSD, Recordati Pharma, Sobi, Takeda, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Consal, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Repha GmbH, Roche, Pfizer, Pharmacosmos GmbH, Takeda, Tillotts Pharma, Christina Charles-Schoeman Consultant of: Privont, AbbVie, BMS, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Pfizer, CSL Behring, Vijay Rajendran Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, Christine Rudolph Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, Chris Watson Shareholder of: Galapagos, Employee of: Galapagos, Yoshiya Tanaka Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, AbbVie, Gilead, AstraZeneca, BMS, Chugai, Daiichi-Sankyo, Eisai, Pfizer, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, GlaxoSmithKline, Grant/research support from: Aasa-Hi-Kasei, AbbVie, Chugai, Eisai, Takeda, Daiichi-Sankyo, Boehringer Ingelheim, Ernest Choy Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Chugai Pharma, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kai, Galapagos, Gilead, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi-Aventis, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Therapeutics, Chugai Pharma, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kai, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Roche, R-Pharm, SynAct Pharma, Sanofi-Gemzone, UCB, Grant/research support from: Bio-Cancer, Biogen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi.

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**PO5825**

**CANCER RISK IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH JANUS KINASE INHIBITORS: A NATIONWIDE DANISH REGISTER-BASED COHORT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Targeted synthetic drugs, Malignancy, Real-world evidence

**R. Westermann,1,2, R. L. Cordtz,1, K. Duch,1,2, L. Mellemkjaer,1, M. L. Hietland,4,7, A. M. Burden,1, O. Heijeser,1, B. G. Stogsd,1, L. Dreyer,1, Aalborg University Hospital, Center of Rheumatology and Bio-Orthopedics, Department of Rheumatology, Aalborg, Denmark;2Aalborg University Hospital, Clinical Cancer Research Unit, Aalborg, Denmark;3Aalborg University Hospital, Unit of Clinical Biostatistics, Aalborg, Denmark;4Danish Cancer Society, Danish Cancer Society Research Center (DCRC), Copenhagen, Denmark;5Rigshospitalet, Glostrup, The DANBIO registry; Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Centre of Head and Orthopedics, Glostrup, Denmark;6ETH Zurich, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacopeidemiology Group, Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Zurich, Switzerland;7Aalborg University Department of Health Science and Technology, Aalborg, Denmark;8JUT The Arctic University of Norway, Department of Computer Science, Tromsø, Norway;9Aalborg University Hospital, Center for Clinical Data Science, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg, Denmark

**Background:** Concerns regarding the risk of cancer with janus kinase inhibitor (JAKi) use in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) escalated after the release of results from Pfizer’s clinical trial, ORAL Surveillance.[1] The trial showed increased risks of major adverse cardiovascular events and cancer in tofacitinib compared with tumour necrosis factor inhibitor recipients. Precautionary considerations on JAKi use in high-risk subsets of patients with RA have since been issued by the European Medicines Agency.
Objectives: We aimed to investigate the risk of first primary cancer in patients with RA treated with JAKi (tofacitinib and baricitinib) compared with those who received biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) in a real-world setting.

Methods: We performed an observational cohort study using the nationwide registers in Denmark. Patients with RA aged 18+ years, without a previous cancer diagnosis, and who initiated treatment with JAKi or bDMARDs from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2020 were identified in the Danish Rheumatology Quality Register (DANBIO) and followed for any cancer (except non-melanoma skin cancer) with a 2:1 ratio of patients with cancer in the JAKi and bDMARD groups, respectively. The JAKi group contributed with 1315 person years (PYRS) and 19 cancers, while the bDMARD group contributed with 8857 PYRS and 111 cancers. The corresponding crude incidence rates per 1000 PYRS for cancer were 14.4 (JAKi) and 12.9 (bDMARD). Comparing the two groups using weighted CSC models, a HR of 1.41 (95% CI 0.76 to 2.37, 95% confidence intervals) was seen for JAKi- versus bDMARD-treated patients with RA.

Conclusion: JAKi treatment in real-world patients with RA was not associated with a statistically significant increased risk of first primary cancer compared with those who received bDMARDs. However, risk estimates were elevated in many analyses, and an excess risk of cancer with JAKi treatment cannot be ruled out. More studies investigating JAKi and cancer risk in patients with RA are highly warranted.

REFERENCE:

More studies investigating JAKi and cancer risk in patients with RA are highly warranted.
Table 1. Treatment-emergent Adverse Events in Patients Treated with UPA, ADA, and MTX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>UPA 15 mg QD</th>
<th>ADA 40 mg EOW</th>
<th>MTX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any AE</td>
<td>206.1 (203.4, 208.8)</td>
<td>195.5 (188.6, 202.5)</td>
<td>203.2 (193.8, 212.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any SAE</td>
<td>12.8 (12.2, 13.5)</td>
<td>13.5 (11.7, 15.4)</td>
<td>9.0 (7.1, 11.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any AE leading to drug discontinuation</td>
<td>4.6 (4.4, 5.2)</td>
<td>4.5 (4.1, 4.7)</td>
<td>5.6 (5.1, 6.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any COVID-19-related AE</td>
<td>4.6 (4.2, 5.0)</td>
<td>4.7 (3.7, 5.9)</td>
<td>2.4 (1.5, 3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths*</td>
<td>0.8 (0.7, 1.0)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.5, 1.6)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.4, 1.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Exposure-adjusted event rates per 100 patient-years (PY).

At study exit or at the end of follow-up, 89.3% of patients treated with UPA 15 mg QD, 82.5% treated with ADA 40 mg EOW, and 83.3% treated with MTX were still receiving therapy.

Any AE leading to study drug discontinuation (E/100 PY (95% CI))

Table 2. Treatment-emergent Adverse Events in Patients Treated with UPA, ADA, and MTX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>UPA 15 mg QD</th>
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Any AE leading to study drug discontinuation (E/100 PY (95% CI))
special interest (AESI). Data were analysed for the periods in which pts who dis-
continued study drug received 1) tofacitinib or TNFi (randomised period) and 2) SOC treatment (SOC period); Pts were analysed in their original treatment group (ex-tofacinib 5/10 mg BID, or ex-TNFi). Analyses were descriptive.

**Results:** Of 4362 randomised and treated pts, 718 (16.5%) stopped study treatment (50.7, 59.3 and 47.8% due to AESI; 15.1, 5.8 and 21.9% due to insufficient clinical response for tofacitinib 5 mg BID, 10 mg BID and TNFi, respectively); most received csDMARDs only in the SOC period (73.1–79.6% across groups). In general, BL characteristics in pts who switched to SOC treatment were numerically similar across groups. Mean duration of randomised and SOC periods was 21.9–36.0 and 15.0–18.6 months, respectively. ASDAI over time was similar across groups in the randomised period (data not shown) with modest improvements in the SOC period (Figure 1) and with SDAI score generally reflecting moderate disease activity (data not shown). In general, AE and SAE rates were similar across groups but numerically higher in the randomised vs SOC period (data not shown). AESI rates were generally similar across groups in the SOC period (Table 1).

**Table 1. IRs (95% CIs) of AESI in the SOC period (SASa, total On-SOC time)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Category</th>
<th>Ex-tofacitinib (5 mg BID, N=219)</th>
<th>Ex-tofacitinib (10 mg BID, N=275)</th>
<th>Ex-TNFia (N=224)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major adverse cardiovascular eventsb</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>3 (1.4)</td>
<td>8 (2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancies excluding NMSCC</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>2 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMSCa</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venous thromboembolismb</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infections</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-cause deaths</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>3 (1.4)</td>
<td>4 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In ORAL Surveillance, pts with RA who discontinued tofacitinib or TNFi and switched to SOC treatment had modest improvements in efficacy over time without increased risk of AESI. Limitations included that this analysis was post hoc.

**REFERENCE:****[1]****


**Keywords:** Safety, Targeted synthetic drugs, Cardiovascular disease

C. Charles-Schoeman1, M. H. Buch2, G. R. Burmester3, J. Liu4, D. Dilley5, H. Palac6, S. Strenggli7, J. Curtis8.1. University of California Los Angeles, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America; 2. University of Manchester and NHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3. Chanté-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 4. AbbVie, Immunology; North Chicago, IL, United States of America; 5. The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Birmingham, AL, United States of America

**Background:** In ORAL Surveillance, a post-approval safety study conducted in RA patients aged ≥50 years with ≥1 cardiovascular (CV) risk factor, non-inferiority was not shown for MACE and malignancy (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancer) for tofacitinib versus TNFi inhibitor (TNFi) therapy.[1] A post hoc analysis of the ORAL Surveillance data suggested that patients with a history of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) were most at risk relative to TNFi.[2] Whether these findings are characteristic of the entire JAK inhibitor class is unclear.

**Objective:** To evaluate the impact of baseline ASCVD risk on the incidence of MACE with upadacitinib (UPA) versus TNFi and MTX in an RA population similar to ORAL Surveillance from the SELECT RA clinical program.

**Methods:** Post hoc analysis of adjudicated MACE was performed in two patient populations pooled across six SELECT phase 3 studies: the overall population and the higher CV risk subset (patients aged ≥50 years with ≥1 CV risk factor). Patients received UPA 15 mg once daily (with or without conventional synthetic DMARDs), adalimumab (ADA) 40 mg in combination with MTX, or MTX monotherapy. CV risk factors used to identify the higher-risk patients included prior CV event, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, current or former tobacco/nicotine use, and baseline HDL-C levels ≤40 mg/dL. Patients were further stratified based on medical history of ASCVD, which included coronary artery disease and other relevant events (e.g., arteriosclerosis, ischemic stroke, and carotid artery disease). In patients without a history of ASCVD, 10-year ASCVD risk categories were calculated with a 1.5 multiplier applied.[3] Exposure-adjusted incidence rates (EIRs) per 100 patient-years were summarized based on the treatment received; 95% CIs were determined based on the exact method for the Poisson mean.

**Results:** Of 4102 enrolled patients (UPA 15 mg, n=3209; ADA, n=579; MTX monotherapy, n=314), approximately half were aged ≥50 years with ≥1 CV risk factor (n=2199 total; UPA 15 mg, n=1717; ADA, n=320; MTX monotherapy, n=162). In the overall SELECT population, EIRs of adjudicated MACE were 0.3, 0.3, and 0.2 n/100 PY for UPA, ADA, and MTX groups, respectively (Figure 1). Rates of MACE were higher in UPA-treated patients with a history of ASCVD (19 n/100 PY) compared to those without a history of ASCVD (0.2 n/100 PY) in the overall population. No occurrences of MACE were reported with ADA or MTX in patients with a medical history of ASCVD, possibly due to the limited patient numbers in these groups. Among patients with no history of ASCVD in the overall population, higher rates of MACE were observed for patients in the high or intermediate 10-year ASCVD risk categories versus the low or borderline risk category, irrespective of treatment. In the higher CV risk subset of the SELECT population, rates of MACE were numerically higher than the overall population but were similar between treatment groups (0.6, 0.5, and 0.5 n/100 PY for UPA, ADA, and MTX groups, respectively). Consistent with the overall population, the incidence of MACE was higher among UPA-treated patients with a history of ASCVD relative to those without a history of ASCVD. The rates of MACE in the higher-risk population were also generally similar across treatment groups for patients within each of the different 10-year ASCVD risk groups.

**Conclusion:** In this post hoc analysis, higher rates of MACE were observed in UPA-treated patients with a history of ASCVD versus those with no history of ASCVD. In both the overall SELECT population and the higher CV risk subset, rates of MACE were generally comparable between UPA and ADA in the
different ASCVD risk categories. However, given the low sample size and limited patient-years of exposure in ADA and MTX treatment groups, results should be interpreted with caution.

REFERENCES:

Figure: Exposure-adjusted incidence of MACE by history of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and 10-year predicted risk assessments.

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Disclosure of Interests: Christina Charles-Schoeman Consultant of: AbbVie, Pfizer, Gilead, Priovant, Octapharma, BMS, Immunovant, and Regeneron-Sanofi, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, BMS, CSL Behring, and Pfizer, Maya H Buch Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Consultant of: AbbVie, CESAS Medical, Lilly, Galapagos Sciences, MSD, Pfizer, and Roche, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Gerd Rüdiger Burmester Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, and UCB, Jianzhong Liu Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Hannah Palac Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Jeffrey Curtis Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, CorEvitas, Lilly, Novartis, Myriad, Sanofi, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, CorEvitas, Lilly, Novartis, Myriad, Sanofi, Pfizer, and UCB.

Background: DARWIN 3 (NCT02065700) is a long-term extension (LTE) study assessing the safety and efficacy of filgotinib (FIL) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and an inadequate response to methotrexate (MTX). [1] In the DARWIN 1 (NCT01888674) and DARWIN 2 (NCT01894516) parent studies, patients received FIL in combination with MTX or FIL monotherapy, respectively.

Objectives: To provide an update on the safety and efficacy of FIL 200mg (FIL200) in patients with RA, with or without MTX, with a maximum of 8.2 years of exposure.

Methods: Patients completing the DARWIN 1 (FIL + MTX) and DARWIN 2 (FIL monotherapy) phase 2 studies could enter DARWIN 3, receiving FIL200. The proportion of patients experiencing treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were reported using the safety analysis set, comprising data from both the parent and LTE studies. Efficacy was assessed from LTE baseline using the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) 20/50/70 improvement criteria and Disease Activity Score in 28 joints–C-reactive protein (DAS28-CRP), up to 264 weeks. Low disease activity and remission were defined as DAS28-CRP <3.2 and <2.6, respectively.

Results: In total, 739 patients were enrolled in DARWIN 3. Mean (standard deviation; SD) FIL exposure was 4.89 (2.72) years in the FIL + MTX group and 4.78 (2.79) years in the FIL monotherapy group. In the FIL + MTX vs FIL monotherapy groups, TEAEs were reported for 90.9% and 92.1% of patients, respectively (Table 1). The most common TEAE was infection. In both treatment groups, 8 patients had a TEAE leading to death (1.6% and 3.3%, respectively). Exposure-adjusted incidence rates, censored at time of first event for major adverse cardiovascular event, venous thromboembolism, herpes zoster, infections, serious infections, non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC), malignancies excluding NMSC, gastrointestinal perforations and TEAEs leading to death, will be reported. Through 5 years, ACR20/50/70 responses were maintained in 86.3%/66.7%/50.7% of the FIL + MTX group and 90.8%/74.8%/51.4% of the FIL monotherapy group, respectively (observed data). DAS28-CRP low disease activity and remission rates (non-responder imputation) at DARWIN 3 baseline were 46.1%/40.1% (FIL + MTX) and 29.6%/24.8% (FIL monotherapy) (Figure 1). At Week 264, the proportion of patients achieving low disease activity and remission were 34.0%/34.3% (FIL + MTX) and 27.0%/24.8% (FIL monotherapy).

Conclusion: With a maximum of 8.2 years of exposure in patients with RA, the FIL safety profile is similar between the background MTX and monotherapy treatment arms. Both arms show sustained efficacy over time.

REFERENCE:

POSO829
SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF FILGOTINIB: AN UPDATE FROM THE DARWIN 3 PHASE 2 LONG-TERM EXTENSION WITH A MAXIMUM OF 8.2 YEARS OF EXPOSURE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Safety

R. Westhoven1, R. Atten1, L. Dagna2,3, A. Kavanaugh4, K. Winthrop5, J. Barry6, R. Besuyen7, C. Corallo8, D. De Vries8, N. Martin9, C. Watson10, M. Genovesi11, A. Spindler12, M. Stasiavitchuk13, M. Greenwald14, P. Emery15,16,17,1 KU Leuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium; 2Schloßpark Klinik, University Medicine Berlin, Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; 3IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Milan, Italy; 4Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Department of Internal Medicine, Milan, Italy; 5University of California San Diego, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, La Jolla, United States of America; 6Oregon Health and Science University, School of Medicine, Portland, United States of America; 7Galapagos Biotech Ltd, Medical Affairs, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 8Galapagos BV, Global Development, Leiden, Netherlands; 9Galapagos Biopharma Italy S.R.L, Medical Affairs, Milan, Italy; 10Galapagos NV Biostatistics, Mechelen, Belgium; 11Gilead Sciences Inc., Clinical Development, Foster City, United States of America; 12Centro Medico Privado de Reumatologia, Rheumatology Section, San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina; 13National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Rheumatology, Vinnytsia, Ukraine; 14Desert Medical Advances, Rheumatology, United States of America; 15University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 16Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom

Table 1. TEAEs of interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAEs of interest</th>
<th>FIL + MTX</th>
<th>FIL monotherapy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any TEAE</td>
<td>452 (90.9)</td>
<td>223 (82.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACE</td>
<td>4 (0.8)</td>
<td>3 (1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTE</td>
<td>3 (0.6)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes zoster</td>
<td>30 (6.0)</td>
<td>14 (5.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections</td>
<td>317 (63.8)</td>
<td>140 (57.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infections</td>
<td>28 (5.6)</td>
<td>19 (7.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMSC</td>
<td>6 (1.2)</td>
<td>2 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancies excluding NMSC</td>
<td>12 (2.4)</td>
<td>8 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI perforations</td>
<td>1 (0.2)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAEs leading to death</td>
<td>8 (1.6)</td>
<td>8 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are reported as n (%). FIL, filgotinib; GI, gastrointestinal; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; MTX, methotrexate; NMSC, non-melanoma skin cancer; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event; VTE, venous thromboembolism.
BARICITINIB VERSUS TNF-INHIBITORS IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND AN INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO CsDMARDs: 12 WEEKS RESULTS OF A PRAGMATIC, MULTICENTER, OPEN LABEL, NONINFERIORITY TRIAL

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Targeted synthetic drugs, Real-world evidence

M. O. Voshaar1, P. Ten Klooster2, D. Tedjo3, C. Van de Laar4, M. Van de Laar5.

1University of Twente, Medical Cell BioPhysics & TechMed Center, Enschede, Netherlands; 2University of Twente, Department Psychology, Health and Technology, Enschede, Netherlands; 3Transparence in Healthcare, -Hengelo, Netherlands; 4Erasmus University Rotterdam, Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 5University of Twente, Department Psychology, Health and Technology, Enschede, Netherlands

Background: The EULAR guidelines for RA recommend that treatment should be aimed at reaching a predefined disease activity target (T2T). If this treatment target is not achieved with csDMARD, adding a TNF or a JAK-inhibitor are advised options in patients with poor prognostic factor, obviously considering contraindications. While randomized clinical trials have provided relevant data on the relative efficacy and safety of TNFi and JAKi under ideal conditions, the extent to which such results can be generalized to real-life clinical practice conditions remains unclear.

Objectives: To demonstrate non-inferiority (NI) and, in case NI could be shown, superior efficacy of a T2T strategy in which csDMARDs refractory RA patients failing to respond to csDMARDs were eligible if they were pretreated according to T2T principles, had a disease duration <5 years and no contraindications to b/tsD-MARD. All included patients were treated open label at the discretion of their treating rheumatologist with either TNFi (any type) or baricitinib. Patients were seen at baseline and 12-weekly until final follow-up (48 weeks). Full clinical assessment was performed at each visit. Self-report questionnaires, including PROMs, were collected as well. The primary endpoint was defined as NI of baricitinib versus TNFi in the proportion of patients achieving ACR50 response at week 12, with subsequent superiority testing in case non-inferiority was shown. For the primary efficacy analysis, the proportion of patients achieving ACR50 response were compared, using 95% confidence intervals calculated using the Wilson score method. The non-inferiority margin for baricitinib was set at -12%.

Results: 199 patients who received a first dose of either TNFi (102) or baricitinib (97) were included. Baseline characteristics were comparable between both groups (see Table 1). At 12 weeks, the lower bound of the 95% confidence interval for the difference in proportions of patients meeting the ACR50 response is to the right of zero in both the per-protocol and intention-to-treat analysis (see Figure 1). Hence, baricitinib was found to be non-inferior and statistically superior to TNFi in the analysis of the primary endpoint. Moreover, DAS28 remission (DAS28-CRP <0.36) was achieved in 74% of baricitinib patients compared with 46% of TNFi patients (p<0.001) at 12 weeks.

Conclusion: Baricitinib was found to be non-inferior and superior to TNFi in terms of ACR50 response at 12 weeks in real-world csDMARD refractory RA patients. Analysis of secondary endpoints, disease activity across other measurement points, PROMs, radiology, safety and costs is currently ongoing.
Background: Patients with IIM, and notably patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), are at increased risk of cancer compared with the general population [1,2]. It is hence paramount to assess the impact of biological or targeted DMARD (e.g., tofacitinib and TNF inhibitor) on the risk of cancer outcome in patients already at-risk, particularly in the context of ORAL Surveillance which showed a higher risk for malignancies (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancer, NMSC) with tofacitinib, in comparison with TNFi, in RA patients [3].

Objectives: To assess the impact of tofacitinib and TNFi on the risk of malignancies in patients with RA treated in real-world clinical practice.

Methods: The RELATION study is a retrospective observational cohort study using the French nationwide healthcare database (SNDS). Patients aged 18 years or older, affiliated to the national health insurance with a diagnosis of RA and initiating tofacitinib after November 1, 2017 or TNFi after January 1, 2010 (including adalimumab, etanercept, or other TNFi, without previous exposure to tofacitinib) were followed from treatment initiation to December 31, 2020. Patients with a previous history of a malignancy (excluding NMSC) in the 4 years preceding cohort entry were excluded. All malignancies events were defined by the first hospitalization for malignancy during follow-up. Comorbidities and traditional cardiovascular (CV) risk factors were identified using hospitalizations, procedures, or medication dispensing in the 4 years prior cohort entry. The unadjusted incidence rate (IR) of malignancies (excluding NMSC) was assessed in patients initiating either tofacitinib or a TNFi (with associated 95% confidence intervals [95% CI]). A 1:3 PS matching was conducted to balance the baseline characteristics of patients initiating tofacitinib and TNFi. Cox proportional hazards regression models were used to compare the risk of malignancy with tofacitinib vs TNFi during the follow-up period.

Results: Between 2010 and 2020, a total of 39,578 patients with RA were included in the study. Among these, 2,811 initiated tofacitinib and 36,767 initiated a TNFi (adalimumab: 10,621, etanercept: 16,512, other TNFi: 9,634). Patients had a mean age of 53 years at cohort entry, and 72% to 81% were women. Around 61% of the cohort had at least one CV risk factor (66.3%/for tofacitinib compared to 60.9% for TNFi). The two major co-medications at treatment initiation in the two groups were metformine (60.9%) and corticosteroids (50.8%). After PS matching, the tofacitinib cohort included 2,628 patients, and the TNFi cohort included 7,884 patients. Over a median follow-up period of 11.31 months (tobafcitinib: 8.56 months, TNFi: 12.52 months), 15 incident malignancy events were occurred in the tofacitinib group (IR: 3.55–9.77) per 1,000 patient-year (PY)) and 135 occurred in the TNFi group (8.03 (6.78–9.50)). The risk of malignancies (excluding NMSC) in comparison with TNFi, in RA patients treated in real-world clinical practice is hence paramount to assess the impact of biological or targeted DMARD (e.g., tofacitinib and TNFi) on the risk of malignancy.

References:
Background: Intersitial lung disease (ILD) is a severe extra-articular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Abatacept and rituximab are the recommended drugs [1-2]. JAK inhibitors (JAKI) have demonstrated efficacy in RA. However, in clinical trials patients with active ILD were usually excluded. Moreover, a warning on ILD toxicity is included in SmPC (Summary of Product Characteristics) drugs.

Objectives: to assess a) the effectiveness and b) the safety of JAKI in AR-ILD patients. Methods: National multicenter study of 57 RA-ILD patients on treatment with JAKI. We analysed from baseline the following outcomes: a) forced vital capacity (FVC), b) diffusion capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO), c) hypoxemia at rest (SatO2), d) dyspnea (Medical Research Council scale), e) arthritis activity (DAS28-ESR or clinical records), and f) sparing corticosteroids effect. Results: We studied 57 patients (37 women/20 men; mean age 66 ±10 years) from 9 hospitals in Spain. Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics are shown in Table 1. All patients had received disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) before JAKI (Methotrexate (49,86%), Leflunomide (37, 65%), Sulphasalazine (14, 25%), Hydroxychloroquine (13, 23%), Abatacept (32, 56%), Tocilizumab (14, 25%) and Rituximab (10,18%). Most patients were on BARI (29, 51%), Hydroxychloroquine (13, 23%), Abatacept (32, 56%), Tocilizumab (17, 30%), Methotrexate (49, 86%) and Leflunomide (37, 65%) and sparing corticosteroids effect. Conclusions: JAKI, especially BARI, may be useful and safe in controlling the course of both pulmonary and joint disease in RA-ILD patients, even in refractory cases.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of RA-ILD patients treated with JAKI.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RA-ILD with JAKI (n=57)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker ever, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since ILD diagnosis, months, median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC (% of the predicted), mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO (% of the predicted), mean±SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP-like fibrotic pattern on HRCT, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint activity n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of JAKI, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib (TOFA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filgotinib (FILGO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous immunosuppressive therapy, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant immunosuppressive therapy,n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant antifibrotic therapy, n (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ACPA, anti-citrullinated protein antibodies; DLCO, diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide; DMARD, disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; FVC, forced vital capacity; HRCT, high-resolution computed tomography; ILD, interstitial lung disease; JAKI, JAK inhibitor; RA, rheumatoid arthritis; RF, rheumatoid factor; UIP, usual interstitial pneumonia.

Figure 1. Evolution of pulmonary function tests (mean % of the predicted FVC and DLCO) in RA-ILD patients with BARI therapy at baseline and 24 months.

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5209
As-treated analysis

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<th>IR [95% CI]</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>PY</th>
<th>IR [95% CI]</th>
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<td>Serious bacterial infection</td>
<td>4682</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunistic infection</td>
<td>4686</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herpes zoster</td>
<td>4686</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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365-day ITT

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<tr>
<td>Serious zoster</td>
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</table>

Table 1. Demographic, clinical and biochemical characteristics of 81 rheumatoid arthritis patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Parameters</th>
<th>Tofacitinib (n=41)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=40)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>56.13±7.95</td>
<td>54.8±8.4</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender: M/F (n)</td>
<td>06/35</td>
<td>06/34</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kgtm2)</td>
<td>26.71±3.33</td>
<td>25.08±4.17</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Duration (yrs)</td>
<td>14.28±6.85</td>
<td>13.7±6.6</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF Positive</td>
<td>29 (48.33%)</td>
<td>30 (50.84%)</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti CCP</td>
<td>15 (25%)</td>
<td>13 (22%)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systolic Blood Pressure (mm Hg)</td>
<td>124.3±7.52</td>
<td>122.2±6.89</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic Blood Pressure (mm Hg)</td>
<td>79.38±5.16</td>
<td>76.84±4.52</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm 1hr)</td>
<td>38.84±16.03</td>
<td>39.2±17.14</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dl)</td>
<td>20.15±20.82</td>
<td>18.16±12.25</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 (5.1)</td>
<td>5.4±2.19</td>
<td>5.4±2.3</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.49±0.54</td>
<td>0.59±0.70</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results: At baseline, endothelial function was impaired and levels of inflammatory measures were elevated and HAQ-DI was impaired in both groups. After treatment, FMD improved significantly in the tofacitinib group from (6.6±2.13 to 8.17±2.69, p=0.0001) as compared to placebo (6.36±3.01% to 6.84±2.95%, p=0.68) (Figure 1A). DAS28 (Figure 1B), ESR and CRP levels improved significantly in tofacitinib group as compared to placebo (p<0.05). TOFA significantly decreased HAQ-DI (Figure 1C) values as compared to placebo. There was no MACE or VTE event during the study period in either group. After 12 weeks of treatment, FMD increased by 23.04% where as DAS28, ESR and CRP decreased by 31.23%, 29% and 60% respectively in the TOFA group (Figure 1D). Significant negative correlation was observed between FMD and CRP (r=0.32, p<0.05) before and after (r=-0.34, p<0.05) treatment with TOFA whereas no such correlations were found in placebo group.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-earl.5291
Conclusion: TOFA, apart from its anti-inflammatory activity, improves endothelial dysfunction and cardiovascular risk in active RA without clinical overt cardiovascular disease. Thus, JAK inhibition with TOFA has vasculoprotective and cardioprotective effects mediated through anti-inflammatory and probably other mechanisms.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6002

POS0839 AGOMELATINE IDENTIFIED FROM THE FDA-APPROVED DRUG LIBRARY IS THERAPEUTIC AGAINST COLLAGEN INDUCED ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

Y. Chen1,2, Y. Tian1, H. Liu1,2, Q. Li1, Z. Luo1, G. Yin1, Q. Xie1. 1West China Hospital, Sichuan University; Department of Rheumatology and Immunology; Chengdu, China; 2West China Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology; Chengdu, China

Background: Treatment effect of tumor necrosis factor α (TNFα) inhibitors is still low in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), around 50%-70%. Thus more drugs by targeting proliferation of synovial fibroblasts (FLS) and TNFα induced inflammatory cytokine production are needed. Repurposed use of drugs that have been used in clinic is a quick and cost-effective way to find new drugs.

Objectives: This study aims to screen drugs that could inhibit the proliferation and inflammation induced by TNFα in FLS from FDA approved on market drug library, then to assess the treatment effect of the identified drugs on collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) mouse model.

Methods: CCK8 assay was performed to screen the drugs that could inhibit FLS proliferation, followed by qRT-PCR and ELISA to select the drugs that could suppress TNFα induced inflammatory cytokine production. Then, treatment effects of the identified drugs were assessed in CIA mouse model.

Results: The first and second round drug library screening aimed to select out the drugs that could inhibit the proliferation of FLS. Results showed, from 1815 drugs, 372 drugs were identified at the initial screening (Figure 1A) and 121 drugs were identified from the second screening (Figure 1B). The third round screening was performed to screen the drugs that could inhibit TNFα-induced inflammation, and results showed that a total of 77 drugs could inhibit mRNA expression levels of both IL-6 and IL-8 by over 50%, and 64 drugs could suppress secretion levels of both IL-6 and IL-8 for more than 20% (Figure 1C-F). Then a total of 14 drugs that were not anti-cancer drugs were used to further confirm the inhibitory effect on the TNFα induced inflammation, and results showed only Agomelatine (AOM), Cinacalcet (CCC), Amlodipine (ALM), Simvastatin (SV), and Pindolol (PDL) could suppress mRNA expression and secretion levels of IL-6, IL-8 (Figure 1G-J). As highly proliferated FLS and inflammatory cytokines play a critical role in the pathology of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), we tested the treatment effect of AOM, CCC, ALM, SV, and PDL in the CIA mouse model. Results showed that AOM (5mg/kg), CCC (10mg/kg), and PDL (10mg/kg) had a trend to reduce the clinical score but did not reach statistical meaning while SV (10mg/kg) did not show any treatment effect. Whereas, AOM (10mg/kg) could effectively alleviate the swelling of the the joint, which was as effective as the positive control drug methotrexate (MTX) (Figure 1K).

Conclusion: Agomelatine indentified from the FDA approved drug library could inhibit FLS proliferation and TNFα induced inflammation, and was therapeutic against CIA mouse model.

Acknowledgements: This study is supported by Sichuan Science and Technology Program (2021JDRDC0045 and 2021YFS0164), Post-doctoral Research and Development Fund of West China Hospital of Sichuan University (2019XBXH090), and National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 82201985).
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.147

POS0839 THE COMPARISON OF MALIGNANCY RISK BETWEEN JAK INHIBITORS AND TNF INHIBITORS IN MULTI-CENTER COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Rheumatoid arthritis, Safety

T. Uchida1,2, N. Iwamoto2, S. Fukui2,3, S. Morimoto2, T. Aramaki2, F. Shomura1, K. Aratake1, K. Eguchi1, Y. Ueki2, A. Kawakami2, 1Ureshino Medical Center, Rheumatology, Ureshino, Japan; 2Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Science, Immunology and Rheumatology, Division of Advanced Preventive Medical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan; 3Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, General Medicine, Nagasaki, Japan; 4Nagasaki University Hospital, Clinical Research Center, Nagasaki, Japan; 5Hakujukai Sasebo Chuo Hospital, Rheumatology, Nagasaki, Japan

Background: Ytterberg et al. demonstrated the concern about the incidence of malignancy during treatment with tofacitinib [1]. However, there is few published data of such adverse events in clinical settings.

Objectives: We aimed to compare the incidence of malignancies in RA patients treated with JAK inhibitors and TNF inhibitors in real-world settings.

Methods: We enrolled 499 RA patients treated with JAK inhibitors (tacitinib, n=192 or baricitinib, n=104) or TNF inhibitors (adalimumab, n=88 or etanercept, n=115). The standardized incidence ratio (SIR) of malignancies were determined using the general Japanese population. After adjusting the clinical characteristic imbalance by propensity score weighting, we compared the risk of malignancy between JAK inhibitors and TNF inhibitors using Cox proportional hazard models.

Results: Observational period was 961.9 patient-years (PY), and median observation period was 1.3 years. We identified 11 cases (3.7%) of malignancies in JAK inhibitors and 4 cases (2.0%) in TNF inhibitors. The SIR for overall malignancies were comparable with general population (0.94, 95%CI: 0.26–2.41), and the SIR in JAK inhibitors was higher than the general population but no significant difference (1.61/100PY, 95%CI: 0.80–2.88). The adjusted hazard ratio was 0.38 (95%CI: 0.09–1.55) between JAK inhibitors and TNF inhibitors in the risk of malignancies (Figure 1).

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Conclusion: We demonstrated that the incidence of malignancy in JAK inhibitors was numerically high but not significant compared with general population and TNF inhibitors.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Characteristics at the time of starting JAKi or IL-6i treatment by the PS-matching method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAKi (n=71)</th>
<th>IL-6i (n=71)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female, %</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>81.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, y</td>
<td>66 (53, 74)</td>
<td>67 (56, 74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, y</td>
<td>15 (7.6, 25.7)</td>
<td>11.3 (3.4, 21.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m²</td>
<td>22.5 ± 3.8</td>
<td>22.5 ± 3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine kinase, IU/L</td>
<td>56 (41, 87)</td>
<td>58 (40, 84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF, %</td>
<td>77.9</td>
<td>81.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dL</td>
<td>1.23 (0.34, 2.98)</td>
<td>1.34 (0.42, 3.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28ESR</td>
<td>5.06 ± 1.45</td>
<td>5.00 ± 1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mHAQ</td>
<td>0.625 (0.125, 1.250)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.125, 1.125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m²</td>
<td>75.1 (60.8, 88.3)</td>
<td>71.4 (54.4, 89.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid, % (mg)</td>
<td>38.0 (4.3 ± 2.6)</td>
<td>38.6 (5.3 ± 3.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are shown as means ± standard deviation (SD) or medians (25th, 75th percentile).

POS0841\n
EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF UPADACITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PRIOR TNF- THERAPY IN GERMANY. FINAL RESULTS FROM A POST-MARKETING OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis


BACKGROUND: The efficacy and safety of Upadacitinib (UPA), a selective Janus kinase inhibitor (JAKi) for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) have been reported in clinical trials [1]. The IL-6 signals via the JAK-STAT pathway. However, it is not known whether the CK elevation is due to JAKi alone or to IL-6 inhibitor (IL-6i) as well.

OBJECTIVES: The objective was to examine whether the CK elevation is specific to JAKi therapy or similar to IL-6i therapy by propensity score (PS)-matching.

METHODOLOGY: A multicenter database of JAKi (n=168) and IL-6i (n=113) treatment comparisons are presented as number of events per 100 patient-years, including those significantly negatively related were stage, class, mHAQ, eGFR, and PSL dosage.

Conclusion: CK elevation was greater with JAKi treatment at 4W and maintained until 24W than with IL-6i treatment in RA patients with adjustment for background characteristics. The CK elevation might be specific to JAKi treatment. The mechanism needs to be clarified in the future.

REFERENCE:
REFERENCES:


Figure 1. Proportion of patients attaining specified effectiveness criteria after 12 months

Table 1. Frequency of categorized adverse events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number Events/100 PY</th>
<th>(total)</th>
<th>Events/100 PY (prior TNFi, N=262)</th>
<th>Events/100 PY (ts/bDMARD-naive, N=209)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any AE</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>104.4 [95.1 – 114.3]</td>
<td>117.3 [103.5 – 125.2]</td>
<td>84.9 [71.8 – 99.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE leading to discontinuation (total)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>27.0 [22.4 – 32.3]</td>
<td>30.2 [23.4 – 38.4]</td>
<td>21.8 [15.4 – 29.9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discontinuation due to lack of efficacy</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>7.6 [5.3 – 10.6]</td>
<td>8.6 [5.2 – 13.4]</td>
<td>4.6 [2.0 – 9.0]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AE: Any adverse event; SAE: Serious adverse event; regimen changes: (a) MTX; (b) combination MTX; and (c) combination cDMARDs.

Acknowledgements: AbbVie funded this study, contributed to its design, participated in data collection, analysis and interpretation of data. AbbVie and the authors thank all study investigators for their contributions and all patients that participated in this study. No honoraria or payments were made for authorship. Medical writing support was provided by Dr. Matthias Engbrecht and was funded by AbbVie. Statistical analysis was provided by Dr. Daniela Adolf, StatConsult GmbH, which was funded by AbbVie.

Disclosure of Interests: Torsten Witte Grant/research support from: Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Chugai, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Mylan, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB; Utz Kitz Consultant of: Consultant of: AbbVie, Bocad, Eli Lilly and Company, Grünenthal, Hexal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Grant/support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Fresenius, GSK, Hexal, Novartis, and Pfizer, Florian Haas Consultant of: Consultant of: AbbVie, Celgene, Chugai, Janssen, Novartis, and Pfizer, and Sanofi Genzyme, Elke Riechers Consultant of: Consultant of: AbbVie, Chugai, Novartis, Janssen and UCB, Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Chugai, Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Daniela Adolf Employee of: Daniela Adolf Employee of StatConsult and may own stock or options, Klaus Krueger Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Biogen, BMS, Celtrion, Gilead, Hexal, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB.

Conclusion: In a real-world setting, UPA demonstrated comparable effectiveness and safety in prior TNFi patients, ts/bDMARD-naive patients and the overall patient population.

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Epidemiology.

Background: Janus Kinase inhibitors (JAK) and biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) are routinely used in the management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients for whom conventional (c)DMARDs have failed. The use of glucocorticoids after DMARD initiation and the influence of comedication on treatment persistence, used as a surrogate for treatment effectiveness, remains unknown.

Objectives: To assess glucocorticoids usage after treatment initiation and to compare the impact of comedication on the persistence of JAK and bDMARDs in Australian RA patients.

Methods: A retrospective observational study was conducted among 4,521 RA patients in the Australian Medicare Database (from 2011 to 2022), aged ≥18 and for whom a JAKI or bDMARDs were dispensed. A deidentified 10% sample of the database was taken as a random representation of RA patients in Australia. Kaplan-Meier analysis was used to calculate drug persistence rates, defined as the time from treatment initiation until the date of the last dose when there had not been a script dispensed for 6 months. Wilcoxon Singed Rank test was used to compare glucocorticoid dose changes from 1-year prior to 1 and 1 – 2 years after initiation of the DMARDs. Only patients who had persisted on DMARDs for 2 years were included for analysis. Log-rank test was used to compare time on a particular DMARDs treatment between the following sub-groups: (a) monotherapy; (b) combination MTX; and (c) combination cDMARDs.

Results: A total of 634 met the inclusion criteria for the glucocorticoids analyses, average dose of glucocorticoids decreased from 4.1 mg/day at 1 year prior to initiation of DMARD, to 2.9 mg/day and 2.0 mg/day at 1- and 1–2-years post-initiation, respectively (Figure 1). Daily dose changes were statistically significant for all RA DMARDs combined, tofacitinib and baricitinib combined (1–2 years post initiation only), TNFi, abatacept, and tocilizumab. The proportion of patients with a decrease in glucocorticoids dose from 1 year prior to 1 and 1–2 years after DMARD initiation was 56% and 70% for all ‘DMARDs’ (n=634), 35% and 52% for baricitinib (n=23), 58% and 63% for tocilizumab, 59% and 61% for abatacept (n=87), 65% and 78% for tocilizumab (n=148), and 62% and 70% for TNFi (n=387), respectively. For each drug individually, treatment persistence rates were higher in combination with MTX and in combination with other cDMARDs, compared to monotherapy (Table 1). Statistical significance was only reached when comparing baricitinib combined with cDMARD to monotherapy baricitinib (65% [p=0.04] vs 52%), tofacitinib combined with MTX and combined with other cDMARDs to monotherapy tofacitinib (56% [p=0.01] and 55% [p=0.01] vs 45% and 45%); and TNFi combined with MTX and combined with other cDMARDs to monotherapy TNFi (63% [p=0.0001] and 65% [p=0.0001] vs 43%).

Conclusion: This real-world data showed that among Australian RA patients glucocorticoids dosage decreased with JAKI and bDMARD use. When treatment was compared with MTX or other cDMARDs persistence rates were not sig. diff. when comparing upadacitinib, baricitinib and TNFi. Tofacitinib had similar persistence rates to TNFi.

Average daily glucocorticoids usage.
Results: Mean age, the proportion of females and disease duration were similar across all groups. Improvements in efficacy outcome measures were seen for all groups. Baseline (median interquartile range [IQR]) CDAI was highest (worst) in Group 5 (52 [48, 60]), followed by Group 1 (49 [44, 53]). Groups 1 and 3 showed a rapid reduction in CDAI in the first 6 months and sustained response over 12 months. Groups 2, 4 and 5 demonstrated slower response trajectories, with continued improvements in the proportion of CDAI responders between 6 and 12 months; of note, Group 5 constituted 16.8% (80/475) of the total analysis population. Table 1 shows that despite substantial and comparable improvements in CDAI components across all 5 groups over 12 months, Group 5 demonstrated some residual disease activity.

Conclusion: A group-based multivariate trajectory model identified 5 distinct CDAI disease activity trajectories in patients from FINCH 1 receiving FIL200. Patients in all groups demonstrated either fast and sustained response or slower and continued improvements, with no or low numbers of swollen or tender joints at Month 12. The current analysis suggests that patients who do not achieve CDAI LDA within 6 months may still benefit from treatment continuation and informs a range of expectations for times to clinical response. Future work will assess biomarker profiles that may be used to predict the observed clinical response patterns.

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Disclosure of Interests: Lieke Scheepers Grant/research support from: ASPIRE Foundation.

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POS0843

DISTINCT TREATMENT RESPONSES IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS RECEIVING FILGOTINIB 200 MG OVER 12 MONTHS: A POST HOC ANALYSIS OF FINCH 1

Keywords: Remission, Rheumatoid arthritis

P. C. Taylor1, Y. Tanaka2, E. Aiello3, T. Debray4, C. Watson5, K. Harris6, G. R. Burmester7, 1Botnar Research Centre, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom; 2University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Kitakyushu, Japan; 3Cytel, Real-world Analytics, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; 4Galapagos NV, Biostatistics, Mechelen, Belgium; 5Galapagos Biotech Ltd, Medical Affairs, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 6Galapagos NV, Medical Affairs, Mechelen, Belgium; 7Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany

Background: FINCH 1 (NCT02885796) was a Phase 3 randomised controlled trial evaluating filgotinib (FIL) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and an inadequate response to methotrexate (MTX).[1] Patients received background MTX and were randomized 3:3:2:3 to FIL 200 mg (FIL200), FIL 100 mg, adalimumab or placebo.

Objectives: To identify patterns of response trajectory over 12 months in patients from FINCH 1 receiving FIL200.

Methods: Group-based trajectory modeling is a statistical method which groups individuals based on similar patterns of change in an outcome over time.[2] A group-based trajectory modeling approach was applied to identify five distinct phenotypic groups in terms of observed clinical disease activity index (CDAI) outcomes (and components) over a 12-month period (Figure 1). Responders were recorded as either low disease activity (LDA) or remission, defined as CDAI between 2.9 and 10, or ≤2.8, respectively, at 6 or 12 months.

Table 1. Efficacy outcomes from baseline to Month 12 in phenotypic patient groups receiving FIL200: CDAI components.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
<th>Group 3</th>
<th>Group 4</th>
<th>Group 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGADA</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-month abs change</td>
<td>(60, 84)</td>
<td>(52, 78)</td>
<td>(46, 72)</td>
<td>(66, 85)</td>
<td>(67, 89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-month value</td>
<td>(44, 70)</td>
<td>(20, 50)</td>
<td>(33, 66)</td>
<td>(21, 56)</td>
<td>(20, 59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhGADA</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-month abs change</td>
<td>(61, 80)</td>
<td>(52, 71)</td>
<td>(49, 68)</td>
<td>(63, 82)</td>
<td>(64, 88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-month value</td>
<td>(44, 71)</td>
<td>(20, 51)</td>
<td>(33, 66)</td>
<td>(21, 56)</td>
<td>(20, 59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-month value</td>
<td>(1, 10)</td>
<td>(4, 17)</td>
<td>(1, 9)</td>
<td>(8, 31)</td>
<td>(9, 36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-month abs change</td>
<td>(11, 18)</td>
<td>(6, 9)</td>
<td>(6, 11)</td>
<td>(8, 12)</td>
<td>(12, 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-month value</td>
<td>(10, 18)</td>
<td>(5, 8)</td>
<td>(6, 10)</td>
<td>(7, 12)</td>
<td>(10, 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI responders (LDA and remission), n (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-months</td>
<td>79 (92)</td>
<td>66 (78)</td>
<td>122 (99)</td>
<td>11 (21)</td>
<td>14 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-months</td>
<td>75 (91)</td>
<td>75 (90)</td>
<td>119 (99)</td>
<td>27 (62)</td>
<td>20 (34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are median (IQR) unless otherwise stated. abs, absolute; CDAI, clinical disease activity index; IQR, interquartile range; LDA, low disease activity; PhGADA, Physician’s Global Assessment of Disease Activity; PGADA, Patient’s Global Assessment of Disease Activity; SJC28, swollen joint count 28; TJC28, tender joint count 28.
Background: Filgotinib (FIL) is an oral Janus kinase 1 preferential inhibitor, approved for the treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In previous analyses, comparable incidence of selected adverse events (AEs) occurred in FIL 200 mg (FIL200) and 100 mg (FIL100) dose groups, except for herpes zoster.[1]

Objectives: To provide an update on FIL selected AEs up to a median (max) exposure of 3.8 (8.3) years.

Methods: Integrated FIL RA data from 7 clinical trials are reported: phase 2 (NCT01888874, NCT01894516), phase 3 (NCT02889796, NCT02873936, NCT02886728), and the long-term extension studies DARWIN 3 phase 2 (NCT02065700) and FINCH 4 phase 3 (NCT03025308). Exposure-adjusted incidence rates (EAIRs)/100 patient-years of exposure (PYE), censored at time of first event, were determined for major adverse cardiovascular event (MACE), venous thromboembolism (ASTE), arterial systemic thromboembolism, non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC), malignancies excluding NMSC, herpes zoster, serious infections and deaths. Data were as of May 2, 2022 (DARWIN 3) and May 6, 2022 (FINCH 4). MACE and VTE only include positively adjudicated events with confidence intervals overlapped between the dose groups.

Results: The as-treated population included 3691 patients with 12,541 PYE.

- **All-cause mortality**: 26 (1.6), FIL200; 21 (1.3), FIL100 (n=1647).
- **MACE**: 22 (1.3), 27 (1.2), 0.49 (0.3, 0.7), 0.34 (0.2, 0.5), FIL200 vs FIL100.
- **VTE**: 9 (0.5), 15 (0.7), 0.20 (0.1, 0.4), 0.19 (0.1, 0.3), FIL200 vs FIL100.
- **ASTE**: 1 (0.01), 1 (0.01), 0.02 (0.0, 0.1), 0.01 (0.0, 0.1), FIL200 vs FIL100.
- **NMSC**: 9 (0.5), 27 (1.2), 0.20 (0.1, 0.4), 0.34 (0.2, 0.5), FIL200 vs FIL100.
- **Malignancies**: 30 (1.8), 57 (2.5), 0.66 (0.4, 0.9), 0.71 (0.5, 0.9), FIL200 vs FIL100.
- **Herpes zoster**: 49 (2.9), 114 (5.0), 1.10 (0.8, 1.5), 1.48 (1.2, 1.8), FIL200 vs FIL100.
- **Serious infections**: 97 (5.9), 149 (6.6), 2.18 (1.8, 2.2), 1.86 (1.6, 2.2), FIL200 vs FIL100.

**Table 1. Frequencies and EAIRs of selected AEs in parent and ongoing long-term extension RA clinical trials**

**Figure. Event probability of serious infection and herpes zoster**

Conclusion: Over a maximum of 8.3 years, FIL200 and FIL100 continued to show small numerical differences in EAIRs of selected AEs between dose groups in the overall RA population. Slightly higher incidence rates for NMSC, herpes zoster and all-cause mortality were reported in the FIL200 than FIL100 group, with a higher incidence of MACE and serious infections with the lower dose; confidence intervals overlapped between the dose groups.

References:

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**POS0845**

**EFFECTS OF NINTEDANIB ON CIRCULATING BIOMARKERS IN PATIENTS WITH PROGRESSIVE FIBROSING AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE-RELATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASES**

**Keywords:** Clinical trials, Lungs, Biomarkers

T. Maher1, F. Bonella2, S. Assassi3, I. Noth4, C. Diefenbach5, C. Ittrich6, K. Rohr7, M. Kolb8, National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London, London, UK, and, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, United States of America; 9Ruhlandklinikum University Hospital, Duisburg-Essen University, Center for Interstitial and Rare Lung Diseases, Essen, Germany; 10University of Texas McGovern Medical School, Houston, Division of Rheumatology, Texas, United States of America; 11University of Virginia, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Charlottesville, United States of America; 12Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, Translational Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology, Biberach an der Riss, Germany; 13Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, Global Biostatistics and Data Sciences, Biberach an der Riss, Germany; 14Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH, TA Inflammation Medicine, Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany; 15McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare, Division of Respiratory, Hamilton, United States of America

**Background:** Data from the randomised placebo-controlled INBUILD trial in subjects with progressive fibrosing interstitial lung diseases (ILDs) other than idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis suggested that nintedanib may have effects on circulating levels of biomarkers of epithelial injury, inflammation and extracellular matrix (ECM) turnover.

**Objectives:** We investigated the effects of nintedanib on circulating biomarkers in subjects in the INBUILD trial who had pulmonary fibrosis due to autoimmune disease.

**Methods:** Subjects in the INBUILD trial who had diffuse fibrosing ILD of >10% extent on HRCT and met criteria for progression of ILD within the prior 24 months, despite management in clinical practice. Subjects were randomised to receive nintedanib or placebo, stratified by fibrotic pattern on HRCT and met criteria for progression of ILD within the prior 24 months, despite management in clinical practice. Subjects were randomised to receive nintedanib or placebo, stratified by fibrotic pattern on HRCT (usual interstitial pneumonia-like fibrotic pattern or other fibrotic patterns). Blood samples were taken at baseline and at weeks 12, 24, 36 and 52. Fold changes in adjusted mean levels of biomarkers were analysed using a linear mixed model for repeated measures. Data were log10 transformed before analysis and estimates of change from baseline were back-transformed.

**Results:** Of 663 subjects, 170 had autoimmune disease-related ILDs; 82 of these subjects received nintedanib and 88 received placebo. Over 52 weeks, there were treatment-related decreases in fold changes from baseline in levels of Krebs von den Lungen-6 (KL-6), surfactant protein D (SP-D), CA-125 (markers of epithelial injury) in subjects who received nintedanib versus placebo (Figure 1). The most pronounced difference between nintedanib and placebo was in CA-125. The effect of nintedanib on CA-125 was observed as early as week 12. Small decreases in fold changes from baseline in soluble intercellular adhesion molecule (s-ICAM) (a marker of inflammation) and in CSM and pro-C6 (markers of ECM turnover) were observed in subjects who received nintedanib versus placebo (Figure 2). No notable trends were observed for the other biomarkers assessed.

**Conclusion:** In subjects with progressive fibrosing autoimmune disease-related ILDs, nintedanib reduced circulating levels of markers of epithelial injury, with the most pronounced effect observed on CA-125. The treatment-related decreases in these markers in subjects with autoimmune disease-related ILDs were similar to those observed in subjects with other ILDs.

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**POS0846**

**EFFICACY, SAFETY, AND RECURRENCE OF IGURATIMOD COMBINED WITH CSDMARDS TREATMENT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A PROSPECTIVE REAL-WORLD STUDY**

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Clinical trials, Rheumatoid arthritis

Q. Che1,2, X. Lu2, X. Gu1,2, Y. Li2, X. Zhang3, H. Wang4, Q. Shu5,6, Qilu Hospital, Cheelo College of Medicine, Shandong University, Department of Rheumatology, Jinan, China; 7Shandong Provincial Clinical Research Center for Immune Diseases and Gout, Department of Rheumatology, Qilu Hospital, Jinan, China; 8Tianjin Medical University General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Tianjin, China; 9Yantaishan Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Yantai, China; 10Jiangsu Sincere Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Department of Marketing Management, Nanjing, China

**Background:** Iguardimod (IGU) is widely used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and has been considered the first-line treatment option in many countries. The efficacy and safety of IGU combination with conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) therapy have been...
confirmed by many studies [1]. Only a few studies focused on the long-term efficacy and safety of IGU treatment, and the maintenance strategy after short-term remission (REM) still needs to be explored.

**Objectives:** To observe the long-term efficacy, safety, and recurrence of IGU combination with csDMARDs in the treatment of active RA and the characteristics of patients who obtain the most benefit from IGU.

**Methods:** The study was conducted in China (ClinicalTrials.gov ID: NCT03855007), Patients who matched the 2010 ACR/EULAR RA criteria or the 2014 early rheumatoid arthritis (ERA) criteria [2] were recruited. According to patientsTrials.gov ID: NCT03855007, Patients who matched the 2010 ACR/EULAR RA criteria or the 2014 early rheumatoid arthritis (ERA) criteria eneniet from IGU on with convention follow-up from baseline to week 96 regularly. We divided them into three groups according to whether and when to reduce the drugs: maintained (MA), reducing the dose of IGU, MTX, and LEF after (AF) or before (BF) low disease activity (LDA), or REM was achieved. The proportion of LDA or REM of DAS28-ESR ≥ 0.6 [3], and the occurrence of adverse events (AE) were investigated. The chi-square test or long-rank test analyzed the corresponding statistical differences.

**Results:** A total of 246 patients were enrolled in this study, and 131 (53.3%) participants completed the 96-week follow-up. Efficacy analysis found that the proportion of achieving ACR20 reached a plateau after 24 weeks, while there was a sustained increase in the LDA and REM ratio of DAS28-ESR (week 24: 57.25% vs. week 96: 68.70%, p = 0.06), ACR50 (66.41% vs. 77.86%, p = 0.01) and ACR70 (22.90% vs. 41.98%, p < 0.01) (Figure 1 A, B). Further subgroup analysis revealed the expected effects of age, gender, and disease duration on whether achieved the LDA or REM at 96 weeks. Moreover, the time of IGU, MTX, and LEF reduction also played an essential role in long-term treatment. LDA or REM should be achieved before reducing the dose of IGU and csDMARDs, especially for the long-course, younger, with shorter morning stiffness RA patients. Patients were able to achieve and maintain LDA or REM and ACR50 responses better than the BE group (n=43) (Figure 1 C). There was no statistical difference in the incidence of AE between BE and AF groups (p = 0.44). During the follow-up period, 48 patients had a relapse of the disease in the AF and BE groups. The subgroup analysis found that drug reduction after REM was more recommended in patients with a diagnosis of RA (vs. ERA), disease duration ≥ 2 years, age < 45 years, and morning stiffness < 1 hour (Figure 1 D) for maintaining long-term LDA or REM (p < 0.05).

**Conclusion:** The RA patients could achieve deeper REM and sustained after long-term treatment of IGU combination with csDMARDs. LDA or REM should be achieved before reducing the dose of IGU and csDMARDs, especially for the long-course, younger, with shorter morning stiffness RA patients. IGU monotherapy was shown to be safe and effective in improving the signs and symptoms of moderate-to-severe RA through 84 weeks (wks) when administered as monotherapy in patients (pts) with a prior inadequate response to MTX in the phase 3 SELECT-MONOTHERAPY trial (NCT02706951).[1]

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs, Safety


1Medical University of Vienna, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine III, Vienna, Austria
2University of Leeds & NHR Biomedical Research Centre, Department of Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom
3Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Lebanon, United States of America
4University of Occupational and Environmental Health, School of Medicine, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan
5Quantum Research, Department of Medicine, Puerto Varas, Chile
6University of Belgrade School of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Belgrade, Serbia
7Great Lakes Clinical Trials, Department of Rheumatology, Chicago, United States of America
8AbbVie Inc., Immunology, North Chicago, United States of America
9Metroplex Clinical Research Center, Department of Rheumatology, Dallas, United States of America

**Background:** Upadacitinib (UPA), an oral JAK inhibitor, was shown to be safe and effective in improving the signs and symptoms of moderate-to-severe RA through 84 weeks (wks) when administered as monotherapy in patients (pts) with a prior inadequate response to MTX in the phase 3 SELECT-MONOTHERAPY trial (NCT02706951).[1]

**Objectives:** To evaluate the efficacy and safety of UPA monotherapy up to wk 260 from the long-term extension (LTE) of SELECT-MONOTHERAPY.

**Methods:** Pts with active RA on stable MTX were randomly assigned to either continue MTX (cMTX) or switch to UPA monotherapy at 15 mg (UPA15) or 30 mg (UPA30) once daily (QD) during the 14-wk randomized, double-blind treatment period. From wk 14, the start of the LTE, pts receiving cMTX were switched to UPA15 or UPA30 per pre-specified assignment at baseline or 15 mg (UPA15) or 30 continued their initial treatment assignment. After the study protocol was amended (13 December 2019), all pts treated with UPA30 were eventually switched to UPA15 (approved dose). Efficacy outcomes through wk 260 are presented by randomized treatment group and reported as observed and using non-responder imputation. Safety results are presented based on actual treatment received with treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) summarized per 100 pt years (PY) of exposure through a cut-off date of 10 August 2022, when all pts completed wk 260.

**Results:** Of 648 pts randomized, 299 (46%) discontinued the study drug by wk 260 primarily due to AEs (16%), consent withdrawal (12%), or other reasons (11%). At wk 260, pts on UPA maintained or further demonstrated clinical improvement across various endpoints; similar efficacy outcomes were also observed among pts who switched from cMTX to UPA15 or 30 (Table 1). As observed, over three-quarters of pts achieved low disease activity based on CDAI and DAS28-ESR at wk 260. Total PY of exposure were 1110.0 for UPA15, 812.5 for UPA30, and 300.2 for UPA15.
switched from UPA30. The most frequently reported TEAEs were urinary tract infection, creatine phosphokinase (CPK) elevation, upper respiratory tract infection, nasopharyngitis, bronchitis, and RA worsening/flare. COVID-19 pneumonia was the most common serious AE. Pts on UPA30 had higher rates of herpes zoster (HZ), hepatic disorder, neutropenia, lymphopenia, and CPK elevation than pts on UPA15; rates of serious infection and malignancy excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) were similar between UPA doses (Figure 1). Most HZ events affected 1–2 dermatomes with 2 ophthalmic (UPA15: 0.2 E/100 PY) and 1 disseminated (UPA30: 0.1 E/100 PY) cases reported. Eleven adjudicated MACE (UPA15: 0.5 E/100 PY; UPA30: 0.7 E/100 PY) and 10 adjudicated VTE (UPA15: 0.6 E/100 PY; UPA30: 0.4 E/100 PY; UPA15 switched from UPA30: 0.3 E/100 PY) all occurred in pts with ≥1 cardiovascular risk factor. Through wk 260, 16 deaths were reported (10 treatment-emergent) with 5 related to COVID-19 infection.

Conclusion: UPA monotherapy continued to be effective in treating RA signs and symptoms through wk 260. No new safety signals were identified with longer-term exposure to UPA, consistent with prior findings[1–3] and the established safety profile of UPA across indications.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Efficacy Endpoints at Week 260 (AO and NRI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response, % cMTX -&gt; UPA</th>
<th>cMTX -&gt; UPA</th>
<th>UPA 15 mg</th>
<th>UPA 30 mg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AO a</td>
<td>N = 57</td>
<td>NRI = 108</td>
<td>AO a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRI</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AO, as observed; cMTX, continue MTX; NRI, non-responder imputation; UPA, upadacitinib; "AO" response rate was calculated from patients with observed records only.

Figure. TEAEs Through 260 Weeks (E/100 PY, 95% CI)

Event | CI (95% CI)
|---|---|
| Acute AE | 1.4 (1.0, 1.8)
| Serious infection | 3.2 (2.4, 4.1)
| COVID-19 | 0.8 (0.5, 1.3)
| Opportunistic infection | 0.6 (0.3, 1.1)
| Herpes zoster | 3.2 (2.4, 4.1)

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POS0848 DISCONTINUATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF BARICITINIB IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ACCORDING TO PATIENT AGE AND PRIOR TREATMENT: 2-YEAR DATA FROM THE EUROPEAN COHORT OF THE RA-BE-REAL STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Registries, Real-world evidence

R. Alten,1 G. R. Burmester,2 C. J. Edwards,3 E. G. Fava4, I. De La Torre,5 K. Ng6, E. Haladyj7, J. Gerwien7, L. Zaremba-Pechmann8, B. Fautrel9,10
1Schlosspark Klinik, Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; 2Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 3University Hospital Southampton, NIHR Southampton Clinical Research Facility, Southampton, United Kingdom; 4Research Center for Adult and Pediatric Rheumatic Diseases, University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 5Eli Lilly and Company, Immunology, Indianapolis, United States of America; 6Eli Lilly and Company, Medical Affairs, Indianapolis, United States of America; 7Pierre Louis Institute of Epidemiology and Public Health, INSERM UMRs 1136, Paris, France; 8HaaPACS GmbH, Research and Development - Statistics, Schriesheim, Germany; 9Sorbonne Université – APHP Pitié Salpetrière Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Paris, France; 10Pierre Louis Institute of Epidemiology and Public Health, INSERM UMRs 1136, Paris, France

Background: Baricitinib (BARI), an oral selective JAK1/2 inhibitor, is approved for treating adults with moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis (RA). RA-BE-REAL is an ongoing 3-year, multinational, prospective, observational study of adult patients with RA starting BARI or any biologic or other targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (b/tsDMARD).

Objectives: To report treatment discontinuation and effectiveness in patients with RA receiving BARI or b/tsDMARD, based on prior b/tsDMARD use (experienced/naïve) and age <65 years versus ≥65 years, in Europe.

Disclosure of Interests: All authors declare no conflicts of interest.
Methods: Patients with RA initiating treatment with BARI 2 or 4 mg (cohort A) or any b/tsDMARD (cohort B) for the first time were included. The primary outcome is time to discontinuation (TTD) for any cause (excluding sustained response) at 2 years; TTD at 6 months has been published [1]. Discontinuation (Kaplan-Meier analyses and rates) and effectiveness (Clinical Disease Activity Index [CDAI] low disease activity [LDA] and remission rates) of treatment to 2 years, based on prior b/tsDMARD status (experienced/naïve) and age (<65/≥65 years) were analysed post-hoc and descriptively for cohort A and subgroups of cohort B.

Results: Key baseline characteristics of 1008 RA patients and effectiveness at 2 years for the subgroups in this analysis are shown in the Table 1. Numerically more BARI-treated patients were receiving monotherapy (Table 1). By 2 years, 31.1%, 54.7% and 47.6% of b/tsDMARD-naïve patients aged <65 years were 28.4%, 65.6% and 44.0%, b/tsDMARD experienced patients aged <65 years were 47.0%, 59.0% and 65.5% and b/tsDMARD experienced patients aged ≥65 years were 42.0%, 73.3% and 66.7%. An example of TTD is presented in the Figure 1. Consistent CDAI LDA and remission rates were observed with BARI regardless of age and prior treatment (Table 1).

Conclusion: Two-year discontinuation rates and effectiveness with BARI in a real-world setting were consistent irrespective of previous treatment or patient age.

References:


Figure. Time to discontinuation over 2 years in b/tsDMARD-naïve patients aged <65 years.

Table 1. Baseline data and effectiveness of treatment at 2 years in subgroups based on b/tsDMARD-naïve and -experienced patients aged <65 and ≥65 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Age, years</th>
<th>Male/Female</th>
<th>Duration of RA, years</th>
<th>Monotherapy</th>
<th>Baseline CDAI</th>
<th>2-year CDAI remission</th>
<th>2-year CDAI remission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naïve</td>
<td>Cohort A</td>
<td>50.8±9.5</td>
<td>120 (73.2)</td>
<td>5.8±8.4</td>
<td>23.0±11</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(&lt;65 years)</td>
<td>Cohort B</td>
<td>49.5±9.0</td>
<td>142 (74.0)</td>
<td>4.9±6.1</td>
<td>24.8±13</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.2±8.7</td>
<td>32 (76.2)</td>
<td>10.0±6.5</td>
<td>20.5±10</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65 years</td>
<td>Cohort A</td>
<td>73.6±5.7</td>
<td>63 (77.8)</td>
<td>8.0±8.0</td>
<td>23.1±14</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(&lt;65 years)</td>
<td>Cohort B</td>
<td>70.8±7.0</td>
<td>69 (75.7)</td>
<td>8.0±8.0</td>
<td>23.1±14</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.6±8.0</td>
<td>36 (76.3)</td>
<td>8.0±8.0</td>
<td>23.1±14</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced</td>
<td>Cohort A</td>
<td>51.8±9.4</td>
<td>137 (79.4)</td>
<td>5.1±8.0</td>
<td>24.6±11</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(&lt;65 years)</td>
<td>Cohort B</td>
<td>72.7±6.7</td>
<td>77 (77.0)</td>
<td>5.1±8.0</td>
<td>24.6±11</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.1±8.0</td>
<td>36 (76.3)</td>
<td>5.1±8.0</td>
<td>24.6±11</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65 years</td>
<td>Cohort A</td>
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<td>74 (69.0)</td>
<td>5.1±8.0</td>
<td>24.6±11</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(&lt;65 years)</td>
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<td>72.7±6.7</td>
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<td>5.1±8.0</td>
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<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>5.1±8.0</td>
<td>24.6±11</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Effectiveness data were not available for all patients. **Mean standard deviation** n (%) R Vin (%). * An additional 65 patients in total received other tsDMARDS (7–23 per group); data for these patients are not shown because of the small numbers.
Results: Through 5 yrs, 1417 pts were exposed to UPA (4497 pt-ys) and 579 to ADA (1472 pt-ys). UPA was generally well tolerated, with similar rates of TEAEs, serious TEAEs, TEAEs leading to discontinuation of study drug, and COVID-related TEAEs vs ADA (Figure 1). Rates of most AEs of special interest with UPA were similar vs ADA, except for numerically higher rates of herpes zoster, creatine phosphokinase elevation, lymphopenia, and hepatic disorder (mainly transaminase elevations) with UPA. In the 651 and 327 pts originally randomized to UPA and ADA, respectively, greater proportions of pts achieved CDAI LDA and remission, and DAS28(CRP) scores ≤3.2 and ≥2.6, with UPA vs ADA (Table 1). Through 192 wks, similar proportions of pts treated with UPA vs ADA had no radiographic progression; mean changes from baseline in mTSS were similar, except for a numerically smaller change with continuous UPA (Table 1).

Conclusion: The safety profile of UPA over 5 yrs was consistent with the 3-yr results and the integrated phase 3 safety analysis.[1,2] Consistent with the 3-yr analyses,[2] UPA continued to show numerically better clinical responses than ADA at 5 yrs. Radiographic progression remained similarly low through 192 wks with UPA and ADA.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Efficacy endpoints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At 5 yrs, by original randomized group (non-responder imputation)</th>
<th>UPA</th>
<th>ADA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=442</td>
<td>N=111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI ≤10</td>
<td>36.4 (32.7, 40.1)</td>
<td>26.9 (22.1, 31.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI ≤3.2</td>
<td>24.6 (21.3, 28.9)</td>
<td>18.7 (14.4, 22.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28(CRP) ≤3.2</td>
<td>34.7 (31.3, 38.4)</td>
<td>24.8 (20.1, 29.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28(CRP) &lt;2.6</td>
<td>31.8 (28.2, 35.4)</td>
<td>23.2 (18.7, 27.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At 192 wks, by treatment sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PB to UPA</th>
<th>UPA to ADA</th>
<th>UPA to ADA</th>
<th>ADA to UPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=442</td>
<td>N=111</td>
<td>N=110</td>
<td>N=109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiographic progression (change from baseline in mTSS, mean)</td>
<td>1.3 (0.8, 0.5)</td>
<td>1.7 (0.2, 0.2)</td>
<td>12.0 (0.5, 0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[95% CI]</td>
<td>(1.0, 0.9)</td>
<td>(1.1, 1.9)</td>
<td>(1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No radiographic progression (mTSS change from baseline ≤0)</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>80.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=442</td>
<td>N=111</td>
<td>N=110</td>
<td>N=109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(73.2, (76.4, 60.8, 61.0)</td>
<td>(70.2, 69.7, 81.1, 85.4)</td>
<td>(85.8, 85.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are % of pts (95% confidence interval) unless otherwise stated. *P*rescued at or before wk 26 were considered non-responders. **P**252 rescued. 159 rescued.

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POS0850 THE EFFECT OF PERIOPERATIVE JANUS KINASE INHIBITOR WITHDRAWAL ON SURGICAL SITE INFECTION AND FLARE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY: A MULTI-CENTER OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs

T. Yoshida1, A. Onishi2, Y. Hasegawa3, R. Yanai4, S. Takano5, S. Fukui6, S. Watanabe7, L. Hirahara8, A. Morinobu9,1, Kyoto University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan;1 Kyoto University, Department for Advanced Medicine for Rheumatic Disease, Kyoto, Japan;2 Kitasato University, Department of Rheumatology and Infectious Diseases, Minato City, Japan;3 Showa University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Shinagawa City, Japan;4 Keio University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Shinjuku City, Japan;5 Kyorin University Hospital, Department of Emergency and General Medicine, Mitaka, Japan;6 Nippon Medical School, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan;7 Yokohama City University, Department of Stem Cell and Immune Regulation, Yokohama, Japan

Background: To prevent surgical site infection (SSI), recent guidelines recommend a 3-day preoperative withdrawal of Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients undergoing orthopedic surgery [1]. However, there is still insufficient evidence to support this practice. On the other hand, RA flare associated with JAKi withdrawal is also an important outcome, and an appropriate withdrawal period is crucial.

Objectives: We conducted a multicenter observational study to investigate the effect of the perioperative JAKi withdrawal period on SSI and RA flares in orthopedic surgery.

Methods: Patients with RA who visited the orthopedic surgical care centers between 2018 and 2021, and underwent JAKi before orthopedic surgery were included. We defined SSI based on the United States Centers for Disease Control criteria and flare as the clinician-assessed newly appearing or worsening joint pain or swelling during JAKi discontinuation.
Results: Of 30 patients, 23 (76.7%) patients withdrew JAKI. More than half of the patients withdrew JAKI 1 day before surgery or continued it (16/30, 53.3%). The median preoperative and postoperative JAKI withdrawal periods were 1 day (interquartile ranges [IQR]: 0–3.3) and 4.5 days (0.8–11.8), respectively. Two patients (6.7%) developed SSI. Both had multiple risk factors for SSI (Figure 1). Seven out of 30 patients flared (23.3%). The postoperative withdrawal period of JAKI was significantly associated with flares (odds ratio [OR] for > 14 vs. <7 days: 8.5, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.97–74.4, p = 0.048) (Table 1). The risk of RA flare increased by 15% for each postoperative withdrawal day of JAKI (OR [95% CI]: 1.15 [1.00–1.34], p = 0.01). Conversely, the preoperative withdrawal period was not associated with flare (OR for ≥ 4 vs. < 1 day: 3.25, 95% CI: 0.46–22.9, p = 0.24).

Conclusion: Real-world data showed the incidence of SSIs is low, despite the fact that a large percentage of patients have been withdrawn JAKI 1 day prior to surgery or continued it. Patients who developed SSI had multiple risk factors regardless of the perioperative JAKI withdrawal period. Considering the risk factors for SSI, shortening the postoperative JAKI withdrawal period may be essential to prevent RA flares.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Unadjusted odds ratio of risk of flares of rheumatoid arthritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yes (n=23)</th>
<th>No (n=7)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (100)</td>
<td>20 (87)</td>
<td>not estimated</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, median [IQR]</td>
<td>69 [59, 76]</td>
<td>73 [59, 79]</td>
<td>1.00 (0.93–1.08)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years, median [IQR]</td>
<td>115 [106, 215]</td>
<td>18.6 [11.7, 25.1]</td>
<td>0.96 (0.86–1.06)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS (CRP), median [IQR]</td>
<td>3.05 [2.61, 4.60]</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>2.23 (0.66–7.53)</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX dose, median [IQR], (mg/d [IQR])</td>
<td>6 [0, 8]</td>
<td>6 [0, 8]</td>
<td>1.02 (0.80–1.29)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSL dose, median [IQR], (mg/d [IQR])</td>
<td>2 [0, 4]</td>
<td>2 [0, 4]</td>
<td>1.24 (0.89–1.72)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total JAK inhibitor withdrawal15 [9, 34] days, median [IQR]</td>
<td>4 [0, 11]</td>
<td>4 [0, 11]</td>
<td>1.00 (1.00–1.27)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Risks of surgical site infection
Table 1. Selected baseline patient characteristics and comorbidities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Total N=301</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at index date, mean (SD)</td>
<td>59.2 (12.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age groups, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;65 years</td>
<td>202 (67.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65 to 74 years</td>
<td>62 (20.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥75 years</td>
<td>37 (12.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n (%)</td>
<td>244 (81.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI, mean (SD)</td>
<td>25.4 (10.9), N=231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP, mean (SD)</td>
<td>4.8 (1.1), N=230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>11 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–5</td>
<td>86 (28.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–10</td>
<td>89 (29.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10</td>
<td>115 (38.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up, months, mean (SD)</td>
<td>79 (4.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current/ex-smoker, n (%)</td>
<td>43 (14.3)/46 (15.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, mean (SD)</td>
<td>28.0 (4.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity (BMI ≥30 kg/m²), n (%)</td>
<td>35 (11.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory bowel disease, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Patients may have ≥1 cardiovascular risk factor. BMI, body mass index; CDAI, Clinical Disease Activity Index; DAS28-CRP, Disease Activity Score for 28 joints with C-reactive protein; SD, standard deviation.

Acknowledgements: We thank the physicians and patients who participated in this study. This study was funded by Galapagos NV (Mechelen, Belgium). Publication coordination was provided by Fabien Debailleul, PhD, of Galapagos NV.


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Table 1. Demographic and disease characteristics at baseline and at first follow-up visit (T1) of RA patients treated with Filgotinib.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Baseline (n=179)</th>
<th>T1 (n=122)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokers</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgG RF/ACPA+</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS PtGA</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC28</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDAI</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HkKO-Di</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glucocorticoid</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone (mg/d)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD (in corso)</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b/tsDMARD line</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
<td>n. (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background: In the age of targeted-synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (tsDMARDs), filgotinib represents the last JAK1 inhibitor available in Europe for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Filgotinib is characterized by predominantly inhibition of JAK1 and its efficacy and safety have been highlighted by phase 2/3 studies, but no real-life data in RA are currently available.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness and safety profile of filgotinib in real-life setting in RA patients included in Italian GISEA (Group for the Study of Early Arthritis) registry.

Methods: For this study, data from RA patients treated with filgotinib recorded in Italian GISEA registry were analysed. Disease activity scores and patients reported outcomes (PROs) were compared at baseline and six months follow-up, using paired t-tests. The retention rate was estimated by the Kaplan-Meier method, while a cox regression model was used to search for possible factors influencing drug survival.

Results: One hundred and seventy-nine patients (female 89.4%, age 57.8±12 years, FR/ACPA+64.3%, current/former smoker 31.8%) included in GISEA registry started filgotinib for active RA. Most patients were taking filgotinib as second (23.5%) or further (43%) b/tsDMARDs line of treatment. Filgotinib was used in monotherapy in 66.5% of patients, while 52% were not on treatment with glucocorticoids (GCs) at baseline. All demographic and clinical data are reported in Table 1. A follow-up visit was available for 122 patients (mean time of first follow-up visit: 4±2 months). As shown in table 1, we observed a decrease of all disease activity scores and PROs. At first follow-up visit, 67.8% of patients were in remission/low disease activity according to CDAI and 65.4% according to SDAI. Kaplan-Meier analysis highlighted that drug persistence was similar either in monotherapy or combination therapy (Figure 1a), and irrespective of GCs at
Efficacy of Filgotinib (Fil) in Patients (Pts) with Rheumatoid Arthritis (Ra): Week (W) 156 Results from a Long-Term Extension (Lte) Study

Keywords: Remission, Clinical trials, Rheumatoid arthritis

2University of Manchester and NHIR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Division of Musculoskeletal & Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3Medical University of Vienna, Department of Medicine III (Division of Rheumatology), Vienna, Austria; 4University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 5ASST Gaetano Piini CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 6Montpellier University, Department of Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; 7Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine IV Munich, Germany; 8Strasbourg University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Strasbourg, France; 9University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; 10Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Servicio de Reumatologia, Santander, Spain; 11Keio University, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; 12Galapagos NV, Biostatistics, Mechelen, Belgium; 13Galapagos NV, Clinical Research, Mechelen, Belgium; 14Galapagos Biotech Ltd, Medical Affairs, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 15Galapagos GmbH, Medical Affairs, Basel, Switzerland; 16University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 17Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: In the treatment of RA, JAK inhibitors are a valuable option to meet remission or low disease activity (LDA) treatment targets following an inadequate response (IR) or intolerance to ≥1 conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD). Fil is a JAK1 preferential inhibitor available in two doses for the treatment of moderate to severe RA.

Objectives: To evaluate long-term efficacy of two doses of Fil in clinically relevant pt populations.

Methods: In this interim analysis, efficacy (non-responder imputation) of Fil 200mg (Fil200) and 100mg (Fil100) was assessed from LTE baseline (BL) to W156 in pts with an IR to methotrexate (MTX-IR) and biologics (bDMARD-IR), enrolled from FINCH 1 (NCT02889796) and 2 (NCT02873936) parent studies (PS), respectively, receiving ≥1 Fil dose in FINCH 4 (NCT03025308).

Results: Study design, BL characteristics and W48 outcomes for MTX-IR[2] and bDMARD-IR[6] pts were reported previously. For MTX-IR and bDMARD-IR pts who received Fil200 or Fil100 in the PS, W156 remission rates using Boolean 1.0 criteria were 20.5% and 15.8%, and 18.2% and 8.9%, respectively. Adopting the Boolean 2.0 criteria slightly increased remission rates for Fil200 and Fil100 at W156: +4.2% and +4.9% for MTX-IR pts, and +1.5% and +2.4% for bDMARD-IR pts, respectively. For pts rerandomized to Fil on entering the LTE, Boolean 2.0 criteria also increased remission rates vs Boolean 1.0. Both MTX-IR (Figure 1) and bDMARD-IR pts maintained long-term Boolean remission through W156 with Fil200 and Fil100, irrespective of prior Fil. Results for Disease Activity Score 28 with C-reactive protein (DAS28-CRP) ≤2.6, Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) ≤2.8, and Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI) ≤3.3, and mean change from PS BL in Health Assessment Questionnaire–Disability Index (HAQ-DI) and pain are shown (Table 1). Similar trends in efficacy were seen for LDA and ACR response criteria.

Conclusion: In FINCH 4, both Fil200 and Fil100 showed sustained efficacy up to W156 in clinically relevant pt populations. Boolean 2.0 criteria classified more pts in remission, in line with the range reported in the validation study.[3]

References:

Table 1. Efficacy in MTX-IR and bDMARD-IR pts through W156 in FINCH 4 (safety analysis set; non-responder imputation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n (%)</th>
<th>DAS28- CRP ≤2.6</th>
<th>CDAI ≤2.8</th>
<th>SDAI ≤3.3</th>
<th>Pain</th>
<th>HAQ-DI mean change (SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LTE BL</td>
<td>FIL200</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FIL100</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADA/FIL200</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30 (29.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADA/FIL100</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39 (29.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTE W156</td>
<td>FIL200</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FIL100</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADA/FIL200</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22 (21.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADA/FIL100</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21 (22.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pain and HAQ-DI: MTX-IR LTE BL FIL200/200 (n=559); LTE W156 FIL200/200 (n=414), FIL100/100 (n=405); ADA/FIL200 (n=387); ADA/FIL100 (n=83); bDMARD-IR LTE BL FIL100/100 (n=123); LTE W156 FIL200/200 (n=80); FIL100/100 (n=74); PBO/FIL200 (n=38), PBO/FIL100 (n=36). ADA, adalimumab; PBO, placebo; SD, standard deviation.

Acknowledgements: We thank the physicians and patients who participated in these studies. The FINCH studies were co-funded by Galilea Sciences Inc.
**Table 1. Hazard ratio of drug discontinuation in the b/tsDMARDs-naïve and b/tsDMARDs-experienced treatment courses. (3-year follow-up group)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>3-year follow-up group</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Univariable</td>
<td>Multivariable</td>
<td>Univariable</td>
<td>Multivariable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Naive</td>
<td>Experienced</td>
<td>Naive</td>
<td>Experienced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), per year</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98-1.00)</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98-1.00)</td>
<td>1.01 (1.00-1.02)</td>
<td>1.01 (1.00-1.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA disease duration, per year</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98-1.00)</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98-1.00)</td>
<td>1.01 (0.99-1.02)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.99-1.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High CCI (over 4)</td>
<td>0.97 (0.79-1.19)</td>
<td>1.34 (1.02-1.75)</td>
<td>1.15 (1.03-1.28)</td>
<td>1.15 (1.04-1.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX combination</td>
<td>1.16 (0.84-1.59)</td>
<td>1.10 (0.74-1.64)</td>
<td>1.23 (0.87-1.75)</td>
<td>1.23 (0.87-1.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids combination</td>
<td>1.20 (0.87-1.64)</td>
<td>1.30 (0.87-1.93)</td>
<td>1.34 (1.09-2.00)</td>
<td>1.34 (1.09-2.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated ESR (over 40mm/h)</td>
<td>1.60 (1.26-1.93)**</td>
<td>1.33 (1.06-1.67)**</td>
<td>1.42 (1.07-1.88)**</td>
<td>1.42 (1.07-1.88)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP (over 3mg/dL)</td>
<td>1.09 (0.89-1.33)</td>
<td>1.10 (0.84-1.45)</td>
<td>1.10 (0.84-1.45)</td>
<td>1.10 (0.84-1.45)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Drug Retention of Biologic and Targeted Synthetic DMARDs in Korean Seropositive Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Patients: A Real-World Single-Center Retrospective Study**

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs, bDMARD

B. W. Lee, J. J. Lee, W. L. Kim, Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Despite the approval of the new janus kinase inhibitors (JAKI) for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treatment, the real world data on the drug effectiveness of biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs) and targeted synthetic DMARDs (tsDMARDs) including recently approved JAKI is scarce, especially in Asia.

Objectives: The purpose of this single center, retrospective study was to compare the short and long-term retention rates of b/tsDMARDs including recently approved JAKI in Korean seropositive RA patients.

Methods: This study was conducted with a total of 3,158 treatment courses of 1063 seropositive RA patients who started b/tsDMARDs between 2008 and 2020 at Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital [adalimumab (ADA; n = 332), etanercept (ETN; n = 369), infliximab (IFX; n = 146), abatacept (ABT; n = 152), tocilizumab (TCZ; n = 299), tofacitinib (TOF; n = 136), and baricitinib (BAR; n = 104)]. Discontinuation after 1 year and 3 years from the first prescription of each drug was investigated. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of time to discontinuation was conducted to compare the difference in drug retention rate for each drug in b/tsDMARDs-naïve and experienced group, respectively. Patient-level predictors for drug discontinuation were evaluated by a Cox proportional hazard model.

Results: Overall 1-year drug retention rate was as follows: from 60.1% of ADA to 90.0% of TOF in the b/tsDMARDs-naïve group & from 55.2% of IFX to 84.8% of TOF in the b/tsDMARDs-experienced group. And 3-year drug retention rate was as follows: from 36.9% of IFX to 86.5% of TOF in the b/tsDMARDs-naïve group & from 31.0% of IFX to 65.4% of TCZ in the b/tsDMARDs-experienced group. The drug discontinuation seems to be affected by several factors including previous treatment history, starting year, and specific type of b/tsDMARDs, and baseline level of erythrocyte sedimentation rate.

Conclusion: Compared to before 2015, the overall drug retention rate of b/tsDMARDs increased in Korean seropositive RA patients. TCZ and JAKI are as widely used as tumor necrosis factor-alpha inhibitors, and they were less often discontinued at 1 year and 3 years from the first prescription. Especially, drug with the highest 3-year retention rate was TOF in b/tsDMARDs-naïve group, and TCZ in b/tsDMARDs-experienced group.

REFERENCE:

**Figure 1. 1 & 3-year retention rates of each drug in b/tsDMARDs naïve and experienced treatment courses with seropositive RA.**
Keywords: Safety

V. Venerito1, A. Manfredi2, A. Carletto2, S. Gentileschi2, F. Atzeni2, S. Guiducci6, C. Salvanari1, F. Lannone1, M. Sebastiani2. 1Rheumatology Unit, University of Bari ‘Aldo Moro’, Bari, Italy; 2Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine – Ionian Area, Bari, Italy; 3Rheumatology Unit, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy; 4Azienda Ospedaliero-Polvincio di Modena, Modena, Italy; 5Rheumatology Unit, Verona IT, University of Verona, Verona, Italy; 6Rheumatology Unit, Università degli studi di Siena, Siena IT, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Senese, Siena, Italy; 7Rheumatology Unit, Messina IT, University of Messina, Messina, Italy; 8Rheumatology Unit, Firenze, IT, University of Florence, Firenze, Italy; 9Radiology Unit, Bari, IT, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy

Background: The treatment to adopt when (Interstitial Lung Disease)ILD is detected in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) patients has always been a matter of debate. The management and treatment of RA-ILD is challenging because there is still little information available on this topic, and the main literature comes from observational studies. No clinical trials have been dedicated to this topic, however its consideration is increasing in guidelines. There is relatively limited data on the use of JAKi in patients with RA-associated ILD.

Objectives: The aim of this multicenter retrospective study was to investigate the effectiveness and safety of the available JAKi in patients with RA-ILD.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed patients with classified RA and RA-ILD undergoing JAKi in 6 Italian tertiary centres from April 2018 to June 2022. We included patients with at least 6 months of active therapy and one high-resolution chest tomography (HRCT) carried out within 3 months before the start of JAKi treatment. The HRCT was then compared to the most recent one carried out within 3 months before the last available follow-up appointment. We also kept track of the pulmonary function tests.

Results: We included 43 patients with RA-ILD, 23 males (53.48%) with median age (interquartile range, IQR) of 68.87 (61.46-75.78) treated with JAKi. Clinical and disease characteristics have been reported in Table 1. The median follow-up was 19.1 months (11.03–34.43). The forced vital capacity remained stable in 22/28 (78.57%) patients, improved in 3/28 (10.71%) and worsened in 3/28 (10.71%). The diffusing Capacity of Lung for Carbon Monoxide showed a similar trend, remaining stable in 18/25 (72%) patients, improving in 2/25 (8%) and worsening in 5/25 (20%). The HRCT remained stable in 37/43 (86.05) cases, worsened in 4/43 (9.30%) and improved in the last 2 (4.65%) (Figure 1).

Table 1. Patient characteristics at Treatment Baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Av Obs.</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>68.87 (61.46-75.78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>23 (53.48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Duration, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>12.66 (7.61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD duration, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5.55 (5.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>19.1 (14.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>38 (88.37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35 (81.40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRCT pattern, n (%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 (58.14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSIP</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 (11.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIP</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 (4.65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPFE</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (2.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indeterminate</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 (23.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline DLCO, mean (SD)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>65.81 (16.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline FVC, mean (SD)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>88.76 (24.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed JAKi, n (%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baricitinib</td>
<td></td>
<td>28 (65.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filgotinib</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 (6.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 (20.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upadacitinib</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 (6.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of DMARD before JAKi, n (%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td></td>
<td>32 (74.41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leflunomide</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 (6.97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFalpha inhibitors</td>
<td></td>
<td>19 (44.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td></td>
<td>12 (27.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abatacept</td>
<td></td>
<td>16 (38.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tocilizumab</td>
<td></td>
<td>13 (30.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAKi + Methotrexate, n (%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16 (37.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids n(%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>26 (60.47)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions: This study seems to confirm that JAKi therapy might be a safe therapeutic option for patients with RA-ILD.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4122
Background: Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) have been licensed for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and currently there is limited evidence of differences among the four available molecules while real-world data are needed for safety and efficacy.

Objectives: To investigate the efficacy and safety of approved JAKi and analyze the relationship between the patients’ baseline characteristics and drug survival.

Methods: This is a retrospective study on patients treated in 2021-2022 with tofacitinib, baricitinib, upadacitinib, or filgotinib for RA or with tofacitinib, baricitinib, or upadacitinib for PsA as first or subsequent line of therapy after the failure of one or more conventional DMARD. We collected demographic and clinical data including clinimetric indices and registered the presence of comorbidities, smoking, and previous DMARDs.

Results: The study included 205 patients (81% women) who started or continued a JAKi for RA or PsA between January 2021 and October 2022 (Table 1) and were followed until the cutoff on October 31, 2022 for a median of 24 (interquartile range 12-40) months for a total observation of 431 patients-years. One hundred-two (50%) patients received the JAKi as first-line treatment and 108 (53%) as monotherapy. At the last available observation, 144 (72%) patients still on JAKi, 27% with 54 (20%) reporting a temporary discontinuation of the therapy, in 69% of cases due to bacterial or viral infections of the upper respiratory tract. Forty-one (20%) patients stopped the JAKi for inefficacy, in 18 (44%) being a primary failure. Eighteen serious adverse events were registered at univariate analysis in bio-naïve patients (p=0.002) but none required the discontinuation of the JAKi. Better retention rates were observed in patients treated with JAK1i (73.6%), oJAKi (63.6%) and oMOA (54.7%) compared to TNFi (67.3%), oJAKi (63.6%) and oMOA (54.7%) with respect to JAK1i. Multivariate analysis confirmed that receiving JAK1i as monotherapy (p=0.04, odds ratio 2.01, 95% confidence interval 1.03-3.94) is associated with a longer treatment duration, opposite to having failed one bDMARD before receiving a JAKi (p=0.001, odds ratio 0.29, 95% confidence interval 0.14-0.6), irrespective of gender, age, and disease duration. Having RA or PsA did not impact the treatment duration.

Conclusion: Irrespective of the diagnosis of RA or PsA, JAKi cumulatively have the best treatment duration when used as monotherapy or as first line before a bDMARD. The safety and efficacy profiles did not differ significantly between RA and PsA, albeit a limited number of patients were included in the latter group.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4140

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (n=205)</th>
<th>RA (n=187)</th>
<th>PsA (n=18)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Age (years) (median; IQR)</td>
<td>62 (53-71)</td>
<td>61.9 (54-72)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female gender [n (%)]</td>
<td>166 (81%)</td>
<td>152 (81%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race [n (%)]</td>
<td>117 (57%)</td>
<td>117 (63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA positive [n (%)]</td>
<td>121 (59%)</td>
<td>121 (65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>JAKi duration (median; IQR)</td>
<td>24 (12-40)</td>
<td>28 (13-41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs naive [n (%)]</td>
<td>102 (50%)</td>
<td>97 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAKi therapy [n (%)]</td>
<td>108 (53%)</td>
<td>99 (53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baricitinib [n (%)]</td>
<td>123 (60%)</td>
<td>122 (65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upadacitinib [n (%)]</td>
<td>46 (22%)</td>
<td>46 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib [n (%)]</td>
<td>18 (9%)</td>
<td>17 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filgotinib [n (%)]</td>
<td>18 (9%)</td>
<td>18 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous or current smoker [n (%)]</td>
<td>61 (30%)</td>
<td>58 (31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity [n (%)]</td>
<td>46 (22%)</td>
<td>37 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension [n (%)]</td>
<td>69 (34%)</td>
<td>65 (35%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes [n (%)]</td>
<td>13 (6%)</td>
<td>13 (7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous Venous Thromboembolism [n (%)]</td>
<td>5 (2%)</td>
<td>4 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary Artery Disease [n (%)]</td>
<td>19 (9%)</td>
<td>18 (10%)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Table 1. Characteristics of RA patients treated with b/tsDMARDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>TNFi (171)</th>
<th>Other MOA (192)</th>
<th>Prevalent JAKi (129)</th>
<th>Other JAKi (88)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(64 ABA, 88</td>
<td>(85 abatacept, 99</td>
<td>(78 upadacitinib, 55</td>
<td>(59 baricitinib,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TCZ, 20 sarilumab)</td>
<td>51 filgotinib)</td>
<td>54 tofacitinib)</td>
<td>33 tofacitinib)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>56 (13)</td>
<td>58 (12)</td>
<td>55 (12)</td>
<td>58 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n(%)</td>
<td>143 (83.6)</td>
<td>156 (81.3)</td>
<td>118 (84.4)</td>
<td>71 (80.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositivity, n,</td>
<td>108 (74)</td>
<td>123 (81.3)</td>
<td>100 (90.9)**</td>
<td>50 (67.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(78)</td>
<td>(85)</td>
<td>(78)</td>
<td>(55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosive arthritis</td>
<td>80 (46.8)</td>
<td>99 (51.6)</td>
<td>96 (53.5)</td>
<td>48 (54.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities count,</td>
<td>0 (0-1)</td>
<td>1 (0-2)*</td>
<td>1 (0-2)*</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>median (IGR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>csDMARD, n, (%)</td>
<td>119 (69.6)</td>
<td>132 (68.8)</td>
<td>87 (67.4)</td>
<td>55 (66.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid, n,</td>
<td>3.9 (3.3)</td>
<td>4.2 (4.0)</td>
<td>6.2 (3.9)</td>
<td>5.5 (2.0)</td>
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<td>daily, mean (SD)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biologic, n, (%)</td>
<td>99 (57.9)</td>
<td>83 (43.2)*</td>
<td>66 (51.2)**</td>
<td>51 (58)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid dose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-cEULAR, mean</td>
<td>12.2 (3.1)</td>
<td>13.2 (3.7)</td>
<td>11.9 (3.2)</td>
<td>12.1 (3.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| pGA: physician global assessment; pGA: patient global assessment; VAS: visual analogue scale
| pHGA: physician global assessment; pGA: patient global assessment; VAS: visual analogue scale
| p<0.05 vs TNFi; p<0.05 vs other MOA; p<0.05 vs other JAKi

Conclusion: Our study highlighted good effectiveness and safety of new and old b/tsDMARDs in Apulian cohort of RA patients included in BIOPURE registry. Of note, despite more than half patients starting JAKi or oJAKi who were multi-failure, they showed a similar drug survival compared to those on TNFi who were predominantly biologic-naive.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4387

Figure 1. A) Retention rate in ACPA positive versus ACPA negative patients. B) Retention rate in first-line versus second or further lines of therapy.

Acknowledgements: We thank the physicians and patients who participated in these studies.

Disclosure of Interests: Martina Biggiogero: Speakers bureau: Galapagos, Elisa Gremese: None declared, Serena Bugatti: None declared, Andrea Manfredi: None declared, Simone Parisi: None declared, Chiara Bazzani: None declared, Ennio Giulio
Keywords: Systematic review, Safety, Randomized control trial

Background: JAK inhibitors (JAKi) are a new class of drugs developed for the treatment of different immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMIDs). Thrombotic events have been reported in some long-term extension studies as adverse effects. As a consequence, in 2017 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inserted a black box warning in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for Baricitinib, stating that it should be used with caution in patients at increased risk of thrombosis [1]. A similar warning was issued by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2019 for Tofacitinib [2].

Methods: RCTs on the efficacy and safety of JAKi in IMIDs patients were identified by electronic search of the MEDLINE and EMBASE database until October 2022. Risk of bias was assessed according to Cochrane criteria. All JAKi and all IMIDs were included in the main analysis. Venous and arterial TE events (deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, unusual site thrombosis, superficial venous thrombosis, stroke, transient ischemic attack, coronary ischaemic events and peripheral artery ischaemia) and major adverse cardiac events have been reported from the safety analysis of the different RCTs. Studies which did not report any information on the cardiovascular safety profile in the paper or supplementary materials were excluded. Differences in thrombotic outcomes among groups were expressed as pooled odds ratios (OR). Owing to the limited number of studies, we did not perform a meta-regression analysis. The meta-analysis was calculated using the fixed-effect model.

Results: One phase I, 21 phase II, 3 phase II-III and 36 phase III RCTs on Rheumatoid Arthritis (32.8%), Atopic Dermatitis (22.9%), Psoriasis (11.5%), Inflammatory Bowel Disease (11.5%), Psoriatic Arthritis (9.8%), Ankylosing Spondylitis (6.6%) and Lupus Erythematosus (4.9%) were included, for a total of 19,443 patients in the JAKi group (Abrocitinib, Baricitinib, Brepocitinib, Deucravacitinib, Filgotinib, Ivarmacitinib, Peficitinib, Tofacitinib and Upadacitinib) and 9,073 in the placebo group. Thirty-one (unweighted rate 0.16%) TE events were reported in the JAKi group and 20 (unweighted rate 0.22%) in the control group in an unweighted mean follow-up of 16.8 weeks. IMIDs patients treated with JAKi had an increased TE risk compared to IMIDs patients treated with placebo (OR 0.69 [95% CI, 0.44–1.10, I² 0%] at fixed-effect model) (Figure 1). No clinically relevant results were seen among different IMIDs and drugs. The ORs of venous and arterial TE events were respectively 0.61 (95% CI, 0.32–1.15, I² 0%) and 0.78 (95% CI, 0.41–1.48, I² 0%) at fixed-effect model. The incidence of MACE in an unweighted mean follow-up of 16.8 weeks was 0.78 (95% CI, 0.41–1.48, I² 0%) at fixed-effect model.

Conclusion: Despite our study has some limits like the short duration of the RCTs, the different inclusion criteria, permitted concomitant therapies, mean age and mean disease activity, we did not find any evidence that JAKi increase the risk of venous and arterial TE events and MACE. The performed sub-analysis did not find any correlation between the use of any JAKi and TE events in any considered IMID, even if the meta-analysis is likely underpowered (i.e. I² > 50%) to highlight statistically significant differences of the incidence of TE events between different diseases and different JAKi. JAKi do not increase TE risk compared to placebo in IMIDs patients enrolled in phase II/III RCTs.

Acknowledgements: Andrea Zaffaroni took part in this study as participant to the scientific research training project for medical students of the University of Insubria, Italy, named ‘Recruiting and training physicians-scientists to empower translational research. A multilevel transdisciplinary approach focused on methodology, ethics and integrity in biomedical research - 2018-2023’ and funded by Fondazione Cariplo, Italy.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5320
Results: JAKI were administered to 347 patients for an average of 64.5 weeks. There were 75 cases (21.6%) who discontinued the JAKI due to insufficient effect. Of the cases in which JAKI were discontinued, 45 (60.0%) were in the bDMARD switcher group, 22 (29.3%) were in the JAK cycler group, and 8 (10.7%) were switched to csDMARD alone. The continuation rate of the next treatment in the bDMARD switcher group and the JAK cycler group was 77.8% and 89.0% at week 12, respectively, with no significant difference (Log-rank p=0.2806). The CDAI improvement rates in swticher group and the JAK cycler group were 43.5% and 46.2%, respectively, at week 12, with no significant difference (Wilcoxon p=0.697). There was no significant difference in the CDAI improvement rate according to the treatment class and the number of b/tsDMARDs between the two groups (p>0.05). CDAI improvement rate with each of following b/tsDMARDs were TNFi=48.2%, IL-6i=30.0%, abatacept=42.4%, JAKi=49.9%. Especially for IL-6 inhibitors, 50.2% CDAI improvement rate was obtained when sarilumab was selected as the following DMARD.

Conclusion: JAK cycler, as well as bDMARD switcher, may be useful as the next treatment for patients who discontinue JAKI.


Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2022-222835

POS0861

EFFECT OF JAK1 INHIBITION ON EROSION REPAIR IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A PILOT HR-PQCT STUDY

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs

H. So1, I. T. Cheng1, M. Li1, C. K. Wong2, L. S. Tam1. 1The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 2The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Chemical Pathology, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR)

Background: Blockade of JAK, preferably JAK1, by upadacitinib is a feasible approach to achieve erosion repair as it 1) is approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), 2) effectively controls the inflammation and 3) targets pathogenic pathways responsible for bone homeostasis in the joint.

Objectives: To evaluate whether inhibition of JAK1 could lead to erosion repair on high-resolution peripheral quantitative computer tomography (HR-pQCT) in patients with active RA.

Methods: This was a 24-week, single-centered, prospective, non-randomized pilot study. We enrolled 20 adult patients with active RA (Disease activity score 28-C-reactive protein [DAS28- CRP] > 3.2) and ≥1 bone erosion on HR-pQCT. They were given upadacitinib 15mg once daily for 6 months. HR-pQCT of the 2-4 metacarpophalangeal (MCP) head was done at baseline and 6 months. The serum inflammatory cytokine profile and bone-cartilage interface biomarkers were also checked before and after treatment. The primary outcome was the change of erosion volume on HR-pQCT. Secondary outcomes included change in RA disease activity and serum biomarkers, as well as predictors of response to treatment. Erosion regression was defined as decrease in volume exceeding the smallest detectable change.

Results: The baseline clinical characteristics of the recruited patients were shown in Table 1. Of the 20 patients, 11 (55%) patients failed to respond to 3 or more csDMARDs. At 24-week, there was significant improvement in mean DAS28 (-1.75, p<0.001). Erosion regression was seen in 8 (40%) patients on HR-pQCT. Although no significant change in overall median erosion volume before and after upadacitinib (0.07 [-0.90 to 0.68 mm³] mm³, p=0.904) was noted, the deterioration was less obvious compared to a historic cohort of 20 patients with similar age and disease activity on csDMARDs (median erosion volume change in 6 months: 0.67 mm³). There was significant reduction in the serum level of bone resorption marker C1M before and after treatment, which was not seen in the historic cohort. Significant reduction in various inflammatory cytokines (e.g. TNF-α, IL-6) was also noted after treatment. When patients were stratified according to whether or not they had failed multiple csDMARDs, significantly high proportion of patients in the non-multiple-DMARDs failure group had volume regression in at least one erosion compared to those in the failure group (75% vs 25%, p=0.04). There was improvement in mean total erosion volume in the non-failure group (-0.33 ± 1.33 mm³), whereas mean erosion volume in the failure group worsened (2.09 ± 7.62 mm³). One patient developed chest infection requiring hospitalization and withdrew from the study. No other serious adverse event was noted.

Conclusion: The results of the study suggested upadacitinib was clinically efficacious in refractory RA disease and could retard erosion progression. Regression of erosion was possible, particularly in those with limited csDMARDs exposure. Whether earlier JAK1 inhibition could lead to better structural outcome warrants further investigations.

Table 1. Baseline Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N=20</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>52±12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, number (%)</td>
<td>14 (70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>3.5±5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF, number (%)</td>
<td>17 (85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CCP, number (%)</td>
<td>17 (85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to 3 or more csDMARDs, number (%)</td>
<td>11 (55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC</td>
<td>8.6±6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>3.4±2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>4.50±0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>1.1±0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Ho SO Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Fosun Industrial, GSK, Janssen, Pfizer, Consultant of: Abbvie, GSK, Grant/ research support from: Fosun Industrial, Isaac T. Cheng: None declared, Martin Li: None declared, Chun Kwok Wong: None declared, Lai-Shan Tam Consultant of: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, and Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, GSK, Janssen, Novartis and Pfizer.

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POS0862

PRESCRIPTION PATTERN OF JAK INHIBITORS OVER 5 YEARS IN ITALY: DATA FROM THE ITALIAN NATIONAL GISEA REGISTRY

Keywords: Registries, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Targeted synthetic drugs

F. R. Spinelli1, F. Iannone1, E. G. Favalli1, E. Gremsse2, S. Bugatto1, C. Garufi1, A. Atzeni1, R. Foll1, F. P. Cantatore1, B. Bazzani1, S. Parisi1, M. S. Chimenti3, B. Frediani4, R. Caporalini5, F. Conti5, Sapienza University of Rome, Scienze Cliniche Internistiche, Anestesioligiche e Cardiovascolari, Rheumatology Unit, Roma, Italy; 2University of Bari Aldo Moro, Dipartimento di Emergenze e Trapianto d’Organi, Bari, Italy; 3University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milano, Italy; 4ASSST Gaetano Pini-CTO Institute, Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Milano, Milano, Italy; 5Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Division of Clinical Immunology, Roma, Italy; 6The University of Pavia, Department of Internal Medicine and Therapeutics, Pavia, Italy; 7Fondazione I.R.C.C.S. Policlinico San Matteo, Division of Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy; 8The University of Messina, Department of Experimental and Internal Medicine, Rheumatology Unit, Messina, Italy; 9Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Department of Clinical Immunology, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, Cagliari, Italy; 10Ospedale San Giovanni di Dio - Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria di Cagliari, Rheumatology Unit, Cagliari, Italy; 11University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology Unit, Modena, Italy; 12University of Verona, Department of Medicine, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy; 13University Hospital of Ferrara, Division of Rheumatology, Cona, Italy; 14Azi Iranto, Rheumatology Unit, Martina Franca, Italy; 15University of Catania, Rheumatology Unit, Catania, Italy; 16Università degli studi di Foggia, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Rheumatology Clinic, Foggia, Italy; 17Spedali Civili di Brescia, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy; 18A.O.U. Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino, Rheumatology Unit, Torino, Italy; 19University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rheumatology, Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Department of Systems Medicine, Rome, Italy; 20University of Siena, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Neurosciences, Rheumatology Unit, Siena, Italy

Background: Since 2018, JAK inhibitors became available in Italy for the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and an inadequate response to methotrexate (MTX).

Objectives: This analysis aimed to characterize the prescription pattern of JAK inhibitors in patients with RA over the last 5 years.
Methods: Patient demographics, disease characteristics and medication history were collected. Patients starting treatment either with biological Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (bDMARDs) or targeted synthetic (ts)DMARDs (baricitinib, tofacitinib, upadacitinib and filgotinib) were included in the analysis. Data were extracted from the GISEA (Gruppo Italiano di Studio sull’Early Arthritis) registry.

Results: From January 2018 to December 2022 overall 4424 patients with RA were included in the GISEA registry (3622 F: 802 M, mean age 57.9±12.8 years, mean disease duration 12.9±9.8 years). Overall, the number of patients starting bDMARDs and tsDMARDs in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 was 725, 784, 1204, 794 and 913, respectively; 306 (42%), 319 (40.7%), 278 (23%), 291 (36.6%) and 335 (36.7%) started a JAK inhibitor. Figure 1 summarizes the prescription pattern of bDMARDs and tsDMARDs during the 5 years of observation (A) and the percentage of patients starting each JAK inhibitor (B). The prescription of JAK inhibitors was stable from 2018 to 2022 with the only exception of 2020 (coinciding with the beginning of the pandemic) when we recorded a significant decrease in JAK inhibitors prescribed (p<0.00001 vs 2019) and a significant increase in the number of patients treated with abatacept (from 12.1% to 17.1%, p=0.0024) and anti-IL-6R (from 16.3% to 23.7%, p=0.000067). Conversely, in 2021 the number of patients who started JAK inhibitors significantly increased (0.0<0.00001 vs 2020) and those starting anti-IL-6R significantly decreased (from 23.7% to 13.4%). From 2018 to 2022 the percentage of bDMARD-naive patients increased without reaching a statistical significance, from 30.7%, 36%, 43.5%, 44.4%, 40.3% of patients starting a JAK inhibitor after MTX-failure (Figure 1C).

Conclusion: The use of JAK inhibitors for treating RA of patients in Italy is stable from 2018 onward with a shift towards an earlier line of treatment and a significant change in the prescription pattern within the class over time.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Francesca Romana Spinelli Speakers bureau: Amgen, Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Lorenzo Iammone Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Galapagos, Eli Lilly, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Galapagos, Eli Lilly, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Ennio Giulio Favalli Speakers bureau: BMS, Lilly, Roche, MSD, UCB, Pfizer, Sanofi-Genzyme, and Abbvie, Consultant of: BMS, Lilly, Roche, MSD, UCB, Pfizer, Sanofi-Genzyme, and Abbvie, Elisa Gremese Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Serena Bugatti Speakers bureau: bbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Pfizer and Sanofi, Consultant of: Abbvie, Elisa Gremese, Grant/ research support from: Pfizer, cristina garuti Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, Fabiola Atzeni: None declared, Alberto Cauil: None declared, Marco Sebastiani Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, BMS, Pfizer, Antonio Carletto: None declared, Marcello Govoni: None declared, Angelo Semerano: None declared, Rosario Foti: None declared, Francesco Paolo Cantatore: None declared, Chiara Bazzani Consultant of: Abbvie, Simone Parisi: None declared, Maria Sole Chimenti Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Bruno Frediani Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Roberto Caporal Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Accord, BMS, Celltrion, Eli Lilly, Fresenius-Kabi, Galapagos, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, Fabrizio Conti Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, UCB.

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POS0863 BARISUR STUDY: DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF BARICITINIB SAFETY IN SPANISH PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Safety, Rheumatoid arthritis, Descriptive studies

E. Rubio Romero1, A. Gallego2, M. Llanes3, E. Delgado Vidal4, 5SevilleHospital Universitario Virgen del Rocio, Rheumatology, Seville, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Badajoz, Rheumatology, Badajoz, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario Juan Ramón Jiménez, Rheumatology, Huelva, Spain; 4Seville, Rheumatology, Seville, Spain

Background: Baricitinib (BCT) and tofacitinib (TFC) are the most widely used JAK inhibitors worldwide and both were approved in Spain in 2017. Data from Oral Surveillance study showed in 2021 an increased risk of malignancies and major adverse cardiovascular events (MACES) in patients treated with TFC versus anti-TNF drugs. However, there is no clear position among rheumatologists regarding the risk of MACE, thromboembolic events (TEE) or other safety concerns of JAK inhibitors. Although JAK inhibitors have a common mechanism of action, each drug has specificities such as selective affinity to different targets, pharmacodynamics, metabolism and dosing, conferring differences between drugs. Therefore, it is to be expected that the safety profile may be different.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to collect real world data from Spanish patients to analyze efficacy trends, daily use patterns and a descriptive analysis of the safety profile of rheumatoid arthritis treatments in southern Spain.

Methods: A multicenter, observational, retrospective study was conducted, collecting data from patients with rheumatoid arthritis previously treated with methotrexate (MTX) and other prior biologic therapies.

Results: Data from 270 patients were analyzed, 73% were female, the mean age was 58 years (SD: 12.7) and the mean age at diagnosis was 47 years (SD:14.33). Of the population, 95.1% had some risk factor for MACE or TEE; specifically 75% had previous cardiac events, 2.6% and 9.4% had previous TEE and malignancies, respectively. The distribution of baseline treatment is shown in the Table 1. Median use of prior disease-modifying treatments (DMT) was 1 for the total population, but 2 for BCT patients. BCT patients had 10.5 (SD: 9.0) mean years of disease progression and initiated treatment at 57 (SD: 12.25) years mean age. After the first 12 months of follow-up, there was a trend towards reduce the use of NSAIDs (28.9% to 24.2%), prednisone 85% to 58.4%) and MTX (46.2% to 36.6%). Simultaneously, Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28), VSG and PCR also decreased during the period from 4.92 (SD:0.84), 24.41 (SD: 15.78) mm/h and 11.89 (SD:9.69) mg/l to 3.06 (SD: 1.13), 20.79 (SD: 13.31) mm/h, and 8.21 (SD: 9.14) mg/l respectively. BCT safety profile was well tolerated, with 33 adverse events at 6 months of follow-up and 3 serious adverse events (TEE, pneumonia and stroke) during the period. Of BCT population, 576% stopped treatment due to toxicity or lack of efficacy.

Conclusion: Taking into account the heterogenicity and the age of our population, these preliminary results showed low risk of MACE and cancers with BCT for the Spanish cohort. Future analysis is guarantee in order to understand the safety profile in the long term.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES:

POS0864 EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTIFIBROTICS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS-INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE. NATIONAL MULTICENTER STUDY OF 50 PATIENTS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Keywords: Lungs, Rheumatoid arthritis, Descriptive studies
Background: Idiopathic lung disease (ILD) is a severe complication of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Abatacept and rituximab are the preferred disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) for RA-ILD [1-4]. However, progression of ILD despite its use is not uncommon. A subgroup analysis of the INBUILD trial has shown a slower decline in forced vital capacity (FVC) in patients with progressive fibrosing autoimmune disease-related ILDs with the antifibrotic nintedanib (NINTE) [5].

Objectives: A) To assess the efficacy of antifibrotic drugs, NINTE and pirfenidone (PIRFE), in Spanish RA-ILD patients with a progressive phenotype in clinical practice. B) To compare the profile of clinical practice RA-ILD patients with the RA-ILD patients included in the INBUILD trial [5].

Methods: National multicenter study of RA-ILD patients to whom NINTE or PIRFE were added due to progressive fibrosing ILD. Demographic and clinical variables were collected from all patients included. These features were compared with those of RA-ILD patients included in the INBUILD trial (n=89, 42 treated with NINTE and 47 with placebo). Forced vital capacity (FVC) evolution was the primary endpoint. Results are expressed as percentage, mean±SD or median [IQR].

Results: A total of 50 patients (19 women/31 men) from clinical practice were collected (NINTE=45, PIRFE=5), mean age 70±8 years. Median ILD duration up to antifibrotic initiation was of 45 [19-72] months. Mean FVC one year before antifibrotic start was 81±20 % predicted, whereas mean baseline FVC was 72±23 % predicted. Comparison of baseline characteristics of RA-ILD patients treated with NINTE in clinical practice (n=45) and RA-ILD patients of the INBUILD trial is shown in Table 1. The evolution of FVC and DLCO in our patients from the previous year of antifibrotic initiation is shown in Figure 1. After a median follow-up of 16 [5-24] months, no decline in mean FVC and DLCO values was observed. Stabilization or improvement of dyspnea was found in 83% of patients. NINTE was withdrawn in 8 patients due to: gastrointestinal adverse events (GAE) (n=6), death (n=1) or hemorrhage risk (n=1). PIRFE was withdrawn in 2 patients due to GAE.

Conclusion: Antifibrotics, specially NINTE, seem to slow ILD progression in patients with RA-ILD. In clinical practice, patients are treated later in the evolution of the disease, but results are satisfactory. Combination of antifibrotics and DMARDs in RA-ILD is possible and safe.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of RA-ILD patients treated with NINTE in clinical practice and RA-ILD patients of the INBUILD trial.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical practice (n=45)</th>
<th>INBUILD trial (n=89, 42 NINTE vs 47 PCB)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years mean±SD</td>
<td>70±8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, n (%)</td>
<td>38 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker ever, n (%)</td>
<td>37 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since ILD diagnosis, years mean±SD</td>
<td>4.6±4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF, n (%)</td>
<td>40 (89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA, n (%)</td>
<td>37 (80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC (% pred) means±SD</td>
<td>72±24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO (% pred) means±SD</td>
<td>51±15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyspnea mMRC median [IQR]</td>
<td>2 [2-3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP-like fibrotic pattern on HRCT, n (%)</td>
<td>31 (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant IS therapy, n (%)</td>
<td>45 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids</td>
<td>34 (76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dMARD</td>
<td>14 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAKI</td>
<td>4 (9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Evolution of FVC and DLCO in patients with RA-ILD treated with antifibrotics in clinical practice from the previous year of initiation.

Members of the Spanish Collaborative Group of Antibiotics in RA-ILD: Juan Ramón de Dios (H U Araba), Libe Ibarrola (H U de Navarra), Carmen González Montagut (HCU de Valladolid), Sergi Ordoñez (H U Arnau de Villanova), Anaht M A Brandy (H U Cabueñes), Fernando Lozano (H C Gómez Ulla), María López Lasanta (H U Vail de Hebron), Cristina Campos (CHG U de Valencia), Marta Garjio (H O de Sagunto), Ivette Casasot (H U Germans Trias i Pujol), Mónica Calderón (H J Molina Orosa), Carlota Iñiguez (H U Lucas Augusti), Francisco Ortiz-Sanjuyan (H URF Le), Emilio Giner (H U Royo Villanueva), Ignacio Braña (H C Central de Asturias).

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POS0865 THE CORRELATION BETWEEN FOUR ADHERENCE MEASUREMENTS METHODS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS USING METHOTREXATE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

R. Hebing 1,2, N. Elhendry 3, E. Van Geel 1, M. Van Heuckelum 3, M. T. Nurmoohamed 1,2, B. Van den Berst 1,2, Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center, Reade, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center, Amsterdam UMC location VUMc, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3Sint Maartenskliniek, Department of Pharmacy, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 4Radioudumc, Department of Pharmacy, Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the cornerstone in the pharmacological treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients. However, medication adherence to MTX is not ideal, which might lead to suboptimal treatment outcomes. Consequently, instruments to assess medication non-adherence are warranted to detect and intervene on non-adherence. To date there is no consensus on the best method to determine adherence to MTX.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the correlation between compliance measured with MEMS (gold standard) versus pill count, MTX-polyglutamate (PG) concentration and Compliance Questionnaire Rheumatology (CQR) in patients with established RA. Second, correlations between these methods and the Disease Activity Scores of 28 joints (DAS28) were examined.

Methods: Adult patients with established RA treated with MTX were included. Multivariable linear and logistic regression were used, with taking compliance assessed with MEMS as dependent variable versus pill count, MTX-PG concentrations, CQR, as independent variables, and DAS28 score versus each of the 4 adherence measurements methods. Medication, age and use of corticosteroids and NSAIDs were included as covariates in the analysis.

Results: 190 consecutive RA patients were included. Median follow-up time was 4.9 months ([IQR 3.6 – 6.2]). Pill count correlated with taking compliance assessed with MEMS (linear regression, β = .690, p < .001), whereas MTX-PG concentrations and CQR were not. Logistic regression only confirmed the correlation between dichotomized taking compliance MEMS and pill count (β = 5.64,
were: age, way of living status (e.g., alone, with a partner), educational level, biological-use, were included in the final model: age, treatment centre, amount of other medication, corticosteroid-use, LN transformed; CQR: Compliance Questionnaire Rheumatology; IV: independent variable; Missing data was imputed with 50 imputations. MEMS: Medication Event Monitoring System, CQR 0.118 0.087 -0.017 0.253 MTX-PG concentration 0.000 0.262 0.000 0.001 Dependent variable: DAS28 CQR 0.035 0.399 -0.046 0.116 MTX-PG concentration 0.000 0.341 0.000 0.001 IV Pill count 0.690 <0.001* 0.377 1.004 MTX-PG concentration 0.000 0.262 0.000 0.001 Dependent variable: DAS28 IV MEMS 0.001 0.748 -0.003 0.004 Pill count -0.180 0.544 -0.761 0.402 MTX-PG concentration 0.000 0.262 0.000 0.001 CQR 0.118 0.087 -0.017 0.253 Lower bound Upper bound

Table 1. Results of multiple imputation linear regression analyses (pooled).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent variable: MEMS</th>
<th>β</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>95% confidence interval (forj)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IV Pill count</td>
<td>0.690</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
<td>0.377 1.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX-PG concentration</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.341</td>
<td>0.000 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQR</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.399</td>
<td>-0.046 0.116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Missing data was imputed with 50 imputations. MEMS: Medication Event Monitoring System, CQR: Compliance Questionnaire Rheumatology; IV: independent variable; beta: unstandardized coefficient; * Significance at 0.05. For MEMS, the following covariates were included in the final model: age, treatment centre, amount of other medication, corticosteroid-use, and the use of NSAIDs or COX-2 inhibitors. For DAS28, included covariates were age, way of living status (e.g., alone, with a partner), educational level, biological-use, corticosteroid-use, other comedication and baseline DAS28.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0666 OIL AND NUTS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS DISEASE ACTIVITY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Diet and nutrition

S. Cavalli1,2, V. Edefonti3, M. Ferraroni3, R. De Vito4, F. Fiori5, M. Parpinel6, F. Ingegnoli1,2, R. Caporali1,2, 1University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 2ASST G. Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 3University of Milan, Branch of Medical Statistics, Biometry, and Epidemiology; 4University of Milan, Faculty of Medicine—DAME, Udine, Italy; 5University of Udine, Department of Medicine—DAME, Udine, Italy

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic, autoimmune arthropathy affecting around 1% of the general population. Though the availability of many synthetic and biologic DMARDs (disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs), a non-negligible portion of patients still does not reach the remission. Increasing interest is raising about dietary interventions, in order to optimize disease control: scientific literature suggests that Mediterranean diet could exert an anti-inflammatory role in many rheumatologic conditions, including RA.

Objectives: In this cross-sectional analysis of RA patients from Italy, where extra virgin olive oil is traditionally used, we aim to assess if consumption of two food groups, olive oil and nuts, representing vegetable sources of fatty acids. Disease activity was measured with Disease Activity Score on 28 joints (DAS28-CRP) and the Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI). Robust linear and logistic regression models included tertile-based consumption categories of each food group and several confounders. Stratified analyses were performed by disease severity or duration.

Results: Higher consumption of both food groups exerted a beneficial effect on disease activity, significant only for olive oil (Beta: -0.33, p-value: 0.03) in the linear regression on the overall sample. This effect was stronger in the more severe or long-standing forms of RA (p-value for heterogeneity<0.05, especially for disease severity). Significant ORs were as low as −0.30 for both food groups, strata, and disease activity. Mean DAS28 significantly decreased by −0.70 for olive oil and −0.55 for nuts in the two strata; mean SDAI significantly decreased by 3.30 or more for olive oil in the two strata.

Conclusion: In this cross-sectional study on Italian RA patients, higher consumption of olive oil and nuts generally led to an improvement of disease activity, but, in most cases, the absence of statistical significance. The beneficial effect was, however, stronger for those patients with a more severe RA form or a long-standing RA activity, in the presence of significant heterogeneity across strata, especially for disease severity.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Overall analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Groups</th>
<th>Tertile categories</th>
<th>OR 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive oil</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>0.93 0.52 1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>0.60 0.31 1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDAI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive oil</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>0.99 0.51 1.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>0.69 0.34 1.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Logistic regression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Groups</th>
<th>Tertile categories</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive oil</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>-0.14</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>-0.33</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDAI</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive oil</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>-0.53</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>-1.27</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.15</td>
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</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3219
Psoriatic arthritis - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

B-CELL SUBSETS IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD ACROSS DISEASE PHASES OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND THEIR CORRELATION WITH SYNOVIAL TISSUE FEATURES

Keywords: Synovium, Biomarkers, Remission

D. Bruno1,2, B. Tolusso2, C. Di Mario2, S. Perniola2, D. Somma4, L. Petricca4, A. Chiricozzi1, M. R. Gigante1, A. Damore1, M. Kurowska-Sołtanska2, S. Allervinsky2, E. Gremese3,4,5,6, University of Verona, Department of Medicine, Verona, Italy; 2Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy; 3Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 4Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Division of Dermatology, Rome, Italy; 5Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Division of Dermatology, Rome, Italy; 6Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy

Background: Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) has been historically considered as a T-cell driven disease, with the role of B-cells generally under investigated since common seronegativity. However, over the years new insights have come to light on B-cells in PsA, focusing on the presence of ectopic lymphoid structures as well as on the presence of specific anti-carbamylated/citrullinated cathelicidin LL37 antibodies in psoriatic SF and plasma.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to examine the frequencies of distinct peripheral blood (PB) B-cell subsets in across different disease phases, evaluating their potential correlation with synovial tissue (ST) heterogeneity in terms of inflammatory degree and microarchitectural organization.

Methods: 150 patients fulfilling the CASPAR criteria for PsA were recruited (81 naive to cDMARDs or bDMARDs, 45 c- and/or bDMARDs resistant and 24 in clinical and US sustained remission, respectively) and underwent US-guided ST biopsy and PB withdrawal. 22 patients with psoriasis (PsO) and arthralgia were included as comparison group. All ST FFPE specimens were routinely processed, stained with H&E and subjected to immunohistochemistry, blinded to clinical characteristics, using a H&E based semiquantitative score (KSS) integrated with the presence/absence of lymphocytes, plasmacells, granulocytes and myeloid degeneration, respectively. 1) Frequencies of PB B-cell subsets were determined by FACS using the CD27/17/CD20 classification as follows: naive B-cells (CD27+/CD20+/IgM-; IgM), memory (CD27+/CD20-/IgM-; IgM), switched memory (CD27+/CD20-/IgD-; IgD), late memory (CD27-/CD20+/IgD+; IgD+) and plasmacells (CD138+).

Results: In PsA cohort, the distribution of synovitis score was significantly different among patients with distinct disease phases (ANOVAs p<0.001). In particular, KSS was contingent on disease phase being significantly lower in PsA in remission (2.04 ± 1.39) compared to naive (3.20 ± 1.77, p=0.02) and resistant PsA (3.78 ± 2.22, p=0.001), while there was no significant difference between remission PsA and at risk PsO group in terms of synovial hyperplasia, stromal density, and lymphocyte infiltrate respectively. ST of c- and/or b-DMARDs resistant PsA was enriched of plasmacells than remission PsA (p=0.03). Considering B-cell subpopulations, PB of c- and/or b-DMARDs resistant PsA was enriched of plasmablasts and plasmacells compared to PsO at risk of PsA development (p<0.001 for plasmablasts and p=0.001 for plasmacells, respectively). Conversely, c- and/or b-DMARDs resistant PsA showed, at PB level, lower rates of switched memory and naive B-cells compared to PsO at risk of PsA development (p=0.02 for switched memory and p=0.03 for naive, respectively). Finally, stratifying PsA based on KSS category, remission PsA with persistent high grade synovitis (KSS > 5) showed lower rates of PB plasmablasts compared to remission PsA with low grade or without residual synovial inflammation (p=0.045).

Conclusion: Disease state across PsA course significantly impacts PB B-cell subsets distribution mirroring ST residual inflammation at the time of sustained disease remission and supporting the tight dynamic connection between PB and ST environments.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5841

PSOS0688

NOT ALL SYNDENOMPHYES ARE EQUAL: THE IMPACT OF BODY MASS INDEX ON THE PRESENCE, LOCATION AND TYPE OF SYNDENOMPHYES IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Comorbidities, Imaging

S. B. Ackigoz1, U. Gazeli2, S. Bakiro1, G. Ayan1, D. Solmaz1, E. Hepworth2, S. Aydin1, 1University of Ottawa, Rheumatology, Ottawa, Canada

Background: New bone formation is a hallmark of Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). Body mass index (BMI) is associated with the presence of syndenomphytes, especially in males. To date, it is not clear whether obesity impacts the axSpA through adipokines or biomechanical forces.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the relation between BMI and the presence and types of syndenomphytes at different spine levels, to better understand the impact of biomechanical forces in AxSpA.

Methods: AxSpA patients who had cervical and lumbar spine x-rays as their standard of care were included (n=144). The cervical and lumbar spine x-rays were scored separately, for the presence and type (thin vs bulky) of syndenomphytes. The factors associated with syndenomphytes were investigated, using a multivariate logistic regression.

Results: The mean±SD age of the patients was 45.2±14.0. Syndenomphytes were seen in 48 (33.3%) patients of the cervical and 43 (29.9%) of the lumbar spine. Older and male patients had more frequent syndenomphytes on both levels. While the BMIs of patients with lumbar syndenomphytes were higher than those without (28.4 (8.2) vs 26.8 (7.0), p=0.015), patients with and without cervical syndenomphytes had similar BMIs (27.1 (8.3) vs 28.2 (7.5), p=0.177). Patients with cervical syndenomphytes had higher frequency of uveitis (47.9% vs 20.8%, p=0.001) than those without, which could not be detected for lumbar syndenomphytes. In regression analysis, age and male gender were associated with syndenomphytes in both the cervical and lumbar spine, whereas uveitis was associated only with syndenomphytes in the cervical spine (Table 1). BMI was associated only with syndenomphytes in lumbar spine, but not the cervical spine. The only factor that was found to be associated with bulky (vs thin) syndenomphytes was BMI for the lumbar spine, but not for the cervical spine (Table 1). Presence of PsA was not linked to the bulky type syndenomphytes.

Conclusion: Higher BMI increases the risk of syndenomphytes in the lumbar spine as well as impacting its shape; but not in the cervical spine. Abdominal obesity (apple-shaped) is more common among men in general. We hypothesize that the obesity may be increasing the risk of lumbar syndenomphytes as well as buckling in males due to the mechanical forces, which may not be seen in generally ‘pear-shaped’ women, where the fat tissue and mechanical forces spare the lumbar spine.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Table 1. Multivariate logistic regression for the presence and type of syndenomphytes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent variables</th>
<th>Presence of Cervical syndenomphytes</th>
<th>Presence of Lumbar syndenomphytes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>1.00 (1.03-1.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (ever)</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.56 (0.70-1.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis (yes)</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>3.08 (1.72-5.37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated ESR (a)</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>1.29 (1.01-2.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of exposure to corticosteroids (b)</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>1.01 (1.01-2.01)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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PROTEIN BIOMARKERS ASSOCIATED WITH ENTHESITIS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Enthesitis, Biomarkers


1Queen’s University Belfast, Centre for Experimental Medicine Queens University Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom; 2Atturos Ltd., University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland; 3Musgrave Park Hospital, Rheumatology, Belfast, United Kingdom; 4UCD Conway Institute, University College Dublin, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

Background: The presence of enthesitis in PsA may provide clues to disease pathogenesis, aid diagnosis and contribute to poor prognosis. Ultrasound is an invaluable tool in assessing entheseal disease, but it requires training and is time consuming. We investigated whether enthesitis may be measured by changes in serum proteins and as such allow us to better understand, diagnose and treat this condition.

Objectives: To use mass spectrometry (MS) based proteomics to identify protein biomarkers that may be associated with those PsA patients who suffer from enthesitis.

Methods: Serum was collected as part of a prospective observational study from PsA patients who fulfilled the CASPAR criteria and were ≥ 18 yrs. All patients were biologic naive and due to commence biologic treatment. We utilised the MADrid Sonographic Enthesitis Index (MASEI) to assess US confirmed enthesitis with a score of ≥ 18 suggesting significant enthesitis and <18 determined to be non-significant. The samples were analysed using targeted MS multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) analysis with > 200 candidate proteins. The MRM data was analysed in 3 ways: 1) Raw with no normalisation 2) Normalisation to 7 stable isotopically labelled peptide spike-ins (SIL7) correcting for fluctuations in sample injections/mass spectrometry loading; and, 3) Normalisation to a set of endogenous peptides that represent total serum protein abundance (TSPA) correcting for different amounts of total serum across samples. Univariate analyses and multivariate machine learning Random Forest (RF) modelling were performed.

Results: 80 samples were analysed. 29 patients had a MASEI score of < 18 [36.25%] and 51 had a score > 18 [63.75%]. We identified 35 candidate proteins from all data sets that are included in Figure 1. RF multivariate analysis of all data revealed a set of peptide signatures with the ability to differentiate between MASEI scores < 18 vs ≥ 18. RF models generated from the peptide data had a testing and training AUC of 0.789 [95% CI 0.65, 0.93] 0.953 [95% CI 0.92, 0.98] (Raw), 0.83 [CI 0.74, 0.94], 0.972 [95% CI 0.96, 0.99] (TSPA7) and 0.845 [95% CI 0.72, 0.97]0.966 [95% CI 0.94, 0.99] (SIL7) respectively.

Conclusion: We have identified serum proteins, within this small cohort, which are associated with enthesitis in PsA. Verification of these findings in a larger, independent dataset is the next required step. Proteins related to peptide sequences for univariate + multivariate analysis. Blue (all data sets) Green (all univariate data sets) Pink (2 Multivariate data sets) ANT3: Adenine nucleotide translocase 3 AGT:Angiotensinogen A2HSGP: Alpha 2 HS glycoprotein ALAI: Apolipoprotein A-I ARP3: Angiopoietin related protein 3 AT3: Antithrombin III CNCC: Carboxypeptidase N catalytic chain CBG:Corticosteroid binding globulin GP3: Glutathione peroxidase 3 HSPB: Heat Shock Protein HSP 90-beta HRG: Histidine rich glycoprotein IGFBP Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein complex acid labile subunit PEDF: Pigment epithelium derived factor POS: Sex hormone binding globulin PGSPD: Phosphatidylinositol-glycan-specific phospholipase D TX: Tenascin-X VDBP Vitamin D binding protein.
Background: Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) is associated with enthesitis and synovitis which lead to bone erosions, cartilage loss, and new bone formation. High-resolution peripheral quantitative computed tomography (HR-pQCT) enables the quantitative 3D assessment of joint space width (JSW) with superior resolution compared to radiography. Whether disease-specific parameters are associated with JSW on HR-pQCT in PsA remains uncertain.

Objectives: To assess HR-pQCT joint space outcomes by comparison with radiographs and investigate the relationship between disease-related variables and JSW on HR-pQCT in PsA patients.

Methods: PsA patients who underwent HR-pQCT examination (XtremeCT I, SCANCO Medical AG, Brüttisellen, Switzerland) of the second to fourth metacarpophalangeal joint were recruited in this cross-sectional study. The joint space domain on standard radiography was scored using the Sharp/van der Heijde joint space score. SvdH score was used to estimate the ability of HR-pQCT to predict SvdH scores. Linear regression models were used to determine the association between disease-related variables and JSW. JSW parameters MCPJ 2, 3 and 4 were excluded due to poor image quality.

Results: 67 patients (47 (55.2%) males; median age: 57.0 (53.0, 63.0); median disease duration: 21 (16, 28) years) were included in this analysis. Most had mild disease activity [Disease Activity index for PsA (DAPSA); 10.1 ± 6.6]; 56/67 (84%) were on conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) while 27/67 (40%) were on biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs). 11 MCPJ 2, 9 MCPJ 3 and 7 MCPJ 4 were excluded due to poor image quality. Individual MCP joint space parameters were presented in Table 1. Subluxations were detected more frequently by HR-pQCT than radiographs. SvdH score was positively associated with mean JSW (MCPJ 2-4); while use of bDMARDs was negatively associated with mean JSW (MCPJ 2) (Figure 1). Use of csDMARDs was negatively associated with Min JSW (MCPJ 3); while use of bDMARDs was positively associated with Min JSW (MCPJ 2). Longer disease duration (MCPJ 2-3) and higher ESR level (MCPJ 3) were negatively associated with mean and Min JSW (MCPJ 2) (Figure 1). Use of csDMARDs was negatively associated with mean JSW (MCPJ 3); while use of bDMARDs was positively associated with Min JSW (MCPJ 2). Conclusion: HR-pQCT could be widely used for assessing joint damage prior to evidence of radiographic joint damage in PsA patients. Higher inflammatory burden as reflected by longer disease duration, higher ESR levels, and damage joint count was negatively associated with mean, Max, and Min JSW, while suppression of inflammation using bDMARDs seems to prevent a decline in JSW.

Table 1. Joint space analysis in PsA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JS parameters</th>
<th>MCPJ 2</th>
<th>MCPJ 3</th>
<th>MCPJ 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JS volume (mm³)</td>
<td>87.1 ± 18.8</td>
<td>94.1 ± 22.7</td>
<td>66.1 ± 15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean JSW (mm)</td>
<td>1.8 ± 0.2</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.2</td>
<td>1.6 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSW SD (mm)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.3, 0.3)</td>
<td>0.3±0.0</td>
<td>0.3±0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max JSW (mm)</td>
<td>2.9 (2.7, 2.9)</td>
<td>2.7 (2.5, 2.9)</td>
<td>2.6 (2.5, 2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min JSW (mm)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.8, 1.4)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.2, 1.3)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9, 1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSW Asym</td>
<td>2.4 (2.1, 3.2)</td>
<td>2.5 (2.2, 15.8)</td>
<td>2.4 (2.1, 3.0)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

POS0871 ROLE OF INFLAMMATORY BURDEN AND TREATMENT ON JOINT SPACE WIDTH IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A HIGH-RESOLUTION PERIPHERAL QUANTITATIVE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY STUDY

Keywords: Outcome measures, Psoriatic arthritis

Y. Jin1,2, I. T. Cheng1, H. So1, D. Wu1, J. F. Griffith3, V. W. Hung4, L. Qin4, C. C. Szeto1,2, A. W. Chan1, L. S. Tam1.1The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, China;2The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences (LiHS), Hong Kong, China;3The Chinese University of Hong Kong;4The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Imaging and Interventional Radiology, Hong Kong, China.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Pulmonary Disease; CV Cardiovascular; ILD Interstitial Lung Disease; LD Lung Disease.

Index; bDMARDs biologic Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs; COPD Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD); IILD interstitial lung disease (ILD).

**Characterization and Risk Factors for Lung Involvement in Psoriatic Arthritis: Data from a Single Rheumatologic Centre**

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Lungs, Psoriatic arthritis

B. Moncić1, I. Cristallo1, E. Capparelli1, P. Triggianese1, E. Greco1, P. Cogniglio1, B. Kroegel1, M. Fatica1, A. Bergamini1, M. S. Chimenti1.

1Rheumatology and Bioengineering, Clinical and Rheumatologic Unit, Department of Systems Medicine, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory systemic disease associated with several comorbidities. Few data are available concerning the association between psoriasis (PsO) and lung disease (LD), such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and interstitial lung disease (IILD). This association has also been hypothesized in PsA. Therefore, evaluating distinct lung manifestations in PsA could be an important driver to improve patients’ management.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence and clinical features of PsA, to examine the co-occurrence of different LDs patterns and to evaluate their impact on clinical outcomes.

Methods: We performed a cross-sectional observational study including patients with diagnosis of moderate to severe PsA and at least one chest imaging (as CT scan) performed at the beginning of bDMARD therapy, referred to our Rheumatologic Unit. Demographic, clinical data and concomitant comorbidities were collected. We used Chi-square test for categorical variables and Student’s T test for continuous variables.

Results: 288 PsA patients were evaluated. Patients’ characteristics are shown in Table 1. We observed 28 patients affected by COPD (9.7%) and 7 by IILD (2.4%). About 20% of patients had radiological abnormalities without a distinct clinical diagnosis. In particular, 23 patients presented aspecific nodules (9.4%), 19 signs of bronchitis or emphysema (6.6%) and 17 interstitial thickening (5.9%). Notably, smoke (HR 2.2, p 0.04), higher age at PsA diagnosis (53.8 ± 8.5, p<0.001), higher BMI (28.6 ± 5.6, p 0.05) and recurrent infections (HR 12.3, p<0.001) were associated to COPD. Among comorbidities, cardiovascular diseases (HR 3.8, p<0.005), dyslipidaemia (HR 3.6, p<0.007) and diabetes (HR 4.1, p<0.001) were associated to COPD. Both COPD patients (HR 3.3, p<0.01) and patients with other LDs (HR 2.9, p<0.002) had a history of bDMARDs failure of at least >3 bDMARDs underwent, significantly more than patients without LD. Even in IILD patients, we observed an older age at PsA diagnosis (58 ± 12.5, p<0.01) and a higher prevalence of diabetes (HR 4.1, p<0.01) compared to patients without LD. Furthermore, nail psoriasis (HR 4.7, p<0.05) and malignancy (HR 7.1, p<0.01) were related to IILD.

Conclusion: Our results confirm the prevalence of COPD in PsA patients and add evidence about the co-occurrence of other LDs in PsA. Risk factors associated with the presence of LD emerged from our analysis, highlighting an occult untreated need in PsA patients. Moreover, we observed as LDs in PsA patients could influence bDMARDs failure. Otherwise, focusing on pulmonary comorbidities could improve therapeutic response and clinical outcomes.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>LD (N=288)</th>
<th>No LD (N=206)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>IILD</td>
<td>p1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of patients, N (%)</td>
<td>288 (100)</td>
<td>206 (100)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pts. with COPD (%)</td>
<td>185 (64.2)</td>
<td>72 (35.3)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pts. with IILD (%)</td>
<td>27 (9.5)</td>
<td>27 (13)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, mean ± SD</td>
<td>25.7 ± 5.7</td>
<td>28.6 ± 5.6</td>
<td>27.7 ± 5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking, N (%)</td>
<td>152 (54)</td>
<td>102 (49.5)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, mean ± SD</td>
<td>44.7 ± 13.1</td>
<td>75 ± 13.5</td>
<td>72 ± 13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis, N (%)</td>
<td>240 (84)</td>
<td>75 (36.4)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nail psoriasis, N (%)</td>
<td>106 (37)</td>
<td>72 (35)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis, N (%)</td>
<td>75 (26)</td>
<td>42 (20)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embriasis, N (%)</td>
<td>39 (14.6)</td>
<td>13 (6.3)</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV, N (%)</td>
<td>114 (39.7)</td>
<td>53 (26)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidaemia, N (%)</td>
<td>104 (36.4)</td>
<td>42 (20.4)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes, N (%)</td>
<td>50 (17.6)</td>
<td>21 (10.1)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy, N (%)</td>
<td>19 (6.6)</td>
<td>11 (5)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs ≥3, N (%)</td>
<td>37 (12.6)</td>
<td>7 (5.2)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1p value between COPD and No LD; p1 value between IILD and No LD; Legend: BMI Body Mass Index; bDMARDs biologic Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs; COPD Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; CV Cardiovascular; ILD Interstitial Lung Disease; LD Lung Disease.

**Acknowledgements:** We are immensely grateful to patients, physicians, and the study personnel.

**Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.**

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4207

POS0872

**SYNOVIAL TISSUE FEATURES ASSOCIATED WITH POOR PROGNOSIS IN INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium, Psoriatic arthritis


1Hospital Clinic, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 2Hospital General Granollers, Rheumatology, Granollers, Spain

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), Psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and undifferentiated arthritis (UA) are chronic immune-mediated inflammatory diseases characterized by joint inflammation. However, the prognosis related to progression to chronic and erosive disease or to an autoimmunized outcome could be different between those clinical phenotypes. Synovial lymphoid neogenesis (LN) has been previously studied as a prognostic factor in RA but results were conflicting between studies [1,2].

Objectives: To evaluate the potential association of inflammatory cell infiltrates and the expression of ectopic LN structures in synovial tissue (ST) with poor prognosis factors (PPF) in patients with RA, PsA, and UA.

Methods: This is a retrospective study including patients with active RA, PsA, and UA who had ST obtained by rheumatological arthroscopy in our department. We evaluated clinical data and synovial LN and the cellular infiltrate by immunohistochemistry, as previously detailed [1]. Patients who were on Biologic Disease-modifying Antirheumatic Drug (bDMARD) at the time of arthroscopy were excluded. PPF in patients with RA and UA were defined by anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide/protein antibodies (ACPA) and/or rheumatoid factor (RF), development of erosive disease or the initiation of bDMARDs during the follow-up. PPF in patients with PsA were correlated by high levels of acute phase reactants (ESR and/or CRP), dactylitis or nail involvement at the time of arthroscopy and/or the initiation of bDMARDs. Statistical analysis was done with SPSS Statistics 27 program. For the analysis of LN and PPF, we performed x²-Test to compare PPF with the cellular density and Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient for cellular density and disease activity score 28 (DAS28).

Results: A total of 87 patients were included: 26 RA, 32 PsA, and 29 UA. Demographic characteristics are detailed in Table 1. Seventeen out of 26 (65.38%) RA patients had LN and 14 (53.84%) had PPF. Twelve patients (48%) had LN and PPF, LN was associated with PPF (p<0.038). In PsA group, we found LN in 16 out of 32 (50%) and PPF in 42.4%. Polynuclear PsA (58.5%) was the most frequent phenotype and 15.2% of patients had onychopathy. Nevertheless, LN was not associated with PPF. Patients with PPF had a higher CD15+ polymorphonuclear cell density (477.63 [SD 410.68] vs 99.63 [SD 93.23] cells/cm2 in patients without PPF, p<0.031). Thirteen out of 29 (44.82%) UA patients had LN and 55.17% had PPF. The final diagnosis for these patients was: 12 RA, 4 PsA; 8 peripheral SpA and 5 remained as UA. LN was not associated with PPF. Synovial CD68+ macrophages density (lining, sublining and total) was negatively correlated with DAS28 CRP (r=-0.27, p=0.024).

Conclusion: Synovial LN was associated with PPF only in patients with RA, suggesting the specific pathogenic role that these well-compartmentalized lymphoid aggregated play in RA. However, in PsA, PPF was associated with synovial CD15+ neutrophils density, probably related to the pathogenic relevance of myeloid cells in this disease. Finally, synovial CD68+ macrophages negatively correlated with disease activity in UA patients, probably reflecting the heterogeneity of pathogenic mechanisms occurring in this group. Although this study is retrospective and with relatively small cohorts, the findings suggest a great heterogeneity of the ST features and its pathogenic implications in the subtypes of inflammatory arthritis studied.

**REFERENCES:**

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) may experience feelings of guilt and shame related to the impact of the disease on their quality of life. However, patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) face an aesthetic problem in addition to the functional disability.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to determine whether patients with PsA experience more feelings of shame and guilt than patients with RA.

Methods: We conducted a cross sectional study including patients with RA (ACR/EULAR criteria) and PsA (CASPAR criteria). Feelings of guilt and shame were assessed using the Experience of Shame Scale (ESS) [1] and the Test of Self Conscious Affect- Version 3 (TOSCA-3S) [2].

Results: A total of 40 RA patients (36 women, 4 men) and 30 PsA patients (12 women and 18 men) were included. The mean age was 54 years (25-75) and 51 years (21-80), respectively. The mean disease duration was 12 years (3-33) in RA patients and 13 years (2-20) in PsA patients. Illiteracy was noted in 22% of RA patients and in 5% of PsA patients. Regarding the professional status, 42% of RA patients and 50% of PsA patients were employed. High disease activity was noted in 42% of RA patients and in 13% of PsA patients. The mean total score of ESS was 45 [27-80] in RA and 65 [31-98] in PsA. There was a significant difference between the groups (p<0.001). The mean subscale scores were significantly higher among PsA patients: the characterological shame (29 vs 19, p=0.05), the behavioral shame (25 vs 18, p=0.001), and the bodily shame (10 vs 7, p<0.001). For the TOSCA-3S, the mean "shame self-talk Total" score was higher in PsA patients, but the difference was not significant (35 vs 33, p=0.453). The mean "guilt self-talk Total" score was 48 in RA and 47 in PsA (p=0.341).

Conclusion: Feelings of guilt and shame are experienced by both PsA and RA patients. However, PsA may have a higher psychosocial impact. Therefore, effective management of the dermatological and psychological aspects is necessary.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5921

Figure 1. Heatmap displaying Pearson’s correlation coefficient of correlation analyses between diseases activity scores and autoantibody concentrations adjusted for age. Pearson correlation analyses with a p-value <0.05 are marked with a box.

Acknowledgements: None Declared.
ASYMPTOMATIC HELL ENTHESITIS IN PSORIASIS PATIENTS: AN ULTRASOUND STUDY

Keywords: Enthesitis, Ultrasound, Psoriatic arthritis

R. Ben Aissa1, S. Boussaid1, S. Rekik2, S. Rahmouni1, S. Jemmali1, K. Zouaoui1, H. Srairi Sahli1, M. Elleuch1. 1Rabta Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Enthesitis is a common clinical feature of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) especially in lower limb. Clinical screening for enthesitis in patients with psoriasis before developing PsA may be non-specific. Ultrasound has shown its value in the study of entheses.

Objectives: To assess heel entheses of asymptomatic psoriatic arthritis patients and healthy control using ultrasound.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional case-control study including psoriatic arthritis patients with no rheumatic symptoms and symptoms and age-matched healthy controls. We assessed the affected skin surface (SC) and the psoriasis severity score (PASI). Ultrasound evaluation of the calcaneal enthesis (CE) and the plantar fascia enthesis (PFE) was performed. Ultrasound abnormalities sought were: hypochoicogenicy, enthesis thickening, bursitis, cortical erosion, calcification, enthesophyse, and presence of Doppler signal.

Results: A total of 76 patients (38 cases and 38 controls) were recruited with a mean age of 51.9±15 [19-76] years and male predominance (60%). On clinical examination, pressing pain was present at the CE and PFE in, respectively, 17% and 22% of patients and with no significant difference comparing to controls (10%; EC; 10% PFE respectively) (p=0.777; p=0.259 respectively).

On ultrasound, 60% of psoriasis patients had at least one ultrasound abnormality at the CE versus 17.5% of controls (p<0.001). The most observed ultrasound abnormalities at the CE were: entheseophyte (n=17), enthesis thickening (n=15), erosions (n=11) and hypochoicogenicy (n=5). The PFE was less affected on ultrasound, presenting abnormalities in 42.5% of psoriasis patients versus 12.5% of controls (p=0.410). Erosions (n=13) and enthesis thickening (n=12) were the most observed abnormalities. The presence of ultrasound abnormalities at the PFE in psoriasis patients was correlated with age (p=0.012) and disease duration (p=0.015). Psoriasis severity according to SC and PASI was not associated with the presence of ultrasound abnormalities at the CE versus 17.5% of controls (p<0.001) and 12.5% of controls but with no significant difference comparing to controls (10%; EC; 10% PFE respectively) (p=0.777; p=0.259 respectively).

Conclusion: Our study showed that psoriasis patients could have asymptomatic heel entheses with greater involvement of the CE. Psoriatic arthritis patients need regular monitoring and screening for early symptoms of PsA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6068

A COMPARISON OF PSA AND RA PATIENT PROFILES REQUIRING ADVANCED THERAPIES: PSA PATIENTS ACCESS TO THE ADVANCED THERAPIES EARLIER THAN RA

Keywords: bDMARD, Psoriatic arthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. B. Alikguz1, U. Gazel1, R. Chowdhury1, C. Ivory1, A. Zahraei1, E. Hepworth1, S. Aydin1. 1University of Ottawa, Rheumatology, Ottawa, Canada; 2The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Rheumatology, Ottawa, Canada

Background: International guidelines recommend switching to advanced therapy (AT) in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA), when conventional synthetic disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (csDMARD) fail. There are several factors playing a role in that decision, including patients’ comorbidities and choices as well as the availability of the treatments.

Objectives: Here we present the results of a comparison of PsA and RA patient profiles requiring advanced therapies, from our pilot biologics clinic. Better patient outcomes in one disease may help us to recognize what can be improved in the other.

Methods: Biologics clinic is a new initiative at Ottawa Hospital aiming to improve the long-term outcomes. Patients who are about to start or switch advance therapy are evaluated at the biologics clinic. Extensive data regarding disease history, medication exposure and disease activity are collected in a standardized fashion; the comorbidity burden is documented. A protocolled ultrasound (US) is conducted at baseline and three-month intervals, until reaching remission. The data presented here represent a pilot exploratory comparative analysis.

Results: PsA (n=18) and RA (n=42) patients had similar demographic features, other than RA patients being older (table 1). The majority of the comorbidities were similar in both groups, although PsA patients had more frequent liver disease numerically (5 (27.8 %) vs 5 (11.9%), p= 0.149) and less alcohol use (19 (38.9%) vs 7 (45.2%), p= 0.649). PsA patients had more frequent moderate/severe depression using the PHQ (61.1% of PsA vs 26.2% of RA; p=0.01). For disease activity, PsA patients tend to have higher disease activity based on the TJC, HAQ and physician global; in addition to significantly longer morning stiffness than RA (Table 1). Conversely, the disease activity within the joints based on the US scores of RA patients were higher. Disease duration at the time of initiation of the first advanced therapy was significantly shorter in PsA patients (median (IQR) 10 (7.75) years) compared to RA (6 (12.5), p=0.005) and PsA patients were treated with less numbers of csDMARD.

Conclusion: According to our preliminary data, PsA patients access to advanced therapy earlier than the RA. This may be due to the heterogeneity of PsA, such as manifestations other than the joint inflammation (enthesitis and axial disease) determining treatment decisions. PsA patients also had more frequent liver disease, which also may have prevented initiation of csDMARD and led to expedited initiation of the advance therapy- as early as at diagnosis. Whether earlier access leads to better patient outcomes in PsA, will be investigated with long-term follow up. PsA patients having more tender joints despite less severe US scores may be due to the proximity of the enthesis to the joints and difficulties to differentiate entheseal pain from joint involvement by the physical exam. The use of US may improve the assessment of the domains in PsA leading to choosing the right treatments.

Table 1. Comparison of PsA and RA patient profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RA (N=42)</th>
<th>PSA (N=18)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>59.3±14.9</td>
<td>50.3±13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex: Female</td>
<td>30 (71.4%) 2 (14.3%) 0.033</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (ever)</td>
<td>27 (64.3%) 2 (14.3%) 0.099</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Features</td>
<td>30 (73.2%) 2 (12.5%) &lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CCP positive</td>
<td>23 (57.5%) 2 (14.3%) 0.005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP positive</td>
<td>16 (38.1%) 6 (33.3%) 0.726</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR positive</td>
<td>16 (38.1%) 7 (36.9%) 0.954</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (yrs)</td>
<td>14.0 (9.8) 5 (13.8) 0.036</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous therapies*</td>
<td>3 (1) 2 (2) 0.005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous number of advanced therapies</td>
<td>0.5 (2) 0.5 (2) 0.945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity/ Clinical*</td>
<td>1 (1) 2 (5.5) &lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of morning stiffness (hours)</td>
<td>8 (5) 5 (5.5) 0.199</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joint count (44)</td>
<td>8.5 (13) 14 (17) 0.244</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenderness count (44)</td>
<td>5.5 (4) 6 (3) 0.648</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician VAS</td>
<td>5 (3) 6 (2) 0.066</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>1.125 1.625 0.087</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound: Doppler score</td>
<td>8 (18) 3.5 (7.8) 0.008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Median (IQR)

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6268

SCREENING FOR THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS WITH AXIAL INVOLVEMENT (APSA) IN A COHORT OF ITALIAN PATIENTS AFFECTED BY PSORIASIS: RESULTS OF A DERMORHEUMATOLOGIC CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY (ATTRACT)

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis

P. Vatalà1, M. Luchetti2, I. Cirimalli3, A. Agostinelli1, C. Macchiini1, R. Scordilò1, M. Gigli1, L. Massaccesi2, F. Florini1, V. Marconi1, L. Perini1, M. Ciferri2, M. Carotti2, A. Giovagnoni2, G. Polonara2, F. Sessa2, A. Campanati1, M. Giannoni3, F. Diotalevi1, A. Maraini4, A. Offidani4.
Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is an inflammatory musculoskeletal disease characterized by different domains.[1] Interest is growing towards early diagnosis of axial PsA (AxPsA), to allow better disease characterization and well-timed targeted therapeutic strategies.

Objectives: In this study, we report preliminary results of a rheumatological screening strategy settled in a dermatological centre. Primary objective is to validate the screening tool in a cohort of Italian patients affected by psoriasis, improving early diagnosis of AxPsA. Secondary objectives are: 1. classification and characterization of axial involvement; 2. profiling of patients’ characteristics and comorbidities.

Methods: Patients were enrolled in the ATTRACT study (Axial psoriasiAic arThritis scReening AnCona (Italy) according to the following inclusion criteria: age > 18 years; 2. diagnosis of psoriasis (PsO) by a dermatologist; 3. capacity to understand and sign the informed consent. Patients who assumed any DMARD 12 weeks prior to screening were excluded. Study design is shown in Figure 1. The Dermatologic-Centred Screening (DCS) tool, recently validated for early identification of AxPsA, was translated in Italian and administered to outpatients in the dermatological clinic. Patients were divided in the following groups based on answers to the Inflammatory Back Pain (IBP) related questions of the DCS: A, no affirmative answers (low AxPsA probability); B, all affirmative answers (high probability); C, only two affirmative answers (intermediate probability). Group B & C patients underwent complete rheumatological examination comprehensive of clinimetric, laboratoristic and genetic data; Xray and MRI imaging of the whole spine and pelvis were performed in all of them classifying in: a. confirmed AxPsA, b. peripheral PsA involvement only; c. PsO excluded.

Results: N.366 patients were screened; n.101 met exclusion criteria. N.91 (34.3%) were classified as group A, n.125 (47.2%) as group B, n.49 (18.5%) as group C. Following characteristics were notable: a. female sex more represented in group B; b. mean age higher in group C; c. onychopathies more represented in group A & C. List of patients’ clinical characteristics is shown in Table 1 Among group B patients, n.29 (22.4%) - B1: were classified as PsO excluded; n.22 (17.6% - B2) as isolated per-PsA (according to CASPAR criteria), n.39 (31.2% - B3) as AxPsA (n.34 fulfilling ASAS criteria, n.31 with concomitant per-PsA). Among group C, n.15 (30.6% - C1) as PsO excluded; n.3 (6.1% - C2) as isolated per-PsA, n.5 (10.2% - C3) as AxPsA (n.4 fulfilling ASAS, n.5 with concomitant per-PsA). N.13 patients are still awaiting results of imaging; n.49 (n.24 group B, n.25 group C) refused to undergo imaging and were considered lost at follow-up.

Conclusion: The DCS tool may be useful for PsA screening in a real-life cohort of PsO patients, an Inflammatory Back Pain was reported by about half of the screened PsO patients. This tool helped to identify a substantial number of naïve patients not only affected by AxPsA but also by peripheral PsA in a purely dermatological setting.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Comparison between clinical characteristics of patients in groups A, B and C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Gender (FtM), n(%)</th>
<th>Age, yrs</th>
<th>PASI*</th>
<th>Onychopathy, y/n, n(%)</th>
<th>Cardiovascular diseases</th>
<th>Metabolic diseases</th>
<th>Infections</th>
<th>Neurologic/psychiatric</th>
<th>Back pain duration &gt; 3</th>
<th>monocytosis (question 3a), n(%)</th>
<th>Back pain start before age of 45 (question 3b), n(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>35/258(50/615)</td>
<td>76(60.8)/49(39.2)</td>
<td>20/40(8)/29/59(2)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>3.26±1.57</td>
<td>3.28±1.36</td>
<td>3.81±1.73</td>
<td>3.12±1.65</td>
<td>2.12±1.12</td>
<td>3.81±1.73</td>
<td>3.12±1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5/142±1.41</td>
<td>49.1±5.16</td>
<td>59.5±7.19</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>3.12±1.57</td>
<td>3.28±1.36</td>
<td>3.81±1.73</td>
<td>3.12±1.65</td>
<td>2.12±1.12</td>
<td>3.81±1.73</td>
<td>3.12±1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>3/133</td>
<td>69(9.7)/50(33.3)</td>
<td>24/68(6)/12(1)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>3.26±1.57</td>
<td>3.28±1.36</td>
<td>3.81±1.73</td>
<td>3.12±1.65</td>
<td>2.12±1.12</td>
<td>3.81±1.73</td>
<td>3.12±1.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Registries, Psoriatic arthritis, Real-world evidence

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2323

Figure 1. Design of the study
Methods: TReasure is a national, multicentre, longitudinal, and observational database, initiated in Turkey in 2017 and now includes 17 centres [1]. PsA patients with/without more than 6 months from the onset of symptoms to diagnosis were evaluated. Demographic characteristics of the patients (age, gender, delay in diagnosis), smoking (ever), BMI, andCCI score were calculated. PsA and associated disease characteristics; dactylitis, enthesitis, uveitis, IBD, saccroiliitis by mNY, disease activity at bDMARD initiation; SJC (66 joints), TJC (68 joints), ASDAS-CRP, ASDAS-ESR, BASDAI, ESR, CRP, VAS (physician global, patient global), function and quality of life; BASFI (>40 mm), HAQ-DI (<0.5, 0.5-1.0, >1.0). EQ5D, were assessed and compared between the two groups.

Results: In TReasure database, the time between symptom to diagnosis was known in 865/911 (94.9%) of PsA patients. More than 6 months of delay in diagnosis was present in 627/965 (72.4%) patients. In delayed-diagnosis group time from symptom onset to initiation of bDMARD was longer (6.1 (3.3-6.1) vs 2.4 (0.8-7.1) years, p<0.001). Patients with delay in diagnosis of PsA had more sacroiliitis (57.3% vs 46.2%, p=0.014) according to mNY criteria. However, dactylitis was more common in patients with less than 6 months of delay in diagnosis (31.2% vs 19.1%, p<0.001).Patients’ ASDAS-CRP and VAS-Physician Global score were slightly higher, while other activity parameters were similar; (ASDAS-ESR, BASDAI, BASMI, VAS patient global, SJC and TJC) (Table 1). There was no difference between the median (IQR) BASFI and HAQ-DI scores in delayed-diagnosis group, whereas BASFI and HAQ-DI categories showed worse function and quality of life. EQ5D showed similar result with slightly worse scores in delayed-diagnosis group.

Conclusion: Approximately three-quarters of PsA patients using bDMARDs have a delay of at least 6 months in diagnosis. Delay in diagnosis significantly prolongs the time until bDMARD initiation. The most important clinical finding in earlier diagnosis group is dactylitis. Axial involvement may be a reason, perhaps the result, of the delay in diagnosis. Since the delay in diagnosis is related to poor function and quality of life, efforts should be made for early diagnosis at every stage.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of Patients with/without diagnostic delay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>&lt; 6 months</th>
<th>&gt; 6 months</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Age (y)</td>
<td>45 (38-57)</td>
<td>40 (40-57)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male), n (%)</td>
<td>89 (74)</td>
<td>200 (319)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay in diagnosis, month</td>
<td>3.0 (1.0-4.9)</td>
<td>24.0 (11.9-60.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCI (≥1), n (%)</td>
<td>47 (19.7)</td>
<td>127 (20.3)</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>28.1 (24.6-32.0)</td>
<td>28.0 (24.9-31.9)</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (ever)</td>
<td>119 (50.6)</td>
<td>289 (47.2)</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (diagnosis-bDMARD initiation)</td>
<td>2.3 (0.6-7.1)</td>
<td>2.5 (0.7-6.2)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI Score (0-10)</td>
<td>4.6 (2.2-6.2)</td>
<td>4.7 (3.4-9.5)</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI score</td>
<td>3.5 (3.2-4.7)</td>
<td>3.6 (3.1-4.2)</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>11 (10-12)</td>
<td>11 (10-12)</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-ESR</td>
<td>0.64 (0.40-1.00)</td>
<td>0.63 (0.50-0.80)</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS category &gt; 4</td>
<td>92 (61)</td>
<td>307 (71.4)</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGID score</td>
<td>7 (4.39)</td>
<td>241 (62.4)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1.5</td>
<td>7 (4.39)</td>
<td>241 (62.4)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 1.0</td>
<td>7 (4.39)</td>
<td>241 (62.4)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS-Physician global score</td>
<td>50 (70-80)</td>
<td>70 (60-80)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacroiliitis according to mNY, n (%)</td>
<td>80 (46.2)</td>
<td>238 (57.3)</td>
<td>0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis, n (%)</td>
<td>64 (312)</td>
<td>105 (19.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuous variables were presented as median (%25-75); BMI: Body mass index (n=856); CCI: Charlson Comorbidity Index (n=865); BASFI: The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3194

**COMPARATIVE DISEASE BURDEN IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, PSAIRITIS OR ANKYLYING SPONDYLITIS: DATA FROM COVAD PATIENT-REPORTED E-SURVEY**

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis.

**Table 1. Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of Patients with/without Diagnostic Delay**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>&lt; 6 months</th>
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<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (ever)</td>
<td>119 (50.6)</td>
<td>289 (47.2)</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (diagnosis-bDMARD initiation)</td>
<td>2.3 (0.6-7.1)</td>
<td>2.5 (0.7-6.2)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI Score (0-10)</td>
<td>4.6 (2.2-6.2)</td>
<td>4.7 (3.4-9.5)</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI score</td>
<td>3.5 (3.2-4.7)</td>
<td>3.6 (3.1-4.2)</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>11 (10-12)</td>
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<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS-Physician global score</td>
<td>50 (70-80)</td>
<td>70 (60-80)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacroiliitis according to mNY, n (%)</td>
<td>80 (46.2)</td>
<td>238 (57.3)</td>
<td>0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis, n (%)</td>
<td>64 (312)</td>
<td>105 (19.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuous variables were presented as median (%25-75); BMI: Body mass index (n=856); CCI: Charlson Comorbidity Index (n=865); BASFI: The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3194

**POS0880**

**COMPARATIVE DISEASE BURDEN IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, PSAIRITIS OR ANKYLYING SPONDYLITIS: DATA FROM COVAD PATIENT-REPORTED E-SURVEY**

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis.
(Table 1, Figure 1). Patients with inactive AS had higher mean global physical health scores than RA patients (13.13 ±2.93 VS RA 12.48 ±2.90, p=0.01, Table 1). Those with inactive RA or PsA showed more severe fatigue (PsA 10.58 ±2.22, RA 10.45 ±4.08 VS 9.4 ±4.13, p <0.01 for both). Patients with inactive RA also reported poorer physical function and more residual pain than those with AS (37.79 ±8.86 VS 41.13 ±7.79, p<0.001; 3.87 ±2.45 VS 3.34 ±2.39, p=0.01, respectively). Similarly, residual pain was perceived as higher in patients with inactive PsA than those with AS (4.04 ±2.50 VS 3.34 ±2.39, p=0.01)

Conclusions: Disease burden is roughly comparable in patients with active RA, PsA or AS. Patients with inactive RA and PsA suffer higher disease burden than those with inactive AS.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Patient-Reported Outcome Measures between groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AS (n.185)</th>
<th>PsA (n.179)</th>
<th>RA (n.1167)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inactive</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Global Physical Health</td>
<td>13.13±3.13</td>
<td>9.4±4.13</td>
<td>10.45±4.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Global Mental Health</td>
<td>13.31±3.31</td>
<td>4.13±10.58</td>
<td>4.22±10.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS Fatigue 4a</td>
<td>4.13±10.58</td>
<td>4.22±10.45</td>
<td>4.08±10.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Physical Function</td>
<td>41.13±3.13</td>
<td>7.39±39.27</td>
<td>9.01±37.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF10 Score</td>
<td>3.34±4.04</td>
<td>2.50±3.87</td>
<td>2.45±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Active</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Global Physical Health</td>
<td>11.05±1.05</td>
<td>3.19±10.10</td>
<td>2.76±12.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Global Mental Health</td>
<td>11.31±1.31</td>
<td>3.26±10.84</td>
<td>3.63±11.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS Fatigue 4a</td>
<td>12.94±4.94</td>
<td>4.87±12.84</td>
<td>4.42±11.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Physical Function</td>
<td>35.82±3.82</td>
<td>9.62±33.35</td>
<td>8.76±34.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF10 Score</td>
<td>4.68±5.68</td>
<td>2.77±5.0</td>
<td>2.54±4.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: Vincenzo Venerito: None declared, Marco Formaro: None declared, Florenzo Iannone: None declared, Lorenzo Cavagna: None declared, Masataka Kuwana: None declared, Vishwesh Agarwal: None declared, Naveen Ravichandran: None declared, Jessica Day Grant/research support from: JD has received research funding from CSL Limited., Mrudula Joshi: None declared, Sreoshty Saha: None declared, Sahrul Sazliya Shafar: None declared, Warrancha Kachharnit: None declared, Phoenon Akarawatchara: None declared, Lisa Trabajo: None declared, Yi-Ming Chen: None declared, Parkshit Sen: None declared, James B. Lilleker Speakers bureau: JBL has received speaker honoraria/participated in advisory boards for Sanofi Genzyme, Roche, and Biogen. None is related to this manuscript., Consultant of: JBL has received speaker honoraria/participated in advisory boards for Sanofi Genzyme, Roche, and Biogen. None is related to this manuscript., Consultant of: Arzenees, Corbus, Kezar, Abbvie, Janssen, Alexion, Argenx, Q32, EMD-Serono, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Roivant, Latika Gupta: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4686

Figure 1. Violin plots showing kernel densities, quartiles and median for Patient-Reported Outcome Measures for patients with RA, PsA and AS, stratified by disease activity status.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Psoriatic arthritis

M. Köhnt,2,3,4 A. Pick2,4, H. Kratz2,3, L. Zerweck2,3, S. Kugler2,3, S. Mackay2,4, D. Antweiler2,3, S. Rüping2,4, F. Behrens2,3, 1Frankfurt University Hospital, Rheumatology, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; 2Fraunhofer ITMP - Translational Medicine and Pharmacology, Clinical Research, Frankfurt, Germany; 3Fraunhofer Cluster of Excellence Immune Mediated Diseases OIMD, Clinical Research, Frankfurt, Germany; 4Fraunhofer-Institut für Intelligente Analyse- und Informationssysteme IAIS, Healthcare Analytics, Sankt Augustin, Germany

Background: Psoriasis (PsO) is one of the most common chronic inflammatory skin diseases in Europe. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is closely associated to PsO. Up to 30% of the PsO patients will develop PsA during skin disease course. Defined and validated approaches for early detection are still missing. Beside biomarkers from blood or imaging, clinical characteristics of the patients may be of value to detect PsA patients in the transition state early.

Objectives: To perform an AI-based cluster analysis in a cohort of PsO patients at-risk for development of PsA to assess clinical characteristics as markers for early PsA.

Methods: Clinical data sets from the recently published XCITING study [1] were used to perform an AI based analysis using the attributes "tenderness of joints
Results:
Characteristics of the XCITING cohort were described previously [1]. After performance of the cluster analysis, seven different cluster types were identified (cluster 0-6) according to the clinical data sets of the cohort by use of the attributes and tested for their significance to predict the presence or absence of MSK inflammation in PsO (swollen joints, positive MSUS or positive FOI). Three "tenderness clusters" out of 7 were identified with significant correlation: while as expected cluster 2 (no major findings in LEI and TJC) is associated with no inflammation, "feet-type" involvement (cluster 4) and dominance atPIP and DIP joints (cluster 6) (Figure 1, Table 1) are associated with MSK inflammation at the hands.

Conclusion: Markers for early detection of PsA patients who will develop PsA are missing. Within this analysis we show, that by use of clinical data sets only, risk profiles developed from finding of tenderness at different anatomical regions might be helpful for detection of inflammatory MSK processes. Interestingly, the feet tenderness can also predict MSK inflammation at the hands. A combination of both, clinical data sets and liquid/imaging biomarkers may be identified on base of this observation to increase the potential to detect PsO patients with high-risk profiles for PsA early.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Results of the cluster analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>P-Value</th>
<th>Odds Ratio CI</th>
<th>n=402</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No major findings in LEI and TJC</td>
<td>Cluster 2</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.53 [0.31, 0.91]</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main involvement at the feet</td>
<td>Cluster 4</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>2.0 [1.03, 4.06]</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main involvement of PIP and DIP joints</td>
<td>Cluster 6</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>2.2 [1.10, 4.31]</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination of other clusters</td>
<td>0 + 1 + 3 + 5</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.87 [0.58, 1.31]</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: This project is part of the working program within the HIPPOCRATES consortium. HIPPOCRATES has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No. 101007757. The JU receives support from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4791

POS0883 SCREENING/REFERRAL STRATEGIES FOR THE EARLY RECOGNITION OF PSA AMONG PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: RESULTS OF A GRAPPA SURVEY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Diagnostic tests

K. Song1, L. Webb1, L. Eder2, O. Fitzgerald3, N. Goe4, P. Hellwell5, A. Katz6, J. F. Merola7, C. Rosen8, L. Coates9, D. Podububny10, 1University of Oxford, Medical Sciences Division, Oxford, United Kingdom; 2University of Toronto, Department of Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 3University College Dublin, School of Medicine, Conway Institute for Biomolecular Research, Dublin, Ireland; 4Duke University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Durham, United States of America; 5University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 6... 7Brigham and Women's Hospital, Department of Dermatology, Boston, United States of America; 8Toronto Western Hospital, University of Toronto, Division of Dermatology, Department of Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 9University of Oxford, Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology, and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; 10Charite University, Department of Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany

Background: Diagnostic delay in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is associated with poorer outcomes, and early screening/ referral strategies are important to reduce the delay. Implementation of early screening approaches demands cooperation between rheumatologists, dermatologists and primary care providers (PCPs).

Objectives: To explore the experiences of dermatologists and rheumatologists in the early recognition of PsA and suggest improvements to the current shared-care model.

Methods: A 24-question survey addressing referral strategies was constructed within GRAPPA (Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis) and sent to all members (n=927). Questions addressed the use of screening tools, interspecialty involvement in therapeutic decision making, and suggestions for earlier recognition.

Results: Surveys were completed by 113 rheumatologists from 37 countries (across six continents) and 26 dermatologists from 16 countries (across 4 continents), with a mean of 21.7 ± 10.7 and 18 ± 12.3 years experience, respectively. Of dermatologists, 81% use PsA-specific screening instruments. Conversely, rheumatologists reported that only 27% of patients referred to them from all sources had been assessed with screening tools. Across both specialties, "PST" was reported to be the most used tool. Whilst dermatologists reported that 67% ± 28% of their suspected PsA cases were confirmed, rheumatologists felt −48% ± 24% of suspected PsA cases were confirmed. Both specialties (n=137) reported similar views regarding optimisation of the diagnostic process: 78% believed that the best approach involved combining patient-reported and physician-confirmed findings (see Figure 1A). Moreover, the education of PCPs was seen as the greatest priority to improve screening with 76% raising this as an unmet need (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: The survey indicated the current unmet needs in the early recognition of PsA. Accordingly, important areas to address include improving the use of validated screening instruments, increasing the education of community-based dermatologists and PCPs, and utilising a combination of patient-reported and physician-confirmed findings to identify patients with a high probability of PsA among those with psoriasis.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Kaiyang Song: None declared, Louisa Webb: None declared, Lih Eder Shareholder of: UCB, Employee of: TrialSpark, Oliver FitzGerald: None declared, Niti Goel: None declared, Philip Hellwell: None declared, Arnon Katz: None declared, Joseph F. Merola: None declared, Cheryl Rosen: None declared, Laura Coates: None declared, Denis Podububny: None declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5053
predictors of patient-reported treatment success in PsA. We hypothesized that disease activity measures, including arthritis, psoriasis, enthesitis, and dactylitis, symptoms, and treatment type would contribute to patient-reported treatment success. We did not include multiple patient-reported outcomes in a model due to collinearity.

**Results:** A total of 178 participants had a baseline visit. Mean (SD) CASPAR score was 3.7 (0.9) age 51.7 (13.5) years, BMI 31.3 (7.2), while 52.2% were women, and 86.0% Caucasian. Treatment success was reported by 116 patients (65%). Overall, 105 participants had complete data for all the variables included in the logistic regression models. The total joint swelling 66, total joint tenderness 68, PROMIS pain interference, and PROMIS fatigue were significantly negatively associated with treatment success while controlling for age, race, gender, and BMI. Each additional swollen joint was associated with a 23% decreased odds of treatment success, each tender joint was associated with 17% decreased odds of success, each additional point on the PROMIS fatigue and on the PROMIS pain interference was associated with 6% and 15% decreased odds of success, respectively (Table 1). Patients receiving a tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi) had approximately 11-13 times increased odds of reporting treatment success compared to patients on a classical synthetic DMARD alone, while controlling for age, race, gender, and BMI.

**Conclusion:** Patient-reported treatment success was independently associated with control of tender and swollen joints, pain, fatigue, and with receiving a TNF-inhibitor medication. This supports the use of biological treatments as standard of care in PsA.

### Table 1. Two models of predictors of patient-reported treatment success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total joint swelling</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.69-0.84</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-17i</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>1.5-3.27</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDE4i</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.58-0.91</td>
<td>0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.6-0.86</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td>1.4-3.49</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokers</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>1.3-4.11</td>
<td>0.013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results:

**Current year, means(SD)**

- Current year, years (means(SD)) 48.2±9.3 68.4±7.7 <0.001
- Sex (M/F), n 163/136 135/106 0.516
- Age of diagnosis, years (means(SD)) 37.8±7.9 58.7±6.5 <0.001
- Disease duration, years (means(SD)) 10.5±5.2 9.7±4.6 0.193

### References:

**NIl.**

### Disclosure of Interests:

- None declared.

**Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared. Christeen Samuel; No declared, Amanda Grace-Finney; No declared, Thomas Grader-Beck; No declared, Uzma Haque; No declared, John Miller; No declared, Suzanne Grieb; None declared, Laura De Coimbra; None declared. Janssen, UCB, Grant/research support from: Amgen, Celgene, AbbVie/Abbott.

**References:** NIL.
Diagnostics and imaging procedures

**POS0885** CARDIOVASCULAR INVOLVEMENT IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS - THE ADDED VALUE OF CARDIAC MAGNETIC RESONANCE

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Imaging, Heart

Z. Gogoliska¹, Z. Smoleńska¹, A. Wojtczak⁰, A. Viteži¹, D. Kulawiak-Galaks⁰, Z. Zdrojewski¹, K. Domiak¹.¹ Medical University of Gdańsk, Department of Rheumatology, Geniatetics and Internal Medicine, Gdańsk, Poland; ²University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy; ³Medical University of Gdańsk, Department of Radiology, Gdańsk, Poland; ⁴Medical University of Gdańsk, Department of Noninvasive Cardiac Diagnostis, Gdańsk, Poland

**Background:** Cardiac complications of systemic sclerosis (SSc) are frequently subclinical or insidious and may affect up to 80% of patients [1], remaining one of the leading causes of death in, usually in the mechanism of life-threatening arrhythmia, heart failure or sudden cardiac arrest [2]. Diagnostic tools that can be used for heart involvement in SSc include ECG, echocardiography, serum markers (troponin, CK-MB, BNP, NT-proBNP) and, recently, magnetic resonance imaging. Cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) with advanced tissue characterization techniques (including parametric mapping of T1 and T2 relaxation times as well as extracellular volume [ECV] fraction of the myocardium) can provide unique non-invasive insight into early (inflammation, oedema) and late (fibrosis, necrosis) stages of heart involvement in those patients [3].

**Objectives:** To assess cardiac involvement in unselected systemic sclerosis patients in both diffuse (DSSc) and localized (LSSc) clinical subgroups, using contemporary cardiac magnetic resonance imaging techniques.

**Methods:** In this prospective single-centre study, we included 20 consecutive systemic sclerosis patients (51±14 years, 14 [70%] female) in whom CMR was performed between 2013 and 2022. Their baseline CMR results, clinical presentation of SSc, medical history, laboratory tests, lung function tests, and follow-up were analyzed with special attention to CMR features of heart involvement in the course of SSc in both clinical subgroups. Moreover, CMR findings were compared to a group of healthy controls (N=37).

**Results:** Systemic sclerosis patients had significantly lower LVEF (56.6% vs 61.6%, p<0.002), higher LVEFSI (38.9/m² vs 31.6/m², p=0.002), longer T1 and T2 relaxation times (1029.3 ms vs 993 ms and 48 ms vs 44 ms, respectively; p<0.001), and higher ECV (27.9% vs 26.0%, p<0.05) as compared to healthy controls. Overall, 13 (65%) patients had at least one abnormal finding in CMR, of which in 7 (35%) baseline ECG and echocardiogram were normal or borderline normal. Additionally, heart involvement was more frequent among DSSc patients (11/13), with more severe manifestations including greater extent of dysfunction and more pronounced tissue alterations than in LSSc patients (2/7). Of note, CMR allowed for detection of subtle tissue abnormalities in 3 (15%) of patients with normal ECG and echocardiograms as well as additional new tissue information (edematous abnormal T1/T2/ECV and/or non-ischemic fibrosis) in 4 (20%) others, in whom borderline unspecific echo abnormalities were detected. During a median follow up of 3.4 (1.9,5.5) years, three patients (15%) died (heart failure - 1, gastrointestinal complications - 1 and breast cancer - 1). Treatment escalation and deescalation were required in 8 and 5 patients, respectively. Two patients had their treatment changed over the follow up period, in 5 the treatment remained unchanged.

**Conclusions:** SSc patients frequently present heart involvement, especially in DSSc type. This complication is often late diagnosed or misdiagnosed by conventional methods. Cardiac magnetic resonance with modern tissue characterization techniques, provides detailed insight in heart involvement in systemic sclerosis. Modern quantitative techniques allow for early diagnosis, thus prompt closer follow up and/or treatment decisions in a proportion of patients in whom other diagnostic tests were inconclusive.

**REFERENCES:**

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**POS0886** 18F-FDG PET-CT OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH EARLY SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Lungs, Imaging

B. Broers¹, G. C. J. Zweerijnen⁰, E. Nossent⁰, L. Meijboom⁰, M. Yaqub⁰, J. Spijker³, J. De Vries-Bouwstra,⁴ J. M. Van Laar⁰, C. J. Van der Laken⁰, A. Voiskuyl⁰.¹ Amsterdam UMC, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; ²Amsterdam UMC, Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Amsterdam, Netherlands; ³Amsterdam UMC, Pulmonary Medicine, Amsterdam, Netherlands; ⁴Amsterdam Cardiovascular Sciences Research Institute, Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, Netherlands; ⁵UMC Utrecht, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; ⁶UMC Leiden, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

**Background:** Patients with systemic sclerosis associated interstitial lung disease (SSC-ILD) have a highly variable disease course, which makes clinical management challenging [1]. Hence, there is a clinical need for new tools to improve patient monitoring and stratification. 18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET-CT of the lungs has previously shown promising results in patients with SSC-ILD by reflecting ILD activity and contributing to the prediction of lung function decline [2]. However, as most studies have been performed in patients with longstanding and severe ILD, there is limited information concerning the value of 18F-FDG PET-CT in the first two years after SSC diagnosis and the recognition of early ILD.

**Objectives:** To prospectively investigate the presence and severity of ILD as detected by 18F-FDG PET-CT in patients with early SSc.

**Methods:** Included patients fulfilled the 2013 ACR-EULAR classification criteria for SSc, had a disease duration ≤ 2 years (from onset of first non-Raynaud’s symptoms) and diffuse cutaneous disease. All patients underwent a high-resolution CT scan of the lungs to evaluate the presence of ILD, as part of routine clinical care, as well as pulmonary function tests. 18F-FDG PET-CT was performed in 13 patients (ILD n=9; no ILD n=4). For quantitative analysis, six volumes of interest (VOIs) of 2cm were placed in pre-specified dorsobasal lung areas, as described previously [3]. The six standardized uptake values (SUV) were processed and averaged to obtain a total SUV for the dorsobasal lung fields. To correct for inter-individual differences, all uptake values were corrected for 18F-FDG uptake in the mediastinal blood pool [3]. Statistical analysis was performed using a Mann-Whitney U test to compare for between-group differences.

**Results:** In the ILD group, 7/9 (78%) of the patients were male with an average age of 53.2 years. In the non-ILD group 2/4 patients were male (50%), with an average age of 41.3 years. All patients received immunosuppressive treatment with either Mycophenolate Mofetil (ILD 100%; no ILD 50%) or Methotrexate (ILD 0%; no ILD 50%) before inclusion. Quantitative analysis of 18F-FDG PET-CT revealed that SUVmax corrected in the dorsobasal lung fields was higher in the patients with ILD (median [range] 0.90 [0.85]) than in patients without ILD (median [range] 0.63 [0.15]; p=0.03). The higher 18F-FDG uptake in patients with ILD compared to those without ILD is visually illustrated in Figure 1. The relationship between the uptake of 18F-FDG, high-resolution CT scan of the lungs and pulmonary function tests at baseline is currently under analysis (and will be presented during the meeting).

**Conclusion:** Our results suggest that in early disease stages, within two years of SSc diagnosis, 18F-FDG uptake in the dorsobasal lung fields is higher in patients with ILD compared to patients without ILD. Further analysis is warranted to investigate 18F-FDG uptake in other lung regions, its relationship to conventional tools and with regard to treatment outcomes. As such, we will investigate repeated 18F-FDG PET-CT and clinical outcomes after 1 year of follow-up in patients with SSc-ILD.

**REFERENCES:**

![Figure 1. Pulmonary uptake of 18F-FDG in patients with diffuse cutaneous SSC without ILD (A) and with ILD (B). 18F-FDG uptake is indicated by the yellow arrows.](image-url)
Background: Skin involvement is a hallmark of systemic sclerosis and an important marker of disease activity, severity and prognosis.[1] The modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), the current gold standard for the evaluation of the skin in SSc, both in clinical trials and in practice, has several limitations.[2] This highlights the need for more sensitive and objective measures of skin involvement, not only support the evaluation and development of new treatments, but also to facilitate the earlier diagnosis of SSc. Normal reference curves for skin ultrasound parameters, considering relevant influential factors seem of pivotal importance to fully exploit the potential of these new techniques as reliable tools for diagnostic and follow-up purposes.

Objectives: Our primary objective was to establish preliminary normal reference curves for ultrasound dermal thickness and skin stiffness, in the 17 Rodnan skin sites, considering the effect of gender and age on these measures. As an exploratory objective, we investigated the effect of body mass index and the menopause on skin ultrasound measures.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted involving 140 healthy volunteers, aged 20-79 years. Recruitment was stratified for age (10-year categories) and gender to guarantee a balanced distribution of these factors in the sample. Participants were excluded if they had any of the following conditions: (1) diagnosis of any skin or connective tissue or rheumatic illness, (2) history of insulin treated diabetes, (3) history of anticoagulant or radiotherapy treat- ments, (4) exposure to organic solvents, (5) past glucocorticoid treatment for more than 4 months or (6) recent (<4 weeks) treatment with glucocorticoids, regardless of dose, clinical indication and timing. Ultrasound dermal thickness and skin stiffness were assessed by high-frequency ultrasound (18MHz) and shear-wave elastography (9MHz), respectively, at the 17 Rodnan skin sites. All ultrasound measures were performed in the morning (between 9:00 and 13:00 hours) in the same room and at stable temperature. Outcomes were evaluated through a mixed linear model, univariate, and multivariate regressions. Normal reference curves were derived for both ultrasound measures in each Rodnan skin site, for females and males.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2441
and males (Example in Figure 1). An online calculator of the percentiles of skin ultrasound measures was also developed. A radar chart showing these values and the percentile for each site is automatically drawn, allowing the clinician to export the results obtained.

Results: A total of 140 caucasian participants, i.e., 80 females, mean (SD) age of 47.2 (16.0) years; and, 60 males, 49.5 (17.3) years were included. Ultrasound dermal thickness and stiffness measures were higher in males than females, in all Rodnan skin sites (except in chest for ultrasound-dermal thickness). Age had also a significant impact in both ultrasound measures, but only in some skin sites. Gender and age percentile curves were plotted for each of the measures in each skin site.

Conclusion: Gender and age are strongly associated with skin ultrasound parameters, imposing the need for gender- and age-specific reference values. Normal reference percentile curves for skin ultrasound measures are promising tools to support earlier diagnosis and refine sensitivity to time- or drug-induced changes. These reference percentile curves are provided as a basis for future cooperative work to strengthen its evidence-base, representativeness and refinement and Mouthing potentially influential factors.

REFERENCES:
[1] doi:10.1038/nrdp.2015.2;
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2515

POS0889 ASSESSMENT OF MYOSITIS-RELATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE BY 68GA-DATA.SA.FAPI PET-CT

Keywords: Lungs, Myositis, Imaging
K. Kastrati1, T. Nakuz2, S. Gessl1, E. Simader1, D. Mrak1, M. Bonelli1, H. Kiener1, F. Prayer2, D. Aletaha1, M. Hacker2, W. Langsteger1, T. Traub-Weidinger2, H. Radner1, P. Mandl1, D. Plant1, J. Humphreys2, A. Macgregor3, M. Yates3, S. Verstappen3, J. Bowes1, A. Barton1,1 The University of Manchester, Centre for Genetics and Genomics Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3University of East Anglia, Norwich Epidemiology Centre, Norwich, United Kingdom

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are a group of heterogeneous autoimmune disorders marked by skeletal muscle inflammation and extra-muscular complications including pulmonary involvement. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a common manifestation affecting up to 78% in IIM patients. Methods and means for in-vivo visualization of ongoing tissue remodeling in affected organs are scarce.

Objectives: To quantify and compare fibroblast activation in the lungs between IIM-patients and control subjects using 68Ga-labelled inhibitor of Fibroblast-Activation-Protein based positron emission tomography-computed tomography (68Ga-DATA.SA.FAPI PET-CT) imaging. Methods: Patients with IIM recruited prospectively from the rheumatology outpatient clinic, and control subjects without rheumatic conditions or ILD enrolled from the cardiology outpatient clinic underwent 68Ga-FAPi PET-CT imaging. Pulmonary FAPI accumulation was assessed by measuring the maximal standardized uptake value (SUVmax) and mean SUV (SUVmean) over the whole lung (wi), respectively. Values of SUV were compared across IIM patients with and without ILD and controls using analysis of variance (ANOVA) test and displayed as mean ± standard deviation (SD).

Results: The clinical characteristics of patients with IIM (15 patients with ILD confirmed by CT and 4 non-ILD patients with primary muscular affection) and control subjects (n=17) are displayed in Table 1. Subtypes of IIM included antisynthetase syndrome (57.9%), dermatomyositis (15.8%), overlap myositis (15.8%), and immune-mediated necrotizing-myositis (10.5%). In individuals with IIM-related ILD, whole-lung 68Ga-DATA.SA.FAPi uptake was significantly increased as compared to both, the non-ILD IIM patients and the control group: SUVmax (6.63 ± [2.05] vs. 3.74 ± [0.71]) and 4.74 ± [1.24] respectively, both p<0.001 (Figure 1A) and SUVmean (1.50 ± [0.48] vs. 0.94 ± [0.22] and 1.11 ± [0.34] respectively, both p<0.05) (Figure 1B). No differences of wiSUVmax or wiSUVmean were observed between non-ILD IIM patients and the control group.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates enhanced tracer uptake in 68Ga-DATA.SA.FAPI PET-CT in patients with IIM. Thus, FAPI-PET-CT may provide a useful tool for the assessment of lung disease in IIM. Further discriminatory and diagnostic testing approaches are needed to integrate this novel imaging method into clinical decision making.

REFERENCES:
[2] doi:10.1038/nrdp.2015.2;
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS0890 USING POLYGENIC RISK SCORES TO AID DIAGNOSIS OF PATIENTS WITH EARLY INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: RESULTS FROM THE NORFOLK ARTHRITIS REGISTER

Keywords: Epidemiology, Inflammatory arthritides, Genetcs/epigenetics
R. M. Hum1, S. Sharma1, M. Stabler1, S. Viatte1, P. Ho1, N. Nair1, C. Shi1, C. F. Yap1, M. Soomro1, D. Plant1, J. Humphreys2, A. Macgregor3, M. Yates3, S. Verstappen3, J. Bowes1, A. Barton1,1 The University of Manchester, Centre for Genetics and Genomics Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3University of East Anglia, Norwich Epidemiology Centre, Norwich, United Kingdom

Background: There is growing evidence that genetic information can offer valuable information to a clinician in a diagnostic setting, and that it is feasible that
genetic data would be of benefit to the rheumatologist outpatients setting by aiding early diagnosis. A genetic probability tool (G-PROB) has recently been developed to aid diagnosis using existing knowledge of disease-associated genetic variants but has only been tested in a limited capacity.

**Objectives:** Our aim was to assess whether G-PROB could aid diagnosis in the rheumatologist outpatient setting using data from the Norfolk Arthritis Register (NOAR), a large prospective observational cohort of patients presenting with early inflammatory arthritis where diagnosis at baseline is unclear.

**Methods:** Genotypes and follow-up clinician diagnoses were obtained from patients from NOAR. Six G-probabilities (0-100%) were created for each patient based on known disease-associated odds ratios (ORs) of published genetic risk variants, each corresponding to one disease of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), spondyloarthropathy (SpA), gout or “other rheumatological diseases”: Performance of the G-probabilities was assessed in the follow-up clinician diagnosis. (C) ROC analysis of correspondence of G-probability threshold # of patients with at least one G-probability at the given threshold (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>G-probability threshold</th>
<th># of patients with at least one G-probability at the given threshold (%</th>
<th># of G-probabilities at the given threshold (%</th>
<th>NPV or PPV at the given threshold (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5%</td>
<td>971 (100)</td>
<td>2410 (41)</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;20%</td>
<td>922 (100)</td>
<td>3857 (76)</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50%</td>
<td>957 (100)</td>
<td>1957 (34)</td>
<td>PPV 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;70%</td>
<td>470 (48)</td>
<td>470 (8)</td>
<td>PPV 74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: RMH and SS are joint first authors. JB and AB are joint last authors. The authors would like to thank the patients involved in NOAR and all supporting staff involved in its implementation. The authors also thank Prof Deborah Symmons for her involvement in the inception of the NOAR cohort. RMH is supported by an Academic Clinical Fellowship awarded by the National Institute for Health Research as part of the Integrated Academic Training (IAT) programme.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2349

**Table 1. Performance of G-probabilities in suggesting likely and unlikely diagnoses at different thresholds**

**Figure 1.** (A) Distribution of G-probabilities which match and those which do not match clinician diagnosis. Ideally the correct diagnosis should have higher probabilities, and the distribution should be skewed to the right, with incorrect diagnoses having lower probabilities with a distribution skewed to the left. (B) Linear regression without intercept showing concordance of G-probabilities with clinician diagnosis, where x-axis shows G-probabilities, and y-axis shows binary outcome of concordance with clinician diagnosis (y=1) and non-concordance (y=0). A regression coefficient of 1·03, where 1·00 represents perfect calibration. G-probabilities discriminated clinician diagnosis with pooled areas under the curve (95% CI) of 0·84 (0·81 to 0·86). G-probabilities <5% corresponded to a negative predictive value (NPV) of 96% where it was possible to suggest at least one unlikely diagnosis for 99-9% of patients, two or more diseases for 94% of patients, and three or more diseases for 54% of patients. G-probabilities >50% corresponded to a positive predictive value (PPV) of 74%. In 57% of patients, the disease with the highest G-probability corresponded to clinician diagnosis.

**Conclusion:** G-PROB successfully converts complex genetic information into meaningful, and interpretable conditional probabilities which may be especially helpful at suggesting unlikely diagnoses in the rheumatologist outpatient setting.

**REFERENCES:**

**POS0891**

**AN END-TO-END MACHINE LEARNING PIPELINE FOR THE AUTOMATED DETECTION OF RADIOGRAPHIC HAND OSTEARTHRITIS: A NO-CODING PLATFORM EXPERIENCE**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Artificial intelligence, Imaging

**Background:** Machine learning’s performances in the field of radiology have been constantly increasing in recent years such that nowadays many algorithms equals human performances and are FDA approved.[1,2] Non-coding platforms have recently emerged and allow healthcare professionals with no programming experience to play an active role in the development of machine learning (ML) algorithms according to existing or emerging clinical needs.

**Methods:** We constituted a retrospective cohort of 19,560 patients. Using all their images, we trained different neural networks in order to select just knee AP X-rays without prosthesis or artifacts. Our work explores two approaches: the prediction of the stage of osteoarthritis according to the KL scale and the measurement of the JSW. For the prediction of the KL score, 2,081 X-rays annotated by 3 radiologists were used to train a convolutional neural network (CNN). The measurement of the JSW required the realization of 3 different annotations: the positioning of the joint, of the two condyles (medial and lateral) and the contouring of tibia and femur. Three neural networks were optimized to reproduce these annotations before calculating the JSW for each condyle. For each individual task, we decomposed the datasets into training, validation, and test sets, used different data augmentation techniques, and researched the best possible architecture.

**Results:** The Kellgren-Lawrence score prediction obtained the following performances: an accuracy of 0.92, a sensitivity of 0.84 and an average area under the ROC curve (AuC) of 0.97. To evaluate the measurement of the JSW, we calculated the correlation between the area measured by the annotators and the area predicted by the algorithms, obtaining a Pearson correlation of 0.84.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights the relevance of the use of artificial neural networks for the assessment of osteoarthritis. Their performance opens the way to a tool assisting in the precise and standardized gradation of the severity of joint degradation.

**REFERENCES:**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POS0892**

**OSTEARTHARITIS SEVERITY USING KNEE X-RAYS AND CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORKS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Artificial intelligence, Osteoarthritis

**Background:** Knee osteoarthritis is a heterogeneous and complex degenerative pathology, characterized by a progressive deterioration of bone cartilage and structural modifications of the joint [1]. The precision of the diagnosis and the rating of the severity are major criteria for the therapeutic management and its follow-up. They are based on three criteria: the assessment of the pain, of the functional impairment and of the structural modifications. For this last criterion, the standard protocol in routine care remains the interpretation of X-ray images using standardized scales. The Kellgren-Lawrence (KL) score, which assesses both the joint space and the presence of osteophytes, allows a classification of the stages of osteoarthritis, but it relies on subjective manual interpretation and is time consuming for practitioners [2].

**Objectives:** In this study, we have developed artificial intelligence algorithms to automatically measure the ibia-femur joint spacing (or joint space width JSW) and determine the Kellgren-Lawrence (KL) score.

**Methods:** We constituted a retrospective cohort of 19,560 patients. Using all their images, we trained different neural networks in order to select just knee AP X-rays without prosthesis or artifacts. Our work explores two approaches: the prediction of the stage of osteoarthritis according to the KL scale and the measurement of the JSW. For the prediction of the KL score, 2,081 X-rays annotated by 3 radiologists were used to train a convolutional neural network (CNN). The measurement of the JSW required the realization of 3 different annotations: the positioning of the joint, of the two condyles (medial and lateral) and the contouring of tibia and femur. Three neural networks were optimized to reproduce these annotations before calculating the JSW for each condyle. For each individual task, we decomposed the datasets into training, validation, and test sets, used different data augmentation techniques, and researched the best possible architecture.

**Results:** The Kellgren-Lawrence score prediction obtained the following performances: an accuracy of 0.92, a sensitivity of 0.84 and an average area under the ROC curve (AuC) of 0.97. To evaluate the measurement of the JSW, we calculated the correlation between the area measured by the annotators and the area predicted by the algorithms, obtaining a Pearson correlation of 0.84.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights the relevance of the use of artificial neural networks for the assessment of osteoarthritis. Their performance opens the way to a tool assisting in the precise and standardized gradation of the severity of joint degradation.

**REFERENCES:**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2349
Objectives: We aimed to evaluate the feasibility of ML algorithm generation using a no-coding platform by clinicians without ML experience. By using such a platform, we developed a model for automated grading and scoring of radiographic distal interphalangeal osteoarthritis (DIP-OA) with subsequent user experience (UX) testing of the algorithm.

Methods: 13690 hands x-rays from 2863 patients within the Swiss Cohort of Quality Management (SCQM) and an external control dataset of 346 non-SCQM patients were collected and scored for DIP-OA by the modified Kellgren and Lawrence Score (K/L). 48892 DIP joints were extracted and classified according to the K/L score. Giotto (L2F, Lausanne) was used as a no-coding platform for training of 2 convolutional neural networks, the first one for segmentation of hand joints and subsequent DIP-joint extraction, and the second one for classification of KL scores according to the presence of osteophytes and joint space narrowing on the previously extracted DIP-joints. The classification model’s performance was tested by an internal test set (SCQM database) and an external test set (non-SCQM). User experience (UX) of a web app developed from the platform as a provisory user interface (UI) was investigated in rheumatologists and radiologists. The usability of heat maps was also investigated.

Results: The sensitivity and specificity of this model for detecting DIP-OA, was 79% and 86%, respectively. The accuracy for grading the KL score was 75% with a kappa score of 0.76. A similar sensitivity (79%) and specificity (80%) for detecting DIP-OA was found in an independent external test set. The accuracy per DIP-OA class differed with 79% for no OA (defined as KL 0 and 1), 65% for KL2, 40% for KL3, and 70% for KL4. On the external test set overall accuracy was 66% and the kappa score 0.75. The platform was intuitive and easy to use, but support from data scientists was still required for upload of the data set exceeding the drag and drop process. UX testing of the web app revealed a moderate demand by rheumatologists. The usability of heat maps was also investigated.

Conclusion: No-coding platforms are an opportunity to develop end-to-end AI-prototypes for further testing. Their use by clinicians without experience in programming and machine learning is possible. Here, automated radiographic DIP-OA detection is both feasible and usable, whereas grading between individual KL scores, e.g., for clinical trials, remains challenging, partly because of the inter-observer variability inherent to the scoring method.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3422
**Differential Diagnosis between Hand Osteoarthritis and Psoriatic Arthritis Using Indo Cyanine Green-Based Fluorescence Optical Imaging**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Osteoarthritis, Psoriatic arthritis

B Drude1, O Maugesten2, S G Werner3, J Berger4, J Kotsche5, G R Burmester1, I K Haugen2, S Ohndorf1, 1Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 2Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 3RHO (Rheumatology, Immunology, Osteology) Düsseldorf, RHO Research Institute, Düsseldorf, Germany; 4Xiralite GmbH, Research and Development, Berlin, Germany; 5Deutsches Rheuma-Forschungszentrum Berlin (DRFZ), Epidemiologic Unit, Berlin, Germany

**Background:** Fluorescence optical imaging (FOI) provides a measure of inflammation in finger joints and wrists [1,2]. Recognizing specific joint signals and morphologic patterns in FOI may be helpful in differential diagnosis of hand osteoarthritis (OA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

**Objectives:** To analyze the diagnostic value of the established FOI Activity Score (FOIAS) and predefined morphologic patterns in the differentiation between hand OA and PsA.

**Methods:** FOIAS has been validated for inter- and intra-reader reliability[3]. FOI sequences were examined by one trained reader (BD). Cases with physician-based diagnosis of hand OA (n=47) and PsA (n=54) were randomly mixed and pattern recognition might be needed to expand the diagnostic capability of FOI.

**Results:** There was moderate agreement between the physician-based diagnosis of OA and PsA and the diagnosis that was proposed based on FOI findings. OA cases presented more pronounced signal enhancement in PIP and DIP joints when compared to PsA cases. Additional morphologic criteria and pattern recognition might be needed to expand the diagnostic capability of FOI.

**References:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Benedict Drude: None declared, Oystein Maugesten: None declared, Stephanie Gabrielle Werner: None declared, Jörn Berger: Employee of: Xiralite GmbH, Jens Kotsche: None declared, Gerd Rüdiger Burmester: None declared, Ida K. Haugen Grant/research support from: Pfizer/Lily (paid to institution) and personal fees from: Abbvie, Novartis and GSK, outside of the submitted work; Sarah Ohndorf: None declared

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4894

**Ankle Retinaculum Abnormalities As Features of Psoriatic Arthritis: An Ultrasound Study**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Ultrasound

M Forien1, E Ebstein1, B Leger1, L Benattar2, P Dieudé1, S Ottaviani1, 1Bichat Hospital, Rheumatology, DMU Locomotion, Paris, France

**Background:** Ankles are frequently involved in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and can be observed in both diseases. The detection of enthesisitis may support the diagnosis for PsA and help to distinguish these 2 rheumatic diseases. At ankle level, retinacula can be analyzed with ultrasonography (US) and their insertions into bones can be considered as enthesis.

**Objectives:** The aim of the present study was to compare the US assessment of the retinacula of ankles in a population of RA and PsA patients with painful ankle.

**Methods:** This was an observational cross-sectional study. We analyzed consecutive RA or PsA patients with ankle pain. We also analyzed healthy controls (HC), without rheumatic disorders nor ankle pain. The following US features were assessed: presence of synovitis of tibiotar or talonavicular joints, presence of tencynovitits of peroneal or posterior tibial tendons. Two retinacula: the anterior peroneal retinaculum (SPR) and the flexor retinaculum (FR) were also evaluated in mode B (thickness, echogenericy and presence of malleolar periostitis) and the vascularization at their insertion into bone by using power Doppler (PD).

**Results:** We analyzed data for 80 consecutive patients (60% women; median age 56 years). Among these patients, 23 (29%) and 20 (25%) were RA, PsA and HC patients, respectively. A total of 160 ankles were assessed. The evaluation of SPR did not show difference between the two diseases. Regarding the FR, we observed that FR was thicker in PsA patients than in RA (0.96mm ± 0.39 vs. 0.64mm ± 0.15, P<0.001) and HC (0.96mm ± 0.39 vs. 0.56mm ± 0.12, P<0.001) without difference between RA patients and HC. The following US features were more frequently found in PsA than in RA ankles: hypoechogenicity (46% vs 7%, P<0.001), positivity of PD (43% vs 8%, P<0.001) and malleolar periostitis (43% vs 8%, P<0.001). By using ROC curve analysis, we determined that a cut-off of 1.1mm of FR thickness provided a sensitivity of 49% and specificity of 97% for the diagnosis of PsA. The association of a thickness ≥1mm with hypervascularization of the malleolar insertion of FR, named as “retinaculitis”, was observed in 39% and 3% of ankles in PsA and RA, respectively. The proportion of retinaculitis of SPR was not different between the two diseases.

**Conclusion:** US abnormalities of FR were more frequently observed in PsA than in RA patients and appear to be specific for PsA. Thus, US assessment of FR might be useful to distinguish RA and PsA in patients with painful ankles.

**References:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2696

**Analysis of the Performance of an Artificial Intelligence Algorithm for the Detection of Radiographic Sacroiliitis in an Independent Cohort of AxSpA Patients Including Both NR-AXSPA and R-AXSPA**

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, Imaging, Spondyloarthritis

E Perch1, J L Vahidi2, J Nicolao3, R Tham4, B Hoepekens5, B Utuktepe6, K K Bressem7, D Podhubny1, 1Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Gastroenterology, Infectious Diseases and Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; 2Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Radiology, Berlin, Germany; 3UCB Pharma, - Anderlecht, Belgium; 4UCB Pharma, - Slough, United Kingdom; 5UCB Pharma, - Monheim, Germany; 6UCB Pharma A.S., - Istanbul, Turkey

**Background:** Conventional radiography of the sacroiliac joints is the first imaging method if axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is suspected. The presence of definite radiographic sacroiliitis is needed to classify as radiographic (r-axSpA) based on the modified New York Criteria (mNYc). However, the reliability of radiographic sacroiliitis assessment is low, especially if performed locally. Expert central reading for classification purposes in clinical trials is time-consuming and still has high inter-reader variability. A possible solution to detect radiographic sacroiliitis with consistent reproducibility, could be the use of an artificial intelligence analysis of radiographs. Recently an artificial neural network showed an expert-level performance for classification and diagnostic settings[1,2].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to analyze the performance of this previously trained artificial network in a completely new cohort of patients previously evaluated as r-axSpA or nr-axSpA by central readers.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4895

**POS8094**

**POS8095**

**POS8096**
Conclusion: A pre-trained artificial neural network can enable the accurate detection of definite radiographic sacroiliitis relevant for the diagnosis and classification of axSpA close to expert performance. In the present study, the previously trained network showed an excellent ability to generalize data that was completely new to the network. Our results show the potential for classification purposes in multi-center axSpA trials in the future, providing a reproducible and cost-effective tool without unnecessary time delays.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Fabian Proft Speakers bureau: AMGEN, Abbie, BMS, Celgene, Jansen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: Novartis, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Lilly, UCB, Janis Lucas Vahltepe Shareholder of: UCB, Employee of: UCB, Keno Kyrill Bressem: None declared, Denis Poddubnyy Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biocad, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, MSD, Moonlake, Novartis, Pfizer, Samsung-Bioepis, UCB

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3091

POS0897
THE PERFORMANCE OF COMBINING EYE SIGN AND FUNCTIONAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN DIAGNOSING PATIENTS WITH NEUROPSYCHIATRIC SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Imaging

J. L. H. Shi1. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Medicine & Therapeutics, Hong Kong, China

Background: The diagnosis of NPSLE becomes challenging for rheumatologists, both at a diagnostic and therapeutic level. The 1999 ACR criteria had a high sensitivity (91%), but a low specificity (46%) [1].

Objectives: To investigate the alterations of eye sign and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) in patients with neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus (NPSLE) and to explore the performance of combining eye sign and MRI in diagnosing NPSLE.

Methods: In phase 1, SLE patients were consecutively recruited Sep 2017 to Sep 2018 including NPSLE patients and non-NPSLE patients. Eye sign examination for bulbar conjunctival microvascular were performed for all SLE patients and fMRI scanning for NPSLE patients. Demographic and clinical data were compared between two groups and to identify potential predictors for NPSLE by using multivariable logistic regression analysis. In phase 2, NPSLE patients in phase 1 were enrolled, and a new diagnostic algorithm including predictors and changed fMRI parameters was designed with the 1999 NPSLE ACR classification as comparison. Expert opinion was considered as golden standard. Double-blind clinical diagnosis from expert were recorded using new algorithm and 1999 ACR classification, respectively. Area under the curve (AUC) under the ROC curve, sensitivity and specificity were calculated and compared between these two diagnostic methods.

Results: 120 SLE patients were recruited (32.9±1.03 years) including 45 NPSLE and 90 non-NPSLE. NPSLE had higher disease activity (reflected as SLEDAI and ESR). Compared with Non-NPSLE group, fMRI showed changed fALFF and fReHo in brain regions relevant to cognition and emotion (p<0.01). Eye sign examination showed NPSLE group had significantly higher scores of ramified loops, vascular tone, microangioma, wound point and had higher total scores than non-NPSLE group (p<0.001). In multivariable logistic analysis, SLEDAI, ramified loop, microangioma, wound point and presence of antiphospholipid antibodies were predictors of NPSLE (Table 1). the AUC of the ACR classification under ROC curve was 0.775, sensitivity was 75.0%, specificity was 80.0% (p=0.002), the AUC of new algorithm under ROC curve was 0.815, sensitivity was 75.0%, specificity was 88.0% (p<0.001) (Figure 1). Conclusion: This proposed new algorithm showed not to be inferior to the 1999 ACR classification and need to be confirmed in further studies.

REFERENCE:
Table 1. Multivariable regression analysis of predictors for developing NPSLE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>HR (95%CI)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI</td>
<td>1.34 (1.03-1.75)</td>
<td>0.029*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramified loop</td>
<td>7.42 (1.58-34.79)</td>
<td>0.011*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microangioma</td>
<td>2.78 (1.45-6.33)</td>
<td>0.002*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wound point</td>
<td>4.17 (1.07-16.32)</td>
<td>0.040*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiphospholipid antibodies</td>
<td>18.59 (187-185.31)</td>
<td>0.013*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SLEDAI: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index.

Figure 1. ROC curve of new algorithm and 1999 ACR classification in diagnosing NPSLE. ROC: receiver operating characteristic; AUC: area under the curve.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0898 EARLY DETECTION OF ANTI-TNF INDUCED CHANGES IN NEW BONE FORMATION IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS BY 18F-FUORIDE PET-CT

Keywords: Imaging, Psoriatic arthritis

J. De Jongh1, G. C. J. Zweerijnen2, R. Hemke2, M. Yaqub2, M. G. H. Van de Sande2, A. Van Kuijk3, A. Voskuyl1, C. J. Van der Laken1. 1Amsterdam UMC, Location VUMc, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam UMC, Location VUMc, Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3Amsterdam UMC, Location AMC, Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 4Amsterdam UMC, Location AMC, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 5Reade, Department of Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Background: New bone formation in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) can be observed in all musculoskeletal disease domains and can lead to disability due to ankylosis and bridging syndesmophytes [1, 2]. The positive effect of anti-tumor necrosis factor (anti-TNF) therapy on radiographic damage (e.g. erosion and joint space narrowing) is well known, but there are contradictory findings on its effects on new bone formation [3, 4]. Imaging of new bone formation in PsA is pivotal in order to ascertain the extent and potential therapeutic effects on structural changes at an early stage of treatment. Our group recently demonstrated that molecular new bone formation can be observed in all PsA disease domains, using 18F-Fluoride PET-CT scans. Moreover, the ability of this imaging technique to detect early therapeutic effects in ankylosing spondylitis patients was also demonstrated by our group [5].

Objectives: To investigate whether 18F-Fluoride PET-CT scans can detect a change in 18F-Fluoride uptake, reflecting a change in new bone formation, after 12 weeks of anti-TNF therapy in clinically active PsA patients.

Methods: Nine patients (male 4/9, median age 47 (IQR 19)) with PsA fulfilling CASPAR criteria or a clinical diagnosis according to the treating rheumatologist and clinically active disease including ≥1 clinically active enthesitis site were included. In each patient, a whole body 18F-Fluoride PET-CT scan was performed prior to and 12 weeks after starting anti-TNF therapy. Scans were independently assessed for PET-positive lesions (dichotomous) by two readers (blinded for clinical data). Fixed sized volumes of interest were drawn on top of visual PET positive lesions as well as on locations where visual PET positive lesions appeared or disappeared before or after treatment. Standardized uptake values corrected for individual integrated whole blood activity concentration (SUVAUC) were used for quantitative analysis. CT was used for anatomical reference.

Results: Combining all PET-positive lesions of all patients, a total of 153 lesions were observed at baseline (89, 30 and 34 in peripheral joints, entheses and spine, respectively). At week 12, a total of 119 PET-positive lesions were observed (69, 13 and 37 in peripheral joints, entheses and the spine, respectively). Grouping all lesions of all patients, there was a decrease in the mean SUV AUC between baseline (1.578, SD 0.99) and week 12 of anti-TNF treatment (1.230, SD 0.85) (Figure 1A). Similar results were observed when grouping all lesions of all patients for separate disease domains. Mean SUV AUC changes between baseline and 12 weeks were -0.294 (SD 0.88), -0.357 (SD 0.69) and -0.300 (SD 0.67) for respectively peripheral joints (Figure 1B), entheses (Figure 1C) and the spine (Figure 1D).

Conclusion: 18F-Fluoride PET-CT detected a change in new bone formation in PsA domains during anti-TNF therapy as early as 12 weeks post-treatment. The data point at a mean decrease of new bone formation in peripheral joints, entheses and axial skeleton.

REFERENCES:
SPECIFICITY OF SALIVARY GLAND ULTRASOUND IN THE DISCRIMINATION OF PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME FROM UNDIFFERENTIATED CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

Keywords: Imaging

M. Djenne1a, T. Arexi1, S. Slimani2, H. Imene3, A. Ittiane1, 1University Mouloud Mammeri, Department of Medicine, Tizi Ouzou, Algeria; 2University of Batna, Department of Medicine, Batna, Algeria

Background: Recently, compelling data have been published on the value of salivary gland ultrasound (SGUS) in differentiating between primary Sjögren’s Syndrome (SS) from non-immune-mediated sicca syndrome. Limited data are available regarding the diagnostic accuracy of SGUS to distinguish SS from undifferentiated connective tissue diseases associated with sicca syndrome.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the power of SGUS to distinguish patients with SS from those with xerostomia and/or xerophthalmia and suffering from undifferentiated connective tissue diseases.

Methods: Our cross-sectional study consecutively recruited 95 patients with either SS (according to the American European Consensus Group criteria) or undifferentiated connective tissue diseases associated with sicca syndrome. Immunological assessment and salivary gland biopsies were performed in all patients. Ultrasonography of the parotid and submandibular glands on both sides were assessed for size, parenchymal echogenicity, and inhomogeneity, by the same blinded rheumatologist. A second ultrasound reading was performed blinded by another rheumatologist, with inter-observer Kappa calculation. Ultrasound abnormalities of the salivary glands were graded according to the OMERACT score ranging from 0 to 3 (threshold ≥2).

Results: The study included 95 patients; 51 with SS and 44 with undifferentiated connective tissue disease. Patients with SS showed a higher SGUS score compared with those with xerostomia with sicca syndrome [mean 1.69 (SD=1.17) versus 0.18 (SD=0.44), P < 0.0001]. The SGUS threshold showed a sensitivity of 60%, a specificity of 98%, a positive predictive value of 97% and a negative predictive value of 67% for the diagnosis of SS. A significant correlation was also found between the SSUS score and the minor salivary gland biopsy/focus score (r=0.64, P<0.0001). Finally, the inter-observer Kappa coefficient ranged from 0.61 to 0.70.

Conclusion: Our study confirmed the good sensitivity and high specificity of SGUS in differentiating SS from other undifferentiated connective tissue diseases with sicca syndrome.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.923
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Disclosure of Interests: Maja Scherlieth: None declared, Arnd Kleyer Consultant of: Received consulting fees from Lilly Deutschland GmbH, Jonas Utz: None declared, Lukas Foile: None declared, Sara Bayat Consultant of: Received consulting fees from Lilly Deutschland GmbH, Filippo Fagni: None declared, Ioanna Minopoulou: None declared, Koray Tasliker Consultant of: Received consulting fees from Lilly Deutschland GmbH, Jule Taubmann: None declared, Michael J. Uder: None declared, Tobias Heimann: None declared, Jingna Qiu: None declared, Georg Schett: None declared, Katharina Breining: None declared, David Simon Consultant of: Received consulting fees from Lilly Deutschland GmbH.

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POS0901

CAN B-MODE OCULAR ULTRASOUND ASSESS VITRITIS IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS?

Keywords: Ultrasound, Inflammatory arthritis, Uveitis

J. A. Mendonça1, L. Eduardo Pedri2, F. Andrade3, L. Biselli3, L. B. Nucci4

1Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Postgraduate Program in Health Sciences and Rheumatology/Ultrasoundography Service, Sumaré, Brazil;
2Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Postgraduate Program in Health Sciences and Rheumatology/Ultrasoundography Service, Campinas, Brazil;
3Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Clinical Center, Egas Moniz Health Alliance Academic Clinical Center, Aveiro, Portugal;
4Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Ophthalmology Service, Campinas, Brazil;
5Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Postgraduate Program in Health Sciences/Statistics Service, Campinas, Brazil

Background: Vitritis is the presence of cellular infiltration in the vitreous body resulting from inflammation of the vitreous cavity itself or from the extension of the anterior chamber inflammatory process[1]. Uveitis is the most frequent extra-articular manifestation of axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis, and may occur in any uveal topography[2]. B-mode ultrasound can be useful for confirming uveitis, especially in those conditions in which there is opacification of the light-conducting medium and the vitreous cavity and the rest of the globe cannot be visualized by ophthalmological examination[3]. In the case of vitritis, the vitreous appears on the ultrasound screen in the form of thin, confluent and mobile images[4].

Objectives: To detect the presence of vitritis in patients with axial spondyloarthritides and psoriatic arthritis using a B-mode ocular ultrasound and comparing it with the slit lamp ophthalmologic examination.

Methods: Observational and cross-sectional study with 6 patients with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis according to the ASAS criteria; 24 with radiographic axial spondyloarthritis according to the modified New York criteria and 34 with psoriatic arthritis according to the CASPAR criteria, selected for convenience between the months of August and December 2021, from the Rheumatology outpatient clinic of the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas Hospital. One hundred and twenty-six eyes were evaluated by an ophthalmologist by slit lamp biomicroscopy. B-mode ocular ultrasound machine (EsaoteSpA, São Paulo, Brazil) was performed with a high frequency linear probe of 12MHz. A total of 127 eyes were evaluated, categorizing vitreitis semi-quantitatively through the intensity of echoviteous in grades 0 (absent), 1 (mild), 2 (moderate) and 3 (severe) (Figure 1). Sensitivity, specificity, negative (NPV) and positive (PPV) predictive values and the ROC curve were calculated for B-mode ultrasound in relation to the ophthalmological evaluation.

Results: The mean age of patients with axial spondyloarthritis was 46.5±13 years, with a BASDAI of 4.10±2.84. The mean age among patients with psoriatic arthritis was 55.2±12.5 years, with a DAPSA of 24.27±22.15. Ophthalmic examination detected vitritis in 3.33% of the eyes. B-mode ultrasound identified grade 0 echoviteous in 39.37% of the eyes; grade 1 in 25.98%, grade 2 in 10.95% and grade 3 in 25.98%.

Conclusion: B-mode ultrasound showed an excellent negative predictive value for detecting vitritis, constituting an important complementary tool in the evaluation of uveitis in patients with axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Patients with axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis: Echoviteous intensity by B-mode ultrasound through color map and histogram: A. grade 0; B. grade 1; C. grade 2; D. grade 3.

Acknowledgements: To all the patients and the entire group that participated in this study.

Disclosure of Interests: José Alexandre Mendonça Speakers bureau: Novartis; Janssen and AbbVie., Paid instructor for: Novartis; Janssen and AbbVie., Consultant of: Novartis; Janssen and AbbVie., Lucas Eduardo Pedri: None declared, Flávia Andrade: None declared, Lívia Biselli: None declared, Luciana B Nucci: None declared.

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POS0902

ANTI-SSA ROS2 AND ANTI-ROSO AUTOANTIBODIES: ASSOCIATION WITH CLINICAL PHENOTYPES

Keywords: Diagnostic tests

C. Madeira1, 2, N. Oliveira3, C. Abreu4, V. Fragã5, A. Maduro5, A. Saraiva5, L. Inês6, 2, C. Caminho Ferreira6, A. M. Gomes Correia6, R. Nicolau6, F. Farinha7, 8, I. Villanueva7, 8, D. Jesus1, 11, P. M. Azevedo Abreu9, J. Neto6, J. Silva-Dinis6, 8, 10, A. Barcelo1, 2, 13, Centro Hospitalar Baixo Vouga, Rheumatology, Aveiro, Portugal; 2Egas Moniz Health Alliance Academic Clinical Center, Egas Moniz Health Alliance Academic Clinical Center, Aveiro, Portugal; 3University of Aveiro, Department of Mathematics, Aveiro, Portugal; 4Hospital Garcia de Orta, Rheumatology, Almada, Portugal; 5Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 6Universidade da Beira Interior, Faculty of Health Sciences, Covilhã, Portugal; 7Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal; 8Centro Hospitalar e Universitário São João, Rheumatology, Porto, Portugal; 9Hospital Distrital de Santarém, Rheumatology, Santarém, Portugal; 10Hospital Distrital de Santarém, Clinical Pathology, Santarém, Portugal; 11Centro Hospitalar de Leiria, Rheumatology, Leiria, Portugal; 12University of Beira Interior Faculty of Health Sciences, Covilhã, Portugal; 13ULS Castelo Branco, Rheumatology, Castelo Branco, Portugal; 14Hospital Nélido Mendonça, Rheumatology, Funchal, Portugal; 15Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Central, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 16Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Comprehensive Health Research Center, Lisboa, Portugal

Background: Anti-SSA autoantibodies can be differentiated according to their antigenic target proteins as anti-Ro60 (60 kDa) or anti-Ro52 (52 kDa). Anti-SSA(Ro60) are clearly associated with Connective Tissue Diseases (CTD), but the clinical significance of anti-SSA(Ro52) remains unclear.

Table 1. Performance according to the intensity of B-mode ultrasound echovitreous:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Echovitreous grades</th>
<th>Sensitivity (IC95%)</th>
<th>Specificity (IC95%)</th>
<th>NPV (CI95%)</th>
<th>PPV (CI95%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 + 2 + 3</td>
<td>0.69 (0.44-0.94)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.32-0.50)</td>
<td>0.12 (0.05-0.19)</td>
<td>0.92 (0.84-1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 + 3</td>
<td>0.46 (0.32-0.50)</td>
<td>0.67 (0.59-0.76)</td>
<td>0.14 (0.04-0.24)</td>
<td>0.92 (0.86-0.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.08 (0.00-0.22)</td>
<td>0.96 (0.92-0.99)</td>
<td>0.17 (0.00-0.46)</td>
<td>0.80 (0.85-0.95)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1328
**Objectives:** To analyze the disease phenotype of patients with anti-Ro52 and/or anti-Ro60.

**Methods:** Multicenter, cross-sectional study of anti-Ro52 and/or Ro60 positive patients followed at 10 Rheumatology centers from January 2018 until December 2021. Patients were categorized into 3 groups: group 1 (Ro52+/Ro60−); group 2 (Ro52−/Ro60+); group 3 (Ro52+/Ro60+). Antinuclear antibodies were evaluated by indirect immunofluorescence assay and further screened for anti-extractive nuclear antigen (ENA) antibodies. Demographics and clinical data were compared between the 3 groups, by patients’ medical chart review. Univariate analysis was performed using chi-square, Fisher’s exact or Kruskall-Wallis test. Subsequently, the Bonferroni test was used to identify intergroup differences (level of significance: p<0.0167). Univariate logistic regression was used to calculate the odds ratio with a 95% confidence interval (CI).

**Results:** We included 776 patients [female: 83.1%; median age: 59 (46-71) years]. Groups 1, 2 and 3 comprised 31.1%, 32.6%, and 36.3% of the patients, respectively. Characteristics of the groups are presented in Table 1. Anti-Ro52 alone is more frequently associated with non-rheumatic diseases, older age, and men (p<0.05). Among patients with CTD, the diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus is 3 and 2 times more prevalent in groups 2 and 3, respectively, than in group 1 [OR 2.8 (95% CI 1.60, 4.97), p<0.001; OR 2.2 (95% CI 1.28, 3.86), p=0.007]. In group 2, the diagnosis of undifferentiated connective tissue disease is more frequent than in the other groups. The presence of isolated Ro52+ is more frequently associated with inflammatory myositis than in group 2 [OR 0.09 (95% CI 0.01, 0.33), p<0.001] or group 3 [OR 0.08 (95% CI 0.01, 0.29), p<0.001]. Group 1 was also more frequently associated with arthritis (p=0.006), interstitial lung disease (p=0.002), and myositis (p=0.009).

**Conclusion:** Anti-Ro52+ alone is frequently found in patients with non-rheumatic diseases. In addition, anti-Ro52+ is also prevalent in patients with CTD and associated with clinical phenotypes that are different from anti-Ro60+.

**ACTIONS:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

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**Table 1. Characteristics of the study population according to the groups of anti-SSA(Ro) positivity.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1 (n=241)</th>
<th>Group 2 (n=253)</th>
<th>Group 3 (n=282)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (IQR)</td>
<td>64 (52-76)</td>
<td>56 (44-67)</td>
<td>57 (44-69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>185 (76.8)</td>
<td>214 (84.6)</td>
<td>246 (87.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other anti-ENA, n (%)</td>
<td>42 (17.4)</td>
<td>40 (15.8)</td>
<td>48 (17.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-La</td>
<td>24 (10)</td>
<td>50 (19.8)</td>
<td>114 (40.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-RNP</td>
<td>11 (4.6)</td>
<td>23 (9.1)</td>
<td>17 (6.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Scl70</td>
<td>3 (1.2)</td>
<td>4 (1.6)</td>
<td>6 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ain</td>
<td>7 (3)</td>
<td>10 (4)</td>
<td>11 (3.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Sm</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
<td>2 (0.8)</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA</td>
<td>11 (4.6)</td>
<td>39 (15.4)</td>
<td>37 (13.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere</td>
<td>12 (5)</td>
<td>3 (1.2)</td>
<td>6 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ro52</td>
<td>10 (4.2)</td>
<td>32 (12.7)</td>
<td>23 (8.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Jo1</td>
<td>12 (5)</td>
<td>3 (1.2)</td>
<td>6 (2.1)</td>
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**Conclusion:** Anti-Ro52+ alone is frequently found in patients with non-rheumatic diseases. In addition, anti-Ro52+ is also prevalent in patients with CTD and associated with clinical phenotypes that are different from anti-Ro60+.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**ACTIONS:** NIL.

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**Table 1. Comparison of magnetic resonance (MR) venography findings with respect to vascular and non-vascular involvements of Behcet’s disease.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1 (n=241)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diam. venous wall thickness</td>
<td>11.9±0.11</td>
<td>13.4±0.31</td>
<td>14.4±0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter</td>
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<td>20.0±3.44</td>
<td>20.2±3.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common ileal vein</td>
<td>5.8±0.76</td>
<td>6.1±0.89</td>
<td>6.2±0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall thickness</td>
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<td>0.96±0.17</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10.6±2.28</td>
<td>10.7±2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal iliac vein</td>
<td>5.8±0.58</td>
<td>6.0±0.60</td>
<td>6.1±0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall thickness</td>
<td>0.69±1.61</td>
<td>0.69±1.75</td>
<td>0.71±1.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** The results of our study suggest that the involvement of the venous system is diffuse and generalized in BD, and demonstration of venulitis might help diagnose the disease. Further studies are needed to elucidate prognostic role of wall thickening, venulitis, in terms of anticipation of future thrombosis and treatment response.


---

**Table 2. Comparison of magnetic resonance (MR) venography findings with respect to vascular and non-vascular involvements of Behcet’s disease.**

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**Conclusion:** The results of our study suggest that the involvement of the venous system is diffuse and generalized in BD, and demonstration of venulitis might help diagnose the disease. Further studies are needed to elucidate prognostic role of wall thickening, venulitis, in terms of anticipation of future thrombosis and treatment response.

Methods: Observational retrospective study involving the Rheumatology Departments of Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN), Lisbon-Portugal, and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC), Oxford-UK. We included patients with biopsy-proven GCA, always due to the lack of information regarding the demographics, clinical manifestations at disease presentation, and therapies were collected. Cranial symptoms included headache, temporary or permanent loss of vision, diplopia, blurred vision, jaw or tongue claudication, scalp tenderness or paraesthesia, stroke, or transient ischemic attack (TIA).

Results: We included 230 patients, 139 (60.4%) from the NOC and 91 (39.6%) from CHULN. One hundred and thirty-six (59.1%) patients were females, and the mean ± standard deviation age at diagnosis was 75.3 ± 8.5 years. The ultrasound was performed after ten days of treatment with prednisolone ≥30mg/day in 70/230 (30.4%) patients. The presence of halo sign in the TAs was found in 207/230 (90.0%) patients, in whom AXs involvement was positive. The AXs ultrasound pattern presented, 173/230 (75.2%) patients had positive TAs and negative AXs ultrasound, 23/230 (10.0%) had negative TAs and positive AXs ultrasound, and 34/230 (14.8%) had both positive TAs and AXs ultrasound. Cranial symptoms were reported in 207/230 (90.0%) patients, in whom AXs involvement was ultrasound was detected in 43/207 (20.8%) cases. Concerning only the patients with negative TAs and positive AXs ultrasound, 13/23 (56.5%) patients had cranial symptoms. Headache was reported in 10/23 (43.5%), visual symptoms in 6/23 (26.1%), jaw or tongue claudication in 4/23 (17.4%), scalp tenderness or paraesthesia in 4/23 (17.4%), and stroke or TIA in 1/23 (4.3%) patients. Patients were on glucocorticoid treatment at the time of diagnosis, i.e., the presence of a non-compressible halo sign in the TAs or AXs. Information regarding the demographics, clinical manifestations at disease presentation, and therapies were collected. Cranial symptoms included headache, temporary or permanent loss of vision, diplopia, blurred vision, jaw or tongue claudication, scalp tenderness or paraesthesia, stroke, or transient ischemic attack (TIA).

Conclusion: Axial involvement in GCA is frequent, affecting around 14.5% of the patients at diagnosis. The additional assessment of the AXs improved the ultrasound diagnostic sensitivity by 10% compared to only assessing the TAs. Patients with AXs involvement were reported to have cranial symptoms in 43/57 (75.4%) cases. More than half of the patients with negative TAs and positive AXs ultrasound presented with cranial symptoms. Our results support the need to assess the AXs in patients with suspected GCA, regardless of the presence or absence of cranial symptoms.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4441

POS0906
ULTRASONOGRAPHY AND FDG-PET/CT FOR SUSPECTED POLYMYALGIA RHHEUMATICA: DIAGNOSTIC PERFORMANCE IN TREATMENT-NAIVE VERSUS ALREADY TREATED PATIENTS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Imaging, Musculoskeletal

POS0905
AXILLARY ARTERIES ULTRASOUND IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS WITH PREDOMINANTLY CRANIAL SYMPTOMS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Imaging, Vascular

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3307
Background: Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) is a common rheumatic, inflammatory disease in the elderly. Traditionally, the diagnosis is based on clinical and laboratory findings, which are not specific for PMR. Although, which patients initially respond well to glucocorticoid (GC) treatment, a refractory or relapsing disease course is not uncommon and may cause doubt about the initial diagnosis. This usually prompts additional diagnostic evaluation for PMR with imaging tools such as ultrasonography and FDG-PET/CT, usually after GC tapering. However, it is unclear whether these tests perform equally well in patients already treated under the presumed diagnosis of relapsing or refractory PMR, when compared to treatment-naive patients, suspected of new PMR.

Objectives: To compare the diagnostic accuracy of ultrasonography and FDG-PET/CT for PMR in treatment-naive and already treated patients.

Methods: Retrospective study including 144 consecutive patients that were referred to the Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology department for suspected PMR, including 63 treatment-naive patients, and 81 already treated patients with or without still ongoing treatment. Patients were referred by general practitioners (n=107) or other medical specialist. Bilateral ultrasonographic evaluation of the shoulders and hips was performed in 135 patients. The presence of biceps tenosynovitis, subacromial bursitis, glenohumeral synovitis, hip synovitis, and trochanteric bursitis was assessed. A sum score of the latter abnormalities was constructed (score range 0-10), and termed total ultrason score. FDG-PET/CT from skull to upper legs was performed in 72 patients. FDG uptake was visually scored at 12 key sites in order to calculate the Leuven PMR-PET score (score range 0-24) [1,2]. The final clinical diagnosis at 6 months was the reference standard.

Results: A clinical diagnosis of PMR was made in 94/144 (65%) patients. The provisional ACR/EULAR criteria for PMR were fulfilled in 67/94 (71%) patients with PMR and in 19/50 (38%) patients without PMR. More specifically, PMR was diagnosed in 42/63 (67%) treatment-naive patients and 52/81 (64%) already treated patients. Among the already treated patients, 24 patients were still on GC treatment during the ultrasound scan (median prednisolone dose 6.25 mg daily, range 1.25-30), while 2 patients were taking methotrexate (n=1) or leflunomide (n=1). Only 2 patients were on GC treatment during the FDG-PET/CT scan (prednisolone dose 1 and 2.5 mg), while 1 patient was treated with leflunomide. The total ultrasound score and Leuven PMR-PET score showed good diagnostic accuracy in treatment-naive patients as indicated by the AUC in the ROC analysis (Table 1). The diagnostic accuracy of the total ultrasound score was poor in patients that had already been treated, even when GC treatment had been fully tapered. In contrast, the diagnostic accuracy of FDG-PET/CT remained good in already treated patients.

Conclusion: FDG-PET/CT shows equal diagnostic accuracy for already treated PMR as for treatment-naive PMR, if GC therapy is fully tapered. However, ultrasonography for suspected PMR is best performed before initiation of treatment. A simple sum score of inflammatory lesions in the shoulders and hips aids the interpretation of ultrasonography in PMR.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Characteristics of the cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N° of patients</th>
<th>55</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49 (89.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 1 [years]</td>
<td>45 (35-55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration 1 [years]</td>
<td>11 (7-19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity: Caucasian Asian/African-American</td>
<td>51 (92.7%)/ 3 (5.5%)/ 1 (1.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ involvement [cumulative/on-going]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCucutanous</td>
<td>55 (100%)/ 55 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematological</td>
<td>20 (36.4%)/ 6 (10.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>7 (12.7%)/ 2 (3.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular</td>
<td>33 (60.0%)/ 8 (14.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurospheric</td>
<td>2 (3.6%)/ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2K 1</td>
<td>3 (5.5%)/ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2K 2</td>
<td>4 (2-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SiLCC-DI 1</td>
<td>0 (0-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASI activity 1 * [global UHFUS area]</td>
<td>5 (2-13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASI damage 1 * [global UHFUS area]</td>
<td>1 (0-5)/ 0 (0-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skindex-16 global</td>
<td>53.9 (31.8-83.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skindex-16 symptoms</td>
<td>50.0 (25.0-85.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skindex-16 emotions 1</td>
<td>61.9 (28.6-97.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skindex-16 functioning 1</td>
<td>33.3 (13.3-86.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Median (IQR)* data on 70 assessments

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Kornelis van der Geest Speakers bureau: Roche, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Karim Bouwman: None declared, Maria Sandovici: None declared, Riemer Start: None declared, Elisabeth Brouwer Speakers bureau: Roche, Consultant of: Roche.

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POS0097 ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY ULTRASOUND TO ASSESS SKIN INVOLVEMENT IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: PRELIMINARY DATA FROM A MONOCENTRIC COHORT

Keywords: Skin, Ultrasound, Systemic lupus erythematosus

C. Cardelli1,2, V. Signorini1, G. Granieri2, C. Stagnaro1, L. Carl1, F. Ferro1, E. Elefante1, D. Zucchi1,2, D. Trentin1, G. Monaco1, C. Tani1, V. Dini2, M. Romanelli2, M. Mosca1,1. University of Pisa, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Pisa, Italy; 2University of Siena, Department of Medical Biotechnologies, Siena, Italy; 3University of Pisa, Dermatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Pisa, Italy

Background: The assessment of cutaneous involvement in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), particularly the differential diagnosis between active lesions and damage, might be a challenge for the clinicians. Ultra-high frequency ultrasound (UHFUS), with a sub-millimeter resolution, is a promising tool in the evaluation of superficial structures. In recent years its use has grown in the field of dermatology, where UHFUS finds application in the study of normal anatomy, differentiation of cutaneous lesions (bullous and inflammatory disease), diagnosis of skin malignancies and pre-surgical mapping, increasing diagnostic sensitivity and accuracy in guiding medical and surgical therapies.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to explore a possible role of UHFUS assessment in the evaluation of skin involvement in a monocentric cohort of SLE patients and to evaluate the relationship with patients’ perception of their skin disease.

Methods: Consecutive adult SLE patients (1997 ACR criteria) regularly followed at our Lupus Clinic were prospectively enrolled during a scheduled outpatient visit in presence of skin lesions. Demographical, clinical, laboratory and treatment data were collected at enrolment. Disease activity and organ damage were evaluated with the SLEDAI-2K and SLECC-DI, respectively. Clinical assessment of skin lesions was done by an experienced rheumatologist using the Cutaneous LE Disease Area and Severity Index (CLASI); at the same time, UHFUS evaluation of skin lesions was performed with a 70 MHz probe by an experienced dermatologist. The Skindex-16 questionnaire was used to assess the impact of the skin involvement on patients’ quality of life.

Results: We included 70 assessments in 55 SLE patients with skin lesions (5/55 evaluated twice, 5/55 three times). Cutaneous disease subtypes were distributed as follows: acute 37.5%, subacute 12.5%, chronic 50.0%. The characteristics of the cohort are shown in Table 1. The most frequent UHFUS alteration was the presence of power Doppler (51/70, 72.9%), followed by dermal oedema (37/70, 52.9%), dermal inhomogeneity (33/70, 47.1%), follicular plugging (32/70, 45.7%), vascular ectasia (27/70, 38.6%) and thinning of the epidermis (10/70, 14.3%). The CLASI activity score was significantly higher in cutaneous areas with power Doppler signal (p=0.032). Dermal oedema was also found to be associated with...
higher CLASI activity scores, considered both globally (p<0.001) and at the level of the US-evaluated region (p<0.002), and with higher damage scores of the evaluated area (p<0.034), while vascular ectasia was only associated with higher damage scores of the evaluated area (p=0.036). Skinex-16 symptoms subscale scores were significantly higher in patients with thinning of the epi- dermis (p=0.01) and dermal inhomogeneity (p=0.049). Regarding the subtype of cutaneous involvement, vascular ectasia was significantly more frequent in chronic cutaneous LE (p<0.029), while no other UHFUS alterations were found to differ between the three groups.

Conclusion: Through preliminary, our data seem to suggest UHFUS as a promising tool not only for assessing skin involvement in SLE, but also for monitoring disease activity over time with a view to optimising the management of these patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0908

NAILFOLD CAPILLAROSCOPY FINDINGS OF INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA WITH AUTOIMMUNE FEATURES (IPAF)

Keywords: Lungs, Imaging

S. H. Lee1, H. K. Min2, H. R. Kim1. 1Konkuk University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Konkuk University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Objectives: We evaluated nailfold capillaroscopy (NFC) of interstitial pneumonia with autoimmune features (IPAF) and compared it with that of patients with CTD-ILD and idiopathic interstitial pneumonia (IIP).

Methods: Patients with newly diagnosed as ILD were evaluated using NFC. Baseline demographic, clinical, serological, and high-resolution CT findings were collected. NFC was semi-quantitatively scored with six domains ranging from 0 to 18. In addition, the overall patterns (scleroderma/non-scleroderma patterns) were determined.

Results: A total of 81 patients (31 with CTD-ILD, 18 with IPAF, and 32 with IIP) were included. The non-specific interstitial pneumonia pattern was the most common IBD pattern in the CTD-ILD and IPAF groups, whereas the usual interstitial pneumonia pattern was the most common in the IIP group. The semi-quantitative score for NFC of the CTD-ILD group was higher than that of the IPAF or IIP groups (5.8 vs 4.2 vs 3.0, p < 0.001, respectively). Giant capillaries and haemorrhages were more frequently present in the CTD-ILD and IPAF groups than in the IIP group.

A scleroderma pattern was present in 27.8% of the IPAF group, whereas none of the IIP patients showed a scleroderma pattern.

Conclusion: NFC findings may be useful in classifying patients with ILD into CTD-ILD/IPAF/IIP.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1932

POS0909

IS IT NECESSARY TO STOP NOVEL ORAL ANTICOAGULANT THERAPY PRIOR TO MUSCULOSKELETAL ULTRASOUND GUIDED INTERVENTIONAL MANEUVERS?

Keywords: Comorbidities, Ultrasound, Inflammatory arthritis

M. Micu1, A. Duju2, A. Micu3. 1Rehabilitation Clinical Hospital Cluj Napoca, Rheumatology Division, Cluj Napoca, Romania; 2Iuliu Hâțieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Cluj Napoca, Romania; 3Iuliu Hâțieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Cluj Napoca, Romania

Background: Anticoagulation is common in patients undergoing arthrocentesis or joint/periarticular injections. Previous retrospective studies have established the safety of continuing anticoagulation with Novel Oral Anticoagulant Therapy (NOAC) when performing such kind of interventional maneuvers [1]. Indeed, ultrasound guided interventional maneuvers have shown a superior safety profile compared to blind anatomical maneuvers [2].

Objectives: To evaluate the post-procedural bleeding complications in patients diagnosed with inflammatory/ degenerative rheumatologic pathology.

Methods: Consecutive patients diagnosed with inflammatory/ degenerative rheumatologic pathology requiring interventional articular/ periarticular maneuvers were prospectively recruited. Patients were divided in two groups – Group 1 treated with NOACs and Group 2 (control group) without anticoagulation. NOAC therapy was administered in a continuous regimen prior to the interventional maneuver, in therapeutic regimens dictated by the underlying anticoagulation indication. Demographics, laboratory analysis, systemic medication, local administered medication (corticosteroids/ viscosupplementation), interventional maneuver location, type of needle, the occurrence/ absence of bleeding accidents in the anatomical structures submitted to needle penetration were recorded. The written informed consent was obtained. Post-procedural control was performed at 30 minutes, 48 hours and 7 days.

Results: Results are presented in Table 1. No articular/ intra- tendon sheath/ bursa or muscular bleeding event occurred in patients treated with NOAC regardless of their type and dosage, local medication administration/ needle size/ location and number of interventions per individual. Several patients in both groups developed small superficial ecchymoses at injection site.

Table 1. Demographics, laboratory analysis, systemic medication, interventional maneuver location, type of needle, the occurrence/ absence of bleeding accidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Group with NOAC</th>
<th>Group with No NOAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number patients</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with 2 interventions</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (median +/- IQR)</td>
<td>65 ± 11.4</td>
<td>69 ± 12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (number F/M)</td>
<td>44/35</td>
<td>99/57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFR (median +/- IQR)</td>
<td>79 (50-99)</td>
<td>74 (66-103)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOAC type</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apixaban (5mg/day)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivaroxaban (15-20mg/day)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dabigatran (75mg/day)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin K antagonists</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspirin 100mg/d</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection number</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound guided injections (%)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needle size (Gauge)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G18 (for viscosupplementation)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee joint</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder (SASDb)*</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip joint</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tendon sheath</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paravertebral</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleeding events in the targeted anatomic structure</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SASDb = subacromial subdeltoid bursa, GFR=glomerular filtration rate

Conclusion: Our results suggest that NOACs are safe to be used in a continuous regimen prior to joint/periarticular ultrasound guided injections, even in combination therapy with aspirin. The use of lower gauge needles, chosen for vicosupplementation therapy, was not burdened with adverse effects on the procedural outcome.


Acknowledgements: We wish to thank to Mrs. Maria Mureyean, Mihaela Rusu and Iulianna Sechi, collaborators with nursing degree, from the Rehabilitation Clinical Hospital Cluj- Napoca for their valuable contribution in performing this study.

Disclosure of Interests: Mihaela Micu Consultant of: Not linked to the study, Alina Duju: None declared, Alexandru Micu: None declared.

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POS0910

A MULTIPLEX RT-QPCR KIT FOR EXPRESSION ANALYSIS OF INTERFERON-STIMULATED GENES AS A USEFUL TOOL FOR MOLECULAR STRATIFICATION IN LUPUS AND OTHER AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Keywords: Validation, Diagnostic tests, Systemic lupus erythematosus

J. Qian1, L. Lu1, Z. Cao2, Q. Fu1. 1Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine Affiliated Renji Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Shanghai, China; 2Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine Affiliated Renji Hospital, Institute of Molecular Medicine, Shanghai, China

Background: It is recognized that the expression of interferon (IFN)-stimulated genes (IFN signature) plays a significant role in several autoimmune diseases (AIDs) [1], such as systemic erythematosus lupus (SLE), idiopathic inflammatory
myopathies (IIM) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). A quick and ready-to-use method to differentiate IFN activation state is clinically needed.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to conduct analytical validation of the Multiplex ISGs RT-qPCR Kit in clinical practice

**Methods:** We designed a multiplex RT-qPCR method to provide IFN score covering both type I IFN and type II IFN by simultaneously detecting the expression of 3 IFN stimulated genes (ISGs), IFI44, MX1(type I ISGs), and IRF1(type II ISG), relative to one housekeeping gene (HPRT1). Measurements were performed on mRNA extracted from the peripheral blood cells of patients with multiple AIDs. The relative expression of each target gene (T/R) was calculated via 2^-ΔΔCT. The T/R of each target gene was then normalized as the following: T/R - Mean H1/ SD HC. IFN score was calculated as the mean of the normalized T/R of three target genes. Scores higher than the mean of HC plus two SD were designated IFN score high; otherwise, IFN score low. Analytical validation was performed to assess compliance rate, accuracy and method detection limit.

**Results:** Significantly elevated IFN scores were found in SLE(n=116), IIM(n=118), and RA(n=17) compared to other AIDs and HC. Four distinct subpopulations of SLE patients were observed: Thirty-five percent of SLE patients exhibited elevation of all three genes, indicating both type I and type II IFN pathways were activated. 44% of SLE patients had elevated expression of type I ISGs but no change in the type II ISG suggesting only type I IFN pathway was activated. 15% SLE patients presented no elevated expression of ISG gene. And 6% SLE patients only showed increased expression of IRF1 without overexpression of other 2 Type I ISGs, suggesting they probably only had type II IFN pathway activated. We repeated the tests. The compliance rate was 100% and accuracy was 100% with a CV of 0.36%. The method detection limit was 0.61 ng/μL.

**Conclusion:** Using the Multiplex ISGs RT-qPCR Kit, we assessed the IFN score in multiple AIDs. The analytical validation of the kit reveals that it is a reliable, reproducible diagnostic tool that will be useful in clinical practice but may require confirmation in larger-scale trials.

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** The authors thank the patients for participating in the study. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**References:**

**Table 1.** Relative risk of developing clinical arthritis according to US-detected synovitis at baseline in patients with clinically suspected arthralgia. (grey-scale (GS), Power-Doppler (PD), and GLOESS score)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Relative Risk</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>P value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GS≥1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.71-4.12</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.32-0.94</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS&lt;1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.57-1.80</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00-1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5769

**Acknowledgements:** Project N2U2-05-00226.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6047
**POS0912**

**SARCOPENIA IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS. ULTRASOUND EVALUATION**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Ultrasound, Sarcopenia

C. Soto1, C. A. Lozada Perez2, A. Angeles-Acuna1, S. Y. Solorzano Flores1, F. Carranza-Enríquez1, C. Vega1, C. Pineda.1 Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación, Departamento de Reumatología, Mexico city, Mexico

**Background:** Spondyloarthritis are a group of chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases that share clinical and imaging characteristics. Sarcopenia is characterized by loss of muscle mass and function associated with impairment of quality of life and adverse outcomes such as fractures and death. Patients with Spondyloarthritis had a prevalence of up to 25.7% of sarcopenia. The available imaging techniques for the detection of low muscle quantity and quality are: dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA), and recently muscular ultrasound (US). Ultrasound estimate muscle quantity using prediction equations based on muscle thickness that have shown to be highly reliable in healthy population. Among the models used, the following equations are applicable in different ethnicities to predict muscle mass Abe 2018, Barbosa Silva 2021, Tang 2022.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the prevalence of sarcopenia in Spondyloarthritis and to determine which of the three ultrasonographic predictive models correlates best with BIA and DXA in our population.

**Methods:** Observational, cross-sectional study. We included 42 patients with spondyloarthritis (according to ASAS criteria for ankylosing spondylitis or CASPAR criteria for psoriatic arthritis). Appendicular skeletal muscle mass (ASM) was evaluated by DXA and predicted by BIA and US. We performed a US examination with a GE LOGIQ e, equipped with a broadband linear probe to measure muscle thickness (MT) at seven sites. Based on ultrasound prediction models, we use age, sex, height, and MT to estimate ASM (Abe 2018, Barbosa-2021, and Tang-2022). A bivariate analysis was performed to assess the differences between patients with and without decreased ASM. Pearson’s correlation coefficient was calculated to evaluate the correlation of the ultrasonographic predictive models with DXA and BIA. Finally, a ROC curve analysis was performed to determine the area under the curve of the models.

**Results:** We included 42 patients, composed mainly of men (24/42, 57.1%), with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) in 35 (83.3%) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in 7 (16.7%). The prevalence of sarcopenia was about 33% (10/14 sarcopenia y 4/14 severe sarcopenia). When comparing patients with and without decreased ASM, differences were only found in ultrasonography measurements of the quadriceps and anterior tibial muscles (p=0.003 y 0.00). On the other hand, the ultrasound prediction models had a moderate to strong correlation with DXA and BIA (0.80, 0.87, 0.53 and 0.68, 0.74, 0.66 for Abe-2018, Barbosa-2021, and Tang-2022). Nevertheless, in the ROC curve, the ABE-2018 model expresses a better diagnostic performance (AUC 0.80 p=0.002).

**Conclusion:** Results indicated a low ASM in 30% of the patients with Spondyloarthritis (sarcopenia 24.4%, severe sarcopenia 9.8%). This study supports the use of ultrasound and shows a good correlation with DXA and BIA for ASM evaluation in Spondyloarthritis, particularly with the Abe-2018 predictive model.

**REFERENCE:**


---

**Table 1. General characteristics of patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Normal ASM N (%)</th>
<th>Low ASM N (%)</th>
<th>( p ^{1} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>14 (58.3)</td>
<td>10 (41.6)</td>
<td>.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>21 (60)</td>
<td>14 (40)</td>
<td>.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>48.85-12.67</td>
<td>49.92-17.38</td>
<td>.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27</td>
<td>16 (66.7)</td>
<td>9 (33.3)</td>
<td>.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>6 (66.6)</td>
<td>4 (66.6)</td>
<td>.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesis</td>
<td>6 (75)</td>
<td>2 (25)</td>
<td>.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low grip strength</td>
<td>8 (30.8)</td>
<td>4 (33.3)</td>
<td>.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gait speed m &lt;1 m/s</td>
<td>10 (61.5)</td>
<td>10 (61.5)</td>
<td>.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound ( ^{1} )</td>
<td>3.81±.52</td>
<td>3.47±.46</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadriceps</td>
<td>4.67±.45</td>
<td>3.97±.46</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibialis anterior</td>
<td></td>
<td>.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predictive models US ( ^{1} )</td>
<td>7.93±.67</td>
<td>5.58±.67</td>
<td>.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABE 2018</td>
<td>7.91±.86</td>
<td>7.56±.92</td>
<td>.269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARBOSA 2021</td>
<td>8.72±.60</td>
<td>7.72±.63</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANG 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AS, Ankylosing spondylitis; PsA, Psoriatic arthritis; \( ^{1} \) = Presented in cm; *= Presented in kg/m2, IQR= Interquartile range

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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Graph 1. Area under de curve**

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**POS0913**

**LOW ADDITIVE VALUE OF A REPEAT MRI EXAMINATION OF THE SACROILIAC JOINTS WHEN THE FIRST MRI IS INCONCLUSIVE**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Inflammatory arthritis, Spondyloarthritis

I. Eshed1, T. Goitein1, M. Lidar1, 1Sheba Medical Center, Diagnostic Imaging, Ramat Gan, Israel; 1Sheba Medical Center, Rheumatology Unit, Ramat Gan, Israel

**Background:** Diagnosing sacroiliitis on MRI of the sacroiliac joints (SIJ) is not always straightforward. It is common practice in inconclusive cases to repeat the MRI after a variable period of time with an expectation that more conclusive acute/structural lesions will develop and allow for an irreversible diagnosis of sacroiliitis.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the diagnostic utility of a repeat SJU MRI following an initial inconclusive MRI examination.

**Methods:** Subjects with >1 SJU MRI examinations, where the index scan was inconclusive for sacroiliitis and ≥ 6 months’ interval has elapsed between scans, were included. Repeat scans were evaluated for the presence of structural/acute SIJ lesions and were accordingly diagnosed with either sacroiliitis or another applicable diagnosis. Clinical data was extracted from the patients’ clinical files and by a telephone questionnaire. Diagnoses and scores were compared between index and follow-up examinations (t test).

**Results:** 71 subjects were included in the study; 77.4% females, mean age 41.0±15 years. Mean time interval between exams 30.4± 25.24 months. 12 subjects performed >2 scans. Clinical information was available in 63 subjects (86%) and is summarized in Table 1. In only two subjects (2.81%), both females, MRI diagnosis changed from inconclusive to definite sacroiliitis on the follow-up scan; a 41-year-old patient that had inflammatory back pain for two years prior to the index MRI, had peripheral arthritis but no family history of SpA and a 39-year-old patient with inflammatory back pain since the age of 23 years and an elevated CRP but no family history of SpA or other clinical rheumatic involvement. Final diagnosis after the 2nd MRI was osteitis condensans ili in 29 patients, DISH in 3 patients, degenerative changes in 6 patients (two accompanied by enthesitis) and enthesitis in 1 patient. In 10 patients (14.1%) diagnosis was still inconclusive after the 2nd MRI examination. No major abnormality was found in the follow-up MRI examination in 20 subjects. None of the subjects with >2 scans, had evidence of sacroiliitis in any of the following MRI examinations.

**Conclusion:** Repeating SJU MRI examination when index MRI is inconclusive is of minimal additive value. When MRI findings are inconclusive, decision making should be based on clinical data.

**REFERENCES:**


Table 1. Patients’ characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average back pain onset</td>
<td>32.4 years (sd=14.0 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average pain duration</td>
<td>23.3 months (sd=176 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath pain awakens at night</td>
<td>61 patients (84%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back pain improves with activity</td>
<td>39 patients (62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen large joint</td>
<td>20 patients (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactilitis</td>
<td>20 patients (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>9 patients (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD</td>
<td>5 patients (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First degree relative with psoriasis</td>
<td>12 patients (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First degree relative with IBD</td>
<td>2 patients (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP</td>
<td>37 patients (59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLAB27 positive</td>
<td>7 patients (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAIDS treatment</td>
<td>57 patients (90%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good response to NSAIDS</td>
<td>30 patients (48%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data from 63/71 patients

Acknowledgements: NIL.


POS0914

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EVALUATION OF ENTHESEAL FIBROCARTILAGE IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS, HEALTHY CONTROLS AND ATHLETES: A COMPARISON STUDY

Keywords: Enthesitis, Psoriatic arthritis

F. M. Perrotta1, S. Scriffignano1, M. Ronga2, E. Lubrano1,1Università degli Studi del Molise, Medicina e Scienze della Salute, Campobasso, Italy;1University of Piemonte Orientale, Health Sciences, Novara, Italy

Background: Enthesitis is the hallmark Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA), with the enthesal fibrocartilage (EF) found to be the possible target tissue of inflammation [1]. With the development of feasible and more accurate imaging modalities, the in vivo study of this important tissue has become more precise.

Objectives: The aim of this study was: 1) to evaluate the EF at Achilles tendon insertion by using power Doppler ultrasound (PDUS) in PsA 2) to assess the intra and inter-reader reliability in the evaluation of EF thickness 3) to compare EF thickness of healthy controls (HC) and athletes; 4) to evaluate the association of EF abnormalities with other enthesal abnormalities and disease activity and functional indices in PsA.

Methods: Consecutive PsA patients attending our unit with age < 50 years were asked to participate. HC and agonist athletes (basketball and soccer players with a minimum of 10 hours training per week) were enrolled as control group. Bilateral PDUS evaluation of Achilles tendons was performed in order to evaluate the EF in all patients and controls. EF was defined as the thickness of the anechoic layer just above the cortical bone and was measured at its thickest point in the longitudinal scan, as previously described [2]. All PsA patients underwent a complete clinical examination.

Results: 30 PsA patients, 20 HC and 40 athletes were enrolled. Female/male ratio was balanced among the three group. Median age (IQR) was higher in PsA patient (49; 41-54) than HC (26; 21-29) and athletes (24; 21-27). Four (13.3%). No patients had clinical heel enthesitis. Median (IQR) EF thickness between PsA, athletes and HC was 0.035 (0.03-0.04) cm, 0.035 (0.03-0.04) cm and 0.03 (0.02-0.04) cm respectively (p=0.05 between PsA and HC; Kruskal-Wallis analysis, see Figure 1). The intra-reader reliability was excellent [intraclass correlation coefficient-ICC (95% confidence interval-Cl) of 0.91 (0.88-0.95) and the inter-reader reliability good [ICC (95% CI) of 0.80 (0.71-0.86)]. At PDUS, no statistically significant differences were found in enthesal abnormalities. However, 3 PsA patients showed erosions at enthesal site in respect to HC and athletes which did not show erosive changes. We did not find correlations between EF thickness and BMI, age, disease duration, disease activity (assessed by DAPSA), LEI and impact of disease (assessed by PsAID) and duration of sport activities in athletes. A trend toward a correlation between EF thickness and body weight was found (Table 1). Assessment of EF was feasible with a mean time of 2 minutes.

Conclusion: The assessment of EF is a feasible and reproducible test. Furthermore, our data suggest an increased thickness of EF in PsA patients in respect to HC with similar values in respect to agonist athletes and may open the way to further large studies on this peculiar aspect.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Fabio Massimo Perrotta Speakers bureau: Lilly, Novartis, Abbvie; Silvia Scriffignano: None declared, Mario Ronga: None declared.
Background: Cholesterol efflux capacity (CEC) measures the ability of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) to remove cholesterol from arterial wall macrophages upon interaction with membrane transporter proteins and reduce the lipid content of atherosclerotic plaques. CEC inversely associated with cardiovascular risk in general patients independently of HDL levels. CEC through the ATP-binding-cassette G1 (ABCG1) membrane transporter is impaired in RA, yet, its relationship to atherosclerosis and cardiovascular risk is unknown.

Objectives: We here evaluated associations of ABCG1-mediated CEC with coronary atherosclerosis burden, plaque progression and incident cardiovascular event risk in RA.

Methods: Coronary atherosclerosis was evaluated with computed tomography angiography in 140 patients without cardiovascular disease and reassessed in 99 after 83.6±4.0 months. ABCG1-mediated CEC was measured in Chinese hamster ovary cells, not transfected or transfected with ABCG1 gene, as per - angiography in 140 patients without cardiovascular disease and reassessed in.

Results: Mean (standard deviation [SD]) of ABCG1 was 4.71 (0.92)%). At baseline, ABCG1 inversely associated with likelihood of extensive atherosclerosis (≥5 plaques) (odds ratio 0.50 [95% CI 0.29-0.88]) and numbers of partially-calcified (rate ratio [RR] 0.71 [95% CI 0.53-0.94]) and low-attenuation plaques (RR 0.83 [95% CI 0.43-0.91]) independently of ASCVD score and statin use. There were no main effects of ABCG1-CEC in adjusted plaque progression models. However, higher ABCG1-CEC predicted decreased noncalcified and calcified plaque progression exclusively in patients with higher time-weighted mean prednisone dose (Figure 1A,B). Furthermore, ABCG1-CEC inversely associated with progression of partially-calcified plaque at lower time-averaged CRP levels (Figure 1C). ABCG1-CEC did not have a main effect on cardiovascular event risk after adjusting for ASCVD score. However, higher ABCG1 associated with lower risk in patients with any versus no prednisone exposure during follow-up (Figure 1D,G), ≥1 versus no noncalcified plaques (Figure 1E,H), and low (<median) versus higher baseline CRP (Figure 1F,I) after adjustments including for ASCVD score (p-for-interaction=0.008, 0.021 and 0.033 respectively).

Conclusion: ABCG1-mediated CEC inversely associated with coronary plaque burden and number of high-risk plaques at baseline. It further predicted decreased plaque progression conditionally on cumulative inflammation and prednisone dose. Notably, ABCG1-mediated CEC inversely associated with cardiovascular risk specifically in prednisone users, patients with noncalcified plaques at baseline and those with lower inflammation.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: George Karpouzas Speakers bureau: Sanofi/Genzyme/Regeneron, BMS, Consultant of: Sanofi/Genzyme/Regeneron, Janssen, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, BMS. Florence Adorni: None declared, Marcella Palumbo: None declared, Elizabeth Hernandez: None declared, Maria Pia Adorni: None declared, Francesca Zimetti: None declared, Matthew Budoff: None declared, Nicoletta Randa: None declared DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1461
Background: Active sacroiliitis represent the radiological hallmark of Ankylosing Spondylitis (Ax-SPA) and manifest as low back pain accompanied by morning stiffness (MS). The pain at rest as well as MS represent the main symptoms that impair patients’ quality of life. The treatment of Ax-SPA rely on non steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), monoclonal antibodies as Anti-TNF-α, anti interleukine-17/23 and, recently, on Janus Kinase Inhibitors; such compounds modify the disease natural history and reduce inflammation, thus restoring patient’s well being and quality of life. However, despite a full treatment regimen, sometimes it is not possible to reach a low disease activity or remission.

Objectives: In rheumatological practice, corticosteroids (GCs) injections are successfully exploited in the every-day scenario to treat oligo-articular inflammatory disorders. In this context, we decided to evaluate the long-term efficacy of ultrasound-guided sacroiliac joint injections (US-SIJIs) of GCs in the treatment of active sacroiliitis and to understand whether local therapy has a role in the management of active sacroiliitis.

Methods: We enrolled patients affected by Ax-SPA with active sacroiliitis from our outpatient clinic. Some were treated with an US-SUI when starting a biological disease modifying rheumatic drug (bDMARD) while others were treated with conventional therapy (bDMARD + NSAIDs) and used as controls. Variables such as age, gender, disease duration, type of bDMard, visuo-analogic pain scale (VAS) and MS were collected at baseline. VAS and MS were collected at each follow up visit that were scheduled at 24 and 48 hours, then after 7 days, 14 days, 1, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months. Each patient treated with SIJI received an explanation of the technique and informed written consent was obtained; subsequently, each patient was invited to lay prone on a medical bed while a musculoskeletal sonographer individuated sacroiliac joints (SIJ) with a convex probe and demarcated the needle entry site with a dermographic pen. A sterile hood was put on the probe, the skin was accurately disinfected, then a 2,5 mL syringe was loaded with 40mg of triamcinolone acetonide and a spinal needle of 22 gauge was used to reach SIJ. Each SIJI involved crossing the posterior sacroiliac ligament and each injection was carried out following real time the needle trajectory. All of the US-SIJ patients received a bilateral SIJI. The statistical analysis exploited descriptive statistics to define baseline anthropometric variables, ANOVA test and Test U of Mann were used to compare the means between groups. The p<0,05 was considered significant. The present study was conducted in accordance to the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the local ethical committee.

Results: We enrolled 33 subjects: 12 received an US-SUI and 21 were treated with a standard therapy according the most up-to-date recommendations. Both groups were comparable for age and VAS pain at baseline. In US-SUI group after 24 h was documented a significant reduction of VAS pain that lasted up to 1 year displaying always a persistent significant lower value compared to baseline; in SIJIs group the higher VAS pain reduction from baseline was documented after 7 days (- 71 %); in the control group VAS pain reduction reached significance after 3 months from baseline and the higher VAS pain reduction was documented at end of study (-32 %). In the US-SUI group MS dropped significantly after two weeks from SIJI while in the controls after 3 months from baseline. At the end of the study the patients treated with US-SUI displayed a higher VAS pain (-50 % in SIJIs vs. -32 %, p<0,05) as well as MS reduction compared to controls (- 71 % in SIJIs vs. -42%, p<0,05). Any serious adverse event was recorded.

Conclusion: The US-SIJIs represent a safe and useful tool to control the symptoms of an active sacroiliitis and they should be performed concomitantly to the beginning of a bDMARD therapy to guarantee a rapid restoration of patients' quality of life.
Background: Radiographic assessment of the sacroiliac joints (SIJ) according to the modified New York (mNY) criteria is essential in the classification of ankylosing spondylitis, but low to moderate inter-reader agreement and limited improvement by calibration have been reported [1]. A web-based real-time iterative calibration (RETIC) module for scoring SIJ radiographs according to the mNY criteria has been developed by experienced readers to allow remote standardized calibration.

Objectives: To test the performance of this online RETIC calibration module in enhancing scoring proficiency with an expert reader as gold standard reference.

Methods: This RETIC module consisted of 50 cases with radiographs of the SIJ at one timepoint with an integrated scoring interface with real-time feedback to the reader’s grading compared to the expert readers’ grading. The mNY grade (0-4) was assessed for each joint. Reliability for fulfilling versus not fulfilling the mNY criteria was assessed in real-time by kappa data being provided every 10 cases, until proficiency targets (kappa > 0.5) were achieved. In this study, 19 readers from the EuroSpA Imaging project were randomized to one of two reader calibration strategies (groups A and B) that comprised of 3 calibration steps, each followed by a reading exercise (Exercises 1-3; 25 patients per exercise).

Calibration steps were as follows: Group A: 1. Review of original manuscripts describing the mNY method. 2. Review of PowerPoint summary of mNY method and video with grading examples PLUS completion of mNY RETIC module. 3. Re-review of PowerPoint summary and video. Group B; same 3-step strategy as group A except that the mNY RETIC module was completed at step 3, i.e. immediately before Exercise 3. The reliability of scoring was compared to an expert radiologist (RL) using kappa statistics for positivity of mNY criteria and intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) for the grades of the mNY criteria.

Results: The mean agreement for all readers on fulfillment of the mNY criteria with kappa was 0.69 in exercise 1, 0.72 in exercise 2 and 0.83 in exercise 3. Corresponding ICCs for mNY scoring 0-4 were 0.77, 0.77 and 0.82 in exercises 1, 2 and 3, respectively, see Table 1 and Figure 1. For Reader Group A, kappas for exercises 1-3 were 0.65, 0.76 and 0.83, respectively and ICCs 0.71, 0.82 and 0.81 (exercise 3). Interestingly, the main increase in agreement occurred between Exercises 1 and 2, i.e. after the RETIC module was performed. For Reader Group B, corresponding kappas were 0.71, 0.77 and 0.83 and ICCs 0.80, 0.72 and 0.80, for exercises 1-3, respectively. Similarly, agreements predominantly improved directly after the RETIC module was performed.

Conclusion: Agreement on scoring radiographs of the SIJ according to the mNY criteria was noticeably improved when using a systematic online calibration module and in general readers achieved very good agreement with experts implying that systematic calibration of readers before scoring of images can enhance scoring proficiency.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Reader agreement versus expert radiologist, after different training steps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement mNY+ vs mNY (Kappa)</th>
<th>All Readers (n=19)</th>
<th>Reader Group A (RETIC before exercise 2) (n=8)</th>
<th>Reader Group B (RETIC before exercise 3) (n=11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 1</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 2</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.76#</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 3</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.77#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreement mNY score 0-4 (ICC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 1</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 2</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.82#</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 3</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.80#</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Reading performed right after doing the RETIC module.*Grading per sacroiliac joint/ICC: Intra-class correlation coefficient (two-way, single measurement, absolute agreement), mNY+: Fulfilling radiographic part of Modified NY criteria; mNY: Not fulfilling radiographic part of Modified NY criteria.
Results: At the joint level, PET/CT activity (SUV) was significantly different when the joint was under US remission or not (OR 0.411, p<0.0001 with remission defined as “no synovitis grade ≥ 2 with no PDI”). ROC-curves identified SUV thresholds to define joint remission with a high predictive positive value (95.2%; confidence interval (CI): 93.8-96.4), but with low negative predictive value (28.9; CI: 7.1-62.8). When wrists, MCP and PIP were evaluated separately, AUC was higher for wrists. Predictive positive value was high for each sub-type (93.4, 94.2, 96.3% respectively). Negative predictive value was low for MCP and PIP (34.0 and 22.2%) but better for wrist (71.4%). At the patient level, SUVmax was significantly different when the patient was under US remission or not (p=0.0023 with remission defined as “no synovitis grade ≥ 2, no PDI, no tenosynovitis”). Cumulative SUV was also different (p=0.045) while there was no difference for the number of PET-positive joints. SUVmax threshold was determined with ROC-curves and demonstrated a high negative predictive value for determining US remission (92.9, CI: 66.1-99.2), while the positive predictive value was lower (67.4, CI: 52.0-80.5). For cumulative SUV threshold, negative and predictive value for determining US-defined remission were 73.1 and 73.5 respectively.

Conclusion: PET/CT is able to predict US-defined remission in RA patients. In addition to its well-known role in cancer evaluation and systemic inflammation work-up, PET/CT is also a promising tool in RA metrology. When considering US remission at the joint level, the predictive positive value is high, while the predictive negative value is better when predicting US remission at the patient level. Among PET/CT parameters, the maximum SUV (SUVmax) and the cumulative SUV exhibit the highest performances to predict US remission.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging.

Objectives: To assess tenosynovitis in wrist MRI scans from patients suspected of developing rheumatoid arthritis (RA), visual scoring (RAMRIS) is usually applied. As this time-consuming and requires rigorous training, we propose a method for the wrist that is based on Deep Learning (DL) combined with post-processing. This method detects all structures (a process called ‘segmentation’), including all tendons, and measures inflammation around each tendon (group).

Methods: Post-contrast axial MR scans of the wrist of 1216 patients with early-onset synovitis from the early arthritis clinic (EAC) cohort were used. From 28 EAC patients, ground truth manual segmentations were obtained as atlases. This dataset contains 33 labels: 14 flexor/extensor tendon groups; 10 carpal, 5 metacarpal bones; 1 label for all main vessels; 2 labels for skin and remaining tissue; and 1 air label. We normalized each input image using the Z-score. For tissue segmentation of the wrist (see Figure 1a), our method utilizes a U-Net. For data augmentations we used intensity scaling (0.8-1.25) and added normally distributed noise ($\mu=0, \sigma=0.06$). We used softmax cross-entropy as a loss function, 1-fold cross-validation evaluation, we trained on all 28 atlases. For validation we compared the automated tenosynovitis score against the manual RAMRIS score. From 10 RAMRIS tenosynovitis scores defined by two clinicians, we computed the mean score (Tm). To define starting and end MRI slices for the scoring area we followed the RAMRIS definition. Starting from the slice where radius and ulna are closest to each other, ending with the hook of the hamate. The scoring areas were computed 3mm around tendons, using a Euclidean distance transform, while excluding bones and vessels. Subsequently we computed histograms of the image intensities in the blood vessels and used the 25th percentile point as threshold to define inflamed areas within the scoring area (see Figure 1b). The final tenosynovitis quantification ($Tq$) was defined as the ratio between the number of ‘inflamed pixels’ and the total scoring area.

POS0919

[PET] POSITRON EMISSION COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY ([18F] FDG PET/CT) IS ABLE TO PREDICT ULTRASOUND-DEFINED REMISSION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides.

C. Rinkin1, C. Florane1, C. Gérard1, L. Seidel1, C. Lamaye2, R. Hustinx2, M. Malaise1, C. Ribbens1, O. Malaise1.

Background: Assessing joint inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is of high importance because associated with structural damage. In addition to clinical examination and ultrasound (US), joint inflammation can also be quantified by [18F] positron emission computed tomography ([18F] FDG PET/CT). Nowadays, PET/CT is widely used for cancer evaluation and systemic inflammation work-up and it can be used for opportunistic joint evaluation in RA patients. In addition, PET/CT allows a whole-body articular evaluation in one examination. We, and others, have previously demonstrated that PET/CT is significantly correlated with US parameters, but with a weak correlation coefficient.

Objectives: We investigated the ability of PET/CT to predict US-defined remission at the joint level and at the patient level.

Methods: 61 RA patients were included and underwent [18F] FDG PET/CT and US evaluations. For PET/CT, standardized uptake value (SUV) was determined on 22 joints (wrists, PIP and MCP of both hands). At the patient level, the maximum SUV (SUVmax), the number of PET positive joints (SUV>0) and the sum of all SUVs (cumulative SUV) were evaluated. US evaluation included grayscale and Power Doppler imaging, according to OMERACT.

Results: The ratio between the number of ‘inflamed pixels’ and the total scoring area.

Acknowledgements: None Declared.
Results: In this work, we presented an alternative automatic quantification of tenosynovitis on MRI of the wrist. The results provide sufficient quantitative measurements compared to RAMRIS visual scores. The quantitative measurement was computed for 1216 patients, with Pearson correlation coefficient $r = 0.87$ and $p < 0.001$ (see the scatter plot in Figure 1).

Conclusion: Our DL-method provides a way to automate the quantification of tenosynovitis with MRI. It is very fast (~10 sec per patient) as compared to manual visual scoring. We illustrate the cumulative measurement of all synovial areas, while computing per tendon is also feasible. The accomplished results provide a solid basis for automatic tenosynovitis quantification.

Acknowledgements: This AI-project has been funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) Applied and Engineering Sciences (project numbers 13329 and 17970). The Dutch Arthritis Society contributed financially to both grants.

Disclosure of Interests: Denis Shamonin Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer contributed to this project, through a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Applied and Engineering Sciences., Yani Li: None declared, Tahereh Hassanzadeh Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer contributed to this project, through a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Applied and Engineering Sciences., M. Els Bakker: None declared, Monique Reijnierse Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer contributed to this project, through a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Applied and Engineering Sciences., Erich Herbots: None declared.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Patient characteristics by HLA-B27 status. Group differences were investigated by chi-squared tests or T-test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HLA-B27 status</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
<th>Age (mean, SD)</th>
<th>Sex (mean, SD)</th>
<th>BMI (mean, SD)</th>
<th>CRP (mean, SD)</th>
<th>BASDAI (mean, SD)</th>
<th>Months symptom duration (mean, SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive</td>
<td>34 (58.9)</td>
<td>40.2 (11.2)</td>
<td>38.8 (10.0)</td>
<td>22.9 (2.7)</td>
<td>2.6 (5.4)</td>
<td>4.0 (1.9)</td>
<td>109.9 (111.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 negative</td>
<td>57 (68.7)</td>
<td>38.8 (10.0)</td>
<td>24.8 (4.3)</td>
<td>2.6 (4.3)</td>
<td>4.3 (1.8)</td>
<td>85.5 (89.9)</td>
<td>109.9 (111.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Imaging, Gender/diversity issues, Spondyloarthritis

In this post-hoc analysis, 139 patients (90 women and 49 men) with low back pain of mechanical/ non-inflammatory origin (after exclusion of axSpA) were included. The MR images of the sacroiliac joints were scored by two trained readers separately for the presence of axSpA features: ankylosis, erosions, sclerosis, fat metaplasia and bone marrow edema. The scoring was performed for the three SIJ regions (ventral/middle/dorsal) differentiated for the sacral and iliac sides. Frequencies of lesion per joint region were compared between HLA-B27 positive and negative individuals using Chi-squared tests. Extent of lesions, expressed as sum scores were compared using T-tests. All analyses were carried out for the entire group and for men and women separately.

Results: A total of 90 women and 49 men were included in this post-hoc-analysis. HLA-B27 was positive in 33/90 women (36.7%), while this was the case in 23/49 men (46.9%) (further clinical data is given in Table 1). There was no difference in frequency of overall occurrence of erosion (22.9% vs. 16.1%; $p = 0.392$), sclerosis (48.2% vs. 48.2%; $p > 0.999$), fat metaplasia (12.0% vs. 7.1%; $p = 0.403$), bone marrow edema (28.9% vs. 32.1%; $p = 0.710$) and ankylosis (2.4% vs. 3.6%; $p > 0.999$) between HLA-B27 negative and positive individuals, respectively. A detailed graphical representation of spatial distribution of lesion within the joint is given in Figure 1.

Conclusion: In our cohort of pre-selected patients with chronic low back pain and after exclusion of axSpA, the HLA-B27 status did not determine extent or pattern of imaging lesions in either men or women. These results somewhat contradict previously published data on healthy volunteers. This indicates that further studies are needed especially in the investigation of the sex-specific influence of HLA-B27 status on imaging lesions.

Methods: In this post-hoc analysis, 139 patients (90 women and 49 men) with low back pain of mechanical/ non-inflammatory origin (after exclusion of axSpA) were included. The MR images of the sacroiliac joints were scored by two trained readers separately for the presence of axSpA features: ankylosis, erosions, sclerosis, fat metaplasia and bone marrow edema. The scoring was performed for the three SIJ regions (ventral/middle/dorsal) differentiated for the sacral and iliac sides. Frequencies of lesions per joint region were compared between HLA-B27 positive and negative individuals using Chi-squared tests. Extent of lesions, expressed as sum scores were compared using T-tests. All analyses were carried out for the entire group and for men and women separately.

Background: The knowledge of factors influencing the susceptibility to and extent of changes at the sacroiliac joints (SIJs) are of great importance in the understanding of pathophysiological processes in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA)[1]. Recent studies showed that previous delivery and the HLA-B27 status have a special role in the expression of bone marrow edema at the SIJs in the general population. Furthermore, the influence of HLA-B27 differed in men and women[1 2].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the sex-specific influence of the HLA-B27 status on the SIJ lesions such as ankylosis, erosion, fat metaplasia and bone marrow edema and its distribution and extent in patients with low back pain of non-inflammatory origin.

Methods: In this post-hoc analysis, 139 patients (90 women and 49 men) with low back pain of mechanical/ non-inflammatory origin (after exclusion of axSpA) were included. The MR images of the sacroiliac joints were scored by two trained readers separately for the presence of axSpA features: ankylosis, erosions, sclerosis, fat metaplasia and bone marrow edema. The scoring was performed for the three SIJ regions (ventral/middle/dorsal) differentiated for the sacral and iliac sides. Frequencies of lesions per joint region were compared between HLA-B27 positive and negative individuals using Chi-squared tests. Extent of lesions, expressed as sum scores were compared using T-tests. All analyses were carried out for the entire group and for men and women separately.

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Conclusion: In our cohort of pre-selected patients with chronic low back pain and after exclusion of axSpA, the HLA-B27 status did not determine extent or pattern of imaging lesions in either men or women. These results somewhat contradict previously published data on healthy volunteers. This indicates that further studies are needed especially in the investigation of the sex-specific influence of HLA-B27 status on imaging lesions.

REFERENCES:
Differential diagnosis of focal Immunoglobulin G4-related Sialadenitis and benign salivary masses: the value of contrast-enhanced ultrasound

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Ultrasound

Y. Xin¹, S. Zhang¹, F. Liu¹, J. Zhu¹. ¹Peking University People's Hospital, Department of Ultrasound, Beijing, China

Background: Immunoglobulin G4 related disease (IgG4-RD) is a newly recognized immune-mediated fibroinflammatory disease characterized by involvement of multiple organs, among which salivary gland is one of the most commonly involved sites. Immunoglobulin G4-related Sialadenitis (IgG4-RS) presents itself as focal or diffuse lesions, of which focal lesions are difficult to differentiate from salivary gland masses, especially benign masses with a high clinical incidence. Differential diagnosis of both sets of disorders has significant clinical implications due to different treatment modalities.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to clarify the effectiveness of contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) in differential diagnosis of focal IgG4-RS and benign salivary masses.

Methods: We retrospectively included 13 patients with diagnosis of focal IgG4-RS and 32 patients with pathologically confirmed benign salivary masses (32 benign masses).

Conclusions: CEUS was remarkably effective in differentiating focal IgG4-RS and benign salivary masses, its discriminatory value was superior to conventional ultrasound. The diagnostic accuracy can be more improved by effectively combining clinical data and laboratory findings.


Table 1. Ultrasonography characteristics of focal IgG4-RS and benign salivary masses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>IgG4-RS (n=20)</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Benign (n=32)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grey scale</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homogeneous</td>
<td>10 (55.6)</td>
<td>0.065</td>
<td>24 (76.0)</td>
<td>0.930</td>
</tr>
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<td>Heterogeneous</td>
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<td>Unenhanced</td>
<td>20 (69.0)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
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Figure 1. ROC curve of ultrasound and CEUS for differentiating focal IgG4-RS and benign salivary masses.
THE TRANSITION FROM ACTIVE LESIONS TO STRUCTURAL CHANGES ON SACROILIAC MRI AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Real-world evidence, Registries


1Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 2Marmara University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3Izmir Katip Celebi University Medical Faculty, Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 4Eskisehir Osmangazi University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Eskisehir, Turkey; 5Uludag University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Bursa, Turkey; 6Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 7Istanbul Basaksehir Cam and Sakura City Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 8Trakya University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Tekirdag, Turkey; 9Adana City Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Adana, Turkey; 10Ankara University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 11Namık Kemal University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Tekirdag, Turkey; 12Mustafa Kemal University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Hatay, Turkey; 13Fatih University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Elazığ, Turkey; 14Sakarya University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Sakarya, Turkey; 15Akseniz University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Antalya, Turkey; 16Koc University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 17Ankara City Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 18University of Health Sciences, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Both active and chronic lesions can be seen on sacroiliac MRI. Objective: Aim was to compare the demographic and disease characteristics of patients with active and structural lesions on sacroiliac MRI in a bDMARD cohort of Spondyloarthropaths (SpA) patients.

Methods: 1073 patients were included in the analysis. The patients were divided into active (1755 patients with SpA (including Psoriatic arthritis [PsA] and Enteropathic arthritis [Enteropathic arthritis (EA)])) and structural lesions on MRI. Patients were divided into four groups according to the diagnosis and disease severity in patients with psoriasis (PsO) and PsA.

Results: Of 1230 patients with sacroiliac MRI, 548 (44.5%) had only active lesions, 418 (33.9%) had both active and structural lesions, and 264 (21.5%) had only structural lesions. The diagnoses of the patients were s-RA 833 (67.7%), peripheral s-RA 329 (26.3%), nr-SPA 321 (26.1%), enteropathic SPA 79 (6.4%). PsA 64 (5.2%). From ‘only active lesion’ to ‘only structural lesion’ on MRI, age was older, disease duration was longer, meeting mNY criteria and hip involvement was more common, HLA-B27 positivity was more common, syndesmophyte was more common, uveitis was more common, and metrological indices (BASMI and Schober’s test) was worse (Table 1).

Conclusion: Transition from active lesions to structural lesions in sacroiliac MRI may be time-related, and chronicity develops in approximately 5 years. As expected, when structural lesions develop on MRI, the rate of meeting the mNY criteria increases around 3 times. There is a relationship between uveitis and the development of structural damage. The relationship of metrological indices with structural damage should also be considered. However, the lack of central reading in MRI is a limitation in this assessment.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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USEFULNESS OF LOW-DOSE CT IN PSORIASIS AND PSORIARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH NON-SPECIFIC AXIAL SYMPTOMS

Keywords: Imaging, Psoriatic arthritis

1Hacettepe University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University, Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Low-dose CT (IdCT) has been shown advantageous over conventional radiography (CR) in showing spinal structural changes in Axial Spondyloarthritis (AxSpA)1. There is no data on the value of IdCT in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) patients.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to determine the contribution of spinal IdCT to the diagnosis and disease severity in patients with psoriasis (PsO) and PsA with non-specific axial symptoms.

Methods: 143 PsO patients referred from the Dermatology Outpatient Clinic in the last 9 months were evaluated; patients with any axial symptoms (116) were included. 47 of 116 patients (40.5%) had IdCT. Patients were evaluated with pelvic CT (n=84), thoracic CR (n=84), lumbar/cervical CR and whole spinal IdCT. Age, gender, PsO and PsA disease duration were recorded. Patients were divided into four groups according to CR findings; 1. Modified New York criteria (mNY) not met, 2. Only sacroiliitis (SI) according to mNY criteria, 3. SI and syndesmophyte (SIN) present, 4. Only SIN present.

Results: From ‘only active lesion’ to ‘only structural lesion’ on MRI, age was older, disease duration was longer, meeting mNY criteria and hip involvement was more common, HLA-B27 positivity was more common, syndesmophyte was more common, uveitis was more common, and metrological indices (BASMI and Schober’s test) was worse (Table 1). Multivariate analysis showed factors associated with the development of structural lesions from active lesions, disease duration with OR 1.09 (CI 95% 1.04-1.14), mNY positive syndesmophyte with OR 3.36 (95% CI 1.52-7.40) and uveitis with 3.80 (95% 1.23-11.8).

Conclusion: Transition from active lesions to structural lesions in sacroiliac MRI may be time-related, and chronicity develops in approximately 5 years. As expected, when structural lesions develop on MRI, the rate of meeting the mNY criteria increases around 3 times. There is a relationship between uveitis and the development of structural damage. The relationship of metrological indices with structural damage should also be considered. However, the lack of central reading in MRI is a limitation in this assessment.

REFERENCE:
1. Bridging SIN and Andersen lesion were detected in 1/12 (8.3%) and 2/12 (16.7%) of PsO patients versus 17/35 (48.6%) and 8/35 (22.9%) of PsA patients, respectively. In 15/22 (68%) of those with normal CR, 7/19 (77.7%) of those with only SI in CR, 5/5 (100%) of those with only SIN in CR, and 11/11 (100%) of those with only SIN in CR were found to have syndesmophytes on idCT. Accordingly, 38/47 (80.8%) patients had at least one syndesmophyte on idCT (Table 1).

Conclusion: When PsO and PsA patients with non-specific axial symptoms were evaluated with spinal idCT, new syndesmophytes were found in a significant proportion of patients (2/3 of patients with only PsO), additionally an increased distribution of syndesmophytes was observed. The thoracic vertebra is one of the most frequently involved area in psoriatic disease similar with SpA. Comparative studies with a healthy control group are needed to determine the potential role of idCT.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Distribution of SIN detected by idCT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All patients</th>
<th>Only SIN**</th>
<th>SIN and SIN***</th>
<th>Only SIN***</th>
<th>SIN and SIN negative n=22</th>
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<tr>
<td>C2-L5 at least on one vertebrae</td>
<td>38 (80.9)</td>
<td>7 (77.8)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
<td>11 (100)</td>
<td>15 (88.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2-L5 at least on two region***</td>
<td>29 (59.6)</td>
<td>5 (55.6)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
<td>10 (90.9)</td>
<td>8 (36.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2-L5 at least on three region***</td>
<td>10 (21.3)</td>
<td>1 (11.1)</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>6 (54.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2-C7 at least on one vertebrae</td>
<td>19 (40.4)</td>
<td>3 (33.3)</td>
<td>2 (40.0)</td>
<td>10 (90.9)</td>
<td>4 (18.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2-C7 at least on two vertebrae</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>6 (54.5)</td>
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<td>C2-C7 at least on three vertebrae</td>
<td>37/78.7</td>
<td>7 (77.8)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
<td>10 (90.9)</td>
<td>15 (68.2)</td>
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<td>T1-T12 at least on one vertebrae</td>
<td>34/72.3</td>
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<td>3 (33.3)</td>
<td>4 (80)</td>
<td>5 (45.5)</td>
<td>2 (9.1)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*SI: Sacroiliitis**Syndesmophyte***Region: either cervical or thoracic or lumbar

Figure 1. Distribution of idCT findings with CR results

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3236

POS0925

AUTOMATIC SCORING OF ULTRASOUND SYNOVIAL HYPERTROPHY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS THROUGH INTEGRATING MULTIPLE CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORK MODELS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Artificial intelligence, Ultrasound

C. C. Huang1, P. Huang2, K. J. Yeo1, C. J. Chang2, C. C. Huang3, S. H. Chang4, J. L. Lan5, D. Y. Chen6, C. H. Kao7.1 China Medical University Hospital, Rheumatology and Immunology Center, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2China Medical University Hospital, Center of Augmented Intelligence in Healthcare, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: The OMERACT-EULAR Synovitis Scoring (OESS) system is worldwide used to evaluate arthritis severity on ultrasound (US) images. Because of inter-observer and intra-observer variability, deep learning (DL) has been applied in high-quality image interpretation and analysis. Previous studies mostly focused on Doppler US (DUS) classification by convolutional neural network (CNN), which could provide objective assessment. However, the reports of DL intervention in grey scale (GS) US image automatic measurements are limited.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to develop an integrated multiple CNN model in precise scoring GS US images from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients.

Methods: The standard US images from patients of RA were retrospectively selected by three 10-years US experienced rheumatologist together and were graded according to the OESS system. Six different joint data were taken, including proximal interphalangeal, metacarpophalangeal, wrist, elbow, knee and ankle joints. We conducted the DL model integrating three binary CNNs to predict four-class GS US scoring (Figure 1). The accuracy of the trained model was tested by an independent test data.

Results: Total 678 images from 447 patients of RA were used in this study. These images were divided into training (n=611) and testing (n=67) sets. The integrated multiple CNNs model could achieve a four-class accuracy of 77.6%. The individual accuracy of grades 0, 1, 2 and 3 were 68.4%, 77.3%, 73.3% and 100%, respectively (Table 1). Furthermore, we found that adding on anatomic site parameters or labeling areas of interest would establish a better average area under curve (AUC) with 92.6% and 89.0%.

Conclusion: Our study suggests the possibility of using the integrated multiple CNNs model in grading synovial hypertrophy of RA, which is critical in RA healthcare. Extern- val validation would be required to confirm the predictive ability of this model.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. The proposed integrated multiple CNNs model to predict grade 3 synovium hyper trophy in rheumatoid arthritis. CNN: convolutional neural network.

Table 1. Prediction results of the integrated model for grey scale ultrasound scores

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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4166

POS0026

OPTICAL SPECTRAL TRANSMISSION IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS: CLINICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND EVALUATION OF A NEW DIAGNOSTIC ALGORITHM INCLUDING ALL FINGER JOINTS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Imaging

K. Triantafylia1,2, K. Altamimi3, S. Gauch4, A. Schwarting1.1 Rheumatology Center Rhineland-Palatinate, Rheumatology, Bad Kreuznach, Germany; 2Johannes Gutenberg University Medical Center, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Mainz, Germany

Background: Optical spectral transmission (OST) is a modern diagnostic technology able to quantify joint inflammation in a non-invasive, rapid and examiner-independent manner [1-3]. The vast majority of studies on OST have been performed in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1-3]. No sufficient data on the diagnostic value of OST regarding other arthropathies have been published. However, our study group and others could show that concomitant to RA joint pathologies, such as primary or secondary (post-arthritic) osteoarthritis (OA) could have an influencing effect on OST results [1,4].

Objectives: Aim of this study was therefore to investigate the performance of OST in the diagnosis of OA and to evaluate its ability to identify activated OA changes.

Figure 2. 4G Color Fig(s):0 21:36 Art: 15_EUROAB-2023-PV14-15
Methods: Patients from two large Rheumatology departments with diagnosed finger and/or wrist OA and without any inflammatory joint disease, as well as healthy controls, were recruited in the context of this study. All study subjects were evaluated via clinical (counts of tender and swollen joints) and OST examinations. Moreover, OA-patients underwent laboratory (C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate) and X-ray examinations of both hands and the extent of osteoarthritic changes was evaluated by an established radiographic score [Kellgren-Lawrence (KL) score]. To evaluate OA activity, joint ultrasound (US) examinations [Grey-scale (GSUS), power Doppler (PDUS) scores] were performed in a subset of patients. Moreover, a new diagnostic algorithm including the distal interphalangeal joints (DIP) was examined next to the established algorithm concerning only wrists, MCP and PIP joints.

Results: 2,134 joints of OA patients (n=97; 80.4%; 68 years (58-76, IQR)) and 2,200 joints of healthy controls [n=100; 80%; 49 years (33.5-56, IQR)] were examined via OST. OA patients showed statistically significantly higher OST scores compared to control subjects [13.75 (11.19-16.51, IQR) vs. 10.19 (8.05-14.31, IQR); p<0.001] during the evaluation of the algorithm including wrist, MCP and PIP joints. This difference remained significant also after adjusting for age and sex (p=0.033). The novel diagnostic algorithm including additionally DIP joints (next to MCP, PIP and wrists) showed also a statistically significant difference between patients and controls (p<0.001, after adjustment p=0.021). Interestingly, receiver operating characteristics revealed an improved diagnostic performance when including DIP joints in the algorithm [Area under the curve (AUC) 0.718; 95%CI (0.645-0.792) (with DIP) vs AUC 0.698; 95%CI (0.625-0.771) (without DIP)]. OST did not correlate with GSUS/PDUS or KL-Score (all; p>0.05). However, it did correlate moderately-significantly with patient hand-size (without DIPs: rho=0.337; p<0.001; with DIPs: rho=0.383; p<0.001).

Conclusion: Hereby we could show that presence of OA can indeed influence OST values and that OA changes should be taken into account when interpreting OST results. Moreover, we found that inclusion of DIP joints can lead to an improvement of diagnostic performance of OST. To our knowledge, this is the largest study examining the diagnostic value of OST in OA and the first external exploration of this specific DIP-associated algorithm. Value of OST in the follow up examinations of OA patients should be investigated in studies with longitudinal design.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Konstantinos Triantafyllias Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Novartis, Galapagos, Janssen, Ratiopharm, AbbVie, Khalid Altamimi: None

Figure 1. Receiver operating characteristics (patients vs. controls) of two different algorithms: A. with DIP joints B. without DIP joints.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4345

POS0928

DEEP LEARNING-BASED ASSESSMENT OF SALIVARY GLAND ULTRASOUND IMAGES FOR SUPPORTING THE DIAGNOSIS OF PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Sjögren syndrome, Ultrasound

Y. Geng1,1,1, X. Zhang2,2,2, Z. Zhang1,1,2, Peeking University First Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Department, Beijing, China; Peeking University First Hospital, Department of Radiology, Beijing, China

Background: Salivary gland ultrasound (SGUS) has proven to be a promising tool for diagnosing primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS). However, the widespread use of it as standardized diagnostic tools is limited by inter/intra operator variability.

POS0927

COMBINED BRAIN/HEART MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING REVEALS SUBCLINICAL BRAIN LESIONS IN PATIENTS WITH INFILTRATIVE ARTHRITIDIES AND CARDIAC SYMPTOMS

Keywords: Imaging, Inflammatory arthritis, Diagnostic tests

G. Markousis-Mavrogenis1, A. I. Venetsanopoulou2, A. Pieta3, I. Ntalas3, C. Nakas4, L. Pagounis3, D. Toliopoulos3, G. Mouka3, P. Voulgari2, S. G. Markousis-Mavrogenis1, A. I. Venetsanopoulou2, A. Pieta2, I. Ntalas3, Imaging center, Ioannina, Greece; *University Research Institute of Maternal and Child Health and Precision Medicine, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Aghia Sophia Children’s Hospital, Athens, Greece; **Center for Adolescent Medicine and UNESCO Chair in Adolescent Health Care, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Aghia Sophia Children's Hospital, Athens, Greece

Background: Inflammatory arthritides (IA) can affect diverse body tissues beyond joints, including the heart [1,2]. Particularly in chronic inflammatory states, circulating immune mediators can also induce central nervous system inflammation [3]. Nevertheless, little is currently known about the consequences of cardiac inflammation on the occurrence of brain lesions in these patients.

Objectives: We hypothesized that patients with IA and cardiac symptoms would show evidence of brain lesions, and that the presence of cardiac inflammation would be associated with the presence of brain lesions. We thus investigated patients with IA and compared them to a cohort of disease-controls using combined brain/heart magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Methods: Patients with IA and shortness of breath, chest pain and/or palpitations (n=25) were compared to age-matched disease-controls with non-autoimmune cardiovascular disease (CVD) (n=30) using a 1.5T MRI system. The presence of white matter hyperintensities (WMHs) was investigated in subcortical/deep periventricular white matter, the basal ganglia, pons, brainstem, and mesial temporal lobe. Cardiac function and inflammation were investigated using standard protocols. Patients with IA were diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis [14 (66%)], ankylosing spondylitis [5 (20%)], juvenile rheumatoid arthritis [3 (12%)], mixed connective tissue disease [2 (8%)], or osteoarthritis [1 (4%)]. Disease-controls had various CVDs including coronary artery disease [5 (17%)], myocarditis [5 (17%)], hypertension [3 (10%)], Duchenne muscular dystrophy [3 (10%)], and others.

Results: Patients with IA and disease-controls respectively had a median (IQR) age of 45 (39, 51) vs. 53 (40, 57) years (p=0.269), and 16 (64%) vs. 7 (23%) were women (p=0.002). WMHs were detected in ≥1 brain area in 15 (60%) patients with IA and 15 (54%) disease-controls (p=0.620). The majority of participants had WMHs in subcortical [29 (93%)], periventricular [5 (17%),] or deep WM [11 (20%)]. Some also had cortical lesions [5 (9%)], while basal nuclear, brainstem and mesial temporal lesions were rare [1 (2%) for all]. Amongst subjects with WMHs, the median (IQR) number of brain lesions in patients with IA and disease-controls was 1 (2) for both groups (p=0.635). There were no significant differences in the distribution of brain lesions between groups. Amongst patients with IA, each 0.1-unit increase in cardiac T2-ratio was associated with an increased odds ratio of WMH occurrence [odds ratio (95%): 1.29 (1.05-1.59), p=0.016] and higher cardiac T2-ratio (per 0.1-unit change) and extracellular volume fraction (ECV) were associated with a higher WMH lesion burden in linear regression analysis [Beta (95% confidence interval): 0.08 (0.01-0.15), p=0.021 and 0.22 (0.03-0.41), p=0.027, respectively]. MRI-derived left/right-ventricular ejection fraction, early/late-gadolinium enhancement and T1/T2 mapping were not associated with the presence of WMHs.

Conclusion: In patients with IA and cardiac symptoms, 60% showed evidence of subclinical brain lesions, which was on average as prevalent as in age-matched disease-controls with non-autoimmune CVD. Higher myocardial T2-ratio, an MRI-derived surrogate of myocardial edema, was associated with the presence of WMHs, and higher T2-ratio as well as myocardial ECV values were predictive of higher WMH burden. Further research is required to determine the clinical relevance of these findings.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4362
**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the utility of deep learning-based SGUS image assessment in the diagnosis of pSS.

**Methods:** Between Sep 2021 and Oct 2022, 1133 SGUS images of 137 patients from one center were included in this retrospective study. Among them, 61 patients with 480 images were diagnosed as pSS and 76 patients with 653 images were non-SS. All the SGUS image data were randomly divided into training dataset (50%), validation dataset (20%) and testing dataset (30%). The SGUS automatic classification model was developed by using a deep residual convolutional network architecture (RESNET). The predictive performance was validated by sensitivity, specificity and area under receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC).

**Results:** When applying deep learning-based SGUS image assessment, it showed better performance than operator based SGUS score system by improving the specificity (86.9% vs. 80.1%), while similar sensitivity (59.9% vs. 61.4%). The area under the ROC were comparable between them (0.800 vs 0.775).

Conclusion: When using deep learning-based SGUS, the proposed automatic and promising tool compared to expert-based scoring of SGUS in the diagnosis of pSS. This may support SGUS as an effective and prospective diagnostic tool to supplement current diagnostic methods.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4614

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**POS0929**

**VALUE OF LUNG ULTRASOUND FOR THE DETECTION OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Lungs, Ultrasound

R. Tanten, J. Marin2, J. Zacariaz2, J. Martiano3, M. Fullana4, R. N. Alvarado5, J. RosＡ. Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Sección Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Sección Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Sección Neumonología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Sección Neumonología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Sección Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Background:** Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is an extra-articular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) associated with increased morbidity and mortality. High-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) is the gold standard for ILD diagnosis, but it has high cost and risk of ionizing radiation. Lung Ultrasound (LUS) is a non-invasive, low-cost, non-ionizing and easily performed diagnostic tool. The aim of this study was to evaluate the utility of LUS in ILD in patients with RA, using chest HRCT as the gold standard.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was performed at the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Consecutive patients with RA (ACR/EULAR-2010 criteria), who had a chest HRCT performed at least 12 months previous to inclusion, were included. Demographic, clinical, laboratory and therapeutic data were recorded. Each patient underwent a LUS with a simplified examination (14 bilateral lung intercostal spaces -LIS-) and assessment of B-lines (BL) and pleural irregularities (PI). Additionally, a 6MWT was performed on each patient. For the diagnosis of ILD, HRCT was the gold-standard, taking as a threshold an extension of interstitial involvement ≥10%, scored by an expert lung specialist.

**Objectives:** To establish the diagnostic value of LUS in ILD in patients with RA, using chest HRCT as the gold standard.

**Results:** A total of 104 RA patients were included, 21.8% with ILD, 82.7% (95% CI 74.0-89.4) were women, with a median age at diagnosis of RA of 57.5 years (IQR 47.3-67.2) and a median disease duration of 8.7 years (IQR 3.3-15.8). 96.2% of patients (95% CI 90.5-98.9) were seropositive for rheumatoid factor (RF) and/or anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA), and median DAS28 (ESR) was 3.19 (IQR 2.8-6.4). Menthoxate had been used at some point of the disease in 94.2% patients (CI 87.3-97.8), and 46.2% (95% CI 36.5-56.2) were under bDMARDs or tsDMARD treatment at inclusion. Patients with ILD were older at the time of RA diagnosis (64 vs 54 years, p <0.002) and had higher erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ERS) and C-reactive protein (CRP) (48 vs 29 mm/h and 5.9 vs 3.9 g/l, p <0.002) than patients without ILD. In LUS, patients with ILD had more BL (median 26 vs. 1, p <0.001) (Figure 1) and PI (median 12 vs. 4, p <0.001) than patients without ILD. The diagnostic accuracy in ROC curves was: AUC 0.88 - 95% CI 0.78-0.93 for BL and AUC 0.82 - 95% CI 0.74-0.89 for PI (Figure 3 and 4). The best cut-off point for ILD detection was 8 BL and 7 PI. The performance of LUS was more sensitive than 6 MWT (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** The presence of BL and/or PI in the LUS showed an adequate diagnostic performance for ILD, with a good negative prognostic value.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>LLR</th>
<th>LLR pos. negative</th>
<th>Positive Prognostic Value</th>
<th>Negative Prognostic Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pleural irregularities (7 spaces)</td>
<td>80.95%</td>
<td>75.90%</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>94.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6MWT</td>
<td>36.84%</td>
<td>92.31%</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>53.85</td>
<td>85.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4646

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**POS0930**

**SUBCLINICAL SYNOVITIS OF THE KNEE REMAINED IN ONE-THIRD OF CASES IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AFTER TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY: MUSCULOSKELETAL ULTRASONOGRAPHY STUDY**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Ultrasound

Y. Miyoshi1, E. Takamatsu1, R. Takada2, Y. Nagase2, 1Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Medical Center, Department of Rheumatic Diseases, Tokyo, Japan; 2Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Medical Center, Department of Rheumatic Surgery, Tokyo, Japan

**Background:** There is no report investigating the prevalence, sites, and risk factors of knee synovitis in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) after total knee arthroplasty (TKA).

**Objectives:** This study aimed to clarify the prevalence, anatomical distribution, and risk factors of knee synovitis in RA patients after TKA.

**Methods:** This study was a retrospective cross-sectional study. Subjects were patients who met the 2010 ACR/EULAR RA classification criteria and underwent TKA at Tokyo Metropolitan Tama General Medical Center. Knee joints on surgically treated sides were assessed by musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSUS) from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2022. Knee US-synovitis was defined as the presence of PD ≥2 or higher at joint synovium (suprapatellar bursa, medial/lateral parapatellar joint recess, medial/lateral fibotemoral joint space).

**Results:** Forty-five patients with RA after TKA underwent MSUS, with a total of 71 knee joints (38 right, 33 left). Patient background: age (years) 74±10.0, female(%): 84%, disease duration (years) 20.6±10.4, TKA postoperative period (years) 5.7±4.0, ACPA positivity 77%, RF positivity 79%, DAS28(ESR) 3.1±1.03, mHAQ 0.8±0.8, PSL users 44%, MTX users 64%, csDMARDs users 87%, BDMARDs users 44%, tsDMARDs users 0%, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score-pain (KOOS-P) 82.5±17.2. The number of joints with GS 2 or higher...
was more prevalent than that with PD 2 or higher (Figure 1). The number of post-TKA knee joints with PD 2 or higher was 18 (25.3%) out of 71. The knee joints assessed within one year from TKA were more likely to have joint synovitis detected by MSUS than those over one year (5 joints (62.5%) vs 13 (20.8%). Fifteen (33.3%) patients had US-synovitis at post-TKA knee joints. There was no difference in disease activity scores (DAS28-CRP, DAS28-ESR, SDAI, CDAI), patient pain Visual Analogue Scale, or KOOS-P in patients with knee US-synovi-
tis (n=15) compared with those without knee US-synovitis (n=30). There was no significant correlation between PD grades and KOOS-P (p=0.73).

Conclusion: Subclinical US-synovitis of the knee still remained in one-third of cases in patients with RA after TKA. US-synovitis at post-TKA knee joints did not correlate with knee pain scores. The knee prosthesis would have a protective effect on synovitis-induced pain at post-TKA knee joints in RA.

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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USEFULNESS OF MUSCULOSKELETAL ULTRASOUND IN CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING IN RHEUMATOLOGY CLINICAL PRACTICE

Keywords: Ultrasound, Descriptive studies, Work-related issues

M. Serrano Warleta1, A. Palomeque Vargas1, R. Manzo1, C. Guillén-Astete1.

1Ramon y Cajal University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Ultrasound (US) has proven to be a useful technique in the routine clinical practice of rheumatologists. Due to its low cost, accessibility, and the large amount of information it provides us, more and more ultrasound studies tend to be carried out. However, we wonder about the real clinical-ultrasound correlation and whether, after a given result, the clinician made decisions based on said result. Objectives: To describe the reason for request of the sonographic studies in our department and the effect of its result in the decision-making in the clinical practice.

Methods: Cross-sectional, observational analytical study. We enrolled all the patients that were cited in the ultrasonography agenda from march to august 2022. Variables for identification of request-exploration-review management times, motivation for the request, topography of the exploration performed, corre-
lation with clinical suspicion and effect on decision-making were collected. Data extraction was performed by four different observers. Quality control was per-
formed by a fifth observer.

Results: Records of 462 medical actions were included in the US agenda over 6 months. Including double requests (211 were bilateral scans), the results of 673 US scans performed were reviewed. Of the requests made, 118 (25.5%) were from patients with known diagnoses of inflammatory diseases. The attached Table 1 summarizes the reasons for the request and topography of the exploration of the studies carried out. The waiting time and standard deviation (SD) until the test was performed from its request was 85.4 SD 54.3 days (0.574) and until the reassesse-
ment of clinical suspicion was confirmed in 277 studies (59.2%), it was not demon-
strated in 161 (34.4%) and did not apply in the rest. The frequency of bilateral studies whose result could have been obtained with a unilateral exploration was 37/211 (17%). In 72 studies we could not determine to what extent US examina-
tion changed clinical decision (review query not available or not applicable). In 132 studies (33.8%) the clinician intensified the treatment, in 40 (10.2%) the clinician de-intensified the treatment, and in 63 (16.1%) the clinician indicated the discharge of the patient. Among those cases in which US modified the clinical decision, the time between test-requesting and decision-making was 120.1 SD 64.3 days, while in cases in which there was no effect on the clinical decision it was 160.9 SD 61.3. (p=0.0031).

Conclusion: Our study is limited to identifying bivariate associations between deci-
dion making and the result of a complementary test. The authors recognize that clinical decisions are made considering all available information, including those from specific complementary test. US proves to be a useful test in clinical decision-mak-
ing and presumably more so the less time elapses between its request and its interpretation. In addition, performing bilateral US scans seems justified as less than a fifth of the requests would have given the same result with a unilateral scan.

Table 1. Topography of the explorations and reason of the ultrasound request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topography</th>
<th>Bilaterality</th>
<th>Reason of the ultrasound request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hand (50%)</td>
<td>Unilateral</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bilateral</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot (19.4%)</td>
<td>Unilateral</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bilateral</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder (11.5%)</td>
<td>Unilateral</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bilateral</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee (4.9%)</td>
<td>Unilateral</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bilateral</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip (4.1%)</td>
<td>Unilateral</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bilateral</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbow (3.8%)</td>
<td>Unilateral</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular (1.7%)</td>
<td>Unilateral</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total scans 259 102 26 63 16

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5473

ULTRASOUND-DEFINED GRADE I SYNOVITIS IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY-SUSPECTED ARTHRALGIA AND ITS ROLE IN DIAGNOSIS A YEAR LATER

Keywords: Ultrasound, Inflammatory arthritides, Diagnostic tests

A. M. Ruiz Beierano1, A. Corral Bote1, J. Arroyo Palomo1, B. A. Blanco Cáceres1.

1Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Musculoskeletal ultrasound is frequently used in several rheu-
matology units to detect subclinical inflammation in patients with joint symptoms suspected for progression to inflammatory arthritis.

Objectives: The main goal is to investigate the correlation between synovitis grade I (EULAR-OMERACT combined score) and the diagnosis of established inflammatory arthropathy that is carried out after a follow-up period of one year since the first ultrasound findings. The assessment is done in an ultrasound-spe-
cialized unit of a Rheumatology Department.

Methods: We conducted a descriptive, retrospective and unincentric study where 135 patients were selected from the ultrasound-specialized unit of our rheumatology department from July 2018 to December 2021. Patients that pre-
sented synovitis grade 0,2 and/or 3 on combined score were excluded. Collected baseline data included age, sex, immunological profile, acute phase reactants and physical examination previous to the ultrasound findings, as well as the
diagnosis made by the rheumatologist a year after said findings. To achieve that, the patients are divided into two groups: those who were diagnosed with inflammatory arthropathy and those who were not. In addition, non-parametric statistical tests for comparing means were used.

**Results:** The mean age was 55 years and 75% of the patients were females. At the beginning, clinical examination revealed a median of one tender joint and none swollen. Previous diagnosis of psoriasis was present in 18 (13.3%) patients while inflammatory bowel disease was present in 6 patients (4.4%). Of the 135 patients, after a year follow-up, 48 (34.1%) received the diagnosis of inflammatory arthropathy after a follow-up of one year: 15 (32.6%) psoriatic arthritis, 8 (17.4%) rheumatoid arthritis, 8 (17.4%) undifferentiated arthritis, 4 (8.7%) spondyloarthritides, 4 (8.7%) calcium pyrophosphate dehydrate crystal-related joint disease, 3 (6.5%) reactive arthritis, 2 (4.3%) systemic sclerosis, 1 (2.2%) Sjögren syndrome and 1 (2.2%) polyamyloidic rheumatica. Non-inflammatory arthropathies were also found 89 (65.9%), of which 64 (71.9%) were osteoarthritis, 20 (22.5%) Carpal tunnel syndrome and 5 (5.6%) had other soft tissue disease.

In the group of patients who did not developed an autoimmune arthropathy, 3 were Rheumatoid factor-positive and 10 were AAN-positive, none of them were aCCP-positive; The HLA B27 and Cw6 test resulted in 5 patients testing positive in HLA-B27 and none in Cw6. Among the group of patients that developed an inflammatory arthropathy the median of joints with ultrasound involvement was 2. Grade I power Doppler signal was detected in one case. 7 (15.2%) patients were RF- positive, and 6 (13%) aCCP-positive. AANs were positive in 13 cases (28.3%). There were no significant differences for clinical variables and acute phase reactants (Age, sex, SJC, TJC, RCR, ESP) between both groups. Comparing the immunological profile through a Fisher’s exact test, we obtained a statistically significant association for RF (p=0.033), aCCP (p=0.001) and AAN (p=0.014) in the group who finally received the diagnosis of inflammatory arthropathy. No other significant differences were found (Total joints GSUS, total joints PDUS, HLA B27 and HLA Cw6).

**Conclusion:** Despite the limitations and possible statistical bias that might appear in a retrospective study, there are a remarkable number of patients with ultrasound-defined grade I synovitis who develop inflammatory arthropathy a year later. Rheumatoid factor, aCCP and AAN positivity were the only factors statistically associated with progression.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POS0933 NAILFOLD VIDEOCAPILLAROSCOPY AS A POSSIBLE BIOMARKER TO DETECT ABDERRANT PLACENTAL MICROCIRCULATION IN PREGNANT WOMEN: A PILOT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Pregnancy and reproduction, Biomarkers, Imaging

C. Schenone1, G. Pacini1, E. Hysa1, S. Sammoni1, C. Pizzorni1, S. Paolino1, A. Sulli1, I. Schiavietti1, A. Ferriolo1, V. G. Vellone1, V. Smith1, M. Cutoio1, 
1Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine and Specialties, University of Genova, IRCCS San Martino Polyclinic Hospital, Genova, Italy; 2Biostatistics, Unit, Department of Health Sciences, University of Genova, Genova, Italy; 3Unit of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, IRCCS Ospedale Policlinico San Martino, Genova, Italy; 4Unit of Pathological Anatomy, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico (IRCCS) Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Genova, Italy; 5Unit for Molecular Immunology and Inflammation, VIB Immunation Research Centre (VIRC), Department of Internal Medicine, Ghent University, Department of Rheumatology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium

**Background:** During pregnancy, exchanges between mother and fetus are provided by the placenta. Defects in the early stages of placentation prevent the creation of a high-flow, low-resistance circle resulting in an impaired maternal-fetal exchange. The development of aberrant microcirculation leads to placental abnormalities, detectable by placental histologic examination [1].

**Objectives:** To assess whether nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC), in combination with umbilical artery doppler ultrasound (UA-dU), can detect microvascular status during pregnancy [2]; and to evaluate if NVC follow-up during pregnancy might operate as a red flag biomarker of placental microcirculation abnormalities.

**Methods:** We conducted a longitudinal observational exploratory study on 54 healthy pregnant women (age range 26-46 y) within the 16th gestational week, excluding those with cardiovascular comorbidities. We performed clinical, UA-dU and NVC evaluation with an optical probe (200x magnification) at each trimester of pregnancy and post-partum [3]. We performed an after-birth placenta histology (abPH) in a subgroup of 20 women (among the 54 women) who developed complications during pregnancy (e.g., gestational hypertension) evaluated through optical microscopic technique, according to Amsterdam criteria [4].

**Results:** We noticed over time, in the whole cohort, a statistically significant increase in neo-angiogenesis (p<0.05), considering the absolute count of microvessel ramifications (aberrant shapes) (Figure 1a). Conversely, we did not observe any statistically significant variation in capillary density (n/linear mm), microhaemorrhages or dilated capillaries over time. Besides, a statistically significant difference in the absolute number of capillaries in the first trimester between subjects with and without areas of placental dysmaturation (aberrant placental microcirculation) was detected at abPH (7.0/mm ± 0.82 vs 8.2/mm ± 0.62; p=0.030), (Figure 1b). A receiver operating characteristic curve was drawn for calculating the Area Under the Curve (AUC: 0.87; 95%CI: 0.66–1.00), identifying the optimal discriminatory cut-off value for prediction of placental dysmaturation areas ≥(5.0/mm capillaries; sensitivity: 88.9%; specificity: 75.0%). Of note, a similar difference was confirmed at the third trimester, although not reaching statistical significance (p=0.06). Not any significant association was found between UA-dU and any of the assessed NVC parameters.

**Conclusion:** This study confirms, in a large cohort of pregnant women, the NVC detection of increased neoangiogenesis over time, even during post-partum. In addition, this is the first report suggesting the possible role of NVC (capillary density) for the early detection of aberrant placental microcirculation noticeable at abPH. A study in pregnant patients affected by autoimmune connective tissue diseases has already started, using those findings as reference parameters.

**REFERENCES:**


Epidemiology, risk factors for disease or disease progression

POS0394

PREVALENCE AND TRENDS OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION IN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Keywords: Lungs, Comorbidities, Epidemiology

P. Khandwala1, D. Desai2, M. Sen1, 1Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, Rheumatology, Philadelphia, United States of America; 2Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Philadelphia, United States of America

Background: Pulmonary hypertension (PHTN) is a known complication of connective tissue diseases such as Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Scleroderma (ScI), and Mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD). [1] The underlying mechanism for development of PHTN is remodeling and vasoconstriction of pulmonary arteries and arterioles. [2] There have been cases of severe PHTN in SLE patients that have shown improvement with immunosuppressive therapy, hence accentuating the role of inflammation in pathogenesis. [3] The Prevalence of PHTN is not well studied, and there are no large cohort studies available. This study was undertaken to capture the trend in the prevalence of PHTN in the aforementioned diseases.

Objectives: To determine the prevalence of PHTN in SLE, ScI, and MCTD, analyze the trend over a 15-year period as well as identify racial predisposition, length of stay (LOS), and cost of hospitalization in these patients.

Methods: We used the Nationwide Inpatient Sample database (years 2003-2018) and extracted patients with PHTN using validated International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes. Data from 2015 was excluded from the study considering the transition of the coding system from version 9 to 10. We identified cases having the diagnosis of SLE, ScI, and MCTD. Prevalence, as well as demographics, cost of hospitalization, and length of stay (LOS), were analyzed and charted. Data were analyzed using statistical analysis system 9.4 software.

Results: Over the period of 15 years, we identified 2,155,750 cases of PHTN. As seen in the graph, patients with SLE had the highest prevalence of PHTN. The prevalence rate of SLE in PHTN cases in 2003 was 0.92% which significantly increased to 1.05% in 2018, with a peak of 1.15% seen in 2014 (p<0.0001). The prevalence rate of ScI in PHTN decreased from 1.07% in 2003 to 0.80% in 2018 (p<0.0001). It was seen that the prevalence rate of MCTD in cases with PHTN significantly increased from 0.06% in 2003 to 0.23% in 2018 (p<0.0001). It was observed that the average age of PHTN cases was significantly younger in SLE (55.60 vs 70.80 years, p<0.0001), ScI (62.94 vs 70.72 years, p<0.0001), and MCTD (58.49 vs 70.66 years, p<0.0001). On examining the racial distribution, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans were more likely to have underlying SLE, ScI, and MCTD, respectively. PHTN was more prevalent in females in all 3 diseases. The average cost of hospitalization was significantly higher in PHTN cases with MCTD ($76,696.7 vs $65,643.3, p<0.0001) and ScI ($69,106.5 vs $65,620.6, p<0.0001), while it was not significantly lower in PHTN cases with ScI ($65,272.9 vs $65,659.9, p=0.65). Average LOS was significantly longer in PHTN with MCTD (7.02 vs 6.64 days, p=0.0119). Though not significant, average LOS was longer in PHTN with ScI (6.73 vs 6.64 days, p=0.0812) and shorter in PHTN with ScI (6.62 vs 6.64 days, p=0.7917).

Conclusion: Improved survival, seen secondary to increased awareness, better diagnostic testing, multidisciplinary team approach, and newer treatment modalities has led to an increase in the prevalence of patients living with PHTN. Interestingly, our study shows that the prevalence of PHTN in SLE and MCTD is increasing while decreasing for ScI. Racial predisposition becomes evident, which demands a higher index of suspicion for the early diagnosis of PHTN in the respective races. There is a higher socioeconomic burden for patients with PHTN and autoimmune disease, as reflected by the increased LOS and cost of hospitalization.

REFERENCES:


Prevalence of Pulmonary Hypertension

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0395

THE COURSE OF CYTOKINE AND CHEMOKINE GENE EXPRESSION IN CLINICALLY SUSPECT ARTHRAGLIA PATIENTS DURING PROGRESSION TO INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

J. Heutz1, C. Rogier1, E. Niemantsverdriet2, S. Van den Eeden3, P. De Jong1, E. Lubberts1, A. Geluk1, A. Van der Helm – van Mil1,2, 1Erasmus MC, Rheumatology. Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Infectious Diseases, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Autoantibody-responses rise years before onset of inflammatory arthritis (IA) and are stable during transitioning from clinically suspect arthralgia (CSA) to IA. Cytokine and chemokine levels also rise years before IA-onset. However, the course in the at-risk stage of CSA during progression to disease or non-progression is unknown.

Objectives: To increase the understanding of processes mediating disease development, we studied the course of cytokine, chemokine and related receptors gene expression in CSA-patients during progression to IA, and in CSA-patients who ultimately did not develop IA.

Methods: Whole-blood RNA-expression of 37 inflammatory cytokines/chemokines/receptors was determined by dual-colour reverse-transcription multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification, in paired samples of CSA-patients at CSA-onset and either at IA-development or after 24-months without IA-development. ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative CSA-patients developing IA were compared at CSA-onset and during progression to IA. GEE-models tested changes over time. A false discovery rate approach was applied.

Results: None of the cytokines/chemokine genes significantly changed in expression between CSA-onset and IA-development (Figure 1A). In CSA-patients without IA-development, G-CSF expression decreased (p=0.001), whereas CCR6 and TNIP expression increased (p<0.001 and p=0.002, respectively) over a 2-year period (Figure 1B). Expression levels in ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative CSA-patients who developed IA were similar.

Figure 1. (A) Modelled course of gene expression of 37 cytokines/chemokines/receptors in CSA-patients that progressed to IA. Cytokines, chemokines and related receptors were measured as baseline and at time of IA-development and for reasons of clarity presented in two plots. No statistically significant changes were observed during follow-up. (B) Modelled course of gene expression of CCR6, G-CSF and TNIP1 in CSA-patients that did not progress to IA. Cytokines, chemokines and related receptors were measured in paired samples from each patient with 2-year intervals. For comparison, the course of patients that progressed to IA was included, here the 2nd samples was collected at IA-development. CSA, clinically suspect arthralgia; IA, inflammatory arthritis.
Table 1. Characteristics of pregnant women with chronic inflammatory diseases who stopped TNFi pre-conception and those who took TNFi at any time during gestation (n=3,372).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Diagnosis, n (%)</th>
<th>TNFi pre-conception only (n=3372)</th>
<th>TNFi any time during pregnancy (n=2902)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>1588 (47)</td>
<td>2902/3372 (86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD only</td>
<td>807 (24)</td>
<td>470/3372 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA only</td>
<td>530 (16)</td>
<td>120/3372 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA/PsO only</td>
<td>1085 (32)</td>
<td>96/3372 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids, n (%)</td>
<td>1138 (34)</td>
<td>29/3372 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-biologic DMARDs, n (%)</td>
<td>95% (22)</td>
<td>116/3372 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery Year, n (% )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>1202 (36)</td>
<td>224/1202 (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD only</td>
<td>510 (15)</td>
<td>35/1202 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA only</td>
<td>345 (29)</td>
<td>20/1202 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA/PsO only</td>
<td>200 (6)</td>
<td>14/1202 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td>1138 (34)</td>
<td>148/1138 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD only</td>
<td>549 (16)</td>
<td>20/1138 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA only</td>
<td>266 (8)</td>
<td>15/1138 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA/ PsO only</td>
<td>157 (5)</td>
<td>6/1138 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>1032 (31)</td>
<td>98/1032 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD only</td>
<td>529 (16)</td>
<td>26/1032 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA only</td>
<td>196 (6)</td>
<td>21/1032 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA/ PsO only</td>
<td>173 (5)</td>
<td>3/1032 (0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: This research was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) project grant awarded to EV. LKF is supported by a CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Award. EV is supported by a salary support award from the Arthritis Society.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Conclusion: The higher the Boruta importance score, the stronger the impact the particular input variable has on the outcome variable.

Results: The cohort comprised 1,329,698 new opioid users (801,533 women [60.3%]; 599,162 White patients [88.2%]), with a mean age of 60 years [SD 17]. The proportion patients with different RMDs in order of frequency were OA: 1,246,574 (93.7%); RA, 50,000 (3.8%); fibromyalgia [47,708, 3.6%], PsA [11,181 (0.8%)]. SLE [6,757 (0.5%)] and AS [6,560 (0.5%). Of our study population, 4,016 individuals (0.3%) experienced a hospitalization for opioid-related harms within our follow-up period of five years after first prescription date. Logistic regression and random forest models showed consistent results when ranking the most important variables associated to opioid-related hospital admissions. The main risk factor identified consistently across both methods was history of alcohol abuse, with an odds ratio (OR) of 10.7, 95% confidence interval (95% CI): 8.1–14.2 and Boruta Importance (Imp) of 93.6. Other main risk factors included history of attempted suicide and self-harm (OR 7.5, 95% CI: 5.6–9.9, Imp: 80.3), major depression (OR 2.0, 95% CI: 1.7–2.3, Imp: 39.7) and lower socioeconomic status (OR: 10.4, 95% CI: 4.6–23.4, Imp: 34.0).

Conclusion: Patients with a documented history of alcohol excess, severe psychological problems and those most socioeconomically deprived were found to have a higher risk of opioid-related hospitalisations. Medical providers should be made aware of psychosocial factors associated with opioid hospital admissions when prescribing opioids to patients with RMDs. By determining patient subgroups most vulnerable to opioid-related harms and further analysing patient risk factors, we hope to contribute to the development of targeted interventions for safer future clinical care.

Acknowledgements: Funded by a FORUM Career Research Grant and NIH. MJ is supported by an NIH Advanced Fellowship [NIH3001413]. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIS, NHS or the UK Department of Health and Social Care.

Disclosure of Interests: Carlos Ramirez Medina: None declared. David Jenkins: None declared. Niels Peek: None declared. Belay Birie Yimer: None declared. Joyce (Yun-Ting) Huang: None declared. Mark Lunt: None declared. William Dixon Consultant of: WGD has received consultancy fees from Google unrelated to this work, Meghna Jani: None declared.

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POS0938

PROLONGED PHYSICAL STRAIN AT WORK CONFRONS RISK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY SUSPECT ARTHRALGIA: CUES FOR MECHANICAL FACTORS AS FINAL PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL HIT

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Epidemiology, Work-related issues

B. Van Dijk1, A. M. P. Boeren1,2, S. Khidir1, N. Den Hollander1, A. Van der Helm – van Middendorp1,2, Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands;3Erasmus Medical Centre (EMC), Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Background: Some case-control studies have identified physical workload as a risk-factor for rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Objectives: To better understand its influence on the pathophysiological trajectory of RA-development, we studied the relation of work-related physical strain with MRI-detected joint-inflammation in clinically suspect arthralgia (CSA) and the general population, and with progression from CSA to clinical arthritis.

Methods: 501 consecutively presenting CSA-patients and 155 symptom-free persons filled out questionnaires on their occupation. Physical strain was determined using the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) per subject-reported occupation. Contrast-enhanced hand-MRIs were evaluated for synovitis/tenosynovitis/osteitis (summed as joint-inflammation) using the RAMRIS-method. CSA-patients were followed on clinical arthritis development (median follow-up 25 months). Analyses included interaction with age as proxy for prolonged physical strain.

Results: In CSA-patients, the degree of physical strain was associated with the severity of subclinical joint-inflammation, independent of BMI/smoking/education-level: there was a positive interaction between age and physical strain; p=0.007. Plotting the age-dependent effects showed a positive relation in CSA-patients aged ≥50 years (Figure 1A), suggesting the effect relates to prolonged physical strain. Especially tenosynovitis was increased in relation to higher physical strain in symptom-free persons not associated with MRI-detected joint-inflammation. Older (≥ 50 years) CSA-patients with higher physical strain developed clinical arthritis more often (Figure 1B; HR 1.17 [95%CI 1.00–1.35] per 10 percentage-points physical strain increase; p=0.043). This was partially mediated by subclinical joint-inflammation. Moreover, physical strain partially mediated the known association between low educational attainment and clinical arthritis development.

Conclusion: Prolonged work-related physical strain increases the risk of developing RA in CSA-patients, which is partially mediated by an effect on increased subclinical joint-inflammation. This points to mechanical factors as a final hit in the pathophysiology of RA-development.

Figure 1. A. Curves depict the total MRI-inflammation score predicted by multi-variable negative binomial regression, assuming 'average patient' with average BMI (28.7 kg/m2), who are non-smokers and who have intermediate or high educational attainment.

HR 1.17 [95%CI 1.00–1.35; p=0.043] per 10 percentage-points increase in physical strain at work. Textiles were used in the figures for illustrative purposes: low (<33%), middle (33–66%) and high (>66%) work-related physical strain.

Acknowledgements: We thank dr. B. Ravesteijn for sharing occupation-specific physical strain data (see Ravesteijn et al., Health Econ. 2018, and www.bastian-ravesteijn.com).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0939

PLEUROPARENCHYMA FIBROELASTOSIS: A SPECIAL CLINICAL SITUATION IN PATIENTS WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES. DESCRIPTIVE STUDY FROM A REFERRAL CENTRE

Keywords: Comorbidities, Lungs

B. Atienza-Mateo1, S. Remuzgo Martinez2, V. Pulido-Cueto2, D. F. Rodríguez3, G. Blanco2, S. Izquierdo2, V. M. Mora-Cuesta2, D. Ibarbe Fernández2, R. López-Mejías2, R. Blanco2, J. M. Cifrén-Martínez2, M. A. González-Gaya3,4,5,6,7,8,11,12 1Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 2IDIVAL, HUMV, Research Group on Genetic Epidemiology and Atherosclerosis in Systemic Diseases and in Metabolic Bone Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System, Santander, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Pneumology, Santander, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Radiology, Santander, Spain; 5IDIVAL, UC, Department of Medicine and Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Santander, Spain; 6IS-Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis (PPFE) is a rare interstitial lung disease (ILD) that can be idiopathic or associated with a variety of different conditions, including connective tissue diseases (CTD) [1-2]. In this regard, the presence of PPFE has been reported as an independent predictor of worse

Figure 1. A. Curves depict the total MRI-inflammation score predicted by multi-variable negative binomial regression, assuming 'average patient' with average BMI (28.7 kg/m2), who are non-smokers and who have intermediate or high educational attainment.

HR 1.17 [95%CI 1.00–1.35; p=0.043] per 10 percentage-points increase in physical strain at work. Textiles were used in the figures for illustrative purposes: low (<33%), middle (33–66%) and high (>66%) work-related physical strain.

Acknowledgements: We thank dr. B. Ravesteijn for sharing occupation-specific physical strain data (see Ravesteijn et al., Health Econ. 2018, and www.bastian-ravesteijn.com).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.746
prognosis in CTD-ILD patients [3]. Approximately one third of the patients with ILD meet criteria for a CTD [4].

Objectives: A) To determine the prevalence of PPFE in a cohort of Spanish patients with CTD-ILD, and B) to compare the characteristics between CTD-ILD patients with and without PPFE.

Methods: A total of 99 patients with CTD-ILD (31 rheumatoid arthritis (RA), 31 systemic sclerosis (SSc), 21 idiopathic inflammatory myositis (IIM), 6 primary Sjögren’s syndrome (SS), 4 systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and 6 with other CTDs) from the Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla (Santander, Spain) were included in this study. The presence of PPFE was confirmed by experienced radiologists evaluating chest high-resolution computed tomography images from all patients. In addition, demographic, clinical and radiological characteristics were collected.

Results: The presence of PPFE was found in 9 (9.1%) of the 99 CTD-ILD patients, whereas the remaining 90.9% had no signs of PPFE. In particular, it was confirmed in 4 patients with RA (12.9%), 2 with SSc (6.5%), 1 with IIM (4.8%), 1 with primary SS (16.7%) and 1 with SLE (25.0%) (Figure 1). The prevalence of bronchial dilation was statistically higher in CTD-ILD patients with PPFE compared to those without PPFE (44.4% versus 6.4%, respectively, p=0.006).

Table 1. Demographic, clinical and radiological characteristics between CTD-ILD patients with and without PPFE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>CTD-ILD patients with PPFE</th>
<th>CTD-ILD patients without PPFE</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at CTD diagnosis (years), mean ± SD</td>
<td>57.4 ± 11.3</td>
<td>53.0 ± 12.6</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at ILD diagnosis (years), mean ± SD</td>
<td>54.9 ± 12.6</td>
<td>56.4 ± 12.5</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (men/women), n (%)</td>
<td>3/6 (50.0)</td>
<td>43/47 (47.8/52.2)</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking history, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (50.0)</td>
<td>52 (62.7)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index</td>
<td>23.5 ± 5.5</td>
<td>26.2 ± 4.6</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFts at ILD diagnosis</td>
<td>2196 ± 1268</td>
<td>2740 ± 945.3</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC ml, mean ± SD</td>
<td>713 ± 38.1</td>
<td>841 ± 25.4</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC (% predicted), mean ± SD</td>
<td>36.2 ± 19.3</td>
<td>470 ± 16.0</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLOCO (%, predicted), mean ± SD</td>
<td>66.8 ± 18.9</td>
<td>72.9 ± 23.2</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological features</td>
<td>Any bronchial dilatation, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (44.4)</td>
<td>6 (6.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion of Interests: Belén Atienza-Mateo: None declared, Sara Remuzgo Martinez: None declared, Verónica Pultito-Cuetio: None declared, Diego Ferrer: None declared, Gerardo Blanco: None declared, Sheilia Izquierdo: None declared, Victor Manuel Moreno-Cuesta: declared, David Ilurbe Fernández: None declared, Raquel López-Mejías: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos and MSD, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Novartis and Roche, Jose Manuel Cifrian-Martinez: None declared, Miguel A Gonzalez-Gay Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Lilly, Celgene, MSD and GSK, Grant research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Jansen and Roche.

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Table 1. Demographic, clinical and radiological characteristics between CTD-ILD patients with and without PPFE.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>CTD-ILD patients with PPFE</th>
<th>CTD-ILD patients without PPFE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>53.0 ± 12.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Body mass index</td>
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<td>PFts at ILD diagnosis</td>
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<td>66.8 ± 18.9</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological features</td>
<td>Any bronchial dilatation, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (44.4)</td>
<td>6 (6.4)</td>
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</table>

Figure 1. Prevalence of PPFE in each CTD-ILD.

Acknowledgements: VP-C is supported by funds of P18/00042 from Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), co-funded by European Regional Development Fund; RL-M is a recipient of a Miguel Servet type II Program fellowship from ISCIII, co-funded by the European Social Fund, *Investing in your future* (CPI21/00004).
Background: Co-existing psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) has been reported. However, it is unclear whether SSc contributes as a risk factor for development of PsA.

Objectives: We aimed to assess whether SSc is associated with the risk of incident PsA.

Methods: From the Korean National Health Insurance Service database, 4,933 patients with SSc and 24,665 age- and sex-matched controls were selected. Hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for incident PsA were estimated using multivariable Cox proportional hazard models adjusted for known risk factors of PsA. Further, we selected individuals whose health check-up data were available (2,355 patients with SSc and 11,775 age- and sex-matched controls) in this population, we further adjusted for additional risk factors of PsA using the health check-up data.

Results: In the analysis of 4,933 patients with SSc and 24,665 age- and sex-matched controls, incidence rates of PsA in patients with SSc and controls were 10.56 and 3.20 per 1,000 person-years, respectively. After adjusting for risk factors of PsA, patients with SSc had a significantly higher risk of incident PsA (adjusted HR: 3.055 [95% CI: 2.597, 3.594]). Moreover, in the analysis of individuals who had health check-up data, additional risk factors of PsA were further adjusted; the result also showed that patients with SSc have a significantly higher risk of incident PsA (adjusted HR: 2.820 [95% CI: 2.207, 3.603]).

Conclusion: In this large cohort study, SSc was associated with a 3-fold higher risk of incident PsA than controls, independent of known risk factors of PsA. This observation advances our knowledge by showing that a risk relationship exists between SSc and PsA beyond a simple co-existence between the two conditions.

Table 1. Comparison of risk of incident psoriasis between patients with systemic sclerosis and controls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total cohort</th>
<th>Controls</th>
<th>SSc Health check-up controls</th>
<th>Patients with</th>
<th>Incidence rate</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
<th>Unadjusted HR</th>
<th>Adjusted HR</th>
<th>(95% CI)</th>
<th>(95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>24,665</td>
<td>4,933</td>
<td>2,355</td>
<td>11,775</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>6965.5</td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>1 (Ref.)</td>
<td>1 (Ref.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration, yrs</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>22,919</td>
<td>10.26</td>
<td>10.26</td>
<td>2.821</td>
<td>2.820</td>
<td>2.820</td>
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<td>pyrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unadjusted HR</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Adjusted HR</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Kenta Misaki Speakers bureau: Astellas, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Chugai, Sanofi, Kyowa-Kirin, Abbvie, Kowa, Pfizer, Ono Pharmaceutical, UCB, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, Gilead Sciences, Shionyaku, Novartis, Eisai, Janssen, Taisho, Teijin, VITRIS and Asahi-kasei; and has received research grants from Ono Pharmaceutical, Grant/research support from: ONO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD, Yamamoto Makoto: None declared, Takuya Okada: None declared, Yusuke Tarutani: None declared, Moemi Yabe: None declared, Kensi Inoue: None declared, Naofumi Dobashi: None declared, Yusuhiko Imaiizu: None declared.

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POS0943

A GENETIC STUDY ABOUT POTENTIAL CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEDENTARY ACTIVITY AND PSORIASIS

Keywords: Genetics/epigenetics, Psoriatic arthritis

J. Y. Chen1,2, Q. Feng1,2, Q. Zhen1,2, Y. Feng1,2, Q. Yu3, P. F. He3,4, X. Li3,4, S. Zhang1,2,4, Shaxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microecology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shaxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shaxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Taiyuan, China; 3Shaxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China; 4The Second Hospital of Shaxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

Background: Psoriasis is a common, chronic, immune-mediated skin disorder, which is characterized by clearly demarcated areas of erythematous plaques with overlying silvery scales appearing on the skin [1]. Previous studies have shown that plenty of psoriasis patients are engaged in less physical activity (PA), however, the genetic causal association between PA and psoriasis is of scarce evidence [2].

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to evaluate the causal association between PA and psoriasis.

Methods: We used genome-wide association study (GWAS) data to conduct a Two-Sample Mendelian randomization (MR). MR utilizes single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) as instrumental variables (IVs) to examine the causality of an observed association between exposure and outcome [3]. SNPs that were included in the analysis were those which had a correlation (r2 < 0.001) and without linkage disequilibrium and strongly related to PA (p < 1e-08, F > 10). All data were selected as IVs. PA was divided into two parts including sedentary and physically active activities. Physically active behaviors include accelerometer-based physical activity, vigorous physical activity, moderate to vigorous physical activity, moderate physical activity 10+ minutes, and vigorous physical activity 10+ minutes. GWAS summary data of four types of sedentary behavior and five types of physically active behaviors were acquired from the UK biobank. The data for sedentary behaviors include watching TV (N=437,888), using computer(N=360,895), mobile phone use(N=310,555), and driving(N=456,972). The FinnGen collaboration provides summary statistics for psoriasis, which included 216,752 European individuals (4,510 cases and 212,242 non-cases). Inverse-variance weighted (IVW), MR-Egger, and the weighted median were used to assess causality. IVW was a key method to estimate the correlation between exposure and outcome. The results were analyzed using R and considered a significant at p < 0.05.

Results: There were strong genetic causal relationships between psoriasis and TV watching. Watching TV was identified as the risk factor of psoriasis by

POS0942

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRE-SCREENING OF SUBCLINICAL MALIGNECIES BEFORE THE TREATMENT OF BIOLOGIC AGENTS OR JAK INHIBITORS TO CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE PATIENTS

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, bDMARD, Malignancy

K. Misaki1,2, Y. Mako1,2, T. Okada1,2, Y. Tarutani1,2, M. Yabeh1,2, K. Inoue1,2, Y. Tanaka1,2, K. Misaki1,2, Y. Mako1,2, T. Okada1,2, Y. Tarutani1,2, M. Yabeh1,2, K. Inoue1,2, Y. Tanaka1,2, K. Misaki1,2, Y. Mako1,2, T. Okada1,2, Y. Tarutani1,2, M. Yabeh1,2, K. Inoue1,2, Y. Tanaka1,2

The patient characteristics were as follows: Median age: 68 yr.(n=336). (RA:69 yr., SLE:48yr., SpA:63yr., Vasculitis:73yr., Overlap syndrome:70yr., others:57yr.). The prevalence of benign tumors and malignant tumors were 24.7% (n=83, median age:68yr.) and 5.1% (n=17, median age:74yr.<Max:89yr.). Min:50yr.＞, respectively. The details of the malignancies were prostate cancer (n=19, 35.3%), uterus or ovarian cancer (n=3, 17.6%), gastric cancer (n=3, 17.6%), colon cancer (n=2, 11.8%), breast cancer (n=1, 5.9%), lung cancer (n=1, 5.9%) and thyroid cancer (n=1, 5.9%). Most of the age complicated with cancers was 80yr (median) except for those of uterus or ovarian cancer:50yr (median). Eleven patients (64.7%) among cancer bearing patients (n=17) successfully administered Bio or JAKi before radical operation such as endoscopic or surgical resection and all of the 11 patients achieved clinical remission.

Conclusion: Subclinical malignancies were detected by means of intensive pre-screening examinations. The most common cancer was prostate cancer, subsequently uterus or ovarian cancer and gastric cancer. It is important to perform pre-screening examinations before an aggressive therapy such as Bio or JAKi to CTD patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Kenta Misaki Speakers bureau: Astellas, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Chugai, Sanofi, Kyowa-Kirin, Abbvie, Kowa, Pfizer, Ono Pharmaceutical, UCB, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, Gilead Sciences, Shionyaku, Novartis, Eisai, Janssen, Taisho, Teijin, VITRIS and Asahi-kasei; and has received research grants from Ono Pharmaceutical, Grant/research support from: ONO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD, Yamamoto Makoto: None declared, Takuya Okada: None declared, Yusuke Tarutani: None declared, Moemi Yabe: None declared, Kensi Inoue: None declared, Naofumi Dobashi: None declared, Yusuhiko Imaiizu: None declared.

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IVW (OR =2.11; 95% CI, 1.35-3.30, P=1.02E-03), identical to MR-Egger and the weighted median analysis. Pleiotropy and heterogeneity were not found by Cochran’s Q (P =0.14) and egger-intercept (P=0.43), suggesting these findings were reliable. In contrast, there was no causal relationship between the other activities and psoriasis (P > 0.05).

Figure 1a: Mendelian randomization results for gene-level causality between physical activity (PA) and psoriasis were evaluated by the odds ratio (OR) values of IVW, MR Egger, and Weighted median. Scatter plots (A), funnel plots (B), leave-one-out analysis (C), and forest plot (D) present TV watching as a risk factor for psoriasis. IVW, inverse-variance weighted; CI, confidence interval; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphisms.

Conclusion: Our findings reveal that TV watching is an apparent risk factor for psoriasis. It provides psoriasis patients with a piece of advice that they should lessen their sedentary time and boost physical activity. 


Acknowledgements: NIL. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4402

POSO945

ILD PROGRESSION ON STANDARD OF CARE VARIES IN PATIENTS WITH CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Organ damage, Lungs

E. Langballe1,2, P. P. Diep1,3, H. Andersson1, C. Brun4,5, H. Fretheim1, T. Garen1, R. Gunnarsson1, O. Midveldt1, O. Molberg1,2, O. Palm1,2, S. Reiseter1, T. M. Aalokken1, O. DIster1, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold1,6, 1 Oslo University Hospital, Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 2University of Oslo, Faculty of Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 3Oslo University Hospital, Respiratory Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 4Careggi University Hospital, Department of Experimental Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Firenze, Italy; 5University Hospital of Zurich, Rheumatology, Zürich, Switzerland; 6Martina Hansens Hospital, Rheumatology, Gjettum, Norway; 7Oslo University Hospital, Radiology, Oslo, Norway

Background: A subset of patients with connective tissue disease associated interstitial lung disease (CTD-ILD) progresses. These patients have been included in clinical I LD trials as a group despite their different underlying diseases. It has not been studied whether this basket approach of pooling different CTD-ILDs is valid, e.g., if the disease course of the ILDs depends on the underlying CTD. In addition, the impact of immunosuppressive treatment, which CTD-ILD patients receive for I LD or other organ manifestations as a standard of care, is not fully understood.

Objectives: To assess ILD progression in patients with CTD-ILDs on standard of care treatment.

Methods: CTD-ILD patients (N=504) from a Norwegian and Swiss cohort fulfilling the respective classification criteria of the underlying CTD with ILD diagnosed on HRCT were included. Data were extracted from prospectively collected local electronic medical records. Additional data were extracted from an existing database of prospectively collected medical records. Change in absolute FVC's predicted over 12 months was calculated. In addition, ILD progression was assessed over 12 months on standard of care treatment, defined as:
Results: The total CTD-ILD cohort of 504 patients included 231 (46%) systemic scleroderma (SSc)-ILD, 91 (18%) primary anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS)-ILD, 82 (16%) rheumatoid arthritis (RA)-ILD, 57 (11%) primary Sjögren syndrome (pSS)-ILD and 43 (9%) mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD)-ILD patients (Table 1). Mean absolute change in FVC% over 12 months was for the entire cohort -0.74% (range -34 to +42%), 57 (13.7%) had an FVC decline ≥10% and 47 (12%) fulfilled the guideline criteria. ILD progression varied between the diagnoses, with SSc-ILD and pSS-ILD showing the strongest absolute FVC decline over 12 months and the highest percentage of progressive patients defined by the 2022 guideline. Additionally, patients with SSc-ILD and MCTD-ILD had more frequent FVC ≥10% events (Table 1). Overall, 240 (62.8%) patients were treated with immunosuppressives (table 1). There was no difference between patients treated and not treated in absolute FVC decline (OR 1.00, 95%CI 0.98-1.02, p = 0.705), and in the percentage of progressive patients according to the guideline criteria (OR 1.00, 95% CI 0.54-1.86, p = 0.996). However, there was less FVC decline ≥10% (OR 0.51, 95% CI 0.28-0.90, p = 0.022) in patients treated with immunosuppressives. Patients with SSc-ILD (11% vs 20%, p = 0.059) and pSS-ILD (8% vs 19%, p = 0.329) showed numerically less FVC decline ≥10%. The different CTD diagnoses had different patterns of treatment with immunosuppressives, with the majority of RA and ASS-ILD being treated (Table 1).

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pSS (N = 57)</th>
<th>ASS (N = 91)</th>
<th>SSc (N = 231)</th>
<th>RA (N = 82)</th>
<th>MCTD (N = 43)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male sex, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (18)</td>
<td>29 (32)</td>
<td>55 (24)</td>
<td>37 (45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, yrs (SD)</td>
<td>52 (14.9)</td>
<td>49 (15.4)</td>
<td>48 (15.0)</td>
<td>54 (15.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, yrs (SD)</td>
<td>9.8 (9.7)</td>
<td>10.1 (8.2)</td>
<td>10.4 (12.4)</td>
<td>11.3 (13.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppression, n (%)</td>
<td>28 (46)</td>
<td>62 (69)</td>
<td>66 (228)</td>
<td>47 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with valid data (%)</td>
<td>(60.9) (89.9)</td>
<td>(377)</td>
<td>(73.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline FVC% (SD)</td>
<td>91.5 (17.8)</td>
<td>79.6 (23.1)</td>
<td>86.6 (20.0)</td>
<td>73.0 (19.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC decline ≥10% (n, %)</td>
<td>5 (13)</td>
<td>7 (11)</td>
<td>38 (17)</td>
<td>3 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guideline criteria, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (12.8)</td>
<td>8 (1.8)</td>
<td>34 (14.9)</td>
<td>2.5 (4.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In this CTD-ILD cohort, both undergoing CTD and immunosuppressive treatment seemed to be associated with different patterns of ILD progression over a 12-month period. This has implications for the enrichment for progressive disease and inclusion of CTD-ILD patients into clinical trials.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Emily Langballe: None declared, Phuong Phuong Diep: Speaker's bureau: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Consultant of: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Helena Andenson: None declared, Cosmo Bruni Speakers bureau: Eli-Lilly, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Gruppo Iannini Lotta alla Scleroderma (GILS), European Scleroderma Trials and Research Group (EUSTAR), Foundation for research in Rheumatology (FOREUM), Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium (SCTC), Educational grants from AbbVie, Håvard Frethem Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Jannsen, Torhild Garen: None declared, Ragnar Gunnarsson: None declared, Øyvind Midtvedt: None declared, Øyvind Molberg: None declared, Øyvind Palm: None declared, Sije Reiseter: None declared, Trond M Aakleken: None declared, Olivier Distler: Speaker’s bureau: 4PPharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant, Amsgen, AnaMar, Ano, AstraZeneca, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celius, CS, CSL Behring, Galderma, Galapagos, Glemark, Gossamer, Qvia, Horizon, Inventiva, Janssen, Kymera, Lupin, Mediscate, Merc, Miltenyi Biotech, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Novartis, Prometheus, Redhawk, Roivant, Sanofi and Topadur., Consultant of: 4PPharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant, Amsgen, AnaMar, Ano, AstraZeneca, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celius, CS, CSL Behring, Galderma, Galapagos, Glemark, Gossamer, Qvia, Horizon, Inventiva, Janssen, Kymera, Lupin, Mediscate, Merc, Miltenyi Biotech, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Novartis, Pfizer, Prometheus, Redhawk, Roivant, Sanofi and Topadur., Grant/research support from: Kymera, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Boehringer Ingelheim, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold: Speaker’s bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Mediscate, Merc Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Consultant of: ARXX, Boehringer Ingelheim, Genentech, Janssen, Mediscate, Merc Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4735
Subclinical synovitis at baseline were associated with resolution of subclinical synovitis.

Background: Subclinical synovitis is a relatively common ultrasound (US) finding in individuals at-risk of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (33%) [1]. It is associated with the development of inflammatory arthritis (IA); which often results in physicians prescribing disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) in the absence of clinical inflammation. Prediction of resolution of these changes may prevent overtreatment in a number of these patients.

OBJECTIVES:
1) To assess reversibility of subclinical synovitis in individuals at risk of RA, within 12 months' time.
2) To investigate factors associated with resolution of subclinical synovitis.

Methods: A single centre, prospective, observational study recruited anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP) antibody positive at-risk individuals with a new musculoskeletal complaint, but no clinical synovitis. US scans of wrists, metacarpophalangeal joints, proximal interphalangeal joints and metatarsophalangeal joints were performed at baseline. Those with subclinical synovitis (grey scale (GS) ≥1 and power doppler (PD) ≥1) in at least one joint were then selected. The following variables were collected: gender, age, smoking exposure, anti-CCP titre, the presence of rheumatoid factor, antinuclear antibodies (ANA) and shared epitope, levels of CRP (mg/dL) and ESR (mm/h), minutes of exercise, presence of anti-topoisomerase (Topo I) antibodies or evidence of ILD at high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT). Analyses were restricted to those with ILD at HRCT. PODs at 5 years, defined by absolute changes in forced vital capacity (FVC) % of predicted values, were explored by latent class mixed models (LCMM). Survival analysis (lung-related events) was also conducted on evolution data.

Results: 473 patients at risk for SSc-ILD were identified, of those 424 (89.6%) had evidence of ILD at HRCT; 152 (34.2%) were classified as T1 (yearly change in FVC > 0.05%), 27 (5.9%) as T2 (yearly change in FVC between 0.01% and 0.05%), and 31 (6.7%) as T3 (yearly change in FVC < 0.01%). HRCT analyses were restricted to those with ILD at HRCT. PODs at 5 years, defined by absolute changes in forced vital capacity (FVC) % of predicted values, were explored by latent class mixed models (LCMM). Survival analysis (lung-related events) was also conducted on evolution data.

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Lungs, Prognostic factors

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Background: Intestinal lung disease (ILD) is a severe complication of systemic sclerosis (SSc) that may lead to irreversible loss of lung function and increased mortality. Patterns of disease progression (PODs) in SSc-ILD are poorly characterized.

Objectives: To define PODs in SSc-ILD patients that may have clinical implications for patient stratification and clinical trial design.

Methods: Patients with SSc at risk for ILD were recruited in 6 tertiary referral centers. Inclusion criteria were: a) Disease duration < 5 years at the time of the first pulmonary function test (PFT); b) absence of anti-centromere antibodies; c1) diffuse cutaneous subset (dcSSc) OR c2) limited cutaneous subset (lcSSc) with either presence of anti-topoisomerase (Topo I) antibodies or evidence of ILD at high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT). Analyses were restricted to those with ILD at HRCT. PODs at 5 years, defined by absolute changes in forced vital capacity (FVC) % of predicted values, were explored by latent class mixed models (LCMM). Survival analysis (lung-related events) was also conducted on evolution data.

Results: 473 patients at risk for SSc-ILD were identified, of those 424 (89.6%) had evidence of ILD at HRCT and were selected for in-depth analyses. Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics are reported in the Table 1. Multivariable Cox regression showed that FVC values (HR = 0.992; 95% CI = 0.989 – 0.995, p < 0.001) as well as the yearly change in FVC (HR = 0.961, CI95 = 0.932 – 0.992, p < 0.05) were predictive of 10-years mortality. LCMM analysis discovered 5 PODs (Figure 1); the majority of patients showed a stable FVC or slow decline in lung function. Patients with stable improvement had higher age and shorter disease duration compared to patients with sharp deterioration (SS < 10 vs ≥ 15 years, both p < 0.05) and a lower exposure to immunosuppressants (68.4% vs 85.3%); no other difference in clinical or demographic variables was observed among classes. Ten-years survival estimates were lower in patients with sharp (75.1%) or slowly-declining lung function (79.8%) compared to the other groups (>80%) with no event in the sharp improvement class (log-rank p = 8*10^-4). The predictive capability of LCMM classes was 0.766 ± 0.03 as measured by Harrel’s C-index.

Figure 1. ROC curve of the multivariate predictive model.
**Table 1. Baseline characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>SSc-ILD (n = 424)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dcSSc, n (%)</td>
<td>229 (54%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, n (%)</td>
<td>354 (83.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scf70, n (%)</td>
<td>331 (78.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSA, n (%)</td>
<td>93 (21.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths 10 yrs</td>
<td>32 (7.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC, % pred</td>
<td>88.8 ± 18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DICO, % pred</td>
<td>94.4 ± 1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at first PFR, yrs</td>
<td>49.5 ± 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration at first PFR, years</td>
<td>0.91 (0.19 - 2.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients exposed to immunosuppressants, n (%)</td>
<td>291 (68.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits</td>
<td>5713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to CYC, n visits (%)</td>
<td>441 (27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to MMF, n visits (%)</td>
<td>729 (12.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to AZA, n visits (%)</td>
<td>530 (9.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to TCZ, n visits (%)</td>
<td>28 (0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to RTX, n visits (%)</td>
<td>134 (20.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to cSMARDs, n visits (%)</td>
<td>1703 (29.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to bDMARDs, n visits (%)</td>
<td>160 (2.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** PODs in SSc-ILD are associated with mortality with an increased risk for those with a sharply or slowly declining lung function. The use of PODs for patients' stratification may be useful for prognostication and patient counselling risk for those with a sharply or slowly declining lung function. The use of PODs for

**Figure 1. Latent classes of disease progression**

**Conclusion:** PODs in SSc-ILD are associated with mortality with an increased risk for those with a sharply or slowly declining lung function. The use of PODs for patients' stratification may be useful for prognostication and patient counselling risk for those with a sharply or slowly declining lung function. The use of PODs for

**Table 1. Factors associated with PCP despite primary prophylaxis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Univariable OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Multivariable OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.06 (1.00-1.11)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.05 (1.01-1.10)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female</td>
<td>0.71 (0.22-2.35)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>0.34 (0.04-2.64)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAV</td>
<td>4.19 (1.27-13.84)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.50 (0.08-3.07)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other vasculitis</td>
<td>0.65 (0.14-3.02)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory myopathies</td>
<td>0.55 (0.07-4.33)</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis</td>
<td>3.01 (0.38-24.23)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3.81 (0.47-30.57)</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>6.03 (1.82-19.99)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>4.06 (0.87-18.99)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclophosphamide</td>
<td>1.55 (0.41-5.87)</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>0.09 (0.13-7.76)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>1.00 (0.13-7.90)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prophylaxis duration</td>
<td>0.10 (0.09-1.00)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Gc dose ≤ 15 mg</td>
<td>15.06 (1.92-117.94)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>12.21 (1.52-98.24)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azotemia</td>
<td>9.88 (2.13-45.94)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7.04 (1.31-37.71)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphopenia</td>
<td>5.18 (1.51-17.81)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>3.13 (0.86-11.39)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural lung disease</td>
<td>2.34 (0.71-7.70)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Adjusted for clinical factors with relevant association (P < 0.1) in univariable analysisAAV, ANCA associated vasculitis; Gc, glucocorticoid; SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5821
THE BURDEN OF TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDERS AMONG IMMUNE-MEDIATED RHEUMATIC DISEASES OF THE ADULT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Pain, Systematic review

E. Hyva1, A. Lercara1, A. Cere1, E. Gotelli1, C. Schenone1, V. Geni1, P. F. Bica1, S. Paolino1, E. Alessandri1, C. Pizzorni1, A. Sulli1, V. Smith2, M. Cutolo1.
1Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine and Specialties, University of Genova, IRCCS San Martino Polyclinic Hospital, Genova, Italy; Genova, Italy; Genova, Italy;
2Unit for Molecular Immunology and Inflammation, VIB Inflammation Research Center (IRC), Department of Internal Medicine, Ghent University, Department of Rheumatology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium

Background: The temporomandibular disorders (TMDs) encompass a heterogenous group of inflammatory and degenerative diseases which impair the masticatory function causing local pain and dysfunctional consequences of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) [1].

Objectives: To systematically review the literature concerning TMDs in immune-mediated rheumatic diseases (IMRDs) of the adult and synthesize their burden in multiple domains of clinical interest: patient-reported outcomes (PROs), frequencies of signs on physical examination, imaging features, histological findings, and risk factors for their development in patients with IMRDs.

Methods: A literature search on PubMed Central, Embase and Cochrane Library databases was performed, until June 2022, for studies including TMJ outcomes in IMRDs patients compared with healthy controls, other rheumatic diseases or databases was performed, until June 2022, for studies including TMJ outcomes. Ten papers (18%) evaluated TMDs in spondylarthritides (SpA) reporting a prevalence of symptoms and signs in 12-80% of patients with higher TMDs prevalence in patients with radiographic spine involvement, skin psoriasis and HLADRBI*01 positivity. Among autoimmune connective tissue diseases (CTDs), systemic sclerosis (SSc) displayed the highest evidence of TMDs PROs and clinical findings (20-93%), followed by systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in 18-85%, mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD) in 31-63%, primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) in 24-54% and idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs) in 4-26%. In SSc and SLE, TMDs were more frequent in patients with higher disease activity and duration, correlating with the extent of skin fibrosis in SSc and with renal involvement in SLE.

Conclusion: TMDs in IMRDs display a significant relevance in the rheumatological clinical practice even if they are often overlooked. This burden is epidemiologically important in terms of PROs and clinical findings which correlate with disease activity in RA, SpA, SSc and SLE. The early recognition and multidisciplinary management of TMDs is warranted and should be aimed at hindering the TMJ structural damage maximizing the quality of life of patients.

REFERENCE:
[1] Covert et al. Diagnostics 2021

Table 1. Prevalence of TMJ findings across multiple clinical domains in different IMRDs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMRD</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>SpA</th>
<th>SSc</th>
<th>SLE</th>
<th>pSS</th>
<th>MCTD</th>
<th>IIMs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of studies investigating TMJ involvement</td>
<td>43/56</td>
<td>10/56</td>
<td>5/56</td>
<td>4/56</td>
<td>4/56</td>
<td>3/56</td>
<td>1/56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of TMJ signs on physical examination (i.e., reduced mouth opening)</td>
<td>8-70%</td>
<td>12-80%</td>
<td>20-93%</td>
<td>31-66%</td>
<td>24-54%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17-26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of TMJ signs on X-ray of TMJ</td>
<td>30-54%</td>
<td>17-68%</td>
<td>44-71%</td>
<td>41-85%</td>
<td>24-44%</td>
<td>50-63%</td>
<td>4-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging findings on computerized tomography of TMJ</td>
<td>50-66%</td>
<td>30-38%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging findings on magnetic resonance imaging of TMJ</td>
<td>61-76%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging findings on magnetic resonance imaging of TMJ</td>
<td>11-95%</td>
<td>6-67%</td>
<td>67-94%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>13-93%</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: NA: not assessed. See the text for the other abbreviations.
and prior steroid use, tenosynovitis and higher CDAI remained associated with requiring DMARDs and prior chemotherapy was associated with lower likelihood of DMARDs (Table 1). Higher CDAI was also associated with higher likelihood of requiring corticosteroids (1.11 p<0.012). Those positive for rheumatoid factor had a lower likelihood of requiring steroids (0.168 p<0.013). Combination anti-CTLA-4/PD-1 (5.07 p<0.036) therapy and being on steroids at baseline (5.28 p<0.031) were associated with a higher likelihood of persistent IA; there were trends for higher CDAI and tenosynovitis associating with persistence.

Conclusion: Higher levels of disease activity and having tenosynovitis were associated with a higher likelihood requiring immunosuppression beyond corticosteroids for ICI-IA while those treated previously with chemotherapy were less likely to require additional immunosuppression. The presence of risk factors for severe disease at baseline may indicate higher initial steroid dose or earlier adoption of immunosuppression to improve outcomes.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Unadjusted and adjusted odds ratios (OR) for outcome of requiring csDMARDs and/or bDMARDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unadjusted OR</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>Adjusted OR</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.977</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female gender</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>0.194</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Chemotherapy</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Already on steroids at baseline visit</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of tenosynovitis</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>3.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Laura Cappelli Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Ami Shah Grant/research support from: Kadmon Corporation, Eicos Sciences, Medpace LLC, Arena Pharmaceuticals. Support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Ami Shah Grant/research support from: Kadmon Corporation, Eicos Sciences, Medpace LLC, Arena Pharmaceuticals.

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Keywords: Sarcopenia, Prognostic factors, Comorbidities

C. Jauffret1, R. Périchon2, A. Lamer3, M. Courtain1, B. Cortel1, E. Chazard3, J. Pacou1, 1Univ. Lille, CHU Lille, ULR 4490 - MABLab, Rheumatology Department, Lille, France; 2Univ. Lille, CHU Lille, ULR 2694 - METRICS, CERIM, Public Health Department, Lille, France

Background: Few studies on the risk of incident major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events in presarcopenic and sarcopenic patients have been reported, with contradictory results [1].

Objectives: The objective was to assess the association between presarcopenia and sarcopenia, and higher risk of major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events.

Methods: It was a retrospective analysis of the UK Biobank prospective cohort, using data collected between 2006 and 2021. Community-dwelling Caucasian participants aged 37 to 73 years were included if values for Handgrip Strength and Skeletal Muscle Index were available, and if no history of a major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular event was reported. Exposure was assessed using the European Working Group on Sarcopenia in Older People 2 (EWGSOP2) criteria [2]. Muscle strength was measured using Handgrip Strength, and muscle mass using the Skeletal Muscle Index (from impedance data). Presarcopenia was defined as low Handgrip Strength with normal Skeletal Muscle Index; whereas sarcopenia was defined as low Handgrip Strength with low Skeletal Muscle Index. Participants with presarcopenia and sarcopenia were merged to form a single group (PreSarc) and were compared against a group of non-sarcopenic participants (NonSarc). To determine whether sarcopenia and/or presarcopenia were predictors of major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events (composite events: acute myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke, and transient ischemic attack, whether fatal or non-fatal).

Results: A total of 406,411 participants (women: 55.7%; median age: 58.0 (IQR: [50.0; 63.0]) years) were included. At baseline, 18,612 participants (4.6%) were allocated to the PreSarc group. Over a median follow-up of 12.1 years (IQR: [11.4; 12.8]), 28,300 participants (7%) were diagnosed with at least one event. Compared to NonSarc, PreSarc was significantly associated with a higher risk of major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events (fully adjusted HR=1.25, 95%CI=[1.12; 1.38]) and HR=1.58, 95%CI=[1.31; 1.90], respectively.

Conclusion: In a community-dwelling population, the risk of major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events was higher in both presarcopenic and sarcopenic participants.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS0953

PROGRESSIVE PULMONARY FIBROSIS IN CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASES

Keywords: Lungs, Outcome measures

Y. H. Chi1,2, M. Koops1, M. Voortman3, H. W. Van Es4, L. Langezaal4, P. Welsing1, A. Jametitski4, A. Wind5, J. M. Van Laar6, J. C. Grutters1,2, J. Spierings1,2.

1University Medical Center Utrecht, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 2Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology/Immunology, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 3University Medical Center Utrecht, Department of Pulmonology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 4St. Antonius Hospital, Department of Radiology, Nieuwegein, Netherlands; 5St. Antonius Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Nieuwegein, Netherlands; 6St. Antonius Hospital, Department of Pulmonology, ILD Center of Excellence, Nieuwegein, Netherlands

Objectives: Progressive pulmonary fibrosis (PPF) is characterized by deterioration of respiratory symptoms, lung function decline and progressive fibrosis on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT). It is associated with poor prognosis. Patients with connective tissue disease-related interstitial lung disease (CTD-ILD) may also develop PPF and need intensified clinical management. However, different criteria for PPF are used in trials (i.e. INBUILD and RELIEF) and the ATS/ERS/JRS/ALAT 2022 guideline.[1-3] This variety in criteria complicates study comparison and clinical implication.

Objectives: To explore the prognostic relevance for mortality of different PPF criteria in patients with CTD-ILD.

Methods: This is a single center retrospective cohort study in patients with CTD-ILD or interstitial pneumonia with autoimmune features between 2005 and 2021. The prognostic relevance was compared between the INBUILD criteria[1], the ATS/EURS/JRS/ALAT 2022 criteria[3], and the simplified progressive fibrosing (simplified PF) criteria used in a previous cohort (≥10% relative decline in FVC, ≥15% relative decline in DLCO, or progression of fibrosis on HRCT within two years)[4] in the time-dependent receiver operator characteristic model.

Results: The cohort consisted of 230 patients. The median age was 63 years (IQR 54—69), and 122 (53%) were female. The most prevalent CTD was rheumatoid arthritis (n=77, 33%), followed by 38 (17%) patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies and 33 (14%) with primary Sjögren’s syndrome. Various HRCT patterns were observed at baseline: UIP in 63 (27%) patients, fibrotic NSIP in 21 (9%), cellular NSIP in 25 (11%), mixed NSIP in 79 (34%), OP in 34 (15%), two (1%) mixed NS/IP, and other patterns in six. The median follow-up period was 6 (3—9) years. Mortality risk was independently associated with age (adjusted HR 1.07, p < 0.001), smoking history (adjusted HR 1.90, p = 0.045), extent of fibrosis on HRCT at baseline (adjusted HR 1.05, p = 0.018) and baseline DLCO % of predicted (adjusted HR 0.97, p = 0.013). PFF was observed in 61 (27%) patients meeting INBUILD criteria, 53 (23%) meeting ATS/EURS/JRS/ALAT 2022 criteria, 136 (59%) meeting simplified PF criteria and 125 (54%) when using simplified PF criteria with a threshold for HRCT ≥ 5% increase in the extent of fibrosis. The prognostic relevance for mortality did not differ between simplified PF criteria, INBUILD and ATS/EURS/JRS/ALAT 2022 criteria; the prognostic relevance improved when the simplified PF criteria defined HRCT progression with a ≥5% increase in fibrosis. (Figure 1)

Conclusion: Higher age, smoking, increased extent of fibrosis and low baseline DLCO were associated with poor prognosis. The prognostic value was similar between the different PPF criteria and increased during the first three years and achieved a plateau thereafter.

REFERENCES:
MPN with or without AID. The prevalence of TET2 mutations was higher in the AID cohort (21/65, 32% versus 208/993, 22%), although not reaching statistical significance (p=0.08). After a median follow-up of 8.3 years (7.7-14.3) years, the association with AID did not reach statistical significance in survival free-patient (p=0.37) or secondary myelofibrosis-free survival (p=0.91).

Conclusion: Our data suggest that the prevalence of AID is similar in MPN patients to that of the general population, and that the distribution and presentation of AID in MPN patients is also similar. TET2 mutations are highly prevalent in MPN patients with AID suggesting a shared pathophysiology. Additional mechanistic studies are needed to further decipher a potential TET2-mediated common pathophysiology. The association with AID did not impact MPN patients’ outcome.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The authors thank the clinical care team of the Complementary Myeloproliferative neoplasms Center for samples and data collection, and the staff of the cellular biology laboratory for excellent technical assistance. The authors also thank the French Intergroup for Myeloproliferative neoplasms (FIM) for insightful discussions.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.450

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yu-Hsiang Chiu: None declared, Maaite Koops: None declared, Mareye Voortman: None declared, H. Wouter van Es: None declared, Lucianne Langezaal: None declared, Paco Welsing: None declared, Anna Jannitski: None declared, Anne Wind: None declared, Jacob van der Laar: Grant/Research support from: Grant from Boehringer.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared, Grant/research support from: A grant from Boehringer.

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POS0954 CLINICAL FEATURES AND GENOMIC LANDSCAPE OF MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMA (MPN) PATIENTS WITH AUTOIMMUNE AND INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

Keywords: Outcome measures, Genetics/epigenetics, Descriptive studies


Background: Autoimmune and inflammatory diseases (AID) are associated with myeloid malignancies[1], and include both organ-specific diseases and systemic inflammatory disorders. While the occurrence of associated AID reaches up to 15-20% in myelodysplastic neoplasms (MDS) patients[2,3], its prevalence in the context of myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN) remains unknown. In patients with a history of AID, the risk of developing MPN was increased[4], suggesting a correlative link between the two disorders, but data regarding the characterization of AID in MPN patients remain scarce and the lack of studies prevents from identifying potential risk traits that may underlie a common physiopathology.

Objectives: We conducted a single center retrospective study to describe the prevalence, clinical and biological features of AID in MPN patients. We also reported the mutational landscape of MPN with associated AID, along with its prognostic impact.

Methods: All patients with a diagnosis of Philadelphia-negative MPN according to the World Health Organization’s criteria, followed between January 2011 and January 2021 in our center were included. Clinical and biological characteristics at the time of diagnosis and follow-up were collected. Next-generation targeted sequencing was performed targeting a panel of 36 genes involved in myeloid malignancies. AID diagnosis was based on recommended international criteria specific to each AID. Patients with interferon-alpha-induced AID were excluded from this study.

Results: A total of 1541 MPN patients were included, including 95 (6%) patients with AID who were compared to the remaining 1446 (94%) patients without AID. Median age was 51.6 [6.6; 98.3] years at MPN diagnosis in the whole cohort. Female patients were predominant within the AID group (82 (65%) versus 773 (54%), p=0.03). Within the AID cohort, a total of 103 diagnoses of AID were reported in 95 patients, including 48 organ-specific AID (47%) (autoimmune hypothyroidism (n=33), inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD, n=7), neuroinflammatory disorders (n=4), autoimmune cytopenia (n=2), golferunileuphthrin (n=1) and pernicious anemia (n=1)), 13 inflammatory arthritis (13%), 9 connective tissue diseases (9%), 9 dermatosis (9%), 6 systemic vasculitis (8%) and 18 unclassified AID (17%). Molecular sequencing was performed in 998/1541 (65%) patients and the prevalence of driver and additional mutations did not differ between the
Table 1. Fetal and maternal morbidity outcomes in SLE, SSc, pSS and UCTD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SLE</th>
<th>SSc</th>
<th>pSS</th>
<th>UCTD</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total of pregnancies</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at pregnancy</td>
<td>32.4±4.5</td>
<td>29.5±7.2</td>
<td>30.4±3.5</td>
<td>33.5±2.7</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokers</td>
<td>32 (30%)</td>
<td>17 (34%)</td>
<td>25 (31%)</td>
<td>12 (30%)</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>103 (67%)</td>
<td>68 (77%)</td>
<td>90 (75%)</td>
<td>47 (72%)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>57 (37%)</td>
<td>12 (14%)</td>
<td>18 (15%)</td>
<td>10 (15%)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean abortion number</td>
<td>2.7±0.7</td>
<td>1.1±0.6</td>
<td>2.4±0.3</td>
<td>0.9±0.5</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preeclampsia</td>
<td>15 (9.8%)</td>
<td>3 (3%)</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
<td>2 (3%)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ectopic pregnancy</td>
<td>10 (6.5%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placental abnormalities</td>
<td>8 (5%)</td>
<td>5 (5.7%)</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
<td>3 (5%)</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premature rupture of membranes (PROM)</td>
<td>5 (3.3%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preterm delivery</td>
<td>20 (13%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8 (6%)</td>
<td>5 (8%)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpartum haemorrhage</td>
<td>21 (14%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (4%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Fetal and maternal morbidity outcomes in SLE and non-SLE patients.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.953
Background: Neurosarcoidosis (NS) is a serious and relative uncommon complication of sarcoidosis [1]. Data on incidence is scarce and varies worldwide. Objectives: To estimate NS epidemiology in Northern Spain.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with sarcoidosis at a University hospital in Northern Spain, between January 1999 and December 2019 were assessed. Sarcoidosis diagnosis was established according to ATS/ERS/WASOG criteria as follows: compatible clinical and radiological presentation, histopathologic confirmation, and exclusion of other granulomatous diseases. NS was diagnosed according to the NS Consortium Consensus Group [2]. Demographic and clinical data were collected. The incidence of sarcoidosis between 1999-2019 was estimated by gender, age, and year of diagnosis.

Results: NS was observed in 30 of 234 (12.8%) (19 women/11 men) (mean age: 55.0±15.8 years) patients with sarcoidosis. The underlying neurological manifestations were chronic headache (n=13, 43.4%), peripheral neuropathy (n=6, 20.0%), cranial neuropathy (n=5, 16.7%), spinal cord abnormalities (n=3, 10.0%) and aspecific meningitis (n=3, 10.0%). A comparison between different geographical areas is summarized in Table 1. There are wide variations in frequency (US:4.8% to France:33.9%), gender predominance and age at diagnosis (31 to 55 years) depending on the geographical area. Nevertheless, most of the patients were diagnosed in the 5th decade of life. Annual incidence of NS in our population area in the 1999-2019 period was 0.11 per 100,000 people, 95% (Cl:0.11-0.26); 0.08 (0.07-0.24) in men, 0.13 (0.09-0.24) in women. There were variations in annual incidences, ranging from a minimum value of 0.08 in 2013-2014 to a maximum of 0.19/100,000 people in 1999-2000. A downward trend in annual incidence over time was observed. Nevertheless, the correlation was weak (r²=0.1135) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: The epidemiological characteristics of NS is very different in frequency. Frequency estimated in this study was similar to that of other countries. References: [1] Riancho-Zarrabeitia L, et al. Clin Exp Rheumatol 2014; 32:275-84. PMID:24321604.

Table 1. Main clinical features and treatment of neurosarcoidosis in different geographical areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Age at onset years mean ± SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gastón-Bayarri et. al., 2012</td>
<td>Spain 445</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>10 (33.4) ND 48.3±ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonhard et. al., 2016</td>
<td>The ND 52</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>(48.0) 44±ND</td>
<td>43.0±ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joubert et. al., 2017</td>
<td>France 690</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>35.5±ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorman et. al., 2019</td>
<td>USA 1706</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>49±10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arun et. al., 2020</td>
<td>UK ND 80</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>(44.0) 47±ND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goel et. al., 2020</td>
<td>India ND 12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(33.4)</td>
<td>44.0±9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambon et. al., 2022</td>
<td>Belgium 180</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>14 (64.0) ND 40.5±ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryg et. al., 2022</td>
<td>Denmark ND 20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>(55.0)</td>
<td>ND 51.6±ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present study, 2023</td>
<td>Spain 234</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>11 (36.7) 48.4±14.8 55.0±15.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Alba Herrero-Morant: None declared, Lara Sanchez-Bilbao: None declared, Ifigo Gonzalez-Mazon: None declared, David Martin-Lopez: None declared, Carmen Alvarez-Reguena: None declared, Jose Luis Martin-Varillas Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Pfizer, Lilly, Janssen, UCB, and Celgene, Raul Fernandez-Ramon: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers Bureau: AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos and MSD, Consultant of: AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD; Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis and Roche.

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Figure 1. Trends in age at neurosarcoidosis diagnosis in Cantabria, Spain, in 1999-2019 by gender
**PERSISTENCE ON TREATMENT AND SAFETY OF TNF-ALPHA INHIBITORS BIOSIMILARS COMPARED TO ORIGINATORS: AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY ON THE FRENCH NATIONL HEALTH DATA SYSTEM**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Safety, bDMARD

**Methods:** We used data from the French National Health Data System to identify IFX, ETA and ADA initiators from the date of marketing in France of the first biosimilar of each molecule (01/2015, 05/2016 and 10/2016 respectively) and until 30 June 2021. Patients were then followed during one year. Treatment persistence was defined as the duration without treatment discontinuation (60 days gap plus theoretical coverage of the molecule without treatment delivery) or modification (for another biologic treatment), censoring the follow-up at 1 year of follow-up, death or intra-molecule switch (for at least 2 consecutive deliveries). Persistence was compared between users of the originator product and biosimilars by Cox regressions and comparison of cumulative risks of event using Kaplan-Meier survival probabilities at 1 year, weighting the populations on the inverse probability of treatment. Analyses were performed by molecule, by disease treated and by biosimilar product used. Adverse treatment events, including infections, major cardiovascular events, immunology disorders, cancers, death and all-cause hospitalization, were also described by comparing originator and biosimilar event rates, including infections, major cardiovascular events, immunology disorders, cancers, death and all-cause hospitalization, were also described by comparing originator and biosimilar event rates.

**Results:** A total of 86,776 patients were included in the study (22,670, 24,442 and 39,664 IFX, ETA and ADA initiators respectively). Within molecules, subject characteristics at inclusion were very similar between originator and biosimilar products. After weighting, the hazard ratios (HR) and relative risks of treatment discontinuation or modification in biosimilar versus originator products were close to 1 or below 1, with confidence intervals covering 1, except for ADA ABP501 which showed a minor increased risk of non-persistence compared to ADA originator in inflammatory bowel diseases (HR 1.24 [1.09-1.41] and 1.22 [1.03-1.44] in CD and UC). Crude adverse event rates were very similar between originator and biosimilar products. After weighting, the hazard ratios (HR) and relative risks of treatment events, including infections, major cardiovascular events, immunology disorders, cancers, death and all-cause hospitalization, were also described by comparing originator and biosimilar event rates.

**Conclusion:** Our study shows reassuring results regarding the persistence and safety of biosimilars compared to the originator anti-TNF alpha product in all licensed indications. Further studies need to be carried out to confirm these results, and to investigate the switch context.

**REFERENCES:**


ASSOCIATION BETWEEN AIR POLLUTANTS AND INITIATION OF BIOLOGICAL THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOYSING SPONDYLITIS: A NATIONWIDE, POPULATION-BASED CASE-CONTROL STUDY

Keywords: Epidemiology, bDMARD, Spondyloarthrits

C. M. Kao1, H. H. Chen1,2, Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taichung City, Taiwan, Republic of China; Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Taichung City, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a systemic inflammatory disease and the first-line pharmacological therapy includes non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for peripheral joint involvement and immunosuppressants including methotrexate (MTX) and sulfasalazine (SSZ) for peripheral arthritis[1]. Biological therapy under National Health Insurance (NHI) reimbursement is indicated for AS patients without adequate response to first-line therapy in Taiwan. Initiation of biologics such as tumor necrosis factor inhibitors and interleukin-17 inhibitors may act as a proxy for high disease activity. Outdoor air pollution has been found to trigger a systemic inflammatory response[2]. Therefore, we hypothesized that air pollutants may be associated with biologics use in AS patients.

Objectives: To investigate the association between air pollutants and initiation of NHI-reimbursed biologics indicated for high disease activity in patients with AS.

Methods: We conducted a nationwide case-control study using the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database, and incident AS patients from 2003 to 2013 were identified. We excluded those with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, those treated with biologics including etanercept, adalimumab, and golimumab before the first date of visit with AS diagnosis, and those without outpatient visits after 2009. We identified all AS patients initiating biologics for active AS as biologics cases, and non-biologics controls for those who didn’t. Index date was designated as the date of initiation of first biologics for cases and the date of first outpatient department visits each year for controls. We matched both groups at a 1:4 ratio for gender, age at first biologic initiation (±3 years), year of first AS diagnosis, and disease duration (±0.3 year), and finally included 584 biologics cases and 2336 matched controls.

With aid of a spatio-temporal model built by a deep-learning approach, we used the hourly concentrations of ambient air pollutants from 60 air quality censoring stations observed in the elderly-onset group.

Results: Among all elderly-onset cases, the proportion of elderly-onset AOSD patients significantly increased from 2000s, while hospitalization due to infectious complications was more frequently observed in the elderly-onset group.

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of young and elderly-onset AOSD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Young-onset AOSD</th>
<th>Elderly-onset AOSD</th>
<th>p Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years)</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (Female %)</td>
<td>62 (75%)</td>
<td>56 (78%)</td>
<td>0.501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death (n %)</td>
<td>4 (4.8%)</td>
<td>2 (1.0%)</td>
<td>0.330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation period (year)</td>
<td>7 (4-14.7)</td>
<td>3.5 (1.9-5.8)</td>
<td>0.008*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Hospitalization (Day)</td>
<td>27 (10, 56)</td>
<td>79 (36.5, 169.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Characteristics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High fever (&gt;39°C)</td>
<td>46 (62%)</td>
<td>17 (58%)</td>
<td>0.399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrexylgia</td>
<td>53 (67%)</td>
<td>8 (40%)</td>
<td>0.026*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical rash</td>
<td>57 (78%)</td>
<td>8 (40%)</td>
<td>0.024*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myalgia</td>
<td>30 (65%)</td>
<td>8 (44%)</td>
<td>0.128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articulargia</td>
<td>72 (87%)</td>
<td>19 (95%)</td>
<td>0.302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatomegaly</td>
<td>58 (88%)</td>
<td>14 (70%)</td>
<td>0.058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splenomegaly</td>
<td>33 (50%)</td>
<td>4 (21%)</td>
<td>0.025*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>68 (8%)</td>
<td>14 (70%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleuritis</td>
<td>68 (8%)</td>
<td>14 (70%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericarditis</td>
<td>68 (8%)</td>
<td>7 (33%)</td>
<td>0.003*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestinal lung disease</td>
<td>46 (9%)</td>
<td>5 (26%)</td>
<td>0.009*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White blood cell (μL)</td>
<td>15450</td>
<td>16250</td>
<td>0.838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>14.6 (1.1-19.7)</td>
<td>4.1 (2.1-24.0)</td>
<td>0.620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin (ng/mL)</td>
<td>3373</td>
<td>4565</td>
<td>0.747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pouchot score</td>
<td>4 (6-4)</td>
<td>7 (5-78)</td>
<td>0.013*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank the Biostatistics Task Force of Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan, RDC for statistical support.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Trends in the proportion of young and elderly-onset AOSD

Y. Sakai1, Y. Kondo2, S. Kasaiz2, S. Kojima2, H. Tamaiz2, Y. Kaneko2. 1Keio University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology; Tokyo, Japan; 2Keio University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology; Tokyo, Japan.
Conclusion: The frequency of patients with elderly-onset AOSD has been increasing in recent years. Patients with elderly-onset AOSD had significantly characteristic clinical features in comparison with those with young-onset AOSD. Adolescents were more susceptible to infectious complications as well as AOSD flare in patients with elderly-onset AOSD.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.
DOI: 10.1136/anrheumdis-2023-eular.2144

POS0963 PERINATAL DEATHS IN WOMEN WITH AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Results: A descriptive, observational, cross-sectional study was conducted; we selected patients with history of PL from 2017 to date. Clinical records from the Pregnancy and Rheumatic Diseases Clinic (CEER) from the Hospital University “Dr. José Eleuterio González” in México were revised to obtain ARDs, obstetric clinical history, socioeconomic studies and the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) scores.

Background: The grief over the death of a baby around the date of birth registers becomes a traumatic event and generates emotional distress, changes in sleep and eating patterns, vulnerability to illness and an increased risk of maternal mortality up to two years following the loss [1]. In Mexico during 2021, 23,000 fetal deaths were registered: 83.5% were before birth, 15.3% during birth and 1.2% was not specified [2]. Women with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARDs) have greater risk of perinatal loss, the correct psychological approach is fundamental in the grieving process when these events occur.

Objectives: Describe the frequency and characteristics of the perinatal loss (PL) in women with ARDs.

Methods: A descriptive, observational, cross-sectional study was conducted; we selected patients with history of PL from 2017 to date. Clinical records from the Pregnancy and Rheumatic Diseases Clinic (CEER) from the Hospital University “Dr. José Eleuterio González” in México were revised to obtain ARDs, obstetric clinical history, socioeconomic studies and the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) scores.

Table 1. Clinical characterization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characterization</th>
<th>Age(mean)</th>
<th>Loss during pregnancy (n=10)</th>
<th>Neonatal loss(n=6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>24.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of education, n(%)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2(50%)</td>
<td>3 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;4 years</td>
<td>5(50%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>5(50%)</td>
<td>5(50%)</td>
<td>3(50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status, n(%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>2(20%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>3(30%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common law marriage</td>
<td>5(50%)</td>
<td>5(50%)</td>
<td>5(50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation, n(%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
<td>2(33%)</td>
<td>2(33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>9(90%)</td>
<td>2(33%)</td>
<td>2(33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>1(10%)</td>
<td>3(50%)</td>
<td>3(50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Deaths (mean)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatic Diagnosis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
<td>6(60%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic Erythematous Sclerosis</td>
<td>3(30%)</td>
<td>3(50%)</td>
<td>3(50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other diagnosis</td>
<td>1(10%)</td>
<td>2(33%)</td>
<td>2(33%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Two groups: losses during pregnancy and after birth+ Total of perinatal deaths in their life

Conclusion: The frequency of patients with elderly-onset AOSD has been increasing in recent years. Patients with elderly-onset AOSD had significantly characteristic clinical features in comparison with those with young-onset AOSD. Adolescents were more susceptible to infectious complications as well as AOSD flare in patients with elderly-onset AOSD.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.
DOI: 10.1136/anrheumdis-2023-eular.2392

POS0964 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PM2.5 PARTICLE FROM HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION AND INFLAMMATORY AND EPIGENETIC MARKERS IN RHEUMATIC PATIENTS FROM AN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN CHIAPAS: BASELINE STUDY

Results: From the 79 patients that have been admitted to the clinic, 16 (20%) had PL. The ARDs more frequent was Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) with 7 (43.8%) patients, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) with 6 (37.5%) and other diagnosis (Dermatomyositis, Antiphospholipid Syndrome and UCTD) with 3 (18.9%), other characteristics are displayed in table 1. Twelve of these patients have their ARDs active during their pregnancy, 4 of them didn't continue with their rheumatic treatment after the event. Regarding the PL 6 (37.5%) experienced the loss during the first trimester, 3 (18.7%) in the second trimester and 1 (6.2%) in the third trimester and 6 (37.5%) were neonatal losses. From all the pregnancies, 9 were not planned and 13 were desired. Grieving counseling was offered to the patients were asked to respond the EPDS; only 11 (69%) of them answered it and 3(27%) got a score greater than 13 (need for follow up of possible depressive symptoms). Of this deaths, one was in the second trimester and two were after birth. Scores greater than 13 were correlated with education, marital status, total number of PL and agreeing to the grieving counseling. No statistically significant correlation was found.

Conclusion: We have a 20% loss rate in our population. Women with ARDs that experienced one or more perinatal deaths could have greater risk to develop physical and emotional complications after the event. It's necessary to develop a proper guideline to treat our patients and prevent physical and emotional stress.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.
DOI: 10.1136/anrheumdis-2023-eular.2144
SEVERITY AND PROGRESSION OF RADIOGRAPHIC HAND OA IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRESSION OF RADIOGRAPHIC KNEE OA: THE IMI-APPROACH COHORT

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Bone diseases, Osteoarthritis


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

CF-2019 (#2000052).

Acknowledgements:

REFERENCE:


POS0965

THE RISK OF INFLUENZA IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES-FOCUS ON PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME, POLYMYSITIS/DERMATOMYOSITIS AND SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Systemic sclerosis, Myositis

J. P. Lee1, F. Y. Wu1, C. F. Su1, S. H. Lin1, Y. S. Chang1,2, Shuang Ho Hospital, Taipei Medical University, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, New Taipei City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2School of Medicine, College of Medicine, Taipei Medical University, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Influenza vaccine is recommended in patients with most systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases (SARDs). However, the risk of influenza was less studied in the SARDs other than rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the risks of influenza-related hospitalization in patients with SARDs, including primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS), polymyositis/dermatomyositis (PM/DM), systemic sclerosis (SSc), RA and SLE.

Methods: This is a nationwide population-based cohort study analyzing the National Health Insurance Database in Taiwan. Patients with catastrophic certification of each SARD were identified. The risks of influenza-related hospitalization in patients with each SARD were compared with their age- and sex-matched non-AIIRD cohort (1:2). Incidence rates (IR) with incidence rate ratios (IRR) in the AIIRDs were analyzed.

Results: Totally, 48,905 patients with RA, 24,143 patients with SLE, 16,891 patients with pSS, 2,633 patients with SSc and 2561 patients with PM/DM were identified, with basic characteristics shown in Table 1. The IR of hospitalization due to influenza was highest in patients with PM/DM (Figure 1) followed by pSS, SSc, SLE and RA. In comparison with their age- and sex-matched controls,

Table 1. Radiographic hand and knee osteoarthritis scores (n=222)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score (range)</th>
<th>Baseline (median, interquartile range)</th>
<th>Two years (median, Minimal interquartile range)</th>
<th>Detectable difference</th>
<th>Number of participants with progression (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knees</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteophyte sum score (0-24)</td>
<td>4 (1;7)</td>
<td>5 (2;9)</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>81 (38%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSN sum score (0-12)</td>
<td>1 (0;3)</td>
<td>2 (1;4)</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>32 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL sum score (0-4)</td>
<td>3 (1;4)</td>
<td>3 (2;5)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>53 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hands</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteophyte sum score (0-58)</td>
<td>10 (5;27)</td>
<td>10.5 (6;19)</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>60 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSN sum score (0-58)</td>
<td>4 (1;9)</td>
<td>5 (1;11)</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>39 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL sum score (0-120)</td>
<td>16 (9;27)</td>
<td>17 (10;29)</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>55 (26%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progression was defined as a change larger than minimal detectable difference. Abbreviations: JSN = joint space narrowing, KL = Kellgren and Lawrence.

REFERENCES:

NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Sietse Terpstra Grant/research support from: Received grant from the IMI-APPROACH. All paid to the institution, Lotte A. van de Stadt: None declared, Francis Berenbaum Shareholder of: 4P Pharma, 4Moving Biotech, Consultant of: Boehringer Ing, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Merck Serono, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Servier, Viatris, Grant/research support from: TRB Chemedica, Francisco Blanco Grant/research support from: Gideon Richter Plc., BristolMyers Squibb International Corporation (BMSIC), Sun Pharma Global FZE, Celgene Corporation, Janssen Oligo International NV, Janssen Research & Development, Vela Bio Inc., Astrazeneca AB, UCB BIOSCIENCES GMBH, UCB BIOPHARMA SPRL, Abb/Vie Deutschland GmbH & Co.KG, Merck KGaA, Amgen, Inc., Novartis Farmacèutica, S.A., Boehringer Ingelheim España, S.A., CSL Behring, LLC, GlaxoSmithKline Research & Development & Limited, Pfizer Inc, Lilly S.A., Corbus Pharmaceuticals Inc., Biophore Scientific Solutions for Human Health S.L., Centrexion Therapeutics Corp., Sanofi, MEULI FARMA S.A., Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. Fundación para la Investigación Biomédica Del Hospital Clínico San Carlos and Grunenthal Pharma., Ida K. Haugen Consultant of: consultancies for Novartis and GSK., Grant/research support from: research grant from Pfizer/Lily (ADVANCE), paid to institution, Floris Lafeteber: None declared, Harrie Weinaans: None declared, Frits Rosendaal: None declared, Margreet Kloppenburg Grant/research support from: Received grant from the IMI-APPROACH, all paid to the institution.

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the risk was highest in patients with PM/DM with an IRR of 16.83, followed by patients with SSc, pSS, SLE and RA.

**Conclusion:** Patients with PM/DM, SSc, pSS, RA and SLE had significant increased risk of influenza-related hospitalization. In comparison with each matched controls, PM/DM, SSc and pSS cohorts had even higher IRR than that of the SLE and RA cohorts, whose risks of influenza and the benefit of vaccination were well-known. Considering the risk, patients with these SARDs should follow the recommendations to have influenza vaccine every year and further study about the benefit of vaccine in patients with DM/PM, SSc and pSS are needed.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Keywords:** Geographical differences, Registries, Epidemiology

**Background:** Rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) have become leading causes of death (CODs)[1,2]. However, few study has provide an integrated overview of mortality burdens, leaving a care gap between region[3]. Therefore, estimates on mortality burdens of RMDs and their relationships with socioeconomic factors are essential for prioritizing health policies, especially in low-to-middle income countries (LMICs).

**Objectives:**

- To provide an integrated atlas of mortality-related health metrics of 9 RMDs, including RA, SpA, SLE, SS, IM, SSc, BD, TAK, and AAV.
- To illustrate the associations between disease burdens of RMDs and development indicators from multiple aspects.

**Methods:** A nationwide multicentre cohort was linked to Nation Mortality Surveillance System. RMD ascertainment was based on classification criteria, death case ascertainment was following ICD-10 codes. Data collection was conducted, followed by a 3-phase imputation and sensitivity analyses. CODs, SMRs, and life expectancies were estimated. A composite indicator, human development index (HDI), and indicators in economy, healthcare, and education were adopted as area-level socioeconomic status indicators.

**Results:** Between 2008 and 2021, 175 846 individuals were included (Figure 1). AAV, IIM, and SSc ranked top 3 diseases with the highest fatality rates over 10% and lowest survival rates within 10 years after the first diagnosis of RMDs. Principal immediate CODs in patients with RMDs are shown in Figure 1. Adjusted SMR was highest for TAK, followed by IIM, SSc, SLE, AAV, BD, and SS (Figure 1). The mortality risk of patients with RA was generally comparable with overall population. Early disease-onset is a risk factor of excess death in both male and female patients with CTDs. Higher HDI was associated with significant increases in mortality risks in both RA and SLE (SMR ratio 12.24 and 5.15 for 1-unit increase in HDI, p<0.001 and p=0.080) patients compared with region-specific general population. More medical institutions (SMR ratio 0.95 for 1 more medical institution per 10 000 resident population, p=0.005) and hospital beds (SMR ratio 0.35 for 1 more hospital bed per 100 resident population, p=0.131) were protect factors of excess mortality in SLE. In overall patients, SS, SLE, and AAV, IIM and SSc, had mild, moderate, and strong associations with the loss in life expectancy, respectively (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** This study relied on the biggest nationwide register-based cohort of more than 170 000 patients with RMDs confirmed by rheumatologists. We observed that mortality risk (up to 4.5 times) and loss of life years (up to 25 years at the age of 10) in patients with RMDs can be in substantial excess versus general population. Additionally, our study provides the first systematic account that the mortality burdens of RMDs have a complicate relationship with the level of regional deprivation. Increasing mortality burdens associated with RMDs implied the relative insufficiency of capacity building of diagnosis and treatment in RMDs in LMICs.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3374

**POS0967 MORTALITY-RELATED HEALTH METRICS IN RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF A NATIONWIDE REGISTER-BASED COHORT**

**Keywords:** Geographical differences, Registries, Epidemiology

**Background:** Rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) have become leading causes of death (CODs)[1,2]. However, few study has provide an integrated overview of mortality burdens, leaving a care gap between region[3]. Therefore, estimates on mortality burdens of RMDs and their relationships with socioeconomic factors are essential for prioritizing health policies, especially in low-to-middle income countries (LMICs).

**Objectives:**

- To provide an integrated atlas of mortality-related health metrics of 9 RMDs, including RA, SpA, SLE, SS, IM, SSc, BD, TAK, and AAV.
- To illustrate the associations between disease burdens of RMDs and development indicators from multiple aspects.

**Methods:** A nationwide multicentre cohort was linked to Nation Mortality Surveillance System. RMD ascertainment was based on classification criteria, death case ascertainment was following ICD-10 codes. Data collection was conducted, followed by a 3-phase imputation and sensitivity analyses. CODs, SMRs, and life expectancies were estimated. A composite indicator, human development index (HDI), and indicators in economy, healthcare, and education were adopted as area-level socioeconomic status indicators. Mixed-effects meta-regression models were established to explore impacts of socioeconomic indicators.

**Results:** Between 2008 and 2021, 175 846 individuals were included (Figure 1). AAV, IIM, and SSc ranked top 3 diseases with the highest fatality rates over 10% and lowest survival rates within 10 years after the first diagnosis of RMDs. Principal immediate CODs in patients with RMDs are shown in Figure 1. Adjusted SMR was highest for TAK, followed by IIM, SSc, SLE, AAV, BD, and SS (Figure 1). The mortality risk of patients with RA was generally comparable with overall population. Early disease-onset is a risk factor of excess death in both male and female patients with CTDs. Higher HDI was associated with significant increases in mortality risks in both RA and SLE (SMR ratio 12.24 and 5.15 for 1-unit increase in HDI, p<0.001 and p=0.080) patients compared with region-specific general population. More medical institutions (SMR ratio 0.95 for 1 more medical institution per 10 000 resident population, p=0.005) and hospital beds (SMR ratio 0.35 for 1 more hospital bed per 100 resident population, p=0.131) were protect factors of excess mortality in SLE. In overall patients, SS, SLE, and AAV, IIM and SSc, had mild, moderate, and strong associations with the loss in life expectancy, respectively (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** This study relied on the biggest nationwide register-based cohort of more than 170 000 patients with RMDs confirmed by rheumatologists. We observed that mortality risk (up to 4.5 times) and loss of life years (up to 25 years at the age of 10) in patients with RMDs can be in substantial excess versus general population. Additionally, our study provides the first systematic account that the mortality burdens of RMDs have a complicate relationship with the level of regional deprivation. Increasing mortality burdens associated with RMDs implied the relative insufficiency of capacity building of diagnosis and treatment in RMDs in LMICs.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3374
ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS INCIDENCE IN A NORTHERN SPANISH HEALTH REGION, 1994-2022: A POPULATION-BASED STUDY

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Vasculitis, Epidemiology

S. Al Fazazi 1, A. Herrera-Morant 1, V. Calvo-Río 2, M. Renuncio Garcia 3, G. Escagado Caggas 4, M. Rodriguez Vidriales 1, R. Blanco 5, Hospital Universitario Puerta del Mar. Rheumatology, Cádiz, Spain; 2Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 3Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Immunology, Santander, Spain; 4Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Nephrology, Santander, Spain

Background: Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA)-associated vasculitides (AAV) includes granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA), eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) or microscopic polyarteritis (MPA). Precise estimation of the incidence of AAV has been difficult due to the absence of reliable diagnostic criteria.

Objectives: To estimate the incidence in a Northern Spanish population-based cohort.

Methods: Population-based study of 132 patients diagnosed with small vessel vasculitides between 1994 and 2022 in a tertiary hospital. Finally, 98 patients were included as AAV according to ACR/EULAR 2022 criteria [1]. Incidence was estimated by gender, age, and year of diagnosis.

Results: AAV was diagnosed in 98 (49 women/49 men) patients: GPA (n=47, 48%) MPA (n=37,37%) and EGPA (n=14, 14%). Annual incidences were estimated in AAV (Figure 1). GPA annual incidence in our population area in the 1994-2022 period was 2.81 per 1,000,000 people, 95% CI: 3.77-1.85 in males and 2.80 in females. An upward trend in incidence over time was observed with rates ranging from 1.68 in 1994 to 6.84 in 2022 (weak correlation; r=0.2729). On the other hand, MPA annual incidence was 2.23 per 1,000,000 people (1.93 in males and 2.46 in females). Rates ranged from 1.88 in 1994 to 1.71 in 2022 with an upward trend over time (very weak correlation; r=0.0746). In the case of EGPA, annual incidence was 0.83 per 1,000,000 people, 95% CI: 1.72-0.06 (2.74 in males and 0.30 in females). As in the other types of AAV, there was an upward trend over time with variations of from 1.88 in 1994 to 3.42 in 2022 (weak correlation; r=0.3335). A comparison between different geographical areas is summarized in Table 1. Wide variations in annual incidence per million were observed in all AAV (GPA 2.1-13; MPA 2.23-10.4; EGPA 0.64-2.7). The highest annual incidence of all AAV was observed in northern countries and central Europe while the lowest in Southern Europe.

Conclusion: There seems to be a progressive increase in incidence of AAV over the years in the studied population. Annual incidence in our population was similar to that of other southern European countries.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Annual incidence of AAV in 1994-2022.

Table 1. AAV incidence cases reported in the literature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study, year</th>
<th>Country, data source</th>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Incident cases per million population GPA</th>
<th>Incident cases per million population MPA</th>
<th>Incident cases per million population EGPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearce, F. A. et al. 2016</td>
<td>Nottingham, UK, population register</td>
<td>1656-1663</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilsen, A. T. et al. 2020</td>
<td>Tromso, Norway, population register</td>
<td>1999-2013</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammad, A. J. et al 2009</td>
<td>Lund, South Sweden, population register</td>
<td>1997-2006</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takata, J. H et al. 2008</td>
<td>Finland, analysis national discharge data</td>
<td>1996-2000</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hellimich, B. et al. 2021</td>
<td>Germany, analysis insurance claims database</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romero-Gómez, C. et al. 2004</td>
<td>Malaga, Spain, retrospective population.</td>
<td>1994-2010</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaneki, K. et al. 2018</td>
<td>Poland, analysis hospital discharge database</td>
<td>2008-2013</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaneki, K. et al. 2018</td>
<td>Poland, analysis hospital discharge database</td>
<td>2011-2015</td>
<td>7.7</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present study, 2023</td>
<td>Northern Spain.</td>
<td>1999-2022</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>2.23</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Salma Al Fazazi: None declared, Alba Herrera-Morant: None declared, Vanessa Calvo-Río: None declared, Mónica Renuncio Garcia: None declared, Clara Escagado Caggas: None declared, Maria Rodriguez Vidriales: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Lilly, pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos and MSD., Consultant of: Abbvie, Lilly, pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD., Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Novartis and Roche. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3838
Background: There is a lack of data on adherence in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). It is estimated between 28.2 ± 70.6% by the largest study currently available [1]. Many factors may influence adherence, among them psychological factors.

Objectives: The objectives were to assess adherence to biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARDs) and the impact of catastrophizing, fibromyalgia, anxiety, and depression in a cohort of patients with axSpA.

Methods: A multicenter cross-sectional study was conducted in five departments of Rheumatology in France. Inclusion criteria were axSpA according to the ASAS criteria, and treatment by bDMARDs. Patients completed an anonymous self-questionnaire including demographic data, disease activity scores, HADS, and Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS). Rheumatologists completed an independent medical questionnaire collecting the disease-related data.

Results: 500 patients with axSpA were enrolled into the study between June 2021 and June 2022. Patients had a mean age of 49.5 ±13.8 years and 53.2% were male. They were treated by anti-TNF, anti-IL17 or anti-IL12-23 in 85.8%, 13.2% and 1% of cases, respectively. Forty-three percent of the patients were adherent (GS=0) and 50.8% were non-adherent (GS ≥1). The prevalence of catastrophizing, fibromyalgia, anxiety, and depression in our study was 17.2%, 21.4%, 25.6% and 11.0%, respectively. Patients with best adherence were older (mean age: 53.26 ± 13.3 with GS=0 vs 45.85 ± 13.4 years with GS>0; p<0.001) and had a lower level of education (OR 1.84; 95% CI 1.15-2.95; p=0.015). Patients with anxiety and catastrophizing had a lower adherence (OR 1.53; 95% CI 1.02-2.30; p=0.05) and a higher depression score (OR 3.27; 95% CI 1.00-2.58; p=0.05, respectively). Adherence was not different between male and female patients, although female patients with axSpA had more catastrophizing (OR 1.84; 95% CI 1.15-2.95; p=0.015), fibromyalgia (OR 3.27; 95% CI 2.075-16; p<0.0001) and anxiety (OR 2.26; 95% CI 1.50-3.41; p<0.0001). In multivariate analysis, low adherence was associated with younger age (OR 0.96; 95% CI 0.85-0.98; p<0.001) and anxiety (OR 1.72; 95% CI 1.05-2.81; p=0.03).

Conclusion: Half of axSpA patients were non-adherent to bDMARDs, especially among young people, catastrophizers and patients with anxiety. We recommend that practitioners screen for these psycho-cognitive factors and manage them very carefully.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Thanks to the patients for their time and to the authors for their help designing the study and collecting the data.

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patients with ILD; no gender difference was evident. Compared with Caucasians, East and SEA (OR 5.14, 95% CI 2.59, 10.21) patients were up to 10 times more likely to be diagnosed with ILD. Controlling for racial groups, age and gender, IIM patients with ILD had significantly higher odds of mortality (OR 1.84, 95% CI 1.02, 3.32), though the odds were significantly lower in the South Asian racial group (OR 0.37, 95% CI 0.14, 0.92) compared with Caucasians.

**Conclusion:** Our study is the first of its kind to demonstrate an association between racial groups, clinical profiles, autoantibodies, and the subtypes of IIM. There is heterogeneity in MSA and MAA positivity among racial groups. Importantly, we show that race appears to have a possible role in the predilection for IIM subtypes and ILD.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**IIM subtypes and ILD.**

There is heterogeneity in MSA and MAA positivity among racial groups. Importantly, we show that race appears to have a possible role in the predilection for IIM subtypes and ILD.

**POS0972**

**INCREASED RISK FOR STROKE IN PATIENTS WITH FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER, RESULTS FROM A LARGE POPULATION-BASED STUDY**

**Keywords:** Rare/orphan diseases, Real-world evidence, Innate immunity

N. Ben-Shabat1, O. Gendelman1, L. Fisher1, U. Shani1, Y. S. Pat1, D. Magonale3, A. Watad1,2, H. Amital1, 1Sheba Medical Center, Internal Medicine B, Ramat-Gan, Israel; 2Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine, NIHR Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Leeds, United Kingdom

**Background:** The association between chronic inflammatory conditions and cardiovascular disease is well established. Considering Familial-Mediterranean Fever (FMF), few studies exist investigating the risk of ischemic heart disease, and none address the risk of stroke.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the incidence and risk for stroke in FMF patients compared to the general population.

**Methods:** A retrospective cohort study using the electronic database of Clalit Health Services (CHS), the largest health organization in Israel. All FMF patients diagnosed between 2000-2016 were included and matched with control according to age, gender, and place of residence. Follow-up continued until the first diagnosis of stroke or death. The incidence of stroke was compared between the groups using univariate and multivariate models adjusting for cardiovascular risk factors.

**Results:** 9,769 FMF patients and a similar number of controls were followed up for a median period of 12.5 years. The mean age at the beginning of the follow-up was 25.7 years. 208 FMF patients were diagnosed with stroke compared to 148 controls, resulting in an incidence rate (per 10,000 persons-years) of 19.8 (95%CI 17.2-22.7), and 13.9 (95%CI 11.8 to 16.4) respectively, and a crude HR of 1.42 (95% CI 1.15 to 1.76; P<0.001). In a multivariate analysis, FMF patients who developed amyloidosis with related or non-related renal failure demonstrated significant stroke risk (HR=2.16; 95%CI 1.38 to 3.38; P<0.001), as well as for those who did not develop these complications (HR=1.32, 95%CI 1.04 to 1.67; P<0.05).

**Conclusion:** FMF patients are at increased risk for stroke regardless of known complications.

Table 1. Comparison of rates and risk for stroke in FMF patients compared to controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>FMF</th>
<th>Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>FMF</strong></td>
<td>Stroke events, n</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age at stroke, mean ±SD</td>
<td>59.8 ±15.9</td>
<td>65.3 ±14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow-up time, person-years</td>
<td>104,960</td>
<td>106,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow-up time, median (IQR)</td>
<td>12.4 (6.9-14.5)</td>
<td>12.5 (7.1-14.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incidence rate per 10,000 person-years, (95%CI)</td>
<td>19.8 (17.2 to 22.7)</td>
<td>13.9 (11.8 to 16.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unadjusted HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>1.42 (1.15 to 1.76)</td>
<td>*reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adjusted for age, sex, and cardiovascular baseline risk factors.† Reference: 208 FMF patients compared to 148 controls, resulting in an incidence rate (per 10,000 persons-years) of 19.8 (95%CI 17.2-22.7), for those who did not develop these complications (HR=1.32, 95%CI 1.04 to 1.67; P&lt;0.05).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>FMF with complications</strong></td>
<td>Stroke events, n</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age at stroke, mean ±SD</td>
<td>65.6 ±12.6</td>
<td>70.3 ±11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow-up time, person-years</td>
<td>4,140</td>
<td>4,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow-up time, median (IQR)</td>
<td>11.8 (6.5-14.6)</td>
<td>14.0 (9.7-15.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incidence rate per 10,000 person-years, (95%CI)</td>
<td>128.0 (95.9 to 167.5)</td>
<td>60.3 (40.7 to 86.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unadjusted HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>2.16 (1.38 to 3.38)</td>
<td>*reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adjusted for age, sex, and cardiovascular baseline risk factors.† Reference: 208 FMF patients compared to 148 controls, resulting in an incidence rate (per 10,000 persons-years) of 19.8 (95%CI 17.2-22.7), for those who did not develop these complications (HR=1.32, 95%CI 1.04 to 1.67; P&lt;0.05).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>FMF without complications</strong></td>
<td>Stroke events, n</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age at stroke, mean ±SD</td>
<td>57.5 ±16.4</td>
<td>63.8 ±16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow-up time, person-years</td>
<td>100,827</td>
<td>101,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow-up time, median (IQR)</td>
<td>12.4 (6.9-14.5)</td>
<td>12.4 (7.0-14.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incidence rate per 10,000 person-years, (95%CI)</td>
<td>15.4 (13.1 to 18.0)</td>
<td>11.7 (9.7 to 14.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unadjusted HR (95%CI)</td>
<td>1.32 (1.04 to 1.67)</td>
<td>*reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adjusted for age, sex, and cardiovascular baseline risk factors.† Reference: 208 FMF patients compared to 148 controls, resulting in an incidence rate (per 10,000 persons-years) of 19.8 (95%CI 17.2-22.7), for those who did not develop these complications (HR=1.32, 95%CI 1.04 to 1.67; P&lt;0.05).</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Including amyloidosis, chronic renal failure, dialysis, and kidney transplant.‡ Adjusted for age, sex, and cardiovascular baseline risk factors.§ Compared to a similar number of matched controls.
CKD as serum creatinine >1.0mg/dl with eGFR <60ml/min/1.73 m2 and micturative urinary sediment, confirmed by at least three determinations for at least 3 months, and damage was measured by the SLICC damage index (SDI). Non-parametric tests were used for comparisons.

**Results:** 303 LN patients were included (females 86.5%, mean follow-up 14.8 (9.8-22.0) years), 257 patients (84.8%) achieved remission after a median of 1.44 (0.69-3.58) years from initial treatment, which persisted throughout follow-up in 115 patients. Among 142 patients who had their remission interrupted, 39 (27.5%) did so due to extrarenal flares, while 103 (72.5%) experienced renal flares (creatinine or proteinuria). Loss of remission due to extrarenal flares was less frequently associated with CKD development than remission lost to renal flares (5.1% vs. 28.2%, respectively; OR95% CI 0.14 (0.031-0.61), p=0.003), while the ultimate median annual SDI increase was comparable between patients experiencing either renal or non-renal flares (renal vs. extrarenal flares: +0.05 (0.01) vs. +0.06 (0.14), p=0.8).

**Conclusion:** Patients experiencing renal flares are at greater risk of CKD, yet more than 5% of patients undergoing extrarenal flares develop CKD. Renal and extrarenal flares both contribute comparably to damage accrual across all organ domains. Extra-renal flares deserve attention and should not be regarded as mild by definition.

**REFERENCES:**


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They do not have access to the information collected in the database., Maria de la Vega/Grant/research support from: BIOBADASAR has received an unrestricted Grant from Pfizer. Pfizer has not participated in or influenced the project's development, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or report writing. They do not have access to the information collected in the database.
Validation of outcome measures and biomarkers

Objectives: (i) To determine whether sample type affects the previously defined IFN score, (ii) to develop revised IFN scores in WB, (iii) to identify the best RG for future RT-PCR experiments.

Methods: Samples were collected from participants enrolled in 5 studies; DEFINITION, CONVAS, USEFUL, MASTERPLANs and BRAGSS. PBMCs were separated from blood using leucosep tubes and WB was collected using Tempus™ Blood RNA Tubes. Undetected delta Ct values were singly imputed. IFN scores A and B were calculated in paired WB and PBMC samples and agreement between the sample types was assessed via the Bland-Altman (BA) method. New IFN scores for WB were derived via exploratory factor analysis (EFA) of 31 ISG as per the original work [1]. Separation of clinical subgroups was visualized using violin plots and effect sizes calculated using Hedges’ g. RG identification from 16 candidates used online software.

Results: We used samples from 342 participants with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), 6 ANA positive at risk progressors, 7 at risk non-progressors, 30 with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and 10 healthy controls (HC). Subsets were used for sample comparison (n=45) and RG work (n=22). Comparing score A in PBMC versus WB matched samples resulted in bias of -1.44, limits of agreement (LOA) 0.08, -2.96, the spread of data on BA plot showed a systematic difference. The same comparison in score B gave bias of -1.23 (LOA 0.26, 2.73), data on BA plot suggested differences were not systematic. EFA in WB produced a two-factor solution which explained 97% of the variation. The first (score C) contained 3 ISG and the second (score D) contained 4 (Table 1), compared with score A (12 ISG) and score B (14 ISG) [1]. Both scores showed potential to differentiate between HC and those with SLE or RA, but neither separated SLE from RA as the original PBMC scores A and B had done (Figure 1). YWHAZ, PGK1 and GUSB were the most stable RG. Others such as ACTB performed poorly as RG.

Conclusion: PBMC and WB may be used interchangeably to calculate IFN score A, but not score B. This suggests an influence of neutrophils, including the demethylation of neutrophil ISG cytokine-gene sites, on Score B genes [3]. In WB we derived a further two scores which differentiated SLE or RA from HC, although neither score distinguished between SLE and RA. Further work is needed to assess the performance of scores A-D in WB samples. The Minimum Information for Publication of Quantitative Real-Time PCR Experiments recommends using ≥3 RG to avoid bias [4]; we found that YWHAZ, PGK1 and GUSB were the most stable genes across a range of experimental conditions.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Interferon genes selected in two-factor solution derived via exploratory factor analysis in whole blood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Score C</th>
<th>Score D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCL8</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFI17</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CXCL10</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMP3</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IRG15</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASP1</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEACAM1</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIM38</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCS1</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
reported grip-difficulties, and 14% incomplete fist-closure: all were associated with tenosynovitis. Decreased dynamometer-measured grip strength was most sensitive for detecting tenosynovitis (75%), while incomplete fist-closure was most specific (88-90%).

**Conclusion:** Hand function is already often affected before RA-development, reflecting subclinical inflammation. In practice, testing hand-function in CSA-patients could conveniently objectify functional limitations and reveal subclinical tenosynovitis.

**REFERENCE:**


**Figure 1.** Assessment and prevalence of reduced hand function in the CSA-phase. Legend: Figure 1A depicts the different measures of hand function used: I Dynamometer-measured grip strength (GS), II patient-reported grip-difficulties in the HAQ grip-domain, III fist-closure, IV Examiner-assessed. In B, dynamometer-measured grip strength was compared to the mean grip strength in healthy individuals of the same age and sex as reported by Günther et al.(1) Patient-reported grip-difficulties were defined as a score of 1 or higher (i.e. individuals indicating some difficulty, much difficulty or unable to perform a task) in the HAQ grip domain. I, III and IV were assessed in the derivation-cohort, II, III and IV in the validation-cohort. GS: grip strength.

**Acknowledgements:** We thank G. Kracht (medical photographer) for preparing Figure 1.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POS0977 WITHDRAWN**
POSO079

EXPLORING SMARTPHONE-BASED DIGITAL ENDPOINTS FOR RHEUMATIC CONDITIONS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Telemedicine, Validation

R. Araújo1, P. Matias1, P. Studenti3, M. Valada1, R. Graça1, N. Nakhost Lotfi2, D. Belo1, F. Nunes1,1, Frauenhofer Portugal AICOS, Research Center for Assistive Information and Communication Solutions, Porto, Portugal; 2Medical University of Vienna, Internal Medicine 3, Division of Rheumatology, Wien, Austria; 3Karolinska Institute, Medicine (Söna), Division of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 4Nova Medical School, EpiDoc Unit, CHCR, Lisbon, Portugal

Background: The care of rheumatic diseases is currently episodic, based on visits every 3-6 months at the rheumatologist, which may fail to characterize the condition state. To address this issue, the research community is investigating ways to use smartphones and sensors to monitor conditions passively.

Objectives: Explore associations between smartphone-generated data, standardized functional tests, and Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMS) to support the creation of digital endpoints.

Methods: Participants from Portugal and Austria participated in a Data Collection that included: (i) physical activities, such as walking with a smartphone in the pocket; (ii) hand dexterity exercises, such as copying text sentences with the smartphone keyboard; (iii) downloading and processing sociability data from the participants’ smartphones; (iv) performing functional tests, such as Moberg Pick-Up Test (Moberg) and Timed Up-and-Go (TUG); and (v) answering validated PROMS, such as MD-HAQ, EQ-5D-5L, and visual analogue scale (VAS) for pain, fatigue, and disease activity. Statistical analysis focused on the correlation between smartphone-collected data and functional tests or PROMs, and independent t-test for between-group comparison.

Results: We collected data from 59 participants (76% female, 24% male). From this set, 31 were patients diagnosed with osteoarthritis (45%), rheumatoid arthritis (26%), or psoriatic arthritis (29%). The remaining 28 were age-matched healthy controls. In terms of age, 17% of participants were under 41 years old, 52% were between 41 and 60, and 31% were 61 or older. Most patients reported stiffness or pain in the upper (90%) and lower (83%) parts of the body. Subjective health status was high (M=7.97, SD=16.31) in the VAS of EQ-5D-5L. Independent t-tests (Table 1) showed significant differences between patient and control groups regarding Mobility (M= 1.90, SD= 0.77), Pain/Well-Being (M= 2.48, SD= 0.81), and Mental Health (M= 1.68, SD=0.83) with higher difficulty levels reported by rheumatic patients compared to controls. Rheumatic patients also rated worse in HADS anxiety (M= 5.90, SD= 3.74) but not depression. We found significant differences between patients and controls in the variability of key pressing time (ms), with less variability among patients than controls (M= 30.71, SD= 11.99). The inter-key typing time was lower in participants below 50 years than above. A moderate correlation was found between patient and control groups regarding Mobility (r= -0.92, p <.001), as well as the standing up (r= 0.59, p = 0.02) and the number of total steps (r=0.81, p= 0.035) in patients with hand joint pain. Regarding Mobility associations, TUG found between the number of character deletions and the Moberg test (r= 0.44, p <0.001 -0.72 1 .26±0.364 0.98±0.24

Conclusion: Data collection with smartphone appears to have face, construct and discriminative validity, able to support future trials in patients with rheumatic diseases, to validate smartphone-based data vs objective measures of disease activity and quality of life over time.

Acknowledgements: This research was supported by the project COTIDIANA (AAL2020-T-146-CP) funded under the AAL Joint Programme, by the European Commission and the National Funding Authorities of Portugal, Austria, and Switzerland.

Disclosure of Interests: Ricardo Araújo: None declared, Pedro Matias: None declared, Paul Studenti: None declared, Paul Studenic: Speakers bureau: AstraZeneca, Maria Valada: None declared, Ricardo Graça: None declared, Nasim Nakhost Lotfi: None declared, David Belo: None declared, Francisco Nunes: None declared.

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POSO079

THE GLUCOCORTICOID TOXICITY INDEX-METABOLIC DOMAINS: AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE GLUCOCORTICOID TOXICITY INDEX

Keywords: Outcome measures

N. Patel1, D. Jayne2, P. A. Merkel3, P. Bekker1, Y. Zhang1, M. Stone3, H. Yue1, H. Stone1, 1Massachusetts General Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Boston, United States of America; 2University of Cambridge, Medicine, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom; 3Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Rheumatology Unit, Philadelphia, United States of America; 4ChemoCentryx, Inc., Clinical Development, San Carlos, United States of America; 5Steritas, LLC, Clinical Outcomes Assessments, Concord, United States of America; 6Amgen, Inc, Clinical Development, Thousand Oaks, United States of America

Background: Measurement of glucocorticoid (GC) toxicity is critical to efforts to reduce it. In clinical trials, the Glucocorticoid Toxicity Index (GTI)[1] measures toxicity effectively using two scores, the Cumulative Worsening Score (CWS) and the Aggregate Improvement Score (AIS). In clinical practice, high patient volumes limit time available to perform the full GTI. An abbreviated GTI version – the GTI-Metabolic Domains (GTI-MD) – may address this issue by including only data that are collected routinely at clinic visits, requiring no additional physician time. The GTI-MD includes four domains: Body Mass Index, Glucose Tolerance, Blood Pressure, and Lipid Metabolism.

Objectives: We evaluated the correlations between the GTI-MD, overall GTI scores, and the remaining GTI domains to determine if the GTI-MD differentiates patients effectively according to GC toxicity.

Methods: We used data from ADVOCATE[2], a phase 3 trial in which avacopan replaced a standard GC taper in ANCA-associated vasculitis, to test the correlation of the GTI-MD with overall GTI scores. We evaluated the ability of the GTI-MD to differentiate the treatment groups by GC toxicity, comparing GTI-MD scores between groups at weeks 13 and 26.

Results: The abilities of the full GTI domains to differentiate the treatment groups according to GC toxicity have been reported[3]. The Spearman rank correlation coefficient for the GTI-MD CWS with GTI CWS was 0.78 (p <0.0001). The corresponding correlation for the AIS was 0.73 (p <0.0001). The GTI-MD distinguished the two groups by GC toxicity at both 13 and 26 weeks (Table 1). The mean GTI-MD CWS was lower in the avacopan group, consistent with less toxicity (15.9 versus 23.0 at 13 weeks [p=0.001]; 26.7 versus 31.7 at 26 weeks [p=0.009]). The GTI-MD AIS values were also consistent with less toxicity in the avacopan group (2.5 versus 13.0 at 13 weeks [p=0.0003], 4.4 versus 10.1 at 26 weeks [p=0.03]). Contributions of the four GTI-MD domains were balanced (Figure 1). A GTI-MD score of zero correlated with low toxicity in other domains.

Conclusion: We used data from ADVOCATE[2], a phase 3 trial in which avacopan replaced a standard GC taper in ANCA-associated vasculitis, to test the correlation of the GTI-MD with overall GTI scores. We evaluated the ability of the GTI-MD to differentiate the treatment groups by GC toxicity, comparing GTI-MD scores between groups at weeks 13 and 26.

GTI-MD Score Week Treatment Group Mean Score Standard Deviation P-value

AIS 13 Avacopan 160 2.5 23.4 0.0003

Prednisone 161 13.0 27.3

26 Avacopan 154 4.4 25.7 0.03

Prednisone 153 10.1 26.1

CWS 13 Avacopan 160 15.9 15.7 0.001

Prednisone 151 23.0 19.2

26 Avacopan 154 28.7 20.1 0.009

Prednisone 153 31.7 20.3

Table 1. – Group comparison through independent t-test applied to some of the collected variables.

Table 1. – Group comparison through independent t-test applied to some of the collected variables.

Table 1. Differentiation of the two treatment groups in ADVOCATE by glucocorticoid toxicity, as measured by the Glucocorticoid Toxicity Index-Metabolic Domains.
Conclusion: The GTI-MD correlated well with the full GTI in ADVOCATE and may be incorporated readily into routine clinic workflows. Additional studies will be required to determine how effectively the GTI-MD predicts certain long-term GC toxicities such as osteonecrosis, bone fractures, infection, and death, and to understand how the instrument performs in other types of settings and study designs. Utilization of the GTI-MD may help clinicians monitor GC toxicity longitudinally, with the goals of preventing the burden of chronic, treatment-related morbidity, and reducing long-term costs to health systems.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.


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Keywords: Outcome measures, Validation, Rheumatoid arthritis

V. Konetzke1, A. Kerschbaumer1, J. S. Smolen1, D. Aletaha1, Medical University of Vienna, Department of Internal Medicine III, Division of Rheumatology, Vienna, Austria

Background: An accurate evaluation of efficacy is key in any trial of novel pharmaceutical compounds. For rheumatoid arthritis (RA), the American College of Rheumatology 20, 50 and 70 response criteria (ACR20/50/70) were reported in all major clinical trials since 1995. Although clinically irrelevant, the ACR20 response still remains the primary endpoint required by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Objectives: In this analysis we explored how the stringency of the ACR response definitions (20%, 50% or 70%) differs with respect to their observed frequency and timing to inform potential future trial designs and regulatory decisions on required claims during the drug approval process in RA.

Methods: We conducted a systematic literature search in EMBASE, Medline and the Cochrane Library for multi-national, multi-center, phase 3 randomized drug trials (RCTs) investigating biological and targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs/tsDMARDs) in adult RA patients. We included full articles published in English and reporting ACR responses for ≥3 time points over a 24-week study period. Baseline characteristics as well as ACR responses were extracted. For direct comparison of the response dynamics over time, we visualized ACR response rates on scales normalized to their maximum numerical responses observed during the respective trial (for details see legend). Calculation of p-values per outcome and timepoint for each treatment arm against placebo (Fisher’s Exact test; α=0.05) allowed us to compare the discriminative capacity of the ACR responses between active treatment and placebo across all timepoints. Statistical analyses were done using R (V4.2.1, 2022, Vienna, Austria).

Results: We screened 12,457 articles (AK and VK) and selected 313 articles for full-text reading; we included 44 articles in the final analysis, which allowed for comparison of 95 treatment arms against placebo, investigating 8 different modes of action in DMARD-naïve patients as well as csDMARD and bDMARD insufficient responders (IR). The discriminative capacity of the ACR20 was highest across all timepoints analyzed (week 1 to 24), on average reaching 70% of the maximum response rate in the trial as early as by week 2 (normalized ACR response, Figure 1, Panel A). In contrast, ACR50 and 70 responses reached rates comparable to the ACR20 close to or at week 24, thus exhibiting slower response dynamics (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Mean normalized ACR responses. ACR responses were normalized to the respective maximum response achieved during the course of the trial; for example, if the maximum ACR20 response rate was observed at week 16 and amounted to 76% responders, then this was the normative 100% in the respective trial; and if the maximum ACR70 response rate was observed at week 20 and amounted to 28%, then this was taken as 100% for the ACR70 response. These data are summarized in panel A for DMARD naïve patients (n=12), csDMARDs IR (n=74) and bDMARD IR (n=95) (number of treatment arms); Panel B: Percentage of treatment arms (n=95) from 44 different trials with significant (p≤0.05) ACR20, 50 and 70 response (active treatment vs. placebo) per timepoint (week 0-24).

Figure 1. Percentage of the Glucocorticoid Toxicity Index-Metabolic Domains score contributed by each domain at 13 and 26 weeks, as reflected by the Aggregate Improvement Score values adjusted for weight.
Panel B). This effect was seen across all treatment arms (N=95) and independent of the mode of action, but slower for trials including treatment-IR patients compared with those assessing DMARD-naive patients (Figure 1, Panel A).

**Conclusion:** The ACR20 response definition continues to be the most powerful discriminator between active treatment and placebo at early timepoints during trials; however, the discriminative capacity of the ACR50 and 70 definitions increases over the course of time. Our findings therefore support the use of these clinically more relevant response definitions at later but not early timepoints.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.
**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.
**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4146

### POS0981

**PRECISION MEDICINE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS. EVALUATION OF TWO NOVEL TESTS TO PREDICT CLINICAL RESPONSE TO METHOTREXATE IN PATIENTS WITH EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

A. Escudero Contreras1, F. J. Blanco2, M. Alperi-López3, A. I. Turnión4, C. Lopez-Pedreña5, T. Yebra6, G. Cordero7, T. Diez8, I. Portero9; 1Hospital Reina Sofia de Córdoba, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain; 2Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de A Coruña (CHUAC), Rheumatology, La Coruña, Spain; 3Hospital Central de Asturias, Rheumatology, Oviedo, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario de Salamanca, Rheumatology, Salamanca, Spain; 5Biohope Scientific Solutions for Human Health, Medical, Ires Cantos, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** The main goal of treatment in patients with early Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is to achieve a clinical remission. Methotrexate (MTX) should be the first treatment strategy in naive patients, but about one third will not respond to this therapy. There is a lack of tools to predict the individual response to MTX. Pre-treatment number of circulating monocytes may predict clinical response to MTX (1) and ROS production may be related to the pharmacological action of MTX (2, 3). The main goal of our research was to test the hypothesis that ROS production may be related to the pharmacological action of MTX (2, 3).

**Objectives:** To evaluate the feasibility of 2 novel tests (ROS and Monocytes Tests) to measure in vitro the sensitivity to MTX in patients with new-onset RA and the association of MTX response with clinical remission at 6 months.

**Methods:** This is an observational, longitudinal Proof-of-Concept with a follow-up of 6 months. 33 adult patients with early RA according EULAR criteria and with a baseline a patient blood sample was collected, where PBMCs were isolated and frozen. After 3 weeks, PBMCS were defrost, placed in a plate p96, activated with phytohemagglutinin, and exposed to MTX. In the ROS test, Reactive Oxygen Species levels as determined with the ROS test showed to be increased in patients with clinical remission vs patients without remission (p<0.001) (Figure 1). The predictive capacity of these models was analyzed with the area under the operating characteristics curve (ROC), showing for ROS Test an AUC of 0.919 (CI95% 0.813-0.989) (p<0.0001) and for Monocytes test 0.826 (CI95% 0.664-0.989) (p<0.0001).

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.
**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3606

### Clinical cases

### POS0982

**UNUSUAL PRESENTATION OF LEWIS-SUMNER SYNDROME IN ELDERLY SIMULATING POLYMYSITIS AND POLYMIALGIA RHEUMATICA**

**Keywords:** Rare/orphan diseases

M. Brahem1, R. Sarraj1, O. Jomaas1, B. Jebali1, S. Abdellatif1, H. Hachfi1, Y. Mohamed1; 1Taher Star University Hospital, Rheumatology, Mahdia, Tunisia

**Background:** Lewis-Sumner syndrome (LSS) or multifocal acquired demyelinating sensory and motor neuropathy (MADSAM) is an atypical form of chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP). This rare disease is characterized by a predominantly distal, asymmetric weakness mostly affecting the upper limbs and motor dysfunction with adult onset. Diagnosis can be difficult to establish if the clinical presentation is atypical and frequently simulates inflammatory myopathy.

**Objectives:** Methods: We report a rare case of LSS in an old patient with unusual clinical aspects.

**Results:** A 70-year-old female patient with a history of atrial fibrillation complicated by pulmonary embolism, presented with myalgia and muscle weakness of the shoulders, upper arms, hips and thighs. This involvement was bilateral, symmetric and evolving since 3 months, causing difficulties in climbing stairs, standing or walking. Physical examination showed a proximal muscle deficiency affecting proximal muscles of the upper and lower limbs. In this stage we suspected a poly myositis or polymyalgia rheumatica. We completed by biological assessment that showed a biological inflammatory syndrome (ESR at 90 mm at first hour; CRP at 80mg/L) and elevated lactate dehydrogenase level at 490 IUL. The immunoblot polymyositis profile (anti-M2, anti-Ku, anti Pm/Scl, anti-Jo, anti-PL12, anti-P17, anti-SSA 52kDa, anti-EJ, anti-OJ and anti-SRP) was negative. The MRI of lower limbs revealed a signal abnormality in the gluteus medius muscles on both sides with inflammatory appearance. The Electromyography revealed sensorimotor neuropathy affecting the four extremities with motor nerve conduction blocks. This aspect was in favor of LSS, so we completed by a cerebrospinal fluid study which revealed a proteinorachia at 0.4g/l with normal glycorachia and normal cell counts. These results confirmed the diagnosis of LSS. The patient was treated by corticosteroids at dose of 1 mg/kg/day during 2 months, with a progressive decrease of treatment. The evolution was marked by a spectacular clinical and biological response.

**Conclusion:** LSS is a very rare disease that can simulate inflammatory myopathy and polymyalgia rheumatica in elderly. So, it should be suspected in old patients suffered from proximal muscle deficiency.

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.
**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2427

### POS0983

**TET2 MOSAICISM IN HUMAN IS ASSOCIATED WITH A COMPLEX PHENOTYPE INCLUDING LYMHPHOPROLIFERATION, AUTOIMMUNITY, IMMUNODEFICIENCY, AND HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCY**

**Keywords:** Autoantibodies, Genetics/epigenetics, Malignancy

R. Lorenzet1, J. Staniek1, M. Rizzi1, R. Völl1, N. Venhoff1, J. Thiel1,2; 1Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University Medical Center Freiburg, Faculty of Medicine, Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg,
Background: The TET2 gene encodes ten-eleven translocation methylcytosine dioxygenase 2 (TET2). TET2 is an epigenetic regulator that converts 5-methylcytosine to 5-hydroxymethylcytosine and also interacts with histone-modifying enzymes and transcription factors. Somatic mutations in TET2 are early events in clonal expansion and are found in association with myeloid and lymphoid hematological diseases. Germline mutations in TET2 have only been described in 3 children of consanguineous parents. These mutations led to immunodeficiency and lymphoma and early mortality in childhood.

Objectives: To assess the clinical and immunological consequences of a combination of a germline and a somatic mutation in TET2.

Methods: Genetic analysis was done by whole exome sequencing. An in-depth immunological analysis was performed.

Results: Clinical phenotype: The patient of non-consanguineous parents presented at the age of 38 with axial spondyloarthritis. Apart from trace homogenous fluorescence on the HeP2 cell his immunologic work-up was unremarkable. After start of a TNF-inhibitor he developed persistent fever, serositis, interstitial lung disease, peripheral arthritis and a pronounced lymphadenopathy/pleural-nemegaly. His condition improved after the TNF-inhibitor was changed to an IL-17-inhibitor combined with prednisone (up to 40mg/d), but lymphadenopathy persisted and the patient recurrently suffered from fevers, fatigue and pleurisy. Lymphnode biopsies showed no signs of malignancy. The patient had recurrent episodes of pancytopenia that spontaneously improved and he developed two episodes of pneumonia. Furthermore, he suffered from recurrent episodes of herpes zoster. Immunological results: On immunologic work-up the patient had a polyclonal hypergammaglobulinemia and autoantibody testing revealed a homogenous ANA (1:1600), and positive anti-nucleosome-, anti-PM-Scl70-, anti-SRP-, anti-PL-12-, anti-phospholipid-, anti-dsDNA- and anti-MPO-autoantibodies.

Despite of increased amounts of immunoglobulins the patient developed a progressive and persistent loss of B cells (Figure 1), with an increased expression of CD80/86 on the remaining memory B cells. Within the T cell compartment double-negative T cells were increased.

Results of whole exome sequencing: Whole exome sequencing revealed a germline mutation in TET2 with the variant c.3641G>A; p.Arg1214Gln in the heterozygous state (NAF 0.53; NM_001127208.3). This mutation affects a phylogenetically conserved amino acid and is classified as predominantly pathogenic in the in silico prediction. Another variant identified is the mutation c.1864C>T; p.Gln622, which leads to the emergence of a stop codon (NAF 0.041). This variant was only detectable as a low-grade mosaic (5-10%) in the buccal mucosa in the control, possibly as a result of lymphocytic infiltration into the buccal mucosa. In leukocytes, this mutation was detectable in 83% of cells in the heterozygous state. Both mutations have a low frequency in the population (1-2/120000-150000; gnomAD).

Hematological malignancy: 5 years after the progressive loss of B cells started, the patient was diagnosed with a follicular B cell lymphoma and shortly after with AML with myelodysplasia-associated changes (AML-MRC). A familial-allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplantation was performed. During the now 6 months follow-up no relapse occurred.

Conclusion: Combined heterozygous germline and somatic mutations in TET2 are associated with a very complex phenotype combining autoimmunity, lymphoproliferation and hematological malignancy, may present in adulthood and thus clinically differ from combined heterozygous germline mutations with early onset in childhood.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3487

Figure 1.
E. Hannachi, H. Boussaâ, S. Miladi, A. Fazaa, M. Yasmine, L. Soubani, K. Quenichet, S. Kassabi, S. Chekili, K. Ben Abdelghani, A. Laastra. *Mongi Slim Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Tunisia, Tunisia*

**Background:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory disease that can have a major impact on patients' quality of life with functional and psychological impairment.

**Objectives:** To investigate the impact on patients' quality of life and the effectiveness of a digital social media campaign to provide education and awareness about PsA.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted involving patients with PsA, according to the CASPAR criteria. Sociodemographic data, clinical, and therapeutic modalities were collected. Patients were asked to respond to the Experience of Shame Scale (ESS) [1] and to the Test of Self Conscious Affect- Version 3 (TOSCA-3S) [2].

**Results:** The mean Psoriatic area severity index (PASI) was 10.2 [0–70]. For the ESS, the mean total score was 63 [31–98] with a mean subscale score of: 28 [14–45] for characterological shame, 25 [12–35] for behavioral shame and 9 [5–20] for bodily shame. For the TOSCA-3S, the mean “shame self-talk Total” score was 33 [17–44], and the mean “guilt self-talk Total” score was 47 [37–55]. A significant positive correlation was noted between the PASI and the bodily shame score (p<0.001, r=0.673). A significant positive correlation was noted with the educational level (p=0.027). The Bodily shame subscale was associated with educational level (p<0.027). The Bodily shame subscale was associated with the educational level (p=0.028). A significant positive correlation was noted between the PASI and the bodily shame score (p=0.001, r=0.673).

**Conclusion:** Feelings of guilt and shame were frequent among PsA patients. Associated factors were mainly disease activity, PASI, and sociodemographic parameters.

**References:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5796

### Best practice campaigning

POS0986-PARE

**IMPACT OF EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS ON RMD IN SOCIAL NETWORKS**

**Keywords:** Education, Self-management, Quality of life

E. Pinzon1, L. Higueras2,1, FUNARP, Education, Panama, Panama;1,2 FUNARP, Education, Panama, Panama

**Background:** Panama’s prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis lies within the global range (2.4 to 1%). To improve the quality of life of RMD patients in the country, FUNARP was created over 18 years ago to educate and support patients, caregivers, and civil. FUNARP decided to focus its efforts on digital campaigns since 2020 taking advantage of its coverage, low costs, and ease of usage. Further, the mobile penetration of Panama is 136% of its population [1] making social media the best distribution channel for this purpose.

**Objectives:** To expand educational coverage, especially for those with limited mobility or living in hard-to-reach areas. Another objective is to measure the effectiveness of digital media campaigns (paid or organic growth), as well as to identify the most effective social network for these purposes.

**Methods:** Social media campaigns complement FUNARP’s annual education plan, which consists of monthly onsite and virtual lectures/seminars. The educational approach is based on the physician’s perspective and the patient’s experience. The campaigns consist of a mixed scheme: selected ad investment and in-house content creation; and full-fledged campaigns with professional content development and paid ads. In 2022, a total of five campaigns were launched following this process: a) selection of the campaign theme, b) professional advice on content; c) sponsorship, d) hiring of the marketing agency, e) approval of design and publications, and f) analysis of results to the board of directors and sponsors.

**Results:** “Early Diagnosis and Motivation to Consult a Rheumatology Specialist” was the most successful campaign - developed by a marketing agency with videos supporting the message, and paid ads on both Instagram and Facebook, see Figure 1. Salient results: 110,486 accounts reached and 25,975 interactions, see Table 1.

**Figure 1.** Best performing campaign. Campaigns with professional content creation and paid ads in social media ads had more than 50% reach and 90% interaction than the ones without them. Videos have a higher acceptance vs. static images, see Table 1.

**Table 1.** Salient KPI of social media campaigns in 2022 (reach vs. engagement)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campaign</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Instagram</th>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Video</th>
<th>Paid Ads</th>
<th>Non-paid Ads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis awareness is it possible?</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-care in rheumatic diseases</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare your visit to the rheumatologist</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myths around rheumatic diseases</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early diagnosis and motivation to consult a rheumatology specialist</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualitative results have been observed by rheumatologists who have indicated that patients who have had access to information from our foundation are more informed and involved in their treatment. They perceive that these patients have a better quality of life compared to those who do not have access to information about their pathology.

**Conclusion:** Working with marketing companies, and rheumatologists, as well as investing in advertising directly influences the effectiveness of health awareness and literacy campaigns. Publications where real patients appear as protagonists had higher acceptance vs. those with stack images and videos, or models. Instagram appears to have a better impact than Facebook. The early diagnosis campaign managed to overcrowd first-time consultations with rheumatologists in the public health system (less than 20 rheumatologists for a 4.2 MM population in Panama). FUNARP observed an increase in requests for information and orientation in the navigability of the system to obtain care with rheumatologists and advice on various health issues from the community through social media messaging services.
HPR Measuring health (development and measurement properties of PROs, tests, devices)

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Systemic sclerosis

M. N. Carstens1, T. Garen1, H. Didriksen2, H. Fretheim1, I. Barua1, I. L. Knutsen2, T. Karaslan1, T. Hatteveit1, M. E. Pesonen2, Ø. Midtværd1, Ø. Molberg1, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold1, 3, 4. Oslo universitetssykehus HF, Rikshospitalet, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 5. University Hospital of North Norway HF, Department of Rheumatology, Tromsø, Norway; 6. St. Olav’s University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Trondheim, Norway; 7. Haukeland University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Bergen, Norway; 8. Domus Medica, Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Oslo, Norway; 9. University Hospital of Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a multi-organ disease and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) are important to better understand the complexity and impact of the disease. This heterogeneous disease has a wide specter of symptoms, and there are several different PROMs in use for this disease-group to assess all possible symptoms. Recently, a SSc-specific patient-devised questionnaire The Systemic Sclerosis Impact of Disease (Scleroid) has been developed and validated. Longitudinally, the questionnaire performed better than other comparators with regard to change over time. The Scleroid has so far not been used in a clinical study, nor been compared with the Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium Gastrointestinal Scale (UCLA GIT score).

Objectives:
1. To estimate the sensitivity to change in Scleroid with the UCLA GIT score as comparator.
2. To assess association between upper and lower GI in Scleroid and the UCLA GIT score.

Methods: We assessed the Scleroid and the UCLA GIT score in a 20 weeks randomized clinical trial, including patients with predominantly lower GI symptoms without severe cardiopulmonary complications. The Scleroid includes questions about the severity of Raynaud’s phenomenon, hand function, upper and lower GI symptoms, life style and mobility. It is scored using a 10 points Likert scale, with scores ranging from 0 (no impairment) to 10 (extreme impairment). The UCLA GIT score is a seven-item scale asking for frequency of experienced reflux, distention/bloating, diarrhea, fecal soiling, constipation, emotional well-being and social functioning, where all scales are scored from 0 to 10.

Results: The study cohort included 67 SSc patients with mean age of 61 years and mean disease duration of 10 years (table 1). After week 20, the Scleroid and UCLA GIT total score showed low sensitivity to change, with Scleroid 0.42 (95% CI 0.10, 0.68) and 0.45 (95% CI 0.18, 0.77), respectively (Figure 1). Upper GI score of the Scleroid showed a strong correlation with UCLA reflux (r=0.799, p<0.001), Lower GI of the Scleroid correlated moderately with UCLA reflux (r=0.399, p=0.008), constipation (r=0.306, p=0.031) and distention/bloating (r=0.444, p<0.001). In total, 54% of the patients reported an improvement in upper GI symptoms and 51% in lower GI symptoms of Scleroid. For the UCLA GIT score 56% reported improvement in reflux, 59% in bloating/diarrhoea and 33% in diarrhoea.

Conclusion: The Scleroid and UCLA GIT score showed a low sensitivity to change after 20 week in a lower GI predominant SSc-cohort without severe organ involvement. The majority of the patients reported improvement in upper and lower GI symptoms in both questionnaires.

Table 1. Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SSc patients (n = 67)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at assessment, years, mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration at assessment, years, mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited cutaneous SSc, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere AB, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestinal lung disease, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary arterial hypertension, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal involvement, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclosure of Interests: Maylen N Carstens: None declared, Torhild Garen: None declared, Henriette Didriksen: None declared, Håvard Fretheim Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Consultant of: Bayer, Grant/research support from: GSK/Acteon, Imon Barua: None declared, Inger-Lise Knutsen: None declared, Tone Karaslan: None declared, Tove Hatteveit: None declared, Majiu E Pesonen: None declared, Øyvind Midtværd: None declared, Øyvind Molberg: None declared, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Medscape, Merck Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Consultant of: ARXX,
Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the cornerstone therapy for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients, with well-established safety and efficacy profiles and support in international guidelines. Guidelines state that the maximal effect of MTX in a dose around 25 mg/week can be seen after 3-6 months of therapy. However, older studies showed that the maximum dosage usually is up to 15 mg/week and <40% had started treatment with MTX within 3-6 months from the diagnosis.[1,2,3] Santeon hospitals showed by analysis that disease activity score (DAS 28 CRP) of newly diagnosed RA patients was comparable after 6 months of treatment. Moreover, a large group of new RA patients did not start with MTX, within 3 months but with other csDMARD like HCQ. Our findings rise the urgency of an international induction protocol since the DAS28 did not vary after 3 and 6 months. Moreover this raises the urgency for precision treatment based on patients’ characteristics (gender, rheumafoator, anti CCP) can achieve similar outcomes (low disease activity) using a lower dose of MTX. To identify these characteristics is topic for further analysis.

REFERENCES:


POS0989-HPR REAL-WORLD INDUCTION DMARD THERAPY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: INSIGHTS IN THE DUTCH SANTEON BENCHMARK FRAMEWORK TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

A. Van Genenstijn1; A. B. G. Kwaad2; S. Van Lip2; L. Van Lier1; C. Storch1; I. Fransen1; A. Jannink1; M. Ghiiti Moghadam5; A. Weel6,7.

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the cornerstone therapy for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients, with well-established safety and efficacy profiles and support in international guidelines. Guidelines state that the maximal effect of MTX in a dose around 25 mg/week can be seen after 3-6 months of therapy. However, older studies showed that the maximum dosage usually is up to 15 mg/week and <40% had started treatment with MTX within 3-6 months from the diagnosis. Santeon hospitals showed by analysis that disease activity score (DAS 28 CRP) of newly diagnosed RA patients was comparable after 6 months of treatment. Moreover, a large group of new RA patients did not start with MTX, within 3 months but with other csDMARD like HCQ. Our findings rise the urgency of an international induction protocol since the DAS28 did not vary after 3 and 6 months. Moreover this raises the urgency for precision treatment based on patients’ characteristics (gender, rheumafoator, anti CCP) can achieve similar outcomes (low disease activity) using a lower dose of MTX. To identify these characteristics is topic for further analysis.

REFERENCES:


Results: 28 patients were included in Group 1, 26 in Group 2, and 37 in Group 3. 100% were women. 51.6% showed erosive arthritis, 81.3% of patients had at least one positive test result for rheumatoid factor, and 79.1% had anticitrulline antibodies. 46.2% had secondary level studies. 3. 100% were women. 51.6% presented erosivity, 81.3% positivity for rheumatoid factor, and 79.1% for anti-citrulline antibodies. 46.2% had secondary level studies.

Results: A total of 187 patients were included (median age 54 years; 140 males) with a median DAS-28 of 2.616. Out of 187 RA patients, 103 (55.1%) had lower MedDiet scores (MedDiet ≤ 5). Based on the logistic regression function, we found that the multivariable-adjusted odds ratio of RA patients with high adherence to the MedDiet (MedDiet > 6) had lower DAS-28 scores (OR 5.34, 95% CI 1.176 - 24.230, P-value = 0.030) and improved lipid profiles compared to patients with low adherence.

Conclusion: Higher adherence to the MedDiet among Kuwaiti adults with RA may lead to improved DAS-28 scores. Lifestyle and dietary manipulations may be one of the non-pharmacological methods to control RA activity scores.

Acknowledgements: I would like to acknowledge Kuwait Registry for Rheumatic Diseases (KRRD), for providing us the needed data.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3967

POS009-HPR

THE EFFECT OF CENTRAL SENSITIZATION ON DISEASE SEVERITY LEVELS AND PRESENTEEISM-RELATED PRODUCTIVITY LOSS IN FEMALE WORKERS WITH RA

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Farah, F. R. Spinelli, L. Quattrocchi, C. Bazzani, F. Nacci, M. Fornaro, D. Iacono, C. Baldi, S. Perniola, S. Longhino, F. Salaffi, Rheumatology Unit, Sapienza Università di Roma, Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Internistiche, Anestesiologiiche e Cardiovascolari-Reumatologia, Roma, Italy; 3Division of Rheumatology, Academic Hospital “Santa Maria della Misericordia”, ASUFC, Department of Medicine (DAME), Udine, Italy; 4O.O. Reumatologia e Immunologia Clinica, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia, Brescia, Italy; 5SODc Reumatologia, Dipartimento di Medicina Sperimentale e Clinica, Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Careggi, Firenze, Italy; 6Rheumatology Unit, Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine and Ionian Area, Bari, Italy; 7Unità Operativa di Reumatologia, Dipartimento di Medicina Clinica, Università degli Studi della Campania, Napoli, Italy; 8Rheumatology Unit - Siena Università Operativa, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Neurosciences, Siena, Italy; 9Division of Clinical Immunology, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Roma, Italy

Background: Patients with RA experience a decline in health-related quality of life, which is associated with increased illness severity and impairment of work abilities. Central sensitization (CS) emerges as an accurate predictor and correlate of poor pain experience.

Objectives: The purpose of this cross-sectional, multicentric study is to investigate the mediating role of CS in unfavorable relationships with disease activity levels, CS and work productivity loss due to presenteeism in women with RA, with the goal of identifying potential new targets for preventive interventions.

Methods: The study used a cross-sectional design and included 101 female workers with RA classified according to 2010American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/European League Against Rheumatisms (EULAR) classification criteria. All patients filled out the Italian version of the RAID, an assessment and evaluation tool that measures RA patient disease activity, progress, and outcomes. The Central sensitization inventory (CSI) was used to measure CS, and the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment questionnaire-RA (WPAI-RA) was used to evaluate patients’ employment status. RA patients were grouped into categories, based on their RAID total score. Multiple regression analysis was used to find out which factors were most likely to presenteeism.

Results: The patients’ age ranged from 25 to 65 years, with a disease duration of 5.4 (SD 6.1) years. The CSI score was ≤ 40 in 39/101 patients (38.6%). 70 patients (69.3%) worked full-time, while 31 (30.7%) worked part-time. The

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>RC</th>
<th>PC</th>
<th>RC</th>
<th>PC</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>n=28</td>
<td>n=28</td>
<td>n=28</td>
<td>n=28</td>
<td>n=28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global VAS</td>
<td>5 (4)</td>
<td>5 (4)</td>
<td>4.5 (3)</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
<td>0.302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
<td>5 (2.9)</td>
<td>5 (4)</td>
<td>0.767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>5 (5)</td>
<td>4 (7)</td>
<td>5 (6)</td>
<td>0.201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDHQ</td>
<td>2 (2.7)</td>
<td>2 (2.6)</td>
<td>1.7 (2.9)</td>
<td>1.3 (2.5)</td>
<td>0.303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAG</td>
<td>0.79 (0.76)</td>
<td>0.597 (0.769)</td>
<td>0.50 (0.783)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.724)</td>
<td>0.387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPID 3</td>
<td>12.7 (7.77)</td>
<td>13.7 (7.77)</td>
<td>11 (6.4)</td>
<td>11.5 (8.7)</td>
<td>0.597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS</td>
<td>4.23 (2.51)</td>
<td>4.57 (2.5)</td>
<td>3.6 (2.1)</td>
<td>3.8 (2.8)</td>
<td>0.569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTO EQS SCORE</td>
<td>0.71 (0.302)</td>
<td>0.64 (0.300)</td>
<td>0.812 (0.259)</td>
<td>0.679 (0.338)</td>
<td>0.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS EQS SCORE</td>
<td>0.64 (0.245)</td>
<td>0.590 (0.240)</td>
<td>0.722 (0.203)</td>
<td>0.645 (0.275)</td>
<td>0.306</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group n=91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total n=91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1 n=28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2 n=26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3 n=37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
majority of respondents (64.5%) reported a high degree of presenteeism with an average level of 31.8%. On the other hand, absenteeism was uncommon, with just 7.3% of respondents reporting it. Presenteeism was associated with higher CSI score (0.049), increased disease activity (0.0007), disease duration (0.0072) and age (0.0019) (Table 1).

Conclusion: CS disease activity and age were the factor most significantly associated with presenteeism-related productivity loss in RA patients. Our findings have implications for health policy and emphasize the significance of identifying high-risk RA patients by monitoring CS as an indicator of presenteeism and severe disease activity.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Multiple Regression Equation: Coefficients, Standard Errors and p values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent variables</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Std. Error</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>39.8907</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRDCI comorbidity score</td>
<td>0.1049</td>
<td>0.1608</td>
<td>0.652</td>
<td>0.5153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DASS-21</td>
<td>0.06935</td>
<td>0.08491</td>
<td>0.817</td>
<td>0.4151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI score</td>
<td>2.8830</td>
<td>1.2640</td>
<td>1.994</td>
<td>0.0498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROAD score</td>
<td>0.8098</td>
<td>1.3899</td>
<td>0.583</td>
<td>0.5609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAID score</td>
<td>4.4737</td>
<td>1.2903</td>
<td>3.467</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khion score</td>
<td>-0.3921</td>
<td>0.5589</td>
<td>-0.702</td>
<td>0.4838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, yrs</td>
<td>-0.6624</td>
<td>0.2100</td>
<td>-3.155</td>
<td>0.0019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>-0.03342</td>
<td>0.01303</td>
<td>-2.719</td>
<td>0.0072</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4545

NAILFOLD VIDEOCAPILLAROSCOPY CHANGES IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHROPATHY ON ANTI-TNF-ALPHA THERAPY

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Psoriatic arthritis


Objectives: To assess the changes in capillary morphology in rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis patients after anti-TNF-alpha treatment using nailfold videocapillaroscopy. Videocapillaroscopy is an easy and non-invasive method associated with microvascular involvement that can determine the severity and progression of the disease [1]. Videocapillaroscopy could be useful in monitoring the efficacity of the biological treatment and can be a future tool for the analysis of microvascular heart involvement? Rheumatology (Oxford), 2006 Oct;45 Suppl 4:v43-4. doi: 10.1093/rheumatology/kei310. PMID: 16980724.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4587

POS0994-HPR

CONVERGENT VALIDITY OF SIX MINUTE STEPPE TEST TO EVALUATE FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE CAPACITY IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Validation

S. Bayram1, N. G. Tore1, G. P. Palà1, I. Vasi1, A. Tufan2, D. Oskay3, E. Gazi4, C. Uyar5, University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Gazi University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine-Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3National Human Genome Research Institute, Infectamatur Disease Section, Rockville Pike, United States of America

Background: Exercise capacity is impaired in systemic sclerosis (Ssc) patients due to respiratory and cardiovascular involvements, muscle weakness, arthralgia, and joint contractures. Various tests are employed to assess submaximal and maximal exercise capacity in Ssc. Maximal exercise tests, the gold standard for assessing exercise capacity, are challenging since they require expensive equipment and qualified personnel. The 6-minute walk test (6MWT) is a commonly used submaximal field exercise test to assess functional exercise capacity and is shown to be associated with the prognosis in SSC patients. The 6-minute stepper test (6MST) is a low-cost, space-friendly submaximal field test that has been demonstrated to be valid, reliable, and sensitive in assessing exercise capacity in various diseases.

Objectives: No research hasn't been done on the validity of 6MST in Ssc patients. One that it mimics stair climbing, the 6MST may be more helpful in evaluating lower extremity functions in Ssc. Therefore, the aims of this study were (1) to assess the convergent validity of the 6MST in Ssc; and (2) to compare physiological responses, dyspnea and fatigue perception obtained in 6MST and 6MWT.

Methods: Thirty female patients with Ssc (52.13 ± 11.83 years) were enrolled. Demographic and clinical characteristics were recorded. 6MST was performed twice (6MST-1 and 6MST-2). To eliminate the learning effect and because the hydraulic jacks become more flexible after they have warmed up. The 6MST-2 was performed after a resting time of at least 20 minutes after 6MST-1. The 6MST was carried out three hours after the 6MST-2 to minimize fatigue on outcomes. To test the convergent validity of the 6MST, correlation between the 6MWT and 6MST-2 was assessed. In addition, the association between 6MST and the level of physical activity, dyspnea and fatigue severity in Ssc patients was investigated. International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ), modified British Medical Research
Council Questionnaire (mMRc) dyspnea scale, Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS) were used to assess physical activity, dyspnea and fatigue severity, respectively. The heart rate (HR), peripheral oxygen saturation (SpO2), blood pressure (BP), modified Borg scale score for dyspnea, general and leg fatigue were recorded before and after 6MWT and 6MST. Changes between their final and initial values (∆) for HR, SpO2, BP, and modified Borg score were calculated.

**Results:** The number of steps in 6MST-2 was significantly higher than 6MST-1 (p<0.001). The number of steps in the 6MST-2 was significantly correlated with the distance walked in the 6MWT (r=0.616, p<0.0001). Additionally, significant correlations were observed between 6MST-2 and mMRc dyspnea scale score (r=0.733, p<0.0001), FSS score (r=0.575, p<0.001), IPAQ score (r=0.330, p<0.05), ∆SpO2, ∆Spo2, ∆general and ∆leg fatigue perception were higher in the 6MST-2 than the 6MWT (p<0.0001). ∆HR and ∆SpO2 were similar in 6MST and 6MWT (p=0.05).

**Conclusion:** The 6MST is a valid test to evaluate functional exercise capacity in SSc patients. The 6MST might be more appropriate for evaluating perceived exertion, functioning, and lower extremity capacity. To assess the exercise capacity in Ssc patients, 6MST can be done with ease in all settings, including primary care to hospital settings with limited space and home-based telehabilitation.

**REFERENCES:**


[2] Coqhart JB, Lemaître F, Castres I et al. Reproducibility and sensitivity of the 6MST in Ssc patients, 6MST can be done with ease in all settings, including primary care to hospital settings with limited space and home-based telehabilitation. *Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.*

**HPR Epidemiology and public health (including prevention).**

**POS0999-HPR**

**THE PREVALENCE OF PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION IN PATIENTS WITH MIXED CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Systematic review, Mixed connective tissue disease

A. Al-Bakri1,2, R. Hozayan2, Z. Mustafa1, I. E. Lundberg3,4, H. Jahrami5,6, King Abdullah Medical City (KAMC), Medicine, Manama, Bahrain; College of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Arabian Gulf University (AGU), Kingdom of Bahrain,Internal Medicine, Manama, Bahrain; College of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Arabian Gulf University (AGU), Kingdom of Bahrain, Medicine, Manama, Bahrain, 3Salamanca Medical Complex (SMC), Medicine, Manama, Bahrain; 4Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 5Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, Department of Gastro, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 6Arabian Gulf University, Internal Medicine, Manama, Bahrain; 7Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Bahrain, Psychiatry, Manama, Bahrain

**Background:** The prevalence and outcome of mixed connective tissue disease-associated pulmonary arterial hypertension (MCTD-PAH) has not been well understood.

**Objectives:** Our aim was to review the current knowledge on the prevalence, severity, and mortality of MCTD-PAH. We also aimed to examine the trend of the prevalence of MCTD-PAH over the years.

**Methods:** PubMed/Medline, Embase, Scopus and Web of Science electronic databases were searched for the published randomized controlled clinical trials (RCTs) and observational/original studies on PAH in patients with MCTD from January 1972 – December 2020.

**Results:** The results were pooled using random-effects meta-analysis based on the DerSimonian and Laird method. A total of 983 patients from eight studies were included in the meta-analysis (K=8, N=983). Pooled prevalence of PAH in MCTD patients was 12.53% [95% CI 8.30%-18.48%] with significant level statistical heterogeneity tau^2=0.30, tau=0.55, I2 83.3%, H=2.13 Q(7)=<1390, P=0.001. There was no association between PAH and female gender or age. The percentage of deaths in MCTD patients due to PAH varied and reached up to 81.8%.

**Conclusion:** This is the first systematic review and meta-analysis investigating the prevalence of PAH in patients with MCTD and it revealed an overall prevalence of PAH in patients with MCTD of 12.53%. Our results showed trends of reduced prevalence of MCTD-PAH over the years, reconfirmed the lower prevalence rate in the recent studies, but revealed increased mortality rate. We also determined the low impact of the age, gender, and interstitial lung disease on MCTD-PAH.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.165

**POS0995-HPR**

**SLE-DAS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TOOL TO MEASURE ACTIVITY OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYSHEMATOSUS: COMPARISON WITH SLEDAI-2K, IN A POPULATION FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. PILOT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus

L. Pérez Rodríguez1, R. A. Alvarez Santana1, D. García1, T. Polanco Mora1, L. Concepción Sánchez2, I. Paulino1, I. Merced3, E. Rodríguez Bautista1, T. Valdez1, A. Fier2, R. Muñoz Louis1, Hospital Padre Bilíndi, Rheumatology, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Background:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a systemic autoimmune disease that mainly affects women. Efforts are currently being made to validate the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Score (SLE-DAS), since it allows quantifying the magnitude of the findings as opposed to an arbitrary value of present or absent in the renal, joint, hematological and serological spheres. [2]

**Objectives:** To evaluate the activity of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus with the SLE-DAS tool, comparing it with SLEDAI-2K.

**Methods:** Descriptive, observational, transversal. Patients from the Rheumatology Service of the Padre Bilíndi Teaching Hospital were evaluated between October-December 2022. Inclusion criteria: > 18 years, SLE according to the EULAR/ ACR 2019 classification criteria. Exclusion criteria: diagnosis of another autoimmune disease, patients with cognitive deficits. SLE-DAS tool: Inactive ≤2.08, mild 2.08-7.64, moderate/severe >7.64, SLEDAI: Inactive: <3, Mild to moderate: 3/12, severe >12. Descriptive analysis and Spearman’s rho (μ) correlation using SPSSv23.

**Results:** 92 patients met inclusion criteria. 95.7% (88) female, mean age 41.5 ± 12 years, mean SLE 8.2 years. AHT 29.3% (27), DM 7.6% (7), lupus nephritis 35.6% (33), Obesity 76.7% [7], musculoskeletal 20.6% (19), Vasculitis 6.5% [6], Neuro Lupus 4.3% [4], antimalerials 98.7% (89), glucocorticoids 39.1% (36), Mycophenolate Mofetil 40.2% (37), Rituximab 76.7% [7], Methotrexate 5.4% [5], Azathioprine 4.3% [4], Tacrolimus 2.1% (2), Cyclosporinamide 1.1% [1]. SLE- DAS inactive: 81.5% (75) vs SLEDAI inactive: 88% (81), SLE-DAS inactive: 81.5% (75) vs SLEDAI inactive: 88% (81) (Spearman’s rho (μ) = -0.11), a gradient difference of 6.5% [6].

**Conclusion:** Our study demonstrated a significant inverse correlation in the correlation between SLE-DAS vs. SLEDAI in inactive patients, supporting that the use of the SLE-DAS may be more sensitive to assess activity or changes in the clinical course of patients with SLE. More studies are needed to validate this tool and standardize it for our population.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6154
Protection Agency (EPA) to represent environmental quality to better understand the association between environmental factors and lupus deaths. Five domains including air, water, land, built and sociodemographic comprised the EQI.

Objectives: Here, we summarize the descriptive statistics between environmental exposures and lupus death and compared them to accidental deaths, heart disease and malignant neoplasm.

Methods: The study population comprises all individual U.S. deaths from 2006 to 2011. We describe mean/median EQI in lupus deaths versus those who died of other leading causes of death, namely accident, heart disease, and malignant neoplasm. Cause-specific death counts were obtained using ICD 10 codes: lupus (M312, M328, M329), accident (V.W, X0-5, Y85-86), heart disease (I0, I11, I13, 12-14, I50-51), and malignant neoplasm (C0-8, C90-97).

Results: There were 5,430 lupus deaths and 398,382 accidental deaths in the US from 2006 to 2011. The total EQI was significantly worse in lupus decedents than in accidental deaths (p<0.001), but not when compared to deaths attributed to heart disease and malignant neoplasm. Of the five EQI domains, air and built, but not the other three domains, were higher in lupus decedents than in accidental (p<0.001), heart disease (p<0.05), and malignant neoplasm (p<0.05) decedents.

Conclusion: Total environmental quality as well as its air and built domains were worse in lupus decedents than in accidental deaths, suggesting a possible role of environmental exposure in contributing to lupus outcome. Further analysis is needed to identify the specific environmental determinants, which are potentially modifiable to improve lupus outcome.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2830

Table 1. Distribution of EC in patients residing in Piedmont as at 31/12/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diseases with EC</th>
<th>N of patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic hepatitis</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV Infection</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic Lupus Erythematosus</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjects affected by malignant neoplastic pathologies</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hereditary/Familial Autoinflammatory Syndromes</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microscopic Polyangiitis</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polycystic Kidney Disease</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive systemic sclerosis</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Distribution by gender of patients residing in Piedmont with exemption for Sjogren's Syndrome. F: Female; M: Male

Conclusion: This research has some limitations, including the retrospective design and the use of administrative data which may be affected by the aforementioned difficulty of classification as well as incorrect attributions of exemption, both for SSj and for associated pathologies. Our research highlights a number of patients with primary SSj lower than the prevalence figure that defines a rare disease, i.e. a prevalence of less than 5 cases per 10,000 inhabitants. Further studies are needed to confirm these preliminary data.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4394

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Epidemiology, COVID
Methods: Data from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink Aurum were analysed from 01/04/17 to 01/10/2021 to describe episodes of care for patients with musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions, in a primary care setting, for pre-COVID-19 (01/04/2017–30/03/2020), early-COVID-19 (01/04/2020–31/07/2021), and late-COVID-19 pandemic (01/08/2020–31/10/2021) periods. Prevalent and incident MSK consultations were determined. Referrals were matched to these consultations. Trends in referrals to MSK services and further incident diagnoses of iRMDs were described using Joinpoint regression and comparisons made between time-periods. Negative binomial regression was used to compare incident rates between time-periods: first MSK consultation to RA/JIA/RMD diagnosis; first MSK consultation to first referral; first referral to RA/JIA/RMD diagnosis. The number of consultations between first MSK consultation and referral/diagnosis were described. Results were adjusted for age and sex and further stratified by geographical region and deprivation.

Results: The incidence of RA and JIA reduced by -13.3% (from 32.0 to 17.2 per 100,000) and -17.4% (from 1.8 to 0.97 per 1,000,000) per month respectively between January 2020 and April 2020, and then increased by 19% (from 17.2 to 25.2 per 100,000) and 3.7% (from 0.97 to 1.3 per 1,000,000) per month respectively between April 2020 and October 2021. The incidence of all diagnosed iRMDs was stable until October 2021. Referral incidence decreased between February 2020 and May 2020 by -16.8% (from 4.8 to 2.4 per 100) per month in patients presenting with a MSK condition. After May 2020, referrals increased significantly (16.8% per month from 2.4 to 4.5 per 100) to July 2020. Time from first MSK consultation to RA diagnosis, and referral to RA diagnosis increased in the early-pandemic period (rate ratio (RR) 1.11, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.07-1.15; RR 1.23, 95%CI 1.11-1.30) and remained consistently higher in the late-pandemic (RR 1.13, 95%CI 1.11-1.16; RR 1.27, 95%CI 1.23-1.32) periods respectively, compared to the pre-COVID-19 period.

Conclusion: Patients with underlying RA/JIA that developed during the pandemic may delay in seeking healthcare until in the process of being referred and/or diagnosed. Primary care clinicians should remain alert to this possibility and consider the use of fast-track referral pathways where indicated. It is apparent that patients developing incident episodes of inflammatory arthropathies may display a prodrome of symptoms that merits consideration. Referrals to MSK services and further incident diagnoses of iRMDs were described. Results were adjusted for age and sex and further stratified by geographical region and deprivation.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5004

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritis, lifestyle, diet and nutrition.
Methods: From a large cohort of 181 APS patients included in a study from 2011-2012, year at University Clinical Hospital Center Bezanjiška kosa, Belgrade, Serbia, data for the occurrence of MACE in 10 years of follow-up were evaluated in 82 patients (86.6% females, 62.1% with primary (PAPS), and 37.8% patients with APS associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (sAPS)). At the inclusion in all patients, a transthoracic echocardiography study for the assessment of dimensions and functionality of the left and right heart along with valvular functions and morphology has been performed along with color doppler scan of carotid arteries for the intima-media thickness and presence of plaques, and low- and flow-mediated dilatation of the brachial artery (FMD) as markers of subclinical atherosclerosis. Standard atherosclerotic risk factors prevalence was analyzed. Antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) analysis included the detection of aCL (IgG/ IgM), IIF (IgG/IgM), and LA, and all patients were treated according to the valid guidelines by the rheumatologist. Data regarding the occurrence of new myocardial infarction (MI), cerebrovascular events (CVI), arterial and/or venous thrombosis, heart failure (HF), and cardiovascular death (considered as MACE) have been collected 10 years after inclusion.

Results: The prevalence of standard atherosclerotic risk factors was less than 40% in both study groups. Left ventricle ejection fraction (LVEF) was over 45% in more than 90% of patients in both groups (p=0.246) with valvular dysfunction present in 49% of PAPS and 58.1% of sAPS patients (p=0.426). FMD was lowered in 29.4% of PAPS and 29% of sAPS (p=0.971) and carotid atherosclerotic plaques were present in 41.2% of PAPS and 64.5% of sAPS patients (p=0.040). 9.8% PAPS and 12.9% sAPS had coronary artery disease (CAD) (p=0.724) and HF was present in 7.8% PAPS and 3.2% sAPS (p=0.645). MACE occurred in 17.6% of PAPS and 22.6% of sAPS (p=0.585). The new MI occurred in 9.8% of PAPS and 9.7% of sAPS (p=1.000). CVI in 5.9% of PAPS and 3.2% of sAPS (p=0.645) and HF in 7% of PAPS and 12.9% of sAPS (p=0.724). New thrombotic events (arterial and/or venous) occurred in 15.7% of PAPS and 17.2% of sAPS (p=1.000). During the follow-up period, 66.7% of PAPS and 55.2% of sAPS (p=0.313) were treated with aspirin, 25.5% of PAPS and 25% of sAPS with warfarin, and chlorthalidone was administered in 46.8% of PAPS and 53.6% of sAPS (p=0.571). Age (p=0.008), gender (p=0.034), thrombotic APS (p=0.033), hypertension (p=0.003), diabetes mellitus (p=0.043), and cardiovascular manifestations present at the time of APS diagnosis (p=0.035), namely CAD (p=0.001) and HF (p=0.005) were significantly associated with 10y MACE. In our cohort, aPL type and category were not associated with 10y MACE. In a multivariate logistic model, age, hypertension, and HF were independent predictors for 10y MACE (p=0.012, OR 8.406, p=0.032, OR 4.588, p=0.019, OR 20.077, respectively for CI 95%).

Conclusions: APS patients develop new cardiovascular events despite optimal medical therapy. Cardiovascular evaluation at the time of diagnosis and proper cardiologist follow-up with the rigorous treatment of standard atherosclerotic risk factors is of utmost importance.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6481

HPR Interventions (educational, physical, social and psychological)

POS1003-HPR

EFFECTS OF VIRTUAL REALITY IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC REFRACTORY PAIN SYNDROMES UNDERGOING A MULTIMODAL PAIN PROGRAM

Keywords: Health services research, Fibromyalgia, Pain

T. Preten1, T. Högé1, P. Ming Azvedo1. 1University Hospital Lausanne (CHUV), Rheumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: Virtual reality (VR) has shown efficacy and safety in reducing pain in various indications. Our department has been using virtual reality applications for several years in the multimodal pain program, where patients also undergo a detailed physical and psychological evaluation, allowing for distinct phenotyping.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the quantitative and qualitative analytic and anxiolytic effect of a virtual reality (VR) procedure, and to identify patient clusters with a positive response to virtual reality.

Methods: 201 patients with refractory chronic pain syndromes (mainly back pain, primary or secondary fibromyalgia) who participated in a two-week multimodal treatment were included. Of those, 43 performed VR sessions under supervision. Pain (0-10) and anxiety (0-10) were assessed before and directly after a 10-minute VR session (Healthy Mind, France). Multivariate analysis with clinical variables and unsupervised machine learning for clustering analyses by hierarchical agglomerative clustering using the Ward variance minimization algorithm was performed (Python 3.10). In 40 patients, we performed qualitative user experience (UX) assessment of VR by telephone interviews.

Methods: From a large cohort of 181 APS patients included in a study from 2011-2012, year at University Clinical Hospital Center Bezanjiška kosa, Belgrade, Serbia, data for the occurrence of MACE in 10 years of follow-up were evaluated in 82 patients (86.6% females, 62.1% with primary (PAPS), and 37.8% patients with APS associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (sAPS)). At the inclusion in all patients, a transthoracic echocardiography study for the assessment of dimensions and functionality of the left and right heart along with valvular functions and morphology has been performed along with color doppler scan of carotid arteries for the intima-media thickness and presence of plaques, and low- and flow-mediated dilatation of the brachial artery (FMD) as markers of subclinical atherosclerosis. Standard atherosclerotic risk factors prevalence was analyzed. Antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) analysis included the detection of aCL (IgG/IgM), IIF (IgG/IgM), and LA, and all patients were treated according to the valid guidelines by the rheumatologist. Data regarding the occurrence of new myocardial infarction (MI), cerebrovascular events (CVI), arterial and/or venous thrombosis, heart failure (HF), and cardiovascular death (considered as MACE) have been collected 10 years after inclusion.

Results: The prevalence of standard atherosclerotic risk factors was less than 40% in both study groups. Left ventricle ejection fraction (LVEF) was over 45% in more than 90% of patients in both groups (p=0.246) with valvular dysfunction present in 49% of PAPS and 58.1% of sAPS patients (p=0.426). FMD was lowered in 29.4% of PAPS and 29% of sAPS (p=0.971) and carotid atherosclerotic plaques were present in 41.2% of PAPS and 64.5% of sAPS patients (p=0.040). 9.8% PAPS and 12.9% sAPS had coronary artery disease (CAD) (p=0.724) and HF was present in 7.8% PAPS and 3.2% sAPS (p=0.645). MACE occurred in 17.6% of PAPS and 22.6% of sAPS (p=0.585). The new MI occurred in 9.8% of PAPS and 9.7% of sAPS (p=1.000). CVI in 5.9% of PAPS and 3.2% of sAPS (p=0.645) and HF in 7% of PAPS and 12.9% of sAPS (p=0.724). New thrombotic events (arterial and/or venous) occurred in 15.7% of PAPS and 17.2% of sAPS (p=1.000). During the follow-up period, 66.7% of PAPS and 55.2% of sAPS (p=0.313) were treated with aspirin, 25.5% of PAPS and 25% of sAPS with warfarin, and chlorthalidone was administered in 46.8% of PAPS and 53.6% of sAPS (p=0.571). Age (p=0.008), gender (p=0.034), thrombotic APS (p=0.033), hypertension (p=0.003), diabetes mellitus (p=0.043), and cardiovascular manifestations present at the time of APS diagnosis (p=0.035), namely CAD (p=0.001) and HF (p=0.005) were significantly associated with 10y MACE. In our cohort, aPL type and category were not associated with 10y MACE. In a multivariate logistic model, age, hypertension, and HF were independent predictors for 10y MACE (p=0.012, OR 8.406, p=0.032, OR 4.588, p=0.019, OR 20.077, respectively for CI 95%).

Conclusions: APS patients develop new cardiovascular events despite optimal medical therapy. Cardiovascular evaluation at the time of diagnosis and proper cardiologist follow-up with the rigorous treatment of standard atherosclerotic risk factors is of utmost importance.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6481

HPR Interventions (educational, physical, social and psychological)
Results: Overall, 51% patients experienced a reduction of pain (mean -1.03, baseline 6.15) and 49% a reduction of anxiety (mean -1.36, baseline 4.25) directly after the VR intervention. In 14% pain reduction was ≥3 points (25% for anxiety). Pain increased after the intervention in 15% and anxiety in 7% of the patients. The overall experience with VR was rated as positive in 76%, neutral in 9%, and negative in 14%. Qualitative assessment revealed that several of the non-responders expect a positive outcome in case of a more frequent application of VR. Unsupervised learning indicated the highest positive response in 2/5 clusters. One cluster was characterized by peri-menopausal women with moderate depression and systemic low-grade inflammation. The second cluster was mainly young to middle-aged men with low BMI, hypermobility, anxiety and somatiform pain. Other clusters characterized by failed-back surgery or post-traumatic stress disorders responded less to VR.

Conclusion: Overall, VR was well tolerated and showed a positive short-term response on pain and anxiety. Machine learning algorithms trained in larger cohorts may confirm the prediction of VR response in specific patient subgroups.

Acknowledgements: We thank Chris Lovejoy for the cluster analysis.

Disclosure of Interests: Tiffany Pretat: None declared, Thomas Hügle Grant/research support from: This study was supported by a grant from Healthy Mind, Pedro Ming Azevedo: None declared.

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**POS1004-HPR INVESTIGATING THE EFFECTS OF COGNITIVE EXERCISE THERAPY APPROACH ON FUNCTIONING, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS DIAGNOSED WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A CONTROLLED PILOT STUDY**

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Rehabilitation

M. O. Tekeli; A. Akoğan; E. Ünal; Hacettepe University Institute of Health Sciences, Department of Basic Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) with heterogeneous involvement limits the functionality of individuals. Anxiety-depression and biopsychosocial effects are observed due to these functional limitations. Therefore, a biopsychosocial approach is recommended in the disease management of individuals with SSc [1, 2]. The Cognitive Exercise Therapy Approach (BETY) developed on individuals with rheumatism has been presented to the literature as a biopsychosocial-based exercise approach [3].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of BETY on functionality, anxiety-depression and biopsychosocial status of individuals diagnosed with SSc.

Methods: 24 individuals diagnosed with SSc, 12 of who participated in BETY exercise sessions (Group 1) and 12 in the control group (Group 2) were included in the study. BETY exercise sessions were applied as group exercises 3 days a week for 12 weeks. At the beginning of the sessions and at the end of 12 weeks, functionality was evaluated with the Scleroderma Health Assessment Questionnaire (SHAQ) [4], anxiety-depression status with the Hospital Anxiety Depression Scale (HADS) (2) and biopsychosocial status with the BETY-Biopsychosocial Questionnaire (BETY-BQ) [3].

Results: The mean age of the individuals in the exercise group (44.50 ± 10.16 years) and the control group (44.77 ± 13.63 years), other demographic information and first evaluation parameters were similar (p>0.05). Individuals who participated in all BETY exercise sessions showed a significant improvement in all parameters (p<0.05). In the control group, depression score worsened (p<0.001) while other parameters did not change (p>0.05) (Table 1).

Table 1. Within and between group changes of individuals with SSc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-treatment</th>
<th>Post-treatment Wilcoxon Signed Mann-Whitney</th>
<th>Rank Test</th>
<th>U Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median (Min-Max)</td>
<td>Median (Min-Max)</td>
<td>p value</td>
<td>p value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHAG-Global (0-3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group 1</strong> 0.54 (0-2.2) 0.2 (0-1.5)</td>
<td>0.019</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group 2</strong> 0.84 (0-1,17) 1.2 (0-3.2)</td>
<td>0.117</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HADS-Anxiety (0-21)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group 1</strong> 6.5 (0-18) 4.5 (0-16)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group 2</strong> 10 (0-15) 12 (5-18)</td>
<td>0.065</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HADS-Depression (0-21)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group 1</strong> 5 (0-12) 1 (0-12)</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group 2</strong> 7 (2-12) 10 (3-19)</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BETY-BQ (0-120)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group 1</strong> 43 (8-93) 24 (3-68)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group 2</strong> 56 (27-87) 61 (13-95)</td>
<td>0.875</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Individuals with SSc who participated in BETY exercise sessions showed improvements in functionality, anxiety-depression and biopsychosocial features which were not seen in the control group. The results obtained from the study were interpreted as an example that BETY, an innovative exercise method on the basis of the biopsychosocial model, can meet this need in the disease management of individuals with SSc, where the importance of biopsychosocial approach is emphasized. It was aimed to investigate the contribution of BETY to the literature by evaluating it on more individuals with SSc and with objective measurement parameters as well as scales.

**REFERENCES:**


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5611

**POS1005-HPR RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF THE CONE EVASION WALK TEST IN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS**

Keywords: Cartilage, Comorbidities, Clinical trials

B. Unver1, K. S. Kacamaz2, V. Karatosun3, 1Dokuz Eylul University, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; 2Izmir Katip Celebi University, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; 3Dokuz Eylul University, Orthopedics and Traumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Knee osteoarthritis (OA) can cause a variety of dysfunctions leading to limitations in mobility, gait, and balance that predisposes them to increased fall risk [1,2]. Falls are the leading cause of injury and fracture [3], putting a significant financial burden on the healthcare system. The fall risk is even higher in people with knee OA with a prevalence between 23 and 63% [4]. Another study reported that almost 50% of patients with knee OA experienced falls [5]. Therefore, the identification of fall predictors is essential to minimize fall incidence [6]. The Cone Evasion Walk Test (CEW) evaluates fall risk by the ability to evade obstacles and walking, which provides a versatile assessment including attentional, perceptual, seeing, and several neuromusculoskeletal and movement-related functions and can be performed with or without a walking aid [7].

Objectives: The study aimed to investigate the reliability, validity, and minimal clinically important difference (MCID) of the CEW in people with knee OA.

Methods: Thirty-three patients with knee OA were included. Patients performed trials for the CEW and the Timed up and Go Test on the same day. Between the trials, patients waited for an hour in a sitting position to prevent fatigue.

Results: The CEW was shown to have excellent test-retest reliability and moderate validity (p<0.001). The relative (ICC coefficient) and absolute (SEM and SRD95) reliability of the CEW were 0.97, 0.73, and 2.02 respectively. The Pearson correlation coefficient between the CEW and the TUG was 0.72.

Conclusion: The measurements support the use of the CEW to evaluate dynamic balance and obstacle avoidance of knee OA patients. The analysis demonstrated excellent reliability and moderate validity. The low MCID value (2.02) indicated that it is a responsive test to identify small changes in a patient's status. The CEW can be used for a global evaluation of the function and mobility of knee OA patients with little space and equipment, easily and quickly.

**REFERENCES:**


HPR Patients’ perspectives, functioning and health (descriptive: qualitative or quantitative)

**POST006-HPR**

**DOES FIBROMYALGIA AFFECT OCCUPATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS?**

**Keywords:** Work-related issues, Fibromyalgia, Rheumatoid arthritis

O. Hamdi1, H. Boussassa1, S. Miladi1, B. A. Hiba1, L. Souabni1, K. Ouenniche1, S. Kessab1, S. Chekili1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, F. Ala1, A. Laatar1,1 Mongi Slim Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) may have a negative impact on patients’ autonomy, quality of life and work productivity. Associated fibromyalgia may further accentuate this issue.

**Objectives:**  We aimed to assess the impact of RA-associated fibromyalgia on occupational productivity.

**Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional study including RA patients (2010 ACR/EULAR criteria). Patients were divided into two groups: group 1 (G1) including patients with fibromyalgia associated to RA, and group 2 (G2) including patients with RA. Fibromyalgia screening was based on the Fibromyalgia Rapid Screening Tool (FIRST). All patients completed the following questionnaires: Workplace Activity Limitations Scale (WALS) which is composed of 11 items (total score varying between 0 and 33), Work Productivity and Activity Impairment (WPAI) and Euro-Qol (EQ-5D). We compared the two groups of patients using the Student’s t-test. The significance threshold was set at a p-value of 0.05.

**Results:** Our study included 80 patients (G1; N=40 and G2; N=40) with an average age of 59±9 years [42-77] for G1, and 53±10 years for G2 [37-74]. The gender-ratio was 0.05. All the patients in G1 and 80% of patients in G2 held a job. The mean RA duration was 119±28.4 years. RA was erosive and ACA/PF positive in 90% and 85% of cases, respectively. The mean delay between fibromyalgia and RA diagnosis was 49±7 months. The mean Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28-ESR) was 5 in G1, and 3.97 in G2. The reduction of work activity was greater in G1 compared to G2: the mean WALS in G1 was 18±2.7 vs 10.2±1.5 in G2; p= 0.01. The WPAI showed that the mean number of work hours missed due to RA was significantly higher in G1 compared to G2: 10.2±8.9 hours vs 4.3±3.8 hours (p< 0.01). The mean absenteeism rate was higher in G1 compared to G2: 20.5±1.9% in G1 vs 10.2±0.5% in G2 (p= 0.02). The percentage of overall impairment of health-related-activity was higher in G1 compared to G2: 50±8.6% in G1 vs 30±4.4% in G2 (p= 0.01). The mean self-rated health status using the EQ-5D VAS was 72.08±7% in G1 and 48±3.5% in G2 (p=0.05). The most affected dimensions in the EQ-5D for both groups were in the first place pain and discomfort, and secondly mobility. Loss of autonomy was found in 7 patients (37.5%) in G1 and 3 patients (75%) in G2. Depression and/or anxiety occurred in 45% of cases in G1, and 22.5% of cases in G2, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Our study showed that RA-associated fibromyalgia has a negative impact on work performance and productivity. This association also seems to alter the quality of life.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POST007-HPR**

**EXPERIENCES OF PARTICIPATION IN GOAL SETTING PRIOR TO RHEUMATOID TEAM REHABILITATION – A JOINT VENTURE**

**Keywords:** Qualitative research methods, Rehabilitation

L. Skovby Nielsen1,2, J. Primidahl1,2, B. Clausen3, A. Bremender1,2,5,6,1 Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, The Research Unit, Sønderborg, Denmark; 2University of Southern Denmark, Department of Regional Health Research, Odense, Denmark; 3Sano Denmark, Sano Middelfart, Middelfart, Denmark; 4Hospital of Southern Jutland, University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Aabenraa, Denmark; 5Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Section of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden; 6Sørenshtu Research and Development Centre, Spennshult, Halmstad, Sweden

**Background:** Patient involvement in the goalsetting process and use of shared decisions increases adherence to rehabilitation and support patients’ motivation to achieve the goals (1). However, the shared decisions that are essential for goal setting during a rehabilitation process may be compromised by patients’ lack of ability to participate actively in setting goals, inadequate skills among health professionals (HPs) to facilitate goal setting and poor organizational conditions such as insufficient time [2]. This study focuses on a Danish multi-professional team rehabilitation context where, over several years, work has been done to improve the prerequisites for goal setting, both by organizational changes and by educating and preparing HPs as well as patients for the goal setting process.

**Objectives:** To understand how patients with rheumatic musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) perceive participation in the goal setting process prior to multi-professional team rehabilitation.

**Methods:** Individual semi-structured interviews were performed with 22 patients (median 49 years, 17 female), who were to be admitted to multi-professional team rehabilitation for patients with RMDs at one of two Danish rehabilitation centres. We applied qualitative content analysis with an inductive approach. All participants had received information about goal setting prior to admission and the team used supportive tools and motivational interviewing to facilitate the goal setting process.

**Results:** The analysis derived one overarching theme, goal setting was viewed as a joint venture between the patients and the team, where capacities and resources were shared in order to formulate one or more goals. Three sub-themes emerged from the analysis (Table 1): 1) Responsibility during goal setting was experienced as a shared responsibility between the patient and the team, where active involvement in the goal setting process added to patients’ feeling of responsibility. For others, goal setting was perceived as a responsibility that solely rested with the team of HPs, who were considered to be the experts. 2) Being dressed for goal setting reflected whether patients felt prepared to take part in goal setting. Written and oral information prior to rehabilitation evoked thoughts on potential goals and previous experiences with rehabilitation made patients feel more qualified for setting goals. Others perceived goal setting as very difficult, partly because it felt like a huge commitment or due to lack of information.3) Being an equal member of the team referred to the interaction with the HPs. Patients felt they were seen as whole persons, and they felt acknowledged and respected. On the other hand, some felt as outsiders and considered HPs as authorities, causing a feeling of nervousness and insecurity related to the validity of the patients’ wishes and expectations.

**Conclusion:** Despite a clinical practice where key areas of importance to successful patient-centred goal setting has been implemented, goal setting is still perceived as a challenge for some patients with RMDs. Future studies should uncover whether the level of health literacy among patients with RMDs bears importance for shared decisions and goal setting prior to rehabilitation.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Overview of the theme, subthemes and categories that describe patients’ perceptions of participation in the goal setting process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>A joint venture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subthemes</td>
<td>Responsibility during goal setting Being dressed for goal setting Being an equal member of the team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categories</td>
<td>Goal setting is a shared responsibility The health professionals are the experts Feeling well Goal setting is challenging Feeling like a part of the team as an outsider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.548
Adaptive immunity (T cells and B cells) in rheumatic diseases

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium

E. A. James, C. Rimzï, S. Possoz, J. Carlin, W. Kwok2, S. E. Ong, J. Buckner. 1Benaroya Research Institute, Center for Translational Immunology, Seattle, United States of America; 2Benaroya Research Institute, Center for Translational Immunology, Seattle, United States of America; 3Benaroya Research Institute, Clinical Member, Seattle, United States of America; 4University of Washington, Pharmacology, Seattle, United States of America

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a T cell mediated autoimmune disease in which citrullinated self-antigens are recognized by anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA) and T cells. To date, the majority of T cell studies have been performed using peripheral blood and have focused on well-documented ACPA targets. Studies of disease-affected tissue are needed to confirm and extend observations that have been made through study of peripheral blood T cells.

Objectives: T cell subsets and targets that have not been observed in peripheral blood are likely to be important and understudied for the identification of the antigen specific responses that underlie RA. We sought to generate novel insights about T cell phenotypes and antigenic targets by performing multicolor flow cytometry analysis and HLA peptidomics studies of synovial tissue samples from subjects with RA.

Methods: Synovial tissue was obtained from 7 subjects with seropositive RA, 4 subjects with seronegative RA, and 8 subjects with osteoarthritis, all of whom had undergone arthroplasty procedures. Synovial cell suspensions were obtained from tissue by mincing, digestion in collagenase I, and filtration. These were subjected to multicolor flow cytometry analysis to gain insights about the lymphocyte and non-lymphocyte cell subsets present. After confirming leucocyte antigen (HLA) protein expression by flow cytometry, additional tissue was solubilized in lysis buffer and HLA class I and HLA-DR complexes were captured (separately) on affinity columns. HLA-bound peptides were eluted, concentrated, and peptide spectra were identified by LC-MS/MS analysis. The resulting databases were then analyzed using a human protein database. Mass shifts associated with each assigned sequence were utilized to identify post-translational modifications – most notably citrullination of native arginine residues. Comprehensive libraries of the HLA-Class I and HLA-DR-bound peptides from each individual were imported into a custom database, which was then used to catalogue the most prevalent self-proteins for each patient type. T cell assays were then performed to demonstrate the immunogenicity of novel targets and probe T cell antigen specificity in tissue.

Results: Flow cytometry analysis of synovial tissue derived cells demonstrated that fibroblasts (including fibroblast-like synoviocytes), monocytes, and B cells were all present in tissue. In particular, fibroblasts and monocytes showed evidence of inflammation, including upregulated levels of HLA-DR expression. Similar numbers of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells were present in tissue, with phenotypes that included various memory subsets but essentially no naïve cells. In comparison with peripheral blood, T cells from synovial tissue showed evidence of recent activation, expressing higher levels of CD95, CD71, PD-1, ICOS, and CD28. The most prevalent self-proteins in the HLA-DR-bound peptidome from the synovial tissue of RA subjects included expected targets such as vimentin, alpha-1-antitrypsin, fibrinogen, collagen, histones, and BIP but also contained novel targets such as fibronectin, gelsolin, and proteoglycan 4. Prevalent self-proteins in the HLA-Class I-bound peptidome included well-studied CD4+ T cell targets such as vimentin, alpha-1-antitrypsin, fibrinogen, collagen, and histones, and BIP but also contained novel targets such as caspase-14, stromelysin-1, and filamin-A. T cell assays using the immunogenicity of expected targets and the new candidate antigen gelsolin, in particular, a comparatively robust population of aggregan specific T cell targets was present in tissue.

Conclusion: Our findings demonstrate that flow cytometry and HLA peptidomics analysis of synovial tissue can provide novel insights about the phenotype and antigen specificity of T cells in RA. Further characterization of T cell response to these targets is needed, including those that recognize novel antigens, has the potential to provide important new insights about the character of antigen specific T cell responses that promote the development of RA.

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Innate immunity in rheumatic diseases

Keywords: Lungs, Innate immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. Kärman Mährä, T. Jylhä, M. Laakso, J. Vikgren, A. J. Johnson, G. Larsson, D. Glinati, K. Stubendorff, K. Svensson, I. Gjertsen, A. Rudin, A. C. Lundell, A. K. H. Ekwall. 1Institute of Medicine, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Department of Rheumatology and Inflammation Research, Gothenburg, Sweden; 2Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Gothenburg, Sweden; 3Institute for Clinical Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Department of Radiology, Gothenburg, Sweden, 4Skaraborg Hospital, Skövde, Sweden, Department of Rheumatology, Skövde, Sweden

Background: The role of the lung for the initiation and progression of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is still unclear [1]. Up to 10% of RA patients develop severe treatment resistant lung disease [2]. Understanding early disease mechanisms is of great importance. Neutrophils are key players in RA pathogenesis and are recruited to the lungs early in the disease [3]. In RA, circulating neutrophils display an activated phenotype and neutrophil activation markers predict joint destruction and development of extra-articular nodules [4]. Neutrophil activation status has not been studied in relation to pulmonary abnormalities (PA) in early untreated RA (eRA).

Objectives: To determine whether there is an association between peripheral neutrophil phenotypes and presence of PA on chest high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) in eRA.

Methods: Clinical data and blood were collected, and HRCT performed at diagnosis on 30 consecutive anti-citryllated protein antibody (ACPA) and/or rheumatoid factor (RF) positive eRA patients, HRCTs were evaluated for the presence and extent of RA-associated parenchymal, airway and/or pleural abnormalities. Expression of phenotype markers on neutrophils separated by density was determined by flow cytometry. Levels of calprotectin, ACPA and RF were measured using immunoassays. An initial principal component analysis was used to visualize the relationships of the multidimensional data followed by univariate analysis of the strongest associations.

Results: The median patient-reported symptom duration was 6 months, 20% of the patients were current smokers and the mean disease activity was moderate in this seropositive eRA cohort. The frequency of having any PA detected by HRCT was 60%, Airway abnormalities were present in 50%, nodules in 43% and interstitial lung abnormalities (ILA) in 10%. Unsupervised multivariate factor analysis showed clustering of “any PA” with neutrophil activation, parameters of inflammation and RF titres (Figure 1A). Univariate analysis confirmed a significantly increased CD11b and decreased CD62L expression on neutrophils indicating activation in patients with PA as compared to no PA. Titres of RF, but not ACPA, correlated with expression of the neutrophil activation marker CD11b. A stratified analysis demonstrated that airway involvement was the PA subtype with the strongest association with neutrophil activation (CD11b 1.3-fold, p=0.014 and CD62L 0.6-fold, p=0.003 in patients with airway abnormalities as compared to no PA) and with RF IgM titres (8.8-fold, p=0.0002) (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: We report a significant association between radiographic airway findings and activation of circulating neutrophils in early RA supporting a role of innate immunity and the lung in disease onset. Our results also indicate different contributions of RF and ACPA in the RA pathogenesis. Parts of this abstract was presented 15th September 2022 on a national rheumatology meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Figure 1. Principal component analysis showing the relationship between the presence any pulmonary abnormalities by HRCT, neutrophil phenotypes, disease activity measures and demographic data in eRA patients (n=30) A. Univariate analysis of CD11b (B) and CD62L (C) expression, RF (D) and ACPA titres (E) in patients with airway abnormalities vs no PA. Bars show median. NDG=normal density granulocytes, LDG=low density granulocytes. Smokers open circles.
MACROPHAGE EXTRACELLULAR TRAPS PROMOTE FIBROBLAST-LIKE SYNOVIOCYTES PROLIFERATION AND PROINFLAMMATORY CYTOKINE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Innate immunity, Synovium, Rheumatoid arthritis

W. Weng1, Y. Jiang1, S. Zhong1, Y. Pan1. 1. Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-Sen University, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Guangzhou, China

Background: Macrophage Extracellular Traps (METs) play an important role in the promotion of tissue injury, inflammation progression and autoimmune diseases.

Objectives: This study aims to investigate the effects of METs on the proliferation and expression of proinflammatory cytokines in fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: Synovial tissues of RA patients and traumatic controls undergoing joint replacement in our hospital were collected. The FLS of RA patients were cultured in vitro. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were isolated from RA patients and differentiated into macrophages by M-CSF. The macrophages were cocultured with serum of RA patients and healthy controls. SYTOX green, which stained the DNA released from cells and was a common method for detecting ETs, was added to observe the formation of METs. The expressions of CD68 and Cith3 in synovium were detected by immunofluorescence. METs were isolated and purified from THP-1-derived macrophages and co-incubated with FLS. The RNA expressions of proinflammatory cytokines TNF-a and IL-1β of RA-FLSs were detected by qPCR. The proliferation ability of RA-FLSs was detected by CCK-8 assay.

Results: We found the enrichment of macropores labeled with CD68 and Cith3 in RA synovial tissues but not in traumatic controls. Immunofluorescence co-localization assay displayed that most Cith3 were distributed around CD68, suggesting that macrophages may be the main source of ETs (Figure 1A). PBMC induced macrophages co-incubated with serum from RA patients showed the formation of strip-like METs, while no obvious METs were observed with serum from healthy controls (Figure 1B). Purified METs were isolated and co-incubated with RA-FLSs for 48h. TNF-a and IL-1β were significantly overexpressed, and the proliferation of RA-FLSs was promoted (Figure 1C-D).

Conclusion: METs were detected in RA synovium but not in traumatic controls. The autointoMTides or inflammatory cytokines presented in the serum of RA patients may be associated with the increased METs formation in RA. In vitro experiments, METs could promote the proliferation and proinflammatory cytokines expression of RA-FLSs, suggesting that clearing or blocking the formation of METs may be a new therapeutic target for RA.

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DIFFERENT SYNOVIAL MACROPHAGE AND FIBROBLAST SUBSETS, EXPRESSION PROFILES AND CELL-CELL INTERACTIONS CHARACTERISE SEX DIFFERENCES IN CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY JOINT DISEASES

Keywords: Synovium, Inflammatory arthritis, -omics

R. Michieli1, A. Khmelykyska1, C. Pattil2, E. Vallejo-Yague3, M. Elbia4, K. Buerki1, O. Distler1, A. Ciurea1, C. Ospelt1. 1. University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 2. University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Department of Pathology, Zurich, Switzerland; 3. ETH Zurich, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: Chronic inflammatory joint diseases differ between males and females in terms of disease manifestation, treatment response and radiographic progression. A molecular basis that could explain these differences has yet to be identified.

Objectives: The study aimed to find differences in synovitis at histology and transcriptome level between males and females with chronic inflammatory joint diseases.

Methods: Synovial tissue was obtained by ultrasound-guided biopsy from inflamed joints from 5 males and 5 age- and disease-matched females. Histological analysis included Krenn score and synovial pathotype. Single-cell RNA-sequencing (scRNA-seq) libraries were prepared with 10X Genomics and sequenced with NovaSeq 6000. We performed additional histological analyses (Krenn score and CD68 staining) on synovial tissue samples obtained from joint replacement surgery in 13 males and 13 age- and synovial pathotype-matched females with rheumatoid arthritis. The following R packages were used for bioinformatic analysis: Cell Ranger, Seurat, Harmony and CellChat. KEGG gene set enrichment analysis was performed with ClusterProfiler.

Results: We included 4 psoriatic arthritis, 2 rheumatoid arthritis, 2 undifferentiated arthritis and 2 peripheral spondyloarthritis patients. Females and males did not significantly differ in baseline characteristics: mean age was 46.2 years in females, 46.8 years in males; 2 knees and 3 wrists were biopsied per sex; mean swollen joint count was 6.8 in females and 8.2 in males. Histological analysis of the sexes showed no significant differences: synovitis was moderate in both sexes (mean Krenn total score 4.0) and pathotypes were balanced in males (1 diffuse-myxoid, 2 lympho-myxoid, 2 pauci-immune) and females (1 diffuse-myxoid, 1 lympho-myxoid, 1 pauci-immune, 2 ungradable). 41,041 cells were integrated for scRNA-seq analysis (female 21,636 and male 19,378 cells). Pseudobulk variance analysis showed a significant correlation of sex with principal component (PC) 3, accounting for 12.6% of the sample variation (Figure 1A). In addition to the sex-specific genes XIST and PRS4Y1, the following genes were main drivers of the PC3 variation: H19, CXCL9 and CXCL10. Diagnosis was not significantly associated with any PC. Comparison of the individual cell cluster proportions showed that LYVE1+ macrophages (MC) were significantly more prevalent in females (4.9% in males versus 13.7% in females, p = 0.03) (Figure 1B). In confirmatory histological analysis, consistent with the known location of LYVE1+ MC in the lining layer, both Krenn lining score (mean SD score in males 1.85 (0.69) and 2.08 (0.76) in females) and CD68 lining score (mean SD score in males 1.77 (1.17) and 2.08 (0.95) in females) were higher in females but did not reach statistical significance. Differential gene expression analysis showed that mainly in synovial fibroblasts (SF) genes were differentially expressed between males and females (n = 1944). In SF, upregulated genes in males led to a significant enrichment of proinflammatory pathways (TNF pathway, NF-kappa B pathway, IL-17 pathway). In contrast, upregulated genes in females were significantly associated with ECM-receptor interaction, focal adhesion, protein digestion and absorption pathways (Figure 1C). In cell-cell interaction analyses, most outgoing signaling was observed in SF while MC represented most receiving cells; IL6 and CXCL signaling pathways were significantly enriched in males, and COLLAGEN and THY1 signaling pathways were enriched in females (Figure 1D/E).

Conclusion: Our study shows potential important differences in synovitis between males and females with chronic inflammatory joint diseases. In females, synovitis was characterized by abundance of LYVE1+ MC and SF expressing

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extracellular matrix-associated genes. In contrast, male SF showed a proinflammatory transcriptional profile. These sex-specific differences should be considered in research studying synovitis and may warrant sex-specific therapeutic approaches.

Figure 1. (Image: Diagram of cellular components and their interactions.)

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Disclosure of Interests: W. Ye1,2, O. Tong1,2, D. Concasseden3, K. Mbara3, P. Emery3,4, B. Fairfax1,2, K. Mankaia1,2, MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Department of Oncology, Oxford, United Kingdom; University of Oxford, Department of Oncology Oxford, United Kingdom; Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Division of Musculoskeletal Disease, Leeds, United Kingdom; Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Department of Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide ( CCP) antibody positive individuals with musculoskeletal ( MSK) symptoms but no clinical synovitis are at elevated risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis ( RA) [1]. Whilst risk stratification is possible, specific immunological changes underpinning the transition from pre-RA to clinical arthritis remain unclear.

Objectives: We aimed to define markers of rapid progression across immune-cell subsets to enable early differentiation of those who will progress to arthritis in ‘ high-risk’ anti-CCP positive individuals.

Methods: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells ( PBMCs) were collected from anti-CCP positive individuals with MSK symptoms but no clinical synovitis ( CCP+ at-risk) [2]. We performed single cell RNA sequencing ( scRNAseq) of PBMCs from 10 CCP+ at-risk individuals (6 CCP+ progressors, 4 CCP+ non-progressors) collected at baseline and follow-up time points (i.e. progression to arthritis in the CCP+ progressors). All subjects had high positive anti-CCP levels (>3x ULN) and were HLA-DR shared epitope positive with median time to progression in progressors being 4 months. Analysis was performed in R using SingleR for subset annotation and Seurat for differential gene expression analysis between progressors and non-progressors and across time points.

Results: Examining all subsets, we noted a generalised increased Type 1 interferon response in non-progressors, with B cells (n=8,659) showing the most prominent divergence between groups. Within B cells we observed 334 differentially expressed genes (DEG) in CCP+ progressors versus non-progressors at baseline and 143 DEG at follow up (padj<0.05), with 77 DEG consistent across timepoints. At baseline, CCP+ progressors demonstrated upregulation of genes associated with B cell antigen-presentation, including Class II MHC molecules, CD83 and CD74. Conversely, interferon stimulated genes (ISG) were enriched in the CCP− non-progression DEG. Notably, this ISG signature ceased at follow-up (median 14 months). Examining the DEG per B cell subset, we noted that upregulation of genes associated with B cell antigen-presentation is found across naive, unwswitched memory and switched memory B cells in CCP+ progressors at baseline. In contrast, ISG upregulation is specific to a separate subset of interferon-responsive B cells. At baseline, these cells form a significantly greater proportion of all B cells in the CCP+ non-progression group versus the progressor group (178% versus 2.6%, p<0.0013). At follow-up, the proportions are comparable between the two groups (2.5% in non-progression versus 3.4% in progressor, p=0.08), reflecting the transient nature of ISG upregulation.

Conclusion: CCP+ at risk individuals with imminent arthritis demonstrate a distinct B cell gene expression profile. Imminent progression is associated with markers of B cell mediated antigen presentation across multiple subsets whereas non-progressors demonstrate transient over-expression of ISGs driven by expansion of a subset of interferon-responsive B cells. These data reveal mechanistic insights into the early divergence between these groups and the development of RA.

REFERENCE:

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Rheumatoid arthritis - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models—

POS1012 SINGLE CELL RNA SEQUENCING REVEALS DISTINCT B CELL CHARACTERISTICS IN ANTI-CCP POSITIVE AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS WITH IMMINENT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Adaptive immunity, Animal models

W. Ye1,2, O. Tong1,2, D. Concasseden3, K. Mbara3, P. Emery3,4, B. Fairfax1,2, K. Mankaia1,2, MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Department of Oncology, Oxford, United Kingdom; University of Oxford, Department of Oncology Oxford, United Kingdom; Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Division of Musculoskeletal Disease, Leeds, United Kingdom; Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Department of Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects joints and other parts of the body. The pathogenesis of RA is still not fully understood, and finding effective treatments remains a challenge. Single cell RNA sequencing (scRNAseq) has been used to study the heterogeneity of immune cells in RA. The aim of this study was to observe the preventive effect of low-dose IL-2 in collagen-induced arthritis, and to characterize the cellular mechanisms underlying such an effect.

Objectives: To study the pathogenesis of RA, we used single cell RNA sequencing to examine the genetic expression of immune cells in RA. We aimed to identify the cellular mechanisms underlying the preventive effect of low-dose IL-2 in collagen-induced arthritis.

Methods: We used scRNAseq to study the genetic expression of immune cells in RA. We compared the expression of genes associated with immune cell activation and differentiation in RA patients and healthy controls. We also examined the effect of low-dose IL-2 on the genetic expression of immune cells in collagen-induced arthritis.

Results: We found that the expression of genes associated with immune cell activation and differentiation was significantly higher in RA patients than in healthy controls. We also found that low-dose IL-2 treatment reduced the expression of these genes in collagen-induced arthritis.

Conclusion: Our findings suggest that low-dose IL-2 treatment can prevent the development of RA by reducing the expression of immune cell activation and differentiation genes.
group, the proportion of Th17/Treg in CIA group was significantly higher than healthy control group. Compared with CIA model group, Th17/Treg in all intervention groups (0d,7d,14d,21d-IL-2) were significantly lower.

Conclusion: Early administration of low-dose IL-2 may help reduce the incidence of arthritis and disease activity in CIA by restoring Th17/Treg balance, but it has time heterogeneity.

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Early administration of low-dose IL-2 may help reduce the incidence of arthritis and disease activity in CIA by restoring Th17/Treg balance, but it has time heterogeneity.

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Figure 1. Early intervention of CIA with low dose of IL-2 at different time points. (A) The percentage of mice that remained arthritis free over time. (B) Arthritis scores of each experimental group over time. (C) Comparison of Th17 (CD4+CXCR5+CD25−Foxp3−) and Treg (CD4+CXCR5−CD25+Foxp3+) cells of CD4+ T cells in different groups. (D) The Th17 to Treg ratio in different group.

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POS014
INVESTIGATING THE SYNOVIAL PATHOLOGY RELATED TO TREATMENT RESISTANCE IN JAPANESE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS USING SINGLE-CELL ANALYSIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium

R. Yohiha1, H. Tsujiyaha1, Y. Omata1, H. Takahashia1, S. Nakajima1, H. Mizukawa1, A. Uehrai1, Y. Maenohara1, Y. Fujieda1, T. Matsumoto1, H. Harada1, H. Shoda1, N. Yamura1, T. Mimura2, K. Okumura2, A. Morinobu2, T. Atsumi3, Y. Tanaka4, T. Mimura5, K. Ohmura6, A. Morinobu6, T. Atsumi3, Y. Tanaka7, T. Takeuchi8, S. Tanaka2, T. Okamura4, K. Fujio1, 1Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 2Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Tokyo, Japan; 3Faculty of Medicine and Graduate School of Medicine, Hokkaido University, Department of Rheumatology, Endocrinology and Nephrology, Sapporo, Japan; 4Juntendo University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 5Faculty of Medicine, Satama Medical University, Department of Rheumatology and Applied Immunology, Sattama, Japan; 6Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan; 7School of Medicine, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Fukuoka, Japan; 8Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; 9Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Department of Functional Genomics and Immunological Diseases, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Despite of recent developments in therapeutic agents for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients[1], it is reported that half of the patients are unable to achieve remission even with existing drugs[2]. Therefore, there is an urgent need to gain mechanistic insight into treatment resistance. Nowadays, single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) technology have dramatically improved our understanding of the heterogeneity in synovial cells. However, it has not been fully elucidated how the cell clusters are related to treatment response, especially in Asian races[3].

Objectives: We intend to analyze the RA synovium from Japanese patients based on single-cell transcriptomics to explore the pathological key players related to treatment resistance.

Methods: Synovial specimens were collected from 31 RA patients using an ultrasound-guided needle biopsy. The proportion of 5 immune cell subsets (CD4+ T cells, CD8+ T cells, B cells, NK cells, monocytes) and mesenchymal (synovial fibroblasts (SF), endothelial cells, mural cells) were analyzed by flow cytometry. CD45+ and CD45- live cells were isolated, and scRNA-seq libraries were prepared using the 10x chromium system.

Results: We classified the patients into the following three groups based on treatment status at the time of biopsy; treatment-naive, inadequate response to conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (csDMARDs-IR), or biological DMARDs (bDMARDs-IR). The proportion of CD8+ T cells, especially GZMB+ GZMK+ CD8+ T cells, was significantly lower in csDMARDs-IR patients compared to treatment-naive patients. This population was characterized by enhanced expression of IFNG and GZMK, the cooperative inducers of IL-6 production from SF. Meanwhile, an increased proportion of SF, especially THY1+ sublining and CD45+ sublining, was observed in csDMARDs-IR and bDMARDs-IR patients. Intriguingly, by integrating gene set variation analysis (GSVA) with transcriptomic data of cytokine-stimulated SF in vitro, THY1+ sublining was indicated to be activated independently of the effects of inflammatory cytokines (e.g., TNF-α, IL-1β, IFNα) (Figure 1). Collectively, this SF subpopulation was inferred to be less susceptible to cytokine-blocking agents such as IL-6 receptor or TNF-α inhibitors.

Conclusion: The synovial analysis has the potential to be useful in parsing the mechanism of treatment resistance in Japanese RA patients, and gaining insights into novel therapeutic targets.

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Figure 1. A cluster of synovial cells was less affected by inflammatory cytokines. This cluster could be resistant to cytokine-blocking agents (e.g., TNF, IFN-α).

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POS015
A NOVEL DRUG COMBINATION OF IGURATIMOD AND TOFACITINIB ALLEVIATES RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SECONDARY OSTEOPOROSIS

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Animal models

J. Chen1,2, M. Li3,4, Q. Che1,2, Y. Kou4,5, X. Rong4,5, X. Zhang1,2, O. Shu4,5, 1Qilu Hospital, Cheeolo College of Medicine, Shandong University, Department of Rheumatology, Jinan, China; 2Shandong Provincial Clinical Research Center for Immune Diseases and Gout, Department of Rheumatology, Jinan, China; 3School and Hospital of Stomatlogy, Cheeolo College of Medicine, Shandong University, Department of Bone Metabolism, Jinan, China; 4Shandong University, Center of Osteoporosis and Bone Mineral Research, Jinan, China; 5School and Hospital of Stomatlogy, Cheeolo College of Medicine, Shandong University, Department of Bone Metabolism, Jinan, China

Background: At present, specific immune targeted therapeutics including biologics and kinase inhibitors has made significant progress in Rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, the response to targeted therapies in some refractory RA patients suggests more attention should be paid on cell death pathways, such as pyroptosis. Pyroptosis is a proinflammatory cytokine that plays a fundamental role in the pathogenesis of RA, which could induce pyroptosis in monocytes and macrophages and cause the destruction of bone and cartilage. Iguratimod (IGU) has been confirmed as a highly efficacious and safe conventional synthetic disease-modifying...
anti-rheumatic drug for RA in Asia. Whether the combination of IGU and Tofacitinib (TOF), the Janus kinase inhibitor, would be better partner need to be elucidated.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the therapeutic effect of IGU and TOF on active RA and secondary osteoporosis in collagen-induced arthritis (CIA)+TNF model.

**Methods:** In this study, hematoxylin and eosin (HE) staining were used to evaluate the pathological changes in ankle joints of CIA+TNF model. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) were used to evaluate the level of pyroptosis related proteins in synovial tissue. We performed Micro-computed tomography (Micro-CT), HE staining and IHC to analyze the trabecular bone changes in distal femoral metaphysis to investigate the destruction of knee joint.

**Results:** After 6 weeks treatment of IGU and/or TOF, the diameter of ankle joint and the level of interleukin (IL)-18, IL-1 of CIA+TNF model. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) were used to evaluate the level of pyroptosis related proteins in synovial tissue. We performed M group. HE staining showed that only a small amount of inflammatory cell infiltration and less pannus were seen in synovial tissue of both monotherapy and combination group, when compared with the CIA+TNF group. Of importance, the pyroptosis related proteins, such as gasdermin D (GSDMD), nucleotide-binding domain (NOD)-like receptor protein 3 (NLRP3), caspase-1, and IL-1β were significantly less expression in synovial tissue of combination group compared with the CIA+TNF group. Both the osteoblast bone formation and osteoclast bone absorption were sharply reduced in CIA+TNF model. However, the bone destruction was significantly alleviated and bone turnover rate was remarkably increased in combination group, detected by Micro-CT, HE staining and IHC.

**Conclusion:** The TOF-IGU combination synergistically alleviated the disease severity of the CIA model, including relieving joint inflammation and bone erosion, with suppressing the activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome and reducing GSDMD expression.

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**POST016 ANALYSIS OF GUT MICROBIOTA IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis

**Authors:** P Ruiz-Límon1,2, N. Mena-Vázquez1, L. Moreno-Indias1,2, S. Manrique Arjáiz1, J. M. Lisbona1, L. Cano García2, F. Redondo3, F.J. Tinahones2, A. Fernandez-Nebro1,2, BIMAF Plataforma Bionand, UGC Endocrinology and Nutrition, Virgen de la Victoria University Hospital, Malaga, Spain; CIBER Physiopathology of Obesity and Nutrition (CIBEROBN), Carlos III Health Institute, Madrid, Spain; Plataforma Bionand, UGC Rheumatology, Regional University Hospital of Malaga, Malaga, Spain; University of Malaga, Department of Medicine, Malaga, Spain

**Background:** The gut microbiota has been related to rheumatoid arthritis (RA), inflammation, and its severity. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) causes high morbidity and mortality in RA patients. However, the association between gut microbiota and RA- associated ILD (RA-ILD) is still unknown.

**Objectives:** To analyze the gut microbiota and gut permeability in RA-ILD patients.

**Methods:** Nested case-cohort study of 2 prospective cohorts of patients with RA and with and without ILD. The cohorts were matched for age, sex, and time of RA evolution. All patients systematically underwent high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) and pulmonary function testing (PFT) on the diagnosis of ILD. The ILD was defined according to the lung biopsy or HRCT based on the standard criteria of the American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society, the progression was defined as the worsening of the FVC > 10% or DLCO > 15%. The gut microbiota was measured by the 16S rRNA gene and the sequences were processed using the Quantitative Insights into Microbial Ecology (QIMME2). Serum lipopolysaccharide-binding protein (LBP) and lipopolysaccharide (LPS) were measured as markers of gut permeability.

**Results:** Thirty-five RA-ILD and 35 RA without ILD were included. Table 1 shows the baseline characteristics. After a median (SD) period of 66.1 (472) months, pulmonary progression criteria had observed in 13 patients (37.1%). Compared with controls, RA-ILD had higher values of DAS28-ESR (p=0.032) and higher HAQ scores (p=0.003). They also had higher levels of serum LPS (p = 0.007) and more abundance of Streptococcus genus (p = 0.087), as well as a lower abundance of Slackia (p = 0.022) and Paraprevotella genera (p = 0.082). The RA-ILD with progression had a higher abundance of Streptococcus genus (p = 0.090) and a lower abundance of Slackia genus.

**Conclusion:** RA-ILD patients showed increased gut permeability and also displayed a different pattern of gut microbiota associated with ILD diagnosis and progression. These findings may enable the discovery of potential RA-ILD biomarkers.

**Table 1. Clinical and demographic characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>RA-ILD n=35</th>
<th>RA without ILD n=35</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age in years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>69.7 (9.3)</td>
<td>66.6 (7.0)</td>
<td>0.130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>20 (57.1)</td>
<td>20 (57.1)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never smoked, n (%)</td>
<td>17 (48.6)</td>
<td>18 (51.4)</td>
<td>0.760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-smoker, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (28.6)</td>
<td>8 (22.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active smoker, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (22.9)</td>
<td>9 (25.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis RA, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>149.8 (93.3-245.5)</td>
<td>133.7 (67.8-204.2)</td>
<td>0.384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO, mean (SD)</td>
<td>61.0 (15.2)</td>
<td>85.9 (7.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC mean (SD)</td>
<td>63.0 (17.1)</td>
<td>83.4 (4.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR, mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.1 (0.9)</td>
<td>2.6 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF+ (&gt;10), n (%)</td>
<td>33 (94.3)</td>
<td>31 (88.6)</td>
<td>0.393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis ILD, mean (SD)</td>
<td>66.1 (472)</td>
<td>33 (94.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPRa (-20), n (%)</td>
<td>32 (91.4)</td>
<td>31 (88.6)</td>
<td>0.690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions, n (%)</td>
<td>21 (60.0)</td>
<td>19 (55.6)</td>
<td>0.705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR, mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.1 (0.9)</td>
<td>2.6 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ, mean (SD)</td>
<td>12.0 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC mean (SD)</td>
<td>63.0 (17.1)</td>
<td>83.4 (4.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLOCO, mean (SD)</td>
<td>610.0 (15.2)</td>
<td>85.9 (7.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP, n (%)</td>
<td>29 (82.9)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSIP, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (17.1)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations:** ACPRa: anticitrullinated peptide antibody; DAS28: Disease activity score; DLCO: diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide; ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate; FVC: forced vital capacity; HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire; IQR: interquartile range; NSIP: nonspecific interstitial pneumonia; RA: rheumatoid arthritis; RF: rheumatoid factor; SD: standard deviation; UIP: usual interstitial pneumonia.
REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2671

POS1017

A NOVEL PAD2/4 BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY BLOCKS PAD2 ACTIVITY IN VITRO AND DELAYS DISEASE PROGRESS IN CIA-PADS MODEL

Keywords: Animal models, Rheumatoid arthritis

B. Chen1, H. Sun1, N. Ding2, C. Zhang1, A. Chen3, 1Shanghai Qilu Pharmaceutical R&D Center Ltd, Department of Immunology and Inflammation, Shanghai, China; 2Ningbo Medical Center Lihuili Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ningbo, China

Background: Peptidyl arginine deaminase (PAD) catalyzes the conversion of arginine residues to citrulline. With the breakdown of self-tolerance, citrullinated antigens become neo-antigens, potentially triggering autoimmune responses. PAD2 and PAD4 are the most strongly implicated PAD isoforms in RA at both genetic and cellular levels. In RA synovial tissue, neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) are thought to be the major source of PAD2 and PAD4. However, recent findings indicate that neutrophils could secrete PAD2 and express membrane-bound PAD4, which can also catalyze citrullination. Although small-molecule PAD inhibitors such as GSK-484 and AFM-30a have shown good efficacy in PADs enzymatic inhibition assay, no small-molecule PAD inhibitors have entered the clinical stage yet. To avoid off-target effects and disrupting intracellular PAD function, PAD2/4 bispecific neutralizing antibodies may be ideal. Here, we generated a novel and potent PAD2/4 bispecific antibody that is able to block PADs activity both in vitro and in vivo.

Objectives: To develop a novel, highly potent PAD2/4 bispecific blocking antibody to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: An IgG-ScFv-structure PAD2/4 bispecific antibody was made from hybrido- ma-derived, humanized PAD2, and PAD4-specific monoclonal antibodies. PAD inhibition was determined by BAEE biochemical assay and ABAP assay using Histone H3 as the substrate. Antibody affinity was measured by Biacore. 15 synovial fluid samples from RA patients were used to test the inhibition efficacy of PAD2, PAD4, and PAD2/4 bispecific blocking antibodies by ABAP assay. The induction of collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) was described previously [1]. CIA-PADS model was induced by immunizing 50 ug human PAD2 and 50 ug human PAD4 together with bovine type II collagen. Each treatment group consisted of 11 mice that were given the PAD2/4 bispecific antibody or control IgG 50 mg/kg i.p. twice a week.

Results: PAD2-mAb, PAD4-mAb, and PAD2/4 bispecific antibodies exhibit high affinity and potent PAD inhibition activity in both BAEE biochemical assay and ABAP assay (Table 1). In RA synovial fluid inhibition assay, the PAD2/4 bispecific antibody showed complete inhibition of PADs activity at 10nM concentration, but not PAD2-mAb, PAD4- mAb, or GSK484 (Figure 1A), indicating that RA synovial fluid consists of both PAD enzymes. In in vivo model, we demonstrated that co-immunization of PAD2 and PAD4 proteins significantly increased the disease severity, and treatment with the PAD2/4 bispecific antibody decreased the activity disease (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: We have generated a novel anti-PAD2/4 bispecific blocking antibody with potent inhibitory activity in vitro. Furthermore, the blocking activity is also validated in RA patients' synovial fluid and in a novel CIA-PADS model. Additionally, we first demonstrated that co-immunization of PAD2 and PAD4 proteins could increase the disease severity, indicating PAD2 and PAD4 may play an important role in RA disease pathogenesis. In summary, Our PAD2/PAD4 bispecific Ab may provide a novel therapeutic approach towards the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.


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POS1018

ROLE OF THE SIGNALING LYMPHOCYTE ACTIVATION MOLECULE FAMILY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS COMPLICATED WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines, Lungs

Q. Che1,2, J. Chen1,2, Y. Zhang1,2, C. Ren1,2, X. Zhang2, W. Hongxing2,3, Q. Shu1,2.

1Qilu Hospital, Cheelope College of Medicine, Shandong University, Department of Rheumatology, Jinan, China; 2Shandong Provincial Clinical Research Center for Immune Diseases and Gout, Department of Rheumatology, Qilu Hospital, Jinan, China; 3Qilu Hospital, Cheelope College of Medicine, Shandong University, Department of Clinical Laboratory, Jinan, China; 4Shandong Engineering Research Center of Biomarker and Artificial Intelligence Application, Department of Clinical Laboratory, Jinan, China

Background: Intstitial lung disease (ILD) is the most common extra-articular complication of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The prevalence of RA with ILD is approximately 20% and the risk of ILD is significantly higher in RA patients than in healthy controls [1]. The pathogenesis of RA-ILD has not been elucidated, although various genetic, immunological, and environmental factors have been suggested to be involved in its development and progression [2]. Therefore, it is crucial to explore new targets and predictors of RA-ILD pathogenesis.

Objectives: To explore the common pathogenic mechanisms involved in the initiation and progression of RA-ILD.

Methods: Synovial samples of RA (GSE55235), lung samples of ILD (GSE53845 and GSE81292) were extracted from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) analysis, weight gene co-expression network analysis (WGCNA) and Consensus Cluster were implemented with R language. Enrichment analysis and shared hub gene analysis were then performed. The function of selected gene signatures and hub genes were validated in external datasets (synovial tissues of RA (GSE55457) and RA-associated usual interstitial pneumonia (RA-UIP) (GSE199152)), in terms of single cells level, RA-ILD patients and our collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) relative ILD animal model.

Results: The ILD relative gene signatures which contained 90 shared genes was obtained (Figure 1 A). KEGG pathway enrichment analysis identified cytokine-cytokine receptor interactions and chemokine signaling pathways (Figure 1 B). CytobHubba selected 17 hub genes as shown Figure 1 C. Validated the 17 hub genes in lung tissue samples from three RA-UIP patients and four non-UIP controls with the external database (Figure 1 D). In single cell port, the surface molecules of B cells, CD19, CD27, CD38, CD79A, SLAMF1, SLAMF2 and SLAMF7 can be detected in RA synovial tissues and lung samples of ILD (Figure 1 E). The SLAMF1, SLAMF2 and SLAMF7 in PBMCs of RA-ILD patients were highly expressed (Figure 1 F). Furthermore, we constructed the CIA+TNF animal model , whose lung pathology showed ILD-like manifestations (Figure 1 G), together with an increased infiltration of B cells, especially those expressing SLAMF1, SLAMF2 and SLAMF7 in both synovial and pulmonary tissues (Figure 1 H).

Conclusion: Our study explored the common pathogenic mechanisms of RA and ILD, identified the shared 17 hub genes of RA+ILD Especially the SLAMF1, SLAMF2 and SLAMF7 expressing B cells can migrate to pulmonary and take part in the development of fibrosis and ILD, with the guide of chemokines. This indicated a joint-lung axis hypothesis might play important roles in the development and progression of RA-ILD.

REFERENCES:
DIPYRIDAMOLE, A COMPOUND THAT INCREASES EXTRACELLULAR ADENOSINE LEVELS, AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT FOR RHEUMATOID SARCOPENIA

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Animal models, Sarcopenia

M. Marco-Bonilla1, M. Fresnadiillo1, I. Sanchez2, R. Largo3, G. Herrero-Beaumont1, A. Mediero1. 1IIS-Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Bone and Joint Metabolism, Madrid, Spain

Background: In addition to joint damage, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) confers a higher risk of several comorbidities, including changes in body composition with reduced muscle mass and strength (sarcopenia) with stable or increased fat mass. Adenosine and ATP are responsible for the maintenance of energy balance and activate cell signaling through selective receptors. Adenosine A2A receptor activation regulates bone turnover, targeting bone destruction in inflammatory diseases like RA. The use of dipyridamole (blocks adenosine uptake by the cells increasing extracellular adenosine levels activating adenosine receptors) modulates the intracellular and extracellular levels of adenosine and ATP in murine C2C12 myoblasts, via activation of the adenosine A2B receptor, cAMP and AMPK pathways, countering deleterious effects on skeletal muscle differentiation.

Objectives: To determine if dipyridamole prevents sarcopenia in arthritis murine model.

Methods: 12-wk-old C57BL/6 male mice were injected with pooled K/BxN serum (100 μl, ip) on day 0 and 2. Dipyridamole 25mg/Kg was administered daily starting after the first serum injection. Clinical signs (joint swelling and thickness) were measured daily. DXA analysis and motor activity tests were performed prior to serum inoculation and at day 13. Mice were euthanized on day 16. Inflammatory cytokines and C-reactive protein (CPR) were measured in serum. Gastronemius was collected for protein and RNA extraction. Tibialis was frozen and embedded in OCT for histology.

Results: Serum transfer (RA mice) induced an increase in joint inflammation that was maximal 2wk after injection. Dipyridamole decreased the appearance of inflammation in the joints (clinical score of 5±3 vs 14±1 RA mice, p<0.005, n=7), and counteracted weight loss (p<0.01). Moreover, dipyridamole modulates the systemic inflammation found in RA mice promoting an significant increase on anti-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-10, and a significant reduction on pro-inflammatory cytokines such as INFγ, IL-1, TNFα and IL-6, with a non significant decrease in CRP. In motor tests, the RA mice had a reduced distance traveled when compared to healthy mice (sham) (830±37cm vs 1393±187cm Sham, p<0.001, n=4-7), as well as a reduced strength (22.4±4.7g vs 44.4±3.9g Sham, p<0.05, n=4-7) and endurance, while the rotarod test showed a loss of motor coordination with increase of latency to fall (43.3±5.4sec vs 75.9±3.3sec Sham, n=0.05, n=4-7). Dipyridamole treatment resulted in a revertion of physical development induced by serum transfer. Furthermore, RA mice had decreased lean mass, BMD and BMC, as well as an increased fat percentage, that were reverted in the presence of dipyridamole. RA mice muscle weights decreased when compared to sham mice, whereas dipyridamole reversed this effect. MHC protein expression was decreased in RA mice when compared to sham mice (65±7% vs 100% Sham, p<0.005, n=4-7) and reverted by dipyridamole (84±6% vs 60±7%RA mice, p<0.005, n=6-7), meanwhile PAX7 expression was enhanced by dipyridamole (274±11% dipyridamole, 151±13% RA mice vs. 100%, p<0.005, n=6-7). AMPK activation decreased in RA mice (53±7% decreased vs Sham, p<0.05, n=4-7), whereas dipyridamole reversed this loss (152±5% dipyridamole vs 53±7% RA mice, p<0.001, n=6-7). Adenosine A2A and A2B receptors protein expression were decreased in RA mice (71±3% for A2A and 35±9% for A2B vs 100% Sham, p<0.005, n=4-7), been reverted by dipyridamole. Senescence markers p21 and p16 were increased in RA mice (221±38% for p21 and 392±25% for p16 vs 100% Sham, p<0.001, n=4-7) and dipyridamole reduced their expression.

Conclusion: Arthritic mice developed sarcopenia accompanied by a loss of motor activity, strong systemic inflammation and an increased muscle senescence. Dipyridamole counteracted both systemic and joint inflammation as well as muscle loss, enhancing muscle regeneration. This indicate that the use of agents that increase extracellular adenosine levels might be interesting as a therapeutic approach for inflammatory sarcopenia.

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Disclosures of Interests: None declared.

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enrolling patient with RA and T2D, we demonstrated that IL-1 inhibition led to a marked reduction of glycated haemoglobin together with a decrease of RA disease activity [2].

**Objectives**: To evaluate the synovial expression of IL-1 related genes and the relationship to the ubiquitin-proteasome system in the synovial tissues of RA patients with and without T2D. To assess the effects of high concentration of insulin in vitro, mimicking the hyperinsulinaemia of the early phases of T2D, on ubiquitinated proteins in fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLSs).

**Methods**: Early (-1 year) treatment-naïve RA patients with T2D (RA/T2D n=16) were compared with age- and gender-matched RA patients without T2D (n=16) enrolled in the Pathobiology of Early Arthritis Cohort (PEAC) [3]. Synovial tissue biopsies obtained under ultrasound guidance underwent RNA-sequencing as previously described [3], and we compared IL-1 pathway genes in patients without and with T2D. The synovial expression of ubiquitin in macrophages and synovial lining fibroblasts was assessed by immunohistochemistry/immunofluorescence and correlated with synovial pathotypes [4]. Finally, FLSs from RA patients (n=5) were isolated and treated with human insulin (200 and 500 nM) for 7 days, and ubiquitinated proteins were assessed by western blot.

**Results**: Synovial RNA-sequencing showed that one third of IL-1 pathway genes (41/138) were significantly different in RA/T2D patients compared to RA patients without T2D. In parallel, synovial tissues of RA/T2D patients were characterised by a consistent reduced expression of ubiquitin-proteasome genes. More specifically, ubiquitin genes (UBB, UBC, and UBA52) were significantly lower in T2D/RA patients. Furthermore, 22 genes coding proteasome subunits were significantly lower in RA/T2D patients (PSMA2, PSMA6, PSMA7, PSMB1, PSMB3, PSMB4, PSMB6, PSMB7, PSMB9, PSMB10, PSMC1, PSMC3, PSMC5, PSMC13, PSMD4, PSMD7, PSMD8, PSMD9, PSIEM1, PSME2, and PSMF1). Additionally, several genes regulating ubiquitin and proteasome system were significantly different in the synovial tissue of RA/T2D patients. Specifically, APP, BAG4, and BTRC were upregulated in RA/T2D patients. Conversely, RACK1, RBX1, RPS27A, SEM1, SHARPIN, and SIGIRR were significantly downregulated in RA/T2D patients. Immunohistochemistry showed a significant reduction of the percentage of ubiquitin-positive cells in synovial tissues of RA/T2D patients. The percentage of ubiquitin-positive cells was also increased in patients with a lympho-myeloid pathotype compared to diffuse myeloid or pannus-immune fibroblast. Despite its widespread expression in synovia, immunofluorescence showed that ubiquitin mainly colocalized with synovial macrophages and lining fibroblasts. Finally, in vitro experiments showed a reduction of ubiquitinated proteins in RA-FLSs treated with a high concentration of insulin (500 nM).

**Conclusion**: Increased IL-1 gene expression was observed in the synovial tissues of RA/T2D patients, both during baseline and concomitant comorbidity T2D, as the reduction of the ubiquitin-proteasome system may enhance the levels of IL-1. These findings may provide a mechanistic explanation of the observed clinical benefits of IL-1 inhibition in patients with RA and concomitant comorbid T2D.


**Disclosure of Interests**: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4048

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**HIGH THROUGHPUT MULTIPLEX PROTEOMICS IDENTIFIES BIOMARKERS AND NETWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS-CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (RA-CVD) MULTIMORBID AXIS**

**Keywords**: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease, Biomarkers

**Background**: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients have higher mortality rates compared to the general population, primarily due to excess cardiovascular (CV) disease (CVD). We have shown the earliest stages of RA are associated with CV abnormalities but blood biomarkers to identify CVD in early RA are lacking.

**Objectives**: In a treatment-naïve new-onset RA trial cohort, to identify (i) blood-based protein biomarkers that associate with cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) abnormalities, (ii) whether these biomarkers are sensitive to change; (iii) the predominant inflammatory and metabolic pathways implicated.

**Methods**: CADERA (Coronary Artery Disease in Early RA)[1] was an add-on study to a parent RCT of an early RA inception cohort where 81 patients underwent CMR at baseline and year 1. Proximity extension immunoassay (Olink®-based) was used to measure normalised protein expression (NPX) across inflammation, CV II/III and cardiometabolic panels at time of CMR. Bayesian linear mixed effects regression was used to identify proteins associated with CMR parameters of myocardial oedema/fibrosis (MO/ MF = native T1, myocardial extracellular volume (ECV) and late gadolinium enhancement (LGE)) and vascular stiffness (VS = aortic distensibility and stiffness index) at baseline, year 1 and those sensitive to change over time. An expanded protein interaction (PPI) network using baseline proteins was created using an induced network approach (String-DB) and clusters identified using k-means that were then subjected to Gene ontology (GO) and KEGG enrichment analysis.

**Results**: Of 340 proteins analysed using Olink, 108 proteins were associated with CMR markers of MO/MF (64 proteins; 28 positively, 36 negatively) and VS (44 proteins; 13 positively, 38 negatively) at baseline. 46/108 proteins identified at baseline were sensitive to change over time and of these, 15 remained associated with CMR parameters at Year 1 (see Figure 1A & B). No overlapping proteins were identified that associated with focal (LGE) and diffuse fibrosis (ECV). Table 1 reports posterior estimates and 95% credible intervals for two top proteins. Figure 1C displays changes in predicted NPX for 2 time-sensitive proteins associated longitudinally with CMR parameters. K-means clustering of the expanded baseline PPI network (enrichment p < 0.0001) identified 4 clusters (Figure 1D) with roles in IL27 receptor binding and NF-kB signalling pathway (red), vascular endothelial growth factor receptor binding and JAK-STAT signalling pathway (green); Macrophage CSF receptor binding and ErBb signalling pathway (blue); and IL-1 receptor activity and complement and coagulation cascades (yellow).

**Conclusion**: This is the first study to identify sensitive protein biomarkers that may help with early diagnosis and monitoring of RA-CVD and inform on possible therapeutic targets. Treatment group differences and subgroup analyses with responders are ongoing. Further validation of these candidate biomarkers is needed in an independent cohort.


**Disclosure of Interests**: None Declared.

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Background: CD38 is a NAD+ consuming enzyme ubiquitously expressed on immune cells and its expression increases in several pathological conditions, including Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) [1, 2]. Pre-clinical studies in CD38 knock-out models have demonstrated that CD38 deficient animals develop an attenuated form of Collagen-Induced-Arthritis (CIA) characterized by reduced inflammation and damage at the joint level suggesting a causal role of CD38 in the pathogenesis of CIA and, potentially, RA [3-5].

Objectives: This study investigated the efficacy of NTX-748, a newly developed, potent and orally available small molecule inhibiting the enzymatic activity of CD38, in reducing the inflammation, cartilage destruction, pannus formation, and damage at the joint level in CIA rat model for the study of RA.

Methods: Mice were injected intradermally (ID) with Freund’s complete adjuvant (CFA) containing bovine type II collagen to induce arthritis on study days 0 and 21. Beginning on study day 18, the animals were dosed twice daily (BID) by the oral route (PO) with vehicle or NTX-748 (3, 10, or 30mg/kg), or DPO once daily (QD) with Methotrexate (1mg/kg) (n=12/group) for 18 days. One group served as a mal model for the study of RA.

Results: Treatment with NTX-748 at 10 and 30mg/kg showed a statistically significant dose-dependent beneficial effect reducing day 36 CAS by 37% and 50% respectively relative to vehicle (p=0.13 and p=0.047), without showing any toxicity, including body and spleen weights. Histopathology analysis of joints, paws and knees confirmed NTX-748 efficacy. Strikingly, NTX-748 reduces incidence of CAS up to 50% in a dose-dependent manner (p = 0.0015). Plasma concentrations of NTX-748 increased approximately in proportion to dose. Mass Spectrometry-based tissue metabolic analysis (liver and spleen) confirmed target engagement with dose dependent increases of NAD+ levels, the main substrate of CD38-mediated NAD+ hydrolysis, and decreases of NAM and ADPR, both engaged with dose dependent increases of NAD+ levels, the main substrate of CD38-mediated NAD+ hydrolysis, and decreases of NAM and ADPR, both products of the same enzymatic reaction. Methotrexate 1mg/kg also demonstrated efficacy (98% reduction in CAS) however significant splenomegaly (3-fold increase) indicated toxicity at this dose.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrated that NTX-748, a small molecule inhibiting the NADase enzymatic activity of CD38, is efficacious in the mouse CIA model, and thus potentially RA. These data confirm the potential of CD38 as druggable target in the treatment of inflammation-driven autoimmune diseases such as RA.

REFERENCES:

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Objectives: To evaluate the effect of tofacitinib on muscle mass of collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) mice.

Methods: CIA was induced in male DBA/1J mice. Animals were randomized into 3 groups: I) CIA + tofacitinib (CIA-TOF; n=10); II) CIA + vehicle (CIA-VEH; n=10); III) healthy controls (CO; n=9). Vehicle (PBS) or tofacitinib 15mg/kg were administered twice a day, between days 18 and 45 after the disease induction. Clinical score, edema and body weight were evaluated during the experimental period. After euthanasia, tibio-tarsal joints were collected for assessment of disease histopathological score, and tibialis anterior (TA) and gastrocnemius (GA) muscles were weighed to assess muscle mass. Muscle atrophy was evaluated by measurement of TA myofiber cross-sectional area (CSA). Expression of proteins related to muscle regeneration or catabolism (Pax7, MyoD, myogenin and Murf-1) were evaluated by western blot in GA homogenates. Serum inflammatory markers (TNF and IL-6) were evaluated by ELISA. Statistical analysis included ANOVA followed by Tukey’s or with Kruskal-Wallis. The statistical difference was assumed for p<0.05.

Results: As expected, tofacitinib treatment decreased arthritis severity by reducing clinical score (p=0.03) and hind paw edema (p=0.04) in comparison with CIA-VEH group. CIA-TOF showed weight gain (p=0.02), higher TA (p=0.009) and GA (p=0.02) weights, and increased CSA compared to CIA-VEH group (p=0.01). On day 45, CIA-TOF presented increased muscle strength compared to CIA-VEH group (p=0.006), however, no difference was found in the fatigue parameter among groups (p=0.05). The expression of Pax7 was unchanged (p=0.07), while MyoD expression showed an increase trend, and myogenin expression was significantly increased in CIA-TOF compared to CIA-VEH (p=0.04) and CO groups (p=0.02). The treatment did not significantly modify Muf-1 expression. Compared to CIA-VEH group, CIA-TOF mice showed decreased serum levels of TNF (p=0.04), and no difference in IL-6 serum levels (p=0.08).

Conclusion: Tofacitinib attenuated muscle loss in arthritic mice, as increased muscle weight and muscle CSA were detected in treated mice. Additionally, an increased activation of satellite cells regeneration, based on the expression of myogenin, is a potential mechanism involved in tofacitinib-protection against muscle loss.

REFERENCE:

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POS025

COMBINATION OF BULK AND SINGLE CELL RNASEQ ANALYSES TO REVEAL MECHANISMS OF ABT-317 (JAK INHIBITOR) ON SYNOVIAL FIBROBLASTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, -omics, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

V. Son1, D. Korentedil2, B. Harvey1, J. Wang3, A. Suarez-Fueyo3, D. Chang3, T. Radstake2, M. Ruzek1.

1AbbVie, Bioresearch Center, Worcester, United States; 2Experimental Pathology Consultancy, 45 Hope Road, Benfleet, Essex, United Kingdom; 3Pharmacokinetics, Zoersel, Belgium

Background: Jak inhibition is effective in downregulating several pro-inflammation cytokines and pathogenic mechanisms in RA. These studies advance our understanding of Jak1 inhibitors and how they may contribute to clinical efficacy.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yana Son Grant/research support from: Yes. I am an employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Yes. I am an employee of AbbVie. Daniel Korentedil Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie. Bohdan Harvey Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Jing Wang Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Abel Suarez-Fueyo Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Dan Chang Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Speakers bureau: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Timothy Radstake Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Speakers bureau: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Melanie Ruzek Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie

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POS026

FUNCTIONALLY SELECTIVE IMMUNOMODULATOR SHOWS ROBUST EFFICACY IN A MURINE COLLAGEN-INDUCED-ARTHRITIS MODEL

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Innate immunity, Animal models

H. Asnagli1, S. Tessier1, M. Foster1, S. Denies1, E. Hoeben1, J. P. Herbeuval2, J. Crouzet1, A. Van der Aa1, 1Eurimmun Therapeutics, R&D, Paris, France; 2Experimental Pathology Consultancy, 45 Hope Road, Benfleet, Essex, United Kingdom; *2SD Analytics, Statistics, Bellem, Belgium; 32-Bridge, Pharmacokinetics, Zoersel, Belgium; Chemistry & Biology, Modelng & Immunology for Therapy” (CBMIT), CNRS UMR 8601, Faculté Biomédicale des Saint-Pères, Université Paris Cité, Paris, France

Background: Activated monocytes play a key role in the initiation and progression of inflammatory synovitis in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), leading to cartilage destruction and, via invasive pannus development, loss of peri-articular bone.

Objectives: To test the efficacy of an orally administered functionally selective immunomodulator in a murine collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) model.

Methods: Mice were immunized with collagen type II and treated with the immunomodulator or vehicle. Clinical scores, paw swelling, and joint histology were assessed. Overall, the immunomodulator demonstrated significant efficacy in reducing clinical scores and paw swelling.

Results: The immunomodulator significantly reduced clinical scores and paw swelling compared to the control group. Histological analysis showed decreased synovitis and cartilage erosion in the treated group.

Conclusion: The immunomodulator showed promise in reducing inflammation and preserving joint integrity in a murine CIA model.

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Disclosure of Interests: Y. Son 1, D. Korentedil 2, B. Harvey 1, J. Wang 3, A. Suarez-Fueyo 3, D. Chang 3, T. Radstake 2, M. Ruzek 1.

1AbbVie, Bioresearch Center, Worcester, United States; 2Experimental Pathology Consultancy, 45 Hope Road, Benfleet, Essex, United Kingdom; 3Pharmacokinetics, Zoersel, Belgium

Background: Jak inhibition is effective in downregulating several pro-inflammation cytokines and pathogenic mechanisms in RA. These studies advance our understanding of Jak1 inhibitors and how they may contribute to clinical efficacy.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yuna Son Grant/research support from: Yes. I am an employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Yes. I am an employee of AbbVie. Daniel Korentedil Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie. Bohdan Harvey Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Jing Wang Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Abel Suarez-Fueyo Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Dan Chang Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Speakers bureau: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Timothy Radstake Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Speakers bureau: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie, Melanie Ruzek Shareholder of: Employee of AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Employee of AbbVie, Employee of: Employee of AbbVie

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ER000145 is a functionally selective immunomodulator derived from IT1t, a CXCR4 antagonist demonstrated to exert immunomodulating proper-
ties[1]. As an immunomodulating model compound, ER000145 previously 
showed increased potency by downmodulating several key pro-inflammato-
tory cytokines in Toll-like receptor (TLR)7/8-stimulated immune cells and 
low/no CXCR4 antagonism in vitro as well as strong efficacy in a murine 
pristane-induced lupus model[2].

Objectives: The aim of the present study is to evaluate the potency of the 
functionally selective immunomodulator ER000145, both 
in vitro on murine and human 
immune cells as well as in vivo in a murine collagen-induced arthritis 
(mCIA) model.

Methods: In vitro 
immunomodulating potency of ER000145 was evaluated in fresh murine 
splenocytes and isolated primary monocytes from healthy volun-
tees (HV). After 1-hour incubation with ER000145 and 24-hour stimulation with 
TLR7/8 agonists (R848 or RB37, 5 or 1 µg/mL respectively), supernatant was 
collected. Pro-inflammatory cytokines were detected by flow cytometry (Legend-
plex). For the mCIA model, male DBA-1 mice (n=8 per group) were 
immunized with bovine collagen type 2 on Day 1 in Complete Freund Adjuvant 
(FA) and on Day 21 with Incomplete FA. Mice were randomized and dosed 
once daily (QD) intraperitoneally (IP) with either PBS (vehicle control), 
ER000145 at 3, 10 or 30 mg/kg, or IT1 at 30 mg/kg as of Day 28, for 
a duration of 14 days. As a positive control, mice received 10 mg/kg predni-
solone QD orally. Blood samples were collected after single (Day 28) and 
14-days of repeated dosing to evaluate exposure of ER000145. During the 
study, disease activity was monitored on the basis of the extent of edema and 
erythema in each paw, and paw thickness was measured using a digital 
caliper. At study termination, all paws from the vehicle-treated and 30 mg/kg 
ER000145-treated mice were collected and prepared for histopathological 
scoring using hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining.

Results: ER000145 inhibited key pro-inflammatory cytokines (TNF-α/IL-6/IL-1β) 
in TLR7/8 agonist-stimulated HV primary monocytes as well as murine sple-
ocytes. Daily IP administration of ER000145 in a mCIA model reduced significantly 
clinical scores in a dose-dependent manner: a dose of 3 mg/kg was not effica-
cious in contrast to both the 10 and 30 mg/kg QD doses. At efficacious doses, 
the average concentration (Cavg) of ER000145 in blood ranged between 14 and 
31 ng/mL, indicating that the lipid profile is more predictive of the disease activity 
in both groups. Univariate analysis highlighted relatively higher concentration of 
large density HDL subclasses (HDL-4 Cholesterol (p=0.003), ApoA1 (p=0.0003), 
ApoA2 (p=0.0018) and Phospholipids (p=0.0024), Sphingomyelin (SM[24:0]; 
p=0.0012), Hexosylceramide (HCER[22:0]; p=0.0557), and Cholesterol Esters 
(CE[18:0]; p=0.0025, CE[18:2]; p=0.0721), but lower Glycoproteins A and B 
(p=0.0003; 0.0007) levels in Remission. RA patients in remission were characterized by high levels 
of LDL (LDPN, L4PN), HDL Apolipoprotein A1 (HDA1, H4A1), Cholesterol Esters 
(CE[18:2], CE[18:1]) and Phosphatidylcholines (PC[16:0/20:4), PC[18:0/20:4]) compared 
to those in remission. RA patients in remission were characterized by high levels 
of LDL (LDPN, L4PN), HDL Apolipoprotein A1 (HDA1, H4A1), Cholesterol Esters 
(CE[18:2], CE[18:1]) and Phosphatidylcholines (PC[16:0/20:4), PC[18:0/20:4]).

Conclusion: In summary, comprehensive lipoprotein and lipid analysis identi-
ifies markers that characterize RA in exacerbation and remission. Large density 
HDL-4 Apolipoprotein A1 and Cholesterol Esters are indicative of Remission, 
while VLDL, Triglycerides and Free fatty acids describe High disease activity in 
RA. The above markers will be evaluated in comparison with those already exist-
ning in clinical laboratory application.

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itis Unveiled by New Trends in Lipidomic Investigations. Antioxidants (Basel, 
Switzerland), 10(1), 45. https://doi.org/10.3390/antiox10010045

Figure 1. Multivariate supervised (OPLS-DA) models comparing the lipoprotein and lipid pro-
files of RA patients in Remission (blue) and with High Disease activity (red).

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: Since the discovery of the sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) pathway and its potentially beneficial role of inducing lymphocyte retention and subsequent immunomodulation [1], several small molecule S1P receptor modulators have been approved for the treatment of diverse autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and ulcerative colitis. Cenerimod, a selective S1P receptor modulator, has shown efficacy in preclinical models of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), systemic sclerosis and Sjögren’s syndrome [2-4] and is now entered into a Phase III clinical trial (OPUS; NCT05648500) in patients to moderate to severe SLE.

Objectives: We investigated the efficacy of cenerimod in modulating disease progression in preclinical models of rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: We analyzed the efficacy of cenerimod in several models of RA in mice and rats. Disease-relevant biomarkers such as autoantibody development and chemokine secretion were measured to gain a deeper understanding of the mode of action of S1P receptor modulation in these RA models.

Results: In mouse RA models, prophylactic treatment with cenerimod inhibited the acute inflammatory response post antigen challenge and prevented autoantibody formation, thus completely preventing the initiation of disease. Cenerimod treatment at disease onset further showed a strong reduction of joint inflammation and significantly delayed clinical symptoms and the secretion of several pro-inflammatory chemokines. Although corticosteroid treatment is frequently administered as an adjunct treatment for interventional strategies. However, this currently requires invasive synovial tissue sampling. Novel whole-body molecular imaging with positron emission tomography (PET) and the use of specific PET tracers can non-invasively detect and quantify the presence of immune cells in RA inflamed synovium. Folate-receptor beta (FRβ) is a cell surface receptor on macrophages, shown clinical exploitation for high specificity PET imaging of arthritis [2]. However, it remains to be elucidated whether FRβ is a suitable marker for RA immunopathotype stratification. Furthermore, it is unclear whether FRβ is expressed on macrophages with a pro-inflammatory (M1) or homeostatic (M2) phenotype in the 3 immunopathotypes.

OBJECTIVES: (1) Investigate FRβ expression across the three distinct RA immunopathotypes.
(2) Investigate FRβ expression in relation to the general macrophage marker CD68 and the mannose receptor CD206 (which is associated with M2-type macrophages [3]).

Methods: Synovial biopsies of the RA-affected ankle or knee (N=28) were retrieved from RA patients with clinically active disease defined by ACR RA criteria [4]. Subsequently, biopsy sections were immunohistochemically stained in order to stratify each patient into one of three RA-immunopathotypes. Confocal microscopy was used to determine CD68, FRβ and CD206 expression (integrated density), and co-expression (comparing fold-change average expression) for all patients within each immunopathotype (N=8-10/group).

Results: Out of 28 RA synovial biopsies 10 could be classified as FP, 9 DM and 9 LM immunopathotype. Average expression of CD68, FRβ and CD206 was significantly increased in the DM and LM compared to the FP immunopathotype (# p<0.01). Quantitative CD68, FRβ and CD206 expression was highest in the DM immunopathotype. FRβ expression correlated significantly with CD206 expression in all three pathotypes (Spearman R_{p}=0.67, P_{corr}=0.76; R_{p}=0.49). On the contrary FRβ expression did not correlate with CD68 expression except in the DM pathotype (Spearman R_{p}=0.46).

Conclusions: The results of this study put forward that FRβ is a potential target for delineation of RA immunopathotypes, to be explored for non-invasive molecular imaging stratification. Furthermore, investigation of FRβ expression has an additive value over CD68 since it can be used to distinguish the presence of M2 macrophages in the RA synovium specifically.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1095 DNA-METHYLATION PROFILING IN THE BLOOD OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Genetics/epigenetics, Lungs, Rheumatoid arthritis

B. Kaczmarezyczk1, C. De la Calle-Fabregat2, A. C. Duarte3, N. Mena-Vázquez4, A. Fernandez-Nebro5, A. Trigueiro-Martinez2, S. Castañeda6, R. Dos-Santos1, A. Mera Varela1, C. Lopez-Pedraza1, A. Escudero Contreras2, P. Vela-Casasempere1, M. Molina Molina1, J. Narváez1, M. Retuerto-Guerrero5, J. L. Pablo6, J. C. Sarmiento Monroy1, R. Sanmart1, L. Gómez Carrera7, G. Bonilla7, S. Rezuquito Martinez9, M. A. González-Gay4, V. Leiro Fernandez3, N. Pérez Gómez10, C. Vadillo11, L. Abasolo17, I. Casafont-Solé18, L. Mateo Soria18, A. Castillo Gonzalez18, C. Marras Fernandez Cid19, E. Perez-Pampin1, E. Ballesta4, A. Gonzalez2, 1Instituto Investigacion Sanitaria-Hospital Clinico Universitario de Santiago, Experimental and Observational Rheumatology Unit, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 2Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute (IJC), Epigenetics and Immunopathology Institute, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Garcia de Horta, Rheumatology Department, Almada, Portugal; 4University Regional Hospital of Malaga (HRUM), Instituto for Biomedical Research in Malaga (IBIMA), Malaga University, Department of Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain; 5Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria La Princesa, Hospital Universitario...
Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis-associated Interstitial Lung Disease (RA-ILD) is an extraarticular manifestation with clear clinical relevance because it impairs quality of life and survival. Despite this, RA-ILD etiology and pathogenesis are only partially understood. However, we know that fibrosis and collagen deposition, aging and telomere shortening, the expression of the mucin MUC5B gene, the RA autoantibodies and smoking are contributing elements. A better knowledge of RA-ILD pathogenesis will lead to improved outcomes for the patients.

Objectives: This study aims to identify CpG sites that are differentially methylated in the blood of RA-ILD patients compared to matched RA patients without ILD. These findings will point to genes and pathways of specific relevance to RA-ILD pathogenesis.

Methods: We compared two matched groups of 32 patients with RA: RA patients diagnosed with ILD less than one year before sample collection; RA patients without ILD. The two groups were assessed by High-Resolution Computed Tomography (HRCT) and matched by sex, age, smoking (ever/never), and anti-CCP status. Blood samples were used for DNA extraction. Methylation of 850000 CpG was measured with the Infinium Methylation Epic BeadChip (Illumina). Identification of the differentially methylated positions (DMP) and differentially methylated regions (DMR) was performed using the R application ShinyEPICO [1]. Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was done with the R package methyGSA [2].

Results: A total of 6679 DMP with ≥ 2% difference and FDR < 0.05 were identified in the autosomal chromosomes. In addition, 119 DMR (72 in gene bodies, 32 in promoters, and 15 in CpG islands) were discovered. Some of these DMP and DMR are associated with genes of known relevance (Figure 1): genes involved in telomere maintenance (TERC, TERT, POT1), and some genes related to immunological processes (HLA-DRA, VCAM1, TGFB2...). A systematic analysis of the associated genes with GSEA showed significant enrichment of 62 gene ontology (GO) terms and 49 Reactome pathways. Several of the top enriched GO terms referred to the detection of chemical stimuli involved in sensory perception, either by smell or taste. This finding was replicated in the enriched pathways. Other top GO terms identified chromosome changes during mitosis: centromeric duplication, chromosome segregation, and others. They corresponded to top-enriched pathways involved in the M phase of mitosis and cell cycle checkpoints. Another group of GO terms referred to post-translational modifications of proteins: deacylation of proteins, which coincided with top pathways involved in protein modifications, including acetylation and deacetylation of histones; and ubiquitination of proteins, also reflected in several top enriched pathways. Besides, enriched GO terms that referred to the catabolic process of nuclear-transcribed mRNA correlated with top pathways of mRNA metabolism. In addition, there were other significantly enriched gene sets, such as the involved in the transport of intracellular vesicles and the location in the cell of proteins, mitochondria, RNA, and chromosomes, the host interaction with viral infections, gene silencing by small RNA, SUMOylation, and the RHO GTPase cycle.

Conclusion: We observed significant differences in blood DNA methylation between matched RA-ILD and RA-control patients. Some of these differences were related to potentially interesting genes (mucins, collagen, telomere maintenance), and biological processes and pathways (detecting chemical stimuli, post-translational modifications of proteins, chromosome and intracellular vesicle localization, and transport) that will help us to better understand RA-ILD pathogenesis.

REFERENCES:

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Figure 1. Violin plots of DNA methylation β values of individual CpG sites annotated to the selected genes comparing RA-ILD and RA control groups. X axis is in the log10 scale (M values).
Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease that leads to progressive joint destruction involving multiple joints. There is a large body of evidence that suggests a crucial role for activated synovial fibroblasts (RASF) in mediating both direct tissue injury and perpetuation of the complex disease process in RA [1]. RA SF from RA patients are able to attach to articular cartilage and deeply invade and degrade the cartilage matrix [2] and have been shown to migrate to secondary joint locations in vivo and invade and degrade cartilage similarly to the primary site [3]. Human gingival-derived mesenchymal stem cells (GMSC) are promising therapeutic cell treatments for autoimmune diseases due to their immunomodulatory capacity [4]. Others have demonstrated the ability of GMSC to home to the site of the implant and induce programmed cell death of the RASF through the direct transfer of exosomes [5]. Objectives: Our aim was to test whether the deleterious effects of RASF in an in vivo chimeric mouse model of RA could be modulated by the presence of GMSC or GMSCExo. In addition, we analyzed the effects of both GMSC and GMSCExo on the ability of RASF to migrate to secondary locations. Mechanistic studies were done to understand how GMSC and GMSCExo inhibited the GMSC-mediated invasiveness of the RASF. Methods: A chimeric human/mouse model of synovitis was created by surgically implanting SCID mice with a small piece of human articular cartilage surrounded by RASF. Each mouse received two implants; the primary implant on the right flank of the mouse contained RASF, the secondary implant contained no RASF. Mice were retro-orbitally injected once with either GMSC or GMSCExo at 5-7 days post-implantation. The implants were removed after 60 days for evaluation. Histology and IHC were used to assess RASF invasion of the cartilage. Flow cytometry was used to understand the homing ability of GMSC in vivo, the incidence of apoptosis of RASF and the exchange of exosomes in vitro. Results: We demonstrate that both GMSC and GMSCExo are potent inhibitors of the deleterious effects of RASF. Both treatments were effective in inhibiting the invasive destructive properties of RASF as well as the potential of these cells to migrate to secondary locations and attack the cartilage there. We also present evidence that GMSC home to the site of the implant and induce programmed cell death of the RASF through the direct transfer of exosomes. Conclusion: Our results indicate that both GMSC and GMSCExo can block the pathological effects of RASF in this chimeric model of RA. A single dose of either GMSC or GMSCExo can inhibit the deleterious effects of RASF. These treatments can also block the invasive migration of the RASF, suggesting that they can inhibit the spread of RA to other joints. Because the gingival tissue is harvested with little difficulty, relatively small amounts of tissue are required to expand the cells, they are simply in vitro expansion process, and the increasing technological advances in the production of therapeutic exosomes, we believe that GMSCExo are excellent candidates as a potential therapeutic agent for RA. References: [1] Pap, T., et al., Fibroblast biology. Role of synovial fibroblasts in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Res, 2000. 2(5): p. 361-7. [2] Muller-Ladner, U., et al., Synovial fibroblasts of patients with rheumatoid arthritis attach to and invade normal human cartilage when engrafted into SCID mice. Am J Pathol. 1996. 149(5): p. 1607-15. [3] Lefevre, S., et al., Synovial fibroblasts derived from GMSCs (GMSCExo) to suppress the deleterious in vivo effects of the collagen induced arthritis model in mice [5]. [4] Lefevre, S., et al., Synovial fibroblasts spread rheumatoid arthritis to unafflicted joints. Nat Med, 2009. 15(12): p. 144-20. [5] Gan, L., et al., Dental Tissue-Derived Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells and Their Potential in Therapeutic Application. Stem Cells Int, 2020. 2020: p. 8864572.
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) results from a gene-environment interaction and is characterized by a preclinical, or asymptomatic, phase during which autoimmune processes appear, in particular anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA) [1]. This gene-environment interaction, occurs many years before the diagnosis of RA, possibly during childhood. Only smoking, in genetically predisposed patients (carriers of the shared HLA-DRB1 epitope), has been shown to be a reproducible risk factor for developing seropositive RA [2,3]. Other inhaled substances may play a role as many non-smokers develop RA, inducing inflammation of the lung mucosa and a systemic immune response, such as occupational exposure to silica, possibly pesticides and air pollution [4]. Early life exposures may play a major role in the pathophysiology of RA. All these elements lead us to study the impact of exposure to environmental factors in childhood on the risk of RA in adulthood, mainly airborne exposure.

**Objectives:** To assess the relationships between exposure to a rural lifestyle during childhood and the risk of RA in women involved in the E3N cohort.

**Methods:** E3N is an ongoing French prospective cohort that included 98,995 women aged 40-69 years. Women completed, every 2-3 years, mailed questionnaires about their lifestyle and health-related information. In 2002 a questionnaire about their childhood environment was assessed, including passive smoking, educational level, smoking during pregnancy and World War II deprivation scores, exposure to cats and dogs at home, whether women had lived on a farm for at least 3 successive months during childhood, and if so, the type of animals they were exposed to and their age at first pet or farm animal exposure. Hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the risk of incident RA were estimated using multi-adjusted Cox proportional hazards regression models with age as the time scale.

**Results:** A total of 657 incident RA cases, among whom 77,754 non RA women were ascertained. Farming lifestyle was not associated with the risk of RA. In contrast, in a multi-variable-adjusted Cox regression model including known risk factors of RA (age, active and/or passive smoking during adulthood, BMI, educational level), exposure to cats and/or dog between 1 and 2 years old was associated with a decrease risk of incident RA compared to children without pets: HR = 0.55 (95% CI 0.3-0.9), p= 0.031. Furthermore, as previously described, passive smoking in childhood [HR=1.24 (1.0-1.5)] was associated with the risk of smoking during pregnancy and World War II deprivation scores, exposures to cats and dogs at home, whether women had lived on a farm for at least 3 successive months during childhood, and if so, the type of animals they were exposed to and their age at first pet or farm animal exposure. Risk ratio (RRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the risk of incident RA were estimated using multi-adjusted Cox proportional hazards regression models with age as the time scale.

**Conclusions:** More than farming lifestyle or the type of pet, the very early exposure to cats and/or dog (1-2 years) seems to reduce the incidence of RA while passive smoking in childhood increases it. This supports the idea that the lung environment during pregnancy and World War II deprivation scores, exposures to cats and dogs at home, whether women had lived on a farm for at least 3 successive months during childhood, and if so, the type of animals they were exposed to and their age at first pet or farm animal exposure. Hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the risk of incident RA were estimated using multi-adjusted Cox regression models with age as the time scale.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**The authors declare no conflict of interest.**

**Immunological profiling identified clinical correlates and abatacept treatment response predictor of rheumatoid arthritis**

**Keywords:** -omics, Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

**Y. Nagafuchi,1,2 S. Yamada,1,2 M. Ota,1,2 H. Hatano,3 K. Kubo,3 K. Shimane,3 K. Setoguchi,1 T. Azuma,4 M. Mamura,5,6,7,8 T. Okamura1,2 K. Ishigaki1,5, K. Fujio.1,2

1The University of Tokyo, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 2The University of Tokyo, Department of Functional Genomics and Immunological Diseases, Tokyo, Japan; RIKEN, Laboratory for Human Immunogenetics, Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan; 3Tokyo Metropolitan Institute for Geriatrics and Gerontology, Department of Medicine and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 4Tokyo Metropolitan Bokutoh Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 5Tokyo Metropolitan Komagome Hospital, Allergy and Immunological Diseases, Tokyo, Japan; 6Azuma Rheumatology Clinic, Department of Rheumatology, Saitama, Japan; 7Tokyo Medical University Department of Molecular Pathology, Tokyo, Japan; 8Tokyo Medical University, Department of Pathology, Tokyo, Japan; 9Tokyo Medical University, Department of Pathology, Chiba, Japan; 10Kyungpook National University Hospital, Biomedical Research Institute, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients are heterogeneity in their clinical phenotype and in response to molecular targeted therapies. To date, only limited number of studies addressed the immunological changes that lie behind the clinical heterogeneity.

**Objectives:** To identify immunological correlates of clinical phenotypes and predictors of treatment response, we performed peripheral blood multi-omics profiling of patients initiating abatacept treatment.

**Methods:** In the PREDICTABA study, we have recruited 104 RA patients starting abatacept treatment at six hospitals in Japan (Figure 1A). Peripheral blood mass cytometry analysis was performed in discovery and validation cohorts (n=79 and 22). In total, 10 million T and B cells were clustered by cell surface protein expression (Figure 1B, 1C). After accounting for the effects of age, sex, CD43 assay activity, anti-CCP antibody status, and cluster status, the impact of baseline treatment and future abatacept treatment response (CDAI improvement at 6 months) using mixed-effects modeling of association of single cells [1]. Peripheral blood RNA-seq identified immune cell signatures and immune pathway signatures.

**Results:** At baseline, median age was 73 years, 80% were female and 80% were seropositive. Median CDAI improved from 17 to 5 after 6 months of abatacept treatment. RNA-seq immune cell gene signatures validated mass cytometry immune cell cluster frequencies. Naïve CD T cells were negatively associated with baseline prednisone use (OR 0.53 and 0.25, P-values <0.01). Plasmablasts were negatively associated with baseline methylxerate use (OR 0.59 and P-value<0.01, Figure 1B, 1D, 1E), and with IL6, IL8, STAT3 signaling gene signature (P-value<0.01). Finally, CD8+CD25+ T cells showed suggestive association with CDAI improvement after abatacept treatment (OR 1.4 and 1.6, P-values 0.01 and 0.07, Figure 1C, 1F, 1G).

**Conclusion:** Through immunophenotyping analysis of RA patients, we have revealed that B cell subsets are associated with conventional RA treatments. Abundance of CD8+CD25+ T cells may be predictive of good abatacept response.

**REFERENCE:**


**Results:**

**Characteristics from table content including title and footnotes:**

Figure 1. (A) Overview of the study. (B-C) UMAP visualization of B cells (B) and CD8 T cells (C) from 650X cytometry analysis (650x). Mixed-effects modeling of association of single cells (MCC3) between 32 mass cytometry T and B cell clusters and baseline methylxirate (MTX) dose. Red dashed line indicates Bonferroni corrected P-value threshold for P-value <0.05. (E) Negative correlation between baseline MTX dose and B_C7 Plasmablast frequencies by the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient test. (F) MCC analysis of CDAI improvement rate at 6 months after the start of abatacept treatment. (G) The correlation between CDAI improvement rate at 6 months after abatacept treatment and CD8_B_C5: CD8+CD25+ T cells cluster by the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient test. (B-G) Discovery cohort data
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POS035
FOCAL ADHESION PROTEINS KINDLIN-1, -2 AND TALIN-1 ARE REGULATED IN IL-1ß-STIMULATED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS SYNOVIAL FIBROBLASTS

Keywords: Synovium, Cytokines and chemokines, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Arnold1, S. Reharts2, M. Sauerbier3, C. Biehl4, C. Heck5, U. Müller-Ladner6, E. Neumann7. 1Justus-Liebig-University, Campus Klinikum, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bad Kissingen, Germany; 2Agapeologie Markers University, Department of Genetics and Trauma Surgery, Frankfurt, Germany; 3Private Practice for Hand and Plastic Surgery, Frankfurt, Germany; 4Private Practice for Hand and Plastic Surgery, Bad Homburg v. d. Hoehe, Germany; 5University Hospital of Giessen-Marburg, Dept. of Trauma, Hand and Reconstructive Surgery, Giessen, Germany.

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a progressive chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease characterized by synovial hyperplasia, articular inflammation and excessive joint and bone erosion. Activated RA synovial fibroblasts (SF) are key players of cartilage erosion by attaching and invading into cartilage. The kindlin family of focal adhesion proteins consists of six members, whose function is to activate integrins and thereby enable focal adhesion. Integrins play a central role in regulating cell-matrix and cell-cell adhesion. The effects of integrin activation are key players of cartilage erosion by attaching and invading into cartilage. Kindlin-1 and -3 were neither detectable in the cell body without a nuclear signal. Kindlin-1 and -3 were neither detectable in synovial tissue nor in synovial fibroblasts. Relative mRNA levels (arbitrary units) of kindlin-1, -2, -3 and talin-1 in RA synovial tissue and RA SF, and the impact of pro-inflammatory activation on their expression on mRNA and protein level.

Methods: Synovial fibroblasts were isolated from synovial tissue after joint replacement surgery. Cells were cocultured in the presence of IL-1ß (10 ng/ml), T cell antigen-presenting cells (anti-CD40 and 1 ng/ml IL-21), or NIKi (12.5 µM NIKi: 12.13±19.42% decrease; 25 µM IKKi: 6.90±5.38% decrease, 25 µM NIKi: 26.63±17.37% decrease, 50 µM NIKi: 41.69±2.00% decrease; data normalised on DMSO) upon T cell-dependent stimulation with 2.25 µg/ml anti-CD40 and 1.0 ng/ml IL-21 (Figure 1B). We observed a dose-dependent induction of IL-6 (49.1%) after repetitive IL-1ß exposure.

Results: In RA synovial tissues, kindlin-2 and talin-1 protein were detectable adjacent to blood vessels, in the synovial lining layer and in the sublining. Kindlin-2 and talin-1 could be detected in cultured RASF with a consistent signal of the cell body without a nuclear signal. Kindlin-1 and -3 were neither detectable in synovial tissue nor in synovial fibroblasts. Relative mRNA levels (arbitrary units) of kindlin-1 and kindlin-1 in RASF differed, with the strongest signal for kindlin-1 (1663 ± 186, followed by kindlin-2 (28 ± 23), kindlin-1 (2 ± 0.08) and kindlin-3 (0 ± 0.08). In contrast, repetitive stimulation doubled the signal of IL-1ß-stimulated RASF with IL-1ß (1-2-fold) after 17h and returned to the baseline levels after 48h. A time-dependent effect could also be observed by immunocytochemistry of IL-1ß-stimulated RASF. Kindlin-1 mRNA expression was significantly upregulated after 6h (2.9-fold, p=0.0178) of stimulation and downregulated after 17h (1-5-fold, p<0.0001), 24h (1-5-fold, p<0.0001) and 48h (1-2-fold, p<0.0001) compared to 6h. At后悔, repetitive activation of RASF, kindlin-1 and talin-1 were constantly regulated compared to the first stimulation (kindlin-1: 1.03-fold; kindlin-2: -1.06-fold; talin-1: 1.00-fold). In contrast, IL-6 showed an inflammatory adjustment to IL-1ß leading to lower induction of IL-8 (49.1%) after repetitive IL-1ß-exposure. Conclusion: Focal adhesion proteins kindlin-2 and talin-1, factors involved in integrin activation of cells, are present in RA synovial tissue and RASF. As a time-dependent regulation of kindlin-2 and talin-1 after stimulation was observed, this effect may lead to a temporary and repetitive productive activation of RASF and activation of integrins, subsequently contributing to altered adhesion and migration of RASF under inflammatory arthritic conditions. References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL. Acknowledgements: NIL.

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POS036
NF-KB SIGNALLING IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR FUNCTIONAL RESPONSES OF ACAP-PRODUCING B CELL CLONES FROM PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cell biology

G. Frenzel1,2, Y. Kan1,2, J. P. Van Hamburg1,2, R. Van Vollenhoven1, S. Tas1,2. 1Amsterdam Rheumatology Center, Amsterdam University Medical Centers, University of Amsterdam, Department of Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam University Medical Centers, University of Amsterdam, Department of Experimental Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Background: Anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA) play a role in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) pathogenesis, and their presence is associated with disease severity. Moreover, high serum levels of ACPA in the preclinical phase are one of the major risk factors for RA progression. Consequently, detailed analysis of ACPA+ B cells is required to disentangle the role of these cells in RA. Multiple intracellular signalling pathways are involved in functional responses of ACPA+ B cells. We make use of ACPA+ and ACPA- B cell clones, since peripheral ACPA+ cells are present at low frequencies in the peripheral blood.

Objectives: To identify whether NF-κB or JAK-STAT signalling inhibition using small molecule inhibitors (SMIs) is effective in targeting functional responses of ACPA+ B cells from RA patients, including survival, proliferation, differentiation, and antibody production.

Methods: Previously generated ACPA+ and ACPA- B cell clones [1] (see Figure 1A for method) were expanded and cultured with anti-CD40 and IL-21. Canonical and non-canonical NF-κB signalling were targeted by validated SMIs of Inhibitor of κB kinase (IKK), (canonical NF-κB signalling) and NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK), (non-canonical NF-κB signalling), respectively. Tofacitinib (a JAK1/JAK3 specific small molecule inhibitor) was used to target JAK-STAT signalling. Cell viability, proliferation and differentiation were evaluated by flow cytometry. Antibody production was measured by ELISA.

Results: We observed a dose-dependent reduction in proliferation in ACPA-producing B cell clones treated with either IKKi (12.5 µM IKKi: 39.12±9.86% decrease, 25 µM IKKi: 56.55±18.44% decrease, 50 µM IKKi: 65.65±3.1% decrease; data normalised on DMSO) or NIKi (12.5 µM NIKi: 12.13±19.42% decrease, 25 µM NIKi: 26.63±17.37% decrease, 50 µM NIKi: 41.69±2.00% decrease; data normalised on DMSO) upon T cell-dependent stimulation with 2.25 µg/ml anti-CD40 and 1.0 ng/ml IL-21 (Figure 1B). Similarly, we observed a dose-dependent reduction in IgG production (Figure 1C). IKKi treatment seemed to have a stronger effect than NIKi treatment on ACPA+ B cell clones, while we did not observe a clear difference between IKKi and NIKi in ACPA+ B cells (12.5 µM IKKi: 6.90±5.38% decrease, 25 µM IKKi: 33.32±2.15% decrease, 50 µM IKKi: 50.11±3.15% decrease, 12.5 µM NIKi: 6.90±3.61% decrease, 25 µM NIKi: 17.83±6.53% decrease, 50 µM NIKi: 54.67±20.37% decrease; data normalised on DMSO). These effects were not caused by cytotoxic effects as cell viability was not affected by IKKi or NIKi treatment. In contrast to the effects of IKK and NIKi treatment, tofacitinib only had limited effects on ACPA+ and ACPA- B cell proliferation and IgG production. At present these results are being corroborated by using freshly isolated ACPA+ B lineage cells of RA patients.

Conclusion: Our data point towards a critical role of the NF-κB signalling pathways in the functional responses of ACPA-producing B cells, whereas a limited role of JAK-STAT signalling was observed. Consequently, targeting NF-κB signalling may have beneficial effects in limiting (auto)reactive B cell responses in RA.

Background: The gut microbiota has been proposed to be an important environmental factor in the development of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, changes in the gut microbiome of RA patients who were already treated with disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) have not been studied well.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the gut microbiota of patients with established rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have been managed with DMARDs for a long time. We focused on factors that might affect composition of the gut microbiota. Furthermore, we investigated whether gut microbiota composition predicts future clinical responses to conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) in patients with an insufficient response to initial therapy.

Methods: We recruited 94 patients with RA and 30 healthy participants. Fecal samples were collected, and the gut microbiome was analyzed by 16S rRNA amplification sequencing. Calypso online software was used to compare microbial composition between groups. For RA patients with moderate-to-high disease activity, treatment was changed after stool collection, and responses were observed 6 months later.

Results: The composition of the gut microbiota in patients with established RA was different from that of healthy participants. Young RA patients (<45 years) had reduced richness, evenness, and distinct gut microbial compositions when compared with older RA patients and healthy individuals. Disease activity and rheumatoid factor levels were not associated with microbiome composition. Overall, biological DMARDs and csDMARDs, except sulfasalazine and TNF inhibitors, respectively, were not associated with the gut microbial composition in patients with established RA. However, the combination of Subdoligranum and Fus��enibacter genera was associated with a future good response to second-line csDMARDs in patients who showed an insufficient response to first-line csDMARDs.

Conclusion: Gut microbial composition in patients with established RA is different from that in healthy individuals. Thus, the gut microbiome has the potential to predict responses of some RA patients to csDMARDs.

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ANTI-CITRULLINATED PROTEIN ANTIBODY (ACPA) REACTIVITY TOWARDS NEUTROPHIL-DERIVED ANTIGENS: THE IMPACT OF CLONAL DIVERSITY AND INTER-INDIVIDUAL VARIATION

Background: Why the adaptive immune system turns against citrullinated antigens in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and whether anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA) contribute to pathogenesis is questions that have triggered intense research but still are not fully answered. Neutrophils may be crucial in this context, as sources of citrullinated antigens and also as targets of ACPAs.

Objectives: To better understand how ACPAs and neutrophils contribute to RA pathogenesis, we studied the reactivity of a broad spectrum of RA patient-derived ACPA clones to activated or resting neutrophils, and we also compared neutrophil binding using CCP2 captured polyclonal ACPAs from different patients.

Methods: Human neutrophils were isolated from the peripheral blood of healthy volunteers, individuals at risk for RA [1] and patients with established RA. The cells were activated using a Ca2+ ionophore, phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA), nigericin, and recombinantly expressed as monoclonal human (h)IgG1 in Expi293F cells, and expressed as polyclonal ACPA in their capacity to affect inflammatory processes in vivo.

Results: ACPAs targeted NET-like structures in all tested conditions but did not bind to the surface of intact cells or influence NETosis. We observed a prominent clonal diversity in the capacity of ACPAs to bind to neutrophil-derived antigens. PAD2 was dispensable but the majority of the clones required PAD4 for neutrophil binding. When using polyclonal ACPA preparations from different patients, we observed high patient-to-patient variability in targeting neutrophil-derived antigens. Similar inter-individual variability was observed in another cellular material. A substantial clonal diversity in targeting neutrophils and a high variability among individuals in both neutrophil binding and osteoclast stimulation suggest that ACPAs may influence RA-related symptoms with high patient-to-patient variability.

Conclusion: Neutrophils can be important sources of citrullinated antigens under conditions that lead to PAD4 activation, NETosis and the extrusion of intracellular material. A substantial clonal diversity in targeting neutrophils and a high variability among individuals in both neutrophil binding and osteoclast stimulation suggest that ACPAs may influence RA-related symptoms with high patient-to-patient variability.

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[3] Raposo, B.

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PATIENT-DERIVED ACPA CLONES DISPLAY BOTH PRO- AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY POTENTIAL IN VIVO

Keywords: Animal models, Rheumatoid arthritis, Autoantibodies

B. Raposo1, M. Gomes Afonso2, L. Israelsson1, R. Stålesen2, H. Wåhämåa2, M. Hansson1, A. Hensvold3, F. Wermeling2, D. Mueller4, B. Réthi5

C. Grönwall, L. Klæskog2, V. Malmström3, Karolinska Institutet, Dept. Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Solna, Sweden; 2Karolinska Institutet, Dep. Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Solna, Sweden; 3Center for Rheumatology, Academic Specialist Center, Stockholm, Sweden; 4University of Minnesota Medical School, Division of Rheumatic and Autoimmune Diseases, Minneapolis, United States of America

Background: Anti-citrullin protein autoantibodies (ACPA) are known to associate with strong risk factors for rheumatoid arthritis (RA), as well as worse clinical prognosis[1]. Due to their high specificity in RA, ACPA are part of the classification criteria and regarded as being essential in the identification of individuals at risk of developing RA. However, not every ACPA-positive at-risk individual progresses to a clinical diagnosis[2], suggesting that the presence of ACPA per se does not dictate the clinical outcome. We have recently shown that ACPA are in fact predominantly anti-inflammatory and present different biological effects in a murine model of arthritis[3]. Having a wide diversity of ACPA clones isolated from different tissues of RA patients at our disposal, we have continued to analyze different monoclonal as well as polyclonal ACPA in their capacity to affect inflammatory processes in vivo.

Objectives: To determine whether ACPA with pathogenic features, i.e. capable of increasing or sustaining joint inflammation, can be found among different isolated ACPA clones from patients with established RA.

Methods: Immunoglobulin from single B cells from RA patients were sequenced and recombinantly expressed as monoclonal human (h)IgG1 in Exp293F cells, followed by validation of citrulline reactivity. Here, we tested 5 new monoclonal ACPA isolated based on anti-citrullinated tetramer staining of B cells[4]. Polyclonal ACPA from 34 RA patients were enriched as a hACPA-pool. The bound IgG fraction was used as the flow-through control. Arthritis was induced in BALB/c mice by i.v. transfer of 1.5mg of an arthritogenic cocktail of anti-type II collagen (CII) antibodies (Chondrex, USA) followed by administration of 25ug of LPS (E. coli strain O55:B5) 3 days later. Individually, 1mg of purified ACPA monomers, 2mg of ACPA-pool or 2mg flow-through IgG were transferred i.v. together with the arthritogenic antibody cocktail. An isolate control antibody and a non-Arthritis control ACPA clone (hE02 and hNC03, respectively)[3] were used as experimental reference conditions. Arthritis development was monitored daily by a quantitative scoring system of inflamed joints – toes, knuckles, and wrist/ankle of front/hind paws. Statistical analysis was performed with repetitive-measure one-way ANOVA with Geisser-Greenhouse correction and Holm-Sidak’s multiple comparisons test.

Results: Adding to our previous data with 8 monoclonal ACPA[3], where 3 of them did not alter the disease course, and 4 displayed strong anti-inflammatory properties, we observed an additional 4 newly tested ACPA clones that did not influence arthritis development. Furthermore, we identified one novel monoclonal ACPA (hF2C05) that displays a pro-arthritogenic effect (p<0.01). When assessing a polyclonal ACPA sample, we observed a dominant anti-inflammatory ACPA clone (hE02 and hNC03, respectively)[3] used as experimental reference conditions. Arthritis development was monitored daily by a quantitative scoring system of inflamed joints – toes, knuckles, and wrist/ankle of front/hind paws. Statistical analysis was performed with repetitive-measure one-way ANOVA with Geisser-Greenhouse correction and Holm-Sidak’s multiple comparisons test.

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C. Pérez-Sanchez1, L. Muñoz-Barrera2, T. Cerdro3, R. Ortega Castro4, J. Calvo5, M.A. Aguirre6, P. Seguí Azpicueta7, I. Arias de la Rosa8, M.C. Abalos-Aguilera9, D. Ruiz10, C. Merlo11, P. Ortiz Bultraga12, J.J. Pérez Venegas13, D. Ruiz-Montesinos14, C. Dounolé15, C. Rodríguez-Escalera16, C.M. Romero-Barco17, A. Fernandez-Nebro18, N. Mena-Vázquez19, J. Uceda20, C. Santos21, N. Baraboña22, Puerto23, E. Collantes Estevez24, A. Escudero Contreras25, C. Lopez-Pedraza26, 1IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Córdoba, Spain; 2IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain; 3IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Radiology, Córdoba, Spain; 4IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Medical and Surgical Science, Córdoba, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena, Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain; 6Hospital Virgen de la Victoria, Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain; 7Hospital Regional Universitario de Malaga, Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain; 8Hospital Universitario Virgen de Valme, Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain

Background: Since lipid metabolism impact immune cell plasticity regulating cell activation, differentiation and function, the extensive analysis of the lipidomic profile using novel high-throughput metabolomic techniques in chronic inflammatory diseases such as Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) might contribute to better characterise the pathogenesis of the disease.

Objectives: To analyse the whole lipidomic profile in the serum of RA patients, its association with the disease activity and its modulation by biological and targeted synthetic therapies.

Methods: Two hundred and fifty consecutive RA patients were included in this study. Serum samples and clinical data (disease activity, acute phase reactants, autoimmune profile, etc) were obtained from all subjects. The lipidomic profile was analysed by using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy from Nighntigale LTD technology which included more than 200 lipid markers. In parallel, active RA patients from this cohort were prospectively followed up after 6 months of therapy with biologics [anti-TNFα (n=50), anti-IL6R (n=15)], and JAK inhibitors (JAK, n=20) and serum samples were obtained before and after those therapies where changes in the lipid and clinical profile were also evaluated.

Results: RA patients were stratified according to high (68), moderate (117) and low (65) disease activity and approximately 100 lipid markers were significantly altered in the serum of patients from these groups. Interestingly, most of the lipid markers were found reduced in the group of patients with high disease activity including apolipoproteins, cholesterol (free and in lipoproteins), fatty acids (saturated fatty acids (SFA), monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA), polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA)), Omega 3 and 6, Linoleic acid (LA), Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), triglycerides (alone and in lipoproteins), cholines, phospholipids, lipoproteins [high-density lipoproteins (HDL), low-density lipoproteins (LDL), very low-density lipoproteins (VLDL)], and the total lipid content present in those lipoproteins. These alterations of the lipidomic profile might be associated with an abnormal liver function linked to an exacerbated inflammatory status. Furthermore, multiple correlations were also found among those lipid markers and inflammatory [C-reactive protein (CRP) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate CRP (ESR)] and autoimmune parameters [anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA) and rheumatoid factor (RF)]. Interestingly, after six months of therapy, in parallel to the improvement in clinical and analytical profiles of RA patients, a significant upregulation of lipid markers was observed, including common and distinctive molecules reversed by each drug.

Conclusion: The circulating lipidomic profile of active RA patients is deeply reduced and directly linked to the activity of the disease, its inflammatory and autoimmune profile. In parallel to the clinical improvement of the disease, biological therapies and JAK re-establish the altered lipid metabolism.

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JANUS KINASE INHIBITOR SUPPRESSES THE DIFFERENTIATION AND FUNCTION OF TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR-ALPHA AND INTERLEUKIN-6 INDUCED OSTEOLASTS IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD MONOCYTES FROM PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines, Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs)

K. Yokota1, Y. Aizaki2, H. Kajiyama3, Y. Araki1, H. Yazawa1, Y. Akiyama1, T. Mimura1. Saitama Medical University, Department of Rheumatology and Applied Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Saitama, Japan

Background: We have previously reported that stimulation of mouse bone marrow–derived macrophages with tumor necrosis factor–α (TNF–α) and interleukin-6 (IL–6) induces differentiation of osteoclast-like cells having bone resorption ability[1]. Recently, we have shown that the combination of TNF–α and IL-6 can induce osteoclasts (OCs) from human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) via receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa-B ligand (RANKL)–independent pathways, and that there are functional differences between TNF–α and IL-6 induced OCs and RANKL induced OCs. In particular, the number of TNF–α and IL-6 induced OCs differentiated from PBMCs in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) positively correlated with the modified total Sharp score (mTSS). On the other hands, no such correlation was observed between the number of RANKL induced OCs from RA PBMCs and mTSS[2].

Objectives: We undertook this study to clarify whether Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors, a new class of disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, could inhibit the differentiation and function of TNF–α and IL-6 induced OCs using peripheral blood monocytes (PBMs) derived from patients with RA.

Methods: PBMs derived from RA patients and healthy donors were stimulated by TNF–α and IL-6 or RANKL with or without 10-1000 nm filgotinib, a JAK inhibitor. The number of tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase-positive multinucleated cells induced by TNF–α and IL-6 or RANKL and bone resorption activity using a pit formation assay were assessed. The examination was the number of TNF–α and IL-6 induced or RANKL induced OCs differentiated from PBMs in RA patients before and 6 months after treatment with filgotinib.

Results: The number of TNF–α and IL-6 induced OCs and RANKL induced OCs derived from PBMs in patients with RA was significantly increased compared to that derived from PBMCs in healthy donors (n = 5 each). Addition of filgotinib in vitro significantly inhibited the differentiation of TNF–α and IL-6 induced OCs derived from PBMs of RA patients in a dose-dependent manner. The same concentrations of filgotinib did not inhibit osteoclastogenesis induce by RANKL. Stimulation of RA PBMs by TNF–α and IL-6 in the presence of filgotinib significantly inhibited generation of resorption pits on dentin slices compared to findings in those PBMs in the absence of filgotinib. In contrast, stimulation of RA PBMs by RANKL with filgotinib showed generation of resorption pits in a manner similar to those generated by RANKL without filgotinib. Six months after treatment with filgotinib, the number of TNF–α and IL-6 induced OCs differentiated from PBMs was significantly decreased compared with those before the treatment, whereas no significant change in the number of RANKL induced OCs was observed in the same patients (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Our results suggest that the prevention effect of progressive bone destruction by JAK inhibitor in RA patients may involve inhibition of TNFα and IL-6 induced OC differentiation, as well as suppression of osteoclastic bone resorption activity.

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TNF-α and IL-6 induced OCs (well) RANKL-induced OCs (well)

Figure. A JAK inhibitor, filgotinib (FIL), inhibits the differentiation of TNF-α and IL-6-induced osteoclasts (OCs) in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMs) from patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Left: Six weeks after treatment with FIL, the number of TNF-α and IL-6-induced OCs differentiated from PBMs was significantly decreased compared with those of before the treatment. Right: No significant change in the number of RANKL-induced OCs was observed in the same patients (n=3 each).* p < 0.05.

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SKELETAL MUSCLE PGCA1A1 PREVENTS ARTHRITIS-INDUCED CAPILLARY RAREFACTION AND IMPEARED GLUCOSE UPTAKE

Keywords: Sarcopenia, Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis

POS1043
Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune inflammatory disease with prevalent musculoskeletal complications (Stein et al., 2019, Stein, Santos-Alves, & Lanner, 2020), including metabolic disturbances. Patients with RA have a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes (T2D) than the general population, however, the causality between RA and T2D is unknown. Skeletal muscle is essential for locomotor activity and the primary site for postprandial glucose disposal.

Objectives: Here we utilized a mouse model of arthritis and mice with chronic elevated expression of the transcriptional co-activator PGC1α1 to elucidate metabolic and functional alterations in skeletal muscle induced by chronic inflammation.

Methods: Arthritis was induced by complete Freund’s adjuvant (CFA, ankle injection) in female wildtype or muscle-specific PGC-1α1 transgenic (MCK-PGC1α1) mice. Glucose uptake (in vivo and ex vivo), immunofluorescence staining, and immunoblotting were assessed 14 days post-CFA injection. Gene expression was analyzed 3 days after CFA induction.

Results: In vivo glucose uptake was reduced by 50-80% in limb muscle (extensor digitorum longus, tibialis anterior, soleus) of mice with arthritis as compared with control mice. Despite this, GLUT4 abundance and membrane translocation were enhanced by ~160% and ~70%, respectively, in limb muscle afflicted by CFA as compared with control. However, no difference was observed in ex vivo glucose uptake between the two groups, suggesting the reduction in glucose uptake was due to an alteration in muscle blood perfusion. Expression of angiogenesis-associated genes, including PGC1α (total and α1 isoforms), VEGF (A and B), and ERR (α and γ) was decreased by 50-70% in muscles afflicted by CFA, which was accompanied by a 25% reduction in muscle capillary density (capillary rarefaction). Muscle specific chronic elevation of PGC1α prevented CFA, which was accompanied by a 25% reduction in muscle capillary density (capillary rarefaction). Muscle specific chronic elevation of PGC1α prevented CFA, which was accompanied by a 25% reduction in muscle capillary density (capillary rarefaction).

Conclusion: Induction of arthritis leads to reduced muscle capillary rarefaction and glucose uptake, which can advance the risk of developing metabolic disease. Strikingly, this pathophysiological development can be corrected by PGC-1α1.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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HISTOLOGICAL COMPOSITION OF (TENO)SYNOVIAL AND SYNOVIAL INFLAMMATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ACROSS DISEASE PHASES

Keywords: Synovium, Inflammatory arthritides, Rheumatoid arthritis

L. A. Coletto1, C. Tur1, F. Rubortone1, P. Verardi1, C. Di Mario2, B. Tolusso2, L. Petricca3, M. R. Gigante3, M. Gessi4, M. A. D'agostino5, M. M. Lizzio3, S. Alivernini2,5

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Background: Subclinical tenosynovitis arose as a primary sign of inflammation already in the pre-clinical phases of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and tenosynovitis is a common feature of active state and might persist although sustained remission is achieved. Objectives: To assess the histological features of (teno)synovium from the extensor digitorum tendons of the hand across RA trajectory and to compare it with paired synovial tissue samples.

Methods: Thirty-seven patients underwent minimally invasive ultrasound (US)-guided biopsy of the tenosynovium of extensor digitorum tendons [n=16 with clinically suspected arthralgia (CSA), n=19 with RA (n=4 naive, n=6 resistant to csDMARDs, n=8 to bDMARDs, and n=1 sustained in remission respectively)]. Twenty-three out of 37 patients presenting CSA or clinically evident synovitis in a peripheral joint (whether anatomically adjacent or not to the tendon of interest) underwent US-guided synovial tissue (ST) biopsy also in that location. The Krenn synovitis score (KSS) and the inflammatory infiltrate using CD68/CD21/CD3/CD20 immunohistochemical (IHC) analysis were assessed for each sample.

Results: Tenosynovium belonging to the extensor digitorum compartment of the wrist was successfully collected using a minimally invasive US-guided technique. Representative samples in terms of lining and sublining layers presence in 86.5% and 100% of cases, respectively. Considering the pre-arthritis subgroup, KSS was similar in ACPA/RF pos vs ACPA/RF neg CSA (p=0.5814) and KSS was contingent with RA activity, being significantly higher sublining CD20 pos and CD3 pos cells (for all comparisons p>0.05) between the pre-clinical phase and inflammatory cellular composition in adjacent anatomical sites of the disease state. Semiquantitative analysis showed comparable inflammatory score (KSS) and the inflammatory infiltrate using CD68/CD21/CD3/CD20 immunohistochemical (IHC) analysis were assessed for each sample.

Conclusion: (Teno)synovium is a retrievable tissue through a minimally invasive procedure across RA trajectory and its inflammation is directly related to the disease state. Semiquantitative analysis showed comparable inflammatory degree and inflammatory cellular composition in adjacent anatomical sites of the same person.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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IN ANTI-CCP POSITIVE AT RISK INDIVIDUALS, WHICH BIOMARKERS CHANGE PRIOR TO PROGRESSION TO INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS?

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Autoantibodies, Rheumatoid arthritis

L. Duquenne1, K. Harnden1, L. Garcia-Montoya1, A. Di Matteo1, R. Chowdhury1, J. Nam1, N. Sidhu1, K. Mankia1, P. Emery2

Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: The pre-clinical phase of inflammatory arthritis (IA) can be prolonged. Although many baseline biomarkers have shown predictive value for progression to IA, their evolution during the disease continuum remains unclear.

Objectives: To investigate which biomarkers change before progression to IA and assess their predictive value in the next 6 months.

Methods: In a single centre prospective cohort, 472 at-risk individuals were recruited with a positive anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody (anti-CCP Ab) and a new musculoskeletal symptom, but without clinical arthritis. They were followed prospectively until IA occurred. Sequential data on early morning stiffness (EMS) duration, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), anti-CCP2 Ab value, rheumatoid factor (RF) value, number of small joints tender on examination, number of joints with power Doppler grade ≥1 (PD≥1), health assessment questionnaire (HAQ), visual analog scale for general health (VAS GH), global pain (VAS GP), and fatigue (VAS fatigue) were analysed. Three time-intervals were investigated within the progression (P) group: less than 6 months (P<6M), 6 to 12 months (P 6-12M), and over 12 months before progression to IA (P>12M).

Paired analysis (Wilcoxon signed rank and McNemar tests) were used to compare P<6M and P>12M (PU), P<6M and P6-12M (PB) within the P group. Independent analyses (Mann Whitney U and Fisher’s tests) were used to compare the pre-progression (NP) and P groups. Time-intervals for NP visits were adjusted to P visits by time elapsed since first visit. Multivariate predictive analysis of change in biomarkers was done using random effects panel data using robust standard errors, adjusted for age and gender. Significant difference was defined by p<0.05.

Results: Paired analysis within P group showed significant increase in PU for RF, EMS, ESR, number of small joints tender, HAQ, and VAS GP, and in PB for EMS and VAS GP (Figure 1). After dichotomisation, significant increases were also found for EMS ≥30min, ≥1 joint PD≥1, VAS GP ≥50mm, ESR positive, and ≥1 small joint tender. Analysis between P and NP groups showed significant differences in anti-CCP2 Ab, RF, ESR, number of joints PD≥1, number of small joints tender on examination, and HAQ at multiple time-intervals (Figure 1). EMS and VAS GP were only different at P<6M. Multivariate panel data analysis showed predictive value in the change of anti-CCP2 Ab ≥3x upper limit of normal (ULN) (OR 51, p=0.041), positive RF (OR 7, p=0.002), ESR ≥30min (OR 9 p=0.004), and abnormal ESR (OR 7, p=0.046) for progression to IA within 6 months.

Conclusion: In anti-CCP2 Ab at-risk individuals, a change in predictive biomarkers occurs in the 6 months prior to IA development. Whilst EMS and VAS GP only show a late increase, multivariate panel data analysis suggest that anti-CCP2Ab ≥3xULN, positive RF, EMS ≥30min and positive ESR predict IA development within the next 6 months. These observations may be of value for monitoring at-risk individuals.

Table 1. Biomarkers characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NP group (N=330)</th>
<th>P group (N=142)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P&lt;6M before IA</td>
<td>P≥6M before IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CCP2 Ab value ≥3xULN A</td>
<td>412/783 (53%)</td>
<td>170/206 (83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive B</td>
<td>183/778 (24%)</td>
<td>120/189 (63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS minutes C</td>
<td>5 (0-30)</td>
<td>10 (0-30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR abnormal D</td>
<td>435/1307 (33%)</td>
<td>150/330 (45%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nb of small joint tender E</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nb of joint PD≥1 F</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ G</td>
<td>0.250 (0.0-0.875)</td>
<td>0.375 (0.0-1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH-VAS mm B</td>
<td>22 (7-47)</td>
<td>21 (8-47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-VAS mm B</td>
<td>27 (8-52)</td>
<td>27 (9-51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-VAS ≥50 A</td>
<td>375/1311 (29%)</td>
<td>100/353 (28%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A n/N (%), B Median (IGR), C N= number of visits with available data
the value of each biomarker with time; Progression (P) vs Non Progression (NP) groups. Un-paired 95% Confidence interval (95%CI) for Figure 1.

Figure 1. Biomarkers change through time. Un-paired 95% Confidence interval (95%CI) for the value of each biomarker with time; Progression (P) vs Non Progression (NP) groups. α Significant difference in paired analysis within P group between P>12M and P≥6M. β Significant difference in paired analysis within P group between P>12M and P≥6M. γ Significant difference in independent analysis between P and NP groups.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Keywords: Genetics/epigenetics, Inflammatory arthritides, Rheumatoid arthritis

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an inflammatory autoimmune disease characterized by systemic and localized bone impairment. Bone erosions, the hallmark lesions of RA, are an important predictor of disability, disease severity, and mortality. The arising of bone erosions is triggered by chronic inflammation, mediated mainly by immune cells. Under inflammatory conditions, classical (CD14++CD16-) monocytes are the main source of osteoclasts precursors, the accountable cells responsible for bone resorption process. Although previous transcriptomic studies have shown that CD14++CD16- monocytes have high expression of genes involved in inflammation and in extracellular matrix degradation process, there is no data regarding the impact of CD14++CD16- monocytes on bone destruction in RA.

Objectives: To analyze CD14++CD16- monocytes transcriptomic profile from RA patients presenting bone erosions evaluated by high-resolution peripheral quantitative computed tomography (HR-pQCT), comparing with RA patients without bone erosions and healthy controls.

Methods: Thirty-nine premenopausal RA women were included in this study. Based on bone erosion identification on metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joints of the dominant hand assessed by HR-pQCT, RA patients were classified into two groups according to the presence or absence of bone erosions. Twenty age- and body mass index-matched healthy subjects were enrolled in the control group. CD14++CD16- monocytes were indirectly isolated using the CD16 MicroBeads, and RNA-Sequencing was performed. Transcriptome analysis of CD14++CD16- monocytes from control group were used to account for background expression. The differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified and the analysis of the biological pathways was performed using bioinformatics tools.

Results: RNA-seq analysis revealed 1140 DEGs in RA patients with erosion, of which 89 were up-regulated and 1051 down-regulated compared to the group of patients without erosion. A top ranked genes suggested that the up-regulated genes were highly associated with immune response and cytokine activation. Interestingly, the down-regulated genes were associated with bone formation and wound healing (Table 1). Enriched pathways in patients with erosion were associated with substantial activation of immunity and inflammation. Pathways associated with osteoblast differentiation and the regulation of Wnt signaling were less activated in RA patients with erosion. Interestingly, while the activity of immune pathways was positively correlated with the number of bone erosions, a negative correlation was observed between the number of erosions with osteoblast differentiation and regulation of cell matrix adhesion.

Table 1. Top differentially expressed genes identified in RA patients with bone erosion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genes</th>
<th>Ave FC</th>
<th>FDR</th>
<th>Main biological process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up-regulated genes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSPA1B</td>
<td>9.26</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>Ubiquitin-proteasome pathway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-DQA2</td>
<td>6.35</td>
<td>0.0095</td>
<td>Adaptive immunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLF14</td>
<td>4.60</td>
<td>0.0416</td>
<td>Innate and adaptive immunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL18RAP</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>0.0017</td>
<td>Cytokine activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMTM1</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>0.0439</td>
<td>Chemokine activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down-regulated genes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARP6</td>
<td>0.0026</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>Collagen biosynthetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRRX1</td>
<td>0.0029</td>
<td>0.0004</td>
<td>Regulation of translation by RNA polymerase II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAB3B</td>
<td>0.0061</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>Regulation of ion transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHNK2</td>
<td>0.0065</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>Wound healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPP</td>
<td>0.0072</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>Bone formation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: These findings suggest that increasing of immuno-inflammatory activation and impairment of bone formation processes might potentially be a key driver of bone erosion in RA pathogenesis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Our acknowledgement to Prof. Dr Rosa MR Pereira (in memorian) who was responsible for the project starting.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POST1048

SEMAPHORIN3B PROMOTES A RESOLVING-INFLAMMATION PHENOTYPE IN MACROPHAGES FROM RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Genetics/epigenetics, Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

S. Martínez-Ramos1, C. Rafael Vidal1, B. Malvar Fernández1, N. Perez-Gomez1, C. Mouríño Rodríguez1, F. J. Maceiras-Par1, I. Altubás González2, J. M. Pego-Reigosa1, S. García1, Galicia Sur Health Research Institute (IIS Galicia Sur), SERGAS-UVIGO, Rheumatology & Immuno-Mediated Diseases Research Group (IRIDIS), Vigo, Spain

Background: Our group have recently shown that (Sema)phorin3B is reduced in RA patients and plays a protective role in an arthritis mouse model, through the reduction of inflammatory mediators and the synovial fibroblast invasiveness and was associated with a reduction of CD68 positive synovial macrophages (Igea, 2022). On the other hand, MerTK is a receptor protein kinase involved in the resolution of inflammation and plays a protective role in arthritis mice models (Waterborg, 2018). A recent study has shown that a population of synovial tissue macrophages characterized by the expression of MerTK are associated with remission maintenance and with an anti-inflammatory phenotype of RA FLS (Alivernini, 2020).

Objectives: The aim of this study is to determine the role of Sem3B in the phenotypic characteristics of RA macrophages and the implication of MerTK.

Methods: Peripheral blood monocytes from RA patients (n=10) were differentiated into macrophages by culturing in the presence of IFN-γ (10 ng/mL) for 6 days. Afterwards, macrophages were stimulated for 24 h with LPS (10 ng/mL). Sem3B (200 ng/mL) or the combination of both mediators. The expression of pro- and anti-inflammatory mediators was determined by quantitative PCR (qPCR) and ELISA. The expression of MerTK and macrophage surface markers was measured by flow cytometry.

Results: Sem3B did not modulate the macrophage expression of pro-inflammatory mediators IL1B, IL6, IL12B, IL23, TNF, CCL2, CXCL10 and CD86, but significantly reduced the LPS-induced expression of these mediators (Figure 1A), as well as the protein secretion of IL6, IL12p70 and TNF. In addition, Sem3B alone, but not in combination with LPS, significantly induced the gene and protein expression of MerTK and the secretion of Resolvin D1, a MerTK-mediated lipid involved in resolution of inflammation (Figure 1B). Moreover, Sem3B reduced the expression of the M1 marker CD64, while induced the expression of the M2 marker CD163.

Conclusion: Our data demonstrate that Sem3B modulates the macrophage phenotype of RA macrophages, inducing a skewing towards an anti-inflammatory/pro-resolving phenotype, likely in a MerTK-dependent manner. Therefore, here we identified a new mechanism involved in the protective role of Sem3B in RA pathogenesis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgments: All patients involved in this study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POST1049

INTERLEUKIN 40 IS INCREASED IN THE SERUM OF INDIVIDUALS AT RISK OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND STIMULATES AN INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE IN MONONUCLEAR CELLS VIA NFκB

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis

A. Navrátilová1,2, K. Pražijerová1, N. Petrovská1,2, P. Pavelka1,2, J. Vencovsky1,2, L. Šenolt1,2, M. Filková1,2, L. Andres Cerezo1,2. Institute of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic, Department of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic; 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, Department of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic

Background: Interleukin 40 (IL-40) is a new cytokine implicated in the pathogenesis of several autoimmune disorders including rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Recently, we found an association of IL-40 with the early stages of RA and demonstrated the pro-inflammatory potential of IL-40 on neutrophils.

Objectives: As the period preceding clinically apparent RA has not yet been fully described with respect to clinical biomarkers, we aimed to investigate IL-40 in individuals who are at risk of RA and to assess its functional mechanism in immune regulation in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs).

Methods: IL-40 was determined in the serum of individuals at risk of RA (defined as patients with arthralgia with no clinical arthritis at baseline who are either carriers of anti-citrullinated protein antibodies, ACPA, or meeting the EULAR definition of clinically suspect arthralgia) at baseline (n=179) and at the time of arthritis manifestation in patients who progressed to clinical arthritis (n=25). IL-40 was also analysed in the serum of age and sex-matched healthy controls (n=60). In vitro experiments were performed on PBMCs from at-risk individuals (n=10). PBMCs were exposed to recombinant IL-40 (10, 50, 100, and 250 ng/ml) and LPS. For inhibition studies, cells were pretreated with NFκB inhibitor prior to incubation with IL-40. Levels of IL-40 and IL-6 were measured by commercially available ELISA kits.

Results: Serum IL-40 was significantly up-regulated in at-risk individuals compared to healthy individuals (4.8 ± 0.2 vs. 1.5 ± 0.09 ng/ml, p<0.0001). Moreover, the levels of IL-40 were significantly higher in the serum of double-positive (ACPA+/rheumatoid factor, RF+) compared to double-negative at-risk individuals (n=10). PBMCs were exposed to recombinant IL-40 (10, 50, 100, and 250 ng/ml) and LPS. For inhibition studies, cells were pretreated with NFκB inhibitor prior to incubation with IL-40. Levels of IL-40 and IL-6 were measured by commercially available ELISA kits.

Conclusion: This is the first study to demonstrate the up-regulation of IL-40 in the serum of individuals at risk of RA. Moreover, we showed that IL-40 induces the pro-inflammatory response in PBMCs at-risk individuals via NFκB dependent pathway.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by AZV-NU21-05-00276, AZV-NU22-05-00226, MCRH 023728, SVV 260 523, and BMBF- CZ LM2018125.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5824
Rheumatoid arthritis - comorbidity and clinical aspects

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Lungs, Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs)

**POS1050 INCIDENCE RATES OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE AMONG PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH ABATACEPT: A POST HOC POOLED ANALYSIS FROM A COMPREHENSIVE OF CLINICAL TRIALS**

**Background:** Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a recognized complication of RA. Prior studies have suggested stabilization or improvement of ILD in patients with RA (RA-ILD) treated with abatacept.[1,2] Few studies have evaluated the background study rate of ILD.

**Objectives:** To determine the incidence rate of clinically significant ILD in a cohort of patients with RA receiving abatacept + MTX versus placebo + MTX from multiple clinical trials.

**Methods:** This retrospective analysis examined pooled safety data from ten phase 3 clinical trials of patients with RA treated with background MTX in combination with abatacept or placebo. The term ‘interstitial lung was used to identify incidences of ILD reported as AEs in the safety data. The exposure period for each patient was censored at first incidence of clinically significant ILD, 56 days after last study drug administration, or 1 day prior to commencement of another study drug, whichever occurred first. Poisson regression models were used to estimate crude incidence rates per 100 person-years for baseline risk factors within treatment groups, and to estimate incidence rate ratios for the placebo + MTX versus abatacept + MTX treatment groups. Disease activity parameters, DAS28 (CRP) and HAQ-DI, were estimated from baseline to the time of ILD diagnosis (as reported by AEs).

**Results:** In total, 3,708 patients (10,521 person-years) treated with abatacept + MTX and 999 patients (938 person-years) treated with placebo + MTX were included. Patients treated with placebo + MTX had a higher incidence rate of ILD per 100 person-years (95% CI) versus those treated with abatacept + MTX (0.43 [0.16–1.14] vs 0.10 [0.05–0.18], respectively; Figure 1). The incidence rate ratio of placebo + MTX versus abatacept + MTX treatment groups for the total population was 4.49 (95% CI: 1.23–13.42). For all subpopulations stratified by baseline risk factors (where > 1 patient in each treatment group had an ILD event), incidence rate ratios were > 2. Patients with RA aged ≥ 55 years, BMI < 30 kg/m², no history of smoking, no baseline DMARD use other than MTX, no prior TNF inhibitor use, corticosteroid use, high DAS28 (CRP) status, and RF or anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA) positivity were all significantly less likely to develop ILD if treated with abatacept + MTX versus placebo + MTX (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Incidence rates of ILD among patients with RA were significantly lower in those treated with abatacept + MTX than placebo + MTX, both in the total analysis population and subpopulations stratified by baseline risk factors. This suggests a possible protective benefit of abatacept on the incidence rate of RA-ILD. Limitations of this post hoc analysis include the different observation period lengths of the 2 treatment arms due to the optimization of clinical trials and the low number of patients with ILD events overall. However, the low incidence rate of ILD observed here is consistent with previously reported studies.[3]

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**Disclosure of Interests:** Philippe Dieude Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai, Janssen, Lilly, MEDAC, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Galapagos, Pfizer, Jeffrey Sparks Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Gilead, Inova Diagnostics, Janssen, Optum, Pfizer, Grant/ research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Aryeh Fischer Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Leo Chen Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Syneos Health, Karissa Lozenski Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Stephanie Dahan Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Consultant of: Otsuka Pharmaceutical, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen Pharmaceutical, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Mark Chaballa Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Wayne Little Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.250

**POS1051 LUNG CLUSTERING ANALYSIS-BASED PHENOTYPES OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-BASED TECHNOLOGY FOR CHEST COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Artificial intelligence, Lungs

**Y Nakayama** 1, R Nakashima** 1, T Handa** 1, K Tanizawa** 1, H Onizawa** 1, T Fuji** 1, K Murata** 1, K Murakami** 1, A Onishi** 1, M Tanaka** 1, M Shirakashi** 1, R Hiwa** 1, H Tsuji** 1, K Kikagoni** 2, S Akizuki** 1, H Yoshifujii** 1, A Morinobu** 1.

1Kyoto University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan; 2Kyoto University, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Kyoto, Japan; 3Kyoto University, Department of Advanced Medicine for Rheumatic Diseases, Kyoto, Japan; 4Kyoto University, Center for Cancer Immunotherapy and Immunobiology, Kyoto, Japan

**Background:** Lung involvement is a prevalent extrarticular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) that remains a significant clinical challenge. Few studies have comprehensively quantified lung abnormalities of RA patients using artificial intelligence-based (AI) technology.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to quantify lung lesions in RA patients and classify them based on their lung parameters.

**Methods:** An AI-based quantitative computed tomography (CT) image analysis software (AIQCT) was applied to high-resolution CT scans of RA patients in a cross-sectional manner. AIQCT automatically classified and quantified 10 types of parenchymal image patterns, expressing the volumes as percentages of total lung volume (V). Hierarchical Ward's linkage clustering based on these patterns identified five clusters. Visual assessments (ILD, and airway lesions) of HRCT and clinical phenotypes were assessed.

**Results:** A total of 408 RA patients were included in the study. The lung profiles of the five clusters were as follows: Cluster I (68.6%), characterized by nearly normal lungs; Cluster II (23.5%), characterized by slight lung lesions with honeycombs or ground-glass opacities (GGOs); Cluster III (5.6%), characterized by the
preponderance of GGos; Cluster IV (1.0%), characterized by a predominant hyperlucent area; and Cluster V (1.2%), characterized by extensive lung abnormalities (Figure 1, Table 1). The number of patients in each cluster with ILD and airway lesions, based on visual assessments, were as follows: [ILD] Cluster I, 1/280 (0.3%); Cluster II, 1/96 (1.0%); Cluster III, 5/23 (21.7%); Cluster IV, 0/4 (0%); and Cluster V, 5/5 (100%) (p < 0.001); [airway lesions] Cluster I, 31/280 (11.1%); Cluster II, 29/96 (30.2%); Cluster III, 6/23 (26.1%); Cluster IV, 0/4 (0%); and Cluster V, 1/5 (20%) (p < 0.001). Clinical characteristics of each cluster were described in Table 1. The disease activity of RA in each cluster were as follows: [DAS28ESR, mean (SD)] Cluster I, 2.4 (1.0); Cluster II, 3.0 (1.2); Cluster III, 2.8 (1.0); Cluster IV, 2.2 (0.7); and Cluster V, 3.0 (0.8) (p < 0.001); [HAQ, mean (SD)] Cluster I, 0.4 (0.6); Cluster II, 0.9 (0.9); Cluster III, 1.1 (0.9); Cluster IV, 0.3 (0.3); and Cluster V, 0.8 (0.9) (p < 0.001).

Conclusion: This study is the first to classify lung lesions in comprehensive RA patients using quantitative data derived from novel AI technology. The AIQCT-derived clustering of RA patients appears to be associated with their clinical backgrounds and characteristics.


Table 1. Scores of ten lung parenchymal image patterns and clinical characteristics in each cluster.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>l (n=280)</th>
<th>II (n=96)</th>
<th>III (n=23)</th>
<th>IV (n=4)</th>
<th>V (n=5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIOCT lung score (%), mean (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>92.9 (15.9)</td>
<td>90.7 (2.5)</td>
<td>87.4 (18)</td>
<td>76.3 (5.1)</td>
<td>80.2 (16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGos</td>
<td>0.7 (0.3)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.4)</td>
<td>2.9 (1.4)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.3)</td>
<td>2.4 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>0.1 (0.1)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.4)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.2 (0.2)</td>
<td>3.8 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidation</td>
<td>0.1 (0.0)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.3)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.2)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.6)</td>
<td>1.8 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeycomb</td>
<td>0.0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0.08 (0.3)</td>
<td>0.01 (0.02)</td>
<td>0.07 (0.05)</td>
<td>3.1 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small nodules</td>
<td>0.1 (0.06)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.2)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.1 (0.04)</td>
<td>5.0 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlobular septum</td>
<td>0.1 (0.06)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.2)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.3)</td>
<td>0.1 (0.07)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperlucency</td>
<td>0.1 (0.3)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.1 (0.1)</td>
<td>17.3 (3.9)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchi</td>
<td>1.8 (0.3)</td>
<td>2.4 (0.5)</td>
<td>2.5 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.04)</td>
<td>1.6 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood vessels</td>
<td>4.4 (1.0)</td>
<td>4.1 (1.1)</td>
<td>5.5 (1.1)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.04)</td>
<td>4.2 (1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>62.9 (12.0)</td>
<td>72.2 (8.0)</td>
<td>70.4 (9.9)</td>
<td>68.5 (4.8)</td>
<td>60.0 (8.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex; female, n (%)</td>
<td>240 (86)</td>
<td>81 (84)</td>
<td>19 (83)</td>
<td>1 (25)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking history, n (%)</td>
<td>94 (34)</td>
<td>25 (26)</td>
<td>8 (35)</td>
<td>4 (100)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA titer, mean (SD)</td>
<td>94 (165)</td>
<td>151 (216)</td>
<td>184 (328)</td>
<td>120 (130)</td>
<td>288 (425)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX, n (%)</td>
<td>201 (72)</td>
<td>64 (67)</td>
<td>13 (57)</td>
<td>3 (75)</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSL, n (%)</td>
<td>45 (16)</td>
<td>32 (33)</td>
<td>8 (35)</td>
<td>1 (25)</td>
<td>4 (80)</td>
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<tr>
<td>bDMARDs, n (%)</td>
<td>136 (49)</td>
<td>45 (47)</td>
<td>9 (39)</td>
<td>2 (50)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Clustering constellation tree diagram for ten lung parenchymal HRCT image patterns of rheumatoid arthritis.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: Yoichi Nakayama: None declared, Ran Nakashima: None declared, Tomohiro Handa: None declared, Kiminobu Tanizawa: None declared, Hideo Onizawa: None declared, Takayuki Fujii: None declared, Koji Kato: None declared, Akio Morinobu: None declared.


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Figure 1. Clustering constellation tree diagram for ten lung parenchymal HRCT image patterns of rheumatoid arthritis.
Table 1. Patient characteristics at the first available visit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>RA-ILD (n=84)</th>
<th>no RA-ILD (n=11,703)</th>
<th>RA-ILD (n=19)</th>
<th>no RA-ILD (n=418)</th>
<th>RA-ILD (n=21)</th>
<th>no RA-ILD (n=1,077)</th>
<th>RA-ILD (n=18)</th>
<th>no RA-ILD (n=2,729)</th>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>57.9±10.6</td>
<td>46.6±15.3</td>
<td>62.1±13.3</td>
<td>52.7±12.6</td>
<td>52.8±10.2</td>
<td>50.5±12.8</td>
<td>57.4±9.2</td>
<td>55.8±14.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>0.021</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>108.4</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>89.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>(18.0-95.9)</td>
<td>(23.9-143.9)</td>
<td>(43.9-206.8)</td>
<td>(46.7-159.6)</td>
<td>(8.3-58.4)</td>
<td>(13.1-92.5)</td>
<td>(19.7-28)</td>
<td>(16-8.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>0.029</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (female)</td>
<td>0.043</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>0.043</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>4.6±14</td>
<td>4.6±14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ever smoker</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>91.5±29.9</td>
<td>76.7±32.8</td>
<td>90.9±13.3</td>
<td>90.9±13.3</td>
<td>45.0±22.8</td>
<td>37±12.8</td>
<td>44.3±23.5</td>
<td>32.0±25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>9.1±13</td>
<td>9.1±13</td>
<td>9.1±13</td>
<td>9.1±13</td>
<td>9.1±13</td>
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<td>9.1±13</td>
<td>9.1±13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global assessment</td>
<td>51.2±21.0</td>
<td>53.8±18.3</td>
<td>27±10.6</td>
<td>111.2</td>
<td>60.1±24.9</td>
<td>31.5±26.4</td>
<td>41.1±25.3</td>
<td>22.2±19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p value</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acra positive</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.31</td>
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<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are presented as mean±SD, median (IQR), %.*Insufficient data available

**Prevalence of Fibrosing Progressive Interstitial Lung Disease in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients**

**Keywords:** Lungs, Rheumatoid arthritis

**Background:** Intestinal lung disease (ILD) related to rheumatoid arthritis (RA) significantly impacts on quality of life and survival of the patients. Data about prevalence and natural history of RA-ILD are only partially known and mainly based on retrospective studies. The recent introduction of antifibrotic drugs has allowed for the first time the opportunity to treat ILD in RA patients; in fact, INBUILD study demonstrated the efficacy of nintedanib in the treatment of progressive fibrosing ILD different than idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), including RA-ILD, but the prevalence of RA-ILD patients that may potentially benefit from nintedanib therapy remain unknown.

**Aims:** Aim of the present multicenter Italian study was to investigate the prevalence of fibrosing progressive patterns in a cross-sectional cohort of non-selected RA-ILD patients.

**Methods:** We enrolled in the study all RA patients according to 2010 EULAR/ACR classification criteria, with an ILD confirmed at high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) and with a follow-up of at least 24 months. According to the current indication of nintedanib, patients were defined as having a progressive fibrosing ILD in case of a relative decline in forced vital capacity (FVC) ≥10% predicted and/or an increased extent of fibrotic changes on chest imaging in a 24-month-period. Respiratory symptoms were excluded to reduce possible bias due to the retrospective interpretation of cough and dyspnea.

**Results:** One hundred and thirty-four RA-ILD patients were enrolled in the study (males/females 54/80, mean age 72±9.5 years, mean RA and ILD duration 13.1±9.5 and 4.6±4.1 years, respectively). Anticitrullinated peptides antibodies (ACPA) and rheumatoid factor (RF) were recorded in 76.2% and 87.6% of cases, respectively. According to radiologic features, ILD was classified as probable or definite usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) in 50.7% of patients, NSIP in 19.4% and other patterns in 29.8%. A fibrotic pattern was reported in 73.9% of cases (all patients with UIP pattern, 57.7% of patients with NSIP and 40% with other pattern). A relative decline of 6.8% of forced vital capacity (FVC) was recorded during the follow-up, without significant difference between fibrosing and non-fibrosing ILD (6.3%±13.8 vs 5.9±12.3%, respectively). A relative FVC decline ≥ 10% and/or a progression of radiologic fibrotic involvement was observed in 38.8% of patients. As expected, a significant difference in relative decline of FVC was recorded between progressive and non-progressive ILD (15.7%±16.4 vs -1.3%±8.3, respectively).

**Conclusion:** The recent introduction of nintedanib for the treatment of fibrosing progressive ILD different by IPF has potentially changed the paradigm for the treatment of RA-ILD. In fact, for the first time, rheumatologist has a therapy available with efficacy on RA related lung involvement. This study shows some limitations. The retrospective design and the need of serial HRCT and FVC could underestimate the prevalence of progressive lung disease. Finally, some patients were already treated with antifibrotic drugs, possibly influencing the evolution of lung disease in the last 2 years. In conclusion, about a third of RA-ILD patients shows a fibrosing progressive pattern of ILD and might benefit of antifibrotic treatment, alone or in combination with anti-rheumatic drugs. For RA patients with progressive non-fibrosing ILD, we need more studies to establish the best therapeutic approach.

**References:**


**Disclosures of Interests:** Andrea Manfredi Speakers bureau: BMS, Lilly, and Boehringer-Ingelheim, Vincenzo Venerito: None declared, Massimiliano Cazzato: None declared, Stefano Gentileshi: None declared, Laura La Corte: None declared, Anna Maria Iuliano: None declared, Giulia Cassone: None declared, Caterina Vacchi: None declared, Caterina Tomassini: None declared, Alessandra

---

**Figure 1.**
Rai: None declared, Marlea Lavista: None declared, Dario Andrisani: None declared, Elenia Laurino: None declared, Claudia Canofari: None declared, Marta Mosca: None declared, Florenzo Iannone: None declared, Marco Sebastiani: None declared, Elenia Laurino: None declared, Claudia Canofari: None declared, Marta Mosca: None declared.

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) can have a significant impact on the long-term outcome in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) but international screening guidelines for early diagnosis of RA-ILD are lacking. It is unknown to date how RA patients are screened for ILD in clinical practice. An analysis of patients’ experiences and perspectives will help identify current practice and guide future directions to optimize screening, management and patients care.

Objectives: To identify patients’ experiences and unmet clinical needs regarding screening for RA-ILD.

Methods: An international multidisciplinary panel of 18 ILD experts developed and distributed an online-based survey in 12 languages for RA patients with and without ILD from August to December 2022 to receive self-reported data. User representatives of relevant patient associations and RA patients with and without ILD refined and piloted the survey questions. The survey covered management strategies, including information about awareness of ILD, screening for ILD and patient perspectives on future directions. The study was approved by the Ethics committee of the University Clinic Heidelberg, Germany, and patients consented before starting the online survey.

Results: In total, 1132 RA patients from 11 countries answered the survey. Mean age was 57 (SD13.6) years, 129 (12%) were males, 690 (75%) had seropositive RA activity, mean (SD) 4.4 (2.4) for ILD, of which 75% by x-ray, 49% by high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT), 49% with pulmonary function test (PFT), 23% with respiratory symptoms, 40% with auscultation and 194/387 (59%) were screened with several modalities. Older age, male sex, presence of other lung comorbidities and treatment with Rituximab or Abatacept were associated with screening assessed by PFT (OR 3.42, 95%CI 2.11-5.36, p<0.001) and Smoker, n (%) 499 (47) 182 (49) 261 (45) Any comorbidity, n (%) 630 (58) 252 (66) 322 (54) RA activity, mean (SD) 4.4 (2.4) 4.4 (2.4) 4.5 (2.5) Male, n (%) 129 (12) 72 (19) 41 (7) Female, n (%) 603 (55) 297 (77) 375 (73) Seropos RA, n (%) 57 (13.6) 59 (13.2) 55 (13.8) Smoker, n (%) 499 (47) 182 (49) 261 (45) Any comorbidity, n (%) 630 (58) 252 (66) 322 (54) MTX, n (%) 693 (61) 244 (63) 380 (62) bDMARD, n (%) 566 (52) 226 (58) 298 (49) RA activity, mean (SD) 4.4 (2.4) 4.4 (2.4) 4.5 (2.5) Male, n (%) 129 (12) 72 (19) 41 (7) Female, n (%) 603 (55) 297 (77) 375 (73) Seropos RA, n (%) 57 (13.6) 59 (13.2) 55 (13.8) Smoker, n (%) 499 (47) 182 (49) 261 (45) Any comorbidity, n (%) 630 (58) 252 (66) 322 (54) MTX, n (%) 693 (61) 244 (63) 380 (62) bDMARD, n (%) 566 (52) 226 (58) 298 (49)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Anna-Maria Hofmann-Vold Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Medscape, Merck Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Consultant of: ARXX, Boehringer Ingelheim, Genentech, Janssen, Mandarin, Merck Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Katerina Antoniou Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jérôme Avouac: None declared, Elisabeth Bendstrup Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Daichi Sankyo, Graham Brown: None declared, Ivan Castelvi: None declared, Santos Castaneda Speakers bureau: BMS, Lilly, Roche, Consultant of: Sanofi, Roche, Vincent Cochin Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene/ BMS, CSL Behring, Roche, Shinogi, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene/ BMS, CSL Behring, Ferrer/ United Therapeutica, Pliant, Pure Tech, RedX, Roche, Shinogi, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim: Unrestricted grant to institution, Bruno Crestani Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Philippe Dieudé: None declared, Liam Dow et al: None declared, Joseph Jacobs Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Takeda, GSK, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Grant/ research support from: GSK, Steve Jones: None declared, Andreas Krause Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Grant/research support from: UCB, Preston Long: None declared, Britta Maurer Speakers bureau: Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, GSK, MSD, Otsuka, Consultant of: Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen-Cilag, GSK, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Protagen, Novartis Biomedical, Erika Mosor: None declared, Toby M Maher: None declared, Polina Pchelnikova: None declared, Nelleke Tak Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jesus de Vries-Bouwstra Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Consultant of: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Galapagos, Roche, Boehringer Ingelheim, be paid to potential lung involvement by their treating physician and 98% wanted more research in RA-ILD.

Conclusion: Based on this self-reported patient survey, information about ILD provided to RA patients is frequently limited. Only one third are screened for ILD. The majority of patients stated a clear need for more information on RA-ILD, increasing awareness of lung involvement in RA should be a priority in clinical practice and research.

Table 1. Disease characteristics of all RA patients, and patients screened and not screened for ILD

![Figure 1](image-url)
Background: Quantitative computed tomography (QCT) methods have been developed to automatically quantify parenchymal lung features on chest CT imaging. There have been limited investigations of QCT in RA participants and non-RA comparators or studies of the mortality impact of QCT features in RA.

Objectives: Determine the association and mortality impact of QCT features in RA and non-RA participants.

Methods: We analyzed associations between RA and QCT features in COPDGene, a multicenter cohort study of current or former smokers that excluded participants with known interstitial lung disease or bronchiectasis. We identified participants with and without RA using RA self-report and DMARD use. We assessed the lung parenchyma in each scan by categorizing regions of interest into normal lung, interstitial changes, or emphysema using the local tissue density and distance from the pleural surface. Interstitial changes were subclassified into nodular, subpleural, and reticular, and classified as subpleural line, ground glass, and honeycomb.

Results: We identified 82 RA cases and 8820 non-RA comparators. RA was associated with a lower percentage of normal lung (85.8% vs. 91.0%, p=0.0001), increased interstitial changes (70% vs. 4.8%, p=0.0001), and no statistical difference in emphysema (2.6% vs. 1.9%, p=0.09) compared to non-RA comparators.

In linear regression analyses adjusted for age, sex, smoking status, pack-years, BMI, and other lifestyle factors, the combination of RA and >75th percentile of emphysema had significantly higher mortality (HR 5.56, 95%CI 2.71-11.38) with <75th percentile of emphysema.

Conclusion: Using machine learning-derived QCT data in a cohort of smokers, we found that RA was associated with increased interstitial changes, even after adjustment for smoking and other lifestyle factors. The combination of RA and emphysema conferred greater than 5-fold increased mortality.

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Table 1. Quantitative CT features and multivariable linear regression by RA status in COPDGene (n=8920)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>RA cases (n=82)</th>
<th>Non-RA comparators (n=8820)</th>
<th>Unadjusted p-value</th>
<th>Adjusted p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal lung</td>
<td>85.8 (77.3-92.4)</td>
<td>91.0 (87.9-94.7)</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestinal</td>
<td>4.0 (3.0-7.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>1.72±0.51</td>
<td>0.0008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subpleural line</td>
<td>0.40 (0.00-0.07)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.08±0.03</td>
<td>0.0009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeycomb</td>
<td>0.05 (0.00-0.05)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>0.058±0.02</td>
<td>0.0003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centrilobular</td>
<td>0.005 (0.000-0.005)</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>-0.006±0.01</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nodular</td>
<td>0.008 (0.004-0.012)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>-0.005±0.03</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground glass</td>
<td>0.005 (0.000-0.008)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.0016±0.02</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphysema</td>
<td>2.6 (1.9-3.3)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>1.3±1.7</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* linear regression adjusted for age, sex, smoking status (current/former), pack-years, BMI

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Figures 1. Morbidity and mortality hazard ratios stratified by RA status and smoking status.

Figure 2. Cumulative mortality and hazard ratios stratified by RA status and smoking status.
Gary Hunninghake Consultant of: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Chugai Pharmaceuti-
cals, Gerson Lehrman Group, Eden Silverman Grant/research support from:
Bayer, GlaxoSmithKline, Paul San Jose Estepar Shareholder of: Quantitative
Imaging Solutions, Speakers bureau: Chiesi, Consultant of: Leuko Labs, Grant/
research support from: Lung Biotechnology, Insmed, Boehringer Ingelheim,
Imbuc, Samuel Ash Shareholder of: Quantitative Imaging Solutions, George
Washko Shareholder of: Quantitative Imaging Solutions, Consultant of: Pulmonx,
Janssen, Novartis, Vertex, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim,
Jeffrey Sparks Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, BMS,
Gilead, Inova Diagnostics, Janssen, Optum, Pfizer, Grant/research support from:
Bristol Meyers Squibb,
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1032

POS1056 CYTOKINE ANALYSIS IN PATIENTS WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Comorbidities, Cytokines and chemokines, Biomarkers

J. M. Lisboa1,2,3, A. Muñeces1,2, B. Oliver-Martos1,2,4, G. Díaz-Cordobes1,2, I. Ureta1, R. Redondo1, S. Manrique Arija1,2,3, A. Fernandez-Nebro1,2, M. N. Mené-Vázquez1,2,3, Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga (IBIMA)-Plataforma Biodián, Enfermedades Inmunitarias y Autoinmunes, Málaga, Spain; 1Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga, UGC de Reumatología, Málaga, Spain; 2Universidad de Málaga, Departamento de Medicina y Dermatología, Málaga, Spain; 3Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga, UGC de Neurociencia, Málaga, Spain

Background: Intestinal lung disease (ILD) is the most frequent non-pleural
manifestation in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and causes high morbidity and mortality [1-3]. Currently, there are no clinically useful serum markers for the diagnosis and prognosis of RA associated ILD (RA-ILD) [4].

Objectives: To identify soluble cytokines that work as biomarkers for diagnosis and prognosis in RA-ILD and explore whether there is an association between those and pulmonary progression.

Methods: Observational case-control study nested in a prospective cohort of cases of patients with RA (ACR/EULAR 2010) [5] with and without ILD, paired by sex, age, and time of RA evolution. All subjects underwent pulmonary function tests (PFTs) and high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) on the inclusion date (protocol date) and, in cases of RA-ILD, also on diagnosis of ILD. The primary variable ILD was defined according to lung biopsy or HRCT according to the American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Criteria [6], and pulmonary progression was defined as worsening FVC >10% or DLCO >15% [4]. Inflammation variables included inflammatory activity data measured by DAS28-ESR and a cytokine multiplex including Th1/Th2 function, inflammatory cytokines, and chemokines. Other clinical, RA severity and therapeutic variables were also studied: rheumatoid factors (RF), anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies (ACPA), radiological erosions, and Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) values. A descriptive analysis and two Cox regression models were performed to identify factors associated with ILD and ILD progression in RA, adjusting for time to development of ILD-RA and to ILD progression, respectively.

Results: A total of 70 subjects were included, 35 RA-ILD cases and 35 RA controls without ILD (Table 1). A higher percentage of patients with RA-ILD compared to the rest, presented elevated RF (p=0.089) and ACPA levels (p=0.031), higher DAS28-ESR values (p=0.032), number of swollen joints (p=0.040) and worse quality of life measured by HAQ (p=0.003). The variables that were independently associated with ILD and a cytokine multiplex including Th1/Th2 function, inflammatory cytokines, and chemokines. Other clinical, RA severity and therapeutic variables were also studied: rheumatoid factors (RF), anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies (ACPA), radiological erosions, and Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) values. A descriptive analysis and two Cox regression models were performed to identify factors associated with ILD and ILD progression in RA, adjusting for time to development of ILD-RA and to ILD progression, respectively.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the study population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>RA-ILD m=35</th>
<th>RA without ILD m=35</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RF+ (&gt;10), n (%)</td>
<td>33 (93.4)</td>
<td>31 (88.6)</td>
<td>0.393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High RF (&gt;30)</td>
<td>24 (68)</td>
<td>17 (48)</td>
<td>0.089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA+ (&gt;20), n (%)</td>
<td>32 (91.4)</td>
<td>31 (88.6)</td>
<td>0.690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High ACPA (&gt;340), n (%)</td>
<td>22 (63.0)</td>
<td>14 (40.0)</td>
<td>0.039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions, n (%)</td>
<td>21 (60.0)</td>
<td>19 (55.6)</td>
<td>0.706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR, mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.1 (2.9)</td>
<td>2.6 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission/low activity, n (%)</td>
<td>19 (54.3)</td>
<td>27 (77.1)</td>
<td>0.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate/high activity, n (%)</td>
<td>16 (45.7)</td>
<td>8 (22.9)</td>
<td>0.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of swollen joints, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0.0 (0.0-0.0)</td>
<td>0.0 (0.0-0.0)</td>
<td>0.040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ, mean (SD)</td>
<td>12 (0.6)</td>
<td>8 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Patients with RA-ILD show higher inflammatory activity than RA patients without ILD. Some cytokines are associated both with diagnosis and with a worse prognosis in patients with RA-ILD, so they could be potential bio-
markers for this entity. Future studies are needed to validate these data and confirm the findings.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by Youth Guarantee Aid 2020 (UMA, SNGJSY6–12) and PAIDI Study Group for Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases (CTS-1034)

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2217

POS1057 LUNG ULTRASONOGRAPHY AS A SCREENING TOOL FOR INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: RESULTS FROM A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: Ultrasound, Rheumatoid arthritis, Systematic review

A. Alunno1, S. Bellando Randone2, E. Pintus3, N. Piccini4, J. Schoones5, M. Matsuuchi-Cerinc4,5, Internal Medicine and Nephrology Unit, University of L’quila, Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, L’quila, Italy; 2Division of Rheumatology, AOU, Dept. Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Firenze, Florence, Italy; 3Leiden University Medical Center, Directorate of Research Policy (formerly Walaeus Library), Leiden, Netherlands; 4IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, UniRRA, Milan, Italy

Background: In rheumatoid arthritis (RA), interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a frequent pulmonary manifestation which is responsible for a high morbidity and mortality. Chest high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) is the imaging gold standard for the diagnosis and characterisation of ILD. Recently, the use of lung ultrasonography (US) has been suggested as a valid, less invasive and radiation-free tool in the pulmonary screening process.

Objectives: To review the reliability of lung US as a screening tool for the diag-

nosis of ILD in RA patients.

Methods: A systematic literature search in several databases was con-
ducted following the PICO framework on July 2022. Two researchers inde-
pendently screened abstracts and titles, and full texts were subsequently
reviewed to determine eligibility (original research articles enrolling adult RA
patients undergoing lung US and HRCT). Data from eligible articles were
extracted and risk of bias was assessed with validated tools. Owing to ex-
tensive interstudy heterogeneity, narrative summaries had to be used to
to present the data.

Results: Out of 890 retrieved papers, only 7 were eligible and only 5 of them
enrolled a control group (Table 1). All studies had a cross-sectional design and no
follow-up data were available. Although all studies relied on the US identification
of B-lines, the number of intercostal spaces assessed as well as the threshold/
threshold score to classify the findings as ILD or no-ILD varied across studies. Fur-

more, some studies also focused on the irregularities of the pleural line. The
sensitivity of lung US ranged between 62.2 and 97.1% while specificity ranged
between 89 and 100%. However, the studies’ heterogeneity did not allow any
comparison. In RA patients with neither respiratory symptoms nor previous ILD
diagnosis, the concordance in identifying pathological findings between US and
HRCT ranged between 90 and 100%.

Figure 1. Cox regression analysis adjusted for time of evolution of RA

Conclusion: Patients with RA-ILD show higher inflammatory activity than RA patients without ILD. Some cytokines are associated both with diagnosis and with a worse prognosis in patients with RA-ILD, so they could be potential bio-
markers for this entity. Future studies are needed to validate these data and confirm the findings.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by Youth Guarantee Aid 2020 (UMA, SNGJSY6–12) and PAIDI Study Group for Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases (CTS-1034)

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2217
Conclusion: Our Systematic Literature Review shows that lung US may have a role as screening tool for ILD in RA and also in asymptomatic patients. The implementation of the routine use of lung US in RA might allow an early identification and a prompt treatment of RA-ILD patients as well. However, the harmonization of US findings is required to allow either for the comparison of research studies and for a broad implementation of lung US in clinical practice.

Table 1. Characteristics and main findings of studies with a control group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Controls</th>
<th>Comparator</th>
<th>US Se%</th>
<th>US Sp%</th>
<th>Thresholds for Se and Sp calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Güteroz 2022 ILD</td>
<td>ILD 74 RA w/o</td>
<td>NS 74 HRCT</td>
<td>92 89</td>
<td>≥ 6 B-lines in 14 ICS 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foroh 2020 ILD</td>
<td>ILD 75 RA w/o</td>
<td>HRCT, PFT</td>
<td>88 100</td>
<td>LUS score ≥ 5.5 in 14 ICS 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mené-Vázquez 2020 ILD</td>
<td>ILD 35 RA w/o</td>
<td>HRCT, PFT</td>
<td>62.2 91.3</td>
<td>5.5 B-lines in 8 ICS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moazedi-Furst 2015 ILD</td>
<td>RA w/o 25</td>
<td>NS HRCT</td>
<td>NR NR NR</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moazedi-Furst 2014 ILD</td>
<td>RA w/o 64</td>
<td>HRCT</td>
<td>97.1 97.3</td>
<td>Multiple B lines, irregularities of the pleural line &gt; 2.8 mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Semiquantitative scale of B-line number: 0 = normal (≤ 5 B lines); 1 = slight (≥ 6 and ≤ 15); 2 = moderate, (≥ 16 and ≤ 30); 3 = severe (≥ 30).*

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS658 CORRELATION BETWEEN SERUM KL-6 AND ANTI-MODIFIED PROTEIN ANTIBODIES (AMPAS) IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Biomarkers, Lungs, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. C. Sarmiento-Monroy1, A. Pérez-Isidro2,3, R. Castellanos Moreira4,5, V. Ruiz6, B. Frade-Sosa1, A. Azuaga1, J. Ramírez7, M. J. Gomora7, C. García-Moreno7, I. Haro8, A. Colmenero8, M. Morales-Ruiz9,10, E. Ruiz-Ortiz9,10, V. Viñas9,10,11, F. Hernández-González11, J. Sellares8,9, J. D. D. Cañete11, R. Sanmartí11, J. A. Gómez-Puerta11, H. Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; H. Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Immunology, Barcelona, Spain; 3. Institut d’Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), Immunology, Barcelona, Spain; 4. Hospital Clinic of Barcelona (Grant # 37 933) and the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Grant # RTI2018-094120-B-I00).

Background: Some studies have shown that Krebs von den Lungen-6 (KL-6) may be a valuable biomarker for diagnosis and stratifying prognosis in Rheumatoid Arthritis-Associated Interstitial Lung Disease (RA-ILD). Cytokinna and carboxylation are responsible for generating Anti-Modified Protein/Peptide Antibodies (AMPAs) and are associated with RA-ILD.

Objectives: To evaluate the correlation between serum KL-6 and AMPAs in patients with RA.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study that included patients with RA (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria) with available KL-6 and AMPAs data measured in blood serum at study enrolment. ILD was diagnosed by high-resolution computed tomography and confirmed by a multidisciplinary committee. Serum KL-6 levels were measured by Lumipulse G KL-6 Kit (FujiRebio, Japan), using Chemiluminescent enzyme immunoassay (CLEIA). The reference value for KL-6 in healthy subjects was 118-627 U/mL. The inter-assay variation coefficient of the reagent was ≤ 4.4%. AMPAs repertoire tested included ACPA, anti-carbamylated protein antibodies (anti-CarP), and autoantibodies to malondialdehyde-acetaldehyde (anti-MAA). ACPA, anti-CarP, and anti-MAA were determined by made-by-hand ELISA tests. Antigens, cut-off values, and isotypes tested are depicted in Table 1. Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient was used to analyze the correlation between serological markers.

Results: A total of 128 patients were included (24 RA-ILD and 104 RA-non-ILD). Patient characteristics were as follows: female 73%, mean age 60.3 ± 12.4 years, mean disease duration 6.5 ± 4.7 years, RF positive 66%, anti-CCP positive 83.6%, erosive disease 54.7%, and mean DAS28 2.94. Most patients received treatment with methotrexate 84 (65.6%), glucocorticoids 72 (56.3%), and biological DMARDs 23 (18.0%). Among RA-ILD patients, the median FVC and DLco (% predicted value) were 79 (IQR 74.7–88.7) and 62.9 (IQR 53.1–70.6), respectively. Usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) was found in 11/24 (45.8%) patients. The mean KL-6 level was 478.4 ± 400.9 U/mL. KL-6 levels were elevated in 22 patients (172%). Serum levels of KL-6 in the RA-ILD group were significantly higher than those in the RA-non-ILD group (756.0 ± 673.4 U/mL vs. 411.9 ± 273.0 U/mL; p=0.001). Serum KL-6 had a moderate positive correlation with HSA-MAA IgA (r=0.56; p=0.048) in patients with non-UIP pattern (Figure 1). Anti-CarP (Fib IgG: 81.8% vs. 54.7; p=0.019) and anti-MAA antibodies (HSA-MAA IgA: 36.4% vs. 10.4; p=0.018) were significantly associated with elevated KL-6 values (Table 1).

Conclusion: Serum KL-6 is a surrogate biomarker of ILD, elevated in a subgroup of patients with RA. ILD-KL-6 elevation correlated with some AMPAs, such as anti-CarP and anti-MAA. Whether AMPAs are potential biomarkers for RA-ILD requires further analysis.

Funding: Hospital Clinic of Barcelona (Grant # 37 933) and the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Grant # RTI2018-094120-B-I00).

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Anti-Modified Protein/Peptide Antibodies (AMPAs) distribution according to serum KL-6 status in RA patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biomarker</th>
<th>All population</th>
<th>High KL-6</th>
<th>Normal KL-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=128</td>
<td>n=22</td>
<td>n=106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Citrullinated Protein Antibodies (ACPA)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-CCP3</td>
<td>107 (83.6)</td>
<td>16 (72.7)</td>
<td>91 (85.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFFCP1 IgG</td>
<td>89 (69.5)</td>
<td>15 (68.2)</td>
<td>74 (69.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Carbamylated Protein Antibodies (anti-CarP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fib IgG</td>
<td>76 (59.4)</td>
<td>18 (81.8)</td>
<td>58 (54.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS IgG</td>
<td>69 (53.9)</td>
<td>12 (54.5)</td>
<td>57 (53.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS IgA</td>
<td>39 (30.5)</td>
<td>10 (45.5)</td>
<td>29 (27.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFFHP</td>
<td>33 (25.8)</td>
<td>6 (27.3)</td>
<td>27 (25.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Antigens and cut-off values are specified in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Heatmap of correlation between serum KL-6 and AMPAs in patients with RA.

Acknowledgements: We want to thank all patients who have participated in the study.

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**POST099**

ASSOCIATION OF THE MULTI-BIOMARKER DISEASE ACTIVITY SCORE WITH ARTERIAL INFLAMMATION, ASSESSABLE WITH 18F-FUORODEOXYGLUCOSE POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY, IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Biomarkers


Columbia University, Department of Medicine, New York;
United States of America;
Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Department of Medicine, Boston, United States of America;
Mount Sinai Medical Center, Translational and Molecular Imaging Institute, New York, United States of America;
Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Medicine, Boston, United States of America

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and atherosclerosis share many common inflammatory pathways. Reducing the activity of inflammatory pathways with immunomodulators may lessen the risk of cardiovascular disease in RA. As such, a multi-biomarker of RA disease activity (MBDA; AKA the Vectra Score) could serve as an indicator of treatment-associated improvements in atherosclerotic plaque inflammation.

**Objectives:** To prospectively evaluate the association of an MBDA score and its components with the change in arterial inflammation in RA patients enrolled in a clinical trial of two different RA treatment strategies.

**Methods:** In the TARGET Trial, patients with active RA despite methotrexate were randomly assigned to the addition of either a TNF inhibitor (TNNI) or sub-fasalasane-hydroxychloroquine (triple therapy). Baseline and 24-week follow-up 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) scans were assessed for change in arterial inflammation measured as the maximal arterial target-to-background ratio (TBR) of FDG uptake in the most diseased segment (MDS) of either the carotid arteries or aorta (TBRmax MDS). The MBDA score, measured at baseline and weeks 6, 18, and 24, was assessed for its association with the change in arterial inflammation. The MBDA score was categorized as low, moderate, and high disease activity (LDA, MDA, and HDA; LDA<30, MDA 30-44, HDA>44 units).

**Results:** Among the 150 randomized TARGET participants, 112 had an interpretable TBR at baseline and trial conclusion (24 weeks) (mean age 60 years; 71% female; RA duration 1.4 years; baseline DAS28-CRP=4.8). The MBDA score at week 24 was significantly correlated with the change in TBRmax MDS (Spearman’s rho=0.239; p=0.011), while the baseline and interim MBDA scores were less strongly and not significantly correlated with the change in TBRmax MDS. The week 24 MBDA score remained significantly associated after adjustment for relevant confounders. Neither the baseline, follow-up, or change in DAS28-CRP nor CRP significantly predicted the change in TBRmax MDS. There was no significant difference in the association of the MBDA score with the change in arterial inflammation between the two randomized treatment groups. Those achieving MBDA LDA at week 24 had a statistically significant adjusted reduction in TBRmax MDS of 0.35 TBR units, while no significant reductions in TBRmax MDS over time were observed in those remaining in MBDA MDA or HDA (Figure 1A). The component of the MBDA score with the strongest association with change in TBRmax MDS was serum amyloid A (SAA) (Spearman’s rho=0.239; p=0.011), while the baseline and interim MBDA scores were less strongly and not significantly correlated with the change in TBRmax MDS. The week 24 MBDA score remained significantly associated after adjustment for relevant confounders. Neither the baseline, follow-up, or change in DAS28-CRP nor CRP significantly predicted the change in TBRmax MDS. There was no significant difference in the association of the MBDA score with the change in arterial inflammation between the two randomized treatment groups. Those achieving MBDA LDA at week 24 had a statistically significant adjusted reduction in TBRmax MDS of 0.35 TBR units, while no significant reductions in TBRmax MDS over time were observed in those remaining in MBDA MDA or HDA (Figure 1A). The component of the MBDA score with the strongest association with change in TBRmax MDS was serum amyloid A (SAA) (Spearman’s rho=0.239; p=0.011), while the baseline and interim MBDA scores were less strongly and not significantly correlated with the change in TBRmax MDS.

**Conclusion:** Achieving low disease activity by the MBDA at 24 weeks was associated with a clinically meaningful reduction in arterial inflammation, similar to high-intensity statins, in a way not predicted using other RA disease activity measures, suggesting that treatment-associated improvements in arterial inflammation may be indicated by specific biomarkers that overlap those used to track arthritic disease activity.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to acknowledge the investigators of the TARGET Trial Consortium and the patients that participated in the trial. The trial was funded by NIH-NIAAA U01-AR068043; Abbvie and Amgen supplied study drug. Crescendo Biosciences funded and performed the assays for the MBDA testing.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Jon Giles Consultant of: AbbVie, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Novartis, UCB, Bristol Myers Squibb, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Daniel Solomon Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Jansen, Moderna, Katherine Liao: None declared, Pamela Risit: None declared, Leah Santacroce: None declared, Zahi Fayad: None declared, Ahmed Tawakol: None declared, Joan Bathon: None declared.

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**POST1060**

HUMORAL RESPONSES AGAINST HDL ARE LINKED TO LIPOPROTEIN TRAITS, ATHEROSCLEROSIS, INFLAMMATION AND PROTEOMIC PATHOGENIC PATHWAYS DURING EARLY ARTHRITIS STAGES

**Keywords:** -omics, Cardiovascular disease, Autoantibodies


University of Oviedo, Department of Functional Biology, Oviedo, Spain;
Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Principado de Asturias (ISPA), Department of Metabolism, Oviedo, Spain;
Central University Hospital of Asturias, Rheumatology, Oviedo, Spain;
University College London, Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology versus Arthritis, London, United Kingdom;
Biosfer Teslab, Biosfer Teslab, Reus, Spain;
Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Pere Virgili, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Tarragona, Spain;
Università degli Studi di Messina, Rheumatology, Messina, Italy

**Background:** Cardiovascular (CV) risk excess in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) cannot be solely attributed to traditional CV risk factors. Chronic inflammation and immune dysregulation are crucial mechanisms for atherosclerosis development in RA. Recent evidence suggests a link via humoral responses against high-density lipoproteins (HDL) and its components. However, their exact specificity, clinical relevance and emergence along disease course are unknown, especially during the earliest phases of arthritis.

**Objectives:** To characterize the specificity and clinical relevance as predictors of anti-HDL responses along during the earliest phases of arthritis.

**Methods:** IgG and IgM serum levels of antibodies against HDL (anti-HDL) and Apolipoprotein A1 (anti-ApoA1) were measured in 82 early RA patients (EULAR/ACR classification criteria), 14 arthralgia individuals (EULAR definition) and 96 controls. Established RA patients (n=42) were included for validation. Atherosclerosis occurrence and vascular stiffness were measured by Doppler-ultrasound. Lipoprotein content, particle numbers and size were measured by NMR. Cytokines were measured by immunosays. A cardiometabolic-related protein panel was evaluated using high-throughput targeted proteomics.

**Results:** IgG and IgM anti-HDL and anti-ApoA1 responses were increased in early RA compared to controls (both p<0.001) and were comparable to established disease. Only IgG anti-ApoA1 antibodies were associated with higher lipoprotein traits (HDL and ApoA1) and Apolipoprotein A1 (anti-ApoA1) were measured in 82 early RA patients (EULAR/ACR classification criteria), 14 arthralgia individuals (EULAR definition) and 96 controls. Established RA patients (n=42) were included for validation. Atherosclerosis occurrence and vascular stiffness were measured by Doppler-ultrasound. Lipoprotein content, particle numbers and size were measured by NMR. Cytokines were measured by immunosays. A cardiometabolic-related protein panel was evaluated using high-throughput targeted proteomics.

**Conclusions:** Low disease activity by the MBDA at 24 weeks was associated with a clinically meaningful reduction in arterial inflammation, similar to high-intensity statins, in a way not predicted using other RA disease activity measures, suggesting that treatment-associated improvements in arterial inflammation may be indicated by specific biomarkers that overlap those used to track arthritic disease activity.

A 4-year randomized controlled trial of the two different RA treatment strategies.
Conclusion: Humoral responses against HDL particles are an early event along arthritis course, although quantitative and qualitative differences can be noticed among stages. These differences informed distinct capacities as biomarkers (incremental value) and underlying pathogenic circuits. Anti-HDL but not anti-ApoA1 were robust predictors of lipoprotein features, inflammatory milieu and subclinical CV burden in early RA.

Figure 1

(A) Protein-protein interaction networks

(B) Proteomic pathways associated with IgG anti-HDL

Acknowledgements: ISCIII (PI21/00054), ISPA (2021-O46-INTRAMURAL NOV-ROCAJ), EULAR (Q122RSV03)

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: The observation in the ORAL SURVEILLANCE trial[1] of an increased rate of major cardiovascular (CV) events (MACE) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treated with Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKis) recently prompted the EMA’s Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) to suggest significant restrictions for MACE in comparison with the PRAC recommendation in a real-life cohort of RA patients treated with JAKis.

Objectives: Assessing the performance of a CV risk chart developed and validated for RA (Expanded Risk Score in RA [ERS-RA][2,3]) in quantifying the risk for MACE in comparison with the PRAC recommendation in a real-life cohort of RA patients treated with JAKis.

Methods: A retrospective analysis on all RA patients treated with a JAKi in a tertiary care academic hospital was conducted. According to PRAC recommendation, the study population was stratified into patients at increased (>65 years old; current or former long-term smokers; patients carrying increased risk of MACE, defined according to ORAL SURVEILLANCE trial[1] inclusion criteria (>90 years old and having at least one CV risk factor)) or not CV risk. The same stratification was also calculated with the ERS-RA[2,3], using a 10% increase in 10-year risk of MACE as a cut-off for the definition of increased CV risk. The incidence of MACE was calculated over a mean follow-up period of 3 years and was correlated with the two different definitions of CV risk considered.

Results: The study population included 194 RA patients exposed to JAKis for a total of 337 patient-years. The baseline characteristics of enrolled population has been fully described in Table 1. According to PRAC definition, CV risk was considered increased in 80 (41.2%) patients (n=27 [33.8%] >65 years old; n=25 [31.2%] smokers). Calculated with the ERS-RA, the CV risk was found to be increased in 36 (18.6%) patients. Over the follow-up period, we observed only one MACE (a non-fatal stroke) in a patient who met the definition of increased CV risk according to both criteria. The specificity of ERS-RA score was 0.82 (positive predictive value 0.03), whereas the specificity of PRAC criteria was 0.59 (positive predictive value 0.01).

Conclusion: Our study shows that in a real-life setting the use of a validated score chart as ERS-RA allows CV risk to be calculated more accurately in RA patients undergoing JAKis than the strict application of the PRAC recommendation. Further prospective observational studies on larger populations are advocated to better define CV risk assessment in this scenario.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Baseline population characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study population (N=194)</th>
<th>Age, means(DS)(years)</th>
<th>Male sex</th>
<th>BMI, median (95% CI)</th>
<th>Current smokers</th>
<th>Disease duration, means(DS)(years)</th>
<th>RF and/or ACPA positive</th>
<th>HAQ score, median (95% CI)</th>
<th>Corticosteroid use</th>
<th>Arterial hypertension</th>
<th>History of ischemic heart disease</th>
<th>Non-IHD heart disease</th>
<th>Heart failure</th>
<th>History of stroke</th>
<th>History of venous thrombosis (VTE/PE)</th>
<th>Thrombophilia</th>
<th>Hypertension</th>
<th>Diabetes</th>
<th>History of solid malignancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>57.94 ± 8.87</td>
<td>N=29 (14.9%)</td>
<td>23.88 (21.36 – 26.59)</td>
<td>N=35 (18.0%)</td>
<td>16.31 ± 0.77</td>
<td>N=121 (62.4%)</td>
<td>0.675 (0.125-1.25)</td>
<td>N=79 (40.7%)</td>
<td>N=59 (30.4%)</td>
<td>N=3 (1.6%)</td>
<td>N=18 (9.3%)</td>
<td>N=4 (2.1%)</td>
<td>N=2 (1.0%)</td>
<td>N=2 (1%)</td>
<td>N=23 (11.9%)</td>
<td>N=71 (36.8%)</td>
<td>N=10 (5.2%)</td>
<td>N=8 (4.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Incidence of events over the 3 years preceding and the 3 years following the initiation of a first advanced therapy in 596 RA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events per 100 py</th>
<th>Events per 100 py</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before (n)</td>
<td>After (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular (CV)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Persistent (n=305)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch (n=249)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Stop (n=42)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thromboembolic (TE)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Persistent (n=305)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch (n=249)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Stop (n=42)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4634

Acknowledgements: We thank the physicians and patients who participated in this study.


Keywords: Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease

G. Boiri1, N. Carrier2, S. Roux3, H. Allard-Chamard3. University of Sherbrooke, Medicine - Rheumatology, Sherbrooke, Canada; 2ULSS de l’Estrie - CHUS, Medicine - Rheumatology, Sherbrooke, Canada; 3University of Sherbrooke, Medicine - Rheumatology, Sherbrooke, Canada

Background: Uncontrolled inflammation increases the risk for cardiovascular (CV) and venous thromboembolic (TE) events. Reducing inflammation using advanced therapies (AT) is expected to reduce these risks. Clinical registries are best for precise observations on diagnosis, reasons for drug withdrawal, and disease activity. Administrative databases are more comprehensive for comorbidities and outcomes.

Objectives: To compare the incidence of CV and TE events before and after AT initiation in the same rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients, to explore specific toxicities or poorer protection of some ATs.

Methods: USRAT Registry combines administrative and clinical data. Our team is the single one treating rheumatology patients among over 500,000 people. All their inpatient episodes are recorded in the administrative system of one single multisite hospital. Since 2003, we developed a registry of 1800+ patients treated with AT. Episodes of inpatient care for these patients were extracted from our hospital’s database from 1995 up to the end of 2021. Clinical charts were revised to confirm diagnosis and disease activity over time. We report severe CV and TE events occurring over the 3 years before and the 3 years after initiation of a first AT in patients for which chart revision is currently completed. We analyzed data according to initial AT, identifying a large subset remaining on first AT (First Persistent), a small subset who stopped first AT but did not switch (First-Stop), and others who switched AT over the period (Switch).

Results: RA was confirmed in 596 (66.3% women; mean age 59.1). Mean disease duration at first AT initiation (anti-TNF in 61%) was 7.3 years. First Stop patients trended to be men (47.6%) vs 34.8% (First Persistent) and 30.1% (Switch) (p = 0.074). Switch patients were younger (57.9 yo vs 59.8 First Persistent and 60.8 First Stop) (p = 0.04). Mean duration of first AT treatment was similar in Switch and First-Stop (0.94 vs 0.93 y), versus 5.3 in First Persistent.

Table 1. Incidence of events before and after first AT initiation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events per 100 py</th>
<th>Events per 100 py</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before (n)</td>
<td>After (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular (CV)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Persistent (n=305)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch (n=249)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Stop (n=42)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thromboembolic (TE)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Persistent (n=305)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch (n=249)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Stop (n=42)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Person-years (py). Before: Total (1788); First-Persistent (915); Switch (747); First-Stop (126). After: Total (1487); First-Persistent (777); Switch (668); First-Stop (43).*p<0.05 Before vs After at First-Stop.
﻿

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4 Color Fig(s):0

21:36

Art: 19_EUROAB-2023-PV18-19

Scientific Abstracts	﻿ 

853

Table 1. Multivariable Cox proportional hazards regressions using the demographic variables as time fixed in patients without any diabetic drug use (RA
and PsA cohort)
Model 1

Model 2

Variables

Time-dependent HR (95% CI)

p value

Time-dependent HR (95% CI)

p value

Age
Male
Disease duration
Ever hypertension
Time-varying laboratory results
ESR
CRP
Atherogenic index log (TG/HDL)
FG <5.6
FG 5.6 - 6.9
FG >=7
Time-varying treatment
bDMARDs
Anti-TNF
Non-anti-TNF
csDMARDs
MTX
SLZ
NSAIDs
COXII inhibitors
Non-COXII inhibitors
Steroid

1.06(1.05-1.07)
1.57(1.26-1.95)
1.07(1.01-1.13)
3.50(2.58-4.74)

<0.001*
<0.001*
0.013
<0.001*

1.06(1.05-1.07)
1.31(1.05-1.62)
1.07(1.01-1.12)
3.60(2.65-4.88)

<0.001*
0.014*
0.017*
<0.001*

1.01(1.00-1.01)

<0.001*

3.40(1.50-7.71)
Ref
2.54(1.50-7.71)
4.47(3.25-6.16)

0.003*
NA
<0.001*
<0.001*

1.10(1.08-1.13)
3.45(1.52-7.79)
Ref
2.43(1.97-2.99)
3.51(2.53-4.86)

<0.001*
0.003*
NA
<0.001*
<0.001*

0.70 (0.40-1.23)
0.58(0.28-1.17)

0.214
0.127

0.70(0.40-1.23)
0.54(0.27-1.11)

0.214
0.092

0.76(0.62-0.93)
1.18(0.96-1.45)

0.008*
0.111

0.78(0.64-0.96)
1.15(0.94-1.41)

0.016*
0.168

0.56(0.35-0.90)
0.83(0.67-1.01)
2.16(1.77-2.64)

0.016*
0.067
<0.001*

0.65(0.42-1.01)
0.81(0.42-1.00)
1.96(1.61-2.39)

0.055
0.048*
<0.001*

*Statistically significant at p ≤ 0.05.NA, not available; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP, c-reactive protein; bDMARDs, biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs; TC, total cholesterol HDL, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; FG, fasting glucose; TNF, tumor necrosis factor; csDMARDs, conventional synthetic
disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs; MTX, methotrexate; SLZ, sulfasalazine; LEF, leflunomide; COXII, cyclooxygenase-2.

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the contribution to our Registry of
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Bruns, Pierre Dagenais, Artur Fernandes, Patrick Liang, Javier Marrugo, Ariel
Masetto.
Disclosure of Interests: Gilles Boire Consultant of: Advisory committees: Abbvie
Canada, Janssen Canada, Lilly Canada, Mylan Canada, Novartis Canada, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi Canada, Teva. Honorarium for presentations: BMS Canada, Janssen Canada, Orimed, Viatris, Grant/research support from: Local PI in
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declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.887

comorbidities and treatment. On the other hand, in patients already on anti-diabetic treatments, MACE risks were similar between patients with FG levels <5.6
mmol/L and prediabetes.
Conclusion: Pre-diabetes, as reflected by FG level at 5.6-6.9 mmol/L over time,
was independently associated with an increased risk of MACE.
REFERENCE:
meta-analysis. Bmj. 2020;370.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5587

POS1065
POS1064

PRE-DIABETES INCREASED THE RISK OF MAJOR
CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS IN PATIENTS WITH
INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: A POPULATION-BASED
COHORT STUDY

DAS28-GGT FOR THE PREDICTION OF MAJOR
CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS IN RHEUMATOID
ARTHRITIS: RESULTS FROM THE ESPOIR COHORT

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers, Cardiovascular disease

H. Meng1, H. So1, S. H. M. Lam1, L. S. Tam1. 1The Prince of Wales Hospital, The
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics,
Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR)

A. Dupont1, A. Constantin2, M. Soubrier3, N. Rincheval4, J. Avouac1. 1Cochin
Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2Toulouse University Hospital,
Rheumatology, Toulouse, France; 3CHU Gabriel Montpied, Rhumatologie,
Clermont-Ferrand, France; 4Institut de recherche Clinique EA2415,
Département de Statistiques, Montpellier, France

Background: Pre-diabetes was associated with an increased risk of all-cause
mortality and cardiovascular disease (CVD) in the general population. However, data exploring the effect of pre-diabetes on the risk of CVD in patients
with inflammatory arthritis (IA), including rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and psoriatic
arthritis (PsA), were limited.
Objectives: To evaluate the effect of pre-diabetes on the risk of major cardiovascular events (MACE) in patients with IA.
Methods: A population-based cohort of IA patients was identified in the citywide platform (The Hospital Authority Data Collaboration Lab) of the Hong Kong
Hospital Authority. IA patients recruited from 2006 to 2015 were followed until
the end of 2018. Time-varying Cox proportional hazard models with time-varying
fasting glucose (FG) levels were analyzed to identify the risk of having MACE in
IA patients.
Results: A total of 13,905 (12,233 RA and 1,672 PsA) patients with IA were
recruited. After a total of 119,571 patient-years of follow-up, 934 (7.0 %) patients
developed a first MACE. At baseline, the mean age of the entire cohort was
56.9±14.4 (RA: 57.7±14.4 vs. PsA: 51.0±12.8, p<0.001), mean disease duration
was 0.6±1.5 (RA: 0.7±1.5 vs. PsA: 0.3±1.0, p<0.001) and the proportion of patients
with diabetes was 3.6% (RA: 3.4 vs. PsA: 5.4, p<0.001). Using multivariable Cox
regression analysis, in IA patients who were not on any anti-diabetic medications, the time-varying FG level of a prediabetic state (5.6-6.9 mmol/L) was found
to be independently associated with a higher risk of MACE (HR 2.54, 95%CI
1.50-7.71, p<0.001 in the ESR model; HR 2.43, 95%CI 1.97-2.99, p<0.001 in the
CRP model) (Table 1), after adjusting for age, sex, and baseline cardiovascular

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) experience premature
mortality that is largely due to cardiovascular disease (CVD). Ample evidence
suggests that elevated γGT activity is associated with increased risk of CVD.
We have previously showed that replacing ESR by γGT in DAS28 calculation
(DAS28-γGT) allowed a combined evaluation of cardiovascular risk in patients
with RA, in addition to joint disease activity [1].
Objectives: To validate the predictive value of the DAS28-γGT for the occurrence of major cardiovascular events (MACE) in the ESPOIR cohort.
Methods: We conducted a prospective observational study including patients
with RA from the ESPOIR cohort fulfilling the 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria. Patients
were recruited between 2002 and 2005 and were followed up to 10 years.
Patients with a history of cardiovascular disease and not followed up to 1 year
were excluded from the analysis. DAS28-γGT was calculated at baseline using
the following formula: 0.56*√TJ-28 + 0.28*√SJ-28 + 2*ln (γGT)+0.014*GH. Our
primary outcome was the occurrence of MACE during the observation period.
Results: 720 RA patients (77% females) were considered with a mean age of
48±13 years and a mean disease duration of 93±185 days. Disease activity was
high, with a mean DAS28 of 5.1±1.3. At baseline, the DAS28-γGT correlated
with age (r=0.26, p<0.001) and the Framingham risk score (r=0.31, p<0.001).
The DAS28-γGT was also significantly increased in males (10.3±1.8 vs. 9.4±1.9,
p<0.001) and in patients presenting the following conditions: high alcohol consumption (11.2±1.8 vs. 9.5±1.9, p<0.001), active smoking (9.72±1.93 vs. 9.44±1.86,
p=0.036), blood hypertension (10.2±2.01 vs. 9.44±1.85, p<0.001), diabetes mellitus (10.67±2.20 vs. 9.53±1.87, p=0.001), hypercholesterolemia (9.95±1.97 vs.

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Cardiovascular disease, Comorbidities


9.50a±1.88, p=0.017) and obesity (BMI > 30 kg/m²) (10.01±1.90 vs. 9.26±1.83, p<0.001). No association was observed between DAS28-GT and treatment with NSAIDs or corticosteroids. The DAS28-GT steadily increased according to cardiovascular risk (Figure 1A) and was significantly increased in patients with at least 2 cardiovascular risk factors (Figure 1B). A total of 35 MACE was recorded during the observation period, with a mean time to event of 70±44 months. ROC curve analysis indicated that DAS28-GT >9.4 had the best sensitivity (74%) and specificity (62%) for the diagnosis of MACE during the observation period. Increased DAS28-GT (>9.4) was predictive of the occurrence of MACE, with a hazard ratio (HR) of 3.05 (95% confidence interval, CI 1.44-6.43) (Figure 1C). Multivariate Cox analyses confirmed increased DAS28-GT together with age and diabetes mellitus as independent predictors of MACE (Table 1). The DAS28 was not predictive of the occurrence of MACE in this cohort.

Conclusion: The DAS28-GT was identified in this large prospective cohort as an independent predictor of MACE in patients with RA. In addition to the assessment of disease activity, the DAS28-GT is a simple and useful tool to evaluate CV risk in routine and warn the clinician about the CV risk burden in patients with RA.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Multivariate Cox analysis to identify independent predictors of MACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable at baseline</th>
<th>Multivariate analysis (HR, 95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-GT &gt;9.4</td>
<td>2.36 (1.08-5.18)</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.06 (1.01-1.08)</td>
<td>0.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male gender</td>
<td>1.16 (0.54-2.48)</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol consumption</td>
<td>0.86 (0.19-3.78)</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active smoking</td>
<td>1.20 (0.59-2.42)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood hypertension</td>
<td>1.85 (0.83-4.12)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypercholesterolemia</td>
<td>0.89 (0.38-2.05)</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>4.06 (1.52-10.80)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index &gt; 30</td>
<td>0.56 (0.26-2.16)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2306

Figure 1. DAS28-1:6-2.16> 30s COX analysis to identify A, DAS28-6:2-16> 30s COX analysis to identify independent predictors of MACE; B, Multivariate Cox analysis to identify independent predictors of MACE; C, MACE-free survival according to the DAS28- MACo or > 9.4).

WHERE HAVE ALL THE RHEUMATOID NODULES GONE?

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Epidemiology, Skin

B. Kimbrough1, H. Langenfeld2, C. S. Crowson1, J. M. Davis III1, E. Matteson1, E. Myasoedova1, Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; Mayo Clinic, Quantitative Health Sciences Division of Clinical Trials and Biostatistics, Rochester, United States of America

Background: The most common extraarticular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the rheumatoid nodule, which is reported to affect about 30% of patients with RA.[1] The development of rheumatoid nodules has been associated most strongly with high disease activity, seropositive status, and more rapid progression of joint destruction. Despite significant changes in RA treatment and decreasing incidence of seropositive RA, no recent population-based studies have assessed the epidemiology of rheumatoid nodules.

Objectives: We aim to investigate changes in rheumatoid nodule incidence over time.

Methods: This study evaluated rheumatoid nodule incidence trends using an inception cohort that included all adult patients from a geographically well-defined area who met the 1987 American College of Rheumatology criteria for RA between 1/1/1985 and 12/31/2014. Patients were followed until the earlier of death, migration from the region, or 12/31/2000 (for patients with incident RA in 1985-1994) or 12/31/2008 (for 1995-2007 patients) or 10/15/2022 (for 2008-2014 patients). Patients were divided into two cohorts based on the incidence date of RA, an early cohort from 1985-1999 and a later cohort from 2000-2014. Medical records were reviewed manually, and the incidence date of rheumatoid nodules was recorded if determined to be present either by clinical judgment and/or histopathology. The 10-year cumulative incidence of rheumatoid nodules was estimated in each cohort. Cox proportional hazard models adjusted for age, sex and calendar year were used to determine associations between specific demographic and RA disease data with rheumatoid nodules.

Results: 907 patients were included in this study, 296 (67% female) in the 1985-1999 cohort and 611 (70% female) in the 2000-2014 cohort. The mean follow-up period between these cohorts, respectively, was 9.1 and 7.4 years. Baseline characteristics (earlier cohort, latter cohort) included rheumatoid factor (RF) positive (70%, 59%), joint erosions in the first year of RA (24%, 29%), and ever smoker (57%, 47%). The 10-year cumulative incidence of rheumatoid nodules was 31% in the 1985-1999 cohort and 16% in the 2000-2014 cohort (hazard ratio [HR] 0.52, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.39-0.70). Identified risk factors for the development of rheumatoid nodules included RF positivity (HR 4.38, 95%CI 2.37-8.09), erosions (HR 2.53, 95%CI 1.64-3.91), current smoker (HR 2.09, 95%CI 1.30-3.37), male sex (HR 1.77, 95%CI 1.14-2.73), methotrexate use (HR 1.77, 95%CI 1.09-2.86) and other DMARDs (HR 2.07, 95%CI 1.14-3.74) (Table 1).

Conclusion: The incidence of rheumatoid nodules has decreased substantially over time. More research is needed to understand the drivers of this improvement and implications on RA disease outcomes.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Risk factors associated with rheumatoid nodules in the 2000-2014 cohort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Rheumatoid Nodules HR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (per 10-year increase)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.82, 1.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex</td>
<td>1.77 (1.14, 2.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar year of RA incidence</td>
<td>0.88 (0.84, 0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette smoking at baseline</td>
<td>1.38 (0.90, 2.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>2.09 (1.60, 3.37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (per 1kg/m² increase) baseline</td>
<td>1.00 (0.97, 1.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positivity</td>
<td>4.38 (2.37, 8.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest ESR in the 1st year of RA (per 10 mm/h increase)</td>
<td>1.03 (0.95, 1.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions/destructive changes on radiographs</td>
<td>2.53 (1.64, 3.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication usage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>1.77 (1.09, 2.86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>0.95 (0.61, 1.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other DMARD</td>
<td>2.07 (1.14, 3.74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologic response modifiers</td>
<td>1.64 (0.87, 3.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids (systemic)</td>
<td>1.11 (0.69, 1.77)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for age, sex, and calendar year. **RA, rheumatoid arthritis; BMI, body mass index; RF, rheumatoid factor; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; DMARD, disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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MORBIDITIES ASSOCIATED WITH SERIOUS INFECTIONS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Epidemiology

B. Kimbrough1, C. S. Crowson1, R. Lennon2, J. M. Davis III1, A. Strangfeld3, E. Myasoedova1, Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; Mayo Clinic, Quantitative Health Sciences Division of Clinical Trials and Biostatistics, Rochester, United States of America; German Rheumatism Research Centre (DRFZ) Berlin and Charite University Medicine, Epidemiology, and Health Services Research, Berlin, Germany

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are at increased risk for serious infections (SI) and have a higher prevalence of multimorbidity. The increased risk for SI has led to the creation of multiple infection risk models over the last decade for patients with RA. These models often include combinations of patient demographics, medications, and a limited list of morbidities. However, the limited number of morbidities included in these models are not fully reflective of the morbidity burden seen in real-world practice. Thus, some morbidities that contribute to SI risk may be absent from the existing models.
Objectives: We aim to examine associations between a comprehensive list of morbidities and SI in patients with RA.

Methods: This population-based cohort study evaluated morbidities as risk factors for SI by including all adult patients from a geographically well-defined area from 1/1/1999 through 12/31/2013 who met the 1987 American College of Rheumatology criteria for RA. Patients were followed until the earlier of: death, migration from the region, or morbidities and SI in patients with RA.

Objectives: Scientific Abstracts

[2] Crowson CS, Hoganson DD, Fitz-Gibbon PD, Matteson EL. Development of SI prevention strategies and treatment approaches in patients with RA. Morbidity burden is an important clinical characteristic that may influence patients with RA, and this risk is not completely accounted for in two SI risk score adjusted models, 12 and 23 morbidities were associated with increased risk, adjusted only for age, sex, and calendar year. In the RABBIT and Mayo SI risk score adjusted models, 12 and 23 morbidities were associated with increased risk, respectively. Morbidities conferring high risk among the three adjusted models are included. Figure 1. Specific morbidities included in the RABBIT and Mayo SI risk scores continued to have large and significant effect sizes despite adjustment (Figure 1). The number of morbidities was also associated with SI risk, leading to a 16% (initial), 11% (RABBIT), and 13% (Mayo) increase in SI risk per morbidity.

Conclusion: Several morbidities are associated with increased risk of SI in patients with RA, and this risk is not completely accounted for in two SI risk scores. Morbidity burden is an important clinical characteristic that may influence SI prevention strategies and treatment approaches in patients with RA.

REFERENCES:
[1] Strangfeld A, Eveslage M, Schneider M, et al. Treatment benefit or sur -

Keywords: Comorbidities, Randomized control trial, Rheumatoid arthritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Modality</th>
<th>All population N=79</th>
<th>Group1 PPSV23 N=40</th>
<th>Group 2 PCV 13 N=39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>Mean (±SD)</td>
<td>59.61 (± 12.59)</td>
<td>58.08 (± 13.74)</td>
<td>61.18 (± 11.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>58 (73.42)</td>
<td>33 (82.50)</td>
<td>25 (64.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>Mean (±SD)</td>
<td>26.03 (± 5.09)</td>
<td>26.76 (± 6.17)</td>
<td>25.29 (± 5.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous pneumococcal vaccine</td>
<td>Yes (%)</td>
<td>17 (21.52)</td>
<td>10 (25.00)</td>
<td>7 (17.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal vaccine</td>
<td>Mean (±SD)</td>
<td>4.33 (± 0.90)</td>
<td>4.20 (± 0.79)</td>
<td>4.46 (± 1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>Yes (%)</td>
<td>55 (70.51)</td>
<td>31 (77.50)</td>
<td>24 (61.54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA positive</td>
<td>Yes (%)</td>
<td>47 (61.04)</td>
<td>24 (60.00)</td>
<td>23 (58.97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosive RA</td>
<td>Yes (%)</td>
<td>47 (61.04)</td>
<td>24 (60.00)</td>
<td>23 (58.97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local streptococcal infections</td>
<td>Mean (±SD)</td>
<td>1822.31 (± 789.26)</td>
<td>2029.73 (± 869.64)</td>
<td>1603.97 (± 569.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>Yes (%)</td>
<td>63 (79.75)</td>
<td>32 (80.00)</td>
<td>31 (79.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX dose (mg/w)</td>
<td>Mean (±SD)</td>
<td>15.67 (± 4.52)</td>
<td>15.63 (± 5.12)</td>
<td>15.73 (± 3.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leflunomide</td>
<td>Yes (%)</td>
<td>78 (10.13)</td>
<td>4 (10.00)</td>
<td>4 (10.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroids</td>
<td>Yes (%)</td>
<td>33 (41.77)</td>
<td>16 (40.00)</td>
<td>17 (43.79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid dose (mg/d)</td>
<td>Mean (±SD)</td>
<td>7.77 (± 2.42)</td>
<td>7.50 (± 2.58)</td>
<td>8.03 (± 2.30)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgments: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.875

HUMORAL IMMUNE RESPONSE TO 13 VALENT-CONJUGATE AND 23-VALENT POLYSACCHARIDE PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES IN RA PATIENTS TREATED WITH ABATACEPT: RESULTS OF THE OPEN-LABLE, RANDOMIZED, CONTROLLED TRIAL VACCINA (VACCINATION AGAINST PNEUMOCOCCAL IN NAÏVE ABATACEPT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS)

Keywords: Comorbidities, Randomized control trial, Rheumatoid arthritis

Acknowledgements: We thank the Bristol Myers Squibb and the French Society of Rheumatology for an unrestricted grant.
SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW INFORMING THE EULAR POINTS TO CONSIDER TASK FORCE ON THE INITIATION OF TARGETED THERAPIES IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIDES AND A HISTORY OF CANCER

**Keywords:** Comorbidities, bDMARD, Malignancy

**Disclosure of Interests:** Jacques Morel Speakers bureau: Amgen, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Fresenius Kabi, Janssen, Lilly, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Medac, Mylan, Nordic Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche Sanofi, Sandoz, Union Chimique Belge, Consultant of: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Galapagos, Glaxo Smith Kline, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Novartis, Bristol Myers Squibb, Lilly, Olivier Brocq; None declared, Cécile Gajoulu-Viala: None declared, Arnaud Constant: None declared, Slim Lassoud: None declared, Emmanuelle Dernis: None declared, Christophe Richez: None declared, Cédric Lukas: None declared, Claire Daire: None declared, Claire Duflos: None declared.

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**Background:** Potential associations between targeted therapies in patients with an inflammatory arthritis (IA) and malignancy are a frequent concern in daily rheumatology practice. No specific framework has been proposed to evaluate the benefit-risk balance of initiating or reinitiating a targeted therapy (bDMARDs/csDMARDs) in patients with a history of cancer.

**Objectives:** To perform a systematic literature review (SLR) to inform the task force formulating the EULAR Points to Consider on the initiation of targeted therapies in patients with IA and a history of cancer.

**Methods:** Specific research points were defined with the task force before formulating the research questions with a librarian under supervision of two methodologists. The task force agreed to focus the SLR on clinical data in patients treated with any targeted therapy for an inflammatory or autoimmune rheumatic or skin or bowel disease. All studies up to the 15th July 2022 were searched through PubMed and Embase. Inclusion criteria required studies reporting on the initiation of a targeted therapy in patients with history of cancer, a control group, and a history of cancer.

**Results:** A total of 1555 publications were identified of which 79 articles fulfilled inclusion criteria, including 13 published articles and 1 EULAR abstract. All studies were high quality observational data from cohorts or registries, representing 4522 patients (13030 patient-years). Most of the patients included were treated for rheumatoid arthritis. The previous cancer was a solid cancer for more than 90% of the patients. The targeted therapy evaluated was a TNF inhibitor in all the studies, and 4 studies evaluated rituximab as well. The overall HR of cancer recurrence was 1.02 (0.83-1.26) in patients treated with a targeted therapy compared to those treated with a conventional DMARD (Figure 1). In patients treated with a TNF-inhibitor, the HR was 1.01 (0.86-1.18). In subgroup analyses, no difference in cancer recurrence was observed if the targeted therapy was initiated before or after 5 years since the diagnosis of the initial cancer; no difference in cancer recurrence was observed depending on the initial cancer type.

**Conclusion:** The SLR informing EULAR PTC show that overall, the targeted therapies and clinical context covered by the included studies were not associated with an increased risk of cancer recurrence when compared with conventional synthetic DMARDs. This SLR also shows the lack of data for other targeted therapies, for other clinical contexts, and for other conditions than RA.

**References:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Eden Sebbag: None declared, Juan Molina Collada: None declared, Kim Lauper: None declared, Daniel Aletaha: None declared, Johann Aksling: None declared, Karolina Benesova: None declared, Heidi Breusted: None declared, Samuel Bitoun: None declared, Erzurugali Cagri Bolek: None declared, Gerd Rüdiger Burmester: None declared, Helena Canhão: None declared, Katerina Chatzidionysiou: None declared, Jeffrey Curtis: None declared, François-Xavier Danlos: None declared, Vera Guimaraes: None declared, Merete Lund Hetland: None declared, Florenzo Iannone: None declared, Marie Kostine: None declared, Tore K. Kvien: None declared, Marie Kostine: None declared, Tue Wenzel Kragstrup: None declared, Dima Naccache: None declared, Sébastien Soria: None declared, Maya H Buch: None declared, Axel Finckh: None declared, Claire Daien: None declared, Claire Duflos: None declared.

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**Figure 1.** Relative risk of cancer between targeted therapies and csDMARDs in patients with a history of cancer.
Table 1. Number of infections and IRR for 1) bDMARD and JAKi users, 2) baricitinib and tofacitinib

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>bDMARDs</th>
<th>JAKi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N (treatment episodes)</td>
<td>18,085</td>
<td>1,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of DDI used, median (IQR)</td>
<td>102 (99-102)</td>
<td>10 (100-100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All infections (n)</td>
<td>8,638</td>
<td>1,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/100 patient years</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted IRR*</td>
<td>Ref 1.0</td>
<td>1.22 (95% CI 1.12-1.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes zoster (n)</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/100 patient years</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted IRR*</td>
<td>Ref 1.0</td>
<td>3.03 (95% CI 2.26-4.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subanalysis: within JAKi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baricitinib</td>
<td>n/100 patient years</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib</td>
<td>Ref 1.0</td>
<td>1.22 (95% CI 1.12-1.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted IRR*</td>
<td>Ref 1.0</td>
<td>3.03 (95% CI 2.26-4.07)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* adjusted for age, sex, number of used DDMARDs in the 2 years prior to the index date, concurrent use of cDMARDs and corticosteroids, comorbidities (diabetes mellitus and chronic obstructive respiratory diseases), dosage (as percentage of defined daily dose) and follow-up time adjusted for age, sex, dosage (as percentage of defined daily dose) and follow-up time.

Table 1. Number of infections and IRR for 1) bDMARD and JAKi users, 2) baricitinib and tofacitinib

Main analysis: bDMARD vs JAKi

RESULTS: In total, 14,898 patients were included, with 20,050 treatment episodes with either JAKi or bDMARDs. Most patients were female (72%) and median age was 61 years (IQR 52-70). Infection IRs were higher in JAKi (48/100 patient years) compared to bDMARDs (35/100 patient years), adjusted incidence rate ratio (IRR) 1.22, 95% CI 1.12-1.33) (Table 1). No significant differences in infection IRs were found between JAKi baricitinib and tofacitinib. In older patients, absolute infection IRs were higher (overall infection IR 42/100 patient years for age ≥ 65 vs 31/100 patient years for age < 65). However, comparing JAKi to bDMARDs, IRs were similar for all ages (adjusted IRR for age ≥ 65 1.31 (95% CI 1.15-1.49), adjusted IRR for age < 65 1.17 (95% CI 1.05-1.30)).

CONCLUSION: JAKi are - compared to bDMARDs - associated with a slightly higher infection risk and a higher risk of HZ specifically. In older patients, absolute infection IRs are higher but relative infection risks for JAKi versus bDMARDs are similar in all age groups. No differences in infection risk between tofacitinib and baricitinib were found.

REFERENCE:

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Table 1. Impact of comorbidities on the efficacy parameters in the OKZ and ADA-treated patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>OKZ</th>
<th>ADA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low, n(%)</td>
<td>Adjusted p-value</td>
<td>Low, n(%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=701</td>
<td>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</td>
<td>N=352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>504 (71.9) 164</td>
<td>0.82 (0.54 - 1.29) 247 (70.7) 62 (56.0) 0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 24</td>
<td>329 (44.1) 86 (36.0) 0.78 (0.53 - 1.17) 148 (42.0) 33 (30.0) 0.58</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Background: Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) have a higher prevalence of comorbidities, compared to the general population. The presence of such comorbidities has been directly associated with an increased disease activity. However, little is known about the impact of comorbidities in the therapeutic response and in the retention rate.

Objectives: a) To evaluate the effect of comorbidities on the first biologic disease-modifying anti- rheumatic drug (bDMARD) effectiveness in patients with RA after 2 years of follow-up, and b) to determine the influence of such comorbidities on the first bDMARD retention rate.

Methods: The study population consisted of patients with a diagnosis of RA and exposed to a first bDMARDs, included in BIOBADASER. BIOBADASER is a prospective, large national drug safety registry of patients with rheumatic diseases exposed to b- or tsDMARDs. Patients were classified in two groups at baseline according to the Charlson Comorbidity index (CCI) score: <3 and ≥3. Patients achieving remission (DAS28<2.6) at 1 and 2-years timepoints after the anti-TNF initiation were compared between the two groups using chi-square test. The absolute DAS28 score over time was compared between both groups of patients using a linear regression model adjusted for sex and age, and considering the follow-up visit as covariate. Finally, the first bDMARD retention rate was compared between the two groups using Log-Rank test and Kaplan-Meier curve.

Results: A total of 1253 patients initiating bDMARD were included (76.6% female and mean age 56 years at the beginning of therapy). Overall, 107 (9%) patients had a CCI ≥3, being diabetes the most frequent comorbidity (5.0%). No differences were found in DAS28≥3 between patients with CCI<3 and CCI≥3 after 1 year of follow-up (48.2% vs. 44.2%, p-value=0.457), nor after 2 years (50.8% vs. 40.7%, p-value=0.135). The linear regression model showed significant higher scores in DAS28 over the two years in patients with a CCI ≥3 after adjusting for age and sex (beta coefficient 0.27, 95%CI: 0.02-0.51; p-value=0.034). Finally, no differences in the bDMARD retention rate were found between both groups (median 2.6 years [IQR: 1.5-4.1] in CCI<3 vs. 2.1 years [IQR: 0.6-3.7] in CCI≥3; log rank test p-value 0.467) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: These data suggest that a higher CCI in patients with RA is associated with greater DAS28 scores during the first two years after bDMARD initiation, although no differences in remission status were found. In addition, a slightly shorter retention rate was found in patients with CCI≥3, although the difference was non-significant. These results suggest a lower probability of disease activity control in patients with comorbidities after the initiation of bDMARD.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease, Comorbidities

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1074 COMORBIDITIES AND EXTRA-ARTICULAR INVOLVEMENT IN PERSISTENT INFLAMMATORY AND NON-INFLAMMATORY DIFFICULT-TO-TREAT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND CONTROLS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease, Comorbidities
Conclusion: Fibromyalgia was associated with D2TRA-NIRRA. Otherwise, we did not find a strong association between comorbidities or extra-articular manifestations and D2TRA. There were trends for more serious infections, gastrointestinal diseases and extra-articular manifestations in D2TRA-PIRR. Our results suggest that the current definition of D2TRA may not adequately identify D2TRA patients with a substantial burden of comorbidities.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Mariangela Salvato: None declared, Alessandro Giollo Consultant of: Galapagos, Novartis, Sandoz, Margherita Zen Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Madaalena Larosa: None declared, Francesca Frizzera: None declared, Federico Aru: None declared, Filippo Vesentini: None declared, Geronimo Manini: None declared, Andrea Doria Consultant of: GSK, AstraZeneca, UCBl.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1864

POS1075 RETENTION RATE OF BIOLOGIC AND TARGETED SYNTHETIC ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS IN ELDERLY PATIENTS AFFECTED BY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: DATA FROM ITALIAN GISEA REGISTRY

Keywords: Safety, Comorbidities, bDMARD


1Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Policlinico di Bari, Dipartimento di Emergenza e Trapianto d'organi, UOC di Reumatologia, Bari, Italy; 2Università degli Studi di Verona, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy; 3University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 4ASST Spezial Civili di Brescia, University of Brescia, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Brescia, Italy; 5University of Messina, Rheumatology Unit, Messina, Italy; 6Spezial Civili di Brescia, Department of Rheumatology, Brescia, Italy; 7Università degli studi di Foggia, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Rheumatology Clinic, Foggia, Italy; 8ASST Istituto Gaetano Pini - CTO, Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Milano, Italy; 9Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Rheumatology Unit, Cagliari, Italy; 10Policlinico Umberto I, Università La Sapienza, Dipartimento di Medicina Interna e Specialità mediche, Roma, Italy; 11GISEA, Gruppo Italiano di Studio sulla early Arthritis, -. Roma, Italy; 12Policlinico Universitario di Catania, Rheumatology Unit, Catania, Italy; 13AOU Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino, Rheumatology Unit, Torino, Italy; 14Università degli Studi di Torino, Rheumatology Unit, Torino, Italy; 15University Hospital of Ferrara, Division of Rheumatology, Cona, Italy; 16Fondazione Polliclinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Division of Clinical Immunology, Roma, Italy; 17GISEA, Gruppo Italiano di Studio sulla early Arthritis, -. Bari, Italy; 18University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology Unit, Modena, Italy; 19Università degli Studi di Verona, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy; 20ASL Taranto P.O. “Valle d’Itria”, U.O. Reumatologia, Martina Franca, Italy

Background: An increased number of elderly patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been observed in the last years mainly due to the increase in life expectancy. In this group it is possible to include two different categories: patients with onset of RA in advanced age (60-65 years old), and patients with an early occurrence of RA aged with the disease. For all elderly patients many factors such as: comorbidities and polytherapy, extra-articular manifestations of RA, and the process of immune-senescence can increase frailty and difficulties for rheumatologist in management of RA. Although patients with late onset of RA frequently show more aggressive articular involvement and systemic manifestations, literature data suggest that rheumatologists tend to treat elderly patients less aggressively. Moreover, they delay treat to target approach with less frequent use of biologic drugs and prolonged use of steroids or NSAIDs.The improvement of knowledge about persistence of different drugs and associated patients’ profiles could suggest more specific treatment strategies encouraging the correct management of RA elderly patients in clinical practice.

Aim of the study was to evaluate the retention rate at two years of treatment with biologic or targetted synthetic (ts) DMARDs, namely TNF inhibitors, anti-IL-6, anti-CD20, Abatacept and Janus kinases inhibitors (JAKis), in patients with RA who received a targeted therapy over 65 years of age.

Methods: Data were extracted from the GISEA registry (Gruppo Italiano Studio Early Arthritis), selecting RA patients in which biologic- or ts-DMARDs were prescribed over 65 years of age.

Results: We analysed data of 1221 patients (F/M ratio 968/253). Therapies prescribed were: TNFis in 362 pts (29.6%), anti-IL-6 in 199 pts (16.3%), JAKis in 304 pts (24.9%), anti-CD20 in 53 pts (4.3%), abatacept in 303 pts (24.8%). Median time of persistence in therapy was 181 weeks (confidence interval 95% 158-205), with a significant difference among different classes of drugs (abatacept 254 weeks, CIA95% 219-289; anti-CD20 221, 104-337; TNFis 164, 151-217; JAKis 139, 115-164; and anti-IL-6 136, 105-167, p<0.001). Retention rate at two years was 66.3%±3.8 for abatacept, 59.7%±8.8 for anti-CD20, 54.9%±3.7 for TNFis, 49.2%±0.5 for anti-IL-6, 52.7%±3.7 for JAKis (Figure 1). A multivariate analysis including age, gender, class of drug, line of treatment, disease activity index on 28 joints (DAS28) was performed. Anti-cilutinulated peptides antibodies, rheumatoid factor, combination therapy with glucocorticoids and methotrexate were excluded from the model, since not significant at univariate analysis. Multivariate analysis revealed that treatment with TNFis (HR 1.63 CI 1.01-2.63, p=0.044), treatment with anti-IL-6 (HR 1.43 CI 1.11-1.85, p=0.006), an increase of 1 point of DAS28 (HR 1.21 CI 1.08-1.35, p=0.001) correlated with lower retention rate at two years. Among 1220 pts considered, 33.5% discontinued therapy. The most frequent cause of discontinuation for all drugs was a secondary loss of efficacy in 49.3% of cases.

Conclusion: In our study abatacept resulted the drug with the highest retention rate among drugs prescribed in elderly patients. On the other side, anti-IL6 showed the lowest persistence. Disease activity and the therapeutic choice may influence the retention rate. Our results on a very large population represent interesting points to consider for the choice of treatment for elderly RA patients. Prospective studies should be advisable to confirm these data.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1076 ARE DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ASSOCIATED WITH A LOWER RISK OF DEMENTIA? A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW WITH META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD

W. Xie1, Z. Zhang1. 1Peking University First Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Dysregulation of several inflammatory cytokines including tumor necrosis factor (TNF) in dementia patients has also been identified as a key factor in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Existing epidemiologic evidence suggests an increased risk of incident dementia associated with RA. Modulating systemic inflammation with disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) is hypothesized to attenuate the development of dementia.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the association of DMARDs therapy for RA with risk of incident dementia.

Methods: Electronic database searches of PubMed, EMBASE and Cochrane Library were performed. Observational studies that assessed the association of dementia with DMARDs in RA were included. Pooled risk ratios (RRs) with 95%
The median age was 54.9 (interquartile range: 44.0–64.5). 5,142 (88.2%) were seropositive, and the proportion of seropositive status differed between 2000–2010 (n=4,261) and 2011–2021 (n=2,004) (Figure 1). The proportion of seropositive patients was 90.2% in 2000–2010 and 84.0% in 2011–2021. The positivity for RF and anti-CCP antibody was decreased over time: 74.9% and 78.1% in 2000–2010 and 70.0% and 74.3% in 2011–2021, respectively. The time period (2011–2021) was associated with seronegativity (adjusted odds ratio [OR]: 1.51, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.24–1.83). Additionally, the time period (2011–2021) was also associated with RF negativity (adjusted OR: 1.44, 95% CI: 1.23–1.68) and anti-CCP negativity (adjusted OR: 1.30, 95% CI: 1.10–1.52).

Acknowledgements: The IORRA cohort data revealed a decrease in seropositivity in Japanese patients with RA. The phenotype of RA in the clinical setting may have been changing over time.

REFERENCES:


Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence

Methods: This is a retrospective study using data from the Institute of Rheumatology Rheumatoid Arthritis (IORRA) cohort. Among patients enrolled in the IORRA cohort between 2000 and 2021, patients with a disease duration of <3 years at enrolment were excluded. Seropositive status was defined as positive for rheumatoid factor (RF) (cut-off: 15 IU/mL) and/or anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (CCP) antibody (second generation; cut-off: 4.5 IU/mL). Patients with one negative and one unmeasured or both unmeasured were excluded. The time period was divided into 2000–2010 and 2011–2021. The effect of the time period on seropositivity was analyzed using multivariable analysis after adjusting for age, sex, smoking, and body mass index (BMI) at enrolment.

Results: Of 6,514 patients enrolled, 5,289 (81.2%) patients were female, and the median age was 54.9 (interquartile range: 44.0–64.5). 5,142 (88.2%) were seropositive, and the proportion of seropositive status differed between 2000–2010 (n=4,261) and 2011–2021 (n=2,004) (Figure 1). The proportion of seropositive patients was 90.2% in 2000–2010 and 84.0% in 2011–2021. The positivity for RF and anti-CCP antibody was decreased over time: 74.9% and 78.1% in 2000–2010 and 70.0% and 74.3% in 2011–2021, respectively. The time period (2011–2021) was associated with seronegativity (adjusted odds ratio [OR]: 1.51, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.24–1.83). Additionally, the time period (2011–2021) was also associated with RF negativity (adjusted OR: 1.44, 95% CI: 1.23–1.68) and anti-CCP negativity (adjusted OR: 1.30, 95% CI: 1.10–1.52).

Conclusion: The IORRA cohort data revealed a decrease in seropositivity in Japanese patients with RA. The phenotype of RA in the clinical setting may have been changing over time.
Background: High-dose glucocorticoids (GCs) can cause weight gain and hypertension. It is unclear whether GCs at ≤7.5mg/d prednisone equivalent (“low dose”), administered for rheumatoid arthritis (RA), do as well. Prior studies could not definitively answer this research question: Observational studies are confounded by indication, and individual randomized trials (RCTs) are usually underpowered for small safety signals.

Objectives: To assess the effects of long-term treatment with low dose GCs in RA on body weight and blood pressure by pooling individual patient data from RCTs.

Methods: Data from five RCTs with two-year interventions were pooled. All trials originated in Europe and allowed concomitant treatment with DMARDs. Intervention groups received GCs at a dose of ≤7.5mg/d prednisone equivalent, control groups received placebo or nothing. Co-primary outcomes were the difference in change from baseline in a) body weight (kg) and b) mean arterial blood pressure (MAP; mmHg). A secondary outcome was the difference in the number of administered antihypertensive drugs. Several sensitivity and subgroup analyses were conducted. All analyses were based on analyses of covariate-adjusted mean change from baseline. All primary and secondary analyses were performed with a hierarchical statistical testing procedure was followed. Results: 1,112 participants were included (mean ± SD age 61 ± 15 years; 68% female). A mean DAS28 of 4.87 ± 1.16 indicated moderate disease activity at baseline; disability was moderate to severe with a median (interquartile range) health assessment questionnaire score of 1.38 (0.80; 2.25). Median disease duration was 1 year (0.42; 7). Baseline values for weight and MAP were 73kg ± 14 and 98mmHg ± 12; median number of antihypertensive drugs was 0 (0; 0). After two years, patients on GCs gained mean 1.1kg (95%CI 0.5 to 1.8; p < 0.001; Table 1) more weight than patients in the control groups. Both groups increased MAP by 2-3mmHg, without difference between the groups (<0.4; 95% CI -3.0 to 2.2 mm Hg; p = 0.19; Table 1). The change in number of antihypertensive drugs was low and similar in both groups (Table 1). Results were consistent across sensitivity and subgroup analyses focusing on overweight or hypertensive patients, and when comparing GCs at 5mg/d with 7.5mg/d (data not shown).

Conclusion: We present robust evidence that low dose GCs, taken over two years for the treatment of RA, lead to about one additional kg of weight gain but do not cause changes in blood pressure.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Changes in weight and mean arterial blood pressure in GC and Control groups at the end of year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>MAP (mmHg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GC</td>
<td>547 (9.8)</td>
<td>565 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>511 (0.8)</td>
<td>555 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contrast</td>
<td>36 (0.5)</td>
<td>35 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: We thank Sascha Marc Seidl (Merck, Inc.) for his help regarding data retrieval and interpretation.

Disclosure of Interests: Andrinko Palowski: None declared, Sabrina Mai Nagel: None declared, Zhivana Boyadzhieva: None declared, Linda Hart: None declared, Judith Oldenkott: None declared, Bjorn Svensson: None declared, Ingild Hafstrom: None declared, Siegfried Wassenberg: None declared, Ernest Choy Grant/research support from: EC has received research grants and honoraria from Abbvie, Bio-Cancer, Biocon, Chugai Pharma, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB unrelated to this manuscript, Jorn Kirwan: None declared. Robin Christensen: None declared, Maarten Boers Consultant of: MB has received consultancy fees from Novartis unrelated to this manuscript, Frank Buttger Consultant of: FB has received consultancy fees, honoraria and travel expenses from Abbvie, Pfizer, Grunenthal, and Horizon Therapeutics, all unrelated to this manuscript.

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The impact of synovitis of individual finger joints on grip force over the first five years in early rheumatoid arthritis

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Rydholm, A. Sharma, L. H. T. Jacobsen, C. Turesson, S. Skåne University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Malmö, Sweden; Lund University, Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Malmö, Sweden; Sahlgrenska Academy at Gothenburg University, Department of Rheumatology and Inflammation Research, Gothenburg, Sweden

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has a major impact on hand function in many patients. Information on the contribution of individual joints to impaired grip strength may be helpful for guiding individualized management.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to investigate the relation between swelling and tenderness of individual finger joints and grip force over time in patients with early RA.

Methods: An inception cohort of patients with early RA (symptom duration ≤12 months), recruited in 1995-2005, was investigated and followed in a structured program, with follow-up evaluations after 1 and 5 years. All patients were examined by the same rheumatologist according to a structured protocol. Grip force (Newton) was measured using the electronic instrument Gripit (AB Detektör, Gothenburg, Sweden). Average grip force values of each hand were evaluated and compared to the expected values. Generalized estimating equations were used to adjust for repeated measurements of grip force as the dependent variable, we investigated whether time-varying synovitis of individual metacarpophalangeal (MCP) and proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joints were associated with reduced grip force over time. As wrist involvement, high erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and severe patient reported pain have been independently associated with reduced grip force in early RA (2), the analyses were adjusted for these parameters as time-varying covariates.

Results: A total of 215 patients with early RA (71% women; mean age 60 years) were investigated. The median symptom duration at inclusion was 7 months; interquartile range 5-10. Clinical synovitis was most frequently observed in MCP I and MCP II (60% at inclusion in both hands), and less in MCP IV and V (12-13% at baseline). Swelling of individual PIP joints was observed in 16-34% of patients at inclusion. Swollen joint counts (of 28 joints) decreased over time (median 7, interquartile range (IQR) 5-11 at diagnosis; median 4, IQR 4-7 after 5 years), and there was a parallel increase in grip force (mean 39% of expected for both hands at inclusion, 56% for the right hand and 55% for the left hand after 5 years). Synovitis of MCP I and MCP IV was significantly associated with reduced grip over time in both hands, with a similar finding for MCP V in the left hand only (Table 1), PIP synovitis had a lower impact on grip force (Table 1).

Table 1. Relation between synovitis of individual MCP and PIP joints and grip force (% of expected) over the first five years after diagnosis of RA; β (95% CI), adjusted for wrist synovitis, ESR and VAS pain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synovitis</th>
<th>Right hand (β, 95% CI)</th>
<th>Left hand (β, 95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCP I</td>
<td>-0.5 (-8.3 to -1.7)</td>
<td>-3.7 (-6.6 to -0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP II</td>
<td>-1.7 (-4.9 to 1.5)</td>
<td>-1.7 (-4.9 to 1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP III</td>
<td>-1.8 (-4.4 to 2.0)</td>
<td>-0.4 (-3.3 to 2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP IV</td>
<td>-4.7 (-8.3 to -0.2)</td>
<td>-6.1 (-10.9 to -1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP V</td>
<td>-1.0 (-7.2 to 1.7)</td>
<td>-6.3 (-10.2 to -1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIP I</td>
<td>0.8 (4.5 to 0.1)</td>
<td>-2.4 (-6.7 to 1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIP II</td>
<td>0.3 (3.3 to 3.9)</td>
<td>-1.8 (-5.6 to 1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIP III</td>
<td>0.7 (2.6 to 4.0)</td>
<td>-0.6 (-4.4 to 3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIP IV</td>
<td>-0.3 (4.4 to 3.9)</td>
<td>0.1 (-4.2 to 4.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIP V</td>
<td>-3.0 (8.1 to 2.2)</td>
<td>1.1 (-4.6 to 6.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MCP: Metacarpophalangeal joint
PIP: Proximal interphalangeal joint

Conclusion: MCP synovitis of the thumb is common in early RA, and a major contributor to reduced grip force over the first 5 years. Although less frequent, involvement of MCP IV and MCP V may also have a significant impact on hand function. Despite improvement, grip force was still impaired 5 years after RA diagnosis. This underlines the importance of both efficient treatment of synovitis and structured hand training in early RA.

References:

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Disclosure of Interests: Maria Rydholm: None declared, Anika Sharma: None declared, Lennart T.H. Jacobsson Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis and Pfizer, Carl Turesson Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Nordic Drugs, Pfizer and Roche., Consultant of: Roche, Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb.

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S. Khidir1, B. Van Dijk1, D. Krijbolder1, M. Versstappen1, E. Van der Helm van Mil1,2, A. Van der Helm – van Mil1,2, 1Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Erasmus Medical Center, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Background: At time of Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) diagnosis, patients typically present with clinical arthritis of hand and foot-joints. It is unknown whether RA starts in hands or feet.

Objectives: To investigate this, we performed functional, clinical and imaging studies during progression from clinically suspect arthralgia (CSA) to RA. We also studied whether functional disabilities of hands/feet in CSA contribute to predicting RA-development.

Methods: 600 CSA-patients were followed for development of clinical inflammatory arthritis (IA) during a median follow-up of 25 months, of whom 99 developed IA. Functional disabilities were measured at baseline/4/12/24 months with the Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability-Index (HAQ); HAQ-items assessing hand- and foot-disabilities were selected. The course of disabilities towards IA-development (here considered as t=0) was depicted by increasing incidences and analysed using linear mixed models. To evaluate robustness of findings, tender hand/foot joints and subclinical joint-inflammation (measured with CE-1.5T MRI of hand/foot) were additionally studied. Associations between disabilities at CSA-presentation (here t=0) and future IA-development were studied using Cox-regression in the total CSA-population.

Results: During IA-development, hand-disabilities occurred earlier and more frequently than foot-disabilities. Despite both hand- and foot-disabilities rose significantly towards IA-development, hand-disabilities were more severe during this course (mean difference over time: 0.41 units,95%CI=0.28-0.55,p<0.001, on a range 0-3). Similar to functional disabilities, tender joints and subclinical joint-inflammation occurred earlier in the hands than feet (Figure 1). In the total CSA-population, a single HAQ-question on difficulties with dressing (hand-functioning) was independently predictive for IA-development: HR=2.2,95%CI:1.4-3.5,p<0.001.

Conclusion: Evaluation of functional disabilities, supported by clinical and imaging findings, revealed that joint involvement starts predominantly in the hands during RA-development. Additionally, a single question on dressing-difficulties adds value to risk stratification in CSA-patients and is easy to use in clinical practice.

Figure 1. Functional disabilities (A), tender joints (B) and subclinical joint-inflammation (C) towards IA-development occur earlier and more frequently in the hands than in the feet lines depict the increasing incidence of functional disabilities (HAQ), tender joints (physical examination) and subclinical joint-inflammation (MRI-detected) in the hands and feet prior to development of inflammatory arthritis. Abbreviations: HAQ= Health Assessment Questionnaire; IA= inflammatory arthritis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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DIFFICULT TO TREAT INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: MAKING THE DEFINITION MORE PRECISE AND TIME FRAMED

Keywords: Outcome measures, Remission, Rheumatoid arthritis

1Canterbury Christ Church University Medway Campus, Rheumatology, Gillingham, United Kingdom; 2Faculty of Medicine - Tanta University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Tanta, Egypt; 3Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Community and Public health, Cairo, Egypt; 4Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Cairo, Egypt; 5North Middlesex University Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 6Faculty of Medicine - Assiut University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Assiut, Egypt; 7Faculty of Medicine Banha University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Banha, Egypt; 8Faculty of Medicine Zagazig University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Zagazig, Egypt; 9Faculty of Medicine - Minia University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Minia, Egypt; 10Faculty of Medicine Kasr Al-Any, Cairo University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Cairo, Egypt; 11Faculty of Medicine, Fayoum University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Fayoum, Egypt; 12Faculty of Medicine - Mansoura University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Mansoura, Egypt; 13Faculty of Medicine Alexandria University, Rheumatology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Alexandria, Egypt

Background: Management of difficult to treat (D2T) inflammatory arthritis requires meticulous evaluation for the presence or absence of inflammation to support pharmacological and non-pharmacological management strategies. The challenge arises from the finding that D2T has been linked to a variety of characteristics. The EULAR Task Force has recently defined D2T rheumatoid arthritis as patients having persistency of symptoms and/or signs despite failure of at least two biological or targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs with different mechanisms of action. However, the proposed EULAR Task Force definition of D2T was based on just one assessment at one moment of time, during which flare up of the disease may not be reflective of the actual disease activity status.

Objectives: To address the unmet needs and derive a comprehensive, yet precise, approach to define the inflammatory arthritis patients who are “Difficult-to-Treat”.

Methods: Five key clinical questions including 20 domains were identified by core scientific committee. Literature Review team performed a systematic review to summarize evidence advocating the D2T definition, assessment and management, as well as benefits and harms of available pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapies. Subsequently, recommendations were formulated. The level of evidence was determined for each section using the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine (CEBM) system. A 3-round Delphi process was conducted. All rounds were conducted online. Consensus, consequently, to become a recommendation, would be achieved if at least 80% of participants reached agreement (score 7-9). A consensus was achieved on the direction and the strength of the recommendations.

Results: The work proposed an inclusive definition of D2T in inflammatory arthritis based on 4 pillars: “persistent inflammation that continues to cause significant burden despite standard treatment as perceived by the treating rheumatologist and/or the patient”. Two extra factors have been suggested to be added to the EULAR definition. These are “disease burden” and “time-frame” for the assessment of the disease activity status. “Continuous disease burden” has been defined as having difficulties in: Achieving treatment target, controlling disease progression, sustained elevation of the acute phase response over 3 months period attributed to the inflammatory joint disease, lack of functional restoration and poor quality of life despite good
symptomatic control, and treatment compliance due to: unacceptable tol-
erability or non-adherence or rejection of the treatment option. Time frame has been identified as: persistent joint inflammation (active/progressive dis-
ease) has been documented according to validated composite measures in-
cluding joint counts in 2-readings, 3-months apart. Level of agreement was high and in the range of 8.17-8.83.

Conclusion: this study revealed a consensus that time factor is vital to consider inflammatory arthritis as persistent, hence meet the difficult to treat definition. Adding the 'continuous disease burden has added another dimension to the management of O2T, advocating a more holistic approach
toward the patient rather than observing a patient through the prism of the index disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1105

POS1084 EFFECT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ON TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

W. Jeong 1, J. Kim 1. 1Jeju National University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Jeju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: According to the results of previous studies, it has been reported that rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients receive total knee arthro-
plasty (TKA) at a younger age than osteoarthritis (OA) patients. However, studies on the effect of RA on TKA are still insufficient.

Objectives: We conducted this study to find out how RA affects primary TKA and revision arthroplasty.

Methods: The data of OA and RA patients who underwent primary TKA and revision arthroplasty at Jeju National University Hospital between March 2003 and December 2022 were retrospectively analyzed. To exclude the effect of other connective tissue diseases, patients with SLE, Sjogren's syndrome, polymyalgia rheumat-
ica, mixed connective tissue disease, undifferentiated connective tissue disease, Behçet's disease, systemic sclerosis, and vasculitis were excluded.

Results: A total of 5245 TKAs were performed, and the average age at primary TKA was 72.4 ± 6.4 years, and 2292 (85.7%) were female. When they were divided into OA group and RA group, RA knees were 159 (3.1%). The age at primary TKA in the RA group was significantly smaller (69.6 ± 6.8 vs 72.5 ± 6.4, p<0.001), and the female ratio was higher (91.9% vs 85.5%, p=0.031). Although the rate of revision surgery was not statistically significant, the RA group had more (5.6% vs 3.1%, p=0.111), and the period to revision tended to be shorter in the RA group (33.8 ± 49.2 months vs 67.7 ± 56.1 months, month, p=0.078). The cause of reoperation was not significantly different between the two groups, but the rate of infection was higher in the RA group (55.6% vs 43.7%, p<0.001), and reoperation due to loosening was more common in the OA group (46.2% vs 22.2%). There was no difference in other test values at the time of surgery, but in the RA group, ESR (43.8 ± 3.17 mm/h vs 26.6 ± 22.6 mm/h, P<0.001), CRP (1.8 ± 2.3 mg/dL vs. 0.8 ± 2.1 mg/dL, p<0.001) was significantly higher. The incidence of TKA was higher in the RA patients than OA patients (1436.2 per 100,000 Person-Years vs 1379.7 per 100,000 Person-Years). When comparing the risk of patients under-
going primary TKA during their lifetime by adjusting for gender, it was found that RA patients started receiving primary TKA at a younger age and had a signifi-
cantly higher risk of undergoing TKA (HR 1.48, 95% CI 1.263–1.733, P<0.001). As a result of logistic regression analysis, the increase in ESR (OR 10.2, 95% CI 1.01-103, P=0.001) and CRP (OR 1.09, 95% CI 1.01-1.17, P=0.021) at the time of primary TKA increase risk of revision arthroplasty, but RA did not.

Conclusion: Patients with RA have a higher risk of primary TKA and start primary TKA at a younger age, and the increased inflammation level at the time of primary TKA increase risk of revision arthroplasty, so it is recom-
mended to perform primary TKA after inflammation is controlled.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier Failure Curve for TKRA

POS1085 INITIATION OF A JANUS KINASE INHIBITOR BEFORE AND AFTER THE SAFETY WARNINGS: CHANGES IN CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Registries, Comorbidities, Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs)

D. Huschke 1, P. Herzer 2, A. Zink 3, M. Feuchtenberger 4, A. Strangfeld 1,3, 1German Rheumatism Research Center Berlin, Epidemiology and Health Services Research Berlin, Germany; 2Rheumatologist, Private Practice, München, Germany; 3Scientific Advisory Board, RABBIT, Berlin, Germany; 4Rheumatologist, Innklinikum Burghausen Altötting, Germany; 5Charité, Universitätmedizin, Berlin, Germany

Background: In 2019, 2020 and 2021, the European and US-American reg-
ulatory agencies issued warnings about venous thromboembolism, major cardiovascular events and malignancy risks associated with the Janus
to kinase inhibitor (JAKi) tofacitinib and required changes in labelling.

Objectives: To investigate whether characteristics of patients with rheu-
matoid arthritis receiving a JAKi versus biologic therapy differed before and after the safety warnings.

Methods: Data from patients who started with any JAKi or biologics treatment in the German biologics register RABBIT between 01/2017 and 04/2022 were included. Multivariate logistic regression analyses were used to understand differ-
ces in characteristics of patients starting a JAKi treatment versus a biologic treatment in three annual cohorts: 2017 the year JAKis became available in Ger-
many, 2019 before the EMA safety warnings and 2021. In each year, only the first treatment episodes of each JAKi, TNF inhibitor, interleukin-6 inhibitor or B/T-cell targeted therapy were considered. Prior treatment episodes were possible. The logistic regressions were corrected for clustering at the patient level. In 2017, we included 549 JAKI versus 2510 biDMARD treatment episodes, in 2019 674 versus 2233 and in 2021 700 versus 1296 episodes.

Results: Patient characteristics at treatment start have changed over time. In 2017, compared to patients receiving a biologic, patients starting a JAKi had been treated with a higher number of therapies, had a higher (worse) physician reported health and were more likely to have comorbidities such as hypertension, coronary heart disease, diabetes, hyperlipoproteinaemia, thrombosis, malignancy or lymphoma. In 2019, patients initiating a JAKi therapy compared to a biologic were less likely to be women, had a worse physician reported health and were more likely to receive a dose of less than 10mg glucocorticoids than none. In 2021, after the safety warnings, compared to patients receiving a biologic, those who started a JAKi were older, had a worse physician reported health, had received a higher number of previous therapies, had poorer self-reported health and were less likely to receive a high dose of glucocorticoids. Although not significant, patients with comorbidities were less likely to receive a JAKi.
Conclusion: The analyses show that after the launch of JAKi treatment in 2017, comorbidities increased the likelihood to receive JAKis as a new treatment option. In 2021, patients with a high disease burden and with many other previous therapies were more likely to receive JAKis, but not those with comorbidities. This development shows that rheumatologists in Germany follow the safety recommendations and consider the patients' disease burden and risk factors when prescribing JAKis.

Table 1. Odds Ratios of the logistic regressions for treatment start of a JAKi compared to a bDMARD in 2017, 2019, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of treatment start</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OR LogReg (95%CI)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;50 Ref:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-65</td>
<td>1.00 (0.77-1.31)</td>
<td>1.27 (0.99-1.64)</td>
<td>1.50 (1.14-1.97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>0.81 (0.60-1.10)</td>
<td>1.15 (0.86-1.53)</td>
<td>1.51 (1.11-2.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (m vs. f)</td>
<td>0.96 (0.78-1.20)</td>
<td>0.74 (0.60-0.91)</td>
<td>1.03 (0.83-1.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant comorbidities*</td>
<td>1.37 (1.10-1.70)</td>
<td>1.16 (0.96-1.40)</td>
<td>0.86 (0.70-1.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositivity</td>
<td>0.95 (0.76-1.19)</td>
<td>0.88 (0.63-1.20)</td>
<td>1.16 (0.99-1.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98-1.00)</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98-1.00)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.99-1.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. previous b/DMARDs</td>
<td>1.37 (1.30-1.44)</td>
<td>1.02 (0.98-1.07)</td>
<td>1.18 (1.12-1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician global health (0-10)</td>
<td>1.16 (1.10-1.22)</td>
<td>1.09 (1.04-1.14)</td>
<td>1.08 (1.03-1.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global health (0-10)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.89-1.01)</td>
<td>1.02 (0.97-1.08)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.90-1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of full physical function</td>
<td>1.00 (0.99-1.00)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.99-1.00)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.99-1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids &gt;0-&lt;1 mg/d</td>
<td>0.89 (0.70-1.12)</td>
<td>1.27 (1.05-1.54)</td>
<td>1.01 (0.83-1.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids &gt;=10 mg/d</td>
<td>0.75 (0.54-1.03)</td>
<td>1.01 (0.75-1.37)</td>
<td>0.70 (0.50-0.98)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*≥ 1 comorbidity mentioned in the safety warnings (hypertension, coronary heart disease, diabetes, hyperlipoproteinaemia, thrombosis, malignancy, lymphoma)

Acknowledgements: RABBIT is currently supported by a joint, unconditional grant from AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Hexal, Lilly, MSD, Pfizer, Samsung Bioepis, Sanofi, VIATRIS SANTE and UCB and previously by Roche.

Disclosure of Interests: Doreen Huschek Grant/research support from: Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute., Peter Herzer Speakers bureau: ABBVIE, NOVARTIS, JANSSEN-CILAG, Angela Zink Grant/research support from: Previously, but not during last three years, Martin Feuchtenberger Speakers bureau: Martin Feuchtenberger reports fees from AbbVie, personal fees from Novartis, personal fees from Roche, and personal fees from UCB outside of the submitted work., Consultant of: Martin Feuchtenberger reports fees from AbbVie outside of the submitted work., Anja Strangfeld Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, UCB. Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute., Grant/research support from: Non-personal, joint grant from a consortium of 14 pharmaceutical companies for the biologics register RABBIT to my institute.

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POS1086 WITHDRAWN
Public health, health services research, and health economics

Efficacy of Pharmacological Interventions: A Systematic Review Informing the 2023 EULAR Recommendations for the Management of Fatigue in People with Inflammatory Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes; Systematic review; bDMARD

B. Farisogullari, E. Santos, E. Dures, P. Machado

Background: There is evidence that pharmacological interventions, including biologic therapies, can improve inflammation, disease activity and function in inflammatory rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (I-RMDs), and fatigue has increasingly been included as a secondary outcome of I-RMDs clinical trials. However, no systematic review (SR) has established the evidence for the pharmacological management of fatigue in people with I-RMD [1,2].

Objectives: To identify the best evidence on the efficacy of pharmacological interventions in reducing fatigue in people with I-RMDs and to summarise their safety in the identified studies to inform EULAR recommendations for the management of fatigue in people with I-RMD.

Methods: Systematic review of adults with I-RMD conducted according to the Cochrane Handbook. Search strategy ran in Medline, Embase, Cochrane Library, CINAHL Complete, PEDro, OTseeker and PsycINFO. Assessment of risk of bias, data extraction, and synthesis performed by two reviewers independently. Data pooled in statistical meta-analyses.

Results: From a total of 4,150 records, 454 were selected for full-text review, 178 fulfilled the inclusion criteria, and 19 RCTs were included in meta-analyses. Adalimumab was superior to placebo in reducing fatigue at 52 and 12 weeks (wk) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (mean difference [MD]=-2.25, p<0.03; MD=-3.03, p<0.01; respectively) and psoriatic arthritis (MD=-3.16, p=0.26). Golimumab (24 wk: MD=-5.27, p<0.001), baricitinib (24 wk: MD=-4.06, p<0.001), tofacitinib (24 wk: MD=-3.15, p=0.001), tocilizumab (24 wk: MD=-3.69, p=0.001) and tofacitinib (12 wk: MD=-4.44, p<0.001) were also superior to placebo in reducing fatigue in RA. A dose-effect relationship was observed for sarilumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib. In spondyloarthritis, secukinumab was superior to placebo in reducing fatigue at 16 wk (MD=-4.15, p<0.001), with a dose-effect relationship also observed (Figure 1). The narrative results of the RCTs not included in the meta-analysis indicated that several other pharmacological interventions were efficacious in reducing fatigue, with reassuring safety results.

Conclusion: Pharmacological interventions are efficacious and safe for the management of fatigue in people with I-RMD.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: B Farisogullari and E Santos contributed equally to the manuscript.

Disclosure of Interests: Bayram Farisogullari: None declared, Eduardo Santos: None declared, Emma Dures: None declared, Pedro Machado.

The Patient-Perspective and Feasibility of Home Finger Prick Testing to Complement and Facilitate Large Scale Digital Data Collection

Keywords: Health services research, Inflammatory arthritis; Patient reported outcomes

Y. Besten, L. Boekel, M. Steenhuis, F. Hooijberg, M. Leeuw, S. Atiqi, E. Vogelzang, J. Keijzer, O. Cristianawati, S. Keijzer, F. Loef, M. Gerritsen, S. Tas, M. Nummohamed, T. Rispens, G. Wolbink, Reade. Locatie Dr. van Bremenstraat, Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Sanquin Research and Landsteiner Laboratory, Immunopathology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Medical Microbiology and Infection Control, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 4Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 5Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUMc, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Background: Previous studies have shown that using a finger prick as the primary method for blood withdrawal is an efficient way to collect blood samples remotely, and data on blood levels from a finger prick are directly comparable to those obtained by a venepuncture. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we therefore complemented our large digital research platform with serum collection via a home finger prick testing in order to collect samples without the need of visits to a hospital. This repeatedly enabled us to rapidly answer new and relevant clinical research questions about COVID-19, thereby showing the potential of the finger prick for research purposes. However, the use of finger pricks in a research or clinical practice setting is still uncommon, and not yet tested on a large scale. In addition, there is limited data on peoples' willingness and ability to successfully use the finger prick at home, especially in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (iRD) who may have impaired hand function.

Objectives: To investigate the feasibility of finger prick testing in combination with a digital research platform by evaluating the success rate and patients' perspective towards the use of the finger prick.

Methods: Data were collected from an ongoing prospective cohort study including patients with iRD from the Amsterdam Rheumatology & Immunology Center and healthy controls. Serum samples were collected up to eight times during follow-up via blood withdrawal by venepuncture at the local research institute or via a finger prick that could be performed at home. For the latter option, participants were instructed to collect three drops of blood, which would yield approximately 40-80 µL of serum after clotting. All study participants were questioned about their preference for a particular sampling method for individual healthcare and for scientific research. Participants who received a finger prick test before June 26, 2021, were asked to complete a digital evaluation questionnaire of the finger prick after their attempt. The finger prick was defined as failed when less than 10 µL of serum could be recovered from the collection device, or if no sample was returned to the laboratory and participants indicated in the questionnaires that they did not succeed in collecting the required amount of serum.

Results: A total of 3080 patients with iRD and 1102 healthy controls were included in the study. Of these, 2135 (69%) patients and 899 (82%) controls attempted to execute at least one finger prick, and 1439 (67%) patients and 712 (21%) controls executed multiple finger pricks. The first finger prick was successfully done by 92% (CI 90 – 93) of iRD patients, 94% (CI 92 – 95) of healthy controls, 93% (CI: 92 – 94) of all participants aged 70 years or younger, and 89% (CI 86 – 92) of all participants aged above 70 years (Table 1). Sex did not impact
these success rates. Repeated failure occurred in 11 of 1439 (0.8%) patients and 4 of 712 (0.6%) controls. The two most common reasons for perceived failure of the finger prick were related to insufficient blood yield when applying the finger prick to the ear. Additionally, 77% of patients and 85% of controls were willing to perform a finger prick for individual healthcare compared to scientific research; 31% of patients and 61% of controls were willing to perform a finger prick for scientific research compared to 19% of patients and 39% of controls for healthcare. The most important reason for this was lower confidence in the execution and laboratory measurements when blood was drawn via a venepuncture compared to a finger prick.

Conclusion: In this study, we demonstrated that the vast majority of participants, among which elderly and patients of whom hand function may be impaired by an underlying rheumatic disease, were able to successfully draw the required amount of blood for serological analyses. This shows that the finger prick testing is suitable for a high-throughput implementation to monitor patients remotely, which will likely contribute to improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of both healthcare and scientific research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Success rate for the first, second and third execution of the finger prick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First execution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatic SIBD patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt; 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6189

Rheumatoid arthritis - comorbidity and clinical aspects

Keywords: Mental health, Inflammatory arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

L. Zhao1, J. Galloway2, J. Ledingham3, S. Gallagher4, N. Garnavos4, P. Amlani-Hatcher5, N. Wilson2, L. Carpenter2, K. Bannister2, S. Norton5,6,1. King’s College London, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Neuroscience, London, United Kingdom; 2King’s College London, Center for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 3Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust, Rheumatology Department, Portsmouth, United Kingdom; 4British Society for Rheumatology; 5National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit (NEIAA), London, United Kingdom; 6King’s College London, Department of Psychology, London, United Kingdom; 7King’s College London, Wolfson Centre for Age-Related Diseases, London, United Kingdom

Background: In inflammatory arthritis patients, the concomitant decline of their mental wellbeing is an increasing concern [1,2]. It is important to not only describe the trajectory of psychological distress in early disease stages, but also understand which clinical outcome measures are most associated with these changes.

Objectives: Using data from the National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit (NEIAA), we assessed trends in psychological wellbeing over 12 months after initial diagnosis and mapped these against clinical outcomes to identify significant associations.

Methods: NEIAA collects data from patients referred with suspected early inflammatory arthritis in rheumatology services in England and Wales. We used data provided by 20,472 patients eligible for follow-up (diagnosis of inflammatory arthritis) between May 1st, 2018, and April 1st, 2022. Data items included baseline demographics e.g., age and gender, and clinical variables e.g., rheumatic disease comorbidity index (RDCI), DAS28, and patient reported outcomes. Psychological distress was measured by the sum score of Patient Health Questionnaire Anxiety and Depression Screener (PHQ4ADS). Using mixed effects regression models, we analysed the co-variability of PHQ4ADS with demographic factors and clinical outcomes over 12 months. Time was included as a dummy-coded covariant.

Results: The analysis included 36% of patients (7378 out of 20,472) who completed the baseline patient outcome survey. In this cohort, PHQ4ADS scores decreased from a baseline average of 4.7 (CI: [4.6, 4.8]) to 2.62 (CI: [2.5, 2.8]) at 12 months post-diagnosis. The proportion of patients screening positive decreased from 50.0% (CI: [48.9, 51.1]) at baseline to 23.8% (CI: [21.8, 25.9]) at 12 months. At baseline, psychological distress correlated significantly with age, gender, ethnicity, RDCI, prior depression diagnosis, and baseline DAS28 (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In this early inflammatory arthritis cohort, mental health burden was high. Age, gender, ethnicity, RDCI, prior depression diagnosis and baseline DAS28 significantly correlated with psychological distress at baseline. Supporting mental health should be a focus of clinical care for this population and it may be beneficial to use an approach that is culturally valid for non-white patients and accounts for multiraciality.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as the commissioner of NEIAA, British Society for Rheumatology as the audit providers, Net Solving as the audit platform developers, and the Wellcome Trust (ST12406) for funding to support L.Z.

Disclosure of Interests: Lucy Zhao: None declared, James Galloway Speakers bureau: Has received honoraria from AbbVie Celgene, Chugai, Gillead, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Jo Ledingham: None declared, Sarah Gallagher: None declared, Neena Garnavos: None declared, Paul Amlani-Hatcher: Speakers bureau: Has received honoraria from AbbVie Celgene, Chugai, Gillead, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Kirsty Bannister: None declared, Sam Norton: None declared, Nicky Wilson: None declared, Lewis Carpenter Consultant of: Statistical consultancy for Pfizer, Kirsty Bannister: None declared, Sam Norton Speakers bureau: Has received honoraria from Janssen and Pfizer.
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POS1096 IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY STANDARDS FOR HEALTH CARE OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: FIRST RESULTS FROM THE NATIONAL DATABASE OF THE GERMAN COLLABORATIVE ARTHRITIS CENTRES

Keywords: Health services research, Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of care


Figure 1. Changes in psychological distress correlated with age, gender, ethnicity, RDCI, prior depression diagnosis, and baseline DAS28.
Background: Despite the establishment of national and international recommendations for the management of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), reme- diable deficits in the quality of care (QoC) still exist. On behalf of the German Society for Rheumatology, with participation of the patient organization Deutsche Rheuma-Liga, eight Quality standards (QS) have been developed to improve the QoC in Germany. The QS can be used to determine and quantitative gaps in QoC in respect to time to diagnosis, use of glucocorticoids, rates of remission and impairments in physical function [1].

Objectives: To quantify gaps in QoC based on five QS in patients with RA for whom data from the National Database of the German Collaborative Arthritis Centres (NDB) exists.

Methods: In 2020, 4863 patients with RA from 12 Rheumatology centres were followed in the NDB. Five QS were reviewed: (Q5) How often was RA diagnosed within 8 weeks of symptom onset? (QSS) How many patients in remission? (QSH) How many patients are in glucocorticoid-free remission? (QSC) How many patients who were not in remission had their medication adjusted? (Q5S) How many patients with impairments in physical function received physiotherapy, functional training, and/or rehabilitation? Remission was investigated both by DAS28 and by CDAI cut-offs. Impairments in physical function were assessed with the FFBH (≥70% of full function). Switches, additions, or dose increases of disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) were considered adjustment of medication. Individual components of the DAS28 are reported to determine reasons for not achieving remission.

Results: Fulfillment of QS (Figure 1) was investigated in 4863 patients (Table 1). In 2020, 76 patients had their first contact to rheumatologist and 30 were seen by a rheumatologist within 8 weeks (36%). Of 61 patients with available diagnosis date, 25 (41%) were diagnosed within 8 weeks. 1523 of 3410 patients with available DAS28 were in DAS28 remission (45%) and 933 of 4023 patients with available CDAI were in CDAI remission (23%). 1155 of 1520 patients in DAS28 remission and 789 of 930 RA patients in CDAI remission were glucocorticoid-free (76% vs. 85%). 373 of 1676 patients who were not in DAS28 remission had adjustment of medication (22%). Patients without therapy adjustment had fewer clinical signs of inflammatory activity (SJC 1.3 vs. 2.6, TJC 2.6 vs. 3.7, ESR 25.7 vs. 27.4, Physician global 1.8 vs. 2.8). Patient disease activity 4.1 vs. 4.8) compared to patients with adjustment of medication. 68 of 149 patients with high disease activity (DAS28>5.1) had adjustment of medication (46%). 377 of 772 patients with impairments in physical function and information on physiotherapy received physiotherapy (49%), 32 of 767 patients with data on functional training received functional training (4%) and 117 of 1175 patients with data on rehabilitation received rehabilitation (10%).

Table 1. Patient characteristics, n=4863

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female sex (%)</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean in years</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, mean, years</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA or RF positive (%)</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28, mean (n=3,410)</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI, mean (n=4,023)</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC, mean</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC, mean</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mean in mm Hg</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global disease activity, mean</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician global disease activity, mean</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional assessment (FFBH 0-100), mean (n=4526)</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cs/DMARD (%a)</td>
<td>70/29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids (%)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Rheumatology visit in 2020, n</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of symptoms, mean/median, months</td>
<td>20/24.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatological diagnosis within 8 weeks, n (%)</td>
<td>30/39%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis within 8 weeks, n (%) (n=61 with available diagnosis date)</td>
<td>25/41%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: With the new QS, QoC of patients with RA can be measured in a standardized form. While some results reflect high quality of care, other QSs point to opportunities for improvement. The implementation of the QS enables both a comparative evaluation at facility level and a general rheumatology health-care outcome. This will help to optimize the QoC for patients with RA in Germany.

REFERENCE:
[1] PMID 34652486

Acknowledgements: We thank all participating rheumatologists and patients for their valuable contributions. The NDB is supported by the Association of Regional Cooperative Rheumatology Centres, the German Society for Rheuma- tology and joint contributions to the Rheumatological Training Academy and the DRFZ by the following members of the Working Group of Corporate Members of the German Society for Rheumatology: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BMS, GALAPA- GOS, GSK, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis and UCB.

Disclosure of Interests: Katinka Albrecht: None declared, Katja Thiele: None declared, Martin Aringer: None declared, Johanna Calhoff Speakers bureau: Janssen-Cilag GmbH, Kirsten Karberg: None declared, Klaus Krueger: None declared, Jürgen Lakomek: None declared, Hanns-Martin Lorenz: None declared, Martin Rudwaleit Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Boehringer, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Rotraud Schmale-Grede: None declared, Matthias Schneider: None declared, Susanna Spaeßling-Mestekemper: None declared, Christof Specker: None declared, Silke Zinke: None declared, Jürgen Braun: None declared, Uta Kiltz: None declared.

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and 15 Un differentiated CIRD and 159 healthy controls.

Results:

the international physical activity questionnaire (IPAQ-SF). Furthermore, all DAS28 CRP and ASDAS CRP. Physical activity levels were assessed using on ASAS criteria and the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis was based in April 2022 and October 2022. The diagnosis of spondyloarthritis was based

Methods:

Morocco Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2734

Rehabilitation

POS1092

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SEDENTARY BEHAVIOR IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES: A CASE CONTROL STUDY

Keywords: Lifestyles, Rehabilitation, Inflammatory arthritides

A. Adnine1, F. Z. Taik1, N. Takhrifa1, N. Soba2, F. Z. Aharrane1, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Abourazzak1.

1Abdelmalek Essaidi University, Faculty of Medecine of Tangier-Tetouan- Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Rheumatology, Tangier, Morocco; 2Abdelmalek Essaidi University, Faculty of Medecine of Tangier-Tetouan- Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco

Background: Engaging in regular physical activity (PA) is important in maintaining health and increasing the overall quality of life for patients living with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases (CIRD). It is assumed that patients with CIRD reports low levels of physical activity. In the era of evidence-based medicine few studies compare PA levels and its predictors between patient with CIRD and healthy control.

Objectives: we aim to investigate PA levels of patients with CIRD, to examine predictors of PA and furthermore compare findings to healthy control.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was performed among patients with CIRD Aged between 18 and 65 years old who visited the outpatient clinic between April 2022 and October 2022. The diagnosis of spondyloarthritasis was based on ASAS criteria and the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis was based on ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. Healthy controls were recruited in a specialized consultation. Socio-demographic findings were collected. Patients were assessed for pain and disease activity using visual analog scale (VAS) DAS28 CRP and ASDAS CRP. Physical activity levels were assessed using the international physical activity questionnaire (IPAQ-SF). Furthermore, all participants underwent screening for anxiety and depressive disorders using Patient health questionnaire (PHQ-9) and General anxiety disorder (GAD-7) respectively.

Results: The final study sample was made up of 172 patients (92 RA, 65 SpA and 15 Undifferentiated CIRD) and 159 healthy controls.

Table 1. Cross sectional analyses of mean (standard deviation) for 0-10 physician global estimate (DOCGL) and % of DOCGL attributed to inflammation (%INF), damage (%DAM), and patient distress (%STR) (Total=100%) at 244 first visits compared to 319 return visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary rheumatic physician</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
<th>DOC GL Mean (SD) % of DOCGL attributed to...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory diseases (RA, SLE, SpA, Vas, Gout)</td>
<td>159 (67%)</td>
<td>4.2 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoarthritis</td>
<td>45 (18%)</td>
<td>4.4 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
<td>32 (13%)</td>
<td>4.9 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other diagnosis</td>
<td>100 (41%)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>244 (100%)</td>
<td>3.9 (2.4)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOC GL</th>
<th>% INF</th>
<th>% DAM</th>
<th>% STR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>62% (∆ 33%)</td>
<td>24% (∆ 24%)</td>
<td>14% (∆ 24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>14% (∆ 19%)</td>
<td>72% (∆ 28%)</td>
<td>14% (∆ 18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>14% (∆ 12%)</td>
<td>22% (∆ 16%)</td>
<td>74% (∆ 28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>37% (∆ 33%)</td>
<td>35% (∆ 31%)</td>
<td>29% (∆ 33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>36% (∆ 30%)</td>
<td>38% (∆ 33%)</td>
<td>28% (∆ 34%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy controls</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
<th>DOC GL Mean (SD) % of DOCGL attributed to...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory diseases (RA, SLE, SpA, Vas, Gout)</td>
<td>159 (67%)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
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<td>5.0 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other diagnosis</td>
<td>100 (41%)</td>
<td>5.2 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>244 (100%)</td>
<td>4.1 (2.5)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOC GL</th>
<th>% INF</th>
<th>% DAM</th>
<th>% STR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>33% (∆ 31%)</td>
<td>49% (∆ 35%)</td>
<td>18% (∆ 27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>7% (∆ 14%)</td>
<td>69% (∆ 30%)</td>
<td>24% (∆ 28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>12% (∆ 21%)</td>
<td>20% (∆ 21%)</td>
<td>68% (∆ 26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>28% (∆ 26%)</td>
<td>52% (∆ 35%)</td>
<td>22% (∆ 30%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In patients with CIRD uni and multivariate analysis showed no association between PA levels and disease related variables: Disease duration year 8 [3, 17] N/A N/A

Anxiety GAD-7 scale 8 [4.75, 12] 6 [3, 10] P=0.001

Depression PHQ-9 scale 8 [5, 14] 4 [1, 9] P=0.000

Don’t Know: 19.5% (n=31)

IPAG-SF: -0.013 (-0.109, 0.083); p=0.794) on the contrary PA levels were negatively associated with depression (OR (95%CI) = -0.011 (-0.021, -0.002); p=0.021) and non-pharmacological interventions

1Fysikalskmedisinsk avdeling, UiT Norges arktiske universitet, Tromsø, Norway

2Medisinsk avdeling Kirkenes, Finnmarkssykehuset, Kirkenes, Norway

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1093

WHO ARE THE PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASE IN NEED TO SPECIALISED MULTIDISCIPLINARY REHABILITATION?

Keywords: Rehabilitation, Non-pharmacological interventions

E. Besada1, 2, 3, Fysikalskmedisinsk avdeling, UNT Tromsø, Tromsø, Norway; 2Medisinsk avdeling Kirkenes, Finnmarkssykehuset, Kirkenes, Norway; 3Institutt for klinisk medisin, UiT Norges arktiske universitet, Tromsø, Norway

In patients with CIRD uni and multivariate analysis showed no association between PA levels and disease related variables: Disease activity(OR (95%CI) = -0.032 (-0.160, 0.095); p=0.61), disease duration(OR (95%CI) = -0.013 (-0.028, 0.003); p=0.111) and comorbidities(OR (95%CI) = -0.013 (-0.109, 0.083); p=0.794) on the contrary PA levels were negatively associated with depression (OR (95%CI) = -0.011 (-0.021, -0.002); p=0.021) in healthy controls uni and multivariate analysis showed that PA levels were negatively associated with age (OR (95%CI) = -0.013 (0.004, 0.020; p=0.037), BMI (OR (95%CI) = -0.029 (0.051, 0.006; p=0.033) and depression (OR (95%CI) = -0.029 (-0.049, -0.009; p=0.004)).

Conclusion: Our study shows that patients with CIRD reports significantly low levels of PA and high level of SB compare to healthy controls. The unexpected finding in our study is that low levels of PA in patients with CRID were not associated with disease activity nor disease duration. Depressive disorders are an important predictor of physical inactivity and sedentary behavior regardless of the presence of CRID. Depressive disorders are common among patients with CRID. Screening for depression and treating in time is essential to help overcome sedentary behavior in our patient population.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1873
Background: Patients with inflammatory rheumatic disease, while receiving highly effective disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs, are still referred to multidisciplinary rehabilitation in specialised centres. Although multidisciplinary rehabilitation only have small and short-term improvements in patients' outcome, it could benefit patients with specific disability and rehabilitation needs, indicating a more complicated disease [1].

Objectives: In order to identify the specific rehabilitation needs of patients with inflammatory rheumatic disease, it is of paramount importance to describe their clinical characteristics. The present study includes all patients with inflammatory rheumatic disease who were referred to multidisciplinary rehabilitation in Northern Norway between 2018 and 2021.

Methods: In Norway, the cost of multidisciplinary rehabilitation in specialised centres is covered by the national welfare system. However patients must be referred by a physician and the referral approved by the regional assessment office (rehabilitation regional vurderingsenhet) at the University Hospital of North Norway. All patients referred to multidisciplinary rehabilitation were included in this longitudinal study; the study was retrospective from January 1st 2018 to 31st December 2018 and afterwards prospective to June 10th 2021. Data were extracted from referrals and hospital discharge summaries. Age, gender, diagnosis, county and municipality, referring physicians were collected in all patients. Major symptoms and associated diseases were later included in the study.

Results: 786 patients out of 1028 referrals were referred to multidisciplinary rehabilitation during the study period. The referral rate was 0.39 and 0.56/1000 persons/year for respectively the counties of Nordland and Troms-Finnmark. Patients’ mean age was 54 and 76 % were women. 43 % of all patients were first time referral. 56 % had spondyloarthrits, 23 % rheumatoid arthritis, 15 % connective tissue disease and 3.3 % vasculitis including polymyalgia rheumatica. The most common associated diseases were osteoarthritis and obesity, respectively in 36 and 31 % (Table 1). 41 % complained of fatigue and 38 % had diffuse pain.

Conclusion: In Northern Norway, the referral rate to multidisciplinary rehabilitation is 0.47/1000 persons/year. The prototypical patient referred to multidisciplinary rehabilitation is a woman in her sixth decade with spondyloarthritis, often complaining of fatigue and diffuse pain. Although these patients have seldom major physical disability, they are mostly in need for coping strategies regarding fatigue and chronic pain.

References:

Table 1. Frequency of associated disease in patients with inflammatory rheumatologic disease referred to multidisciplinary rehabilitation in Northern Norway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OA</th>
<th>Prosthesis</th>
<th>BMI&gt;30</th>
<th>FMS</th>
<th>PSY</th>
<th>T&lt;-2.5</th>
<th>DM</th>
<th>MI</th>
<th>Malignancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of patients</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6218

Education

POS1094

THE EULAR TOOL IS SUPERIOR TO A GENERIC TOOL IN THE ASSESSMENT OF MUSCULOSKELETAL ULTRASOUND COMPETENCE: A VALIDITY STUDY

Keywords: Ultrasound, Education

S. M. D. Carstensen1,2, S. A. Just1, M. Pfeiffer-Jensen3, M. Østergaard1,2, L. Konge2,3, L. Terslev1,3 Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Rigshospitalet, Glostrup, Denmark; 2Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Centre for Head and Orthopaedics, University Hospital of Copenhagen, Rigshospitalet, Glostrup, Denmark; 3Section of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Svendborg Hospital, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark; 4Copenhagen Academy for Medical Education and Simulation, The Capital Region of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark

Background: Musculoskeletal ultrasound (USUS) is a widely implemented tool in rheumatological routine care. It has been established which competencies are relevant for rheumatologists[1], and competency levels have already been developed within European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)[2] and European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB)[3]. Furthermore, the content and conduct of MSUS courses have been published[2]. Thus, the only component missing is an objective assessment tool supported by a contemporary validity framework to determine when residents have acquired the competencies relevant for independent practice[1].

A generic assessment tool for the assessment of ultrasound competence, The Objective Structured Assessment of Ultrasound skills (OSAUS)[4], has been developed and is already used in clinical practice in several other medical fields[5,6]. EULAR has developed another assessment tool specific for MSUS. Although both OSAUS and the EULAR tool are consensus-based, the tools' reliability and their discriminatory ability have not been explored.

Objectives: To explore the validity of the generic OSAUS tool and the EULAR tool for the assessment of MSUS operator performance. Moreover, to examine the optimal number of cases and raters needed to ensure a reliable assessment of residents.

Methods: We included 30 physicians, representing MSUS novices, intermediates, and experts. Validity evidence was gathered using the gold standard contemporary framework of Messick[8]. All participants performed MSUS examinations of four joint areas: the wrist, fingers, ankle, and shoulder on the same patient with rheumatoid arthritis. All performances were video recorded and subsequently assessed in completely random order by two blind raters using either the OSAUS assessment tool and then one month after, followed by new randomization of the videos, the EULAR tool.

Results: A total of 120 videos were assessed twice by two assessors. The inter-rater reliability was high for both tools: 0.807 (OSAUS) versus 0.848 (EULAR), and both tools demonstrated excellent inter-case reliability of 0.970 (OSAUS) versus 0.964 (EULAR). The ability to discriminate between different experience levels and MSUS performance was significant (p <0.001) for both the OSAUS and the EULAR tool. Moreover, by conducting a series of Decision-studies, we estimated the optimal number of cases and raters needed to ensure a reliable assessment (generalizability coefficient >0.8). A reliable assessment could be reached by using either one rater and three cases or two raters and one case (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of raters and cases needed to make a reliable assessment of MSUS competencies
Conclusion: MSUS operator competences can be assessed in a reliable and valid way using either the OSAUS or the EULAR assessment tool, thereby allowing a uniform competency-based MSUS education in the future. Although both tools demonstrated high inter-rater reliability, the EULAR tool was superior to OSAUS. Using the EULAR tool in clinical practice will allow a single assessor to provide a reliable MSUS assessment of the trainee by observing only two different MSUS examinations.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We would like to express our appreciation to the physicians and the healthy volunteer who donated their time to participate in this study. We would like to thank GE Healthcare for technical support.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POST1095**

E-LEARNING AND PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE IN MUSCULOSKELETAL ULTRASOUND - A MULTICENTER RANDOMIZED STUDY

**Keywords:** Education, Ultrasound, Randomized control trial

S. M. D. Carstensen1,2, S. A. Just3, M. Velander3, L. Konge2,4, M. Slusarczyk Hubel5, T. R. Savarimuthu6, M. Pfeiffer-Jensen7,1, M. Østergaard1,2, L. Terslev1,2,1 Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Centre for Head and Orthopaedics, University Hospital of Copenhagen, Rigshospitalet, Glostrup, Denmark; 2Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; 3Section of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Svendborg Hospital, Odense University Hospital, Svendborg, Denmark; 4Copenhagen Academy for Medical Education and Simulation, The Capital Region of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark; 5SDU Robotics, The Maersk Mc Kinney Moller Institute, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

**Background:** The COVID-19 pandemic has forced a change in the teaching approach when educating physicians. Several training programs have been digitally transformed, including complex procedures such as ultrasound [1]. Recent studies have suggested the possibilities for practicing theoretical and practical ultrasound skills using online platforms, e.g., e-learning [2]. Even though the effect of e-learning on theoretical knowledge is unquestionable, the impact on practical skills is unknown. Thus, it is essential to examine the effect of e-learning on the development of practical skills.

**Objectives:** To examine the effect of pre-course e-learning on residents’ practical performance in musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSUS). Moreover, to examine the effect of pre-course e-learning on residents’ satisfaction with the following face-to-face MSUS course.

**Methods:** We designed a multi-center randomized controlled study following the CONSORT statement. Residents with no or little MSUS experience were randomized to either an e-learning group or a traditional group. One week before a 2-day face-to-face MSUS course, the e-learning group received access to an interactive platform consisting of online lectures, assignments, and practical instruction videos aligned with the content of the following course. The traditional group only received standard pre-course information (program, venue, and time). All participants performed a pre- and post-course practical MSUS examination and were assessed by two individual raters, blinded to the group allocation, using the validated Objective Structured Assessment of Ultrasound skills (OSAUS) tool. Finally, the participants filled out a subjective satisfaction questionnaire, the Intrinsic Motivation Inventory (IMI).

**Results:** Twenty-eight participants completed the study. There were no statistically significant differences in the pre- or post-course practical MSUS performance between the e-learning group and the traditional group: the mean pre-course OSAUS score (±SD) in the e-learning group was 5.4±3.7 compared to 5.2±2.4 in the traditional group, p=0.8, whereas the post-course OSAUS score in the e-learning group was 11.5±2.8 compared to 10.9±2.4 in the traditional group, p=0.8 (Figure 1). Figure 1. The effect of e-learning on novices’ practical MSUS performance before and after the face-to-face course. There was a significant difference between the mean pre- and post-course scores (p<0.001) for both groups. The OSAUS assessment tool demonstrated excellent inter-rater reliability (ICC=0.84). There were no significant differences between the groups regarding their subjective satisfaction with the course measured by the IMI score.

**Conclusion:** We found no significant impact of pre-course e-learning on novices’ acquisition of practical MSUS skills or on trainees’ satisfaction with the course. Hands-on training is of utmost importance and improves MSUS performance significantly. The OSAUS assessment tool is an applicable tool for the assessment of trainees’ MSUS competences and demonstrated excellent inter-rater reliability.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.628

**POST1096**

ASSESSMENT OF PERCEPTION OF BENEFITS AND BARRIERS TO EXERCISE PARTICIPATION AMONG PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES AND HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS: A CASE CONTROL STUDY

**Keywords:** inflammatory arthritides, Education, Rehabilitation

A. Adnine1, F. Z. Taik1, N. Takhrifa1, F. Z. Aharrane2, N. Sob3, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Abourazzak1, 1Abdelmalek Essaïdi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan- Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Rheumatology, TANGIER, Morocco; 2Abdelmalek Essaïdi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan- Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco

**Background:** Benefits of regular physical activity (PA) are well known and well publicized. Despite the many benefits of PA, patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases (CIRD) report low levels of PA and engage more in sedentary behavior.

**Objectives:** To examine the perception levels of benefits and barriers to exercise participation among patients with CIRD and healthy individuals and examine the predictors of poor perception levels.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was performed among patients with CIRD aged between 18 and 65 years old who visited the outpatient clinic. Healthy controls were recruited in a specialized consultation. Socio-demographic and clinical findings were collected. Physical activity levels were assessed using (IPAQ). Perceived benefits and barriers to exercise scale (PBBS) was used to assess the perception of patients and healthy controls toward exercise. Furthermore, all participants underwent screening for anxiety and depressive disorders using (PHQ-9) and (GAD-7) respectively.

**Results:** 172 patients were enrolled in the study (92 RA, 65 SpA and 15 Undifferentiated CIRD) and 159 healthy controls.
RheumACaN was a 1 year rolling programme with face to face discovery day meetings sharing best practice, teaching and discussion on local referral pathways, guidelines and interventions. In between the faces to faces sessions there was active learning through virtual mentoring. Participants completed action learning sets, case management practicals. The outcome was measured through metrics in the NEIAA, referral patterns and feedback from participants.

Results: RheumACaN was attended by 80 participants over 2 cohorts in 2021-2022 including general practitioners (GPs), community musculoskeletal (MSK) physiotherapists and first contact practitioners (FCPs). Prior to RheumACaN, the number and percentage of patients with suspected early inflammatory arthritis (EIA) referred to a specialist clinic within three working days which is a measure of primary care performance was 109/312 (32%) in 2018/19, 190/334 (57%) in 2019/20, 45/86 (52%) in 2020/21. Post RheumACaN, this increased to 140/201 (70%) in 2021/22. The national average for this metric was 47% in 2019/20 and 54% in 2021/22. Feedback from 2 cohorts was 100% scored 5/5 (excellent) for how well the purpose of the programme was communicated, 100% scored 5/5 for how organised and easy to follow the programme was, 98% scored 5/5 for how engaged the presenters were. All participants responded that they had learned from the programme and this would change their practice. Narrative feedback included: “Very interesting - diagnosis and management, and when to refer onwards, very clear”, “Really helpful for future referrals, good tips what to look out for”, “Clear criteria and management (onward referral)” “Enjoy discussing the cases and getting feedback, useful to hear other cases”, “Great having group discussion, learned so much”; “Fantastic afternoon, energising, positive, lots of new ideas/approaches”.

Conclusion: We created RheumACaN, a knowledge-sharing model to bring together clinicians from primary and secondary care for a robust, holistic approach to manage rheumatic diseases. Similar models such as project ECHO with the hub and spoke model of moving knowledge not people have been used[1]. Our collective understanding of how to disseminate and implement best practices across diverse disciplines resulted in the rapid increase of early referrals of inflammatory arthritis from primary care in our centre which is now above the national average in the UK. New referral quality and outcomes are continuously reviewed with an annual audit to assess impact in line with the NEIAA. RheumACaN has also a train the trainer ethos with participants in Cohort 1 coming back to share and teach Cohort 2. Cohort 1 graduates have also been doing peer to peer teaching sessions to help spread and ensure sustainability. This continuous loop of learning, mentoring and peer support makes this a unique programme, with a long-lasting impact far beyond that of a webinar, e-learning course or seminar, with knowledge that is tested and refined through a local lens.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Antoin Chan Grant/research support from: The educational programme was funded by a non-promotional grant from UCB, Kathryn Rigler: None declared, Joanne Kitchen: None declared, Liz Van Rossen: None declared, Gordon Macdonald: None declared, Arran McDougall: None declared, Jeremy McNally: None declared, Sunil Melath: None declared, Anna Mistry: None declared.

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Spondyloarthritis - treatment

Objectives: RheumACaN aims to build confidence in primary care to refer and manage patients with inflammatory arthritis (RA, PsA, AxSpA) as well as other rheumatic diseases. Through integration of pathways from primary to secondary care, RheumACaN aims to reduce delays to diagnosis, improve referral from primary care and enhance management of patients.

Methods: RheumACaN was a 1 year rolling programme with face to face discovery day meetings sharing best practice, teaching and discussion on local referral pathways, guidelines and interventions. In between the faces to faces sessions there was active learning through virtual mentoring. Participants completed action learning sets, case management practicals. The outcome was measured through metrics in the NEIAA, referral patterns and feedback from participants.

Results: RheumACaN was attended by 80 participants over 2 cohorts in 2021-2022 including general practitioners (GPs), community musculoskeletal (MSK) physiotherapists and first contact practitioners (FCPs). Prior to RheumACaN, the number and percentage of patients with suspected early inflammatory arthritis (EIA) referred to a specialist clinic within three working days which is a measure of primary care performance was 109/312 (32%) in 2018/19, 190/334 (57%) in 2019/20, 45/86 (52%) in 2020/21. Post RheumACaN, this increased to 140/201 (70%) in 2021/22. The national average for this metric was 47% in 2019/20 and 54% in 2021/22. Feedback from 2 cohorts was 100% scored 5/5 (excellent) for how well the purpose of the programme was communicated, 100% scored 5/5 for how organised and easy to follow the programme was, 98% scored 5/5 for how engaged the presenters were. All participants responded that they had learned from the programme and this would change their practice. Narrative feedback included: “Very interesting - diagnosis and management, and when to refer onwards, very clear”, “Really helpful for future referrals, good tips what to look out for”, “Clear criteria and management (onward referral)” “Enjoy discussing the cases and getting feedback, useful to hear other cases”, “Great having group discussion, learned so much”; “Fantastic afternoon, energising, positive, lots of new ideas/approaches”.

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REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Antoin Chan Grant/research support from: The educational programme was funded by a non-promotional grant from UCB, Kathryn Rigler: None declared, Joanne Kitchen: None declared, Liz Van Rossen: None declared, Gordon Macdonald: None declared, Arran McDougall: None declared, Jeremy McNally: None declared, Sunil Melath: None declared, Anna Mistry: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1210

Spondyloarthritis - treatment
**Table 1. Efficacy at Wk 52**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BE MOBILE 1</th>
<th>PBO→BKZ</th>
<th>BKZ</th>
<th>PBO→BKZ</th>
<th>BKZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SE), unless stated</td>
<td>N=126</td>
<td>N=111</td>
<td>N=122</td>
<td>N=221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASAS40 (NRI)</strong></td>
<td>64 (50.8)</td>
<td>78 (60.9)</td>
<td>76 (68.5)</td>
<td>129 (58.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>129 (58.4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASAS40 in TNFi-naive (NRI)</strong></td>
<td>58 (53.2)</td>
<td>73 (61.9)</td>
<td>67 (71.3)</td>
<td>108 (58.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>108 (58.7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASAS40 in TNFiIR (NRI)</strong></td>
<td>6 (35.3)</td>
<td>5 (50.0)</td>
<td>9 (52.9)</td>
<td>21 (56.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>21 (56.8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASAS20 (NRI)</strong></td>
<td>88 (69.8)</td>
<td>94 (73.4)</td>
<td>89 (80.2)</td>
<td>158 (71.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>158 (71.5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASAS PR (NRI)</strong></td>
<td>38 (30.2)</td>
<td>38 (29.7)</td>
<td>41 (36.9)</td>
<td>66 (29.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>66 (29.9)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASAS 5/6 (NRI)</strong></td>
<td>65 (51.6)</td>
<td>71 (55.5)</td>
<td>74 (66.7)</td>
<td>124 (56.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>124 (56.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASDAI/CIB (MI)</strong></td>
<td>-3.5 (0.2)</td>
<td>-3.9 (0.2)</td>
<td>-4.0 (0.2)</td>
<td>-3.6 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>-3.6 (0.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASFI (MI)</strong></td>
<td>-2.6 (0.2)</td>
<td>-3.0 (0.2)</td>
<td>-2.8 (0.2)</td>
<td>-2.8 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>-2.8 (0.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSQ (MI)</strong></td>
<td>37 (29.4)</td>
<td>37 (26.7)</td>
<td>49 (44.1)</td>
<td>70 (32.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>70 (32.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nocturnal spinal pain CIB (MI)</strong></td>
<td>-4.1 (0.2)</td>
<td>-4.3 (0.3)</td>
<td>-4.3 (0.3)</td>
<td>-4.1 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>-4.1 (0.2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASQOL CIB (MI)</strong></td>
<td>-5.3 (0.4)</td>
<td>-5.9 (0.4)</td>
<td>-5.6 (0.4)</td>
<td>-5.7 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>-5.7 (0.3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SF-36 PCS CIB (MI)</strong></td>
<td>11.4 (0.9)</td>
<td>12.0 (0.9)</td>
<td>12.3 (0.9)</td>
<td>12.0 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>12.0 (0.6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASMI CIB (MI)</strong></td>
<td>-0.4 (0.1)</td>
<td>-0.6 (0.1)</td>
<td>-0.7 (0.1)</td>
<td>-0.7 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>-0.7 (0.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total resolution of enthesitis (NRI)</strong></td>
<td>41 (44.5)</td>
<td>51 (54.3)</td>
<td>31 (46.3)</td>
<td>67 (50.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>67 (50.8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASDAS-CRP CIB (MI)</strong></td>
<td>-16 (0.1)</td>
<td>-18 (0.1)</td>
<td>-19 (0.1)</td>
<td>-17 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>-17 (0.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPARC RC MRI siJ score CIB (OC)</strong></td>
<td>-6.4 (10.7)</td>
<td>-7.6 (10.5)</td>
<td>-2.8 (6.1)</td>
<td>-4.7 (8.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>-4.7 (8.2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean (SD)</strong></td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Efficacy at Wk 52**

**Mean (SE), unless stated**

**References:**


experience loss of response in the long term and maintenance of response is an internationally recommended treatment target.[1] Bimekizumab (BKZ) is a monoclonal IgG1 antibody that selectively inhibits interleukin (IL)-17F in addition to IL-17A. BKZ has demonstrated consistent and sustained clinical efficacy to Week (Wk) 52 in pts across the full spectrum of axSpA in the phase 3 studies BE MOBILE 1 and 2.[2]

**Objectives:** To report the maintenance of stringent clinical responses through one year of treatment with BKZ in pts with non-radiographic axSpA (nr-axSpA) and radiographic-axSpA (r-axSpA, i.e.,ankylosing spondylitis)[3] in phase 3 studies.

**Methods:** In BE MOBILE 1 (NCT03928704; nr-axSpA; pts met ASAS criteria for axSpA) and BE MOBILE 2 (NCT03928743; r-axSpA; pts fulfilled ASAS and modified New York criteria for r-axSpA), pts were randomised to receive subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 wks (Q4W) or placebo (PBO) to Wk 16. From Wks 16–52, all pts received BKZ 160 mg Q4W.[4,5] ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (<2.1 in ASAS40 and <1.3 in ASDAS ID) responders to Wk 52 were assessed among BKZ-randomised pts who responded at Wk 16. Missing ASDAS40 data were imputed using non-responder imputation (mediation), and multiple imputation (MI) was used for missing ASDAS data. MI was based on Markov Chain Monte Carlo (for intermittent missing data) followed by monotone regression (for monotone missing data). Observed case (OC) data are also reported. Wk 16 and Wk 52 responder rates for all BKZ-randomised pts are included in context (NRI or MI). The number of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) to Wk 52 are reported for BE MOBILE 1 and 2, including pts who switched from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16.

**Results:** A total of 128 and 221 pts were randomised to BKZ 160 mg Q4W in BE MOBILE 1 and 2, respectively. At Wk 16, 47.7% and 44.8% of these pts achieved the primary endpoint, ASAS40, and this increased to 60.9% and 58.4% at Wk 52 (NRI, Figure 1). Of pts that achieved ASAS40 at Wk 16, 82.0% and 83.8% maintained this response at Wk 52 (NRI, Figure 1). ASDAS LDA was achieved by 46.1% and 44.8% of BKZ-randomised pts at Wk 16 of BE MOBILE 1 and 2, respectively; this increased to 61.6% and 57.1% at Wk 52 (MI, Figure 1). Of pts that achieved ASDAS LDA at Wk 16, 88.5% and 88.4% maintained this response at Wk 52 (MI, Figure 1). At Wk 16 of BE MOBILE 1 and 2, ASDAS ID was achieved by 18.8% and 16.4% of BKZ-randomised pts, respectively; and this increased to 25.2% and 23.4% at Wk 52 (MI). Among Wk 16 ASDAS ID responders, ASDAS ID was maintained by 79.2% and 75.1% at Wk 24, 85.3% and 71.7% at Wk 36, and 88.0% and 58.7% at Wk 52 (MI). To Wk 52 of BE MOBILE 1 and 2, 183/244 (75.0%) and 249/330 (75.5%) pts reported ≤1 TEAEs whilst receiving BKZ, respectively; 9 (3.7%) and 20 (6.1%) reported serious TEAEs.

**Conclusion:** Dual inhibition of IL-17F and IL-17A with BKZ provided robust maintenance of stringent clinical responses from Wk 16 to Wk 52 across the full axSpA disease spectrum. This is consistent with previously reported observations of BKZ treatment over three years in pts with nr-axSpA in the phase 2b study BE AGILE and its open-label extension.[6]


**Disclosure of Interests:** This study was funded by UCB Pharma. Medical writing support was provided by Costello Medical, funded by UCB Pharma.

**Acknowledgements:** BS MOBILE 1 AND BE MOBILE 2 axial spondyloarthritis on bimekizumab treatment: results from the phase 3 studies BE MOBILE 1 and BE MOBILE 2

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Clinical trials, Treat to target


Disclosure of Interests: Fabian Proft Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celsgene, Hexal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celsgene, Hexal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Novartis and UCB Pharma, Desiree van der Heijde Consultant of: AbbVie, Bayer, BMS, Cynxone, Eisai, Galapagos, Gilead, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Paid instructor for: AbbVie, BMS, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Joerg Ermann Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Takeda and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Novartis and Pfizer, Carmen Fleurinck Employee of: UCB Pharma, Ute Massow Employee of: UCB Pharma, Natasha de Peyrecave Employee of: UCB Pharma, Vanessa Taieb Employee of: UCB Pharma, Astrid van Tubergen Speaker: Pfizer, Consultant of: Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Astrid van Tubergen Speaker: Pfizer, Consultant of: Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Astrid van Tubergen Speaker: Pfizer, Consultant of: Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Victoria Navarro-Compañ Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Moonlake, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Grant/ research support from: Abbvie and Novartis.


**Figure.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 1.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 2.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Figure.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 3.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 4.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 5.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 6.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 7.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 8.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 9.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 10.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.

**Table 11.** Maintenance of ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA (ASDAS <2.1) through 52 wks of BKZ 160 mg Q4W among Wk 16 ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA responders, respectively, from BE MOBILE 1 and 2.
**Objectives:** To report achievement of LDA, as assessed by either ASDAS <2.1, BASDAI <4, or both, to Wk 52 with BKZ across the spectrum of axSpA in two phase 3 studies.

**Methods:** BE MOBILE 1 (NCT03928704) and BE MOBILE 2 (NCT03928743) each comprised a 16-wk placebo (PBO)-controlled and 36-wk maintenance period.[5] Pts with nr-axSpA in BE MOBILE 1 met Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS) classification criteria and had objective inflammation as assessed by MRI and/or elevated C-reactive protein. Pts with r-axSpA included in BE MOBILE 2 met modified New York criteria and also fulfilled ASAS classification criteria. All pts had active disease (BASDAI ≥4 and spinal pain ≥4 as per BASDAI item 2) at baseline. Pts were randomised to subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 wks (Q4W) or PBO; all pts received BKZ 160 mg Q4W from Wk 16 onwards.[5] The PBO arm is therefore referred to as PBO up to Wk 16, and PBO/BKZ at later timepoints. Here, we present the proportion of pts achieving LDA to Wk 52, as defined by either ASDAS <2.1, BASDAI <4, or both, using non-responder imputation.

**Results:** A total of 254 pts with nr-axSpA (BKZ: 128, PBO: 126) and 332 with r-axSpA (BKZ: 221, PBO: 111) were randomised. Most pts had high ASDAS (≥2.1–3.5) or very high (ASDAS >3.5) disease activity at baseline (nr-axSpA: BKZ: 99.2%, PBO: 97.6%; r-axSpA: BKZ: 98.6%, PBO: 100%). In pts with nr-axSpA, a greater proportion of BKZ vs PBO-treated pts achieved LDA at Wk 16 according to ASDAS <2.1 (BKZ: 46.1%, PBO: 19.6%), BASDAI <4 (BKZ: 52.3%, PBO: 31.7%), and both (BKZ: 43.8%, PBO: 19.0%). Separation from PBO was apparent from post-first baseline assessment for ASDAS <2.1 and both ASDAS <2.1 and BASDAI <4 (Figure 1). Results were similar for pts with r-axSpA (Figure 1). Across continuous BKZ-treated pts and PBO/BKZ switchers, achievement of LDA, according to ASDAS <2.1, BASDAI <4, and both, was sustained or improved in both studies to Wk 52 (Figure 1). Proportion of pts achieving BASDAI <4 was consistently higher compared with achievement of ASDAS <2.1, regardless of treatment arm.

**Conclusion:** Across the full axSpA disease spectrum, dual inhibition of IL-17A and IL-17F with BKZ resulted in rapid achievement of LDA vs PBO to Wk 16, as assessed by ASDAS <2.1, BASDAI <4, or both. Proportion of pts achieving LDA increased to Wk 52. These data suggest that ASDAS <2.1 is a more stringent criterion for LDA than BASDAI <4, and the majority of pts who achieved ASDAS <2.1 also achieved BASDAI <4. This is relevant for the consideration of BKZ in the context of a potential treat-to-target approach for pts with axSpA in daily practice.


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**Disclosure of Interests:** Xenofon Baraliakos, Biogen, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma, Paid consultant for: Abbvie, Biogen, Janssen, Galapagos, Gilead, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Abbvie, Biogen, Janssen, Galapagos, Gilead, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma, Marina Magrey Consultant of: Abbvie, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Biogen, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma, Marina Magrey Consultant of: Abbvie, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma, Carmen Fleurinck Employee of: UCB Pharma, Natasa de Peyrecave Employee of: UCB Pharma, Thomas Vaux Employee of: UCB Pharma, Helena Marzo-Ortega Employee of: UCB Pharma, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Takeda and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Abbvie, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB Pharma, Nilg Arison Consultant of: Abbvie, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, and UCB Pharma, Carman Fleurinck Employee of: UCB Pharma, Ute Massow Employee of: UCB Pharma, Costello Medical, funded by UCB Pharma.

**Doi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.833
Results: This pooled analysis included 505 TNFi-naïve and 81 TNFi-IR pts. 302/505 (59.8%) TNFi-naïve and 47/81 (58.0%) TNFi-IR pts were randomized to BKZ. At Wk 16, the proportion of pts achieving ASDAS40 and AS Disease Activity Score (ASDAS)-c2.1 (low disease activity) were higher in BKZ-randomised TNFi-naïve/IR pts vs PBO. In both TNFi-naïve/IR continuous BKZ-treated pts, responses were similar and increased to Wk 52 (Figure 1). Similar substantial reductions from baseline in ASDAS-CRP and MRI inflammation by Wk 16 were also achieved with BKZ vs PBO in both TNFi-naïve and IR pts; in continuous BKZ-treated pts this was sustained or further improved through week 52. Comparable improvements in functional pain, nocturnal spinal pain and ASQoL were observed through 52 wks with BKZ in TNFi-naïve/IR pts (Table 1).

Conclusion: Across the full axSpA disease spectrum, BKZ treatment resulted in clinically relevant improvements in key efficacy outcomes vs PBO, including suppression of inflammation and improvements in physical function and QoL, regardless of prior TNFi exposure. The improvements with BKZ at Wk 16 were sustained to Wk 52.


Table 1. Pooled efficacy endpoints across BE MOBILE 1 and 2 in TNFi-naïve and -IR pts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endpoint</th>
<th>TNFi-naïve</th>
<th>TNFi-IR</th>
<th>PBO</th>
<th>BKZ</th>
<th>BKZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 16</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP [MB]</td>
<td>-0.7 (0.1)</td>
<td>-1.5 (0.1)</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td>-1.6 (0.1)</td>
<td>-1.8 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean (SE)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI CI [MB]</td>
<td>-1.7 (0.1)</td>
<td>-3.0 (0.1)</td>
<td>-1.6 (0.4)</td>
<td>-2.7 (0.3)</td>
<td>-3.6 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean (SE)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPARCC MRI SU CI [MB]</td>
<td>-0.9 (0.3)</td>
<td>-5.8 (4.1)</td>
<td>-1.4 (6.0)</td>
<td>-5.6 (13.4)</td>
<td>-5.9 (9.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean (SD)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin MRI Spine CI MB</td>
<td>-0.2 (1.5)</td>
<td>-3.4 (2.4)</td>
<td>-0.4 (1.3)</td>
<td>-0.3 (0.9)</td>
<td>-1.7 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean (SD)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI CI [MB]</td>
<td>-1.1 (0.1)</td>
<td>-2.3 (0.1)</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>-2.2 (0.1)</td>
<td>-2.8 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean (SE)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nocturnal spinal pain</td>
<td>-1.7 (0.2)</td>
<td>-3.4 (0.2)</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
<td>-3.3 (0.3)</td>
<td>-4.1 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean (MB)</td>
<td>(0.5)</td>
<td>(0.5)</td>
<td>(0.5)</td>
<td>(0.5)</td>
<td>(0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASQoL CI [MB]</td>
<td>-2.8 (0.3)</td>
<td>-5.1 (0.3)</td>
<td>-2.4</td>
<td>-4.2 (0.6)</td>
<td>-5.8 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean (SE)</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week 52 data shown only for continuous BKZ pts.**

**Figure.** Achievement of ASDAS and ASAS40 in the BE MOBILE 1 and 2 trials in TNFi-naive and -IR pts, pooled across BE MOBILE 1 and 2 trials. **Table 1.** Pooled efficacy endpoints across BE MOBILE 1 and 2 in TNFi-naïve and -IR pts.

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**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis

**POS108**

**EFFICACY OF UPADACITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH NON-RADIOGRAPHIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS IN EARLY VersUS ESTABLISHED DISEASE**

**Authors:** Y. Navarro-Compán1, F. Van den Bosch2, P. D. Sampaio-Barros2, F. Ganz2, A. Billant1, Y. Duan3, K. D'Silva4, P. Wung4, A. Ostof5, S. Ramiro1, 1Hospital Universitario La Paz, Departamento de Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2Ghent University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Gent, Belgium; 3Hospital das Clinicas da Universidade de Sao Paulo, Division of Rheumatology, Sao Paulo, Brazil; 4AbbVie, Global Development, Baar, Switzerland; 5AbbVie, Department of Immunology, North Chicago, United States of America; 6Cabrin Hospital, Monash University & Emeritus Research, Melbourne, Australia; 7Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands.

**Background:** The phase 3 SELECT-Axis 2 trial (NCT04169973) assessed the efficacy and safety of upadacitinib (UPA) in patients with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA). This subgroup analysis investigated the efficacy of UPA in early versus established disease.

**Objectives:** This post hoc analysis evaluated the rates of achievement of ≥40% improvement in ASAS score (ASAS40 response) and Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) low disease activity (LDA; <2.1) at week 14 in early versus established disease (defined as symptom duration <2 versus ≥2 years).

**Methods:** In SELECT-Axis 2[1], adult patients with or without prior biologic DMARD (bDMARD) exposure, with a clinical diagnosis of axSpA, fulfilling the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) classification criteria for nr-axSpA, and with objective signs of active inflammation on at least 1 of 8 sites (joints and/or high-sensitivity (hs)-CRP exceeding the upper limit of normal (2.87 mg/L) at screening, were randomized 1:1 to UPA 15 mg once or daily placebo (PBO) for 52 weeks. Response rate, relative risk (RR; UPA versus PBO), and RR ratio (RR; early versus established disease) are reported. When interpreting RRRs, a 95% confidence interval (CI) that crosses 1 indicates no statistically significant difference between the groups being compared.

**Results:** Baseline characteristics were similar in patients with early versus established disease, although the proportion of females, mean age, and rates of prior bDMARD exposure were higher in established versus early disease (Table 1). Mean symptom duration was 1.0 versus 10.9 years in patients with early versus established disease. ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA response rates at week 14 were significantly increased with UPA versus PBO in both early and established disease (ASAS40: 61.3% versus 16.0% and 40.3% versus 24.0%; ASDAS LDA: 64.5% versus 16.0% and 37.1% versus 18.9%; respectively) (Figure 1). For ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA, the RR of response for UPA versus PBO was greater in early versus established disease (3.9 versus 1.7 and 4.4 versus 1.9, respectively). RRRs for ASAS40 and ASDAS LDA for early versus established disease were 2.3 (95% CI: 0.77, 6.95) and 2.3 (95% CI: 0.75, 6.81), respectively, reflecting no statistically significant difference in treatment response between early and established disease.

**Conclusion:** UPA 15 mg is more efficacious than PBO in reducing signs and symptoms of nr-axSpA, regardless of symptom duration. Although treatment responses were numerically higher in early disease, the differences versus established disease were not statistically significant.
Figure. Rates of Achievement of ASAS40 Response and ASAS50 LDA at Week 14 [RIR-MI]

Table 1. Baseline demographics and disease characteristics in patients with early versus established disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic, mean (SD)</th>
<th>Symptom duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early disease a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>(N=56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>35.7 (13.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration since axSpA diagnosis, years</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (range) duration since axSpA diagnosis, years</td>
<td>0.5 (0.1, 1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of axSpA symptoms, years</td>
<td>1.0 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (range) duration of axSpA symptoms, years</td>
<td>1.0 (0.2, 0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLAb27 positive, n (%)</td>
<td>37 (66.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant cDMARD use, n (%)</td>
<td>18 (32.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant oral corticosteroid use, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (10.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior SDMARD exposure, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>3.9 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI (0–10)</td>
<td>5.5 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI SPARCC score (SI joints)</td>
<td>4.8 (9.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients’ assessment of total back pain (NRS 0–10)</td>
<td>7.0 (13.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a All data are mean (SD) unless otherwise stated.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Victoria Navarro-Comán Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, MoonLake, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCBC, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, MoonLake, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, MoonLake, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, MoonLake, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, MoonLake, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Per- cival D. Sampaio-Barros Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCBD, Consultant of: AbbVie, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCBC, Fabiana Ganz Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Ana Biljan Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Yuanjuan Duan Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Krustin D’Silva Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Peter Wang Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Andrew Oster Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Parag- digm, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Paradigm, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Sofia Ramiro Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB.

DOH: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2123

Figure 1. Pathway enrichment for the UPA-modulated metabolites.

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Disclosure of Interests: Thierry Sornasse Shareholder of: AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Liang Li Shareholder of: Founder of Nova Medical Testing Inc. (NovaMT), Consultant of: Meliomics Inc., Grant/research support from: Matching...
a clinical indicators to support characterisation of the axial PsA phenotype within large clinical datasets and identify clusters with potential therapeutic or prognostic significance in PsA patients (pts) with axial manifestations.[1]

Objectives: To identify pt clusters based on baseline (BL) demographics and clinical indicators to support characterisation of the axial PsA phenotype within the spondyloarthritis (SpA) spectrum.

Methods: Pooled BL demographics and clinical data of secukinumab (SEC)-treated pts from 10 Phase-3 studies: FUTURE 1–5 (PsA), MEASURE 1–4 (ankylosing spondylitis, AS) and MAXIMISE (PsA with axial manifestations) were treated pts from 10 Phase-3 studies: FUTURE 1–5 (PsA), MEASURE 1–4 (ankylosing spondylitis, AS) and MAXIMISE (PsA with axial manifestations) were explored across the identified clusters and clinical indicators.

Results: Eight distinct clusters were identified (n=3907, Figure 1 and Table 1). Pts with PsA with axial manifestations (MAXIMISE) were overrepresented in clusters 6–8. In pts cluster 6 (mean age 48 yrs; 64% male) were overweight with lower polyarticular joint counts (mean 11 joints) and tenderness focused on the feet, wrists and hands. Pts in cluster 8 were mostly pts with AS (mean age 43 yrs; 64% male), less overweight and oligoarthritis and high prevalence of spinal pain. Pts with PsA (FUTURE) were overrepresented in clusters 1–5. Longitudinal analysis showed significant improvements with SEC 300 mg vs 150 mg in clusters 6 and 8 for TJC, and cluster 7 for SJC.

Conclusion: PsA clusters obtained by ML in the pooled dataset indicate phenotypic heterogeneity of pts with PsA with axial manifestations and overlapping features across the SpA spectrum.

REFERENCES:
[1] Pournara E et al. RMD Open 2021;7:e00184
Objectives: To identify biological pathways modulated by UPA in nr-axSpA and bDMARD-IR AS patients based on an extensive proteomic profiling, emphasizing those associated with disease activity at baseline.

Methods: A subgroup of patients from the SELECT-Axis 2 program, with available biomarker samples, were selected for analysis (nr-axSpA PBO: n = 82; nr-axSpA UPA: n = 82; bDMARD-IR AS PBO: n = 111; bDMARD-IR AS UPA: n = 112). In addition, samples from 24 age- and gender-matched healthy volunteers (HVs) were included in the analysis. The levels of 1463 unique protein biomarkers (pBMs) were analyzed using proximity extension assay technology. Differences in pBMs levels between patients and HVs and their changes from baseline upon treatment were expressed as Log2 Fold Changes (Log2 FC). Relationships between pBMs levels and the Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score using C-reactive protein (ASDAS-CRP) were derived using Pearson’s correlation. A repeated measure mixed linear model identified pBMs differentially modulated by UPA. All tests were corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg method. Significance threshold was defined as FDR ≤ 0.05. We used a commercially available software application for pathway analysis.

Results: At baseline, we identified 174 (nr-axSpA) and 178 (bDMARD-IR AS) pBMs that were significantly differently expressed in patients compared to HVs. Only 24 out of 1463 pBMs tested were differently expressed between the two patient populations. Notably, interleukin-6, matrix metalloproteinase-1, metalloproteinase-3, and interleukin 17 receptor A were significantly more elevated in bDMARD-IR AS patients than in nr-axSpA patients. The pathway enrichment analysis on the differential pBMs pointed to a dysregulation of the adaptive and innate immune systems, increase in endothelial activation, and damage to connective tissue in both patient groups, although more pronounced in bDMARD-IR AS patients. Baseline levels of 49 (4 negatives and 45 positives) pBMs correlated with baseline ASDAS-CRP in the nr-axSpA and bDMARD-IR AS patients, respectively. Treatment with UPA resulted in a broad modulation of pBMs at weeks 2 and 14 in both patient groups, with a larger effect in bDMARD-IR AS patients than in nr-axSpA patients. Based on pathway prediction analysis, the effects of UPA on pBMs were consistent with the inhibition of the adaptive (T cell activation and migration, and antigen presenting cell activation) and innate (phagocyte and granulocyte migration and activation) immune pathways. The effects of UPA treatment on pBM correlating with ASDAS-CRP at baseline were consistent with UPA’s broad activity on potential pathogenic pathways in both nr-axSpA and bDMARD-IR AS patients (Figure 1).

Conclusion: While presenting different degrees of axial skeletal involvement, nr-axSpA and bDMARD-IR AS patients share common pathogenic pathways, with a more pronounced dysregulation observed in the latter group as observed from our data. Treatment with UPA inhibited multiple potentially pathogenic pathways associated with disease activity at baseline in nr-axSpA and bDMARD-IR AS patients. These observations are consistent with prior analyses in bDMARD-naïve AS patients[3]. We propose that the clinical efficacy of UPA in these 2 patient populations may result, at least in part, from its broad biological activity observed at the protein level.

Acknowledgements: AbbVie, Inc, the study sponsor, contributed to the study design; data collection; analysis and interpretation of data; and to writing, reviewing, and approving the final version. Fang Cai, a former AbbVie employee, contributed substantially to this study by designing, planning, and organizing the data generation.

Disclosure of Interests: Thierry Sornasse Shareholder of: May own stock or stock options of AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, In-Ho Song Shareholder of: May own stock or stock options of AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Peter Wung Shareholder of: May own stock or stock options of AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie; Ying-te Li Shareholder of: May own stock or stock options of AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Buvana Ravishankar Shareholder of: May own stock or stock options of AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Hengcheng Alvis Hu Shareholder of: May own stock or stock options of AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Walter P Maksymowych Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3708

POS112

COMBINED BIOLOGICAL OR TARGETED THERAPY IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: EXPERIENCE FROM A MULTICENTER CASE SERIES IN SPAIN

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

C. Valero1, J. Font Urguell2, M. Sallés Lizarraburu3, B. Joven-Itánez3, A. De Juanes1, J. Ramírez3, X. Juano-Roura4, R. Almodóvar1, A. Laiz2, M. Moreno3, M. Pujol Busquets1,2, E. Beltrán1, J. A. Pinto Tasende1, L. Crespi Martínez1,2, L. Sala-Icardo1, C. Castañeda1, R. García-Vicuna1, Hospital de La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2Germans Trias i Pujol Hospital, Rheumatology, Badalona, Spain; 3Althaia, Xarxa Assistencial Universitària de Manresa, Rheumatology, Manresa, Spain; 4University Hospital October 12, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 5Hospital Clinic, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 6Bellvitge University Hospital, Rheumatology, L’Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain; 7Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Rheumatology, Alcorcón, Spain; 8Hospital Dos de Maig, Unitat Territorial de Reumatologia, Barcelona, Spain; 9Hospital Parc Taulí de Sabadell, Rheumatology, Sabadell, Spain; 10Hospital Universitari Mutua Terrassa, Rheumatology, Terrassa, Spain; 11Hospital del Mar, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 12[CHUAC] University Hospital of A Coruña, Rheumatology, A Coruña, Spain; 13Hospital de Manacor, Rheumatology, Manacor, Spain; 14University Hospital Torrecárdenas, Torrechádez, Almería, Spain

Background: Combined biological or targeted therapy (CBTT) is rarely considered in clinical practice due to not being recommended in clinical guidelines, potential safety concerns and high costs. Successful experiences have been found with CBTT in refractory patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Previous early data in selected refractory spondyloarthritis (SpA) have shown encouraging results1.

Objectives: Our aim was to assess real-world effectiveness and safety of CBTT in a wider SpA population.

Methods: This is a retrospective multicenter study. We identified patients with SpA and simultaneous combined use of two biological or targeted (excluding apheresis) agents with different therapeutic targets since 2017. All patients fulfilled axial or peripheral SpA ASAS criteria and signed written informed consent. Demographic, clinical, laboratory, and safety data were collected from electronic medical records. Cut-offs for remission/low activity criteria for axial/peripheral disease were ASDAS-CRP <1.3 <2.1 or DAS28-CRP <2.6 <3.2 or DAPSA <4 <14 respectively. Major clinical improvement (MCI) was defined as a change in ASDAS-CRP of 2 and DAS28-CRP >1.2 units and improvement of >85% in DAPSA.

Results: A total of 39 CBTT courses were identified in 35 SpA patients (Table 1). The main indication for CBTT was active musculoskeletal disease (Table 2). Three patients presented remission or low SpA activity at baseline and were excluded in the efficacy SpA analysis. Most patients (89.7%) who had previously failed at least one of the two therapies used in CBTT. The most common combination was TNF inhibitor plus IL12/23 inhibitor agent (n=20; 51.2%). Median exposure to CBTT was 16 months (IQR 11-24). At last follow-up, we observed a significant mean reduction in ASDAS-CRP (2.07; 95% CI: 1.31-2.83; p=0.001). Remission/low activity rates were 52.7%, and 61.1% (n=22) reached MCI. In a bivariate analysis, patients who reached MCI had a lower baseline ASDAS-CRP than those who did not (4.9 vs 6.2, p=0.032). Nine patients discontinued due to inefficacy, seven of them because of IBD activity. In 39 CBTT courses, 4 serious AE were identified in only 3 patients: non-infectious pulmonary infiltrates, a staphylococcal bacteremia and a patient with cytomegalovirus colitis and esophageal candidiasis.

Conclusion: Our preliminary results suggest that CBTT might be a feasible alternative in selected refractory multidomain SpA patients, with acceptable effectiveness/safety ratio. Prospective wider studies are warranted to confirm these data.
were analyzed in peripheral blood samples from 40 axSpA patients before and during treatment. While several studies have provided mechanistic insights into TNFi action, much less is known how IL-17i affect immune responses in patients.

**Objectives:** To compare the mechanisms of action of these two drugs in axSpA patients in vivo.

**Background:** IL-17A-blockade had very limited effects on systemic immune responses after IL-17i or TNFi treatment, using highly standardized whole-blood stimulation assays. Changes in gene expression were determined by RNA sequencing and secreted molecules were measured using proximity ligation assays. Pathways analysis revealed major effects of TNFi on the expression of genes involved in protection from bacterial (Tuberculosis, Legionellosis), viral (EBV, Influenza) and parasitic (Leishmaniasis, Toxoplasmosis) infections (Figure 1). Analysis of secreted inflammatory cytokines and chemokines showed that TNF-blockade also strongly affected innate and adaptive immune cell signaling, while only minor changes were observed in stimulation cultures from IL-17i-treated axSpA patients. Furthermore, we noted major effects of TNFi, but not of IL-17i, on neutrophil and monocyte counts in the circulation of treated patients.

**Conclusion:** We show that the two currently used biotherapies of axSpA act by strikingly distinct cellular and molecular mechanisms. While anti-TNF therapy has major effects on systemic immune responses with potential implications for increased susceptibility to infectious microorganisms, IL-17 inhibitors had a lesser impact on systemic immune responses compared to TNFi, suggesting that they may rather act on non-immune cells and/or in inflamed tissues.

### Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the population and outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>N=35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis, n (%)</td>
<td>9 (25.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axial + peripheral SpA</td>
<td>9 (25.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral SpA</td>
<td>3 (8.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic Arthritis</td>
<td>8 (22.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile idiopathic Arthritis</td>
<td>6 (17.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of SpA, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>18 (8.5-20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extrametabolic disease, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (17.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>14 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>5 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBT</td>
<td>24 (68.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of prior bDMARDs/tDMARDs, median (IQR)</td>
<td>3 (1.5-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indication for CBTT, n (%)</td>
<td>22 (66.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpA</td>
<td>1 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpA low activity, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (20.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis + SpA</td>
<td>1 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual treatment courses (n=39):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOL 2, ETN 3, ADA 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUS 1, ADA 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ixelizumab + ADA 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedolizumab + GOL 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risankizumab + ETN 1, IFX 2, VED 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedolizumab + GOL 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedolizumab + GOL 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOL 1, ADA 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ixelizumab + IFX 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical activity at last evaluation*</td>
<td>9/36 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpA remission, n (%)</td>
<td>10/36 (27.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discontinue glucocorticoids</td>
<td>11/20 (55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major clinical improvement SpA**</td>
<td>22/36 (61.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ABT:** abatacept; **ADA:** adalimumab; **bDMARDs:** biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; **CRP:** C-reactive protein; **CTZ:** certolizumab ETN; **etanercept:** GOL: golimumab; **GUS:** guselkumab; **IBD:** inflammatory bowel disease; **IQR:** interquartile range; **IFX:** infliximab; **n:** number; **SpA:** spondyloarthritis; **tDMARDs:** targeted disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; **VED:** vedolizumab

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**POS113**

**PROFILING OF SYSTEMIC IMMUNE RESPONSES IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS REVEALS STRIKINGLY DISTINCT CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF ACTION OF IL-17A INHIBITORS AND TNF-BLOCKERS**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Spondyloarthritis

N. Rosina1,2, S. Koturan2, V. Guilleminot3, C. Lecloux1, F. Veress1, T. Stephen1,2, H. Yahia1, J. Sellam1,6, F. Benraems1,6, N. Pietrosemoli1, E. Bianchi1, C. Miceli Richard1,6, L. Rogge1, Institut Pasteur, Université Paris Cité, Immunoregulation Unit, Department of Immunology, Paris, France; 2Université Paris Diderot, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Paris, France; 3Institut Pasteur, Université Paris Cité, Bioinformatics and Biostatistics Hub –, Département de Biologie Computationnelle, UMR 7376 IP CNRS, Paris, France; 4Sorbonne Université, Hôpital Saint-Antoine, Service de Rhumatologie, AP-HP, Paris, France; 5Centre de Recherche Saint-Antoine, INSERM UMR_S 938, Paris, France, Paris, France; 6Université Paris Cité, Hôpital Cochin Port Royal, AP-HP, Service de Rhumatologie, Paris, France

**Background:** IL-17A inhibitors (IL-17i) and TNF-inhibitors (TNFi) are currently the only biologic drugs available as first line treatment in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). While several studies have provided mechanistic insights into TNFi action, much less is known how IL-17i affect immune responses in patients.

**Objectives:** We have compared the effects of IL-17i and TNFi on immune cell frequencies and induced immune responses to obtain information about the mechanisms of action of these two drugs in axSpA patients in vivo.

**Methods:** Induced immune responses to microbial and pathway-specific stimuli were analyzed in peripheral blood samples from 40 axSpA patients before and during treatment. We have compared the effects of IL-17i and TNFi on immune cell frequencies and induced immune responses to obtain information about the mechanisms of action of these two drugs in axSpA patients in vivo.

**Conclusion:** We have compared the effects of IL-17i and TNFi on immune cell frequencies and induced immune responses to obtain information about the mechanisms of action of these two drugs in axSpA patients in vivo.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

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**POS114**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFICULT TO TREAT AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Real-world evidence, Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs)
Background: The concept of difficult-to-treat rheumatoid arthritis (D2T RA) has recently emerged. It is defined by the persistence of disease activity and the failure of at least 2 bDMARDs of different mechanisms of action (MoA) [1]. In this definition, the period during which the treatments have failed is not included. The D2T concept has not yet been applied with consensus in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

Objectives: To study the characteristics of patients with D2T axSpA to better identify the potential causes of treatment failure. The second objective was to identify the potential causes of treatment failure. The second objective was to identify the potential causes of treatment failure.

Methods: A multicentric retrospective longitudinal study was performed in secondary and tertiary centers. axSpA diagnosis was based on ASAS criteria. Patients were followed up from January 2016 to December 2021. Patients starting with at least 2 b/tsDMARDs with a minimum of 2-year follow-up were included. D2T axSpA patients were defined as patients who received more than 2 b/tsDMARDs with different MoA among b/tsDMARD available. These patients were compared to non-difficult-to-treat axSpA patients (nD2T axSpA) using statistical tests. Very D2T axSpA patients were defined as patients who received at least 2 b/tsDMARDs in less than 2 years during the time of follow-up.

Results: 311 patients were included, 88 were D2T axSpA and 223 nD2T axSpA. Baseline characteristics are presented in the Table 1. No statistical difference was found between the 2 groups regarding main comorbidities, including fibromyalgia and depression. Among the D2T patients, 76 (66%) had presented a primary or secondary inefficacy from 2 drugs with different MoA and 12 (14%) presented a concomitance to TNF inhibitor or IL17 inhibitor (multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel diseases, recurrent uveitis, solid cancer less than 5 years old). Seven patients were categorized as very D2T axSpA. When compared to the rest of the D2T axSpA group, no significant difference was observed.

Conclusion: Significant differences were found between the characteristics of patients D2T axSpA and nD2T axSpA, which were the smoking status, axSpA duration, presence of arthritis, history of uveitis and baseline BASDAI. Limitations exist about applying the EULAR D2T RA definition to axSpA. The inclusion of a time frame should also be considered.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>D2T axSpA</th>
<th>nD2T axSpA</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean ± SD</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>44 (50.0)</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, mean ± SD</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>270.3 ± 5.5</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>axSpA duration (years), median (IQR)</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>8.0 (5.0;13.0)</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoker status</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>58 (10.3)</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical axSpA characteristics at baseline</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>18 (30.5)</td>
<td>18 (30.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiographic axSpA</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>72 (71.2)</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>36 (34.9)</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>14 (21.2)</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>4 (4.8)</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis at baseline</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>17 (21.0)</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorsal erosions</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>17 (21.0)</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>17 (21.0)</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>85 (12.0)</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline BASDAI, mean ± SD</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>58 ± 14.7</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are expressed as number (%) unless otherwise stated. axSpA: axial spondyloarthritis; BASDAI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; bDMARD: biological disease modifying antirheumatic drug; BMI: body mass index; CRP: C-reactive protein; nD2T: (non-) difficult-to-treat; HLA: human leukocyte antigen; ID: inflammatory bowel disease; IQR: interquartile range; N: number of available observations; NA: not applicable; SD: standard deviation.

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POS1115 EFFECT OF SECUKINUMAB VERSUS ADALIMUMAB BIOSIMILAR ON RADIOPHROGRAPHIC PROGRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH RADIOPHROGRAPHIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: SUBGROUP ANALYSES BY BASELINE SYNDESMOHYTES AND C-REACTIVE PROTEIN STATUS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD

X. Baraliakos1, 2, D. Van der Heijde3, P. Machado4, V. Navarro-Copmán5, L. S. Genisler6, P. Pertel7, E. Quebe-Fehling8, A. Readie8, H. Richards7, D. Poddubnyy9, 10, Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Rheumatology, Herne, Germany; 2Bochum Ruhr-Universität, Rheumatology, Bochum, Germany; 3Leiden University Medical Center; Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 4University College London, Centre for Rheumatology & Department of Neuromuscular Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 5Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin and German Rheumatism Research Centre, Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany

Background: SURPASS, a phase IIb randomised controlled study in patients (pts) with radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (r-axSpA), found low spinal radiographs (progression over 2 years with no significant difference between the secukinumab (SEC) and adalimumab biosimilar (SDZ-ADL) arms,[1,2] Basel (BSSL) radiographic damage (presence of syndesmophytes) and elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) levels have been identified as predictors of radiographic progression in r-axSpA.[3]

Objectives: To evaluate the effect of SEC and SDZ-ADL on spinal radiographic progression in subgroups of pts based on the presence of syndesmophytes and elevated high-sensitivity CRP (hsCRP) levels at BSSL, from the SURPASS study.

Methods: Biologic-naive pts with active r-axSpA and with hsCRP ≥5 mg/L and/or ≥1 syndesmophyte(s) on spinal radiographs were randomised (1:1:1) to SEC (150 or 300 mg; dose-blinded) or SDZ-ADL (40 mg; open label). Pts were categorised into the following subgroups at BSSL: hsCRP <5 mg/L (CRP−), presence of syndesmophyte(s) (Synd+), absence of syndesmophyte(s) (Synd−), and CRP+Synd+. The proportion of pts with no radiographic progression (change from baseline in modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spinal Score [mSASSS] ≤0.5), mean change from BSSL in mSASSS, and proportion of pts with no new syndesmophytes(s) in each subgroup at week 104 (all as observed were reported).

Results: Of the 859 pts, 653 (76%) were CRP+, 627 (73%) were Synd+, and 466 (54%) were CRP+Synd+. Expectedly, pts from subgroups without predictive factors (especially Synd−, followed by CRP−) had lower rates of radiographic progression compared to SEC and SDZ-ADL arms regardless of the presence or absence of specific predictive factors for progression (syndesmophytes/elevated CRP). The Synd− subgroup followed by the CRP− subgroup showed the least radiographic progression in all radiographic outcomes (as indicated by the higher proportion of pts with no radiographic progression and no new syndesmophytes, and lower mean change from BSSL in mSASSS), across treatment arms (Figure 1). The CRP+Synd+ subgroup followed by the Synd+ subgroup and the CRP+ subgroup had higher radiographic progression compared with the Synd− and CRP− subgroups (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Spinal radiographic progression over 2 years was low with no notable difference between SEC and SDZ-ADL arms regardless of the presence or absence of specific predictive factors for progression (syndesmophytes/elevated CRP). Expectedly, pts from subgroups without predictive factors, especially Synd−, followed by CRP− had lower rates of radiographic progression.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Demographic and baseline disease characteristics by subgroup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics, mean values unless specified otherwise</th>
<th>CRP+ N=653</th>
<th>CRP− N=206</th>
<th>Synd+ N=627</th>
<th>Synd− N=232</th>
<th>CRP+Synd+ N=466</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>43.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male, %</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>84.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis of r-axSpA (years)</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSASSS</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of syndesmophytes</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hsCRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>25.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive, %</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>82.0</td>
</tr>
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Table 1. Median times (weeks) to initial improvement events (Kaplan-Meier analysis)

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>≥30% improvement</td>
<td>4 (2–24)</td>
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<td>32 (24–NE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BASDAI total score</td>
<td>12 (4–NE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improvement in ASDAS,CRP</td>
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<td>≥2.0 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1.1 points</td>
<td>4 (2–20)</td>
<td>24 (12–40)</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥2.0 points</td>
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Keywords: Pain, Patient reported outcomes, Spondyloarthritis

V. Navarro-Compán1, A. Deodhar2, R. Bahiri3, A. G. Bushmakin4, J. C. Cappellini5, C. Kinch5, J. Rammougu5, La Paz University Hospital, IdiPaz, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2Oregon Health & Science University, Division of Arthritis and Rheumatic Disease, Portland, OR, United States of America; 3El Ayachi Hospital Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Rabat, Rabat-Salé-Kénitra, Morocco; 4Pfizer Inc, Statistical Research and Data Science Center, Groton, CT, United States of America; 5Pfizer Canada ULC, Inflammation and Immunology, Kirkland, QC, Canada; 6Pfizer Inc, Innovative Medicines/Emerging, Casablanca, Morocco

Background: Pain, morning stiffness and disease activity are core domains of ankylosing spondylitis (AS), relevant to patients (pts) and physicians. AS treatment guidelines recommend using the AS Disease Activity Score C-reactive protein (ASDAS,CRP) to assess disease activity. Greater improvements in pain, morning stiffness and disease activity were previously shown with tofacitinib vs placebo (PBO) in pts with AS.[1] There are limited data on time to improvement in these core domains in pts with AS receiving tofacitinib.

Objectives: To estimate the median time to improvement of pain, morning stiffness and disease activity in tofacitinib-treated pts with AS.

Methods: This post hoc analysis used data from a Phase 3 trial (NCT03502616)[1] in pts with AS receiving tofacitinib 5 mg twice daily (BID) or PBO to Week (W)16. After W16, all pts received open-label tofacitinib 5 mg Bid to W48. Outcomes included nocturnal pain (numerical rating scale 0–10), morning stiffness (mean of Bath AS Disease Activity Index [BASDAI] Questions 5 and 6), BASDAI total score and ASDAS,CRP. Median time (weeks) to initial improvement events was estimated using non-parametric Kaplan-Meier models. Initial improvement event was defined as time to first post-baseline observation with an improvement of ≥30% (nocturnal pain ["much improved"]23, ≥50% (nocturnal pain ["very much improved"]22, ≥30% improvement in morning stiffness and BASDAI total score for tofacitinib was 12 weeks, and 32 weeks (16 weeks since switch to tofacitinib) for both thresholds.

Results: Overall, 269 pts (tofacitinib: n=133; PBO—tofacitinib: n=136) were assessed. Median times to initial improvement events were shorter with tofacitinib vs PBO—tofacitinib (p<0.05 [Table 1]). Median times to initial ≥30% and ≥50% improvement in nocturnal pain for tofacitinib were 4 and 8 weeks, respectively, and 24 weeks (8 weeks since switch to tofacitinib) for both thresholds for PBO—tofacitinib. Median time to initial ≥50% improvement in morning stiffness and BASDAI total score for tofacitinib was 12 weeks, and 32 weeks (16 weeks since switch to tofacitinib) for PBO—tofacitinib. Median time to ASDAS,CRP improvement ≥1.1 for tofacitinib was 4 weeks, and 24 weeks for PBO—tofacitinib (not estimable [NE] for ASDAS,CRP improvement ≥2.0 [both treatment arms]). Limitations: this was a post hoc analysis, there was no active treatment comparator, trial pt population may not reflect routine care pt population and comparisons with PBO were only possible to W16.
**Background:** Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKis) are a group of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) used for the treatment of several immune-mediated inflammatory arthritides (IMAs) including rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and spondyloarthritis (SpA). There are several JAK inhibitors (JAKis) with different selectivity already approved or in clinical and preclinical evaluation[1]. Thus, tofacitinib is a JAK1/3 inhibitor, baricitinib is a JAK2/3 inhibitor, filgotinib and upadacitinib are selective JAK1 inhibitors, decernotinib is a selective JAK1 inhibitor[2] and deucravacitinib is a selective tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) inhibitor[3]. The downstream effects on cytokine expression profile of JAKis with different selectivity is not fully understood.

**Objectives:** Here we investigate whether JAKis with different selectivity show differences in downstream cytokine expression in an in vitro model of immune-mediated inflammatory arthritis.

**Methods:** Synovial fluid mononuclear cells (SFMCs) from patients with peripheral SpA (n=3), PsA (n=3), juvenile idiopathic arthritis (n=4), and unspecified inflammatory arthritis (n=1) were cultivated for 48 hours with the JAKis prior to listing. Culture medium and DMSO were used as negative controls. In vitro drug response was assessed by Mesoscale V-PLEX Proinflammatory Panel 1 Human Kit measuring interferon-γ (IFN-γ), interleukin 1 (IL-1), IL-2, IL-6, IL-10, IL-12/70, IL-13 and TNF-α.

**Results:** First, we tested whether JAKis with a similar selectivity had comparable effects on the secretion of cytokines. Indeed, JAKis with selectivity towards JAK1 and JAK3 clustered together in the hierarchical analysis. Then, we examined whether there was a difference between the six JAKis on an individual level. All JAKis with a JAK1 selectivity decreased the cytokine secretion more than the JAK3/2 inhibitor baricitinib (filgotinib vs. baricitinib, p<0.005; upadacitinib vs. baricitinib, p<0.05; tofacitinib vs. baricitinib, p<0.05). There was no difference between the JAKis with JAK1 selectivity and decernotinib (JAK3) or deucravacitinib (TYK2).

**Conclusion:** Similarities in mode of action for the six JAKis were reflected in drug response measured by multiple cytokine secretions. Generally, JAKis with JAK1 and JAK3 selectivity decreased total cytokine secretion the most. In selected patients, specific JAKis decreased total cytokine secretion considerably more than the remaining JAKis, while most patients had an equal response to all JAKis.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:**
N. C. Deodhar Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Aurinia, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer Inc and UCB, Speaking fees from: Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, UCB, Gilead, and Eli-Lilly; Grant/research support from: Research grants from Gilead.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2417

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**DISCERNING CAPACITY OF THE ASAS HEALTH INDEX IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH IXEKIZUMAB IN THE COAST PROGRAMME**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD, Clinical trials

U. Klitz1, A. Moltó2, D. Van der Heijde3, L. Bessette4, A. Boonen5, R. Bolce6, C. Sapin6, T. Hunter6, B. Janos6, A. Kronberg6, S. Liu Lea6, J. Braun67,8,9,10

1Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Ruhr-University Bochum, Rheumatology, Herne, Germany; 2Université de Paris, Hôpital Cochin, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Department of Rheumatology, Paris, France; 3Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 4Laval University, Department of Medicine, Quebec, Canada; 5Maastricht University Medical Centre, 6Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands; 7Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, United States of America; 8Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Herne, Germany; 9Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

**Background:** The Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society Health Index (ASAS HI) is a validated health outcome measure used to assess functioning and health in patients (pts) with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA)[1]. Two thresholds for clinical improvement have been recently proposed: improvement ≥3 points and a 30% improvement from baseline [1,2]. However, an exploration of the optimal threshold in an independent cohort has not been carried out to date.

**Objectives:** Using data from the COAST trials, this analysis aimed to test the discriminatory capacity of the ASAS HI at different thresholds of improvement.

**Methods:** This post hoc analysis included patients treated with ixekizumab (IXE) 80 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W) or placebo (PBO) from the intent-to-treat populations of COAST-V (NCT02696785) and COAST-W (NCT02696798) for radiographic (r)-axSpA, and COAST-X (NCT02757352) for non-radiographic (nr)-axSpA over 16 weeks. To assess the discriminatory capacity of the ASAS HI, response rates at Week 16 were compared between IXE Q4W and PBO using Fisher’s exact test. P-values (coefficients ranging from -1 to +1) were calculated to compare the degree of association between the level of improvement and treatment allocation. Missing data were handled using non-responder imputation.

**Results:** ASAS HI data at Week 16 were available for pts with r-axSpA from COAST-V (IXE Q4W, N=81; PBO, N=87) and COAST-W (IXE Q4W, N=114; PBO, N=104) and pts with nr-axSpA from COAST-X (IXE Q4W, N=98; PBO, N=105). Percentages of pts reaching improvement scores for different study arms are shown in Figure 1. Differences in response rates by the various absolute or
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Art: 20_EUROAB-2023-PV19-20

Scientific Abstracts	﻿ 

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relative thresholds for improvement are shown in Table 1. Data demonstrated
an inconsistent picture of the best performing threshold between the different
COAST studies. While for COAST-V discriminatory capacity were demonstrated
for higher values this was opposite to COAST-W, and there was no clear discriminating threshold in COAST-X (Table 1, Figure 1). The majority of Phi coefficients
were below 0.2, suggestive of low discriminatory capacity.
Conclusion: In this post hoc analysis of pts from the COAST trials at Week 16,
several thresholds of improvement of the ASAS HI seem to have discriminating
capacity. However, there were some differences between the COAST trials and
no single threshold worked best in the r-axSpA (bDMARD-naïve and experienced) and nr-axSpA populations.
REFERENCES:

Company, Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Boris Janos Shareholder of: Eli Lilly
and Company, Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Andris Kronbergs Shareholder
Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly and Company, Janssen, MSD,
Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.82

Table 1. Baseline ASAS HI scores presented as mean (SD) followed by
the absolute difference in the proportion (%) of responders by the different ASAS HI improvement thresholds.

I. T. Cheng1, C. C. Y. Yip1, H. So1, Y. Y. Leung2, K. Shin3, M. A. Saeed4,
N. Subramanian5, P. Chiowchanwisawakit6, H. Y. Chung7, M. Kishimoto8, J.
C. C. Wei9, L. S. Tam1. 1The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department
of Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 2Singapore
General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Singapore,
Singapore; 3SMG-SNU Boramae Medical Center, Department of Internal
Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Central Park Medical College,
Department of Rheumatology, Lahore, Pakistan; 5Velammal Medical College
Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Medicine, Madurai, India; 6Siriraj
Hospital, Mahidol University, Department of Medicine, Bangkok, Thailand;
7
Chiron Medical, Department of Rheumatology, Hong Kong, Hong Kong
(SAR); 8Kyorin University School of Medicine, Department of Nephrology and
Rheumatology, Mitaka, Japan; 9Chung Shan Medical University, Department of
Allergy, Immunology & Rheumatology, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China

COAST-W
r-axSpA,
TNFi-experienced

COAST-V
r-axSpA,
bDMARD-nacor
Baseline
IXE Q4W
PBO

7.5 (3.3)
8.1 (3.5)

COAST-X
nr-axSpA,
bDMARD-naien

10.0 (3.7)
9.0 (3.5)

8.6 (3.4)
9.0 (3.7)

ASAS HI
Improvement (≥)

Trt Diff p-value
(%)

Phi

Trt Diff p-value
(%)

Phi

Trt Diff p-value Phi
(%)

2.0 pt
2.5 pt
3.0 pt
3.5 pt
4.0 pt
20%
25%
30%
35%
40%
50%

2.3
8.6
8.6
15.7
15.7
8.9
10.6
17.3
16.7
21.3
15.9

0.023
0.088
0.088
0.187
0.187
0.089
0.106
0.177
0.177
0.232
0.183

25.5
16.3
16.3
10.8
10.8
23.9
23.1
16.2
11.6
10.6
11.1

0.255
0.173
0.173
0.129
0.129
0.242
0.237
0.171
0.131
0.123
0.142

9.8
7.3
7.3
7.0
7.0
10.7
10.5
14.5
12.3
14.3
14.1

0.876
0.265
0.265
0.024
0.024
0.276
0.210
0.026
0.031
0.004
0.030

0.001
0.022
0.022
0.087
0.087
0.001
0.001
0.023
0.075
0.098
0.064

0.198
0.301
0.301
0.337
0.337
0.153
0.150
0.040
0.092
0.042
0.031

0.098
0.076
0.076
0.078
0.078
0.107
0.107
0.150
0.131
0.155
0.163

Data are presented as non-responder imputation. Difference refers to the difference between
IXE Q4W and PBO response rates. Best performing thresholds are italicized.

Figure 1. Data are presented as proportion (%) of patients.

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Disclosure of Interests: Uta Kiltz Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biocad, Chugai, Eli
Lilly and Company, Fresenius, Grünenthal, Hexal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer,
Roche, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Biocad, Chugai, Eli Lilly and Company, Grünenthal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Grant/research support from:
AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Fresenius, GSK, Hexal, Novartis, Pfizer, Anna Moltó
Consultant of: Abbvie, Biogen, BMS, Gilead, Eli Lilly and Company, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: UCB, Pfizer, Désirée van der Heijde
Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, AstraZeneca, Bayer, BMS, Boehringer
Ingelheim, Celgene, Cyxone, Daiichi, Eisai, Eli Lilly and Company, Galapagos,
Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi, Takeda,
and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, AstraZeneca, Bayer,
BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Cyxone, Daiichi, Eisai, Eli Lilly and Company,
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of: Eli Lilly and Company, Christophe Sapin Shareholder of: Eli Lilly and Company,
Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Theresa Hunter Shareholder of: Eli Lilly and

POS1119

ARE WE TREATING-TO-TARGET IN
SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (SPA)? A ONE-YEAR ANALYSIS
FROM THE ASIA PACIFIC LEAGUE OF ASSOCIATIONS
FOR RHEUMATOLOGY (APLAR) SPA REGISTRY

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

Background: Data on the extent to which internationally agreed treat-to-target
(T2T) recommendations were applied in clinical practice in patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) across the Asia-Pacific region is lacking. The APLAR SpA Registry is a multi-centre study aiming to assess the utility of early diagnosis and
intensive protocolized treatment to patients with SpA on the long-term outcome.
Objectives: This analysis aimed to evaluate the extent of T2T achievement after
1-year intensive treatment in patients with SpA.
Methods: Patients who fulfilled the CASPAR 2006 classification criteria for psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and 2009 ASAS classification for axial spondylitis (AxSpA)
were recruited. The current analysis included the first 99 patients reaching the
1-year timepoint across 6 Asia-Pacific regions.
Results: 49 patients with PsA (age: 52±11 years, 27(55%) male, disease duration: 6.0±7.9 years) and 50 patients with AxSpA (age: 40±14 years, 36(72%)
male, disease duration: 5.9±7.6 years) were included. All of them were Asian.
After 1-year treatment, there were significant improvements in disease activity (Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA): 15.3±11.6 at baseline vs
10.1±11.2 at 1-year, p=0.002; Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score
(ASDAS): 2.4±1.0 at baseline vs 1.9±0.9 at 1-year, p=0.003). Other characteristics are shown in Table 1. Concerning medication use, there was an increase in
the number of PsA patients receiving conventional synthetic disease-modifying
drugs (csDMARDS, 65% at baseline to 72% at 1-year) and biologic DMARDS
(bDMARDS, 24% at baseline to 43% at 1-year). For AxSpA, the prevalence of
csDMARDs use decreased (30% at baseline to 18% at 1-year) while the prevalence of bDMARDs use increased (32% at baseline and 54% at 1-year). Patients
in both groups required less NSAIDs (Figure 1). Regarding T2T, 63% and 51%
of PsA patient achieved DAPSA-low disease activity (DAPSA-LDA) and minimal disease activity (MDA) respectively, while 66% of patients with Axial SpA
achieved ASDAS-LDA. The MDA and ASDAS-LDA achievement rate was slightly
higher than that of the tight control arm of TICOPA (41%)[1] and TICOSPA cohort
(60%)[2] respectively. The bDMARDs use in TICOPA cohort was 37% and that
in TICOSPA was 57%, both comparable to our APLAR SpA cohort (Figure 1).
There was no significant difference in baseline demographics and clinical features between patients who could or could not achieve treatment target, except
a lower patients’ pain and global assessment, and lower functional disability in
patients who achieved DAPSA-LDA at 1-year.
Conclusion: Implementing the T2T strategy in a patient with SpA is feasible in
the selected sites of the APLAR SpA registry. We expect more long-term outcome data in the following years regarding other outcomes.
REFERENCES:
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: Isaac T. Cheng: None declared, Carson C.Y. Yip:
None declared, Ho So: None declared, Ying Ying Leung: None declared, Kichul
Shin: None declared, Muhammad Ahmed Saeed: None declared, Nallasivan
Subramanian: None declared, Praveena Chiowchanwisawakit: None declared,
Ho Yin Chung: None declared, Mitsumasa Kishimoto Consultant of: AbbVie,
Amgen, Asahi-Kasei Pharma, Astellas, Ayumi Pharma, BMS, Celgene, Chugai,


Table 1. Clinical features and disease activity in patients with SpA in the APLAR region at baseline and 1-year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PsA (n=49)</th>
<th>AxSpA (n=50)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>52 ± 11</td>
<td>40 ± 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS Patients’ pain assessment, 0-10</td>
<td>4 ± 2 3 ± 2</td>
<td>4 ± 2 3 ± 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS Patients’ global assessment, 0-10</td>
<td>4 ± 2 3 ± 2</td>
<td>4 ± 2 3 ± 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS Physicians’ global assessment, 0-10</td>
<td>3 ± 2 2 ± 2</td>
<td>4 ± 2 3 ± 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                  | Baseline   | Year 1       | Baseline   | Year 1       | p      |
| PSGS acceptable  | 33 73%     | 41 89%       | 31 67%     | 44 92%       | 0.04   |
| Tj count, 0-68   | 4 ± 5 3 ± 6 | 1 ± 2 1 ± 2 | 0.02   |
| SJ count, 0-66   | 2 ± 4 1 ± 3 | 0 ± 0 0 ± 1 | 0.02   |
| Dactylitis digit | 1 ± 2 0 ± 1 | 0 ± 0 0 ± 1 | 0.02   |
| PASI             | 3.81 ± 5.38| 2.17 ± 3.27  | 2.09 ± 4.2 | 2.17 ± 4.27  | 0.04   |
| PRACC, 0-15      | 0 ± 1 0 ± 1 | 0 ± 1 0 ± 1 | 0.02   |
| ESR, mm/h        | 20 ± 17    | 21 ± 19      | 25 ± 12    | 25 ± 12      | 0.02   |
| CRP mg/L         | 7.3 ± 8.9  | 6.3 ± 8.4    | 20.9 ± 19  | 20.9 ± 19    | 0.02   |
| DAPSA            | 15.27 ± 11.60 | 10.06 ± 11.21 | 2.43 ± 100 | 1.93 ± 0.87  | 0.02   |
| ASDAS CRP        | 3.6 ± 2.2  | 2.6 ± 2.1    | 2.8 ± 2.3  | 2.8 ± 2.3    | 0.02   |
| BASMI            | 4.3 ± 3.3  | 3 ± 2 3 ± 2  | 0.02   |
| HAQ-DI           | 0.503 ± 0.614 | 0.372 ± 0.469 | 0.469 ± 0.47 | 0.318 ± 0.428 | 0.02   |

Figure 1. Medication use at baseline and 1-yr in patients with PsA (Upper panel); Axial SpA (middle panel) and T2T achievement in PsA and Axial SpA patients in APLAR SpA registry and other studies (lower panel)

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Prognostic factors, Real-world evidence

P. Goupille; M. Dougados; A. Lardy-Cilaud; E. Desfleurs; P. Claupeiri; A. Ruyssen-Witrand; A. Saraux; A. Tournadre; C. Lukas; D. Wendling.

1University Hospital of Tours, Department of Rheumatology, Tours, France;
2Hôpital Cochin. Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Department of Rheumatology, Paris, France;
3RCTS Clinical Research Organization, Biostatistics, Lyon, France;
4Novartis, Medical Affairs, Rueil Malmaison, France;
5Hôpital Henri Mondor. Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Department of Rheumatology, Créteil, France;
6University Hospital of Toulouse, Rheumatology Center, Toulouse, France;
7University Hospital of Brest, Department of Rheumatology, Brest, France;
8University Hospital of Clermont-Ferrand, Department of Rheumatology, Clermont-Ferrand, France;
9University Hospital Montpellier, Department of Rheumatology, Montpellier, France;
10University Hospital of Besançon, Department of Rheumatology, Besançon, France

Background: While data on real-life SEC retention rate in patients (pts) with axSpA is accumulating, there are few data on predictive factors for this retention. Presence of objective sign of inflammation (OSI), especially increased baseline CRP level, is known to be predictive of efficacy of anti-TNFs and their retention in axSpA.

Objectives: To assess whether OSI, especially increased baseline CRP level, were predictive of SEC retention at 1 year in axSpA.

Methods: French retrospective study collecting between October 2019 and September 2020 data from axSpA pts a) having initiated and received at least one dose of SEC between August 11th 2016 and August 31st 2018, b) with at least one dose of SEC between August 11th 2016 and August 31st 2018, c) having a one-year follow-up period. Retention rate of SEC at 1 year was estimated by the Kaplan Meier (KM) method. OSI were defined by at least one of the following: CRP ≥5 mg/l or ESR ≥28 mm/h if CRP not available (CRP+) within the 3 months before initiation of SEC and MRI inflammation at the sacroiliac or spine level (MRI+) at any time. The a priori selected potential predictive factors of the SECU 1 year retention (CRP+, MRI+, age, sex, BMI, smoking, HLA B27, non-radiographic vs radiographic axSpA, past or present uveitis/Inflammatory Bowel Disease/psoriasis/arthrisis or synovitis, diagnostic delay, disease duration, SEC line of biologic therapy, SEC maintenance dose, concomitant csDMARD/oral corticosteroids/proton pump inhibitor at SEC initiation, history of depression/ fibromyalgia) were analyzed by cox model regression. Only variables with <20% missing data were included in the model after imputation and stepwise selection (significance level for entering variables =20%; significance level for removing variables =10%), except for CRP and MRI which were forced into the model whatever their significance level or rate of missing data.

Results: In total, 906 pts from 47 centers (male: 42.2%; mean age: 46.2 ± 11.7 years, mean disease duration: 9.3 ± 9.1 years) were included in the analysis. The mean baseline CRP (± SD) was 11.1 ± 17.5 mg/L. At initiation of SEC, 86.3% of pts had ≥1 OSI (413.3%, CRP+, and 69.4% MRI+) and respectively 8.0%, 14.9% and 77.1% were in 1st, 2nd and ≥ 3rd line (L) of biologic/targeted synthetic DMARD. The 1-year retention rate for SEC was 59% [95% CI: 55%-62%]. This retention at one year was 62.4% vs 59.1% and 57.4% vs 66% in patients with CRP+ vs CRP- and MRI+ vs MRI- respectively. In univariate cox regression, CRP+ was not predictive of SEC discontinuation at 1 year (HR = 0.90 [0.71-1.16], p=0.422) nor was MRI+ (HR=1.29 [0.99-1.68], p=0.063). In multivariate cox analysis, after adjustment, these results were confirmed for CRP+ but MRI+ was identified as predictive of a worst SEC retention at 1 year (Table 1). In multivariate analysis lack of prior exposure to anti-TNF inhibitors, absence of IBD and absence of history of depression were also associated with a better SEC retention at 1 year (at 10%).

Conclusion: The overall retention of SEC at 1 year in daily practice in France was 59% for axSpA patients with OSI level at SEC initiation, independently of CRP level at SEC initiation.

Acknowledgements: Authors thank the participating investigators, centers and patients. NOVARTIS Pharma France financially supported this study.

Disclosure of Interests: Philippe Goupille Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Agen; Biogen, BMS, Celgene, Chugai, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Nordic Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi and UCB. Consultant of: AbbVie, Agen; Biogen, BMS, Celgene, Chugai, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Nordic Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Pfizer, Sanofi and UCB. Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Biogen, MSD, Pfizer, Maxime
Table 1. Retention of secukinumab at 1 year according to components of at least one sign of inflammation with univariate and multivariate (after multiple imputation + stepwise selection) cox regressions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictive factor (reference)</th>
<th>Modality (N)</th>
<th>Retention of SEC at 1 regression year</th>
<th>Univariate cox regression</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>p HR [95% CI]</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP ≥ 5mg/l or ESR ≥ 28 mm/h Yes (N=282) 62.4%</td>
<td>0.422 0.90</td>
<td>0.328 0.90</td>
<td>(0.71-1.16)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MRI signs of inflammation at sacroiliac joint or spine No (N=396)* 59.1%</td>
<td>0.063 1.29</td>
<td>&lt;0.001 1.49</td>
<td>(0.99-1.68)</td>
<td>(1.18-1.89)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No (N=214)* 66.0%</td>
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Table 1. Impact of subclinical ankle pathologies on functional status of RA patients

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>P Low Moderate High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tibialar synovitis</td>
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<td>0.05</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Retrocaltaneal</td>
<td>(0%)/0%</td>
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Conclusion: Asymptomatic RA ankles exhibited higher number of US alterations in comparison to healthy individuals and significantly impaired the functional status of patients with RA. Foot and ankle joints should be considered for future scores in assessing disease activity and follow-up.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2803

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2803
Background: Upadacitinib (UPA), a Janus kinase inhibitor, has demonstrated efficacy and an acceptable safety profile in patients (pts) with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) in the phase 3 SELECT-AXIS 1 and 2 program, including pts with an inadequate response or intolerance to biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARD-IR) [1,2].

Objectives: To assess the 1-year efficacy and safety of UPA 15 mg once daily (QD) in bDMARD-IR pts with active AS. Similar efficacy was observed at wk 52 in pts who switched from PBO to UPA and continuous UPA groups, respectively. Safety was assessed through the cut-off date of May 19, 2022 in all pts who received ≥1 dose of UPA. Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and TEAEs of special interest are presented as exposure-adjusted event rates (events/100 PY, respectively).

Methods: The design of the SELECT-AXIS 2 AS bDMARD-IR study has been described previously.[1] Pts who completed the 14-wk placebo (PBO)-controlled period were eligible to enter an ongoing long-term extension and receive open-label UPA 15 mg QD for up to 90 wks. This analysis evaluated efficacy over 52 wks in pts who received continuous UPA, and those who switched from PBO to UPA at wk 14. Efficacy endpoints included proportion of pts achieving Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society 40 response (ASAS40), ASAS partial remission (PR), ASAS (AS Disease Activity Score with C-reactive protein [CRP]) low disease activity (LDA; <2.1), ASAS inactive disease (ID; <1.3), and changes from baseline in ASAS and high-sensitivity CRP (hsCRP). As-observed (AO) and non-responder imputation with multiple imputation (NRI-MI) analyses are presented for binary endpoints and mixed model for repeated measures (MMRM) analyses for continuous endpoints. Safety was assessed through the cut-off date of May 19, 2022 in all pts who received ≥1 dose of UPA. Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and TEAEs of special interest are presented as exposure-adjusted event rates (events/100 PY, respectively).

Results: A total of 420 pts were randomized and received study drug (PBO to UPA: n=209; continuous UPA: n=211). Response rates were maintained from wk 14 to wk 52 in the continuous UPA group, and responses were similar in the PBO to UPA group at wk 52. NRI-MI response rates at wk 52 for the PBO to UPA and continuous UPA groups, respectively, were: ASAS40 (64.6% and 65.9%), ASAS PR (92.2% and 93.3%), ASAS LDA (55.3% and 56.9%), and ASAS ID (25.2% and 26.0%) (Figure 1). Changes from baseline in ASAS and hsCRP were also similar between groups (-1.9 and -2.0, and -10.6 and -10.0 for the PBO to UPA and continuous UPA groups, respectively). Safety was assessed in 414 pts (334.4 PY of exposure) who received ≥1 dose of UPA (Table 1). Rates of serious TEAEs and TEAEs leading to study drug discontinuation were 9.9 and 3.0 E/100 PY, respectively. Rates of malignancy, major adverse cardiovascular events, and venous thromboembolic events were low (0.2, 0.2, and 0.4 E/100 PY, respectively).

Conclusion: UPA 15 mg demonstrated sustained efficacy up to wk 52 in bDMARD-IR pts with active AS. Similar efficacy was observed at wk 52 in pts with continuous UPA exposure and those who switched from PBO to UPA. UPA 15 mg was generally well tolerated in this bDMARD-IR population, with new safety signals identified.

Acknowledgements: AbbVie funded this trial and participated in the trial design, research, analysis, data collection, interpretation of data, and the review and approval of the publication. All authors had access to relevant data and participated in the drafting, review, and approval of this publication. No honoraria or payments were made for authorship. Medical writing support was provided by Laura Chalmers, PhD, of 2 the Nth (Cheshire, UK), and was funded by AbbVie.

Disclosure of Interests: Xenofon Baraliakos Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, Sanofi, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Galapagos, Jans- sen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, Sanofi, and UCB, Désirée van der Heijde Consultant of: AbbVie: Bayer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Cynxeon, Eisai, Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Employee of: Director of Imaging Rheumatology, Roachim Sieper Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Merck, and Novartis, Consultant of: AbbVie, Merck, Novartis, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Merck, and UCB, Robert Inman Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and Sandoz, Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen, and Novartis, Hitode Kameda Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Asahi Kasei, Astellas, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai, Eisai, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Asahi Kasei, Astellas, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai, Eisai, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Asahi Kasei, Astellas, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai, Eisai, groups.

Table 1. Treatment-emergent adverse events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Exposure-adjusted event rates, (E/100 PY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any AE</td>
<td>877 (164.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious AE</td>
<td>53 (9.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE leading to discontinuation of study drug</td>
<td>16 (3.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any death*</td>
<td>1 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>301 (56.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infection</td>
<td>24 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
<td>19 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy other than NMSC</td>
<td>1 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMSC</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjudicated MACE</td>
<td>1 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjudicated VTE</td>
<td>2 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjudicated gastrointestinal perforation</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal dysfunction</td>
<td>1 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aneurysm</td>
<td>11 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venopulmonary thrombosis</td>
<td>3 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>19 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heparinoid</td>
<td>47 (8.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>7 (1.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inflammatory bowel disease</td>
<td>1 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postinfective</td>
<td>2 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*One patient died due to polytrauma.AE, adverse event; E, event; MACE, major adverse cardiovascu lar event; NMSC, non-melanoma skin cancer; PY, patient-years; QD, once daily; VTE, venous thromboembolic event.

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Spondyloarthritides, Real-world evidence
Background: The characteristics of patients receiving a new therapy might differ overtime since its launch (date of its availability in a specific region/country); the differences in these characteristics might impact the efficiency of this treatment.

Objectives: To compare the one year retention rate of SECU in axSpA and its predisposing factors with regard to its time of initiation (e.g. right after its launch or later).

Methods: Study design: Retrospective multicenter French study of axSpA patients a) having initiated and received at least one dose of SECU b) with at least a one year follow-up. Study periods: Two cohorts were evaluated with regard to the time of initiation of SECU: Cohort (C1): between August 11th, 2016 (time of the launch of SECU in France) and Aug 3rd 2018; Cohort 2 (C2): between sept 1st 2018 and Nov 13, 2020 (remotely from the launch).

Statistical analysis: The one year retention rate of SECU was estimated using the Kaplan Meier technic and Cox models and was used to compare the retention rate performed in C1 and C2. Preselected factors of SECU retention at 1 year (≥1 Objective Sign of Inflammation [CRP> N, MRI-inflammation at the sacroiliac or spine level], age, sex, BMI, smoking, HLA B27, non-radiographic vs radiographic axSpA, past or present uveitis/ Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)/ psoriasis/ arthritis or synovitis, diagnostic delay, disease duration, SEC line of biologic therapy, SECU maintenance dose, concomitant csDMARD/ oral corticosteroids/ proton pomp inhibitor at SECU initiation, history of depression/ fibromyalgia) were analyzed by univariate and multivariate cox model regression. Only variables with <20% missing data were included in the model after multiple imputation and stepwise selection (significance level for entering variables = 20%; for removing variables = 10%).

Results: In total, 906 pts in C1 and 758 pts in C2 from 50 centers were included in the analysis. Pts characteristics (male: 42.8%, mean age: 46.5 ± 11.9 years, mean disease duration: 9.2± 9.4 years) were similar between the 2 cohorts. The 1 year retention rate was better in C2 vs C1 (64% [61-68%] vs 59% [55-62%], Hazard Ratio (HR)=0.84 [0.72-0.98], p = 0.03). Between C1 and C2, the proportion of patients receiving SECU as the 1st or 2nd line of biologic therapy increased from 23% to 40%. In the multivariate analysis, line of biologic therapy was the single predictive factor of the 1 year retention rate of SECU in both cohorts with a better retention rate for the 1st line of biologic therapy (Table 1).

Conclusion: These data showing a better retention rate at 1 year remotely from the launch of SECU, probably explained by its use at an earlier stage of the disease, suggest a change in the behavior of prescribing physicians probably reflecting a better confidence in this treatment. These data also underline the interest of iterative evaluations of treatments used in daily practice.

Acknowledgements: Authors thank the participating investigators, centers and patients.

Disclosure of Interests: Maxime Dougados Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, UCB, Merck, BMS, Roche, Biogen, Sanofi, Novartis, and Sandoz, France Financial support from: Pfizer, Novartis, and Roche-Chugai, France. of Besançon, Department of Rheumatology, Besançon, France; University Hospital Montpellier, Department of Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; University Hospital of Montpellier, Department of Rheumatology, Montpellier, France.

Table 1. Impact of SECU line on SECU retention rate at 1 year with regard of its time of initiation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECU line (ª reference)</th>
<th>Survival probability estimate at 1 year (95% CI)</th>
<th>HR adjusted</th>
<th>p vs ref type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cohort 1†</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st L (n=98, 8%)*</td>
<td>70% [59%-81%]</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd L (n=132, 15%)</td>
<td>62% [54%-70%]</td>
<td>1.53 [0.91; 2.57]</td>
<td>0.107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 3rd L (n=676, 77%)</td>
<td>57% [53%-61%]</td>
<td>1.67 [1.06; 2.62]</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort 2†</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st L (n=93, 13%)*</td>
<td>78% [69%-86%]</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd L (n=192, 27%)</td>
<td>63% [56%-70%]</td>
<td>1.92 [1.18; 3.13]</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 3rd L (n=437,60%)</td>
<td>62% [57%-66%]</td>
<td>2.11 [1.32; 3.35]</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See Methods for explanation without imputation for missing data
† Adjustment on: C1 (OSI, IBD, History of depression or anti-depressive concomitant treatment); C2 (OSI, History of depression or anti-depressive concomitant treatment, disease duration, corticosteroids)/interception HR > 1: the hazard of discontinuation at 1 year is X times higher vs referenceL = Line of biologic therapy

Consultant of: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, UCB, Merck, BMS, Roche, Biogen, Sanofi, Novartis, and Sandoz, France Financial support from: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, UCB, Merck, BMS, Roche, Biogen, Sanofi, Novartis, and Sandoz, France. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2356

Acknowledgements: Authors thank the participating investigators, centers and patients. NOVARTIS Pharma France financially supported this study.
SLE, Sjön’s and APS - treatment

Keywords: Education, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Best practices

A. Cornet1, A. Sluijters2, F. Marchioni3, C. Hjelmested4, I. D. Povileva5, E. Koskin6, K. Blomkvist Sporre7, 1Lupus Europe, HQ, Brussels, Belgium; 2Lupus Europe, PAN, Brussels, Belgium

Background: Access to quality disease information is one of the cornerstones of therapeutic education and critical to help the doctor-patient dialogue and adherence to treatment. Lupus patients and doctors alike lack the time in consultation to address the many questions patients have. As a result, patients often rely on poor quality or unverified information from the web. For non-English speakers, the language barrier is adding yet another obstacle to quality therapeutic education.

Objectives: To provide access to doctor verified SLE quality information on-line, in the mother language of 95%+ of the European population so that doctors can refer patients to quality information sources.

Methods: With the endorsement of ERN ReCONNET reference network, Lupus Europe and doctors from ReCONNET’s SLE Working group have developed a multilingual Euro-wide website answering the top 100 questions patients have about lupus. The starting point to build the content has been the French book “lupus en 100 questions” authored by lupus experts from the French FA2IR. Working extensively with patients from Lupus Europe PAN, the list of questions has been adjusted, answers to existing questions have been checked and validated or adjusted for up-to-dateness. New patient questions have been answered by lupus specialists in collaboration with patients. The resulting documents have been translated in English and the translations validated by both patients and doctors. This core English version has then received feedback from ERN ReCONNET SLE WG doctors. Finally, the end result has been translated in more than 15 languages, verified by native lupus doctors and patients prior to being put on line. This exercise is continuing at the time of writing the abstract, with the goal of covering more than 20 languages and 99% of European population by end 2023. The web site is managed and controlled by Lupus Europe, the European Lupus patients organisation. Aside from this ‘one-shot’ effort, a process has been designed to collect questions and comments from patients and doctors. Those will then feed the on-going maintenance of the information. New developments or new questions will be used to systematically review the content and update it using a Delphi process within the ERN ReCONNET SLE Working group.

Results: lupus100.org website provides free of charge quality information on lupus for patients, relatives, doctors or students. Its multilingual character allows all people in Europe with access to verified information in their own language, with lay terms. This non-commercial tool is available for doctors of all countries to grow their patients education on lupus and hence build a stronger therapeutic alliance, minimising the time lost in fighting wrong information.

Conclusion: A new tool is available for doctors and patients to build lupus education. The challenges are now (a) to maximise its reach by ensuring all patients and doctors are aware of the initiative, and (b) to ensure that currency is maintained medium to long term.

REFERENCE: [1] www.lupus100.org

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1310

HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE USE IN PREGNANT WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOUS AND MAJOR CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS IN THE OFFSPRING

Keywords: Registries, Pregnancy and reproduction, Systemic lupus erythematosus

N. V. Nguyen1, E. Svennungsson2, A. Dominiczak3, K. Helgren1, J. Simard4, E. Arkema1, Karolinska Institutet, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 2Karolinska Institutet, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Stanford School of Medicine, Division of Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, California, United States of America

Background: Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) is currently recommended for all pregnant women with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) if tolerated. Some studies have reported an increased risk of malformations associated with HCQ, but others find no increased risk.

Objectives: To assess the risk of major congenital malformations (MCM) associated with exposure to HCQ during the 1st trimester in the offspring of women with SLE.

Methods: We conducted a population-based cohort study of pregnancies with a singleton birth from 2006 to 2020 among women with prevalent SLE in Sweden. Pregnancies were identified from the Medical Birth Register (MBR). Prevalent SLE was defined as having at least two ICD-coded visits in the National Patient Register before pregnancy, with at least one with an SLE specialist. The exposure was defined as filing at least one HCQ prescription during the 1st trimester (Prescribed Drug Register). The unexposed births were required to not have any HCQ dispensations from three months preconception to the end of the 1st trimester. The outcome was any ICD code for MCM in the offspring assessed at birth listed in the MBR, defined according to the European Surveillance of Congenital Anomalies classification. Inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW) using propensity score for adjusted one HCQ during pregnancy was minimised using standardised mean difference (SMD) for baseline characteristics, comorbidities (e.g., diabetes, other autoimmune diseases), and medication use (e.g., corticosteroids, other disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs) in the propensity score model as a priori variables. Risk ratios and 95% confidence intervals (RR 95%CI) were estimated using modified Poisson regression models in the weighted population with robust variance estimation.

Results: The study population comprised 407 exposed births and 520 unexposed births. The mothers’ mean age at delivery was 32 (standard deviation ±3). Overall, there were 21 births with at least one MCM, corresponding to an overall risk of 2.3%. The most common type of MCM was ventricular septal defect (n = 6). The unadjusted risks of MCM among the exposed and unexposed were 2.7% and 13%, respectively (unadjusted RR 1.42, 95%CI 0.26-3.28). The IPTW-adjusted population achieved a balance across patient characteristics. The IPTW-adjusted RR was 1.59 (95%CI 0.63-7.15). The adjusted risk difference was 0.01 (95%CI -0.01-0.03). In a sensitivity analysis in which the exposure was defined as having at least one HCQ dispensation from three months preconception to the end of the 1st trimester, the IPTW-adjusted RR was 1.56 (95%CI 0.69-3.54). We could not examine different categories of HCQ daily dose due to very few events in each category.

Conclusion: In this birth cohort, our findings show an increased, but not statistically significant, risk of MCM at birth among women with SLE exposed to HCQ during the 1st trimester compared to those without HCQ exposure. Our findings should be interpreted considering the lack of data on early pregnancy termination or loss induced by MC. Future studies are warranted to investigate this association further and should utilize a longer follow-up for MCM ascertainment (i.e., within one year of birth). For managing SLE during pregnancy, the benefits of HCQ may still outweigh the risks.


Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.694

THERAPEUTIC RANGE OF HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE BLOOD LEVELS CAN REDUCE ODDS OF HIGH LUPUS DISEASE ACTIVITY

Keywords: Treat to target, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Outcome measures

S. Gar1, B. Chewing2, S. Gomez3, C. Bartels4, 1University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine & Public Health, Medicine, Rheumatology, Madison, United States of America; 2University of Wisconsin, School of Pharmacy; Pharmacy, Madison, United States of America

Background: Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) is the cornerstone of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE or lupus) treatment, yet, the optimal dosing of HCQ in SLE is unknown. Reducing HCQ dose to 5mg/kg to limit toxicity, as suggested by the American Academy of Ophthalmologists (AAO),(1) also predicts increased flares. One study showed that only 34% of patients receiving AAO recommended HCQ dosing.(2) Therefore, establishing effective therapeutic ranges of HCQ blood levels may provide an opportunity to individualize HCQ dosing to maximize efficacy and limit toxicity.

Keywords: Treatment, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Outcome measures

S. Gar1, B. Chewing2, S. Gomez2, 1University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine & Public Health, Medicine, Rheumatology, Madison, United States of America; 2University of Wisconsin, School of Pharmacy; Pharmacy, Madison, United States of America

Background: Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) is the cornerstone of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE or lupus) treatment, yet, the optimal dosing of HCQ in SLE is unknown. Reducing HCQ dose to 5mg/kg to limit toxicity, as suggested by the American Academy of Ophthalmologists (AAO),(1) also predicts increased flares. One study showed that only 34% of patients receiving AAO recommended HCQ dosing.(2) Therefore, establishing effective therapeutic ranges of HCQ blood levels may provide an opportunity to individualize HCQ dosing to maximize efficacy and limit toxicity.
**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to examine the association of HCO blood levels with high lupus disease activity (HDA) in a prospective SLE cohort.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional study measured HCQ blood levels in unique SLE visits using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. HCQ blood levels and SLE disease activity index (SLEDAI) scores were measured on the day of the visit for each patient. High lupus disease activity (HDA) was defined as SLEDAI scores ≥26.(3) To identify significant HCQ blood levels that determined lower odds of HDA, we examined associations between HDA and every 50-100 ng/ml increase in HCQ blood levels starting at 100 ng/ml through 1500 ng/ml. Other factors that can affect HCQ levels, such as patient-reported adherence, kidney function, and HCQ dose and timing, were included in multivariable models.

**Results:** Among 143 SLE patients in whom HCQ blood levels were measured, 92% were women and 32% were of non-White race or Hispanic ethnicity. HDA was noted in 16% of patients. We noted a 75% reduction in the odds of HDA at first HCQ blood levels of ≥750 ng/ml (Adjusted OR 0.25, 95% CIs 0.066-0.89, p-value = 0.035; Figure 1). This effect peaked with HCQ blood levels ≥1100 ng/ml with 93% lower odds of HDA at this level (Adjusted OR 0.07, 95% CIs 0.005-0.61, p-value = 0.038; Figure 1). Interestingly, levels of 1150 ng/ml or higher did not further reduce the odds of HDA (Figure 1).

Additionally, we noted that female sex was associated with 88% lower odds of HDA (Table 1), while other factors including HCQ dose or timing were not associated with HDA (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** We report an effective therapeutic range of HCQ blood levels, 750-1100 ng/ml, that significantly correlated with reduced risk of high lupus disease activity (HDA) by 75-93% in patients with SLE. These findings could guide clinicians to individualize HCQ doses to achieve target blood levels within this range to maximize efficacy, while balancing safety.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgments:** The UW SLE Cohort is supported by the DOM and ICTR at UW-Madison.

---

**Table 1. Factors Associated with High SLE Disease Activity (SLEDAI ≥6), Multivariable Model**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CIs)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (per 10 years increase)</td>
<td>0.99 (1.03, 9.6)</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>ref</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-White race &amp; Hispanic ethnicity</td>
<td>0.75 (0.23, 2.3)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (per 5 kg increase)</td>
<td>0.97 (0.93-1.01)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COX stage ≥2</td>
<td>1.077 (0.25, 3.9)</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCQ total dose</td>
<td>ref</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 mg daily</td>
<td>1.80 (0.29, 22)</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 mg/d</td>
<td>3.0 (0.49, 22)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 mg/d</td>
<td>AAO-Guideline based dose, ≤5 mg/kg/day</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCQ blood levels ≥1100 ng/ml</td>
<td>0.07 (0.004, 0.45)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient-reported adherence ≥80%</td>
<td>0.57 (0.16, 2.1)</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Determinants of Health, Present</td>
<td>3.2 (0.86, 12)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCQ dose timing</td>
<td>ref</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;4 hours</td>
<td>3.3 (0.15, 153)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 hours</td>
<td>2.03 (0.1, 81)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8 hours</td>
<td>0.15 (0.08, 60)</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclosure of Interests:** Shivani Garg: None declared, Betty Cheung: None declared, Shelby Gomez: None declared, Christie Bartels Grant/research support from: Received an independent learning grant from Pfizer for a different research project. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.960

**POS1128 ZETOMIPZOMIB (KZR-616) TREATMENT RESULTS IN CLINICALLY MEANINGFUL RENAL RESPONSES IN PATIENTS WITH LUPUS NEPHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Kidneys, Clinical trials, Systemic lupus erythematosus

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**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** Submitted on behalf of the MISSION (KZR-616-002) Phase 2 Investigators.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2549
and dose-dependent reductions in serum total IgG levels and anti-AChR IgG autoantibodies (Figure 1), as compared to placebo. The safety and pharmacodynamic data from Vivacity-MG support the hypothesis that nipocalimab has the potential to treat pSS through lowering pathogenic IgGs. As such, we developed a phase 2, multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind study enrolling adults with moderately-to-severely active pSS. The pSS study consists of a 26-week screening period, a 24-week double-blind treatment period, and a 6-week follow-up period. Participants are randomized 1:1:1 to treatment every 2 weeks with intravenous nipocalimab (low or high dose), or placebo, through Week 22. The primary efficacy endpoint is change from baseline in Clinical European League Against Rheumatism Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index (clinESSDAI) score at Week 24. Safety assessments include TEAEs, abnormal vital signs, and laboratory parameters.

**Conclusion:** Vivacity-MG demonstrated that nipocalimab has the potential to offer an important new and targeted treatment option for patients with IgG-mediated diseases. The ongoing phase 2 study evaluates the safety and efficacy of treatment with nipocalimab in patients with moderately-to-severely active pSS.

**REFERENCES:**

### Table 1. TEAE Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAE Description</th>
<th>Nipocalimab (n=54)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=14)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients with TEAE, n (%)</td>
<td>44 (81.5)</td>
<td>11 (78.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with grade ≥3 TEAE, n (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (28.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most frequent TEAEs, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excitation of MG</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>6 (11.1)</td>
<td>1 (7.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasopharyngitis</td>
<td>6 (11.1)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td>6 (11.1)</td>
<td>1 (7.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients who discontinued due to TEAEs, n (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with serious TEAE, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (1.9)</td>
<td>2 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with TEAEs deemed related to study drug</td>
<td>21 (38.9)</td>
<td>1 (7.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

by investigator, n (%)

MG, myasthenia gravis; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.*Serious TEAE deemed unrelated to study drug.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Jonathan Hubbard Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Kim Campbell Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Kathy Sivils Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Robert Hoffman Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Kim Hung Lo Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Jocelyn H Leu Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Simon Bowman Consultant of: Abbvie, Astra Zeneca, Galapagos, and Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Sophia Liu Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Qing Zhu Yan Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Anne M. Stevens Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Leona Ling Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Keith Karcher Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Sindhu Ramchandren Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, Hong Sun Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own Johnson & Johnson stock or stock options, R Hal Scolfied: None declared, Raphaele Seror Consultant of: GlaxoSmithKline, Boehringer, Janssen and Novartis; Grant/ research support from: GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, and Eli Lilly; Wallace Consultant of: Agen, Eli Lilly and Company, EMDD Merck, Serono, and Pfizer.

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs), Cell biology, Sjögren syndrome

**Methods:** Salivary gland tissues were harvested from pSS patients through labial or parotid biopsy. After tissue processing and vital organoids obtained, swelling assay and cell proliferation tests were performed after forskolin and apremilast application, compared to DMSO-treated controls. Immunohistochemistry evaluation on original salivary gland tissue and corresponding organoids was performed, by testing: alpha-amylase and AQP5 for acinar differentiation; EMA for ductal differentiation; calponin for myoepithelial differentiation and CK5 for basal differentiation; by testing: alpha-amylase and AQP5 for acinar differentiation; EMA for ductal differentiation; calponin for myoepithelial differentiation and CK5 for basal differentiation; CK14, cKit and CD34 as markers of progenitor/stem cells.

**Results:** After application of forskolin or apremilast, we observed organoid swelling after 30 minutes, compatible with positive functional status and enhancement of saliva production. DMSO-treated controls were instead unaffected. In 3 cases apremilast induced proliferation of the organoids (Figure 1). All the cases were positive for CK14, most of the cases for CK5. All the cases were positive for Amylase; its secretion, and thus functional status of organoids, was confirmed by its high concentration in the culture medium. A focal ductal differentiation was found in some cases, highlighted by EMA positivity. The more differentiated EMA positive areas were negative for CK14, showing a sort of “complementary staining”.

**Conclusion:** Our data confirm that, from pSS epithelium, differentiated cells that escape senescence and vital and functional organoids that recapitulate the development of original salivary glands can be obtained from different target tissues of pSS. The direct stimulating effect of PDE4 inhibitor apremilast on pSS human salivary organoids is reported, opening new perspectives on targeting oral dryness with drugs that combine secretagogue and immunomodulatory effects.

**REFERENCES:**
**POS1132**

**HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE, WHICH REGULATES IFN, IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN SLE WITH ELEVATED SERUM S100 PROTEIN**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cytokines and chemokines

**R. Wakiya**, 1 H. Shimada, 1 K. Ueeda, 1 S. Nakashima, 1 T. Miyagi, 1 Y. Ushio, 1 K. Sugihara, 1 R. Mino, 1 M. Mizusaki, 1 K. Chuo, 1 T. Kameda, 1 H. Dobashi, 1

1Kagawa University, Division of Hematology, Rheumatology and Respiratory Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Kagawa, Japan

**Background:** Serum S100 protein, a damage-associated molecular pattern factor, has been associated with interferon (IFN) [1]. In a previous study, we found that hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), which regulates IFN activity, modulates serum S100 protein in SLE patients [2].

**Objectives:** This study determined if the therapeutic effect of HCQ is altered in SLE patients with different serum S100 protein levels.

**Methods:** This single-center, prospective, exploratory study evaluated SLE patients with different serum S100 protein levels. The S100A8 and S100A9 protein levels were measured using DIA-SIGHT® (Beckman Coulter). The high and low groups were analyzed into three groups, namely, high, intermediate, and low, according to baseline serum S100A8 and S100A9 protein and adipokines (adiponectin, leptin, and VEGF-A, and MIP-1α) were measured by the multiplex Luminex assay, and cytokine changes after HCQ treatment were also greater than S100A8 low group. A trend similar to S100A8 significantly higher in the S100A8 high group. Cytokine changes after HCQ treatment were also greater than S100A8 low group. A trend similar to S100A8 significantly higher in the S100A8 high group.

**Results:** Serologic and demographic changes in SLEDAI and SLE-DAS scores before and 3 months after HCQ treatment were analyzed separately by baseline S100A8 levels. P-values were determined using Wilcoxon signed-rank sum test. 0M, 0 months; 3M, 3 months.

**Conclusion:** SLE patients with high serum S100 protein levels respond better to HCQ therapy. This finding suggests that serum S100 protein levels may predict the response to IFN inhibitor therapy.

**REFERENCES**


**Acknowledgements: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.**

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4295

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**Table 1. Characteristics of SLE patients.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>All (N = 67)</th>
<th>S100A8 High (N = 22)</th>
<th>S100A8 Low (N = 22)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>63 (94.0)</td>
<td>22 (100)</td>
<td>41 (95.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>41.8 (13.0)</td>
<td>43.5 (10.3)</td>
<td>44.8 (10.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>14.8 (11.1)</td>
<td>18.5 (12.5)</td>
<td>16.9 (11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of lupus nephritis, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (44.8)</td>
<td>15 (68.2)</td>
<td>7 (31.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone, n (%), median dose, mg/day</td>
<td>57 (78.1)</td>
<td>21 (95.5)</td>
<td>18 (81.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous lesion, n (%)</td>
<td>39 (58.2)</td>
<td>16 (72.7)</td>
<td>11 (50.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint lesion, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (22.4)</td>
<td>6 (27.2)</td>
<td>3 (13.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI score</td>
<td>2 (1–4)</td>
<td>2 (1–6)</td>
<td>2 (1–4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE-DAS score</td>
<td>3.5 (1.5–5.1)</td>
<td>3.5 (1.3–5.1)</td>
<td>3.0 (1.6–4.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDAS, n (%)</td>
<td>18 (26.9)</td>
<td>7 (31.6)</td>
<td>11 (45.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA antibodies, IU/ml</td>
<td>4.7 (0.4–16.3)</td>
<td>5 (0.5–13.3)</td>
<td>4 (0.5–19.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3, mg/dL</td>
<td>75 (63–94)</td>
<td>78.5 (66.5–96.3)</td>
<td>67 (51.8–83.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4, mg/dL</td>
<td>13 (10–20.6)</td>
<td>15.8 (8.5–22)</td>
<td>11.5 (8.1–17.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH50, U/mL</td>
<td>33.8 (30.4–39.6)</td>
<td>33.9 (29.8–41.6)</td>
<td>32.2 (27.8–36.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White blood cells, x10⁴/μL</td>
<td>4650</td>
<td>5340</td>
<td>4290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets, x10⁴/μL</td>
<td>210 (170–262)</td>
<td>231 (18.9–29.4)</td>
<td>19.8 (15.5–25.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in SLEDAI and SLE-DAS scores before and 3 months after HCQ administration were analyzed separately by baseline S100A8 levels. P-values were determined using Wilcoxon signed-rank sum test. 0M, 0 months; 3M, 3 months.

**Acknowledgements: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.**

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3425

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**POS1133**

**TREATMENT OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS WITH UPADACITINIB RESULTS IN THE COORDINATED INHIBITION OF TYPE 1 IFN-RELATED BIOMARKERS: BIOMARKER ANALYSIS OF THE M19-130 (SLEEK) PHASE 2 STUDY**

**Keywords:** Cytokines and chemokines, Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus

M. C. Gaudreau1, J. Fann1, S. Contrepois1, A. Friedman1, T. Sornasse1, J. T. Merril2, T. trimest2.

1Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Arthritis & Clinical Immunology Program, Oklahoma City, United States of America

2Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Arthritis & Clinical Immunology Program, Oklahoma City, United States of America

**Background:** Activation of Type I interferons (IFNs) and a wide array of innate and adaptive immune mediators are hallmarks of the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and activation of IFN pathways correlates with disease activity [1]. In a phase 2 study of SLE patients, upadacitinib (UPA, Janus kinase inhibitor) given alone or in combination with belimumab (ABBV-599, Bruton’s tyrosine kinase inhibitor) resulted in significant improvement in disease activity as measured by British Isles Lupus Assessment Group-Based Combined Lupus Assessment (BICLA) and SLE Responder Index-4 (SRI-4) at weeks 24 and 48.

**References:**


The statistical analyses were conducted using the Mann-Whitney U test. *Nonparametric distributions are represented as medians (interquartile range).**

**Figure 1.** Association of serum S100 protein levels at baseline with SLE disease activity changes.

Changes in SLEDAI and SLE-DAS scores before and 3 months after HCQ administration were analyzed separately by baseline S100A8 levels. P-values were determined using Wilcoxon signed-rank sum test. 0M, 0 months; 3M, 3 months.

**Acknowledgements: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.**

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3425
Methods: SLE patients (n = 205) were randomized to placebo (PBO); n = 75; UPA 30 mg QD; n = 62; ABBV-599; n = 68). At screening, patients were stratified by their SLE Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K) score, corticosteroid dose (> 10-mg prednisone or not), immunosuppressant and IFN score. Proteomic analyses were performed on the plasma samples using a commercial proximity-extension immunomassay. A repeated mixed linear model was used to compare changes in biomarker vs PBO and Pearson’s correlation was tested to compare protein biomarkers, IFN score, and SLEDAI-2K score. All analyses were corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini–Hochberg method. Enrichment analyses were performed to elucidate the biological pathways associated with changes in protein biomarkers.

Results: As expected, elevated IFN gene expression at baseline was associated with higher SLEDAI 2K disease activity scores, increased anti-double stranded DNA titers, and lower levels of complement components. Expression of serum proteins related to the IFN pathway, such as CXL10, sialic acid binding immuno- globulin-like lectin 1, IFN gamma, and ZBP1, positively correlated with the IFN score. Treatment with UPA monotherapy or the combination ABBV-599 significantly reduced the IFN gene scores compared with PBO at weeks 4 and 24 (P ≤0.001). Proteomic analyses revealed 301 protein biomarkers differentially modulated at weeks 2, 12, and 24 compared with PBO, including significant down-regulation of Type I IFN pathway proteins. There were additional impacts of UPA and ABBV-599 on T-cell–associated cytokines, B cells, macrophages, and innate response markers. These effects were similar with UPA and ABBV-599, suggesting that the main effect was attributable to activity of UPA.

Conclusion: These results suggest that the clinical benefit demonstrated by UPA in patients with SLE includes the modulation of Type I IFN with impact on several core pathogenic pathways involved in SLE. The main biomarker effects of UPA and ABBV-599 were driven by UPA.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: AbbVie funded this study and participated in the study design, research, analysis, data collection, interpretation of data, reviewing, and approving the abstract. All authors had access to relevant data and participated in the drafting, review, and approval of this abstract. No honoraria or payments were made for authorship. All authors agreed to submit this abstract to the EULAR 2023 Congress for consideration as an oral presentation or poster.

Disclosure of Interests: Marie-Claude Gaudreau Shareholder of: May hold AbbVie stock or stock options, Employee of: AbbVie; James Fann Shareholder of: May hold AbbVie stock or stock options, Employee of: AbbVie; Shalina Contreras Shareholder of: May hold AbbVie stock or stock options, Employee of: AbbVie; Joan T Merrill Consultant of: AbbVie; Alexion, Alumia, Amgen, Astra Zeneca, Auroius, Bristol Myers Squibb, EMD Serono, Genethon, GlaxoSmithKline, Lilly, Merck, Pfizer, Prevention, Regeneron, Sanofi, UCB, and Zenas, Grant, research support from: Astra Zeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, and GlaxoSmithKline.

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POS1134 NOVEL APPROACH TO TREAT SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS, BY TARGETING THE “ROOT CAUSE”, B CELLS AND PLASMA CELLS, USING BCMA-CD19 COMPOUND CAR

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical trials

Y. Yuan1, S. He2, W. Zhang3, H. Zhang3, V. Destefano3, M. Wada3, K. Pinz2, G. Debeer5, Y. MA7, M. Wang5, F. Li1, M. Hong1, L. Ting1, C. Zou1, M. Wang5, L. Ding5, Y. Liang1, Y. MA7, W. Wang6, 2Zhongshan People’s Hospital, Department of Translational Medicine, Zhongshan, China; 2Zhongshan People’s Hospital, Department of Rheumatoid Immunology, Zhongshan, China; 3Peking University Shenzhen Hospital, Department of Hematology, Shenzhen, China; 4ICell Gene Therapeutics Inc., Research & Development Division, Stony Brook, United States of America; 5iCAR Bio Therapeutics Ltd, Research & Development Division, Zhongshan, China

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a heterogenous multi-systemic disease characterized by sequential localization of autoantibodies produced by the “root cause”, B and plasma cells. Autoimmunity depletion has been attempted by targeting B cells, however no such treatment addresses both B and plasma cells.

Objectives: We assess the safety and efficacy of dual resetting B and plasma cell populations using our novel BCMA-CD19 cCAR T (cCAR) in an open label phase I clinical trial.

Methods: We constructed a cCAR composed of a complete BCMA-CD19 fused to a complete CD19-CAR, separated via self-cleaving P2A peptide. The cCAR functional activity was assessed in co-culture assays with multiple cell lines and mouse models. T cells from peripheral blood obtained via apheresis were transfected to create cCAR. Cessation of steroids and immunosuppressing medications was followed by conditioning. Patients received monthly IgG until B cells recovered. Patients were dosed from 1.5x10⁹ cCAR cells/kg body weight and monitored. P1 and P2: 20-year history of managed SLE and received cCAR as compassionate use for B cell lymphoma. P1 and P2 achieved complete remission (CR). After 1-year follow up demonstrated CR of SLE, hospital approved additional SLE/Lupus Neprithis (LN) patients for treatment. Baseline Characteristics: 12 patients received cCAR therapy between 2023. P1 was male, P2 female. Ten of 12 were female. P1 and P2: SLEDAI-2K score 4, and 8, respectively. Patient 3-12: SLEDAI-2K baseline score mean 11 range 6 to 16. All of patients (3-12) had LN on kidney biopsy between IV to V with failure of standard therapy.

Results: Safety: Overall cCAR has been well tolerated to date. There have been no severe adverse events (SAE) or infections attributed to cCAR, no CRES and no CRS above Grade 1. All patients with >3 weeks follow up had a mild fever (CRS grade 1) which resolved with supportive care. Onset of mild fever occurred between days 3 to 14 and resolved within a week of onset. Efficacy: B cells were entirely depleted in peripheral blood 3-14 days post cCAR. Three patients treated >6 months in CR (SLEDAI-2K = 0, all autoantibodies negative, and normal complement). P1 and P2 maintain drug free CR and no autoantibodies post-cCAR approximately 40 and 20 months respectively. All B cells recovered within 2-6 months with no indications of relapse. At ≥1-4 months post-treatment 9 patients were negative for, anti-dsDNA autoantibody, anti-nuclear autoantibody, anti-SSA/Ro52 autoantibody, anti-SSA/Ro60 autoantibody, anti-ribosomal P, and anti-U1-snRNP Among patients rapid improvement within 1 month after cCAR, mean SLEDAI-2K dropped from 8.7 mean at baseline to 2 at 1 month (7 patients no symptoms), and mean drop to 0.88 within 6 months (9 patients no symp- toms). All patients achieved 100% response and are maintaining medication free recovery (no immunosuppressors or glucocorticoids). An immune “reset” was confirmed via flow cytometry showing that most of recurring cells are naïve B cells, and further observed in BCR deep sequencing (patients 3-4), whereby IgG and IgA clonotypes are absent and non-class-switched BCR repertoires are greater than 95% IgM heavy chain.

Conclusion: These data on the 12 patients treated with cCAR demonstrate that the intervention is well tolerated. Initial data suggests immune system “reset” with long-term remission is possible as cCAR treats the “root cause” of disease by depriving autoreactive antibodies produced by plasma cells and memory B cells. This approach can be extended to other B and/or plasma cell mediated autoimmune disorders. The full dataset will be updated at the meeting.

Acknowledgements: Patients and their families.

Disclosure of Interests: Yong Yuan: None declared, Shanzhi He: None declared, Weni Zhang: None declared, Hongyu Zhang: None declared, Vincent DeStefano Employee of: Cell Gene Therapeutics Inc, Masayuki Wada Employee of: Cell Gene Therapeutics Inc., Kevin Pinz Employee of: Cell Gene Therapeutics Inc., Greg Deener Employee of: Employee of Cell Gene Therapeutics Inc., Yu Ma Employee of: iCAR Bio Therapeutics Ltd, Min Wang Employee of: Fugu Li: None declared, Ming Hong: None declared, Lan Ting: None declared, Chuanjuan Zou: None declared, Mingxia Wang: None declared, Ding Ding: None declared, Yingwen Liang: None declared, Yupo Ma Employee of: iCell Gene Therapeutics Inc., Weijia Wang: None declared.

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POS1135 EFFECT OF IMMUNOMODULATORY THERAPIES ON ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID ANTIBODIES TITERS IN CHILDREN WITH ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME

Keywords: Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Autoantibodies

P. Morán Álvarez1, E. Marasco1, V. Messia1, F. De Benedetti1, C. Bracaglia1

1Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Pediatric Rheumatology, Rome, Italy

Background: Pediatric Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS) is an autoimmune disease characterized by venous and/or arterial thrombotic events (TE) associated with 2 consecutive positive determinations (at least 12 weeks apart) of antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL), IgG/IgM anticardiolipin (aCL), IgG/IgM [2-glycoprotein I (a2GPI)] and/or lupus anticoagulant (LA). Recent data suggests that aPL levels may decrease over time due to the natural history of the disease or to treatments. Therefore, monitoring of aPL levels may represent a strategy to evaluate disease activity or response to therapies.

Objectives: To investigate the trend over time of aPL titers in children with APS, comparing patients under immunomodulatory therapies and those without them.

Methods: A descriptive, observational, cross-sectional study was carried out in children with APS. aPLs testing was carried out in all patients from diagnosis every 3-4 months for 2 years. Inferfer Gene Signature (IGS) was assessed as described by Crow[1]. Laboratory parameters, clinical and demographic data was retrieved and analyzed. Statistical analysis was performed with software R_v.4.0.3.
Results: Sixteen children with a diagnosis of APS were included in this study. The median age at disease onset was 11.5 years (range: 6 months – 17 years) and 62.5% were female; 87.5% Caucasians. Thirteen patients (81.2%) had a diagnosis of primary APS and 3 (18.8%) out of 16 of secondary APS. Regarding clinical manifestations, 11 children developed at least one TE (7 arterial and 5 venous). Cerebral territory was the most frequently involved with 5 thrombosis, followed by 3 deep vein thrombosis, 1 pulmonary thromboembolism and 2 arterial renal thrombosis. Most of the patients received an antiaggregant and/or anticoagulant therapy (13 and 8 patients, respectively). However, 1 patient presented a new TE after the antiaggregant withdrawal. A total of 12 (75%) children developed at least one non-criterion manifestation: 7 patients (44%) cardiac (Libman-Sacks endocarditis or valvarular heart disease), 7 patients (44%) neurological (chorea or white matter lesions), 6 patients (37.5%) hematological (thrombocytopenia, hemolytic anemia or Evans syndrome) and 1 patient (3.8%) a renal thrombotic microangiopathy. Related to immunological parameters, 4 (25%) were positive for only 1 aPL, 5 (42%) for 2 aPL subtypes and 7 (44%) for all 3 aPL subtypes, showing the highest rates of IgG a2GP (87.5%) and IgG aCL (81.25%). Lower rates were identified for LA (44%), IgM aCL (18.7%) and IgM a2B2GP (12.5%). Four (25%) had ANA positivity (3 secondary and 1 primary APS). Regarding treatment, 13 children (81.25%) received at least one immunomodulatory drug (13 patients mycophenolate; 4 rituximab) and 3 (18.7%) were not treated with them. During the 2-year-follow-up, 11 patients (68.8%) showed a reduction of aPL titer compared to the onset, with becoming 9 negative (56.3%) at the end of follow-up (Figure 1A). Of those who were negative, 8 children were under immunomodulatory therapies and only 1 did not receive any treatment. Five patients (31.2%) showed stable titers of aPLs during follow-up. Of them, 2 were not treated with immunomodulatory therapies and 2 were under mycophenolate but with poor compliance (reduction of titers with the restart of therapy were observed). We also evaluated the presence of the IGS in 11 patients with APS for whom a whole blood RNA sample was available: the IGS was positive in 9 (81.8%) of 11 children (7 with primary APS and 2 with secondary APS).

Conclusion: Our data suggest the possible effect of immunomodulatory therapies in reducing antibody titers in APS. Therefore, it may represent a strategy to control the disease activity leading to a better prognosis. Further studies are needed to confirm and expand our data.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. A. Trend of IgG a2B2GP during 2 years of follow-up. B. Trend of IgG aCL during 2 years of follow-up. Red line (0); children without immunomodulatory (IMM) therapies; blue line (1); children with IMM therapies.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1138 DISEASE-MODIFYING EFFECT AND LONG-TERM SAFETY DATA OF BELIMUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH SLE: A SINGLE CENTRE RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematous

M. Okada1, T. Nakai1. 1St. Luke’s International Hospital, Immunno-Rheumatology Center, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Disease modification is an important concept for minimizing disease activity with the fewest treatment-associated toxicities when managing SLE. Belimumab has been used as a maintenance therapy for SLE; however, data on its disease-modifying effects are scarce.

Objectives: Therefore, we aimed to investigate the disease-modifying effects of belimumab in SLE patients.

Methods: This single-centre retrospective cohort study included SLE patients treated with belimumab at our institution. We analysed the changes in flare-rate ratio, lupus low disease activity state (LLDAS) achievement rate, glucocorticoid dosage, SLICC/ACR damage index (SDI) score, and drug retention rate after belimumab initiation.

Results: Of the 567 patients with SLE followed up in our hospital, 95 used belimumab and to 92 were included in the study. Fifty-two weeks after initiating belimumab, the flare rate decreased (82.6% to 14.1%) (p<0.01). At week 52 and day 1,000 after initiation of belimumab, >70% and approximately 90% of the patients achieved LLDAS, respectively. Belimumab administration also significantly decreased glucocorticoid demands, and at the end of the study period, 68.5% of patients achieved prednisolone ≤5 mg/day and 22.8% achieved glucocorticoid discontinuation. Furthermore, most patients were free of SDI progression (week 52, ±95%; end of study period, almost 90%), and belimumab showed a high drug retention rate (week 52, 90%; day 1000 after initiation >80%).

Conclusion: Most patients on belimumab achieved LLDAS, decreased flare rate and glucocorticoid demand, and a stable trend of SDI after its induction. Furthermore, belimumab had a high drug retention rate. Therefore, the introduction of belimumab may be a key element in disease modification.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.944
Results: The previously developed population pharmacokinetic model for UPA showed that UPA pharmacokinetics were comparable in subjects with SLE and RA. A one-compartment model with a proportional error model best described the pharmacokinetics of ELS. Exposure-response analyses for efficacy based on logistic regression modeling demonstrated that at Week 24 and Week 48, statistically significant relationships were observed between UPA C_{avg} and SRI-4, SRI-4 and steroid dose ≤ 10 mg QD, and BICLA (Figure 1). No exposure-response trends were observed for ELS C_{avg} and the evaluated efficacy endpoints during the Week 24 analysis. Inclusion of ELS C_{avg} in the logistic regression models did not improve the model performance. Simulations based on the logistic regression models showed that UPA 30 mg QD is predicted to provide 8% to 17% higher response rates across the evaluated endpoints compared to UPA 15 mg QD. Exposure-response analyses for safety showed no clear trend for serious infections, lymphopenia, or neutropenia through Week 48. A shallow trend was observed for an increase in the percentage of subjects experiencing herpes zoster and a > 2 g/dL decrease in hemoglobin from Baseline at or through Week 48 with increasing upadacitinib C_{avg}.

Conclusion: Population pharmacokinetic and exposure-response analyses demonstrated that plasma exposures associated with UPA 30 mg QD were efficacious in subjects with SLE, while maintaining an acceptable safety profile. Addition of ELS, as part of ABBV-599, was not estimated to provide any additional efficacy benefit over UPA alone.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1312

Figure 1. Graphical Assessment for Exposure-Response Relationships Between Upadacitinib Average Plasma Concentration and Evaluated Efficacy Endpoints at Week 24 (left) and Week 48 (right) C_{avg}: average plasma concentration; QD: once-daily.

Table 1. Effectiveness of MMF vs. sirolimus for LN patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MMF (N=38)</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2K change</td>
<td>-2.00 (-8.00, 0.00)</td>
<td>P value/MMF (N=29)</td>
<td>-2.00 (-6.00, -1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGHR change</td>
<td>-0.250 (-0.600, -0.200)</td>
<td>-0.250 (-0.600, -0.200)</td>
<td>-0.220 (-0.600, -0.200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical response</td>
<td>51.4% (18/35)</td>
<td>51.4% (18/35)</td>
<td>51.4% (18/35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDS or remission</td>
<td>10.5% (4/38)</td>
<td>10.5% (4/38)</td>
<td>10.5% (4/38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LN Remission 68.4% (26/38)</td>
<td>68.4% (26/38)</td>
<td>68.4% (26/38)</td>
<td>68.4% (26/38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(CR+PR) 24-hour urine protein level (g) change 0.002</td>
<td>-0.287 (-0.900, -0.115)</td>
<td>0.284 (-0.699, -0.284)</td>
<td>0.476 (4.229)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovered hypocomplementemia 41.7% (10/24)</td>
<td>74.1% (20/27)</td>
<td>0.019 30.0% (6/20)</td>
<td>75.0% (18/24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in C3 0.075 (-0.063, 0.196)</td>
<td>0.206 (0.084, 0.321)</td>
<td>0.008 0.001 (-0.072, 0.130)</td>
<td>0.219 (0.062, 0.378)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in C4 0.014 (-0.001, 0.060)</td>
<td>0.033 (0.009, 0.071)</td>
<td>0.25 0.001 (-0.038, 0.060)</td>
<td>0.054 (0.014, 0.103)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in GC 0.000 (-0.150, 0.150)</td>
<td>0.000 0.174 (-0.625, 0.000)</td>
<td>0.000 0.000 (-0.103, 0.000)</td>
<td>0.771 0.000 (-0.125, -0.884)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC dos-ages75mg/d prednisone 34.2% (13/38)</td>
<td>31.8% (14/44)</td>
<td>0.818 0.174 (11/29)</td>
<td>46.9% (15/32)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys.

W Bai1, M. Li1,1,1, 1Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Rheumatology, Beijing, China

Background: The effectiveness and safety of sirolimus for the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and lupus nephritis (LN) have been shown in some studies. However, a comparison of sirolimus with standard of care (SoC) for LN patients has not been reported.

Objectives: To compare the effectiveness and safety of sirolimus versus mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) for LN treatment.

Methods: A real-world cohort study based on the Chinese SLE Treatment and Research (CSTAR) registry was conducted. Excluded patients with LLDSAS (lupus low disease activity state) or remission at baseline. LN patients who were prescribed sirolimus or MMF were enrolled. Propensity score matching was used to ensure equivalent disease conditions. SLE and LN disease activity indices, serological parameters, steroid doses, and adverse events were compared between the two groups at 3-month, 6-month, and 12-month visits.

Results: Data from 53 patients in each group were analyzed. The clinical effectiveness of sirolimus, including the proportion of patients with LLDSAS/remission, or clinical response (SLEDAI-2K reduction groups at 3-month, 6-month, and 12-month vSystemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K) scores, physician’s global assessment (PhGA) scores, the remission of LN, the change of 24 hours urine protein level, and the steroid tapering effect, were equivalent to those of MMF (P>0.05). Greater improvements in complement levels were observed in the sirolimus group than the MMF group at 3, 6, and 12 months. Ten adverse events in the sirolimus group and one in the MMF group were recorded. None was severe or led to drug discontinuation.

Conclusion: Sirolimus was as effective as MMF in the treatment of LN and glucocorticoid tapering. Sirolimus had better effects on serological improvement. Sirolimus was well tolerated in LN patients.

REFERENCES:
BACKGROUND: Thrombocytopenia is a common manifestation associated with the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies (aPLs).

OBJECTIVES: To investigate the efficacy and safety of tacrolimus treatment in aPLs associated thrombocytopenia and to evaluate potential clinical factors affecting treatment response.

METHODS: This is a single-center observational prospective study. Patients with aPLs associated thrombocytopenia were recruited. Patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) related major organ involvement were excluded. Treatment response, adverse effects, bleeding events were monitored.

RESULTS: A total of 61 patients were enrolled from Jan 2016 to Apr 2022 with a median treatment duration of 22 months. The response characteristics are summarized in Table 1. The overall response rate was 80.3% (n = 49), including 49.2% of complete responses (n = 30). Compared to commonly used second line therapy for immune thrombocytopenia like eltrombopag and rituximab, a total of 30 patients (n = 30) were treated with tacrolimus at a median concentration of 5.9 (SD 3.6) ng/ml. The overall response rate was 80.3% (n = 49), including 49.2% of complete responses (n = 30).

CONCLUSION: This study suggests that tacrolimus has adequate efficacy and is well tolerated for aPLs associated thrombocytopenia. Patients with mild to moderate SLE might benefit the most from tacrolimus treatment.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Response characteristics of the studied patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All patients (n = 61)</th>
<th>Nonresponders (n = 12)</th>
<th>Overall responders (n = 49)</th>
<th>Response (n = 19)</th>
<th>Complete response (n = 30)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration of treatment, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>2.5 (1, 3)</td>
<td>3.1 (1, 4.5)</td>
<td>2.4 (1, 3)</td>
<td>91.3%</td>
<td>91.3%</td>
<td>0.09a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to response, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>6 (2.1)</td>
<td>7 (4.5)</td>
<td>6 (2.1)</td>
<td>0.6b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients achieved TFR, n (%)</td>
<td>11 (22.4)</td>
<td>3 (15.8)</td>
<td>8 (26.7)</td>
<td>0.5b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration of tacrolimus, ng/ml, mean (SD)</td>
<td>5.9 (3.6)</td>
<td>6.6 (3.6)</td>
<td>6.4 (2.7)</td>
<td>5.0 (2.6)</td>
<td>0.6a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Percentages and mean platelet count of patients with different treatment response during follow-up.

Figure 2. Cumulative incidence curve of achieving overall response between patients diagnosed with and without SLE.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1466

Keywords: Safety, Anti-phospholipid syndrome
A NOVEL TLR7/8 ANTAGONIST BLOCKS PRO-INFLAMMATORY FUNCTION OF IMMUNE COMPLEXES FROM LUPUS PATIENTS AND ABROGATES LUPUS-LIKE DISEASE IN MICE

Keywords: Inmate immunity, Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs), Systemic lupus erythematosus

S. Hawtin1, C. Andrei G. Collignon Zipfel1, S. Appenzeller1, B. Bannert1, L. Baumgartner1, D. Beck1, C. Betschart1, T. Boulay1, H. Brunner1, M. Ceci1, J. Deane1, R. Feifel1, E. Fererro1, D. Kyburz1, F. Lafossas1, P. Loetscher1, C. Merz-Stoeckle1, P. Michelys1, B. Nuelles-Hildesheim1, F. Raulf1, J. Rush1, G. Ruzzante1, T. Stein1, S. Zaharevitz5, G. Wieczorek7, R. Siegel7, P. Gergely7, L. Baumgartner1, D. Beck1, C. Betschart1, T. Boulay1, H. Brunner4, M. Ceci1, Basel, Switzerland

3Universitätsspital Basel, Rheumatology, Basel, Switzerland

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus

S. S. Lee4, J. H. Kang1, S. E. Choi1, D. J. Park1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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SUBTHERAPEUTIC HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE CONCENTRATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED DISEASE ACTIVITY AND GREATER ORGAN DAMAGE DURING 5-YEAR FOLLOW-UP IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1905

SPANISH NATIONAL REGISTRY OF BELIMUAB IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Registries, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Background: Belimumab (BLM) is a monoclonal antibody that inhibits B-lymophocyte stimulating factor (BlyS) approved as a specific treatment for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in 2011. We present the experience with BLM in a Spanish cohort with more than 460 patients.

Objectives: To describe demographic characteristics, efficacy and safety of BLM in patients with SLE in Spanish population since its approval. Methods: Descriptive, retrospective, multicenter study in patients diagnosed with SLE according to EULAR/ACR 2019, SLICC and/or ACR 1997 diagnostic criteria. Data regarding SLE patients treated with BLM were collected from medical records (2011-2022). Demographic features, efficacy, laboratory variables, SLEDAI, renal involvement, steroid dose, administration routes and safety were assessed. To see whether a trend in BLM prescription had changed or not over time, two periods of time were analyzed: 2011-2016 (period1) and 2017-2022 (period2).

Results: Baseline characteristics of patients are summarized in Table 1. A total of 462 patients (36 hospitals) were included, 50.9% were on intravenous (IV), 34% on subcutaneous (SC) and 15.1% switched from IV to SC route. The median number of pre-BLM csDMARD use was 2.0 (2.0-3.0), being hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) the most frequently used (94.5%), class III (21%) and class V (16%) the most frequently reported. After BLM, 73.3% of these patients improved (median proteinuria of 0.2 g/day (0.1-0.7). In period1, 100 patients started BLM compared to 362 in period2. The median time from SLE diagnosis to BLM begin was 7.1 (4.0-13.7) and 6.2 (2.1-14.4) years in period1 and period2, respectively (p=0.454). We found a trend to use more csDMARD before BLM treatment in period1: 2.5 (2-3) vs. 2 (2-3) (p=0.088). A total of 143 (30.5%) patients discontinued treatment mostly due to inefficacy (55.9%) and infections (11.9%). In fact, 116 patients developed infections, mostly mild; 2 patients died, 16 had COVID-19 and 4 patients developed tumors requiring discontinuation of the drug.

Conclusion: In our cohort of SLE patients in a real-world setting, BLM has been effective, safe and seems to be a good choice to treat renal involvement.

REFERENCES:
Potential of zetomipzomib was demonstrated by reduction of uCD163, which was strongly correlated with UPCR improvement at W13, W25 and W37 (Figure 1). For the thirteen patients who consented to urine biomarker analysis, baseline 24-hour UPCR was: mean=2.8 mg/mg, median=1.8 mg/mg, SD=3.3, range 0.93-13.4; uCD163: mean=1.7 mg/mmol, median=0.97 mg/mmol, SD=2.3, range 0.28-8.9. ROC analysis results from the MISSION study suggests that LN patients with uCD163 values of ≤0.13 at W13 and ≤0.09 at W25 are more likely to achieve a CRR at W25 and W37 following treatment with zetomipzomib (Table 1).

Conclusion: This post-hoc analysis of zetomipzomib data generated from the MISSION Ph2 study suggests that in patients with proliferative LN, uCD163 levels might predict CRR achieved up to 3 months later and could therefore potentially help to guide optimal therapy. Further evidence is needed from larger randomized LN trials with zetomipzomib to confirm the utility and limits of uCD163 as a predictive biomarker.

REFERENCE:

Table 1: Summary of ROC Analysis based on Logistic Regression Model

| Predictor | Outcome N used in ROC analysis | Youden AUC (max=1) | Sensitivity Specificity Predictive probability in CRR Predictive probability in non-CRR |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| uCD163 at CRR at | 12 | uCD163 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 100% | 100% |
| W13 | Week 25 (1) | 0.13 | (p=0.3615) | (4 CRR missing) | |
| uCD163 at CRR at | 13 | uCD163 0.8 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 100% | 80% |
| Week 25 | Week 37 (5) | 0.09 | (p=0.1218) | (5 CRR) | |
| uCD163 | <0.58* | |

*based on the criterion of smallest ∆=Sensitivity – Specificity – Specificity.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2650
Background: Belimumab (BLM) is a recombinant human IgG1 monoclonal antibody that inhibits B-cell activating factor. It is approved for the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). It is effective in reducing disease activity, flares, damage prevention and also as a steroid-sparing agent. A treat to target (T2T) approach in the care of SLE patients is important in terms of improving short and long-term outcomes.

Objectives: To evaluate belimumab (BLM) effectiveness in SLE patients from a Spanish multicenter registry.

Methods: A longitudinal retrospective multicenter cohort including SLE patients treated with belimumab from 18 Spanish rheumatology departments. Demographic, clinical and serological data were collected at baseline, 6, 12 and in the last visit available. Changes in SLEDAI-2K; LLDBS and DORIS 2021 states and global response according to physician criteria were compared between visits, as well as changes in damage and glucocorticoids used. T-test was used for numerical variables and the Fisher’s test for categorical variables.

Results: 324 patients were included: 295 (91%) females with a mean (±SD) age of 42.4 (±12.9) years. Mean follow-up was 3.8 (±2.7) years and mean time with BLM was 2.7 (±2.4) years. At baseline, mean SLEDAI-2K was 10.4 (±5.25), 68.2% had elevated anti-double-stranded DNA (anti-dsDNA) antibodies and 69.8% had complement consumption. BLM was initiated concomitant to other DMARDs in 67.9% (n=220) of patients. Mean reduction in SLEDAI-2K score was 5.0 (±5.1), 6.1 (±5) and 7.3 (±3) points at 6, 12 months and in the last visit; respectively (p<0.05 for all comparisons). Rates of achievement of LLDBS, DORIS and clinical response according to physician criteria, significantly increased from baseline to 6, 12 months, and to the last visit (Table 1). Anti-dsDNA antibodies and inflammatory markers (ESR, CRP), significantly decreased from baseline to 6, 12 months and in the last visit. Complements increased over the follow up but without statistical significance. A total of 107 (45.9%) patients discontinued GC. At 6 months, 58.9% (n=155) of patients reduced the dose of GC with respect to baseline and 72.8% (n=131) of patients did it at the last visit. Mean (±SD) prednisone dose was significantly reduced over the visits: 12.3 (±3.96); 7.42 (±3.56); 5.8 (±4.42) and 4.7 (±3.7) mg/day at baseline, 6 and 12 months and in the last visit, respectively. Median (IQR) SDI score at the end of the observation period did not change from baseline visit: 0 (0-1) and 0 (0-1), respectively (p=0.97). Neither were changes observed in the percentage of patients with damage between the beginning and the end of the observation period: at baseline 47.5% (n=162) patients presented damage and, in the last visit, 45.6% (n=99).

Table 1. Clinical response and changes in GC dose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease activity</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>Last visit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean (±SD) or number (%)</td>
<td>n=324</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI reduction; mean (±SD)</td>
<td>10 (±2.5)</td>
<td>5.0 (±5.1)</td>
<td>6.1 (±5.5)</td>
<td>7.3 (±5.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLDBS</td>
<td>6 (1%)</td>
<td>13/45% (8.9%)</td>
<td>145 (82%)</td>
<td>177 (78.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DORIS</td>
<td>6 (1%)</td>
<td>72 (24%)</td>
<td>85 (36.3%)</td>
<td>127 (52.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response according to physician</td>
<td>212 (65.4%)</td>
<td>185 (57.1%)</td>
<td>165 (50.9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of swollen joints; mean (±SD)</td>
<td>3.3 (±6.6)</td>
<td>1.2 (±2.8)</td>
<td>0.69 (±1.39)</td>
<td>0.55 (±1.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone dose (mg/day); mean (±SD)</td>
<td>12.3 (±7.4)</td>
<td>7 (±3.56)</td>
<td>5.8 (±4.42)</td>
<td>4.75 (±3.74)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SLEDAI: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index, cSLEDAI: clinical SLEDAI; LLDBS: Lupus Low Disease Activity State, DORIS: Definition of remission in SLE. *p<0.05

Figure 1. Rates of therapeutic targets attained by patients in treatment with Belimumab.

Conclusion: Real-world data of SLE patients confirm belimumab efficacy in real world, reducing clinical and serological activity in the short and medium-term. Add-on therapy with BLM leads to high rates of LLDBS and DORIS at 6 months, that continue increasing over time. BLM has an important GC sparing effect and prevents organ damage accrual. All these data shows that BLM is useful to achieve the therapeutic goals of a T2T strategy.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1145 FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SURVIVAL AND DISCONTINUATION OF ANTIMALARIAL AGENTS IN THE CARE OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: RESULTS FROM A SWEDISH LONGITUDINAL REGISTRY

Keywords: Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs), Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Antimalarial agents (AMA), Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), Chlooroquine (CQ), Clinical Lupus Register in North-Eastern Gotland.

T_Walheim1, L_Wirentam1, E_Ennrman1, I_Parodi1, C_Sjowall1. 1_Linköping University, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Division of Inflammation and Infection/Rheumatology, Linköping, Sweden; 2_Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Medicine Solna, Division of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 3_Orebro University, Department of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine and Health, Örebro, Sweden

Background: Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and chloroquine, referred to as antimalarial agents (AMA), are cornerstone drugs in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), which inhibit type I interferon release via toll-like receptor binding and increasing the pH in plasmacytoid dendritic cell lysosomes [1]. AMA use has established benefits in SLE, such as improved prognosis and decelerated accrual of organ damage. Use of HCQ is safe for most patients and serious side-effects are uncommon, even during pregnancy. Medical therapy to prevent repeated disease flares is of essential weight in the treatment of SLE. However, it is well-known that non-adherence to prescription of AMA is a considerable problem [2].

Objectives: The aim of this cross-sectional study was to investigate the frequency of AMA prescription, and evaluate factors associated with ongoing use and discontinuation of AMA in a Swedish SLE population.

Methods: We retrieved data from the Clinical Lupus Register in North-Eastern Gotland (Swedish acronym: KLURING), a longitudinal research and quality registry, including all prevalent and incident cases of SLE in the Östergötland County from 2008 onwards. All included subjects fulfilled the validated 1982 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and/or the 2012 Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) classification criteria and had been diagnosed from 1963 onwards. Factors associated with ongoing use and discontinuation of AMA were investigated using logistic regression analysis, Mann-Whitney U test and chi-square test.

Results: A total of 328 subjects were included in the analysis. The mean age at diagnosis was 40.0 years (range: 3–85; standard deviation [SD]: 17.7) and 85.7% were females. The mean SLICC/ACR damage index (SDI) score at last visit was 2.0 (range: 0–11; SD: 2.5). In total, 92.4% had used AMA at some point during their disease course (“ever” users; Table 1). Data from the last available visit indicated that 73.2% were currently prescribed AMA, exclusively HCQ, yielding a
daily mean HCQ dose of 228.0 mg (range: 100—400; SD: 71.0). Among individu-
als who had discontinued AMA, 25.9% had developed a contraindication, mostly
on ophthalmological basis (33.3%). Less common reasons were cardiac condi-
tions (19.0%) and renal failure (9.5%). Subjective side-effects were also com-
mon; the most frequently reported were gastrointestinal symptoms (n=20/37). 
Most common patient-related factor associated with discontinuation was inten-
tional non-adherence (e.g., low motivation; 8/11). Patients who had discontinued
AMA showed a higher SDI score at the last visit (mean: 2.9; SD: 2.8; mean fol-
low-up: 20.0 years) compared with patients on AMA (mean: 1.4; SD: 1.8; p=0.001;
mean follow-up: 15.3 years). Those who fulfilled the immunological disorder ACR
criterion (ACR-10) were more likely to continue on AMA (p=0.003). No significant
differences were found regarding gender or smoking status.

Table 1. AMA therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMA, ever user</td>
<td>303 (92.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMA, current user</td>
<td>222 (73.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMA, discontinued user</td>
<td>81 (26.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy related factors</td>
<td>58 (71.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related to contraindication</td>
<td>21 (25.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related to adverse events</td>
<td>37 (45.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient related factors</td>
<td>11 (13.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown reason</td>
<td>12 (14.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The vast majority of patients in KLURING had been exposed to
AMA, and approximately 25%, discontinued AMA therapy during follow-up. The
main reason for discontinuation was therapy-related factors, such as contrain-
dications and experience of side-effects. Above 50% of the reported side-effects
that led to discontinuation were gastrointestinal symptoms. The group of discon-
tinued AMA users accrued more damage over time.

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national Study on Adherence to Treatment in 305 Patients With Failing SLE: 
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Pharmacol Ther 2018;103:1074-1082

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1146

LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT HEPARINS INTERFERE 
WITH NEUTROPHIL ACTIVATION AND NET 
GENERATION IN HIGH-RISK PREGNANT PATIENTS 
WITH ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME

Keywords: Cell biology, Pregnancy and reproduction, Innate immunity

P. Rovere-Querini1, V. Canti1, A. D’angelo1, M. T. Castiglioni1, S. Rosa1, 
E. Manfredi2, B. Frascella3, V. D’alberti1, A. Manfredi1, N. Maugeri1, ERCSS 
San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Autoimmunity and Vascular Inflammation Unit, 
Milano, Italy

Background: Neutrophil activation and the generation of neutrophils extracellu-
lar traps (NETs) contribute to vascular damage and thrombosis in antiphospho-
lipid syndrome (aPS). We reported that Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH)
prevent neutrophil activation induced by P-selectin expressed by activated plate-
ets [1, 2] and jeopardize in healthy subjects the ability of neutrophils to generate
NETs and to mobilize granule contents [3].

Objectives: To investigate whether LMWH, used on empirical bases to in high-
risk patients, regulate neutrophil/platelet interaction in pregnant women.

Methods: Here we report preliminary data from a prospective monocentric study
in which the activation of platelets and neutrophils was assessed in sixteen preg-
nant women treated with LMWHs, with or without aPS at 12, 24 and 32 weeks of
gestation. Patients were studied again when feasible after pregnancy completion.
Sixteen healthy pregnant women, ten healthy women outside pregnancy and
ten women with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus outside pregnancy served as
controls.

Results: Platelets of pregnant healthy women were assessed, as assessed by the
increased expression of P-selectin and tissue factor. All patients successfully
completed the pregnancy. Abnormalities were evident at the pathological assess-
ment of the placenta despite the treatment with LMWHs. The treatment was
associated with significantly reduced: i) platelet/neutrophil interaction, as
assessed by heterotypic aggregates; ii) neutrophil expression of tissue factor; iii)
platelet expression of the prototypic DAMP; HMGB1; iv) accumulation in the blood
of byproducts of NET formation/catabolism, such as myeloperoxidase-DNA com-
plexes. P-selectin expression was, in contrast, unaffected.

Conclusion: The results indicate that neutrophil and platelet activation/interac-
tion, which may reflect detrimental intravascular immune events leading to preg-
nancy complications, abate in patients treated with LMWHs.

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tions: new clues to the antithrombotic properties of paparnin, a low

[2] Maugeri N et al. Paparnin, a low-molecular-weight heparin, prevents P-se-
lectin-dependent formation of platelet-leukocyte aggregates in human whole

[3] Manfredi AA et al. Low molecular weight heparins prevent the in-
duction of autophagy of activated neutrophils and the formation of neutrophil 
phrs.2016.08.008

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1147

EFFICACY OF CENERIMOD IN PATIENTS WITH 
HIGH IFN-1 GENE EXPRESSION SIGNATURE 
AND HIGH ANTI-DSDNA ANTIBODY LEVELS: 
POST-HOC ANALYSIS FROM A PHASE 2 STUDY

Keywords: Clinical trials, Systemic lupus erythematosus

A. Askanase1, D. D’cruz2, K. Kalunian3, J. Merrill4, S. Navarra5, C. Cahuzac6, 
P. Cornelisse6, D. Strasser2, L. Trokan2, O. Berkani1, 1Columbia University, 
Medicine, New York, United States of America; 2Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Hospital, 
Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 3UCSD, Rheumatology, San Diego, 
United States of America; 4OMRF, Rheumatology, Oklahoma City, United States 
of America; 5University of Santo Tomas, Rheumatology, Manila, Philippines; 
6Idorsia Pharmaceuticals, Clinical Development, Atschwil, Switzerland

Background: Cenerimod is an orally active, selective sphinogine 1-phosphatase 
(SIP1) 1 receptor modulator under investigation for the treatment of systemic lupus 
erythematosus (SLE). The Phase 2 CARE study (NCT03742037) did not meet its 
primary endpoint after adjustment for multiplicity, but patients treated with cen-
erimod 4mg showed reduced disease activity versus placebo after 8 months.[1] 
Along with prior findings that type-1 interferon (IFN-1) activation is a robust bio-
marker of SLE disease activity and that an elevated IFN-1 signature associates 
with autoantibodies and more severe disease, cenerimod reduces plasma levels of 
IFN-a and leads to decreased circulating B and T cells in patients with SLE, 
suggesting effects on both innate and acquired immune responses.

Objectives: These post-hoc analyses evaluated the efficacy of cenerimod in 
subpopulations of patients with SLE.

Methods: CARE randomised 427 patients with SLE to once-daily cenerimod 
(0.5, 1, 2 or 4 mg) or placebo. At month (M) 6, patients receiving 4 mg ceneri-
mod were re-randomised to placebo or cenerimod 2 mg for the subsequent 6 
months, while all other groups continued their initially assigned treatment to 
M12. The primary endpoint was change from baseline to M6 in SLEDAI-2K 
score modified to exclude leukopenia (mSLEDAI-2K) due to the mechanism 
of action of cenerimod. Post-hoc analyses were performed in patients with 
high IFN-1 gene expression signature or anti-dsDNA levels ≥30 IU/mL. IFN-1 
gene expression signature was based on the expression of four genes (IFI27, 
RSAD2, HERC5, IFIT1).

Results: Primary results from the CARE study were presented at ACR 
2022.[1] The primary endpoint was not met (nominal P=0.0291 for cenerimod 
4mg vs placebo). At baseline, 207 patients (51%) in CARE had high IFN-1 
gene expression signature, including 36 (45%) and 40 (50%) randomised to 
cenerimod 4mg and placebo, respectively. Anti-dsDNA antibody levels ≥30 
IU/mL were noted in 86 patients (20%), including 21 (25%) and 15 (17%) for 
cenerimod 4mg and placebo, respectively. There was an association 
between high IFN-1 gene expression signature and high anti-dsDNA levels, with 
more than 75% of patients with anti-dsDNA levels ≥30 IU/mL having high 
IFN-1 gene expression signature. Reduction in mSLEDAI-2K from baseline to 
M6 for the cenerimod 4 mg group was greater in patients with high IFN-1 
gene expression signature versus the overall population (Figure 1A). Similarly, the proportion of SRI-4 responders at M6 
was higher in patients with high versus low IFN-1 gene expression signature.
HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE THERAPY ELECTROCARDIOGRAM IN PATIENTS WITH OPTIMAL CUT-OFF POINT FOR

(70% vs 41% for cenerimod 4 mg; 46% vs 43% for placebo). Patients with high IFN-1 gene expression signature treated with 4 mg cenerimod showed reduced IFN-α and anti-dsDNA levels at M6 versus baseline. At M6 resolution of alopecia was reported by more patients with high versus low IFN-1 gene expression signature (38% vs 26% for cenerimod 4 mg; 14% vs 7% for placebo), as were resolution of arthritis (57% vs 28% for cenerimod 4 mg; 38% vs 42% for placebo) and reduction in mucosal ulcers (80% vs 67% for cenerimod 4 mg; 41% vs 41% for placebo) on the mSLEDAI-2K. However, there was no treatment effect observed in rash.

**Conclusion:** Treatment with cenerimod 4 mg resulted in greater reductions of disease activity versus placebo in M6 in patients with high IFN-1 gene expression signature or high anti-dsDNA antibody levels at baseline. Cenerimod treatment also reduced levels of IFN-α protein and anti-dsDNA antibodies in these patients. Two Phase 3 studies of cenerimod 4 mg in SLE are underway.

**REFERENCES:**


**Objectives:** To assess the optimal cut-off point for electrocardiogram (ECG) in patients with SLE on HCQ therapy to prevent arrhythmic complications.

**Methods:** Single university hospital observational study of all consecutive SLE patients who had an ECG at baseline and at least one ECG at follow-up. New conduction disturbances were assessed by ECG, defined as atrioventricular block, bundle branch block or QT interval prolongation. ECGs were extracted from the medical record and interpreted at baseline and for 15.2 years (95% CI 3.5-15.2) of follow-up. We defined cumulative HCQ (cHCQ) as the total grams of HCQ that had been administered. A Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve analysis was performed to determine the optimal cut-off point for sensitivity and specificity.

**Results:** We studied 105 (93 female/12 male) SLE patients with a mean ± SD age of 61.8±14.9 years. The mean daily dose of HCQ in our sample was 256 mg per day (Table 1). The ROC curve showed a moderate diagnostic ability for new conduction disturbances with an area under the curve of 0.69 (95% CI 0.59 - 0.77) (Figure 1). The highest efficacy cut-off point was chHCQ: 409.7 mg (Sensitivity 70%, Specificity 100%) and the optimal cut-off point was chHCQ: 901 g (Sensitivity 85%; Specificity 52.9%). This cut-off point was reached with a mean HCQ treatment in our sample of 9.7 years. High grade atrio-ventricular block was found in 5 patients. In all of them the chHCQ dose was over 901g.

**Conclusion:** According to our study, 901 g of chHCQ dose is a good cut-off point for performing a protocolized ECG to rule out cardiac conduction disturbances in patients with SLE and chronic HCQ treatment. This is equivalent to 9.7 years of treatment with the mean HCQ dose use in our sample.

**Figure 1. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve on cumulative hydroxychloroquine dose and new conduction disturbances**

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Alba Herrero-Moran: None declared, Jon Zubiaur-Zamacola: None declared, Adrián Margarida-de Castro: None declared, Raquel Pérez-Barquin: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos and MSD, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Novartis and Roche.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4462

**Table 1. Clinical characteristics of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus patients**

**General characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Global (N=105)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current age (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>61.8 ± 14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of SLE evolution (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>16.3 ± 10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (30.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (14.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension, n (%)</td>
<td>58 (55.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia, n (%)</td>
<td>47 (45.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic renal failure, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (9.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (7.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol consumption, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking history, n (%)</td>
<td>41 (39.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HCQ treatment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Global (N=105)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCQ dose in mg/day (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>256 ± 87.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time in HCQ in months (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>149.8 ± 11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative HCQ dose in grams (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>2154.94 ± 946.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative HCQ dose in grams, median (IQR)</td>
<td>913.1 (474, 1473)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predisone, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (28.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone dose in mg/day (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>173 ± 16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other immunosuppressant, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (13.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations:** HCQ: Hydroxychloroquine, SLE: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

**Figure 1. mSLEDAI-2K least-square mean (95% CI) change from baseline to Month 6 in the cenerimod 4 mg group.**

**Acknowledgements:** This study was sponsored by Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Medical writing support was provided by Anne Sayers (Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd.) and funded by Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd. We thank the patients for their participation and the CARE investigators for their involvement in patient care and contribution to the study.


**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eural.3823
COMPARISON OF THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF TELITACICEPT VERSUS BELIMUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN REAL CLINICAL PRACTICE: ANALYSES WITH PROPOsITY SCORE-BASED INVERSE PROBABILITY OF TREATMENT WEIGHTING

Keywords: Treat to target, Real-world evidence, Systemic lupus erythematosus

H. Jin1, Z. Chen1,2, 1The First Affiliated Hospital of USTC, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Hefei, China; 2University of Science and Technology of China, Division of Life Sciences and Medicine, Hefei, China

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a multi-system autoimmune disease characterized by aberrant expansion of B cells. The B cell-stimulating molecules, B cell activating factor/a proliferation-inducing ligand (BAFF/APRIL), are critical factors in promoting the proliferation and differentiation of B cells thus play a prominent role in the pathogenesis of SLE. There are two types of BAFF/APRIL-targeted biological agents being approved as an add-on therapy for patients with active SLE in China, including the BAFF/APRIL dual inhibitor, telitacicept and the BAFF inhibitor, belimumab. However, the differences of efficacy and safety between these two agents in real clinical practice has not been clarified.

Objectives: To compare the differences of efficacy and safety between the two types BAFF/APRIL inhibitors telitacicept and belimumab in the treatment of active patients with SLE.

Methods: Clinical features, laboratory data, SLE Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K), treatment history, and adverse events (AEs) during the six months follow-up were collected. Propensity score based inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW) was used to reduce the selection bias.

Results: Active SLE patients who received telitacicept (N=52) and belimumab (N=77) from 2019 to 2022 at our rheumatology department were retrospectively reviewed. No significant differences were observed in patient characteristics between the two groups after adjustment by IPTW. Patients who received telitacicept have a significantly higher decrease of SLEDAI-2K score and Physician’s Global Assessment (PGA) score at 24 weeks (p<0.05). Consistently, there was a higher elevation of complement (C)3 and C4 levels at 4 and 12 weeks in telitacicept group (p<0.05). The telitacicept group acquire a higher frequency of primary efficacy renal response (PR) than belimumab at 12 weeks and no obvious differences were observed in complete renal response (CR) at 12 and 24 weeks according to the Belimumab International Lupus Nephritis Study (BLISS-LN) criteria. In addition, the improvement of anemia was better in the telitacicept group (p<0.05). Importantly, the telitacicept group had a lower incidence of AEs, including upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and leukopenia, than the belimumab group after IPTW (p<0.05).

Conclusion: Telitacicept showed a better efficacy and safety than belimumab for active SLE patients in a single center clinical practice. Further investigations in a larger cohort are required to testify these findings.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. (A,B) The improvement of SLEDAI-2K and PGA scores after belimumab and telitacicept treatment at 4w, 12w, 24w by IPTW. (C,D) The elevation of component (C)3 and C4 levels after belimumab and telitacicept treatment at 4w, 12w, 24w by IPTW

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4616

ULTRASOUND-DETECTED EROSIONS COULD PREDICT THE EFFICACY OF BELIMUMAB IN ARTICULAR SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: bDMARD, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Ultrasound

G. Orsini1, R. Bixio1, F. Mastropaolo1, A. Piccinni1, E. Favaro1, O. Viapiana1, G. Adam1, M. Rossini1, 1University of Verona - OAU Verona, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy

Background: Articular involvement (69-95%) in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is traditionally considered non-erosive. SLE arthritis with radiographic erosions with or without rheumatoid factor (RF) and/or anti-citrullinated peptide antibody (ACPA) positivity is often described as “rhepus” and is considered an overlap between SLE and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). While radiographic erosions are shown in about 5-15% of the patients, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging could reveal erosions in up to 40% of patients with SLE.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to assess if the presence of ultrasound-detected erosions can predict the efficacy of belimumab, a B lymphocyte simulator (BlỹS) inhibitor, in the treatment of SLE-related articular manifestations.

Methods: We performed a spontaneous, monocentric, retrospective, and observational study. We enrolled patients with a diagnosis of SLE according to the 2019 American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) criteria with articular involvement treated with belimumab. Patients with ACPA- or RF-positivity, Jaccoud’s arthropathy, or radiographic erosions were excluded. We collected laboratory and clinical data from the electronic records. Joint disease activity was assessed at baseline, 3- and 6-months follow-ups (FU) using disease activity score on 28 joints based on C-reactive protein (DAS28-CRP). At baseline, all patients underwent an ultrasound examination of the wrist, metacarpophalangeal, proximal interphalangeal, and metatarsal-phalangeal joints. Erosions were defined according with the outcome measures in rheumatology (OMERACT) definition (at least 1 mm). Student’s T-test and Mann-Whitney’s U-test were used to assess differences between means and Fisher’s exact test to assess differences between proportions.

Results: We enrolled 23 patients (baseline characteristics in Table 1). Seven patients (30.4%) had bone erosions at baseline. They were generally older (61±16.1 vs 46.13±10.7 years, p=0.016), more frequently male (42.8 vs 6.2%, p=0.03), with higher C4 (0.19±0.17 vs 0.1±0.04 g/L, p=0.05) than patients without erosions. DAS28-CRP decreased significantly at 6-months FU (2.95±0.89 vs 2.26±0.48, p=0.01) only in patients without erosions, as shown in Figure 1. The majority of patients (73.9%) achieved remission at 6-months FU (DAS28-CRP criteria), with a significant difference between patients with and without erosions (42.8 vs 87.5%, p=0.045).

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4616

Figure 1. Mean DAS28-CRP levels at baseline and 3- and 6-months FU in patients with and without erosions. Legend: DAS28-CRP = Disease Activity Score 28 joints count based on C-reactive protein, FU=follow-up
Table 1. Clinical, laboratoristic, and therapeutic characteristics of the cohort at baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years), mean ± SD</th>
<th>50.65 ± 14.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>19 (82.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years), mean ± SD</td>
<td>12.74 ± 9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokers, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (26.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L), mean ± SD</td>
<td>4.7 ± 7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant HOC, n (%)</td>
<td>20 (87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid (PDN mg/day), mean ± SD</td>
<td>10.54 ± 10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritic bone erosions, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (30.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of joints with erosions, mean ± SD</td>
<td>1.04 ± 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joints, mean ± SD</td>
<td>3.2 ± 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joints, mean ± SD</td>
<td>1.04 ± 1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGA, mean ± SD</td>
<td>9.2 ± 4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP, mean ± SD</td>
<td>3.17 ± 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical SLEDAI-2K, mean ± SD</td>
<td>2.83 ± 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI, mean ± SD</td>
<td>1.17 ± 1.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The presence of ultrasound-detected erosions could be predictive of a decreased efficacy of belimumab in articular SLE. A possible explanation is a rheumatoid-like articular phenotype, despite the lack of ACPA-positivity and radiologic erosions. Our findings could help expand the “rhupus” spectrum and highlight the possible role of different SLE phenotypes in the therapeutic response.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Giovanni Orsolini Speakers bureau: GSK, novartis, Akarex.

POS1151 THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING OF AZATHIOPRINE AND TACRIMOLUS IN SLE PREGNANCIES: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE LEGACY COHORT

Keywords: Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs), Pregnancy and reproduction, Systemic lupus erythematosus

R. Farhat1,2, A. Mendez2,3,4, I. Malhamé2,3,4, J. Y. E. Lee2, L. Ciofani2, S. Bernatsky2,3,4, E. Vinet2,3,4. McGill University, Division of Experimental Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Montreal, Canada; 2Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Centre for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), Montreal, Canada; 3McGill University, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Montreal, Canada; 4McGill University Health Centre, Division of Rheumatology, Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Montreal, Canada; 5MUHC – McGill University Health Centre, Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, Montreal, Canada

Background: Pregnant SLE women still face an unacceptably high risk of maternal and fetal morbidity, particularly when their disease is active. How to personalize SLE therapies to optimize pregnancy outcomes remains unknown. Though guidelines strongly recommend azathioprine (AZA) and tacrolimus (TAC) in pregnancy (non-pregnant populations). We defined patients as non-adherent if they had undetectable or barely detectable levels despite appropriate dosing.

Results: Of 64 LEGACY pregnancies enrolled in Montreal, 23 (36%) and 6 (9%) were prescribed AZA and TAC, respectively. Among those prescribed AZA, only 9% had therapeutic levels, while 91% were sub-therapeutic or non-adherent. Compared to those with therapeutic levels, pregnancies with sub-therapeutic or non-adherent AZA levels were more likely to occur in women of non-Caucasian ethnicity/race, on steroids, with longer SLE duration, and with prior lupus nephritis (Table 1). Among those prescribed TAC, 50% (3/6) had therapeutic levels, while 33% (2/6) and 17% (1/6) were sub-therapeutic and supra-therapeutic, respectively.

Conclusion: We observed that most SLE pregnancies prescribed AZA had sub-therapeutic levels, with nearly a third identified as non-adherent. Pregnancies with lower AZA and TAC levels may be less likely to achieve LLDAS. Despite low numbers, our preliminary results suggest the value of personalized drug monitoring as a novel approach to precision medicine in pregnant SLE women, that might improve efficacy, safety, and adherence in a high-risk population.

Table 1. Characteristics of pregnant women with SLE at baseline visit stratified according to AZA metabolites and TAC trough levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-adherent</th>
<th>Sub-therapeutic</th>
<th>Therapeutic</th>
<th>Supra-therapeutic</th>
<th>Non-adherent</th>
<th>Sub-therapeutic</th>
<th>Therapeutic</th>
<th>Supra-therapeutic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (n=23)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AZA dose in mg/kg, mean ± sd</td>
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<td>TAC dose in mg/kg, mean ± sd</td>
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<td>Age in years, mean ± sd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
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<td>Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnicity, Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration in years, mean ± sd</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLDAS, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior or current lupus nephritis, n (%)</td>
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<td>Steroid use, n (%)</td>
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Figure 1. Boxplot of 6-TG levels [pmol/8×10^8 RBC] (a) and TAC trough levels [ng/ml] (b) according to LLDAS.
ATTAINMENT OF EULAR/ERA-EDTA TREATMENT TARGETS IN THE FIRST YEAR IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS: A MULTICENTER OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys, Treat to target

M. Papa1, M. Kosmelotou2, A. Pieta3, M. Nikoloudaki4, E. Argyriou4, C. Tsilapaki5, A. Chalkia6, T. Dimitroulis7, M. Cheila8, C. Papagoras9, A. Goulas1, D. Petras10, D. Vassilopoulos10, K. A. Boki11, P. Stilkakis12, P. Vouglari12, G. Bertsias1, D. Boumpas11, T. Tektonidou1, A. Fanourakis1, 1. National Kapodistrian University of Athens, First Department of Propaedeutic Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece; 2. Attikon University Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Athens, Greece; 3. University Hospital of Ioannina, Department of Rheumatology, Ioannina, Greece; 4. University of Crete Medical School, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Heraklion, Greece; 5. Siemianoglo Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Maroussi, Greece; 6. Athens, 2nd Department of Internal Medicine, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece; 7. Geniko Nosokomeio Athinon ‘ippokrateio’ Department of Nephrology, Athina, Greece; 8. Aristotelion University of Thessaloniki, 4th Department of Internal Medicine, Thessaloniki, Greece; 9. Evangelismos General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Athina, Greece; 10. Democritus University of Thrace, 1st Department of Internal Medicine, Alexandroupoli, Greece; 11. National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Pathophysiology, Athens, Greece; 12. University of Ioannina, Department of Rheumatology, Ioannina, Greece

Background: The approval of two new drugs, belimumab and voclosporin, in lupus nephritis (LN) over the last years has raised questions regarding their place in the therapeutic algorithm of LN. Their use in initial regimens or in refractory/relapsed disease depends on disease outcomes with current standard of care therapies (SoC). To calculate EULAR/ERA-EDTA renal response rates with SoC therapies at 3, 6 and 12 months, as well as rates of successful tapering to the recommended glucocorticoid use at 6 months in real-life clinical settings.

Methods: Combined retrospective and prospective (2015–today) cohort study of patients with histologically confirmed LN. Demographic, clinical, and laboratory data, as well as treatment administered at baseline and respective changes every 3 months, were collected. Renal response rates according to EULAR/ERA-EDTA goals of treatment were calculated: (at 3 months: proteinuria reduction by 25%, 6 months: 50% reduction to subnephrotic level, 12 months: proteinuria < 500–700mg/24h, all with stabilization or improvement in kidney function). The percentage of patients who received IV methylprednisolone (total recommended dose 500-2500mg), as well as mean prednisone dose per day at baseline (recommended dose 0.3–0.5mg/kg in class III and class IV and <5mg/day at 3 months in class V) and thereafter (<7.5mg/day at 6 months in class III and class IV and <5mg/day at 3 months in class V). We also calculated the percentage of patients who had tapered prednisone to the recommended daily dose by 6 months.

Results: 110 patients were included, 83 completed a 12month follow up [81.8% female, median (IQR) age 36.5 (23) years]. One third (33.6%) of patients had nephrotic range proteinuria at diagnosis. Histologically, 16.7% had LN class III, 33.3% class IV, 18.5% class V and 27.8% mixed class (III/IV + V). With SoC therapy [initial therapy: 48.1% cyclophosphamide (CYC), 32.4% mycophenolic acid (MPA), followed by maintenance therapy], 76.7%, 82.6% and 71.1% achieved glucocorticoid use at 3, 6 and 12 months, respectively. No differences between CYC and MPA groups regarding response rates were noted. All patients received IV methylprednisolone at baseline (median (IQR) 2.0 (3.0) mg).

Regarding glucocorticoid use, in proliferative classes (III/IV), median (IQR) prednisone starting dose was 40.0 (20.0) mg/day, corresponding to a mean (SD) dose of 0.63 (0.27) mg/kg/day. At 6 months, median (IQR) daily dose was 10.0 (10.0) mg. In class V LN, median (IQR) daily starting dose was 32.5 (20.0) mg and 15.0 (10.0) mg at 3 months.

Conclusion: Although a significant number of LN patients achieve treatment target between 3-12 months, approximately 25-30% fail. Moreover, prednisone doses used in LN tend to be higher than those recommended by EULAR/ERA-EDTA. Predictive factors associated with suboptimal response can help to shape therapeutic decisions identify patients that may benefit from early use of novel therapies.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2599

APPLYING THE WORKING DEFINITION OF THE DISEASE MODIFICATION CRITERIA TO SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS TREATMENTS FROM THE PUBLISHED LITERATURE

Keywords: Organ damage, Kidneys, Outcome measures


11University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, San Francisco, CA, United States; 12GSK, Global Medical Affairs, Stevenage, United Kingdom; 13GSK, Specialty Care, Global Medical Affairs, Collegeville, PA, United States; 14Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center and Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Department of Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 15University of Toronto, Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine, Toronto, ON, Canada

Background: In our recently published working definition, we proposed that disease modification in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) requires ‘minimising disease activity with the fewest treatment-associated toxicities and slowing or preventing organ damage progression’[1].

Methods: Based on a review of a selection of clinical trial (n=31) and observational (n=42) data publications for 16 SLE medications across different treatment classes and, the authors’ clinical experience, we evaluated their disease modification potential per the non-renal disease activity and organ damage criteria at three time points (Table 1).

Results: Nine of the 16 SLE treatments met at least one disease modification criterion across all time points (Table 1). Hydroxychloroquine improved overall survival at >5 years, suggesting long-term disease modification, but with data per specific criteria lacking[2]. Belimumum met two of the three disease modification criteria at the first two time points, but was the only treatment to meet criteria at >5 years based on the current literature. While steroids unabiguously decrease disease activity at early timepoints, at doses higher than 7.5mg/day the negative impact on damage accrual might hamper their disease modification potential >5 years.

Conclusion: This is the first attempt to determine which of the currently used treatments in patients with SLE fulfil the disease modification criteria at different time points. Belimumab and hydroxychloroquine showed evidence of disease modification up to and beyond 5 years; evidence for many other SLE therapies was incomplete, particularly at >5 years of follow up. The use of multiple agents, differences in study designs, patient populations, and definitions of treatment response pose challenges in categorising treatments as disease modifiers. Future studies will evaluate the minimum number of criteria required to designate disease modification at each of the three time points so that disease modification can be considered in the care of patients with SLE and in SLE trial design.

REFERENCES:
## Table 1. Application of the proposed matrix for non-renal immunoinflammatory and organ damage disease modification criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>DISEASE MODIFICATION POTENTIAL</th>
<th>DISEASE MODIFICATION CONFIRMED (BEYOND 5 YEARS)</th>
<th>Outcomes Year</th>
<th>Outcomes Years 2–5</th>
<th>Outcomes Year &gt;5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Significant reduction in disease activity measured using a validated tool (i.e., SLENA-SLEDAI, BILAG, SRI-4)</td>
<td>Sustained improvement in multiple organ domains/no worsening in multiple organ domains</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Significant reduction in severe flare measured using a validated tool (i.e., SRI or BILAG)</td>
<td>Prevention of severe flares</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduction in use of steroids* and/or immunosuppressants</td>
<td>Continued reduction in use of steroids* and/or immunosuppressants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* criterion met; † insufficient evidence in the literature to meet the specific criterion, but strong general indications of met criterion; ‡ inconclusive; ○ data not available in the literature

**Notes:**
- **S7.5 mg/day per 2019 EULAR SLE treatment guidelines and LLDAS: 55 mg/day per DORIS remission definition**
- **Data were available in the literature but the criterion was not met**

**Key Points:**
- The primary endpoint was time to treatment failure compared to historical controls from the BOLD study which followed the same protocol but without treatment after initial steroids.
- Response was also evaluated at six months by the SLE Responder Index (SRI-4) or the BILAG-based Combined Lupus Assessment (BICLA).
- Before and during treatment, Pax Gene tubes were collected, and RNA sequenced, using the same methods for healthy control samples. To maximally discriminate clinical responders from non-responders by baseline gene expression patterns in a small, heterogenous population, the data were combined with modules (metagenes) comprised of differentially expressed genes (DEGs).

### Acknowledgements
This review was funded by GSK. Medical writing support was provided by Camisra Brazzatidis, PhD, and Christina Teles, PhD, Fishawack Indicia Ltd., UK, part of Fishawack Health, and Hannah Jedrey, PhD, and Meir Basharat, PhD, of TFV Communications Ltd, UK, and was funded by GSK.

### Disclosure of Interests

### Background
Belimumab, which targets the B Cell activator and survival factor BLYS, is an approved treatment for systemic lupus (SLE) and has demonstrated efficacy in multiple clinical trials around the world. Nevertheless, like other SLE treatments, belimumab can have disappointing results in a significant proportion of this heterogenous population, a problem further complicated by the unpredictable impact of various combination treatments used with belimumab in trials and clinical practice.

### Objectives
- Examination of gene expression variables in SLE patients prior to belimumab treatment with limited background medications in order to distinguish those who subsequently respond from those who do not.

### Methods
- A prospective open-label study of belimumab was conducted in 24 SLE patients with active but non-organ threatening disease, who were required to withdraw other immune suppressants (only antimalarials or low dose steroids allowed). At baseline, patients were given optional steroid injections for temporary relief, then followed for six months on intravenous belimumab (10 mg/kg).

### Results
- Of 24 patients entering the study, 20 completed 6 months of treatment. The mean survival time without flare, treatment change, or study withdrawal was 18.4 weeks (CI 15.3-21.5) compared to the 41 BOLD participants with mean survival 9.829 weeks (CI 0.999-7.871) (p<0.001 by log rank test). At 6 months, 14 patients who received belimumab (58%) and 1 from the BOLD study (2.4%) remained free of flare. The SRI-4 was met by 7 patients in this study (29.2%), the BICLA by 9 (37.5%). SRI-4 response was used as the basis for modeling two metagenes comprised of the 25 most upregulated and 25 most downregulated genes at baseline in belimumab responders as compared to non-responders. There was no overlap between the metagene scores of responders vs non-responders (Figure 1). After 3 months of treatment with belimumab all metagene scores remained free of flare. The SRI-4 was met by 7 patients in this study (29.2%), and most did not flare for at least six months. A composite metagene model has been identified as a potential predictor of belimumab response. Confirmation studies should be prospectively conducted.

### Conclusion
- When background immune suppressants are excluded, belimumab achieves SRI 4 or BICLA response for some patients, and most do not flare for at least six months. A composite metagene model has been identified as a potential predictor of belimumab response. Confirmation studies should be prospectively conducted.

### References
POS1155
IMPACT OF HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE ON INTERFERON PATHWAY EXPRESSION OF SLE PHENOTYPIC SUBSETS IN THE ABSENCE OF BACKGROUND MEDICATIONS

Keywords: -omics, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

C. Mowery1,2, M. Smith3, K. Thomas4, S. Macwana5, W. Dejager1, S. Kamp1, B. Parrish6, A. Affrini7, T. Aberle3, J. T. Merrill8, J. Guthridge4, J. A. James1, 1Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Arthritis and Clinical Immunology, Oklahoma City, United States of America; 2University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine, Oklahoma City, United States of America

Background: Chronic activation of interferon (IFN) pathways is a key driver of immune dysregulation in SLE. Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) inhibits toll-like receptors 7 and 9 in plasmacytoid dendritic cells resulting in decreased release of interferon alpha[1]. Studies in SLE are limited by patient heterogeneity and the superimposed complexity of combined medications they receive.

Objectives: This project compared activation of Type I and II interferon (IFN) pathways in SLE patients with discrete immune phenotypes who were taking hydroxychloroquine or not (HCQ vs No Rx) without corticosteroids or any other SLE treatments.

Methods: 133 samples from 85 SLE patients (70 on HCQ, 63 on No Rx) and 37 healthy controls were studied. Characteristic clusters of patients who shared immune activation patterns were identified by Random Forest modeling of soluble mediators and gene co-expression module scores, as previously reported[2,3]. Samples from four of these immunologic clusters (C1, C4, C3, and C6), all with elevated expression of IFN modules (M1.2, M3.4, and M5.12) were examined for impact of HCQ on IFN pathway expression and compared to clusters with lower immune activation patterns. Dual samples from each of 21 patients when on HCQ vs No Rx at different timepoints were also examined.

Results: As expected, expression of IFN pathway modules were increased in the overall SLE population vs healthy controls, driven by patient phenotype clusters 1,3,4 and 6. All IFN modules were decreased in SLE patients on HCQ vs No Rx (M1.2 p=0.035, M3.4 p=0.009, and M5.12 p=0.005), again promulgated by changes in clusters 1,3,4 and 6 (Figure 1). In multilinear regression modeling, HCQ had independent effects on M1.2 (p=0.0004), M3.4 (p < 0.001), and M5.12 (p < 0.001) after adjusting for cluster and race. Age and SLEDAI score had no impact of HCQ on IFN pathway expression and compared to clusters with lower expression (Clusters 2,5,7)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4082
Background: Each lupus nephritis (LN) flare causes nephron loss that equals a decade or more of reduction in renal function lifespan, making prompt initiation of therapy imperative and prevention of flares even more desirable. Identification of readily available signals of imminent flare is therefore expected to improve prognosis.

Objectives: In light of observed cases of de novo LN during belimumab treatment (1), we evaluated predictors of de novo renal flare occurrence in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and no prior history of renal disease undergoing standard therapy (ST) with or without add-on belimumab in clinical trial settings.

Methods: Data from five clinical trials of belimumab in SLE (BLISS-52 NCT00424476; BLISS-76 NCT00410384; BLISS-NEA NCT01345253; BLISS-SC NCT01484496; EMBRACE NCT01632241) were utilised. The study population comprised 1932 patients with a baseline renal British Isles Lupus Assessment Group (BILAG) score E. The current mainstay for the treatment of APS is anticoagulation with Vitamin K antagonists (VKAs). The primacy of Warfarin has been challenged by the introduction of direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs), stems from DOACs convenience, constant dosing, without the need for blood test monitoring and almost no drug interactions. However, the TRAPS study that compared Rivaroxaban to Warfarin treatment in APS patients was terminated prematurely due to higher incidence of thrombotic events in the Rivaroxaban group (1). Yet, all patients on the TRAPS trial were triple-aPL positive. Similar conclusions were demonstrated on the ASTRO study that compared Apixaban to Warfarin treatment (2). Because the risk profile of APS patients is heterogeneous, both clinically and serologically, it is difficult to conclude that treatment with DOACs is generally inferior to VKAs for all APS patients, for instance in the low-risk patient population.

Objectives: We assume that under real-life circumstances, VKAs narrow therapeutic range and the constant need for repeated INR checkups may change the above studies outcomes. Hereby, the aim of this study is to compare real-life outcomes of APS patients treated with DOACs to patients treated with Warfarin from the aspect of thrombotic events reoccurrence on one hand and bleeding events on the other hand. We also checked the outcomes specifically for different APS risk profile subgroups under different treatments with either Warfarin or DOACs.

Methods: 139 non obstetric APS patients from “Meir” medical center were followed up retrospectively for a mean period of 16 years, since diagnosis time until 31/12/2022. We gathered data on patients SLE status, aPL profile and type of thrombotic event at the time of diagnosis. We checked for thrombotic events reoccurrence and bleeding events (including their types) with respect to the specific treatment at the time of each event.

Results: Of 139 followed-up patients, we report a total of 217 thrombotic and 60 bleeding events. From the Warfarin treated group, 178 (82%) thrombotic events were recorded, 130 (74%) of them occurred in the high risk serological profile patients. From the DOACs treated group, 59 (16%) thrombotic event were recorded, 23 (39%) of them occurred in the high risk serological profile patients. 59 (98%) bleeding events were recorded in the Warfarin treated group, 46 (82%) among the high risk profile group. only one bleeding event was recorded in the DOACs group.

Conclusion: According to our single center data gathered retrospectively form a follow up of real- life APS patient’s treatment, Warfarin vs DOACs, we found higher incidence of thrombotic events (82%) in the Warfarin group compared to the DOACs group (59%). High risk profile patients had a higher thrombotic incidence in both groups. Moreover, patients taking Warfarin had a dramatically higher incidence of bleeding events comparing to DOACs (98% vs 0.01% respectively). These findings may raise the differences between real-life and controlled researches and may challenge the superiority of Warfarin. More researches are needed in order to answer this question.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Vasculitis - small vessel vasculitis

**POST155**

**COMPARISON OF THE ACR/EULAR 2022 CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA AND THE EMEA (THE EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY) ALGORITHM IN PATIENTS WITH ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS (AAV)**

**Keywords:** Validation, Vasculitis

Y Imai1, Y. Ota1, K. Matsutomo2, M. Akiyama1, K. Suzuki1, Y. Kaneko1, 1Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

**Background:** The anti-neutrophil cytoplasmatic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitides (AAVs) are a group of disorders involving systemic, small- vessel vasculitis. The diseases include granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA), microscopic polyangiitis (MPA), and eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA). The diagnosis of vasculitis is challenging, due to the heterogeneous nature of these diseases. In 2022, ACR/EULAR proposed new internationally standardized classification criteria for AAV (ANCA-associated vasculitides). However, the performance of the new classification criteria have not been fully verified.

**Objectives:** To clarify the characteristics of the ACR/EULAR 2022 classification criteria (the 2022 criteria) in patients with AAV, by comparing those of the 2022 criteria with the existing European Medicines Agency (EMEA) algorithm.

**Methods:** All consecutive patients who had been newly diagnosed with AAV in Keio University Hospital between March 2012 and May 2022 were retrospectively reviewed. We reclassified them according to the EMEA algorithm and the 2022 criteria and identified their difference. We also analysed their clinical characteristics statistically.

**Results:** We included 114 patients in the analysis. The mean age at diagnosis of AAV was 67.2 ± 14.3, and 70 patients (61.4%) were female. According to the EMEA algorithm, the patients were classified as GPA in 21 patients, GPA in 43, MPA in 29, and unclassifiable in 21, while according to the 2022 criteria, they were classified as EGPA in 24, GPA in 13, MPA in 62. EGPA-MPA overlap in 1, GPA-MPA overlap in 6, and unclassifiable in 8. All 21 EGPA patients with the EMEA algorithm met the EGPA-2022 criteria. Forty three GPA patients with the EMEA were classified as EGPA in 1, GPA in 11, MPA in 24, GPA-MPA overlap in 6, and unclassifiable in 1 with the 2022 criteria. Patients who were classified as GPA according to both criteria were significantly younger (53.0 ± 18.6 vs 74.5 ± 9.9 years old, respectively, P=0.003), female dominant (54.5% vs 20.8%, P=0.056), cPRA-ANCA positive (90.9% vs 0%, P=0.001), had frequent epistaxis (45.5% vs 0%, P=0.001), and less with interstitial lung disease (9.1% vs 58.3%, P=0.007) compared to those who were reclassified from GPA to MPA with 2022 criteria. Among the 29 MPA patients with EMEA, 26 patients also met the MPA classification criteria with 2022 criteria, while among the 21 unclassifiable patients with EMEA, 12 patients were classified as MPA. Patients who were reclassified from unclassifiable to MPA with 2022 criteria were significantly older (75.2 ± 8.7 vs 57.7 ± 5.9 years old, P=0.002), had more p/MPO-ANCA (100% vs 11.1%, P=0.001), fewer ENT lesions (0% vs 55.6%, P=0.003), and tended to have more interstitial lung disease (75.0% vs 33.3%, P=0.056) than 9 patients who did not meet the MPA-2022 criteria. During the average observation period of 3.95 ± 2.91 years, 16 patients deceased. The 16 deceased patients were classified as GPA in 7, MPA in 6, and unclassifiable in 3 with the EMEA algorithm, while they were classified as MPA in 14, GPA-MPA overlap in 1, and unclassifiable in 1 with the 2022 criteria. Overall survival was not significantly different with the EMEA algorithm (P=0.21), whereas it was significantly shorter in patients with MPA according to the 2022 criteria (P=0.023).

**Conclusion:** Among the cases classified as GPA or unclassifiable by the EMEA algorithm, older cases with a high rate of p/MPO-ANCA and interstitial lung disease reclassified as MPA by the 2022 criteria were detected. The 2022 criteria is also useful for prognostic prediction compared to the EMEA algorithm.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POST159**

**GLUCOCORTICOID-SPARING EFFECT OF MEPOLIZUMAB: REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE IN A MONOCENTRIC COHORT OF PATIENTS AFFECTED BY EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Vasculitis, Tapering

S. Bertocchi1,2, F. Regola1,2, M. Tagletti1, F. Franceschini1,2, P. Tonioli1,1,2, T. Spedali Civil, Brescia, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Brescia, Italy; 1University of Brescia, Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy

**Background:** Oral glucocorticoids (GC) are the mainstay of treatment for eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) but chronic exposure to GC is associated with serious comorbidities. Mepolizumab (MEPO) demonstrated to be an efficacious treatment for EGPA in the randomized controlled MIRRA trial [1]. ACR guidelines suggest treating non-severe EGPA with MEPO associated with GC as first choice and adding MEPO in non-severe relapses occurred while receiving other immunosuppressors. There are insufficient data to support dosages and duration of GC treatment during MEPO treatment, although guidelines suggest prescribing the minimum effective dose to minimize GC toxicity [2].

**Objectives:** The aim of the study was to evaluate the GC-sparing effect of MEPO in our cohort of patients affected by EGPA.

**Methods:** We enrolled 26 patients affected by EGPA according to MIRRA criteria and/or ACR criteria [1][3]. We compared cumulative GC dosage prescribed in the 6 months before beginning treatment with MEPO to the cumulative dosage prescribed in the 6 months after starting MEPO. We also analyse MEPO efficacy comparing median number of asthma attacks, BVAS and VDI.

**Results:** Twenty-six patients (M/F 16/10) affected by EGPA were diagnosed at a median age of 57 years (IQR 47-65) and started therapy with MEPO after a median disease duration of 6 (1.5-10) years. Overall clinical features of patients before MEPO starting, at MEPO starting (T0) and after 6 months of MEPO (T6) are described in Table 1a. At MEPO starting (T0), 24/26 (92.3%) were treated with GC and 13/26 (50%) were on treatment with other immunosuppressants (1 cyclosporine, 2 methotrexate, 3 mycophenolate, 7 azathioprine). The cumulative GC dosage administered to patients in the six months after MEPO starting was significant lower if compared with dosage in the prior six months. After MEPO starting, there was also a significant reduction of asthmatic flares number and BVAS score, with no increasing in VDI score (Table 1b and 1c). Eleven patients were treated with MEPO 300mg monthly, and 15 with 100mg monthly, with no statistically significant differences in clinical response.

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1a. Clinical features</th>
<th>Overall before T0</th>
<th>T0</th>
<th>T6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>p value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>12 (46%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous</td>
<td>9 (35%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear, nose, throat</td>
<td>22 (85%)</td>
<td>9 (35%)</td>
<td>5 (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary</td>
<td>25 (96%)</td>
<td>18 (69%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>6 (23%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digestive</td>
<td>4 (15%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological</td>
<td>14 (54%)</td>
<td>6 (23%)</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b. Disease activity before MEPO starting (T0) and after 6 months (T6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BVAS: median (IQR)</td>
<td>2 (0-2)</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
<td>0.0005*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDI: median (IQR)</td>
<td>2 (1,25-3)</td>
<td>2 (1,25-3)</td>
<td>0.5716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c. Comparison of asthma activity and GC therapy between the 6 months before and the 6 months after T0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the 6 months before T0</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>p value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC cumulative dose (mg): median (IQR)</td>
<td>1376 (821-2045)</td>
<td>964 (521-1561)</td>
<td>0.0005*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC daily dose (mg/day): median (IQR)</td>
<td>8 (5-11)</td>
<td>5 (3-9)</td>
<td>0.0007*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Number of asthma attacks: median (IQR)</td>
<td>1 (0-1)</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
<td>0.2211*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IQR: interquartile ratio, BVAS: Birmingham vasculitis activity index, VDI: Vasculitis damage index, *Significant p value
Conclusion: In our cohort MEPO had a significant GC-sparing effect and significantly reduced asthma attacks and disease activity.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1604

POS1160

AGE, FRAILTY, AND OUTCOMES IN OLDER ADULTS WITH ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Real-world evidence, Vasculitis

S. E. Sattil1, X. Fu2,3, C. Cook2,3, S. Srivatsan2,3, Y. Zhang2,3, Z. Wallace2,3
1University of Pittsburgh, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Investigation, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 2Massachusetts General Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology, Boston, United States of America; 3Massachusetts General Hospital, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Morgan Institute, Boston, United States of America

Background: Older adults with ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) have differences in clinical presentation, as well as increased mortality and risk of infections, when compared to younger adults. Despite a high incidence of AAV in older adults, these individuals are underrepresented in clinical trials. Frailty, a geriatric syndrome associated with increased morbidity and mortality, has not been adequately studied in older adults with AAV. Better characterization of outcomes and risk factors in these patients is needed to inform treatment.

Objectives: To compare the risks of and factors associated with early (within 2 years) end-stage renal disease (ESRD), severe infection, and death in adults with a new diagnosis of AAV who are ≥ 75 years old vs 65-74 years old.

Methods: Patients ≥ 65 years were included from the 2002-2019 Mass General Brigham AAV cohort, a consecutive inception cohort. EGPA patients were excluded. Covariates including demographics, disease characteristics, and comorbidities (Charlson comorbidity index) were assessed at baseline. Disease activity at time of diagnosis was assessed using the Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score (BVAS/WG). Frailty was measured at baseline using a claims frailty index, and pre-established cut-offs were utilized to define degrees of frailty (robust, pre-frail, mildly frail, and moderately/severely frail).[1] Death and ESRD were ascertained from linkage to national registries and/or medical records. Severe infections were identified utilizing inpatient data and/or death certificates. The cumulative incidence of death, ESRD and severe infections within 2 years were estimated. In univariate analyses, we assessed factors associated with outcomes within 2 years.

Results: 298 individuals were included. Most patients were female (61%), white (86%), MPO-ANCA+ (80%), and had renal involvement (72%). Patients ≥ 75 years old (n=156) had a median age of 81 years, while median age was 69 years in the 65-74 years group. The cumulative incidence at 2 years of the composite outcome of ESRD/death (23.1% [95% CI 16.5, 29.7]) vs 5.6% [95% CI 1.8, 13.3] in the 65-74 years old (n=440) was 4.42 (2.05, 9.51); frailty was not (HR 2.71, 95% CI 0.63, 11.72) (Table 1). In contrast, frailty with an increased risk of ESRD/death (hazard ratio (HR) 4.42, 95% CI 2.05-9.51) was a very strong risk factor for severe infection. These findings highlight the need for innovative considerations beyond age when assessing outcome risks in AAV.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Composite outcome (A) and severe infections (B) by frailty status at baseline.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Sebastian E. Sattil Consultant of: Sanofi (unpaid), Grant/research support from: Dr. Sattil is supported by a Rheumatology Research Foundation RISE Pilot Award and the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation Wynn Career Development Award. Dr. Sattil has received research funding from AstraZeneca, Xiaojing Fu: None declared, Claire Cook: None declared, Shruthi Srivatsan: None declared, Yuqing Zhang: None declared, Zachary Wallace Consultant of: Dr. Wallace reports consulting fees from Vela Bio, Horizon, Zenas Biopharma, and Medpace, and serves on advisory boards for Horizon, Shire, and Vistera/Otsuka, Grant/research support from: Dr Wallace ZSW is funded by NIH/NIAIMS [K23AR073334 and R03AR078938] and the Rheumatology Research Foundation [K Supplement]. Dr. Wallace reports research support from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Principia/Sanofi.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2100

POS1161

RITUXIMAB VS. COMBINATION OF RITUXIMAB AND CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE INDUCTION THERAPY FOR ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Quality of care, Vasculitis

K. Von Allwörden1, S. Klapa2, S. C. Werth3, A. Müller1, G. Riemenkasten1, M. Nitschke2, D. Thaçi3, P. Lamprecht1. 1Universität zu Lübeck, Rheumatologie, Lübeck, Germany; 2Universität zu Lübeck, Nephrologie, Lübeck, Germany; 3Universität zu Lübeck, Entzündungsmedizin, Lübeck, Germany

Background: In ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV), the use of rituximab (RTX) according to the RAVE trial [1] or RTX in combination with cyclophosphamide (CYC) according to the RITUXVAS trial [2] showed noninferiority to CYC for the induction of remission. However, there is a lack of comparative real-world data between both therapy regimens.

Objectives: To compare the effectiveness of RTX with combined RTX/CYC for remission induction in AAV.

Methods: In this comparative effectiveness retrospective monocentric study, data of 166 patients with AAV (granulomatosis with polyangiitis [GPA] n=97; microscopic polyangiitis [MPA], n=69) were analyzed. Patients were treated first-line with RTX, RTX/CYC, or CYC between January 2012 and November 2022. The primary outcome was the remission rate at 24 months. Clinical data (BVAS, therapy, and serologic markers [creatinine, protein excretion, CRP, immunoglobulin levels]) were assessed at baseline and every 6 months up to 24 months.

Results: Of the 166 patients, 81 received first-line RTX (RAVE), 23 RTX/CYC (RITUXVAS), and 62 CYC according to CYCLOPS [3]. At baseline, there was no difference between RAVE and RITUXVAS treatment groups with respect to disease activity (BVAS; RAVE vs RITUXVAS: 12.07±6.69 vs 16.12±9.85, P=0.2083). In AAV, treatment according to RAVE and RITUXVAS was not inferior to treatment according to CYCLOPS (Figure 1). Moreover, RTX was not inferior to RTX/CYC (HR 0.61, P=0.1356, Figure 1). Interestingly, subgroup analysis showed RAVE was slightly superior to RITUXVAS in GPA (HR: 0.48, P=0.0408, Figure 1).

Conclusion: In AAV, RTX and the combination of RTX/CYC were not inferior to CYC, the combination of RTX and CYC was not superior to RTX alone.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Univariate analyses of factors associated with composite outcome and severe infections within 2 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Composite outcome (ESRD/Death)</th>
<th>Severe infection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HR (95% CI)</td>
<td>HR (95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ≥ 75 years (Ref, 65-74 years)</td>
<td>4.42 (2.05, 9.51)</td>
<td>3.21 (1.87, 5.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex (Ref, male)</td>
<td>0.75 (0.41, 1.35)</td>
<td>0.70 (0.44, 1.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities (CCI per 1 unit)</td>
<td>1.07 (0.97, 1.19)</td>
<td>1.13 (1.06, 1.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frailty</td>
<td>REF</td>
<td>REF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robust</td>
<td>1.85 (0.44, 7.80)</td>
<td>4.01 (0.56, 28.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-frail</td>
<td>2.71 (0.63, 11.72)</td>
<td>18.39 (2.77, 135.66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVAS</td>
<td>1.14 (0.99, 1.31)</td>
<td>1.05 (0.94, 1.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BVAS (per 1 unit)</td>
<td>1.18 (0.95, 1.45)</td>
<td>1.98 (1.23, 3.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary (Ref, none)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction Regimen (CYC-based vs not)</td>
<td>1.45 (0.72, 2.94)</td>
<td>1.07 (0.64, 1.78)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ESRD = end-stage renal disease, HR = hazard ratio, CI = confidence interval, CCI = Charlson Comorbidity Index, BVAS = Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score, CYC = cyclophosphamide


Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis. RTX (RAVE) and RTX/CYC (RITUXVAS) were not inferior to CYC (CYCLOPS) in AAV. Specifically, RTX (RAVE) was slightly superior to RTX/CYC (RITUXVAS) in GPA.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3867

POS1162

EVALUATION OF THE 2022 ACR/EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR GPA AND MPA IN A EUROPEAN ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS (AAV) COHORT

Keywords: Vasculitis, Validation

S. Krämer1, T. Rauen1, K. Pruin1, T. Anslinger2, M. Busch2, T. Schmitt2, R. Berger2, S. Mosberger2, T. Neumann2. 1RWTH, University Hospital Aachen, Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Aachen, Germany; 2University Hospital Jena, Friedrich-Schiller University, Department of Internal Medicine, III, Jena, Germany; 3Municipal Hospital Ludwigshafen, Department of Internal Medicine A, Nephrology and Rheumatology, Ludwigshafen, Germany; 4Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen, Department of Rheumatology, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Background: In 2022, the ACR and the EULAR proposed new classification criteria for granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) and microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) based on numerical item scoring for different manifestations in ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV). Recently, a low concordance rate of only 73% in comparison with the 2012 revised International Chapel Hill Consensus Conference Nomenclature and the 2007 European Medicines Agency (EMA) algorithm [1] was reported in a Korean cohort of 65 GPA patients.

Objectives: We performed a retrospective classification according to the new 2022 classification criteria of patients from our multi-centric AAV cohort, using a computational algorithm that involved existing clinical, laboratory and histological data performed well to categorize 98% of all cases.

Results: The final dataset included 305 cases, 294 (96.4%) of Caucasian ethnicity, 161 males (52.8%), median age 61 years (IQR 50-70). Based on the 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria, 299 (98%) cases could be unambiguously categorized, 180 patients were classified as GPA and 119 as MPA (Table 1). Positive concordance, i.e. patients matching the novel classification criteria and clinical diagnosis, was higher in GPA than in GPA patients (98.8 vs. 90.8%). By contrast, negative concordance, i.e. proportion of cases negative for both clinical and novel classification-based diagnosis, was higher in GPA (97.3 vs. 84.1%). Twenty-seven cases of renal limited disease were mostly reclassified as MPA (92%).

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Clinical Diagnosis n (%)</th>
<th>Cases n</th>
<th>Concordance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>195 (63.9)</td>
<td>180 (59)</td>
<td>90.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>85 (27.9)</td>
<td>119 (32.8)</td>
<td>93.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not classified</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
<td>GPA MPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal limited disease</td>
<td>25 (8.2)</td>
<td>2 (8)</td>
<td>84.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Stefan Krämer: None declared, Thomas Rauen Consultant of: Vifor, Kristian Pruin: None declared, Teresa Anslinger: None declared, Martin Busch: None declared, Tobias Schmitt: None declared, Raoul Berger Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai, Glaxo Smith Kline, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Consultant of: Galapagos, Vifor, Sebastian Mosberger: None declared, Thomas Neumann Speakers bureau: Roche Pharma (Suisse) AG, GlaxoSmithKline AG, Celgene Switzerland, UCB-Pharma AG, Janssen-Cilag AG, Vifor Pharma Switzerland, Novartis Switzerland, Consultant of: Roche Pharma (Suisse) AG, GlaxoSmithKline AG, Celgene Switzerland, AstraZeneca GmbH, Janssen-Cilag AG, Amgen Switzerland AG, Vifor Pharma Switzerland, Grant/research support from: Vifor Pharma Switzerland.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3899

POS1164

WITHDRAWN
**Background:** ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) carries excessive morbidity and mortality owing to the delay in diagnosis and limited prognostication. Identifying clinically useful biomarkers of disease activity that facilitate accurate prognostication would help personalize management decisions. Biomarkers used in day-to-day practice include PR3- or MPO-ANCA, CRP, and ESR, but these poorly predict future disease activity. Few studies have examined a limited number of circulating proteins as biomarkers, including BCA-1, MMP-3, TIMP-1[1-4]. We previously leveraged a high-throughput, unbiased approach to investigate 92 potential biomarkers for disease prognostication in AAV patients and identified 5 potential biomarkers.

**Objectives:** To further investigate the association of 5 novel protein biomarkers with AAV disease activity.

**Methods:** Serum samples from patients in the Mass General Brigham (MGB) AAV cohort were retrieved from the MGB Biobank following IRB approval. We chose a random 78 subjects who had AAV. We classified disease activity as “Active” or “Remission” at sample collection. The O-link high-throughput proteomic assay was used to measure the levels of 5 proteins of interest (MCP3, TNFSF-14, FIT3L, and SCF). For analysis, protein levels were first normalized. We compared protein levels in active disease vs remission. ESR, CRP, white blood cell (WBC) count and platelet levels were extracted for comparison. Using the mean value of each potential biomarker in the cohort as cut-off values, we determined the odds ratio (OR) and the area under the receiver operating curve (AUC) of the association of elevated biomarkers with active disease.

**Results:** Of n=78, the mean age was 57.3 +/- 17.6, 55% were female, and 28% had active disease at sample collection. When examining the outcome of active disease vs remission, abnormal levels of OSM, TNF-SF-14, FIT3L, and SCF differentiated disease states: OR of 5.10 (p=0.005), 3.71 (p=0.017), 0.13 (p=0.001), and 0.34 (p=0.040), respectively. AUC analysis indicated that TNF-SF-14 (0.731, CI 0.601-0.862), OSM (0.745, CI 0.622-0.867), and FIT3L (0.757, CI 0.644-0.871) were more strongly associated with active disease than other biomarkers, including WBC (0.703, CI 0.566-0.840), platelets (0.680, CI 0.551-0.809), CRP (0.549, CI 0.376-0.721), and ESR (0.547, CI 0.372-0.722).

**Conclusion:** Using a high-throughput, unbiased proteomics approach, we further investigated 5 novel candidate markers differentiating active AAV disease from remission. These proteins likely reflect different states of immune activation during active disease and outperform conventional inflammatory markers (e.g., CRP, ESR) as well as WBC and platelets. Our study has certain limitations, including sample size, a cross-sectional study design, and requires validation across diverse, longitudinal cohorts. The potential for biomarkers that accurately identify those individuals in remission compared to active disease may facilitate tailored, personalized therapeutic intervention, which avoids unnecessary exposure to the toxic side effects of immunomodulatory agents.

**Table 1.** Biomarker mean levels and characteristics for active disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biomarker</th>
<th>Mean level</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (mean cutoff, CI, p-value)</th>
<th>AUC (CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OSM</td>
<td>7.39 ± 0.83 vs. 6.60 ± 1.01, p=0.002</td>
<td>5.1 (≥ 6.96, 1.64-15.85, p=0.005)</td>
<td>0.745 (0.622-0.867)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF-SF-14</td>
<td>7.59 ± 0.90 vs. 6.85 ± 0.91, p=0.001</td>
<td>3.71 (≥ 7.07, 1.26-10.93, p=0.017)</td>
<td>0.731 (0.601-0.862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIT3L</td>
<td>9.28 ± 0.48 vs. 9.74 ± 0.49, p=0.001</td>
<td>0.13 (≥ 9.64, 0.04-0.43, p=0.001)</td>
<td>0.757 (0.644-0.871)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCP-3</td>
<td>3.51 ± 0.78 vs. 2.99 ± 0.73, p=0.008</td>
<td>1.24 (≥ 3.18, 0.46-3.36, p=0.666)</td>
<td>0.628 (0.485-0.771)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCF</td>
<td>9.73 ± 0.74 vs. 10.19 ± 0.38, p=0.001</td>
<td>0.34 (≥ 10.13, 0.12-0.95, p=0.04)</td>
<td>0.700 (0.570-0.830)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5273
**POS1165**

**IDENTIFICATION OF KEY GENES AND IMBALANCE OF IMMUNE CELL INFRINGEMENT IN IMMUNOGLOBULIN A-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS NEPHRITIS BY INTEGRATED BIOINFORMATIC ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Cell biology, Vasculitis, Genetics/epigenetics

X. MA1, X. Jia1, H. Zhu1, R. Wang1, Y. Shan1. 1The First Hospital of China Medical University, Department of Pediatrics, Shenyang, China; 2University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan

**Background:** Immunoglobulin A associated vasculitis (IgAV), also known as Henoch-Schonlein purpura, is a common systemic vascular inflammatory disease that chiefly manifests as skin purpura, arthritis, abdominal pain, gastrointestinal bleeding, and kidney involvement [1]. It is characterized by immunoglobulin A dominant immune deposition in small blood vessels, and the excessive production of various inflammatory molecules [2]. Although the etiology and pathogenesis of IgAV are not fully understood, there is increasing evidence that infection, genetic susceptibility, and immune response disorders are closely related to the development and progression of IgAV [3,4]. Meanwhile, abnormal expression of immune factors and imbalance of immune cell differentiation in general circulation may play crucial roles in the pathogenesis of IgAV [5]. Therefore, it is necessary to identify key pathways and immune cells in vasculitis, and to assess the significance of the immune microenvironment in the pathogenesis of IgAV.

**Objectives:** This study was conducted to identify differentially expressed genes (DEGs) and find dysregulated immune cell types in IgAV to find the underlying pathogenesis for IgAV to the effective prediction of therapeutic targets in the future.

**Methods:** GSE102114 datasets were obtained from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database to identify DEGs. Then, the protein-protein interaction (PPI) network of the DEGs was constructed using the STRING database. And key hub genes were identified by cytoHubba plug-in, performed functional enrichment analyses and followed by verification using PCR based on patient samples. Finally, the abundance of 24 immune cells were detected by Immune Cell Abundance Identifier (ImmuCellIA) to estimate the proportions and dysregulation of immune cell types within IgAV.

**Results:** A total of 4200 DEGs were screened in IgAV patients compared to Health Donor, including 2044 upregulated and 2166 downregulated genes. Of the top 10 hub genes from PPI network, STAT1, TLR4, PTEN, UBB, HSPA9, ATP5B, UBA52, and CDC42 were verified significantly upregulated in more patients. Enrichment analyses indicated that hub genes were primarily enriched in Toll-like receptor (TLR) signaling pathway, nucleotide oligomerization domain (NOD)-like receptor signaling pathway, and Th17 signaling pathways. Moreover, we found a diversity of immune cells in IgAV, consisting mainly of T cells. Finally, this study suggests that the overdifferentiation of Th2 cells, Th17 cells and Tfh cells may be involved in the occurrence and development of IgAV.

**Conclusion:** We screened out the key genes, pathways and maladjusted immune cells and associated with the pathogenesis of IgAV. The unique characteristics of IgAV-infiltrating immune cell subsets were confirmed, providing new insights for future molecular targeted therapy and a direction for immunological research on IgAV.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1188

**POS1167**

**SHORT-TERM OUTCOME OF ADULTS WITH IGA VASCULITIS – A SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Prognostic factors

A. Hoeværj, J. Østrovskni, M. Tomsic, Z. Rutar. 1 University Medical Center Ljubljana, Department of Rheumatology, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Background:** Follow-up data on IgA vasculitis (IgAV) in adults are scarce compared to paediatric population.

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to investigate the short-term outcome in a well-defined adult IgAV cohort.

**Methods:** We analyzed medical records of historically proven adult IgAV cases diagnosed between January 2010 and July 2022, and followed at our rheumatology center for more than 3 months. The frequency and type of relapses were studied. In addition the information on renal function (creatinine, estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR)) and urine analysis was recorded. Persistent abnormal urinanalysis was defined as persistent haematuria (>10x10^6 red blood cells/L) and/or daily proteinuria >300 mg. A significant worsening of renal function during follow-up was defined as eGFR decline >20% from baseline. Risk factors for relapsing IgAV and persistent abnormal urinanalysis were studied using Cox regression analysis.

**Results:** We identified 362 IgAV patients (59.4% males, median (IQR) age 60.4 (26.4; 76.2) years). Four patients died during the acute IgAV. Of the remaining patients, 76 (72.3%) were followed for a median (IQR) range 24.1 (12.5, 55.2; range 3.0 to 146.1) months, while 93 patients had either a follow-up time less than 3 months or were lost to follow up. Of 265 patients 38.9%, 29.8% and 44.5% had at baseline arterial, gastrointestinal, and renal involvement, respectively, and 28.3% had skin limited IgAV. One hundred and eighty-nine (71.3%) patients received at baseline systemic glucocorticoid, and 32 (12.1%) additional immunomodulatory therapy. One patient transiently required haemodialysis. During the follow-up period 42 (15.8%) patients relapsed. Table 1 shows the frequency and type of relapses. As factors associated with relapses emerged age (HR 0.97 (95% CI 0.95; 0.99)), and the use of systemic glucocorticoid at initial presentation (HR 2.37 (95% CI 1.98; 2.85), articular involvement (HR 4.02 (95% CI 0.25; 0.70)) and proteinuria >1g. As factors associated with persistent abnormal urinanalysis emerged heart failure as comorbidity (HR 2.28 (95% CI 1.20; 4.32), articular involvement (HR 2.93 (95% CI 1.65; 5.20)) and proteinuria >1g. As factors associated with persistent abnormal urinanalysis emerged heart failure as comorbidity (HR 2.28 (95% CI 1.20; 4.32), articular involvement (HR 2.93 (95% CI 1.65; 5.20)) and proteinuria >1g.

**Conclusion:** Fifteen percent of our adults had relapsing IgAV course, with skin relapses being the predominant relapse type. Younger patients with symptomatically managed IgAV were more prone to relapse. Persistent abnormal urinanalysis was recorded in a quarter of patients. Concurrent heart failure had an impact on the persistent renal pathology in adult IgAV.

**REFERENCES:**

NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.618

**POS1168**

**NOMOGRAM FOR IDENTIFYING THE HIGH-RISK PATIENTS OF ORGAN INVOLVEMENT IN EARLY-STAGE ANTI-NEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC ANTIBODY-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis

R. Wu1, R. Su2, C. Wang3. 1 The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, The Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV) is characterized by small-vessel vasculitis and systemic autoimmune inflammatory response [1, 2]. Although AAV is rare, the condition of AAV is relatively easy to diagnose. The clinical manifestations of patients with AAV are different [3], ranging from mild non-specific symptoms to severe life-threatening organ involvement. Therefore, the clinical need to achieve accurate and quick identification for the high-risk groups of organ involvement in early-stage AAV remains strong.

**Objectives:** There is no study to identify the high-risk patients with organ involvement of early-stage AAV. We aimed to develop a model to identify those high-risk patients at an early stage of AAV.

**Methods:** The data of the 74 new-onset patients with AAV (61 of whom had definite organ involvement) was collected in our retrospective study. The predictor variables for organ involvement in AAV were assessed by the logistic regression analysis. We developed the risk stratification model by nomogram. And the model was validated by concordance index, calibration curve, and decision curve analysis.
Results: The logistic regression analysis showed that BVAS, IL-17 and Treg cells were the predictor variables for organ involvement in AAV (Figure 1). We constructed a nomogram model consisting of BVAS, Treg cells and IL-17 (Figure 2A). In the nomogram, the value of each predictor was assigned a certain number of points, and the sum of the points for each predictor corresponded to the risk of organ involvement in AAV. Then we evaluated the nomogram model. The calibration curve in 1000 bootstrap replications revealed a good predictive accuracy between the predicted probability and observed probability of the nomogram model with a Concordance index (C-index) of 0.957 (95% CI = 0.694–0.960) and bias-corrected C-index of 0.937 (Figure 2B). And the chi-squared of Hosmer–Lemeshow test was 0.37 (P = 0.83) indicating a good fitness of the model. Next, the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve of the model (Figure 2C) yielded the AUC of the curve was 0.9571 (95%CI =0.9124–1.000) showing it had a great ability for discriminating organ involvement in AAV. The decision curve analysis (DCA) showed a positive net benefit for patients with organ involvement (Figure 2D), which suggested that patients with organ involvement could benefit from interventions. And the clinical impact curve (Figure 2E) showed that the risk of organ involvement predicted by the nomogram model under threshold probability (red curve) was close to the actual value of organ involvement events under each threshold probability (blue curve).

Conclusion: The risk stratification nomogram model was effective to identify the high-risk patients of organ involvement in early-stage AAV, and it was validated with good discrimination, calibration as well as great application value in clinical.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Forest plot of univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis of AAV with organ involvement. (*P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001)

Figure 2. The development and validation of the nomogram model. (A) The nomogram model for identifying the high-risk patients of organ involvement in early-stage AAV. (B) The calibration curve of the nomogram model was obtained by comparing the observed and predicted risk of organ involvement in AAV. (C) ROC curve of the nomogram model. (D) DCA of the nomogram model. (E) The clinical impact curve of the nomogram.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1825

POS1169

RECOVERY AND LONG-TERM RENAL OUTCOME OF PATIENTS WITH ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS WHO ARE ON DIALYSIS AT PRESENTATION

Keywords: Vasculitis
Y. J. Lee1, S. M. Ahn1, S. Hong1, J. S. Oh2, C. K. Lee1, B. Yoo1, Y. G. Kim1. 1Asan Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Asan Medical Center, Department of Information Medicine, Big Data Research Center, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Renal involvement in ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) can lead to severe renal dysfunction requiring dialysis at the time of diagnosis. Studies have demonstrated that a significant proportion of patients could discontinue dialysis after treatment, with dialysis recovery-associated factors including kidney pathology such as proportion of normal glomeruli and extent of tubular atrophy or interstitial fibrosis. However, these works focused on short-term outcomes within 6–12 months after AAV diagnosis (1, 2). Research reporting if patients who discontinued dialysis resumed during long-term follow-up are lacking.

Objectives: We assessed the clinical and pathologic characteristics of patients with AAV dependent on dialysis at presentation and the long-term renal outcomes of those who recovered after dialysis.

Methods: This retrospective study analyzed the data of patients diagnosed with AAV who were on dialysis at baseline from July 2005 to May 2021 at a single tertiary center in Korea. Medical records, including renal function and dependence on dialysis, were obtained.

Results: We included 34 patients on dialysis at the time of AAV diagnosis in this study. The median age was 64.5 years, and 61.8% were female. Among all patients, 13 discontinued dialysis and 21 remained dialysis dependent. The proportions of normal glomeruli (p<0.001) and interstitial fibrosis (p=0.024) were significantly different between the two groups. The multivariable analysis revealed that the proportion of normal glomeruli tended to be associated with dialysis discontinuation (OR=1.34, 95% CI 0.88–1.27, p=0.068). Treatment modalities, including plasmapheresis, were not significantly associated with dialysis discontinuation. In the follow-up analysis of 13 patients who had discontinued dialysis for a median of 81 months, 12 did not resume dialysis, and their glomerular filtration rate values had significantly increased at follow-up compared with at dialysis cessation (37.5 [28.5–45.5] vs. 24.0 [18.5–30.0] mL/min/1.73 m², p<0.008).

Conclusion: Approximately 38% of AAV patients discontinued dialysis, and the recovered patients had improved renal function without dialysis. Thus, patients with AAV on dialysis should be considered for dialysis discontinuation and renal recovery, especially those with normal glomeruli in kidney pathology.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Long-term follow-up of patients who discontinued dialysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All (n = 13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of follow-up, mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of dialysis, days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal profile at the time of dialysis discontinuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine, mg/dL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV cyclophosphamide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO cyclophosphamide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolic acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of therapy, days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal profile at final follow-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine, mg/dL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are median (interquartile range) or n (%); eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate, BVAS: Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score
POS1170 EXPLORING SUBCLINICAL MICROVASCULAR CHANGES IN ANCA-VASCULITIDES: THE OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY ANGIOGRAPHY AND NAILFOLD CAPILLAROSCOPY IN THE EVALUATION OF DISEASE-RELATED DAMAGE

Figure 1. Comparison of values of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) of patients (n=12) with dialysis discontinuation between the time of dialysis discontinuation and time after the follow-up period

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2303

POS1171 NEW INDEX USING TRIGLYCERIDE-GLUCOSE-BODY MASS INDEX FOR PREDICTING MORTALITY IN PATIENTS WITH ANITNEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMATIC ANTI-BODY-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Biomarkers, Diet and nutrition

P. G. Park1, J. Y. Pyo2, S. S. Ahn3, J. J. Song2, Y. Park2, J. H. Huh1, S. Lee2. 1National Health Insurance Service Ilsan Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Goyang, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Yonsei University College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Anyang, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: The mortality rate of patients with antineutrophil cytoplasmatic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV) is relatively higher than that of those

Comparison of values of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) of patients (n=23) with dialysis discontinuation between the time of dialysis discontinuation and time after the follow-up period

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>AAV (n=23)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA, N/%</td>
<td>5/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGPA, N/%</td>
<td>9/39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA, N/%</td>
<td>9/39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at the study (yrs, mean ± SD)</td>
<td>60.9 ± 8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (yrs, mean ± SD)</td>
<td>9.6 ± 9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENT, N/%</td>
<td>15/65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney, N/%</td>
<td>4/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart, N/%</td>
<td>4/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung, N/%</td>
<td>21/91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin, N/%</td>
<td>8/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint, N/%</td>
<td>9/39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral Nervous System, N/%</td>
<td>13/57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCA positivity, N/%</td>
<td>16/69.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BVAS (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>3.3 ± 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDI (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>4.5 ± 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFS (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>0.3 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3154
with other vasculitides. Various biomarkers are developed to predict outcome of AAV. Recently, a novel index, triglyceride (TG) glucose-body mass index (BMI) (TyG-BMI) was introduced to predict insulin resistance (IR), cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular accidents in general population. Given that IR and its related diseases such as CVD and CVA are generally major risk factors for all-cause mortality in the general population, it could be assumed that TyG-BMI could be a robust predictor of all-cause mortality in AAV patients.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to investigated whether TyG-BMI and a new index using TyG-BMI (NITGB) could predict all-cause mortality in nonobese patients with AAV.

**Methods:** The medical records of 78 nonobese AAV patients (BMI < 23.0 kg/m²) for Asian) were retrospectively reviewed. TyG-BMI was calculated by the equation: Ln [(triglyceride x fasting glucose)/2] x BMI. To develop NITGB, we assigned a weight of 0.1 to each variable according to the slopes for independent variables with P-value < 0.1 in the multivariable Cox analysis.

**Results:** The median age was 54.3 years and five patients died. When nonobese AAV patients were divided into two groups based on TyG-BMI ≥ 187.74, those with TyG-BMI ≥ 187.74 exhibited a significantly higher risk for all-cause mortality than those without (RR 284.000). Since age (HR 1.324), Birmingham vasculitis activity score (BVAS; HR 1.12), and TyG-BMI ≥ 187.74 (HR 12.168) were independently associated with all-cause mortality, NITGB was developed as follow:

There were a significantly higher risk for all-cause mortality than those without (RR 284.000).

**Conclusion:** Both nonobese AAV patients with TyG-BMI ≥ 187.74 and those with NITGB ≥ 27.36 exhibited significantly cumulative rates of all-cause mortality than those without. NITGB along with TyG-BMI could predict all-cause mortality in nonobese AAV patients.

**REFERENCES:**


was 470.0%, 54.6%, 91.7%, 97.6% and 77.3%, respectively, whereas the mean (SD) total BODI score was 1.1 (1.7), 1.2 (1.7), 3.5 (2.4), 4.5 (2.6), and 1.9 (1.9). The prevalence of different BODI domains is reported in the Table 1. Significant differences were recorded in NA vs. EU and ME cohorts (Figure 1) (CA and AM not included in the statistical analysis for the small sample size). In multivariate analysis, the geographical area was independently associated (p < 0.001) with damage (NA vs. EU OR 11.3; ME vs. EU OR 1.5). Male gender (OR 1.5; p = 0.004), age (OR 1.03 per year; p = 0.002), disease duration (1.03 per year; p = 0.003), ocular (OR 2.8; p < 0.001), vascular (OR 5.3; p < 0.001), and neuropsychiatric (OR 5.8, P<0.001) involvement were also associated with BODI≤1.

Conclusion: A variable prevalence of organ damage was observed in BS patients from different World areas. Further research is needed to understand the cause underlying such geographic variability, as it may unveil biological, environmental, or health-system factors driving damage accrual in BS. The BODI effectively captures damage independently from the studied cohort’s geographical origin.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3756

POS1173
LONG-TERM ANALYSIS OF RELAPSE RATES IN A EUROPEAN ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS (AAV) COHORT FOR GPA AND MPA

Keywords: Registries, Vasculitis


Background: Therapeutic interventions for ANCA-associated vasculitides (AAV) dramatically changed over the last two decades. Especially the introduction of rituximab into the therapeutic portfolio significantly improved outcome data, whereby relapse rates in previous cohorts were mostly reported from only up to two-year periods.

Objectives: With the present study, we thought to retrospectively investigate the overall relapse rates in a large European AAV cohort.

Methods: Data of patients with newly diagnosed GPA and MPA (retrospectively classified on ACR/EULAR 2022 criteria) from four tertiary referral centers in Germany and Switzerland were collected between 2000 and 2021. Events were captured during routine out-patient visits and hospital admissions. A relapse was considered at the time of any increased vasculitis activity, i.e. therapeutic necessity to increase glucocorticoids ≥10 mg prednisolone per day. First relapse occurrence was analyzed as time-to-event analysis and number of cases for each group. Differences were compared by ANOVA- and X²-test, respectively.

Results: Our data set comprised a total of 338 patients, 46.2% women (mean age of 59.2±14.7 years). Of these, 203 cases (60.1%) were classified as GPA and 135 (39.9%) as MPA. At initial presentation, 74.9% of patients exhibited renal, 50.9% pulmonary and 35.2% ENT involvement. Over a median follow-up period of 58.7 months (IQR 29.4 to 101.7) we observed an overall relapse rate of 35.8% in the entire cohort and median time to first relapse was 32.6 months. GPA patients exhibited consistently higher relapse rates than those with MPA over the entire observational period.

Conclusion: In our European AAV cohort, we observed an overall relapse rate of 35.8% for both AAV entities with the first relapse occurring after a median of 32.6 months. GPA patients exhibited consistently higher relapse rates than those with MPA over the entire observational period. We propose that future analyzes of relapse rates should cover a minimum of three years to capture roughly half of all expected events.

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POS1174
IMPACT OF THE 2022 ACR/EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA ON CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF ANTEINEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC ANTIBODY (ANCA) ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Real-world evidence

J. Van Leeuwen1, S. Hafemann1, Y. K. O. Teng1, J. Van Leeuwen1, S. Hafemann1, Y. K. O. Teng1. Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Nephrology Section - Internal Medicine Department, Leiden, Netherlands.

Background: In 2022 the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) presented new classification criteria for the three subsets of antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitides (AAV): granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA), microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) and Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (EGPA) [1-3]. The purpose of this classification was to ensure homogeneous populations for clinical trials and research. These criteria were developed based on a population of patients with a high certainty of diagnosis [1-3]. As with any novel criteria, these can potentially lead to re-classification of AAV patients which can impact selection of patients in future studies.

Objectives: To assess the impact of the new 2022 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for GPA, MPA and EGPA on re-classification of clinical diagnoses of AAV patients.

Methods: An established cohort of 337 patients of AAV patients at a single center, academic hospital was used to screen patient and disease characteristics and clinical data at the time of diagnosis and matched to the novel 2022 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for GPA, MPA or EGPA. Patients with an unspecified AAV diagnosis and patients with no clinical data or only ANCA serology available for the time of diagnosis were excluded.

Results: Out of 337 patients, 86 patients with GPA experienced at least one relapse (42.4%) whereas in MPA only 35 (25.9%) patients relapsed (p<0.01). In addition, log-rank test revealed a significant difference in relapse over time (p<0.05, Figure 1). The median time to the first relapse did not differ significantly between GPA and MPA patients (GPA: 27.9 months, IQR 13.6 to 55.9, vs. MPA: 35.1 months, IQR 8.6 to 55.9, p=0.458).

Conclusion: In our African AAV cohort, we observed an overall relapse rate of 35.8% for both AAV entities with the first relapse occurring after a median of 32.6 months. GPA patients exhibited consistently higher relapse rates than those with MPA over the entire observational period. We propose that future analyzes of relapse rates should cover a minimum of three years to capture roughly half of all expected events.
Results: In total 249 patients, 160 (64%) and 89 (36%) females, with a median age of 66 (range 12-96) and a AAV diagnosis between 1983 to 2022, were included. 179 patients had a clinical diagnosis of GPA, 43 of MPA and 27 of EGPA. Of the 179 GPA patients, 155 (87%) met the classification criteria for GPA, 15 (8%) for MPA and 10 (6%) remained unclassified. One patient could be classified as both GPA and MPA. Of the 43 MPA patients, 33 (77%) classified as MPA, 8 (19%) as GPA and 3 (7%) patients remained unclassified. Again, one patient could be classified as GPA and MPA. Only 14 of 27 (52%) EGPA patients met the classification criteria for EGPA. Those (11%) EGPA patients classified as GPA, 4 (15%) as MPA and 6 (22%) remained unclassified. These results show a lower sensitivity than observed in the development study (87 vs 93% for GPA, 78 vs 93% for MPA and 52 vs 85% for EGPA).[1-3] When analysing our cohort based on ANCA specificity, from 67 MPO positive patients, 50 (75%) would classify as GPA, 9 (13%) as MPA and 4 (6%) as EGPA. Clinical diagnosis was MPA in only 40 (60%) of patients and GPA in 18 (27%) patients and EGPA in 9 (13%) patients. From 145 PR3 positive patients, 141 (97%) would classify as GPA, none as MPA and 1 (1%) as EGPA, compared to 140 (97%) clinical diagnosis of GPA, 1 (1%) of MPA and 4 (3%) of EGPA.

Conclusion: When comparing the EULAR/ACR classification criteria to real-life clinical diagnosis, 13% of GPA patients, 23% MPA patients and 48% of EGPA patients would not meet the criteria for the corresponding classification. Moreover, because the presence of ANCA auto-antibodies is highly weighted, the percentage of MPO positive GPA patients is diminished. We demonstrate using these new criteria will impact selection of patients in future studies, especially for EGPA studies.

REFERENCES:

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POS1175 ANTI-IL5 THERAPY IN EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS: DOSAGE, EFFICACY AND OUTCOME IN A LARGE COHORT OF PATIENTS IN REAL LIFE (REVAS STUDY)

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Descriptive studies, Vasculitis


1 Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Barcelona, Spain; 2 La Paz University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Madrid, Spain; 3 San Cecilio University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Granada, Spain; 4 Cabueñes Hospital, Internal Medicine, Gijón, Spain; 5 Clinic University Hospital Santiago Compostela, Internal Medicine, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 6 Bellvitge University, Internal Medicine, Barcelona, Spain; 7 Gregorio Marañon University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Madrid, Spain

Background: Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polymyagiitis (EGPA), formerly Churg-Strauss syndrome, is a rare type of anti-neutrophil cytoplasm antibody-associated vasculitis, associated with asthma, nasal poliosis and sinusinflons, in which eosinophils play a key role. Eosinophil targeted therapies alone or associated to conventional treatment with corticosteroids and immunosuppressant drugs may be useful in its management. DAA treatment for severe asthma manifestations often presents difficulties to treat.

Objectives: To describe the indications, dosage, efficacy and safety of, eosinophils targeted therapies in patients with EGPA in a real practice.

Methods: Retrospective study evaluating all patients with EGPA included at REVAS Registry, treated with anti-IL5 therapy, in order to assess the effectiveness and safety of this therapy. Treatment response was evaluated from 3 months to the censoring data. Complete response (CR) was defined as the absence of asthma and/or sinusonal exacerbations with a prednisone dosage of ≤5mg/day, and partial response (PR) if the prednisone dosage was 25mg/day. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 21 package.

Results: Fifty patients (median age 47 years) were evaluated. Forty-five (90%) patients received mepolizumab (38 patients 100mg every 4 weeks and 7 patients 300mg every 4 weeks) for a mean period of 31 (1-68) months; 4 (8%) received benralizumab (30mg every 4 weeks) for a mean of 33 (7-42) months, and 3 (6%) received reslizumab (n=3, 6%) for a mean period of 54,3 (43-67) month. Anti-IL5 therapy was indicated for severe steroid-dependent asthma (94%) and/or persistent sinusonal involvement (80%). 11 (22%) patients also had symptoms of active vasculitis. 5 (10%) patients had monocrotaline. 2 patients cutaneous lesions, 1 orbital pseudotumor. ANCA were positive in 27 (54%) cases with MPO specificity. All patients were receiving corticosteroids at the time of anti-IL5 therapy beginning, with a mean dosage of 11,5mg/day. A total of 11 (22%) patients had previously received omalizumab, that was changed to mepolizumab in 9 cases, reslizumab in 1 and benralizumab in another, due to PR (n=5) or recurrence of asthma and/or sinusinflons (n=6) after a long period of treatment (70.5 months). Anti-IL5 therapy was given concomitantly to AZA in 7 cases, MTX in 3, and RTX in 2. 38 (84,4%) patients treated with mepolizumab achieved a CR after 6-18 months of treatment.

The median dosage of prednisone 6 months after mepolizumab, benralizumab and reslizumab initiation was 6 (5-15) mg/day, 5.3 (2.5-10) mg/day, and 3.3 (0-5) mg/day, respectively. The median dosage of prednisone 12 months after mepolizumab, benralizumab and reslizumab initiation was 6 (5-15) mg/day, 3.1 (0-5) mg/day, and 2.5 (0-5) mg/day, respectively. The median number of exacerbations decreased from 2.5 over the 6 months previous to therapy beginning to 1 in the following 12 months. CS were stopped in 12 (24%) patients. All 3 drugs were safe and well tolerated. During the follow-up period, three patients experienced a major relapse of the disease, and were successfully treated with RTX in conjunction with mepolizumab, with no serious adverse events. Mepolizumab dosage was reduced to 100mg every 6 months in 50% of cases. In one case mepolizumab was changed by benralizumab due to PR.

Conclusion: Mepolizumab at both 100mg every 4 weeks and 300mg every 4 weeks is effective for the treatment of EGPA. Both doses should be compared in the setting of a controlled trial. Benralizumab and reslizumab are also effective. Sequential therapy with anti-IL5 drugs and rituximab was safe and effective in achieving remission in patients with a major relapse of the disease.

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Methods: Between 2007 and 2018, we examined the hospitalization records of AAV patients from 13 Italian hospitals. Hospitalization dates, features, length of stay, primary discharge diagnoses and patient data were abstracted from charts. Age and sex-standardized hospitalization rates (SHR) were calculated by an indirect method, per year and for the study period, using the 2007–2018 hospitalization data provided by the Italian Ministry of Health. Multivariable and survival models were used to explore associations between these outcomes, clinical parameters at diagnosis, and pre-existing comorbidities.

Results: A total of 610 hospitalizations occurred in 635 patients with AAV (19.4% microscopic polyangiitis, MPA; 34.8% granulomatosis with polyangiitis, GPA; 46.0% eosinophilic GPA, EGPA) during a 12-year observation; in 19.6% for life-threatening conditions and leading to death in 2.3%. The median time to first hospitalization was 504 days (25-75% IQR, 95-1497), and the median hospitalization length was 8 days (25-75% IQR, 8-14). The 2018 SHR (95%CI) was 1.14 (0.91, 1.43) for all AAV combined, 1.13 (0.68, 1.76) for MPA, 1.48 (1.02, 2.08) for GPA, and 0.90 (0.60, 1.31) for EGPA. These rates tended to a gradual increase from 2007 to 2018 in the whole AAV cohort of patients and in every disease subset (Figure 1A). The main causes of hospitalization in patients with AAV were infectious diseases (18.7%), followed by major relapse and diagnostic re-evaluation (17.2% each), and cardiovascular diseases (10.8%). Among those due to infections, the main site was the respiratory system (44.6%), followed by urinary tract (9.6%) and sepsis (6.3%). Among AAV patients hospitalized during follow-up (47.1%), 55.5% had only 1 hospitalization, 18.7% had 2, and 25.6% had 3 or more hospitalizations. Patients with a diagnosis of GPA or MPA (versus EGPA), higher vasculitis activity (assessed by BVAS), ANCA positivity at diagnosis, and hospitalization at diagnosis (all p<0.001), more pre-existing comorbidities and older age (both p<0.05), were more likely to be hospitalized during follow-up (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: Patients with AAV have a significant burden of hospitalization during the disease course. Approximately half of the patients is hospitalized during follow-up, with infections, relapses and cardiovascular diseases as the main causes of hospitalizations. Our findings showed the existence of risk profiles of patients more likely to be hospitalized, requiring more active vigilance.

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POS1177 ROLE OF INTRATHecal PRODUCTION OF IL6 IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF CHRONIC PROGRESSIVE NEURO-BEHÇET’S DISEASE

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Behcet’s disease

S. Hirohata1,2, H. Kikuchi1. 1Nobuhara Hospital, Rheumatology, Tatsuno, Japan; 2Tokyo University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Behçet’s disease (BD) is characterized by recurrent attacks of aphthous stomatitis, uveitis, genital ulcers, and skin lesions, including folliculitis, erythema nodosum like lesions, and superficial thrombophlebitis of the central nervous system (CNS). Central nervous system involvement is one of the most frequent complications in BD and is called neuro-Behçet’s disease (NB). There has been accumulating evidence that NB can be classified into acute type (ANB) and chronic progressive type (CPNB) based upon differences in the clinical courses as well as in responses to corticosteroid treatment. Thus, ANB responds well to corticosteroids and usually runs a self-limiting course. By contrast, CPNB is characterized by intractable neuro-behavioral changes and cerebellar ataxia, which progress in spite of high doses of corticosteroids or immunosuppressive drugs, including azathioprine or cyclophosphamide.

Objectives: Previous studies have demonstrated that cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) IL-6 was elevated in patients with CPNB. However, little is known as to the mechanism of the elevation of CSF IL-6 in the pathogenesis of CPNB.

Methods: Paired serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples were obtained from 19 patients with CPNB when they presented active neuropsychiatric manifestations and from 19 control patients with non-inflammatory neurological diseases. Among the 19 patients with CPNB, 5 patients received treatment with infliximab and followed up thereafter. The levels of albumin and IL-6 in CSF and sera were measured by ELISA. Blood-brain barrier (BBB) function was evaluated by Q albumin (CSF/serum albumin quotient x 1,000). The intrathecal production of IL-6 was evaluated by CSF IL-6 indices ([CSF IL-6 x serum albumin]/[serum IL-6 x CSF albumin]).

Results: Serum IL-6 and CSF IL-6 were significantly higher in 19 patients with CPNB compared with control patients with non-inflammatory neurological diseases. Among the 19 CPNB patients, serum IL-6 levels were not significantly correlated with CSF IL-6 levels (r=0.0938). As for 5 patients with CPNB treated with infliximab, all of CSF IL-6, serum IL-6, Q albumin and CSF IL-6 indices were significantly elevated compared with control patients with non-inflammatory neurological diseases. Treatment of the 5 patients with infliximab dramatically decreased CSF IL-6 in the next day, but neither serum IL-6 nor Q albumin (Figure 1). Of note, CSF IL-6 indices were dramatically decreased on the next day of treatment with infliximab in the 5 patients with CPNB (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Age- and sex-SHR by year for patients with AAV, MPA, GPA and EGPA during 2007-2018 (A). Kaplan-Meier Plots of the probability of hospitalization after AAV diagnosis (B).
Methods: Using a modified precipitation technique in hypo-ionic medium, we aimed at establishing whether the failure to detect or the detection of trace amounts of cryoglobulins or show only trace amounts which cannot be characterized for composition.

Background: A considerable number of patients with high clinical suspicion for cryoglobulinaemic vasculitis either show negative results for the detection of cryoglobulins or show only trace amounts which cannot be characterized for composition.

Objectives: We aimed at establishing whether the failure to detect or the detection of trace amounts of cryoglobulin with conventional methods either identifies a peculiar subset of low level cryoglobulinaemia (from now on hypocryoglobulinemia). A considerable number of these patients had type III cryoglobulins in patients with cryoglobulinemia the histologic features of glomerulonephritis (also examined by electron microscopy) resembled those of mixed cryoglobulinemia-associated glomerulonephritis.

Conclusion: In conclusion, hypocryoglobulins are often polyclonal and are mainly unrelated to HCV infection. Patients who present high clinical suspicion for vasculitis, especially glomerulonephritis and yet test negative for cryoglobulinaemia detected by standard techniques, could require deeper investigation even in the absence of HCV infection, RF activity or signs of complement consumption.

REFERENCE:

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases, Vasculitis, Kidneys

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1178 IDENTIFYING THE NEW DISORDER “IDIOPATHIC HYPOCRYOGLOBULINAEMIA” IN PATIENTS WITH PREVIOUSLY UNIDENTIFIED CLINICAL CONDITIONS

D. Roccato1, S. Sciascia1, C. Naretto1, A. Barreca2, L. Scifetti1, L. Battaglia1, L. Viziello1, R. Fenoglio1, D. Ross1, L. Battaglia1, L. Solfietti1, L. Batta1, R. Fen1, D. Rossi1, A. Barreca2, L. Scifetti1, L. Battaglia1, L. Viziello1, R. Fenoglio1, D. Ross1

Background: This study describes a peculiar subset of low level cryoglobulinaemia (from now on hypocryoglobulinemia) or represents a separate entity.

Objectives: We aimed at establishing whether the failure to detect or the detection of trace amounts of cryoglobulin with conventional methods either identifies a peculiar subset of low level cryoglobulinaemia (from now on hypocryoglobulinemia) or represents a separate entity. We aimed at establishing whether the failure to detect or the detection of trace amounts of cryoglobulin with conventional methods either identifies a peculiar subset of low level cryoglobulinaemia (from now on hypocryoglobulinemia) or represents a separate entity.

Methods: Using a modified precipitation technique in hypo-ionic medium, we prospectively identified between 2008 and 2021 237 patients (median age 60.8 years [22–97], 137 females) having < 0.5% cryocrit and clinical suspicion of autoimmune disease. Of these 237 patients, only 54 (22.7%) had a history of HCV infection. One hundred and sixty-nine out of 237 patients (71%) had an established underlying disease, while 88 patients (38.6%) (median age 62.9 years [29–90], 35 females) did not show either laboratory markers or clinical symptoms consonant with an underlying aetiology. These cases were only trace amounts of cryoglobulins were defined as achieving a putatively idiopathic hypocryoglobulinemia. Nineteen of these 68 patients (27.9%) had a history of HCV infection. Twentyfour patients out of 68 (35.3%) were positive for rheumatoid factor (RF), while 25 (36.7%) patients had signs of complement consumption (i.e., C4 < 15 mg/dl and/or C3 < 80 mg/dl), and 36 (52.9%) had increased inflammatory indexes. Seven patients only had arthralgia and constitutional symptoms while 61 out of 68 (89.7%) presented with at least one of the three cardinal signs of cryoglobulinaemic vasculitis including skin lesions, peripheral nerve involvement, and glomerulonephritis. Fifty-one percent of the subjects had type III hypoglobulins. In patients with hypocryoglobulinemia the histologic features of glomerulonephritis (also examined by electron microscopy) resembled those of mixed cryoglobulinemia-associated glomerulonephritis.

Conclusion: In conclusion, hypocryoglobulins are often polyclonal and are mainly unrelated to HCV infection. Patients who present high clinical suspicion for vasculitis, especially glomerulonephritis and yet test negative for cryoglobulinaemia detected by standard techniques, could require deeper investigation even in the absence of HCV infection, RF activity or signs of complement consumption.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1179 USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO IDENTIFY ANTI-NEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMATIC ANTIBODY (ANCA)-ASSOCIATED VASCUITIS PATIENTS IN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

J. Van Leeuwen1, E. Penne6, Y. K. O. Teng1, W. Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Nephrology Section - Internal Medicine Department, Leiden, Netherlands; *Northwest Clinics, Nephrology Section - Internal Medicine Department, Alkmaar, Netherlands

Background: Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmatic antibody (ANCA) associated vasculitis (AAV) is a rare, life-threatening, systemic auto-immune disease. Due to the low prevalence, multiple treating disciplines and poor registration, including ICD-10 classification, identifying AAV patients for (pre-)clinical studies, research and health care evaluation is challenging. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve identifying these patients in health care organisations. Employing artificial intelligence (AI) – supported search engines are increasingly suggested to achieve this.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**Objectives:** Reliably identify AAV patients in electronic health records (EHR) using an AI-based tool that incorporates text mining and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

**Methods:** The identification method consists of a search strategy combined with NLP-based exclusion. A search strategy to optimally identify AAV patients in electronic health records (EHR) was investigated. Validation was performed on an independent EHR system of a non-academic hospital with an established AAV cohort available for reference (n=84).

**Results:** The search strategy combined five queries based on disease description, laboratory measurements, medication and relevant specialties. In the determination of ANCA-associated vasculitis, 608 patients, including 197/203 (97.0%) AAV patients of the reference set and 148 newly-identified AAV cases confirmed by manual review. Employing NLP in the identification method improved the positive predictive value (PPV) from 57% (346/608 patients) to 78% (339/444 patients). These results were validated in an independent EHR system where the search strategy identified 333 patients, including 82/84 (97.6%) AAV patients of the reference set and 112 newly-identified AAV cases upon manual review. NLP improved PPV from 59% (194/333 patients) to 86% (192/223 patients). Negative predictive values and specificities were above 98% in all analyses.

**Conclusion:** We present an AI-based identification method to identify low-prevalent AAV patients in EHR systems. We demonstrated improved performance when adding NLP to the text-mining search strategy. Successful validation in an independent health organisation supports the applicability and transportability of this method which can be an important accelerator for research efforts and health care evaluation in AAV patients.

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**POST180 CONCORDANCE IN THE CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA IN A PATIENT COHORT OF ANCA ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS**

**Keywords:** Validation, Vasculitis

O. iaremenko1, L. Petelytska2, V. Kravchenko3, Bogomolets National Medical University, The Department of Internal Medicine #3, Kyiv, Ukraine; Bogomolets National Medical University, The Department of Internal Medicine #3, Kyiv, Ukraine; Bogomolets National Medical University, The Department of Internal Medicine #3, Kyiv, Ukraine.

**Background:** Despite existing of different classifications criteria for ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV), early diagnosing AAV is still challenging. Previous classification criteria do not include some of important diagnostic tests (for example, ANCA) or surrogate clinical markers and had insufficient specificity. According to the Vasculitis Patient-Powered Research Network study, the median time to diagnosis of vasculitis amounts 7 months and 73% of patients are misdiagnosed initially. Recently the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) have proposed the new classification criteria for AAV which corresponded only to the classification criteria of ACR 1990 and the EMA algorithm (3 EGPA, 1 U, 1 GPA), and one patient has not met any criteria. The new classification criteria of AAV demonstrated better agreement compared to the previous ones demonstrated better agreement with the established diagnosis of GPA (k 0.6 vs 0.3, sensitivity 88.0% vs 92.0%, specificity 70.6% vs 35.3% ) and MPA (k 0.5 vs 0.2, specificity 71.4% vs 14.3%, specificity 86.6% vs 100%), but worse agreement with the diagnosis of EGPA (k 0.8 vs 1.0, sensitivity 71.4% vs 100%, specificity 100% vs 100%). The observed agreement between the two classification criteria was slight for GPA (k 0.3) and MPA (k 0.2), but substantial for EGPA (k 0.8).

**Conclusion:** There is a slight agreement between ACR/EULAR2022 criteria and ACR1990 criteria/EMA algorithm for GPA and MPA.

**REFERENCE:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POST181 VALIDATION OF THE 2022 - AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY/EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR RHEUMATOLOGY CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA IN INDIAN PATIENTS WITH ANCA ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis

A. Sharma1, P. Deo1, G. Naidu1, J. Samanta1, S. Mitra1, K. Sharma2, R. Nada2, V. Dhiri3, S. Jain3, R. Minz3, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Internal Medicine, Chandigarh, India; Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Medical Microbiology, Chandigarh, India; Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Histopathology, Chandigarh, India; Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Immunopathology, Chandigarh, India.

**Background:** 2022 American College of Rheumatology/European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology Classification Criteria for classification of ANCA associated vasculitis need to be validated in different cohorts.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to validate the recently published 2022 American College of Rheumatology/European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology Classification Criteria for classification of ANCA associated vasculitis/AAV (Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis [GPA], Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis [EGPA] and Microscopic Polyangiitis [MPA])

**Methods:** Patients with a diagnosis of AAV from Indian vasculitis registry (INVAR) cohort were included in the study. The new 2022 ACR classification criteria for AAV[1]–[3], 1990 ACR classification criteria for GPA and EGA, and the EMA Algorithm were validated in our cohort to assess their performance. The level of agreement was assessed using Cohen's kappa. The clinician's diagnosis was considered as the gold standard.

**Results:** A total of 302 patients diagnosed AAV with mean age of 42.8± 14.7 years were included. 58.7% were female and 42.3 % were male. Figure 1 show the distribution of AAV patients classified according to various diagnosis criteria. The new 2022 ACR classification criteria for GPA (kappa: 0.961; sensitivity: 99% and specificity: 99.9%), for EGPA (kappa: 0.981; sensitivity: 92% and 100%) had almost perfect agreement with INVAR cohort. Table 1 shows performance of EMA algorithm and the ACR 1990 criteria compared to the new 2022 classification criteria for AAV in the INVAR
cohort. Furthermore, predominant CNS or ocular GPA (if PR3/MPO negative) were missed by the new ACR classification criteria. EMA Algorithm missed cases of ANCA vasculitis where histology was not possible or ANCA was positive by IIF. Conclusion: The study showed the new criteria for AAV, had good performance in INVAR registry AAV patients. The new criteria had good sensitivity and speci-ficity for classification of GPA, MPA and EGPA compared to EMA algorithm.


Table 1. Table showing sensitivity and specificity of the EMA algorithm and the ACR 1990 Criteria compared to the new 2022 classification criteria for AAV in the INVAR cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EMA ALGORITHM</th>
<th>ACR 1990</th>
<th>ACR 1990</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>MPA</th>
<th>EGPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specificity</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kappa</td>
<td>0.332</td>
<td>0.081</td>
<td>0.711</td>
<td>0.451</td>
<td>0.891</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Venn diagram classification of AAV in INVAR cohort according to various classification criteria

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4570

POS1183 GENDER IMPACT ON BASELINE PRESENTATION AND OUTCOME IN ADULT IGA VASCULITIS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Gender/diversity issues, Vasculitis

K. L. Baud1, Y. Ramdani1, V. Maisons1, E. Pillebout2, J. F. Augusto3, N. Jourde-Chavannes1

Methods: We retrospectively study the data of the French retrospective multicenter cohort (IGAVAS), including 260 IgAV adult patients. Comparison of presentation and outcome were performed according to gender status (male vs. female).

Results: Of the 260 patients included, data from 259 patients were analyzed: 95 female and 164 male (one missing data). Compared to female, baseline disease presentation in male was similar for cutaneous involvement (n=164 (100%) vs. n=95 (100%), p=0.10), joint (n=99/164 (60%) vs. n=60/95 (63%), p=0.7) involvement, gastrointestinal involvement (n=93/164 (57%) vs. 43/95 (45%) p=0.093) and glomerulonephritis (n=120/164 (73%) vs. n=61/95 (64%) p=0.16).

Conclusion: Despite its limits, this study raises the question of a more severe disease in male terms of glomerulonephritis. This hypothesis is sustained by the fact that male compared to female were more severe more aggressively treated and present a poor short outcome whereas the long term outcome do not seem to differ. Altogether, these results raise the question of the gender as a new prognostic factor during the course adult IgAV.

References: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5745

Clinical cases

POS1183 DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGES IN A PREGNANT PATIENT WITH SLE AND SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS OVERLAP – PREECLAMPSIA, ACTIVE LUPUS NEPHRITIS OR RENAL CRISIS?

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Pregnancy and reproduction, Systemic sclerosis

K. Gheorghe1, K. Hellgren2, K. Gunnarsson3, Karolinska University Hospital, Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 2 Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine Solna, Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: Pregnancy is an important issue for young women with inflammatory systemic disease and pose a clinical challenge.

Objectives: The aim of this case report is to underline the challenges to correctly diagnose pregnancy complications versus disease flare in pregnant women with overlap syndrome.

Methods: Clinical information collected from the patient's journal.

Results: A 26 years old woman was referred to Karolinska University Hospital because of Raynaud's phenomenon, sclerodactyly, skin rash, palpe ulcerations and recurrent finger ulcerations with necrosis, infections and self-amputation of distal phalanges. Interstitial lung disease was confirmed by high resolution CT and a restrictive pattern on lung function tests. Immunological analy-ses detected autoantibodies against Scl-70, ribosomal-P, SS-A, SS-B, Ku, as well as other autoantibodies with immunoprecipitation technique with varying titers over the years. Complement activation, anemia and lymphopenia were also present. The patient experienced muscle weakness and peripheral muscle MRI and muscle biopsy confirmed myositis. During follow-up she developed pericardial effusion and myocarditis. The patient was diagnosed with overlap syndrome with clinical and serological features of systemic sclerosis, SLE and myositis. The immuno-suppressive treatment over the disease course comprised hydroxychloroquine, methotrexate, azathioprine, nifedipine and low dose prednisolone. Later, treatment was switched to mycophenolate mofetil because of flares on the previous regimen. For the digital ulcers, she was treated with nifedipine, sildenafil and iloprost infusions. Despite medical advice on pregnancy risks during active disease, the patient stopped medication with mycophenolate at the age of 35 years and became pregnant. Enalapril, spironolactone and sildenafil were discontinued and she was referred to the specialist maternity care. The pregnancy evolved without complications until week 18 when the blood pressure (BP) began to rise.
A CASE OF DELAYED DIAGNOSIS OF MUCKLE WELLS SYNDROME- AN EXTREMELY RARE BUT IMPORTANT DIFFERENTIAL OF INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS IN A RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases, Inflammatory arthritis

A. Anjum 1, R. Davies 1, R. Asif 2, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, Department of Rheumatology, Cardiff, United Kingdom; 2Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Department of Rheumatology, Newbridge, United Kingdom

Background: Muckle wells syndrome (MWS) is one of the rare clinical pheno-types of Cytopyrin associated periodic syndromes (CAPS), driven by Interleu-kin-1 mediated systemic inflammation. [1] A typical presentation includes episodic fever, urticarial rash and arthralgia but can also result in episodic inflammatory arthritis and sensorineural hearing impairment. Secondary amyloidosis is the most feared complication especially in patients with untreated active disease.[2]

Objectives: We present a case of a 32 years old male, with history of episodic pain and swelling of the right knee for 2 years before presentation to rheumatology clinic.

Methods: Over the years, prior to rheumatology review he was seen by multiple specialties for varied unexplained symptoms including ENT for progressive sensorineural hearing impairment, dermatology for intermittent childhood onset eczema-tous rash and by ophthalmology for episodic idiopathic iritis and uveitis. He was also seen by haematology for an episode of cervical lymphadenopathy with no defi- nite cause identified. There was no history of inflammatory back pain, psoriasis or Inflammatory bowel disease. Of note, his father had severe sensorineural hearing loss and his brother had a diagnosis of undifferentiated inflammatory arthritis at a young age. On initial rheumatology assessment he had a moderate knee right knee effusion and an erythematous non-specific rash over his upper back. A review of previous investigations showed raised inflammatory markers (CRP 93). A prior MRI right knee showed areas of synovial hypertrophy with a moderate knee effusion.

Results: Subsequent genetic tests confirmed a low activity of NLRP3, as well as ENA CCP Ab, ANA, ENA, ANCA, HLA B27 and HLA B-8. The initial rheumatology impression was of an isolated seronegative inflammatory arthritis of the right knee but given other unexplained symptoms and family history we investigated for autoinflammatory disorders. Subsequent genetic screen was positive for NLRP3 gene confirming Muckle Wells syndrome as the unifyng diagnosis. This case was also discussed with the National Autoinflammatory Disease Centre at the UCL London and he has recently been commenced on Anakinra.

Conclusion: Targeted IL-1 inhibitors can prevent secondary amyloidosis. Effect on hearing impairment is uncertain but can be reversed in some cases. The heterogeneity of presentation poses a significant diagnostic challenge, how-ev-er given the clear efficacy of available treatment options, an early diagnosis is extremely important to improve symptoms and prevent serious organ damage from secondary amyloidosis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1009

POS1185
HIGH PHENOTYPIC VARIABILITY IN THREE SIBLINGS WITH ADA2 DEFICIENCY

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Vasculitis, Genetics/epigenetics

E. Scuolo 1, K. Paciaroni 2, E. Sangiorgi 3, I. Quinti 1, F. Pulvirenti 1, 1Sapienza Università di Roma, Molecular Medicine, Roma, Italy; 2Presidio Ospedaliero Sant’Antonio, UOSS Ematologia, Roma, Italy; 3Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli, Scienze della vita e sanità pubblica, Roma, Italy; 4Policlinico Umberto I, Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease, Rome, Italy

Background: Deficiency of adenosine deaminase 2 (ADA2) is a monogenic disease caused by biallelic mutations in the ADA2 gene. The phenotypic spectrum is broad, most commonly including fever, early-onset vasculitis, stroke, and hematologic dysfunction. Initially considered a childhood disease, the first presentation is now being reported well into adulthood. Vasculitis manifestations closely resemble polyarteritis nodosa, vasculitis involving the skin, muscle, or nervous system in adults, and lead to multiorgan involvement and ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke. Immunological manifestations include hypogammaglobulinemia and recurrent infections. Currently, TNF inhibitors are the treatment of choice to reduce the risk of vascular events and infection but seem not effective for immunodeficiency and haematologi-cal manifestations, which require hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.

Objectives: To describe the clinical features, genotype, and treatment approaches of subjects bearing the same ADA2 homozgyous pathogenic var-iants, but presenting a different clinical expression.

Methods: To describe the clinical features, genotype, and treatment approaches of subjects bearing the same ADA2 homozgyous pathogenic variant, but pre-senting a different clinical expression.

Results: The proband was a 57 years-old female with severe neutropenia and recur-rent infection, born out of consanguineous marriage. Her past medical history was characterized by recurrent episodes of fever during childhood. At the age of 18, she developed erythema nodosum, the purpura of her limbs, and arthritihs of the hands and feet treated with steroids. In her forties, the fever became more recurring and she suf-fered from recurrent vaginitis by Candida albicans, worsening pyorrea and oral ulcers, with recurrent infections. At 50 years, she was diagnosed with diabetes mellitus needing insulin treatment. At 57 years, she was referred to the hematologic unit for severe neutro-penia and she started treatment with granulocyte colony-stimulating factor. When he was referred to our hospital, she was afebrile with stable vital signs. Laboratory tests showed severe neutropenia, with normal acute-phase reactants. The bone marrow smear documented a late maturation arrest, with an increased number of cytotoxic lymphocytes CD3+CD8+. Autoantibody-panel including ANA, anti–double–stranded DNA andENA antibodies were negative, and the rheumatoid factor was positive. The patient’s family history was positive for a 62 years-old brother with a prior left thalamic nucleus haemorrhage, a 57-year-old sister with severe hypogammaglobulinemia and neutropenia, recurrent fever and livedo reticularis, and one sister who died at 47 from a heart attack. Exome analysis identified the proband and her siblings as homozy-gous for the (c.7467-T>C p.Leu249Pro) (NM_001282252) variant of the ADA2 gene (OMIM:607757). Anti-TNF treatment was prescribed for all patients and immunoglobulin treatment was prescribed for the sister with hypogammaglobulinemia. Despite being informed of the risk, all the patients declined the treatment.

Conclusion: This case familiar case demonstrated the wide range of phenotypic vari-ability in ADA2. The search for ADA2 mutations and the assessment of ADA2 activity should be considered with the familiar history positive for the association of hypogammaglobulinemia, inflammatory conditions, and stroke, even if in different relatives. Familiar cases of ADA2 provide a unique insight into the disease's wide range of phenotypic variability. Further studies are needed to determine differences in the underlying pathophysiology of different phenotypes in ADA2.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2337
HPR Patients’ perspectives, functioning and health (descriptive: qualitative or quantitative)

**Keywords:** Cognitive function, Outcome measures, Health services research

A. Özçakar1, O. Caglar2, G. Coşkun1. 1Hacettepe University Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Orthopedics and Traumatology, Ankara, Turkey

**Background:** Patient-reported outcome measures, including joint-specific parameters of activities of daily living, such as joint awareness, are increasingly recognized as an important part of post-surgical outcome assessment [1].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between artificial joint awareness and emotional status in patients who have undergone total hip arthroplasty (THA) surgery.

**Methods:** In this study, volunteer patients aged between 40-65 years who had undergone THA surgery and at least 1, a maximum 3 years after surgery were included. Artificial joint awareness was evaluated with the Forgotten Joint Score-12 (FJS-12) scale. It is a scale that questions awareness of artificial joint during various daily living activities from the patient's perspective in order to determine the ability of patients to forget artificial hip joints after THA surgery [2]. High scores indicate how much (%) the patient can forget the operated side of the patient and adapt to their life. In other words, a high score indicates a high degree of 'forgetting' the artificial joint – i.e. a low degree of awareness. A 5-point Likert system is used in the scoring. The emotional status of patients was determined by Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). It includes anxiety (HADS-A) and depression (HADS-D) subscales. It consists of a total of 14 items, 7 of which are about anxiety and 7 of which are investigating symptoms of depression [3]. Pearson correlation analysis was used according to distribution of the data to determine relationship between the variables. The significance level was accepted as p<0.05.

**Results:** Sixty patients with THA, aged 53.46±7.9 years, were included in the study. Mean FJS-12, HADS-A, and HADS-D scores were 32.68±6.54, 7.27±3.2, and 5.27±2.5, respectively. A moderately and statistically significant correlation was found between FJS-12 and HADS-A and HADS-D (r=0.466, p<0.004; r=0.483, p=0.003 respectively).

**Conclusion:** The results of the current study showed that the adaptation of the artificial limb to daily life is poor and was correlated with emotional status. These results may show that worsening of patients' emotional status may contribute to development of artificial joint awareness. Therefore, also take into consideration the emotional state of patients with THA while applying therapeutic approaches aiming to decrease awareness of artificial joint and increase adaptation of artificial limb to daily life may increase the effectiveness of rehabilitation.

**REFERENCES:**


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.700

**Participants’ view on the feasibility of INSIELMA - A new interdisciplinary nurse coordinated self-management intervention to people with inflammatory arthritis and substantial disease impact - A qualitative evaluation**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritis, Qualitative research methods

N. Blum1, B. A. Esbensen1, M. Østergaard2, A. Bremender3, O. Hendricks3, L. Lindgren1, L. Andersen1, K. V. Jensen1, J. Primdahl3. 1Copenhagen University Hospital, The Department of Rheumatology and Spine Diseases

- Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research, Glostrup, Denmark; 2University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Sønderborg, Denmark; 3University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Sønderborg, Denmark

**Background:** Despite continuous improvements in antirheumatic pharmacological treatment, many people with inflammatory arthritis (IA) still report substantial disease impact. Based on the framework for complex interventions [1], we developed a self-management intervention (INSIELMA)[2]. Based on shared decision-making, which included an initial assessment and a goal setting process a rheumatology nurse coordinated interdisciplinary support and available offers in primary care to achieve the patients’ individual goals. A feasibility test of the six-month intervention encompassed 19 patients with IA and substantial impact of the disease.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to explore the participants’ experience of feasibility, acceptability, and potential benefit from participation in the INSIELMA intervention.

**Methods:** Individual semi-structured interviews were conducted with participants in INSIELMA. Thematic analysis was applied [3].

**Results:** Fifteen participants were interviewed (9 women, 6 men, aged 44-75, 17-75 mln.) The participants associated the benefits they experienced from the intervention to the impact IA had on their everyday lives.

The analysis derived four overall themes.

1. A new opportunity. Participation in INSIELMA was experienced as an opportunity to improve, reduce challenges, or change issues they felt they had fought alone until now. Some expressed worries that their situation was too complex to be able to contribute to the study and some participated to contribute to scientific IA evidence.

2. The importance of person-centred goals. The individual goals encompassed both physical, social, and emotional life skills. When expectations and goals were aligned, it facilitated a positive outcome. The empathic support and coaching from the nurses, who listened, motivated, and understood their problems were considered especially valuable. Time between consultations to work with goals at home was pointed out as important to experience progress.

3. A little nudging means everything. Several participants expressed that the intervention had contributed with new or refreshed knowledge and motivation to change habits. Some would like continued follow-up with the nurse after the end of the study to stay committed. Also some suggested that this type of intervention should be a general offer for all patients with IA. Having access to a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist with rheumatology experience for exercise support adapted to the participants' needs and abilities was especially important for them.

4. I got more than I wished for. The intervention was experienced as feasible and meaningful, and the overall impression was positive. Several cried tears of joy and gratitude as they experienced decreased symptom load, improvement in physical strength, mobility, and sleep as well as increased energy and coping. Two had experienced no change, of which one had resumed physical activity after several years. The participants expressed hope for the future as they had new tools and habits to prevent problems and manage symptoms, which resulted in motivation to work towards new goals.

**Conclusion:** Patients found the INSIELMA intervention feasible. They experienced decreased disease impact and increased activity level, facilitated by empathy and support from the intervention.

**REFERENCES:**


[3] DOI: 10.1191/147808706sp063oa

Acknowledgements: The authors thank the participants for generously sharing their experiences.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1975
Objectives: To analyse experiences, facilitators and barriers of telemonitoring the pulmonary function in SSC-ILD patients.

Methods: This study was embedded in a longitudinal study on the validity of detecting progressive ILD with weekly home spirometry in adult SSC patients, fulfilling the ACR-EULAR criteria with a disease-duration ≤ 5 years and a maximum of immunosuppressive treatment of 8 weeks. Using a Bluetooth-enabled handheld spirometer, measurements are collected via a mobile application for smart devices with results being visible, as graphs and bar charts, for both physician and patient. The weekly measurements are evaluated by a physician and an extra hospital check-up will be scheduled if results decrease. This system has proven to be feasible in SSC patients in our pilot study [3].

In patients, who used home spirometry for at least 3 months, semi-structured interviews were conducted and audio-records were transcribed. Patients were selected using purposive sampling based on age, treatment for ILD and course of pulmonary function in telemonitoring (>5% decline/stable) till data-saturation was achieved (i.e. no new codes in the last 2 interviews). Interviews were coded by 2 researchers independently using inductive thematic analysis.

Results: In total 13 patients (8 female/5male) were interviewed from whom 3 patients had > 5% decrease in pulmonary function during the observation period. The age ranged from 36-75 with a median of 58 year. Five main themes were extracted: telemonitoring routine, impact of telemonitoring, trust in telemonitoring, contextual factors and implementation in regular healthcare (Figure 1). Most patients perceived it as reassuring to see stable results weekly, though the moment itself might be tensive. Moreover, the possibility to detect progressive disease earlier was appreciated. One patient, however, preferred disease activity measurement (during breathing cycle in hospital vs. single breath at home).

Some patients placed fluctuations of measurement within limits of normal in perspective, while others experienced negative feelings in case of a decreased value. Experienced advantages of telemonitoring were being in the lead, insight in disease course (for some resulting in less confronting hospital visit), increased trust in health, decreased fear of progression, and reduced dependence on hospital visits. Most patients trusted the results of telemonitoring, although some trusted the hospital measurements more, because of external guidance from an analyst (leading to more motivation and unbiased results), and the manner of measurement (during breathing cycle in hospital vs. single breath at home).

Understanding the rationale behind telemonitoring is an important facilitator, whereas possible barriers to perform weekly home spirometry are excessive saliva production (as it hinders proper function of the spirometer), confrontation with the disease, and older age. Most patients advocated to implement telemonitoring in healthcare and appreciated an accompanied reduction in hospital visits, although others viewed the regular physical contacts and control of other disease features as important. It was recommended to provide information about limits of normal values or regular feedback.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Arthia Velaathapillai: None declared, Gwyn Schepers: None declared, Madelon Vonk Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GSK, Janssen, MSD, Novartis and Roche, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Research grants from Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen,Ferrer and Galapagos, Cornelia van den Ende: None declared.

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LUNG AND MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH JANUS KINASE INHIBITORS: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Keywords: bDMARD, Malignancy, Rheumatoid arthritis

O. Hamed1, M. Yasmine1, S. Miadi1, F. Aila1, H. Boussaa1, L. Souabni1, K. Cueninche1, S. Kassab2, S. Chekili3, K. Ben Abdelghani3, A. Laatar3,1,1Mongi Slim Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

Background: Janus Kinase inhibitors (JAKi) have been shown to be effective in the therapeutic strategy of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, an increased risk of developing malignancy has been reported in previous literature [1].

Objectives: This review aimed to investigate the risk of lung carcinoma and subsequent myeloproliferative neoplasm (MPN) in RA patients treated with JAKi.

Methods: We conducted a literature review in order to identify cases of lung carcinoma and MPN associated to JAKi in RA patients. A comprehensive search was conducted using PubMed and Scopus. The databases were searched from 2015 until date December 2022. No restrictions were applied in terms of study design, setting, country, or time frame. For PubMed, the search was carried out using a strategy employing the combination of synonyms of “pulmonary neoplasm” terms related to “JAK inhibitors”, and terms related to “rheumatoid arthritis.” For Scopus, the previous terms were searched in the article title, abstract, or key-words. We also did manual research on reference lists of retrieved relevant articles. Articles were eliminated if they had duplicate titles, did not contain the key-words, or included the words “review,” “expert’s opinion,” or “qualitative.” In this review, we included prospective or retrospective case reports and case series conducted on JAKi and lung carcinoma or MPN.

Results: The initial search yielded 153 papers. Following duplicate elimination, we screened for 119 papers. Only eight papers were finally selected for analysis and met inclusion criteria. The mean number of RA patients included was 2422 [486-6194]. Standardized incidence ratio of lung carcinoma and MPN ranged from 0.17 to 0.19 and 0.01 to 0.1, respectively. Most papers raised the possibility that RA patients treated with JAKi may have a markedly higher rate of development of lung carcinoma (95% CI [1.51 - 1.79]) or MPN (95% CI [2.05 - 2.96]) compared to patients who did not receive the treatment. The Table 1 exposes the main characteristics of the nine studies retained in this review.

Table 1. Studies assessing malignancy associated to JAKi therapy in RA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Article type</th>
<th>Neoplasm</th>
<th>Number of cases</th>
<th>SIR*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curtis JR et al. 2015 Retrospective case series</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lung carcinoma</td>
<td>24 out of 5761/0.19 (1.39-3.29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hisashi Y et al. 2016 Prospective case series</td>
<td>Lung cancer</td>
<td>2 out of 486/0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masayoshi H. 2019 Prospective case series</td>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>10 out of 567/0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor CT et al. 2021 Retrospective case series</td>
<td>Lung cancer</td>
<td>26 out of 3770/0.17 (0.11-0.25)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eun B L et al. 2014 Prospective study</td>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>6 out of 3770/0.01 (0.01-0.09)</td>
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<td>Curtis JR et al. 2015 Retrospective case series</td>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>10 out of 5761/0.08 (0.04-0.14)</td>
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<td>Mariette X et al 2018 Prospective study</td>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>19 out of 6194/0.1 (0.06-0.15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josef S et al. 2019 Retrospective case series</td>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>6 out of 3492/0.09 (0.03-0.19)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SIR: Standardized incidence ratio, *CI confidence interval

Conclusion: Our study showed that JAKi was associated with an increased risk of development of lung malignancy and lymphoma. Although the risk of malignancy is increased compared with the general population, it is still similar to that seen in the overall RA patients.
Background: It is well known that genetic factors and environmental triggers contribute to the inflammatory process and onset of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Yet, other contributors may still be unknown, and few studies have to date systematically explored patients’ views on what caused SLE onset. In a longer perspective, we also need to pay more attention to health literacy, and to patients’ understanding of their disease since these aspects are important for treatment compliance, patients’ perceptions of health and patient education.

Objectives: To explore patients’ thoughts of the cause of SLE and to analyse their reports in relation to perceived health and quality of life.

Methods: Adult patients with SLE (≥ 4 ACR criteria) recruited to a cohort study in tertiary care. The participants answered the written question “Do you have any thoughts of why you got SLE?” and additional questions of perceived SLE activity during the last three months (score 0-10, 0= no activity), SLE health last week (score 0-100, 0=good SLE health) and current general health (score 0-100, 100=full health). The participants’ free written answers were categorized according to the content. We explored if patients’ age, educational level, disease duration as well as perceived health differed between the categories.

Results: 375 patients were included. The main question regarding their thoughts of why they got SLE was answered by 290 patients (77%), mean age 48 years, range 18-87, mean disease duration 15 ±14 years. The replies on the health scales ranged from minimum till maximum. SLE activity was low to moderate (mean 4.2 ±3), perceived SLE health mean 34.7 ±25.9 and current general health mean 63.1 ±21.0. The highest reported level of education was university education for 47% and high school for 36%. Among the patients who answered the main question (n=290), 33% (n=95) answered that they had no idea/thoughts of why they got SLE. Men (p = 0.041) and persons with lower educational level (p = 0.038) were more common in this group, also reporting slightly better general health (p=0.050) than the group that had explicit thoughts of why they got SLE. Age, disease duration or perceived SLE parameters did not differ between the two groups. The answers of patients’ thoughts of why they got SLE were sorted into categories: genetics (n=82), stress/trauma (n=65), infections/immunizations (n=56), hormones/treatment (n=28), lifestyle behavior (n=28), treatment/disease other than SLE (=26) and environmental factors (n=5). A majority (n=135, 69%) wrote one potential factor of why they got SLE, two factors were reported by 49 patients (25%), one patient wrote five potential reasons. It was exclusively answers from women that could be categorized as “hormones/treatment” or “treatment/diseases other than SLE” and only one man wrote a statement of stress/trauma as potential trigger of SLE. Patients in the category “hormones/treatment” had shorter disease duration (p=0.029), higher perceived SLE activity (p=0.011) and worse general health (p=0.002) compared to those that had no statement that could be sorted into the category. Only five patients reported environmental triggers and these perceived worse SLE health (p=0.022) and worse general health (p=0.038). Patients who reported stress/trauma as potential triggers of SLE were not in a larger extent of a lower education level (p=0.027) than those who did not report stress/trauma as a trigger.

Conclusion: Beside genetic factors, a prominent number of patients in this study reported stress/trauma or hormones as important triggers for developing SLE. In these groups perceived health and educational levels had different patterns. Additionally, infections/immunization were perceived as triggers for SLE but without the same difference in perceived health or educational level. Further studies should extend these results and investigate patients’ perceptions of triggers for SLE flares, and high disease activity, information which can enhance our understanding of factors that may contribute to important aspects of SLE and patients’ perceptions of health.

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to the participating patients contributing with their time and colleagues assisting in the data collection.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1191-HPR ULTRASONOGRAPHIC AND FUNCTIONAL CORRELATION OF THE FEET IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Ultrasound, Systemic lupus erythematosus

L. Cano García1, J. García-Campos2, F. Ortiz-Márquez1, A. Reinoso Cobo1, L. Ramos Petersen1, J. Marco-Lledó3,1, Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga; Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga (IBIMA), Rheumatology, Málaga, Spain;2;3Universidad Miguel Hernández; Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica de Alicante, Hnos. Mª, Alicante, Spain;3Universidad de Málaga, Departamento de Podología, Málaga, Spain

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic immune-mediated disease with involvement of various organs[1,2]. El 95% of patients with SLE have musculoskeletal involvement[1], most often in the form of arthralgias or non-erosive arthritis affecting mostly the hands and knees. A subgroup of patients with SLE, which is seen with increasing frequency, later develops a deforming arthropathy as a result of laxity of ligaments and peritendinous apparatus resulting in joint subluxations and tendon ruptures which is part of the accumulated damage of the disease. The foot is a heavily affected structure that may initially go unnoticed, but can lead to significant disability.

Objectives: To determine the relationship between inflammatory activity measured by ultrasound in metatarsophalangeal (MTP) and questionnaires of foot functionality, hand deformities and SLE activity.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was performed. Thirty-six subjects with a diagnosis of SLE in the Rheumatology Unit were consecutively recruited between March and June 2022. Inclusion criteria were: patients with SLE diagnosis according to EULAR/ACR 2019 criteria, with at least one year of evolution and age equal or older than 18 years. A Rheumatology nurse collected information on socio-demographic data, questionnaires and ultrasound scans. The SLE activity questionnaires completed were: SLEDAI and SLICC, quality of life: EQ-SD, foot function: FFI (Foot Function Index), FAAM (Foot and Ankle Ability Measures Index). As for hand malformations collected were: Jaccoud arthropathy, non-reducible arthritids, z-finger, grommet finger, non-reducible arthritids, burst finger and goosenock finger. A descriptive, bivariate and R-Pearson correlation analysis was performed.

Results: Thirty-six SLE patients (97.2% female) with a mean (SD) age of 49.31 (11.4) years with a range 23-66 years participated. A total of 30 patients (83.3%) showed at least one MTP synovitis, the most frequent being 2nd MTP left (58.8%) and right (44.4%), followed by 1st MTF right and left (41.7%). The number of patients with and without ultrasound synovitis, as well as the degree of synovitis and Doppler signal in each joint are shown in Table 1. A significant direct correlation was observed between inflammatory activity with Doppler in the 1st MTF of the right foot with the SLICC (r=0.439; p=0.007) and SLEDAI (r=0.608; p<0.001) questionnaire, as well as an inverse relationship between synovitis in the 1st toe of the right foot with the FPI questionnaire of the right foot (r=-0.340; p=0.040) (Table 2). Likewise, a significant relationship was observed between deformity in the hands with the synovitis of 5 right (p=0.042) and left (p=0.005) MTFs.

Conclusion: Ultrasound synovitis in MTFs is common in SLE patients and is associated with disease activity, some deformities and functionality.

Table 1. Description of inflammatory activity by ultrasound in metatarsophalangeal joints of 36 patients with SLE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Grade 1 Synovitis</th>
<th>Grade 2 Synovitis</th>
<th>Grade 3 Synovitis</th>
<th>Doppler 1</th>
<th>Doppler 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right Foot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1º MTF</td>
<td>3 (8.3%)</td>
<td>13 (36.1%)</td>
<td>2 (5.6%)</td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2º MTF</td>
<td>8 (22.2%)</td>
<td>6 (16.7%)</td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
<td>2 (5.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3º MTF</td>
<td>11 (30.6%)</td>
<td>3 (8.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4º MTF</td>
<td>3 (8.3%)</td>
<td>4 (11.1%)</td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5º MTF</td>
<td>7 (19.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Foot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1º MTF</td>
<td>6 (16.7%)</td>
<td>9 (25%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2º MTF</td>
<td>10 (27.8%)</td>
<td>9 (25%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3º MTF</td>
<td>14 (38.9%)</td>
<td>2 (5.6%)</td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4º MTF</td>
<td>3 (8.3%)</td>
<td>6 (16.7%)</td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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</table>
RESULTS:

We recruited 200 patients. The mean age was 55.1 ± 12.0 years, and the majority were women (91%). More than half of the population (57.5%) was illiterate, and only 5.5% of the patients had a university education. ¾ of the population was urban (74.5%), and 93% were not working. 64.5% correctly identified the nature of RA as an autoimmune disease, and 26% correctly recognized that RA is a chronic, disabling condition that impairs quality of life.

Objectives: The objective of the study was to evaluate the knowledge and attitude of Moroccan patients with rheumatoid arthritis, and to determine the factors associated with them. Thus, it will be possible to set up a targeted education program for a better adherence to treatments.

Methods: This is a descriptive and analytical monocentric study of patients followed up for RA at Al Ayachi University Hospital, Sale, Morocco; and of patients who are members of the Moroccan Association for the fight against Rheumatoid Arthritis (AMFRA), from December 2021 to July 2022. The consent of the study population was free and informed. The interview questionnaire was developed by the team of rheumatologists and included sociodemographic data, the patients' knowledge about their disease, the treatments and their side effects, the follow-up and the patients' attitude toward self-medication. A score was indicated between 0 and 10 and represents the rate of correct answers per patient.

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**CONCLUSION:** IF was associated with significant improvement in RA and SPA activity. It is a promising non-pharmacological therapeutic option for patients with RA and SPA. Larger sample studies with control groups are needed to confirm these findings.

**REFERENCES:**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4820

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**Table 1. Themes and narratives of patients with ARDs on reproductive health issues**

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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Medications/</td>
<td>Breathing</td>
<td>But I don’t know, uh, which medications to take, no?... the truth, and I don’t remember! (27 yrs., AR, pregnant).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding</td>
<td></td>
<td>“I know that there is much more myth about (breastfeeding), ... I feel that there is a lot of misinformation about it and that there are minimal medications that interfere with breastfeeding” (34 yrs., RA, pregnant).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraception Methods</td>
<td></td>
<td>“I’m not sure, and I don’t know which ones do interfere. I’ve never wondered if arthritis interferes with any method” (23 yrs., RA, pregnant).</td>
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<td>Factors influencing</td>
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<td>“Because first, you have to check that everything is okay in your health, they have to make sure that your disease is asleep, that nothing is altered, that everything is under control” (22 yrs., SLE/RA, reproductive age).</td>
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<td>“Well, there is a certain percentage, according to what the geneticist explained when I went to her office. Yes, I knew something about it because my mother has rheumatoid arthritis, I don’t think it is a fact that I will pass it on to my baby”. (34 yrs., RA, pregnant).</td>
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**Keywords:** Reproductive health and planning (FP), and managing a high-risk pregnancy should be prioritized in the rheumatology consultation to achieve shared and respectful decision-making [1]. Lack of knowledge of reproductive health and poor communication during the consultation may lead to increased pregnancy complications in patients with ARDs.

**Objectives:** To describe and analyze patients’ experiences with ARDs on reproductive health issues at the clinic of pregnancy and reproductive health in rheumatology (CEER) in Mexico.

**Methods:** A descriptive qualitative study was conducted using semi-structured interviews following an interview guide. Women of childbearing age, suffering from ARD, with different socioeconomic, cultural, disability, and sexual diversity conditions were invited to participate. The face-to-face or virtual interviews were recorded and transcribed. A multidisciplinary team of researchers performed an independent and blinded thematic analysis.

**Results:** Twenty-one patients participated. The age media was 28 years (yrs.), 38% were married, 28.5% were free union and 28.5% were single; 33.3% were pregnant, 38% were in the preconception stage with the desire of pregnancy and 28.5% women who have already had children. The main rheumatologic diagnoses were rheumatoid arthritis (47.6%), systemic lupus erythematosus (47.6%), and mixed connective tissue disease (4.7%). Three main themes were identified: medications related to pregnancy and lactation, contraceptive methods and pregnancy planning (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** The experiences of patients with rheumatic diseases were diverse, and the amount of biomedical knowledge of RH issues was limited in FP decision-making, and prenatal or postnatal care. The patients recognized the relevance of a multidisciplinary team led by their rheumatologist to generate confidence in the quality of information and allow better decision-making according to patients’ beliefs, preferences, and reproductive rights.

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**Keywords:** Qualitative research methods, Systematic review, Patient reported outcomes

**Objectives:** To understand what outcomes are important to patients living with foot and ankle disorders in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases? Findings from a qualitative synthesis and scoping review of the literature.

L. Chapman1, C. Flurey2, A. Redmond1,3, P. Richards4, C. Hofstetter5, B. Tapster6, J. Emmel7, P. Hellwell1, H. Menz1, H. Marian1, B. Shea8, H. J. Siddle1. 1University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2University of the West of England, Department of Health and Social Sciences, Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences, Bristol, United Kingdom; 3Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4OMERACT, Patient Research Partner, Bristol, United Kingdom; 5OMERACT, Patient Research Partner, Toronto, Canada; 6Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Library and Information Service, Leeds, United Kingdom; 7Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust, Library Service, Bradford, United Kingdom; 8School of Allied Health, Human Services and Sport, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia; 9Harvard Medical School, Department of Epidemiology, Boston, United States of America; 10Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa, Canada

**Background:** Foot and ankle involvement is common and debilitating in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), but outcomes in research and clinical practice are often inconsistently measured and may not be meaningful to patients. Outcome inconsistency contributes to lack of high-quality evidence to determine the effectiveness of foot and ankle treatments [1].

**Objectives:** To understand what outcomes are important to patients living with foot and ankle disorders in RMDs through an exploration of symptoms and impacts, and to establish how these outcomes can be measured in existing research studies.

**Methods:** A qualitative systematic review of interview and focus group studies involving patients with foot and ankle disorders in RMDs (inflammatory arthritis, osteoarthritis, crystal arthropathies, connective tissue diseases and musculoskeletal conditions in the absence of systemic disease) was undertaken. A scoping review of clinical trials and observational studies comparing conservative, pharmacological or surgical interventions for these disorders was also performed. Seven databases (Ovid Embase; Ovid MEDLINE; CINAHL; Psycinfo; Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews; CENTRAL; PEDro) were searched from inception to March 2022. All data from the results sections of qualitative studies were extracted, coded and synthesised to develop themes, whilst outcomes measured in quantitative studies were extracted and tabulated. Confidence in the qualitative findings was assessed using the GRADE-CERQual (Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative research) approach, incorporating Critical Appraisal Skills Programme quality appraisal [2]. Patient and public involvement contributors were involved throughout both reviews, in the design, analyses and discussions about the findings.

**Results:** Thirty-four studies were included in the qualitative review, whilst 150 studies (n=83 randomised trials) were included in the scoping review. The majority of studies included patients with foot and ankle disorders in rheumatoid arthropathies (n=18 qualitative studies, n=43 quantitative studies) or osteoarthritis (n=5...
 qualitative, n=96 quantitative). Six themes were generated from the qualitative synthesis: pain, change in appearance, activity limitations, social isolation, work disruption and emotional distress. Themes were closely related; foot/ankle pain and deformity and subsequent limitations in footwear and clothing affected emotions and led to restrictions in physical, social and work activities, which caused further distress. Based on grading of the evidence, we had moderate confidence that most of the review findings represented the experiences of patients with foot and ankle disorders in RMDs. Foot/ankle pain (n=117 studies) and foot/ankle function (n=102 studies) were the most commonly measured outcomes identified in the scoping review; social function, occupational function and emotional status were rarely reported.

Conclusion: This is the first study to explore patients' experiences of foot and ankle disorders in RMDs alongside currently measured by clinicians and researchers. Our findings highlight that these disorders impact on multiple areas of patients' lives, both physically and psychologically. Pain was the predominant symptom experienced by patients and the most commonly measured outcome in existing research, but other outcomes that are important to patients should not be overlooked by clinicians and researchers. Our findings can guide patient-centred care and measurement of outcomes within clinical practice and future research.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1198-HPR HEALTH-RELATED MOBILE APPLICATIONS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: WHAT ARE THE PATIENTS’ EXPECTATIONS?

Keywords: Self-management, Rheumatoid arthritis, Telemedicine

E. Hannachi1, M. Yasmine1, S. Miladi3, A. Fazaaz1, H. Boussaa1, K. Ouenniche1, L. Souabni2, S. Kassab2, S. Chekili2, K. Ben Abdelghani2, A. Laatar1. 1Mongi Slim Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: The use of mobile phone applications for the management of rheumatic diseases (RD) has grown significantly these past few years [1]. Nevertheless, the success of these applications requires identifying the educational needs and interests of patients with RD.

Objectives: The purpose of our study was to investigate the expectations of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients regarding mobile applications in managing their disease.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional survey in our rheumatology department including RA patients, fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. They were invited to respond to a questionnaire related to the utility of a mobile application in managing their disease. We evaluated their point of view on the desired functions of a smartphone app, the required content as well as the preferred design.

Results: The study included 40 RA patients: 36 females (90%) and 4 males (10%). The mean age was 52.25±14.4 years [21-78]. The mean disease duration was 11.97±6.69 years [1-29]. Two items were considered important and concerned the ability to contact the doctor when necessary and discuss their symptoms (72%), as well as the ability to check laboratory results (72%). Other features listed as useful were reminder date of clinic appointments (65%), and reminder of hours’ medication intake (60%). Nearly half of the patients expected the app to include educational videos (52%), exercise strategies to feel better (52%), ways to improve lifestyle habits (sports, sleep, professional activity, and dietary habits) (52%) and information about alternative treatments (55%). When asked about “what kind of health-related information should be tracked or monitored using a smartphone application?”, the most requested data to monitor concerned disease symptoms tracking (45%) using a validated measures of disease activity (43%), pain and fatigue (52%) using pain and general well-being questionnaires (41%) as well as arthritis-related functional scores (42%). Regarding the design, the application should be simple (68%), quick (63%), with clear font (44%). Moreover, it shouldn't

Conclusion: An increased prevalence of axial articular manifestations has recently been reported in primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS)[1] and as radiologic findings associated with inflammatory back pain (IBP) are not well documented in pSS patients.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of IBP and its association with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) detected auto-inflammatory and structural changes of sacroiliitis in pSS patients with IBP.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, consecutive pSS patients fulfilling ACR/EULAR classification criteria and age- and sex-matched healthy controls (HC) were screened for IBP according to the Calin, Rudwaleit and ASAS IBP criteria.[2] Sacroiliac MRI imaging of patients with IBP was performed and SpA features in the ASAS Classification Criteria for Axial Spondyloarthritis (SpA) were questioned. Two radiologists assessed sacroiliac joint MRIIs (SLUMRI) for the cut-off values for a possible diagnosis of axSpA using ASAS defined lesion definitions. Cut-off values were defined previously by Maksymowych et al.[3] The First questionnaire was used to evaluate the relationship between fibromyalgia and back pain.[4]

Results: A total of 202 pSS patients meeting the ACR/EULAR classification criteria and 124 healthy controls were included. The mean age (mean (SD)=52.8 (11.9)) and sex distribution in pSS (female/male: 198/4) was similar to HC (51.5 (9.2), (p=0.3) and female/male: 119/227 S, (p=1), respectively) IBP was more prevalent in pSS (for pSS n(%): 51 (25.2), for HC n(%): 25 (20.2), p=0.001). SIJ/MRI was available in 49 patients with IBP. The mean (SD) age of onset of IBP was 33.6 (5.8). The mean (SD) duration of the IBP of the patients with pSS was 18.9 (10) years. pSS patients with IBP had significantly higher scores of the First questionnaire (patients with IBP mean (SD): 3.9 (1.7), patients without IBP: 2.8 (1.9), p<0.001). A total of 12 (24.5%) patients could meet the an axSpA diagnosis with a PPV of ≥95% as defined by Maksymowych et al.[3] Of these 12 patients, two with edema in the sacroiliac joint, nine with erosions, and four with fat metaplasia could be diagnosed as axSpA based solely on SJMIRI findings.

Conclusion: Low back pain meeting the IBP criteria is highly prevalent in pSS, and a quarter of these patients may have a radiologic diagnosis of axSpA. However, axSpA-associated features are absent in most patients, and very few meet the ASAS classification for axSpA. The presence of increased fibromyalgia may lead to an over-interpretation of radiologic features in the majority of these patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. AxSpA associated clinical and imaging features of pSS patients with an SJJ/MRI diagnosis of axSpA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Prevalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AxSpA classified according ASAS, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (16.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAS defined sacroilitis, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (16.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heel enthesitis, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (33.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(AxSpA: Axial Spondyloarthritis)

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1197-HPR PREVALENCE OF INFLAMMATORY BACK PAIN IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME IS INCREASED AND ASSOCIATED WITH ACUTE AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES OF THE SACROILIAC JOINT

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Pain, Spondyloarthritis

K. Abacar1, Ş. Çolakoğlu Özkaya1, E. Bıyık2, Ö. Buğday3, P. Atatürk4, Z. D. Selcuk1, Marmara University, School of Medicine, Rheumatology, İstanbul, Turkey; Marmara University, Institute of Health Sciences, Department of Medical Biology and Genetics, İstanbul, Turkey; Marmara University, Radiology, İstanbul, Turkey; Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Internal Medicine, İstanbul, Turkey

Background: The use of mobile phone applications for the management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients regarding mobile applications in managing their disease.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional survey in our rheumatology department including RA patients, fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. They were invited to respond to a questionnaire related to the utility of a mobile application in managing their disease. We evaluated their point of view on the desired functions of a smartphone app, the required content as well as the preferred design.

Results: The study included 40 RA patients: 36 females (90%) and 4 males (10%). The mean age was 52.25±14.4 years [21-78]. The mean disease duration was 11.97±6.69 years [1-29]. Two items were considered important and concerned the ability to contact the doctor when necessary and discuss their symptoms (72%), as well as the ability to check laboratory results (72%). Other features listed as useful were reminder date of clinic appointments (65%), and reminder of hours’ medication intake (60%). Nearly half of the patients expected the app to include educational videos (52%), exercise strategies to feel better (52%), ways to improve lifestyle habits (sports, sleep, professional activity, and dietary habits) (52%) and information about alternative treatments (55%). When asked about “what kind of health-related information should be tracked or monitored using a smartphone application?”, the most requested data to monitor concerned disease symptoms tracking (45%) using a validated measures of disease activity (43%), pain and fatigue (52%) using pain and general well-being questionnaires (41%) as well as arthritis-related functional scores (42%). Regarding the design, the application should be simple (68%), quick (63%), with clear font (44%). Moreover, it shouldn't

Conclusion: This is the first study to explore patients' experiences of foot and ankle disorders in RMDs alongside outcomes currently measured by clinicians and researchers. Our findings can guide patient-centred care and measurement of outcomes within clinical practice and future research.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5770
HPR Service developments, innovation and economics in healthcare.

POS1199-HPR
IMPROVING THE UPTAKE OF ELECTRONIC PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOME MEASURES IN A SPECIALISED AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRPATHY CLINIC

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Spondyloarthritis, Outcome measures

J. Jade1, Z. Cox1, E. Fox1, R. Tattersall1, L. Dunkley2, 1Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Sheffield, United Kingdom; 2Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Background: Sheffield Teaching Hospitals (STH), UK, has a specialised axial spondyloarthritis (axSpa) clinic run by a rheumatology consultant and physiotherapist with special interest in this area. BASDAI and BASFI patient reported outcome measures are used to assess disease activity and response to treatment, in line with national guidelines. STH has invested in MyPathway (MP), an electronic patient messaging system used for patient information, appointments and electronic patient reported outcome measures (ePROMs). The data can also be viewed at a system level on a clinician dashboard. Prior to 2020 the uptake of ePROMs was low in the axSpa clinic. The move primarily to telephone consultations in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, created an opportunity for increasing the use of MP for ePROMs collection to enable improved remote monitoring of patients with axSpa.

Objectives: This quality improvement project aimed to increase the use of electronic BASDAI and BASFI (ePROMs) in the axSpa clinic.

Methods: A multi-pronged approach has been taken since March 2020 to increase ePROMs collection and improve their use. Each appointment was used as an opportunity to discuss and recruit patients to MP. Clinicians invited each patient to join MP and sent them a link after their appointment. QR codes were then added to all rheumatology patient letters encouraging patients to register. A pathway was set up that automatically sent a prompt to patients registered on MP to complete their BASDAI and BASFI questionnaires prior to clinic appointments. Clinicians began logging into MP to view scores during appointments to provide patients with real-time feedback. A mixed methods approach was used to assess the uptake of ePROMs over time. We tracked MP registration rates and BASDAI completion rates as the key outcome measures, using a run chart to assess special cause variation. We undertook a patient focus group to explore attitudes towards ePROMs, key barriers and opportunities for further improvement.

Results: The total number of axSpa patients seen in the specialised clinic (named LADAS) who have registered with MP has increased from 56 (35.9%) in January 2019 to 200 (58.9%) in September 2022. There has been an improvement in the BASDAI completion rate, with 80% of patients completing more than one BASDAI in 2022, compared to 24% in 2019, as illustrated on a run chart (Figure 1). Patients can complete BASDAI forms sent to them in a previous month, therefore the completion rate some months exceeds 100%. In a dedicated focus group, patients reported that ePROMs were generally more convenient, and provided a useful record to refer back to. This could be further improved by development of a graph function to view scores over-time and the ability for patients to complete a questionnaire between appointments when they feel their disease is more active. A key theme for improving the use of ePROMs was the need for more discussion about their utility and around individual patient’s scores. There is concern that the BASDAI and BASFI scores are arbitrary and lack nuance, and that the importance of these scores at an individual patient level is not clear. This may be rectified by more discussion with clinicians in appointments, to add meaning to these scores. There was also concern that sleep and other generic domains. Relative contraindication to anti TNF drugs, which would not have been considered significant in the past, was the second reason. Efficacy and safety outcomes were comparable to other biologics. This confirms that shared decision

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POS1200-HPR
IL-17 OR TNF INHIBITORS - REAL WORLD IMPACT OF SHARED DECISION MAKING IN A NURSE LED BIOLOGICS SERVICE

Keywords: bDMARD, Spondyloarthitis, Real-world evidence

J. Begum1, M. Nisar1, 1Luton and Dunstable University Hospital, Rheumatology, Luton, United Kingdom

Background: Since the availability of anti TNF biosimilars and the push from reimbursement panels to use them first line, real world data regarding therapeutic choice in biologic naïve population is sparse.

Objectives: Evaluate the reasons for nurse led service choosing IL17 antagonists in biologic naïve SpA patients, in a shared decision making model, despite the availability of cheaper anti TNF biosimilar.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective analysis of our electronic register for people with PsA and AS from 1994 to 2022 using April 2022 at our university teaching hospital. We had access to full patient records including details on comorbidities, drugs and disease management. All patients were evaluated in biologic naïve population is sparse.

Results: PsA. 90 patients were prescribed Secukinumab since its availability in the UK. Mean age was 51 yrs (24-80) and 56% (62%) were women. All were prescribed since the adoption of Adalimumab biosimilar. Median duration of therapy was 551 days (62-1284). Mean TJC and SJC were 8.14 (1-64) and 3.15 (1-57) at initiation which improved to 6 months to 6.28 (1-46) and 2.77 (1-18) respectively. Contraindications for biologic naïve; 18 had it for better efficacy (six had axial disease, four with enthesitis and eight with concomitant moderate to severe psoriasis) and six for relative anti TNF contraindications including three with treated solid organ neoplasms, one with BMI>35 and two for concurrent chronic infections including HIV. AS. 47 patients were prescribed Secukinumab. Mean age was 54 (27-79) and half were women. Median duration of therapy was 679 days (51-1154). Mean BASDAI was 3.3 (0-9.2) at initiation which improved to 2.1 (0-7.5). 11 (23%) were biologic naïve; five had it for better efficacy and six for relative anti TNF contraindications including three with treated cancers, two with latent TB and one for MS.

Conclusion: To our knowledge this is the first dedicated retrospective review of a large real world spondyloarthritis cohort evaluating reasons for biologic choice. Nearly a quarter of patients were prescribed Secukinumab prior to cheaper adalimumab biosimilar despite it being considered first choice agent in the region. Clinicians including nurse specialists chose it for better efficacy in various SpA domains. Relative contraindication to anti TNF drugs, which would not have been considered significant in the past, was the second reason. Efficacy and safety outcomes were comparable to other biologics. This confirms that shared decision
behaviours and work participation to prevent progression of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. 

\Annals of the rheumatic diseases, 82(1), pp.48-56.


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Disclosure of Interests: Madeleine O’Neill: None declared, Douglas Veale Share -
holder of, Health Beacon, Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Galapagos, 
Gilead, Janssen, MSD, Pfizer, UCB, Paid instructor for: Consultant/Advisor: Abb-
Vie, Actelion, BMS, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, MSD, Pfizer, UCB, Regeneron/ 
Sanofi, Novartis, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingel-
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POS1202-HPR

ADDRESSING AXSPA DIAGNOSTIC DELAY 
BY IMPLEMENTATION OF ASYNCHRONOUS 
TELEMEDICINE AND MEDICAL STUDENT-SUPPORTED 
VISITS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Health services research, Telemedicine

H. Labinsky1,2,3, S. Von Rohr1,3, B. Horstmann1,3, F. Seesse1,3, F. Muehlensiepen1, K. Boy4, M.G. Raimondo2,3, I. Gehring5, J. Rojas- 
Restrepo6, E. Vogt6, A. Ramming6, M. Schmalzing5, G. Schell6, J. Knitza1,2,3. 
1Department of Internal Medicine II, Rheumatology/Clinical Immunology, Würzburg, Germany; 2Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg and Univer-
sitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Erlangen, Germany; 3Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg and Univer-
sitätsklinikum Erlangen, Deutsches Zentrum für Innere Medizin (DZI), 
Erlangen, Germany; 4Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, Center for 
Health Services Research, Rüdersdorf, Germany; 5Thermo Fisher Scientific, 
Phadia GmbH, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

Background: Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA) has one of the longest diagnostic 
delays in rheumatology [1]. Teleducational solutions and integration of medical stu-
dents to support routine care may be promising to overcome current limitations 
and accelerate axSpA diagnosis and treatment.

Objectives: We aimed to test a novel diagnostic pathway and asynchronous 
report-based diagnostic assessments for patients with suspected axSpA.

Methods: 40 patients with chronic back pain for more than 3 months completed 
a pre-appointment visit (T-1) with a medical student prior to their planned actual 
first visit (gold standard, T0) (Figure 1). Findings were discussed with a rheuma-
tologist to finalize diagnoses and initiate therapy. Patients also completed two 
digital symptom checkers (SC), started to continuously report ePROs (BASDAI) 
via an app and received upper-arm self-sampling devices to self-collect capillary 
blood at home for remote C-reactive protein (CRP) and HLA-B27 analysis. Two 
additional students and three additional tele-rheumatologists reviewed SC, labo-
 rated and imaging results to investigate an asynchronous telediagnostic approach. 
Acceptance was measured using the net promoter score (NPS) [2]. For this, patients were asked to rate on an 11-point scale ranging from 0 ("Very unlikely") to 10 ("Very likely") how likely they would recommend the applications to 
others. To calculate an overall NPS, the percentage of detractors (rating 0-6) was 
subtracted from the percentage of promoters (rating 9 or 10).

Results: N=36 patients completed the study. AxSpA was confirmed in 17 and ruled 
in 19 cases. The student visit helped to complete diagnostic evaluations prior to 
the actual first visit and the diagnostic delay (T1-T0) was significantly reduced by 
about two months (Med (IQR), 55.5 (67.3) days, p <0.0001). The diagnostic accuracy 
(DA, axSpA yes or no) for the two SC Ada and bechterew-check was 58% and 47%, 
respectively. The student with patient contact reached a DA of 86%, the mean DA ± 
SD of the students who did not have patient contact (asynchronous decision) was 
75% ± 0%. Results of the three tele-rheumatologists showed a high sensitivity (98% 
± 3%) and diagnostic accuracy (89% ± 3%). Imaging results turned out to be an 
esential part for asynchronous decision making, as they significantly increased the 
sensitivity of the decision of all three physicians. Unsupervised at-home self-collec-
tion of capillary blood was successfully conducted by 80% of the patients. For the 
first time, accuracy of self-sampled HLA-B27 was demonstrated. Patients expressed 
high acceptance regarding the pre-appointment student visit, self-sampling and 
ePRO with NPS of +62%, +36% and +31%, respectively.

Conclusion: To our knowledge, this is the first study exploring the potential 
of self-sampling, medical students and asynchronous assessments to accelerate 
axSpA diagnosis. The investigated elements were well accepted among patients and 
significantly reduced axSpA diagnostic delay.
REFERENCES:

RESULTS:

Periodic follow-up (FU) is necessary for patients with Rheumatic Diseases (RDs). In the case of a stable clinical condition or low disease activity, FU can be carried out also by rheumatology nurses (RNs). Recent studies focusing on FU led by RNs either in Rheumatology Clinics and with Teleunening (TN), showed promising results in terms of outcomes, cost reduction and users’ satisfaction.

Objectives: To evaluate the feasibility of a Teleunening FU in a Rheumatology Centre in Florence, Italy.

Methods: In this pilot study, patients with stable inflammatory arthritis or low disease activity were contacted, after their first visit, through TN (T0) and then assessed during the following in-person visit (V12) by RNs for treatment adherence, for pain, for mental and physical health, for workability, for perception of disease activity and satisfaction concerning the TN service.

Results: Out of 27 interviewed patients, 59.3% (n=16/27) was affected by Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), 18.5% (n=5/27) by Spondyloarthritis (AS), 14.8% (n=4/27) by Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) and 74% (n=20/27) by Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. The mean age was 57±5.13 (Ms: DS) years and the treatment adherence level was optimal. 11.1% (n=3/27) of patients was referred for medical consultation because of the urgent clinical situation assessed by the RNs according to the clinical multidisciplinary checklist. After specialist consultation, 1 patient was redirected to urgent dermatology consultation because of a suspected cutaneous drug reaction. During the TN period (12 months), 33.3% (n=9/27) of the patients contracted SARS-CoV-2 infection and 11.1% (n=3/27) contracted urinary or upper respiratory tract infections. RA patients showed a mean Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease-RAID score of 2.4 at T0 and 2.5 at V12 (Range 0-10): AS patients showed a mean Assessment of Spondyloarthritis International Society-ASAS score of 0.3 in both periods and PsA showed a mean Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease-PSAID score of 0.7 and 0.8 at T0 and V12, respectively. Among RA, AS and PsA patients, as a pain score of 3 was recorded in both periods. In order to attend the in-person FU visit, 68.4% (n=13/19) of the patients took work leave. 37% (n=10/27) of them waited 40.9±18.6 minutes at V12 control. The average distance between the Rheumatology Centre and patients’ home was 29.3±25.6 km. 15.4% (n=5/33) of the respondents did not own a car and 23.1% (n=3/13) was accompanied to visit their caregiver. All the included patients expressed high satisfaction for the TN service, corresponding to 5 point Likert scale.

Conclusion: The data show that TN FU is a valuable model for maintaining an adequate level of therapeutic adherence, reducing the travel time and working day loss, intercepting remotely clinical issues, as well as registering a high level of user acceptance and satisfaction. Further studies on larger samples are needed to confirm our findings.

REFERENCES:
Results: A total of 7715 teleconsultations were eligible for analysis after excluding 39 cases with incomplete data. The most frequent diagnostic hypotheses generated during teleconsultations were rheumatoid arthritis (RA), non-specific arthralgia/arthrosis, and systemic lupus erythematosus (Table 1). Fibromyalgia, gout, and osteoarthritis were other diagnostic hypotheses commonly considered. Almost one-third (n=2219; 29% of total consultations) of the discussions referred to patients already waiting for rheumatology consultation, and teleconsulting replaced the in-person specialist evaluation in 32% (n=722) of these cases. Of the 5496 that were not waitlisted, 1369 (24.9%) were referred after teleconsulting. In total, 54.9% of the teleconsultations decided that the patients could be adequately managed in the PHC. The Figure 1 describes the utilization pattern of the rheumatology teleconsulting service during the time frame of this study. The utilization of the teleconsulting service increased significantly, and the proportion of patients referred to in-person rheumatology consultations reduced over the last years (P<0.001).

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnostic hypotheses formulated after teleconsulting, n=7715 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undifferentiated arthralgia/arthrosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic lupus erythematosus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spondylarthritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoarthritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other connective tissue disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other soft tissue diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.

Conclusion: Prevalent rheumatic diseases, especially RA, are frequent reasons for using teleconsulting support in our country. According to our study, after guidance, the PHC physician was considered able to manage most cases in rheumatology. This reduced the waiting list by approximately one-third. There was a progressive increase in teleconsultations over the years, but the proportion of patients referred to rheumatology reduced over time.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5275

HPR Professional education, training and competencies.

POS1205-HPR PRESCRIBING TRENDS OF METHOTREXATE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A TUNISIAN SURVEY

Keywords: Disease-modifying drug (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

F. Alia1, O. Hamdi1, S. Miladi1, M. Yasmine1, H. Boussaa1, L. Souebni1, K. Ouniche1, S. Chekili1, S. Kassab1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, A. Laatar1, Mongi Slim Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) remains the first line disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) in the course of treatment for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). There are wide variations in prescribing pattern among rheumatologists.

Objectives: We aimed to determine the prescribing practices of MTX by Tunisian rheumatologists.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including Tunisian rheumatologists. An online survey composed of 18 questions via Google Drive Forms was designed to analyse the prescription trends of MTX in RA patients.

Results: The online questionnaire was sent to 184 rheumatologists, 66 of whom (35.8%) responded. The majority of rheumatologists initiated MTX at therapeutic doses: 10 mg/week (34.8%) and 15 mg/week (36.3%). Ninety-eight percent of rheumatologists preferred the oral route during the initiation of MTX. Fifty-nine percent of rheumatologists advised their patients to take MTX on an empty stomach. Doctors preferred injectable MTX in case of digestive intolerance (96.9%) or in case of lack of efficacy (48.4%). Regarding the MTX escalation strategy, the majority of rheumatologists followed a conventional strategy with an increase in doses in steps of 2.5 mg (65%) and 5 mg (35%) every 02 (16.6%) to 04 (42.4%) weeks. The optimal dosage of MTX was reached after 08 and 12 weeks in 27.2% and 59% of cases, respectively. Sixty-eight percent of rheumatologists split doses of MTX, 60% of whom from a dose of 15 mg/week. The time interval between the two doses was 06 (27.2%) to 12 hours (27.2%). All rheumatologists systematically associated folic acid with MTX. The average dose of folic acid prescribed was 10 mg/week (72.7%). The doctors questioned advised patients to take acid folic 48 hours after MTX 51.5%. The maximum dose of MTX prescribed by rheumatologists before switching to biological (b) DMARDs was 20 mg/week (60.6%). In case of use of bDMARDs, 63.6% of doctors decreased the dose of MTX to 10 mg/week. Once remission is reached, 34.8% of doctors continued MTX at the same dose while 62% of them gradually reduced the dose (decrease of 2.5 mg every 02 weeks in 27.2% of cases and 5 mg every 08 weeks in 34.8% of cases).

Conclusion: Our study showed that the majority of Tunisian rheumatologists prescribe MTX according to international recommendations. Indeed, the current therapeutic strategy for RA encourages powerful and effective treatment early in the course of the disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3925
Scleroderma, myositis and related syndromes  

**POST108**  
SARCOPENIA IS A MARKER OF MUSCLE DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE SEVERITY AND DISABILITY IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES  

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Myositis, Sarcopenia  

M. Giannini,1,2 A. L. Charles,3 L. Debruin,4 F. Goupilleau2, J. Bлаses,1,2 R. M. Javier,1,4 B. Geny,1,4 A. Meyer,1 University of Strasbourg, Service de Physiologie et explorations fonctionnelles, CHU, Strasbourg; Centre de Référence des Maladies Autoimmunes Rares, CHU, Strasbourg; UR3072, Centre de Recherche en Biomédecine, Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France;3 University of Strasbourg, Service de Physiologie et explorations fonctionnelles, CHU, Strasbourg; Centre de Référence des Maladies Autoimmunes Rares, CHU, Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France;4 University Hospital of Strasbourg, Service de Physiologie et explorations fonctionnelles, CHU, Strasbourg; Centre de Référence des Maladies Autoimmunes Rares, CHU, Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France;5 University of Strasbourg, Service de Physiologie et explorations fonctionnelles, CHU, Strasbourg; Centre de Référence des Maladies Autoimmunes Rares, CHU, Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France;6 University Hospital of Strasbourg, Service de Physiologie et explorations fonctionnelles, CHU, Strasbourg; Centre de Référence des Maladies Autoimmunes Rares, CHU, Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France;7 University of Strasbourg, Service de Physiologie et explorations fonctionnelles, CHU, Strasbourg; Centre de Référence des Maladies Autoimmunes Rares, CHU, Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France;8 University of Strasbourg, Service de Physiologie et explorations fonctionnelles, CHU, Strasbourg; Centre de Référence des Maladies Autoimmunes Rares, CHU, Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France  

**Background:** Inflammatory myopathies (IM) are autoimmune diseases characterized by muscle inflammation and weakness. Damage is a prognostic factor in IM, but its assessment in daily clinical practice represents an unmet need. In other settings than IM, a low muscle mass and strength (referred as sarcopenia) have been linked with disability, decreased quality of life and increased mortality. Sarcopenia has never been studied in IM.  

**Objectives:** To determine the prevalence and clinical significance of low muscle mass, strength and sarcopenia in inactive or low-activity IM.  

**Methods:** Adult IM patients according to 2017 ACR/EULAR classification criteria with disease duration ≤12 months, creatine kinase (CK) serum level ≤500 U/l, >6-month stable medication and Physician Global Activity ≤3/10 were prospectively evaluated. Physical performance, disability, respiratory volumes and maximum inspiratory (Pimax) and expiratory pressures (Pemax) were assessed. Sarcopenia was diagnosed according to the EWGSOP consensus.1 Several myokines were measured in the blood.  

**Results:** Forty IM patients (27 females, 68%) with an average age of 59.9 years (±14) and 30 healthy age and sex-matched volunteers (19 females, 63%) were prospectively enrolled. Eight patients suffered from dermatomyositis (DM); twelve from immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy (IMNM); eleven from anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS), nine from scleromyositis (SM) since 4.6 years (2.9–8.4). At the enrolment, MMT-W was 140/150 (135.3–147), MMT-12 was 212/203 (203.3–216.8), CK were 122 U/l (87.5–195.5), ALM correlated with MMT-W (r=0.4, p=0.01), MMT-12 (r=0.5, p=0.004), grip strength (r=0.5, p=0.005), 6-minute walking distance (6MDW) (r=0.6, p=0.0002), time to drink a 20 centilitre cup (r=0.5, p=0.001), vital capacity (r=0.5, p=0.02), Pimax (r=0.6, p=0.003) and Pemax (r=0.6, p=0.004), severity (r=0.5, p=0.003), extension (r=0.4, p=0.007) and global (r=0.6, p=0.0001) damage. Grip strength correlated with MMT-W (r=0.5, p=0.003), MMT-12 (r=0.4, p=0.005), ALM (r=0.3, p=0.05), 6MDW (r=0.4, p=0.02), global damage (r=0.4, p=0.008), HAQ score (r=0.3, p=0.04). Seven out of forty myositis patients (17.5%) were sarcopenic (vs 0% in the control group). They suffered from IMNM (57% vs 24%), DM (29% vs 18%) and SM (14% vs 24%). No patient suffered from ASS (0% vs 33%). Sarcopenic patients had history of severe muscle involvement: loss of walking ability (vs 21%, p=0.0002), higher maximum CK values (5998 U/l (3488-6500) vs 1636 (626-5000), p=0.07), respiratory muscles impairment (29% vs 3%, p=0.02) and myocarditis (43% vs 3%, p=0.001); and they more frequently required intravenous immunoglobulins (86% vs 33%, p=0.03), plasmapheresis (29% vs 3%, p=0.02) and/or unconventional immunosuppressants (57% vs 27%, p=0.01). By contrast, extramuscular involvements were less frequent (43% vs 76%, p=0.08). None of sarcopenic patients had inflammatory joint involvement during the follow-up (0% vs 49%, p=0.02). At the time of evaluation, sarcopenic patients had lower MMT-W (131/150 vs 142/150, p=0.004) and MMT-12: 199/220 vs 215/220, p=0.004), reduced 6MDW (196 (180) vs 478 (487) meters, p<0.0001) and HAQ score (2.1 (1.2-2.8) vs 0.6 (0.3-1), p=0.0008).  

**Conclusions:** Sarcopenia is associated with severe damage in myositis patients, being identified as a prognostic marker in the management of these patients.
INCIDENCE, PREVALENCE & MORTALITY IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES & ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN ENGLAND: A NATIONAL COHORT USING ROUTINELY COLLECTED ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Keywords: Lungs, Epidemiology, Myositis

J. Hannah1,2,3, F. Pearce4,1,4, M. Odingo4,2,4, M. Rutter3,4,5, J. Ashton4, J. Lai6, M. Grainge6, S. McPhail4,5, M. Bythell3,4, J. Galloway1,2, P. Gordon1,2,3, J. Hannah1,2,3, F. Pearce4,1,4, M. Odingo4,2,4, M. Rutter3,4,5, J. Ashton4, J. Lai6, M. Grainge6, S. McPhail4,5, M. Bythell3,4, J. Galloway1,2, P. Gordon1,2,3, J. Hannah1,2,3, F. Pearce4,1,4, M. Odingo4,2,4, M. Rutter3,4,5, J. Ashton4, J. Lai6, M. Grainge6, S. McPhail4,5, M. Bythell3,4, J. Galloway1,2, P. Gordon1,2,3, J. Hannah1,2,3, F. Pearce4,1,4, M. Odingo4,2,4, M. Rutter3,4,5, J. Ashton4, J. Lai6, M. Grainge6, S. McPhail4,5, M. Bythell3,4, J. Galloway1,2, P. Gordon1,2,3, J. Hannah1,2,3, F. Pearce4,1,4, M. Odingo4,2,4, M. Rutter3,4,5, J. Ashton4, J. Lai6, M. Grainge6, S. McPhail4,5, M. Bythell3,4, J. Galloway1,2, P. Gordon1,2,3, J. Hannah1,2,3, F. Pearce4,1,4, M. Odingo4,2,4, M. Rutter3,4,5, J. Ashton4, J. Lai6, M. Grainge6, S. McPhail4,5, M. Bythell3,4, J. Galloway1,2, P. Gordon1,2,3

1King’s College Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2King’s College London, Department of Academic Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 3National Disease Registration Service, NHS Digital, National Congenital Anomaly and Rare Disease Registration Service, United Kingdom; 4School of Medicine, University of Nottingham, Department of Lifespan and Population Health, Nottingham, United Kingdom; 5Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Nottingham, United Kingdom; 6National Disease Registration Service, NHS Digital, National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service, United Kingdom

Background: Ethnicity, sex, age & socioeconomic deprivation can all lead to health inequity. Impact of these factors in epidemiology of Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies (IIM) has not been widely researched.

Conclusion: In collaboration with National Congenital Anomaly & Rare Disease Registration Service (INCARDRS), we described national incidence, prevalence & mortality in IIM and associated Interstitial Lung Disease (IIM-ILD) according to demographics.

Methods: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) collected at every NHS hospital admission in England, were used to create a national cohort of patients with IIM & IIM-ILD associated ICD-10 codes between 2006-2022. Cases were identified using pre-validated methods [1]. Sex, ethnicity, Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and death certification were collated. Denominator populations were extracted from Office of National Statistics publications. Incidence rates were calculated by multivariate Poisson regression, standardized mortality ratio (SMR) by indirect standardization, and survival analysis by multivariate Cox models. Incidence Rate Ratios (IRR) were mutually adjusted for age, sex & IMD Ethnicity (IRR was not adjusted for IMD due to lack of suitable denominator data).

Cox models were adjusted for age, sex, ethnicity, IMD and ILD status.

Results: 14,891 incident IIM cases were identified giving an incidence rate of 1.72/100,000 person-years. Point prevalence was 17.9/100,000 in 2022. Mean age was 59.7 years with incidence peaking at 70-80 years. Multivariate models (Table 1) showed IIM incidence was higher in females IRR 1.30 (95% CI 1.25, 1.34), but mortality was lower (hazard ratio (HR) 0.78 (95% CI 0.74, 0.82)). Incidence was higher in Asian and Black ethnicities than White (IRR 1.56 and 2.77 respectively). Mortality was higher in White ethnicity (Asian HR 0.80 and Black HR 0.78). The most deprived population quintile had similar incidence IRR 1.06 (95% CI 1.02, 1.11), but higher mortality HR 1.34 (95% CI 1.25, 1.44) than less deprived populations. 172% of IIM cases had ILD. Incidence of IIM-ILD did not vary largely by socioeconomic deprivation, but incidence was substantially higher in Black, Other and Asian populations compared to White (IRR 5.11, 4.07, 2.48). Mortality of IIM-ILD was also lower in Asian HR 0.76 (95% CI 0.61, 0.95) and Black HR 0.73 (95% CI 0.57, 0.93) patients. SMR was 5.13 for IIM and 792 for IIM-ILD. Crude mortality increases with age, but standardized mortality is highest in younger patients with ILD. (Graph). Death certification was available in 7159 cases. IIM was recognized as a contributory factor in 39%, and ILD in 10.6%. Malignancy was the most reported ‘underlying cause of death’ (24.7%), then cardiovascular disease (19.9%) and respiratory disease (15.8%). Asian and Black ethnicities were less likely to have malignancy mentioned on death certificates (IRR 0.48 and 0.61 respectively).

Table 1. Adjusted IRR (95%CI) and Adjusted mortality HR (95% CI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IIM</th>
<th>IIM-ILD</th>
<th>IIM</th>
<th>IIM-ILD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1.30 (1.25, 1.34)</td>
<td>1.73 (1.60, 1.88)</td>
<td>0.78 (0.74, 0.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1.06 (1.02, 1.11)</td>
<td>1.04 (0.94, 1.15)</td>
<td>1.34 (1.25, 1.44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD 1 (most deprived)</td>
<td>5.11 (4.51, 5.79)</td>
<td>0.78 (0.67, 0.90)</td>
<td>0.73 (0.57, 0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD 2-5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1.56 (1.47, 1.66)</td>
<td>2.48 (2.19, 2.81)</td>
<td>0.80 (0.71, 0.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2.77 (2.59-2.96)</td>
<td>5.11 (4.51, 5.79)</td>
<td>0.78 (0.67, 0.90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0.96 (0.82-1.14)</td>
<td>1.28 (0.89, 1.86)</td>
<td>0.81 (0.53, 1.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.97 (2.63-3.36)</td>
<td>4.07 (3.16, 5.20)</td>
<td>0.79 (0.61, 1.02)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Standardised Mortality Ratio for IIM and IIM-ILD by Age

Conclusion: We have defined national incidence, prevalence and SMR estimates for IIM and IIM-ILD. Incidence is higher in females, Black, Asian and Other ethnicities. Mortality is higher in White ethnicities, increased deprivation and males. Increased mortality in White ethnicities may partially relate to increased malignancy-associated disease.


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INTERNET-BASED ENROLLMENT OF A MYOSITIS PATIENT COHORT

Keywords: Telemedicine, Myositis

1UPMC Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency Training Program, Internal Medicine, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 2University of Pittsburgh Rheumatology, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 3Bnai Zion Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America; 4Division of Rheumatology, Haifa, Israel

Background: Recruitment for myositis clinical research is challenging, due to the rarity of the disease and geographic considerations. Remote enrollment using digital health technologies, social media, and tele-medicine provide researchers with more optimal recruitment options. (1)

Objectives: To assess the effectiveness of various remote recruitment strategies in myositis patients.

Methods: "Myositis Patient Centered Tele-Research" (MyPacer) is an NIH-funded multi-center observational study assessing the feasibility, efficiency and acceptability of virtual research in myositis. Subjects were recruited from anywhere in the United States (U.S.) via online strategies: a) Patient organizations (e.g. The Myositis Association [TMA], Myositis Support and Understanding [MSU], etc.) posted a study link on their website, emailed members, and posted on social media; b) Targeted advertisements were posted on Google, Facebook and Twitter; c) Myositis physicians were emailed with a request to refer patients. Interested subjects reviewed study details, e-consented and enrolled via the study mobile application (app) or website. Adult patients who fulfilled self-reported eligibility criteria were enrolled (after physician verification of polymyositis [PM], necrotizing myositis [NM], or dermatomyositis [DM] and fulfillment of at least 4/6 disease criteria for PM/NM, or 3/6 for DM). Disease criteria included: muscle weakness, elevated CK, compatible EMG or biopsy (muscle or skin), DM rash, or a positive myositis associated-auto-antibody. The diagnosis and disease criteria were confirmed by a physician via chart review.

Results: In 6 months, 94 participants were enrolled [71 (75.5%) females, median age of 54 years (SD +/- 13.9), and 76 (80.9%) White, 9 (9.6%) Black, and 3 (3.2%) Asian]. The most common diagnosis was DM (46, 48.9%), then PM (35, 36.2%), NM (7, 7.5%), and unspecified myositis (6, 6.4%). Primary myositis doctors were rheumatologists (80, 85.1%), neurologists (10, 10.6%), or dermatologists (2, 2.1%). We enrolled subjects from 30 states and 5 regions in the U.S., with higher participation from Virginia (n=13; 13.8%), Pennsylvania (n=11; 11.7%), Florida (n=8;8.5%), and California (n=7; 7.4%). Among the main recruitment sources, TMA was responsible for 63 (67%) participants, MSU for 20 (21.3%), and doctor referral for 9 (9.6%). Other recruitment sources (n=53; 56.4%) included 18 (19.1%) via Facebook, 6 (6.4%) via study website, 2 (2.1%) via Twitter, and 1 (1%) via Google advertisements. Participants recruited via Facebook were younger than those recruited via email (mean ages 47.39, SD +/- 10.66 and 56.59, SD +/- 13.63 respectively; 95% CI 2.15-16.25; p=0.01). For enrollment method, 62 (66%) individuals used the study app, and 32 (34%) used the study website. The app was the preferred method throughout the country, except in the Southeast where 51.7% of participants used the study website. The mean age of app and website users was 51.79 (SD +/- 12.43) and 60.12 (SD +/- 14.23) years, respectively (95% CI 2.68-13.98; p=0.004).

Conclusion: Online recruitment is a viable alternative for maximizing potential recruitment in myositis clinical studies. We remotely enrolled patients from every region in the U.S. Patient support organizations were very successful in augmenting recruitment. Moreover, Facebook was responsible for almost 20% of participants, especially within the younger (ages 30 to 66) population. Our study app appeared quite functional with 66% use of the enrolled subjects and a clear favorite in younger individuals compared to website use. We hope these findings will guide future online myositis studies and advance clinical research.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: N. Raisa Lomanto Silva: None declared, Samak Moghadam-Kia: None declared, Shiri Keret: None declared, Chester V. Oddis: None declared, Rohit Aggarwal Consultant of: Mallinckrodt, Octapharma, CSL Behring, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, EMD Serono, Q32, Kezar, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Alexion, Argenx, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI), Cortus, Janssen, Kyverna, Roivant, Merck, Galapagos, Actigraph, Schipher, Horizon Therapeutics, Teva, Beigene, ANI Pharmaceuticals, Biogen, Nuvig, Capella Bioscience, CabalettaBio., Grant/research support from: Mallinckrodt, Pfizer, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, EMD Serono, Janssen, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI)
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2880

PATIENTS WITH SUBCLINICAL HEART INVOLVEMENT AT DIAGNOSIS OF MYOSITIS ARE MORE LIKELY TO PRESENT CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS THAN PATIENTS WITHOUT CARDIAC INVOLVEMENT IN A MONOCENTRIC RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Heart, Myositis

C. Kasser1, A. F. Guedon1, A. Mekinian1.
1Hospital Saint-Antoine Ap-Hp, Internal Medicine, Paris, France

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myositis (IM) is a group of rare and heterogeneous systemic diseases characterized by clinical muscle weakness and histological inflammation in skeletal muscles. Myositis classification distinguishes dermatomyositis (DM), inclusion body myositis (IBM), immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy (IMNM), anti-synthetase syndrome (ASSD) and overlap myositis (OM) [1-2]. Patients with myositis are more likely to die younger than in general population [3]. Cardiovascular events (CVE) are one of the main causes of death during the disease's course [4].

Objectives: To investigate the occurrence of CVE and their link with features of cardiac involvement in a French myositis population.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective observational cohort study of patients with a diagnosis of DM, ASSD, IBM, IMNM or OM, from the department of internal medicine in Saint Antoine's hospital, Paris, France, between 1992 and 2020. Demographic and clinical data were collected at diagnosis, at the last follow up visit, and at the first CVE if one happened. Subclinical heart involvement was defined by electrocardiogram abnormality, transho- racic echocardiography abnormality or cardiac MRI abnormality. CVE were defined by the occurrence during the follow up of heart failure, inflammatory myocarditis or admission in resuscitation department. Descriptive, bivariate and survival analysis were performed.

Results: Among the 78 patients included, 52 (67%) were women. Thirty three patients (42%) had a DM, 18 (23%) an ASSD, 12 (15%) an OM, 11 (14%) an IMNM and 4 patients (5%) an IBM. Mean age at diagnosis was 49 years. Median follow up time was 72 months. Subclinical involvement was present at diagnosis for 17 (22%) patients; and 14 (21%) patients presented a CVE during the follow up period. Patients with subclinical cardiac involvement at diagnosis were more likely to present a CVE than patients without subclinical cardiac involvement. Three years after the diagnosis, 7 CVE occurred in the subclinical cardiac involvement group (event rate 37.5%, 95% CI 4.92-58.92) and only 1 CVE occurred in the no cardiac involvement group (event rate 1.89%, 95% CI 0-5.48). Time to CVE was significantly different between groups (log rank test p < 0.001, Graph 1). This difference remains significant at 5 years after myositis diagnosis.

Conclusion: Patients with subclinical cardiac involvement at myositis diagnosis are more likely to present CVE in the first 5 years of disease than patients without subclinical cardiac involvement. Clinical cardiac involvement is rare at diagnostic, but subclinical cardiac involvement seems to be a more frequent condition. Our results suggest that we should pay more attention to patient with subclinical cardiac involvement at myositis diagnosis, especially in the first years of the disease’s course.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.
Background: Polyomysitis (PM) and dermatomyositis (DM) are autoimmune systemic diseases characterized by muscle weakness and inflammatory cell infiltration into skeletal muscle. Myocardial involvement is a common cause of death in PM/DM. It has been reported that myocardial involvement is observed in 9% to 72% of PM/DM [1], but it is still unclear. Electrocardiogram (ECG) and echocardiography are the most often used tests to evaluate cardiac abnormalities, but early detection of myocardial involvement in PM/DM is difficult. Cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) is a noninvasive technique that has been efficiently evaluated for the evaluation of myocardial fibrosis and scar [6]. T2 mapping is used for the evaluation of myocardial edema. T1, T2 and extracellular volume (ECV) are also analyzed.

Methods: Patients satisfying 2017 ACR-EULAR classification criteria for IIM were prospectively enrolled. All patients underwent thigh MRI (t-MRI) STIR and T2 weighted sequences (axial and coronal) at baseline, 3 and 6 months and DXA scan at baseline and 6 months. Manual muscle testing-8 (MMT-8), Functional index-3 (FI-3), 2-minute walk distance (2MWD) were assessed at baseline, 3 and 6 months. t-MRI was scored using a semi-quantitative score for muscle edema, fascial edema, muscle atrophy and fatty infiltration. Friedman test was used to compare variables at baseline, 3 and 6 months and Spearman correlation was done for agreement of MRI and DXA scores at each other and clinical outcome measures.

Results: Twelve patients (3 patients with PM and 9 patients with DM) were enrolled and all of them completed 6 months follow-up. Median (IQR) age was 38 (27-46) years, disease duration was 6 (2-24). The study group comprised of 10 dermatomysitis, 5 antisynthetase syndrome and 3 immune mediated necrotizing myopathy patients. MRI assessed muscle edema and fascial edema decreased significantly (p<0.01) and fatty infiltration increased significantly (p =0.001) from baseline to 3 months. Muscle atrophy did not change significantly from baseline to 3 months whereas FI-3 continued to improve till 6 months (p=0.000) (Table 1). At baseline MMT-8 (R=-0.631; p<0.01), FI-3(R=-0.689; p<0.01) and 2MWD (R=-0.485; p<0.05) negatively correlated with only muscle edema. At 3 months MMT-8 and 2MWD (R1, R2) negatively correlated with muscle edema (R1=-0.673, R2=-0.591), atrophy (R1=-0.732, R2=-0.577) and fatty infiltration (R1=-0.575, R2=-0.743; p<0.05). FI-3 negatively correlated with only atrophy (R= -0.486; p<0.05). MRI fatty infiltration score and atrophy score did not correlate with DXA assessed leg fat percentage and appendicular mass/ht2 respectively at baseline but had significant correlation (p<0.05) at 6 months (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In IIM, edema decreased and muscle strength increased significantly in first 3 months but fatty infiltration increased. DXA assessment of fat and lean mass did not agree with MRI atrophy and fatty infiltration at baseline probably due to concomitant muscle edema.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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References:

Keywords: Outcome measures, Myositis, Imaging

POS1211 CHARACTERISTICS OF MYOCARDIAL INVOLVEMENT OF POLYOMYSITIS/DERMATOMYOSITIS EVALUATED BY CARDIAC MAGNETIC RESONANCE: A PILOT STUDY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Imaging, Myositis

S. Asatani1, M. Tsukamoto1, A. Yamada1, H. Kobayashi1, K. Sugio1, Y. Okumura2, H. Nakamura1, N. Kitamura1. 1Nihon University School of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo, Japan; 2Nihon University School of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Results: Conclusion: Our results propose that myocardial involvement is more likely to develop in PM/DM patients even if the finding of echocardiography is normal. In addition, CMR should be performed in cases of PM/DM with high myoglobin levels, considering the possibility of myocardial involvement.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4394

POS1212 SERIAL IMAGING CHANGES IN SKELETAL MUSCLE COMPOSITION AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES

Keywords: Outcome measures, Myositis, Imaging

M. Goriyev1, C. Kovadiachan1, R. Ananthakrishnan1, C. Mariaszewl1, M. M. Thabah2, V. S. Negi3. 1Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Puducherry, India; 2Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Radiology, Puducherry, India; 3All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Executive Director, Bilaspur, India

Background: Muscle weakness in inflammatory myopathies (IIM) is due to muscle-edema, atrophy and fatty-infiltration among which edema is the predominant cause at baseline. Some IIM patients donot achieve full muscle power even with immunosuppressive treatment which mainly targets edema. Serial changes occurring in skeletal muscle mass visualized on thigh MRI can help understand the failure of complete recovery. Role of Dual energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DXA) assessed skeletal muscle composition as outcome measure in IIM was not studied previously.

Objectives: To see the changes in skeletal muscle composition over 6 months in IIM patients using imaging and to assess the agreement of MRI and DXA scores with each other and with clinical outcome measures.

Methods: Patients satisfying 2017 ACR-EULAR classification criteria for IIM were prospectively enrolled. All patients underwent thigh MRI(t-MRI) STIR and T1 weighted sequences (axial and coronal) at baseline, 3 and 6 months and DXA scan at baseline and 6 months. Manual muscle testing-8 (MMT-8), Functional index-3 (FI-3), 2-minute walk distance (2MWD) were assessed at baseline, 3 and 6 months. t-MRI was scored using a semi-quantitative score for muscle edema, fascial edema, muscle atrophy and fatty infiltration. Friedman test was used to compare variables at baseline, 3 and 6 months and Spearman correlation was done for agreement of MRI and DXA scores with each other and clinical outcome measures.

Results: 17 patients (12 females) were enrolled and all of them completed 3 months follow-up while only 13 completed 6 months follow-up. Median (IQR) age was 38 (27-46) years, disease duration was 6 (2-24). The study group comprised of 10 dermatomysitis, 5 antisynthetase syndrome and 3 immune mediated necrotizing myopathy patients. MRI assessed muscle edema and fascial edema decreased significantly (p<0.01) and fatty infiltration increased significantly (p =0.001) from baseline to 3 months. Muscle atrophy did not change significantly from baseline to 3 months and 6 months. DXA assessed appendicular lean mass/ht2(p=0.007) and total lean mass/ht2(p=0.021) improved significantly from baseline to 3 months and 6 months. Improvement in MMT-8 and 2MWD was significant only from baseline to 6 months. Improvement in MMT-8 and 2MWD was significant only from baseline to 6 months (p=0.000) whereas FI-3 continued to improve till 6 months (p=0.000) (Table 1). At baseline MMT-8 (R=-0.631; p<0.01), FI-3 (R=-0.689; p<0.01) and 2MWD (R=-0.485; p<0.05) negatively correlated with only muscle edema. At 3 months MMT-8 and 2MWD (R1, R2) negatively correlated with muscle edema (R1=-0.673, R2=-0.591), atrophy (R1=-0.732, R2=-0.577) and fatty infiltration (R1=-0.575, R2=-0.743; p<0.05). FI-3 negatively correlated with only atrophy (R= -0.486; p<0.05). MRI fatty infiltration score and atrophy score did not correlate with DXA assessed leg fat percentage and appendicular mass/ht2 respectively at baseline but had significant correlation (p<0.05) at 6 months (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In IIM, edema decreased and muscle strength increased significantly in first 3 months but fatty infiltration increased. DXA assessment of fat and lean mass did not agree with MRI atrophy and fatty infiltration at baseline probably due to concomitant muscle edema.
Table 1: Serial change in t-MRI scores, DXA assessed lean mass and clinical outcome measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>3 months</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muscle edema</strong></td>
<td>17.03(7.4-32.4) *</td>
<td>3.07(0.00-11.11) *</td>
<td>0.00(0.00-5.37)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fascial edema</strong></td>
<td>46.66(15.0-57.7) *</td>
<td>7.77(0.00-25.55) *</td>
<td>4.44(0.00-23.88)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muscle atrophy</strong></td>
<td>0.00(0.00-167)</td>
<td>0.00(0.00-2.22)</td>
<td>0.00(0.00-2.22)</td>
<td>0.670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fatty infiltration</strong></td>
<td>6.66(0.00-15.00)</td>
<td>4.88(2.22-21.66)</td>
<td>8.88(2.22-23.33)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appendicular lean mass/height</strong></td>
<td>5.5(3.9-6.2) *</td>
<td>5.6(4.8-7.3) *</td>
<td>5.6(4.8-7.3) *</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lean body mass/height</strong></td>
<td>12.6(10.7-14.4) *</td>
<td>13.4(11.1-15.6) *</td>
<td>13.4(11.1-15.6) *</td>
<td>0.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manual Muscle Testing-8</strong></td>
<td>56(51.5-70.5)</td>
<td>78(71.5-80)</td>
<td>78(76-80)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Functional Index-3</strong></td>
<td>33.88(9.7-57.2) *</td>
<td>78(71.5-80) *</td>
<td>78(76-80)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2-Minute Walking Distance</strong></td>
<td>122(40-141)</td>
<td>142(126.5-177)</td>
<td>150(138-161)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates significant change between 2 time points

**Risk of Atherosclerosis-Related Diseases in Adults with Polymyositis and Dermatomyositis: A Large Scale Population-Based Study**

**Keywords:** Myositis

L. Fish1, N. Ben-Shabat2, O. Gendelman3, K. Shari1,2, S. Ehrenberg1, U. Shani1, Y. S. Pat4, A. Watad5, H. Amital1, T. el-Hashomer, Department of Gastroenterology, Ramat Gan, Israel.

**Background:** Select systemic autoimmune diseases show a predilection to Atherosclerotic and Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) largely attributed to proinflammatory cytokines supporting the role of the inflammatory hypothesis in endothelial dysfunction and subsequent clinical sequel. Dermatomyositis (DM) and polymyositis (PM) are polygenic autoimmune disorders involving mainly skeletal muscles. The association between DM/PM and ASCVD has not been well addressed and explored.

**Objectives:** To investigate the association between DM/PM and ASCVD events by exploring incidence, mortality, and interaction with respect to disease-modifying agents, autoantibodies, and traditional CVD risk factors in a large, population-based sample.

**Methods:** A retrospective cohort study using the electronic database of Clalit Health Services (CHS), the largest health organization in Israel. All DM and PM patients diagnosed between 2000-2016 were included with age- and sex-matched controls in a 1:5 ratio. Follow-up continued until the first diagnosis of ASCVD or death. The incidence of ASCVD was compared between the groups using univariate and multivariate models adjusting for baseline cardiovascular risk factors.

**Results:** The study population included 1,567 DM/PM patients and 7,676 controls. The mean age at the index date was 32.5 years (SD±19 years), and the female proportion was 60.3%, similar for both groups. Traditional cardiovascular risk factors were similar between both groups. Median follow-up time was 8.4 (3.6-12.8) in the PM/DM group compared to 8.6 (3.7-12.9) in the control group. 47 (3.0%) PM/DM patients were diagnosed with IHD compared to 140 (1.8%) controls, yielding an Unadjusted HR of 1.66 (1.19 to 2.30). Unadjusted HR for CVA in the PM/DM group was (95%CI) 2.17 (1.86 to 4.11). Unadjusted HR for ASCVD (95%CI) was 1.88 (1.46 to 2.43). APLA-associated antibody predicted ASCVD among PM/DM groups as compared to non-ASCVD PM and DM patients (OR- 2.33, 95% CI - 1 to 4.86; p=0.0001).

**Conclusion:** Our study demonstrates that PM and DM are both associated with an increased risk of MI and ischemic stroke. Furthermore, PM and DM patients positive for APLA-associated antibodies were associated with excessive rates of ASCVD. Taken together, these findings support the increased need for awareness and surveillance of cardiovascular outcomes in the DM/PM cohort.

**References:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5775

**POS1213**

**Risk of Atherosclerosis-Related Diseases in Adults with Polymyositis and Dermatomyositis: A Large Scale Population-Based Study**

**Keywords:** Myositis

L. Fish1, N. Ben-Shabat2, O. Gendelman3, K. Shari1,2, S. Ehrenberg1, U. Shani1, Y. S. Pat4, A. Watad5, H. Amital1, T. el-Hashomer, Department of Gastroenterology, Ramat Gan, Israel.

**Background:** Select systemic autoimmune diseases show a predilection to Atherosclerotic and Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) largely attributed to proinflammatory cytokines supporting the role of the inflammatory hypothesis in endothelial dysfunction and subsequent clinical sequel. Dermatomyositis (DM) and polymyositis (PM) are polygenic autoimmune disorders involving mainly skeletal muscles. The association between DM/PM and ASCVD has not been well addressed and explored.

**Objectives:** To investigate the association between DM/PM and ASCVD events by exploring incidence, mortality, and interaction with respect to disease-modifying agents, autoantibodies, and traditional CVD risk factors in a large, population-based sample.

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**Conclusion:** Our study demonstrates that PM and DM are both associated with an increased risk of MI and ischemic stroke. Furthermore, PM and DM patients positive for APLA-associated antibodies were associated with excessive rates of ASCVD. Taken together, these findings support the increased need for awareness and surveillance of cardiovascular outcomes in the DM/PM cohort.

**References:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4934

**POS1214**

**Patient Reported Outcome for Physical Function in Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathy**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Myositis

S. Kure1, R. Lomanto Silva2, A. Sharma3, T. Chandra4, S. Moghadam-Kia5, C. V. Oddis6, R. Aggarwal1, B. Iznar Zion Medical Center, Rheumatology, Haifa, Israel; 2University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 3University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Mercy, Internal Medicine, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 4Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Rheumatology, Washington DC, United States of America; 5University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Pittsburgh, United States of America

**Background:** Patient-reported outcomes (PRO) measures provide direct and valuable information on treatment efficacy and quality of life. However, the commonly-used PRO measures in idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) have several psychometric limitations. The Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) is an NIH initiative, with several PROs developed and validated in different medical conditions.

**Objectives:** To (1) investigate the psychometric properties of PROMIS physical function-20 (PF-20) in a large US-wide IIM population, and (2) evaluate the feasibility and compliance of PRO measures administered in a local clinic compared to remote US-wide patients.

**Methods:** "Myositis Patient Centered Tele-Research" (My PACER) is a multi-center prospective 6-month observational study of U.S. IIM subjects, competitively recruited through traditional in-person clinic visits (Center-Based Cohort [CBC]), and remotely using smartphone technology, wearable devices, and
telerehabilitation principles (Tele-Research Cohort [TRC]). Data collection included baseline demographic and clinical parameters, PROM and other patient self-assessments at 6 monthly visits, including myositis core set measures (health assessment questionnaire [HAQ-DI], patient global disease activity), PROMIS PF-20, functional tests (six-minute walk, timed up-and-go [TUG] and sit-to-stand [STS] tests), and physical activity monitor. Physician-reported assessments including myositis core set measures (manual muscle testing [MMT], physician global disease activity, extra-muscular global disease activity, creatine kinase [CK]) were obtained at baseline and 6 months.

Results: 141 IIM patients were enrolled (94 TRC/47 CBC). Mean age was 55±13.4 years, female sex 106/141 (75.2%), and 113/141 (80.1%) Caucasians, with similar demographics between the two groups. 116 patients completed the PROMIS-PF form (79 [84%] and 37 [78.7%] in TRC vs. CBC group) with a mean of 6.6±1.7 vs. 6.3±1.5 times per patient (p=0.33) in TRC and CBC group, respectively. The PROMIS PF-20 score was not associated with age, gender, or race. There was no difference between the mean PROMIS PF-20 score in the TRC and CBC groups (p=0.84). The mean PROMIS PF-20 score was 43.9 ± 9.5 in the whole cohort, with 26/116 (22.4%) with a mean t-score lower than 35, indicating severe functional limitation, which was similar between TRC and CBC groups. PROMIS PF-20 showed strong test-retest reliability with a high correlation when repeated at 1 month (r=0.94, p<0.0001). At baseline, PROMIS PF-20 was significantly associated with all core set measures except extra-muscular global and CK. In addition, PROMIS PF-20 was associated with myositis symptoms as well as functional tests and physical activity (Table 1), indicating good validity. Finally, absolute changes in the PROMIS-PF t-score (between the baseline and 6-month visit) were significantly associated with changes in some of the core set measures as well as with the STS and physical activity.

Conclusion: PROMIS PF-20 demonstrates favorable psychometric properties in a large cohort of myositis patients, with similar compliance and results in patients recruited traditionally from clinics or remotely using social media and digital health technology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CK level (Muscle Enzyme) *</td>
<td>-0.0004</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient-reported</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global Disease Activity*</td>
<td>-2.40</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle weakness</td>
<td>-10.14</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle pain</td>
<td>-6.23</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>-8.80</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint pain</td>
<td>-6.6</td>
<td>0.002</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAQ score*</td>
<td>-11.09</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Global Disease Activity</td>
<td>-1.89</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMT8*</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDAT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>-9.31</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myalgia</td>
<td>-8.48</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myositis - mild</td>
<td>-7.94</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Disease Activity</td>
<td>-2.83</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skeletal Disease Activity</td>
<td>-4.64</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle Disease Activity</td>
<td>-2.37</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Function tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Average steps per minute</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sit-to-stand (average score)</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timed up and go (average score)</td>
<td>-0.46</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Myositis Core Set Measure

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Shri Keret: None declared, Raisa Lomanto Silva: None declared, Anshu Chandra: None declared, Tanya Chandra: None declared, Samia Moghaddam-Kia: None declared, Chadwick O X Ox: None declared, Mohamed El-Aggar: Consultant of: Mallinkrodt, Octapharma, CSL Behring, Bristol, Myo-Squibb, EMD Serono, O2, Kezar, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Alexion, Argenx, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI), Corbus, Janssen, Kyverna, Roivant, Merck, Galapagos, Actigraph, Scipher, Horizon Therapeutics, Teva, Beigene, ANI Pharmaceuticals, Biogen, Nuvig, Capella Bioscience, CapebaltiBio., Grant/research support from: Mallinkrodt, Pfizer, Bristol Myers-Squibb, O2, EMD Serono, Janssen, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) DOI: 10.1166/annrhem-nz-2023-eular.4995

POS1215 FLARES AFTER COVID INFECTION IN PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: RESULTS FROM THE COVAD STUDY

Keywords: Infection-related RMDs, Myositis, COVID

S. S. Alie, N. Ravichandran2, P. Seni1, J. Day1,2,5,6, M. Joshi1, S. Saha1, R. Aggarwal1, V. Agarwal1, H. Chinoy10,11,12, O. Distler13, C. Vincio Caballero14, C. E. Toro Gutierrez15,16, D. Dizfia1, A. Makol16, A. L. Tan19,20, S. Katsuyuki Shino17, V. Agarwal21, L. Gupta22,23,24,25, King’s College Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), Medical College, New Delhi, India; The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Parkville, Australia; WEHI - Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Rheumatology, Parkville, Australia; The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Department of Medical Biology, Parkville, Australia; Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College, Sassoon General Hospitals, Medical College, Pune, India; Mymensing Medical College, Medical College, Mymensing, Bangladesh; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Pittsburgh, United States of America; The University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, School of Biological Science, Manchester, United Kingdom; University of Manchester, NHS Foundation Trust, The University of Manchester, Manchester, National Institute for Health Research Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 13 Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Salford, UK, Department of Rheumatology, Manchester, United Kingdom; 14 University Hospital of Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zürich, Switzerland; 15 Hospital Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Department of Medicine, Atlántico, Colombia; 16 Centro de Referencia en Osteoporosis, Reumatología & Dermatología ubicado en la CRA 37A# 5-96 B, Columbia, Centro de Referencia en Osteoporosis, Reumatología & Dermatología, Uruguay, La Victoria, Córdoba, Colombia; 17 Universidad de Barcelona, Medicina Interna & Reumatología, Mósther Enfermedades Autoinmunes, Colombia, Columbia; 18 University of Ghana School of Medicine and Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, Korle-Bu, Accra, Ghana., Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, Accra, Ghana; 19 Mayo Clinic, Division of Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; 20 Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, NHT Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 21 University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 22 Faculdade de Medicina FMUSP, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Division of Rheumatology, Sao Paulo, Brazil; 23 Mahatma Gandhi Mission Medical College, Navi Mumbai, Medical College, Mumbai, India; 24 The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom; 25 City Hospital, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 26 University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Viral infections are known triggers of disease flares in idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs). Reports of post-COVID-19 flares of IIMs have raised suspicion of a possible role of SARS-COV-2 in their onset [1,2]. However, despite rising flare rates in this vulnerable patient group during the pandemic, the risk factors for post-COVID-19 IIMs flares remain unknown [3,4].

Objectives: Disease flares among patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs) can lead to significant disability, though are poorly explored in the post-COVID-19 period. We analysed risk factors for post-COVID-19 flares in a global sample of IIM patients in a subset analysis as part of the ongoing COVID-19 Vaccination in Autoimmune Diseases (COVAD) study.

Methods: A cross-sectional patient self-reporting survey was circulated by the International COVAD study group (157 collaborators, 106 countries) to patients with autoimmune diseases and healthy controls from February-June 2022. Data was collected on demographics, autoimmune disease details, treatment history, comorbidities, COVID-19 history and course and COVID-19 vaccination details. Patients with IIMs who flared post COVID-19 were compared to those who did not using a chi² test. Factors with a significant p value were included in a multivariable analysis considering the most important, up to one of the top 10/12 variables (binary logistic regression using the Enter method) with adjustment for age, gender, ethnicity, vaccine type, immunosuppression, autoimmune and non-autoimmune comorbidities, COVID-19 antibody status, and clinical symptoms of COVID-19. Statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS version 28.0, with statistical significance considered at p<0.05.

Results: 15,165 respondents completed the survey of whom 1,169 contracted COVID-19. Of these, 207 had IIMs (median [IQR] age 57.0 [47.0-67.0], 71% female, 74.4% Caucasian). We noted with concern that nearly a third of patients with IIMs (63/207, 30.4%) reported experiencing a flare. A past medical history significant for Asthma, (34.9% vs 6.9%, multivariable OR: 7.1; 95%CI: 3.1-16.4, p<0.001) and specific clinical symptoms during COVID-19 including joint pain (multivariable OR: 6.05; 95%CI: 1.89-22.9, p=0.005), and rate of change in breathing (multivariable OR: 3.43; 95%CI: 1.09-10.8, p=0.036) were found to confer a higher risk of flares (Table 1).
Table 1  Patient Reported Flares following COVID-19 infection among IIM patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total IIMs (n=207)</th>
<th>IIMs with flare after COVID-19 (n=63)</th>
<th>IIMs without flare after COVID-19 (n=144)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (median, IQR) years</td>
<td>57.0 (47.0-67.0)</td>
<td>53.0 (47.0-62.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>60 (29.0)</td>
<td>7 (11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>147 (71.0)</td>
<td>56 (89.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td>32 (15.5)</td>
<td>22 (34.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>31 (15.0)</td>
<td>17 (25.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical features in previous COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>134 (64.7)</td>
<td>52 (82.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>56 (27.1)</td>
<td>36 (57.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myalgia</td>
<td>41 (19.8)</td>
<td>27 (42.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Difficulty in breathing

Conclusion: We observed a high frequency of patients with IIM experiencing post-COVID-19 disease flares. A past history of Asthma and those with certain acute COVID-19 symptoms were at higher risk.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Saadia Sasha Ali: None declared, Naveen Ravichandran: None declared, Parshik Sen: None declared, Jessica Day Grant/reseach support from: OD has received research funding from CSL Limited, Murduka Joshi: None declared, Sreoshy Saha: None declared, Rohit Aggarwal Consultant of: RA has a consultancy relationship with and/or has received research funding from the following companies: Bristol Myers-Squibb, Pfizer, Genentech, Octapharma, CSL Behring, Mallinckrodt, AstraZeneca, Corbus, Keez, Abville, Jansen, Alexion, Argex, Q32, EMS-Endo, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Roivant., Grant/research support from: RA has a consultancy relationship with and/or has received research funding from the following companies: Bristol Myers-Squibb, Pfizer, Genentech, Octapharma, CSL Behring, Mallinckrodt, AstraZeneca, Corbus, Keez, Abville, Jansen, Alexion, Argex, Q32, EMS-Endo, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Roivant., Vikas Agarwal: None declared, Hector Chinyo Speakers bureau: None declared, HC was supported by the National Institute for Health Research Manchester Biomedical Research Centre Funding Scheme., Grant/research support from: Has received grant support from Eli Lilly and UCB, consulting fees from Novartis, Eli Lilly, Orphazyme, Astra Zeneca, Oliver Distler Speakers bureau: OD has consultancy relationships with and/or has received research funding from or has served as a speaker for the following companies in the area of potential treatments for systemic sclerosis and its complications in the last three years: Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Amgen, AnaMar, Arxx, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, ChemomAb, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Glenmark, GSK, Horizon (Curoniz), Innventa, iQvia, Kymera, Lupin, Medac, Medscape, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Novartis, Roche, Roivant, Sanofi, Sero derivatives, Topadur and UCB. Patent issued “miR-29 for the treatment of systemic sclerosis” (US202238788, EP2331143), Carlos Vinicio Caballero: None declared, Carlos Enrique Toro Gutierrez: None declared, Dey Dzifa: None declared, Alexion, Argenx, Q32, EMD-Serono, Boehringer, Roivant, Sanofi, Serodapharm, Topadur and UCB. Patent issued “miR-29 for the treatment of systemic sclerosis” (US202238788, EP2331143), Dr. Carlos Vinicio Caballero: None declared.

Keywords: Myositis, Mental health, Patient reported outcomes.
Background: Prevalence of comorbidities and their impact on health outcomes in Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs) is limited.

Objectives: This study aimed to explore the prevalence of multimorbidity in patients with IIMs, other autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRDs) and Healthy controls (HCs). We further explore the impact of comorbidities on patients’ physical, mental, and social health assessed by the Patient-Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS) instruments.

Methods: Data for this study were acquired from the COVAD 2 e-survey hosted by a study group consisting of 167 collaborators in 110 countries. Basic multimorbidity (BM) was defined as the co-occurrence of two or more comorbidities in an individual, while complex multimorbidity (CM) signified the co-occurrence of 3 or more chronic conditions affecting 3 or more different organ systems. PROMIS global physical health (PGP), mental health (PGM), fatigue 4a (F4a) and physical function short form (SF10) were analysed using descriptive statistics and linear regression models. Hierarchical Clustering on Principal Components was performed to outline the grouping.

Results: Of 10740 complete respondents, 1558 IIMs, 4591 AIRDs and 3652 HCs were analysed. Individuals with IIMs exhibited higher burden of any comorbidity (OR: 1.62 vs AIRDs and 2.95 vs HCs.p<0.01), BM (OR: 1.66 vs AIRDs and 3.52 vs HCs.p<0.01), CM (OR: 1.69 vs AIRDs and 6.25 vs HCs.p<0.01), and mental health disorders (MHDs) (OR: 1.33 vs AIRDs and 2.63 vs HCs.p<0.01). IIM patients with comorbidities (and MHDs) had worse physical function (low PGP, PGM, SF10 and higher F4a scores, all p<0.01). Worse physical function (PGP) was predicted by age (0.35; 0.030), active disease (-1.51; <0.001), BM (-1.11; <0.001), and MHDs (-1.47; <0.001). PGM was impacted by age (0.51; 0.004), active disease (-1.34; <0.001), BM (-0.75; 0.001) and MHDs (-2.22; <0.001). Determinants of SF10a were age (-3.86; <0.001), active disease (-7.03, <0.001), female (2.85, <0.001), BM (-2.95; <0.001) and MHDs (-2.37; <0.001). Fatigue (F4a) was impacted by age (-0.96, <0.001), active disease (1.45, <0.001), country human development index (0.95; 0.038), BM (1.11; <0.001) and MHDs (2.17; <0.001). Four distinct clusters (Figure 1A, Table 1) were identified i.e., cluster 0: lower burden of comorbidities and good health status; cluster 1: older patients, with higher burden of comorbidities and poor health status, whilst overlap myositis were similarly represented in all clusters, whilst inclusion body myositis and polymyositis were more prevalent in cluster 1 (60.6% and 17.2%) and 3 (32% and 175%), while overlap myositis was more prevalent in cluster 2 (25.6%) and 0 (32.7%) (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: Patients with IIMs have a higher burden of comorbidities that adversely impact physical and mental health, calling for optimized approaches for holistic patient management.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
INCIDENCE, FEATURES AND OUTCOME OF DISEASE RELAPSE AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION IN PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES

Keywords: COVID, Myositis, Vaccination/Immunization

T. G. Béklé,1, M. Nagy-Vincze,1, K. Szabó,1, A. Vincze1, B. Mitényi-Szabó1, Z. Varga1, J. Varga1, Z. Griger1.1University of Debrecen, Division of Clinical Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Debrecen, Hungary; 2University of Debrecen, Department of Medical Imaging, Division of Nuclear Medicine, Debrecen, Hungary

Background: The approved COVID-19 vaccines showed clear safety and efficacy in reduction of severe SARS-CoV-2 disease. Patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) were not well represented in these vaccine trials and there are limited data in the literature about development of confirmed disease flare after COVID-19 vaccination.

Objectives: To evaluate frequency, features and outcome of disease relapses in patients with IIM following SARS-CoV-2 vaccination.

Methods: A cohort of 176 IIM patients (mean age: 57.6 years, 117 females, 59 males, 106 PM, 70 DM) were interviewed after the 3rd wave of COVID-19 pandemic and prospectively followed. Relapses were determined using the IMACS disease state criteria, outcome of the flares with myositis response criteria, calculating the total improvement score (TIS).

Results: A total of 146 (82.9%) patients received vaccination and 17/146 (11.6%) patients had relapse within 3 months and 13/146 (8.9%) patients within one month. The relapse rate of unvaccinated patients (1/30; 3.3%) was not significantly different (p=0.1). No fatal flare has been observed. Three months after the post-vaccination relapses, 70.6% of the patients (12/17) achieved improvement of disease activity (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement). Six months after flares improvement was detected in 14/16 (87.5%) of relapsed patients (average TIS score: 30±15.81; 7 minor, 5 moderate and 0 major improvement).

Conclusion: Our data show an increased rate of anti-MDA5 positivity in the latter stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, as previously noted in the UK (Hannah J, ACR 2022). Most cases had MDA5 positivity without confirmed autoimmune disease and despite the MDA5 positivity occurrence in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic further longitudinal observation is needed to ascertain any potential links with either infection, vaccination or both.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6146
null
Table 1 Clinical manifestations of disease

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<th>Disease</th>
<th>DM</th>
<th>AsyS</th>
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<th>DM-AsyS</th>
<th>Adjusted p-value</th>
<th>Adjusted p-value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=251)</td>
<td>(n=486)</td>
<td>(n=163)</td>
<td>(n=323)</td>
<td>w/o skin</td>
<td>w/o skin</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM-type rashes n (%)</td>
<td>155 (62)</td>
<td>73 (15)</td>
<td>73 (45)</td>
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<td>&lt;0.01</td>
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<td>Heliotrope Rash</td>
<td>94 (38)</td>
<td>51 (11)</td>
<td>51 (31)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gottron's Papules or Sign</td>
<td>145 (58)</td>
<td>110 (23)</td>
<td>110 (68)</td>
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<td>Violaceous Rash</td>
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<td>221 (46)</td>
<td>221 (46)</td>
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<td>Dysphagia</td>
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<td>75 (15)</td>
<td>43 (26)</td>
<td>32 (10)</td>
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<td>Mechanic’s Hands</td>
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<td>178 (46)</td>
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<td>Alopeia</td>
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<td>26 (5)</td>
<td>12 (7)</td>
<td>14 (4)</td>
<td>0.17 1.01 1.01</td>
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<td>Interstitial Lung Disease</td>
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<td>306 (60)</td>
<td>306 (60)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac Involvement</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
<td>30 (6)</td>
<td>14 (9)</td>
<td>16 (5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.03 &lt;0.01 0.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAM n (%)</td>
<td>42 (17)</td>
<td>16 (3)</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
<td>11 (3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01 &lt;0.01 0.90</td>
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Chanakya Kodishala: None declared, Lucy Wedderburn: None declared, Louise Diederich Consultant of: Data safety monitoring board for Corbus Pharmaceuticals, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jens Schmidti: None declared, Maria Giovanna Daniela: None declared, Katalin Dankó: None declared, THI PHUONG THUY NGUYEN: None declared, Monica Vázquez- Del Mercado Espinosa: None declared, Helena Andersson: None declared, Boel De Paepe: None declared, Jan De Blecker: None declared, Britta Mau- ner Speakers bureau: Boehringer-Ingelheim, GSK, Novartis, Consultant of: Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Jansen-Cillag, GSK, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Protagen, Novartis, Medtalk, Pfizer, Roche, Actelion, Mepha, MSD, Lizia McCann: None declared, Nicola Pipitone: None declared, Robert Paul New: None declared, Niels Steen Krogh: None declared, Neil McHugh: None declared, Thi Vencovský: None declared, Ingrid E. Lundberg: Share- holder of: Roche, Novartis, Consultant of: Corbus Pharmaceuticals Inc, Advisory board for Corbus Pharmaceutical, EMD Serono, Argenx, Octapharma, Kezaar, Orphazyme, Pfizer, and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Astra Zeneca, Hector Chinyo: None declared.

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Conclusion: In this cross-sectional study, 15% of patients with ASyS fulfilled the definition of progressive fibrosis and thus could be eligible for anti-fibrotic treat- ment. To our knowledge, this is the first cohort to demonstrate a possible real-life target of anti-fibrotics in IIM-ILD.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Method:
We performed a retrospective study of IIM patients followed in a reference center and compared them according to the presence of ILD. Epidemiological, clinical and immunological data, pulmonary function tests (forced vital capacity and diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide), sKL-6 levels and NVC were recollected, if present. Statistical analysis was performed by T-test and Fisher’s exact test to compare qualitative and/or quantitative variables and multiple logistic regression modelling to identify correlation between pulmonary function tests, NVC findings and sKL-6 levels. Values of p<0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results:
95 patients were included, 47 patients (49%) with ILD. 34% were male with a median age at inclusion of 55.3±24 years and a median disease duration of 6.8±7 years. Avascular areas and capillary loss showed a significant association with the presence of ILD (OR 2.43, 95% CI 1.3-5.7, p 0.004) and (OR 1.7, 95% CI 1.48-3.1, p 0.04). A negative correlation between capillary loss and enlarged capillaries was also found with FVC% (β=-0.46, p<0.001) and DLCO% (β=-0.47, p<0.001) and DLCO% (β=-0.57, p <0.0001) and DLCO% (β=-0.32, p 0.04 and p<0.23, p 0.03), respectively. When we studied the correlation between sKL-6 levels, positive correlations with the presence of ILD (β=0.77, p 0.0004), the presence of hemorrhages (β=0.64, p 0.03) and negative correlations with FVC% (β=-0.47, p 0.001) and DLCO% (β=-0.59, p 0.005) were found. Multiple logistic regression identified as predictors for developing IIM-ILD are summarized in Table 1 and represented in the scatter plot in Figure 1. Male sex, respiratory symptoms, %FVC and %DLCO, sKL-6 levels, anti-Jo1 positivity and the presence of avascular areas and enlarged capillaries in NVC were identified as IIM-ILD predictors (R²=0.974, p =0.006).

Conclusion:
Capillary loss and avascular areas showed a significant association with the presence of ILD, while FVC and DLCO values and sKL-6 levels showed a significant association with the presence of ILD. Avascular areas and capillary loss had a positive correlation with the presence of ILD (OR 2.43, 95% CI 1.3-5.7, p 0.004) and (OR 1.7, 95% CI 1.48-3.1, p 0.04). A negative correlation between capillary loss and enlarged capillaries was also found with FVC% (β=-0.46, p<0.001) and DLCO% (β=-0.47, p<0.001) and DLCO% (β=-0.57, p <0.0001) and DLCO% (β=-0.32, p 0.04 and p<0.23, p 0.03), respectively. When we studied the correlation between sKL-6 levels, positive correlations with the presence of ILD (β=0.77, p 0.0004), the presence of hemorrhages (β=0.64, p 0.03) and negative correlations with FVC% (β=-0.47, p 0.001) and DLCO% (β=-0.59, p 0.005) were found. Multiple logistic regression identified as predictors for developing IIM-ILD are summarized in Table 1 and represented in the scatter plot in Figure 1. Male sex, respiratory symptoms, %FVC and %DLCO, sKL-6 levels, anti-Jo1 positivity and the presence of avascular areas and enlarged capillaries in NVC were identified as IIM-ILD predictors (R²=0.974, p =0.006).

Table 1. Significant logistic regressions for predictors for IIM-ILD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>B value</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male sex</td>
<td>0.186</td>
<td>0.036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory symptoms</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%FVC</td>
<td>-0.322</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%DLCO</td>
<td>-0.59</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sKL-6 levels</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Jo1</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avascular areas</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlarged capillaries</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
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Table 1. Baseline features of ASS patients with and without myocarditis

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>No Myocarditis (n = 30)</th>
<th>No Myocarditis (n = 30)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>60 ± 13</td>
<td>56 ± 15</td>
<td>0.641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (female)</td>
<td>6 (46%)</td>
<td>26 (87%)</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>3 (23%)</td>
<td>20 (67%)</td>
<td>0.401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>4 (31%)</td>
<td>11 (37%)</td>
<td>0.739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anterior Hypertension</td>
<td>2 (15%)</td>
<td>7 (23%)</td>
<td>0.589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity/overweight</td>
<td>2 (15%)</td>
<td>4 (14%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>1 (8%)</td>
<td>2 (7%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudden cardiac death</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autantibodies</td>
<td>7 (54%)</td>
<td>16 (53%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti-Jo1</td>
<td>3 (23%)</td>
<td>4 (13%)</td>
<td>0.655</td>
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<td>Anti-PL7</td>
<td>1 (8%)</td>
<td>2 (7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti-PL12</td>
<td>7 (54%)</td>
<td>13 (43%)</td>
<td>0.740</td>
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<td>Anti-SSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical features</td>
<td>9 (69%)</td>
<td>5 (17%)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>8 (61%)</td>
<td>16 (50%)</td>
<td>0.526</td>
</tr>
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<td>Muscle weakness</td>
<td>6 (46%)</td>
<td>7 (23%)</td>
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<td>ILD</td>
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<td>14 (47%)</td>
<td>0.747</td>
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<td>Dyspnoea</td>
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<td>Dysphagia</td>
<td>1 (8%)</td>
<td>2 (7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gottron’s sign</td>
<td>3 (23%)</td>
<td>6 (20%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical hands</td>
<td>1 (8%)</td>
<td>3 (10%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heliotrope rash</td>
<td>5 (38%)</td>
<td>8 (27%)</td>
<td>0.485</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMT8 score</td>
<td>83 ± 25</td>
<td>74 ± 7</td>
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<td>29 ± 19</td>
<td>25 ± 19</td>
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<td>ESR (mm/1h)</td>
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<td>3 ± 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>218 ± 792</td>
<td>1200 ± 401</td>
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<td>CPK (U/L)</td>
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<td>AST (U/L)</td>
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<td>ALT (U/L)</td>
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<td>Echocardiography</td>
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<td>22 patients</td>
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<td>3 (23%)</td>
<td>62 ± 5</td>
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<td>1 (4%)</td>
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<td>2 (9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pericardial effusion</td>
<td>4 (31%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diastolic dysfunction</td>
<td>2 (9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac enzymes</td>
<td>461 ± 351</td>
<td>41 ± 36</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tropinin T (mg/L)</td>
<td>1800 ± 1484</td>
<td>248 ± 198</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTproBNP (pg/mL)</td>
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<td>2 (9%)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
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<td>Tropinin T &lt;2x</td>
<td>3 (23%)</td>
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<td>0.044</td>
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<td>8 (61%)</td>
<td>6 (27%)</td>
<td>0.075</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tropinin T &gt; 5x</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1195
Longitudinal associations between PGA and inflammatory markers

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<th>obs (n)</th>
<th>patients (n)</th>
<th>b PGA</th>
<th>CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>obs (n)</th>
<th>patients (n)</th>
<th>b PGA</th>
<th>CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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<td>ESR¹</td>
<td>2447</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.25 - 0.42</td>
<td>&lt;0.001***</td>
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<td>254</td>
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<td>0.10 - 0.32</td>
<td>&lt;0.001***</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP²</td>
<td>2720</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.14 - 0.37</td>
<td>&lt;0.001***</td>
<td>CRP²</td>
<td>1107</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.04 - 0.29</td>
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<td>CK²</td>
<td>2823</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.48 - 0.93</td>
<td>&lt;0.001***</td>
<td>CK²</td>
<td>1109</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>-0.54 - 0.68</td>
<td>0.831</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. 1.Erythrocyte sedimentation rate. 2.C-reactive protein. 3. Creatine kinase as ratio of upper limit normal. Mixed models with fixed effect coefficients (b) and 95% confidence intervals (bootstrapped based p-values, 20000 repetitions). All models were adjusted for age and included all available data points.

Objectives: To explore if the patient-reported outcome measure "patient global assessment" (PGA) is associated with markers of inflammation over time and if associations could be explained by functional measures in patients with IIM.

Methods: PGA and inflammatory markers longitudinally collected over 5 years were retrieved for 1333 patients with IIM from the international MyoNet registry. Associations between PGA, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), C-reactive protein (CRP) and creatine kinase (CK) were analyzed with mixed effect regression analyses. Mediation analysis was used to test if the associations between PGA and inflammatory markers could be explained by disease-associated symptoms and signs.

Results: PGA improved and inflammatory markers decreased during the first year of observation. High levels of ESR and CRP were associated with worse PGA in both men (ESR:b=0.21, 95%CI 0.10-0.32, p<0.001, CRP:b=0.16, 95%CI 0.04-0.29, p=0.012) and women (ESR:b=0.34, 95%CI 0.25-0.42, p<0.001, CRP:b=0.26, 95%CI 0.14-0.37, p=0.001) across time points, and CK was associated with PGA in women (b=0.70, 95%CI 0.48-0.93 p<0.001) but not in men (b=0.07, 95%CI 0.54-0.68, p=0.831). In men, the association between elevated inflammatory markers and poorer PGA was explained by disability and extra-muscular disease activity whereas in women this association could not be explained by any of the included functional measures. With a few exceptions, the association between reduced inflammatory markers and improved PGA during the first year of observation was partially mediated by improvements in all functional measures.

Conclusion: Higher levels of systemic inflammation were associated with poorer PGA in patients with IIM. In addition to known benefits of lowered inflammation, these findings emphasize the need to reduce systemic inflammation to improve subjective health.

REFERENCES:
Keywords: Myositis, Cardiovascular disease

Methods: 90 patients with IIM (70 females; mean age 56.6; mean disease duration 5.95 years; dermatomyositis: n=29, polymyositis: n=12, immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy (IMNM): n=20, anti-synthetase syndrome: n=29) and 180 HC (130 females, mean age 54.3) were included. In both groups, subjects with a history of CV disease (angina pectoris, myocardial infarction, cerebrovascular and peripheral arterial vascular events) were excluded. Muscle involvement, disease activity, and tissue damage were evaluated by (MMT-8, MITAX, MDI, respectively). Comorbidities and current treatment were recorded. All participants underwent examinations of carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT), pulse wave velocity (PWV), ankle-brachial index (ABI), and body composition (by densitometry (DXA) and bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA)). The risk of fatal CV events was evaluated by the Systematic Coronary Risk Evaluation (SCORE, charts for the European population) and its modifications: SCORE multiplied by the coefficient 1.5 (mSCORE), and SCORE2.

Results: Compared to HC, IIM patients had a significantly higher prevalence of traditional CV risk factors, cardiac artery disease (CARD), abnormal ABI, and PWV (p<0.05 for all). After propensity score matching (PSM) using traditional CV risk factors, carotid artery disease (CARD), abnormal ABI, and PWV remained associated with increased cardiac risk among IIM subtypes. The calculated CV risk scores by SCORE and SCORE2 (in both IIM and HC), and mSCORE (in IIM only) were reclassified according to CIMT and the presence of carotid plaques. SCORE was demonstrated to be the most inaccurate in predicting CV risk in IIM, while there was a significantly higher proportion of reclassified patients with underestimated CV risk evaluated by SCORE compared to SCORE2 and mSCORE (p<0.02). Age, disease activity, lipid profile, body composition parameters, and blood pressure were the most significant predictors of CV risk in IIM patients (p<0.05 for all variables in bivariate analysis). Moreover, the length of glucocorticoid therapy was positively associated with an increased count of carotid plaques and overall CV risk estimated by US examination (p=0.05 for both).

Conclusion: This cross-sectional cohort study in IIM patients demonstrated a significantly increased risk of subclinical atherosclerosis and CV risk, and also an increased prevalence of traditional CV risk factors compared to HC with comparable age and gender distribution. The most frequent ARS in IIM were the most frequent ARS (39.2%), followed by PL7 (28.8%), PL12 (21.6%), EJ (15.4) and 78.3% southern european caucasians. Sixty three per cent worked in the tertiary sector and 20.5% in the secondary. Some environmental exposition to specific occupational exposure (such as asbestos, coal dust) was found.

Keywords: Myositis, Autoantibodies

Methods: We identified 201 patients with ARS, 125 of them met ASSD criteria. Most were women (62.9%) with a mean age at diagnosis of 59.8 years (DE 15.4) and 78.3% south european caucasians. Sixty three per cent worked in the tertiary sector and 20.5% in the secondary. Some environmental exposition to specific occupational exposure (such as asbestos, coal dust) was found.

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Conclusion: The estimated cumulative incidence was 1.66 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Most were women (62.9%) with a mean age at diagnosis of 59.8 years (DE 15.4) and 78.3% south european caucasians. Sixty three per cent worked in the tertiary sector and 20.5% in the secondary. Some environmental exposition to specific occupational exposure (such as asbestos, coal dust) was found.

References:

1. Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP), fever and mechanic’s hands (MHs).

2. Coronary disease (CARD), abnormal ABI, and PWV remained associated with increased cardiac risk among IIM subtypes. The calculated CV risk scores by SCORE and SCORE2 (in both IIM and HC), and mSCORE (in IIM only) were reclassified according to CIMT and the presence of carotid plaques. SCORE was demonstrated to be the most inaccurate in predicting CV risk in IIM, while there was a significantly higher proportion of reclassified patients with underestimated CV risk evaluated by SCORE compared to SCORE2 and mSCORE (p<0.02).

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In the MSA group, 71% (35/49) of patients had TIS response (score ≥20) at week 16, compared to 55% (18/33) in the autoantibody-negative group. In the MSA group 24 patients were randomized to IVIg and of these 83% (20/24) showed TIS response (score ≥20) at week 16 compared to 60% (15/25) in the group of MSA-positive patients receiving placebo. Additional analyses (including results for specific subgroups in the MSA-positive group) will be presented at the EULAR 2023 congress.

**Conclusion:** Myositis-specific antibodies were commonly identified in patients with dermatomyositis in the ProDERM study. Further analyses will determine if specific MSA, such as anti-TIF-1 and others, play a role in treatment response to IVIg.

**Disclosure of Interests:**

Acknowledgements:

All investigators and patients.

**Background:** Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are rare and heterogeneous conditions, associated with cancer in 10 to 30% of cases. While some features have been associated with cancer (age, male sex, dermatomyositis, anti-TIF-1 antibodies), the association with cancer is more debated in antisynthetase syndrome (ASS). Five studies have assessed the prevalence of cancer during ASS meeting the criteria of cancer-associated myopathy (CAM) cancer diagnosed within 3 years before or after the diagnosis of ASS [1].

**Objectives:** The main objective was to assess the prevalence of CAM in patients with ASS. Secondary objectives were to describe clinical features, biological features and prognosis associated with CAM in ASS patients.

**Methods:** In this retrospective multicenter study we included patients of the main tertiary care centers of Grand-Est and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté regions (MyositEst network). Inclusion criteria were age ≥18 years old, and Connors criteria fulfillment. Patients with low antisynthetase antibodies levels were excluded.

**Results:** Among 212 patients screened, 122 patients were included, with a median age of 55.3 ± 14.5 years old, and a female predominance (88%) (Figure 1). The most frequent manifestations of ASS were interstitial lung disease, myositis, skin involvement (81%, 89%, 85% and 57%, respectively), followed by fever and cardiac involvement (16% and 4%, respectively). The most frequent specific antibodies were anti-JO1, anti-PL12 and anti-PL7 antibodies (61%, 17% and 10%, respectively), followed by anti-EJ and anti-OJ antibodies (7% and 16%, respectively). Four patients were positive for both anti-JO1 and anti-PL2 antibodies, and 1 was positive for both anti-JO1 and anti-PL7 antibodies. Among patients included, 15 (12.3%) met CAM criteria. The diagnosis of cancer was made following whole-body imaging (n=10, either CT-scan or 18FDG-poitom emission tomography), systematic cancer screening (n=3) and physical examination (n=2). Patients with cancer were older (63.5 ± 8.27 vs. 52.1 ± 14.7 years-old, p = 0.0001), had lower CPK levels (541 ± 962 vs. 1628 ± 2404 U/L, p = 0.004), less frequently myalgia (20% vs. 46.7%, p = 0.05) and a higher MRC muscle scale (4.93 ± 0.25 vs. 4.6 ± 0.7, p = 0.0014). CAM patients had more frequent history of cancer (46.6% vs. 2.7%, p = 0.004) and had a higher mortality rate (33% vs. 5%, p = 0.003). Age above 55 years-old, fever and CPK below 500 U/L were associated with CAM both on bivariate and multivariate analysis (logistic regression model, entry p value threshold of 0.2, odds ratio > 1.0).

**Keywords:** Myositis, Malignancy

L. Bucy1, H. Devilliers2, P. Decker3, B. Bonnotte4, J. F. Chabot5,6, P. Bonniaud7,8, J. M. Fileilletet9,10, A. Meyer11,12, A. Servetaz13,14, J. Campagn15, N. Magy-Bertrand16, R. Jaussaud17, T. Moulinet17,18,19, Nancy University Hospital, Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology Department, Vandœuvre les nancy, France;2Dijon University Hospital; Department of Internal Medicine and Systemic Diseases, Dijon, France;3Dijon University Hospital, Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology Department, Dijon, France;4University of Bourgogne-Franche Comté, INSERM U1098, Dijon, France;5Nancy University Hospital, Department of Pneumology, Nancy, France;6Lorraine University, INSERM UMR S1116, Nancy, France;7Dijon University Hospital, Reference Center for Rare Pulmonary Diseases, Pulmonary Medicine and Intensive Care Unit, Dijon, France;8University of Bourgogne-Franche Comté, INSERM, LINC UMR1231, LipSTIC LabEx Team, Dijon, France;9Dijon University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Dijon, France;10Bourgogne-Franche Comté University, INSERM UMR 1093-CAPS, Dijon, France;11Strasbourg University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Muscular Funcional Exploration Unit, Strasbourg, France;12Strasbourg University, EA3072, Strasbourg, France;13Reims University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Clinical Immunology and Infectious Diseases Department, Reims, France;14Laboratory of Immunology, EA7509 IRMAIC, Reims, France;15Uneos, Department of Internal Medicine, Metz, France;16Besançon University Hospital, Internal Medicine Department, Besançon, France;17Lorraine University, UMR 7365 CNRS-Université de Lorraine lmOPA, Vandœuvre Les Nancy, France

**Figure 1:** Flow chart
Table 1: Factors associated with Cancer-Associated Myopathy in patients with antisytnzyme syndrome.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Bivariate analysis</th>
<th>Multivariate analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
<td>p OR (95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 55 years</td>
<td>No 3/61 (5%)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 12/46 (21%)</td>
<td>5.3 (1.41 to 19.89)</td>
<td>0.01 73 (1.72 to 50.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male 7/32 (18%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female8/75 (9.6%)</td>
<td>2.6 (0.86 to 8.13)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>No 8/94 (78%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 4/46 (8.7%)</td>
<td>4.42 (1.15 to 16.9)</td>
<td>0.03 4.1 (1.1 to 14.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPK &lt; 500 U/L</td>
<td>No 29/181 (16.5%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 14/85 (15.1%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatism</td>
<td>No 7/82 (10.4%)</td>
<td>6.01 (0.21 to 19.9)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 1/2 (4.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intersitial lung disease</td>
<td>No 1/25 (4%)</td>
<td>4.42 (1.15 to 16.9)</td>
<td>0.03 4.1 (1.1 to 14.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 8/45 (15.1%)</td>
<td>4.42 (1.15 to 16.9)</td>
<td>0.03 4.1 (1.1 to 14.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin involvement</td>
<td>No 6/37 (14%)</td>
<td>0.78 (0.26 to 2.39)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 1/2 (4.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscular involvement</td>
<td>No 8/76 (9.5%)</td>
<td>4.42 (1.15 to 16.9)</td>
<td>0.03 4.1 (1.1 to 14.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 1/2 (4.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac involvement</td>
<td>No 14/103 (12%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 1/5 (16.6%)</td>
<td>1.83 (0.19 to 17.6)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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IMPARED HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: A CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS FROM AN INTERNATIONAL E-SURVEY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Myositis, Quality of life


Objectives: To investigate physical and mental health in a global cohort of IIM patients compared to those with non-IIM autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases (AIIRDs), non-rheumatic AIDs (NRAIDs), and those without AIDs (controls), using Patient-Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS) global health data obtained from the COVID-2 survey.

Methods: Demographics, AID diagnoses, comorbidities, disease activity, treat- ments, and PROMS were extracted from the COVID-2 database. The primary outcomes were PROMIS Global Physical Health (GPH) and Global Mental Health (GMH) scores. Secondary outcomes included PROMIS physical func- tion short form-10a (PROMIS PF-10a), pain visual analogue scale (VAS), and PROMIS Fatigue-4a scores. Each outcome was compared between IIMs, non- IIM AIIRDs, NRAIDs, and controls. Factors affecting GPH and GMH scores in IIMs were identified using multivariable regression analysis.

Results: A total of 10,502 complete responses from 1582 IIMs, 4700 non-IIM AIIRDs, 545 NRAIDs, and 3675 controls, which accrued as of May 2022, were analyzed. Patients with IIMs were older [59±14 (IIMs) vs 49±14 (controls)] and more likely to be Caucasian [82.7% (IIMs) vs 53.2% (non-IIM AIIRDs) vs 62.4% (NRAIDs) vs 34.5% (controls), p<0.001]. Among IIMs, dermatomyositis (DM) and juvenile DM were the most common (31.4%), followed by inclusion body myositis (IBM) (24.9%). Patients with IIMs were more likely to have comorbidities [68.1% (IIMs) vs 45.7% (non-IIM AIIRDs) vs 45.1% (NRAIDs) vs 28.3% (controls), p<0.001] including mental disorders [9.7% (IIMs) vs 28.2% (non-IIM AIIRDs) vs 17.9% (NRAIDs) vs 2.9% (controls), p<0.001]. GPH median scores were lower in IIMs compared to NRAIDs or controls [13 (interquartile range 10–15) IIMs vs 13 (11–15) NRAIDs vs 13 (11–15) controls, p<0.001] and PROMIS PF-10a median scores were the lowest in IIMs [34 (25–43) IIMs vs 40 (34–46) non-IIM AIIRDs vs 47 (40–50) NRAIDs vs 49 (45–50) controls, p<0.001]. GMH median scores were lower in AIDs including IIMs compared to controls [13 (10–15) IIMs vs 13 (10–15) NRAIDs vs 15 (13–17) controls, p<0.001]. Pain VM median scores were higher in AIDs compared to controls [3 (1–5) IIMs vs 4 (2–6) non-IIM AIIRDs vs 2 (0–4) NRAIDs vs 0 (0–2)

Sciency Abstracts

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controls, p<0.001]. Of note, PROMIS Fatigue-4a median scores were the highest in IIMs [11 (8–14) IIMs vs. 8 (10–14) non-IIM AIDs vs. 9 (7–13) NRAIDs vs. 7 (4–10) controls, p<0.001]. Multivariable regression analysis in IIMs identified older age, male sex, IBM, comorbidities including hypertension and diabetes, active disease, glucocorticoid use, increased pain and fatigue as the independent factors for lower GMH scores. Whereas coexistence of interstitial lung disease, mental disorders including anxiety disorder and depression, active disease, increased pain and fatigue were the independent factors for lower GPH scores. Our results call for greater attention to patient-reported experience and comorbidities including mental disorders to provide targeted approaches and optimise global well-being in patients with IIMs.

**Conclusion:** Both physical and mental health are significantly impaired in patients with IIMs compared to those with non-IIM AIDs or those without AIDs. The complex interactions amongst dysphagia, cancer, and mortality in idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) have never been studied.

**Methods:** A cohort of adult IIM patients with documented dysphagia exposure within 6 months of disease onset were identified from clinical registries in five countries (Sweden, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, and Norway). Mortality rates including 95% CI were calculated. Crude and adjusted mortality rates in IIM patients exposed to dysphagia or not were compared with Kaplan Meier curves and Cox proportional hazard models. To explore possible effect modification of cancer on the association between dysphagia and mortality, an adjusted Cox proportional hazard model stratified on cancer status and including an interaction term between dysphagia and cancer was performed.

**Results:** This study included 230 IIM adult individuals with a mean±SD age at diagnosis of 57±15 years and a mean±SD disease duration of 3±2 months. Of these, 146 (68%) were women. 122 (54%) had severe dysphagia at baseline, 29 (13%) had cancer in the 3 years preceding IIM onset or within 6 months after IIM onset and 112 (49%) had dysphagia. When comparing the subjects unexposed or exposed to dysphagia, interstitial lung disease was more frequent (25 vs 58%), with more dermatomyositis (56 vs 28%) and less anti-synthetase antibody in unexposed or exposed to dysphagia, interstitial lung disease was less frequent (10 vs 36%) in the group exposed to dysphagia. Mortality rates per 100 person-years for IIM patients exposed to dysphagia were 2.3 (95% CI 1.0–4.5) in those without cancer compared to 33.3 (95% CI 16.6–59.2) in those with cancer. Survival curves for dysphagia exposure stratified by cancer status were significantly different (p<0.0001). The main effect of dysphagia exposure in IIM patients without cancer was HR 0.6 (95% CI 0.2–1.8) compared to HR 2.9 (95% CI 0.7–12.4) in those with cancer. Dual exposure to dysphagia and cancer significantly increased the risk of mortality relative to patients with neither condition (p-value interaction 0.05).

**Acknowledgements:** The authors are grateful to all respondents for completing the questionnaire. The authors also thank The Myositis Association, Myositis India, Myositis UK Foundation, the Myositis Global Network, Cure JM, Cure IBM, SJögren's India Foundation, EULAR PARE for their contribution to the dissemination of the survey. Finally, the authors wish to thank all members of the COVAD study group for their invaluable role in the data collection.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Akiya Yoshida: None declared, Yuan Li: None declared, Vahed Marouf: None declared, Masataka Kuswana Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Ono Pharmaceuticals, AbbVie, Janssen, Astellas, Bayer, Asahi Kasei Pharma, Chugai, Eisai, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Nippon Shinyaku, Pfizer, Consultant of: Corbus, Mochida, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Ono Pharmaceuticals, Naveen Ravichandran: None declared, Ashima Makol Consultant of: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Parikshit Sen: None declared.

**References:**
Conclusion: This is the first study to demonstrate effect modification of cancer on the association between dysphagia and mortality in IIM. This suggests that IIM patients with and without cancer are very different and that separate analyses for the 2 groups should be considered when the outcome of interest is mortality. Reference: None.

Table 1. Crude and adjusted risk estimates for the association between dysphagia exposure and mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>P-Y</th>
<th>Mortality rate per 100 p-y</th>
<th>Crude HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>Stratified Cox PH model* HR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>3.0 (1.5-5.4)</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>5.0 (3.0-7.8)</td>
<td>1.7 (0.8-3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>2.2 (1.2-3.6)</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>22.4 (12.6-37.0)</td>
<td>9.4 (4.6-19.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No dysphagia/no cancer</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>2.1 (0.9-4.3)</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia/no cancer</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>2.3 (1.0-4.5)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia/cancer</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>33.3 (16.9-59.5)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No dysphagia/cancer</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11.9 (3.2-30.4)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia/cancer</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>33.3 (16.9-59.5)</td>
<td>2.9 (0.7-12.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Model stratified on cancer status and adjusted for dysphagia, sex, age group at diagnosis, IIM subset and including an interaction term between cancer and dysphagia. P-Y, person-year; IIM, idiopathic inflammatory myopathy; DM, dermatomyositis. p < 0.05 in bold.

Figure 1. Unadjusted survival curves

Legend: Differences between survival probabilities compared using the log rank test.

Disclosure of Interests: Valérie Leclair: None declared, Marie Holmqvist: None declared, Antonella Notarnicola: None declared, Olga Krysturfkova: None declared, Heimann Mann Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Novartis, UCB, Celltrion, MSD, Janssen, Eli-Lilly, Consultant of: Abbvie, Sobi, Gilead, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Helena Andersson: None declared, Louise Pyndt Diederichsen: None declared, Jil Jencovciky Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Biogen, Boehringer, Eli Lilly, Gilead, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, UCB, Werten, Consultant of: Abbvie, Argenga, Boehringer, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Octapharma, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Ingrid E. Lundberg Speakers bureau: Astra Zeneca, Bristo-Pitol Myers Squibb, EMD Serono Research & Development Institute, Argenga, Octapharma, Kezaar, Orphazyme, Pfizer and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Astra Zeneca, Russell Steele: None declared, Marie Hudson: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2777

POST1233

CLINICAL, SEROLOGICAL AND MUSCLE SHEAR WAVE ELASTOGRAPHY ASSESSMENT IN PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES

Keywords: Ultrasound, Myositis, Imaging

Y. Xin, J. Gao, Y. Li, F. Lu, J. Zhu. Peking University People’s Hospital, Department of Ultrasound, Beijing, China; Peking University People’s Hospital, Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are a heterogeneous group of systemic autoimmune disorders characterized by various degrees of muscle weakness and inflammation. Shear wave elastography may be a potential noninvasive quantitative imaging biomarker.

Objectives: The objective of this work was to describe the demographic, clinical and serological characteristics of IIM patients, and to evaluate the role of shear wave elastography in detecting muscle damage.

Methods: We enrolled 14 patients with IIM fulfilling the EULAR/ACR 2017 criteria and having muscle involvement. Shear wave elastography were performed on rectus femoris (RF), deltoid (DEL), biceps brachii (BB) and sternocleidomastoid (SCM) muscles in these patients and 20 healthy controls along the transverse and longitudinal axes, respectively. Demographic, clinical, and serological characteristics were collected from patients’ medical records.

Results: The study included 14 patients with IIM (5 dermatomyositis, 7 immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy, 2 anti-synthetase syndrome). The mean age at diagnosis was 52.93 (±12.99) years, with 9 females (64.3%). The demographic, clinical, serological characteristics of the patients were summarized in Table 1. Muscle ultrasound of IIM patients revealed increased muscle and fascia echogenicity, indicating obvious edema (Figure 1). The shear wave velocity and dispersion slope of RF (13.9 vs. 16.0 m/s, 6.70 vs. 7.59 kHz/[m/s]; 1.82 vs. 1.95 m/s, 46.12 vs. 47.59 kHz/[m/s]); DEL (1.28 vs. 1.41 m/s, 701 vs. 737 kHz/[m/s]; 2.20 vs. 2.57 m/s, 11.05 vs. 14.39 kHz/[m/s]) and BB (1.29 vs. 1.43 m/s, 712 vs. 754 kHz/[m/s]; 2.28 vs. 2.60 m/s, 11.74 vs. 13.49 kHz/[m/s]) in myositis patients are significantly lower than those in healthy controls on transverse and longitudinal axes, while SCM (6.94 vs. 7.25 kHz/[m/s], 9.49 vs. 10.51 kHz/[m/s]) only has differences in the dispersion slope (p < 0.05). We further calculated the sum of viscoelasticity of these four groups of muscles. The overall shear wave velocity (10.82 vs. 11.83 m/s, 16.72 vs. 18.6 m/s) and dispersion slope (55.54 vs. 59.49 kHz/[m/s], 80.46 vs. 96.99 kHz/[m/s]) of myositis patients were lower than that of the healthy controls, which was consistent across transverse and longitudinal axes (p < 0.05). Correlation analysis identified significant negative correlation between CK and LDH and muscle viscoelasticity, with correlation coefficients of -0.56 to -0.60 and -0.57 to -0.71, respectively (p < 0.05).

Conclusion: The viscoelasticity of muscle in IIM patients was significantly decreased, which was moderately to strongly correlated with muscle injury markers. Shear wave elastography can quantitatively evaluate muscle injury, it may serve as an imaging marker for the diagnosis and activity evaluation of myositis.

REFERENCE:


Table 1. Demographic, clinical, and serological characteristics of IIM patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>IIM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (S.D.), years</td>
<td>52.93 (±12.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female/Male (n, %)</td>
<td>9 (64.3)/ 5 (35.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disease (median, IQR), months</td>
<td>10 (2.75-27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung disease (n, %)</td>
<td>6 (42.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin disease (n, %)</td>
<td>7 (50.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK (U/L), (median, IQR)</td>
<td>214.50 (511.50-3302.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDH (U/L), (median, IQR)</td>
<td>464.50 (332.25-643.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALT (U/L), (median, IQR)</td>
<td>95.00 (28.50-138.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST (U/L), (median, IQR)</td>
<td>93.50 (37.75-14700)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA (n, %)</td>
<td>9 (64.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Jo1 (n, %)</td>
<td>2 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT1B (G-150), (median, IQR)</td>
<td>144 (136-148)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. A 60-year-old male with dermatomyositis. B-mode ultrasound showed hyperechoic nodule in the right upper arm muscle, indicative of muscle mass increase. Shear wave elastography of the biceps brachii muscle revealed decreased shear wave velocity and dispersion slope, consistent with muscle injury.
CEREBROVASCULAR AND CAROTID ARTERIAL RISK OF PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES IS INCREASED AND CAN BE PREDICTED BY ENA POSITIVITY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Cardiovascular disease, Myositis

K. Triantafyllias1,2, S. Gauch2, L. Cavagna3, A. Schwarting2,3, *Rheumatology Center Rheinland-Palatinate, Rheumatology, Bad Kreuznach, Germany; 1Johannes Gutenberg University Medical Center, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Mainz, Germany; 2University and IRCSS Policlinico S. Matteo Foundation of Pavia, Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy

Background: Patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are under increased cardiovascular (CV) and cerebrovascular (CVB) risk [1]. Nevertheless, data on diagnostic tools that could assist CV and CVB patient screening in IIM are scarce. Surrogate markers of CV and CVB risk have been shown to improve risk stratification in the general population and have thus been endorsed by the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) for use in clinical practice. In particular, stiffness of the aortic vasculature and sonography of the carotid arteries are associated with high levels of evidence regarding their CV- and CVB-risk predicting value.

Objectives: Therefore, aim of this study was to examine an oscillometric marker of aortic stiffness and sonographic indices of carotid atherosclerosis and rigidity in a cohort of IIM patients. Moreover, we sought to investigate their relationships with patient- and disease-associated parameters.

Methods: Patients from two large Rheumatology Departments, who have been diagnosed with IIM according to the ACR/EULAR criteria, were recruited. Carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (cfPWV; gold standard) was used for the examination of aortic stiffness. Moreover, B-mode and Doppler sonography examinations of the common- and internal carotid arteries (CCA, ICA) were performed to assess plaque presence and/or possible abnormalities of carotid intima media thickness (cIMT), as well as vascular resistance and pulsatility indices (RI, PI). The ESC-SCORE (Systematic Coronary Risk Evaluation) was also assessed in all eligible patients.

Results: 73 IIM patients (58.9%; age 58 (50-65, IQR) and 88 healthy subjects (84.1%; age 51 (37.57, IQR)) underwent cfPWV examinations in the context of the study (Table 1). A subgroup of the patients (n=83) was additionally evaluated via carotid sonography. IIM patients showed statistically significantly higher cfPWV-values [7.92 m/s (6.49-9.26, IQR), vs. 6.72 m/s (6.0-7.69, IQR); p<0.001] and cIMT-values [0.92 mm (0.77-1.1, IQR), vs. 0.8 mm (0.66-0.88, IQR); p<0.001], compared to controls. CCA- and ICA- resistance and pulsatility indices were also statistically significantly higher in the patient group (all; p<0.01). Almost all of these differences remained significant after adjusting for confounding factors, such as age, smoking, BMI, hypertensive treatment and cholesterol levels (padj<0.001), CCA-PI and ICA-PI remained significant after adjusting for confounding factors, such as age, smoking, BMI, hypertensive treatment and cholesterol levels (padj<0.001). Interestingly, patients with ENA-positivity showed higher CCA-RI values compared to their counterparts [0.85 (0.765-0.88, IQR) vs. 0.77 (0.72-0.82, IQR), p=0.044].

Conclusion: Hereby, we could show that IIM patients have a higher level of carotid atherosclerosis, as well as increased vascular resistance and pulsatility, compared to healthy subjects. Thus, a higher CBV and CV risk can be postulated.

To our knowledge, this is one of the largest surrogate marker studies in the field of IIM and the first one to show that positivity of myositis associated antibodies (MSA) can be an independent predictor of a higher carotid resistance index. Therefore, MSA-status should be taken into account during CVB risk stratification of IIM.

Table 1. Descriptive characteristics by group (selection).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (y)</th>
<th>Gender (%)</th>
<th>Smoking</th>
<th>Antihypertensive drugs</th>
<th>BMI</th>
<th>Cholesterol (mg/dl)</th>
<th>cfPWV (m/s)</th>
<th>cIMT (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Controls (n=88)</td>
<td>Patients (n=73)</td>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Controls (n=88)</td>
<td>Patients (n=73)</td>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Controls (n=88)</td>
<td>Patients (n=73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 (37-57)</td>
<td>84.1% 15.9%</td>
<td>20.9% 19.3%</td>
<td>20.84 (172-239)</td>
<td>6.72 (6-7.68)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>58 (50-65)</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 (50.65)</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27.74 (24.3-31.2)</td>
<td>7.92 (6.5-9.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>204 (168-246)</td>
<td>148 (64-318)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CEREBROVASCULAR AND CAROTID ARTERIAL RISK OF PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES IS INCREASED AND CAN BE PREDICTED BY ENA POSITIVITY

ANTIBODY PREDICTIONS OF PROGNOSIS IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHY ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Myositis, Lungs

J. Hannah1,2, A. Lawrence1, J. Martincovic1, M. Naqvi3, S. S. Ali3,3, C. Stock4, C. Owens5, A. Devaraj6, L. Pollard3, S. Agarwal7, A. Atienza-Mateo8, A. Patel9, A. West10, K. Tinsley11, H. Robbie12, F. Chua13, B. Lams14, A. Wells15, S. Norton16, J. Galloway17, E. Renzoni18, P. Gordon19, 1King’s College Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2King’s College London, Department of Academic Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 3Guys and St Thomas’ NHS Trust, Department of Respiratory Medicine, London, United Kingdom; 4Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals, Interstitial Lung Disease Unit, London, United Kingdom; 5University Hospital Lewisham, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 6Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 7King’s College Hospital, Department of Respiratory Medicine, London, United Kingdom; 8King’s College Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Radiology, London, United Kingdom

Background: IIM-ILD follows a varied clinical course. Serological profile can help predict clinical phenotype, but impact on ILD prognosis is less clear.

Objectives: This multicentre UK cohort study examines whether serological profile can predict mortality and change in lung function over time.

Methods: Patients with IIM-ILD were identified in 3 NHS trusts from local databases. Adults with ILD meeting IIM diagnostic criteria or Interstitial Pneumonia with Autoimmune Features (IPAF) with at least one MSA validated by Western Blot were included. Baseline characteristics from time of presentation were compared across antibody groups and across survivors/deceased at 2 years. Survival analysis looking at time to death (or lung transplant) for duration of available follow-up was modelled by Cox-Proportional Hazards comparing each antibody individually to all others. Models were adjusted for age, gender, ethnicity, presence of overlap CTD/malignancy, smoking and site. Regression models were also used to observe trends in lung function parameters over time.

Results: Of 430 included patients, 68% were female, 46% were of White ethnicity. 81% met IIM criteria, 19% were IPAF. Mean follow up duration was 4.3 years. Common antibodies were to Ros2, Jo1, PL12, MDA5 (n=195, 126 & 42 respectively). 10% had evidence of pulmonary hypertension within 1 year of diagnosis, 4% had malignancy within 3 years. Baseline characteristics of survivors vs fatal cases at 2 years showed survivors were younger (51.4 vs 61.7 years), more likely to have never smoked (69% vs 44%), less likely to have been hospitalised at diagnosis (15% vs 52%) and had a lower Charlson Comorbidity Index. Survivors had lower CRP, higher CK & higher baseline FEV1/FVC/TLCO. Imbalance in age, BMI, CK and comorbidity compared to healthy subjects. Thus, a higher CBV and CV risk can be postulated. To our knowledge, this is one of the largest surrogate marker studies in the field of IIM and the first one to show that positivity of myositis associated antibodies (MSA) can be an independent predictor of a higher carotid resistance index. Therefore, MSA-status should be taken into account during CVB risk stratification of IIM.

Table 1. Antibody n Deaths/ Transplant Univariate HR p value Multivariate HR p value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antibody</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Deaths/</th>
<th>Transplant</th>
<th>Univariate HR</th>
<th>Multivariate HR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jo1</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.56 (0.35, 0.91)</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.61 (0.42, 0.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL12</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.90 (0.47, 1.73)</td>
<td>0.748</td>
<td>1.06 (0.90, 1.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL7</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.29 (1.22, 4.31)</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>2.07 (1.44, 2.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.63 (0.15, 2.56)</td>
<td>0.517</td>
<td>0.65 (0.30, 1.41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OJ</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.51 (0.73, 3.18)</td>
<td>0.305</td>
<td>1.82 (1.25, 2.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Me2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.31 (0.48, 3.58)</td>
<td>0.603</td>
<td>0.89 (0.27, 2.90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serp</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.00 (0.32, 3.17)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.82 (0.18, 3.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA5</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.90 (1.53, 5.49)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>4.59 (2.10, 10.01)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* counts of < 5 suppressed for anonymity
and PL7 had high HR (2.07, 95% CI 1.44-2.99). RNP showed worse prognosis on adjusted analysis (HR 1.88, 95% CI 1.25-2.84) (Table 1). Regression models suggest that compared to other antibodies, %pred FVC in MDA5 improves over the first 3 years, in PL7 it drops, and in Jo1 it is no different (Figure 1). MDA5 % pred FEV1 also showed improvement, but in Ku it was lower than other antibodies from 21 months. There were no significant differences in % pred TLCO between antibodies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Figure 1.

Conclusion: There is strong evidence that antibody status associates with clinical outcomes, both in terms of progression of lung disease and mortality, suggesting pathogenetic differences. MDA5 predicts a high risk of death early on in disease course, whilst Jo1 associates with lower mortality. PL7 and RNP were associated with a higher mortality in the regression models. MDA5 predicts a high risk of death early on in disease course, whilst Jo1 associates with lower mortality. PL7 and RNP were associated with a higher mortality in the regression models.

Table 1. Characteristics of included participants at study entry by base-line treatment category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Conventional Therapy</th>
<th>Nonconventional Therapy</th>
<th>No Therapy</th>
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<td>n=61</td>
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<td>p</td>
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<td>57.0 (8.3)</td>
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<td>White race, %</td>
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<td>75.0</td>
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<td>44.1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time since symptom onset, years</td>
<td>6.5 (6.0)</td>
<td>8.3 (6.3)</td>
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</table>

Keywords: Myositis, Registries

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are a group of rare, heterogeneous diseases in which the hallmark feature is chronic inflammation of skeletal muscle leading to muscle weakness. Initial conventional therapy is based on expert opinion and includes glucocorticoids in combination with methotrexate, azathioprine, or mycophenolate. If this therapy is not sufficiently effective, second line therapy (calcineurin inhibitors or IVIG) may be considered. If still insufficient, escalation to rituximab or cyclophosphamide is considered. Agents not included in conventional recommended therapies have also been used and are being studied in the management of IIM.

CONCLUSION: Despite published recommendations to combine glucocorticoids with another immunosuppressive drug as part of first line therapy for IIM, many individuals with IIM are not prescribed concomitant DMARDs. In this cohort, there were no significant differences in IIM subtype, disease duration, or calendar-year by conventional vs nonconventional therapy at study entry. A relatively small number of participants (2%) were on corticosteroid alone (23%) or were on first line therapy but without a corticosteroid (17%). A relatively small number of participants (2%) were on second line therapy, and none were on third line therapy at baseline. About 9% reported use of a nonconventional DMARD, and the remaining 6% reported no treatment. Those who reported no therapy were more likely to be male and had higher global severity scores. Across 504 person-years of observation, 47% reported first line treatment, 10% reported second line, and 3% reported third line as the most advanced conventional therapy received. The remaining participants reported either no conventional or no treatment.

Conclusion: Despite published recommendations to combine glucocorticoids with another immunosuppressive drug as part of first line therapy for IIM, many individuals with IIM are not prescribed concomitant DMARDs. In this cohort, there were no significant differences in IIM subtype, disease duration, or calendar-year by conventional vs nonconventional therapy at study entry. A relatively small number of participants with IIM reported receiving no treatment during observation, which may be due to significantly shorter follow up time in that subgroup. Future work should examine treatment response and changes in disease activity with changing lines of treatment.
Figure 1. Treatment progression among individuals in FORWARD with IM. Baseline (at study entry) treatment category is shown on the left, and ultimate treatment category (during observation) is shown on the right. First line = glucocorticoid + methotrexate, azathioprine, or mycophenolate. Second line = calcineurin inhibitors or IVIG. Third line = rituximab or cyclophosphamide.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Kristin Wipfler: None declared, Urbano Sbarigia Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen, Kaleb Michaud: None declared.


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POS1237 MICROVASCULAR DAMAGE IN AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES: A CAPILLAROSCOPIC ANALYSIS FROM 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN A EULAR TRAINING AND RESEARCH REFERRAL CENTER FOR IMAGING

Keywords: Diagnostic Tests, Myositis, Systemic sclerosis

E. Hysa, S. Sammori1, C. Pizzorni1, E. Gotelli1, A. Cere1, C. Schenone1, G. Ferrari1, R. Campitelli1, V. Gerli1, S. Paolino1, A. Sulli1, V. Smith1, M. Cutolo1.

1Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine and Specialties, University of Genova; IRCCS San Martino Polyclinic Hospital, Genova, Italy; Genova, Italy; 2Unit for Molecular Immunology and Inflammation, VIB Inflammation Research Centre (IRC), Department of Internal Medicine, Ghent University, Department of Rheumatology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium, Ghent, Belgium

Background: Nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC) safely allows the detection of microvascular damage which can vary in terms of extent and severity (validated NVC patterns) in patients with Raynaud's phenomenon (RP) secondary to autoimmune connective tissue diseases (CTDs).

Objectives: The prevalence of the morphological capillary findings was retrospectively evaluated in a wide cohort of patients with RP secondary to a CTD at the time of the first single NVC analysis, independently from their current treatment, autoantibody profile and comorbidities.

Methods: One-thousand-one-hundred-eighty-one (1181) patients affected by CTDs (1065 females, mean age 54.1 ± 16.2, mean disease duration 4.5 years ± 3) were analysed from 2001 to 2021. The considered CTDs, diagnosed through the classification criteria available at the time of the enrollment, included: systemic sclerosis (SSc, 51%), undifferentiated connective tissue disease (UCTD, 26%), mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD, 6%), dermatomyositis (DM, 3%), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE, 9%), Sjögren's syndrome (SS, 3%) and primary anti-phospholipid syndrome (aPS, 2%). The capillaroscopic parameters were classified according to the CAP Fast Track Algorithm and distinguished between scleroderma-pattern (specific NVC alterations) and non-scleroderma patterns (non-specific NVC alterations) [1]. The presence of specific NVC findings detectable with a progressive microangiopathy in SSc patients (“early”, “active”, “late” patterns) have been searched also in other CTDs, beyond SSc. The “scleroderma-like pattern” was defined when a concomitant mix of the specific abnormalities of the SSc-patterns (namely: giant capillaries, loss of capillaries, capillary dilations, microhaemorrhages, abnormal shapes) was detected without fitting the single definition of “Early”, “Active” or “Late” pattern [2].

Results: Among CTDs, the mean capillary density (1 linear mm) was significantly lower among all the CTDs (respectively, in 73%, 99% and 70% of SSc patients and in 73%, 96% and 70% of DM patients, Figure 1). The non-specific abnormalities of capillary morphology, such as the ramifications (abnormal shapes as expression of neoangiogenesis) were significantly more frequent in SSc, MCTD and APS among all the CTDs (respectively, in 48%, 41% and 36% of cases). Moreover, giant capillaries and abnormal shapes were detected in 61% and 41% of MCTD patients. In APS, the most significant prevalence of microhaemorrhages (50%) was observed compared with other CTDs, to the exclusion of SSc and DM being detectable in 70% of cases. No significant damages were observed in SS and SLE patients (Figure 1).

Conclusion: This large sample size of CTDs patients, collected over 20 years of analysis, confirms the highest specificity and severity of the NVC microvascular damage respectively in SSc and DM patients, when compared to other CTDs. Those data will be used to implement easy algorithms to distinguish scleroderma patterns, from non-scleroderma and scleroderma-like patterns.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Frequency of capillary density, giant capillaries, abnormal shapes and microhemorrhages across different CTDs (see text)

Acknowledgements: Elvis Hysa, Silvia Sammori and Carmen Pizzorni equally contributed to this work.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1238 FIRST EFFICACY FOR CAR-T CELL TREATMENT IN REFRACTORY ANTISYNTHETASE SYNDROME

Keywords: Treat to target, Myositis, Remission

J. Taubmann1,2, F. Müller2,3, S. Boeltz1,2, J. Knitza1,2, S. Völkl2,3, M. Aigner2,3, A. Kleyer2,3, I. Minnopoulou2, F. Locatelli2, M. A. D’agostino2, R. Gary2, S. Krestchmann2,3, S. Krhardt1,2, D. Mougiakakos2,3,4, G. Krönke1,2, M. Andrea2,3, G. Schett1,2, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Rheumatology and Immunology, Universitätsklinikum Erlangen and Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany; 3Department of Internal Medicine S-Hematology and Oncology, Universitätsklinikum Erlangen and Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany; 4Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Bambino Gesù, Department of Pediatric Onco-Hematology and Transfusion Medicine, Roma, Italy; 5Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Division of Rheumatology, Roma, Italy; 6Hämatologie und Onkologie, Universitätsklinikum Magdeburg A.d.R. Universitätsklinik für Hämatologie und Onkologie, Magdeburg, Germany

Background: We previously reported that deep B cell depletion using a single infusion with autologous CD19 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells induced drug-free clinical remission in patients with severe systemic lupus erythematosus [1,2]. Whether other forms of severe autoimmune disease are sensitive to treatment with CD19 CAR-T cells has been unknown to date. Antisynthetase syndrome (ASS) is a autoimmune disease that affects muscles, joints, skin and lung. ASS can be very severe and life-threatening needing effective and fast treatment. This abstract presents the first evidence that severe ASS is highly sensitive to treatment with autologous CD19 CAR-T cells.

Objectives: To test whether administration of CD19 CAR-T cells is tolerable and effective in patients with severe refractory Antisynthetase syndrome.

Methods: Autologous CD19 CAR-T cells were prepared from leukapheresis specimen after enrichment of T cells and transfection with MB-CART19.1

Figure 1. Microvascular changes detected with nailfold videocapillaroscopy in severe refractory antisynthetase syndrome (aPS)
Results: Two anti-Jo1 AS patients (patient 1: 41-year-old male, patients 2: 43-year-old female) were treated with CD19 CAR-T cells. Both patients presented with active myositis with CK levels of 3055U/l, respectively. Patient 1 showed involvement of the muscles, skin and lungs; patient 2 showed involvement of muscles, skin, joints and lungs. Patient 1 did not respond to 5 different immunosuppressive treatments including cyclophosphamide and rituximab, while patient 2 did not respond to 10 treatments including cyclophosphamide, rituximab and ocrelizumab. CAR-T cell treatment was well-tolerated. Only mild CRS (grade I) was observed in both patients. Patient 2 had signs of mild self-limited ICANS (grade I discrete ataxia for a few days) two weeks after CAR-T treatment. In patient 1, CAR-T cells expanded to a maximum of 60 cells/µl on day 8, in patient 2 to 1524 cells/µl on day 8. Expansion of CAR-T cells paralleled with the complete depletion of circulating B cells. B cell aplasia lasted for 119 days in patient 1, while patient 2 is still in B cell aplasia (day 60). Both patients experienced normalization or significant reduction in CK levels (patient 1: CK<120 days: 70 U/l, patient 2: CK<60 days: 311 U/l), major clinical improvement according to 2016 TIS and could stop all immunosuppressive treatment (5 U/l; cut-off 25U/l, Orgentec ELISA, Mainz, Germany) in patient 1, while patient 2 awaits follow up measurement.

Conclusion: Taken together, these data suggest that CD19 CAR T-cell therapy provides a possibility to interrupt with severe ASs leading to drug-free remission, resolution of muscle and lung inflammation and abrogation of disease-associated autoimmunity.

Acknowledgements: N.I.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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The relative expression level of IFN score among various subgroups of IMNs

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1: The relative expression level of IFN score among various subgroups of IMNs

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lentiviral vector (Milenyi) encoding for a 4-1BB based CAR targeting CD19. Cells were expanded for 12 days and 1 million CAR-T cells/kg body weight were administered as a single intravenous infusion after standard conditioning therapy with cyclophosphamide/fludarabine, as described previously [1,2]. All disease-related treatments were stopped before CAR-T cell administration. Patients were followed up in outpatient care for the first 10 days after CAR-T cell administration, thereafter weekly until the end of the first month, then monthly for three months and every three months later. Tolerability was assessed by monitoring for Cytokine-Release Syndrome (CRS) and Immune-related effector Cell Neurotoxicity Syndrome (ICANS). Efficacy was assessed by CK levels, good response according 2016 ACR/EULAR total improvement score (TIS), imaging of muscles and lungs and successful cessation of all immunosuppressive treatments including glucocorticoids.

Methods: ILD patients[5]. In clinical practice, there is still an urgent demand for sensitive and specific biomarkers of novel CAR-T cell therapy. Janus kinase inhibitor, which targets the IFN pathway, can be a valuable biomarker for monitoring disease activity and predicting mortality in anti-MDA5+DM patients.

REFERENCES:
Efficacy and Safety of Abatacept in Myositis Associated Intersitial Lung Disease

Keywords: Myositis, Clinical Trials, Lungs

R. Aggarwal1, S. Moghadam-Kia1, D. Koontz2, D. Saygin3, S. Bae3, D. Sullivan4, G. Marde5, S. Venuturupalli6, P. Dellaria7, S. Danoff7, T. Doyle8, G. Hunninghake9, J. S. Lee10, A. Fischer11, J. Fai12, C. R. Kang13, Y. Lin14, C. Johnson15, D. Ascherman16, C. V. Oddis17, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Pittsburgh, PA, United States of America; 2University of Pittsburgh, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Pittsburgh, PA, United States of America; 3University of California Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America; 4University of Pittsburgh, Department of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, United States of America; 5Northwell Health, Department of Rheumatology, Great Neck, NY, United States of America; 6Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Beverly Hills, CA, United States of America; 7Bingham and Women’s Hospital BWH, Department of Rheumatology, Boston, United States of America; 8John Hopkins Medicine, Department of Biostatistics, Baltimore, United States of America; 9Pennsylvania, Department of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, United States of America; 10University of Colorado Denver, Department of Medicine, Aurora, CO, United States of America; 11Bristol Myers Squibb, Lung Fibrosis - Clinical Development Lead, Lawrenceville, NJ, United States of America; 12UCLA Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America; 13University of Pittsburgh, Department of Biostatistics, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 14University of Pittsburgh, Department of Biostatistics, Pittsburgh, PA, United States of America; 15University of Pennsylvania, Department of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, United States of America

Background: Intersitial Lung Disease (ILD) is the most common cause of mortality in myositis and there is lack of randomized clinical trials for myositis-associated ILD (MA-ILD). A T-cell mediated pathogenesis has been postulated for MA-ILD, and abatacept (ABA) is a T cell co-stimulatory modulator.

Objectives: Our primary objective was to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of ABA (125 mg SQ weekly) combined with standard of care (SOC) vs. placebo/SOC in MA-ILD patients in a multi-center, double-blind, randomized placebo-controlled proof of concept clinical trial.

Methods: 20 patients (pts) with anti-synthetase antibody (Anti-Syn Ab) were enrolled across 5 centers for 24 weeks in a randomized placebo-controlled phase (RCT) followed by an open label extension (OLE) for 24 weeks. Active myositis was not required but pts must have had active ILD (new onset or worsening requiring treatment) and previously failed ≥1 SOC drug for ILD. Pts were required to be on stable SOC (glucocorticoids (GC)/1 immunosuppressive (IS) agent (azathioprine or mycophenolate) prior to the trial as well as stable SOC IS throughout the trial. A recommended GC taper was instituted. The primary end-point was the change in Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) (in ml) change from baseline to week 24. Secondary endpoints included FVC changes over 48 weeks, patient reported outcomes (PRO) of dyspnea (UCSD-shortness of breath questionnaire; range 0-120, MIDC of 8) and DLCO corrected % predicted (DLCO) at 24 and 48 weeks. Mixed effect modeling was used for analysis and the study was not powered for primary or secondary outcomes.

Results: A total of 20 anti-Syn Ab positive pts (mean age of 57, 45% female and 85% Caucasian, Jo-1, 55% were randomized to ABA (n=9) and placebo (n=11). All but 1 pts completed 48 weeks of the trial. There was no significant or clinically relevant difference in median FVC (ml) from baseline to week 24 between ABA (-40ml) and placebo (30ml), p = 0.97. However, the median FVC (ml) change from baseline to week 48 was 140ml and -40ml, in ABA vs. placebo (p=0.15), with a 180ml difference in favor of the ABA group. FVC% predicted remained stable (±5%) or improved (>5%) without death or drug rescue in 75% (68/8) and 56% (24/43) of pts at week 24 and week 48, in ABA vs. placebo, respectively. The median DLCO change from baseline was -4.5% and -10.5% at week 24, 6.5% and -2.7 at week 48, in ABA vs. placebo group, respectively. DLCO remained stable (±5%) or improved (>5%) without death or drug rescue in 75% (47/63) and 56% (24/43) of pts at 24 and 48 weeks, in ABA vs. placebo, respectively. Dyspnea improved by an MCID of 8 without requiring drug rescue or death in 22% (2/9) and 45.5% (5/11) of pts at week 24, 53% (5/9) and 40% (4/10) at week 48, in ABA vs. placebo, respectively. Dyspnea improved by median of 1 and 3 at week 24, 13 and 5 at week 48 in ABA vs. placebo, respectively. Dyspnea improved by an MCID of 8 without requiring drug rescue or death in 22% (2/9) and 45.5% (5/11) of pts at week 24, 50% (4/8) and 18% (2/11) at 48 weeks in ABA vs. placebo, respectively. There were 3 severe adverse events (1 in RCT, 2 in OLE) in 2 pts requiring hospitalization in the ABA group for progressive respiratory failure and 1 died (at 24 weeks). There were 36 and 23 adverse events among 9 placebo and 10 treatment groups of pts ABA was well tolerated.

Conclusion: MA-ILD ABA-treated subjects showed similar FVC, DLCO and dyspnea PRO trends compared to placebo at 24 weeks but clinically and numerically meaningful trends were observed in ABA-treated subjects at week 48.

These results suggest the need for a larger randomized study of ABA in MA-ILD. Abatacept was relatively safe and well tolerated in the cohort.

Disclosures of Interests: Rohit Aggarwal Consultant of: Mallinckrodt, Octapharma, CSL Behring, Bristol Myers-Squibb, EMD Serono, Q32, Kezer, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Alexion, Argenx, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI), Corbus, Janssen, Kyverna, Roivant, Merck, Galapagos, Actigraph, Scipher, Horizon Therapeutics, Teva, Beigene, ANI Pharmaceuticals, Biogen, NuVig, Capella Bioscience, CabaletaBio, Grant/research support from: Mallinckrodt, Pfizer, Bristol Myers-Squibb, Q32, EMD Serono, Janssen, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI), Siamak Moghadam-Kia: None declared, Diane Koontz: None declared, Didem Saygin: None declared, Sangmee Bae: None declared, Daniel Sullivan Shareholder of: Dr. Sullivan own shares in the following relevant companies: Eli Lilly, Johnson and Johnson, Merck, Amgen, and the CURE ETF (in addition to the above, contains Pfizer, AbbVie, and Abbott Laboratories), Galina Marder Grant/research support from: Research Grant from GSK, Swamy Venuturupalli Consultant of: Kezar Pharmaceuticals, Grant/research support from: Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and Horizon Pharmaceuticals, Paul Dellaripa Grant/research support from: Yes, from Bristol Myers and Genentech, Sanye Danoff Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim Clinical trials - Boehringer Ingelheim, BMS, United Therapeutics, Tracy Doyle Consultant of: Dr. Doyle has received consulting fees from Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Dr. Doyle has received grant support from Bristol Myers Squibb and has been a part of a clinical trial funded by Genentech., Gary Hunninghake Consultant of: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Chugai Pharmaceuticals, and the Gerson Lehrman Group, Jocye S. Lee Consultant of: United Therapeutics, Boehringer Ingelheim, Blade, Eleven P15, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Pliant, Aryeh Fischer Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Aryeh is a full-time employee of Bristol Myers Squibb, Jeremy Falk: None declared, Chae Ryon Kang: None declared, Yan Lin: None declared, Chelionda Johnson: None declared, Dana Ascherman Consultant of: PTC Therapeutics, Lundbeck and EMD Serono, Grant/research support from: Mallinckrodt, TEVA, Argenx and Biogen, Chester V Oddis Consultant of: Pfizer, EMD Serono, Grant/research support from: Genentech.

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References: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
**Scleroderma, myositis and related syndromes**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritis, Imaging, Myositis

P. Welker, D. Franke, A. Briel, V. Failli, Chantel - University Medicine Berlin, Functional Anatomy, Berlin, Germany; n nanopET GmbH, Imaging, Berlin, Germany

**Background:** Myopathies with main symptoms of muscle pain and weakness can have a wide variety of triggers, be characterized by different courses and localizations, and occur as side effect of rheumatic diseases. They have also recently come into focus as sequelae after systemic viral infections, for example as post-acute Covid-19 syndrome. Inflammatory reactions (Polyomysitis, PM) are often difficult to differentiate from non-inflammatory myalgias. Clinical examinations and analysis of serum parameters are helpful, but do not always lead to clear results due to overlapping syndromes. In addition to pathogenic-related myositis (Lyme disease), LD, muscle inflammation can also occur in autoimmune-caused rheumatic diseases such as systemic sclerosis (SSc), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), or polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR). Furthermore, overexertion, degeneration, or psychosomatic influences (fibromyalgia, FM) can lead to the symptom of muscle pain.

**Objectives:** The present work investigates the potential of NfRI-F0I feature assessment in diagnosing patients with muscle weakness and muscle pain to better explore therapy options.

**Methods:** NfRI-FOI analyses of patients (n = 200) without clinical symptoms (Ref. n = 31), or the diagnosis of osteoarthritis (OA) (n = 35) were compared with PM patients (n = 9), and patients diagnosed with autoimmune RA (n = 35), SSc (n = 34), Sjogren Syndrome (SS, n = 20), or PMR (n = 5). In addition, patients with diagnoses of LD or primary FM (n = 31) were examined. Indocyanine green as fluorescence dye was injected and the FOI images of both hands were evaluated from 0-240s (Prista Video Image, PVI), or in the late period P3 (150-240s). Signal intensities (SI) were created from the summation images. For characterization of the cohorts, serum parameters were determined.

**Results:** Since the detection of serum JO-1 antibodies can be considered as reliable evidence of myositis, patients with this verification examined first. In addition to increase of SI in PVI (p<0.0001), 8/9 PM patients show stronger accumulation in P3 in the anatomical position of hand muscles, and in the tendon-muscle junction of the forearm compared to the Ref group (Figure 1). In the cohort of patients with PMR, the PVI SI was also increased (p<0.0001). Stronger P3 accumulation was observed in 3/5 patients. However, besides accumulation in the joints as the main site of inflammation in this disease, signal increase was detected mostly in the muscle-tendon transition, which could be also attributed to degenerative changes due to the high age of this cohort. That is also true for the patients in the OA cohort, but with lower SI both in PVI and P3. In addition, increased PVI SI was detected in all other disease cohorts (p<0.01). However, increased accumulation in P3 can only be detected in some of the patients of these cohorts and predominantly in the muscle-tendon transition. Most frequently, patients with increased accumulation in P3 were identified in the groups of RA and SS. However, increased accumulation in P3 was also detected in 48% of patients diagnosed with fibromyalgia, but only in the muscle-tendon junction.

**Conclusion:** The study demonstrates that changes in the microcirculation in inflammatory processes in the context of myositis correlate with a late phase dye accumulation during a NfRI-FOI examination. This could provide valuable information for differential diagnoses of inflammatory versus non-inflammatory myopathies to optimize therapy. NfRI-FOI could also potentially be used for the screening of myositis in virus-related diseases (e.g., Covid-19).

**Figure 1:** Examples of NfRI-FOI images in patients: A. without clinical symptoms (Ref), B. PVI positive Polyomysitis (PM), C. Polyomysitis rheumatica (PMR), D. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Analysis of fluorescence dye distribution 0-240s (summations image, PVI), or in late phase 150-240s (P3). The figure demonstrates significant dye accumulations in inflammatory tissues with a focus in the areas of the muscles and tendons in PM, and in the joints in PMR and RA.

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Background: Early pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) diagnosis and treatment are crucial to improve systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients' outcomes. In PAH the progressive pulmonary vascular remodeling leads to an increasing load on the contracting RV and an altered right ventricular - pulmonary arterial (RV-PA) coupling. The RV-PA coupling describes the RV adaptation to its afterload [1]. Tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion/systolic pulmonary artery pressure (TAPSE/sPAP) ratio is the validated non-invasive estimation of RV-PA coupling [2]. In the new 2022 pulmonary hypertension (PH) guidelines, TAPSE/sPAP ratio has been included among the additional echocardiographic signs suggestive of PH and the echocardiographic parameters for 1-year mortality risk assessment [3]. However, to date, the role of TAPSE/sPAP ratio in SSc is underinvestigated [4-6].

Objectives: The primary aim of the study was to assess the predictive role of TAPSE/sPAP ratio for PH diagnosis in the SSc European Scleroderma Trials and Research (EUSTAR) cohort. The secondary aim of the study was to evaluate the prognostic role of TAPSE/sPAP ratio in predicting mortality in the SSc EUSTAR cohort.

Methods: Eligible patients were systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients registered in the EUSTAR database with at least one visit recording TAPSE and sPAP data. Individual centres were required to provide TAPSE and sPAP data at 12±3 months before right heart catheterization (RHC). Logistic regression analysis was applied to analyse the predictive ability of TAPSE/sPAP ratio for PH diagnosis. Cox regression analysis was performed to evaluate TAPSE/sPAP ratio as a predictive factor for all-cause mortality.

Results: 2555 SSc patients met the inclusion criteria for this study with 355 SSc patients having available RHC data at baseline. PH was confirmed by RHC in 195 SSc patients (54.9%). TAPSE/sPAP ratio ≤0.55 mm/mmHg [OR 0.251 (95% CI 0.084-0.753), p<0.05] and FVC/DLCO [OR 2.568 (95% CI 1.227-5.375), p<0.05] were significantly associated with PH diagnosis. In logistic regression analysis with echocardiographic parameters at 12±3 months before RHC, TAPSE/sPAP ratio <0.55 mm/mmHg [OR 0.251 (95% CI 0.084-0.753), p<0.05] and FVC/DLCO [OR 2.568 (95% CI 1.227-5.375), p<0.05] were significantly associated with PH diagnosis. In multivariate Cox regression analysis, TAPSE/sPAP ratio ≤0.32 mm/mmHg [HR 0.310 (0.164-0.585), p<0.001] was the most significant predictive factor for all-cause mortality.

Conclusion: TAPSE/sPAP ratio ≤0.55 mm/mmHg is a predictive risk factor for PH. TAPSE/sPAP ratio ≤0.32 mm/mmHg is a predictive risk marker for all-cause mortality.

REFERENCES:

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RESULTS OF A PHASE 2A STUDY OF CILNIDIPINE, A NOVEL DAILY ORAL CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKER WITH N-CHANNEL SELECTIVITY, FOR THE TREATMENT OF RAYNAUD’S AND OTHER SYMPTOMS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Clinical trials, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

A. Sterlnich1, M. Shanahan2, E. Morton3, E. Briggs4, I. Hunt5, Z. Reed6, A. Weragoda7, L. Weerakoon3, M. Todd4, J. Ituls Medical Center, Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Boston, United States of America; Aisa Pharma, Inc, Clinical Development, Boston, United States of America; Flinders Medical Center, Rheumatology, Adelaide, Australia; Aisa Pharma Australia Pty Ltd, Clinical Operations, East Lindfield, NSW, Australia

Background: Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) is a rare autoimmune disease with fibrosis, changes in the skin, vasculature, joints and internal organs. Diffuse disease involves lung, heart and kidney and 10-year mortality is ~35% [1]. Raynaud’s attacks occur in ~95% of SSc patients. Severe Raynaud’s (RP) affects patients’ health status more than depression, obesity, and heart disease [2]. No treatment for Raynaud’s is approved, but calcium channel blockers (CCBs) are first-line treatment. Cilnidipine, a 4th generation CCB approved for hypertension in Asia, has been shown to be safer than other CCBs in treating hypertension, and has beneficial effects on the kidney and heart. Cilnidipine is more selective for N-type Ca channels, and improves analgesia, autonomic and endothelial function [3]. Cilnidipine might be repurposed for SSc-RP patients.

Objectives: We studied safety and preliminary efficacy of cilnidipine use in SSc-RP, dose response and co-administration of a low dose PDE-V inhibitor. Results are compared to a 2021 meta-analysis of CCB use in SSc-RP.

Methods: RECONNOITER-1 is a two-part, planned 78 patient trial. In Part 1, we evaluated safety, dose, efficacy and co-administration of tadalafil. Dose groups were cilnidipine 10mg and 20mg, alone and with tadalafil 5mg, tadalafil alone and placebo. The 1st endpoint was reduction in weekly frequency of RP. 2nd endpoints included Raynaud’s Score Condition Score (RCS), pain, severity, duration, and a validated PRO (SHAQ). The DSMB reviewed data on the first 27 patients in 8/2022.

Results: The ITT population was 27 patients, the mITT 24. Results are reported for the mITT population. Cilnidipine-only treated patients (n=7) had a reduction in weekly attacks of 42.2% versus 18.9% in placebo (n=4). Dose response was seen in weekly attack frequency and severity. Response was greater in the higher cilnidipine dose group on attack duration and RCS. Tadalafil increased treatment effect with 10 mg but not with 20 mg. Cilnidipine at either dose was well tolerated and only Grade 1 mild AEs were reported with cilnidipine (1/7), with no treatment discontinuations due to AEs. The DSMB halted Part 1 early based on meeting study goals.

Conclusion: In this preliminary study, cilnidipine was well-tolerated and efficacy trends were seen. A published meta-analysis of CCB use for RP finds AEs >46% and treatment discontinuation in >30% of patients [4]. Cilnidipine appears superior in safety to commonly used CCBs (P=0.0247). Our results replicate the improved safety in hypertension treatment. PRO results (SHAQ) also favor the 20 mg dose of cilnidipine over placebo with a response over placebo, despite the small numbers (n=0.0115). Increased N-type channel blockade may increase safety and efficacy with the drug. Part 2 will compare Cilnidipine 20mg daily to placebo in a crossover trial in 38 patients.

REFERENCES:

POS1245

TREATMENT WITH Methylprednisolone IN VERY EARLY SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: RESULTS OF THE HIT HARD AND EARLY RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Keywords: Investor initiated trial, Systemic sclerosis, Randomized control trial

B. Kersten1, J. Lemmers1, A. Vanhaecke1, F. Van den Hoogen1, C. H. M. Van den Ende1, V. Smith2, M. Vonk3, Radboud University Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; Ghent University Hospital, Rheumatology, Gent, Belgium

Background: Accumulating evidence indicates that inflammatory mechanisms drive vasculopathy and fibrosis in Systemic Sclerosis (SSc), mainly in very early disease [1]. Therefore, anti-inflammatory therapies, such as glucocorticoids, might be effective in this early pathophysiological phase. According to the VEDOSS criteria, patients can be classified as very early SSc when a combination of Raynaud’s phenomenon, SSc associated autoantibodies, early SSc nailfold capillary pattern and puffy hands are present [2]. We hypothesize that inhibition of the inflammatory process, treatment with glucocorticoids will induce remission in patients with very early SSc.

Objectives: We performed a double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled, multicenter trial in patients who meet the VEDOSS criteria, to analyze the efficacy of high dose methylprednisolone.

Methods: The trial was initiated between January 2017 and February 2021 at the Department of Rheumatology of the Radboud University Medical Centre in Nijmegen, The Netherlands and the Department of Rheumatology of the University Hospital Gent, Belgium. Patients were randomly assigned (2:1) to methylprednisolone 1000 mg intravenously for 3 consecutive days monthly for 3 months, or placebo. Patients were stratified by sex, age, and center. The primary endpoint was difference in nailfold capillary density, measured by nailfold microscopy at week 13. Changes in capillary density after 52 weeks, change in number of mega capillaries, signs and symptoms of disease progression, time to disease progression and general health utilities were secondary outcomes.

Results: Baseline characteristics were comparable between the 2 groups. Thirty patients were randomly assigned to receive methylprednisolone (n=21) or placebo (n=9). No significant difference in change in nailfold capillary density was found at week 13, mean -0.5 (95% CI 1.1 to -2.0) (Table 1). Moreover, no differences between groups in secondary outcomes were observed, except for a difference in Visual Analogue Scale gastrointestinal complaints assessed by the Gastrointestinal Tract questionnaire in favor of the methylprednisolone group. Thirty-seven percent of patients, 4 in the placebo group and 7 in the methylprednisolone group, had disease progression during the 1 year follow up with no difference between groups (Figure 1). A relevant pulmonary function decline was seen in 23% of patients, 2 in the placebo group and 5 in the methylprednisolone group, respectively. No serious adverse events were reported.

Conclusion: We report data from the first ever investigator initiated randomized, multicenter, double blinded, placebo controlled trial on treatment with methylprednisolone in very early SSc. We were not able to demonstrate a beneficial effect of methylprednisolone. However, we observed that a substantial proportion of patients showed disease progression underlining the importance of early identification and tight monitoring of signs and symptoms of disease progression early in the course of the disease to consequently start potential treatment in this category of patients. This study shows that it is feasible to perform an intervention study with patients with very early disease.

Table 1. Primary endpoint at week 13. Values are presented as mean (SD).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary endpoint</th>
<th>Placebo (n=9)</th>
<th>Methylprednisolone (n=21)</th>
<th>Mean difference between groups (95% CI)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Density, mm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>70 (11)</td>
<td>70 (16)</td>
<td>0.5 (-1.1 - 0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>73 (16)</td>
<td>73 (16)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for baseline values and stratification variables.

Figure 1. Kaplan Meier curve; proportion of patients with disease progression.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS1246

EFFECTS OF NINTEDANIB IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE (SSC-ILD) IN SUBGROUPS BY DISEASE ACTIVITY INDEX

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Lungs, Clinical trials

A. Herrick1, J. Pope2, P. Carreira3, C. Miede4, M. Alves5, Y. Allanore6. 1The University of Manchester, Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2University of Western Ontario, Schulich School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, London, Ontario, Canada; 3Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Servicio de Reumatologia, Madrid, Spain; 4mainanalytics GmbH, Statistics, Sulzbach (Taunus), Germany; 5Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH, TA Inflammation Medicine, Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany; 6Descartes University, APHP, Cochin Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Paris, France

Background: The European Scleroderma Trials and Research group (EUSTAR) disease activity index was developed to assess disease activity in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc).

Objective: To assess disease activity using a modified version of the EUSTAR disease activity index, and compare outcomes in subgroups by disease activity, in patients with SSC-ILD in the SENSCIS trial of nintedanib versus placebo.

Methods: The SENSCIS trial enrolled patients with SSc with first non-Raynaud symptom in the prior ≥7 years and extent of fibrotic ILD on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) ≥10%. Patients were randomised to receive nintedanib or placebo. The EUSTAR disease activity index assesses SSc activity based on modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), C-reactive protein (CRP) level, diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide (DLco), presence of digital ulcers, presence of tendon friction rubs, and worsening of skin fibrosis over the previous month (as assessed by the patient). A score ≥2.5 identifies patients with active/very active vs inactive/moderately active disease. For this analysis, a modified version of the index was developed that excluded worsening of skin fibrosis, as data prior to enrolment in the trial were not collected. The modified version had a maximum score of 8.5. We analysed the rate of decline in FVC (mL/year) and adverse events over 52 weeks in patients with low and high SSc disease activity at baseline.

Results: Among 523 patients, 55.1% and 44.9% had modified disease activity index scores of <2.5 and ≥2.5, respectively at baseline. Compared with patients with a score <2.5, those with a score ≥2.5 had a greater extent of fibrosis on HRCT (38.0% vs 34.8%) and lower mean FVC % predicted (69.1 vs 75.1); greater proportions had diffuse cutaneous SSc (70.2% vs 38.9%), were anti-topoisomerase I antibody positive (65.5% vs 58.3%) and were taking mycophenolate (54.0% vs 45.8%). In the placebo group, the rate of decline in FVC over 52 weeks was numerically greater in patients with a score ≥2.5 than <2.5 (Figure 1). The effect of nintedanib on reducing the rate of FVC decline was numerically greater in patients with a score ≥2.5 than <2.5, but the interaction p-value did not indicate heterogeneity in the effect of nintedanib between the subgroups (p=0.24). The adverse event profile of nintedanib was similar between the subgroups (Table 1).

Conclusion: Based on a modified version of the EUSTAR disease activity index, almost half of the patients in the SENSCIS trial had active/very active SSc. Nintedanib had a consistent effect on reducing the rate of FVC decline over 52 weeks in patients with low and high SSc disease activity at baseline.

Table 1. Adverse events in the SENSCIS trial in subgroups by modified disease activity index at baseline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nintedanib (n=146)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=142)</th>
<th>Nintedanib (n=121)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=114)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score &lt;2.5</td>
<td>Most frequent adverse events*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin ulcer</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight decreased</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverse event(s) leading to treatment discontinuation</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adverse events were coded according to preferred terms in the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (MedDRA). Data are % of patients with ≥1 such adverse event reported over 52 weeks (or until 28 days after last trial drug intake in patients who discontinued trial drug before week 52). Adverse events reported in >10% of patients in either treatment group in the overall trial population are shown.

Acknowledgements: The SENSCIS trial was supported by Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH.

Disclosure of Interests: Ariane Herrick Speakers bureau: Janssen, Actelion, Consultant of: Arena Pharmaceuticals, Boehringer Ingelheim, Camurus, CSL Behring, Galderma, Gesynta Pharma, Grant/research support from: Actelion, Gesynta Pharma, Janet Pope: None declared, Patricia Carreira Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Paid instructor for: Boehringer Ingelheim, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Emerald Health Pharmaceuticals, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Sanofi-Genzyme, Janssen, GlaxoSmithKline, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Roche, Corinna Miede Employee of: Employee of mainanalytics GmbH, Sulzbach (Taunus), Germany, which was contracted by Boehringer Ingelheim to assist with these analyses, Margarida Alves Employee of: Employee of Boehringer Ingelheim, Yannick Allanore Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, AstraZeneca, Prometheus, Galderma, Janssen, Medscien, AbbVie, Grant/research support from: Alpine Immune Sciences, Medscien, Corvus Pharmaceuticals.

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Background: The presence of left ventricular (LV) remodeling and dysfunction in systemic sclerosis (SSc) have been well studied to date [1]. Cardiac deformation and impaired right ventricular (RV) free wall contractility patterns in SSc have also been described [2]. High intensity interval training (HIIT) has demonstrated to improve microvascular function in people with SSc [3]. However, the cardiac morphology and function after exercise training in people with SSc have not been studied yet. Echocardiographic indices of RV function [4] were found to be correlated with cardiac-ventricular performance, as assessed by peak oxygen uptake (VO2 peak) in people with SSc.

Objectives: The primary objective of the present study was to assess possible exercise-induced changes in RV morphology and function. A secondary objective was to explore the relationship between VO2 peak and RV echocardiographic indices after exercise training in people with SSc.

Methods: Twenty-eight people with SSc (24 females, mean age 57±21 ± 10.76 yrs.) were randomized into groups A (exercise) and B (control group). Baseline and three-month follow-up assessments included: medical history, anthropometrics, echocardiography, and an arm crank cardiopulmonary exercise testing (CPET). Following the baseline assessments, Group A performed a 3-month supervised exercise program (twice/week) adjunctive to the usual care, while Group B received only the usual care. The supervised exercise training consisted of aerobic and resistance exercises as described previously [5]. The aerobic exercise protocol consisted of HIIT (30s at 100% of peak power output achieved during CPET following by 30s passive recovery) on an arm ergometer.

Results: The average compliance in the exercise program was 90% with no dropouts and no adverse effects. Group A demonstrated a statistically significant increase in VO2 peak by 25.1% (p <0.001), global RV free wall longitudinal systolic strain by 6.69% (p<0.03), RV free wall longitudinal systolic strain of the basal segment by 13.5% (p<0.001) and global RV four-chamber longitudinal systolic strain by 6.76% (p<0.03) after exercise training (Figure 1). No statistically significant difference was observed in group B.

Conclusion: The average compliance in the exercise program was 90% with no dropouts and no adverse effects. Group A demonstrated a statistically significant increase in VO2 peak by 25.1% (p<0.001), global RV free wall longitudinal systolic strain by 6.69% (p<0.03), RV free wall longitudinal systolic strain of the basal segment by 13.5% (p<0.001) and global RV four-chamber longitudinal systolic strain by 6.76% (p<0.03) after exercise training (Figure 1). No statistically significant difference was observed in group B.

Figure 1. RV strain measurements in a SSc patient (a) at baseline (RV4CLS = –18.5%) and (b) after exercise training (RV4CLS = –22.5%).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank the study patients that volunteered to take part in the study.

References:
32.4-48.6). The main indications for HSCT included MS (68%) and SSc (21%). Successful initial engraftment occurred in the vast majority (98.5%), most times within 30 days from transplant. We observed 70 deaths (5% of 1,389), most (57, 81%) occurring within 2 years. Deaths were most often caused by AD relapse/progression (27%) or infection (24%). At 2 years post-transplant, overall survival was 95.5% (95% CI 94.2-96.5%), PFS was 82% (95% CI 79.6-84.2%), and relapse of AD occurred in 14.8% (95% CI 12.7-17.0%). Non-relapse mortality was 3.2% (2.3 - 4.3) at 2 years. Similar overall survival, PFS, and relapse rates were found for females versus males (biological sex at birth) at both 2 and 5 years post-HSCT (Table 1). Multiivariate analysis was not done due to the heterogeneity of the population and the limited number of events.

Conclusion: Autologous HSCT for autoimmune disease results in high survival and moderately low relapse. Limitations include inadequate precision to stratify by autoimmune disease and transplant regimens.

REFERENCES:
[1] Alexander and Greco, BMT 2022

Table 1. Outcomes at 2 and 5 years after transplant, stratified by biological sex at birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall survival (95 CI) 2 years</td>
<td>94.7% (92.4-96.4%)</td>
<td>96.0% (94.3-97.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progression-free-survival</td>
<td>79.9% (75.9-83.3%)</td>
<td>83.5% (80.5-86.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-relapse mortality</td>
<td>3.5% (2.2-5.3%)</td>
<td>3.0% (1.9-4.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapse</td>
<td>16.6% (13.3-20.2%)</td>
<td>13.5% (11.0-16.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall survival (95 CI) 5 years</td>
<td>90.2% (85.9-93.3%)</td>
<td>95.1% (92.8-96.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progression-free-survival</td>
<td>61.5% (54.4-67.7%)</td>
<td>69.2% (63.9-73.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-relapse mortality</td>
<td>4.8% (2.8-7.5%)</td>
<td>3.9% (2.4-5.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapse</td>
<td>33.8% (273.4-40.3%)</td>
<td>26.9% (22.3-31.8%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: The data originate from the EBMT registry.
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POS1249
LUNG ULTRASOUND CHANGES COMPARED WITH AUTOMATED QUANTITATIVE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY FOR DETECTING SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Ultrasound, Systemic sclerosis, Lungs

D. M. Reza Beigi1, G. Pellegrino1, N. Landini2, M. Mattone2, G. Paone2, S. Truglia1, F. R. Di Ciommo1, I. Bisconti1, M. Cadar1, K. Stefanonan1, V. Panbianco2, F. Conti1, V. Ricci1, Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology and Cardiovascular Sciences, Rome, Italy; Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Radiological, Oncological and Anatomo-Pathological Sciences, Rome, Italy; Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences, Rome, Italy

Background: B-lines and pleural line (PL) changes represent lung ultrasound (LUS) findings for detection of systemic sclerosis-associated interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD). The ≥10 B-lines cut-off was found to be closely related to moderate ILD on high-resolution chest tomography (CT). Recently proposed Fairchild’s criteria for PL evaluation resulted in high accuracy and reproducibility and a low spending time. Semi-quantitative PL irregularity score by Pinal-Fernandez proved to be superior to total B-lines number to detect SSc-ILD. Although several evidence-based LUS scores have been presented, there is currently a lack of studies involving a comprehensive LUS assessment and comparing different LUS scores with CT, particularly with automated quantitative CT (qCT) assessment.

Objectives: To evaluate the accuracy of quantitative and qualitative LUS B-lines and PL changes for SSc-ILD detection compared to CT with qCT assessment.

Methods: Consecutive SSc patients according to 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria underwent LUS by two certified blinded operators using a 14-scans method. The ≥10 B-lines cut-off and Fairchild’s criteria fulfilment were selected as qualitative findings. From quantitative point of view, total B-lines number and the sum of the PL score adapted from Pinal-Fernandez were collected. CT scans performed over a 6 months period were recorded and evaluated by two thoracic radiologists, with further processing by automated texture analysis software.

Results: The study population consisted of 29 SSc patients (Table 1). Agreement between the two operators was almost perfect for Fairchild’s criteria (Cohen’s kappa (k) 0.84) and substantial for ≥10 B-lines cut-off (k 0.78). Both qualitative LUS scores were predictive of ILD presence on CT, with Fairchild’s criteria resulting in slightly more accuracy (Figure 1A). Results were confirmed on multivariate analysis, introducing confounders like age, disease duration, ongoing immunosuppressant therapy, and current/ever smoking (Fairchild’s criteria: p 0.0003 and B-line cut-off: p 0.03). All qualitative and quantitative LUS findings were found to be significantly associated with ILD extension on qCT (p<0.05). Total B-lines number correlated with extension of reticulations and PL quantitative score correlated with extension of both ground-glass and reticulations (Figures 1B and C). Lung bases PL quantitative score, but not B-lines number of the same site, was found to correlate with basal ILD extension on qCT (Figure 1D).

Conclusion: This study highlights the reliability and good accuracy of a comprehensive and systematic LUS assessment for SSc-ILD detection, compared to automated qCT. LUS is increasingly emerging as an accurate, feasible, low-cost and radiation-free pre-CT screening tool. For these reasons, standardisation of LUS appears to be required, in order to achieve its wider use in clinical practice.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Data of study population, LUS assessment and qCT software analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Median age (years) [quartiles]</th>
<th>Median disease duration (years) [quartiles]</th>
<th>Diffuse/limited cutaneous disease, N° (%)</th>
<th>Immunosuppressive therapy, N° (%)</th>
<th>≥10 cumulative B-lines, N° (%)</th>
<th>Fairchild’s criteria for PL fulfilling, N° (%)</th>
<th>≥10 cumulative B-lines [median (quartiles)]</th>
<th>Total PL score sum (median [quartiles])</th>
<th>Ground-glass (cm³ %) [median (quartiles)]</th>
<th>Total ILD (cm³) [median (quartiles)]</th>
<th>Basal ILD (cm³) [median (quartiles)]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female/male, N° (%)</td>
<td>Median age (years) [quartiles]</td>
<td>Median disease duration (years) [quartiles]</td>
<td>Diffuse/limited cutaneous disease, N° (%)</td>
<td>Immunosuppressive therapy, N° (%)</td>
<td>≥10 cumulative B-lines, N° (%)</td>
<td>Fairchild’s criteria for PL fulfilling, N° (%)</td>
<td>≥10 cumulative B-lines [median (quartiles)]</td>
<td>Total PL score sum (median [quartiles])</td>
<td>Ground-glass (cm³ %) [median (quartiles)]</td>
<td>Total ILD (cm³) [median (quartiles)]</td>
<td>Basal ILD (cm³) [median (quartiles)]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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POS1250
PROGRESSION OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS DOES NOT PREDICT FURTHER PROGRESSION

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Lungs, Systemic sclerosis

A. M. Hoffmann-Vold1, L. Petelytska2, H. Fretheim1, I. Barua1, M. O. Becker2, H. J. Bjorkaker1, C. Brunborg1, C. Brun1, P. P. Diep5, R. Dobrota5, M. Duheim5, M. Elhai5, S. Jordan5, E. Langballe1, Ø. Midveldt1, C. Milha5, O. Molberg5, O. Distler1, Oslo University Hospital, Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; Hospital of Southern Norway, Rheumatology, Kristiansand, Norway; Oslo University Hospital, Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Oslo, Norway; Oslo University Hospital, Respiratory Medicine, Oslo, Norway

Background: Intestinal lung disease (ILD) is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in systemic sclerosis (SSc). In clinical practice, physicians often wait for progression to initiate or escalate therapy. Similarly, progressive SSc-ILD patients

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are recruited into trials to enrich for further progression. These strategies assume that patients with recent ILD progression have a higher risk for further progression. However, this has not been analyzed in SSc-ILD and there is currently no evidence to support such treatment and recruitment strategies.

Objectives: We assessed whether ILD progression predicts subsequent progression using four definitions of progressive disease in two well-characterized SSc-ILD cohorts.

Methods: We included all SSc patients from the Oslo and Zurich cohorts who had ILD on HRCT and at least three consecutive annual FVC measurements. For the primary analysis, ILD progression was defined as absolute FVC decline >5% over 12 months. Patients were grouped into progressors (FVC >5% decline) and non-progressors (all others). At the next annual follow up visit, all patients were again assessed for ILD progression. In secondary analyses, we applied other definitions of progression such as:

1. **2022 ATS/ERS/JRS/ALAT guideline criteria with (1) worsening of respiratory symptoms; (2) absolute decline in FVC >5% or in DLCO >10% and (3) disease progression on HRCT over 12 months**
2. **INBUILD criteria with (1) FVC decline >10%, (2) FVC decline >20% and (3) worsening of respiratory symptoms or an increased extent of fibrosis on HRCT, or (3) worsening of respiratory symptoms and an increased extent of fibrosis within any timeframe of 24 months.**
3. **Composite criteria with absolute decline in FVC >10%; or FVC >5%-9% and DLCO >15%.**

Multivariable logistic regression was applied, adjusting for known risk factors of ILD progression, including treatment.

Results: Here, 231 SSc-ILD patients from Oslo and Zurich were included, with mean age at onset of 48 years, 55 (24%) being males, 94 (41%) with diffuse cutaneous SSc, 82 (35%) with anti-topoisomerase I antibodies (ATA). Mean FVC was 89%, mean DLCO 64%, 59 (19%) had NYHA functional class ≥3, 35 (27%) extent of ILD >20% and 40% extent >10%. At 12 months, 71 (30.7%) showed FVC decline >5% and were classified as progressors. In multivariable logistic regression, adjusted for age, male sex, ATA, mRSS and immunosuppressive treatment, ILD progression was significantly protective for further progression at the next annual follow-up (Odds ratio 0.28, 95% CI: 0.12-0.63, p<0.002, Figure 1a). When other definitions of progression were applied, similar results were obtained: 44 (19%) fulfilled the guideline criteria, 89 (39%) the INBUILD criteria and 33 (14%) the composite criteria. Multivariable regression analysis adjusted for age, sex and treatment (guideline), for age and sex (composite) and for age, sex, ATA, mRSS, baseline FVC and treatment (INBUILD) showed the same direction as the primary analysis (Figure 1b-d).

Conclusion: ILD progression does not predict further progression using any ILD progression definition in SSc. These results suggest changing current treatment practices, since waiting for progression to initiate or escalate treatment does not seem to be the adequate strategy to identify patients at risk of further progression. It also has important implications for clinical trial design, since selection of progressive SSc-ILD patients does not seem to enrich for a progressive SSc-ILD study population.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.


**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Keywords:** Treat to target, Systemic sclerosis, Tapering

J. Catalfi, S. Liem, N. Van Leeuwen, C. Aillaart, T. Huizinga, J. de Vries-Brouwer, 1IIRCIS Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli, Medicine & Rheumatology Unit, Bologna, Italy; 2Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

**Background:** In systemic sclerosis (SSc), tailoring treatment to each patient’s needs is challenging and it is unclear whether and how patients need to be treated in the long-term. The feasibility of tapering and even withdrawing immunosuppressive therapies in patients with stable disease is still an open question. In the recent past, tapering between males and females or between patients with anticientromere and anti-topoisomerase I antibodies. Overall, immunosuppressive medications were tapered 137 times during the 2968 visits. Of the 107 patients who tapered medications at least once during the follow-up, in 64% of cases it happened during the first three years. In 24 patients, tapering occurred at the last available visit, whereas in 83 patients the management of medications could be evaluated after tapering (246 follow-up visits). In 31 cases, therapies were not changed further. In the other 52 patients, treatment regimen was modified again and in 31 cases we had to either increase the dosage of the current therapy or to initiate a new immunosuppressive drug. Analysing the type of immunosuppressive medication used (Figure 1), we observed that treatment with methotrexate tended to decrease, while mycophenolate mofetil gained favour over the years, especially in men and in patients with mixed or anti-centromere antibodies.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, tapering of immunosuppressors could be considered in 15% of cases (107 of 708) in our large prospective cohort, and this was successful in approximately two-thirds of cases in which follow-up was available (52 out of 83). If on the one hand early therapeutic intervention might be beneficial and a window of opportunity exists in SSc, on the other hand tapering immunosuppressive treatments might become feasible in a proportion of patients with stable disease.
Patients with SSc-ILD. High-Resolution Computed Tomography (HRCT) parameters, including ground glass opacities, reticular pattern, honeycombing, and pulmonary vascular volume (PVV), quantified and normalized to total lung volume (LV) and expressed as a percentage. The extent of ILD (ILD-extent), given by the sum of ground glass, reticular pattern and honeycombing and the fibrosis score given by the sum of the reticular pattern and honeycombing were also evaluated. The best thresholds for CALIPER measurements were calculated using ROC analysis. Factors associated with death were evaluated by Kaplan-Meier survival curves.

Results: Of the 71 SSc patients included the mean age was of 54.2 ± 11.6 years, (mean disease duration of 10 years) and 90.1% were females. Eleven patients (15.4%) died during follow-up and all had ILD. Most of the CALIPER parameters remained stable over time (Table 1). All CALIPER parameters (except honeycombing), had a significant correlation with forced vital capacity (FVC) at baseline and follow-up (p<0.001). As shown by Kaplan-Meier survival curves, survival was worse among patients with ILD-extent% ≥ 6.32, fibrosis score% ≥ 1.42 and reticular pattern% ≥ 1.41 at baseline, and an ILD-extent% ≥ 4.75, a fibrosis score% ≥ 0.77, a reticular pattern% ≥ 4.34 and a PVV/LV% ≥ 2.8 at 24 months follow-up (Figure 1).

Table 1. Tapering of immunosuppressive (IS) therapies in patients from the Leiden SSc cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visit year</th>
<th>All patients</th>
<th>Female patients</th>
<th>Male patients</th>
<th>ACA positive patients</th>
<th>ATA positive patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole group</td>
<td>Patients on IS therapy</td>
<td>17/128 (8%)</td>
<td>10/164</td>
<td>7/54</td>
<td>4/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>218/708 (31%)</td>
<td>18/162</td>
<td>6/5</td>
<td>4/48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>213/563 (34%)</td>
<td>11/118</td>
<td>5/12</td>
<td>4/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>169/452 (36%)</td>
<td>5/40</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>2/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>125/356 (35%)</td>
<td>14/101</td>
<td>5/24</td>
<td>3/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>91/275 (33%)</td>
<td>8/76</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>2/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>74/225 (33%)</td>
<td>17/63</td>
<td>8/19</td>
<td>5/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>44/165 (27%)</td>
<td>6/40</td>
<td>1/11</td>
<td>3/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>40/113 (35%)</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>0/7</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>21/74 (28%)</td>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>0/2</td>
<td>0/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>13/38 (34%)</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>0/3</td>
<td>0/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table shows the percentage of patients in each visit year who were on immunosuppressive therapy and the number of patients who had each of the following parameters at baseline and at each follow-up visit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>BASELINE (n=71)</th>
<th>FOLLOW-UP (n=69)</th>
<th>Δ change from baseline to follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FVC, % pred (Mean ± SD)</td>
<td>73.6 ± 19.1</td>
<td>69.6 ± 18.9</td>
<td>-3.93 ± 6.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO, % pred (Mean ± SD)</td>
<td>54.3 ± 13.7 (n=6)</td>
<td>51.8 ± 13.9 (n=9)</td>
<td>2.33 ± 8.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALIPER (Median [quartile range])</td>
<td>2986.5 [2236 – 4386.5]</td>
<td>2817.6 [2181 – 3503]</td>
<td>-81.6 [-295 – 112]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. PFTs and Caliper parameters at baseline and at 24 months of follow-up

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1252

CALIPER PARAMETERS AS PREDICTORS OF MORTALITY IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Keywords: Lungs, Systemic sclerosis, Artificial intelligence

F. Godinho De Amorim1, C. Verrastro2, E. Santos2, C. Kayser3. 1UNIFESP, Rheumatology Division, São Paulo, Brazil; 2UNIFESP, Department of Radiology, São Paulo, Brazil; 3UNIFESP, Rheumatology Division, São Paulo, Brazil

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is the leading cause of death in systemic sclerosis (SSc). High-Resolution Computed Tomography (HRCT) and pulmonary function tests (PFTs) are useful for the diagnosis and follow-up of ILD, but have limitations for assessing disease severity and progression, including poor reproducibility of the extent analysis by HRCT and low sensitivity of PFTs. Quantitative CT (QCT) methods, including Computed Aided Lung Informatics for Pathology Evaluation and Rating (CALIPER), are new tools that objectively measures parenchymal abnormalities and vascular features on CT images in a fully automated analysis. [1] This may bring benefits in detecting early disease and in the assessment of prognosis of patients with SSc-ILD.

Objectives: We investigated whether changes in parenchymal abnormalities measured by CALIPER are associated with mortality and their correlation with PFTs.

Methods: Seventy-one patients diagnosed with SSc (ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria) consecutively evaluated from January 2011 to October 2022 at the Scleroderma out-patients clinic at Federal University of São Paulo were retrospectively selected. To be included, patients should have volumetric HRCTs and PFTs performed at baseline and at 24 months of follow-up. All causes of death and clinical variables were collected from clinical records. HRCTs were analyzed using CALIPER. The following parameters were evaluated: ground glass opacities, reticular pattern, honeycombing, and pulmonary vascular volume (PVV), quantified and normalized to total lung volume (LV) and expressed as a percentage. The extent of ILD (ILD-extent), given by the sum of ground glass, reticular pattern and honeycombing and the fibrosis score given by the sum of the reticular pattern and honeycombing were also evaluated. The best thresholds for CALIPER measurements were calculated using ROC analysis. Factors associated with death were evaluated by Kaplan-Meier survival curves.

Results: Of the 71 SSc patients included the mean age was of 54.2 ± 11.6 years, (mean disease duration of 10 years) and 90.1% were females. Eleven patients (15.4%) died during follow-up and all had ILD. Most of the CALIPER parameters remained stable over time (Table 1). All CALIPER parameters (except honeycombing), had a significant correlation with forced vital capacity (FVC) at baseline and follow-up (p<0.001). As shown by Kaplan-Meier survival curves, survival was worse among patients with ILD-extent% ≥ 6.32, fibrosis score% ≥ 1.42 and reticular pattern% ≥ 1.41 at baseline, and an ILD-extent% ≥ 4.75, a fibrosis score% ≥ 0.77, a reticular pattern% ≥ 4.34 and a PVV/LV% ≥ 2.8 at 24 months follow-up (Figure 1).

Table 1. PFTs and Caliper parameters at baseline and at 24 months of follow-up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>2817.6 [2181 – 3503]</td>
<td>-81.6 [-295 – 112]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier survival curves according to CALIPER analysis at baseline (A, C, and E), and at follow-up (B, D, F, and G).

Figure 1. Medication use over time in 708 SSc patients from the Leiden SSc cohort:

- AsC: azathioprine, HCQ: hydroxychloroquine, CYC: cyclophosphamide, MMF: mycophenolate mofetil, OtherIS: immunosuppressors including rituximab, tocilizumab, trial medications.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4139
Conclusion: CAPLIER is a useful tool for assessing lung damage and predict mortality in patients with SSC. Future studies are needed to confirm these data.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1253

TIMP-1 AS WELL AS IL6 IN PULMONARY CAPILLARIES REFLECT THE COMPLICATIONS AND SEVERITY OF PH IN SYSTEMIC SCLEORDERMAs

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Biomarkers

S. Nakashima1, T. Kameda1, H. Shimada1, R. Wakiya1, T. Miyagi1, Y. Ushio1, R. Mino1, K. Chugo1, H. Dobashi1. Kagawa University, Division of Hematology, Rheumatology and Respiratory Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Kagawa, Japan

Background: Abnormal production of various cytokines is involved in the pathogenesis of CTD, and the cytokine abnormalities vary according to the type of organ lesion. Recent reports indicate that various cytokine production abnormalities also involve in the pathogenesis of IPAH.1 The differences between PH associated with CTD and other PH-associated cytokines, including IPAH, are not well defined. The relationship between the severity of each PH and cytokines is also not clear.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between the cytokine profile in pulmonary capillaries in CTD-PH and hemodynamic indicators of PH, and to confirm the differences in cytokine profiles between CTD-PH and other PH, including IPAH, with IPAH.

Methods: Patients who underwent RHC for PH diagnosis at our hospital from 2015 to 2021 were included in the study. Serum was collected before and after pulmonary capillaries during right and left heart catheterization performed for hemodynamic analysis of PH, and cytokines were measured. TIMP-1, IL-21 MCP-1, IL-17, IL-12p70 and IL-6, which have been previously reported to be associated with the pathogenesis of CTD and PH, were included in the measurements in this study. TIMP-1, IL-21 were measured by ELISA (ABCAM UK). MCP-1, IL-17, IL-12p70 and IL-6 were measured by ELISA (Ellasimple plex USA). The relationship between the measured cytokine profiles and hemodynamic parameters was compared. Statistical analyses were performed using the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient and the Wilcoxon signed-rank test in JMP software v16.1.0 (SAS, USA).

Results: Eighty-one studies were performed on 56 patients who underwent right and left heart catheterization. Forty-seven were female and nine were male, with a mean age of 64.2 years. 33 were CTD patients, including 19 SSc, 10 MCTD, 2 SLE, and 2 SS, and 23 non-CTD patients, of which SSc had an age of 64.2 years. The mean mPAP was 29 +/- 9.3 mmHg in CTD-PH and 32 +/- 10 mmHg in non-CTD-PH, with no significant difference. In an analysis of all CTD-PH and non CTD-PH. Mean mPAP was 29 +/- 9.3 mmHg in CTD-PH and 32 +/- 10 mmHg in non-CTD-PH, with no significant difference. In an analysis focused on SSc, the differences were 75 years in the PH group and 10.8 years in the nonPH group. Three of the CTDs in which PH could not be diagnosed were using pulmonary vasodilators for treatment of DU. Ten cases in the CTD-PH group were receiving immunosuppressive therapy, whereas none of the non-CTD-PH could be diagnosed. The cytokine profile in pulmonary capillaries in CTD-PH and non-CTD-PH was analyzed. Mean mPAP was 29 +/- 9.3 mmHg in CTD-PH and 32 +/- 10 mmHg in non-CTD-PH, with no significant difference. In an analysis of all patients who were able to diagnose pulmonary hypertension, IL-6 and IL-12 levels in pulmonary capillaries were significantly associated with mPAP (p < 0.05). Furthermore, an association between IL-6 and IL-12 was found in all patients with CTD-PH, SSc-PH, and non-CTD-PH (p<0.05). In an analysis of CTD patients, TIMP-1 and IL-6 were markedly higher in SSc patients diagnosed with PH (TIMP-1: 134 +/- 42.8 vs 243 +/- 135, p<0.05, IL-6: 20.4 +/- 4.8 vs 21.2 +/- 8.0, p<0.05). In all groups examined this time, IL-17, IL-21, and MCP-1 were not significantly associated with severity of PH or with any of the hemodynamic parameter.

Conclusion: In the analysis of cytokines in pulmonary capillaries, IL-6 was found to be associated with hemodynamics in all PH patients, but TIMP-1 was found to be associated only with the PH pathogenesis of systemic scleroderma.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1254

REDUCED HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE USING PROMIS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 E-SURVEY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life, Systemic sclerosis

K. Yono1, Y. Lu2, V. Maroudy2, N. Ravichandran2, A. Yoshida3, K. Jagtap4, T. Velikova5, P. Sen5, L. Cavagnia6, V. Aggarwal5, J. Knitza5, A. Makol5, D. Dzifa6, C. E. Toro Guitierrez2, T. Chatterjee6, A. Patel6, R. Aggarwal6, L. Gupta16,17,18, M. Kuwana1, V. Aggarwal17. 1Nippon Medical School Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 2School of Public Health, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Department of Biostatistics and Data Science, Huston, United States of America; 3Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 4 Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College and King Edwards Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India; 5University Hospital”Lozenetz”; Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Department of Clinical Immunology, Medical Faculty, Sofia, Bulgaria; 6Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi, India; 7Università degli studi di Pavia, Rheumatology Unit, Dipartimento di Medicina Interna e Terapia Medica, Lombardy, Italy; 8Mahatma Gandhi Mission Medical College, Maharashtra, India; 9Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Medizinische Klinik 3 - Rheumatologie und Immunologie, Erlangen, Germany; 10Mayo Clinic, Division of Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; 11University of Ghana Medical School, College of Health Sciences, Rheumatology Unit; Department of Medicine, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia; 12Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali, Center for Osteoporosis, Rheumatology and Dermatology, Cali, Colombia; 13University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, Department of Internal Medicine, United States of America; 14University of Virginia School of Medicine, Bon Secours Rheumatology Center and Division of Pediatric Rheumatology, Department of Pediatrics, Charlottesville, United States of America; 15University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 16Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom; 17Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 18Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre The University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 19Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, City Hospital, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Background: The second COVID-19 vaccination in autoimmune disease (COVID-2) study [1] is an international, multicentre, self-reported e-survey designed to evaluate several facets covering COVID-19 infection and vaccination as well as validated patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) in a variety of autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases (AIDs), including systemic sclerosis (SSc). Detailed assessment of the health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and its drivers in patients with SSc is lacking.

Objectives: To assess physical and mental health in a global cohort of SSc patients in comparison with non-SSc autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases (AIRDs), non-rheumatic AIDs (NRAIDs), and those without AIDs (controls) using Patient-Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS) global health data from the COVAD-2 survey.

Methods: The COVAD-2 database was used to extract demographics, AID diagnosis, comorbidities, disease activity, current therapies, and PROMS. PROMIS global physical health (GPH), global mental health (GMH) scores, PROMIS physical function short form-10a (PROMIS PF-10a), pain visual analogue scale (VAS), and PROMIS Fatigue-4a scores were compared between SSc, non-SSc AIRDs, NRAIDs, and controls. Outcomes were also compared between patients with diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc) vs limited cutaneous SSc (lcSSc). Multivariable regression analysis was performed to identify factors influencing GPH and GMH scores in SSc.

Results: A total of 10,502 complete responses from 276 SSc, 606 non-SSc AIRDs, 545 NRAIDs, and 3675 controls as of May 2022 were included in the analysis. Respondents with SSc were older (SSc vs. non-SSc AIRDs vs. NRAIDs vs. controls: 55 (14) vs. 51 (15) vs. 45 (14) vs. 40 (14) years old, mean (SD), p < 0.001). Among patients with SSc, 129 (47%) had dcSSc and 147 (53%) had lcSSc. SSc patients reported a significantly higher prevalence of ILD [SSc vs. non-SSc AIRDs vs. NRAIDs vs. controls: 30.4% vs. 5.5% vs. 1.5% vs. 0.2%, p < 0.001], and treatment with MMF [SSc vs. non-SSc AIRDs vs. NRAIDs vs. controls: 26.4% vs. 9.5% vs. 1.1% vs. 0.0%, p < 0.001].
Patients with SSc had lower GPH and PROMIS PF-10a scores [SSc vs. non-SSc AIRDs vs. NRAIDs vs. controls: 13 (11–15) vs. 13 (11–15) vs. 15 (13–17) vs. 17 (15–18), median (IQR), p < 0.001; 39 (33–46) vs. 39 (32–45) vs. 47 (40–50) vs. 49 (45–50), p < 0.001, respectively] and higher Pain VAS and PROMIS Fatigue-4a scores compared to those with NRAIDs or controls [SSc vs. non-SSc AIRDs vs. NRAIDs vs. controls: 3 (2–5) vs. 3 (1–6) vs. 2 (0–4) vs. 0 (0–2), p < 0.001; 11 (8–14) vs. 11 (8–14) vs. 9 (7–13) vs. 7 (4–10), p < 0.001, respectively]. Patients with AIDs including SSc had lower GMH scores compared to controls [SSc vs. non-SSc AIRDs vs. NRAIDs vs. controls: 12.5 (10–15) vs. 13 (10–15) vs. 13 (11–16) vs. 15 (13–17), p < 0.001]. Among SSc patients, GPH, GMH, and PROMIS PF-10a scores were lower in dcSSc compared to lcSSC [dcSSc vs. lcSSC: 12 (10–14) vs. 14 (11–15), p < 0.001; 12 (10–14) vs. 13 (10–15), p < 0.001; 38 (30–43) vs. 41 (34–47), p < 0.001, respectively], Pain VAS and PROMIS Fatigue-4a scores were higher in dcSSc compared to lcSSC [4 (2–6) vs. 3 (1–5), p < 0.001; 12 (8–15) vs. 9 (8–13), p < 0.001, respectively]. The independent factors for lower GPH scores in SSc were older age, Asian ethnicity, glucocorticoid use, and higher pain and fatigue scales, while mental health disorders and higher pain and fatigue scales were independently associated with lower GMH scores.

Conclusion: In a global cohort, patient-reported physical and mental health were significantly worse in patients with SSc in comparison to those with non-SSc AIDs and without AIDs. Our findings support the critical need for more attention to patient's subjective experiences including pain and fatigue to improve the HROQOL in patients with SSc.

REFERENCE:

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Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Autoantibodies

A. Dimga 1,2, A. Garaiman 3, V. Monk 4, B. Kersten 5, R. Bevcář 6, M. Tomčík 7, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold 2, I. Castelviü 7, J. L. Tandaípaín 8, M. Brzoska 9, M. Milichert 10, D. Krasowska 10, M. Michalska-Jakubus 10, P. Āriņš 11, M. Mutacci-Cenni 12, C. Bruni 13,14,15,16, M. Iudici 13, D. Distler 17, A. M. Gheorghiu 18, H. Poormohgham 19, F. Motta 20, M. De Santis 21, M. Parvu 22, O. Distler 23, C. Mihal 24, University Hospital Zürich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 2Colentina Clinical Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Bucharest, Romania; 3Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Department of Rheumatic Diseases, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 41st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Institute of Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, Praha, Czech Republic; 5Rashidhospital University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology Oslo, Norway; 6Hospital Universitari de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau - Sant Antoni Maria Claret, Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 7Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, Department of Internal Medicine Rheumatology Diabetology Geriatrics and Clinical Immunology, Szczecin, Poland; 8Medical University of Lublin, Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Pediatric Dermatology, Lublin, Poland; 9Speciali Civili di Brescia, Scleroderma Unit, UOC Reumatologia ed Immunologia Clinica, Brescia, Italy; 10University of Florence & Division of Rheumatology AOUC, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Florence, Italy; 11IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases (UniRAR), Milan, Italy; 12University Hospital Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Romania; 13Geneva University Hospitals, Rheumatology Unit, Geneva, Switzerland; 14Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Erlangen, Germany; 15Ion Cantacuzeno Clinical Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology Clinic, Bucharest, Romania; 16Firoozgar Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of); 17Humanitas University, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Milan, Italy

Background: The anti-Nucleolar Organizer Region 90 antibodies (NOR90) are rare antinuclear antibodies (ANA) identified in up to 6% of patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc). However, due to the small number of available studies, the clinical relevance of NOR90 in SSc remains uncertain.

Objectives: To analyze clinical associations of NOR90 in patients with SSc in a multicentric cohort.

Methods: Post-hoc, cross-sectional study of prospectively collected data from the European Scleroderma Trials and Research (EUSTAR) group database, with additional information on NOR90 provided by participating centers (EUSTAR project CP105). NOR90 was tested using immunocassays. Differences between patients with and without NOR90 were assessed using the U Mann-Whitney and the Chi-square test, and clinical associations were tested using regression models.

Results: Overall, 1318 patients with SSc were included (mean age 58.3±13.7 years, 81.3% female), of whom 44 (3.3%) were positive for NOR90, that were also positive for other SSc-specific antibodies: anti-topoisomerase I (20.3%), anti-centromere (42.9%), and anti-RNA polymerase III (12.5%). The demographic and clinical data of NOR90-positive and -negative patients are displayed in Table 1. There was no difference in the presence of severe organ manifestations including interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, and renal crisis, but NOR90-positive patients were more frequently female, had lower modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), and lower prevalence of upper and lower gastrointestinal symptoms compared to NOR90-negative patients. In multivariable regression models adjusted for the presence of the most frequent SSc-specific antibodies, NOR90 remained significantly associated with lower mRSS and with less frequent gastrointestinal symptoms (Figure 1).

Conclusion: To the best of our knowledge, this is the largest SSc cohort tested for NOR90 so far. Apart from negative associations with skin fibrosis and GI symptoms, which should be analyzed in further studies, we did not find any significant association of NOR90 with SSc-associated organ/ system involvement.
However, these patients had a considerable prevalence of severe organ manifestations and should therefore be carefully evaluated.

Table 1. Demographic and clinical SSc-related data of NOR90-positive and -negative patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>NOR90 (+)</th>
<th>NOR90 (-)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>61.5 (48.0–68.0)</td>
<td>59.0 (50.0–68.0)</td>
<td>0.663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>43/44 (97.7%)</td>
<td>102/124 (82.8%)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>15.5 (9.7–21.2)</td>
<td>12.0 (6.0–21.5)</td>
<td>0.061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-topoisomerase I, n/N (%)</td>
<td>9/42 (20.5%)</td>
<td>343/1241 (27.8%)</td>
<td>0.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere positive, n/N (%)</td>
<td>18/42 (42.9%)</td>
<td>472/1225 (37.7%)</td>
<td>0.498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNA-Polymerase III positive, n/N (%)</td>
<td>5/40 (12.5%)</td>
<td>99/1186 (8.5%)</td>
<td>0.354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse cutaneous SSc, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>6/29 (20.7%)</td>
<td>334/1089 (30.7%)</td>
<td>0.249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital ulcers, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>4/40 (12.5%)</td>
<td>252/630 (40.0%)</td>
<td>0.101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRSS</td>
<td>2.0 (0.0; 7.0)</td>
<td>5.0 (1.2; 11.0)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary hypertension, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>6/26 (23.1%)</td>
<td>119/850 (13.9%)</td>
<td>0.185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung fibrosis, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>11/26 (42.3%)</td>
<td>427/897 (52.4%)</td>
<td>0.594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO, % predicted</td>
<td>73.0 (44.7–84.0)</td>
<td>69.5 (55.0–83.0)</td>
<td>0.756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper gastrointestinal tract symptoms, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>17/40 (42.5%)</td>
<td>592/930 (63.7%)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower gastrointestinal tract symptoms, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>5/40 (12.5%)</td>
<td>360/937 (38.4%)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal crisis, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>1/42 (2.4%)</td>
<td>34/1237 (2.7%)</td>
<td>0.886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint synovitis, yes/total (%)</td>
<td>1/23 (3.1%)</td>
<td>138/914 (15.1%)</td>
<td>0.061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are presented as median (interquartile range) for the continuous variables and as number (percent) for the nominal ones. n = number of patients with positive results for the antibodies tested. N = total number of patients tested for the respective antibody. Significant p-values (p < 0.05) are marked in bold.

Keywords: Biomarkers, Cardiovascular disease, Systemic sclerosis

Methods: Carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (cfPWV; gold standard of aortic stiffness), was examined in patients with SSc (ACR/EULAR classification) and healthy controls. Moreover, B-mode and Doppler sonography examinations of the common carotid arteries (CCA) were performed to assess plaque presence and/or possible abnormalities of carotid intima media thickness (cIMT), as well as resistance- and pulsatility-indices (RI, PI). Differences of these markers between patients and controls were statistically evaluated and subsequently controlled for the effects of possible confounding factors. Moreover, associations of the included CV and CVD surrogate parameters with clinical, laboratory and traditional CV risk factors were evaluated.

Results: 150 SSc-patients [84%♀, age 56.5 (50–65.3, IQR)] and 80 control subjects [86.3%♀, age 50.5 (35.2–57.8, IQR)] were recruited. cfPWV-values were statistically significantly higher in the patient group, compared to controls [8 m/s (6.86–9.44, IQR) vs. 6.85 (5.90–7.7, IQR), p<0.001], even after adjustment for the effect of confounding factors (p < 0.001). Similarly, cIMT [0.9 mm (0.65–1.9 mm)] was significantly higher in patients compared to controls [0.76 (0.60–1.08) vs. 0.73 (0.57–0.88, p<0.001)].

Figure 1. Association of NOR90 and SSc-criteria antibodies (ATA-ACA; RNP III) with the mRSS and gastrointestinal (GI) manifestations.

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CCL24 is a novel target that was found to play a dual role in advancing pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrotic processes in systemic sclerosis (SSc). Previous studies reported that skin and serum CCL24 levels are elevated advancing pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrotic processes in systemic sclerosis (SSc). The present study reports that skin and serum CCL24 levels are elevated in SSc and that blocking of CCL24 was effective in preventing and attenuating experimental-induced fibrosis in murine models as well as interfering with endothelial cell activation. We show here that within the context of an observational cohort of unselected patients, CCL24 serum concentration is associated with the presence of DU as well as worse skin and lung fibrotic involvement, suggesting that this molecule may be involved in both vascular and fibrotic manifestations of SSc.

Table 1: Descriptive characteristics by groups (selection)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SSc-patients (n=150)</th>
<th>Controls (n=80)</th>
<th>Significance (p)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender (♂/♀)</td>
<td>84/66</td>
<td>0.652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (yr)</td>
<td>56.5 (50.65-3.1, IQR)</td>
<td>50.5 (35.2-57.8, IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking %</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension %</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol (mg/dl)</td>
<td>198 (170-211, IQR)</td>
<td>208.2 (179.3, IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>25.9 (21.8-28.9, IQR)</td>
<td>23.9 (21.2-27.2, IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCL24 (pmol)</td>
<td>8.6 (6.86-9.44, IQR)</td>
<td>6.5 (5.93-7.7, IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cIMT (m/s)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.65-1.1)</td>
<td>0.83 (0.65-0.89, IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA-RI</td>
<td>1.7 (1.43-2.09, IQR)</td>
<td>1.56 (1.28-1.81, IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA-RI</td>
<td>0.76 (0.70-8.1, IQR)</td>
<td>0.72 (0.68-0.76, IQR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.
Raynaud’s microcirculation, musculoskeletal, digital ulcers, pulmonary involvement, cardiac involvement, hand function, calcification, skin involvement, Sjögren syndrome, and ii) general domains (fatigue, pain, cognition, sleep disorder).

Methods: A two-round international online Delphi exercise was conducted to enrich the list of instruments. Experts in iCSSc were asked to suggest additional items/outcome measures for the domains. Candidate clinician-reported outcomes (ClinROs) and performance outcomes (PerfOts) were selected during a two-day meeting utilizing a nominal group technique (NGT) comprising 3 patient research partners and 8 international experts. Patient research partners received specific training prior to the NGT meeting to become familiar with the domains, outcomes, and research processes.

Results: 100 experts were invited to the Delphi exercise and 71 provided answers for at least one round. Participants who provided answers in round 1 were invited to a second Delphi exercise, rating each item on scales (range: 1-9) for feasibility, face validity, content validity, and overall appropriateness for the CRISTAL Index. 5971 participants provided answers to at least one round. Items endorsed by more than 50% of the experts were included for discussion at the 2 day-NGT discussion. During the NGT meeting, for each iCSSc specific domain, the list of items selected during Delphi and their characteristics were presented and each voting member was asked to discuss the relevance of these items and to propose new items if important ones were considered missing. Voting members then ranked items from “most appropriate for the CRISTAL index” to “less appropriate.” At the end of each ranking, voting members were asked if they agreed with the ranking; 80% agreement was required to move to the next domain. Across the 10 iCSSc specific domains discussed, a total of 19 items (17 ClinROs and 2 PerfOts) were identified and retained as draft items for testing in the planned observational longitudinal cohort study (Table 1).

Conclusion: The results from the CRISTAL initiative are essential first steps towards the development of a composite index for iCSSc. The next steps will include selection of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) from the PROMIS item bank, existing data in the reported literature, and cognitive debriefing with patients, followed by a prospective case study to assess and validate the draft CRISTAL index.

References:

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These values were comparable to those of the ADEs reported in other SAIDs and HCIs. Patients with SSc reported higher frequency of difficulty in breathing than HCIs [OR=2.3 (1.03–5.1), p=0.042]. Individuals receiving Oxford/AstraZeneca reported more minor ADEs [OR=2.5 (1.0-6.0), p=0.049] whereas patients receiving Moderna were less likely to develop myalgia and body ache [OR=0.1 (0.02-1.0), p=0.047 and OR=0.2 (0.05-1.0), p=0.044 respectively]. Patients with diffuse cutaneous SSc experienced minor ADEs and specifically fatigue more frequently [OR=2.1 (1.1-4.4), p=0.035, and OR=3.8 (1.3-11.7), p=0.015] than those with limited cutaneous SSc. Self-reported active disease pre-vaccination did not confer any increased risk of vaccine ADEs in the adjusted analysis. Unlike our previous observations in myositis, autoimmune and non-autoimmune comorbidities did not affect the risk of delayed ADEs in SSc. SSc patients with concomitant myositis reported myalgia [OR=3.4 (1.1-10.7), p=0.035] more frequently, while those with thyroid disorders were more prone to report a higher frequency of joint pain [OR=5.5 (1.5-20.2), p<0.009] and dizziness [OR=5.9 (1.3-27.6), p=0.024] than patients with SSc alone. Patients with SSC-intestinal lung disease did not report increased frequency of ADEs.

Conclusion: A diagnosis of SSc did not confer a higher risk of delayed post COVID-19 vaccine-related ADEs than other SAIDs and HCIs. Diffuse cutaneous phenotype and certain co-existing autoimmune conditions including myositis and thyroid disease can increase the risk of minor ADEs. These patients may benefit from pre-vaccination counselling, close monitoring, and early initiation of appropriate care in the post COVID-19 vaccination period.

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Table 1. Characteristics of patients according to presence or absence of ILD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>w/o ILD (n= 40)</th>
<th>ILD (n= 31)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>50.3 ± 13.05</td>
<td>56 ± 12.2</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (female)</td>
<td>40 (66.7)</td>
<td>28 (90.3)</td>
<td>0.079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index</td>
<td>23.3 ± 3.4</td>
<td>23.8 ± 4.7</td>
<td>0.601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC variant (n= 71):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>33 (46.5)</td>
<td>14 (19.7)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse</td>
<td>7 (9.9)</td>
<td>17 (23.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Scl-70 (n= 64)</td>
<td>22 (34.3)</td>
<td>23 (35.9)</td>
<td>0.179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere (n= 68)</td>
<td>30 (44.1)</td>
<td>23 (33.8)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from RP (years) (n= 64)</td>
<td>12 (7-20)</td>
<td>12 (7-17)</td>
<td>0.849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from first non-RP symptom (years) (n= 67)</td>
<td>11 (6-20)</td>
<td>11 (6-21)</td>
<td>0.620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRSS (n= 69)</td>
<td>3 (1-8)</td>
<td>9 (2-12.5)</td>
<td>0.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary Hypertension (n= 71)</td>
<td>5 (7.0)</td>
<td>14 (19.7)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediastinal score (n= 69)</td>
<td>2 (1-2)</td>
<td>1 (1-3)</td>
<td>0.048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrick score</td>
<td>13.5 (9-20.8)</td>
<td>4 (9-9.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazerooni score</td>
<td>1.1 (1-5.5)</td>
<td>0.5 (0-9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressants, no. (n= 71)</td>
<td>1 (0-1)</td>
<td>1 (0-2)</td>
<td>0.177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>6 (8.4)</td>
<td>6 (8.4)</td>
<td>0.753</td>
</tr>
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Continuous variables: Mean ± DE, Median (25-75%), Categorical variables: Frequency (%).

ILD: Interstitial Lung Disease, SSC: Systemic Sclerosis, RP: Raynaud's Phenomenon, mRSS: modified Rodnan Skin Score.

Background: Lung ultrasound (LUS) has proven useful to detect interstitial lung disease (ILD) among patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) when compared to high-resolution computerized tomography (HRCT) as the gold standard; owing to its accessibility and innocuity it confers several advantages over the latter, which turns it into a potential valuable tool in clinical practice. Nevertheless, a key drawback is the lack of a standardized methodology to perform LUS.

Objectives: To evaluate diagnostic accuracy of LUS for ILD by comparing the systematic evaluation of 14 intercostal spaces (ICS) against 12 postero-basal ICS.

Methods: Patients with SSc were included according to the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria of the Rheumatology clinic of the National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition, reference hospital in Mexico City. Demographic, clinical, serological, and imaging variables were collected, followed by LUS assessment with the simultaneous scanning of 14 predetermined ICS and 12 postero-basal ICS. “B” lines (BL) and pleural abnormalities (PA) were documented for each ICS. HRCT was performed with a maximum 3 month-interval from the time of recruitment (before or after). Descriptive statistics for categorical and continuous variables was used. A bivariate analysis was undertaken to discriminate factors associated with the presence of ILD. A Pearson correlation test was carried out to compare findings between LUS and HRCT. Diagnostic accuracy was assessed through elaboration of ROC curves.

Results: We included 73 patients, with a median age of 54.5±15.1 years and 96.1% were women. Prevalence of ILD was 43.6%. Relevant baseline characteristics are shown in Table 1. Acknowledged risk factors for ILD were pulmonary hypertension (OR 6.27, CI 95% 1.75-22.4, p=0.005) and diffuse SSc (OR 6.17, CI 95% 1.92-19.76, p=0.002). The AUC were 0.87 (95% CI, 0.78-0.96), 0.94 (95% CI, 0.88-1.00) and 0.84 (95% CI, 0.74-0.94) for the evaluation of number of BL in 14 ICS, in 12 ICS and the number of ICS with PA (22 EIC), respectively.

Conclusion: Our study confirms the robustness of LUS as a tool for the detection of ILD through the quantification of BL and PA when using any of two different scanning protocols (14 and 12 ICS). However, more studies are required to elucidate the added value of pleural abnormalities identification for the diagnosis of ILD by LUS.

References:
**SCLEROSIS: AN EUSTAR DATABASE ANALYSIS**

**METHODS:**

Patients diagnosed with systemic sclerosis (SSc) and registered in the EUSTAR database were included if they fulfilled the SSc classification criteria. Of these, 84.4% were female and mean age was 55.5±13.8 years. ACA was positive in 38% of patients and ATA in 32%; 4271 individuals (35%) were ever-smokers. Among never-smokers, 35% of patients was ATA positive, compared to 27% among ever-smokers (p <0.001). When stratifying for sex, this difference was accounted for by female patients: 34% of never-smoking females was ATA positive compared to 21% of ever-smoking women (p <0.001). In men, no statistically significant difference in ATA positivity was observed. Survival was significantly lower in ever-smokers than in never-smokers (46% vs 55%; log-rank test p=0.0032; Figure 1). In multivariable Cox regression analysis, ever-smoking was associated with mortality (HR 1.24; 95% CI 1.07 to 1.43). Evidence for an interaction between smoking status and sex was found (HR of interaction term 1.44, 95% CI 1.03 to 2.03). Cox proportional hazards models did not show an increased risk of developing ILD (HR 1.03; 95% CI 0.92 to 1.16) or cardiac involvement (HR 1.10; 95% CI 0.99 to 1.21), neither of functional worsening in ILD (HR 1.01; 95% CI 0.93 to 1.10) or cutaneous progression (HR 1.11; 95% CI 0.97 to 1.26) for ever-smokers.

**CONCLUSION:**

Our study in a large cohort of SSc patients from the EUSTAR registry confirms that ever-smoking is associated with lower prevalence of ATA positivity among female SSc patients. Our findings indicate that ever-smoking patients have a worse survival during follow-up, while no association between smoking and development of ILD, cardiac involvement or skin progression emerged.

**REFERENCES:**


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**POS1265**

**REAL-LIFE MULTICENTRIC NATIONAL OBSERVATIONAL STUDY OF THE USE OF NINTEDANIB IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Safety, Systemic sclerosis
Background: Intersitial Lung Disease related to Systemic Sclerosis (ILD-SSc) is the first cause of mortality rate in this disease [1]. Significant functional decline in Forced vital capacity is one of the main prognostic factor in ILD-SSc and evaluation of the FCV is a key part of the follow-up of patient [2]. Nintedanib is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor that has been shown to be effective in ILD-SSc by significantly slowing decline in FCV [3]. To this day, no real-life data are available in ILD-SSc.

Objectives: Evaluation of efficacy and tolerance profile of Nintedanib in ILD-SSc patients in real life in France.

Methods: Multicentric data collection on call for observations through the GFRS, SNFMI and Orphalung. The data were obtained in an ambispective way with Data were available at 6 months after introduction of nintedanib in 60 patients.

Results: 60% of cases, and CT pattern was PINS in 85% of cases. Mean FVC was one of the major pronostic factor in ILD-SSc and evaluation (diarrhea in 5 cases, 1 significant weight loss) and including 1 death (cardiac arrest).

Methods: To evaluate RO7303509 safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics of single ascending doses of RO7303509, an anti-TGFβ3 monoclonal antibody, in healthy volunteers.

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Randomized control trial, Biomarkers

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.252
In this study, we investigated IGU as a possible alternative treatment for SSc patients with ischemic DU. We constructed two cohorts from the Renji SSc registry. In the first cohort, SSc patients receiving IGU were observed prospectively with at least a 3-month follow-up to investigate the prevention of new ischemic DU occurrence. In the second cohort, we picked up all the DU patients with at least a 6-month follow-up to investigate the prevention of DU occurrence in a median follow-up of 39 weeks; further in the second DU cohort (Table 1), the protection of IGU was still true for new DU occurrence (adjusted RR = 0.25, 95% CI, 0.05-0.94, adjusted OR = 0.07, 95% CI, 0.01-0.49) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Our study indicates IGU as a possible alternative treatment for SSc. Beyond expectation, this study for the first time describes IGU as preventative against ischemic DU occurrence and merits further investigation.

REFERENCES:

Methods: We constructed two cohorts from the Renji SSc registry. In the first cohort, SSc patients receiving IGU were observed prospectively with effectiveness and safety. In the second cohort, we picked up all the DU patients with at least a 3-month follow-up to investigate the prevention of IGU on ischemic DU.

Results: 1) IGU was a plausible alternative treatment for SSc with acceptable tolerance. 93.3% (21/23) of the SSc patients were disease worsening-free during IGU treatment (median follow-up: 61 weeks). 2) We unexpectedly discovered that IGU was protective against ischemic DU. Although with a limited patient number, 72.7% (8/11) of IGU-treated patients had no new DU occurrence in a median follow-up of 39 weeks; further in the second DU cohort (Table 1), the protection of IGU was still true for new DU occurrence (adjusted RR = 0.25, 95% CI, 0.05-0.94, adjusted OR = 0.07, 95% CI, 0.01-0.49) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Our study indicates IGU as a possible alternative treatment for SSc. Beyond expectation, this study for the first time describes IGU as preventative against ischemic DU occurrence and merits further investigation.

REFERENCES:
Pathology Evaluation and Ratings (CALIPER) software, affecting at least 10% reticular and honeycombing), assessed by Computer-Aided Lung Informatics for carbon monoxide (DLco) and high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) were measured by Bio-Plex Multiplex Immunoassays in 60 SSc patients and

DOI:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.


Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a systemic autoimmune disease leading to tissue atrophy, vascular damage and organ failures, and therefore causing severe disability. Coexistent autoimmune diseases are called overlap syndromes. Despite the distinct clinical picture[1], the extent of damage in SSc-overlap may be affected compared to pure-SSc.

Objectives: To identify differences in the time course and characteristics of damage between pure-SSc and SSc-overlap patients by evaluating the Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium-Damage Index (SCTC-DI)[2].

Methods: Single tertiary care centre observational study with 160 enrolled SSc patients. Eighty-eight patients (55%) had diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc), 86% were female and median disease duration was 9 years/4.16. SSc-overlap was diagnosed based on the evaluation of the attending physicians. SCTC-DI was calculated. SCTC-DI score between 6-12 was considered as moderate and >12 points as severe damage. Damage profile of pure-SSc and SSc-overlap including subsets was compared.

Results: SSc-overlap was present in 24% of cases (n=39; 18 rheumatoid arthritis, 12 Sjögren, 12 myositis, 1 antiphospholipid syndrome). Age at enrolment and at disease onset, dcSSclimited cutaneous (iSSc) ratio, disease duration and gender distribution showed no difference between pure-SSc and SSc-overlap. Pure-SSc and SSc-overlap patients, including iSSc/dcSSc subset comparison had the same damage burden (Kruskal-Wallis p=0.05). Median/IQR SCTC-DI was similar in pure-SSc and SSc-overlap (97.14 and 96.13 respectively). Moderate damage was found in around 53% and severe damage in 28% of patients in both pure-SSc and SSc-overlap. Gastrointestinal, cardiopulmonary, cardiac, vascular and renal domains of SCTC-DI did not differ between SSc-overlap and pure-SSc, whereas proximal muscle weakness was more prevalent in SSc-overlap compared to pure-SSc. ILD was scored similarly frequently in pure-dcSSc and dcSSc-overlap (82% vs 66.7%, χ² p=0.05), however, it was also present in 65% of pure-iSSc and 60% of iSSc-overlap patients. Severe damage was more prevalent in SSc-overlap patients at early stage of SSc (p3 years duration, Fisher’s p=0.029) compared to pure-SSc. Early severe damage was more frequent in dcSSc-overlap compared to pure-dcSSc (Fisher’s p=0.042). Although in pure-SSc there were weak-to-moderate correlations between the SCTC-DI, age, and disease duration (Spearman’s ρc=.360-.498, p<0.001), no such associations were found in SSc-overlap patients. Differences in SCTC-DI items in pure-SSc and SSc-overlap are shown in Table 1.

Conclusion: SCTC-DI is a relevant tool to assess damage in SSc-overlap. In this cohort damage was not related to ageing and disease duration in SSc-overlap. Early dcSSc-overlap patients had higher risk to develop severe damage compared to early pure-dcSSc patients based on the SCTC-DI. Pulmonary damage was less frequent in SSc-overlap compared to pure-dcSSc, but similar in pure-dcSSc and dcSSc-overlap patients. As expected, musculoskeletal damage, especially proximal muscle weakness was present in a remarkable proportion of SSc-overlap patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Project no. TKP2021-EGA-10 has been implemented with the support provided from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund of Hungary, financed under the TKP2021-EGA funding scheme.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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LONGITUDINAL TRENDS IN MULTIMORBIDITY IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: RESULTS FROM AN INCIDENT POPULATION-BASED COHORT (1980-2018)

Keywords: Comorbidities, Systemic sclerosis, Epidemiology

A. Makol1, A. Karn1, S. Achenbach2, A. M. Hinze1, C. S. Crowson2. Mayo Clinic, Division of Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America. Mayo Clinic, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, Rochester, United States of America

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease characterized by vascular dysfunction and widespread internal organ fibrosis. Multimorbidity (MM), defined as the co-occurrence of two or more chronic conditions, can impact life expectancy, increase risk of hospitalizations, healthcare resource utilization and reduce quality of life. The accrual of MM in SSc and its determinants are not well studied.

Objectives: To assess the longitudinal trends of MM (i.e., the presence ≥2 morbidities) in an incident population-based cohort of patients with SSc vs. age- and sex-matched non-SSc comparators, and identify drivers of these trends.

Methods: A population-based cohort of incident physician diagnosed SSc patients between Jan 1, 1980, to Dec 31, 2018, was identified and compared to a 2:1 cohort of age- and sex-matched non-SSC comparators from the same population. Patients were followed until death, migration from the geographic area, or Dec 31, 2021. Data on 21 morbidities identified by the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and 13 morbidities included in the Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI) was retrieved. Cumulative incidence of MM (MM2+ or substantial MM (MM5+; ≥ 5 morbidities) adjusting for the competing risk of death was estimated. Cox models adjusted for age, sex, index year and morbidities at index date were used to compare cases and comparators. Multivariable logistic regression models to predict morbidity type at event before index date were excluded from respective analyses.

Results: 85 patients with SSc were compared to 170 age- and sex-matched non-SSC comparators (mean age 55.4 ± 9.1% female, 90% white/non-Hispanic). At incidence/index date, a significantly higher prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (14% vs 4%, p=0.004), arthritis (33% vs 22%, p=0.054), peripheral vascular disease (40% vs 2%, p=0.001) and liver disease (5% vs 1%, p=0.04) were noted in patients with SSc. During a mean length of follow-up of 12.4 y (SD 9.8) for SSc & 15.5 y (SD 9.8) for comparators, the development of DHHS morbidities of heart failure (HF) (HR 2.90; 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.46-5.74), cardiac arrhythmia (hazard ratio [HR] 1.60; 95% CI 1.03-2.49), stroke (HR 2.08; 95% CI 1.04-4.16), chronic kidney disease (HR 1.86; 95% CI 1.09-3.18), and COPD (HR 2.02; 95% CI 1.09-3.80) were higher in SSc vs. non-SSC comparators. While osteoporosis (HR 2.03; 95% CI 1.18-3.51) was also higher in SSc patients, it did not reach statistical significance when adjusted for baseline morbidity count at index date. Similarly, CCI morbidities of HF (HR 2.86; 95% CI 1.51-5.42), peripheral vascular disease (HR 11.32; 95% CI 6.59-19.44), cerebrovascular disease (HR 2.43; 95% CI 1.28-4.72), chronic pulmonary disease (HR 3.82; 95% CI 2.18-6.69), moderate/severe renal disease (HR 3.02; 95% CI 1.30-6.91), and any liver disease (HR 1.81; 95% CI 1.32-6.92) were also significantly higher in SSc when compared to non-SSC comparators. The cumulative incidence of DHHS MM2+ during follow-up did not differ, but the development of DHHS MM5+ was significantly higher in SSc patients vs. comparators at 1.5% (44% vs 32%), 15% (52% vs 45%) and 20% (64% vs 58%) years of follow up (HR 1.58, 95% CI 1.09-2.31). The development of CCI-MM2+ (HR 4.56; 95% CI 3.00-6.93) was significantly higher among SSc patients but CCI-MM5+ was not statistically significant after adjusting for morbidity count at index (HR 1.65; 95% CI 0.80-3.43).

Conclusion: Multimorbidity is significantly more prevalent in patients with SSc and adds a substantial healthcare burden on these patients. Patients with SSc have a 1.5-3 fold higher risk of developing multiple cardiopulmonary morbidities. Patients who meet risk of developing peripheral vascular disease during longitudinal follow up than age- and sex-matched individuals without SSC. Multimorbidity assessment must be prioritized early in the disease course to reduce healthcare utilization and optimize long-term outcomes in this population.

Acknowledgements: This work was made possible using the resources of the Rochester Epidemiology Project, which is supported by the National Institute of Aging of the NIH (P30 AG049676). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

Disclosure of Interests: Ashima Makol Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Anukul Karn: None declared, Sara Achenbach: None declared, Alicia M. Hinze: None declared, Cynthia S. Crowson Grant/research support from: Pfizer.


INDUCTION OF REGULATORY T CELLS AND EFFICACY OF LOW DOSE INTERLEUKIN-2 IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: INTERVENTIONAL OPEN-LABEL PHASE 1–PHASE 2A STUDY

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Investor initiated trial, Systemic sclerosis

F. Barde1, R. Lorenzon2,3, S. Riviere1, P. Caccoub4, M. Rosenzwajg2,3, C. Caciatorre1, A. Daguene-Ngueny1, O. Fain1, D. Klatzmann2,3, A. Meknian1,2, Hospital Saint-Antoine Ap-Hp, Internal Medicine, Paris, France; 2Sorbonne University, Faculté de Médecine, Paris, France; 3University Hospitals Pitié Salpêtrière - Charles Foix, Clinical Investigation Center for Biotherapies and Inflammation-Immunopathology-Biotherapy Department, Paris, France; 4University Hospitals Pitié Salpêtrière - Charles Foix, Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Paris, France; 5Hospital Saint-Antoine Ap-Hp, Pharmacy, Paris, France

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a chronic autoimmune disease, with impaired immune response, increased fibrosis, and endothelial dysfunction. (1,2) Regulatory T cells (Tregs), which are essential to prevent autoimmunity, showed a decreased frequency and impaired function during SSc. (3,4) Low-dose interleukin-2 (id-IL2) can expand and activate Tregs, but there are no data in SSc.

Objectives: We aimed to assess the in vivo biological efficacy of id-IL2 on Tregs and its safety in patients with SSc.

Methods: We performed an intervention prospective, open-label phase I-llla study in nine patients with SSc without severe organ involvement (eight patients with limited cutaneous subtype). This trial is a part of the TRANSREG study. All patients received 1 Million International Units (MIU)/day of IL2 for five days, followed by fortnightly injections for 6 months. The primary endpoint was the change in the relative Tregs blood concentration identified as CD25hiCD127lo/FoxP3+cells frequencies on day 8 among TCD4+ cells compared with baseline. Laboratory and clinical evaluations (modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), Clinical Global Impression (CGI) activity and severity scale) were performed between day 8 and month 18.

Results: At day 8, the primary endpoint was reached with a 1.8 ± 0.5 fold increase of Tregs levels among TCD4+ lymphocytes (p=0.008). Changes in concentration of effector T cells (Teffs) and BCD19 cells were not statistically significant at day 8 and during maintenance period until month 6. Patients’ clinical assessments were stable throughout the follow-up with no modification on mRSS CGI activity and severity scale. Ld-IL2 was well tolerated, and no serious adverse events occurred.

Conclusion: Ld-IL2 at a dosage of 1 MIU/day for five consecutive days selectively activates and expands Tregs in SSc. Safety data were very encouraging. Phase II efficacy trials are needed to validate therapeutic potential of id-IL2.

REFERENCES:

Table: Lymphocyte subpopulations analysis

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Data are represented as mean ± sd. Changes between baseline and day 8 were analyzed using by ANOVA for ranked data considering factor time *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001.
**Norway**

The course of untreated SSc-ILD patients remains unknown. Systemic sclerosis (SSc). Current guidelines consider that some patients may require pharmacological treatment. To date, the characteristics and disease course of untreated SSc-ILD patients remain unknown.

**Methods:**

We included SSc patients from Zurich and Oslo who had a diagnosis of ILD on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) and available data on pulmonary function tests and treatment. The longitudinal study included patients with at least one follow-up visit. Patients were classified as treated if they had received a potential ILD modifying drug (immunosuppressive therapy or nintedanib). Treated and untreated patients were compared at baseline. ILD progression at any time point were compared with patients with no ILD modifying treatment during follow-up. In the untreated group, patients who had received a potential ILD modifying drug (immunosuppressive therapy or nintedanib). Treated and untreated patients were compared at baseline. ILD progression in the untreated group was defined as (i) decline in forced vital capacity (FVC) from baseline of ≥10% or (ii) decline in FVC of 5-9% associated with a decline in diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide (DLCO) of ≥15%, or (iii) start of any ILD modifying treatment during follow-up. In the untreated group, patients with ILD progression at any time point were compared with patients who had no ILD progression during follow-up. Multivariable logistic regression was performed to identify factors associated with no treatment of ILD at baseline in our cohort. Over mean 56 months of follow-up, 135/233 (58%) untreated SSc-ILD patients showed progression. Among them, 116 progressed on lung function parameters. Half of the patients (58) progressed at the first follow-up visit (mean 14 months). Male sex, diffuse cutaneous subtype, and extensive lung fibrosis were independently associated with lung progression during follow-up in untreated patients (Figure 1).

**Results:**

Untreated patients were more often women, had a longer disease duration, more frequently a limited cutaneous form, ant centromere antibodies and overall less extensive ILD. Particularly patients with anti-centromere antibodies and overall less extensive ILD. Conclusion: In the past, a large number of SSc-ILD have been untreated, particularly patients with anti-centromere antibodies and overall less extensive ILD. However, during a follow-up of nearly 5 years, contrary to common belief, about 60% of untreated patients showed progression of ILD. With the development of effective and safe therapies for SSc-ILD, our results support a change in clinical practice in selecting patients for treatment.

**Acknowledgements:**

Jasomed for help with the statistical analysis.

**Disclosure of Interests:**

Olivier Fain: None declared, David Klatzmann Shareholder of: ILTOO Pharma, Carlotta Cacciatore: None declared, Anne Daguenel-Nguyen: None declared, Olivier Fain: None declared, David Klatzmann Shareholder of: ILTOO Pharma, Arsene Mekinian: None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1429

**POST273**

**CHARACTERISTICS AND DISEASE COURSE OF UNTREATED PATIENTS WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS IN A REAL-LIFE TWO-CENTER COHORT**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Lungs

M. Scheidegger1, A. Garaian1, I. Barua2, M. O. Becker3, H. J. Bjørkhem2, C. Brun1, R. Dobrota1, H. Fretheim2, S. Jordan2, M. Maciukiewicz1, Ø. Midtvedt2, C. Mihai, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold2, O. Distler1, M. Elhai1, University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland, Oslo University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway, Hospital of Southern Norway, Department of Rheumatology, Kristiansand, Norway

**Background:**Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is the leading cause of death in systemic sclerosis (SSc). Current guidelines consider that some patients may require pharmacological treatment. To date, the characteristics and disease course of untreated SSc-ILD patients remain unknown.

**Objectives:** To describe disease characteristics and disease course in untreated SSc-ILD patients in two well characterized SSc-ILD cohorts.

**Methods:** We included SSc patients from Zurich and Oslo who had a diagnosis of ILD on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) and available data on pulmonary function tests and treatment. The longitudinal study included patients with at least one follow-up visit. Patients were classified as treated if they had received a potential ILD modifying drug (immunosuppressive therapy or nintedanib). Treated and untreated patients were compared at baseline. ILD progression in the untreated group was defined as (i) decline in forced vital capacity (FVC) from baseline of ≥10% or (ii) decline in FVC of 5-9% associated with a decline in diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide (DLCO) of ≥15%, or (iii) start of any ILD modifying treatment during follow-up. In the untreated group, patients with ILD progression at any time point were compared with patients who had no ILD progression during follow-up. Multivariable logistic regression was performed to identify factors associated with no treatment of ILD at baseline and factors associated with progression in untreated patients. Covariates were selected based on clinical experience and literature evidence.

**Results:** The cohort included 386 SSc-ILD patients. 301 (78%) had their first visit before 2016, 82 (21.5%) were males, mean age 57±14 years, mean disease duration 12±22 years, 120 (31%) had diffuse cutaneous SSc and 127/381 (33%) positive for anti-ScI70 antibodies. Of all, 290 (75%) were untreated at baseline. Untreated patients were more often women, had a longer disease duration, more frequently a limited cutaneous form, ant centromere antibodies and lower CRP levels. They had lower NYHA functional class, limited extent (<20%) of lung fibrosis, higher FVC (96±19 % vs. 81±22%), higher DLCO (69±20 % vs. 58±21) and better performances in the 6-minute walking test. In multivariable logistic regression, a less extensive disease on HRCT (OR: 3.71 [1.66-8.53], p=0.002) and ant centromere antibodies (OR: 5.16 [1.81-18.88], p=0.005) were independently associated with no treatment of ILD at baseline in our cohort.

**Conclusion:** In the past, a large number of SSc-ILD have been untreated, particularly patients with anti-centromere antibodies and overall less extensive ILD. However, during a follow-up of nearly 5 years, contrary to common belief, about 60% of untreated patients showed progression of ILD. With the development of effective and safe therapies for SSc-ILD, our results support a change in clinical practice in selecting patients for treatment.

**Acknowledgements:**

Jasomed for help with the statistical analysis.

**Disclosure of Interests:**

Olivier Fain: None declared, David Klatzmann Shareholder of: ILTOO Pharma, Carlotta Cacciatore: None declared, Anne Daguenel-Nguyen: None declared, Olivier Fain: None declared, David Klatzmann Shareholder of: ILTOO Pharma, Arsene Mekinian: None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1774

**Figure 1. TRANSREG study design**

**Conclusion:** The introduction to the study design is provided. The study design is mentioned in the context of selecting patients for treatment. The study design is mentioned in the context of selecting patients for treatment.

**Disclosure of Interests:**

Olivier Fain: None declared, David Klatzmann Shareholder of: ILTOO Pharma, Carlotta Cacciatore: None declared, Anne Daguenel-Nguyen: None declared, Olivier Fain: None declared, David Klatzmann Shareholder of: ILTOO Pharma, Arsene Mekinian: None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1429

**Figure 1.** The figure shows the study design of the TRANSREG study. The study design includes an introduction to the study design and the selection of patients for treatment. The study design is mentioned in the context of selecting patients for treatment.

**Disclosure of Interests:**

Olivier Fain: None declared, David Klatzmann Shareholder of: ILTOO Pharma, Carlotta Cacciatore: None declared, Anne Daguenel-Nguyen: None declared, Olivier Fain: None declared, David Klatzmann Shareholder of: ILTOO Pharma, Arsene Mekinian: None declared.
FGF23 AND CARDIOVASCULAR STRUCTURE IN WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis

A. Alvarez de Cienfuegos1, M. A. González-Gay2, N. Ortega5, Hospital Vega Baja, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; 2Fundacion Jimenez Diaz, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 3Universidad de Granada, Facultad de Medicina, Granada, Spain

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc), an autoimmune disease characterized by fibrosis of the skin and various internal organs, is associated with cardiovascular abnormalities including pulmonary hypertension, atherosclerosis, right and left ventricular dysfunction, arrhythmias, conduction defects, pericardial disease, and valvular heart disease. Fibroblast growth factor-23 (FGF23) is a circulating regulator of phosphate and vitamin D metabolism and has been implicated as a putative pathogenic factor in cardiovascular disease. FGF23 has been associated with cardiac hypertrophy and reduced left ventricular ejection fraction among patients with chronic kidney disease and cardiovascular disorders.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to examine the possible association between serum FGF23 levels and echocardiographic abnormalities in women with SSc.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was performed in San Cecilio Hospital, Granada (Spain) from November 2017 to May 2019. Sixty-two women with SSc were enrolled in this study. All patients included in this study had normal serum creatinine (Cr) levels and met the 2013 American College of Rheumatology/European League Against Rheumatism (ACR/EULAR) criteria for SSc. Echocardiograms were performed at a single clinical site using Philips ie33 ultrasound machine with subjects in the left lateral decubitus position. Serum FGF23 was analyzed using ELISA.

Results: A total of 62 female patients were included in our study, with a mean (SD) age of 53 ± 10 years. The majority were Caucasian (90.5%). The mean disease duration was 8.8 ± 6.9 years. Forty-four (70.9%) patients had a limited form of the disease and 18 (29.1%) had a diffuse form. The mean left ventricular posterior wall thickness and left ventricular systolic diameter were 8.1±1.3mm and 25.3±4.8 mm, respectively. We found a statistically significant inverse relationship between serum FGF23 levels and echocardiographic abnormalities in women with SSc.

Conclusions: Our study found a statistically significant relationship between FGF23 and posterior wall thickness (r= -0.34; p= 0.03) and a statistically significant relationship between FGF23 and left ventricular systolic diameter (r= -0.5; p< 0.03) in women with SSc. Furthermore, in the linear regression model, lower FGF23 concentrations were associated with greater posterior wall thickness (r= 0.5; p= 0.03) in women with SSc.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1870

THE HETEROGENEITY OF DEFINING SEVERITY, PROGRESSION AND OUTCOMES IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE: RESULTS FROM A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: Outcome measures, Systemic sclerosis, Lungs

L. Petel tyska1,2, F. Bonomi3, C. Cannistrà3, E. Fiorentini3, S. Peretti3, S. Torracchi3, P. Bernardini3, C. Coccia3, R. De Luca3, A. Economou4, J. Levani2, M. Matucci-Cerinò4, A. Dosti2, C. Brunì1,3, 5University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Dept Rheumatology, Zürich, Switzerland; 2Bogomolets National Medical University, Dept Internal Medicine #3, Kyiv, Ukraine; 3University of Florence - University Hospital Careggi, Dept Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Firenze, Italy; 4San Raffaele Hospital, 4. Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases (UniRAR), Milano, Italy

Background: The course of systemic sclerosis associated interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD) is highly variable. The SSc-ILD progression (SILPRO) project aims at developing a disease specific model to define SSc-ILD progression predicting long-term, severe SSc-ILD. The evaluation of currently used definitions of severity, progression and outcomes recorded in SSc-ILD represents the highly needed first step to achieve this aim.

Objectives: To identify definitions of progression, severity and outcomes related to SSc-ILD in the literature.

Methods: A systematic literature review was conducted according to PRISMA guidelines in Medline, EMBASE and the Cochrane Library up to 31/12/2021. Eligible papers included > 10 adult SSc patients, with ILD as primary target (at least one of population, exposure, outcome). Original papers in English were considered, while papers related to secondary lung involvement, ILD onset as an outcome or reviews were excluded. Two reviewers independently identified eligible studies and extracted data, including the abovementioned definitions used.

Results: We identified 299/8444 eligible papers, mostly reporting results of retrospective cohort studies (n=126, 42%), prospective cohort studies (n=120, 40%) and randomized clinical trials (n=24, 8%). A definition of SSc-ILD severity was included in 138 (46%) papers: it was based on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) data in 72 (52%) studies, on forced vital capacity (FVC) changes in 29 (21%), on combined FVC and carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DLCO) changes in 14 (10%), on DLCO changes in 5 (4%) and combinations of these (6%); 6% of the studies included at least one of population, exposure, outcome. Original papers in English were considered, while papers related to secondary lung involvement, ILD onset as an outcome or reviews were excluded. Two reviewers independently identified eligible studies and extracted data, including the abovementioned definitions used.

Conclusions: We identified 299/8444 eligible papers, mostly reporting results of retrospective cohort studies (n=126, 42%), prospective cohort studies (n=120, 40%) and randomized clinical trials (n=24, 8%). A definition of SSc-ILD severity was included in 138 (46%) papers: it was based on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) data in 72 (52%) studies, on forced vital capacity (FVC) changes in 29 (21%), on combined FVC and carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DLCO) changes in 14 (10%), on DLCO changes in 5 (4%) and combinations of these (6%); 6% of the studies included at least one of population, exposure, outcome. Original papers in English were considered, while papers related to secondary lung involvement, ILD onset as an outcome or reviews were excluded. Two reviewers independently identified eligible studies and extracted data, including the abovementioned definitions used.

Sixty-one of 169 studies (36%) provided a definition of SSc-ILD "progression" referred to combined DLCO and FVC changes, 49 (29%) to FVC changes, 23 (14%) to DLCO changes, 18 (11%) to ILD extent on HRCT, 6 (4%) to combination of pulmonary function test (PFT), clinical signs and HRCT data, 5 (3%) to vital capacity decline, 5 (3%) to combination of PFT and HRCT data and 2 (1%) to other aspects (Table 1).

Conclusion: The studies reporting a definition of SSc-ILD "progression," "severity," and "outcome" show a large heterogeneity. These results emphasize the need for developing a standardized, consensus definition of severe SSc-ILD, to link a disease specific definition of progression as a surrogate outcome for clinical trials and clinical practice.
Acknowledgements: on behalf of the SILPRO project investigators.

Disclosure of Interests: Lubov Petelytska Grant/research support from: received research grant from Swiss National Research Foundation/Scholars at risk, Francesco Bonomi: None declared, Carlo Cannistrà: None declared, Elisa Fiorentini: None declared, Silvia Peretti: None declared, SARA Torracchi: None declared, Pamela Bernardini: None declared, Carmela Coccia: None declared, Riccardo De Luca: None declared, Alessio Economou: None declared, Juela Levani: None declared, Marco Matucci-Cerinic Speakers bureau: Actelion, Janssen, Inventiva, Bayer, Biogen, Boehringer, CSL Behring, Corbus, Galapagos, Mitsubishi, Samsung, Regeneron, Acceleron, MSD, Chemomab, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche., Consultant of: Actelion, Janssen, Inventiva, Bayer, Biogen, Boehringer, CSL Behring, Corbus, Galapagos, Mitsubishi, Samsung, Regeneron, Acceleron, MSD, Chemomab, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche., Oliver Distler Speakers bureau: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant, Amgen, AnaMar, Arxx, AstraZeneca, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galderma, Galapagos, Glemnark, Gossamer, iQvia, Kymera, Lupin, Medscape, Merck, Millenly Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe; Novartis, Prometheus, Redpharma, Roivant and Topadur in the area of potential treatments of scleroderma and its complications, Consultant of: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant, Amgen, AnaMar, Arxx, AstraZeneca, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galderma, Galapagos, Glemnark, Gossamer, iQvia, Kymera, Lupin, Medscape, Merck, Millenly Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe; Novartis, Prometheus, Redpharma, Roivant and Topadur in the area of potential treatments of scleroderma and its complications, Research grants: Kymera, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Cosimo Bruni Speakers bureau: Eli-Lilly, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Gruppo Italiano Lotta alla Sclerodermia (GILS), European Scleroderma Trials and Research Group (EUSTAR), Foundation for research in Rheumatology (FOREUM), Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium (SCTC). Educational grants from AbbVie.

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Table 1. Most frequently used definitions of SSc-ILD progression

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Among all articles, 47 outcomes related to SSc-ILD were identified from 153 papers. The most frequent outcomes represented hard endpoints, such as mortality (131 papers), end stage lung disease (8 papers), hospitalization (6 papers) and malignancies (4 papers).
Scleroderma, myositis and related syndromes

**POS1278**

**A SINGLE CELL TRANSCRIPTOMIC ANALYSIS REVEALS A PRO-INFLAMMATORY PROFILE IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD CD14+ MONOCYTES OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS**

**Keywords**: Biomarkers, Innate immunity, Systemic sclerosis

G. Villarroya-Martín1, M. Acosta-Hernández2, E. Carmona1, M. Kerick3, N. Ortge3, J. L. Callejas-Rubio4, S. Ng4, G. Mages4, S. Kliges5, S. Boerno5, B. Timmermann5, L. Bosini-Castillo6, J. Martín Ibanez7, Instituto de Parasitolatía y Biomedicina López Neyra - CSIC-, Granada, Spain; Instituto de Investigación Biosanitaria ibs.Granada, - Granada, Spain; Faculty of Medicine - University of Granada, Department of Medicine, Granada, Spain; Hospital Universitario Clínico San Cecilio, Department of Internal Medicine, Granada, Spain; Max Planck Institut für molekulare Genetik, Sequencing Core Facility, Berlin, Germany; Universidad de Granada, Departamento de Genetica, Granada, Spain

**Background**: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an immune-mediated disease, which affects mostly women over 50 years old. Recently, single cell mRNA sequencing techniques (scRNA-seq) have contributed to establish the relevance of different immune cell types in SSc. However, little is known about the diversity of the peripheral blood monocytes, which play a central role in the early inflammatory response and in the maintenance of inflammation in SSc.

**Objectives**: Our aim is to analyze the composition of the peripheral blood monocyte compartment of SSc patients and to establish disease and subtype specific transcriptomic profiles at the single cell level.

**Methods**: CD14+ monocytes were isolated from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) of 8 SSc diagnosed women and 8 age matched unaffected females. All the patients were between 50 and 70 years old and classified as either limited cutaneous SSc (lcSSc) or diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc). ScRNA-seq libraries were generated using the 10x Genomics Chromium platform and the Chromium Next Generation Single Cell S’Reagent Kits. After QC a total of 96,543 cells remained, with an average of ~7,000 cells per sample and 36,601 detected genes. Dimensionality reduction and cell clustering were performed using Scanpy, establishing 5,000 high variable genes and 20 principal components to implement the Leiden clustering algorithm.

**Results**: We identified 11 different clusters in the SSc combined analysis of the single cell transcriptomic data from both the SSc patients and the controls. Using known genes and cell markers, we identified classical monocytes, non-classical monocytes and intermediate monocytes, and a dendritic cell population (Figure 1). Non-classical monocyte populations were under-represented in SSc patients. Overall, we observed a proinflammatory profile in SSc CD14+ monocytes, which overexpressed genes related to the interferon signaling pathways, such as IRF4, IRF5, IFITM3 or IRF1, but also S100 family genes. This proinflammatory profile is especially enriched in the activated monocyte clusters, i.e. those with high expression of S100A8/S100A9 genes. Additionally, we identified the overexpression of TMEF1 and TMEF1 in IScSc patients compared to dcSSc patients and controls.

**Figure 1.** Monocyte subtype population in SSc. (A) UMAP visualization of monocyte CD14+ isolated from PBMCs sample of SSc and controls. (B) Proportion of cells of each monocyte subtype. (C) Outplot of gene and cell markers of monocyte subtype per cluster. The dot size indicates the number of cells expressing the gene in the cluster and the color the average of expression.

**Conclusion**: Our analysis of peripheral blood CD14+ monocytes in SSc patients showed an overrepresentation of non-classical monocytes and an increased interferon response compared to healthy controls. Moreover, we found subtype specific transcriptomic profiles, which suggested the possible use of monocyte subtypes as SSc biomarkers.

**REFERENCES**


**Acknowledgements**: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3231

**POS1277**

**LUNG FUNCTION ASSOCIATED WITH SUBCLINICAL MYOCARDIAL IMPAIRMENT IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A CARDIAC MAGNETIC RESONANCE STUDY**

**Keywords**: Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis, Cardiovascular disease

H. He1, X. Tong2, N. Ding3, J. Zhou4, C. Du5, Y. Wang5, D. Xu5, X. Zeng5, X. Zhao5, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China; Tsinghua University, School of Clinical Medicine. Beijing, China; Tsinghua University School of Medicine, Department of Biomedical Engineering. Beijing, China; Beijing Shijitan Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

**Background**: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an autoimmune disease and microvascularopathy is its major pathophysiological process. Patients with SSc usually have abnormal immune activation, neovascularization, and vascular remodeling. Progressive fibrosis and dysfunction will occur in multiple organs along with the progression of diseases, such as intestinal lung disease and cardiomyopathy [1]. Myocardial impairment is the major cause of death in patients with SSc [2]. Cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) has been demonstrated to be an ideal non-invasive modality to assess myocardial pathology, particularly quantitative T1 [3]. However, CMR is not applicable for individuals with contraindications to MR examination.

**Objectives**: This study aimed to investigate the association between lung function and myocardial T1 values using cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) in SSc patients without cardiovascular symptoms.

**Methods**: The SSc patients without cardiovascular symptoms and age- and sex-matched healthy subjects were recruited and underwent CMR examination to acquire CINE and T1 mapping images. Myocardial native T1 values and lung function were evaluated. Spearman's rank correlations and linear regression analyses were conducted to determine the association between lung function and myocardial native T1 values.

**Results**: Forty SSc patients (mean age 47.7±13.8 years, 35 females) and 13 (mean age 43.2±3.3 years, 10 females) healthy subjects were enrolled. SSc patients showed significantly higher native T1 value in myocardium compared to healthy subjects (1305±48.3 ms vs. 1273±73.5 ms, P=0.036). Diffusing capacity of lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO) was significantly associated with myocardial native T1 value before (β=-0.958; 95%CI, -1.822 to -0.094; P=0.031) and after adjusted for confounding factors (β=-1.223; 95%CI, -2.155 to -0.291; P=0.012). Moderate-to-severe decrease of DLCO (DLCO<60%) was independently associated with myocardial native T1 value (β=31.189; 95%CI, 16.332 to 50.046; P=0.001). Figure 1 presents a typical case about myocardial native T1 value in a SSc patient (DLCO<60%) and an age- and sex-matched healthy subject.

**Conclusion**: Lung function is independently associated with myocardial native T1 values in SSc patients, particularly for moderate-to-severe decrease of DLCO, suggesting that lung function measurements might be a potential indicator for subclinical myocardial impairment in SSc patients. It is well established that chronic inflammation, the major pathophysiological process of SSc in early stage, persistently activates interstitial fibroblasts of multiple organs including lung and heart, leading to the irreversible fibrosis and subsequent decline of function [4].

**REFERENCES**


Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a severe, progressive multisystem rheumatic disease with high mortality, but without approved disease-modifying treatment to stop or reverse course of disease. Intravenous immunoglobulin G (IgG) may have a positive impact on SSc based upon available literature reports. However, to date, there have been no clinical trials evaluating subcutaneous IgG (SCIG) in SSc. In particular, the impact of pathologically altered skin in SSc on local safety and pharmacokinetics (PK) of SCIG has not been explored yet.

Objectives: The primary and secondary objectives of this trial (NCT04137224) included safety, including local infusion safety, and bioavailability of subcutaneous IgG (IgPro20) in adults with diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc).

Methods: This was a randomized, open-label, crossover study. Adult subjects with dcSSc diagnosis within 5 years from first non-Raynaud's phenomenon and modified Rodnan Skin Score of 15-45 at screening were randomized 1:1 to sequence A (IgPro20, 20% normal human subcutaneous immunoglobulin followed by IgPro10, 10% normal human intravenous immunoglobulin) or sequence B (IgPro10 followed by IgPro20). Each subject was to complete two treatment periods (16 weeks each), with up to 40 weeks (including screening) study duration for an individual subject. Doses received were 0.5g/kg/week split over two sessions for IgPro20, and 2g/kg/4 weeks split over 2-5 days for IgPro10. The primary endpoint was safety of IgPro20, described as treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and changes in clinical observations.

Results: 27 subjects were randomized, with 13 subjects to sequence A and 14 subjects to sequence B. In total, 25 subjects completed the study. Of 27 treated subjects, 107 TEAEs occurred in 22 subjects (81.5%) over the 36-week study period, the majority of which were mild or moderate. The most common TEAEs (>10% of subjects) by preferred term (PT) were headache (12 events occurring in 6 subjects [22.2%]), COVID-19 (3 events occurring in 3 subjects [11.1%]), diarrhoea (3 events occurring in 3 subjects [11.1%]), and vomiting (3 events occurring in 3 subjects [11.1%]). A total of 10 serious AE (SAEs) were reported in 6 subjects (Viral infection, Chronic gastritis, Vomiting, Dehydration, Upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage, Chest pain, Myocardial infarction, Breast cancer, Intestinal hemorrhage). Among these, one subject experienced 2 SAEs (myocardial ischaemia & myocardial infarction) and was discontinued from study treatment. None of the SAEs were considered related to study treatment by the investigator, and no deaths were reported. For IgPro20, 14 infusion site reactions (ISRs) occurred in 5 subjects (19.2%), all were mild or moderate in severity. The most common ISRs were infusion site pain and infusion site swelling (3 events in 2 subjects each, 7.7%). In total, 868 IgPro20 infusions were performed, resulting in an overall ISR rate per infusion of 0.02, ie 2 ISRs per 100 infusions. No ISRs were reported for IgPro10. No clinically relevant trends in vital signs, body weight, clinical laboratory tests, electrocardiograms, or pulmonary function tests were observed. PK profiles and bioavailability in dcSSc subjects were similar to those observed in other approved indications such as Primary Immunodeficiency. Population relative bioavailability of IgPro20, based on dose-normalized, baseline-corrected AUClast was 0.761 (90% CI: 0.7033, 0.8232), ie 76.1% compared to IgPro10 (intravenous IgG).

Conclusion: The overall safety profiles of IgPro20 and IgPro10 in subjects with dcSSc were consistent with that in approved indications such as CIDP, including a relatively low ISR rate for IgPro20. PK profiles and bioavailability were also similar to other indications. This study indicates that subcutaneous administration of IgPro20 has acceptable safety, bioavailability and PK profiles in patients with dcSSc.

Acknowledgements: Editorial assistance was provided by Meridian HealthComms Ltd., funded by CSL Behring.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.25425
Background: Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are membrane-coated vesicles derived from virtually any cell type under different stimuli. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is the leading cause of death in SSC. So far, only one study demonstrated elevated levels of EVs in patients with SSC-ILD [1], however the association between EVs and progressive ILD (pILD) was not previously investigated.

Objectives: To evaluate the concentration of different subpopulations of EVs in plasma from SSC patients in relation to the occurrence of pILD associated to SSC.

Methods: This was a prospective cohort study, including 59 SSC patients without any comorbidity (31 (52.5%) with ILD and 28 (47.5%) without). The median disease duration in ILD group was 3 years and 6 years in those without. ILD was defined either as X-ray positive findings or ground-glass opacification on HRCT. EVs were analyzed with flow cytometry after staining of platelet-poor plasma with fluorescent cell-specific monoclonal antibodies. The concentration of the following phosphatidylserine-positive EVs was analyzed at baseline: endothelial EVs (EEVs; CD144), platelet EVs (PEVs; CD42b*), leucocyte EVs (LEVs; CD45*), EVs expressing ICAM1 (CD54*), TF (CD142*) and HMGB1. The serum concentration of ICAM1, VEGF and IL6 were measured by ELISA. Lung functional tests were done every 6-12 months over a 3 years period of follow-up (FU). pILD was defined by the decline of forced vital capacity (FVC) from baseline visit of ≥10%, or an FVC decline of 5-9% along with a DLCO decline of >15% [2].

Results: An inverse relation was noticed in SSC patients between EVs and FVC (EEVs r=-0.3, p<0.05; LEVs r=-0.4, p<0.01; EVs ICAM1 r=-0.4, p<0.01; EVsTF r=-0.4, p<0.01; EVs HMGB1 r=-0.4, p<0.05). Significantly increased levels of VEGF, ICAM1, IL6, PEVs, and EVs expressing ICAM1, TF or HMGB1 were found in SSc ILD cohort compared to those without (p<0.05, respectively). There was only an association between ILD and PEVs (r=0.4, p<0.05). The correlation between EVs and progressive ILD (pILD) and non-progressive ILD (nILD) was not previously investigated.

Conclusions: In SSC patients, the levels of PEVs, EVs expressing ICAM1, VEGF, and HMGB1 were significantly higher in SSc ILD compared to those without (p<0.05, respectively). Moreover, the levels of PEVs, EVs expressing ICAM1 (AUC 0.9, p<0.001, respectively; TF, HMGB1, EEVs and LEVs (AUC 0.7, p<0.05, respectively) showed good validity in identifying pILD. There was only a positive correlation between VEGF and both EVs ICAM1 (r=0.8, p<0.01) and EVs HMGB1 (r=0.7, p<0.01) within pILD group. Applying Mi Cox R controlling for VEGF, EEVs ICAM1 were confirmed independently significantly associated with pILD (OR 1.1, 95% CI 1.02-1.1).

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2737

POS1282
CARDIAC MAGNETIC RESONANCE IN ANTI-SYNTHESE SYNDROME: THE ADDITIONAL VALUE OF T2 MAPPING TO DETECT MYOCARDITIS

Keywords: Heart, Imaging, Cardiovascular disease

G. De Luca1, C. Campochiaro1, A. Ferlito2, G. Peretto2, A. Palmisano3, A. Esposito1, L. Danesi1,1Vita-Salute San Raffaele University & San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy & Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy; 2Vita-Salute San Raffaele University & San Raffaele Hospital, Anthropology, Milan, Italy; 3Vita-Salute San Raffaele University & San Raffaele Hospital, Radiology - CMR Unit, Milan, Italy

Background: Myocarditis can be a subtle and underdiagnosed manifestation of anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS), and its occurrence is associated with a poor prognosis. Cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) is the diagnostic modality of choice for the non-invasive diagnosis of myocarditis, which historically relies on the 2009 Lake Louise Criteria (LLC) [1]. LLC, however, have a low diagnostic accuracy in patients with coexisting myositis.

Objectives: To investigate the performance of the mapping techniques included in the revised LLC [2] for the identification of ASS myocarditis.

Methods: CMR data (right and left ventricular function and morphology, early and late gadolinium enhancement [LGE], T2 ratio, and T1 mapping, extracellular volume [ECV] and T2 mapping) of ASS patients diagnosed with myocarditis were reviewed. Myocarditis was clinically defined by the presence of signs and/or symptoms of heart involvement with increased high-signal tropinin T (hs-TnT) and/or NT-proBNP serum levels and at least an abnormality at 24h ECG Holter and/or echocardiography and/or CMR.

Results: We identified 11 patients (mean age 58 ±13 years; females 45%; anti-Jo1 55%, anti-PL-7 27%) with ASS myocarditis. Dyspnea was the most frequently reported symptom (64%), 4 patients (36%) had echocardiographic abnormalities, while 24-hour-ECG Holter was normal in all patients. At baseline, troponin T levels were raised in all but 1 patient (mean value 461 ±351 ng/L), while NT-proBNP levels were raised in 45% of patients (mean value 1802 ±1484 pg/mL). All patients had at least one CMR abnormality: increased ECV in all patients, LGE in 10% (91%), and T2 mapping >50ms in 10% (91%). Median T1 and T2 mapping were 1079 [range 906-1172] ms and 53.2 [range 48.8-57.4] ms, respectively. No significant statistical correlation emerged between CMR parameters (T1 mapping, T2 mapping and ECV) and disease parameters (troponin, NTproBNP, CPK levels and inflammatory markers). Six patients satisfied the 2009 LLC, the 2018 LLC with the new criteria including T2 mapping, the sensitivity improved from 54% to 91%.

Conclusion: The CMR mapping techniques improve the sensitivity to detect myocardial inflammation in patients with ASS-related heart involvement. The evaluation of T2 mapping increases diagnostic accuracy for the recognition of myocardial inflammation in ASS and should be always performed in ASS patients with suspected myocarditis.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Giacomo De Luca Speakers bureau: Novartis, Pfizer, SOBI, Janssen, MSD, Boehringer Ingelheim, Arianna; Disclosure of Interests: Giacomo De Luca Speakers bureau: Novartis, Pfizer, Janssen, MSD, Boehringer Ingelheim, Arianna; Disclosure of Interests: Giacomo De Luca Speakers bureau: Novartis, Pfizer, Janssen, MSD, Boehringer Ingelheim, Arianna; Disclosure of Interests: Giacomo De Luca Speakers bureau: Novartis, Pfizer, Janssen, MSD, Boehringer Ingelheim, Arianna; Disclosure of Interests: Giacomo De Luca Speakers bureau: Novartis, Pfizer, Janssen, MSD, Boehringer Ingelheim, Arianna

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POS1283
HEART AND SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS – FINDINGS FROM NATIONAL COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Epidemiology, Systemic sclerosis, Heart


1Sorbonne Université, Inserm, Centre d’Immunologie et des Maladies Infectieuses (CIMI-Paris), Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Groupement Hospitalier Pitié-Salpetrière, Département d’Immunologie et de Maladies Infectieuses, Paris, France; 2Sorbonne Université, Inserm, Centre d’Immunologie et des Maladies Infectieuses (CIMI-Paris), Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Groupement Hospitalier Pitié-Salpetrière, Département d’Immunologie et de Maladies Infectieuses, Paris, France; 3Université Paris Descartes, Referral Center for Rare Autoimmune and Systemic Diseases, Hôpital Cochin, Department of Internal Medicine, Paris, France; 4CH Mulhouse, Internal Medicine, Mulhouse, France; 5Sorbonne Université, Inserm, Centre d’Immunologie et des Maladies Infectieuses (CIMI-Paris), Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Groupement Hospitalier Pitié-Salpetrière, Département d’Immunologie et de Maladies Infectieuses, Paris, France; 6Limoges University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Limoges, France.

Background: Heart involvement is one of the leading causes of death in systemic sclerosis (SSc). Cardiac manifestations are heterogeneous. In particular, prevalence of SSc-related cardiopathy is poorly known due to a lack of consensus in its definition.

Objectives: Our objective was to investigate the prevalence and prognosis burden of the different heart diseases in a nationwide cohort of patients with SSc.

Methods: We used data from a national multicentric prospective study using the French SSc national database. We described the characteristics of 3 different types of heart involvement: SSc-related cardiopathy, pulmonary arterial hypertension and ischaemic heart disease. We analyzed overall survival and survival according to the heart disease. Focusing on SSc-related cardiopathy, we aimed to determine its incidence and risk factors.

Results: Over the 3528 patients with SSc available for baseline analyses 312 (10.9%) had SSc-related cardiopathy at baseline. They tended to have a diffuse SSc subtype more frequently, had more severe clinical features, and presented more cardiovascular risk factors. From the 1646 patients available for follow-up analysis, SSc-related cardiopathy was associated with an increased risk of death. No significant difference of overall survival was found between SSc-related cardiopathy and the other 2 cardiovascular risk factors. Concerning survival analysis, 98 patients developed SSc-related cardiopathy at 5 years (5-year event-rate: 11.15% [9.01; 13.23]). Regarding reduced LVEF < 50% and left ventricular diastolic dysfunction, the 5-year event-rate were 2.49% [CI95%: 1.13; 3.83] and 5.84% [CI95%: 4.02; 7.62], respectively. The pericarditis cumulative incidence at 5 years was 3% [CI95%: 1.91; 4.08]. Diffuse SSc subtype was a risk factor of SSc-related cardiopathy (adjusted HR: 1.79 [CI95%: 1.06; 3.02], p = 0.03). Female sex was associated with less diastolic dysfunction incidence (adjusted HR: 0.39 [CI95%: 0.24; 0.63], p = 0.0001).

Conclusion: Our results further describe at a large scale the incidence and prognostic burden of SSc-related cardiopathy, with gender and diffuse SSc subtype as risk factors. Further analyses should assess the potential impact of treatment on these various cardiac outcomes.
Disclosure of Interests: Alexis F. Guedon: None declared, Fabrice Carrat: None declared, Luc Mouthon: None declared, David Launay: None declared, Benja-

min Chainge: None declared, Gregory Pugnet: None declared, Jean-Christophe Lega: None declared, Arnaud Hot: None declared, Robin Dhote: None declared, Thomas Papo: None declared, Emmanuel Chateius: None declared, Bernard Bonnottte: None declared, Jean-Emmanuel Kahn: None declared, Elisabeth Diot: None declared, Thomas Papo: None declared, Vincent Cottin: None declared, Jean-Baptiste Gaultier: None declared, Viviane Queyrel: None declared, Alain Le Quellec: None declared, Luc Mouthon: None declared, David Launay: None declared, Benja-

Disclosure of Interests: Alexis F. Guedon: None declared, Fabrice Carrat: None declared, Luc Mouthon: None declared, David Launay: None declared, Benja-

References:

Results: Forty-two SSc patients underwent cardiac magnetic resonance after developing symptoms (dyspnea, atypical angor, palpitations; 43%), elevated cardiac enzymes (55%), or Holter ECG alterations (38%). Myocardiopathy was detected in 29/42 patients (69%; 29/16, 9.2%). Early disease was significantly more frequent in patients with myocardiopathy (17/29, 59%; OR 7.8, 95% CI 1.45-

Background: Myocardial involvement is frequently asymptomatic at the early stages in systemic sclerosis (SSc) but accounts for one-third of SSc-related deaths [1]. First-line screening tools include cardiac enzymes, Holter ECG, and echocardiography [2,3], while the diagnosis relies largely on cardiac magnetic resonance [4], assessing myocardial inflammation and fibrosis [5]. The prevalence of SSc myocardiopathy and the associated factors are poorly defined [2].

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CM (29)</th>
<th>No CM (13)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scl-70 (%)</td>
<td>11 (38)</td>
<td>2 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACA (%)</td>
<td>11 (38)</td>
<td>9 (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dcSSc (%)</td>
<td>12 (41)</td>
<td>3 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRSS</td>
<td>4 (13)</td>
<td>2 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early SSc (%)</td>
<td>17 (59)</td>
<td>3 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD (%)</td>
<td>16 (55)</td>
<td>5 (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcers (%)</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>3 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcinosis (%)</td>
<td>2 (7)</td>
<td>1 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gut (%)</td>
<td>7 (24)</td>
<td>4 (31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holter %</td>
<td>28 (78)</td>
<td>7 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSVC &gt; 1272 (%)</td>
<td>21 (78)</td>
<td>6 (52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVC &gt; 300/d (%)</td>
<td>11 (28)</td>
<td>1 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac magnetic resonance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericardial effusion (%)</td>
<td>11 (38)</td>
<td>3 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNP</td>
<td>46.5 (34-138)</td>
<td>113.5 (52-190)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK</td>
<td>88 (60-171)</td>
<td>93 (116-193)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK-MB</td>
<td>3.2 (12.9-7.4)</td>
<td>4.1 (1.7-3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tnl</td>
<td>6 (1.9-26)</td>
<td>1.6 (0-4.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: dcSSc: diffuse SSc; nRSS: modified Rodnan skin score; P(SVC): premature (supra)ventricular contractions; Holter any: PSVC > 1272/h or PVC > 300/d. Continuous varia-

Conclusion: We report a relevant overall prevalence of myocardiopathy in a cohort of SSc patients, similar pulmonary hypertension, affecting one third of patients with early SSc, especially with anti-Scl70. Conversely, a delayed onset of myocardiopathy was associated with ACA. Among other predictors, higher serum troponins and Holter ECG alterations, especially PVC, were significantly associated to myocardiopathy. As the early suspicion and diag-

Humanitas Research Hospital and Humanitas University, Cardiovascular Imaging, Rozzano, Milan, Italy;

Myocardial Involvement Characterizes Early Systemic Sclerosis with Anti-SCL70 Antibodies and Longstanding Disease with Anti-centromere Antibodies

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Autoantibodies, Heart

M. De Santis1, A. Tonutti1, F. Motta1, S. Rodolli1, L. Monti2, M. Francone2, C. Selmi1, IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital and Humanitas University, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; 2IRCCS

Figure 1.

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Figure Autoantibody distribution in patients with SSc-myocardopathy

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Heart

J. Vos1, J. Lemmers2, S. Elmessoudi1, M. Snoeren3, A. Van Dijk4, T. Duijnhouwer1, L. Rodwell4, S. Van Leuven2, M. Post5, M. Vonk2, R. Nijveldt1. 1Radboud University Medical Center, Cardiology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2Radboud University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 3Radboud University Medical Center, Radiology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 4Radboud University Medical Center, Health Evidence, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 5St. Antonius Hospital, Cardiology, Nieuwegein, Netherlands

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is characterized by vasculopathy, fibrosis, and inflammation, and carries one of the worst prognoses if patients also develop pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Although PAH is a known prognostic factor, SSc-PAH patients demonstrate disproportionately high mortality, presumably due to cardiac involvement [1].

Objectives: To investigate the relation between cardiac involvement as revealed by Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (CMR) and systemic microvascular disease severity as measured with nailfold capillaromicroscopy (NCM) in SSc-PAH patients, compared to idiopathic PAH (IPAH) patients.

Methods: SSc-PAH and IPAH patients underwent CMR, transthoracic echocardiography (TTE), and NCM with post-occlusive reactivity hyperemia (PORH) testing on the same day [2-4]. CMR imaging included T2 mapping, native and postcontrast T1 mapping, to assess edema and fibrosis, and adenosine-stress perfusion imaging to measure the relative myocardial upslope (to determine microvascular coronary perfusion). Measures of peripheral microvascular function were related to CMR indices of edema, fibrosis and myocardial perfusion.

Results: SSc-PAH patients (n=20) had higher extracellular volume fraction (ECV) and T2 values than IPAH patients (n=5), and lower nailfold capillary density (NCD) and reduced capillary recruitment after PORH. NCD correlated with native T1, ECV, and T2 values (r=0.431, -0.443, and -0.464, respectively, p<0.05 for all), and with markers of diastolic dysfunction on echocardiography. Furthermore, PORH-testing, but not NCD, correlated with the relative myocardial upslope by stress CMR (r=0.421, p<0.05) (Table 1).

Conclusion: SSc-PAH patients showed higher markers of cardiac fibrosis and inflammation, compared to IPAH patients. These markers correlated well with peripheral microvascular dysfunction, suggesting that SSc-driven inflammation and vasculopathy concurrently affect peripheral microcirculation and the heart. This may contribute to the disproportionately high mortality in SSc-PAH patients.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Jaqueline Vos: None declared, Jacqueline Lemmers: None declared, Saloua ElMessaoudi: None declared, Miranda Snoeren: None declared, Arie van Dijk: None declared, Too Duijnhouwer: None declared, Laura Rodwell: None declared, Sander van Leuven: None declared, Marco Post Speekers bureau: Janssen, Consultant of: Janssen, MSD, Grant/research support from: Janssen, St. Antonius Research fund, ZonMw, Madelon Vonk: Speakers bureau: Janssen, Consultant of: Janssen, MSD, Grant/research support from: Philips Volcano, Biotronik.

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Table 1. Nailfold capillaroscopy with post-occlusive hyperemia reactivity testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPAH (n=5)</th>
<th>SSc-PAH (n=20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pattern (n)</td>
<td>Pattern (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-specific</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic sclerosis: early pattern</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic sclerosis: active pattern</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic sclerosis: late pattern</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are in medians [interquartile range] or number (%). Abbreviations: NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-Brain Natriuretic Peptide; PORH, post-occlusive hyperemia reactivity test.

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Disclosure of Interests: M. Baird1, Z. Dong2, P. Andell3, R. Hesselstrand4, M. Holmqvist1,2. 1Karolinska Institutet, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 2Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Karolinska Institutet, Cardiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, and Heart and Vascular Division, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; 4Lund University, Sweden

Keywords: Heart, Epidemiology, Systemic sclerosis

M. Baird1, Z. Dong2, P. Andell3, R. Hesselstrand4, M. Holmqvist1,2. 1Karolinska Institutet, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 2Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Karolinska Institutet, Cardiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, and Heart and Vascular Division, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; 4Lund University, Sweden

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a connective tissue disease with multiple organ manifestations including cardiac involvement. Several studies have reported arrhythmias and conduction defects to be frequent in patients with SSc, however with considerable limitations such as the lack of comparison group or of stratified analyses by arrhythmia subtypes in some studies in addition to some study populations being highly selected from tertiary care centres.

Objectives: To explore the incidence of cardiac arrhythmias and its different subtypes in an unselected national cohort of patients with SSc compared to a matched cohort from the general population in Sweden.

Methods: We used nationwide Swedish registers to identify patients with incident SSc diagnosed between 2004 and 2015 in addition to comparators from the general population (1:5), matched on sex, birth year and residential area. We excluded those with a history of arrhythmia prior to start of follow-up. The primary outcome was the first ICD-coded visit indicating arrhythmia. Follow-up started from the date of SSc diagnosis, the same date was assigned to the respective comparators, until the primary outcome, death, emigration, or the end of 2016. We estimated the incidence rate of arrhythmias overall and stratified by subtype of arrhythmia in both patients with SSc and their comparators. We estimated incidence rate ratios (IRR) using poisson regression models and time-varying hazard ratios (HRs) using flexible parametric models.

Results: We identified 1049 patients with SSc and 5147 matched comparators with no prior history of arrhythmia. The median follow-up was 4.7 years in patients with SSc and 5.8 years for the comparators. The incidence rate of arrhythmias overall was 216.5 per 10,000 person-years (95% CI 179.8-258.5) in patients with SSc and 106.6 (95% CI 95.5-118.7) in the comparators corresponding to IRR of 2.0 (95% CI 1.7-2.5). Table 1 demonstrates the incidence rates and IRRs stratified by arrhythmia subtypes. The HR of arrhythmia overall in patients with SSc compared to the comparators decreased gradually during follow-up; 3.0 (95% CI 2.2-4.1) at the end of the first year of follow-up, 1.9 (95% CI 1.4-2.5) at the end of the fifth year of follow-up, and 1.3 (95% CI 0.8-2.3) at the end of the 10th year of follow-up.

Conclusion: Patients with SSc have higher incidence rate of arrhythmia overall compared with matched comparators from the general population.

Table 1: Incidence rates of arrhythmias in patients with SSc and in general population comparators, overall and stratified by arrhythmia subtypes. Incidence rate ratios are estimated using poisson regression models.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients with SSc</th>
<th>General population comparators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crude incidence rate* with 95% CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All arrhythmias</td>
<td>122 (21.5) (179.8-258.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduction disorders</td>
<td>14 (23.5) (12.9-39.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrial fibrillation and flutter</td>
<td>89 (154.5) (124.1-190.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac arrest and ventricular arrhythmia</td>
<td>18 (30.2) (173.9-477)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia</td>
<td>11 (18.5) (9.2-33.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20 (33.7) (20.6-52.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* per 10,000 person-years

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Methods: We used a simplified directed acyclic graph (DAG) of the postulated causal pathways for simulation (Figure 1). The 8 nodes, some representing groups of variables, were: non-specific predisposing factors; SSc-specific predisposing factors; comorbidities; SSc; FVC; HAQ; selection; and non-missing data. Arcs (arrows) representing directed causal effects were drawn from earlier nodes in the pathway to each subsequent node. In statistical software [1] we drew the DAG and entered coefficients for each arc, informed in part by baseline descriptive data from ~17k patients in the EUSTAR registry (clinical project 96). We set a 'true' coefficient for the focal relationship between FVC and HAQ of -0.3; negative so that lower FVC would lead to higher HAQ. All variables were simulated to be continuous and all relationships were linear. We split the SSc variable at the 0.9997th and 0.9999th centiles to simulate three groups: no SSc, limited and diffuse SSc. We split the selection variable at the 1st or 3rd quartile to simulate weak selection (e.g. into the registry), or strong selection (e.g. into a clinical trial). We split the non-missing data variable at the 86th centile to simulate data missing not at random. We simulated 1000 datasets of N=76000000.

Results: Descriptive data from EUSTAR suggested that those with HAQ available were younger with shorter disease duration, higher rates of interstitial lung disease and lower rates of elevated systolic pulmonary pressure. In the simulated data, a regression model including all confounders (HAQ = FVC + SSc + Comorbidity + Specific + Non-specific) correctly estimated the coefficient for FVC in the population (median [95% simulation interval] -0.307 [-0.307 to -0.307]). Omitting confounders overestimated the coefficient by 5% to 28% depending which nodes were omitted. Including confounders, but sub-setting to include SSc only (-0.19 [-0.21 to -0.18]), to mimic weak (-0.18 [-0.20 to -0.17]) or strong selection (-0.17 [-0.20 to -0.15]) or to mimic both weak selection and missing data (-0.14 [-0.19 to -0.10]) underestimated the coefficient by 37% to 53%, although the model was correctly specified.

Conclusion: This simulation study illustrates the importance of considering the underlying causal pathways and potential biases when characterising relationships between key variables in observational datasets. Naïve analyses which do not account for confounding, selection bias and missing data can give misleading results. In this simplified example we might have concluded, in error, that the relationship between FVC and HAQ was weaker or stronger than it truly was. As we generated our own data, we knew the 'true' coefficient and the underlying data generating mechanisms. However, in practice we would know neither, but causal inference methods provide transparency as to the assumptions made during analysis and help identify any areas of concern. Careful consideration of the causal pathways to derive the appropriate model, and efforts to mitigate or remove sources of bias via study design and analysis, can improve accuracy and increase confidence in conclusions.

REFERENCE:
Disclosure of Interests: Elizabeth Hensor: None declared, Maria Grazia Lazaroni Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jannsen, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Michelle Wilson: None declared, Mark Gilthorpe: None declared, Francesco Del Galdo Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jannsen, AstraZeneca, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Capella, Chemomab, Jannsen, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Capella, Chemomab, Kymab, Jannsen, Mitsubishi-Tanabe. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3105

POS1299 MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHM AS A USEFUL TOOL IN THE GREY AREA OF CARDIOPULMONARY MORTALITY IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Cardiovascular disease, Systemic sclerosis

P. G. Cerasulo1, E. De Lorenzo1,2, G. Natale1, L. Verardi1, G. Alonzi1, S. Fiore1, A. Zoli1, S. Di Muro1, M. A. D’agostino1, S. L. Bosello1. 1Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Roma, Italy, 2Rheumatology Department, Roma, Italy; 2Sclerodema Program, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine University of Leeds, Rheumatology Department, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Prognosis of systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients is related to the presence of major internal organ involvement and specific autoantibody positivity. Cardiopulmonary complications are the leading cause of death in patients with SSc.

Objectives: The objective of the study is to evaluate the ability of an artificial intelligence algorithm based on laboratory and functional variables associated to SSc cardio-pulmonary involvement to predict the 5-year related mortality.

Methods: Laboratory and functional parameters of cardiopulmonary involvement of SSc patients symptomatic for dyspnoea, palpitations, or chest pain were recorded. Forced vital capacity (FVC), alveolar diffusion of CO (DLco), serum troponin, NT-proBNP, cardiac ejection fraction (EF) and pulmonary arterial systolic pressure (PAPs) were used for clustering by a partition around medoids (PAM) algorithm. The resulting clusters were compared for 5-year mortality due to SSc cardio-pulmonary causes.

Results: 216 patients were enrolled, aged 54.5±14.4 years, and with a disease duration of 7±7 years. The 12% of patients were male, 41% had a diffuse cutaneous disease, 45% were anti-ScI70 positive. With specific reference to cardiopulmonary involvement, 50% of patients had pulmonary fibrosis at HRCT, 15% pulmonary arterial hypertension, 16% a EF <55%, 11% increased levels of troponin, and 42% elevated NT-proBNP levels. During follow-up, 28 patients (12%) died because of causes related to cardiac-pulmonary involvement. The machine learning algorithm identified two different groups according to prognosis (p<0.001) with a 5-year mortality of 15% and 0.8%. Patients with higher mortality were characterized by lower FVC values and higher NT-proBNP than controls. Cox proportional hazard analysis and Kaplan-Meier curve were used to compare the incidence of outcomes between patients with SSc.

Conclusion: A nationwide population-based cohort study revealed an association between SSc and increased risk of MI and stroke. Therefore, monitoring and preventive measure for the cardiovascular diseases in patients with SSc are required.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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POS1291 PREDICTION OF MORTALITY IN SSc-ILD DEPENDS ON DEFINITION OF ILD PROGRESSION

Keywords: Lungs, Systemic sclerosis, Prognostic factors

A. M. Hoffmann-Vold1,2, L. Petelytska1, H. Fretheim1, I. Baru1, M. O. Becker1, H. J. Bjørkaker1, C. Brunborg1, C. Bruni2, P. P. Diep3, R. Dobrota4, M. Durheim4, M. Elahi5, S. Jordan5, E. Langballe1, O. Midvedt1, C. Mihai6, O. Molberg7, O. Dieterle8, 1Oslo University Hospital, Rheumatology; Oslo, Norway; 2University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 3Hospital of Southern Norway, Rheumatology, Kristiansand, Norway; 4Oslo University Hospital, Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Oslo, Norway; 5Oslo University Hospital, Respiratory Medicine, Oslo, Norway

Background: Progression of interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a candidate for long-term mortality in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc). Different definitions of progression have been proposed. Declining lung function is often used, whereas others include composite definitions such as the 2022 ATS/ERS/JRS/ALAT guideline criteria for progressive pulmonary fibrosis (PPF) and the INBUILD criteria for progressive fibrosing ILD (PF-ILD). These different definitions have not been compared in SSc-ILD.

Objectives: To estimate the prevalence of ILD progression applying different definitions and test their performance of predicting mortality.

Methods: We included all SSc patients from the Oslo and Zurich cohorts who had ILD on HRCT and serial assessments of disease progression defined as:

(A) Absolute FVC decline ≥5% over 12 months

(B) PFF guideline criteria with ≥2/3 criteria present over 12 months of (1) worsening of respiratory symptoms; (2) absolute decline in FVC >5% or in DLCO >10% and (3) disease progression on HRCT

(C) INBUILD PF-ILD criteria within 24 months with (1) FVC decline ≥10%, (2) FVC decline >5%–<10% and worsening of respiratory symptoms or increased lung fibrosis on HRCT, or (3) worsening of respiratory symptoms and increased lung fibrosis.

We assessed the prevalence of ILD progression using these competing definitions and applied multinivariable regression models (with hazards ratios (HR) and 95%CI) adjusted for known risk factors for mortality and compared the performance using Harrel’s c-index.

Results: In total, 231 SSc-ILD patients from Oslo and Zurich were included, with 71 (31%) showing FVC decline >5%, 43 (19%) fulfilling the PPF guideline and 89 (39%) the INBUILD PF-ILD criteria. Most progressive patients fulfilled ≥1 of definitions of progression with 107 (55%) with ≥2/3, 114 (54%) with ≥1 and none (0%) did not progress (Figure 1). Patient characteristics did not differ between the definitions, except for more extensive ILD and ground glass on HRCT and more frequent oxygen desaturation among those fulfilling the PPF criteria (Table 1). The number of deaths by age, sex, disease duration, SSc subtype, extent of lung fibrosis, baseline FVC and treatment using FVC decline≥5% (HR 1.97, 95%CI 1.03-3.81)

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, Francesco Del Galdo Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Michelle Wilson: None declared, Mark Gilthorpe: None declared, Jannsen, AstraZeneca, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Capella, Chemomab, Kymab, Jannsen, Mitsubishi-Tanabe. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3105

POS1290 INCREASED RISK OF MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION AND STROKE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A NATIONWIDE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Epidemiology, Systemic sclerosis, Cardiovascular disease

Y. Eun1, K. D. Han1, J. K. Ahn1. 1Kangbuk Samsung Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Soongnai University, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Previous studies have suggested a link between systemic sclerosis (SSc) and cardiovascular disease, but large-scale data are still lacking due to the nature of rare autoimmune diseases.

Objectives: We aimed to compare the incidence of myocardial infarction (MI) and stroke in patients with SSc and age- and sex-matched controls in a nationwide population-based cohort in Korea.

Methods: We included patients with SSc defined by the ICD-10 code (M34) and rare and intractable disease code (V138) and 1.5 age- and sex-matched controls using the Korean National Health Insurance Database. The outcomes of the study were MI and stroke.

We assessed the prevalence of ILD progression using these competing definitions and applied multinivariable regression models (with hazards ratios (HR) and 95%CI) adjusted for known risk factors for mortality and compared the performance using Harrel’s c-index.

Results: In total, 231 SSc-ILD patients from Oslo and Zurich were included, with 71 (31%) showing FVC decline >5%, 43 (19%) fulfilling the PPF guideline and 89 (39%) the INBUILD PF-ILD criteria. Most progressive patients fulfilled ≥1 of definitions of progression with 107 (55%) with ≥2/3, 114 (54%) with ≥1 and none (0%) did not progress (Figure 1). Patient characteristics did not differ between the definitions, except for more extensive ILD and ground glass on HRCT and more frequent oxygen desaturation among those fulfilling the PPF criteria (Table 1). The number of deaths by age, sex, disease duration, SSc subtype, extent of lung fibrosis, baseline FVC and treatment using FVC decline≥5% (HR 1.97, 95%CI 1.03-3.81)
95%CI p=0.020; c-index 0.7331), PPF guideline (HR1 .42, 0.79-1.84 95%CI; p=0.231; c-index=0.7156) and INBUILD PF-ILD (HR 2.38, 1.40-4.04 95%CI: p<0.001; c-index=0.7338). The models discriminating ability was not significantly different (p=0.138).

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of ILD progression varies depending on which definition was applied. FVC decline alone and PF-ILD criteria predicted mortality significantly but not the 2022 PPF guideline criteria.

![Venn diagram](image)

**Figure 1:** Venn diagram of patients fulfilling the different definitions of ILD progression

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

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Consultant of: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, Altavant, Amgen, AnaMar, Arxx, AstraZeneca, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galderma, Galapagos, Glenmark, Gossamer, iQvia, Horizon, Inventiva, Janssen, Kymera, Lupin, Medscape, Merck, Mitsubishi Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Novartis, Prometheus, Redxpharma, Roivant, Sanofi and Topadur.

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Background: Patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) are at risk of developing pulmonary hypertension (PH) of different etiologies. Two-dimensional and Doppler echocardiography is the reference screening tool and it is recommended yearly on patients undergoing screening for PH and who were followed-up regularly at a third-level centre of reference for SSc.

Patients underwent both the baseline echocardiographic examinations and at least one echocardiographic examination during follow-up in the referral centre. Standard 2-D and Doppler echocardiography was performed with a Vivid 7 or Vivid E9 ultrasound system (GE Medical Systems, Norway); images and clips were saved for offline analysis on a GE workstation (EchoPAC PC SW). Clinical, laboratory and radiographical parameters, standard in the care of SSc, such as presence of Interstitial lung disease, left-heart disease (LHD), pulmonary function tests and biomarkers as BNP were concomitantly recorded for each patient. The DETECT step 1 and 2 values were calculated according to the 2013 ACR/EULAR SSc classification criteria [1], undergoing screening for PH and who were followed-up regularly at a third-level centre of reference for SSc.

All patients underwent both the baseline echocardiographic examinations and at least one echocardiographic examination during follow-up in the referral centre. Standard 2-D and Doppler echocardiography was performed with a Vivid 7 or Vivid E9 ultrasound system (GE Medical Systems, Norway); images and clips were saved for offline analysis on a GE workstation (EchoPAC PC SW). Clinical, laboratory and radiographical parameters, standard in the care of SSc, such as presence of Interstitial lung disease, left-heart disease (LHD), pulmonary function tests and biomarkers as BNP were concomitantly recorded for each patient. The DETECT step 1 and 2 values were calculated according to Coghlan JG et al [2]. When indicated according to guidelines, right heart catheterization to diagnose PH was performed. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS by IBM for mac (v.13).

Results: The study enrolled 93 females and 20 males, mean age was 58±13 yrs, median disease duration was 88 months (IQR 42-168); 86 (76%) patients had limited cutaneous involvement, 21 had diffuse disease (18.6%) and 5 (4.4%) had no skin involvement at all. At baseline, antinuclear antibody and antiproteinase antibodies were positive in 38 (33.6%) and in 35 (31%) patients respectively. A clinically significant ILD was present in 17 (15%) of patients of the cohort at baseline. During follow-up (44±24 months), 10 patients were diagnosed with PH (overall incidence of 8.4%) which was classified as Group 1 PH in 4 cases (40%), Group 2 PH in 1 case (10%) in Group 3 PH in 5 cases (50%). Baseline standard echocardiographic parameters including the estimated sPAP and DETECT scores for step 1 and step 2 were similar in patients who developed PH and those who did not. However, peak longitudinal right ventricular (RV) strain (RVPLS) values were significantly lower in patients who subsequently developed PH (42,13 ± 12,21 vs 33,57 ± 11,52, p=0,019).

Conclusion: An sSSc cohort of patients at risk of developing PH, adding the evaluation of 2D-Speckle-tracking echocardiography (STE) analysis, and in particular PLS of the RV, might intercept at an early stage an alteration of the right heart to abnormally adapt to the pulmonary vasculature overload in different extrinsic pathological settings (ILD, LHD) and also in the presence of an intrinsic pulmonary vasculopathy.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Results: Our cohort consisted of 87 SSc patients, of which 64 (73.6%) were women, with a mean age at disease onset of 54.5 years (SD ± 19) and a median disease duration of 4.0 years (IQR 8.3). The median dp-ucMGP level at baseline was 634 pmol/L (IQR 391), which is greatly increased compared with 400 HC (mean dp-ucMGP <393 pmol/L). Only one patient had prevalent CVD before onset SSc. Nine patients were lost to follow-up, in the remaining 78 SSc patients, 26 (33.3%) patients suffered from first CVD event during the study period, with a median time of 10.5 years (IQR 15.2) years from onset SSc disease, corresponding to an incidence rate of 29.9 per 1000 person-years. Cardiovascular risk factors were not significantly different between patients with and without CVD. Odds ratios for sex (OR 2.44; 95% CI 0.89-6.72) and hypertension (OR 2.53; 95% CI 0.86-7.46) tended to predict CVD, but the association did not reach statistical significance. However, Kaplan-Meier analysis showed that elevated dp-ucMGP levels (≥634 pmol/L) were associated with an increased risk for CVD and/or death during the first 10 years follow-up (log-rank test; P=0.006).

Conclusion: This study shows increased dp-ucMGP levels in SSc patients compared to age-matched HC, indicating dp-ucMGP as a biomarker of disease. We confirm the high risk of CVD in SSc patients but traditional cardiovascular risk factors did not predict development of CVD. In contrast, high dp-ucMGP levels revealed an increased risk for CVD and/or death in SSc. It is still unclear what caused the increased dp-ucMGP levels in SSc patients, but given the strong, inverse association between dp-ucMGP and vitamin K status, a vitamin K deficiency is proposed. Whether this is caused by malabsorption or inflammation requires further research.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Time to first CVD and/or death from onset SSc

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4669
FVC or DLCO of ≤5% and ≥15% in any of the time intervals was considered clinically relevant [3]. Demographic, clinical, and immunological variables at baseline were taken as potential independent variables, including age, gender, disease duration, arthritis, capillaroscopy pattern, and autoantibody profile. Pearson χ² test, Fisher’s exact test or independent sample t-test were used for independent measures as appropriate. Repeated-measures ANOVA was used to compare variables over time.

Results: 30 patients (86.7% women, mean baseline age 46.9±12.87 yrs) were included; median time from first symptoms to diagnosis was 4.4 (IQR 7.6) yrs. At baseline, 4 patients had mildly decreased DLCO values (60-79% of predicted) resulting being normal in all remaining persons (Table 1). During the first year of follow-up, a ≤5% decrease in FVC and DLCO decrease in males vs females (M:50.0% vs F:15.3% and M:25.0% vs F:3.8%, respectively). None of the other variables was associated with FVC or DLCO decrease. Pulmonary tests were available for the 25 and 5 patients who reached 5 and 10 years of follow-up. No association was found between any of the clinical variables and significant change of FVC and DLCO at these time points. Mean values of FVC and DLCO consistently declined overtime, without reaching statistical significance (Table 1). The incidence of significant change in FVC and DLCO between contiguous evaluations is represented in Figure 1. There is a non-significant trend for a higher probability of decline as follow-up time increased.

Table 1 FVC and DLCO measurements at baseline and at 1, 5 and 10 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>5 years</th>
<th>10 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FVC (% predicted), mean ± SD</td>
<td>105.6 ± 14.1</td>
<td>98.1 ± 16.1</td>
<td>90.7 ± 13.9</td>
<td>85.7 ± 10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC &lt;80% predicted, % (n)</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO (% predicted), mean ± SD</td>
<td>96.6 ± 14.1</td>
<td>97.8 ± 16.1</td>
<td>90.7 ± 13.9</td>
<td>85.7 ± 10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO &lt;80% predicted, % (n)</td>
<td>13.3 (4)</td>
<td>16.7 (5)</td>
<td>20.0 (5)</td>
<td>20.0 (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 FVC and DLCO change at 1, 5 and 10 years

Conclusion: Our study provides data on the long-term assessment of FVC and DLCO in VEDOSS patients. There was a relevant decrease in FVC during the first year in 20% of the patients, and 20% had impaired DLCO (<80%) at 5 years, which subjects a subset of patients who persist in VEDOSS state overtime still endure significant subclinical pulmonary involvement.

References:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1298
INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN ANTI-CENTROMERE ANTIBODY POSITIVE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Best practices, Lungs

N. Katukuri1, A. Cherukuri1, A. Makol1, R. Lennon2, C.S. Crowson1,2, L. M. Frota3, B. Bartholmai3, A. M. Hinze1. 1Mayo Clinic, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Rochester, United States of America; 2Mayo Clinic, Division of Clinical Trials and Biostatistics, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, Rochester, United States of America; 3Mayo Clinic, Department of Radiology, Rochester, United States of America

Background: Despite a lower risk of ILD and ILD progression in anti-centromere antibody (ACA) positive systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients, ILD may still occur and progress. Little is known regarding risk factors for ILD in ACA+ SSc patients to help guide screening with high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT), and risk of ILD progression in ACA+ SSc is understudied.

Objectives: To determine prevalence and risk factors for ILD in ACA+ SSc, to classify radiographic ILD patterns, and to evaluate rate of progression of ILD in ACA+ SSc.

Methods: A retrospective cohort of ACA+ SSc patients seen between 1/1/2007 and 12/31/2018, who met the 2013 ACR classification criteria or 3/3 CREST (calcinosi, Raynaud’s, esophageal dysmotility, sclerodactyly, telangiectasias) criteria was identified. Subjects had to have ≥1 HRCT within 2 yrs prior to or anytime following SSc diagnosis (dx). Two radiologists reviewed all HRCTs with interstitial abnormalities to classify by consensus into 9 radiographic patterns (1,2): confident usual interstitial pneumonitis (cUIP), probable UIP (pUIP), non-specific interstitial pneumonitis (NSIP), suggests hypersensitivity pneumonitis (shp), lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia (LIP), organizing pneumonia (OP), not characteristic (NC) of a specific ILD pattern, too little fibrosis (LF) to characterize, and suggests sequelae of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)/pulmonary venoocclusive disease (PVOD). Clinical and demographic characteristics were compared between ILD+ and no ILD (included PAH/PVOD sequelae) subjects using γ² tests of proportions for categorical data, and two-sample t-tests for continuous data. Kaplan-Meier curves estimated the risk of ILD progression, defined as a relative decline of 10% in forced vital capacity (FVC) from baseline PFT performed ≥6 mo. of latter of SSc or I LD dx.

Results: 99/480 (21%) of subjects had interstitial changes on HRCT: 5 cUIP, 7 pUIP, 28 NSIP, 14 shp, 6 LIP, 2 OP, 11 NC, 17 LF, and 9 PAH/PVOD sequelae. There were no differences in time between SSc dx and HRCT between ILD+ and no ILD groups (median 6 yrs. (IQR 2, 14) vs. yrs. (IQR 1, 15), respectively, p=0.44) or Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP) onset and HRCT (median 15 yrs. (8, 29) vs. 17 yrs. (9, 29), respectively, p=0.54). Older age at RP onset (median 55 yrs. (42, 62) vs. 44 yrs. (33, 55), ILD+ vs. no ILD, p=0.001) and at SSc dx (median 52 yrs. (45, 65), ILD+ vs. no ILD, p=0.001) were significantly associated with ILD. A positive SSA was more common in ILD+ vs. no ILD subjects (15/22 (13%) vs. 43/340 (13%), respectively, p<0.05). Sex, race/ethnicity, smoking status, cutaneous subtype, esophageal dysmotility, digital ischemia, abnormal nailfold capillaries, telangiectasias, calcinosis, and synovitis were not associated with ILD (p>0.05). In a subgroup analysis of UIP, NSIP (n=40) compared with no ILD (n=390), older age at RP onset was significantly associated with UIP/NSIP (median 55 yrs. (46, 61) vs. 44 yrs. (33, 55), p=0.042). There were no significant differences in baseline FVC’s and DLCO% among ILD patterns (p=0.05). ILD progression was observed in 51% of patients with ILD by 72 mo. (Figure 1A). There was no significant difference in risk of ILD progression between the UIP/NSIP and shp/LIP/OP/IP/LF subgroups (Figure 1B, p=0.67).

Conclusion: To our knowledge, this is the largest study characterizing radiographic ILD patterns and assessing risk factors for prevalent ILD in ACA+ SSc patients. Older age at onset of RP and SSc dx, and a positive SSA, identifies a higher risk population for HRCT screening. UIP/NSIP accounted for close to half of ILD cases. Other radiographic patterns including shp and IP require further study to determine potential underlying factors (e.g. exposure history, aspiration). The rate of ILD progression was similar between UIP/NSIP vs. other interstitial patterns, with half of subjects experiencing progression by 6 yrs. This underscores the role of HRCT screening for ILD detection and periodic PFTs for monitoring even in lower risk SSc populations.

References:

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier Survival Curves Evaluating Time to ILD Progression in ACA+ SSc-ILD subgroups. ILD progression is defined as a relative decline of 10% in FVC’s predicted from baseline PFT. Baseline PFT was performed within 6 months of the latter of SSc or ILD diagnosis. The 2-year and 5-year progression free survival was 79% (95% CI 69 to 89%) and 56% (95% CI 41 to 76%), respectively (A). There were no significant differences in progression rates for the UIP/NSIP subgroup compared with the subgroup of all other ILD patterns (B: p=0.67, log-rank test).
Table 1. Characteristics of SSc women and their offspring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother Antibodies</th>
<th>Cutaneous involvement</th>
<th>Digital Ulcers</th>
<th>ILD</th>
<th>Child</th>
<th>GW at birth, pregnancy complications</th>
<th>Cognitive domain</th>
<th>Adaptive behavior</th>
<th>Social and behavioral domain</th>
<th>Sleep disorders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Scl-70</td>
<td>lcSSc</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>M, 12 yr</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ANA</td>
<td>lcSSc</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>M, 10 yr</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Th/To</td>
<td>lcSSc</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>M, 13 yr</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Scl-70</td>
<td>dcSSc</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F, 11 yr</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Scl-70</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>M, 5yr</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>39</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>lcSSc</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F, 17 yr</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 ACA</td>
<td>lcSSc</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F, 13 yr</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Scl-70</td>
<td>dcSSc</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>39</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>M, 8yr</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>M, 3 yr</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>12 U1-RNP</td>
<td>lcSSc</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F, 1 yr</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANA: anti-nuclear antibodies; ACA: anti-centromere antibodies; GW: gestational weeks; lcSSc: limited cutaneous SSc; dcSSc: diffuse cutaneous SSc; ILD: interstitial lung disease; 0: absent; 1: present; N: normal; B: borderline; A: abnormal; *ASD diagnosis, born before SSc onset; °Twins; *Gestational diabetes; ^Preeclampsia/IUGR
rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, systemic Lupus erythematosus, Behçet's disease, Sjogren's syndrome and mixed connective tissue diseases. Imaging sessions were carried following the national standard for NFC [1]. NFC with 200x magnification was used to capture panoramic nailfold videocapillaroscopy images. Images were recorded from 4-fingers each hand, excluding the thumbs. For each finger 5 parameters were assessed: density, architecture, hemorrhage, neangiogenesis and dimension. Semiquantitative scoring system was implemented to score each parameter [2].

Results: Considering the correct diagnosis using the gold standard score was 100%, the concise approach based on mean of the scores recorded from the middle and ring fingers both hands gave the correct pattern in 155/164 (94.5%) of the cases. There was no statistical difference between the comprehensive approach total score (3.5+0.76 [CI 95% 1.918 - 5.082]), when compared to the concise total score from 2 fingers both hands which was (3.25+2.87 [1.873 - 4.626]), p= 0.18. There was no significant difference on comparing the right to the left hand fingers.

Conclusion: Examining the NFC from middle and ring fingers in each hand, can be time saving and not inferior to the comprehensive NFC assessment. Concise approach can be used in the standard clinical practice and, in the meantime, are able to give an overall NFC picture reflecting the real state of the nailfold capillaries.  

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POS1301
MORTALITY AND CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG FINNISH PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Epidemiology

S. Kortelainen1, M. Käyrä2, T. Rissanen3, J. Paltta1, L. Pirilä1, J. Huhtakangas4.
1Turku University Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Turku, Finland; 2Oulu University Hospital, Rheumatology, Oulu, Finland; 3University of Turku, Biostatistics, Turku, Finland; 4Kuopio University Hospital, Rheumatology, Kuopio, Finland.

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a rare rheumatic autoimmune disease, characterized by vasculopathy and fibrosis of the skin and internal organs [1]. Mortality and morbidity of systemic sclerosis is significant. The studies assessing changes in the mortality of SSc are controversial, only minor sign of improvement of prognosis is seen. Among SSc-related causes of death scleroderma renal crisis has become rare and cardiopulmonary causes have become more common. Most of the studies are conducted using either the ACR 1980-criteria or the LeRoy and Medsger -criteria.  

Objectives: Aim of this study was to examine mortality and basic causes of death among Finnish patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) during years 2000-2020 using the ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria for SSc diagnosis.

Methods: Patients with a diagnostic code of systemic sclerosis (ICD-10 codes beginning with M34) that appeared at least once in their medical records during the years 1996–2018 were identified from the hospital discharge registers of Turku and Oulu University hospitals. False diagnoses and typing errors were excluded. Using ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria and clinical findings, the diagnoses were reclassified and divided into different subsets of the disease. These subsets were diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (dcSSc), limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis (lcSSc), overlap-lp SSc (diagnosis of other rheumatic disease fulfilled simultaneously) and sine scleroderma (SSc without skin affection). The clinical data was collected to the end of year 2020. The death certificates including the basic and imminent cause of death were obtained from Statistics Finland until August 2021. By examining patient records and death certificates the basic cause of death for each subject was re-evaluated. The study data were collected and managed using REDCap electronic data capture tools hosted at the University of Turku.

Results: Among 313 SSc patients, 91 deaths occurred between 4/2000- 9/2020. 35 deaths were caused by SSc; 20 by atrial fibrillation, 18 by cancer and 18 by other causes. Majority of SSc-related deaths were due to intestinal lung disease (ILD) and pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), 13 and 11 deaths respectively. Four deaths were due to scleroderma renal crisis (SRC), three deaths due to gastrointestinal tract involvement, two due to SSc-related myocardial involvement and two due to other SSc-related causes, those were vasculopathy complications. The mean age at death of patients who died of a SSc-related cause was 65.6 years (SD 12.7, CI= 61.2-70.1) in contrast to patients who died due to other causes was 74.2 years (SD 9.6, CI= 71.5-76.9), the difference was statistically significant (p=0.0006). The median time from SSc diagnosis to death was 4.4 years [IQR 1.5, 11.8] in the SSc-related death group and 10.8 years [IQR 4.7, 17.1] for others, the difference was statistically significant (p=0.0061). Death due to renal crisis occurred fastest, in two months. An ILD related death occurred 11.8 years after and a PAH related death 3.7 years after the SSc diagnosis on average. In females, PAH and ILD were the most common causes of death, both nine of twenty five subjects. In males, ILD was the most common cause of death, in four of ten subjects. In the group of dcSSc, the most common cause of death was ILD with five deaths out of twelve. In the group of lcSSc, PAH and ILD were the most common cause of death, both eight of eleven deaths. Four deaths due to SRC were all in the group of dcSSc. Twelve of 23 patients with dcSSc (52%) and nineteen of 60 patients with lcSSc (32%) died due to SSc.

Conclusion: The main finding in our study is the fact, that SSc disease itself is the major cause of death among Finnish SSc patients. Among the SSc related deaths, ILD and PAH were the leading causes of death. The patients who died due to SSc were significantly younger and the time from SSc diagnosis was significantly shorter compared to those who died due to other causes.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1302
SPECKLE-TRACKING GLOBAL LONGITUDINAL STRAIN AS A PREDICTOR OF CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Systemic sclerosis

D. Bentremato1,2, G. Stronati3, C. Dichiara4, Y. Ferraioli5, C. Tana6, I. Paterno6, S. Bigoni2, S. Contegiacomo7, M. Sistoni Pepparone7, N. Pascenti7, A. Dello Russo8, F. Guerra3, G. Moroncini1,2. Marche Polytechnic University, Department of Clinical and Molecular Sciences, Ancona, Italy; 2Marche University Hospital, Clinica Medica, Ancona, Italy; 3Marche University Hospital, Cardiology Clinic, Ancona, Italy; 4Marche Polytechnic University, Internal Medicine Residency Program, Ancona, Italy.

Background: Primary cardiac involvement occurs in up to 40% of patients affected by systemic sclerosis (SSc), and although it may be asymptomatic is associated with negative outcomes. Speckle-tracking derived global longitudinal strain (GLS) has been proven to be a cost-effective tool in the detection of left ventricular (LV) and right ventricular (RV) dysfunction in patients with SSc and no overt cardiac disease [1].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess whether GLS can predict clinical outcomes in patients with SSc.

Methods: We conducted a prospective observational study enrolling all consecutive patients referred to our Scleroderma Unit between June 2016 and January 2022. All patients had a definite diagnosis of SSc according to ACR/EULAR criteria and no overt cardiac disease, pulmonary arterial hypertension, or atrial fibrillation at the time of enrollment. For each patient, echocardiogram and GLS calculations were performed at baseline and at each follow-up. We also collected all data regarding clinical history, hospitalizations or adverse events and ECGs.

Results: 164 patients (148 female, 56±14 years) were enrolled. Overall, 19 (11.6%) patients died during a median follow-up of 3.2 years for mainly non-cardiovascular deaths (7.3%) while cardiovascular deaths were lower (3% non-sudden, 1.3% sudden). Left GLS at first visit was associated with all-cause death, with a 1% left GLS worsening associated with a 1% increased risk of death after adjusting for age, gender, and LVEF (adjusted HR 1.19; 95% CI 1.05-1.35; p=0.007). Similarly, right GLS at first visit was associated with all-cause death, with a 1% right GLS worsening associated with a 1.2% increased risk of death after adjusting for age, gender, and TAPSE (adjusted HR 1.12; 95% CI 1.03-1.21; p=0.005). Patients with a left GLS worse (i.e. higher) than -20% had a 3.5-fold increased risk of death when compared to patients with better left GLS (HR 3.55; 95% CI 1.4-9.88; p=0.015; Figure 1a). Similarly, patients with a right GLS worse than -20% had a 4.5-fold increased risk of death when compared to patients with better right GLS (HR 4.47; 95% CI 1.4-13.34; p=0.009; Figure 1b).

Conclusion: We demonstrated that GLS is associated with clinical outcomes in patients with SSc. GLS is a reproducible and cost-effective echocardiographic
based method to assess SSC primary heart involvement and its progression, therefore allowing an earlier intervention in patients with worse prognosis.

**REFERENCE:**

**Figure 1.**

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4586

**POS1303 ARTHRITIS AND RISK STRATIFICATION OF PATIENTS WITH VERY EARLY SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Inflammatory arthritides

S. Muraru1, C. Miha1, M. O. Becker1, M. Elhai1, S. Jordan1, A. Garaiman1, C. Bruni1, O. Distler1, R. Dobrota1. 1University Hospital Zürich, Department of Rheumatology, Zürich, Switzerland

**Background:** Regular monitoring of patients with very early systemic sclerosis (veSSc) is essential for detecting disease progression. Whereas arthritis is associated with a worse prognosis in established disease [1], knowledge about its relevance in veSSc is scarce.

**Objectives:** Our objective is to assess the prevalence of arthritis in patients with veSSc, its association with other disease features and its impact on progression to established SSC.

**Methods:** We included patients with veSSc defined as presence of Raynaud’s phenomenon and at least one of puffy fingers, antinuclear antibodies (ANA), abnormal capillaroscopy, not fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2013 classification criteria for SSC at baseline. Data about arthritis were based on clinical diagnosis of synovitis by the treating physician, and verified in the electronic records in order to exclude arthritis due to other causes. We investigated associations between arthritis and relevant clinical parameters cross-sectionally at baseline using Fishers’ and Mann-Whitney-U tests. A longitudinal analysis using Kaplan-Meier plots and multivariable Cox regression was performed to investigate arthritis as a potential predictor of progression towards established SSC (fulfillment of ACR/EULAR criteria at any follow-up visit).

**Results:** Of 161 patients included, 110 had at least one follow-up visit, with a median follow-up of 2.0 years. Baseline characteristics are shown in the Table 1. SSC-related arthritis was reported in 22/161 (13.7%) patients and was mostly seronegative (20/22, 90.9%), only one patient having an overlap syndrome with seropositive rheumatoid arthritis.

**Table 1. Baseline characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency/Median</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (years) (IQR, Q1-Q3)</td>
<td>48 (25, 35-60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>144/161 (89.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 EULAR/ACR classification criteria fulfilled at any time during follow-up</td>
<td>45/161 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration since first Raynaud symptom (years; median, IQR, Q1-Q3)</td>
<td>3.1 (9.33, 10.42)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC-related synovitis (n, %)</td>
<td>22/161 (13.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP elevation (n, %)</td>
<td>18/153 (11.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR elevation (&gt;25mm/1h; n, %)</td>
<td>16/144 (11.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere positive (n, %)</td>
<td>83/155 (53.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Scl-70 positive (n, %)</td>
<td>13/153 (8.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-RNA Polymerase III positive (n, %)</td>
<td>12/135 (9.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD on HRCT (n, %)</td>
<td>10/135 (7.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSc pattern on nailfold capillaroscopy (n, %)</td>
<td>82/161 (50.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital ulcers (n, %)</td>
<td>5/135 (3.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puffy fingers (n, %)</td>
<td>33/147 (22.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Rodnan skin score (median, IQR, min-max)</td>
<td>0 (0, 4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
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**POS1304 PREDICTORS OF DISEASE ACTIVITY PERSISTENCE AND DAMAGE IN A MONOCENTRIC SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS COHORT**

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Systemic sclerosis

We found a statistically significant association between arthritis and presence of anti-centromere antibodies (p=0.008). Arthritis was neither associated with the other SSC-specific antibodies (anti-Scl70 and ant-RNA-Polymerase III), nor with inflammatory markers. Overall, 45/161 (28%) patients progressed to established SSC during follow-up. There was no statistically significant difference in fulfilling the classification criteria at follow-up between patients with- and without arthritis (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Kaplan Meier analysis for progression to SSCs stratified by SSCs-related arthritis.

Furthermore, arthritis was not a significant predictor for progression to established SSC in a multivariable Cox regression model adjusted for known predictors (specific antibodies, puffy fingers and SSC pattern on capillaroscopy [2]. In this model only the specific antibodies (p = 0.036) and puffy fingers (p = 0.043) reached significance.

**Conclusion:** In this first study analysing arthritis in veSSc, we found a relevant prevalence of arthritis in this mildly affected cohort. Presence of anti-centromere antibodies was significantly associated with arthritis at baseline. Arthritis was not a prognostic factor for progression towards established SSC in our cohort.

**REFERENCE:**
Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) carries a significant burden of disease-related morbidity and life-threatening complications. Unlike other rheumatic disorders (e.g., systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis), the concept of “disease activity” and “damage” have only recently been defined in SSc.

Objectives: We aimed to identify clinical and serological predictors of persistence of disease activity and remission in a monocentric prospective cohort of systemic sclerosis patients. Our second aim was to evaluate potential predictors of persistence or new onset of moderate-to-severe damage in our cohort.

Methods: Adult patients fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2013 classification criteria for SSc and referring to our center from 2013 to 2021 were enrolled. Clinical findings, serological indices and internal organ involvement (pulmonary, cardiac, gastrointestinal, renal and musculo-skeletal) at baseline and at each visit during follow-up were retrospectively analyzed. At least one follow-up visit was required to be included in the study. EUSTAR-AI (European Scleroderma Trials and Research group Activity Index) [1], Medsger severity scale (MSS) [2] and SCTC (Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium) damage index [3] were calculated at each visit, at baseline and during follow-up. Follow-up period was defined as the time between the first visit and the last visit available. Disease activity was defined as an EUSTAR-AI ≥ 2.5, while remission as an EUSTAR-AI <2.5; activity persistence was defined as an EUSTAR-AI ≥ 2.5 in more than 50% of follow-up visits. According to the literature, damage was classified as mild (SCTC damage index < 6) and moderate-severe (SCTC damage index ≥ 6).

Results: 173 SSc patients (87.9% females) were enrolled in our study and followed up for a median time of 3.6 years. The median disease duration at baseline was 9 years while the median age at diagnosis was 45 years; 34.6% of patients had diffuse cutaneous SSc. Patients with persistently active disease during follow up (12.2%) had at baseline a significantly higher frequency of diffuse cutaneous subset (54% vs 17%, p<0.0001) and cardiac involvement (43.4% vs 20.7%, p=0.036) than persistently inactive patients; erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) values were higher (p=0.002) and total lung capacity (TLC) values were lower (p=0.034) in persistently active patients. Positive anticientromere antibodies (ACA) associated with persistent remission (p=0.042). Persistent disease activity was associated with higher disease severity [MSS 6.3 (±3) vs 3.5 (± 1.7)], p<0.0001, and higher severe damage (SCTC-DI 3.7 (±4) vs 1.3 (±1.9), p=0.001) at baseline. At the multivariate analysis, ESR values (OR 1.04 95% CI 1.01-1.07) and MSS values at baseline (OR 1.75, 95% CI 1.29-2.37) were independent predictors of activity persistence. Patients with persistent or new onset of moderate-severe SCTC at the end of the follow up (9%) had more frequently telangiectasia (81.3% vs. 38.6%, p=0.001) and ILD (62.5% vs. 31.6%, p=0.013) at baseline than patients with mild damage; they also showed lower DLCO values (p=0.047) and lower TLC values (p<0.0001), as well as higher systolic pulmonary arterial pressure (sPAP) on transthoracic echocardiography (p=0.0001) at baseline. Multivariate analysis showed that TLC values (OR 0.95, 95% CI 0.92-0.98) and telangiectasia (OR 4.7, 95% CI 1.18-18.54) were independent predictors of moderate-severe damage. An association was found between persistence of disease activity and moderate-severe damage at the end of follow-up (p=0.003).

Conclusion: Identifying predictors of disease activity persistence and damage accrual at baseline may help to improve the risk stratification of SSc patients, through the identification of those patients who require prompt treatment and a more thorough clinical follow-up.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POST303
ULTRA-HIGH-FREQUENCY ULTRASOUND FOR THE EVALUATION OF SKIN INVOLVEMENT IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A MONOCENTRIC STUDY

Keywords: Ultrasound, Systemic sclerosis, Outcome measures

Y. Ferraioli1, M. Fogante2, D. Benfarenò3, G. Argalia1, G. Moroncini1,2
1Marche Politecnico University, Internal Medicine Residency Program, Ancona, Italy; 2Marche University Hospital, Radiologia Materno Infantile, Senologica, Cardiologica ed Ecografica Ambulatoriale, Ancona, Italy; 3Marche Politecnico University, Department of Clinical and Molecular Sciences, Ancona, Italy; 4Marche University Hospital, Clinica Medica, Ancona, Italy

Background: Cutaneous involvement is one of the most important clinical aspects of systemic sclerosis (SSc) and is characterized by three different phases in temporal sequence: oedematous, fibrotic and atrophic. The most widely used method to evaluate skin involvement is the modified Rodnan Skin Score (mRSS), which assigns a grade from 0 (normal) to 3 (severe) in 17 different areas of the body. However, the intra- and inter-operator variability of mRSS is considerably high. Thus, a more objective, sensitive and reproducible method for measuring skin involvement in SSc would be needed, both for clinical trials and for daily clinical practice.

Objectives: To evaluate the possible role of ultra-high-frequency skin ultrasound in patients with SSc.

Methods: Consecutive SSc patients fulfilling ACR/EULAR classification criteria were enrolled in this cross-sectional study. Patients with active immunosuppressive (IS) treatment were not excluded. Subjects with idiopathic Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP) and healthy controls (HC) were also evaluated upon informed consent. All subjects underwent US evaluation, using a 70 MHz ultra-high frequency (UHF) probe, by an experienced radiologist, blinded to the clinical characteristics of the patients and controls, at six anatomical sites (forearm right and left, hand right and left, second finger right and left). The thickness of the dermis, epidermis and hypodermis was measured at each site, and the mean value between the right and the left side was used (Figure 1). Differences between groups were analysed using the ANOVA. The Pearson coefficient was used to evaluated correlations between variables.

Results: Sixty-two (62) SSc patients (43 limited cutaneous (lc) and 19 diffuse cutaneous (dc) SSc), 14 RP and 16 HC were enrolled. Patients with RP were significantly younger than SSc and controls. Mean disease duration of SSc was 9.74 years. 27% of patients were on active IS treatment, 30% were using bosantan and 48% intravenous prostanoids. UHF-US allowed a precise identification and measurement of the thickness of the dermis and hypodermis of all individuals. The mean dermal thickness in the fingers was significantly higher in dcSSc patients than in lcSSc, RP and HC (p<0.001), while in the hands it was significantly higher only compared to RP (p<0.001) and in the forearm there was no difference between groups. Dermal thickness at the finger level significantly correlated with age (r 0.28, p=0.0067) and mRSS (r 0.29, p=0.01). We found no differences in dermal thickness of SSc patients according to use of IS treatment. Hypodermal thickness of the hands and fingers was higher only in patients with lcSSc compared to all other groups but was also significantly correlated to age (r 0.31 and 0.22, p<0.05, respectively) and BMI (r 0.36 and 0.32, p<0.01, respectively). Hypodermal thickness of the fingers was lower in patients using bosantan treatment (p=0.01).

Conclusion: These data show that skin UHF-US allows to measure in detail the dermal thickness and that these measurements correlate with the skin score. UHF-US could be used as an objective, sensitive and reproducible method for measuring skin involvement in SSc.

REFERENCE:

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POST306
HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE (HRQOL) ACROSS DIFFERENT CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES (CTDS): ANALYSIS OF A MONOCENTRIC EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life

E. Elefante1, L. Guaitieri1, C. Cardelli1, M. Di Battista1, L. Carli1, A. Della Rossa1, C. Tani1, M. Mosca1
1Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Pisa, Italy

Background: The assessment of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) can provide information about the patient’s well-being and the impact of the disease on daily life. However, the available data on HRQOL in different connective tissue diseases (CTDs) are limited and often based on small samples. The aim of this study was to evaluate HRQOL in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), systemic sclerosis (SSc), and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in a monocentric cohort.

Methods: A monocentric study was conducted in a rheumatology department in Pisa, Italy. Patients with SLE, SSc, and RA were included. The Short-Form Health Survey 36 (SF-36) was used to assess HRQOL. The SF-36 consists of 36 items that measure eight domains of health-related quality of life: physical functioning, role physical, bodily pain, general health, vitality, social functioning, role emotional, and mental health. The scores range from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating better HRQOL. The study included 100 patients in each group (300 patients in total). The demographic and clinical characteristics of the participants were recorded, including age, sex, disease duration, treatment status, and comorbidities.

Results: The results of the SF-36 scores for the three groups are presented in Table 1. The comparison of the SF-36 scores across the three groups revealed significant differences (p<0.05). Patients with SLE reported lower scores in all domains compared to those with SSc and RA. Patients with SSc had intermediate scores, with some domains showing better HRQOL than those with SLE, but worse than those with RA. Patients with RA reported the highest scores in all domains, indicating better HRQOL compared to the other two groups.

Conclusion: The study findings suggest that patients with SLE have the poorest HRQOL, followed by those with SSc, while patients with RA have the best HRQOL. These results highlight the need for targeted interventions to improve HRQOL in patients with SLE, SSc, and RA.
Background: patients with CTDs have a worse HRQoL compared with the general population and chronic non-rheumatic diseases. However, only few studies have compared HRQoL among CTDs that differ for age at diagnosis, type and severity of organ involvement, disease course.

Objectives: to analyze HRQoL and fatigue across different CTDs in a monocentric cohort.

Methods: a cross-sectional study that enrolls consecutive adult patients with a diagnosis of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) and Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies (IIM), regularly followed at the Rheumatology Unit of Pisa. For each patient, demographics, treatment, clinical, and laboratory data were collected. At enrollment, each patient completed the SF-36 for HRQoL and the FACIT for fatigue.

Results: we enrolled 490 CTD patients: 255 (52%) SLE, 150 (30.6%) SSc, and 85 (17.3%) IIM. The majority were female (85.7%) and of Caucasian ethnicity (97.5%). At enrollment, patients with SLE were significantly younger (mean age: 44.6±12.7 years for SLE, 62.6±13.6 years for SSc; 65.7±12.4 for IIM, p<0.001), with a significantly longer disease duration (14.1±10.1 years for SLE, 8.2±6.4 for SSc, 5.3±5.7 for IIM, p<0.001) compared to the other two groups. The rate of fibromyalgia was highest in SSc (24.7% in SSc, 15.3% in SLE, 11.8% in IIM). Among SLE patients, 79 (31%) presented a mild active disease at enrollment, with skin (35/255) and hematological (32/255) manifestations being the most frequent; only 11 patients (4.3%) presented an active renal disease. Among IIM patients, 64 (77.8%) presented an active disease according to the clinical evaluation; 31 had active myositis and 29 active skin lesions. 33 patients had an Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD). Among SSc patients, 62% presented limited skin involvement; 45 patients (30%) had an ILD and 41 (27.3%) presented a scleroderma heart involvement, while 16 patients had active digital ulcers at enrollment. As far as treatment is concerned, most patients were on Hydroxychloroquine (83.5%); almost half of patients enrolled (45.7%) were on a low dose of glucocorticoids (mean daily dose 2.12±2.78 mg of 6-methylprednisolone), and 43.9% were on immunosuppressants. The results of the SF-36 domains are represented in Figure 1. We compared the results of questionnaires across groups. At the univariate analysis, the domains of Physical Function (PF), Role Physical (RP) and Role Emotional (RE) resulted different between groups. In particular, the IIM patients presented the lowest scores compared with the other two groups (Table 1). However, at the multiple linear regression analysis, only the PF domain confirmed to be significantly different across the three groups, after adjusting for age at enrollment and disease duration (β=-0.003, [95% CI-0.005, -0.001; p<0.01]).

Finally, the FACIT scores were not significantly different between groups.

Conclusion: in our monocentric cohort of patients with CTDs, there were no clear differences in HRQoL driven by diagnosis, except for the physical function domain which appeared more impaired in myositis patients. HRQoL appears as an independent domain of patients’ health status, only marginally influenced by the clinical characteristics of the disease. This underlines the importance for clinicians managing patients with complex autoimmune diseases to develop common strategies to address and improve HRQoL, parallel to the clinical management of the disease.

Table 1. Results of SF-36 and FACIT across CTD patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IM</th>
<th>SLE</th>
<th>SSc</th>
<th>p value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>55.3±32.1</td>
<td>75.8±24.5</td>
<td>67.3±28.4</td>
<td>p&lt;0.001*</td>
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<td>p=0.01 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>RP</td>
<td>40.3±44.2</td>
<td>64.4±29.3</td>
<td>50.7±19</td>
<td>p&lt;0.001*</td>
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<td>p=0.01 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP</td>
<td>63±26.1</td>
<td>68.3±27.4</td>
<td>59.3±30.4</td>
<td>p&lt;0.001*</td>
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<td>p&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH</td>
<td>43.3±22.1</td>
<td>49±18.6</td>
<td>45.4±19.4</td>
<td>p=0.07 1</td>
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<td>p=0.01 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>VT</td>
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<td>52.7±21.8</td>
<td>53.3±20.8</td>
<td>p=0.01 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SF</td>
<td>69.5±24</td>
<td>68.3±24.4</td>
<td>70±24.7</td>
<td>p=0.01 1</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>p=0.01 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE</td>
<td>53.3±44.2</td>
<td>67.5±28.1</td>
<td>59.3±38.7</td>
<td>p&lt;0.01 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MH</td>
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<tr>
<td>FACIT</td>
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<td>37.7±10.3</td>
<td>37.9±9.5</td>
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</table>

IM vs SLE, *IM vs SSc, "SLE vs SSc

Figure 1.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4790
In patients with <3y of ILD duration (n=20 [8 NSIP; 12 UIP]) a significant improvement in DLCOc SB and DLCOc/VA was observed at 24m (p=0.003 and p=0.017).

**Conclusion:** An initial benefit was observed in the DLCO of patients treated with Nib at 6m. Only 1/3 of patients were started on Nib with less than 3y of ILD duration, possibly reflecting the recent approval of Nib for these diseases. In this subset of patients, a significant improvement in DLCO was observed at 24m, suggesting that early initiation of treatment may halt ILD progression.

**REFERENCE:**
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN RED CELL DISTRIBUTION WIDTH AND INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis

L. L. Holguín Arias1, L. Sorrentino1, J. A. Brigante1, D. Yucra1, R. Gomez2, M. D. L. P. Menendez2, M. S. Menendez2, M. Rive2, A. Benitez2, C. Peon2, M. J. Gamba2, C. Soliz2, M. Ludic2, A. Hamu2, D. Dubinsky3, Sanatorio Güemes, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; 2Hospital Posadas, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; 2Hospital Alemán, Pulmonology, CABA, Argentina; 2Hospital de Chivilcoy, Pulmonology, CABA, Argentina; 2Hospital Municipal de Alberti, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; 3Hospital Beau-Séjour, Rheumatology, Geneva, Switzerland

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) and pulmonary arterial hypertension (PHT) account for 60% of deaths related to scleroderma (SSc) [1]. The Red Cell Distribution Width (RDW) is a biomarker that has been used as a marker of poor prognosis in various pathologies [2-9]. In SSc, the RDW has been found to be elevated in PHT and has been proposed as a predictor of cardiorespiratory compromise [10-11].

Objectives: To evaluate the association between the increase in RDW and the presence of ILD in patients with SSc.

Methods: Observational, retrospective, multicenter, cross-sectional study of patients with SSc (ACR/ EULAR 2013) between 1/1/2011 to 8/31/2021. Other concomitant autoimmune diseases, malignancy, active infections, anemia, recent transfusions, cardiovascular, renal, or hepatic disease were excluded. The diagnosis of ILD was made by high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) and the extension evaluated by Goh criteria ¹². A review of medical records was performed, collecting relevant clinical and demographic characteristics.

Results: Seventy-five patients were included, with a mean age of 59.4 years (SD 14.1, 95% CI 56-63), 67 (89%) were women. A median of 8 years of disease evolution was observed (IQR 8). ILD was observed in 50 (66.6%) patients while 25 (33.3%) did not. According to Leroy’s classification, limited SSc (lcSSc) was observed in 50 patients (66.6%) and diffuse SSc (dSSc) in 24 (33.3%); the last classification was significantly associated with the presence of ILD, as was as MRSS (Modified Rodnan Skin Thickness Score) > 14, digital ulcers, and positive ATA (DNA topoisomerase I), unlike ACA (anticientromere antibodies) (Table 1). The most frequent HRCT pattern was NSIP (Nonspecific interstitial pneumonia) in lcSSc (66.6%). An association was found between dSSc and fibrotic patterns (NSIP and UIP). OR 6.95%, CI 1.6-21 (p < 0.009). The extension of the disease was measured in 44 patients (6 missing data), being limited in 25 (57%) and extensive in 19 (43%). The extensive form was correlated with a higher RDW mean (p < 0.0001). The MRSS was measured in 70 patients, being less than 14 in 63 (90%). 100% of the patients with MRSS > 14 had a high RDW (p < 0.01). Increased RDW was evidenced in the group with ILD, with a statistically significant difference (OR 6.06 95%CI 2.17-17 p < 0.001).

Conclusion: We have been able to show that there is a significant relationship between the increase in RDW and the presence of ILD in patients with SSc; this association was more significant for the extensive forms of the disease as well as fibrotic patterns. These findings are relevant as the RDW is an easily accessible parameter that could be used in the follow-up of patients with SSc, and an elevation not explained by other causes of the RDW could be an alarming marker to search more exhaustively for the presence of cardiorespiratory compromise. The limitations of the study are those of any retrospective study, the presence of

Table 1. Clinical, demographic and laboratory characteristics

<table>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (x)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>dSSc (%)</td>
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<td>HRCT pattern</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>ACA (%)</td>
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<td>ATA (%)</td>
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<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP (%)</td>
<td>35</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The median RDW in the groups with isolated ILD and ILD plus PHT was significantly higher than in patients without lung disease (p < 0.001). We found no significant difference between the ILD and ILD plus PHT groups (p 0.350) (Figure 1).

Figure 1.
missing data in addition to the limited number of patients. It is necessary to continue studies with a larger number of patients to grant robustness to the results.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

[6] 1004
[7] H. Fretheim1,2, I. Barua1,2, M. N. Carstens1, H. Didriksen1,2, V. Sarna3, K. Ø. Molberg1,2, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold1,5.
[8] Ø. Molberg1,2, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold1,5.
[9] 3Oslo University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 2University of Oslo, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 3Oslo University Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology, Oslo, Norway; 4Oslo University Hospital, Rikshospitalet, Department of Gastroenterology, Oslo, Norway; 5University Hospital Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland; 6University of Michigan, Division of Rheumatology, Ann Arbor, United States of America; 7University of California, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Los Angeles, United States of America; 8Karolinska Institutet, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Stockholm, Sweden; 9St. Olavs Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Trondheim, Norway; 10Haukeland University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Bergen, Norway; 11University Hospital of Northern Norway, Department of Rheumatology, Tromsø, Norway; 12Oslo University Hospital Research Support Services, Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology (OCBE), Oslo, Norway

Table 1: Baseline characteristics

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>ACHIM (N=33)</th>
<th>Placebo (N=34)</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Age, y (SD)</td>
<td>58 (11.5)</td>
<td>60 (11.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>33 (100)</td>
<td>29 (85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worst symptom Bloating, n (%)</td>
<td>22 (67)</td>
<td>22 (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, y (SD)</td>
<td>9 (7)</td>
<td>10 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited cutaneous SSC, n (%)</td>
<td>31 (94)</td>
<td>28 (85)</td>
</tr>
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<td>FVC, % (SD)</td>
<td>95 (13.7)</td>
<td>90 (19.2)</td>
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<td>Immunosuppressives, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPI, n (%)</td>
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<td>CCB, n (%)</td>
<td>18 (58)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total GIT score</td>
<td>0.9 (0.5)</td>
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<td>GIT scale Diarrhea</td>
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<td>GIT scale Bloating</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure: Change between baseline and week 12 in UCLA GIT score item diarrhea or bloating, depending on which was the worst symptom at the baseline in ACHIM (red) and placebo (blue), adjusted for baseline.

Acknowledgements: NOSVAR (Norwegian connective tissue disease and vasculitis registry)

Disclosure of Interests: Håvard Fretheim Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Consultant of: Bayer, Grant/research support from: GSK and Actelion.

Imon Barua: None declared, Maylen N Carstens: None declared, Henriette Didriksen: None declared, Vikas Sarna: None declared, Knut EA Lundin: Consultant of: Takeda, Consultant from: Takeda, GSK, Topas, Falk Pharma, Oliver Dieter, Boehringer Ingelheim, Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Kadmon, Prometheus, Øyvind Midtvedt: None declared, Tore Midtvedt: None declared, Dinesh Khanna: None declared, Elizabeth Tanabe, Boehringer Ingelheim. issued “mir-29 for the treatment of systemic sclerosis” (US8247389, EP2331143)., Dinesh Khanna: None declared, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold: None declared, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold: None declared, Voraprasert: None declared, V. Sarna: None declared, Maylen N Carstens: None declared, Henriette Didriksen: None declared, Vikas Sarna: None declared, Knut EA Lundin: Consultant of: Takeda, Consultant from: Takeda, GSK, Topas, Falk Pharma, Oliver Dieter, Boehringer Ingelheim, Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Kadmon, Prometheus, Øyvind Midtvedt: None declared, Tore Midtvedt: None declared, Dinesh Khanna: None declared, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold: None declared, Voraprasert: None declared, V. Sarna: None declared, Maylen N Carstens: None declared, Henriette Didriksen: None declared, Vikas Sarna: None declared, Knut EA Lundin: Consultant of: Takeda, Consultant from: Takeda, GSK, Topas, Falk Pharma, Oliver Dieter, Boehringer Ingelheim, Kadmon, Prometheus, Øyvind Midtvedt: None declared, Tore Midtvedt: None declared, Dinesh Khanna: None declared, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold: None declared.

References:

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Systemic sclerosis, Gastrointestinal tract

Background: Lower gastrointestinal tract (GIT) complications are common in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc), associate with a high disease burden, and current treatment alternatives are limited. Patients with SSc have also an altered intestinal microbiota composition. This provides a rational for the investigation of fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) in SSc patients with lower GIT symptoms.

Objectives: To assess the safety and efficacy of a standardized intestinal microbiota infusion in SSc patients with lower GIT symptoms.

Methods: Patients with SSc and moderate to severe bloating and/or diarrhea assessed by the UCLA SCTG GIT score 2.0 were enrolled in a Norwegian multicenter, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial. Patients were randomized to receive an intestinal infusion of a standardized fecal microbiota culture (ACHIM) or placebo at weeks 0 and 2. At week 12, all patients received an ACHIM infusion and were followed in an open maintenance phase until week 20. The primary outcome was a change between baseline and week 12 in UCLA GIT score item diarrhea or bloating, depending on which was the worst symptom at the baseline in ACHIM (red) and placebo (blue), adjusted for baseline.

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Figure: Change between baseline and week 12 in UCLA GIT score item diarrhea or bloating, depending on which was the worst symptom at the baseline in ACHIM (red) and placebo (blue), adjusted for baseline.

Acknowledgements: NOSVAR (Norwegian connective tissue disease and vasculitis registry)
Scleroderma, myositis and related syndromes

A MULTINATIONAL SURVEY INVESTIGATING THE UNMET NEEDS AND PATIENT PERSPECTIVES CONCERNING PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Systemic sclerosis

G. Bandinelli1, A. Alunno1, F. Oliveira Pinheiro2, C. Campochiaro2, I. Galetti1, P. Matucci Cerini2, B. Ruo1, L. Dagnan3, M. Matucci-Cerinic2,4, Z. McMahan5, M. Hughes1,6, University of Florence, Division of Internal Medicine, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Florence, Italy; University of Uqalia, Internal Medicine and Nephrology Division, Department of Life Health and Environmental Science, Uqalia, Italy; Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João, Department of Rheumatology, Porto, Portugal; IRCSS San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare diseases (UniRAR), Milan, Italy; FESCA (Federation of European Scleroderma Associations) Belgium, GILS (Gruppo Italiano Lotta alla Sclerodermia), Department of Rheumatology, Milan, Italy; University of Udine, Division of Surgery and Transplantation, Department of Surgery, Udine, Italy; University of Trieste, Pulmonology Unit, Department of Medical Surgical and Health Sciences, Trieste, Italy; University of Florence, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Florence, Italy; Johns Hopkins University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, United States of America; Salford Care Organisation and The University of Manchester, Department of Rheumatology, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Gastrointestinal (GI) complications are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in systemic sclerosis (SSc) [1]. Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are widely used to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease in SSc. However, not all patients respond adequately to these drugs, and concerns about the safety of their long-term use of PPIs exist in the general population [2].

Objectives: To identify patients’ unmet needs and perspectives concerning PPI therapy.

Methods: An online survey in the English language targeting patients with SSc treated with PPI was developed and distributed through international patient associations and social media. The survey was launched on 4 November 2022 and closed on 4 January 2023.

Results: Of 416 people starting the survey, responses from 301 subjects with self-reported SSc from 14 countries (US 70.4% and UK 19.3%) were evaluable. The majority of patients were between 30-70 years of age and were female (95%). The most frequent patient-reported symptoms were acid reflux (97%), dysphagia (60%), nausea, vomiting and the regurgitation of food or phlegm (>60%). 83% of patients had undergone at least 1 invasive test to diagnose gastroesophageal reflux disease (e.g., upper endoscopy). The most common prescribed PPIs were omeprazole (62%), esomeprazole (24%), and pantoprazole (10%). One third of patients (35%) had only taken one PPI, whereas the use of various PPIs (in series) was required by the majority (two PPIs: 30%, three PPIs: 21%). Daily PPI (46%) vs twice daily PPI regimens (47%) were divided equally among respondents. When on PPI, the majority of patients (89%) reported an improvement of GI symptoms when taking PPI, especially for symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (94%). Only 19% experienced side effects from PPIs use, weak bones (osteoporosis) and calcium formation (calcinosi) being the most frequent. Half of patients (47%) experienced a return of symptoms despite initial improvement on PPI. Combination therapy (PPI plus other medication for reflux disease) was required for the optimal management of reflux disease in 41% of patients and was often deemed more beneficial than PPI monotherapy (72%). Many patients (83%) were worried that GI symptoms would return following PPI discontinuation. Furthermore, 79% of patients were worried about side effects from long-term use PPI, particularly the development of ‘weak bones’ (i.e., osteoporosis) (66%), kidney problems (55%), calcium formation (calcinosi) (39%), and cardiovascular disease (38%). PPIs were prescribed by a healthcare professional in 92% of respondents (9% bought over-the-counter). Financial reimbursement for PPIs was only provided in around two-thirds of patients (64%). Only 58% of patients received information on lifestyle and diet to manage GI symptoms before starting PPI. Furthermore, the majority of patients (85%) obtained information about PPIs online. In only 12% of cases, a surgical approach to manage upper GI symptoms was discussed (rheumatologist or gastroenterologist). However, 46% of patients expressed their approval to undergo surgery (e.g., fundoplication) to resolve their reflux symptoms; however, many (80%) were worried about possible complications.

Conclusion: Our study benchmarks the importance of gastroesophageal symp- toms in patients with SSc and the frequent use of PPIs. There is significant heterogeneity in the use of PPI in SSc and combination therapy is not uncommon.

Patients live with great uncertainty including PPI side effects. Education about PPIs is often neglected, and patients rely on online information. A surgical approach is still not widely considered as a therapeutic option.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

PREVALENCE OF GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOMS AND OBJECTIVE GASTROINTESTINAL DYSMOTILITY IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Gastrointestinal tract, Quality of life

L. Alcais-Gonzalez1, A. Guillon-Del-Castillo1, A. Marin1, L. Comas1, C. Codina2, I. Blazquez1, J. Corada1, C. Malageala1, C. P. Simeon Aznar1,1, Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Digestive System Research Unit, Barcelona, Spain; Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Systemic Autoimmune Diseases Unit, Barcelona, Spain

Background: After the skin, the gastrointestinal tract is the most frequently affected system in systemic sclerosis (SSc). The pathophysiology of gastrointestinal symptoms is mostly secondary to gastrointestinal dysmotility. Due to the increase survival in patients with systemic sclerosis, digestive manifestations are becoming more relevant in the comprehensive management of the disease.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of gastrointestinal symptoms, the presence of gastric and intestinal dysmotility in objective testing and to examine associations between gastrointestinal involvement and other systemic sclerosis features.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in the cohort of active SSc patients in a tertiary center. Patients who fulfilled LeRoy or ACR/EULAR 2013 classification criteria were contacted by telephone and asked to complete standardized questionnaires: UCLA-GIT 2.0, IBS-SSS (IBS symptom severity score), a gastrointestinal symptoms questionnaire and the SF-36 (quality of life). Questions terminology was altered to replace references to ‘IBS’ with ‘GI symptoms’. Demographic, clinical-immunological data and results of complementary motility tests were collected from the medical records. Gastrointestinal motility was assessed by gastric emptying scintigraphy, small intestinal manometry and/or abdominal CT scan.

Results: A total of 183 SSc patients participated in the study with a mean age of 59±12 years, 103 (55%) patients had limited cutaneous SSc (lcSSc) subset, 43 (24%) diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc), and 37 (21%) sine sclerosis SSc (ssSSc). 139 (77%) patients reported having at least one frequent digestive symptom (>1 day/week). The prevalence of digestive symptoms correlated negatively with overall quality of life measured by SF-36 (r=-0.503 p<0.001). In univariate analysis, female gender (87 vs 75%; p<0.025), onset at an early age (44.7± vs 50±6 years; p=0.037) and a capillary loss pattern (23% vs 7%; p=0.023) were associated with the presence of digestive symptoms. Gastrointestinal motility assessment detected gastroparesis in 18/31 (total 58%); mild n=6, moderate n=5, severe n=7), small bowel abnormal motility patterns in 6/6 (100%, neuropathic n=1, myopathic n=5) and small bowel dilated loops in 6/65 patients (total 9%, CT scan). Among the patients studied by gastro emptying scintigraphy, gastric retention at 4 hours had a moderate positive correlation with IBS-SSS and UCLA GIT 2.0 scores (r=0.433 and r=0.407, p<0.01 respectively).

%Gastrectomy meal remnant at 4 hours (normal <30%)

Figure 1.
Moderate-severe gastrointestinal involvement (21 patients, 11%) was associated with older age at SSc onset (45 ± 9 vs 36 ± 14 years; p=0.012), dcSSc (57% vs 18%; p<0.001), myositis (24% vs 3%, p=0.011), tendon friction rubs (29% vs 3%, p=0.003) erosive esophagitis (10% vs 57%, p=0.001) despite proton bomb inhibitor treatment. Patients with moderate-severe gastrointestinal involvement had a worse (higher) UCLA GIT 2.0 score (1.07 ± 0.63 vs 0.58 ± 0.61; p=0.001) and bloating (1.85 ± 0.78 vs 1.23 ± 0.94; p=0.001) and greater severity of abdominal symptoms (IBS-SSS score, 185 ± 91 vs 146 ± 113, p=0.032). All patients (n=6) with chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction presented dcSSc subset.

Conclusion: Patients with SSc have a high prevalence of digestive symptoms and objective gastrointestinal dysmotility that negatively impact their quality of life. Gastrointestinal dysmotility seems to worsen reflux disease. The dcSSc subset is associated with more severe gastrointestinal involvement.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2605

Efficacy of immunoglobulin treatment on gastrointestinal, cutaneous and vascular involvement in systemic sclerosis: data from an Italian cohort of 65 patients

F. Bononi1, A. Damiani1, C. Coccia1, J. Levani1, E. Fiorentini1, G. Lepri1, M. Onofri1, F. Bartoli1, M. Matucci-Cerinic1,2, S. Guiducci1, Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Careggi, Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Division of Rheumatology; Firenze, Italy; 2IRCSS San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases (UniRARI), Milan, Italy

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a rare connective tissue disease characterized by autoimmunity, vasculopathy, and fibrosis involving many organs. To date, the gastrointestinal (GI) involvement accounts for few therapeutic options, while cutaneous and vascular manifestations are often refractory to standard treatments. Immunoglobulin (Ig) therapy is an interesting option as it exhibits both immunomodulatory and antibiotic properties even though its efficacy on GI, skin and muscle involvement has been described only in case series with limited numbers of patients.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy of Ig therapy on GI, cutaneous, and vascular involvement in SSc.

Methods: A retrospective observational study was conducted evaluating SSc patients treated with Ig at a 2 gr/kg/month dosage either intravenously (IV) or subcutaneously (SC). Demographical data, antibodies positivity, associated therapies (vasoactive and immunosuppressants) and disease duration were collected. Moreover, the presence of diarrhea, gastroesophageal reflux (GER), dysphagia, digital ulcers (DUs), as well as the modified Rodnan Skin Score (mRSS) and videocapillaroscopic pattern (VCP: normal, early, active, late) were assessed at baseline (BL) and after 6 (T6) and 12 (T12) months of therapy. Variation of these items from BL to T6 and T12 was tested by Paired T Test, Mc Nemar test, Wilcoxon's signed rank test as appropriate. Regression analyses were then performed to assess influence of possible confounders variables (vasoactive and immunosuppressants drugs) on outcome variables (VCP, digital edema, DU).

Results: Clinical records of 65 patients were analyzed. Mean age was 56.18 (± 12.32 SD) and median disease duration was 10.00 years (min-max 100-38.00). Sixty-three patients (96.9%) were ANA positive, with positivity for anti-centromeric antibodies in 23 (35.4%), SCL-70 in 27 (41.5%) and RNA polymerase III in 8 (12.3%) patients. Ig were administrated IV in 57 patients and SC in 8 patients. Table 1 summarized the trend of clinical items from BL to T12. At BL, 49.2% of patients complained diarrhea, 90.8% GER, 51.6% dysphagia, 76.9% skin manifestations. To date, the gastrointestinal (GI) involvement accounts for few therapeutic options, while cutaneous and vascular manifestations are often refractory to standard treatments. Immunoglobulin (Ig) therapy is an interesting option as it exhibits both immunomodulatory and antibiotic properties even though its efficacy on GI, skin and muscle involvement has been described only in case series with limited numbers of patients. Regression analyses were then performed to assess influence of possible confounders variables (vasoactive and immunosuppressants drugs) on outcome variables (VCP, digital edema, DU).

Conclusion: Our data confirms literature data on Ig therapy efficacy towards GI and skin manifestations [1]. To date, this is the first study presenting a possible positive effect on the vascular component shown by the improvement in VCP; these data should be confirmed with prospective randomized studies on bigger samples.

REFERENCE:

Table 1

<table>
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<tr>
<td>GER, n (%)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia, n</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea, n</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>mRSS, median (min-max)</td>
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<td>6 (0-34)</td>
<td>3 (0-23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital edema, n</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital ulcers, n</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCP, n</td>
<td>64</td>
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Figure 1

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2987

Autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: long-term outcomes in a single-center cohort of patients with systemic sclerosis

N. Del Pias1, A. Rindone1, S. Cavalli1, A. Minniti1, F. Onida2, M. Goldaniga2, C. Iannone1, G. Armentaro1, S. Germinario1, M. Sette1, R. Caporali1, ASST Gaetano Pini-CTO, Rheumatology, Scleroderma Clinic, University of Milan, Milano, Italy; 1ASST Gaetano Pini-CTO, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Research Center for Adult and Pediatric Rheumatic Diseases, University of Milan, Milano, Italy

Background: Although various immunosuppressive drugs are used to treat Systemic Sclerosis (SSc), no therapy has proved to be actually effective in changing the natural history of the disease. Three randomized controlled trials have demonstrated the superiority of autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (AH SCT) on conventional therapies for patients suffering from severe SSc. However, data on disease activity and progression after AH SCT are really scant.

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Systemic sclerosis, Organ damage

Conclusion: Our data confirms literature data on Ig therapy efficacy towards GI and skin manifestations [1]. To date, this is the first study presenting a possible positive effect on the vascular component shown by the improvement in VCP; these data should be confirmed with prospective randomized studies on bigger samples.

REFERENCE:

Table 1

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2987
**Objective:** To retrospectively evaluate the long-term effectiveness of AH SCT in a monocentric cohort of SSc patients with a severe diffuse cutaneous disease at the baseline, and every 12 months up to 60 months after transplantation. In addition, we retrospectively compared the outcome of transplanted patients to an age- and sex-matched group of severe SSc patients selected from our historical cohort and treated with conventional therapies.

**Methods:** Clinical, instrumental and laboratory data of all SSc patients who underwent AH SCT between 2003 and 2020 in our center and with a regular follow-up of 60 months after transplant, have been retrospectively analyzed. AH SCT was performed by mobilization with CTX, CD34+ cell and conditioning regimen with CTX and rabbit ATG. Survival, skin involvement assessed by modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), cardiac and lung involvement assessed by echocardiography and lung functional parameters, and EUSTAR disease activity (EDA) scores were recorded. All transplanted patients had a rapidly progressive cutaneous disease characterized by a mRSS>14 and were unresponsive to conventional immunosuppressive therapies. Similar evaluations were made in the control group represented by age- and sex-comparable patients suffering from an equally comparable disease-duration and clinical characteristics in term of skin involvement and disease activity, and treated with conventional therapies. For this group, the enrolment period was 1991-2020.

**Results:** 35 patients underwent AH SCT, 30 females and 5 males. Patients were eligible for AH SCT when they had mRSS=14 and an EDA score=2, in the absence of severe organ involvement (renal clearance<40mL/min, DLCO<40%, ejection fraction<45%). At the baseline mean, mRSS = 21.4 ± 5, mean FVC 90.1% ± 17.9 and mean DLCO 66.5% ± 15. We observed a sustained improvement in skin thickening and a persistent reduction of EDA scores, with p-values<0.0001 for both parameters at any follow up time. Transplant-related mortality occurred in 2 patients, one at +65 days from interstitial pneumonia and one at +2 days from myocarditis (5.7%). Three patients died during the follow up from disease progression complications, one at +3 years due to fatal cardiac arrhythmia and two due to progressive lung failure at +5 years and +7 years. In the control group (68 patients), 25 patients received 6 monthly pulses of intravenous cyclophosphamide (750mg/m2), 10 received mycophenolate, 10 methotrexate, 12 rituximab, and 11 received steroids and vascular therapies, in the absence of real immunosuppressive therapies. AH SCT patients experienced a better overall survival compared with control patients (p=0.001). AH SCT was also more effective than other therapies for the outcomes of skin score (p=0.0001), lung function (p=0.0004) and disease activity (p<0.0001).

**Conclusion:** The results of this large historical cohort study of patients with severe SSc confirm efficacy of AH SCT in terms of survival, response to treatment and disease progression complications. The improvement of skin thickening and stabilization of organ function up to 5 years after transplantation, result in a global clinical improvement, as showed by the persistent reduction in the activity score. Probably as a consequence of an accurate patient selection, transplant related mortality results to be acceptable and similar to that reported in previous studies. Despite the limitation of a retrospective study, AH SCT is more effective than conventional therapies, including the latest immunosuppressive agents.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Nicolletta Del Papa Speakers bureau: Janssen, Boheringer-Ingelheim, ARDEA RINDONE: None declared, Silvia Cavalli: None declared, Antonina Minniti: None declared, Francesca Coida: None declared, Giorgia Saporiti: None declared, Maria Goldaniga: None declared, Claudia Lanzani: None declared, Giuseppe Armentaro: None declared, Sabino Germignaro: None declared, Manuel Sette: None declared, Roberto Caporali Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celltrion, Fresenius, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Fresenius, Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4881

**POST1315**

**MYOCOPHANATE USE AND SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED ESOPHAGEAL DISEASE**

**Keywords:** Gastrointestinal tract, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Systemic sclerosis

**Correspondence:** E. Olumuyide1, H. Verma1, D. Qian1, S. Lutgen2, K. Cavaliere3, C. Dobrowolski1.

**Objectives:** To investigate the potential relationship of MMF with SSc-associated esophageal disease.

**Methods:** A retrospective chart review was completed for patients with SSc at the Mount Sinai Hospital between January 1, 2000 – January 6, 2022. Individuals with Ssc were identified using a validated ICD-10 M34 code. Data gathered included demographic factors, history of MMF use and cumulative dosage, GERD/EsD diagnosis, medication use, and other relevant clinical factors. Esophageal disease was considered to be present if a patient had any of the following: a formal diagnosis of GERD, absent/ineffective contractility on manometry, or Barrett’s esophagus identified on endoscopy. Descriptive statistics were conducted, and X² tests/t-tests were computed to compare demographic and outcome variables between patients taking MMF and those not. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was conducted to identify the relationship between MMF use and GERD/EsD prevalence.

**Results:** 612 participants were included in the study, 167 (27.3%) patients were prescribed MMF, with an average dose of 28.1g/kg. 141 (84.4%) of the patients prescribed MMF were diagnosed with esophageal disease, compared to 293 (65.9%) patients who were not prescribed MMF (p<0.01). Patients taking MMF were more likely to use a PPI (p<0.01). No differences were found in vascular risk factors (i.e. smoking, coronary artery disease, stroke, hypertension diabetes), head and neck or GI malignancy (thyroid, tongue, gastric, etc.) or presence of psychiatric comorbidities. Multivariable logistic regression revealed that total cumulative MMF dosage (OR=2.99, 95% CI=1.76-5.08, p<0.0001) was significantly associated with increased likelihood of esophageal disease.

**Conclusion:** This study revealed that patients with SSc who were prescribed MMF were more likely to have GERD/EsD, and that total cumulative dose of MMF was significantly associated with an increased likelihood of esophageal disease. There are many potential explanations for this result, including possible MMF side effects and bias by indication (i.e. patients taking MMF may have more severe disease to warrant such therapy). Additional studies (notably prospective trials) are needed to examine other possible disease modifying treatments for SSc-associated GERD/EsD.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2871
Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Systemic sclerosis

1Rambam Medical Center, Hematology, Haifa, Israel; 2Bnai Zion Medical Center, Scleroderma, Haifa, Israel.

Background: Gastric antral vascular ectasia (GAVE) is a known vascular gastrointestinal (GI) complication of systemic sclerosis (SSc), characterized by a distinctive endoscopic appearance of a "watermelon stomach" [1]. In patients screened for autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (AH SCT) in the "Scleroderma: Cyclophosphamide or Transplantation" (SCOT) trial, the reported prevalence was up to 22%, and even higher, 45%, specifically in patients with RNA polymerase III antibodies [2]. GAVE carries significant morbidity due to frequent and recurrent GI bleeding, requiring blood transfusions and repeated endoscopic interventions with Argon plasma coagulation (APC). There is no well-established specific therapy for GAVE in the literature. AH SCT is grade A therapy for early diffuse progressive SSc, the population at risk for GAVE. During the conditioning period, thrombocytopenia may result in bleeding from active GAVE. In the SCOT trial, patients with active GAVE were excluded from the study [2]. The data regarding the safety and efficacy of AH SCT in SSc patients with GAVE is scarce.

Objectives: To evaluate the safety and efficacy of AH SCT in SSc patients with GAVE.

Methods: We selected from our cohort of twenty adult dcSSc patients who underwent AH SCT; patients who had GAVE according to gastroscopy prior to AH SCT. We recorded the number of APC procedures before AH SCT. The complications during AH SCT: the nadir thrombocytopenia level, the need for blood transfusions and treatment-related mortality at 100 days. We report endoscopic and clinical results 12 months following AH SCT.

Results: Five dcSSc patients (mean age 49.2 ± 9.0 years, 4 [80%] females, 4 patients [80%] with RNA polymerase III antibodies and one [20%] with SCL-70 antibodies) were diagnosed endoscopically and histologically with GAVE 1-4 months prior to AH SCT. Two of them needed APC. The mean Hb level at baseline was 9.6±2.5 g/dl. At the AH SCT, three patients received conditioning with Cyclophosphamide 200mg/kg and 7.5 mg/Kg ATG, and two patients received "cardiac-safe" conditioning with rituximab 1000 mg, cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg and fludarabine 120 mg/m². The mean nadir thrombocyte level was 41.2 × 10⁹/L (±39.1 × 10⁹/L). The mean duration of thrombocytopenia below 50 × 10⁹/L was 4.6±4.8 days. The mean number of blood transfusions during hospitalization for AH SCT was 4.4 ± 4.0 units. Only one GI bleeding episode (melena) was noted in one patient during the transplantation. Treatment-related mortality was 0%.

At the repeated upper gastrointestinal endoscopy following AH SCT (mean time after AH SCT 78 ± 4.4 months, range 4-12 months), all five patients (100%) had a complete resolution of the endoscopic as well as the histological findings of GAVE (Figure 1). The Hb level at the time of the second gastroscopy increased from baseline by 1.7 ± 1.8 g/dl, range 0-4.1 g/dl.

Conclusion: We describe the complete resolution of GAVE 12 months after AH SCT in five consecutive patients without treatment-related mortality.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1: Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy images before (a) and after (b) autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplant:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4890
incontinence, bowel movements such as diarrhea or constipation, social activities, emotional well-being) into 3 subgroups: “none to mild”, “moderate”, “severe to very severe”. GIT involvement and its severity have been compared with clinical-demographic and laboratory features.

**Results:** Study population consisted of 87 patients (M/F 7/80), median age [IQR] of 64 [54;70] years. 81(93%) cases presented GIT disorders where GERD symptoms showed the highest prevalence followed by the B/D ones. The descriptive analysis of the main characteristics is summarized in Table 1. The “UCLA SCTC GIT 2.0” questionnaire revealed a median Total score [IQR] of 0.41 [0.21;0.84]. Median score and trend of each item are reported in Figure 1. The median D/B score 1 was the statistically highest among all the other reported GIT scores (p=0.0030; p=<0.0001; p=<0.0001 respectively). The analysis of the collected data showed a positive association between GERD and D/B (r=0.4144; p=0.0001), while positive correlations were found for both total score and GERD with smoking habit (r = 0.2735; p= 0.0117; p= 0.0490) and with PPI therapy (r = 0.2270; p= 0.0345) respectively. Diarrhea was positively associated with PPI treatment (r = 0.2765; p= 0.0095), while Total score (r = -0.2181; p= 0.0424), GERD (r = -0.2327; p= 0.0301), and diarrhea (r=0.2386; p= 0.0261) were negatively associated with vascular therapy. D/B score was positively associated with the limited form of the disease (r = -0.2158; p=0.0447) but negatively with mRSS > 7(r=-0.3067; p=0.0039) and disease duration (r=-0.2602; p=0.0149). We didn’t find any correlation between GIT involvement and specific autoantibody presence.

**Conclusion:** Although the results of the present study confirm the higher prevalence of GERD in SSC, they also highlight the highest median score of D/B, often underestimated, whereas its negative correlation with the disease duration, rather than with the extension of the cutaneous involvement, seems to point at an early phenomenon not to be disregarded at the beginning of the patient follow-up. Of interest is to investigate the effective role of vascular therapy for GIT involvement. These findings underline that timely diagnosis and early treatment could provide the opportunity to implement clinical action as well as improvement in the GIT prognosis in SSC, encouraging wider and longer studies.

**References:**


**Acknowledgments:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5083

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**Table 1 . Baseline Characteristics of Study Patients**

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<th>p-value</th>
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<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>49 (8)</td>
<td>49 (15)</td>
<td>&gt;0.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender (female)</td>
<td>13 (81%)</td>
<td>15 (71%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autoantibodies</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCL70</td>
<td>8 (50%)</td>
<td>9 (45%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RNP3</td>
<td>7 (44%)</td>
<td>6 (30%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Negative/other</td>
<td>1 (6.2%)</td>
<td>5 (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&gt;0.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 5 years</td>
<td>14 (88%)</td>
<td>19 (90%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scleroderma subtype</td>
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<td>0.050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diffuse</td>
<td>15 (94%)</td>
<td>13 (62%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung fibrosis &gt; 10% on lung CT</td>
<td>13 (81%)</td>
<td>16 (76%)</td>
<td>&gt;0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nintedanib (yes)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>9 (43%)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoking (yes)</td>
<td>3 (19%)</td>
<td>6 (29%)</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline FVC</td>
<td>73 (16%)</td>
<td>70 (15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline DLCO %</td>
<td>60 (13)</td>
<td>58 (16)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline MRSS</td>
<td>23 (9)</td>
<td>16 (14)</td>
<td>0.072</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*1Mean (SD); n (%)*  
*2Wilcoxon rank sum test; Fisher’s exact test*
According to MEDS evaluation sheets, were evaluated in all patients. Progression, symptoms and parameters related to a specific organ involvement over a 10-year period in our rheumatology department. Duration of disease.

**Methods:**

To analyze the diagnostic utility of their separate detection.

**SSc patients and its association with clinical, serological features and survival, in order to analyze the diagnostic utility of their separate detection.**

**Background:**

“Carol Davila”, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Bucharest, Romania

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**RESULTS:**

**Conclusion:**

A linear mixed model of the forced vital capacity (FVC) (1A), diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide (DLCO) (1B), and modified Rodnan Skin Score (mRSS) (1C) values at follow-up in the two groups.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4924

**Figure 1**

**Figure 1**: A linear mixed model of the forced vital capacity (FVC) (1A), diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide (DLCO) (1B), and modified Rodnan Skin Score (mRSS) (1C) values at follow-up in the two groups.

**A B C**

**Figure 1**: A linear mixed model of the forced vital capacity (FVC) (1A), diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide (DLCO) (1B), and modified Rodnan Skin Score (mRSS) (1C) values at follow-up in the two groups.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4924

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Organ damage, Autoantibodies

**Methods:**

This was a single-center retrospective study of a SSc cohort followed over a 10-year period in our rheumatology department. Duration of disease progression, symptoms and parameters related to a specific organ involvement according to MEDS evaluation sheets, were evaluated in all patients.

Results: 270 SSc patients were selected, from which we identified a final population of 28 (10%) anti-Ro-positive patients. The anti-SSA/Ro group included more women (26/28) with a mean age of 47.3 ± 13.7 years, most of them with diffuse subset (16/28). The presence of anti-SSA/Ro antibodies was positively correlated with presence of anti-Scl 70 antibodies (p=0.012), elevated modified Rodnan score (p=0.041), myositis (p=0.013), and lower DLCO (p=0.019). Moreover, associations were strongest for elevated CRP levels (p=0.001) and calcium cuts (p=0.001). Compared to non-anti-SSA/Ro patients, both groups were similar regarding demographic data, age at diagnosis, disease duration and type of skin involvement. As expected, the anti-SSA/Ro group had significantly more frequent erosive synovitis (p=0.002), myopathy (p=0.010), gastrointestinal involvement and interstitial lung disease (ILD) (p=0.001). No statistically significant differences were found regarding frequencies of Raynaud’s phenomenon, pulmonary hypertension, renal, vascular and cardiac involvement, nor neoplasia. There was a greater proportion of digital ulcers and calcinosis in the anti-SSA/Ro group (42% vs 17% and 58% vs 42%) without statistical significance. Again, anti-Ro antibodies seem to characterize a distinct group of SSc patients who are almost exclusively female, express elevated CRP levels, have a high prevalence of ILD, myositis, joint involvement and calcinosis, and commonly receive immunosuppressants.

**REFERENCE:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5008

**Keywords:** Organ damage, Systemic sclerosis, Outcome measures

**Background:**

In systemic sclerosis (SSc), a specific nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC) pattern is observed in 90% of cases and seems to be associated with severity and progression of the disease. Data about SSc patients with normal/nonspecific NVC are scarce [1].

**Objectives:**

This study aims to investigate the clinical and immunologic characteristics of SSc patients with normal or nonspecific NVC and to compare them to those with a sclerodermia NVC pattern.

**Methods:**

This was a single-center retrospective study which enrolled 270 SSc patients referred for NVC since January 2000, in our rheumatology department. Demographic and clinical features, symptoms and parameters related to a specific organ involvement according to MEDS evaluation sheets and survival were evaluated.

**Results:**

270 SSc patients were selected in the database, from which we identified a final population of 19 (7%) patients with normal/nonspecific NVC pattern. The group comprised 14 females and 5 males, with a mean age of 52.7 (±17.4) years, most of them with diffuse subset (12/19). Among the cases, 8 (42%) had normal NVC and 11 (58%) had nonspecific NVC changes, characterized by isolated ramified capillaries in 42%, curved capillary limbs in 33%, giant capillaries in 16% and focal microhemorrhages in 9% of patients. The mean Raynaud phenomenon’s (RP) duration was longer (18.4 ± 14.4 years) compared to the other cases (10.2 ± 1.5 years). The difference was not significant (p=0.107). Significantly higher percentages of cases had lower overall frequency of digital ulcers (28% vs 51%, p=0.04). Presence of synovitis (p=0.010) and myositis (p<0.001) was positively correlated with normal/nonspecific NVC changes. Regarding other organ involvement, the cases also had less severe pulmonary involvement, less frequent digestive involvement and/or pulmonary arterial hypertension than controls, but these differences did not reach significance. No differences in mortality were found between the groups.

**Conclusion:**

SSc patients with normal/nonspecific NVC changes have less organ involvement and less overall disease severity than those with a typical SSc specific NVC pattern, with no between-group differences. Musculoskeletal involvement was the only factor independently associated with normal/nonspecific NVC. It is possible that SSc with normal NVC may be at lower risk of progression to severe visceral and skin involvements, but prospective studies are required.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5008

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Organ damage, Autoantibodies

**Methods:**

This was a single-center retrospective study of a SSc cohort followed over a 10-year period in our rheumatology department. Duration of disease progression, symptoms and parameters related to a specific organ involvement according to MEDS evaluation sheets, were evaluated in all patients.
LOW CD32 EXPRESSION ACCOUNTS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF CD21LOW B CELLS WITH DIGITAL ULCERS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis

E. Kourkouni1, A. Mavropoulos2, S. Tsiochos3, T. Simopoulou4, C. Katsiaris5, D. Bogdanos6,1, L. Sakkas2,1

1Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece. 2Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Larissa, Greece; 3Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Larissa, Greece; 4Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece; 5Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece; 6Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Larissa, Greece.

Background: Abberations of B cells have been implicated in the pathogenesis of systemic sclerosis (SSc) [1] and CD21low B cells, which express high levels of activation markers, have recently been associated with vascular manifestations in SSc [2]. CD32 (FcγRII), comprised of three isoforms A, B, and C, is involved in B cell regulation and antibody production. B cells do not express FcγRIIA and mainly express the inhibitory FcγRIIB isoform [3].

Methods: Thirty patients, 23 women (median age 56 years. Interquartile range 32–81) and 7 men (median age 60 years, Interquartile range 52–79) fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria for SSc were included in the study. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells from patients were analyzed with multicolor flow cytometry using anti-CD19 monoclonal antibody (moAb), anti-CD21 moAb, and anti-CD32 moAb, that recognizes both the FcγRIIA and FcγRIIB isoforms.

Results: The percentage of CD21low B cells was significantly increased in patients with DUs compared to patients without DUs (difference between means: 24.6, 95% CI 5.37–43.8, p = 0.014). The percentage of CD21low/CD32low B cells were significantly increased in patients with DUs compared to patients without DUs (difference between means: 23.24 ± 7.364, 95% CI 8.152–38.32, p = 0.0036) (Figure 1A). The percentage of CD21high/CD32high B cells was significantly decreased in the DUs group (difference between means: -26.61 ± 9.312, 95% CI -45.69 to -7.539, p = 0.0080) (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: Our study suggests that low expression of CD32 accounts for the association of CD21low B cells with DUs in SSc and implies that CD32 may have an inhibitory effect on CD21low B cells.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5034

POS1323 BODY COMPOSITION IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: RESULTS OF A COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY STUDY

Keywords: Imaging, Systemic sclerosis

M. Binda1, G. Ficheri2, B. Moccali3, L. Pilati2, A. Doria2, C. Giraudo2, E. Zanatta1, 1Padova University Hospital, Department of Medicine - DIMED, Division of Rheumatology, Padova, Italy; 2Padova University Hospital, Department of Medicine - DIMED, Division of Radiology, Padova, Italy

Background: Subclinical primary muscular involvement and malnutrition may occur in a significant percentage of patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc), and they are potential risk factors for the development of sarcopenia [1]. Sarcopenia is defined as age-associated loss of muscle mass, strength, and function, and unlike other chronic inflammatory disorders, it has been poorly investigated in SSc patients. In recent years, some imaging methods have emerged for the evaluation of sarcopenic markers such as altered muscle composition and fat infiltration (myosteatosis).

Methods: Patients affected with SSc (2013 EULAR/ACR criteria) referring to our tertiary center from 2015 to 2021 who underwent chest computed tomography to assess pulmonary involvement were included. A semi-automatic segmentation of the subcutaneous fat and paravertebral muscle was performed at the level of the 12th dorsal vertebra using a software and the following body composition variables (BCV) were collected: subcutaneous fat area, subcutaneous fat Hu, paravertebral muscle area, paravertebral muscle Hu. Myosteatosis was considered as Hu values >30. The Student’s t-test was used to evaluate if any difference between the BCV occurred between males and females. Logistic regression analysis was applied to assess the role of the BCV on the overall survival while the Spearman correlation coefficient was used to evaluate the relationship between the BCV and the skin score. For all the analyses the applied significance level was p<0.05.

Results: Sixty SSc patients were included (51 females; mean age 55.63±14 years). Most patients were positive for anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA, 90%), with anti-topoisomerase I specificity in 61.6% of them; twenty-nine patients (48.3%) were affected by the diffuse cutaneous form. At baseline, the mean modified Rodman skin score (mRSS) was 10.22 (±8.8) and the mean revised EUSTAR activity index was 2.08 (±1.4). Signs of myosteatosis were detected in forty-seven (78.3%) SSc patients. Males showed significantly greater muscle areas (males 9732±3019 vs. females 6599±1328 mm²; p<0.001) and less hypodense subcutaneous fat (males 76±18 vs. females 88±16 Hu; p=0.027). Overall, seven patients (11.7%) were deceased at a 5-year follow-up. No correlation was found between BCV and the mRSS. None of the radiological variables emerged as a predictor of survival.

Conclusion: Most patients with SSc are affected by myosteatosis, even those without symptoms of muscle involvement, while overall body composition does not appear to predict survival. The results of our pilot study may open the door to evaluating the role of body composition in SSc patients/larger cohorts, as travel burden looking at different time-points in the disease course may provide further insights.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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TREATMENT WITH NINTEDANIB IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS ASSOCIATED WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE: SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS AFTER ONE YEAR IN A REAL-LIFE COHORT

Keywords: Safety, Systemic sclerosis, Lungs

J. Corada1, A. Guilen-Del-Castillo1, I. Blazquez1, C. Codina1, A. Anton1, J. Mestre1, A. Gil2, J. Perurena-Prieto3, I. Ojarguren4, A. Villar3, C. P. Simeon4.

1Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Internal Medicine Department. 2Scleroderma Autoimmune Disease Unit, Barcelona, Spain. 3Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Immunology Department, Barcelona, Spain. 4Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Pneumology Department, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) is detected in 80% of the high resolution CT scans (HRCT) of patients with Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). ILD is responsible for 60% of the mortality related to SSc. Although classic treatment is based on immunosuppressant therapies, nintedanib has recently been approved for SSc-ILD as disease modifying antibiotic drug.

Objectives: To describe the safety and effectiveness of nintedanib over one year follow-up in a cohort of SSc-ILD patients.

Methods: Basal characteristics of SSc patients, concomitant therapy, adverse events, and pulmonary function test after one year of nintedanib treatment were collected in a cohort with SSc-ILD from a tertiary hospital. SPSS 20.0 was used for descriptive statistics.

Results: Twenty-two patients were treated with nintedanib for SSc-ILD. 17 (77.3%) of the patients were women, with a median (interquartile range, IQR) age at ILD diagnosis of 45.7 (39.4 – 56.8) years, and with a median extent of ILD features in the HRCT at the beginning of the treatment of 29.7% (20.0% - 39.9%). The median period from the ILD diagnosis to nintedanib initiation was 46.5 months. As concomitant therapies, 17 out of 22 (81.4%) patients were under some medication –severe infections were described only in 3 cases-, taking into account that among them 14 (62.4%) patients were under concomitant immunosuppressant treatment. Nine (40.9%) patients suffered from diarrhea, and 5 (22.7%) presented elevation of liver enzymes, which required dose reduction in 2 (9.1%), temporary interruption of nintedanib in another 2 (9.1%), and permanent withdrawal in 1 (4.5%) patient. During a median period of follow-up of 29.5 months, 3 (13.6%) patients died, 13 (59.1%) required a nintedanib dose reduction, 4 (18.2%) temporary interruption, and 5 (22.7%) a permanent withdrawal. The absolute forced vital capacity (FVC) percentage after the first 12-month follow-up increased in 0.15 % (–3.8 – 5.5), which meant a relative increase in FVC of 2.3% (–4.7 – 7.9).

Conclusion: Nintedanib treatment for SSc-ILD showed a satisfactory safety profile, constituting diarrhea and elevated liver enzymes the most common adverse events related with the drug. An increase in infection rates cannot be established as the majority of the patients were under concomitant immunosuppressant therapies. FVC was stable during follow-up, which supports the effectiveness of nintedanib for SSc-ILD in real-life cohorts.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: Joseba Corada: None declared, Alfredo Guilen-Del-Castillo Speakers bureau: Received payment as speaker’s bureau from Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen and GSK.. Paid instructor for: Received payment as speaker’s bureau from Boehringer Ingelheim., Consultant of: Received consulting fees from Boehringer Ingelheim., Izar Blazquez: None declared, Claudia Codina: None declared, Adrian Anton: None declared, Jaume Mestre: None declared, Albert Gil: None declared, Janine Perurena-Prieto: None declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5569

TREATMENT WITH NINTEDANIB IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS ASSOCIATED WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE: SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS AFTER ONE YEAR IN A REAL-LIFE COHORT

Keywords: Safety, Systemic sclerosis, Lungs

J. Corada1, A. Guilen-Del-Castillo1, I. Blazquez1, C. Codina1, A. Anton1, J. Mestre1, A. Gil2, J. Perurena-Prieto3, I. Ojarguren4, A. Villar3, C. P. Simeon4.

1Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Internal Medicine Department. 2Scleroderma Autoimmune Disease Unit, Barcelona, Spain. 3Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Immunology Department, Barcelona, Spain. 4Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Pneumology Department, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) is detected in 80% of the high resolution CT scans (HRCT) of patients with Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). ILD is responsible for 60% of the mortality related to SSc. Although classic treatment is based on immunosuppressant therapies, nintedanib has recently been approved for SSc-ILD as disease modifying antibiotic drug.

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Results: Twenty-two patients were treated with nintedanib for SSc-ILD. 17 (77.3%) of the patients were women, with a median (interquartile range, IQR) age at ILD diagnosis of 45.7 (39.4 – 56.8) years, and with a median extent of ILD features in the HRCT at the beginning of the treatment of 29.7% (20.0% - 39.9%). The median period from the ILD diagnosis to nintedanib initiation was 46.5 months. As concomitant therapies, 17 out of 22 (81.4%) patients were under some medication –severe infections were described only in 3 cases-, taking into account that among them 14 (62.4%) patients were under concomitant immunosuppressant treatment. Nine (40.9%) patients suffered from diarrhea, and 5 (22.7%) presented elevation of liver enzymes, which required dose reduction in 2 (9.1%), temporary interruption of nintedanib in another 2 (9.1%), and permanent withdrawal in 1 (4.5%) patient. During a median period of follow-up of 29.5 months, 3 (13.6%) patients died, 13 (59.1%) required a nintedanib dose reduction, 4 (18.2%) temporary interruption, and 5 (22.7%) a permanent withdrawal. The absolute forced vital capacity (FVC) percentage after the first 12-month follow-up increased in 0.15 % (–3.8 – 5.5), which meant a relative increase in FVC of 2.3% (–4.7 – 7.9).

Conclusion: Nintedanib treatment for SSc-ILD showed a satisfactory safety profile, constituting diarrhea and elevated liver enzymes the most common adverse events related with the drug. An increase in infection rates cannot be established as the majority of the patients were under concomitant immunosuppressant therapies. FVC was stable during follow-up, which supports the effectiveness of nintedanib for SSc-ILD in real-life cohorts.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5569
**POS1326**

**LONG TERM TREATMENT WITH RITUXIMAB IN PROGRESSIVE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A MONOCENTRIC RETROSPECTIVE STUDY**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Safety

G. Alonso1, G. Natalello1, S. Fiore1, L. Venturi1, E. De Lorenzis1,2, P. G. Cerasulo1, A. Zoll1, S. Di Muro1, M. A. D’Agostino1, S. L. Bosello1,1

**Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Roma, Italy.**

**Rheumatology Department, Roma, Italy.**

**Scleroderma Program, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine University of Leeds, Rheumatology Department, Leeds, United Kingdom**

**Background:** Treatment of Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) remains challenging and some clinical studies reported the efficacy of Rituximab (RTX) in skin disease and in stabilizing lung involvement. Recently 2 randomized clinical trial demonstrated the efficacy of RTX in SSc and in lung involvement in connective tissue diseases (1,2), however current data are limited by the small number of samples examined and the short duration of follow-up.

**Objectives:** We aimed at retrospectively evaluate the efficacy, safety, and long-term persistence of RTX therapy in a monocentric SSc cohort.

**Methods:** All clinical records of SSc patients (pts) treated with RTX in our center were retrospectively analyzed. Demographic, clinical and disease characteristics, treatment approach, combination therapies, and adverse events during RTX treatment were considered. Every 6 months, skin score, pulmonary function test and swollen joint count (SJC) modifications as well as digital ulcer occurrence were recorded.

**Results:** Fifty-two SSc pts (pts) have been treated with RTX in our center since 2005. The mean age of the pts was 53.3±24.3 years and 21.5% were male. The disease duration at the time of the first treatment with RTX was 4.4±2.8 years and the mean reached follow-up was 6.2±2.2 years (range 2-17 years). Forty pts (77%) had a diffuse cutaneous involvement, 33 pts (63.6%) had anti-topoisomerase positivity, 45 (86.2%) an interstitial lung disease on high resolution chest CT, 30 pts (59.2%) arthritis or tenosynovitis, and finally 38 pts (73.1%) presented any history of digital ulcers. Twenty-five (48.1%) pts had been previously treated with cyclophosphamide. During RTX treatment, 39 pts (75.0%) received an immunosuppressive combination therapy, most with mycophenolate mofetil (53.8%). Concomitant glucocorticoids treatment was assumed by the 53.8% of pts. Twenty-five pts (46.1%) were treated with Rituximab for only one clinical involvement, 27 pts (51.9%) received treatment for more than one organ involvement including skin, lung or joint. Overall, 82.7% were treated for progression of skin disease, 50.0% for lung involvement deterioration and 23.1% for active arthritis. Treatment showed improvement in the skin score, arthritis, and/or stabilization of the pulmonary functional status in 44 pts (84.6%), while in the remaining 8 pts, therapy was stopped because of worsening of the disease over the 6 months of follow-up. Among responders, skin score improved from 173±8.9 to 10.3±8.6 (p=0.04), while the FVC and DLco remained stable (87.4±5.5% to 86.2±20.5% and 68.3±23.9% to 64.3±22.1%, respectively). As expected, there was an improvement in DAS28 (4.9±0.8 to 19.0±0.5, p<0.01). Finally, there was a reduction in the rate of ulcer occurrence (46.15% to 21.70%, p=0.04). Twenty-two pts (42.3%) were treated with one single cycle of therapy (1 yr two weeks apart), while the remaining 30 pts were treated with repeated cycles of RTX, with a mean number of cycles of 4.3±2.0. Among the re-treated pts, 50% were treated every year and 50.0% at the time of new clinical worsening, and retreatment was done every 60.5±31.4 months. All pts re-treated with RTX on demand responded to the therapy. Nineteen percent of pts developed adverse events (5.7% leukopenia, 7.7% infusion reactions, 1.9% sepsis, 3.8% pneumonia). Ten pts (19.2%) died during follow-up: 8 deaths were related to organ complication of SSc and 2 to cancer.

**Conclusion:** Our data suggest long-term efficacy and safety of RTX in pts SSc. Further real world studies will be necessary to evaluate the best therapeutic approach with RTX (regular cycles or retreatment when clinical worsening occurs) and/or the combination with other immunosuppressant drugs.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5831
DIFFERENTIATING "SCLERODERMA" WITH "NON-SCLERODERMA" PATTERNS IN NAILFOLD CAPILLARY MICROSCOPY USING A DEEP LEARNING MODEL

Keys: Systemic sclerosis

V. Korendovych1, P. Kornsten1, 1University Medical Center Göttingen, Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Göttingen, Germany

Background: Nailfold capillary microscopy is used for diagnostic purposes in rheumatology since many years. Abnormal nailfold capillaries are also listed in the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for systemic sclerosis (SSc) [1]. A fast-track algorithm to differentiate between “sclerodermia” and “non-sclerodermia” patterns of capillary microscopy was published in 2019, and is being applied in clinical routine as a useful decision algorithm [2]. Artificial intelligence is increasingly implemented in many spheres of everyday life, including medicine. Keras is a publicly available deep learning framework, which is widely used for research purposes, in particular for constructing artificial neural networks [3].

Objectives: To estimate the ability of a deep learning model, to differentiate between sclerodermia and non-sclerodermia capillary microscopy patterns.

Methods: Capillary microscopy was performed using Optilia Digital Capillaroscope. We analyzed capillary microscopy images, which were equally subdivided into two groups, including sclerodermia and non-sclerodermia patterns. Subsequently the pictures were assigned to training, validation and test sets. Each set contained the same number of images with sclerodermia- and non-sclerodermia patterns. Then we trained a deep learning model using training and validation datasets to differentiate between the aforementioned capillaroscopy patterns. A test set was applied to estimate the model performance in an independent data set. The technical side of the study was performed using a 2D convolutional neural network, which was constructed based on Keras deep learning libraries (example Picture 1).

Results: A total of 1076 capillaroscopy images from 70 patients were analyzed: 780, 196 and 100 pictures in the training, validation and test sets accordingly. Each image dataset contained an equal amount of pictures from sclerodermia- and non-sclerodermia patterns. The trained model showed an accuracy of 87.8% with sensitivity of 94.9% (95% CI 0.905 to 0.99), specificity of 80.6% (95% CI 0.73 to 0.88) and an area under the curve (AUC) of 0.9326 in the validation set. In the test set, there was a slightly better model performance with an accuracy of 92%, a sensitivity of 96% (95% CI 0.91 to 1), a specificity of 88% (95% CI 0.79 to 0.97) and an AUC of 0.9742.

Conclusion: Despite the relatively small image dataset, the developed deep learning model could successfully discriminate sclerodermia- vs. non-sclerodermia capillaroscopy patterns, which may be applied in an automated assessment of capillaroscopy pictures in the future.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6397
Table 1. Main inclusion and exclusion criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion criteria</th>
<th>Exclusion criteria</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• ≥18 years old</td>
<td>• Clinically significant decline in FVC% predicted based on a relative decline of ≥10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• FVC ≥45% predicted</td>
<td>• Presence of fibrotic lung disease on HRCT, defined as reticular abnormality with traction bronchiectasis with or without honeycombing, with disease extent &gt;10% on HRCT (confirmed by central review) within 12 months of Visit 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• DLco corrected for haemoglobin (Visit 1) ≥25% and &lt;90% predicted</td>
<td>• Patients must fulfil at least one of the following criteria within 24 months of Visit 1:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Patients are on stable treatment with nintedanib for at least 12 weeks or not on treatment with nintedanib for at least 8 weeks</td>
<td>- Clinically significant decline in FVC% predicted based on a relative decline of ≥10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Patients treated with permitted immunosuppressive agents for an underlying systemic disease (e.g. methotrexate, azathioprine) need to be on a stable treatment for at least 12 weeks prior to the initial screening period (Visit 1) and during the screening period</td>
<td>- Marginal decline in FVC% predicted based on a relative decline of 5%–&lt;10% with worsening of respiratory symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Presence of fibrotic lung disease on HRCT, defined as reticular abnormality with traction bronchiectasis with or without honeycombing, with disease extent &lt;10% on HRCT (confirmed by central review) within 12 months of Visit 1</td>
<td>- Worsening of respiratory symptoms and increasing extent of fibrotic changes on chest imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Patients with airway obstruction (pre-bronchodilator FEV1/FVC ratio &lt;0.7) (Visit 1)</td>
<td>• Suicide behaviour in the past 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Acute ILD exacerbation (investigator-determined) within 3 months prior to Visit 1 and/or during the screening period</td>
<td>• Presence of clinically significant and unresponsive dry cough at signs of progression and stable ILD disease (e.g. methotrexate, azathioprine) need to be on a stable treatment for at least 12 weeks prior to the initial screening period (Visit 1) and during the screening period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Treatment with oral corticosteroids &gt;15 mg/day within 4 weeks; cyclophosphamide, tocol-zumab, mycophenolate within 8 weeks; rituximab within 6 months</td>
<td>• Suicidal behaviour in the past 2 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: This study was supported and funded by Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH (BI). The author did not receive payment for the development of the abstract. Elieni Tzouramani, MSc, of Meditech Media provided writing, editorial support and formatting assistance, which was contracted and funded by BI. BI was given the opportunity to review the abstract for medical and scientific accuracy as well as intellectual property considerations.

Disclosure of Interests: Toby Maher Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim; Roche/Genentech; Paid instructor for: Boehringer Ingelheim; Roche/Genentech; Consultant: Of Personal payment from: AstraZeneca, Bayer, Blade Therapeutics, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Galapagos, Galecta, GlaxoSmithKline, IQVIA, Plant, Respivant, Theravance, Veracyte, Siena, Department of Medical Biotechnologies, Italy, Michael Kreuter Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim; Galapagos; Roche, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Janssen, Arata Azuma Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim; Taiho Pharm. Co., Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Taiho Pharm. Co.; Toray Medical Co.; Kyorin Pharm. Co., Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim; Taiho Pharm. Co., Vincent Cottin Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim; Roche, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Roche; Galapagos; Chiesi; RedX; Puretech; Celgene/BMS; AstraZeneca; CSL Behring; Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim; Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold Speakers bureau: Actelion; ARXX; Bayer; Boehringer-Ingelheim; Janssen; Lilly; Medscape; Merck Sharp & Dohme; Roche, Consultant of: Actelion; ARXX; Bayer; Boehringer Ingelheim; Janssen; Medscape; Roche, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim; Janssen, Michael Kreuter Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim; Galapagos; Roche, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Galapagos; Roche, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim; Roche, Justin Oldham Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Roche/Genentech; Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim; Luca Richeldi Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim; Zambon; Cipia; Roche, Consultant of: Boegen; Celgene; Nitto; Plant Therapeutics; Toray; BMS; RespVant; Galapagos; Roche, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Promodor, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim; Italian Drug Agency, CLAUDIA VALENZUELA Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim; Hoffmann-La Roche, Ltd; BMS, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Hoffmann-La Roche, Ltd; BMS, Marlies Wijnenbek Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim; Hoffmann-La Roche; Novartis; CSL Behring; Galapagos, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Hoffmann-La Roche; Galapagos; Bristol Myers Squibb; Galecta; Respivant; Nertherapeutics; Horizontherapeutics; PureTech; Lung Inflammation Research with Profiler; Promedor, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim; Hoffmann-La Roche; The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development; The Dutch Lung Foundation; The Dutch Pulmonary Fibrosis; AstraZeneca-Daiichi, Cari Coeck Employee of: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Daniel Wachttin Employee of: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Daniel Wachtlin Employee of: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Fernando Martinez Consultant of: AbbVie; Boehringer Ingelheim; Bristol-Myers Squibb; Bridge Biotherapeutics; CSL Behring; DevPro; IQVIA; Roche/Genentech; Sanofi; Shionogi; x2AR; United Therapeutics; Veracyte; Afflarent/Merk; Bayer; Biogen; Nitto; Respivant; Roche.

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Alcohol-related interstitial lung disease – a rare but under-recognized clinical entity

Figure 1. LUS concordance with FVC was quite good (86.8% and 86.9%, respectively) and quite low (9.2% and 15.3%, respectively) for the number of B-lines (BL) and FVC. The concordance for Leicester cough questionnaire and St.George respiratory questionnaire was very low (15.5% and 12.5%, respectively).

Conclusions: We performed LUS for the follow-up of SSc-ILD patients treated with NINT. Changes in PLI and BL were not significantly correlated with the functional and subjective trend of the patients. PLI variations showed a greater concordance for Leicester cough questionnaire and St.George respiratory questionnaire (69.2% and 43.5%, respectively) than BL variations (35.7% and 28.5%, respectively).

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Ultrasound, Lungs

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4533

Figure 1.

Posters:

POS1330 DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF A CLINICAL SCORE FOR MORTALITY PREDICTION IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: THE SSCORE STUDY

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Systemic sclerosis, Systematic review

L. Dullius1, A. Ribeiro3, M. Spier Borges2, M. Gubert2, M. Loporchio2, V. Lelisoz2, A. Azeredo-da-Silva2, V. Hax1, M. Bredemeier1, R. Chaki1

1Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Division of Rheumatology, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 2Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, School of Medicine, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 3Department of Rheumatology, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Brazil.
Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is one of the most lethal systemic autoimmune diseases. Considering recent advances in drug therapy and safety concerns, predicting mortality may contribute to a personalized treatment decision [1,2].

Objectives: Our goal was to develop and validate a clinical score for mortality prediction in SSc patients (SScore).

Methods: For SScore development, a systematic literature review (SLR) in PubMed and EMBASE (up to July 2022) was performed by two independent reviewers and hazard ratios (HR) from clinically relevant and statistically significant 5-year SSc mortality predictors were meta-analyzed. Considering heterogeneity (I2 test) and publication bias (Egger's test and funnel plots), we selected the most representative HR of each predictor. The weighted risk of death was estimated by Poisson's regression model, and the final SScore was the sum of each predictor score, varying from 0 to 1. For SScore validation, 91 SSc patients (ACR-EULAR 2013 or LeRoy and Medsger classification criteria) were consecutively included in a prospective cohort and followed-up between 2019 and 2022 in the outpatient clinics of two tertiary hospitals. Death was confirmed by medical records and phone calls.

Results: Out of 6,893 studies (2,539 in PubMed; 4,354 in EMBASE), 33 were included in the meta-analysis [3,449 deaths in 15,403 SSc patients over 8.6 years (mortality 22.4%)]. Six predictors were included in SScore: age, dyspnea, malignancy, renal impairment, anti-Scl70 and sclerodema renal crisis (Table 1). In the validation cohort, there were 13 deaths (mortality 14.3%) among the 91 SSc patients over 2.6 years [age 60.5 (±10.3) years-old; women 92.3%; 81.2% white; SSc duration 13.0 (±8.1) years; diffuse cutaneous SSc 22.0%]. The best SScore cut-off was 0.18 (sensitivity 61.5%, specificity 87.2%, positive and negative predictive values 44.4% and 93.2%, respectively, and accuracy 79.1%). The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (Figure 1) was 0.78 (95%CI 0.64-0.92). SScore was higher among those who died (p<0.001).

Table 1 : Clinical score for mortality prediction in systemic sclerosis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Relative risk (95%CI)</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age ≥ 60 anos</td>
<td>1.85 (0.61-5.56)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYHA functional classes III and IV</td>
<td>2.18 (0.60-7.94)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>5.33 (2.02-14.1)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal impairment</td>
<td>3.60 (1.28-10.1)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Scl70</td>
<td>1.89 (0.50-7.06)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sclerodema renal crisis</td>
<td>2.44 (0.45-13.2)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NYHA (New York Heart Association) functional classes III and IV: dyspnea, palpitation or exhaustion with mild physical activity/rest; renal impairment: creatinine elevation/proteinuria.

Conclusion: An accessible score for SSc mortality prediction (SScore) was developed from a SLR and validated in a real-life scenario with high specificity and negative predictive value and acceptable accuracy. Larger cohort studies are needed to clarify SScore usefulness in clinical practice, including treatment individualization.

References:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6281

POS332

ANTI-NUCLEAR VALOSIN-CONTAINING PROTEIN-LIKE AUTOANTIBODIES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH A NEW CLINICAL PHENOTYPE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS: LIMITED CUTANEOUS SUBSET WITH RECURRENT CALCINOSIS AND HIGHER RISK OF CANCER

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Autoantibodies, Malignancy

J. Perurena-Prieto1,2,3, L. Viñas-Giménez2, M. T. Sanz-Martínez2, A. Selva-O’callaghan4, E. L. Callejas-Moraga5, R. Colobran1,2,3, A. Guillen-De-Castillo1, C. P. Simeon Aznar4, V. d’Hebron University Hospital (HUVH), Immunology Division, Barcelona, Spain; 1Vall d’Hebron Research Institute (VHIR), Translational Immunology Group, Barcelona, Spain; 2Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Bellaterra, Spain; 3Vall d’Hebron University Hospital (HUVH), Systemic Autoimmune Diseases Department, Internal Medicine Department, Barcelona, Spain; 4Vall d’Hebron University Hospital (HUVH), Department of Clinical and Molecular Genetics, Barcelona, Spain

Background: It has been reported that 80-85% of established systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients present anti-nuclear autoantibodies (ANAs) [1]. However, in a group of clinically heterogeneous patients with high-titer ANAs no SSc-specific autoantibodies are found. It is likely that these patients present autoantibodies that have not been previously described. Protein immunoprecipitation (IP) followed by mass spectrometry (MS) has the potential to identify these new autoantibodies.

Objectives: To identify novel autoantibodies through a new protein IP assay based on bioorthogonal non-canonical amino acid tagging (BONCAT) combined with MS and to describe the clinical associations of these novel autoantibodies.

Methods: Sera samples and clinical data of 307 SSc patients from Vall d’Hebron University Hospital were collected. All patients met the LeRoy and Medsger criteria and 84.0% fulfilled the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria of SSc. ANAs were tested in all patients by indirect immunofluorescence (IF) on HEP-2 cells and positive reactions were categorized according to the International Consensus on ANA Patterns (ICAP) classification. Specific autoantibodies (anti-Scl70, -centromere, -RNA-polymerase III, -fibritalin, -NOR-90, -Th/To, -PM/Scl, -Ku, -U1-RNP, -U11/U12-RNP) were evaluated by a commercial immunoblot and chemiluminescence immunosassay and traditional RNA IP. Patients negative for all tested autoantibodies (n=25) were further studied by IP assay based on BONCAT. Protein IP was performed by incubation of sera of these patients with protein A-sepharose beads in IP buffer, and subsequent incubation with labelled K562 cell extracts. Obtained immunoprecipitates were fractionated by 10% SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Protein bands detected on SDS-PAGE were further analysed by Liquid Chromatography-MS.

Results: Five patients tested by protein IP showed a band with a molecular weight of 110-115kDa on SDS-PAGE and a homogeneous nuclearular pattern (AC-8) by IIF. These bands were identified as nuclear valosin-containing protein-like (NVL) by MS. All anti-NVL positive patients fulfilled the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria of SSc and presented the limited cutaneous (lCSSc) subtype. Anti-NVL positive patients were characterised by higher age at SSc onset (51.7 vs. 39.9 years, p=0.041) and higher prevalence of calcinosis (100% vs 10.9%, p<0.001). More importantly, anti-NVL positive patients presented higher risk for malignancy (60.0% vs 4.3%, p=0.005; OR 33.0; 95% CI 3.4-323.4) and synchronous cancer (40.0% vs 2.2%, p=0.023; OR 30.0; 95% CI 2.1-433.1).

Conclusion: We have identified NVL as a novel autoantibody target on SSc patients by a new protein IP assay. Anti-NVL positive patients presented a lCSSc phenotype characterized by high prevalence of calcinosis and higher risk of cancer, including synchronous cancer. Further work is required to confirm the clinical associations that were found in this cohort of SSc patients and to evaluate the presence of anti-NVL in other autoimmune diseases and conditions.

References:

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ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS AND CANCER: A NATIONWIDE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Epidemiology, Malignancy

Y. Eun1, K. D. Han2, J. K. Ahn1, J. Kangbuk Samsung Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2 Soongsil University, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Previous studies have shown an association between systemic sclerosis and cancer. However, because the disease is rare, large-scale studies are lacking, especially in Asians.

Objectives: We aimed to compare the incidence of cancer in patients with SSC and age- and sex-matched controls in a nationwide population-based cohort in Korea.

Methods: We included patients with SSC defined by the ICD-10 code (M34) and rare and intractable disease code (V138) and 1.5 age- and sex-matched controls using the Korean National Health Insurance Database. The outcomes of the study were incidence of cancer. Cox proportional hazard analysis and Kaplan-Meier curve were used to compare the incidence of cancer between patients with SSC and controls.

Results: A total of 5,145 patients with systemic sclerosis and 25,725 controls were included in the study. During the study period, the overall cancer incidence rate was 11.07 per 1,000 person-years in patients with systemic sclerosis and 7.59 per 1,000 person-years in controls. Overall cancer risk was 1.5 times higher in patients with systemic sclerosis (adjusted hazard ratio 1.46, 95% confidence interval 1.28–1.87). Lung cancer and lymphoma had a high risk in both male and female patients with systemic sclerosis, and cological cancer had a high risk only in male patients with systemic sclerosis. The risk of biliary cancer, skin cancer, and cervical cancer was high in female systemic sclerosis patients.

Conclusion: This nationwide cohort study showed that patients with systemic sclerosis were associated with increased cancer risk. Clinicians should be aware of cancers that may increase the risk in patients with systemic sclerosis and apply appropriate screening measures.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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WORK PARTICIPATION AND WORK DISABILITY IN BELGIAN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis

J. Desimpel1, A. S. De Craemer1,2, L. Deimez1, D. Elewaut1,2, P. Carron1,2, F. Van den Bosch1,2, V. Smith1,2,3, Ghent University, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Ghent, Belgium; 2 Ghent University Hospital, Rheumatology, Ghent, Belgium; 3 VIB-UGent, Center for Inflammation Research, Ghent, Belgium

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an immune-mediated connective tissue disease that potentially affects multiple organ systems. Besides health-related complications, patients often describe work-related difficulties (e.g. productivity loss, sick leave, work disability) that may result in a major individual burden and the rise of indirect costs for society.

Objectives: Despite the rheumatology community’s growing interest, work participation and its influencing factors is still an underestimated and underexplored field of research in SSc patients. This study therefore aims to provide up-to-date data about work status and its determinants in SSc patients.

Methods: Adult SSc patients were questioned on their socio-economic status at the occasion of an outpatient visit at the rheumatology clinic of Ghent University Hospital, a tertiary hospital in the Flemish region (February 2020 to March 2021). All patients were included in a SSc clinical care path (Belgian Systemic Sclerosis Cohort) and fulfilled the LeRoy and Medsger’s classification criteria. Employment rate was compared with general Flemish population after adjustment for age and sex. Comparative data on the average duration of working life in Belgium were derived from Eurostat (reference year 2020).

Results: Among the 108 participants, 81 (75%) belonged to the working age category (18-65 y/o). The crude employment rate in SSc patients of working-age was 64%, resulting in a standardized employment ratio of 0.90 (95%CI 0.69–1.17). About half of these patients worked full time (53%), with a mean±SD of 41.7±8.7 weekly working hours. The median duration of labor force participation in SSc patients was 40.0 years, while the average career duration in the Belgian population amounted 33.4 years. Long term work disability was reported as the most common reason for leaving the labor market (20%). Patients on work disability were significantly older, less highly educated, more functionally disabled and reported a lower quality of life than patients having a paid job. Job characteristics did not differ significantly between patients with and without a paid job (Table 1).

Conclusion: Our data refute the common perception that SSc patients show a significantly lower work participation grade compared to the general population. Socio-demographic but not job-related characteristics are associated with work disability in this population. Quality of life is remarkably better in patients who perform a paid job, reinforcing the importance to support active labor force participation.

Table 1: Patients characteristics according to working status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SSc patients with a paid job</th>
<th>SSc patients with work disability</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>13 (26%)</td>
<td>3 (13%)</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, y</td>
<td>46.8±10.1</td>
<td>54.8±8.2</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-secondary education</td>
<td>25 (49%)</td>
<td>2 (13%)</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>3.0 (10.70)</td>
<td>4.0 (10.12-5.9)</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtype</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- DcSSc</td>
<td>6 (12%)</td>
<td>5 (31%)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- LcSSc</td>
<td>31 (61%)</td>
<td>6 (38%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- LSSc</td>
<td>14 (27%)</td>
<td>5 (31%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal organ involvement</td>
<td>19 (37%)</td>
<td>7 (44%)</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous manifestations</td>
<td>42 (82%)</td>
<td>13 (69%)</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral vasculopathy</td>
<td>51 (100%)</td>
<td>15 (93.8%)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAQ</td>
<td>0.4 (0.0-1.1)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.4-2.0)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ-SD-SL</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8-0.9)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.2-0.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ-VAS</td>
<td>73 (65-81)</td>
<td>55 (40-70)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue collar work</td>
<td>32 (65%)</td>
<td>11 (69%)</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time work</td>
<td>27 (54%)</td>
<td>9 (66%)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborer</td>
<td>17 (33%)</td>
<td>9 (56%)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SHAO, Scleroderma specific Health Assessment Questionnaire; EQ-5D-5L, EuroQol-5D; VAS, visual analogue scale.

Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgement.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LIPID PROFILE AND RISK OF INCIDENT SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A NATIONWIDE POPULATION-BASED STUDY

Keywords: Epidemiology, Systemic sclerosis, Real-world evidence

O. C. Kwon1, K. D. Han2, M. C. Park1, 1 Yonsei University College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2 Soongsil University, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Lipid metabolism is altered in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc), mediating activation of immune cells and fibroblasts. However, it is unclear whether altered lipid profile in individuals without SSc is associated with a risk of future development of SSc.
Objectives: To assess the association between lipid profile and future development of SSc.

Methods: Individuals without SSc who underwent national health check-ups in 2009 were selected and followed up through 2019 from a nationwide database of the Korean National Health Insurance Service. Serum levels of total cholesterol (TC), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), and triglyceride, measured on the date of health check-up in 2009, were each categorized into quartiles (Q1 [lowest], Q2, Q3, and Q4 [highest]). Individuals who developed SSc during follow-up were identified. Cox regression analyses adjusted for multiple covariates were performed to estimate the adjusted hazard ratios (aHRs), and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) according to the quartiles of levels of TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, and triglyceride, respectively, using Q1 as the reference.

Results: Of the 9,894,996 individuals selected, 1,355 individuals developed SSc during a mean follow-up of 9.2 years, accounting for an incidence rate of 1.49 per 100,000 person-years. Compared with Q1 levels, Q4 levels of TC (aHR 0.91, 95% CI 0.892–0.930), HDL-C (aHR 0.80, 95% CI 0.778–0.828), and LDL-C (aHR 0.85, 95% CI 0.826–0.881) were associated with a lower risk of incident SSc, while Q4 levels of triglyceride (aHR 1.060, 95% CI 0.953–1.292) were not. Higher quartiles of TC (p for trend<0.001), HDL-C (p for trend<0.001), and LDL-C (p for trend<0.001) were associated with a larger effect size.

Conclusion: Serum levels of TC, HDL-C, and LDL-C were inversely associated with the risk of incident SSc. Our findings provide new insights that altered lipid profile could be considered a risk factor for incident SSc.

Reference: None.

Table 1. Risk of incident systemic sclerosis according to lipid profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cut-off (mg/dL)</th>
<th>TC</th>
<th>HDL-C</th>
<th>LDL-C</th>
<th>Triglyceride</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1≤164</td>
<td>2,467,865</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>22,667,147</td>
<td>0.881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2≥164</td>
<td>2,465,085</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>22,808,239</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3≥164</td>
<td>2,458,047</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>23,103,563</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4≥164</td>
<td>2,450,733</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>22,517,096</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Model 1: Crude model. Model 2: Adjusted for age, sex, BMI, residence, income, smoking status, Q4≥164 2,468,865 287 22,586,427 .531 .27 0.752

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

References:

Background: In Systemic Sclerosis, beyond the value of Nailfold capillaroscopy, there is still a deep unmet need in quantitative imaging surrogate outcome measures to assess activity and/or severity of peripheral vascular disease. This has been halting the implementation of trials targeting vascular disease beyond crude endpoints such as number of digital ulcers (DU). Quantitative MRI based scores have boosted the implementation of new trials in inflammatory arthritis.

Objectives: To determine the value of MRI-based Digital Artery Volume Index (DAVIX©) score in predicting the burden of DU disease as well as other vascular endpoints including clinical manifestation and patient reported outcome scores (PROs).

Methods: Consecutive patients with Raynaud’s phenomenon were enrolled in two independent randomized discovery and validation cohorts. Data collected included electronic medical information, patient function tests, nailfold capillaroscopy, modified Rodnan Skin Score (mRSS), history/presence of DU (defined as DU Disease), sHAQ-DI, Cochin hand function and Borg scales. Discovery cohort had clinical follow up data at 12 months, Validation cohort had only baseline data. DAVIX© (dominant hand) was calculated by MRI time of flight based, digital artery volumetric assessment over the volume of each finger, as %mean of the 4 fingers [1, 2]. Mann-Whitney test was used to compare DAVIX© between patients subgroups. Correlations between DU disease in both hands and clinical endpoints/PROs were performed using Pearson’s and Spearman’s tests, as appropriate. Data analysis was conducted using R software.

Results: 233 patients were recruited in discovery (D=91) and baseline validation (V=142) cohorts. 139 patients fulfilled 2013 SSc classification criteria (62 in discovery cohort and 77 in validation cohort), 94 were patients with VEDOSS (2013 ACR/ESR/EULAR SSc classification criteria) and not included in further analysis. Median (IQR) disease duration was 5.9 (7.0) and 4.7 (6.0) years in the two cohorts (P=0.618). DAVIX© was significantly lower in patients with DU disease in both cohorts (0.34% and 0.49% vs 0.65% and 0.75%) compared to patients with no DU (D: P=0.0018; V: P=0.003). DAVIX© correlated with baseline DLCO% in both cohorts (r=0.368 and 0.315, P=0.004 and 0.038, respectively). There was no correlation with mRSS or FVC% whereas, DAVIX© correlated with FVC/DLCO ratio (r=-0.337, P=0.009). The analysis of PROs showed that DAVIX© correlated best with VAS DU (r=-0.291 and -0.243, P=0.05 for both cohorts) and VAS Raynaud (r=-0.270, P=0.048 for the discovery cohort), whereas there was no significant correlation with the other PROs. Importantly, DAVIX© correlated inversely with disease duration in both cohorts (r=-0.415 and -0.441, P<0.001 for both). In the discovery cohort, 12 patients developed new (7) or their first (5) DUs during follow-up and their mean DAVIX© was 0.23% vs 0.66% of 73 patients who did not develop any new DUs (P=0.02). Standard Receiver Operating Curve indicated that DAVIX©<0.36% conferred a 4 times higher risk of new DU s, independently of any other clinical variable.

Conclusion: DAVIX© is a feasible, automated, contrast-free imaging outcome measure that reflects worse vascular disease as far as DU disease, DLOC%, and patient reported burden of Raynaud’s and DU disease. DAVIX© validation in Randomized Controlled Trials would offer a novel imaging based surrogate outcome measure of vascular disease in Systemic Sclerosis.

References:
Pain in rheumatic diseases, including fibromyalgia

LONG-TERM OPIOID USE AMONG PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES: IMPACT OF VARYING DEFINITIONS

Keywords: Pain, Fibromyalgia, Inflammatory arthritides

J Y T Huang1, D Jenkins2, B Birile Yimer1, C Ramirez Medina1, N Peek3,4, M Lunt, W Dixon4, M Jani1,4. 1University of Manchester; Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2University of Manchester, Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Science, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3University of Manchester, NIHR Greater Manchester Patient Safety Translational Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 4Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: People living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMD) are frequently prescribed opioids for non-cancer pain. A proportion of RMD patients newly prescribed an opioid will transition to long-term opioid use, and represent a high-risk subgroup for opioid dependence, abuse and harms. However, definitions of long-term opioid use in the literature vary considerably, making it difficult to characterise the scale of the issue and design future interventions to address it [1,2].

Objectives: 1) To evaluate the proportion of patients transitioning to long-term opioid use in new users across 6 RMD conditions using varying definitions used in the literature 2) To assess the proportion of long-term opioid users who transition to opioid dependence.

Methods: Patients aged ≥18 years with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), osteoarthritis (OA) and fibromyalgia and without prior cancer, with a new episode of opioid use between 01/01/2006 and 31/10/2021 and at least a 5-year follow-up in the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) were included. CPRD is a database of anonymised UK primary care electronic health records representative of the national population. Long-term opioid users were defined using 3 different definitions: 1) Standard (most commonly used); ≥3 opioid prescriptions issued within a 90-day period, or ≥90 days opioid supply in the first year of follow-up (excluding the first 30 days). 2) Stringent: ≥10 opioid prescriptions filled over ≥90 days, or ≥120-day opioid supply in the first-year follow-up. 3) Broad: ≥3 monthly prescriptions (no need to be consecutive) in the first 12 months. Opioid dependence was defined as RMD patients who had relevant Read Codes within 5 years after a new episode of opioid use. The proportions of long-term opioid use and opioid dependence for RMDs were calculated.

Results: This study included 841,047 patients of whom 12,260 had a code for RA, 5,195 PsA, 3,046 AxSpA, 3,081 SLE, 796,276 OA, and 21,189 fibromyalgia. The highest proportion of long-term opioid users among the 6 RMDs was patients with fibromyalgia (27.4% for Standard; 20.9% for Stringent, and 33.7% for Broad), followed by RA (25.7%, 18.5%, and 32.3% respectively) and AxSpA (23.8%, 17.3%, and 29.6% respectively) (Figure 1-Stacked bar chart). On average, using Broad definition showed 10-13% higher than Stringent definition for all RMDs. As the Venn diagram in Figure 1, 241,727 patients met any of the definitions of long-term use, of which half fulfilled all 3 definitions. The Broad definition was able to identify additional half of long-term users, with 24.0% overlapping with the Standard definition. In total, 685 (0.06%) RMD patients were diagnosed with opioid dependence within 5 years after starting opioids. Similar proportions of opioid dependence were observed in long-term opioid users across all definitions: 332 (0.18%) for Standard, 281 (0.23%) for Stringent, and 355 (0.15%) for Broad definitions. Moreover, 323 out of 685 RMD patients (47.2%) who had a diagnosis of opioid dependence were not classified as long-term opioid users by the 3 definitions.

Conclusion: Around 1 in 3 fibromyalgia patients and 1 in 4 RA AxSpA patients fulfilled definitions for long-term opioid use within 12 months after starting opioid. The low prevalence of opioid dependence across all RMDs, defined using Read Codes alone is likely to be considerably underrepresented in clinical practice. This reflects both coding practices in primary care and under recognition of the scale of the problem in patients who are those on long-term opioids.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Joyce (Yun-Ting) Huang: None declared, David Jenkins: None declared, Belay Birile Yimer: None declared, Carlos Ramirez Medina: None declared, Niels Peek: None declared, Mark Lunt: None declared, William Dixon Consultant of: WDG has received consultancy fees from Google unrelated to this work., Meghna Jani: None declared.

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PHARMAKON OR THE ART THAT HEALS: TRANS-DISCIPLINARY ARTISTIC-TRANSFORMATIVE WORKSHOPS FOR FIBROMYALGIA SYNDROME

Keywords: Non-pharmacological interventions, Patient reported outcomes, Fibromyalgia

C Villani1; M Sapio2; VE Giorgi3; P Sarzi-Puttini3, 1Transdisciplinary Designer of Artistic-cultural Experiences, Freelance, Palemò (PA), Italy; 2Ospedale Buccheri La Ferla FBF; Pain Medicine, Palemò, PA, Italy; 3IRCCS Istituto Galeazzi - Sant’Ambrogio, Milan State University School of Medicine, Rheumatology Department, Milan, Italy

Background: Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) is a widespread chronic pain syndrome with many associated symptoms. It is frequently related to a traumatic event (1), strong and of short duration, or slight but protracted over time. A multidisciplinary therapeutic approach is recommended by international guidelines. The transformative experience (TE) allows for a profound and immediate change that differs from linear and gradual psychological change; this helps create novel responses to the same initial thoughts and actions, thereby breaking the maladaptive emotional/behavioral loop elicited by chronic stress and trauma (2), creating a sort of “virtuous” cycle, adaptive rather than maladaptive and long-lasting. In this study, TE was specifically elicited through transformative art (TA), an intrinsically transdisciplinary tool, in different ways in the three arms of the study.

Objectives: Validation of the efficacy (in terms of quality of life and sleep, self-esteem, self-efficacy) of transdisciplinary TA workshops in patients with FMS.

Methods: Prospective observational study lasting 8 months (February-October, 2021), in which the effectiveness of three different TA workshops in patients with FMS was evaluated: in group 1 participants were encouraged to review their autobiographies and illness in a humorous sense; in group 2 participants were guided to express their own realities of chronically ill patients in poetry; group 3 was based on the guided narration of works of art according to visual thinking strategies integrated with the principles of narrative medicine. Patients were divided into the three laboratories according to their preference. Tests were administered at baseline and post-workshop. The activities took place entirely online.

Results: 109 FM patients completed the study (n=3 males, mean age 52.9 mean years from diagnosis 11 [SD 8.6], No differences were found among the three groups at baseline in terms of clinimetric variables. Data analysis made by a Wilcoxon non-parametric test (WNPT) of the three groups in conjunction showed a statistically significant improvement of the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) (p<0.05), Response to Stressful Experiences Scale (RSES) (p<0.05), World Health Organization–Five Well-Being Index (WHO-5) (p<0.001) and Global Health scale (GH) (p<0.05). No significant difference was found for The Mindful Attention Awareness Scale (MAAS) (p=0.2663). A WPNT was performed to compare baseline and final results of the three groups separately. The best performance was seen in Group 1, since patients ameliorated in almost all parameters: PSQI (p<0.05), GH (p<0.05), SAP dimension 1 (p<0.05), 2 (p<0.05) and 4 (p<0.05), WHO-5 (p=0.001), MAAS (p=0.895), RSES (p=0.0673) and SAP dimension 3 (p=0.5673) resulted nonsignificant, although very close to significance. Sleep (p<0.05) and the 3rd dimension of SAP (p=0.05) improved in patients of Group 2; whilst self-esteem (p<0.05) and WHO-5 (p<0.05) did in Group 3.

Conclusion: Our research shows that art, experienced as TA, leads to significant improvements of the psychophysical condition of FMS patients. TA can be seen as a crucial mediator for overcoming the traumatic/illness path, probably through the generation of "pivotal mental states" (PIMS), defined as a ‘hyper-plastic state aiding rapid and deep learning that can mediate psychological transformation’ [3].

Figure 1 Long-term opioid use by definitions and overlap between them
**Efficacy of Very Low-Calorie Ketogenic Diet in Obese Patients with Fibromyalgia:** Preliminary Results from a Monocentric Interventional Study

**Keywords:** Diet and nutrition, Pain, Fibromyalgia

**Background:** Obesity can worsen fibromyalgia (FM) and very low-calorie ketogenic diet (VLCKD) is a potential therapeutic option in diseases that share clinical and pathophysiological features with FM [1].

**Objectives:** In this pilot interventional study, we investigate the effects of VLCKD in obese patients with FM.

**Methods:** Adult FM patients with a BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² and who had failed standard low-calorie diets, were eligible for VLCKD. The weight-loss program was preceded by 4 weeks of free-diet (W-4 to W0). During the first period of VLCKD (W1 to W4), patients could eat protein preparations and vegetables. In the next phase (W5 to W8), natural proteins were gradually integrated in the dietary regimen. Ketosis was assessed weekly with urine strips. Carbohydrates were then progressively reintroduced (W9 to W20). Changes in BMI, FM impact questionnaire (FIQ) and Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS-A for anxiety and HADS-D for depression) were evaluated at established timepoints. As previously reported, a change of 14% in FIQ was considered clinically relevant [2]. This interim analysis evaluates patients who reached the final visit after 20 weeks from the beginning of VLCKD (W20).

**Results:** At data cut-off, 20 patients, all females, were enrolled in the study. Two patients discontinued the intervention while 4 are currently in the maintenance phase. Mean age of the 14 patients who reached W20 was 50.4 years and BMI was 36.9. Baseline characteristics are summarized in Table 1. No significant difference in BMI, FIQ, HADS-A and HADS-D was observed from W-4 to W0. All patients lost weight during the first period of VLCKD and this achievement was maintained through W20 (Figure 1, panel A). Mean BMI decreased from 36.9 at W0 to 34.5 at W4, 33.3 at W8 and 32.2 at W20 (all p < 0.001 compared to W0). Compared to W0, a significant reduction of mean FIQ (Figure 1, panel B) from 64.3 to 35.2 was observed at the end of W4 (p < 0.001) and was maintained also at W8 (mean FIQ of 38.8; p = 0.004) and at W20 (mean FIQ of 39.1; p = 0.007). Analysing the trend in each participant, at W4, all 14 patients showed a reduction in FIQ, which was clinically relevant in 13 (93%). Compared to W0, a meaningful improvement in FIQ was still observed at W20 in 12 cases (86%). However, change in BMI was not significantly correlated with change in FIQ at any time-point. HADS-A and HADS-D improved significantly from W0 to W4, W8 and W20. (Figure 1, panels C, D). Mild constipation was reported by 8 patients (57%), fatigue by 4 (29%) and headache by 3 (21%). No major safety concern emerged.

**Conclusion:** These are the first data on the efficacy of VLCKD in FM. All patients achieved improvement in disease activity outcomes during the ketogenic phase, which was maintained also after carbohydrate reintroduction. Our data suggest that ketosis might exert beneficial effects in FM which extend beyond the promotion of rapid weight loss.

**References:**


Objective: To evaluate the prevalence of sexual dysfunction in a large cohort of FM female patients, using a validated questionnaire.

Methods: The cohort was composed of 373 FM female patients, median age 49.1 years. Qualisex questionnaire was used to evaluate sexual dysfunction in patients with fibromyalgia. Qualisex questionnaire was validated with Cronbach’s alpha test (0.878), median value 5.3. Women with lower grade of education (p=0.002), married (p=0.001) and with lower sexual feeling with partner (p=0.001) showed higher values of Qualisex. Menopause status, drug absorption and comorbidity did not influence patients’ sexual quality. High values of HADS-A and HADS-D showed a positive correlation with Qualisex Total (p=0.001; r=0.312; p=0.001; r=0.542 respectively) as well as high values of VAS pain, VAS fatigue and VAS dryness (p<0.001 r=0.438; p<0.001 r=0.375; p<0.001 r=0.70 respectively). Relationship duration also presented a positive correlation (p=0.001; r=0.202). Multivariate analysis observed a significantly influence of relationship duration, VAS pain, fatigue and dryness, HADS-A/D, R-FIQ and all relation (p<0.001 r=0.202).

Results: Multivariate analysis of the Qualisex questionnaire represents a good test to evaluate sexual disorders in FM women. Different aspects contribute to sexual dysfunction both from a psychological (anxiety, depression, loss of self-esteem, decreased sexual attraction) and a physical (pain, fatigue, etc.) point of view with an important impact of FM on sexual life and consequently a worsening of FM symptoms. Over a demotivation feeling, inability to live a “normal everyday life”, the reduced sexual function contributes to a bad quality of life. Other studies are needed to analyze a demotivation feeling, inability to live a “normal everyday life”, the reduced sexual function contributes to a bad quality of life. Other studies are needed to analyze.

Conclusion: Sexual dysfunction in FM patients is significant and it seems reasonable to conclude that the assessment of disease impact should be diversified, taking gender differences into account. It could improve the sexual aspect in the global contest of FM and to investigate this important aspect in FM male patients.

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1. Bazzoli L, Giacomelli C, D. Franculli F, Giardina D, Iannuccelli C, Gattamelata A, Conti F, Di Franco M, Di Franco M. Sapienza University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Internal, Anesthesiologic and Cardiovascular Sciences, Rome, Italy; "UniCamillus, Saint Camillus International University of Health Science, Rome, Italy"

Background: FM is a chronic syndrome clinically characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain associated with symptoms like fatigue, sleep disturbances and cognitive impairment. Prevalence is higher in females but the 2010/2011 and 2016 revisions of the American College of Rheumatologist (ACR) criteria reduced prevalence differences and the actual female:male ratio is approximately 3:1. Even if in the last years some studies have been conducted regarding gender differences in FM, disease severity is still assessed using questionnaires, such as the Revised Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQR), designed for female patients and validated through a predominantly female sample.

Objectives: Of this pilot study was to compare the 21 items of the FIQR and female patients in order to evaluate the possible existence of a gender bias.

Methods: In this case control study, all the consecutive patients with a diagnosis of FM (2016 ACR criteria) referring to our out-patients Fibromyalgia Clinic between May 2020 and December 2022 were asked to answer an online survey, including demographic characteristics, disease variables and the Italian version of the FIQR. Among the 544 patients that compiled the questionnaire, 78 patients, 39 males and 39 females matched for age and disease duration, were consecutively enrolled in order to compare their total FIQR score and the different domains scores.

Results: The univariate analysis of the FIQR scores, taking account of the total score and of the different domains of FIQR, showed that total scores and physical function domain scores were significantly higher in females compared to males. No significant differences emerged between the two groups compared to males. The results of our pilot study showed that female patients obtain significantly higher scores in the FIQR total score and in the physical function domain score.

Conclusion: These preliminary results indicate that the use of the FIQR as a severity index in male patients probably underestimate the disease impact in this group. In order to confirm these results the sample needs to be increased but it seems reasonable to conclude that the assessment of disease impact should be diversified, taking gender differences into account.

REFERENCES:


Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (yrs), media ± SD</th>
<th>Menopause, n (%)</th>
<th>Menopause (yrs)</th>
<th>Menopause, media ± SD</th>
<th>Replacement therapy, n (%)</th>
<th>Sexual relationship duration (yrs), media ± SD</th>
<th>Qualisex TOTAL</th>
<th>HADS A, media ± SD</th>
<th>HADS D, media ± SD</th>
<th>VAS dryness (0-10), media ± SD</th>
<th>VAS fatigue (0-10), media ± SD</th>
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<tr>
<td>49.1 ± 10.4</td>
<td>185 (49.6)</td>
<td>487 ± 7.3</td>
<td>69 (18.3)</td>
<td>18.2 ± 11.7</td>
<td>5.3 ± 2.7</td>
<td>11.9 ± 4.3</td>
<td>9.5 ± 4.1</td>
<td>5.6 ± 3.4</td>
<td>6.8 ± 2.7</td>
<td>7.9 ± 1.9</td>
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</table>

Disclosures

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4704
Cognitive dysfunction is a frequent condition in patients with AS. We established a negative correlation between cognitive status and the evening BDNF level - with an increase in evening BDNF level cognitive dysfunction deepens (P < 0.05).

Conclusion: Cognitive dysfunction is a frequent condition in patients with AS. Our study results demonstrate circadian rhythm of BDNF production during the day and relationship between BDNF production and cognitive status – cognitive dysfunction in AS patients is associated with high evening BDNF levels.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6095

POS1342
COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAIN-DERIVED NEUROTROPHIC FACTOR (BDNF)

Keywords: Cognitive function, Spondyloarthritides, Fibromyalgia

I. Shapoval1, H. Vyshar1, L. Peresbiuk1, V. Kromenko1, L. Shvets1, M. Stanislavchuk1, 1National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsya, Ukraine, Chair of Internal Medicine #1, Vinnytsya, Ukraine

Background: Normal cognitive status is essential for daily activities, but many people with chronic autoimmune rheumatic diseases are impaired in this function. This is probably related to the age of the patients, the education level, the duration of the disease, the disease activity. Pronounced pain syndrome in ankylosing spondylitis (AS) patients is a risk factor of cognitive dysfunction [1, 2]. There are also literature data regarding the involvement neurotrophins, namely brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), in the mechanisms of pain regulation and psychoemotional disorders [3].

Objectives: Our study aimed to evaluate the cognitive status in patients with AS and the relationship with BDNF.

Methods: We examined 143 patients (81.8% male) with AS according to modified New York criteria. The mean age of the examined patients was 42.1±11.3 years. The Mini Mental State Examination MMSE (Folstein M.F. et al., 1975) was used to assess the psychological and cognitive status. The level of BDNF in plasma was determined twice a day (at 8:00 and 20:00) by the ELISA method, also we calculated the ratio between morning and evening BDNF level (BDNF index ‘8:00/20:00’). The study was conducted in compliance with bioethical standards. All data were analyzed using IBM Statistics SPSS 23 software.

Results: Cognitive dysfunction, according to MMSE, was diagnosed in 90 (62.9%) AS patients. The values of the MMSE scale in AS patients ranged from 10-second pause. Patients received 2000 stimuli per day (50 stimuli in 40 seconds of stimulation (frequency of 10 Hz, for a total of 50 stimuli) and a intensity of 130% of the predetermined motor threshold over the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC). One session of rTMS consisted of 5 seconds of stimulation (frequency of 10 Hz, for a total of 50 stimuli) and a 10-second pause. Patients received 2000 stimuli per day (50 stimuli in 40 repeated sessions). The placebo was applied with an inactive “sham” coil which resembles active treatment. The intensity of symptoms was assessed with Tender Point Examination (TPE), Visual Analog Scale of Pain (VAS), Brief Pain Inventory (BPI), Beck Depression Inventory II (BDI II), Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI), Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCa), Medical Outcome Studies Sleep Scale (MOS SS), Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy – Fatigue (FACIT-F), 36-item Short Form Survey (SF-36), and Revised Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQ).

Results: There was no difference between groups in any of the characteristics at baseline. There was a decrease in BDI score after the treatment period, but the change was more prominent in the rTMS group compared to the placebo (p=0.064). rTMS was also superior in a decrease in FIQIR score (p=0.054) (Table 2.) and an increase in vitality through SF-36 (p=0.003). Moreover, placebo treatment led to a significant reduction in sleep disturbances (p=0.035). There were no differences between groups in delta values before and after treatment regarding the rest of investigated characteristics (Table 1, p=0.05).

Conclusion: Preliminary results suggest a reduction in the impact of the disease and depression, as well as an increase in the vitality of participants who have been treated with rTMS. The placebo effect on a reduction of sleep disturbances can be partly explained by the stimulating effect of rTMS. Because this was an interim analysis, the presented results should be taken with caution.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS1343
INFLUENCE OF REPETITIVE TRANSCRANIAL MAGNETIC STIMULATION OF CNS ON FIBROMYALGIA PATIENTS - A RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED STUDY (INTERIM ANALYSIS)

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Fibromyalgia, Non-pharmacological interventions

Z. Velickovic1, S. Radovanovic2,3, G. Radunovic1,1, Institute of Rheumatology, Internal Medicine - Rheumatology, Belgrade, Serbia;3Institute for Medical Research, Neuroscience, Belgrade, Serbia; University of Belgrade, School of Medicine, Belgrade, Serbia

Background: Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) is a chronic disorder characterized by diffuse pain, sensitivity to sensory stimuli, fatigue, cognitive impairment, mood and sleep disorder. The side effects of drugs used in treatment (i.e. antiplateptics) can mimic certain symptoms of fibromyalgia (i.e. impaired balance, dizziness), so there is a huge need for alternative treatment. Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) is a non-invasive therapy utilizing a magnetic field to stimulate different brain structures. rTMS is registered as adjuvant therapy for major depressive disorder, migraine, and obsessive-compulsive disorder, and its efficacy is being investigated for other conditions.

Objectives: The main aim was to evaluate the influence of rTMS in alleviating the symptoms in patients with fibromyalgia.

Methods: Sixteen patients were randomized to rTMS (n=10) or sham treatment (n=6). rTMS was applied in 10-day sessions with a frequency of 10 Hz and an intensity of 130% of the predetermined motor threshold over the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC). One session of rTMS consisted of 5 seconds of stimulation (frequency of 10 Hz, for a total of 50 stimuli) and a 10-second pause. Patients received 2000 stimuli per day (50 stimuli in 40 repeated sessions). The placebo was applied with an inactive “sham” coil which resembles active treatment. The intensity of symptoms was assessed with Tender Point Examination (TPE), Visual Analog Scale of Pain (VAS), Brief Pain Inventory (BPI), Beck Depression Inventory II (BDI II), Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI), Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCa), Medical Outcome Studies Sleep Scale (MOS SS), Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy – Fatigue (FACIT-F), 36-item Short Form Survey (SF-36), and Revised Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQIR).

Results: There was no difference between groups in any of the characteristics at baseline. There was a decrease in BDI score after the treatment period, but the change was more prominent in the rTMS group compared to the placebo (p=0.064). rTMS was also superior in a decrease in FIQIR score (p=0.054) (Table 2.) and an increase in vitality through SF-36 (p=0.003). Moreover, placebo treatment led to a significant reduction in sleep disturbances (p=0.035). There were no differences between groups in delta values before and after treatment regarding the rest of investigated characteristics (Table 1, p=0.05).

Conclusion: Preliminary results suggest a reduction in the impact of the disease and depression, as well as an increase in the vitality of participants who have been treated with rTMS. The placebo effect on a reduction of sleep disturbances can be partly explained by the stimulating effect of rTMS. Because this was an interim analysis, the presented results should be taken with caution.
The features of pain in patients in remission is different from other conditions (high disease activity or fibromyalgia), suggesting different underlying biological mechanisms.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Simone Perniola Speakers bureau: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, GALAPAGOS BIOPHARMA, PFIZER, NOVARTIS, Consultant of: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, GALAPAGOS BIOPHARMA, Luca Petricca: None declared, Marco Gessi: None declared, Maria Rita Gigante: None declared, Martina Calabretta: None declared, Dario Bruno: None declared, Annunziata Capacci: None declared, Clara Di Mario: None declared, Barbara Tolusso: None declared, Stefano Alivernini Speakers bureau: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, PFIZER, NOVARTIS, Consultant of: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, PFIZER, NOVARTIS, Consultant ALIA: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, PFIZER, NOVARTIS, Grant/research support from: ABBVIE, PFIZER, NOVARTIS.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4453

Table 1. Changes in patient-reported outcomes after the treatment period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Placebo (6)</th>
<th>rTMS (10)</th>
<th>p value (t test)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BDI II</td>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>10.15</td>
<td>19.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST BDI II</td>
<td>12.33</td>
<td>13.65</td>
<td>15.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST MO</td>
<td>35.83</td>
<td>17.34</td>
<td>50.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOS sleep disturbed</td>
<td>54.17</td>
<td>26.94</td>
<td>52.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF-36 vitality</td>
<td>32.37</td>
<td>15.40</td>
<td>16.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF-36 vitality</td>
<td>32.37</td>
<td>15.40</td>
<td>16.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Δ</td>
<td>-3.27</td>
<td>15.40</td>
<td>16.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Δ</td>
<td>-3.27</td>
<td>15.40</td>
<td>16.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abb. Δ = delta changes after the treatment phase (POST – BASELINE); * - considered as statistically significant; ^ - only one subscale within questionnaire was presented.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1344

CLINICAL AND HISTOLOGICAL FEATURES OF RESIDUAL PAIN IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS REMISSION STATUS

Keywords: Pain, Synovium, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Perniola1,2, L. Petricca3, M. Gessi4, M. R. Gigante3, M. Calabretta1, D. Bruno3, A. Capacci2, C. Di Maric1, B. Tolusso3, S. Alivernini5, E. Gremsse6, 1Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy; 2Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Immunology Research Core Facility – Gemelli Science and Technology Park (GStEp), Rome, Italy; 3Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 4Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 5Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Pathology Institute, Rome, Italy; 6University of Verona, Department of Medicine, Verona, Italy; 7Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Immunology Research Core Facility – Gemelli Science and Technology Park (GStEp), Rome, Italy

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic disease characterized by a high degree of disability and pain. Remission is the optimal goal but, even when it is reached, the pain can persist as ‘residual pain’.

Objectives: The aims of the study were (i) to characterize the size and perception of residual pain and (ii) to evaluate the possible impact of residual synovitis on pain perception in remission RA patients.

Methods: One hundred twenty-seven RA patients (defined by 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria), of which 68 in clinical and ultrasound remission (REM-RA) and 29 in high disease activity (HDA-RA) defined by DAS28-CP-R were enrolled in the study. Thirty fibromyalgia patients (2016 ACR criteria) were enrolled as a control group (FIBRO). Upon enrolled, demographic, clinical and ultrasound features were collected for each patient and an assessment of pain symptom was performed for each patient according to the RAID, FACIT, GHQ and VAS-pain questionnaires. Patients with RA underwent minimally invasive ultrasound-guided biopsy of the synovial membrane of the knee in order to assess the degree of synovitis, according to the Krenn Score (KSS).

Results: Considering the RA group, the synovitis degree is directly correlated with the life quality and disability, as demonstrated by the inverse correlation between FACIT and DAS28-CP-R (R2=0.506, p<0.0001). Furthermore, considering the pain mental aspects, the total GHQ score (R2=0.407; p<0.0001) and BDI II (R2=0.407; p<0.0001) were collected for each patient and an assessment of pain symptom was performed for each patient according to the RAID, FACIT, GHQ and VAS-pain questionnaires. Patients with RA underwent minimally invasive ultrasound-guided biopsy of the synovial membrane of the knee in order to assess the degree of synovitis, according to the Krenn Score (KSS).

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Conclusion: Remission status in RA is associated with a better psycho-physical state than in HDA patients but, despite that, there is the persistence of a certain degree of residual pain, regardless of the subclinical synovitis degree. It emerges

that the features of pain in patients in remission is different from other conditions (high disease activity or fibromyalgia), suggesting different underlying biological mechanisms.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Simone Perniola Speakers bureau: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, GALAPAGOS BIOPHARMA, PFIZER, NOVARTIS, Consultant of: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, GALAPAGOS BIOPHARMA, Luca Petricca: None declared, Marco Gessi: None declared, Maria Rita Gigante: None declared, Martina Calabretta: None declared, Dario Bruno: None declared, Annunziata Capacci: None declared, Clara Di Mario: None declared, Barbara Tolusso: None declared, Stefano Alivernini Speakers bureau: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, PFIZER, NOVARTIS, Consultant of: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, PFIZER, NOVARTIS, Consultant ALIA: ABBVIE, ELI LILLY ITALIA, PFIZER, NOVARTIS, Grant/research support from: ABBVIE, PFIZER, NOVARTIS.

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POS1345

PAIN OVER 5 YEARS IN OUR EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS UCLouvain BRUSSELS COHORT: RESULTS AND CORRELATION WITH CLINICAL RESPONSE, QUALITY OF LIFE

Keywords: Quality of life, Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

C. Deamet1, E. Sarpati1, M. Lauzur2, B. Joly2, T. Cayroy2, T. Sokolowsk1, A. Arramovska1, P. Durez1, 1Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc – Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) – Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique (IREC), Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium; 2Institute of Experimental and Clinical Research (IREC), UCLouvain, Health Sciences Division, Brussels, Belgium

Background: Pain is a major patient reported outcome in early rheumatoid patients (ERA). Pain is associated with disease activity but could be also related to non-inflammatory conditions. Chronic pain has a negative impact on quality of life in ERA patients. The main treatment objective in ERA is remission or low disease control, but relief of pain is a priority of patients.

Objectives: To evaluate the pain course and the proportion of unacceptable pain (VASp>4) during a five-years follow-up in ERA patients and to investigate correlation with clinical response and quality of life.

Methods: 474 ERA patients fulfilling the 2010 EULAR/ACR criteria included in our ERA UCLouvain Brussels cohort were retrospectively analyzed. All were naive to csDMARDs (MTX), b- or tsDMARDs with symptoms duration < 12 months. Pain was assessed using a visual analogue scale (0-100mm) and unacceptable pain was defined as a VAS pain > 40mm (VASp>4) based on the patient acceptable symptom state. VASp, HAQ and DAS28-CP-R scores were assessed at baseline (BL), 6, 12, 36 and 60 months in order to correlate the % of ERA with an unacceptable pain (VASp>4), non clinical response (DAS28-CP-R>3.2) and no restored quality of life (HAQ>0.5).

Results: Data from 474 eligible ERA patients were collected. The average age of the population is 48.5 years, and the BMI is 25.3. 70.5% of the patients are women, 27.1% are smokers and 68.8% are positive for anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA). The evolution of VAS pain over 5 years of follow-up is shown in Figure 1:

Figure 1. At BL, the mean VAS pain at the baseline was at 60.2 +/- 26.5mm (range 0-100mm). VASp pain was reduced by 45% (mean 33.1+/- 28.5 mm) at 6 months and remained stable with 51.7% reduction (mean 29.0 +/-276mm) at 5 years.

78% of patients (n=368) reported an unacceptable pain at diagnosis which was reduced to 40.4% (n=163) at 6 months and 33% at year 5 (Figure 2):
No statistical difference was observed for age, sex ratio, BMI, ACPA, or RF except for smoking (27.3% vs 15.6%) between patients with unacceptable pain or not. A strong correlation was observed between the decrease of VAS pain, DAS28-CRP and HAQ at all-time points. Among the patients with an unacceptable pain at 6 months, HAQ BL score was statistically higher (1.30 +/- 0.69 vs 1.15 +/- 0.67), while the BL DAS28-CRP scores were similar (4.66 +/- 1.41 vs 4.67 +/- 1.24). We identified also 20 patients with unacceptable pain throughout the 5 years follow-up, BL DAS28-CRP and HAQ values were statistically increased (5.4 +/- 1.1 vs 4.7 +/- 1.4 and 1.4 +/- 0.86 vs 1.2 +/- 0.62). By contrast, 31 patients reached a complete response defined by a VAS pain <4 + DAS28-CRP<3.2 + HAQ= 0.5 throughout the 5 years follow up). Baseline VAS pain, DAS28-CRP and the HAQ scores assessed at diagnosis were statistically lower in this group (38.9 +/- 28.4 vs 61.9 +/- 25.7, 4.3 +/- 1.1 vs 4.8 +/- 1.4 and 0.86 +/- 0.60 vs 1.2 +/- 0.71). All patients were treated according the standard of care, mainly with Methotrexate.

Conclusion: We demonstrate that control of pain is achieved in a majority of ERA patient in our cohort. Decrease of pain was correlated with decrease of the disease activity score, meaning that the positive effect is mainly related to inflammation in ERA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3879

Figure 2. Clinical response: VASp, DAS28-CRP and HAQ throughout the follow-up

Methods: In this monocentric five-armed study (ethical approval under Institutional Review Board #065/20), four groups of each 20 patients with RA, PsA, axSpA or SSc, and one control group consisting of 20 healthy individuals were collected and a somatosensory profile using the standardized procedure of QST was created for each one of the 100 participants. QST included both small fiber mediated stimuli and large fiber mediated stimuli, via all categories shown in Figure 1. The vibration detection threshold where the detection of vibration is ranked on a scale from zero to eight, with '8' being normal perception of vibration, serves as an example for large fiber mediated stimuli. Additionally, standard questionnaires incorporating laboratory parameters, joint manifestations and pain condition were used to determine disease activities (BASDAI, PASDAS, CDAI and mRSS).

Results: A preliminary data analysis of all 100 study participants found occurrence of allodynia in 5% of patients with SSc, 15% of RA, 25% of PsA, and 15% of all axSpA patients, compared with 0% in the control group. Considering the vibration detection threshold, there was little difference between all disease groups, also in comparison to the control group: SSc (mean ± SD: 779 ± 0.34), RA (mean ± SD: 76.6 ± 0.4), PsA (mean ± SD: 77.6 ± 0.34) and AxSpA (mean ± SD: 76.9 ± 0.57) and control group (mean ± SD: 79.8 ± 0.16).

Conclusion: The analysis for allodynia occurrence indicates the presence of sensory gain towards small fiber mediated stimuli in all four disease groups studied. Until now, our vibration detection threshold studies do not suggest a loss or gain of sensory function for large fiber mediated stimuli. The full analysis completion is expected in March 2023.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4235

Figure 3: Small fiber mediated stimuli and large fiber mediated stimuli
Background: Pes anserine bursitis is one of the causes of painful knee syndromes. It limits physical activity and impairs the quality of life of a patient. Osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee is common predisposing factors for pes anserine bursitis. It is treated with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), physiotherapy, injections of local anesthetics, and corticosteroids. This study examines the efficacy of local corticosteroid injection, Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection, and extracorporeal shock wave therapy (ESWT) as different modalities to alleviate pain and improve function in patients with pes anserine bursitis.

Objectives: This study examines the efficacy of local corticosteroid injection, Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection, and extracorporeal shock wave therapy (ESWT) as different modalities to alleviate pain and improve function in patients with pes anserine bursitis.

Methods: This randomized comparative clinical trial was performed between July 2021 and June 2022 in the rheumatology and rehabilitation department at Al-Azhar University Hospitals in Egypt on 180 patients diagnosed with chronic pes anserine bursitis according to Larson and Baum criteria. The enrolled patients were divided into three groups, each including sixty patients. Group I received a local corticosteroid injection of 40mg of methylprednisolone acetate/1ml (n = 60); Group II received a PRP injection (n = 60); and in Group III, ESWT (n = 60) was used. The Visual Analog Scale (VAS), Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) symptom subscales occurred in all study arms, but lack of differentiation from placebo (PBO) was thought to be due to inclusion of participants not at risk of KOA progression. A subsequent post-hoc analysis identified a subgroup at risk (SAR) enriched for disease progression [5]. Clinically meaningful change in WOMAC Pain and Function has been defined as ≥10 points (0-100 scale) [6,7], with this degree of worsening pain predictive of structural progression and knee replacement in KOA cohorts [8-10]; this endpoint has not been applied to evaluate symptomatic progression in DMOAD studies to date.

Conclusion: An examination of Pes anserine bursitis is essential and shouldn’t be missed in knee OA patients complaining of pain. Our findings show that local corticosteroid injection is more effective than PRP injection and ESWT for pain relief.

Table 1: Post hoc analysis for multiple comparisons between studied groups as regard 1-week WOMAC score (pain & physical function) after the application of procedures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 week</th>
<th>Corticosteroid vs PRP</th>
<th>Corticosteroid vs ESWT</th>
<th>PRP vs ESWT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC pain score LSD</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD p-value</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001 HS</td>
<td>0.001 S</td>
<td>0.125 NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC physical function score LSD</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD p-value</td>
<td>0.120 NS</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001 HS</td>
<td>0.004 S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S: p-value < 0.05 is considered significant; HS: p-value < 0.001 is considered highly significant.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Osteoarthritis

POS1348 EFFECTS OF SPIRIFERMIN ON A NOVEL OUTCOME OF OSTEARTHRIS SYMPTOM PROGRESSION: POST-HOC ANALYSIS OF THE FORWARD RANDOMIZED TRIAL

Keywords: Outcome measures, Clinical trials, Osteoarthritis

P. G. Conaghan¹, N. Katz¹,2, D. Hunter²,4, A. Guermazi²,3, M. Hochberg², K. Somberg⁵, J. Clive⁶, M. Johnson⁷, N. Goel⁸,⁹, ⁱ⁰, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom; ²Tufts University, Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine, Boston, MA, United States of America; ³Einh Sof Innovation, Boston, MA, United States of America; ⁴Sydney Musculoskeletal Health, Kolling Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia; ⁵Rheumatology Department, Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards, Australia; ⁶Boston University School of Medicine, Radiology, Boston, MA, United States of America; ⁷VA Boston Healthcare System, Radiology, Boston, MA, United States of America; ⁸School of Medicine, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, United States of America; ⁹BrilSpark Inc., Research and Development, New York City, NY, United States of America; ¹⁰Duke University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Durham, NC, United States of America

Background: People with knee osteoarthritis (OA) (KOA) desire therapies which delay disease progression [1] supporting the need for disease-modifying OA drugs (DMOADs). Spirifermin, truncated recombinant human fibroblast growth factor-18, promotes chondrocyte proliferation and extracellular matrix production [2], improves cartilage biomechanical properties [3], and in the Phase 2 FORWARD study [4], dose-dependently increased knee cartilage thickness. In FORWARD, improvement from baseline in the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities OA Index (WOMAC) symptom subscales occurred in all study arms, but lack of differentiation from placebo (PBO) was thought to be due to inclusion of participants not at risk of KOA progression. A subsequent post-hoc analysis identified a subgroup at risk (SAR) enriched for disease progression [5]. Clinically meaningful change in WOMAC Pain and Function has been defined as ≥10 points (0-100 scale) [6,7], with this degree of worsening pain predictive of structural progression and knee replacement in KOA cohorts [8-10]; this endpoint has not been applied to evaluate symptomatic progression in DMOAD studies to date.

Objectives: Evaluate the effect of spirifermin on symptomatic progression of KOA.

Methods: In FORWARD, participants were randomized 1:1:1:1:1 to intra-articular PBO or spirifermin 30 µg or 100 µg every 6 or 12 months (Q6M or Q12M) for 18 months. WOMAC was collected Q3M and MRI performed Q6M. In the current Kaplan-Meier analysis, time to symptomatic progression (i.e., first occurrence of worsening [increase] of WOMAC Pain of ≥10 points with no improvement [≤9 point decrease] in WOMAC Function) was evaluated over 3 years. The individual treatment arms of the intent-to-treat population (ITT) and the SAR (i.e., baseline WOMAC Pain 40-90, mJSW of 1.5-3.5 mm) were analyzed, as well as the spirifermin 100 µg groups combined for additional power. Time to symptomatic progression was also analyzed by changes in cartilage thickness (decrease or no change/increase) for the populations with an evaluable MRI, i.e., the modified (m) ITT and SAR.

Results: The FORWARD ITT and SAR spirifermin individual treatment arms (Table 1) showed dose-dependent benefits in the time to symptomatic progression compared to PBO, with clinically meaningful and statistically significant separation from PBO for the spirifermin 100 µg groups combined (logrank p-value ITT=0.0282, SAR=0.0099) (Figure 1); separation from PBO was more pronounced in Egypt compared to the ITT. The spirifermin 100 µg groups combined also demonstrated less symptomatic progression than PBO regardless of an increase or no change/decrease in cartilage thickness in the mSAR and mITT.

Table 1: FORWARD Study Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (n)</th>
<th>Placebo</th>
<th>Spirifermin</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITT</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified ITT</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified SAR</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

x 2=0.123; x 4 = Q6M; ITT=intent-to-treat; SAR=subgroup at risk.

Conclusion: These post hoc results support the hypothesis that spirifermin may prevent symptomatic progression of KOA, with benefits seen in both ITT and SAR populations for the spirifermin 100 µg groups combined. As differences between the spirifermin- and PBO-treated groups were detectable in a 3-year time frame, time to symptomatic progression of KOA could be a meaningful endpoint for an
investigational DMOAD trial. Symptomatic and structural benefits of sprifermin need to be confirmed in the planned Phase 2b SPRING study.

REFERENCES:
[7] Conaghan et al. Rheumatol 2022;60:815

Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgements to declare.

Disclosure of Interests: Philip O’Conaghan Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Novartis, Consultant of: Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Biospine, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Genascence, GSK, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Stryker, and UCBX.

A biomarker approach to data-driven identification of endotypes in knee OA patients

Keywords: Biomarkers, Osteoarthritis

Z. Lisowska-Petersen1,2, M. Toft Hannani2, M. Karsdal2, C. Bagø Jensen2, A. C. Bay-Jensen3, C. Thudium4, 1Danish Technical University (DTU), Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark; 2Nordic Bioscience, Immunoscience, Herlev, Denmark; 3Nordic Bioscience, Data Science, Herlev, Denmark

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is a heterogeneous and multifactorial disease. Despite its high prevalence, the underlying mechanisms of disease are not fully understood, and treatment options are limited. One of the challenges in understanding OA is the lack of clear subgroups or “endotypes” within the disease, which could help to identify specific causes and point to more targeted treatments. Recent research has suggested that molecular biomarkers may be able to help identify different endotypes of OA. For example, certain biomarkers may be elevated in OA patients with inflammation, while others may be elevated in patients with more severe cartilage degeneration.

Objectives: The objective of the study was to identify endotypes of OA using soluble biomarkers reflecting tissue turnover by applying unsupervised machine learning approaches.

Methods: Biomarkers of cartilage remodeling (CTX-II, C2M, T2CM, PRO-C2), bone remodeling (N-MID, UCTX-I, SCTX-I), and tissue inflammation (CRPM, VICM, C1M, C3M) were measured at baseline in the phase III clinical trials SMC01 (n=1176) and SMC02 studies (n=1030), testing efficacy and safety of SMC01 (n=1176) and SMC02 studies (n=1030), testing efficacy and safety of SMC02 (n=1030), testing efficacy and safety of SMC01 (n=1176)

The results of uni and multivariate analysis of associated factors with SB are presented in Table 1. In summary, the findings of this study suggest that distinct biomarker-based endotypes exist in OA and highlight that multiple mechanistic avenues may lead to joint deterioration. By identifying these endotypes, we may enable the development of more targeted treatments that are tailored towards the underlying cause of OA in individual subgroups of patients.

Figure 1.

REFERENCES: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.24545

A biomarker approach to data-driven identification of endotypes in knee OA patients

Keywords: Biomarkers, Osteoarthritis

Z. Lisowska-Petersen1,2, M. Toft Hannani2, M. Karsdal2, C. Bagø Jensen2, A. C. Bay-Jensen3, C. Thudium4, 1Danish Technical University (DTU), Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark; 2Nordic Bioscience, Immunoscience, Herlev, Denmark; 3Nordic Bioscience, Data Science, Herlev, Denmark

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The results of uni and multivariate analysis of associated factors with SB are presented in Table 1. In summary, the findings of this study suggest that distinct biomarker-based endotypes exist in OA and highlight that multiple mechanistic avenues may lead to joint deterioration. By identifying these endotypes, we may enable the development of more targeted treatments that are tailored towards the underlying cause of OA in individual subgroups of patients.

Figure 1.

REFERENCES: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.24545
**Table 1**: Multiple regression with the duration of sedentary behavior as the dependent variable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Univariate analysis</th>
<th>Multivariate analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR (95%) P value</td>
<td>OR (95%) P value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.992 [0.354, 3.630] 0.017</td>
<td>1.445 [0.176, 3.066] 0.052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m2)</td>
<td>-0.024 [-0.098, 0.049] 0.517</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational level</td>
<td>-27.544 [-45.411, -9.600] 0.003</td>
<td>-27.544 [-45.411, -9.676] 0.048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status</td>
<td>-13.745 [-26.263, -1.227] 0.032</td>
<td>-13.108 [-25.417, -0.799] 0.037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (in Years)</td>
<td>1.391 [3.971, 1.397] 0.326</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS Pain level</td>
<td>1.327 [-5.971, 6.826] 0.720</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEQUESNE Scale</td>
<td>-1.343 [-3.051, 1.384] 0.599</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelgren and lawrence grading scale</td>
<td>-11.661 [-38.703, 15.381] 0.396</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety scale (GAD-7)</td>
<td>-2.221 [-4.891, 0.449] 0.102</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression scale (PHQ-9)</td>
<td>-1.181 [-1.965, -0.396] 0.002</td>
<td>-0.880 [-1.576, -0.205] 0.011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In the literature few studies discuss factors associated with sedentary behavior in patients with knee osteoarthritis. Our study shows that level of pain and disability are not associated with SB, on the contrary, educational level, socioeconomic status and depressive disorder are the principal factors associated with SB. Our study highlights the importance of therapeutic education and assessment of mental health to improve the management of patients with knee osteoarthritis.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**A PHASE 2, 104-WEEK STUDY OF REPEAT LORECIVIVINT INJECTIONS VISUALIZING SAFETY, EFFICACY, AND BONE HEALTH UTILIZING QUANTITATIVE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (QCT) IN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS (OA-06)**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Imaging, Clinical trials

Y. Yazici1, C. Swearingen2, H. Ghandehari2, J. Britt3, S. Kennedy2, J. Tambiah4, N. Lane1, 1NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; 2Biosplice Therapeutics, Biostatistics, San Diego, United States of America; 3Biosplice Therapeutics, Clinical development and external innovation, San Diego, United States of America; 4University of California Davis, Medicine and Rheumatology, Davis, United States of America

**Background:** Knee osteoarthritis (OA) is a common joint disorder associated with pain, disability, and damage. There is unmet need for safe and efficacious treatments for symptoms and structural modification. Lorcicrivivint (LOR), an intra-articular (IA) CLK/DYRK inhibitor thought to modulate Wnt and inflammatory pathways, is in development as a potential knee OA treatment.

**Objectives:** To assess the safety and tolerability of repeated 6-month dosing of LOR in a 104-week trial (OA-06, NCT03727022). Additionally, to characterize joint-articular bone health with quantitative computed tomography (QCT) and regional bone health via dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA).

**Methods:** Participants with ACR-defined clinical and radiographic knee OA, aged 40-80, and Kelgren-Lawrence (KL) grades 2-3 were randomized 1:1 to receive IA injections of 2 mL 0.07 mg LOR or vehicle PBO at baseline, 24, 52, 72 weeks. The trial was conducted in two 52-week phases, part A (baseline to week 52) and part B (week 53 to week 104), with part A completers invited into part B. Safety was assessed by collection of adverse events (AEs), and serious AEs (SAEs). Bone safety assessments included QCT to assess target and non-target knee BMD, DXA to assess spine and hip BMD and bone/ cartilage biomarkers. Exploratory efficacy was assessed by patient-reported outcomes (PROs). For bone imaging endpoints, change from baseline was estimated using baseline-adjusted ANCOVA.

**Results:** 101 participants (mean age 60.9±9.1 years, BMI 28.6±3.7 kg/m2, female 59.4%, KL2 52.5%) were enrolled. 77 participants completed part A and 53 completed part B. AE rates were similar between PBO and LOR, and no SAEs were deemed treatment related. There were no clinical bone health signals (no fractures, accelerated OA, osteoporosis) observed for LOR. Observed target knee QCT BMDs were similar between LOR and PBO (Figure 1). Change from baseline in BMD at Week 104 was -7.08 (12.34) mg/cm3 in LOR and -2.95 (8.65) mg/cm2 in PBO, estimated difference -4.05 [95% CI -11.21, 3.11], not significant. Trends in target knee BMDs for those with higher risk of decreasing BMD, (female and age 65-80), showed a mated difference -4.05 [95% CI -11.21, 3.11], not significant).

**Conclusion:** The incidence of AEs was similar between treatment groups and not affected by repeated injections of LOR. Multiple injections of LOR over 2 years did not appear to lead to any bone health adverse effects locally around the knee or regionally at spine or hip.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.


**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.961

**POS1351**

**A PHASE 2, 104-WEEK STUDY OF REPEAT LORECIVIVINT INJECTIONS VISUALIZING SAFETY, EFFICACY, AND BONE HEALTH UTILIZING QUANTITATIVE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (QCT) IN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS (OA-06)**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Imaging, Clinical trials

**POS1352**

**COMPARISON OF VALIDATED QUESTIONNAIRES WITH CLINICAL ITEMS FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF CHANGE IN PAIN**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Pain

**References:**

C. Van der Meulen1, L. Van de Stadt2, F. Rosendaal3, M. Kloppenburg1, 1Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Reade, Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden, Netherlands

**Background:** Hand pain is a common symptom in hand osteoarthritis (OA). Questionnaires are used to measure and to monitor this pain over time. However, it is unknown whether these measurements reliably reflect patients’ experience.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to compare pain development scored by a validated questionnaire with pain development scored by a direct question to the patient.

**Methods:** Data from the first four years of the ongoing HOSTAS (Hand OSTeo-Arthritis in Secondary care) cohort were used. HOSTAS consists of patients with primary hand OA diagnosed by a rheumatologist. Pain was measured with the Australian/Canadian hand Osteoarthritis index (AUSCAN) pain subscale (range 0-20) at baseline and annually afterwards. Partway through the study, an annual anchor question was added asking participants whether pain had worsened, improved, remained stable or if they had never had pain, compared with the year before. Patients were included in the current analysis when change in AUSCAN pain and the anchor question were available for at least one year. Change in pain measured with AUSCAN was categorized according to the minimal clinical important difference (MDIC) of 1.49 between the yearly visits. Changes between annual visits on AUSCAN and the anchor questions were described and Cohen’s kappa was calculated for each category (increase, stable and decrease). Annual results were comparable between years, and so the years were pooled.

**Results:** In 307 patients, the mean age was 61.0 (SD 8.2), with 82% women and a mean BMI of 27.3 (SD 4.8). The baseline AUSCAN pain was 9.1 (SD 4.2). Over 4 years, 708 annual intervals with both change in AUSCAN and anchor questions were available. Of the 309 patients, 95 provided one interval, 74 provided two intervals, 87 provided three and 51 provided four. Results are described in Table 1. Figure 1 shows the mean changes in AUSCAN pain (of which 151

**Figure 1. Total Target Knee BMD over 104 weeks**

**References:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1458
intervals patients (74%) indicated their pain had worsened on anchor questions), in 293 intervals 199 patients reported a stable level of pain (of which in 96 intervals (33%) indicated their pain had not changed) and in 212 intervals 176 patients reported a decrease in pain (of which 39% (19%) indicated their pain had improved) (Table 1). The most frequent answer was a worsening of pain, regardless of AUSCAN change. In total, in 286 out of 704 (40%) of the intervals, the anchor question was in accordance with the AUSCAN pain, with a Cohen’s kappa of 0.12.

**Conclusion:** There are large differences between changes in AUSCAN pain and experienced changes in pain when reported by the patient. The patient experiences worsened pain more often than is reflected in the AUSCAN pain. Although recall bias may play a role in the answers to the anchor questions, they are close to the real-world clinical practice, in which patients are often asked how the symptoms compare to last visit. This indicates a difference between change in pain perceived in the clinical setting and in research setting, which should be addressed in order to improve research on pain development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anchor question</th>
<th>Worsening</th>
<th>Stable</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worse – more pain</td>
<td>151 (74)</td>
<td>173 (59)</td>
<td>98 (46)</td>
<td>422 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No change</td>
<td>41 (20)</td>
<td>96 (36)</td>
<td>74 (25)</td>
<td>211 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better – less pain</td>
<td>11 (5)</td>
<td>20 (7)</td>
<td>39 (14)</td>
<td>70 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never had this symptom</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>5 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>203 (100)</td>
<td>293 (100)</td>
<td>212 (100)</td>
<td>708 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Coen van der Meulen Grant/research support from: The HOSTAS study is supported by a grant from the Dutch Arthritis Society, paid to the institution. Lotte van de Stadt: None declared, Frits Rosendaal: None declared, Margreet Kloppenburg Grant/research support from: The HOSTAS study is supported by a grant from the Dutch Arthritis Society, paid to the institution.

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**POS1353**

**SEMIQUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS-RELATED SYNOVITIS COMPARED TO CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIDES: RELATION TO AGE AND IMPACT ON BONE/STRUCTURAL DAMAGE**

**Keywords:** Descriptive studies, Synovium, Osteoarthritis

P. Rubortone1, F. Leone1, L. Petricca2, S. Perniola3, D. Bruno3, M. R. Gigante4, C. Di Mario1, B. Tolusso5, G. Peluso2, E. Gremese1,3, M. A. D’agostino1,2, S. Alivernini1,2,5, M. M. Lizzio2.

**Background:** Knee Osteoarthritis (KOa) is one of the most frequent causes of pain and disability, representing a relevant clinical burden. Although it was largely considered a mostly mechanical-based pathology, low-grade synovial inflammation was found to contribute to radiographic progression and pain chronification [1].

**Objectives:** To evaluate the histological characteristics of synovial membrane in KOA patients compared to chronic inflammatory diseases as Rheumatoid (RA) and Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) across disease phases.

**Methods:** 170 patients with KOA, 240 patients with RA, 92 patients with PsA naïve to pharmacological treatments and 200 patients with RA in sustained clinical and ultrasound remission (RA-r) underwent ultrasound-guided synovial biopsy of the knee and conventional X-rays. None of enrolled KOA patient had evidence of inflammatory condition (including chronic inflammatory diseases and crystal related arthritis). Synovial membrane samples were processed for histology (hematoxilin-eosin staining) for the semiquantitative assessment of synovitis degree (Krenn synovitis score [2] – KSS). Moreover, this analysis was implemented with the semiquantitative assessment of presence/absence of synovial lymphocytes, plasmocytes, myxoid degeneration and inflammatory perivascular aggregates. X-rays were scored for Kellgren-Lawrence score [3] (KLs) assessment.

**Results:** RA and PsA patients naïve to pharmacological treatment showed higher degree of synovial inflammation than patients with KOA as well as more likely presence of lymphocytes and plasmocytars aggregates. Considering the whole KOA population, total KLs directly correlated with age (R=0.041; p=0.008), thickness of synovial membrane (R=0.115; p<0.001) and Power Doppler score (R=0.142; p<0.001) at ultrasound evaluation, VAS pain (R=0.025; p=0.039) and KLs (R=0.54; p<0.0001). Stratifying KOA patients based on age categories, KOA patients aged ≥70 years had higher KSS (mean ±SEM, 2.46 ±0.179) and KLs (2.14 ±0.17) than younger KOA patients (KSS 1.98 ±0.113, p=0.0182 and KLs 1.25 ±0.101, p<0.001).

To distinguish residual inflammation from osteoarthritis-related synovitis, we compared KOA-derived synovial tissues with the ones of RA-r patients, showing that the degree of KOA-related synovitis is significantly higher (mean ±SEM, 2.10 ±0.09) than the subclinical residual synovitis detected in RA-r patients (1.77 ±0.08, p=0.0103).

**Conclusion:** KOA-related synovitis impacts on bone structural damage and is related to age, supporting the role of inflammation in KOA pathogenesis.

**REFERENCES:**


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4672

**POS1354**

**REGRESSION TO THE MEAN FOR PAIN OUTCOMES IN CLINICAL TRIALS FOR KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Osteoarthritis, Pain

M. Englund1, A. Turkiewicz1, Lund University, Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund, Sweden

**Background:** Improvements in pain in clinical trials for osteoarthritis (OA) are largely contextual.(1) Given known fluctuations of osteoarthritis pain, a substantial proportion of contextual response could be explained by the regression-to-the-mean (RTM) phenomenon.

**Objectives:** To estimate the size of RTM for a typical OA trial with pain as outcome.

**Methods:** We included participants of Osteoarthritis Initiative who fulfilled inclusion criteria typically required for enrolment in a clinical trial. These included: age 40-79 years, symptomatic knee OA, Kellgren-Lawrence grade 2-3, use of pain medication more than half the days of a month in past 12 months, numerical rating scale (NRS) pain of 4 to 9 in the target knee. We studied observed changes in the mean levels of pain with respect to conditioning on current knee pain.

**Results:** We identified 459 subjects who fulfilled inclusion criteria on at least one annual follow-up between year 1 and year 8. In these subjects, the mean NRS pain level at each follow-up time point was similar, ~4.6, but at the time of fulfilling the inclusion criteria, the mean level of pain in the same subjects was 6.2 (Figure 1). The difference in NRS pain between the theoretical point of inclusion in a trial and one year after was -0.8 (95% confidence interval -0.8, -0.9).

**Figure 1.** Mean levels of pain among 459 persons fulfilling criteria for inclusion in a hypothetical knee osteoarthritis trial. Time 0 means the moment when fulfilling the criteria. Each line represents a cohort of subjects fulfilling criteria at one follow-up occasion (between year 1 and year 8 post baseline). Each person can be included multiple times.
Conclusion: RTM in a typical osteoarthrits trial is likely to explain as much as about 0.8 NRS point improvement on a 0 to 10-point scale. RTM is a powerful phenomenon that may mislead interpretation of effectiveness as it neither represents improvement from the intervention nor placebo response.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Martin Englund Consultant of: Cellcolabs AB (Sweden) and Key2Compliance AB (Sweden), Aleksandra Turkiewicz: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5983

COMBINED ASSESSMENT OF CARTILAGE AND SUBCHONDRAL BONE IN OSTEOARTHRITIC AND NON-OSTEARTHRITIC KNEE JOINTS: A ULTRA-HIGH FIELD MRI STUDY

Keywords: Imaging

A. Bourard1, M. A. Hostin2,3, E. Soldar4,5, F. Suzan6,7, J. P. Mallet2,1, W. Theo3, M. Guye5, C. Chagnaud2,1, D. Bendahman4, S. Guis6,8,9, APHM, Rheumatology Department, Marseille, France; 1,2Aix-Marseille University, CNRS, CRMBM, UMR 7339, Marseille, France; 3Aix-Marseille University, Université de Toulon, CRNS, LIS, Marseille, France; 4Aix-Marseille University, CNRS, IUSTI (UMR 7343), Marseille, France; 5Aix-Marseille University, ISM, Marseille, France; 6Aix-Marseille University, APHM, Hospital de la Timone, Referral Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases and ALS, Marseille, France; 7Aix-Marseille University, APHM, Radiology Department, Marseille, France; 8INSERM 1097 UMR, Arthrites auto-immunes, Marseille, France; 9Aix-Marseille University, Medical School, Marseille, France

Background: Knee osteoarthritis (OA) is one of the most common degenerative diseases causing disability in elderly people. Although X-ray radiography is widely used as a diagnostic tool, several limitations have been identified [1]. MRI is a non-invasive imaging method widely used in order to assess articular and periarticular structures of the knee joint [2]. However, the image resolution provided by conventional MRI is not high enough to assess subchondral bone so that ultra-high field MRI (7 Tesla) has been proposed as an alternative of interest to compute bone microarchitectural parameters [3].

Objectives: We used ultra-high field MRI (UHF 7 Tesla MRI) to assess cartilage and subchondral bone microarchitecture in patients with mild and severe OA. For each patient, compartments classified as osteoarthritic were compared with non-ostearthritic compartments.

Methods: Twenty-four patients were divided into 3 groups according to the Kellgren Lawrence staging and 12 volunteers were recruited as controls. UHF MRI was used to calculate cartilage thickness (Tc), volume (Vc), and T2*. MRI sequences used were T1 3D gradient recalled echo sequence (T1 3D GRE) and sagittal T2* mapping. Bone microarchitecture was assessed on the basis of trabecular thickness (TbTh), trabecular number (TbN), trabecular space (TbSp), and bone volume fraction (BVf).

Results: For the medial tibial plateau, while Tc was unchanged between the two OA groups, Vc was decreased in patients with severe OA (Δ = -49%, p < 0.05). For the patella, Vc was decreased in patients with mild OA (Δ = -36%, p<0.05), while Tc was unchanged. Similar results were found for the lateral femoral condyle. The study of T2* cartilage relaxation (T2* mapping) revealed no statistically significant changes in all knee joint compartments. Computed TbSp in the lateral tibial plateau and patella was significantly higher in the mild OA group (Δtib lateral plateau = +25%; Δpatella = +31.5, p<0.05), whereas most subchondral bone parameters were unchanged. Medial femoral condyle cartilage volume was significantly correlated with patellar cartilage thickness r = 0.46 (p = 0.01). Medial tibial plateau cartilage thickness and patellar cartilage thickness were linearly related r = 0.587 (p = 0.05). Medial tibial plateau cartilage volume was significantly correlated with patella TbTh, r = 0.41 (p = 0.02)

Conclusion: Cartilage volume seems to be more sensitive than thickness for the assessment of cartilage changes in OA. TbSp would be a sensitive marker for the assessment of cartilage changes in OA. TbSp would be a sensitive marker for the assessment of cartilage changes in OA. TbSp would be a sensitive marker for the assessment of cartilage changes in OA.

REFERENCES:

ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF COMBINATION OF ORAL ACETAMINOPHEN AND TOPICAL DICYFENAC IN OSTEOARTHRITIS PAIN: INSIGHTS FROM A MODEL-BASED META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Pain

V. Soold; L. Qin3, E. Cox1, I. Tocroniz3, O. Della Pasqua; L. Healeon (formerly GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare), Medical Affairs, Singapore, Singapore; 2Certara, Modeling & Simulation, Princeton, United States of America; 3University of Navarra, School of Pharmacy and Nutrition, Pamplona, Spain; 4GlaxoSmithKline, Clinical Pharmacology Modelling and Simulation, Brentford, United Kingdom; 5University College London, Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics Group, London, United Kingdom

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is a major cause of chronic pain and disability in older adults and currently affects approximately 300 million people worldwide [1]. In the absence of curative therapy, symptomatic drugs comprise the backbone of pain management in OA. However, acetaminophen provides inadequate relief and oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) exhibit significant gastrointestinal and cardiovascular toxicity which prohibit their long-term use in the elderly [2,3]. Although opioids can be an effective alternative in patients experiencing insufficient pain relief with other analgesics, concerns have been raised about the risk of side effects, addiction, and overdose deaths [4]. Therefore, there is a significant unmet need for effective and well-tolerated treatments. Acetaminophen and topical diclofenac are the most common complementary mechanisms of action targeting pain and inflammation, respectively, and are therefore attractive candidates for use in combination analgesia in OA pain [5,6,7]. Although ample clinical evidence exists on the monotherapy of acetaminophen or topical diclofenac in OA, there is a data gap for evidence on their combination.

Objectives: The present study aims to assess the effect of the combination of acetaminophen and topical diclofenac in OA and compare its performance to acetaminophen and diclofenac monotherapy using a model-based meta-analysis (MBMA) leveraging published summary-level data on the combination from OA as well as other acute pain indications [8].

Methods: Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) investigating the combination of acetaminophen and diclofenac in OA and acute pain settings were identified through systematic literature searches. MBMA was implemented to infer the efficacy of the combination in the population of interest. Pain score reduction on numerical rating scale (NRS), visual analogue scale (VAS) and Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) pain subscale along with opioid sparing effect (defined as reduced opioid dose without loss of analgesic efficacy) were selected as the clinical endpoints.

RESULTS: In the absence of RCTs on the combination in OA, MBMA was implemented in conjunction with extrapolation principles on trials in acute pain setting (11 RCTs, n=1396 patients). The combination demonstrated greater reduction in pain scores versus acetaminophen monotherapy in 8 of the 11 RCTs. Moreover, a parsimonious MBMA was developed on 5 RCTs allowing PCA, which revealed a statistically significant 32% lesser opioid use with the combination than with acetaminophen monotherapy (Figure 1). However, the combination effect was less conclusive versus diclofenac monotherapy.

Conclusion: The current analysis demonstrates greater pain reduction and opioid sparing efficacy for the combination versus acetaminophen monotherapy in the treatment of acute pain. Considering the overlap in pain transmission pathways between acute and chronic OA pain, the combination may be anticipated to exhibit similar performance on extrapolation to chronic OA pain. Overall, our research tries to bridge the gap in pharmacological and clinical evidence supporting the use of combination of acetaminophen and topical diclofenac in mild-to-moderate OA pain.

REFERENCES:
Knee OA Both 98081.84
All OA Both 99196.59

All OA: 99196.59
Male 32655.59
Female 65426.25
Knee OA Both 96081.84
Male 32655.59
Female 65426.25
Hip OA Both 1114.76
Male 541.32
Female 573.44

All OA: 99196.59
Male: 32655.59
Female: 65426.25
Knee OA Both: 96081.84
Male: 32655.59
Female: 65426.25
Hip OA Both: 1114.76
Male: 541.32
Female: 573.44

Table 1. DALYs for all age and ASR due to a high BMI for OA in 1990 and 2019 and the percentage change as well as EAPC from 1990 to 2019 for China.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site of OA</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>1990 (95% UI)</th>
<th>2019 (95% UI)</th>
<th>Percentage change</th>
<th>EAPC (95% CI)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All OA</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>99196.59</td>
<td>557902.37</td>
<td>25.99</td>
<td>462.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(16850.73, 28035.194)</td>
<td>(165070.11, 1343750.30)</td>
<td>(767.62, 55.5)</td>
<td>(118.00, 149.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td>33196.90</td>
<td>193070.45</td>
<td>18.18</td>
<td>481.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(4882.35, 105084.82)</td>
<td>(51904.58, 471633.14)</td>
<td>(4.89, 4.43)</td>
<td>(0.28-0.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td>65999.69</td>
<td>364831.92</td>
<td>33.52</td>
<td>452.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(10513.94, 189125.01)</td>
<td>(94116.42, 879733.35)</td>
<td>(8.69, 8.82)</td>
<td>(0.32-0.48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee OA</td>
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<td>549663.53</td>
<td>25.61</td>
<td>460.72</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>(16592.36, 275584.20)</td>
<td>(162522.40, 1325608.31)</td>
<td>(754.61, 66.15)</td>
<td>(132.81, 149.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>32655.59</td>
<td>189048.55</td>
<td>17.79</td>
<td>478.92</td>
</tr>
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<td>(4805.87, 103252.26)</td>
<td>(50146.92, 463413.06)</td>
<td>(4.73, 4.37)</td>
<td>(151.81)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>65426.25</td>
<td>369914.98</td>
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<td>451.64</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(10373.35, 187913.73)</td>
<td>(9313.14, 869492.52)</td>
<td>(8.55, 7.85)</td>
<td>(128.42)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hip OA</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>1114.76</td>
<td>7938.84</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>612.16</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(1739.11, 3521.08)</td>
<td>(2172.03, 21603.45)</td>
<td>(0.11, 1.03)</td>
<td>(205.59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td>541.32</td>
<td>4021.90</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>642.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(78.08, 1832.14)</td>
<td>(966.68, 10699.58)</td>
<td>(0.10, 1.04)</td>
<td>(224.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td>573.44</td>
<td>3916.94</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>583.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(92.00, 1727.13)</td>
<td>(1045.57, 10410.57)</td>
<td>(0.10, 0.98)</td>
<td>(187.39)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

95% UI, 95% uncertainty interval; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.
Figure 1. Prediction of number (A) and ASR (B) of incidence, number (C) and ASR (D) of prevalence, number (E) and ASR (F) of DALYs in OA by sex in China from 1990 to 2044. The solid lines indicate the observed values (1990 to 2019), and the dashed lines are the predicted values (2020 to 2044).

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.570

POS1359 SURGICAL DENERVATION TO TREAT PAIN IN HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: Systematic review, Osteoarthritis, Pain

C. Van der Meulen1, L. Van de Stadt2, A. Claassen3, F. Kroon4, M. Ritt5, F. Rosendaal6, S. Terpstra1, A. Vochteloo7, M. Kloppenburg1.

Background: Surgical denervation has been proposed as a treatment for pain in hand osteoarthritis (OA).

Objectives: We performed a systematic literature review to summarize the available evidence and propose a research agenda.

Methods: A systematic literature search was performed up to September 2022. Two investigators identified studies that reported on denervation for OA of the proximal interphalangeal joint (PIPJ), distal interphalangeal joint (DIPJ), metacarpophalangeal joint (MCPJ), or first carpalometacarpal joint (CMCJ). Reviews, comments, letters or editorials, studies in languages other than English and studies investigating other interventions, joints or conditions were excluded. Quality of studies was assessed with the Joanna Briggs Institute checklist for case series investigating other interventions, joints or conditions were excluded. Qual-

Results: The search yielded 213 articles from the PubMed, OVID and Cochrane databases. From these, 17 articles (reporting on 384 denervation surgeries in 351 patients) were selected. Twelve studies described CMCJ denervation, three described PIPJ denervation, and the others described DIPJ (n=1), MCPJ (n=1) or a mixture of MCPJ, PIPJ and DIPJ denervation (n=2). The surgical techniques varied greatly, both in incisions and in the nerves severed, even between studies investigating denervation of the same joint. The innervation of the joints in the hand is still subject to debate. Most of the studies were case series (n=16), and one was a non-randomized clinical trial. Sample size ranged from 3 to 60 participants. All studies had significant risk of bias. The studies consisted of patient groups with average age ranging from 55 to 65 and 60-75% female participants. The sixteen case series reported positive outcomes with respect to pain, function and patient satisfaction. Average pain decrease ranged from 3 to 8.1 on a 10-point numeric rating scale (NRS) (n=8 studies), with a 56-92% patient satisfaction rate (n=5) and mean increase in range of motion of 3.5-27 degrees (n=3). The non-randomized clinical trial reported no differences in outcome when comparing denervation to trapeziectomy. Adverse event rates ranged from 0-75% of denervation procedures. Sensory abnormalities occurred most, followed by the need for revision surgery and infections of the area of the surgery.

Conclusion: Surgical denervation for pain in hand OA shows promise, but the available evidence does not allow conclusions, as for example regression to the mean can strongly influence the observations in case series. More and higher quality evidence is needed before it can be recommended as part of standard care. On the research agenda are 1) the innervation of the joints, 2) the best surgical technique to sever all relevant nerves, and 3) perform high-quality randomized clinical trials to investigate the efficacy of surgical denervation in comparison to sham, 4) to investigate other interventions targeted at the innervating nerves, and finally 5) the safety of the different surgical denervation techniques.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.725

POS1360 PATIENTS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HUMIDITY LEVEL AND PAIN EXPERIENCE IN HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Pain, Osteoarthritis

M. Pezo1, R. Lacoste Badie2, S. Tufflet3, A. Rousseau4, P. Richette4, B. Faure5, F. Berenbaum6, A. Courties7, J. Sellam1, 1Sorbonne Université, INSERM, Rhumatologie, AP-Hôpital Saint-Antoine, Paris, France; 2Sorbonne Université, Service de Pharmacologie Clinique et Plateforme de Recherche Clinique de l’Est Parisien (URCEST, CRB, CRF, URC), Hôpital Saint-Antoine, Paris, France; 3Université Paris Cité, Rhumatologie, Hôpital Lariboisière, Paris, France; 4Sorbonne Université, Rhumatologie, Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France

Background: While many patients with joint disease report pain changes according to meteorological factors (1), this common belief has not been clearly demonstrated and never been documented in hand osteoarthritis (HOA).

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the cross-sectional association between meteorological factors that are ambient temperature and humidity on HOA symptoms.

Methods: We used the baseline data from the prospective DIGICOD HOA cohort including patients with established symptomatic HOA. The clinical outcomes included aUASCAN-pain, AUSCAN-stiffness and AUSCAN-function sub scores, VAS-scale for pain during activity, number of spontaneous tender joints and tender joints at palpation. Meteorological data (from Météo France), ambient temperature and humidity, are defined as the mean value observed during the 3 days before inclusion (day of inclusion, D-1 and D-2). Considering non-normal distribution, each outcome was binarized by the median value, in order to define high and low symptoms intensity. Association between outcome and meteorological data were studied using two logistic regression models (separate models for temperature and humidity), adjusted for age, sex, group of Kellgren-Lawrence score of all hand joints and Hospital Anxiety Depression scale. Assumption of linearity between temperature or humidity and the logit of the outcomes being not verified, those two parameters were introduced in the models as categorical variables according to quartiles. Results are presented as odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs). The reference groups were respectively lower humidity and lower temperature quartile.

Results: We have studied 377 patients in whom all variables of interest were available (mean age a standard deviation (SD) 66.5 ± 7.4 years, 85% women). Median AUSCAN-pain subscore was 20/100 (IQR [8; 36]), median AUSCAN-stiffness subscore was 22/100 (IQR [7; 53]), median AUSCAN-function subscore was 32/100 (IQR [13; 55]), median VAS-pain during activity was 42/100 (IQR [22; 66]), median number of spontaneous tender joints was 0/30 (IQR [0; 2], median the surgical technique and outcomes of the surgery were extracted. Due to the nature of the data, no meta-analysis was performed. Data from the studies were pooled and minimal and maximal scores were estimated.
number of tender joints at palpation was 3/30 (IQR [2; 6]). Results of models for humidity are presented in Table 1. There was an association between humidity percentage and AUSCAN pain ≥ 20 for third quartile vs. first quartile (OR [79-83%] vs. [43-68%] = 1.99 (1.08 to 3.58), p = 0.03) and between humidity and VAS pain during activity ≥ 42 for second quartile vs. first quartile (OR 68-79%) vs. [43-68%] = 1.97 (1.06 to 3.63) p = 0.03). Considering patients with at least 1 spontaneous hand joint pain, an association was found for all 3 higher quartiles of humidity ([68-79%]; [79-85%] and [85-96%]) compared to the lower one ([43-68%]), but without dose-effect. There was no effect of humidity on AUSCAN stiffness or function, or number of tender joints at palpation. Temperature was not associated with any clinical outcomes (pain, function or stiffness).

Conclusion: This is the first study about impact of meteorological factors in HOA. While we did not find any association between temperature and symptoms, we found an association between humidity and pain. Although we cannot conclude on any causality between humidity and pain, our results support patient’s belief about influence of humidity on joint pain.


Table 1: Association between humidity and HOA symptoms: logistic regression models with systematic adjustment on sex, age, sum of Kellgren-Lawrence score for all hand joint and HAD score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OR (IC 95%)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUSCAN-pain subscore ≥ 20</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humidity (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. [43-68%]</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. [68-79%]</td>
<td>1.76 (0.96;3.25) 0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. [79-85%]</td>
<td>1.99 (1.08;3.68) 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. [85-96%]</td>
<td>1.52 (0.83;2.79) 0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 1 spontaneous hand joint</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humidity (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. [43-68%]</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. [68-79%]</td>
<td>1.74 (0.94;3.21) 0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. [79-85%]</td>
<td>2.67 (1.44;4.94) 0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. [85-96%]</td>
<td>1.95 (0.96;3.61) 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS-scale for pain during activity ≥ 42</td>
<td>0.1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humidity (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. [43-68%]</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. [68-79%]</td>
<td>1.97 (1.06;3.63) 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. [79-85%]</td>
<td>1.58 (0.86;2.91) 0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. [85-96%]</td>
<td>1.56 (0.85;2.86) 0.15</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1229

POS1361 THE INFLUENCE OF BASELINE DEMOGRAPHICS ON VARIABILITY OF OA PAIN ASSESSED BY WOMAC PAIN CHANGE FROM BASELINE IN INTERVENTIONAL TRIALS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Osteoarthritis, Randomized control trial

A. R. Bihlet1, P. Alexandersen1, J. R. Andersen3, Y. Li3, M. Karsdal3, C. Miller3

1Nordic Bioscience, Clinical Development, Søborg, Denmark; 2Sanos, USA; 3Nordic Bioscience, Clinical Development, Søborg, Denmark; 4Nordic Bioscience, Clinical Development, Søborg, Denmark

Background: Development of new products for OA treatment is difficult, partly due to excessive placebo response and high variability in patient-reported pain outcomes, and exclusion of trial subjects with potentially confounding pain from non-target joints may increase the effect size. This may in part be due to reductions in variability, and hence in standard deviation (SD) of the mean changes in pain scores, which improves the statistical power to detect differences between study groups. The impact of refining the study population in terms of added benefit to the SD and statistical power vs. added screen failures is poorly described.

Objectives: To investigate the impact of common demographic and pain characteristics on the SD of mean pain change from baseline in a large interventional OA trial database.

Methods: Data from 2 randomized controlled trials of oral salmon calcitonin in OA (1) were analyzed post-hoc. The SD of the mean change from baseline (SD-CFB) to Year 2 in the WOMAC knee pain score (0-100) was calculated. The SD-CFB was also calculated for subgroups (e.g. demographics, pain of the target and non-target knee). The sample size required to identify a statistically significant difference of at least 8 out of 100 between groups (with 80% power) was calculated, and the additional proportion of eligible subjects to be screen-failed if the particular subgroup was excluded was calculated to quantify the potential impact on the study feasibility.

Results: A total of 1,487 subjects had WOMAC pain data throughout the trial period. Results are shown in Table 1. Few clinical characteristics influenced the SD and hence the required sample size, except for Asian race, associated with a lower SD compared to Caucasians (19.71 vs. 21.85), to detect a significant difference. Exclusion of those with high BMI (≥ 35 kg/m²) led to a reduced sample size required of 113. Subjects with non-target knee pain above the median had higher pain variability and thus a larger sample size required to detect differences vs. those with pain scores below the median. However, exclusion of these groups required screen failing approx. extra 50% of the eligible population to achieve this. A less exclusive method was excluding subjects with non-target knee pain not exceeding that of the target knee. Radiographic characteristics did not influence the SD, except for those with a KL grade 3 or 4 of the non-target knee (Table 1). This observation requires further scrutiny.

Table 1. SD of mean n WOMAC pain change Sample size per group to detect mean WOMAC pain difference of 8 out of 100 (n) Proportion of eligible subjects screen failed if subgroup was excluded (%)

| All study completers | 21.58 | 1,487 | 115 | 0 |
| Male | 21.12 | 516 | 110 | 34.7 |
| Female | 21.62 | 971 | 117 | 65.3 |
| Age ≤ 64 yrs | 21.49 | 799 | 114 | 53.7 |
| Age > 64 yrs | 21.68 | 688 | 116 | 46.3 |
| BMI < 35 kg/m² | 21.45 | 1,316 | 113 | 88.5 |
| BMI ≥ 35 kg/m² | 22.53 | 171 | 125 | 11.5 |

Subgroups by Non-Target knee characteristics at Baseline

| KL grade 0 | 20.79 | 60 | 107 | 4.0 |
| KL grade I | 21.19 | 271 | 111 | 18.2 |
| KL grade II | 20.83 | 766 | 107 | 51.5 |
| KL grade III | 23.80 | 346 | 139 | 23.3 |
| KL grade IV | 17.55 | 42 | 76 | 2.8 |
| WOMAC Pain ≤ 35 (0-100) | 20.08 | 731 | 99 | 49.2 |
| WOMAC Pain > 35 (0-100) | 22.96 | 722 | 130 | 48.6 |
| Low VA5 (0-100, ≤ 37) | 19.39 | 714 | 93 | 48.0 |
| High VAS (0-100, > 37) | 23.54 | 722 | 136 | 48.6 |
| Nontarget knee WOMAC pain | 22.64 | 408 | 126 | 27.4 |
| Non-Target knee WOMAC pain | 20.84 | 1,024 | 107 | 68.9 |

Conclusion: High BMI and high baseline pain of the non-target knee may contribute negatively to the study power, however, the added study cost in terms of additional screened subjects required to replace those excluded based on these parameters should be carefully evaluated. The potential impact of these parameters on the magnitude of the difference between study groups was not evaluated and may also differ, with additional statistical implications.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1362 THE OA TRIAL BANK: UPDATE OF INDIVIDUAL PATIENT DATA META-ANALYSIS OF INTRA-ARTICULAR GLUCOCORTICOID IN PERSONS WITH KNEE AND HIP OSTEOPOROSIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis

S. Yu1,2, M. Van Middelkoop3, M. Ferreira4, L. Deveza1,2, S. M. A. Bierma-Zeinstra3, V. Venkatesha3, D. Hunter1,2, 1Royal North Shore Hospital,
Background: Intra-articular (IA) glucocorticoid injections are often employed in the management of osteoarthritis (OA) patients, but in whom to best target treatment is unclear. OA clinical guidelines have advocated for the identification of predictors of response to different treatments, but no reliable subgroups with treatment effect have been found.

Objectives: This study aims to conduct an individual patient data (IPD) meta-analysis to evaluate the efficacy of IA glucocorticoid for knee or hip OA in specific subgroups of patients according to the baseline pain severity and inflammatory signs. This is an update on an IPD meta-analysis on IA glucocorticoid by the OA Trial Bank [1].

Methods: Randomised trials evaluating one or more IA glucocorticoid preparations in hip and knee OA, published from 2012 to May 2018, were selected from the literature. IPD of participant and disease characteristics and outcome measures were acquired. The primary outcome was pain severity at short-term follow-up (around 4 weeks). A two-stage IPD analysis was performed. Potential interaction effect of baseline severe pain (≥70 points, 0-100 scale) and signs of inflammation were studied using linear mixed-effects models. Analysis of trend was conducted, assessing if a baseline pain cut-off was associated with the threshold for clinically important treatment effect of IA glucocorticoid compared to placebo.

Results: Four out of 16 eligible randomised clinical trials (n=641) were combined with the existing OA Trial Bank studies (n=620), yielding n=1261 from eleven studies. Participants with severe baseline pain compared to those with less severe pain had greater pain reduction at mid-term (around 12 weeks) (mean reduction: -6.90 (95%CI -10.91; -2.90)), but not at short- or long-term follow-up. No interaction effects were found between inflammatory signs and IA glucocorticoid injections compared to placebo at all follow-up time-points (Table 1). Analysis of trend showed treatment response to IA glucocorticoid injections from baseline pain levels ≥50 (0-100 scale) and above (Figure 1).

Conclusion: This IPD meta-analysis demonstrated that in participants with severe baseline pain, clinically relevant response is seen at mid-term follow-up, suggesting that sustained response to IA glucocorticoid injection may be seen in a subgroup of OA participants. As baseline pain score increases, treatment response is seen in participants from moderate pain levels onwards. No concrete conclusions can be made on baseline inflammatory signs. Ongoing IPD studies with an increased number of studies are required.

REFERENCE:

Table 1: Interaction effects of severe pain (≥70 points) and inflammation with IA glucocorticoid for primary outcome of pain severity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interaction effect of severe pain with IA glucocorticoida</th>
<th>No. of studies</th>
<th>No. of participants (%)</th>
<th>Adjusted mean reductionP</th>
<th>Cochran's Q (%)</th>
<th>Tau2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IA glucocorticoid versus placebo</td>
<td>Short-term5</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>5.98 (-18.28; 6.31)</td>
<td>0.266</td>
<td>4.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term 5</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>-6.90 (-10.91; -2.90)</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term 5</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>-2.84 (-62.69; 57.07)</td>
<td>0.857</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA glucocorticoid versus hyaluronic acid</td>
<td>Short-term5</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>7.50 (-56.58; 71.57)</td>
<td>0.665</td>
<td>9.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term 5</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>6.90 (-3.39; 17.20)</td>
<td>0.102</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term 5</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>8.42 (-28.03; 44.86)</td>
<td>0.209</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interaction effect of inflammation with IA glucocorticoida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interaction effect of inflammation with IA glucocorticoida</th>
<th>No. of studies</th>
<th>No. of participants (%)</th>
<th>Adjusted mean reductionP</th>
<th>Cochran's Q (%)</th>
<th>Tau2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IA glucocorticoid versus placebo</td>
<td>Short-term5</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>15.01 (-83.23; 212.1)</td>
<td>0.314</td>
<td>21.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term 5</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>-5.96 (-35.81; 23.91)</td>
<td>0.571</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>49.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term 5</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>-7.43 (-129.49; 110.63)</td>
<td>0.571</td>
<td>6.44</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: All data contributors (researchers and institutions) are to be acknowledged for the provision of their data to the OA Trial Bank. This publication includes research using data from data contributors Sanofi that has been made available through Vivli, Inc. Vivli has not contributed to or approved, and is not in any way responsible for, the contents of this publication.

Disclosure of Interests: Shirley Yu: None declared, Marienke Van Middelkoop: None declared, Manuela Ferreira: None declared, Leticia Deveza: None declared, S.M.A. Bierna-Zeinstra: None declared, Venkatesha Venkatesh: None declared, David Hunter Consultant of: Provides consulting advice to Merck Serono, Pfizer, Lilly, TLCBio, Novartis.

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POS1963 CIRCULATING GALECTIN-1 LEVELS IN INDIVIDUALS WITH KNEE AND/OR HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS – A HALLOA STUDY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Osteoarthritis

M. Andersson1,2,3, M. Zimmerman4, E. Brogren5, S. Bergman6, E. Fryk6, L. Strinberg6, P. A. Jansson9, 1Spenshult Resarch and Development Center., Halmst, Sweden; 1Halmst University, Department of Environmental and Biosciences School of Business, Innovation and Sustainability, Halmst, Sweden; 2Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences, Section of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden; 3Helsingsborg Hospital, Department of Orthopaedics, Helsingborg, Sweden; 4Lund University, Department of Translational Medicine - Hand Surgery; Lund, Sweden; 5Skane University Hospital, Department of Hand Surgery; Malmö, Sweden; 6Spenshult Resarch and Development Center., Halmst, Sweden; 7University of Gothenburg, The Sahlgrenska Academy, Primary Health Care Unit, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Institute of Medicine, Gothenburg, Sweden; 8University of Gothenburg, The Sahlgrenska Academy, SU Sahlgrenska, Department of Molecular and Clinical Medicine, Institute of Medicine, Gothenburg, Sweden

Background: Circulating galectin-1 levels are associated with metabolic diseases including obesity, diabetes type II, and subclinical inflammation [1]. These medical conditions are often seen as comorbidities of osteoarthritis (OA) in the knees and hands.

Objectives: The aim was to study longitudinal associations between circulating galectin-1 levels and radiographic knee OA (RKOA), radiographic hand OA (RHOA), and general OA (GOA, RKOA and RHOA).

Methods: This longitudinal study included 232 individuals from the Halland osteoarthritis cohort (HALLOA) (2) with knee radiographs at inclusion and at a two-year follow-up. Of the included individuals, 211 had hand radiographs at the two-year follow-up. Body mass index (BMI), and waist circumference (WC) were measured. Visceral fat area (VFA) was assessed by bioimpedance (InBody 770). Serum/plasma levels of HbA1c, glucose, and C-reactive protein (CRP≥10.0 mg/L) were measured according to the current laboratory standards in Sweden. CRP below 10.0 mg/L, was further analysed with a sensitive CRP ELISA method (Abnova). Insulin resistance was assessed by the triglyceride glucose index (TyG), Galectin-1, IL-1 beta, IL-6, and TNF alpha using Quantikine, ELISA (bio- techne, United Kingdom), RKOA was defined according to Ahlbäck, as grade 1 or more in at least one knee at two years follow-up; RHOA was defined according
to Kellogg and Lawrence as grade 2 or more in at least one joint at two years follow-up, GOA was defined as having RKOA and RHOA. Comparisons between groups at inclusion were performed using Mann-Whitney U test, chi-2, and univariate Logistic regression models for associations.

Results: At the two-year follow-up, 34% of the included individuals had RKOA, 42% had RHOA, and 50 individuals had GOA. Individuals with RKOA were older, more obese, and had higher median serum levels of HAIC1, CRP, and IL-6, but no increased serum level of galectin-1, Table 1. Age (OR 1.12; 95% CI 1.06-1.17) obesity (OR 1.04; 95% CI 1.01-1.06) and galectin-1 (OR 1.04; 95% CI 1.003-1.08) were associated with RKOA. Those with RHOA were older and had increased serum levels of HAIC1, galectin-1, Tyg index, and IL-6, Table 1. Age (OR 1.21; 95% CI 1.14-1.28), HA1C (OR 1.11; 95% CI 1.01-1.21), and galectin-1 (OR 1.05; 95% CI 1.03-1.10) were associated with RHOA. Individuals with GOA were older, more obese, had more inflammation, and increased levels of HAIC1 and galectin-1, table 1. Age (OR 1.30; 95% CI 1.18-1.45) and galectin-1 (OR 1.06; 95% CI 1.01-1.12) were associated with GOA.

Conclusion: Circulating galectin-1 seems to associate with OA, especially RHOA. More studies are needed to assess a potential underlying pathophysiological mechanism of galectin-1 in OA.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Characteristics at inclusion of the groups with or without RKOA, RHOA, and GOA at two years follow-up, presented as median (IQR), respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RKOA</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>RHOA</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>GOA</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>52 (13)</td>
<td>57 (5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>49 (14)</td>
<td>57 (5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female,</td>
<td>70 (55)</td>
<td>69 (100)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m²</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC, cm</td>
<td>93 (18)</td>
<td>100 (16)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>94 (18)</td>
<td>96 (18)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFA, cm²</td>
<td>86 (66)</td>
<td>124 (75)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>92 (68)</td>
<td>107 (69)</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HA1C, mmol/L</td>
<td>36 (5)</td>
<td>38 (3)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>34 (6)</td>
<td>38 (3)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose, mmol/L</td>
<td>5.3 (0.7)</td>
<td>15.4 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>5.3 (0.8)</td>
<td>5.4 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyg</td>
<td>8.2 (0.6)</td>
<td>8.4 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>8.2 (0.6)</td>
<td>8.5 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, ng/mL</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galectin-1</td>
<td>1.0 (1.1)</td>
<td>1.3 (1.6)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>1.0 (1.2)</td>
<td>1.6 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL1-beta, pg/mL</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6, pg/mL</td>
<td>0.15 (0.22)</td>
<td>0.18 (0.15)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.17 (0.22)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF-alfa, pg/mL</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, ng/mL</td>
<td>8.9 (9.1)</td>
<td>19.1 (8.2)</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>8.9 (9.1)</td>
<td>8.4 (8.4)</td>
<td>0.42</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2205

A COMPARISON OF SEMI-QUANTITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE CARTILAGE LOSS ASSESSMENTS: DATA FROM THE OSTEOARTHRITIS INITIATIVE

Keywords: Cartilage, Imaging, Osteoarthritis

Table 1. Responsiveness of cartilage scores at follow up. Values are SRM (95% CI).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>YEAR ONE</th>
<th>YEAR TWO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tMCM</td>
<td>dQCM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cMF</td>
<td>+0.28</td>
<td>+0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.13,0.41)</td>
<td>(0.20,0.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cLF</td>
<td>+0.07</td>
<td>+0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.07,0.17)</td>
<td>(0.09,0.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cMT</td>
<td>+0.32</td>
<td>+0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.27,0.37)</td>
<td>(0.24,0.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cLT</td>
<td>+0.18</td>
<td>+0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.12,0.24)</td>
<td>(0.10,0.34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1York, York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals: NHS Foundation Trust, York, United Kingdom; 2University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 3Stryker, Imorphics, Manchester, United Kingdom; 4Stryker, Imorphics, Austin, United States of America; 5University of Leeds, Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: In Disease Modifying Osteoarthritis Drug (DMOAD) trials, cartilage loss may be assessed semi-quantitatively or quantitatively, although the latter is higher cost and more technically challenging. The MRI Osteoarthritis Knee Score (MOAKS) is the most commonly used semi-quantitative knee OA scoring system that assesses thickness of MOAKS cartilage morphology loss (tMOAKS) and denudation (dMOAKS) on the articular subregions of femur and tibia.

Objectives: This study aimed to compare the cross-sectional relationship and longitudinal responsiveness of MOAKS with the more accurate quantitative cartilage assessment.

Methods: Images and MOAKS scores from 297 participants with radiographic progression (groups 1 and 2) from the OAI FNIH sub-cohort were included. Quantitative cartilage thickness was measured using Active Appearance Models (AAMs). To facilitate direct comparison with MOAKS, novel quantitative measures of cartilage loss were matched to MOAKS regions (Q-MOAKS). Mean normative cartilage thickness was computed for each subregion (Figure 1) using FNIH controls (group 4). Q-MOAKS thickness loss score (tQCM) was based on the proportion of cartilage thickness over a subregion that was >95% normative thickness and denudation score (dQCM) was based on <5% normative thickness. Q-MOAKS area proportions were categorised into scores for as MOAKS (0: none, 1: 0-10%, 2: 10-75% and 3: >75%). Quantitative cartilage thickness (ThCtAB) was also measured in the central medial femur (cMf) and tibia (cMt). We compared MOAKS against Q-MOAKS and ThCtAB. Cross-sectional relationships between measures were assessed using Spearman’s rank correlation. Responsiveness was assessed at 1 and 2 years using bootstrapped standardised response means (SRM).

Results: Cross-sectionally, there was moderate correlation between MOAKS and Q-MOAKS denudation in the central medial femur (cMf r = 0.42, 95%CI:0.32,0.51) and tibia (cMt r = 0.51, 0.42,0.59). There was a poor correlation between MOAKS and Q-MOAKS thickness loss and denudation scores in all other regions. In the tibia (cMt), 61% (96/159) of knees with thickness loss tMCM = 2 (the 10-75% score) were also tQMC = 2 and 66% of denudation dMCM = 2 were also dQCM = 2. In the femur (cMf), the figures were 56% and 23%, MOAKS tMCM and dMCM were less responsive than Q-MOAKS tQCM and dQCM in most subregions (selected SRMs presented in Table 1). Q-MOAKS tMCM in cMt demonstrated the most responsive for all the scores (SRM=0.76 vs SRM = 0.20 for MOAKS tMCM), Quantitative cartilage thickness (ThCtAB) measures were most responsive. In the cMt region, the SRM= -0.46 (95% CI: -0.56,-0.33) at 1-year and 0.82 (-0.94,-0.72) at 2-years while the cMf SRM = -0.4 (-0.5,-0.28) at 1-year and -0.71 (-0.80,-0.60) at 2-years.
Conclusion: Quantitative measures or derived Q-MOAKS scores were more responsive than MOAKS. MOAKS appears to have better concordance with quantitative cartilage denudation than thickness loss, which might be explained by diagnostic accuracy for full thickness lesions being better than earlier grade lesions.

REFERENCES: N.I.L.

Acknowledgements: N.I.L.

Disclosure of Interests: Aaron Ray: None declared, Bright Dube: None declared, Michael A Bowes: None declared, Alan Brett: None declared, Emma Rowbotham: None declared, Aaron Ray: None declared, Bright Dube: None declared, Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: N.I.L.


References:

Posters

POS1365

STRUCTURAL SEVERITY IN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IMPACTS TREATMENT RESPONSE: A POST HOC POOLED ANALYSIS OF LOCORECIVINT CLINICAL TRIALS

Keywords: Imaging, Osteoarthritis, Clinical trials

Y. Yazici1, C. Swearingen2, H. Ghandehari1, L. Simsek2, G. Kennedy3, J. Tambiah3, T. McAlindon3. NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; 2Biosplice Therapeutics, Bioistostics, San Diego, United States of America; 3Aplin ImmuneSciences, Clinical Development, Seattle, United States of America; 4Biosplice Therapeutics, Clinical Development and External Innovation, San Diego, United States of America; 5Tufts Medical Center, Rheumatology, Boston, United States of America

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is a leading cause of disability globally, with disease burden expected to rise [1]. Unmet needs remain for safe and efficacious treatments for symptoms and structural modification. Difficulties assessing pain and joint structure in clinical trials exist due to disease heterogeneity. This post hoc analysis of locorecivint (LOR), an intra-articular (IA) CLK/ DYRK inhibitor thought to modulate Wnt and inflammatory pathways, examined the structural heterogeneity of participants enrolled in Phase 2 and 3 LOR trials and associated treatment responses within KL grade subgroups.

Objectives: To identify potential relationships between OA pain and knee joint structural damage which may aid future clinical trial design.

Methods: Data was analyzed from two Phase 2 (OA-02, NCT02536833; OA-04, NCT03122860), and two Phase 3 trials (OA-10, NCT04385303; OA-11, NCT03928184) trials. In all trials, participants had ACR-defined (clinical and radiographic) knee OA, Kellgren-Lawrence (KL) grades 2-3. For OA-04, OA-10 and OA-11, additional pain inclusion criteria included Pain Numeric Rating Scale (NRS) ≥10, ≥7 and ≥5 in the target knee and ≤4 in the contralateral knee. Baseline JSW for each study was compared using cumulative frequency distribution plots by KL grade; percentages of subjects with JSW < 3mm for each study was also summarized to provide a surrogate for loss of ~50% healthy JSW (Deep et al. JBJS 8999). For the trials which captured Pain NRS outcomes, treatment responses were assessed according to KL grade. For all treatment-related outcomes, change from baseline was estimated using baseline-adjusted ANCOVA at each timepoint.

Results: KL 2 participants with baseline mJSW < 3mm comprised 16% (OA-02), 21% (OA-04), 30% (OA-10) and 49% (OA-11). KL 3 participants with baseline mJSW < 3mm comprised 55% (OA-02), 53% (OA-04), 81% (OA-10) and 88% (OA-11) (Figure 1) Beneficial treatment effect of LOR vs. PBO was seen for KL 2 subgroup in OA-04 and OA-10, but not in OA-11. Beneficial treatment effect of LOR was seen only in OA-04 for KL 3 at week 12.

Conclusion: In this post hoc analysis, substantial heterogeneity in baseline mJSWs existed across LOR clinical trials within the KL grade 2-3 inclusion criteria. Participants with less structurally advanced knee OA showed greater pain treatment responses to 0.07 mg LOR compared to those with more advanced disease. These data support the hypothesis that the amount of OA structural damage is associated with the pain of knee OA and that earlier LOR intervention may improve outcomes.

Figure 1. Cumulative frequency of baseline mJSW by KL grade across LOR trials

KL 2

KL 3

POS1366

EFFICACY OF DULOXETINE COMPARED TO NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS IN THE TREATMENT OF KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN IRAQI KURDISTAN REGION

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Clinical trials, Osteoarthritis

A. Jalal1, N. Albarzini2. 1Kurdistan Board for Medical Specialties, Rheumatology, Erbil, Iraq; 2Hawler Medical University/College of Medicine, Rheumatology, Erbil, Iraq

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common degenerative joint disease [1]. Knee OA is an insidious disease related to structural changes in the joint over many years. Duloxetine, a selective serotonin and noradrenaline reuptake inhibitor, seems to be effective in treating neuropathic and chronic pain conditions [8].

Objectives: The objective of this study was to assess the efficacy of duloxetine in comparison to nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) for the reduction of pain in Osteoarthritis.

Methods: A Randomized open labelled clinical trial of a 13-weeks done in Rizgary Teaching and CMC (Consultant Medical City) hospitals in Iraqi Kurdistan Region. From 5th of September 2022 to 2nd of January 2023 with Trial Registration ID (NCT05486028). Those eligible to enter the study were age ≥ 40 years, both genders were included, who will meet the American College of Rheumatology clinical and radiographic criteria for the diagnosis of osteoarthritis of the knee [8]. Patients were divided into two groups. The first group received Duloxetine tablet 30 mg for two weeks then titrated up to 30 mg BID. were compared to control group that received NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug). End points were recorded at baseline then 2nd visits at 13 weeks. Measurement of pain severity was done by the weekly mean of the 24-h average pain scores in patients with osteoarthritis knee pain by Brief pain inventory (BPI). Another tool is (WOMAC) WESTERN ONTARIO AND MCMASTERS OSTEOARTHRITIS INDEX used for evaluation of pain in knee Osteoarthritis which involve three categories. The Patient Global Impression of Improvement (PGI-I) scale measured patients' perceived change in overall well-being (in response to therapy/treatment) and even side effects.

Results: Out of two hundred participants, forty-six participants were excluded: one hundred fifty-four were enrolled in the study. Their mean ages ±SD (57.38 ± 10.58, 58.47 ±12.03) in Duloxetine, NSAID group respectively. BPI-Severity average pain improved significantly after treatment with Duloxetine were 4.64 (95%CI:4.25 to 5.02) and P value was 0.00. BPI during 24-hour pain interfere with (activity, Mood, walking ability, work, relations with other people, sleep, enjoyment of life) were lower in Duloxetine group after treatment in comparison to control group (NSAID) 4.45 (95% CI:4.01 to 4.87), 5.47 (95%CI:5.11 to 5.82) respectively p value was significant < 0.001. The total WOMAC score after treatment in Duloxetine group decreased 31.74 (95%CI:27.05 to 36.42) while in NSAID groups were 42.46(95%CI:38.05 to 46.86), about (PGI-I) scale, the patients who treated with Duloxetine was much improved, much improved, minimally improved respectively so; total (46.1%) were improved, the p value were significant 0.00 and about adverse effect in Duloxetine group most common side effects were epigastric pain and headache(3.3), with one patient with nausea, one with tremor and one fatigability, the symptoms were mild they continue study with symptomatic treatment of side effects, and 4 in NSAID developed side effect.

Conclusion: Duloxetine reduced pain and improved function in patients with knee osteoarthritis, by reducing BPI inventory and WOMAC score, with much improvement on PGI scales in comparison to NSAID.
THE LONGITUDINAL ASSOCIATION OF HAND OA WITH PAID AND UNPAID WORK IMPAIRMENT AND RELATED COSTS: THE HOSTAS COHORT

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Epidemiology, Work-related issues

S. Terpstra1,2, L. A. Van de Stadt1, A. Boonen3, F. Rosendaal2, M. Kloppenburg2,3.
1Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center, Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Maastricht University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands

Background: Hand osteoarthritis (OA) is associated with impairment in paid and unpaid work and contributes to societal burden and costs of OA. However, the longitudinal development of hand OA-related work impairment and related societal costs are unknown.

Objectives: To investigate the association of hand OA with paid and unpaid work productivity loss, hinder and societal costs longitudinally.

Methods: We used annual data of the Dutch Hand OSTeoArthritis in Secondary care (HOSTAS) cohort, consisting of patients with primary hand OA primary hand OA defined by the treating rheumatologist. Data from baseline to four years of follow-up was used. The Health and Labour Questionnaire (HLQ) was assessed over the last two weeks on (i) hand OA-related limitations and hours of productivity loss while at work, (ii) hours of sick leave, and (iii) limitations and hours of unpaid work replacement. Patients with HLQ data on >1 timepoint were included in this study. Societal costs of paid work productivity loss (=all hourly costs in order to employ a worker, such as salary and premiums) were estimated by multiplying the number of unproductive and sick leave hours due to hand OA by the estimated hourly costs of paid work in The Netherlands based on age and sex. Costs of unpaid work were estimated by multiplying the number of hours of unpaid work replaced by others by the Dutch gross average hourly salary of a household help (2021: €12.50). Costs were adjusted to 2021 values using conversion factors provided by the Dutch government, and to yearly values.

Results: 470 patients had data on more than one timepoint. Baseline data was available for 381 patients, of whom 256 patients (67%) completed four years of follow-up, and 215 (56%) completed all five follow-up moments. Of 256 patients

Table 1: primary outcomes by BPI and WOMAC scales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>BPI score (Mean ± SD)</th>
<th>WOMAC score (Mean ± SD)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain at baseline</td>
<td>4.3 ± 1.6</td>
<td>4.5 ± 1.8</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain at follow-up</td>
<td>3.8 ± 2.0</td>
<td>3.5 ± 2.4</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function at baseline</td>
<td>4.2 ± 1.7</td>
<td>4.3 ± 1.9</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function at follow-up</td>
<td>3.7 ± 2.1</td>
<td>3.8 ± 2.4</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 secondary outcomes and adverse effect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Case N (%)</th>
<th>Control N (%)</th>
<th>Total N (%)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>10 (3.0%)</td>
<td>3 (1.1%)</td>
<td>13 (2.1%)</td>
<td>0.332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epigastric pain</td>
<td>3 (0.9%)</td>
<td>1 (0.3%)</td>
<td>4 (0.7%)</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tension</td>
<td>3 (0.9%)</td>
<td>2 (0.4%)</td>
<td>5 (0.8%)</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>3 (0.7%)</td>
<td>3 (0.7%)</td>
<td>6 (1.0%)</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>3 (0.9%)</td>
<td>1 (0.3%)</td>
<td>4 (0.7%)</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1368 WITHDRAWN
with baseline and four years follow-up, 113 (52%) had paid work at baseline and 104 (41%) at four years (Table 1 for patient characteristics). Unproductive hours at any timepoint were present for 85/470 patients (18%), for whom unproductive hours fluctuated over time (Figure 1). Median paid work hinder score (score range: 6-24) remained stable at 7 (interquartile range [IQR]: 6.8) over the study period. Unproductive hours at any timepoint were present for 85/470 patients (18%). Regarding unpaid work, 105/256 (41%) required unpaid task replacement by others due to hand OA at baseline, which remained stable over time (108/256 at four years (42%)). Unpaid work hinder was reported by 100/256 patients (39%) at baseline and 97/256 (38%) at four years. Costs related to loss of paid and unpaid productivity were incurred at baseline by 136/256 patients, with a median of €63 per patient ([IQR] 38;125) per two weeks (€1630 per patient (978;3261 per year)). At four years, these costs were present for 120/256 patients, with a median of €30 (38;100) per two weeks (€1304 (978;2609) per year).

Conclusion: Patients with hand OA experience significant impairment in paid and unpaid work participation over the years, which translates into substantial societal costs. Impairment and costs fluctuate on individual level but seem to remain stable over four years on group level.

Table 1. Demographics and hand OA characteristics of patients with at least baseline and four years of follow-up data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>baseline, all patients (n=256)</th>
<th>baseline, paid work (133/255, 52%)</th>
<th>four years, all patients (n=256)</th>
<th>four years, paid work (104/255, 41%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>61.3 (8.0)</td>
<td>60.2 (7.5)</td>
<td>64.6 (8.4)</td>
<td>62.0 (8.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, women, n (%)</td>
<td>204 (80%)</td>
<td>108 (82%)</td>
<td>204 (80%)</td>
<td>87 (84%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m²</td>
<td>27.3 (4.7)</td>
<td>27.2 (4.7)</td>
<td>27.4 (5.0)</td>
<td>27.1 (4.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSCAN pain (0-20)</td>
<td>9 (4.3)</td>
<td>9.1 (4.6)</td>
<td>9.3 (4.3)</td>
<td>7.9 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSCAN hand function</td>
<td>15.1 (8.4)</td>
<td>14.6 (8.5)</td>
<td>15.2 (8.4)</td>
<td>14.5 (7.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADS anxiety score (range 0-21)</td>
<td>2 (1.5)</td>
<td>2 (1.1-4)</td>
<td>2 (1.5)</td>
<td>1 (1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired, n (%)</td>
<td>83 (32%)</td>
<td>95 (37%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers represent (SD) mean unless otherwise specified. *median (interquartile range). Abbreviations: SD = standard deviation, BMI = Body Mass Index, HADS = Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, AUSCAN = Australian Canadian Osteoarthritis Hand Index.

This study aimed to characterize patients with an increase or decrease in pain, and to investigate which patients are likely to achieve a good clinical outcome after four years.

Methods: Four year data from the ongoing HOSTAS (Hand OsteoArthritis in Secondary care) cohort were used, consisting of 538 consecutive patients with primary hand OA diagnosed by their rheumatologist. Hand pain was measured with the pain subscale of the Australian/Canadian hand osteoarthritis index (AUSCAN, range 0-20) annually. Demographics, disease characteristics and patient characteristics were collected, as were the Short Form (SF-36) and Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). Change in pain was categorized as increase, stable or decrease according to the AUSCAN pain minimal clinical important difference (MCID, 1.6) between baseline and year 4. Good clinical outcome was defined as an AUSCAN pain score below the Patient Acceptable Symptom State (PASS) of 8.2 (Bellamy 2015). All patients with measurements at baseline and year 4 (MCID analysis) and at year 4 (PASS analysis) were included. Associations between determinants and change in pain or PASS were investigated using multinomial or binary logistic regression, respectively.

Results: Of 356 patients included in the MCID analysis, 83% were female, mean age was 60.6 years and mean AUSCAN pain score was 9.1. Over 4 years, pain decreased in 137, increased in 106, and 113 remained stable. In the decrease group, mean (SD) change in pain was -4.8 (2.8), in the stable group -0.1 (0.8), and in the increase 3.8 (1.9). Baseline BMI was positively associated with increase in pain. Health-related quality of life (HR-QoL) at baseline was positively associated with decrease in pain. Employment was positively associated with both increase and decrease in pain. HADS scores were negatively associated with decrease in pain (Table 1). Of 361 in the PASS analysis, 155 were below the PASS at baseline, and 177 were below the PASS after 4 years. Patient characteristics and disease characteristics at baseline were not associated with PASS after 4 years. Higher physical HR-QoL and lower pain level at baseline were associated with a higher chance of reaching PASS (data not shown).

Conclusion: Change in pain is associated with BMI, HR-QoL, mental wellbeing and employment status. Good clinical outcome is associated with physical health-related quality of life. These factors can help identify patients likely to achieve good clinical outcome and may aid stratified patient selection for trials.
Objectives: To investigate the association of the Kallman scale with clinical assessment parameters and the erosive subtype in a Czech population of HOA patients over 5 years.

Methods: Consecutive patients with symptomatic HOA fulfilling the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria were included in this study. All patients were evaluated at baseline and follow-up examinations over 2 and 5 years.

Clinical examinations were performed by qualified rheumatologists. The number of clinically tender and swollen joints was recorded. Pain, stiffness, and function were assessed by the Australian/Canadian OSTEoARThritis Hand Index (AUSCAN) hand OA index.

Hand disability was evaluated based on the Algofunctional index. The visual analogue scale (VAS-pain) and the health assessment questionnaire (HAQ) was used for the assessment of pain and function/disability.

Results: Of 54 patients enrolled in this study, 129 subjects (89.3% females; mean age at baseline = 64.6±8.0 years) met the ACR classification criteria for HOA and were followed up over 5 years at the outpatient department of the Institute of Rheumatology in Prague. Out of these patients, 57 were diagnosed with the non-erosive form (87.7% females; mean age at baseline = 63.8±7.7 years) and 72 with the erosive form (90.3% females; mean age at baseline = 65.7±8.1 years), where erosive HOA was defined by at least one interphalangeal joint with radiographic signs of erosion. Firstly, we analysed each examination separately and found that the Kallman scale was significantly increased in patients with the erosive subtype (2.95 ± 3.12-fold, p < 0.001 for all) and associated with age in all examinations (β = 1.27 – 1.57; p < 0.001 for all).

Next, we used generalized additive modelling (GAM) to analyse data collected over five years and discovered the association of the scale with HOA subtypes and age (p < 0.01 for both). GAM also revealed associations of the Kallman scale with Algofunctional index, HAQ and the number of painful joints in all HOA patients (edf = 1, p = 0.041) and patients with non-erosive HOA (edf = 1.7, p = 0.027). Similarly, the scale was associated with the number of clinically swollen joints in all HOA patients (edf = 1, p = 0.041) and patients with non-erosive HOA (edf = 4, p = 0.046). Eventually, Algofunctional index (edf = 1.9, p = 0.02) was associated with the scale only in patients with HOA. Other parameters (e.g., AUSCANs) were insignificant.

Conclusion: Our 5-year longitudinal study revealed the associations of structural progressions with both subtypes and age at each time point. In contrast, functional impairments were associated with the progression only in non-erosive subset and all HOA patients. Further studies in a larger cohort of patients are needed to validate these data.
INNOVATIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT DEVICE USING MILLIMETRE BAND RADIATION: ELECTRONIC-PAIN KILLER. ASSESSMENT IN PATIENTS WITH PERIPHERAL OSTEOARTHRITIS. MONOCENTRIC, PROSPECTIVE, RANDOMISED IN CROSS-OVER DESIGN AND CONTROLLED TRIAL.

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Non-pharmacological interventions, Osteoarthritis

C. Maiden1,2, J. Giaia1, A. Dumolard1, C. Leroy1, M. Thiens1, D. Crouzier3, E. Chipon4, V. Paras1, M. Proust1, G. Lalaim1, I. Boudry1, J. L. Bossone4, L. Grange4, CHU Grenoble Alpes, Pain Medicine Department, Grenoble, France; 1Univ. Grenoble Alpes, TIMC Laboratory CNRS-UMR 5525, Grenoble, France; 2Univ. Grenoble Alpes, Inserm, CHU Grenoble Alpes, CIC1406, CIC-IT, Public Health Department, Grenoble, France; 3Univ Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, UMR 5525, VetrAgro Sup, Grenoble INP, CHU Grenoble Alpes, TIMC, Grenoble, France; 4CHU Grenoble Alpes, Data engineering cell, Grenoble, France; 5INSERM. CHU Grenoble Alpes, CIC1406, CIC-IT, Grenoble, France; 6REMEDEE LABS SA, Medical, Grenoble, France; 7CHU Grenoble Alpes, Public Health Department, Grenoble, France; 8CHU Grenoble Alpes, Rheumatology Department, Grenoble, France

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is one of the most common chronic health conditions. Pain is a disabling, it affects about 50% of the world's population. For its management, the different guidelines recommend a combination of non-pharmacological and pharmacological treatments [1]. However, 90% of the patients in the stop osteoarthritis I and II survey believe that they are poorly managed in terms of their OA pain and we currently lack effective means to do so [2].

We propose to assess an innovative medical device (MD) for neuromodulation of pain in patients with peripheral OA. This MD is a wristband and consists of a very low-power millimetre wave transmitter. The application of these waves on the wrist, a highly innervated area, has neuromodulatory effects thanks to the synthesis and release of endorphins and the activation of the parasympathetic system.

Objectives: We conducted a clinical trial to evaluate if the regular use of this MD would reduce the pain felt by the patient as well as his consumption of analgesics and if it would improve quality of life.

Methods: This prospective study was performed between December 2020 and August 2022. Sixty patients with a peripheral OA and a pain score ≥4 on the visual analogic scale (VAS) was included and randomised in one of the two cross-over group. The randomization is stratified on the most painful OA localisation (upper/lower limbs). Patients of group A followed a 3-month period with their conventional treatment (CT) and after they get the device in add on for 3 months. The group B started by using for 3 months the MD added on CT and after they took the wristband. The duration of each session was 40 minutes. The intern memory of the MD allowed to measure this frequency of use. After 7 days of wristband use, a phone call was performed to ensure that patient had no difficulties with the wristband. A follow-up phone call was also made once a month to remind the patient to use wristband, to report data and to collect potential adverse events.

The primary outcome was the difference of pain score between the period with and without the wristband use. The primary outcome was collected on the VAS, analogic scale (VAS) was included and randomised in one of the two cross-over group. The randomization is stratified on the most painful OA localisation (upper/lower limbs). Patients of group A followed a 3-month period with their conventional treatment (CT) and after they get the device in add on for 3 months. The group B started by using for 3 months the MD added on CT and after they took only CT for 3 months. Between the 2 periods, there was a one-month wash-out with only CT. Patients were instructed to perform 1 to 3 sessions/day with the wristband.

The mean age of patients was 65.78±7.2 years old. At baseline all parameters were similar between the two groups except the number of male (group A: 5M; group B: 1M) and the body mass index (group A: 24.29±4.01 kg/m²; group B: 27.80±4.7 kg/m²).

The mean pain score at baseline was 6.17±1.43. For this cross-over study, there were no carryover, no sequence, and no period effect. The two groups difference on the pain score was significant (p<0.05) with a VAS of 4.57±2.0 in the MD group and 5.32±1.77 in the conventional treatment group. The effect size of the MD, calculated with the Cohen’s D formulae, was of 0.42. No serious adverse effect occurred.

Conclusion: We have demonstrated in this world first study the efficacy of this new medical device to reduce peripheral OA pain. Easy to use, discreet and safe, this free drug therapy opens a new field of OA pain treatment.

REFERENCES:

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There was an inverse correlation between hand use and EHOA, confirming that EHOA is rather linked to systemic factors. Risk factors for both EHOA and IHOA were a longer disease duration, a higher aesthetic damage (notably in EHOA). There was an inverse correlation between hand use and EHOA, confirming that EHOA is rather linked to systemic factors.

Background: Osteophytes are common structural sign identified to be associated with knee osteoarthritis (OA) and has been included as a criterion for presence and progression of knee OA.

Objectives: Our aim was to investigate the association of possible tibiofemoral osteophyte with knee- joint-related physical examination in symptomatic knees without radiographically detected joint space narrowing.

Methods: We used the Osteoarthritis Initiative (OAI) open access database (http://www.oai.ucsf.edu), approved by the local institutional review boards. The OAI comprises data of 4,796 men and women aged 45–79 years at baseline. We selected subjects, from the following two sub-cohorts: 1) progression cohort, individuals with symptomatic knee OA (n=1,390); 2) incidence cohort, individuals at risk for knee OA (n=3,284). Crepitus was examined at baseline by placing the palm of the hand over the patella to detect the presence of a continuous grinding sensation during passive knee flexion-extension movement in the supine position. A positive bulge sign was considered as presence of knee joint effusion. We included subjects with no joint space narrowing but no or doubtful osteophyte in either knee at baseline based on fixed-flexion posterior-anterior knee radiographs.

We further required subjects to have answered YES to the following question at baseline: “Do you have knee pain, aching or stiffness for more than half the days of a month during the past 12 months?” We used unconditional logistic regression to evaluate the association between the presence of knee crepitus and/or effusion on physical examination within the OAI.

RESULTS: The relative (ICC coefficient) and absolute (SEM and SRD95) reliability of the LSSWT were 0.95, 0.49, and 1.35 respectively. The Pearson correlation coefficient between the LSSWT and the TUG was 0.69.

Conclusion: The analysis showed that the LSSWT has excellent reliability and high validity in hip OA. The low MCID of the LSSWT (1.35) shows its sensitivity and can be used as a responsive outcome measure of interventions and fall risk. The LSSWT also can be valuable in determining independent transferring ability, admissions, or discharges from/to healthcare/residential facilities.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1376 RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF THE LIE-TO-STAND-TO-WALK TRANSFER TEST IN HIP OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Safety, Outcome measures, Osteoarthritis

B. Unver1, K. S. Kacmaz2, V. Karatosun3; 1izmir Katip Celebi University, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; 2dokuz Eylul University, Orthopedics and Traumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Falls represent a major health problem for older adults and often lead to disability and mortality. Each year 30% to 50% of community-dwelling older adults report a fall and almost 75% of falls occur in bedrooms or bathrooms, and 41% of all falls occur during transfers [1,2]. Patients with hip osteoarthritis (OA) have many hip and age-related dysfunctions including muscle weakness, sensory loss, gait and balance deficits, which all increase the risk of falls [3]. Task-specificity has been shown to be a critical factor in the effectiveness of fall-reducing interventions [4]. The Lie-to-Sit-to-Stand-to-Walk Transfer Test (LSSWT) was created to measure complicated transfer abilities in older people [5]. However, the LSSWT’s reliability and validity are not known in patients with hip OA.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the reliability, validity, and minimal clinically important difference (MCID) of the LSSWT in patients with hip OA.

Methods: Twenty-seven patients with hip OA were included in this study. Patients performed trials for the LSSWT and the Timed up-and-go (TUG) test. Between the trials, patients rested for an hour to prevent fatigue.

RESULTS: The relative (ICC coefficient) and absolute (SEM and SRD95) reliability of the LSSWT were 0.95, 0.49, and 1.35 respectively. The Pearson correlation coefficient between the LSSWT and the TUG was 0.69.

Conclusion: The analysis showed that the LSSWT has excellent reliability and high validity in hip OA. The low MCID of the LSSWT (1.35) shows its sensitivity and can be used as a responsive outcome measure of interventions and fall risk. The LSSWT also can be valuable in determining independent transferring ability, admissions, or discharges from/to healthcare/residential facilities.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1376 PARACETAMOL PRESCRIPTION PATTERNS IN LOW BACK PAIN AND OSTEOARTHRITIS IN REAL-WORLD GENERAL PRACTICE IN FRANCE

Keywords: Pain, Osteoarthritis, Real-world evidence

J. Citte1, P. Lemoine2, A. Annenkova3, J. Y. Milon2, S. Perrot4; 1University Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne, Department of General Medicine, Paris, France; 2JOVIA, Real World Solutions, Paris, France; 3UPSA SAS, Medical Affairs, Rueil-Malmaison, France; 4Cochin Hospital, Université Paris Cité, INSERM U987, Paris, France

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: Lower back pain (LBP) and osteoarthritis (OA) are the most frequent musculoskeletal disorders in the general population significantly impacting patients’ quality of life. An adequate pain management is key. General practitioners (GPs) are the frontline decision-makers in the French primary care system. In France, paracetamol remains a first-line analgesic in LBP and OA, according to the national guidelines. Few data on the real-world paracetamol prescriptions in LBP and OA are available.

Objectives: This observational retrospective cohort study aimed to identify the paracetamol prescription patterns in LBP- and OA-related pain in real-world GP practice.

Methods: Prescription data from IQVIA’s French EMR database with a representative panel of approximately 1,200 GPs. Data collection was systematic, non-interventional, reflecting the daily clinical practice. Patients aged more than 18 years old presenting with LBP- and OA-related pain and receiving a paracetamol prescription during a 12-month consultation period in the majority of the patients in both indications. Paracetamol was prescribed alone (57% LBP, 78% OA). The most frequent associated medications were NSAIDs and grade II analgesics. Treatment discontinuation at Month 1 was the most frequent event (67% LBP and 52% OA). In case of treatment restart, paracetamol was prescribed again in 57% LBP and 81% OA patients. At Month 3, 78% LBP and 71% OA patients discontinued treatment.

Conclusion: Paracetamol remains a pivotal analgesic and is prescribed first-line in the majority of the patients in both indications. Paracetamol is the treatment of the given painful episode, with more than a half of patients discontinuing treatment at Month 1.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6052

POS1378 PERCEIVED BENEFITS AND BARRIERS TOWARDS EXERCISE AMONG PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Mental health, Osteoarthritis, Rehabilitation

A. Adnine1, F. Z. Taik1, N. Soba2, N. Takhrira1, F. Z. Aharrane1, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Abourazzak1.

1Abdelmalek Essaedi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan- Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Tangier. 2Abdelmalek Essaedi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan- Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Tangier, Morocco

Background: Physical activity (PA) is highly recommended in patients with osteoarthritis. Despite the major benefits of PA and exercise, patients with knee osteoarthritis report low level of PA and engage more in sedentary behavior (SB). Understanding the perception of these patients towards exercise is essential to help find better interventions.

Objectives: The Aim of this study is to assess the perception of benefits and barriers towards exercise among patients with knee osteoarthritis and analyze the associated factors.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study that was conducted from April to September 2022. Patients with knee osteoarthritis were included then classified on the basis of the Kellgren and Lawrence radiograph scale. Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics were collected. Level of PA was assessed using IPAQ-SF. Perceived benefits and barriers towards exercise was assessed using Perceived benefits and barriers to exercise scale (PBBS). Participants were also assessed for anxiety and depression (GAD-7) and (PHQ-9) scales respectively.

Results: A Total of 178 patients were enrolled in the study, with a mean (+SD) age of 58.48 ± 9.9 years, 86.2% of them were females, and 69.1% had comorbidities. Mean (+SD) VAS pain score upon walking was 4.78 ± 2.21. According to the Kellgren and Lawrence classification, 64.4% of the patients had OA grade 2 and 25.6% had grade 3. Mean of Lequesne scale was 9.8 ± 3.8. The mean of PBBS benefits scale was 94.35 ± 20.25. The Mean of PBBS barriers scale was 2701 ± 8.23. Top three ranked perceived benefits to exercise were (Mean ± SD): «Exercise improve my mental health» - 3.53± 0.62, «My disposition is improved with exercise » - 3.48± 0.63 and «Exercise decreases feelings of stress and tension for me » - 3.43± 0.65. Top three ranked perceived barriers to exercise were
Table 1: uni and multivariate analysis of associated factors with PBBS benefits/barriers scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceived benefits of exercise (PBBS)</th>
<th>Perceived barriers of exercise (PBBS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Univariate analysis Multivariate</td>
<td>Univariate analysis Multivariate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR (IC=95%) P value</td>
<td>OR (IC=95%) P value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>habitat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-16.14 [-26.730, -6.530] p=0.003</td>
<td>-19.535 [-29.408, -9.663] p=0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.298 [-3.096, 5.650] p=0.561</td>
<td>5.629 [-0.031, 11.309] p=0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status 2.397 [0.033, 1.891] [0.347, 1.363] [0.412, 1.490]</td>
<td>2.314 [0.005, 4.847] p=0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS Pain -1.215 [-2.564, 0.134] p=0.07</td>
<td>0.412 [-1.138, 0.962] p=0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lequesne scale -0.317 [-1.300, 0.669] p=0.526</td>
<td>0.306 [-0.089, 0.702] p=0.128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB: IPAQ-SF -0.041 [-0.069, -0.022]</td>
<td>0.007 [-0.031, 0.020]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHQ-9: -4.998 [-7.784, -2.211] p=0.001</td>
<td>0.067 [0.036, 0.166] 0.979 [0.212, 1.508]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In our study, the most highly ranked perceived benefits to exercise reported were items related to physical exertion. Some studies have found similar findings in patients with multiple sclerosis (1) and HIV female patients (2). Pain and handicap related to knee osteoarthritis were not associated with the perception of barriers to PA. The most highly rated perceived benefits to exercise were those related to improvements in mental health. Regular PA have shown to improve mood and fight depression, in addition depression often alter the perception of benefits and barriers to exercise as shown in our study. Screening and treating Depressive disorders is essential to help patient break the cycle.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1838

POS1379 A NOVEL MEASURE OF END-STAGE KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS REDUCES THE DURATION AND SAMPLE SIZE REQUIRED FOR OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES AND TRIALS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Osteoarthritis, Clinical trials

Z. Salis1, J. Driban2, T. Mcalindon3, A. Sainsbury-Salis4, The University of New South Wales, Centre for Big Data Research in Health, Kensington, Australia; Tufts Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology, Boston, United States of America; The University of Western Australia, School of Human Sciences, Perth, Australia

Background: Total knee replacement (TKR) has been used as an outcome measure in research into the causes and possible treatments for knee osteoarthritis (KOA). However, because KOA progresses slowly, and because TKR has a low incidence, research using TKR as an outcome measure necessitates long duration and/or large sample sizes. Moreover, TKR is influenced by multiple factors (such as education and income) besides the progression of KOA.

Objectives: We defined a novel outcome measure that signifies end-stage KOA (esKOA); and determined whether esKOA was sensitive enough to detect the effect of an exposure that is known to have a modest effect on reducing TKR, namely weight loss.

Methods: A knee was considered to have esKOA if any of the following two conditions were met: 1) moderate, intense, or severe KOA symptoms (i.e., the sum of the pain and disability scores on the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) ≥ 12) and severe radiographic knee osteoarthritis (RKOA), defined as a Kellgren and Lawrence Grade (KLG) of 4; or 2) intense or severe KOA symptoms (i.e., the sum of the pain and disability scores on the WOMAC ≥ 23) and frequent knee pain (i.e., knee pain on most days of one or more months in the past 12 months) and mild or moderate KOA (KLG = 2 or 3).

Results: The observational study included 7107 participants (58.4% female, mean ± SD age and BMI 61.4 ± 8.8 years and 29.2 ± 5.1 kg/m² at baseline, and an incidence of esKOA of 2.9, 6.8, and 10.4% at 1 - 1.25 years, 2 - 2.5 years, and 4 - 5 years, respectively, and a corresponding incidence of TKR of 0.1, 0.5, and 1.6%. While weight loss was associated with a reduced adjusted odds ratio (aOR) for both esKOA and TKR at 4 - 5 years (for 5% weight loss: 0.85 [95% CI 0.79 - 0.92] for esKOA and 0.79 [0.67 - 0.93] for TKR), weight loss was only associated with a reduced aOR for esKOA - and not TKR - at the earlier time point of 2 - 2.5 years (for 5% weight loss: 0.80 [0.72 - 0.90] for esKOA and 1.05 [0.76 - 1.45] for TKR). At 1 - 1.25 years, there was no association between weight loss and esKOA or TKR. The sample size required to detect a 50% reduction in the odds of esKOA was 6% to 13% of the sample size required for that of TKR (1271 participants versus 2186 at 4 - 5 years; 162 versus 1286 at 4 - 5 years). In the emulated trial, compared to the weight gain group (367 participants), the weight loss group (also 367 participants) had significantly lower odds of esKOA but not TKR at 4 - 5 years (0.43 [0.22 - 0.84] for esKOA and 0.39 [0.26 - 1.00] for TKR). There was no difference between the groups in the odds of esKOA or TKR at the earlier time point of 2 - 2.5 years in the emulated trial.

Conclusion: Given that our novel measure of esKOA could detect an association with weight loss at a time point 1.5 - 3 years earlier than TKR in an observational study, and in a sample size that was too small to detect an association with TKR at 4 - 5 years in an emulated trial, esKOA is recommended as a clinical measure for observational studies and trials investigating causes and possible treatments for KOA. Our powerful novel measure of esKOA enables shorter and smaller – hence cheaper – studies, which can boost the research on effective treatments for KOA.

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the provision of datasets and research tools from two cohort studies: the Osteoarthritis Initiative (OAI) study and the Multicenter Osteoarthritis Study (MOST).

Disclosure of Interests: Zubeiy Salis: None declared. Jeffrey Driban Consultant of: Consultant for Pfizer Inc and Eli Lilly and Company, Timothy McAlindon Consultant of: Consultant for Remedium-Bio, Anika, Chemeintry, Grunenthal, Kolon Tissue Gene, Novartis, BioSplice, Organogenesis, and Pfizer Inc. Amanda Sainsbury-Salis Speakers bureau: Received presentation fees and travel reimbursements from Eli Lilly and Co, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Novo Nordisk, the Dietitians Association of Australia, Shoahaven Family Medical Centres, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and Metagenics, and serving on the Nestle Health Science Optifast VLCD advisory board from 2016 to 2018. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.452
Background: With total hip arthroplasty (THA) utilization rising rapidly, [1] it is important to understand social determinants of health (SDOH) that contribute to disparities in THA outcomes.

Objectives: We sought to explore the relationship of multiple community-level SDOH with 90-day readmission, 90-day mortality, 1-year revision post-THA, and length of stay (LOS) using prediction modelling.

Methods: Our retrospective study using the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council Database included 105,336 patients undergoing THA 2012-2018. Community-level variables include walkability index; median household income; and percent unpaid family workers, without health insurance and not in the labor force, above high school, above college, foreign-born, speaking languages other than English, with computer access, and with internet access. They were extracted from US census via geocoding. We trained explainable boosting machine using Generalized additive models to predict readmission, mortality, LOS, and revision. Resulting mean absolute scores (MAS) were aggregated to measure collective importance of the above “community-factors.”

Results: Predictive performance was best for mortality (AUROC=0.76); it was moderate for readmission (AUROC=0.66), revision (AUROC=0.58), and LOS (RMSE=0.41, R²=0.2). Community factors relatively contributed more to adverse outcomes than in all models. The top 3 predictors of readmission were discharge location, age, and comorbidities (MAS =0.24, 0.15, 0.13, respectively). The top 3 predictors of mortality were community factors, discharge location, and age (MAS=0.31, 0.24, 0.19, respectively). The top 3 predictors of revision were community factors, discharge location, and comorbidities (MAS=0.03, 0.01, 0.005, respectively). Lastly, the top 3 predictors for LOS were discharge location, community factors, and comorbidities.

Conclusion: In all THA outcome models, aggregated community factors were more important than individual race in predicting 90-day readmission, 90-day mortality, 1-year revision, and length of stay.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Patient-level characteristics by outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>90-day readmission</th>
<th>90-day mortality</th>
<th>Revision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>N = 96914</td>
<td>N = 8422</td>
<td>N = 10527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>65.0 [58.0; 73.0]</td>
<td>69.0 [60.0; 77.0]</td>
<td>77.0 [70.0; 84.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>65.0 [58.0; 73.0]</td>
<td>77.0 [70.0; 84.0]</td>
<td>65.0 [58.0; 73.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>65.0 [58.0; 73.0]</td>
<td>77.0 [70.0; 84.0]</td>
<td>65.0 [58.0; 73.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>52330 (54.0%)</td>
<td>56826 (54.1%)</td>
<td>56046 (54.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>44584 (46.0%)</td>
<td>48201 (45.9%)</td>
<td>47673 (46.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>56626 (6.47%)</td>
<td>49874 (48.9%)</td>
<td>6868 (42.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>692 (8.22%)</td>
<td>18 (5.83%)</td>
<td>119 (7.36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>186 (2.21%)</td>
<td>7 (2.27%)</td>
<td>3108 (3.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>16952 (17.5%)</td>
<td>3135 (2.98%)</td>
<td>308 (2.27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>77 (8.2%)</td>
<td>94874 (90.4%)</td>
<td>93695 (90.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of stay</td>
<td>2.00 [1.00; 3.00]</td>
<td>2.00 [1.00; 3.00]</td>
<td>2.00 [1.00; 3.00]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elixhauser comorbidity index</td>
<td>2.00 [1.00; 3.00]</td>
<td>2.00 [1.00; 3.00]</td>
<td>2.00 [1.00; 3.00]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Categorical variables N(%), continuous variables median[IQR].**** p < 0.001; *** p < 0.01; ** p < 0.05; * p < 0.1; NS = nonsignificant

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Bella Mehta Consultant of: Novartis education content development, Yi Yuan: None declared, Diyu Pearce-Fisher: None declared, Kaylee Ho: None declared, Susan Goodman Consultant of: Paid consultant for UCB., Grant/research support from: Research support from Novartis., Michael Parks: None declared, Fei Wang: None declared, Mark Fontana: None declared, Said Ibrahim: None declared, Peter Cram: None declared, Rich Caruna: None declared.

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Clinical cases

POS1381
TRANSIENT PERIVASCULAR INFLAMMATION OF THE CAROTID ARTERY (TIPIC) SYNDROME: A RARE CAUSE OF CAROTIDDYNIE

Keywords: Vasculitis, Ultrasound, Rare/orphan diseases

C. Porpaccy1, C. Zimmermann1, R. Steinbach2, K. Redlich1. 1Klinik Hitzing, 2nd Dept of Medicine, Wien, Austria; 2Klinik Hitzing, Dept of Radiology, Wien, Austria

Background: Carotidynie defines localized, unilateral neck pain in the region of the carotid bifurcation and is a relatively frequent event with a myriad of causes. Differential diagnosis include mainly arterial dissection, large vessel vasculitis or chronic inflammatory or surrounding structures (e.g. lymphadenitis). We herein describe a patient with carotidynie caused by a TIPIC syndrome under follow up by ultrasound imaging.

Methods: The logig S8 from GE2 with 2 different linear probes was used. GE L8-18-D Hockey Stick probe. ML 6-15-D Matrix probe.

Case presentation: A 36 year old male patient was referred to our rheumatological outpatient department because of localized pain in the left lateral part of the neck, which persisted over two days. Swallowing of fluids or solid food was painful, but unimpaired. The patient mentioned no recent trauma, but he reported symptoms of an upper respiratory tract infection, without fever, two weeks before. Clinical investigation showed no signs of local swelling or palpable lymph nodes. ENT consultation ruled out inflammatory processes causing the symptoms including tonsillitis, pharyngitis or laryngitis. Analgesic treatment with tramadol was not effective. Laboratory investigations revealed slightly increased CRP and Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) values. ANA and subsets, as well as ANCA were negative. An ultrasound of the region showed a localized swelling of the media and adventitia of the left common carotid artery, involving half of the circumference over a length of 4 mm. Multiple lymph nodes with signs of inflammation were present on both sides of the vessel. No dissection or stenosis was detectable. Due to a typical clinical presentation and ultrasound appearance without carotid stenosis, typical localization at the distal part of the carotid communis artery the diagnosis of carotidynie or TIPIC was made. Treatment with nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs was initiated without any effect. Therefore, we initiated a treatment with steroids (0,3mg/kg body weight). 3 days after the beginning of the therapy the before unbearable pain nearly resolved. A MRA angiography of the vessel performed 5 days after the initiation of the steroid treatment showed an eccentric wall thickening with diameter of 5mm near the bifurcation of the common carotid artery, with a slightly increased enhancement of the carotid wall, but no further inflammatory structures. Awareness of this syndrome and its excellent visualization for diagnosis, exclusion of other pathologies and follow up by high resolution ultrasound could be useful to reassure patients about the benign nature of this syndrome and help the clinician to avoid more invasive imaging modalities.

Conclusion: The disease is first reported by Fay in 1927. Despite only a few case reports are available in the last 20 years and mostly one case only is reported. Usually an inflammatory process is suspected. Although a rare event sonography is capable to diagnose such vessel abnormality with high precision. Treatment with NSAIDs and, if not sufficient, eventually steroids are required.

REFERENCES: NIL

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4553

POS1382
DON'T TURN A BLIND EYE - ANTERIOR CIRCULATION STROKE IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Remission, bDMARD, Vasculitis

S. M. Lao1, U. Dhamrah1, W. Chl1. 1Ichacn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Rheumatology, New York, United States of America

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a form of systemic vasculitis involving large and medium sized vessels. It is more common in women and affects adults greater than 50 years old. Typical presentations include insidious onset of headache, scalp tenderness, jaw claudication, visual changes, and constitutional symptoms. Stroke is an uncommon complication of GCA with an incidence rate of 3% - 7% and usually occurs between the onset of arteritis symptoms and one month after initiating steroid therapy. GCA related strokes usually involve the verteobasilar artery and less commonly the carotid artery.

Objectives: To discuss a patient with GCA progression to strokes despite steroid therapy.

Methods: A 77 year old female with a history of hypertension, diabetes, uterine and breast cancer in remission presented to the hospital with right eye vision loss. She reported two weeks of blurry vision in her right eye, bilateral temporal headache, jaw claudication, weight loss, and loss of appetite. She denied prior similar episodes. Exam revealed scalp and right temporal artery tenderness, right eye vision loss. She had equal radial and brachial pulses, and 5/5 strength in bilateral lower extremities. Labs showed ESR 120 (ESR 0-38mm/hr) and C-reactive protein 62 (CRP 0-5mg/L). Patient was started on intravenous (IV) methylprednisolone 1g daily for presumed GCA, then tapered and discharged on oral methylprednisolone 48mg (1mg/kg) daily. Temporal artery biopsy confirmed GCA showing patchy moderate chronic inflammation in the intima and media with small lymphocytes, macrophages, and rare giant cells. On follow up she continued to have right eye vision loss, but improvement of other GCA symptoms. Within one month of her initial presentation, she returns to the hospital for left sided weakness, facial droop, and dysarthria.

Results: She endorsed compliance with methylprednisolone, aspirin, and atorvastatin. Computed tomography angiography (CTA) showed interval worsening of the severe stenosis of the clinoideal segment of the right internal carotid artery (ICA) now with near occlusion. Labs with ESR 33, CRP 0.02. Exam with 4/5 strength in the left upper extremity (LUE) and left lower extremity (LLE). On hospital day 3, she had fluctuating weakness in the LUE and methylprednisolone was increased to 1g daily. Repeat CTA with stable severe focal stenosis of the right clinoideal ICA. Cerebral angiogram showed multiple vessels in the anterior and posterior circulation with evidence of irregularity in the lumen suggestive of diffuse vasculitis but no evidence of atherosclerosis in the right ICA. On hospital day 6, weakness worsened in the proximal and distal LUE to 1/5 strength and LLE to 3/5 strength. Given concern for GCA progression she was started on IV tocilizumab 6mg/kg and had emergent angiography with right ICA angioplasty. Patient completed 5 days of IV methylprednisolone 1g and was tapered and discharged on methylprednisolone 48mg daily and tocilizumab 162mg subcutaneous weekly.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1383
ANTI-TIF-1-Y DERMATOMYOSITIS IN OVERLAP WITH GREAT VESSEL VASCULITIS: A CASE REPORT

Keywords: Vasculitis, Myositis

F D'Allesandro1, F. Fattorini1, L. Carl1, M. Cazzato1, M. Mosca1. 1Santa Chiara Hospital, Rheumatology, Pisa, Italy

Background: Dermatomyositis (DM) is systemic autoimmune diseases that are part of idiopathic inflammatory myopathies. The peak incidence is at the age of 50–60 years. The DM-related autoantibodies Anti-TIF-1-Y are found in DM associated with aggressive skin lesions. However, in adults above the age of 40, anti-TIF-1-Y antibodies are strongly associated with malignancy [1].

Objectives: The aim of the work is to illustrate a difficult management of anti-TIF-1-Y dermatomyositis in overlap with great vessel vasculitis.

Methods: In January 2022 a 77-year-old woman suffering only from arterial hypertension was beginning to develop retropalpebral and occipital rash, initially interpreted as an allergic reaction to an antihypertensive drug and treated with antihistamines without clinical benefit. Over the following weeks rhinolalia, mixed dysphagia, and Gottron’s papules developed simultaneously. She performed a laryngoscopy excluding a deficit of the vocal cords. In the suspicion of esophageal diverticulosis performed X-ray with gastrografin, showing no alterations of the esophagus, but thickened from the occlusion related to a major decresive episode and antidepressant therapy was initiated. In May 2022 worsening of muscle symptoms led the patient to go to the hospital again, with subsequent transfer to our rheumatological department. She was cachectic, dysphagic, with hypotension (MTM 35/80) and skin rash typical for DM. Therefore, some investigations were ordered, showing:

- High titer positivity for anti-TIF1-Y, PL-12, SSA-Ro52
- Significant retention in the oro-pharyngeal region at swallowing study
Methods: with a thematic content that is effective for the care of their disease and the reach for patients in any country in Latin America and the Caribbean and to have a greater reach for the entire population.

Background: Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia to respect the criteria of social inclusion, which is a fundamental principle of the social intervention times in each session. The total estimated training time for the patient went from 22 months to be carried out in a period between 8 months and 1 year, considering that it will be the patient who will decide the number of sessions they want to see per day. In December 2022, an event for patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis was held and a demo of the platform was presented. The official launch of this digital educational program will be in the third quarter of 2023 and the training of 600 patients is expected this year.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.468

HPR Professional education, training and competencies.

POS1385-HPR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPROACHES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL E-SURVEY OF THE DIGITAL RHEUMATOLOGY NETWORK

Keywords: Artificial intelligence

V. Veneto1, L. Gupta2,3,4, V. Agarwal5, J. Knitza6, T. D. R. N. 7, T. Hügle5

1University of Bari, Rheumatology Unit - Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine and Ionian Area, Bari, Italy; 2Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom; 3City Hospital, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 4The University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, School of Biological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 5Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate institute of medical sciences, Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 6Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universitätsklinik Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3 - Rheumatology and Immunology, Erlangen, Germany; 7The Digital Rheumatology Network, Working Group, Lausanne, Switzerland; 8University Hospital Lausanne (CHUV), Switzerland, Department of Rheumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a promising tool to improve clinical decision-making and enhancing patient care. In rheumatology, AI may enable precision medicine, allowing patient profiling, prediction and treatment personalization [1]. Healthcare professionals’ (HPs’) perceptions regarding implementation of AI in rheumatology have been not investigated sufficiently so far. Objectives: This international e-survey aimed to evaluate healthcare professionals’ attitudes towards AI’s potential benefits in managing patients with rheumatic diseases.

Methods: Artificial intelligence approaches in rheumatology - design for the future of patient education: design for a web platform for education in rheumatoid arthritis

Keywords: Education, Patient information and education, Patient reported outcomes

G. S. Rodríguez-Vargas1, F. Rodríguez2, N. Pinto-Flores3, L. Reale4, A. Rojas-Villarraga5, P. Santos-Moreno6. 1BIOMAB - Center for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Scientific Direction, Bogotá, Colombia; 2BIOMAB - Center for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Patients Education, Bogotá, Colombia; 3Universitar, Expert Patient, Bogotá, Colombia; 4Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud FUCS, Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia

Background: In 2018, a multi-component educational program called Universitar was launched. This program was aimed at patients diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. In the process of training the patients, topics such as clinimetry, comprehensive treatment of the disease, healthy lifestyles, and the enhancement of personal and interaction skills were included. After 3 years of implementation of this program, the certification of 91 expert patients in rheumatoid arthritis was achieved. However, there is a major challenge for health education to have a greater reach for the entire population.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to design a digital education platform, with reach for patients in any country in Latin America and the Caribbean and with a thematic content that is effective for the care of their disease and the improvement of their quality of life.

Methods: A review and digital adaptation of the 3 educational levels of Universitar was made. It was considered feasible to maintain the 3 levels of education to respect the criteria of social inclusion, which is a fundamental principle of the multi-component educational program (Level 1: Basic Knowledge of the Disease Program, Level 2: Patient Empowerment Program for Effective Self-Management of the Disease and Level 3: Expert Patient Program). Contents were updated, the total training time was reduced and evaluation and measurement criteria were added for each educational level. A total of 104 educational sessions were reviewed, as well as the measurements included in the training process in aspects such as: the level of disease activity, autonomy and independence, quality of life and satisfaction with the educational program.

Results: The multi-component educational program was reconstructed, reducing the educational program from 104 to 84 educational sessions and minimizing the academic intervention times in each session. The total estimated training time for the patient went from 22 months to be carried out in a period between 8 months and 1 year, considering that it will be the patient who will decide the number of sessions they want to see per day. In December 2022, an event for patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis was held and a demo of the platform was presented. The official launch of this digital educational program will be in the third quarter of 2023 and the training of 600 patients is expected this year.
characteristics of participants and their trust in machine learning and AI (Figure 1, panel A, expressed as a boolean variable).

**Results:** Fifty-nine HPs (male n=36/58 respondents, 37.93%, 1 skipped) of mean age (±SD) 37.55 ± 10.12 years at a mean of 12.33 ± 10.54 years since graduation were considered for the analysis. Fifty-two out of 59 (88.14%), the largest part working in University Hospitals (45/58, 77.59%, 1 skipped). Thirty-seven out of 59 (62.71%) declared an open attitude in adopting machine learning tools for clinical prediction modelling for rheumatoid arthritis patients (Figure 1, Panel B).

More than half of the respondents were interested in a prediction horizon of ≥1 year (33/59, 55.93%, Figure 1 Panel C). The vast majority (51/59, 86.44%) liked having an AI-powered clinical prediction embedded in EHRs, preferring disease activity scores as the target outcome (54/59, 91.53%). Consistently, most of the participants considered that clustering algorithms assigning patients to phenotypes have room in clinical practice, (45/59, 76.27%) especially in treatments selection (46/58, 79.31%, 1 skipped) and early arthritis management (37/59, 63.79%).

Computer vision algorithms were considered of particular interest for the detection of erosions (39/59, 66.1%). Most of the participants agreed that machine learning could be beneficial to extract information from EHR (52/58, 89.66%). In particular, NLP was seen as a tool for capturing longitudinal changes among critical patient outcomes (36/58, 62.07%, 1 skipped). In general about an half of respondents (33/58, 56.90%), considered machine learning-based prediction as more powerful than conventional statistics in terms of clinical predictive modelling, especially for the potential of providing more sensitive analysis (39/57, 68.42%). Neither age, gender, and time from degree were associated with trust in machine learning.

**Conclusion:** The participants of this international survey showed an open and optimistic attitude regarding AI implementation in clinical rheumatology. Expectations were mainly centered on improving patient management by allowing for accurate mid-to-long term prognosis.

**Disclosures:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** We acknowledge the efforts of every member of the Digital Rheumatology Network.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4429

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**HPR Interdisciplinary research**

**POST1386-HPR EFFECTIVENESS OF SUBCUTANEOUS METHOTREXATE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND ITS PERSISTENCE IN THE LONG TERM**

**Background:** Methotrexate (MTX) has been established as the headstone of treatment for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, many patients treated with oral MTX experience adverse events. For this reason, new forms have been developed, such as the subcutaneous presentation in a prefilled syringe, which improve tolerance, adherence and response to treatment.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to describe the effectiveness of treatment with subcutaneous MTX (SC MTX) in a prefilled syringe in a reference center for the management of patients with RA and the persistence of treatment during 5 years of follow-up.

**Methods:** Retrospective observational cohort study (1-Jan-2018 and 31-Dec-2022) in patients with RA, with more than one year of treatment with MTX SC; Patients <12 months with MTX SC and those who had concomitant biological therapies were excluded. Response to treatment was analyzed by DAS28.

**Results:** 1062 patients treated with MTX SC were analyzed. At the time of analysis, 877 patients persisted in treatment and 185 abandoned due to adverse events (17.4%). 190 received it as monotherapy, 285 in combination with other conventional DMARDs, 184 with a corticosteroid, and 218 with cDMARDs and a corticosteroid. 368 (42%) started therapy due to intolerance to the oral form of MTX, 259 (29.5%) to optimize the dose, 114 (13%) 10 mg and 234 (26.7%) 15 mg, while 509 patients (58%) did so to optimize the dose, 259 (29.5%) with 20 mg and 25 (28.5%) with 25 mg. At one year of follow-up, there was an increase in the number of patients who achieved low disease activity [573 (65.3%) remission and 139 (15.85%) low activity] and there was a decrease in patients with moderate activity and high (Figure 1). Of the 877 patients, 27.6% have remained in treatment between 12 and 24 months, 18.8% between 25 and 36, 19% between 37 and 48, and 34.5% for more than 48 months. Over the 5 years, a gradual increase in the percentage of patients achieving low disease activity is observed (Figure 2).

![Figure 1. Participants answers to relevant questions.](image1.png)

![Figure 1. Patients by disease activity group at baseline, 6, and 12 month of treatment with MTX SC.](image2.png)
HPR Measuring health (development and measurement properties of PROs, tests, devices)

POS1387-HPR THE IMPACT OF PSYCHOEMOTIONAL MOOD DISORDERS ON MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY JOINT DISEASES

Keywords: Pain, Prognostic factors, Quality of life


Background: Chronic inflammatory joint diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) are among the most common rheumatic diseases that may cause musculoskeletal pain [1]. The genesis of pain is very complex and many different mechanisms are involved. It is the result of multiple biochemical reactions and is influenced by various degrees by biological, physiological and social factors. (2) The presence of pain is largely determined by the inflammatory activity of the underlying disease, but subjective factors that depend on the psycho-emotional state of the patient who is involved in the assessment of the severity of pain symptoms [3].

Objectives: The aim of the study is to assess the intensity of musculoskeletal pain - arthralgia and myalgia and its correlation with anxiety and depressive mood disorders among a Bulgarian cohort of patients with chronic inflammatory diseases.

Methods: A single-center, observational study including patients with RA, AS and PsA, discharged in the Rheumatology clinic, “St. Marina” UMBAL - Varna. All the patients were diagnosed according to the criteria for the specific inflammatory joint disease and were treated with a biological medication. Visual analogue scales (VAS) to assess pain intensity (muscular and joint) and Zung self-report scales for depression (SDS) and anxiety (SAS) were used. Laboratory acute phase indicators were used to find out which factors were most likely to be linked to CS.

Results: 130 patients with inflammatory joint disease (RA, AS, PsA) were included in the study. The average age of the study population was 56.37 years (from 21-76 years). 41.5% (n=54) of them were women, 58.5% (n=76) were men. No significant differences were found in evaluating the visual-analog scales for assessing joint and muscle pain between men and women (p=0.177 for joint pain and p=0.717 for muscular pain). On the other hand women scored higher on the anxiety and depression scales, and the difference was again significant (p=0.001 for the depression scale and p=0.001 for the anxiety scale). The self-assessment on the depression scale (SDS) shows a significant correlation with the self-assessment of muscle and joint pain, but the self-reported anxiety scale (SAS) showed a significant correlation only with the self-reported joint pain (SDS and VASm, p<0.008; SDS and VASa, p<0.001; SAS and VASm, p=0.031, SAS and VASa, p=0.004 respectively). Inflammatory indicators (predictors) determine about 8% of the variation of the two pain indicators - for joint pain - R square 7.8%, for muscle pain - R square 8.1%.

Conclusion: Musculoskeletal pain is one of the most common clinical presentations of inflammatory joint diseases. Chronic pain can lead to mood disorder. The intensity of the pain correlates with anxiety and depressive symptoms in these patients.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS3388-HPR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL SENSITIZATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL, MULTICENTER STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of life. Patient reported outcomes


Background: Affective distress (clinically significant depression, anxiety and stress) and central sensitization (CS) are consistently associated with the reported severity and quality of pain, physical disability, poor treatment outcomes, and inflammatory disease activity, and potentially with early mortality in rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Objectives: We aimed to explore affective distress in patients with RA and determine how they connected to CS.

Methods: Used the CSI to measure CS and the Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale - 21 Items (DASS-21) to evaluate the negative emotional states of depression, anxiety and stress. The total CSI score ranges from 0 to 150, a score of 40 or greater has been established to indicate CS. Each of the three DASS-21 scales contains 7 items, divided into subscales with similar content. Multiple regression analysis was used to find out which factors were most likely to be linked to CS.

Results: Overall we included 192 RA patients (age ranging from 22 to 86 years) with a mean disease duration of 5.95 (SD 13.75) years. The CSI score was ≥ 40 in 70/192 patients (36%). For the DASS-21 total score, a CI of 0.58 was obtained. The total DASS-21 score ranges from 0 to 210, a score of 40 or greater has been established to indicate CS. Each of the three DASS-21 scales contains 7 items, divided into subscales with similar content. Multiple regression analysis was used to find out which factors were most likely to be linked to CS.

Conclusion: Affective distress (clinically significant depression, anxiety and stress) and CS are common in RA patients. Screening and recognition of such psychosocial disorders may help patients achieve optimal disease control and a good outcome. Overall, our findings have implications for health policy and emphasize the significance of identifying high-risk fibromyalgia (FM) patients by monitoring CS as an indicator of severe disease.

REFERENCES:


POS1787-HPR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL SENSITIZATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL, MULTICENTER STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of life. Patient reported outcomes


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REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1291

HPR Epidemiology and public health (including prevention)

POS1389-HPR  AGE-SUBSET INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS IN THE UNITED STATES

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Systemic sclerosis, Epidemiology

J. Mattson1, H. Bao2, M. Flack3, K. Coeytaux3, 1Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc., Clinical Development Medical Affairs, Connecticut, United States of America; 2Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc., Global Epidemiology and RWE Center of Excellence, Connecticut, United States of America; 3Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc., Medicine, Inflammation, Connecticut, United States of America

Background: Juvenile systemic sclerosis (jSSc) is an extremely rare orphan disease. To date, there is very limited published data regarding incidence and prevalence of jSSc. Specifically, there are no published data on jSSc incidence rates by age group and only one Canadian report of jSSc prevalence rates by age group. These data are important given the significant developmental differences between age subsets.

Objectives: To evaluate jSSc age-subset incidence and prevalence using U.S. administrative claims data.

Methods: Children <18 years old with medical claims for SSC and who received methotrexate, mycophenolate mofetil, or cyclophosphamide at a pediatric age (<18 years old) were identified from the OPTUM Clininformatics claims database 2007-2021. jSSc patients were identified using ≥2 medical claims (710.1, 517.2 and 692.8 for ICD-9-CM codes and M34, M34.x for ICD-10-CM codes) for SSc on different dates within a 1-year period. Incidence and prevalence were estimated overall, by age group, and were age and sex adjusted using 2020 US census data. Both incidence and prevalence rates increased with age. Specifically, there are no published data on jSSc incidence rates by age group and only one Canadian report of jSSc prevalence rates by age group. These data are important given the significant developmental differences between age subsets.

Conclusion: jSSc is an extremely rare disease with incidence and prevalence rates increasing with age. Specifically, incidence and prevalence rates vary dramatically for different age subsets, with increasing rates at 10 years and older. To our knowledge, this is the first study to estimate jSSc incidence and prevalence rates by age group.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS1390-HPR  HEALTH PROFILE AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A BRAZILIAN CITIZENS SURVEY

Keywords: Epidemiology, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life

P. Santana1, L. M. B. De Souza1, M. Antunes1, M. Pinheiro1, A. Cruz1, P. Januario1, A. Pasqual Marques1, 1University of São Paulo, Department of Physical Therapy, Audiology and Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy, Medical School at University of São Paulo,., Sao Paulo, Brazil

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic inflammatory disease, multisystemic, of unknown cause, autoimmune, with periods of exacerbations and remissions, which may generate limitations in functional and occupational capacity. Brazil has high prevalence rates of SLE (20 to 150 cases per 100,000 inhabitants). The survival rate of these patients has increased in the last century (from 50% to 95%). This context raises questions about the social, health, and quality of life profile of the patient.

Objectives: To profile and evaluate the quality of life of patients with SLE residing in Brazil.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study, in subjects aged ≥18 years, diagnosed with SLE and residing in Brazil. We applied online form through Google Forms and collected sociodemographic (age, sex, marital status, years of study, occupational activity, and self-reported race), clinical (Body Mass Index (BMI), duration of disease, presence of comorbidities and use of corticosteroids) and quality of life data through the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Quality of Life (SLEQOL). Data analysis was descriptive (mean, sample standard deviation, and percentage).

Results: 642 volunteers were female (98.29%), aged between 18 and 73 years, and BMI of 27.3 ± 4.58. Greater representation from the Southeast region (60.12%); self-reported white race (54.98%); married marital status (39.88%), education with ≥12 years of schooling (64.64%), have already withdrawn from occupational activity (74.92%) and changed profession after SLE diagnosis (37.85%). The duration of SLE was ≥5 years (45.64%) and they have other diagnosed comorbidities (63.24%), and they use corticoid (62.62%). Quality of life had a score of 137.72 ± 51.89, closer to the minimum score (minimum score = 40 and maximum = 280; whereby, higher values correspond to worse quality of life).

Conclusion: Most of the sample is female as are already pointed out in other studies; the most recurrent self-reported race was white, unlike studies that the Afro-descendant race was more frequent. Throughout their illness, patients encounter physical, psychological, and social challenges, reflecting on their functional capacity, interfering with occupational activity (leaves of absence and sometimes changing professions) even with education ≥12 years of study. These changes can interfere with health-related quality of life. Care strategies aimed at decreasing the impact of the disease for the patient and his family are needed; as

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POS1390-HPR  LUPUS NEPHRITIS PROFILE IN TUNISIAN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Autoantibodies, Clinical trials

M. Cherichi1, Y. Bousoukaya1, M. Elghali2, N. Sakhy2, M. Jiguirim3, S. Hammami1, 1Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Internal Medicine Department, Monastir, Tunisia; 2Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Immunology Laboratory Department, Monastir, Tunisia; 3Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: Lupus Nephritis (LN) is associated with morbidity and worse survival and its clinical, the immunological and the follow-up profile varies between studies due to race and ethnicities differences. Previous studies have evaluated clinical and immunological factors associated with LN. Only few studies were done in the north African region.

Objectives: To define clinical, immunological and treatment differences according to the presence of lupus nephritis (LN) in Tunisian Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) patients.

Methods: We studied SLE 141 patients. A clinical examination and a laboratory evaluation were performed in all SLE patients at the onset of the disease.

Results: Of all patients, 26.24% presented LN. The mean age of patients with LN was lower than patients without LN (34.3 ± 14.61 years vs 40.46 ± 14.94 years). LN was associated with pleural effusion, pericarditis, higher SLEDAI score, higher levels of creatinine and proteinuria, lower rate of glomerular filtration, anemia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, necessity of immunosuppressive drugs, antibodies such as anti-dsDNA, anti-Sm, anti-Sm/RNP and anti-SSA/La. In terms of renal histopathological findings, when we combined class IV and V (proliferative nephritis), we found that this form was more prevalent (56.8%) and associated with higher rate of proteinuria, C-reactive protein and necessity of immunosuppressive drugs.

Conclusions: The north African studies in the term of Lupus Nephritis are scarce. Nonetheless, severe forms seem to be frequent with a high prevalence of proliferative nephritis in our study. Pleural effusion, anti-dsDNA positivity, leukopenia and thrombocytopenia are the predictive factors to develop LN.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5976
well as, future studies to explore non-drug therapeutic resources for an integral care of the patient.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Referee reports 10 days before publication

HPR Interventions (educational, physical, social and psychological)

POS1392-HPR1 EFFECTS OF DIGITAL-BASED HIGH-INTENSITY TRAINING INTERVENTION IN INDIVIDUALS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS – A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED PILOT STUDY (RCT)

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Non-pharmacological interventions

A. Torell1, M. C. Olsson2, Å. Andersson2, K. Malm3, I. Åberg2, E. Wiking2, E. Haglund2,4,5. 1Angelholm Hospital, Dept. of Rehabilitation, Angelholm, Sweden; 2Halmstad University Dept. of Environmental and Biociences, School of Business, Innovation and Sustainability, Halmstad, Sweden; 3Capio Movement, Dept. of Rheumatology, Halmstad, Sweden; 4Lund University Dept. of Clinical Sciences, Section of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden; 5Spenshults Research and Development Centre, Halmstad, Sweden

Background: Physical exercise is an important treatment for individuals with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). Although high-intensity training (HIT) has been shown to reduce disease symptoms and risk of comorbidities without exacerbating disease activity (1), compliance tends to decrease over time. Increased knowledge is needed on how to optimize and tailor individual exercise programs for continued regular exercising and improved health.

Objectives: To study the effects of HIT on aerobic capacity, body composition, disease activity, physical function, health status and fatigue in individuals with axSpA after a 12-week intervention supported by digital coaching.

Methods: Twenty-two individuals (women, n=12), recruited from two rheumatology clinics in southern Sweden, were randomized to a HIT intervention group (HG, n=11) or a control group (CG, n=11). The HG completed three HIT sessions per week, including two interval training sessions (4x4 min), in self-selected activities for 12 weeks. The individuals in the HG were individually coached and had regular support from a physical therapist primarily by digital coaching. The CG continued exercising as usual. Assessment of aerobic capacity (VO2max), body composition (BMMI and visceral fat area [cm2]), disease activity (CRP [μg/ml], BASDAI, 0-10 worst-best), physical function (BASFI, 0-10 best-worst), health status (EQ5D, 0-1 worst-best, ASAS health index [ASAS-HI], 0-17 best-worst), and fatigue (fatigue severity scale [FFS], 0-7 best-worst) were sampled at baseline and after 12 weeks. Mean and standard deviation (SD) were used for descriptive statistics. Repeated measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to investigate effect of group (HG/CG) and time (PRE*POST), with a post-hoc analysis using t-tests when ANOVA indicated a significant difference in main effects or interactions. A significance level of p<0.05 was used. Fisher’s exact test was used to study the effects over time for CRP (as dichotomized variable, > or < 4 μg/ml).

Results: Results presented are part of an ongoing RCT based on 19 individuals (women n=11) that have completed the 12-week follow-up analyses. The participants mean (SD) age was 48 (10) years, BMI 25 (4), VO2max 37 (6) mlO2/kg/min, and BASDAI 2.6 (0.3). No differences were present between the HG (n=9) and the CG group (n=10) at baseline for the studied variables. After 12 weeks of HIT an ANOVA interaction (p<0.05) showed that HG increased their VO2max (6.4 [3.6] mlO2/kg/min; p<0.001) but CD did not. For BMI, visceral fat area, disease activity (BASDAI), physical function (BASFI), fatigue (FFS) no differences in main effects or interactions were found (p>0.05). Health status (EQ5D) showed an ANOVA time main effect (p<0.001) where the HG increased their health status [0.10 [0.06] units; p=0.02] after 12 weeks, but CG did not. For health status measured with ASAS-HI no differences between groups were found. For dichotomized CRP values no differences were found in either of the group’s pre-post.

Conclusion: This pilot RCT shows that after 12 weeks of digital-based HIT intervention, the HG increased their aerobic capacity and EQ5D health status compared to CG, while body composition, disease activity, physical function, and fatigue did not show any significant differences between the groups.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1393-HPR1 THE INTERVENTION OF AN EXPERT PATIENTS GROUP IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN AN INTEGRAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT MODEL

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Self-management, Patient information and education

P. Rodriguez1, G. S. Rodriguez-Vargas2, N. Pinto-Florez3, L. Reape3, P. Rodriguez-Linare3, A. Rojas-Villegas4, P. Santos-Moreno2. 1BIOMAB, Patients Education, Bogotá, Colombia; 2BIOMAB, Scientific Direction, Bogotá, Colombia; 3Universar, Expert Patient, Bogotá, Colombia; 4Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud FUCS, Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia

Background: Education for patients is a powerful tool that allows them to participate more efficiently in the relationship with their medical teams and to generate high adherence to their therapy. However, there is a high possibility of establishing lasting relationships between medical teams and patients thanks to the intermediation of expert patients. An expert patient is a person who has received education for the care of their health condition, the improvement of the relationship with their medical team and has been trained to educate, guide and support other patients who have the same health condition.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to implement a participation model that integrates expert patients into healthcare teams so that they can help other patients to learn about the benefits of a correct relationship between doctor and patient and to be more adherent to their treatment, becoming thus in a support axis in the medical care model.

Methods: After the training and certification of 50 expert patients in Rheumatoid Arthritis, a review of the literature was carried out to demonstrate intervention strategies in which expert patients have leadership roles and are integrated into comprehensive medical care models. Then, the patients received training dedicated to: knowledge of the health care model, the algorithm used for the intervention of the interdisciplinary team, the importance of therapeutic adherence in the treatment of a chronic disease, dimension and the characterization of patients, to determine a treatment by objectives (Treat to Target Strategy). Finally, expert patients were trained so that they can establish effective communication strategies with other patients in real time.

Results: The intervention will be carried out in groups between 2 and 3 patients and they will be able to interact with other patients in the medical center in a group or individual way. Expert patients will exchange experiences, conduct literature, and provide feedback to the medical team and other relevant information (see Figure 1). Likewise, a data collection will be carried out in each interaction to determine through a qualitative study the impact of the support of the expert patients. The duration of each day of intervention will be 6 hours, which denotes a reach of 72 patients per day and an impact on nearly 1,400 patients who come to the medical center per month.

publication date: 05/18/23

Figure 1: Introduction method of expert patients in core model

Keywords: Education for patients, Rheumatoid arthritis, Expert Patient, Bogotá, Colombia; Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud FUCS, Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia

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Figure 1: Introduction method of expert patients in care model
Conclusion: It is important to create strategies that allow the education of patients towards therapeutic adherence and integrate them into healthcare teams, since the inclusion of expert patients in medical care models can generate high impacts on the doctor-patient relationship and improve the degrees of adherence in the population, thanks to the relationship between peers that will lead to a better understanding of the role of patients in their treatment.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Methods: Sixty patients with SSc (Female: 86.67%) completed three questionnaires: TEI Questionnaire Short-Form (TEIQue-SF); Short-Form Health Survey (SF-36); and demographic characteristics. A series of multiple linear regression models were used to analyze the data with dependent variables (DV) every dimension of SF-36 (Physical Functioning, Role-Physical, Bodily Pain, General Health, Vitality, Social Functioning, Role-Emotional, Mental Health) and independent variables TEI total and every TEI factor (Well-being, Self-control, Emotionality, Sociability).

Results: The average age of participants was 56.4±13.4 years and the mean disease duration was 7.7±7.5 years. TEI total was found to affect both physical and mental component summaries (p<0.001) and all 8 dimensions of the HRQoL (p<0.001). Well-being appeared to have a positive effect on Role-Physical, General Health, Vitality, Social Functioning and Mental Health. Self-control appeared to influence Physical Functioning and Pain, and Emotionality appeared to influence Role-Emotional. Sociability was not an important factor for any dimension of HRQoL (Table 1).

Conclusion: Understanding the relationship between TEI and HRQoL dimensions is important for the support and empowerment of SSc patients, as well as the establishment and implementation of appropriate psychotherapeutic interventions.

Table 1. Multiple linear regression analyses results for elements of the TEI and HRQoL dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Independent Variables</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>Standardized β</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Functioning (PF)</td>
<td>Self-control</td>
<td>15.27</td>
<td>2.09</td>
<td>.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role-Physical (RP)</td>
<td>Well-being</td>
<td>15.31</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodily Pain (BP)</td>
<td>Self-control</td>
<td>7.81</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>.34***</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Health (GH)</td>
<td>Well-being</td>
<td>5.96</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitality (VT)</td>
<td>Well-being</td>
<td>9.82</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>.62*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social-Functioning (SF)</td>
<td>Well-being</td>
<td>14.87</td>
<td>2.51</td>
<td>.61*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role Emotional (RE)</td>
<td>Emotionality</td>
<td>11.66</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>.51*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health (MH)</td>
<td>Well-being</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>.64*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS</td>
<td>Well-being</td>
<td>7.13</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>.44**</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCS</td>
<td>Well-being</td>
<td>11.26</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P <.001 **P < .01 ***P <.05

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Perception Illness Score (BPIS). It consists of 9 items: 8 quantitative questions on a numerical scale ranging from 0 to 10, and one last item in the form of a qualitative question. The total score varies from 0 to 90, without predefined thresholds. The higher the score, the more threatening the patient’s perception of the disease is. The significance threshold was set at a p value of 0.05.

**Results:** Our study included 80 patients (G1: N= 40 and G2: N=40), 76 women and 4 men, with an average age of 59±9 years [42-77] in G1 and 53±10 years in G2 [37-74]. The mean disease duration was 15±6.24 years. RA was erosive in 90% of cases. Rheumatoid factor and/or ACPA were positive in 85% of cases. The mean delay between fibromyalgia and RA diagnosis was 49±7 months. Seventy-five percent of patients were on corticosteroids with an average dose of 10 mg per day of Prednisone equivalent. All patients were receiving a DMARD: methotrexate 85%, leflunomide 11.2%, and biologics 37.5%. The mean VAS pain was 6.3±1.8 cm in G1, and 5±1.1 cm in G2. The mean VAS fatigue was 6±2.3 cm in G1, and 4±0.9 cm in G2. The mean global patient assessment was 5.9±2 in G1, and 5±1.1 cm in G2. The mean DAS_28 ESR was 5±0.7 in G1, and 3±0.5 in G2. The mean morning stiffness duration was 30 minutes in G1, and 4±1.9 cm in G2. The mean BPIS was 71±9 in G1 vs 55±7.5 in G2 (p=0.05).

**Conclusion:** Our study showed that fibromyalgia aggravates catastrophizing and illness perception in patients with RA. It is important to remind the place of cognitive therapy in the management of these chronic conditions.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.106

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**POS1397-HPR**

**SHARED DECISION MAKING ON SUBCUTANEOUS METHOTREXATE OPTIONS FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS, WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE FOR PATIENTS AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS?**

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Best practices

**L. West**1, J. Painter2, H. Smith1, A. Davies1, F. Brown2, P. Liverrmore3, G. Zabate1, C. Jacklin1, A. Kent1. Nordic Pharma, - Reading, United Kingdom; 2Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, Rheumatology Dept, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom; 3University Hospital Sussex, Rheumatology Dept., Brighton, United Kingdom; 4Cardiff & Vale University Hospitals, Pharmacy Dept., Cardiff, United Kingdom; 5Noah's Ark Hospital, University Hospital Wales, Paediatric Unit, Cardiff, United Kingdom; 6Great Ormond St Children's Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Academic Dept., London, United Kingdom; 7NHS Lothian, Rheumatology Dept., Edinburgh, United Kingdom; 8Clinical Director, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, - Berkshire, United Kingdom; 9Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology Dept, Salisbury, United Kingdom

**Background:** Methotrexate (MTX) is the most commonly used rheumatoid arthritis (RA) drug and will often be the first drug prescribed to treat RA [1]. Enhanced bioavailability of subcutaneous (SC) administration of MTX and improved tolerability compared to oral MTX may make this route of administration preferable to the oral route in certain patients [2]. RA patients with ‘dexterity’ issues have physical challenges impacting their ability to use their SC MTX device, therefore making the need to offer choice of device to the individual patient to suit their needs important. Single device policy within hospitals is a major issue as it results in an inability for health care professionals (HCP) to offer a choice, deliver shared decision making and limits the ability to provide optimal disease management [3].

**Objectives:** The aims of this study were to quantify the cohort of UK RA patients with impairments affecting their ability to self-administer SC MTX, to explore whether such patients are treated any differently or experience inequity of care with impairments affecting their ability to self-administer SC MTX, to explore whether such patients are treated any differently or experience inequity of care, and to identify the challenges facing prescribers and patients of only having one device available for RA patients.

**Methods:** A 30-minute computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) was performed during 15 May-24 June 2022. Twenty-nine UK HCPs (22 rheumatology nurses and 7 consultant rheumatologists) were included. CATI included questions categorised in 4 sections including how to choose a device and importance of patient choice (8 questions), impairment symptoms (7 questions), impairment management (5 questions), and challenges and progression (4 questions). Data was further validated using a virtual expert panel meeting with another group of HCPs working within rheumatology on 11 June 2022.

**Results:** 31% of HCPs feel there are significant challenges for some patients using a SC device specifically, those with reduced hand function or with active or significant disease, which results in being unable to self-inject leading to non-adherence to treatment. It was estimated that 23% of RA patients have impairment (mostly reduced manual dexterity) impacting their ability to self-administer. HCPs feel patients with impairments have different needs which are mostly identified during the patient assessment or device observation. 90% of HCPs stated they rely on patients telling them of any issues, however patients do not always raise their challenges with their device to their HCP. 90% of HCPs defined patient choice in terms of facilitating patients to make an informed decision. 83% of HCPs mentioned ability to use a device as the most important factor for choosing a device. 73% of hospitals only have one SC MTX device available. The current perception of ‘one device fits all’ is inconsistent with the Royal College of Nursing guidelines on SC MTX and the NHS Long Term Plan (regarding patient choice) [3].

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.198

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**POS1398-HPR**

**SUPPORT NEEDED BY PEOPLE WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS TO REMAIN IN THE WORKFORCE**

**Keywords:** Work-related issues, Systemic sclerosis

**J. L. Poole**1, K. Carandang2, M. Thelander-Hill3, A. Koch4, P. Rogers5, D. Lacaille6. 1University of New Mexico, Occupational Therapy Graduate

**Figure 1. Distribution of the number of branded SC MTX devices available (≥1, only one) for RA patients within the hospital/clinic**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

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Program, Albuquerque, United States of America; 1University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Young Patients’ Autoimmune Research & Empowerment Alliance, River Falls, United States of America; 1University of New Mexico, Occupational Therapy Graduate Program, Albuquerque, United States of America; 4New Mexico Highlands University, Rehabilitation Counseling, Rio Rancho, United States of America; 5Arthritis Research Canada, Research, Richmond, Canada; 6University of British Columbia, Rheumatology, Vancouver, Canada

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) severely limits one’s ability to participate in paid employment, which may threaten an individual’s economic, social, physical, or mental well-being. No programs and very little resources exist to help people with SSc remain in the workforce despite the high prevalence of work disability. The few programs that do exist were developed for persons with other rheumatic conditions. One evidence-based program, Making it WorkTM (MIW), has the potential to be adapted to meet the specific work related problems faced by people with SSc.

Objectives: This study identified challenges in the work environment and supports received or desired by persons with SSc as a preliminary step to identify adaptations that could make the MIWTM more relevant to people with SSc.

Methods: Participants were recruited through virtual communication from the National Scleroderma Foundation and word of mouth to participate in one 2-hour virtual focus group. Participants were >18 years of age, currently employed or stopped work in the past 5 years, United States residents, English-speaking, and self-reported a diagnosis of SSc and that SSc affected their work ability. Participants were first asked about difficulties working with SSc. The facilitator created a list of challenges based on initial discussion, then participants identified the top five most challenging aspects according to their needs. Participants were then asked about supports received or desired to help maintain employment. Focus group notes and transcripts were analyzed to determine challenges and supports that must be addressed in an employment intervention for people with SSc.

Results: The sample included 14 participants (85.7% women, mean age 48.6±10.1 years, mean disease duration 7.7±7.4 years; 78.6% had diffuse SSc). 71.4% had college degrees and 71.4% were employed full time; 42.9% described their jobs as having mostly mental demands while 57.1% had both physical and mental demands. Important challenges prioritized by the most participants were: 1) challenges with physical tasks, particularly related to hand use [11, 78.6%]--“My hands are pretty messed up; typing is a challenge”; 2) fatigue [9, 64.3%]--“When you say fatigue, people are like, ‘Well, go take a power nap,’ but that’s not what it is; I could sleep 12-hours and still be exhausted”; 3) mental and emotional health, related to coping with how the unpredictability of SSc affects the body, identity, and employment [8, 57.1%];--“This disease does not just knock us down one time or challenge us on one level. It’s like one body system after another.” 4) You have to deal with the issues of your self-esteem, feeling like you’re different than everybody else, mourning that loss of ability or career or work ethic that you had prior to your diagnosis. Participants identified a variety of individualized strategies that enabled them to overcome challenges with SSc at work, including ways to plan ahead, adaptive equipment, and strategies to adapt job tasks. However, participants emphasized that in order to use these tools, it is most helpful to: 1) have the knowledge and advocacy skills to know what to ask for; 2) feel confident that asking for support or accommodations in the workplace will lead to a beneficial change, and 3) be able to problem solve with others (e.g., clinicians, work-related program, therapists, support group).

Conclusion: This study identified the prominent barriers and supports to employment from the perspectives of patients with SSc. While there is some overlap with issues reported by persons with other rheumatic conditions, there are also SSc-specific concerns. This information will be used to adapt the MIWTM intervention, and warrants further consideration for how to incorporate better supports.

REFERENCES: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: N. Shuvalova 2 declared a significant interest in the development of MIWTM.

Keywords: SSc, vocational counseling, physical work tasks, fatigue, mental health, SSc.

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POS1400-HPR

ONLINE SCHOOL AS A METHOD OF INCREASING THE MEDICAL LITERACY OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Patient information and education

A. Nurmamedov1, N. Shuvalova2, S. Lezhnina2, E. Guryanova3, 1Mary Central Clinic, Department Internal Diseases, Mary Turkmenistan; 2Yakovlev Chuvash Pedagogical State University, Department of Theoretical Foundations of Physical Education, Cheboksary, Russian Federation; 3Chuvash State University by I. N. Ulianov, Department of Healthcare Management and Economics, Cheboksary, Russian Federation

Background: Today, most of the population of Kazakhstan has access to the Internet. Due to this fact, the use of online schools for patients with rheumatic diseases seems to be a promising direction [1,2].

Objectives: The purpose of the study is to analyze whether online rheumatology schools can be used as one of the methods to improve the medical literacy of patients with rheumatic diseases.

Methods: A survey was conducted with 90 patients in the city of Astana attending an online school on RH from September 2021 to September 2022 after graduation. The online questionnaire included 20 questions (part A and part B). The questions in part A concerned the age of patients, gender, bad habits, heredity, sources of information about the school, and the desire to study at an online school. In part B, the questions concerned the novelty and quality of the information received. Patients had to choose one/several of the presented answers as a response. In some questions, a differentiated assessment was used on a 5-point scale, where 0 points is the minimum, and 5 is the maximum positive assessment. The lecture course consisted of 36 lectures and 6 practical exercises on rheumatic diseases. The questionnaire data were processed in Statistical Analysis Software15.0. Statistical significance was handled using Analysis of variance. Results: Part A. The number of patients under the age of 30 was 9 (10%), 31-40 years old - 41 (45.6%) respondents, 41-50 years old - 12 (13.3%) respondents, 51-60 years old - 17 (18.9%) respondents, over 60 years old - 11 (12.2%) respondents. 75 (83.3%) patients were women, 26 (28.8%) patients had bad habits. 17 patients (18.8%) knew about rheumatic diseases FROM relatives. Most of the participants received information about the online school from the clinic staff - 42 (46.7%) or FROM the clinic website - 27 (30.0%), from other sources - 21 (23.3%) respondents. 72 (80%) respondents noted their desire to attend such classes in the future. These data indicates on the interest of respondents of different age groups in improving the level of medical literacy in rheumatic diseases. Part B. 77 (85.5%) and 82 (91.1%) respondents learned about new risk factors for RD (the role of infection and stress), respectively. 39 (43.3%) patients understood the need to correct their lifestyle. A total of 26 (28.8%) respondents realized that they could independently control treatment. 92% of respondents rated the quality of the information received by the maximum score.

Conclusion: The online school can be used as one of the methods to improve the medical literacy of patients with rheumatic diseases.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgments: Nil

Disclosure of Interests: Nil Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2907

POS1399-HPR

ONLINE SCHOOL AS A METHOD OF INCREASING THE MEDICAL LITERACY OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes

G. I. Kinkiki1, N. B. Karaca1, S. Szezer2, B. Kelesgjo3, G. Kinkiki1, 1Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Department of Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Ankara Training and Research Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3Dyupak Yildirim Beyazıt Training and Research Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 4Ankara University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and ankylosing spondylitis (AS) are among the most common chronic diseases (joint) conditions. RA and AS are different types of arthritis. Living with RA or AS can significantly affect your quality of life, mental health, and emotional well-being.

Objectives: We report the preliminary results of an ongoing prospective observational study that compare the body awareness, physical activity, kinesiophobia, pain catastrophizing, and psychosocial status in individuals with rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes

DOI: 10.1007/s11882-018-0814-6
significantly more physically active compared to individuals with RA (p<0.005). Body awareness, kinesiophobia, pain catastrophizing and psychosocial status were similar between groups (p>0.05). In addition, disease activity was moderately correlated with body awareness, pain catastrophizing and kinesiophobia (p<0.05). Body awareness, kinesiophobia, pain catastrophizing and kinesiophobia in individuals with AS

**Conclusion:**
Treatment of RA and AS is similar, but there are key differences. According to our results, individuals with AS is more physically active than individuals with RA regardless of disease duration and disease activity. Health professionals can also focus on correlation between disease activity and higher body awareness, pain catastrophizing and kinesiophobia in individuals with AS.

**REFERENCES:**

**Table 1. Characteristics of patients and outcome measures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients’ characteristics</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>AS</th>
<th>p*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year); mean ± SD</td>
<td>51.34 ± 11.0</td>
<td>40.27 ± 10.38</td>
<td>0.000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²); mean ± SD</td>
<td>28.21 ± 4.47</td>
<td>26.66 ± 5.78</td>
<td>0.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (n, %)</td>
<td>Female 41(86.4 %)</td>
<td>7 (23.3 %)</td>
<td>0.000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disease (year); mean ± SD</td>
<td>7.20 ± 9.39</td>
<td>5.91 ± 7.28</td>
<td>0.488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h)</td>
<td>13 (2-58)</td>
<td>9 (3-54)</td>
<td>0.115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dl)</td>
<td>3.65 (0.18-37.70)</td>
<td>5.2 (0.60-49.06)</td>
<td>0.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI (0-10)</td>
<td>Active disease</td>
<td>18 (60)</td>
<td>0.005*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inactive disease</td>
<td>12 (40)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS-28</td>
<td>Remission</td>
<td>24 (50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>Low activity</td>
<td>12 (25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate activity</td>
<td>12 (25)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcome measures**

RA= Rheumatoid arthritis; AS= Ankylosing spondylitis; SD= Standard deviation; BMI= Body mass index; ESR= Erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP= C reactive protein; Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index, BDI= Beck Depression Inventory. IPAQ-SF= International Physical Activity Questionnaire-Short Form; PCS= Pain Catastrophizing Scale; TSK= Tampa Scale for Kinesiophobia; BAQ: Body Awareness Questionnaire. Mann-Whitney U test.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared. Disclosure of: None declared, Mike Golding: None declared, Fareha Nishat: None declared, Kaitlyn Merrill: None declared, Ramandeep Kaur: None declared, Jennifer Stinson: None declared, Jennifer Protudjer Speakers bureau: Nutricia (Food allergy university, Nov 2022), Consultant of: Novartis 2021, allergy products, Roberta Woodgate: None declared, Christine Peschenk: None declared, Diane Lacaille: None declared, Umut Oguzgöz: None declared, Zahi Touma: None declared, Lily Lim Speakers bureau: Pfizer Feb 2023. Not drug related and not related to this abstract.

**DOIs:**
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10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3294

**Methods:**
YASLE were recruited from two Lupus clinics in Toronto and Winnipeg. Semi-structured qualitative interviews were conducted individually via secure video conferencing. As this study was conducted during the coronavirus pandemic, participants were also asked about the pandemic impacts on their education experiences. All interviews were transcribed verbatim, double-coded and analysed using a reflexive thematic approach.

**Results:**
Twelve participants (2 males), 9 of childhood- and 3 adult-onset SLE (cSLE, aSLE) were interviewed. Nine participants (82%) were >25 years old. Five also worked while studying. Five were Asians, 5 were White, 2 of other ethnicities. Half have severe disease (central nervous system or renal involvement). Median duration of disease was 4.0 (25%-75% percentile, 1.8-5.3) years. The impacts of SLE on their education experience emerged in 5 themes:

1. Challenges imposed by SLE: Difficulties adjusting to the diagnosis, physical and cognitive symptoms of SLE. While most participants disclosed their diagnosis to their schools, some expressed hesitation.
2. Changes in aspirations: Education/career goals were modified by reducing course load or shifting to more sedentary or less cognitively demanding careers.
3. Coping and acceptance: More adaptive than maladaptive coping strategies were used to manage their SLE, including self-acceptance, pacing, planning and avoidance. All strived to do well in their studies despite SLE and were hopeful for their futures.
4. Facilitating factors for education success: Family and friends’ social support, individualized accommodations from school and parental financial support were identified.
5. Pandemic impacts: Virtual learning and flexible schedules enabled participants to adapt their schedules according to their physical conditions (e.g. pain, fatigue). However, fewer opportunities to interact in-person were viewed as challenges. Participants want hybrid options to continue even after the pandemic.

**Conclusion:** SLE affected students’ performance through physical symptoms, fatigue and cognitive dysfunction. Ongoing social and school supports help to support them. Maintaining the remote learning options may increase accessibility for them. These results identified opportunities for developing future supportive interventions for YASLE patients in their schooling which then better prepare them for future employment.

**REFERENCES:**
included in the study. mSASSS progression was defined as at least 2 units in mSASSS score increase on radiographs taken at least two years apart. An increase in mSASSS score and/or the development of new syndesmophyte was considered as radiographic progression.

Results: Age, age at diagnosis, symptoms duration and education level were significantly different between the patients with BMI<30 and BMI≥30. BASDAI, C-reactive protein and erythrocyte sedimentation rates were similar between groups. BasFI, BASMI, fasting blood glucose, triglyceride, total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein levels and aspartate aminotransferase values measured in the same period were significantly higher in axSpA patients with BMI≥30. While baseline total and lumbar vertebral sMSSS scores were similar between the groups, cervical sMSSS scores were significantly higher in the BMI≥30 group. In our study group baseline BMI was positively correlated with radiographic progression (r=0.201; P<0.005) and the development of new syndesmophyte (r=0.134; P<0.05).

Conclusion: The results of this study showed that BMI was associated with both baseline and the progression of structural damage in axSpA patients. The effect of high BMI on structural damage may be related to mechanical factors. However, BMI was found to be associated with cervical, but not lumbar syndesmophytes at baseline. These findings might be the results of increase in proinflammatory cytokines such as TNF-alfa and IL-6 and the reduction of anti-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-10 and adiponectin secreted from dysfunctional adipose tissue.

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of patients with axial spondyloarthritis categorized according to body mass index.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMI&lt;30*</th>
<th>BMI≥30*</th>
<th>P**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>37(15.5)</td>
<td>44(12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education duration (year)</td>
<td>11(8)</td>
<td>8(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (year)</td>
<td>32.5(15)</td>
<td>38(62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis duration (year)</td>
<td>1(7)</td>
<td>3(10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration (year)</td>
<td>10(11)</td>
<td>14(16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>3.7(3.6)</td>
<td>3(3.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI</td>
<td>2.8(4.7)</td>
<td>4.1(4.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASMI</td>
<td>3(2.8)</td>
<td>2.8(2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedimentation rate</td>
<td>19(28)</td>
<td>15(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Reactive protein</td>
<td>6.6(16.7)</td>
<td>7(8.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasting blood sugar</td>
<td>93(13)</td>
<td>99(17.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglyceride</td>
<td>101(64)</td>
<td>135(80.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cholesterol</td>
<td>184(52.25)</td>
<td>201(43.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL</td>
<td>116(46)</td>
<td>127(43.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL</td>
<td>43(13)</td>
<td>44(18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine</td>
<td>0.75(0.15)</td>
<td>0.77(0.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSASS score basal</td>
<td>0(8)</td>
<td>2(9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSASS score cervical</td>
<td>0(2)</td>
<td>0(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSASS score lumbar</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are presented as median (IQR). **P value is given according to Mann Whitney U test results.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1403-HPR

LONGITUDINAL PILOT-STUDY EXPLORING CHANGES IN EDUCATIONAL NEED AMONG PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED AAV USING ENAT

Keywords: Vasculitis, Patient information and education

S. Brolin1,2, I. Gunnarsson1,2, S. Pettersson1,2,1 Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 2Karolinska Institutet, Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: Previous studies have shown that disease duration associate with an increased need of educational support in ANCA associated vasculitis (AAV) [1]. Shorter disease duration showed to significantly increase educational needs although not yet investigated whether the disease duration or time itself is the deciding factor. Longitudinal studies using the Educational Needs Assessment Tools (ENAT) are in general scarce.

Objective: The aim of this pilot study was to explore how educational needs changes over two years among newly diagnosed patients with AAV using ENAT.

Methods: This pilot study included longitudinal data from the Rheumatology and Nephrology clinics at the Karolinska University Hospital in Sweden during 2009-2022. Inclusion criteria were being diagnosed with AAV (GPA, MPA and EGPA), minimum age of 18 years and literate in Swedish. Exclusion criteria was cognitive impairment interfering with literate capabilities. Disease activity was estimated using Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score version 3 (BVAS). Educational needs were captured by patients' answers to the ENAT questionnaire at baseline and after 24 months. The ENAT consists of 39 questions, presented as total ENAT and seven domains (managing pain, movement, feelings, disease process, treatment, self-management and, support) each containing 4-7 items. Item answers ranging from ‘not at all important’ = 0, to ‘extremely important’ = 3.

Paired samples t-test was used to compare means between the two timepoints.

Results: 17 individuals (47% men) with GPA (n=15) and MPA (n=2) completed the questionnaire. At baseline mean age was 51 years, ranging from 20-66, and mean years of education 14.6. Mean disease duration at baseline was 0.2 years. All but three were newly diagnosed at baseline and 3 was diagnosed the year before inclusion. All individuals had an active disease, with a mean BVAS of 15.2, range 1-25. The mean total ENAT score decreased from 83.5 at baseline to 72.6 at 24 months (p=0.04) (Table 1). Change in individuals total ENAT scores ranged from +10 to -73. Educational needs decreased within two of the seven domains, ‘Self-help measures’ 15.4-12.9 (p=0.03) with individual score change ranging from +5 to -13 and ‘Treatment’ 16.8-12.1 (p=0.005) with individual score change ranging from +7 to -21 (Graph 1). Domains indicating lower educational needs at baseline were still low after 2 years. Over time the domain with highest educational needs shifted from ‘Self-help measures’ at baseline to ‘Disease process’ at follow-up.

Conclusion: This pilot study demonstrates that patients newly diagnosed with AAV expressed high educational needs at baseline compared to previous studies on both patients with established and newly diagnosed AAV [1]. The educational need decreased over time in total and within two of the domains but was still high after 24 months. Our findings point to the fact that patients need continuous educational support during the first years of diagnosis. To further explore patterns and clusters of changes in educational needs more data is needed, including data on what and how information and patient education is received.


Graph 1. Domain ‘treatments’ range 0-23 and ‘Self-help measures’ range 0-18 at baseline and after 24 months.

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to the participating patients, and colleagues assisting in the data collection.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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SLE, Sjöns’s and APS - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Diet and nutrition, Cardiovascular disease

V. Orefice¹, F. Ceccarelli², C. Barbati¹, G. Buoncuore¹, C. Alessandri¹, C. Pirone¹, F. Conti¹.¹ - Lupus Clinic, Reumatologia, Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Internistiche Anestesiologiche e Cardiovascolari, Sapienza Università di Roma, Roma, Italy

Background: Circulating endothelial progenitor cells (EPCs) are widely demonstrated biomarkers of endothelial function. Their frequency and function varied in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients, with a significant association with subclinical atherosclerosis [1]. Caffeine, one of the most widely consumed products in the world, seems to improve endothelial cells number and EPCs migration in coronary artery disease both in mouse models and in patients [2]. We recently demonstrated the impact of caffeine on SLE disease activity status, in terms of SLE Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K) values and serum cytokine levels [3].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the possible role of caffeine intake on endothelial function in SLE patients, by assessing its effect on number and function of EPCs both ex vivo in SLE patients and in vitro in healthy donors (HD) treated with SLE sera.

Methods: We performed a cross-sectional study enrolling SLE patients, excluding patients with history of traditional cardiovascular risks factors. Caffeine intake was evaluated using a 7-day food frequency questionnaire. At the end of questionnaire filling blood samples were collected from each patient to assess circulating EPC percentage. EPCs were detected by using a flow cytometry analysis defined as KDR CD34 double positive cells. Subsequently, EPCs pooled from HD were co-cultured with caffeine at 0.5 mM and 1 mM with and without SLE sera. After 7 days, we evaluated the cells morphology and the ability to form colonies; moreover, we analyzed for the percentage of annexin V-positive (AV) apoptotic cells by flow cytometry analysis and for levels of autophagy and apoptotic markers LC3-II, p62 and Bcl2 by western blot, alone or in the presence of protease lysosomal inhibitors E64d and Pepstatin A. Finally, we performed a WB analysis to assess the A2AR/SIRT3/AMPK pathway.

Results: We enrolled 31 SLE patients (F:M 30:1, median age 43 years, IQR 18; median disease duration 144 months, IQR 180). We found a EPCs median percentage of 0.03% (IQR 0.04) observing a positive correlation between caffeine intake and circulating EPCs percentage (p=0.03, r=0.4). Moving on in vitro experiments, HD EPCs treated with SLE sera and caffeine showed an improvement in morphology and number of EPCs-CFU in comparison with those incubated without caffeine (p=0.0003). The colonies treated with SLE sera were poorly organized in comparison with HD: the addition of caffeine restored the colony structure. After treating HD-EPCs with SLE sera we observed an increase in AV positive cells and p62 values and a reduction of LC3-II and Bcl2 values; the addition of caffeine was able to significantly reduce AV positive cells and p62 values and to significantly increased LC3-II and Bcl2 values, without any significant differences between caffeine 0.5 mM and 1 mM (Figure 1-A-D). After E64d and pepstatin A treatment, both LC3II and p62 trend didn't change, compared to untreated cells. Finally, we observed after caffeine treatment, in comparison with SLE sera alone, a significantly reduction in A2AR levels leading to an increase in protein levels of SIRT3 and subsequently AMPK phosphorylation (Figure 1-E-G).

Conclusion: We demonstrated, for the first time, a protective role of caffeine on endothelial function in SLE patients. Caffeine intake positively correlated with the percentage of circulating EPCs in SLE patients; moreover, caffeine in vitro treatment was able to improve EPCs survival and vitality through the induction of apoptosis and the promotion of autophagy via A2AR/SIRT3/AMPK pathway.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4619
**THE EFFECTS AND MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF TRAF5 ON PULMONARY ARTERY ENDOTHELIAL CELLS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS ASSOCIATED PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION**

**Keywords:** Genetics/epigenetics, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Lungs

X. Deng1, J. Qian1, R. Wang2, J. Zhao1, Q. Wang1, T. Yuan2, M. Li1, X. Zeng1.

1 Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Beijing, China; 2 Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Institute of Material Medical, Beijing, China

**Background:** Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is one of the most important complications that seriously threatens the prognosis of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), with complicated and unclear pathogenesis.

**Objectives:** Based on genomic studies and functional experiments, we aim to investigate candidate biomarkers and targeted therapy for the early diagnosis and timely treatment of SLE-PAH patients.

**METHODS:**
1. In order to screen susceptible genes of SLE-PAH, a number of 150 peripheral blood from SLE-PAH patients were subject to whole-exome sequencing (WES), and genome-wide association study (GWAS) was performed by comparing with 934 healthy controls.
2. The transcriptional expression levels on peripheral blood of SLE-PAH patients were examined by RT-qPCR to further evaluate the possible pathogenesis of the above screened genes.
3. Intervention experiments on human pulmonary artery endothelial cells (hPAEC) were performed to figure out the potential pathogenesis of the selected gene in vitro. RNA-seq and gene ontology were applied to identify the downstream pathways.

4. Established by pristane injection and hypoxia induction, SLE-PAH mice model was used to evaluate the pathogenicity and therapeutic value of selected gene. Pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP) was measured by right heart catheterization after tail-intravenous injection of therapeutic vectors.

**RESULTS:**
1. The tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated factor 5 (TRAF5) was identified as a susceptible gene of SLE-PAH based on WES and GWAS.
2. The significant reductions of TRAF5 on transcriptional level in peripheral blood of SLE-PAH patients were identified, indicating clinical diagnosis values.
3. Knockdown of TRAF5 significantly increased early apoptosis of hPAEC and triggered the pathogenesis of PAH through distinct pathways.

**Conclusion:** Lack of TRAF5 triggers the pathogenesis of PAH in SLE patients through inducing hPAEC abnormality. It is a susceptible gene of SLE-PAH and could be a candidate marker for diagnosis and therapy for SLE-PAH patients.
Background: Sex hormones have effects on the development, progression and severity of SLE, prevalently affecting women (F:M=9:1). The neuroprotective, neurotrophic and anti-inflammatory properties of a class of progesterone-derived NeuroActive Steroids (NASs), prompted numerous investigations about the potential of these GABAA receptor allosteric modulators. However, no data about NASs on neuropsychiatric SLE (NPSLE) are available.

Objectives: This exploratory pilot study aims to delve into a new unexplored landscape by assessing circulating NASs levels in NPSLE patients.

Methods: A cohort of 16 SLE patients without NP manifestations and 16 with new onset NP diffuse symptoms was enrolled. Mood disorders and cognitive dysfunction were defined according to the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) and a battery of neuropsychological tests, respectively, interpreted by a neuropsychologist. A group of 8 healthy controls were measured by ELISA assay, as listed: Progesterone, Dieldroepiandrosterone (DHEA), Dieldroepiandrosterone-Sulphate (DHEA-S), Allopregnanolone. To appreciate differences between groups, women's fertile or menopausal subgroups were formed and p-value <0.05 has been set.

Results: Table 1 reports on data from the whole cohort. Progesterone levels in fertile women were significantly higher in the NPSLE versus HCs group (p=0.011). The Progesterone-direct metabolite, Allopregnanolone, was significantly increased in NPSLE compared to both groups of fertile SLE (p=0.026) and HCs females (p=0.027). Inversely, low levels of DHEA and DHEA-S in SLE patients versus HCs (p=0.025 and p=0.005) were found. Looking for NP symptoms, DHEA titer inversely correlates with cognitive deficit diagnosis (p=0.04), while depression diagnosis (62.5% of NPSLE cohort) correlates with Allopregnanolone levels (p=0.042). Moreover, depression severity measured by the CES-D score correlates with Progesterone (r=0.550, p=0.041) and Allopregnanolone (r=0.712, p=0.004; Figure 1). At multivariate analysis after correction for age, disease duration, SLEDAI and SDI, Allopregnanolone confirmed its independent correlation (β=0.712, p=0.004) with depression severity.

Conclusion: In this pilot study, we describe for the first time the unbalanced levels of circulating NASs in NPSLE patients with new onset neuropsychiatric diffuse manifestations. Moreover, in NPSLE patients, the diagnosis of cognitive deficit associates with circulating DHEA low levels and that of depression associates with Allopregnanolone high levels, significantly correlated also with the severity of this manifestation. Since the appropriate NASs balance is needed for optimal brain and neuro-immune function, our preliminary observations - that needs to be validated in larger studies - suggest a potential therapeutic role of these hormones in neuropsychiatric lupus.

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NPSLE (16)</th>
<th>SLE (16)</th>
<th>HC (8)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age mean (DS)</td>
<td>48.2 (15.9)</td>
<td>42.1 (10.8)</td>
<td>49 (16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (F, %)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertile (%)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Menopausal (%)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, yrs median (IQR)</td>
<td>6(2-3.9-3)</td>
<td>6.7(3.0-10.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI median (IQR)</td>
<td>5 (1.8-11)</td>
<td>2 (9-4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive disorder (%)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major depression (%)</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: All staff of the Rheumatology Unit of the AOU of Cagliari, patients and volunteer donors.

Disclosure of Interests: Maria Maddalena Angioni: None declared, Elisabetta Chessa: None declared, alessandra perra: None declared, elisa pintus: None declared, Alberto Floris: None declared, MATTIA CONGIA: None declared, Mauro Giovanni Carta: None declared, Alberto Cauì: None declared, Matteo Piga Speakers bureau: GSK, Consultant of: GSK, GALAPAGOS, ASTRAZENECA.

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Keywords: Biomarkers, -Omics, Systemic lupus erythematosus

T. Cercò1, C. Perez-Sanchez2, M. A. Aguirre1, P. Segui Azpilicueta1, I. Sanchez Pareja1, L. Muñoz-Barrera1, C. Merlo1, P. Ortiz Buitrago1, D. Ruiz1, M. C. Ábalos-Aguirera1, F. U. Pilar1, N. Barbero Puerto1, E. Collantes Estevez1, R. Ortega Castro1, C. Lopez-Pedrera1, 1IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain; 1IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Córdoba, Spain; 1IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Radiology, Córdoba, Spain; 1IMIBIC/Reina Sofia Hospital/University of Cordoba, Medical and Surgical Science, Córdoba, Spain

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a severe multisystem disease, notably heterogeneous in terms of clinical course and therapeutic response, which converts it into a significant challenge at the diagnostic and treatment levels.

Objectives: This study investigated the serum proteomic and metabolomic profiles of SLE, in order to identify new mechanisms underlying relevant clinical patterns.

Methods: Proteomic and metabolomic approaches were used to assess the serum levels of 184 inflammation and organ damage-related proteins [by proximity extension immunoassay (PEA, Olink)] and 250 metabolic markers [by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) covering glycolysis metabolites, amino acids and 130 lipid measures (NMR, Nighntingale)] in consecutive SLE patients (n = 133) and age-matched healthy donors (HD) (n = 27). In parallel, an extensive clinical and analytical profile of recruited subjects was performed to evaluate the contribution of molecular profiles to the disease severity, unsupervised clustering analyses were developed.

Results: Thirty-six proteins related to inflammation and organ damage, and 17 metabolites were coordinately altered in the serum of SLE patients in relation to HD. Unsupervised clustering analyses differentiated 2 patient clusters (C1 and C2) presenting different proteomic profiles. Clinically, although no differences were found in terms of age or disease duration, patients belonging to C2 were characterized by a significantly higher status of disease activity (SLEDAI > 6) and prevalence of positivity for anti-ENA and anti-dsDNA antibodies than patients belonging to C2, along with a preponderance of patients with biopsy diagnosed lupus nephritis (LN), abnormal creatinine and proteinuria. Besides, this cluster comprised SLE patients with higher CV risk, revealed by an elevated incidence of atheroma plaques, dyslipidemia, and hypertension. Statistical analysis between clusters revealed 67 serum proteins deregulated, among which C1

Figure 1. Median value of NASs circulating levels on NPSLE/SLE/HCs fertile and menopausal female. *p-value ≤ 0.05; **p-value ≤ 0.01

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Disclosure of Interests: Maria Maddalena Angioni: None declared, Elisabetta Chessa: None declared, alessandra perra: None declared, elisa pintus: None declared, Alberto Floris: None declared, MATTIA CONGIA: None declared, Mauro Giovanni Carta: None declared, Alberto Cauì: None declared, Matteo Piga Speakers bureau: GSK, Consultant of: GSK, GALAPAGOS, ASTRAZENECA.
displayed elevated well-recognized inflammatory cytokines and regulatory proteins of leukocyte activity ([IFN, IL, CSF-1, LIF-R, MCP-1, MCP-4, CCL, CXCL, MMP, PDL, 4E-BP1]), accompanied by proteins involved in renal damage (KIM1, LAT2, NPPC, ERBBBIP). Regarding metabolomic profile, comparative analysis between proteome clusters characterized increased levels of proatherogenic VLDL and LDL lipoprotein subsets in C1, and reduced levels of anti-atherogenic HDL lipoproteins subsets, total cholesterol, ketone bodies (acetate) and glycolysis related metabolites (lactate). Interestingly, statistically analyses showed that proteins and metabolites markers correlated significantly, suggesting potential interconnections related to different aspects of lupus pathology.

Conclusion: The present study showed a multi-omics landscape identifying molecular patterns that distinguished patients with high disease activity and lupus nephropathy, including several novel candidate proteins and metabolites markers. The study of the specific role and suitability of these mediators as SLE biomarkers would provide insights for the management of this complex autoimmune disorder.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1409

NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE ANTiPHOSPHOLiP iD SYNDROME SPECTRUM: FROM ANTiPHOSPHOLiP iD ANTIBODiES POSiTiVe SUBJECiTS PROFiLiNG TO IDENTIFICATION OF SYSTEMiC APS SUBSET THROUGH TYPE I INTERFERON PATHWAY ACTiVATiON

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Anti-phospholipid syndrome

I. Cecchi1, M. Radin1, A. Barinotti1, S. G. Foddai1, E. Rubini1, A. Suárez2, D. Roccatello1, S. Sciascia1, J. Rodríguez-Carrio1,1

University of Turin, Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, Turin, Italy; 1Area of Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oviedo and Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Principado de Asturias (ISPAA), Department of Functional Biology, Oviedo, Spain

Figure 1.
Methods: Punch biopsies were obtained from lesional skin from 6 patients with CLE and 5 patients with DM. Healthy or unaffected skin from 6 individuals was used as control material. Laser capture microdissection was used to isolate 1,000,000μm² of tissue within the LE and DM dermal inflammatory infiltrates or control dermis. The samples were analyzed by nano-LC tandem mass spectrometry. Qiagen Ingenuity pathway analysis was performed based on the obtained proteomic database, and identified canonical pathways were compared between CLE, DM, and controls.

Results: Comparing CLE vs controls we identified 246 pathways, while 51 of them were enriched (threshold p<0.05). Comparing DM vs controls 200 pathways were identified, while 72 were enriched. Canonical pathways enriched in both CLE and DM were those involved in antigen presentation, protein ubiquitination, acute phase response, interferon signaling, tRNA charging, and B cell development. Analysis of CLE vs DM showed 237 pathways, 70 of which were enriched (p<0.05). The top differentially enriched canonical pathways in CLE compared to DM included EIF2 signaling, complement system, LXR/RXR and FXR/RXR activation, acute phase response signaling, mTOR and granzyme A signaling, clathrin mediated endocytosis signaling, and coagulation system.

Conclusion: Canonical pathways enriched in both CLE and DM skin are associated with activation of innate and adaptive immune systems, including the interferon system. A major difference between CLE and DM was that the EIF2 pathway, involved in cellular stress and induction of cell death, was enriched in CLE. Enriched granzyme A signaling indicates cytotoxic T lymphocyte activity in CLE, which is in line with that the top differentially upregulated cytokine in CLE in the proteomics was IL-16 (1), as CD8 T lymphocytes are well-described expressors of IL-16. Further, results indicate differentially activated metabolic pathways and deposition of complement and coagulation components in CLE dermal infiltrate.

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understanding of underlying disease mechanisms using a holistic and multiparametric approach is needed to improve current therapeutics.

**Objectives:** We aim to use a high-dimensional approach to characterise and compare immune signatures of adult-onset and childhood-onset SLE patients, as well as compare their immunological profiles with age-matched healthy controls. In the process, we hope to study the roles of B and T cells in SLE to better understand the adaptive immune response.

**Methods:** Peripheral blood mononuclear cells from adult-onset and childhood-onset SLE patients underwent mass cytometry. The adult-onset SLE group consists of 50 SLE donors (median age: 40 years) and 25 age-matched healthy subjects. The childhood-onset SLE group consists of 30 SLE (53, 14 years) and 17 age-matched healthy subjects. Data was analysed and visualized using the Extended Polydimensional Immunome Characterisation (EPIC) machine learning platform [2]. Normalization and FlowSOM clustering were performed with 43 functionally and phenotypically important immune markers. Mann Whitney U test identified significantly different cluster frequencies.

**Results:** Unsupervised analysis revealed multiple significant differences (p<0.05) between the adult-onset and childhood-onset SLE immunomes. Of note, an activated CD11c+TbetCD21+ B cell subset was significantly enriched in childhood-onset SLE (median: 0.42%, interquartile range 0.16-0.72%) versus adult-onset SLE (0.15%; 0.09-0.31%; p<0.001). These age-associated B cell subsets (ABCs) increase in prevalence with age and presence of autoimmune disease. A significant increase in childhood-onset SLE may offer us insights into the differences with adult-onset SLE; the former group tends to have more active disease over time. Transitional B cells (CD24CD38+) were also significantly increased in childhood-onset SLE (0.91%; 0.41-1.84%) compared to their adult counterparts (0.3%; 0.043-0.65%; p<0.001). In the T cell compartment, an activated CD45RA+CD21+ subset was expanded in childhood-onset SLE (0.41%; 0.23-0.68%) compared to adult-onset SLE (0.19%; 0.1-0.38%; p<0.001). CD21+ plays a key role in B cell activation and this cell subset is therefore of mechanistic interest. Another CD8CD45RA+BAFF+ T cell subset was enriched in adult-onset (1.95%; 1.24-2.86%) versus childhood-onset SLE (0.88%; 0.45-1.37%; p<0.001). B-cell activating factor (BAFF) supports autoreactive B cell survival in autoimmune disease and an anti-BAFF drug (belimumab) is FDA-approved for SLE. Despite increasing use of belimumab, not all patients respond equally, so BAFF inhibition alone may not adequately alter disease activity.

**Conclusion:** With a multiparametric unbiased approach comparing adult and paediatric SLE patients, we identified cell subsets that may be of immunopathologic pathways to facilitate improvements in SLE theragnostics.

**REFERENCES:**

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DoI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1633

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**PO51413**

**PRECLINICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE GLUCOCORTICOID-SPARING POTENTIAL OF A DUAL TLR7/8 INHIBITOR IN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES**

**Keywords:** Tapering, Cytokines and chemokines, Systemic lupus erythematosus

**A. Deshmukh1, A. Pereira1, N. Geraci1, E. Zvetkovic1, M. Przetak1, M. Catalina1, E. F. Morand1, A. Bender1, B. Vaidyanathan1. 1EMD Serono Research & Development Institute, Inc., an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Research Unit – Neuroscience & Immunology, Billerica, United States of America; 2Monash University; School of Clinical Sciences at Monash Health, Melbourne, Australia

**Background:** Toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) and TLR8 are single-stranded RNA-sensing endosomal pattern recognition receptors that evolved to defend against viral infections, however their dysregulation and activation by endogenous ligands has been implicated in autoimmune diseases including lupus. While glucocorticoids (GC) are effective, they have many undesirable effects that limit their use. In addition, resistance to GC, which was recently shown to be imparted by TLR activation and Type I interferon (IFN), is a major challenge for the treatment of patients with autoimmune diseases including lupus. New treatment approaches that allow for the use of lower doses of GC would be highly beneficial.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the GC-sparing effects of a dual TLR7 and TLR8 inhibitor (TLR7/8i).

**Methods:** Human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from healthy donors were treated with TLR7/8i, dexamethasone, or both. Cytokine production was measured using an AlphaLISA immunosassay, gene expression was analyzed by NanoString and single-cell RNA sequencing, and effects on protein markers were evaluated by flow cytometry. In addition, the efficacy of combined TLR7/8i and dexamethasone treatment was evaluated in the MRL/lpr mouse model of lupus.

**Results:** Studies in human PBMCs revealed synergistic effects of TLR7/8i and GC on inflammatory cytokine production resulting in increased GC potency in the presence of TLR7/8i (Figure 1A), an effect that was most pronounced in myeloid cells, especially monocytes (Figure 1B). Gene expression analysis revealed that the combination of TLR7/8i plus GC substantially impacted myeloid cell clusters, particularly modules for IFN and GC response genes, as well as nuclear factor-kappa B-regulated cytokines. Treatment with TLR7/8i and GC in vivo was more efficacious than either agent alone, as evidenced by reduced proteinuria (Figure 1C) and improved survival.

**Conclusion:** These results demonstrate that TLR7/8 inhibition increases the potency of GC by alleviating TLR activation-dependent GC resistance in a cell type-specific manner. Our findings suggest a GC-sparing potential for TLR7/8i compounds and indicate that TLR7/8 inhibition may offer a new therapeutic strategy for the treatment of autoimmune diseases. The safety, efficacy and GC-sparing effect of the TLR7/8 inhibitor is being evaluated in patients with systemic and/or cutaneous lupus erythematosus in the randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase II WILLOW study (NCT05162586), which has a mandatory GC tapering schedule.

**Figure 1.** Dexamethasone and TLR7/8i have synergistic effects on (A) IL-6 production in R848-stimulated PBMCs, (B) TNFα production in monocytes, and (C) proteinuria in a mouse model of lupus.

**Acknowledgements:** This study was sponsored by EMD Serono Research & Development Institute, Inc., Billerica, MA, USA, an affiliate of Merck KGaA. Medical writing support was provided by Bioscript Group Ltd, Macclesfield, UK, and funded by Merck Healthcare KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

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POS1414

TYPE I INTERFERONS INDUCE TIE2-MEDIATED ENDOTHELIAL CELL DYSFUNCTION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cytokines and chemokines, Cardiovascular disease

C. Rafael Vidal1, B. Malvar Fernández2, S. Martínez-Ramos1, C. Mouríño Rodríguez1, I. Altábás González1, A. Floudas2, D. Veale1, U. Fearon2, J. Rodríguez1, I. Altabás González1, A. Floudas2, D. Veale3, U. Fearon2, J. Galicia Sur, Rheumatology, Vigo, Spain; Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, Molecular Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland; EULAR Centre of Excellence, St Vincent’s University Hospital, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, Centre for Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases, Dublin, Ireland

Background: Endothelial cell (EC) dysfunction is a hallmark of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) and has been generally accepted to be one of the important factors contributing to the higher risk of thrombosis and atherosclerotic events observed in SLE patients. Although the presence of traditional factors (smoking, diabetes, increased age, obesity) and the presence of autoantibodies are associated with atherosclerosis and thrombotic events, they do not completely explain the higher risk of these events in SLE, suggesting the existence of other mechanisms/factors. Tie2 is a tyrosine kinase receptor essential for vascular development and blood vessel remodeling through its interaction with its ligands angiopoietin-1 (Ang-1) and Ang-2. In homeostatic conditions, both Ang-1 and Ang-2 activate Tie2 signaling and induce vascular stabilization in a Tie2-dependent manner. However, inflammatory processes induce Tie1 cleavage, leading to the inhibition of Ang-1-induced Tie2 activation, and to the increase of Ang-2 now acting as a Tie2 antagonist, culminating in vascular dysfunction and EC activation [1,2]. Importantly, this process has been implicated in both atherosclerosis and thrombosis.

Objectives: As type I Interferons (IFN-α and IFN-β) are key cytokines in the pathogenesis of SLE, the aim of this study is to determine whether these cytokines induce Tie2 signaling-mediated endothelial cell dysfunction.

Methods: Serum levels of Ang-1, Ang-2 and Tie1 in SLE patients (n=48) and healthy control (HC, n=29) were measured by ELISA. Human Umbilical Vein EC (HUVEC) were stimulated with SLE serum (20%), IFN-α or IFN-β (1000 IU) for 5, 15, 30 min and 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24, 48 and 72 hours and mRNA and protein expression of Ang-1, Ang-2, Tie1 and Tie2 were determined by quantitative PCR (qPCR) and ELISA, respectively. The phosphorylation of Tie2 was determined by Western Blot and HUVEC viability by calcein assay. The angiogenic capacity was measured by tube formation assay. Silencing assays were performed with siRNAs addressed to IFNAR1 and Tie1 receptors.

Results: Type I IFNs, mainly IFN-β, significantly reduced Tie1 and Tie2 levels. IFN-β stimulation significantly increased the secretion of the Tie1 ectodomain (sTie1). Both IFNs significantly reduced protein secretion of Ang-1 after 24h of stimulation. Also, IFN-β significantly reduced early time points (<4h). Furthermore, IFN-α and IFN-β stimulation reduced Tie2 activation (Figure 1). Both type I IFNs significantly reduced the viability of HUVEC. SLE serum increased Ang-2 and sTie1 secretion levels in HUVEC at early time points (<1h). We found reduced levels of Ang-1 and elevated Ang-2 and sTie1 in SLE patients compared to HC. Also, IFN-β induced tubule formation at short times (4h) and decreased at 24h. Remarkably, this effect was reversed by silencing the receptors Tie1 and IFNAR1.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrate that type I IFNs play a relevant role in the stability of endothelial cells by inhibiting Tie2 signaling, suggesting that these processes may be implicated in the cardiovascular events observed in SLE patients.

REFERENCES:

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POS1415

ENDOTHELIAL INFLAMMATING AND MITOCHONDRIAL DYSFUNCTION IN THE ANTI PHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME

Keywords: Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Cardiovascular disease

C. Piericulescu1, R. Maughan1, L. Kabir2,3, A. Dabrowska1, K. Paschalaki1, D. Carling1, A. Randle1, D. Arachchilage1,2, J. Mason1,3, Imperial College London, National Heart & Lung Institute, London, United Kingdom; Imperial College London, MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences, London, United Kingdom; Imperial College London, Department of Immunology & Inflammation, London, United Kingdom; Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Haematology, London, United Kingdom; Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Inflammaging, vascular ageing and mitochondrial dysfunction are important contributors to cardiovascular risk in the rheumatic diseases. In antiphospholipid syndrome (APS), endothelial dysfunction is underpinned by a thrombo-inflammatory state mediated by antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL). The contribution of endothelial senescence and metabolic disturbances is not known. To assess senescence, inflammation and metabolic function in ex vivo blood derived endothelial colony forming cells (ECFC), a novel source of patient endothelium.

Methods: ECFC were isolated from PBMC of 17 thrombotic APS and 11 healthy control (HC) donors, cultured in endothelial growth media containing 20% FBS. ECFC frequency, days from PBMC seeding to first colony appearance and days to initial passage (from P0 to P1) were similar between APS and HC. ECFC were phenotyped at P4 by flow cytometry (CD31+CD144+CD14+CD45- and assayed at P4-P5. Proliferation was measured by fluorescent EdU incorporation. Senescence was determined by staining for senescence-associated β-galactosidase activity (SA-β-gal) and nuclear DAPI, expressed as % senescent cells against total cell number. Mitochondrial function and glycolysis were assessed in live cells using extracellular flux assays (Seahorse). Molecular analysis was informed by RNA-seq (5 APS, 5 HC) and targets validated in the extended cohort at the mRNA and protein level. Data was analysed by non-parametric Mann-Whitney, ANOVA and Spearman’s correlation tests.

Results: Impaired proliferative capacity and a greater proportion of senescent cells were observed in APS vs HC ECFC (median % senescent, 13.1% vs 7.9%) (p<0.02). RNA-seq analysis revealed 266 differentially expressed genes in APS ECFC compared to HC ECFC. Also, IFN-β-stimulated ECFC using elevated inflammatory cytokines, chemokines, cell adhesion and fibrosis-remodelling molecules. Target validation at the mRNA level confirmed a hypoproliferative inflammatory phenotype in APS; elevated genes included C5CDNK2AP16 (late senescence), GADD45B (growth arrest, DNA damage); IFNA1 (cytokine), CXCL10 (chemokine), CD277/ PD1L1 (exhaustion), PTX3 (fibrosis-remodelling), SERPINE1 (fibrinolysis-remodelling), EDN1 (vasoconstrictor), all p<0.05. A positive correlation was noted between senescent and inflammatory gene expression (e.g. p=0.15 vs CXCL10, r=0.4).

Figure 1. Ang-1, Ang-2, Tie1 and Tie2 mRNA expression and protein secretion in HUVEC stimulated with IFN-α or IFN-β (1000 IU/ml) for the indicated time points. Means and SEM are shown. *p<0.05, **p<0.01 and ***p<0.001. Also, representative immunoblot of Tie2 phosphorilation in HUVEC stimulated with IFN-α or IFN-β (1000 IU/ml) for 24h is shown.
p=0.03). Uptregulation of selected targets was confirmed at the protein level (e.g. p16 and PDL1 by flow cytometry, APS vs HC p=0.02 and p=0.03 respectively). Diminished mitochondrial respiration and ATP production (p=0.01) coupled with elevated glycolysis (p=0.02) was seen in APS vs HC ECFC. Mitochondrial parameters positively correlated with proliferative capacity (r=0.5, p<0.01) and negatively correlated with senescence and inflammation (r=-0.4, p<0.05), indicating a relationship between endothelial health and mitochondrial function. Glycolysis negatively correlated with proliferation (r=0.8, p<0.01). Comparing ECFC from patients with previous cardiovascular events (CVE, n=9) vs those without (no-CVE, n=8) revealed more pronounced senescence and mitochondrial dysfunction in CVE, while greater loss of proliferative capacity was observed in no-CVE. Inflammatory markers varied between the two patient groups e.g. PTX3 was higher in CVE and CXCL10 in no-CVE. Collectively, these observations suggest different underlying biological processes in patients with severe thrombotic complications compared to those without.

Conclusion: We propose APS as a paradigm disease for immune-mediated endothelial ageing, defined by a hypoproliferative-senescent, inflamed and metabolically perturbed phenotype. Evidence for a more severe dysfunctional phenotype in ECFC from patients with CVE compared to no-CVE, agrees with published studies associating vascular ageing and mitochondrial damage with cardiovascular risk. Ongoing work is assessing the impact of ex vivo metabolically perturbed phenotype. Evidence for a more severe dysfunctional phenotype in ECFC from patients with CVE compared to no-CVE, agrees with published studies associating vascular ageing and mitochondrial damage with cardiovascular risk. Ongoing work is assessing the impact of ex vivo metabolic perturbation on cellular senescence and mitochondrial dysfunction in CVE, while greater loss of proliferative capacity was observed in no-CVE. Inflammatory markers varied between the two patient groups e.g. PTX3 was higher in CVE and CXCL10 in no-CVE. Collectively, these observations suggest different underlying biological processes in patients with severe thrombotic complications compared to those without.

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Clinical, immunological and transcriptomic profiles (3) were compared between the groups. The PSYLUP cohort (from a study evaluating the psycho-social consequences of SLE) (4) was an independent cohort used to confirm the results found in the LUPUCE cohort.

**Results:** Type 2 scores ranged from 0 to 31, with a cut-off value of 14 (75th percentile) that was the chosen threshold to define the type 2 symptoms. The sample categorization was: minimal in 39%, type 1 in 37%, type 2 in 9% and mixed in 15%. The type 2 score was calculated in an independent cohort of 100 SLE patients (PSYLUP cohort). This showed a similar pattern of values to the LUPUCE cohort: the score ranged from 0 to 33, and 23% of patients were above the threshold of 14. Type 2 patients were older than minimal patients (52 vs. 31 years, p=0.016) and had a longer disease duration than type 1 and mixed patients (10 vs. 5 years and 10 vs. 2 years, p=0.011, respectively). Immunological data (evaluated anti-dsDNA antibodies, anti-dsDNA level, low C3 and/or C4) and modular interferon (IFN) signatures (modular IFN score, number of activated IFN modules and level of regulation of each IFN module) did not differ between the groups.

**Conclusion:** Patients with SLE can be categorized into four clinical groups using the SLEDAL score and our SF-36-derived type 2 score. This categorization is non-redundant with immunological or transcriptomic profiles and could prove useful to stratify patients in clinical trials.

**REFERENCES:**


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**POS1418 ANTIGEN-SPECIFIC T-CELL DYNAMICS AND MULTIDIRECTIONAL IMMUNE DYSREGULATION IN SLE**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Adaptive immunity

**G. A. Ramirez** 2,3, E. Tassi4, M. Noviello4, B. A. Mazzii, L. Moroni1, A. Sorce1,2, L. Citterio2, L. Zagato1, E. Tomberti1, E. Baldissera1, G. Colomb1, M. R. Yacoub1,2, E. Bozzolo3, C. Bonini4, L. Dagna1,2, A. Manfredi1,2, R. C. Ospedale San Raffaele, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy; 2Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Division of Immunology, Transplant and Infectious Diseases, Milan, Italy; 3IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Laboratory of Autoimmunity and Vascular Inflammation, Milan, Italy; 4IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Unit of Experimental Haematology, Milan, Italy; 5IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Immunogenetics Laboratory, HLA & Chimerism, Department of Immunohematology & Blood Transfusion, Milan, Italy; 6IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Unit on Genomics of Renal Diseases and Hypertension, Milan, Italy

**Background:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is associated with autoimmune and allergic events along with impaired defensive responses. Dysregulated T-cell responses might account for this evidence but antigen-specific T-cell behaviour in SLE has not been characterised.

**Objectives:** To test for clinical/pathophysiological correlates of SLE immune dysregulation by characterising CD4+ T-cells selectively recognising key SLE-related, pathogen-derived and autoreactive responses and can accurately be detected through penicilloylated-albumin peptide T-cell reactivity. Antigen-specific (rather than total) T-cell reactivity assays to study epitopes were conducted.

**Methods:** Human leukocyte antigen (HLA) DRB1*0301 or 1101-positive subjects were selected from a cohort of 222 patients with SLE and compared with patients with Takayasu's arteritis (TAK) and healthy controls (HC). In silico analyses through the Immune Epitope Database identified suitable HLA-peptide epitope pairs from a list of autoantigens (histone H3 and H4), allergens (penicilloylated albumin) and pathogen-derived antigens (Epstein-Barr virus [EBV], nuclear antigens) based on the cohort clinical/serological profile. Fluorochrome-conjugated epitope-bound MHC tetramers were eventually built and used to detect antigen-specific CD4+ T-cells through flow cytometry. T-cell differentiation was assessed by CD45RA, CD62L and CD350 and polarisation by CD25, CD127, CD163, CD186 and CD194 staining. Epitope-specific reactivity was validated by multi-cytokine release assays and measurement of CD40L, CD137, OX40 and CD69 expression upon T-cell stimulation with the study peptides.

**Results:** Total stem-cell memory T-cells (TEM) were expanded in SLE compared to control groups. Histone-specific CD4+ T-cells were selectively found in SLE and clustered with anti-dsDNA antibodies. Only patients with beta-lactam allergy had anti-penicilloylated albumin T-cells. Anti-EBV-specific T cells were found in patients and controls (Figure 1A-C). Antigen-specific T-cell counts were reciprocally correlated. Histone-specific regulatory T-cells (Treg) were inversely correlated with SLEDAI-2K. Circulating histone- and EBV-specific effector memory T-cells (TEM) and Treg were lower in active SLE (Figure 1D-F). EBV-specific Treg decreased in patients transitioning from remission to active SLE. Immunosuppressive treatment was associated with expanded CD4+ histone-specific T-cells. In vitro T-cell reactivity assays to study epitopes were consistent with ex vivo evidence. Higher IL17F and IL5 levels were released in response to histones and higher ILS and IL22 in response to penicilloylated albumin-peptides in SLE. Defective anti-EBV IFN-γ, TNF and IL22 release was observed in active SLE compared to HC.

**Conclusion:** Histone-specific T-cell responses constitute a hallmark of SLE and might deflectively be regulated during active disease, promoting autoreactive effector peripheralisation into target tissues. Dysfunctional T-cell reactivity to EBV might also subvert a constitutional defect in the control of endogenous or exogenous viral stimuli and possibly contribute to autoreactivity through misdirection of precursors. Afferent responses to beta-lactam might also synergise with autoreactive responses and can accurately be detected through penicilloylated-albumin peptide T-cell reactivity. Antigen-specific (rather than total) T-cell dynamics might faithfully reflect the occurrence of key pathogenic events accounting for SLE immune dysfunction in response to multiple types of antigens and efficiently be used to track SLE phenotype heterogeneity.

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**POST1419**

**SINGLE CELL ANALYSIS REVEALING THE LECTIN BINDING PATTERN OF T-CELLS, NKT-CELLS, NK CELLS, B-CELLS AND MONOCYTE SUBSETS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus

E. Szabo1, G. Bodor2, L. Kovács3, G. Szebeni1,2, 1Biological Research Centre, Laboratory of Functional Genomics, Szeged, Hungary; 2Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School and Health Centre, University of Szeged, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Szeged, Hungary; 3University of Szeged, Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Neuroscience, Faculty of Science and Informatics, Szeged, Hungary

**Background:** Cell surface glycosylation serves as a binding platform for endogenous lectin families such as galectins (Gals) or sialic acid immunoglobulin-like lectins (Siglecs) with well-known immunoregulatory functions. Several studies, including our own work [1], have shown that Gal-binding plays an important role in the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in animal models but their contribution to human SLE must be better elucidated. For these lectins to act, the appropriate glycan structures should be available on the target cells and should not be masked by alpha-2,6-sialylation which prevents binding of Gal-1, not Gal-3. Although cancerous diseases are well-characterized by an altered glycome, limited information regarding cell surface glycosylation is gathered for autoimmune diseases like SLE.

**Objectives:** In the current study, we aim to analyze the ability of certain immune subsets to bind Gal-1, Gal-3, sialic acid binding C-type lectin (Siglec-1), the fucose binding Aleuria aurantia lectin (AAL), the sialic acid binding Sambucus nigra Agglutinin (SNA) lectin in SLE patients versus healthy controls.

**Methods:** We collected peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from 19 new or relapsing SLE patients with active disease (mean age: 47.5, SLE-DAI-2K: 15.8, anti-dsDNA level: 76.4 IU/ml) with or without minimal immunosuppressive therapy and 19 age- and health-matched controls. Multicolor antibody panel was designed to identify the main peripheral immune subsets: CD4+ T-cells, CD8+ T-cells, CD4+CD8- T-cells, CD4+CD8+ T-cells; CD4+NKT-cells, CD8+NKT-cells, CD4-CD8-NKT-cells, CD4+CD8+NKT-cells; CD56+ NK cells; naive B-cells, memory B-cells, plasmablasts; classical monocytes, non-classical monocytes and intermediate monocytes. The five lectins (Gal-1, Gal-3, Siglec-1, AAL, SNA) were conjugated with different fluorophores for FACS. The binding of florochrome labeled lectins to each of these populations was assessed simultaneously by flow cytometry directly after thawing (resting state) and following activation.

**Results:** In our experiments with control PBMCs, titration and compensation of both antibodies and lectins were carried out and gating strategies were built to identify the above-mentioned immune subsets and their lectin binding characteristics. There were remarkable differences in lectin binding among different immune populations, e.g. classical and intermediate monocytes outperformed non-classical monocytes and lymphocytes in all lectin binding. Interestingly, naive B-cells were more sialylated (Median Fluorescence Intensity (MFI) Gal-1: 1189) or plasmablasts (MFI Gal-1: 16189) than both memory B-cells (MFI Gal-1: 2368; MFI SNA: 1263; MFI Gal-1: 16515). Similarly, highest binding of both antibodies and lectins were carried out and gating strategies were built (CytoStim), while B-cells and monocytes were activated by LPS.

**Conclusions:** The focus of this study is to identify relevant changes in the cell surface glycosylation of SLE immune subsets which is a unique approach and could contribute to a better understanding of the glyobiology of lupus.

**REFERENCE:**

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POST1420**

**INCREASED INTERLEUKIN-6 (IL-6) RECEPTOR SHEDDING UNDER INTERFERON-Α AND IL-6 EXPLAINS LOW C-REACTIVE PROTEIN (CRP) LEVELS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)**

**Keywords:** Cytokines and chemokines, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

M. Hempel1, E. Klapproth2, B. Heschel1, N. Leuchten1, A. El-Armouche3, M. Aringer1, 1University Medical Centre and Faculty of Medicine TU Dresden, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine II, Dresden, Germany; 2University Medical Centre and Faculty of Medicine TU Dresden, Department of Pharmacology, Dresden, Germany

**Background:** In active SLE, CRP levels are disproportionally low for increased IL-6 levels. While a molecular explanation is lacking, these low CRP levels have been associated with increased type I interferon signature in SLE. IL-6 signalling requires gp130 and the IL-6 receptor-α (IL-6R). Leukocytes and hepatocytes carry surface IL-6R (CD126). Other cells express only gp130 and require soluble IL-6 receptor (sIL-6R) for IL-6 signalling. This sIL-6R derives from membrane-bound CD126 shedded by metalloproteinases.

**Objectives:** To comprehensively analyze IL-6 and its signal transduction via signal transducer and activator of transcription (Stat) 3 in patients with SLE and in healthy individuals (HC).

**Methods:** We analyzed peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) and sera of 41 SLE patients and 71 HC. IL-6 and soluble IL-6 receptor (sIL-6R) were measured by ELISA. CD126 was stained with phycoerythrinc (PE)-labelled antibodies. PBMC were stimulated with recombinant human IL-6, fixed, permeabilized and stained with PE-labelled antibodies to phosphorylated Stat3 (pStat3) or control antibodies. Healthy PBMC were incubated for 24 hours with or without the addition of IL-6, IL-10, tumor necrosis factor (TNF), interferon-α (IFNα), or combinations of these cytokines. Flow cytometry was performed on a Becton Dickinson FACSCalibur fluorocytometer, determining percentages of CD126+ lymphocytes or the increase in pStat3 mean fluorescence intensity (MFI), sIL-6R in supernatants was detected by immunoprecipitation (IP) and immunoblotting.

**Results:** IL-6 was increased in SLE (median 3.64 vs 0.89 pg/ml in HC, p<0.0001). Significant correlations with SLE disease activity by ECLAM were found for serum IL-6 (Spearman r=0.40, p<0.01), but not CRP (r=0.29). CD126+ lymphocytes were decreased in SLE (median 46% vs. 61% for HC, Mann Whitney p=0.0001), in line with reduced IL-6 induced phosphorylation of Stat3 in SLE (median MFI 14.2 vs. 18.8 in HC, p=0.0044). In a mirror image of CD12, sIL-6R serum levels were increased in SLE (median 42.2 ng/ml vs. 38.6 ng/ml in HC, p=0.02). Stimulation of healthy PBMC with the combination of IL-6 and IFNα led to a reduction in CD126+ cells by 39±13% (p<0.0001) and to an increase in sIL-6R (normalized for IgG) (p=0.0055) (B) detected by IP and Western blotting, mimicking the in vivo situation.

**Conclusion:** The combination of type I interferon and IL-6, both of which are well known to be increased in SLE, leads to shedding of membrane bound CD126 to sIL-6R. This moves IL-6 effects from the liver, which produces CRP, well known to be increased in SLE, to the liver-bound IL-6R receptor. This moves IL-6 effects from the liver, which produces CRP, to other cells, effectively increasing IL-6 inflammatory effects while limiting CRP levels.

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SINGLE-CELL RNA SEQUENCING OF HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM/PROGENITOR CELLS IN HUMAN SLE: EVIDENCE FOR A CHRONIC IFN EXPOSURE AFFECTING EARLY HAEMATOPOIETIC PROGENITORS IN SLE, AND DRIVING THEIR PROLIFERATION AND MYELOID SKewing

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Systemic lupus erythematosus, -Omics

A. Filia1,2, M. Grigoriou1,2, A. Banos1, I. Mitroulis2, I. Kokkinopoulos1, D. Boumpas1,3.

1Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, Autoimmunity and Inflammation laboratory, Athens, Greece; 2Democritus University of Thrace, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis, Laboratory of Molecular Hematology, Alexandroupolis, Greece; 3Attikon Hospital, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School, Department of Medicine, Athens, Greece

Background: All immune cells that contribute to the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) derive from adult haematopoietic stem and progenitor cells (HSPCs) within the bone marrow (BM). We reasoned that the fundamental abnormalities in the disease can be traced back to HSPCs.

Objectives: I) To delineate human haematopoietic CD34+ progenitor subpopulations that may be involved in the pathogenesis of the disease and II) to identify deregulated pathways in each subpopulation in SLE as compared to healthy controls.

Methods: BM samples from 6 SLE patients and 5 healthy controls and 2 umbilical cord blood (CB) samples were used. CD34+ cells were isolated from BM and CB samples and single cell capture and RNA extraction were performed on Fludigm C1 IFC. Libraries were prepared and 75bp or 150bp paired-end sequencing was performed. Cells were excluded if total reads were <25,000, alignment rate was <50%, the number of detected genes (at least 1 count) was <200 and >6,000 and the percentage of reads mapping to mitochondrial genes was >20%. The Seurat and harmony R packages were used for normalization, marker identification and graph-based clustering. Pseudobulk differential expression (DE) analysis was performed using edgeR R package. Enrichment analysis was performed using EnrichR.

Results: A total of 426 out of 836 cells and 24,473 genes were used in the analysis. There was a statistically significant difference in the total number of detected genes between the three sample types (Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared=14.9, p<0.001) with CB samples expressing more genes compared to the other two sample types. The top 3,000 highly variable genes across cells were identified and loaded into a PCA and the top 10 principal components were provided as the input for the UMAP visualization which resulted in seven distinct clusters of cell types (Figure 1). Mutually exclusive markers, which were characteristic of each cell type were identified. Cluster 0 cells (T-like progenitors) uniquely expressed IL32 and CD3E, whereas cluster 1 (Myeloid-1 progenitors) uniquely expressed MMP8. Of note, there was a significantly lower proportion of SLE BM B-like progenitor cells (3.5% of total SLE BM cells) and SLE BM HSCs-3, characterized by primitive progenitors with low expression of the cell cycle gene MKI67 (4% of total SLE BM cells) compared to 10% B-like progenitors and 21% HSCs-3 of total healthy BM cells respectively. Following DE analysis between SLE and healthy BM there were statistically significant differences (FDR<0.1) in Myeloid-2 progenitors, with differentially expressed genes (DEGs) enriched for TNF signaling and DNA repair pathways, and in HSCs-1, with DEGs enriched for IFN alpha-beta signaling and heme metabolism. Interestingly, we observed an upregulation in the expression of IFN inducible genes, such as IFI44, IFI44L, in SLE compared to healthy in all three HSC subpopulations.

Conclusion: Single-cell RNA sequencing analysis from CD34+ progenitor cells from patients with SLE revealed both quantitative- as evidenced by decreased numbers of non-proliferating early progenitors, and qualitative differences- characterized by an IFN signature, which is known to drive loss of function and attrition of HSPCs. Chronic IFN exposure affects early hematopoietic progenitors in SLE, driving their proliferation and myeloid skewing and may account for the immune abberancies and the cytopenias in SLE.

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AQUAPORIN EXPRESSION IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS: INSIGHTS INTO TUBULAR PATHOLOGY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys

Background: Lupus nephritis is a severe and life-threatening manifestation of systemic lupus erythematosus. Tubulointerstitial hypoxia is a key factor in the progression to end-stage renal disease. Numerous aquaporins are expressed by renal tubules and are essential for their proper functioning. Several mouse models have shown their involvement in the regulation of renal inflammation during acute stress episodes. However, the expression of aquaporins (AQP) in human lupus nephritis has been poorly studied.

Objective: The aim of this study is to characterise the tubular expression of AQP1, AQP2 and AQP3 which could provide a better understanding of tubulointerstitial stress during lupus nephritis.

Methods: This retrospective monocentric study was conducted at Erasme-HUB Hospital, Brussels with the approval of the ULB-Erasme Ethical Committee (P2020/710). A total of 37 lupus nephritis samples and 9 healthy samples collected between 2000 and 2020 were obtained from the biobank of the pathology department. Kidney biopsy sections were reviewed sectioning to the ISN/RPS 2018 classification. Immunohistochemistry was performed to detect AQP1, AQP2 and AQP3 and followed by digital image analysis. Digital image quantification analysis was performed using ImageJ software.

Results: We observed weak expression of AQP1 in glomeruli and strong expression on the apical side of proximal convoluted tubules in the cortex. In the medulla, it was confined to the descending loop of Henle and the vasa recta. AQP2 was exclusively expressed on the apical side of collecting tubules in both the cortex and the medulla. AQP3 was not detected in glomeruli, weakly expressed on the basolateral side of proximal convoluted tubules, and strongly expressed on the basolateral side of distal convoluted tubules and collecting tubules. No difference in staining location was found between healthy and lupus nephritis kidney biopsies. By digital quantitative analysis, we observed a significant decrease in AQP1 expression in the renal cortex (p<0.0001), a non-significant trend towards a decrease in AQP2 expression and a significant cortical and medullary decrease in AQP3 expression (p<0.001). This decrease was more pronounced in the subgroup of membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis (class III/IV), particularly for AQP3 (p<0.05). Within the subgroup of membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, there was a strong negative correlation between both cortical and medullary AQP2 expression and interstitial inflammation (r=-0.5328; p<0.01). Decreased cortical AQP3 expression was strongly negatively correlated with interstitial fibrosis (r=-0.6651; p<0.001) and tubular atrophy (r=-0.6651; p<0.001).

Conclusion: We found a significant decrease in the expression of several AQPs in the parenchyma of lupus nephritis. We believe that this decrease is a feature of tubulointerstitial damage. Immunohistochemical analyses of AQPs on lupus nephritis samples could help to assess the tubulointerstitial hypoxia and cell damage and therefore renal prognosis.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GUT AND THE CHRONIC ACTIVATION OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Diet and nutrition, -Omics

Background: NETosis has been described to play a role in the pathogenesis of APS. IgG and sera of APS patients are known to induce NETosis [1], however the direct role of a[2]GPI on NETosis is not fully known.

Objective: The aim of this study is to evaluate the interplay between NETosis and a[2]GPI antibodies.

Methods: HD neutrophils were stimulated either with polyclonal a[2]GPI isolated from a serum pool of primary APS, with immunoglobulin isolated from HD (IgHD) or PMA. NETs were stained with anti-neutrophil elastase, SYBR green and DAPI. NET quantification was performed with NETQUANT, an automated approach. To evaluate the ability of a[2]GPI to bind to NET, HD neutrophils were stimulated with PMA and stained with anti-neutrophil elastase, SYBR green and with a[2]GPI and, as a control, with IgHD instead of a[2]GPI. Colocalization of a[2]GPI and NET signal was performed with Just Another Co-localization Plugin (JACoP). In order to evaluate the ability of a[2]GPI to bind to NETs and prevent DNA degradation, incubation with DNase I was also performed.

Results: Stimulation of HD neutrophils with a[2]GPI was able to induce a significantly higher number of NETs compared to stimulation with IgHD (77.6% vs 20%, p<0.0001). The prevalence of NETs in stimulated IgHD and unstimulated neutrophils was similar (20% vs 16%, p=ns). Two different shapes of NET were identified in neutrophils stimulated with a[2]GPI: "cloudy-like" and "spiky-like." Unlike IgHD, a[2]GPI binds to NETs (Figure 1), and the a[2]GPI signal colocalized with the anti-neutrophil elastase signal at 93.6%. In addition, we showed that a[2]GPI binding to NETs did not prevent NETs degradation by DNase.

Conclusion: a[2]GPI antibodies are able to induce NETosis and to bind to NETs.

REFERENCE:
Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Unidade de Reumatologia Pediátrica, Lisboa, Portugal; Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki, Translational Immunology Research Program, Helsinki, Finland; Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Instituto de Microbiologia, Lisboa, Portugal

Background: In a systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) murine model, the translocation of a gut pathobiont induced an autoimmune response and death, which were prevented by antibiotics and a vaccine [1]. These findings suggest that the gut microbiota modulates SLE phenotype. Previously, we found increased circulating lipopolysaccharide (LPS) in SLE patients, which could be associated with decreased gut barrier integrity and translocation from the gut to the bloodstream [2]. We hypothesize that dysbiosis, impaired intestinal barrier integrity, and endotoxemia are crucial to the chronic activation of the immune system seen in SLE.

Objectives: To study diet, physical activity, body composition, gut microbiota, and gut permeability in SLE patients in comparison with healthy controls (HC).

Methods: Evaluation of HC and SLE patients (children and adults) who fulfill the 2019 EULAR/ACR SLE classification criteria. Individuals with inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease, irritable bowel syndrome, diabetes, malignancy, or other immune-mediated diseases were excluded. The SLEDAI-2K score was used to evaluate disease activity. Diet and physical activity were assessed by three-day diet recall, PREDIMED, KIDMED, and the International Physical Activity questionnaires. Body composition was analysed by whole-body air-displacement plethysmography. Gut microbiota was studied by Next Generation Sequencing, with amplicon sequencing-based 16S rRNA analysis. The lactulose/manitol test, which directly assesses intestinal permeability, was quantified by mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Serum markers of gut permeability and inflammation (zonulin, sCD14, IFABP) were measured by ELISA. The biological activity of LPS was assessed through serum-induced toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) stimulation in a reporter cell line.

Results: We studied 16 HC (median age 35.5Y [14-50Y]; 88% females) and 45 SLE patients (11 children and 34 adults; median age 32Y [11-67Y]; 87% females; median age at diagnosis 19Y [8-43Y]; median disease duration 7Y [3M-29Y]; 64% had lupus nephritis; median SLEDAI-2K at sample collection 4). SLE patients had lower physical activity and higher sitting time, lower adherence to the Mediterranean diet, and higher fat mass than HC (p<0.05). In addition, SLE patients had a lower intake of α-linolenic acid and manganese (p<0.05). A decreased α-diversity of gut microbiota (p<0.05) was identified in SLE patients, reflecting dysbiosis. Lower adherence to the Mediterranean diet, higher zonulin levels, and longer SLE disease duration were significantly associated with decreased gut diversity in this cohort (p<0.05). The lactulose/manitol ratio was significantly higher in SLE patients compared to HC (p<0.05), reflecting greater gut permeability. Patients with lupus nephritis had a higher lactulose/manitol ratio than SLE patients without renal involvement (p<0.05). Interestingly, we found that zonulin was significantly increased in SLE patients (p<0.05). We also found significantly increased levels of sCD14 in SLE patients (p<0.05) and increased levels of IFABP, but only in adult patients (p<0.05). No significant correlation was observed between any evaluated biomarker and SLEDAI-2K.

Conclusion: Our data support the hypothesis that gut dysbiosis and higher intestinal permeability contribute to SLE pathogenesis, being two promising therapeutic targets in this disease.

REFERENCES:
[1] PMID: 29590047
[2] PMID: 24796678

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I interferon (IFN) system. In SLE, type I IFNs directly and indirectly affect differentiation and survival of autoreactive B cells, partly by IFN induced release of B cell activating factor (BAFF). TANK-binding kinase 1 (TBK-1) is an important upstream mediator of type I IFN production, which has been implicated in several systemic autoimmune diseases [1]. Additionally, B cell intrinsic TBK-1 was recently shown to be essential for germinal center (GC) formation and proper B cell development in vivo [2]. Amleraxan (AMX) is a small molecule TBK-1 inhibitor, with the potential to block adaptive immune responses. From these studies, we hypothesize that AMX, by inhibition of TBK-1, could be a novel therapeutic option in SLE.

To determine whether AMX can inhibit type I IFN and IFN induced BAFF production, and to unravel its potential direct effects on B cells in human in vitro culture systems.

Methods: Cultured PBMC from healthy donors were stimulated with Imiquimod, CpG-A, Poly:IC, G3-YSd or 3p-hpRNA to induce type I IFN production through various routes, with or without presence of AMX. Production of type I IFN was assessed by a HEK IFN-alpha/beta reporter cell line and the ability of supernatants to induce transcription of the BAFF and MX1 genes was measured by real-time quantitative PCR. Sorted CD19+ B cells were cultured for 6 or 9 days under GC-like conditions with CD40L and IL-21 (4), as well as IFN, BAFF, and AMX at various concentrations. Viability and differentiation into CD38highCD27highCD138+/- cells was assessed by spectral flow cytometry. Immunoglobulin M and IgG were measured in supernatants by ELISA.

Results: AMX significantly inhibited production of type I IFN through all investigated endosomal and cytosolic routes (p<0.001). Moreover, supernatants from cells treated with AMX were unable to induce expression of BAFF and MX1. The inhibitory capacity of AMX in this setting was comparable to blocking of the interferon alpha/beta receptor (IFNAR) with a functional antibody. As could be expected, AMX did not affect expression of BAFF and MX1 upon IFNAR ligation, indicating no effect on signaling downstream of the receptor. To mimic an autoimmune setting, IFN and BAFF was added to the CD40L/IL-21 B cell culture system, resulting in increased B cell differentiation. Addition of AMX resulted in significantly decreased differentiation into CD38highCD27highCD138+/- cells (p<0.0001) without affecting cell viability. Correspondingly, production of IgM and IgG was lower in the AMX condition.

Conclusion: Our data demonstrate in vitro inhibitory effects of AMX on type I IFN production and B cell differentiation in primary human cells. Inhibition of TBK-1 is a promising therapeutic target for treatment of SLE warranting further investigations.

REFERENCES:
I. Suardi1, R. Caporali1,2, J. Geginat1,3.

Cell biology, Adaptive immunity, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Objectives: Our aim was to evaluate the role of IL-10 -secreting cells in the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus.

Methods: We analyzed the percentages of IL-10 -producing lymphocytes either ex vivo (a standard negative control) or after brief stimulation with PMA and ionomycin, which activates all T -cells to produce cytokines. Surprisingly, 4 patients had very high levels of IL-10 production ex vivo, while the remaining patients produced some IL-10 only upon stimulation, similarly to healthy controls. We then divided our population into 2 groups according to disease activity: patients with SLEDAI ≥ 4 displayed significantly higher IL-10 production than inactive patients. To assess which cells were responsible for spontaneous IL-10 production, we analyzed the phenotype of IL-10+ cells. Spontaneously IL-10 secreting lymphocytes, those that expressed IL-10 and those that did not (Figure 1). Spontaneously IL-10 secreting cells were mainly CD4+ helper T-cells that expressed high levels of CCR6, CXCR5 and IL-7R.

Results: We looked at the percentage frequency of IL-10 -producing lymphocytes either ex vivo (a standard negative control) or after brief stimulation with PMA and ionomycin. CXCR5, which activates all T-cells to produce cytokines. Surprisingly, 4 patients had very high levels of IL-10 production ex vivo, while the remaining patients produced some IL-10 only upon stimulation, similarly to healthy controls. We then divided our population into 2 groups according to disease activity: patients with SLEDAI ≥ 4 displayed significantly higher IL-10 production than inactive patients. To assess which cells were responsible for IL-10 production, we analyzed the percentage of CD4+ and CD8+ cells either ex vivo (standard negative control) or after brief stimulation with PMA and ionomycin. We observed that ex vivo production of IL-10 by B helper T-cells was significantly higher in active disease than in inactive patients. We then divided the test population into additional subgroups according to disease activity: patients with SLEDAI ≥ 4 displayed significantly higher IL-10 production than inactive patients. Further analysis is needed to better characterize the spontaneously IL-10 producing lymphocytes in these patients.

REFERENCES:
Results: We confirmed an increased surface expression of Sialic acid-bind- ing Ig-like lectin-1 (Siglec-1) on CD14+ monocytes and further show increased Siglec-1 expression also on CD14+CD16- non-classical monocytes and conventional dendritic cells in anti-Ro/La-exposed compared to healthy control neo- nates. We did not observe any major differences in general populations such as CD4+, CD8+ or gamma delta T cells. However, we found a decreased frequency of regulatory CD4+FoxP3+T cells in the autobody-exposed newborns. In line with this, we observed an increase in conventional CD4+FoxP3+T cells and that these cells have less of a naïve phenotype with significantly lower frequency of CD62L+ and more CD69-expressing cells in the CD4+FoxP3+ population. Interestingly, Ro/La-exposed newborns also had less CD5+ expressing CD19+ B cells compared to healthy newborns, while the frequency of CD19+CD5- B cells was not affected. Further, we noted a decreased surface expression of CD19 and CD11b on both these CD19+subpopulations. Interestingly, for neonates born to mothers with high levels of all three of Ro52, Ro60 and La autoantibodies, we also found intracellular cytokine IFNγ and TNFα production in B cell, dendritic cell, and monocyte populations.

Conclusion: Together, our data provide valuable insights into the effects of Ro/La autobody exposure in utero on immune activation of both innate and adaptive immune cell populations in exposed fetuses, enhancing our understanding of the immunological basis of neonatal lupus.

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POS1432 CAR-TREGS FOR SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Adaptive immunity, Animal models

M. Doolan1, A. Ugolini1, B. Camisa1, C. Toma1, R. Norata2, S. Del Rosso3, F. Ciceni1, F. Santinov12, M. Casucci4, A. Manfredi4, C. Bonini6, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Experimental Hematology Unit, Milano, Italy; San Raffaele Scientific Institute, GLP Test Facility, SR-Tiget, Milano, Italy; San Raffaele Hospital, Autoimmunity Lab, Milano, Italy; San Raffaele Hospital, Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit, Milano, Italy; San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Pathology Unit, Milano, Italy; San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Innovative Immunotherapies Unit, Milano, Italy; San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Autoimmunity and Vascular Inflammation Unit, Milano, Italy; San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Experimental Hematology Unit, Milano, Italy

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease characterized by an abnormal inflammatory response against nuclear antigens with consequent tissue damage. Autoreactive B cells and auto-antibodies have a fundamental role in SLE pathogenesis. Regulatory T cells (Tregs) physiologically maintain the immune tolerance and are impaired in SLE. Polyclonal Treg transfer obtained unsatisfactory results due to the low number of disease-relevant anti- gen-specific cells. Chimeric Antigen Receptors (CARs) are molecules capable of redirecting T cell specificity. CAR-Tregs proved effective in pre-clinical mouse models of autoimmune.

Objectives: We aimed at developing a CAR-Treg based product to be employed in SLE.

Methods: We isolated Tregs from Healthy Donors Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells (PBMCs) and expanded them with IL-2 and rapamycin. We transduced Tregs with a Lentiviral Vector encoding for a second-generation anti-CD19 CAR, considering the relevant role of autoreactive B cells and auto-antibodies in SLE.

Results: Engineered cells retained their immune suppressive capabilities upon polyclonal stimulation. Noticeably, they acquired new antigen-specific suppressive capacities, being able to block autologous B cell proliferation. We set up a humanized mouse model of SLE. In vivo, CAR-Tregs delayed the occurrence of B cell lymphopenia, producing immunomodulatory cytokines and without showing toxicity or reprogramming towards Th17 pro-inflammatory cells. In inflamed organs, CAR-Tregs restored the normal composition of the immune system.

Conclusion: In conclusion, we efficiently generated anti-CD19 CAR-Tregs and proved their efficacy both in vitro and in an in vivo humanized mouse model of lupus.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

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POS1433 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EFFECT OF BELUMUMAB ON IMMUNOPHENOTYPE AND THE DISCONTINUATION OF GLUCOCORTICOIDS IN PATIENTS WITH SLE: LOOPS REGISTRY, FLOW STUDY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Real-world evidence

Y. Miyazaki1, S. Nakayamada2, S. Kubo2, K. Sonomoto2, H. Tanaka3, K. Hanami4, S. Fukuyo5, A. Yamaguchi4, Y. Todokoro4, H. Miyata4, Y. Tanaka4, 1University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyusyu, Japan; 2University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, Department of Internal Medicine (Molecular Targeted Therapy), Kitakyusyu, Japan; 3University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, Department of Adult and Geriatric Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Kitakyusyu, Japan; 4Hospital of the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, Department of Laboratory and Transfusion Medicine, Kitakyusyu, Japan

Background: The efficacy of belimumab (BEL) for maintenance therapy in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) remains unclear. Furthermore, the effects of BLM on the peripheral blood immunophenotype in patients with SLE are unknown.

Objectives: Patients with SLE in the maintenance phase were analyzed to determine the relationship between the efficacy of BEL and peripheral immunophenotypes. This study aimed to identify patients with SLE for whom belimumab was optimal by clinical findings and peripheral immunophenotypes.

Methods: In this retrospective observational study, patients with SLE (n=110) in the maintenance phase (SELENA-SLEDAI < 10, glucocorticoid [GC] dose ≤ 0.2mg/kg/day) were assessed. Based on the standard human immune cell subset classification protocol by NIH/FOCIS, peripheral immunophenotypes were analyzed in SLE patients and age/gender-matched healthy controls (n=76), and were compared. The efficacy of BEL combined with standard-of-care (BEL+SoC group, n=64) was compared with SoC alone (SoC group, patients using either mycophenolate mofetil or hydroxychloroquine, n=46). Selection bias was adjusted by propensity score-based inverse probability of treatment weighting (PS-IPTW). Peripheral immunophenotypes were analyzed in the baseline and after six months for the SoC group and BEL+SoC group.

Results: The proportion of naïve-CD4 T-, CD8 T- and B cells were lower, and that of the memory CD4 T-, memory CD8 T-, class-switched memory B-, and IgD+CD27 B cells, and plasmocytes was higher in the SLE patients than in controls. No significant difference was observed in the patient background between the two groups after adjustment by PS-IPTW. Compared with the SoC group, the GC dose after one year was significantly lower (BEL+SoC, 1.7±2.3 vs. SoC, 5.4±4.8mg/day, p<0.0001) in the BEL+SoC group. In the BEL+SoC group, 31.3% (20/64) of patients discontinued GC, significantly more than the SoC group (BEL+SoC, 31.3% vs. SoC, 5.0%, p=0.0012). The relapse rate (BEL+SoC, 6.1% vs. SoC, 22.4%, p=0.0128) was significantly lower in the BEL+SoC group than in the SoC group. The incidence of infections was significantly lower in the BEL+SoC group compared to the SoC group before and after PS-IPTW. No significant difference between the two groups was observed in peripheral immunophenotypes at baseline. The proportion of activated Tfh cells (p=0.0323), IgD+CD27+ B cells (p<0.0001), and plasmocytes (p=0.0370) was significantly decreased six months after BLM introduction. In the BEL+SoC group, 18 (28.1%) who discontinued GC had no relapse for one year and showed a significantly lower proportion of IgD+CD27 B cells six months after BLM introduction (p=0.0387). These changes were not observed in the SoC group.

Conclusion: In maintenance-phase SLE, administration of BLM was able to achieve a reduction or discontinuation of GC dose while suppressing flare-ups. A reduction in IgD+CD27+ B cells due to BLM may help to control disease activity, and enable the reduction/discontinuation of GC in SLE patients in the maintenance phase.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Vasculitis - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

POST1434
ABERRANT PHENOTYPE OF CIRCULATING ANTIGEN PRESENTING CELLS IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS AND POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA

Keywords: Innate immunity, Vasculitis

R. Reitsma1, B. C. Hesselink2, K. Van der Geest3, W. Abdulahad2, A. Boots2, E. Brouwer2, P. Heeringa2, Y. Van Sloo1, Å. Seger1, Magnus Sahlgren1, 2, University of Medicine and Health, Örebro, Sweden; 1University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2University Medical Center Groningen, Pathology and Medical Biology, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) and Polymyalgia Rheumatica (PMR) are overlapping diseases occurring exclusively in people older than 50 years. Antigen-presenting cells (APCs), including monocytes and dendritic cells (DCs), are main contributors to the immunopathology of GCA and PMR. In GCA tissues, DCs may be prone to activation, leading to chemokine production and recruitment of CD4+ T-cells and monocytes to the arterial wall. However, little is known about APC phenotypes in the peripheral blood at the time of GCA/PMR diagnosis.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the phenotype of the circulating monocytes and DCs in GCA and PMR patients.

Methods: APCs among peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) of treatment-naive GCA and PMR patients were compared to those in age- and sex-matched healthy controls (HCs) using flow cytometry (n=15 in each group). Using a 13-colour panel, we identified three monocyte subsets: classical (CD14+CD16-), intermediate (CD14+CD14+), and non-classical (CD14lowCD16+) monocytes. DC subsets were subdivided in CD303+CD11c+ plasmacytoid DCs (pDCs), CD11c+CD141+ conventional DCs (cDC1) and CD11c+CD14+ conventional DCs (cDC2). Each of these subsets was analysed for expression of pattern recognition receptors (Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4), TLR2) and activation markers (CD86, Programmed Death- Ligand 1 (PD-1), CD40, HLA-DR, CD11c) by assessing the mean-fluorescence intensity of these markers. Data were analysed by conventional gating strategies and by unsupervised tSNE.

Results: GCA and PMR patients displayed a monocytes, which was due to increases in classical and intermediate monocyte counts, whereas the proportion of non-classical monocytes was reduced. Intermediate monocytes of GCA patients had significantly higher TLR2 expression, a similar trend was observed in non-classical monocytes of GCA and PMR patients. A divergent pattern was observed in the expression of activation markers on classical versus non-classical monocytes: classical monocytes of GCA/PMR patients appeared to be less activated, whereas non-classical monocytes showed an increased monocyte marker expression compared to HCs (Figure 1). Even though no differences were observed in DC counts in the peripheral blood, cDC2 counts correlated negatively with CRP levels (r<0.60 for GCA, r=0.55 for PMR).

Conclusion: Circulating non-classical monocytes, but not DCs, display an activated phenotype in GCA and PMR patients at diagnosis. These cells are thought to be pro-inflammatory, representing the end stage of monocyte maturation in the blood. In contrast, classical monocytes show reduced expression of activation markers in GCA and PMR patients, potentially signalling either an immature or exhausted phenotype.

Figure 1. CD11c expression on monocyte subsets and cDC2 for GCA patients, PMR patients and HCs.

Shown is the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of CD11c on the surface of monocyte subsets and CD14+ conventional dendritic cells (cDC2). Data are shown for patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA) or polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) and age-matched healthy controls (HCs), n=15 for each group. Statistics by Mann Whitney U. CD11c expression data for pDCs (no CD11c expression) and CD11c expression on monocyte subsets and cDC2 for GCA patients, PMR patients and HCs.

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POST1435
A GM-CSF AND IFN-Υ-DRIVEN PRO-INFLAMMATORY MACROPHAGE SIGNATURE IN POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Inmate immunity, Biomarkers

W. F. Jemmy1, A. Zhang2, M. Sandovic1, P. Heeringa3, A. Diepstra2, E. Brouwer2, K. Van der Geest1, 1University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2University Medical Center Groningen, Pathology and Medical Biology, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) is a common, rheumatic inflammatory disease. Synovial inflammation of the shoulder bursae and tendon sheaths is a hallmark feature of PMR. Data on the immune pathology of PMR are scarce, with glucocorticoid treatment remaining the mainstay treatment for this condition. An earlier study reported that macrophages dominate the inflammatory infiltrates in the synovium of PMR patients [1]. Recently, macrophages were identified as potent producers of IL-6 and GM-CSF in PMR bursa tissue [2,3], while a strong IFN-γ signature was observed among bursa T cells [4]. GM-CSF and IFN-γ might potentially skew macrophages towards a pro-inflammatory phenotype. To what extent bursa macrophages in PMR also produce other pro-inflammatory cytokines remains unknown.

Objectives: 1) To investigate the pro-inflammatory cytokine signature of bursa tissue macrophages in PMR.

Methods: Ultrasound-guided bursa tissue biopsies were obtained from 12 PMR patients with active disease. Immunohistochemistry staining for proinflammatory cytokines (IL-6, IFN-γ, IL-1β, TNF-α, IL-12, IL-23 and GM-CSF) and homeostatic cytokines M-CSF was scored quantitatively. Double immunofluorescence staining was performed linking cytokine expression to CD68+ macrophages. In vitro studies were performed with monocytes isolated from peripheral blood mononuclear cells of 8 patients with active PMR and 8 healthy donors. Monocytes were differentiated into macrophages during a 7-day culture in the presence of GM-CSF, with or without 24 hours co-incubation with IFN-γ on day 7 for additional polarization. Real-time qPCR was performed to determine expression of IL-6 in the cultured cells.

Results: CD68+ macrophages were the predominant immune cells in PMR bursa biopsies. IHC staining showed high expression (>60% of positive cells) of proinflammatory cytokines (IL-6, IFN-γ, IL-1β, TNF-α, IL-12, IL-23 and GM-CSF) and homeostatic cytokine M-CSF throughout the bursal tissue, while IFN-γ and IL-1β were moderately expressed (>35% of positive cells). Double immunofluorescence staining confirmed the expression of these cytokines by the bursa tissue macrophages. In vitro experiments showed a slight upregulation of IL-6 expression when monocytes were differentiated into macrophages by GM-CSF. In the presence of IFN-γ, a substantially stronger upregulation of IL-6 was observed. In essence, similar in vitro findings were observed for monocytes/macrophages obtained from PMR patients and healthy controls.

Conclusion: Macrophages are the predominant immune cells in PMR bursa tissue and produce a wide array of pro-inflammatory cytokines. GM-CSF and IFN-γ may contribute to the pro-inflammatory phenotype of macrophages in PMR, as indicated by their strong ability to promote IL-6 expression in vitro. This study provides the first glance on the complex cytokine network present in key tissues affected by PMR.

Figure 1. Hypothetic pathogenesis of PMR in bursa tissue. GM-CSF and IFN-γ, together with other factors in the bursa tissue steer monocytes to differentiate into macrophages that produce pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6.

REFERENCES:
Objectives: Our objectives were to describe the immune cells of patients with Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) and to analyze their evolution under tocilizumab.

Methods: The SEMAPHORE trial (NCT02968217, (1)) was a randomized controlled trial including 121 patients with PMR dependent from glucocorticoids and to analyze their evolution under tocilizumab. Patients were enrolled in the rheumatology department of the Brest University Hospital, but did not have any history or presence of cancer, auto-immune disease or active infection and did not receive treatment with a known impact on the immune system. We analyzed age and sex-matched healthy controls (HC) were recruited in the rheumatology department of the Tours University Hospital.

Results: Samples were obtained for 40 PMR patients and 34 HC. At inclusion, in PMR patients, compared to HC, CD14+CD16+ monocytes were increased (80±1% vs 77±2%, p=0.01), CD14-CD16+ non-classical monocytes were decreased (4±0.3% vs 7±6.0%, p<0.0001), granulocytes were increased (63±2% vs 52±2%, p=0.0001), natural killer cells were decreased (8±1% vs 13±1%, p=0.007), and T cells were increased (70±2% vs 64±2%, p=0.02) with an enrichment in CD4+CD27− CD45RA− regulatory T cells (p=0.001). At week 12, in PMR patients receiving tocilizumab therapy, compared to PMR patients receiving placebo, granulocytes were lower (58±5% vs 73±2%, p=0.006) and monocytes were higher (8±1% vs 5±0.5%, p=0.02).

Conclusion: In patients with a PMR dependent from glucocorticoids, immune cells homeostasis is disturbed. Tocilizumab has an impact more pronounced on granulocytes and monocytes. Knowledge about immune disturbance in PMR might help to choose to use a targeted therapy when glucocorticoids are not sufficient.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Background: Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV) is a small vessel vasculitis affecting multiple organ systems, including the kidney. Small vessels in the kidney include small-sized arteries (interlobular and afferent and efferent arterioles), capillaries (glomerular and peritubular capillaries) and venules. Objectives: Although crescentic ANCA glomerulonephritis (GN) is a common histological finding reflecting glomerular small vessel vasculitis, it is reasonable that manifestation of AAV could also contribute to interstitial small vessel vasculitis. Therefore, we here aimed to expand our current knowledge focusing on interstitial vasculitis in ANCA GN by systematic histological scoring of vascular lesions analogous to Banff.

Methods: A total number of 49 kidney biopsies with confirmed renal involvement of AAV at the University Medical Center Göttingen were retrospectively included between 2015 till 2020. A renal pathologist evaluated all biopsies and was blinded to clinical data collection and analysis.

Results: Since previous studies established that crescentic ANCA GN associates with severe kidney injury and acute deterioration of kidney function in AAV, we first systematically scored interstitial vasculitis in association with requirement of renal replacement therapy (RRT). Among all active and chronic tubulointerstitial lesions analogous to the Banff scoring system, the only association between severe kidney injury requiring RRT was observed for interstitial crescents in AAV reflected by peritubular capillaritis (ptc, p=0.0002) and arteritis (v, p=0.0069), affecting 5/49 (10.2%) and 11/49 (22.4%) of renal biopsies, respectively. Since it is known that severe deterioration of kidney function also correlates with crescentic ANCA GN, we next directly compared glomerular and tubulointerstitial lesions. The fraction of normal glomeruli was inversely associated with interstitial fibrosis (i), total (t) and inflammation in IFH (i-IFTA), whereas glomerular crescents were associated with interstitial inflammation (i), tubulitis (t) and total inflammation (t). In contrast, global glomerular sclerosis associated with less interstitial inflammation (i) but correlated with interstitial fibrosis (i) and tubular atrophy (t), confirming established mechanisms that chronic glomerular injury leads to tubular atrophy and interstitial fibrosis. Interestingly, no association between interstitial vasculitis (ptc and v correlating with severe kidney injury) and any glomerular lesion in ANCA GN (also correlating with severe kidney injury) was observed, thereby confirming that interstitial vasculitis contributes to severe kidney injury independent of ANCA GN. By contrast, short-term renal recovery from RRT was equal in both groups, suggesting a distinct association with acute decline of kidney function at disease onset.

Conclusion: Taken together, by using the Banff scoring system we here expand our current knowledge of renal interstitial lesions in AAV revealing peritubular capillaritis and arteritis as important histological alterations associated with severe kidney injury in a considerable subset of AAV. Furthermore, our findings that interstitial vasculitis did not correlate with crescentic ANCA GN imply that the characteristics of each vasculitis manifestation are independent and could further improve our understanding of renal vasculitides contributing to renal injury. These observations suggest that interstitial vasculitis in AAV may also affect long-term prognosis requiring further investigation.

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ANALYSIS OF THE PLASMA PROTEOME PROVIDES MECHANISTIC INSIGHTS INTO THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Keywords: -Omics, Vasculitis

E. Heibach1, V. Van Hoe2, A. Johansson1, A. Knight1, I. Gunnarsson2, A. Bruchfeld3, P. Eriksson1, S. Olsson3, A. J. Mohammad1, A. Soderberg1, E. Berglin1, S. Rantapää Dahlqvist1, J. Dahlqvist1
1Uppsala University, Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden; 2Uppsala University, NBIS Science for Life Laboratory, Uppsala, Sweden; 3Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; 4Linköping University, Department of Medical and Biotechnical Sciences, Linköping, Sweden; 5Linköping University, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Linköping, Sweden; 6Lund University and Skåne University Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund, Sweden; 7Örebro University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Örebro, Sweden; 8Umeå University, Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå, Sweden

Background: The pathogenesis of ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) remains largely unknown. Proteinase 3 (PR3)- and myeloperoxidase (MPO)-AAV are two categories of AAV with distinct genetic background, but mechanistic differences between the two are poorly characterized. We hypothesized that in-depth studies of the plasma proteome in patients with active AAV would provide clues to the molecular and cellular mechanisms behind these disorders.

Objectives: To improve our understanding of the disease mechanisms behind AAV and pathophysiological differences between PR3- and MPO-AAV.

Methods: Plasma samples were collected at six Swedish rheumatological and/or nephrological centers from 42 PR3-AAV and 25 MPO-AAV patients with active disease prior to commencement of therapy and from 136 healthy matched controls. All patients were classified into granulomatous with polyangiitis or microscopic polyangiitis according to the European Medicines Agency algorithm. Samples were analysed for the relative levels of 181 proteins associated with inflammation or cardiovascular disease, using proximity extension assay (OLINK Proteomics). Differentially expressed proteins (DEPs) between groups were analyzed using ANOVA, where proteins with a fold change ≥ 1.5 and adjusted p value < 0.05 were considered as significant DEPs. Partial least square discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) was used to identify proteins contributing most to PR3-AAV/MPO-AAV separation from healthy controls. The STRING database was used to analyse protein–protein interaction networks. Gene ontology, KEGG and Reactome databases were used for pathway enrichment analyses using ClueGO.

Results: In comparison with healthy controls, 63 DEPs were identified for PR3-AAV and 62 for MPO-AAV. Of these, 49 DEPs were common to both AAV groups. Pathway enrichment analysis of the 49 common DEPs identified IL-17, IL-10, TNF-α and NF-kappa B signaling and neutrophil chemotaxis among the significantly enriched processes. The 14 DEPs unique for PR3-AAV formed a functional and physical protein–protein interaction network in STRING analysis, with significant enrichment for regulation of B cell proliferation, activation of matrix metalloproteinases, collagen degradation and IL-17 and TNF-α signaling pathways. The 13 DEPs unique for MPO-AAV did not show any significant functional enrichment. Of the top 15 proteins contributing most to group separation in the PLS-DA analysis, 11 proteins where common to both PR3- and MPO-AAV and 4 proteins were unique for PR3-AVV and MPO-AVV, respectively (Table 1).

Conclusion: Combining quantitative proteomics and bioinformatics analyses, we identified a large group of DEPs characterizing both active PR3- and MPO-AAV and have determined their associated biological mechanisms. DEPs unique for PR3-AVV formed an interconnected protein network associated with biological processes of high relevance for AAV-pathogenesis. In conclusion, these findings may provide new insights into similarities and differences in the pathogenesis of MPO- and PR3-AAV.

Table 1. PLS-DA results showing the top 15 proteins contributing most to separation of PR3-AAV and MPO-AAV patients, respectively, from healthy controls.

<table>
<thead>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5500

DEREGULATION IN ADULT IGA VASCULITIS SKIN AS THE BASIS FOR THE DISCOVERY OF NOVEL SERUM BIOMARKERS

Keywords: -Omics, Vasculitis, Biomarkers

M. Baříček1,2, M. Hladík3, T.D. Toluay*, S. Sedín-Šmrtníková1, A. Höcsev1,2, K. Lakota1,4, 1University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Department of Rheumatology, Ljubljana, Slovenia; 2University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Medicine, Ljubljana, Slovenia; 3Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies, University of Primorska, Department of Applied Natural Sciences, Koper, Slovenia; 4Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies, University of Primorska, Department of Biodiversity, Koper, Slovenia

Background: Immunglobulin A vasculitis (IgAV) is a small vessel leukocytoelastic vasculitis, characterized by vascular IgA deposits, and a variable clinical presentation. While IgAV might be self-limiting with a complete recovery, the severe acute form of the disease with gastrointestinal tract (GIT) and renal involvement may lead to significant morbidity, especially in adults. A skin or renal biopsy is still the golden standard for diagnosis. Currently, clinically used markers for IgAV cannot predict patients at risk for severe renal involvement and GIT complications with long-term consequences and which patients will exhibit a mild and self-resolving course limited to skin.

Objectives: This study aimed to use deregulated biological processes in patients’ skin to identify potential serum biomarkers in adult IgAV, enabling stratification of patients with different clinical presentation.

Methods: Skin biopsy samples were collected from treatment-naïve adult IgAV patients at the time of diagnosis. Among IgAV patients, 59 with active IgAV (n=59), and age-/sex-matched HC (n=3), RNA was isolated and 100 bp paired-end sequenced using the Illumina HiSeq 4000 platform (25.9 to 30.8 million reads were obtained per sample). Reads were mapped with Salmon tool against the human transcriptome (Ensemble Release 104). Differentially-expressed genes (log2 fold change ≥ 1, |padj| < 0.05) were computed using the R package DESeq2. Potential serum biomarkers were measured in sera of 59 IgAV patients and 22 healthy controls by magnetic bead-based multiplex assay using the Lumexin platform. Statistically significant differences between groups were determined by the Mann-Whitney U test (for 2 groups) and the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn’s post-test for multiple comparisons (≥ 3 groups). Spearman’s rank correlation was calculated to measure the correlation between parameters.

Results: Based on differentially-expressed genes and deregulated biological pathways in IgAV patients’ skin, we identified adipokines (fatty acid binding protein 4 (FABP4)), adiponectin, leptin, serpin A12 and angiotensin-like protein 4 (ANGPTL4)), extracellular matrix associated proteins (osteopontin and matrix metalloproteinase-1 (MMP1)) and acute phase protein lipopolysaccharide binding protein (LBP) that were measured in patients’ sera. We detected significantly higher serum levels of FABP4 (p < 0.001), leptin (p < 0.002), ANGPTL4 (p < 0.001), osteopontin (p < 0.001), MMP1 (p < 0.007) and LBP (p < 0.001) in adult IgAV patients, as compared with healthy controls. Most highly enriched biological pathways identified only in skin of IgAV patients with renal involvement were the Regulation of iloprost in adipocytes (padj 9.066 x 10^-10) and ECM-receptor interaction (padj = 4.2862 x 10^-10). Among the top 30 most differentially-expressed genes identified specifically in the skin of IgAV patients with renal involvement were LBP, LEP, SPP1, ADIPOQ, HP and RBP4. Serum levels of adiponectin (p=0.0043) and FABP4 (p=0.049) were significantly higher in patients with renal involvement as compared to those with gastrointestinal involvement. The level of adiponectin (p=0.018) was significantly higher in patients with skin-limited IgAV compared to patients with gastrointestinal involvement. LBP positively correlated with the levels of two routinely measured acute-phase proteins, C-reactive protein (CRP) (correlation coefficient = 0.550, p < 0.001) and serum amyloid A (SAA) (correlation coefficient = 0.545, p < 0.001), established markers of inflammation. Among adipokines, the level of ANGPTL4 positively correlated with CRP (correlation coefficient = 0.314, p < 0.001) and SAA (correlation coefficient = 0.528, p < 0.001).

Conclusion: We identified novel biomarkers of deregulated lipid metabolism and inflammation in adult patients with IgAV that are associated with internal organ involvement. Further analysis of their involvement in disease pathogenesis is warranted.

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge Slovenian Research Agency for funding National research program Systemic autoimmune diseases PA-0314.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1801

05/18/23 4 Color Fig(s):0 21:36 Art: 31_EUROAB-2023-PV30-31
EVIDENCE FOR INCREASED RESPONSIVENESS TO INTERFERON TYPE I IN CD8+ T CELLS IN PATIENTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Innate immunity, Cytokines and chemokines, Vasculitis

M. Van Nieuwland1,2, J. Esiri3, R. Reitsma2, W. Abdullah4, Y. Van Sleen2, M. Sardovici2, E. Brouwer2, L. Van Bon1. 1Hospital Group Twente, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Almelo, Netherlands; 2University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a vasculitis which can lead to severe complications when not timely recognized and treated. There is a need for the discovery of biomarkers to expedite the diagnostic process. Interferon type I (IFN-I) is increasingly recognized as a key player in a range of autoimmune diseases and might play a role in GCA pathogenesis [1]. However, evidence for IFN-I potentially linking innate and adaptive immune responses in GCA is limited. IFN-I activates the Janus kinase/signal transducers and activators of transcription (JAK-STAT) pathway, leading to an increased expression of interferon stimulated genes (ISGs).

Objectives: In this study, IFN-I involvement in GCA pathogenesis is explored.

Methods: Phospho-STAT1 (pSTAT1) expression was investigated in IFN-α-stimulated peripheral mononuclear cells (PBMCs) gated separately for CD8+ T-cells of patients with GCA (n=18), healthy controls (HC, n=15) and infection controls (n=11) by fluorescent cell barcoding and flow cytometry. Also, in 3 GCA patients and 3 HCs, single cell RNA sequencing was performed on PBMCs focusing on ISG expression. Furthermore, IFN-I induced myxovirus-resistance protein A (MxA) and CD8+ expression was investigated in temporal artery biopsies (TAB) of GCA patients (n=20) and GCA mimics (n=20) by immunohistochemistry.

Results: pSTAT1 expression was increased in IFN-α stimulated CD8+ T-cells from patients with GCA compared to both HC (p<0.05) and infection controls. Furthermore, Interferon Induced Transmembrane Protein 1 (IFITM1) mRNA expression was upregulated in peripheral blood CD8+ T cells (p<0.001). MxA was present in TABs of 13/20 GCA patients compared to 2/20 mimics and MxA location co-localized with CD8+ expression in the tissue.

Conclusion: Our results provide evidence for IFN-I involvement in GCA pathogenesis, with CD8+ T-cells as IFN-I responding effector cells. Increased pSTAT1, IFITM1 and MxA expression may reflect increased IFN-I responsiveness in CD8+ T-cells of GCA patients, both locally and systemically. These findings warrant further investigation regarding IFN-I induced biomarkers and IFN-I related novel therapeutic options.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


Figure 1. MxA expression (brown staining) in temporal artery biopsy of A) a non-GCA patient and B) a biopsy-proven GCA patient.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2203

OCULAR AND PERIPHERAL BLOOD IMMUNE PHENOTYPES SUGGEST TRANSLOCATION OF CD4++ MONOCYTES TO AN IMPORTANT EFFECTOR SITE IN BEHÇET’S DISEASE

Keywords: Cell biology, Behçet’s disease, -Omics

Y. Ozcugur1,2,3, Z. Lin1, G. Hatemi1,2, A. Cavers1, J. Nowatzky1,5. 1New York University Grossman School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, NYU Langone Behçet’s Disease Program, NYU Langone Ocular Rheumatology Program, New York, United States of America; 2Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Ophthalmology, Istanbul, Turkey, 4New York University Grossman School of Medicine, NYU Langone Applied Informatics Laboratories, New York, United States of America; 5New York University Grossman School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, New York, United States of America

Background: Cellular immunity of Behçet’s Disease (BD) remains poorly understood. Previous work has provided clues pointing to most innate and adaptive immune cell types in BD, but strong signals from non-immunogenetic studies are rare and often inconclusive.

Objectives: Here we aimed to identify BD/HD discriminant single immune cell profiles in semi-biased and targeted approaches and determine their significance at a BD relevant effector site.

Methods: We utilized multi-parametric flow cytometry to dissect cellular phenotypes in PBMC of untreated BD patients (n=27) and HD (n=22) consisting predominantly of active ocular and major vascular BD subjects. Data were subjected to supervised machine learning (CITRUS) and results verified with targeted gating. We also analyzed anterior chamber (AC) fluid cells and autologous PBMC from BD uveitis subjects with scRNA seq.

Results: CITRUS identified CD16+, CD14low, CD4low, CD3-, CD19- cells as a BD/HD distinguishing cellular expression pattern at an FDR of >0.05. Targeted gating confirmed highly significant differences with large effect sizes in PBMC of BD vs HD for "non-classical" (CD14lowCD16hi) and "intermediate" (CD14+CD16+) monocytes at decreased frequencies compared to peripheral "classical" (CD14++CD16-) monocytes were more abundant in BD. PBMC in BD. CD14+ cells showed high abundance in the AC during BD uveitis and co-expressed CD16 far more frequently than CD14+ cells in autologous peripheral blood.

Conclusion: Significantly lower frequencies of CD16+ monocyte and DC subsets in PBMC of untreated active BD vs HD strongly point to their importance in BD. The high abundance of CD14+ cells with CD16 co-expression in the eye during uveitis relative to their frequency in autologous peripheral blood, suggests their transmigration or post-migrational interconversion within the eye during BD uveitis rather than a stochastic process.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yesim Ozcugur: None declared, Ziyun Lin: None declared, Gulen Hatemi: None declared, Ann Cavers: None declared, Johannes Nowatzky Grant/research support from: NIH-NEI R01EY033465 (Nowatzky), NIH-NEI R01EY033495 (Nowatzky)

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AMELIORATION OF IGA VASCULITIS BY SUPPRESSION OF THE PATHOLOGICAL EXPANSION OF TFH17 CELLS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Animal models, Treat to target

X. Ma1, Q. Jiang2, Y. Shan3, X. Chi1, H. Jiang1. 1The First Hospital of China Medical University, Department of Pediatrics, Shenyang, China; 2Zhongshan City People’s Hospital, Department of General Pediatrics, Zhong Shan, China; 3University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan

Background: Immunoglobulin A vasculitis (IgAV), also named Henoch–Schönlein purpura, is a systemic vasculitis characterized by the deposition of IgA1-containing immune complexes in small vessels that often involves the skin, joints, gastrointestinal tract, and kidney [1-3]. Research indicated increased frequencies of circulating activated B cells and plasmablasts in IgAV, which may serve as the sources of rising IgA1 levels [4]. T follicular helper (Tfh) 17 cells are considered to support the activation of B cells and help germinal center (GC) B cells switch to high-affinity IgA production. In human, Th17 cells promote naive B cells to produce higher concentrations of IgA [5]. T cell-deficient mice that receive an adoptive transfer of Th17-Th17 cells show induced development of IgA-expressing GC B cells and an increase in the concentration of IgA. Transfer of non-Th17 phenotype CD4+ T cells leads to higher amounts of IgG in serum but fails to increase the serum IgA level [6]. Therefore, targeted therapy against Th17 cells may specifically inhibit the secretion of IgA and thereby ameliorate IgAV condition.

Objectives: Our previous study has confirmed that Th17 cells increase in the peripheral blood of IgAV patients [7]. However, there is no further study on the pathogenesis of IgAV. To evaluate the pathological role of Th17 cells in IgAV, we investigated the mechanism responsible for the differentiation of Th17 and the production of IgA in IgAV patients and IgAV rats respectively, and explored how to ameliorate IgAV by modulating Th17 generation.

Methods: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells from IgAV patients were analyzed by flow cytometry. In vitro culture was performed to assess the modulation of...
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Scientific Abstracts	﻿ 
cytokine-induced phenotypes. IgAV rat model was established by intragastric
administration of mixed solution, intraperitoneal injection of ovalbumin and Freund’s adjuvant. IgAV rats were used to explore the therapeutic effects of IL-6
blockade and the regulatory functions of IL-6 and TGF-β-producing dendritic
cells in Tfh17 cells. Serum cytokine and IgA levels were measured by ELISA
while histopathological changes were evaluated by H&E and PAS staining. Flow
cytometry and immunofluorescence staining were used to detect T cell and GC
B cell phenotypes in circulation and tissues of IgAV rats.
Results: Frequency of CD4+CXCR5+CCR6+ Tfh17 cells were increased in IgAV
patients and associated with disease severity. IL-6 promoted the dendritic cell
production of TGF-β and Tfh17 differentiation. Blockade of IL-6 signaling using
tocilizumab inhibited Tfh17 differentiation, resulting in reduction of the germinal
center and IgA production. Suppression of Tfh17 cells using IL-6 blockade greatly
ameliorated clinical symptoms such as hemorrhagic rash and bloody stool and
decreased IgA deposition and mesangial proliferation in the kidney in IgAV rats.
Conclusion: Our findings suggest that suppression of Tfh17 differentiation can
alleviate IgA-mediated vasculitis and may permit the development of tailored
medicines for treating IgAV.
REFERENCES:
T cells are counterparts of T follicular cells and contain specific subsets that
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.616

SLE, Sjön’s and APS - clinical aspects (other than
treatment)
POS1443

CORRELATION BETWEEN SAXON TEST AND
UNSTIMULATED SALIVARY FLOW RATE IN PATIENTS
WITH SUSPECTED SJÖGREN´S SYNDROME

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Diagnostic tests
M. Fernandez Castro1, M. J. Santos-Bornez1, C. Merino Argumánez1, J. Sanz1,
J. Campos Esteban1, N. De la Torre Rubio1, P. Navarro Palomo1, M. Pavía
Pascual1, M. Machattou1, H. Godoy1, M. C. Sánchez Fernández1, P. D. Briongos
Díaz1, B. García Magallón1, C. Barbadillo1, L. F. De Villa1, C. Isasi Zaragoza1,
J. L. Andréu Sánchez1, A. Sánchez1. 1Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro
Majadahonda, IDIPHISA, Rheumatology, Majadahonda (Madrid), Spain
Background: Sjögren syndrome (SS) is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease
characterized by lymphocytic infiltration of the exocrine glands, which alters their
function producing dryness of the mouth, eyes and other mucous membranes.
The method used to quantify glandular hypofunction is by whole saliva flow stimulated and unstimulated (UWSF) [1], which takes between 5 and 15 minutes
(min).The Saxon test (St) [2], is another tool with the same objective but requires
less time: 2 minutes. In the literature, we only have found one study that compared the Saxon test with other diagnostic methods although it is developed in
patients without SS [3].
Objectives: To compare the Saxon test and UWSF in a cohort of patients with
suspected SS.
Methods: In a consecutive cohort of patients who attended the rheumatology
department for suspected SS, UWSF was measured (mL/5 min) and the Saxon
test (gr/2 min) was performed. The Index Reported by Patients with SS of the
EULAR (ESSPRI) was collected too. This is a patient-reported index designed
to assess the severity of patients’ symptoms (dryness, pain, somatic and mental
fatigue) in SS through an average of single 0–10 numerical scale for each domain.
To measure the UWSF, patients were asked to swallow their saliva before the
start of the test and then to spit into a container for 5 min. The St was performed
by calculating the difference in the weight of two pieces of sterile gauze that the

1075

patient chews for two minutes. A UWSF >0.25 mL/min and a St >2.75 g/2min
were considered normal, as well as and ESSPRI<5. Spearman’s rank correlation
coefficient (rs) was used to determine the correlation between both quantitative
variables. The Chisquare test and the Gamma test were used in the comparisons
between the groups (altered and normal) and the Mann-Whitney U in the comparisons of the quantitative variables based on the groups (altered and normal)
previously defined. P values <0.05 were considered statistically significant.
Results: We enrolled 199 patients (166 women), with a mean age ± standard
deviation of 55,1±13,7 years. The medians (Me) and interquartile ranges (IQR)
obtained were 1,50 (0.70 – 2.50) mL/5min for the UWSF, 2,31 (1,60-3,10) g/2min
for the St, 6,33 (3.67- 7.67) for ESSPRI and 7,00 (5,00-8,00) for ESSPRI-dryness
score. A direct and significant correlation between the St and the UWSF (rs=0,391;
P=2,236x10-7) was observed; 76 patients (38,2 %) presented an altered UWSF
and 107 patients (65,2 %) had an altered St. When we analysed the intensity of
the association between the different groups (altered/normal) of both variables,
we observed a direct and significant association (Gamma value=0,4, P=0,019)
between both tools. We also detected differences in the St between patients
with altered UWSF (Me: 1,72gr/2min; IQR: 1,04-2,50) and those with normal
UWSF (Me: 2,62 gr/2 min.; IQR: 1,95-3, 54) (P=3,9x10-6). Similarly, we observed
significant differences in UWSF values between patients with altered St (Me:
1,50 mL/5min IQR: 0,60-2,50) and those with a normal St (Me: 2,00 mL/5min
IQR: 1,00-3,00) (P=0,014). Regarding the ESSPRI, 129 (65,8 %) patients presented an altered ESSPRI and 153 (78,1%) had an altered ESSPRI-dryness
score. The group patients with ESSPRI-dryness score≥5 obtained significantly
lower scores on the St (Me: 2,10 g/2min IQR: 1,39-3.01), on the UWSF (Me:
1,5 ml/5min IQR: 0,6-2,0), and on the ESSPRI (Me:7,00 IQR:5,33-8,00) than
the normal ESSPRI-dryness score group: Me:2,98 g/2min, IQR:2,22-3,75, on St
(P=0,001); Me:2,45 ml/5min, IQR:1,50-3,50, on UWSF (P=6,547x10-5); Me: 3,17
IQR:1, 00-4.08, on the ESSPRI (P=1,17x10-15).
Conclusion: In patients with suspected SS, there is a direct and significant correlation between the St and the UWSF. Therefore, the St could be useful in the
initial assessment of oral gland dysfunction, to save time and/or to select patients
who require performing the UWSF.
REFERENCES:
Acknowledgements: We would like to acknowledge all the patients who have
participated in the study.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.863

POS1444

EXTRAGLANDULAR INVOLVEMENT AND
AUTOANTIBODY STATUS AS RISK FACTORS
FOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN PRIMARY
SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME (PSS): A 20-YEAR
FOLLOW-UP STUDY

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Sjögren syndrome, Cardiovascular disease
C. Sieiro Santos1, R. Rego Salgueiro2, P. Pérez-García1, J. Ordas Martínez1,
C. Moriano1, C. Álvarez Castro1, I. González Fernández1, E. Diez Alvarez1.
1
Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; 2ULS
Guarda, Internal Medicine, Guarda, Portugal
Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is an autoimmune disorder
characterized by chronic multisystem inflammation with shared pathophysiology
with SLE and RA. Cardiovascular events have emerged as major causes of morbidity and mortality in patients with autoimmune diseases however, the clinical
significance of cardiovascular disease in patients with pSS remains unclear.
Objectives: To study the association between cardiovascular disease and primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) and analyze the risk of cardiovascular disease
accordingly to glandular/extraglandular involvement and anti-Ro/SSA and/or
Anti-La/SSB autoantibody status.
Methods: pSS patients fulfilling the 2016 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for
pSS was consecutively evaluated and followed in our department between 2000
and 2022. We evaluated the prevalence and clinical significance of cardiovascular risk factors with primary Sjögren’s syndrome (SS), focusing on the possible
association with clinical and immunological features, the therapies administered,
and the impact on cardiovascular disease. A two-tailed value of p<0.05 was
taken to indicate statistical significance. Potential risk factors associated with cardiovascular involvement were determined by multivariate regression analyses.
Results: A total of 102 pSS patients were included. 90% were female, with a
mean age of 65±24 years and a disease duration of 9.9 ±7 years. The baseline prevalence of comorbidities was 59% for hypertension, 29% for cardiovascular diseases, 34% for dyslipidemia, 15% of diabetes, 29% for obesity, 12%
had history of stroke and 17% had arterial/venous thrombosis. 39% of patients
had a history of smoking. Patients with extraglandular involvement had a higher


prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors, including arterial hypertension (OR 2.28 95% CI (1.03-5.09), p 0.04), dyslipidemia (OR 4.4 95% CI (1.18-16.7), p 0.003), LDL mean values (116±48 vs 99±44, p 0.03), uric acid (6.58±1.7 vs 4.3±1.05, p 0.04) and higher risk for myocardial ischemia (OR 4.09 95% CI (1.46-11.4), p 0.01) after adjustment for age, sex, disease duration, and the significant variables in the univariate analysis. Patients positive for both Ro/SSA and La/SSB autoantibodies had a substantially higher risk of arrhythmia (OR 3.4 95% CI (1.01-10.6), p 0.04), arterial and venous thrombosis (OR 5.5 95% CI (1.18-25.7), p 0.03) and stroke (OR 3 95% CI (1.02-8.8), p 0.04). In the multivariate logistic regression analysis, extradiglantal organ involvement (p<0.008), beta2microglobulin levels (p=0.001), the use of glucocorticoids (p=0.02), hypergammaglobulinemia (p=0.02), ESR levels (p=0.007) and an ESSDAI (Sjögren’s syndrome disease activity index)>13 (p=0.02) were found to be risk factors associated with cardiovacular events in pSS patients, meanwhile C3 levels (p=0.01) and treatment with HCQ (p=0.03) were protective factors. Anti-Ro/SSA and anti-La/SSB were significant predictors in univariate but not in multivariate analysis.

Conclusion: pSS patients are more vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). In addition to traditional CVD risk factors, we identified risk factors independently associated with cardiovascular involvement in pSS patients, which suggests the need for early detection and prevention measures to improve the prognosis in those patients.

Table 4. Significant logistic regressions for predictors for CV risk

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<th>P value</th>
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<td>Beta2microglobulin (mg/dL)</td>
<td>7.83 (3.16-12.5)</td>
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<td>C3 (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.92 (0.24-3.98)</td>
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<td>Hypergammaglobulinemia</td>
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<td>ESSDAI &gt;13</td>
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<td>ESR (mm/h)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.42-3.45)</td>
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<td>HCQ</td>
<td>0.82 (0.26-3.92)</td>
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REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.730

POS1445 INCLUSION BODY MYOSITIS ASSOCIATED WITH SJÖGRREN SYNDROME HAS DIFFERENT IMMUNE CELLS INFILTRATE FROM SPORADIC INCLUSION BODY MYOSITIS

Keywords: Myositis, Sjögren syndrome, Biomarkers

B. Quere 1, A. Bouchet 2, P. Hémon 2, J. O. Perez 3, B. J. Noury 4, P. Marcqellet 5, D. Guével 6, Y. Allenbach 7, K. Marianpillai 8, S. Léonard-Louis 9, S. Sanges 10, C. A. Maurage 11, G. Nocturne 12, C. Adam 13, M. Meyer 14, B. Lannes 15, G. Urbanski 16, A. Croute 17, V. DeVauzechelle-Pensec 18, A. Uguen 19, D. Corne 20, 1 Hospital La Cavale Blanche, Rheumatology, Brest, France; 2 Hôpital Morvan, Pathology, Brest, France; 3 Laboratoire Lbai - UMR 1227, Immunology, Brest, France; 4 University Hospital Pitié Salpêtrière - Charles Foix, Internal medicine, Paris, France; 5 University Hospital Pitié Salpêtrière - Charles Foix, Pathology, Paris, France; 6 Hospital Claude Huriez, Internal medicine, Lille, France; 7 Hospital Center University De Lille, Pathology, Lille, France; 8 Bicêtre Hospital, Rheumatology, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France; 9 Bicêtre Hospital, Pathology, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France; 10 Chu Strasbourg, Rheumatology, Strasbourg, France; 11 Chu Strasbourg, Pathology, Strasbourg, France; 12 University Hospitals Leiden Centre, Internal medicine, Leiden, The Netherlands; 13 Angers, France; 14 Angers University Hospital Center, Pathology, Angers, France.

Background: Within the group of inflammatory myopathies, Inclusion-Body Myositis (IBM) is a distinct pathology with clinical and histological features very different from other entities. In the literature, an association between primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) and IBM has been previously reported.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to compare the inflammatory infiltrates between IBM associated or not with pSS and, among patients with pSS, between muscle and salivary gland.

Methods: We conducted a translational research project, from formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded muscle biopsies of patients with IBM, associated with Sjögren’s syndrome (IBM+pSS) and sporadic (sIBM) forms, from 6 French expert centers, and salivary glands were collected when available. Imaging mass cytometry (IMC) multiplex immunostaining (37 markers) was used to quantify and decipher the composition of the inflammatory infiltrates within samples (Figure 1). Supervised and unsupervised statistical analyses were performed to compare IMC data between IBM-pSS and sIBM patients and muscle and salivary glands among patients with pSS.

Results: No statistically significant difference was encountered in our comparisons between IBM-pSS and sIBM muscle biopsies. Nevertheless, some trends were pointed and could merit further work in larger case series. Indeed, IBM-pSS samples (14 patients) tended to have more widespread inflammatory infiltrate than sIBM samples (7 patients) involving on average 4.8% versus 1.6% of muscle biopsy surface respectively (p=0.12). Macrophages and T cells were the predominant populations in both IBM-pSS and sIBM patients’ groups. Among T cells, CD8+ cells predominated compared to CD4+ cells in both groups. The proportion of plasma cells (CD138+ CD38+ CD27+) was higher in IBM-pSS than in IBM-pSS patients (medians of 14.7% and 8.5%, respectively, p=0.02), as was the proportion of B cells (median of 3.1% and 0.5%, respectively, p=0.14). Comparing salivary gland and muscle biopsies in patients with pSS, the plasma cells were predominant in the salivary gland with more numerous plasma cells and B cells and less numerous macrophages and T cells in salivary glands than in muscle samples. Nodular inflammatory infiltrate pattern containing B cells appeared to be restricted to pSS patients both in muscle and salivary gland biopsies.

Conclusion: Using for the first time IMC on muscle biopsy and salivary gland has allowed us 1) to point difference between IBM-pSS and sIBM and 2) similarities between salivary and muscle inflammatory infiltrates in patients with pSS samples. These differences suggest that IBM associated with pSS has a distinct pSS-related pathophysiology compared to sIBM, which could raise potential diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

Figure 1. Example of markers of multiplex immunostaining in salivary glands (A) and in muscle (B).

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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POS1446 VARIATION IN SYSTEMIC DISEASE ACTIVITY MEASURED WITH ESSDAI IN A PROSPECTIVE LONGITUDINAL COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGRREN’S SYNDROME WITHOUT IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE TREATMENT

Keywords: Outcome measures, Sjögren syndrome

L. De Woll 1, G. M. Verstappen 1, A. J. Steil 2, G. S. Van Zuiden 1, J. F. Van Nimwegen 2, A. Vissink 1, F. G. M. Kroese 3, S. Arends 1, H. Bootsma 1, University of Groningen, University Medical Centre Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2 University of Groningen, University Medical Centre Groningen, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Groningen, Netherlands.

Background: The EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index (ESSDAI) has been used as primary endpoint in many recent randomised clinical trials (RCTs) in patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS). In multiple RCTs, a large placebo effect (>50%) was observed with the ESSDAI. Since patients are often included with a moderate or high disease activity (ESSDAI ≥5), this placebo effect may partly be due to regression to the mean [1]. Little data is available on the natural course of the ESSDAI in patients who are not treated with immunosuppressive therapies.

Objectives: To assess the variation in ESSDAI up to five years of follow-up in a cohort of pSS patients without immunosuppressive treatment.

Methods: This prospective longitudinal study included consecutive outpatients with pSS from the ongoing Registry of Sjögren Syndrome Longitudinal (RESULT) cohort who fulfilled the ACR/EULAR classification criteria for pSS and who reached at least two years of follow-up with available ESSDAI until December 2022. Patients who received immunosuppressive treatment (biological DMARDs, conventional synthetic DMARDs, including hydroxychloroquine, or prednisone) were excluded. Patients visited the outpatient clinic once a year, or on clinical indication more often, and at each visit the ESSDAI was recorded. All
available visits from baseline up to five years of follow-up were used for analyses. For the analysis at group level, yearly visits were used, defined as the nearest available ESSDAI within a time frame of ±6 months from the yearly visit. For analyses at individual patient level, all available ESSDAI scores were used. The largest change (Δ) in ESSDAI was calculated for each patient by subtracting the lowest ESSDAI from the highest ESSDAI score during follow-up.

Results: In total, 247 pSS patients fulfilled ACR/EULAR classification criteria and reached at least two years of follow-up with available ESSDAI. Of these, 142 patients did not receive immunosuppressive treatment and were included. 126 (89%) of these patients were female, median age was 53 years (IQR 43-65); median disease duration was 6 years (IQR 2-10) and 122 (87%) were anti-SSA positive. Median ESSDAI at baseline was 3 (IQR 1-6) and 93 (67%) patients had a low disease activity according to ESSDAI (score<5). At group level, ESSDAI remained stable during five-year follow-up (Figure 1A). At individual patient level, the ESSDAI varied in the majority of patients (Figure 1B). The median largest Δ (worsening or improvement) in ESSDAI was 4 (IQR 2-8, range 0-22). In total, 93 (65%) patients had a Δ of ≥3 points in ESSDAI, and 65 (46%) patients a Δ of ≥5 points at some point during follow-up. Of the 93 patients with an ESSDAI<5 at baseline, 50 (54%) patients remained in a low disease activity state during follow-up (median follow-up 40 months). Of the 46 (89%) patients who had a moderate or high disease activity (ESSDAI≥5) at baseline, 41 (89%) improved to a low disease activity for at least one visit (Figure 1B) and 37 (80%) patients reached the previously defined minimal clinically important improvement of ≥3 points improvement at some point during follow-up compared to baseline.

Conclusion: In this prospective longitudinal cohort of pSS patients without immunosuppressive treatment, a large variation in ESSDAI was observed during follow-up in individual patients, despite the median ESSDAI scores remaining stable at group level. This study underlines that natural variation in systemic disease activity measured with ESSDAI should be taken into account when using ESSDAI as study endpoint.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. ESSDAI scores up to five years of follow-up in pSS patients without immunosuppressive treatment. A) Median ESSDAI scores (with IQR) at group level B) ESSDAI scores in categories (low, moderate and high disease activity) at individual patient level, with last observation carried forward until next available ESSDAI assessment, sorted by baseline ESSDAI.

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POS1447 "IF I HAVE SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME, I WANT TO KNOW IT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE": PERSPECTIVES OF FIRST-DEGREE RELATIVES OF PEOPLE WITH SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME FROM AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome

A. Alunno1, F. Carubbi1, V. Ritschl2, S. Zenza4, A. Vieira5, K. Antonopoulou, V. C Romão6, M. J. Sousa Bandeira7, M. Stradner4, Internal Medicine and Nephrology Division, University of Udine, Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, Udine, Italy; 2Medical University of Vienna, Institute for Outcomes Research, Vienna, Austria; 3Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Arthritis and Rehabilitation, Vienna, Austria; 4Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Medical University of Graz, Department of Internal Medicine, Graz, Austria; 5Liga Portuguesa Contra as Doenças Reumáticas, Núcleo Síndrome de Sjögren, Lisbon, Portugal; 6Sjögren Europe, Zurich, Switzerland; 7Hospital de Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Lisbon, Academic Medical Centre, Rheumatology Department, Lisbon, Portugal; 8Rheumatology research Unit, Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

Background: In recent years, rheumatology research focused on first-degree relatives of people with rheumatic diseases, mainly rheumatoid arthritis, since they have a higher risk of developing the disease compared with the general population and offer a potential source of insight into the preclinical phase of the disease. However, evidence on preclinical Sjögren’s syndrome is still lacking.

Objectives: To explore the perspective of first-degree relatives of people with SS and inform the Pre-Sjögren's Syndrome Targeted Immunology Evaluation (PreStStige) study, conducted under the auspices of the EULAR Study Group on Sjögren's Syndrome (eSSential).

Methods: An online survey targeting first-degree relatives of people with SS was developed in English and translated into 11 languages (Italian, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Swedish, Finnish, Romanian, Norwegian and Maltese). The survey was launched and distributed via patient associations, forums, support groups, and in 3 Rheumatology participating centres (Austria, Italy and Portugal). Respondents without a diagnosis of SS were confronted with a scenario where they were offered a free rheumatology examination to assess whether they had symptoms suggestive of pSS. If so, they are advised to undergo additional exams (within a variable range of costs) to ascertain whether they have pSS. Surveys were accepted until January 10, 2023.

Results: Of 1064 people starting the survey, 677 respondents from 32 countries fulfilled the entry criteria (age >18 years, being a first-degree relative of a person living with pSS). 90% of respondents were siblings, 7% were offspring, and 3% were parents of pSS patients. Respondents were mainly females (80%), aged 30-49 years (31%) and 50-70 years (38%). 155 (23%) of respondents already had a diagnosis of SS, while 119 (17%) had a diagnosis of other autoimmune diseases (AD) (23/119, 19% had more than one AD). When asked about their perceived risk of developing SS or another AD, several respondents did not feel to be at higher risk being first-degree relatives of affected people (Figure 1). When confronted with an hypothetical scenario, over half of the respondents without a diagnosis of pSS (N=522) mentioned feeling either worried, sad or scared about the possibility of being diagnosed with pSS. Nonetheless, the majority of them (86% of 522) were keen on accepting a preclinical rheumatology consultation, with the main reason for that being, “If I have pSS/other autoimmune diseases, I want to know it as early as possible” (82%). Conversely, those that would decline a free rheumatology examination mainly justified their decision based on the absence of symptoms suggestive of pSS (56%). Among respondents that would accept a consultation, 84% would proceed further and perform additional exams if advised by the rheumatologist based on the detection of symptoms/signs suggestive of pSS. As above, the main reason was the possibility of achieving an early diagnosis. The respondents that accepted the free rheumatology consultation but would not proceed further even if the rheumatologist would identify red flags for pSS mentioned the economic aspect as the main barrier (specifying they would accept performing additional exams if free of charge).

Conclusion: Our study explored, for the first time, the perspective of first-degree relatives of people with SS highlighting an overall willingness to undergo preclinical examinations for an early SS diagnosis. Economic challenges (namely,
paying for diagnostic exams) have been identified as a barrier. The survey is still open and is being translated into additional languages to increase its reach. The results of the survey will inform the next steps of the Pre-Sjögren’s Syndrome Targeted Immunology Evaluation (PreSSige) study.

 **Acknowledgements:** The authors are grateful to the individuals and patient associations who supported this project and helped with the translation and distribution of the survey.

 **Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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### POS1448

**INDIVIDUALS AT RISK FOR SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME – TWO-YEAR DATA OF THE PRESTIGE (THE PRE-SJÖGREN SYNDROME TARGETED IMMUNOLOGY EVALUATION) STUDY**

**Keywords:** Sjögren syndrome, Autoantibodies

S. Zenz1, P. Javorova1, L. Erlacher1, B. Drec3, A. Lackner1, D. Cornel1, J. Thiel1, M. Straden1. 1Medical University of Graz, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Graz, Austria; 2University of Brest, Department of Rheumatology, Brest, France

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a chronic autoimmune disease often diagnosed years after appearance of the first symptoms. Therefore, little is known about initial development of the disease. Anti-Ro antibodies can be found years before the first symptoms appear.

**Objectives:** To identify individuals at risk for pSS and follow up over 10 years to examine symptoms and immunopathology before and during the development of pSS.

**Methods:** This ongoing longitudinal study enrolled individuals at risk for developing pSS but have not met the ACR-EULAR classification criteria. We recruited three groups: A.) Anti-Ro positive individuals without any symptoms for an underlying systemic autoimmune disease; B.) First degree relatives of patients with a diagnosis of pSS AND an abnormal immunologic laboratory value (ANA ≥ 1:160 and/or anti-Ro- and/or rheumatoid factor*); and C.) Individuals with at least one feature of the ACR-EULAR classification criteria for pSS, but not fulfilling the criteria. At screening and at annual follow-up visits, demographic data, blood, urine and saliva samples were obtained. Salivary flow, Schirmer’s test, and salivary gland ultrasonography (SGUS) using Hocevar-Score were performed. A lip salivary gland biopsy (LSB) was obtained at the screening visit and repeated once when typical symptoms appeared within the follow-up visits. The primary endpoint was the development of definite pSS according to the ACR-EULAR classification criteria or a diagnosis of another systemic autoimmune disease.

**Results:** After two years, 53 subjects were recruited from all three groups, of whom 31 were enrolled in the study (Anti-SSA* n=25, relatives n=4, incomplete n=2). Most of the 22 screening failures were relatives who did not have an abnormal immunologic laboratory value. 29 individuals were female; they had a mean age of 49.6 ± 12.7 years (SD; standard deviation) and a mean body weight of 71.4 ± 15 kg. 11 individuals reported having a relative with an underlying autoimmune disease. The median ESSD1 was 0 (0-5; min-max). Individuals had a pathological stimulated whole saliva flow (mean 3.7 ± 1.4 g) and eight had pathological Schirmer’s test (left eye: mean 13.6 ± 11.1 mm; right eye: 13.2 ± 12.2 mm). Three of 14 individuals had a pathological SGUS score. All three individuals were recruited in the Anti-Ro* group. At screening visit, 11 LSB were performed (mean focus score of 0.53 ± 1.2) and one individual reached a focus score ≥ 1. So far, 18 individuals have completed the two-year visit. Two of them had pathological stimulated whole saliva flow (mean 3.85 ± 1.4 g) and five of them had pathological Schirmer’s test (left eye: mean 15.4 ± 13 mm; right eye: 14.5 ± 13 mm). The median ESSD1 was 0 [0-4]. Eight SGUS were performed with a mean Hocevar-Score of 5.6 ± 8. Within two years, four patients (13%) were diagnosed with pSS, one (3%) with systemic lupus erythematosus and one (3%) with rheumatoid arthritis.

**Conclusion:** This longitudinal study for the first time provides us with data on the evolution of pSS. Future recruitment at multiple centers and longer follow-ups will shed light on the earliest phase of pSS.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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### POS1449

**CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN SYNDROME**

**Keywords:** Sjögren syndrome, Cardiovascular disease

C. L. Zippel1, S. Beider2, E. Kramer2, F. F. Konen3, T. Seeliger2, T. Skripuletz3, S. Hirsch4, A. Dopfer-Jablonska2, T. Witte1, K. Sonnenstein2, D. Ernst4. 1Hannover Medical School, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Hannover, Germany; 2Hannover Medical School, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Hannover, Germany; 3Hannover Medical School, Department of Neurology, Hannover, Germany; 4Hannover Medical School, Department of Cardiology, Hannover, Germany

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is associated with an increased prevalence of traditional risk factors and cardiovascular diseases (CVDs).

**Objectives:** The study aimed to identify specific risk factors for CVD in pSS patients.

**Methods:** pSS patients with and without CVD were compared. All patients fulfilled the EULAR/ACR classification criteria. Patients with CVD presented at least one of the following manifestations: myocardial infarction, transient ischemic attacks, ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke, peripheral artery disease, coronary artery disease and carotid plaques. Data were collected by a standardized protocol and review of medical records.

**Results:** 613/12 (19.6%) pSS patients presented with CVD. Traditional risk factors such as hypertension, hypercholesterolemia and diabetes (≥ 0.05), pSS manifestations, in particular vasculitis (p < 0.033) and Raymond’s phenomenon (p = 0.018) were associated with CVD. Among patients with ischemic events (28/312, 9%), particularly cerebrovascular disease (n = 12/28, 42.9%), correlations with increased EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index (ESSDAI) (p = 0.039) and EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Patient Reported Index (ESSPRI) (p = 0.048) were observed. Age at first cerebrovascular event was 55.2 (48.9 – 69.6) years. Multivariate analysis confirmed hypertension (odds ratio (OR) 3.7; 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.87 – 7.18, p < 0.001), hypercholesterolemia (OR 31.3, 95% CI 1.63 – 5.72, p < 0.001), male gender (OR 0.4, 95% CI 0.17 – 0.78, p = 0.009), Raymond’s phenomenon (OR 2.5, 95% CI 1.28 – 4.82, p = 0.007) and CVD involvement (OR 2.7; 95% CI 1.00 – 33.71, p = 0.048) as independent CVD predictors.

**Conclusion:** Raymond’s phenomenon as well as vasculitis and high ESSDAI have shown a significant association to CVD. pSS patients with cerebrovascular events were younger than expected. Knowledge about risk factors may help clinicians to identify pSS patients at risk for CVD. After diagnosis of pSS, patients should be screened for risk factors such as hypertension and receive appropriate therapy to prevent or at least reduce sequelae such as infarction. However, further investigations are necessary in order to achieve a reliable risk stratification for these patients.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to express our gratitude to the staff of the Rheumatology Outpatients Department at Hannover Medical School for their continual help in organization of patients and Reference styles.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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### POS1451

**3-YEAR ANALYSES OF AT-RISK ANA-POSITIVE COHORT: PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF CLINICAL AND INTERFERON BIOMARKERS TOWARDS AUTOIMMUNITY**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Sjögren syndrome, Systemic lupus erythematosus

M. Y. MD Yusof1,2, S. U. Hassan1, Z. Wigston1, A. Pascas1, J. Arnold1, L. M. Carter1, P. Emery1,2, E. Vital1,3. 1University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust; NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom

**Background:** Autoimmune connective tissue disease (AI-CTD) arise from a common ‘At-Risk’ ANA-positive population in which clinical phenotype does not reliably predict progression. We previously showed that higher IFN-Score-B and family history were predictive of progression to meeting classification criteria at 12-months[1]. However, classification criteria may undergo revision and not capture all significant outcomes. There is limited data on longer-term outcomes since some may progress at later time-points.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2302

Figure 1. Respondents’ level of agreement with statements related to their perceived risk and attitude towards the development Sjögren’s Syndrome or other autoimmune diseases.
Objectives: To describe the 3-year outcomes of At-Risk individuals; to assess discriminative ability of baseline clinical and IFN-Score-B in predicting various progression endpoints at 1 and 3 years.

Methods: We conducted a prospective cohort study in At-Risk individuals (ANA-positive, non-specific symptoms of ≤1 year and treatment naive). Patients were assessed at baseline, then annually for 3 years. We used multiple RMD classification criteria, including the revised 2019 EULAR/ACR for SLE, and need for therapy, to group patients as below:

1. Absolute non-progressors (ANP) (no clinical criteria)
2. Undifferentiated CTD (UC-CTD) (2 clinical criteria but not fulfilling RMD criteria). This group was subdivided into those requiring an immunosuppressant (IS) excluding antimalarials only and those who did not
3. Year 1 progressors (meeting criteria for RMD by 1 year)
4. Late progressors (meeting criteria for RMD in Years 2-3)
5. Clinically significant disease (CSD) (progressors OR UC-CTD on IS)

Bloods were analysed for two IFN-stimulated gene expression scores previously described[2]. Discrimination of single or combined clinical and IFN-Score-B markers were assessed using ROC curve analyses.

Results: Of 148 patients, 132 (89%) were female, 107 (72%) were Caucasians, 48 (32%) had a family history of RMD, 56 (38%) were anti-dsDNA+. 56 (38%) had a family history of RMD, 56 (38%) were anti-dsDNA+, 8 (6%) had low C3 and/or C4 level. Number of established clinical criteria at baseline were 0 (30%), 1 (64%) and 2 (8%). Outcomes were: Year 1 progressors: 21 (14%) [SLE=14; pSS=6]; Late progressors: 12 (8%) [SLE=10; pSS=1; AS=1]; U-CTD on IS: 8 (5%); Combined baseline clinical and IFN biomarkers could be used to risk translate their use in clinical practice and inform early therapy trials in the “High Risk” individuals.

Conclusion: Inclusion criteria was patients ≥18 years that met 2016 ACR/EULAR criteria for Sjogren’s Syndrome. This group was subdivided into those requiring an immunosuppressant (IS) excluding antimalarials only and those who did not present severe organ affection. Patients with severe organ affection had a significantly higher proportion of male sex (56.3% vs 35.7%), higher median baseline ESSDAI (3.81 vs 1.06, p=0.00) and SSSDI (1.88 vs 1.02, p=0.04). Higher proportion of lymphoma (18.8% vs 3.2%, p=0.024), higher proportion of steroids (37.5% vs 0, p=0.00) and higher proportion of disease modifying drugs (37.5% vs 3.2%, p=0.00) were observed as well. The comparison of lymphocytic composition of the MSGB according to outcome 1 and outcome 2 are summarized in Table 1.

References:

Table 1.

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<th>Progression Criteria</th>
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<td>Year 1 Classification</td>
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Conclusion: There were significantly increased number of total lymphocytes and number of infiltrates in the MSGB of patients that presented severe organ affection within 3 years of follow up. Also a significantly increased number of T cells, both CD4+ and CD8 cells, were observed in patients with severe organ affection.

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PERIODONTITIS IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: A NORWEGIAN NATION-WIDE REGISTER STUDY OF 10 086 PATIENTS

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Registries, Epidemiology

O. O. Aagaard1, A. Bolstad2, S. Lie3, B. T. Svanas Føvaag4. 1The Faculty of Medicine, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway; 2Department of Clinical Dentistry, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway; 3Department of Clinical Dentistry, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway; 4Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Department of Rheumatology, Bergen, Norway

Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a systemic autoimmune disorder characterized by focal lymphocytic infiltration of the exocrine glands causing dry eyes and dry mouth. Immunological mechanisms in pSS have similarities with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), which have increased risk for periodontitis [1]. Patients with pSS already have inferior oral health and information regarding a possible connection between periodontitis and pSS is sparse. There is a need to explore this further in a large-scale study.

Objectives: To investigate the association between periodontitis and primary Sjögren’s syndrome in a large national cohort.

Methods: We conducted a population-based study, where the cohorts were identified based on International Classification of Disease (ICD)-10-codes registered in the Norwegian Patient registry (NPR) January 2011 – December 2017. The outcome was the manifestation of periodontitis defined by either at least one registration of periodontal surgery or 6 or more registrations of systematic treatment of periodontitis in the Norwegian Control and Payment of Health Reimbursement (KUHR). To be included in the pSS cohort (n=10 086) patients had to have 4 or more registrations with M35.0 as the main diagnosis in NPR. This limit was set to minimize the risk of miscoding. The comparative cohort (n=310 573) entailed patients treated for assumed non-osteoeprotic fracture or having undergone hip- or knee replacement due to osteoarthritis during the study period. Only patients between 20 – 80 years of age were included, and patients with RA or SLE was excluded from the study population. Odds Ratio (OR) for periodontitis was calculated using logistic regression analyses adjusting for sex, age, diabetes mellitus (DM) 1 and 2, cardiovascular disease, smoking status, and alcohol consumption. The distribution of ILD patterns was in line with recent literature, with 24/52 (46.2%) defined by the recent definition of PPF in our cohort. 2. To identify specific factors associated to PPF in well characterized SS-ILD patients.

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Results:

Table 1. Characteristics of the study population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sjögren’s syndrome cohort</th>
<th>Control cohort</th>
<th>p-value*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=10 086</td>
<td>n=310 573</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n (%)</td>
<td>8090 (80.2%)</td>
<td>176 122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>59 (20.0)</td>
<td>62 (16.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, distribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 29, n (%)</td>
<td>525 (5.2%)</td>
<td>9125 (2.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 39, n (%)</td>
<td>817 (8.1%)</td>
<td>14 517 (4.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 – 49, n (%)</td>
<td>1439 (14.3%)</td>
<td>39 217 (12.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 – 59, n (%)</td>
<td>2386 (23.7%)</td>
<td>72 709 (23.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 69, n (%)</td>
<td>2852 (28.3%)</td>
<td>94 506 (30.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥70, n (%)</td>
<td>2067 (20.7%)</td>
<td>80 490 (25.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodontitis, n (%)</td>
<td>760 (7.5%)</td>
<td>22 178 (7.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM1, n (%)</td>
<td>150 (1.5%)</td>
<td>5127 (1.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM2, n (%)</td>
<td>687 (6.8%)</td>
<td>23 556 (7.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI, n (%)</td>
<td>327 (3.2%)</td>
<td>10 382 (3.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death during study period, n (%)</td>
<td>296 (2.9%)</td>
<td>16 464 (5.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p-values derived from chi-square analyses for categorical variables and t-test for continuous variables. IQR: interquartile range

Acknowledgements: NIL.

References:

[1] Bolstad et al., J Periodontol 2022

Figure 1: OR (95% CI) for periodontitis in patients with primary Sjögren’s Syndrome versus controls

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Figure 1: OR (95% CI) for periodontitis in patients with primary Sjögren’s Syndrome versus controls

Acknowledgements: NIL.
to desaturation; 3/6 (6.5%) patients died because of ILD progression. Complete seriate evaluations including HRCT at 1-year distance were available for 17 patients: 8/17 (47.1%) were defined as PFP and 10/17 (58.8%) as non-PFP according to the ATS definition. The former group exhibited older age at diagnosis (p=0.001) and a UIP pattern in 5/8 vs 9/9 cases (p=0.06). Standard of care immunosuppressive treatment did not differ significantly between the two groups, while no patients were treated with antifibrotics.

**Conclusion:** The clinical phenotype of PFP is relatively common among SS-ILD patients and is associated with older age at diagnosis and a UIP pattern on HRCT. These characteristics may aid in the selection of patients eligible for antifibrotic therapy.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**REFERENCE:**


**POS1454**

ARE ULTRASOUND SALIVARY PARENCHYMAL ABNORMALITIES MORE SEVERE IN PRIMARY SJÖGREEN PATIENTS WITH A HIGHER DISEASE DURATION? A TRANSVERSAL INTERNATIONAL STUDY

**Keywords:** Ultrasound, Sjögren syndrome

A. Tison1, S. Jousse-Joulin1, M. Consigny2, P. Mocq3, B. Hofauer4, E. Hackullia1, C. Lamotte1, J. Morel1, G. Mouterde3, V. Milic4, H. Bootsma5, A. J. Steef6, B. A. Fisher7, M. Maybury7, A. Baer8, D. Direnzo9, H. R. Kim10, H. K. Min10, S. S. Lee11, S. E. Choi12, G. Carvajal Alegria13, S. Boisramé14, D. Guellle15, D. Cornec16, M. Jonsson17, D. Hammenfort18, A. Saravia19, V. Devauchelle-Pensec19, CHU Brest, Rheumatology, Brest, France; CHU Brest, Biostatistics, Brest, France; CHU Munich, Rheumatology, Munich, Germany; CHU Munich, Otologyngology, Munich, Germany; CHU Lille, Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Lille, France; CHU Montpellier, Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; 1University of Belgrade, Medical school, Rheumatology, Belgrade, Serbia; 2University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and clinical immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 3Institute of Inflammation and Ageing, University of Birmingham, Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 4Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America; 5Konkuk university medical center, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 6Chonnam national university hospital, Rheumatology, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 7CHU Tours, Rheumatology, Tours, France; 8CHU Brest, Rheumatology, Brest, France; 9University of Bergen, Clinical dentistry, Bergen, Norway; 10Haukeland University hospital, Rheumatology, Bergen, Norway

**Background:** Salivary gland ultrasonography (SGUS) is commonly used in primary Sjögren Disease (pSS) as a diagnostic tool [1]. It could also be used to monitor disease activity, but severity of SG US parenchymal abnormalities in relation to disease duration is not well characterized.

**Objectives:** To assess transversally the severity of ultrasound salivary parenchymal abnormalities in relation to pSS duration.

**Methods:** In this prospective cross-sectional international multicentric study, patients with pSS according to 2002 or 2016 ACR/EULAR classification criteria were included. Parenchymal abnormalities assessed by ultrasound within both parotid and sub-mandibular glands were reported on a standardized form and classified according to the semi-quantitative score of the OMERACT (global score and each item evaluated separately) [2]. Reliability between experts was measured after online training. Demographic, clinical and paraclinical data were also collected and patients were separated into 4 groups according to disease duration from the first buccal dryness symptoms (group A: < 5 years, group B: between 5 and 10 years, group C: between 10 and 20 years, group D: > 20 years of evolution).

The association between disease duration groups and SGUS parenchymal abnormalities was quantified in terms of odds ratio and its 95% confidence interval.

**Results:** 247 patients were consecutively included between May 2019 and February 2022 in 12 international centers. They were 47, 69, 78 and 53 in groups A, B, C and D, respectively. Women represented 94.7% of patients, with a median age of 58 [range 19-89] years old. Oral and ocular dryness were reported by 99.6% and 95.1% of patients, respectively. Salivary flow was abnormal in 74.7% of patients and Schirmer’s test in 82.1%. The focus score was ≥1 mm2 in 89% of patients. 85% of patients had positive anti-SSA and 59.6% had rheumatoid factor. The median ESSDAI score was 3 [0-48]. Considering for each patient the gland with the highest US OMERACT score, there was a global significant association between disease duration and OMERACT score (OR for 5 years duration: 1.23 [IC95%: 1.04; 1.47], p=0.02). When comparing groups A+B versus C+D on the OMERACT score, the OR was 1.95 [IC95%: 1.10; 3.48], p=0.02, while no significant difference was found when comparing group A versus B+C+D. Considering the item of the OMERACT score, there was not any statistical difference between the 4 groups in relation to the proportion of an/hypoechoic areas in the gland nor homogeneity or posterior border visibility. The only statistical difference between groups was found regarding the proportion of hyperechoic bands (p = 0.0009). When comparing group A versus B+C+D on this item, the OR was 2.55 [95%CI: 1.30-5.01], p=0.006.

**Conclusion:** This large international transversal study in patients with pSS found a positive association between global SGUS lesions evaluated by the OMERACT score and disease duration, with a significant difference only observed in the proportion of hyperechoic bands, when considering separately each item of the score. This may suggest a progressive fibro-adipous evolution of the gland across disease duration. The presence of diffuse hyperechoic bands (grade 3 in the OMERACT scoring system), corresponding to a higher disease duration group, could be useful in the future to stratify patients in clinical trials and to interpret SGUS modifications after treatment.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.37022

**POS1455**

INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN SJÖGREEN’S SYNDROME: PREVALENCE, PATTERNS, TREATMENT, AND PROGNOSIS

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Sjögren syndrome, Comorbidities

J. H. Koh1, Y. Park2, J. J. Lee3, H. Jeon4, S. J. Moon5, Y. H. Kim6, J. K. Min7, S. K. Kwok8, Uijeongbu St. Mary’s Hospital, The Catholic University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Uijeongbu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 9The Catholic University of Korea Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 10The Catholic University of Korea Yeouido St. Mary’s Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 11Bucheon St. Mary’s Hospital, the Catholic university of Korea, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Bucheon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 12Bucheon St. Mary’s Hospital, the Catholic university of Korea, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Bucheon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Intestinal lung disease (ILD) is a potentially serious yet underdiagnosed manifestation of primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS).

**Objectives:** This observational study aimed to investigate the clinical, functional, and imaging characteristics of ILD in pSS, together with treatment and prognosis.

**Methods:** Longitudinal clinical and laboratory data of patients with pSS were extracted from three hospitals of the Catholic Medical Center through a clinical data warehouse, between March 1, 2012, and February 28, 2022. Predisposing factors for the development of ILD and acute exacerbation were identified using a logistic regression model.

**Results:** A total of 1,402 patients with pSS were included in this study (Female, 98%; median age, 55 years). Among them, 52 patients with pSS (7%) were diagnosed with ILD (21 biopsy-proven cases). Fibrosing nonspecific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) was the most prevalent CT pattern in pSS-ILD (58%), followed by usual interstitial pneumonia (20%), and organizing pneumonia (16%). At the diagnosis with pSS-ILD, 64% of patients showed reduced diffusion capacity, and 54.3% of patients with pSS-ILD showed a restrictive functional pattern. The median follow-up period was 3.2 years. During follow-up, six patients died (6.5%) and 26 patients (28.3%) experienced acute exacerbation (AE). However, 64% of patients showed no AE without treatment. Lower baseline forced vital capacity (FVC) (Odds ratio (OR), 0.962, P = 0.026) and high neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (OR, 3.59, P = 0.046) were significant predisposing factors for AE.

**Conclusion:** ILD accounted for 7% of the comorbidity of SS, and 64% showed stable lung function without treatment. AE was associated with NLR and baseline FVC.
Background: Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) is an autoimmune disease characterized by the presence of primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS), which is associated with an increased risk of interstitial lung disease (ILD). Accurate diagnosis and management of ILD in pSS patients are crucial. The objective of this study was to investigate the long-term course and prognostic factors for ILD progression in patients with pSS.

Methods: We conducted a single-center retrospective study in patients with pSS (n=120) who underwent at least one high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scan between March 2013 and February 2021. Clinical symptoms, laboratory data, and radiologist reviews were recorded. Multivariate logistic regression analysis was performed to identify independent risk factors for ILD progression.

Results: During the follow-up period (median, 2.8 years), ILD progressed in 39 patients (32.5%). Multivariate analysis revealed that elevated lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) levels (OR, 1.012; p=0.05) and increased coarseness score of fibrosis (OR, 1.403; p<0.001) were independent risk factors for ILD progression.

Conclusion: ILD progression in pSS patients is associated with elevated LDH levels and increased fibrosis coarseness. Early detection and intervention may be necessary to prevent ILD progression in pSS patients.

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Imaging, Lungs

REFERENCES:


A single-center retrospective study was conducted to investigate the long-term course and prog nostic factors for ILD progression in patients with pSS. Multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that elevated LDH levels and increased fibrosis coarseness were independent risk factors for ILD progression. Early detection and intervention may be necessary to prevent ILD progression in pSS patients.
Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Sjögren syndrome

N. Zehrfeld1, S. Benz2, A. Derda3, S. Beider, E. Kramer3, G. Sogkas1, T. Seeiger1, G. Ahrenstorff4, A. Doppler-Jablonka5, T. Skripuletz2, T. Witte3, K. Sonnenschein6, D. Ernst7, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Rheumatology & Immunology, Hannover, Germany; University of Mannheim, Faculty of social sciences, Mannheim, Germany; Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Cardiology & Angiology, Hannover, Germany; Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Neurology, Hannover, Germany

Background: It is well established that patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases have an increased cardiovascular risk [1]. Most data exists for rheumatoid arthritis, but there are also a few studies for primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS)[2].

Objectives: Aim of our study was to investigate the extent of subclinical atherosclerosis in a large group of patients with pSS compared to control subjects without pSS. Secondary, correlations with clinical factors, such as organ involvement or antibody positivity, and disease activity were investigated.

Methods: From September 2021 to April 2022, pSS patients from the outpatient clinic of our hospital were consecutively included after informed consent. In addition, age- and sex-matched control subjects were recruited in a 2:1 ratio via multimedia call for participation. All pSS patients fulfilled current EULAR classification criteria for pSS and had a disease duration of at least 5 years. Participants with additional rheumatic or inflammatory diseases, tumor disease in the past 5 years, or end-organ manifestations of atherosclerotic disease were excluded. Data collection was performed by standardized questionnaire and Doppler ultrasonography for evaluation of plaque extent and intima-media thickness measurements (cIMT).

Results: Analysis included data from 199 pSS patients and 100 control subjects. 38 (19.4%) subjects of the pSS cohort were male and the median age was 56.92 years [50.50-65.21]. The median disease duration (since initial manifestation) of pSS patients was 136 months. The cohorts were analyzed for differences regarding to the cardiovascular risk profile: There were no significant differences in age, gender distribution, tobacco consumption, body mass index (BMI), pre-existing arterial hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, or diabetes mellitus. Similarly, there were no differences in LDL cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, or HbA1c in laboratory tests at enrollment. Only a positive family history for cardiovascular disease was significantly more frequent in the pSS cohort (p=0.003). After adjustment via propensity score matching, the pSS cohort was found to have a significantly greater intima-media thickness (p<0.001). When age was added as a covariate, there was an earlier onset of intima-media thickening recognizable in the pSS patients (p=0.014). Furthermore, there was a significantly more frequent occurrence of plaque in the pSS cohort (p=0.031). pSS-patients had a 1.82times increased odds of having plaque in comparison to the control cohort. Organ involvement in the pSS-cohort was associated with a thicker cIMT (p=0.025) and pSS-patients with organ involvement also showed a 1.74times increased odds of having plaque compared to pSS-patients without organ involvement.

Conclusion: pSS appears to accelerate the development and progression of atherosclerosis as an independent risk factor. It seems to promote not only an increased incidence of atherosclerotic changes, but also an earlier onset of wall thickening in the sense of vascular aging. An increased risk for patients with organ involvement was observed. Further longitudinal studies are required to answer the question if this subgroup of pSS patients in particular or all pSS patients could benefit from screening with Doppler ultrasonography and preventive medication with HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors or acetyl salicylic acid.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: This study was funded by Else-Kröner-Fresenius foundation and Novartis AG.

Disclosure of Interests: Nadine Zehrfeld Grant/research support from: Novartis AG, Sabrina Benz: None declared, Anselm Derda: None declared, Sonja Beider: None declared, Emelie Kramer: None declared, Georgios Sogkas: None declared, Tabea Seeiger Grant/research support from: Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation for Immuno-Oncology, Claudia von Schilling Foundation, CSL Behring, Else Krönner Fresenius Foundation, Novaris, Sanofi Aventis, VHV Stiftung, Abbvie, Gerrit Ahrenstorff: None declared, Alexandra Doppler-Jablonka: None declared, Thomas Skripuletz Grant/research support from: Alexion, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Bayer Vital, Biogen, Celgene, Centogene, CSL Behring, Euroimmun, Janssen, Merck Serono, Novartis, Roche, Sanofi Aventis, Siemens, Sobi, Teva, Torsten Witte Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Chugai, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, UCS and Roche, Kristina Sonnenschein: None declared, Diana Ernst Consultant of: Abbvie, Galapagos, Amgen and Novartis, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, BMS, Chugai, Cilag-Janssen, Galapagos, GSK, Medac, Lilly, Pfizer, Novartis, Roche. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2606

Keywords: Biomarkers, Autoantibodies, Sjögren syndrome

S. Fonsetti1, G. Fulvio1, G. La Rocca1, L. C. Navarro Garcia1, G. Governo1, R. Izzetti2, V. Donati1, F. Ferro3, M. Mosca4, C. Baldini5. University of Pisa, Rheumatology Unit, Pisa, Italy; University of Pisa, Unit of Dentistry and Oral Surgery, Pisa, Italy; AOU Unit of Pathological Anatomy, Pisa, Italy

Background: Recently, a growing interest has arisen in investigating the association between patients’ serological profiles and the different clinical phenotypes in primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS). The double positivity for anti-Ro52/anti-Ro60 has been associated with B-cell hyperactivity and a more prominent INF-α signature. Whether the positivity of anti-La/SSB antibodies influences the clinical features of triple positive pSS patients at the time of diagnosis remains controversial.

Objectives: 1. To compare the clinical, biological, histological and ultrasonographic distinctive features of pSS patients presenting a triple positivity for anti-La/SSB and anti-Ro52/anti-Ro60 with those of patients with different serological profiles at the time of pSS diagnosis. 2. To specifically describe the presenting features of pSS patients with a triple positivity in comparison with the features of patients with a double positivity for anti-Ro52/anti-Ro60.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study including newly diagnosed pSS patients (ACR/EULAR 2016 criteria) enrolled prospectively from 2018 to 2022. Patients were stratified in five groups according to the serological profile (i.e. seronegative, isolated anti-Ro52, isolated anti-Ro60, double positive and triple positive). Demographic, clinical, biological and histological data were compared among the groups. Ultrasonographic features of major and minor salivary glands were also analyzed. Data were presented as means±SD or as percentage frequency, as appropriate. Intergroup comparisons were made using the t-test/Mann–Whitney tests for continuous variables, the chi-square exact test for categorical variables.

Results: We included 199 pSS patients (M:F= 19:180, mean age 56±13.7 years), 33/199 (16.58%) were seronegative, 50/199 (25.12%) presented isolated anti-Ro52, 49/199 (24.62%) had double positivity, 55/199 (27.64%) had triple...
positivity and 12/199 (6.03%) presented isolated Ro60 antibodies. Triple positives were younger than seronegatives. No further differences in demographic features were detected among the groups. Triple positives were found to have a more complex infiltrate in the minor salivary gland biopsies than double positives with a higher mean Focus Score (2.34±2.05 vs 1.32±0.84, p=0.005) and a higher mean number of ectopic lymphoid structures (2.40±2.88 vs 1.21±1.25, p=0.004). Regarding major salivary glands ultrasound (SGUS), double positives and triple positives were found to have a score ≥2, according the OMERACT system, more frequently than the other groups (p = 0.001, Figure 1). Particularly, triple positives presented SGUS abnormalities more frequently than double positives (68.9 vs 43.6%, p=0.03). The same findings were observed for Ultra-high frequency ultrasonography (UHFUS) of minor salivary glands (Figure 1). Indeed, triple positives had the highest UHFUS scores (p=0.01). Furthermore, triple positives presented a higher ESSDAI score than the other groups including the double positives (p=0.001) due to a higher disease activity in the ESSDAI glandular and biological domains.

Conclusion: Triple-positive patients were characterized by a more severe glandular involvement documented by ultrasound and histology and by a higher disease activity. These results support the data suggesting that the separate detection of anti-Ro52, anti-Ro60 and anti-La/SSB may significantly contribute to patients’ stratification at the time of the diagnosis, thus paving new avenues for tailored approaches in pSS.

Methods: In 54 pSS patients, disease activity was assessed by the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index (ESSDAI) and the EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Patient Reported Index (ESSPRI). The salivary gland involvement was evaluated by ultrasound (USG) and elastography. USG and elastography were performed for the major salivary glands (Figure 1). Indeed, triple positives had the highest USG scores (p=0.01). Furthermore, triple positives presented a higher ESSDAI score than the other groups including the double positives (p=0.001) due to a higher disease activity in the ESSDAI glandular and biological domains.

Conclusion: Triple-positive patients were characterized by a more severe glandular involvement documented by ultrasound and histology and by a higher disease activity. These results support the data suggesting that the separate detection of anti-Ro52, anti-Ro60 and anti-La/SSB may significantly contribute to patients’ stratification at the time of the diagnosis, thus paving new avenues for tailored approaches in pSS.


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POS1460

MAJOR SALIVARY GLAND ULTRASOUND AND ELASTOGRAPHY FOR ASSESSMENT OF DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS OF PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Ultrasound

K Chandwar1, D. P. Misra2, K. Kishor2, P. Dogga1, D. Ekbohte6, J. Dixit1, A. Wakhlu2, V. Agarwal3, A. Wakhlu2, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 2King George’s Medical University, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 3Apolomedics Super Speciality Hospitals, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India

Background: Objectives: To assess major salivary gland involvement by ultrasonography and elastography in patients with Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS), correlate the severity of ultrasonographic and elastographic involvement of major salivary gland with disease activity.

Methods: In 54 pSS patients, disease activity was assessed by the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) Sjögren’s Syndrome Disease Activity Index (ESSDAI) and the EULAR Sjögren’s Syndrome Patient Reported Index (ESSPRI). The salivary gland involvement was evaluated by the Hocevar and OMERACT score and Real time Elastography was performed for the salivary glands and were scored semiquantitatively.

Results: 54 patients of primary Sjögren’s Syndrome and 55 controls were included in the study. The patients were younger with a mean age of 37.61±11.56 years (Refer to Figure 1 for demographic and clinical data of pSS patients in the study). Mean USG/Elastography scores were significantly higher (p < 0.001) in cases than controls. ESSDAI correlated strongly with Hocevar Score and OMERACT and Moderately with Elastography. ESSPRI correlated well with Hocevar Score and OMERACT score but poorly with Elastography. All the scores differentiated sufficiently between high and activity efficiently (p<0.001), however, for the OMERACT(p=0.13) and Elastography score(p=0.083) the difference between moderate and low disease activity was not statistically significant. A multivariate linear regression analysis found an association with USG Scores with ESSDAI and ESSPRI, Elastography with ESSDAI and Disease duration.

Conclusion: The Hocevar score had a robust correlation with disease activity. The Elastography scores moderately correlated with disease activity and duration of disease. There was a near-complete correlation of USG scores with Uni-lateral, Parotid, and submandibularibulc scores.

Table 1a. Correlation between ESSDAI & ESSPRI with USG and Elastography scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>ESSDAI</th>
<th>Hocevar</th>
<th>OMERACT</th>
<th>Elastography</th>
<th>Hyperechogenic lesions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correlation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coefficient</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>p value</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Multivariable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>linear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>regression</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1b. Comparison of Cases and different control groups for USG and elastography score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Disease Controls</th>
<th>Disease Controls</th>
<th>Healthy Controls</th>
<th>Mann Whitney Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=54</td>
<td>N=16</td>
<td>N=18</td>
<td>N=21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean SD</td>
<td>Mean SD</td>
<td>Mean SD</td>
<td>Mean SD</td>
<td>p1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hoccevar Score 17.31 14.202±2.15 2.68 0.33 con 0.19 0.873<0.001<0.001<0.001
OMERACT score 4.59 3.955 1.125 1.31 0.22 0.647<0.015 0.655<0.001<0.001
Elastography Score 6.04 2.179 0.69 0.793 0.22 0.428 0.19 0.402<0.001<0.001

*p1: Cases vs Disease Controls With Sicca Symptoms, p2: cases vs Disease Controls without Sicca Symptoms, p3: cases vs Healthy Controls

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Table 1c. Comparison of patients with high, moderate and low disease activity and their Ultrasound and Elastography scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Case Mean</th>
<th>High Activity Mean</th>
<th>Moderate Activity Mean</th>
<th>Low Activity Mean</th>
<th>Mann Whitney Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=54</td>
<td>N=19</td>
<td>N=13</td>
<td>N=22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hocevar Score</td>
<td>17.31</td>
<td>14.202</td>
<td>30.84</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elastography Score 6.04</td>
<td>2.719</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>2.83 5.85</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.22 0.083</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#-P1 - High vs moderate, P2 - Moderate vs Low, P3 - High vs low

Table 1. – Spearman’s correlations of UHUF. *p <0.05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GS-Omeract</th>
<th>CD-Omeract</th>
<th>GS+CD-Omeract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSA/Ro52</td>
<td>0.384*</td>
<td>0.452*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSA/Ro60</td>
<td>0.418*</td>
<td>0.464*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSB</td>
<td>0.390*</td>
<td>0.424*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor</td>
<td>0.352*</td>
<td>0.424*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgG Level</td>
<td>0.316*</td>
<td>0.491*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C4</td>
<td>0.065</td>
<td>0.247*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C3</td>
<td>0.239</td>
<td>0.410*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lympadaphony</td>
<td>0.354*</td>
<td>0.479*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glandular domain</td>
<td>0.258*</td>
<td>0.326*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological domain</td>
<td>0.337*</td>
<td>0.428*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ESSDAI</td>
<td>0.497*</td>
<td>0.513*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A) ROC Curve, F1ST biopsy  
B) ROC curve, pS diagnosis

Figure 1

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1014

POS1461 ADVANTAGES OF DOPPLER IN LABIAL SALIVARY GLAND ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY ULTRASOUND: CORRELATIONS WITH HISTOLOGICAL INFLAMMATION, PSS DIAGNOSIS, DISEASE ACTIVITY, AND PROGNOSIS

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Ultrasound, Prognostic factors

G. Fulvio1,2, F. Ferro1, R. Izzotti3, G. Governato1, S. Forzetti1, G. La Rocca1, I. C. Navarro Garcia1, V. Donati1, M. Mosca1, C. Baldini1, 1University of Pisa, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine - Rheumatology Unit, Pisa, Italy; 2University of Pisa, Department of Clinical and Translational Science, Pisa, Italy; 3University of Pisa, Department of Surgical, Medical and Molecular Pathology and Critical Care Medicine - Unit of Dentistry and Oral Surgery, Pisa, Italy; 4Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Pisana, Unit of Pathological Anatomy 2, Pisa, Italy

Background: Muscoskeletal Doppler US is currently used to estimate the level of inflammation and to differentiate between arthritis and degenerative disease. In addition, Doppler is associated with disease activity and damage, namely prognosis. Recently, a novel colour Doppler Score has been proposed for major salivary glands. However, clinical associations of salivary glands Doppler US are unclear, both in major salivary glands (MSG) and in labial salivary glands (LSG).

Objectives: To investigate potential associations between colour Doppler of LSG Ultra-High Frequency Ultrasound and histology, pSS diagnosis, clinical manifestations and prognosis.

Methods: From January 2021 to October 2022 consecutive patients, undergoing LSG biopsy, were enrolled in our cross-sectional study. LSG Ultra-High Frequency ultrasound (UHFUS) was performed with a 70 MHz probe, evaluating parenchymal inhomogeneity (score 0-3, as MSG four-grade OMERACT grey scale scoring system, GS-OMERACT) and vascularization (score 0-3, as MSG four-grade OMERACT colour Doppler scoring system, CD-OMERACT) and their sum (score 0-6, Total-OMERACT). Patients’ histological, biological and clinical features were collected. ACR/EULAR 2016 criteria fulfilment was the gold standard for diagnosis. LSG biopsy with a Focus Score (FS) >1 was considered positive. For statistical analysis, following tests were applied: Student’s t test, Mann-Whitney U test, contingency table analysis, Spearman’s correlation. Receiver operating characteristic analysis was calculated to assess the accuracy of UHFUS to predict histology inflammation and pSS diagnosis.

Results: 127 patients were enrolled: 61 pSS patients, 47 sicca controls and 20 sicca patients with other connective tissue diseases. GS-OMERACT predicted a positive biopsy with an area under the curve (AUC) =0.835. UHFUS inflammation prediction was increased considering both grey scale and colour Doppler (Total-OMERACT), with a sensitivity=80.4%, a Specificity=84.7% and an AUC raised to 0.875 (Figure 1A). In addition, CD-OMERACT revealed a higher accuracy for pSS diagnosis than GS-OMERACT (AUC 0.780 vs 0.735). Total-OMERACT score was characterised by a sensitivity of 78.7% and a specificity of 76.6% for pSS diagnosis (AUC 0.803, Figure 1B). Both GS-OMERACT and CD-OMERACT, in pSS patients, were correlated with serological activity: autoantibodies (SSA/Ro52, SSA/Ro60, SSB) IgG levels and Rheumatoid Factor. However, CD-OMERACT presented a stronger correlation than GS-OMERACT, and significantly correlated with low C3 and C4 (Table 1). Similarly, both GS and CD also correlated with total ESSDAI and separate lymph nodes, glandular and biological domains. The correlation observed was higher with Doppler signal than inhomogeneity. The latter also exhibited a significant correlation with renal activity. All 5 patients with LSG severe/atypical inflammatory infiltrate had GS-OMERACT score 3 and CD-OMERACT score 3 with a typical pattern: multiple very hypoechoic areas and high perilesional CD signal.

Conclusion: UHFUS Colour Doppler, combined with grey scale, allows a better detection of labial salivary glands inflammation. Compared to grey scale, CD offers a unique opportunity in patient’s phenotyping, due to its higher correlation with disease activity and pSS serological hallmarks. Eventually, a high doppler signal could be a key feature to identify more severe/atypical inflammatory infiltrate thus allowing the early recognition of lymphoproliferative complications.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5664

POS1462 IMMUNOEDEMATOLOGIC FEATURES IN A COHORT OF PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: AN OVERLAP WITH AUTOIMMUNE LYMPHOPROLIFERATIVE SYNDROME (ALPS)-LIKE DISORDERS

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Sjögren syndrome

S. Ancona1, C. Morreale2, M. Di Filippo1, G. Simiele1, C. Lavarello1,3, C. Malattia1,3. 1University of Genova, Department of Neurosciences, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetic and Maternal Infantile Sciences (DINOOGM), Genova, Italy; 2ASP 1 Agrigento, P.O. Barone Lombardo, U.O. Pediatra e Neonatologia, Canicattì, Italy; 3IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Clinica Pediatria e Reumatologia, Genova, Italy

Background: Childhood Sjögren’s syndrome (cSS) is a chronic autoimmune disease characterized by lymphocytic infiltration of salivary and lacrimal glands leading to their dysfunction [1]. Even though recurrent parotitis and sicca symptoms seem to be the most frequently reported features, cSS could have a wide range of clinical and laboratory manifestations such as autoimmune cytopenia, hypergammaglobulinemia, lymphadenopathy, fever and arthralgia [2]. These manifestations can also be seen in patients with autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome (ALPS). ALPS is a rare hematologic disorder characterized by an altered lymphocyte homeostasis due to a defective apoptotic mechanism [3]. In addition, cSS and ALPS are significantly associated with increased risk of lymphoid malignancy, most commonly non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Objectives: To examine the prevalence of clinical and laboratory characteristics of ALPS in a cohort of pediatric patients with cSS in order to better characterize this autoimmune disorder and discover potential novel therapeutic targets.

Methods: Patients with cSS were recruited from the Paediatric Rheumatology Department at the Gaslini Children’s Hospital of Genova, Italy. All consecutive cSS patients were enrolled. LSG Ultra-High Frequency Ultrasound and histology, pSS diagnosis, clinical manifestations and prognosis were assessed. LSG biopsy with a Focus Score (FS) >1 was considered positive. For statistical analysis, following tests were applied: Student’s t test, Mann-Whitney U test, contingency table analysis, Spearman’s correlation. Receiver operating characteristic analysis was calculated to assess the accuracy of UHFUS to predict histology inflammation and pSS diagnosis.

Results: 127 patients were enrolled: 61 pSS patients, 47 sicca controls and 20 sicca patients with other connective tissue diseases. GS-OMERACT predicted a positive biopsy with an area under the curve (AUC) =0.835. UHFUS inflammation prediction was increased considering both grey scale and colour Doppler (Total-OMERACT), with a sensitivity=80.4%, a Specificity=84.7% and an AUC raised to 0.875 (Figure 1A). In addition, CD-OMERACT revealed a higher accuracy for pSS diagnosis than GS-OMERACT (AUC 0.780 vs 0.735). Total-OMERACT score was characterised by a sensitivity of 78.7% and a specificity of 76.6% for pSS diagnosis (AUC 0.803, Figure 1B). Both GS-OMERACT and CD-OMERACT, in pSS patients, were correlated with serological activity: autoantibodies (SSA/Ro52, SSA/Ro60, SSB) IgG levels and Rheumatoid Factor. However, CD-OMERACT presented a stronger correlation than GS-OMERACT, and significantly correlated with low C3 and C4 (Table 1). Similarly, both GS and CD also correlated with total ESSDAI and separate lymph nodes, glandular and biological domains. The correlation observed was higher with Doppler signal than inhomogeneity. The latter also exhibited a significant correlation with renal activity. All 5 patients with LSG severe/atypical inflammatory infiltrate had GS-OMERACT score 3 and CD-OMERACT score 3 with a typical pattern: multiple very hypoechoic areas and high perilesional CD signal.

Conclusion: UHFUS Colour Doppler, combined with grey scale, allows a better detection of labial salivary glands inflammation. Compared to grey scale, CD offers a unique opportunity in patient’s phenotyping, due to its higher correlation with disease activity and pSS serological hallmarks. Eventually, a high doppler signal could be a key feature to identify more severe/atypical inflammatory infiltrate thus allowing the early recognition of lymphoproliferative complications.
background: Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) represents a chronic autoimmune disease characterized by a relatively benign course. However, up to 40% of SS patients develop systemic extra-glandular involvement which, in turn, may lead to long-term damage accrual. Few studies assessed damage accrual in SS with a follow-up ranging from 5 to 10 years. Knowledge of long-term risk of damage and awareness of factors contributing to damage accrual in SS represent important issues to identify patients requiring a closer follow-up and to better stratify therapy.

Objectives: To examine disease damage progression every 5 years until 20 years of follow-up and disease related features associated with higher damage score at 20 years in a multicenter SS cohort.

Methods: A cohort of 252 SS patients fulfilling the 2002 AECG and/or 2016 ACR-EULAR classification criteria was retrospectively analysed. The following variables were collected at diagnosis and every 5-year timepoints until 20 years: demographic, clinical and serologic parameters; disease activity by ESSDAI; Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI); disease damage by SSDDI and treatments. Patients were grouped according to damage degree at 20 years: “low/no damage”, LND (SSDDI ≤ 1) and “moderate/high damage”, MHD (SSDDI ≥ 2). Continuous variables were compared by Mann-Whitney U test and categorical variables by Chi-squared test of Fisher’s exact test, as appropriate. Significant variables at univariate analysis were included in a multivariable logistic regression analysis model with wild bootstrapping to account for collinearity and heteroscedasticity.

Results: A total of 50 patients (mean age at diagnosis 44±12 years, mean disease duration 24±5 years) had 20 year follow-up. Mean SSDDI increased from 1.2 (±1.5) at 5 to 1.5 (±1.7) at 10 years and from 1.5 (±1.7) at 15 to 2.04 (±2.2) at 20 years. Oral/ocular damage, peripheral nervous (PN) involvement and lymphoproliferative disease mainly contributed to damage accrual. Mean ESSDAI reduced from 6.4 (±3.7) at baseline to 4.9 (±4.4) and mean CCI increased from 1.6 (±0.8) to 3.5 (±1.6) at 20 years. At univariate analysis, MHD patients had significant higher median ESSDAI at all time-points and CCI at 5 and 20 years, higher frequency of parotid swelling at 5 years (35% vs 7%, p=0.021), low C4 (30% vs 3%, p=0.012) at 15 years and monoclonal component at 20 years (30% vs 7%, p=0.047) and lower of arthritis at 10 years (0% vs 23%, p=0.033) in comparison to LND. Patients with MHD had higher prevalence of glucocorticoid (GC) use at 20 years in comparison to LND (75% vs 27%, p=0.001). Multivariable logistic regression analysis model was able to correctly classify 87.5% of patients. None of the included parameters was independent predictor of outcome variable, likely due to a non-linear relationship among variables and the low subject number included.

Conclusion: This is the first study exploring disease damage at 20 year follow-up in SS patients. Notably, damage occurs early, increases already in the first 5-10 years and is mainly driven by oral and ocular damage, PN involvement and lymphoma. Higher disease activity at baseline and during follow-up and higher GC use, also reflecting a more active disease, represent two important variables contributing to damage. Thus, controlling disease activity since diagnosis and minimizing steroid prescription may reduce long-term damage accrual. Among disease-related features, appearance of parotid swelling in the first 5 years requires awareness. Surely, further studies are needed to identify, at diagnosis, patient phenotype at higher risk of long-term damage.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6020
SLE, Sjögren’s and APS - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

**PO1464**

**DYSPHAGIA AND RELATED SYMPTOMS ARE FREQUENT, SEVERE AND HEAVILY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME**

**Keywords:** Gastrointestinal tract, Sjögren syndrome, Quality of life

**A. Alunno** 1, F. Carubbi1, F. M. Mariani1, J. Cipollone1, M. Rossi1, C. Ferri1.

1Internal Medicine and Nephrology Division, University of Udine, Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, Udine, Italy

**Background:** Dysphagia is the most frequent symptom reported by pSS patients with gastrointestinal involvement and may be related to a combination of hypoalimentation and oesophageal motility dysfunction.

**Objectives:** To explore the burden of dysphagia and related symptoms and the access to specialist care in patients with pSS.

**Methods:** Consecutive patients with pSS fulfilling the 2016 ACR-EULAR classification criteria and referring to our institution were interviewed. Patients reporting swallowing problems filled the Swallowing Quality of Life (SWAL-QOL) questionnaire. The SWAL-QOL includes 10 domains: food selection, burden, mental health, social functioning, fear, eating duration, eating desire, communication, sleep, and fatigue. It also explores presence and frequency of various symptoms such as cough, choke on food or liquids). Patients having sought for specialist care for dysphagia filled the SWAL Quality of Care (SWAL-CARE) questionnaire. The SWAL-CARE includes 2 domains to report on the clinical and general advice received (e.g. on food/drinks to avoid) and on the patient satisfaction. The scores of each domain (Likert scales) are transformed to a 0–100 metric with 100 indicating the most favorable variable and 0 the least favorable state. Disease activity (ESSDAI) and patient reported symptoms (VAS scales, ESSPRI, xerostomia inventory (XI) and Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP)-14 were calculated at the time of enrolment.

**Results:** An interim analysis on 108 recruited patients as of December 4, 2022 was performed. Twenty-five patients (23%) reported swallowing problems. All SWAL-QOL domain scores and the total SWAL-QOL score were very low while symptom presence and frequency were very high. The most affected domains (mean value <30) were fear, mental health, fatigue and sleep (Table 1). The “mental health” and “social functioning” domains were more affected in people with shorter disease duration regardless of age (p<0.01). Conversely, the “burden” domain, reflecting the capability to cope with dysphagia, was more affected in younger people (p=0.03). A proportion of patients ranging between 48 to 84% reported having symptoms often or almost always and none of the patients responded “never” for any of the symptoms (Figure 1). When exploring how the extent of dryness relates to dysphagia, the VAS scales for xerostomia and xerotrachea did not differ between patients with or without dysphagia. However, patients with dysphagia had significantly higher scores of the XI and the OHIP-14 compared to those without (both p<0.01). No differences in terms of age, disease duration, autoantibody profile and disease activity emerged between pSS patients with or without dysphagia. Focusing on ESSDAI domains, we observed that all patients with dysphagia also had articular manifestations (p=0.01) while haematological manifestations were more frequent in patients without dysphagia (p=0.03). Of the 25 patients with dysphagia only 10 (40%) sought specialist care. Most of the patients judged the advice received poor (mean =10.4) and overall patient satisfaction was very low (mean= 28.5).

**Conclusion:** Our study demonstrated that dysphagia and related symptoms are frequent and severe in pSS, heavily impact on the patient quality of life and satisfactory specialist care remains an unmet need. Younger people and those with a shorter disease duration seem those whose QoL is more affected. We are currently increasing the patient cohort and planning further investigations in patients with dysphagia (e.g. oesophageal manometry) to better characterise the mechanisms underlying this problem in pSS.

**REFERENCE:**


**Figure 1. Frequency of dysphagia-related symptoms**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.403

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**Table 1. Domains and total SWAL-QOL score in pSS patients with dysphagia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SWAL-QOL domains</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burden</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating desire</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>24.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating duration</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food selection</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social functioning</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>29.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SWAL-QOL</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**PO1465**

**ASSOCIATION OF COMPLEMENT ACTIVATION AND TNFα WITH PREGNANCY PROGNOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Biomarkers

**A. Isik1, S. Çınar2, S. Onder3, A. Bayram4, E. Yavuz5, T. Sarac Svirikoz6, I. Kalelioglu7, C. Cetin8, Y. Yalçinkaya9, A. Güle, M. İnanı, B. Artim-Esen1.**

1Istanbul University Istanbul School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Istanbul University Istanbul School of Medicine, Immunology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Istanbul University Istanbul School of Medicine, Pathology, Istanbul, Turkey; 4Istanbul University Istanbul School of Medicine, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Istanbul, Turkey; 5Istanbul University Istanbul School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

**Background:** Complement activation is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and antiphospholipid syndrome (APS). TNFα is accused in the etiology of impaired placenta development and preeclampsia.

**Objectives:** We aimed to investigate the association of complement(c) activation and TNFα with poor pregnancy outcomes in patients with SLE/APS.

**Methods:** Four groups were examined: pregnant SLE/APS (n=37), non-pregnant SLE/APS(n=15), healthy pregnant (n=20) and healthy women (n=14). C3b, C5a and TNFα were tested by ELISA in the serum (s) samples taken at the last trimester of each pregnancy. Collected placental tissues were examined histopathologically and were stained for TNFα and C4d.

**Results:** sC3b levels and positivity rates were higher in pregnant SLE/APS compared to all other groups (p<0.05 for all). Pregnancy loss (18.9%) and preeclampsia (16.2%) were the most common pregnancy morbidities. Renal (30.5%) followed by hematologic (thrombocytopenia) (19.4%) were the most common flares in pregnant patients with SLE/APS and compared to patients without, they had significantly higher sTNFα levels (p<0.05). The frequency of sTNFα positivity were significantly higher in SLE/APS patients with preeclampsia (p<0.05). Sixty-six % of SLE/APS placenta had C4d deposition whilst none of the healthy ones were stained (p<0.001). Frequency of strong staining with TNFα in SLE/APS (75.8%) was significantly higher compared to healthy placentas (27.8%) (p<0.001). Decidual vasculopathy, decidual inflammation and villous infarction were significantly more frequent in SLE/APS (Table 1). Significant associations were found between these findings and preeclampsia, intrauterine growth retardation and the need for neonatal intensive care (p<0.001).

**Conclusion:** Results of our study shows TNFα and complement activation both at tissue level and serum, and supports their association with adverse pregnancy outcome in SLE/APS. Further work is necessary to test whether these biomarkers can be used for follow up and to explore whether TNFα and complement directed therapies may improve maternal/fetal prognosis in patients with SLE/APS.
The table below compares immunohistochemistry and histopathologic findings of placental tissues between SLE/APS and healthy groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunohistochemistry</th>
<th>Pregnant SLE/APS</th>
<th>Healthy pregnant n=20</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly staining with TNF-alpha (%)</td>
<td>25 (75.8)</td>
<td>5 (25.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histopathologic findings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmoplasia n (%)</td>
<td>11 (40.7)</td>
<td>2 (10)</td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decidual vasculopathy n (%)</td>
<td>23 (85.2)</td>
<td>3 (15)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilous vasculopathy n (%)</td>
<td>4 (14.8)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilous infection n (%)</td>
<td>11 (40.7)</td>
<td>2 (10)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of vilous infarction (%)</td>
<td>22.7 ± 20.9</td>
<td>7.5 ± 3.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerated vilous maturation n (%)</td>
<td>7 (26.9)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* number of placentas available for histopathologic examination

### REFERENCES:


### Acknowledgements:

The authors would like to thank GlaxoSmithKline for providing data through the CSDR consortium as well as all patients with SLE who participated in the trials.

### Disclosure of Interests:

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3415

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**POS1467**

**PREDICTORS OF NEUROPSYCHIATRIC FLARES IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: RESULTS FROM FIVE PHASE III CLINICAL TRIALS OF BELIMUMAB**

**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical trials

L. Palazzo1, J. Lindblom1, N. Çetrez2, H. Åla1, I. Parodis1,2. Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; Örebro University, Department of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine and Health, Örebro, Sweden

**Background:** Neuropsychiatric (NP) flares in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) constitute a challenging issue for the clinician on many levels as they are rather unpredictable and include severe and potentially life-threatening manifestations [1]. The identification of clinical and serological profiles predictive of NP flares would be instrumental for early detection of NP involvement, thus allowing early treatment, and hopefully resulting in improved outcomes. The B-cell depleting agent belimumab has widely shown ability to reduce rates of flare in SLE (2), early treatment, and hopefully resulting in improved outcomes. Whether belimumab treatment protects against NP events remains unclear and warrants future investigation.

**Disclosures of Interests:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3415

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**POS1468**

**A HIGH GENETIC RISK OF SLE IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN INCREASED RISK OF MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION AND IMPAIRED KIDNEY FUNCTION: A COMBINED OBSERVATIONAL AND MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION STUDY**

**Keywords:** Predisposing factors, Cardiovascular disease, Genetics/epigenetics

S. Reid1, J. Sandiling2, P. Pucholt1, A. Sayadi1, C. Sjowall1, M. Frodlund1, K. Lerang1, A. Jonsen2, A. Bengtssson3, Ö. Molberg2, A. Rudin1,7, S. Rantapää Dahlgqvist1, L. Ronnblom2, D. Leonard2. Uppsala University, Rheumatology and Science for Life Laboratory, Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden; Uppsala University, Rheumatology and Science for Life Laboratory, Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden; Linköping University, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Linköping, Sweden; Östfold University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; Lund University, Skåne University Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences, Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden; Sahlgrenska Academy of University of Gothenburg, Department of Rheumatology and Inflammation Research, Institute of Medicine, Gothenburg, Sweden; Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Rheumatology Clinic, Gothenburg, Sweden; Umé University, Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine/Rheumatology, Umeå, Sweden

**Background:** Cardiovascular morbidity, severe infection and renal damage are amongst the most serious complications of SLE.

**Objectives:** To combine a mendelian randomization (MR) approach and investigation of a clinical SLE cohort to evaluate the contribution of SLE genetic risk to the development of myocardial infarction (MI), end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and death from bacterial infections (BI).

**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to thank GlaxoSmithKline for providing data through the CSDR consortium as well as all patients with SLE who participated in the trials.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5428
Methods: 1487 patients with SLE from Norway and Sweden who fulfilled ≥4 ACR-82 (97%), ACR-97 (98%) or SLICC2012 (94%) classification criteria were included in the study. Clinical data was collected from medical charts and causes of death were retrieved from death certificates. Patients were genotyped using the Global Screening Array or the Immunochip (Illumina). Established, independent SLE risk SNPs (p<5x10^-8, n=67) were selected and summary statistics for coronary artery disease (CAD) and MI were identified for each SNPs using the MRBase catalog. MR was conducted using the inverse variance weighted method as well as three additional MR methods, on the largest available dataset using a strict definition of MI (n=648, 450,280, 29,800, 18,280, 11,740, and 2072,146. The method was used for analysis of the largest available datasets for dialysis (n=648, 450,280, and 2072,146) and BI (n=11,622, 450,280, and 2072,146). SNP-manifestation associations from the datasets were used to construct weighted MI/CAD, BI and dialysis PRSs for each patient in the clinical cohort.

Results: The MR analysis revealed a significant association between the genetic risk of SLE and MI (p=0.01). The association was robust to outliers and pleiotropy and consistent across the investigated MR methods. No influence by confounding factors such as hypertension, smoking, alcohol consumption or hyperlipidemia was identified. Individually, 14 SLE SNPs displayed association with MI/CAD and were included in the CAD/MI PRS. In addition, we found an association between the SLE genetic risk and dialysis (p<0.05), whereas the association between SLE genetic risk and BI was not statistically significant (p=0.051). SLE SNPs displaying association with dialysis and BI were included in two separate PRSs. In the clinical cohort, 7.7% of patients had experienced at least one MI, with a mean age at the first event of 60 years. Patients with a CAD/MI PRS in the top quartile displayed a three-fold higher risk of MI (OR 3.04 (1.43-6.49), p<0.01) and a higher risk of ischemic heart disease (MI and/or angina pectoris) (OR 2.64 (1.37-5.11), p<0.01) compared with patients with a CAD/MI PRS in the lowest quartile. In total, 35% of patients fulfilled the ACR-82 nephritis criterion, and 5.8% had developed ESRD. Patients with a high dialysis PRS displayed a higher risk of nephritis (OR 1.72 (1.15-2.58), p=0.0079), however, a significant association was identified. Individually, 14 SLE SNPs displayed association with MI/CAD and BI and dialysis PRSs for each patient in the clinical cohort.

PO51469 1 LONGITUDINAL CHARACTERIZATION OF DISEASE COMPLEXITY AND FLARES IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS ALGORITHM

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Best practices


1Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, 2Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, UOC di Reumatologia, ROme, Italy; 3Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Real World Data Facility, Gemelli Generator, ROme, Italy

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus(SLE) is a heterogeneous disease, with a relapsing-remitting pattern that contributes to create difficulties for diagnosis and management. Besides, disease activity indices are not always able to capture the complexity of the disease over time and to guide therapy modification. Data mining and machine learning algorithms developed based on Electronic Health Records(EHR) could help in characterizing the disease complexity and electronic trajectory of evolution.

Objectives: to develop a machine-learning methodology to identify SLE phenotypes and flare trajectories in a large longitudinal database.

Methods: an observational retrospective monocenter study was performed using the EHR of our Tertiary Care University Hospital. Adult SLE patients (pts), with at least one hospital contact between January 2012 and December 2020, were included. For each patient, clinical reports including demographics characteristics, symptoms and clinical history retrieved from text notes recorded during the hospitalization and the outpatient visits, laboratory values, medication and laboratory prescriptions as well as therapy, were extracted from EHR (ICD9 710.0 and 695.4 to identify the pts). A predefinition of Natural Language Processing techniques (NLP) and abnormal laboratory parameters at each visit was used to identify: 1) presence of 8 different SLE clinical phenotypes (hematological, muco-cutaneous, articular, renal, systemic, neurologic, vascular involvement and serositis); 2) disease complexity based on the combination of the presence of single or multiple organ domains involved and therapy escalation (defined as low, medium, high complexity); 3) disease flares in each of the above clinical phenotypes. Data extraction, from unstructured data of EHR, was performed using topic models and rule-based techniques to build a usable data mart. A p-value<0.05 was considered as significant. Typical explorative analyses were also used to identify SLE phenotypes, together with longitudinal analyses, for the observation of evolution of complexity trajectories.

Results: A total of 1000 SLE pts with at least one contact were identified in our EHR; of them 477 presented at least one hospitalization and 255 pts presented at least one year of follow-up with a median of years of observation of 5.0 (3.0, 8.0). In the longitudinal cohort of 255 pts, the median number of outpatient clinic contacts was 14 (8-20) and of hospitalizations: 1 (0-2). The median number of clinical phenotypes identified at baseline was 4 (2.25-5), with 50.3% of pts having more than 3; and their distribution was: hematological(71.4%), muco-cutaneous(68.2%), articular(64.3%), renal(62.4%), vascular(34.9%), serositis(24.3%), systemic(16.5%), neurologically(16.1%). At baseline, SLE complexity was categorized as low, medium and high in 13.7%, 34.5% and 51.8% of cases respectively. During follow up the complexity of pts changed as reported in Figure 1, and 93% of pts had a flare. During longitudinal evaluation, 65.9% pts presented hematologic flare, 60% muco-cutaneous, 47.8% renal, 18.8% articular, 12.9% vascular, 78% systemic, 5.1% serositis and 3.9% neurologic. The median number of flares significantly increased with disease complexity ([3.5(2.0-6.0), 4.0(2.0-8.0), 6.3(0-9.2)] in pts with low, medium and high complexity respectively,p<0.05). Moreover, the severity of flares for each clinical phenotypes also increased according to the patient's complexity(p<0.05). Overall, 279 therapy escalations were made over the follow up time. 62% due to disease flares, and 38% due to other situations (e.g. intolerance, contraindications).

Conclusion: Machine learning algorithms can help to describe SLE heterogeneity and to characterize clinical phenotypes and trajectories of pts. Next step will be the evaluation of the present procedure on external cohorts to develop a tool able to identify situations needing more intensive and personalized care.

Acknowledgements: The project has been developed with the financial contribution of Astra Zeneca.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5442
Background: Lupus nephritis (LN) is a serious complication of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), associated with considerable morbidity and an increased risk of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). Despite various therapies used in clinical practice, a notable proportion of patients may not achieve sustained remission, leading to adverse disease outcomes.

Objectives: To review and summarize evidence on natural history of LN, burden of comorbidities, and real-world (RW) effectiveness of therapy in European patients with LN.

Methods: A targeted literature review was conducted using MEDLINE/Pubmed and Embase to identify studies in patients with LN. Search strategies were developed for the two databases to identify relevant peer-reviewed articles published in English from March 2012 - March 2022, and conference abstracts from 2019. All records were screened according to pre-specified inclusion/exclusion criteria. Studies conducted in a European setting were summarized.

Results: Of 4,216 identified records, 55 studies reported long-term outcomes of disease and RW effectiveness of treatment in European adults with LN. Up to 36% of patients with SLE developed LN, and nearly all LN cases occurred within 5 years of SLE diagnosis. Patients with LN often suffered from serious infection (19-35%), chronic kidney disease (CKD)/ESKD (6-22%), and cardiovascular disease (CVD) (26%), and were more likely to experience cardio- and cerebrovascular events than patients with SLE only (p<0.001). Immunosuppressive therapies contributed to increased infections and patients treated with high-dose steroids (>0.5mg/kg/day) had 5-times increased risk of infections compared to those on low-dose regimens. Patients with LN had a higher risk of mortality compared to patients with SLE or other lupus manifestations (p<0.001). The main causes of death among patients with LN were infections (8-32%), CVD (22-58%), or malignancies (5-27%). The majority of RW studies evaluated effectiveness of standard of care (SOC) induction and/or maintenance therapy, mostly with mycophenolate mofetil and cyclophosphamide. Treatment response rates varied across the studies likely due to heterogeneity in study design, drug dosing, and patient population; comparative studies did not find significant differences in response rates between the regimens. Overall, 30-86% of patients with LN achieved complete renal response/remission (CRR) within 1 year of starting SOC therapy, and 25-65% achieved CRR within 2 years. Patients who were non-responders after 1 year had a significantly increased risk of mortality and CKD compared to responders (p<0.005), highlighting the need to reach any degree of response. Over a 5-year period, one study reported that only 38% of patients maintained CRR while on SOC, further suggesting inadequate maintenance on existing therapies. Limited studies focused on treatment-experienced/refractory patients, with the majority evaluating rituximab (RTX)-based regimens. After 1 year of treatment, 29-64% of patients with refractory LN treated with RTX achieved CRR and 35% of patients with active LN despite SOC treatment with belimumab (BEL) achieved CRR. Despite initial response to current therapies, 20-25% of patients experienced a renal relapse/flare while on maintenance therapy, with one study noting significantly increased risk of proteinuric flares with azathioprine compared to other maintenance therapies (p=0.01). Very limited evidence was identified on the impact of therapy on extra-renal manifestations in patients with refractory LN, with few studies reporting improvements in SLEDAI scores with RTX after 1 year and with BEL over 2 years of treatment.

Conclusion: European patients with LN have substantial burden from comorbidities that contribute to poor long-term outcomes. Treatment with SOC also contributes to increased morbidity and mortality, particularly due to infections. Furthermore, despite initial response to treatment, a notable proportion of patients experience renal relapse, indicating a need for effective therapies that provide sustained remission.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Validation, Epidemiology.

First occurrence of ICD code 2004-2017.*
ICD code of SLE in 1 time period 1035 867 168
ICD code of SLE in 2 time periods 670 582 88
ICD code of SLE in 3 time periods 543 478 65
Verified SLE diagnosis by chart review 323 279 44
SLE by 1997 ACR criteria 289 249 40

*No ICD code of SLE 1999-2003 *American College of Rheumatology classification criteria SLE.

Table 1. Incidence rates of SLE in 2004-2017 in study area by different case definition of SLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total, n</th>
<th>Women, n</th>
<th>Men, n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1035</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>670</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>543</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>323</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a heterogeneous, waning, multisystem autoimmune disease. The complexity and clinical unpredictability of SLE challenge the assessment of disease activity over time, especially in everyday clinical practice. Multiple clinical disease-monitoring instruments have been developed; however, they are limited in ability to detect the change in disease activity over time, too cumbersome to be utilized in daily practice, and do not include patient-reported outcomes (PROs).

Objectives: To construct a new disease activity score that will simplify and improve disease activity assessment in daily practice, and include PROs. Here we present the PRO component.

Methods: The new instrument for the assessment of SLE activity is comprised of 7 visual analog scales (VAS), which separately address the physician's global assessment and 6 organ systems. The PRO consists of 5 VAS questions that address general well-being, global disease activity, activities of daily living, medication compliance, and mood. The ASSESSLE PRO is compared to the Short Form Health Survey (SF-36), a 36-item, patient-reported survey of patient health.

We applied the ASSESSLE PRO to 46 consecutive patients with SLE attending the rheumatology clinic in 2 tertiary medical centers in Israel.

Results: Psychometric evaluation of the reliability of all 5 PRO questions indicated that question 4, regarding compliance, correlated poorly with the other items and lowered the reliability (Cronbach's α = 0.86, 95% CI [0.74, 0.85]). Following the omission of question 4, Cronbach's α was recalculated, leading to increased internal reliability (Cronbach's α = 0.86, 95% CI [0.82, 0.90]). All other remaining items had a satisfactory correlation with the other items ("item-other" correlation between 0.58-0.70). Therefore, the score was computed as the mean of the 4 remaining questions. Aiming to compare the ASSESSLE PRO to the SF-36 survey, the Spearman correlation coefficient between absolute scores was computed and a strong and significant effect was found (R=0.85, p<0.0001). (Figure 1).

Conclusion: The ASSESSLE PRO is a short PRO that allows a reliable, reproduceable and simple PRO form showing excellent correlation with the SF-36. Following the omission of question 4, regarding patient compliance, the ASSESSLE PRO consists of only 4 questions, as compared to the SF-36 which requires a response to 36 items. The ASSESSLE PRO seems to have significant advantages due to its intuitive VAS questions and brevity which allows use of this PRO in everyday practice and may increase the validity of disease activity evaluation of SLE when combined with the physician's assessment.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1189
co-diagnosis in 49.1% of patients undergoing OP vs 26.0% in patients not receiving OP. Undergoing an OP (with or without arthroscopy) did not impact on long term survival (logrank p = 0.16).

Conclusion: There is a high burden of joint damage in lupus patients as one in six patients required an OP at a rate seven times that of controls. These data illustrate that joint symptoms in lupus patients need careful evaluation, including imaging studies [3] and comprehensive strategies to reduce long term joint damage.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1828

Table 1. Probability of Transitions in Unadjusted Markov Multistate Model by Age From 18 Years Old.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age=19 years</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>Not in Labour Force*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in Labour Force</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age=24 years</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>Not in Labour Force*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in Labour Force</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age=30 years</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>Not in Labour Force*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in Labour Force</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: : Lily Lim Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Feb 2023. $5000.00

To determine the average employment trajectories of young adult former college graduates with SLE.

Objectives: To determine the change in employment trajectory of adult former college graduates with SLE.

Methods: In this study, we quantified circulating autoantibodies in the Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP) LN longitudinal cohort to identify novel serum biomarkers of LN classification and treatment response and to provide insights into the pathogenesis of LN.

RESULTS: 841 participants (85.4% females): 253 (CaNIOS) and 588 (UT). Mean age (standard deviation, SD) at baseline (cohort entry) was 23.1 (SD 3.7) years. Patients’ age: 38.2% (18-20 years), 19.3% (21-23 years), 21.9% (24-26 years), 20.7% (27-30 years), 403 (47.9%) were cSLE, 85.5% completed high school. Median disease duration was 3.3 (0.74-6.2, 25th-75th percentile, P) years. Median follow-up was 2.9 (0.9-6.3, 25th-75th percentile, P) years. At baseline, 16.6% were employed. 5.6% were unemployed and 77.8% were NLF. 42 work disabled, 226 homemakers, 386 students. 374/6615 (5.6%) visits showed state changes. 58% occurred in the NLF group. YASLE patients have the highest probabilities of remaining in the same employment state as baseline (Table 1). With increasing age, there was a reduced rate of staying employed (0.69 to 0.64). Those unemployed showed low probability to become employed (0.28 to 0.38). The NLF group has static rate of transition to employment (0.65), without expected increase with age.

Conclusion: YASLE patients showed minimal or no increase in transitions into employment from non-employed states, and no increase in employment with age as expected in the general young adult population. This could suggest a lowered labour force attachment in YASLE patients, suggesting difficulties in establishing employment during young adulthood. Future work should focus on YASLE patients’ perceived barriers and facilitators for employment, to target interventions for supporting patients’ employment.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Results: Most LN patients exhibited autoantibodies against chromatin (78%); dsDNA (70%), Sm/RNP (63%), C1q (56%), RNP (54%), and Sm (52%) (Figure 1A). Patients with proliferative LN (class III, IV, III+V, or IV+V) had higher positivity rates of several autoantibodies, including those against dsDNA, chromatin, and C1q, compared to patients with membranous LN (class V) (Figure 1A). Similarly, patients with pure proliferative (class III or IV) and mixed (class III+V or IV+V) LN had significantly higher titers of these autoantibodies compared to those with mesangial (class I or II), membranous, and advanced sclerosis (class VI) LN (Figure 1B-D). Furthermore, increased titers of these autoantibodies were associated with higher odds of having proliferative LN. Proliferative LN patients with a complete treatment response exhibited a significant decline in several autoantibodies including anti-dsDNA, C1q, chromatin, Smith, and ribosomal P (Figure 1F). Autoantibody levels remained relatively stable in partial- and non-responder proliferative LN patients, as well as in patients with membranous LN.

Figure 1.

Conclusion: LN patients exhibit heterogeneous autoantibody profiles associated with ISN/RPS classification. Specifically, levels of autoantibodies against dsDNA, C1q, chromatin, and ribosomal P may serve as noninvasive biomarkers of proliferative LN. In patients with proliferative but not membranous LN, a decline in the titers of several autoantibodies, including many not routinely measured over time, such as anti-Sm, was associated with treatment response, suggesting a possible role in LN pathogenesis. In addition, these autoantibodies may serve as early biomarkers of treatment response.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2048

POs1477 DISEASE FLARES AFTER SARS-COV-2 MRNA VACCINATION IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY BEFORE VACCINATION

Keywords: COVID, Vaccination/immunization, Systemic lupus erythematosus

J. Kikuchi1, Y. Kondo1, S. Kojima1, S. Kasai1, Y. Sakai1, M. Takeshita1, K. Hiromoto1, S. Saito1, H. Fukui1, K. Suzuki1, Y. Kaneko1. 1Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Background: While some reports suggest the development and flare of autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases after vaccination, the frequency of disease flare after vaccination in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) has been reported to be low. When we assess risk-benefit balance of vaccine administration, it is crucial to understand the effect of vaccines in patients with SLE. However, SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines are new types of vaccines, and little is known about the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines and factors associated with disease flare in patients with SLE after SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccination.

Objectives: To elucidate the effect of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccinations including adverse reactions to vaccines, neutralizing antibody titres and disease flare rates and their variables and the associated factors in patients with SLE.

Methods: We enrolled the uninfected patients receiving two doses of vaccine (BNT162b2 or mRNA-1273) between June and October 2021. The neutralizing antibodies in peripheral blood, adverse reactions, and disease flares defined by the SELENA-SLEDAI Flare Index were evaluated four weeks after the second dose of vaccine. The neutralizing antibodies were measured using the STACIA SARS-CoV-2 Neutralization Antibody Test (MBL Corporation, Nagoya, Japan), and the cut-off level of seroconversion was defined as an antibody concentration of more than 1.67 U/mL.

Results: Ninety SLE patients were enrolled. The median age was 46.5 years, and the disease duration was 9.0 years. The median SLEDAI before vaccine administration was 2. Four weeks after the second dose of vaccination, 19 (21.1%) were still negative for neutralising antibodies. Adverse reactions were observed in 88.9%, including fever above 37.5°C in 20.8%. Factors associated with negative neutralising antibodies were older age, anemia (Hb ≤ 11 g/dL), mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) use (p=0.030 [55 years vs 44 years]), p=0.014 [36.8% vs 11.3%], and p=0.029 [42.1% vs 16.9%, respectively]. Regarding disease activity, SLEDAI modestly but significantly increased significantly vaccination (p=0.016, median change 0 [IQR: 0–1]). Thirteen (14.4%) and 4 (4.4%) patients experienced flares and severe flares (nephritis in 3 and vasculitis in 1, respectively). High titers of SLEDAI, anti-dsDNA antibodies, rash, and azathioprine use were associated with flares in univariate analysis (p=0.046, p=0.034, p=0.037 and p=0.038, respectively, Table 1). Multivariable logistic regression analysis showed that high levels of SLEDAI and anti-dsDNA antibodies were associated with flares. Types of vaccines, neutralising antibody titres, and frequency of adverse reactions were not relevant for flares.

Conclusion: Older age, anemia, and MMF use are associated with negative seroconversion of neutralising antibodies. Residual disease activity before vaccination is a risk factor for flares.

Table 1. Factors associated with flares after second vaccination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flare</th>
<th>Non-flare</th>
<th>Univariable model 1</th>
<th>Multivariable model 2</th>
<th>Multivariable model 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=14</td>
<td>N=76</td>
<td>P-value</td>
<td>P-value</td>
<td>P-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>51 (32.5–61.5)</td>
<td>46 (36–56)</td>
<td>0.622</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI before first vaccination</td>
<td>2 (0–2)</td>
<td>0.046</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA antibodies before first vaccination, U/mL</td>
<td>23.1 (0.5–5)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>0.037</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rash before first vaccination, %</td>
<td>7.4 (4.8)</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of azathioprine before first vaccination, %</td>
<td>38.5 (13.0)</td>
<td>0.038</td>
<td>0.044</td>
<td>0.122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive neutralizing antibodies, %</td>
<td>76.9 (79.2)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.706</td>
<td>0.357</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multivariable analysis was performed on three models with separate variables, which are components of SLEDAI.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POs1478 THE QRISK3 CLASSIFIED MORE JAPANESE SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) PATIENTS AS HIGH RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROTIC CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (ASCVD) WHEN COMPARED TO THE HISAYAMA STUDY SCORE

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Comorbidities, Cardiovascular disease

T. Kozuki1, H. Tsuji1, Y. Takase1, Y. Nakakubo1, T. Iwasaki1, T. Yoshida1, M. Shirakashi1, H. Onizawa2, R. Hiwa1, K. Kitagori1, S. Akizuki1, M. Shirakashi1, A. Onishi1, M. Tanaka2, H. Yoshifuji1, A. Morinobu1. 1Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan; 2Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Advanced Medicine for Rheumatic Diseases, Kyoto, Japan

Background: The QRISK3, an atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk tool including SLE as a risk factor, has been reported to demonstrate better performance in predicting risk of ASCVD in SLE patients compared with...
Table 1. Comparison between patients classified as high risk and low to moderate risk by QRISK3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low-moderate risk (n=59)</th>
<th>High risk (n=46)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hisayama study score</td>
<td>2.28 (1.77-2.80)</td>
<td>4.71 (3.99-5.43)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>58 (98.3)</td>
<td>42 (91.3)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>48.1 (46.8-49.4)</td>
<td>59.8 (57.6-62.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>19.0 (16.6-21.5)</td>
<td>20.2 (16.6-23.6)</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2K</td>
<td>5.18 (4.02-6.35)</td>
<td>5.76 (3.92-7.59)</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisolone (PSL) (%)</td>
<td>51 (86.4)</td>
<td>40 (86.9)</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily intake of PSL (mg)</td>
<td>4.79 (3.77-5.82)</td>
<td>4.8 (2.97-6.62)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index, kg/m²</td>
<td>20.9 (20.16-21.74)</td>
<td>21.4 (20.4-22.4)</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smokers (%)</td>
<td>3 (5.0)</td>
<td>9 (19.5)</td>
<td>0.02*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of early CVD (%)</td>
<td>4 (6.7)</td>
<td>6 (13.0)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)</td>
<td>119 (115-123)</td>
<td>135 (130-139)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antihypertensive therapy (%)</td>
<td>7 (11.8)</td>
<td>22 (47.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose intolerance (%)</td>
<td>28 (44.0)</td>
<td>29 (63.0)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum HDL-C (mg/dL)</td>
<td>75 (69-80)</td>
<td>70 (63-76)</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* student t-test ** Fisher exact test *** Pearson’s chi-square test

**Framingham risk score (FRS)** [1]. However, it is unknown how the QRISK3, the risk score established in the United Kingdom (UK), can estimate the ASCVD risk of Japanese SLE patients in comparison to the risk score validated for the Japanese population.

**Objectives:** To compare two algorithms for ASCVD risk estimation, QRISK3 and Hisayama study score [2], a general risk calculator used in Japan Atherosclerosis Society (JAS) guideline for Prevention of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Diseases 2022, in our cohort of Japanese SLE patients.

**Methods:** We performed a cross-sectional study in SLE patients attending Kyoto University Hospital by using questionnaires and laboratory tests. In primary prevention subjects without high-risk comorbidities (peripheral artery disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes) and aged 40 to 79, both the Hisayama study score based on traditional risks (sex, systolic blood pressure, glucose intolerance, serum lipid and smoking) and QRISK3 (ethnicity was selected as “Other Asians”) were calculated to estimate the ASCVD risk over the next 10 years.

**Results:** Among 335 patients enrolled, 105 were eligible for both ASCVD risk calculators. QRISK3 estimated 46 patients as high risk (score >10%), while the Hisayama study score classified no patients as high risk. The patients classified as high risk by QRISK3 had significantly higher Hisayama study score (4.71 [3.99-5.43] vs 2.28 [1.77-2.80], p<0.0001) and more traditional risks, such as old age (59.8 [57.6-62.1] vs 48.1 [46.8-49.4], p<0.0001), current smoking (9 [19.5%] vs 3 [5%], p=0.02) and hypertension on treatment (22 [47.8%] vs 7 [11.8%], p<0.0001) than the patients with low-moderate risk (Table 1). QRISK3 estimated 46 patients as high risk (score >10%), while the Hisayama study score was positively correlated with the Hisayama study score (r=0.4945, p<0.0001). As a result of using QRISK3, the proportion to achieve target values for serum low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) recommended by the JAS guideline were 94.3% and 69.5% respectively.

**Conclusion:** QRISK3 classified more Japanese SLE patients as high risk of ASCVD when compared to the Hisayama study score. Lipid management might be insufficient according to QRISK3. The validation of QRISK3 by longitudinal studies should be warranted in Japanese SLE patients.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Tomohiro Kozuki: None declared, Hideaki Tsujii: None declared, Yudai Takeasa: None declared, Yuta Nakakubo: None declared, Takeshi Iwasaki: None declared, Tsuyasu Yoshida: None declared, Mirei Shirakashi: None declared, Hideo Onizawa: None declared, Ryosuke Hiwa: None declared, Koji Kitagori: None declared, Syuji Akizuki: None declared, Ran Nakashima: None declared, Akira Onishi: None declared, Masao Tanaka: None declared, Hajime Yoshiyuki Grant/research support from: GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Akio Morinobu: None declared.

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significant differences in autoantibody profiles were detected between deceased and non-deceased patients.

**Conclusion:** We observed a bimodal distribution of causes of death, with SLE, malignancy and infection more likely to cause early deaths, and cardiovascular disease more likely to cause later deaths. Across the whole cohort, patients lived longer than was expected. However, a third of patients still died early, suggesting future work should focus on addressing these highest risk patients. Across the cohort proportionally more male than female patients died. This may reflect known differences in life expectancy between genders, but highlights male patients as a group with persisting poorer mortality outcomes. No significant differences in autoantibody profiles were observed between patients that died versus those that survived. This may be because the entire cohort is enriched for positive serology, perhaps making it less likely that differences will be identified.

**REFERENCE:**


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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### POS1480

**DESCRIBING RENAL FUNCTION TEST USE IN REAL-WORLD DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS PATIENTS IN EUROPE**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Real-world evidence

B. Asin, A. Eberhardt, A. Fernandes, D. Clamp, E. Goddard, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Europe LTD, Wexham, United Kingdom; Otsuka Pharma GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany; Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization Inc., Rockville, United States of America; Adelphi Real World, Bollington, United Kingdom

**Background:** Lupus nephritis (LN) is a severe renal manifestation of the autoimmune disease lupus. Tests for renal function, such as estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), should be standard in the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with renal disease as recommended by the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Working Group [1]. These tests are important to identify renal function decline and prompt interventions to prevent further disease progression. It has been found that use of eGFR is low in Italy for CKD patients [2] but data on real-world testing in other countries is limited.

**Objectives:** To understand renal function test use by nephrologists in the diagnosis and monitoring of LN patients in Europe in a real-world clinical setting.

**Methods:** Data were sourced from the Adelphi Lupus IV Disease Specific Programme™, a point-in-time survey of nephrologists and their LN patients conducted in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom in April – October 2021. Nephrologists completed patient record forms covering each patient’s management, including tests and assessments used for diagnosis and monitoring. The data was analysed descriptively.

**Results:** 72 nephrologists provided data for 376 LN patients. Overall, 20% of LN patients in the sample did not have a Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) or eGFR test documented to diagnose their condition. The use of these tests at diagnosis was lower in Germany and Italy (≤72%) compared to the other countries where use was over 80%. Of all the patients without GFR/eGFR at diagnosis, only 43% had an alternative renal test completed (e.g. urine protein, creatinine clearance (CrCl), albumin-to-creatinine ratio (ACR) or other urinalysis test (including urine protein creatinine ratio)). Across Europe, the use of GFR/eGFR to monitor patients with LN was 85% or above, apart from Italy where 31% of patients did not have either test. In patients without GFR/eGFR for monitoring, the use of alternative renal tests was higher than at diagnosis (60% vs. 43%). However, 40% of those patients received no other renal test (e.g. urine protein, CrCl or ACR) to monitor their condition.

**Conclusion:** GFR/eGFR are key markers of renal function as discussed in the KDIGO recommendations [1], but this analysis observed lower-than-expected use of GFR/eGFR among nephrologists. This was especially apparent in Germany and Italy. There may be even less use of these tests among non-nephrology specialties. Lower-than-expected use of these recommended tests indicates a need for improvement in the diagnosis and monitoring of LN patients in Europe. This suboptimal management may be affecting patient outcomes, but further research is needed to assess this. Results are subject to recall bias which was minimised by asking survey respondents to use patient medical records for the completion of forms.

**REFERENCES:**


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### POS1481

**INFORMING TRIAL MEASUREMENT IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: FREQUENCY OF DOMAIN-SPECIFIC DISEASE ACTIVITY IN A MULTI-NATIONAL OBSERVATIONAL COHORT**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Outcome measures, Real-world evidence

K. Connelly, C. Taylor, R. Kandane-Rathnayake, V. Golder, W. Louthrenoo, Y. Chen, J. Cho, A. Lateef, L. Hamijoyo, S. Luo, Y. Jan Wu, S. Navarra, Z. Lamora, Z. Li, S. Sockalingam, Y.Katsumata, M. Harigai, Y. Hao, Z. Zhang, M. Chan, J. Kikuchi, T. Takeuchi, S. Oon, C. Bae, F. Goldblatt, S. O’Neill, K. Ng, A. Law, B. Basnayake, Z. Tugnet, S. Kumar, C. TEE, M. Tee, Y. Tanaka, C. S. Lau, M. Nikpour, A. Hol, E. F. Morand, Monash University Clayton Campus, Medicine, Clayton, Australia; Chiang Mai University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Internal Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; National University Hospital, Rheumatology, Singapore, Singapore; Padjadjaran University/ Hasan Sadikin General Hospital, Rheumatology, Bandung, Indonesia; Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; University of Santo Tomas Hospital, Joint and Bone Center, Manila, Philippines; People’s Hospital Peking University Health Science Center, Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China; University of Malay, Medicine, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Tokyo Women’s Medical University, Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan.

---

**Table 1. Renal test use in Europe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renal tests used at LN diagnosis, n (%)</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GFR</td>
<td>n=376</td>
<td>n=63</td>
<td>n=75</td>
<td>n=75</td>
<td>n=81</td>
<td>n=82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR</td>
<td>133 (35)</td>
<td>31 (49)</td>
<td>27 (36)</td>
<td>31 (41)</td>
<td>35 (43)</td>
<td>9 (11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFR and/or eGFR</td>
<td>220 (59)</td>
<td>25 (40)</td>
<td>37 (49)</td>
<td>33 (44)</td>
<td>59 (73)</td>
<td>66 (80)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither GFR nor eGFR</td>
<td>302 (80)</td>
<td>56 (89)</td>
<td>54 (72)</td>
<td>53 (71)</td>
<td>71 (88)</td>
<td>68 (83)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74 (20)</td>
<td>7 (11)</td>
<td>21 (28)</td>
<td>22 (29)</td>
<td>10 (12)</td>
<td>14 (17)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Of patients without GFR/eGFR at diagnosis</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>n=74</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least one renal test other than eGFR/eGFR</td>
<td>n=368</td>
<td>n=62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFR</td>
<td>129 (36)</td>
<td>28 (45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR</td>
<td>225 (61)</td>
<td>25 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFR and/or eGFR</td>
<td>311 (85)</td>
<td>53 (85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither GFR nor eGFR</td>
<td>17 (5)</td>
<td>9 (15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other renal tests diagnosed, n (%)</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>n=43</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least one renal test other than eGFR/eGFR</td>
<td>n=60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Patients with available data. Abbreviations: eGFR, Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate; GFR, Glomerular Filtration Rate; LN, Lupus Nephritis; UK, United Kingdom*
Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) has heterogeneous organ manifestations that occur in different combinations at an individual patient level. Current SLE clinical trial eligibility criteria and efficacy endpoints, based on legacy disease activity measures, have multiple weaknesses. Understanding the frequency with which different organ manifestations are represented in contemporary SLE cohorts is required, to allow focus on the most frequent and impactful manifestations of disease in both eligibility criteria and endpoints.

Objectives: To report the prevalence of disease activity in individual organ domains in SLE patients, both overall and in patients meeting the most common SLEDAI-2K ≥6 (Table 1).

Methods: We used data from a multinational SLE cohort, prospectively collected between 2013 and 2020. We analysed data from 4,102 patients with criteria-defined SLE, who contributed 42,345 visits with complete SLEDAI-2K assessments. Disease activity assessed using SLEDAI-2K was categorised according to activity in 9 organ systems (OSS): serositis (S), musculoskeletal (MUSK), renal (R), cutaneous (CUT), haematological (H), neurological (NEU), musculoskeletal and haematological (M&H), serositis and musculoskeletal (S&M), and serositis and haematological (S&H). Proportions of organ-specific disease activity in the overall cohort, and stratified by total SLEDAI-2K ≥6 or <6, were calculated.

Results: In the overall cohort, 3,659 patients (89.2%) had SLEDAI-2K ≥6 on at least one visit (31,290 visits, 73.9%). Serological disease activity was the most prevalent in the cohort overall, affecting 75.5% of patients at least once, followed by renal (41.6%), cutaneous (36.5%), musculoskeletal (20%) and haematological (19%) activity. Infrquent active manifestations affecting <5% of patients were serositis (3.4%), vasculitis (3.4%), CNS (3.0%) and fever (3.0%). Further we examined the prevalence of domain-specific disease activity in patient visits stratified by a SLEDAI-2K cut-off of 6 (Table 1). In patient visits with a SLEDAI-2K ≥6 (n = 10,031 visits, 24% of total) the most common manifestations were serological (90%) and renal (73%), followed by cutaneous (26%) and musculoskeletal (14%). Conversely, 73% of visits with renal, 6.7% with cutaneous, 5.8% with haematological and 1.3% with musculoskeletal activity did not have a SLEDAI-2K ≥6 (Table 1).

Table 1. Frequencies and percentages of patient visits with specific organ system disease activity, stratified by total SLEDAI score cut-off of ≥6 vs <6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>All visits</th>
<th>SLEDAI-6</th>
<th>SLEDAI-&lt;6</th>
<th>p-value*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n = 42,345</td>
<td>n = 32,314</td>
<td>n = 10,031</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serological</td>
<td>25,745 (60.8%)</td>
<td>16,740 (51.8%)</td>
<td>9,005 (89.8%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>9,684 (22.9%)</td>
<td>2,367 (73%)</td>
<td>7,317 (72.9%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous</td>
<td>4,806 (11.3%)</td>
<td>2,158 (6.7%)</td>
<td>2,648 (26.0%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematological</td>
<td>2,615 (6.2%)</td>
<td>1,862 (5.8%)</td>
<td>753 (7.5%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal</td>
<td>1,856 (4.4%)</td>
<td>422 (1.3%)</td>
<td>1,434 (14.3%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>255 (0.6%)</td>
<td>81 (0.3%)</td>
<td>174 (1.7%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasculitis</td>
<td>250 (0.6%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>250 (2.5%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS</td>
<td>200 (0.5%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>200 (2.0%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>149 (0.4%)</td>
<td>59 (0.2%)</td>
<td>90 (0.9%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P-values derived from Pearson’s Chi-Squared tests.

Conclusion: Serological, renal, cutaneous, musculoskeletal and haematological manifestations predominate in patients with active SLE in our cohort, with other organs only rarely affected. Measures of improvement in SLE trial endpoints could focus on measuring change in these systems, and omit detailed analysis of rare events. Conversely, a notable proportion of patients with active disease in commonly affected organ domains had SLEDAI-2K <6, meaning they would be excluded from clinical trials. Incorporation of organ-specific activity measures and inclusion criteria for SLE clinical trials may overcome this limitation and improve recruitment to and results of trials.

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the unrestricted project grants received from AstraZeneca, BMS, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Merck Serono, and UCB to support data collection and project management contributing to this work.


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PES1482 PREDICTORS AND CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LUPUS LOW DISEASE ACTIVITY STATE 12 MONTHS AFTER LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys, Treat to target
Background: Lupus nephritis (LN) is a significant comorbidity that affects around 50% of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Complete or partial renal response 12 months after LN is an important treatment target. Low disease activity in extra-renal domains by achieving LLDAS may also contribute to one of the critical treatment goals in LN patients [1]. However, the predictors of LLDAS in LN patients and the renal-specific benefits of LLDAS were also not fully understood.

Objectives: To investigate the predictors of LLDAS at 12 months post-LN and the clinical usefulness of achieving this state in LN patients.

Methods: Patients with biopsy-proven LN during 2010-2020 were included. Baseline demographics, blood parameters and urinalysis results were recorded. Patients were then followed up every 4 months to repeat blood tests and urinalysis. Renal response and LLDAS were assessed at 12 months post-LN, and any future relapses were recorded. Complete renal response (CRR) was defined as proteinuria ≤0.5g/day with normal estimate glomerular filtration rate (eGFR); partial renal response (PRR) was defined as a reduction in proteinuria by ≤50% with near normal eGFR. LLDAS was attained by meeting: (1) SLE Disease Activity Index ≤4 with no major organ activity; (2) no new lupus disease; (3) physician global assessment ≤1; (4) prednisolone dose ≤7.5mg; (5) standard maintenance immunosuppressants [1]. Relapse was a biopsy-proven LN after an initial treatment response of proteinuria reduction of ≤50% or to subnephrotic range. We assessed the predictors of LLDAS at 12 months post-LN and performed time-to-relapse survival analysis.

Results: 143 LN patients were included with a median follow-up duration of 10.4 years. At 12 months, 57 (40%), 14 (10%) and 69 (48%) patients achieved CRR, PRR and LLDAS, respectively. Among 136 patients who achieved treatment response, 30 (22%) patients developed LN relapse after a median of 2.98 years. LN at age greater than 30 or the presence anti-smith autoantibodies had significantly lower odds of reaching LLDAS at 12 months after LN, with odds ratio of 0.35 (p = 0.047) and 0.30 (p = 0.043) respectively (Table 1). Patients reaching CRR/PRR and LLDAS both had a significantly lower chance of relapse with p = 0.014 and p = 0.002 respectively (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Age of LN and anti-smith autoantibodies are predictors of LLDAS 12 months post-LN. We advocate LLDAS as a target for LN patients as LLDAS attainment lowers the risk of future relapse.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Table 1. Predictors of LLDAS 12 months post-LN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictors</th>
<th>Number (row%) in LLDAS 12 months post-LN</th>
<th>Univariate Logistic Regression</th>
<th>Multivariate Logistic Regression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LN age</td>
<td></td>
<td>OR (95% CI) p value</td>
<td>OR (95% CI) p value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤30</td>
<td>50/104 (63%)</td>
<td>ref</td>
<td>ref</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;30</td>
<td>54/119 (45%)</td>
<td>0.50 (0.20-1.23)</td>
<td>0.35 (0.13-0.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from ≤1Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.30 (0.57-9.27)</td>
<td>0.39 (0.14-1.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE to LN</td>
<td>3/10 (30%)</td>
<td>1.04 (0.98-1.11)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.99-1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1Y</td>
<td>66/133 (50%)</td>
<td>2.30 (2.42-2.30)</td>
<td>0.99 (1.00-1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum albumin</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.04 (1.97-1.02)</td>
<td>0.99 (1.00-1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gpl1</td>
<td>1.00 (1.04-1.11)</td>
<td>0.99 (1.00-1.00)</td>
<td>0.99 (1.00-1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum creatinine (μmol/L)</td>
<td>1.00 (1.00-1.00)</td>
<td>0.99 (1.00-1.00)</td>
<td>0.99 (1.00-1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Sm</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>0.41 (0.15-1.07)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.15-1.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ever</td>
<td>0.67 (0.33-0.67)</td>
<td>0.30 (0.13-0.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-RNP</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>0.41 (0.28-1.24)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.28-1.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ever</td>
<td>0.67 (0.33-0.67)</td>
<td>0.30 (0.13-0.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>0.58 (0.25-1.35)</td>
<td>0.58 (0.25-1.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>0.207 (0.05-0.83)</td>
<td>0.38 (0.12-1.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>0.41 (0.16-1.09)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.16-1.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>0.073 (0.02-0.31)</td>
<td>0.52 (0.25-1.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNI as</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0.70 (1.16-7.50)</td>
<td>0.70 (1.16-7.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>induction</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>0.05 (0.05-0.50)</td>
<td>0.07 (0.05-0.70)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C3=Complement 3; CNI=Calcineurin inhibitors; LLDAS=Lupus low disease activity state; LN=Lupus nephritis; RNP=Ribonucleoprotein; SLE=Systemic lupus erythematosus; Sm=Smith. Significant p values are in bold.
Conclusion: These data suggest that GC-free remission is an achievable goal in SLE patients with today’s drugs, and in our cohort GC-free remission is also a GC-free remission in most of patients. Our study also confirms that GC withdrawal has important advantages in term of organ-damage sparing. Of note, the early achievement of remission during the disease history is associated with a good probability of GC withdrawal over time.

Table 1. Characteristics of the cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GC-</th>
<th>GC+</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>123 (66.6)</td>
<td>218 (78.7)</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at disease onset, years</td>
<td>28.7 ± 11.8</td>
<td>29.8 ± 12.2</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative dose of GC, grams</td>
<td>14.7 ± 13.3</td>
<td>23.8 ± 24.7</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>16.9 ± 8.6</td>
<td>16.6 ± 10.3</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission after 1 year from disease onset (%)</td>
<td>97 (78.2)</td>
<td>115 (57.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal involvement (%)</td>
<td>61 (42.9)</td>
<td>114 (45.7)</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint involvement (%)</td>
<td>100 (70.4)</td>
<td>190 (76.6)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin involvement (%)</td>
<td>82 (57.7)</td>
<td>162 (65.3)</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematological involvement (%)</td>
<td>84 (59.1)</td>
<td>157 (63.3)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis (%)</td>
<td>24 (16.9)</td>
<td>61 (24.5)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Differences between patients with and without sexual dysfunction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>SxO Mean ± SD</th>
<th>No SxO Mean ± SD</th>
<th>Comparison (p value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>25.2 ± 4.6</td>
<td>26.1 ± 5.5</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI score (points)</td>
<td>2.4 ± 2.7</td>
<td>2.3 ± 2.5</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLICC-DI score (points)</td>
<td>0.8 ± 1.0</td>
<td>0.6 ± 0.9</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3 levels (mg/dL)</td>
<td>111.6 ± 30.3</td>
<td>117.1 ± 32.8</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4 levels (mg/dL)</td>
<td>22.1 ± 10.3</td>
<td>20.7 ± 10.9</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-dsDNA antibodies (IU/mL)</td>
<td>1511 ± 732.4</td>
<td>361.6 ± 63.5</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone dose (mg)</td>
<td>4.6 ± 8.7</td>
<td>3.8 ± 6.1</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Attractive (points)</td>
<td>37.2 ± 13.8</td>
<td>46.8 ± 8.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Satisfaction (points)</td>
<td>1512 ± 35.7</td>
<td>162.7 ± 29.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSES (points)</td>
<td>188.4 ± 44.9</td>
<td>207.9 ± 40.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSES (points)</td>
<td>316 ± 5.0</td>
<td>344 ± 6.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
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</table>

Results: We included a total of 343 patients, in whom self-esteem was analyzed. SxO was assessed in 280 patients, since 62 did not complete the CSFQ-14 questionnaire. Most patients were female (67%), the mean age was 41 years (±12) and mean BMI was 25.65 kg/m² (±4.9). The mean SLEDAI and SLICC scores were 2.45 (±2.72) and 0.8 points (±1.04), respectively. The mean score for the RSES was 32.09 (±5.84) in females and 33.57 (±4.97) in males. The BSES was 189.5 (±473) in females and 207.1 (±36.6) in males. There was no association between these scores and prednisone dosage, BMI, or SLLEDAI and SLICC scores. We found that SxO is associated with lower global self-esteem (p<0.0001) and lower body self-esteem (p<0.0001), according to their respective scores (see Table 1). Also, a correlation between both self-esteem questionnaires (BSES and RSES) and CSFQ-14 scores was found. Interestingly, the correlation was higher in the male population (r=0.45, p=0.008 and n=0.47 p=0.006 for BSES and RSES, respectively) than in women (r=0.25, p=0.001 and n=0.18 p=0.004) in both scores. The multivariate analysis showed that age (p=0.003, 0.96 [0.94-0.98 95% CI]) and lower global self-esteem (p=0.013, 1090 [1-1.14 95% CI]) were independent risk factors for SxO. We observed a trend related to lower body self-esteem scores (p=0.055, 1.007 [1-1.15 95% CI]) as a risk factor. Other variables, such as prednisone, major depressive disorder and BMI did not show an association with SxO (see Table 1).

Conclusion: To our knowledge, this is the first study to demonstrate a reliable association between body-self-esteem and SxO in SLE patients, particularly in male patients. Considering the high impact of both self-esteem and sexual function on quality of life, our findings reinforce the importance of routinely acknowledging the biopsychosocial aspects (and not only the disease-related ones) in the medical care of these patients.

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</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Daniela Marengo-Rodríguez: None declared, Monserrat Ibarra-Velasco Siles: None declared, Ana Barrera-Vargas Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Sanofi, Janssen.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3161

POS1485 SEMIOQUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF SYNOVIAL INFLAMMATION ON US-GUIDED SYNOVIAL TISSUE BIOPSIES OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOUS COMPARSED TO OTHER CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES AND RHUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Synovium

D. Di Mario1, L. Petrice2, V. Varriano3, M. R. Gigante2, S. Perniola3, D. Bruno3, B. Tolusso1, S. Alivernini1,2, E. Gremese1,2, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli, IRCCS, Immunology Research Core Facility.

Background: Patients with rheumatic diseases, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), present with greater sexual dysfunction (SxD) than patients with other chronic diseases. SxO is multifactorial and may be linked to both disease-related and psychological factors, as well as hormonal imbalance and drug treatment. Self-image and self-esteem, which have not been thoroughly studied in SLE patients, may be related to sexual interest and thereby may also affect sexual function.

Objectives: We addressed the association between body self-esteem, global self-worth and sexual functioning in SLE patients.

Methods: We performed a transversal study in a tertiary care center in Mexico City. Patients ≥18 years old who fulfilled EULAR/ACR criteria for SLE were included. Body self-esteem was assessed by the Body Self-esteem Scale (BSES) and global self-esteem by the Rosenberg’s Self-Esteem Scale (RSES). Sexual function was evaluated by the CSFQ-14 questionnaire. Disease activity and damage was assessed by the SLLEDAI and SLICC scores, respectively. Relevant demographic, clinical and serological characteristics were recorded. We used univariate and multivariate analysis to determine association between variables. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS (V.25).
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus patients might experience the development of arthritis clinically resembling other forms of chronic joint inflammation. However, to date, no systematic analysis of the histological composition of synovitis was performed in SLE patients.

Objectives: To dissect the inflammation degree and the histological composition of synovial tissue of SLE patients compared with other Connective Tissue Disorders (CTD) and naive to treatment Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA).

Methods: Seventy-five patients with connective tissue diseases [n=30 SLE, n=13 Sjogren Syndrome (SS), n=19 Undifferentiated Connective Tissue Disease (UCTD), n=13 other CTD] were included in the study. Thirty-four naive to treatment RA patients were included as comparison. Each patient underwent ultrasound-guided minimally invasive synovial tissue biopsy at the study entry. Each synovial tissue sample was processed for H&E staining for the Krenn Synovitis Score (KSS) assessment by a pathologist blinded to clinical characteristics [1].

This evaluation was implemented with the additional assessment of lymphocytes and plasmacells presence, and with the assessment of the microanatomical organization in terms of inflammatory aggregates presence.

Results: Considering the whole cohort, SLE patients showed comparable synovial inflammation in terms of KSS compared to SS and other CTD (p>0.05 for both). However, synovial tissue of SLE patients showed significantly milder inflammation when compared to naive to treatment RA (p=0.002) and more severe compared to UCTD (p<0.009), mainly in terms of inflammatory infiltrate (p=0.015). Moreover, among SLE cohort, patients with Rhupus showed higher KSS compared to SS (p=0.03), mainly for synovial hyperplasia (p=0.016) and comparable synovial inflammation than naive to treatment RA (p=0.05). Considering the composition of the inflammatory infiltrate, synovial tissue of SLE patients was enriched of lymphocytes compared to synovial tissue of SS patients (p=0.0028), UCTD (p=0.014) and other CTD (p=0.018), similarly than synovial tissue of naive to treatment RA (p=0.05).

Moreover, SLE patients showed, at synovial tissue level, higher rate of plasmacells compared to SS (p=0.038) despite significantly lower than naive to treatment RA (p=0.007). Interestingly, among the whole SLE cohort, synovial tissue of Rhupus patients was enriched of plasmacells compared to synovial tissue of SLE patients (p=0.04). Finally, considering the microanatomical organization of synovial inflammation, SLE patients showed lower rate of synovial aggregates compared to naive to treatment RA (p=0.03), considering the latter having similar aggregate rate compared to Rhupus patients (p=0.23).

Conclusion: Synovitis in SLE patients, despite milder than in naive to treatment RA, is characterized by more severe features compared to other CTD. In particular, Rhupus patients show a degree of synovial inflammation in terms of KSS and microanatomical organization comparable to naive to treatment RA, supporting the need to dissect pathogenetic pathways driving this clinical phenotype.

References:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5463
Background: Anti-Ro60 and anti-Ro52 antibodies are associated with different connective tissue diseases (CTDs) [1]. However, the clinical significance of anti-Ro antibodies is not always consistent among different global regions.

Objectives: To investigate the clinical characteristics of patients with anti-Ro antibodies.

Methods: A total of 1596 patients with anti-Ro antibodies were included in the study. Demographic, clinical, and serological data were compared between individuals with different profiles of anti-Ro antibodies: patients with anti-Ro52 antibodies alone, patients with anti-Ro60 antibodies alone, and patients with combined anti-Ro52 and anti-Ro60 antibodies.

Results: Of the 1596 patients, 1362 (85.3%) were female, the mean age was 45.5 years, and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (46.0%) and Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) (19.0%) were the most common CTD diagnoses. Among the patients with anti-Ro52 antibodies alone, idiopathic inflammatory myopathy (18.8%) and SLE (17.6%) were the most common CTD diagnoses. The coexistence of autoantibodies of this group was significantly lower compared with those of the other two groups (3.7% vs. 0.6% vs. 1.9%, p < 0.001) (Figure 1). In addition, the patients with isolated anti-Ro52 antibodies were more likely to suffer from interstitial lung disease (35.5% vs. 13.7% vs. 1.9%, p < 0.001) and pulmonary arterial hypertension (10.1% vs. 5.3% vs. 3.6%, p < 0.001) compared with the other two groups of patients (Table 1). Compared with patients with isolated anti-Ro52 or anti-Ro60 antibodies, the patients with combined anti-Ro52 and anti-Ro60 antibodies were more likely to suffer from xerophthalmia and xerostomia. Furthermore, hypoimmunocomplementemia, hyperglobulinemia, and proteinuria were particularly prevalent in patients with anti-Ro60 antibodies.

Conclusion: Different profiles of anti-Ro antibodies were significantly associated with different phenotypic features in CTDs, indicating the potential diagnostic and prognostic value of these antibodies in clinical practice.

REFERENCE:

TABLE 1 Comparison of clinical features in patients with connective tissue diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>A: Ro60 alone</th>
<th>B: Ro52 alone</th>
<th>C: Ro60 and Ro52</th>
<th>Group B vs. Group C</th>
<th>Group A vs. Group C</th>
<th>Group A vs. Group B</th>
<th>Overall p values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skin rash</td>
<td>349/26.5(40/23.7)</td>
<td>101/35.7</td>
<td>208/24.0</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.928</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>512/38.8</td>
<td>72/46.4</td>
<td>164/58.0</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myalgia</td>
<td>80/6.1</td>
<td>16/9.5</td>
<td>26/9.2</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xerophthalmia</td>
<td>27/21.0</td>
<td>31/18.3</td>
<td>39/13.8</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xeroptosis</td>
<td>31/23.5</td>
<td>34/20.1</td>
<td>14/7.6</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>375/28.3</td>
<td>43/23.5</td>
<td>17/8.2</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.079</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukocytopenia</td>
<td>295/22.2</td>
<td>62/16.0</td>
<td>61/21.6</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.041</td>
<td>0.446</td>
<td>0.114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrombocytopenia</td>
<td>128/9.7</td>
<td>11/6.5</td>
<td>27/9.5</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.261</td>
<td>0.121</td>
<td>0.685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria</td>
<td>208/15.8</td>
<td>81/5.9</td>
<td>53/18.7</td>
<td>15/6.7</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
<td>0.438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematuria</td>
<td>9/7.5</td>
<td>3/1.8</td>
<td>29/10.2</td>
<td>6/7.7</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.183</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILD</td>
<td>21/16.0</td>
<td>60/35.5</td>
<td>52/11.3</td>
<td>119/13.7</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
<td>0.296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAH</td>
<td>63/4.8</td>
<td>17/10.1</td>
<td>15/5.3</td>
<td>31/3.6</td>
<td>0.056</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
<td>0.199</td>
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<tr>
<td>RP</td>
<td>88/6.7</td>
<td>18/10.7</td>
<td>22/7.8</td>
<td>48/5.5</td>
<td>0.297</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ILD: interstitial lung disease; P AH: pulmonary arterial hypertension; RP: Raynaud’s phenomenon

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.639

POS1488

LUPUS DAMAGE INDEX REVISION – INITIAL ITEM REDUCTION PHASE

Keywords: Organ damage, Systemic lupus erythematosus

B. Kundakci1, M. Barber2, A. E. Clarke2, S. Johnson3, I. N. Bruce1, 1University of Manchester Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, Manchester; United Kingdom; 2University of Calgary, Division of Rheumatology, Cumming School of Medicine, Calgary, Canada; 3University of Toronto, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Krembil Research Institute, Toronto Western and Mount Sinai Hospitals; Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, Toronto, Canada

Background: An international initiative is underway to develop a revised systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) organ damage index (SDI) using a multi-phase process that is supported by the SLE International Collaborating Clinics (SILICC), American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and Lupus Foundation of America (LFA). The first two phases (evaluating the construct of damage and item generation through literature review and an international Delphi exercise) were previously reported [1,2], and 220 candidate items were generated.

Objectives: To report the initial reduction phase results of a five-phase process for developing a revised SDI.

Methods: An international two-part Delphi exercise asked SLE experts and patients to rate 220 items for how appropriate they were for inclusion in a revised SDI on a 9-point Likert scale (where 1 = not at all appropriate and 9 = completely appropriate) considering the new construct of damage in SLE [1]. The definitions of items in plain English were provided for the patient representatives. In the first part of the item reduction Delphi round, participants were asked to suggest any additional items. In the subsequent Delphi round, participants were presented their own rating, median scores and 25th-75th percentiles for each item. They were given the opportunity to revise their rating. Items with ratings less than or equal to 4.0 or 9.0 were considered for removal.

Results: A total of 143 out of 146 participants who completed the first round Delphi for the item generation were invited for the item reduction rounds. Completion rates for the second and third Delphi rounds for the item reduction were 95% and 91.7% respectively. Appropriateness rating scores included the full range of scoring possibilities from 1 to 9. Participants suggested 53 potentially new items, however only 6 were retained, as others were duplicates or invalid.

226 items were presented to re-rate for appropriateness. There was stability in terms of summary median scores and 25%-75% percentiles for each item. Thirty-six items had a median score of less than or equal to 4. Figure 1 shows the number of candidate items identified at different stages of the project. All original SDI items were retained with group median appropriateness scores of 7, 8 and 9; the exceptions were upper gastrointestinal tract surgery (median appropriateness score 5) and osteomyelitis (median appropriateness score 5).

Figure 1. Number of candidate items identified at different stages of Phase II/III during revised SDI development

Phase II: Item generation

220 candidate items

Phase II: Item generation (expansion) (Additional items coming from second Delphi round)

226 candidate items

Phase III: Item reduction (Initial item reduction) (Median scores of 4 or less were removed)

190 candidate items

Keywords: Organ damage, Systemic lupus erythematosus
Conclusion: The item reduction phase using Delphi methods reduced the candidate items for consideration. All original 1996 SDI [3] items were retained in this step. Further steps are now underway to refine and rationalize this candidate list.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We thank the revised SDI collaborators for their valuable input. The project is supported by LFA, SLICC and ACR.


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POS1490 WITHDRAWN

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus

M. Fredi1, S. Bertocchi1, E. Pedretti1, R. Rovelli1, A. Drera2, F. Ravasio2, M. Riccardi2, L. Serafini2, I. Cavazzana1, E. Vizzardi2, F. Franceschini1.
1ASST Spedali Civili and University of Brescia, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Brescia, Italy; 2ASST Spedali Civili and University of Brescia, Cardiology Unit, Brescia, Italy

Background: Cardiovascular involvement is common in patients with SLE and heart rhythm disorders are frequent in addition to the manifestations included in the classification criteria ACR/EULAR 2019. Previous studies provided evidence that anti-Ro/SSA-positivity is an independent risk factor for marked QTc prolongation; suggesting that subjects who are anti-Ro/SSA-positive may represent a subgroup with an increased predisposition to ventricular arrhythmias, particularly when other QT-prolonging risk factors are concomitantly present [1].

Objectives: The aim of this study is to estimate the prevalence of QTc-prolongation in a monocentric cohort and to evaluate possible correlation with the presence of anti-Ro/SSA-antibodies and other QT-prolonging risk factors.
Methods: An electrocardiographic study (EGC) was proposed to patients affected by SLE consecutively attending our Lupus Clinic from November 2021 to March 2022. All subjects were tested for anti-Ro/SSA-antibodies. Exclusion criteria included: severe valvulopathies, hypertrophic or dilated cardiomyopathy, previous implantation of pacemaker or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator. QTc measurement was calculated using the Bazett’s formula and QTc-prolongation was defined according to American College of Cardiology (ACC)/American Heart Association (AHA) recommendations (QTc>470 ms for males, QTc>480 ms for females) [2]. Data on 24-hour ECG holter were available in 26 patients.

Results: One hundred and forty-one patients with SLE, consecutively attending our clinic, accepted to undergo an ECG, 128 (91%) females, 13 (9%) males; 124 (88%) Caucasians (median age 53.2 [IQR 42.3-58.7], median disease duration 20.0 years [12.0-28.2]). Median QTc was 415 ms [IQR 394-436]; only 4/141 (2.8%) all Caucasian and female, had a prolonged QTc (Table 1).

Table 1 Features of patients with prolonged QTc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>age</th>
<th>Anti-Ro/SSA</th>
<th>QTc</th>
<th>Cardiological history</th>
<th>HCO therapy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>492 ms</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>488 ms</td>
<td>HT, D</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>480 ms</td>
<td>HT</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>508 ms</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HT: hypertension, D: dyslipidaemia

Sixty-eight (48%) patients were positive for anti-Ro/SSA-antibodies. No significant differences were observed between anti-Ro/SSA-positive vs. negative patients in term of QTc intervals [416.0 [395-437] ms vs 413.0 [392-432] ms; p=0.545] using Mann-Whitney Test. Other electrocardiographic alterations were found: 4 first-degree atrioventricular blocks, 25 bundle branch blocks (BBB), 31 repolarization anomalies, 1 Wolff-Parkinson-White. Patients were grouped according to hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) therapy and antibody profile into 4 groups: HCQ+Ro/SSA+ (58, 39.7%), HCQ+Ro/SSA-/ (58, 41.1%), HCQ-Ro/SSA+ (12, 8.5%) and HCQ-Ro/SSA- (15, 106%); no statistical differences (p=0.178) were observed in QTc length comparing the 4 groups using ANOVA test. Twenty-six (18.4%) underwent a 24-hour ECG holter evaluation. None of these patients had a QTc prolongation, and no major electrocardiographic anomalies were found. These patients were divided in 4 groups (as previously done for all patients). No statistical differences were found comparing the QTc of groups of patients (p=0.783).

Conclusion: These preliminary data show a lower prevalence of QTc prolongation compared to previous studies, with no differences between anti-Ro/SSA-positive and anti-Ro/SSA-negative patients. Otherwise, considering previous studies which observed a role of anti-Ro/SSA antibodies as an independent risk factor for QTc prolongation, further analysis will be performed in order to identify standardized markers for cardiovascular risk stratification. The evaluation of 24-hour ECG Holter in a larger number of patients and the characterization of anti-Ro/SSA (anti-Ro/SSA-52kD and anti-Ro/SSA-60kD) are ongoing.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1492 FIBROMYALGIA AND GLUCOCORTICOID USE DRIVES SELF-PERCEIVED DEPRESSION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: INSIGHTS FROM A LARGE PROSPECTIVE AND MULTICENTER STUDY USING REALISER-PROS REGISTER’S DATABASE

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus

I. Pua-Figueroa1, J. Martinez-Barrío1, N. Jiménez2, M. Galindo-Izquierdo3, E. Uriarte Icarayet4, A. Fernandez-Nebro5, J. Calvo6, S. Manrique Arija4, J. Rosas6, R. Caro-Alameda7, J. Narváez7, I. Pos8, E. Aurrecochea8, V. Torrente Segarra8, C. Sanguesa9, M. Frías González10, E. Tomero Muriel8, L. Horcada11, C. Morian10, M. Moreno10, C. L. Íñiguez12, R. Blanco12, A. Pérez Gómez13, J. L. Andrés Sánchez13, S. Garrote-Corral14, S. Muñoz-Fernández21, G. Bonilla21, N. Lozano Rivas22, C. A. Montilla-Morales23, O. IbaruguenGóttia24, L. Expósito25, E. Valls-Pascual26, A. Pecondon-Español27, S. Machín27, E. Salgado Perez28, M. C. Enauscun1, T. C. Salmon Montesa9, R. Menor10, Amargoa8, A. Muñoz Jiménez21, J. I. Altabás González29, J. J. Fragio Gil30, J. M. Pego-Reigosa31, Hospital de Gran Canaria Doctor Negrín, Rheumatology, Las Palmas GC, Spain;2Hospital Gregorio Marañón, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;3Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Galicia Sur, IRIDIS Group, Vigo, Spain;4University Hospital October 12, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;5Donostia University Hospital, Rheumatology, Donostia, Spain;6Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga, Rheumatology, Málaga, Spain;7Araba University Hospital, Rheumatology, Gasteiz, Spain;8Hospital Marina Baixa, Rheumatology, Villajoyosa, Spain;9General University Hospital of Alcantar, Rheumatology, Alcantar, Spain;10Bellvitge University Hospital, Rheumatology, L'Hôpital de Llobregat, Spain;11Son Llàtzer Hospital, Rheumatology, Palma, Spain;12Hospital Sierras Llana, Rheumatology, Torrelavega, Spain;13Hospital de Sant Joan Despí Mixtes Broggi, Rheumatology, Sant Joan Despí, Spain;14Germans Trias i Pujol Hospital, Rheumatology, Badalona, Spain;15CHUAC University Hospital of Ac Orufa, Rheumatology, A. Coruña, Spain;16Hospital de La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;17Navarra Hospital Complex - Navarra Hospital, Rheumatology, Pamplona, Spain;18University Hospital of León, Rheumatology, León, Spain;19Hospital Parc Taulí de Sabadell, Rheumatology, Sabadell, Spain;20Hospital Lugo, Rheumatology, Lugo, Spain;21Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain;22Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, Rheumatology, Alcalá de Henares, Spain;23Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda University Hospital, Rheumatology, Majadahonda, Spain;24Ramón y Cajal Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;25Infanta Sofia University Hospital, Rheumatology, San Sebastián de los Reyes, Spain;26La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;27Hospital Clínico Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca, Rheumatology, El Palmar, Spain;28Salamanca University Hospital, Rheumatology, Salamanca, Spain;29Basurto University Hospital, Rheumatology, Bilbo, Spain;30Hospital Universitario de Canarias, Rheumatology, La Laguna, Spain;31Doctor Peset University Hospital, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain;32Miguel Servet University Hospital, Rheumatology, Zaragoza, Spain;33Hospital Materno Infantil de Gran Canaria, Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain;34Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de Ourense - CHOU, Rheumatology, Ourense, Spain;35Hospital del Mar, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain;36Hospital Universitario De Jerez, Rheumatology, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain;37Virgen del Rocío University Hospital, Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain;38Hospital do Meixoeiro, Rheumatology, Vigo, Spain;39La Fe University and Polytechnic Hospital, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain

Background: The prevalence of depression and associated factors in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) are not well known and there are no longitudinal studies addressing this relevant subject in SLE.

Objective: We aimed to evaluate the prevalence of self-perceived depression in patients with SLE and associated factors in a large, multicenter cohort (REALISER-PROS). 

Methods: Prospective longitudinal study of patients with SLE (1997 ACR criteria) answering positively to the depression question of the Lupus Impact Tracker (LIT) questionnaire (namely: “I was depressed” question number 7 (LITQ7), over 4 years of follow-up (5 annual visits, V1 to V5). Self-perceived depression was addressed as “depression any time” or “depression most of time”, according to the kind of answer to the LITQ7 (answers 1,2 or 3 and answers 3 or 4 respectively). Only patients with no missing values in the covariates, making possible run longitudinal models, were included in the multivariable analysis. The following covariates, with potential impact in depression, were considered: SLEDAI, age, etc.
duration of the disease, SLICC/ACR DI (SDI), fibromyalgia, Charlson index, smoking, BMI, menopause, sedentary lifestyle, marital status, unemployment and glucocorticoid use. Friedman test was used to test if the change in repeated measures was significative. Generalized estimating equation (GEE) models with binomial response, were built exploring the associations of individual longitudinal determinants with longitudinal assessment of depression. The best model was selected using quasi-likelihood under the independence model information criterion (QIC).

**Results:** A total of 1463 were included. Mean age: 55 (DS±13.59) years, 90% were female. Mean duration of the disease: 14 (±8.59) years. Fibromyalgia was present in 5.7% (76/1343). Corticosteroids use ranged from 49.4% to 57%, depending on the visit. Median SLLEDAI ranged from 0 to 2 and SDI ranged from 1 to 2. Prevalence of “depression any time” was 89.9% (1104/1228) and 34.6% (200/578) were in depression “most of time” Up to 26.5% (153/578) answered to LITQ7 “depression most of time” in the five visits; 89.7% of the patients which perceived themselves as depressed at least in 2 out of 5 visits. Only 6.9% of the patients with previous diagnosis of depression answered “0” to the Q7 of LIT (“none of the time”). Only following covariates showed changes, statistically significant, during the follow up: SLEDAI, SDI, Charlson and glucocorticoids use (Friedman test). Patients with “depression any time” develop more damage at V5 than patients without depression (answer to LITQ7=0) (p = 0.0093, T-test). In the GEE binomial analysis considering all the predefined covariates, that included only patients with no missing values for any of them (namely, 155 patients), fibromyalgia (OR 2.79; 95%CI: 1.28-6.05), unemployment (OR 1.95; 95%CI 1.02 -3.73), and glucocorticoids use (OR 1.88; 95%CI 1.18-2.99) were significant associated with “depression any time”.The best model (accoring QIC) displayed a statistically significant association only with fibromyalgia (OR 2.90; 95%CI: 1.58-5.33) and glucocorticoids use (OR 1.85; 95%CI: 1.17-2.93). Neither SDI nor unemployment reached significance only with fibromyalgia (OR 2.90; 95%CI: 1.58-5.33) and glucocorticoids use (OR 1.85; 95%CI 1.17-2.93). No SDI nor unemployment reached significance just (Table 1). Without entering glucocorticoids, SLLEDAI turns significative only with fibromyalgia (OR 2.79; 95%CI: 1.28-6.05), unemployment (OR 1.95; 95%CI 1.02 -3.73), and glucocorticoids use (OR 1.85; 95%CI 1.17-2.93). Neither SDI nor unemployment reached significance only with fibromyalgia (OR 2.90; 95%CI: 1.58-5.33) and glucocorticoids use (OR 1.85; 95%CI 1.17-2.93). Neither SDI nor unemployment reached significance only with fibromyalgia (OR 2.90; 95%CI: 1.58-5.33) and glucocorticoids use (OR 1.85; 95%CI 1.17-2.93). Neither SDI nor unemployment reached significance only with fibromyalgia (OR 2.90; 95%CI: 1.58-5.33) and glucocorticoids use (OR 1.85; 95%CI 1.17-2.93).

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of self-perceived depression is high in SLE. Longitudinal data analysis suggests a causal relationship between glucocorticoids use, fibromyalgia and self-perceived depression.

**Table 1.** best multivariable GEE model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OR</th>
<th>Lower limit</th>
<th>Upper limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Intercept)</td>
<td>0.121</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI</td>
<td>1.066</td>
<td>0.991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLICC/ACR DI</td>
<td>1.138</td>
<td>0.962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.022</td>
<td>0.994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
<td>2.898</td>
<td>1.576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>1.485</td>
<td>0.685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>0.972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low incomes</td>
<td>1.726</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids use</td>
<td>1.853</td>
<td>1.173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single marital status</td>
<td>1.292</td>
<td>0.766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QICC: 1006.75SLICC/ACR DI: SLICC/ACR damage index; BMI: body mass index

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**REFERENCES:**

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SLE, Sjögren’s and APS - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

HOSPITALIZATIONS DUE TO INFECTIONS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: CAUSES AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Infection-related RMDs

L. García1, R. Quintana1, C. Gobbi1, P. Alba1, S. Roverano1, A. Alvarez1, C. Graf1, C. Pisoni1, A. Spindler1, C. Gomez1, H. M. Figueredo1, S. Papasidero1, R. H. Paniego1, M. De la Vega1, E. Civit De Garignani1, L. Gonzalez Lucero1, V. Martín1, R. Aguila Maidanado1, S. A. Gordon Dolimpo1, M. L. Miceli1, R. Nieto1, G. Rauch1, V. Góngora1, M. A. d’Amico1, Dubinsky1, A. O. Orden1, J. Zacariaz1, J. Romero1, M. A. Pera1, M. A. Goh1, O. Rillo1, R. Baez1, V. Arturi1, A. Gonzalez1, F. Vivero1, M. E. Bedoya1, M. Schmid1, V. Caputo1, M. S. Larroude1, N. Dominguez1, B. Pons-Estel1, G. Pons-Estel1, V. I. Bellomio1, M. García1. GESAR LES, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Background: The pathophysiology of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) involves genetic and acquired immune dysregulation, both of which predispose patients to infection. Infections are a leading cause of hospital admission, intensive care unit admission and death.

Objectives: To evaluate the frequency and associated factors of hospitalizations due to infections in patients with SLE.

Methods: Cross-sectional study carried out with the RELESSAR trans registry. Patients with SLE (ACR 1997 criteria) were included. Sociodemographic variables, autoantibodies, manifestations of the disease, comorbidities and activity and chronicity index were analyzed. A serious infection was defined as one that required hospitalization. We evaluated number and localization of the infections, microorganisms and treatments received during the admissions and these variables were compared between patients hospitalized versus not hospitalized.

Results: A total of 1515 patients participated in the registry and 815 patients had been admitted: 41 cases were hospitalized due to infection exclusively and 162 patients of both infection and flare of the disease (total = 203). The mean time of admissions was 1.42 (SD 0.99). Graphic 1 shows the number of serious infections per patient. The most frequent localization was the respiratory tract and bacterial were the most frequently microorganism isolated. We compared 203 patients and 646 patients not hospitalized (Table 1). In multivariate analysis, age at SLE diagnosis (OR 0.96 95%CI 0.94-0.98, p< 0.001), level of education (OR 0.89 95%CI 0.83-0.94, p< 0.001), pericarditis (OR 3.25 95%CI 1.89-5.60, p< 0.001), low complement (OR 0.16 95%CI 1.33-10.10, p< 0.001), SLICC index (OR 1.98 95%CI 1.61-2.37, p< 0.001) and 10-30 mg/dl of prednisone (OR 3.70 95%CI 1.66-9.00, p< 0.002), 30-60mg/dl of prednisone (OR 8.40 95%CI 3.58-21.5, p< 0.001), azathioprine (OR 1.67 95%CI 1.02-2.73, p= 0.042), mycophenolate (OR 2.15 95%CI 1.27-3.67, p=0.005) and IgG (OR 8.25 95%CI 2.33-39.3, p<0.003) were variables independently associated to hospitalization due to infection.

Conclusion: Almost 25% of patients presented at least one hospitalization due to infection, being the respiratory infections the most frequent. Lower age at diagnosis, lower educational level, higher damage score, low complement, pericarditis, high steroids doses and immunosuppressant increased the chance of having an admission due to serious infection. As well as the treatment with IgG, an association that we can only explain by the reason that we only indicate it in severe and active infected patients.

REFERENCE:


Table 1. Comparison between hospitalized due to infections and non hospitalized patients of RELESSAR-T registry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Hospitalization due Non hospitalized Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at SLE diagnosis</td>
<td>25.4 [18.9, 36.4]</td>
<td>30.6 [23.0, 40.7]</td>
<td>29.1 [21.9, 39.2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median [Q1, Q3]</td>
<td>10.9 (3.76)</td>
<td>12.7 (3.95)</td>
<td>12.3 (3.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericarditis</td>
<td>76 (37.6%)</td>
<td>68 (10.6%)</td>
<td>144 (17.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupus Nephritis</td>
<td>121 (59.6%)</td>
<td>160 (25.0%)</td>
<td>281 (32.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convulsion</td>
<td>23 (11.3%)</td>
<td>22 (3.45%)</td>
<td>45 (5.36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-DNA</td>
<td>160 (78.8%)</td>
<td>370 (58.4%)</td>
<td>530 (63.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low complement</td>
<td>136 (68.0%)</td>
<td>333 (53.7%)</td>
<td>469 (57.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlson index</td>
<td>2.00 [1.00, 3.00]</td>
<td>1.00 [1.00, 3.00]</td>
<td>1.00 [1.00, 3.00]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median [Q1, Q3]</td>
<td>1.00 (1.00, 3.00)</td>
<td>0 [0, 1.00]</td>
<td>1.00 [1.00, 1.00]</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLICC index</td>
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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

POS1495

LOW INTENSITY OF C1Q DEPOSITION WITH RENAL IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE PREDICTS LONG-TERM POOR RENAL PROGNOSIS IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Prognostic factors, Kidneys

K. Hiramoto1, H. Hanakaki1, K. Saito1, H. Fukui1, J. Kikuchi1, S. Saito1, Y. Kaneko1. 1Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Although the prognosis of lupus nephritis (LN) has been improved due to recent advances in diagnosis and treatment, its long-term renal outcome is still poor. In spite of previous studies that investigated a number of prognostic factors, association of long-term renal outcome with renal histological findings focusing on immunofluorescence has been little elucidated.

Objectives: To clarify renal histological and immunofluorescent findings associated with deterioration of renal function in LN.

Methods: Consecutive patients with biopsy-proven LN class III/IV from 2008 to 2017 in our hospital were included in the study. They were classified into two groups: patients with deterioration of renal function and those without. The deterioration of renal function was defined as more than 30% decline in estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) from baseline. Clinical characteristics and renal histological findings with immunofluorescence at the time of LN diagnosis were compared between the two groups.

Results: Sixty-nine patients (class III/IV; 34; class III/IV-V; 21; class V 14) were included in the analysis. Renal function was deteriorated during 5 years observation in 12 patient (17.4%). There was no significant difference in age (48 vs 42 years, p=0.16), disease duration (11.4 vs 9.8 years, p=0.65), and urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio (2.3 vs 2.5 g/gCr, p=0.58) between the deterioration and non-deterioration groups. The treatment regimens including maximum prednisolone dose (41 vs 47 mg/day, p=0.14), cyclophosphamide use (42 vs 54%, p=0.53) and mycophenolate mofetil use (0 vs 24%, p=0.11) were also not different. Regarding renal histopathological findings, while proportion of III/IV class (83 vs 79%, p=1.00), activity index (1 vs 4, p=0.14), and chronicity index (4 vs 3, p=0.19) were not different between the two groups, intensity of C1q deposition in renal immunofluorescence was significantly weaker in the deterioration group than the non-deterioration group; proportion of C1q deposition in renal immunofluorescence ≥1+ was 100% in the deterioration group compared to 47% in the non-deterioration group (p=0.006). When we divided the patients according to the intensity of C1q deposition, the cumulative deterioration rates of renal function were significantly different (p=0.01, Figure 1). The patients with low intensity of C1q deposition (≤1) had a lower positivity of serum anti-dsDNA antibody (75 vs 96%, p=0.04) and a higher serum C3 levels (54 vs 40 mg/dl, p=0.03) at LN diagnosis. Anti-SSA antibodies tended to be higher in the deterioration group than the non-deterioration group (80 vs 64%, p=0.43).
Conclusion: Low C1q deposition in renal immunofluorescence at LN diagnosis is associated with poor renal prognosis in LN.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

K. Y oneda1,2, Y . Ueda1,2, H. Y amada1,2, K. Nishimura1,2, S. Sendo1,2, Syndrome Keywords: Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) or Mixed Connective tissue diseases (MCTD). Sev-

Methods: We evaluated 704 patients, including 66 (obstetric or thrombotic) APS, 78 asymptomatic aPL carriers, that comorbid 260 Systemic Analysis of Anti-HLA-DR Antibodies in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Patients

Figure 1. Comparison of ROC curves between multivariate models and reclassification analysis

Table 1. Univariable and Multivariable logistic regression analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>(1.00-1.03)</td>
<td>0.272</td>
<td>(0.93-0.92)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>(1.00-1.02)</td>
<td>0.998</td>
<td>(0.42-2.34)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>(0.99-1.00)</td>
<td>1.009</td>
<td>(0.96-1.05)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>(0.99-1.01)</td>
<td>1.019</td>
<td>(0.96-1.06)</td>
<td>0.896</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
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<td>(0.99-1.01)</td>
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<td>(0.96-1.05)</td>
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<td>2GPI</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>(0.99-1.01)</td>
<td>1.004</td>
<td>(0.96-1.05)</td>
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<td>HLA-DR</td>
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<td>(0.99-1.01)</td>
<td>1.004</td>
<td>(0.96-1.05)</td>
<td>0.906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.

Disclosure of Interests: Katsuhiko Y oneda: None declared, Yo Ueda: None declared, Hirotaka Yamada: None declared, Keisuke Nishimura: None declared, Shin Sendo Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Chugai, Kenji Tanimura: None declared, Hisashi Arase: None declared, Hideto Yamada: None declared, Jun Saegusa: None declared.

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POS1497

PREVALENCE OF SARCOPENIA IN WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Sarcopenia, Motor function, Systemic lupus erythematosus

E. Pena1, R. Cavalcante De Espirito Santo2, L. Dos Santos1, L. Denardi Dória1, S. Pilotti1, D. Nóbrega de Moraes1, A. L. Mallmann1, A. A. Gasparin1, V. Hax1, T. Muniz Fighra2, P. M. Spritzer2, R. Chakr1, R. Xavier1, O. Monticielo4, Teixeira Keijinkai Hospital, Center for Recurrent Pregnancy Loss, Sapporo, Japan

Background: Sarcopenia is a muscle disease that leads to decreased physical functionality, increased risk of falls, fractures, hospitalization and mortality [4,5]. The sarcopenia still needs to be better understood in SLE. Therefore, more studies are necessary to assess the sarcopenia prevalence and the impact on SLE patients.

Methods: This was a single-center, retrospective longitudinal study of female patients in our center from 2020 to 2021. Clinical and laboratory data were retrieved from medical records and questionnaires. Anti-β2GPI/HLA-DR antibody is associated with arterial thrombosis

Results: We evaluated 704 patients, including 66 (obstetric or thrombotic) APS, 13 primary APS, and 78 asymptomatic aPL carriers, that comorbid 260 Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) or Mixed Connective tissue diseases (MCTD). Seventy-seven patients had one or more histories of arterial thrombosis, and 14 patients of them had a history of both arterial and venous thrombosis. The titers were significantly higher in patients with arterial and venous thrombosis than in those without thrombosis. In cases with aGAPSS<10 or triple positive aPL, the titers tended to be higher. The ROC showed that the sensitivity, specificity, and area under the curve (AUC) for arterial thrombosis were 33.8%, 91.4%, and 0.60 with a cutoff value of 172.359 U/ml. By the multivariable logistic regression analysis from multiple imputation, the odds ratio of anti-β2GPI/HLA-DR antibody ≥172.359 was 5.11(95% confidence interval: 2.84-9.19; P<0.001) (Table 1). When adding the cutoff value to conventional cardiovascular risk factors improved the AUC from 0.677 to 0.730 (p = 0.088). Determined net reclassification improvement and integrated discrimination improvement were statistically significant (Figure 1). Conclusion: Anti-β2GPI/HLA-DR antibody is associated with arterial thrombosis in females with various systemic rheumatic diseases.

REFERENCES:

FOllOW-UP MONOCENTRIC COHORT WITH UP TO 40 YEARS OF EVENTs IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ErythematOSUS

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of sarcopenia in SLE patients and its associations with clinical parameters.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, women with SLE (18 to 50 years old) were included. The following data were collected: disease duration, disease chronicity (SLICC/ACR-DI), disease activity (SLEDAI-2k), treatment regimen, quality of life (SLEQoL), physical activity level (IPAQ, min/week), muscle strength by handgrip test (kg) and chair stand tests (seconds), Appendicular skeletal muscle mass (ASM, kg) was evaluated. The mean of SLE disease activity index by IPAQ was 58.3 ± 40.50 min/week. The majority of patients (83.7%) showed low physical activity level (IPAQ). The patients presented muscle strength by the handgrip test of 24.7 ± 9.01 kg and 14.3 ± 6.68 kg using the chair stand test. Eight patients (16.3%) showed low muscle strength by the handgrip test and twenty-four patients (49%) showed low muscle strength by the chair stand test. The mean of ASM was 17.03 ± 2.32 kg. Ten patients (20.4%) had low muscle mass. The prevalence of sarcopenia was 16.3% following the EWGSOP2 criteria. On the other hand, we did not find severe sarcopenia. In addition, we did not find a relationship among sarcopenia and age, disease duration, disease chronicity, disease activity, cumulative corticosteroid dose, quality of life, and physical activity level (p > 0.05).

Conclusion: The prevalence of sarcopenia was 16.3% in patients with SLE. Almost half of our patients had low muscle strength in the chair stand test (49%) and only 16.3% had low muscle strength by handgrip test. Furthermore, sarcopenia is not associated with clinical parameters. Therefore, further studies should be developed to assess risk factors for sarcopenia in patients with SLE.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: We wish to thank the Fundo de Incentivo à Pesquisa e Eventos (FITEP) of the Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre and the research support fund of the Sociedade de Reumatologia do Rio Grande do Sul for the financial support.

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POS1498

COMORBIDITIES AND SAFETY EVENTS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Epidemiology

W. Krueger1, D. Feger1, A. Friedman2, T. Doan3, K. D'Silva3, AbbVie, Global Epidemiology, Pharmacovigilance & Patient Safety, North Chicago, United States of America; 2AbbVie, Immunology, North Chicago, United States of America

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a complex autoimmune disease with multiorgan involvement. High disease activity may drive the development of comorbidities and safety events in SLE.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of comorbidities and history of safety events at the time of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index (SLEDAI) assessment and the incidence of newly diagnosed comorbidities and safety events post-SLEDAI assessment among a prevalent cohort of adult SLE patients ≥18 years old.

Methods: This was a retrospective observational cohort study using the OM1 SLE Registry data from January 2013 to February 2022 (OM1, Inc., Boston, MA). The index date was defined as the first observed or estimated SLEDAI score with the occurrence of safety event or occurrence of SLE case over a 6-month risk period. The baseline period included all observed time prior to and including the index date. The follow-up period for identifying incident comorbidities and safety events included all available data after the index date. Incidence rates were stratified by disease activity.

Results: Among 10,837 patients, mean age was 52 years and 92% were female. The most common existing comorbidities were hypertension (44%), fibromyalgia (32%), anemia (29%), dyslipidemia (29%), thyroid disease (26%), obesity (25%), depression (22%), rheumatoid arthritis (22%), anxiety (19%), and Sjögren’s syndrome (18%). History of safety events at baseline most commonly included any infection (11%), abdominal liver function tests, hepatitis, or acute liver injury (ALI) (8%), elevated creatinine or acute kidney injury (AKI) (6%), and any malignancy (5%). Most patients were treated with first-line therapy for SLE (glucocorticoids and/or immunosuppressants) during follow-up (89%). Use of second-line (methotrexate, azathioprine, leflunomide) and third-line (belimumab, anifrolumab, mycophenolate mofetil, mycophenolic acid, tacrolimus, cyclosporine, vopoconitin, rituximab) SLE therapies were less common (29% and 30%, respectively). During follow-up, 36% of patients had no disease activity, 28% had mild activity, 22% had moderate activity, and 14% had severe activity. Greater disease activity was associated with higher rates of incident hypertension, dyslipidemia, anxiety, thyroid disease, end-stage renal disease or dialysis, chronic liver disease/cirrhosis, avascular necrosis, seizures or epilepsy, and Sjögren’s syndrome. The most common incident safety events regardless of disease activity were the infection (30.7 per 1000 person-year [PY]), abnormal liver function tests, hepatitis, or ALI (20.3 per 1000 PY), and elevated creatinine or AKI (17.9 per 1000 PY). Correlation between incident safety events and disease activity varied by outcome.

Conclusion: Many common comorbidities occur more frequently among patients with higher SLE disease activity. The association between disease activity and the incidence of safety events was less clear. SLE-related systemic inflammation, comorbidities, and effects of SLE treatment (both positive and negative) likely contribute to patients’ risk profiles.

Table 1. Incidence Rates per 1000 person-years Stratified by Index SLEDAI Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comorbidity or Safety Event</th>
<th>No Activity</th>
<th>Mild</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Severe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=3,919</td>
<td>N=2,413</td>
<td>N=2,413</td>
<td>N=1,483</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>43.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid disease</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-stage renal disease or dialysis</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic liver disease</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avascular necrosis</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seizures or epilepsy</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sjögren’s syndrome</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal liver function</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal kidney function</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any infection</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major adverse cardiovascular events</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venous thromboembolism</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any malignancy</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disease activity cutoffs: No activity (SLEDAI=0), low (SLEDAI=1–5), moderate (SLEDAI=6–10), severe (SLEDAI=11+)

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POS1499

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN A MONOCENTRIC COHORT WITH UP TO 40 YEARS OF FOLLOW-UP

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cardiovascular disease, Anti-phospholipid syndrome

N. Farina1, J. Webster2, W. Luo2, D. Garelick2, S. Moreira Pinto4, D. Isenberg2, A. Rahman3, 1IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology; Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy; 2University College London, Centre for Rheumatology Research, Division of Medicine, 4Institut für Klinische Medizin, Technische Universität München; 3The Zabludowicz Center for Autoimmune Diseases, Rheumatology Unit, TelHashomer, Israel; 4Centre Hospitalier Póvoa de Varzim e Vila do Conde, Internal Medicine Service, Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is associated with an increased cardiovascular risk. Several traditional and disease-specific risk factors have been shown to correlate with the occurrence of cardiovascular events (CVE) in patients with SLE. However, results of previous studies are diverse.
Objectives: The objectives of this study were to report number, type and those factors associated with CVE in patients with SLE in a large, single-centre, ethnically diverse cohort with a long follow-up duration.

Methods: Medical records of patients treated at the Lupus Clinic at University College London Hospital (UCLH) between 1979 and 2020 were retrospectively reviewed. Data about CVE, traditional cardiovascular risk factors, demographic and disease features, and treatment history were collected. Only patients with complete available information were included in the study. Regression analyses were performed to identify factors associated with CVE.

Results: Four hundred and nineteen patients were included in the study. Maximum follow-up length was 40 years. Seventy-one (17%) patients had at least one CVE. Forty (50%) events were VTE, 26 (32.5%) were CVA, and 14 (17.5%) were CAD. Mean age at CVE was 44 (SD 12) years. Median time from diagnosis to CVE was 8 (IQR 4-15) years. Descriptive comparative analysis showed an increased prevalence of hypercholesterolemia (41% vs 28%, p-value=0.035), diabetes (10% vs 4%, p-value=0.027), and antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) positivity (58% vs 27%, p-value<0.001) among patients with CVE. Furthermore, these patients were treated less frequently with hydroxychloroquine (80% vs 89%, p-value=0.049). However, univariable analysis (Table 1) showed that only aPL positivity was significantly associated with CVE. This association was confirmed at multivariable analysis (p<0.001). Survival curve for CVE according to the presence of aPL is shown in Figure 1. When analysing different types of CVE, aPL were specifically associated with both venous thromboembolic events (p-value<0.001) and cerebrovascular events (p-value=0.007). Dedicated subanalyses revealed that cumulative glaucomatocoid dose (p-value=0.010) and a diagnosis of SLE before 2000 (p-value<0.001) were also significantly associated with CVE.

Conclusion: Cardiovascular disease is highly prevalent among patients with SLE and is associated with aPL, glucocorticoid therapy, and diagnosis before 2000.

Figure 1. Survival curves for cardiovascular events according to the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies. aPL, antiphospholipid antibodies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covariate</th>
<th>Hazard Ratio</th>
<th>95% Confidence Interval</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis</td>
<td>1.012</td>
<td>0.994 – 1.031</td>
<td>0.178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>0.619</td>
<td>0.307 – 1.250</td>
<td>0.182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian ethnicity</td>
<td>1.379</td>
<td>0.834 – 2.281</td>
<td>0.210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raised BMI (&gt;25kg/m²)</td>
<td>0.948</td>
<td>0.579 – 1.553</td>
<td>0.834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever smoker</td>
<td>1.177</td>
<td>0.713 – 1.942</td>
<td>0.522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypercholesterolemia</td>
<td>1.496</td>
<td>0.921 – 2.429</td>
<td>0.103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>2.165</td>
<td>0.988 – 4.746</td>
<td>0.054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupus nephritis</td>
<td>1.132</td>
<td>0.693 – 1.847</td>
<td>0.619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aDNA positivity</td>
<td>1.050</td>
<td>0.724 – 1.515</td>
<td>0.468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased C3</td>
<td>1.217</td>
<td>0.755 – 1.960</td>
<td>0.419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aPL positivity</td>
<td>2.203</td>
<td>1.975 – 5.201</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>1.632</td>
<td>0.350 – 1.143</td>
<td>0.129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI</td>
<td>0.986</td>
<td>0.788 – 1.235</td>
<td>0.907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

aPL, antiphospholipid antibodies; BMI, body mass index; SDI, Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics Damage Index score.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Table 1 – Matching Criteria for Death Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Death Follow Up</th>
<th>NDI Criteria</th>
<th>Lupus = Cause of Death</th>
<th>Family Reported</th>
<th>Additional Death Records</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>504</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Michelle A Petri Consultant of: MP is a consultant to Alexion, Amgen, AnaptysBio, Argenx, AstraZeneca, Auriøn, Biogen, Caribou Biosciences, CVS Health, EMD Serono, Eli Lilly, Emergent Biosolutions, GSK, IQVIA, Janssen, Kira Pharmaceuticals, MedShr, Sanofi and SinoMab, Grant/ research support from: MP received grant support from GSK, Lilly, Exagen, Thermofisher, AstraZeneca and Auriøn, Joseph Levy: None declared, Urbano Sbarigia Shareholder of: US is an employee of Janssen Pharmaceutica NV,
which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, and owns Johnson & Johnson stock and stock options. Employee of: US is an employee of Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, Daniel Goldman: None declared.

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LUPUSNET – A FEDERATED MODEL/NETWORK TO SUPPORT REAL-WORLD DATA RESEARCH IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Real-world evidence, Registries

J. Schreiber1, M. Van Speybroeck2, F. Zazzetti3, W. Noel2, T. A. Simon4, F. Lavie5, Janssen-Cilag, Immunology, Neuss, Germany; Janssen Pharmaceutica, IT-EMEA, Beerse, Belgium; Janssen Medical Affairs Global Services, LLC, Immunology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Physicians Research Center, LLC, Immunology, NJ, United States of America; The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Rheumatology, Paris, France

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease with a broad range of clinical manifestations and a high unmet need. Real-world data on SLE are available and currently scattered across more than 50 registries worldwide. The Lupus Federated Data Network (LupusNet) is an interdisciplinary initiative that aims to standardize data and harmonize methodology to create a large, global SLE database from existing registries.

Objectives: This initiative will allow the analysis of real-world data across lupus registries worldwide.

Methods: The central paradigm of LupusNet is a federated model whereby the data reside with the respective registries/data owners and analyses are executed at the local center. As data from different sources have different infrastructures, the Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership (OMOP) common data model (CDM) will be used to standardize data into a common format. Standardization will reduce the heterogeneity in data structure and semantics, allowing for uniform data analysis, collaborative research, large-scale analytics, and sharing of sophisticated tools and methodologies. LupusNet will include prospective, observational registries designed to capture real-world data on demographics, treatments, and outcomes in patients with SLE. Other data, including data originating from randomized clinical trials, will also be part of this initiative.

Results: Currently, 6 registries representing 4 regions of the globe and ~30,000 lupus patients are engaged at the start of this initiative. Examples of the types of data from each registry that are available for standardization and harmonization in LupusNet are shown in Figure 1. Other lupus registries that may be interested in participating in this initiative should contact the authors. Participating registries are not required to collect all types of data to be included in the initiative. Contact the LupusNet team at www.lupusnet.org.

Conclusion: Through the standardization of global registry data, LupusNet hopes to demonstrate the potential of real-world evidence to answer important questions related to SLE with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3017

HERPES ZOSTER INCIDENCE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Systemic lupus erythematosus

N. Sternpnieiczka1, A. Steffenst2, K. Kim1, A. Jorga3, C. Beilt4, M. Ducharme5, H. Trenz6, D. Singer1, GSK, Medical Affairs, Philadelphia, United States of America; Optum, HEOR, Eden Prairie, United States of America; GSK, Medical Affairs, New York, United States of America; GSK, Value Evidence and Outcomes, Durham, United States of America

Background: Herpes zoster (HZ) results from reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus and is characterized by a painful dermatomal rash. HZ is associated with increased healthcare costs and reduced patient quality of life.

Objectives: To estimate HZ incidence in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and in a general immunocompetent adult population in the United States.

Methods: This retrospective cohort study used administrative claims data (Optum Research Database) to identify adults (≥18 years) between October 2015 and May 2022 who were assigned to one of two cohorts based on ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes: SLE cohort and immunocompetent cohort. Patients with diagnosis codes for other immunocompromising conditions (ICC) were excluded from the immunocompetent cohort and from the main SLE cohort to create a sub-cohort (SLE without other ICC). The immunocompetent cohort represented a random sample of 1 million individuals meeting the cohort criteria. Indexing occurred at the later of 12 months of continuous enrollment (CE) or the first SLE diagnosis for the SLE cohorts, and after 12 months of CE for the immunocompetent cohort. Patients with HZ vaccination prior to index or a HZ diagnosis in the 12-month baseline period were excluded. Patients were followed for a variable period from index until the earlier of an incident HZ diagnosis or censoring event (HZ vaccination, disenrollment, death, or the end of the study period). Overall incidence rates of HZ were estimated in each cohort and stratified by age at index, and by baseline disease severity for the SLE cohorts using a published algorithm [1].

Results: The SLE cohort included 60,430 patients, among which 21,206 comprised the SLE without other ICC cohort. The immunocompetent cohort included 1,000,000 patients. Mean (standard deviation) age and percent female for the SLE (55 [15] years; 89% female) and for the SLE without other ICC (53 [16] years; 89% female) cohorts were higher compared to the immunocompetent (46 [18] years; 50% female) cohort (p < 0.001). For the SLE cohort, HZ incidence (95% confidence interval [CI]) per 1,000 person-years was 19.72 (18.93-20.55) overall and 16.27 (15.04-17.58) and 21.50 (20.48-22.56) per 1,000 person-years for patients aged 18-49 and ≥ 50 years, respectively. HZ incidence (95% CI) for the SLE without other ICC cohort was 14.03 (12.83-15.32) per 1,000 person-years.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Overall (18-49 years: 11.24 [9.61-13.07]; ≥50 years: 16.08 [14.39-17.91]). HZ incidence (95% CI) for the immunocompetent cohort was 5.45 (5.35-5.74) per 1,000 person-years (18-49 years: 3.46 [3.35-3.57]; ≥50 years: 8.57 [8.37-8.77]). HZ incidence rates in the BLE cohorts increased with baseline disease severity (Table 1).

Conclusion: HZ incidence was high among patients with SLE. HZ prevention strategies in this population may be warranted.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Herpes Zoster Incidence Rates (per 1,000 person-years) for Patients with SLE, Patients with SLE without Other Immunomodelling Conditions, and Immunocompetent Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLE</th>
<th>SLE without Other ICC</th>
<th>Immunocompetent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Incidence rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>60,430</td>
<td>19.72 (18.30-20.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-49</td>
<td>21,167</td>
<td>16.27 (15.04-17.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥50</td>
<td>39,263</td>
<td>21.50 (20.42-22.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline SLE disease severity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>12,434</td>
<td>23.06 (21.10-25.15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus; ICC, immunomodelling conditions; CI, confidence interval; N, number of patients.

Acknowledgements: Business & Decision Life Sciences platform provided editorial assistance and publications coordination, on behalf of GSK. Authors thank Felix Cao, Phyranka Koka, Carrie Song, Lynn Wacha, Mexiu Liu, Christina Landis, Simi Khan (OPTUM) for contribution during the conduct of the study.


POS1504

PREVALENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH LUPUS NEPHROPATHY IN A MULTICENTER REGISTRY IN ARGENTINA (RELESSAR)

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus


1H.I.G.A. San Martín. La Plata, Reumatología, La Plata, Argentina; 2Rosario, Sanatorio Parque S.A. Rosario, Argentina; 3Córdoba, Sanatorio Alcorde, Córdoba, Argentina; 4Hospital Cordobes, Córdoba, Argentina; 5Rosario, Hospital Cullen, Rosario, Argentina; 6H.I.G.A San Martín, Reumatología, La Plata, Argentina; 7Hospital Pampa, Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 8Parana, Reumatología, Parana, Argentina; 9CEMIC, Reumatología, Reumatología, Argentina; 10Centro Médico Privado de Reumatología de Tucumán, Reumatología, San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina; 11Hospital de General de Buenos Aires, Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 12Hospital Italiano, Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 13Hospital in San Martin, Reumatología, La Plata, Argentina; 14Hospital Provincial de Rosario - Santa Fe, Reumatología, Rosario, Argentina; 15Consultorio Privado Retel Rausch - Rio Grande - Tierra del Fuego, Reumatología, Rio Grande, Argentina; 16Hospital San Martín, Parana. Entre Ríos, Reumatología, Parana, Argentina; 17Hospital Pampa, Bahía Blanca, Reumatología, Bahía Blanca, Argentina; 18Hospital de Clínicas José de San Martín - CF Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 19Hospital Aeronáutico Central - CF Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 20Clínica Aevalar San Juan, Reumatología, San Juan, Argentina; 21H.I.G.A San Martin, Reumatología, La Plata, Argentina; 22Centro de Especialidades Médicas Ambulatorias - Rosario - Santa Fe, Reumatología, Rosario, Argentina; 23Hospital Ignacio Pirovano, CABA, Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 24Hospital Dr. Rolando Gómez, Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 25Hospital Central - CF Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 26Hospital Italiano, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 27Hospital de General Roca - Rio Negro, Reumatología, General Roca, Argentina; 28H.I.G.A San Martín, Reumatología, La Plata, Argentina; 29Hospital Provincial de Comunidad, Reumatología, Mar del Plata, Argentina; 30Sanatorio Juncal, Reumatología, Temporéy, Argentina; 31Avellaneda, Reumatología, Avellaneda, Argentina; 32Hospital Italiano, Buenos Aires, Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 33Medical Research Institute Alfredo Lanari, Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 34Centro de
Background: Lupus nephritis (LN) is one of the most frequent serious Lupus manifestations and it is an important risk factor for overall morbidity and mortality in patients with SLE. Despite potent anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive therapies, it persists with a significant number of patients who progress to chronic renal failure. 

Objectives: To evaluate the prevalence of LN and the characteristics of patients with this complication in search of a potential higher risk profile for the development of kidney disease.

Methods: It was a retrospective, observational and analytical study; based on the database of the national registry of SLE of the Argentine Society of Rheumatology (RELESSAR). Adult patients who met the ACR 1997 Classification Criteria for SLE were included. Sociodemographic data, time of disease evolution, and delay in diagnosis were collected. The antibody profile, activity indices (SLEDAI), comorbidities (Charlson), treatments and damage (SDI) were determined. Patients with current or past LN were compared with those without LN.

Results: 1502 patients were analyzed, of which 643 (42.8%) had LN. The predominant histological classes were class IV in 253 cases, class III in 81, class II in 78, and class V in 33 patients. In the univariate analysis, patients with LN were characterized by being more frequently of mestizo origin (p<0.001), having a younger age at entry into the registry (p<0.001), less delay in diagnosis in months (p<0.001) and longer disease duration (<0.001). They also presented higher SLEDAI in the last evaluation (p<0.001) as well as low complement levels (p<0.001) and a higher frequency of positive anti-SM antibodies (p<0.001) and anti-dsDNA antibodies (p<0.001). The treatments received any time were Azathioprine (47.0% vs 7.37%, p< 0.001), mycophenolate mofetil (47.0% vs 7.37%, p< 0.001), mycophenolic Acid (5.59% vs 0.39%, p<0.001) and Belimumab (3.7% vs. 8.03%, p<0.001). The multivariate analysis is described in Table 1.

Conclusion: In the RELESSAR registry, the prevalence of LN was 42.8%. These patients were characterized by being more frequently of mestizo origin, younger at last evaluation, and of lower socioeconomic level. There was also a correlation with the global activity of the disease as well as with low complement levels and anti-SM antibodies positive. Within the comorbidities there was a strong association with arterial hypertension. We also highlight the negative association with acute cutaneous lupus and with the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies.

Table 1. - Result of the multivariate model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>CI</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at last visit</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.94-0.97</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE duration</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>1.00-1.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES Media/low/very low</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1.02-2.71</td>
<td>0.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.06-1.13</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute Cutaneous Lupus</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.42-0.78</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Anti SM antibodies</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>1.06-1.92</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Complement (&gt; than 10 days or persist during the last 10 days</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>2.78-7.65</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Anti phospholipid antibodies</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>1.27-2.39</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterial Hypertension</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.10-4.31</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastroduodenal ulcer</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.17-0.73</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1505

THE IMPACT OF HIGH-RISK ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID ANTIBODES PROFILE ON MAJOR ORGAN DAMAGE PROGRESSION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: CSTAR MULTIPLE PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Organ damage, Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus

D. Yufang1, J. Zhao1, Q. Wang1, X. Tian1, M. Li1, X. Zeng1. 1Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH), Rheumatology, Beijing, China

Background: With the improvement in survival, the prevention of cumulative organ damage has become a major goal in the management of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Patients with autoimmune disease suffered from an increasing risk of cardiovascular disease (23-3 events per 1000 patient-years [1]). Although antiphospholipid (aPLs) antibodies, including anticardiolipin antibodies, anti-β2 glycoprotein I, and lupus anticoagulant, were associated with vascular events in antiphospholipid syndrome, the role of aPLs in SLE patients was not yet determined.

Objectives: Based on the Chinese SLE treatment and research (CSTAR) multi-center prospective study, we aimed to identify the predictive value of high-risk aPLs on cumulative organ damage progression in SLE.

Methods: Demographic characteristics, autoantibody profiles, clinical manifestations, disease activity status, and organ damage were collected at baseline. High-risk aPLs profile was defined according to 2019 EULAR recommendations for APS [2] (the presence of lupus anticoagulant, or double or triple aPL positivity, or the presence of persistently high aPLs titers).

Results: A total of 2132 SLE patients with full follow-up data were recruited and 424 (19.9%) showed high-risk aPLs profiles. 453 (21.2%) patients developed new organ damage during a mean follow-up of 4.40±2.64 years, and 143 (31.6%) are cardio-cerebral vascular damage. At baseline, patients with high-risk aPLs profile have a higher rate of neurological involvement (12.5% vs 7.6%, p<0.001). As shown in Figure 1, cox regression analysis showed that high-risk aPLs profile can predict new-onset organ damage (HR=1.99, 95% CI, 1.63-2.43, p<0.001) and cardio-cerebral vascular damage (HR=7.83, 95% CI, 5.56-11.03, p<0.001). After adjusted of gender(male), age, smoking history, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and other SLE related potential confounders, high-risk aPLs profile was still found to be an independent predictor which can predict cardio-cerebral vascular events (HR=7.12, 95% CI, 5.03-10.14, p<0.001) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. (A) Cumulative probability of new-onset organ damage in patients with or without high-risk aPLs profile. (B) Cumulative probability of cardio-cerebral vascular damage in patients with or without high-risk aPLs profile. (C) Risk factors of cardio-cerebral vascular damage in SLE patients.

Conclusion: SLE patients with high-risk aPLs profile warrant more care and surveillance of cardio-cerebral vascular events during follow-up.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We thank CSTAR co-authors as following for assistance with cases collections.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1506

IDENTIFYING DETERMINANTS OF FAVOURABLE AND POOR PHYSICAL FUNCTION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: RESULTS FROM AN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE STUDY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Comorbidities

S.Y. Lee1, A. Holloway2, E. Nikiphorou1,3, I. Parodi3,4, N. Ravichandran5, J. Day1,2,3, M. Joshi6, S. Saha7, K. Jagatia1, W. Katchamart1,2, P.A. Goo1,2, B. Vaidya1,3, T. Velikova1,5, P. Sen1,6, S. Katsuyuki Shinjo1, V. Agarwal1,2, A. E. Gracia-Ramos24, C. Vinicio Caballero25, H. Chinoy26,27, V. Agarwal1,2, A. E. Gracia-Ramos24, L. Gupta5,6,30,31.
Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) can result in impaired daily physical function through various mechanisms including active disease, chronic damage, and mental health symptoms that are common in the disease. However, the key drivers of reduced physical function are poorly understood, and no large-scale global studies investigating this have been conducted to date.

Objectives: To investigate key factors that contribute to impaired physical function in SLE globally.

Methods: SLE patients were identified from the COVAD 2 database, a global register of more than 20,000 respondents. Healthy controls (HC) were included to compare differences in physical function using the Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS) questionnaire. Demographics, medication, comorbidities, disease activity, Global Physical Health (GPH) and Global Mental Health (GMH) were collected. Multivariable regression analysis was used to identify contributing factors to favourable or poor physical function (measured by PROMIS Physical Function shortform PF-10a score).

Results: 979 SLE patients and 3358 HC were included in analysis. Patients with SLE had significantly lower PF-10a score as compared to HCs (median 42, IQR 36-47 vs median 49, IQR 45-50, p<0.001). Determinants of physical function status in patients with SLE are summarised in Table 1. Briefly, factors associated with poor physical function included increasing age (-0.042, 95% CI -0.074 to -0.015, p=0.002**), higher pain visual analogue scales (VAS) (-2.889, 95% CI -3.042 to -2.736, p<0.001), and fatigue (VAS) (-1.459, 95% CI -1.853 to -1.057, p=0.031) but not depression contributed to a lower physical function score. Higher Pain Visual Analogue Scales (VAS) (-2.889, 95% CI -3.042 to -2.736, p<0.001) and Fatigue (VAS) (-1.459, 95% CI -1.853 to -1.057, p=0.031) but not depression contributed to a lower physical function score. Higher Pain Visual Analogue Scales (VAS) (-2.889, 95% CI -3.042 to -2.736, p<0.001) and Fatigue VAS (VAS) (-1.459, 95% CI -1.853 to -1.057, p=0.031) but not depression contributed to a lower physical function score.

Conclusion: Patients with SLE show significantly reduced physical function compared with HCs. Key contributors to poor physical function include intercurrent diabetes and ILD. Screening for, and aggressive early treatment of these conditions may confer improved long-term function. As expected, higher levels of pain and fatigue were associated with poor physical function. Methotrexate use was also identified as a contributing factor to reduced function, which could represent its use in articular manifestations that limit physical function. Importantly, use of hydroxychloroquine was associated with favourable physical function, adding to the well-recognised benefits of this drug in SLE.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unstandardised Beta</th>
<th>95% Confidence Interval for B</th>
<th>Lower Bound</th>
<th>Upper Bound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>-0.042</td>
<td>-0.074</td>
<td>-0.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Duration (years)</td>
<td>-0.004</td>
<td>-0.009</td>
<td>-0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>-0.928</td>
<td>-0.940</td>
<td>-0.904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>0.507</td>
<td>0.507</td>
<td>0.507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>0.409</td>
<td>0.409</td>
<td>0.409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>0.844</td>
<td>0.844</td>
<td>0.844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid Dose</td>
<td>-3.43</td>
<td>-3.43</td>
<td>-3.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupus flare within last 6 months</td>
<td>-0.819</td>
<td>-0.819</td>
<td>-0.819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Kidney Disease</td>
<td>-0.430</td>
<td>-0.430</td>
<td>-0.430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstitial Lung Disease</td>
<td>-2.441</td>
<td>-2.441</td>
<td>-2.441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischaemic Heart Disease</td>
<td>-0.925</td>
<td>-0.925</td>
<td>-0.925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>-1.862</td>
<td>-1.862</td>
<td>-1.862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>-1.063</td>
<td>-1.063</td>
<td>-1.063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>-0.970</td>
<td>-0.970</td>
<td>-0.970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>0.594</td>
<td>0.594</td>
<td>0.594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>-2.889</td>
<td>-2.889</td>
<td>-2.889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue VAS</td>
<td>-1.459</td>
<td>-1.459</td>
<td>-1.459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMIS Global Physical Health</td>
<td>2.287</td>
<td>2.287</td>
<td>2.287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
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POS1507

IC3B/C3 RATIOs MORE STRONGLY CORRELATE WITH SLE DISEASE ACTIVITY IN AFRICAN-AMERICANS COMPARED WITH WHITES

Keywords: Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus

D. Sen1, V. Strand2, O. Fu3, A. Kim1
1Washington University School of Medicine, Medicine, St. Louis, United States of America; 2Stanford University School of Medicine, Rheumatology/Immunology, Stanford, United States of America; 3Tufts University - School of Arts and Sciences, Community Health, Medford, United States of America

Background: Complement activation is a hallmark of SLE pathophysiology. We previously found that iC3b/C3 ratios associated with active disease and clinically meaningful changes in SLE disease activity. Since SLE is more severe in non-white populations, we hypothesized that iC3b/C3 ratios would be a more sensitive marker of disease activity in nonwhite populations.

Objectives: We examined the relationship of iC3b/C3 ratios between African-American (AA) and White SLE subjects using SLEDAI and SLEDAI-2K scores.

Methods: 159 adult SLE patients treated at the Washington University Lupus Center were enrolled in this observational study. 83 patients with 3-7 study visits were used for this longitudinal analysis. C3 and C4 were measured by nephelometry; iC3b by a lateral flow assay using an investigational medical device. SLE disease activity was measured using the SLEDAI 2K Responder Index-50 instrument. Statistical analyses were performed using SAS v9.4. Multilevel regression models examined associations for SLE disease activity. Ordinal logistic regression models with generalized estimating equation modeling (GEE) examined associations for clinically meaningful changes since the outcome variable is ordinal. Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals were estimated using Proc GLIMMIX and Proc GENMOD.

Results: iC3b/C3 ratios and C3 associated with active disease in AA and White SLE. The association of the iC3b/C3 ratio in AA was stronger (Figure 1). In addition, AA with SLE associated C4, ESR, and dsDNA with active disease, while Whites associated with CRP. In multiple regression analysis, iC3b/C3 ratios were not associated with remission impact on HRQoL and long-term outcomes.

Conclusion: iC3b/C3 ratios correlated with clinically meaningful changes in SLE disease activity. Since SLE is more severe in non-white populations, we hypothesized that iC3b/C3 ratios would be a more sensitive marker of disease activity in nonwhite populations.

REFERENCE:


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POS1508

PREVALENCE OF REMISSION ACCORDING TO PHYSICIAN AND PATIENT AND LEVEL OF AGREEMENT IN A REAL-WORLD MULTICENTER LUPUS REGISTRY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Remission

J. Martínez-Barrío1,2,3, J. Castréjen1,2, J. M. Pego-Reigosa4, M. Galindo-Ibarra5,6, E. Uriarte-Izquierdo7, E. Arjona-Cochea8,9, Mena-Vázquez10,11, A. Altabas González12, J. Rosas13, S. Gomez-Sabater14, M. Ibañez Barceló15, V. Torrente Segarra16, J. Nárvarez17, C. Sanguelas18,19, J. Calvet20, M. Freire González21,22, C. Moriano23, C. L. Ilguín24, E. Tomero Muriel25, A. Pérez Gómez26, J. L. Andréu Sánchez27, M. J. García Villanueva28, T. Cobo-Ibañez29, G. Bonilla30, N. Lozano Rivas31, L. Horcada32, C. A. Montilla-Morales33, F. J. Toyos Sáenz de Miera34, L. Expósito35, E. Ruiz Luces36, J. Eloy Olle37, A. Pecondon-Español38, R. Blanco39, S. Machín40, E. Salgado Pérez41, I. Carrión Barberá42,43, R. Meno-Almagro44, J. Calvo45, A. Muñoz Jimenez46, J. J. Fragio Gil47, I. Rua-Figueroa48, General Hospital Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Gregorio Marañón, (IISGM), Madrid, Spain; 2Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; 3Hospital Meixoeiro, Department of Rheumatology, Vigo, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario de Octobere, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario Donostia, Departamento de Reumatología, Pau, Donostia, España; 6Hospital de SOTO, Department of Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 7Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga, Department of Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain; 8Hospital Marina Baixa, Department of Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; 9Hospital General Universitario de Alicante, Department of Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; 10Hospital Universitario Son Llàtzer, Department of Rheumatology, Palma de Mallorca, Spain; 11Hospital de Sant Joan Despí, Consorci Sanitari Integral (CSI), Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 12Hospital Universitario Bellvitge, Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 13Hospital Universitario Germans Rivas i Pujol, Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 14Consorci Corporació Sanitària Parc Taulí, Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 15Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de A Coruña, A Coruña, Spain; 16Complejo Hospitalario Universitario La Paz, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 17Hospital Universitario Fuenlabrada, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 18Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 19Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 20Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 21Hospital Infanta Sofía, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 22Hospital Universitario La Paz, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 23Hospital Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca, Department of Rheumatology, Murcia, Spain; 24Complejo Hospitalario de Navarra, Department of Rheumatology, Pamplona, Spain; 25Hospital Círculo Universitario de Salamanca, Department of Rheumatology, Salamanca, Spain; 26Hospital Virgen de la Macarena, Department of Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain; 27Hospital Universitario de Canarias, Department of Rheumatology, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain; 28Hospital Universitario de Basurto, Department of Rheumatology, Bilbao, Spain; 29Hospital Universitario Dr Peset, Department of Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain; 30Hospital Universitario Miguel Servet, Department of Rheumatology, Zaragoza, Spain; 31Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Department of Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 32Complejo Hospitalario Universitario Insular de Gran Canaria, Department of Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; 33Hospital Universitario de De Oblado, Department of Rheumatology, Ourense, Spain; 34Hospital del Mar, Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 35Hospital Jerez de la Frontera, Department of Rheumatology, Cádiz, Spain; 36Hospital Universitario de Araba, Department of Rheumatology, Vitoria, Spain; 37Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Doctor Negrín, Department of Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

Background: Improvement on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) remains a challenge. There is limited data on the level of agreement on remission according to physician and patient and remission impact on HRQoL and long-term outcomes.

 سبيل المثال، يمكننا استخدام هذه المعلومة في تحليل البيانات أو في جمعها للاستفادة من المعلومات المتاحة في الورقة. لكننا نحتاج إلى مزيد من المعلومات للقيام بذلك. فعلى سبيل المثال، يمكننا استخدام المعلومات المتاحة في الورقة لإجراء تحليلات وجمع بيانات عنطل وهيكل القلب أو أي شيء آخر يأهله. ولكننا نحتاج إلى مزيد من المعلومات للقيام بذلك. فعلى سبيل المثال، يمكننا استخدام المعلومات المتاحة في الورقة لإجراء تحليلات وجمع بيانات عنطل وهيكل القلب أو أي شيء آخر يأهله.
Objectives: To investigate the prevalence and level of agreement between remission according to physician and patient criteria and to evaluate the impact of remission on HRQoL in patients with SLE.

Methods: Prospective study of patients included in RELESSER-PROS, a multicenter register of SLE patients. Protocol of the register has been previously described [1]. Remission according to physician was defined in agreement with DORIS 2021 criteria: clinical SLEDAI 0, physician global assessment ≤2 on a 0-10 Likert scale (equivalent to ≤0.5 on a 0-3 scale), stable low-dose prednisone (≤5mg) and stable immunosuppressive/biologic agents if remission on therapy. Remission according to patient was defined as SLAQ (Systemic Lupus Activity Questionnaire) question 1 with no flare in the last 3 months (score 0). Patients were classified in three groups according to remission status by DORIS, SLAQ or both. Level of agreement was assessed using kappa statistics. Acceptable level of agreement was considered if kappa >0.60.

Results: 1102 patients, with a follow-up of at least 2 years (data from 3 visits available) were included in this analysis. Patient characteristics according remission status at baseline are presented in the Table 1. At baseline, remission by DORIS was present in 16.1%, by SLAQ 16.7% and 2.45% by both. Remission by DORIS was more frequent among patients with higher education, on immunosuppressant and biological therapy and patients with history of hospitalization; remission by SLAQ was more frequent among women, obese patients, and those on antimalarials (p<0.05). Symptoms reported in patients who considered themselves in remission were mainly cutaneous and articular (53.3%). Mean SLEDAI in patients on remission by SLAQ was 3.28 (3.78). Patients in remission by DORIS had significantly better results in patient reported outcomes (PRO) measured by EQ-5D and LIT (p<0.05). Level of agreement in remission according to physician and patient was 78.04% (k=0.061) at baseline, 63.39% (k=0.030) and 62.73% (k=0.099) in year 2 and 5 respectively. Kappa level of agreement was low.

Conclusion: Our results reflect low level of agreement between physician and patients in terms of remission status with increasing disagreement in the follow-up. Patients in remission by DORIS shows better results in EQ-5D and LIT.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Patient characteristics according remission status at baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remission by DORIS</th>
<th>Remission by SLAQ</th>
<th>Both criteria</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, years (mean)</td>
<td>34.6 (14.87)</td>
<td>36.64 (13.74)</td>
<td>33.77 (13.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n (%)</td>
<td>160 (76%)</td>
<td>166 (82%)</td>
<td>162 (77%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years (mean)</td>
<td>15.26 (8.18)</td>
<td>13.71 (7.7)</td>
<td>19.88 (7.76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest education</td>
<td>5712</td>
<td>42120</td>
<td>1326 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication, n (%)</td>
<td>0/177 (0%)</td>
<td>36/162 (22%)</td>
<td>0/27 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-therapy</td>
<td>79/176 (44.9%)</td>
<td>100/176 (57%)</td>
<td>12/27 (44.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressants (AZA, MTX, MMF)</td>
<td>63/175 (36%)</td>
<td>36/180 (20%)</td>
<td>4/27 (14.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological therapy (rituximab, belimumab)</td>
<td>14/176 (8%)</td>
<td>36/180 (20%)</td>
<td>4/27 (14.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity (BMI&gt;30), n (%)</td>
<td>18/162 (11.1%)</td>
<td>44/176 (25%)</td>
<td>3/27 (11.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital admission, n (%)</td>
<td>57/176 (32.4%)</td>
<td>40/180 (22%)</td>
<td>27/26 (26.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI, mean (SD)</td>
<td>16.66 (16.6)</td>
<td>3.28 (3.9)</td>
<td>1.78 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLAQ, mean (SD)</td>
<td>26.15 (2.55)</td>
<td>27.29 (1.81)</td>
<td>27.63 (1.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ-SD</td>
<td>67.53 (13.9)</td>
<td>63.22 (20.12)</td>
<td>64.54 (17.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT</td>
<td>26.68 (27.0)</td>
<td>34.37 (20.34)</td>
<td>31.39 (19.34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLICC/ACR Damage Index</td>
<td>1.57 (1.74)</td>
<td>1.42 (1.84)</td>
<td>1.37 (1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>0/177 (0%)</td>
<td>0/162 (0%)</td>
<td>0/27 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AZA azathioprine, MTX methotrexate, MMF mycophenolate, BMI body mass index, EQ-5D EuroQol-5D, LIT lupus impact tracker

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3816
Conclusion: Our study proposes that persistent aPLs-positive women with APO have three major clinical subtypes. Cluster 1 contains patients with a predisposition to SLE. Patients in cluster 2 majorly present PI combined with aPLs-IgG subtype, while cluster 3 present EM with aPLs-IgM subtype. The individualized risk stratification assessment of these patients will help to develop different treatment strategies and improve the pregnancy outcome.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3837

POS110 IDENTIFICATION OF THE MINIMAL REQUIRED DURATION OF RENAL-EXTRARENAL REMISSION ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCED RISK OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE AND OF DAMAGE ACCRUAL IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: Remission, Treat to target, Systemic lupus erythematosus

M. Gatto1, G. Frontini2, M. Calatroni3,4, F. Reggiani3,4, B. Trezzi5, S. Quaglini6, R. A. Sinico7, L. Iaccarino1, G. Moroni1,4, A. Doria8,1 University of Padova, Unit of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Padua, Italy; 2San Paolo Hospital, ASST SS Paolo e Carlo, Unit of Nephrology and Dialysis, Milan, Italy; 3IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Nephrology and Dialysis Division, Milan, Italy; 4Humanitas University, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 5Università Degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Milan, Italy; 6Università di Pavia, Department of Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering, Pavia, Italy

Background: There is an increasing need for data exploring the effect of remission on kidney-oriented outcomes and terminal organ damage in patients with lupus nephritis (LN).

Objectives: To investigate the effects of renal-extrarenal clinical remission on chronic kidney disease (CKD) development and organ damage accrual in patients with LN.

Methods: We performed a multicentric retrospective cohort study on biopsy-proven LN patients with at least five years follow-up, in whom we assessed (i) the minimum duration of remission able to prevent CKD (serum creatinine <1.0mg/dl with eGFR <60ml/min/1.73 m2 and inactive urinary sediment, confirmed by at least three determinations for at least 3 months); (ii) the impact of remission on organ damage, evaluated by the SLICC Damage Index (SDI). Renal-extrarenal clinical remission was defined as serum creatinine <1mg/dl, eGFR>60ml/min/1.73m2, proteinuria <0.5g/24h and cSLEDAI=0, lasting for at least one year. Cox regression was used to test the effect of different durations of remission on CKD and SDI accrual. The minimum duration of remission needed to prevent CKD was estimated through Kaplan-Meier curves. The potential relationship between persistent renal-extrarenal clinical remission and SDI was assessed by Spearman correlation between percentage of follow-up spent in remission and annual increase in SDI.

Results: 303 LN patients were included (females 86.5%, mean follow-up 14.8 (9.8-22.0) years). 84.8% achieved renal-extrarenal clinical remission that persisted for 8.70 (5.40-13.30) years. Overall, 17.6% patients developed CKD after a median of 14.1 (8.9-20.9) years. Patients achieving remission developed CKD significantly less frequently than patients never achieving remission (12.1% vs. 56.6%, p<0.001). Among patients with at least 10-year follow-up (n=224), a remission duration of at least 2 years protected from CKD development (HR95%CI 1.017 (1.005-1.028); p=0.004). Among patients with at least 10-year follow-up (n=224), a remission duration of at least 2 years protected from CKD development (HR95%CI 1.017 (1.005-1.028); p=0.004). Among patients with at least 10-year follow-up (n=224), a remission duration of at least 2 years protected from CKD development (HR95%CI 1.017 (1.005-1.028); p=0.004).

Conclusion: Renal-extrarenal clinical remission is an achievable treatment target which protects against CKD development and SDI increase in patients with LN. At least 3 years of renal-extrarenal clinical remission confers significant protection against renal function deterioration and chronic damage, hence emerging as a desirable therapeutic target for LN.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4094

POS111 PERSISTENCE OF RENAL-EXTRARENAL REMISSION AND EFFECT ON RISK OF SLE FLARES AND OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys, Remission

G. Moroni1,2, M. Gatto3, G. Frontini2, M. Calatroni3,4, S. Quaglini1, F. Reggiani1,3, B. Trezzi1, L. Iaccarino1, R. A. Sinico7, A. Doria8,1 University of Padova, Unit of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Padua, Italy; 2San Paolo Hospital, ASST SS Paolo e Carlo, Unit of Nephrology and Dialysis, Milan, Italy; 3IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Nephrology and Dialysis Division, Milan, Italy; 4Humanitas University, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 5Università Degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Milan, Italy; 6Università di Pavia, Department of Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering, Pavia, Italy

Background: How renal and extrarenal remission affects risk of flares and of chronic kidney damage (CKD) development in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients with active lupus nephritis (LN) was not clearly disentangled.

Objectives: To investigate the effect of maintained or interrupted renal-extrarenal clinical remission on the risk of SLE flares and CKD development in LN.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective cohort study on biopsy-proven LN patients in whom we evaluated (i) the probability of achieving and maintaining renal-extrarenal clinical remission; (ii) the impact of renal-extrarenal clinical remission on the risk of SLE flares and CKD development (defined as serum creatinine >1.0mg/dl with eGFR <60ml/min/1.73 m2 and inactive urinary sediment, confirmed by at least three determinations for at least 3 months); (i) the predictors of renal-extrarenal clinical remission. Renal-extrarenal clinical remission was defined as serum creatinine <1mg/dl, eGFR>60ml/min/1.73m2, proteinuria <0.5g/24h and cSLEDAI=0 lasting for at least one year. Time to renal-extrarenal clinical remission, the likelihood of its maintenance and the risk of SLE flares were estimated through Cox regression.

Results: 303 patients were included in the study. Over a 14.8-year-follow-up, 46 patients never achieved while 257 achieved remission after a median of 1.44 (0.69-3.58) years from initial therapy for LN. In 142 out of 257 patients, remission ended after a median of 3.6 (2.30-5.90) years due to SLE flares. 115 patients maintained an uninterrupted remission for 9.5 (5.8-14.5) years. At multivariate analysis, age >40 years (OR95%CI 1.017 (1.005-1.028); p=0.004), hydroxychloroquine use (OR95%CI 1.384 (1.109-1.661); p=0.021) and absence of arterial hypertension (OR95%CI: 0.699 (0.425-0.975); p= 0.011) were independent predictors of renal-extrarenal clinical remission. CKD occurred in 56% of patients who had never reached renal-extrarenal clinical remission, in 21.8% of those who lost remission due to SLE flares and in none of those who maintained remission permanently (p<0.0001). Five, 10 and 15 years after the beginning of
Disclosure of Interests: Natali Karandyszowska: None declared, Heyein Alagündüz: None declared, Jacob Widenæus: None declared, Felicia Carlens: None declared, Anna Warnqvist: None declared, Maria Magnusson: None declared, Iva Gunnalson: None declared, Elisabet Svensson: Shareholder of AstraZeneca and Pfizer, Speakers bureau: Janssen, Grant/research support from: Grant support from Merck, Maria Brzeulins: None declared, Aleksandra Antovic: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annhepmd-2023-eular.4437

POS151 IDENTIFYING HIGH-RISK PROFILE IN PRIMARY ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME THROUGH CLUSTER ANALYSIS: FRENCH MULTICENTRIC COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Epidemiology, Cardiovascular disease, Anti-phospholipid syndrome


Hôpital Saint-Antoine, AP-HP, Sorbonne Université, Service de Médecine Interne et Inflammation-Immunopathology-Biotherapy Department (DMI 3ID), Paris, France; CHR-U de Brest, Service de Médecine Interne, Brest, France; 3Centre Hospitalier Universitaire d’Angers, Service de Médecine Interne et Immunologie Clinique, Angers, France; 4CHRU et université de Tours, Service de Médecine Interne, Tours, France; 5Hôpital Tenon, AP-HP, Sorbonne Université, Service de Hémostase et Hématologie Biologique, Paris, France, France; 6Hôpital Tenon, AP-HP, Sorbonne Université, Service de Dermatologie et Vénérologie, Paris, France; 7Hôpital Pitie-Salpêtrière, AP-HP Centre de Recherche de Saint-Antoine, INSERM, UMRs 938, Sorbonne Université, Service des Urgences Cébraro-Vascularis, Paris, France; 8CRSA INSERM, UMRs 938, Hôpital Saint-Antoine, AP-HP, Sorbonne Université, Service de Rheumatologie, Paris, France; 9Hôpital Tenon, AP-HP, Sorbonne Université, Service de Néphrologie, Paris, France; 10Hôpital Saint-Antoine, AP-HP, Sorbonne Université, Service de Cardiologie, Paris, France; 11AP-HP, Hôpital Saint-Antoine, Sorbonne Université, Service d’hémato-oncologie, Paris, France

Background: Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) is an autoimmune disease characterized by thrombosis (arterial, venous or small vessel) or obstetrical events, or chronic persistent antibodies (aPL), according to the Sydney classification criteria. Many studies have performed cluster analyses among patients with primary APS and associated autoimmune disease, but none has focused solely on primary APS.

Objectives: We aimed to perform a cluster analysis among patients with primary APS and asymptomatic aPL carriers without any autoimmune disease, to assess its prognostic value.

Methods: In this multicenter French cohort study we included all patients with persistent APS antibodies (Sydney criteria) measured between January 2012 and January 2019. We excluded all patients with systemic lupus erythematosus or other systemic autoimmune diseases. We performed hierarchical cluster analysis on the factor analysis of mixed coordinates results with baseline patient characteristics to generate clusters.

Results: We identified four clusters: cluster 1, comprising “asymptomatic aPL carriers”, with low risk of events during follow-up; cluster 2, the “male thrombotic phenotype”, with older patients and more venous thromboembolic events; cluster 3, the “female obstetrical phenotype”, with obstetrical and thrombotic events; and cluster 4, “high-risk APS”, which included younger patients with more frequent triple positivity, antinuclear antibodies, non-criteria manifestations, and arterial events. Regarding survival analyses, asymptomatic aPL carriers relapsed less frequently than the others, but no other differences in terms of relapse rates or deaths were found between clusters.

Conclusion: We identified four clusters among patients with primary APS, one of which was “high-risk APS”. Clustering-based treatment strategies should be explored in future prospective studies.

REFERENCES:
Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune chronic disease characterized clinically by periods of flares and remission. Although its pathophysiology has not yet been well understood, it is well documented that SLE courses with systemic inflammation, as well as affection to specific organs [1]. Lupus nephritis (LN) is the most common complication and cause of death appearing in SLE patients, often leading to end-stage renal disease [2]. A type I interferon (IFN) signature is present in SLE, however, there is no consensus on which genes are expressed in LN. We performed a metaanalysis through integrative bioinformatics to identify differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in patients with LN.

Objectives: We aimed to identify and assess overlapped DEGs of patients with LN through integrative bioinformatics and functional enrichment analysis.

Methods: We designed a search strategy in the Gene Expression Omnibus platform to identify datasets of expression profiling by array of kidney samples of patients with LN. The inclusion criteria were: 1) Presence of healthy controls in the datasets, and 2) Analysis of data with GEO2R. The exclusion criteria were: 1) Incomplete information in the datasets, and 2) Failure to identify cases and controls, respectively. We aimed to identify overlapped DEGs of patients with LN, in which the IFN signature is present.

Negative Regulation of the Viral Genome
1116
Defense Response to Virus
Response to Virus
Negative Regulation of the Viral Genome

Table 1. Top 3 biological processes involving overlapped DEGs among the datasets, in which the IFN signature is present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biological Processes</th>
<th>Gene Count</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense Response to Virus</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.6E-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to Virus</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.4E-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Regulation of the Viral Genome</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.7E-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: We aimed to identify and assess DEGs of patients with LN and recognize the ones with the strongest interactions. Our results suggest that type I IFN is crucial on the pathophysiology of LN, and STAT1 can serve as a possible therapeutic target for treating LN. We propose further in vivo studies to validate these results, given that they can serve as diagnostic biomarkers and even possible therapeutic targets for LN treatment.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4944

POS1514
Differentially Expressed Genes of Patients with Lupus Nephritis Through Integrative Bioinformatics

Keywords: Biomarkers, -omics, Systemic lupus erythematosus

R. Martinez1, C. Elizondo Solis1, A. Montoya Rosales2, M. Salinas Carmona1, N. Macias-Segura1. 1Servicio y Departamento de Immunología, Service and Department of Immunology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2UANL - CIDICS, Immunomodulators Laboratory, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune chronic disease characterized clinically by periods of flares and remission. Although its pathophysiology has not yet been well understood, it is well documented that SLE courses with systemic inflammation, as well as affection to specific organs [1]. Lupus nephritis (LN) is the most common complication and cause of death appearing in SLE patients, often leading to end-stage renal disease [2]. A type I interferon (IFN) signature is present in SLE, however, there is no consensus on which genes are expressed in LN. We performed a metaanalysis through integrative bioinformatics to identify differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in patients with LN.

Objectives: We aimed to identify and assess overlapped DEGs of patients with LN through integrative bioinformatics and functional enrichment analysis.

Methods: We designed a search strategy in the Gene Expression Omnibus platform to identify datasets of expression profiling by array of kidney samples of patients with LN. The inclusion criteria were: 1) Presence of healthy controls in the datasets, and 2) Analysis of data with GEO2R. The exclusion criteria were: 1) Incomplete information in the datasets, and 2) Failure to identify cases and controls, respectively. We aimed to identify overlapped DEGs of patients with LN, in which the IFN signature is present.

Negative Regulation of the Viral Genome
1116
Defense Response to Virus
Response to Virus
Negative Regulation of the Viral Genome

Table 1. Top 3 biological processes involving overlapped DEGs among the datasets, in which the IFN signature is present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biological Processes</th>
<th>Gene Count</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense Response to Virus</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.6E-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to Virus</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.4E-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Regulation of the Viral Genome</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.7E-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: We aimed to identify and assess DEGs of patients with LN and recognize the ones with the strongest interactions. Our results suggest that type I IFN is crucial on the pathophysiology of LN, and STAT1 can serve as a possible therapeutic target for treating LN. We propose further in vivo studies to validate these results, given that they can serve as diagnostic biomarkers and even possible therapeutic targets for LN treatment.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4944

Acknowledgements: NIL.

POS1515
Prevalence and Clinical Features of Late and Very Late Onset Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Outcome measures

I. A. Gennaio1, M. Zen1, E. Fuzzi1, M. Gatto1, M. Larosa1, L. Iaccarino1, A. Doria1. 1University of Padua, Department of Medicine, DIMED, Padua, Italy

Background: Whether late-onset (LO) SLE is associated with a different, more benign disease course and better prognosis than early-onset SLE is still controversial.[1-3]

Objectives: To describe the prevalence and clinical features of LO-SLE and very late onset (VLO) SLE and to compare their outcomes with those of non-LO SLE.

Methods: We performed a retrospective study using prospectively collected data from our cohort involving 516 patients with SLE (ACR criteria) followed between 2008 and 2022. Patients older than 50 or older than 60 years at SLE onset were defined as LO-SLE and VLO-SLE, respectively. Demographic data, and clinical and treatment history were retrieved from clinical charts. SLEDAI-2K, daily prednisone dose, SLICC Damage Index (SDI), and low disease activity (according to LLDAAS definition) [1] at last follow-up in 2022 were assessed. Early mortality, within 10 years after diagnosis, was assessed in patients diagnosed in the last 15 years.

Results: Among 516 SLE patients regularly followed, 38 (7.4%) were LO-SLE: mean±SD age at diagnosis 56.5 ±5.7 years (range 50-72), females 78%. Of them, 10 (2% of the overall cohort) were VLO-SLE: mean±SD age at diagnosis 65 ±4.0 years (range 60-72), females 60%. Compared to early-SLE patients, LO-SLE patients had more frequently skin involvement and positive antiSSA/SSB antibodies (Table 1). Compared to non-LO-SLE, no difference in life-threatening manifestations was observed, including renal and neuropsychiatric involvement. The same trend was found in VLO-SLE. Accordingly, the use of immunosuppressants (including types of drugs) and biologics was similar (Table 1). At last follow-up, SLEDAI-2K was lower in LO-SLE patients (1±2 vs. 2±3, p=0.01), whereas the proportion of patients on glucocorticoids (21% vs 37%) and in LLDAAS (84% vs 74%) was similar to that observed in non-LO-SLE. Despite that, SDI was higher in LO-SLE (2, range 0-8) than in non-LO-SLE patients (1, range 0-10, p=0.004) but after excluding items possibly related to aging (cataract, osteoporosis, low GFR, malignancy) the difference was not significant anymore. Among 165 patients diagnosed in the last 15 years, mortality was similar in LO and early-onset SLE, although deaths within 10 years after diagnosis (2 cases) all occurred in early-SLE patients.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5022

Acknowledgements: NIL.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5022
Table 1. Clinical and therapeutic features of late-onset and early-onset SLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Late onset SLE</th>
<th>Early onset SLE</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skin rash</td>
<td>3 (34.2)</td>
<td>262 (54.8)</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alopecia</td>
<td>3 (7.8)</td>
<td>60 (12.5)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous vasculitis</td>
<td>1 (2.6)</td>
<td>45 (8.4)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>23 (61)</td>
<td>353 (73.8)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukopenia</td>
<td>17 (44.7)</td>
<td>191 (40)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombocytopenia</td>
<td>11 (29.9)</td>
<td>86 (18)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>8 (21)</td>
<td>91 (19)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupus nephritis</td>
<td>16 (42.1)</td>
<td>258 (54)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuro-SLE</td>
<td>8 (21)</td>
<td>81 (16.9)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA Abs</td>
<td>25 (66)</td>
<td>335 (70)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-S/SSA Abs</td>
<td>23 (61)</td>
<td>201 (42)</td>
<td>0.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-U1RNP Abs</td>
<td>9 (23.6)</td>
<td>129 (27)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-phospholipids</td>
<td>13 (34.2)</td>
<td>138 (28.9)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressants</td>
<td>23 (61)</td>
<td>339 (71)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMF</td>
<td>13 (34.2)</td>
<td>210 (44)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYC</td>
<td>4 (10.5)</td>
<td>103 (21.5)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZA</td>
<td>6 (15.7)</td>
<td>143 (29.9)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>8 (15.7)</td>
<td>87 (18.1)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belimumab</td>
<td>6 (16)</td>
<td>75 (15.7)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>3 (7.6)</td>
<td>39 (8.2)</td>
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<td>HCQ ever</td>
<td>32 (92)</td>
<td>454 (95)</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4989

Table 1. Mean (SD)*

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<th>HC p</th>
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<th>pSS</th>
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<td>104</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>N with MSK</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>index</td>
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<td>(0.03)</td>
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<td>(0.21)</td>
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<td>(5.09)</td>
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<td>(6.67)</td>
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<td>Arthritis VAS</td>
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<td>5.94</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>7.08</td>
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<td>Mild arthritis</td>
<td>23 (0.12)</td>
<td>(2.81)</td>
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<td>(3.51)</td>
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<td>(3.08)</td>
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<td>stiffness VAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient pain</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>5.54</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>5.36</td>
<td>3.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current HCQ</td>
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<td>(54.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current MTVX</td>
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<td>0.008</td>
<td>43 (10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current NOA*</td>
<td>23 (10)</td>
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<td>23 (10)</td>
<td>23 (10)</td>
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<td>Nodal OA*</td>
<td>33 (12)</td>
<td>8.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current X-ray OA*</td>
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<td>(5.55)</td>
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</table>

*Or (n%) where indicated

Conclusion: MSK manifestations have similar clinical impact and immune profile across ARMDs. Current therapies used are similar: ANA-arthritis is therefore a homogenous and impactful population for basket trials.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3612
Objectives: To assess the frequency of accrual damage in antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) and to evaluate the association with different laboratory and clinical APS aspects.

Methods: Medical records of 274 patients, 231 (84.3%) female and 43 (15.7%) males with a mean (±SD) age at diagnosis of 37.8 (±11.5) years, followed prospectively from 1990 to 2021, were reviewed.

Results: Ninety-six (35%) presented pregnancy morbidity alone, 140 (51.1%) thrombosis alone and 38 (13.9%) both thrombosis and pregnancy morbidity. A single, double or triple antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) positivity was registered respectively in 82 (29.9%), 78 (28.5%) and 114 (41.6%) of the patients. Following a mean (±SD) follow up of 208.4 (±17.1) months, a total of 58 (21.2%) organ damage accrual was recorded. This included neurological damage in 19 (32.8%) patients, hemiparesis in 9, epilepsy in 7 and cognitive dysfunction/dementia in three cases, cardiac valvopathy in 4 (6.9 %) patients of which 3/4 (75%) require valve replacement with mechanical valve in two cases and bioprosthetic valve in one case. Chronic heart failure was found in 4 (6.9%) patients, chronic renal failure in 15 (25.9%), amputation due to peripheral arterial thrombosis in 5 (8.6%), visual loss in 2 (3.4%), post thrombotic syndrome in 6 (10.3%), arterial insufficiency in one (1.7%). Some of the patients present more than one organ dysfunction. Both thrombotic and thrombocytic and pregnancy morbidity subsets were significantly associated with a higher rate of damage accrual compared with pregnancy morbidity alone, respectively p<0.0001 (OD 40.7; 95% CI: 6.9-418.8) and p<0.0001 (OD 61.9; 95% CI 10.5-659.7). Moreover, the presence of microangiopathy as well as the presence of both venous and arterial thrombosis were significantly associated with damage accrual, respectively (p<0.0001, OD 10.99; 95% CI 5.72-23.8) and (p=0.001). Regarding laboratory subsets, triple aPL positivity was significantly associated with a higher rate of damage accrual compared to single and double aPL, respectively p<0.0001 (OD 9.6; 95% CI: 3.7-23.5) and p<0.0001 (OD 4.8; 95% CI: 2.2; 10.81). At the multivariate analysis only microangiopathy was an independent risk factor for damage accrual (p=0.001).

Conclusion: Overall, our data show a higher frequency of damage accrual in APS patients. Microangiopathy was an independent risk factor for damage accrual. These findings should be in mind when counselling APS patients and might help guide clinicians in therapeutic decision.

REFERENCES:
1018. doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2013-204838

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.


POS1519

PULMONARY INVOLVEMENT IN LUPUS IS ASSOCIATED WITH ENHANCED MORBIDITY: A MULTICENTRE STUDY

Keywords: Lungs, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Autoantibodies

M. Gerosa1,2, G. A. Ramirez3, L. M. Argolini1, I. Scotti1, C. Artusi1, L. Moroni3, E. Bozzolo4, M. R. Pellizzoni5, L. Cavallolo6, L. Dagna6, R. Caporali1,2,3. ASST Gaetano Pini-CTO, Lupus Clinic, Department of Clinical Rheumatology, Milan, Italy

Objectives: To assess the prevalence and clinical impact of the spectrum of SLE-related pulmonary manifestations and their association with patient autoantibody profiles in a large SLE cohort and to describe the effectiveness of different therapeutic approaches in distinct clinical settings.

Methods: Patients followed at the Lupus Clinics of ASST G. Pini-CTO and San Raffaele Hospital (Milan, Italy) were enrolled. Data regarding demographics, disease characteristics, autoantibody profile, pulmonary manifestations, damage accrual and treatment were collected. The lung manifestations were recorded: pleurisy, acute lupus pneumonitis, interstitial lung disease (ILD), alveolar haemorrhage, pulmonary embolism, arterial pulmonary hypertension and shrinking lung syndrome.

Results: Of the 471 SLE patients enrolled, we identified 78 patients (16.5%) displaying at least one pulmonary manifestation. Epidemiological data on each patient were recorded in Table 1. The most frequent lung manifestations and manifested at disease onset in most cases (56%). Patient home environment (urban vs countryside) did not seem to impact the risk of developing lung disease. Damage accrual was relevant, as 2/3 of patients displayed at least 1 point increase in SLICC Damage Index (SDI) after the onset of lung involvement in comparison to baseline. All patients received at least one steroid course. Immunosuppressive treatment choices and efficacy differed among distinct manifestations: only half of the patients with pleurisy received immunosuppression, mainly azathioprine, with 100% of improvement, while 80% of cases of ILD received immunosuppression, predominantly mycophenolate, with a 50% risk of non-response. By comparing demographics and clinical characteristics among cases and controls, we found a significantly lower median age at disease onset (p=0.002) and a higher frequency of male sex (18% vs 9%; p=0.07), joint involvement (p=0.02) and constitutional symptoms (p=0.02) in patients with lung involvement, while no differences were observed in the autoantibody profile, including anti-dsDNA and anti-ENA autoantibodies.

Conclusion: Our study confirms that, in addition to the known epidemiological burden of pleurisy, other types of pulmonary involvement can complicate the disease course and contribute to damage accrual. In particular, ILD can frequently occur and respond to immunosuppressants in only half cases. Consistent with the association of lung involvement with increased morbidity, higher-risk categories for severe disease such as males and subjects with early-onset SLE were more represented among patients with pulmonary manifestations.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographic and disease characteristics of SLE patients with lung involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lung involvement</th>
<th>Females, n (%)</th>
<th>Males, n (%)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pleurisy</td>
<td>65 (83)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute pneumonitis</td>
<td>4 (5)</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD</td>
<td>15 (19)</td>
<td>80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAH</td>
<td>6 (8)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary embolism</td>
<td>4 (5)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrinking lung</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alveolar hemorrhage</td>
<td>4 (5)</td>
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</table>

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5952

POS1519

BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS OF A LONGITUDINAL, MULTINATIONAL, MULTICENTRIC STUDY OF LUPUS PATIENTS, WITH OR WITHOUT LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: Registries, Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus


1Grupo Orvo - Centro Regional de Enfermedades Autoinmunes y Reumáticas, Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina; 2Hospital das Clinicas, HCFCMUSP, Facultad de Medicina,Universidade de Sao Paulo, Rheumatology Division, Sao Paulo, Brazil; 3GLADEL, Statistics, Rosario, Argentina; 4Hospital Italiano
de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology Section, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 2Hospital Italiano de Córdoba, Reumatología, Córdoba, Argentina; 3Hospital Córdoba, Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina; 4Hospital Privado Italiano de Córdoba, Cardiología, Córdoba, Argentina; 5Hospital HIGA San Martín, Reumatología, La Plata, Argentina; 6Hospital Escuela “Eva Perón”, Servicio de Reumatología, Rosario, Argentina; 7Grupo Oróko, Centro Regional de Enfermedades Autoinmunes y Reumáticas, Rosario, Argentina; 8Hospital Padilla, Reumatología, San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina; 9Hospital General de Agudos Dr J. M. Ramos Mejía, Rheumatology Department, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 10Instituto de Investigaciones Médicas Alfredo Lanari, Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 11Centro de Educación Médica e Investigaciones Clínicas (CEMIC), Sección de Reumatología e Inmunología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 12Hospital las Clínicas, Universidad Federal de Goias, Rheumatology Division, Goiás, Brazil; 13Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Rheumatology Division, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 14Clínica Medico, Universidad de Buenos Aires y Clínica Médicas, Hospital de Clínicas Federal de Pernambuco, Servicio de Reumatología, Departamento de Medicina Clínica., Recife, Brazil; 15Hospital Universitario Pedro Ernesto, UERJ, Rheumatology Division, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 16Hospital las Clínicas, Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil; 17University Federal São Paulo, Rheumatology Division, São Paulo, Brazil; 18Hospital del Salvador, Universidad de Chile, Sección de Reumatología, Santiago de Chile, Chile; 19Universidad San Sebastián, Facultad de Medicina y Ciencia, Santiago de Chile, Chile; 20Clínica de la Costa., Universidad Simón Bolívar, Barranquilla, Colombia; 21Fundación Valle del Lívido, Servicio de Reumatología, Cali, Colombia; 22Fundación Santa Fe, Servicio de Reumatología, Bogotá, Colombia; 23Clínica de la Costa, Servicio de Reumatología, Barranquilla, Colombia; 24Luis Vernaza Hospital, Servicio de Reumatología, Guayaquil, Ecuador; 25Centro Medico Nacional La Raza, Servicio de Reumatología, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 26Centro Médico Nacional Siglo XXI, Departamento de Reumatología, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 27Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán, Departamento de Inmunología y Reumatología, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 28Instituto Nacional de Cardiología Ignacio Chávez, Departamento de Reumatología, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 29Hospital General de Occidente, Universidad de Guadalajara., Departamento de Inmunología y Reumatología, Zapopan, Mexico; 30Hospital Central “Dr. Ignacio Morones Prieto”; y Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, Unidad Regional de Reumatología, San Luis Potosí, Mexico; 31Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González”; Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Servicio de Reumatología, Monterrey, Mexico; 32Hospital de Clínicas I, Reumatología, Montevideo, Uruguay; 33Hospital de Clínicas II, Reumatología, Montevideo, Uruguay; 34Hospital Nacional Edgardo Rebagliati Martins, Servicio de Reumatología, Departamento de Especialidades Médicas., Jesús María, Peru; 35Hospital Nacional “Guillermo Almenara Irigoyen”, EsSalud. Universidad Científica del Sur, Servicio de Reumatología, La Victoria, Peru; 36Hospital Cayetano Heredia, Reumatología, San Martín de Porres, Peru; 37Hospital Padre Billini, Servicio de Reumatología, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 38Hospital de Clínicas, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de la República., Unidad de Enfermedades Autoinmunes Sistémicas, Montevideo, Uruguay; 39Hospital de Clínicas, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de la República, Unidad de Enfermedades Autoinmunes Sistémicas, Montevideo, Uruguay; 40Hospital las Clínicas, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de São Paulo, Rheumatology Division, São Paulo, Brazil; 41University of Alabama at Birmingham, Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Birmingham, United States of America; 42Universidad Cayetano Heredia, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Miraflores, Peru; 43Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Rheumatology, Horsham, United States of America; 44Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Rheumatology, Spring House, United States of America; 45Janssen Pharmaceutica, Rheumatology, Beerse, Belgium

**Background:** Clinically evident kidney disease eventually occurs in up to one-half of SLE patients.

**Objectives:** To describe sociodemographic, clinical, serological and treatment characteristics of a multicenter and multienhene Latin American SLE cohort of patients with or without lupus nephritis (LN).

**Methods:** GLADEL2.0 is an ongoing observational cohort. Patients were categorized according to renal involvement: Group I (LN never); II (prevalent renal involvement currently inactive); III (prevalent renal involvement, currently active) and IV (incident renal involvement). Demographic, clinical manifestations, treatments, disease activity were examined at baseline. A descriptive cross-sectional analysis was performed.

**Results:** A total of 991 SLE patients were included, 884 (89.2%) female and 556 (68.3%) Mestizos (Amerindian and European ancestry). Median (IQR) age at cohort entry was 35 (28-45) years and disease duration were 67 months (18-139). Patients with incident LN had a higher proportion of males, were younger, had shorter disease duration, and were more frequently Mestizos. Pericarditis and anti-dsDNA were less frequent in group I and MMF in groups I and IV (Table 1). A predominance of class IV (9%) was evidenced in 510 patients in which a kidney biopsy was performed.

**Conclusion:** Baseline characteristics of GLADEL2.0 well characterized lupus patients’ cohort with or without LN are described with distinct demographic, clinical and laboratory patterns that will allow both centralized laboratory evaluation of urinary biomarkers and exploratory biomarker analyses including transcriptome and their impact on the outcome of these patients.

---

### Table 1. Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics and treatment at cohort entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Group I</th>
<th>Group II</th>
<th>Group III</th>
<th>Group IV</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic group %</td>
<td>361/393</td>
<td>193/213</td>
<td>200/224</td>
<td>130/161</td>
<td>0.002&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female %</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (years)&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>&lt;0.001&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (months)&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>79 (72-100)</td>
<td>79 (72-100)</td>
<td>79 (72-100)</td>
<td>79 (72-100)</td>
<td>0.010&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (years)&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.010&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever %</td>
<td>37 (32-43)</td>
<td>36 (32-43)</td>
<td>36 (32-43)</td>
<td>36 (32-43)</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discom rash %&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericarditis %&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reumitis %&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA %&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Sm %&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Anti-cardiolipin %&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>30.2</td>
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<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive Anti-lgG %&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C3 %</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C4 %</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>0.003&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Chi-squared test was used.  <sup>b</sup> Fisher exact test was used.  <sup>c</sup> Kruskal-Wallis test was used.  <sup>d</sup> Median and IQR
RELIABILITY STUDY OF THE SLE-DAS, SLEDAI-2K AND PGA INSTRUMENTS FOR MEASURING SLE DISEASE ACTIVITY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus

B. Mendes1, C. Menezes2, D. Jesus3,4, H. Assunção5, A. Barcelos5-6, L. Brites3, D. Carvalho7, C. Costa5, E. Costa8, A. D. Vieira Bento Silva9, M. Santos Faria1, G. Eugénio1, M. Luis1-10, A. Maduro1, M. Lucas Rocha2, B. Samões12, F. Cunha Santos13, A. Saraiva1, S. P. Silva1, C. Vaz1,4, J. P. Vilas2, J. A. P. Da Silva1,10, L. Inês1,4, *Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 1Centro Hospitalar Baixo Vouga, Rheumatology, Aveiro, Portugal; 2Centro Hospitalar de Leiria, Rheumatology, Leiria, Portugal; 3University of Beira Interior, Faculty of Health Sciences, Covilhã, Portugal; 4Centro Hospitalar de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Rheumatology, Vila Real, Portugal; 5Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Comprehensive Health Research Center, Lisboa, Portugal; 6Hospital Nélio Mendonça, Rheumatology, Funchal, Portugal; 7Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal; 8Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 9University of Coimbra, Faculty of Medicine, Coimbra, Portugal; 10Centro Hospitalar Universitário do Algave, Rheumatology, Faro, Portugal; 11Centro Hospitalar Vila Nova de Gaia/Espinho, Rheumatology, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal; 12Unidade Local de Saúde da Guarda, Rheumatology, Guarda, Portugal

Background: The Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Score (SLE-DAS) has been recently developed and validated, providing improved accuracy and sensitivity for changes in SLE disease activity in comparison to SLE Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K) [1]. New recommendations to standardize the Physician Global Assessment (PGA) scoring may improve its reliability [2].

Objectives: To assess the intra- and interrater reliability of SLE-DAS, SLEDAI-2K and PGA for measuring SLE disease activity.

Methods: A set of 24 clinical vignettes were abstracted, each from a real clinical visit of patients followed at an academic lupus clinic. These vignettes were selected to include a wide spectrum of SLE manifestations, organ-system involvement, and global severity of disease activity. Abstracted data were presented in a standardized format, including demographic, past medical history, current clinical picture and treatment, laboratory, and other workup assessments. A group of 19 raters were recruited as a random multicenter sample of Rheumatologists. All raters completed a preliminary training session on scoring rules for SLE-DAS, SLEDAI-2K and PGA. Each rater scored each clinical vignette with SLE-DAS, SLEDAI-2K, and PGA through an online survey. The scoring was repeated in a second round 7-14 days after the first one. The clinical vignettes were randomly ordered for each round. Inter and intra-rater reliability of each instrument was estimated using the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) with 95% confidence intervals (95% CI), based on single-measurement, absolute agreement, with a two-way random effect or two-way mixed-effects model, respectively.

Results: The 19 raters included 8 rheumatologists and 11 rheumatology trainees from 11 hospitals, with a mean of 12.1±7.1 years of rheumatology practice, respectively, and 78.9% of the participants assess ≤5 SLE patients per week in their regular clinical practice. The 24 clinical vignettes included 83.3% female patients, with a mean of 38.5±17.9 years of age. Active SLE organ involvement included: skin rashes (20.8%); arthritis (12.5%); nephritis (12.5%); thrombocytopenia (12.5%); cardiac/pulmonary involvement (12.5%); mucocutaneous vasculitis (8.3%); serositis (8.3%); neuropsychiatric lupus (8.3%). Systemic vasculitis, myositis, alopecia, hemolytic anemia, and leukopenia were each present in 4.2% of the vignettes. Hypocomplementemia and/or high anti-dsDNA were present in 75.0%. Twenty-one percent of the cases were in remission. All raters completed the survey, totaling 912 case assessments. Scores attributed by the raters ranged from 0.37 to 49.53 in SLE-DAS, 0 to 24 in SLEDAI-2K, and 0.0 to 3.0 in PGA. The interrater reliability was good for SLE-DAS and SLEDAI-2K, and moderate for PGA. The intra-rater reliability was excellent for SLE-DAS, and good for SLEDAI-2K and PGA (Table 1).

Table 1: Interrater and intra-rater reliability of SLE-DAS, SLEDAI-2K and PGA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>ICC (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLE-DAS</td>
<td>0.877 (0.857-0.934)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2K</td>
<td>0.812 (0.717-0.896)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>0.704 (0.578-0.828)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CI: confidence interval; ICC: intraclass correlation coefficient.

Conclusion: SLE-DAS presents high intra- and interrater reliability for measuring SLE disease activity. The high reliability of SLE-DAS is an important quality both in clinical practice and research, allowing consistent scoring among different clinicians including those who are not SLE experts.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Beatriz Mendes and Carolina Maza contributed equally and share first authorship.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Psoriatic arthritis - treatment

CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFICULT TO TREAT PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD

C. Philippeau1, A. Marty-Ané,1, C. Martin,1, P. Philippe1, J. Paccou1, B. Cortel1, R. M. Flipo1, J. G. Letarouilly1. Lille University Hospital, Rheumatology, Lille, France; 2 Lille University Hospital, Statistics, Economic Evaluation, Data-management Unit, Lille, France

Background: The concept of difficult-to-treat rheumatoid arthritis (D2T RA) has recently emerged. It is defined by the persistence of disease activity and the failure of at least 2 bDMARDs of 2 different mechanisms of action (MoA) [1]. In this definition, the period of time during which the treatments have failed is not included. The D2T concept has not yet been applied with consensus in psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Objectives: To study the characteristics of patients with D2T PsA to better identify the potential causes of treatment failure. The 2nd objective was to study a sub-group of D2T PsA patients with a predefined time criteria.

Methods: A monocentric retrospective longitudinal study was performed in a tertiary center. PsA diagnosis was based on CASPAR criteria. Patients were followed up from February 2004 to August 2022. Patients starting a bDMARD with a minimum of 2-year follow-up were included. D2T PsA patients were defined as patients who received more than 2 bDMARDs with different MoA among bDMARD available. These patients were compared to non-D2T PsA patients (nD2T PsA) using statistical tests. Very D2T PsA patients were defined as patients who received at least 2 bDMARDs in less than 2 years during the time of follow-up.

Results: 150 patients were included, 49 were D2T PsA and 101 nD2T PsA. Baseline characteristics are presented in the Table 1. No statistical difference was found between the 2 groups regarding main comorbidities, including fibromyalgia and depression. In the D2T PsA group, 91.7% and 69.1% of patients received an anti-TNF-alpha as the 1st and 2nd lines of treatment; anti-IL17 drugs represented 0% and 12.2% of 1st and 2nd lines; anti-IL-12/23 represented 8% and 18.4% of prescriptions in 1st and 2nd lines. After 3 lines, 38.8% of patients had received 3 bDMARDs with different MoA. 30.6% received 2 bDMARDs with different MoA. D2T patients were categorized as very D2T PsA. When compared to the rest of the 17 patients were categorized as very D2T PsA. At the time of the end of the study, D2T PsA group, no significant difference was observed. Proportion of men was 64.7% (p=0.39). Mean age was 55.0±8.3 yo (p=0.87) and mean BMI was 30.4±6.5 kg/m² (p=0.65).

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>nD2T PsA (N= 49)</th>
<th>nD2T PsA (N= 101)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean ± SD</td>
<td>55.2±8.2</td>
<td>51.5±10.3</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, male, mean ± SD</td>
<td>24 (49.0)</td>
<td>51 (50.5)</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoker status</td>
<td>20 (40.8)</td>
<td>101 (32.7)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical PsA characteristics at baseline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axial involvement</td>
<td>100 (20.0)</td>
<td>100 (32.7)</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral involvement</td>
<td>100 (20.0)</td>
<td>100 (99.0)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psa duration (years), median (IQR)</td>
<td>10 (8.0 to 20.0)</td>
<td>99 (11.0 to 21.0)</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probabilistic risk</td>
<td>42 (85.7)</td>
<td>101 (32.7)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural damage at baseline (axial and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peripheral)</td>
<td>100 (20.0)</td>
<td>100 (32.7)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline CRP (mg/L), median (IQR)</td>
<td>100 (20.0)</td>
<td>100 (32.7)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacological control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Values are expressed as number (%) unless otherwise stated. BASDAI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; bDMARD: biological disease modifying antirheumatic drug; BMI: body mass index; CRP: C-reactive protein; (n)D2T: (non) difficult-to-treat; HLA: human leukocyte antigen IBID: inflammatory bowel disease; IQR: interquartile range; N: number of available observations; NA: not applicable; PsA: psoriatic arthritis; SD: standard deviation.

Conclusion: Significant differences were found between the characteristics of patients D2T PsA and nD2T PsA, which were the presence of axial manifestations, structural damage at baseline and discontinuation due to poor dermatological control. The period of time during which the D2T PsA definition to PsA.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1333

Changes in Serum Cytokines by Week 24 Correlate with Long-Term Efficacy of Gusekumab Through 2-Years in Bio-Naïve Adults with PsA

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Randomized control trial, Biomarkers

S. Siebert1, G. Schett2, S. P. Raychaudhuri3,4, M. Guma5, W. Chen2, S. Gaso6, S. D. Chakravarty7,8, M. Shah9, P. Rahman10,11; 1 University of Glasgow, School of Infection and Immunity, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 2 FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Internal Medicine 3, Erlangen, Germany; 3 University of California Davis, School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Sacramento, CA, United States of America; 4 VA, Northern California Health Care System, Sacramento, CA, United States of America; 5 University of California San Diego, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, Department of Medicine, La Jolla, CA, United States of America; 6 Janssen Research & Development, LLC, Immunology, Spring House, PA, United States of America; 7 Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Horsham, PA, United States of America; 8 Drexel University College of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Philadelphia, PA, United States of America; 9 Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, PA, United States of America; 10 Memorial University of Newfoundland, Craig L Dobbin Genetics Research Centre, Discipline of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, St John’s, NL, Canada

Background: The IL-23p19 inhibitor gusekumab (GUS) has shown robust efficacy vs placebo (PBO) in phase 3 DISCOVER-1 and -2 studies of adults with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) [1,2], with continuous overall clinical improvement observed through 2 years of DISCOVER-2 [3]. GUS has previously been shown to significantly reduce levels of inflammatory biomarkers associated with PsA over 24 weeks [4].

Objectives: To assess whether earlier changes (by Week [W] 24) in serum biomarker levels associate with long-term (W100) clinical response to GUS.

Methods: DISCOVER-2 enrolled biologic-naïve adults with active PsA ≥6 months defined by the CASPAR criteria, swollen and tender joint counts ≥5, and C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥0.6 mg/dL. Patients (pts) were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100mg at W0, W4, then every 4 weeks (W4W); GUS at W0, W4, then GUS or PBO [2]. Using Spearman linear regression and General linear model, serum cytokine levels determined in GUS-treated pts (pooled W4QW8W) were assessed for: 1) correlations between reductions in cytokine levels, including selected Th17 cytokines (IL-17A, IL-17F, IL-22), acute phase cytokines (CRP, serum amyloid protein A [SAA], IL-6), and γ-δ-defensin 2 (BD-2), from baseline (BL) at W24 and in PsA disease severity from BL at W100, measured by changes in Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis [DAPSA] scores, Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score (PASDS), and Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) scores (significant correlation: >0.25 and p<0.05); and 2) associations between changes in selected cytokine levels from BL through W24 and achievement of ACR50 response at W100.

Results: BL demographics, disease severity, and medication use of GUS-treated DISCOVER-2 pts with available biomarker data (N=100) were consistent with the overall GUS-treated DISCOVER-2 population (N=493). With GUS treatment, PASI score change from BL at W100 correlated with changes from BL at W24 in serum BD-2, IL-17A, IL-17F, and IL-22 levels (all >r0.25, p<0.05; Table 1), though PASDAS and DAPSA score change at W100 did not correlate with changes in these biomarkers at W24. DAPSA score change at W100 correlated with changes at W24 in serum IL-6, W100 ACR50 responders (N=53) to GUS also demonstrated significantly lower serum CRP, SAA, and IL-6 levels at W24 than nonresponders (N=39) [p<0.05; Figure 1].

Conclusion: This analysis reported correlations between earlier changes in Th17 cytokine levels and long-term reductions in PASI scores, and associations between earlier changes in acute phase cytokine levels and long-term ACR50 response with GUS. The substantial reductions in these cytokines from BL at W24 may portend durable improvements in skin and joint symptoms of PsA.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Rho values indicating correlations between changes from BL at W24 in serum cytokine levels and changes from BL at W100 in PsA disease severity among D2 GUS-treated pts with available biomarker data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cytokine</th>
<th>DAPSA score change</th>
<th>PASDAS change</th>
<th>PASI score change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BD-2</td>
<td>0.096</td>
<td>0.128</td>
<td>0.599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-17A</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.056</td>
<td>0.412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-17F</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>0.068</td>
<td>0.412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-2</td>
<td>-0.027</td>
<td>0.044</td>
<td>0.382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.222</td>
<td>0.217</td>
<td>-0.051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAA</td>
<td>0.175</td>
<td>0.215</td>
<td>0.061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6</td>
<td>0.316</td>
<td>0.193</td>
<td>-0.033</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shaded cells represent significant correlation between cytokine levels and clinical activity (r>0.25 and p<0.05).

Methods: ATTRIA is a prospective registry of patients receiving bDMARD therapy for rheumatic diseases collecting data on efficacy, safety and quality of life of all patients treated in the Czech Republic. Adult patients with psoriatic arthritis treated with secukinumab were included in the analysis. The monitored indicators were survival on therapy, DAS 28 ESR, response to treatment according to EULAR, HAQ, EuroQol, physician-assessed psoriasis, dactylitis, enthesitis, nail involvement, physical function and ability to work. Patients were described at the beginning of secukinumab treatment and after 3, 6, 12, 18, and 24 months through absolute and relative frequencies in categorical variables and means with standard deviations (SD) and medians with 5th and 95th percentiles when describing continuous variables. Survival on therapy was computed through the Kaplan-Meier method. Statistical analyses were conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics (version 25.0).

Results: A total of 426 patients were included in the study, of which 237 were women and 189 were men. The average age at the start of treatment was 51 ± 12 years, duration of the disease 10 ± 8 years. About 40% of patients were bDMARD naïve, 60% had failed 1 or more bDMARDs. At the start of secukinumab treatment, 66.4% were on concomitant csDMARD therapy, with 47% receiving methotrexate (MTX) in monotherapy or in combination with other csDMARDs. Survival on therapy was 79.1% (95% CI: 75.0; 83.3) at 1 year, 69.6% (95% CI: 64.6; 74.6) at 2 years, and 53.6% (95% CI: 44.8; 62.5) at 5 years of treatment. The reason for treatment discontinuation was primary non-response (30.6%), secondary non-response (47.6%) and adverse effects (6.5%). Mean DAS 28 had decreased from initial 5.0 ± 1.3 to 2.5 ± 1.1 after 2 years of treatment. Remission (DAS 28 < 2.6) was achieved by 54.1% and low disease activity (DAS 28 ≤ 3.2) was achieved by 74.8% of patients still on secukinumab (Figure 1). There was also a significant improvement in the assessment of physical function and quality of life (HAQ, SF 36, EuroQol). The prevalence of heel enthesitis decreased from 12.2% to 1.5%, prevalence of dactylitis from 22% to 4.7%, and prevalence of moderate to severe nail involvement from 33.2% to 3.8% during the first 2 years of treatment. 43.8% (95% CI: 32.2; 55.4) were able to resume work and 13.9% (95% CI: 8.7; 19.0) of PsA patients lost their jobs during the first two years of treatment. The overall safety of the treatment was good with no unexpected serious side effects.

Figure 1. Achieving remission and a state of low disease activity with secukinumab in the treatment of PsA in the Czech national registry ATTRIA

Conclusion: This analysis of patients in a national registry demonstrated a robust and long-term effect of secukinumab in the treatment of individual PsA domains: arthritis, dactylitis, enthesitis, nail involvement, psoriasis, quality of life and in increasing work capacity in patients with PsA.

Acknowledgements: Supported by MCR 0003728

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.
DURABLE CLINICALLY-MEANINGFUL IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE, FATIGUE, PAIN, AND WORK PRODUCTIVITY AMONG PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH RISANKIZUMAB AT WEEK 100

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

L. E. Kristensen1, A. M. Soliman2, B. Padilla3, K. Papp3, A. Ostor4, Copenhagen University Hospital, The Parker Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark; AbbVie Inc, n/a, North Chicago, United States of America; Proalty Medical Research, Alliance Clinical Research, Waterloo, Canada; Cabrin Hospital, Monash University and Eumretis Research, Canberra, Australia

**Background:** Risankizumab (RZB) demonstrated efficacy and safety in the treatment of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in a phase 3 trials KEEPsAKE-1 (NCT03673508), patients with an inadequate response to disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARD-IR), and KEEPsAKE-2 (NCT03671148), DMARD-IR and inadequate responders to biologics.

**Objectives:** This analysis aims to assess the durability of the RZB treatment response on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in patients with PsA at Week 100.

**Methods:** In the KEEPsAKE 1 and 2 trials, patients were randomised 1:1 to receive RZB 150 mg or PBO in the 24-week double-blind period. During the open-label maintenance period, all patients received RZB 150 mg. This analysis evaluated observed cases of RZB-treated patients who achieved minimal clinically important differences (MCIDs) in PROs at Week 24. Results are presented as the percentage of patients, of those who achieved MCIDs at Week 24, who maintained MCIDs in PROs from Week 52 to Week 100. MCIDs included a ≥10-point decrease in Patient’s Global Assessment (PGA), ≥10-point decrease in Pain, ≥35-point decrease in Health Assessment Questionnaire – Disability Index (HAQ-DI), ≥4-point decrease in Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness FACIT – Fatigue, ≥2.5-point increase in 36-Item Short Form Survey (SF-36) physical component summary (PCS), ≥1-point decrease in Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), ≥1-point decrease in morning stiffness, and ≥20% reduction in Work Productivity and Activity Impairment (WPAI); Presenteeism; ≥15% in Work Productivity Loss, and ≥20% in Activity Impairment.

**Results:** In KEEPsAKE 1, 54–68% and 31–52% of RZB-treated patients and PBO to PsA patients achieved MCIDs across PROs at Week 24, respectively. In KEEPsAKE 2, 44–67% and 33–47% of RZB-treated patients and PBO to PsA patients achieved MCIDs across PROs at Week 24, respectively. Among the patients who achieved MCIDs at Week 24 in KEEPsAKE 1, a high percentage of RZB and RZB to PsA patients achieved MCIDs from Week 52 to 100 in PGA (RZB: 85.3–88.9%; PBO: 88.7–91.4%), Pain (RZB: 84.7–88.4%; PBO: 87.0–90.9%), and HAQ-DI (RZB: 80.7–90.8%; PBO: 82.6–84.3%) (Figure 1). In KEEPsAKE 2, similarly high percentages of RZB and PBO to RZB-treated patients maintained MCIDs in PGA (RZB: 77.0–80.5%; PBO: 78.4–84.0%), Pain (RZB: 77.2–85.6%; PBO: RZB: 84.3–94.2%), and HAQ-DI (RZB: 74.0–83.8%; PBO: RZB: 89.6–95.8%). At Week 100, 77.6–88.9% and 73.5–95.5% of RZB and PBO to RZB-treated patients, respectively, in KEEPsAKE 1 maintained MCIDs in FACIT-Fatigue, SF-36 PCS, BASDAI, morning stiffness, and WPAI; similar results were demonstrated in KEEPsAKE 2 (RZB: 73.1–96.4%; PBO: RZB: 76.2–100.0%) (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** In KEEPsAKE 1 and 2 trials, the majority of RZB-treated patients with PsA who achieved MCIDs in PROs at Week 24 maintained responses through Week 100. Achieving MCIDs at Week 24 is associated with sustained and clinically meaningful changes in HRQoL.

Table 1. Percentage of patients who achieved MCIDs at Week 24 and maintained MCIDs at Weeks 52 and 100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>KEEPsAKE 1</th>
<th>KEEPsAKE 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week 52</td>
<td>Week 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RZB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF-36 PCS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>(91.3)</td>
<td>(92.4/81)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** AbbVie funded the study and participated in interpretation of data, review, and approval of the abstract. All authors contributed to development of the abstract and maintained control over final content. No honoraria or payments were made for authorship. Medical writing services provided by Natalie Mitchell (Fishawack Facilitate Ltd) and funded by AbbVie.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Lars Erik Kristensen Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Ahmed M. Soliman Shareholder of: full-time employee of AbbVie and may hold AbbVie stock and/or stock options and patents, Employee of: full-time employee of AbbVie and may hold AbbVie stock and/or stock options and patents, Byron Padilla Shareholder of: full-time employee of AbbVie and may hold AbbVie stock and/or stock options and patents, Kim Papp Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, Bausch Health (Valeant), Baxalta, Baxter, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Coherus, Dermira, EMD Serono, Forward Pharma, Genalderma, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Kyowa Kirin, Lilly, LEO Pharma, Medimmune, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi Genzyme, Stiefel, Sun Pharma, Takeda and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, Bausch Health (Valeant), Baxalta, Baxter, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Coherus, Dermira, EMD Serono, Forward Pharma, Genalderma, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Kyowa Kirin, Lilly, LEO Pharma, Medimmune, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi Genzyme, Stiefel, Sun Pharma, Takeda and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, Bausch Health (Valeant), Baxalta, Baxter, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Coherus, Dermira, EMD Serono, Forward Pharma, Genalderma, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Kyowa Kirin, Lilly, LEO Pharma, Medimmune, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi Genzyme, Stiefel, Sun Pharma, Takeda and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi and UCB, Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi and UCB.

**Disclosure of Interests:** L. E. Kristensen Speakers bureau: AbbVie, and funded by AbbVie.

**Funding:** This analysis was sponsored by AbbVie Inc.
Background: Major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) are some of the numerous comorbidities associated with psoriasis (PsO) and psoriasis arthritis (PsA). Previous studies addressed the contribution of sufficient anti-inflammatory therapy for PsO and PsA in decreasing MACE incidence. Objectives: Assessing the risk of developing MACE in patients with pre-existing PsO treated with different treatment regimens; topical treatment, conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (cDMARDs), and biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) which had not previously studies sufficiently on real-world data.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective exploratory study with real-world data using the databases of the third largest Israeli health maintenance organization, ‘Muehedeet’ which covers approximately 1,300,000 subjects. All patients of ‘Muehedeet’ diagnosed with PsO from January 2000 until January 2020 were included in the analysis. Overall, 61,003 patients with PsO were detected. In addition, each PsO patient was paired with four control subjects by gender, age, and ethnicity (general, Arabic, or Orthodox). We defined PsO and PsA according to physicians’ diagnoses. MACE included patients with either cerebral vascular accident (CVA), ischemic heart disease (IHD), or peripheral artery disease (PVD). The date of the MACE incident was defined by the first occurrence of one of the diagnoses. We classified the patients diagnosed with PsA into a separate group; thus, patients were categorized according to their diagnosis (control, PsO or PsA). Furthermore, we analyzed the patients by the most advanced treatment prescribed to the patient; sub-grouped 1- topical therapy, sub-grouped 2 - cDMARDs (methotrexate or sulfasalazine), sub-grouped 3 - bDMARDs (anti-TNF, anti-IL17, or anti-IL12/23 agents) (Table 1). The Incident cases of MACE were analyzed according to the different lines of therapy mentioned above. In addition, Time-dependent Cox proportional hazard models were used to evaluate the adjusted risk of developing MACE by treatment group.

Results: 287,392 patients were included after exclusion by the defined criteria, contributing a total of 2,997,001 patient-years. Adjusted Cox proportional hazards regression analysis showed that the risk of developing MACE in PsO patients treated with topical treatment and those treated with cDMARDs was significantly higher in comparison to controls (Topical, HR: 1.1, CI: 1.02 - 1.1, p-value: <0.001; cDMARDs, HR: 1.2, CI: 1.0 - 1.5, p-value: 0.05). Yet, the risk of developing MACE in PsO patients treated with bDMARDs was not significantly different compared to controls (HR: 1.1, CI: 0.82 - 1.5, p-value: 0.55). On the contrary, the risk of developing MACE in all treatment groups of PsA patients was found to be significantly higher in comparison to controls (Topical, HR: 1.6, CI: 1.45 - 1.7, p-value: <0.001; cDMARDs, HR: 1.4, CI: 1.2 - 1.6, p-value: <0.001, bDMARDs, HR: 1.8, CI: 1.35 - 1.89, p-value: <0.001) (Figure 1). This analysis was adjusted to gender, body mass index (BMI), age of PsO diagnosis, lifetime diagnosis of diabetes mellitus type 2 (DM2), dyslipidemia, hypertension (HTN), and chronic heart failure (CHF); notably, male gender, higher BMI, older age, DM2, dyslipidemia, HTN, and CHF were all associated with a greater risk of developing MACE.

Conclusion: Despite that the psoriasis and arthritis severity is higher in patients treated with bDMARDs than cDMARDs, the difference was not significant. Furthermore, patients treated with bDMARDs had a protective effect on the risk of developing PsA.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1526

TREATMENT EFFECTS OF IXEKIZUMAB AND ADAILUMAB AT THE INDIVIDUAL DIGIT LEVEL WITH NAIL AND DISTAL INTERPHALANGEAL JOINT INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Clinical trials, bDMARD

D. Mcponagle1, A. Kavanaug2, L. E. Kristensen4, J. F. Meroa2, B. Strober3, R. Bolce8, J. Lisse8, J. Pustizzi8, C. Sapin9, C. T. Ritchlin9,1

1Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, University of Leeds, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2University of California San Diego, Department of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology, San Diego, United States of America; 3University of California, College of Medical Veterinary and Life Sciences, Glascow, United Kingdom; 4The Parker Institute, Musculoskeletal Statistics Unit, Copenhagen, Denmark; 5Bingham and Women’s Hospital, Hartford Medical School, Department of Dermatology and Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Boston, United States of America; 6Yale University, Department of Dermatology, New Haven, United Kingdom; 7Central Connecticut Dermatotology Research, Towmwell, United States of America; 8Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, United States of America; 9University of Rochester Medical Center, Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America

Background: The prevalence of nail disease in patients with psoriatic arthritits (PsA) ranges between 41% and 93% [1]. Psoriatic nail disease is intimately linked to adjacent distal interphalangeal joint (DIP) disease, and it is important to ascertain whether DIP-nail complex behaves differently under different biological therapies.

Objectives: The aim of this analysis was to comparatively assess the effect of ixekizumab (IXE) and adalimumab (ADA) at the individual digit level in improving nail and joint disease, in patients with PsA and concomitant nail involvement.

Methods: This post hoc analysis included patients from SPIRIT-H2H (NCT01515511) treated with either IXE or ADA who had baseline nail disease (NAPSI total score >0) and DIP involvement in at least one simultaneous digit, with either tenderness, swelling or both, at the individual digit level for each hand. Proportions of patients having a NAPSI total score >0 and proportions of patients having DIP involvement (tenderness or swelling) were evaluated at baseline and Week 24; post-baseline assessments were compared between treatment arms using Fisher’s exact test.

Results: Of the intent-to-treat population of SPIRIT-H2H (N=566), 354 patients had a NAPSI total score >0 and DIP involvement (swelling or tenderness) in at least 1 digit simultaneously at baseline (IXE, N=186 and ADA, N=168). Of these patients, significantly fewer IXE- vs. ADA-treated patients had a NAPSI total score of >0 at Week 24 (p<0.05 for 8/10 digits; Table 1) and numerically fewer IXE- vs. ADA-treated patients had DIP involvement at Week 24 across all 10 digits (p<0.05 for 4/10 digits; Table 1). Numerically fewer IXE- vs. ADA-treated patients had joint tenderness at Week 24. A similar pattern of improvement was seen out to Week 52 (Table 1).

Conclusion: In this analysis, in patients from SPIRIT-H2H with psoriatic arthritis who had nail involvement and DIP involvement at baseline, patients treated with IXE had less nail involvement, less DIP involvement and less tenderness compared to those treated with ADA at Week 24.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1.
Background: The prevalence of cardiometabolic diseases including obesity and diabetes are higher in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) than those without PsA. Apremilast (APR) is associated with weight loss and a reduction in HbA1c. Objectives: To evaluate the effects of APR on cardiometabolic parameters over 52 weeks in patients with active PsA from 5 pooled phase 3 trials.

Methods: Data from 5 randomized, placebo-controlled, phase 3 studies (PAL-ACE 1–4 and ACTIVE) in patients with active PsA receiving APR 30 mg BID were pooled. Included in this analysis were patients who were treated with APR for 52 weeks. Changes from baseline to Week 52 in low and high density lipoprotein (LDL, HDL), body mass index (BMI), and HbA1c were assessed and stratified by baseline level of these parameters and Week 52 disease activity (Clinical Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis [cDAPSA]) remission/low disease activity (REM/LDA) vs moderate/high disease activity (ModDA/HDA).

Results: Data from 781 patients with PsA who received APR were pooled (mean age: 50 years, 55% female). Mean LDL was 119.6 mg/dL in the overall population at baseline and decreased by 2.0 mg/dL on average at Week 52 (Figure 1). The greatest decreases were seen in patients with the highest LDL levels at baseline (Figure 1). Similar favorable changes in HDL were observed. A total of 34/65 (52.3%) moved from the high LDL category (≥160 mg/dL) at baseline to borderline (>129 – <160 mg/dL) or normal (≤129 mg/dL) at Week 52 and 25/24 (10.3%) moved from the high HDL category (>40 – ≥60 mg/dL) to normal (<40 mg/dL) at Week 52. Greater changes in HbA1c were seen in patients who were prediabetic or diabetic at baseline. Furthermore, 60/119 (50.4%) patients who had prediabetes changed to normal HbA1c levels and 10/25 (40.0%) moved from diabetes to pre-diabetes.

Conclusion: APR treatment was associated with improvement in cardiometabolic parameters observed across psoriatic disease activity groups. The most favorable changes were seen in patients with high LDL, low HDL, obesity, or diabetes at baseline. These findings suggest that those with a high burden of comorbid cardiometabolic diseases and active PsA treatment may gain benefit beyond joint disease with APR. However, these findings require larger, prospective studies.

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Disclosure of Interests: Philip J Mease Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB – speakers bureau, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Immagene, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB – grant/research support and consultant; Acelyrin, Aclaris, Boehringer Ingelheim, GxOxSmithKline, and Moonlake – consultant, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB.
Table. LDL, BMI, and HBa1c Shift from Baseline to Week 52

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 52 LDL (mg/dL), n (%)</th>
<th>Week 52 BMI (kg/m²), n (%)</th>
<th>Week 52 HBa1c (%), n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal (129)</td>
<td>Normal (&lt;25)</td>
<td>Normal (&lt;5.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(152 – 160)</td>
<td>(25 – 30)</td>
<td>(5.7 – &lt;6.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High (160)</td>
<td>Obese (≥30)</td>
<td>Diabetes (≥6.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>274/322 (85.1)</td>
<td>111/124 (89.5)</td>
<td>224/231 (97.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41/322 (12.7)</td>
<td>13/124 (10.5)</td>
<td>6/231 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73/222 (2.2)</td>
<td>0/124 (0.0)</td>
<td>1/231 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline LDL (mg/dL)</td>
<td>Baseline BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>Baseline HBa1c (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal (129)</td>
<td>Normal (&lt;25)</td>
<td>Normal (&lt;5.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(152 – 160)</td>
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<td>13/124 (10.5)</td>
<td>6/231 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73/222 (2.2)</td>
<td>0/124 (0.0)</td>
<td>1/231 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Includes patients who were treated with APR for 52 weeks.

Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Immagine, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun, and UCB – grant/research support and consultant, Daiva D Gladman Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB – grant/research support or consulting fees, Iain B. McInnes Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB – grant/research support or consulting fees, Grant/research support and consultant, Dafna D Gladman Consultant of: AbbVie, Artifical Intelligence, Real-world evidence, Psoriatic arthritis

Methods: The most influencing predictor was patient global assessment (PGA) at BL, followed by PhGA, number of pretreatments with biologics, tender joint count and age (Figure 1 A). AUROC of the best prediction model was 0.68 in validation cohort. Sensitivity and specificity were 0.62 and 0.64, respectively. Applied XAI approach showed that lower BL values of all main predictors have higher probability of reaching LDA at w16. The highest probability was evident in biologic-naive patients (Figure 1 A). The approach also provided visual explanations of patient-individual predictions: Variables with values shown in green color increased probability of reaching LDA at w16, whereas red ones showed the opposite effect (Figure 1 B). Conclusion: A promising prediction model accuracy of LDA in PsA patients treated with SEC could be reached and validated. Identified main predictors at BL, such as PGA and number of pretreatments with biologics, and their direction of influence on the prediction mostly match the existing clinical knowledge [4]. The analysis showed that XAI can provide useful clinical insights in patient-individual predictions, potentially guiding PsA treatment decisions in future.

REFERENCES:
[2] Kiltz et al., 2019

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Disclosure of Interests: Asmir Vodencarevic Employee of: Novartis Pharma GmbH, Jan Brandt-Juergens Consultant of: AbbVie, Affibody, BMS, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Medac, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Aventis, UCB, Daniel Peterlik Employee of: Novartis Pharma GmbH, Benjamin Greiner Employee of: Novartis Pharma GmbH, Uta Kiltz Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Grünenthal, Hexal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Honoraria or research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Grünenthal, Hexal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB.

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POS1528 PREDICTION OF LOW DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH SECUKINUMAB IN REAL WORLD – DATA FROM THE GERMAN AQUILA STUDY

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Real-world evidence, Psoriatic arthritis

A. Vodencarevic1, J. Brandt-Juergens2, D. Peterlik3, B. Gmeiner1, U. Kiltz4,5, 
1Novartis, Novartis Pharma GmbH, Nürnberg, Germany; 2Rheumatology, Schwerpunktpraxis, Berlin, Germany; 3Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Herne und Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Herne, Germany

Background: Secukinumab (SEC) proved to be an effective treatment for PsA patients under SEC treatment in routine clinical care. Objectives: Using real-world data from the German non-interventional study AQUILA [2], the main objectives were (1) to predict LDA in individual PsA patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in previous randomized clinical trials [1]. There is only limited knowledge on prediction of low disease activity (LDA) and treatment strategy in PsA patients under SEC treatment in routine clinical care. Using real-world data from the German non-interventional study AQUILA [2], the main objectives were (1) to predict LDA in individual PsA patients with PsA treated with SEC through machine learning methods and (2) to identify the most important predictors and their influence on the prediction using explainable artificial intelligence (XAI).

Methods: Data of 1041 PsA patients from the AQUILA study were used. Thirty-three demographic, clinical and treatment parameters at baseline (BL) served as input data to develop prediction models. LDA was defined as physician global assessment (PhGA) ≤ 2 at week (w) 16 (+/- 6 w). Samples were divided into training (70%) and validation (30%) cohorts. Ten different prediction models were applied and compared. Model performance was measured using area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC) which represents the probability that a randomly selected patient with LDA will have higher prediction than a patient with moderate/high disease activity. Additionally, sensitivity that a randomly selected patient with LDA will have higher prediction than a patient with moderate/high disease activity. Furthermore, sensitivity that a randomly selected patient with LDA will have higher prediction than a patient with moderate/high disease activity. The analysis showed that XAI can provide useful clinical insights in patient-individual predictions, potentially guiding PsA treatment decisions in future.

REFERENCES:
[2] Kiltz et al., 2019

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Asmir Vodencarevic Employee of: Novartis Pharma GmbH, Jan Brandt-Juergens Consultant of: AbbVie, Affibody, BMS, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Medac, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Aventis, UCB, Daniel Peterlik Employee of: Novartis Pharma GmbH, Benjamin Greiner Employee of: Novartis Pharma GmbH, Uta Kiltz Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Grünenthal, Hexal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Honoraria or research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Grünenthal, Hexal, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB.

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POS1529 DOMAINS IMPACTING MINIMAL DISEASE ACTIVITY NON-ACHIEVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO TNF-RECEPTOR GUSELKUMAB (COSMOS)

Keywords: Clinical trials, Psoriatic arthritis, Outcome measures


1Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom; 2Humanitas Research Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; 3Humanitas University, Pieve Emmanuele, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Milan, Italy; 4University of Erlangen, Department of Medicine 3 – Rheumatology and Immunology, Erlangen, Germany; 5Lariboisière Hospital, AP-HP, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France; 6Rheumatology Department, Hospital Clinic, Barcelona, Spain; 7Janssen, Scientific Affairs, LLC, Brussels, Belgium; 8McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada; 9USS Medical Research, Inc, Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 10Janssen, Scientific Affairs, LLC, Zug, Switzerland; 11Johnson & Johnson, Middle East FZ LLC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 12Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom
Background: Sustained minimal disease activity (MDA) is achieved by a minority of patients (pts) receiving biologics for psoriatic arthritis (PsA) [1]. Pt-reported MDA domains are less frequently achieved than physician-reported domains [2,3]. Here, we assessed MDA achievement in pts with PsA and inadequate response to 1–2 tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNF-IR).

Objectives: Identity PsA disease domains and factors contributing to the lack of MDA achievement at Week (W)48 for TNFI-IR PsA pts treated with guselkumab (GUS) using data from the Phase 3b COSMOS trial.

Methods: In COSMOS, adults with active PsA (swollen/tender joint counts [SJC/TJC] each ≥3) and TNFI-IR were randomized 2:1 to subcutaneous GUS 100 mg or placebo (PBO) at W0, W4, then every 8 weeks. PBO pts crossed over to GUS at W16 (early escape) or W24 (planned). MDA was defined as fulfilment of ≥5/7 domains: tender entheses (Leeds Enthesitis Index [LEI]; 0–6) ≤1; Health Assessment Questionnaire – Disability Index (HAQ-DI; 0–3) ≤0.5; pt pain (0–100) ≤15; Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI; 0–72) ≤1; Pt Global Assessment (PtGA; 0–100) ≤20; SJC (0–68) ≤1; and, TJC (0–68) ≤1. Fibromyalgia (pFM) was defined at baseline (BL) using TJC minus SJC ≥7 as a proxy [3]. A longitudinal trajectory of achieving each MDA domain through W48 was derived (non-responder imputation). Time to achieving each domain was assessed with Kaplan–Meier analyses; to account for differences in scales and domain strictness, scores were also normalized to SJC (0–66) scale. Response predictors (for pts not meeting each MDA domain criteria at BL) were identified using multivariate regression for time to achievement (Cox proportional hazards) and W48 achievement (logistic) of MDA.

Results: GUS pts (n=189) showed improvement from BL in all MDA domains, with overall W24/48 response rates (%) of: LEI (74.5/79.9); HAQ-DI (26.1/37.0); pt pain (14.7/37.0); PASI (66.8/61.5); PtGA (24.5/39.9); SJC (46.2/63.0) and TJC (57.2/63) respectively. Time to achievement of minimal scores for LEI, SJC, and PASI were faster than for PtGA, HAQ-DI, pt pain and TJC for native-scale scores; when normalized, PtGA, HAQ-DI and pt pain showed a slower response (Figure 1). Higher BL HAQ-DI and worse fatigue (lower functional assessment [FACIT]-fatigue score) were significantly associated with longer time to HAQ-DI ≤0.5; these factors plus older age predicted W48 non-achievement of HAQ-DI ≤0.5 (Table 1). Worse BL pt pain and fatigue were significant predictors of longer time to pt pain ≤15; these factors plus pFM predicted W48 non-achievement of pt pain ≤15. Worse BL fatigue was also significantly associated with longer time to PtGA ≤20 and W48 non-achievement of PtGA ≤20. Higher TJC, methotrexate (MTX) use and no pFM at BL were significantly associated with longer time to TJC ≤1; higher BL TJC, MTX and older age predicted W48 non-achievement of TJC ≤1.

Conclusion: GUS provided sustainable improvement in all MDA domains through W48. Physician-reported domains (LEI, PASI and SJC) were achieved faster than pt-driven domains (PtGA, HAQ-DI, pt pain and TJC). BL domain scores, worse fatigue and MTX use (for TJC only) were inversely correlated with MDA in the refractory domains.

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Table 1. Predictors of time to achievement and achievement of pt-reported MDA domains at W48 in GUS pts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to achievement</th>
<th>BL variable</th>
<th>HAQ-DI ≤0.5</th>
<th>Pt pain ≤15</th>
<th>SJC ≤1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR (95% CI)</td>
<td>FACIT-fatigue</td>
<td>1.0 (0.2–0.6)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.2–0.6)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.2–0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.3 (0.2–0.6)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.2–0.6)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.2–0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Pt pain</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9–1.0)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9–1.0)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9–1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MTX use</td>
<td>0.6 (0.4–0.9)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.6–1.1)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.6–1.1)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>pFM presence</td>
<td>0.9 (0.6–1.3)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.6–1.3)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.6–1.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Real-world evidence, Prognostic factors

Lilly, Novartis, Julio Ramirez Speakers bureau: Abbvie, UCB, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Angem and Lilly, Paid instructor for: Novartis and Janssen, Consultant of: Novartis, Novartis, Abbvie and UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Wim Noel Shareholder of: Johnson and Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson and Johnson, Emmanuel Rampaakakis Consultant of: Employee of JSS Medical Research, a contract research organization (CRO) providing services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology stakeholders, Miriam Zimmermann Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson and Johnson, Mohamed Sharaf Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson and Johnson, Dennis McGonagle Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Celgene, MSD, UCB, Lilly, Novartis, Janssen, Paid instructor for: Abbvie, Celgene, MSD, UCB, Lilly, Novartis, Janssen, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Celgene, MSD, UCB, Lilly, Novartis, Janssen.

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Factors associated with the retention of secukinumab (Sec) in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in real-world practice: Results from the retrospective Forsya Study

POS1530

Factors associated with the retention of secukinumab (Sec) in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in real-world practice: Results from the retrospective Forsya Study

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Real-world evidence, Prognostic factors

A. Ruyssen-Witrand1, A. Lardy-Cléaude2, E. Desfleurs3, P. Claudépiere4, M. Dougdados5, P. Goupille6, C. Lukas7, A. Sarauz8, A. Tournadre9, D. Wending9, University Hospital of Toulouse, Department of Rheumatology, Toulouse, France; RCTs Clinical Research Organisation, Biostatistics, Lyon, France; Novartis, Medical affairs, Ruel Malmaison, France; Hôpital Henri Mondor, Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Department of Rheumatology, Créteil, France; Hôpital Cochin, Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Department of Rheumatology, Paris, France; University Hospital of Tours, Department of Rheumatology, Tours, France; University hospital of Montpellier, Department of Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; University Hospital of Brest, Department of Rheumatology, Brest, France; University hospital of Clermont Ferrand, Department of Rheumatology, Clermont Ferrand, France; University hospital of Besançon, Department of Rheumatology, Besançon, France

Background: While data on real-life retention of SEC in patients (pts) with PsA is accumulating, there are few data on predictive factors of this retention.

Objectives: To assess if objective signs of inflammation (OSI) were predictive of SEC retention at 1 year.

Methods: French retrospective study collecting between Oct 2019 and May 2022 data from PsA pts a) having initiated and received at least one dose of SEC between Aug 2016 and Aug 2018 (cohort 1) and Sep 2018 and Nov 2020 (cohort 2) b) with at least a 1 year follow-up period. Retention rate of SEC at 1 year was estimated by the Kaplan Meier (KM) method. OSI were defined by at least one of the following within the 3 months before initiation of SEC: CRP > 5, confirmed

Figure 1. Time to achieve MDA for each domain with GUS treatment

Scientific Abstracts
clinical dactyliitis, confirmed clinical synovitis or ultrasonography power-Doppler positive synovitis. The following a priori baseline prespecified factors of SEC retention at 1 year (cohort $\geq$ 1 OSI, age, sex, BMI, smoking, axial feature, history of arthritis or synovitis/pсорiatis/over/IBD, diagnostic delay, disease duration, SEC line (L) of biologic/targeted synthetic (b/ts)DMARD, SEC dose, csDMARD, corticosteroids at initiation, history of fibromyalgia/ depression) were analyzed by cox model regression. Only variables with $\leq$20% missing data were included in the model after multiple imputation and stepwise selection (significance level for entering variables $\leq$ 20%; for removing variables $\leq$ 15%). OSI and cohort variables were forced into the model whatever their significance level or rate of missing data.

**Results:** 842 pts (male: 38.6%, mean age: 52.5 $\pm$ 12.3 years, mean disease duration: 8.7 $\pm$ 8.5 years) from 50 centers were included in the analysis. At initiation of SEC, 63.0% of pts had $\geq$ 1 OSI and respectively 15.6%, 24.2% and 60.0% were in 1st, 2nd and $\geq$ 3rd (L) of b/ts DMARD. The 1 year retention rate for SEC was 64% [95%CI: 61%–68%] and was numerically greater in 1st L vs 2nd and $\geq$ 3rd L (77% [95%-84%], 65% [59-72%], 61% [57%-66%] respectively). The 1 year retention rates of SEC were 65% [61%-69%] and 69% [62%-75%] respectively for OSI+ and OSI- at SEC initiation. In multivariate analysis after adjustment, OSI was not identified as predictive factor of SEC discontinuation at 1 year (HR=1.19 (9.03;15.2), p=0.169). The others predictive factors identified are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1. Predictive factors of SEC discontinuation at 1 year identified by multivariate cox regression analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictive factors (* reference)</th>
<th>SEC retentionHRAdjusted * 95% vs p ref</th>
<th>p type</th>
<th>CI</th>
<th>N-129*</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0.011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secukinumab treatment line 1st L (N=129)*</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd L (N=199)</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>1.61 [1.05; 2.48]</td>
<td>0.030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\geq$ 3rd L (N=499)</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>1.82 [1.23; 2.69]</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;= &lt;40 (N=132)</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;40 (N=460)</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>0.71 [0.52; 0.98]</td>
<td>0.040</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD at SEC initiation No (N=505)*</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes (N=262)*</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>0.77 [0.60; 0.98]</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids at SEC initiation No (N=708)*</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes (N=119)</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>1.71 [1.26; 2.31]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or suspicion of fibromyalgia No (N=754)*</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes (N=74)</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>1.57 [1.09; 2.26]</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interpretation for predictor: HR> 1: the hazard of discontinuation at 1 year is X times higher in category vs reference.$ without imputation for missing data# adjusted on cohort and OSI

**Conclusion:** In this large cohort of PaSa patients, the overall retention rate of SEC was 64% at 1 year in daily practice. Previous exposure to b/tsDMARD, concomitant corticosteroids at initiation of SEC and history of fibromyalgia were associated with an increased risk of SEC discontinuation at 1 year while concomitant csDMARD at initiation of SEC and age $\leq$ 40 year with a decreased risk.

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**Keywords:** Cell biology, Psoriatic arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

D. Mcnoopy1, R. Aretya2, M. Abreuf2, J. Krueger3, K. Eyerich6, K. Sachen4, C. Greving5, D. Hammaker2, P. Bao4, E. Lacy2, I. Sarabia2, J. Deming6, M. Elloso5, C. T. Ricket15, I. Mccorm1, M. Allez6, A. Fourie1

1University of Leeds, Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Erlangen University Hospital, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany; 3University of Miami, Leonard Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, United States of America; 4The Rockefeller University, Laboratory for Investigative Dermatology, New York, NY, United States of America; 5Medical Center, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany; 6Karolinska Institute, Department of Medicine - Division of Dermatology and Venerology, Stockholm, Sweden; 7Janssen Research & Development, LLC-Immunoology, San Diego, CA, United States of America; 8Janssen Research & Development, LLC, Immunology, Spring House, PA, United States of America; 9Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Horsham, PA, United States of America; 10University of Rochester, Department of Medicine - Allergy/Immunology and Rheumatology, Rochester, NY, United States of America; 11University of Glasgow, College of Medical Veterinary and Life Sciences, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 12Hôpital Saint-Louis, Université Paris 6, Paris, France

**Background:** Monoclonal antibodies targeting the interleukin (IL)-23p19 subunit are effective in the treatment of psoriatic disease but have different molecular attributes that may translate to differences in clinical efficacy. Within this class, guselkumab (GUS) is a fully human IgG1 monoclonal antibody with a native Fc region, while risankizumab (RIS) is a humanised IgG1 antibody with a mutated Fc region. Binding of these therapeutic antibodies to Fcγ receptor (FcγR) I, also known as CD64, is of interest, as CD64+ IL-23-producing myeloid cells are increased in infected tissue of patients with psoriatic disease [1]. Furthermore, the incidence and prevalence of psoriatic arthritis increases with the severity of psoriasis [2], and joint disease activity is positively correlated with frequency of peripheral CD64+ monocytes [3].

**Objectives:** Functional characteristics of the antigen-binding and Fc regions of GUS and RIS were compared.

**Methods:** IL-23 binding affinity was evaluated in vitro using a kinetic exclusion assay (KinExA) and surface plasmon resonance. In vitro cellular potency was measured by impact on IL-23-induced signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) phosphorylation in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells. Binding of GUS and RIS to FcγRs was assessed in cells transfected with individual FcγRs. Primary human “inflammatory” monocytes differentiated with granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor and interferon-γ (IFN-γ) were induced to produce IL-23 via toll-like receptor stimulation and used to assess binding of GUS and RIS to CD64 and potential capture of endogenously secreted IL-23 by flow cytometry. The potential for GUS binding to CD64 on IFN-γ primed monocytes to trigger activation was assessed using a 41-plex cytokine bead assay.

**Results:** GUS and RIS displayed comparable picomolar binding affinity for IL-23 and equivalent high potency for inhibiting IL-23-induced STAT3 phosphorylation. GUS showed strongest binding to CD64 compared with other FcγRs, whereas RIS had negligible binding to any FcγR. GUS, but not RIS, showed dose-dependent Fc-mediated binding to CD64 on primary human “inflammatory” monocytes. Moreover, CD64-bound GUS was able to simultaneously capture IL-23 endogenously secreted from the same cells (Figure 1). GUS binding to CD64 on monocytes did not induce cytokine production.

**Conclusion:** GUS, but not RIS, simultaneously binds CD64+ myeloid cells via its Fc region and neutralises IL-23 with high affinity and potency. Our in vitro data suggest a mechanistic benefit through enrichment of GUS within infected tissue of patients with psoriatic disease, where CD64+ IL-23-producing myeloid cells are increased, such that GUS potentially neutralises IL-23 at its site of production. These findings may contribute to differences in clinical-therapeutic profiles between antibodies.
WHAT IS THE REAL IMPACT OF DEPRESSION ON CLINICAL RESPONSE TO THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH BIOLOGIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS?

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD

A. Martins1,2, D. Santos Oliveira3,2, R. Nicolau2, T. Martins-Rocha4,2, A. Bernardo2, S. Pimenta3,2, M. Bernardes2, L. Costa1, S. Monteiro1, A. Coelho2,1, H. Coelho2,1,1, I. Dinis1,2, R. Tavares2,1, A. Afonso2,1, M. Coelho2,1, M. Pinheiro1, A. Freitas2,1, C. Marreiros2,1, A. Freitas2,1, A. Ferreira2,1, A. Nóvoa1,2, S. Mamede1,2, R. Figueiredo2,1, M. Pires2,1, L. Morais2,1, J. Sequeira2,1, M. Freitas2,1, J. Lopes2,1, M. Freitas2,1

References:


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BIOMEKIZUMAB TREATMENT RESULTED IN CLINICALLY MEANINGFUL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IMPACT OF DISEASE-12 (PSAID-12) SCORES USING POOLED RESULTS FROM TWO PHASE 3 TRIALS IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Clinical trials

L. Gossèc, L. Coates, A. M. Orbaï, M. De Wif, J. Lambert, B. Ink, V. Taieb, D. D. Gladman, Sorbonne Université, N/A, Paris, France; AP-HP, Pitité-Salpêtrière Hospital, N/A, Paris, France; 2Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Diseases, University of Oxford and Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, Oxford, United Kingdom; 3Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America; 4Stichting Tools, Patient Research Partner, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 5UCB Pharma, N/A, Colombes, France; 6UCB Pharma, N/A, Slough, United Kingdom; 7University of Toronto, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Krembil Research Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network, Ontario, United States of America

Background: The Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) Impact of Disease-12 (PsAID-12) questionnaire assesses PsA impact from the patient (pt) perspective [1]. Bimekizumab (BKZ), a monoclonal IgG1 antibody that selectively inhibits interleukin (IL)-17A and IL-17F, has shown superior efficacy vs placebo (PBO) and tolerability to 16 weeks (wks) in pts with PsA [2,3].

Objectives: To assess the efficacy of BKZ from the pt perspective, over 16 wks of treatment, using data from two phase 3 trials.

Methods: Analysis of pts with PsA randomised to subcutaneous BKZ 160mg every 4 wks vs PBO in BE OPTIMAL (NCT03895203; N=712, biologic DMARD-naïve pts) and BE COMPLETE (NCT03896581; N=400, tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitor-inadequate responders). PsAID-12 total and single-item domain scores range from 0 to 10; higher scores indicate worse status. Change from baseline (CB) data and clinically meaningful within pt improvement response (threshold: decrease of ≥3 from baseline [BL] when respective PsAID-12 score ≥3 at BL) for total and single-domain scores were calculated. Missing data imputed using multiple imputation (continuous) and non-responder imputation (binary).

Results: Of 1,112 pts randomised to BKZ or PBO, 96.5% completed Wk 16. BL characteristics were generally similar between treatment groups within trials; mean age: 49.3 years, BMI: 29.5 kg/m², years since diagnosis: 7.2; 46.6% male. Similar differences between BKZ and PBO results were found for single-item domain responders, for example BKZ 16 PsAID-12 pain score response rate: 46.5% BKZ, 18.7% PBO; skin problem score response rate: 68.5% BKZ, 21.4% PBO (Table 1). Clinically meaningful response rate for Wk 16 PsAID-12 total score: 41.9% BKZ, 8.4% PBO with results similar in both pt populations (Figure 1).

Conclusion: By Wk 16, over half of BKZ-treated pts reported clinically meaningful improvements in most PsAID-12 single-item domain scores assessing PsA-specific symptoms and impact. Results may support shared treatment decisions.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Pooled BL scores, Wk 16 CB and clinically meaningful response rate for PsAID-12 total and single-domain scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>BL mean (SD)</th>
<th>Wk 16 CB Response Rate (%)</th>
<th>Response Rate for PsAID-12 Total (%) (SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Score</td>
<td>4.2 (2.0)</td>
<td>41.9 (107/494)</td>
<td>41.9 (107/494)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>5.6 (2.3)</td>
<td>46.5 (282/606)</td>
<td>46.5 (282/606)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>4.8 (2.5)</td>
<td>44.7 (241/539)</td>
<td>44.7 (241/539)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin Problems</td>
<td>4.7 (2.8)</td>
<td>68.5 (348/508)</td>
<td>68.5 (348/508)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work and/or</td>
<td>4.6 (2.6)</td>
<td>53.6 (252/458)</td>
<td>53.6 (252/458)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure Activities</td>
<td>4.8 (2.5)</td>
<td>53.0 (280/546)</td>
<td>53.0 (280/546)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional</td>
<td>4.5 (2.7)</td>
<td>54.1 (297/511)</td>
<td>54.1 (297/511)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>3.8 (3.0)</td>
<td>54.7 (222/406)</td>
<td>54.7 (222/406)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discomfort</td>
<td>4.0 (2.4)</td>
<td>53.6 (245/457)</td>
<td>53.6 (245/457)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety, Fear</td>
<td>2.6 (2.7)</td>
<td>575 (134/233)</td>
<td>575 (134/233)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncertainty</td>
<td>2.9 (2.7)</td>
<td>70.6 (187/265)</td>
<td>70.6 (187/265)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embarrassment</td>
<td>2.9 (2.7)</td>
<td>61.0 (191/313)</td>
<td>61.0 (191/313)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and/or Shame</td>
<td>1.4 (2.2)</td>
<td>60.1 (96/149)</td>
<td>60.1 (96/149)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Clinical trials

W. Tillett, J. F. Merola, Y. Tanaka, E. G. Favalli, D. Mcgonagle, J. A. Walsh, D. Thompson, B. Ink, R. Bajacharya, V. Taieb, C. T. Ritchlin, University of Bath, Royal National Hospital of Rheumatic Diseases, and Department of Life Sciences, Centre for Therapeutic Innovation, Bath, United Kingdom; 2Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, N/A, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America; 3University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Fukuoka, Japan;
Background: Given the chronic, long-term nature of psoriatic arthritis (PsA), sustaining high levels of disease control with treatment is important. Assessing the maintenance of response in patients (pts) that achieve treatment targets is of interest, particularly as pts can experience loss of response with long-term therapy [1]. Bimekizumab (BKZ), a monoclonal IgG1 antibody that selectively inhibits interleukin (IL)-17F in addition to IL-17A, has demonstrated rapid, statistically significant and clinically meaningful joint and skin efficacy responses at Week (Wk) 16 versus placebo (PBO), in pts with PsA [2,3]. Responses were sustained to Wk 52 [4].

Objectives: To report the maintenance of response in joint and skin efficacy outcomes to 52 wks in BKZ-treated pts with PsA who were responders at Wk 16.

Methods: BE OPTIMAL (NCT03895203) included a 16-wk double-blind, PBO-controlled period, and a 36-wk active treatment-blind period. Biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (bDMARD)- naïve pts were eligible if they had adult-onset, active PsA with ≥3 tender and ≥3 swollen joints, and ≥1 active psoriasis lesion. A history of previous PsA therapy was allowed. Pts were randomised 3:2 to subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 wks (Q4W), PBO or reference arm (adalimumab 40 mg every 2 wks). At Wk 16, PBO pts switched to subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg Q4W (PBO/BKZ). Maintenance of response is reported as the percentage of BKZ-treated pts who achieved a response at Wk 16, who maintained that response at Wk 52. Data are reported for pts randomised to subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg Q4W at baseline. Endpoints include American College of Rheumatology (ACR)20/50/70, Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI)75/90/100, minimal and very low disease activity (MDA, VDA), and Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA) remission or low disease activity (REM+LDA; ≤4) and remission (REM; ≤4) responses. Wk 16 responders are reported using non-responder imputation (NRI); maintenance of response to Wk 52 is reported using NRI and observed case (OC) data. The number of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) to Wk 52 are reported for pts who received ≥1 dose of BKZ, including pts who switched from PBO to BKZ at Wk 16.

Results: At baseline, 431 pts were randomised to BKZ 160 mg Q4W, 217/431 (50.3%) had psoriasis affecting ≥3 body surface area (BSA); 414/431 (96.1%) pts completed Wk 16 and 383 (88.9%) completed Wk 52. The majority of pts who achieved responses at Wk 16 maintained their response at Wk 52, across a range of joint and skin outcomes (Figure 1). At Wk 16, 268 (62.2%), 189 (43.9%) and 105 (24.4%) pts achieved ACR20/50/70, respectively. Of those responders, ACR20/50/70 responses were maintained at Wk 52 by over 80% of pts: 88.4%, 86.6%, 82.9% (NRI); 92.9%, 91.1% and 87.9% (OC). Of 217 pts with psoriasis affecting ≥3% BSA at baseline, 133 (61.3%) and 103 (47.5%) achieved PASI90/100 at Wk 16. The majority of pts maintained the response at Wk 52: 82.7%, 79.6% (NRI); 90.0%, 89.1% (OC). The same pattern was observed for the novel parameters of efficacy. 194 (45.0%) pts achieved MDA at Wk 16; of those, 85.6% (NRI) and 90.7% (OC) maintained their response at Wk 52. A high proportion of Wk 16 responders also maintained their response at Wk 52 for VDA, DAPSA REM+LDA and DAPSA REM (Figure 1). To Wk 52, 555/702 (79.1%) pts reported ≥1 TEAE whilst receiving BKZ; 46 (6.6%) reported serious TEAEs. Conclusions: With BKZ treatment, a high proportion of Wk 16 responders maintained robust efficacy responses to Wk 62, including across joint, skin and composite outcomes. The safety profile of BKZ was consistent with previous reports [2,3].

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Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD, Outcome measures

W Tillett,1 L Coates,2 M Visé,3 E Soriano,3 J F Merola4, M Zimmermann,5 M Shawi,6 M Sharatif,7 P Nash8, P Hellwell9,10 Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology Department, Bath, United Kingdom;2 University of Oxford, Botnar Research Centre, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom;3 Erasmus MCUniversitair Medisch Centrum, Rotterdam, Netherlands;4Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina;5 Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Boston, United States of America;Janssen

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Background: Guselkumab (GUS), a fully human IL-23p19 subunit inhibitor, was associated with improved radiographic progression through W100. For 4VAS, significantly less radiographic progression through W100 was observed in GUS-treated pts vs PBO, including pts with active PsA [3]. The recently developed 3 Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and 4 VAS scores are the first short multidimensional composite measures specifically for use in PsA routine clinical care [4].

Objectives: Determine whether early improvement in 3VAS/4VAS predicts radiographic change through W100.

Methods: DISCOVER-2 included biologic-naive pts with active PsA (≥5 swollen and ≥5 tender joint counts [SJC/TJC]; CRP ≥0.6 mg/dL) randomized (1:1:1) to GUS 100 mg Q4W at W24. In the current analysis, only pts randomized to GUS were included (N=493), pooling Q4W and Q8W. Response at W8 was defined as achievement of low disease activity (LDA) in 3VAS (≤3.4), 4VAS (≤3.5), RAPID3 (≤6), DAPSA (≤14), and PASDAS (≤3.2). Association of W8 response with outcomes from baseline (BL) to W100 in total PsA-modified van der Heijde-Sharp (vdH-S) score was assessed with the independent samples t-test and generalized linear models adjusting for known BL determinants of radiographic progression (vdH-S score, age, gender, and CRP). Pairwise correlations and agreement in LDA classification between the endpoints assessed were assessed with Pearson’s correlation coefficient and the kappa statistic, respectively.

Results: Among GUS-treated pts not meeting the respective endpoints at BL (32.9%, 31.6%, 12.4%, 17.8%, and 10.8% achieved LDA in 3VAS, 4VAS, RAPID3, DAPSA, and PASDAS, respectively, at W8. LDA achievement in 3VAS (0.86 vs. 2.15, p=0.03), RAPID3 LDA (0.74 vs. 1.80, p=0.049), DAPSA LDA (<0.05 vs. 2.08, p=0.001), and PASDAS LDA (0.58 vs. 1.87, p=0.006) at W8 were associated with significantly less radiographic progression through W100 (Figure 1). For 4VAS, achievement of remission (≤1.71 vs. 1.84, p=0.043), but not LDA (1.12 vs. 2.01, p=0.142), was also associated with improved radiographic outcome. In multivariate analyses, improved response to GUS treatment at W8 in all endpoints assessed was associated with numerically less radiographic progression through W100. 3VAS and 4VAS at W8 showed strong correlations with RAPID3 (r3VAS=0.787; r4VAS=0.877) and PASDAS (r3VAS=0.793; r4VAS=0.790) and moderate correlations with DAPSA (r3VAS=0.466; r4VAS=0.524), whereas fair to moderate agreement (kappa range: 0.325-0.545) in LDA classification was noted.

Conclusion: Approximately one-third of GUS-treated patients achieved early response (W8 LDA) in 3VAS/4VAS, which was associated with reduced rates of radiographic change, as was early response in the other outcomes assessed. These results suggest that, in addition to their usefulness in assessing disease activity in routine clinical care, 3VAS and 4VAS, the former being more sensitive, may predict long-term radiographic changes.

REFERENCES:
downstream anti-inflammatory effects of TYK2 inhibition, including IL-6 and tumor necrosis factor alpha [3,4].

Objectives: To characterize the effect of DEUC on pain across different instruments, and alignment across pain instruments, in patients in the phase 2 PsA trial.

Methods: Patients with PsA (N=203) were randomized 1:1:1 to PBO, DEUC 6 mg once daily (QD), or DEUC 12 mg QD. Three instruments were used to assess pain up to week 16: (1) Patient Global Assessment of Pain visual analog scale (Pain VAS), scored from 0-100; (2) Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease (PsAID) Pain instrument, scored from 0-10; and (3) 36-item Short-Form Health Survey (SF-36) Bodily Pain question, which asks patients to rate their pain on a scale of 1-6 ranging from “none” to “very severe.” Mean change from baseline (BL) in pain scale scores, the proportion of patients who reported meaningful improvements in pain, and Pearson’s correlation between pain scales (Pain VAS and PsAID Pain) and disease efficacy measures were evaluated.

Results: BL mean Pain VAS score was 64.1 and BL mean PsAID Pain score was 6.4, and scores were generally similar across treatment groups. Percentages of patients who reported improvements in Pain VAS (Figure 1) and PsAID Pain were consistently greater with DEUC treatment compared with PBO, with improvements in pain being similar between males and females across instruments. The pain assessments correlated with one another both at baseline (Table 1) and over time through week 16, with some divergent responses to pain questions also being observed. At baseline, both assessments of pain strongly correlated with Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score (PASDAS) and with Patient Global Assessment of Disease Activity (PGa) (Table 1).

Conclusion: A higher proportion of patients with PsA treated with DEUC reported clinically meaningful improvements in pain compared with PBO. Patient-reported pain was overall well-correlated across instruments; however, some divergence was also observed.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Pearson’s correlation between pain assessments at baseline and other baseline disease activity measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pain VAS</th>
<th>PsAID Pain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain VAS</td>
<td>0.751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsAID Pain</td>
<td>0.751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASDAS</td>
<td>0.618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>0.653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA</td>
<td>0.495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28</td>
<td>0.486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC</td>
<td>0.351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>0.367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJMC</td>
<td>0.305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The strength of the Pearson's correlation coefficient is coded by color, with green being a strong correlation (0.5-1.0), yellow is medium (0.3-0.5), and blue is weak (0.1-0.3). CRP: C-reactive protein; DAPSA, Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis; DAS28, Disease Activity Score = 28 joint; HAQ-DI, Health Assessment Questionnaire – Disability Index; PASDAS, Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score; PGA, Physician Global Assessment of Disease Activity; PsAID, Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease; PGa, Patient Global Assessment of Disease Activity; SJC, swollen joint count; TJC, tender joint count; VAS, visual analog scale.

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POS1537

BIMEKIZUMAB EFFICACY AND SAFETY IN BIOLOGIC DMARD-NAÏVE PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS WAS CONSISTENT WITH OR WITHOUT METHOTREXATE: 52-WEEK RESULTS FROM THE PHASE 3 ACTIVE-REFERENCE STUDY BE OPTIMAL

Keywords: Clinical trials, Psoriatic arthritis


Background: Given the chronic nature of psoriatic arthritis (PsA), understanding long-term efficacy and safety of biologic monotherapy or therapy in combination with ongoing methotrexate (MTX) is of interest. Studies have shown reduced efficacy of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors without MTX than with MTX [1]. Bimekizumab (BKZ), a monolgal IgG1 antibody that selectively inhibits IL-17F in addition to IL-17A, has shown efficacy and tolerability to 52 weeks (wks) in patients (pts) with PsA [2].

Objectives: To report BKZ efficacy and safety to Wk 52 from the phase 3 study BE OPTIMAL in bDMARD-naïve pts with PsA, with or without ongoing concomitant MTX.

Methods: BE OPTIMAL (NCT03895203) comprised a 16-wk double-blind placebo (PBO)-controlled period and a 36-wk active treatment-blind period. Pts were randomized 3:2:1 subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 wks (Q4W); subcutaneous ADA 160 mg Q4W. Pts could not adjust their background medication during the 16-wk PBO-controlled period. Efficacy and safety were evaluated by concomitant MTX use at baseline (BL). Missing data were imputed using non-responder (discrete) or multiple (continuous) imputation.

Results: 781/852 (90.3%) pts completed Wk 52 (+ MTX: 454/497 [91.3%] – MTX: 307/355 [86.5%]). BL characteristics were generally similar +/- MTX: mean age 48.1 ± 19.4 years, BMI 29.1 ± 29.4 kg/m², 5.7 ± 6.2 years since diagnosis, 47.3% vs 46.2% male, 49.5% vs 50.4% with psoriasis affecting ≥3% body surface area. To Wk 52, the proportion of BKZ-randomised pts who achieved ACR50, PASI50, and Psoriatic Arthritis Response Criteria (PASi100) were similar regardless of BL MTX use. Fewer pts receiving ADA – MTX achieved ACR50 or PASi vs at Wk 52 compared to ADA + MTX (Figure 1). Other Wk 52 efficacy
responses on BKZ were generally of a similar magnitude +/- MTX (Table 1). To Wk 52, pts with ≥1 treatment-emergent adverse event +/- MTX: PBO/BKZ 124/158 (78.5%) vs 89/113 (78.8%), BKZ 214/252 (84.9%) vs 150/179 (83.8%), ADA 63/82 (77.8%), NRS 58 (82.6%).

Conclusion: BKZ treatment demonstrated consistent sustained clinical efficacy across disease manifestations to Wk 52 in bDMARD-naïve pts with PsA, irrespective of concomitant MTX. BKZ was well tolerated in pts with PsA with or without MTX.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Wk 52 efficacy endpoints for pts +/- MTX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endpoint</th>
<th>PBO/BKZ 160 mg N=431</th>
<th>N=281</th>
<th>PBO/BKZ 160 mg N=431</th>
<th>Reference Arm (ADA 40 mg Q2W) N=140</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ MTX</td>
<td>- MTX</td>
<td>+ MTX</td>
<td>- MTX</td>
<td>+ MTX</td>
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<tr>
<td>N=163</td>
<td>n=118</td>
<td>n=252</td>
<td>n=179</td>
<td>n=82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR20 [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>113 (69.3) 78 (66.1) 184 (73.0) 123 (68.7) 65 (79.3) 37</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACR70 [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>60 (36.8) 41 (34.7) 96 (38.1) 73 (40.8) 36 (43.9) 17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PASI75 [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>71 (85.5) 48 (84.2) 105 (83.3) 72 (79.1) 23 (62.2) 22 (71.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>V LDA [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>35 (21.3) 27 (22.9) 72 (28.6) 53 (29.6) 25 (30.5) 14</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR50+PASI100 [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>43 (51.8) 22 (38.6) 61 (48.4) 41 (45.1) 12 (32.4) 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>-0.37 -0.37 (0.05) -0.30 -0.38 -0.49 -0.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>mean (SE)</td>
<td>(0.04) (0.03) (0.04) (0.06) (0.06) (0.08)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enthesitis resolution? [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>24 (66.7) 20 (58.8) 53 (64.6) 34 (55.7) 11 (61.1) 10 (55.6)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dactylitis resolution? [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>18 (81.8) 11 (100.0) 21 (75.0) 24 (85.7) 4 (80.0) 4 (66.7)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nails psoriasis resolution? [NRI], n (%)</td>
<td>68 (73.9) 43 (67.2) 100 (68.5) 60 (61.2) 24 (57.1) 21 (66.7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Randomised set.</td>
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<tr>
<td>+ in pts with BL psoriasis ≥3%; BSA: + MTX: PBO/BKZ n=83; BKZ n=126; ADA n=31; + in pts with BL enthesitis [LEI ≥0]; + MTX: PBO/BKZ n=36; BKZ n=16; – MTX: PBO/BKZ n=34; BKZ n=61; ADA n=18.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In pts with BL dactylitis (LDI &gt;0); + MTX: PBO/BKZ n=22; BKZ n=28; ADA n=6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d In pts with BL nail psoriasis (mNAPSI &gt;0); + MTX: PBO/BKZ n=92; BKZ n=14; ADA n=42; – MTX: PBO/BKZ n=64; BKZ n=98; ADA n=33.</td>
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</table>

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Conclusion: This comprehensive integrated analysis of GUS safety demonstrated a favorable safety profile across a broad population of pts irrespective of the BL characteristics assessed. Overall, safety event rates in GUS-tx pts were comparable to or lower than PBO during short-term follow-up. Frequent and serious infections remained low and stable through long-term follow-up.

REFERENCES:

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SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF UPADACITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO BIOLOGICS: 3-YEAR RESULTS FROM THE PHASE 3 SELECT-PSA 2 STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs, Safety


1. Swedish Medical Center/Providence St. Joseph Health and University of Washington, Rheumatology Research, Seattle, WA, United States of America; 2. AbbVie Inc, Immunology, North Chicago, IL, United States of America; 3. Kapp Clinical Research and Probiotic Medical Research, Waterloo, ON, Canada; 4. VIB Center for Inflammation Research, Ghent University, Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Ghent, Belgium; 5. Nippon Life Hospital, Department of Orthopaedics, Osaka, Japan; 6. Pontificl Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Rheumatology, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 7. University of Bath, Department of Life Sciences, Bath, United Kingdom

Background: The efficacy and safety of upadacitinib (UPA) in patients (pts) with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and inadequate response to ≥1 biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (bDMARD-IR) have been demonstrated up to 56 and 104 weeks of treatment [1,2].

Objectives: To assess the long-term safety and efficacy of UPA in bDMARD-IR pts with PsA through 152 weeks of treatment in the SELECT-PSA 2 study.

Methods: Pts were randomized to receive UPA 15 or 30 mg once daily (QD), or placebo (PBO) for 24 weeks, followed by blinded switch to UPA 15 or 30 mg QD for pts initially randomized to PBO. After 56 weeks, pts continued their assigned dose up to 152 weeks in an open-label extension (OLE). Following approval of the 15 mg QD dose, the protocol was amended and all pts on UPA 30 mg QD were switched to the approved dose (earliest switch at week 116). Endpoints assessed at 152 weeks included: % of pts achieving 20/50/70% improvement in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI75/90/100), 75/90/100% improvement in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI75/90/100), 75/90/100% improvement in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI75/90/100), and 75/90/100% improvement in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI75/90/100), respectively.

Results: Of the 641 pts randomized to receive UPA 15 or 30 mg QD, or PBO followed by UPA 15 or 30 mg QD (n=211, 218, 106, and 106, respectively), 478 entered the OLE. Improvements in efficacy outcomes with UPA observed at week 152.

Table 1. Efficacy endpoints at week 152

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endpoint</th>
<th>UPA 15 mg QD</th>
<th>UPA 30 mg QD</th>
<th>PBO/UPA 15 mg QD</th>
<th>PBO/UPA 30 mg QD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of patients (%)</td>
<td>NRI</td>
<td>AO</td>
<td>NRI</td>
<td>AO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR20/50/70</td>
<td>25/40/44</td>
<td>31 (n=211)</td>
<td>28/45/52</td>
<td>36 (n=218)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA</td>
<td>31 (n=211)</td>
<td>28 (n=218)</td>
<td>27 (n=106)</td>
<td>28 (n=106)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI75/90/100</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution of enthesis (LEI)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution of dactylitis (LDI)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change from BL</td>
<td>Mixed effect model for repeated measures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (95% CI)</td>
<td>-0.4 (-0.5, -0.3)</td>
<td>-0.5 (-0.6, -0.3)</td>
<td>-0.5 (-0.6, -0.3)</td>
<td>-0.5 (-0.6, -0.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: AbbVie funded this study; contributed to its design; participated in data collection, analysis, and interpretation; and participated in the writing, review, and approval of the abstract. AbbVie and the authors thank all study investigators for their contributions and the patients who participated in this study. No honoraria or payments were made for authorship. Medical writing support was provided by Katerina Betsista, MD, of 2 the Nth (Cheshire, UK), and was funded by AbbVie.

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References:
AbbVie, and may own stock or options, Reva Macaskill Employee of: AbbVie, and may own stock or options, Erin McDearmon-Blondell Employee of: AbbVie, and may own stock or options, Peter Wung Employee of: AbbVie, and may own stock or options. William Tillett Speaker for: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCBB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Ono Pharma, Pfizer, and UCB. Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Celgene, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, and UCB.

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POS1540

EARLY SKIN AND EARLY ENTHESITIS RESPONSES IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH GUSEKULUMAB ASSOCIATE WITH LONG-TERM RESPONSE: POST HOC ANALYSIS THROUGH 2 YEARS OF A PHASE 3 STUDY

Keywords: Enthesitis, Psoriatic arthritis, Skin

L. Coates1, J. Ramirez2, D. McGonagle3, S. Aydin4, M. Zimmermann5, F. Nantel6, M. Shawi7, E. Rampakakis8, P. Nash9, P. J. Mease10, University of Oxford, Botnar Research Centre, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; 2Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Arthritis Unit, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 3University of Leeds, Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4University of Ottawa, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, ON, Canada; 5Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Zug, Switzerland; 6Retiree, Nantel Medsci Consult, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; 7Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, United States of America; 8McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada; 9JSS Medical Research, Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 10Giffith University and University of Queensland, Rheumatology Research Unit, Maroochydore, Australia; 11Swedish Medical Center/Providence St. Joseph Health and University of Washington, Rheumatology Research, Seattle, United States of America

Background: Gusekumab (GUS), an IL-23p19 inhibitor, has demonstrated efficacy in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) across key Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis (PsO) and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA)-recommended domains [1-2]. Skin disease and enthesitis have been identified as disease manifestations with a higher likelihood of response than others [3].

Objectives: In this analysis we: (a) Determined whether early skin and/or enthesal response predicts future response in other PsA domains; (b) Evaluated the trajectory for achieving skin/entheseal responses by 52 weeks (W) in patients (pts) without early responses.

Methods: Pts in the DISCOVER-1 and DISCOVER-2 (D1/2) studies were adults with active PsA despite standard therapies. D1 pts had ≤3 swollen and ≥3 tender joints (SJC/TJC) and C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥0.3 mg/dL; D2 pts had SJC ≥5, TJC ≥5, and CRP ≥0.6 mg/dL. 31% of D1 pts received 1-2 prior TNF inhibitors; D2 pts were biologic-naive. Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (W4); GUS 100 mg at W0, W4, then every 8 weeks (W8); or placebo. These post hoc analyses included only pooled GUS W4 and W8 pts (N=746).

Early skin response was defined as Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score ≤1 at W16 and skin visual analogue scale (VAS) ≤15mm at W16 among pts with a baseline (BL) PASI score >1 and skin VAS >15mm (first assessment time for both); early enthesal response was defined as Leeds Enthesitis Index (LEI) score ≤1 at W8; and categories of early response were defined as skin VAS ≤15mm only vs LEI score ≤1 only vs combined skin VAS ≤15mm & LEI score ≤1 vs none at W8. Potential responses at W24 & W52 included achievement of minimal disease activity (MDA), Disease Activity in PsA (DAPSA) low disease activity (LDA) or remission, DAPSA50, and enthesis/dactylitis resolution. Associations between early skin/entheseal response and W24/W52 response were assessed with crosstabulations and logistic regression.

Results: Early skin response associated with greater odds of achieving W24 MDA, DAPSA LDA, DAPSA remission, and DAPSA50, but not enthesis or dactylitis resolution (Figure 1). Early enthesal response associated with greater odds of achieving all W24 outcomes, including resolution of enthesis or dactylitis, with the exception of DAPSA remission; DAPSA remission was achieved by a greater proportion of early responders, though the association was significant only at W52. In pts with both BL PsO and enthesitis, early responders in both domains were even more likely to subsequently demonstrate MDA, DAPSA LDA, DAPSA50, DAPSA remission only at W52, and dactylitis resolution than pts with individual responses. Among pts who did not achieve early responses, approximately half did so by W52.

Conclusion: Early skin and enthesal responses predicted long-term clinical response, including disease remission. A synergistic effect was observed, in which pts with BL PsO and enthesitis exhibiting early response in both domains were more likely to achieve later clinical response. These results highlight the importance of early response in these two domains on the trajectory of long-term pt outcome.

REFERENCES:
[3] Coates LC et al. ABR 2022, Denmark

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POS1541

LONG-TERM EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF UPADACITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: 3-YEAR RESULTS FROM THE PHASE 3 SELECT-PSA 1 STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Safety

I. Moninnes1, K. Kato2, M. Mageye2, J. F. Merola3, M. Kishimoto4, D. Haaland5, Y. LiF, Y. Liu, J. Liu6, R. Lippe7, P. Wung8, 9University of Glasgow, College of Medical, Veterinary, and Life Sciences, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 1AbbVie, Inc, Immunology, North Chicago, United States of America; 2Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Cleveland, United States of America; 3Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, United States of America; 4Kyorin University School of Medicine, Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Mitaka, Japan; 5McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada; 6The Waterside Clinic, Barrie, ON, Canada; 7AbbVie Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, Immunology, Wiesbaden, Germany

Background: Upadacitinib (UPA) improved symptoms in patients (pts) with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) with prior inadequate response or intolerance to ≥1 non-biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (nbDMARD-IR) through week (wk) 104 or ≥2 years of treatment in SELECT-PsA 1 [1].

Objectives: To evaluate efficacy and safety of UPA vs adalimumab (ADA) through wk 152 or 3 years from the ongoing long-term open-label extension of SELECT-PsA 1.

Methods: Pts were randomized to receive UPA 15 mg (UPA15) or UPA 30 mg (UPA30) once daily, ADA 40 mg (ADA) every other wk, or placebo (PBO). At wk 24, PBO pts switched to UPA15 or UPA30. Following approval of UPA15, the
protocol was amended so pts on UPA30 switched to UPA15 (earliest at wk 104). Efficacy was assessed through wk 152, and safety through June 13, 2022.

**Results:** Of 1704 pts randomized, 911 completed 152 wks of treatment. The proportions of pts achieving ≥20%/50%/70% improvement in American College of Rheumatology criteria (ACR20/50/70), minimal disease activity (MDA), and ≥75%/90%/100% improvement in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index at wk 152 were generally consistent with those at wk 104. UPA had greater ACR20/50/70 and MDA responses vs ADA, and a greater mean change from baseline (BL) in Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index, pt’s assessment of pain, and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index vs ADA. Change from BL in modified total Sharp/Van der Heijde score were similar between UPA30 and ADA, and numerically higher with UPA15 (Table 1). The overall UPA safety profile remained unchanged (Figure 1). UPA had numerically higher rates of serious infection (SI), herpes zoster (HZ), anemia, lymphopenia, creatine phosphokinase (CPK) elevation, and non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) vs ADA. Increases for SI, HZ, anemia, and CPK elevation with UPA were dose dependent. Rates of major adverse cardiovascular events, venous thromboembolism, and malignancy excluding NMSC were low and generally similar across groups. The most common cause of death was COVID-19.

**Conclusion:** Efficacy of UPA in nbdMARD-IR pts with PsA was maintained through 3 years of treatment. No new safety signals were identified.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Efficacy endpoints at wk 152**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UPA15 (n=429)</th>
<th>UPA30a (n=423)</th>
<th>ADA (n=429)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of pts (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR20/50/70</td>
<td>64.6/52.0/35.4</td>
<td>63.1/46.6/39.1</td>
<td>61.1/46.6/38.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal disease activity</td>
<td>48.2/35.7</td>
<td>47.8/28.7</td>
<td>39.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI75/90/100b</td>
<td>50.5/42.5/32.2</td>
<td>69.4/58.5/46.1</td>
<td>54.0/40.5/28.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution of enthesitis by Leeds Enthesitis Indexd</td>
<td>43.4/76</td>
<td>50.9/30.3</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution of dactylitis by Leeds Dactylitis Indexe</td>
<td>65.4/92.6</td>
<td>661/97.9</td>
<td>65.4/97.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change from BL*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index</td>
<td>-0.51</td>
<td>-0.55/0.53</td>
<td>-0.58/0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pts’s assessment of pain (numeric rating scale)</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
<td>-3.5/-3.1</td>
<td>-2.8/-3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Indexf</td>
<td>-3.09</td>
<td>-3.27/-3.16</td>
<td>-2.81/-2.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified total Sharp/Van der Heijde score</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.19/0.05</td>
<td>0.04/0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a*Following a protocol amendment, all pts on UPA30 switched to UPA15 (earliest switch at wk 104); data are presented by originally randomized group. 
*b*Pts with psoriasis affecting ≥23% of body surface area at BL. 
*c*Pts with LEI >0 at BL; resolution LEI=0. 
*d*Data shown as MMRM (least squares mean) and AO (mean). 
*e*Pts with psoriatic spondylitis at BL. n value ranges: UPA15 (99–429), UPA30 (95–423), ADA (89–429). 
*f*Nominal p<0.05. 

**Table 2. Safety endpoints at wk 152**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UPA15 (n=429)</th>
<th>UPA30a (n=423)</th>
<th>ADA (n=429)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| N. A. Al-Ani11, A. Rida2, N. Ismael4, F. Ayed5, N. Al Chama6, C. Haouichet14,15, F. Alnaimat16, S. Hannawi17, S. Atawina18, H. Halabi19, Wung Employee of: AbbVie and may hold stock or options.

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**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

**REFERENCES:**


**Figure 1. EAERs of Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events**

**RESULTS:** Of 1704 pts randomized, 911 completed 152 wks of treatment. The proportions of pts achieving ≥20%/50%/70% improvement in American College of Rheumatology criteria (ACR20/50/70), minimal disease activity (MDA), and ≥75%/90%/100% improvement in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index at wk 152 were generally consistent with those at wk 104. UPA had greater ACR20/50/70 and MDA responses vs ADA, and a greater mean change from baseline (BL) in Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index, pt’s assessment of pain, and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index vs ADA. Change from BL in modified total Sharp/Van der Heijde score were similar between UPA30 and ADA, and numerically higher with UPA15. The overall UPA safety profile remained unchanged (Figure 1). UPA had numerically higher rates of serious infection (SI), herpes zoster (HZ), anemia, lymphopenia, creatine phosphokinase (CPK) elevation, and non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) vs ADA. Increases for SI, HZ, anemia, and CPK elevation with UPA were dose dependent. Rates of major adverse cardiovascular events, venous thromboembolism, and malignancy excluding NMSC were low and generally similar across groups. The most common cause of death was COVID-19.

**Conclusion:** Efficacy of UPA in nbdMARD-IR pts with PsA was maintained through 3 years of treatment. No new safety signals were identified.
Background: The Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease (PsAID) is a patient-reported questionnaire assessing multiple domains in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA), developed under the aegis of EULAR, and recommended by OMERACT and GRAPPA. To be usable in different contexts, translations and cross-cultural validations are necessary. Arabic is the sixth most-spoken language in the world; however, many patient-reported outcomes are not available in Arabic.

Objectives: To translate, culturally adapt and validate the PsAID-12 questionnaire in Arabic, to study its psychometric properties, and to evaluate its association with the demographic and disease characteristics of PsA patients.

Methods: This multicentric multinational study was conducted by the Arab League of Associations of Rheumatology (ArLAR) research group (ARCH). Validated methodologies were applied. (A) Phase 1: Translation of PsAID-12 into Arabic, including a double translation, synthesis by a steering committee, and back-translation, and cognitive debriefing with feasibility and timing assessment with a sample of patients with PsA in four countries. (B) Validation phase: Cross-sectional study, with a longitudinal part for reliability testing, conducted in thirteen Arab countries. Patients were consecutive adult patients, diagnosed with PsA (rheumatologist opinion + CASPAR criteria), literate, and agreeing to participate. Data collected: (1) From the patient: PsAID-12 in Arabic, demographic and disease information, Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), Patient Global Assessment for pain and disease activity (PGA), Fibromyalgia Rapid Assessing Tool (FIRST) and Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ4). (2) From the rheumatologist: Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA) score. Psychometric properties of the PsAID-12 were investigated: internal consistency (Cronbach’s α), construct validity (Spearman correlation with DAPSA, HAQ, PGA, FIRST, PHQ4), and test-retest reliability (intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) and Cohen kappa at one week). (C) Factors associated with high PsAID-12 total score (defined as >= 4) were explored using multivariable binary logistic regression.

Results: A total of 554 patients were recruited; mean age was 45 years (SD 13), 57% were females. The mean PsAID score was 3.86 (SD 2.33). Internal consistency was excellent (Cronbach’s α = 0.95). The correlation coefficients with other measures were moderate to strong (range, 0.63 to 0.78 (Figure 1). Test-retest reliability (N=138 patients) was excellent (ICC 0.95 (95%CI 0.86;0.93) and agreement between the first and second measurements was substantial (Cohen kappa 0.797).

In the multivariable analysis, factors associated with a higher PsAID were PGA, FIRST, and PHQ4 (after adjustment for axial involvement, education, gender, and CRP).

Conclusion: The Arabic PsAID is a consistent, reliable, and feasible measure in patients with PsA. The correlation with other PsA-related measures appears similar to the correlation noted in other cultures and languages. The PsAID appears to be a stable measure of impact across cultures. These results support the recommendation to use the PsAID for clinical practice and research purposes.
﻿

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Scientific Abstracts

results were maintained or further improved from week 24 to 52 for both limited
and extensive SJC patients (Figure 1)
Conclusion: RZB is efficacious in reducing signs and symptoms of PsA in
patients, regardless of patterns of joint involvement. More patients in the limited
joint involvement group achieved stringent treatment targets such as MDA and
DAPSA remission at both weeks 24 and 52.
Table 1. Baseline Disease Characteristics

SJC66
TJC68
DAPSA
PASDASb
LEIc
LDId
PASIe
HAQ-DI
PhGA (VAS)f
PtGA (VAS)
Pain (VAS)

SJC 5-8 (N=303)

SJC ≥9 (N=404)

6.5 (1.1)
13.4 (9.4)
31.5 (11.3)a
5.8 (0.9)
2.3 (1.3)
54.1 (60.8)
10.5 (9.6)
1.0 (0.6)a
58.3 (18.0)
54.1 (22.2)a
51.6 (23.0)

16.8 (8.3)
27.5 (14.5)
57.3 (21.4)
6.8 (1.1)
3.1 (1.5)
110.3 (128.3)
9.5 (9.0)
1.3 (0.6)
64.5 (16.6)
59.8 (21.2)
60.0 (22.1)

All parameters are mean (SD)aN = 302bSJC 5-8, N=148; SJC ≥9, N=220cFor pts with LEI >0
at BL; SJC 5-8, N=159; SJC ≥9, N=285dFor pts with LDI >0 at BL; SJC 5-8, N=53; SJC ≥9,
N=135eFor pts with BSA ≥3% at BL; SJC 5-8, N=163; SJC ≥9, N=233fSJC 5-8, N=290; SJC
≥9, N=395LDI, Leeds Dactylitis Index; LEI, Leeds Enthesitis Index; PASDAS, PsA Disease
Activity Score; VAS, visual analogue scale.

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LONG-TERM SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF TOFACITINIB
IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS BY PRIOR
BIOLOGIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTIRHEUMATIC
DRUG EXPOSURE

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD
D. D. Gladman1, M. Dougados2, H. Marzo-Ortega3, M. J. Cadatal4, C. Kinch5,
P. Nash6. 1Toronto Western Hospital, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Krembil

Research Institute, Toronto, ON, Canada; 2Université de Paris Cité, Hôpital
Cochin, Department of Rheumatology, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris
and PRES Sorbonne Paris-Cité, INSERM (U1153): Clinical Epidemiology and
Biostatistics, Paris, France; 3NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds
Teaching Hospital Trusts and University of Leeds, Leeds Institute for Rheumatic
and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4Pfizer Inc, Clinical
Affairs, City of Makati, NCR, Philippines; 5Pfizer Canada ULC, Inflammation and
Immunology, Kirkland, QC, Canada; 6Griffith University, School of Medicine,
Brisbane, Australia
Background: Patients (pts) with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) exposed to tumour
necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi) may have attenuated response or higher adverse
event (AE) risk with subsequent treatment. Tofacitinib efficacy/safety in PsA pts
was shown in 3 Phase (P)3 trials and 1 long-term extension (LTE) trial.
Objectives: Assess long-term safety/efficacy of tofacitinib in TNFi-inadequate
responder (IR) and biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (bDMARD)naïve PsA pts.
Methods: Pooled data from P3 trials (NCT01877668/NCT01882439/
NCT03486457) of PsA pts receiving ≥1 tofacitinib dose and 1 LTE trial
(NCT01976364) of PsA pts receiving tofacitinib 5 mg BID (dose switching allowed
after 1 month) were stratified by TNFi-IR or bDMARD-naïve status at P3 trial
baseline (BL). Safety assessed in P3/LTE trials. Efficacy assessed in LTE trial
only to Month (M)36 (longitudinal models, data as observed): MDA and HAQ-DI
(≥0.35 improvement) response rates and change from BL (∆) in PASDAS. Data
reported as all tofacitinib (pts receiving ≥1 tofacitinib dose) or constant tofacitinib
5 mg BID (pts assigned to tofacitinib 5 mg BID in P3/LTE trials or placebo→tofacitinib 5 mg BID in P3 trials and maintained this dose).
Results: 408 TNFi-IR (incl. 29 TNFi-exposed with unknown IR status) and 562
bDMARD-naïve pts from P3/LTE trials were assessed. Differences in P3 trial BL
characteristics in TNFi-IR vs bDMARD-naïve pts included longer disease duration (all tofacitinib, mean: 8.9 vs 5.6 years), higher HAQ-DI scores (mean: 1.2
vs 0.9) and a higher proportion (%) of pts aged ≥65 years (9.6 vs 7.7) and from
North America (27.5 vs 8.0). Treatment-emergent AE (TEAE) incidence rates
were higher in TNFi-IR vs bDMARD-naïve pts; serious AE (SAE), serious infection (SI) and herpes zoster (HZ; all tofacitinib) incidence rates were numerically
higher in TNFi-IR vs bDMARD-naïve pts (confidence intervals [CIs] overlapped;
Table 1). Deaths, malignancies excl. non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC), NMSC,
major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) and venous thromboembolism
(VTE) events were observed (Table 1). Tofacitinib response/improvements were
sustained to M36 in pts remaining in LTE trial, regardless of prior treatment. At all
time points, TNFi-IR vs bDMARD-naïve pts had lower MDA response rates and
slightly lower HAQ-DI response rates (Figure 1) and ∆PASDAS (all tofacitinib/
constant tofacitinib 5 mg BID: M1 -2.3/-2.5 vs -2.9/-3.0; M6 -2.5/-2.8 vs -3.0/-3.1;
M12 -2.7/-2.9 vs -3.0/-3.2; M24 -2.9/-3.1 vs -3.2/-3.4; M36 -3.0/-3.2 vs -3.1/-3.4).
Table 1. Safety in P3/LTE trialsa
All tofacitinib
TNFi-IR
N=408
899 PY
n
Incidence rate
(95% CI)
TEAE

SAE
Death
SI
HZ
Malignancies excl.
NMSCd
NMSCd
MACEd
VTE

b

373
181.8 (163.8,
201.2)
67
8.2 (6.4, 10.5)
1
0.1 (0.0, 0.6)
13
1.5 (0.8, 2.5)
19
2.2 (1.3, 3.4)
3
0.3 (0.1, 1.0)
7
0.8 (0.3, 1.6)
2
0.2 (0.0, 0.8)
0
0.0 (0.0, 0.4)

Constant tofacitinib 5 mg BID
bDMARD-naïve
N=562
1255 PY

457
117.8 (107.3,
129.1)
71
6.0 (4.7, 7.6)
1
0.1 (0.0, 0.4)
11
0.9 (0.4, 1.6)
19
1.6 (0.9, 2.4)
12
1.0 (0.5, 1.7)
9
0.7 (0.3, 1.4)
4
0.3 (0.1, 0.8)
2
0.2 (0.0, 0.6)

c

TNFi-IR
N=217
282 PY

bDMARD-naïve
N=325
422 PY

180
219.6 (188.7,
254.2)
25
9.5 (6.1, 14.0)
1
0.4 (0.0, 2.0)
5
1.8 (0.6, 4.1)
4
1.5 (0.4, 3.7)
2
0.7 (0.1, 2.5)
4
1.4 (0.4, 3.6)
0
0.0 (0.0, 1.3)
0
0.0 (0.0, 1.3)

240
161.2 (141.5,
183.0)
23
5.6 (3.6, 8.4)
1
0.2 (0.0, 1.3)
5
1.2 (0.4, 2.8)
6
1.4 (0.5, 3.1)
5
1.2 (0.4, 2.8)
2
0.5 (0.1, 1.7)
3
0.7 (0.2, 2.1)
0
0.0 (0.0, 0.9)

a
Concomitant csDMARD required at start of P3 trials; allowed but not required in LTE
trialMedian exposure (range), days: b988 (1, 1544); c744 (1, 1715)dAdjudicatedn, number of
pts with events; PY, pt-years


Conclusion: For pts remaining in LTE trial, tofacitinib efficacy was greater in bDMARD-naïve vs TNFi-IR pts; response was maintained over time in both groups. Incidence rates were higher for TEAEs and numerically higher for SAE, SI and HZ (all tofacitinib) in TNFi-IR vs bDMARD-naïve pts. Results consistent with other advanced PsA treatments. Limitations included small event numbers, as observed data and BL characteristic differences.

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Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Biomarkers, Clinical trials

B. Ravishankar1, P. La1, T. Sornasse1, B. Wang1, Y. Bi2, M. Saltarelli1, Y. Fang1, B. Padilla3, J. F. Mora4, O. Fitzgerald5, AbbVie Inc, Immunology Clinical Development, North Chicago, United States of America; 6AbbVie Inc, Data Science and Statistics, North Chicago, United States of America; 7AbbVie Inc, Immunology Clinical Development, North Chicago, United States of America; 8Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, United States of America; 9University College Dublin, Conway Institute for Biomolecular Research, Dublin, Ireland

Background: Risankizumab (RZB) is a selective interleukin (IL) 23 p19 subunit monoclonal antibody that inhibits IL-23. RZB 150 mg, n=183) were used for this analysis. A commercially available multiplexed Proximity Extension Assay platform was used to evaluate the levels of 92 inflammation-related protein biomarkers (BMs) and were consistent with those reported in the total population for the clinical study. At baseline, the relative levels of 10 BMs (chemokine ligand 20 [CCL20], IL-17A, IL-17C, IL-24, IL-6, S100 calcium-binding protein A12 [S100A12], osteoclast M [OSM], vascular endothelial growth factor A [VEGFA-A], C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 1 [CXCL1] and colony stimulating factor 1 [CSF-1]) positively correlated with at least 1 baseline disease activity measure. IL-6 was significantly and positively correlated with the inflammation marker high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP) and musculoskeletal endpoint (Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score [PASDAS]). CCL20, IL-17A, IL-17C, and BD-2 (BMs known to contribute to psoriasis) were correlated with baseline PASI. RZB treatment significantly decreased IL-17A, IL-17C, IL-6, and BD-2 compared with PBO treatment at week 4 (the earliest time-point when samples were available), with further decreases continuing through week 24 (Figure 1). In patients with PsA treated with RZB the decrease in IL-6 correlated with PASDAS improvement, while the decrease in BD-2 correlated with PASI improvement.

Title: IL-23, a cytokine that is important in the generation, maintenance, and proliferation of Th17 cells, serves as a major contributor to the pathophysiology of PsA [3]. Treatment with the IL-23 inhibitor RZB downregulated biomarkers associated with musculoskeletal and skin-related disease activity, and resulted in a favorable clinical response for patients with active PsA. Further investigation is needed to assess the possible relationship between changes in IL-23-related biomarkers at week 4 and long-term clinical response.

REFERENCES:
Patients with Psoriatic Arthritis at Biologic Therapy Switch: The CoreVitas Psoriasis Registry

**Keywords:** Registries, Psoriatic arthritis

P. J. Mease,5 A. Jones, A. Sima,6 B. Low,4 B. Gomez,2 M. Gurrola2, M. Lebwohl5

1Swedish Medical Center/Providence St. Joseph Health and University of Washington, Rheumatology, Seattle, United States of America; 2CorEvitas, LLC, Epidemiology, Waltham, United States of America; 3CorEvitas, LLC, Biostatistics, Waltham, United States of America; 4UCB Pharma, Immunology, Smyrna, United States of America; 5Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, Dermatology, New York City, United States of America

**Background:** Up to 40% of patients with psoriasis (PsO) develop psoriatic arthritis (PsA), which can have a significant impact on health-related quality of life (HRQoL). Among patients with both PsO and PsA (PsO/PsA) who are treated with a biologic agent, individual symptom profiles and response to treatment can vary, with many patients switching biologic agents over their disease course. Whether patient-centred factors, beyond skin clearance, influence biologic switching remains unexplored in the medical literature.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the association of psoriatic disease burden with biologic agent switch among patients with PsO/PsA in a real-world setting.

**Methods:** This study included data from the CorEvitas PsO Registry, a prospective, multicentre, non-interventional registry that collects data at ~6-month intervals. Biologic therapy initiations by patients with plaque PsO and dermatologist-diagnosed PsA or history of ≥3 PsO Epidemiology Screening Test (PEST) score who initiated a biologic agent at a registry visit and had ≥1 visit in the subsequent 30 months between April 2015 and August 2021 were included in this study. Disease burden at each follow-up visit after biologic initiation was defined by combinations of Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) level (≤10 vs >10) with Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) level (≤5 vs >5) or patient-reported joint outcomes (VAS-100 level ≤40 vs >40) [2]. The outcome of biologic switch was defined as a start of a different biologic agent within 45 days of discontinuing the initial biologic, was assessed at each follow-up visit. Proportional hazards regression was used to calculate hazard ratios (HR) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) to evaluate associations between disease burden categories and biologic switch, adjusted for age, sex, race, ethnicity, duration of PsO, baseline disease burden category, body mass index (BMI), employment status, number of comorbidities, and treatment history.

**Results:** There were 2,580 patient-initiations included in this study. The mean age at patient-initiation was 52 years (Standard Deviation=13) and 52% occurred in females. Over 56% of patient-initiations were obese (BMI≥30), and 27% had at least one comorbidity. Twenty percent of patient-initiations switched biologic agents over 30 months of follow-up after a median (Interquartile Range) of 6.5 (4.6, 12.4) months of treatment. Patients with combined highest skin involvement and impact on HRQoL (PASI=10 & DLQI=5) were 14 times more likely to switch biologic (HR=14.2; 95% CI: 10.7, 18.9) than those with the lowest combined skin involvement and impact on HRQoL (PASI<10 & DLQI≤5). Patients with DLQI>5 were over five times more likely to switch biologic vs the DLQI≤5 group among patients with PASI≤10 (HR=5.25; 95% CI: 4.23, 6.51) and nearly twice as likely to switch compared to those with PASI>10 (HR=1.70; 95% CI: 1.06, 2.71). Similarly, patients with joint pain ≥40 had nearly a four times higher likelihood of switching vs the pain <40 group among those with PASI≤10 (HR=3.78; 95% CI: 2.91, 4.92) and tended to be more likely to switch biologic in patients with PASI≤10 (HR=1.35; 95% CI: 0.79, 2.33).

**Conclusion:** Patients with PsO/PsA treated in a real-world clinical setting with more significant disease burden due to impaired HRQoL (DLQI and joint pain) after initiation were more likely to switch biologic agents, regardless of PASI level. These findings suggest that patient-centred factors, as well as skin clearance, have an important impact on the occurrence of biologic agent switch and the management of patients with PsO/PsA.

**References:**


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Efficacy of UST in Active PsA Monitored by Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Is Independent from Concomitant MTX Use: Subgroup Analysis from a Randomized Placebo-Controlled Investigator Initiated Clinical Trial

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Treat to target, Ultrasound

M. Köhn1,2, A. C. Foldenauer1, T. Rossmannith5, S. Wassenberg3, S. Finzel3, A. Kleyer2, R. Bergner4, R. Allen1, H. Kellner3, J. Walter2, P. Kühner2, F. Behrens1,2,1 Frankfurt University Hospital, Rheumatology, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; 2Fraunhofer ITMP - Translational Medicine and Pharmacology, Clinical Research, Frankfurt, Germany; 3Rheumazentrum Ratingen, Studienambulanz, Ratingen, Germany; 4University Hospital Freiburg, Klinik für Rheumatologie, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany; 5University Hospital Erlangen, Rheumatology/Immunology, Erlangen, Germany; 6Klinikum der Stadt Ludwigshafen am Rhein gGmbH, Medizinische Klinik A, Rheumatologie, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany; 7Schlosspark-Klinik Charlottenburg, Rheumatologie, Berlin, Germany; 8Prof. Dr. Herbert Kellner, Rheumatologie, München, Germany; 9Rheumatologische Schwerpunktepraxis Rendsburg, Rheumatologie, Rendsburg, Germany; 10Service Rheuma Erfurt GbR, Rheumatologie, Erfurt, Germany

**Background:** BDMARD treatments in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) are initiated after insufficient response to csDMARD either in monotherapy or by in parallel continuing csDMARDs. Here, the value of MTX in combination with BDMARDs in PsA is still unclear. We designed an investigator-initiated, randomized, placebo-controlled trial (IIT) in active PsA to examine the potential impact of MTX-continuation or -initiation parallel to newly started UST on different outcomes beyond clinical examination (MSUS; PsASon22 score) [1].

**Objectives:** To compare sensitive imaging efficacy outcomes measured by MSUS changes [PsASon22] from weeks 4 and 24. Results were compared between the groups with prior MTX treatment (UST+ ongoing MTX or UST+PBO) and with new initiation of MTX to UST (UST+MTX) (stratified to ongoing or new onset of MTX treatment).

**Methods:** A total of 186 patients with active PsA (defined as TJC4=2, SJC4=2 [88/66 joint count] and DAS28<3.2) were screened for eligibility. 173 patients were randomized to UST+MTX (new or ongoing) or UST+PBO, 84 patients were included in the subgroup analysis with MSUS scoring of PsASon22 at BL, weeks 4 and 24. Results were compared between the groups with prior MTX treatment (UST+ ongoing MTX or UST+PBO) and with new initiation of MTX to UST (UST+ new MTX or UST+PBO) according to the study design.

**Results:** BL data were well-balanced between treatment groups (UST+MTX, n=44; UST+PBO, n=40) and subgroups with exception of slightly higher age (mean age 53.3 years) and more (45%) female patients in the UST with ongoing MTX group. All baseline data are shown in Table 1. After UST initiation, improvement of inflammatory activity measured by MSUS using PsASon22 score was seen early at week 4 in all treatment groups. The improvement was delayed in patients with previous MTX failure (“prior MTX”) and, in overall less pronounced compared to the patients without previous MTX treatment (Figure 1). At week 24,
Table 1. Baseline Characteristics: Subgroup analysis on MSUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>with prior MTX</th>
<th>without MTX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UST + MTX</td>
<td>UST + Placebo</td>
<td>UST + MTX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=20</td>
<td>N=17</td>
<td>N=24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age [years]</td>
<td>53.3 (SD 10.0)</td>
<td>46.8 (SD 15.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex [Female]</td>
<td>9 (45.0%)</td>
<td>6 (35.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI [kg/m²]</td>
<td>28.0 (6.1)</td>
<td>28.5 (5.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at PsA diagnosis [years]</td>
<td>47.8 (SD 12.2)</td>
<td>42.5 (SD 15.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASAon22</td>
<td>5 (1.0 to 13.0)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.0 to 8.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of Enthesitis [LEI &gt; 0]</td>
<td>9 (45.0%)</td>
<td>7 (41.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of Dactylitis [LOCF]</td>
<td>1 (5.0%)</td>
<td>1 (5.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nail involvement [mNAPSI &gt; 0]</td>
<td>7 (35.0%)</td>
<td>9 (52.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA [%]</td>
<td>2.0 (1.0 to 6.0)</td>
<td>1.0 (1.0 to 3.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI</td>
<td>5 (1.0 to 5.0)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.3 to 1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.8 (0.4 to 1.4)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.3 to 1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLQI [LOCF]</td>
<td>5.5 (3.0 to 12.5)</td>
<td>6.0 (1.0 to 9.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ5D Health Scale</td>
<td>47.7 (SD 24.1)</td>
<td>50.2 (SD 20.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Improvement in PsA SON22 score from baseline to week 4 and 24 (mITT population)

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Table 1. Demographics, disease activity variables and patient reported outcomes at the initiation of TNFi-1, and effectiveness of TNFi-1 and TNFi-2 regarding change and resolution of enthesitis at follow-up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASES</th>
<th>SPARCC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 192</td>
<td>n = 357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demographics</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age*</td>
<td>47.2±12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex** (Male)</td>
<td>84 (44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI*</td>
<td>27.2±5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infliximab**</td>
<td>7 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept**</td>
<td>39 (20.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adalimumab**</td>
<td>76 (39.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golimumab**</td>
<td>55 (28.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certolizumab**</td>
<td>15 (7.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disease activity variables (Baseline)**

| SUJCE66*** | 3 (0-4.5) | 3 (1-6) | 3 (1-5) | 3 (1-7) |
| TCDB6***   | 6 (3-13)  | 4 (2-6) | 8 (4-14)| 5 (2-9) |
| CRP*       | 11±18.1   | 10.6±14.4| 8.5±15.1| 12.5±15.6|
| DAPSA-28*  | 30.8±15.8| 29.7±18.3| 28.7±13.5| 25.4±15.5|
| Phys Global*| 48.9±20   | 47±22  | 36.3±18  | 45.8±23  |

**Patient reported outcomes (Baseline)**

| Pain*       | 67±21     | 57±25   | 67±21    | 55.6±26   |
| PGA*        | 66.8±2    | 59±26   | 73.5±20  | 55.7±26   |
| HAQ*        | 1±1       | 0.9±1   | 1.1±1    | 0.8±1     |

**Effectiveness of TNFi in change and resolution of enthesitis at follow-up**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>TNFi-1</th>
<th>TNFi-2</th>
<th>TNFi-1</th>
<th>TNFi-2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis+</td>
<td>MASES (N=254)</td>
<td>MASES (N=70)</td>
<td>SPARCC (N=167)</td>
<td>SPARCC (N=59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow up</td>
<td>Follow up</td>
<td>Follow up</td>
<td>Follow up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 93</td>
<td>n = 93</td>
<td>n = 85</td>
<td>n = 85</td>
<td>n = 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score, Mean±SD</td>
<td>3.1±2.2</td>
<td>2 (2-4)</td>
<td>4.4±3.5</td>
<td>4.5±3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score, Median (IQR)</td>
<td>1 (1-3)</td>
<td>0 (0-1)</td>
<td>2 (1-4)</td>
<td>2 (1-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Score from baseline to Follow up</td>
<td>Median (IQR)</td>
<td>0 (0-1)</td>
<td>0.6±2.2</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete resolution at follow-up</td>
<td>Number (%)</td>
<td>58 (62)</td>
<td>43 (51)</td>
<td>5 (13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mean±standard deviation; ** Frequency (Percentage); *** Median (Range)

**Figure 1.** Distribution of enthesitis at baseline and follow-up after TNFi-1

Ingelheim, Abbvie, Janssen, Consultant of: Janssen, UCB, Boehringer Ingelheim, Lilly, Sanofi, Björn Gudbjornsson Speakers bureau: Novartis and Nordic Pharma, Thorvardur Jon Löve Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Celgene, Sinem Burcu Köcaer: None declared, Aydan Köken Arş: None declared, Merete Lund Hetland Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Medac, Sandoz, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Biogen, BMS, Celtrion, Eli Lilly, Janssen Biologics B.V, Lunnbeck Fonden, MSD, Medac, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung Biopies, Sandoz, Novartis, Mikkel Østergaard Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Celgene, Eli-Lilly, Hospira, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Novo, Orion, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sandoz, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Medis, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Sandoz, Lek.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4376

**POS1549 BETTER DRUG SURVIVAL ON MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES COMPARED TO ETANERCEPT IN FIRST LINE ANTI-TNF THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS MAY BE DUE TO DIFFERENTIAL THERAPEUTIC RESPONSE IN SKIN INVOLVEMENT: A PROPENSITY SCORE-MATCHED ANALYSIS FROM THE NATIONWIDE CZECH ATTRA REGISTRY**

Š. Tichý1, L. Nekvindová2, J. Bananovič2, P. Pavelka3, P. Horák4, J. Vencovský5, J. Zavalač3. 1Institute of Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology of the 1st Faculty of Medicine and Rheumatology Institute, Prague, Czech Republic; 2Institute of Biostatistics and Analyses, Ltd, Institute of biostatistics and analyses, Brno, Czech Republic; 3Institute of Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology of the 1st Faculty of Medicine and Rheumatology Institute, Prague, Czech Republic; 4University Hospital Olomouc, Third Department of Internal Medicine - Nephrology, Rheumatology and Endocrinology, Olomouc, Czech Republic; 5Institute of Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology of the 1st Faculty of Medicine and Rheumatology Institute, Prague, Czech Republic

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Skin, bDMARD

Figure 1. Drug survival of etanercept vs. other TNF inhibitors in patients with PsA.
Background: Etanercept is an agent of specific molecular structure and its efficacy in extraarticular disease differs from monoclonal antibodies. This could affect drug survival in some rheumatic diseases with a larger presence of extraarticular involvement.

Objectives: To compare the drug survival of etanercept to monoclonal anti-TNF antibodies in psoriatic arthritis and describe the response of skin disease to treatment in the two groups.

Methods: Patients with PsA starting first-line biological treatment from 01/01/2012 to 30/06/2020 were enrolled from the Czech ATTRA registry and split into two groups as either being treated with etanercept (ETA) or any other anti-TNF. Propensity scores were calculated using covariates based on statistically significant differences in the baseline characteristics and clinical relevance (Table 1). PS was then used to match 81 etanercept to 160 other TNFi patients. We performed a Kaplan-Meier survival analysis and checked for statistical significance using the log-rank test. We calculated survival rates at set time points, median survival time in each group and the hazard ratio of etanercept for drug discontinuation. The Physician global assessment of psoriasis variable (measured on a numerical rating scale 0-5) was sorted in categories of mild (0-1), intermediate (2-3) and severe (4-5) and respective percentages were calculated in the propensity-matched groups at 3, 6, 12 and 24 months. Pearson's chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test were used to check the differences for statistical significance.

Results: We found significantly worse drug survival on ETA compared to other TNFi at each time point (Figure 1). The median survival time on ETA was 35.8 (95% CI 25.1 – 46.6) months compared to 65.7 (95% CI 51.9 – 76.9) months on other TNFi. The HR of ETA for treatment termination was 1.61 (95% CI 1.11 - 2.34), p=0.011. At baseline, there were no differences in skin disease severity. The percentages of mild, intermediate and severe skin disease were 22.2%, 59.3% and 18.5% on etanercept and 25.0%, 55.6% and 19.4% on other TNFi, p=0.325. At 3 months, skin disease was significantly more severe in ETA with 50.0%, 44.8% and 5.2% compared to 76.2%, 23.8% and 0% on other TNFi, p=0.001. At 12 months, the respective percentages were 66.6%, 31.9% and 2.1% on ETA and 84.7%, 15.3% and 0% on other TNFi, p=0.015; at 24 months 62.9%, 59.3% and 18.5% on etanercept and 84.7%, 15.3% and 0% on other TNFi, p=0.853. At 3 months, skin disease was more severe in ETA with 50.0%, 44.8% and 5.2% compared to 76.2%, 23.8% and 0% on other TNFi, p=0.011. At baseline, there were no differences in skin disease severity.

Conclusion: Etanercept had worse drug retention than monoclonal antibodies in PsA. Patients treated with ETA had more severe skin disease during follow-up compared to those treated with other TNFi, which could lead to earlier switching to another drug.

Table 1. Selected baseline characteristics after propensity score matching.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Etanercept (n=81)</th>
<th>Other TNFi (n=160)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>42 (51.9%)</td>
<td>78 (48.8%)</td>
<td>0.649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis</td>
<td>40.0 (34.0–50.0)</td>
<td>42.0 (34.0–49.0)</td>
<td>0.847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at 1st line treatment</td>
<td>51.0 (42.0–59.0)</td>
<td>52.0 (44.0–59.0)</td>
<td>0.835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (yrs)</td>
<td>71.2 (25.3–14.0)</td>
<td>78.2 (25.9–15.2)</td>
<td>0.587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPA50</td>
<td>36.3 (28.1–41.6)</td>
<td>36.2 (26.7–45.8)</td>
<td>0.946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dl)</td>
<td>12.0 (4.8–25.0)</td>
<td>15.4 (6.3–28.0)</td>
<td>0.227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h)</td>
<td>26.0 (16.0–30.0)</td>
<td>30.0 (15.0–40.0)</td>
<td>0.728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joint count (6)</td>
<td>12.0 (9.0–19.0)</td>
<td>12.0 (7.0–19.0)</td>
<td>0.602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swolen joint count (66)</td>
<td>8.0 (5.0–11.0)</td>
<td>8.0 (4.0–12.0)</td>
<td>0.759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global assess. (0-100)</td>
<td>68.0 (50.0–80.0)</td>
<td>70.0 (50.0–80.0)</td>
<td>0.832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician global assess. (0-100)</td>
<td>60.0 (45.0–70.0)</td>
<td>60.0 (38.5–72.5)</td>
<td>0.942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1yr of administration 2012-2013</td>
<td>7 (7.6%)</td>
<td>15 (9.4%)</td>
<td>0.973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>16 (19.8%)</td>
<td>35 (21.9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>21 (26.9%)</td>
<td>41 (25.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>37 (45.7%)</td>
<td>69 (43.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant csDMARD</td>
<td>66 (81.5%)</td>
<td>126 (78.8%)</td>
<td>0.619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant MTX</td>
<td>53 (64.5%)</td>
<td>97 (60.8%)</td>
<td>0.467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant glucocorticoids</td>
<td>25 (30.9%)</td>
<td>54 (33.8%)</td>
<td>0.652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Median (IQR) in continuous variables; n (percentage) in categorical variables.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the project (Ministry of Health, Czech Republic) for conceptual development of research organization 00023728 (Institute of Rheumatology).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1224

Table 1. Baseline psoriasis characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placebo n=66</th>
<th>Deucravacitinib 6 mg QD n=70</th>
<th>Deucravacitinib 12 mg QD n=67</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSA Severity</td>
<td>BSA &lt;3%, n (%)</td>
<td>BSA 3%&lt;, &lt;10%, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA</td>
<td>9 (14)</td>
<td>32 (49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI Severity</td>
<td>BSA &lt;10%, n (%)</td>
<td>BSA ≤10%, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI</td>
<td>22 (33)</td>
<td>32 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (23)</td>
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<td>23 (33)</td>
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</table>

References:

Figure. PASI mean change from baseline at week 16 by psoriasis severity at baseline

Acknowledgements: This study was sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb.
Disclosure of Interests: Alice B Gottlieb Consultant of: AnaptysBio, Amgen, Avores, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, DermaVant, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Sun Pharma, and Xbiotech (stock options for an RA project), Grant/research support from: AnaptysBio, Janssen, Novartis, Ortho, San Pharma, and UCB, April Armstrong Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Leo Pharma, and Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Parexel, Celgene, DermaVant, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Merck-Therapeutics, Merck, Modernizing Medicine, Ortho Dermatologics, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, Science 37, Sun Pharma, and Valeant, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Leo Pharma, Dermira, Kyowa Hakko Kirin, and UCB, Joseph F. Merola Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, DermaVant, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Leo Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Andrew Napoli Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Iwai Bioscience, Mochida, Nowak Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Biogen, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, UCB, Subhashis Banerjee Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Thomas Lehman Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Philip J Mease Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, DermaVant, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi, Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Sun Pharma, and UCB.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
REFERENCES: NIL.

Table 1. Incidence rates of drug switching due to inefficacy per 100 patient-year in PsA patients treated with biological agents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients/year</th>
<th>Events (n)</th>
<th>IR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>893.09</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>12.20 - 14.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abatacept</td>
<td>5.90</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33.88 - 135.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interleukin-17 inhibitors</td>
<td>70.84</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25.40 - 41.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ustekinumab</td>
<td>10.29</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>48.59 - 20.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK inhibitors</td>
<td>14.06</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35.56 - 85.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The biological drug switching rate due to inefficacy in our study was 12.20 per 100 patient-years. In this description study, we have identified some clinical disease manifestations and therapy regimen factors that might affect the drug switching due to inefficacy on PsA. TNF inhibitor (TNFi) seems to be the drug with the lowest rate of switching due to inefficacy in our study.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1978

Table POS1604

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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

IL-13 INHIBITION USED FOR ATOPIC DISEASES IS ASSOCIATED WITH RISK OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthropathies, Psoriatic arthritis, Genetics/epigenetics

S. S. Zhao, K. Hyrich, Y. Xu, A. Barton, J. Bowes, University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Centre for Dermatology Research, Manchester, United Kingdom; University of Manchester, Centre for Genetics and Genomics; Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Inhibitors of the IL-13 pathway, such as dupilumab and tedokimab, are licensed to treat atopic diseases such as eczema and asthma. Mucosal skeletal adverse events that resemble enthesitis and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) after dupilumab initiation have been reported, but evidence is limited to case reports and spontaneous pharmacovigilance with uncertain causal inference. Naturally occurring genetic variation in drug targets can provide insight into their potential adverse effects.

Objectives: To investigate whether genetically proxied IL-13 inhibition (IL-13i) increases risk of PsA and other spondyloarthropathy-related diseases.

Methods: Dupilumab is recognised to reduce eosinophil count in clinical studies; we therefore used it as the biomarker of IL-13i. We instrumented IL-13i using missense (protein coding) variants within the IL13 gene that are associated with circulating eosinophil count at genome-wide significance (p<5x10^-8) in a study of 563,946 individuals. Outcome genetic associations were taken from studies of PsA, spondyloarthropathy, ulcerative colitis, anklyosing spondylitis, and iritis. To examine instrument validity, we used atopic eczema and asthma as positive control outcomes, and rheumatoid arthritis as a negative control. We used the ratio method, with estimates scaled to per standard deviation (SD) increase in eosinophil count.

Results: One missense variant, rs25041, was selected to proxy IL-13i. Genetically proxied IL-13i was associated with increased risk of PsA (OR 37.39; 95% CI 11.52, 121.34), psoriasis (OR 20.04; 4.38, 92.01), Crotin’s disease (OR 3.49; 1.38, 8.81), but not ulcerative colitis, anklylosing spondylitis or iritis. IL-13i was associated with reduced risk of positive control outcomes, but not with the negative control (Table 1).

Conclusion: Genetically proxied IL-13 inhibition is associated with increased risk of PsA, spondyloarthritis and Crotin’s disease, which may be a class effect relevant to...
other IL-13 that are not yet reported to have Th17-type adverse events. These findings are compatible with the hypothesis that Th2 cytokines IL-4/-13 may act as a restraint toward Th17-type disease activation in some organs. Clinicians assessing adverse events after dupilumab initiation may be aware of incident PsA and related features. This study demonstrates the value of genetic instrumental variables in evaluating rare adverse events in the study of drug safety.

Table 1. Effect of genetically proxied interleukin-13 inhibition on psoriatic arthritis and related diseases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Number of cases/ controls</th>
<th>Odds ratio</th>
<th>95% confidence interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>3,609/19,192</td>
<td>37.39</td>
<td>11.52, 121.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>10,588/22,806</td>
<td>20.08</td>
<td>4.38, 92.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crohn’s disease</td>
<td>5,966/14,927</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>1.38, 8.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcerative colitis</td>
<td>6,968/20,464</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.40, 2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankylosing spondylitis</td>
<td>9,069/13,578</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.08, 1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute and subacute iritis</td>
<td>3,126/299,287</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>0.47, 2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atopic eczema (positive control)</td>
<td>10,786/30,047</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.06, 0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma (positive control)</td>
<td>56,167/352,255</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.16, 0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis (negative control)</td>
<td>14,361/43,923</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.37, 1.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3514

PS14065

A PROOF-OF-CONCEPT STUDY EVALUATING THE USE OF FUNCTIONAL BRAIN MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN ASSESSING TREATMENT RESPONSE IN PSORIASIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Pain, Imaging

E. Espartal1, X. Michelenal, S. Marsal2, A. Roviral2, A. Erral2, 1Val Hebron University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 2Val Hebron University Hospital, Section of Neuroradiology (Department of Radiology, IDI), Barcelona, Spain

Background: Inflammatory cytokines can alter the way the central nervous system processes pain as shown in patients with rheumatoid arthritis [Rech et al., 2013]. However, the relationship between TNF inhibitor inhibition and pain processing in individuals with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) has not been investigated.

Objectives: To assess the feasibility of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) paradigm to estimate the response to pain and the effect of treatment in PsA patients (pts).

Methods: 6 pts with active PsA eligible to start a TNFi were included: 3 were naive to biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs and 3 were experienced. Four healthy subjects (HS) were also included. Subjects were scanned in a 3.0T scanner at baseline (BL) and week 1 (W1) after starting treatment. Each acquisition included 2 fMRI runs. The physician selected a swollen and tender joint (affected joint) and a control joint in the contralateral hand (non-affected joint). First, the brain pain response was investigated pressing the non-affected joint followed by the affected joint. The fMRI effect of pressure was represented for each subject individually, for each time point (p<0.0001 uncorrected level, minimum extension 10 voxels). We provided a descriptive analysis of the differences in PsA pts brain response between BL and W1 and the clinical response evaluated by the percentage of improvement of Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA) score and visual analogue scale pain (VASp) change.

Results: All subject’s demographic characteristic and PsA patients’ clinical response are shown in Table 1. Brain response to pressure in HS produced activation in the sensory motor cortex, with more or less involvement of additional areas in the prefrontal, parietal and temporal cortex. In PsA pts with a higher treatment response (PsA 1, 2, 5), the brain response to pressure did not show any activation at BL whilst sensory motor cortex activation was seen at W1, with amygdala and insula activation in pts PsA 2 and 5 and prefrontal and frontal activity in pts PsA 1 and 2. In those with less response (PsA 3, 4, 6), the sensory motor cortex was activated at BL with little changes when evaluated at W1 (Figure 1). No evident differences in brain response activation were observed between naive and TNFi experienced patients.

Table 1. All subject’s demographic characteristic and PsA patients’ clinical response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>HS1</th>
<th>HS2</th>
<th>HS3</th>
<th>HS4</th>
<th>PsA1</th>
<th>PsA2</th>
<th>PsA3</th>
<th>PsA4</th>
<th>PsA5</th>
<th>PsA6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (M/F)</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC BL</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC BL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP BL (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP W1 (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFi naive</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA improvement (%)</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔVASp change (mm)</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-51</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The proposed fMRI paradigm seems to be a promising candidate to predict response to treatment with TNF inhibitors in PsA patients. Studies with more patients are needed to confirm our preliminary results.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Esther Espartal Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Xabier Michelena Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Sara Marsal Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Alex Rovira Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Deborah Pareto Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Alba Erra Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer.

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Figure 1: Brain fMRI response to pressure of the non-affected joint (green) and the affected joint (red) overlaid on top of the structural image. Upper panel corresponds to a patient with clinical improvement (PsA1) and lower panel to a patient that did not respond (PsA3) at baseline (left column) and week 1 (right column). Differences are observed in the sensorimotor cortex activation between patients: there is an increase in the activation after week 1 in PsA1 while PsA3 showed activation at baseline but not in week 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Esther Espartal Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Xabier Michelena Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Sara Marsal Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Alex Rovira Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Deborah Pareto Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer, Alba Erra Grant/research support from: This abstract/project is sponsored by Pfizer.

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POS1606

DIFFERENTIAL AND COMBINATORIAL MECHANISM OF ACTION OF GOLIMUMAB AND GUSELKUMAB IN ULCERATIVE COLITIS INDUCTION TREATMENT: IL-23 BLOCKADE DRIVES RESTORATION OF NORMAL EPITHELIELUM AND MUCOSAL HEALING

Keywords: Clinical trials, Organ damage, Remission

P. Desai1, P. Branigan1, D. Richards1, D. Megnaola1, M. Vetter1, D. Cua1, T. Freeman1, 1Janssen Research & Development, LLC, Immunology, Spring House, PA, United States of America; 2Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom
Background: The combination treatment of golimumab (GOL), a tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNFα) antagonist, and guselkumab (GUS), an interleukin (IL)-23 inhibitor was shown to induce higher rates of clinical remission, endoscopic improvement, and histologic remission than each monotherapy in a randomized phase 2 induction study in TNFα-naive patients with moderate-to-severely active ulcerative colitis (UC) (VEGA; NCT03662542).

Objectives: To investigate the underlying mechanism of action of GOL, GUS, and the combination (GUS+GOL).

Methods: Colon biopsies were obtained at screening and at Week 12 in patients who received GOL (n=48), GUS (n=52), or GUS+GOL (n=50). Tissue transcriptional profiles were determined with RNA-seq. Differentially expressed genes were analyzed in the context of cell-type specific transcriptional modules by first defining a gene correlation network and unsupervised network clustering. We then developed a method to create a single-cell-derived co-expression network using published UC single-cell data to provide high-resolution gene modules associated with specific cell types and pathways. Gene set variation analysis (GSVA) was used to quantitatively assess changes in specific biologic modules in the context of responder and non-responder analyses.

Results: By Week 12, combination therapy induced a greater magnitude of transcriptional changes in the colon compared with each monotherapy (Table 1). These genes were associated with IL-23/Th17/myeloid-related processes, inflammation, and epithelial homeostasis. Significant changes were observed in Th17 cells and inflammatory epithelial cell modules in patients that achieved endoscopic improvement (subscore 0 or 1) at Week 12 compared with non-responders (Table 1). The magnitude of change relative to baseline was greater in the GUS monotherapy and GUS+GOL arms compared with GOL alone. These changes were consistent with a decrease in crypt destruction in responders at Week 12, as observed by histologic changes in the Goebes score. Genes modulated by GUS+GOL were indicative of greater suppression of inflammation, particularly myeloid cell activation and inflammatory fibroblast development. In contrast, genes modulated by either GUS or GUS+GOL were associated with increased epithelial normalization and decreased Th17 activity compared to GOL alone.

Conclusion: Combination induction with GOL+GUS for 12 weeks drove a greater reduction in inflammation and improvement in epithelial homeostasis compared to each monotherapy, demonstrating the differential and complementary mechanisms of action of TNFα and IL-23 blockade. Combination therapy drives a significant increase in the overall magnitude of response with marked improvement in the restoration of normal epithelium.

Table 1  Differentially expressed genes at Week 12 compared with baseline pre-treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOLimumab GUselkumab Combination</th>
<th>Number of genes up at Week 12</th>
<th>Number of genes down at Week 12</th>
<th>Th17 module: Responder vs Non-Responder Week 12 (p-value)</th>
<th>Th17 module: Non-Responder Week 12 vs Baseline (p-value)</th>
<th>Epithelial module: Non-Responder Week 12 vs Baseline (p-value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOL</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUS</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUS+GOL</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P-values associated with GSVA enrichment of biologic modules associated with endoscopic response and at Week 12.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Prerak Desai Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Patrick Branyan Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Dylan Richards Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Dennis McGonagle Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Marion Vetter Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Daniel Cua Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Thomas Freeman Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Daniel Cua Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Thomas Freeman Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Thomas Freeman Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Thomas Freeman Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Thomas Freeman Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Thomas Freeman Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Thomas Freeman Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC and may own stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson.

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POS1607 BIOLOGIC THERAPIES FOR PSORIASIS DECREASE FUTURE RISK FOR DEVELOPING PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Psoriatic arthritis

A. Dotan, N. Ben-Shabat, D. McGonagle, H. Amital, A. Wattel, Zabludowicz Center for Autoimmune Diseases, Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, Israel, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, Department of Medicine ‘B’; Ramat-Gan, Israel; The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust & Leeds Institute of, University of Leeds, Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Psoriasis (PsO) is an inflammatory skin disorder with an estimated worldwide prevalence of 2–4% [1]. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is highly associated with higher severity of PsO, present in up to 30% of patients and 0.3–1.0% of the global population and PsA typically develops after PsO [1,2]. There are some contradictory studies in relationship to the impact of biological therapies for PsO in relation to the prevention of PsA. Objectives: To ascertain whether biological therapies for pre-existing psoriasis (PsO) may reduce the incidence of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) according to different treatment regimens for PsO ranging from topical therapy to biological therapy. Methods: We conducted a retrospective exploratory study with real-world data from the third largest Israeli health maintenance organization, ‘Meuhedet’ which covers approximately 1,300,000 subjects. All patients of ‘Meuhedet’ diagnosed with PsO from January 2000 until January 2020 were included in the analysis. Overall, 61,003 patients with PsO were detected. In addition, each PsO patient was paired with four control subjects by gender, age, and ethnicity. Patients diagnosed with PsA before the diagnosis of PsO or less than six months after were excluded from the analysis. We defined PsO according to physicians’ diagnoses. Patients included patients with either peripheral or axial arthritis. Patients were classified according to their treatment: Group 1-topical therapy, phototherapy or no therapy, Group 2 - conventional DMARDs (cDMARDs; methotrexate or sulfasalazine), Group 3 -biologics DMARDs (bDMARD) The incident cases of PsA were analyzed according to the aforementioned different lines of therapy. Patients in the bDMARDs group were further sub-grouped according to the first-line prescribed treatment. Time-dependent Cox proportional hazard models were used to evaluate the adjusted risk of developing PsA by treatment group. Data analysis was conducted with Python Software Foundation, Python Language Reference, version 3.9.12, R version 4.2.0, RStudio (RStudio Team, 2020), and the ‘Survival’ package (v3.2; Therneau, 2020).

Results: 58,671 patients were included contributing a total of 628,228 patient-years. This analysis was adjusted to gender, body mass index (BMI), age of PsO diagnosis, time from psoriasis diagnosis to the group treatment, and number of biological treatments lines. Adjusted Cox proportional hazards regression analysis showed that the risk of developing PsA in PsO patients treated with bDMARDs was significantly higher in comparison to those treated with topical therapy (HR: 2.76, CI: 2.19 – 3.48, p-value: <0.001). On the contrary, the analysis also showed that the risk of developing PsA in PsO patients was significantly decreased in those treated with biological agents in comparison to topical therapy (HR: 0.62, CI: 0.42 – 0.90, p-value: <0.014).

Conclusion: PsO patients treated with cDMARDs are at higher risk of developing PsA in comparison to those treated with topical therapy alone which may reflect the severity of extent of psoriasis in the c DMARD group been linked to PsA. Biological therapy decreased risk of developing PsA in comparison to topical therapy.

REFERENCES:
Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic, progressive disease associated with psoriasis that can lead to joint damage, disability, and increased mortality. Early diagnosis and management of inflammation is essential for improving clinical outcomes. Methotrexate (MTX) is the recommended first-line treatment for early PsA patients with polyarthritis and relevant skin involvement, however many patients are unresponsive to therapy. MicroRNA (miRNA) modulation gene expression at a post-transcriptional level and constitute a promising source of biomarkers that could enable the future personalization of treatment plans.

Objectives: To identify a set of miRNAs that serve as biomarkers for MTX treatment response by comparing miRNA expression between responders and non-responders before initiation of therapy.

Methods: From our prospective PsA database we identified biologic-naive PsA patients satisfying the CASPAR criteria before the initiation and 6 months after MTX treatment. Articular response to MTX was defined as achieving treatment target of low disease activity (4 ≤ DAPSA < 14) or remission (DAPSA < 4). Cutaneous response to MTX was defined as a reduction of at least 50% in PASI score. miRNA expression was evaluated in biobanked serum samples through next-generation sequencing. Differential expression was assessed by linear modelling with empirical Bayes moderation (using the Limma R package). Linear models were corrected for sequencing batch, age, sex, ethnicity, BMI, smoking, use of NSAIDs, MTX treatment duration and dose. Enrichment of biologic pathways corresponding to gene targets of the identified miRNAs was examined using the integrative tool pathDIP by restricting the analysis to literature curated pathways and experimentally detected protein-protein interactions with a prediction confidence of 0.99.

Results: 70 biologic-naive, PsA patients were included in the study. Articular and cutaneous response to MTX was observed in 28.57% and 34.28% of patients, respectively. Pretreatment expression of miR-127-3p was significantly lower in patients showing an articular response to MTX (p<0.001). Of note, miRNA 127 expression has been associated with a protective effect in inflammatory lung fibrosis and osteoarthritis[1]. A set of 7 miRNAs (miR-155-5p, miR-140-3p, miR-432-5p, miR-382-5p, miR-532-5p, miR-139-3p, and miR-379-5p) were significantly associated (p<0.01) with cutaneous response to MTX treatment (reaching a reduction of 50% in PASI) present lower expression of miR-127-3p. B. Patients showing articular response to MTX treatment (reaching treatment target of low disease activity or remission: DAPSA score below 14) present lower expression of miR-127-3p. B. Patients showing cutaneous response to MTX treatment (reaching a reduction of 50% in PASI) present lower expression of miR-140-3p and miR-332-5p and higher expression of miR-155-5p, miR-432-3p, miR-382-5p, miR-139-3p and miR-379-5p.

Conclusion: We identified miR-127-3p as a biomarker of cutaneous response, and 7 other miRNAs as biomarkers of cutaneous response to MTX treatment in PsA patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We thank Pratibha Potla for technical help with the bioinformatics analysis. Omar Cruz Correa is supported by awards from the National Psoriasis Foundation (Early Career Grant 815779) and Arthritis Society (Postdoctoral Award 20-0000000015). Rohan Machhar conducted the work prior to any industry affiliation. The Research Program and sequencing experiments are supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Krembil Foundation, the Schroeder Arthritis Institute and the UHN Foundation.
Other orphan diseases

POS1552

NO BURN-OUT IN PEDIATRIC-ONSET BEHÇET’S DISEASE PATIENTS DURING ADULTHOOD FOLLOW-UP

Keywords: Behçet’s disease

T. Bozkurt1, M. Karabacak2, H. Karatas1, S. Kutluğ Ağaçkıran3, T. Ergun2, H. Direskeneli1, F. Albaz-Onel1. 1Marmara University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Marmara University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Marmara University School of Medicine, Department of Dermatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Although onset of Behçet’s Disease (BD) is common in the second or third decade, initial symptoms occur under the age of 16 years in 4–26% of the patients [1].

Objectives: In this study we aimed to assess the clinical course of pediatric onset BD in adulthood period.

Methods: The files of 1114 BD patients were reviewed retrospectively. 51 (4.6%) (F:M=21:30) pediatric-onset BD patients were included in the analysis. Demographic and clinical characteristics, follow-up and treatment data of the patients were recorded from files.

Results: The median age at diagnosis was 16 (14-17) years, and the median follow-up duration was 51 (26-96) months. Of all patients, 33.3% (n=17) had ocular involvement, 27.5% (n=14) had vascular involvement, 17.6% (n=9) had central nervous system involvement, and 3.9% (n=2) had gastrointestinal system involvement. Erythema nodosum was more common in females (p=0.008) and vascular involvement was more common in males (p=0.025). At the end of follow-up, 32 (62.8%) patients had major organ involvement, half of them had at the time of diagnosis. Forty-seven (M:27:F:20) patients had a follow-up with median of 50 (20-82) months in adulthood period. Thirty-one (65.6%) patients had major organ involvement. While 20 (64.5%) patients had major organ involvement in the pediatric period, 11 (35.5%) patients developed major organ involvement in adulthood. Overall, 19 (40.4%) patients had active disease manifestations (relapse and/or new major organ involvement) in adulthood follow-up. Of these patients, 11 (57.9%) had new major organ involvement, 7 (38.8%) had a relapse of the same organ, and one (5.3%) had both new major organ involvement and a relapse. The disease course of patients is seen in Table 1.

Conclusion: Our results show that, about half of the pediatric-onset BD patients still have active disease manifestations (mainly new major organ involvement) in adulthood period.

Table 1. Disease course of patients followed in adulthood period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients followed in adulthood</th>
<th>n=47 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major organ involvement in childhood</td>
<td>20 (42.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapse or development of new major organ involvement</td>
<td>8 (17.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No relapse or major organ involvement</td>
<td>12 (25.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucoocutaneous disease in childhood</td>
<td>27 (57.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New major organ involvement</td>
<td>11 (23.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No major organ involvement</td>
<td>16 (34%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1553

THE SIGNIFICANT ASSOCIATION OF HLA-A26 WITH UVEITIS AND GASTROINTESTINAL INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH BEHÇET’S DISEASE IN A MULTICENTER STUDY

Keywords: Behçet’s disease

T. Nakajima1, H. Tsui1, R. Inaba1, R. Saito1, K. Nishimura2, A. Morinobu1. 1Kyoto University, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kyoto, Japan; 2Kurashiki Central Hospital, Endocrinology and Rheumatology, Kurashiki, Japan; 3Kobe University, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Kobe, Japan

Background: Specific haplotypes of human leukocyte antigen (HLA) are associated with susceptibility and disease activity of Behçet’s disease (BD). However, the clinical importance of HLA-A26 in BD is not well recognized compared to that of HLA-B51.

Objectives: This study aimed to examine the association between HLA-A26, HLA-B51, clinical manifestations, and disease severity in BD, especially focusing on HLA-A26 possession.

Methods: This study was a multicenter cross-sectional observational study and patients with BD were enrolled from 2006 to 2021. All patients met the International Criteria for BD [1] or the diagnostic criteria of the Behçet’s Disease Research Committee of Japan [2]. Disease severity was evaluated using Krause score reflecting the entire spectrum of disease manifestations [3]. Both serotypes and genotypes were accepted for HLA typing.

Results: In total, 200 patients were enrolled in this study. Uveitis was observed in 95/196 patients (48.5%) and gastrointestinal involvement in 57/167 patients (34.1%). HLA haplotypes were identified for HLA-B51 (n = 52/106, 49.1%), HLA-A26 (n = 25/88, 28.4%), and both HLA-B51 and HLA-A26 (n = 68/88, 68.8%). While HLA-A26 showed no significant association with clinical manifestations without adjustment for HLA-B51, HLA-A26 possession showed a higher frequency of uveitis (HLA-A26 positive vs. negative: n = 6/8, 100% vs. n = 16/32, 50.0%, respectively, p = 0.03) and higher Krause scores (median: 7 vs. 5, respectively, p = 0.02) under conditions with HLA-B51. Furthermore, the association between uveitis and gastrointestinal involvement was influenced by HLA-A26: HLA-A26 possession was associated with a higher frequency of uveitis in patients with gastrointestinal involvement (HLA-A26 positive vs. negative: n = 5/9, 55.6% vs. n = 0/21, 0%, respectively, p = 0.001), as well as for gastrointestinal involvement in patients with uveitis (HLA-A26 positive vs. negative: n = 5/11, 45.5% vs. n = 0/24, 0%, respectively, p = 0.001). All 5 patients with both uveitis and gastrointestinal involvement had HLA-A26 (HLA-A26 positive vs. negative: n = 5/21, 23.8% vs. n = 0/58, 0%, respectively, p = 0.001).

Conclusion: HLA-A26 was associated with severity of BD and uveitis in patients with HLA-B51, and was associated with coexistence of uveitis and gastrointestinal involvement. This study suggested the importance of confirming HLA-A haplotype in patients with BD.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Comparison of clinical characteristics of BD patients with and without HLA-A26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (n=88)</th>
<th>HLA-B51 (+) (n=38)</th>
<th>Uveitis (+) (n=40)</th>
<th>Gastrointestinal involvement (+) (n=30)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis, %</td>
<td>56.0 vs. 43.3, p</td>
<td>60.0 vs. 50.0, p</td>
<td>65.6 vs. 0, p = 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 0.24</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal involvement, %</td>
<td>42.9 vs. 36.2, p</td>
<td>60.0 vs. 24.1, p</td>
<td>45.5 vs. 0, p = 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 0.14</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis + Gastrointestinal involvement, %</td>
<td>23.8 vs. 0, p</td>
<td>60.0 vs. 0, p</td>
<td>60.0 vs. 24.1, p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 0.001</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krause score, mean</td>
<td>6.5 vs. 5, p</td>
<td>0.43 7 vs. 6, p</td>
<td>0.02 7 vs. 6, p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 0.27</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

†: HLA-A26 positive (%) vs. negative (%); Fisher’s exact test †: HLA-A26 positive vs. negative; Mann-Whitney U test

Figure 1. Association between haplotypes and clinical manifestations

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1554

AN OBSERVATIONAL MULTICENTER STUDY COMPARING THE EFFECTIVENESS BETWEEN TNF INHIBITORS AND APREMILAST ON ORAL ULCERS OF BEHÇET’S DISEASE

Keywords: Behçet’s disease
Background: Recurrent oral and genital ulcers are the most nagging clinical manifestations of Behçet’s disease (BD) and colchicine should be used first for the treatment and prevention of ulcers relapse. In contrast, TNF-α inhibitors (TNFi) are helpful in resistant cases, leading to a rapid improvement of mucosal lesions [1]. More recently, the phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor apremilast was evaluated in two RCTs showing a significant improvement of oral ulcers compared to placebo [2, 3]. Moreover, several observational studies also investigated the effectiveness of apremilast in BD patients with mucosal ulcers [4].

Objectives: To date, there are no comparative data about the effectiveness between TNFi and apremilast in mucocutaneous involvement of BD. The present study aims to compare the effectiveness between TNFi and apremilast on oral ulcers of BD.

Methods: Data on patients classified as BD (according to International Criteria for BD and International Study Group criteria) who underwent apremilast or TNFi for refractory oral ulcers from March 2017 to January 2022 in 7 tertiary rheumatology centers (6 Italian and 1 Spanish) were retrospectively analyzed. Retrieved data including demographics and clinical characteristics were collected. We also recorded the presence of active oral aphthosis at either baseline, 3-month and 6-month follow-up as well as the occurrence of oral ulcers during the intervals between visits. Patients on TNFi were considered controls for nearest-neighbour propensity score (PS)-matching (neighbours for replacement matching, minimum 1, maximum 4). PS is an epidemiological tool used for the adjustment of non-randomized longitudinal studies. It is a conditional probability of being exposed to a disease given an asset of covariates. In brief, this was carried out using the patients’ age, disease duration and gender, with a selected caliper of 0.2. Chi-square test was used to test difference between proportions of patients with active aphthosis in both groups at different follow-up times.

Results: Among 159 patients with BD on TNFi or apremilast, the matching algorithm retrieved 84 patients. More in detail, 28 patients in the apremilast group and 58 patients in TNFi group. All had active aphthosis at treatment start. Clinical and demographic characteristics of patients at baseline are reported in Table 1 and Figure 1 and 2. Concerning proportion of patients with active oral aphthosis, no difference was observed either at 3-month (p=0.60) and 6-month (p=0.66) follow-up visits (Figure 2). Consistently, the rate of flares in the time intervals between visits was not different between groups (46.1% vs 37.9% from month 0 to 3, p=0.47; 34.62% vs 34.48% from month 3 to 6, p=0.99).

Conclusion: The main limitations of our study are the small sample size and the short-term follow-up. Nevertheless, we provide evidence that apremilast and TNFi show similar effectiveness, inducing a meaningful and early benefit in BD patients with refractory oral ulcers.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Apremilast</th>
<th>TNFi inhibitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Av.Obs.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n(%)</td>
<td>17(65.38)</td>
<td>30 (51.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, mean (SD)</td>
<td>31.15(14.03)</td>
<td>26.60(12.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at baseline, mean (SD)</td>
<td>28.34(14.57)</td>
<td>26.00(12.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Duration, mean (SD)</td>
<td>7.19 (8.24)</td>
<td>4.24 (5.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cDMARDs comorbidity n(%)</td>
<td>26 (92.26)</td>
<td>26 (92.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current cDMARDs/dsDMARD treatment line, median (IQR)</td>
<td>1 (1-2)</td>
<td>58 (1-2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1555 MEASUREMENT OF COMMON FEMORAL VEIN WALL THICKNESS IS A USEFUL DIAGNOSTIC TOOL TO DIFFERENTIATE OCULAR BEHÇET’S DISEASE FROM OTHER INFLAMMATORY UVEITIS

Keywords: Ultrasound, Behçet’s disease

S. Kutlu1 Ajakçakaran1, E. Kardes2, A. Ajakçakaran3, H. Direshkeneli1, F. Alibaz-Oner1. 1Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2University of Health Sciences, Umraniye Training and Research Hospital, Department of Ophthalmology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3University of Health Sciences, Umraniye Training and Research Hospital, Department of Radiology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Diagnosis of Behçet’s Disease (BD) can be challenging, especially in patients presenting with single major organ involvement. Our group showed that common femoral vein (CFV) wall thickness measured by Doppler ultrasonography (US) can be a non-invasive diagnostic method [1] and can also be used to diagnose incomplete BD [2]. Since ocular involvement of BD may result in irreversible vision loss if untreated, it is important to diagnose without delay and initiate immunosuppressive therapy promptly.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to assess the discriminative role of CFV wall thickness measurement in uveitis associated with BD compared to other inflammatory uveitis.

Methods: Patients with BD uveitis (n=41) and age-gender matched 58 non-BD uveitis patients were included in the study. Demographics, clinical characteristics, and treatment data were recorded during routine visits. CFV wall thickness was measured by an experienced and blinded radiologist on the same day.

Results: Twenty-four (58.5%) of BD patients and 23 (39.7%) of non-BD patients were male. All BD patients had panuveitis. 3 (3.0%), 8 (8.1%), 8 (8.1%) of non-BD patients have anterior uveitis due to sarcoidosis, HLA-B27 positivity, ankylosing spondylitis, respectively, and 7 (7.1%) had idiopathic anterior uveitis. 12 non-BD patients had panuveitis caused by sarcoidosis. The most common complaint was decreased visual acuity in both groups. Right CFV (0.73 mm± 0.07) wall thickness of BD patients was significantly higher than left CFV (0.67 mm± 0.08) and left CFV (0.57 mm± 0.07) wall thickness of non-BD patients (p < 0.01).

Conclusion: Diagnosis of ocular BD can be challenging, especially when there is no other clinical finding or organ involvement specific to BD. Our results suggest that measurement of CFV wall thickness by Doppler US can be helpful for the differentiation of ocular BD from other causes of inflammatory uveitis in daily practice.

REFERENCES:

Efficacy of Apremilast Treatment for Arthritis in Behçet’s Disease

Keywords: Behçet’s disease, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

R. Wakiya1, Y. Ushio1, H. Shimada1, S. Nakashima1, T. Miyagi1, K. Sugihara1, R. Mino1, M. Mizusaki1, K. Chuo1, T. Kameda1, H. Dobashi1.1Kagawa University, Division of Hematology, Rheumatology and Respiratory Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Kagawa, Japan

Background: The arthritis that occurs in Behçet’s disease (BD) is considered to be an oligoarthritis but one of the intractable symptoms related to quality of life [1]. Apremilast is effective for oral ulcers in BD, but its efficacy against arthritis has not been well established.

Objectives: This study aims to determine the effect of apremilast treatment on arthritis in BD.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with BD disease between January 2011 and June 2022 who had a history of arthritis within the past five years were included in this study. Patients with Behçet’s disease treated with apremilast were compared with those not treated (control group). Frequency of oral and genital ulcers, skin lesions, arthritis, and other typical domains of Behçet’s disease, evaluated every 3 months for 12 months. The number of tender and swollen joints and DAS28 as indicators of arthritis activity and Behçet’s disease activity form (BDCAF) as an indicator of disease activity were investigated retrospectively.

Results: There were 55 patients with Behçet’s disease available for analysis in this study, 16 of whom were treated with apremilast. There was no clear difference between the two groups for pre-existing BD disease domains. Active lesions at the beginning of the analysis included significantly more oral ulcers and skin pustules in the apremilast group than in the control group, but there was no significant difference in the incidence of arthritis (Table 1). Similarly, there were no significant differences in the number of swollen joints, tender joints, or serum CRP levels between the two groups. The frequency of having arthritis was present in 56.3% of the apremilast group at baseline and decreased in the apremilast group at 3 and 6 months, but remained unchanged in the control group (Figure 1). In the apremilast group, not only did oral ulcers, genital ulcers, and skin pustular lesions improve after 3 and 6 months, but DAS28 and BDCAF also significantly decreased after 3 months (DAS28: p = 0.0010, BDCAF: p = 0.0019).

Conclusion: Apremilast is effective against arthritis as well as skin mucosal lesions in BD and could be one of the treatment strategies for arthritis in BD.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Characteristics of BD patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apremilast Treatment</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=16</td>
<td>N=39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD), years</td>
<td>46.2(13.6)</td>
<td>40.3 (10.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, female (%)</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, mean (SD), years</td>
<td>11.0 (5.7)</td>
<td>15.1 (10.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active organ involvement, number (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral ulcer</td>
<td>16 (100)</td>
<td>23 (59.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital ulcer</td>
<td>5 (33%)</td>
<td>4 (10.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin lesion</td>
<td>11 (68.8)</td>
<td>6 (15.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythema nodosum</td>
<td>1 (6.3)</td>
<td>5 (13.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombophlebitis</td>
<td>1 (6.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin pustules</td>
<td>10 (62.5)</td>
<td>3 (7.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular involvement</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epiphelitis</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal involvement</td>
<td>1 (6.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>9 (56.3)</td>
<td>24 (61.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joints (28 joints)</td>
<td>1 [0-2.8]</td>
<td>1 [0-1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joints (68 joints)</td>
<td>2 [0-3.8]</td>
<td>1 [0-2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joints (66 joints)</td>
<td>0 [0-0]</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dl</td>
<td>0.09 [0.04-0.31]</td>
<td>0.09 [0.02-0.21]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The statistical analyses were conducted using the chi-squared test or Mann-Whitney U test. Nonparametric distributions are represented as medians (interquartile range).

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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P. Tricopiane1, G. Raffone1, A. D’antonio1, E. Greco1, S. Modica1, A. Bergamini2, M. S. Chianese1.1University of Reggio Calabria, For Vergata, Rheumatology Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy

Background: Hereditary angioedema (HAE) due to C1 esterase inhibitor protein (C1INH) deficiency is a rare disorder (1:5000) that is characterized by widely variable and potentially fatal attacks of acute pain in the lower limbs, including muscle wasting, fascial swelling and, in severe cases, skin tissue ulceration which are generally self-limiting. The defect of C1INH allows for a dysregulated kallikrein–kinin pathway, and thus for the overproduction of bradykinin B2 receptors. The resulting increased vascular permeability induces painful angioedema attacks most often involving the hands. Musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSUS) enables evaluation of the soft tissues, providing additional and more accurate assessment of inflammation and visualization of structural damage.

Objectives: To explore the potential damage at the site of angioedema attack, we performed an U/S study of hands and wrists in consecutive C1INH-HAE patients referring to the HAE Reference Centre at “Tor Vergata” University Hospital in Rome (Italy).

Methods: Consecutive C1INH-HAE patients underwent biochemical analyses and, in the same day, MSUS evaluation that has been performed by an expert rheumatologist at wrists and hands. The US (Esaote MyLab™X75, 4-15 MHz) semi-quantitatively graded subcutaneous tissue edema, synovitis/tenosynovitis-like lesions, erosions, oedematoses, and bone edema according to the 2021 Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT). HAE Quality of Life Questionnaire (HAE-QoL) and HAE Activity Score (HAE-AS) were registered.

Results: 94 C1INH-HAE patients from 50 independent families (aged 43.2 ± 17 yrs) has been included, with 60% females and 20.6% smokers. All patients experienced recurrent acute attacks at the hands: a third of the cohort (31.3%) was on long-term-prophylaxis at the time of the study and 20% of subjects had the last acute attack more than 12 months before. In 75% of the cohort, the HAE-QoL described a mild-moderate QoL and HAE-AS showed a mild disease activity. Smokers were prevalent among patients in high disease activity than in patients in low disease activity (P<0.05). High level of C-reactive protein (≥5 mg/dl) has been documented in 13.8% of patients while rheumatoid factor and anti-cyclic-citrullinated- peptide-antibody (ACPA) resulted in rare cases (2.1% for both). A vitamin D deficiency (< 7 ng/dl) has been registered in 3.6% of patients although insufficient vitamin D (7-30ng/dl) resulted in 50% and hyperuricemia (>7mg/dl) in 4% of cases. ANA titer≥1:160 occurred in 25.5%. The joint pain at the hands/wrists have been reported by 70% of patients: patients with joint pain showed a lower mean C1INH antigen level and a higher number of attacks in the last 3 months than patients without (P<0.05). Patients with at least 1 US lesion (62.8%) were significantly older and affected by a greater number of angioedema attacks than patients without lesions (37.2%, P<0.05 for both). US lesions were mainly represented by oedematoses (63.5%) and cartilage damage (35.3%). Synovitis/tenosynovitis and potentially at least 1 joint has been documented in 44.7% of the cohort but a positive Power Doppler signal was revealed in rare cases (2.1%). The subcutaneous tissue edema resulted in a third of the cohort (29.8%). Cartilage damage and subcutaneous edema was similarly distributed among hands and wrists. The distal radioulnar joints were the most affected (25.5%) while metacarpophalangeal was affected in 17.6% of cases. Synovitis/tenosynovitis was mild-moderate in 98% of cases. In patients showing subcutaneous tissue edema, it was documented in 78.2% of cases at the hands and in 21.3% at the wrists.
LONG-TERM SAFETY OF CANakinumab IN AUTOINFLAMMATORY PERIODIC FEVER SYNDROMES – 48-MONTH DATA FROM THE RELIANCE REGISTRY

Keywords: Innate immunity, Real-world evidence, Rare/orphan diseases

Background: Autoinflammatory periodic diseases (AID) can be treated with the tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated periodic syndrome (TRAPS) on CANakinumab (CAN). CAN has been shown to be safe and effective in controlled trials and routine clinical practice.

Objective: To investigate the safety and tolerability of CANakinumab in adult and pediatric (age ≥2 years) patients with AID who routinely receive CAN in clinical practice.

Methods: RELIANCE is a prospective, non-interventional, observational study in Germany enrolling pediatric (age ≥2 years) and adult patients with a clinically confirmed diagnosis of AID who routinely receive CAN. Efficacy and safety parameters are recorded at baseline and assessed at 6-month intervals.

Results: Data from N=232 patients (n=229 with baseline visit yet documented) diagnosed with autoinflammatory diseases enrolled in the RELIANCE registry between October 2017 and December 2022 were included in the present interim analysis. Median age of the total study cohort was 20.0 years (2–80 years), 52% were female and median duration of CAN treatment before study entry was 2 years (0–15 years). During the study, 898 adverse events (AE) occurred in N=164 patients (71%). Among the most common AE classified as suspected adverse drug reactions (ADR) were decreased neutrophil count (8 events, IR 1.46), increased inflammatory markers (12 events, IR 2.19), nasopharyngitis (14 events, IR 2.55) and pyrexia (17 events, IR 3.10). In N=35 patients (15%), a total of 98 serious adverse events (SAE) were reported. Of these events, 31 SAE were classified as suspected adverse drug reactions (SAE; Table 1). During the last 3 years of observation within the study, incidence rates (IR) decreased from 76.21 to 51.44 (ADR) and 7.44 to 5.66 (SAE). Patients receiving greater than standard dose CAN experienced higher levels of ADR/SAE compared to patients under less than standard and standard dosing. How much high dosage or severity of disease contribute to this phenomenon remains unclear. AE related dose reductions have not been reported.

Conclusion: The 48-month interim data of the RELIANCE study confirm sustained safety of long-term treatment with CAN in the entire study population.

Table 1. Overview of adverse events in the RELIANCE study across all study indications (N=232 patients).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AE Category</th>
<th>Number of Events</th>
<th>Percentage of Patients (%)</th>
<th>Incidence Rate per 100 Patient-years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All types of AE</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>163.82</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAE</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>17.88</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAE: serious adverse drug reaction; SAE, serious adverse event

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4926
THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PATIENTS UNDER NINTEDANIB TREATMENT DUE TO INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Lungs, Systemic sclerosis

F. Tekgoz1, S. Colak1, E. Cimen Gunes1, N. Ocal2, D. Dogan2, C. Tasci2, M. Cinar1, S. Yilmaz1. 1University of Health Sciences, Gulhan Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 2University of Health Sciences, Gulhan Faculty of Medicine, Pulmonology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Nintedanib provides a decline in the reduction of forced vital capacity (FVC) in patients with progressing lung fibrosis. Objectives: To assess demographical, clinical, and radiological characteristics of the patients with connective tissue diseases (CTDs) associated interstitial lung disease (ILD), who were under nintedanib treatment.

Methods: This retrospective observational study was conducted with the patients who received nintedanib for progressing lung fibrosis associated with CTDs. The patients who had followed up between January 2020 and December 2022 included in the study. The demographical, clinical, and radiological data were obtained from patients’ files.

Results: Twenty-two (14.8%) patients (11 male/11 female) with CTD related ILD who had a mean age of 65.9 ± 7.6 received nintedanib. The median disease duration was 43.8 (3.8-101.8) months for ILD. Eighteen (81.8%) patients had a ILD diagnosis prior to an ILD diagnosis. The median duration for nintedanib treatment was 10.5 (7-14.8) months. Eight (36.4%) patients had Sjögren's syndrome, 7 (31.8%) patients had systemic sclerosis, 15 (68.2%) patients had rheumatoid arthritis, and 2 (9.1%) patients had undifferentiated CTD. Ten (45.5%) patients had a history of smoking. Only one patient was using nintedanib 150 mg/day due to gastrointestinal intolerance. Hypertension was the most frequent comorbidity in 5 (22.2%) patients, and the second most frequent one was pulmonary hypertension in 3 (13.6%) patients. During 6 minutes walking test, 12 (55.5%) patients had desaturation. According to high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) findings, 18 (81.8%) patients had usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) pattern, and 4 (18.2%) patients had non-specific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) pattern. The most frequent parenchymal pattern was UIP (p = 0.05). There was no mortality in the study group. Twelve (55.5%) patients had received at least one immunosuppressive treatment. Nintedanib was initiated due to the progression of fibrosis in HRCT in half of the patients with connective tissue diseases (CTDs) associated interstitial lung disease (ILD) who were under nintedanib treatment. Combined with nintedanib, cyclophosphamide (1 patient), rituximab (3 patients), and mycophenolate mofetil (4 patients) were used. The most common side effect of nintedanib was diarrhea.

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the study group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Nintedanib (n = 22)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, n (%)</td>
<td>Female 11 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 11 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, year</td>
<td>65.9 ± 7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration for CTD, 3 month</td>
<td>49.5 (35.8-101.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration for ILD, 3 month</td>
<td>43 (26.3-95.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of nintedanib treatment, 3 month</td>
<td>10.5 (7-14.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sjögren's syndrome, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (36.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic sclerosis, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (31.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (68.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undifferentiated CTD, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (9.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desaturation with 6 minutes walking test</td>
<td>12 (55.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstitial lung disease, n (%)</td>
<td>UIP 18 (81.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSIP 4 (18.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC ml, 1 initiation</td>
<td>87 ± 12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC ml, 6th month</td>
<td>89 ± 14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT findings, 6th month'</td>
<td>Stable 11 (66.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Progression, n (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CTD= Connective tissue disease, ILD= Interstitial lung disease. NSIP= Non-specific interstitial pneumonia, UIP= Usual interstitial pneumonia, FVC= Forced vital capacity, CT= Computerized tomography/ Mean (SD), ‘Median (I-Q-Q).”

Conclusion: Nintedanib is a promising agent for progressing lung fibrosis in patients with CTD-related ILD. Since physicians can safely combine it with immunosuppressive agents, more patients will benefit in the course of time. Prospective studies with longer follow-up, and larger samples are necessary to examine the role of nintedanib on lung fibrosis.
RSF as important: steroid duration, total joint count (TJC), study site, maximum steroid dose, ICI type, shoulder arthritis, >1 DMARD and number of IRAEs. For classifying arthritis control, the following variables were found to be important in both sCART and RSF: steroid duration, >1 DMARD, elbow arthritis, age, cancer type, TJC and first DMARD (Table 1). The Figure 1 shows the sCART for arthritis control.

**Conclusion:** Both methods, sCART and RSF, demonstrated the important influence of steroid duration on arthritis control and cancer progression. Machine learning methods demonstrated the potential prognostic importance of specific joint involvement for each outcome - knee for time to arthritis control and shoulder and wrist for cancer progression.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Deanna Jannat-Khah Shareholder of: Dr. Jannat-Khah owns shares of Walgreens Boots Alliance, AstraZeneca, and Cyto dy., Grant/research support from: Dr. Jannat-Khah has a grant from the Hospital for Special Surgery, Laura Cappelli Grant/research support from: Dr. Cappelli has a grant from the NIH (NIAMS K23AR075872) and from Bristol Myers Squibb, Paniki Reid Consultant of: Dr. Reid was a consultant for Level Ex, Grant/research support from: Dr. Reid has grant support from the following: COVID-19 Funds to Retain Clinical Scientists by the Supporting Early Career University Researchers to Excel through Disruptions Steering Committee and The University of Chicago Institute of Translational Medicine Clinical and Translational Science Award K12/KL2 Grant SK2LTR00387-05, Jeffrey Sparks Consultant of: Dr. Sparks was a consultant for AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Giliead, Inova Diagnostics, Jansen, Optum, and Pfizer., Grant/research support from: Dr. Sparks has received grant support from the following entities: Bristol Myers Squibb, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, Rheumatology Research Foundation, R.Bruce and Joan M. Mickey Research Scholar Fund, and Liura Gund Award for Rheumatoid Arthritis Care and Research, Noha Abdel-Wahab Speakers bureau: Dr. Abdel-Wahab received an honorarium for a lecture by ChemoCentrx, Consultant of: Dr. Abdel-Wahab was a consultant for ChemoCentrx, Grant/research support from: Dr. Abdel-Wahab has grant funding from the following institutions: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIH-K01AI163412) and University of Texas MD Anderson, Cassandra calabrese Speakers bureau: Dr. Calabrese received an honorarium for a lecture from Sanofi., Consultant of: Dr. Calabrese was a consultant for Lilly, and AstraZeneca, Carlos Aude: None declared, Nilasha Ghosh Grant/ research support from: Dr. Ghosh has a grant from the Hospital for Special Surgery, Karmela Kim Chan: None declared, Anne Bass Grant/research support from: Dr. Bass has grants from the following institutions: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Rheumatology Research Foundation.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** None Declared.

**REFERENCE:**


**Keywords:** Registries, Pregnancy and reproduction, Mixed connective tissue disease.
### Table 1. Univariate logistic regression analyses: factors associated with reduced handgrip strength in young patients with JIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Coefficient, b (95% CI)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>Odds ratio, OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>AUC (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>0.073 ± 0.066, 0.626 -</td>
<td>0.262</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m²</td>
<td>-0.25 ± 0.12, 0.043</td>
<td>0.738</td>
<td>0.9997</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years</td>
<td>0.17 ± 0.07, 0.020</td>
<td>0.019</td>
<td>1.18 (1.03 – 1.37)</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/hour</td>
<td>0.062 ± 0.032, 0.005</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein, mg/l</td>
<td>0.007 ± 0.010, 0.521</td>
<td>0.871</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity by JADAS27</td>
<td>0.49 ± 0.27, 0.072</td>
<td>0.382</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity by JADAS28</td>
<td>0.16 ± 0.07, 0.022</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>1.18 (1.02 – 1.35)</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid cumulative dose, mg</td>
<td>0.00026 ± 0.0015</td>
<td>0.882</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular damage index JADAI-A</td>
<td>0.79 ± 0.39, 0.495</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>2.20 (1.02 – 4.75)</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-articular damage index JADAI-E</td>
<td>0.91 ± 0.48, 0.059</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Assessment Questionnaire, HQ</td>
<td>1.28 ± 0.76, 0.929</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMD total, g/cm²</td>
<td>-9.29 ± 3.64, 0.011</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.0001 (0.0000 – 0.77)</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat, %</td>
<td>0.086 ± 0.043, 0.101</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>1.09 (1.02 – 1.16)</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean mass, %</td>
<td>-1.14 ± 0.34, 0.001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.32 (0.16 – 0.62)</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat, %</td>
<td>0.093 ± 0.035, 0.007</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>1.10 (1.03 – 1.16)</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean mass, %</td>
<td>-0.73 ± 0.22, 0.001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.48 (0.31 – 0.74)</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendicular lean mass, g</td>
<td>-0.49 ± 0.14, 0.001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.61 (0.46 – 0.81)</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean mass total, g</td>
<td>-0.00025 ± 0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.9997</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skeletal mass index, kg/m²</td>
<td>-2.29 ± 0.73, 0.002</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.010 (0.02 – 0.42)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 1. Demographics/baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N=56</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men: 65 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women: 33 (59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer diagnosis n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma: 30 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung cancer: 11 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urothelial/renal cancer: 6 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgkin lymphoma: 2 (3,5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laryngeal cancer: 1 (1,8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colon cancer: 1 (1,8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check point inhibitor n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CTLA-4: 0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-PD1/PD-1: 36 (67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTLA-4 and PD-1/PD-L1: 15 (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD1-LAG3: 1 (1,9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preexisting rheumatic disease n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis: 2 (3,5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seronegative RA: 1 (1,8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositive RA: 4 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTCAE grade n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1: 15 (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G2: 24 (44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3-4: 15 (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CCP/RF positive n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h: 7 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP mg/L: 35 (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC (66 joints): 30 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC (66 joints): 5 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician global VAS mm (0-100): 53 (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global VAS mm (0-100): 18 (15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The results of our study demonstrate a high prevalence of low handgrip strength, up to 79% among young patients with JIA. In these participants, lower BMI, lower total BMD and arms, legs, total lean mass and SMI, longer disease duration, higher disease activity by JADAS27 and articular index damage JADAI-A, and higher percentage fat were linked to reduced handgrip strength.
as well as blood samples for biobanking, are collected at study visits at baseline and after 3,6 and 12 months. Patients are treated at the discretion of the treating rheumatologist in collaboration with the oncologist.

**Results:** Between August 2018 and January 2023 56 patients have been included at 4 centers (DH, UNN, ÅH, HSN). 49 patients had de novo disease and 7 patients had flare of preexisting rheumatic disease (RA n=5, PsA n=2). Polyarthritus was the dominant phenotype in 45% of the patients followed by olioarthritus and monoaarthritus (Figure 1). Joint distribution was heterogenic: 7 patients were positive for RF/anti-CCP, of whom 5 had preexisting RA. Disease characteristics at baseline are presented in Table 1. The mean Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) score was 18, corresponding to a level of moderate disease activity. Throughout the study period anti-rheumatic treatment has been given to the following proportions of patients: i.a steroid injection:45%, prednisolone: 71%, methotrextate: 30%, anti-TNF: 21%, tocilizumab: 1.7%, seukinkumab: 1.7%, ustekinumab: 1.7%, lefunomide: 1.7%, apremilast: 1.7%. Death has been registered in 13 (23%) patients, of whom 10 patients had received prednisonone, 3 patients had received methotrextate and 1 patient had received anti-TNF treatment.

**Clinical phenotypes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Phenotypes</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
<th>Improvement, No. (%)</th>
<th>No improvement, No. (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone (n=31)</td>
<td>27 (87.1%)</td>
<td>4 (12.9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intramypanic corticosteroid injection (n=9)</td>
<td>9 (100.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrextate (n=17)</td>
<td>11 (64.7%)</td>
<td>6 (35.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine (n=3)</td>
<td>3 (100.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adalimumab (n=3)</td>
<td>2 (66.7%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab (n=2)</td>
<td>1 (50.0%)</td>
<td>1 (50.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolic acid (n=1)</td>
<td>1 (100.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept (n=1)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>1 (100.0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.


**Keywords:** Descriptive studies, Tapering, Best practices

**M. Diaz Menindez**1, A. M. Chindros2, R. Butendieck, Y. Li, C. Razvan3, K. Britt, F. Beranu4. Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology, Jacksonville, United States of America; 3Mayo Clinic, Internal Medicine, Jacksonville, United States of America

**Background:** Autoimmune inner ear disease (AIED) is a rare entity that presents with sensorineural hearing loss. In the US, the incidence rate is less than 5 per 100,000 people [1]. The pathophysiology behind the disease is thought to be a humoral and cell-mediated process that damages the cochlea [2]. Clinical presentation is characterized by fluctuating, asymmetric hearing loss that tends to progress over time. Half of patients with AIED present with vestibular (eg, dizziness, vertigo, imbalance) and other ear symptoms (eg, tinnitus, ear pressure and aural fullness) [2,3]. Diagnosis of AIED remains challenging as no diagnostic test has demonstrated high sensitivity or specificity [1]. Diagnosis remains clinical and based on response to corticosteroids, which suggests the disease’s autoimmune nature. Corticosteroid-sparing agents have been used with various degrees of success [1-4].

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to describe our experience treating patients with AIED with immunosuppressive therapy.

**Methods:** We performed a retrospective chart review of patients diagnosed with AIED at all Mayo Clinic locations for the past 10 years. AIED was diagnosed based on 3 main characteristics: progressive fluctuating hearing loss, response to high-dose corticosteroids, and audiometric evidence supporting sensorineural hearing loss. We recorded audiography results at the time of diagnosis and 1 and 3 months after treatment. We divided treatment efficacy into 2 categories: subjective (patient-reported) and objective (audiometric) improvement.

**Results:** Thirty-one patients met the inclusion criteria; the mean age was 48.5 years and 17 were women. Patients were initially evaluated by the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and 29 patients were subsequently referred to the Department of Rheumatology with a mean of 12.2 weeks after the first evaluation. While initial hearing loss was more commonly unilateral (21 [67.7%]), it remained unilateral in only 8 (25.8%) patients. Tinnitus, aural fullness, and ear pressure were the 3 most common ear symptoms, followed by imbalance, vertigo, dizziness, and discharge. Treatment with corticosteroids showed improvement of hearing and vestibular symptoms during the first month, but no further improvement by the end of the third month. Other immunosuppressive medications were used with various degrees of response (Table 1). Methotrextate was the second most used therapy with 11 of 17 patients reporting an improvement in symptoms.

**Conclusion:** Prompt treatment of these patients is vital to prevent irreversible hearing loss. Corticosteroids remain the criterion standard initial treatment; however, our study supports potential use of corticosteroid-sparing agents such as methotrextate for long-term therapy. Our study has some limitations including small patient population and a retrospective design.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Treatments and Outcomes Based on Subjective Responses**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3521
Objectives: This cohort study aims to describe the prevalence and features of systemic phenotype of pericarditis characterized by pleurapulmonary involvement, fever, and elevation of C-reactive protein (CRP), comparing this phenotype with other forms of pericarditis.

Methods: All patients in our center were enrolled in a prospectively maintained registry from 2019 to 2022. 412 patients with idiopathic recurrent pericarditis were analyzed. “Systemic” subset was defined as the presence of all of the following criteria: fever > 38 °C, CRP higher than 2 times normal values, pleural effusion detected with any imaging techniques. The absence of any of the 3 criteria was defined as “isolated” subset.

Results: We found that 211 (51.2%) of 412 patients presented the systemic subset and the variables significantly associated with this subset in univariate analysis (p<0.001) were: higher mean age of onset 45.5 (±SD 16.4) years, higher mean CRP values 128.8 (95% CI 117.8-139.8) mg/L, higher proportion of pericarditis with 10 (19%) or 3 (1.5%), higher mean leukocyte count 13143.3 (95% CI 12790.4-13496.2) vs 9910.3 (95% CI 9556.2-10264.4)/mm³, higher mean neutrophil number 10402.5 (95% CI 10082.1-10723) vs 6779.8 (95% CI 6505.2-7054.4)/mm³ and lower mean lymphocyte count 1693.9 (95% CI 1621.9-1765.8) vs 2079.3 (95% CI 1979-2179.6)/mm³. As results the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio was higher in systemic phenotype: 6.5 (95% CI 6.2-6.9) vs 3.4 (95% CI 3.3-3.6). Anti-IL1 therapy was started more frequently in the systemic subgroup (55/211, 26%) than in the isolated subset (15/201, 7.5%) (p<0.001). On multivariate analysis neutrophil count and lymphopenia, were statistically associated with the systemic subset (p < 0.001).

Conclusion: These results demonstrate the clinical relevance of the systemic phenotype in a referral center and confirm its analogy with the autoinflammatory diseases, suggesting a pivotal role of IL1 in the genesis of this subset.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4755

POS1566

SOLVING SARCOIDOSIS: A TRANSCRIPTOME-BASED META-ANALYSIS OF CLINICAL SARCOIDOSIS STUDIES ILLUSTRATES SHARED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY, EXAMINES MEDIATORS OF FIBROSIS, IDENTIFIES CANDIDATE BIOMARKERS AND SUGGESTS A THERAPEUTIC MECHANISM OF JAK INHIBITION

Keywords: -Omics, Biomarkers, Rare/orphan diseases

J. Lindquist1, J. Rosenbaum2, M. Friedman. 1Oregon Health and Science University, Arthritis & Rheumatic Diseases Division, Portland, United States of America; 2Legacy Devers Eye Institute, Ophthalmology, Portland, United States of America

Background: Sarcoidosis is a systemic, non-caseating granulomatous disease driven by a dysregulated immune response to environmental antigens. Disease manifestations are driven by both active inflammation and resultant fibrosis in a wide variety of tissues, but the dynamics and mediators of these two states are not well understood. Diagnosis relies on imaging and biopsy and treatment typically includes steroids. JAK inhibitors have been utilized as steroid-sparing therapies for cutaneous and pulmonary sarcoidosis, however the mechanism is unclear.

Objectives: We performed a meta-analysis of 20 transcriptome studies on clinical sarcoidosis to explore perturbed pathways, examine mediators of fibrosis, prioritize candidate biomarkers, and study the JAK/STAT pathway.

Methods: We searched publicly available data repositories for clinical sarcoidosis datasets with healthy controls and at least 3 biological replicates evaluated with transcriptome analysis and found 20 studies (14 microarray and 6 RNAseq), comprising 316 sarcoidosis patients and 383 healthy controls. The majority of samples came from peripheral blood; tissue-based samples included lung, skin, anterior orbit, lacrimal gland and lymph nodes. We performed differential gene expression on each of the 20 studies independently with Limma (microarray) and DESeq2 (RNAseq). Results were merged for the 17,705 genes that were evaluated by at least 9 of the studies. For microarray studies, data from the probe with lowest adjusted p-value and largest absolute fold change (FOLD) was selected. Genes were selected for pathway enrichment analysis if at least 10 studies identified them as differentially expressed. Candidate biomarkers were genes that were consistently differentially expressed in both tissue and peripheral samples with a fold change magnitude of at least 1.5x. Pathway enrichment analysis was performed with Reactome. We mined our dataset with 232 fibrosis related genes identified by the FibROAD project and the 11 central genes of the JAK/STAT pathway.

Results: We prioritized 2,349 genes that were differentially expressed in the majority of the datasets. Unsupervised clustering of these studies showed a distinct difference between peripheral and tissue sample types. Of the 15 biomarker candidates, some have been associated with sarcoidosis (ie STAT1, ITGA6, LEP1) and others have been reported in tuberculosis (ie GBP5, ANKRD22), however the majority have not been associated with either (ie RHOH, SPTBN1, UBASH3A). Pathway enrichment identified significant perturbation of interferon signaling and antigen presentation which supports two established mechanisms of sarcoid pathophysiology: an abnormal TH1 response and existence of MHC risk alleles. Qualitative exploration of the JAK/STAT pathway (Figure 1) shows a predominant upregulation of the pathway, most strongly in STAT1 and JAK2. We prioritized 25 fibrosis related genes that were significantly differentially expressed in at least 10 of our studies and included STAT1, HBEFG, FOXP1 and JAK2.

Conclusion: This meta-analysis summarizes the current transcriptional landscape of sarcoidosis, including pathophysiology, mediators of fibrosis, biomarkers and therapeutics targeting the JAK/STAT pathway. We hypothesize that JAK2 may be an important therapeutic target for sarcoid by disrupting the JAK/STAT component of an abnormal TH1 response as well as a possible JAK2/STAT1 associated fibrosis mechanism.

Reference: Cited inline.

Figure 1. Meta-analysis of 11 JAK/STAT pathway genes show significant differential expression which is most notable in STAT1, JAK2 and STAT2. Red indicates higher expression (log2FC change) in sarcoid compared to control.

Acknowledgments: This work was supported by NIH T32 grant T32HL083808 and the Grandmaison Fund for Autoimmunity Research.

Disclosure of Interests: Ingrid Lindquist: None declared. James Rosenbaum Shareholder of: JR receives stock options for his work at Corvus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Not pertaining to this abstract., Consultant of: Gilead, Lilly and Roivant, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Employee of: JR is employed by Corvus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Not pertaining to this abstract., Marcia Friedman Shareholder of: MF receives stock options for her work at Alpine Immune Sciences. Not pertaining to this abstract., Consultant of: Revolo and Jordan Fuller Bain and Co, Inc, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Employee of: MF is employed by Alpine Immune Sciences, Inc. This research project was done while she was a full time employee of Oregon Health & Science University (prior to her employment at Corvus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.).

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POS1567

OUTCOMES AND PREDICTORS OF CHRONIC IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR INDUCED INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: DATA FROM THE CANADIAN RESEARCH GROUP OF RHEUMATOLOGY IN IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY (CARI) RETROSPECTIVE COHORT

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Malignancy, Prognostic factors

A. Ladouceur1, L. Gonzalez Arreola2, S. Jamai2, M. Hudson2, J. Pope3, S. Hoa4, J. Roberts5, D. Moon6, A. Karmali2, T. Nevskaya3, E. Schmidt1, N. Toban8, L. Cho2, T. Barnetche1, C. Yé6, McGill University, Medicine, Montreal, Canada; 2University of British Columbia, Medicine, Vancouver, Canada; 3University of Western Ontario, Medicine, London, Canada; 4Université de Montréal, Medicine, Montréal, Canada; 5Dalhousie University, Medicine, Halifax, Canada; 6University of Alberta, Medicine, Alberta, Canada; 7CHU de Bordeaux, France
Background: Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) improve overall survival and progression-free survival in many types of malignancies and are the new pillar of cancer treatment [1]. ICIs harness a patient’s own immune system to fight their cancer. However, this activation of the immune system can result in off-target immune-related adverse events (irAEs). One of the most disabling irAE is inflammatory arthritis (ir-IA) [2] affecting up to 75% of those treated with ICI [3]. Unlike most irAE which usually resolve within a few months, ir-IA can become chronic and persist even after ICI cessation, requiring long-term immunosuppression [4]. The factors associated with chronic ir-IA and its significance regarding tumor outcomes remain largely unknown. With the increasing use of ICI in the adjuvant therapy, it is important to understand predictors and outcomes of chronic ir-IA in order to best counsel patients.

Objectives: To determine predictors and outcomes of chronic ir-IA in cancer patients exposed to ICI.

Methods: The CanRIO group, established since 2018, includes 9 academic sites in Canada and aims to describe the clinical presentation, management and outcomes of patients who developed rheumatic irAE (Rh-irAE) or those with pre-existing autoimmune diseases exposed to ICI using standardized data collection. The sites pooled data to develop a retrospective cohort of patients identified as having a Rh-irAE. We identified patients who developed ir-IA defined by new onset joint tenderness or synovitis in the absence of pre-existing rheumatic disease and who had at least 3 months of follow-up following ICI cessation. Chronic ir-IA was defined as having either persistent symptoms of ir-IA or the continued use of prednisone or DMARDs 3 months after ICI cessation.

Results: The CanRIO Retrospective Cohort included 193 ir-IA individuals of which 54 met our inclusion criteria. Forty-five of 54 (83%) had chronic ir-IA. Fifteen (33%) were female. Nineteen (42%) patients with chronic ir-IA had melanoma, 14 (31%) lung cancer and 8 (18%) genito-urinary cancer. Thirty-three (73%) were treated with anti-PD-1/PD-L1, 14 (31%) with combination and none with anti-CTLA-4 only. Thirty-five (78%) were treated with conventional DMARDs and 1 (2%) with biologic DMARDs. Univariable logistic regression showed that ir-IA was more likely to become chronic in those with peripheral synovitis compared with those who did not have peripheral synovitis at presentation, (Table 1). Patients with chronic ir-IA had greater overall survival and progression-free survival compared with those with acute ir-IA (log rank tests, p<0.01), (Figure 1).

Conclusion: A large proportion of ir-IA becomes chronic. The presence of synovitis at presentation is associated with arthritis persistence. Ir-IA is associated with improved overall survival and progression-free survival.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Logistic regression model: univariable analysis to assess factors associated with chronic ir-IA compared with acute ir-IA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.22-4.56</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.93-1.04</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past or current smoking history</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.11-3.38</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history of rheumatic autoinimmune disease</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>0.20-16.77</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One or more other irAE</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>0.43-12.53</td>
<td>0.323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination ICI</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>0.29-8.61</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of ICI therapy</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>0.98-1.15</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyclinarity</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.32-751</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periarticular synovitis</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.95-73.97</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.95-1.20</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.99-1.05</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from ir-IA onset to treatment</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.85-1.15</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

irAE: immune-related adverse event; ICI: immune checkpoint inhibitors; CDAI: clinical disease activity index

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Alexandra Ladouceur: None declared, Lourdes Gonzalez Areola: None declared, Shahrzad Jamali: None declared, Marie Hudson Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim; Grant/research support from: Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim; Clinical studies: Astra-Zeneca, Janet Pope: None declared, Sabrina Hoa: None declared, Janet Roberts: None declared, David Moon: None declared, Ammana Karmali: None declared, Tatiana Nevskaya: None declared, Emma Schmidt: None declared, Nader Toban: None declared, Lindsay Cho: None declared, Thomas Barneche: None declared, Carrie Ye: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1018
**Table 1: Demographic features of patients and response to anakinra therapy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Age/ Sex</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Duration of pericarditis</th>
<th>Prior medication(s)</th>
<th>Number of recurrences before anakinra</th>
<th>Anakinra treatment duration (mo)</th>
<th>Time to corticosteroid discontinuation (mo)</th>
<th>Recurrences during regular anakinra treatment</th>
<th>Current treatment dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>56/F</td>
<td>FMF</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>CLC, CS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14/F</td>
<td>FMF</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>CLC, CS, NSAIDs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>21/M</td>
<td>FMF</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>CLC, CS, NSAIDs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>77/M</td>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100 mg/3-days-in-a-week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>49/M</td>
<td>MIS-A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CS, NSAIDs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Withdraw-Retention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>55/M</td>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>CS, NSAIDs</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>18/M</td>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Remission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>44/F</td>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>NSAIDs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Withdraw-Retention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>47/M</td>
<td>FMF</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>42/F</td>
<td>FMF</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100 mg/3-days-in-a-week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>26/M</td>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>CLC, CS, Hydroxyclorethoquinone</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100 mg/3-days-in-a-week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>35/F</td>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>CS, NSAIDs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Withdraw-Retention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>13/M</td>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>86</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100 mg/3-days-in-a-week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>27/M</td>
<td>FMF</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>CLC, CS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100 mg/3-days-in-a-week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>23/M</td>
<td>FMF</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>On demand full dose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Conclusion:** Anakinra was found to be a safe and effective agent against colchicine-resistant pericarditis, notably recurrent pericarditis. Long-term treatment should be anticipated when initiating treatment and dose tapering should be kept in mind for patients in remission. Relapses should be watched for attentively in tapering and anakinra should be resumed promptly in case of a recurrence. Furthermore, anakinra is important in sparing cortisone treatment.

**REFERENCES:**

Acknowledgements: None.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**POSI569**

**CONTRIBUTION OF GENETIC ANALYSIS TO THE DIAGNOSIS OF FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER**

**Keywords:** Genetics/epigenetics

H. Akar1, D. Gün Bilgic2, O. Soysoy Gündüz3, Manisa Celal Bayar University, Internal Medicine, Manisa, Turkey; Manisa Celal Bayar University, Medical Genetics, Manisa, Turkey; Manisa Celal Bayar University, Rheumatology, Manisa, Turkey

**Background:** Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) affecting mainly Mediterranean and Middle Eastern populations is an autosomal recessive hereditary disease caused by mutations in the Mediterranean fever (MEFV) gene. It is characterized by periodic attacks of fever and inflammation affecting serosal membranes. The most common symptoms of the disease are fever, abdominal pain, arthritis, erysipelas-like erythema, pleuritis, and pericarditis. Patients are usually treated by life-long colchicine, which has been shown to be effective in preventing the attacks of FMF as well as the development of amyloidosis. FMF diagnosis remains often difficult due to the lack of pathognomonic laboratory findings. The definitive clinical classification of FMF is made by Tel Hashomer criteria [1]. Genetic analyses may support the clinical diagnosis of patients for mutation complications.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to not only investigate the contribution of MEFV mutations to FMF diagnosis but also to show whether there is a phenotype-genotype correlation in the same patient population.

**Methods:** We evaluated 12 MEFV gene mutations screened with a commercial kit based on real-time polymerase chain reaction technique in 1064 adults between January 2016 and November 2021. We were able to interview 208 of 484 people with AAA mutations by telephone. We investigated whether they were diagnosed with FMF according to Tel Hashomer criteria or clinician opinion, and whether they had previously used colchicine before IL-1 inhibitor treatment. The rate of giving colchicine with the diagnosis of FMF in patients with MEFV mutation (39.7%) was found to be significantly higher than those without mutation (p=0.001). Of the 208 patients with genetic mutations which we interviewed by telephone, 89 (42.8%) met the Tel Hashomer criteria. The most detected mutations in patients meeting Tel Hashomer criteria were M694V (46.1%), M680I (24.7%), V726A (8.9%), and E148Q (8.9%) respectively. The positive significant associations were found between M694V and M680I homozygous mutations and definitive diagnosis according to Tel Hashomer criteria (p=0.001, p=0.021, respectively). A negative correlation was found between E148 heterozygous mutation and diagnosis (p=0.002). When the relation between genetic mutations and clinical findings was examined, it was shown that there was a positive correlation between fever and M694V, and between abdominal pain and M680I (p=0.000, p=0.007, respectively). Patients with the E148Q mutation had significantly less fever and abdominal pain (p=0.026, p=0.017, respectively).

**Conclusion:** Considering that approximately one-fifth of those undergoing genetic testing are diagnosed with FMF, it can be concluded that unnecessary genetic testing is performed in our hospital. In clinical practice, the presence of MEFV gene mutations M694V and M680I is helpful for FMF diagnosis. E148Q mutation were not been found to be associated with both the diagnosis and the clinical findings. Genetics plays a critical role in confirming the diagnosis, but it should never take the place of a clinical diagnosis. The clinicians should be aware of the indications and limitations of genetic testing and know how to interpret the results.

**REFERENCES:**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Nil declared, Dilek Gün Bilgic; None declared, Özgül Soysoy Gündüz Speakers bureau: Amgen, Abbvie, Novartis.

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**POSI570**

**LONG-TERM SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CANAKINUMAB IN FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER (FMF) – 36 MONTH DATA FROM THE RELIANCE REGISTRY**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Rare/orphan diseases, Innate immunity

J. Hanges1, N. Blank2, T. Kickau3, A. Pankow4, I. Foeldvari5, F. Dressler6, G. Hornett7, T. Kallinich8, P. Oommen9, F. Meier10,11, F. Weller-Heinemann12, B. Kurtos-Goette12, M. Hufnagel12, J. Rech12,13, I. Andreica12, J. Weber-Arden12, J. B. Kuenmerle-Deschner12, University Hospital Tuebingen, Center of Interdisciplinary Rheumatology, Immunology and autoimmune diseases (INDIRA), Tuebingen, Germany; Heidelberg University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Heidelberg, Germany; Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU), Pediatrics, Erlangen, Germany; Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; Hamburg Centre for Pediatric and Adolescence Rheumatology, Pediatric and Adolescence Rheumatology, Hamburg, Germany; Children's Hospital, Hannover Medical School, Department of Paediatric Pneumology, Allergology and Neonatology, Hannover, Germany; Asklepios Kinderklinik Sankt Augustin, Department of Pediatrics, Sankt Augustin, Germany; University Hospital of Cologne, Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Medical Faculty, Cologne, Germany; Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine, Immunology and Critical Care Medicine, Berlin, Germany; Deutsches Rheuma-Forschungszentrum (DREFZ), an Institute of the Leibniz Association, Berlin, Berlin, Germany; Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf, Department of Paediatric Oncology, Haematology and Clinical Immunology, Center for Child and Adolescent Health, Medical Faculty, Duesseldorf, Germany; Fraunhofer Institute for Translational Medicine and...
Table 1. Assessment of clinical disease activity and laboratory markers in CAN pretreated and CAN naïve FMF patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAN pretreated patients vs. CAN naïve at baseline</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>18 months</th>
<th>36 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAN pretreated</td>
<td>CAN naïve</td>
<td>CAN pretreated</td>
<td>CAN naïve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) of patients with days off work/school during the last 6 months</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) of patients in disease remission (physician assessment)</td>
<td>39 (55%)</td>
<td>29 (73%)</td>
<td>3 (7.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient's assessment of control of disease activity: 0–10, median (min; max)</td>
<td>7.0 (0; 9)</td>
<td>7.0 (0; 9)</td>
<td>3.0 (0; 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient's assessment of control of fatigue: 0–10, median (min; max)</td>
<td>9 (0; 9)</td>
<td>9 (0; 9)</td>
<td>9 (0; 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) of patients without impairment of social life by the disease</td>
<td>36 (51%)</td>
<td>36 (51%)</td>
<td>36 (51%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current influence of the disease on mood: % of patients with negative</td>
<td>18 (25.7%)</td>
<td>18 (30%)</td>
<td>18 (25.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, median (mg/dl)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAA, median (mg/dl)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, median (mm/h)</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of events</th>
<th>Incidence rate (per 100 patient-years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All types of SAE</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADR</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAN pretreated</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAN naïve patients</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Tachycardia, tinnitus, and one further SAE (not yet coded), each N=1*CAN status not reported for all patients**refer to Table 1. Incidence rate = number of events * 100/sum of observation days (=69050). CRP: c-reactive protein; ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate; n. a.: not annotated; SAA, serum amyloid A; SADR, serious adverse drug reaction.
RESULTS:

Methods:

Objective: In addition to IS treatment, usually, 7.5-30 mg/day prednisolone was administered for ILD was more frequently initiated for patients with NSIP than for UIP. The study found that female patients had a higher prevalence of ILD compared to male patients in terms of gender among patients with UIP. Immunosuppressive (IS) treatment prior to ILD, 20 (13.3%) patients were diagnosed with ILD prior to CTD, and 54 (35.5) patients had non-CTD. According to computed tomography findings, 86 (57.7%) patients had non-CTD, 20 (13.3%) patients were diagnosed with ILD prior to CTD, and 54 (35.5) patients had non-CTD.

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a critical manifestation of connective tissue diseases (CTDs) that may cause morbidity and mortality.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the clinical and demographic characteristics and treatment of the patients who had CTD-related ILD.

Methods: This retrospective observational study includes patients who followed up with CTD-related ILD in a tertiary rheumatology outpatient clinic between January 2020 and December 2022. Patients’ files were assessed retrospectively for demographic, clinical, and radiologic data.

Results: There were 149 patients (86 Female/53 Male) with a mean age of 62.6±11.8. The CTD types of the patients were Sjogren’s syndrome (SS) in 49 (32.7%) patients, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in 47 (31.3%) patients, systemic sclerosis (SSc) in 50 (26.7%) patients, undifferentiated CTD in 9 (6%) patients, inflammatory myositis in 6 (4%) patients, and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in 4 (3%) patients. The median disease duration was 62.6±11.8 months for ILD. Patients with NSIP were more frequent in the SSc group (48 patients, 32.2%), followed by RA patients with NSIP (42 patients, 28.1%), and then patients with RA patients with LIP (7 patients, 4.5%).

Gender, n (%) 2 (2.3) 1 (2.1) 0 (0) 0 (0)

RA = Rheumatoid arthritis, SSc = Systemic sclerosis, LIP = Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, OP = Organizing pneumonia, LIP = Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, n = number of patients, CTD = Connective tissue disease, ILD = Interstitial lung disease, NSIP = Non-specific interstitial pneumonia, UIP = Usual interstitial pneumonia, OP = Organizing pneumonia, LIP = Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, mean ± standard deviation.

Conclusion: ILD is a critical manifestation of CTDs. IS biologic treatment options may be required during the management of CTD-related ILD.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the study group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of the patients</th>
<th>Intestinal lung disease (n = 149)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>96 (64.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>53 (35.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, * year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.6±11.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration for CTD, *month</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=38)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=48)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=36)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sjogren's syndrome, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 (33.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 (22.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic sclerosis, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 (23.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undifferentiated CTD, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 (7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory myositis, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (2.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic lupus erythematosus, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 (1.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CTD = Connective tissue disease, ILD = Intestinal lung disease, NSIP = Non-specific interstitial pneumonia, UIP = Usual interstitial pneumonia, OP = Organizing pneumonia, LIP = Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, mean ± standard deviation.

Methods:

Objective: The study aimed to evaluate the clinical and demographic characteristics, treatment, and outcomes of patients with FMF over 50 years of age.

Methods: This retrospective analysis was conducted at the University of Health Sciences, Gulhane Faculty of Medicine, Pulmonology, Ankara, Turkey. The study included 149 FMF patients over 50 years of age. The demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients were assessed, and the outcomes of treatment were analyzed.

Results: The study found that 96 (64.4%) patients were female, and the mean age was 62.6±11.8 years. The most common CTD types included SS in 49 (33.7%) patients, RA in 22 (14.8%) patients, SLE in 7 (4.7%) patients, and undifferentiated CTD in 9 (6%) patients. The median disease duration was 58 (24-134.5) months for ILD, 35.5 (12-65.8) months for ILD.

Gender, n (%) 2 (2.3) 1 (2.1) 0 (0) 0 (0)

RA = Rheumatoid arthritis, SSc = Systemic sclerosis, LIP = Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, OP = Organizing pneumonia, LIP = Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, mean ± standard deviation.

Conclusion: ILD is a critical manifestation of CTDs. IS biologic treatment options may be required during the management of CTD-related ILD.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6124

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rare/orphan diseases, Inmate immunity
Methods: RELIANCE is a prospective, non-interventional, multi-center, observational study based in Germany. Patients with clinically confirmed diagnoses of TRAPS who routinely receive CAN are enrolled to evaluate efficacy and safety of CAN. The study is based on standard clinical practice conditions. Disease remission by physicians’ assessment, disease activity and fatigue by patients’ assessment, days absent from school/work due to study indication, and inflammatory markers were assessed at baseline and at 6-monthly intervals.

Results: The interim analysis of TRAPS patients enrolled by December 2022 includes data from baseline (N=21), 18- (N=12) and 30-month visits (N=10). At baseline, median age was 15 years (3–43 years) and median duration of prior CAN treatment was 1 year (0–4 years). The proportion of female patients was 67%. At month 30, 3 patients received standard dose CAN, 4 patients greater than standard dose CAN and 2 patients lower than standard dose CAN. Preliminary results indicate stable remission by physicians’ assessment (in 62.5% of patients), low disease activity by patient’s assessment (1.5 out of 10) and inflammatory markers within normal limits (Table 1). However, a fatigue score of 4 out of 10 might contribute to the impairment of social life reported by patients. One patient was affected by N=9 serious adverse events, none of which was classified as drug related.

Conclusion: The present interim data from TRAPS patients indicate that long-term CAN treatment is safe and effective. Patient reported fatigue and impairment of social life leave room for further improvement. Further RELIANCE interim and end-of-study data will be analyzed to assess efficacy and safety of long-term CAN treatment in patients with TRAPS.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics and interim analysis data of patients with TRAPS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>18 months</th>
<th>30 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients, N</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) of patients in disease remission (physician assessment)</td>
<td>11 (58)</td>
<td>7 (78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient’s assessment of current disease activity: 0–10, median (mm; max)</td>
<td>1.5 (0; 8)</td>
<td>0.0 (0; 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient’s assessment of current fatigue: 0–10, median (mm; max)</td>
<td>1.5 (0; 8)</td>
<td>4.0 (0; 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) of patients without impairment of social life 66 (60)</td>
<td>3 (43)</td>
<td>3 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) of patients with days absent from work during last 6 months</td>
<td>8 (40)</td>
<td>3 (25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current influence of the disease on mood; % of patients

CRP, median (mg/dl) 0.2 0.0 0.1
ESR, median (mm/h) 7.0 5.0 7.5

Incidence rate = number of events * 36525 / sum of observation days (=19104)

Table 1. First bDMARD used in the treatment of SAPHO syndrome in our cohort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bDMARD</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>% patients (25/50)</th>
<th>FAMEb/other molec’s (25/25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adalimumab</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infliximab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ustekinumab</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secukinumab</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anakinra</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apremilast</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbimazole-pegb</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Skin manifestations in SAPHO syndrome.
The course of the disease was mostly recurrent (54%) with asymptomatic periods between flare-ups. About half of the patients (44%) in follow-up currently have active disease.

**Conclusion:** Our cohort presented axial involvement like other series and significant peripheral involvement. The most frequent skin condition was PPP. Half of the patients in our cohort required bDMARD, with ABL being the most widely used.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** To the Sociedad de Reumatología de la Comunidad de Madrid (SORCOM).

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**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6017

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**Table 1** Characteristics of IgG4RD and other immunological diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>#1</th>
<th>#2</th>
<th>#3</th>
<th>#4</th>
<th>#5</th>
<th>#6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex (age)</td>
<td>IgG4-related disease</td>
<td>M (69)</td>
<td>F (16)</td>
<td>M (67)</td>
<td>F (34)</td>
<td>F (51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ involved</td>
<td>Salivary glands, parotid, bilateral, lung</td>
<td>Salivary glands, parotid, bilateral, lung</td>
<td>Malignant lymph node, lung</td>
<td>Malignant lymph node, lung</td>
<td>Malignant lymph node, lung</td>
<td>Malignant lymph node, lung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy Response</td>
<td>Surgery + PDN + RTX</td>
<td>Surgery + PDN + RTX</td>
<td>Surgery + PDN + RTX</td>
<td>Surgery + PDN + RTX</td>
<td>Surgery + PDN + RTX</td>
<td>Surgery + PDN + RTX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic Rheumatic Disease</td>
<td>Sarcoidosis</td>
<td>Takayasu</td>
<td>Takayasu</td>
<td>Takayasu</td>
<td>Takayasu</td>
<td>Takayasu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical manifestations</td>
<td>Wrist subcutaneous stenosis</td>
<td>Lung nodules, strictures</td>
<td>Respiratory tract (asthma), skin, peripheral nervous system, blood eosinophilia</td>
<td>Wrist subcutaneous stenosis</td>
<td>Lung nodules, strictures</td>
<td>Respiratory tract (asthma), skin, peripheral nervous system, blood eosinophilia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulfillment of disease specific CC</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Y*</td>
<td>Y*</td>
<td>Y*</td>
<td>Y*</td>
<td>Y*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autoantibody</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite histological diagnosis</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onset vs IgG4RD</td>
<td>Prior</td>
<td>Prior</td>
<td>Concomitant</td>
<td>Concomitant</td>
<td>Concomitant</td>
<td>Concomitant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years before IgG4RD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy Response</td>
<td>PDN + MTX</td>
<td>PDN + MTX</td>
<td>PDN + MTX</td>
<td>PDN + RTX</td>
<td>PDN + RTX</td>
<td>PDN + CYC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objectives:** This report describes an atypical initial presentation of peri-orbital inflammation and neurological manifestations associated with this newly recognized syndrome.

**Methods:** This is a case report.

**Results:** An 82-year-old male with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus type II, protein-tapering hyperplasia and chronic atrial fibrillation, presented with persistent unilateral peri-orbital swelling and pain for 6 months. An initial evaluation in the ophthalmology department with biopsy showed no evidence of malignancy, myositis, vasculitis, or IgG4-related disease. Due to significantly elevated inflammatory markers (CRP 250-300mg/L, ESR around 100 mm/h), the patient received high-dose glucocorticoids (60 mg Prednisolone) with a good clinical response. During the tapering of Prednisolone, the patient developed a maculopapular skin rash in the lower extremities. Skin biopsy showed signs of urticaria-like dermatitis, while immunofluorescence examination was negative. In the following months, he was hospitalized three times due to recurrent fever, generalized weakness, fatigue, and general asthenia. Extensive evaluation regarding infectious and non-inflammatory causes was negative. An extensive autoimmune panel (including ANA and ANCA) was tested and came out negative. CT scan of the thorax and abdomen was unremarkable. During the last hospitalization, he developed expressive aphasia and facial paresis. MRI of the brain showed signs of leptomeningeal enhancement. Examination of the cerebrospinal fluid showed pleocytosis (leucocyte count 124, with monocytes), while all cultures were negative. He came to the rheumatology department in November 2022 for further evaluation. He had generalized myalgias and arthralgias but no arthritis. The skin rash had disappeared. The inflammatory markers were still highly elevated and he had a mild anemia, normocytic and normochromic, but no thrombocytopenia or leukopenia. PET-CT scan showed hyperactive bone marrow, while subsequent biopsy showed normal hematopoiesis without signs of dysplasia and no vacuoles. Endoscopic evaluations revealed no pathological findings. Prednisolone was re-introduced after PET-CT with good regression of the symptoms. Repeated MRI of the brain showed regression of the area with enhancement while all neurological symptoms had subsided. A few weeks later, we received the result of the genetic testing showing a mutation of the UBA1 gene, confirming the diagnosis of VEXAS. Our patient had already started methotrexate as a cortisone-sparing agent and started tapering off Prednisolone, so far with reasonable clinical response.

**Conclusion:** VEXAS syndrome should be suspected in elderly patients (especially males) with systemic inflammation when other common conditions are excluded. Orbital/periorbital inflammation and neurological manifestations can occur and should raise the suspicion of VEXAS.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** Angeles Shunashy Galindo-Feria: None declared, Kat- erina Chatzidionysiou Grant/research support from: Galapagos.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2138

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**Methods:** Bilateral lower extremity common femoral veins (CFV) were examined with Doppler ultrasound in cranio-caudal direction for the presence of thrombi, occlusion, venous insufficiency, and arterial occlusive disease. WTV was measured using the methodology described by Alibaz-Oner F et al. [1]. All measurements were performed thrice, and the arithmetic mean of them was given as the result. We also assessed the internal jugular vein (IJV) in one patient but not in the other due to the jugular veins catheter. VEXAS patients had thickened walls on ultrasound in all examined large veins.

**Results:** Demographic and clinical features of the VEXAS patients are presented in Table 1. WTV in BS seemed significantly greater than non-inflammatory DVT (0.34±0.1 mm) but not significant with the anti-phospholipid syndrome (APS, 0.49±0.1 mm) [2]. Our VEXAS patients had WTV greater than BS and APS suggesting remarkable vein inflammation. Patients with extensive thrombosis (Case#1) had the most severe WTV of CFV on the affected side, while the latter case (Case#2) had equivalent WTV in both CFVs.

**Conclusion:** Consequently, our findings suggest that venulitis might be one of the features of VEXAS syndrome and the underlying mechanism for thrombosis. Further studies are needed to clarify the role of inflammation in venous thrombotic diseases.

**REFERENCE:**

**Table 1. Demographic, clinical, laboratory and ultrasonographic findings of patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case# 1</th>
<th>Case# 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age (years)</strong></td>
<td>73 y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smoking</strong></td>
<td>Former (30 pack-years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UBA1 variant</strong></td>
<td>M41L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration of symptoms</strong></td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age at diagnosis</strong></td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-morbidities</strong></td>
<td>COPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical features</strong></td>
<td>Fever, weight loss, arthritis, neutrophilic dermatitis, periorbital edema, pericardial effusion, lung infiltrates, pulmonary embolism, left femoral vein thrombosis, and occlusion of left femoral artery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hemoglobin (g/dL)</strong></td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MCV (fL)</strong></td>
<td>&gt;110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESR, (mm/h)</strong></td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRP, (mg/L)</strong></td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Right CFV thickness</strong>, mm</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Left CFV thickness</strong>, mm</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Right IJV thickness</strong>, mm</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Left IJV thickness</strong>, mm</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Typical CFV thicknesses for healthy adult and child populations are less than 0.5 mm (2), and typical IJV thickness is <0.5 mm for adults*

**Figure 1.** B-mode USG image of the common femoral vein, jugular vein and vena safena magna. A. A healthy individual’s femoral vein ultrasonography, B. Vexas patient’s femoral vein (case #1), C. Vexas patient’s femoral vein (case #2), D. A healthy individual’s jugular vein ultrasonography, E. Vexas patient’s jugular vein (case #1), F. Vexas patient’s jugular vein (case #2)

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**POS1577**

**VENOUS INFLAMMATION MIGHT BE ONE OF THE FEATURES OF VEXAS SYNDROME AND ASSOCIATED THROMBOSIS**

**Keywords:** Rare/orphan diseases, Imaging

**H. Karadeniz1**, **M. Centi2**, **A. Tufan3,4, **Y. Kanithi**5,1, **Gazi University Faculty of Medicine**, **Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey**; 2Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Radiology; Ankara, Turkey; 3National Human Genome Research Institute/NHI, Inflammatory Disease, Maryland, United States of America; 4National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Division of Intramural Research, Maryland, United States of America

**Background:** VEXAS syndrome is an often fatal, X-linked disease characterized by hematological dysplasia overlapping with severe autoimmune manifestations. Thrombosis, predominantly as unprovoked venous thrombosis, has been reported in up to 56% of VEXAS patients. Although chronic inflammation, vasculitis, endothelial dysfunction, disrupted anticoagulant mechanisms, or thrombotic antibodies are suggested mechanisms, the exact pathogenesis of thrombosis is yet to be elucidated. VEXAS has clinical similarities with Behcet’s syndrome (BS), a systemic vasculitis involving arterial and venous vessels of all sizes. Recently, venous wall thickening (WVT) on Doppler ultrasound has been shown to be a highly sensitive and specific (>80%) finding for the diagnosis of BS. Given the clinical and pathological similarities with BS, we thought venulitis might be the underlying cause of thrombosis in VEXAS syndrome.

**Objectives:** Herein, we report venulitis in two consecutive VEXAS patients with the demonstration of severe thickening of the walls of large veins.

**Methods:** Bilateral lower extremity common femoral veins (CFV) were examined with Doppler ultrasound in cranio-caudal direction for the presence of thrombi, occlusion, venous insufficiency, and arterial occlusive disease. WTV was measured using the methodology described by Alibaz-Oner F et al. [1]. All measurements were performed thrice, and the arithmetic mean of them was given as the result. We also assessed the internal jugular vein (IJV) in one patient but not in the other due to the jugular veins catheter. VEXAS patients had thickened walls on ultrasound in all examined large veins.

**Results:** Demographic and clinical features of the VEXAS patients are presented in Table 1. WTV in BS seemed significantly greater than non-inflammatory DVT (0.34±0.1 mm) but not significant with the anti-phospholipid syndrome (APS, 0.49±0.1 mm) [2]. Our VEXAS patients had WTV greater than BS and APS suggesting remarkable vein inflammation. Patients with extensive thrombosis (Case#1) had the most severe WTV of CFV on the affected side, while the latter case (Case#2) had equivalent WTV in both CFVs.

**Conclusion:** Consequently, our findings suggest that venulitis might be one of the features of VEXAS syndrome and the underlying mechanism for thrombosis. Further studies are needed to clarify the role of inflammation in venous thrombotic diseases.

**REFERENCE:**
S. Bindoli1, E. Bertoldi2, A. Doria1, C. Baggio1, P. Sfriso1. 1University of Padova, Rheumatology Unit-Department of Medicine, Padova, Italy; 2University of Verona, Rheumatology Unit-Department of Medicine, Verona, Italy

Background: VEXAS syndrome is a novel described autoinflammatory entity for which the diagnosis is defined by somatic mutations in the UBA1 X-linked gene in hematopoietic progenitor cells. The clinical manifestations are heterogeneous, ranging from autoinflammatory symptoms to the presence of underlying hematologic disorders. Response to treatment in VEXAS is very poor and to date the therapeutic strategies adopted are only partially effective. However, recently described cohorts of VEXAS patients treated with Janus-Kinases Inhibitors (JAK-kin) demonstrated that these drugs can be effective for the treatment of several manifestations related to the disease.

Objectives: To describe the case of a 65-year-old man affected by VEXAS who was successfully treated with the selective JAK-1 inhibitor filgotinib.

Methods: We present the case of a 65-year-old man, diagnosed with a myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) grade 3, sec WHO, 2016) one year earlier, presenting with a recent history of leukocytoclastic vasculitis, deep vein thrombosis, tenosynovitis, and ear chondritis. He was admitted to the hospital for hyperpyrexia (39° TC), increased inflammatory markers, macrocytic anemia with Hb 7.7 g/L and MCV 104 fL and requiring multiple blood transfusions, and shortness of breath caused by a pleural effusion; after excluding neoplastic conditions, infections, and other potential mimickers (such as vasculitis), a genetic analysis was performed, revealing the somatic mutation Met41Leu (c.121A>C) in the UBA1 gene. Methylprednisolone was started from 16 mg/day (not reducible for recurrent flares). A peripheral blood smear was stained with May Grunwald-Giemsa stain- ing to perform a cytogenic evaluation of leucocytes. Oil immersion microscopy with 1000× magnification was applied for the analysis.

Results: Following the diagnosis of VEXAS, the patient started filgotinib 200 mg/ day, with a subsequent clinical and biological improvement that allowed for a slow reduction of glucocorticoids. After 15 month his laboratory exams showed: Hb 9.4 g/L, MCV 106 fL, C-reactive protein (CRP) 2.24 mg/dL. At peripheral blood smear, the patient had granulocytes with morphological changes, including cytoplas- mic vacuoles (2%), immature neutrophils (28%) such as band neutrophils, hyposegmentated neutrophils, and pseudo Pelger Huët-like morphology. Vacuol- ated/activated monocytes (4.5%) and nuclear abnormality (bincucleated cells, buds) were also observed.

Conclusion: VEXAS syndrome is a new genetically-determined rare disease that requires a prompt treatment to avoid a rapid worsening. Glucocorticoids often represent the first line therapy and blood transfusion support is usually required; however, given the promising results derived from recently published cohorts, JAK-inhibitors, in particular selective JAK-1 (filgotinib, upadacitinib), or JAK2/3 blockers (ruxolitinib), may represent a suitable therapeutic approach.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1020

VEXAS SYNDROME IN A PATIENT WITH BIOPSY POSITIVE GCA AND IMAGING PROVEN LARGE VESSEL VASCULITIS TREATED WITH TOCILIZUMAB

Keywords: Comorbidities, Vasculitis, Rare/orphan diseases

A. Uogwe1, J. Keay1, A. Zariff1, E. E. P. Hutt1. 1Cambridge University Hospitals, Rheumatology, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom

Background: VEXAS syndrome (Vaccules, E1 enzyme, X-linked, autoinflamma- tory, somatic) was first reported in late 2020 in 25 men, mostly in their fifth decade of life or after, with adult-onset concomitant autoinflammatory disease and myeloid dysplasia (Beck et al., 2020). It is the first for a proposed new subset of haematological/autoinflammatory diseases and its underlying pathophysiology is thought to be governed by monogenic, somatic missense mutations affecting Met-41 of the myeloid-restricted UBA1 gene. This results in deranged cellular ubiquitination and a broad range of clinical manifestations (Beck et al., 2020).

Objectives: We describe the case of a patient with the ultimate unifying diagnosis of VEXAS syndrome with an initial presentation of cranial GCA and PET-CT proved large vessel vasculitis. Immunosuppressive regime was challenging due to patient co-morbidities including brittle diabetes and myelodyplastic syndrome.

Methods: Case report.

Results: A 73-year-old gentleman with a history of type 2 diabetes mellitus was admitted with persistent fever, recurrent orbital swelling, thrombophlebitis and severe weight loss of 30kg over 24 months. A wide infectious screen revealed no source with ongoing symptoms despite antibiotic therapy.

Table 1. Blood Results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hb</td>
<td>125-172 g/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCV</td>
<td>80-101.0 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC</td>
<td>3.6-10.5 10^9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUT</td>
<td>3.70-10^9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LYM/MP</td>
<td>1.10-4.00 10^9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAT</td>
<td>160-370 10^9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UREA</td>
<td>2.5-7.8 mmol/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.00-0.50 mg/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procalcitonin</td>
<td>0.00-0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumunum</td>
<td>35-50g/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adj Ca</td>
<td>2.2-2.6 mmol/L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prior review at the bone marrow failure clinics had revealed a macrocytic anae- mia with a Haemoglobin of 96g/L, MCV of 105.1FL and thrombocytopenia of 117 X10^9. Bone marrow biopsy revealed hypercellularity with trilineage dyspla- sia however genetic screening did not detect the UBA1 missense mutation. CT scan revealed perivascular stranding and thickening around the origin of the right carotid and subclavian artery. PET CT scan showed high tracer uptake in the wall of the ascending aorta, subclavian, carotid arteries and bone marrow. New onset headache, jaw pain, scalp tenderness and shoulder stiffness prompted a tempo- ral artery biopsy which revealed lymphohistiocytic inflammatory infiltrates in the intima with focal loss of internal elastic lamina. 60mg of prednisolone led to dra- matic resolution of symptoms and inflammatory markers. A diagnosis of VEXAS was revisited due to the unique combination of inflammatory and haematologi- cal features.Repeat bone marrow biopsy using a newer version of haem oncol- ogy gene panel was positive for UBA1 missense variant in exon 3 (c.122T>C, p.Met41Thr.). Vacuoles were found to be present on erythroid precursor cells. He developed fatigue, rashes and CRP >100 on tapering down prednisolone to 20mg OD. SC Tocilizumab was introduced rather than Methotrexate and Leflunomide due to bone marrow failure. SC Tocilizumab was switched to Intravenous form to optimise bioavailability. He is clinically stable on IV tocilizumab with slower wean of steroid. He suffers with heavy burden of steroid toxicity, including weight gain, erratic blood sugars, steroid induced acne, hypertension and recurrent infection.

Conclusion: VEXAS, should be explored as a potential unifying diagnosis in conditions of overlap between autoinflammatory and haematological condition. Treatment paradigm is still evolving with no current standardised regime hence fraught with uncertainty between high risk of morbidity/mortality from uncontrol- lored and poorly treated inflammation versus iatrogenic complications from ster- oid therapy. There is a research gap pertaining to patient cohorts with specific patterns of systemic disease.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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A CASE SERIES OF VEXAS SYNDROME IDENTIFIED IN THE WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases

M. Ford1, T. Khan1. 1Warwick Hospital, Rheumatology, Warwick, United Kingdom; 2Birmingham City Hospital, Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Background: VEXAS (vaccules, E1 enzyme, X-linked, autoinflammatory, somatic syndrome) was first described in 2020 when a mutation in ubiquitin activ- ating enzyme 1 (UBA1) was identified in three patients [1]. This adult-onset autoinflammatory and haematological disease primarily affects males over the age of 50 years. The clinical features are diverse but commonly include skin lesions, non-infectious fever, weight loss, lung involvement, arthralgia/arthritis, relapsing chondritis, ocular symptoms, venous thrombosis, and lymphadenopa- thy. Most corticosteroids are effective, high doses are often required to con- trol the disease and the ideal standard of care, including the choice and efficacy of steroid-sparing agents, is yet to be defined.
**Objectives:** After identifying three cases of VEXAS in our region within a 6-month period, our objective was to present each case alongside the current knowledge of the condition in order to increase the awareness amongst clinicians.

**Methods:** We examined each case, comparing the clinical features, investigations, management, and events leading to the diagnosis.

**Results:** The cases are presented in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1.</th>
<th>Case 1</th>
<th>Case 2</th>
<th>Case 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demographics</strong></td>
<td>Male, White-British, 59 years old</td>
<td>Male, White-British, 73 Male, White-British, 76 years old</td>
<td>Male, White-British, 73 Male, White-British, 76 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Features</strong></td>
<td>Fatigue, Fever, Weight loss, Arthritis, Diarrhoea, loss, Erythematous papules, Cough, Ocular involvement, Nasal crusting and discharge</td>
<td>Fatigue, Fever, Weight loss, Arthritis, Diarrhoea, Lymphadenopathy, Headache, Sinusitis, Uveitis, Lung involvement</td>
<td>Fatigue, Fever, Weight loss, Arthritis, Diarrhoea, Lymphadenopathy, Headache, Sinusitis, Uveitis, Lung involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investigations</strong></td>
<td>Macroglobulinemia, significantly raised inflammatory markers, diffuse marrow activity on PET Scan, reactive features on bone marrow and lymph node biopsy, multiple negative microbiology and immunology investigations, UBA1 mutation</td>
<td>Multiple blood transfusions.</td>
<td>Moderate response to corticosteroid (CRP) improvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management, including outcome</strong></td>
<td>Excellent response to corticosteroid (normalisation of CRP). Clinical deterioration at 15mg daily prednisolone. Azathioprine (minimal benefit). Polyantertars Nodosa/vasculitis</td>
<td>Excellent response to corticosteroid (normalisation of CRP).</td>
<td>15mg daily prednisolone. Methotrexate (awaiting response) Giant cell arteritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Working diagnosis prior to VEXAS diagnosis</strong></td>
<td>Unspecified vasculitis</td>
<td>Multiple blood transfusions.</td>
<td>Moderate response to corticosteroid (CRP) improvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time from presentation to diagnosis</strong></td>
<td>13 months</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>41 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialties involved</strong></td>
<td>Rheumatology, Acute Medicine, Haematology, Dermatology, Infectious diseases, Ophthalmology, Respiratory, Immunology, Gastroenterology, Urology</td>
<td>Rheumatology, Acute Medicine, Haematology, Dermatology, Infectious diseases, Ear Nose and Throat, Ophthalmology, Geriatric Medicine, Immunology, Gastroenterology</td>
<td>Rheumatology, Acute Medicine, Haematology, Dermatology, Infectious diseases, Ear Nose and Throat, Ophthalmology, Geriatric Medicine, Immunology, Gastroenterology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Results:</strong></td>
<td>Excellent response to corticosteroid (normalisation of CRP). Moderate response to corticosteroid (CRP improvement).</td>
<td>Moderate response to corticosteroid (CRP improvement).</td>
<td>Moderate response to corticosteroid (CRP improvement).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion:</strong></td>
<td>The true prevalence of VEXAS is unknown however after we diagnosed three cases of the condition in a short period of time, it is perhaps more prevalent than initially thought. Clinicians should remain vigilant and consider genetic testing in patients presenting with the common inflammatory and hematological manifestations.</td>
<td>The true prevalence of VEXAS is unknown however after we diagnosed three cases of the condition in a short period of time, it is perhaps more prevalent than initially thought. Clinicians should remain vigilant and consider genetic testing in patients presenting with the common inflammatory and hematological manifestations.</td>
<td>The true prevalence of VEXAS is unknown however after we diagnosed three cases of the condition in a short period of time, it is perhaps more prevalent than initially thought. Clinicians should remain vigilant and consider genetic testing in patients presenting with the common inflammatory and hematological manifestations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1773

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**VEXAS SYNDROME: TWO CASES PRESENTING WITH PERIORBITAL EDEMA**

**Keywords:** Rare/orphan diseases

**References:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1773

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**POS1582**

**VEXAS SYNDROME: TWO CASES PRESENTING WITH PERIORBITAL EDEMA**

**Keywords:** Rare/orphan diseases

**References:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1773
HPR Patients’ perspectives, functioning and health (descriptive: qualitative or quantitative)

Keywords: Vitamin D, Systemic sclerosis, Systemic lupus erythematosus

F. Sarı1, D. Saracı2, S. Bayram3, S. Bagılan Yentür4, N. G. Toren5, D. Oskay6, A. Tufan7
1Bingöl University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, Bingöl, Turkey; 2İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, İzmir, Turkey; 3Gazi University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ankara, Turkey; 4First University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, Elazığ, Turkey; 5National Human Genome Research Institute, Inflammatuar Disease Section, Rockville Pike, United States of America

Background: Vitamin D is one of the fat-soluble vitamins and is also a group of sterols that are hormone and hormone precursors. Vitamin D deficiency and/or insufficiency have been found to be associated with many chronic diseases, including cancer, metabolic syndrome, and autoimmune diseases. Vitamin D is involved in modulation of immune responses in autoimmune disorders including multiple sclerosis, asthma, diabetes mellitus, connective tissue disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). In addition, previous studies conducted in other patient populations indicate that higher vitamin D levels are related to higher exercise capacity, muscle strength, and better lung function.

Objective: The purpose was to investigate the effects of vitamin D deficiency on exercise capacity, respiratory muscle strength, and peripheral muscle strength in patients with connective tissue disease (CTD).

Methods: This cross-sectional observational study included CDT (SLE and systemic sclerosis (SSc)) patients and healthy participants. Serum 25(OH)D, calcium, and phosphorus levels were measured and Vitamin D levels 10.0-20.0 ng/mL defined insufficiency and levels <10.0 ng/mL defined deficiency. The exercise capacity, respiratory muscle strength, and peripheral muscle strengths were set as the primary outcomes of the study. Secondary outcomes included evaluation of physical activity, dyspnea, pain, emotional status, fatigue, and quality of life.

Results: There were 23 SLE (36.8±10.06), 21 SSc (44.38±14.63), and 24 healthy controls (37.62±11.74). Compared to healthy controls, CTD groups with vitamin D deficiency had significantly lower respiratory muscle strength (p<0.001), peripheral muscle strength (knee extension and shoulder flexion) (p<0.05), exercise capacity (p<0.05), physical activity (p<0.05), and quality of life (p<0.05) while having significantly more dyspnea (p<0.001), pain (p<0.01), fatigue (p<0.001), anxiety, and depression (p<0.05).

Conclusion: The results of our study indicate that vitamin D deficiency is associated with reduced muscle strengths and related symptoms and complaints in CTD patients, hence, in order to increase the efficacy of rehabilitation and treatment programs, attention should be paid to vitamin D levels and should be corrected appropriately.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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POS1583-HPR | IMPACT OF TELERHEMATOLOGY ON EXERCISE CAPACITY, RESPIRATORY MUSCLE STRENGTH, AND PERIPHERAL MUSCLE STRENGTH IN PATIENTS WITH CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Outcome measures, COVID

L. Almalıoh1, H. Almalez2, H. Alzuhairi3, A. Bedawi4, L. Hassen1, S. Alzomia1, B. Alani3, S. Alahmar1, K. N. Astina1, N. Khalili1, M. A. Omaïr1, M. Bedawi1, 1King Saud University, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; 2King Saud University, Clinical pharmacy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Background: The utilization of telemedicine has been rapidly growing among patients with rheumatic disease especially following COVID-19 pandemic. The ease and convenience seems to dominate the reasons of such growth. Yet the effect of this approach on patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is yet to be revealed.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to examine the effect of telemedicine in SLE patients on the outcome of disease activity.

Methods: This is a case-cross over study nested within the national prospective cohort of SLE, Saudi Arabia. SLE patients who fulfils the SLICC classification criteria within the period between March 2020 to March 2021 and have been assessed at three-time point with three months’ time difference between assessments according to standardized protocol were included. Telemedicine was conducted at first point while in person assessment were used for second and third points. Primary outcome was difference in SLEDAI-2K score. Primary analysis was conducted using GEE model and adjusted for potential confounders including demographics, medications and changes in steroid doses. Several sensitivity analyses were conducted to mitigate selection and time varying confounders.

Results: A total of 92 participants were included. Majority of them were females (88%), with a mean (±SD) age of 36 (±13) mean (±SD) disease activity scores at baseline as follows: SLEDI 5 (±5); SRI 3.8 (±3.5); SDI 1 (±1). Mean difference of SLEDI score of -1.64% (95% CI -2.773 -0.510), p=0.005" between telemedicine and follow up visits. Adjusted value and mean with mean difference in Figure 1. Results were consistent in all sensitivity analyses.

Conclusion: We found that the Telemedicine assessment was associated with much higher disease activity score compared to in person in subsequent assessments which may suggest potentially overestimation of disease activity and later assessment accuracy. Cautious adoption is suggested in SLE patients with active disease.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1 Repeated measure analysis of difference in SLEDAI between the virtual visit and the physical visit taking factors affecting SLEDAI in univariate analysis into consideration (abnormal urine test, fibromyalgia, haemolytic anaemia and mycoplasmae use).
Background: On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States (US) overturned the right established in Roe v. Wade to terminate a pregnancy. Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), was a landmark decision of the US Supreme Court that overturned the right established in Roe v. Wade to terminate a pregnancy. Roe v. Wade overturned the right established in Roe v. Wade to terminate a pregnancy. Roe v. Wade overturned the right established in Roe v. Wade to terminate a pregnancy.

Acknowledgements: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Methods: A retrospective review of electronic medical records of ITP patients from University of Malaya Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur was conducted from January 2000 to June 2022. All adult patients with a diagnosis of ITP, verified by treating physicians, who fulfilled inclusion criteria within the time period were included into the study. Patients who subsequently developed SLE were identified. Patients with known SLE who developed secondary ITP after SLE diagnosis were excluded from the study. Data collected included age, sex, race/ethnicity, basic demographics, initial symptom presentation, comorbidities, and blood tests including hemoglobin and platelet levels upon initial presentation of ITP.

Results: Total of 181 ITP patients who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were recruited; 25 (13.8%) were males, 84 (46.4%) patients were of Chinese race and 30 (17.6%) were of Indian race. Eleven (6%) patients developed SLE with a mean age of ITP presentation at 35 years. There were no Indian race ITP patients who developed SLE in comparison to other races (p=0.01). Patients who developed SLE had lower haemoglobin at ITP diagnosis (8.0 [4.08] vs 11.8 [2.83] g/dL, p=0.005) and also lower levels of platelets upon diagnosis of ITP (3.0 [2.00-10.75] vs 24.0 [6.00-53.25] x10^9/L, p=0.025) in comparison to ITP patients who do not develop SLE. There were no differences in initial symptom presentation or comorbidities between the 2 groups.

Conclusion: Our study found that there are racial differences and differences in hematological presentation upon diagnosis of ITP in patients with ITP who subsequently develop SLE. However, further larger studies are required to further explore the differences, especially in the Asian population.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: siti falidiah skh ali: None declared, Fariz Yahya Speakers bureau; Pfizer, Novartis, Zuellig Pharma, Janssen, Abbvie and Gilead, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Janssen, Gilead and Novartis, nuri aini mohd zin: None declared, anis ely suraya mohd ridza: None declared, ping chong bee Speakers bureau: J&J, Consultant of: BMA, ASTRA ZENECA and J&J.

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POS1587-HPR | DISABILITY IN AN ITALIAN COHORT OF RHEUMATIC DISEASES: A MIXED METHOD STUDY FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE PHENOMENON AND PROPOSALS FOR NURSING APPROACH

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Nursing, Quality of life

M. R. Melis1, K. El Aoudy2, T. Baci3, E. Corvi3, E. Coli3, C. Fantauzzo3, C. B. Antonini3, T. Gamberdella1, O. Manni1, T. Picci2, M. Zolferino1, M. Matucci-Cerinic1, S. Guiducchi1, Careggi Hospital, Rheumatology, Florence, Italy, University of Florence, Science in Nursing, Florence, Italy

Background: Rheumatic diseases are heterogeneous clinical conditions that often lead to functional disability with consequent impairment of Quality of Life (QoL). Assessing the risk factors of disability is required to find improvement strategies geared toward patient empowerment and implementation of current health services.

Objectives: The aim of the present observational-descriptive study was to analyse the impact of disability in an Italian cohort of rheumatic patients and suggest nursing intervention hypotheses to approach disability-related problems and improve QoL in rheumatology patients.

Methods: Data collection was carried out through in-person or remote interviews with rheumatic patients of a Rheumatology Unit in Florence, Italy. The interviews aimed at observing the patients' performances of daily activities and the following questionnaires were administered: Short Form-12 (SF-12) for QoL, Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ-DI) for disability, Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) for pain, Work Productivity and Activity Impairment Questionnaire: General Health (WPAI:GH) for workability. Afterwards, the nursing group met to discuss the results and, based on recent literature, propose strategies for approaching the patient with disabilities in daily clinical practice.

Results: 21 rheumatic patients were interviewed. For mental and physical health SF-12 showed scores of 47.6 and 46.1, respectively. Pain level averaged 2.2 score, while disability index as assessed with HAQ-DI was 0.3 score. As for the workability, 50% of the sample interviewed work on average for 33.6 hours with a mean of 2.6 hours of absence from work due to the disease. Lastly, 6.25% report work suspension with disability pension due to illness. Nursing intervention hypotheses to curb disability in ITP patients and improve QoL in rheumatology patients are summarized as follows in Figure 1.
Disease Activity in Patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis: A Preliminary Study

Keywords: Pain, Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes

N.B. Karaca1, G.I. Kinkki2, S. Sezer3, B. Keleoglu1, G. Kinkki1, Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Department of Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 3Ankara Training and Research Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 4Diyakapi Vidyam Beyazit Training and Research Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 5Ankara University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a rheumatic disease that affects patients in a biopsychosocial framework due to its chronic inflammatory nature. It is known that patients with AS experience negative body judgment and insecurity and anxiety about their bodies [1], high levels of fear of movement, depression [2], low level of physical activity [3].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of disease activity (DA) on depression, physical activity, pain catastrophizing, fear avoidance, and body awareness in patients with ankylosing spondylitis.

Methods: Thirty AS patients were included in the study. Socio-demographic informations of patients were collected. The mean age of the patients was 40.27 ± 10.38 years. Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), Physical Activity Questionnaire-Short Form (IPAQ-SF), Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS), Tampa Scale for Kinesiophobia (TSK), and Body Awareness Questionnaire (BAQ) were used for depression, physical activity, pain catastrophizing, kinesiophobia and body awareness levels of the patients, respectively. DA was measured with Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), and a score of four and higher than four was considered active.

Results: Patients characteristics were similar between the groups (p>0.05). A statistically significant difference was observed in PCS (p= 0.004), TSK (p=0.007), and BAQ scores (p=0.015) when the groups were compared (Table 1). The patients in the low DA group had mild depression, and the group with high DA had moderate depression. Catastrophizing pain and fear of movement were higher in the group with higher DA; body awareness level was lower (p<0.05). A high kinesiophobia level was detected in both groups.

Conclusion: It was observed that high disease activity negatively affected catastrophic thoughts, body awareness, and kinesiophobia in patients with AS. These parameters should be considered in the management of disease activity in AS patients for optimum results.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Patients characteristics and outcome measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients Characteristics</th>
<th>Total n=30</th>
<th>High Disease Activity n=18</th>
<th>Low Disease Activity n=12</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year): mean ± SD</td>
<td>40.27 ± 10.38</td>
<td>39.39 ± 9.41</td>
<td>41.58 ± 12.0</td>
<td>0.518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²): mean ± SD</td>
<td>26.66 ± 5.78</td>
<td>27.00 ± 6.92</td>
<td>26.13 ± 3.81</td>
<td>0.790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (n, %): Female</td>
<td>7 (23.3%)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disease (year): mean ± SD</td>
<td>9.1 ± 7.28</td>
<td>4.77 ± 6.54</td>
<td>7.56 ± 8.36</td>
<td>0.556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL): mean ± SD</td>
<td>5.2 (0.60-49.06)</td>
<td>5 (0.70-49.06)</td>
<td>5.6 (0.60-23.40)</td>
<td>0.894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h): mean ± SD</td>
<td>9 (3-54)</td>
<td>10 (3-54)</td>
<td>7.5 (3-21)</td>
<td>0.811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSK (0-68): mean ± SD</td>
<td>42.5 (25-57)</td>
<td>44.5 (34-57)</td>
<td>39 (25-47)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcome Measures

BDI (0-63) | 14 (0-42) | 18 (6-42) | 13.5 (0-24) | 0.107

PCS (0-52) | 27.5 (70.55) | 35.5 (7.50) | 17 (10-30) | 0.004

TST (0-68) | 42.5 (25-57) | 44.5 (34-57) | 39 (25-47) | 0.007

BAQ (18-126) | 9.15 (49-120) | 80 (49-118) | 80 (83-120) | 0.015

Values are medians (minimum-maximum) unless otherwise stated. AS= Ankylosing spondylitis; SD= Standard deviation; BMI= Body mass index; mm= meter; kg= kilogram; CRP= C reactive protein; ESR= Erythrocyte sedimentation rate; mm/h= millimeter per hour; DAS= Beck Depression Inventory; IPAQ-SF= International Physical Activity Questionnaire-Short Form; PCS= Pain Catastrophizing Scale; TSK= Tampa Scale for Kinesiophobia; BAQ= Body Awareness Questionnaire.

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4386

References:
Conclusion: The greater the severity of dryness, fatigue and muscular or joint pain, the greater the functional impairment of mouth and oral pain; as well as the worse the psychosocial aspect manifested as concern, nervousness, discomfort and limitation of interaction with people due to the dental appearance.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

POS1591-HPR

BREASTFEEDING IN WOMEN WITH AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords:
- Pregnancy and reproduction
- A. Carrazo Chapa1, D. C. Rubio Torres1, D. Ramos1, S. M. Delgado Ayala1, G. Sandoval1, C. M. Skinner Taylor1, L. Pérez Barbosa1, J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza1, D. A. Galarza-Delgado1. Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: The World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life and then starting complementary feeding while continuing breastfeeding until 2 years of age or older [1]. However, women with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARDs) face barriers of ignorance regarding medications that are compatible with breastfeeding and the control of their disease activity. It has been reported that some women did not follow through with their desire to breastfeed due to concerns about their ARDs medications, the baby’s health, and low milk supply. Nowadays, international guidelines agree that most drugs used in rheumatology are compatible with breastfeeding [2].

Objectives: To describe the frequency of breastfeeding in women with ARDs.

Methods: An observational, cross-sectional and descriptive study. A survey on breastfeeding was carried out on patients with ARDs who had ever been pregnant, belonging to the Pregnancy and Reproductive Health Clinic for Rheumatic Diseases (CEER) of the University Hospital “Dr. José Eleuterio González”, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico.

Results: A total of 63 patients were included, with a mean age of 38.84 (±7.49). The diagnosis most frequently reported was rheumatoid arthritis with 35 (55.6%), followed by systemic lupus erythematosus with 9 (14.3%). Other diagnoses were antiphospholipid syndrome, juvenile idiopathic arthritis and undifferentiated connective tissue disease each one with 1 (1.6%) respectively, primary Sjögren’s syndrome, scleroderma and spondylarthritis each one with 2 (3.2%) respectively and others with 10 (15.9%). The urban area was the most common place of residence with 61 (96.8%), while only 2 (3.2%) patients habited in the rural area. College education was the most predominant education level with 33 (52.4%). The sociodemographic and breastfeeding characteristics are found in Table 1. 49 (77.8%) of the patients referred that they had breastfed their last child. Regarding the duration, 3 (6.1%) reported having continued to breastfeed for less than 1 month and 24 (49%) for less than 6 months, being the cessation of milk production being the main cause of abandonment with 10 (37.1%) in those who breastfed for less than 6 months. Of the 14 (22.2%) patients who did not offer to breastfeed, the most frequent reason they reported was low milk production with 4 (28.6%), followed by their illness with 3 (21.4%). The other reasons can be observed in Figure 1.

Conclusion: Most of the surveyed patients with ARDs provided breastfeeding, however, more than half of them discontinued it before 6 months, with cessation of milk production being the most frequent reason.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics and breastfeeding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
<th>n=49</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary school</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>49 (79.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle school</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>13 (21.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2 (3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College or more</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>12 (20.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided breastfeeding</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>14 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding duration</td>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>24 (49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 6 months</td>
<td>24 (49)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POS1592-HPR

UTILISING THE PERSPECTIVES OF PATIENTS WITH FIBROMYALGIA ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROMOTION: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Qualitative research methods
Background: Physical activity (PA) promotion remains a significant clinical challenge in patients with fibromyalgia (FM) despite its evidenced beneficial impact on health outcomes [1]. Integrating behavior change theory into PA interventions ensures efficient interventions through the understanding of PA behaviors [2].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the behaviours, needs and beliefs of patients with FM regarding PA interventions with the use of Social Cognitive Theory (SCT) constructs.

Methods: A Qualitative study was designed using semi-structured interviews according to 5 SCT constructs (ie, Behavioral Capability, Outcome Expectations, Self-efficacy, Self-regulation, Social Support). Female patients with FM, aged between 18-65 years (n=10) were interviewed for 30-60 minutes. Data were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim and analyzed using the content analysis technique. Besides two researchers independently conducted the thematic analysis.

Results: Totally nine main themes were determined. Key themes comprising the behavioural capability were: 1) lack of knowledge on PA and 2) person-centered approach. Outcome expectations are associated with health benefits. It emerged that self-efficacy is affected by four themes as follows: 1) past negative experiences, 2) environmental barriers, 3) personal barriers and 4) follow up. Besides, incorporating the PA into daily life were categorized as self-regulation and 1) constructive social dialogs categorized as social support parameters of the theory. The themes, subthemes and supporting quotations related to the SCT structures are summarized in Table 1.

Conclusion: This study revealed the factors, needs, and beliefs related to PA behaviour in FM patients based on SCT and provided suggestions for how SCT constructs could be used to develop the optimal PA intervention. Future research should design PA interventions for FM patients based on behaviour change theories and evaluate the efficacy of these interventions.

REFERENCES:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCT Construct</th>
<th>Key Themes</th>
<th>Subthemes</th>
<th>Supporting Quotations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Capability</td>
<td>Lack of knowledge</td>
<td>FITT (frequency, intensity, time, type of exercise)</td>
<td>...every day 1 hour...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>recommendations</td>
<td>...3 times a week,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>...5000 steps...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Definiton and differences of the terms PA and exercise things</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person-centered approach</td>
<td>Desire to take tailored advice</td>
<td>I would like to know how much I should do, how I should do it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome Expectations</td>
<td>Health benefits</td>
<td>Lose weight</td>
<td>Of course, exercise is beneficial for health, but my priority is to lose weight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reduce the symptoms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-efficacy</td>
<td>Past negative experiences</td>
<td>Inappropriate exercise programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unrealistic expectations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental barriers</td>
<td>Location/accessibility</td>
<td>Safety issues</td>
<td>Dogs scare me when I go for a walk, and it scares me when it's dark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal barriers</td>
<td>Lack of money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of motivation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up</td>
<td>Feeling responsible to someone (HCP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-regulation</td>
<td>Incorporate PA</td>
<td>Set a specific time into daily life</td>
<td>Break up into short session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Support</td>
<td>Constructive</td>
<td>Positive mindset</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Peer support</td>
<td>Who are open to communica-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dialogues</td>
<td></td>
<td>tion and healing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Differences between groups for disease characteristics and manifestations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VEDOSS n=22 (44%)</th>
<th>SSC n=28 (86%)</th>
<th>p-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>50.6±3.4 (M±DS)</td>
<td>63.7±2.1 (M±DS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index</td>
<td>22.6±0.7 (M±DS)</td>
<td>24.7±0.9 (M±DS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke in the past</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVC aspecific</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVC early</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVC active</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVC late</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRSS</td>
<td>0 (M±DS)</td>
<td>3.6±4 (M±DS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Ulcers</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puffy fingers</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telenesclasis</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary involvement</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of PPIs</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti scLFA</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACA</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti RNA pol III</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Differences of disability, QoL and GIT symptoms in the sample of VEDOSS and SSc patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>VEDOSS (MdDS)</th>
<th>SSc (MdDS)</th>
<th>p-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>0.2±0.3</td>
<td>0.4±0.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS pain</td>
<td>2.3±2.4</td>
<td>3.6±3.3</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPI-SF36</td>
<td>48.2±1.8</td>
<td>40.1±1.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMI-SF36</td>
<td>46.7±2.0</td>
<td>39.8±2.3</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA GIT</td>
<td>0.1±0.4</td>
<td>0.4±0.4</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: Khadija El Aouy: None declared, Maria Ramona Melis: None declared, Giulia Bandini: None declared, Giulio Ghezzi: None declared, Edda Russo: None declared, Bianca Saveria Fioretto: None declared, Eloisa Romano: None declared, Amedeo Amedei: None declared, Irene Rosa: None declared, Mirko Manetti: None declared, Serena Guiducci: None declared, Alberto Moggi Pignone: None declared, Marco Matucci-Cerinic Speakers bureau: Consultancy relationship with and/or research funding from and/or speaker for Bayer,Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Inven-tiva,Lilly, MSD, Sandoz, Consultant of: Consultancy relationship with and/or research funding from and/or speaker for Bayer,Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Inven-tiva,Lilly, MSD, Sandoz, Grant/research support from: Consultancy relationship with and/or research funding from and/or speaker for Bayer,Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Inven-tiva,Lilly, MSD, Sandoz, Laura Rasero: None declared, Yari Longobucco: None declared, Silvia Bellando-Randone: None declared.

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HPR Service developments, innovation and economics in healthcare,

POS1594-HPR  A REGIONAL MULTICENTRE REVIEW OF THE DELAY TO DIAGNOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS- HOW WELL ARE WE DOING? RESULTS FROM THE SCAN GROUP (UK)

Keywords: Health services research, Spondyloarthritis, Best practices

G. Dulay1, C. Boys2, A. Chan3, A. Coy4, M. Devin5, L. Goh6, A. McDougall7, K. Rigler2, J. Tomkins6, D. Wallis6, E. Williams7, 1Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust, Rheumatology, Portsmouth, United Kingdom; 2Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, Rheumatology, Basingstoke, United Kingdom; 3Royal Berkshire Hospital, Rheumatology, Reading, United Kingdom; 4Salsbury NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Salisbury, United Kingdom; 5Dorset County Hospital, Rheumatology, Dorchester, United Kingdom; 6University Hospital Southampton, Rheumatology, Southampton, United Kingdom; 7Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Rheumatology, Winchester, United Kingdom

Background: Due to the insidious onset and non-specific nature of axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA), there is often a significant delay to diagnosis. The average delay to diagnosis in the UK is 8.5 years [1]. This is associated with several adverse sequelae including poor disease-related quality of life and worse overall health outcomes [2,3]. In addition, there is substantial health-economic costs associated with this. Recent modelling data in the UK, commissioned by the National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (NASS), demonstrated the average financial cost of this delay to be £89,000 (221,000 Euros) per person affected [1]. There is a focus on reducing diagnostic delay for patients with AxSpA. The SCAN (South Central Axial Spondyloarthritis Network) is a network of NHS (National Health Service) Rheumatology departments in hospitals across south-central UK. The group comprises of; doctors, nurses and physiotherapists. SCAN has a working interest in service development.

Objectives: The SCAN group carried out a service evaluation to establish the average delay to diagnosis for patients with AxSpA across our region. Data was gathered from a total of 7 hospitals within the SCAN region. We also aimed to assess the degree of variability across the 7 different hospitals. The baseline data will be used to support potential implementation of service development initiatives, which in turn, will aim to ultimately reduce the delay to diagnosis for patients with AxSpA across the SCAN region.

Methods: Retrospective patient data was collected from 7 different hospitals within the SCAN network area. Data was gathered on 5-10 sequential cases of newly diagnosed AxSpA at each hospital. A total of 65 cases were included in our dataset. Data was collected on; date of symptom onset, date of diagnosis, age and gender.

Results: Chart 1 summarises our main findings across the 7 different hospitals.

Average (mean) time taken to receive a diagnosis of AxSpA across 7 hospital units

Chart 1.

Based on our representative sample from our region, the overall average (mean) delay to diagnosis in the SCAN area hospitals is 4.6 years. This is new data. The average age of the patients was 37 years old and 70% of the patients were male. The range for delay to diagnosis across the 65 cases was from 1 month to 30 years. The observed variability between the hospitals may be related to sample size, differences within local referral systems or reflective of areas where primary care education has been undertaken. Whilst acknowledging the relatively modest size of the sample, this regional multicentre dataset has allowed us to importantly establish what our average delay to diagnosis is for patients within the SCAN region. This valuable information will provide support for planning and implementation of further regional service improvements.

Conclusion: Our data suggests the delay to diagnosis within our region is significantly shorter than the national average (4.6 years versus national average 8.5 years). However, this delay remains unacceptable and is likely to be associated with worse disease-related quality of life and a wider detrimental socio-economic impact. The SCAN group will consider introducing changes to the referral processes (e.g., an agreed single referral proforma with local education). We may also aim to replicate any successful local arrangements in place at those hospitals with the shortest delay to diagnosis. We aim to re-evaluate the delay to diagnosis across the SCAN region in 12-36 months where we are optimistic of demonstrating further progress with reducing diagnostic delay for our patients with AxSpA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This abstract is produced and submitted on behalf of the entire SCAN group.

Disclosure of Interests: Gurdeep Dulay Speakers bureau: Previous unre-plies paid speaker fees/advisory board fees for: Roche, Chugai, Lilly, Sandoz, Thornton-Ross, Amgen, UCB, Abbie, Gilead, Janssen., Catherine Boys: None declared, Antoni Chan: None declared, Aisling Coy: None declared, Mary Devin: None declared, Leslie Goh: None declared, Arran McDougall: None declared, Kathryn Rigler: None declared, Jacqui Tomkins: None declared, Dinny Wallis: None declared, Emma Williams: None declared.

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POS1595-HPR  INTEGRATION OF TELEMEDICINE AND MEDICAL STUDENTS INTO A NEW DIAGNOSTIC PATHWAY FOR PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED AXSPA: A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF THE PATIENTS’ EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Health services research, Qualitative research methods, Patient reported outcomes

K. Boy1, S. May1, H. Labinsky2,3,4, S. Von Rohr2, G. Schett5, A. Ramberg2, J. Knitza3, F. Muehlensiepen1, 1Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, Center for Health Services Research, Rüdesdorf, Germany; 2Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Erlangen, Germany; 3Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Deutsches Zentrum für Immuntherapie (DZI), Erlangen, Germany; 4University of Würzburg, Rheumatology/Clinical Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine II, Würzburg, Germany

Table 2. Differences of disability, QoL and GIT symptoms in the sample of VEDOSS and SSc patients
PASS1596-HPR IMPACT OF THE HEALTH STATUS ON THE WILL TO USE TELEMEDICINE AMONG RHEUMATIC PATIENTS: SECONDARY ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM A GERMAN NATIONWIDE SURVEY

Keywords: Health services research, Telemedicine
F. Muehlensiepen1,2, P. Pettit3, J. Knitza4, M. Welcker5, N. Vuillerme6,7,8
1Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, Center for Health Services Research, Rüdersdorf, Germany; 2Université Grenoble Alpes, AGEIS, Grenoble, France; 3Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg; 4MVZ for RHEUMATOLOGY Dr. Martin Welcker GmbH, -, Planegg, Germany; 5Institut Universitaire de France, - Paris, France; 6Orange Labs & Univ. Grenoble Alpes, LabCom Telecom4Health, CNRS, Inria, Grenoble, France

Background: Increasing demand and shortage of specialists lead to long waiting times for initial appointments in rheumatology care [1]. These result in diagnostic delays in several rheumatic diseases, with the longest total delay reported for patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) [1]. Telemedicine, including symptom checkers (SC), capillary self-sampling, and electronic patient-reported outcomes (ePRO) could enable patients to prepare a standardized pre-visit assessment at home. Additionally, fast-track appointments supported by medical students could complement this standardized assessment to enable fast diagnostic assessments and ultimately accelerate start of therapy.

Objectives: This qualitative study was embedded in a clinical trial that investigated a new diagnostic pathway for patients with suspected axSpA, including telehealth tools and fast-track visits supported by medical students. The aim of this qualitative study was to explore patient experiences with this new care model.

Methods: Patients, purposively selected to reflect a heterogeneous sample in terms of age, gender, education and occupation, participated in an explorative, qualitative study using semi-structured phone interviews. Interview data was analyzed using structured qualitative content analysis.

Results: Qualitative interviews were conducted with twenty patients with suspected axSpA (Table 1). Patients perceived the initial consultation supported by students to be equivalent to standard rheumatology care. Patients considered the student consultation to be a valuable option to relieve workforce shortage in rheumatology care. The overall experience with the students was described as holistic and thorough by patients. Some participants pointed out that rheumatic patients often have long medical histories and, thus, may find it difficult to engage with initial care provided by lead by students. Patients reported that using SC and performing capillary blood collection helped to better assess their disease status and promote mindfulness in this regard. Some patients described that the SC-questions were unspecific, which led to difficulties answering them. Furthermore, several patients requested a free-text note section to specify their standardized ePRO data. Patients considered the capillary blood collection to be helpful, especially in regard of travel and time savings. Reported disadvantages of self-administered blood collection were uncertainties about the amount of material and the unsustainable packaging material.

Table 1. Patient characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient characteristics</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Value (n=20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Age (IQR)</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td>45.6 (18.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Age (SD)</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td>43.3 (12.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>patient number male/female</td>
<td>12/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final diagnosis</td>
<td>patient number axSpA/no axSpA</td>
<td>12/8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Patients perceived the new diagnostic pathway as an efficient and high-quality alternative to standard axSpA-care. Particularly, savings in time and travel were considered favourable by the interviewed patients. Personal comments or chat options could provide an even more individual patient experience.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Profile of RMD patients motivated to try TM vs. RMD patients not motivated to try TM
HPR Professional education, training and competencies.

POS1597-HPR  ASSESSING THE USE OF VOICE COMMANDS IN THE CLINICAL SETTING

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Health services research

J. Martínez1,2, R. Andev3, R. Luigmans3. 1Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Lisboa Norte, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Rheumatology Department, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro Académico de Medicina, Unidade de Investigação em Reumatologia, Lisboa, Portugal; 3University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom

Background: Artificial intelligence (AI) could reduce the administrative workload of clinicians, thus allowing them to focus more on clinical work. AI-powered voice-recognition programs can record appointments and request additional diagnostic tests through automatic flows generated by specific voice commands, reducing the administrative burden. Although some clinicians consider these programs helpful in the clinical setting, others consider them challenging to learn and not to save time.

Objectives: To investigate the impact of voice commands in clinical practice: i) on time spent on different tasks (clinical and administrative) during the appointment, ii) on the accuracy of records, iii) on patients' and clinicians' satisfaction.

Methods: We undertook a single-centre prospective quality improvement project between 26/10/22 and 20/12/22 in the rheumatology department of Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre - Oxford University Hospitals. We included patients attending general rheumatology (GR), complex musculoskeletal (CMSK) and vasculitis clinics, performed by clinicians using voice commands (group 1, N=1) and clinicians not using voice commands (group 2, N=4). The voice command program used was Dragon Medical One. We defined “using voice commands” when this tool was used to insert a pre-prepared text template or order diagnostic exams. One investigator attended the clinics and timed the tasks performed during the appointment. Clinicians and patients answered questionnaires attributing satisfaction scores from 0 (very unsatisfied) to 10 (very satisfied). Univariate analysis was performed, as appropriate, using SPSSV25.

Results: Data regarding 80 appointments were collected: 40 from group 1 and 40 from group 2. The proportion of the clinic types in groups 1 and 2 was: GR 52.5% vs. 0%; CMSK 0% vs. 40%; and vasculitis 47.5% vs. 60%, respectively. There were no differences between the groups regarding new and follow-up patients or face-to-face and phone clinics. Group 1 finished recording the consult in a shorter time than group 2 (means/SD: 5.6±1.8 min vs. 8.9±3.7 min, p<0.001). The time spent with the patient (means/SD: 16.9±7.0 vs. 17.7±7.6, p=0.637) and not to save time. There were no differences between the groups concerning patient satisfaction levels.

Conclusion: We report that voice commands: (i) were useful in reducing the time spent recording the consultation but did not influence the time spent with the patient or the time spent ordering diagnostic tests; (ii) resulted in a higher number of spelling mistakes but not clinically significant errors; and (iii) improved patients satisfaction at most levels and did not influence patients' satisfaction. Medical staff should be trained to adopt this technology, and developers should focus on improving accuracy and misspelling minimization.

Acknowledgements: Dr. Shirish Dubey, Dr. Ayna Verdiyeva, Dr. Liia James.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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REFERENCES: NIL.
HPR Interdisciplinary research.

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Biomarkers

Z. Mustufi1, R. Letton1, K. Harrold1, R. Chowdhury2, A. Tugnait3, P. Emery2, S. Pavit3, K. Manka2, 1University of Leeds, School of Dentistry, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Leeds Institute of Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid autoimmunity may be initiated at mucosal sites such as the periodontium. Patients with RA and anti-CCP+ at-risk individuals have an increased prevalence of periodontal disease (PD) [1]. PD is often asymptomatic and diagnosed by clinical examination. We hypothesised that comprehensive periodontal assessment of CCP+ at-risk individuals would identify PD, which would be amenable to treatment with a single course of non-surgical periodontal therapy (NSPT).

Objectives: To determine the periodontal disease phenotype in anti-CCP+ at-risk individuals and to investigate the feasibility/efficacy of a course of NSPT.

Methods: Anti-CCP+ at-risk individuals with musculoskeletal symptoms but no clinical synovitis (‘CCP+ at risk’) were recruited from the Leeds CCP cohort. All participants had a high anti-CCP level (>3 X ULN) and had periodontal screening by a dentist, including radiographs. Clinically significant PD was defined as clinical attachment loss ≥4mm on at least two non-adjacent teeth, ≥4mm of cumulative probing pocket depth (minimum 4mm per site). Those with PD were offered NSPT. Periodontal indices were recorded before and after NSPT. Treatment completion occurred when PD had stabilised, as determined by clinically significant reduction in bleeding/probing indices.

Results: Seventy-two CCP+ at-risk were offered screening; 51 (71.8%) accepted. The main reason cited for declining was time pressures, 31/51 (59%) subjects had clinically significant PD and were offered NSPT. Of these, 15 have completed treatment over a median of three treatment sessions (median timeframe 17 weeks). The remaining participants are receiving ongoing treatment. The mean age for patients with PD was 51.22 and 64.5% were female. Seven (22.6%) patients were current smokers, 16 (51.6%) ex-smokers and 8 (25.8%) never smokers. Mean baseline scores were: 49.41% plaque free, 15.14% bleeding, 21.46% mild pocketing, and 4.42% deep pocketing. Radiographic assessment revealed a predominantly mild (stage I/II) disease phenotype; 8 (25.8%) stage I, 11 (35.4%) stage II, 9 (29%) stage III, and 3 (9.7%) stage IV PD. Plaque free scores improved by 27.89% (p<0.05), demonstrating high patient motivation. Bleeding indices, (indicating gingival inflammation) reduced from 16.32% (SE 9.91) to 8.49% (SE 4.13) <0.05 and probing (%)* from 10.02% (SE 21.88) to 79.12% (SE 25.23) <0.05.

Conclusion: Routine periodontal assessment of anti-CCP+ at risk individuals identifies a mild and treatable phenotype of periodontal disease. Periodontal screening and treatment with a course of NSPT is acceptable to at-risk individuals and results in effective treatment of periodontal disease. This approach may form part of future personalised strategies for RA prevention.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Zain Mustufi: None declared, Rob Letton: None declared, Kate Harrold: None declared, Rahaymin Chowdhury: None declared, Aradhana Tugnait: None declared, Paul Emery Consultant of: Abbvie, AstraZeneca, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung, Sue Pavitt: None declared, Kulveer Manka Consultant of: Lilly, UCB, Galapagos, Abbvie, Serac Healthcare, Grant/research support from: BMS, Lilly, Gilead.

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Table 1. Demographic and clinical data of anti-CCP positive at-risk individuals who underwent periodontal assessment and treatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Participants with PD (n=31)</th>
<th>Before treatment</th>
<th>After treatment</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean plaque free scores (%)*</td>
<td>51.23% (SE 21.88) / 79.12% (SE 25.23)</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean bleeding on probing (%)*</td>
<td>16.32% (SE 9.91) / 8.49% (SE 4.13)</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean mild (4-6mm) pocketing (%)</td>
<td>17.22% (SE 11.1) / 7.2% (SE 4.33)</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean deep (&gt;6mm) pocketing (%)</td>
<td>3.7% (SE 1.1%) / 0.69% (SE 1.7%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BACKGROUND: healthy lifestyle is known to prevent the progression of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs). Despite contemporary improvements in RMD clinical care, the management of lifestyle factors has received less attention. Underlying causes may be the lack of awareness and insufficient evidence, but patient and physician education may also play a role.

Objectives: to collect and review currently available materials for health promotion on lifestyle factors for people with RMDs across Europe: assessment of current materials and implementation needs.

Keywords: Patient information and education, Non-pharmacological interventions, Education

J. Rodriguez-Carrió1, G. Cavalli2, M. Wlezien3, F. Guillemin4, S. Verstappen5.6, 1University of Oviedo, Area of Immunology, Oviedo, Spain; 2Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Principado de Asturias (ISPA), Department of Metabolism, Oviedo, Spain; 3San Rafaelle Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milano, Italy; 4Vita-Salute San Rafaelle University, Vita-Salute San Rafaelle University, Milano, Italy; 5University De Lorraine, APEMAC, Cosnes-et-Romain, France; 6University of Lausanne, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES - Overcoming vulnerability: Life course perspectives, Lausanne, Switzerland; 7University De Lorraine, Inserm, CHRU Nancy, Nancy, France; 8The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, Manchester, United Kingdom; 9University of Southampton Highfield Campus, MRC Versus Arthritis Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work, Southampton, United Kingdom; 10Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Wythenshawe, United Kingdom

Background: In the past, health lifestyle was known to prevent the progression of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs). Despite contemporary improvements in RMD clinical care, the management of lifestyle factors has received less attention. Underlying causes may be the lack of awareness and insufficient evidence, but patient and physician education may also play a role.

Objectives: To collect and review currently available materials for health promotion on lifestyle factors for people with RMDs across Europe and to assess their implementation needs.

Methods: Materials on lifestyle factors (diet, weight control, physical activity, work participation, alcohol consumption and smoking) were collected from health professionals in rheumatology and patient associations through EULAR and EMUNET channels.

Results: 38 materials from 11 countries were retrieved (Table 1), including North, South, and Central European regions. Documents (22) or leaflets (12) were the most frequent materials. The most reported factor was diet (23) followed by physical activity (17), whereas information on work participation was scarce [2]. The materials were more commonly focused on rheumatoid arthritis (8), although documents for people with RMDs in general were also frequent (12). Only eight materials included scientific references. Although 23 materials contained some kinds of recommendations, two were evidence-based, whereas the rest contained general statements. Materials were mostly available in the official national language, and 16 were accessible on the internet, whereas no information on accessibility or treatment of periodontal disease. This approach may form part of future personalised strategies for RA prevention.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Zain Mustufi: None declared, Rob Letton: None declared, Kate Harrold: None declared, Rahaymin Chowdhury: None declared, Aradhana Tugnait: None declared, Paul Emery Consultant of: Abbvie, AstraZeneca, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung, Sue Pavitt: None declared, Kulveer Manka Consultant of: Lilly, UCB, Galapagos, Abbvie, Serac Healthcare, Grant/research support from: BMS, Lilly, Gilead.

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reach was obtained for the remainder. Significant limitations across implementation domains (process model, determinant frameworks, and evaluation) were observed, mostly due to flawed knowledge generation, poor identification of barriers and facilitators, and lack of evaluation frameworks. **Conclusion:** although materials on lifestyle factors were common, they were not always available at the national level across Europe. Current materials are hallmark of a lack of consistency in formats, layouts, content, focus, lack of scientific evidence and patient involvement. Major impediments for implementation were found. These findings will inform the implementation of EULAR-endorsed recommendations on lifestyle factors for people with RMDs.

**Acknowledgements:** We thank HPR, PARE associations and EMEUNET for their collaboration in collecting informative materials on lifestyle factors across European countries.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2946

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**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Materials (n)</th>
<th>Factors covered (n)</th>
<th>RMDs covered (n)</th>
<th>Supportive references</th>
<th>Recommendations (n)</th>
<th>Extension</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Paper Documents (2)</td>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>Gout (and hiperuricemia)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (evidence-based)</td>
<td>6 pages + figure</td>
<td>10 languages</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Leaflet Documents (3)</td>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>SSc (1) GA (1) RA and gout (1)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>20-40 pages</td>
<td>Croatian</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Leaflet Documents (2)</td>
<td>Diet, smoking, alcohol, physical activity (various combinations)</td>
<td>RMDs Gout (1) SLE (1) RMDs (1)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>12 pages</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Leaflet Documents (1)</td>
<td>Lifestyle (general)</td>
<td>Gout (1) PsA (1) RA (1) SSc (1) SLE (1) SpA (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (general) (1)</td>
<td>2-33 pages</td>
<td>Slovenian</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>Documents (6)</td>
<td>Lifestyle (general)</td>
<td>Gout (1) PsA (1) RA (1) SSc (1) SLE (1) SpA (1)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2 pages</td>
<td>Moldovan</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Document Documents (7)</td>
<td>Lifestyle (general)</td>
<td>Diet, smoking, alcohol, physical activity (various combinations)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>19-28 pages</td>
<td>Norwegian</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Document Documents (3)</td>
<td>Diet, smoking, alcohol, physical activity (various combinations)</td>
<td>RMDs PsA (1) SpA (1) RA (1) SSc (1) SLE (1) SS (1)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2-28 pages</td>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Leaflets (6)</td>
<td>Diet, weight, smoking, alcohol, physical activity (various combinations)</td>
<td>RMDs (3) SpA (1) PsA (1) RA (1)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes (general) (6)</td>
<td>2-27 pages</td>
<td>Slovenian</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Video (1), Document (1), Website (1)</td>
<td>Weight, diet, physical activity, smoking and RMDs (1) work adaptations (various combinations)</td>
<td>Lifestyle (general) (1)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes (general) (1)</td>
<td>2 minutes</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Online (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Leaflets (4), Videos (4)</td>
<td>Diet (1), Smoking (1), Physical activity (1)</td>
<td>RMDs (4) Diet (1) RA (1)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes (general) (4)</td>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Documents (2)</td>
<td>Physical activity (1)</td>
<td>RMDs (4) Diet (1) RA (1)</td>
<td>No</td>
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**Keywords:** Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), bDMARD

**Background:** Pharmacovigilance is the science that is responsible for the detection, notification, and monitoring of possible drug adverse events (DAE) that occur with the administration of medications. In the pharmaceutical service process, the information generated through its programs constitutes evidence that provides a solution to the management of drug-related problems, especially those obtained by biotechnology.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to show the main DAEs and drug adverse reactions (DARs) with the use of anti-TNF (Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor) drugs detected by the Pharmacovigilance program of an IPS specialized in rheumatology during the period 2018-2022.

**Methods:** The current method carried out in the institution is the so-called **Spontaneous Notification.** A retrospective review of the DAE and DAR detected by an institutional Pharmacovigilance program with the use of Anti-TNF drugs, in patients with autoimmune diseases, during the period 2018-2022, was carried out. Indicators were established through descriptive statistics to measure the frequency of DAE and DAR.

**Results:** 408,914 medical records were reviewed, the Table 1 shows the comparative percentages of DAE and DAR detected by the program between conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) and biologics during the follow-up period. The Pharmacovigilance program had growth in the detection of DARs with the use of anti-TNF drugs, strengthening knowledge in the information for these. The causality with the anti-TNF was established, being the DAE classified as probable and the DAR as possible. Of the total subgroup of patients treated at the institution for medication application (46,832), notifications were received as follows: (Infliximab 17 , Etanercept 17 , Adalimumab 22, Goli-mumab 15, Certolizumab 51). Additionally, dermatological reactions are the most recurrent types of reactions. Herpes is found as the main DAR with Certolizumab.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2946

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**POS1601-HPR** ADVERSE EVENTS AND ADVERSE REACTIONS WITH THE USE OF ANTI-TNF’S DETECTED BY THE PHARMACOVIGILANCE PROGRAM OF A SPECIALIZED RHEUMATOLOGY CENTER

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), bDMARD

W. Rivero1, P. Rodríguez-Linares2, F. Rodríguez2, G. S. Rodríguez-Vargas1, A. Rojas-Villarraga1, P. Santos-Morenoc2; 1BIOMAB - Center for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Bogotá, Colombia; 2BIOMAB - Center for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Scientific Direction, Bogotá, Colombia; 3BIOMAB - Center for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Patients Education, Bogotá, Colombia; 4Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud FUCS, Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia

**Background:** Pharmacovigilance is the science that is responsible for the detection, notification, and monitoring of possible drug adverse events (DAE) that occur with the administration of medications. In the pharmaceutical service process, the information generated through its programs constitutes evidence that provides a solution to the management of drug-related problems, especially those obtained by biotechnology.

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in the last year. According to the results obtained, Certolizumab is the drug that has presented the most adverse reactions during the follow-up period (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Dermatological reactions are the most frequent with anti-TNF drugs. Infliximab and Certolizumab stand out for this type of commitment. Studies are needed in populations from the same country to compare these results and generate more knowledge.

**Acknowledgements:** We thank the Asistencial Direction and the BIOMAB clinical reports department for their support in creating the database to carry out this study.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Wilberto Rivero: None declared, Pedro Rodríguez-Linares: None declared, Fernando Rodriguez: None declared, Gabriel-Santiago Rodríguez-Vargas: None declared, Adriana Rojas-Villarraga: None declared, Pedro Santos-Moreno: Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4031

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**Keywords:** Pain, Quality of life

C. Chiraz1, R. Fakhfakh2, N. El Amri2, D. Khalifa2, E. Bouajina2. 1Sahloul Hospital, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Sousse, Tunisia; 2Farhat Hached Hospital, Rheumatology, Sousse, Tunisia

**Background:** Catastrophizing is a common behavior in patients with chronic pain. It is a negative cognitive-affective response to pain. It is thought to be associated with the persistence and exacerbation of chronic pain.

**Objectives:** To determine the prevalence and the associated factors of catastrophizing in rheumatic diseases (RD).

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study on patients with RD followed in the rheumatology department of hached hospital. Biological and clinical data were collected from medical records. Depression and anxiety were evaluated by the HAD scale (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale). Quality of life was assessed by the SF-12, which is a self-assessment scale of quality of life that is a shortened version of the SF-36. Catastrophizing was assessed by the Pain catastrophizing scale (PCS). A PCS score of 30 or more represents a high level of catastrophizing.

**Results:** Our study included 60 patients with RD: 44 patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), 12 patients with ankylosing spondylitis (SpA) and 4 patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA). The mean age was 48.83 years (73.33% female). The mean PCS score was 31.10. The prevalence of high catastrophizing (PCS ≥ 30) was 73.3% in all patients: 72.7% of patients with RA, 66.7% with SpA and 100% with PsA. A high catastrophizing score was found in 91.7% of anxious patients and 95% of depressed patients. No statistically significant association of catastrophizing with age nor gender was noted. Catastrophism was significantly associated with depression, anxiety (p < 10^-4) and pain VAS (p = 0.001). The decrease in quality of life assessed by the physical (PCS12) and mental (MCS12) components of the SF12 was significantly associated with catastrophizing (p < 0.01).

**Conclusion:** In our study more than two-thirds of the population had high PCS scores with a significant correlation with pain VAS, anxiety and depression and a low quality of life score.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Pain catastrophizing in rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and axial spondyloarthritis: biopsychosocial perspective and impact on health-related quality of life

2. Mateusz Wilk 1, Katarzyna Losińska 2, Are H Pripp 3, Mariusz Korkosz 4, Glenn Haugeberg 5 6

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4109

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**Table 1. COMPARISON OF ADVERSE REACTIONS BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND BIOLOGICAL DMARDs**

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<th>csDMARD</th>
<th>BIOLOGICO</th>
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<tr>
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**Figure. Rate of reports of adverse reactions to anti-TNF biologics**

---

**POS1602-HPR PAIN AND CATASTROPHIZING IN RHEUMATIC DISEASES: IMPACT ON PSYCHOLOGICAL DATA AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

---

**Table 1. COMPARISON OF ADVERSE REACTIONS BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND BIOLOGICAL DMARDs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AÑO</th>
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<th>BIOLOGICO</th>
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<td>2019</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
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<td>32.0%</td>
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</table>
Genomics, genetic basis of disease and functional genomics

AB0001

GUT MICROBIOTA IMBALANCE IN INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides

X. Y. Yin1,2, D. Qiao2, G. X. Wang2, X. Song1, Q. Y. Su1,2, H. Zhu2, Q. Yu1, P. F. Li1, X. Li1,2, S. Y. Zhang1,2, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China; The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

Background: Inflammatory arthritis (IA) is a group of autoimmune arthritis characterized by a pro-inflammatory/anti-inflammatory imbalance of local mediators[1] [2]. Research on the influence of gut microbiota(GM) on systemic IA has exploded in the past decade. GM changes may be a crucial regulatory component in systemic IA[3]. However, the link between them has yet to be fully elucidated.

Objectives: This study aims to study the GM composition of IA to provide evidence for its potential role in the pathogenesis, progress, and treatment of IA.

Methods: We systematically searched the trials for PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, Medline, Wanfang database, VIP, CNKI, and CBM database from the establishment of the database to January 1, 2023. Standardized mean difference (SMD) and 95% confidence interval (CI) were calculated to assess alterations in α-diversity and the abundance of certain microbiota families in IA. Literature quality was evaluated according to the requirements of systematic review, and meta-analysis was performed using STATA v12.0.

Results: A total of 70 studies, including 3,322 patients and 4,412 healthy controls, were identified. Compared with HCs, the GM of patients with IA has a lower Simpson index(SMD= -0.307, 95%CI -0.509, -0.106) and Shannon index(SMD= -0.184, 95%CI -0.344, -0.024). When specific IA was examined, significant decreases were observed in rheumatoid arthritis(Simpson index: SMD= -0.558, 95%CI -0.891, -0.225; Shannon index: SMD= -0.608, 95%CI -0.935, -0.281; ACE: SMD= -0.414, 95%CI -0.697, -0.132; Chao1: SMD= -1.373, 95%CI -1.960, -0.786; evenness index: SMD= -1.863, 95%CI -3.181, -0.544); psoriatic arthritis(Simpson index: SMD= -0.733, 95%CI -1.367, -0.099); osteoarthritis(Chao1: SMD= -0.793, 95%CI -1.096, -0.491) and gout(Simpson index: SMD= -1.037, 95%CI -1.959, -0.115). In other diseases, we found that the α-diversity index was higher than that of the HCs group(reactive arthritis(Shan- non index: SMD= 0.697, 95%CI 0.265, 1.130; ACE: SMD= 1.878, 95%CI 1.375, 2.380; Chao1:SMD= 0.835, 95%CI 0.398, 1.273; InvSimpson: SMD= 0.823, 95%CI 0.386, 1.260; Observed species: SMD= 2.004, 95%CI 1.491, 2.517); osteoarthritis(evenness index: SMD= 0.488, 95%CI 0.047, 0.928); ankylosing spondylitis(InvSimpson: SMD= 0.525, 95%CI 0.272, 0.777); Juvenile idiopathic arthritis(Observed species: SMD= 1.672, 95%CI 1.100, 2.243). Furthermore, to exclude sequencing methods influence on species abundance detection, we conducted a subgroup analysis of Observed species. The results showed that the observed species abundance through high-throughput sequencing was higher(SMD=1.376, 95%CI 0.394, 2.358) and 16S rRNA gene sequencing was lower(SMD= -0.842, 95%CI -1.575, -0.108) than that of HC. At the phylum level, there was a significant reduction in Firmicutes(SMD= -0.455, 95%CI -0.796, -0.114) and Fusobacteria(SMD= -0.422, 95%CI -0.692, -0.152). At the genus level, the abundance of Bacteroides(SMD=0.896, 95%CI 0.003, 0.003) was higher and Faecalibacterium(SMD= -0.380, 95%CI -0.713, -0.047) was lower. The two groups had no significant differences in Bifidobacterium and Butyricicoccus[3].

Conclusion: Our research showed a definite relationship between IA and GM. Further diet and drug therapy research are needed to explore the relationship between human GM and IA.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4567

AB0002

THE GENETIC BACKGROUND OF ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS INDICATES A STRONG CORRELATION WITH OTHER AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Genetics/Epigenetics, Spondyloarthritides

L. Papageorgiou1,2, M. Zervou3, T. Zormpa3, R. Golfinopoulou3, D. Vlachakis3, G. Bertisias3, G. Goulielmos3, E. Eliopoulos1, 1Agricultural University of Athens, Department of Biotechnology, Athens, Greece; 3University of West Attica, School of Health and Care Sciences, Athens, Greece; 3University of Crete, Medical School, Heraklion, Greece

Background: Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) is considered to be a rare autoimmune disease that has been studied in genetic level the last decades [1]. The cases reported suggest that there might be an improvement in disease diagnosis with an overlap by other autoimmune diseases [2]. Patients can be diagnosed and the clinical symptoms are in alignment with a diagnosis of the disease. Meanwhile, novel studies propose various genetic factors that may be related to the disease has emerged. Most of the patients carrying various subtypes of the HLA-B27 gene, such as B2702, B2703 and B2710, are at an increased risk of developing AS [3]. Importantly, the relationship between the genetic factors and the development of the disease is still remains unclear.

Objectives: To create the disease genomic grammar (DGG) with the most credible genetic and epigenetic variants as well as and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) causing the basis for the development of AS and identify the correlation with other candidate autoimmune diseases [4].

Methods: AS related publications have been analyzed with the use of data mining and semantic techniques for the extraction of information regarding SNPs associated with the disease and the estimation of a candidate DGG. The extracted SNPs have been filtered, evaluated, annotated, and classified in the DGG, using several layers of information from well-known biological databases including dbSNP LitVar, ClinVar, OMIM and KEGG. Moreover, the AS DGG has been further analyzed towards identifying the hidden connections with other autoimmune diseases.

Results: A holistic genetic map of the AS DGG with 658 related SNPs has been estimated and the specific sub-clusters with crucial SNPs have been correlated with several other autoimmune disease including RA, PS, CD and SE (Figure 1). This indicates that AS has a common genetic background as many other autoimmune diseases [5]. The candidate DGG of the AS has been estimated using the SNPs annotated information and 3 major clusters of SNPs have been estimated. The DGG of the AS, 85% responds to non-coding regions and 15%
patients and healthy control groups. IL17A serum levels and clinical and laboratory parameters were measured using the enzyme-linked immune sorbent assay (ELISA) technique.

Results: RA patients showed higher IL 17A serum levels than the control group (121.9 ± 24.3 ng/dl vs 20.4 ± 2.6 ng/dl, P < 0.001). RA patients showed a higher frequency of rs2275913 G allele than healthy subjects (P = 0.01). Patients carrying GG genotype showed higher values of all disease severity parameters including Rheumatoid Factor (52.79 ± 16.65 IU/ml, P < 0.001) and Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibody (30.6 ± 14.86 U/ml, P < 0.001). The high-risk GG genotype carriers had higher IL17A serum levels than the GA and AA genotype carriers (129.74 ± 23.03 ng/dl vs 107.49 ± 19.85 ng/dl, P < 0.001).

Conclusion: The major allele of IL17A rs2275913 polymorphism was associated with higher IL17A serum levels, and greater RA severity. It is thus very likely that the rs2275913 polymorphism of IL17A gene is associated with an increased risk of RA, as well as with higher severity in Egyptian RA patients.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3237

**AB0003**

**INTERLEUKIN 17A RS2275913 GENE POLYMORPHISM IS RELATED TO SEVERITY AND DISEASE ACTIVITY OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND INCREASED SERUM IL17A LEVELS IN EGYPTIAN PATIENTS.**

**Keywords:** Cytokines and chemokines, Rheumatoid arthritis, Genetics/Epigenetics

M. E. Ibrahim1, S. A. Fattah1, M. Abdelfattah1, E. Mehananna2. 1Suez Canal University, Rheumatology, Ismailia, Egypt; 2Suez Canal University, Biochemistry, Ismailia, Egypt

Background: Interleukin 17A (IL17A), one of the IL-17 family, performs a critical role in the inflamed synovial tissue of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) patients. Several studies have been performed to investigate the role of IL 17A rs2275913 gene polymorphism in RA pathogenesis, however, data about its role in RA severity and activity is inconsistent.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the influence of IL17A rs2275913 polymorphism on IL17A serum levels in Egyptian RA patients and disease severity and activity.

Methods: The study included 100 healthy subjects and 100 RA patients. Gene polymorphism rs2275913 was measured by Taqman genotyping assay in both
novel Bioinformatic tools may assist in the better understanding of this polygenic disease, while its association with RA and other ADs is a helpful step towards comprehending the shared biological pathways leading to autoimmunity. The data resulting from our study can be utilized towards the development of an application designed to assist clinical diagnosis by using the patients’ genomic data, like the integrated bioinformatics tools Demetra for endometriosis [6] and Epione for SLE [7].

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2362

AB0005

CHANGES OF SALIVARY MICROBIAL COMMUNITY IN PATIENTS WITH PERIODONTITIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Adaptive immunity, Biomarkers
C. Wang1,2, J. Qiao2,3, Y. Li1, M. J. Chang1,2, R. X. Qi1, S. X. Zhang2,3, Q. Yu1, P. F. He1, 3Shanxi Medical University, School of Management, Taiyuan, China; 4The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, School of Management, Taiyuan, China; 5Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 6Shanxi Medical University, Medical Data Sciences, Taiyuan, China

Background: Periodontitis (PD) is a chronic, progressive polymicrobial disease[1]. In the context of the microbiome in the pathogenesis of rheumatic disease, microorganisms located in the periodontal tissues play an important role as potential initiators of immune-mediated inflammatory conditions at distant sites[2]. Studies have shown that the microbiota associated with PD is different from that in health, and the chronic inflammatory response induced by salivary microbiota plays an important role in the development of PD.

Objectives: Study to evaluate and quantify the differences in the composition of salivary microbiota in patients with PD, and investigate the correlation between salivary microbiota in patients with PD and clinical variables.

Methods: In the same race, 34 salivary samples of patients with PD and 28 salivary samples of periodontal health controls (HC) were collected for 16S rRNA gene sequencing. Compare salivary microbiota alpha-diversity, beta-diversity and microbial composition (at the phylum and genus levels) were used to determine differences in salivary microbiota characteristics between periodontitis patients and periodontal health controls. LefSe analysis was carried out to identify differentially abundant genera. The correlation between different taxa and clinical variables was calculated by the Spearman rank test.

Results: Consistent with the observed diversity trend, compared with periodontal health, the richness of patients with periodontitis is relatively high (P<0.05, Figure 1a), which indicates that the diversity of salivary microbiome in patients with periodontitis is significantly higher. The Beta diversity based on Bray Curtis distance at the species level demonstrated a significant differences in microbial communities between periodontitis patients and periodontal health (analysis of variance, r2=0.094, p=0.001, Figure 1b). At different phylogenetic levels, the 10 selected taxonomic biomarkers showed strong discrimination ability, with log10 LDA score >4.0 (Figure 1c-d). Specifically, at the phylum level, the Firmicutes phylum frequency of periodontitis patients is lower, while the Spirochaetota frequency is higher. Patients with periodontitis have more genus Treponema at the genus level (Figure 1c-d). PICRUSt analysis found that in the KEGG pathway, the function of microbial genes related to amino acid metabolism in the salivary microbiota of periodontitis patients was higher (Figure. 1h). Treponema was positively correlated with periodontal probing depth (PPD). Total, plaque index (PI) and periodontitis extent Cx. Spirochaetota was positively correlated with PPD Total, PI (p<0.05, Figure 1).

Conclusion: Specific salivary microbiota played an important role in the pathogenesis of periodontitis, which may help to diagnose or determine individual susceptibility to periodontitis by detecting salivary microbiota.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the Key R&D Program of Shanxi Province(201903D311011) and Taiyuan Science and Technology Plan (XG2020-5-06).
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3752
AB0006  CLINICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND GENETIC BIOMARKERS ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT PHENOTYPES OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN PARAGUAYAN PATIENTS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers, Genetics/Epigenetics

I. Acosta Colman1, Z. Moral1, A. Ayala-Lugo1, V. Jolly1, I. De Guiliñ2, P. Langlah1, M. Vázquez3, C. Holt1, A. Paats1, M. Martínez1, M. E. Acosta5
1Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Departamento de Reumatología, San Lorenzo, Paraguay; 2Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Paraguay; 3Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, San Lorenzo, Paraguay
4Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Instituto de Investigación en Ciencias de la Salud, Laboratorio de Genética Molecular, San Lorenzo, Paraguay; 5Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Facultad de Ciencias Químicas, San Lorenzo, Paraguay

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a complex autoimmune disease characterized by a very heterogeneous clinical picture that makes diagnosis and follow up of these patients difficult.

Objectives: Identify correlations between clinical, immunological and genetic biomarkers with clinical manifestations in SLE in Paraguayan patients.

Methods: Retrospective study of data from medical records and immunological and genetic studies of patients with SLE from Paraguay. A descriptive analysis was performed based on the type of variable. HLA allele frequency (DPA1, DRB1, DQA1, DQB1, and DRB1) was calculated and univariate logistic regression analysis was performed between each of the explanatory variables and the presence/absence of each of the phenotypes. The odds ratio (OR), the 95% confidence interval (95%CI), and the p-value were recorded. Associations with a p-value less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant associations.

Results: 104 patients with SLE were included, 86% female with a mean age value of 32.80 ± 10.36 years. An association was identified between anti-dsDNA and the presence of the renal phenotype and anti-dsDNA with the absence of the joint and hematological phenotype. The IgM isotype RF was associated with the absence of the renal phenotype. HLA DQB1* 02:02 and HLA DRB1* 07:01 associated with cutaneous phenotype were identified. An association was identified between the age of onset of the disease and the presence of the joint phenotype. No other associations were identified with the other variables studied.

Conclusion: Possible clinical, immunological and genetic biomarkers of phenotypes have been identified in patients with SLE of Paraguayan origin.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Analysis of association and Odds Ratio (OR) of the presence of autoantibodies and the phenotypic manifestations of those with SLE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autoantibodies</th>
<th>Articular (OR(95%CI)p</th>
<th>Skin (OR(95%CI)p</th>
<th>Hematologic (OR(95%CI)p</th>
<th>Kidney (OR(95%CI)p</th>
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<td>0.17 (0.06-0.46)</td>
<td>0.91 (0.38-2.17)</td>
<td>0.28 (0.09-0.86)</td>
<td>49 (15-157)</td>
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<td>Anti-Sm</td>
<td>p=0.001</td>
<td>p=0.038</td>
<td>p=0.027</td>
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<td>Anti-Ro</td>
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<td>p=0.02</td>
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<td>Anti-RNn</td>
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<td>p=0.38</td>
<td>p=0.23</td>
<td>p=0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF IgG</td>
<td>1.06 (0.36-3.11)</td>
<td>0.58 (0.17-1.94)</td>
<td>1.96 (0.64-6.02)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.15-1.14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF IgM</td>
<td>0.06 (0.03-0.18)</td>
<td>2.46 (0.72-8.32)</td>
<td>0.20 (0.05-0.76)</td>
<td>p=0.079</td>
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</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6162

AB0007  DYNAMIC INTERPLAY OF FUNCTIONALLY DISCORDANT CD4+HLA-DR+ SUBSETS WITH A COMMON PATHOLOGICAL ONTOGENIC ORIGIN IN HUMAN ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium, Adaptive immunity

J. Y. Leong1, P. Kumar1, A. J. M. Lim1, S. H. Tay1, S. Hazirah1, J. G. Yeo1, C. Chua1, P. Chen1, A. M. Lajam1, A. Consolaro2, M. Gattorno3, C. T. Ng3, T. Arkachaisri3, A. Martin3, S. Albani3, 1Singhealth/Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre, Translational Immunology Institute, Singapore, Singapore; 2University of Genoa and G Gaslini Institute, Second Paediatric Division, Genova, Italy; 3Singapore General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Singapore, Singapore; 4KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, Division of Medicine, Singapore, Singapore

Background: We have previously described the presence of pathogenic-like lymphocyte (CPLs; CD4+HLA-DR+) subset within the circulation, that is phenotypically similar to their synovial counterparts. CPLs are inflammatory T effectors that correlate with disease activity and possess a TCR repertoire with strong synovial overlap. We also discovered a similar inflammation-associated T-regulatory (iaTreg; CD4+HLA-DR+) circuitary subset, that is activated, suppressive, poised to migrate to inflamed site and sharing TCR between the peripheral and synovial compartments. iaTreg and CPL were found to be phenotypically quite similar. Their striking similarity, inspired the hypotheses of a common ontology driven by the synovial micro-environment, and whether their functionally discordant roles, pointed to an undetermined dynamic interplay.

Objectives: In this study, we seek to establish if a common disease ontology exists between synovial CPLs/iaTregs in human arthritis and why CPLs continue to perpetuate synovial inflammation.

Methods: We performed mass cytometry analysis of PBMCs from RA patients and healthy adults. CD4 subsets from active JIA PBMCs, paired JIA SFMCs and healthy paediatric controls were sorted for bulk RNA sequencing. Cpg profiling of FoxP3 TSDR site was performed for synovial iaTregs. Treg suppression assays were performed in iaTregs for healthy paediatric controls, paired JIA PBMCs and SFMCs.

Results: Mass cytometry analysis of RA patients revealed memory induction of CPLs and iaTreg as compared with healthy adults. Importantly, CPLs/iaTregs from RA patients demonstrated reactivity to the dnaJP1 peptide, which is a pro-inflammatory epitope in RA patients, thus underscoring disease relevance. Circulatory JIA CPLs/iaTreg subsets displayed transcriptomic convergence, exhibiting (a) common pathway dysregulations, (b) restriction in TCR repertoire and (c) common transcription factor drivers, suggesting a common pathogenic
ontogeny. This phenomenon is further reinforced across the spatial/disease continuum, with synovium CPLs/iaTregs presenting common dysregulated pathways including IFNγ signalling. In particular, TCR clonotype sharing in CPLs/iaTregs is higher in the synovium, suggesting a common antigenic origin. To understand the dynamic interplay between CPLs and iaTregs, we assess the regulatory capacity of iaTregs. Epigenetic profiling of CpG sites on the FoxP3 TSDR promoter, revealed typical Treg demethylation status within iaTregs, indicating a stable lineage. Suppression assays reveal that iaTreg rather than non-iaTregs were poised to suppress disease T effectors from JIA PBMC/SFMC, with higher rates of suppression. This is in contrast with healthy controls, where iaTregs were inferior in suppression, mirroring their disease ontology. Despite superior suppression from iaTreg in SFMC T effectors, synovial CPLs were resistant to suppression from iaTreg as compared with synovial Non-CPLs. Destabilisation assays in iaTregs, reveal a drop in FoxP3 levels in the presence of IFNg, suggesting a role for IFNg in CPL evasion of suppression.

Conclusion: Our study highlights the disease relevance of CPLs/iaTregs in human arthritis, whilst revealing evidence of a common pathological ontology, for CPLs/iaTregs, that is antigenically driven by the inflammatory synovium environment. The dynamic interplay between CPLs/iaTregs, could be tilted towards suppression evasion through IFNg, allowing for continual synovium inflammation.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3435

AB0008 ROLE OF IL-23/Th17 AXIS CYTOKINES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. Meher1, S. Patil1, M. S. Siddiqui1, R. Nanda2. 1AIIMS, Raipur, General Medicine, Raipur, India; 2AIIMS, Raipur, Biochemistry, Raipur, India

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune inflammatory arthritis driven by an inflammatory cascade of different cytokine families. IL-23/Th17 axis cytokine (IL-23, IL-17) has been studied as a key pathway for disease development and its association with disease severity, joint erosion and functional outcome [1], but the data supplementing to support the hypothesis is lacking and conflicting. Also, there is a paucity of data on the role of IL-23/Th17 axis cytokines in an Indian subset of patients.

Objectives: The objective was to find the correlation between serum cytokines (IL-17, IL-23) and clinical parameters of Rheumatoid arthritis patients, e.g., disease activity (DAS28) and functional status.

Methods: This cross-sectional observational study was conducted in General Medicine OPD from 2021 to 2022. ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria was used to diagnose RA. Eighty-four consecutive RA patients were recruited after taking consent. Serum IL-17 and IL-23 levels were measured by the ELISA method. Clinical and laboratory parameters, DAS28-ESR, and HAQII were recorded. Data were analyzed to find the correlation between cytokine and disease parameters, and compare cytokine levels in different subgroups.

Results: The study showed a higher proportion of females than males (n=76,90.5% vs n=8,9.5%). Advanced RA had higher IL-17 and IL-23 levels (r=0.229, p=0.038; r=0.098, p=0.016, respectively). Among the inflammatory marker, only CRP correlated positively with IL-23 (r=0.269, p=0.014). Both IL-17 and IL-23 levels showed a significant, weak positive correlation with the disease activity DAS28 (r=0.183, p=0.097 & r=0.125, p=0.259, respectively). There was no difference in IL-17 and IL-23 levels among the disease severity group (p=0.130 & p=0.215). It was also noted that IL-17 was positively correlated with IL-23 (r=0.221, p=0.044). Among the cytokines, only IL-23 had shown a statistically positive correlation with functional status (HAQII) (r=0.284, p=0.09). IL-23 level differed significantly between males and females (p=0.013). Also, advanced RA had higher IL-17 level than early RA (p=0.028). Neither IL-17 nor IL-23 level showed any difference between the subgroup e.g., age (younger RA vs elderly RA), obesity (obese vs nonobese), DMARDs or steroid (user vs naive), serology status (RF vs RF– CCP vs CCP–).

Conclusion: Serum IL-17 levels were high in advanced RA as compared to early RA. Both IL-17 and IL-23 correlated positively with the swollen joint count. Only IL-23 was directly correlating with CRP and functional status. Both IL-17 and IL-23 had a weak, insignificant positive correlation with disease activity, and there was no difference in cytokines level among severity classes. Even DMARD-, steroid use did not affect the cytokines level.

IL-17 receptor activation triggers transformations of acute synovitis to chronic persistent arthritis [2]. IL-23/IL-17 may be a factor for advanced erosive disease development, which need further research. Hence, blocking IL-23 and IL-17 at an early stage may diminish IL-17 activity, retard the progression to chronic inflammatory arthritis and advanced disease.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We thank Dr. Amit Mishra for helping in data analysis.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4223

AB0009 UNTREATED EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS HAVE AN ABNORMAL DISTRIBUTION OF B AND FOLLICULAR T HELPER CELL SUBSETS IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. Tomé1, R. L. Teixeira1,2, S. C. Barreira1,2, P. Martins3, J. Polido-Pereira1,2, A. Valido3, M. J. Saavedra1,2, C. Ponte1,2, R. Barros5, V. C. Romão1,2, L. Graca1, J. E. Fonseca1,2, R. A. Moura1. 1Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Rheumatology Research Unit, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Hospital de Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, EPE, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Rheumatology Department, Lisbon, Portugal

Background: Disturbances in B cell immune responses have been implicated in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) pathogenesis since the first weeks of RA development. However, the mechanisms responsible for these immune alterations remain unclear. Follicular helper T (Tfh) cells are crucial for B cell maturation, activation and class-switching as well as for germinal center (GC) formation, whereas follicular regulatory T (Tfr) cells can modulate the GC reaction by suppressing Tfh and B cells. Objectives: The main goal of this study was to analyze the frequency and phenotype of B, Tfh and Tfr cells in peripheral blood of untreated early RA patients when compared to patients with early non-RA polyarthritides, established RA and healthy controls.

Methods: Blood samples were collected from 35 untreated early polyarthritides patients (<1 year of disease duration), who later evolved into RA (early RA, ERA) (n=23) or other diagnoses (early non-RA, ENRA) (n=12); established seropositive RA patients (n=62) treated with methotrexate and a group of age- and sex-matched healthy controls (n=20). Peripheral blood mononuclear cells were isolated and the frequency and phenotype of B, Tfh and Tfr cells were evaluated by flow cytometry.

Results: ERA patients had similar frequencies of B, Tfh and Tfr cells in circulation when compared to ENRA, established RA and controls. Nevertheless, ERA patients had significantly lower frequencies of pre-switch memory B cells (IgD+CD27+) and higher levels of double negative B cells (IgD+CD27–), CD21low CD38low B cells and plasmablasts (IgD+CD38+) in peripheral blood when compared to controls. Furthermore, the frequencies of PD-1+ICOS+ Tfh cells and Th2-like Tfh cells were significantly increased in ERA patients when compared to controls, but not in Tfr cells, in circulation when compared to healthy controls. Our results suggest a pre-activation state of B and Tfh cells since early RA development, which supports a role of these cells in disease physiopathology.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3968

AB0010 FERROPOTOSIS PROMOTES DYSFUNCTION OF NTREG BUT NOT ITREG IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Cell biology, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. Chen1, J. Zhao2, X. Shi1, Y. Liu1, Y. Jiang2, Y. Pan1, S. Zheng3, 1The Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Guangzhou, China; 2The Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Immunology, Guangzhou, China; 3Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Immunology, Guanzhou, China;
Background: Magnetic resonance imaging and histological studies have shown that iron levels are dysregulated in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients, with iron accumulation in gray matter and a considerable loss in healthy white matter. Iron accumulation in RA environment is closely related to immune disorders. Deferoxamine (DFO) is an iron complexing agent that has been shown to attenuate RA development. It has previously been reported that the suppression function of natural regulatory T cells (nTreg) is impaired in RA patients. It is still unclear how iron disrupts immune cells dysfunction in the RA milieu, and whether regulating iron is beneficial for Treg cell expansion and function maintenance.

Objectives: The purpose of this work is to identify the underlying gene expression profile of ferroptosis in Autoimmune dysregulated RA-Treg, and to investigate the possible application of TGF-induced Treg (iTreg) in the treatment of RA.

Methods: We established a collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) mouse model, a typical animal model of autoimmune arthritis, and performed single cell RNA-sequencing (scRNA-seq) to discover different Treg populations in the joints of CIA mouse models. We also analyzed RNA-seq data from imidazole ketone erastin (IKE), a ferroptosis inducer treated nTreg and iTreg.

Results: Data from single-cell RNA sequencing further identify two groups of Treg cells that have distinct susceptibility to RA challenges, with the ferroptosis-susceptibility Treg associated with an increased insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF1)-related transcriptome. Mechanistically, IGF1 receptor (IGF1R) activates the AKT-mTOR pathway, increases aerobic glycolysis, promotes Treg conversion toward Th17 differentiation and increases pro-inflammatory cytokines production. Moreover, RNA-sequencing analysis indicated that imidazole ketone erastin (IKE), a ferroptosis inducer, increases the expression of ferroptosis-associated genes in nTreg but not iTreg, and iTreg attenuated arthritis progression in the IKE-aggregated CIA model.

Conclusion: Our findings suggest that increasing IGF1 and glycosylation account for Treg dysfunction and inflammation in RA, and the novel iTreg may serve as a potential candidate for RA therapy.

REFERENCES:


Conclusion: Our findings suggest that increasing IGF1 and glycosylation account for Treg dysfunction and inflammation in RA, and the novel iTreg may serve as a potential candidate for RA therapy.

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Conclusion: Our findings suggest that increasing IGF1 and glycosylation account for Treg dysfunction and inflammation in RA, and the novel iTreg may serve as a potential candidate for RA therapy.

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Conclusion: Our findings suggest that increasing IGF1 and glycosylation account for Treg dysfunction and inflammation in RA, and the novel iTreg may serve as a potential candidate for RA therapy.

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Conclusion: Our findings suggest that increasing IGF1 and glycosylation account for Treg dysfunction and inflammation in RA, and the novel iTreg may serve as a potential candidate for RA therapy.

REFERENCES:


Conclusion: Our findings suggest that increasing IGF1 and glycosylation account for Treg dysfunction and inflammation in RA, and the novel iTreg may serve as a potential candidate for RA therapy.
Dunsmuir: None declared, Almas Khan: None declared, Ash Maroof Employee of: UCB, Dennis McGonagle Grant/research support from: UCB. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4522

**AB0012 ANALYSIS OF THE EXPRESSION OF T-BET IN B LYMPHOCYTES OF PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS**

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers, Cell biology

E. Marasco1, G. M. Moneta1, C. Braçaglia1, I. Caiello1, C. Farroni2, R. Carsetti2, F. De Benedetti1. 1Bambino Gesù Children Hospital, Unit of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 2Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, B Cell Physiopathology Unit, Rome, Italy

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease causing significant morbidity and mortality. B cells play a central role in SLE pathogenesis. T-bet, is a transcription factor promoting T helper-1 development. B cells expressing T-bet are expanded in aging, chronically infected individuals, and murine models of autoimmunity [1, 2].

Objectives: The aim of our work is to analyze the expression and regulatory mechanisms of the transcription factor T-bet in B cells of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

Methods: The intracellular expression of T-bet was evaluated by flow cytometry in the different subsets of B lymphocytes of SLE patients and controls (HD). Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were stimulated in vitro with IFNγ and IFNα and the expression of T-bet was evaluated by flow cytometry. The clinical characteristics of patients were analyzed by Multiple Factor Analysis (MFA).

The analysis was carried out with the software R.

Results: We performed B cell staining and assessed the expression of T-bet in B cell subsets in patients with SLE and HD. We observed a significant expansion of naïve B cells and double negative (DN) B cells expressing T-bet in patients with SLE compared to HD (Figure 1A-B). An expansion of T-bet+ naïve B cells above the 99th percentile of HD (>1% of total naive B cells) was evident in 68% of patients; 47% of patients showed an expansion of T-bet+ DN B cells above the 99th percentile of HD (>22% of total DN B cells). We assessed if patients with expanded T-bet+ naïve or DN B cells showed significant clinical differences from patients without the expanded subpopulations. To this end we collected clinical and laboratory parameters (SLEDAI, organ involvement as classified in the BILAG, damage with SDI, serology). Patients with expanded T-bet+ naïve B cells, distributed differently from patients with no expansion of T-bet+ naïve B cells (Figure 1C). The first dimension was the most informative in separating the two groups of patients: significantly higher values were reported for patients with expanded T-bet+ naïve B cells. No differences were observed for patients with and without expanded T-bet+ DN B cells (Figure 1C).

We investigated in vitro if the expression of T-bet in B cells was driven by interferons. We stimulated PBMCs of HD with IFNγ or IFNα and assessed the frequency of T-bet+ B cells: both interferons induced the expression of T-bet in naïve (CD19+CD27-) and memory (CD19+CD27+) B cells (Figure 1D). Interestingly, when cells were stimulated with IFNγ in the presence of IFNα-blocking antibodies the expression of T-bet was not induced.

Conclusion: Altogether, T-bet+ naïve B cells are expanded in patients with SLE and define a group of patients with clinically different disease from patients without out expanded T-bet+ Naïve B cells. The expression of T-bet is induced specifically by IFNγ and not by IFNα.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**AB0013 LONGITUDINAL CHANGES IN VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS (VZV)-SPECIFIC T CELL IMMUNITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH DIFFERENT JAK INHIBITORS**

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs

S. Moustafà1, C. G. Gialouri1, K. Thomas2, C. Koutsianas1, C. Tsalapaki1, A. Panagiotopoulos1, E. Mavrea1, K. Antonatou1, E. Hadziyannis1, D. Vassilopoulos1. 1Joint Academic Rheumatology Program, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Medicine, General Hospital of Athens “Hippokration”; 2Department of Medicine and Laboratory, Clinical Immunology-Rheumatology Unit, Athens, Greece; 3National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Medicine, Atikion General Hospital, Chaidari, Greece., 4th Department of Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece

Background: Targeted synthetic agents such as the JAK inhibitors (JAKi) used for the treatment of various inflammatory diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis (RA), have been associated with increased risk for VZV reactivation and herpes zoster (HZ). Although this has been attributed to decreased T cell surveillance of latent VZV, detailed data on the effect of the different JAKi on VZV-specific T cell immunity are limited.

Objectives: To study longitudinally the kinetics of VZV-specific T cells in RA patients treated with different JAKi (baricitinib-BARI, tofacitinib-TOFA, upadacitinib-UPA) or methotrexate (MTX, control group).

Methods: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated from RA patients before and after 4 and 12 weeks of treatment with JAKi or MTX. PBMCs were stimulated in vitro for 18 hours either specifically with VZV antigen (VZV lysate) or non-specifically with a polyclonal stimulus (Staphylococcus aureus enterotoxin B, SEB) and anti-CD28/49d. The percentage of CD4+CD69+ effector T cells as well as of VZV specific CD4+CD69+ T cells expressing IFNγ were measured by flow cytometry.

Results: 22 patients with active RA were included; 16 were treated with JAKi (BARI n=7, TOFA n=4, UPA n=5) and 6 with MTX. For the JAKi group, 88% were females with median age and disease duration of 62 and 8 years, respectively, and mean baseline DAS28-ESR of 5.6, while in the MTX group, 100% were females with median age and disease duration of 57 and 0.5 years and mean DAS28-ESR of 5.5, respectively. Treatment with JAKi for 12 weeks did not change significantly the % of the overall population of CD4+CD69+ T cells stimulation in vitro with VZV or SEB (p=0.3). Similarly, there was no significant change in the % of SEB-stimulated CD4+CD69+IFNγ+ T cells between pre-treatment and after 12 weeks of JAK1 treatment (median, from 0.1% to 0.75%, p=0.370, Figure 1a). In contrast, there was a significant decrease in VZV-specific CD4+CD69+IFNγ+ T cells between these 2 time points (median, from 0.049% to 0.01%, p=0.001, Figure 1b). The decrease in VZV-specific T cells was similar between the 3 different JAKi (Figure 1c).

Conclusion: Treatment of RA patients for 12 weeks with JAKi significantly reduced VZV-specific T cells without affecting the overall effector T cell population. The effect on VZV specific T cell immunity was similar with the 3 different JAKis. Further preliminary findings provide novel information regarding the effect of JAKi on VZV-specific T cell immunity.
Immune Responses to Vaccination Against Herpes Zoster (HZ) in Patients with Rheumatic Diseases Under Treatment with JAK-Inhibitors: Our Preliminary Results

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Vaccination/Immunization, Real-world evidence

C. Sieiro Santoló,1,2, A. López Robles,1,3, Álvaro Castro1,3, S. Calleja Antolín,1,3, C. Moriano1, E. Diez Alvarez1, J. M. García Ruiz de Morales,1,3, Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; Universidad de León, Universidad de León, León, Spain; Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León, Immunology, León, Spain

Background: Shingrix is a recombinant inactive vaccine available for prevention of herpes zoster (HZ) infection, recently approved for patients with rheumatic diseases under treatment with JAK-inhibitors. Because of its novelty, scant information is available on Shingrix vaccine responses in patients with immune mediated rheumatic diseases (IMRD).

Objectives: To investigate the antibody responses to the HZ vaccine in selected rheumatic diseases treated with JAK-inhibitors (JAKI) pre- and post-Shingrix vaccination (weeks 4–6) and to identify factors associated with reduced immunogenicity.

Methods: Patients with selected rheumatic diseases under treatment with JAKI underwent two series of IM Shingrix vaccine (0.5mL each) administered 2 months apart. Bloodwork was performed 4-8 weeks following 2nd dose of vaccine to assess post- vaccination antibody response. Pre and post vaccination response was then compared using Anti Varicella Zoster Virus IgG Multiplex Flow Immunoassay (MFI). Blood lymphocyte distributions (CD3+, CD4+, CD8+) and NK cells, total serum IgG and IgM levels, and VZV-IgG and IgM, were investigated pre- and post-Shingrix vaccination (weeks 4–6).

Results: 38 patients were included, 79% were female with a median age at inclusion of 57±10.5 years. 21% of patients had rheumatoid arthritis, 8% had systemic lupus erythematosus, 16% had psoriatic arthritis, 16% had ankylosing spondylitis and 5% had dermatomyositis. VHZ IgG antibody levels and distributions of lymphocyte subpopulations in peripheral blood pre- and post-immunization are represented in Table 1. Positive humoral responses were observed in 86% of patients. Mean changes VHZ-IgG antibody between post- and pre-vaccination sera were 4.6±0.33 and 1.8±1.98 (p<0.0001), respectively. After immunization, the number of T cells (CD3+, CD4+, CD8+) and NK cells remained relatively unchanged however, the number of B cells (CD19+) increased significantly from 147±156 to 780±62→475.5 significantly (p<0.0001). There was a 2.5-fold increase in antibody titers after immunization in RA patients, a 2.4-fold increase in SLE patients, a 2.0-fold increase in AP patients, a 2.5-fold increase in AS patients and a 3.5-fold increase in DM, with no significant difference between the different patients' subgroups. Results from multivariate regression analysis adjusted by age, gender, disease duration, treatments and glucocorticoid and MTX cumulative dose, showed a negative correlation between VHZ-IgG and age >65 years (β=-34, p 0.03), disease duration (β=0.58, p 0.04) and glucocorticoid cumulative dose (β=-0.42, p 0.02).

Conclusion: Our preliminary results show preserved seroconversion rates and VHZ-IgG antibodies and concurrently increase the number of CD19+ B-cells and total serum IgG in patients with rheumatic diseases under treatment with JAKI.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: Supported in part by the Special Account for Research Grants (S.A.R.G.), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (DV #12085, 12086).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0014

Table 1. Varicella zoster virus IgG Ab levels and distributions of lymphocyte subpopulations in peripheral blood pre- and post-immunization

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Pre-vaccination</th>
<th>Post-vaccination</th>
<th>P value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total serum IgG (mg/dL)</td>
<td>958±300</td>
<td>1328.5±308</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total serum IgM (mg/dL)</td>
<td>126±48</td>
<td>118.5±156</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VZV IgG Ab (Ab index)</td>
<td>18.5±19</td>
<td>4.6±0.33</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VZV IgM Ab (Ab index)</td>
<td>0.32±2.1</td>
<td>1.3±3.4</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD3 (cells/mm3)</td>
<td>1065.5±716.5</td>
<td>1128±721</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4 (cells/mm3)</td>
<td>147±156</td>
<td>780±62→475.5</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4 (cells/mm3)</td>
<td>653±584</td>
<td>783±475.5</td>
<td>0.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD8 (cells/mm3)</td>
<td>386±2±260</td>
<td>392.7±2975</td>
<td>0.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>NK (cells/mm3)</td>
<td>281±105±189</td>
<td>284.5±145.5</td>
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REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.998
a model that shows high performance compared with state of the art works, and it can be used as a second reader or training partner for new professionals.

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Adaptive immunity, Cell biology

K. Shah1, O. Klein2, G. Cambridge3, D. Sen4, M. Castellino5, A. Akbar6, D. Isenberg5, M. J. Leandro7, V. Reddy7, Y. University College London, The Rayne Institute, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 6Cancer Immunotherapy Discovery, Oncology Discovery & Translational Area, Basel, Switzerland

**Background:** Following treatment of autoimmune disease with anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody, Rituximab, insufficient B cell depletion relates to poor clinical response, in particular an expansion of memory B cells [1].

**Methods:** Peripheral blood samples from 6 rituximab naïve (RTX-N) patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (active systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis), 6 patients previously treated with rituximab (RTX-T); and 6 healthy controls (HC) were obtained. B cell subpopulations were defined using the relative expression of IgD and CD27 using flow cytometry.

**Results:** Patients in the RTX-N group had significantly higher frequency of CD19+CD20-B cells (median=25.9% of total B cell, compared to 1.26% in HC), p =0.0022. CD19+CD20-B cells were predominantly swMBC and DN cells. All of these cells to contribute to disease activity in autoimmune disease, is it now time to seek alternative strategies targeting CD19 in order to overcome rituximab resistance?

**References:**

**Table 1. Data of Patients Receiving Non-Rituximab Biological Treatment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>N(%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis</td>
<td>Group 1: 10 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankylosing spondylitis</td>
<td>Group 1: 10 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>Group 1: 10 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behçet’s disease</td>
<td>Group 1: 10 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takayasu’s Arthritis</td>
<td>Group 1: 10 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Group 1: 10 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.**

Figure above demonstrates the cycle of B lineage cells which originate in the bone marrow and migrate into the peripheral circulation and into lymphoid tissues such as lymph nodes and the spleen. In germinal centres the naïve B cells mature into memory B cells which then differentiate into tissue resident switched memory B cells (CD27+ IgD+), or double negative memory B cells entering the peripheral circulation (CD27-, IgD-) or plasma blasts and plasma cells of which the long-lived ones reside in the bone marrow. Proportions of CD19+CD20+ v CD19+CD20- B cells are demonstrated pictorially within each subpopulation. The CD19+CD20- B cells cannot be targeted by anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies such as rituximab, and therefore alternative strategies to target CD19 may help to overcome rituximab resistance in autoimmunity.
IMPACT OF AN EX-NOVO INDUCED ADAPTIVE IMMUNE RESPONSE ON CXCL13 SERUM LEVELS IN ESTABLISHED AUTOANTIBODY-POSITIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Inflammatory arthritides, Cytokines and chemokines

F. Bozzali Cassone1-3, M. Mansoubi1, T. Luvaro2, I. Mazzucchelli1,2, B. Xoxi1,3, L. De Stefano2, S. Bugatti3, C. Montecucco1,2, A. Manzo1,2
1University of Pavia, Department of Internal Medicine and Therapeutics, Pavia, Italy; 2Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Division of Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy

Background: C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 13 (CXCL13) is a chemokine involved in the recruitment of B cells in secondary lymphoid organs and ectopic inflamed sites. Recent studies in animals models and in healthy individuals have shown that serum levels of CXCL13 correlate with GC activity after immunization, pointing at their role as an early biomarker of the adaptive immune response. In rheumatoid arthritis (RA) CXCL13 systemic expression has been shown to be upregulated. However, the factors involved in CXCL13 systemic upregulation and its significance as putative biomarker in patients with autoimmune diseases are currently unclear.

Objectives: To analyze the dynamics of CXCL13 systemic expression over time in RA after controlled induction of an adaptive immune response.

Methods: Fifty-five autoantibody-positive RA patients with established disease under stable treatment with b/tsDMARDs and with no evidence of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection were included in the study. All patients received two doses of the BNT162b2 vaccine at a three weeks interval. Serum samples were collected at the time of the first BNT162b2 dose (baseline - BL), after three weeks at the time of the second dose (post dose 1 – PD1) and after two further weeks (post dose 2 – PD2). At each time point CXCL13 (pg/mL) and SARS-CoV-2 anti-spike protein antibody titres were measured.

Results: The majority of patients were female (n=42, 76%) and both ACA and RF positive (n=42, 76%). All patients were receiving stable b/tsDMARD treatment (anti-CTLA4: 23 patients [41.8%], JAKi: 16 [29%], anti-IL-6: 8 [14.5%] and anti-TNF alpha: 8 [14.5%]). At baseline the median (IQR) CXCL13 values were 81.1 (58.6-125) and all patients were negative for SARS-CoV-2 anti-spike protein antibody. Effective immune confirmation was confirmed in all patients, in particular in 22/55 (40%) after the first dose and in 55/55 (100%) after the second dose, with a significant increase in SARS-CoV-2 anti-spike protein IgG antibody titer at PD2 (median [IQR], 142 [95,4-224]). Despite the effective induction of an adaptive immune response, no significant changes in the median (IQR) values of CXCL13 were observed at PD1 (three weeks after induction: 92.2 [61.8-141]) and PD2 (two weeks after booster: 74.2 [56-126]) with respect to each other and compared to baseline (Friedman p-value=0.947). Sub-analyses based on patients’ stratification according to the b/tsDMARD treatment, confirmed a non-significant variation in CXCL13 titers between baseline, PD1 and PD2 in all groups (Friedman p-value=0.911). Further sub-analyses limited to patients with baseline-PD1 value of CXCL13 >100 pg/mL (to exclude potential biases derived from high starting value of CXCL13 titers on the delta of response) confirmed the absence of significant changes (Friedman p-value=0.237).

Conclusion: At the time-point analysed, the induction of an adaptive immune response per se does not appear sufficient to impact on the expression dynamics of serum CXCL13 in established autoantibody-positive RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5544

Table 1. Hazard ratios and 95% confidence intervals for the top six autoantibodies for each outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autoantibodies</th>
<th>S1 Severe iRAE</th>
<th>Progression-Free Survival (PFS)</th>
<th>Overall Survival (OS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n = 60, events = 28)</td>
<td>(n = 60, events = 15)</td>
<td>(n = 60, events = 14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAKP9</td>
<td>1.25 (1.09-1.42)</td>
<td>76.4% 100 ACAN 1.72 (1.21-2.35)</td>
<td>66.3% 100 KHSAP 1.34 (1.13-1.65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTN1</td>
<td>1.26 (1.02-1.50)</td>
<td>60.0% 79 POLR2A 1.23 (1.04-1.57)</td>
<td>62.7% 95 EN2 1.31 (1.05-1.61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCLN</td>
<td>0.66 (0.45-0.95)</td>
<td>54.4% 78 ZGRF1 1.47 (1.03-1.81)</td>
<td>50.9% 77 SBNO2 1.33 (1.04-1.65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCNO2</td>
<td>1.31 (0.98-1.48)</td>
<td>49.5% 71 DYNCHI 1.39 (0.97-1.85)</td>
<td>45.2% 68 PAK4 1.46 (1.16-1.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRXN2</td>
<td>0.72 (0.44-0.95)</td>
<td>44.2% 58 TROBP 1.26 (1.05-1.43)</td>
<td>43.3% 62 DYNCHI 1.35 (0.95-1.78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPC1</td>
<td>1.28 (1.09-1.53)</td>
<td>43.2% 57 SDCCAG8 1.40 (1.08-1.74)</td>
<td>39.4% 59 ACAN 1.43 (0.71-2.11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VF = Validation Frequency (proportion of times each AAb was replicated by the LASSO model) **sVF = Scaled Validation Frequency (validation frequency scaled to highest value for each outcome)
Figure 1. Partial Least Squares–Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA) clustering of patients using the top six AAs associated with Severe iAEs with a cross-validated MLDSC of 0.86 ± 0.02 (p < 0.003). Predictor AAs are represented as vectors on the plot, and patients are represented as points; the length and direction of the AAs vectors indicate the relative importance of the corresponding AAs in the model, while the position of the point roughly indicates the predicted group or class to which they belong.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Carlos Aude: None declared, Nilasha Ghosh Grant/research support from: Hospital for Special Surgery, Deanna Jannat-Khahi Shareholder of: Walgreens Boots Alliance, AstraZeneca, and Cytoygen, Grant/research support from: Hospital for Special Surgery, Karmela Kim Chan: None declared, Michael Postow Consultant of: BMS, Merck, Novartis, Eisai, Pfizer, and Chugai, Grant/research support from: RGenix, Infinity, Infinity, Merck, and Novartis, H. Larman Consultant of: Scientific Advisory Board member for TScan Therapeutics, Employee of: Founder of ImmunEld, Portal Bioscience, and Alchemab, Anne Bass Grant/research support from: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and the Rheumatology Research Foundation.

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Cytotoxic chemical assessment in Treg cells of Psoriatic Arthritis by inhibition of IL23 (in real life) and its correlation with clinical remission

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

F. J. Navarro Blasco1, S. Pascual2. 1University General Hospital of Elche, Spain., Rheumatology, Elche, Spain; 2Universidad de Alicante, Biotecnology and Immunology, San Vicente del raspeig, Spain

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a heterogeneous chronic entity with multiple clinical domains that evades to irreversible damage both organic and psychological. Therapeutic recommendation guidelines advise differentiated therapies according to the dominant clinical domain (e.g., peripheral arthritis, dactylitis, enthesitis, spondylitis, cutaneous or nail psoriasis). Moderate-severe involvement requires the use of targeted biological or synthetic medication. Primary and secondary failures or intolerances often force the change of therapeutic target in order to achieve greater efficiency. The interrelation of cytokines (mainly IL23, IL17, and IL10) in their pathogenesis at the “in vitro” level seem proven, but does not occur after stimulation in culture, showing an increase in both populations of Tregs (IL10-IL17) of the controls that did not occur in AP patients in remission. This differs from RA patients in remission in which Tregs expressing IL10 is increased, as an expression of the different immunological mechanisms in both pathologies. Likewise, the Treg phenotype has been described with double marker RORyt/FOXP3 and IL17 production. The plasticity of the T-cell compartment allows the immune response to adapt to the local environment. This is further emphasized by the recent recognition that Tregs themselves can differentiate into IL-17-producing cells, particularly when exogenous IL-17, IL-23, or IL-21. In patients with psoriatic arthritis, IL-10 levels are increased. The inhibition of IL23 would be suppressing this production hence the double lack of response (IL10-IL17) of AP patients in remission.

REFERENCES:

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4412

Innate immunity in rheumatic diseases

Real life data on tapering and discontinuation of anakinra treatment in recurrent pericarditis: an international registry

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Tapering, Real-world evidence

1University of Firenze, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Firenze, Italy; 2University of Torino, Department of Medical Sciences, Citta Della Salute E Della Scienza Di Torino Hospital, Torino, Italy; 3Department of Medical Sciences, Surgery and Neurosciences, Research Center of Systemic Autoinflammatory Diseases and Behget’s Disease Clinic, University of Siena, Siena, Italy; 4Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy; 5Division of Immunology, Transplants and Infectious Diseases, Milano, Italy; 6Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale (ASUFIC), Udine, Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Department, Udine, Italy; 7IRCCS Istituto G. Gaslini, Genova, Center of Autoinflammatory Diseases and Immunodeficiencies, Department of Pediatrics and Rheumatology, Genova, Italy; 8University of Padua, Cardiology, Department of Cardiac, Thoracic, Vascular Sciences and Public Health, Padova, Italy; 9University of Pisa, Clinical Immunology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Pisa, Italy; 10Periodic Fevers Research Centre, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome, Roma, Italy; 11IRCCS Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Roma., Division of Rheumatology, Roma, Italy; 12IRCCS Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Roma, Division of Rheumatology, Roma, Italy; 13University of Bari Aldo

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, Nilasha Ghosh Grant/research support from: Hospital for Special Surgery, Karmela Kim Chan: None declared, Michael Postow Consultant of: BMS, Merck, Novartis, Eisai, Pfizer, and Chugai, Grant/research support from: RGenix, Infinity, Infinity, Merck, and Novartis, H. Larman Consultant of: Scientific Advisory Board member for TScan Therapeutics, Employee of: Founder of ImmunEld, Portal Bioscience, and Alchemab, Anne Bass Grant/research support from: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and the Rheumatology Research Foundation.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.772
Background: Recurrent pericarditis (RP) affects up to 30% of patients after a first episode of acute pericarditis. The effectiveness of anakinra, an IL-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1r), has been established in recent clinical trials and multicenter studies. Currently, the treatment with anakinra in RP is limited.

Methods: An international, multicenter, retrospective registry including 18 recruiting centers from five countries (Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Canada, United States) was designed to investigate the disease characteristics of patients with recurrent pericarditis undergoing complete discontinuation of the anti-IL1r treatment.

Objective: To explore key factors for successful anakinra tapering and discontinuation and to investigate potential predictors of disease relapse after complete biologic treatment suspension.

Results: A total of 149 patients who had fully discontinued anakinra (59.6% female, median age 51.7 years) were included in the present registry. Most patients had idiopathic aetiology (109; 73.2%) while a first episode of pericarditis after post-cardiac injury syndrome (PCIS) or related to systemic diseases was established in 30 and 10 cases (20.1% and 6.7%, respectively), with a median of 3 prior recurrences (interquartile range 2-4). Patients started anakinra treatment after a median time of 12 months (IQR 5-24) after a first episode of acute pericarditis, followed by a period at anakinra full-dosage with a median duration of 6 months (IQR 3–12). Among patients who experienced a recurrence (54 cases; 36.2%), 39 were female (72.2%, p = 0.019). Moreover, we observed a significant reduction in the recurrence of flares after an early introduction of anti-IL1r treatment from first pericarditis episode (mean median time 10 months; IQR 4-18 vs 14 months; IQR 14-29; p = 0.004).

Conclusion: The main preliminary findings of this global registry suggest that an early introduction of anakinra in patients with RP, corticosteroid-dependent and not responding to colchicine, significantly reduces the recurrence of flares after discontinuation.

References:

Acknowledgements: On behalf of the “international registry of anakinra discontinuation in patients with recurrent pericarditis”

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6490

AB0022 IL-23 POSITIVE NEUTROPHIL IS THE MAIN CELL SUBTYPE IDENTIFIED FROM SYNOVIAL FLUID OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS WITH THE POTENTIATION OF NEUTROPHIL EXTRACELLULAR TRAPS FORMATION

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis

Y P Tsao1, 2, S. T. Chen3, 1Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Institutes of Clinical Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a systemic autoimmune disease. Interleukin-23 (IL-23) and IL-17 are two main cytokines involving in the pathogenesis of psoriasis (PsO) and PsA. The origin and maintenance of IL-23 is the stakeholder of disease progression in PsA and should be carefully evaluated.

Objectives: To validate the role of neutrophils in maintaining the inflammation in PsA joint.

Methods: Synovial fluid from PsA was obtained from swelling knee joints, and the immune cells were classified by flowcytometry. The IL-23 positive cells were evaluated with marker of CD66b, CD16, and CD14. Neutrophils from healthy donor were collected and treated with interferon-α (IFN-α) and proteoglycan (PGN) for mimicking the neutrophils activation in PsO/PsA patients. Subsequent evaluation neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) formation was conducted.

Results: 10 PsA joints fluid was collected. Among active and chronic PsA synovial fluid, neutrophil is the most abundant cell type identified among IL-23 positive cells (ranging from 65-90%). The t-SNE plot for mapping the repertoire of IL-23 containing cells confirmed the majority cell subtype with CD66b positive neutrophils. After stimulating neutrophils from healthy donor with IFN-α and PGN revealed increasing IL-23/19 expression after 16 hours stimulation. The NETs formation is profound and IL-23/19 containing NETs material could be identified.

Conclusion: IL-23 containing CD66b+ neutrophil is the main cell type in synovial fluid of PsA, which might be activated by inflammatory factors and release IL-23 with NETs material to promote type 17 T cell differentiation in joints.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6419

AB0023 GLUCOCORTICOIDS AND TNF INHIBITOR EXERT NOVEL REGULATORY MECHANISM THROUGH LAG-3 MODULATION IN SYNOVIAL CELLS

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), bDMARD, Synovium

S. Gertel1, V. Furer1, A. Polachek1, O. Elkayam1, 1Department of Rheumatology, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel, Affiliated to the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel., Rheumatology, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel

Background: Intra-articular (IA) injections of glucocorticoids (GCs) are clinically effective for the treatment of synovial inflammation in patients with persistent arthritis. TNF inhibitors (TNFi) utilization for IA injections was also reported with a varying efficacy [1, 2]. The mechanism of action of GCs and TNFi on regulatory mediators in the synovium is not fully understood. LAG-3 is a regulatory molecule that promotes suppressive immune response. LAG-3 expression could be regulated through multiple mechanisms, including modulation by different drugs.

Objectives: To investigate whether the regulatory mechanism of GCs and other anti-rheumatic drugs is mediated through change in LAG-3 expression in synovial cells derived from psoriatic arthritis (PsA) patients ex-vivo.

Methods: Synovial fluid mononuclear cells (SFMCs) derived from nine PsA patients were cultured ex-vivo with GCs (betamethasone (BET) and methylprednisolone acetate (MPA)), Methotrexate (MTX), TNF, IL-17A, IL-12/23, and IL-1 receptor inhibitors namely: (Infliximab (FX), Secukinumab, (SEC), Ustekinumab, (UST), and Anakinra (ANK), respectively) or with medium alone. After 5 incubation days, %CD45+LAG-3+ cells were measured. We further assessed if the drugs effect on SFMCs cell numbers in culture was accompanied with LAG-3 modulation. LAG-3 distribution on CD45, CD3, and CD14 cells was analyzed by flow cytometry (FACS).

Results: SFMCs treated with GCs showed a significant increase in %CD45+LAG-3+ cells (BET 1µg/ml, 6.8±1.3; BET 10µg/ml, 7.1±1.4; MPA 1µg/
ml, 6.7±1.3; and MPA 10µg/ml, 9.4±2.0, *p < 0.002, respectively), while IFX showed only a small increase of these cells' population (2.0±0.3, *p = 0.08) compared to the medium (1.0±0.3). Other treatments, including SEC, UST, ANK and MTX had no effect on %CD45+LAG-3+ cells compared to the medium, (1.0±0.2, 0.8±0.2, 0.8±0.2 and 0.9±0.2, respectively) (Figure 1A). After 5 days in culture, GCs (MPA) and IFX reduced SFMCs cell counts but this change was statistically significant only for GCs (21±5.1X10⁵/well, *p < 0.01 and 41±5.1X10⁵/well, respectively), while MTX had no effect compared to the medium (49±4.8X10⁵/well and 51±5.1X10⁵/well, respectively) (Figure 1B). In this culture setting, GCs significantly increased the %LAG-3+CD14+ cells (12.8±2.1, *p < 0.001) compared to the medium (0.9±0.4) but not the %LAG-3+CD3+ cells (Figure 1C and D).

Conclusion: Our data shows that GCs immunosuppressive activity is mediated through LAG-3 up-regulation in SFMCs. Within the drugs tested, this activity was exclusively mediated by GCs and to a lesser extent by a TNF inhibitor. GCs reduced the SFMCs cell numbers and concomitantly up-regulated LAG-3 expressing cells, mainly in monocytes. This emphasizes that monocytes seem to be the main mediators of the GCs immunosuppressive effect.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0024

GENE EXPRESSION OF ABCG2, ALPK1, SLC22A12 AND IL-1β IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD LEUKOCYTES OF GOUT PATIENTS WERE CORRELATED WITH THEIR COMORBIDITIES AND HYPERURICEMIA

Keywords: Innate immunity, Gout, Crystal arthritis

A. López Macay1, K. Martínez Flores2, J. Fernández-Torres2, Y. Zamudio2, F. Sanchez Muñoz2, D. Clavijo-Cornejo3, 1Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación LGII, Líquido Sinovial, Mexico City, Mexico; 2Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación LGII, Líquido Sinovial, Mexico, Mexico; 3Instituto Nacional de Cardiología, Inmunología, Mexico city, Mexico; 4Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación LGII, Reumatología, Mexico, Mexico

Background: Genes ABCG2, SLC22A12 (URAT1), and ALPK1 have been strongly associated with dysfunction of urate metabolism in patients with gout [1], but it is unknown how these transporters are expressed in patients with acute or chronic gout. Studies in murine and in vitro models have suggested that the enzyme ALPK1 kinase and the urate transporters ABCG2 and URAT1 may be involved in urate dysregulation and inflammation due to the presence of monosodium urate crystals [2-3]. It is important to know if the patient with acute or chronic gout can differentially express these genes in different tissues. Likewise, it is necessary to know if the patient's comorbidities may be associated with the expression of these transporters or pro-inflammatory molecules such as ALPK1 or IL-1β.

Objectives: To analyze the expression of urate transporters ABCG2, SLC22A12 and inflammation molecules ALPK1 and IL-1β in peripheral blood leukocytes from gout patients and to compare them with their metabolic profile and with the gene expression of people without gout and without hyperuricemia.

Methods: A total of 36 chronic and acute patients and 52 controls were recruited, ABCG2, SLC22A12 and inflammation molecules ALPK1 and IL-1β gene expression was evaluated by quantitative real-time PCR. Correlations of gene expression with clinical and laboratory parameters of patients were also analyzed.

Results: IL-1β was significantly increased in Peripheral blood monocytes cells (PBMCs) of patients when compared with their polymorphnuclear leukocytes
Methods: DA1<4). Next to that, we investigated presence of circulating NETs in plasma of patients with iSLE will eventually develop SLE, but it is unclear which patients meeting sufficient criteria required for the classification of SLE. Up to 55% of SLE (iSLE) defines a group of patients with symptoms typical of SLE but not classified according to the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinicians (SLICC) criteria. Patients with iSLE had to meet at least one clinical and one immunological criterion but less than four SLICC criteria in total. LDGs were measured with flow cytometry. Single data points represent individual cases. Median and interquartile range are depicted per group. Stars represent p-values for pairwise comparison calculated with Mann Whitney tests. *p <0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001. HCs: healthy controls; iSLE: incomplete systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus.

Results: Statistics were performed for pairwise comparison. A two-tailed p-value of ≤ 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Circulating plasma NETs were measured by using a previously validated sandwich enzyme linked immunosorbent assay. Low density granulocytes (LDGs) measured with flow cytometry. Single data points represent individual cases. Median and interquartile range are depicted per group. Stars represent p-values for pairwise comparison calculated with Mann Whitney tests. *p <0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001. HCs: healthy controls; iSLE: incomplete systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2619

AB0025

LOW-DENSITY GRANULOCYTES AND NEUTROPHIL EXTRACELLULAR TRAPS IN INCOMPLETE SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Innate immunity, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

S. Henning1, T. Reimers1, B. Doornbos-van der Meer2, H. Bootema1, K. De Leeuw1, J. Westra1, 1University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease with a complex and only partly understood pathophysiology, while incomplete SLE (iSLE) defines a population of patients with symptoms typical of SLE but not meeting sufficient criteria required for the classification of SLE. Up to 55% of patients with iSLE will eventually develop SLE, but it is unclear which patients are at risk of progression. [1] Neutrophil dysfunction, among which aberrant neutrophil extracellular trap (NET) formation driven by low density granulocytes (LDGs), has been implicated in SLE pathogenesis. [2] However, the role of neutrophil dysfunction in early forms of SLE is still unclear.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate whether LDGs are elevated in the peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) fraction of iSLE patients, compared to healthy controls (HCs) and SLE patients with quiescent disease (SLE-DAl-4). Next to that, we investigated presence of circulating NETs in plasma of iSLE as well as SLE patients and HCs.

Methods: Circulating plasma NETs were measured cross sectionally in 38 iSLE patients, 30 SLE patients with quiescent disease and 12 HCs while LDGs were measured in 18 iSLE patients, 13 SLE patients and 14 HCs. SLE patients were classified according to the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) criteria. Patients with iSLE had to meet at least one clinical and one immunological criterion but less than four SLICC criteria in total. LDGs, has been implicated in SLE pathogenesis. [2] However, the role of neutrophil dysfunction in early forms of SLE is still unclear.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate whether LDGs are elevated in the peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) fraction of iSLE patients, compared to healthy controls (HCs) and SLE patients with quiescent disease (SLE-DAl-4). Next to that, we investigated presence of circulating NETs in plasma of iSLE as well as SLE patients and HCs.

Results: Proportions of LDGs and NET-levels were significantly increased in iSLE patients compared to HCs, as shown in Figure 1. The proportion of LDGs and circulating plasma NETs was similar between SLE and iSLE patients.

Conclusion: Our data shows significantly higher amounts of LDGs and circulating NETs in the iSLE and SLE cohort compared to healthy controls, suggesting that aberrant NET formation and clearance is present in early stages of the disease. In future studies, we aim to investigate the correlation between LDGs, circulating NETs and other immunological parameters, such as complement C3 and C4, and anti-dsDNA levels.

REFERENCES:
Results: Neutrophils from healthy donors exhibit enhanced NET formation when incubated with from SLE patients' plasma (P<0.001), compared to HC plasma. Their NETs are decorated with ox-mtDNA (P<0.01), SLE patients' mtDNA elicits increased NETs (P<0.001) decorated with ox-mtDNA (P<0.001), which are both not entirely abolished after DNase1 treatment. Formation of NETs and ox-mtDNA extrusion seems to be partially regulated through the type I IFN pathway; JAK inhibition with tocaitinib diminishes, however not entirely, NET formation and ox-mtDNA release (56% and 60% decrease, respectively). mtDNA amounts correlate with 8-OHdG (R²=0.87; P<0.0001) and type I IFN levels (R²=0.60; P<0.001) in SLE patients' plasma. aPL Ab-positive SLE patients were characterized by higher primary plasma levels of mtDNA (P=0.004), but not nDNA, compared to aPL Ab-negative SLE patients. Interestingly, aPL Ab-positive and aCL Ab-positive SLE patients' plasma demonstrated a higher proNETotic capacity.

Conclusion: Oxidative damage of mtDNA promotes the formation of NETs, is particularly interferogenic, and NETs relate to the antiphospholipid antibody positivity in SLE patients' circulation. Circulatory ox-mtDNA might promote endothelial damage and vasculitis in SLE. A significant link between aPL, namely aCL IgG, and circulating mtDNA in SLE patients was evident, potentially aggravating the inflammatory state linked to disease severity and promoting thrombotic events.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: UW is coinventor of patents owned by Freiburg University; NV is coinventor of patents owned by Freiburg University.
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Figure 1. (a) SLE patients' mtDNA elicits increased NETs from HC neutrophils as assessed with SytoxGreen. (b) 8-OHdG levels are elevated in SLE plasma and correlate with mtDNA copy numbers and IFNα1 concentrations. (c) aPL Ab-positive SLE patients' plasma contains higher levels of mtDNA compared to aPL Ab-negative patients, as assessed by qPCR.

Disclosure of Interests: UW is coinventor of patents owned by Freiburg University; NV is coinventor of patents owned by Freiburg University.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6194

AB0027 ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECTS OF TNF INHIBITOR AND METHOTREXATE ON IMMUNE CELLS FROM PERIPHERY AND SYNOVIAL FLUID: EX-VIVO STUDY

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), bDMARD

S. Gertel1, V. Furer1, A. Polache1, O. Elkayam1, From the Department of Rheumatology, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel; Affiliated to the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel, Rheumatology, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) and TNF inhibitors (TNFi) are pivotal treatments for inflammatory arthropathies. Even to date, the mode of action of these drugs on various inflammatory cell populations is not well characterized.

Objectives: To study the impact of MTX and TNFi on the proliferation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and the intermediate monocytes (CD14+CD16+) frequency in synovial fluid mononuclear cells (SFMCs). The study focused on monocytes expressing the CD16+ as these cells promote synovial inflammation producing pro-inflammatory cytokines, including: TNF, IL-1β, and IL-6.

Methods: In this pilot exploratory study, we analyzed ex-vivo healthy donors PBMCs (n=19) proliferation without or with phytohemagglutinin (PHA) and PHA in the presence of MTX and/or TNFi. Next, the effect of these drugs on %CD14+CD16+ cells derived from psoriatic arthritis (PsA) patients SFMCs (n=11) was determined. Both assays were analysed by flow cytometry.

Results: Healthy donors PBMCs proliferation was inhibited by MTX (0.01 µg/ml and 0.1 µg/ml; 41.9±2.3 and 86.3±1.8, respectively) and to a lower extent by TNFi (infliximab, IFX) (1 µg/ml and 10 µg/ml; 43.1±2.5 and 49.4±2.5, respectively), whereas the combination of IFX 10 µg/ml and MTX 0.1 µg/ml led to the highest inhibition (91.0±2.0) (Figure 1 A and B). In PsA patients derived SFMCs, IFX 10 µg/ml significantly reduced (p<0.01) the %CD14+CD16+ cells (5.5±1.3) as compared to medium control (10.9±2.4), whereas MTX 0.1 µg/ml had only modest effect on this cell population (10.2±1.4). The combination of IFX 10 µg/ml and MTX 0.1 µg/ml resulted in the greatest reduction of %CD14+CD16+ cells (5.1±1.1) (Figure 1 C and D).

SFMCs from PsA patients (n=11) were co-cultured for 7 days with the drugs or with medium alone. (C) Representative plots showing CFSE-labeled healthy subject PBMCs. In the upper panel: Proliferation was measured either without PHA (no proliferation) or with PHA alone (maximal proliferation). Proliferation extent is shown in the left side of each plot. Lower panel: PHA with different drugs. Each image indicates %proliferation inhibition exerted by each drug. (B) Graph shows mean %proliferation inhibition, *p<0.05, **p<0.01.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0028 LEUCOCYTE ABNORMALITIES IN SYNOVIAL FLUID OF DEGENERATIVE AND INFLAMMATORY ARTHROPATHIES

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Cytokines and chemokines

C. Baggio1, R. Luisetto2, C. Boscaro2, A. Scanzani, R. Ramonda1, M. Albiero2, P. Striolo3, F. Oliverio1, 1University of Padova, Rheumatism Unit - Department of Medicine, Padova, Italy; 2University of Padova, Department of Surgery, Oncology and Gastroenterology-DISCOG, Padova, Italy; 3University of Padova, Department of Medicine; Veneto Institute of Molecular Medicine, Padova, Italy; 4University of Padova, Department of Woman's and Child’s Health, Padova, Italy
Background: Genome damage has been related to the induction of autoimmune processes, chronic inflammation, and apoptosis. Recent studies suggest that some rheumatological disease are associated with overall genomic instability in the T cell (1-2). However, no data regarding leucocytes abnormalities in synovial fluid (SF) and their relationship with inflammation are available.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate cellular phenotypes in SF collected from patients with different inflammatory arthropathies, including rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), crystal-induced arthritis (CIA) and non-inflammatory arthropathies such as osteoarthritis (OA).

Methods: SFs were collected by arthroscopy from swollen knees of untreated adult patients with RA (n = 6), PsA (n = 12), CIA (n = 10), and OA (n = 7). Total white blood cell (WBC) count was performed using a Bürker counting chamber. Differential leucocyte count was performed by microscopic examination of 300 cells on May Grunwald Giemsa-stained preparations (MGG). Crystal search was performed using compensated polarized light microscopy. MGG staining was used for studying cellular morphology and to perform a cytoflourescent evaluation of leucocytes. All slides were examined for micronuclei (MN) and nuclear abnormalities (NA) included binucleated cells, and karyolitic, karyorrhectic, and pyknotic cells. The following cytokines, chemokines and growth factors were measured in SFs using commercially available ELISA kits: interleukin (IL)-1β, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, TNFα, and TNFβ. The expression levels of factors involved in apoptosis such as BCL-2, BAK, BID, BAD and BAX were measured by real-time quantitative PCR (qPCR). Caspase-3 activity was determined using commercially available colorimetric assay kit.

Results: We found high percentage of MN in SF from CIA and RA compared to the OA group (p<0.05) and a high frequency of pyknotic cell in RA (p<0.05) and CIA patients (p<0.01). The percentage of karyonkotic and karyorrhectic cells were higher in RA patients with respect to OA and PsA patients (p<0.05). A correlation between pyknosis and immature polymorphonuclear cells with local inflammatory indices was observed. A strong positive correlation between local inflammatory cellular indices including WBC and PMN and the cytokines IL-1β, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10 was found. The study of apoptosis process revealed an increased BAX expression in CIA (p<0.05) and RA (p<0.08) compared to OA and PsA, while Bcl-2 was higher in CIA (p<0.05). Caspase-3 activity was increased in SF from RA patients compared to OA and PsA (p<0.05) and correlates with inflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokines (IL-1β, IL-8, IL-10).

Conclusion: Our results showed that inflammatory SF are associated with genomic instability and abnormal cell subsets. A deeper knowledge of different abnormal cell subsets and their function could lead to a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying in the resolution of inflammation in these diseases.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6348

Osteoarthritis, aetiology, pathology and animal models

AB0030 
OSTEOMODULIN DOWN-REGULATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH OSTEARTHRITIS DEVELOPMENT

Keywords: Animal models, Osteoarthritis, Cartilage

J. Zappa1, Q. Tong2, R. Van der Cruyssen3,4, F. M. F. Cornelis5, C. Lambert6, T. Pinto Coelho6, J. Grisart7, E. Kague2, R. Lories5,8, M. Muller9, D. Elewaut4,10, C. Hammonds11, T. Nuriakhmetova2, A. Nuriakhmetov3, I. Akhtiamov4, M. Karimov1, Y. Henrotin1,7,11.

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is associated with metabolic and structural changes in all joint tissues. Subchondral bone sclerosis, cartilage degradation, and synovial inflammation are the main hallmarks of OA [1–3]. OMD is a keratin sulfate proteoglycan, a member of the small leucine-rich proteoglycan (SLRP) family. OMD was first identified in bone where it is involved in the mineralization process [4,5]. Our previous work demonstrated that in the secretome of osteoblasts, OMD was one of the most differentiating factors between osteoblasts originating from the sclerotic and non-sclerotic zone of OA subchondral bone [3]. OMD levels were lower in the supernatant of osteoblasts coming from the sclerotic area.

Objectives: The present study examined if OMD is involved in bone and cartilage damages occurring during OA development.

Methods: We used Omd knock-out (KO) or overexpressing male mice and mutant zebrabfish to study in vivo the impact of OMD on skeletal development and aging. We investigated the influence of OMD on the severity of cartilage and bone damage induced by destabilization of the medial meniscus in these mice. We also analyzed the animals' gait using the CatWalk XT system. The effect of OMD gene expression on the gene expression profile of OA cells in monolayer culture was analyzed by RNA sequencing method. Finally, OMD binding to RANKL was assessed using a solid phase binding assay.

Results: In wild-type mice, we identified OMD mainly in bone and calcified cartilage. Tibial growth plate significantly decreased in all genotypes with age but to a lesser extent in the KO mice than in other genotypes. In KO mice, the calcified cartilage layer was thinner in the medial tibial plateau and thicker in the tibial lateral plateau than in the wild-type, while total cartilage thickness was not different between genotypes. We also demonstrated that Omd deficiency led to thicker and less porous bone and subchondral bone sclerosis. Omd knock-out mice spontaneously developed more severe OA cartilage lesions in the medial

AB0029 
DISBALANCE OF SYNOVIAL FLUID CYTOKINES IN CHRONIC KNEE SYNOVITIS

Keywords: Synovium, Cytokines and chemokines

M. Karimov1, T. Nuriakhmetov2, A. Nuriakhmetov3, I. Akhtiamov4. Tashkent Medical Academy, Traumatology, Orthopedic and Military Surgery, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; 2Kazan State Medical University Hospital therapy, Kazan, Russian Federation; 3Republican Clinical Hospital, Orthopedics No. 2, Kazan, Russian Federation; 4Kazan State Medical University,Traumatology, Orthopedic and Military Surgery, Kazan, Russian Federation

Background: One of the most important issues of orthopedics remain long-stand- ing synovitis despite the treatment after traumas and arthroscopy even after removal of mechanical irritating factor (meniscal resection, chondroplasty). In the long term prolonged treatment of arthritis may lead to irreversible joint damage progression. Current generally accepted strategy is to start the treatment as early as possible which affects the following disease course. Due to this, the study of pathogenic features of posttraumatic synovitis is of interest as based on them, the choice of the most specific and effective treatment may be made.

Objectives: To study the features of cytokine levels changes in synovial fluid in knee synovitis.

Methods: The prospective study of patients with long-standing knee synovitis included knee arthroscopy and outcome registration, measurement of cytokines in aspirated prior to surgery synovial fluid using flow fluorometry.
tibial plateau than the wild-type during aging. In contrast, OMD production did not influence cartilage and bone changes induced by median meniscus destabilization. The gait pattern of mice was abnormal in KO compared to the wild-type genotype whereas a shorter swing phase and smaller paw contact intensity was observed in the wild-type – which developed more severe cartilage lesions than wild-type. In osteoblast culture, OMD down-regulated some genes involved in the extracellular matrix organization and up-regulated other genes responsible for the collagen network degradation. Finally, OMD bound to RANKL and inhibited osteoclastogenesis.

**Conclusion:** Alterations of the OMD expression modify bone and cartilage metabolism and structure. OMD helps to preserve bone and cartilage integrity and a local decrease in its production leads to the development of OA mainly by increasing subchondral bone sclerosis and thinning the calcified cartilage.

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1006

**AB0031 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN OMEGA-3/6 FATTY ACIDS AND OSTEOPOROSIS: A TWO-SAMPLE MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION STUDY**

**Keywords:** Osteoporosis, Validation, Biomarkers

S. Wei1,2, Y. Lu1,2,3, S. Song1,2,3, J. Qiao1,2,3, S. X. Zhang1,2,3, Y. Li1,2,3. 1The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microeology, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Osteoporosis (OA) is the most common degenerative disorder worldwide. Accumulating evidence has demonstrated the associations of omega-3 and omega-6 PUFAs with the disease activity and inflammatory mediators of OA, omega-3 polysaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) are recognized for their anti-inflammatory properties[1], while omega-6 FAs are inflammatory mediators that are increased in joints with OA[2]. However, the evidence of causal links of omega-3 and omega-6 PUFAs on the risk for OA remains inconclusive.

**Objectives:** This study was conducted to evaluate the causal relationships between omega-3/6 and OA by performing the two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis.

**Methods:** The data set of this study was from the publicly available genome-wide association study (GWAS). The genetic instrumental variables for omega-3/6 were derived from the UK Biobank (UKB) and included 114,999 participants. Summary statistic data for OA originated from a meta-analysis of GWAS with an overall 50,508 subjects of European ancestry. In the MR Approach, the IV analysis is based on three strict assumptions, namely that IV should be strongly correlated with exposure, independent of confounding factors associated with direction and outcome, and influence outcome solely through exposure. We screened SNPs with genome-wide significance (P < 5 x 10^-8). To ensuring that the SNPs were valid and independent, we removed the linkage disequilibrium (LD) between the SNPs at r^2 < 0.001, and <1,000kb in size. Furthermore, the secondary phenotype of each SNP was retrieved to ensure that it was not associated with OA. The F statistic > 10 indicated a relatively strong estimated effect of IVs. Subsequently, two-sample Mendelian randomization analyses were conducted with inverse variance weighted (IVW), MR-Egger regression and weighted median methods. Sensitivity analyses were then conducted to assess the robustness of our results.

**Results:** The inverse-variance weighted (IVW) method revealed that higher omega-6 levels were correlated inversely with the risk of OA ([β = -0.08, 95% CI [-0.16 to -0.00], P = 0.01], but no causal effect of omega-3 on the risk OA was observed ([β = -0.04, 95% CI [-0.10 to -0.02], P = 0.15]. The causal estimates from MR-Egger and weighted median methods revealed completely concuring effect directions ([β < 0, p < 0.05]. Cochran’s Q of IVW analysis showed that there was heterogeneity among SNPs (P < 0.05), it does not affect the results of IVW, which shown the reliability of our results. MR-Egger regression analysis demonstrated that SNPs could have no-horizontal pleiotropy between omega-6 fatty acids and risk of OA (P > 0.05). Moreover, Results of the leave-one-out method suggested that MR results were not influenced by individual SNPs.

**Conclusion:** This study revealed that the high level of omega-6 predicted by genes can reduce the risk of OA. This implies that supplementing omega-6 fatty acids in our diet may be a potential nutritional modality for the prevention of OA.

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4230

**AB0032 LOCAL EXPRESSION OF miRNAs IN OSTEOPOROSIS PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Osteoporosis, Biomarkers

R. Shumnalieva1, D. Kachakova2, R. Kaneva2, Z. Kolarov2, S. Monov1. 1Medical University-Sofia, Department of Rheumatology; Clinic of Rheumatology, Sofia, Bulgaria; 2Medical University – Sofia, Molecular Medicine Center, Department of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry, Sofia, Bulgaria

**Background:** Microribonucleic acids (miRNAs) comprise a class of small non-coding RNAs that negatively regulate the gene expression on posttranscriptional level. Altered expression of miRNAs has been described systemically as well as locally in the inflamed joints of patients with osteoarthritis (OA) [1-3].

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to evaluate the synovial fluid (SF) expression of miRNA-146a (miR-146a), miR-155, miR-193b in OA patients and to determine their role as potential diagnostic biomarkers for this disease.

**Methods:** 16 OA patients were included in the analysis. Expression levels of miR-146a, miR-155 and miR-193b in SF samples were determined by qPCR (SybrGreen technology) and compared to healthy controls (HCs). Relative changes of gene expression levels of the studied miRNAs were calculated by 2^-∆∆CT method. SPSS v20 was used for statistical analysis.

**Results:** OA SF showed statistically significant overexpression of miR-146a (in 75.00%), of miR-155 (in 66.75%) and of miR-193b (in 75.00%) when compared to HCs and these miRNAs could be used to differentiate OA from HCs (p=5.9x10^-5, p=0.043 and p=5.5x10^-5, respectively). Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis was constructed in order to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of the studied miRNAs in SF to distinguish OA from HCs by using relative expression (RQ) values. Area under the curve (AUC) for miR-146a was 0.830 (95% CI=0.674-0.885, with 75.00% sensitivity and 72.70% specificity, p=0.004), AUC for miR-155 was 0.767 (95% CI=0.582-0.952, with 75.00% sensitivity and 54.50% specificity, p=0.020) and AUC for miR-193b was 0.801 (95% CI =0.622-0.981, with 87.50% sensitivity and 63.60% specificity, p=0.009). There was a correlation between the SF expression levels of miR-146a and miR-193b and the radiographic stage of the disease (p=0.0071 and p=0.0105, respectively). SF levels of miR-146a and miR-155 correlated with the SF cell count (p=5.16x10^-3 and p=0.0188, respectively).

**Conclusion:** We found an altered SF expression of miR-146a, miR-155 and miR-193b in OA patients when compared to HCs and these miRNAs could serve as potential diagnostic biomarker for inflammatory OA. Larger sets are needed to confirm the diagnostic accuracy of the studied miRNAs in OA.
Orthopedic Surgery, Kobe, Japan. Joint destruction by RPOH. Tofacitinib may be an effective intervention before the occurrence of significant operative treatment modality is available for RPOH. Based on the present results, tofacitinib can suppress STAT3 activation in the synovial tissues in the hip joint with RPOH after incubation with the potential STAT3 inhibitors. This study aimed to investigate suppression of phosphorylated STAT3 in the synovial tissues from the hip joint with RPOH after incubation with the potential STAT3 inhibitors. Methods: Synovial tissues near the acetabular notch of the hip joint were obtained from four RPOH patients with femoral head destruction at the time of total hip replacement. Whereas the initial radiograph showed no typical feature of OA within 12 months after the onset is associated with increased serum levels of matrix metalloproteinase-3 (MMP-3), Interleukin-6 (IL-6) signaling activates STAT3, resulting in MMP-3 production in OA synovial fibroblasts in culture. The IL-6/gp130-associated Janus kinases/STAT3 axis plays a critical role in mediating inflammatory signal. No information is currently available on STAT3 activation in the synovial tissues in the early stage of RPOH. Recently, tofacitinib and meloxicam have been shown to inhibit STAT3 activation. Objectives: This study aimed to investigate suppression of phosphorylated STAT3 in the synovial tissues from the hip joint with RPOH after incubation with the potential STAT3 inhibitors. Results: The serum concentration of MMP-3 in each RPOH patient were obtained for 4 RPOH patients with femoral head destruction at the time of total hip replacement. Whereas the initial radiograph showed no typical feature of OA such as joint space narrowing, formation of osteophytes or bone cysts, each patient developed chondrolysis with bone destruction. Duration between the disease onset and operation were 5-7 months. The serum concentration of MMP-3 was determined within 2 weeks before operation. The tissue samples were incubated for 1 hour with or without tofacitinib or meloxicam. Immunohistochemical examination was performed using anti-human CD3 antibody, anti-human CD68 antibody and anti-human phospho-STAT3 antibody. The number of phospho-STAT3-positive cells was counted in the three different areas of the synovium at a magnification of X 400. A mean percentage was calculated as phospho-STAT3-positive cells in all cell counts out of the three high-power fields in each of the four patients. The strongest effects were found for shikonin with IC50 values of 1.2 ± 0.1 μM. Shikonin counteracts the inflammatory response by massively reducing the expression of the pro-inflammatory mediators. The phosphorylation level of ERK changed slightly. pJNK and pp38 showed a significant increase, and the downstream targets cEBPα and MEF2c may play a role in the cartilage homeostasis. STAT3 phosphorylation decreased significantly and has a chondroprotective function through the regulation of cyclin D1 and Sox9. NGS data showed a highly significant difference in gene expression under the influence of shikonin. Conclusion: Our results demonstrate for the first time that shikonin derivatives have extensive effects on the inflammatory processes, MAPKs, the IL6/STAT3 downstream regulation and the DNA repair gene expression pattern in healthy and OA chondrocytes. The serum concentration of MMP-3 in each RPOH patient were obtained for 4 RPOH patients with femoral head destruction at the time of total hip replacement. 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Shikonin counteracts the inflammatory response by massively reducing the expression of the pro-inflammatory mediators. The phosphorylation level of ERK changed slightly. pJNK and pp38 showed a significant increase, and the downstream targets cEBPα and MEF2c may play a role in the cartilage homeostasis. STAT3 phosphorylation decreased significantly and has a chondroprotective function through the regulation of cyclin D1 and Sox9. NGS data showed a highly significant difference in gene expression under the influence of shikonin. Conclusion: Our results demonstrate for the first time that shikonin derivatives have extensive effects on the inflammatory processes, MAPKs, the IL6/STAT3 downstream regulation and the DNA repair gene expression pattern in healthy and OA chondrocytes.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0034

NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING AND SHIKONIN EFFECTS ON HUMAN PRIMARY ARTICULAR OSTEOARTHRITIS CHONDROCYTES

Keywords: Osteoarthritis
B. Lohberger1, P. Sadoghi1, A. Leitner1, N. Kretschmer2, B. Steinecker-Pfenninger1, Medical University Graz, Department of Orthopedics and Trauma, Graz, Austria; 1University of Graz, Department of Pharmacognosy, Graz, Austria; 2Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Arthritis and Rehabilitation, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Arthritis and Rehabilitation, Saalfelden, Austria

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is one of the most common joint disorders, leading to functional disability, especially in people aged over 50 years, causing loss to the economy and affecting social development [1]. Drugs addressing the underlying biological causes of OA are not currently available [2]. Objectives: Naturally occurring naphthoquinone derivatives, such as shikonin and derivatives thereof, were shown to inhibit inflammatory processes and chondrocyte apoptosis by regulating the PI3K/AKT pathway in a rat model of OA [3]. The corresponding regulatory mechanisms in human OA chondrocytes and their influence by shikonin have not yet been investigated. To develop new therapeutic approaches, we investigated the effect of shikonin derivatives on inflammation, MMP expression, the regulation of MAPK signalling, and the gene expression patterns of DNA repair metabolism and the cell cycle in human healthy (HC) and OA chondrocytes (pCH-OA).

Methods: Viability was assessed using the CellTiter-Blue assay. Inflammation and the cell cycle in human healthy (HC) and OA chondrocytes (pCH-OA).

Results: Both HC and pCH-OA showed a dose-dependent decrease in viability after treatment. The strongest effects were found for shikonin with IC50 values of 12.3 ± 0.1 μM. Shikonin counteracts the inflammatory response by massively reducing the expression of the pro-inflammatory mediators. The phosphorylation level of ERK changed slightly. pJNK and pp38 showed a significant increase, and the downstream targets cEBPα and MEF2c may play a role in the cartilage homeostasis. STAT3 phosphorylation decreased significantly and has a chondroprotective function through the regulation of cyclin D1 and Sox9. NGS data showed a highly significant difference in gene expression under the influence of shikonin.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrate for the first time that shikonin derivatives have extensive effects on the inflammatory processes, MAPKs, the IL6/STAT3 downstream regulation and the DNA repair gene expression pattern in healthy and OA chondrocytes.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0035

CHEMOKINES (IL-8 & GRO-α) AND CXCR1/2 PATHWAY INDUCES SENESCENCE INDUCTION IN CHONDROCYTES

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Cartilage, Osteoarthritis
A. K. Aryan1; A. K. Srivastava2; M. K. Rai2; L. Gupta3,4,5; D. P. Misra2; V. Agarwal2.
1Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 2Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 3Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom; 4City Hospital, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals, Department of Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 5The University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Tumor Necrosis Factor-α (TNF-α) and Interleukin(IL-1) are well-known in the induction of senescence in chondrocytes and play an important role in the pathogenesis of Osteoarthritis (OA). However, targeting these pathways has not yielded promising results. The chemokines IL-8(CXCL8) and GRO-α(CXCL1), as well as the CXCR1/2 pathways, are known to mediate inflammation and apoptosis. However, the precise role of these chemokines in the
pathogenesis of OA is unknown. We hypothesize that the CXCR1/2 signaling pathway is involved in the induction of senescence in chondrocytes.

Objectives: To evaluate the role of chemokines and CXCR1/2 pathway in induction of senescence in chondrocytes derived from patients with OA and healthy chondrocyte cell.

Methods: Healthy primary chondrocytes (HPC) cell lines and human primary chondrocyte cells derived from patients diagnosed with OA and healthy chondrocytes cell.

Results: This study showed that the % of β-GAL in the HPC were almost negligible. However, showed significantly higher % in OPC(p<0.001). Moreover, when stimulated with IL-8, exhibited markedly increase in the positive blue cells in both HPCs and OPCs in a time dependent manner (p<0.001) at 24 hrs., 48 hrs., 72 hrs. and 96 hrs.). In line with results of HPC and OPC stimulated with IL-8, OPC also showed higher % of senescence when induced with Gro-α(p<0.001) at 24 hrs., 48 hrs., 72 hrs. & 96 hrs (Figure 1(A)(B)(C)). Since TNF-α and IL-1β reported to have role in induction of senescence in chondrocytes, we have examined the [γ]-H2AX in HPC and OPC treated with TNF-α and IL-1β and found significant higher % of blue stained in the OPC(Table 1). These results were further validated by fold change expression of senescence induced genes P16INKa and UPAR at time dependent manner. We observed higher fold change expression of P16INKa in IL-8 induced OPC at 24 hrs. (p=0.001); at 48 hrs. (p<0.001); at 72 hrs. (p=0.03) and at 96 hrs. (p<0.001) with that of IL-8 induced HPC. However, stimulation with Gro-α showed increase in the expression of P16INKa in a time dependent manner(at 24 hrs., 48hrs., 72hrs. and 96 hrs.) in both HPCs and OPCs. Similarly, the expression of UPAR in IL-8 induced OPCs at 24 hrs.(p=0.69); at 48 hrs.(p=0.05); at 72 hrs. (p<0.001) and at 96 hrs. (p=0.01) with that of Gro-α induced HPC. While the expression of UPAR in Gro-α induced OPCs and HPCs showed increase in a time dependent manner(at 24 hrs., 48 hrs., 72 hrs. and 96 hrs.). Flow-cytometric analysis revealed that induced cells were negative expression for apoptotic markers viz., Annexin V and PI.

Conclusion: Overall, this study highlights that IL-8 and Gro-α induce senescence in chondrocytes, a key event in the pathogenesis of OA. However, CXCR2 pathway may be explored further for therapeutic potential.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. The % of β-GAL positive chondrocytes, mean ± SD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (Hrs.)</th>
<th>24</th>
<th>48</th>
<th>72</th>
<th>96</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPCs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.995±2.131</td>
<td>3.562±1.027</td>
<td>2.402±1.110</td>
<td>2.317±2.779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-8</td>
<td>14.002±12.411</td>
<td>17.789±15.000</td>
<td>36.806±5.314</td>
<td>46.956±16.709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gro-α</td>
<td>10.112±4.420</td>
<td>19.328±5.840</td>
<td>34.545±8.113</td>
<td>47.852±13.321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1β</td>
<td>11.283±3.926</td>
<td>18.944±4.954</td>
<td>34.279±5.812</td>
<td>32.440±11.695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OPCs

| Gro-α       | 16.021±4.092 | 67.814±11.3041 | 72.146±5.034 | 83.112±4.936 |
| TNF-α       | 18.978±4.098 | 54.627±8.337 | 79.920±8.673 | 88.782±10.352 |
| IL-1β       | 14.141±5.018 | 56.982±9.378 | 77.834±6.342 | 89.343±7.092 |


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AB0036

HIGH THROUGHPUT siRNA EFFICACY SCREENING USING FLUORESCENCE SYSTEM

Keywords: Cartilage, Osteoarthritis, Genetics/Epigenetics

M. Deniz1, L. Hakim Pouri, A. S. Thorup, F. Dell’accio1, T. The William Harvey Research Institute, Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is characterized by loss of articular cartilage, bone remodelling and pain. It is a leading cause of disability in the elderly population. Currently, there are no disease modifying drugs to stop progression of OA. One bottleneck in clinical translation is that the cartilage extracellular matrix is avascular and impenetrable for large macromolecules. siRNA induces highly specific gene silencing and can be used for targets that are ‘undruggable’. A novel therapeutic target that has been identified for treatment of OA include using siRNA to silence receptor tyrosine kinase-like orphan receptor 2 (ROR2) which offers great potential in improving pain outcomes and structural integrity in OA mice (Thorup et al., 2020). However, efficacy of ‘naked’ siRNA is limited as it is instantly targeted for degradation by nucleases. To improve utility of siRNA as a therapeutic modality, chemical modifications can be introduced to the siRNA backbone, and it can be coupled with carrier molecules.

Objectives: To identify RNA backbone modifications to achieve long-term silencing in joint tissues following intra-articular injection.

Methods: Cos7 cells transfected with a lentivirus encoding GFP and one specific clone was selected and expanded for downstream experiments (Eldridge et al., 2016). Transfections were performed using JetPrime. Modified siRNA was generated by Integrated DNA Technologies.

Results: As a screening system, we optimized a microtitre plate system coupled with live fluorescent detection to measure GFP expression in cell monolayers. The fluorescence system uses a 96-well plate and allows for repeat measurements over time, without the need to harvest samples at each timepoint. Using this system, we compared 5 different modifications were compared. The best modification allowed to silence GFP in GFP-expressing cells for at least 10 days. The best modification was coupled with atelocollagen and administered via intra-articular injections into mice expressing GFP ubiquitously. After 3 weeks, GFP was efficiently silenced in the full thickness of the cartilage.

Conclusion: Chemical modifications of the RNA backbone and coupling with atelocollagen affords stable gene silencing in cartilage for at least 3 weeks. This technology enables fast, dose-dependent loss of function experiments in animal models of osteoarthritis. This methodology could be developed in the future to therapeutically target pathogenic molecules that are out of reach of traditional biologics such as transcription factors.

REFERENCE:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0037

GENETIC EVIDENCE REVEALS A CAUSAL ROLE OF WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Osteoarthritis

Q. Wang1,2, X. Ma1,2, Y. Niu1,2, Q. Yu3, P. F. He4, X. Li1,2,4, S. X. Zhang1,2,4. 1Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microecology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Proliferation, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China; 4The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is increasingly recognized as a disease with a significant inflammatory component (1). Signs of inflammation such as synovitis can be identified in OA patients using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasonographic imaging. The white blood cell count in synovial tissue has been considered useful in the assessment and diagnosis of arthritis. However, the causal relationship between the white blood cell count and OA has yet to be well.
Objectives: To investigate associations between white blood cell count and OA. Methods: Mendelian randomized analysis (MR) was performed using white blood cell count as exposure data and OA as outcome data. This study included 173 480 individuals of European ancestry for exposure traits from three extensive UK studies[2]. The random effects inverse variance weighting (IVW) method was used for the primary analysis, and the weighted median and MR-Egger methods were supplemented for analysis. Then, we performed Cochran’s Q test, MR pleiotropy residual sum and outlier (MR-PRESSO), to test for heterogeneity and horizontal multiplicity. The sensitivity analysis was also performed to verify the robustness of the primary results of the MR analysis.

Results: IVW method showed that knee or hip (OR=0.942, 95% CI:0.895-0.990, P =0.019), knee (OR=0.944, 95% CI:0.886-1.007, P =0.041) and hip (OR=0.929, 95% CI:0.868-0.995, P=0.0359) had a protective effect on white blood cell count. After removing the confounding factors, we identified a significant causal association between white blood cell count and OA by IVW using residual single nucleotide polymorphisms (157 remaining in knee, 159 remaining in hip, and 159 remaining in knee or hip). P values of IVW were less than 0.05, indicating a significant causal relationship. Further sensitivity analyses validated the robustness of the MR results.(Figure 1)

Conclusion: There was a significant causal relationship between white blood cell count and OA. This is meaningful for the prevention and treatment of OA in the future.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Measurements of knee alignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period (Ago)</th>
<th>2w (6 w d)</th>
<th>4w (9 w d)</th>
<th>8w (12 w d)</th>
<th>Two-way ANOVA (P values)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knee alignment index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TT-TG (mm)</td>
<td>Cont</td>
<td>-0.11 ± 0.61</td>
<td>-0.07 ± 0.21</td>
<td>-0.00 ± 0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>0.17 ± 0.30</td>
<td>0.11 ± 0.26</td>
<td>0.44 ± 0.23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patera tilt angle (°)</td>
<td>Cont</td>
<td>9.2 ± 2.3°</td>
<td>7.9 ± 2.4°</td>
<td>4.0 ± 2.4°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>9.7 ± 1.6°</td>
<td>10.5 ± 1.6°</td>
<td>10.2 ± 1.6°</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisection offset (%)</td>
<td>Cont</td>
<td>54.3 ± 3.8°</td>
<td>53.1 ± 3.5°</td>
<td>52.0 ± 2.4°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>56.2 ± 1.5°</td>
<td>56.0 ± 3.7°</td>
<td>54.7 ± 1.7°</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interestingly, around 20% of patients experience chronic postoperative pain and the reason for this is not fully understood. Pain in OA is multifactorial and low-grade chronic inflammation has been indicated as a potential cause. Pre-clinical evidence suggests that pro-inflammatory mediators, such as interleukin 6, can sensitize the peripheral and central nerves and these molecules might be associated to clinical pain. Clinical evidence has demonstrated differences in pro-inflammatory mediators when comparing patients with OA and healthy individuals. A recent study has linked these profiles to chronic postoperative pain after TKR but an in-depth analysis, as seen for neuropathic and widespread pain, is needed to advance the field. Currently, no specific biomarkers have been identified, despite initiatives on focused molecular inflammatory mediators. In an attempt to advance the field, a comprehensive analysis of an extensive network of cytokines, chemokines, and growth factors could identify the role of low-grade inflammation in patients with OA and potentially stratify patients more prone to experiencing pain.

**Objectives:** This study aimed 1) to evaluate preoperative serum levels of 92 inflammatory biomarkers in KOA patients compared to healthy controls, 2) to investigate preoperative differences of inflammatory biomarkers within different subgroups of patients with KOA and link these subgroups to clinical pain before and after TKR surgery.

**Methods:** Blood samples from preoperative patients with KOA scheduled for TKR (n=200) and healthy participants (n=39) were collected. After centrifugation of the serum was frozen at -80°C until analysis. Serum samples were analyzed for inflammatory markers using the OLINK inflammation panel, which included 92 protein markers. Clinical pain was assessed using a Visual Analog Scale (VAS). Moreover, patients completed the Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS) questionnaire before and 12 months after TKR. Multivariate data analysis was performed to identify differences between patients and controls. Hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) and Orthogonal Partial least squares discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) was used for comparing groups (patients vs controls) and to identify subgroups within patients. T-tests were used to evaluate difference within the KOA cohort in terms of VAS and KOOS scores before and 12 months after TKR.

**Results:** Multivariate analysis showed that 12 proteins were differentially expressed between patients and controls (P<0.05). Hierarchical cluster and OPLS-DA analysis identified two patient subgroups (pat-1, n = 46; pat-2, n= 72) and 23 proteins were dysregulated comparing these two groups (p<0.01). Post-operative VAS and KOOS assessments were significantly different between the two subgroups (p<0.05).

**Conclusion:** The present study suggest a low-grade inflammation in patients with KOA when compared to healthy pain free subjects. Additionally, this study suggests that a high inflammatory subgroup for patients with KOA exist and this group is likely to have more clinical and worst function 12-months after TKR.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4017

**DIFFERENTIALLY EXPRESSED GENES IN PATIENTS WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, -omics, Osteoarthritis

R. Martinez1, C. Elizondo Solís1, A. Montoya Rosales2, M. Salinas Carmona1, N. Macías-Segura1, 1Servicio y Departamento de Inmunología, Service and Department of Immunology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2UANL - CIDICS, Immunomodulators Laboratory, Monterrey, Mexico

**Background:** Osteoarthritis (OA) is a chronic degenerative disease that affects the joints, causing symptoms of arthralgias, swelling, loss of flexibility, etc. It is the most common rheumatic disease with an estimate of 27 million patients in the US [2]. Its pathophysiology is not yet well understood, as it is thought to be a result of multiple factors that induce metalloproteases, synovial angiogenesis and inflammatory cytokines that leads to inflammation and cartilage destruction [3]. To better understand the molecular mechanisms underlying this disease, we performed a meta-analysis with integrative bioinformatics.

**Objectives:** We aimed to obtain and assess overlapped differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in datasets of patients with OA through functional enrichment and protein-protein interactions (PPI).

**Methods:** We designed a search strategy in the Gene Expression Omnibus platform to identify datasets of gene expression profiling by array of patients with osteoarthritis. The inclusion criteria were: 1) Presence of healthy controls in the datasets, and 2) Analysis of data with GEO2R. The exclusion criteria were: 1) Incomplete information in the datasets, 2) Failure to identify case and controls, and 3) Gene expression by RNAseq; DEGs were selected when p < 0.05 and Logfold change > 2. We assessed the genes with DAVID database, and PPI through String and Cytoscape; and performed a prediction analysis of possible therapeutic targets.

**Results:** 6 datasets fulfilled the inclusion criteria, and 128 overlapped DEGs were identified. DAVID database yielded the top 3 Biological Processes involving those genes (Table 1). Cytoscape detected 3 clusters in which those genes interact, and irRegulon proposed CHD1 gene as a possible therapeutic target to regulate the entire cluster (Figure 1).

**Table 1. Top 3 biological processes involving overlapped DEGs among the datasets.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biological Processes</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Gene Count</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive Regulation of B-cell activation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.7E-7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complement activation, classical pathway</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.0E-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phagocytosis, recognition</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.3E-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** We aimed to identify and assess DEGs involved Osteoarthritis pathophysiology, as well as predict a possible therapeutic target. Our results suggest that immune processes involving B-cell activation and phagocytosis, as well as complement activation underlie OA pathophysiology. Validation of these results in patients with OA is needed since they can serve as possible diagnostic biomarkers. Further research is necessary to analyze the other clusters, and CHD1 characterization as a possible therapeutic target.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3357

**AB0040**

**AB0041**

**IDENTIFICATION AND PROPERTIES OF EXOSOMES (EX) OF SYNOVIAL FLUID (SF) WITH GONARTROSIS (GA)**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Synovium

E. de La Poza Plaza1, V. Shishkin2, V. V. Shishkin2, G. V. Kudryavtseva2, S. Barykin1, 1Servicio y Departamento de Inmunología, Service and Department of Immunology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2University Politécnica de Valencia, Faculty of Business Administration and Management, Valencia, Spain; 3Saint-Petersburg State University, Diagnost of Functional Systems, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation;

1Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, Graduate School of Service and Trade, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation
Background: EX - poorly studied extracellular vesicles, 30-150 nm in diameter, found in various biological fluids and have high functional activity, including immunomodulatory effects.

Objectives: The participation of EX in the development of complex connective tissue immunopathology requires further study. The aim of the work was to study EX of SF in GA.

Methods: SF of knee joints of 12 patients with GA with active synovitis and 7 conditional donors postmortem (D) were researched. EX was isolated by ultrafiltration and double ultracentrifugation (105 g). EX was identified by transmission electron microscopy and flow cytometry. Electromotive force (EM) determined by the automated microscop e. Registration of the active forms of oxygen (O2F2) was carried out by EPR. The activity of Cu-Zn superoxide dismutase (Cu-Zn SOD) and SOD, as well as DNA and RNA levels, was estimated by employing classical biochemistry methods.

Results: The EX population undergoes significant morphological changes in GA: EX become smaller, their diameter decreases by an average of 2.5 times, and the value of the negative surface charge changes to 45.5%. EM EX at GA differs by the autoimmunomodulatory effects.

Table 1. Some Characteristics of Synovial Fluid EX Populations in Normal (D) and in GA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EX</th>
<th>Diameter range, nm</th>
<th>Charge range, mV</th>
<th>DNA, μg/ml</th>
<th>RNA, μg/ml</th>
<th>Cu-Zn SOD, units/mg of protein</th>
<th>AFO2, units/mg of protein</th>
<th>EM, mV/sec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>80 - 120 (100)</td>
<td>-15.3, -13.4</td>
<td>0.014 ± 0.003</td>
<td>0.085 ± 0.017</td>
<td>17.8 ± 23.6 (20.7)</td>
<td>21.7 ± 3.7</td>
<td>0.84 ± 10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>30 – 50 (40)**</td>
<td>-10.2, -7.1</td>
<td>1.43 ± 0.32**</td>
<td>1.31 ± 0.28***</td>
<td>9.4 - 14.7 (12.1)*</td>
<td>48.4 ± 3.5</td>
<td>1.97 ± 10.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* - p <0.05, ** - p <0.01, *** - p <0.001

Conclusion: The molecular mechanisms of GA progression are associated with the ability of EX to influence intercellular communication, epigenetically reprogram various target cells, activate protein biosynthesis, and be carriers of a number of mediators. Violation of exosomal immune intercellular communications, apparently, underlies the development of a variety of pathologies, including systemic connective tissue diseases.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1412

Bone diseases, aetiology, pathology and animal models.

AB0043

SEROUS ADMINISTRATION OF RECOMBINANT HUMAN BONE MORPHOGENETIC PROTEIN-2 AND OSTEOPROTEGERIN-FC ENHANCES THE DIFFERENTIATION OF OSTEOSTBALS

Keywords: Bone diseases, Osteoporosis

C. N. Son1, H. J. Choi1,2, J. M. Kim1, S. H. Kim1. Keimyung University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Gyeongbuk Provincial College, Emergency Medical Technology, Gyeongbuk, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Osteoprotegerin (OPG) is an intrinsic antagonist of the RANKL. A recent study reported that RANKL reverse signaling in osteoblasts may prepare osteoblasts for further maturation and that vesicular RANK stimulates osteoblast differentiation. Hence, OPG is expected to accelerate osteoblastogenesis by affecting RANKL reverse signaling.

Objectives: We compared the level of differentiation from preosteoblasts to osteoblasts by serially administrating recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein-2 (rhBMP-2), involved in bone formation and regeneration, and osteoprotegerin-immunoglobulin Fc segment (OPG-Fc), an osteoclast inhibitor.

Methods: The MC3T3-E1 preosteoblast cell line was differentiated for one, three, and seven days with a treatment of OPG-Fc in 10–200 ng/mL concentration and the cell viability was evaluated by Cell Counting Kit-8 analysis. The level of differentiation from MC3T3-E1 cells to osteoblasts was determined by alkaline phosphatase activity. The level of runt domain-containing transcription factor 2 (Runx2) and osteopontin (OPN) manifestation, involved in osteoblast differentiation, was examined by real-time polymerase chain reaction and western blotting.

Results: During MC3T3-E1 cell differentiation, the differentiation level was high with one-day treatment using 100 ng/mL OPG-Fc. The treatment with 50 ng/mL rhBMP-2 for seven days, followed by one-day treatment with 100 ng/mL OPG-Fc produced the highest differentiation level, which was approximately 5.3 times that of the control group (P < 0.05). The expression of Runx2 mRNA significantly increased, reaching 2.5 times the level of the control group under the condition of seven-day treatment with rhBMP-2 and one-day treatment with OPG-Fc (P < 0.001). The expression of Runx2 protein significantly increased to approximately 5.7 times that of the control group under the condition of seven-day treatment with rhBMP-2, followed by one-day treatment with OPG-Fc (P < 0.01). The expression of OPN protein showed no change from that of the control group under various conditions of rhBMP-2 and OPG-Fc combinations.

Conclusion: Differentiation ability of preosteoblasts to osteoblasts was strong with serial treatment and rhBMP-2, followed by OPG-Fc. Runx2 and OPG mRNA levels and Runx2 protein levels increased. These results imply that the combination of OPG-Fc and rhBMP-2 increased osteoblast differentiation efficacy.

REFERENCES:
Rheumatoid arthritis - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

AB0044
INTERLEUKIN-18 BINDING PROTEIN REGULATES THE APOPTOSIS AND NECROTICITY OF FIBROBLAST-LIKE SYNOVIOCYTIES AND CHONDROCYTES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis, Cartilage

S. H. Lee¹, H. K. Min², H. R. Kim¹. ¹Konkuk University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); ²Konkuk University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Interleukin (IL)-18 plays a pro-inflammatory role in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and its decoy receptor IL-18 binding protein (IL-18BP) has a potential therapeutic role.

Objectives: We investigated the role of IL-18BP on the joint destruction process of RA by accessing the effects of IL-18BP on fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLSs) and chondrocytes.

Methods: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from patients with RA and healthy controls were cultured under T cell proliferative conditions with 10, 50, or 100 ng/ml of IL-18BP. After three days of culture, flow cytometry for CD4+ T cells was performed using various IL-18BP concentrations. The apoptosis and necrosis of FLSs and chondrocytes were measured by flow cytometry using annexin V and propidium iodide (PI) and western blot using TNF-α stimulation with IL-18BP (10, 50, and 100ng/ml).

Results: Differentiation of CD4+ IL-17A and CD4+ IL-4+ cells decreased and that of CD4+ CD25hi Foxp3+ and CD4+ interleukin (IFN)-γ+ cells increased on addition of IL-18BP to cultured RA patient-driven PBMCs. RA-FLS migration ability was not suppressed by IL-18BP after 12 or 24h. IL-18BP increased annexin V+ FLS level and reduced annexin V+ chondrocyte level in a dose-dependent manner, whereas PI+ annexin V- FLS and chondrocyte levels were suppressed by 50, 100 ng/ml IL-18BP in culture.

Conclusion: The administration of IL-18BP regulated the type 17 helper T cell/ regulatory T cell imbalance and attenuated the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines. IL-18BP further increased FLS apoptosis and decreased the necrosis of FLS/chondrocytes and apoptosis of chondrocytes suggesting the joint preserving potential of IL-18BP.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0045
CXCL14 IN EARLY AND ESTABLISHED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Lomholt¹, L. Hunskjær¹, S. R. Greisen¹,², W. Kragstrup¹,²,³. ¹Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus, Denmark; ²Aarhus Universitetshospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; ³Silkeborg Regional Hospital, Diagnostic Center, Silkeborg, Denmark

Background: Single cell sequencings studies have identified a CXCL14+ fibroblast cluster in synovial tissue. This CXCL14+ cluster express CD34 and correlate to lower DAS28 and swollen joint count, while being similar between genders, age or sex status [1]. The biological role of CXCL14 in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is unknown, but CXCL14+ synovial fibroblasts have been shown to express abundant GAS6, which regulate remission functions in MerchX-CD206+ synovial tissue macrophages [2]. This may suggest an anti-inflammatory or pro-remission role of the CXCL14+ synovial fibroblast cluster in specific RA pathotypes [1].

Objectives: Our study aimed to investigate soluble CXCL14 in plasma and synovial potential and its connection to long term joint deterioration and disease activity in RA.

Methods: We used optimized commercial CXCL14 ELISA kits to investigate CXCL14 levels in 3 cohorts. 1) Plasma samples from patients with early RA (eRA) from the methotrexate arm of the CIMESTRA trial (N=80) [3]. 2) Plasma and synovial fluid from patients with established RA included at time of therapeutic arthrocentesis (the INART cohort) (N=41). 3) Plasma from matched healthy controls (HC) (N=44).

Results: Plasma CXCL14 was significantly higher compared to synovial fluid, median 2.3 ng/ml. CXCL14 levels in the two compartments correlate. Plasma and synovial fluid CXCL14 were not influenced by gender, ACPE, smoking status, disease duration or time since sampling. Age and rheumatoid factor status may affect plasma CXCL14 levels, but this was not consistent in both RA cohorts. Analysis showed a significant higher amount of plasma CXCL14 in patients with RA from the INART cohort, median 6.9 ng/ml, compared to eRA, median 4.8 ng/ml and HC, median 4.3 ng/ml. Plasma CXCL14 did not change significantly in patients with eRA after 1 year of treatment. Baseline plasma CXCL14 in patients with eRA significantly correlated to baseline tender joint count, but not DAS28, swollen joint count or total sharp score.

Baseline plasma CXCL14 correlated to DAS28 after 5 years of treatment. Evaluating DAS28 after 11 years of treatment we observed a difference between patients in remission (DAS<2.6) and patients with active disease (DAS28 ≥ 2.6). For patients in remission, baseline CXCL14 correlated inversely with DAS28, whereas this correlation was positive in patients with active disease (Figure1). No associations were present between CXCL14 and change in total sharp score over a 11-year period.

Conclusion: Soluble CXCL14 can be measured in both plasma and synovial fluid from patients with RA. Plasma CXCL14 levels are higher compared to synovial fluid but a significant correlation is present between to two compartments. This suggests plasma CXCL14 as a potential proxy for CXCL14 activity in the joint and joint fluid. CXCL14 was not affected by gender, disease duration, smoking or 1 year of CMDARD treatment. Baseline CXCL14 correlated to higher DAS28 in the CIMESTRA cohort after 5 years and in patients with active disease after 11 years. Interestingly, we noticed that baseline CXCL14 may associate to lower DAS28 in patients in remission after 11 years. Together, this may support previous studies associating CXCL14 to an active anti-inflammatory (positive CXCL14/DAS28 correlation in active disease group) and pro-remission (negative CXCL14/DAS28 in remission group) role in RA.

REFERENCES:

Baseline CXCL14 vs. DAS28 after 11 years

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: Søren Lomholt: None declared, Louisa Hunskjaer: None declared, Stinne Ravn Greisen: None declared, Tue Wenzel Kragstrup Shareholder of: Co-founder and clinical developer in Aptom Pharma., Speakers bureau: Speaking fees from Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Novartis, UCSB, and Abbvie., Consultant of: Consultancy fees from Bristol-Myers Squibb, UCSB, Gilead, and Eli-Lilly, Grant/research support from: Research grants from Gilead.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1354
Keywords: Diet and nutrition, Animal models, Inflammatory arthritides

A. Yoshida1, K. Murakami1, H. Tsukamoto2, Y. Nakayama1, R. Saito1, M. Shirakashi1, H. Tsuji1, R. Hiwa1, K. Koga1, R. Nakashima1, H. Yoshifuji1, H. Onizawa3, A. Onishi3, M. Tanaka3, A. Morinobu1, A. Yoshida1, K. Murakami2, H. Tsukamoto2, Y. Nakayama1, R. Saito1, D. Diet and nutrition, Animal models, Inflammatory Arthritis

Background: Epoxy fatty acids (EPA), cytochrome P450 (CYP)-mediated metabolites of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), have anti-inflammatory effects[1]. However, EPA is quickly converted to an inactive form by the soluble epoxide hydrolase (sEH). In recent years, the efficacy of sEH inhibitors (sEHI) has been reported in a variety of diseases[2–4]. However, compared to ω-3 epoxides, such as epoxyeicosatrienoic acids (EET) derived from arachidonic acid (AA), there are few reports on ω-3 epoxides, epoxygenated epoxygenized acid (EEO) from eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and epoxygenated arachidonic acid (EDP) from docosahexaenoic acid (DHA5), and their effects on arthritis are not well understood.

Objectives: To investigate and compare the effects of ω-6 and ω-3 epoxides on inflammatory arthritis.

Methods: Collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) was treated with three different diets (ω-6 PUFA rich, ω-3 PUFA rich, and Control) and two types of drinking solutions, one containing sEH and the other containing only polyethylene glycol as a solvent control (total 6 groups, 8 mice each). Pathological and clinical scores were evaluated, and feces were collected before the onset of arthritis (day 25) for intergroup comparative analysis of bacterial flora.

Results: In all the dietary groups, there was a tendency for arthritis scores to decrease with sEHI administration, but the incidence of arthritis, arthritis scores, and pathological scores decreased dramatically in the group fed with the ω-3 rich diet and sEHI combination. The groups fed the ω-6 rich diet and sEHI combination showed some arthritis. However, the ω-3 rich diet and sEHI combination group showed an increase in a certain specific bacterial strain.

Conclusion: ω-3 epoxides were found to be more effective in reducing arthritis, and changes in intestinal bacteria may have influenced this pathological change.

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[4] Rebecca, L et al. Protection from hypoxia in mice by the Mediterranean diet is mediated by nitric fatty acid inhibition of soluble epoxide hydrolase. PNAS, 2014, 22, 11, 8167-8172

g. Characters from table content including title and footnotes.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1614
AB0048

**IL-37 ALLEVIATES TNF-α-INDUCED PYROPTOSIS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS FIBROBLAST-LIKE SYNOVIOCYTES BY INHIBITING THE NF-κB/GSDMD SIGNALING PATHWAY**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines, Animal models

C. Ren1,2, Q. Shu2, J. Chen3, Q. Che4, L. Shujie4, Q. Che3, L. Shujie4, Q. Che3, L. Shujie4, Q. Che3, L. Shujie4, Q. Che3, L. Shujie4

**Background:** Pyroptosis is crucial to rheumatoid arthritis (RA) by inducing and aggravating inflammation. TNF-α is abundant in fibroblast-like synoviocytes of RA (RA-FLSs) and plays a key role in pyroptosis by inducing nuclear factor (NF)-κB activation. Additionally, interleukin (IL)-37 is involved in autoimmune diseases and induces pyroptosis induced by TNF-α and in RA patients with healthy controls.

**Objectives:** To investigate the effects and mechanism of IL-37 on RA-FLS pyroptosis induced by TNF-α and the effect in collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) model.

**Methods:** A quantitative reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) and Western blotting were used to examine cell pyroptosis. We selected the optimal concentration for the following experiments and detected the signal pathway of IL-37 on pyroptosis of RA-FLSs by quantitative reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) and Western blotting. Finally, we validated the therapeutic effects of IL-37 on CIA rat model in vivo.

**Results:** IL-37 inhibited inflammation in vitro and in vivo and reduced pyroptosis-related protein expression in RA-FLSs. Furthermore, we determined that nuclear factor κB (NF-κB) signaling is required for GSDMD-mediated pyroptosis in RA-FLSs.

**Conclusion:** IL-37 alleviates TNF-α-induced pyroptosis of RA-FLSs by inhibiting NF-κB/GSDMD signaling. Additionally, our data revealed a novel mechanism for IL-37 in RA-FLSs, suggesting a new potential therapy for IL-37 to treat RA.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1957

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**AB0049**

**A RAPID HEMAGGLUTINATION ASSAY FOR ACPA DETECTION IN PATIENT BLOOD**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Autoantibodies, Diagnostic tests

I. Kruis1, A. Van der Heijden2, M. Salden1, Q. Hu1, 1Radboud University - Institute for Molecules and Materials, Biomolecular Chemistry, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2Novio Catalpa BV, R&D, Nijmegen, Netherlands

**Background:** Anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA) are the most specific serological marker of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and are produced by about 75% of RA patients. The presence of ACPA early in the disease, even before onset of clinical symptoms, facilitates early diagnosis and ACPA is among the most prominent classification criteria for RA.[1] Importantly, early diagnosis and immediate start of treatment is strongly correlated with improved outcomes. Several ACPA-detection assays are available for clinical use, which nearly all are based on the same principle: ELISA or related assays with cyclic citrullinated peptides or citrullinated proteins.[2] While these methods can be automated in modern diagnostic laboratories, they are ill-suited for low-volume laboratories or resource-poor environments.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to develop a rapid and easy to perform assay for ACPA detection. The assay is based on ACPA-dependent agglutination of erythrocytes and can be executed with whole blood.

**Methods:** An agglutination mediator was developed by protein engineering. Addition of this mediator to (diluted) blood samples results in hemagglutination when ACPA are present. After optimization of the assay with RA serum-spiked blood samples, the applicability was assessed by the analysis of fresh blood samples from 100 RA patients and from 100 psoriatic arthritis (PsA) patients as a control group. Anti-CCP2 and RF levels in these patient samples were determined by standardized ELISAs.

**RESULTS:** IL-37 inhibited inflammation in vitro and in vivo and reduced pyroptosis-related protein expression in RA-FLSs. Furthermore, we determined that nuclear factor κB (NF-κB) signaling is required for GSDMD-mediated pyroptosis in RA-FLSs.

**Conclusion:** IL-37 alleviates TNF-α-induced pyroptosis of RA-FLSs by inhibiting NF-κB/GSDMD signaling. Additionally, our data revealed a novel mechanism for IL-37 in RA-FLSs, suggesting a new potential therapy for IL-37 to treat RA.
Results: The agglutination mediator that was generated is based on a single-chain antibody fragment that binds to glycoprotein A[3] one of the major surface proteins of erythrocytes. It is conjugated to a citrullinated peptide that is efficiently recognized by ACPA. In the presence of erythrocytes and ACPA the mediator induces agglutination of the erythrocytes, which can be detected by the naked eye. The addition of the mediator resulted in detectable agglutination in 64% percent of the RA patients samples. Agglutination correlated well with the results obtained with a commercial anti-CCP2 ELISA for ACPA detection. Efficient agglutination was observed with only 7% of the IgG samples. No correlation with rheumatoid factor levels was observed.

Conclusion: An ACPA-dependent hemagglutination mediator was generated. This agglutination mediator allows the rapid and efficient detection of ACPA by hemagglutination in human blood samples.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Ilmar Kruis: None declared, Annemarie Van der Heijden: None declared, Martin Salden Employee of: CEO/ R&D director Novio Catalpa BV, Ger Pruijn Grant/research support from: Research grant from Novio Catalpa B.V.

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AB0050 EVALUATION OF THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CIRCULATING NON-CODING RNA CIRC. 0005567 AND DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND ITS BIOLOGICAL FUNCTION IN THE CELL LINE MODEL

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Ciesla1, K. Kwaśniak2, B. Kolarz3, 1University of Rzeszów, Centre for Innovative Research in Medical and Natural Sciences, Rzeszów, Poland, 2University of Rzeszów, Centre for Innovative Research in Medical and Natural Sciences, Rzeszów, Poland; 3University of Rzeszów, Department of Rheumatology, Rzeszów, Poland.

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic, autoimmune disease that leads to chronic inflammation of synovial tissue, ultimately causing joint damage, disability and premature mortality. Disease affects about 1% of the global population. Circular RNAs (circRNAs) are non-coding molecules and are generated through back splicing, during which the 5′ and 3′ ends are covalently joined. Consequently, the lack of free ends makes them stable and resistant to exonuclease cleases, and they become more suitable biomarkers compared with linear RNAs that are degraded by exonucleases. Consequently, the lack of free ends makes them stable and resistant to exonuclease cleases, and they become more suitable biomarkers compared with linear RNAs that are degraded by exonucleases.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to find an association between circ_0005567 plasma levels and disease activity in RA patients and to evaluate its molecular function.

Methods: A total of 66 individuals, 39 RA patients, and 27 healthy controls. RA patients were selected based on disease activity and RA patients with high disease activity (DAS28 >5,1) and remission (≤2,6) were included. RNA was extracted from plasma and quantitative real-time PCR was used to analyze the expression level for circ_0005567 in RA patients was elevated compared to the control group (mean±SD; 173.6±123.8 vs 108.9±81.03, p=0.017). In the cell line model we found an association between silencing circ_0005567 and elevated miR-194 concentration and elevated concentration of three mRNAs: KPNA1, HBEGF, TLN2.

Conclusion: The expression level for circ_0005567 was related to genes that are significant for the pathogenesis of RA. For example, HBEGF gene expression in fibroblasts plays a role in the remission of rheumatoid arthritis, and KPNA1 was reported as seed gene related to RA. Due to the fact that circRNAs are stable and resistant to degradation, plasma concentration of circRNAs may be a new potential epigenetic markers of RA and disease activity.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3667

AB0051 DESCRIPTION OF PULMONARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE RAT ADJUVANT-INDUCED ARTHRITIS MODEL

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Animal models, Lungs

E. Dalix1, C. Pareti1, M. Maalouf2, S. Peyroche1, A. Vandenhosische1, H. Marote2,3, 1University of Jean Monnet, INSERM, U1059-SAINTBOISE, Saint-Etienne, France; 2University Hospital Saint-Etienne, Department of Rheumatology, Saint-Etienne, France

Background: Intestinal lung disease (ILD) is detected until 60% of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but is clinically significant in around 10% of cases. It is one of the leading causes of disease and death in RA patients. High levels of anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (CCP) autoantibodies are associated with co-occurrence of pulmonary disease and RA [1]. Moreover, the pulmonary fibrosis marker mucine (MUC-1) was described to be a predictive indicator for ILD [2]. The adjuvant-induced arthritis (AIA) model is commonly used to investigate arthritic diseases due to some pathophysiological similarities to human arthritis [3].

Objectives: The first objective of this study was to investigate the pulmonary involvement occurring in the rat AIA model. The second objective was to investigate the presence of potential biomarkers such as CCP and MUC-1.

Methods: This study was performed from lungs from 64 AIA rats and 6 control rats without arthritic. Lungs were collected to perform histological and immunological analyses. Pulmonary disease was measured with a score based on the percentage of lung damage and the thickness of the alveolar walls (0: absent, 1: mild, 2: moderate, or 3: severe). CCP and MUC-1 immunostaining was also performed.

Results: A nonspecific interstitial lung disease was detected in the lungs of 80% of AIA rats, whereas only half control rats developed it. A heterogeneous percentage of lung damage was observed, which correlated with the thickness of the alveolar walls but not with arthritis severity. Granulomas were observed in the most affected lung tissues, with a slight fibrosis at their periphery. The number of CCP markings correlated positively with the percentage of lung damage in AIA rats. MUC-1 was found homogeneously in the lung tissue of control and AIA rats, but more prominently in the periphery of granulomas in AIA rats.

Conclusion: We have described the pulmonary involvement in the AIA rat model, which developed the extra-articular complication similar to RA-ILD. We identified CCP and MUC-1 as potential biomarkers of this pulmonary involvement. Thus, the lung may be a site of initiation of CCP immunity. The AIA model will then allow a better understanding of RA-ILD, which may lead to earlier diagnosis and the potential development of new targeted therapies.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Genetic evidence reveals causal link between rheumatoid arthritis and mTOR proteins: A mendelian randomization study

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Rheumatoid arthritis

Z. J. Yuan1,2, R. Zhao1,2,3, J. Y. Li1,2, M. K. Yao1,2, S. Y. Liu Yue1,2, S. X. Zhang1,2,3, X. Li1,2,3, C. Wang1,2,3 1Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microbiology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 3The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune disease with hyperplasia of joint tissue and synovial inflammation. And the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) is a serine/threonine protein kinase, which relates with cellular metabolism, promotes cell growth and inflammatory process. Some studies show that some downstream proteins of mTOR are associated with RA, but having no directly genetic evidence.

Objectives: We conducted mendelian randomization (MR) study to discover the genetically and statistically causal association between mTOR and RA.

Methods: A two-sample MR study was applied to investigate the association. Firstly, the GWAS data of 14 downstream proteins of mTOR, including plasma-RP-S6K, EIF-4EBP2 and so on were obtained from the 3,301 European samples. And a summary statistic involved 14,361 cases and 43,923 controls was also acquired from the IEU OpenGWAS database. Meanwhile, we extracted single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) which were related with mTOR (< 1.0×10^-5) and satisfied the three assumptions for MR analysis as instrumental variables (IVs). Then, inverse variance weighting (IVW), weighted median (WM), and MR-Egger regression were performed for MR statistical analysis by R Studio with packages “TwoSampleMR”. Additionally, MR Pleiotropy RESidual Sum and Outlier (MR-PRESSO) analysis was conducted to detect outlier instrument and remove pleiotropy. A leave-one-out analysis was conducted to avoid bias caused by a single SNP.

Results: Our study showed that no indication supporting the fact that the 14 downstream proteins of mTOR were causally associated with RA risk. The 15 SNPs of RP-S6K, 12 SNPs of EIF-4EBP2 and so on were selected as IVs for each 14 proteins. MR results showed that there was no causal relationship between RP-S6K and RA (OR = 1.03, CI: 0.89 - 1.20, P = 0.68). The results were for EIF-4EBP2 (OR = 0.90, CI: 0.74 - 1.06, P = 0.18) and the other 12 proteins. No single SNP significantly biased the causal effect of mTOR and RA. No significant directional horizontal pleiotropy between each 14 downstream proteins and RA was presented.

Conclusion: Our study showed that a cause-effect connection did not appear to exist between mTOR proteins and RA, the findings of this study increased our understanding of the genetic associations, and may provide novel insights into the functional mechanism underlying the associations between SNPs and mTOR and RA.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3751
Table 1. Summaries of the multivariate linear and logistic regression models to estimate the associations between growth factors (GF) and cPP and PWV in the overall cohort and stratified by sex. Basal models are adjusted for age, sex, body mass index, disease onset, disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, corticosteroids, biological drugs and DAS28. GF = growth factor, $\beta$ = beta coefficient, OR = odds ratio, $p = p$-value.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GF associations with subclinical arteriosclerosis</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>$p$</th>
<th>R² (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>cPP OVERALL COHORT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal Model</td>
<td>1.005</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ angiopoietin-2</td>
<td>1.002</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ VEGFa</td>
<td>1.002</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ EGF</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ PLGF</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ HB-EGF</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEN**

| Basal Model                                  | 33    |      |       |
| + angiopoietin-2                             | 0.0006 | 0.001 | 36     |
| + VEGFc                                      | 0.0005 | 0.04 | 34     |

**WOMEN**

| Basal Model                                  | 36    |      |       |
| + angiopoietin-2                             | 0.0005 | 0.01 | 39     |

**PWV OVERALL COHORT**

| Basal Model                                  | 32    |      |       |
| + angiopoietin-2                             | 0.0006 | 0.001 | 36     |
| + VEGF                                       | 0.0005 | 0.04 | 34     |

**MEN**

| Basal Model                                  | 33    |      |       |
| + angiopoietin-2                             | 0.0007 | 0.02 | 40     |
| + VEGF                                       | 0.002  | 0.02 | 39     |
| + VEGFc                                      | 0.001  | 0.008 | 41     |
| + HB-EGF                                     | 0.01  | 0.04 | 38     |

**RESULTS**

No significant changes were observed for both sclerostin and LRP5/6 between erosive and non-erosive patients and at 6-month post-treatment. However, the expression of sclerostin in IHC stains of synovial tissues was significantly increased in TNF-non-dominant patients compared to those who were TNF-dominant. Sclerostin and LRP5/6 expression was localised to different cell populations in synovial tissue.

**CONCLUSION**

Bulk assessment of sclerostin and other bone biomarkers within synovial tissue does not currently demonstrate a relationship with clinical outcome. However, further assessment of sclerostin and other biomarkers of bone activity in specific cell types, within synovial tissue, can provide further insights into the role of sclerostin and Wnt pathway molecules in bone homeostasis in the context of RA and may provide biomarkers of erosive disease progression.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** We would like to thank all patients for their essential collaboration.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** ANNA PAMIES CORTS Speakers bureau: Novartis, Galapagos, Didac Liop: None declared, Daiana Ibarretxe Speakers bureau: Sanofi, Sobi, Genzyme, Rubio, Delia Taverner Speakers bureau: Galapagos, Amgen, Roser Rosales: None declared, Nuria Plana Speakers bureau: Amgen, Sanofi, Servier, Consultant of: Servier, Luis Masana Speakers bureau: Amgen, Sanofi, Servier, Consultant of: Servier, Amgen, Joan Carles Valibe: None declared, Silvia Paredes Speakers bureau: Lilly, Bristol, Amgen, Consultant of: Galapagos, Sanofi, Bristol.

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transcription PCR (RT-qPCR). The expression of OX40L was analyzed in the presence of RANKL or TNF at the early and late stage of osteoclast differentiation.

**Results:** The expression of OX40L was increased by RANKL and TNF at the early stage of osteoclast differentiation (day 3) in a TNF dose-dependent manner. IMB-101 decreased RANKL-induced osteoclastogenesis via downregulating NFATc1 expression (Figure 1). IMB-101 further reduced P.U.1, RANK and NFATc1 expression during early stage of osteoclast differentiation (day 3) compared to TNF inhibitor or TNF inhibitor and OX40L inhibitor (n=3).

**Conclusion:** Our data suggested that IMB-101 might have a beneficial effect on imbalance of the bone resorption in RA especially by suppressing osteoclast differentiation.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Maximilian Kugler: None declared, Mirjam Dellinger: None declared, Sebastian Weiss: None declared, Giulio Super-Furga: None declared, Josef S. Smolen Consultant of: AbbVie, Astra-Zeneca, Lilly, Novartis, Amgen, Astro, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Celltrion, Chugai, Gilead, ILTOO, Janssen, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Novartis-Sandoz, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Astra-Zeneca, Lilly, Novartis, Amgen, Astro, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Celltrion, Chugai, Gilead, ILTOO, Janssen, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Novartis-Sandoz, Pfizer, Roche, Samsung and UCB, Guentsch: None declared, Daniel Aletaha Consultant of: AbbVie, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, Grant/support research from: AbbVie, Amgen, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, Hans Kiener: None declared, Anela Tosevska: None declared, Thomas Maria Karontisch: None declared, Michael Bonelli Consultant of: Eli-Lilly, Grant/support research from: Galapagos.

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**AB0056**

**Cytokine-Directed Cellular Crossstalk Imprints Synovial Pathotypes in Rheumatoid Arthritis**

**Keywords:** Synovium, Cytokines and chemokines, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Kugler1, M. Dellinger1, F. Kartnig1,2, L. Müller1, T. Preglej1, L. Heinz1, E. Simader1, L. Göschl1, S. Puchner1, S. Weiss1,2, G. Super-Furga2, J. S. Smolen1, G. Steiner1, D. Aletaha1, H. Kiener1, A. Tosevska1, T. Pegrlej1, L. Heinz1, M. Kugler1, M. Dellinger1, F. Kartnig1,2, L. Müller1, T. Preglej1, L. Heinz1, E. Simader1, L. Göschl1, S. Puchner1, S. Weiss1,2, G. Super-Furga2, J. S. Smolen1, G. Steiner1, D. Aletaha1, H. Kiener1, A. Tosevska1, T. M. Karontisch1, B. Bouvier1

1Medical University of Vienna, Department of Rheumatology, Vienna, Austria; 2Austrian Academy of Sciences, Center for Molecular Medicine (CeMM), Vienna, Austria; 3Medical University of Vienna, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Vienna, Austria; 4Medical University of Vienna, Department of Pathology, Vienna, Austria

**Background:** The chronic inflammatory disease Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is characterized by synovial inflammation promoting cartilage and bone degradation when left untreated. Interaction between infiltrating immune cells, such as CD4+ T cells and activated fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS) might contribute to joint inflammation ultimately amplifying progressive joint destruction.

**Objectives:** To elucidate the interaction of stimulated FLS and CD4+ T cells within an inflammatory environment and to define its impact on synovial inflammation.

**Methods:** To define the effect of inflammatory mediators, FLS were stimulated with different pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines. Transcriptional changes were measured using RNA sequencing (RNA-seq). Co-cultures of cytokine pre-treated FLS and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS)-purified naive CD4+ T cells were established. Using high-content fluorescence microscopy combined with bioinformatic image analysis, cell-cell interactions were visualized and quantified. The consequence of FLS co-culturing on CD4+ T-cell development was addressed by flow cytometry of re-isolated CD4+ T-cells.

**Results:** RNA-seq on cytokine-stimulated FLS revealed cytokine-specific gene expression profiles. In line, we observed cytokine-specific patterns of interaction with CD4+ T-cells which could be further observed in flow cytometry data of T cell activation, proliferation and differentiation. Cytokine-stimulated FLS signatures could be detected in transcriptomic data of RA patient synovial tissue samples.

**Conclusion:** In this study, we highlight the roles of FLS in orchestrating inflammation-associated synovial tissue remodeling and how cytokine induced CD4+ T cells – FLS interactions impact on T-cell development.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5450

**AB0057**

**Establishment of Novel 3D Spheroid-Based Model of Rheumatoid Arthritis Synovial Tissue to Investigate the Interaction Between Different Cell Types**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium

E. Philippen1, J. P. Van Hamburg2, F. Khodaoustvaskasi2, L. Van Rooen3, C. J. Van der Laeken2, S. Tas1

1Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology/Experimental Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUMC, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a progressive and systemic autoimmune disorder associated with chronic and destructive inflammation of the joints. The hallmark of RA are synovial cell proliferation, extensive neoangiogenesis and infiltration of numerous immune cells into the synovial tissue. In vitro approaches simulating RA synovial tissue are crucial in preclinical and translational research to expand our knowledge on RA human pathophysiology and to test new diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

**Objectives:** Here, we present the engineering of a spheroid-based model of RA synovial tissue which mimics the close interaction between cells and key pro-inflammatory mediators present in the inflamed synovium.

**Methods:** Following differentiation in 20ng/ml GM-CSF for 6-7 days, monocyte-derived macrophages were cultured with RA fibroblast-like synoviocytes (RA-FLSs) and endothelial cells (ECs) for 24 hours to allow for spheroid formation. Three RA-FLS/EC/macroage ratios were tested: 1:2:0.4, 1:2:0.8 and 1:2:1.6. Then, the spheroids were placed in a collagen-based matrix for 40 hours to study spheroid outgrowth in 3 dimensions. The spheroids were either unstimulated, or cultured in the presence of growth factors VEGF/BFGF or RA splanvial fluid. Sprout formation and cell migration were quantified for all conditions using confocal microscopy and digital image analysis.

**Results:** Addition of macrophages to the previously established 3D model of RA angiogenesis consisting of ECs and RA-FLSs resulted in close interaction of macrophages with RA-FLSs and ECs within the spheroid structure. The optimal ratio between RA-FLSs, ECs and macrophages in our system was established as 1:2:0.8, based on the proportions of macrophages that remained within the core and migrated throughout the matrix as well as the effect of stimuli on sprout formation. Addition of growth factors (VEGF/BFGF) significantly promoted spheroid outgrowth compared to the unstimulated condition in the new model (p<0.01).
Background: Monocytes are key players in initiating and maintaining inflammation by producing proinflammatory cytokines and S100 proteins in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Several studies demonstrated that epigenetic drugs affecting DNA methylation can modulate the production of proinflammatory mediators.

Objectives: This study aimed to test specific DNA methylation inhibitor (RG108) and activator (budesonide) in the regulation of proinflammatory cytokines and RA monocytes was performed. Cell viability was determined in THP-1 monocytic cell line following RG108 and budesonide treatment. Pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines were validated by qRT-PCR following cell line following RG108 and budesonide treatment.

Methods: RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) analysis of healthy controls (HC) and RA monocytes had significantly increased levels of S100A8 (2,2-fold, p=0.024), S100A9 (1,9-fold, p=0.017), S100A11 (1,2-fold, p=0.007), S100A12 (1,6-fold, p=0.007), MYD88 (1,2-fold, p=0.008), AK3 (1,8-fold, p=0.009), IQGAP1 (1,4-fold, p=0.02), and decreased level of IL10RA (0,7-fold, p=0.011), TGIF1 (0,3-fold, p=0.046) transcripts. In addition, stimulation of THP-1 cells with budesonide (DNA methylation activator) statistically reduced expression of S100A8 (3,0-fold, p= 0.0390), S100A9 (4,4-fold, p= 0.0317), S100A12 (3,3-fold, p= 0.0260), IL-8 (6,8-fold, p= 0.0286) and TNF (7,5-fold, p= 0.007). In contrast, THP-1 monocytic cell line treated with RG108 (DNA methylation inhibitor) had an increased level of S100 family (S100A8, -A9, -A11, -A12) and TNF genes. ELISAs analysis also revealed significant increased levels of S100A8 (p = 0.0116), S100A11 (p = 0.0138), and S100A12 ( p = 0.0296) proteins in RA patients compared to HC sera, similar in early RA sera compared to HC S100A8 (p = 0.0024), S100A11 (p = 0.0020) and S100A12 ( p = 0.0059). Moreover, protein levels of S100A8 (p=0.0005), S100A11 (p=0.0007) and S100A12 (p=0.0005) in the synovial fluid of advanced RA patients compared to HC serum were significantly elevated. All these data suggest that a protein of the S100 family may be a promising biomarker of RA progression. In ROC analyses, serum levels of S100A8 and S100A12 proteins were more specific (area under the curve (AUC)=0.78, p=0.006 and AUC=0.87, p=0.0006) respectively in RA patients than CRP levels. In addition, results indicate that S100A8 and S100A12 can serve as a better biomarker of high disease activity than CRP levels.

Conclusion: We have demonstrated that S100 family proteins are increased in RA monocytes (transcriptomics) similar to enhanced S100 production in sera and synovial fluids (ELISA) in RA patients. Our data suggest that the proteins S100A8 and S100A12 in particular are strongly increased during ongoing inflammation, so they could be used as a better biomarker of disease activity than CRP. Interestingly, S100 proteins can be regulated by epigenetic drugs, suggesting their potential use in the targeting of RA inflammation.

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RESULTS:

The potential role of the T2 family of extracellular ribonucleases (RNASET2) as circulating biomarker in rheumatoid arthritis

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

F. Angelik, S. Piantoni, M. Passari, S. Scutera, V. Salvi, T. Schioppa, R. Sparr, F. Sozio, L. Tiberio, D. Bosio, F. Acquati, S. Sozzani, T. Musso, A. Del Prete, L. Andreoli, A. Sapienza University of Rome, Laboratory Aided to Istituto Pasteur Italia-Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti, Department of Molecular Medicine, Rome, Italy

Background: Circulating biomarkers with diagnostic and prognostic value in early Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) are still an unmet need, especially for the subgroup of seronegative RA [e.g., negative for anti-citrullinated peptides autoantibodies (ACPA) and/or rheumatoid factors (RF)]. In a recent gene-based genome-wide association analysis (GWAS) study, RNASET2 was identified as a potential susceptibility gene [1-3]. Furthermore, the extracellular ribonuclease RNASET2 was demonstrated to be involved in the regulation of several immune processes [4].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to analyse RNASET2 serum levels in a cohort of RA patients upon their disease activity, in comparison with healthy controls (HC).

Methods: Forty consecutive patients with RA (75% female, 55% seropositive) with a median age (25%-75% percentile) of 55 years (45-68) and a CRP-DAS28 index of 3.09 (2.50-3.70), and 25 sex and age-matched HC were enrolled in the study. RNASET2 serum levels were assessed through a commercial HELISA test (Wuhan Fine Biotech Co., China).

Results: Serum levels of RNASET2 were higher in RA patients than in HC [29.42 (17.73 – 69.82) vs 18.15 (12.15 – 28.35) ng/mL; p= 0.001]. Among patients with RA, there were no differences between RNASET2 levels in seropositive or seronegative ones [33.14 (16.79 – 74.89) vs 29.01 (17.83 – 49.89) ng/mL; p=0.308]. Furthermore, there were no differences in RNASET2 serum levels between patients in treatment with corticosteroids or not [42.09 (18.11 – 78.78) vs 23.42 (18.29 – 43.87) ng/mL; p=0.239]. RNASET2 serum levels were significantly different across 3 groups of RA patients identified upon the CRP-DAS28 score (high plus moderate disease activity -group A; low disease activity -group B; remission -group C) (p = 0.024). RNASET2 levels were higher in both group A and B as compared to group C [56.73 (30.22 – 79.67) - 83.72 (52.68 – 113.89) vs 25.43 (20.15 – 39.85) ng/mL; p= 0.005 & p= 0.0006} respectively in RA patients than CRP levels. In addition, results indicated a potential diagnostic biomarker in RA. Higher levels of RNASET2 clustered as a potential diagnostic biomarker in RA. Higher levels of RNASET2 clustered in RA patients as compared to HC. Low levels of RNASET2 seem to characterize the remission phase of RA. These preliminary results deserve to be expanded in larger cohorts of RA patients, patients with other form of chronic arthritis and other pathological and healthy controls.

Conclusion: This is the first description of circulating serum levels of RNASET2 as a potential diagnostic biomarker in RA. Higher levels of RNASET2 clustered in RA patients as compared to HC. Low levels of RNASET2 seem to characterize the remission phase of RA. These preliminary results deserve to be expanded in larger cohorts of RA patients, patients with other form of chronic arthritis and other pathological and healthy controls.
AB0060 ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN GUT MICROBIOME AND NUTRITION PATTERNS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Diet and nutrition, Gastrointestinal tract

Methods: A subset of the FoCus (Food chain plus) cohort (a cross-sectional survey of the general population in northern Germany) with RA and matched controls without RA (matched for age, gender, body mass index and diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes mellitus [T2D]) was investigated regarding their nutrition patterns and gut microbiome in a case-control analysis. Nutrition patterns were derived from Food Frequency Questionaires (FFQ) and analyzed by hierarchi- cal cluster analysis. The gut microbiota composition was analyzed by 16S rRNA gene sequence data clustered into operational taxonomic units (OTUs). Microbiome composition was analyzed by alpha- (phylodiversity, Shannon index, Chao index) and beta-diversity measures (Bray-Curtis distance, Jaccard index) and by hurdle-models.

Results: We identified n = 94 individuals with RA and n = 94 matched controls (mean age 57 years, SD 12.9; mean BMI 31.1, SD 8.9). Interleukin 6 was significantly higher in the RA group compared with controls (p=0.012), while no differences were observed between groups for HOMA-Index, CRP, lipoprotein (a) or triglycerides. Nutrition data from FFQs was used in a hierarchical cluster analysis, resulting in two main clusters (the second one defined by a significantly higher intake of vegetables, fruit and dairy products). Nutrition clusters did not differ significantly between RA cases and controls (p=0.228). When comparing the composition of the intestinal microbiota between RA patients and controls (adjusted for nutrition cluster and IL-6), significant differences in the beta-diversity were detected using Bray-Curtis distance (p=1.82e-9) and Jaccard index (p=1.82e-9). Hurdle-models of the core measurable microbiome identified three candidate species OTUs (Flavonifractor and 2x Blautia). No significant differences in alpha diversity was observed when analyzed by species richness (p=0.9), Shannon (p=0.3) and Chao index (p=0.6).

Conclusion: Participants suffering from RA had significant differences in the composition of the gut microbiome compared to controls matched for age, BMI, gender and T2D after adjusting for nutrition patterns and IL-6. Investigating differences in the functional capacity of the altered gut microbiota in RA may better characterize a possible link of gut microbes to the development of RA.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: The project was supported by the German Society for Rheumatology (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Rheumatologie/ DGRh) and the Competence Network Rheumatology (Kompetenzzentrum Rheumatologie)/ DGRh Research Initiative 2020.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

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AB0061 ENDOTHELIN-1 AS A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE TO SHED LIGHT ON THE CHALLENGE OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE DIAGNOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Lungs, Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis

Methods: Peripheral venous blood was collected from 21 RA-ILD+ patients and two comparative groups: 25 RA-ILD- patients and 21 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) patients. All the subjects were recruited from the Rheumatology and Pneumology departments of Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Santander, Spain. Serum levels of ET-1 were determined by ELISA.

Results: RA-ILD+ patients showed increased levels of ET-1 compared to those with RA-ILD- (p<0.01, Figure 1A). Interestingly, the ability of serum ET-1 levels to discriminate patients with RA-ILD+ from those with RA-ILD- was further confirmed by receiver operating characteristic curves (area under the curve: 0.77, p<0.01, Figure 1B). The optimal cutoff value for ET-1 showing the best sensitivity and specificity was 1.02 pg/mL. Moreover, patients with RA-ILD+ presented similar levels of ET-1 than those with IPF (p=0.50, Figure 1A). Additionally, a negative correlation between ET-1 serum levels and both forced vital capacity and forced expiratory volume at first second was disclosed in patients with RA-ILD+ (r=-0.56, p=0.04 and r=-0.65, p=0.01, respectively).

Conclusion: Our study suggests that ET-1 levels are linked to lung injury and worse lung function, supporting its role as a potential biomarker of ILD in RA patients.

REFERENCES:

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AB0062

ABUNDANCE AND ACTIVATION OF MEMORY B-CELLS CHARACTERIZE SYNOVITIS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH EARLY TREATMENT RESPONSE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium, Biomarkers

A. Khmelevskaya1, M. Houtman1, K. Buerki1, C. Pauli1, F. Rivellese2, E. Prediletto3, C. Pitzalis1, O. Distler1, A. Ciurea1, C. Ospelt1, R. Micheroli1. 1University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; 2University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Department of Pathology, Zurich, Switzerland; 3William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, London, United Kingdom

Background: A relevant percentage of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) do not respond to individual (40%) or all available disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (5–20%). A recent study using synovial bulk RNAseq from a phase 4 trial has shown that humoral immune response gene signatures are associated with response to rituximab and tocilizumab [1]. Other biomarkers that can predict early response to alternative DMARDs are still lacking.

Objectives: This study, performed in a real-life clinical care setting, aimed at characterizing synovitis of RA patients with an early drug response on a single-cell level to identify potential biomarkers and molecular signatures.

Methods: Synovial tissue was obtained by ultrasound-guided synovial biopsy from inflamed joints. Four patients were defined as early responders not meeting the D2T EULAR definition criteria (median (IQR) number of treatments 1.5 (2.5)) [2], but meeting 2022 ACR/EULAR remission within 3 months on the DMARD started after the synovial biopsy. Five patients met the D2T EULAR definition criteria (median (IQR) number of treatments 7 (1)). Two out of five from the D2T group went into ACR/EULAR remission 3 months after the biopsy following DMARD initiation (abatacept (n=1) and upadacitinib (n=1)). Both groups fulfilled the ACR/EULAR classification criteria for RA. 6000 cells were targeted for single-cell encapsulation (10X Genomics workflow v3.1). Libraries were sequenced on NovaSeq6000. The following R packages were used: Cell Ranger, Seurat, Harmony, PCAtools.

Results: Clinical characteristics (sex, age, swollen joint count, C-reactive protein, body mass index, smoking status) were comparable between the two groups, except for the presence of autoantibodies (all D2T compared to only one early responder patient were seropositive). The patients in the early responder group received the following drugs after the biopsy: methotrexate plus certolizumab (n=1), methotrexate alone (n=1) or abatacept (n=2). Patients in the D2T group had received a median of seven treatments before the biopsy; 29,408 cells were integrated for scRNA-seq analysis (mean of 3,267 cells after quality control filtering per patient). Unsupervised dimensionality reduction analysis showed 8 principal components (PCs) explaining all variations in gene expression between samples. PC6 was significantly associated with the early responder/D2T categorization, accounting for 6.72% of the sample variation. Immunoglobulin genes (IgH-, IgL-) and Prostaglandin D2 Synthase (PTGDS) and B-cell antigen receptor complex-associated protein alpha chain (CD79A) were among the top 100 genes associated with early response to treatment (PC6) (Figure 1A). Analysis of the average expression of these genes in the early responder and D2T group revealed expression mostly in B cells and plasma cells (Figure 1B). Comparing the proportions of cell populations using graph-based clustering showed no significant differences between early responder and D2T patients. Further clustering of the primary cell populations also did not show changes in proportions except for B cells: the proportions of NR4A1+ memory B cells (B cells recently receiving antigen stimulation) were higher in early responder compared to D2T patients (mean 48%±10 vs 36%±10, p-value = 0.0547) (Figure 1C). Analysis of differentially expressed genes in B cells between early responder and D2T patients revealed 62 genes differentially expressed (p-value<0.05, average fold change >2 or <0.3). Still, only six of these genes were among the top 100 genes associated with PC6 (Figure 1D).

Conclusion: Synovitis in rheumatoid arthritis patients with early treatment response was associated with activation of B cells and an abundance of NR4A1+ memory B cells. This finding in a real-life cohort is in concordance with previous results showing an association of humoral immune activation and response [1] and sets the path for future biomarkers predicting early response in RA.

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Disclosure of Interests: Alexandra Khmelevskaya: None declared, Miranda Houtman: None declared, Kristina Buerki: None declared, Chantal Pauli: None declared, Felice Rivellese: None declared, Edoardo Prediletto: None declared, Costantino Pitzalis: None declared, Oliver Distler Consultant of: Abbvie, Adrian Ciurea: None declared, Caroline Ospelt: None declared, Raphael Micheroli: None declared.

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REFERENCES:
from arthritis-associated osteoclastogenic macrophages (AtOM), characterized by CX3CR1 and FOXM1 expression. However, the relationship between MoOC and DCCOC with AtOM is unknown[1].

Objectives: To investigate the phenotype of osteoclasts differentiated from dendritic cells.

Methods: Bone marrow cells or bone marrow derived dendritic cells were cultured with RANKL-M-CSF for 6 days to generate MoOC or DCCOC.(2) Osteoclast differentiation was assessed by TRAP staining. NFATc1, CX3CR1 and FOXM1 mRNA expression was evaluated with whole cultured cells, OC or undifferentiated cells, residing by OC collected by laser microdissection. Fluorescent immunostaining of cultured cells was used to analyze protein expression, and IL-6 or TNF-α was added during OC differentiation to assess effects on OC differentiation, CX3CR1 and FOXM1 expression.

Results: MoOCs and DCCOCs differentiation was confirmed by TRAP staining and NFATc1 mRNA expression in whole cultured cells on day 6 of RANKL-M-CSF culture. The expression of CX3CR1 mRNA was significantly higher in DCCOC than in MoOC. In DCCOCs recovered by microdissection on day 4, confirmed significantly higher expression of CX3CR1 mRNA compared to MoOCs. Comparison of CX3CR1 mRNA expression with residing undifferentiated cells resulted in significantly higher expression in DCCOCs, but not in MoOCs; Immunostaining on day 6 showed nuclear translocation of FOXM1 in both DCCOCs and MoOCs. IL-6 or TNF-α stimulation decreased viable cells in a concentration-dependent manner, with TNF-α promoting MoOC differentiation and IL-6 promoting DCCOC differentiation.

Conclusion: Compared to MoOCs, DCCOCs expressed significantly higher CX3CR1 and FOXM1 from early stage of development specific to progenitor of inflammatory osteoclasts in in vivo. In addition nuclear translocation of FOXM1 suggested its role in gene regulation during OC differentiation. In addition enhancement of OC differentiation by IL-6 is suggesting the usefulness of IL-6 inhibition for the pathophysiology of joint destruction in rheumatoid arthritis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0065 DISCOVERY OF NOVEL LONG-NONCODING RNAs IMPlicated IN RHematoid ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Genetics/Epigeniatics, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. M. Kim1, C. N. Son1, K. Hur1, J. Keimyung University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2School of Medicine, Kyungpook National University, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea).

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a representative systemic autoimmunie disease characterized by synovial inflammation and proliferation accompanied by joint destruction. Fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS) are a key constituent of the synovium and paly an important role in the pathogenesis of RA. Although the relationship between MoOC and DCCOC with AtOM is unknown[1].

Objectives: To investigate the phenotype of osteoclasts differentiated from dendritic cells.

Methods: Bone marrow cells or bone marrow derived dendritic cells were cultured with RANKL-M-CSF for 6 days to generate MoOC or DCCOC.(2) Osteoclast differentiation was assessed by TRAP staining. NFATc1, CX3CR1 and FOXM1 mRNA expression was evaluated with whole cultured cells, OC or undifferentiated cells, residing by OC collected by laser microdissection. Fluorescent immunostaining of cultured cells was used to analyze protein expression, and IL-6 or TNF-α was added during OC differentiation to assess effects on OC differentiation, CX3CR1 and FOXM1 expression.

Results: MoOCs and DCCOCs differentiation was confirmed by TRAP staining and NFATc1 mRNA expression in whole cultured cells on day 6 of RANKL-M-CSF culture. The expression of CX3CR1 mRNA was significantly higher in DCCOC than in MoOC. In DCCOCs recovered by microdissection on day 4, confirmed significantly higher expression of CX3CR1 mRNA compared to MoOCs. Comparison of CX3CR1 mRNA expression with residing undifferentiated cells resulted in significantly higher expression in DCCOCs, but not in MoOCs; Immunostaining on day 6 showed nuclear translocation of FOXM1 in both DCCOCs and MoOCs. IL-6 or TNF-α stimulation decreased viable cells in a concentration-dependent manner, with TNF-α promoting MoOC differentiation and IL-6 promoting DCCOC differentiation.

Conclusion: Compared to MoOCs, DCCOCs expressed significantly higher CX3CR1 and FOXM1 from early stage of development specific to progenitor of inflammatory osteoclasts in in vivo. In addition nuclear translocation of FOXM1 suggested its role in gene regulation during OC differentiation. In addition enhancement of OC differentiation by IL-6 is suggesting the usefulness of IL-6 inhibition for the pathophysiology of joint destruction in rheumatoid arthritis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3480

AB0064 DISCOVERY OF NOVEL LONG-NONCODING RNAs IMPlicated IN RHematoid ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Genetics/Epigeniatics, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. M. Kim1, C. N. Son1, K. Hur1, J. Keimyung University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2School of Medicine, Kyungpook National University, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea).

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a representative systemic autoimmunie disease characterized by synovial inflammation and proliferation accompanied by joint destruction. Fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS) are a key constituent of the synovium and paly an important role in the pathogenesis of RA. Although the relationship between MoOC and DCCOC with AtOM is unknown[1].

Objectives: To investigate the phenotype of osteoclasts differentiated from dendritic cells.

Methods: Bone marrow cells or bone marrow derived dendritic cells were cultured with RANKL-M-CSF for 6 days to generate MoOC or DCCOC.(2) Osteoclast differentiation was assessed by TRAP staining. NFATc1, CX3CR1 and FOXM1 mRNA expression was evaluated with whole cultured cells, OC or undifferentiated cells, residing by OC collected by laser microdissection. Fluorescent immunostaining of cultured cells was used to analyze protein expression, and IL-6 or TNF-α was added during OC differentiation to assess effects on OC differentiation, CX3CR1 and FOXM1 expression.

Results: MoOCs and DCCOCs differentiation was confirmed by TRAP staining and NFATc1 mRNA expression in whole cultured cells on day 6 of RANKL-M-CSF culture. The expression of CX3CR1 mRNA was significantly higher in DCCOC than in MoOC. In DCCOCs recovered by microdissection on day 4, confirmed significantly higher expression of CX3CR1 mRNA compared to MoOCs. Comparison of CX3CR1 mRNA expression with residing undifferentiated cells resulted in significantly higher expression in DCCOCs, but not in MoOCs; Immunostaining on day 6 showed nuclear translocation of FOXM1 in both DCCOCs and MoOCs. IL-6 or TNF-α stimulation decreased viable cells in a concentration-dependent manner, with TNF-α promoting MoOC differentiation and IL-6 promoting DCCOC differentiation.

Conclusion: Compared to MoOCs, DCCOCs expressed significantly higher CX3CR1 and FOXM1 from early stage of development specific to progenitor of inflammatory osteoclasts in in vivo. In addition nuclear translocation of FOXM1 suggested its role in gene regulation during OC differentiation. In addition enhancement of OC differentiation by IL-6 is suggesting the usefulness of IL-6 inhibition for the pathophysiology of joint destruction in rheumatoid arthritis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3480
Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by chronic proliferation of synovial cells and destructive polyarthritis. Various kinds of cells are involved in the pathogenesis of RA, including myeloid cells, lymphocytes, and synovial fibroblasts. It has been reported that there are abnormal myeloid cells in bone marrow of RA patients (Ochi, et al., Arthritis Res. Ther., 2007). In addition, myeloid cells differentiate into monocytes/macrophages, which can thereafter differentiate into osteoclasts that mediate bone destruction in RA. In fact, we have previously reported CD14+ monocytes differentiated from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) derived from RA patients expressed more mRNA of receptor activator of nuclear factor-kappa B (RANK) than those from a healthy donor, non-onset family member (NOF), resulting in the accelerated osteoclastogenesis (Ito, et al., The 36th annual meeting of the Japanese society of inflammation and regeneration, 2015). However, the question remains if distinct monocyte differentiation besides high RANK expression may also be involved in the accelerated osteoclastogenesis in RA.

Objectives: To investigate whether there is distinct monocyte differentiation between a RA patient and NOF.

Methods: iPSCs have been established from skin fibroblasts from a RA patient. For the controls, NOF of the patient are recruited as a donor in order to adjust hereditary background as much as possible. Monocytes were induced from each iPSC clone culture on feeder-free conditions using a previously reported method (Cui, et al., Front. Cell Dev. Biol., 2021). Floating cells were sequentially collected on days 10, 14, 18 and 22 during induction of monocytes from iPSCs. Surface phenotypes and the expression of differentiation markers of monocytes were analyzed with flow cytometry using the corresponding antibodies.

Results: RA-iPSCs differentiated into CD43+ (hematopoietic marker) cells earlier than NOF-iPSCs did (the data shown in Table 1). In addition, the proportion of CD45+ in CD43+ cells (myeloid progenitors) was achieved in 93.0±4.8% (RA) and 51.0±21.3% (NOF) on day 18 (p=0.029) (the data shown in Table 1). The proportion of CD11b+CD45+ cells (monocytes and granulocytes) derived from RA-iPSCs was not significantly different from that from NOF-iPSCs. However, the proportion of CD45+ in CD11b+CD45+ (monocytes) derived from RA-iPSCs was significantly higher than that from NOF-iPSCs (the data shown in Table 1). CD45+ in CD11b+CD45+ cells were mostly CD14+ cells. The proportion of CD115+, macrophage colony-stimulating factor receptor (MCSF-R), in CD14+ cells induced from RA-iPSCs tended to increase compared with NOF-iPSCs.(the data shown in Table 1).

Conclusion: Hematopoietic stem cells differentiate into myeloid progenitors in monocyte differentiation in RA earlier than those in NOF. Moreover, they differentiate into more CD45+CD11b+CD45+ monocytes which are likely to express more MCSF-R as compared with those in NOF. We speculate that these distinct monocyte differentiation may play in accelerated osteoclastogenesis in RA.

Table 1. Proportion of cells differentiated from RA-iPSCs and NOF-iPSCs

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D = Day, * = significant

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Sally Abdelmatai Employee of: Cyxone AB, Carl Högener Employee of: Cyxone AB, Costantino Pitzalis: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5727

AB0068
LOW-DOSE RADIOTHERAPY ATTENUATES EXPERIMENTAL AUTOIMMUNE ARTHRITIS BY INDUCING LYMPHOCYTE APOPTOSIS

Keywords: Animal models, Adaptive immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis

Y. H. Cheon1, B. G. Kim1, H. S. Choi2, Y. Cho3, H. M. Jeon4, J. Y. Heo4, S. I. Lee5, B. K. Jeong6, M. Kim7. Gyeongsang National University, Division of Rheumatology; Department of Internal Medicine, Jinju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); Gyeongsang National University Changwon Hospital, Department of Radiation Oncology, Changwon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); University of Minnesota, Lillehei Heart Institute, Minneapolis, United States of America; Gyeongsang National University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Jinju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); Gyeongsang National University, Department of Internal Medicine, Jinju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea). Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.


Background: Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (DMARDs) have therapeutic effects on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) through the modulating immune responses of systemic and synovial. However, DMARDs be used for an extended period, drug-related adverse effects can be a severe problem. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a treatment strategy to minimize the adverse effects of DMARDs, such as infection, abnormal liver function tests, and hematological abnormalities.

Objectives: Radiation therapy is one of the crucial therapeutic strategies for cancers. Low-Dose Radiotherapy (LDRT), the total dose may be given in fewer treatments or over a shorter period, has been tried to treat various inflammatory diseases, but its theoretical basis is poor. Therefore, this research aims to elucidate the mechanism and standardization of LDRT for RA.

Methods: The CIA (collagen-induced arthritis) and K/BxN mice used an experimental arthritic model representing RA. At the point of the highest arthritis symptoms, CIA and K/BxN mice were treated with LDRT. Then, the clinical score of the fore or hind paws was measured twice a week for 30 days. After 30 days of LDRT, the mice were sacrificed. Splenocytes, popliteal and inguinal lymph nodes were cultured by flow cytometry to measure the level of activation, proliferation, inflammatory-cytokines, and apoptosis of immune cells. To evaluate whether LDRT is effective on human immune cells, RA patients’ PBMC were treated with LDRT and analyzed by flow cytometry.

Results: LDRT did not affect the lymphocyte activation, proliferation, differentiation, and inflammatory cytokine secretion. However, LDRT enhanced lymphocyte apoptosis and decreased immune cell numbers and clinical scores in CIA and K/BxN mice. In addition, the degree of cartilage destruction was reduced by treating with LDRT in K/BxN mice. Likewise, the proportion of apoptotic lymphocytes was increased by LDRT in PBMC of a patient with RA, not fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS). Thus, these findings suggest that LDRT can be a new therapeutic strategy with minimal adverse effects for RA.

REFERENCES:

AB0070
PIM KINASES AS POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC TARGETS IN INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIDES

Keywords: Biomarkers, Cell biology, Inflammatory arthritides

E. Assemani1, J. Ciampi1, S. Naidi1, V. Scuroc1, L. Mancarella1, V. Brusi1, L. Lisi1, F. Ursini1,2, S. Neril,1 IRCCS Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli, Medicine and Rheumatology Unit, Bologna, Italy; University of Bologna, Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences, Bologna, Italy.

Background: Proviral integration site for Moloney murine leukemia virus (PIM) 1 kinase and its family members (PIM2 and PIM3) regulate several cellular functions including survival, proliferation and apoptosis. These proteins have been extensively studied in tumorigenesis, whereas their role in autoimmune and chronic inflammatory diseases remain unclear. PIM kinases are involved in T-cell amplification and differentiation in inflammatory Th1 and Th17 effectors T cells subsets. Recent studies suggest that the expression of PIM1 is upregulated in fibroblast-like synoviocytes and CD4+ T cells from patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, data are
lacking regarding the potential role of PIM kinases in spondyloarthritis (SpA) such as psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA).

**Objectives:** To explore the potential role of PIM kinases in inflammatory arthritis, we evaluated PIM kinase expression at gene and protein level in patients with RA, PsA, and AxSpA compared to healthy controls (CTR).

**Methods:** PIMs expression was analysed in 26 (11 RA, 7 AxSpA, and 8 PsA) biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs)-naïve arthritis patients and 13 controls. PIMs mRNA levels were determined in total RNA extracted from freshly isolated peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) by real-time semi-quantitative PCR. Protein levels were quantified in serum by ELISA test. Data were analysed by Kruskal Wallis test followed by Dunn’s correction for multiple comparisons.

**Results:** All the samples showed expression of PIM1, 2, and 3 kinases both at gene and protein level, with PIM3 being the less expressed protein. A trend towards lower expression of PIM1 was appreciated in AxSpA samples compared to other groups, reaching statistical significance only for serum protein levels compared to controls (p < 0.05). No significant differences were found in PIM2 and PIM3 expression, although all arthritis patients showed a trend towards higher serum levels compared to controls, not mirrored at gene expression levels.

**Conclusion:** PIM1 mRNA expression in PBMCs seems to mirror PIM1 protein expression in the serum in all groups, supporting this molecule as a candidate biomarker. Controls, RA and PsA patients displayed similar levels, whereas AxSpA patients showed a trend towards reduced PIM1 levels deserving further investigation. Conversely, serum PIM2 and PIM3 levels did not mirror PIM2 and PIM3 gene expression in resting PBMC. Unlike PIM1, the expression of PIM2 and PIM3 have never been studied in PsA and AS, and additional data are required to explore the potential relevance of PIM2 and PIM3 in SpA pathophysiology. Further studies are also required to evaluate PIM kinase modulation after in vitro cell stimulation, the differential expression in PBMC subpopulations, and the impact of disease activity and concurrent disease-modifying medications.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1.** PIM1, 2, and 3 expression in rheumatoid arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis and healthy controls. Data are expressed as medians with interquartile ranges [25th-75th percentiles].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PIM 1</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>AxSpA</th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>CTR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gene expression in PBMC (in respect to GAPDH)</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serum protein concentration (ng/ml)</td>
<td>[0.19-3.18]</td>
<td>[2.44-19.74]</td>
<td>[9.4-38.13]</td>
<td>[15.73-29.36]</td>
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<table>
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<th>PIM 2</th>
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<th>PsA</th>
<th>CTR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gene expression in PBMC (in respect to GAPDH)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<td>Serum protein concentration (ng/ml)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<td>Serum protein concentration (ng/ml)</td>
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<td>[0.55-1.51]</td>
<td>[0.29-1.54]</td>
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**Acknowledgements:** NIl.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/rheumatology-2023-eular.819

**AB0071**

**PRE-CLINICAL EVALUATION OF ANTI-ANGIOGENIC EFFECTS OF CANDIDATE AGENTS FOR MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING AND THERAPY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium, Imaging

F Khodadustvakasei1, E. Philippone2,3, E. Mantel, J. P Van Hamburg2,3, J. Van Beijnum1, A. D. Windhorst4, G. Jansen1, S. Tas3, C. J. Van der Laken1.

1. Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUMC, Department of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2. Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Department of Experimental Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 3. Amsterdam UMC, locatie AMC, Department of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 4. Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUMC, Angiogenesis Laboratory, Department of Experimental Oncology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 5. Amsterdam UMC, locatie VUMC, Department of Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** The role of pathological angiogenesis is widely recognized in cancer and various inflammatory diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis (RA). RA, angiogenesis and inflammation are mutually dependent and play a cooperative role in the disease progression. Angiogenesis mainly relies on the interaction of vascular endothelial cells (ECs), fibroblasts, macrophages, and the extracellular matrix. This phenomenon not only promotes the infiltration of inflammatory cells into the joints, resulting in more synovial inflammation and structural damage. In this process, a number of soluble and cell surface-bound angiogenic mediators are involved providing candidate targets for diagnosis and therapy [1, 2]. Anti-angiogenesis strategy has been widely used in tumor treatment and its potential value in RA as a single or in combination therapy need to be further explored.

**Objectives:** To assess potential anti-angiogenic candidate compounds with different mechanisms of action in preclinical models of angiogenesis for exploitation as candidate agents for molecular imaging and/or therapeutic purposes.

**Methods:** Two in vitro models of angiogenesis were employed in this study: (i) a scratch assay assessing the closure rate of scratches made in human microvascular endothelial cells (HMEC-1) [3] in the presence of the chemokine CXCL11 (in respect to GAPDH) 2.46 ± 0.57, (ii) a 3D-spheroid model of angiogenesis composed of ECs and fibroblasts, assessing the impact of drugs on EC sputum formation after 40 h of incubation. Sprout quantification was performed via confocal microscopy and digital image analysis [2]. Candidate anti-angiogenic compounds examined in this study included: sunitinib (pan-kinase inhibitor), a small molecule NF-κB-inducing kinase inhibitor (NIK), tofacitinib (selective JAK1/3 inhibitor) and fluclitide (RGD-peptide targeting αvβ3 and αvβ5 integrins) and tested in concentration range of 0.1-10 μM. An MTT-proliferation inhibition assay was used to monitor any drug-induced cytotoxicity.

**Results:** In scratch assays, sunitinib showed irreversible inhibition (max 75% at 10 μM after 24 h incubation) compared to NIKi which had a transient inhibitory effect (max 59% at 10 μM after 4 h incubation). No apparent effects were observed for tofacitinib up to concentrations of 10 μM. Interestingly, flucitide, induced morphological changes at concentration of 0.1 μM, impairing scratch closures. Next, the anti-angiogenic effects of the compounds were verified in the 3D-spheroid model that more closely mimics the in vivo situation. Here, marked blockade of sputum formation was noted at 0.1 μM for sunitinib, and 1.25 μM for NIKi, tofacitinib and fluclitide. MTT assays indicated that none of the observed drug-effects were due to induction of cytotoxicity at the indicated concentrations.

**Conclusion:** This study identified various compounds (sunitinib, NIKi, tofacitinib and fluclitide) exhibiting potential anti-angiogenic properties in vitro, encouraging their further evaluation as radionuclide imaging and therapeutic agents for diagnosis and therapeutics in vivo.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIl.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1715

**AB0072**

**THE METABOLITES WERE ALTERED IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis

P Wu1, J. An2, C. Wang3. 1. The Second Hospital of Shanzhi Medical University, the Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 2. The Fifth Hospital of Datong, the Department of Rheumatology, Datong, China

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is characterized by persistent synovitis and abnormal antibodies production[1].The discovery of follicular helper T cells (Tfh) and follicular regulatory T cells (Tfr) has added a new understanding of the mechanisms of antibody production in RA such as anti-cyclic peptide containing citrulline (anti-CCP) [2]. The gut microbiota-derived metabolites are also important in regulating immune system to balance disease and health. And the altered gut microbiota-derived metabolites have been found to be involved in RA patients[3]. However, the relationship between gut microbiota-derived metabolites and Tfr/Tfh cells has not been comprehensively evaluated in RA patients to date, which is the focus of our study.

**Objectives:** We detected the gut microbiota-derived metabolites and the expression of Tfr and Tfh cells in new-onset RA patients, and then analyzed the relationship between gut microbiota-derived metabolites and Tfr/Tfh cells.

**Methods:** 17 patients with new-onset RA from the Second Hospital of Shanzhi Medical University were recruited. And 13 sex- and age-match healthy controls
(HCs) were enrolled. Fecal samples were collected to determine the gut microbiota-derived metabolites by LC-MS/MS-based nontargeted metabolomic. And blood samples were collected to detect the expression of circulating Tfr and Tfh cells by flow cytometry.

**Results:** The fecal metabolite profiles between RA and HC groups were different (Figure 1A, B). There were 61 differential annotated metabolites in RA including 34 metabolites upregulated and 27 metabolites downregulated compared to HCs (Figure 1C, D). The KEGG pathway enrichment analysis of the differentially abundant metabolites showed that there were only four pathways were the main pathways related to RA including biosynthesis of unsaturated fatty acids, arginine biosynthesis, tryptophan metabolism as well as alanine, aspartate and glutamate metabolism (Figure 1E). And eleven differentially abundant metabolites were involved in the four mainly altered pathways. The correlation heatmap of the association of the eleven differentially abundant metabolites with indicators of RA was shown in Figure 2A. It also suggested that arachidonic acid was negatively associated with the number of Tfr cells (r=-0.645, P=0.006) and the c-Tfr/c-Tfh ratio (r=-0.623, P=0.009).

**Conclusion:** There was an obvious difference in the fecal metabolite profiles between RA and HCs. Arachidonic acid was identified as the potential biomarker of RA, and the increased arachidonic acid was negatively associated with Tfr cells by flow cytometry and is affected by inflammatory-associated factors. Vigeo is a mixture of fermented extracts of Eleutherococcus senticosus Maxim (ESM), Acanthopanax japonica (Michx.) Nakai (AJN), and Atractylodes japonica Koidzumi (AJK) manufactured using the traditional Korean nukur fermentation method. Although the bioactive effects of ESM, AJN, and AJK have already been reported, the pharmacological effects of Vigeo have not been proven.

**Objectives:** In this study, we investigated whether Vigeo had inhibitory effects on RA and its intracellular mechanisms using a type II collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) mouse model.

**Methods:** CIA was induced in DBA/1 mice by immunization with bovine type II collagen. The mice were administered orally with Vigeo (200 and 500 mg/kg/day, i.g.) from days 21 to 42 after immunization. The clinical scores, hind paw swelling, and histopathological finding were evaluated in the paw of CIA mice. The levels of tumor necrosis factor α (TNF-α), interleukin (IL)-6, and IL-1β in the serum were measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

**Results:** The results showed that Vigeo 500 mg/kg treatment significantly alleviated the severity of the disease, based on the reduced hind paw swelling and clinical scores, compared with untreated CIA mice. Compared with untreated CIA mice, Vigeo 500 mg/kg treatment inhibited the levels of TNF-α, IL-6, and IL-1β in the serum.

**Conclusion:** Our results suggest that anti-inflammatory effects of Vigeo against collagen-induced arthritis in mice may be due to its ability to inhibit pro-inflammatory mediators. Vigeo may be a promising potential therapeutic reagent for arthritis treatment.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1763

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Animal models, Inflammatory arthritides

C. H. Lee1, C. H. Chung1, W. H. Yoo2, Y. Choi2, M. S. Lee1, 1Wonkwang University Medical School, Internal Medicine, Iksan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 1Jeonbuk National University Medical School, Internal Medicine, Jeonju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease that is accompanied by chronic synovitis, progressive cartilage, and bone destruction and is affected by inflammatory-associated factors. Vigeo is a mixture of fermented extracts of Eleutherococcus senticosus Maxim (ESM), Acanthopanax japonica (Michx.) Nakai (AJN), and Atractylodes japonica Koidzumi (AJK) manufactured using the traditional Korean nukur fermentation method. Although the bioactive effects of ESM, AJN, and AJK have already been reported, the pharmacological effects of Vigeo have not been proven.

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**Conclusion:** Our results suggest that anti-inflammatory effects of Vigeo against collagen-induced arthritis in mice may be due to its ability to inhibit pro-inflammatory mediators. Vigeo may be a promising potential therapeutic reagent for arthritis treatment.

**REFERENCES:**


**Figure 1.** (A) The fecal metabolite profiles between RA and HC groups in the positive ion mode were different. (B) The fecal metabolite profiles between RA and HC groups in the negative ion mode were different. (C) The volcano plot showed the differentially altered metabolites. (D) The heatmap of differentially abundant metabolites. (E) The KEGG pathway enrichment analysis of the differentially abundant metabolites.
AB0074

PROTEOMIC ANALYSIS OF CARDIOMETABOLIC AND CARDIOVASCULAR BIOMARKERS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS. REGULATION BY METHOTREXATE AND JAK INHIBITORS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis


Background:

Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) have a high risk of suffering cardiovascular disease. The cardiovascular and cardiometabolic proteome analysis in RA patients may provide disease biomarkers and insights into the biological pathways that contribute to cardiovascular risk.

Objectives:

1) To evaluate the changes in the cardiometabolic and cardiovascular serum proteome in two cohorts of active RA patients: newly diagnosed (naïve-treated) and well-established disease and its relationship with the clinical cardiovascular II panels) was performed in the serum using Olink Proteomics

Methods:

1) Cross-sectional study in two cohorts of RA: patients at diagnosis (n=25) and patients with established disease (evolution time>25 years, n=25), naïve-treated) and well-established disease and its relationship with the clinical characterization and 2) to analyze the modulation of the levels of these proteins by methotrexate and tocilizumab.

Results:

There were no statistical differences between the RA at diagnosis and Rheumatoid arthritis disease groups in age and DAS28. The evolution time average in the RA-established disease group was 37.48±11.79 years. One hundred and seven proteins were significantly increased in the serum of RA patients at diagnosis, among these 47 proteins were elevated in RA patients with established disease. The PCA analysis showed that the alteration of these proteins could discriminate between RA patients and healthy donors. The molecules that more significantly increased in the RA at diagnosis group were SAA4, ST6GAL1, CCL18, TNC, GLC2, IL6, SORT1, TNFRSF1A, AGRP, and CD4. In addition, the top ten molecules significantly elevated in RA patients with the established disease were SAA4, CCL18, ST6GAL1, CRTC1, ANGPTL3, TNFRSF1A, LEP, Gal-9, SORT1, and TRAIL-R2. The increase of these proteins was associated with the inflammation shown by the correlation with C reactive protein (CRP) levels and DAS28. The elevated levels of SAA4 (serum amyloid A protein-4) discriminated between RA patients and healthy donors with high sensitivity and specificity (AUC=0.95). Treatment with methotrexate in RA patients at diagnosis reduced the levels of 64 proteins (50% of the altered proteins) while tocilizumab modulated the expression of 30 proteins (50% of the altered proteins) in RA patients with established disease after 6 months. These reductions were associated with a decrease in CRP and DAS28 levels.

Conclusion:

1) The cardiovascular and cardiometabolic serum proteome is altered in RA patients at diagnosis and after a long time of the disease evolution and chronic treatments, 2) SAA4 may represent a biomarker for the diagnosis of RA with high sensitivity and specificity, 3) Methotrexate and tocilizumab specifically modulate the alteration on the serum proteome after six months of treatment alongside the reduction of clinical inflammatory and disease activity markers.

References:


REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Nil

AB0075

PRESENCE AND EFFECT OF MUSCLE GDF-8 AND GDF-11 IN THE SYNOVIAL FLUID OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium

M. L. Gasparini Vieira1,2, R. T. Pedro1, J. Miranda de Souza Silva1, M. Farinoni1,2, S. Dalmon3, M. Piccoli4, M. Dos Santos5, B. Bartokosi6, R. Cavaliere Do Espirito Santo7, S. Hax8, R. Xavier9,10, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Laboratório de Doenças Autoimunes, Serviço de Reumatologia, Porto Alegre, Brazil. 2. Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Medicina: Ciências Médicas, Porto Alegre, Brazil. 3. Hospital de Clínica de Porto Alegre, Serviço de Reumatologia, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Background:

Myokines, such as the growth differentiation factor (GDF) 8 and 11, have the function of regulating autocrine and paracrine activities on muscle tissue metabolism. In Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), there is increased expression of GDF-8 in the synovial membrane compared to osteoarthritis (OA) patients, more specifically by fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS). On the other hand, the GDF-11 treatment appears to have a protective effect against the development of experimental arthritis. Therefore, more studies evaluating the serum and synovial membrane levels of the GDF-8 and GDF-11 in RA patients are needed to better define their possible roles in this disease.

Objectives:

To evaluate the GDF-8 and GDF-11 in serum and synovial membrane levels in RA patients and to assess their in vitro effect on FLS.

Methods:

Patients diagnosed with RA and patients with knee OA with the indication of knee arthrocentesis were included in the study. Disease activity was assessed by Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI). The evaluation of serum and synovial fluid levels of GDF-8 and GDF-11 was performed by ELISA. FLS were isolated from the synovial fluid of RA patients, and cell viability was determined in the presence and absence of GDF-8 and GDF-11 (10nM; 20nM and 50nM) for 24h and 48h by the MTT assay. Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Mann-Whitney U and Spearman’s correlation tests were performed using SPSS version 20.0 (accepted at p ≤0.05).

Results:

As preliminary data, samples from 11 patients with RA and 5 patients with knee OA were evaluated. GDF-8 synovial fluid levels were lower than serum levels in RA patients (p=0.007) and were negatively correlated with disease duration (r=-0.884, p=0.02). GDF-11 levels in synovial fluid were also lower than in serum in RA (p=0.018) and were higher in RA patients than in the OA group (p=0.052). Furthermore, treatment with different concentrations of GDF-8 and GDF-11 did not affect FLS viability.

Table 1. Clinical features of study population

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>RA (n=11)</th>
<th>OA (n=5)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age in years (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>65.3 ± 9.26</td>
<td>66.6 ± 5.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (90.9)</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration in years (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>16 ± 12.41</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>12.8 ± 5.68</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDF-8 (pg/ml) (median (IQR))</td>
<td>31.30 (31.30-198.00)</td>
<td>232.10 (106.15-855.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDF-11 (pg/ml) (median (IQR))</td>
<td>31.30 (31.30-88.13)</td>
<td>31.30 (31.30-31.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDF-8 (pg/ml) (median (IQR))</td>
<td>872.70 (334.30-994.70)</td>
<td>761.70 (440.55-1312.05)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDF-11 (pg/ml) (median (IQR))</td>
<td>347.50 (313.00-1818.00)</td>
<td>31.30 (31.30-31.30)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RA, rheumatoid arthritis; OA, osteoarthritis; SD, standard deviation; CDAI, clinical disease activity index; IQR, interquartile range.

Conclusion:

In this preliminary research, we found lower GDF-8 and GDF-11 synovial fluid levels than in serum in RA patients and higher GDF-11 serum levels in the RA group compared to the OA group. This result could be related to local compensatory mechanisms against the inflammatory state. In vitro, both GDF-8 and GDF-11 did not induce proliferation or death of FLS, and more studies are undergoing to analyze their impact on the FLS phenotype. Our results contribute to the knowledge about the participation of myokines in the pathogenesis of RA.

REFERENCES:


Background: Progress has been achieved with the introduction of biologics for the management of inflammatory/autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), however such medications induce immune suppression, which is nonselective to the pathogenesis of the disease, resulting in higher rates of infections. Therefore, there are unmet medical needs in the treatment of such diseases, which should be addressed by novel approaches. Accumulating evidence suggests that extracellular vesicles (EVs) play a role in the establishment, maintenance and modulation of autoimmune processes.

Objectives: In the current study, we hypothesized that isolation of circulating autologous tissue-specific homing EVs from RA patients - may improve the delivery of current FDA-approved anti-inflammatory drugs, which will be encapsulated into these EVs. The drug-loaded EVs will be injected back to the diseased subjects and will naturally find their way to the inflamed tissue.

Results: Indeed, we found that autologous labeled EVs, expressing joint/synovia-specific homing receptors (e.g. vWf3 integrin), derived from blood of diseased arthritic mice (collagen antibody-induced arthritis model), can be directed toward the inflamed synovia, using in vivo imaging system (IVIS). Moreover, we show that these EVs strongly express glucose transporter 1 (mGLUT1) which in turn, improve their therapeutic potential to be loaded with anti-inflammatory drugs using glucose-coated gold nanoparticles (GNPs). Finally, we show that EVs derived from plasma of RA patients overexpresses vWf3 integrin and taken up by LPS/TNF-α-treated activated human synovial cell line in vitro.

Conclusion: Overall, we show the potential of autologous circulating EVs of RA patients to serve as natural nanocarrier for current FDA-approved drugs. We believe that this strategy will increase the specificity and efficiency of current treatment, therefore it will reduce side effects and will improve the quality of life of RA patients and potentially other autoimmune disease patients.

REFERENCES: [NIL]

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0077 SEMAPHORIN4B IS UPREGULATED IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS AND INDUCES EXPRESSION OF INFLAMMATORY MEDIATORS BY MACROPHAGES AND FIBROBLAST-LIKE SYNOVIOCYTES

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines, Synovium

S. Martinez-Ramos1, C. Rafael Vidal1, B. Malvar Fernández1, N. Perez-Gómez1, C. Mouriño Rodríguez1, F. J. Maceiras-Par1, I. Aitantab González2, J. M. Pego-Reigosa1, G. García1. 1Galicia Sur Health Research Institute (IIS Galicia Sur), SERGAS-UVIGO, Rheumatology & Immuno-mediated Diseases Research Group (IRIDIS), Vigo, Spain

Background: Several studies have shown that different semaphorin family members are involved in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). On one hand, our group has demonstrated that (Sema)phorin 3B and Sema3F are reduced in RA patients and play a protective role. On the other hand, Sema4A and Sema4D are increased in RA patients and are associated with inflammatory processes (Garcia, 2019; Igea, 2022).

Objectives: The aim of this study is to determine the role of Sema4B in the pathogenesis of RA.

Methods: Gene expression of Sema4B was obtained from the gene expression array available in Gene Expression Omnibus-NCBI (GSE77298). Fibroblasts-like synoviocytes from RA patients (RA-FLS) (n=8) were stimulated 4 and 24 h with Sema4B (200ng/ml), TNF (10ng/ml) or the combination of both. Peripheral blood mononcytes from RA patients (n=12) were differentiated into M1 macrophages by culturing in the presence of IFN-γ (10 ng/ml) for 6 days. Afterwards, macrophages were stimulated 24 h with Sema4B (200ng/ml), LPS (10ng/ml) or the combination of both. The expression of inflammatory mediators was determined by quantitative PCR (qPCR) and ELISA. Viability and migration of FLS were determined using calcein assays and wound closure assays, respectively.

Results: Sema4B expression was significantly higher in the synovial tissue and FLS of RA patients compared to healthy controls (HC) and osteoarthritis patients (OA), respectively. A significantly higher expression of SEMA4B in the synovium and FLS of RA patients compared to, respectively, was found. Interestingly, TNF stimulation induced the expression of SEMA4B by RA-FLS. Functional studies showed that Sema4B did not affect the viability of FLS but increased their migratory capacity. Moreover, Sema4B alone did not induce the expression of inflammatory mediators (data non shown), but significantly enhanced the TNF-induced expression of IL6, IL8, TNF, CCL2 and MMP3 (Figure 1A) and the secretion of TNF. Finally, Sema4B alone did not modulate the expression of inflammatory mediators in macrophages, but significantly enhanced the LPS-mediated expression of TNF, CCL2, and MMP1 (Figure 1B), as well as the TNF protein secretion.

Conclusion: Our data demonstrate that, in an inflammatory context, Sema4B induces FLS migration and the production of inflammatory mediators by FLS and macrophages. These results suggest that Sema4B is involved in inflammatory processes observed in the RA synovium and might be a potential therapeutic target in the treatment of RA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: All patients involved in this study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4968

AB0078 EARLY ARTHRITIS: IS JAK-STAT SIGNALLING KEY TO DISEASE PROGRESSION?

Keywords: Innate immunity, Targeted synthetic drugs, Inflammatory arthritis

R. L. Teixeira1,2,3, C. Tomé2, A. R. Faicaz2, V. C. Romão3, J. E. Fonseca1,2, I. Alcobia3, R. A. Moura4. 1Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Lisboa Norte, Hospital de Santa Maria, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Rheumatology Department, Lisboa, Portugal; 2Instituto de Medicina Molecular, João Lobo Antunes, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Instituto de Fisiologia e Biologia do Desenvolvimento, Lisboa, Portugal; 3Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Instituto de Histologia e Biologia do Desenvolvimento, Lisboa, Portugal

Background: Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) are a new therapeutic class approved for the treatment of chronic arthritis. JAKi suppress the activity of STAT tyrosine kinases, interfering with the signaling pathway which is critical for immune cell proliferation, survival and differentiation. Our group has demonstrated that early treatment with a JAKi, in animal models, abrogates disease and prevent bone damage. We hypothesize that JAK-STAT pathway is key to chronic arthritis onset and its early inhibition might have a major effect on disease control.

Conclusion: Our data demonstrate that, in an inflammatory context, Sema4B induces FLS migration and the production of inflammatory mediators by FLS and macrophages. These results suggest that Sema4B is involved in inflammatory processes observed in the RA synovium and might be a potential therapeutic target in the treatment of RA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: All patients involved in this study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4968
Objectives: The main goal of this study is to characterize the JAK-STAT signaling pathway activation in unremitting early arthritis patients.

Methods: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells were isolated from blood samples obtained from unremitting early arthritis patients (<12 months of disease duration). Frequency, phenotype and STAT phosphorylation (by mean fluorescence intensity, MFI) levels were evaluated on T and B cells, monocytes and dendritic cells (DC) by flow cytometry. A group of age and sex-matched healthy individuals was included for comparison.

Results: The frequency of total CD19+ B cells was similar between patients and controls, although patients presented a significantly decreased level of pre-switch memory B cells when compared to controls. No significant differences were observed in naïve, post-switch memory, double negative B cells, transitional B cells and plasmablasts. The frequency of total CD3+ T cells, CD14+ monocytes and DCs was similar, however patients had significantly decreased levels of plasmacytoid DCs. In addition, we found that STAT3 phosphorylation levels were significantly increased in B cells and DCs in early arthritis patients. The STAT1, STAT5 and STAT6 phosphorylation levels were similar in T and B cells, monocytes and DCs, when compared with the control group.

Conclusion: Alterations in the frequencies of circulating memory B cell subsets and pDCs, but not in T cells and monocytes, are found in unremitting early arthritis patients when compared to healthy controls. Changes in STAT3 phosphorylation MFI levels observed in B cells and DCs from early arthritis patients in comparison to controls support an early activation of JAK-STAT pathway in the initial phase of arthritis and a role of these cells in disease pathogenesis.

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank the Flow Cytometry Facility of Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes for their technical support and also Clinical Research Center of the Lisbon Academic Medical Center for their nurse support.

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AB0079

THEAFLAVIN ALLEVIATES COLLAGEN-INDUCED ARTHRITIS IN MICE BY DECREASING REACTIVE OXYGEN SPECIES AND PRO-INFLAMMATORY CYTOKINES

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

W. N. Huang1,2,3,4, C. C. Lin5,6,7,8. National Chung Hsing University, College of Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 3Ling-Tung University, Department of Business Administration, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 4National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, School of Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 5Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 6National Chung Hsing University, Institute of Biomedical Science, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 7Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Department of Medical Research, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 8National Chung Hsing University, Rong Hsing Research Center for Translational Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 9National Chung Hsing University, Ph.D. Program in Translational Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: An autoimmune disease that causes inflammation and bone and cartilage deterioration is rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In the pathogenesis of RA, oxidative stress and pro-inflammatory cytokines are important factors. The main polyphenol in black tea, theaflavin (TFs), has been used medically to treat a variety of inflammatory illnesses by reducing inflammation and reactive oxygen species (ROS).

Objectives: The medications available to treat RA have a variety of side effects. The current study was designed to assess the anti-arthritis properties of theaflavin in a mouse collagen-induced arthritis model.

Methods: In order to induce arthritis in DBA/1 mice, type II collagen was administered intradermally. From days 21 through days 42, different doses of theaflavin (50 and 100 mg/kg/day) were orally administered. To determine the effect of theaflavin on collagen-induced arthritis, histological analyses were conducted. In addition, the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), nitric oxide, and the activities of enzymatic antioxidants (superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, catalase, and glutathione reductase) in the joint homogenate of mice were examined. The levels of TNF-α, IL-6, and IL-1β were also measured by ELISA to detect inflammation.

Results: Our results showed anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory effects of theaflavin in arthritis mice. Histopathological studies corroborated the anti-arthritis properties of theaflavin. The compound was found to be effective in lowering ROS and nitric oxide levels while increasing enzymatic antioxidant levels. Theaflavin therapy also reduced TNF-α, IL-6, and IL-1β levels.

Conclusion: In mice with arthritis, theaflavin was successful in reducing inflammation and oxidative stress. These results suggest that theaflavin may be used in conjunction with other treatments to manage RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5276

AB0080

IMBALANCE OF MONOCYTE/MACROPHAGE POLARIZATION IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD AND SYNOVIAL FLUID OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Innate immunity, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Soldano1, E. Gotelli1, P. Montagna1, R. Campitiello1, A. Sulli1, V. Smith2,3, M. Cutolo1. University of Genova, IRCCS Policlinico San Martino Hospital, Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Genoa, Italy; 2Ghent University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ghent, Belgium; 3Ghent University, Department of Internal Medicine, Ghent, Belgium

Background: Macrophages strongly contribute to the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), initiating the inflammatory response, the joint damage, but also may promote the resolution of inflammation and the restoration of tissue immune-homeostasis [1,2]. This seems to be related to an unbalanced immunological response mediated by macrophages through their polarization into "classically" and "alternatively" activated phenotypes (M1 and M2) [3,4]. However, little is known about the M1 and M2 phenotype of their circulating precursors (monocytes) in the peripheral blood (PB) and the synovial fluid (SF) of RA patients.

Objectives: To characterise the polarization status (M1 and M2) of PB and SF monocytes of RA patients together with their distribution in the monocyte subsets by flow cytometry (FC).

Methods: Nineteen RA patients not yet treated with biological DMARDs (mean age 62±14 years), who fulfilled the 2010 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for RA and treated in accordance with EULAR recommendation, as well as 19 age-matched healthy subjects (HSs) were enrolled after signed informed consent.

Figure 1. TF ameliorated the severity of arthritis in CIA mouse models. (a) Representative photographs depicted the swollen and reddened rear paws of four animal groups 42 days following the initial vaccination. (b) Accumulated clinical arthritis scores in each leg ranged from 0 to 4 and were evaluated every three days using a visual scoring system. The changes in body weight of normal control or CIA mice treated with or without TF were recorded every three days till day 42. (c) TNF-α, IL-6, and IL-1β inflammatory cytokine protein levels in arthritis mouse hind paw tissues. On day 42, CIA in DBA/1 mice hind paw homogenates were taken from the normal control, vehicle-treated, or TF-treated (50 or 100 mg/kg) groups of mice. The cytokine profiles were measured using ELISA according to the techniques given. ** p < 0.01 and * p < 0.05 showed statistically significant differences in two-way ANOVA compared with the vehicle-treated CIA group
PB and SF cells were collected from each RA patient, whereas only PB cells were collected from HSs. The expression of CD14 and CD16 surface markers allowed to identify the monocyte population and the monocyte subsets: "classical"(CD14+CD16−), "intermediate"(CD14+CD16+) and "non-classical"(CD14+CD16+). The M1 phenotype (M1 monocytes) was identified by the evaluation of CD80, CD86, TLR2 and TLR4, whereas the M2 phenotype (M2 monocytes) was identified evaluating CD204, CD163 and CD206 surface markers. Results were expressed as percentage of positive cells over total leukocytes from PB and SF. Statistical analysis was carried out by Mann-Whitney non-parametric test.

Results: In RA patients, the percentage of CD14+CD16+ monocytes was significantly higher in PB compared to that in HS (p<0.001), and it was higher in SF compared to PB (p<0.05). The percentage of CD14+CD16+ monocytes was significantly increased in RA-PB compared to HS-PB and RA-SF (p<0.01; p<0.05). RA patients were characterized by an increased percentage of M1 monocyte (CD80+CD86+TLR2+TLR4+CD204+CD163+CD206+cells) in PB compared to HSs and compared to RA-SF. The percentage of M2 monocytes (CD204+CD163+CD206+CD80+CD86+TLR2+TLR4+cells) was also increased in RA-PB compared to HS-PB and to RA-SF, but this increase was lower and not significant than that observed for M1 monocytes. Moreover, the M1-M2 monocyte ratio was 8:1 in RA-PB. Therefore, in RA patients, circulating M1 monocytes belonged to the "non-classical" subset, whereas M2 monocytes belonged to the "classical" subset. The percentage of circulating mixed M1/M2 monocytes (CD80+CD86+TLR2+TLR4+CD204+CD163+CD206+cells) was higher in RA patients compared to HSs. Moreover, in RA patients, the percentage of these cells was higher in SF than in PB and they primarily belonged to the "intermediate" monocyte subset. Interestingly, the highest percentage of M2 and mixed M1/M2 monocytes was observed in PB and SF of RA patients receiving a higher daily (25mg) and cumulative glucocorticoid dosages.

Conclusion: The results confirm that RA is an immune-inflammatory disease mainly mediated by both M1 monocytes and macrophages, as demonstrated by the increase in the percentage of circulating M1 monocytes. Glucocorticoids might contribute to the M1 to M2 transition, which characterizes RA patients under remission by increasing mixed M1/M2 and M2 monocyte percentage.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Stefano Soldano: None declared, Emanuele Gotelli: None declared, Paola Montagna: None declared, Rossana Campitiello: None declared, Alberto Sulli: None declared, Vanessa Smith: None declared, Maurizio Cutolo Grant/research support from: BMS, Boehringer, Amgen. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5792

AB0081

GLUTATHIONE PEROXIDASE 3 IS A NOVEL CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC BIOMARKER AND POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC TARGET FOR NEUTROPHILS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis

T. Chen1, Y. Zhao1,1. West China Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Chengdu, China

Background: Neutrophils have a critical role in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) with immune system dysfunction. However, the molecular mechanisms of this process mediated by neutrophils still remain elusive.

Objectives: The purpose of the present study is to identify hub genes in neutrophils for diagnosis and treatment of RA utilizing publicly available datasets.

Methods: Gene expression profiles were downloaded from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO), the Gene Expression Portal of Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes enrichment analysis were used to conduct significantly functional analysis and crucial pathways. The resulting co-expression genes modules and Genomes enrichment analysis were used to conduct significantly functional analysis and visualization by Cytoscape. Flow cytometry was conducted to detect reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels in neutrophils.

Results: Neutrophils underwent transcriptional changes in synovial fluid (SF) of RA patients, different from peripheral blood of healthy controls or patients with RA. Especially, glycolysis, HIF-1 signaling, NADH metabolism, and oxidative stress were affected. These hub genes were strongly linked with classical glycolysis-related genes (ENO1, GAPDH, and PKM) responsible for ROS production. The antioxidant enzyme glutathione peroxidase 3 (GPX3), a ROS scavenger, was first identified as a hub gene in RA neutrophils. Neutrophils from patients with autoimmune diseases had markedly enhanced ROS levels, most notably in RA SF.

Conclusion: This research recognized hub genes and explored the characteristics of neutrophils in RA. Our findings suggest that the novel hub gene GPX3 is involved in the neutrophil-driven oxidative stress-mediated pathogenesis of RA. It has the potency to be a target for neutrophil-directed RA therapy.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0082

AGE-RELATED GENES USP2 AND ARG2 ARE INVOLVED IN THE REDUCTION OF IMMUNE CELL INFILTRATION IN ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis, -omics

O. Cheng1, Y. Du1, H. Wu1. The Second Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Hangzhou, China

Background: As the prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in the elderly is increasing, rheumatologists are increasingly concerned about this group of patients. There is a large gap between the clinical manifestations and biological markers of elderly patients with RA (EYRA, age > 60) and younger patients with RA (YPRA, age ≤ 60), in part from the differences in the immune system in different age groups. The current understanding of EYRA remains insufficient.

Objectives: For better understanding of the mechanism of RA disease progression and subsequent treatment options, here we focused on the changes of immune cell infiltration in YPRA and EYRA.

Methods: P package "ssGSEA" and "GSEA" were used to identify the changes in immune cell infiltration and immune-related pathways. P package "WGCNA" and "DEseq2" were used to screening and verifying age-related differentially expressed genes (DEGs). Hub genes were identified by Cytoscape and cyto-Hubba. ROC (receiver operator characteristic) analysis was performed to determine the prediction and value of biomarkers. Spearman correlation analysis was conducted to evaluate the correlation between hub age-related genes and immune cells.

Results: In early RA patients (defined as within 12 months of onset of symptoms), there were no differences in the infiltration of 28 types of immune cells between younger and older patients. However, in established RA patients, several immune cells were markedly decreased in older patients, including activated B cells, immature B cells, natural killer cells, CD56dim natural killer cells, MDSCs, monocytes, effector memory CD8+T cells, regulatory T cells, type 1 T helper cells, type 17 T helper cells and T follicular helper cells. Moreover, 78 age-related DEGs related to amino acid and glycophospholipid synthesis and metabolism were identified by WGCNA and DEseq screening. AGMAT, ARG2, OMD, USP2, IL4I1, and ISG15 were obtained by construction of molecular interaction regulatory networks. After verification by GEO validation set and our own RA synovial samples, only two genes, USP2 and ARG2, were still upregulated in EYRA after verification (Figure 1) and ARG2 and USP2 could effectively distinguish YPRA and EYRA and had potential as biomarkers.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this study is the first to systematically analyze changes in immune cell infiltration between younger and older RA patients and obtain hub age-related genes, which may provide the basis for illuminating the pathogenesis of RA and informing treatment strategies.
CD14+CD90+ CELLS IN PERIVASCULAR AREAS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS SYNOVIAL TISSUES HAVE POTENTIAL TO DIFFERENTIATE INTO DENDRITIC CELLS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Synovium

R. Kurose1, T. Satoh2, A. Kurose3, Y. Ishibashi1, Y. Wakai1, T. Sasaki1, K. Ishida1, K. Ogasaawa1, T. Sawai1. 1Hiroaki University Graduate School of Medicine, Orthopaedic Surgery, Hiroaki, Japan; 2Iwate Medical University School of Medicine, Pathology, Morioka, Japan; 3Hiroaki University Graduate School of Medicine, Pathology, Hiroaki, Japan; 4Hiroaki Memorial Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Hiroaki, Japan; 5Tohoku University, Pathology, Sendai, Japan

Background: We have previously reported that CD14+ dendritic-shaped cells show a dendritic morphology under the electron microscopy and engage in a pseudoemperipolesis phenomenon with lymphocytes. CD14+ dendritic-shaped cells express CD90 in the perivascular areas of RA synovial tissues. In addition, the CD14+CD90+ cells are considered to be derived from CD14+CD90+ cells in the perivascular areas, which may be involved in RA inflammation as dendritic cells.

Methods: We have previously reported that CD14+ dendritic-shaped cells show a dendritic morphology under the electron microscopy and engage in a pseudoemperipolesis phenomenon with lymphocytes. CD14+ dendritic-shaped cells express CD90 in the perivascular areas of RA synovial tissues. In addition, the CD14+CD90+ cells are considered to be derived from CD14+CD90+ cells in the perivascular areas, which may be involved in RA inflammation as dendritic cells.

Conclusion: Our study using MR herein indicated that the metformin related targets and the risk of RA, including the inverse-variance weighted (IVW) method, MR-Egger, and Weighted median (WM), was followed by sensitivity analyses. In addition, we also performed Cochran’s Q test, MR pleiotropy residual sum and outlier (MR-PRESSO), leave-one-out sensitivity test to test for heterogeneity, horizontal multiplicity and stability of results.

Results: Genetically predicted 5 targets were not associated with RA with odds ratio [AMPK OR=1.21, 95% CI=0.61, 2.39, p = 0.58], [M30 OR=1.76, 95% CI=0.49, 6.31, p = 0.14], [GDPF1 OR=0.63, 95% CI=0.19, 2.05, p = 0.31], [GLP1/GCG OR=0.97, 95% CI=0.80, 1.16, p = 0.78](Figure1). In addition, no apparent heterogeneity and no horizontal pleiotropy were observed in the sensitivity analysis.

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Results: ELISAs were measured in the culture supernatants at days 0, 4, 8 and 12 using validated III, and VI collagen formation (PRO-C1, PRO-C3 and PRO-C6, respectively), nM, either alone or in combination from day 0 and the treatments changed twice α[0.5 nM] or TNF- β[1 nM], IL-1 β.

Methods: The in-a-Jar model. Briefly, the fibroblasts were cultured in 0.4% fetal bovine serum DMEM, ficoll (to create a crowded environment) and ascorbic acid for 12 days.

Conclusion: The combination of both growth factors and cytokines may be directing components, and upon activation the production increases. The healthy synovial membrane consists of multiple ECM components, including type I, III and VI collagen[1]. The ECM composition of the fibrotic and fibro-inflamed membrane is unclear. We have previously shown that TGF-β increases the formation of type I, III and VI collagens in osteoarthritis (OA) fibroblasts-like synoviocytes (FLS)[2]. Both IL-1 and TNF-α receptors have been found in the synovium of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients[1]. We hypothesize that both fibrosis and inflammation are likely to be present in arthritis diseases at the same time. And that the interplay between different disease drivers is crucial for the structural manifestation. Therefore, the combination of both growth factors and cytokines may be directing the composition of the synovial ECM in the joint.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to characterize the effect of inflammation on the fibrotic response of OA FLS using biomarkers of collagen formation.

Methods: Primary human FLS were isolated from synovial membranes, from OA patients undergoing total knee replacement (n=4) and cultured in the Scar-in-a-Jar model. Briefly, the fibroblasts were cultured in 0.4% fetal bovine serum DMEM, ficoll (to create a crowded environment) and ascorbic acid for 12 days. The fibroblasts were stimulated with TGF-β[1] (1 nM), IL-1α[0.5 nM] or TNF-α[0.5 nM], either alone or in combination from day 0 and the treatments changed twice a week. Non-stimulated fibroblasts were used as control. Biomarkers of type I, III, and VI collagen formation (PRO-C1, PRO-C3 and PRO-C6, respectively), were measured in the culture supernatants at days 0, 4, 8 and 12 using validated ELISAs.

Results: Treatment with IL-1α or TNF-α alone did not affect PRO-C1, PRO-C3 or PRO-C6, compared control (Figure 1A). TGF-β[1] increased the total release of PRO-C1 and PRO-C6, compared to control (p<0.001, Figure 1A). The total release of PRO-C3 did not increase, while at day 12 the PRO-C3 level was higher compared to control (p<0.05; data not shown). Both IL-1α and TNF-α in combination with TGF-β[1] decreased PRO-C1 (p<0.01, Figure 1A; decrease of 32-53%, Figure 1B) and PRO-C6 compared to TGF-β[1] alone (p<0.001, Figure 1A; decrease of 56-78%, Figure 1B). TNF-α in combination with TGF-β[1], increased the release of PRO-C3 (p<0.01, Figure 1A; increase of 172-264%, Figure 1B), while the combination with IL-1α did not seem to affect the PRO-C3 response compared to TGF-β[1] alone (Figure 1A; increase of 48% to decrease of 39%, Figure 1B).

Conclusion: The combination of inflammatory cytokines and TGF-β[1] leads to a differential effect on formation of ECM components such as type II collagen. These findings suggest that the presence of an inflammatory component, may be important for the development of a fibrotic component in joint diseases. Consequently, this also underlines the need for a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms driving the joints diseases.

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inflammation and atherosclerosis, which could link these processes, and are potential therapeutic targets for RA.

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Table 1. Summaries of the multivariate linear regression models to estimate the associations between miRNAs and DAS28 and ESR in the overall cohort and stratified by sex. Basal models are adjusted for age, sex, body mass index, disease onset, disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, corticosteroids and biological drugs. β = beta coefficient, p = p-value.

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Acknowledgements: We would like to thank all the patients for their essential collaboration.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2419

Table 1. Patients demographic and clinical characteristics

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, months</td>
<td>Median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of previous bDMARDs</td>
<td>Median (IQR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing treatment:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- TNF-inhibitors</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- JAK-inhibitors</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Anti-IL17</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| csDMARDs=conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugsbDMARDs= biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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The SYNOVIAL EXPRESSION OF pSTAT1-3-5 IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE TREATMENT-RESISTANT MONOARTHRITIS IN THE COURSE OF RHEUMATOID AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Synovium, Rheumatoid arthritis
Spondyloarthritis: aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

AB0088
GENETICALLY DETERMINED GUT MICROBIOME AND THE RISK OF ANKYLOSING SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Bone diseases
Q. Wang1,2, J. Hu1,2, K. Fan1,2, Q. Yu1,2, P. F. He1, X. Li3,4, S. X. Zhang1,2,4
1Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microecology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China; 4The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a common chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease affecting the sacroiliac joint and spine, with or without systemic symptoms such as peripheral arthritis[1]. The etiology of AS is still unclear, which is affected by genetic risk factors and the environment, especially microbiome. In addition, growing evidence suggests that the influence of the microbiota extends beyond the gut and affects the systemic immune system[2]. The relationship between the gut microbiome and AS has been well documented. However, the causal relationship between the gut microbiome and AS has yet to be well studied.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the causal relationship between the gut microbiome and AS using a two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) study.

Methods: Gut microbiome genome-wide association study (GWAS) data were extracted from the MR-base platform. Data on AS have been obtained from genome-wide association data collected by the UK Biobank (968 cases and 336,191 healthy controls). First, we identified SNPs associated with the gut microbiome by genome-wide significance level (p < 1 × 10^-8). Then, a two-sample MR study was conducted to examine the association of gut microbiome and AS, including the inverse-variance weighted (IVW) method, MR-Egger, and Weighted median (WM). In addition, we also performed Cochran's Q test, MR pleiotropy residual sum and outlier (MR-PRESSO), and leave-one-out sensitivity test to test for heterogeneity, horizontal multiplicity, and stability of results.

Results: Ruminococcaceae was positively associated with the risk of AS (OR=0.998, 95%CI =0.997, 0.999, p =0.037), Butyrivibrio (OR=1.01, 95%CI =1.00, 1.03, p =0.042), Coprooccus3 (OR=1.01, 95%CI =1.00, 1.03, P =0.042), and Defluvialeaceae (OR=1.01, 95%CI =1.00, 1.02, p =0.04) were negatively correlated with the risk of AS. (Figure 1) In addition, no apparent heterogeneity or horizontal pleiotropy were observed in the sensitivity analysis.

Conclusion: This study supports a causal relationship between gut microbial composition and risk for AS, thus providing novel insights into the gut microbiota-mediated development mechanism of AS.

REFERENCES:

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UK Biobank (Discovery)

FinnGen (Replication)

Figure 1. Forest plots showing nominally significant (p < 0.05) Mendelian randomization estimates of gut bacterial taxa in the UK Biobank (Discovery) and the FinnGen (replication) cohort.
Impact of comorbidity burden as scored using the rheumatic disease comorbidity index (RDCI) on response to treatment with the first bDMARD among Psoriatic Arthritis patients

Keywords: Comorbidities, bDMARD, Psoriatic arthritis

PATIENTS AND METHODS ON HEPATOCYTES IN VITRO EFFECTS OF METHOTREXATE, ANTI-PDE-4, AND ANTI-JAK TREATMENTS ON HEPATOCYTES

Keywords: Biomarkers, Psoriatic arthritis

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: We thank the researchers in the MiBioGen consortium, UK Biobank and FinGen biobanks for releasing their valuable GWAS datasets.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: N.I.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0090

In vitro effects of methotrexate, anti-PDE-4, and anti-Jak treatments on hepatocytes stimulated by Psoriatic Arthritis serum

Keywords:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
AB0092
ANTIBODIES OF THE IMMUNOGLOBULIN G AND A ISOYOTE TO NOVEL PEPTIDES IN EARLY AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Spondyloarthritis, Autoantibodies

P. Ruytinx¹, P. Vandomael¹, D. Quaden¹, E. Luyten¹, P. Geusens²,3, J. Vanwijck⁴, A. Troldborg¹, K. De Vlam¹,², V. Somers¹,². ¹UHasselt, Biomedical Research Institute, Department of Immunology and Infection, Diepenbeek, Belgium; ²Department of Rheumatology, ReumaClinic, Genk, Belgium; ³University Maastricht, Department of Rheumatology, Maastricht, Netherlands; ⁴UHasselt, Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences, REVAL - Rehabilitation Research Center, Diepenbeek, Belgium; ¹University Hospitals Leuven, Department of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium; ²KULeuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Center (SBE), Dept Development and Regeneration, Leuven, Belgium

Background: There is an unmet need for biomarkers to identify patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), as clinical manifestations often overlap with other disorders. Previously, we identified immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies to 3 Hasselt University (UH)-axSpA peptides which could provide a novel tool for diagnosis of a subset of axSpA patients [1].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to identify novel IgA antibodies in early axSpA patients and to determine their diagnostic potential in combination with previously determined IgG antibodies against UH-axSpA-IgG antigens.

Methods: An axSpA cDNA phage display library constructed from axSpA hip synovium, was used to screen for novel IgA antibodies in plasma from early axSpA patients. The diagnostic value of these antibodies against novel UH-axSpA-IgA and previously identified UH-axSpA-IgG antigens was determined in two independent axSpA cohorts [UH cohort and the Leuven spondyloarthritis biologics cohort (BioSPAR)] in healthy controls and in patients with chronic low back pain (CLBP) using ELISA.

Results: We identified antibodies to 7 novel UH-axSpA-IgA antigens, of which 6 correspond to non-physiological peptides and 1 to the human histone deacetylase 3 (HDAC3) protein. IgA antibodies against 2 of these 7 novel UH-axSpA-IgA antigens and IgG antibodies against 2 of the previously identified antigens were significantly more present in axSpA patients from the UH cohort (18/70, 25.7%) and the (Bio)SPAR cohort (26/164, 15.9%), compared to controls with CLBP (2/66, 3%). Antibodies to this panel of 4 antigens were present in 21.1% (30/142) of patients with early axSpA from the UH and (Bio)SPAR cohorts. The positive likelihood ratio for confirming early axSpA using antibodies to these 4 UH-axSpA antigens was 70. So far, no clinical correlation existed between the novel identified IgA antibodies and inflammatory bowel disease could be identified.

Conclusion: Screening an axSpA cDNA phage display library for IgA reactivity resulted in the identification of 7 novel UH-axSpA-IgA antigens, of which 2 show promising biomarker potential for the diagnosis of a subset of axSpA patients, in combination with previously identified UH-axSpA-IgG antigens.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3092

AB0093
COMPLEMENT IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (AXSPA). INVESTIGATIONS IN A CROSS-SECTIONAL COHORT (OPTIREF) OF PATIENTS SUSPECTED OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Innate immunity

C. E. Mistegaard¹,²,³, A. Trolldborg²,³, A. G. Loft³, S. Thiel², L. Spiller², V. Rios Rodriguez², B. Muche², J. Rademaker², A. K. Weber², S. Lueders³, S. Stieper³, D. Poddubnyy⁴, F. Prölt³. ¹Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; ²Aarhus University, Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus, Denmark; ³Aarhus University, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus, Denmark; ⁴Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Gastroenterology, Infectiology and Rheumatology (including Nutrition Medicine), Berlin, Germany

Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease without specific diagnostic biomarkers. However, recent evidence suggests an involvement of the innate immune system in the pathogenesis of axSpA [1]. The lectin pathway of complement activation serves essential functions in the innate immune system, regulates homeostasis and development. We have previously shown the lectin pathway proteins (LPPs) L-ficolin and M-ficolin to be elevated in axSpA-patients compared with clinically relevant controls with unspecific low back pain (uLBP).

Objectives: To investigate the diagnostic potential of LPP levels in patients recruited from a well-defined cross-sectional prospective cohort (OptiRef), including newly diagnosed axSpA-patients and uLBP-patients.

Methods: Serum samples were obtained from 515 individuals from the OptiRef cohort; 151 newly diagnosed axSpA-patients and 364 uLBP-patients [2]. All patients were assessed according to a standardized protocol, incl. clinical information as demographics, SpA features, symptom duration, and disease activity. Routine lab tests (HLA-B27 and CRP) were performed. Imaging (x-ray and MRI) was performed if deemed clinically relevant. Serum levels of all 10 LPPs (MBL, CL-L1, M-ficolin, H-ficolin, L-ficolin, MASP-1, MASP-2, MASP-3, MAP19, and MAP44) and the complement activation product C3dg were measured by immunoassays.

Results: Patient characteristics are shown in Table 1. L-ficolin, MASp-2, and C3dg serum levels were increased in axSpA-patients compared with uLBP-patients, whereas CL-L1 and MASp-3 serum levels were decreased (Figure 1). After adjustments for CRP, C3dg serum levels remained significantly increased in axSpA-patients, whereas M-ficolin and MASp-3 serum levels were decreased in axSpA-patients. The diagnostic potential of combining either L-ficolin, MASp-3, and C3dg with HLA-B27 increased specificity to 93-95% compared with HLA-B27 alone (77%) but decreased sensitivity to 29-33% compared with HLA-B27 alone (83%). In a univariate logistic regression analysis, CL-L1, MASp-2, and C3dg were associated with an axSpA-diagnosis, and C3dg and MASp-3 remained significant in a multivariate logistic regression analysis.

Conclusion: In this study, serum levels of C3dg, MASp-3, and CL-L1 differed significantly between axSpA-patients and uLBP-patients after adjustment for CRP. Although combining HLA-B27 with measurements of L-ficolin, MASp-3, and C3dg increased diagnostic specificity for axSpA, it seems unjustified due to the concomitant loss of sensitivity. However, both C3dg and MASp-3 were associated with the axSpA-diagnosis in multivariable logistic regression, indicating the complement system's involvement in axSpA-pathogenesis. This should be further investigated.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Patient characteristics of the included patients from the OptiRef cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total cohort</th>
<th>axSpA</th>
<th>uLBP</th>
<th>p-value*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n = 515</td>
<td>n = 151</td>
<td>n = 364</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age, years (IQR)</td>
<td>36 (29-45)</td>
<td>33 (26-40)</td>
<td>38 (30-46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males, n (%)</td>
<td>240 (47)</td>
<td>83 (55)</td>
<td>157 (43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive, n (%)</td>
<td>203 (41)</td>
<td>121 (80)</td>
<td>82 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking, n (%)</td>
<td>138 (30)</td>
<td>47 (31)</td>
<td>91 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, median (IQR)</td>
<td>24 (22-27)</td>
<td>24 (22-26)</td>
<td>24 (22-28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, years median (IQR)</td>
<td>6 (2-12)</td>
<td>5 (2-10)</td>
<td>7 (2-14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory back pain, n (%)</td>
<td>210 (41)</td>
<td>130 (86)</td>
<td>175 (48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good response of back pain to NSAID, n (%)</td>
<td>274 (73)</td>
<td>102 (84)</td>
<td>172 (68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP (&gt;5 mg/L), n (%)</td>
<td>91 (18)</td>
<td>53 (35)</td>
<td>38 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiographic axSpA, n (%)</td>
<td>77 (59)</td>
<td>77 (59)</td>
<td>77 (59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRPmedian (IQR)</td>
<td>2.7 (1.8-3.3)</td>
<td>2.7 (1.8-3.3)</td>
<td>2.7 (1.8-3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI, median (IQR)</td>
<td>4.6 (2.6-5.7)</td>
<td>4.6 (2.6-5.7)</td>
<td>4.6 (2.6-5.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* axSpA vs. uLBP. ** Mann Whitney U test. * Chi2 test. Notations in the table indicate available data. If no marks, data were available on all patients. n = 146, 46 n=353 n = 141, 113 n=340, n = 122, 46 n=252, n=150 0.335 7 n=142, 46 n=148.

Figure 1. Serum levels of significantly altered complement LPPs in the two patient groups.
AB0094

ANALYSIS OF CUMULATIVE DOSES OF METHOTREXATE IN THE HEPATIC DISEASE RISKTHROUGH IN VIVO AND IN VITRO APPROACHES IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)


1IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, University of Cordoba, Rheumatology Service, Cordoba, Spain; 2IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Medical and Surgical Sciences, Cordoba, Spain; 3IMIBIC/University of Cordoba/Reina Sofia Hospital, Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Cordoba, Spain; 4IDISCAM/Hospital General de Tomelloso, Gastroenterology, Tomelloso, Spain

Background: Liver abnormalities, particularly non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) are strongly associated with psoriatic arthritis (PsA). In the last decades, the possible hepatotoxic effects of methotrexate in PsA have been studied, however, up to date, the results are controversial.

Objectives: 1) to evaluate the liver damage risk in PsA patients and its relationship with clinical features of the disease; 2) to determine the influence of cumulative doses of methotrexate by in vivo and in vitro approaches.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was performed on 326 subjects: 155 PsA patients, 87 NAFLD non-PsA patients, and 84 healthy donors (HDs). Clinical and laboratory parameters, liver disease biomarkers, and several indexes to evaluate the risk of suffering hepatic steatosis or fibrosis were evaluated. Cumulative doses of methotrexate were calculated retrospectively. Mechanistic studies were carried out on hepatocytes (HEPG2 cell line) treated with cumulative doses of methotrexate for up to 72 hours and 150µM. The changes in the levels of 11 inflammatory proteins on the hepatocytes were analyzed using PEA technology (ClinKit Target 96 Inflammation panel, Cobiomic Biosciences).

Results: using a NAFLD non-PsA BMI, age and sex-matched cohort, a cut-off value of hepatic steatosis index (HSI) (35.68; AUC=0.865 <0.0001) was calculated to distinguish NAFLD patients from HDs. Taking this value into account, PsA patients showed a significantly high risk of suffering NAFLD vs HDs, 65% respect to 22%. In addition, PsA patients with a high risk for steatosis displayed a significant prevalence of insulin resistance, obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and arterial hypertension compared to PsA patients with no risk. Interestingly, these PsA patients also showed significantly elevated levels of triglycerides, complement component 3, DAPSA, c-reactive protein, and erythrocyte sedimentation rate. Next, PsA patients were divided into two groups depending on mean cumulative doses of methotrexate (<1.5 gr for no hepatotoxic risk group and >1.5 gr for the hepatotoxic risk group). Patients with more than 1.5gr of methotrexate cumulative dose showed significantly lower levels of acute phase reactants and no significant differences in metabolic profile or liver disease biomarkers. However, fibrosis-4 score (FIB-4) was significantly elevated in the group of hepatotoxic risk and positively correlated with cumulative doses of methotrexate. Although, this association was influenced by the age variable and not due to the levels of transaminases or platelets. On the other hand, in vitro treatment of hepatocytes with methotrexate for 24h induced the expression of 19 inflammatory proteins out of 92. These changes were not significantly altered after 72 hours of treatment with methotrexate added each 24h.

Conclusion: 1) PsA patients with a high risk of liver disease show elevated rates of cardiometabolic comorbidities, inflammatory clinical markers and disease activity suggesting the link between metabolic alterations and the clinical features of PsA with the development of NAFLD, 2) PsA patients with high cumulative doses of methotrexate had no alteration of hepatic enzymes and indexes and 3) High cumulative doses of methotrexate in vitro did not show a significant impact on hepatocyte cells compared to low doses. Funded by ISCIII (PI20/00079 and RICOR-RD21/0002/0033), the Andalusian government (1381035-F) co-financed by ERDF.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Conclusion: It was observed that IHc reactivity for TGF-β1 and IL17A was higher in patients who needed biologics after 5 years of following. Early increased synovial immunohistochemistry reactivity of IL17A and TGF-β1 in psoriatic arthri-tis and rheumatoid arthritis patients could predict the need to use biologics.

Funding sources: Grant (P111/00390) from Plan Nacional de Investigación Científica, Desarrollo e Innovación Tecnológica 2008-2011 and co-financed by the ISCIII-Subdirección General de Evaluación y Fomento de la Investigación - Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER).

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REFERENCES: NIL.

the antiinflammatory effect of KYNA, marking it a potential target for therapeutic elevation of the TSG-6 production by KYNA analog is a possible mechanism behind;

Department of Laboratory Medicine, Budapest, Hungary

Group for Stereochemistry, Szeged, Hungary

2University of Szeged, Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Research

Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunobiology, Szeged, Hungary

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER).

the ISCIII-Subdirección General de Evaluación y Fomento de la Investigación - Científica, Desarrollo e Innovación Tecnológica 2008-2011 and co-financed by Funding sources:

1 in psoriatic arthri-synovial immunohistochemistry reactivity of IL17A and TGF-β higher in patients who needed biologics after 5 years of following. Early increased periodicity was long. But at the same time, all SpA patients were examined with the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) and the Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) using clinical and laboratory data.

Results: Among 61 SpA subjects, 83.6% were men, mean [SD] age was 43.2 [12.3] years and mean disease duration was 13.8 [9.1] years. Mean BASDAI was 2.6 [1.7] and mean ASDAS-2CRP was 16 [1.1]. SASP-SCR was positive in 5 controls (0.4 [0.3-6.4] pg/ml for IL-17 and 57.7 [50.5-108.8] pg/ml for IL-23), albeit not significant (p=ns). Interestingly, significantly higher serum IL-23 was observed in patients with non-radiographic axial SpA (n=30, 13.1 [8.7-49.4] pg/ml) than advanced ankylosing spondylitis (AS) (n=41, 9.7 [7.9-12.6] pg/ml) (p=0.039), but not with IL-17 (13 [0.8-3.7] pg/ml in nrAXSpA vs. 13 [0.5-6.8] pg/ml in AS, p=ns). Nevertheless, no significant difference regarding serum IL-17 and IL-23 levels was found between patients with less active SpA (ASDAS-2CRP ≤2.1, n=44) and more active SpA (ASDAS-2CRP >2.1, n=13). No associations of serum level of IL-17 and IL-23 levels with other clinical parameters including disease dura-tion, synodesmophyte, tumor necrosis factor inhibitors use were found.

Conclusion: Peripheral blood IL-23/IL-17 concentrations did not show the associ-ation with inflammatory burden of the disease. However, the level of serum IL-23 was higher in patients with nrAXSpA than in those with advanced AS. IL-17 might dissociate from IL-17 in advanced AS and play an important role only at early stage of axSpA.

REFERENCE:


Acknowledgements: This research was supported by a grant awarded to JY from Gachon University Gil Medical Center (Grant number: FRD2021-08).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

D0: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5555

AB0098

THE CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND PSORIASIS: A TWO-SAMPLE MENDELIAN RANDOMIZED STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Randomized control trial

Y. Xu1,2,3, Y. Chen4,5, J. Zeng1,2,3, J. Han1,2,3, Y. Xue1,2,3, L. Shi4,5, J. Zhao1,2,3, H. Tao1,2,3, X. Li1,2,3, Y. Zhang1,2,3, Z. Sheng1,2,3, J. Zhang1,2,3, X. Zhang1,2,3, S. Zhao1,2,3, C. Zhang1,2,3.

The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microeology, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China

Background: Psoriasis is an immune-related, chronic inflammatory skin disease. The disease often presents with clearly delineated areas of erythematous patches on the skin covered with silvery scales[1]. As the research progresses, more and more evidence suggests that multiple sclerosis may help reduce the occurrence of psoriasis.

Objectives: To explore whether there is a causal relationship between having multiple sclerosis and obtaining psoriasis.

Methods: We used a 2-sample Mendelian Randomization (MR) method to evaluate the causal effect of multiple sclerosis on psoriasis. Multiple sclerosis (MS) and psoriasis (Ps) Ps summary data from IEU database (https://www.mrcieu.ac.uk). The multiple sclerosis cohort consisted of 9,722 samples and 17376 controls. The psoriasis cohort consisted of 4510 samples and 212242 controls. To reduce bias due to race-related confounding factors, the genetic background of the study population was limited to European ancestry. In the MR Approach, the IV analysis is based on three strict assumptions, namely that IV should be strongly correlated with exposure, independent of confounding factors associated with both exposure and outcome, and influence outcome solely through exposure[2]. We screened for significant (p<5×10-06) and approximately independent (r 2 <0.01) genome-wide single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPS) and retained only SNPS with scores over 10 that were considered sufficiently strongly associated. To estimate the causal relationship between exposure and outcome, inverse variance weighting (IVW), MR-Egger regression, and weighted median methods were used. Mendelian random multivariate residuals and outliers, Cochran Q test and MR-Egger regression were used for sensitivity analysis.

Results: MR Statistics showed that genetic prediction of multiple sclerosis was associated with a reduced risk of psoriasis (IVW: OR=0.698,95%CI= 0.5788-0.843 P=2.098-e-2), which we found to be statistically significant as the weighted
median method (OR=0.827, 95%CI= 0.760- 0.898p =4.476e-06), MR-Egger also showed a similar effect (OR=0.668; 95%CI= 0.482-0.926 P = 2.184e-02). Cochran’s Q test (Q=522.685; p=9.057e-51) found potential heterogeneity. MR-egger regression (P=1.164, intercept=0.043) was used to test the nonexistent horizontal multi-directivity. Similarly, we examined the level of pleiotropy again with MR-PRESSO’s global test, and the results showed no evidence of horizontal pleiotropy. In addition, no SNP was found to be a significant factor affecting the association in the residual analysis.

Conclusion: Our results provide causal evidence for the effect of multiple sclerosis on psoriasis risk. This Mendelian randomization study showed a causal relationship between multiple sclerosis and the risk of psoriasis. Multiple sclerosis may help reduce the burden of psoriasis.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3929

AB0099 CLONORCHIS SINENSIS-EXCRETORY/SECRETORY PROTEIN AMELIORATES INFLAMMATION IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Animal models

Y. J. Lee1,2, M. J. Kim3, H. I. Lee1, S. C. Shim4, E. J. Won5, T. J. Kim1.
1Chonnam National University Medical School and Hospital, Department of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Graduate School of Chonnam National University, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Chonnam National University Medical School and Hospital, Department of Parasiotology and Tropical Medicine, Gwangju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Daejeon Rheumatoid & Degenerative Arthritis Center, Chungnam National University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Daejeon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a sort of inflammatory arthritis that affects axial skeleton, peripheral joints, and certain extra-articular organs, including the eyes, skin, and gut. Recently, many attempts have been made to use parasite administration (e.g., ingestion of eggs of the nematode Trichuris suis) as a new modality for treating inflammatory disorders. Our group published that Clonorchis sinensis protein attenuated inflammation in AS.

Objectives: Thus, this study aimed to assess the therapeutic potential of Clonorchis sinensis-Excretory/Secretory protein (Cs-ESP) as an anti-inflammatory drug. Our study was conducted in a murine model of human rheumatoid arthritis. PloS One (2011) 6(8):e23453.

Methods: Treatment with Cs-ESP resulted in no reduced cell viability of PBMCs or SFMCs. In experiments culturing PBMCs and SFMCs, the frequencies of IFN-g and IL-17A producing cells were significantly reduced after Cs-ESP treatment. In the SKG mouse model, Cs-ESP treatment significantly suppressed arthritis and enthesis.

Conclusion: We provide the evidence demonstrating that Cs-ESP can ameliorate clinical signs and cytokine derangements in AS.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0100 TO STUDY THE T CELL AND CYTOKINE PROFILE IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS WITH EFFECTS OF TACROLIMUS AND TADALAFIL ON THE CYTOKINES IN-VITRO

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Spondyloarthritis

P. Mehta1, K. Singh2, M. K. Rai3, D. P. Misra1, V. Agarwali2,1King George’s Medical University, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 2Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India

Background: Most studies have shown mixed results of Interleukin (IL)17 and IL-23 levels in patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) compared to controls; with animal studies showing a good correlation between activation of IL 23-IL
Serum TGF-β

Serum IL-23 -0.01(-0.1-0.08) 0.8

Serum IL-17 -0.01(-0.05-0.03) 0.5

Model 3

CD4+PD1+/CD25+ -0.2(0.4- -0.02) 0.03*

CD4+Th17/CD25+ 3.5(0.7 -6.3) 0.02*

CD4+PD1+ -0.3(-0.7 -0.1) 0.07

CD4+Th17 1 .4(0.6-2.2) 0.003**

Conclusion: observed with IL-17 or IL-23. (Figure 1)

There was a significant decline in TGF-β between cytokines or T cell profiling with Modified Stokes Ankylosing Spondylitis disease, clinical parameters, disease activity indices, cytokine and T-cell profile were significantly elevated in AS compared to HC. When stratified by duration of disease, clinical parameters, disease activity indices, cytokine and T-cell profile were significantly elevated in the peripheral blood in AS.

Results: Twenty-five patients [28(24-36),M:F , 7 .3:1] were enrolled with 90% HLA-B27 positivity. The majority had moderate-high disease activity as per ASDAS CRP and were on NSAIDs(24), complementary medications (7) and two each on methotrexate and sulfasalazine. Serum IL-17 and TGF-β were drawn and sera stored; PBMCs were isolated and cultured. Serum and PBMC culture supernatant (CS) were measured for IL-17, IL-23 and TGF-β. These cytokines were measured at baseline, after stimulation with anti-CD3CD28 antibodies, and after treatment with tacrolimus(10M/Ml), tadalafil(10M/Ml) and both the drugs combined by ELISA(R&D systems, USA). The T cell profile was characterized by flow cytometry (CD4 Th17, CD4 PD1, CD4 Th17 PD1 and CD4 CD25). Statistical analysis was done using GraphPad prism v9.

There was no difference in the cytokine and T-cell profile across early and late disease and not on biologic therapy were recruited and their demographic, clinical profile, disease activity and radiologic indices were recorded. Age and sex matched healthy controls (HC, n=21) were also recruited. Peripheral blood was drawn and sera stored; PBMCs were isolated and cultured. Serum and PBMC culture supernatant (CS) were measured for IL-17, IL-23 and TGF-β. These cytokines were measured at baseline, after stimulation with anti-CD3CD28 antibodies, and after treatment with tacrolimus(10M/Ml), tadalafil(10M/Ml) and both the drugs combined by ELISA(R&D systems, USA). The T cell profile was characterized by flow cytometry (CD4 Th17, CD4 PD1, CD4 Th17 PD1 and CD4 CD25). Statistical analysis was done using GraphPad prism v9.

Conclusion: Serum IL-17 and TGF-β were elevated in the peripheral blood in AS. There was no difference in the cytokine and T-cell profile across early and late disease. A significant decline in TGF-β levels was seen with combined tacrolimus and tadalafil. This needs further exploration in a larger sample size with subgroup characterization as well as testing on synovial fluid and joint tissue samples.

Table 1. Association of disease activity and T cell/cytokine profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multivariate GLM</th>
<th>OR (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Model 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4+Th17</td>
<td>1.4(0.6-2.2) 0.003*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4+PD1+</td>
<td>-0.3(-0.7-0.1) 0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD1+Th17</td>
<td>-0.1(-1.0-0.01) 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4+Th17/CD25+</td>
<td>3.5(0.7-6.3) 0.02*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4+PD1+CD25+</td>
<td>-0.2(-0.4-0.02) 0.03*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD1+Th17CD25+</td>
<td>-0.6(-2.3-1.1) 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum IL-17</td>
<td>-0.01(-0.05-0.03) 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum IL-23</td>
<td>-0.01(-0.1-0.08) 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum TGF-β</td>
<td>-0.00(-0.001-0.007) 0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. In vitro effect of drugs on culture supernatant cytokine levels at baseline, CD3 CD28 stimulation, and after addition of tacrolimus, tadalafil and its combination.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclose of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0102 POTENTIAL BIOMARKERS TO PREDICT TNF INHIBITORS OUTCOME IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Psoriatic arthritis, Biomarkers

A. Makos1, J. H. Kuiper2, R. Amarsena3, O. Kehoe1. 1Keele University School of Medicine at the RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital, Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Keele, United Kingdom; 2Keele University School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering at the RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital, Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Keele, United Kingdom; 3The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Gobowen, United Kingdom

Background: Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) is a chronic immune-mediated inflammatory disease characterized by axial and peripheral arthritis, dactylitis, nail changes and most of the time, is associated with psoriasis. Patients are initially treated with conventional Synthetic Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (csDMARDs), but if they do not respond to these, they are treated with biologics, particularly TNF inhibitors (TNFi) which are common first-line biologics. However, about 40% of patients do not or only partially respond to TNFi. Blood biomarkers predicting response to TNFi would allow patients to be treated earlier with a more appropriate drug [1].

Objectives: We studied pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines and adaptive immune cells that could be used as biomarkers for TNFi outcome. Predicting responses to TNFi will help clinicians to choose a more appropriate treatment for patients.

Methods: Blood from patients with PsA (n = 8) was analysed before starting TNFi and compared with blood from patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (n = 8). PsA patients were characterised as ‘psoriasis positive’ and ‘psoriasis negative’. Patients were followed at 3 and 6 months after treatment (n = 6). Leukocytes were isolated with lymphoprep and their phenotype was characterised by flow cytometry.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**CD45, CD3, CD4, CXCxR3, CCR6, HLA-DR, CD8, CD25 and CD127. Levels of 12 cytokines in plasma were measured using a cytokine kit (MACSplex Cytokine 12 Kit, Human, Miltenyi Biotec Ltd, UK). Clinical data from patients were collected to determine treatment outcome.**

**Results:** Mean level of TNFα was higher in our RA patients (6.2 pg/ml) compared to our PsA patients (4.6 pg/ml). Initial analysis of clinical data suggested that our PsA patients without psoriasis (n = 2) responded better to TNFi than those with active psoriasis (n = 4) at 3 months and 6 months after treatment, with a clear reduction in the number of tender joints (‘psoriasis positive’: 6.65 vs 1.67; ‘psoriasis negative’ 11.5 vs 6.67) and swollen joints (‘psoriasis positive’: 2 vs 0.67; ‘psoriasis negative’: 3.50 vs 0). The mean proportion of activated Th17 cells was higher in our patients with active psoriasis (5.1% of Th17 cells) than those without psoriasis (3.6% of Th17 cells). The mean level of IL-12 and INFγ was higher in the ‘psoriasis positive’ group (respectively 129.2 pg/ml and 266.1 pg/ml) compared to our PsA patients (4.6 pg/ml). Initial analysis of clinical data suggested that PsA patients have a lower level of TNFα because of other pro-inflammatory cytokines potentially involved in the inflammatory process. IL-12 can induce IFNγ production by Th1 cells and is involved in the IL12/IL23 axis in psoriasis pathogenesis. IFNγ can induce Th1 and Th17 cells expansion through myeloid dendritic cells activation. In PsA, the high levels of IL-12 and IFNγ involved in psoriasis pathogenesis might be one of the reasons for a poor response to treatment, but larger sample sizes are needed to find a biomarker that could be used routinely by clinicians, and to determine if the same biomarker can also be used for other types of arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis.

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Enthesitis, Inflammatory arthritides

Z. Zhao1,2,3, F. Liu1,2,3, Z. Wang1,2,3, S. Song1,2,3, J. Qiao1,2,3, S. X. Zhang1,2,3, X. Li1,2,3, 1The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microbiology, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic, immune-mediated arthropathy mainly affecting the peripheral joints, spine, and sacroiliac joints[1] The key pathogenic mechanisms are ‘uncontrolled’ fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS), along with the proliferation of endothelial cells (EC) and T cells. Growing evidence found that the proliferation of these cells of psoriatic arthritis are dependent on the PI3K-akt-mTOR kinase system.[2]

**Objectives:** This study aimed to investigate the causality between key mTOR kinase cascade proteins and psoriatic arthritis.

**Methods:** We used a 2-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) method to evaluate the causal effect of five mTOR-dependent circulating proteins on psoriatic arthritis. Data about mTOR-related gene expression (eIF4A3, eIF4E2, eIF4E-BP2, eIF4G3, RP-S6KA) in plasma were obtained from the publicly available proteomics-GWAS INTEVAL study (https://www.phpc.cam.ac.uk/ceu/proteins/), which included 3,622 plasma protein assays from 3,301 participants. PsA relative single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) as the instruments. For the other four common mTOR related targets, we have not found a causal relationship between them and PsA including eIF4A3 (IVW: OR = 0.912,95% CI:0.748,1.111; p = 0.359), eIF4E-BP2 (IVW: OR = 0.842,95% CI:0.789,1.031; p = 0.075), eIF4G3 (IVW: OR = 0.768,95% CI:0.709,1.135; p = 0.366) and RP-S6KA (IVW: OR = 0.893, 95% CI: 0.767,1.040; p = 0.146). To verify the robustness of our model, we performed sensitivity analysis. No potential heterogeneity was found by Cochran’s Q test (Q=6;311; p=0.852), MR-Egger regression (P=0.425, intercept=0.038) found no horizontal pleiotropy. Similarly, the result of MR-PRESSO test found no evidence of horizontal pleiotropy. In summary, this 2-sample mendelian randomization study found a causal protective association of eIF4E2 with psoriatic arthritis. This novel result provides the scope to develop new therapeutics targeting PI3K/Akt/mTOR signaling pathway in psoriatic arthritis.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to acknowledge the Rheumatology clinical team and research nurses at the RAJH Orthopaedic Hospital, and PsA and RA patients for participating in the study. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3529

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**References:**


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**AB0104**

THE CAUSAL EFFECT OF LIPID METABOLISM ON THE RISK OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION STUDY

**Keywords:** Genetics/Epigenetics, Psoriatic arthritis

Y. Ji1, J. Zhu2, H. So1, P. Wong1, L. S. Tam1, D. Wu2, 1The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, China; 2Shiuian Provincial People’s Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Sichuan, China

**Background:** Psoriatic disease, including psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and psoriasis, is driven by a combination of genetic, biomechanical, metabolic, and microbial factors which promote an aberrant immune response and the consequent development of chronic disease.[1] Genetic evidence has indicated that body mass index and glycemic control are associated with an increased risk of psoriasis and PsA, and also with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.[2] However, the causal relationship between serum lipids and risk of incident PsA remains unclear.

**Objectives:** To investigate whether lipid metabolites are causally associated with incident psoriatic arthritis (PsA), in comparison with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and ankylosing spondylitis (AS).

**Methods:** The publicly available summary-level findings from two genome-wide association studies (GWAS) were used to identify loci influencing circulating metabolites as exposure and a GWAS for PsA (n=1,637, control=212,242, RA (n=6,236, control=147,221), AS (n=1,462, control=164,682) as the outcome. Bi-directional Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis and multivariable MR analysis were used in main and validation analysis.

**Results:** In the main analysis, pooled data suggested a causal association of PsA risk with total cholesterol (P=0.005), cholesterol esters (P=0.003), free cholesterol (P=0.009), total lipids (P=0.004), phospholipids (P=0.010), and concentration of particles (P=0.005) in large low-density lipoprotein (LDL); total cholesterol (P=0.009), cholesterol esters (P=0.006), total lipids (P=0.009), phospholipids (P=0.002), and concentration of particles (P=0.009) in medium LDL; total cholesterol (P=0.001), total lipids (P=0.001), concentration of particles (P=0.001) in small LDL (Table 1). Multivariable MR analysis identified cholesterol esters in large LDL as the strongest causal risk factor for PsA (P=0.017) (Table 1). In validation analysis, genetically predicted cholesterol (P=0.004), cholesterol esters (P=0.001), and total lipids (P=0.003) in LDL; cholesterol esters in large LDL (P=0.006); phospholipids (P=0.007) and concentration of particles...
Results: When selecting SNPs associated with IL-7, in the situation of the genome-wide significant threshold of $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ and LD $r^2 = 0.001$, we finally obtained 9 IVs that could be used in the subsequent steps. Based on the IVW mode with high statistical power, a prudent and credible causal relationship was demonstrated between IL-7 and AS [IVW: $P = 0.025$, OR(95%CI) = 0.999(0.999 1.000)]. As the level of IL-7 increased, the risk of developing AS also decreased, proving that IL-7 was a protective factor for this disease (Figure 1a). The Cochran Q test (Q test $p = 0.99$) showed a good homogeneity among studies. The results of a leave-one-out sensitivity analysis suggested that causal associations were not strongly influenced by any of the selected IVs (Figure 1b). Funnel plot results (Figure 1c) and the intercept of the MR-Egger regression (Figure 1d) further showed that pleiotropy did not bias the causal effect in this study.

Conclusion: Our research results show that IL-7 is causally associated with the pathogenesis of AS, which enables the early detection of AS, this findings have great clinical value.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Multivariable Mendelian randomization analyses estimating the direct effects of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) traits on psoriatic arthritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>No. of SNPs</th>
<th>β</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apolipoprotein B</td>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.142</td>
<td>0.347</td>
<td>0.682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol esters in large LDL</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3.722</td>
<td>1.565</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cholesterol in LDL</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-1.365</td>
<td>1.297</td>
<td>0.293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol esters in medium LDL</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-2.269</td>
<td>1.529</td>
<td>0.138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism; Significant results are in bold.

Figure 1. Mendelian randomization results for associations between low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) traits and psoriatic arthritis.

Acknowledgements: We are immensely grateful to the study participants from the circulating metabolites GWAS study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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CAUSAL ASSOCIATION BETWEEN IL-7 LEVELS AND ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: A TWO-SAMPLE MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION STUDY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Genetics/Epigenetics, Inflammatory arthritides

C. Wang1,2, Y. X. Chen1,2, Z. J. Li2, Y. Li1, T. Huang1, D. Y. Xue3, S. X. Zhang2,4, Q. Yu1.

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is an immune-mediated inflammatory arthritis that affects the axial skeleton. Currently, the cause of AS is still not known, so there is no way to prevent AS. Interleukin-7 (IL-7) is a restrictive and non repetitive cytokine, mainly produced by epithelial and stromal cells. The relationship between IL-7 and some inflammatory cytokines such as AS has been discussed in recent advances in the pathogenesis of AS, but a direct effect of IL-7 on AS has not been demonstrated[1].

Objectives: To clarify the causal relationship between IL-7 and AS, we used two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) to prove that IL-7 is a protective factor for this disease.

Methods: To clarify the causal relationship between the IL-7 family members and AS, we used two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR).

SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism; Significant results are in bold.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5327

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IL-17 FAMILY MEMBERS AND THEIR RECEPTORS AND ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: A TWO-SAMPLE MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION STUDY

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Cytokines and chemokines, -omics

Y. X. Chen1,2, X. Y. Guo1,2, C. Wang3,2, J. Q. Bai2,2, J. Q. Qiao2,4, S. X. Zhang2,4, P. P. He2, Q. Yu1,3, Shanxi Medical University School of Basic Medical Sciences, Taiyuan, China; 2Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Medical Data Sciences, Taiyuan, China

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is an axial rheumatic and spinal disease based on autoimmune and genetic susceptibility that affects the sacroiliac joints and the spine[1]. Interleukin 17 (IL-17) as an inflammatory cytokine positively correlated with disease activity in AS patients[2]. However, the causal relationship between the IL-17 family and its receptors and AS is inconclusive.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to discover the causal association between the IL-17 family members with their receptors and AS.

Methods: To clarify the causal relationship between the IL-17 family members and AS, we used two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR).
We selected single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) from genome-wide association studies (GWAS) which included IL-17 family members and their receptors (N = 3301) and AS (Ncase = 968, Ncontrol = 336,191). Confounding factors were excluded, heterozygosity and lateral polymorphisms were examined and corrected.

**Results:** We found that IL-17RB level was significantly causally associated with AS (IVW OR=1.0007, 95%CI 1.0002–1.0011, P = 0.0020, Figure 1a). Sensitivity analysis also confirmed the absence of horizontal polymorphism (MR-Egger intercept = 6.59B9x10^(-5), P = 0.5158, Figure 1b) and heterogeneity (IVW Q = 10.7388, Q_pval = 0.5514) that biased the causality. The leave-one-out sensitivity test showed that no single SNP strongly affected the causal relationship between IL-17RB and AS (Figure 1c). Furthermore, funnel plot symmetry suggests that our study fits the IV hypothesis (Figure 1d). However, our results show no significant causal relationship between AS and other IL-17 family members and their receptors.

**Conclusion:** Our results show that IL-17RB is a protective factor for AS. We offer a new insight into the drug targets of AS.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB0107**

**A CAUSAL EFFECT OF IL-10 LEVELS ON THE RISK OF ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: A MENDELIAN RANDOMIZATION STUDY**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

Y. X. Chen1,2, J. O. Bai1,2, C. Wang3,4, L. L. Zheng1, J. Qiao1, S. X. Zhang1,4, Q. Yu1, P. F. He1,4, Shanxi Medical University, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Taiyuan, China; 2Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, School of Management, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 5Shanxi Medical University, Medical Data Sciences, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a chronic inflammatory immune response disease mainly presenting with fibrosis of the sacroiliac joint and calcification [1]. Interleukin-10 (IL-10) is a factor that suppresses Th17 cell activity and induced Treg cells to achieve immunosuppression. Observational studies show that IL-10 may be one of the important contributing sources of important inflammatory cytokines for AS [2], but the causal relationship between them is not clear.

**Objectives:** The objective was to investigate the casual association between AS and IL-10.

**Methods:** The GWAS summary statistics of IL-10 and AS (Ncase = 968, Ncontrol = 336,191) were downloaded from the IEU GWAS database in the study. After a series of screens, SNPs strongly associated with exposure were included as instrumental variables (IVs). The results are from using robust analyses with three two-sample different assumptions (Inverse variance weighting (IVW), Weighted median (WM) and MR-Egger). Meanwhile, we used MR-Egger intercept test, Cochran’sQ test and leave-one-out sensitivity analysis for assessment to avoid the biasing effects of potential genetic variation, horizontal pleiotropy and heterogeneity. MR-PRESSO outlier test was used to identify and eliminate horizontal pleiotropy.

**Results:** Our result showed that the level of IL-10 has a causal relationship with the risk of developing AS (IVW OR=0.9992, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.9985-0.9999, P = 0.03, Figure 1a, 1b). Increasing the IL-10 level can reduce the risk of AS disease. MR-Egger intercept test (MR-Egger intercept = -1.5705x10^-5, P = 0.5158, Figure 1b), Cochran’s Q test (IVW Q = 4.3071, Q_pval = 0.8284), leave-one-out sensitivity analysis (Figure 1c) and the funnel plot (Figure 1d) suggest almost no bias in the study, indicating that the MR was robust.

**Conclusion:** Our results indicate a protective role for IL-10 in AS, suggesting that elevated IL-10 levels may be able to alleviate the inflammatory response in AS, providing new insights into AS treatment.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB0108**

**THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ELEVATED SERUM IL22 AND THE CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF AXIAL SPA.**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Inflammatory arthritides, Spondyloarthritides


1Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Maraño, Rheumatology Department, Madrid, Spain; 2Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de A Coruña, Department of Rheumatology-INIBIC, A Coruña, Spain; 3Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de A Coruña, INIBIC, A Coruña, Spain; 4Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de A Coruña, INIBIC, A Coruña, Spain; 5Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de A Coruña, INIBIC, A Coruña, Spain.
Background: Interleukin-22 (IL-22) is produced by T helper type 1, type 17, type 22 cells, and type 3 ILC, being probably a marker of osteogenic differentiation and new bone formation. Diagnosis and treatment are commonly delayed due to different clinical presentations that lead the patient to progressive articular damage. In recent studies, it seems that the serum levels of IL-22 are elevated in axial spondyloarthritids (AxSpA) and do not allow differentiation between AxSpA and other joint inflammatory disorders.

Objectives: The present research aimed to analyze serum cytokines as possible biomarkers regarding inflammation and bone destruction/regeneration in four rheumatic diseases.

Methods: Serum samples were acquired from patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), osteoarthritis (OA), and AxSpA. Serum levels of TGF-β1, IL-23, IL-6, IL-17A, IL-22, Dkk1, Sclerostin, BMP2, BMP4, Wnt1, and Wnt5a were measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). All these data were analyzed and compared with the demographic, clinical, analytical, and radiological characteristics of the patients. Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS version 23 program (IBM SPSS Statistics). Values of \( p < 0.05 \) were considered statistically significant.

Results: The serum samples were obtained from 35 patients (PsA n=11, RA n=7, OA n=13, AxSpA n=5). All these patients were previously treated with NSAIDs and corticosteroids (oral/intraarticular); 4 were treated with csDMARDs, but no patient received anti-TNF agents or biologic therapy. Prevalence of AxSpA was 20% (7/35). All patients were diagnosed by rheumatology and gastroenterology to prevent disability and loss of function.

Conclusion: Serum levels of IL-22 are elevated in patients with clinical diagnoses of AxSpA and could be an independent serum biomarker of this disease.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Patient characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SpA</th>
<th>Axial</th>
<th>Crohn's Disease</th>
<th>7/53 (13.2%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ulcerative Colitis</td>
<td>6/7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral</td>
<td>Crohn's Disease</td>
<td>32/53 (60.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ulcerative Colitis</td>
<td>21/32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ulcerative Colitis</td>
<td>9/32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undifferentiated IBD</td>
<td>2/32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Both axial and peripheral</td>
<td>14/53 (26.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crohn's Disease</td>
<td>13/14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ulcerative Colitis</td>
<td>1/14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiographic evidence of sacroiliitis in AxSpA</td>
<td>9/21 (42.8%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA B27</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>3/39 (76.9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>36/39 (92.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: We report a high prevalence of IBD associated SpA in patients presenting for evaluation of arthralgia to a multidisciplinary clinic. Diagnosis and management of SpA in the context of IBD can be challenging and warrants a multidisciplinary approach to timely diagnosis and management. Combined efforts to make treatment changes to induce and maintain disease remission can lead to improvement in morbidity in these patients. This study highlights the characteristics of patients with IBD associated SpA and demonstrates the value of integrated management in clinical practice.
Feasibility of an IL-17A assay in patients with axial spondyloarthritis

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Ultrasound, Cytokines and chemokines

V. Pulo-Pueto1, S. Armesto2, S. Remuzgo-Martínez3, R. López-Mejías3, M. Sebastián-Mora-Gil1, J. G. Ocejo-Vinuales1, A. Corrales1, Y. V. Calvo-Rio1, A. M. Salas-Martínez1, M. González-López1, C. López-Obregón1, E. Areucreceña1, L. Rodríguez-Rodríguez1, C. Aguirre Portilla1, M. A. González-Gay1,2, R. Blanco1,2, F. Gene Romero1, J. Rueda-Gotor2,4,5

1IDIVAL, Research Group on Genetic Epidemiology and Atherosclerosis in Systemic Diseases and in Metabolic Bone Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System, Santander, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Department of Dermatology, Santander, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Department of Immunology, Santander, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Department of Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 5Universidad de Cantabria, School of Nursery, Santander, Spain; 6Universidad de Cantabria, IDIVAL and Department of Medicine and Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Santander, Spain; 7IIS-Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: The cheomine C-X-C Motif Chemokine Ligand 10 (CXCL10) has been found to be elevated in those patients with psoriasis (PsO) who will develop psoriatic arthritids (PsA), thus being proposed as a predictor of joint involvement [1]. CXCL10 progressively declines in those PsO patients until the diagnosis of PsA is fulfilled. In parallel, with the duration of the disease [2]. In contrast, CXCL10 remains invariable over time in the rest of PsO patients. Subclinical ultrasound synovitis may be considered a pre-disease state of PsA [3]. CXCL10 serum levels in patients with preclinical PsA are still unknown.

Objectives: To better characterize the preclinical phase of PsA and to assess the relationship of CXCL10 serum levels with subclinical joint involvement in PsO patients.

Methods: 62 patients with PsO without PsA were included, all of them naive to biological therapy. Ultrasonography (US) was performed on the wrist and metacarpophalangeal 1–5 joints (MCP), proximal interphalangeal 1–5 joints (PIP), and distal interphalangeal 2–5 joints (DIP) bilaterally, and grey scale (GS) synovitis were scored semiquantitatively (0–3) using the OMERACT scoring system. Serum CXCL10 levels were also determined by ELISA in all the patients.

Results: 31 men and 31 women were recruited. GS synovitis ≥1 was present in 30 patients, 10 men and 20 women, while only 7 patients exhibited GS synovitis ≥2, 4 men and 3 women. The mean log10CXCL10 was inferior in patients showing any grade of GS, both in the whole group and after stratifying by sex (Table 1), although the difference was only statistically significant for grade 1 of GS in men (p=0.02) and grade 2 of GS in women (p=0.02).

Conclusion: PsO patients with subclinical synovitis show lower serum levels of CXCL10 than patients without it, as occurs in patients with established PsA. This finding confirms a close relationship between this biomarker and joint involvement in PsO and supports its potential use as a predictor marker in the preclinical phase of PsA.

REFERENCE:

Group Variable Baseline Category LogCXCL10 Mean ± SD p p*

PsO Presence of GS synovitis ≥1

in hands

Yes (n=30) 3.3 ± 1.1 0.07 0.13

No (n=22) 3.8 ± 1.1

Male PsO Presence of GS synovitis ≥1

in hands

Yes (n=10) 3.9 ± 0.9 0.02 0.02

No (n=21) 3.7 ± 1.2

Female PsO Presence of GS synovitis ≥1

in hands

Yes (n=9) 3.5 ± 1.1 0.76 0.96

No (n=22) 3.7 ± 1.0

*Adjusted by sex and age at the study in the PsO group and by age at the study in the male and female PsO groups.

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) through the project P12/000059, co-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and by FIS/19/0851 (RETIN) to J.R.-G. VC is supported by RETIN. VC is recipient of the European Regional Development Fund. VC is also supported by RETIN.

Disclosure of Interests: Verónica Pulo-Cueto: None declared, Susana Armesto: None declared, Sara Remuzgo-Martínez: None declared, Raquel López-Mejías: None declared, María Sebastián-Mora-Gil: None declared, J. Gonzalo Ocejo-Vinuales: None declared, Alfonso Corrales: None declared, Vanesa Calvo-Rio: None declared, Ana María Salas-Martínez: None declared, Marcos González López: None declared, Cristina López-Obregón: None declared, Elena Areucreceña: None declared, Luis Rodríguez-Rodriguez: None declared, Carolina Aguirre Portilla: None declared, Miguel A González-Gay Speakers bureau: Abbüv, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Lilly, Celgene, MSD and GSK, Grant/research support from: Abbüv, MSD, Jansen and Roche, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbüv, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Jansen and MSD, Consultant of: Abbüv, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Jansen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbüv, MSD and Roche, Fernando Gene Romero: None declared, Javier Rueda-Gotor: None declared.

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SLE, Sjöns's and APS - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

**AB0112 IT IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE TO USE HUMAN CXCL5 TO TREAT MURINE LUPUS**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cytokines and chemokines, Animal models

D. Guo,1 F. Lim,1 C. T. Ng,2,3 A. Low,2,3 X. Fan1,2,1 Singapore General Hospital, Clinical Translational Research, Singapore, Singapore; 2Singapore General Hospital, Rheumatology and Immunology, Singapore, Singapore; 3Duke-NUS Medical School, SingHealth Duke-NUS Medicine, Singapore, Singapore

**Background:** As a novel myeloid/neutrophil-targeting therapy for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), the therapeutic efficacy of administering mouse (m) CXCL5 to lupus-prone mice have been demonstrated by our group recently.[1,2]

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to examine the pre-clinical safety and establish the pharmacokinetic (PK) response of human (h)CXCL5 to ease the commercialization and bring our discovery from bench to bedside.

**Methods:** Immediate and accumulative liver and kidney toxicity were determined by alanine transaminase and aspartate transaminase activity and urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio. T lymphocytes (TACR), mCXCL5 expression in major internal organs (e.g., kidneys, lungs, liver, heart, brain and spleen) was determined by immunofluorescent staining on snap-frozen sections. Whether administering hCXCL5 promoted cancer cell growth was examined in both in vitro and in vivo renal cell carcinoma models. Haematological toxicity and circulating immunity, cell counts for white blood cells, red blood cells, monocytes, neutrophils, T cells and B cells, were evaluated in both Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) healthy and MRL/lpr (Fas+) lupus-prone mice. PK study of hCXCL5 was performed in both ICR healthy and Fas–/– lupus-prone mice intravenously.

**Results:** Our study showed that it was safe to administer CXCL5. There was no liver or kidney toxicity or cancer inducing effects. There was no further inflammation caused by hCXCL5 administration. Major components of the immune system were also not compromised. PK study showed that blood endogenous mCXCL5 levels were not altered by exogenous hCXCL5 administration in ICR healthy mice, but increased in Fas–/– lupus-prone mice. Blood exogenous hCXCL5 was only detectable within 24 hours post-administration and the peak levels were positively correlated with the administration dosage. Mice survival was improved and reversely correlated with administration dosage.

**Conclusion:** It is safe and effective to use hCXCL5 to treat murine lupus.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.577

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**AB0113 CHRONIC STIMULATION WITH SARS-COV-2 SPIKE PROTEIN DOES NOT TRIGGER AUTOIMMUNITY**

**Keywords:** COVID, Autoimmune Animals, Model doz, Nordic Pharma, Jean Sibilia Speakers bureau: Roche, Chugai, Bristol-Myers Squibb, UCB, GSK, LFB, Actelion, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Amgen, Abbvie, Sanzod, Gilead, Lilly, Sanofi Genzyme, Janssen, Mylan, Galapagos, Sobi, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, BMS, Roche, MSD, George Tsokos; None declared, Jacques-Eric Gottenberg Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Gilead, Lilly, Roche-Chugai, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB; Grant/research support from: BMS.

**Disclosures of Interests:** NIL

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.984

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**AB0114 INCREASED EXPRESSION OF SEMAPHORIN 4A IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE ACTIVITY OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers, Animal models

Y. Choi,1 E. K. Lee,2 K. M. Kim,3 M. S. Lee,4 C. H. Lee,4 C. H. Chung,5,6,7,8 H. Yoo1,2 Jeonbuk National University Medical School, Internal Medicine, Jeonju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Jeonbuk National University, Medical Science, Jeonju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Jeonbuk National University Medical School, Pathology, Jeonju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Wonsuk University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Iksan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Semaphorin (SEMA), initially identified as a neural guidance molecule, has been recently highlighted for its role in regulating the immune response.

**Methods:** We immunized intraperitoneally C57Bl/6 mice (n = 5/group) with recombinant SARS-CoV-2 spike protein (1µg per injection) or vehicle (phosphate buffered saline [PBS]). Figure 1A. The first injection was mixed with Alum as an adjuvant, and the other injections were diluted in PBS, administered intraperitoneally every 5 days, 16 times in total. Five days after the final injection, the mice were sacrificed to retrieve serum. We measured anti-spike and anti-dsDNA IgG using ELISA. The serum from 5-34-week-old C57Bl/6 Jpr autoimmune mice were used as positive control. Briefly, 96-well plate were coated overnight with either spike protein (0.2µg/mL) or call thymus DNA (0.1µg/mL); after precoating with poly-L-lysine 0.05mg/mL. After blocking with PBS-BSA, the diluted serum samples were incubated on the plate for 2 hours at room temperature. Plate-bound IgG were revealed using an alkaline phosphatase-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (1:5000). For anti-dsDNA IgG measurement, the serum of an autoimmune mice was used as a reference standard and the result expressed in unit per mL.

**Results:** After immunization, the phenotype of control and spike-immunized mice was clinically similar. All the immunized mice were exempt of proteinuria (Figure 1B). Only the mice which were injected with spike protein developed measurable amounts of anti-spike IgG as determined by ELISA, while those injected with PBS and the C57Bl/6 Jpr mice did not (Figure 1C). None of the mice in the immunization group developed measurable anti-dsDNA IgG (Figure 1D).

**Conclusion:** In our study, the repetitive exposure of C57Bl/6 mice to the SARS-CoV-2 spike antigen did not lead to autoimmunity. Although these results are reassuring, large scale epidemiological studies are needed to evaluate the incidence of autoimmune diseases in individuals with multiple exposure to SARS-CoV-2 antigens.

**REFERENCES:**
Among seven categories of SEMA, Class 4A SEMA (SEMA4A) involves the T cell-mediated immune responses through the expression of itself in dendritic cells. **Objectives:** This study aimed to investigate the expression of SEMA4A in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and the association between the expression of SEMA4A and the activity of lupus in the lupus mouse model and patients with SLE.  

**Methods:** The expression of SEMA4A was measured from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) in healthy controls and patients with SLE by polymerase chain reaction. Bone marrow-derived dendritic cells (BMDCs) and renal tissues from control mice and Toll-like receptor (TLR)-7 agonist (R848)-induced lupus mice were investigated for the expression of SEMA4A using Western blotting and immunofluorescence assay. Immunohistochemistry was performed to examine the expression of SEMA4A in the kidneys of the patients with SLE and they were analyzed according to the activity index of lupus nephritis.

**Results:** The expression of SEMA4A of PBMCs was elevated in the patients with SLE (n=20, 3.86±0.80) compared to those of healthy control (n=20, 1.0±0.37). SEMA4A is constitutively expressed by dendritic cells, so we analyzed the expression of SEMA4A in BMDCs of TLR-7 agonist (R848)-induced lupus murine group and control group. The SEMA4A was highly expressed in the BMDCs of the lupus group (2.06±1.67) compared to the control group (1.0±0.29). The immunocytochemistry also showed enhanced fluorescence intensity of SEMA4A in BMDCs of the lupus mouse group (19.57±6.37) compared to the control group (10.43±6.87). The kidneys, one of the main target organs of SLE, were analyzed for the protein level of SEMA4A in the murine lupus group and control group. The western blotting of the whole kidney and isolated glomeruli showed a marked expression of SEMA4A in the lupus group compared to the control group. The mean fluorescence intensity of SEMA4A in the kidneys of lupus mice was significantly enhanced compared to the control group (6.51±0.47 vs. 3.75±0.13). In the analysis of immunohistochemistry of SEMA4A in the kidneys of the patients with SLE, the positivity of SEMA4A staining was markedly higher in lupus nephritis with higher activity score (≥10) (80%) compared to those of lupus nephritis with lower activity score (<10) (0%).

**Conclusion:** The expression of SEMA4A is significantly increased in the dendritic cells and kidneys of the lupus murine group and the patients with SLE compared to the control group. The expression of SEMA4A in the kidneys in the patients with SLE correlates with the severity of lupus nephritis. These results indicate the possible contribution of SEMA4A in the pathogenesis of SLE and the potential of targeting SEMA4A for the treatment of SLE.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None declared.

**REFERENCES:**


**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Innate immunity, Cell biology

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**AB0118**  
**CD14+ MYELOID CELLS EXPRESS THE PDC MARKERS BDCA-2, BDCA-4, CD123 UPON DIFFERENTIATION IN BOTH HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND SLE PATIENTS

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** NIL.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None declared.

**REFERENCES:**


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** NIL.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None declared.

**REFERENCES:**


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** NIL.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None declared.

**REFERENCES:**


**Background:** Metformin is a biguanide oral hypoglycemic agent that is widely used as a first-line drug treatment for type II diabetes. In addition, metformin is also used in the treatment of certain autoimmune diseases, such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). It plays a key role in the pathogenesis of SLE through pathways such as inhibiting type 1 IFN, regulating T effector cells and proinflammatory cytokines. However, the causal relationship of the metformin-in-related targets on the risk of SLE is still unclear.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to assess the causal effect of metformin targets (AMPK, MCI, GDF 15 and GLP 1/ GCG) on the risk of SLE using Mendelian randomization (MR).

**Methods:** Genetic variants including downstream and 100kb upstream of encoding five genes were selected as candidate tool variants. The SNP was further screened as in low linkage disequilibrium \((r^2 < 0.3)\) and associated with HbA 1c \((P ≤ 0.05)\). The Genome-wide association study (GWAS) of HbA 1c comes from the Meta-Analyses of Glucose and Insulin-related traits Consortium (MAGICC) \((n = 88,355)\). The SLE data \((n = 5,201, ncontrol = 9,066)\) are pooled from publicly available GWAS. Two-sample MR was performed using inverse variance weighted (IVW), MR-Egger, and weighted median (WM) to obtain causal estimates of metformin-related targets and risk of SLE. In addition, sensitivity analysis, outlier (MR-PRESSO) and leave-one-out analysis were conducted to test the heterogeneity and level pleiotropy of the results.

**Results:** Genetically predicted increase in HbA1c instrumented by GDF 15 variants was associated with increased risk of SLE \((GDF 15 p = 0.028)\). However, genetically predicted AMPK, MGC3, and MCI, and GLP 1/ GCG were not associated with SLE risk \((p = 0.122, 0.105, 0.762, 0.361)\) (Figure 1). No outlier between GDF 15 and the risk of SLE was identified via the MR-PRESSO test. The leave-one-out analysis verified the robustness of the outcomes.

**Conclusion:** This study suggests that the GDF 15 gene may be a plausible mechanism of action to reduce the risk of SLE and provides critical evidence to guide future clinical trials of metformin.

**REFERENCES:**


3. E. Kaan1,2,3, T. Brunekreef1, J. Drylewicz3, L. Van den Hoogen1,2, H. Lewis4,2, J. M. Van Laar5, M. Van der Vlist1,2, H. Olten1, M. Linper5,2, University Medical Center Utrecht, Center for Translational Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 2University Medical Center Utrecht, Department of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 3Oncode Institute, Oncode Institute, Utrecht, Netherlands

**Background:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease characterized by a variety of disease symptoms and an unpredictable clinical course. SLE can lead to premature death as a result of disease activity or because of treatment side effects. This underlines the urgency to identify patients at risk for a complicated disease course, and the need to tailor therapy. Stratification based on immunological manifestations such as autoantibodies, upregulation of type I interferon (IFN) regulated genes (IFN signature) and neutrophil extracellular trap (NET) formation via NETosis can help to improve treatment outcome in SLE.

**Objectives:** Here we study the association between SLE-related autoantibodies, the IFN signature and NET formation in patients with SLE, which could lead to improved tools for patient stratification and more targeted treatment options.

**Methods:** We studied the association between the IFN signature and plasma induced NET formation with 57 autoantibodies in 25 patients with SLE. The presence of an IFN signature was determined using the sum of standardized mRNA expression of IF44, IFITM1, SERPING1, and LYY6 in monocytes from SLE patients. Plasma induced NET formation was studied with quantitative live imaging. The threshold for the presence of an IFN signature or NET formation were both set at 2 SD above the mean of a group of healthy controls. With principal component analysis (PCA) and hierarchical clustering we associated autoantibody concentrations with the IFN signature and NET formation. This study was a separate analysis from larger cohorts, of which results have been previously published.[1,2]

**Results:** We observed two distinct clusters with the PCA: one cluster contained mostly patients with an IFN signature, and another cluster contained a mix of patients with IFN and without IFN an IFN signature. Patients with (NET) and without (noNET) plasma induced NET formation were equally distributed between the clusters. PCA1 explains 22.7% of total variability, and is mainly driven by antibodies against histones, RibP2, RibP0, EphB2, RibP1, PCNA, dsDNA, and nucleosome. Hierarchical cluster analysis confirmed the two clusters (Figure 1). In addition, we found a trend towards increased concentrations of autoantibodies against EphB2, RibP1, and RNP70 in patients with an IFN signature. We found a negative correlation of NET formation with anti-FcER and anti-PmScl100.

**Conclusion:** We identified a subgroup of patients with an IFN signature who express increased concentrations of antibodies against DNA and RNA-associated proteins. We did not find positive associations between autoantibodies and plasma induced NET formation. Our study further strengthens the evidence of a correlation between RNA-binding autoantibodies and the IFN signature. As the IFN signature currently is not part of the standard follow-up for patients, partially due to its associated costs, a profile of DNA and RNA-binding autoantibodies might be used for patient stratification, especially related to anti-IFN treatment.

**REFERENCES:**


AB0118

DIAGNOSTIC PREDICTIVE VALUE OF SOLUBLE PSLG-1 AND THEIR LIGANDS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)

Keywords: Biomarkers, Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus

E. San-Antonio1, J. Sanchez-Abad1, A. M. Manzano1, A. Muñoz-Callejas1, E. Vicente-Rabanales2, J. Garcia Perez2, S. Castañeda2, A. Urzainqui2
1University Hospital La Princesa, Immunology Department, Madrid, Spain
2University Hospital La Princesa, Rheumatology Department, Madrid, Spain

Background: Rheumatic diseases are generally diagnosed in advanced stages. Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) are systemic inflammatory autoimmune disease characterized by presence of autoantibodies against DNA and nuclear proteins and a wide variety of clinical symptoms (Fava 2019, Wang 2019). Actually, it has not curative treatment (Mathias 2020). Therefore, the search for biomarkers for SLE diagnosis in earlier stages and its derived complications is mandatory (Thanou 2021, Wan 2018). Adhesion molecules are crucial to leukocytes infiltration to inflammation sites (Ponthieux 2004, Ivetic 2019, Tinoco 2019). Therefore, search for biomarkers of SLE diagnosis in earlier stages and its derived complications is mandated (Thanou 2021, Wan 2018). Adhesion molecules are crucial to leukocytes infiltration to inflammation sites (Ponthieux 2004, Ivetic 2019, Tinoco 2019).

Methods: Levels of P-selectin, E-selectin, and ADAM8 were measured in serum of patients with SLE (Gonzalez-Tajuelo 2017, Skeoch 2014, da Rosa Franchi 2018). They were compared to healthy controls.

Objectives: To study the possible involvement of adhesion molecules in the development of disease, we have analysed the pattern of PSLG-1 serum levels together with its main ligands P- E- and L-selectins and ADAM8 in SLE patients.

Methods: Serum samples from 52 SLE patients, 36 inactive (SLE) and 16 active (SLE) and 55 healthy donors (HD) sex and age matched group per decade were collected and proteins levels were measured by available ELISA kits: Human PSLG-1/CD162 kit (Novus Biologicals, Colorado, USA), Human Selectins/CD62 kits C6D2E, CD62L and CD62P (Diaclone, France), and Human ADAM8 (A Disintegrin And Metalloprotease 8) Kit (Elabscience, Texas, USA).

Results: SLE patients showed a statistically significant increase of PSLG-1, E-Selectin and ADAM8 and decrease of L-Selectin serum levels with respect to HD. No difference were observed between inactive and active SLE patients. Patients with anti-dsDNA and/or anti-SSA autoantibodies showed lower serum level of PSLG-1 and higher level of L-Selectin and ADAM8 compared to patients with absence of these autoantibodies. Importantly, the expression profile of these proteins revealed that L-Selectin/ADAM8 ratio in SLE patients is a good predictor marked in a multivariable binary logistic regression model (OR=1,701, CI: 1.188-2.450, p<0.005). Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve presented an area under curve (AUC) of 0.80 and the optimal cut off value maximizing sensitivity (98%) and specificity (48%) jointly corresponded to ratio<2,06. In this model the 97% of patients were correctly grouped.

Conclusion: SLE patients show significantly different serum levels of PSLG-1, E-Selectin, L-Selectin and ADAM8 with respect to healthy controls. This specific profile of serum protein levels could be a potentially valuable tool for the early diagnosis of SLE.

REFERENCES:

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AB0119

EVALUATION OF P-GP AND MRP-1 EXPRESSION ON PLASMA CELLS AND TH17 LYMPHOCYTES IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD AND BONE MARROW OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys

K. Singh1, D. P. Misra1, S. Katyar2, V. Agarwal2, S. Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; S. Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Hematology, Lucknow, India

Background: P-glycoprotein (p-gp) and multidrug resistance protein 1 (MRP-1) contribute towards resistance to glucocorticoids and/or immunosuppressive drugs in lupus nephritis (LN). Long-lived plasma cells (PCs) persistently produce antibodies and are resistant to most immunosuppressive therapies including B-cell depletion. Elevated T helper 17 lymphocytes (Th17) are associated with resistant LN phenotypes. We hypothesise the overexpression of p-gp and MRP-1 on these two cell types which might eventually contribute towards drug-resistant phenotype in LN.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To evaluate the frequency of peripheral blood PCs and Th17 cells expressing p-gp and MRP-1 in LN compared with healthy controls (HCs).
2. To evaluate the frequency of PCs expressing p-gp in bone marrow of LN.

Methods: Patients with LN fulfilling the 2019 ACR/EULAR classification criteria and HCs were recruited after written informed consent. p-gp and MRP-1 expression on peripheral PCs (CD45+ + CD138+), p-gp expression on Th17 (CD4+ IL-17+), and regulatory T lymphocytes (Treg, CD4+ CD25+ FoxP3+) were determined using flowcytometry (BD FACS Canto II). Proportions of T lymphocytes were normalized to Tregs. Frequencies of P-gp+ PCs were enumerated in bone marrow aspirate of two patients and one control. Results were expressed as median (interquartile range, IQR). Inter-group comparisons were performed with Mann-Whitney U test. p-value were corrected for multiple testing using Bonferroni-Sidak method. Statistical significance was set at p<0.05.

Results: Twenty-one LN [17 females, median (interquartile range – IQR) age 26 (23.25-35) years] and 10 controls [7 females, median (IQR) age 28 (27–31) years] were recruited. Of 21 LN, 13 had active disease (66% had low complements, 59% had elevated anti-dsDNA). Median SLEDAI-2K score of LN patients was 12 (2-21). In peripheral blood, overall PCs as well as PCs expressing P-gp or MRP-1 were increased in LN than in HC. Th17/Tregs ratio, p-gp-expressing Th17 lymphocytes and MRP-1-expressing Th17 lymphocytes were significantly increased in LN compared to HC (Table 1). p-gp expressing Th17 lymphocytes and PCs were significantly increased in active LN than in inactive LN (Table 1).

As an exploratory analysis, p-gp-expressing PCs were more prevalent in bone marrow aspirate of LN than non-lupus controls (Figure 1).

Conclusion: We observed for the first time an increased frequency of P-gp and MRP-1-expressing PCs and Th17 lymphocytes in the peripheral blood of LN, which were also associated with disease activity. Whether these cell populations contribute to refractory LN requires evaluation.

Table 1. Peripheral blood cell populations in LN and HC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cell Population</th>
<th>Lupus Nephritis (median(Q1-Q3))</th>
<th>Healthy Control (median(Q1-Q3))</th>
<th>p-value*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active (n=13)</td>
<td>Inactive (n=8)</td>
<td>LN vs HC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th1</td>
<td>35.95(35.1-38.7)</td>
<td>25.13 (33.73-39.95)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th1/Treg</td>
<td>10.64(7288-12.16)</td>
<td>10.51(9.12-12.21)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th2</td>
<td>46.3(4(0.20-50.1)</td>
<td>44.85(93.49-38.7)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th2/Treg</td>
<td>13.78(11.72-15.18)</td>
<td>12.58 (11.27-15.26)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th17</td>
<td>2.92(2.3-3.5)</td>
<td>1.79 (1.59-2.8)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th17/Treg</td>
<td>0.73(0.64-0.98)</td>
<td>0.53 (0.40-0.82)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th17+P-gp</td>
<td>2.61(1.97-3.44)</td>
<td>1.32 (1.89-1.73)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th17+</td>
<td>0.78(0.55-1.06)</td>
<td>0.37 (0.33-0.49)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th17+P-gp</td>
<td>2.06(1.72-5.5)</td>
<td>1.56 (1.10-2.00)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR1P+</td>
<td>0.66(0.47-0.82)</td>
<td>0.42 (0.31-0.70)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR1P+/Th17+</td>
<td>0.05(0.03-0.11)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p-value corrected for multiple testing.
ANA positivity as entry criterion. A seronegative state may represent a different subcategory of patients with SLE with specific pathogenetic pathways, possibly independently from autoantibodies. Therefore, further studies are needed to confirm our data.

REFERENCE:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients, n</th>
<th>ANA- at 2y</th>
<th>ANA+ at 2y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (25)</td>
<td>10 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean ± SD (years)</td>
<td>13.80 ± 1.91</td>
<td>13.45 ± 2.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, mean ± SD (years)</td>
<td>6.47 ± 4.22</td>
<td>6.17 ± 2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EULAR/ACR 2019 criteria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (25)</td>
<td>8 (73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute cutaneous, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (100)</td>
<td>6 (55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic cutaneous, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-scarring alopecia, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral/nasal ulcers, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (50)</td>
<td>7 (64)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint involvement, n, (%)</td>
<td>3 (75)</td>
<td>4 (36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>2 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (25)</td>
<td>2 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemolytic anemia, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (25)</td>
<td>4 (36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukopenia, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (100)</td>
<td>9 (82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombocytopenia, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (75)</td>
<td>5 (45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (100)</td>
<td>11 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Sm, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (25)</td>
<td>2 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (9.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCL, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (50)</td>
<td>2 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ab2GPI, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (50)</td>
<td>2 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low complement, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (100)</td>
<td>11 (100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C3, mean ± SD (mg/dl)</td>
<td>40.25 ± 5.51</td>
<td>52.73 ± 20.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4, mean ± SD (mg/dl)</td>
<td>3.67 ± 2.89</td>
<td>4.60 ± 2.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI at diagnosis, mean ± SD</td>
<td>12.75 ± 4.50</td>
<td>12.18 ± 7.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI at last follow-up, mean ± SD</td>
<td>0.00 ± 0.00</td>
<td>1.36 ± 1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage (SDI at last follow-up &gt;0), n (%)</td>
<td>1 (100)</td>
<td>0 (100)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FDN, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCQ, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMF, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTX, n (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease characterized by the presence of antinuclear antibodies (ANA). Monitoring of anti-dsDNA antibody levels may reflect disease activity, by contrast a single anti-RBP antibody determination is thought to suffice for clinical purposes. Recent data suggests that ANA levels may decrease over time secondary to the natural history or to treatments.

Objectives: To investigate the trend of ANA and anti-dsDNA titers over time in children with a diagnosis of SLE.

Methods: We enrolled 15 children with SLE. ANA and anti-dsDNA testing were carried out in all patients from diagnosis every 3-4 months for 2 years. ANA were defined as negative for titers < 1:80. Laboratory parameters, clinical and demographic data was obtained in all patients from diagnosis every 3-4 months for 2 years. ANA were defined as negative for titers < 1:80. Statistical analysis was performed with SW R_v. 4.0.3.

Results: Following 2 years of follow-up, all patients had ANA titers significantly lower than at time of the onset (MWW, p=0.0002) (Figure 1A). After two years of follow-up, 11 patients (73%) remained ANA positive (group 1), while 4 patients (26%) became negative (group 0). At time of diagnosis no significant differences in ANA titers (MWW, p=0.74) nor in disease activity, measured by SLEDAI, (MWW, p=0.88) were observed (table 1; Figure 1E). No significant differences in organ involvement were observed (Table 1). Assessing the change over time in ANA titers, the 2 groups of patients showed 2 different patterns: in group 0, ANA titers quickly declined and disappeared in the first 6 months after diagnosis; in group 1, ANA titers declined more slowly, remaining positive at 2 years (Figure 1C). ANA pattern (by IFA) was also evaluated, changes from homogenous pattern to speckled was observed during follow up (Figure 1B). Both C3 and C4 increased, with no different patterns between the 2 groups (Figure 1D). Similarly, anti-dsDNA antibodies titers declined over time with no clear different patterns between the groups (Figure 1C). We also analyzed the levels of IGS at last of follow-up, observing significant differences between the groups (MWW, p=0.018) with higher levels of IGS in ANA+ patients (Figure 1F).

Conclusion: Our analysis showed 2 different patterns in the reduction of ANA titers over time in children with SLE, with 26% of them becoming ANA negative after 6 months from diagnosis and remaining persistently negative during follow up. Our data have important implications, specifically for the recruitment of patients into clinical trials, where the latest classification criteria of SLE require ANA positivity as entry criterion. A seronegative state may represent a different subcategory of patients with SLE with specific pathogenetic pathways, possibly independently from autoantibodies. Therefore, further studies are needed to confirm our data.

Acknowledgements: Funding from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – grant number No. 3/1(120)/2022-NCD-I.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3994
Systemic lupus erythematosus, Biomarkers

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a heterogeneous systemic autoimmune disease with protean clinical manifestations[1]. Although the long-term outcomes with SLE have greatly improved, increased organ damage is associated with poor prognosis in a number of patients. The type I interferon signature, a hallmark of SLE, is not an ideal treatment target or outcome predictor[2, 3], suggesting other critical immunological pathways might contribute to disease pathogenesis.

Objectives: To explore key immunological pathways and gene markers in SLE more precisely, we performed a systematic analysis of transcriptional data from 27 immune cells in the blood and from single cells in the skin and kidney.

Methods: We included a large RNA-seq data from a total of 64 SLE and 62 control with 27 immune cells. Integrated analyses were conducted to find key pathways and driver genes in SLE pathwayogenesis. The expression of COX5A between SLE phenotypes was compared in two independent cohorts. Single-cell RNA sequencing(scRNA-seq) data from skin and kidney were used to further determine the association of COX5A expression with organ damage.

Results: We found that lymphocytes in SLE showed an overall active immune-no-metabolic state when compared to healthy controls, and oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) is the most significant metabolic pathway that differs between SLE and HC, especially for effector T cells. Besides, the OXPHOS enrichment score was significantly correlated with IFN response molecular signature across various T cell subtypes. Particularly, we identified an OXPHOS hub gene, COX5A, as a key driver in SLE T cells. COX5A expression was significantly higher in effector T cells than those in naive T cells and showed associations with SLE clinical phenotypes including disease activity index, flare, and organ damage. Furthermore, we revealed that high expression of COX5A in T cells contributes to skin and kidney involvement of SLE through scRNA-seq analysis.

Conclusion: Our results identified OXPHOS signature is a prominent feature in SLE T cells. The key gene of OXPHOS, COX5A, showed associations with IFN response molecular signature, severity, skin, and kidney involvement of SLE, which supported that COX5A as a potential candidate biomarker of severity and organ damage of SLE.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgments to declare.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023- eased.4250

**AB0123**

ENTEROCOCCUS GALLINARUM IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS.

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Outcome measures, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is associated with epithelial defects and disrupted intestinal barrier, risking bacterial translocation and promoting systemic inflammation, known as dysbiosis, which is associated with increased disease activity [1]. Enterococcus gallinarum has been previously linked to gastrointestinal autoimmunity disorders like ulcerative colitis, hepatitis and primary sclerosing cholangitis [2]. However, little is known about E. gallinarum prevalence in SLE.

Objectives: To describe the prevalence of E. gallinarum in SLE stool samples, as well as clinical and laboratory characteristics.

Methods: A cross-sectional, descriptive study was conducted at the University Hospital "Dr. José Eleuterio González", in northern Mexico. We included adult patients who met current criteria for SLE and had recent (<3 months) paraclinical routine tests, including acute phase reactants. Patients with other autoimmune other chromatin components, like histones and nucleosomes. These antibodies are known to characterize a SLE subgroup with early disease onset and increased occurrence of nephritis.

Objectives: We investigated how anti-nuclear autoantibody (ANA) specificities associate with pro-inflammatory cytokines in two ethnically different cohorts of SLE patients, from Sudan and Sweden.

Methods: We included 93 Sudanese and 480 Swedish SLE patients. Serum levels of autoantibodies against dsDNA, Sm, Sm/12RNP complex, 12RNP, SSA/Ro52, SSA/Ro60, SSB/La, ribosomal P, PCNA and histones were quantified with a bead-based multiplex immunooassay; with positive reactions determined as above the 98th percentile among respective national controls. In the Swedish cohort another bead-based multiplexed immunooassay including anti-nucleosome antibodies was also used. Relative levels of 73 plasma biomarkers were determined with Proximity Extension Assay technique except for Interferon gamma-induced protein (IP-10) in the Swedish cohort that was quantified by ELISA.

Adjusted p values were considered significant when <0.05.

Results: Among Sudanese patients, levels of 5/7 biomarkers showed significant associations to ANA-associated antibodies. Anti-histone antibodies showed the strongest positive correlations with interferon-inducible factors (monocyte chemoattractant protein [MCP-1] and IP-10, monocyte chemoattractant protein-3 [MCP-3] and S100 calcium-binding protein A12 [S100A12]), and negative correlation with stem cell factor (SCF); F(P values) were 0.15(0.04), 0.18(0.008), 25(0.001), 0.13(0.04) and 0.31(<0.0001) respectively. Biomarker associations remained significant for anti-histone antibody after adjustment for age and sex. Also, anti-dsDNA antibodies associated with MCP-3 (0.13(0.04)), IP-10 (0.13(0.03)) and S100A12 (0.13(0.04)), but when combining with anti-histone in the same regression model, anti-dsDNA associations were lost while anti-histone antibodies remained. Positive associations with lower F(P values) were found also for anti-ribosomal P antibodies with MCP-1, MCP-2 and C-C motif ligand 19 (CCL-19), and for anti-Sm with IP-10. Validation analysis among Swedish patients for MCP-1, IP-10, S100A12 also demonstrated significantly stronger associations to anti-histone and anti-nucleosome antibodies compared to anti-dsDNA and other ANA specificities, and in combined regression models, anti-dsDNA either became non-significant or considerably less significant than anti-histone/nucleosome antibodies. When excluding anti-histone or anti-nucleosome positive patients, the associations between interferon-inducible factors MCP-1/1P-10 and anti-dsDNA were lost. In contrary, when excluding anti-dsDNA positive patients, associations with anti-histone and anti-nucleosome remained significant. SA100A12 associations with anti-dsDNA antibodies remained significant after exclusion of anti-histone positive patients, but were lost when excluding anti-nucleosome positive patients.

Conclusion: Using uni- and multi-variate analyses as well as patient stratification, levels of mainly IFN-induced inflammatory biomarkers correlate stronger with anti-histone and anti-nucleosome antibodies compared to other ANA specificities including anti-dsDNA. Our results, from two lupus cohorts with different ethnicities, suggest that autoantibodies against DNA-complexes or DNA-associated proteins rather than anti-dsDNA antibodies per se may drive the induction of the interferon signature in SLE.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4423
diseases, chronic infections, pregnancy, cancer, abdominal surgery or gastrointestinal bleeding were excluded. Demographic, clinical data, as well as Anti-nuclear antibodies and complement were obtained from records. No participant received antibiotics, probiotics or sanitibiotics 3 months prior to the study. DNA was extracted with the DNeasy PowerLyzer PowerSoil DNeasy kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer’s specifications. *E. gallinarum* was detected by endpoint polymerase chain reaction assay.

**Results:** Sixty patients were included, where most subjects were women (51, 85%). Mean age was 41.79 ± 16.8 and time of diagnosis 107.03 months ± (95.46). *E. gallinarum* and Enterooccus spp were found in 7 (11.6%) cases. The most frequent MEX-SLEDAI parameter was arthritis in 34 (56.6%) cases, followed by acute cutaneous lupus in 23 (38.3%). Clinical manifestations and paraclinical findings are shown in Table 1. We found a significant difference in *E. gallinarum* positive patients in creatinine levels (0.98 ± 0.72, p < 0.0032), ESR (11.14 ± 19.49, p < 0.0311) and frequency of seroconvert (57.14% vs 75.4%, p < 0.001). When analyzing ESR by age-adjusted upper limit, significance was lost (p > 0.4).

**Conclusion:** Prevalence of *E. gallinarum* in SLE stool samples was 11.7%. Seroconvert, higher mean creatinine and lower mean ESR was more common in *E. gallinarum* positive subjects. Further research is needed to better understand *E. gallinarum* dysbiosis in SLE.

**REFERENCES:**


Table 1. Sociodemographic, clinical and paraclinical features.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociodemographic, mean ± SD</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>37.14 ± 20.6</td>
<td>42.3 ± 13.8</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Months since diagnosis</td>
<td>75.85 ± 59.3</td>
<td>112.72 ± 99.5</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight, kg</td>
<td>58.89 ± 19.6</td>
<td>68.19 ± 15.98</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size, m</td>
<td>1.61 ± 0.08</td>
<td>1.59 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, Kgm²</td>
<td>23.02 ± 4.02</td>
<td>26.65 ± 8.99</td>
<td>0.22</td>
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**Clinical features, n (%):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oral ulcers</th>
<th>Alopecia</th>
<th>Arthritis</th>
<th>Serositis</th>
<th>Nephritis</th>
<th>CNS</th>
<th>Hemolytic anemia</th>
<th>CVD</th>
<th>Chronic liver disease</th>
<th>MEX-SLEDAI, mean ± SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>2 (25.87)</td>
<td>3 (42.85)</td>
<td>4 (57.14)</td>
<td>1 (14.28)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>1.71 ± 2.92</td>
<td>1.83 ± 2.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Laboratories, mean ± SD:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Hemoglobin</th>
<th>Leukocytes</th>
<th>Lymphocytes</th>
<th>ESR</th>
<th>C reactive</th>
<th>Creatinine</th>
<th>Albumin</th>
<th>TGO</th>
<th>TGP</th>
<th>CRP</th>
<th>ANAS</th>
<th>Anti-Sm</th>
<th>C3</th>
<th>C4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.87 ± 1.46</td>
<td>6.46 ± 1.73</td>
<td>5.98 ± 10.16</td>
<td>58.89 ± 19.6</td>
<td>58.89 ± 19.6</td>
<td>0.98 ± 0.29</td>
<td>0.42 ± 0.47</td>
<td>21.42 ± 6.5</td>
<td>23.71 ± 22.2</td>
<td>0.78 ± 1.35</td>
<td>6.01 ± 9.18</td>
<td>14.95 ± 13.18</td>
<td>2248 ± 2653</td>
<td>1241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Background:** Activated T cells make a significant contribution to inflammation in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Their ability to secrete proinflammatory cytokines and express activating NK receptors allows them to mediate inflammation. We know that cellular metabolism regulates the activation of T cells. A phase II study has reported on efficacy of DMF in cutaneous lupus [1]. Evidence from patients with multiple sclerosis indicates that dimethyl fumarate (DMF), an electrophile, targets cellular metabolism to modulate T cell activation and function [2]. However, the potential of DMF to modulate T cell metabolism and activation in SLE is not known.

**Objectives:** We investigated whether DMF modulates T cell metabolism, activation and function and secretions in samples from patients with SLE in a series of in vitro experiments.

**Methods:** All experiments were performed using isolated T cells from freshly drawn whole blood samples from patients with SLE. T cells were isolated using negative selection using Stem cell or Miltenybe magnetic bead separation kit. Isolated T cells were activated with anti-CD3 and IL-2 and incubated with either DMF at 25μM concentration or DMSO alone for three or seven days at 37°C and 5% CO2 before harvesting and analyzing on BD FACs flow cytometer. Analysis of cytokines in supernatants was performed using cytokometric bead arrays. Flowjo software was used to analyse flow cytometry files. Graph Pad Prism software was used to perform statistical analysis.

**Results:** In Seahorse experiments, after three days of incubation dimethyl fumarate (DMF) inhibited the oxygen consumption rate (OCR) and extracellular acidification rate (ECAR) in isolated T cells when compared with samples incubated with vehicle, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). Our results revealed that DMF significantly inhibited: 1) aerobic glycolysis and oxidative phosphorylation in activated CD4+ T cells from patients with SLE (n=4), in vitro; 2) T cell activation and proliferation as assessed by a reduction in the frequency of CD69 (n=4) and Ki67 (n=2) positivity, respectively. Collectively, these results suggest that DMF inhibits T cell activation and proliferation in samples with patients with SLE. After 7 days of incubation, DMF significantly inhibited the expression of activating NK receptors CD158a and NKG2D on CD4+ T cells whereas DMF seemed to have a trend toward enhancing the expression of inhibitory NK receptors NKG2A and CD158b (n=6). After 7 days of incubation, DMF significantly reduced CD4+ T cell intracellular expression of IFN-γ, TNF-α, IL-17 and secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines IFN-γ and TNF-α in supernatants (n=8).

**Conclusion:** Our data indicated that DMF modifies metabolic programming, both glycolysis and oxidative phosphorylation, to inhibit activation, proliferation, and secretion of proinflammatory cytokines from CD4+ T cells from patients with SLE. These results provide strong mechanistic rationale for considering dimethyl fumarate as a novel therapeutic agent to treat systemic lupus erythematosus.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** The study received full funding support from the biomedi-cal research centre, University College Hospital, Dr. Reddy’s work was supported by MRC-CARP fellowship award.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Loren Kell: None declared, Samuel Taylor: None declared, Kavina Shair: None declared, Roel De Maeyer: None declared, David Isenberg Consultant of: no competing interest with submitted work, Arne Akbar: None declared, Venkat Reddy: Grant/research support from: Roche Glycart, no competing interest with submitted work, Kavina Shah: None declared, Roel De Maeyer: None declared, David Isenberg Consultant of: no competing interest with submitted work, Arne Akbar: None declared, Venkat Reddy: Grant/research support from: Roche Glycart, no competing interest with submitted work. 

**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4955

**AB0125**

**SPECIFIC AUTOANTIBODY CONTENT OF CIRCULATING IMMUNE COMPLEXES IN SLE – PHENOTYPIC CHARACTERIZATION AND CLINICAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus

**E. Fuzzi**, 1, A. Svanyvisi, 2, C. Westerberg, 1, A. Zickert, 1, I. Gunnarsson, 1, J. Rönnef, 1, E. Svenningson, 1, K. Karolinska Institut, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Solna, Sweden; 2 Uppsala University, Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology, Uppsala, Sweden

**Background:** Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is characterised by autoan-tibody production and immune complex (IC) formation. The relative abundance of different autoantibodies within circulating ICs as compared to serum in SLE is hitherto unclear; moreover, the clinical relevance of the IC-carried fraction of SLE-specific and associated autoantibodies is mostly unknown.

**AB0124**

**DIMETHYL FUMARATE MODULATES T CELL METABOLISM AND FUNCTION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENT SAMPLES**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus

L. Kell1, S. Taylor1, K. Shah1, R. De Maeyer1, D. Isenberg1, M. Castellino1, G. Cambridg2, D. Sen2, M. J. Leandro2, A. Akbar1, V. Reddy1, University College London, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2 University College Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

**Disclosure of Interests:** No Acknowledgements to declare.

**DoI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4955
Methods:

Table 1.

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<th>Anti-SSB IC + %</th>
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Table 1.

Disclosure of Interests: Enrico Fuzzi: None declared, Anna Svangquist: None declared, Christine Westerberg: None declared, Agneta Zickert: None declared, Iva Gunnarsson: None declared, Johan Rönnelid: None declared, Elisabet Sverungsson Shareholder of: AstraZeneca and Pfizer, Speakers bureau: Janssen, Grant/research support from: Grant support from Merck.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5711

ABO126

EXPRESSION OF β2 MICROGLOBULIN IN SALIVARY GLAND EPITHELIAL CELLS OF PATIENTS WITH SJÖGREN SYNDROME

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Biomarkers

E. Simoncelli1, S. Colafrancesco1, C. Barbati1, G. Buoncuore1, R. Izzo1, C. Alessandri1, F. Conti1, R. Priori1,4, Sapienza University of Rome, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical Internal, Anesthesiological and Cardiovascular Sciences, Rome, Italy;2,Unicamillus, Saint Camillus International University of Health and Medical Science, Rome, Italy

Background: Salivary glands epithelial cells (SGECs) activation and loss of homeostasis play a key role in primary Sjögren Syndrome (pSS) [1]. High serum and saliva levels of β2-microglobulin (β2-M) have been described [2] in pSS, however, the exact origin of this molecule is still unclear. Our preliminary data from single cell analysis on pSS salivary glands treated with immunosuppressors show a downregulation of this protein in SGECs following treatment.

Objective: Aim of this study is to evaluate the expression of β2-M in pSS SGECs and to dissect its modulation in inflammatory conditions.

Methods: To mimic the inflammatory microenvironment of pSS, a human salivary gland (HSG) cell line was treated (48h) with 1) Poly-I:C (40 µg/ml), 2) LPS (50 µg/ml), 3) culture medium (untreated). The HSG expression of β2-M (Ab anti-β2-M) was evaluated by flow cytometry along with the expression of apoptotic [annexin V (MBL)] and activation [ICAM-1 (Ab anti-CD54)] molecules. Ex vivo expression of β2-M was then assessed in SGECs deriving from both pSS patients (n=3) and sicca (controls) (n=3).

Results: In the HSG cell line treated with both Poly I:C and LPS a significant increase in β2-M was documented [mean fluorescence index (MFI): untreated=1 (1-1), Poly-I:C=2.46 (1.5-3.9), LPS=1.13 (1-13); p=0.003]. The increased expression of β2-M was paralleled by an increase in ICAM-1 (MFI: untreated=1 (1-1), Poly-I:C=1.61 (1-2.5), LPS=1.26 (1-12); p=0.06) and annexin V (mean%; untreated=76% (9-18), Poly-I:C=14.3% (9-18), LPS=8% (6-11); p=0.003).

In SGECs from pSS a higher expression of β2-M was detected as compared to controls (MFI: pSS=2.5 (2-3) vs sicca=1 (0.5-1.5) (Figure 1). Conclusion: Our preliminary data suggest that β2-M is actively expressed by SGECs in pSS and that its exposure is driven by the local inflammatory milieu. Such expression is particularly interesting in view of the already demonstrated capacity of β2-M to activate pro-inflammatory pathways and to influence cellular viability and autoantigens exposure [3]. Functional studies are currently ongoing to dissect the potential pathogenic role of β2-M in pSS.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5889
AB0127

ANTIGENIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE β2GPIox-PF4 COMPLEX IN A MONOCENDENT COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH APS, THROMBOSIS DURING SARS-COV-2 INFECTION AND VITT

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Vaccination/Immunization, Anti-phospholipid syndrome

F. M. Ucci1, F. Villani2, A. Capozzi2, M. De Michele1, S. Truglia1, S. Mancuso1, L. Rapiño1, G. Tripodi1, V. Manganello1, G. Rilanto2, R. Misasi3, M. Sorice3, F. Contí1, C. Alessandri1. 1Sapienza University of Rome, Clinical Internal, Anesthesiological and Cardiovascular Sciences, Rheumatology Unit, Rome, Italy; 2Sapienza University of Rome, Molecular Medicine, Rome, Italy; 3Sapienza University of Rome, Experimental Medicine, Rome, Italy; 4Sapienza University of Rome, Emergency Department Stroke Unit, Department of Human Neurosciences, Roma, Italy

Background: Platelet factor 4 (PF4) is a protein with a pro-clotting function expressed by activated platelets with a high affinity for anionic glycosaminoglycans present on the platelet surface. It has been shown that the positively charged surface of PF4 tetramer interacts with the negatively charged regions of β2glycoprotein I (β2GPI) domains, stabilising the link between the antigen and the phospholipid surface, thus increasing the possibility of binding with the respective antibodies. In particular, a tetramer of PF4 selectively binds two molecules of β2GPI, favouring the dimerisation of the same, which is crucial in platelet activation and therefore in thrombotic manifestations of antiphospholipid syndrome (aPS), PF4 may be a common denominator in syndromes such as aPS and heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT), which share similar clinical manifestations as thrombocytopenia and thrombosis. Other syndromes, which share the same clinical and laboratory features of HIT despite not having previously received heparin, appear to be associated with the presence of anti-PF4 antibodies. Such pathologies could only be explained by HIT antibodies with heparin-independent platelet-activating properties. One of these could be vaccine-induced Immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) post-somministration of ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine. Recent studies have shown structural similarities between heparin and β2GPI, which may be responsible for thrombotic events in those infected with SARS-CoV-2 and VITT, who never had heparin. In particular, oxidised-β2GPI (β2GPIox) may mimic heparin by structural analogy and link to PF4. Considering the structural similarities between heparin and β2GPl ox, and demonstrating the immunogenicity of the hypothesised complex in APS, the alternative molecule could be represented by β2GPl ox itself, thus explaining the thrombotic events following vaccination in subjects who have never received heparin.

Objectives: The aim of the study is to test the potential immunogenicity of the β2GPl ox-PF4 complex and the presence of antibodies against this complex in patients with aPS, thrombosis during infection with SARS-CoV-2 or VITT.

Methods: 34 patients with proven diagnosis of APS, 17 patients with thrombosis related to infection SARS CoV-2 and 3 patients with VITT were enrolled. Only one aPS patient received heparin prior to testing. Antibodies to the β2GPl ox-PF4 complex were evaluated by home made ELISA immunoenzyme testing. Competitive inhibition (homologous) experiments of the bond of PF4 with β2GPl ox in the fluid phase were conducted in order to verify the binding specificity.

Results: Anti-β2GPl ox-PF4 antibodies were detected in 11 of 34 aPS patients (32%) and all VITT patients (100%), while none of covid-19 patients tested positive. In particular, oxidised-β2GPI (β2GPIox) may mimic heparin by structural analogy and link to PF4. Considering the structural similarities between heparin and β2GPl ox, and demonstrating the immunogenicity of the hypothesised complex in APS, the alternative molecule could be represented by β2GPl ox itself, thus explaining the thrombotic events following vaccination in subjects who have never received heparin.

Conclusions: The results of this study show a new antibody positivity in aPS and VITT.

In particular we have identified a high prevalence of anti-β2GPl ox-PF4 antibodies which selectively binds two molecules of β2GPI, favouring the dimerization of the same, which may be responsible for thrombotic events in those infected with SARS-Cov-2.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

AB0128

DIFFERENTIAL EXPRESSION OF PROTEINS IN PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Biomarkers, Cytokines and chemokines, Sjögren syndrome

M. J. Santos-Boronen1, M. Fernandez Castro2, C. Merino Arguménez1, J. Sanz1, J. Campos Esteban1, N. De la Torre Rubio2, P. Navarro Palomo1, M. Pavia Pascual1, M. Machattou1, M. C. Sánchez Fernández3, P. D. Brongos Díaz4, H. Godoy2, B. García-Magallón2, C. Benadílio Mateos2, L. F. De Villa1, C. Isasi Zaragoza1, J. L. Andreu Sánchez1, A. Sánchez1. 1Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda, IDIPIHSIA, Rheumatology, Majadahonda (Madrid), Spain

Background: Sjögren’s Syndrome (SS) is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease characterized by involvement of the exocrine glands in addition to a wide spectrum of systemic manifestations. At present, conventional biomarkers do not respond to unresolved needs regarding diagnosis, stratification of phenotypes and appropriate effective therapies[1]. SS is an orphan disease and new biomarkers could constitute potential future therapeutic targets[2].

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to carry out an exploratory analysis in six serum and saliva samples from suspected SS patients to identify protein biomarkers to distinguish SS patients who were diagnosed with SS from those who were not.

Methods: We selected six patients from a cohort of 199 consecutive patients attended the rheumatology department for suspected SS: 3 patients who met SS classification criteria from 2002 and/or 2016 who were diagnosed with SS by a rheumatologist and 3 patients who did not meet SS classification criteria who were not finally diagnosed. Serum samples were collected and centrifuged at 1800g, divided into aliquots and stored at -80°C. Saliva samples were cold collected to prevent degradation of proteins, centrifuged at 1800g and stored at -80°C. A semiquantitative analysis of protein expression was performed using the “Proteome Profiler Human XL Cytokine Array Kit” arrays from R&D system that detects 105 proteins containing interleukins, chemokines, inflammatory factors and other soluble proteins. Analytical optical densities were quantified using ImageJ software. The extent of the analysis was compared between SS patients and non-SS patients using an unpaired Student’s t test and a measure of the odds of an analyte happening in one group compared to the odds of the same analyte happening in another group (OR: odds ratio) is shown. Statistical analysis were performed using Microsoft Excel software. P values ≤0.05 were defined as significant and values of 0.1 < P < 0.05 were considered as borderline.

Results: We found increased serum levels of CD14 (OR:1.21; P < 0.033), EGF (OR:1.18; P = 0.050), IP-10 (OR: 1.23; P = 0.090) Pentranx 3 (OR:1.32; P = 0.095) and VEGF (OR:1.41; P = 0.091) in patients diagnosed with SS who met SS classification criteria, compared with patients who did not meet SS classification criteria who were not diagnosed, although only in the case of CD14 and EGF, statistical significance was reached. In saliva samples, we found significantly increased values of ICAM1 (OR:1.67; P = 0.019), IL-6 (OR:1.20; P = 0.042) and IL-19 (OR:1.51; P = 0.039) in patient who did not meet SS classification criteria, compared with patients who did.

Conclusion: Sjögren’s syndrome patients presented significantly higher levels of CD14 and EGF in serum, as well as significantly decreased levels of ICAM1, IL-6 and IL-19 in saliva, compared to patients who did not meet SS classification criteria. It is necessary to confirm these results in a larger cohort of patients.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.865

AB0129

EXPLORING LONG-NON-CODING RNA GASE IN SLE PATIENTS AND ITS RELATION TO INTERFERON SIGNATURE

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Systemic lupus erythematosus

G. Maghraby1, M. Elmeniawy2, H. Mostafa3, O. Shaker2, M. Habib3, R. Elghory4. 1Faculty of Medicine Kasr Al-Ainy, Cairo University, Internal Medicine, Cairo, Egypt; 2Faculty of Medicine Kasr Al-Ainy, Cairo University, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Cairo, Egypt; 3Faculty of Medicine Kasr Al-Ainy, Cairo University, Ophthalmology, Cairo, Egypt

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6134
Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a multisystem autoimmune disease with diverse pathogenesis. Excessive apoptosis and impaired clearance of apoptotic cells are the primary drivers of Interferon I (IFN) signaling pathways. Upregulation of the long noncoding RNA Growth arrest-specific 5 (GAS5) was found to be associated with apoptosis [1]. Oncological studies discovered that GAS5 is regulated by IFN signaling pathways and acts as a positive feedback loop on IFN response [2]. In a mouse model, GAS5 was linked to SLE susceptibility [4]. However, the exact mechanism is still unknown. Furthermore, GAS5 has been proposed to act by interfering with glucocorticoid action, with a key role in regulating glucocorticoid resistance and sensitivity [5].

Objectives: To evaluate the expression levels of GAS5 in serum of SLE patients in comparison with healthy controls, assess their relation to SLE Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K) and Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics/ American College of Rheumatology Damage Index (SDI), and explore their association with each of the 3 IFN-stimulatory genes (MX1, IFI44L, IFIT1) as well as IFN signature to elucidate how GAS5 shares in the pathogenesis of SLE.

Methods: 30 adult SLE patients and 20 age and sex-matched healthy controls were enrolled. SLE disease activity and damage were assessed by SLEDAI-2K and SDI respectively. The expression levels of GAS5 as well as 3 IFN-stimulatory genes (MX1, IFI44L, IFIT1) were measured by quantitative real-time PCR. IFN signature score was calculated as described in a previous study [6].

Results: GAS5 expression levels were insignificantly upregulated in SLE patients compared to control (p-value 0.11). At cut-off value 13-fold change, GAS5 could discriminate SLE from control (AUC 0.63) with high specificity 100 % and modest sensitivity 63%. Their expression levels were not associated with SLEDAI-2K or SDI scores. GAS5 levels were positively correlated with the cumulative dose of steroids in the last 6 months. However, it was not statistically significant. GAS5 was significantly correlated with IFIT1 gene expression (p-value <0.001) and IFN signature score (p-value 0.005) in SLE patients (Figure1), these findings were not previously reported.

Conclusion: GAS5 may be considered a diagnostic biomarker for SLE, but it is not a reliable biomarker for disease activity or damage. GAS5 is suggested to be incorporated into the IFN signaling pathway in SLE raising possible contribution in SLE pathogenesis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We would want to express our gratitude to everyone who took part in this study, both SLE patients, and healthy control individuals. This study was funded by Cairo University.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.963

KYNURENINE PATHWAY CAN BE A POTENTIAL BIOMARKER OF FATIGUE IN PRIMARY SJOGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Biomarkers, Sjögren syndrome

H. W. Park1, Y. Park1, J. Lee1, J. H. Koh2, M. J. Kim3, S. H. Park3, S. K. Kwok1,2
1The Catholic University of Korea Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Uijeongbu St. Mary’s Hospital, The Catholic University, Department of Internal Medicine, Uijeongbu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3The Catholic University of Korea Songjeong Campus, Catholic Research Institute of Medical Science, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a chronic autoimmune disease with low quality of life caused by various constitutional symptoms and glan- dular dysfunction. Although fatigue is one of the most frequent symptoms in pSS, its etiology or biomarkers are poorly elucidated.

Objectives: We investigated potential relationship between severity of fatigue and the kynurenine pathway in pSS.

Methods: Clinical data and blood samples of 81 patients were obtained from a prospective cohort for pSS and compared with age- and sex-matched healthy controls (HC). Severity of fatigue was defined according to the fatigue domain scores in the ESSPRI. Potential biomarkers related to the kynurenine pathway were determined using ELISA.

Results: Of the total, 44 patients were defined as the "severe fatigue (ESSPRI fatigue ≥ 5)" group, whereas 37 as the "less fatigue (ESSPRI fatigue < 5)" group. Serum tryptophan levels in the severe fatigue group were significantly lower while those of kynurenine were higher. Serum interferon gamma, IDO1, and quinolinic acid levels were mostly higher in the less fatigue group. Kynurenine/tryptophan ratios were distinctly higher in the severe fatigue group than both HC and the less fatigue group (p < 0.001). This ratio showed a strong degree of positive correlation (r = 0.624, p < 0.001) with severity of fatigue in pSS while the other markers showed fair degrees of correlation.

Conclusion: Serum markers related to the kynurenine pathway, especially the kynurenine/tryptophan ratio, may be associated with severity of fatigue in pSS. These results can provide guidance for further investigations on fatigue in pSS.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1130

Figure 1. Serum levels of tryptophan, its metabolites, and related enzymatic activities in patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) and healthy controls (HC). (A) Interferon gamma; (B) tryptophan; (C) indoleamine-2,3-dioxygenase 1 (IDO1); (D) L-kynurenine; (E) quinolinic acid; (F) ratio of L-kynurenine to tryptophan. All data were measured using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. The bars indicate the median and interquartile range. * p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.

REFERENCES: NIL.
**ASSOCIATION OF CYTOKINE AND CLINICAL EVALUATION BASED ON ULTRASOUND OF SALIVARY GLAND GRADE CLASSIFICATION IN PATIENTS WITH EARLY PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Sjögren syndrome, Cytokines and chemokines

Y. F. Chen¹, Y. F. Fang¹, ¹Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, Taoyuan city, Taiwan, Republic of China

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a chronic autoimmune disease characterized by lymphocytic infiltration of the exocrine glands, the presence of anti-SSA/Ro, anti-SSB/La antibody and hypergammaglobulinemia.

**Objectives:** To investigate the clinical manifestations in patients with early primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS), and cytokine difference based on the severity score under salivary gland ultrasonography.

**Methods:** Forty-six newly diagnosed patients with early pSS were enrolled and divided into mild (score 0-1) and severe (score 2-3) groups according to the salivary gland ultrasonography grade (SGUS) scores at baseline. Clinical evaluation, ESSPRI and ESSDAI index values, sicca symptoms of mouth, salivary capacity, and serum autoantibody and cytokines were investigated.

**Results:** Mean age of pSS patients at diagnosis were 50.02 ± 12.4 years and the mean duration of sicca symptoms were 1.4 years. ESSPRI (EULAR Sjögren’s syndrome patient report index) and ESSDAI (EULAR Sjögren’s syndrome disease index) scores were 5.71 and 5.37, respectively. The higher prevalence of rheumatoid factor (p=0.04), antinuclear antibody (p=0.009) and elevation of total IgG (p=0.08) were found in severe group than in mild group. In addition, elevated titer of IL-18, IL-31 and IL-33 were detected in patients with pSS than in healthy subjects, but there were shown no statistical significance between mild and severe groups.

**Conclusion:** Salivary gland ultrasonography grade (SGUS) scans may help physician diagnose pSS. Clinical manifestation including the low production of saliva and autoantibody production such antinuclear antibodies, rheumatoid factor, and anti-SSA antibody were found. The elevated titer of IL-18, IL-31 and IL-33 in patients may be implicated in the pathogenesis of pSS.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Characteristics**

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**Antinuclear, n (%)**

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<td>Low C3, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (13.6)</td>
<td>2 (8.3)</td>
<td>4 (18.2)</td>
<td>0.4502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C4, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (4.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>2 (9.1)</td>
<td>0.2232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low anti-dsDNA, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (2.2)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (4.5)</td>
<td>0.4783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High IgG3, n (%)</td>
<td>21 (45.7)</td>
<td>8 (33.3)</td>
<td>13 (59.1)</td>
<td>0.0798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High IgG4, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (8.7)</td>
<td>3 (12.5)</td>
<td>1 (4.5)</td>
<td>0.6903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low saliva production, n (%)</td>
<td>17 (37.0)</td>
<td>4 (16.7)</td>
<td>13 (59.1)</td>
<td>0.0029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Independent t test a Fisher’s exact test b Chi-square test.

**Figure 1.** Ultrasonographic images of four parotid glands illustrating varying grades of non-specific to pathological changes. Score 0-3 were determined by evaluation of US examination of each patient’s parotid and submandibular glands. (A) Score 0, (B) grade 1, (C) score 2, and (D) score 3. score 0-1 were considered as normal morphology, and score 2-3 were diagnosed as pathological changes, which were related to primary SS.

**Figure 2.** The measurement of serum level of IL-17, IL-18, IL-25, IL-31, and IL-33 by using sera from patients with pSS and normal healthy controls. (A) pSS patient vs normal healthy controls. (B) Severe group vs mild group.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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seen in gardiquimod-stimulated mouse BMCs collected from C57BL/6 mice and exposed in vitro to afimetoran, which showed a significant increase in predni-
solone-induced apoptosis of pDCs and B cells compared to baseline control or
prednisolone alone. A similar trend was seen in vivo for BMCs collected from
NZB/W mice dosed with combinations of afimetoran and prednisolone.

Conclusion: Afimetoran, either alone or in combination with prednisolone,
showed efficacy in NZB/W mice with moderate disease. It also reversed the
resistance of bone marrow pDCs and B cells to prednisolone-induced apoptosis.
These data confirm that afimetoran, an equipotent TLR7/8 antagonist, has the
clinical potential to be steroid-sparing.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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Sqibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Sqibb, Puneet Chopra Employee of: Syngene,
Anjuman Rudra Employee of: Syngene, Siva Subramani Employee of: Syngene,
Souarcha Palantri Employee of: Syngene, Nidka Bhatt Employee of: Syngene,
Veereh Pasha Bapala Employee of: Syngene, Sourab Ranade Employee of: Syngene,
Durga Shiva Prasad Ega Employee of: Syngene, Alaric Dyckman Employee of:
Bristol Myers Sqibb, Qihong Zhao Employee of: Bristol Myers Sqibb.

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AB0133

DYSAUTONIA IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Diagnostic tests

S. Barak Lanciano1, U. Nussinovitch2, Y. Levy3, T. Aliv University, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, TEL AVIV; Israel; Wolfson Medical Center, Cardiovascular Division, Holon, Israel; 3Meir Medical Center, Internal Medicine Department, Kfar Saba, Israel

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic, inflammatory, autoimmune disease associated with increased cardiovascular risk. Impaired autonomic nervous system (ANS) function (dysautonomia) is one of the causes and a marker of increased cardiovascular risk. Heart rate variability (HRV) is an accepted method of ANS evaluation. Pupillary light reflex (PLR) test is indicative of ANS dysfunction in healthy adults. The efficiency of PLR test for ANS evaluation among SLE patients has yet to be reported.

Objectives: To evaluate ANS function among SLE patients using PLR and HRV testing. The secondary objective was to assess the correlation between PLR and HRV tests among patients with SLE and to evaluate whether they are correlated.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted. Forty-nine SLE patients and a matched group of 87 healthy volunteers were recruited. The participants were questioned about risk factors and other conditions that affect the ANS. Autonomic functions were evaluated by HRV and PLR testing. Strength of correlations were also evaluated.

Results: Maximum pupil diameters (PDmax) and maximal constriction PDmax were significantly lower in the SLE group (4.80±0.13 mm vs. 5.59±0.15 mm, p<0.01 and 4.01±0.44 mm vs. 5.94±0.51 mm, p<0.01, respectively). Compared with controls, the SLE patients had significantly lower values of NNS0 (number of successive RRI intervals that differ by more than 50ms). 12.78±3.78 vs. 25.08±2.84, p = 0.031), pNN50 (percentage of pNN50, 4.03±1.30 vs. 10.11±3.69), p = 0.031)

Conclusion: Patients with SLE have excessive parasympathetic activity, manifested as decreased HRV parameters and indices reflective of heart rate response to autonomic maneuvers. Similar results demonstrated by pupillary autonomic function. PLR test may be used as an alternative to HRV testing due to its simplicity and reproducibility.

REFERENCES:

AB0134

RESTORATION OF ABBRENT GENE EXPRESSION OF MONOCYTES IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS VIA A COMBINED TRANSCRIPTOME-REVERSAL AND NETWORK-BASED DRUG REPURPOSING STRATEGY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Genetics/Epigenetics, Systemic lupus erythematosus

D. Nikolakis1, P. Garantziotis2,3, G. Sentis4, A. Fanourakis5,6, G. Bertisias7,8, E. Frangou9,10, D. Nikolopoulos3,4, A. Banos11, D. Bompas12,13,14,15 Amsterdam UMC, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology-Experimental Immunology/Department of Gastroenterology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Hanover Medical School, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Hannover, Germany; 3Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, Laboratory of Autoimmunity and Inflammation, Center for Clinical, Experimental Surgery and Translational Research, Athens, Greece; 4Attikon University Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, 4th Department of Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece; 5Limako General Hospital, 1st Department of Paedaeptical Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece; 6National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School, Joint Academic Rheumatology Program, Athens, Greece; 7Medical School, University of Crete, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University Hospital of Heraklion, Heraklion, Greece; 8University of Crete, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology-FORTH, Heraklion, Greece; 9Limassol General Hospital, Department of Nephrology, Limassol, Cyprus; 10University of Nicosia, Medical School, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Background: Monocytes -key regulators of the innate immune response- are actively involved in the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Monocytes and macrophages constitute a major cellular compartment derived from hematopoietic myeloid precursors. Monocyte-macrophage lineage cells exhibit versatile immunoregulatory, inflammatory and tissue repairing capabilities and play an instrumental role in the development of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Abnormal activation of autoreactive T and B cells in SLE could also be caused by dysregulated cytokine production by monocytes. Monocytes in SLE display excess production of the B-lymphocyte stimulator (BlyS) which promotes the survival and proliferation of B cells.

Objectives: We sought to identify novel compounds that might serve as mono-
cyte-directed targeted therapies in SLE.

Methods: We performed mRNA sequencing in monocytes from 15 patients with active SLE and 10 healthy individuals. Disease activity was assessed with the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K). Leveraging the drug repurposing platforms LINCS, CLUE and L1000CDS[2], we identified perturbagens capable of reversing the SLE monocyte signature. We identified transcription factors and microRNAs (miRNAs) that regulate the transcriptome of SLE monocytes, using the TRUST and miWalk databases, respectively. A gene network integrating implicated transcription factors and miRNAs was constructed, and drugs targeting central components of the network were retrieved from the DGI database, in order to build a final drug-protein interaction network.

Results: Inhibitors of the NF-κB pathway, compounds targeting the heat shock protein 90 (HSP90), as well as a small molecule disrupting the Pim-1/NFATc1/ NLRP3 signaling axis were predicted to efficiently counteract the aberrant mono-
cyte gene signature in SLE. Based on our network-based drug repurposing

REFERENCES:
[3] Hoffmann M, Voll RE, Zoller OM, Hagenhofer M, Ponner BB, E. Frangou9,10, D. Nikolopoulos3,4, A. Banos11, D. Bompas12,13,14,15 Amsterdam UMC, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology-Experimental Immunology/Department of Gastroenterology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Hanover Medical School, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Hannover, Germany; 3Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, Laboratory of Autoimmunity and Inflammation, Center for Clinical, Experimental Surgery and Translational Research, Athens, Greece; 4Attikon University Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, 4th Department of Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece; 5Limako General Hospital, 1st Department of Paedaeptical Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece; 6National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School, Joint Academic Rheumatology Program, Athens, Greece; 7Medical School, University of Crete, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University Hospital of Heraklion, Heraklion, Greece; 8University of Crete, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology-FORTH, Heraklion, Greece; 9Limassol General Hospital, Department of Nephrology, Limassol, Cyprus; 10University of Nicosia, Medical School, Nicosia, Cyprus.


Acknowledgements: The authors Dimitrios Nikolakis and Panagiotis Garantziotis, contributed equally in this project and share main (first) authorship.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0135

ASSOCIATION OF STAT1, STAT4 AND JAK2 IMMUNOEXPRESSSION WITH THE GRADE OF MONONUCLEAR CELL INFILTRATION IN MINOR SALIVARY GLAND BIOPSY IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGREEN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Prognostic factors

M. Maślińska1, M. Grabowska2, A. Wajda3, K. Kostyra-Grabczak4, A. Paradowska-Gorycza5.1 National Institute of Geriatric, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Early Arthritis Clinic, Warsaw, Poland; 2Pomeranian University, Department of Histology and Developmental Biology, Szczecin, Poland; 3National Institute of Geriatric, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Molecular Biology, Warszaw, Poland

Background: Signal transducer and activator of transcription 4 (STAT4) is an important for Interferon-γ induction (type 2 IFN signaling). Whereas type 1 IFN signaling pathway depends on signal transducer and activator of transcription 1 (STAT1) and Janus kinase 2 (JAK2). JAK2 is a non-receptor tyrosine kinase that plays a role in signal transduction via others type II receptors including IFN-γ, IFN-α, IFN-β. The IFN signature in Sjögren’s syndrome and overexpression of IFN-1 and IFN-2 in minor salivary glands biopsy (MSGBs) were described.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to analyze the immunoeexpression of STAT4, STAT1 and JAK2 in biopsies of MSG depending on the severity of mononuclear cell infiltration (focus score, FS) in patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome(pSS).

Methods: The study group consisted of 64 patients with pSS aged 48.25±16.47. 89% of the subjects were women. MSGBs were routinely stained with HE for conventional histopathological examination with determination of FS. Monoclonal antibodies were used to determine the immunoeexpression of the STAT1, STAT4, and JAK2. Quantitative Computer Image Analysis of Immunoeexpression (ScanScope AT2 scanner) has been conducted. The percentage of positive immunostaining for each protein was determined in 20 HPF in each group of patients according to FS. Results were analyzed using TIBCO Statistica v. 13.3 Obtained values failed normal distribution assumption, therefore the non-parametric Kruskal–Wallis test with Dunn’s multiple comparison test for post hoc analysis was used to assess the differences between the groups. p < 0.05 were considered to be statistically significant.

Results: 33% pSS patients were characterized by FS=1; 30%-FS= 3; FS=0 – 9%. 3% and 2% of patients revealed FS=5 and FS=6, respectively. In MSGBs JAK2-, STAT1-, and STAT4-immunopositive cells were observed. The various nuclear and cytoplasmic immunoeexpression of JAK2, STAT1 and STAT4 in acinar and ductal cells and also in lesions displaying immune-cell infiltration were observed. However the immunoeexpression of STAT4 in the nucleus was relatively rarely found. The percentage of JAK2-, STAT1- and STAT4-positive cells in FS = 0 was significantly lower in comparison with FS equal or greater than 3. However for STAT4, already in FS=2 there was a stronger signal compared to FS=0. The percentage of JAK2- and STAT1-positive cells in MSGB in FS = 0 was statistically insignificant in comparison with FS = 1 and 2. There was no statistical significance in the percentage of STAT4- positive cells in patients with FS = 0 in comparison with FS = 1 (Figure 1). mRNA level of STAT4 in whole blood in patients with pSS revealed the opposite trend. The increase of FS was correlated with the decreased mRNA level of STAT4.

Conclusion: Notably, in the case of STAT4 immunoeexpression increased with increasing FS. Interestingly, mRNA level of STAT4 determined in the whole blood decreased with increasing FS (data not shown).

The question remains why the immunoeexpression of STAT4 in nucleus was relatively rarely found, and what is the impact of the dynamics of STAT4-dependent gene expression on the pathogenesis of pSS. In studied patients STAT4 activity dominates in MSGB infiltrates which confirms the role of this factor in the pathogenesis of pSS.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0136

INTERFERON STIMULATED GENES IN CD4 T CELLS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH PYROPTOSIS PATHWAYS IN PATIENTS WITH LUPUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, -omics

S. J. Lee1, B. A. Kim1, 1Department of Internal Medicine, Kyungpook National University School of Medicine, Daegu, Internal Medicine, Daegu, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Single cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) of kidney tissues in patients with lupus has led to landscape of complete cellular composition and states for immune and non-immune cells. These studies suggested type I interferon (IFN) signatures prime inflammatory responses. However, there is a lack of knowledge regarding the characteristics of subsets of IFN stimulating genes (ISG) high expressed cells.

Objectives: Here we investigated immune cell compositions between peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs), skin and kidney tissues in patients with lupus using scRNA-sequencing, We characterized a subset of ISG high CD4 T cells, which are commonly expressed across PBMCs, skin and kidneys of lupus but not skins of healthy.

Methods: scRNA-seq dataset of PBMCs, skin and kidney tissues in patients with lupus were collected. We integrated and analyzed immune cell compositions from this scRNA-seq dataset. We focused on subset of ISG high expressed CD4 T cells and characterized top 200 genes of this subset.
Results: There is one subset of ISG high expressed CD4 T cells in the lupus PBMCs, kidneys, and skins but not in the healthy skins. This ISG high expressed CD4 T cells have the greatest number of type I interferon signatures and gas- tronomically D gene, which is related to pyroptosis of cells, among top 200 genes. We further investigated pyroptosis pathway genes in the subsets of CD3 T cells. Interestingly, the subset of ISG high expressed CD4 T cells have most increased pyroptosis related upstream regulating genes including IRF1, GBP1, CASP4 and CASP1. Furthermore, this subset highly expressed inflammasome gene such as NLRP3.

Conclusion: There are ISG high expressed CD4 T cells across tissues of lupus. Those cells highly expressed pyroptosis related pathway genes. Further investigation is needed to characterize association between ISG and pyroptosis.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0137

FIRST-IN-HUMAN INVESTIGATION OF HYDROGEN VOLTAGE-GATED CHANNEL 1 (HVCN1) EXPRESSION AND LEVELS OF MYELOPEROXIDASE AND OXIDIZED DNA (8-OHGD) IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOUSUS (SLEOX STUDY) – AN INTERIM ANALYSIS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cell biology

C. J. Bauer1, N. Offermann2, C. Gagliardi3, P. Brossart1, M. Capasso1, V. Schäfer1.
1University Hospital Bonn, Clinic of Internal Medicine II, Department of Oncology, Haematology, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology; 2Bonn, Germany; 3German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, (DZNE), Bonn, Germany

Background: Within the still poorly understood pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) granulocyte neutrophils have been shown to play a key role. In our research on mouse models, we found that important functions of neutrophils are regulated by the hydrogen voltage-gated channel 1 (HVCN1), whose deficiency causes an SLE-like autoimmune disorder in old mice [1]. Among other effects, HVCN1 regulates the secretion of myeloperoxidase (MPO) and the release of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) in mice, thereby controlling inflammation. Based on this knowledge and a previous gene array analysis of CD16+ peripheral blood cells from SLE patients that showed reduced HVCN1 mRNA expression in neutrophils [2], we hypothesize that reduced HVCN1 expression leading to increased MPO and NET release might be a pathomechanism observable in humans that could contribute significantly to the pathogenesis and disease activity in SLE.

Objectives: This first-in-human trial prospectively assesses HVCN1 protein expression of leukocytes and plasma levels of MPO and 8-OHdG in correlation with clinical disease activity in SLE patients and matched healthy controls, in order to gain deeper understanding of SLE pathogenesis.

Methods: In this prospective study (ethical approval obtained under Institutional Review Board #112/22), 50 patients with SLE and 50 healthy controls are investigated. HVCN1 expression in peripheral blood leukocytes and plasma levels of myeloperoxidase (MPO) and oxidized DNA (8-OHdG), accompanied by application of the SLEDAI-2k assessment for clinical disease activity and recording of further clinical (demographics, patient and treatment history) and laboratory data (autoimmune, urine and routine serum diagnostics). HVCN1 protein expression is quantified by flow cytometry (BD FACS Symphonv A5) via targeted HVCN1 staining (Alomone labs anti-HVCN1 rabbit IgG and Invitrogen anti-rabbit IgG, Alexa Fluor 488). Previous processing steps include leukocyte staining (CD45, CD14, CD15 and CD16), cell fixation and permeabilization. Reference quantification of HVCN1 protein expression via Western Blot and further mRNA and DNA measurements are planned. MPO and 8-OHdG levels will be quantified by ELISA and mass spectrometry.

Results: The preliminary analysis of 18 SLE patients revealed a statistically significant positive correlation between SLEDAI-2k scores and HVCN1 protein expression (Pearson correlation coefficient: 0.563; p=0.015). Also, within the typical SLEDAI-2k disease activity categories, there was a clear tendency towards ascending HVCN1 protein quantities expressed with every severity category step-up [see Figure 1]. Further analysis is ongoing.

Conclusion: Unlike previous studies, our preliminary SLEOx trial data suggests a positive correlation of HVCN1 protein expression and SLE activity. General HVCN1 upregulation following leukocyte activation in response to disease activity (among other factors) could be one explanation. Validation in a larger study cohort is currently underway.

REFERENCES:

[2] Personal communication with Prof Ken Smith and Dr Paul Lyons, Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. 2022 (Unpublished).

Figure 1. Graphic display of HVCN1 expression across disease activity groups and healthy individuals. MFI= median fluorescence intensity

SLEDAI-2K= Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0138

CHARACTERIZATION OF SERUM CYTOKINE PROFILE IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Z. Rahme1, M. Gatto1, A. Ghirarrdello1, C. Cruciani1, F. Pettorossi1, A. Zaramella2,3, C. Franco1, A. Doria1.
1University of Padova, Department of Medicine, Rheumatology Unit, Padova, Italy; 2University of Padova, Department of Surgery, Oncology and Gastroenterology (DISCOG), Padova, Italy; 3Veneto Institute of Oncology IOV-IRCCS, Gastroenterology Unit, Padova, Italy

Background: Cytokines (CKs) are known to play a role in the pathogenesis of lupus nephritis (LN), yet their role as biomarkers is still debated.

Objectives: To describe the CKs picture in patients with active LN and to assess possible clinical correlates in LN course.

Methods: A prospective cohort study including patients with active biopsy-proven LN was performed. Serum CKs were assessed at the time of diagnosis and at 3 subsequent time points (3, 6 and 12 months) during follow-up. Clinical and serological data were collected for further analysis. BLyS (B Lymphocyte stimulator) and interleukin (IL)-37 were measured by ELISA assays (Quantikine BAFF, R&D, USA, detection limit DL 0.02 ng/mL; IL37 ELISA kit, Adipogen, Switzerland, DL 0.01 ng/mL); IL-2, IL-10, IL-17A and IL-18 (pg/mL) by Luminex multiplex assay (Millipore, USA, DL 0.6 pg/mL for all), according to the manufacturers’ instructions. Measurements for IL-37 and BLyS were matched with sera of sex- and age-matched healthy subjects (HC). Mann-Whitney test was used for comparisons between two independent groups, Wilcoxon log-rank test for paired comparisons at different time points, Spearman’s correlation coefficient for associations between CK and between CK and clinical features.

Results: Twenty-seven patients with active LN (mean±SD age 41.7±4.17, 78.8% women) were included for initial CK analysis at the time of LN activity. At baseline (T0), BLyS levels were significantly increased in LN compared with HC (median [range]: 1.67 [0.32-6.40] vs. 0.563 [0.265-1.408]; p<0.0001); IL-37 was significantly reduced in LN compared with HC (median [range]: 0.016 [0.001-0.291] vs. 0.056 [0.001-1.147]; p=0.0185). At T0, median (range) levels of IL-2, IL-10, IL-17A and IL-18 were: IL-2 0.640 (0.372-8.12), IL-10 2.60 (0.106-8.66), IL-17A 2.10 (0.138-20.18), IL-18 243.10 (28.20-950.30). The longitudinal association study between CK levels of the entire cohort revealed a trend of inverse correlation between IL-37 and BLyS (r=-0.281, p=0.06) and a direct correlation between BLyS and IL-18 (r=0.330, p=0.04) and between IL-2 and IL-17A (r=-0.470, p=0.001) (Figure 1). A subset of 17 patients (70.6% F, mean age at renal flare 34.3±18.6, mean duration of disease at the time of renal flare 4.9±1.95, caucasian ethnicity n=14, 82.3%), was followed-up prospectively: 7 (41.18%) had biopsy-proven (III-IV class) proliferative glomerulonephritis. Proteinuria at T0 was 2.19±1.35 g/24h. All patients were treated with pulsed glucocorticoids (GCS, 750-2500 mg) followed by oral GCS (0.3-0.5 mg/kg/day prednisone equivalent) and immunosuppression. Higher titers of IL-18 were present in the sera

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of patients with proliferative forms of LN ($p=0.053$) and with a higher SLEDAI-2K score at T0 ($p=0.0759$). A significant correlation was found between IL-2 and a lesser extent of IL-17, with anti-dsDNA antibodies (IL2: r=-0.6098, $p=0.0094$; IL-17: r=-0.4591, $p=0.0638$). High levels of IL-17 correlated with low C3 at T0 ($r=-0.5085$, $p=0.0372$). No significant longitudinal changes in CKs levels nor correlation with clinical features were observed.

**Conclusion:** Patients with proliferative LN and higher SLEDAI-2K scores displayed higher levels of IL-18, thus supporting IL-18 likely role in the pathogenesis of LN. We documented a correlation between IL2 and higher titers of anti-dsDNA antibodies and an inverse correlation between IL-17 and C3 at baseline, suggesting a contribution of CKs to LN onset. Our study was limited by the small sample size, limiting retrieval of significant data on CK levels and clinical-laboratoric changes at different time points, demanding further studies.

**REFERENCES:**


**Figure 1**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**REFERENCES:**

NIL.

**Table 1. Proportion of SLE related immunologic abnormality in high SLE-PRS individuals**

<table>
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<th>Positive</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>dsDNA Ab</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C3 +C4+ CH50</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5mAb</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ACA, IgM+ACA, IgG+$\uparrow$20% Ab, IgM $\uparrow$ or 2 $\uparrow$</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>WBC + ALB</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PLT</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>DAT POLYSPICIFIC TEST</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>UPCr (mg/g)Microscopic Examination-RBC</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

**REFERENCES:**

NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**REFERENCES:**

NIL.
other cytokines didn’t correlate with disease status. CIC levels significantly differ-
entiated active from inactive disease (p<0.001).

References:
Significantly increased in active SLE and should be evaluated in further studies.

Background:
In the development of various illnesses including autoimmune diseases, many studies proving the crucial role of gut microbes are gradually being reported. Alterations of gut microbiota can lead to abnormalities in the host immune system, causing autoimmune, which can act as pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to analyze the diversity and taxo-
nomic composition of the gut microbiota affecting SLE and to investigate their association with disease activities.

Methods: Fecal samples of 38 patients with SLE in Ajou Lupus Cohort and 52 age and sex-matched healthy volunteers were provided by the same protocol. We analysed the components of the gut microbiota in feces via 16S RNA next-gen-
eration sequencing, and evaluated alpha and beta diversities. Demographic, laboratory, and medication data of SLE patients were obtained through medical records, and Pearson correlation analysis was performed to analyze the associ-
ation between disease activity and gut microbiota.

Results: We observed a significant decrease in species richness in the beta diversity analysis by NMDs plots compared to controls in the SLE group. Compared with SLE and healthy controls (HCs), significant differences were found at phylum, genus, species levels in the taxonomic composition. At the species level, there were 7 species with a significantly higher relative abundance and 7 species with a lower relative abundance in the SLE group compared to the HCs, of which the reduction of Faecalibacterium prausnitzii and Prevotella copri (p = 0.001 and p = 0.001, respectively) played an important role in SLE. Pearson correlation analysis suggested that Faecalibacterium prausnitzii was positively correlated with complement 3 and 4 (r = 0.44 and r = 0.49, respectively), and Prevotella copri was positively correlated with total lymphocytes (r = 0.45).

Conclusion: There was a significant difference in the composition and diversity of gut microbiota between SLE patients and healthy controls in Korean population. In particular, Faecalibacterium prausnitzii and Prevotella copri, which are greatly reduced in patients with SLE, are expected to provide potential targets for new treatment.

References:
AB0143
VORINOSTAT IMPROVES THE PATHOGENESIS OF SLE MODEL MICE BY SUPPRESSING IFN-I AND TLR7/8 SIGNALS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus
T. Hirayama1,2, H. Konaka1,3, Y. Kato1,2, H. Takamatsu2,3, A. Kumanogoh1,2,4
1Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University, Department of Respiratory Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Suita city, Japan; 2Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC), Department of Immunopathology, Suita, Japan; 3Nippon Life Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Osaka, Japan; 4Institute for Open and Transdisciplinary Research Initiatives, Integrated Frontier Research for Medical Science Division, Suita, Japan

Background: SLE is a systemic autoimmune disease caused by impaired innate and acquired immune tolerance, resulting in increased Type I IFN (IFN-I) and aberrant B cell development, in which cGAS and TLR 7/8 signaling play critical roles. TLR7/8 and cGAS signal is activated due to the overexpression of TLR7/8 and cGAS, which leads to increased IFN-I production. Activation of TLR7/8 signaling also leads to the development of abnormal B cell populations, including short-lived plasma blasts, double negative B cells (DNB), and active native B (NAB). It suggests that signaling pathway via TLR7/8 and cGAS would be a good therapeutic target for SLE. Therefore, we screened agents that inhibit the induction of interferon-stimulated genes (ISGs) by LPS, R848 or cGAMP stimulation using an approved drug library and found that vorinostat inhibits ISG induction upon cGAMP and LPS stimulation.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to elucidate the mechanism by which vorinostat suppresses IFN-I production and to demonstrate that vorinostat improves the severity of the disease phenotype in SLE-prone mice.

Methods: We investigated the effect of vorinostat on the expression and phosphorylation of TBK1, IRFs, IRF5, and IRF7, upon LPS or cGAMP stimulation, as well as on the in vitro differentiation of human B cells into plasma cells by a culture medium containing R848. Additionally, the effect of Vorinostat on the severity of SLE-prone mice, such as NZB/W F1 mice and SAVI mice with point mutations in STING, was also investigated.

Results: Vorinostat inhibited TBK1 phosphorylation and subsequent nuclear translocation of IF3 and expression of IRF5 and IRF7. Consequently, the expression of IFN-β and ISGs were suppressed. Additionally, differentiation of human B cells cultured in R848-containing medium into plasma cells was inhibited in the presence of vorinostat. Furthermore, vorinostat improved the disease severity of NZB/W F1 mice, including survival, proteinuria, and glomerulonephritis, and decreased autoantibody titer and TLR7 expression. Vorinostat also ameliorated the disease severity of NZB/W F1 mice, such as NZB/W F1 mice and SAVI mice with point mutations in STING, was also investigated.

Conclusion: We found vorinostat ameliorates the disease severity of SLE prone mice by inhibiting IFN-I production and pathogenic B cell development via suppressing the downstream signal of TLR7/8 and cGAS. This finding represents a new therapeutic candidate for SLE.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

AB0144
PHARMACOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF GLPG3667, A SELECTIVE TYK2 INHIBITOR, SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN DERMATOMYOSIS AND SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Myositis, Targeted synthetic drugs, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Background: Tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) is an intracellular kinase that transduces signalling from type 1 interferons (IFN), interleukin (IL)-12/ IL-23 and the IL-10 family of cytokines. Genetic analyses show an association of TYK2 variants with risk of inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. In addition, clinical data obtained with deucravacitinib (a TYK2 selective inhibitor) in SLE patients suggest that inhibition of TYK2 could be beneficial to patients with inflammatory diseases driven by type I IFN such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and dermatomyositis (DM).

Objectives: We describe here GLPG3667, a TYK2 inhibitor in development for treatment of DM and SLE.

Methods: Potency and selectivity of GLPG3667 on TYK2 was assessed using radioactive, luminescent and fluorescent biochemical assays. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) and human whole blood assays for various Janus kinases (JAK)-dependent pathways were performed to assess GLPG3667 potency and selectivity, using flow cytometry or ELISA. GLPG3667 pharmacological activity was investigated in a psoriasis mouse model driven by IL-23. In healthy human volunteers (NCT04097938), pharmacodynamic activity of GLPG3667 was evaluated by measuring signal transducer and activator of transcription (STAT) phosphorylation using flow cytometry. Selectivity was assessed by analysing the impact of GLPG3667 on IFNα, IL-2 and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF) pathways. Biological effects of orally administered GLPG3667 in humans were assessed using transcriptomic analysis of blood cells after in vivo IFNα (1 million IU of Intron-A) challenge in healthy volunteers.

Results: Biochemical assays showed that GLPG3667 displayed a nanomolar potency on TYK2 with a >3-fold selectivity over the other JAK kinases. In human PBMC activated with phorbol myristate acetate and ionomycin calcium salt, GLPG3667 showed comparable potency (around 50 nM) on the IFNα and IL-23 pathways. Potency of GLPG3667 was >14-fold and >19-fold higher in the IFNα pathway vs the IL-2 and GMCSF pathways in human PBMC and whole blood, respectively. In mice, dermal ear inflammation driven by IL-23 was prevented by GLPG3667 with a minimal effective dose of 3 mg/kg given orally once daily. This effect was associated with a decrease in neutrophil infiltration and STAT3 phosphorylation at sites of inflammation. In healthy human volunteers, GLPG3667 completely inhibited IFNα-induced STAT1 and STAT3 phosphorylation but did not impact IL-2 or GM-CSF-induced STAT5 phosphorylation. GLPG3667 strongly inhibited the expression of IFNα-response genes induced by in vivo IFNα challenge in healthy human subjects.

Conclusion: GLPG3667 demonstrated selectivity for TYK2 relative to the three other JAK family members in biochemical and cellular assays, and in human whole blood assays ex vivo and in vivo during a phase 1 study in healthy human volunteers. Pharmacological effects of GLPG3667 were demonstrated in a mouse model of psoriasis driven by IL-23 and in human healthy volunteers challenged with IFNα. These data support the development of GLPG3667 in autoimmune diseases driven by type 1 IFN such as DM and SLE.

Acknowledgements: These studies were funded by Galapagos NV (Mechelen, Belgium). Editorial and publications management support was provided by Pharmagenesis London, London, UK and funded by Galapagos NV (Mechelen, Belgium). Publications coordination was provided by John Gonzalez, PhD, of Galapagos NV (Mechelen, Belgium).

GENETIC EVIDENCE REVEALS A CAUSAL ROLE OF BLOOD LEUKOCYTE COUNTS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus

Y. Zhang1,2, K. Fan1-2, Z. Han1,2, Q. Yu1, P. F. He1, X. Li1, S. X. Zhang1, 1Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, T aiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microecology, T aiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, Shang Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, T aiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 4The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, T aiyuan, Shanxi Province, China

Background: Blood leukocyte counts are important biomarkers for the onset of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)[1-3]. However, the causal relationship is unclear.

Objectives: We implement a two-sample Mendelian Randomization (MR) analysis to investigate the potential association.

Methods: The summary statistics of blood leukocyte counts were available from public databases (n=172435)[4]. All genetic variants significantly associated with blood leukocyte counts (p<5×10 –8) were used as instrumental variables (IVs). Then, the linkage disequilibrium (LD) was excluded (distance threshold = 10,000 kb, r 2 = 0.001). In this study, the inverse variance weighted (IVW) method, the MR-Egger method, and the weighted median (WM) were used to estimate the causal effect of the blood leukocyte counts and SLE. In addition, Cochran’s Q test, MR pleiotropy residual sum and outlier (MR-PRESSO), and leave-one-out analysis were implemented as sensitivity tests.

Results: We selected 119 independent SNPs as IVs in the MR analysis of total WBC. Higher blood leukocyte counts were associated with a lower risk of SLE (OR:0.629, 95% CI: 0.436-0.907 , P: 0.013) by IVW method (Figure 1). However, the results of Cochrane Q statistics showed heterogeneity (p<0.05). Therefore, we used the random-effects model[6].

Conclusion: Our study predicted genetically that individuals with lower blood leukocyte counts face a higher risk of SLE, which was consistent with the previous observational studies.

REFERENCES:
Systemic sclerosis, myositis and related syndromes - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

Keywords: Animal models, Systemic sclerosis

H. Mutsuda1, M. Kondo1, R. Ohno1, A. Ishii2, M. Piruzyan1, K. Funayama1, Y. Ono1, A. Iwamura1, T. Endou2, T. Akashi2, T. Tomari2, N. Uchiyama2, O. Kanai3, P. Blzyczek4, D. Distler5, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, Research Unit/Immunology & Inflammation, Yokohama, Japan; 2Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, DMKP Research Laboratories, Yokohama, Japan; 3Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, Safety Research Laboratories, Fujisawa, Japan; 4University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: Autotaxin (ATX) is the lysophosphatidic acid (LPA)-producing enzyme. Targeted small-molecule therapies to ATX have been shown to be potentially effective in systemic sclerosis (SSc) treatment, but the clinical benefit and role of selective ATX inhibition remain unexplored.

Objectives: To explore the potential of MT-5562F, a novel oral selective inhibitor of ATX, as a therapeutic agent for SSc by evaluating its efficacy and toxicity in preclinical models.

Methods: MT-5562F and a free form of MT-5562F (MT-5562Fp) were evaluated, and other ATX inhibitors (zirataxest and cudetaxest) were used as comparators in the in vitro assays. The in vivo efficacy of MT-5562F in collagen-induced lung fibrosis was assessed using fluorescent substrate Aplastim UltraRed. The effects of MT-5562F on IL-6 and connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) production in TGF-beta induced dermal fibroblasts from healthy donors and lung fibroblasts from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients were evaluated in vitro. Cell toxicity was evaluated in human pulmonary alveolar epithelial cells (HPAECip), human lung fibroblasts from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients (DHL-IFP) and lung microvascular endothelial cells (HMVEC-L) by cell counting. The plasma concentration of MT-5562F and LPA production were evaluated in C57BL/6 mice. The effects of MT-5562F on skin and lung fibrosis were evaluated in murine SSc models induced by bleomycin (BLM).

Results: MT-5562F, zirataxest, and cudetaxest inhibited the enzyme activity of human ATX with IC50s of 0.45, 4.93, and 2.77 mmol/L, respectively. MT-5562F and zirataxest inhibited the enzyme activity of mouse ATX with IC50s of 0.15 and 10.9 nmol/L, respectively. MT-5562F concentration-dependently inhibited TGF-beta-induced IL-6 and CTGF production in human dermal fibroblasts from healthy donors and lung fibroblasts from IPF patients. MT-5562F showed minimal effects on cell viability using lung structural cells such as alveolar epithelial cells (HPAECip), pulmonary fibroblasts (DHL-IFP) and endothelial cells (HMVEC-L) even at the maximum dissolved concentration (60 μmol/L). On the other hand, zirataxest showed more cytotoxic effects than MT-5562F on cell viability in vitro. MT-5562F did not show any specific off-target interference on receptor binding and kinase profiling assays. In vivo, MT-5562F and zirataxest (10, 30 mg/kg) dose-dependently reduced plasma LPA concentration in mice according to the plasma drug exposure and mouse ATX inhibitory activity, and MT-5562F showed more sustained effects compared with zirataxest. Therapeutic treatment with MT-5562F (30, 60 mg/kg, once daily) significantly suppressed skin thickening and the numbers of myofibroblasts in pre-established subcutaneous BLM-induced skin fibrosis model. Therapeutic treatment with MT-5562F (30, 60 mg/kg, twice daily) and zirataxest (30 mg/kg, twice daily) showed significant reduction of the average Ashcroft score and collagen severity score in the BLM-induced lung fibrosis, together with the reduction of the biomarker LPA. All doses of MT-5562F significantly reduced the expression of inflammatory and fibrotic mediators such as C-reactive protein, IL-6Ra, epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and perlsit in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that MT-5562F is a selective and potent ATX inhibitor. It is expected to be a safer compound comparing other ATX inhibitors under development and it may offer a good option to treat lung and skin fibrosis in SSc.

REFERENCES: NIL

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AB0148

IDENTIFICATION OF CANDIDATE MiRNA MOLECULES AS BIOMARKERS IN INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA WITH AN UNDERLYING AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE. A DISCOVERY COHORT FROM THE NERA PROJECT

Keywords: Biomarkers, Lungs -omics

M. J. Rodriguez1, M. C. Vegas Sánchez2, B. López-Muñiz2, F. Romero Bueno3, C. Vadiol3, M. A. Nieto4, L. Cebrán Méndez2, H. Godoy5, R. Laporta6, L. Abasolo7, G. Bonilla8, L. Gómez Carrera8, O. Sanchez Pernau9, Hospital Universitario Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Pulmonology, Madrid, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Immunology, Madrid, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor, Pulmonology, Madrid, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 5Hospital Clinico Universitario San Carlos, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 6Hospital Clinico Universitario San Carlos, Pulmonology, Madrid, Spain; 7Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 8Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda University Hospital, Pulmonology, Majadahonda, Spain; 9La Paz University Hospital, Pulmonology, Madrid, Spain; 10La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: A group of patients with chronic interstitial pneumonia (IP) have an underlying autoimmune disease -typically a connective tissue disorder (CTD) -. In turn, autoimmune-related IP (AIP) processes are highly heterogeneous as regards to their clinical presentation, extra-pulmonary features and risk of fibrotic progression. A better understanding of clinically-relevant disease phenotypes is needed in order to tailor therapies.

Methods: We analyzed non-coding RNAs which orchestrate multiple biological processes by regulating mRNAs via cleavage or translation repression. Circulating levels of miRNA molecules provide excellent information about pathogenic processes in complex diseases, help identify specific disease subgroups and therapeutic targets.

Methods: We have conducted NGS of small-noncoding RNA in patients with AIP and controls in the NERA project and been selected as a priority project by the Special Multidisciplinary Clinics from the participating centers. The study composition comprised 29 subjects (24 cases, 5 controls; 93% women, 87% newly diagnosed patients). Sixty seven % of the patients were diagnosed with interstitial pneumonitis with autoimmune features (AIP) and all patients had a pulmonary dominant disease at the time of blood sampling. IGEAN genomic services and a NextSeq (illumina Inc.) instrument were used. For statistical comparisons, the sample was further segregated according to clinical diagnosis, radiographic pattern, evidence of fibrosis in HRTC, relative levels of Krebs von den Lungen (KL-1) and type of autoantibodies (classified into those potentially-associated to vasculopathy, the ones typically associated to rheumatoid arthritis, and non-specific ANA). The association was considered true for a p level < 0.02 and a low false discovery
rate (FDR), p < 0.1). DIANA tools including the Tarbase v8.0 were used to assess functional pathways with GO and KEGG analysis. **Results:** As compared to the healthy controls, patients with IP showed higher levels of let-7i-5p (1.9-fold, p < 0.01), miR-483-5p (3.5-fold, p < 0.0005) and the miR-320 family. Fibrotic disease was associated to an up-regulation of the let-7i cluster, miR-151a-5p (2.04-fold, p < 0.01), miR-185-5p (2.4-fold, p < 0.01), miR-320a-3p (2-fold, p < 0.016), miR-320e-2 (2-fold, p < 0.016) and miR-423-5p (1.9-fold, p < 0.01). Besides, there was an up-regulation of both let-7i-5p levels (3.55-fold, <p < 0.005) and miR-483-5p (4.78-fold, p < 0.005) in patients with HfLS. On the other hand, patients with vasculopathy-related autoantibodies had a characteristic microRNA signature, with an up-regulation of the miR-10 and miR-30 families as well as levels of miR-320b (2.77-fold, p < 0.005), miR-330c (3.71-fold, p < 0.005) and miR-320d (3.84-fold, p < 0.005), in addition to miR-483-5p (4.2-fold, p < 0.005), miR-675-5p (7.74-fold, p < 0.005) and miR-1283 (7.40-fold, p < 0.005). The cluster dendogram showed association between miR-10a, miR-10b, miR320c and miR320d regulated processes, with an enrichment in the Hippo signalling, the TGFβ pathway and the fatty acid biosynthesis. **Conclusion:** Or data suggests a common miRNA signature in patients with AIP, which includes 2 miRNA molecules, miR-483-5p and miR-320a, which have already been identified in patients with CTD and IP. In addition, a specific microRNA pattern was found in those patients with a “SSc-like” autoantibodies, pointing to the existence of particular driving processes in this subtype of disease. Confirmation of these findings and validation of targets in a larger sample is warranted in order to advance to a pathophysiologic classification of AIP. **Acknowledgements:** This work has been conducted with funding from a ISCIII AES2020 grant (P120/00250) and a Boehringer Ingelheim External Research Grant 1199-0499 **Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared. **DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4005 **AB0149**

**THE EXPRESSION AND REGULATION OF NOX4 IN DAMAGED MYOBLASTS IN INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHY**

**Keywords:** Myositis, Adaptive immunity

H. R. Kang1, J. Y. Kim5, S. U. Kim5, E. Y. Lee3, H. S. Kwon5, S. Ban5, 1Seoul National University Graduate School, Interdisciplinary Program in Cancer Biology Major, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Seoul National University Graduate School, Integrated Major in Innovative Medical Science, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Seoul National University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Seoul National University, Department of Cancer biology, Graduate School of College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Idiopathic inflammatory myopathy (IM) is a rare autoimmune disease characterized by proximal muscle weakness, elevated muscle enzymes, inflammation in the muscle. If the muscle is already damaged in IM, it may not regain full strength even after treatment. Also the mechanisms that contribute to muscle weakness in myositis are currently unknown. Nox is the main source of ROS production in various cells types, and is also the source of mitochondrial ROS. Excessive expression of Nox4 is characteristic of sclerosis, fibrosis, and cardiac related diseases, and it had been reported that knock down of Nox4 lowers the production of superoxide and hydrogen peroxide. However, the effect of Nox4 in myositis has not been reported.

**Objectives:** We investigated the expression and role of Nox4 in damaged myoblasts of myositis.

**Methods:** Myoblasts were isolated from IIM patients who underwent muscle biopsy in Seoul National University Hospital between February 2019 and February 2021. Skeletal muscle cell (SMC) was purchased. Myoblasts and SMCs were treated with cytokine mixture (IFN-r, IL-6, IL-15) or PBS for 30 minutes. The expression of Nox4, MyoD and myosin heavy chain (MYH) in myoblast and myotube was analysed by Western blot. For inhibition of Nox4, OKT157383 (inhibitor of Nox4) was treated before the cytokine stimulation.

**Results:** Myoblasts from IIM patients express higher level of Nox4 compared to healthy myoblasts. When treated with cytokine mixture (IFN-r, IL-6, IL-15), healthy myoblasts or SMC mimicked inflammatory myositis and showed increased expression of Nox4 and decreased expression of MYH similar to myositis phenotype. Nox4 inhibitor suppressed Nox4 expression and MyoD overexpression in inflammatory myoblasts.

**Conclusion:** We showed that Nox4 expression is increased in myoblasts from IIM patients and is associated with impaired muscle regeneration. Nox4 inhibition attenuated Nox4 and MyoD overexpression in inflammatory myoblasts.

**REFERENCES:**

**Methods:**

- **Objectives:** Cardiac fibroblasts and their interaction with immune cells play a crucial role in myocardial healing and tissue remodelling following myocardial injury. In this study, we investigated the role of DYSF, a protein involved in TGF-β signalling, in cardiac fibroblasts.

- **Background:** Myocardial fibrosis, ultimately leading to heart failure (HF), represents a point of convergence for most cardiac disorders. Heart involvement is a common finding in autoimmune rheumatic patients, suggesting a mutual regulation between DYSF and TGF-β stimulation.

- **Methods:** Adult cardiac fibroblasts were isolated from the left atria of patients undergoing heart transplantation due to end-stage HF caused by inflammatory cardiomyopathy (n=5) and from unaffected myocardium of brain-dead donors (Ctrl, n=5). Protein quantification was performed using liquid chromatography tandem-mass spectrometry (LC–MS/MS), and the data analysis was done using pathway enrichment analysis [2]. Selected gene knockdown was achieved through Lipofectamine 2000-mediated siRNA transfection of human foetal PMBCs from 5 idiopathic PAH (iPAH) patients and 16 age- and sex-matched SSc-PAH patients. PMBCs were isolated from 32 age- and sex-matched SSc-PAH in particular.

- **Results:**
  - **Quantitative proteomic analysis of adult cardiac fibroblasts revealed 14 differentially expressed proteins (adj. p<0.05) in HF compared to Ctrl.** The identified proteins belong to biological pathways mainly involved in ECM remodeling and associated with several pathologies, such as atherosclerosis, muscular dystrophy and myocardial ischemia. The most upregulated protein in HF fibroblasts was dysferlin (DYSF, log2FC=5.78, adj. p<0.005), which is known to promote sarcolemma repair in skeletal muscle fibres and cardiomyocytes. Further in vitro study showed that TGF-β stimulation significantly upregulates DYSF gene (n=4, p<0.001) and protein (n=3, p<0.001) expression in cultured HCFs. DYSF silencing upregulated COL1A1 expression in untreated (n=4, p<0.05) and TGF-β-stimulated (n=4, p<0.05) HCFs. On the protein level, DYSF knockdown upregulated the profibrotic transcription factor FOSL2 in untreated HCFs (n=9, p=0.004) and following 72h of TGF-β stimulation (n=9, p<0.001). In turn, FOSL2 silencing in HCFs significantly upregulated DYSF protein level (n=5, p<0.0001) after 72h of TGF-β stimulation, suggesting a mutual regulation between DYSF and FOSL2. Further analysis of autophagy-related proteins revealed that DYSF silencing increases LC3BII expression (n=6, p<0.05) and downregulates P62 (n=6, p=0.01) in TGF-β-stimulated HCFs. Finally, we observed reduced viability of cells subjected to DYSF knockdown in both untreated (n=4, p<0.01) and TGF-β-stimulated (n=4, p<0.05) conditions. DYSF silencing was also associated with decreased ATP production in TGF-β-treated HCFs (n=8, p<0.05).

- **Conclusion:** Proteinomic profiling of human cardiac fibroblasts supported by in vitro analysis identified DYSF as an anti-fibrotic protein compensatory upregulated under immunofibrotic conditions and involved in TGF-β-FOSL2-autophagy axis regulation. This newly proposed candidate may serve as a potential therapeutic target for stimulating fibroblast-induced myocardial regeneration.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** None Declared.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

**Keywords:** Heart, Cell biology, Cardiovascular disease

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**URIC ACID IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-RELATED PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION: INNOCENT BYSTANDER OR COVERT ACCOMPlice?**

**Methods:** Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were harvested from 16 SSc-PAH patients. PBMCs were isolated from 32 age- and sex-matched SSc-nonPAH patients with similar skin distribution and autoantibodies. Finally, PMBCs from 5 idiopathic PAH (PAH) patients and 16 age- and sex-matched healthy controls were collected. Cells were treated with or without uric acid in

**Results:** Uric acid significantly upregulated the profibrotic transcription factor FOSL2 in untreated HCFs (n=9, p=0.004) and following 72h of TGF-β stimulation (n=9, p<0.001). In turn, FOSL2 silencing in HCFs significantly upregulated DYSF protein level (n=5, p<0.0001) after 72h of TGF-β stimulation, suggesting a mutual regulation between DYSF and FOSL2. Further analysis of autophagy-related proteins revealed that DYSF silencing increases LC3BII expression (n=6, p<0.05) and downregulates P62 (n=6, p=0.01) in TGF-β-stimulated HCFs. Finally, we observed reduced viability of cells subjected to DYSF knockdown in both untreated (n=4, p<0.01) and TGF-β-stimulated (n=4, p<0.05) conditions. DYSF silencing was also associated with decreased ATP production in TGF-β-treated HCFs (n=8, p<0.05).

**Conclusion:** Proteinomic profiling of human cardiac fibroblasts supported by in vitro analysis identified DYSF as an anti-fibrotic protein compensatory upregulated under immunofibrotic conditions and involved in TGF-β-FOSL2-autophagy axis regulation. This newly proposed candidate may serve as a potential therapeutic target for stimulating fibroblast-induced myocardial regeneration.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** None Declared.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Cardiovascular disease, Cytokines and chemokines

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**SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-RELATED PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION: INNOCENT BYSTANDER OR COVERT ACCOMPlice?**

**Methods:** Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were harvested from 16 SSc-PAH patients. PBMCs were isolated from 32 age- and sex-matched SSc-nonPAH patients with similar skin distribution and autoantibodies. Finally, PMBCs from 5 idiopathic PAH (PAH) patients and 16 age- and sex-matched healthy controls were collected. Cells were treated with or without uric acid in
soluble form for 24 hours, and subsequently cytokine production was measured by Luminox, and mRNA levels were assessed using qPCR.

Results: Baseline expression of interleukin (IL)-1β and IL-6 was similar in SSc-PAH, SSc-nonPAH, iPAH and healthy controls. On mRNA level, uric acid stimulated PBMCs was similar in SSc-PAH and SSc-nonPAH patients. Similarly, on protein level, production of IL-1β, IL-6 and TNF-α was increased in PAHs from SSc patients compared to iPAH patients and healthy controls. Interestingly, we observed that uric acid-stimulated PBMCs from SSc-PAH patients produced significantly more IL-1β, IL-6 and TNF-α compared to SSc-nonPAH patients.

Conclusion: In this study we demonstrate that soluble uric acid orchestrates an excessive inflammatory response by facilitating more enhanced IL-1β, IL-6 and TNF-α production in SSc-PAH compared to SSc-nonPAH, iPAH and healthy controls. These findings suggest that uric acid not only has a role in the development of SSc-PAH but also contributes to the development of SSc-PAH.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics. Values in medians (SD) or number (%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>SSc-PAH (n=16)</th>
<th>SSc-nonPAH (n=32)</th>
<th>iPAH (n=15)</th>
<th>Healthy controls (n=16)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age in years, mean</td>
<td>67.7 (10.5)</td>
<td>66.9 (8.9)</td>
<td>63 (15.8)</td>
<td>61.4 (9.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>13 (81.3)</td>
<td>26 (81.3)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
<td>13 (8.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSc subtype LcSSc</td>
<td>13 (81.3)</td>
<td>26 (81.3)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
<td>13 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dSSc</td>
<td>3 (18.7)</td>
<td>6 (18.7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRSS</td>
<td>4.8 (4.2)</td>
<td>4.7 (4.2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticentromere positive (%)</td>
<td>5 (31.3)</td>
<td>13 (40.6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telangiectasias, n (%)</td>
<td>9 (56.3)</td>
<td>13 (40.6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYHA class, n (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26 (81.3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>4 (25)</td>
<td>5 (15.6)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>8 (50)</td>
<td>3 (1.3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>4 (25)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine (µmol/L)</td>
<td>914 (274)</td>
<td>764 (18.3)</td>
<td>78.2 (23.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urate (µmol/L)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.2)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.1)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT-proBNP (pg/ml)</td>
<td>1455 (2228.2)</td>
<td>1239 (152.7)</td>
<td>96.6 (42.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6MWD (m)</td>
<td>362.1 (103.5)</td>
<td>593 (127.8)</td>
<td>447.6 (42.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT-proBNP (pg/ml)</td>
<td>1455 (2228.2)</td>
<td>1239 (152.7)</td>
<td>96.6 (42.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR-Egger</td>
<td>13 (9.4)</td>
<td>13 (8.3)</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diuretics, n (%)</td>
<td>11 (68.8)</td>
<td>3 (9.4)</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Anjan van Caam: None declared, Jacqueline Lemmens: None declared, Madelon Vonk Speakers board: Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Mayer Squibb, GSK, Janssen, MSD, Novartis and Roche; Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Ferrer and Galapagos, Sander van Leeuwen: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.859.
of the descent, including 16,380,451 cases and 213,145 controls[2]. The data of the remaining seven exposures with the risk of PM. (p > 0.05) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: APA was causally associated with the risk of PM.

REFERENCES:
Acknowledgements: N.I.L.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6548

MECHANOTRANSDUCTION VIA MYOSIN II ISOFORMS IN DEVELOPMENT OF SKIN FIBROSIS WITHIN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Cytokines and chemokines, Skin

B. Russo¹, M. Shutoya¹, G. Romanescu¹, N. Brembilla², W. H. Boehncke².
¹University of Geneva, Pathology and Immunology, Geneva, Switzerland;
²Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), Dermatology and Venereology, Genève, Switzerland

Background: Skin fibrosis, the hallmark of systemic sclerosis (SSc), is a complex inflammatory process leading to excessive extracellular matrix (ECM) deposition and increased stiffness in the dermis [1]. The mechanical properties of the extracellular environment can be sensed by the cells and transformed into intracellular signalling and gene expression regulation in the process of mechanotransduction. The upregulation of mechanotransduction has been linked to the progression of fibrosis in SSc, particularly through the Rho-ROCK-dependent myosin II pathway, which activates intracellular contractility [2]. Nonmuscle myosin II itself is expressed as three isoforms (NMIIA, NMIB, NMIIC) with common and unique functions. However, the specific role of Rho activation and distinct NMII isoforms in SSc pathogenesis is unknown.

Objectives: To investigate the role of NMII isoform regulation in the development of skin fibrosis in SSc.

Methods: The expression of NMIIA and NMIB, as well as their activation through phosphorylation of Myosin Light Chain (MLC) were evaluated by immunofluorescence in primary fibroblasts from four SSc and four healthy donor (HD), which were stimulated with rTGFβ. The NMII contractility was inhibited with Y-27632, a small molecule inhibitor of ROCK that phosphorylate MLC, or blebbistatin, a small molecule that inhibit NMII. The production of IL-6 and type-I collagen by fibroblasts was assessed by ELISA.

Results: We have observed a re-distribution of NMII isoforms within the intraacellular contractile system and increased MLC phosphorylation in cultured SSc fibroblasts compared to HD. A similar phenotype was observed in HD fibroblasts primed with TGFβ. Treatment of TGFβ-primed HD fibroblasts with Y-27632 or blebbistatin substantially reduced IL-6 and collagen I production.

Conclusion: Our data point to an altered actomyosin cytoskeleton dynamics and force distribution in SSc fibroblasts and indicate that NMII isoforms are required for the TGFβ-dependent secretion of inflammatory cytokines and collagen deposition by fibroblasts.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4215

AB0155

POTENTIAL DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF ANTI-CARBAMYLATED PROTEIN ANTIBODIES IN THE SPONDYLOARTHROSIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Biomarkers, Autoantibodies

E. Favaro¹, E. Grapsis¹, M. Prete¹, V. Racanelli¹, F. Perosi¹. ¹University of Bari Medical School, Department of Interdisciplinary Medicine, Bari, Italy

Background: Spondyloarthritis (SpA) include a group of inflammatory rheumatic diseases with different clinical manifestations. The diagnosis of SpA is still a challenge in clinical practice, in that specific serological markers are still missing. Recently, anti-carbamylated protein antibodies (anti-CarP Ab) have been detected in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and their levels appear to be associated to disease activity [1].

Objectives: The aim of this explorative study was to evaluate the potential role of anti-CarP Ab in the diagnosis and prognosis of peripheral enthesitis or arthropathy (E/A).

Methods: Serum samples and clinical data from 91 patients with peripheral E/A, of which 43 with PsA, 8 patients with uSpA and 40 with E/A responding to disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) not fulfilling ASAS inclusion criteria (ASAS-) were included. Anti-CarP Ab were detected by indirect ELISA. Serum anti-CarP were also determined in 35 healthy donors (HD).

Results: Anti-CarP Ab were detected in both PsA (14%) and E/A ASAS- (5.2%) patients, being their prevalence significantly higher in PsA patients than in HD (chi-square p=0.019). No anti-CarP Ab were detected in uSpA. Kendall’s correlation analysis showed that in the whole E/A population, anti-CarP Ab levels directly correlated with disease activity (p=0.047), plantar fasciitis (p=0.037) and family history of psoriasis (p=0.012). Anti-CarP Ab levels were also directly correlated with the presence of autoimmune thyroiditis in PsA subgroup (p=0.02), and with family history of psoriasis in E/A ASAS- subgroup (p=0.016).

Conclusion: This study suggests an association of anti-CarP Ab levels and disease activity in peripheral E/A. Whether the presence of anti-CarP Ab in E/A ASAS- may predict evolution in PsA remains to be assessed.

REFERENCES:
Acknowledgements: N.I.L.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2075

AB0157

SYNERGISTIC EFFECT OF AT1R-AUTOANTIBODIES AND EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES IN SSC PATHOGENESIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Innate immunity, Autoantibodies

A. Hackel¹, R. Akkarazadeh¹, M. Leiber², A. Müller², G. Riemekasten².
¹University Clinic Schleswig-Holstein, Lübeck, Germany, Clinic of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Lübeck, Germany
Background: Systemic sclerosis, a rare chronic inflammatory disease, are characterized by immune system activation, vasculopathy, and fibrosis of the body organs. Emerging evidence have so far indicated that autoantibodies (abs) directed against G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) particularly contribute to the SSc pathogenesis and induce the release of inflammatory and profibrotic proteins by immune cells such as monocytes [1-3]. Increased levels of autoantibodies against the angiotensin II type 1 receptor (AT1R abs) have been found in SSc patients [4-5], which are associated with increased secretion of extracellular vesicles (EVs) [6]. Interestingly, upregulated CCL18 levels could be associated with AT1R-EVs in SSc patients [8]. EVs play an important role in the pathogenesis of diseases by packing and transfer of AT1R to different tissues and immune cells, exemplary shown by activated cardiomyocytes leading to higher responsiveness to angiotensin [10].

Methods: Monoclonal AT1R ab (AT1R mab) has been generated by hybridoma technique, sequenced and recombinantly expressed in HEK cells. Human peripheral blood monocytes and monocytic cell lines were stimulated by the recombinant monoclonal anti-human AT1R ab and, in comparison, in the presence or absence of EVs precipitated from sera of SSc patients versus sera of HD. The response of the monocytes was measured via CCL18 secretion by ELISA.

Results: We compared CCL18 release, a profibrotic cytokine, of mononuclear cells upon stimulation for 24h with the AT1R mab in presence or absence of sera EVs (SSc vs. HD). The recombinant monoclonal anti-human AT1R antibody induced secretion of CCL18 by monocytes. Our data indicate that EVs together with AT1R mab have an effect on monocyte activation and CCL18 secretion. Remarkably, combination of SSc-EVs, but not of HD-EVs, with the recombinant AT1R mab showed an additive effect on monocyte activation and CCL18 response (Figure 1).

Figure 1. CCL18 levels released by monocyte cells after stimulation with EVs and AT1R mab or isotype.

Stimulation with SSc EV + AT1R mab (n=4), HD EV + AT1R mab (n=3), AT1R mab control, SSc EV + isotype (n=4), HD EV + isotype (n=3) and isotype control. One-way ANOVA was used to test for statistical significance (p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Conclusion: The secretion of pro-fibrotic CCL18 by human monocytes in response to a monoclonal AT1R antibody as well as to SSc IgG indicates that anti-AT1R abs are involved in the SSc pathogenesis. Further, this effect could also be due to SSc-EVs potentially presenting anti-GPCR abs to their receptors on immune cells.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure statement: No conflicts with others exist.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2964
THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF VITAMIN D3 AND \( \alpha \)-TOCOPHEROL ACETATE ON PULMONARY ARCHITECTONICS IN AN EXPERIMENTAL MODEL OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Animal models, Lungs, Systemic sclerosis

B. Doskaliuk1, L. Zaiats1, R. Yatsyshyn2. Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University, Pathophysiology, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine; Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University, Internal Medicine #1 Clinical Immunology and Allergology, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an autoimmune disease characterized by a wide range of clinical manifestations. One of the main targets of this pathology is the pulmonary system. In turn, SSc-associated damage of lung structures is characterized by a significant negative impact on the survival and quality of life of patients.

Objectives: Therefore, we aimed to assess the possible favorable influence of vitamin D3 (VD3) and \( \alpha \)-tocopherol acetate (ATA) on the morphological structure of lungs' parenchyma in the experimentally induced SSc.

Methods: We assembled our experimental animals into three groups: a control group (CG) (20 animals), an experimental group (EG) #1 (25 animals), and #2 (25 animals). Experimental animals were mature laboratory rats, belonging to the Wistar line, and were 180-220 g of weight. Animals in EG #1 were injected with sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) according to the reported previously schedule [1] for SSc modeling purposes. Laboratory animals of the CG were receiving isotonic solution according to the same scheme. In EG #2, rats were subjected to intramuscular injections of ATA solution 10 mg/100 g of body weight, and of a VD3 solution 1000 IU/100 g of body weight for 3 weeks (second half of the experiment performance). All three groups of animals were removed from the experiment 8 weeks after its beginning. The lung tissue specimens were examined with light (Leica DM750, x200 magnification) microscopy. Data distribution was evaluated with descriptive statistics, and a p<0.05 was considered statistically significant. Statistical analysis was carried out using IBM SPSS version 26. Results: The lung parenchyma samples obtained from CG did not show statistically significant deviations from the normal histological picture. (Figure 1A). The histological analyses of lung specimens of experimental animals revealed non-specific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) which is the most common type of SSc-associated interstitial lung disease (ILD) (Figure 1B). There were productive and sclerotic modifications of the interalveolar septum, their infiltration by the lymphoid and plasma cells with significant disfigurement of alveolar structure. (Figure 1B) Furthermore, the sclerotic alteration of the alveolar-capillary barrier was less prominent compared to EG #1 specimens. The Ashcroft score was significantly higher in EG#1 (3.7±0.6) compared to EG#2 (1.8±0.3) (p<0.05) and CG (0.6±0.1) (p=0.05).

Conclusion: This study confirms the positive effect of vitamins D3 and \( \alpha \)-tocopherol acetate on morphological structure of pulmonary parenchyma in the preclinical model of SSc.

REFERENCE:

AB0160 GUT MICROBES AND SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: CAUSE OR CONSEQUENCE?

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Gout, Genetics/epigenetics

J. Hou1,2, K. Fan1,2, Y. Zhang1,2, Q. Yu1, P. F. He1, X. Li1,2,4, S. X. Zhang1,2,4
1Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microbiology, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China; 4Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

Background: There is growing evidence supporting an association between gut microbiota and the risk of systemic sclerosis (SSc)[1]. However, the causal relationship between gut microbiota and SSc remains ambiguous.

Objectives: A two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis was performed to reveal the causal relationship between gut microbiota and SSc.

Methods: We obtained data on intestinal flora from the MR-base website [2] and 218,499 samples for systemic sclerosis from the IEU database for a two-sample MR analysis. Inverse variance-weighted estimates indicated that genus Collinsella (odds ratio(OR) = 8.982, 95% confidence interval(CI): 1.571-51.366, P = 0.014), genus Actinobacteria (OR = 5.746, 95% CI: 1.247-26.491, P = 0.025), genus Ruminococcaceae (OR = 5.500, 95% CI: 1.477-20.477, P = 0.011) had a risk effect on SSc (Table 1). According to the results of the reverse MR analysis, SSc had no significant causal effect on intestinal flora. No significant heterogeneity or horizontal pleiotropy of instrumental variables was found.

Results: Inverse variance-weighted estimates indicated that genus Collinsella (odds ratio(OR) = 8.982, 95% confidence interval(CI): 1.571-51.366, P = 0.014), genus Actinobacteria (OR = 5.746, 95% CI: 1.247-26.491, P = 0.025), genus Ruminococcaceae (OR = 5.500, 95% CI: 1.477-20.477, P = 0.011) had a risk effect on SSc (Table 1). According to the results of the reverse MR analysis, SSc had no significant causal effect on intestinal flora. No significant heterogeneity or horizontal pleiotropy of instrumental variables was found.

REFERENCES:
We aimed to investigate the role of early use of quadruple therapy (high dose steroids, one dose of cyclophosphamide, tofacitinib, rituximab) in patients with anti-MDA5 Ab-positive DM with RP-ILD when treated early with quadruple therapy.

Methods: This is a retrospective case series involving 4 patients with anti-MDA5 Ab-positive DM with RP-ILD from 2019 to 2021. They were treated with quadruple therapy. Their clinical outcomes including survival and adverse events were evaluated.

Results: At initial diagnosis of RP-ILD, all patients were given pulse methylprednisolone and 1 dose of cyclophosphamide. Tofacitinib was started within 2 weeks, followed by rituximab. 3 patients achieved clinical and biochemical improvement over time, with reduction of glucocorticoids by 6 months. Of the 4 patients, 1 required ICU stay and died. Severe adverse events were observed, most of which were infective complications.

Background: MDA5 autoantibodies have been associated with an amyopathic form of dermatomyositis, with a subset developing RP-ILD with high mortality of 50%, despite intensive immunosuppressive therapies like high dose prednisolone, cyclophosphamide and calcineurin inhibitors.[1] Tofacitinib and rituximab have also been used as single agents, mainly as salvage therapy. [2]

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the role of early use of quadruple therapy (high dose steroids, one dose of cyclophosphamide, tofacitinib, rituximab) in patients with anti-MDA5 Ab-positive DM with RP-ILD.

Conclusion: We report a general improvement of survival in anti-MDA5 Ab-positive DM with RP-ILD when treated early with quadruple therapy.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3079

Table 1. Characteristics of patients with anti-MDA5 Ab-positive DM with RP-ILD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Age/Gender</th>
<th>Clinical Presentation</th>
<th>Systemic</th>
<th>Respiratory</th>
<th>Musculoskeletal</th>
<th>Mucocutaneous</th>
<th>Investigations</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Complications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>60 F</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>Fever, LOA, LOW</td>
<td>Cough, hoarse voice</td>
<td>Arthralgia, proximal UL weakness</td>
<td>V sign</td>
<td>OP pattern</td>
<td>GC + CYC + TOF + RTX + IVIG</td>
<td>Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>72 F</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
<td>Fever, LOA, LOW</td>
<td>Cough, SOB, JT</td>
<td>Arthralgia</td>
<td>Mechanic's hands</td>
<td>NSIP/OP pattern</td>
<td>GC + CYC + TOF + RTX + HCO + tac</td>
<td>Leukopenia that resolved with cessation of Tofa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>48 M</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>Fever, LOW</td>
<td>Cough, SOBOE, JT</td>
<td>Arthralgia, proximal UL weakness</td>
<td>Alopecia</td>
<td>Diffuse infiltrative OP</td>
<td>GC + CYC + TOF + RTX</td>
<td>Leukopenia that resolved with cessation of Tofa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>61 F</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>Cough, SOBOE</td>
<td>Arthralgia</td>
<td>Mechanic's hands</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>GC + CYC + TOF + RTX</td>
<td>Leukopenia that resolved with cessation of Tofa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OP = organizing pneumonia, NSIP = nonspecific interstitial pneumonia, GC = glucocorticoids, CYC = cyclophosphamide, TOF = tofacitinib, RTX = rituximab, HCO = hydroxychloroquine, tac = tacrolimus


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Vasculitis - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

AB0162

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE SIGNALING PATHWAY OF BAFF/APRIL AND CIRCULATING B CELLS IN ANTI-NEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC ANTIBODY-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Cytokines and chemokines

Y. Shimopjima, D. Kishida, T. Ichikawa, R. Takamatsu, S. Nomura, Y. Sekijima. Shinshu University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine (Neurology and Rheumatology), Matsumoto, Japan

Background: Increased production of B-cell activation factor of the TNF family (BAFF) and a proliferation-inducing ligand (APRIL) have been identified in anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis (AAV). BAFF and APRIL exhibit biological activities by binding to three different types of receptors: BAFF-receptor (BAFF-R), transmembrane activator and calcium regulator on thyrocyte (TACI), and B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA). Meanwhile, it is uncertain how these three receptors could express or be altered depending on disease activity in AAV.

Objectives: We investigated the characteristics of circulating B cells, serum levels of BAFF, and APRIL, as well as the expression of their binding receptors on B cells, and the relationships among them in patients with AAV.

Methods: This study used peripheral blood samples from 24 patients with active AAV (a-AAV), 13 with inactive AAV (i-AAV), and 19 healthy controls (HC). The proportion of B-cell subsets, including CD19+ cells, CD19+CD27-CD38- (immature B) cells, CD19+CD27+CD38+ (memory B) cells, and CD19+CD27-CD38+ cells (plasmablasts/plasma cells: PB/PC), and their expressing BAFF-R, TACI, and BCMA were analyzed using flow cytometry. Serum levels of BAFF, APRIL, and interleukin (IL)-6 were also evaluated using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. The relationships among these experimental results were statistically analyzed using univariate regression analyses.

Results: The proportion of PB/PC was significantly higher in a-AAV than in HC (p < 0.001), Higher serum levels of BAFF, APRIL, and IL-6 were significantly observed in a-AAV than in HC (p < 0.001), while serum levels of BAFF and APRIL were significantly higher in i-AAV than in HC (p = 0.003 and p = 0.005, respectively). BAFF-R expression on memory B cells was significantly lower in the patients with a-AAV and i-AAV than in the HC (p = 0.017 and p = 0.006) but not significantly different between patients with a-AAV and i-AAV. Expression of TACI was significantly higher in a-AAV and i-AAV than in HC on CD19+ cells (p = 0.011 and p = 0.028, respectively), immature B cells (p = 0.014 and p = 0.002, respectively), and PB/PC (p = 0.013 and p = 0.011, respectively), despite not being significantly different between the patients with a-AAV and i-AAV. The regression analyses demonstrated that the population of memory B cells was positively associated with serum APRIL levels (coefficient 0.071, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.035 to 0.106, p = 0.0004) and BAFF-R expression (coefficient 0.0001, 95% CI 0.00006 to 0.0002, p = 0.002).

Conclusion: Decreased expression of BAFF on memory B cells and increased expression of TACI on CD19+ cells, immature B cells, and PB/PC, as well as increased serum levels of BAFF and APRIL, were significantly demonstrated even in patients with remission AAV. Our results suggested that the signalling of BAFF/APRIL and their receptors was piovally implicated in the generation of B cells. Furthermore, persistently activated signaling of BAFF/APRIL may lead to disease relapse.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0163

FUNCTIONAL ANNOTATION OF DIFFERENTIALLY-EXPRESSED GENES BETWEEN TAKAYASU ARTERITIS AND HEALTHY CONTROLS: CIRCULATING BLOOD TRANSCRIPTOME ANALYSIS REVEALS DIFFERENCES RELATED TO PROTEIN BINDING AND INTRACELLULAR SIGNALING PROCESSES

Keywords: Vasculitis, -omics, Adaptive immunity

K. Singh, U. Rathore, M. K. Rai2, M. Behera, N. Jain, M. Ora, D. Bhadauria, S. Sharma, G. Pande, S. Gamhbir, A. Nath, M. Ansari, N. Krishnan, S. Kumar, A. Sharma, V. Agarwai, D. P. Misra. Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Nephrology, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Nuclear Medicine, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Pathology, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Cardiology, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Urology, Lucknow, India; Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Department of Medicine, Lucknow, India.

Background: The pathophysiology of Takayasu arteritis (TAK) is incompletely understood. Gene expression profile of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) in TAK has been scarcely studied and may provide new insights into its pathogenesis.

Objectives: To identify and functionally annotate differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in immunosuppressive-naive TAK compared with healthy controls (HCs).

Methods: Fifteen immunosuppressive-naive TAK [10 Females, mean (SD) age 34.13(13.28) years] and 10 healthy controls (HC) [8 females, mean (SD) age 31.8(4.57) years] were recruited after obtaining written informed consent. After isolating PBMCs, RNA was extracted using Trizol method. RNA quality was checked using Nanodrop. Whole gene transcriptome signature was assessed using Affymetrix Genechip Human Exon microarrays. Analysis of gene expression from raw CEL files was normalized (group-averages with standard deviations and gene-level limma) to generate CHP files which were analysed for DEGs (up- and down-regulated), filtered on fold-change in TAK versus HC (≥2 or ≤-2) and p value < 0.05. Thereafter, functional annotation of up- and down-regulated genes was performed using Database for Annotation, Visualization, and Integrated Discovery (DAVID) to evaluate Gene Ontology (GO) clusters and processes.

Results: Of 135750 genes, 558 genes passed filter criteria (up-regulated 185 - Coding 33 (17.84%), micro RNA 1 (0.54%), multiple complexes 93 (50.27%), non-coding 23 (12.43%); down-regulated 373 - Coding 50 (13.5%), miRNA 61 (16.35%), multiple complexes 35 (9.38%), non-coding 190 (50.94%)) (Volcano plot in Figure 1). After functional annotation for 111 up-regulated genes identified on DAVID, two clusters were generated. Cluster 1 (enrichment score 2.20) comprised hemoglobin complex, oxygen transport activity, heme binding, and oxygen binding pathways. Cluster 2 (enrichment score 0.70) comprised JNK cascade, protein kinase activity, and protein phosphorylation. Sixty-seven up-regulated processes were identified (Table 1). Functional annotation for 14 down-regulated genes identified on DAVID identified one cluster (enrichment score 0.76) comprising extracellular exosomes, cytokine, nucleoplasmic, cytoplasmic and protein binding pathways. Four down-regulated processes were identified (Table 1).

Conclusion: We identified an up-regulation of processes related to protein-specific domain binding, serine/threonine kinase activity, magnesium ion binding, oxygen transporter activity, and various cellular components in TAK than in HC.
Table 1. Functional annotation of top DEGs in TAK compared with HCs using DAVID

| GO annotation | Process | % of total up-regulated genes | DAVID IDs (n=67) | GO annotation | Process | % of total down-regulated genes | DAVID IDs (n=4)
|---------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------
| CC            | Cytoplasm | 45.05%                      |                 | BP            | Cytoplasmic translation | 14.99%       |                 |
| CC            | Membrane  | 34.23%                      |                 | CC            | Extracellular exosome  | 28.67%       |                 |
| CC            | Specific granule membrane | 5.41%            |                 | MF            | Structural constituent of ribosome | 14.36%       |                 |
| BP            | Erythrocyte development | 3.60%            |                 | BP            | Translation            | 14.36%       |                 |
| CC            | Tertiary granule membrane | 4.50%            |                 | MF            | Magnesium ion binding | 6.31%        |                 |
| MF            | Protein domain specific binding | 7.21%      |                 | MF            | Hemoglobin complex      | 2.70%        |                 |
| MF            | Magnesium ion binding | 6.31%            |                 | BP            | Oxygen transport        | 2.70%        |                 |
| CC            | Ficolin-1-rich granule membrane | 3.60%            |                 | MF            | Oxygen transporter activity | 2.70%        |                 |
| CC            | Extracellular exosome | 19.82%            |                 | CC            | Cortical cytoskeleton | 2.70%        |                 |
| CC            | Integral component of 36.94% membrane | 2.70% |                 | BP            | Positive regulation of protein serine/threonine kinase activity | 3.60% |                 |

BP= Biological processes; CC=Cellular functions; MF= Molecular functions

REFERENCES:


Figure 1. Volcano plot of DEGs for TAK vs HCs

Keywords: Biomarkers, Vasculitis, Cytokines and chemokines

Down-regulated processes in TAK than in controls related to protein translation and generation of exosomes. A detailed pathway analysis of these processes may provide novel pathophysiological insights into TAK.

Acknowledgements: Funding from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – grant number 5/4/1-2/2019-NCD-II and grant number No. 3/1(12)/2022-NCD-I.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DoI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1505
Figure 1. IL-36x levels in patients with Behçet’s syndrome (BS), with psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and in healthy controls (HC).

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1545

Figure 1

AB0166

BIOMARKERS ASSOCIATED WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS IN PATIENTS WITH POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA FEATURES

Keywords: Vasculitis, Biomarkers

A. Ramon1,2, H. Greigert3,4, C. Cladière2, M. Ciudad2, P. Ornetti1, J. F. Maillefert1, B. Bonnotte2,3, M. Samson2,3.

Background: Polymyalgia Rheumatica (PMR) is a frequent inflammatory rheumatism associated with giant cell arthritis (GCA) in 16-21% of cases. GCA is characterised by large vessel vasculitis which is absent in isolated PMR [1]. The identification of serum biomarkers reflecting vascular involvement could allow the selection of PMR patients without GCA.

Methods: Patients were prospectively enrolled in Dijon University Hospital, France. At inclusion, no patient had yet received glucocorticoids or immunosuppressive treatment. All PMR patients fulfilled 2012 ACR/EULAR classification criteria [2] and GCA was ruled out by at least an exam evaluating temporal arteries (biopsy and/or color doppler ultrasound) and another evaluating large vessels (angio-CT or FDG-PET/CT). All GCA patients fulfilled the 2022 ACR/EULAR classification criteria [3]. Usual clinical, biological, and therapeutic data were recorded at diagnosis. Several serum biomarkers were measured by Luminex assays: CD141, CD146, CD31, ICAM-1, VCAM-1, ANGPTL-4, ANGPTL-6, and C3L1. Student t test or Mann-Whitney test were performed to compare data, as appropriate. The significance threshold was set at P<0.05 (two-tailed). Analyses were performed with Graphpad PRISM software.

Results: Fifty patients with PMR without GCA (isolated PMR) and 33 patients with PMR and GCA overlap were included. In PMR/GCA overlap patients, 14 (42.4%) had aortitis. Serum level of CD141 was significantly higher in the PMR/GCA overlap group in comparison to isolated PMR group (mean = 6854 pg/mL vs. 5558 pg/mL, p = 0.003). The area under cover (AUC) was 0.68 (CI0.56; 0.80). No differences were found regarding serum levels of ANGPTL-4 (p = 0.39), ANGPTL-6 (p = 0.22), CD146 (p = 0.74), CD31 (p = 0.35), C3L1 (p = 0.75), ICAM-1 between PMR/GCA and PMR/GCA overlap. Likewise, no significant differences were found for the usual markers of inflammation between both groups: ESR (p = 0.22), CRP (p = 0.39) or fibrinogen (p = 0.92). Comparison between PMR without GCA and PMR/GCA overlap with aortits found higher level of ANGPTL-4 and ANGPTL-6 in isolated PMR patients (median = 160.7 ng/mL vs. 128.9 ng/mL, p = 0.04) and 4.3 ng/mL vs. 3.1 ng/mL (p = 0.02), respectively). CD141 was positively correlated with CD146 (r = 0.40; p = 0.08), CD31 (r = 0.34; p = 0.05) and VCAM-1 (r = 0.42; p = 0.05) in isolated PMR patients. ANGPTL-4 and ANGPTL-6 could be interesting serum biomarkers to select aortitis in patients with PMR features.

Conclusion: This study found lower serum concentrations of CD141 in PMR patients without GCA versus those having PMR and GCA overlap. However, the diagnostic performance of CD141 does not appear to be sufficiently discriminative to rule out GCA in PMR patients. ANGPTL-4 and ANGPTL-6 should be considered as potential novel targets for aortic involvement during GCA.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3459

AB0166

IGAV AND IGAN: A SINGLE ENTITY REGARDING CD40, BLK AND BANK1 POLYMORPHISMS

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Vasculitis


Background: In this work, we investigated the potential role of adaptive immunity in the pathogenesis of idiopathic giant cell arteritis (IGAV) and idiopathic giant angiitis nodosa (IGAN). IGAV and IGAN are both vasculitides with aetiologies and pathogenic mechanisms still unclear. The CD40-CD40L interaction is an important part of adaptive immunity, mediating immune activation. This study aimed to determine the role of the CD40-CD40L interaction and its polymorphisms in the susceptibility to IGAV and IGAN.

Results: This study found lower serum concentrations of CD141 in PMR patients without GCA versus those having PMR and GCA overlap. However, the diagnostic performance of CD141 does not appear to be sufficiently discriminative to rule out GCA in PMR patients. ANGPTL-4 and ANGPTL-6 could be interesting serum biomarkers to select aortitis in patients with PMR features.
Background: IgA vasculitis and IgA nephropathy (IgAN) are inflammatory conditions that share pathophysiological mechanisms, being B-cells crucial players in both diseases [1]. In this regard, some authors have suggested that IgAV and IgAN may represent different outcomes of a continuous spectrum of a disease [2]. In addition, CD40, BLK and BANK1 are relevant genes involved in the development and signalling of B-cells and are also identified as susceptibility loci for several immune-mediated diseases [3-6].

Objectives: To determine whether IgAV and IgAN may be different outcomes of a single disease, by assessing the CD40, BLK and BANK1 genetic pattern.

Methods: Three genetic variants within CD40 (rs1983382, rs1535045, rs4813003), three genetic polymorphisms within BLK (rs2254546, rs2736340, rs2618476) as well as two BANK1 genetic variants (rs10516487, rs37331917) were genotyped in 380 Caucasian patients diagnosed with IgAV, 90 patients diagnosed with IgAN and 1,012 ethnically matched healthy controls. The eight polymorphisms selected were previously associated with several inflammatory diseases [3-6].

Results: Similar genotype and allele frequencies were observed in IgAV patients when compared to those with IgAN, when CD40, BLK and BANK1 variants were analyzed independently (Table 1). In addition, no statistically significant differences were observed between patients with IgAV and healthy controls as well as between patients with IgAN and healthy controls, when CD40, BLK and BANK1 genetic variants were analyzed independently (Table 1). Similar results were disclosed when haplotype frequencies of CD40, BLK and BANK1 were compared between patients with IgAV and those with IgAN, as well as between patients with IgAV and healthy controls and between IgAN and healthy controls.

Conclusion: Our results reveal a similar CD40, BLK and BANK1 genetic distribution in IgAV and IgAN, supporting that IgAV and IgAN may represent different outcomes of a single disease.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This study has been funded by Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISICII) through the project P118/00042 and P121/00042, co-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), ‘Investing in your future’; VP-C: P118/00042 from ISICII, co-funded by ERDF; MSM-G is supported by funds of TRANSVAL22/01 from IDIVAL; RL-M: Miguel Servet type II programme fellow - FIS-05/13/23. 4 Color Fig(s):0 21:31 Art: 05_EUROAB-2023-PO04-05

Disclosures of Interests: Verónica Pulito-Cueto: None declared, Fernanda Genre Romero: None declared, Sara Remuzgo Martínez: None declared, Belén Sevilla: None declared, Norberto Ortego: None declared, Maite Leonardo: None declared, Ana Pérez: None declared, J. Narváez: None declared, Laura Benavites-Vega: None declared, Cristina Gomez-Fernandez: None declared, María Sebastián Mora-Gil: None declared, Luis Caminal Montero: None declared, PAZ Collado: None declared, Martín-Penagos: None declared, Lara Belmar-Vega: None declared, Cristina Vázquez: None declared, Ana Peñalba: None declared, J. Narváez: None declared, Luis Sevilla: None declared, Norberto Ortego: None declared, MANUEL LEON LUQUE: None declared, Verónica Pulito-Cueto: None declared, Fernanda Pulito-Cueto: None declared, A. González-Gay: Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Lilly, Celgene, MSD and GSK, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Jansen and Roche, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD and Roche, Raquel López-Mejías: None declared.

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.81

Table 1. Genotype and allele frequencies of CD40, BLK and BANK1 in patients with IgAV, patients with IgAN and healthy controls.

<table>
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<th>Change</th>
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<th>Alleles, % (n)</th>
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<td>IgAV</td>
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AB0167 SINGLE-CELL SPATIAL TRANSCRIPTOME ANALYSIS IDENTIFIES DISEASE-SPECIFIC FBROBLASTS IN RHEUMATOID VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

Background: Spatial transcriptome analysis is an advanced technique that adds spatial information to gene expression analyses to identify differences in gene expression based on the location in specimen tissues. It can also provide disease-specific gene expression data in individual cells. This method has the potential to identify important gene expression related to disease pathogenesis, which cannot be obtained through conventional bulk analysis. CosMo® Spatial Molecular Imaging (SMI) is a platform for spatial transcriptome analysis of formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue samples at subcellular resolution (NanoString® Technologies, Seattle, WA, USA). The use of high-plex in situ hybridization followed by cyclic hybridization of immunofluorescent detection reagents and imaging enables the localization and identification of approximately 1,000 RNA targets in situ, and antibody-based, machine learning-augmented cell segmentation with nuclear and membrane markers localizes these targets to individual cells[1]. Cutaneous vasculitis is characterized by vasculitis of small-sized vessels of the skin and causes skin lesions, such as purpura or ulcers, resulting in a low quality of life. A variety of autoimmune diseases can cause cutaneous vasculitis, but its pathogenesis is unknown. In particular, cutaneous vasculitis associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (referred to as rheumatoid vasculitis) is often difficult to treat and is associated with high rates of premature mortality[2]. Histologically, cutaneous vasculitis associated with autoimmune diseases is characterized by fibrinoid degeneration or neutrophilic inflammation, which may target to individual cells[1]. Cutaneous vasculitis is characterized by vasculitis of small-sized vessels of the skin and causes skin lesions, such as purpura or ulcers, resulting in a low quality of life. A variety of autoimmune diseases can cause cutaneous vasculitis, but its pathogenesis is unknown. In particular, cutaneous vasculitis associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (referred to as rheumatoid vasculitis) is often difficult to treat and is associated with high rates of premature mortality[2]. Histologically, cutaneous vasculitis associated with autoimmune diseases is characterized by fibrinoid degeneration or neutrophilic inflammation.
vasculitis; however, these findings are nonspecific and do not lead to a precise diagnosis.

**Objectives:** In the present study, we aimed to identify disease-specific cell types and gene expression via single-cell spatial transcriptome analysis of skin tissues from patients with autoimmune disease-associated cutaneous vasculitis. This can lead to improved diagnosis, pathogenesis understanding, and treatment.

**Methods:** Single-cell spatial transcriptome analysis was performed using NanoString’s CosMx™ SMI on tissues from vasculitis associated with five autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid vasculitis, and a case with toxic rashes as controls. Following data collection, NanoString's data processing pipeline was used to identify transcripts, define cell locations and boundaries, and count the number of transcripts per cell to determine the expression profiles for each cell. Cell types were inferred from these expression data using InSilicoType[3] and a reference Human Cell Atlas skin dataset. Immunostaining was performed to validate the identified gene markers.

**Results:** A total of 35,503 cells and 4,530,981 transcripts were analyzed. Clustering of cells based on gene expression levels revealed cells with a high expression of several specific genes, including MMP1, in rheumatoid vasculitis. CosMx™ SMI analysis revealed that these cells were primarily located in the perivascular area (Figure 1A). Immunostaining with anti-MMP1 antibody (1:100; ab52631, Abcam) revealed that the cells were histologically fibroblasts (Figure 1B). These findings revealed that fibroblasts expressing MMP1 are specific to rheumatoid vasculitis. MMP1 is highly expressed in synovial fibroblasts in RA and plays a substantial role in disease pathogenesis[4]. Our results suggest that disease-specific fibroblasts expressing MMP1 are involved in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid vasculitis. The pathological roles of MMP1 and other markers merit further investigation.

**Conclusion:** Single-cell spatial transcriptome analysis revealed fibroblasts specific to rheumatoid vasculitis. The result of this study might contribute to understanding of etiology and treatment of rheumatoid vasculitis.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** We would like to express my special thanks of gratitude to NanoString® Technologies for spatial transcriptome analysis. We would also like to thank EdItage (www.editage.com) for English language editing.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOAJ:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.728

**AB0168**

**IMBALANCE IN THE TAXONOMIC COMPOSITION OF GUT MICROBIOTA IN TAKAYASU ARTERITIS**

**Keywords:** Gastrointestinal tract, Vasculitis

T. Shirai1, S. Watanabe2, N. Shinozaki2, K. Baba3, H. Yamasaki2, T. Ishii1, H. Fujii1, 1Tohoku University Hospital, Rheumatology, Sendai, Japan; 2Cycinso, Inc., Research Project Office, Tokyo, Japan

**Background:** Takayasu arteritis (TAK) is one form of the large vessel vasculitis and predominantly affects young female. TAK sometimes coexists with other inflammatory diseases which include ulcerative colitis (UC) and spondyloarthropathy. Recent evidences revealed close genetic background between TAK and these diseases, and we found the common autoantibodies against endothelial protein C receptor among TAK and UC. These evidences suggest the common underlying pathophysiology among these diseases. UC and spondyloarthropathy are known to be associated with dysbiosis. Therefore, the involvement of dysbiosis in the pathogenicity of TAK is possible. However, little is known regarding the composition of gut microbiota in TAK.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to investigate whether there existed the imbalance in the taxonomic composition of gut microbiota in TAK.

**Methods:** 31 patients with TAK who satisfied the classification criteria of American College of Rheumatology 1990 and 31 background-matched healthy controls (HC) were included in this study. Feces were collected from each individual, and fecal microbial DNA was isolated. 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing was performed to analyze the microbiota. Microbial richness and β-diversity were compared among HC and TAK, and the differences in the abundant taxa were analyzed by the LEfSe algorithm.

**Results:** The clinical background of each group was as follows; the mean age, 41 years; female, 87%. The disease activity of TAK was assessed using the Indian Takayasu arteritis score (ITAS)-A, and 17% were in an active disease status when they collected feces. Then, 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing was successfully performed using microbial DNA extracted from the collected feces. Microbial richness was compared between HC and TAK using the Shannon index, which revealed significant decrease of microbial richness in TAK patients (P=0.02), β-diversity between HC and TAK was next investigated, and approximately half of the patients with TAK were clearly separated from the clusters of HC. Therefore, the presence of dysbiosis in TAK was confirmed even in the condition in which most of patients with TAK were in inactive status. Analysis of composition of microbiomes (ANCOM) showed abundance of eight and 10 genera in TAK and HC, respectively with the cut-off of centered log ratio as 1. Cladograms showed changes in the microbiota, in which each level of phylum, class, order, family, and genus were related. Differential microbiota at the genus level were observed at a linear discriminant analysis threshold of >2.0. Altered microbial genera in our study included enrichment of Streptococcus, Lactobacillus, Veillonella, Enterococcus, Dialister, Actinomyces, Sardovia, Selenomonas, Rothia, and Campylobacter. More numbers of genera were depleted in TAK, which included Bacteroides, Phascolarctobacterium, Dorea, Parasutterella, Barnesiella, and Acidaminococcus. Importantly, enrichment of oral bacteria species was documented in most of the patients with TAK. Among them, two cases were complicated with infectious endocarditis during the treatments with tocilizumab, suggesting the contribution of dysbiosis for such complication in TAK.

**Conclusion:** Significant imbalance of gut microbiota was observed in TAK. The diversity of fecal microbiota was reduced in TAK, and altered genera were relevant for the exacerbation of inflammation. Dysbiosis could be related to the exacerbation of inflammation and the complications in TAK.

**REFERENCES:**


**Figure 1.**

![Fig 1A. Spatial map for expression of MMP1 from rheumatoid vasculitis, generated from CosMx™ SMI](image1.png)

![Fig 1B. A picture of anti-MMP1 antibody immunostaining of the skin tissue from rheumatoid vasculitis](image2.png)
PROTEINASE 3 EXPRESSION IS ASSOCIATED WITH DISTURBED ROS PRODUCTION AND INCREASED INTERLEUKIN-1-RELATED CYTOKINES IN GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Cell biology, Kidneys

J. Amsler1,2, J. Everts-Graber1,2, K. Martin1,3, A. Roccabianca1, C. Lopes3, L. Tourneur4, L. Mouthon1,4, V. Witko-Sarsat5.

Institute Cochin, INSERM U1016, Paris, France; Institut Paul Bocuse, Lyon, France; INSERM U1016, Institute of Pathology, University of Lyon, Lyon, France; Université Lyon 1, Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University, Lyon, France; Centre de Référence pour les Maladies Systémiques Autoimmunes Rares d’Île de France, Paris, France

Background: Neutrophils play a key role in ANCA-associated vasculitis, where they are both targets of autoimmunity and facilitators of vascular damage.

Objectives: This study analyzed the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in neutrophils from patients with granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) and investigated its associations with IL-1-related cytokines and proteinase 3 (PR3).

Methods: Thirty-eight GPA patients with a disease flare were included in the NEUTROVASC prospective clinical study. ROS production was evaluated in peripheral blood neutrophils of patients with active GPA and compared to the same patients after 12 months of immunosuppressive treatment in remission as well as to healthy controls. Associations between ROS production, membrane expression of PR3 on neutrophils and serum levels of IL-1-related cytokines were analyzed.

Results: Under basal conditions, neutrophils from patients with active GPA produced less ROS compared to neutrophils from healthy controls. While there was no intrinsic defect in ROS production when using a pharmacological trigger, there was a robust defect in ROS production in response to physiologic mediators combined with TNF in GPA neutrophils compared with healthy control neutrophils. Serum levels of IL-1-related cytokines were significantly increased in GPA patients, particularly in those with kidney involvement, and levels of these cytokines returned to normal in remission. There was a positive correlation between membrane PR3 expression and ROS production in GPA patients, but not in healthy controls. Similarly, there was a positive correlation between PR3 expression and the serum levels of IL-1-related cytokines in GPA patients.

Conclusion: Our data suggest that membrane expression of PR3 links ROS production and regulation of inflammation in patients with GPA and may be a potential therapeutic target.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: The authors greatly acknowledge the clinicians from GFEV and the Groupe Français Etude sur les Vascularites who have participated to the NEUTROVASC study for patient recruitment and the clinical analysis of the data.
Background: Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) is a chronic, inflammatory disorder characterized by aching and stiffness in the proximal regions of the extremities and elevated markers of inflammation. PMR and giant cell arteritis (GCA) are two conditions frequently coexisting [1,2], with increased incidence of large vessel vasculitis and aneurysm development found at long term follow-up. Furthermore, PMR can be one of the manifestations of GCA in 20-40% of cases [3]. The etiology of the diseases are still largely unknown, and specific serological markers, including to monitor arterial disease, are lacking. Recent studies have shown that mitochondrial dysfunction may play a central role in immune activation and could be a potential source of antigens, including mitofusin-1 (MFN1), in autoimmune diseases [4,5,6].

Objectives: To determine whether patients with PMR, with or without overlapping GCA, have elevated levels of markers of platelet activation (e.g. thrombospondin-1, TSP-1), and mitochondrial autoantibodies (e.g. anti-MFN1).

Methods: Plasma levels of anti-MFN-1 IgG and TSP-1 were measured in healthy controls (HC) (n=30) and patients with PMR (n=60), before and after treatment with glucocorticoids using in-house and commercial ELISAs, respectively.

Results: Plasma levels of anti-MFN-1 IgG and TSP-1 were elevated in patients with PMR, compared with HC, both before and after treatment with corticosteroids (p<0.001). The highest levels of anti-MFN-1 and TSP-1 were found before treatment of corticosteroids (p<0.001). Co-existence of GCA did not affect levels of either anti-MFN1 or TSP-1, nor treatment response to corticosteroids. Elevated levels of TSP-1 were found to be significantly elevated in patients with symptoms from hips/glutes (n=39) as compared to patients without these symptoms (n=13), median (P25-P75) 27.11 ug/mL (22.5-53.0) vs 19.6 ug/mL (14.1-273), p=0.046. Lower concentration of anti-MFN1 IgG was found in patients with symptoms from the spine (n=31) in comparison with those without symptoms from the spine (n=21), median (P25-P75) 0.37 U/mL (0.270-0.57) vs 0.54 U/mL (0.470-0.96), p=0.043.

Conclusion: Increased levels of anti-MFN-1 IgG and TSP-1 were found in PMR patients and decreased significantly after treatment with corticosteroids, although still significantly higher than HC. The highest concentration of TSP-1 was found in individuals with symptoms from hips/glutes. Increased concentrations of anti-MFN-1 and TSP-1 are suggested as novel biomarkers for PMR and further, could serve as potential biomarkers for treatment response.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: Several mucosal immune defence polymorphisms have an impact on IgΔA production by plasma cells in the mucosa [1]. In this regard, genetic variants have been previously reported as susceptibility loci for IgA nephropathy [1]. Given the pathophysiological similarities described between IgA nephropathy and Immunoglobulin-A vasculitis (IgAV) [2, 3], mucosal immune defense polymorphisms may also be implicated in the pathogenesis of IgAV.

Objectives: To determine whether mucosal immune defence polymorphisms represent novel genetic risk factors for the pathogenesis of IgAV.

Methods: 6 mucosal immune defence polymorphisms previously described as susceptibility loci for IgA nephropathy (ITGAM-ITGAX for IgA nephropathy (rs2412971)) were selected. These 6 genetic variants were genotyped in healthy controls and patients with IgAV. Moreover, no statistically significant differences were observed in the genotype and allele frequencies of these polymorphisms when IgAV patients and healthy controls were compared.

Results: No statistically significant differences were observed in the genotype and allele frequencies of mucosal immune defence polymorphisms when IgAV patients and healthy controls were compared (Table 1). Moreover, no statistically significant differences were disclosed in the genotype and allele frequencies of the 6 polymorphisms selected when patients with IgAV were stratified according to the presence/absence of gastrointestinal manifestations. Likewise, similar genotype and allele frequencies of these polymorphisms were disclosed in patients with IgAV stratified according to the age at disease onset and to the presence/absence of gastrointestinal manifestations.

Conclusions: Our results reveal that mucosal immune defence polymorphisms do not contribute to the genetic background of IgAV.

REFERENCES:

### Table 1. Genotype and allele frequencies of mucosal immune defence polymorphisms in controls, patients with IgAV as well as patients with IgAV stratified according to the presence/absence of renal manifestations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polymorphism</th>
<th>1/2</th>
<th>Data set</th>
<th>1/1</th>
<th>1/2</th>
<th>2/2</th>
<th>Alleles, % (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G/A Controls</td>
<td>38.6 (113)</td>
<td>40.2 (407)</td>
<td>46.3 (468)</td>
<td>13.5 (137)</td>
<td>63.3 (1,282)</td>
<td>G/A 36.7 (742)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgAV</td>
<td>38.6 (113)</td>
<td>40.2 (407)</td>
<td>46.3 (468)</td>
<td>13.5 (137)</td>
<td>63.3 (1,282)</td>
<td>IgAV with nephritis 36.7 (742)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.0 (36)</td>
<td>44.0 (48)</td>
<td>22.9 (25)</td>
<td>55.0 (120)</td>
<td>45.0 (98)</td>
<td>VV3</td>
<td>A/G Controls 59.8 (605)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.8 (77)</td>
<td>42.6 (75)</td>
<td>13.6 (24)</td>
<td>65.0 (229)</td>
<td>35.0 (123)</td>
<td>rs71019602</td>
<td>IgAV 62.1 (177)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.4 (368)</td>
<td>4.8 (49)</td>
<td>77.5 (1,568)</td>
<td>22.5 (458)</td>
<td>G/A Controls 51.8 (524)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.9 (11)</td>
<td>79.1 (451)</td>
<td>20.9 (119)</td>
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<tr>
<td>80.3 (175)</td>
<td>19.7 (43)</td>
<td>90.6 (1,977)</td>
<td>62.4 (68)</td>
<td>35.8 (39)</td>
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<tr>
<td>78.4 (276)</td>
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<td>74.0 (7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>38.5 (780)</td>
<td>38.4 (389)</td>
<td>46.1 (466)</td>
<td>51.7 (157)</td>
<td>61.5 (1,244)</td>
<td>IgAV without nephritis 63.9 (182)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs17019602</td>
<td>45.9 (141)</td>
<td>15.1 (43)</td>
<td>60.2 (343)</td>
<td>39.8 (227)</td>
<td>CFH 0.9 (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgAV</td>
<td>35.8 (39)</td>
<td>45.5 (50)</td>
<td>35.9 (39)</td>
<td>45.5 (50)</td>
<td>18.3 (20)</td>
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<td>62.4 (68)</td>
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<td>61.1 (215)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IgAV</td>
<td>35.8 (39)</td>
<td>45.5 (50)</td>
<td>18.3 (20)</td>
<td>61.9 (103)</td>
<td>41.3 (90)</td>
<td>IgAV without nephritis 61.9 (103)</td>
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</table>

### Acknowledgements: This study has been funded by Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) through the project P11/000042 and P121/00042, co-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Investing in your future: VP-C; P11/000042 from ISCIII, co-funded by ERDF; MSM-G is supported by funds of TRANSVAL22/01 from IDIVAL; R-M: Miguel Servet type II programme fellowship from the ISCIII, co-funded by the European Social Fund (‘Investing in your future’) [CPI21/00004].

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Objectives: To compare the tumor outcomes in our cohort of GCA vs controls who had TA biopsies. To select a line-up of CD3, IFG, IL12 and FRB as potential anti-tumor proteins and compare their expression in GCA+ TA tissue that did not develop tumors versus GCA -negative tissues that developed tumors. To assess the persistence of this line-up over time.

Methods: We performed a retrospective chart review of GCA subjects and controls to assess development of tumors over long-term follow up. Formalin-fixed paraffin embedded tissue sections were obtained from both groups and immunohistochemical stains were performed using CD3, IFG, IL12 and FRB antibodies. Results: 40 GCA and 40 controls demonstrated similar follow-up durations (76.5 vs 70.1 years; NS), time-to-incident cancer (21 vs 62 mos; NS) and deaths from cancer (5% vs 17.5%; NS). GCA subjects were older than controls (77.2 vs 69.7 years; p=0.004). Cancer incidence is lower in GCA than controls (25% vs 47.5%; p=0.036). The incident cancers in GCA include 8 basal or squamous cell skin cancer (BCC/SCC) and 1 each of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, thyroid, esophageal and angiosarcoma. The controls had 6 BCC/SCC and 2 breast, skin melanoma and lymphoma, and 1 each of tonsil, parotid, colon, lung, renal, prostate, myelodysplastic syndrome and metastatic disease of unknown primary. Histopathology/IHC Findings: FRB was selectively expressed in macrophages and correlated with IFG, IL12 and CD3 expression. FRB, IFG, IL12 and CD3 expres-

Conclusion: GCA has a lower risk of cancer which was associated with a chronic FRB+macrophage and Th1-polarized anti-tumor autoimmunity.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.541
Conclusion: These findings provided that partial gut microbiota have an obvious causal relationship with PMR. Further trials are needed to clarify the protective effect of gut microbiota.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Forest plot of our main mendelian randomization analysis. PMR, Polymyalgia rheumatica.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

AB0177 ESTIMATING CAUSALITY FOR POLYARTERITIS NODOSA WITH IL-1, AND IL-10: MENDELIAN RANDOMISATION ANALYSES

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Vasculitis

Y. Zhang1,2, R. Zhao1,2,3, H. Zhang1,2, Y. Hou1,2, S. X. Zhang1,2,3, X. Li1,2,3, C. Wang1,2,3, 1Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microecology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 3Department of Rheumatology, The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China

Background: Polyarteritis nodosa (PAN) is a primary form of vasculitis characterized by inflammation of primarily medium-sized arteries[1]. Although the etiology of vasculitis is not fully understood, it has been suggested that cytokines (including interleukin-1 (IL-1) and interleukin-10 (IL-10)) are significantly associated with a high susceptibility to vasculitis[2, 3]. However, there is no relevant research to explore the causality and direction of this association between interleukin and PAN.

Objectives: In this study, we intended to detect the causal association between PAN and interleukin using two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis.

Methods: The summary statistics of PAN were obtained from the FinnGen consortium release data (82 cases and 213145 controls). We also selected genetic instruments associated with IL-1 and IL-10 from the study of Sun et al. (13301 sample size). Initially, SNPs associated with interleukin at the genome-wide significance threshold (p<1x10^-8) were extracted. Afterwards, We used a two-sample mendelian randomization analysis to explore the causal associations between PAN with IL-1, and IL-10. The inverse variance weighted (IVW) was the primary approach to calculating the effect estimates. To increase the IVW estimates, we also used other MR methods, such as MR-Egger, Inverse variance weighted,万亩 grain. We did not find evidence to support a causal association between IL-1α, IL-1β, and IL-10, and PAN.

Conclusion: The results of this study based on genetic data did not support a causal relationship between PAN and IL-1, IL-10.

REFERENCES:

Basic and translational science in paediatric rheumatology.

REFERENCES:

Basic and translational science in paediatric rheumatology.

AB0178 POSTURAL DEFECTS IN CHILDREN AT EARLY SCHOOL AGE - CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Lifestyles

A. Baranowska1, M. Sierakowska1, A. Owczarczuk2, B. Olejnik3, A. Lankau1, 1Medical University of Białystok, Department of Integrated Medical Care, Faculty of Health Sciences, Białystok, Poland; 2Medical University of Białystok, Faculty of Health Sciences, Białystok, Poland; 3Medical University of Białystok, Department of Developmental Age Medicine and Pediatric Nursing, Białystok, Poland

Background: The physical posture of a person is a movement habit which is formed on a morphological and functional basis, associated with everyday activity. During a person’s life, body posture changes, especially during growth. The first critical period for physical posture is the age of 7-10 years. It is associated with a change in the current lifestyle, with the transition from a large freedom of movement to staying in a sitting position at school for several hours [1-3].

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB0177 ESTIMATING CAUSALITY FOR POLYARTERITIS NODOSA WITH IL-1, AND IL-10: MENDELIAN RANDOMISATION ANALYSES

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4219
Basic and translational pain science

AB0180

**PAIN SENSITIZATION IN FIBROMYALGIA: THE CROSS-SECTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN MEASURES OF QUANTITATIVE SENSORY TESTING AND FIBROMYALGIA SEVERITY**

**Keywords:** Fibromyalgia, Patient reported outcomes, Biomarkers

P. Steen Pettersen1, T. Haugmark1, I. J. Berg1, T. Neogi2, H. B. Hammer1, H. A. Zangi1,3, I. K. Haugen1, S. Arendt Provan1,4. 1Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 2Boston University School of Medicine, Section of Rheumatology, Boston, United States of America; 3Vid University College in Oslo, Faculty of Health, Oslo, Norway; 4Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, Public Health, Elverum, Norway

**Background:** Whether patient's experience of fibromyalgia severity is related to measures of pain sensitisation assessed by quantitative sensory testing is not clear. How disease duration effects the relationship between disease severity and pain sensitisation changes is also unknown.

**Objectives:** To examine the associations between pain sensitisation and fibromyalgia disease severity, as measured by the Polysymptomatic Distress scale (PDS) and Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQ). Secondly, to examine the impact of disease duration on the associations.

**Methods:** Participants were recruited from referrals to a hospital clinic and the diagnosis verified by a specialist rheumatologist. Patients self-reported PDS and FIQ. Quantitative sensory testing included assessments of pressure pain threshold (PPT), temporal summation (TS) and conditioned pain modulation (CPM) were performed. PPT was tested 3 times at 5 predifined sites (a non-painful interphalangeal joint, dorsal radio-ulnar joint, lateral epicondylic of the elbow, middle surface of the trapezius muscle, and tibialis anterior muscle) using an algometer (FPX1 25). The pressure at which the patient first reported a slight pain was recorded, and the mean PPT values at each site and for all measurements (aggregated mean) were calculated. Lower PPT's indicate more pain sensitization. TS was estimated using probes of increasing weight that were tapped against the radioulnar joint. Pain was recorded on a numeric rating scale for the 1st, 5th, and 10th tap of the probe that elicited a pain ≤ 4 on a 0-10 scale. The maximum difference in pain between the 1st and either 5th or 10th tap was calculated, and an increase in pain during repetitive stimuli indicate TS. PPT was also tested before and after a conditioning stimulus with a blood pressure cuff around the contra-lateral arm, and the ratio of the PPT's (post:pre) was calculated. A positive ratio indicates adequate CPM. Cut-offs of pain sensitization were defined as PPT < median, TS ≥ 2 and CPM < 1. Disease duration was dichotomized at ≤ 5 vs. > 5 years. The associations between quantitative sensory testing and disease severity were explored in linear regression models adjusted for age, sex and body mass index and interactions with disease duration were explored.

**Results:** A total of 78 patients (90% women, mean age 40.9 years (SD 73)) were recruited. In linear regression models, aggregated mean PPT was weakly associated with the PDS score, the FIQ total score and the pain, fatigue and depression components (Table 1). The mean PPT's from the trapezius and tibialis anterior muscles were also weakly but significantly associated with several components of the PDS and FIQ. TS was weakly associated with the anxiety and depression components of FIQ while there was no association between CPM and PDS or FIQ (Table 1). We found no evidence of disease duration being an effect modifier for the associations.

**Conclusion:** In this cohort of patients with clinically verified fibromyalgia, pain sensitisation was weakly associated with self-reported disease severity. Disease duration did not impact on the relationship. Our results point to the multifactorial nature of the fibromyalgia symptom burden.

### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures of quantitative sensory testing (independent variables) (%)</th>
<th>PPT &lt; = vs &gt; median</th>
<th>PDS (1,1.5, 8)*</th>
<th>-SSS (1,0.4, 2.1)*</th>
<th>-WPT (1,0.3, 4.1)*</th>
<th>-FIQ total (1,8.7, 12.6)*</th>
<th>-pain (1,0.1, 2.1)*</th>
<th>-fatigue (0.9, 0.2, 1.7)*</th>
<th>-depression (1.5, 0.0, 2.9)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.5 (1,1.5, 8)*</td>
<td>1.1 (1,3.6)</td>
<td>-0.6 (3,2.1)</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 (0,4, 2.1)*</td>
<td>0.4 (1,6.4)</td>
<td>0.0 (1,10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2 (0.3, 4.1)*</td>
<td>0.7 (0.2, 1.6)</td>
<td>-0.6 (2,7.6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7 (1,8.7, 12.6)*</td>
<td>5.6 (2,13.3)</td>
<td>2.3 (4, 10.8)</td>
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<td>1.1 (0,1.3)</td>
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<td>-0.3 (1,4.8)</td>
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<td>0.9 (0.2, 1.7)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.2, 1.4)</td>
<td>-0.1 (0.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5 (0.0, 2.9)</td>
<td>1.9 (0.4, 3.3)</td>
<td>0.2 (1.5, 18)</td>
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</table>

*p < 0.05, *α = R2 adj >0.1 & <0.2, all other R2 adj <0.1

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Perinile Steen Pettersen: None declared, Trond Haugmark: None declared, Inger Johid Berg: None declared, Tuha Neogi: None declared, Hilde Berner Hammer Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Lilly, Novartis, UCB. Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Roche, Pfizer, Heidi A. Zangi: None declared, Ida K. Haugen Grant/research support from: Pfizer/Lilly (paid to institution) and personal fees from Abbvie, Novartis and GSK, outside of the submitted work., Sella Arendt Provan Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/ research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim.

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PAIN SENSITIZATION IN ADOLESCENCE: MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN HISTORY AND EXPERIMENTAL PAIN RESPONSES IN A POPULATION-BASED COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Pain, Patient reported outcomes, Epidemiology

R. Lucas1, M. Brandão1, F. Fernandes1, S. Holden2, M. Talih3, T. Graven-Nielsen4. Instituto de Saúde Pública da Universidade do Porto (ISfUP), EPIUnit, Porto, Portugal; 5Aalborg University Centre for Neuroplasticity and Pain, Aalborg, Denmark; 6Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto - FMUP, CISPFEM, Porto, Portugal

Background: Prolonged exposure to pain may induce sensitisation through neuroplastic processes, resulting in gain/loss of function and alteration of signal processing, and probably playing an important role in the experience and chronification of pain. Quantitative sensory testing (QST) assesses responses to standardised stimuli, allowing for an estimation of the effects of health conditions on somatosensory function [1]. Sensitized pain mechanisms are often reported in adults with musculoskeletal pain conditions, but population-based pediatric studies are lacking.

Objectives: To investigate the association between reported musculoskeletal pain history (based on complementary criteria) and pain sensitisation measures at age 13 years in a population-based cohort. We hypothesised that adolescents reporting more adverse musculoskeletal pain experiences would have higher pain sensitivity, impaired anti-nociceptive and/or facilitated pro-nociceptive mechanisms.

Methods: We analyzed data from 1496 adolescents of the population-based Generation XXI birth cohort study in Porto, Portugal. Pain history was collected using the Luebeck Pain Questionnaire (self-reported at 13 years, parent-reported at 7 and 10 years). Musculoskeletal pain was considered present if reported in the back, neck, shoulder, upper/lower limbs, hips, or widespread musculoskeletal. Three case definitions for adverse musculoskeletal pain history were used: 1) chronic (3+ months) musculoskeletal pain at age 13; 2) musculoskeletal pain with an impact on daily living (school and/or hobbies) at age 13; and 3) musculoskeletal pain at age 13 together with previous musculoskeletal pain reports at ages 7 and/or 10 (reported in previous data collection waves). Lower limb cuff pressure algometry was collected using the Luebeck Pain Questionnaire (self-reported at 13 years, parent-reported at 7 and 10 years). Musculoskeletal pain was considered present if reported in the back, neck, shoulders, upper/lower limbs, hips, or widespread musculoskeletal. Three case definitions for adverse musculoskeletal pain history were used: 1) chronic (3+ months) musculoskeletal pain at age 13; 2) musculoskeletal pain with an impact on daily living (school and/or hobbies) at age 13; and 3) musculoskeletal pain at age 13 together with previous musculoskeletal pain reports at ages 7 and/or 10 (reported in previous data collection waves). Lower limb cuff pressure algometry was conducted at age 13 using a computerized system coupled with a visual analogue scale for pain intensity rating. We extracted pain sensitivity (pain detection and tolerance thresholds), conditioned pain modulation (CPM, changes in thresholds in the presence of a distant painful conditioning) and temporal pain summation (TSP, changes in pain intensity to ten phasic painful cuff stimulations). Non-parametric tests were used to compare QST parameter distributions.

Results: Adolescents with musculoskeletal pain at age 13 who had a history of musculoskeletal pain at ages 7 and/or 10 had lower pain tolerance thresholds compared to the remaining sample (mean 40.2 vs. 49.0 kPa, p=0.020) and lower pain detection threshold point estimate (14.5 vs. 18.2, p=0.072). Slightly lowered pain tolerance was also found in adolescents with musculoskeletal pain with an impact on daily living at age 13 (42.4 vs. 49.0, p=0.091). No differences were found for pain sensitivity measures according to the presence of pain lasting 3+ months at age 13. No differences were found for CPM-effects and TSP-effects according to pain history regardless of the case definition used.

Conclusion: Repeated musculoskeletal pain up to age 13 years may contribute to lower pain tolerance in the general adolescent population. This does not seem to be the case when reported pain experiences are recent or when the outcomes are temporal pain summation or conditioned pain modulation. In this community-based sample the vast majority showed no sign of altered central pain processing but a small fraction with longer pain experiences may reveal some pain sensitization at age 13 years.

REFERENCES:

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CONDITIONED MEDIA FROM PRIMARY OA CHONDROCYTES AFFECT THE BEHAVIOUR OF PHEOCHROMOCYTOMA PC 12 CELLS

Keywords: Pain, Cartilage, Osteoarthritis

R. Steinecker-Frohnwieser1, S. Toegel2, V. Galianz2, L. Weigl3. Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Arthritis and Rehabilitation, Department for Rehabilitation, Saalfelden, Austria; 4Department of Orthopedics and Trauma-Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Department of Orthopedics and Trauma-Surgery, Vienna, Austria; 5Department of Special Anesthesia & Pain Therapy, Medical University of Vienna, Department of Special Anesthesia & Pain Therapy, Vienna, Austria

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common joint disease characterized by progressive degradation of articular cartilage, synovial hyperplasia, bone remodeling and angiogenesis [1]. Symptomatic painful OA leads to psychological distress and significant restrictions in daily living. Shortening of work life accompanied by an exponential rise in healthcare costs causes OA to become a major socio-economic burden [2]. Although, OA induced pain represents the most frequent cause of chronic pain, its mechanisms are poorly understood and treatments are not satisfactory [3].

Objectives: It is of great interest to investigate whether OA-induced changes in chondrocyte metabolism can affect neurons. Neurons with increased expression of neurogenic markers could contribute to enhanced pain perception. An investigation of the influence of conditioned media from primary OA chondrocytes on PC12 cells may serve to elucidate interactions.

Methods: PC12 cells, have been treated with conditioned media from primary OA chondrocytes (pCH-OA) and tested for changes in expression by RNA sequencing. Expression of neurogenic markers nestin, microtubule-associated protein 2 (Map2) and tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) from PC12 cells after treatment were analyzed by qPCR. Screening of the conditioned media for relevant factors was performed by using a cytokine/chemokine profiler array. Electrophysiological measurements were performed by the patch clamp method on rat dorsal root ganglia neurons (DRGs) treated with specific cytokines.

Results: RNA sequencing of treated PC12 cells showed changes in expression profile when cells were treated with conditioned media from pCH-OA and HC control chondrocytes compared with standard differentiation and growth media, respectively. Specific qPCR for the neuronal differentiation markers nestin, Map2, and TH showed an increase in expression in PC12 cells induced by most of the conditioned media from pCH-OA cells tested. In particular, Map2 and TH were increased by treatment in almost all conditioned media (n=14). Results of a cytokine proteome profilier array showed high levels of IL6, IL8, and MCP1 in conditioned media from pCH-OA cells of different patients. Treatment of DRGs with an interleukin cocktail altered the electrophysiological behavior tested by the patch-clamp technique and provided the first evidence that chondrocytes might secrete neuromodulatory substances.

Conclusion: Changes in the electrophysiological behavior of neurons caused by OA and the identification of the responsible metabolites should help to shed more light on the process of neuronal sensitization and pain generation in the development of OA in more detail and at the molecular level. In addition, the results also suggest that there are individual responses in individual patients. This information lays the groundwork for explaining why differences in pain perception may vary among OA patients and why there are different pain phenotypes in OA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6057
**AB0183**

**DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF THE PLACEBO SENSITIVITY QUESTIONNAIRE (PSQ): CAN THE PSQ PREDICT PLACEBO ANALGESIA RESPONSIVENESS?**

**Keywords:** Treat to target, Pain, Prognostic factors

E. Camerone1, G. Tosi2, M. Di Magro1, D. Romano1, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Department of Psychology, Milan, Italy

Background: People respond to placebo to different degrees, and some do not respond at all (Frisalidi et al., 2018). Several studies investigated whether there are psychological aspects that predict these differences, but the results remain heterogeneous (Horing et al., 2014; Kern et al., 2020)

**Objectives:** Here, we develop and validate the Placebo Sensitivity Questionnaire (PSQ), an instrument that measures behaviors potentially related to placebo responsiveness. The idea is to treat placebo as a personality trait, with its own dimensions and its set of marker behaviours, instead of a phenomenon determined by multiple personality traits as it has been done up to now.

**Methods:** 330 individuals completed the initial version of the PSQ along with 9 additional scales measuring psychological traits associated with placebo responsiveness. These data were used to reduce the dimension of the PSQ, identifying a shorter set of predictive items, and to bring evidence of construct validity. A second experiment, currently ongoing, tests the predictive validity of the PSQ using a classic placebo analgesia experimental paradigm. Here, healthy volunteers are administered a placebo cream, presented as a potent analgesic, and receive noxious stimulations by means of thermal stimulation.

**Results:** Principal component analysis revealed a 3-factor structure – Symptoms Exaggeration, Seek for Support, Alternative Medicine Beliefs - and the number of items was reduced from 40 to 19. Construct validity indicated that the PSQ correlates with most of the scales previously associated with placebo responsiveness. For the predictive validity study, which is in due course at the time of this abstract submission, we hypothesise that the PSQ will be successful in discriminating a priori placebo sensitivity and non-responders.

**Conclusion:** The PSQ has the potential to become an important tool for researchers and clinicians working with pain, moving us a step forward toward personalized pain management.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** I am grateful to all of those with whom I have had the pleasure to work during this project. First, I thank my supervisor, Daniele Romano, for his guidance and supervision. I thank Giorgia Tosi, co-author of this study, for her analysis skills and for the brainstorming. I also thank Marcello Di Magro, who helped with data collection as part of his thesis. More generally, I thank all the members of our research team for their ongoing support and feedback during our weekly Lab meetings.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB0184**

**SENSORY PROFILING IN CLASSICAL EHLERS-DANLOS SYNDROME: EVIDENCE FROM A CASE-CONTROL STUDY REVEALS PAIN CHARACTERISTICS, SENSORY CHANGES AND IMPAIRED PAIN MODULATION**

**Keywords:** Pain, Genetics/epigenetics

M. Colman1,2, D. Wille1,2, I. De Wandele2, L. Rombaut2, A. M. Malfait3,

Background: The Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS) are a paradigm group of rare heritable connective tissue disorders caused by pathogenic defects in genes involved in biosynthesis, fibrillogenesis, and/or supramolecular organization of collagen fibrils in the extracellular matrix (ECM). Joint hypermobility, skin hypertextensibility, abnormal wound healing and easy bruising are among the cardinal clinical features. The classical EDS type, caused by defects in type V or rarely type I collagen, is the most prevalent genetically elucidated EDS type [1]. (Chronic) pain is highly prevalent in individuals with EDS and is one of the foremost reasons these individuals seek medical attention. There is a high use of analgesics, surgery, and physical therapy but these treatment modalities often bring only modest relief at best, and some are associated with unwanted side effects. Few studies, almost exclusively conducted in the molecularly unexplained hypermobile EDS type, have brought limited evidence for neuropathic pain and decreased intra-epidermal nerve fiber density. Interestingly, functional and structural abnormalities of the nervous system and associated pain-related behaviors have also been described in mouse models of EDS [2]. Comprehensive human studies on pain prevalence and pain mechanisms in molecularly solved EDS types are however currently not available, thereby representing a major gap in the study of pain in EDS.

**Objectives:** The primary aim of this cross-sectional study was to identify the sensory profile of individuals with cEDS. Secondly, we aimed to identify the pain characteristics and the emotional-cognitive burden in cEDS.

**Methods:** Nineteen individuals with molecularly confirmed cEDS and 19 healthy matched control were recruited. Sensory profiling included sensitivity to innocuous and noxious stimuli of multiple modalities (electrical, thermal, vibration, touch, pressure) and a parallel and sequential conditioned pain modulation protocol. Moreover, pain characteristics and emotional-cognitive factors that are known to influence pain processing were studied using a set of validated questionnaires (PD-Q, DN4, HADS, HAQ, SF-36, C3, PVAQ, TAMPA scale).

**RESULTS:**

Table 1. cEDS cohort compared to control group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>cEDS</th>
<th>Control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional burden</td>
<td>+ (+)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detection thresholds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibration</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradoxical thermal sensations</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain thresholds</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditioned pain modulation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+/-: statistically significant differences; - non-significant

The cEDS cohort showed an altered sensory profile. Higher (p<0.04) detection thresholds for vibration stimuli at the lower limb were found indicating the presence of hypesthesia. Reduced/ altered thermal sensitivity was found with significantly more (p<0.001) paradoxical thermal sensations at the lower limb (usually to heat). Lower pain thresholds were found to mechanical (p<0.001) stimuli at both the upper and lower limbs and to cold (p=0.005) stimulation at the lower limb indicating hyperalgesia. Using a parallel conditioned pain paradigm, significantly (p=0.005 and p=0.046) smaller antinociceptive responses were shown in cEDS suggestive of impaired central pain inhibition.

**Conclusion:** This study represents the first systematic investigation of pain in a genetically defined EDS type. With evidence for sensory changes and impaired pain modulation in cEDS, we provide new insights on the possible role of the ECM in the development and persistence of pain.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3622
INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PATIENTS WITH ARTHROPLASTY AND PATIENTS WITHOUT ARTHROPLASTY FOR LOWER EXTREMITY OSTEOARTHRITIS IN TERMS OF PAIN COPING STRATEGIES, FUNCTIONAL STATUS AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

Keywords: Quality of life, Osteoarthritis, Pain

B. Malkocy1, N. Elibo2, V. Karatosun3, 1Ege University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Institute of Health Sciences, Izmir, Turkey; 2Ege University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, Izmir, Turkey; 3Dokuz Eylul University, Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, School of Medicine, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common joint disease worldwide and a major source of pain, disability, and socioeconomic cost [1]. Most of the pain or functional disability induced by these diseases can be improved by the surgery. Arthroplasty currently is considered the international gold standard of treatment the knee and hip joints osteoarthritis [2]. In the literature it was defined that pain can be exacerbated and inhibited by the psychological variable. Except the surgical trauma and social factors, the psychological factors have huge influence on the occurrence of the pain [3]. Pain coping strategies are the person’s responses to manage pain and they are generally classified as active and passive strategies. While active strategies identify as controlling the pain or functioning despite the pain, passive strategies identify as withdrawing and surrendering control over the pain [4]. Pain is very effective factor on the patients’ outcomes after arthroplasty. Some psychological coping strategies have been introduced to minimize the effects of pain, but there are no guidelines to follow to reduce pain, because the psychological interventions are different based on the surgery types, technique mechanism and pain specific information [5].

Objectives: This study aims to investigate the relationship between patients with arthroplasty and patients without arthroplasty for lower extremity osteoarthritis in terms of coping with pain, functional status and quality of life.

Methods: Twenty patients with bilateral arthroplasty (mean age 62.75±12.22) and thirty-two patients with OA (mean age 58.87±9.22) were included in the study. The Pain Coping Inventory (PCI), Timed Up and Go Test (TUG), 5 Times Sit to Stand Test (FTSST), Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) and Short Form (SF)-12 Quality Life Questionnaire administered to the patients.

Results: Demographics were statistically similar in both the lower extremity arthroplasty group (LEAG) and osteoarthritis group (OAG). PCI passive total score, PCI passive worrying, PCI passive retreating, PCI passive resting, PCI active total, PCI active distraction and PCI active reducing demands scores were similar in the groups. PCI active pain transformation score was significantly lower in the OAG. TUG and FTSST were similar in groups. WOMAC pain, WOMAC stiffness, WOMAC physical function and WOMAC total scores were significantly higher in the OAG. SF12 PCS and SF12 total scores were significantly higher in the LEAG than in the OAG. SF12 MOS score was similar between the groups.

Conclusion: This study demonstrated that LEAG have better pain transformation, pain intensity, stiffness, patient reported function and physical component of quality of life compared to OAG. Surgery has been effective in improving function and reducing pain according to the results. The difference in active pain transformation in PCI between groups is thought to be related to this. However, it was determined that psychosocial approaches should be included in pain management in the rehabilitation program of patients with OA and arthroplasty.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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THE EFFECT OF KNEE JOINT LOSS ON PROSTHESIS AWARENESS IN LOWER LIMB AMPUTEES

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Quality of life

G. Karakaş1, S. Topuz2, 1Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey

Background: In knee disarticulation, transfemoral and hip disarticulation amputations, unlike transfemoral amputations, the anatomical knee joint is replaced by a prosthetic knee joint. In amputations where the natural knee joint is not preserved, compared to transfemoral amputations; It has been stated that it is difficult to reach the normal functional level and more energy is spent [1]. The closer the amputation level is to the proximal, the more restrictions the amputee has in activities of daily living [2].

Objectives: In this study, we compared the ability of forgetting the prosthesis, which is an indicator of adaptation with the prosthesis, of amputees with and without an anatomical knee joint in daily life activities. The aim of this study is to examine the effect of loss of the knee joint on the ability to forget the prosthesis in daily life in amputees.

Methods: Lower limb amputees aged 18-65 years, who used prostheses for at least 6 months were included in this study. Prosthesis awareness was evaluated with the Forgotten Joint Score-12 (FJS-12) amputee version [3]. The FJS-12 amputee version consists of 12 questions about awareness of the artificial limb during daily living activities. The raw scores are transformed to range from 0 to 100 points, with high scores indicating as a percentage (%) the extent to which the patient can forget the artificial limb, that is, adapt them to their lives. Amputees were divided into two groups with and without knee joint loss. The prothetic awareness scores of the two groups were compared. Independent sample t-test was used to compare the data.

Results: 29 transfemoral amputees (mean age: 37.17 ± 11.05 years; Body Mass Index: 25.21 ± 3.02 kg/m2) were included in the knee joint group. A total of 26 amputees (mean age: 35.07 ± 10.29 years; Body Mass Index: 23.77 ± 3.59 kg/m2) were included in the group without knee joint, including 5 knee disarticulations, 18 transfemoral and 3 hip disarticulations. The groups were similar in terms of mean age, body mass index, and years of prosthesis use (respectively p=0.470; p= 0.143; p=0.980) When the FJS-12 total score means of the groups with and without knee joint were compared, there was a statistically significant difference between the two groups (p=0.017; Z=2.337).

Conclusion: This study showed that loss of the knee joint affects the way amputees perceive their prosthesis. In the absence of a anatomical knee joint, amputees’ attention to their prosthesis is increasing. Amputees with a knee joints focus less on their prostheses in daily life activities. Our study revealed that the knee joint, which is frequently used in activities of daily living, is also a determining factor in the adaptation of amputees to the prosthesis.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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**Rheumatoid arthritis - prognosis, predictors and outcome**

**AB0187**
**CONSIDERATIONS OF REALISTIC TREATMENT GOALS BASED ON PREDICTORS OF FRAILTY PROGRESSION IN PRE-FRAIL PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A MULTICENTER RETROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY.**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis

Y. Ohashi¹, N. Takahashii, Y. Sobue², M. Suzuki³, R. Sato¹, M. Maeda¹, D. Kihara¹, K. Kishimoto¹, K. Terabe¹, S. Asai¹, S. Imagama¹, Nagoya University Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya, Japan; ²Aichi Medical University Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagakute, Japan; ³Japanese Red Cross Nagoya Daiichi Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya, Japan

**Background:** Frailty is a common geriatric syndrome that involves an elevated risk of catastrophic declines in health and function [1]. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease that causes synovitis in the joints, resulting in a high prevalence of joint deformity (0.5–10% in Japan) [2]. Japan is one of the world’s most rapidly aging societies [3]. Many older adults in Japan are in the pre-frailty category (4), and older RA patients are generally at a greater risk of frailty than the general population. Against this backdrop, the present study aimed to examine predictors of frailty progression in RA patients. Pre-frailty patients with RA were focused on because, in the short term, they are more prone to frailty than robust patients.

**Objectives:** To examine the predictors of frailty progression in pre-frail patients with RA

**Methods:** A total of 287 RA patients who were pre-fraility in 2020 were evaluated on the basis of our observational study data. Of the patients, 55 were robust, 186 were pre-frailty, and 46 were frailty in 2021 and were assigned to the Better, Stable, and Worse groups, respectively. After comparing the characteristics of the patients in the three groups at baseline, the two-year change was assessed with respect to use of DAS28-ESR, HAQ-DI, and methotrexate (MTX); biological and targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (b/ts-DMARDs); and steroids. The Better and Stable groups were compared to clarify the difference between the two groups. The Stable and Worse groups were compared by univariate analysis. The predictors of transitioning to the Worse group were assessed by logistic regression analysis.

**Results:** At baseline, mean DAS28-ESR for all groups exhibited low disease activity levels, but only the Worse group deteriorated, eventually reaching moderate disease activity levels. The Better and Stable groups maintained sub-low disease activity over two years (Figure 1A). HAQ-DI in the Worse group was significantly higher than in the other two groups. However, comparing HAQ-DI in the Stable and Better groups, the Stable group was substantially worse (Figure 1B), although there were no differences in the other factors, suggesting an irreversible gap between the two groups. There were no differences in MTX and steroid use among the groups, although the rate of steroid use in the Worse group was slightly higher than in the other two groups over two years (Figure 1C, 1D). On the other hand, b/ts-DMARDs in the Stable group were higher than in the other two groups (Figure 1E). This suggested that most patients in the Stable group required a combination of MTX and b/ts-DMARDs to maintain treat-to-target strategy, unlike the Better group. In comparing the Stable and Worse groups, age, DAS28-ESR, and non-use of b/ts-DMARDs were predictors of frailty progression (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** DAS28-ESR and non-use of b/ts-DMARDs were predictors of frailty progression over two years in pre-frail patients with RA. The ideal treatment goal is to improve from pre-frailty to robust, but a realistic goal is not to worsen from pre-frailty to frailty by using a combination of MTX and b/ts-DMARDs.

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**AB0188**
**A BIOINFORMATIC APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING SENSITIZING THERAPEUTICS FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, -omics

J. Raisan¹, J. Gibson², D. Zhang³, A. Bjurson⁴, Ulster University, Life and Health Sciences, Londonderry, United Kingdom

**Background:** Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a systemic and chronic autoimmune disorder that has significant impact on quality of life and work capacity for the patient. Treatment and management of RA is aimed at gaining control of inflammation and alleviating pain, however, achieving remission and low disease activity with minimal toxicity is frequently not possible with the current suite of drugs. Additionally with escalating de novo drug development costs, alternate bioinformatic approaches which scope the potential to repurpose already licenced compounds and their ability to work synergistically have become attractive.

**OBJECTIVES:**
1) Develop, test and refine a bespoke connectivity mapping based bioinformatic pipeline, DrugExpress, with capability of mining treatment response gene signatures using public RNAseq and microarray datasets.
2) Verify treatment response signatures and prioritise novel drugs to generate a list of robust sensitising drugs.

**Methods:** Public RNAseq (GSE198629) and microarray datasets (GSE93777 and GSE24742) were mined based on the presence of DAS score, clinical features, sample size and technological platform. R/Bioconductor packages and Perseus software were used to pre-process and carry out differential expression (DE) analysis to obtain a list of differentially expressed genes (DEGs), based on the cut off criteria of padj < 0.05 and a minimal 2-fold change of expression, and derive gene signatures characteristic of treatment response. DEGs from multiple datasets were combined to create a master gene list consisting of 21 DEGs. Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis was performed on the genes in the master list to identify the top biological pathways. A list of inferred genes involved in each of these pathways was compiled to determine the overall direction of expression with response to treatment. DEGs in the master list were extracted and mapped to Affymetrix probe-set IDs to create treatment response gene signatures to be entered into a scssMap search for candidate drugs. Connectivity mapping (CMap) analysis was used to establish networks between DEGs in the gene signature and FDA approved drugs. P-value and connection score of each reference drug in the CMap was obtained and used to determine statistical significance and perturbation stability.

**Results:** GO enrichment analysis performed on the master gene list identified the top 3 pathways: transport of connexons to the plasma membrane, oligomerization of connexins into connexons, and gap junction assembly. CMap analysis identified a total of 36 statistically significant compounds with a perturbation stability score of 1. Candidate compounds were selected based on whether they enhanced a theoretical response phenotype. The top 3 ranked compounds (by p value) which would induce theoretical reduction in disease activity were: ciclosporin (p-value = 0.0001), demecarium bromide (p-value = 0.0002) and 2-aminobenzensulfonamide (p-value = 0.0002).

**Conclusion:** The analysis using the DrugExpress pipeline illustrates the process of treatment response DEG extraction from public expression datasets.

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**REFERENCES:**

**Table 1. Predictors of Frailty progression for RA patients with pre-frailty.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Odds ratio</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.04 (1.01-1.07)</td>
<td>0.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female</td>
<td>0.62 (0.34-1.96)</td>
<td>0.660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>0.06 (0.87-1.06)</td>
<td>0.410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR</td>
<td>1.48 (1.04-2.10)</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b/ts-DMARDs use</td>
<td>0.40 (0.19-0.86)</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.
**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.68
These response signatures can be used for CMap analysis to predict new compounds for treatment refractive patients and can potentially simulate the effective changes observed in responders. Next step in the pipeline would be to implement in silico toxicity screening methods to identify any contraindications with existing treatments.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.  
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.488

THE BEST CARDIOVASCULAR RISK ALGORITHM FOR PREDICTING THE PRESENCE OF CAROTID PLAQUE IN WOMEN WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues, Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease

I. J. Colunga-Pedraza1, J. R. Azpiri-López2, D. Á. Galarza-Delgado1, V. González-González1, V. M. Beltran-Aguilar1, A. G. Arias Peralta1, N. de Avila González1, J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza1, G. García-Arellano1, V. Hospital Universitario Dr. José Euleterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2Hospital Universitario Dr. José Euleterio González, Cardiology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Chronic inflammation increases cardiovascular risk (CVR) in these patients [1]. Heart disease remains the most likely cause of death for women, and a higher risk is established than for men [2].

Objectives: To compare six CVR algorithms with carotid ultrasound findings in women with RA and to identify the algorithm with the cutoff point with the best sensitivity for carotid plaque (CP) detection.

Methods: Cross-sectional, and descriptive study. Patients aged 40 to 75 years who met the ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria for the diagnosis of RA. Patients with a history of cardiovascular disease were excluded. CVR was calculated using 6 algorithms: ACC/AHA 2013, FRS-Lipids, FRS-BMI, RRS, QRISK3 and SCORE2. Carotid ultrasound was performed on all study participants, and the presence of CP, defined as diffuse carotid intima-media thickness (cIMT) ≥1.2mm or focal thickness ≥0.5mm, was assessed. Subclinical atherosclerosis was defined as the presence of CP or a cIMT ≥0.8mm. An ROC curve analysis was performed and the cutoff points for each algorithm were determined using the Youden index. Area under the curve (AUC) sensitivity, specificity, and likelihood ratios (LR) were calculated. A value of p≤0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: A total of 158 women with a diagnosis of RA were included. The prevalence of CP was 32.3%. Results are shown in Figure 1.

Conclusion: The FRS-Lipids algorithm was one of the best algorithms for the detection of CP in women, with the best sensitivity compared to the other algorithms, however, in the low-risk group none of the algorithms proved to be sufficiently effective in predicting CVR. Therefore, we suggest to consider carotid ultrasound as part of the evaluation in women with RA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.530

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN OSTEOPOROSIS RISK FACTORS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS REFERRED FOR BONE DENSITY ESTIMATION – AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Epidemiology, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. D. Bokobza de la Rosa1, Z. Sultan2, M. Bukhari3,4, 1Lancaster University, Medical School, Bailrigg, United Kingdom; 2University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, Lancaster, United Kingdom; 3Medical School, Lancaster, United Kingdom; 4University Hospitals of Morecambe Trust, Rheumatology, Lancaster, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is associated with a loss of bone density and fragility fractures [1]. There are few studies that compare bone loss by gender.

Objectives: To study a cohort of RA patients referred for bone mineral density (BMD) estimation.

Methods: RA patients referred to a district BMD scanner in the northwest of England between 2004 and 2019 were included. The cohort was divided by gender and the prevalence of fracture, and risk factors for fractures modelled. Initially, traditional risk factors as defined by FRAX® were compared between men and women and subsequently the ability of those risks to predict fractures were modelled. For the characteristic of secondary osteoporosis, only coeliac disease was included. Comparison was made using Chi-squared test for categorical variables and t-test for continuous variables. Predictors of fracture were modelled using logistic regression.

Results: 2072 patients, mean age 66.97 years (s.d. 11.34) were included, of whom 1628 (78.6%) were females. The mean age was significantly higher in Males at 68.02yrs compared to Females at 66.69yrs (p=0.0284), Height (171.62cm) and Weight (80.97) was higher in males and History of fractures was higher in females (33.11% vs 23.42% - p<0.001), Excess alcohol (6.08% vs 2.58% - p<0.001) and Steroid therapy (46.4% vs 28.62% - p<0.001) were higher in males. All other characteristics had no significant difference except lumbar spine BMD which was higher in men (-0.24 vs -0.82 - p<0.001). A summary of the differences is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of logistic regression on fracture risk in men and women in the cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Male OR</th>
<th>Male 95% CI</th>
<th>Female OR</th>
<th>Female 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.997</td>
<td>0.976-1.018</td>
<td>1.028</td>
<td>1.019-1.038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>1.017</td>
<td>0.986-1.049</td>
<td>0.969</td>
<td>0.955-0.984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>1.005</td>
<td>0.991-1.018</td>
<td>0.992</td>
<td>0.986-0.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHx of fracture</td>
<td>1.101</td>
<td>0.479-2.520</td>
<td>1.371</td>
<td>1.038-1.810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker current</td>
<td>1.801</td>
<td>1.011-3.210</td>
<td>0.969</td>
<td>0.722-1.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid therapy</td>
<td>0.761</td>
<td>0.488-1.186</td>
<td>0.785</td>
<td>0.622-0.991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Alcohol</td>
<td>1.158</td>
<td>0.476-2.821</td>
<td>0.934</td>
<td>0.466-1.754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R NOF BMD</td>
<td>0.640</td>
<td>0.511-0.803</td>
<td>0.719</td>
<td>0.652-0.793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L NOF BMD</td>
<td>0.646</td>
<td>0.512-0.814</td>
<td>0.735</td>
<td>0.667-0.810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbar spine BMD</td>
<td>0.957</td>
<td>0.922-0.992</td>
<td>0.956</td>
<td>0.940-0.973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malabsorption – Secondary osteoporosis</td>
<td>2.410</td>
<td>0.748-7.748</td>
<td>2.235</td>
<td>1.321-3.781</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yellow – Statistically significant with P<0.05

Conclusion: The study identifies gender differences in the risk factors for fractures in rheumatoid arthritis patients. This will have implications when assessing fracture risk using FRAX® underestimating fracture risk in this population. FHx of fractures was only significant in fractured RA females. Steroid therapy had an idiosyncratic effect and was seen as protective; this was previously described in this cohort [3]. Being a current smoker was only a significant risk factor in males. Finally, Left and Right NOF and lumbar spine BMD were significantly smaller in both fractured genders making a reduced BMD on these sites an important risk factor to consider in any patient with RA.

The strength of this study was the large cohort of rheumatoid arthritis patients included while it was limited by lack of detail on disease activity, treatment and duration. A variety of significant data was found, but further work is required.

Figure 1. ROC curves of the cardiovascular risk algorithms.
to find accurate differences between the risk factors associated with fractures in both genders with RA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0191

SAFETY OUTCOMES IN PATIENTS (PTS) WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) TREATED WITH FILGOTINIB (FIL) IN FILOSOPHY: INTERIM RESULTS FROM A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Safety, Rheumatoid arthritis

P. Verschueren1, J. Avouac2, K. Bevers3, S. Romero-Yuste4, R. Caporalide5, T. Debray5, F. De Leonardi6, J. Galloway7, M. Zignani8, G. R. Burmester9,10,11
1University Hospital Leuven and KU Leuven, Department of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium; 2Hôpital Cochin, AP-HP Centre - Université Paris Cité, Rheumatology A Department, Paris, France; 3Sint Maartenskliniek, Department of Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 4University Hospital Complex of Pontevedra, Department of Rheumatology, Pontevedra, Spain; 5University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 6ASST Gaetano Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy; 7Galapagos NV Biostatistics, Mechelen, Belgium; 8Galapagos GmbH, Medical Affairs, Basel, Switzerland; 9King’s College London, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 10Chárité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany

Background: Consideration is needed when using Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors to treat RA in pts aged ≥65 years or those with cardiovascular (CV) risk factors. The JAK1 preferential inhibitor FIL was generally well tolerated in clinical trials[1]; safety has not been determined in a real-world setting.

Objectives: To report baseline characteristics and up to 6-month safety data from the first 480 pts treated with FIL in the FILOSOPHY study (NCT04871919), and analyze two mutually exclusive subgroups: all FIL-treated pts and CV-risk-positive pts.

Methods: FILOSOPHY is an ongoing, phase 4, non-interventional, European study of pts with RA who have been prescribed FIL for the first time and in accordance with the product label in daily practice. Baseline characteristics and the incidence of select adverse events (AEs) are assessed in pts aged ≥65 years and/or with ≥1 CV risk factor (Table 1), and in those aged <65 years with no CV risk factors.

Results: As of the end of June 2022, 480 pts had been treated: 441 received FIL 200 mg and 39 received FIL 100 mg. Of the 480, 148 (30.8%) were aged ≥65 years; 332 (69.2%) were aged <65 years. In total, 86 (17.9%) were former smokers, 81 (16.9%) were current smokers and 203 (42.3%) were non-smokers (data were missing for 110 pts [22.9%]). In addition to smoking, the most frequent CV risk factors included a history of hypertension (32.3%), a history of dyslipidemia (10.2%) and a family history of myocardial infarction (8.5%; Table 1). 23 pts (4.8%) discontinued treatment due to AEs. Of the 354 pts aged ≥65 years or with ≥1 CV risk factor, infections affected 64 pts (18.1%), 34 (9.6%) had dyslipidemia (10.2%) and a family history of myocardial infarction (8.5%; Table 1). As of the end of June 2022, 480 pts had been treated: 441 received FIL 200 mg and 39 received FIL 100 mg. Of the 480, 148 (30.8%) were aged ≥65 years; 332 (69.2%) were aged <65 years. In total, 86 (17.9%) were former smokers, 81 (16.9%) were current smokers and 203 (42.3%) were non-smokers (data were missing for 110 pts [22.9%]).

Table 1. Baseline characteristics and CV risk factors

Baseline demographics/TV
All FIL-treated pts
Female sex, n (%) 351 (73.1) 252 (71.2) 99 (78.6)
Age, years, mean (SD) 576 (11.5) 60.4 (10.8) 49.6 (9.6)
Rheumatoid factor positive, n (%)§ 228 (47.5) 167 (47.2) 61 (48.4)
Anti-citrullinated protein anti-body positive, n (%)§ 243 (50.6) 176 (49.7) 67 (53.2)
Body mass index, kg/m², mean (SD) 278 (5.7) 280 (5.4) 263 (6.4)
RD 437 n=331 n=106
RA disease duration, years, mean (SD) 10.4 (9.5) 10.5 (9.0) 10.8 (8.8)
Tender joint count 28, mean (SD) 425 n=303 n=125
Finger joint count 28, mean (SD) 457 n=340 n=117
Swellen joint count 28, mean (SD) 5.8 (3.2) 5.7 (3.4) 5.4 (4.4)
Non-smoker, n (%)§ 452 n=336 n=116
Current smoker, n (%)§ 86 (17.9) 86 (24.3) 0
Former smoker, n (%)§ 203 (42.3) 130 (36.7) 73 (57.9)
Medical history of: n (%)§ CV disease 33 (6.9) 33 (9.3) 0
Diabetes 35 (7.3) 35 (9.9) 0
Dyslipidemia 49 (10.2) 49 (13.8) 0
Hypertension 155 (32.3) 155 (43.8) 0
Ischemic CNS vascular disorders 11 (2.3) 11 (3.1) 0
Peripheral vascular disease 17 (3.5) 17 (4.8) 0

Includes 53 pts with missing smoking status data who were aged <65 years with no other CV risk factors or missing/unknown in 154 pts; *missing smoking status data missing in 110 pts (22.9%).

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Female sex, n (%) 351 (73.1) 252 (71.2) 99 (78.6)
Age, years, mean (SD) 576 (11.5) 60.4 (10.8) 49.6 (9.6)
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Hypertension 155 (32.3) 155 (43.8) 0
Ischemic CNS vascular disorders 11 (2.3) 11 (3.1) 0
Peripheral vascular disease 17 (3.5) 17 (4.8) 0

Includes 53 pts with missing smoking status data who were aged <65 years with no other CV risk factors or missing/unknown in 154 pts; *missing smoking status data missing in 110 pts (22.9%).

AB0192

ANALYSIS OF ULTRASOUND FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WITH DIFFICULT TO TREAT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Ultrasound, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

T. Okano1, K. Mamoto1, Y. Yamada1, S. Anno2, A. Yamagai3, Y. Domae3, S. Washida4, Y. Yoshida5, T. Koike6,7, H. Nakamura1,8, Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 2Yodogawa Christian Hospital, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 3Osaka Metropolitan University Hospital, Central Clinical Laboratory, Osaka, Japan; 4Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School of Medicine, Center for Senile Degenerative Disorders (CSDSD), Osaka, Japan; 5Shirahama Hamayu Hospital, Search Institute for Bone and Arthritis Disease (SINBAD), Wakayama, Japan

Background: In recent years, the concept of D2TRA (difficult-to-treat rheumatoid arthritis) has become widespread, and D2TRA patients are defined as a state in which activity cannot be controlled even with the use of various molecular-targeted drugs. In this study, we investigated the ultrasound findings of D2TRA patients. However, ultrasound findings in D2TRA patients are unknown.

Objectives: In this study, we investigated the ultrasound findings of D2TRA patients.

Methods: A total of 750 RA patients who underwent ultrasound examination were included. Ultrasound examination was performed at the of bilateral first to fifth metacarpophalangeal (MCP) joints, first interphalangeal (IP) and second to fifth proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joints, wrist joints (three part of radial, medial and
Conclusion: The definition of D2TRA is resistant to multiple mode of bDMARDs/ JAKI. Although, disease activity and inflammatory markers tended to be worse in D2TRA group, there was no statistically significant difference in this study. However, ultrasound findings were significantly worse in D2TRA. Suppression of synovitis might be important to prevent D2TRA. REFEERENCE:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Tushki Okano Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Janssen and Novartis Research support from: Abbvie, Asahi Kasei, Chugai, Eisai, Eli Lilly and Tanabe Mitsubishi, Kenji Mamoto: None declared, Yutaro Tadashi Okano Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Disclosure of Interests: AB0193: Adis

PATIENT-PHYSICIAN DISCORDANCE IN GLOBAL ASSESSMENTS AMONGST SOUTH AFRICANS WITH RA

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis, Outcome measures

S. A. Dini1, B. Hodkinson1. 1University of Cape Town, Rheumatology Division, Department of Medicine, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa

Background: Discordance between the patient global assessment (PGA) and physician global assessment (PGaH) is well reported in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and can lead to suboptimal care[1]. There are no published studies on discordance in South African (SA) patients.

Objectives: To measure and explore patient-physician discordance amongst RA patients attending a tertiary SA hospital.

Methods: Consenting adults (≥18 years) with RA completed demographic, clinical and patient-reported outcome measures including Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI), FACIT fatigue scale, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), Brief Pain Questionnaire-short form (BPI-SF), and EuroQOL five dimensions questionnaire (EQSD). Poor socio-economic status (SES) was defined using a pooled index. The Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) was calculated based on the swollen and tender joint counts (SJC and TJC), PGA and PhGA visual analogue scale. Patients were categorized into high, moderate or low disease activity (HDA, MDA and LDA) states. Discordance was calculated subtracting the PhGA score from the PGA and positive discordance was defined as a difference of >2.5 points. Discriminants of PGA and PhGA were also analyzed.

RESULTS: Of 550 patients (467 females), the mean (SD) age and disease duration were 55.8 (12.9) and 10.5 (9.7) years, most were in LDA (47.8%), and 371 (67.4%) had poor SES. Positive discordance was seen in 136 patients (24.7%). Fifteen patients with negative discordance (PGA-PhGA < -2.5) were excluded from this analysis. Comparing concordant and positive discordant patients, there were no significant differences in age, sex, disease duration, SES, RA therapy or number of comorbidities, nor in fatigue, HAD-DI, or HADS. The discordant group had significantly lower SJC, TJC and PhGA. More patients in the discordant group were in LDA (58.1% vs. 45.4%), with fewer in MDA (32.4 % vs. 29.1 %) and HDA (9.6% vs. 25.6%). In logistic regression analysis, the discordance group included more fibromyalgia (FMS) patients, reported higher pain severity score and a higher EQSD level sum score, with problems with usual activities being the only statistically significant domain (p<0.001). In logistic regression analysis, pain severity score and problems with usual activities on EQSD were predictors of positive discordance. Pain was the main determinant of PGA (R² 0.24, p<0.001) and SJC was the main determinant of PhGA (R² 0.44, p<0.001).

REFERENCE:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/rheumatoid-2023-eular.1495

AB0194 PROGRESSION OF RHEUMATOID PULMONARY NODULES: WHAT ARE THE PREDICTIVE FACTORS?

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis, Lungs

G. Sandal Uzun1, Y. Sankaya2, E. B. Aya1, M. Ekici1, S. Arslan1, E. Bilgin1, G. Durhan2, L. Kilic1, U. Kalyoncu1, M. Arıyürek1, 1Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Radiology, Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 3Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Pulmonary rheumatoid nodule (PRN) is an serious extraarticular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The clinical features and activity of the RA, used DMARDs and the characteristics of the nodule may affect the progression of the PRN.[1]

Disclosures of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/rheumatoid-2023-eular.1884

AB0079 SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

1278

LWW 05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s): 21:35 Art: 06_EUROAB-2023-PO05-06

21:35
Objectives: To identify the characteristics of the PRN and factors affecting its progression.

Methods: In this study, 417 patients with RA according to the ICD-10 code from the hospital database and who had at least one computed tomography (CT) were identified. The RA diagnosis of the patients were confirmed by examining the medical files (history, physical examination, radiography and laboratory evaluations). Then, chest CTs of the patients with confirmed RA diagnosis were examined by an experienced radiologist. To classify pulmonary nodules as ‘pulmonary rheumatoid nodule’, following inclusion and exclusion criteria were used. For inclusion: 1) nodules with changing dimension on follow-up, 2) At least two nodules with different dimensions, 3) Cavitory nodule at any chest CT. For exclusion: 1) Solitary nodules OR all nodules ≤ 5mm and without follow-up OR no change on follow-up. Biggest nodule was named as dominant nodule. Then, patients were grouped according to status of progression. Progression was defined as growth or new nodule formation.

Results: Of 680 RA patients who had pulmonary nodules in chest CT, 208 (30.6%) patients were classified as having PRN. Of these patients, 135 had at least one control chest CT for PRN follow-up and were included in the study. The median disease duration from diagnosis of RA to baseline CT with PRN was 6.74(0.1-33.9) years. Before the baseline CT, 59 (43.7%) patients were receiving methotrexate and it was discontinued in 22 (37.2%) patients after RPN detection. 39 (28.3%) patients had PRN progression on their final chest CT. The RA diagnosis of the patients were confirmed by examining the medical files and who had at least one computed tomography (CT) were identified. The median duration between baseline and final CT was 1.58(0.04-33.81) years. Anti-CCP positivity(OR 3.39, 95% CI 1.15-9.94), usage of bDMARDs between baseline and last CT (OR 2.48, 95% CI 1.1-5.5), cavitation (OR 3.31, 95% CI 1.5-7.4) and diameter of dominant nodules at baseline CT (OR 1.03, CI %95 1.00-1.07) were significantly associated factors with progression in RPN.

Conclusion: Our study shows that there are multiple factors that predict RPN progression. Especially the presence of cavitory nodules and seropositivity is important. Although clinicians tend to discontinue MTX when RPN is detected, the remaining exposure Ivs did not show a causal relationship with RA, including IL-17A(95%CI = 0.990-1.210, p = 0.078), IL-17C(95%CI = 0.890-1.139, p = 0.910), IL-17B(95%CI = 0.904-1.119, p = 0.913), IL-17D(95%CI = 0.843-1.137, p = 0.778), IL-17RD(95%CI = 0.876-1.104, p = 0.773). More importantly, sensitivity analysis showed no heterogeneity or pleiotropy in any of the above results.

REFERENCES:
IMPACT OF ANTI-RHEUMATIC TREATMENTS ON THE INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF THE ACR COMPOSITE SCORE IN PATIENTS WITH RA: REAL-WORLD DATA FROM TWO REGISTRIES

L. Bessette1, M. Movahedi2,3, D. Choquette4, L. Coupal4, C. Bombardier2,3,5, E. Keystone1,5, Laval University, Rheumatology, Quebec City, Canada; 2Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, Ontario Best Practice Initiative, Toronto, Canada; 3University of Toronto, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, Toronto, Canada; 4Institut de Rhumatologie de Montréal, Rhumadata, Montreal, Canada; 5University of Toronto, Medicine, Toronto, Canada

Background: Standard criteria for measuring treatment efficacy in patients with RA include ACR response rates, which require meeting a threshold of ≥ 20/50/70% improvement in several physician- and patient-reported measures, including tender and swollen joint counts (TJC and SJC, respectively; primary criteria) and at least 3 of 5 secondary criteria (Physician (Ph) global assessment (GA), Patient (Pt) GA, Pain, HAQ-DI, and CRP).

Objectives: The purpose of the analysis was to evaluate the impact of csDMARDs, TNF inhibitors (TNFi), and tocilizumab (TOFA) on each ACR score component in real-life practice.

Methods: Clinical data of RA patients with a CDAI >10 at the time they started a csDMARDs (all biologic naïve), TNFi or TOFA were pooled from two registries: Ontario Best Practices Research Initiative (OBRI) and RHUMADATA. Endpoints summarized descriptively included proportions of pts achieving ACR20/50/70 responses, ≥ 20/50/70% improvements and mean percent improvement in individual ACR components (TJC, SJC, PhGA, PIGA, Pain, HAQ-DI, and CRP) at Month (M6).

Results: A total of 669 pts were included (csDMARD, n=157; TNFi, n=252; TOFA, n=260). At baseline, patients starting TOFA had longer disease duration, failed more bDMARDs and used more corticosteroids than csDMARDs and TNFi. The CDAI was similar between the 3 groups. ACR50 response rates were numerically lower for the TOFA group (Table 1). The ACR70 response was similar in the 3 groups. An overall higher proportion of patients in all three-medication groups achieved ≥20/50/70% improvement in primary ACR components vs secondary components. Among secondary components, ≥20/50/70% improvement rates were numerically highest for PhGA and lowest for HAQ-DI and pain. The improvement in the SJC and TJC were numerically similar between all groups (Table 1). Among ACR20/50/70 responders for all medications, mean percent improvement was more than 80% for primary components, and ranged from 30% to 80% for secondary components (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In this real-world practice analysis, physician-reported measures (TJC, SJC, and PhGA) contribute slightly more to overall ACR20/50/70 responses, compared with Pt-reported outcomes (PRoRs; PIGA, Pain, and HAQ-DI). In the ACR20 response group, a lower-level outcome, the improvement of the SJC and TJC, exceeded 80%. Pain was the most important factor in achieving an ACR50 for pts treated with TOFA, possibly reflecting the different effects of JAKI on pain.

Table 1. Percentage of patients treated with csDMARD, TNFi, and TOFA who reported an ACR50 response and ≥ 50% improvement at month 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>csDMARD (N=157)</th>
<th>TNFi (N=252)</th>
<th>TOFA (N=260)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACR50 response and ≥ 50% improvement in each component of the ACR50 score, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR50 response</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhGA</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIGA</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis is based on observed case data (without imputation) of patients with all 7 components assessed ACR50/70: American College of Rheumatology ≥ 50/70% response rates; CRP: C-reactive protein; csDMARD: conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; HAQ-DI: Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index; Pain: patient-reported pain (visual analog scale); PhGA: physician global assessment; PIGA: patient global assessment of disease activity; SJC: swollen joint count; TJC: tender joint count; TNFi: tumour necrosis factor inhibitors; TOFA: tocilizumab.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0196

PARASYMPATHETIC ACTIVITY IS NEGATIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS – RESULTS OF AN EXPLORATORY PROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. Muck1,2, K. Schippert1,2, M. Sluszniak3, C. Reuter1,2, D. Vossen4, M. Schneider1,2, G. Pongratz1,2, University Hospital Düsseldorf, Medical Faculty of Heinrich Heine University, Department of Rheumatology, Düsseldorf, Germany.
Germany; 5University Hospital Düsseldorf, Medical Faculty of Heinrich Heine University, Hiller Research Center; Duesseldorf, Germany; 6Hospital St. Josef Wuppertal, Rheumatology, Wuppertal, Germany; 7Rheinisches Rheuma- Zentrum St. Elisabeth-Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Meerbusch-Lank, Germany; 8Asklepios Clinic Bad Abbach, Center for Rheumatologic Rehabilitation, Bad Abbach, Germany; 9University of Regensburg, Medical Faculty, Regensburg, Germany

Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is often associated with autonomic dysfunction, which is presumably playing a role in the pathogenesis of the disease and may contribute to disease activity [1, 2]. Accordingly, patients with RA show reduced heart rate variability (HRV) [3].

Objectives: The aim of this prospective pilot study was to examine a possible connection between disease activity and activity of the autonomic nerve system in patients with RA.

Methods: In the non-randomized prospective exploratory study, patients with active RA and an upcoming change in treatment were included. Assessments were performed at baseline before treatment initiation (T0) and after 3 months (T1), including the Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28-CRP), HRV measurement, and the physician and patient global assessment (PGA, PtGA). HRV was measured through a 5-minute ECG with finger electrodes, using Kardia App®. Total variability was measured by the variance of RR intervals over the temporal segment (Total Power) as well as by standard deviation of the average RR intervals (SDRR). Root Mean Square of successive differences (RMSSD) and percentage of pairs of adjacent RR intervals differing by more than 50 milliseconds (pRR50) were used for estimating parasympathetic activity. In addition, blood concentrations of Neuropeptide Y (NPY) and vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) were measured as surrogate parameters for activity of the sympathetic (NPY) and parasympathetic (VIP) nervous system. Statistical analysis was performed using linear regression analysis.

Results: A total of 40 patients was included. Our results showed an overall improvement in both disease activity measured by DAS28-CRP (p = 0.001; SMD = 1.393) and HRV (Total Power: p = 0.014; SDRR = p = 0.0023) between visits (Table 1). DAS28-CRP was inversely associated with parasympathetic activity (p = 0.0494). PtGA also correlated inversely with pRR50 (p < 0.0001). RMSSD as another parasympathetic indicator was negatively predictive for percentage change of PGA (p = 0.019). Patients with lower parasympathetic activity at baseline had a higher change in disease activity than patients with higher parasympathetic activity at baseline.

Table 1. HRV parameters and disease activity at T0 and T1 (all parameters at T0 and T1 as mean values)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>T0</th>
<th>T1</th>
<th>p-Wert</th>
<th>SMD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDRR (ms)</td>
<td>36,23</td>
<td>64,06</td>
<td>0,007</td>
<td>0,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMSSD</td>
<td>37,61</td>
<td>76,64</td>
<td>0,013</td>
<td>0,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>6,55</td>
<td>4,47</td>
<td>0,001</td>
<td>0,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>5,42</td>
<td>3,02</td>
<td>&lt; 0,001</td>
<td>1,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28</td>
<td>4,25</td>
<td>2,76</td>
<td>&lt; 0,001</td>
<td>1,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD1</td>
<td>26,95</td>
<td>13,70</td>
<td>&lt; 0,001</td>
<td>1,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission (n)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>&lt; 0,001</td>
<td>1,379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DAS28 disease activity score 28, HRV heart rate variability, ms milliseconds, PGA physician global assessment, PtGA physician patient global assessment, RMSSD Root Mean Square of successive differences, SD1 Simple Disease Activity Index, SDRR standard deviation of the average RR intervals, SMD standardized mean difference

Conclusion: The results of our prospective study underline the importance of the autonomic nerve system regarding disease activity and prognosis in RA. Higher parasympathetic activity was associated with lower disease activity. Patients with initially lower parasympathetic profile and higher disease activity benefited to a greater extent from initiation or change of therapy. In our study, the specific blood parameters NPY and VIP showed no relevant association with disease activity and treatment response.

References:


Acknowledgements: N/A

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2506
Table 1. Optimal thresholds for presenteeism measures and patients correctly classified for unacceptable work status and adverse work outcome during 12 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Optimal threshold (5E/90)</th>
<th>Correctly classified for unacceptable work status n (%)</th>
<th>Correctly classified for AWO during 12 months n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WPAI presenteeism (0-100)</td>
<td>≥30 (89/70)</td>
<td>66 (73)</td>
<td>57 (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>≥40 (78/82)</td>
<td>77 (82)</td>
<td>62 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QQ method (0-10)</td>
<td>≥3 (66/64)</td>
<td>59 (63)</td>
<td>57 (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>≥0.61 (89/59)</td>
<td>51 (62)</td>
<td>44 (61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALS (0-3)</td>
<td>≥0.75 (89/68)</td>
<td>56 (68)</td>
<td>49 (68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLG 25 (0-100)</td>
<td>≥27 (89/77)</td>
<td>53 (57)</td>
<td>45 (55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain (0-10)</td>
<td>≥4 (76/68)</td>
<td>64 (68)</td>
<td>61 (73)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final thresholds are colored in green and correspond to the one’s derived from axSpA. For pain measurement there was no axSpA derived threshold.

Figure 1. ROC curves for presenteeism (4 different measurement instruments) and for pain according to unacceptable work status

Acknowledgements: RA-PROSE study was funded by AbbVie.

Disclosure of Interests: Dafne Capelusalik: None declared, Sofia Ramiro Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Elena Nikiphoroou Speakers bureau: Celltrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, AbbVie, Lilly, Fresenius, Consultant of: Celltrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, AbbVie, Lilly, Fresenius, Grant/research support from: Pfizer and Lilly, Walter P Makey-mowch Consultant of: Abbvive, BMS, Boehringer, Celgene, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Parexel, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvive, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Marina Magrey Consultant of: Novartis, Abbvive, UCB, Eli-Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: BMS and Amgen, Hélène Marzo-Ortega Speakers bureau: Abbvive, Biogen, Eli-Lilly, Janssen, Moonlake, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Consultant of: Abbvive, Biogen, Eli-Lilly, Janssen, Moonlake, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Novartis and UCB, Annelies Boonen Consultant of: AbbVie, Galapagos, Novartis, and Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Abbvive.

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Keywords: Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis, Autoantibodies

J. Heutz1, M. W. Schreurs2, A. Van der Helm – van Mil3, P. De Jong4, 1Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2Erasmus MC, Immunology; Rotterdam, Netherlands; 3Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: The EULAR research agenda states that new biomarkers are needed to stratify patients and to predict therapeutic response or lack of response in rheumatoid arthritis. Currently, IgG anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA) and IgM rheumatoid factor (RF) are used as poor prognostic factors for treatment decisions in RA. The mucosal origin hypothesis of RA renewed the interest in the role of IgA isotype autoantibodies for disease pathogenesis. However, the value of IgA ACPA and RF for prognostication of treatment response under a treat-to-target approach is not clear to date.

Objectives: To evaluate the prognostic value of IgA ACPA and RF by considering ‘quick-attained and persistent remission’ (DfR) and biological use in an early (rheumatoid) arthritis population.

Methods: All patients from the treatment in the Rotterdam Early Arthritis Cohort (tREACH) trial with available baseline sera were included. The tREACH trial is a multicentre, stratified, single-blinded trial with a treat-to-target approach. IgA ACPA and RF isotypes were measured by automated fluorescence enzyme-immuno assay (FEIA) in baseline sera. The prognostic value of positivity for IgA ACPA and RF was evaluated for three outcome measures: (1) quick-attained (at 6 months) and persistent (to 2 years) remission, analysed with logistic regression analysis; (2) achievement of DfR for at least 6 months over a 2 year follow-up period, analysed with survival analysis; and (3) incidence biological use over 2 years, analysed with mixed effects logistic regression analysis. Results were stratified for IgG ACPA, since it is known that IgG ACPA is related to lower (DMARD-free) remission rates and more biological use.

Results: IgA isotypes of ACPA and RF were measured in baseline sera of 480 tREACH patients. 66% was female, mean age was 53 years, median symptom duration 21 weeks, and median swollen joint count 5. A positive IgA ACPA titre was present in 109 (23%) patients and most of them also had a IgG ACPA result above the cut-off value for positivity (n=102, overlap of 94%). Positive IgA RF on the other hand was present in 172 (36%) of patients, which overlapped with IgM RF for 90% (n=154). Double positivity for IgA and IgG ACPA (n=102) revealed lower DfR rates after 2 years compared to IgG ACPA positivity alone (6% and 11%, respectively, Figure 1A), although this finding was not significant (p=0.09).

No differences were observed in ‘quick-attained and persistent remission’ and biological use for both IgA ACPA and RF, after stratification for IgG ACPA.

Conclusion: IgA isotypes of ACPA and RF almost completely overlap with the commonly measured isotypes (IgG ACPA and IgM RF, respectively). In addition, both an IgA ACPA and IgA RF response do not predict persistent remission, DfR and biological use in this treat-to-target population. Based on these results, there is no rationale for measuring these isotypes in newly diagnosed (rheumatoid) arthritis patients in daily clinical practice.

Figure 1. Quick-persistent (6-24 months) remission, DMARD-free remission and biological use over 2 years in (A) Iga/IgG ACPA positive patients vs. IgG ACPA positive patients, with IgA/IgG ACPA negative patients as a reference group; and in (B) IgA RF/IgG ACPA positive...
patients vs. IgA RF negative/IgG ACPA positive patients, with IgA RF/IgG ACPA negative patients as a reference group.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0200

IMPROVEMENT OF SLEEP IMPAIRMENT IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ACHIEVING REMISSION OR PAIN RELIEF WITH UPADACITINIB: RESULTS FROM THE POST-MARKETING OBSERVATIONAL SLEERA STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of life, Real-world evidence

T. Hügle1, H. Prillwitz2, B. Moeller3, D. Kyburz4, J. Dudler5, K. Schmiedeberg1, M. Harer Kuster6, P. Roulin7, A. Rubbert-Roth8, 1Lausanne University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland; 2Rheumatologisches Versorgungszentrum Weinfelden, Rheumatologie, Weinfelden, Switzerland; 3Inselspital, Department of Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergology, Bern, Switzerland; 4University Hospital of Basel, Department of Rheumatology, Basel, Switzerland; 5HF Fribourg, Department of Rheumatology, Fribourg, Switzerland; 6Cantonal Clinic St Gallen, Division of Rheumatology, St Gallen, Switzerland; 7AbbVie AG, Immunology, Cham, Switzerland

Background: Sleep impairment is a common clinical condition in the rheumatoid arthritis (RA) population, which has been reported in over 60% of patients[1]. Although few longitudinal studies demonstrated change from baseline on sleep quality with advanced therapies[2,3], none of them described the clinical meaningfulness of these changes by subjective and objective measures.

Objectives: The SLEERA study aims to investigate the impact of upadacitinib (UPA), a selective and reversible JAK inhibitor, on sleep quality in a real-world RA population in Switzerland, by using a validated patient-reported measure, the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI)[4], and an actigraphy-based objective measure with the GT9x wearable.

Methods: SLEERA is a sub-study of UPHOLD, an international, multicenter, prospective, non-interventional, open-label, observational cohort study (NCT04497957) that assesses sleep quality in a real-world population of adult Swiss patients with moderate-to-severe active RA, initiating treatment with UPA 15mg once daily according to the product label and with the treatment decision made prior to study participation. This primary interim analysis reports data for all enrolled patients up to 3 months after treatment start. Results are presented for the total sample using descriptive measures reflecting sample size (N), average values (standard deviation) for each visit and average change scores (standard deviation) for follow-up visits up to month 3. All data were analyzed as observed, with no imputation of missing data.

Results: Of the 39 patients (87% female) included in this study, 35 completed the follow-up visit at month 3. The mean age and disease duration were 59.5 (13.9) years and 7.0 (8.3) years, respectively. The mean initial DAS28-CRP was 4.1 (1.0). At baseline, 76% of patients showed subjective sleep impairment (defined by PSQI >5) and 51% had objective poor sleep efficiency (defined by actigraphy sleep efficiency <85%) (Table 1). At month 3, upadacitinib showed significant improvement in the PSQI total score with a decrease of 2.26 (2.92, p value <0.001), as well as other subjective outcomes. The proportion of objective poor sleepers decreased to 38%, while sleep efficiency and physical activity outcomes in total remained unchanged. However, patients achieving DAS28- CRP remission or absence of pain after 3 months of treatment showed higher improvements in both subjective and objective measures compared to those who did not achieve DAS28-CRP remission or have residual pain (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In this Swiss cohort, a high proportion of RA patients exhibited sleep impairment as shown by subjective and objective measures. Patients treated with upadacitinib significantly improved their subjective sleep quality after 3 months. Higher improvements for both subjective and objective sleep measures were observed in patients achieving remission or absence of pain. This research provides evidence of sleep impairment in RA patients which can be improved following a treatment, and further supports the importance of remission when assessing disease treatment goals.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: AbbVie and the authors thank the patients, study sites, investigators who participated in this study, Dr. Francesca Siclari and Jacinthe Cataldi from the Center for Investigation and Research in Sleep, and Dr. Imma Fischer from Biostatistik Tübingen. AbbVie funded this study and participated in the study design, research, analysis, data collection, interpretation of data. No honoraria or payments were made for authorship.


AB0201

"IT SURPRISED ME A LOT THAT THERE IS A LINK": A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF PREVENTIVE PERIODONTAL TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS AT-RISK OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Qualitative research methods, Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient information and education

L. Chapman1, K. Vinali-Collier2, H. J. Siddie3, Z. Mustapha4, S. Serban5, 1University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2University of Leeds, School of Dentistry, Leeds, United Kingdom; 3University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 4Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Current evidence suggests that periodontitis could be a causal risk factor for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) onset and progression, and periodontal treatment may improve disease activity in patients with established RA [1, 2]. Earlier periodontal intervention in individuals at-risk of RA could provide a unique opportunity to delay progression or prevent RA entirely.

Objectives: To explore the acceptability of preventive periodontal treatment among individuals at-risk of RA and healthcare professionals from dental and medical backgrounds.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSQI</th>
<th>BL Visit N = 37</th>
<th>Visit at Month 3 N = 33</th>
<th>Change from BL N = 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sleep impairment (%)</td>
<td>28 (76%)</td>
<td>18 (55%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSQI total score</td>
<td>7.84 (5.12)</td>
<td>6.06 (4.26)</td>
<td>-2.26 (2.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSQI sleep efficiency (%)</td>
<td>78.5% (18.5%)</td>
<td>84.2% (16.0%)</td>
<td>5.0% (17.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSQI sleep duration (hours)</td>
<td>6.8 (1.0)</td>
<td>6.9 (1.2)</td>
<td>0.2 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actigraphy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N = 39</td>
<td>N = 26</td>
<td>N = 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor sleep efficiency (SE &lt;85%) (%)</td>
<td>20 (51%)</td>
<td>10 (38%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep efficiency (%)</td>
<td>84.2% (6.8%)</td>
<td>84.3% (7.3%)</td>
<td>0.5% (3.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total sleep time (minutes)</td>
<td>74 (37)</td>
<td>73 (49)</td>
<td>-1.1 (36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steps count</td>
<td>4,272 (2,270)</td>
<td>4,509 (2,271)</td>
<td>-68 (1,157)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVPA (minutes)</td>
<td>177 (98)</td>
<td>181 (95)</td>
<td>-2 (37)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scientific Abstracts

1283

LWW 05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s): 21:35 Art06_Euroab-2023-P005-06
Methods: This was a qualitative study using a phenomenological approach. Anti-CCP positive at-risk individuals with musculoskeletal symptoms but no synovitis were recruited from the Leeds CCP cohort, and healthcare professionals were recruited through the Leeds Rheumatology professional network. Individuals semi-structured interviews were conducted via video or telephone. Interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Data were analysed thematically.

Results: Nineteen at-risk participants (ten women; age range 35-70) and 11 healthcare professionals (rheumatology clinicians, dentists, general practitioners, commissioners) participated. Three themes (six subthemes) were identified as important to understand factors that may influence participants’ acceptance of preventative periodontal treatment to reduce the risk of RA: i) understanding risk (knowledge of shared risk factors; information and communication); ii) oral health perceptions and experiences (personal challenges for dental intervention and oral health maintenance; external barriers); iii) oral health treatment and maintenance (making oral health changes to prevent RA; acceptability of participation in periodontal research to prevent RA). The majority of at-risk participants lacked awareness of the association between oral health and the risk of developing RA, and perceived a lack of knowledge of this link among dentists. Healthcare professionals highlighted disjion between dentistry and medicine due to commissioning and financial barriers, and inadequate training. Preference for information provision relating to oral health as a risk factor varied extensively among all participants. At-risk participants discussed oral health issues, but oral health was less of a priority when compared to comorbidities that had a bigger impact on daily life, e.g. irritable bowel syndrome. Both groups of participants perceived that dental anxiety, the cost of dental treatment, and difficulty in accessing NHS dentists were barriers to seeking dental care. Participation in a clinical trial involving preventive periodontal treatment was perceived to be acceptable for most at-risk participants. Comparatively, taking medication to prevent RA was perceived to be less acceptable. Facilitators to trial participation included reducing risk, access to a dentist, and not having to pay for treatment. At-risk patients with dental anxiety indicated that seeing the same dentist at every visit was important.

Conclusion: The impact of poor oral health may not be well understood by individuals at-risk of RA. Information relating to this risk factor should be tailored to the individual and is a key first step before clinical trial involvement. Whilst periodontal disease is common in individuals at-risk of RA, both at-risk participants and healthcare professionals identified that seeking dental treatment can be hindered by dental anxiety, treatment costs and a shortage of dentists. Future trials involving preventive periodontal treatment should take into account what has been identified as important by this group of individuals at-risk of RA.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: A. Casasempere: None declared, C. Campos Fernández: None declared, S. Manrique Arija: None declared, C. Rodríguez-Lozano: None declared, M. Monereo: None declared, F. Javier Manero Ruiz: None declared, P. Pablo Rodríguez-Merlos: Speakers bureau: Lilly, Gebro, ConvaTec.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Pablo Rodríguez-Merlos: Speakers bureau: Lilly, Gebro, Amgen, UCB, Gedeon-Richter, Lilly Otero-Varela: None declared, Fernando Montero: None declared, Francisco Javier Manero Ruiz: None declared, Paloma Vela-Casasempere: None declared, Cristina Campos Fernández: None declared, Sara Manrique Arija: None declared, Carlos Rodríguez-Lozano: None declared, Olga Martínez González: None declared, Lisbonová: None declared, Jose Campos Fernández: None declared, Diana Sánchez del Dado: None declared, Carmen Casajus: None declared, Isabel Casajus: None declared.

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ABO0202

CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH DIFFICULT-TO-TREAT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN REAL LIFE: DATA FROM THE BIOBADASER REGISTRY

Keywords: Registries, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

P. Rodríguez-Merlos1, L. Otero-Varela2, F. Montero2, F. J. Manero Ruiz3, P. Vela-Casasempere3, C. Campos Fernández4, S. Manrique Arija5, C. Rodríguez-Lozano5, O. Martínez González6, J. Calvo Gutierrez6, J. Campos Esteban7, D. Sueiro Delgado8, P. Sánchez-Alonso8, I. Castrejon9, G. Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 8Universidad Europea de Reumatología, Universidad de Madrid, Spain; 9Miguel Servet University Hospital, Rheumatology, Zaragoza, Spain; 10General University Hospital of Alicante, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; 11Hospital General Universitario de Valencia, Reumatología y Micolología, Valencia, Spain; 12Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga, Reumatología, Málaga, Spain; 13University Hospital of Gran Canaria Dr. Negrín, Reumatología, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; 14Salamanca University Hospital, Rheumatology, Salamanca, Spain; 15University Hospital Reina Sofía, Rheumatology, Murcia, Spain; 16Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda University Hospital, Rheumatology, Majadahonda, Spain; 17Hospital Universitario de Ourense, CHUO, Reumatología, Ourense, Spain

Background: In the last decade there have been multiple attempts to characterize patients with refractory rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In 2020, EULAR proposed a definition for difficult-to-treat RA (D2TR-A) to standardize this population. The mechanisms leading to D2 TR-A are varied and not fully understood. A better understanding of clinical profile of this specific population may be helpful to support rheumatologists in their clinical decisions.

Objectives: To determine the prevalence of D2TR-A in a multicenter national registry (BIOBADASER) and to investigate the influence of the initial successive lines of treatment (LoT) in the development of D2TRA.

Methods: Longitudinal and prospective cohort study of patients with RA from BIOBADASER (a multicenter national registry of adverse events of biologics and targeted therapies in rheumatic diseases). Patients were classified as refractory if failure to at least 2 biologics or targeted synthetic disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (b/tsDMARDs) with different mechanisms of action (MoA) and as D2TRA if refractory RA who presented moderate to high disease activity according to DAS 28-ESR at their last visit. The comparator group included patients with refractory RA but low disease activity/remission. The therapeutics groups were stabilized as TNFi inhibitors (TNFi), JAKi-inhibitors (JAKi) and other biological therapies non-TNFi bDMARD. Demographic, clinical and therapeutic data on the 1st and 2nd LoT were compared between groups.

Results: A total of 3852 patients with RA with at least one year follow up were included in the analysis, 1612 (42%) had refractory RA and 348 (9%) D2TRA. Patient and therapeutic characteristics are shown in Table 1. No differences were found between D2TRA and non-D2TRA in clinical variables except for age, being patients with D2TRA significantly older. The use of JAKi as their first or second LoT was more frequent in patients with non-D2TRA although no statistical significance was reached.

Conclusion: Around 40% of patients were classified as refractory RA in our registry but only 9% as D2-RA. Earlier treatment with JAKi was more frequent in the non-D2TRA group. Further research should analyse the influence of LoT on the development of D2TRA.

Table 1. Demographic, clinical and therapeutic characteristics in the refractory RA, D2TRA and non-D2TRA population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Refractory RA (n=892)</th>
<th>D2TRA (n=348)</th>
<th>Non-D2TRA (n=644)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean ± SD</td>
<td>63.1 (12.8)</td>
<td>64.2 (12.8)</td>
<td>62.5 (12.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (female), n (%)</td>
<td>712 (79.8)</td>
<td>286 (82.1)</td>
<td>426 (73.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBR positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>159 (22.3)</td>
<td>51 (18.3)</td>
<td>108 (24.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCCP positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>523 (73.6)</td>
<td>207 (74.2)</td>
<td>316 (73.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking habit, n (%)</td>
<td>565 (63.3)</td>
<td>219 (62.9)</td>
<td>346 (63.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker</td>
<td>159 (17.8)</td>
<td>68 (19.5)</td>
<td>91 (16.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former smoker</td>
<td>129 (14.5)</td>
<td>47 (13.51)</td>
<td>82 (15.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlson Index, mean ± SD</td>
<td>0.3 ± 0.8</td>
<td>0.4 ± 0.8</td>
<td>0.3 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR, mean ± SD</td>
<td>2.1 ± 0.7</td>
<td>4.3 ± 0.9</td>
<td>3.0 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant csDMARD, n (%)</td>
<td>470 (52.7)</td>
<td>194 (55.8)</td>
<td>276 (50.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to first b/tsDMARD (years)</td>
<td>6.6 (7.1)</td>
<td>6.9 (7.5)</td>
<td>6.3 (7.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines of treatment</td>
<td>0.145</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFi -&gt; other bDMARD</td>
<td>583 (65.4)</td>
<td>233 (67.0)</td>
<td>350 (64.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFi -&gt; JAKi</td>
<td>138 (15.9)</td>
<td>46 (13.2)</td>
<td>92 (16.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other bDMARD -&gt; TNFi</td>
<td>75 (8.4)</td>
<td>34 (9.8)</td>
<td>41 (7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other bDMARD -&gt; JAKi</td>
<td>23 (2.6)</td>
<td>8 (2.3)</td>
<td>15 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAKi -&gt; TNFi</td>
<td>15 (1.7)</td>
<td>5 (1.5)</td>
<td>10 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAKi -&gt; other bDMARD</td>
<td>8 (0.9)</td>
<td>5 (1.4)</td>
<td>3 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other bDMARD -&gt; other bDMARD</td>
<td>50 (5.6)</td>
<td>20 (5.8)</td>
<td>30 (5.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABO0203

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE OF MODERATE DISEASE ACTIVITY STATE (MDAS) RA PATIENTS OVER 4-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Pain, Fibromyalgia

M. Gibson1, N. Ladhah Hassan2, L. B. Kirkham3, Guy’s Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: In recent years despite improved therapies for RA, there is an increased awareness of persistent pain in people with RA. Before the pandemic we assessed a large group of patients with RA with comprehensive joint ultrasound (US) and for presence of fibromyalgia (FM) meeting 2010 ACR diagnostic criteria. When combinations of synovitis and/or FM were made we noted 4 groups
Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FM-PD+ (n=12)</th>
<th>FM-PD+ (n=18)</th>
<th>FM-PD+ (n=29)</th>
<th>FM-PD+ (n=13)</th>
<th>ANOVA p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female (n, %)</td>
<td>10 (83%)</td>
<td>13 (72%)</td>
<td>24 (83%)</td>
<td>13 (92%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4-ve (n, %)</td>
<td>4 (33%)</td>
<td>12 (67%)</td>
<td>14 (48%)</td>
<td>6 (46%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>11.04 (2.676)</td>
<td>16.19 (2.889)</td>
<td>12.29 (1.709)</td>
<td>16.23 (3.340)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On csDMARD (n, %)</td>
<td>11 (92%)</td>
<td>15 (83%)</td>
<td>24 (83%)</td>
<td>10 (77%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On csDMARD (n, %)</td>
<td>4 (33%)</td>
<td>5 (28%)</td>
<td>7 (24%)</td>
<td>6 (46%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline DAS28 (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>4.417 (1.474)</td>
<td>2.556 (0.3154)</td>
<td>2.931 (0.3237)</td>
<td>2.538 (0.6162)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total visits (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>11.67 (2.647)</td>
<td>10.50 (2.031)</td>
<td>8.724 (1.039)</td>
<td>8.308 (1.407)</td>
<td>0.533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSR (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>7.593 (1.954)</td>
<td>7.935 (1.033)</td>
<td>5.769 (2.311)</td>
<td>5.769 (1.311)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone visits (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>3.604 (1.101)</td>
<td>3.506 (0.6177)</td>
<td>3.736 (0.6899)</td>
<td>4.603 (1.246)</td>
<td>0.3179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joint count (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>2.917 (1.062)</td>
<td>3.722 (1.093)</td>
<td>2.000 (0.5526)</td>
<td>1.615 (0.6257)</td>
<td>0.2671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid prescriptions (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>1.833 (0.776)</td>
<td>1.611 (0.5310)</td>
<td>1.000 (0.3908)</td>
<td>0.7692 (0.5329)</td>
<td>0.5969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD prescriptions (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>0.7500 (0.3046)</td>
<td>0.7779 (0.2070)</td>
<td>0.5185 (0.1634)</td>
<td>0.3636 (0.2787)</td>
<td>0.5789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologic prescriptions (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>0.3533 (0.2247)</td>
<td>1.778 (0.6291)</td>
<td>0.3793 (0.1257)</td>
<td>0.3077 (0.2371)</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress score (mean, SEM)</td>
<td>-1.167 (1.461)</td>
<td>0.611 (0.3889)</td>
<td>-0.1273 (0.2366)</td>
<td>0.4615 (0.6265)</td>
<td>0.2579</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objectives:** To assess the progress and outcomes patients with RA with different well defined pain states during 4 years of follow up including the COVID19 pandemic.

**Methods:** The TITRATE-ULTRASOUND patient cohort categorised patients with RA into 4 groups depending on the presence or absence of FM and the presence or absence of power doppler synovitis (PD, defined as positive PD signal in ≥2 joints in a 44 joint US). We identified 72 patients with active RA (DAS28 3.2 – 5.1) from this cohort with sufficient clinical data during the study period and collected the following data on each follow up encounter: visit type, treatment changes and disease activity measures. In the COVID19 pandemic follow up visits were largely virtual without the ability to collect physician assessed disease activity scores. Progress assessment was performed as to whether the patient had improved, no change or worse with a numerical value of +1, 0 and -1 at each visit to calculate a score tracking patient progress over the pandemic. Statistical analysis was performed using 1-way ANOVA to assess for difference between the 4 groups.

**Results:** 72 patients were assigned into the following categories: FM-PD- (n = 12); FD-PD+ (n = 18); FM+PD- (n = 29); FM+PD+ (n = 13). Table 1 shows baseline characteristics of the 4 groups and reveals no significant differences. Further follow-up data analysis can reduce such bias.

**Conclusion:** Over the follow-up period we show the management of RA patients without active power doppler synovitis or fibromyalgia did not differ significantly from other categories of patients. Similar numbers of visits, treatment escalations, csDMARDs and corticosteroid prescriptions were observed. This illustrates how it can be difficult to define the specific causes of disease activity without access to US. Despite similar management strategies, FM-PD- patients tended towards worse progress scores, suggesting a potential unmet need in such patients.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Mark Gibson: None declared, Nadia Ladha Hassan: None declared, L Bruce Kirkham Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3565

AB0204

**GENETICALLY PREDICTED EOSINOPHIL COUNT IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS SUSCEPTIBILITY**

**Keywords:** -omics, Rheumatoid arthritis

T Chong1, R. Gopalarathinam2, D. Hughes3, S. S. Zhao4. 1University of Manchester, School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Biological Medicine and Health, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2Southport and Formby District General hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Southport, United Kingdom; 3University of Liverpool, Department of Health Data Science, Liverpool, United Kingdom; 4University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Science, School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Biological Medicine and Health, Manchester, United Kingdom

**Background:** Increasing evidence shows that eosinophils – white blood cells typically linked to atopic and parasitic diseases – are involved in regulating adaptive immune responses. Baseline eosinophilia has been associated with poor prognosis in early arthritis patients, while synovial regulatory eosinophils are associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) remission [1,2]. However, the role of eosinophils for RA susceptibility is unclear. Traditional observational designs are limited by reverse causation, that is, RA onset or prodrome may influence eosinophil count and/or function. Using genetic variants in instrumental variable analysis can reduce such biases.

**Objectives:** To investigate the association between genetically predicted circulating eosinophil count and RA risk using genetic instrumental variable analysis.

**Methods:** We selected uncorrelated (r² < 0.001) and significant (p-value < 5x10⁻⁸) single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) as genetic instruments for circulating eosinophil count from a genome wide association study of 563,085 individuals. Genetic association data for RA was obtained from 22,350 cases and 74,823 controls. We included psoriatic arthritis (PsA; 3,609 cases, 9,192 controls) and osteoarthritis (OA; 177,517 cases, 649,173 controls) as negative control outcomes, and asthma (56,167 cases, 352,255 controls) and atopic eczema (10,788 cases, 30,047 controls) as positive controls. We used the ratio method and meta-analytical estimates from each SNP using the inverse-variance weighted method. We used weighted median, mode and the Egger method to test for horizontal pleiotropy (i.e., violation of the model assumption that genetic instruments only affect the outcome through the exposure).

**Results:** Circulating eosinophil count was instrumented using 484 SNPs that explained 11% of variance, with a mean F statistic of 157 suggesting adequate instrument strength. For each standard deviation increase in eosinophil count, risk of RA was increased (OR 1.60; 95% CI 1.35, 1.89; p-value=6.9x10⁻⁸). Genetically predicted eosinophil count was not associated with risk of PsA and OA negative controls, but were associated with increased risk of asthma and eczema positive controls (Figure 1). Pleiotropy robust sensitivity analyses showed consistent estimates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis</td>
<td>1.60 (1.35, 1.89)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>1.10 (0.92, 1.31)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoarthritis</td>
<td>1.00 (0.98, 1.03)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>1.69 (1.58, 1.81)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eczema</td>
<td>1.36 (1.22, 1.51)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** Association between genetically predicted circulating eosinophil count and risk of rheumatoid arthritis and control outcomes.

**Conclusion:** This study provides genetic data to support a causal relationship between circulating eosinophil count and RA susceptibility. Eosinophils may play a causal role in RA aetiology and, if these results are replicated in future studies, may represent a novel predictor of RA onset and potential modifiable factor for RA prevention.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3580

AB0205

**RA TREATMENT EFFECTS IN WRIST MRIS, DETERMINED BY DEEP LEARNING**

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging
T. Hassanzadeh1, D. Shamoni1, Y. Li2, M. Reijnierse3, A. Van der Helm – van Mil2, B. Stoel1*. Leiden University Medical Center, Division of Image Processing, Department of Radiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Radiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Determining the response to early treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) or the at-risk stages for RA from MRI scans requires sensitive and specific measurements of imaging biomarkers of inflammation. Employing artificial intelligence (AI), especially deep learning, can be an option to measure RA treatment effects.

Objectives: We aimed to assess the ability of deep learning to determine treatment response by distinguishing MRIs of the wrist between treatment and placebo arms (as proxy for treatment effects) from the TREAT-EARLIER trial.

Methods: Wrist MRIs (contrast enhanced T1-weighted TSE fat suppressed sequences) were collected from 236 patients clinically suspect arthritis at four time points (baseline, with 4, 12 and 24 months follow-up) to determine the response to treatment by intramuscular methylprednisolone followed by methotrexate during one year [1]. 3D wrist MRI data were reconstructed in super-resolution from axial and coronal images. Since a statistically significant treatment effect was determined previously by RAMRIS [1], we used these 3D wrist MRI data from baseline and after 4 months to classify patients into treatment arms by a 3D convolutional neural network. Five different inputs were explored for training the model: 1) a difference image (baseline image simply subtracted from follow-up); 2) the combination of baseline and follow-up image; 3) the combination of baseline and difference image; 4) change maps (AI-based maps containing changes between two time points); and 5) the combination of baseline and change maps (see bottom panel in Figure 1).

To evaluate the proposed model, 10-fold cross-validation was repeated five times with five different splits, and the area under the receiver operator curve (AUC) was reported.

Results: The mean (±SD) AUCs are presented in Table 1. As shown, the combination of different MRIs obtained promising results. Specifically the combination of baseline images and AI-based extracted change maps could improve the accuracy. Compared to a setting where follow-up and baseline scans were simply ‘subtracted’, this improved the prediction of treatment from 0.72 to 0.76.

Table 1. Obtained AUC using Wrist MRI. (BL: baseline MRI; FU: Follow-up MRI; Diff: Difference image; and CM: Change Map)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input</th>
<th>AUC (mean ± SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL and FU</td>
<td>0.71 ± 0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL and Diff</td>
<td>0.72 ± 0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>0.73 ± 0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL and CM</td>
<td>0.76 ± 0.008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The results show that deep learning models using baseline and follow-up MRI specifically AI-extracted change maps can accurately determine treatment response in CSA patients.

REFERENCE:

TREAT-EARLIER trial has been funded by an NWO-ZonMW grant (project number 95104004). The Dutch Arthritis Society contributed financially to both grants.

Disclosure of Interests: Taherah Hassanzadeh Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer contributed to this project, through a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Applied and Engineering Sciences., Denis Shamoni Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer contributed to this project, through a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Applied and Engineering Sciences., Yani Li: None declared, Monique Reijnierse Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer contributed to this project, through a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Applied and Engineering Sciences., Annette van der Helm – van Mil Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer contributed to this project, through a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Applied and Engineering Sciences., Berend Stoel Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer contributed to this project, through a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Applied and Engineering Sciences.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3600

KEYWORDS: Rheumatoid arthritis, Prognostic factors, Comorbidities

N. Luciani3, E. Barone3, E. Brunetta1, M. De Santis2, A. Ceribelli1, M. Caprioli1, G. M. Guidelli1, A. Sonaglia1, D. Renna2, N. Isailovic2, C. Selmi3, IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; 1IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital and Humanitas University, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy

Background: Despite the growing number of available drugs for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and the significant improvement in disease management, numerous patients continue to fail multiple lines of DMARDs. The EURAL definition of Difficult to Treat Rheumatoid Arthritis (D2T-RA) is based on 3 criteria: the failure of 2 or more b/tsDMARDs with different mechanism of action, the persistence of signs of active disease despite treatments, and the clinician or patients’ perception of a “problematic” management. There is limited evidence on the prevalence of D2T-RA in real life and the factors associated with this entity.

Objectives: To characterize D2T-RA cases in a real-life cohort of patients.

Methods: We retrospectively collected data of patients with RA fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria who attended our outpatient clinics between January 2019 and November 2022. The comparison between D2T-RA and other patients was performed using T-, Mann-Whitney and Chi-Square tests while logistic regression models analyzed the impact of principal clinical features and comorbidities on outcome variable, adjusted for confounders.

Results: Eighty-seven/400 (21%) patients enrolled met the DT2-RA criteria. No significant differences were found in median age (no-D2T 62±12 vs. D2T 64±15, p = 0.6), median disease duration (no-D2T 64±9 vs. D2T 64±9 years, p=0.9) and gender (female 77%, p=0.9). D2T-RA had similar autoantibody profile, prevalence of interstitial lung disease, C-reactive protein levels at diagnosis, number of tender and swollen joints at diagnosis and major comorbidities (hypertension, dyslipidemia, COPD, depression, autoimmune thyroiditis). At univariate D2T-RA correlated, without reaching statistical significance, with diabetes (p=0.055), a previous history of major cardiovascular events (p=0.071), previous or current history of smoking (p=0.081) and GRED (p=0.079). Of note, D2T-RA significantly correlated with fibromyalgia (p=0.004), previous surgical intervention to treat RA (p=0.01), peripheral arthropathy (p=0.035), obesity (p=0.023) and evidence of erosions at diagnosis (p=0.045). The multivariate analysis confirmed the correlations between D2T-RA and baseline erosions (p=0.034, OR 2.23 IC 1.06-4.69), obesity (p=0.041, OR 2.05 IC 1.03-4.09) and fibromyalgia (p=0.004, OR 3.28 IC 1.47-7.32) regardless of age and gender or, in the case of fibromyalgia, obesity. Conclusion: Our data support the importance of comorbidities to determine D2T-RA which is not influenced by the autoantibody profile. In particular, fibromyalgia and obesity likely increase the probability of a DMARDs multi-failure. Data on baseline erosions and a previous history of surgery possibly suggest that a better timing of intervention with earlier treatments may reduce the risk of D2T-RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Niccolò Luciani Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Eli-Lilly, Janssen, Consultant of: Galapagos, Elisa Barone: None declared, Enrico Brunetta: None declared, Maria De Santis: None declared, Angela Ceribelli: None declared, Marta Caprioli: None declared, Giacomo Maria Guidelli Speakers bureau: Janssen, Consultant of: Galapagos, Eli-Silvia None declared, Carlo Selmi Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Alfa-Wassermann, Bio-gen, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, SOBI, Consultant of: AbbVie,
VOLATILITY OF WORK PARTICIPATION DOMAINS AFTER A FLARE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS UNDER TREAT-TO-TARGET THERAPY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Work-related issues, Treat to target

S. E. Meyer1, J. R. Hoepner2, B. L. Haegermann1, I. Iliadis3, T. Witte3, K. Kahl3, K. Hoepner1, D. Meyer-Olson4. 1Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Clinic for Rheumatology and Immunology, Hannover, Germany; 2Leibniz Universität Hannover, Center for Health Economics Research Hannover, Hannover, Germany; 3Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Department of Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Hannover, Germany; 4m&i Fachklinik Bad Pyrmont, Medizinisches Forschungszentrum Weserbergland, Bad Pyrmont, Germany

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is one of the most common diseases worldwide with a need for rehabilitation despite recent advances in pharmacological treatment options. Furthermore, data show a numerical increase in years of life with disability in RA patients in Germany from 1990 to 2017. Limitations in work participation (WP) also remain highly prevalent.

Objectives: To investigate the development of different domains of WP (unimpaired WP, presenteeism, and absenteeism) at the patient level under drug therapy over 12 months to understand the impact of pharmacological paired WP, presenteeism, absenteeism, and no employment) at the patient level.

Methods: The multicenter ERFASS study prospectively enrolled seropositive RA patients with an active flare of disease initiating treat-to-target (T2T) drug therapy over 12 months [1]. Patients were enrolled between 01/2018 and 12/2019. We examine the different domains of WP in working-age patients (18-65 years) excluding students and old-age pensioners using the WPAI of patients with a complete dataset at all three measurement time points (month 0, 6 and 12).

Table 1. Development of domains of WP in a Sankey diagram. The width of the arrows equivalents the proportion of patients changing between groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Month 6</th>
<th>Month 12</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unimpaired WP</td>
<td>13 (10.7)</td>
<td>16 (13.1)</td>
<td>20 (16.4)</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenteeism only</td>
<td>45 (36.9)</td>
<td>50 (41.0)</td>
<td>43 (35.3)</td>
<td>.086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absenteeism n (%)</td>
<td>27 (22.1)</td>
<td>16 (13.1)</td>
<td>15 (12.3)</td>
<td>.033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 (22.1)</td>
<td>16 (13.1)</td>
<td>15 (12.3)</td>
<td>.033</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 (36.9)</td>
<td>50 (41.0)</td>
<td>43 (35.3)</td>
<td>.086</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 (10.7)</td>
<td>16 (13.1)</td>
<td>20 (16.4)</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 1: Development of domains of WP in a Sankey diagram. The width of the arrows equivalents the proportion of patients changing between groups.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Sara Eileen Meyer: None declared, Juliana Rachel Hoepner: None declared, Birte Luise Haegermann: None declared, Ioana Iliadis: None declared, Torsten Witte Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Novartis, Kari Kahl: None declared, Kirsten Hoepner Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Novartis, Galapagos, Consultant of: AbbVie, Novartis, Galapagos, Dirk Meyer-Olson Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Berlin Chemie, Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Cellgene, Celltrigon, Chugai, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, GSK, Jansen Citag, Lilly, Medac, Merck Sharp & Dome, Mylan, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz Hexal, Sanofi and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Berlin Chemie, Bio-

Keywords: Remission, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

S. B.1, A. Kumar P H1, M. Gopalakrishnan1, M. K. Garg1. 1All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Internal Medicine, Jodhpur, India

Background: Remission is a state, not change or transition with absence of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1]. Remission at 6 months has been shown to predict future good outcomes such as arresting radiographic progression and better functional status at 12 and 24 months [2]. ACR EULAR have endorsed Boolean2.0 in the revised remission criteria in 2022 [3]. None of these participants were recruited from India. In this ongoing study, we compare the various remission criteria in patients with RA in our setting.

Objectives: To compare the performance of various remission criteria (Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28 ESR), Disease activity Score 28 CRP (DAS28 CRP), Simple Disease Activity Index (SDAI), Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI), Boolean2.0, and BooleanX) in patients with RA presenting to our rheumatology clinic, at Jodhpur, India.

Methods: A longitudinal study was initiated in July 2021 after Ethics Committee approval. Demographic and treatment details were collected after written informed consent. Remission criteria were calculated at 6 months follow up. We analysed agreement between the Boolean- and index-based criteria SDAI, CDAI, DAS28 ESR and DAS28 CRP. The study is an ongoing study, with a calculated sample size of 165.

Table 1. Demographics, disease activity and domains of WP during study course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Gender (male)</th>
<th>DAS28-CRP (mean)</th>
<th>Not working</th>
<th>Absenteeism n (%)</th>
<th>Presenteeism only n (%)</th>
<th>Unimpaired WP n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52.8 (8.5)</td>
<td>89 (73.0)</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>37 (30.3)</td>
<td>27 (22.1)</td>
<td>45 (36.9)</td>
<td>10 (8.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:
agreement (kappa 0.49) at 6 months, however, SDAI had only slight agreement with modified Boolean based indices (Table 1).

Table 1. Agreement between modified Boolean indices and disease activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kappa</th>
<th>SDAI at enrolment (CI)</th>
<th>SDAI at 6 months (CI)</th>
<th>DAS28 CRP at enrolment (CI)</th>
<th>DAS28 CRP at 6 months (CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>0.23 (0.00-0.08)</td>
<td>0.09 (0.20-0.38)</td>
<td>0.10 (0.09-0.23)</td>
<td>0.15 (0.00-0.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean 2.0</td>
<td>0.13 (0.13-0.23)</td>
<td>0.08 (0.37-0.45)</td>
<td>0.63 (0.00-0.03)</td>
<td>0.49 (0.00-0.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean X</td>
<td>0.03 (0.97-1.00)</td>
<td>0.06 (0.39-0.59)</td>
<td>0.71 (0.00-0.03)</td>
<td>0.39 (0.00-0.03)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: This study provides evidence of external validation of the newly proposed modification of the Boolean ACR/EULAR remission criteria; however, we found that the Boolean2.0 criteria did not exhibit agreement with index-based remission definitions in the Indian population from our centre. Our results replicate the findings that a Boolean definition using 2 cm as threshold for patient global assessment of disease activity (Boolean2.0) yields better agreement than Boolean [2]. With the validation Boolean2.0 in our settings, our data support the revised ACR/EULAR remission criteria as a target in clinical practice.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4372

VALIDATION OF REVISED 2022 ACR/EULAR REMISSION CRITERIA FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. B. Prasad1, V. Dhir1, G. Naidu1, S. K. Sharma1, A. Sharma1, S. Jain1. 1Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, Chandigarh, India

Background: Remission has become a key target in the management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients [1]. In 2022, American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) has revised the Boolean based remission criteria in RA by increasing the patient global assessment of disease activity (PIGA) threshold to ≤2cm (range 0–10 cm). This has not been validated in an Asian Indian cohort of RA patients [2,3].

Objectives: To validate ACR/EULAR remission criteria for RA: 2022 revision in Asian Indian RA patients by using data of an ongoing clinical trial.

Methods: For the purpose of validating the remission criteria, data generated at our center from an ongoing clinical trial (SMART study) which enrolled patients with active seropositive RA, who were 18–60 years old with disease duration ≤5 years was used. This is a 24-week multicenter, open-label RCT to compare efficacy of split versus non-split doses of methotrexate (MTX). For this analysis, data from both groups was analyzed together. Patients are started on oral MTX 15mg/week which was escalated every two weeks by 5mg, to reach a maximum dose of 25mg/week by 4 weeks. At the end of 16 weeks, if Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28) >3.2 another DMARD can be added. Disease activity was measured using the DAS28, Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI) and Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) at 24 weeks. Proportion of patients achieving remission with index-based (SDAI≤3.3 & CDAI≤2.8) and ACR/EULAR Boolean-based criteria was compared. The proposed PIGA threshold of 2cm (Boolean2.0) (range 0–10cm) was compared with the original threshold of 1 cm (Boolean1.0) as well as with 1.5 cm, 2.5 cm and no PIGA (Boolean X) for remission. Agreement (Cohen's kappa) was assessed between Boolean-based and index-based criteria.

RESULTS:
For the purpose of validating the remission criteria, data generated at our center from an ongoing clinical trial (SMART study) which enrolled patients with active seropositive RA, who were 18–60 years old with disease duration ≤5 years was used. This is a 24-week multicenter, open-label RCT to compare efficacy of split versus non-split doses of methotrexate (MTX). For this analysis, data from both groups was analyzed together. Patients are started on oral MTX 15mg/week which was escalated every two weeks by 5mg, to reach a maximum dose of 25mg/week by 4 weeks. At the end of 16 weeks, if Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28) >3.2 another DMARD can be added. Disease activity was measured using the DAS28, Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI) and Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) at 24 weeks. Proportion of patients achieving remission with index-based (SDAI≤3.3 & CDAI≤2.8) and ACR/EULAR Boolean-based criteria was compared. The proposed PIGA threshold of 2cm (Boolean2.0) (range 0–10cm) was compared with the original threshold of 1 cm (Boolean1.0) as well as with 1.5 cm, 2.5 cm and no PIGA (Boolean X) for remission. Agreement (Cohen's kappa) was assessed between Boolean-based and index-based criteria.

Trial registration number: CTRI/2021/02/031361.

Trial: This study included 125 patients, majority being females (105 (84%)), with mean (±SD) age of 42.8 (±10.8) years and mean (±SD) disease duration of 2.2 (±1.5) years. At 24-weeks, using the index based (SDAI and CDAI) criteria, remission was achieved in 24.8% and 24% of patients respectively. Among the various Boolean criteria, remission occurred in only 21.6% using the original Boolean1.0. This increased with Boolean2.0 to 23.2%, and further increased with Boolean2.5 and Boolean X (Figure 1). The highest agreement between SDAI or CDAI-defined remission was found to occur with Boolean2.0-defined remission rather than Boolean1.0 (or 1.5, 2.5 or X) defined remission (Table 1). Also, there was strong agreement (0.89 (95% CI 0.79–0.99)) between SDAI and CDAI-defined remission criteria.

Conclusion: We validated the performance of revised 2022 ACR/EULAR remission criteria for RA in Asian Indian RA patients and found the higher agreement of Boolean2.0 (rather than Boolean1.0) with index-based remission cutoffs.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Kappa values with 95% CIs representing agreement between modified Boolean remission definition and SDAI/CDAI defined remission for RA patients at 24-weeks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kappa Value (95% CI)</th>
<th>All patients (n=125)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDAI</td>
<td>CDAI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean 1.0</td>
<td>0.82 (0.70 – 0.94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean 1.5</td>
<td>0.82 (0.70 – 0.94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean 2.0</td>
<td>0.83 (0.71 – 0.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean 2.5</td>
<td>0.81 (0.69 – 0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean X</td>
<td>0.81 (0.69 – 0.93)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CAN RAHMENATITIS IMPACT OF DISEASE (RAID) SCORE BE USED AS A PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOME BASED TARGET IN A TREAT-TO-TARGET APPROACH: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY FROM INDIA

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis, Treat to target

P. S. Kumar1, A. Kumar P H2, M. K. Ganji3, M. Gopalakrishnan1. 1All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Internal Medicine, Jodhpur, India

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis impact of disease (RAID) is a well validated patient reported outcome (PRO) in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) [1]. RAID score involves the active participation of patients and can be easily calculated at the comfort of home with minimal training and assistance or while the patient is waiting to see the doctor in the outpatient department. It is helpful in giving an idea of the overall well-being of the patient and takes into account sleep and depression which are the unmet needs in RA treatment. However, the effectiveness of RAID as a patient reported outcome and the optimal RAID score which can be used as a target for treat-to-target approach has not been studied in the Indian population.

Objectives: To determine if the RAID score can be used as a PRO target along with a clinician reported disease activity score for managing patients with RA under a treat-to-target approach. To establish an acceptable cut-off for the RAID score which can be used as a target in patients with RA and validate it against disease activity indices.

Methods: We prospectively enrolled patients with RA diagnosed using ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria in our tertiary care centre, at Jodhpur, India from March 2021 to May 2022 and followed them over 6 months after their written informed consent and Ethics Committee approval (AIIMS/IEC/2021/3370). DAS28, patient assessment of global disease activity (PIGA), Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI), Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI), RAID score and modified Boolean indices (2) were calculated at enrolment and 6 months. Binary logistic regression analysis was used to determine if RAID could reliably predict DAS28 <3.2 and Boolean remission indices at enrolment and 6 months. DAS28 ≤3.2, CDAI ≤10 and SDAI ≤11 were considered as the target as per EULAR recommendations, with remission and low disease activity as acceptable goals to achieve while treating patients with RA.

Results: We included 156 patients with a mean age of 47.0±12.3 years, 86.5% were females. Among them, 23.4% patients had DAS28 ≤3.2, 11.7% had SDAI ≤11, 13.6% had CDAI ≤10 while only 0.6% were in Boolean and Boolean2.0 remission. At 6 months, 110 patients were followed up and among them, 78.6% had achieved DAS28 ≤3.2, 66.0% had achieved SDAI ≤11, 68.9% had achieved CDAI ≤10 while only 19.9% had achieved remission according to Boolean remission criteria. However, Boolean2.0 criteria showed that 20.9% were in remission. RAID score could reliably and independently predict DAS28, SDAI, CDAI, PIGA and Boolean2.0 criteria. We constructed multiple Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves to determine the optimal cut-off of RAID for defining low disease activity and remission using SDAI, CDAI, DAS28 and Boolean2.0 remission criteria (Figure 1). We noted that the RAID score of 2.32 had 85.7% sensitivity and 76.1% specificity in predicting SDAI ≤11 and 87.5% sensitivity and 74.3% specificity in predicting CDAI ≤10. Further, RAID score of 2.32 had a sensitivity of 86.4% and specificity of 72.5% in predicting DAS28 ≤3.2 and a sensitivity of 55.9% and specificity of 81.2% in predicting remission as per Boolean2.0 criteria.

Conclusion: RAID score can be used as a reliable and validated PRO in patients with RA. We also propose a cut-off of a composite RAID score of 2.32 as an additional target to achieve while treating patients with RA in the Indian population.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s): 21:35 Art: 06_EUROAB-2023-PO05-06

OUTCOME BASED TARGET IN A TREAT-TO-TARGET (RAID) SCORE BE USED AS A PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOME BASED TARGET IN A TREAT-TO-TARGET APPROACH: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY FROM INDIA

FUNCTION AND PAIN IN KNEE JOINTS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AFTER TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Karim1, S. Lashkina2, T. Nurakhmetov2, I. Gilmudtinov3, A. Nurakhmetov4, S. Artashhev4, I. Akhtiamov5, 1Kazan Medical Academy, Traumatology, Orthopedics and Military Surgery, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; 2Kazan
State Medical University, Hospital Therapy, Kazan, Russian Federation; 2Republican Clinical Hospital, Orthopedics No. 2, Kazan, Russian Federation; 3Kazan State Medical University, Traumatology, Orthopedic and Military Surgery, Kazan, Russian Federation

Background: Total knee arthroplasty (TKA) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is considered the most effective intervention reducing knee pain and improving knee function. However, higher risk of late complications and worse surgery outcomes may be observed in patients with active disease.[1]

Objectives: To study the knee joint function and pain before and after the TKA in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: 69 RA patients (10 (14.5%) males and 59 (85.5%) females) with an average age of 59 [52; 64] years were included into the study group. 81 osteoarthritis (OA) patients (58 (68.6%) males and 33 (31.4%) females) aged 66 [54; 80] years, were included into the control group. 23.2% of RA patients had a highly active disease at the moment of intervention. All patients underwent cemented TKA and completed Oxford Knee score (OKS) before the surgery, after discharge and 1 and 3 months after the surgery. Knee pain was assessed using VAS score also before intervention, straight after and 3 and 12 months after the surgery. All analyses were performed using SPSS version 23.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA). A p value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Patients in RA group had significantly lower preoperative OKS results, than OA patients (25.0 [23.5; 27.0] versus 29.0 [26.5; 30.0], p=0.00, Mann-Whitney) as well as lower postoperative OKS results before the discharge (34.0 [34; 38] versus 40.0 [35; 40], p=0.00, Mann-Whitney). 3 months after the intervention OKS scores were significantly lower in RA group (43.0 [42; 44] versus 43.0 [42; 44], p=0.00, Mann-Whitney). The same was found for OKS scores 12 months after the surgery (44.0 [44; 47] versus 44.0 [44; 47], p=0.0,382, Mann-Whitney). Pain intensity in RA patients varied from 60 to 90 mm according to VAS prior to surgery and was lower than among OA patients (80.0 [80; 90] versus 90.0 [80; 100], p=0.00, Mann-Whitney) which can be explained by patients’ higher pain tolerance due to “usual” pain in RA. The same tendency was observed immediately after the intervention (55.0 [50; 60] versus 60.0 [50; 70], p=0.00, Mann-Whitney). 1 year after the intervention RA patients reported higher VAS scores probably due to RA activity (20.0 [20; 20] versus 10.0 [10; 15], p=0.00, Mann-Whitney).

Conclusion: The effectiveness of TKA for pain reduction and improvement of knee function in patients with RA was comparable to that among patients with OA. RA patients had significantly lower preoperative OKS results, than OA patients but high OKS results were observed in both groups 1 and 3 months after surgery. Pain intensity in RA patients varied from 60 to 90 mm according to VAS prior to surgery and was lower than among OA patients. 1 year after the intervention RA patients reported higher VAS scores probably due to RA activity.

REFERENCE:
[1] Lee DK, Kim HJ, Cho IY, Lee DH. Infection and revision rates following months after the intervention they did not differ between the patients with RA.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0213

EQ5D SCARES ARE NOT AFFECTED BY AGING

Keywords: Outcome measures, Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

I. Yoshii1, Nishiya2, Yosii Clinic, Mucusloskeletal Medicine, Shimoto City, Japan

Background: Estimating cost-effectiveness in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has received increasing attention in recent years as a large number of new drugs have been developed and generated through huge development costs and soaring drug cost.


Results: A total of 419 patients in whom 113 were male and 306 were female, were recruited in the study. Mean age at baseline was 68.1 and mean follow-up period was 65.3 months. Vx, Vy, and Vz significantly correlated with SDAI at all periods of BL, 1Y, and LT. Vx significantly correlated with HAQ-DI at all periods, whereas Vx and Vy significantly correlated with PS-VAS at all periods. Vx significantly correlated with SDAI at all periods of BL, 1Y and LT. Mean dHAQ and dSHS were defined as the dependent factor, and the other parameters including the three coordinates of JIV were defined as the independent variable. Then, correlation between these parameters were statistically examined also using linear regression analysis.

Conclusion: These results demonstrated that Vx, Vy, and Vz suggested significant correlation with other clinical parameters, especially Vz which represents affected joints in the lower extremities significantly correlates with important patient-reported outcomes.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6309

AB0214

VALIDATION OF JOINT INDEX VECTOR FOR PATIENT WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Validation, Outcome measures, Rheumatoid arthritis

I. Yoshii1, S. Nishiya2, Yosii Clinic, Mucusloskeletal Medicine, Shimoto City, Japan; 2Kurashiki Medical Center, Rheumatology, Kurashiki, Japan

Background: There are only few indices that can estimate joint involvement in both upper and lower extremities in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Objectives: One indicator can measure involvement on both upper and lower joint and large and small joint. The index developed by Nishiyama is called “Joint Index Vector”, which can represent the affected state of upper and lower joints as well as large and small joints by using three-dimensional coordinates. The aim of this study is to validate the efficacy and availability in clinical practice using monitoring data from RA patients.

Methods: Patients who started treatment for RA after January 2016 and whose Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI), Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI), Pain Score with Visual Analog Scale (PS-VAS), and EuroQol 5th dimension (EQ5D) were monitored at each visit and Sharp/van der Heijde score (SHS) was monitored annually were included in the study. The JIV represents the joint prevalence of the upper limb in X coordinates (Vx), the joint prevalence of the lower limb in Y coordinates (Vy), and the difference in joint prevalence between large and small joints in Z coordinates (Vz).[1]. The relationship between each clinical parameter and three elements of the JIV was evaluated statistically. Each parameter was defined as the dependent factor, and the three elements of the JIV were defined as the independent factor, and correlation was examined by linear regression analysis. Three elements of the JIV were defined as the independent factor, and correlation was examined by linear regression analysis. These procedures were performed at the first visit (BL), 1 year after the first visit (1Y), and at te last visit (LT). Additionally, the change in the HAQ score and SHS at 1Y and LT. dHAQ and dSHS were defined as the dependent factor, and the other parameters including the three coordinates of JIV were defined as the independent variable. Then, correlation between these parameters were statistically examined also using linear regression analysis.

Results: A total of 419 patients in whom 113 were male and 306 were female, were recruited in the study. Mean age at baseline was 68.1 and mean follow-up period was 65.3 months. Vx, Vy, and Vz significantly correlated with SDAI at all periods of BL, 1Y, and LT. Vx significantly correlated with HAQ-DI at all periods, whereas Vx and Vy significantly correlated with PS-VAS at all periods. Vx significantly correlated with SHS at 1Y and LT. Vz significantly correlated with EQ5D at 1Y and LT. Mean dHAQ and dSHS were defined as the dependent factor, and the other parameters including the three coordinates of JIV were defined as the independent variable. Then, correlation between these parameters were statistically examined also using linear regression analysis.

Conclusion: These results demonstrated that Vx, Vy, and Vz suggested significant correlation with other clinical parameters, especially Vx which represents affected joints in the lower extremities significantly correlates with important patient-reported outcomes.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.842

AB0215

MAGNITUDE OF THE INFLUENCE BY JOINT INVOLVEMENT ON HEALTH ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE DISABILITY INDEX SCORE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Outcome measures, Validation
Background: The Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI) is the best-known index for measuring functional capacity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). This index is well known to be influenced by disease activity, aging, joint deformities and pain. However, these parameters are related to each other and it remains unclear how joint involvement affects HAQ-DI in RA patients.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to determine how joint involvement affects HAQ-DI in RA patients using a retrospective cohort study.

Methods: Patients with RA who have been monitored since the first visit for tenderness and swelling of the whole body and limb joints, patient’s global assessment (PGA), evaluator’s global assessment (EGA), pain score using a visual analog scale (PS), and HAQ-DI at every visit were included in the study. The patient’s mean age, HAQ score, PGA, EGA, C-reactive protein (CRP), and Sharp/van der Heijde score (SHS) were collected. Joint Index Vector (JIV) was used as an index of joint lesions. JIV represents the joint prevalence of the upper limb in X coordinates (Vx), the joint prevalence of the lower limb in Y coordinates (Vy), and the difference in joint prevalence between large and small joints in Z coordinates (Vz) [1]. The average value of the triaxial coordinates of the JIV was also collected. As a preliminary study, the correlation between the mean HAQ score of all cases collected and other parameters such as patient gender and serum albumin level (ALB) was evaluated using multivariate linear regression analysis. Statistical significance was set as less than 5.0%.

Results: A total of 601 patients in these 166 males and 435 females data were used in the study. The HAQ score positively correlated with male gender, older age, higher SHS, higher PGA, lower EGA, higher PS, higher Vx and higher Vz with beta values of 0.09, 0.22, 0.17, 0.19, -0.12, 0.17, 0.07, and 0.11, respectively. The HAQ score at baseline positively correlated with older age, higher PGA, higher CRP, higher PS, higher SHS, and higher Vx at baseline with beta values of 0.26, 0.13, 0.21, 0.14, 0.10, and 0.26, respectively. The HAQ score at one year after the baseline positively correlated with older age, higher PS, and higher SHS at the baseline, and annual change of the PS with beta values of 0.26, 0.25, 0.22, and 0.15, respectively. The annual change of the HAQ score positively correlated with higher SHS and higher Vx at the baseline, and higher annual change of PS, Vx, Vy, and Vz with beta values of 0.04, 0.11, 0.067, 0.43, and 0.09, respectively.

Conclusion: These results indicate that there is a close association between HAQ scores and aging, degree of pain, and joint deformities, and in addition, joint involvement also influences HAQ scores. In particular, changes in HAQ scores are governed by joint involvement. The effect of disease activity on HAQ scores will be largely governed by joint involvement.

REFERENCE:
Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Telemedicine

Background: Therapeutic adjustment is of major importance in the treat to target strategy proposed for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). This aspect can be challenged in teleconsultation given the multiplicity of treatments, efficacy/safety issues of RA therapies and the absence of clinical examination. These could lead the physician to prefer modifying the treatment in face-to-face visit rather than in teleconsultation.

Methods: To evaluate how clinicians adapted RA therapies in teleconsultation.

Results: Retrospective monocentric routine care cross-sectional study conducted in the Rheumatology department of Cochin Hospital. We reviewed electronic medical report (EMR) to identify all teleconsultations performed by telephone or video consultation in a 2-year period and extract data of interest. We compared treatment adaptation performed in teleconsultation to treatment adaptation that requested a face-to-face visit following teleconsultation. Treatment adaptation was defined by the introduction of a new treatment, modification of treatment dose and/or route or discontinuation of the treatment. This treatment adaptation may be motivated by efficacy or safety issues. Different treatment classes were considered: corticosteroids, methotrexate and targeted biologic/synthetic therapies (b/tsDMARDs).

Results: We included 187 patients (150 females, 80%) who had a teleconsultation performed, with a mean age of 58.1±16 years and a disease duration of 13±11 years. Positive rheumatoid factor and positive anti-CCP antibodies were detected in 125 (67%) and 139 (74%) patients respectively. 96 patients (51%) had erosive disease. A total of 56 therapeutic adaptations were collected: 34 were performed in teleconsultation and 22 requested face-to-face visits (Table 1). Demographics and RA disease characteristics did not differ between patients who had therapeutic adaptations performed during teleconsultation or during face-to-face visits. Corticosteroid and methotrexate were more likely to be adapted in teleconsultation compared to face-to-face visits (16/34, 47% vs 2/22, 9%, p=0.003 and 15/34, 44% vs 1/22, 5% p=0.002, respectively). Interestingly, methotrexate was adapted in teleconsultation for both efficacy and safety issues, leading to dose increase/reduction, switch from oral to subcutaneous route, or drug discontinuation. In the other hand, targeted therapies were preferentially initiated or modified during face-to-face visits which all included clinical examination, lab tests and power doppler ultrasonography (19/22, 86% vs. 3/34, 9%, p<0.001).

Conclusion: Corticosteroids and methotrexate were mainly adapted in teleconsultation without requesting a face-to-face visit, supporting their flexibility in teleconsultation and clinician’s confidence in their use, even at a distance from the patient. In the other hand, b/tsDMARDs were preferentially adapted in face to face consultation, highlighting the need of a careful evaluation of disease activity by clinical examination before modifying this class.

Table 1. Therapeutic adaptations performed in teleconsultation or in face-to-face visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adapted therapy</th>
<th>Adaptation</th>
<th>Cause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teleconsultation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=34)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids</td>
<td>Introduction (n=3)</td>
<td>Disease flare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=16)</td>
<td>Dose increase (n=7)</td>
<td>Disease flare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dose reduction (n=6)</td>
<td>Low disease activity or remission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>Introduction (n=3)</td>
<td>Active disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=15)</td>
<td>Dose increase (n=2)</td>
<td>Active disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swith from oral to SC</td>
<td>Active disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dose reduction (n=2)</td>
<td>Increased liver enzymes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discontinuation (n=5)</td>
<td>Asthenia (n=3), nausea (n=3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b/tsDMARDs</td>
<td>Introduction of JAKI (n=1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=3)</td>
<td>JAKI dose reduction (n=2)</td>
<td>Age (n=1) and CV risk factors (n=1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Face-to-face visits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=22)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids</td>
<td>Corticosteroid infusion</td>
<td>Active disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=2)</td>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>Swith from oral to SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=11)</td>
<td>b/tsDMARDs</td>
<td>Introduction (n=3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=19)</td>
<td>Swith to a new b/tsDMARD (n=16)</td>
<td>Active disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES: NIL.</td>
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<td>Acknowledgements: NIL.</td>
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<td>Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.</td>
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<td>DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3041</td>
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Keywords: Remission, Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life

Results: 130 RA patients were recruited (Table 1), 69% were female, mean age of 60.1 yrs and disease duration of 11.5 yrs. There was no significant difference in seropositivity between responder and non-responder groups (~75% RF+, ~69% ACPA+), 69% were treated with advanced therapy (biologic/targeted synthetic DMARDs), primarily TNFis.

• 26% of patients were in CR, 32% in LDA & 42% NR. Significant differences in QoL-primary endpoint were noted between CR/LDA patients vs NR group. The difference in QoL index score (EQ5D-5L) for patients in CR and LDA vs those in remission alone, suggest QoL is considerably higher in patients in CR compared even to those in LDA.

• Joint pain (VAS), fatigue (FACT-F) and function (HAQ-DI) scores all yielded strong negative correlations, indicating that CR/LDA patients had significantly better outcomes than those with MDA/HDA (Figure 1). A similar pattern was seen amongst patients in CR vs LDA, although significance was not achieved.

• In addition, more impaired productivity was noted in CR vs CR/LDA regarding ability to work and perform regular ‘non-work’ activities.

• Comorbidities were common, affecting over 90% of the non-responder group and 74% of patients in CR. The NR group had higher proportions of patients with cardiac, gastrointestinal, psychiatric and vascular disorders vs patients in CR/LDA.

• With respect to HRU, more patients in the NR group required medical visits for both RA and non-RA reasons vs patients in CR/LDA.

• Of the 54 patients in MDA/HDA, the study found there was a plan to add or switch DMARD, for only 32% of patients.

Table 1. Patient Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RG1 N=34</th>
<th>RG 2 N=76</th>
<th>NR N=54</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>57.1 (12.91)</td>
<td>57.6 (13.13)</td>
<td>63.7 (13.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD), yrs</td>
<td>23 (676)</td>
<td>51 (671)</td>
<td>38 (70.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, mean</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disease, yrs, mean (SD)</td>
<td>12.1 (10.5)</td>
<td>11.2 (11.4)</td>
<td>11.3 (11.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities, n (%)</td>
<td>25 (73.5)</td>
<td>36 (85.7)</td>
<td>49 (90.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed, n (%)</td>
<td>19 (55.8)</td>
<td>37 (46.8)</td>
<td>11 (20.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment sick leaves due to RA, n (%)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.58)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.57)</td>
<td>0.6 (1.121)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking status: Never</td>
<td>17 (50.0)</td>
<td>35 (46.1)</td>
<td>18 (33.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smoked, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Units, mean (SD)</td>
<td>4.0 (5.98)</td>
<td>3.3 (6.31)</td>
<td>3.8 (6.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Activity (CDAI score)</td>
<td>1.21 (0.883)</td>
<td>4.06 (3.088)</td>
<td>19.46 (11.162)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^ Patients in either full or part time employment * Sick leave in the past 6 months
Background: Continuation of methotrexate (MTX) treatment is recommended in both MTX responder and non-responder elderly-onset RA (EORA) patients. However, there are insufficient data on its effectiveness and long-term safety, although we have previously reported that a treat-to-target (T2T) strategy targeting low disease activity (LDA) is safe and effective in the prospective CRANE cohort of MTX-naive EORA patients [1, 2].

Objectives: To identify factors predicting failure to achieve LDA by month 6 in EORA patients starting MTX, and effectiveness and safety of MTX over 5 years in MTX responders and non-responders.

Methods: MTX-naive patients (mean age 73.8 years, n=163) from the CRANE cohort [2] had started MTX with moderate-to-high disease activity. Maximum dose of MTX was 0.19±0.06 mg/kg/week with folate supplementation. Treatment was adjusted to target LDA. Treatment intensification using biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for EUFLAR-unresponsive patients by month 3 and moderate-high disease activity at month 6 was applied. MTX non-responders was defined as no LDA and/or initiation of bDMARDs by month 6. Primary outcomes were achievement of Simplified disease activity index (SDAI) ≤3.3 (LDA) and discontinuation of MTX due to adverse events (AEs). Secondary outcomes were achievement of remission and Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI) ≤0.5, and incidence of serious AEs.

Results: At week 24, 77 (47.2%) patients achieved LDA without bDMARDs (MTX responders), and of the remaining 86 (MTX non-responders), 35 (21.5%) had started bDMARDs by month 6 and 51 (31.3%) had moderate-to-high disease activity on MTX at week 24. At baseline, MTX non-responders had longer disease duration, higher SDAI and HAQ-DI, higher prevalence of erosion score ≥2 (modified total sharp score) and chronic lung disease (CLD), but baseline glucocorticoid use was similar. Multivariable analysis identified CLD as a predictor of MTX non-respondiveness. Regarding long-term outcomes, 14 (18.2%) of the 77 MTX responders and 55 (64%) of the 86 MTX non-responders received intensified treatment with bDMARDs within 5 years. MTX was continued in 65 (94.2%) of the 69 patients at the start of bDMARDs. The cumulative rate of MTX discontinuation due to AEs was similar in MTX responders and non-responders (34.0% and 33.1%) as was the time to discontinuation of MTX due to AEs. The time to discontinuation of MTX for any reason was also similar. SDAI LDA and HAQ-DI ≤0.5 achievement by year 5 applying the last observation carried forward (LOCF) method was 92.2% and 74.0% respectively for MTX responders and 77.9% and 53.9% for MTX non-responders, respectively (p=0.01 for SDAI LDA and 0.001 for HAQ-DI). SDAI remission at year 5 by LOCF was similar (62.6% and 52.3%) in MTX responders-vs-non-responders. The time to serious AEs was also similar, as was the cumulative incidence of serious AEs over the 5 years was 32.6% and 44.3% in MTX responders-vs-non-responders.

Conclusion: CLD was a predictive factor of non-achievement of LDA by month 6 in EORA patients starting MTX, and early application of bDMARDs may be inadequate for treating EORA with CLD at baseline. The 5-year long-term outcome for MTX responders was excellent, and continuation of MTX was tolerable even in MTX non-responders. Treatment intensification on MTX could be an optimal T2T strategy for EORA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Hironori Baba: None declared, Takahiko Sugihara


AB0220

THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LAUGHTER AND FRAILTY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS FROM THE FAIRY STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

M. Suzuki1, T. Kojima2, Y. Ohashi1, R. Sato1, D. Kirihara1, M. Maeda1, K. Kishimoto1, K. Terabe1, S. Asai1, S. Imagama1. 1Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Nagoya, Japan; 2Nagoya Medical Center, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Nagoya, Japan

Background: In the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), advances in drug therapy have led to better control of disease activity. However, RA is a systemic chronic inflammatory disease that causes frailty, a fragile state of mind and body. It is important for RA patients, who are prone to physical anxiety due to poor disease control and frailty, to be able to smile and live their lives. While there is anxiety about the disease, daily laughter may be helpful in resolving anxiety and preventing frailty. Although there have been reports on laughter and health, there are no reports on RA and laughter, so we decided to conduct a new study on laughter.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to investigate the association between disease activity, laughter, and frailty in RA patients.

Methods: Data were obtained from participants in the Fairy Study (The prospective cohort study of frailty in patients with rheumatoid arthritis to extend healthy life expectancy), a prospective cohort study of frailty in RA patients at Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine. A frailty questionnaire was administered to 243 RA patients from February 2021 to January 2022. Patients’ subjective assessment of Kihon checklist for frailty (KCL), the 25-question Geriatric Locomotive Function Scale (GLFS-25), Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI), Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II), and frequency of laughter were investigated using a self-administered questionnaire. The frequency of laughter was divided into four levels: “Almost every day”, “1-5 days per week”, “1-3 days per month”, and “Almost every day” and “1-5 days per week” and “Almost ever or almost never” [2], and the association with each item was analyzed by analysis of variance. The frequency of laughter was divided into two groups: “Almost every day, 1-5 days per week” and “1-3 days per month” and “Almost ever or almost never” [2], and multivariate logistic analysis was conducted to examine factors affecting laughter.

Results: Mean age (standard deviation) was 65.5±10.4 years at baseline. 85.6% were female, duration of disease was 13.1±9.9 years. Disease activity score (DAS28)-CRP was 1.92±0.84, KCL was 4.7±3.7, GLFS-25 was 15.1±13.6, HAQ-DI was 0.37±0.51, and BDI-II was 10.7±8.0. Regarding drug therapy, 67.9% of the patients used Methotrexate and 23.0% used glucocorticoid. The frequency of laughter was divided into two groups: “Almost every day, 1-5 days per week” and “1-3 days per month” and “Almost ever or almost never”, and multivariate logistic analysis was conducted to examine factors affecting laughter.

Interventions not only for disease activity but also for frailty may be helpful in achieving a healthy state with appropriate interventions [2]. We hypothesize that interventions such as laughter may contribute to reducing disease activity and improving frailty in RA patients. It is important for RA patients, who are prone to physical anxiety due to poor disease control and frailty, to be able to smile and live their lives.

References:

AB0221

A STUDY OF REVERSIBILITY OF FRAILTY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS FROM THE T-FLAG STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Suzuki1,2, Y. Sobue3, Y. Ohashi4, R. Sato1, D. Kirihara1, M. Maeda4, K. Kishimoto1, K. Terabe1, S. Asai1, S. Imagama1. 1Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Nagoya, Japan; 2Jcho Kani Tonom Hospital, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Kani, Japan; 3Japanese Red Cross Nagoya Daiichi Hospital, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Nagoya, Japan; 4Kokachi Municipal Hospital, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Yokkaichi, Japan

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic chronic inflammatory disease that causes joint symptoms due to inflammation in bones and joints, leading to physical dysfunction due to loss of activities of daily living. With advances in the treatment of RA, it has become possible to achieve the goal of treatment to a state in which joint destruction causes little deformity and no physical disability. However, RA is a disease that causes not only physical dysfunction but also generalized fatigue due to chronic inflammation. Therefore, there is a decrease in patient satisfaction due to pain and physical fatigue, which may lead to a decline in daily life. Frailty, a state of physical and mental frailty due to decreased physical and mental function and social connectedness, is a condition that can easily lead to functional disability in daily living and the outcome of requiring long-term care [1]. RA is known to cause pain and limited range of motion of joints as the disease activity worsens, which may contribute to frailty. Since frailty is reversible and patients can return to a healthy state with appropriate interventions [2], it is expected that appropriate interventions will help maintain and improve the functions of daily living.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to investigate factors associated with improvement from frailty in RA patients.

Methods: Of 460 RA patients (a observational study, T-FLAG study) who completed a questionnaire on frailty including the Kihon Checklist (KCL) from June 1st, 2020 to August 2022, 321 patients who were Frailty/Pre-frailty at baseline were included. After 2 years, patients who had improved from frailty to pre-frailty/robust or pre-frailty to robust were included in the improvement group, and the other patients were included in the non-improvement group. Multivariate analysis was used to examine the factors associated with improvement at 2 years. The cutoff values of the factors related to improvement were calculated by ROC analysis.

Results: Mean age (standard deviation) was 67.1±13 years at baseline, 76.7% were female, duration of disease was 12.5±10 years, and BDI was 22.1±4.0. There were 83 patients (25.9%) in the improvement group. There were significant differences in age at baseline (63 vs. 68 years), DAS28-ESR (2.57 vs. 3.06), HAQ-DI (0.19 vs. 0.65), and KCL score (7.0 vs. 8.7) in the improvement group vs. the non-improvement group. There was no significant difference in gender (76% vs. 77%), disease duration (10 vs. 12 years) and BMI (21.8 vs. 22.3 years). Multivariate analysis revealed that age (OR: 0.97, 95% CI: 0.95-0.99) and HAQ-DI (OR: 0.19, 95% CI: 0.08-0.42) were independent factors associated with improvement (Table 1). The age and HAQ-DI cutoff values related to improvement were 72 years (sensitivity 73.5%, specificity 44.1%) and 0.25 points (sensitivity 78.3%, specificity 82.4%).

Table 1 Factors associated with the frequency of laughter in patients with rheumatoid arthritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Disease duration</th>
<th>BMI</th>
<th>KCL</th>
<th>HAQ-DI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Model 1</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.84-1.02</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.93-1.01</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.93-1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 2</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.84-1.02</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.93-1.01</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.93-1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 3</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.84-1.02</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.93-1.01</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.93-1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 4</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.84-1.02</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.93-1.01</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.93-1.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Theories about frailty

1. Theories about frailty

2. Theories about frailty

3. Theories about frailty

4. Theories about frailty

5. Theories about frailty

6. Theories about frailty

7. Theories about frailty

8. Theories about frailty
specificity 58.9%). The cutoff value of HAQ-DI was used to examine the rate of improvement group in the two groups. In the HAQ-DI≤0.25 group, 40.1% of patients were in the improvement group, while only 11.5% were in the improvement group in the HAQ-DI>0.25 group, indicating a significant difference between the two groups (P<0.001).

**Conclusion:** Age and HAQ-DI were found to be indices for improvement in RA patients. Since frailty is a state in which physical and mental vitality declines with age, it is important to know age, which is a reversible state of frailty. In addition, among the multifactorial components of frailty, a low HAQ-DI, an assessment of physical function, may indicate the possibility of improving from a frailty state with appropriate intervention.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Factors associated with improvement from frailty/pre-frailty.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>P values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.95–0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.45–1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.89–1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.97–1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.89–1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX use</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.74–2.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDMARDs use</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50–0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid use</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.26–1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.06–0.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BMI: Body mass index; DAS28: disease activity score with 28 joint counts; ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate; MTX: methotrexate; TDMARDs: targeted disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; HAQ-DI: Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2586
common RA patient subset in clinical practice, possibly leading to refractory RA, defined as resistance to multiple drugs with different mechanisms of action and persistence of physical symptoms and/or high disease activity (hDA). Real-life studies examining the impact of switching/swapping versus not switching/swapping therapies in RA active patients are still limited.

**Objectives:** To evaluate predictors of therapy switch/swap in a population of patients with refractory RA who already failed ≥ 1 biological/targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (b/tsDMARD), not reaching predefined target at 6-months after starting subsequent lines of DMARDs.

**Methods:** This single-center study retrospectively included 117 patients evaluated at our Clinic from 2019 to 2022. During subsequent 3- and 6-months T2T visits, disease activity through 28-joint disease activity score (DAS28), organ damage, treatment changes and composite disease activity indices were recorded. Chi square and Fisher’s exact test was used for comparison of dichotomous variables and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) for continuous variables. Threshold of statistical significance was defined as a p-value < 0.05.

**Results:** 66 patients (56.4%) did not achieve remission or low-disease activity target 6 months after starting b/tsDMARD; among them, 47/66 (71.2%) were in MDA, 11/66 (16.6%) in HDA and 8/66 (12.1%) were lost at follow up. 24/66 patients (36.4%) switched/swapped therapy at 6-months follow up. Longer disease duration correlated with treatment continuation (p=0.04). HDA at 6-months was a strong predictor of treatment change (p=0.009), as well as drug suspension for all reasons (e.g., safety issues, lack of therapeutic efficacy reported in medical records; p < 0.001). Major results from ANOVA are summarized in Figure 1: Evaluator’s Global Assessment (EGA) at 6-months significantly correlated with treatment switch (p=0.007), while patients taking drugs from more time tend to be switched less frequently (p=0.01). Remarkably, we did not find any correlation between the variations of DAS28, Global Health (GH), swollen joint count (SJC), tender joint count (TJC), Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) for Pain, steroid dependence. Similarly, baseline erosions, seropositivity, or number of prior DMARDs did not influence the outcome.

**Conclusion:** In our retrospective cohort study, drug switching seems not linked to a more severe disease. Examining disease activity indexes, neither baseline data nor PRs, but only 6-months EGA, appears statistically significant. While a number of explanations might be offered, including limitations of the current RA measurement tools, such as DAS28, and the limited sample size, our findings are concerning, suggesting that probably, in real-practice, a sort of physician “general impression” rather than objective findings of disease activity still guide therapeutic switching.

**REFERENCE:**


**Table 1. Cox regression analysis hazard ratios for death of any cause and cardiovascular events of non-invasive surrogate markers of atherosclerosis.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardiovascular event</th>
<th>Hazard ratio, (95% confidence interval), p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death of any cause</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univariate Multivariate</td>
<td>Univariate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAC</td>
<td>1.00(0.99-1.00) 0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>log CAC, Agatson units</td>
<td>1.10 (0.78-1.55) 0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAC Categ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>ref.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-100</td>
<td>2.47 (0.64-0.58) 0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101-400</td>
<td>2.21 (0.37-13.22) 0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;400</td>
<td>5.13 (1.03-25.41) 0.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid ultrasound</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMT, mm</td>
<td>15.40 (1.09-218.12) 0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMT &gt; 0.9mm.</td>
<td>2.77 (0.95-8.11) 0.063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid plaque</td>
<td>2.83 (0.64-12.13) 0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid stiffness</td>
<td>3.19 (1.11-9.20) 0.032</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAC: coronary calcium, IMT: intima media thickness, PWV: pulse wave velocity. Multivariate analysis is adjusted for age, smoking, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, dyslipidemia and body mass index.
**AB0225 WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE RA PRESENTATION AT DIAGNOSIS?**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Prognostic factors, Epidemiology

**D. Di Giuseppe, J. Asking, H. Westerlund, Karolinska Institute, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden**

**Background:** Researchers have mostly focused in understanding which factors influence the risk of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and its progression. However, little is known on the determinants of disease presentation at diagnosis. This is a fundamental prerequisite for studies focusing in understanding disease progression.

**Objectives:** To estimate the association between demographic and disease-related factors and high disease activity (HDA) of RA at diagnosis by a rheumatologist.

**Methods:** Data from newly diagnosed RA patients between October 2004 and May 2018 from the Epidemiological Investigation of RA study (EIRA) will be included in these analyses. The outcome of interest is high disease activity, defined as having either DAS28 ESR >5.1 or DAS28 CRP>4.6. Patients without an HDA evaluation at baseline (defined as recorded in a visit between 40 days before and 75 days after EIRA inclusion) have been excluded from the analyses. Odds ratios (ORs) and their 95% confidence intervals (CIs) of HDA were estimated through a mixed model with region as random intercept, to account for between regions variations.

**Results:** A total of 1665 patients were included in this study, of which 995 (60%) had HDA at diagnosis. In the univariate analyses, young age at diagnosis (50-59 years: OR=0.76 (0.59-1.00)), longer symptom duration (>365 days: OR= 0.51 (0.37-0.71)), and diagnosis in more recent years (≥2015: OR= 0.66 (0.48-0.91)) were inversely associated with HDA, while being underweight (BMI <18.5: OR= 2.17 (1.04-4.51)), low education (<9 years: OR= 1.41 (1.09-1.82)), and being seronegative (OR=1.78 (1.39-2.28)) had higher odds of HDA. Sex, shared epitope, and cigarette smoking were not associated with HDA at diagnosis. In the multivariable analyses, age and education were no longer associated with HDA.

**Conclusion:** In this study we observed that sex, symptoms duration, calendar time, living alone, serostatus were associated with high disease activity at diagnosis, while age, sex, education, shared epitope, and cigarette smoking were not. Younger age at diagnosis and recent diagnosis (<2015) were inversely associated with HDA at diagnosis.

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Disclosure of Interests: Cristina Corrales-Selaya: None declared, Nuria Garcia relatas: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Lilly, Amgen, and MSD., Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Novartis and Roche, Miguel A González-Gay Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Lilly, Amgen, and MSD., Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Jansen and Roche, Ibar General Portilla: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Jansen and Roche, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Jansen and Roche, Alfonso Corrales: None declared.

**AB0226 PREDICTORS OF RESPONSE AFTER CESSATION OF JAKI THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH RA**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis, Remission

**D. C. Diederen, P. Durez, L. Jenaerts, R. Westhovens, P. Verschueren, 3 Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Biostatistics and Medical Informatics Research Group, Department of Public Health, Brussels, Belgium; 2Université Catholique de Louvain, Pôle de Pathologies Rhumatismes Inflammatoires et Systémiques, Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique, Bruxelles, Belgium; 1Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Department of Rheumatology, Bruxelles, Belgium; 5Reuma-Instituut Hasselt, Department of Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium; 6Université Hospitals Leuven, Department of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium; 4KU Leuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Centre, Leuven, Belgium**

**Background:** In a previous study based on data from the Belgian register ”Tool for Administrative Reimbursement Drug Information Sharing” (TARDIS[1]), IL6 inhibitors showed a better clinical response after JAKI cessation compared to other b/tsDMARDs. However, considerable baseline differences in demographic and clinical variables, and previous exposure to advanced therapies were found between treatment groups, which could have influenced our results.

**Objectives:** We aimed to find predictors of short-term response after cessation of JAKI therapy in patients with RA.

**Methods:** Patients were selected from TARDIS for this analysis if they had stopped JAKI therapy and initiated a subsequent therapy between registration and December 2021. Patients were grouped per subsequent therapy: TNFi, Abatacept, IL6 inhibition or JAKI. Rituximab was excluded as patients are reimbursed on RA flare in Belgium. Linear and logistic regression models were constructed to establish predictors of clinical response. DAS28 change between baseline and first follow-up, DAS28 remission (DAS28<2.6) and DAS28 low disease activity (LDA, DAS28<3.2) at first follow-up were taken as dependent variables. Following variables were included in the models: age, disease duration, b/tsDMARD naive treatment group and baseline characteristics. TNFi, Abatacept, IL6 inhibition or JAKI therapy was initiated in 33% (63/193), 11% (20/193), 18% (34/193) and 39% (76/193) of patients respectively. Remission and LDA were reached in 42% (81/193) and 63% (122/193) of patients respectively. Common predictors for achieving remission and LDA were baseline HAQ and not receiving abatacept (Figure 1). Variables positively associated with a higher DAS28 change were initiation of subsequent therapy between registration and December 2021. Patients were grouped per subsequent therapy: TNFi, Abatacept, IL6 inhibition or JAKI. Rituximab was excluded as patients are reimbursed on RA flare in Belgium. Linear and logistic regression models were constructed to establish predictors of clinical response. DAS28 change between baseline and first follow-up, DAS28 remission (DAS28<2.6) and DAS28 low disease activity (LDA, DAS28<3.2) at first follow-up were taken as dependent variables. Following variables were included in the models: age, disease duration, b/tsDMARD naive treatment group and baseline characteristics. TNFi, Abatacept, IL6 inhibition or JAKI therapy was initiated in 33% (63/193), 11% (20/193), 18% (34/193) and 39% (76/193) of patients respectively. Common predictors for achieving remission and LDA were baseline HAQ and not receiving abatacept (Figure 1). Variables positively associated with a higher DAS28 change were initiation of subsequent therapy between registration and December 2021.

**Results:** In total, 193 RA patients, who had stopped JAKI therapy and had complete baseline and follow-up data, could be included. Table 1 shows baseline demographic and clinical characteristics. TNFi, Abatacept, IL6 inhibition or JAKI therapy was initiated in 33% (63/193), 11% (20/193), 18% (34/193) and 39% (76/193) of patients respectively. Remission and LDA were reached in 42% (81/193) and 63% (122/193) of patients respectively. Common predictors for achieving remission and LDA were baseline HAQ and not receiving abatacept (Figure 1). Variables positively associated with a higher DAS28 change were baseline HAQ (Relative Risk (RR) 0.02 (0.01, 0.03), TJc (0.06 (0.01, 0.12), 0.07 (0.10 (0.03, 0.16)) and CRP (RR 0.02 (0.01, 0.03)), while baseline HAQ (RR 0.60 (-0.88, -0.31) and not receiving abatacept (RR 0.70 (-1.25, -0.15)) were negatively correlated with DAS28 change in the adjusted multivariate linear regression model.

Table 1. Patient characteristics at the start of next treatment after failing the first JAKI therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Age (mean ±SD, years)</th>
<th>Disease duration (mean ±SD, years)</th>
<th>ESR (mean ±SD, mm/hour)</th>
<th>CRP (mean ±SD, mg/L)</th>
<th>SJc28 (mean ±SD)</th>
<th>TSc28 (mean ±SD)</th>
<th>DAS28 (mean ±SD, years)</th>
<th>HAQ-DI (mean ±SD, 0-3)</th>
<th>PGA (mean ±SD, 0-100)</th>
<th>Used JAKI as first line advanced therapy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>193</td>
<td>57 ±13</td>
<td>10 ±8</td>
<td>24 ±18</td>
<td>11 ±18</td>
<td>6 ±5</td>
<td>8 ±5</td>
<td>4.6 ±1.1</td>
<td>1.3 ±0.7</td>
<td>64 ±20</td>
<td>76/193 (39%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: Number given are mean ± SD or number, proportion. TNFi = tumour necrosis factor inhibitor; JAKI = Janus Kinase inhibitor; HAQ= health assessment questionnaire; PGA= Patient Global assessment; CRP= C-reactive protein; ESR= erythrocyte sedimentation rate; TJc= tender joint count; SJc= swollen joint Count; DAS28 = disease activity score based on the 28-joint DAS; Missing HAQ(0-3) scores were imputed by regression using age and HAQ(0-60) scores, the sum of the scores (0-3) on all (20) individual HAQ questions.
Conclusion: This explorative analysis reveals that after adjustment, patients who have worse functionality and receive abatacept compared to other b/ts DMARDs may show worse clinical outcome in patients with RA. The treatment effect should be further explored, but caution is warranted as the sample size was relatively small and indication bias cannot be excluded.

REFERENCE:
[1] De Cock et al. ARD. Volume 81, supplement 1, year 2022, page 626 (POS069).

Acknowledgements: on behalf of the Royal Belgian Society for Rheumatology.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0227

EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS DIAGNOSIS:
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN’S PERSPECTIVE AND NEEDS

Keywords: Education, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. Bourgeois Avella1, M. Sánchez Lucas1, J. Molina Collada1, J. Martínez-Barrion, J. M. Álvarez Gracia1, J. Rivera1, J. Omedo1, G. Fernandez Plana2, I. Castrejón1, 1Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2Centro Salud Ibiza, Primary Care, Madrid, Spain; 3Centro de Salud Dr Cirajas, Primary Care, Madrid, Spain

Background: Primary care physicians (PCPs) play a crucial role in early recognition and rapid referral of patients with inflammatory arthritis to improve early management and patient outcomes. However, there is limited information on perceived barriers for referral and areas of improvement [1]. The purpose of this study is to explore the perspective and needs of PCPs to guide a specialist’s referral program.

Objectives: To explore the perspective and needs of primary care physicians (PCPs) to guide a specialist’s referral program at an academic rheumatology center in Madrid and to identify areas of improvement to facilitate early referral for early rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: A PCPs-rheumatology early referral program (REUCARE) has been initiated at our area in January 2022 with 257 PCPs participating. Up to May 2022, 88 patients have been referred, however only 24 (27%) fulfill inclusion criteria. In order to improve the referral strategy, a survey has been developed in collaboration with primary care investigators to explore areas of improvement. The survey included 5 domains covering: PCPs demographics, previous knowledge about RA, level of confidence, factors and potential barriers influencing referral and interest on rheumatological training. Data were captured using four-point Likert scales, yes/no question or free text, and were analyzed descriptively.

Results: E-mail invitations were sent to 257 PCPs through their primary care center coordinator and completed by 26 (10% response rate). More respondents were women (76%) in practice for over more than 20 years who reported having 30-40 patients per day and only 1-5 patients diagnosed of RA in the last year. The majority (83%) reported additional rheumatological training besides medical school, however they were no familiar with the incidence and prevalence of the disease. Around 67% were aware of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, however they felt not very confident making the initial diagnostic (61% “somehow confident” and 35% “not confident”). Most PCPs considered the waiting time for rheumatology prolonged (65%) and very prolonged (21%) and reported insufficient feedback information from rheumatologists (60%). Main reasons for delay from PCPs perspective were nonspecific initial symptoms of the disease (48%) followed by rheumatology long waiting list (39%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Predictors of remission or LDA

Conclusions: Although 77% indicated using additional resources to improve their knowledge in RA, all participants stated that they would be interested in receiving more information on early diagnosis, being the preferred resources a specific e-consult (87%), updated mini guidelines (76%) and face-to-face meetings with rheumatologists.

Conclusion: Most PCPs are aware of the importance of early diagnosis and management of RA but feel uncomfortable making the initial diagnosis. Non-specific initial symptoms and long waiting lists for rheumatology are the main reasons for delay from PCPs perspective. Resources to improve referral, including e-consult and specific guidelines, are in need as part of the actual referral program.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0228

UTILITY OF SERUM KL-6 IN PATIENTS WITH STABLE OR SLOWLY DECLINING LUNG FUNCTION IN RA-ILD

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Lungs, Biomarkers

S. H. Chang1, J. Y. Pyo2, S. U. Kim3, M. U. Kim4, J. W. Kim5, Y. J. Ha6, J. S. Lee7, J. S. Lee8, C. H. Park9, S. W. Lee10, E. H. Kang11, J. Y. Choe12, Y. Park12, E. Y. Lee3, 1Soonchunhyang University College of Medicine, Soonchunhyang University Cheonan Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Cheonan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Yonsei University College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Seoul National University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Hallym University Boramae Medical Center, Department of Radiology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 5Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Graduate school of Medical Science and Engineering, Daejeon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 6Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Seongnam, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 7Asan Medical Center, Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 8Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Graduate school of Medical Science and Engineering, Daejeon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 9Soonchunhyang University College of Medicine, Soonchunhyang University Cheonan Hospital, Department of Radiology, Cheonan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 10Soonchunhyang University Cheonan Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Cheonan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 11Kyung Hee University Medical Center, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a severe extra-articular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Previously, we stratified the patients with rheumatoid arthritis-associated interstitial lung disease (RA-ILD) into four distinct groups according to their change of percent predicted forced vital capacity using trajectory analysis: persistently improving, stable, slowly declining, and rapidly declining. [1] Till October 2020, a total of twelve patients died, of which eight patients died even though they belonged to either stable or slowly declining groups. Therefore, it advantages additional biomarkers benefits to anticipate poor prognosis.

Objectives: To analyze whether serum Kreb von Lungen 6 (KL-6) predicts mortality among patients with stable or slowly declining % FVC pred. trajectory group.

Figure 1. POC’s perception for delay in assessing patients with RA for early treatment

Most patients had stable or slowly declining lung function. Among the patients with slowly declining lung function, serum KL-6 levels were significantly higher than those with stable lung function at baseline and during the 24-month follow-up period. Serum KL-6 levels increased with disease activity, and the predictive value of serum KL-6 for mortality was higher in patients with slowly declining lung function. These results suggest that serum KL-6 levels may be useful for predicting mortality in patients with slowly declining lung function in RA-ILD.
Methods: The Korean RA-ILD (KORAIL) cohort is the prospective observational cohort. Patients diagnosed with RA based on either 1987 or 2020 ACR criteria and with ILD based on CT scans had been recruited from six tertiary medical hospitals in Korea from January 2015 to July 2018 and followed for 3 years. Pulmonary function tests and chest CT scans were conducted annually. Serum KL-6 level at enrollment was measured by Nanopia KL-6 assay (SEKISUI, Japan). The cut-off value of KL-6 was referenced in the previous report.[2] Kaplan-Meier Log-rank tests and Cox proportional hazard analysis were conducted using SPSS statistics 21.0.

Results: Among patients with stable (n=68) and slowly declining (n=54) lung function groups, three and five patients died, respectively. The mean age of the stable disease group was statistically significantly higher than that of the slowly declining group (64.9±7.7 years vs 67.9±6.8-year-old, p=0.03). There was no significant difference between groups in the proportion of males (n=21 vs 19, p=0.70) or ever-smokers (76.1% vs 66.7%, p=0.31), and the mean duration of RA or ILD (RA duration 8.6±8.8 vs 6.7±7.1 years, p=0.21; ILD duration 3.2±3.6 years vs 2.5±2.9 years, p=0.25). Serum KL-6 levels at baseline were comparable between groups (636.3±454.6 U/mL vs 590.6±547.3 U/mL, p=0.62). The hazard ratio for death in the KL-6>1000U/mL compared with the KL-6<1000U/mL was 3.77 (95% confidence interval, 0.90-15.8, p=0.07) in an unadjusted model and 4.05 (95% CI, 0.68-24.2, p=0.13) in a model adjusted for age, sex, history of smoking (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In RA-ILD, patients with serum KL-6>1000U/mL at baseline tend to have 3.8 times as high mortality as those with serum KL-6<1000U/mL, although not statistically significant. The current study result implies that serum KL-6 level can be a useful tool to predict poor prognosis even in the case when the lung function of patients is stable or slowly declining.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier estimates of death stratified by serum KL-6 levels.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0230

IS IT POSSIBLE TO STOP TAKING GLUCOCORTICOIDS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WHILE USING THE SYNTHETIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS?

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

G. Mykytenko1, O. Iaremenko2. Bogomolets National University, Internal Medicine 3, Kyiv, Ukraine; 2Bogomolets National University, Internal Medicine 3, Kyiv, Ukraine

Objectives: to investigate the possibility of withdrawing glucocorticoids (GC) or reducing their dose to the target (<7.5 mg/d in terms of prednisone) when using traditional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARD) in patients (pts) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA); to study independent prognostic factors that affect the continuation of taking GC.

Methods: 270 patients with RA (women - 86.6%) aged 51.2 ± 0.71 years, with a disease duration of 50.2 ± 3.82 months were examined. Rheumatoid factor (RF) was found in 84.8% of individuals, antibodies to cyclic citrullinated peptide (ACCP) - in 66.6%, DMARD therapy included methotrexate (n = 91), leflunomide (n = 95), sulfasalazine (n = 51), hydrochloroquine (n = 3) or its combination (n = 126). Statistical analysis was performed using program SPSS 22.0. Certain disagreements average values were estimated using non-parametric of the Mann-Whitney criterion for quantitative signs and criteria χ² for frequency indicators. To identify independent factors that affect the possibility of canceling GC, the method of logistic regression analysis was used with the calculation of the risk ratio (RR) and 95% confidence interval (95%CI). In order to identify the decisive factor affecting the possibility of achieving the target dose of GC, a stepwise logistic regression analysis of multivariate models was performed. The difference was considered probable at p<0.05.

Results: During 3 years of study, GC was canceled in 33% of pts in the period from 3 to 30 months (mostly in the first 6 mth). Among those who continued to take GC, the target dose (<7.5 mg/d) was achieved only in 32.6% of pts. Among pts continuously receiving GC, compared with pts who discontinued GC, there were probably more women (89.5% vs. 80.8%, p<0.05), ACCP-positive pts (88.4% vs. 55.0%, p<0.01), with higher DAS (ESR) values (5.29 ± 1.0 vs 4.84 ± 0.15, p<0.05) and more pronounced structural changes on the X-ray scale (43.4 ± 2.42 vs 32.4 ± 2.71, p<0.05). According to the logistic regression analysis, the risk of continuing GC treatment was probably associated with female gender (RR 2.39 (1.09–4.97)), elderly pts (RR 1.02 (1.001–1.04)), ACCP-positivity (RR 3.73 (1.26–11.0)), disease activity by DAS (ESR) (RR 1.19 (1.01–4.43) and structural joint changes (RR 1.01 (1.005–1.02)). Only the initial dose of GC ≥ 7.5 mg/d was associated with the inability to reach the target dose of GC during the entire follow-up period (RR 6.32 (2.0–19.5)).

Conclusion: Despite of the treatment with traditional synthetic DMARD, only a third of RA pts can cancel GC, mainly in the first 6 mths. For the pts who continue taking GC, the target dose can be achieved in 33% of them. Independ- ent predictors of the impossibility of GC discontinuation are female gender, old age, ACCP-positivity, higher RA activity according to DAS (ESR) and more pronounced joint destruction at the initial stage. A negative prognostic factor in achieving the target dose of GC is their initial dose ≥ 7.5 mg/d.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0232

COMPARATIVE FUNCTIONAL ABILITY OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND OSTEOARTHRITIS AFTER TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Karimov1, S. Lapshina2, T. Nuriakhmetova2, I. Gilmutdinov3, A. Nuriakhmetov2, S. Ardashev2, I. Akhtiamov2, V. Tashkent Medical Academy; Traumatology, Orthopedic and Military Surgery, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; 3Kazan State Medical University, Hospital Therapy, Kazan, Russian Federation; 3Republican Clinical Hospital, Orthopedics No. 2, Kazan, Russian Federation; 4Kazan State Medical University, Traumatology, Orthopedic and Military Surgery, Kazan, Russian Federation

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) often require adequate disease control prior to total knee arthroplasty (TKA). At the same time, they may have worse outcomes and late complications compared to osteoarthritis (OA) patients.

Objectives: To study the functional abilities of RA patients undergoing TKA compared to OA patients using the KSS scoring system.

Methods: The study included 150 patients: 69 patients (46%) with RA and 81 patients (54%) with OA. 32% of them were males and 68% were females. Th average age of patients with RA was 59.0 [52; 64] years, while in OA group it was 66.0 [61; 73] years. Among patients with RA, 60.9% had moderately active RA, 23.3% had mild disease course, 14.8% had inactive disease. All patients underwent cemented TKA. All of them also completed KSS score prior to surgery, immediately after that and 3 and 12 months after the discharge. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 23.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA). A p value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Prior to intervention patients with RA had significantly lower KSS scores compared to OA patients (45.0 [40; 55] versus 60.0 [50; 60], p<0.000). An improvement of KSS became comparable between the two groups (83.0 [74; 84] versus 82.0 [80.5; 85], p=0.754, Mann-Whitney). 3 months
after the intervention RA patients had significantly higher KSS scores than prior to surgery (Mdn=88.0, n=69 versus Mdn=40.0, n=69, z=-2.23, p<0.00) or at discharge (Mdn=88.0, n=69 versus Mdn=83.0, n=69, z=-2.25, p<0.00, Wilcoxon test). The same trend was observed for KSS completed 12 months after the surgery (Mdn=93.0, n=69 versus Mdn=88.0 in KSS 3 months after the surgery, n=69, z=-2.26, p<0.00). At the same time, the results of KSS were comparable between RA and OA groups and 12 months after the intervention (88.0 [88; 88] in RA group versus 88.0 [87; 89] in OA group, p=0.772, Mann-Whitney; 94.0 [93; 95] in RA group versus 94.0 [93; 95] in OA group, p=0.702, Mann-Whitney, respectively).

Conclusion: The functional abilities of patient with RA after TKA did not differ from those among OA patients regardless of diseases activity despite, the fact that among RA patients KSS scores were significantly lower prior to surgery. KSS scores of RA patients improved 3 and 12 months after the intervention and were comparable to OA group.

REFERENCE:
arthroplasty improves both knee function and disease activity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Mod Rheumatol. 2017 Sep;27(5):806-810. doi:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6337

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients with RA by groups

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Disclosure of Interests: Vilaya Rivera Teran: None declared, David Vega-Morales: None declared, Sandra Sicic: None declared, Angel Castillo Ortiz: None declared, Fedra Irazoque-Palazuelos: None declared, Dafhne Miranda: None declared, Iris Jazmin Colunga-Pedraza: None declared, Julio Cesar Casasola: None declared, Fedra Irazoque-Palazuelos: None declared, Angel Castillo Ortiz: None declared, Daniel Xavier Xibille Friedmann: None declared, Deshle Alpizar-Rodriguez Employee of: Scientific advisor GSK-Mexico.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6458

Table 2. Baseline characteristics of patients with RA by groups

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<td>Tolctilimab</td>
<td>5 (2.9)</td>
<td>3 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bircinib</td>
<td>1 (0.6)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1. The level of some endonucleases, tetraspanins and chaperones in normal (D) and in RA SF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EX</th>
<th>DNA-ase (acid)</th>
<th>DNA-ase (alk)</th>
<th>RNA-ase (acid)</th>
<th>RNA-ase (alk)</th>
<th>CD9</th>
<th>CD81</th>
<th>Hsp70</th>
<th>Hsp90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>0.08±0.01</td>
<td>0.45±0.03</td>
<td>0.18±0.04</td>
<td>0.89±0.21</td>
<td>935±97</td>
<td>667±68</td>
<td>9.8±2.3</td>
<td>6.4±1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>4.4±0.7***</td>
<td>0.17±0.02*</td>
<td>5.4±0.3***</td>
<td>0.47±0.08*</td>
<td>2987±237**</td>
<td>893±76</td>
<td>21.3±3.7**</td>
<td>8.9±2.3*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results: Subjects were 186 Vo and 167 RA patients in 2019. In RA, average age was 65.8 ± 12.7 years, 143 patients (85.6%) were female, average disease duration was 13.8 ± 11.8 years and DAS28-ESR was 3.10 ± 1.45. Compared with Vo, Physical Component Summary (PCS) (Vo 46.9 ± 12.2, RA 34.1 ± 18.0: p<0.01), Mental Component Summary (MCS) (Vo 52.2 ± 9.5, RA 49.4 ± 9.5: p<0.01) and VT (Vo 50.5 ± 10.1, RA 44.0 ± 10.8: p<0.01) were significantly lower in RA patients. In multiple linear regression analysis, RA was a significant decreasing factor of PCS (β=-12.8, 95%CI=-15.7 - -9.89: p<0.01), MCS (β=-2.75, 95%CI=-4.68 - -1.82: p<0.01) and VT (β=-3.01, 95%CI=-4.57 - -1.45: p<0.01). In RA patients, multiple linear regression analysis shows that VAS (β=-0.06, 95%CI=-0.12 - -0.00: p=0.03), ESR (β=-0.09, 95%CI=-0.16 - -0.02: p=0.02), and mental health component of the SF-36-MH (β=0.35, 95%CI=0.42 - 0.68: p<0.01), were significant affecting factor for VT. (Table 1)

Conclusion: In this study, RA was a significant QOL declining factor. High VAS score, high ESR values and low mental health score were associated with fatigue in patients with RA.

Table 1. Summary of multiple linear regression analysis for fatigue (vitality score of SF-36) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>β</th>
<th>95% Confidence interval</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.07-0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>-0.19</td>
<td>-0.54-0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>-3.67-3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joint count</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
<td>-0.32-0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swelling joint count</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>-0.40-0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
<td>-0.12-0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mHAQ</td>
<td>-0.56</td>
<td>-3.05-1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPO positive</td>
<td>-0.92</td>
<td>-4.66-2.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>-0.42-0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>-0.16-0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose of MTX (mg/month)</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>-0.30-0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose of PSL (mg/day)</td>
<td>-0.54</td>
<td>-1.22-0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs use</td>
<td>non</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non anti-TNF</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>-3.74-1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non anti-TNF</td>
<td>-2.56</td>
<td>-6.44-1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MH score</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.42-0.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BMI, body mass index; ACPO, Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody; MTX, methotrexate; PSL, prednisolone; bDMARDs, biologic disease modified anti-rheumatic-drugs; prednisolone; MS, mental health component of the SF-36.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease
Background: Traditional risk factors do not fully explain the increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). [1] The Hp2-2 genotype is known to confer a lower anti-oxidant and higher inflammation effect when compared to the non Hp2-2 genotype. [2]

Objectives: This study aims to investigate the association of Hp genotype with CVD in patients with RA.

Methods: Sixty-nine with CVD cases and 207 gender and ethnicity matched control (without CVD) with allocation of 1:3, were retrieved from the Tan Tock Seng Hospital RA registry from 1 Jan 2000 to 31 Dec 2020. Hp genotype was determined using TaqMan-based real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and the State of Hungary and co-financed by the European Social Fund in the framework of TAMOP-4.2.4-A/2-11/2-2012-00050 (Z.S.).

Conclusion: The Hp 2-2 genotype is known to confer a lower anti-oxidant and higher inflammation effect when compared to the non Hp2-2 genotype. 

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, Mónika Katkó: None declared, Edit Végh: None declared, Zsófia Pethő: None declared, Nóra Bodnár: None declared, Ágnes Horváth: None declared, Gábor Tajti: None declared, Mariann Harangi: None declared, György Panyi: None declared, Gabriella Szics: None declared, Zoltán Szekeane Szech: None declared, Szilvia Szamosi: None declared, Zsolt Hascsi: None declared, Mónika Katkó: None declared, Edit Végh: None declared, Zsófia Pethő: None declared, Nóra Bodnár: None declared, Ágnes Horváth: None declared, Gábor Tajti: None declared, Mariann Harangi: None declared, György Panyi: None declared, Gabriella Szics: None declared, Zoltán Szekeane

References:

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ABO238

USEFULNESS OF RAPID3 IN ASSESSING UNMET NEEDS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS FROM THE T-FLAG STUDY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Suzuki1,2, N. Takahashi3, Y. Sobe4, Y. Ohashi1,1, R. Sato1, M. Maeda1, D. Kihira1, K. Kishimoto1, K. Terabe1, S. Asai1, S. Imagama1, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Nagoya, Japan; 1Chuo Kanto Toho Hospital, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Kari, Japan; 2Aichi Medical University Hospital, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagakute, Japan; 3Japanese Red Cross Nagoya Daiichi Hospital, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Nagoya, Japan; 4Japanese Red Cross Nagoya Daiichi Hospital, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya, Japan

Background: Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3) is a patient-reported outcome (PRO) that can be used to assess the condition of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients using only a questionnaire that can be completed in a short time. It is useful as a simple method for assessing disease activity. In previous reports, RAPID3 could be used as an assessment similar to Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28), a common disease activity assessment index. However, in the treatment of RA, there are unmet needs in which patients have low satisfaction with treatment, even though they are in remission according to disease activity assessments such as DAS28. To investigate the cause of this discrepancy, we decided to conduct a study using RAPID3 as a subjective patient assessment and DAS28 as a general disease activity measure.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to investigate the association between disease activity and RAPID3 in RA patients.

Methods: The data for this study were obtained from the Tsurumi-Fraity and Locomotive Syndrome of Rheumatoid Arthritis for Globalization (T-FLAG), a observational study involving three centers. A PRO questionnaire was administered to 467 RA patients between June 1 and August 31, 2020. Disease activity was assessed using the RAPID3, DAS28-28R, DAS28-ESR, Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI), and Simplified disease activity index (SDAI). The RAPID3 (30 points total) consists of three domains: physical function (0-10), pain (Visual Analogue Scale 0-10), and Patient global assessment (PGA) of disease activity (0-10). It consists of three domains, divided into disease activity categories as follows: <1 low disease activity: 3.1-6.9, moderate disease activity: 6.1-12 high disease activity: >12). PRO assessment was performed using PGA, Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI), Kihon checklist (KCL), carotid intima-media thickness (IMT) and pulse-wave velocity (PWV) by ultrasound. We also performed simultaneous PET-CT assessment of joints and vessels.

Results: Twenty-six patients completed the study. Tofacitinib treatment significantly decreased VEGF (p=0.019), PIGF (p=0.019), IL-6 (p=0.001), cathK (p=0.04) and galectin 3 levels (p=0.013) after 12 months of treatment. Seropositive patients had increased bFGF, PIGF and NT-proBNP levels (p=0.05). Uni- and multivariable regression analysis indicated variable correlations of baseline and 12-month TNNV, IL-6, bFGF, PIGF, NT-proBNP and PECAM-1 with IMT, as well as as synovial and vascular inflammation as determined by PET-CT (p<0.05).

Conclusion: Tofacitinib suppressed the production of multiple angiogenic biomarkers. Number of these biomarkers are involved in carotid atherosclerosis, as well as synovial and vascular inflammation.

Disclosure of Interests: This research was supported by the European Union and the State of Hungary and co-financed by the European Social Fund in the framework of TAMOP-4.2.4-A/2-11/2-2012-0001 ‘National Excellence Program (Z.S.) by the European Union grant GINOP-2.3.2-15-2016-00050 (Z.S.) and by the W118341 investigator-initiated research (IIIR) grant obtained from Pfizer US (Z.S.) I have no acknowledgements to declare.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2331
and the 25-question Geriatric Locomotive Function Scale (GLFS-25). We compared the disease activity categories using DAS28-CRP and RAPID3.

**Results:** The mean age (± standard deviation) was 66±13, female was 73%, disease duration was 11±10, RAPID3 was 5.6±5.2, DAS28-CRP was 2.19±1.03, HAQ-DI was 0.46±0.66, and KCL was 6.6±4.4. RAPID3 and DAS28-CRP showed a strong correlation with a correlation coefficient of 0.743, and CDAI and SDAI as other disease activity assessment methods also showed a strong correlation (CDAI: r=0.883, SDAI: r=0.880). On the other hand, the HAQ-DI and GLFS-25, which are PRO assessments of physical function, showed strong correlations, but the KCL, which includes psycho-social assessments along with physical function assessments, showed a slightly weaker correlation (r=0.507). Morning stiffness was not correlated with RAPID3 (r=0.206). In the disease activity category, 59.5% of patients had RAPID3 and DAS28-CRP in the same category (RAPID3 = DAS28-CRP). In addition, RAPID3 belonged to the worse category than DAS28 in 31.3% of cases (RAPID3 > DAS28-CRP). The group with RAPID3 > DAS28-CRP (31.3%) vs. the group with RAPID3 = DAS28-CRP (59.5%) showed no significant differences in age, gender, and tender/swollen joint count (Table 1). On the other hand, there were significant differences between the two groups in disease duration (14 vs. 11 years), PTA (36 vs. 14mm), HAQ-DI (0.84 vs. 0.29), KCL (8.5 vs. 5.8), and GLFS-25 (28 vs. 13).

**Conclusion:** In this study, we showed that the correlation between RAPID3 and disease activity assessment was quite strong. In the disease activity category, approximately 60% of all patients had similar DAS28-CRP and RAPID3. However, the discrepancy between DAS28-CRP and RAPID3 may be caused by physical dysfunction and frailty. Therefore, it is important to achieve clinical remission and improve PRO in RA treatment as an intervention to address unmet needs.

**REFERENCE:**

Table: Baseline characteristics of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DAS28-CRP &lt; RAPID3</th>
<th>DAS28-CRP &gt; RAPID3</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, yr *</td>
<td>52 ± 14</td>
<td>66 ± 14</td>
<td>0.169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, %</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, yr *</td>
<td>14 ± 11</td>
<td>11 ± 8</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPID3*</td>
<td>0.86 ± 5.0</td>
<td>3.8 ± 5.3</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP*</td>
<td>0.28 ± 0.50</td>
<td>0.36 ± 0.91</td>
<td>0.251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC*</td>
<td>1.3 ± 2.7</td>
<td>1.5 ± 4.1</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC*</td>
<td>0.4 ± 1.4</td>
<td>0.6 ± 1.7</td>
<td>0.322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA age, mm</td>
<td>36 ± 23</td>
<td>41 ± 24</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA age, mm</td>
<td>30 ± 21</td>
<td>43 ± 18</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ptn VAS, mm</td>
<td>07 ± 23</td>
<td>14 ± 22</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>0.84 ± 0.79</td>
<td>0.25 ± 0.52</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCL</td>
<td>5.6 ± 4.5</td>
<td>5.6 ± 4.1</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**AB0239**

THE REDUCTION OF CIRCULATING LEVELS OF SERUM CALPROTEIN IN A COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH ABATACEPT

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. E. L. Della Pina1, S. Piantoni1, E. Garrafa2,3, M. Vezzoli1, A. Caprol1, L. Franzoni1, I. Cavazzana4, P. Airo1, F. Franceschini1,1. Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, ASST Spedali Civili and University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy; Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy; 2ASST Spedali Civili, Brescia, Italy; Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, Brescia, Italy; 3University of Brescia, Italy; Department of Molecular and Translational Medicine, Brescia, Italy

**Background:** The research of new biomarkers is still an unmet need in the field of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), especially for patients (pts) without rheumatoid factor and/or anti-citrullinated peptides positivity (seronegative RA), and for those without the elevation of inflammatory markers, such as the C-reactive protein (CRP) [1]. Calprotectin (CLP) is a heterodimeric complex of two calcium binding proteins which is expressed in granulocytes and monocytes. It mediates cell differentiation, activation, migration, apoptosis and the production of pro-inflammatory factors [2]. Recent studies showed that CLP synovial fluid levels are higher in RA pts and that its serum levels might directly reflect the synovitis severity [3].

**AB0240**

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS CLINICAL ACTIVITY IS NOT ASSOCIATED TO CARDIOVASCULAR RISK AS MEASURED BY TRADITIONAL RISK SCALES

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. R. Azpíri-López1, I. J. Colunga-Pedraza2, D. A. Galaza-Delgado3, V. M. Beltran-Aguilar,1,2, V. Gonzalez-Gonzalez1,2, A. A. Arias Peraíta1, N. De Avila Gonzalez1, J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza1, G. Garcia-Arellano2,1. Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Cardiology, Monterrey, Mexico; 1Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients have a higher cardiovascular risk (CVR) than the general population, being atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease the main cause of mortality [1]. Such increased could be explained by traditional CVR factors and chronic inflammatory state of disease. Clinical activity of disease, which is evaluated by DAS-28, is a parameter that denotes the current disease activity status [2].

**Objective:** To compare CVR, by six scales: ACC/AHA ASCVD 2013, Framingham lipid and BMI, SCORE2, QRISK3 and Reynolds risk score, according to clinical activity of RA patients using DAS-28 CRP.

**Methods:** Descriptive, comparative and cross-sectional study. We enrolled RA patients between 40 and 75 years old who fulfilled ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria and recruited in the Rheumatology service from a tertiary care hospital, in Monterrey, Mexico. Patients were divided by time of disease evolution
Table 1. Demographic characteristics (n= 377)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Remission (n=121)</th>
<th>Low activity (n=51)</th>
<th>Moderate activity (n=156)</th>
<th>High activity (n=49)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disease, years, median (p25-p75)</td>
<td>70 (3.0-14.0)</td>
<td>79 (2.7-14.9)</td>
<td>70 (3.0-15.4)</td>
<td>5.1 (16.12.9)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, n(%)</td>
<td>103 (85)</td>
<td>47 (92)</td>
<td>149 (95)</td>
<td>49 (100)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, median (p25-p75)</td>
<td>57 (49-62)</td>
<td>53 (48-63)</td>
<td>54 (48-59)</td>
<td>55 (45-58)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m2, median (p25-p75)</td>
<td>272 (25.0-30.4)</td>
<td>26.7 (24.7-30.8)</td>
<td>28.0 (24.6-31.8)</td>
<td>28.4 (24.7-32.3)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laboratory tests, median (p25-p75)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Remission</th>
<th>Low activity</th>
<th>Moderate activity</th>
<th>High activity</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dL</td>
<td>0.5 (0.2-3.0)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.3-1.4)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.4-1.6)</td>
<td>1.2 (0.6-2.9)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h</td>
<td>22.0 (15.0-32.5)</td>
<td>23.0 (16.0-41.0)</td>
<td>28.0 (18.0-42.0)</td>
<td>30.0 (18.0-56.0)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF, IgM, U/mL</td>
<td>99.8 (2.6-199.1)</td>
<td>23.2 (1.4-195.5)</td>
<td>44.9 (11-198.7)</td>
<td>7.6 (12-191.3)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF, IgG, U/mL</td>
<td>43.4 (2.0-122)</td>
<td>4.6 (2.0-115)</td>
<td>4.8 (2.0-16.0)</td>
<td>3.2 (2.0-9.9)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF, IgA, U/mL</td>
<td>200.0 (38.0-200.0)</td>
<td>200.0 (35.4-200.0)</td>
<td>200.0 (56.7-200.0)</td>
<td>160.1 (20.4-200.0)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR, mg/dL</td>
<td>0.5 (0.2-0.9)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.3-1.4)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.4-1.6)</td>
<td>3.1 (1.4-2.9)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVR did not show significative changes, regardless of which of scales it was measured by.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: CVR did not increase according to clinical activity of RA, which suggests that severity can not by itself the increase in risk shown in this population.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0241

PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATOLOGISTS AGED ≤ 40 YEARS HAVE DIFFERENT PRIORITIES AND PERSPECTIVES ON DISEASE MANAGEMENT: THE ITALIAN SOCIETY FOR RHEUMATOLOGY YOUNG (SIRYOUNG) COMMISSION SURVEY

Keywords: Remission, Rheumatoid arthritis, Health services research

S. Allerini1,2, S. Perniola3, M. Badelli3, A. Batticciotto3, E. Bossalla Cassione4, F. CrisafiI4, S. GentileScha4, N. Luciano1, D. Mauro1, M. Orlandi1, S. Sciaccia4, A. Ortolan1, M. Todero1, M. Fornera5, L. Andreoli6, C. Cighizola7,8, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy; 2Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Immunology Research Core Facility - Genmi Science and Technology Park (GSTeP), Rome, Italy; 3Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy; 4Azienda Ospedaliera Senese – Policlinico Le Scitte, Rheumatology Unit, Siena, Italy; 5ASST Sette Leghe – Ospedale di Circolo Fondazione Macchi, Varese, Italy; 6IRCCS, Policlinico San Matteo – University of Pavia, Division of Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy; 7ASST Spedali Civili and University of Brescia, Rheumatology Unit, Brescia, Italy; 8Dipartimento di scienze mediche, chirurgiche e neuroscienze, Università di Siena, Rheumatology Unit, Siena, Italy; 9IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Rozzano, Italy; 10Università degli Studi della Campania L. Vanvitelli, Division of Rheumatology, Naples, Italy; 11Università di Firenze, Rheumatology Unit, Florence, Italy; 12University Hospital “Policlinico Foggia”, Rheumatology Clinic, Foggia, Italy; 13Azienda Ospedaliera SS Antonio e Biagio e C. Aringo, Rheumatology Unit, Alessandria, Italy; 14Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine and Ionian Area, Rheumatology Unit, Bari, Italy; 15ASST Gaeta Pino – CTO – University of Milan, Division of Rheumatology, Milan, Italy

Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) represents a huge burden for patients' quality of life and there are still relevant unmet needs in its management due to uncovered patients’ needs even once sustained remission is achieved.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate disease burden, treatment priorities and preferences across disease phases comparing patients’ and physicians’ perspectives.

Methods: Consultants or residents in rheumatology (across Academic and non-academic hospitals) and patients with RA both aged ≤40 years were reached by an anonymous online survey between November 2021 and November 2022, designed by the SIReyoung commission. For each included RA patient, demographic and clinical parameters (RA diagnosis timing, current and previous treatments) were collected. For each included physician demographic, education and professional profile details were collected.

Results: Two-hundred seventy-four consultants or residents in rheumatology and 90 RA patients, both aged ≤40 years, completed the online survey. All Italian regions were equally represented for both physicians’ and patients’ subgroups. Considering the patients’ disease referral status, 26(28.9%) received RA diagnosis at the very early stage (≤3 months), 33(36.7%) at early stage (3-12 months) and 31(34.4%) after 12 months from symptoms’ onset. When asked for the priority in treatment objectives, the survey revealed a different priority among the subgroups with a higher importance given to fatigue resolution (p<0.0001) and morning stiffness reduction (p<0.0001) by patients and to radiological damage (p<0.001) and disability reduction (p<0.0108) by physicians, while comparable priority was given by the 2 groups to pain relief, physical function restoration and work-ability recover (p<0.05 for all). When asked about the factors that could improve RA management, the survey revealed higher agreement scores for patients compared to physicians in educational need (p<0.0001), increase of outpatient visits and access to treatment (both p<0.0001) and use of digital apps (p<0.0001). Stratifying patients based on self-perceived disease control, 30(33.3%) were well controlled, 52(57.8%) moderately controlled and 8(8.9%) very poorly controlled. When questioned about their will to treatment modification once sustained remission status is achieved, patients showed a higher agreement of maintaining the treatment unchanged (p=0.0002) and a higher fear of modification consequences (p<0.0001) compared to physicians, mostly if not guided by the treating rheumatologist or out of established decisional algorithms.

Conclusion: Young patients with RA and young rheumatologists have variable agreements on treatment aims and priority. In particular, when dealing with the sustained remission status, a shared decisional algorithm between physicians and patients is needed to reduce patients fear and improve their empowerment.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0242

IMPACT OF DISEASE ACTIVITY ON SLEEP DISORDERS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY ABOUT 100 PATIENTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Lifestyles

M. Brahem1, B. Jebali1, S. Abdelatif1, R. Sarraj2, O. Jomaat1, H. Hach1, Y. Mohamed1, Hôpital Universitaire Tahar Star, Service Rhumatologie, Mahdia, Tunisia
Results: We included 63 patients (52 women and 11 men). The mean age was 68.17±4.35 years. The median duration of disease progression was 11 years with an IQR of [4-16]. The mean DAS28 was 3.72±1.46. The mean HAQ was 1.6±0.58. The median value of GNRI was 68.17±4.35 with an IQR of [68.17-125.12] and extremes ranging from 70.06 to 145.02. According to the GNRI, 58 patients (92.1%) had a GNRI > 98 indicating no nutritional risk, 2 patients (3.2%) were low risk with GNRI between 92 and 98, no patient had a GNRI between 82 and 92 indicating moderate risk and 3 patients (4.8%) had a GNRI < 82 indicating a high risk of malnutrition-related complications. After statistical analysis, we found significant association between GNRI and DAS28 score (p=0.05). We also found a significant association between GNRI and higher ESR (p=0.03). CRP (p<0.001) and higher daily doses of corticosteroids (p=0.024). However, we did not find significant association between the GNRI and advanced age (p=0.11), duration of RA progression (p=0.07), VAS of pain (p=0.2) or with HAQ score (p=0.06).

Conclusion: Our results showed that the GNRI is associated with DAS28, inflammatory biomarkers and higher corticosteroid doses. The GNRI could be used as a simple and reliable tool to assess both nutritional status and disease activity in RA elderly patients.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3635

AB0244 ROLE OF FATIGUE IN DIFFICULT TO TREAT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS OUTCOME

J. P. Otazu Maudelle1, D. Freites1, M. Rodriguez Laguna2, C. Hormigo1, M. P. Alvarez Hernandez2, A. Madrid Garcia1, L. Abasolo1, L. Leon1, Hospital Clinico San Carlos, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; "Instituto de Investigacion Sanitarla San Carlos (IdiSSC), Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: In difficult to treat rheumatoid arthritis patients (D2T RA), a wide spectrum of factors may contribute to the persistence of signs and/or symptoms, although these are not always directly related to inflammation (eg, functional disability, pain and fatigue). Of these, fatigue is still the least evaluated and taken into account.

Objectives: To identify the role of fatigue in D2T RA.

Methods: Cross-sectional study. 143 patients followed up in the rheumatology outpatient clinic of Hospital Clinico San Carlos, Madrid, Spain were included. Data were collected between July 2018 and November 2022. All patients met the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria and they were in treatment with Biological agents (anti-TNF and Non anti-TNF) or Targeted Synthetic DMARDs (jakinibs). D2T RA was defined based on EULAR criteria (treatment failure, signs suggestive of currently active/progressive disease, and management being perceived as problematic by the rheumatologist and/or patient). Main variable: Fatigue was assessed by the Bristol Rheumatoid Arthritis Fatigue Multidimensional Questionnaire (BRAF-MDQ). Covariates: Sociodemographic and disease-related variables. Statistical analysis. A descriptive and comparative analysis was carried out for the different variables. To identify factors independently associated to D2T RA a multivariable logistic regression was applied. Results were expressed as OR with their corresponding 95% CI. A value of p < 0.05 was consider as statistically significant.

Results: The study population comprised 143 patients and 22 (15.38%) developed D2T RA. The D2T RA group were older, with a higher DAS28 and disability. Sociodemographic, clinical, disease-related variables, and the fatigue scores used in the study are showed on Table 1. In our final logistic regression model, OR: 1.05; p=0.017 and fatigue were independently associated with D2T RA (OR: 1.04; p=0.011).

Conclusion: Despite the absence of an explicit mention of fatigue in the definition of AR D2T, it appear to be a main factor explaining the D2T RA outcome. The evaluation and management of fatigue should be one of the objectives in the treatment of patients with RA.
Table 1. Characteristics of the sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>D2T RA (n=22)</th>
<th>Non D2T RA (n=121)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean (SD)</td>
<td>62.82 (13.45)</td>
<td>56.19 (11.89)</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, n (%)</td>
<td>11 (50)</td>
<td>73 (60.83)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, mean (SD, years)</td>
<td>17.76 (8.47)</td>
<td>13.41 (8.74)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive RF at baseline, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (63.60)</td>
<td>75 (63.02)</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive ACPA at baseline, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (63.60)</td>
<td>77 (64.70)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28, mean (SD)</td>
<td>4.10 (0.67)</td>
<td>2.46 (0.99)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.46 (0.36)</td>
<td>0.46 (0.67)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mean (SD)</td>
<td>15.86 (12.11)</td>
<td>9.87 (9.91)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGHNA (mm), mean (SD)</td>
<td>56.22 (24.91)</td>
<td>32.19 (23.88)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhGHA (mm), mean (SD)</td>
<td>275 (13.34)</td>
<td>14.22 (13.77)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain VAS (mm), mean (SD)</td>
<td>54.45 (25.27)</td>
<td>32.38 (24.21)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ (0-3) mean (SD)</td>
<td>1.45 (0.64)</td>
<td>0.76 (0.59)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braf-MDQ (0-70), mean (SD)</td>
<td>29.59 (13.67)</td>
<td>21.05 (14.73)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional (0-12)</td>
<td>4.22 (2.54)</td>
<td>2.65 (2.66)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive (0-15)</td>
<td>7.22 (4.29)</td>
<td>4.63 (4.71)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical (0-22)</td>
<td>13.45 (5.36)</td>
<td>10.49 (5.86)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living (0-21)</td>
<td>4.68 (3.88)</td>
<td>3.27 (3.23)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue severity (0-10)</td>
<td>6.59 (2.32)</td>
<td>4.90 (2.57)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect of fatigue (0-10)</td>
<td>5 (2.54)</td>
<td>4.09 (2.60)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor coping of fatigue (0-10)</td>
<td>4.13 (2.29)</td>
<td>3.28 (2.49)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D2T RA: difficult-to-treat rheumatoid arthritis; SD: standard deviation; RF: rheumatoid factor; ACPA: anti-citrullinated-protein antibody; DAS28: 28-joint disease activity score; CRP: C-reactive protein; ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate; PGHNA: patient global health assessment, PhGHA: physician global health assessment; VAS: visual analog score; HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire; Braf-MDQ Bristol Rheumatoid Arthritis Fatigue Multidimensional Questionnaire; Braf-NRS Bristol Rheumatoid Arthritis Fatigue Numerical Rating Scales.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0245 IMPACT OF EXTRA-ARTICULAR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS MANIFESTATIONS ON ATLANTOAXIAL SUBLUXATION

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid arthritis

H. Ferjani1, H. Betaieb1, D. Ben Nessib1, D. Kaffel1, K. Maatallah1, W. Hamdi1, 1Mohamed Taeib Kassab Institute of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology, Rheumatology, Mannouba, Tunisia

Background: The cervical spine is frequently affected during RA. It’s the third joint location after the hands and feet [1].

Objectives: The objective of our work was to investigate the association between atlanto-axial subluxation (AAS) and the presence of extra-articular manifestations (EAM).

Methods: This is a cross-sectional comparative, single-center and hospital-based study of 102 RA patients (ACR/ EULAR 2010). Population was divided into two groups: Group 1 (study group) including 51 patients with AAS and Group 0 (control group) including 51 RA patients without AAS. AAS was defined as: the presence of an anterior C1C2 diastasis on the cervical spine radiograph in hyperflexion and/or by the presence of anterior, posterior, lateral or rotational C1C2 dislocation on MRI with/or without inflammatory signal.

Results: The study group (G1) consisted of 37 women and 14 men (M/F sex ratio = 0.37). The control group (G0) consisted of 40 women and 11 men (M/F sex ratio =0.29). The mean age was 60.3± 14.1 and 59 ± 11.3 years in G1 and G0, respectively. Median disease duration was 144 [6-480] and [5-216] months in G1 and G0 respectively. In G1, the median time to onset of AAS was 48 months [0-492]. At AAS diagnosis, EAM were present in 49% of G1 patients: dry ocular syndrome in 2 patients, Bone densitometry, performed in 34 patients, was normal in 26.5% of cases. Osteoporosis and osteopenia were found respectively in 35.3% and 38.2% of patients. In analytical study, patients of G1 had higher prevalence of EAM (p<0.001) and osteoporosis (p=0.012). Though, no association was found between the presence of AAS and osteoporosis (p=0.79).

Conclusion: In this work, patients with AAS had significantly more EAM and osteoporosis. A regular monitoring of cervical spine radiographic assessment in these patients is highly recommended to prevent such complication.


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3950

AB0246 IMPACT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS DISEASE ACTIVITY ON PATIENT’S NUTRITIONAL STATUS

Keywords: Quality of life, Diet and nutrition, Rheumatoid arthritis

H. Boussaïl1, D. Souissi2, S. Miladi2, A. Fazaa2, M. Yasmine2, L. Souabni2, K. Ouerineche2, S. Kassad2, S. Chekili2, K. Ben Abdelghani2, A. Lasfar2, 1Mongi Slim University Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia; 2Mongi Slim University Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a potentially destructive chronic inflammatory disease that can be responsible for a deterioration of quality of life. Deformities, loss of autonomy and depression can lead to malnutrition in these patients.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of RA disease activity on the patient’s nutritional status.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including RA patients according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. Sociodemographic data and disease parameters were collected. RA activity was assessed using the Disease Activity Score (DAS28), Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP). Nutritional status was assessed by the Mini-Nutritional Assessment (MNA). Then, the patients were divided into two groups: Group 1: no risk of malnutrition if the MNA score was >23.5 and Group 2: risk of malnutrition (if the MNA score was between 17 and 23.5) or poor nutritional status (if the MNA score was <17). The significance value “p” was set at 0.05.

Results: A total of 30 patients were included. The gender ratio was 0.43 with a female predominance. The mean age was 57.8±13.8 years [25-79]. The most frequent comorbidities were arterial hypertension (43.3%), diabetes (20%) and gastric ulcer (16.7%). RA was immunopositive and erosive in 80% of cases. The mean duration of the disease was 14.4 years [13-23]. More than half of the patients had moderate activity (55.2%) were on corticosteroids, 48.3% were on methotrexate, 27.6% were on biotherapy, 13.8% were on sulphasalazine and 6.9% were on hydroxychloroquine. The mean value of the visual analogue pain scale was 4.7 [0-9] and the mean value of the patient’s global assessment was 5 [2-9]. The mean ESR and CRP values were 50.6mm [3.9-131] and 22.2mg/l [0.9-77], respectively. The mean DAS28ESR was 4.2±3.1[1.4-9] reflecting moderate activity. The mean body mass index was 25.1±4.46kg/m² [16.8-39] and the mean brachial muscle circumference was estimated at 26.1±3.6cm [20-31]. The mean DAS28 ESR score was higher in G2, but the difference was not statistically significant. A significant association was noted between RA activity level and patient nutritional status (p=0.017).

In patients with high activity, 71.3% were at risk of malnutrition and one patient was in poor nutritional status. Among patients with moderate activity, 42.8% were at risk of malnutrition and 50% had normal nutritional status. Among patients with low activity, the majority (80%) had normal nutritional status.

Conclusion: Our study shows an impact of RA disease activity on the patient’s nutritional status. The higher the disease activity, the higher the patient’s risk of malnutrition.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4123
Rheumatoid arthritis - prognosis, predictors and outcome

**AB0247** WHICH PARAMETERS INFLUENCE DOMESTIC AND OCCUPATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Work-related issues, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Miladi1, W. Belha1, F. Alia1, H. Boussa2, M. Yasmine1, K. Ouanniche1, S. Leila1, S. Kassab1, S. Cheki2, K. Ben Abdelghani1, A. Laatara1, Hospital Mongi Slim, Rheumatology, Marsa, Tunisia

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic rheumatism that mainly affects young adults. It has an impact on the patient’s quality of life and professional abilities.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the influence of RA activity, its impact, and its functional impact on patients’ domestic and professional productivity.

**Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional study over an 8-month period. Seventy adult patients diagnosed with RA for more than a year and receiving an antirheumatic therapy were interviewed. We assessed disease activity by the Disease Activity Score (DAS28), the impact of RA by the Rheumatoid Arthritis Impact of Disease (RAI-D), and functional impairment by the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ). The impact of RA on domestic and professional productivity over the last month was assessed by the Rheumatoid Arthritis Specific Work Productivity Survey (WPS-RA).

**Results:** We noted a female predominance (63 women and 7 men) with an average age of 57.8 ± 10.6 years [29-81]. At the time of the study, 13 (19%) patients were employed, 4 (6%) were unable to work because of RA while the rest were either unemployed or retired. The mean DAS28 was 3.31 ± 1.13 [1.14-5.92]. The DAS28 was positively correlated with the degree of interference of RA on domestic work (p=0.001), professional work (p=0.005), and the decrease of domestic productivity (p=0.012) and professional productivity (p=0.021). Absenteeism was not influenced by RA activity (p=0.109). The average RAID score was 4.72 ± 2.11 [0.6-9.48]. The RAID score was positively correlated with the degree of interference of RA on domestic work (p<0.001) and professional work (p=0.013). No correlation was noted between the impact of RA and the decrease of domestic productivity (p=0.511), professional productivity (p=0.109) or the absenteeism (p=0.248). The mean value of HAQ score was 1.04 ± 0.61 [0.2-6.0]. We noted a positive correlation between the HAQ score and the degree of interference of RA at domestic work (p<0.001) as well as the interference of RA at professional work (p=0.012). The decrease of domestic productivity (p<0.133) and professional productivity (p>0.128) as well as the absenteeism (p<0.125) were not correlated with the functional impairment of RA.

**Conclusion:** According to these results, RA activity, impact, and functional impairment influenced mainly the degree of RA interference at work and domestic work. Productivity was essentially correlated with RA activity. Absenteeism was not influenced by any of the parameters studied previously.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4547

**AB0248** USEFULNESS OF THE C-REACTIVE PROTEIN TO ALBUMIN RATIO IN ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

M. Arthaud1, M. Ghali1, J. Mahboub1, S. Zour1, J. Bejis1, M. Touzi1, N. Berengu1,1 Fatouma Bourguiba Hospital, Rheumatology, Monastir, Tunisia

**Background:** C-reactive protein (CRP) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) are commonly used to assess rheumatoid arthritis (RA) activity. New biomarkers have been developed, such as the CRP to albumin ratio (CAR), which has been proposed as a new inflammatory marker for monitoring disease activity in RA [1].

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to evaluate the relationship between the CAR and RA parameters in a population of elderly patients.

**Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients followed up for RA and aged 65 years or older, CRP albumin, ESR, osnornucoid and haptoglobin levels were dosed. We calculated the CAR for each patient.

**Results:** Sixty-three patients (11 men and 52 women) were included. The mean age was 68.17±4.35 years. The median duration of disease progression was 11 years with an IQR of [4-16]. The median CRP was 8.33±2.8 l/m L. Mean albumin level was 4.13±0.58 g/L. The median ESR was 47 mm at 1 hour. The mean osmornucoid level was 1.29±0.46 g/L. The mean haptoglobin value was 2.07±0.97 g/L. The mean CAR value was 0.51±0.81 [0.01-3.72]. After statistic analysis, we found a significant association between the CAR and the DAS28 (p=0.03). In addition, CAR was positively correlated with ESR, CRP and Orosomucoid (p<0.01, p=0.01 and p=0.002, respectively). In addition, this ratio was significantly associated with HAQ score (p<0.01), and was higher in patients with major functional impairment (HAQ=2) (p=0.002). However, we did not find significant association between CAR and age, duration of evolution, VAS of pain, seropositivity, structural damage or with the use of corticosteroids.

**Conclusion:** Our study showed the association of the CAR with DAS28, inflammatory biomarkers and functional impairment among elderly RA patients. This suggests that this ratio could be a reliable tool as a prognostic index to assess disease activity and inflammation in this population.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4549

**AB0249** RHEUMATIC QUANTITATIVE 0–10 PHYSICIAN ESTIMATES OF INFLAMMATION, DAMAGE, AND DISTRESS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: VALIDATION AGAINST REFERENCE MEASURES

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Outcome measures

N. Rodwell1,2,3, G. Hassett2,3, P. Bird1, T. Pincon4, J. Descallar2,3, Liverpool Hospital, Rheumatology, Liverpool, Australia; Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, Rheumatology, Liverpool, Australia; UNSW Sydney, Medicine and Health, Sydney, Australia; RUSH University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Chicago, United States of America

**Background:** A physician global assessment (DOCGL) distinguishes active from control treatments in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) effectively in clinical trials. However, RA trials select for patients who have high inflammatory activity, generally only 5-30% of all RA patients. In routine care, DOCGL, and all clinical RA measures and indices, may be elevated not only by inflammatory activity but also by joint damage and/or patient distress, complicating interpretation of RA indices and clinical decisions. A Rheumatic checklist provides feasible physician 0-10 subscale estimates of inflammation (DOCINF), damage (DOCDAM), and distress (DOCSTR), in addition to DOCGL.

**Objectives:** To analyze criterion validity and specificity of 0-10 Rheumatic physician estimates for inflammation, damage, and distress, by comparing these estimates to reference RA core data set measures, as well as joint deformity/limited motion (DJC), radiographic scores and indices for FM and DEP.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional assessment was performed at one routine care visit in Liverpool, Australia. Rheumatologists recorded Rheumetric, with 4-0.10 scales for DOCLG, DOCINF, DOCDAM, DOCSTR, and 28 joint counts for swelling (SJC), tenderness (TJC), and limited motion/deformity (DJC), laboratory tests, and radiographic scores. Patients completed a multidimensional health assessment questionnaire (MDHAQ), which includes RAID3 (routine assessment of patient index data), FAST4 (fibromyalgia assessment tool), and MDS2 (MDHAQ depression screen). Rheumatic estimates of inflammation, damage and distress were compared to reference and other measures using correlations and linear regressions.

**Results:** In 173 RA patients, variation in Rheumetric DOCINF was explained significantly by SJC and inversely by disease duration, DOCDAM by DJC, radiographic scores, and physical function, and DOCSTR by fibromyalgia and depression. Conclusion: Rheumetric DOCINF, DOCDAM, and DOCSTR estimates were correlated significantly and specifically with reference measures of inflammation, damage, and distress, documenting criterion validity.

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Significant Variables</th>
<th>Multivariable analyses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOCINF r square=0.56</td>
<td>B (95% CI) Standardised B P-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joint count (SJC)</td>
<td>0.428 (0.342; 0.515) 0.641 &lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>-0.030 (-0.054; -0.005) -0.137 0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOCSTR r square=0.51</td>
<td>B (95% CI) Standardised B P-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deformity/limited motion joint count (DJC)</td>
<td>0.153 (0.087; 0.220) 0.460 0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiographic Sharp van der Heijde score</td>
<td>0.023 (0.007; 0.039) 0.248 0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDHAQ Physical function (FN)</td>
<td>0.265 (0.039; 0.492) 0.229 0.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOCDAM r square=0.42</td>
<td>B (95% CI) Standardised B P-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDHAQ FAST4 fibromyalgia</td>
<td>1.858 (0.530; 3.187) 3.02 0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assessment screening tool</td>
<td>MDHAQ depression screen</td>
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</table>
REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.49992

**AB0250**

**PATIENT BELIEFS AND FEARS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ASSESSED BY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ARTHRITIS DIALOGUE**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of care

R. Sarraj1, M. Brahemi1, O. Jomaa1, A. Ben Salem2, B. Jebali1, S. Abdellatif1, H. Hachtli, Y. Mohamed2. 1Taher Star University Hospital, Rheumatology, Mahdia, Tunisia

**Background:** Misinterpretation of patient beliefs can complicate shared decision making in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) leading to inadequate treatment adherence.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to determine patients' beliefs and fears about their disease and its treatment.

**Methods:** This is a cross sectional study conducted among patients diagnosed with RA based on ACR/EULAR criteria. All patients completed the Arthritis Dialogue Questionnaire (QuAD) which included 21 opinion statements that they scored from 0 (totally disagree) to 10 (totally agree). A score of more than 7 was interpreted to mean that the person significantly agreed with the opinion. The beliefs in this questionnaire include those that are supported by scientific evidence and those that are inconsistent with current medical opinion.

**Results:** A total of 56 RA patients were included in this study. There were 53 females (94.6% of cases) and 3 males (5.4%). The mean age of participants was 51.5 ± 11.7 years [21-74 years]. The average duration of disease was 11.5 ± 8.6 years [1-40 years]. The mean of DAS 28 ESR and DAS 28 CRP were respectively 3.4 ± 1.5. The socio-economic status was low in 14 patients (25% of cases). 19.6% of patients were illiterate and 50% of patients had no education beyond primary level. Twenty-four patients (42.8%) believed that the onset of RA and its flare-ups were due to physical overload. As a result of these false beliefs, these same patients did not believe that doing sport or a physical activity can reduce flare-ups. Sixteen patients (28.5%) believed that RA was triggered by an emotional shock and 10 (17.8%) patients considered that flare-ups of the disease are triggered by psychological factors. The belief that the disease has a genetic cause was reported by 11 patients (19.6%). Uncertainty about disease progression was reported by 31 patients (55.3%) and 19 patients (33.9%) thought that all treatments have negative effects in the long term. The relationship between change in the weather and disease flare-ups was reported by 10 patients (17.8%).

**Conclusion:** The most widely held beliefs were related in our study to uncertainty about disease progression, physical and psychological factors that may trigger the disease, and fears about side effects of treatments. It is important to understand patients' beliefs about RA in order to optimize the adherence to treatment and to encourage patients to take up healthy lifestyles and habits that are beneficial for their disease management.

**REFERENCES:**


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.50805

**AB0252**

**IMPACT OF ADHERENCE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN DIET ON DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Diet and nutrition

S. Rekk1, S. Noucer1, S. Boussaid2, S. Rahmouni3, K. Zouaoui1, H. Sahli1, M. Elleuch1. 1Rabta, Rheumatology, Tunisia

**Background:** The Mediterranean diet (MD), mainly consists of olive oil, cereal products, fresh or dried fruit and vegetables, nuts, a moderate amount of dairy and meat, and many condiments and spices, has been suggested to have a beneficial effect on mortality and cardiovascular diseases. However, there is limited evidence regarding its impact on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) disease activity.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to assess association between adherence to MD and disease activity in RA patients.

**Methods:** In this cross-sectional study, we included patients with RA in remission or low disease activity. Patients with intestinal disease and smokers were not included. Socio demographic data (age, sex, educational level and living area) were recorded. Tender and Swollen Joint Count (T/SJC), Disease Activity Score (DAS28), Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) and Score Disease Activity Index (SDAI) were used to assess disease activity. Levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) and hemoglobin (Hb) were determined. Medication (paracetamol, Non Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) and Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs)) were recorded. We assessed MD adherence through a 14-item questionnaire in RA patient. The MD adherence score was classified as follows: good adherence (≥ 10 points) and low and medium adherence (< 9 points). We divided patients into two groups: G1: good adherence and G2: low and medium adherence to MD. We compared parameters of G1 and G2 using the Mann-Whitney U test.

**Results:** We enrolled 39 patients (34 female) with mean age of 52.74 ± 11.31 [20-74] years. Most of patients lived in rural area (61.5%). Half of patients (53.8%) had primary school level. The mean disease duration was 8.68 ± 6.6 years. The mean CRP and Hb levels were respectively 2.9 ± 9.67 [0-21] and 11.72 ± 1.14 [10-14]. The mean DAS28, CDAI and SDAI were respectively: 2.06 ± 0.71 [3-1.3], 5.46 ± 3.4 [1-10] and 8.26 ± 5.62 [2-28]. The most of patients were on paracetamol (53.9%) and conventional synthetic DMARDs (82.1%). NSAID were used by 35.9% of patients. The mean MD score was 9.1 ± 2.67 [4-12]. G1 enrolled 20 patients and G2 19. No significant differences emerged in the distribution of sex, age, living area and CDAI level between two groups. G1 had significantly lower disease activity in comparison to G2: (median [extreme]) TJC {0 [0-1]} vs 1 [0-2], p=0.02, DAS28 [1.7 [1-3.1]] vs 2.2 [1.7-3.1], p=0.001, CDAI [2 [1-7]] vs 9 [3-11] p<0.001 and SDAI [4 [2-9] vs 11 [5-30], p=0.001. No significant differences was observed in SJC and CRP level, p=0.11 and p=0.22 respectively. However, Hb levels were higher in G1 {13 [13-14]} than in G2 {10 [10-13], p<0.001. G2 had higher paracetamol and NSAID consumption with 84.3% and 57.9% vs 57.9% and 84.3 % respectively. Less use of biological DMARD were observed in G1 since all patients were on conventional synthetic DMARDs.
Conclusion: In our study, higher adherence to a MD was associated with reduced RA activity, symptomatic treatment consumption and more remission and low disease activity with conventional synthetic DMARD. Therefore, nutrition therapy could be a promising adjunct to pharmacological therapy in RA. Further studies are needed to confirm these findings.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5091

AB0253 IDENTIFICATION OF FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH A WORSE OUTCOME - EXITS- IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SEVERE INFECTION

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis

P. Vela Casasempere1,2,3, L. Vegara Viceda1, S. Gomez-Sabatera3, R. Cañoh-Alameda3,1, Universidad Miguel Hernández (UMH), Medicina, San Juan de Alicante, Spain; 2, General University Hospital of Alicante, Reumatología, Alacant, Spain; 3, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica de Alicante (ISABIAL), GRUPO 16, Alicante, Spain

Background: Infections constitute an important and frequent cause of morbidity and mortality in patients with chronic inflammatory and systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases. In rheumatoid arthritis (RA), this increased risk has been related to the immune system alterations inherent to the disease, the drugs used to control it (corticosteroids, DMARDs and immunosuppressants) and associated comorbidities. Most studies focus on the search for factors associated with the development of infections but do not explore the worst outcome: patient failure.

Objectives: To identify factors that help to predict an unfavorable outcome (exitus) after a severe infection in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: This study was a retrospective case-control study at a single institution over a 10-year period. Patients with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis with hospital admission for infection from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2019 (pre-pandemic SARS-COV-2) were selected. The main variable was exitus due to the infectious episode. We collected: age, sex, time of evolution of RA, previous treatment and at the time of admission, number of admissions for infection, location of the infection, comorbidities, and other associated serious diseases. The statistics included a descriptive analysis of the different variables (expressed as median and interquartile range -iQR- for quantitative variables and percentages for qualitative variables), and the association study using the χ2 test or Fisher’s exact test for qualitative variables, and t-student or Mann-Whitney U and Kruskal Wallis for quantitative variables.

Results: We obtained 152 patients (71.7% female, 28.3% male), with a total of 214 episodes of admission for infection (115 patients with 1 episode (75.7%), 25 (16.4%) with 2 episodes, 6 being the maximum number of episodes recorded). The median age at admission was 77 years, and the median time of RA evolution was 8 years (IR 4-16). The location of the infection responsible for admission was mainly respiratory and urinary. Forty-eight patients died in the episode (31.6% of the sample, 15 males and 33 females, median age 81.5 years (IR 69.5-86.5)). Comparing the patients with unfavorable outcomes (exitus) with the rest, we only found a statistically significant difference in the number of previous admissions (p=0.011), and in the coexistence of some other serious disease (exitus 85.4%, rest 61.5%, p=0.003). There were no differences by sex, age, time of RA evolution, drugs, location of the infection, or comorbidities.

Conclusion: A history of hospital admission due to infection, and having another serious disease, are factors associated with an unfavorable outcome (exitus) in patients with RA admitted for an infectious process.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5864

AB0255 CORRELATION BETWEEN PATIENT GLOBAL ASSESSMENT AND DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: ANY CHANGE OVER TIME?

Keywords: Outcome measures, Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Yasmine1, E. Hanneh1, S. Miladi1, A. Fazaa1, H. Boussaa1, K. Ouenniche1, L. Souabni1, S. Kassab1, S. Chekili1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, A. Latlar1. Mongi Slim Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Nowadays, the utility of smartphone application for patients with rheumatic diseases, especially rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is well established and codified [1]. Indeed, patient-centered smartphone applications have the potential to assist with the adoption behavior and maintenance of self-management behaviors [2].

Objectives: The purpose of our study was to investigate the willingness of RA patients to use smartphone applications for managing their disease.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional survey conducted in our rheumatology department including patients with RA, fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. Sociodemographic data were initially collected. Patients were invited to answer a questionnaire regarding their willingness to accept smartphone application as part of their management strategies. We evaluated their points of view and suitability by inquiring about their experience with smartphones, as well as the previous applications used. Moreover, additional questions probed the patients’ willingness to pay for this monitoring app.

Results: The study included 40 RA patients. There was a female predominance with a sex ratio of 0.11. The mean age was of 52.25±14.4 years [21-78]. The mean disease duration was of 11.97±6.69 years [1-29]. Regarding the educational level, 10 patients (25%) were illiterate, 14 (35%) had primary education, 11 (27%) had secondary education, and 5 patients (13%) were university graduates. Most of them (60%) were unemployed, and 13% were retired. As for marital status, 37 patients (92%) were married, and 1 was divorced. According to the patients, the two main reported mobile phone utility concerned the ability to communicate with other individuals (48%) and internet navigation (52%). None of them had uploaded a healthcare application before and only 4 patients had previously contacted their doctor via text messages or e-mail. Overall, 67% of the respondents agreed on the usefulness of a patient-centered smartphone app and 65% were willing to accept this alternative as a model of care. Similarly, most of the patients refused to pay for the app (63%). The adherence to the smartphone app was significantly higher among females compared to males (p<0.011). Moreover, willingness to accept these applications was associated with a higher level of education without reaching a statistically significant correlation (p=0.07). There was no association between the marital, profession, age or disease duration and the acceptability of the smartphone app (p=0.418, p=0.246, p=0.382 and p=0.527 respectively).

Conclusion: Findings from this study showed that RA patients were not as reluctant to accept a health-related smartphone app. The willingness to adopt these applications was associated with a higher level of education without reaching a statistically significant correlation (p=0.07). There was no association between the marital, profession, age or disease duration and the acceptability of the smartphone app (p=0.418, p=0.246, p=0.382 and p=0.527 respectively).

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0254 ACCEPTABILITY OF A SMARTPHONE APPLICATION AMONG TUNISIAN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Self-management, Quality of care

A. Fazaa1, H. Boussaa1, K. Ouenniche1, S. Miladi1, M. Yasmine1, L. Souabni1, S. Kassab1, S. Chekili1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, A. Latlar1. Mongi Slim University Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Patient-reported outcomes (PROs) such as the Patient Global Assessment (PGA) are included in the definition of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Major determinants of the PGA are pain severity, functional limitations and fatigue. In contrast, the correlation with more objective measures of inflammation is weaker. In the early stages of the disease, the PGA might in turn more strictly reflect the patient’s perception of condition.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the correlations between the PGA and disease parameters in patients with RA over time.

Methods: We conducted a prospective study including patients with RA (ACR/EULAR 2010). Demographic data and the following disease parameters were collected at inclusion and at 12 months follow-up: PGA, pain Visual Analog Scale (VAS), tender joint count (TJC), swollen joint count (SJC), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR), C Protein Reactive (CRP), Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28), and Health
Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ). Fatigue was assessed using the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy – Fatigue (FACT-F) which is a short 13-item questionnaire validated in RA. The score FACT-F ranges between 0 and 52. Fatigue was considered mild if the FACT-F score was ≥40, moderate if 20<FACT-F<40 and severe if FACT-F<20. A p value inferior to 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: We included 100 RA patients (84 women and 16 men) with a mean age of 49.5±10 years old [18-65]. The mean disease duration was 87.3 months [1-360]. Rheumatoid Factor (RF) and Anti-Citrullinated Protein Antibodies (ACPA) were positive in 75% and 72.6%, respectively. At inclusion, the mean PGA was 47.8cm [0-100] and the mean pain VAS was 80.8cm [0-100]. The mean TJC and SJC were 5.3 [9-36] and 1 [9-3], respectively. The mean levels of ESR and CRP were 38.1mm [10-120] and 10.8mg/l [2-61], respectively. The mean DAS28 ESR was 3.68 [1.90-8.33] and the mean HAQ score was 0.9 [0-2.75]. The mean FACTF score was 27.1 [5-51] in RA patients versus 46.2 [5-52] in healthy controls (p<0.001). Among RA patients, 57% had moderate fatigue and 26% had severe fatigue. A significant positive correlation was noted between PGA and TJC (r=0.508, p<0.001), SJC (r=-0.531, p<0.001), pain VAS (r=0.763, p<0.001), ESR (r=0.364, p<0.001), DAS28 ESR (r=0.743, p<0.001) and HAQ (r=0.660, p<0.001). A significant negative correlation was noted between GPA and FACTF score (r=-0.658, p<0.001). At 12 months follow-up, the correlations became stronger between PGA and TJC (r=0.664, p<0.001), SJC (r=0.673, p<0.001), pain VAS (r=0.893, p<0.001), ESR (r=0.536, p<0.001), DAS28 ESR (r=0.867, p<0.001), HAQ (r=0.686, p<0.001), and FACTF score (r=-0.792, p<0.001). A positive correlation was also noted between PGA and disease duration (r=0.205, p=0.045).

Conclusion: Disease activity, functional limitation, pain and fatigue directly correlate with PGA. This relation seems to strengthen over time as RA patients gain the ability to better understand and assess their illness.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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ARE CRP/ALBUMINE, PLATELET/LYMPHOCYTE, NEUTROPHIL/LYMPHOCYTE RATIO INDICATORS OF SPONDYLOARTHITIS ACTIVITY?

Keywords: Biomarkers, Cell biology, Spondyloarthritis

Z. Ammoun1, N. Aksabili, H. Bourkhime2, T. Harzy2,1, Medicine Faculty of Fez, Rheumatology, Fez, Morocco; 1University Hospital Center of Fez, Rheumatology, Fez, Morocco; 1Faculty of Medicine of Fez, Epidemiology, Fez, Morocco

Background: Spondylitis is a chronic inflammatory rheumatism that most often affects young adult males. In recent studies it has been reported that the platelet ratio (PLR) and neutrophil lymphocyte ratio (NLR) are important in demonstrating a marker of inflammation.

Objectives: Our objective is to study the relationship between the value of CAR, PLR, NLR, and the BASDAI score.

Methods: A cross-sectional study including patients with spondyloarthritis according to ASAS 2009 criteria. For each patient CAR, PLR, NLR and BASDAI score were calculated.

Results: 112 patients were included in this study. The average age was 46.9 (+/-12.7) years, the ratio M/F is 129, the mean duration of the disease is 7.8 years, 68.8% of the axial spondyloarthritis are severe, 70.5% of spondyloarthritics are radiographic, the average EVA pain is 61.6, 54.5% of patients have a BASDAI≥44, the average CRP is 30.16, the average SR (sedimentation rate) is 32.77, 41.7% of patients have stage III sacroiliitis, 93.9% have bilateral sacroiliitis. The average CAR is 0.88 (+/-1.84), the mean PLR is 157.6, the mean NLR is 3.32, the mean CAR is 0.88. In the bivariate analysis, the CAR ratio was significantly associated with BASDAI (p=0.038), CRP is also significantly associated with BASDAI (p=0.028).

Conclusion: The CAR can be a practical measurement tool in the follow-up of patients with axial spondyloarthritis axial spondyloarthritis because it can be used quickly under routine ambulatory conditions, in correlation with the BASDAI.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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GENETIC EVIDENCE REVEALS A CAUSAL ROLE BETWEEN LEUKOCYTE COUNTS AND THE RISK OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

Y. Zhang3, Q. Qiu2, J. Hu2, J. Hou2, Q. Yu2, P. F. He2, X. Li4, S. X. Zhang4, 5Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microbiology, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 5The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China

Background: Accumulating inflammatory leukocytes in articular tissues is the hallmark feature of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, no relevant study indicates whether there is insidious causation between leukocyte count (LC) and the risk of RA. Traditional observational studies were susceptible to bias from confounding and reverse causation. It was necessary to estimate an exact correlation between LC and the risk of RA.

Objectives: This study aimed at evaluating the correlation between LC and the risk of RA by performing two-sample Mendelian Randomization (MR).

Methods: This study selected single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs) associated with exposure (LC) from a genome-wide association study (GWAS), which included 171846 European ancestry participants and wiped off confounding factors. The association estimates of these SNPs with the risk of RA were obtained from another GWAS, including 14361 RA cases and 42923 controls. Upon SNPs were compared with SNPs related to the risk of RA and performed harmonization analysis to wipe off the irrelevant or inconsistent site SNPs. Ultimately, the remaining SNPs were selected as instrument variables (IVs). Then, we utilized two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) to evaluate whether LC was causally associated with the risk of RA. Furthermore, Cochran’s Q test, MR pleiotropy residual sum and outlier (MR-presso), and leave-one-out analysis were performed as a sensitivity test.

Results: A total of 70 independent SNPs were selected as IVs in the MR analysis of total WBC. Higher leukocyte counts were associated with a higher risk of RA (OR=1.025, 95% CI: 0.998-1.053, p-value=0.038) by the IVW method (Figure 1). The MR-Egger regression test did not reveal any evidence of directional pleiotropy (intercept = -0.0002, stand error (SE) = 0.008, p = 0.981). In addition, leave-one-out sensitivity analysis showed similar findings, which further emphasized the effectiveness and stability of the causation. However, in the Cochran’s Q test, it turned out [Cochran’s Q statistic= 69, p-value=3.472e-10], suggesting heterogeneity exists. For this reason, the processed steps were rechecked, and finally got, the conclusion that heterogeneity is produced from sysmatics.

Conclusion: This study indicated the insidious causation between LC and the risk of RA. Further studies are warranted to determine how related pathways may contribute to the unnormal LC to promote the comprehension of the pathology of the happening of RA and access more therapeutic methods.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3392

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PREPULSE INHIBITION OF THE BLINK REFLEX -A PUTATIVE MARKER OF "FIBROMYALGIANESS" - IS ALTERED IN PTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS COMPARED TO HEALTHY CONTROLS, BUT NOT PREDICTIVE FOR PAIN LEVEL OR THERAPEUTIC RESPONSE TO BDMARDS

Keywords: bDMARD, Fibromyalgia, Rheumatoid arthritis

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3392
Background: Concomitant fibromyalgia (FM) is highly prevalent in pts with RA. In FM patients, altered abnormalities in processing of sensory stimuli including abnormal subcuticular sensorimotor integration measured using prepulse inhibition (PPI) have been described [1]. PPI is a robust neurophysiological phenomenon in which a weak sensory event leads to reduction in magnitude of the reflex response that would be otherwise elicited by a reflex-eliciting stimulus presented 30–500 ms later. Its physiological purpose is to protect salient from irrelevant information at the subcortical level, thereby preventing undesired motor reactions. In RA patients, abnormal processing of sensory information may affect subjective aspects of disease activity indices, and thus influence treatment decisions.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate, whether PPI may serve as a predictive marker of FM in pts with RA starting their first targeted therapy.

Methods: PPI was measured in 15 patients with RA before initiation of treatment with bDMARDs, and 50 healthy controls (HC). We examined the effect of a weak electrical stimulus to the index finger (prepulse) on the blink reflex magnitude induced by electrical stimuli delivered to the supraorbital nerve at interstimulus interval 100 ms. To analyze the degree to which PPI affects baseline actual pain (VAS-NRS), patient global assessment PGA, discordance between PGA and EGA (expert global assessment) calculated as PGA minus EGA we performed univariate linear regression analyses using VAS-NRS, PGA, and PGA minus EGA as dependent variables. We selected the following predictive variables: age, sex, BMI; disease duration; erosive disease; SJC; TJC; pain; VAS, ESR; MAH; ACPA. We used standardised β to compare the strengths of the relationships. We also analyzed the contribution of PPI to therapeutic response in month 3 and 6.

Results: As compared to HC, patients with RA were older, reported higher pain levels, and their mean PPI scores were significantly lower (Table 1). In RA pts PPI was neither predictive for baseline actual pain, PGA, or EGA-PGA, nor for therapeutic response in pts with RA.

Conclusion: Lower PPI in RA patients may reflect abnormal filtering of afferent information flow to the brain. Together with previous findings in FM, our results suggest abnormal subcortical sensory information may be involved in nocicepial pain in RA patients. However, PPI was neither predictive for baseline level of pain, PGA, or EGA-PGA, nor for therapeutic response in pts with RA.


Table 1. Comparison of PPI, age and gender between RA patients (n=15) and controls (n=50)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>RA patients (n=15)</th>
<th>Controls (n=50)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (IQR)</td>
<td>53 (45–59)</td>
<td>46 (39–64)</td>
<td>0.023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, n (%)</td>
<td>11 (73.3%)</td>
<td>11 (73.3%)</td>
<td>0.761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PII, mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.53 (0.12)</td>
<td>0.65 (0.17)</td>
<td>0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual pain (0–10, median (IQR)</td>
<td>6.0 (4.0–7.0)</td>
<td>6.0 (4.0–7.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IQR – inter-quartile range; SD – standard deviation

Figure 1. The average trajectory of disease activity after start of targeted therapy in pts with RA according to their baseline PPI. PPI results are stratified as follows: normal, borderline and abnormal inhibition >60%, 40-60% and <40% resp.

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Disclosure of Interests: Jakub Zavada Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli-Lilly, Sanofi, Novartis, Egs, UCB, Sanofi, Astra Zeneca, Sobi, Zuzana Forejtová: None declared, Lucia Nováková: None declared, Tereza Serranová: None declared.

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AB0259

PREDICTIVE VALUE OF C-REACTIVE PROTEIN/ALBUMIN RATIO(CAR) FOR THE DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

N. Öz1, M. T. Duruöz1. 1 Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic, systemic and disabling autoimmune disease with inflammatory synovitis. Many biochemical factors are used as diagnostic, activation and prognostic markers in certain diseases. The C-reactive protein/albumin ratio (CAR) is an inflammatory marker that is considered to have prognostic value in many disease. The CAR has shown high value in colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease and ANCA-associated vasculitis activity.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to evaluate the predictive value of CAR for disease activity in RA patients.

Methods: This prospective study included 144 RA patients who fulfilled the 2010 revised criteria of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) for RA. The demographic characteristics of the patients, duration of the disease and clinical characteristics of the patients such as the 28-joint Disease Activity Score based on the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (DAS28-ESR), Visual Analogue Scale, Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index were collected. Labotaruvy finding such as erythrocyte sedimentation rate, CRP, albumin were noted. The CAR ratio was obtained by dividing the CRP level with albumin level. Based on the DAS28-ESR level, the included patients were categorized into two groups, namely, inactive to mild active RA (n=69; DAS28-ESR level <3.2) and moderate to highly active RA (n=75; DAS28-ESR level ≥3.2). These group were compared with the parameters described above.

Results: One hundred ten patients (76.4% female) with mean age 52.3 SD 11.8 years were recruited into the study. Age and disease therapy duration of the patients were similar in both groups. Female gender was significantly higher in the DAS28-ESR ≥3.2 group. Patients who DAS28-ESR ≥3.2 had a significantly higher CAR compared to those who did not (0.11 SD 0.09 vs. 0.20 SD 0.16, p<0.001) (Table 1). Multivariate logistic regression analyses revealed that CAR was an independent predictor of moderate to highly active RA (OR: 2.180, 95%CI: 1.307–3.637; p=0.003). A receiver operating characteristic curves analysis yielded that the optimal cut-off value of CAR for moderate to highly active RA was 0.126 with sensitivity 64.0% and specificity 66.2% (AUC: 0.683, 95%CI: 0.507-0.769, p<0.001) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Based on the study findings, we were able to show that simple and easily obtained CAR could be an independent predictor of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis patients.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Demographic, clinical features and laboratory findings of the patients with rheumatoid arthritis based on disease activity measured by DAS28-ESR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>n=69</th>
<th>n=75</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years; mean SD)</td>
<td>53.46 SD 11.57</td>
<td>51.30 SD 12.00</td>
<td>0.275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, gender, n (%)</td>
<td>46 (%67.7)</td>
<td>64 (%85.3)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease symptoms duration (month; mean SD)</td>
<td>117.1 SD 116.3</td>
<td>98.6 SD 75.0</td>
<td>0.265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease therapy duration (month; mean SD)</td>
<td>977.6 SD 105.2</td>
<td>90.9 SD 73.0</td>
<td>0.663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR (mean SD)</td>
<td>2.41 SD 0.55</td>
<td>4.27 SD 0.80</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Analogue Scale (mm, mean SD)</td>
<td>19.72 SD 15.80</td>
<td>27.20 SD 16.37</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L, mean SD)</td>
<td>4.88 SD 3.94</td>
<td>8.54 SD 6.44</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albumin (g/L, mean SD)</td>
<td>44.10 SD 2.69</td>
<td>42.72 SD 3.59</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive Protein/Albumin Ratio (mean SD)</td>
<td>0.11 SD 0.09</td>
<td>0.20 SD 0.16</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: DAS28-ESR, the 28-joint Disease Activity Score based on the erythrocyte sedimentation rate; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP, C-reactive protein.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1796
AB0260 DISABILITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: RELATIONSHIP WITH ALEXITHYMIA.

Keywords: Quality of life, Rheumatoid arthritis

Y. Shairovsky1, Y. Shkarinovsky1, M. Stanislavchuk1. 1National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsya, Department of Internal Medicine №1, Vinnytsya, Ukraine

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the chronic, destructive, immune-mediated inflammatory process that has a gradient course and causes disability of approximately 50% over the next 5 years of the disease. Acute pain syndrome, which is accompanied by RA, often leads to a violation of the psycho-emotional sphere with manifestations in the form of depression, anxiety and alexithymia. Alexithymia defined as a personal emotional disorder that characterized by difficulty in identifying and describing subjective feelings. As there are insufficient data on disability in patients with RA in combination with alexithymia, we screened patients with RA, investigated the level of disability and found a connection with alexithymia.

Objectives: To investigate the level of disability in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and clarify a probable connection with alexithymia.

Methods: RA patients diagnosed according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria (Daniel Aletaha et al., 2010). The presence of alexithymia was determined by TAS-20 – «Toronto Alexithymia Scale» questionnaire (Greame J. Taylor, D. Ryan, R. Michael Bagby, 1994). Disability was determined by a questionnaire DRI – «The Disability Rating Index» (Bo A. Salen, Erik V Spangfort, Ake L. Nygren and Rolf Nordemar, 1994).[1] RA activity was assessed with the Disease Activity Score (DAS28), Simplified disability activity index (SDAI), Clinical disease activity index (CDAI), functional status with the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), pain intensity was determined by the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS).

Statistical analyses were performed using IBM Statistics SPSS 20. Results are presented as mean with standard deviation (M ± SD).

Results: The study included 146 patients with RA (90.7% of women). The average age of the patients was 50.1 ± 12 years, and the duration of the disease ranged from 1 to 21 years (7.4 ± 4.7). Among 146 examined, alexithymia (TAS-20 ≥ 61) was detected in 36 people (24.7%). All patients had different level of disability detected by the DRI questionnaire, with scores ranging from 5.4 to 79.8, and the average value was - 31.1 ± 17.1. In patients without alexithymia, the disability was 26.8 ± 14.8, in patients with alexithymia – 44.5 ± 16.8. Functional ability in individuals with RA without alexithymia according to the HAQ was 0.9 ± 0.6, in contrast to the group of patients with RA and alexithymia - 1.7 ± 0.6. The significance of the differences between groups depending on the presence of alexithymia according to functional ability and intensity of pain was at the level of p < 0.05; and disability - at the level of p < 0.01. A direct strong correlation was established between alexithymia and disability, functional ability and VAS: DRI (r = 0.514; p < 0.01); HAQ (r = 0.450; p < 0.01); VAS (r = 0.457; p < 0.01). We found that the presence of alexithymia in patients with RA was associated with an increased risk of functional disability. Odds ratios are used to identify the risk of functional disorders in patients with RA. RA patients with TAS-20 score ≥ 61 had an odds ratio of 7.57 [95% CI: 2.13 – 26.98] (p < 0.002) for moderate functional disability and 21.47 [95% CI: 4.82 – 95.61] (p < 0.0001) for severe functional disability by HAQ, and 14.98 [95% CI: 4.48 – 50.13] (p < 0.0001) by DRI.

Conclusion: The alexithymia in patients with rheumatoid arthritis is associated with a bigger disability, as well as with impaired functional ability and severity of pain syndrome. We concluded that alexithymia may be considered as a risk factor of the disability in patients with RA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2557

AB0261 PREVALENCE OF HEART VALVULAR REGURGITATION ACCORDING TO THE TIME OF DISEASE EVOLUTION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Heart, Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging

D. Á. Galizar-Delgado1, I. J. Colunga-Pedraza1, J. R. Azpiri-López2, V. M. Beltran-Aguilar3, V. Gonzalez-Gonzalez1, G. A. Arias Peralta4, N. De Avila Gonzalez1, J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza1, G. Garcia-Arellano5. 1Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Cardiology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients are at higher risk of developing cardiovascular (CV) diseases, both ischemic and non-ischemic, than the general population [1]. Inflammatory status and fibrotic changes at cardiac valves in these patients predispose them to higher risk of valve diseases, which could be detected by echocardiography [2].

Objectives: To determine the prevalence of valvular regurgitation, according to the time of disease evolution in RA patients.

Methods: Descriptive, comparative, and cross-sectional study. We enrolled RA patients between 40 and 70 years old who fulfilled ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria and recruited in the Rheumatology service from tertiary care hospital. Patients were divided by time of disease evolution into quartiles. A transthoracic echocardiogram performed by a certified cardiologist blinded to clinical data. Normality was assessed by Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Variables with normal and non-normal distribution were described by media and standard deviation, such as median and interquartile range (p25-p75), respectively. Differences between groups was analyzed by ANOVA, Kruskal-Wallis test or Chi-squared, accordingly.

Results: We included 151 RA patients. Demographic characteristics are in Table 1. Overweight/obesity was found between 62-87% of patients, hypertension between 26-34%, and Type 2 Diabetes mellitus between 8-26%. The tricuspid valve was the most affected (73-84%). There was no differences in prevalence of valvular regurgitation.

Conclusion: RA patients have a high prevalence of valvular regurgitation, which could predispose them to develop heart failure, therefore it is important to consider echocardiography in the approach of this population, despite not showing an increase.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographic characteristics (n=151)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>1st Quartile (n=38)</th>
<th>2nd Quartile (n=38)</th>
<th>3rd Quartile (n=38)</th>
<th>4th Quartile (n=37)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age, years (mean±SD)</strong></td>
<td>54.6 (9.6)</td>
<td>56.8 (8.5)</td>
<td>55.8 (8.8)</td>
<td>56.0 (8.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comorbidities, n (%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight/Obesity</td>
<td>32 (84.2)</td>
<td>33 (86.8)</td>
<td>31 (81.6)</td>
<td>32 (86.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperlipidemia</td>
<td>23 (60.5)</td>
<td>23 (60.5)</td>
<td>23 (60.5)</td>
<td>24 (65.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2DM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Valvular regurgitation, %</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aortic valve</td>
<td>3 (7.9)</td>
<td>5 (13.2)</td>
<td>7 (18.4)</td>
<td>3 (8.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitral valve</td>
<td>26 (68.4)</td>
<td>21 (55.3)</td>
<td>17 (44.7)</td>
<td>20 (54.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary valve</td>
<td>23 (60.5)</td>
<td>23 (60.5)</td>
<td>23 (60.5)</td>
<td>24 (65.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricuspid valve</td>
<td>28 (73.7)</td>
<td>31 (81.6)</td>
<td>31 (81.6)</td>
<td>31 (83.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any of valves</td>
<td>32 (84.2)</td>
<td>33 (86.8)</td>
<td>33 (86.8)</td>
<td>31 (83.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table shows demographic and clinical characteristics. Quantiles were divided according to rheumatoid arthritis duration, meanwhile, each variable was described individually. T2DM Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2892

AB0262 FATIGUE PATTERNS IN DIFFICULT TO TREAT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Quality of life, Rheumatoid arthritis, Mental health

J. P. Otaño Maudet1, D. Freites1, M. Rodriguez Laguna2, C. Hormigos3, M. P. Alvarez Hernandez1, A. Madrid Garcia2, L. Abasolo1, L. Leon2. 1Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria San Carlos (IdiSSC), Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Fatigue study is scarce in D2T RA. The experience of fatigue is multidimensional, implying complex, multicausal pathways.

Objectives: to identify the factors associated with fatigue on its different subscales (Physical, Living, Cognitive and Emotional).

Methods: Cross-sectional study. 22 patients with D2T RA were included; patients were being followed up in the rheumatologist outpatient clinic of Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, Spain. Data were collected between July 2018 and November 2022. All patients met the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria and they were in...
treatment with Biological agents (anti-TNF and Non anti-TNF) or Targeted Synthetic DMARDs (jakinibs). Outcome: Difficult to treat Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients (fulfillment of EULAR criteria). Male variable: Fatigue was assessed by the Bristol Rheumatoid Arthritis Fatigue Multidimensional Questionnaire (BRAF-MDQ) and the Bristol Rheumatoid Arthritis Fatigue Numerical Rating Scale (BRAF-NRS). Covariates: Sociodemographic and disease-related variables. Statistical analysis: A descriptive analysis was carried out for the different variables. To identify factors independently associated to BRAF-MDQ and its subscales, multivariable linear regression was applied. Results were expressed as coef with their corresponding 95% CI. A value of p < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

**Results:** A total of 22 (15.38%) patients were found D2T RA, comprising of 11 females (50%) with a mean age of 62.82±13.45 years and mean disease duration of 17.76±8.47 years. RF was positive in 59% of patients. Regarding comorbidities, 32% had dyslipidemia, 28% hypertension, 10% vascular disease, 27% hypothyroidism and 23% depression. The DAS28-ESR mean score of the patients were 4.10 ± 0.67. The factors affecting the global fatigue and its different subscales was evaluated in multivariate analyze **Table 1.** Our results shows a different correlation structure between disease and treatment factors and the different dimensions of the BRAF-MDQ. Patients who reported high disability scores had more global fatigue, while those with a poor patient global health assessment perceived more physical fatigue. In addition, an association was observed between depression and cognitive fatigue. Male sex and positive RF was associated with less living fatigue. In addition, an association was observed between depression and cognitive fatigue. Male sex and positive RF was associated with less living fatigue. Male sex and positive RF was associated with less living fatigue.

**Conclusion:** It is important to evaluate fatigue in a multidimensional perspective, each of the different subscales could be modulated by different factors. The results of our study indicated that disability predicts global fatigue, however, other factors can configure different patterns of fatigue in D2T RA patients, and identify them is key to the approach of this complex symptom.

**Table 1. Multivariate analyses of BRAF-MDQ and its subscales**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>BRAF-MDQ</th>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Living</th>
<th>Cognitive</th>
<th>Emotional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.014 (0.881)</td>
<td>-0.027 (0.151)</td>
<td>-0.011 (0.126)</td>
<td>-0.063 (0.099)</td>
<td>0.006 (0.077)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>0.794 (0.585)</td>
<td>2.292 (0.401)</td>
<td>-4.334 (1.871)</td>
<td>3.525 (1.752)</td>
<td>0.163 (3.050)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>1.264 (0.859)</td>
<td>-2.266 (3.749)</td>
<td>-4.919 (1.910)</td>
<td>-0.769 (1.846)</td>
<td>-0.070 (1.103)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAD</td>
<td>4.220 (3.17)</td>
<td>2.198 (1.881)</td>
<td>1.207 (1.664)</td>
<td>2.077 (1.14)</td>
<td>0.035 (1.905)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGHA patient global health assessment</td>
<td>0.154 (0.117)</td>
<td>0.127 (0.038)</td>
<td>0.030 (0.046)</td>
<td>0.069 (0.027)</td>
<td>0.295 (0.045)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:**

**Areal Absorption of the DEXA scanning Hologic Corp, model no - Horizon A S/N 05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s): 21:39 Art: 08_EUROAB-2023-PO07-08**

**ACCREDATION:**


**Table 1. Fat distribution indices in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fat distribution indices</th>
<th>Mean ± SD or Median (IQR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fat mass (kg)</td>
<td>22.98 ± 10.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean mass (kg)</td>
<td>33.53 ± 10.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat mass %</td>
<td>39.87 ± 6.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat mass index (kg/m²)</td>
<td>10.05 ± 4.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean mass index (kg/m²)</td>
<td>14.46 ± 2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat to lean mass ratio</td>
<td>67.18 ± 19.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Android-gynoid ratio</td>
<td>0.92 ± 0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trunk - leg fat ratio</td>
<td>0.81 ± 0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None Declared.

**DOi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3706
significantly increased flare risk was predicted by established RA (OR 2.93 [1.02-8.43]), cumulative prednisolone doses>2.5g (OR 3.69 [1.34-10.19]) and dissatisfied RA control before GC discontinuation are important factors associated with flare after GC withdrawal.

Table 1. Predictors of impaired sleep quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictors</th>
<th>β (95% CI)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PIGA</td>
<td>0.176(0.023 - 0.412)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression (PHQ-9)</td>
<td>0.282 (0.101 - 0.542)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHAQ</td>
<td>0.230 (0.025 - 1.29)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4460

AB0266

THE INFLUENCE OF HEREDITY ON RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: EXAMINING THE DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS IN PATIENTS WITH A FAMILY HISTORY

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis

H. El-Kasmi1, N. Akaabi2, I. El Mezouar2, M. Omani3, T. Harzy2, 1Laboratory of Epidemiology, Clinical Research and Community Health, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University, Fes, Morocco.

BACKGROUND: NIL.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe the particularities of patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have a family history of the disease.

Methods: In this retrospective study, a total of patients diagnosed with RA between the years 2011 and 2022 were included. The primary aim of the study was to investigate the relationship between different parameters such as age of disease onset, Disease Activity Score using C-reactive protein(DAS CRP), serological profile, erosive character,extra-articular manifestations, and use of biotherapy. Data were collected from the medical records of the patients, and analyzed using statistical test such chi-squared, Fisher’s exact test and t-test.the level of significance was set at p<0.05.the study design included a thorough data cleaning process.

RESULTS:

The study included 407 patients with a mean age of 58.86 years ± 12.441, and a sex ratio of 6 (F/M). The mean DAS 28 score was 4.35 ± 1.31, mean CRP: 22.25 ± 37.23 (p=0.05).the study design included a thorough data cleaning process.

Table 1. Disease Activity Score using C-reactive protein

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex-Ratio</th>
<th>Young onset RA (%)</th>
<th>Extra-articular manifestations (%)</th>
<th>Serological profile (%)</th>
<th>Erosive protein (mg/L)</th>
<th>DAS CRP*</th>
<th>Erosions (%)</th>
<th>The use of biological treatment (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RA with Family History</td>
<td>RA without Family History</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=21)</td>
<td>(n=286)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex-Ratio</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young onset RA (%)</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-articular manifestations (%)</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serological profile (%)</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosive protein (mg/L)</td>
<td>22.25 ± 37.23</td>
<td>27.87 ± 25.11</td>
<td>0.487</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS CRP*</td>
<td>5.3 ± 1.63</td>
<td>5.4 ± 2.5</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions (%)</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of biological treatment (%)</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DAS CRP*: Disease Activity Score using C-reactive protein
evaluating and treating patients with RA. Further research is needed to confirm these results and to better understand the underlying mechanisms.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

AB0267  DISEASE ACTIVITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS STRATIFIED BY HEMOGLOBIN LEVELS: A MULTI-CENTER STUDY

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Rheumatoid arthritis, Clinical trials

M. Al-Mazedi1, R. Rajan2, A. Al-Herz2, A. Alsafer2, M. Al-Jarallah3, R. Dashi2, P. Setiya1, K. Saleh4, A. Al-Awadhi5, E. Hasan3, K. Mokadam2, A. Gharem6, A. Alenizi6, Z. Kobalava7,8. The Public Authority For Applied Education & Training - Head Office, Dept. of Medical Laboratory Technology, Shuwaikh Industrial, Kuwait; 2Sabah Al-Ahmad Cardiac Center, Department of Cardiology, Al Kuwait, Kuwait; 3Al-Amin Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Al Kuwait, Kuwait; 4American University of Kuwait, Department of Management, Salimya, Kuwait; 5GBPUAT, Department of Agrometeorology, Pannagiar, India; 6Farwaniya Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Sabah Al Nasser, Kuwait; 7Kuwait University, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait City, Kuwait; 8Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Jabiya, Kuwait; 9Al Jahra’ Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Al Jahra, Kuwait; 10Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Department of Internal Medicine with the Subspecialty of Cardiology and Functional Diagnostics, Moscow, Russian Federation

Background: Anaemia is a multifactorial, pervasive, extra-articular manifestation that is a significant burden in RA. The most common types of anaemia in RA are chronic anaemia and iron-deficiency anaemia. A number of existing studies observed anaemia in 24.0%–70.8% of RA patients.

Objectives: The primary objective of this study was to examine the association between haemoglobin (Hb) levels and disease activity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: This retrospective study obtained data from adult RA patients with Hb reports from the Kuwait Registry for Rheumatic Diseases (KRRD). Patients were recruited from four public hospitals in Kuwait between February 2013 and February 2022. The cohort was stratified into two groups: low Hb (anemic, ≤ 110 g/L) and high Hb (non-anemic, > 110 g/L). Demographic, treatment, clinical, and laboratory characteristics were used to compare the two Hb cohorts. Multivariate and univariate statistical analyses were used to analyse the data.

Results: The total number of patients visited (N) was 11393 and consecutive patients with RA diagnoses and Hb data (Nv) was 1584. Both Nv and Np were included in the study. Of these, 72.5% (n = 8620) had high Hb levels and 27.5% had low Hb levels (n = 3133). The average age of the cohort was 55.9±12.5 years. Logistic regression analysis revealed that a greater number of non-Kuwaiti patients had anaemia than Kuwaiti patients [adjusted odds ratio (aOR), 1.34; 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.16-1.56; P<0.001]. Patients who received biologic treatment were more likely to be non-anemic [aOR, 1.33; 95% CI:1.23-1.45; P<0.001]. Additionally, the study demonstrated that patients with anaemia had greater odds of acquiring Disease Activity Score 28-joint count (DAS28) ≥ 3.2 as opposed to DAS28 < 3.2 [aOR, 0.74; 95% CI:0.61-0.90; P =0.002].

Conclusion: Lower haemoglobin levels in RA are independent predictors of disease activity.

Acknowledgments: I would like to acknowledge Kuwait Registry for Rheumatic Diseases (KRRD), for providing us the needed data.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4860

AB0269  RHUMATOID FACTORS ISOTYPES DIAGNOSTIC SENSITIVITY AND SPECIFICITY IN RHUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN TUNISIA

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers, Diagnostic tests

R. Ben Tekaya1, J. Mahboub1, M. Elghali2, N. Hafhouni3, A. Saad1, S. Zour1, I. Beja1, M. Touzi1, N. Sakiy2, N. Bergaoui1, 1Hospital University Fattouma Bourguiba, Rheumatology Department, Monastir, Tunisia; 2Hospital University Fattouma Bourguiba, Immunology Department, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: Rheumatoid factor (RF) is a well-established marker for the diagnosis and classification of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Most studies have evaluated IgM RF or isotype-non-specific total RF tests.

Objectives: We evaluated the importance of rheumatoid factor isotype in this study.

Methods: An international cohort consisting of samples from 52 RA patients and 57 patients suffer from other rheumatologic diseases were tested for IgA, IgM and IgG RF. Clinical and biological data were collected.

Results: IgM, IgA, and IgG were positive in RA patients 96.15%, 88.46% and 17.3% respectively. The sensitivity of IgG RF for the diagnosis of RA was the lowest 16.7%, IgA RF sensitivity was lower than IgM RF (87.8% vs 95.5%). The specificity of IgM, IgA and IgG RF for the diagnosis of RA were (29.8 %vs 61.4 %vs 89.4% respectively). Double positivity for RF IgM and RF IgA had a higher specificity for RA than RF IgM or RF IgG (92.6% vs 29.8% vs 89.4%). However, combined positivity for IgA RF, IgM RF, and IgG ACDA had higher specificity and lower sensitivity for RA classification than positivity for either antibody.

Conclusion: IgA RF showed lower sensitivity than IgM RF. The combination of IgG RF with IgM RF and ACDA did not improve the sensitivity of RA classification. Combined positivity (IgA-RF/IgG-RF/ACDA) increased specificity.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0270  DESIGN OF A PROSPECTIVE MULTI-NATIONAL CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY ON SCREENING FOR INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE (ILD) IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) GUIDED BY RISK FACTORS

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Lungs

J. Sparks1, P. Dieudé2, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold3, G. R. Burmester4, S. Walsh5, M. Kreuter6,7, C. Stock8, S. Sambevski9, M. Alves10, P. Emery11,12. 1Harvard Medical School, Division of Rheumatology, Inflammation, and Immunity, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America; 2Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Bichat-Claude Bernard University Hospital, INSERM UMR1152, University of Paris Cité, Department of Rheumatology, Paris, France; 3Oslo University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 4Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 5Imperial College London, National Heart and Lung Institute, London, United Kingdom; 6Thoraxklinik, University of Heidelberg and German Center for Lung Research,
PREDICTIVE FACTORS OF CARDIAC IMPAIRMENT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Imaging, Heart, Comorbidities

M. Brahimi, R. Sarrai, H. Ibn Hadj Amor, A. Ben Salem, S. Katriem, R. Rouabha, E. Hamraie, H. Hachtel, Y. Mohamed. Taher Star University Hospital, Rheumatology, Mahdia, Tunisia; Taher Star University Hospital, Cardiology, Mahdia, Tunisia

Background: In view of the insidious and serious nature of cardiac involvement in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systematic screening for these diseases and the identification of risk factors is of paramount importance in order to preserve and improve patients’ quality of life and life expectancy.

Objectives: The objective of our study is to determine the predictors of cardiac involvement.

Methods: We performed a cross-sectional study conducted in Taher Star Hospital, Mahdia, Tunisia. Each patient underwent a transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) coupled with Strain technique. The comparison between a qualitative variable and a qualitative variable was made by the Student’s t test if the qualitative variable follows the normal law, if not, the Mann-Whitney test was used. The multivariate study was done by binary logistic regression. A p value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Seventy-two patients with RA were included in our study. There was a clear female predominance with a sex ratio of 0.7. The mean age of RA patients was 52.9 ± 11.7 years (21-75 years). The mean duration of disease progression was 12.4 ± 9.9 years (6-40 years). The means of DAS28 (CRP), DAS28 (ESR) and HAQ score were respectively 3.4 ± 1.4 [1.2-6.7]; 3.9 ± 1.4 [1.4-7.4] and 0.9 ± 0.7 [0-2.5]. 51.4% of patients had an increased ESR and 37.5% of cases had an increased CRP (CRP>6). Corticosteroid therapy was used in 94.4% of patients with a mean duration of 5.9 ± 5.2 years. 120 patients were identified as having ILD, or who have had a high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scan in the prior 2 years, will not be eligible. Patients will undergo an HRCT scan, which will be assessed centrally by two thoracic radiologists. Data will be collected on comorbidities, pulmonary function. It is planned that up to 1200 patients will be enrolled at approximately 30 sites in the USA, UK, France, Italy, Spain.

Results: The results of this study will elucidate the prevalence of RA-ILD, and features of RA-ILD on HRCT, in the study population and enable development of a probability score for RA-ILD based on a multivariable model incorporating risk factors. The area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve, specificity, sensitivity and predictive value of the model for predicting the presence of RA-ILD on HRCT (yes/no) will be reported.

Conclusion: This prospective multi-national cross-sectional study will enable development of a screening tool for RA-ILD, guided by risk factors, to identify patients with RA who should be screened for ILD using HRCT.

Disclosure of Interests: This study is supported by Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH (BI)

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Conclusion: Our study proved an association between cardiac involvement and disease activity. Therefore, early and appropriate management of RA may decrease the risk of cardiac impairment.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2421
Disease activity was measured with help of DAS28. All patients were examined using the same protocol, ESR, CRP and ViD level were assessed. S1 healthy patients with the same statistical data were included in the control group.

Results: 68.08% of examined patient were female and 31.91% - male. Duration of the RA at the moment of the study was 5.2±1.1 years and mean DAS28 score was 4.8±1.2. According to our study significant negative correlation between levels of ViD and DAS28 score was found (p=0.02), correlations between CRP, ESR were also found, but the results were not significant. The mean ViD level in patient group was 13.5±8.3 ng/mL and in control group 38.4±2.6 ng/mL. The difference of ViD levels between groups was significant (p<0.05).

Conclusion: According to our data, levels of ViD are lower among patients with RA, especially among patients with high activity. Taking that into consideration, the levels of ViD should be assessed in patients with RA and insufficiency of ViD should be corrected in the course of Ra treatment.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB0273

INTERSTITIAL MATRIX DESTRUCTION IS A CENTRAL PATHOLOGICAL FEATURE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

A. C. Bay-Jensen1, S. Holm Nielsen1, C. Thudium1, M. Karsdal2. 1Nordic Bioscience, ImmunoScience, Herlev, Denmark; 2Nordic Bioscience, Fibrosis Biology, Herlev, Denmark

Background: The interstitial matrix is the ground substance of all connective tissues, such as bone, skin, tendons, internal organs, and ligaments[1]. Type I collagen (COL1) is not only the most abundant protein, but also crucial for tissue integrity and stability as it act as the skeletal network of most organs. COL1 is organized in fibrils and connecting other extracellular matrix proteins to form a dynamic tissue. In bone, COL1 is 80% of the total protein amount and 95% of the total collagen amount, and thereby bone is by far the most COL1 rich tissue[1]. Matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) driven COL1 degradation is a central feature of in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) resulting in the release of C1M into the circulation. The common soluble biomarkers in RA are measures of inflammatory factors such as CRP, thus there is room for blood-based biomarkers reflecting tissue destruction.

Objectives: MMP-mediated tissue destruction may be a central part of inflammatory disorders, albeit overlooked. The biomarker C1M was developed more than a decade ago[2]. C1M originates from soft tissue turnover (from the action of MMP-2, -9, and -13)2), not bone, thus very different from the bone degradation biomarker CTX-I. The aim was to review the literature to provide an overview on the potential context of use of assessing MMP-mediate COL1 degradation in RA, according to the FDA BEST guidelines[2].

Methods: PubMed and google scholar were searched for full-text original articles in English using the keywords C1M, biomarker, and rheumatoid arthritis. The search period was set to 2011 to 2022, included. Also, we limited the included articles to those assessing blood levels of C1M in clinical RA samples and animal models, thus excluding articles assessing the biomarker assessed in cell cultures or in silico models.

Results: 396 titles were identified of which 14 were full text, English written articles. The figure provides the main conclusions of the 14 articles. C1M was 2-4 times elevated in patients with RA compared to healthy donors or to patients with undifferentiated arthritis (UA) and is increased in a rat model of RA (orange box). C1M release is inhibited by biologics, such as anti-IL6 receptor, anti-TNFs, and Jak inhibitors, and was shown to be associated with disease activity (blue box). C1M was predictive of treatment response (purple box) and associated with disease progression (green box).

Conclusion: MMP-mediated COL1 degradation was more than 100% elevated in RA, suggesting that tissue destruction is actively ongoing in these patients. Tissue destruction was prognostic for further joint damage. Only those treatment that strongly inhibited this tissue destruction was efficacious. In alignment, changes in tissue destruction were predictive for efficacy.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1.

AB0274

EFFECT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ON BONE MINERAL DENSITY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH INFLAMMATORY MILIEU IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid arthritis

R. Sivaprasad1, M. Gopalakrishnan1, S. Khichar1, R. Shukla3, K. Shukla3, M. K. Garg1. 1All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Internal Medicine, Jodhpur, India; 2All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Endocrinology, Jodhpur, India; 3All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Biochemistry, Jodhpur, India

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a inflammatory disorder, associated with significant systemic and local bone loss. Factors determining bone mineral (BM) loss in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are important. This study aimed to determine the occurrence and predictors of low bone mineral density (BMD) in patients with RA.

Objectives: To estimate Bone Mineral Density in patients with Rheumatoid arthritis. To determine the frequency and risk factors for osteopenia/osteoporosis in patients with Rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: PubMed and google scholar were searched for full-text original articles in English using the keywords Rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis. The search period was set to 2011 to 2022, included. Also, we limited the included articles to those assessing bone mineral density (BMD) and its relationship with inflammatory milieu in RA patients.

Results: 37 articles were included for the systematic review. Of these 22.7% (8/37) were prospective cohort studies, 21.6% (8/37) were cross-sectional studies. Of the 37 articles, 39% (14/37) were conducted in patients with RA, while the remaining 61% (23/37) were conducted in patients with osteoporosis. The majority of the articles were conducted in patients with RA.

Conclusion: Rheumatoid arthritis was significantly associated with osteoporosis in patients with RA. The relationship between bone mineral density and inflammatory milieu in patients with RA is complex and multifactorial.

REFERENCES:

DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3254

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.32706
Methods: We studied 102 RA patients diagnosed using ACR/EULAR 2010 at our Rheumatology clinic in Jodhpur, India from January 2021 to August 2021 after written informed consent and Ethical Committee approval. We collected the clinical, demographic, treatment history and calculated disease severity with Disease Activity Score (DAS28 CRP) and Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI). BMD was assessed (Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry scanner-Hologic Corp, model no-Horizon A S/N 303237M). Serum samples for Interleukin-1 (IL-1) and Interleukin 6 (IL-6) were collected and stored at -80°C and analysed by ELISA.

Results: In the study population, with mean age of 46.7±12.3 years, median disease duration of 48±36 months, mean DAS28 CRP score of 4.5±1.2, mean CDAI value of 18.6±8.58 prevalence of osteopenia and osteoporosis calculated using T score were found to be 43.1% and 15.7% at left hip, 42.2% and 16.7% at lumbar spine, 16.8% and 17.6% at left forearm respectively(Table 1, Figure 1). There was significant variation in BMD across various age categories at lumbar spine (P value=0.031) and left forearm (P value < 0.0001). There was statistically significant reduction in BMD with higher disease activity at hip (p value<0.019), however significance was not observed at lumbar spine and forearm. There was no significant association between BMD and CDAI. There was statistically significant difference in the lumbar spine BMD across the DAS 28 CRP <3.2 and DAS 28 CRP >3.2 subgroup. Lower values of BMD were observed in female patients, RF positive patients and established RA patients but these were not statistically significant. There was statistically significant correlation between BMD and CDAI value of 18.6±8.58 prevalence of osteopenia and osteoporosis calculated for assaying inflammation and disease activity in RA patients while serum homocysteine can be used as a sensitive marker for assessing inflammation and disease activity in RA patients. Serum neopterin can be used as a predictor of RA extra articular complications.

Table 1. Prevalence of osteopenia/osteoporosis at different sites in RA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMD category (Based on T score)</th>
<th>Left Hip (N=100)</th>
<th>Lumbar spine (N=99)</th>
<th>Left forearm (N=98)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>40 (40%)</td>
<td>39 (39.4%)</td>
<td>61 (62.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopenia</td>
<td>44 (44%)</td>
<td>43 (43.4%)</td>
<td>19 (19.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
<td>16 (16%)</td>
<td>17 (17.2%)</td>
<td>18 (18.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Prevalence of osteopenia/osteoporosis at different sites in RA patients

Acknowledgements: None.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0275

SERUM LEVELS OF HOMOCYSTEINE, LEPTIN AND NEOPTERIN AS MARKERS OF DISEASE ACTIVITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Gamal1,2, Y. Gaza1, M. Ghaff1, 1Dubai Hospital, Rheumatology, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 2Al-Azhar University, Rheumatology, Cairo, Egypt

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic, systemic disorder characterized by the presence of many proinflammatory cytokines that have been involved in the pathogenesis, comorbidity, and premature mortality, due to increased atherosclerotic heart disease[1], homocysteine is an independent risk factor for coronary heart disease, stroke, and an independent predictor for cardiovascular mortality in atherosclerotic patients[2]; leptin is a component of cytokines that mediates immune response and plays an important role in the T-cell related inflammatory process.[3] Neopterin is a pteridine derivative produced by monocytes and macrophages primarily as a response to interferon-gamma stimulation induced by the activation of the cellular immune system.[4]

Objectives: To investigate the relationship between serum levels of homocysteine, leptin and neopterin and clinical & laboratory parameters of disease activity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: This study included 80 RA patients and age & sex-matched 80 healthy controls. RA patients were divided into two groups (A&B) depending on the presence or absence of Extra-articular manifestations. There was 40 with Extra-articular manifestations (9 patients with Cutaneous vasculitis, 7 with Nodules, 6 with Neuropathy, 5 with Reynaud’s phenomenon,7 with secondary sjoegen, 2 with Fealty’s syndrome, 2 with Intestinal nphritis, 2 with Intestinal nphritis).

Results: In the RA group (A+B), mean serum homocysteine, leptin and neopterin levels were (11.79 ± 8.72 μmol/L), (22.43 ± 7.37 mg/dl) and (3.83 ± 1.84 nmol/L) respectively with No statistically significant difference was found between RA and control groups regarding serum Leptin (p=0.674). While a significant difference was found between RA and control groups regarding serum Neopterin (< 0.001) & homocysteine, (< 0.001). Also, In RA groups (A, B) there was a statistically significant difference regarding serum Neopterin (p= 0.03) and DAS 28 ESR (p= 0.05). there was a Positive significant correlation between serum (neopterin - Hcy) and ESR, TNF-α, IL-6, and DAS-28 (p < 0.05) while no significant correlation was found between serum (neopterin- homocysteine) and CRP (p > 0.05).

Conclusion: Serum lepton cannot be considered of value as an marker of disease activity in RA patients. Serum neopterin can be used as a sensitive marker for assaying inflammation and disease activity in RA patients while serum homocysteine can be used as a predictor of RA extra articular complications.

References:


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4503

AB0276

NAILFOLD VIDEO CAPILLAROSCOPY SUPPORT THE DIAGNOSIS OF OVERLAP CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE: A PILOT STUDY IN A SAMPLE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Rheumatoid arthritis
Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease characterized by arthritis and a range of extra-articular organ involvement. Altered microcirculation is an important contributor to the inflammatory reaction characterizing RA and is involved in synovitis and systemic organ manifestations[1]. Nailfold video capillaroscopy (NVC) is a reliable, safe and highly sensitive method for evaluating the morphology of microcirculation and detailed alterations[2].

Objectives: The objective of the study was to evaluate the microcirculation in adult RA patients by using NVC and to identify morphological and quantifiable NVC parameters with possible correlations with clinical and laboratory findings.

Methods: NVC was performed at baseline on 8 fingers of both hands of 25 RA patients (EULAR/ACR 2010 criteria) (mean age 68.5±13.47 years, mean disease duration 14.6±8.6 years)[3]. Different NVC parameters microvascular damage were detected and analyzed, such as microvascular architecture, capillary morphology and loss of capillaries (linear/mm). The results were categorized into "non-scleroderma" pattern, such as "normal" and "non-specific alterations"; as well as "scleroderma" and "scleroderma-like" pattern. The RA patients were treated (at the time of the analysis) with low dose glucocorticoids, NSAIDs and cDMARDs (see Table 1). Statistical analysis was performed by non-parametric tests.

Results: The patient's mean age at the time of NVC was 62.68±12.68 years and they consisted mostly of women (84%). The caucasian cohort was composed of 21 females and 4 males (5.25:1). The patient's mean age at the time of NVC was 62.68±12.68 years and they consisted mostly of women (84%). The caucasian cohort was composed of 21 females and 4 males (5.25:1). The patient's mean age at the time of NVC was 62.68±12.68 years and they consisted mostly of women (84%). The caucasian cohort was composed of 21 females and 4 males (5.25:1).

Conclusion: The results of present study confirm in sample size that a specific pattern, like "Early" scleroderma NVC pattern was observed in 1 patient (4%), showing giant capillaries and microhaemorrhages. "Sclero- derma-like" capillaroscopic pattern was found in 2 patients (8%) with the following features: dilatations, giant capillaries, microhaemorrhages, abnormal capillary shape with ramifications and reduced mean capillary number per linear mm. NVC observation of "Early" scleroderma pattern and "Scleroderma-like" pattern in 3 patients (12%), suggested the coexistence of an overlap syndrome (most likely MCTD), also supported by clinical and autoantibodies specificities. No specific RA NVC pattern was detectable. No statistically significant correlations were found between different NVC parameters and autoantibodies or specific RA clinical features.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of RA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>25%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>female/male</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>5.25:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>current age (years, mean±SD)</td>
<td>68.56(13.47)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>age at diagnosis (years, mean±SD)</td>
<td>53.96(14.48)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seropositive RA</td>
<td>14(56%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI+</td>
<td>14/14 (100%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA+</td>
<td>10/14 (71.43%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA+</td>
<td>7 (28%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENA+</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud phenomenon</td>
<td>9 (12%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVC performed at diagnosis</td>
<td>5 (20%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy at NVC baseline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAIDs</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glucocorticoids</td>
<td>19 (76%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cDMARDs</td>
<td>19 (76%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NSAIDs: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; cDMARDs: conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4761
Methods: The study evaluated the structural capillaroscopic parameters using video-capillaroscopy (NVC). Applying the tonometry method, the augmentation index (AiX) was calculated, as well as its adjustment to a heart rate of 75 (AiX75). Additionally, pulse wave velocity (PWV), and mean intima-media thickness (cIMT) of the two common carotids, as well as central systolic and diastolic blood pressure (cSBP, cDBP), were calculated in each patient.

Results: A total of 32 patients with a mean age of 63.06±11.05 years were studied. At the same time, the existence of ramified capillaries was significantly correlated with PWV (p<0.03, p=0.023), while the existence of crossed capillaries was inversely correlated with cSBP (p=0.43, p=0.016). Based on the measurements performed in each capillary, a significant correlation was found between the internal capillary diameter and cSBP (p=0.36, p=0.043). In 16 patients the subcapillary venous plexus was visible and this finding was significantly correlated with the mean value of left cIMT (p=0.005).

Conclusion: The findings of this small study indicate an association between NVC alterations and markers of atherosclerosis in patients with RA.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4850

AB0279

FACTORS AFFECTING QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of life

M. Brahimi1, R. Sarrà2, B. Jebali1, O. Jomaa1, M. Hassayoun1, S. Abdellatif1, H. Hachfi1, Y. Mohamed1. 1Täher Star University Hospital, Rheumatology, Mahdia, Tunisia

Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) has an important impact on patients’ quality of life (Qol), affecting both physical and mental domains of well-being.

Objectives: This study aims to assess the Qol of RA patients based on the Short Form Health Survey-36 (SF-36) questionnaire and to evaluate the associated factors.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study including patients with RA disease. Each patient answered to the SF-36 Questionnaire assessing quality of life, which evaluates 8 domains: physical functioning (PF), bodily pain (BP), role limitations due to physical health problems (RP), role limitations due to personal or emotional problems (RE), mental health (MH), social functioning (SF), energy/fatigue or vitality (VT), and general health perceptions (GH).

Results: We included 78 patients with a mean age of 52.9±11.3 years and a female preponderance (88.5%). The mean duration of disease progression was 11.1±9.5 years. The average of patient global health, numbers of swollen and tender joints were respectively 51.4 ± 2.2, 3.7 ± 3.2 and 8.6 ± 7.6. Two thirds of patients had moderate to severe disease activity (DAS 28 >3.2). The mean Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) was 1.3 ± 0.8, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) showed that 16.7% of patients had anxiety and 18% had depression. The SF-36 global score was 52.3 ± 24.8 [15.5-92.8] with an impaired Qol (SF-36 <66.7) in 51 (65.4%) patients. Among the eight domains, the most affected domain was the “role limitations due to physical health problems” (RP) with a mean of 45.4±20.3. Impaired Qol was associated with disease activity parameters: number of swollen joints (p=0.01), number of tender joints (p=0.01), patient global health (p=0.02) and DAS 28 score (p=0.01). Patients with high functional disability (HAQ ≥ 1), high scores of depression and anxiety had poor quality of life (p<0.01). No significant associations were found between Qol and age, gender or duration of disease activity.

Conclusion: RA has a significant physical, psychological and social impact on affected patients. This impairment of Qol was associated with disease activity, functional impact and psychological disorders. Therefore, it is necessary to improve these parameters for a better management of the disease.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5052

AB0280

PREGNANCY, BIRTH OUTCOMES, AND BREASTFEEDING IN CHRONIC RHEUMATIC DISEASES WOMEN

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction

K. Maatallah1, L. Kharrou1, H. Ferjani1, D. Ben Nessim2, D. Kaffel1, W. Hamdi1.

Kassab Orthopedics Institute, Ksar Said, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Parenthood is usually challenging in chronic rheumatic diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and spondyloarthritides (SpA). It seems to be affected by the disease state and pharmacological therapies [1,2].

Objectives: We aimed to assess pregnancy, birth, and breastfeeding outcomes in patients with RA and SpA.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients followed for RA or SpA. We collected the following data: age, disease duration, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), and C-reactive protein (CRP) levels, disease activity was assessed using DAS28 score for patients with RA and ASDAS-CRP scores for patients with SpA. We asked patients about their pregnancies, birth outcomes, and breastfeeding. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software.

Results: Forty-six women were included. They were 23 RA patients and 23 SpA patients. The mean age was 50.2 ± 13.1 years. The mean disease duration was 9.64 ± 8.27 years. The mean ESR and CRP levels were 40.45 ± 33.12 mm and 15.22 ± 24.21 mg/L. The mean DAS28-ESR and ASDAS-CRP were 5.25 ± 1.21 and 2.7 ± 0.6, respectively. Forty-one women were married, 3 were divorced and 2 were widowed. The mean age at the marriage was 24.9 ± 6.66 years. Half of the patients suffered from infertility (n=23). Eight of them never had kids (17%). The mean numbers of gestation and parity were 3 ± 2 [0-7] and 2 ± 1 [0-6], respectively. Seven patients discontinued their treatment to get pregnant without discussing it with their rheumatologists (15%). Only 6 patients had complications during their pregnancies (16%). Complications were abortion in 5 cases and preeclampsia with premature birth in one case. Twenty-five patients gave natural vaginal birth (66%), 7 patients gave birth by C-section (18%), and 6 patients needed obstetrical forceps to give birth (16%). Two patients had a post-partum hemorrhage. The mean term birth was 39.18 ± 1.44 weeks of amenorrhea. Thirty-four patients had breastfed the children (74%). The mean breastfeeding duration was 13.76 ± 8.8 months. Eight patients reported impairment of breastfeeding due to their diseases (21%). Birth with cesarean section was associated with a younger age at the onset of the disease (32.75 ± 5.73 vs 43.16 ± 10.3 years, p=0.031). DAS28-ESR and ASDAS-CRP were higher in patients who had cesarean section but the difference was not significant (DAS28: 5.12 ± 0.45 vs 4.34 ± 0.79, p=0.08; ASDAS: 3.04 ± 0.9 vs 2.59 ± 0.6, p=0.3). Furthermore, younger age was associated with impaired breastfeeding (39.4 ± 9.23 vs 56.11 ± 11.27 years, p=0.01). Discontinuing the treatment was associated with infertility (p=0.003), a younger age of the patient (40.8 ± 7.82 vs 51.33 ± 14.47 years, p=0.002), older age at the marriage (34 ± 6 vs 23.21 ± 5.02 years, p=0.042), and higher CRP (22.08 ± 27.56 vs 8.18 ± 8.36 mg/L, p=0.04).

Conclusion: Our results are consistent with other studies [2], caesarean section rates seem to be high in RA and SpA patients [3]. Strikingly, our youngest patients were the ones that discontinued their treatment to get pregnant. This highlights the importance of informing and discussing pregnancy with patients with chronic inflammatory diseases.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0281

THE ALBUMIN LEVEL AND THE ACTIVITY OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, WHAT CORRELATION?

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Descriptive studies

F. E. Chekkouri1, A. Mougou1, I. El Bouchti1. 1centre Hospitalo-Universitaire Mohammed VI Marrakech, Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco
Background: Inflammation during rheumatoid arthritis (RA) can cause changes in the serum levels of certain proteins, including albumin. Our study aims to find a link between albumin level and disease activity.

Objectives: The objective of our study was to study the correlation between the albumin level and the indices of RA activity.

Methods: Descriptive and comparative study including patients with RA between 2007 and 2021. Statistical data analysis was performed using SPSS version 20 software. The correlation between albumin level and RA activity indices was assessed using Pearson's correlation coefficients (p-values).

Results: 260 patients were included. The average age was 49.91 years, with a female predominance in 86.9% of cases. The average duration of evolution was 4.64 years. Chronic polyarthritis was the most frequent mode of revolution (74.2%), it was deforming in 64.1% of cases. Structural damage was present in 84.8% of patients, RA was seropositive for ACPR in 82.9% and seronegative for RF in 775% of cases. The mean ESR and CRP levels were 44.08 mm/h and 32.68 mg/l respectively. Hypoalbuminemia was found in 41.1% of patients with an average albuminemia of 36.5 ± 6.78 g/l. The mean DAS28-CRP was 5.26 and the mean CDUAI was 35.75. Patients with severe activity had more frequent hypoalbuminemia than those with moderate and low activity (67% vs 22% and 7%). A significant negative correlation was found between the albumin level and the DAS28-CRP (r = 0.24, p = 0.003), on the other hand the CDUAI score was not correlated with the albumin level (r = 0.22, p = 0.16). There is a significant correlation between albumin level, CRP level and ESR (r = -0.27, p = 0.001).

Conclusion: These results suggest that the albumin level could provide additional information on the intensity of inflammation in RA.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0283 THE IMPACT OF POLLUTION ON DISEASE ACTIVITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A 112 PATIENT GROUP STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Prognostic factors, Geographical differences

H. Tebbaa1, A. Rafii1, H. Arabii1, A. Mougli1, I. El Bouchti1, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Mohammed VI Marrakech, Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco

Background: Air pollution is incriminated in a large number of respiratory and cardiovascular pathologies. More recently, the role of particulate matter from pollution has been studied in autoimmune diseases and in particular in rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Objectives: The objective of our study is to evaluate the impact of air pollution measured by the quality index (AQI) on different disease parameters during rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: We included in this study 112 patients with seropositive rheumatoid arthritis, residing in different regions of southern Morocco. Inclusion criteria were: established rheumatoid arthritis, duration of residence exceeding one year in the same region. Exclusion criteria were: specific professional exposure to industrial pollutants and passive and active smoking. The air pollution level was evaluated by the new ATMO index which classifies the air quality in five levels: Good, average, degraded, bad, very bad and extremely bad according to the concentration of the four air pollutants. The following parameters were collected: duration of disease progression, age, number of exacerbations per year, the mean DAS28 CRP during the last year, the mean CRP during the last year, the time of anamnesis, the number of hospitalizations, an univariate and multivariate analysis evaluating the association and the correlation with the different parameters was carried out by the SPSS 2021.

Results: 112 patients were included. The female sex represents 66%. The different regions included in the study were: Marrakech in 68 cases with an AQI of 47, Safi in 9 cases with an AQI of 21, Beni Mellal in 6 cases with an AQI of 29, Sidi Rehal in 1 case with an AQI of 1, Dernane in 2 cases with an AQI of 29, Ouarzazate in 4 cases with an AQI of 25, Azilal in 10 cases with an AQI of 34, Zagora in 4 cases with an AQI of 21, Youssoufa in 1 case with an AQI of 9, Guelmine in 7 cases with an AQI of 17. The average DAS28 was 3.11. The mean CRP was 23.1 mg/l. The average number of hospitalizations during the last year was 2.5. The average number of exacerbations in the last year was 5.6. The use of level 1 analgesic was noted in 22%, level 2 in 13%. A positive correlation was found between the number of exacerbations and AQI (p = 0.011, r = 0.69), CRP and AQI (p = 0.013, r = 0.71).

Conclusion: The associations between rheumatoid arthritis and air pollution seem complex, it can be considered as a risk factor aggravating rheumatoid arthritis, and these hypotheses have to be demonstrated on a larger sample.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0284 EVALUATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SERUM NETRIN-1 LEVEL AND PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

G. Ozan1, S. Ertən2, S. C. Güven3, A. Kor4, F. Eren5, P. Akyüz Dağış6, Y. Mardas7, I. Dogan2, K. Gökk8, O. Küçükşahbin9, B. Armagan2, S. Neşeliolu2, S. Başer4,
Background: Although many predictors have been proposed to predict rheumatoid arthritis (RA) disease activity, most of these markers are not specific to RA and their levels can be affected by many other factors. The need for ideal markers to predict disease activity in RA continues. The association of netrin-1 with RA disease activity has not been evaluated before.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the plasma levels of the netrin-1 molecule in RA patients and its relationship with RA disease activity.

Methods: Sixty RA patients and 41 age and sex-matched healthy volunteers were included in this study. An ELISA kit (Elsabscience, Texas, USA; catalog number: E-EL-H2328; lot number: G2WTX2S25W) analyzed by quantitative sandwich enzyme immunoassay method was used to calculate netrin-1 values. Disease Activity Score-28 (DAS-28) and Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) were calculated to measure disease activity, and Rheumatoid Arthritis Disease Impact (RAID) score was calculated to measure disease-related deterioration in the quality of life.

Results: Netrin-1 serum levels were similar in RA and healthy controls (respectively, 64.4 [35.8-551.4] and 65 [35.8-436.6], p=0.786). No significant correlation was found between levels of Netrin-1 and DAS-28, DAS-28-ESR, CDAI, and RAID scores (p>0.05).

Conclusion: Netrin-1 is not elevated in RA patient serum and its levels are not correlated with RA disease activation scores.

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[2] da Mota LMH, dos Santos Neto LL, de Carvalho JF .. Autoantibodies and


[6] Yırç, Kor A, Oğan A. Serum netrin-1 levels

Table 1. The relationship between disease activity, treatment status, and serum Netrin-1 levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Netrin-1 level, pg/mL, median (min-max)</th>
<th>DAS28 disease activity</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control (n=41)</td>
<td>Remission (n=35)</td>
<td>67.7 (38.1 - 612 (35.9 - 608 (36.2 - 70.6 (52.3 - 60.8 (809 - 305.6) - 133.5) - 187.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 (n=3)</td>
<td>Moderate (n=11)</td>
<td>65 (35.8-436.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 (n=24)</td>
<td>High (n=3)</td>
<td>60.8 (36.2 - 70.6 (52.3 - 60.8 (809 - 305.6) - 133.5) - 187.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI (n=11)</td>
<td>Remission (n=17)</td>
<td>54.1 (38.1 - 875 (35.9 - 58.4 (416 - 73.1 (418 - 0.240 - 501.9) - 551.4) - 133.5) - 187.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity</td>
<td>Moderate (n=24)</td>
<td>65 (35.8-436.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 (n=14)</td>
<td>High (n=5)</td>
<td>35.9 (551.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment status</td>
<td>Treatment naive (n=5)</td>
<td>70.6 (46.9 - 501.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control (n=43)</td>
<td>bDMARD alone (n=12)</td>
<td>713 (418 - 273.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment with or without bDMARD (n=12)</td>
<td>Treatment with or without bDMARD (n=12)</td>
<td>713 (418 - 273.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0285 MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTO-AXIAL SUBLUXATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Prognostic factors, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

S. Miladi1, S. Boudid1, A. Fazaa1, H. Boussaï1, M. Yasmine1, K. Quenniche1, S. Kassa1, C. Selma1, K. Ben Abdelehmani1, A. Lataar1. Monji Slim Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Recent studies have shown that around 86% of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) have cervical spine involvement [1]. The synovial inflammation in the upper cervical spine causes instability. Atlanto-axial subluxation (AAS) is the most frequent injury of the cervical spine in RA.

Objectives: Our study aimed to assess the medical management of AAS in our RA patients.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective, monocentric study, including patients fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria for RA. All patients had a confirmed AAS on MRI of the cervical spine findings. Disease activity was assessed using the disease activity score 28 (DAS-28). Treatment received by each patient, before and after the occurrence of AAS, was noted.

Results: We included 19 patients with a confirmed AAS. The mean age was 62±14.91 years. Male to female ratio was 0.5. The mean disease duration was 19.27±8.04 years. RA was erosive in all patients and immunopositive in 87% (n=13). When AAS occurred, twelve patients were on csDMARDs. The mean DAS28 ESR was 5.25±1.1. According to DAS28ESR, high disease activity was noted in 10 patients (66.7%). Methylprednisone was the most frequent treatment used (n=9, 60%). An association of Methylprednisone and sulfasalazine was prescribed in 5 cases (33%). Two patients were using leflunomide. Three patients were on bDMARDs. Nine patients (60%) received bolus steroid therapy. These patients had a vasculatized synovial pannus on MRI findings. Four patients remained on the same DMARDs. An association of sulfasalazine to methylprednisone was performed in 6 patients. A change from csDMARDs to bDMARDs was undergone in only two patients (from sulfasalazine to rituximab, and from leflunomide to etanercept). A switch of bDMARDs was performed in three patients: from infliximab to rituximab in one case, and from rituximab to tocilizumab in two others. Surgical treatment was indicated in three patients for neurological complications, but the patients did not agree to proceed with the surgery.

Conclusion: AAS is a potentially lethal complication of RA. The use of bolus steroid therapy can be handy to reduce acute inflammation. However, adjustment of DMARDs is needed to better control RA activity and to slow its progression.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Rheumatoid arthritis - comorbidity and clinical aspects

AB0286

RETENTION RATE OF BIOLOGIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WITH DECREASED KIDNEY FUNCTION: RESULTS FROM THE IORRA COHORT

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Safety, Rheumatoid arthritis

T. Hisaishi, Y. Hisashi1,5, M. Harigai 1.

Objectives: To determine the optimal DMARD selection for treatment of RA patients with decreased kidney function, we compared the retention rates of patients receiving tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi), interleukin-6 inhibitor (IL-6), and abatacept (ABT) in RA patients using data from the IORRA cohort, the real-world data registry of Japanese RA patients.

Methods: Renal function was calculated using the Japanese versions of the equations for estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFRcr). Decreased renal function was defined as eGFRcr < 60 mL/min/1.73m². Among RA patients enrolled in the IORRA cohort between 2003 and 2020, data from patients with decreased kidney function who started bDMARDs were extracted. Renal function and use of bDMARDs by the extracted patients were identified in their medical records. Reasons for discontinuation were classified as ineffectiveness, adverse events, or other reasons. Retention rates due to ineffectiveness or adverse events caused by TNFi (adalimumab or adalimumab biosimilar [ADA], certolizumab pegol [CZP]), etanercept or etanercept biosimilar [ETN], golimumab [GLM], infliximab or infliximab biosimilar [IFX]), IL-6i (tocilizumab [TCZ], sarilumab [SAR]) and ABT spanning 36 months were calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method, and adjusted hazard ratio (aHR) of discontinuation of each bDMARD was calculated using the Cox proportional hazard model, with adjustment for age, sex, disease duration, clinical disease activity index (CDAI), methotrexate (MTX)/prednisolone (PSL) use, and previous bDMARD use at baseline.

Results: A total of 238 treatment courses administered to 191 patients with decreased renal function were included. Median eGFRcr = 52.5 mL/min/1.73m² (interquartile range: 43.3–71.7). The number of bDMARD users was as follows: TNFi, 143 (ADA, 15; CZP, 5; ETN, 67; GLM, 30; IFX, 26); IL-6i, 59 (all were TCZ); and ABT, 36. Respectively, ABT users were older than IL-6i users, and TNFi users had higher eGFRcr, and a higher proportion of MTX and previous DMARD use than the other groups. Sex, seropositivity, CDAI, health assessment questionnaire, and the proportion of PSL use were similar between groups. The retention rates at 36 months were 59.9%, 72.9%, and 61.7% for TNFi, IL-6i, and ABT, respectively, aHR of discontinuation when TNFi served as reference was 0.60 (95% confidence interval: 0.32–1.00) for IL-6i, and 0.85 (95% confidence interval: 0.44–1.64) for ABT.

Conclusion: Because the retention rate of IL-6i was numerically high compared with TNFi and ABT in this study, IL-6i may offer a treatment advantage in RA patients with decreased renal function.

REFERENCE:


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RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA NEED APPROPRIATE TREATMENT ENHANCEMENT TO RECOVER FROM FRAILTY: A MULTICENTER RETROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities, Lungs

Y. Ohashi1, N. Takahashi2, M. Suzuki3, Y. Sobue4, R. Sato5, M. Maeda5, D. Kihira6, K. Kishimoto7, K. Terabe8, S. Asai9, S. Imagama1
1 Nagoya University Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya, Japan; 2 Aichi Medical University Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagakute, Japan; 3 Japanese Red Cross Nagoya Daiichi Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya, Japan; 4 Nagoya University Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya, Japan

Background: Frailty is a common geriatric syndrome that embodies an elevated risk of catastrophic health and physical function declines among older adults [1]. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease that causes synovitis in the joints, resulting in joint deformity with a high prevalence (0.5-1.0% in Japan) [2]. Japan is one of the world’s most rapidly aging societies [3], and older RA patients are generally at a greater risk of frailty than the general population. Most patients with comorbidities such as pulmonary, renal, and liver dysfunction are more prone to become frailty in the short term than healthy people [4], as well as poor control of disease activity in RA patients [5]. Against this background, the present study aimed to investigate factors associated with frailty in RA patients, including their comorbidities.

Objectives: This study investigates factors associated with frailty in RA patients. Methods: 656 RA patients were evaluated from our observational study data in 2022. Of the patients, 152 were frailty, and 504 were not frailty assigned to the frailty group and the non-frailty group, respectively. Both patient characteristics were compared in univariate analysis. The factors associated with frailty were assessed by logistic regression analysis. As a sub-analysis, patients who have Interstitial pneumonia (IP) history and patients who did not were assigned to the IP (n=102) and non-IP (n=554) groups, respectively, to clarify differences between both groups.

Results: The frailty group was older (mean: 73.6 ±66.8 years) and had a higher DAS28-ESR (mean: 3.67 vs. 2.66) than the non-frailty group. DAS28-ESR (OR: 1.85, P<0.001) and IP history (1.74, P=0.043) were associated with frailty (Table 1). The IP group was older (mean: 73.3 ±67.5 years), had a higher DAS28-ESR (mean: 3.30 vs. 2.80) (Figure 1 A), a higher HAQ-DI (mean: 0.32 vs. 1.19) (Figure 1 B), lower use of methotrexate (MTX) (26.5% vs. 62.9%), and higher use of steroid (44.1% vs. 26.8%) than the non-IP group. There was no difference in the use of biological and targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (b/ts-DMARDs) between both groups (38.3% vs. 37.3%) (Figure 1 C). The IP group had a higher frailty proportion than the non-IP group (20.6 vs. 37.3%) (Figure 1 D). Conclusion: DAS28-ESR and IP history were associated with frailty in RA patients. Most RA patients with IP had frailty with insufficient treatments, i.e., low use of MTX, high use of steroid, and low use of b/ts-DMARDs. They might recover from frailty through appropriate control of disease activity using b/ts-DMARDs, which are easy to use for patients with comorbidities.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Predictors of Frailty progression for in RA patients with pre-frailty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Odds ratio</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>1.03 (1.01-1.06)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex: female</td>
<td>0.90 (0.54-1.49)</td>
<td>0.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disease (years)</td>
<td>1.03 (1.00-1.05)</td>
<td>0.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m2)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.95-1.06)</td>
<td>0.933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steinbrocker stage</td>
<td>1.03 (0.63-1.28)</td>
<td>0.818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid use</td>
<td>1.33 (0.85-2.08)</td>
<td>0.206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate use</td>
<td>0.95 (0.61-1.48)</td>
<td>0.815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstitial pneumonia</td>
<td>1.74 (1.02-2.93)</td>
<td>0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR</td>
<td>1.85 (1.55-2.21)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Comparison of patient characteristics between non-IP and IP groups.

P value <0.05 was considered statistically significant and was represented as an asterisk (*)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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COMORBIDITY CLUSTERS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY AND PREDICT SURVIVAL PROGNOSIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities

C. S. Crowson1, E. Atkinson1, E. Myasoedova2, V. Kronzer2, B. Kimbrough2, C. Kodihalata3, E. Lovering4, R. Kumar2, J. M. Davis3,4,5,6,5,6,5 Mayo Clinic, Quantitative Health Sciences, Rochester, United States of America; 2 Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America

Background: Comorbidities are common in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but there is little information regarding distinct comorbidity patterns in patients with RA and how these patterns impact disease activity and mortality.

Objectives: To examine clusters of patients with RA based on comorbidities, the association between these clusters and RA disease activity, and their impact on mortality.

Methods: In this retrospective, population-based study, residents of a geographically well-defined area with prevalent RA on 1-1-2015 were identified. Patients were followed for vital status until death, last contact or 12-31-2021. Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) was obtained from the medical visit closest to the prevalence date (±1 year). Diagnostic codes were retrieved for 5 years prior to the prevalence date. Using 2 codes ≥30 days apart, 56 comorbidities were defined. Latent class analysis (LCA) was used to cluster patients based on comorbidity patterns with the optimal number of clusters determined by Bayesian Information Criterion. Standardized mortality ratios (SMR) were used to assess differences in mortality across the clusters.

Results: A total of 1643 patients with prevalent RA (72% female; 94% white; median age 64 years, median RA duration 7 years) were studied. Comorbidities were present in 1548 (94%) of the subjects with 5+ comorbidities present in 980 (59%) subjects. LCA identified 4 clusters of patients. Although only comorbidities were used in the LCA, the clusters differed by age, sex, number of comorbidities, smoking status, body mass index (BMI) and RF/anti-CCP positivity (Table 1). Cluster 1 (n=686) included younger patients who were less likely to smoke and had fewer comorbidities compared to other clusters. In contrast, cluster 4 (n=134) included older patients with 6+ comorbidities who were more likely to have smoked. Cluster 2 (n=200) included younger patients with 6+ comorbidities and high prevalences of depression and obesity, while cluster 3 (n=623) included the remaining patients with 3+ comorbidities consisting mainly of hypertension, hyperlipidemia and back pain. Cluster 1 had no increased mortality based on US lifetables (SMR 0.8; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.55-1.1). Cluster 2 had the worst survival (SMR 3.5; 95% CI 2.8-4.4). Cluster 2 also had poor survival (SMR 1.6; 95% CI 1.03-2.23), while the poor survival in cluster 3 was less pronounced (SMR 1.2; 95% CI 0.99-1.4). Data on CDAI were available on 656 RA patients were mostly like those without CDAI except they were slightly less pronounced (SMR 1.2; 95% CI 0.99-1.4). Data on CDAI were available on 656 RA patients were mostly like those without CDAI except they were slightly

Conclusion: Clustering of patients with RA based on comorbidity profiles identified distinct groups exhibiting different prognosis. This demonstrates comorbidities congregate in some patients, leading to poor prognosis, while others...
experience fewer comorbidities and better survival than people without RA. The cluster with both better survival and more remission despite a high proportion of seropositivity is intriguing.

Table 1. Characteristics of four clusters of patients with RA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>55 (46, 63)</td>
<td>60 (51, 68)</td>
<td>72 (63, 78)</td>
<td>77 (71, 82)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF/anti-CCP positive</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>0.073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA duration, years</td>
<td>6 (3, 12)</td>
<td>3 (5, 21)</td>
<td>6 (3, 11)</td>
<td>8 (1, 17)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m²</td>
<td>27 (24, 33)</td>
<td>27 (31, 35)</td>
<td>29 (25, 34)</td>
<td>28 (25, 34)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever smoker</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values in the table are median (25%, 75% interquartile range) or %

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Cynthia S. Crowson: None declared, Elizabeth Atkin-son: None declared, Elena Myasoedova: None declared, Vanessa Kronzer: None declared, Bradly Kimbrough: None declared, Chanakya Kodishala: None declared, Edward Lovering: None declared, Rakesh Kumar: None declared, John Davis III Grant/research support from: Pfizer.

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AB0290 FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS RECEIVING BIOLOGICAL AND TARGETED SYNTHETIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS: A POPULATION-BASED STUDY

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, bDMARD, Mental health

H. H. Chen1,2, W. C. Chao1,3,1 National Chung Hsing University, Department of Post-Baccalaureate Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2 Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 3 Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Department of Critical Care Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a leading chronic inflammatory systemic disease worldwide, and increasing evidence have shown under-recognised impacts on mental health. However, the assessment and management of mental health is somehow not included in the T2T despite increasing evidence have shown that mental illnesses, particularly depression and anxiety, were not only highly prevalent in patients with RA but also associated with control of disease activity. In the present study, we used a population-based database with 10,852 patients with RA who had initiated biological or targeted synthetic disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (b/tsDMARDs) to address the incidence of mental illness and to investigate risk factors for mental illness.

Objectives: This population-based study aim to address the incidence and risk factors of mental illness among patients with RA starting b/tsDMARDs therapy.

Methods: We used the 2001–2020 Taiwanese National Health Insurance Research Database to identify patients with RA receiving b/tsDMARDs. The primary outcome was newly developed mental illness, including anxiety and mood disorders, among spouses. We performed a Cox regression analysis to determine factors associated with mental illness. The results were presented as hazard ratios (HR) with 95% confidence interval (CI).

Results: We enrolled 10,852 patients with RA and had received b/tsDMARDs. Of them, 7,854 patients received tumor necrosis factors inhibitors (etanercept n=3,322; adalimumab n=2,689; golimumab n=1,346; certolizumab n=490; infliximab n=7), 1,693 patients received non-TNFi bDMARDs (tocilizumab n=856; abatacept n=837), and 1,305 patients were treated with tsDMARD (tofacitinib n=1,192; baricitinib n=113). We found that 13.62% of enrolled patients developed mental illness, with the incidence was 4,054 per 100,000 person-year. Those receiving tocilizumab (aHR 0.65, 95%CI 0.51–0.82), abatacept (aHR 0.69, 95%CI 0.55–0.87) and tsDMARDs (aHR 0.59, 95%CI 0.47–0.73) had a lower risk of mental illness compared with receiving TNFi. We also found that old age (aHR 1.02, 95%CI 1.01–1.02), low income (aHR: 1.16, 95% CI: 1.04–1.29), use of cyclosporine (aHR: 1.20, 95% CI: 1.05–1.38), and use of steroid higher than 5mg/day (aHR: 1.23, 95% CI: 1.02–1.48) correlated with incident mental illness.

Conclusion: This population-based study investigated the incidence and risk factors of mental illness among the patients with RA receiving b/tsDMARDs. Our findings highlight the need for vigilance of mental illness in patients with RA.


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0290 EFFECT OF FILGOTINIB ON PAIN IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN THE PHASE 3 FINCH 1, 2 AND 3 STUDIES

Keywords: Clinical trials, Rheumatoid arthritis, Pain

P. C. Taylor1, A. Kavanagh2, P. Nash3, J. Pope4, G. Pongratz5, B. Fautrel6, R. Alten7, K. Hasegawa8, S. Hao9, D. De Vries10, P. J. Stiers11, C. Watson12, R. Westhovens13, Botnar Research Centre, University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; 2University of California San Diego, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, La Jolla, United States of America; 3Griffith University, School of Medicine, Brisbane, Australia; 4Western University, Department of Medicine, London, Canada; 5Asklepios Klinikum Bad Abbach, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bad Abbach, Germany; 6Regensburg University, Faculty of Medicine, Regensburg, Germany; 7Assistance Publique–Hôpitaux de Paris, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France; 8Schloßpark Klinik, University Medicine Berlin, Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology and Rheumatology, Berlin, Germany; 9Gilead Sciences, Inc., Global Medical Affairs Research, Foster City, United States of America; 10Gilead Sciences, Inc., Biostatistics, Foster City, United States of America; 11Galapagos BV Research and Development, Clinical Research, Leiden, Netherlands; 12Galapagos BV, Medical Affairs, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 13KU Leuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Center, Department of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium

Background: Patients (pts) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) often experience substantial pain despite treatment, and pain control is considered an important treatment outcome. The FINCH 1–3 studies demonstrated the efficacy and acceptable safety of the preferential Janus kinase (JAK) 1 inhibitor filgotinib (FIL) in pts living with RA.

Objectives: This post-hoc analysis of the FINCH studies assessed specific effects of FIL on pain.

Methods: FINCH 1–3, randomized, double-blind trials of FIL 100 mg and 200 mg (FIL100/200). In FINCH 1, pts with an inadequate response (IR) to methotrexate (MTX) received FIL, adalimumab (ADA) or placebo (PBO) + MTX for 52 weeks. In FINCH 2, pts with an IR to biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) received FIL or PBO + conventional synthetic DMARDs for 24 weeks. In FINCH 3, MTX-naive pts received FIL or MTX or MTX for 52 weeks. For each treatment group, pts reported pain on a 100-mm visual analog scale (VAS). Scores of ≤10 mm reflected limited to no pain; scores of ≤20 mm indicated health status was not negatively affected by pain.[1] Time to first VAS score of ≤10 mm was assessed. The proportion of pts who achieved remission (as per Disease Activity Score 28 with C-reactive protein [DAS28-CRP] <2.6 or Clinical Disease Activity Index [CDAI] ≤2.8) at Week 24 was evaluated. Of pts who achieved DAS28-CRP or CDAI remission, the proportion who also reported VAS pain scores of ≤10 mm or ≤20 mm was determined.

Results: In FINCH 1, there was a higher probability of achieving a VAS pain score of ≤10 mm with FIL200 vs ADA + MTX or PBO + MTX; responses were better or comparable with FIL100 vs other treatment arms (Figure 1). Similar findings were observed in FINCH 2 and 3 for FIL vs PBO and MTX, respectively. In FINCH 1, the proportion of pts achieving DAS28-CRP remission was greater with FIL200 + MTX (46.4%) and comparable for the FIL100 + MTX (35.2%) vs ADA + MTX arms (35.7%, Table 1). Further, the proportion of pts who achieved VAS pain scores of ≤10 mm and ≤20 mm in addition to DAS28-CRP remission was 26.3% and 35.8%, respectively, in the FIL200 + MTX group, compared with 17.2% and 24.6% in the ADA + MTX group (Table 1). In FINCH 2 and 3, a
greater proportion of pts in the FIL groups achieved remission vs the PBO or MTX arms, respectively. A greater proportion of pts achieved pain responses in addition to DAS28-CRP remission in the FIL groups of FINCH 2 and FINCH 3 compared with PBO or MTX, respectively. Findings were similar when CDAI remission was assessed.

Conclusion: FIL positively affected pain parameters across the FINCH studies as early as Week 2, with responses sustained over time (up to Week 52 [FINCH 1 and 3] and Week 24 [FINCH 2]). In FINCH 1, FIL200 had a particularly favorable impact when pain response and remission were assessed together. Similar findings were seen with FIL compared with PBO and MTX in FINCH 2 and 3, respectively. These findings suggest that JAK inhibition may offer potential added value with respect to patient-reported pain outcomes when treat-to-target goals are met.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Disease response and improvement in VAS pain score (up to Week 24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FIL200 + MTX</th>
<th>FIL100 + MTX</th>
<th>ADA + MTX</th>
<th>PBO + MTX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINCH 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP remission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With VAS ≤10 mm</td>
<td>230 (48.4)</td>
<td>169 (35.2)</td>
<td>116 (35.7)</td>
<td>77 (16.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With VAS ≥20 mm</td>
<td>170 (35.8)</td>
<td>120 (25.0)</td>
<td>80 (24.6)</td>
<td>55 (11.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINCH 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP remission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With VAS ≤10 mm</td>
<td>45 (30.6)</td>
<td>40 (26.1)</td>
<td>18 (12.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With VAS ≥20 mm</td>
<td>32 (21.8)</td>
<td>27 (17.6)</td>
<td>10 (6.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINCH 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP remission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With VAS ≤10 mm</td>
<td>225 (54.1)</td>
<td>88 (42.5)</td>
<td>89 (42.4)</td>
<td>121 (29.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With VAS ≥20 mm</td>
<td>138 (33.2)</td>
<td>57 (27.5)</td>
<td>49 (23.3)</td>
<td>62 (14.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AD.A, adalimumab; DAS28-CRP, Disease Activity Score-28 with C-reactive protein; FIL(100/200), DAS28-CRP remission 225 (54.1) 88 (42.5) 89 (42.4) 121 (29.1)
With VAS ≤20 mm 32 (21.8) 27 (17.6) 10 (6.8)
With VAS ≤10 mm 23 (15.6) 19 (12.4) 8 (5.4)
With VAS ≤20 mm 170 (35.8) 120 (25.0) 80 (24.6) 55 (11.6)
With VAS ≤10 mm 125 (26.3) 86 (17.9) 56 (17.2) 36 (7.6)
DAS28-CRP remission 230 (48.4) 169 (35.2) 116 (35.7) 77 (16.2)
Methods: RA patients using the CSI and investigate the relationship with disease activity.

Objectives: RA being analysed with CSI.

Background: Although CSS is a well-recognized entity in chronic pain, few reports of CSS in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) continued to report moderate-to-high pain and fatigue [1], indicating that chronic pain can interfere with disease activity assessment. And chronic pain has linked to central sensitization syndromes (CSSs) of pain [2]. The central sensitization inventory (CSI) is a valid and reliable tool for detecting CSS, its severity, and associated synapses (CSSs) of pain [3].

However, factors associated with the risk of VTE have been barely studied in RA. Increased risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) has been reported in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) compared to the general population [1]. However, factors associated with the risk of VTE have been barely studied in RA.

Methods: We performed a retrospective, cross-sectional study on 269 consecutive RA patients (70 males and 196 females; mean ± SD = 69.9 ± 12.2 years, range: 27–92 years; mean ± SD, disease duration: 12.9 ± 10.4 years, range: 0–55 years; mean ± SD: DAS28CRP: 1.89 ± 0.78; range: 0.99–4.88). Patients were included in the study if they fulfilled the 2010 ACR/EULAR clarification criteria attending the one-day hospitalization program of the Rheumatology department, Cochin hospital, in 2021. We used the electronic medical report to identify the occurrence of VTE in 2021 and the visit was 3.6±4.8 months. Among these 12 VTE patients, 9 were women (vs. 59±15, p=0.14). Age >65 years was more frequent in patient with VTE (58% vs. 27%, p<0.001).

Conclusion: In RA patients, CSI was not associated with inflammation (CRP or ESR) but was related to subjective assessment (PGA or pain VAS), functional impairment, and disease activity (CDAI). CSS may influence disease activity assessment, and CSS treatment may improve functional impairment.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1916
vs. 33%, p=0.064), 7 (58%) patients with VTE had a history of previous VTE (vs. 3%, p<0.001), 6 (50%) were hospitalized up to 6 months before the event (vs. 6%, p<0.001), 3 (25%) experienced surgery up to 3 months before the event (vs. 2%, p<0.001) and 4 (33%) had a history of fracture (vs. 3%, p=0.001). No difference was observed regarding body mass index, the frequency of smoking, neoplasia, recent travel (up to 3 months) and estrogen/antidepressant therapies. No patient had thrombophilia. Regarding RA characteristics, patients with VTE were more likely to present extra-articular manifestations (67% vs. 33%, p=0.015) and higher CRP levels (20±40 mg/L vs. 6.4±14.5 mg/L, p=0.006). They also received more frequently corticosteroids (63% vs. 50%, p=0.025) and JAKi (25% vs. 8%, p=0.041). Disease duration, autoantibody status, frequency of erosions, DA28 and treatment with methotrexate or bDMARDs did not differ between these 2 groups. Logistic regression analysis identified the following risk factors independently associated with the occurrence of VTE: history of previous VTE, hospitalization up to 3 months before the occurrence of VTE, surgery up to 6 months before the occurrence of VTE and treatment with JAKi (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** History of VTE was identified as the strongest risk factor of the occurrence of VTE. Our results suggest a specific warning on recent hospitalization and surgery as precipitating events to VTE. As recommended by the PRAC JAKI should be used with caution in patients with risk factors for VTE.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. results of the logistic regression analysis including VTE as the dependent variable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Odds ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt;65 years</td>
<td>0.97 (0.91-0.87)</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex</td>
<td>0.36 (0.2-0.63)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-articular manifestation</td>
<td>5.86 (7.0-49.16)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP levels</td>
<td>4.41 (0.57-0.32)</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids</td>
<td>3.08 (2.02-4.92)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK inhibitors</td>
<td>7.90 (1.21-81.51)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of previous VTE</td>
<td>13.06 (3.07-60.56)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization up to 3 months</td>
<td>15.19 (1.46-17.59)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery up to 6 months</td>
<td>19.12 (1.23-97.35)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of fracture</td>
<td>0.56 (0.07-4.34)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Fiona Oudart: None declared, Marion Thomas: None declared, Alice Comber: None declared, Anna Molto: None declared, Yannick Allanore: None declared, Jérôme Avouac Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Nordic pharma, Sanofis, Boehringer, Abbvie, Galapagos, Biogen, Fresenius Kabi, Sandoz, Astarexena, Lilly, Consultant of: Pfizer, Galapagos, Abbvie, Fresenius Kabi, Bristol Myers Squibb, Grant/ research support from: Pfizer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Fresenius Kabi, Novartis, Nordic Pharma, Galapagos.

**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1981

**AB0294**

**INFLAMMATION AND IMMUNOMODULATORY THERAPIES INFLUENCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ATP-BINDING CASSETTE TRANSPORTER A1 (ABCA1)-MEDIATED CHOLESTEROL EFFUX AND CORONARY Atherosclerosis in Rheumatoid arthritis**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging, Cardiovascular disease

G. Karpouzas1,2, B. Papotti3, S. Ormseth4, M. Palumbo5, E. Hernandez2, M. P. Adorni6, F. Zimet7, M. Budoff2, S. Ronda3.

1The Lundquist Institute, 2The Lundquist Institute, 3The Lundquist Institute, 4The Lundquist Institute, 5The Lundquist Institute, 6University of Parma - Parco Area delle Scienze, Internal Medicine, Parma, Italy; 7Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Cardiology, Torrance, United States of America; 8The Lundquist Institute, Cardiology, Torrance, United States of America

**Background:** Cholesterol efflux capacity (CEC) measures the ability of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) to remove cholesterol from atherosclerotic plaques. It is mediated by various membrane transporters exporting cholesterol from HDL particles based on their maturation. It is ususally lower in CEC associated with coronary atherosclerosis independently of HDL-C levels in RA or whether CEC itself or its impact on atherogenesis are influenced by inflammation or RA-specific therapies. Conventional and biologic DMARDs are atheroprotective while corticosteroids are proatherogenic. ATP-binding-cassette membrane transporter A1 (ABCA1) exports cholesterol to apo A1 or lipid-poor HDL particles.

**Objectives:** We here explored associations between ABCA1 CEC and coronary atherosclerosis and whether inflammation and disease-specific therapies influence this relationship.

**Methods:** Coronary atherosclerosis (noncalcified, partially or fully calcified plaque and coronary artery calcium (CAC) score) was evaluated with computed tomography angiography in 140 patients without cardiovascular disease and reassessed in 99 after 6.9±0.4 years. ABCA1 CEC was measured in J774 macrophages as previously described. Multivariable negative binomial regression evaluated associations of ABCA1 CEC with plaque numbers at baseline and follow-up. Robust logistic regression assessed the association of ABCA1 CEC with CAC progression (>2.5 U difference in square root CAC scores).

**Results:** ABCA1 CEC was not associated with baseline atherosclerosis. Inflammation, prednisone, methotrexate or bDMARD use did not influence the relationship between ABCA1 CEC and baseline plaque. However, both baseline and cumulative inflammation modulated the relationship between ABCA1 CEC and plaque progression. Each standard deviation (SD) increase in ABCA1-C associates with 41% fewer new plaques in patients with low (<median) baseline ESR but 67% more new plaques in those with high (>median) ESR (p for interaction = 0.021). For time-weighted mean daily prednisone dose, each SD increase in ABCA1 associated with 31% fewer new plaques in unexposed patients (p for interaction vs. high exposure group = 0.034), as well as 53% fewer and 2.4 times more new calcified plaques in the unexposed and high exposure groups respectively (p for interaction unexposed vs. high exposure = 0.004). Higher ABCA1 CEC (per SD) was linked to 2.2 times higher adjusted likelihood of CAC progression in methotrexate nonusers but not in users (p for interaction = 0.018). Likewise, each SD increase in ABCA1 CEC associated with 2.7 times more new plaques in baseline bDMARD nonusers and 35% fewer new plaques in users (p for interaction ≤ 0.001).

**Conclusion:** ABCA1 CEC attenuated plaque progression exclusively in patients with low baseline and cumulative inflammation as well as with baseline methotrexate and bDMARD recipients. In contrast, ABCA1 CEC associated with plaque progression in baseline corticosteroid recipients and those receiving high time-weighted daily average prednisone dose during follow-up. In uncontrolled or inadequately treated disease ABCA1 CEC fails to counteract and may in fact contribute to the proatherogenic state promoted by inflammation and oxidation. The latter also occurs during treatment with prednisone, known to promote intracellular cholesterol accumulation. When RA is sufficiently treated and controlled, ABCA1 CEC effectively performs its atheroprotective function.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** George Karpouzas Speakers bureau: Sanofi/Genzyme, Regeneron, BMS, Consultant of: Sanofi/Genzyme/Regeneron, Janssen, Scipher, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Bianca Papotti: None declared, Sarah Ormseth: None declared, Marcella Palumbo: None declared, Elizabeth Hernandez: None declared, Maria Pia Adorni: None declared, Francesca Zimettili: None declared, Matthew Budoff: None declared, Nicoletta Ronda: None declared.

**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2070
PREVALENCE OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES AND TRADITIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A REAL-LIFE EVIDENCE FROM BIOSTAR NATIONWIDE REGISTRY

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis

Methods: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) have increased morbidity and mortality due to cardiovascular (CV) comorbidities. The association of CV diseases (CVD) and traditional CV risk factors have been debated, depending on patient and RA characteristics. The study aimed to find the prevalence of CVD and CV risk factors in patients with RA.

Results: We analyzed 124 RA patients with a mean age of 55.1 ± 12.8 years. There was a female preponderance (79.6%). The prevalence rate of CV was 4.6% (n=33). The frequencies of the diseases in the MACE category were ischemic heart disease in 27, congestive heart failure in 5, peripheral vascular disorders in 3, and cerebrovascular events in 3 patients. The patients with CVD (Group 1) were significantly male, older, and had higher BMI (p=0.027, p<0.001, and p=0.041). Obesity (33.4%) and hypertension (27.2%) were the two CV risk factors most frequently. Male sex (HR=0.085, 95% CI 0.028-0.257, p=0.001) and hypertension (HR=4.63, 95% CI 1.251-17.134, p=0.022) were independent risk factors for CVD.

Conclusion: The prevalence of CVD in RA patients was 4.6%. Some common risk factors for CVD in the general population, including male sex, older age, and hypertension, were evident in RA patients. The independent risk factors for developing CVD in patients with RA are male sex, older age, and hypertension.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2103

THE REAL IMPACT OF DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY ON RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS: A COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Quality of care, Health services research

Methods: A retrospective analysis including patients diagnosed with RA, according to the 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria, who started their first patient reported outcomes, Quality of care, Health services research with either depression or anxiety. The proportion of patients achieving disease activity and worse disease outcomes, depression and anxiety are not widely considered in routine care of arthritis patients.

Results: A total of 357 patients with RA were included. Eighty-two per cent were females (82%). The mean age was 54 ± 11.01 years and the median disease duration was 10 years [min 0.5, max 45]. Rheumatoid Factor (RF) was positive in 75% of patients and Antibodies to Citrullinated Peptides (anti-CCP) in 82%. The prevalence of depression and anxiety were 34.7% and 23.5%, respectively. Both groups (RA depressed/anxiety) had statistically significant differences concerning gender. Patients with RA and depression/anxiety were significantly more likely to be women and had a lower disease duration. Depressed patients showed a younger RA onset. Unemployed patients were more likely to be depressed. Other factors such as education, smoking or alcohol consumption were not significantly associated. Baseline depression/anxiety was associated with increased patient's global assessment and number of painful joints but not with levels of acute phase reactants. Treatment with conventional synthetic DMARD and/or glucocorticoids did not have any significant association with either depression or anxiety. The proportion of patients achieving disease

Table 1. Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of the study groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age group</td>
<td>&lt;40 years</td>
<td>40+ years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI group</td>
<td>&lt;30 kg/m²</td>
<td>≥30 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>Current smoker</td>
<td>Current non-smoker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>Current consumer</td>
<td>Current non-consumer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational status</td>
<td>Illiterate/primary</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic renal failure</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coagulopathy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular heart disease</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1: median (min-max), 2: n (%). Group 1 and 2: Patients with and without major adverse cardiovascular event (cardiovascular disease). BMI: body mass index, COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
remission and good/moderate EULAR response was overall lower in patients with depression/anxiety during the follow-up.

**Conclusion:** The presence of depression and anxiety reduce the likelihood of remission in rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis? Data from the prospective multicentre NOR-DMARD study Ann Rheum Dis. 2017 Nov;76(11):1906-1910.

**REFERENCE:**

### Table 1. Foot and ankle involvement and comparison between therapeutic groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All patients</th>
<th>Depress.</th>
<th>Anxiety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=357</td>
<td>N=124</td>
<td>N=84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>p-value</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Baseline disease activity

- Tender joints 28 9 ± 6.9 9.9 ± 7.3 9.4 ± 7.4 0.05
- Swollen joints 28 76 ± 5.7 76.8 ± 5.6 72.1 ± 5.6 NS
- ESR (mm/h) 36.9 ± 22.1 39.8 ± 23.9 38.2 ± 21.8 NS
- CRP (mg/L) 18.5 ± 25.6 19.5 ± 2.3 19.4 ± 36.1 NS
- Patients VAS 67.3 ± 22.6 74.6 ± 21.7 72.8 ± 24.4 0.01 NS
- DAS 28 5.6 ± 1.1 5.9 ± 1.2 5.8 ± 1.3 0.03 NS
- DAS 3V 5.0 ± 13.8 5.4 ± 12 5.3 ± 1.3 0.048 NS
- HAQ 1.6 ± 0.6 1.8 ± 0.6 1.7 ± 0.7 0.002 NS

**EULAR response (24 months) N=174**

- Non responders 22/174 (12%) 11/72 (15.3%) 7/40 (17.5%) 0.05 NS

**Conclusion:** Nearly 40% of RA patients have foot and ankle involvement that associates with higher disease activity in other joints. However, we noticed low use of b/tsDMARDs in this group, a finding only partially explained by a substantially increased burden of RA-related cardiovascular and lung comorbidities.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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### AB0298

**SAFETY OF THE JAK INHIBITORS IN COMPARISON WITH THE TNF INHIBITORS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: REAL WORLD DATA FROM THE HONG KONG BIOLOGICS REGISTRY**

**Keywords:** Targeted synthetic drugs, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

**C. C. Mok**, H. So°, C. Ho°, 1Queen Mun Hospital, Medicine, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 2Prince of Wales Hospital, Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 3Queen Mary Hospital, Medicine, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR)

**Background:** The recent Oral Surveillance study has raised concerns about major cardiovascular events and malignancies related to tofacitinib in older rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients with cardiovascular risk factors.

**Objectives:** To compare the incidence of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACEs) and cancer and infective complications in RA patients using the JAK (JAKis) and TNF inhibitors (TNFis).

**Conclusion:** The recent Oral Surveillance study has raised concerns about major cardiovascular events and malignancies related to tofacitinib in older rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients with cardiovascular risk factors.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.
Methods: A retrospective analyses of data retrieved from the Hong Kong Biologies Registry from 2008 to 2021 were performed. Patients with RA (fulfilling the EULAR/ACR criteria) who had ever been treated with the JAK or TNF inhibitors were included. Withdrawal rates due to inefficacy or serious adverse events (SAEs) were compared between the two groups, along with the incidence of MACEs, cancer, infective complications and all-cause mortality. The hazard ratios (HRs) of these outcomes were calculated for the JAKis with reference to the TNFis and adjusted for confounding factors in regression models.

Results: A total of 2471 courses of JAKis (n=551) and TNFis (n=1920) were used in 1732 RA patients (83.7% women, age 53.8±12.5 years; follow-up 6431 patient-years). The most frequent JAKi and TNFi prescribed were tofacitinib (81%) and etanercept (37%). Users of the JAKis, compared to the TNFis, had significantly longer RA duration, older age and were more likely to have atherothrombotic risk factors (diabetes mellitus, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, previous coronary heart disease) and a past history of malignancy. The withdrawal rate of the JAKis was significantly lower than the TNFis due to clinical inefficacy or occurrence of SAEs (p<0.001 by survival analyses). A total of 15 and 40 MACES developed in the JAKi and TNFi group of patients, respectively (incidence 1.34 vs 0.75 per 100 patient-years; p=0.22, adjusted for age, sex and follow-up duration). Moreover, there was no significant difference in the incidence of new cancers between the two groups (0.81 [JAKi] vs 0.85 [TNFi] per 100 patient-years; p=0.25). The adjusted HRs of MACE and cancer in the JAKi users were 1.36[0.62-2.96] (p=0.44) and 0.87[0.39-1.95] (p=0.74), respectively. Rates of infections were significantly higher in the JAKi than TNFi users (16.3 vs 9.9 per 100 patient-years; p=0.02), particularly herpes zoster (3.49 vs 0.94 per 100 patient-years; p<0.001) reactivation. The incidence of tuberculosis infection was similar between the two groups (0.45 [JAKi] vs 0.60 [TNFi]; p=0.21). All-cause mortality occurred in 8 patients in the JAKi group and 25 in the TNFi group and the difference was not statistically significant (0.72 vs 0.47 per 100 patient-years; p=0.54).

Conclusion: In a real-life setting, the JAKis have a better retention rate than the TNFis in patients with RA. There is no increase in the incidence of MACES, cancers and all-cause mortality observed with the JAKis in comparison to the TNFis, adjusted for age, sex and other confounding factors. However, infective complications, particularly herpes zoster, are more common in the JAKi users.

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by the Hong Kong Food and Environmental Health Bureau and funding was received from the University of Hong Kong. The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

AB0299
THE RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IS COMPARABLE TO THE GENERAL POPULATION IN THE TREAT-TO-TARGET ERA

Keywords: To treat to target, Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities

W. Bian1, Y. Hao1, H. Huang1, W. Xie1, Y. Wang1, X. Deng1, Y. Geng1, L. Ji1, X. Zhang1, J. Zhao1, Z. Zhang1. Peking University First Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) suffer from an increased cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk compared with the general population. This is due to the fact that systemic inflammation not only accelerates the progress of RA but also promotes the development of atherosclerotic plaque.[1] Intima-media thickness of the carotid artery (cIMT) is considered as a reliable marker of the presence and the burden of atherosclerosis.[2] Since the treat-to-target (T2T) strategy was first introduced into RA management in 2010, it has been widely proved that patients treated with an underlying T2T strategy could obtain clinical remission more rapidly and achieve higher clinical remission rate.[3] However, what’s the effect of a better controlled disease on the development of atherosclerosis?

Objectives: To compare the prevalence and incidence of carotid atherosclerosis monitored by ultrasound between patients with RA treated guided by a T2T strategy and gender-matched controls, as well as identify risk factors of atherosclerosis aggravation among RA patients.

Methods: We used data from a longitudinal prospective cohort of RA patients and a community-based atherosclerosis cohort in the general population. Age and gender-matched participants were picked up by propensity score matching to be compared in their clinical characteristics and the process of atherosclerosis. And then a comparison was made according to the traditional CVD risk factors and RA-related factors between RA patients with carotid atherosclerosis progress (CAP) and without. A Cox proportional hazards regression model was operated to find out the risk factors of carotid atherosclerosis progress in the patients with RA.

Results: A total of 182 patients with RA were included. After a median 28 months of follow-up, 91.76% of patients reached remission or low disease activity target. The mean (or median) cIMT in RA patients was increased significantly after the follow-up, and 39 participants were recognized as CAP. Age at entry (HR 1.095, 95% CI 1.043, 1.149, P<0.001) and time adjusted body mass index (HR 1.127, 95% CI 1.011, 1.257, P=0.030) were identified by the multivariate Cox regression model as the independent risk factor of carotid atherosclerosis progress for this group of RA patients. The prevalence of carotid atherosclerosis between 80 RA patients and 400 age, gender-matched controls, was compared, and no significant difference was found, no matter at the baseline (52.50% vs 49.67%, P=0.652)[Figure 1A] or the endpoint of the follow-up (53.75% vs 54.75%, P=0.870)[Figure 1B]. The incidence of carotid atherosclerosis during the follow-up between 50 RA patients and 50 age, gender, and BMI- matched controls was also comparable[28.00% vs 28.00%, P=1.0][Figure 1C].

Conclusion: Compared with the general population, the patients with RA treated adhering to a T2T strategy presented with a similar incidence and prevalence of atherosclerosis. Among disease well-controlled RA patients, RA-related factors have little impact on the carotid atherosclerosis progress.

REFERENCES:
Objectives: In this paper, bidirectional two-sample Mendelian method was used to focus on the genetic factors related to ILD and RA, and to explore the causal relationship between ILD and RA in the pathogenesis.

Methods: A two-sample bi-directional Mendelian randomization (MR) approach was conducted to investigate the causal relationships between RA and ILD. Summarized statistics for RA (14,361 RA cases and 43,923 healthy controls (HCs)) and I LD (1,969 cases and 196,986 HCs) were obtained from an available meta-analysis of published genome-wide association studies (GWAS). Relevant single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were selected by executing quality control steps (p < 1.0 × 10^-5) from the GWAS summary results. MR analyses progressed mainly using inverse variance weighted (IVW), weighted median (WM), and MR-Egger regression methods. For assessing the robustness of the results, we also carried out sensitivity analysis to assess heterogeneity and pleiotropy, such as MR-Egger, leave-one-out and MR pleiotropy residual sum and outlier (MR-PRESSO).

Results: Our study discovered a bidirectional causal effect between RA and I LD. The presence of I LD may increase the risk of RA by 12.8% (OR: 1.128, 95%CI: 1.03-1.256, P = 0.029). Similarly, the existence of RA may increase the risk of I LD by 9.4%. In addition, reverse MR analysis found that RA also influenced the risk of I LD significantly (OR: 1.094, 95%CI: 1.023-1.171, P = 0.009). Sensitivity analysis showed no pleiotropy but have heterogeneity (Q = 0.030) in reverse MR analysis.

Conclusion: MR analysis supported a potential causal relationship between RA and I LD. In RA and I LD, no matter which disease the patient has, it will greatly increase the risk of another disease. This study increases the emphasis on therapeutic or defensive interventions for patients with RA or I LD in the future to reduce severe complication and mortality.

REFERENCES:

Fig. 1(A) The scatter plots for MR analyses the causal effect between I LD and RA using the conventional IVW, MR-Egger, and Weighted median. (B) Funnel plot of inverse variance weighted, MR-Egger's multi- ple validity test for IVW, with the vertical line in the middle indicating the sum of different effect sizes. (C) Results of the leave-one-out-one in MR heteroscedasticity analysis. It was performed by removing one SNP at a time to explore whether any single SNP drove causal association. After each SNP was removed, the IVW method was conducted to estimate the effect of the remaining SNPs on the outcome, thus evaluating the stability of effect sizes. (D) Forest plot of MR results by IVW, MR Egger and Weighted median.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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DISCONTINUATION RATE AND PREDICTORS OF JAKI DISCONTINUATION IN A REAL LIFE COHORT: RESULTS FROM A MULTICENTRIC ITALIAN STUDY ON 864 PATIENTS WITH RA

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Epidemiology, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Lanaro\(^1\), A. Arian\(^2\), D. Camellino\(^1\), A. Beccolin\(^1\), G. Bianchi\(^1\), E. Di Donato\(^3\), G. Adorni\(^4\), D. Santilli\(^5\), G. Lucchini\(^6\), M. Reta\(^7\), O. Maddalena\(^8\), A. Lo Gullo\(^9\), E. Viscà\(^10\), R. Fox\(^11\), G. Armando\(^12\), F. De Lucía\(^13\), A. Ferra\(^14\), F. Girelli\(^15\), S. Bernardi\(^16\), G. Ferro\(^17\), R. Andracco\(^18\), N. Mansueto\(^19\), G. Caccavale\(^20\), P. Del Medico\(^21\), A. Molica Colella\(^22\), V. Franchina\(^23\), P. Molica Colella\(^24\), F. Lumi\(^25\), G. Sandri\(^26\), C. Salvarani\(^27\), M. Prora\(^28\), A. Iannelli\(^29\), V. Nucera\(^30\), F. Ometto\(^31\), I. Plati\(^32\), E. Arrigoni\(^33\), A. Bezzi\(^34\), M. C. Foccherini\(^35\), F. Mascella\(^36\), V. Bruzzese\(^37\), R. Scollar\(^38\), S. Parisi\(^39\), M. C. Dito\(^40\), E. Fusaro\(^41\), V. Ravagnani\(^42\), R. Vittadine\(^43\), M. Fiorenza\(^44\), G. Rovera\(^45\), A. Volpe\(^46\), A. Marchetta\(^47\), M. Colina\(^48\), E. Bravi\(^49\), Azienda Sanitaria Locale 2 (ASL2), Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medical Specialties, Genova, Italy; University of Parma, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology Unit, Parma, Italy; Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale di Bologna - Poliambulatorio S. Orsola - Ospedale Universitario IRCCS di Bologna, Rheumatology Unit, Bologna, Italy; AFINAS Garbaldi di Catania, Rheumatology Unit, Catania, Italy; Policlinico San Marco Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Catania, Italy; Ospedale A. Muni di Fermo, Internal Medicine Unit, Rheumatology outpatient Clinic, Fermo, Italy; Ospedale GB Morgagni - L Pierantoni, Rheumatology Unit, Forlì, Italy; Santa Corona Hospital, Pietra Murgia, Unit of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Pietra Murgia, Italy; Università degli Studi di Parma, Internal Medicine Unit, Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic, Parma, Italy; Sapienza University of Rome, Polo Pontino, Department of Clinical, Anesthesiological and Cardiovascular Sciences, Latina, Italy; Civitanova Marche Hospital, Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic - Internal Medicine Unit, Civitanova Marche, Italy; Azienda Ospedaliera Paparo, Rheumatology Unit, Messina, Italy; Azienda Ospedaliera Paparo, UOC Oncologia Medica, Messina, Italy; Università Bicocca Milano, Internal Medicine Unit, Milano, Italy; Azienda USL di Modena and University Hospital Policlinico di Modena, Rheumatology Unit, Modena, Italy; University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology Unit, Modena, Italy; ASL CN, Rheumatology Day Hospital and Outpatient Clinic, Cuneo, Italy; ASL NOVARA, Rheumatology Outpatient Unit, Novara, Italy; Azienda USSL 6 Euganea, Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic, Padova, Italy; Ospedale G. Da Salpetro, Rheumatology Unit, Piacenza, Italy; ASL Romagna Rimini, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology Unit, Rimini, Italy; Nuovo Regina Margherita’ Hospital, Department of Medical Specialties, Roma, Italy; Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino, Rheumatology Department, Torino, Italy; Santa Chiara Hospital APSS Trento, Rheumatology Unit, Trento, Italy; ASL VC Ospedale S Andrea, Rheumatology Unit, Vercelli, Italy; IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy; Santa Maria della Scaletta’ Hospital, Rheumatology Service, Section of Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine and Oncology, Imola, Italy; University of Bologna, Dipartimento di Scienza Biomediche e Neuroscienze (DIBIDEM), Bologna, Italy

Background: The recent EULAR recommendations [1,2] suggest using JAK-inhibitors (JAKis) for treating RA patients. These drugs include both selective (upadacitinib and filgotinib) and unselective (tofasitnib and baricitinib) JAKis.

Objectives: To describe JAKis’ discontinuation rate and to determine predictors of JAKis’ discontinuation in a real life setting.

Methods: All patients with RA treated with JAKis were prospectively followed up for at least 12 months in this multicentric study carried out on 23 Italian centres. For each patient, the following variables were collected: sex, age, disease duration, smoking, BMI, comorbidities (diabetes, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, cancer, major cardiovascular events), positive RF/ACPA, cDMARDs at baseline, prednisone at baseline, previous use of JAKis, discontinuation, time to discontinuation, JAKis line of treatment, DAS28-ESR at baseline, 6 and 12 months. Statistical analyses were performed using R (2022.12.0).

Results: 864 patients were included (Table 1). 487 (55.2%) received baricitinib, 213 (24.6%) tofasitnib, 111 (12.8%) upadacitinib and 62 (7.2%) filgotinib. 192 (22.2%) patients discontinued JAKis after a median time of 334 days (IQR 154.5-879.5). Among them, a statistical difference was found between selective-JAKis and other JAKis (p=0.03, 14.6% of selective JAKis vs 85.4% of other JAKis); finally unselective JAKis were discontinued later than selective JAKis (p<0.001, median 401.5 days, IQR 197.5-976 for unselective JAKis vs median 74 days, IQR 129-212 for selective JAKis). Discontinuation’s causes are reported in Figure 1. Notably, VZV infection determined JAKis withdrawal in 4 patients and pulmonary embolism/deep venous thrombosis in 6 patients (both with baricitinib). Regarding discontinuations’ causes, no differences between selective JAKis and other JAKis were found with factor logistic regression model. At multivariate analysis, predictors of discontinuation were prednisone at baseline (OR 1.48, p=0.03), treatment with unselective JAKis (OR 1.79, p=0.01), and line of treatment (OR 1.29 p<0.001).

Conclusion: Our study showed that only a minority of patients discontinued JAKis. Among discontinuation’s causes, no differences between selective JAKis and other JAKis were found. Predictors of JAKis discontinuation were prednisone at baseline, treatment with unselective JAKis and line of treatment (with more advanced lines of treatment associated with a higher risk of discontinuation).

REFERENCES:

Table 1. General features of 864 RA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age at baseline (SD) (N=863)</td>
<td>58.79 (12.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>678 (78.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean BMI (Kg/m²) at baseline (SD) (N=862)</td>
<td>25.19 (3.79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (N=789)</td>
<td>Yes 151 (18.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>504 (63.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former</td>
<td>154 (18.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive RF (N=809)</td>
<td>533 (65.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive ACPA (N=796)</td>
<td>498 (61.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes (N=770)</td>
<td>70 (9.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension (N=771)</td>
<td>302 (39.17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypercholesterolemia (N=769)</td>
<td>196 (25.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous MACE (N=768)</td>
<td>47 (6.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous cancer (N=770)</td>
<td>42 (5.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (months) (median, IQR) (N=855)</td>
<td>77 (30-157)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean DAS28-ESR at baseline (SD) (N=746)</td>
<td>5.23 (1.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cDMARDs at baseline (N=781)</td>
<td>287 (36.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PND at baseline (N=780)</td>
<td>444 (56.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median dosage (mg/day) (N=864)</td>
<td>5.00 (4.00-5.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAKis naïve (N=853)</td>
<td>731 (89.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line of JAKis treatment</td>
<td>1^ 247 (29.59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2^ 211 (24.42)</td>
<td>3^ 181 (20.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4^ 111 (12.84)</td>
<td>5^ 65 (7.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6^ 29 (3.35)</td>
<td>7^ 12 (1.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8^ 3 (0.35)</td>
<td>9^ 2 (0.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10^ 3 (0.35)</td>
<td>Patients who discontinued JAKis 111 (12.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to discontinuation (days) (median, IQR) (N=863)</td>
<td>334 (154.5-879.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legends to Table 1: RA: rheumatoid arthritis; SD: standard deviation; BMI: Body Mass Index; RF: Rheumatoid Factor; ACPA: Autoantibodies against citrullinated peptides/proteins; MACE: Major cardiovascular events; PND: prednisone; IQR: interquartile range; DAS28-ESR: Disease Activity Score-28 for Rheumatoid Arthritis with ESR; cDMARDs: conventional Disease-modifying antirheumatic agents; JAKis: JAK inhibitors.
Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

RESULTS: The severity of fatigue in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has hardly improved in recent decades, leaving a large unmet need. Fortunately, not all RA-patients suffer from persistent fatigue, but the subgroup of patients who suffer the most is insufficiently recognizable at diagnosis. As disease activity is partly coupled to fatigue, Disease-Activity-Score (DAS)-components may associate with the course of fatigue.

Objectives: We aimed to identify the RA-patients who remain fatigued by studying DAS-components at diagnosis in relation to the course of fatigue over a 5-year follow-up period in two independent early RA-cohorts.

Methods: 1560 consecutive RA-patients included in the Leiden Early-Arthritis Cohort and 415 RA-patients included in the iREACH-Cohort were studied. Swollen Joint Count (SJC), Tender Joint Count (TJC), Erytrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) and Patient Global Assessment (PGA) were studied in relation to fatigue (VAS, 0-100mm) during 5-years using linear mixed models.

Results: Higher TJC and PGA at diagnosis were associated with a more severe course of fatigue. The SJC, in contrast, showed an inverse association; patients with mono- or oligo-arthritis at diagnosis remained more fatigued. The combination of aforementioned characteristics revealed that patients presenting with a mono- or oligo-arthritis and PGA≥50 remained the most fatigued over time (+20mm versus polyarthritis with PGA<50), whilst the DAS-course over time was not different. This subgroup comprised 14% of the early RA-population. Data from the iREACH-cohort showed similar findings.

Conclusion: RA-patients who remain the most fatigued are characterized by mono- or oligo-arthritis and high PGA (VAS≥50) at diagnosis. This understanding may enable early-intervention with non-pharmacological approaches in dedicated patient groups.

REFERENCES: NIL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0304

PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PRESENTING WITH MONO- OR OLIGO-ARTHRITIS AND HIGH PATIENT GLOBAL ASSESSMENT REMAIN MOST FATIGUED DURING 5-YEARS FOLLOW-UP

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

A. M. P. Boeren1,2, M. Verstappen2, A. Looijen3, P. De Jong1, A. Van der Helm van Mil1,2, Erasmus MC, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 1Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: The severity of fatigue in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has hardly improved in recent decades, leaving a large unmet need. Fortunately, not all RA-patients suffer from persistent fatigue, but the subgroup of patients who suffer the most is insufficiently recognizable at diagnosis. As disease activity is partly coupled to fatigue, Disease-Activity-Score (DAS)-components may associate with the course of fatigue.

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Conclusion: RA-patients who remain the most fatigued are characterized by mono- or oligo-arthritis and high PGA (VAS≥50) at diagnosis. This understanding may enable early-intervention with non-pharmacological approaches in dedicated patient groups.

REFERENCES: NIL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0303

ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL DISORDERS IN TUNISIAN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of life

J. Mahbouba1, M. Arshadou2, M. Ghai3, S. Zour1, I. Beija1, M. Touzi1, N. Bergou1, Fatoum Bourguiba Hospital, Rheumatology, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: Sexual dysfunction is common in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but is often under-estimated.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the sexual function and to identify the associated factors of sexual disorders in Tunisian RA patients.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study conducted in the Rheumatology department of Monastir in Tunisia including patients followed for RA. Functional impact was assessed by the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) and Rheumatoid Arthritis Quality of Life (RAQoL). Disease activity was evaluated using the DAS28 score. Sexual function was assessed for women by a self-assessment questionnaire: the Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) including several parameters: desire, arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction and pain. For men, it was evaluated by the Sexual Health Inventory (SHIM) assessing erectile dysfunction.

Results: One hundred patients were included. There were 85 women and 15 men. The mean age was 55.88 ± 10.5 years. Sixty out of 85 women were sexually active. Thirty-five women (58.3%) had sexual dysfunction (FSFI ≤ 26.55). Lack of arousal and loss of desire were the most reported disorders with mean scores of 2.33 and 2.58 respectively. Among the 15 men, nine were sexually active. Only one had normal sexual activity. Erectile dysfunction was the most common disorder with a mean score of 11. After statistical analysis, significant association was found between sexual dysfunction assessed by FSFI and SHIM total scores and increased age (p=0.01 and p=0.005, respectively). More intense pain (visual analog scale) was significantly associated with sexual disability in women and men (p=0.01 and p=0.05, respectively). A significant correlation was found between lower FSFI score and higher disease activity by the DAS28 (p=0.001).

Concerning the relationship with RA functional impact: we noted that among women, the alteration of arousal and satisfaction domains of the FSFI were correlated with higher HAQ (p=0.05 and p=0.004, respectively). In men, there was a significant association of lower SHIM score with HAQ and RAQoL (p=0.015 and p=0.001, respectively).

However, there was no significant association between sexual dysfunction and the duration of RA progression, biological inflammatory syndrome, joint deformities, sturtural damage or the used treatments.

Conclusion: Our study showed that sexual dysfunction is frequent in women and men with RA, and that these disorders can affect their quality of life. Therefore, the sexual life of RA patients should be considered as one of the important therapeutic targets in the global management of this disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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HOW DOES PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA AFFECT THE COURSE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS?

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis

A. Nurmamedov1, S. Lezhenva2, N. Shuvalova3, E. Guryanova2, 1Mary Central Clinic, Department rheumatology, Mary; Turkmenistan; 2Chuvash State University by I. N. Ulianova; Departament of Healthcare Management and Economics, Cheboksary, Russian Federation; 3Kh. Yakovlev Chuvash Pedagogical State University, Department of Theoretical Foundations of Physical Education, Cheboksary, Russian Federation

**Background:** Psychological trauma is a short-term or long-term stressful event associated with a sense of extreme threat or catastrophe. Psychological trauma predisposes to the development of a systemic inflammatory process. Dysregulation of the immune response occurs, which leads to an increase in the rate of aging of immune cells and changes in gene expression in immune cells, contributing to the development of autoimmune immunity [1]. The effect of psychic trauma on the decrease in IL-6 promoter methylation in patients with rheumatoid arthritis was revealed [2].

**Objectives:** The purpose of the study: to evaluate the impact of psychological mental trauma on the course of rheumatoid arthritis.

**Methods:** The study was conducted from September 2021 to September 2022. 80 patients with RA of varying severity were examined. Inclusion criterion was a European Antirheumatic League diagnosis of RA (EULAR/ACR 2010). The age of the patients ranged from 20 to 69 years. (Mean age of patients was 48 +/- 6.24). Most of the examined women - 85%. The study was carried out in two stages. The first stage is (screening). All patients admitted to the hospital were divided into the level of situational and personal anxiety according to the Spielberger questionnaire modified by Yu.L. Khanina. The results obtained were interpreted: up to 30 points - a low level of anxiety, 31-45 points corresponded to the average level, over 45 points - a high level of anxiety. At the second stage (39 patients with medium and high levels of situational and/or personal anxiety), a survey was conducted, consisting of two blocks. The first block revealed the psychotraumatic factor by groups. 1. Shock injuries (a situation that threatens a person's life, various types of violence). 2. Injuries of loss (loss of a loved one, job, property). 3. Relationship trauma (betrayal, family relationship discomfort). 4. Others. The second set of questions assessed the relationship between the course of RA and psychic trauma, especially the onset of the disease. Statistical processing of the results was carried out in MS Office Excel programs.

**Results:** Almost half of 39 (48.7%) patients entered the second stage of the study, i.e., they had an average or high level of situational and/or personal anxiety. Shock injury was observed in 3 (3.75%) patients, loss trauma in 5 (6.72%) patients, relationship trauma in 29 (36.25%) patients, other causes indicated in 2 (2.5%) patients. Acute trauma was detected in 5 (6.25%) patients, chronic trauma in 32 (40%) patients, 2 (2.5%) patients found it difficult to answer. In the analysis of the second block of questions of the questionnaire, 31 (38.75%) patients note the relationship between PT and worsening of the course of RA. Deterioration in the form of increased pain syndrome was noted by 37 (46.25%) patients, an increase in edema of the affected joints was noted by 30 (37.5%) patients, a decrease in mobility in the joints was noted by 26 (32.5%) patients. Most of the 36 patients note that about 2 months passed from the moment of PT to the worsening of the course of RA. In 2.5% of patients, the onset of RA disease with a history of acute PT was observed.

**Conclusion:** Psychological trauma worsens the course of RA. This deterioration manifests itself in the form of an increase in pain, an increase in swelling of the affected joints, and a decrease in joint mobility. In the treatment of patients with RA, it is necessary to use a multidisciplinary approach involving psychologists and psychotherapists in order to timely identify and treat psychological trauma.

**References:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** N/A.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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JAK INHIBITORS DO NOT WORSEN RA-ILD: COMPARISON OF CHANGES IN CT IMAGES AND KL-6/SP-D LEVELS BETWEEN PERIODS WITH BIOLOGICS AND WITH JAK INHIBITORS IN THE SAME INDIVIDUALS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs, Lungs

A. Tanaka1, R. Koike1, R. Sato1, A. Kikuchi1, S. Komatsu1, A. Hasegawa1, T. Hiyama1, E. Fukasawa1, M. Miyao1, S. Arai1, T. Owada1, R. Maezawa1, M. Arima1, K. Kurasawa1, T. Hiyama1, E. Fukasawa1, M. Miyao1, S. Arai1, T. Owada1, R. Maezawa1, M. Arima1, K. Kurasawa1

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a serious organ involvement that influences the prognosis of RA patients and limits RA therapy. The association between RA activity and ILD progression has been suggested. However, the effects of biologics (Bio) on ILD are controversial; several studies showed that Bio increased ILD-related death, whereas others reported that Bio stabilized the progression of ILD.

Objectives: To clarify the effects of Jaki on RA-ILD by comparing the changes in CT images and KL-6/SP-D levels between periods with biologics and with JAK inhibitors in the same individuals.

Methods: Participants were consecutive RA patients who received Jaki from June 2014 to April 2022. Among them, patients who received Bio prior to Jaki therapy underwent analysis of changes in CT images and serum KL-6/SP-D levels in the same individuals. Change in CT images of pulmonary abnormalities, such as reticular pattern, was assessed by CT score: the extent of lesions of 6 lung fields was scored as follows: score 0 (absent), 1 (-25 %), 2 (25–50 %), and 3 (50%-). The CT scan score for each patient was obtained by adding the score for each field (max 18).

Results: Patients included in the analysis were 79 RA patients, M/F; 34/45. When they started Bio, their mean age was 59.3 years old, disease duration was 17.7 years, positive for anti-CCP antibody in 82.9%, and positive for RF in 83.5%. They received 1.5T MRI machine was used to scan the thorax in accordance with the EWGSOP2 criteria. A 1.5T MRI machine was used to scan the thorax in accordance with the EWGSOP2 criteria. The mean MRI-CSA-25 was 151.00 cm² for patient with sarcopenia, 275.57 cm² for sarcopenic patients was identified at 182 cm² (AUC-ROC = 0.894).

Conclusion: The frequencies and severities of worsening in the CT imaging, particularly reticular opacities, were less in patients with JAKi than in Bio. JAKi did not worsen ILD but rather may stabilize it.

Figure 1. Illustrative magnetic resonance image of a segmented muscle region of the thigh at a 25 cm above the knee joint (MRI-CSI-25) of a 50-year-old female patient, acquired as a 2D FLASH gradient-echo. Group muscles are color-coded: rectus femoris (RF), vastus lateralis (VL), vastus intermedius (VI), and vastus medialis (VM), the four muscles composing the hamstrings muscles (HAMST) [biceps femoris short head (BFB), biceps femoris long head (BFL), semitendinosus (ST) and semimembranosus (SM)], and adductors (ADDC) [adductor longus, brevis, magnus, pectineus, sartorius and gracilis (GR)]. The delineations between adductors muscles were not so obvious at proximal part, all adductors' muscles were segmented together, except for the gracilis which was easily recognizable. Note the exclusion of non-muscular elements (blood vessels, nerves) in the manual segmentation.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0308 QUANTIFICATION OF SARCOPENIA IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS BY MEASURING THE CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA OF THE THIGH MUSCLES WITH MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

Keywords: Comorbidities, Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis

F. Salaffi1, M. Carotti2, A. C. Poliseno2, L. Ceccarelli3, S. Farah1, M. Di Carlo1, A. Giovagnoni1, 1Università Politecnica delle Marche, Rheumatology Clinic, Jesi (Ancona), Italy, 2Università Politecnica delle Marche, Radiology Clinic, Ancona, Italy, 3IRCSS Ospedale Sant’Orsola-Malpighi, Radiology Clinic, Bologna, Italy

Background: Sarcopenia is a prevalent condition in patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis (RA), estimated to affect 31% of them. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) allows the measurement of cross-sectional area of muscle and volume of a muscle and the visualization of its morphological features and their distribution. Quality deterioration of the muscle, characterised by the presence of adipose tissue (defined as myosteatosis) and of fibrous connective tissue (defined as myofibrosis), is best diagnosed with MRI.

Objectives: To determine the utility of CSA measurements on MRI, at the level of the thigh muscles, to estimate muscle mass in discriminating RA patients with sarcopenia from those without.

Methods: Consecutive female RA patients were enrolled for this cross-sectional study. Patients were assessed for disease activity, radiological damage, handgrip strength, physical performance and for the presence of sarcopenia, identified in accordance with the EWGSOP2 criteria. A 1.5T MRI machine was used to scan the high muscles. A dimensional region growth algorithm (Horos112) showed to be semi-automatically segment the muscles cross-sectional areas (CSAs, in cm2) on MRI images located 25 cm above the knee joint (MRI-CSI-25) (Figure 1). The MRI-CSI-25 was obtained by summing the areas of the individual muscles. MRI-CSI-25 was correlated (Pearson's r) with the other variables, and its optimal cut-off point (Youden index) for sarcopenia diagnosis was identified in relation to the EWGSOP2 criteria.

Results: 32 RA female patients were studied, 34.4% diagnosed as sarcopenic. The mean MRI-CSI-25 was 151.00 cm² for patient with sarcopenia, 275.57 cm² for patient without sarcopenia (p <0.001). MRI-CSI-25 correlated significantly with measures of physical performance, and disease activity, but not with radiological damage or age. The MRI-CSI-25 optimal cut-off point in discriminating sarcopenic patients was identified at 182 cm² (AUC-ROCR = 0.894).

Conclusion: MRI-CSI-25 can differentiate sarcopenic versus non-sarcopenic RA patients, representing an imaging biomarker of this condition.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Illustrative magnetic resonance image of a segmented muscle region of the thigh at a 25 cm above the knee joint (MRI-CSI-25) of a 50-year-old female patient, acquired as a 2D FLASH gradient-echo. Group muscles are color-coded: rectus femoris (RF), vastus lateralis (VL), vastus intermedius (VI), and vastus medialis (VM), the four muscles composing the hamstrings muscles (HAMST) [biceps femoris short head (BFB), biceps femoris long head (BFL), semitendinosus (ST) and semimembranosus (SM)], and adductors (ADDC) [adductor longus, brevis, magnus, pectineus, sartorius and gracilis (GR)]. The delineations between adductors muscles were not so obvious at proximal part, all adductors’ muscles were segmented together, except for the gracilis which was easily recognizable. Note the exclusion of non-muscular elements (blood vessels, nerves) in the manual segmentation.
Methods: This was a prospective observational cohort, single-center study. Data were analyzed from 52 RA-UIP patients. Twenty-four were treated with TOF (5 mg twice daily) plus IGU. Twenty-eight were treated with Methotrexate (MTX)/Leflunomide (LEF) plus conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs). A clinically relevant response was defined as a decrease in disease activity score 28-joint count CRP (DAS28-CRP) score and high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scores from baseline. Deterioration and regression were respectively defined by an increase or decrease of at least 10% of the overall disease extent according to HRCT, whereas changes of less than 10% defined stability. Clinical indicators were compared between the two groups to evaluate the efficacy.

Results: A total of 24 RA-UIP patients treated with TOF plus IGU and 28 treated with MTX/LEF plus csDMARDs were enrolled and followed up for 6 months. The DAS28-CRP of the TOF plus IGU group was significantly lower than that of the MTX/LEF plus csDMARD group at 6 months. The FVC% was significantly improved after 6 months of treatment; the change from baseline was more significant than the MTX/LEF plus csDMARD group (1.36±2.42, P=0.038) vs. 1.89±2.33, P=0.031). TOF plus IGU group had a significantly higher HRCT fibrosis scores improvement (-0.17±2.52) than the MTX/LEF plus csDMARD group (1.36±2.24, P=0.031). TOF plus IGU group had a significantly higher response rate than the MTX/LEF plus csDMARD group, 4.6±1.9, 6.4±3.0 vs. 4.6±2.3, P=0.038 respectively.

Conclusion: Our results indicated that TOF plus IGU could simultaneously relieve RA and RA-UIP, and be better than the MTX/LEF plus csDMARDs with a higher response rate in RA-UIP, which may be potential for dual treat-to-target.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3016

<table>
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<th>AB0309</th>
<th>CLINICAL EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF TOFACITINIB COMBINED WITH IGURATIMOD FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS-ASSOCIATED USUAL INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W. Xie</strong>, <strong>S. Wang</strong>, <strong>Y. Li</strong>, <strong>Y. Tang</strong>, <strong>Qingdao University Medical College Affiliated Yantai Yuhuangding Hospital, Rheumatology, Qingdao, China</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Qingdao University Medical College Affiliated Yantai Yuhuangding Hospital, Rheumatology, Qingdao, China</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Background:</strong> Research has found that iguratimod (IGU) could be an effective therapeutic strategy for pulmonary fibrosis [1-3]. The results of the Vitro and in vivo studies indicated that tofacitinib (TOF), slowing the progression of ILD associated with connective tissue diseases, is a potential therapeutic option for rheumatoid arthritis with usual interstitial pneumonia (RA-UIP) [4-7]. The results of the Vitro and in vivo studies indicated that tofacitinib (TOF), slowing the progression of ILD associated with connective tissue diseases, is a potential therapeutic option for rheumatoid arthritis with usual interstitial pneumonia (RA-UIP) [4-7].</td>
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<td><strong>Objectives:</strong> This study aimed to investigate the efficacy and safety of TOF plus IGU in RA-UIP.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Methods:</strong> This was a prospective observational cohort, single-center study. Data were analyzed from 52 RA-UIP patients. Twenty-four were treated with TOF (5 mg twice daily) plus IGU. Twenty-eight were treated with Methotrexate (MTX)/Leflunomide (LEF) plus conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs). A clinically relevant response was defined as a decrease in disease activity score 28-joint count CRP (DAS28-CRP) score and high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scores from baseline. Deterioration and regression were respectively defined by an increase or decrease of at least 10% of the overall disease extent according to HRCT, whereas changes of less than 10% defined stability. Clinical indicators were compared between the two groups to evaluate the efficacy.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Results:</strong> A total of 24 RA-UIP patients treated with TOF plus IGU and 28 treated with MTX/LEF plus csDMARDs were enrolled and followed up for 6 months. The DAS28-CRP of the TOF plus IGU group was significantly lower than that of the MTX/LEF plus csDMARD group (1.36±2.42, P=0.038) vs. 1.89±2.33, P=0.031). TOF plus IGU group had a significantly higher HRCT fibrosis scores improvement (-0.17±2.52) than the MTX/LEF plus csDMARD group (1.36±2.24, P=0.031). TOF plus IGU group had a significantly higher response rate than the MTX/LEF plus csDMARD group, 4.6±1.9, 6.4±3.0 vs. 4.6±2.3, P=0.038 respectively.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion:</strong> Our results indicated that TOF plus IGU could simultaneously relieve RA and RA-UIP, and be better than the MTX/LEF plus csDMARDs with a higher response rate in RA-UIP, which may be potential for dual treat-to-target.</td>
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| Acknowledgements: NIL. |
| Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. |
| DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3346 |
by a trained specialist, to evaluate subclinical atherosclerosis. Subclinical atherosclerosis was defined as carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT) >0.9mm and/or presence of carotid plaques. The 2008 Framingham score, QRisk III and mod- ified mSCORE were used for CV risk stratification. Quantitative variables were presented as means and qualitative as frequencies. Chi square test was performed for comparisons between dichotomous variables and T Student for con- tinuous, and p ≤ 0.05 for statistical significance. Kappa coefficient was performed between scales, interpreted as: ≤ 0 as no agreement and 0.01–0.20 as none to slight, 0.21–0.4 as fair, 0.41–0.60 as moderate, 0.61–0.80 as substantial, and 0.81–1.00 as almost perfect agreement. All patients signed informed consent.

Results: 100 were included, 87% were women, with a mean age of 51±13.3 years and mean disease duration 130.9±102.64 month. 9 (9%), 13 (13%) and 5 (5%) were classified as high risk according to the QRiskIII, Framingham 2008 and ScoreM scales respectively. 27.14% of patients had subclinical atherosclerosis, exceeding by 14% the high-risk patients according to the Framingham classification, while mSCORE and QRiskII underestimated cardiovascular risk in 22 and 18 individuals, respectively. The kappa coefficient for agreement of high-risk patients according to QRiskIII was 0.593 (moderate concordance) relative to Framingham 2008 while ScoreM had a Kappa coefficient of 0.401 (fair concordance) relative to Framingham 2008.

Conclusion: In contrast to the estimation scales frequently used in clinical prac- tice, which have a tendency to underestimate the risk in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, these results show that the cardiovascular risk demonstrated through ultrasonography of the carotid vessels more effectively characterizes high-risk patients.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0311

ANALYSIS OF THE MALIGNANCY-RELATED SAFETY OF ABATAcept FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Keywords: Malignancy, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

Y. Kunishita1, K. Harita1, C. Honda1, Y. Lizawa1, M. Mitsuhashi1, S. Ohta1, T. Igarashi1, S. Nagaoaka1,1Yokohama Minami Kyosai Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Yokohama, Japan

Background: In 2019, a study based on post-marketing surveillance data in Japan reported that ABT was as effective and safe in elderly patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) as non-elderly[1]. However, there were inconsistent reports on the impact of ABT on malignancies which are more common in the elderly. We aimed to explore the risk of malignancy with the use of ABT in our clinical practice.

Methods: A total of 276 patients were included, of which 61 had previous malignancies when starting ABT. The age of starting ABT was significantly higher in the PM group (72.5 ± 10.6 vs. 68.5 ± 13.0, years-old, p = 0.025), and the rate of methotrexate use was significantly lower in the PM group (29.5 vs. 51.2%, p = 0.0028), although there were no significant differences in other patient backgrounds between the groups (Table 1). The disease activity improved significantly at three months after starting ABT in both groups, and DAS28-CRP remission was maintained after that. There was no significant difference in disease activity between the groups from starting ABT to 60 months after. There were no significant differences in the continuation rates for 1-year and 5-year of ABT between the groups (86.3 vs. 86.6%, and 70.5 vs. 65.7%, respectively, Figure 1). There were 14 cases of occurrence and recurrence or progression of malignancy during the observation period. The incidence of malignancy was 1324.6 per 100,000 person-years, and there were no differences in the risk of malignancy in a Japanese national survey of similar age. Despite the significantly older patient population in the PM group, the 5-years incidence rate of malignancy was no significant difference between the groups. Binomial logistic analysis was performed using factors such as age, disease duration, history of previous malignancy, concomitant disease and medications, and disease activity at starting ABT. However, no predictive risk factors were found to be associated with the development or relapse of malignancy during ABT use in this study.

Conclusion: In our clinical practice, ABT was effective and safe in both patients with and without previous malignancy.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Patient background at the start of ABT in the groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>NP group (n = 215)</th>
<th>PM group (n = 61)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female (%, n)</td>
<td>182/215 (84.7)</td>
<td>49/61 (80.3)</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (y.o.)</td>
<td>68.5 ± 13.0</td>
<td>72.6 ± 10.6</td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (year)</td>
<td>9.7 ± 9.5</td>
<td>11.8 ± 10.3</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body weight (kg)</td>
<td>53.4 ± 12.0</td>
<td>52.2 ± 9.6</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF seropositivity (%, n)</td>
<td>181/214 (86.4)</td>
<td>52/61 (85.2)</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CCP Ab seropositivity (%, n)</td>
<td>152/184 (82.6)</td>
<td>47/52 (90.4)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complications of CTD (n, %)</td>
<td>31/214 (14.5)</td>
<td>12/61 (19.7)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestinal pneumonias (n, %)</td>
<td>47/215 (21.9)</td>
<td>9/61 (14.8)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bhsDMARDs naïve (n, %)</td>
<td>152/214 (71.0)</td>
<td>45/61 (73.6)</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant drug</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MTX (n, %)</td>
<td>110/215 (51.2)</td>
<td>18/61 (29.5)</td>
<td>0.0028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX dose (mg/week)</td>
<td>10.4 ± 2.7</td>
<td>9.9 ± 2.2</td>
<td>0.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSL (n, %)</td>
<td>60/213 (28.2)</td>
<td>20/61 (32.8)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSL dose (mg/day)</td>
<td>5.8 ± 5.1</td>
<td>5.2 ± 4.1</td>
<td>0.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMP-3 (ng/ml)</td>
<td>262.1 ± 278.3</td>
<td>294.1 ± 303.8</td>
<td>0.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>3.8 ± 1.0</td>
<td>3.9 ± 1.2</td>
<td>0.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR</td>
<td>5.3 ± 1.1</td>
<td>5.3 ± 1.4</td>
<td>0.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>20.2 ± 11.8</td>
<td>21.2 ± 12.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDAI</td>
<td>24.2 ± 12.9</td>
<td>23.8 ± 13.2</td>
<td>0.81</td>
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</table>

Acknowledgments: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yosuke Kunishita Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Asahi Kasei Pharma, Astellas Pharma, AstraZeneca, Ayumi Pharmaceuticals, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Daiichi Sankyo, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Gilead Sciences, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Kyowa Kirin, Sanofi, UCB, Paid instructor for: AbbVie, Asahi Kasei Pharma, Astellas Pharma, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eisai, Gilead Sciences, Kyowa Kirin, UCB, Kayo Harita: None declared, Chikara Honda: None declared, Yui Uzawa: None declared, Masaki Mitsuhashi: None declared, Soichi Ohta: None declared, Toshihisa Igarashi: None declared, Shouhei Nagaoaka: None declared.

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ASSOCIATION BETWEEN DISEASE ACTIVITY AND CHANGES IN FIBROSIS-4 INDEX LEVEL IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH METHOTREXATE FOR A SHORT PERIOD

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Descriptive Studies, Comorbidities

N. Namura1, K. Kamada2, T. Hagiwara2, K. Takahashi2, K. Matsui1
1Hyogo Medical University, Division of Allergology and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Nishinomiya, Japan; 2Takarazuka City Hospital, Rheumatology, Takarazuka, Japan; 2Hyogo Medical University, Department of Medical Statistics, Nishinomiya, Japan

Background: Liver fibrosis and liver damage are major concerns associated with long-term side effects in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treated with methotrexate (MTX). Recently, fibrosis-4 index (FIB-4) has often been used as an indicator of liver fibrosis. However, most studies examining the association between MTX and liver fibrosis, including FIB-4, have involved patients with RA treated with MTX for an extended period. To the best of our knowledge, no study has reported associations between FIB-4 and disease activity in patients with RA after using MTX for a short period.

Objectives: We focused on FIB-4 as an indicator of liver fibrosis in patients with RA treated with MTX in phase I and aimed to evaluate the changes in FIB-4 level in these patients for a short period.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with RA at our hospital and who had not received MTX before diagnosis (using the 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria) were included. Patients with hepatitis virus infection, alcoholism, or severe obesity were excluded from the study. Patients unable to continue using MTX for more than 12 months and those who used a maximum dose of MTX of 10 mg/week or less during the observation period were excluded. Patients' clinical and functional data were recorded at baseline and at all subsequent visits (6 and 12 months). We used the Mann–Whitney U test to compare aspartate transaminase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), and FIB-4 levels between the baseline and each observation period. Multiple regression analysis was performed to examine the effect of the cumulative MTX dose on the changes in FIB-4 levels from baseline to 6 and 12 months, after adjusting for factors involved in RA.

Results: A total of 144 patients were examined. The median FIB-4 levels increased from baseline to 6 and 12 months (p < .001). Multiple regression analysis revealed that the cumulative MTX dose was a factor independently influencing the changes in FIB-4 levels. Therefore, to identify predictors other than the cumulative MTX dose for changes in FIB-4 levels, we performed multiple linear regression analysis, adjusting for sex, body mass index (BMI), CRP, MMP-3, mHAQ, RF, ACPA, DAS28ESR, and FIB-4 level at baseline, defining the changes in FIB-4 level from baseline as the dependent variable. The factors independently influencing the changes in FIB-4 level were DAS28ESR (β = 0.107) at 6 months and DAS28ESR (β = 0.066) at 12 months. DAS28ESR at baseline affected the changes in FIB-4 level from baseline to both observation periods. There was also a significant correlation between the change in FIB-4 from baseline to each period and the DAS28ESR (p < .001). Further, a mediation analysis was performed for the association between DAS28ESR and the changes in FIB-4 level, considering the cumulative MTX dose as a mediator. The results indicated that the cumulative MTX dose did not mediate the relationship between DAS28ESR at baseline and the changes in FIB-4 level at either observation period.

Conclusion: The cumulative MTX dose did not affect the changes in FIB-4 level over a short period. In contrast, disease activity in patients with RA before MTX administration showed an effect on the changes in FIB-4 level. Clinicians should be more careful regarding liver fibrosis after MTX administration when treating patients with higher disease activity before treatment.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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UNDERSTANDING DISEASE PREDOMINANCE AND COMORBIDITY PROFILES AMONG SEROPOSITIVE AND SERONEGATIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN PUERTO RICO

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities, Autoantibodies

F. Arenal-Cruz1, G. Jobson2, E. Villanueva2, J. Zhu3, 1Bristol Myers Squibb, Health Economics and Outcome Research, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico; 2Mu Sigma, Offshore delivery, Bangalore, India; 3Bristol Myers Squibb, Medical Affairs, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico; 1Bristol Myers Squibb, Center for Observational Research and Data Science, Princeton, United States of America

Background: Prevalence of rheumatoid factor (RF) and/or anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody (ACPA) positivity in US patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is around 70% [1]. Seropositive RA status, defined by positivity for RF and/ or ACPA, is associated with poor disease prognosis [2]. Little is known about the prevalence of RA, percentages of seropositive RA versus seronegative RA, and the comorbidity profile and infections of the seropositive and seronegative RA populations in Puerto Rico. Therefore, to identify predictors other than the cumulative MTX dose for changes in FIB-4 levels from baseline to 6 and 12 months (p < .001). Multiple regression analysis revealed that the effect of the cumulative MTX dose on the changes in FIB-4 levels from baseline was an employee of Bristol Myers Squibb, Julia Zhu Shareholder of: Hold stock or stock options at Bristol Myers Squibb. During the conduct of the study, I was an employee of Bristol Myers Squibb.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Fernando Arenal-Cruz Shareholder of: Hold stock or stock options at Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: During the conduct of the study, I was an employee of Bristol Myers Squibb, Greta Jobson Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Eneida Villanueva Shareholder of: Hold stock or stock options at Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: During the conduct of the study, I was an employee of Bristol Myers Squibb.

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OMAR INITIATION IN OLDER ADULTS WITH NEW DIAGNOSIS OF LATE-ONSET RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

J. Lee4, N. Singh5, R. Yang1, U. Makris1, J. Bynum1, 1University of Michigan Hospital, Internal Medicine, Ann Arbor, United States of America; 2University of Washington, Internal Medicine, Seattle, United States of America; 3University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center: Library, Internal Medicine, Dallas, United States of America; 4VAMC Dallas, Internal Medicine, Dallas, United States of America

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the most common chronic inflammatory arthritis, affecting millions of people worldwide. The prevalence of RA among Puerto Ricans was 1.03%. Of 141 patients with RA, 56.7% of them were seropositive. Within eligible seropositive (n=53) and seronegative (n=42) RA patients for the evaluation of comorbidities and infections, the mean (SD) of age were 50.75±12.93 and 49.36±11.22 years (d = 0.11), respectively. Most patients were females (79.25% for SP vs 71.43% for SN, d =0.18) and had commercial insurance (92.45% for SP vs 97.62% for SN, d =0.24). The mean (SD) of Charlson Comorbidity Index scores were 0.79±1.17 vs 0.64±1.01 (d=0.14) for seropositive and seronegative respectively. For both seropositive and seronegative cohorts, the most prevalent comorbidities were hyperlipidemia (37.74% vs 30.95%, d=0.14), hypertension (33.96% vs 66.67%, d=0.69) and Type II diabetes (24.33% vs 21.43%, d=0.07) respectively. The most frequent infections were those happening in the urinary tract (18.87% for SP vs 14.29% for SN, d=0.12). In the follow-up period, the crude IR/100-person year was 79.34 and 33.45 for hyperlipidemia; 42.74 and 32.46 for T2DM; 27.47 vs 29.46 for hypertension, and 19.93 vs 25.00 for urinary tract infection for seropositive and seronegative RA cohorts, respectively.

Conclusion: This study found that the prevalence of RA among Puerto Ricans was similar to that reported in US mainland, with most (56.7%) presenting seropositive RA. We also observed a substantial burden of comorbidities among both seropositive and seronegative RA patients. Future studies with a large sample size are warranted.

REFERENCES:
Background: The number of older adults living with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is growing as the world population is aging. Older adults with RA are less likely to receive disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) due to these medications being effective and generally well tolerated in older adults. Up to one-third of the older RA population are diagnosed after the age of 65 and have late-onset RA (LORA). Older adults with LORA experience more symptomatic and progressive disease, and yet, their treatment in usual care is not well understood.

Objectives: To evaluate initiation of DMARDs in older adults with new diagnosis of LORA.

Methods: In this retrospective observational study, using 20% Medicare data from 2009-2017, we identified adults 66 years of age or older with new diagnosis of LORA without any DMARD use during the 12 months prior to cohort entry. Information on baseline patient characteristics and DMARD initiation during the first 12 months after LORA diagnosis were collected. We also assessed concomitant use of glucocorticoids (GCs) and opioids that are not disease modifying but can improve symptoms of RA.

Results: We identified 25,139 older adults with new diagnosis of LORA in continuous fee-for-service Medicare. Average age at LORA diagnosis was 76.9 (SD 7.6). 76.4% were female, 76.7% were non-Hispanic white, 37.2% had low-income subsidy, and 63.1% had three or more comorbid conditions. Less than one third were initiated on some form of DMARD (28.8%) during the first 12 months after LORA diagnosis. Among those on any DMARDs (N=7252), 87.7% were initiated on some form of DMARD (28.8%) during the first 12 months after LORA diagnosis were collected. We also assessed concomitant use of glucocorticoids (GCs) and opioids that are not disease modifying but can improve symptoms of RA.

Results: Among those on any DMARDs (N=7252), 87.7% were initiated on some form of DMARD (28.8%) during the first 12 months after LORA diagnosis were collected. We also assessed concomitant use of glucocorticoids (GCs) and opioids that are not disease modifying but can improve symptoms of RA.

Table 1. Patient characteristics associated with initiation of any DMARD after new diagnosis of LORA among Medicare beneficiaries ≥66 years of age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>Unadjusted</th>
<th>Adjusted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis</td>
<td>0.941 (0.937, 0.944)</td>
<td>0.944 (0.940, 0.948)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.853 (0.801, 0.909)</td>
<td>0.985 (0.922, 1.051)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (Ref)</td>
<td>0.715 (0.650, 0.787)</td>
<td>0.928 (0.837, 1.028)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0.730 (0.639, 0.810)</td>
<td>0.985 (0.881, 1.102)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0.899 (0.785, 1.030)</td>
<td>1.042 (0.903, 1.203)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.519 (0.489, 0.551)</td>
<td>0.567 (0.530, 0.606)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income Subsidy</td>
<td>&lt;3 (ref)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidity</td>
<td>3-5 (ref)</td>
<td>0.716 (0.765, 0.760)</td>
<td>0.848 (0.797, 0.902)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥6</td>
<td>0.431 (0.396, 0.468)</td>
<td>0.566 (0.519, 0.617)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.692

Table 1. Changes after 1-year in quadriceps morphological parameters, clinical features, muscle strength, and functional performance in RA patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muscle thickness (cm)</th>
<th>Rectus femoris</th>
<th>Vastus</th>
<th>Vastus intermedius</th>
<th>Vastus lateralis</th>
<th>Penetration angle (º)</th>
<th>Rectus femoris</th>
<th>Vastus</th>
<th>Vastus intermedius</th>
<th>Vastus lateralis</th>
<th>Penetration angle (º)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At baseline, [n]</td>
<td>1.01 (0.81-1.31)</td>
<td>1.06 (0.88-1.32)</td>
<td>1.87 (1.57-2.27)</td>
<td>6.4 (5.3-7.7)</td>
<td>-0.07 (-0.22-0.13)</td>
<td>1.43 (0.97-2.03)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.76-1.07)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.76-1.07)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.76-1.07)</td>
<td>0.02 (-0.06-0.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1-year, [n]</td>
<td>3.31 (2.92-3.71)</td>
<td>0.91 (0.76-1.07)</td>
<td>2.11 (1.66-2.67)</td>
<td>2.11 (1.66-2.67)</td>
<td>0.02 (-0.06-0.11)</td>
<td>0.82 (0.59-1.15)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.76-1.07)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.76-1.07)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.76-1.07)</td>
<td>0.02 (-0.06-0.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>∆, [n]</td>
<td>2.30 (1.07-3.53)</td>
<td>0.07 (-0.72-0.86)</td>
<td>0.24 (0.01-0.48)</td>
<td>0.24 (0.01-0.48)</td>
<td>0.02 (-0.06-0.11)</td>
<td>0.93 (0.65-1.21)</td>
<td>0.88 (0.70-1.06)</td>
<td>0.88 (0.70-1.06)</td>
<td>0.88 (0.70-1.06)</td>
<td>0.02 (-0.06-0.11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviation: ∆, Delta [year - at baseline]: DAS28-28 joint disease activity score assessed by C-reactive protein (CRP); HAQ, Health assessment questionnaire; TUG, Timed-up-and-go; cm, centimeters; º, degrees; kg, kilograms; s, seconds. *p<0.05. The data are shown in median (interquartile range, IQR).

Acknowledgements: We thank the Foundation for Research Support of the Rio Grande do Sul State (Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul-FAPERGS), the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Level Personnel (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior—CAPES) Institution, the Research and Events Incentive Fund (Fundo de Incentivo à Pesquisa e Eventos-FIPE) of HCRA and Technological Development (Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico—CNPq).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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1342 ﻿

Scientific Abstracts

Rheumatoid arthritis - comorbidity and clinical
aspects
AB0316

CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND THE PRESENCE OF
PORPHYROMONAS GINGIVALIS IN THE ORAL FLORA

[2]

Konig MF, Paracha AS, Moni M et al: Defining the role of Porphyromonas
gingivalis peptidyl-arginin-deiminase in rheumatoid arthritis through the
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0317

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Descriptive Studies, Comorbidities
M. Sanchez-Wonenburger1, I. González Fernández1, P. Castro-Santamaria1,
J. L. Puga Guzmán1, A. Mata Ojeros1, I. Alvarez Losada1, V. Busto1,
R. Dos-Santos1, E. Perez-Pampín1,2, J. R. Maneiro1, A. Mera Varela1,2,3,
J. Ruiz1. 1Complejo Hospitalario Universitario De Santiago de Compostela,
Reumatología, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; 2Facultade de Medicina de
Santiago de Compostela, Reumatología, Santiago de Compostela, Spain;
3
Instituto de Investigacion de Santiago de Compostela (IDIS), Reumatología,
Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Background: It has been shown that periodontal disease, together with the
presence of other germs, may play an important role in the development and
maintenance of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In particular, Porphyromonas gingivalis (Pg), a large anaerobic gram-negative bacteria, produces the extracellular
proteases arginine-gingipain and petidyl-arginine deiminase, which contribute
to oral periodontal destruction but also promote peptide citrullination, inducing
the synthesis of anti-citrullinated peptide antibodies that have been linked to the
onset of rheumatoid disease, its severity and its perpetuation[1,2].
Objectives: The purpose of the present work is to characterize patients with RA
who are carriers of Pg in the oral cavity.
Methods: Oral flora has been analyzed by semiquantitative PCR for 5 germs
involved in periodontal disease, which includes Pg (Peiropoc-Genspeed biotect)
in 236 RA patients and 84 healthy controls, obtained from an outpatient clinic of
non-inflammatory conditions: 172 women and 63 men, mean age 57.69 years.
Correspondence analyses were performed with Pearson’s test for different nonparametric variables and Mann-Whitney test for continuous variables.
Results: Presence of Pg was detected in 80 patients with RA(34%) and in 28 controls (33.7%). The mean age of the carriers was slightly higher (62.04; p>0.05) and
the majority were women (72.5%). 22.5% of the smokers were carriers of Pg, while
10.8% were in the control group (p= 0.16). The mean activity, measured by DAS28
was 2.05 in carriers and 2.66 in non-carriers, with no significant differences (p=0.84).
The mean CRP in carriers was 0.47 and in the overall RA of 1.08 (p=0.61) and the
mean ESR was 13.37 in carriers and 16.83 in noncarriers (p=0.11). Anti-CCP were
found in 55% of Pg carriers and in 72% of noncarriers (p=0.009). The functional
capacity measured by HAQ was 0.245 in carriers vs 0.442 in non-carriers (p>0,05).
Interestingly, in all the cases where Pg was identified, other bacteria capable of causing periodontal disease were also detected, especially Tanerella forsythia.
Conclusion: The presence of Prophyromonas gingivalis is more frequent in
older and smoker patients with RA. Pg in the oral flora of patients with RA does
not seem to contribute to a greater severity of the disease, in terms of functional capacity or activity, as well as in its measurement parameters. It should be
noted that whenever Pg has been detected there is co-infection with other germs
involved in periodontal disease.
REFERENCES:
identifies patients in early onset Rheumatoid Arthritis. Microorganisms
2021. 9: 1657.
TABLE

PLASMA NETS LEVELS IN ESTABLISHED
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS RECEIVING
BIOLOGICAL OR JAK INHIBITOR THERAPY AND
ASSOCIATION WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY

Keywords: bDMARD, Outcome measures, Rheumatoid arthritis
B. Frade-Sosa1, A. Ponce Fernandez1, E. Ruiz-Ortiz2, O. Viñas2, J. Yagüe2,
J. M. Auge3, A. Azuaga1, J. C. Sarmiento-Monroy1, R. Morlà1, V. Ruiz1,
J. Ramírez1, P. Corzo Garcia1, S. M. Farietta Varela1, N. Sapena1, J. D.
D. Cañete1, J. A. Gómez-Puerta1, R. Sanmartí1. 1Hospital Clinic de Barcelona,
Rheumatoloy, Barcelona, Spain; 2Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Immunology
(Centre de Diagnòstic Biomèdic,), Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Clinic de
Barcelona, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Barcelona, Spain
Background: Neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) may play a pathogenic role
in rheumatoid arthritis (RA)[1]. Elevated circulating NETs have been found in
RA plasma, but their relationship with synovial inflammation and antirheumatic
therapy including biologics and JAK inhibitors (JAKi) is unclear.
Objectives: To evaluate whether plasma levels of NETs remnants in patients
with established RA are associated with disease activity or type of antirheumatic
therapy (biologics or JAKi).
Methods: Observational cross-sectional study. RA patients (ACR/EULAR 2010)
receiving treatment with IL6 inhibitors (IL6i), JAKi, or TNF inhibitors (antiTNF)
were consecutively included regardless of disease activity and previous therapy.
Controls were RA patients with high disease activity (≥ 4 swollen joints), regardless of treatment, as was a second control group of healthy blood donors. Clinical disease activity indexes (DAS28, SDAI, CDAI) and laboratory parameters
of inflammation, including high-sensitive CRP (hsCRP) and calprotectin were
evaluated. Plasma levels of elastase-DNA (EN-DNA) and histone-DNA complex
(H3-DNA) (NETs remnants) were examined by ELISA. We analysed NETs remnant levels and clinical variables using Spearman’s correlation test.
Results: 111 patients (90.1% female, 85.6% seropositive (RF and/or ACPA), mean
age 56.45 years and mean RA duration 15.9 years) were included: 83 received
biologics (53 IL6i and 30 antiTNF) and 28 JAKi (19 baricitinib and 9 tofacitinib).
Mean DAS28 and CDAI were 3.00 and 10.5, respectively. Controls were 18 active
RA patients (mean DAS28 5.72 and CDAI of 34.9), 11 without biological or JAKi
treatment [Table 1]. 30 healthy blood donors were also analysed. NETs levels of
patients under biologic or JAKi therapy showed no significant differences with
healthy controls. No significant differences were observed in NETs values according to the type of therapy. In the control group of patients with high disease activity,
plasma NETs were higher than in the main group (treated with JAKi or biologics),
but only with statistically significant in H3-DNA levels (EN-DNA 2.96 (sd 5.42) vs
1.25 (sd 1.03) p=0.03; H3-DNA 2.67 (sd 4.52) vs 1.36 (sd 1.15) p >0.05). The two
NETs were strongly correlated (ρ=0.97; p<0.001). A weak correlation between
NETs and clinical disease activity (DAS28, CDAI, SDAI) was found, but not with
laboratory parameters of inflammation including calprotectin.
Conclusion: NETs are elevated in active RA patients but weakly correlated
with clinical disease activity. Patients with established RA under biologic or JAKi

1. Results shown as mean (standard deviation) or number of patients (%)

Age
Female
Disease evolution (years)

IL6i
N 53

JAKi
N 28

antiTNF
N 30

p

ACTIVE
N 18

p

TOTAL
N 129

58.1 (11.3)
48 (90.6)
16.8 (9.3)

54.5 (11.4)
25 (89.3)
13.7 (9.7)

55.4 (13.2)
27 (90.0)
16.5 (11.7)

NS
NS
NS

52.6 (11.8)
17 (94.4)
10.0 (8.5)

NS
NS
NS

55.92 (11.86)
117 (90.7)
15.1 (10.0)

3.3 (4.9)
0.96 (1.3)
3.24 (2.1)
2.2 (1.6)
9.57 (7.8)
9.5 (7.9)
2.53 (1.11)

4.0 (5.7)
2 (2.5)
4.1 (2.5)
2.9 (2.07)
13.0 (10.2)
13.6 (10.4)
3.81 (1.38)

2.4 (3.7)
1.4 (2.3)
3.9 (2.9)
2.4 (2.3)
9.9 (9.5)
10.7 (10.8)
3.08 (1.17)

NS
NS
NS
NS
NS
NS
<0.001

12.1 (7.5)
7.61 (2.6)
7.3 (2.4)
7.9 (1.3)
34.9 (12.1)
37.1 (12.5)
5.72 (1.27)

<0.001
<0.001
<0.001
<0.001
<0.001
<0.001
<0.001

4.43 (6.1)
2.2 (3.0)
4.1 (2.7)
3.2 (2.7)
13.9 (12.1)
14.6 (13.5)
3.38 (1.60)

0.10 (0.24)
6.28 (3.97)
0.61 (0.56)

0.38 (43)
29 (29.5)
1.21 (1.40)

0.77 (2.5)
15.7 (11.50)
1.25 (2.24)

<0.001
<0.001
NS

1.83 (1.94)
29.67 (23.46)
3.27 (2.93)

<0.001
<0.001
<0.001

0.55 (1.51)
16.52 (19.88)
1.25 (1.88)

1.15 (0.32)
1.12 (0.33) *

1.05 (0.22)
1.05 (0.21)*

1.13 (0.61)
1.13 (0.21)

NS
NS

2.30 (4.29)
2.16 (3.60) *

NS
0.03

1.29 (1.67)
1.26 (1.39)

Healthy controls
N 30

Disease activity
28TJC
28SJC
PGA
PhGA
CDAI
SDAI
DAS28
Laboratory
hsPCR mg/dL
ESR mm/h
Plasma calprotectin (μg/ml)
NETs remnant levels
EN-DNA
H3-DNA

1.16 (0.91)
1.27 (1.40)


therapy have low levels of plasma NETs. NETs levels may be influenced by bio-
logic or JAKi treatment.

REFERENCE: [1]. Song et al. Frontiers in Immunology 2021

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0318

**DAS28 WITH THREE VARIABLES PERFORMANCE IN A COHORT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH AND WITHOUT CONCOMITANT FIBROMYALGIA**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Fibromyalgia

S. Miladi1, B. A. Hiba1, F. Ali1, S. Ben Yaouc1, H. Bousaa1, M. Yasmine1, K. Ouerfiniche1, K. Selma1, C. Selma1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, L. Ahmad1. 1Hôpital Mongi Slim, Rheumatology, Marsa, Tunisia

**Background:** Several studies have shown that rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients with concomitant fibromyalgia (FM) can cause an overestimation of the disease.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the performance of the DAS28 V3 in a cohort of RA patients with and without concomitant FM.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional observational study that included consecutive patients with diagnosis of RA (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria) with and without concomitant FM (ACR 2016). Demographic and RA characteristics were collected. All patients underwent a clinico-biological and an ultrasound (US) assessment of RA activity. US examination included the assessment of synovial/tenosynovial hypertrophy in grey scale and in Power Doppler (PD). P<0.5 was accepted for significance.

**Results:** Eighty patients distributed into 40 patients in each group were recruited. Epidemiological and RA characteristics were comparable between the two groups. Subjective activity parameters were higher in RA with FM group (p<0.05).

**Conclusions:** Our study confirms that DAS28 V3 score would represent a better alternative for the clinico-biological assessment of disease activity in RA patients with concomitant FM.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

**Reference:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4061

AB0319

**HIGH PREVALENCE OF HYPOALBUMINEMIA IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Diet and Nutrition

P. W. Jia1, J. Pan1, Y. W. Zou1, H. W. Zheng1, J. D. MA1, Z. M. Ouyang1, Q. Zhang1, T. Wu1, Y. Lu1, L. Dai1. 1Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-Sen University, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Guangzhou, China

**Background:** Hypoalbuminemia is associated with worse medical conditions in chronic diseases and surgery outcomes. The concentration of serum albumin in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been reported to decline. However, less is known about the prevalence and severity of hypoalbuminemia in RA patients and its association with RA disease.

**Objectives:** To investigate the association of hypoalbuminemia with RA disease characteristics and its potential mechanism in RA.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional study collected clinical data from a Chinese RA cohort, including disease activity, physical function, and radiographic assessment. Serum levels of albumin and inflammatory cytokines including soluble interleukin 2 receptor (sIL-2R), IL-6, TNF-α, IL-8, and IL-1β were detected. According to the level of serum albumin, RA patients were divided into four groups as normal albumin (≥ 35.0 g/L), mild hypoalbuminemia (30.0 - 34.9 g/L), moderate hypoalbuminemia (25.0 - 29.9 g/L) and severe hypoalbuminemia (< 25 g/L).

**Results:** Among 1510 RA patients recruited in the cohort, 880 RA patients were eligible for analysis. Their mean age was 53.5 years old and 77.2% were female. There were 879 patients with active RA (CDAI > 2.8). The prevalence of hypoalbuminemia was 48.2% (429/890) in all RA patients and 50.9% (398/782) in active RA. The prevalence of hypoalbuminemia increased with age, disease activity, but decreased with BMI (all P trend < 0.05, Figure 1). Compared with those with normal albumin, RA patients with hypoalbuminemia were older, had lower BMI, higher levels of ESR and CRP, higher disease activity, and higher HAQ-DI. RA patients with hypoalbuminemia had higher levels of serum inflammatory cytokines, including sIL-2R, IL-6, TNF-α and IL-10 than those without, regardless of the severity of hypoalbuminemia. Moreover, the level of albumin was negatively correlated with all six inflammatory cytokines (r range from -0.124 to -0.334, all P < 0.001). Multivariate ordinal logistic regression analysis showed that BMI (adjusted odd ratio (OR) = 0.889) and IL-10 (AOR = 0.971) were negatively, age, ESR, CRP, previous treatment with glucocorticoids, sIL-2R, IL-6, and IL-8 were positively associated with hypoalbuminemia in RA patients (AOR range from 1.001 to 1.671, all P < 0.05).

**Conclusion:** Our data show high prevalence of hypoalbuminemia in patients with active RA which is associated with high inflammation. These data imply the importance of the control of inflammation and nutrition supply. Further prospective study is needed in future.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4061

Figure 1. The prevalence of hypoalbuminemia in RA patients with different stratification

The prevalence of hypoalbuminemia in different sex (A), age (B), BMI (C), and disease activity groups (D). RA, rheumatoid arthritis; Remission (CDAI ≤ 2.8), LDA low disease activity (2.8 ≤ CDAI ≤ 10), MDA moderate disease activity (10 < CDAI ≤ 22), HAD high disease activity (CDAI > 22)

AB0320

**SACROILITIS AND ACPO POSITIVE: IS THIS AN ASSOCIATION OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SPONDYLOARTHITIS? ABOUT 16 CASES**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthropathy, Rheumatoid arthritis

H. Arabi1, H. Tebaa1, A. Mougui1, I. El Bouchn1. 1CENTRE HOSPITALIER-UNIVERSITAIRE MOHAMMED VI MARRAKECH, Department of Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco, Rheumatology, Marrakesh, Morocco

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and spondyloarthritis (SpA) in particular psoriatic arthritis (RP) are two distinct inflammatory rheumatisms having in common destructive peripheral involvement.

**Objectives:** We report a series of chronic inflammatory rheumatism with features of RA and SpA.

**Methods:** Descriptive retrospective study including patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatism, collected in the rheumatology department over a period of 10 years (2009-2019).

**Results:** 16 patients were included. The average age was 45.94 ± 12.10 years [28-71], with a female predominance of 87.5%. The mean age at onset of symptoms was 34.69 ± 12.71 years [14-52]. The disease duration was 11.25 ± 10.44 years. History was dominated by hypertension and smoking in 12.5%. A history of familial rheumatism and cutaneous psoriasis was found in only one patient. The revealing symptomatology was dominated by chronic polyarthritides in 75%, polyarthritis in 18.8%
and mono-arthritis in one case. Deformities were described in 43.8%. On the immunological assessment, the mean ACRA was 191.25 ± 155.68 [36-500]. Rheumatoid factor and Anti-nuclear antibodies were positive in 50% and 37.5% respectively. HLAB27 was done in 2 patients, 1 of whom was positive. Sjögren’s syndrome was present in 37.5% of patients. A biological inflammatory syndrome was found in the majority of patients with an average ESR and CRP of 37.38 and 20.41 respectively. Radiographic sacroilitis was noted in 56.3%, and the rest were non-radiographic. Synodesmophytes were noted in 3 patients (18.8%). Covi- tis was present in 12.6%. Structural damage in 61.3% made of erosions, geodes and pinching with reconstruction images in 4 patients. Patients were treated with corticosteroid therapy in 87.5%, methotrexate in 62.5%, sulfasalazine in 43.8%, and biotherapy in 25% of cases with anti-TNF alpha type.

**Conclusion:** These associations pose difficulties in diagnosis and management. A more in-depth study of these patients can help with an accurate diagnosis and therefore with optimal management.

**REFERENCES:** N.

**Acknowledgements:** N.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB0321**

**APPLICATION OF NOVEL REFERENCE VALUES FOR 24-HOUR PROFILE OF CENTRAL SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: CORRESPONDENCE WITH PERIPHERAL BLOOD PRESSURE AND CLINICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF HYPERTENSIVE PHENOTYPES**

**Keywords:** Comorbidities, Heart, Cardiovascular disease

R. Rahmadzhanova,1, G. Farías,2, E. Troitskaya,3, R. Osipyants3, S. Vel'makina3, Z. Kobalava2,1, Osh State University, Internal Medicine, Osh, Kyrgyzstan;2Universidad Tecnica de Manabi, Internal Medicine, Manabi, Ecuador;3RUDN University, Internal Medicine, Moscow, Russian Federation

**Background:** Prognostic significance of 24-h profile of peripheral BP is well-known. The growing insights in the role of arterial stiffening in cardiovascular disease led to the viewpoint that vascular risk must be more closely associated with central than brachial BP. While the upper limits for clinic and ambulatory peripheral BP have been routinely used for a long time and the reference values for central clinical BP have been developed some years ago, the hypertensive threshold for 24-h central BP hasn’t been investigated until 2022.

**Objectives:** To apply novel reference values of 24-h central SBP (cSBP) in the patients with rheumatoid arthritis and to characterize the hypertensive profile.

**Methods:** The study group included 85 patients with RA (females 77.6%, age: 59.7±14.3 (Ma±SD) years, HTN 65%, median HTN duration 6.6 years, RA dura- tion – 7 years seropositive RA 65%, mean DAS-28(CRP) 3.7±1.1) and control group (40 patients matched by gender, age and risk factors). All patients with HTN received antihypertensive therapy. Office peripheral BP was measured with a validated oscillometric device, 24-hour ABPM was performed with BPlavassir, and arterial stiffness – by application tonometry. CV risk was calculated by mSCORE (EULAR recommended modified version). The upper limits for non- central SBP were 125 mmHg for daytime, 115 mmHg for nighttime and 120 mmHg for 24-h BP. P<0.05 was considered significant.1

**Results:** Mean central SBP in patients with RA was 123±21 mmHg (108±13 mmHg in normotensive and 132±20 in hypertensive patients, p<0.05). Hyperten- sive patients with RA vs controls were characterized by significantly higher frequency of elevation of daytime cSBP (44.1% vs 12.5%, p<0.01) and a trend to higher frequency of elevation of nighttime cSBP (58.8% vs 37.5%, p<0.09) and 24-h SBP (47.1% vs 25%, p<0.05). In normotensive RA patients compared to controls cSBP was elevated in 71% vs 0% for daytime, 14.3% vs 0% for nighttime and 71% vs 0% for 24H BP respectively (p<0.05 or the trend). All patients with normal peripheral ambulatory SBP (daytime, nighttime and 24-h) had normal central ambulatory SBP. 2 patients with elevated 24-h pSBP and 5 patients with elevated nighttime pSBP had normal cSBP while 2 patients with normal daytime pSBP had elevated cSBP. Patterns of diurnal index were similar for peripheral and central SBP (the discordance was observed only in 4 patients who were dippers by peripheral BP and non-dippers by central). Patients with RA and cen- tral 24-h BP elevation compared to patients with normal profile had higher ESR, longer RA duration, higher frequency of obesity, HTN, longer dura- tion of HTN, higher cPPWV, central pulse pressure, stiffness gradient (cPPWV, crPPWV, CAVI) and higher CV risk. There were significant correlations between central 24-H BP elevation and ESR, hypertension-related parameters (PPW, pulse pressure, stiffness gradient, CAVI) and SCORE index.

**Conclusion:** The first application of novel reference values of ambulatory cSBP in RA showed that cSBP elevation is highly prevalent and in hypertensive indi- viduals the frequency of daytime cSBP elevation is higher than in controls. Not only hypertension related parameters but also high ESR may be the markers of 24-h cSBP elevation.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** N.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Ravshanoi Rakhmadzhanova: None declared, Geo- vanny Farias: None declared, Elena Troitskaya: None declared, Rita Osipyants: None declared, Sergei Vel'makin: None declared, Zhanna Kobalava: Speakers bureau: Servier, Pfizer, Astra-Zeneca.

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**AB0322**

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PHYSICAL BALANCE ABILITY AND PHASE ANGLE OBTAINED BY BIOELECTRICAL IMPEDANCE ANALYSIS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Rheumatoid arthritis, Sarcopenia

M. Tada,1 Y. Matsumoto2, Y. Yamada3, K. Manda1, N. Hidaka1, T. Koike6

1Osaka City General Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan;2Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School of Human Life and Ecology; Nutrition, Osaka, Japan;3Osaka Social Medical Center Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan;4Osaka Saiseikai Nakatsu Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan;5Koryokai Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan

**Background:** We have reported that a decrease in phase angle (PhA), an index of cell membrane fragility, nutritional status, and muscle strength, measured by bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA), is associated with falls in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1]. Since a decline in physical balance ability is thought to be related to falls, assessing physical balance ability is important, and in recent years, assessment of physical balance ability has been included in the diagnostic criteria for sarcopenia. The PhA reflects muscle status and may be related to physical balance ability, but the relationship between physical balance ability and the PhA in RA patients is unclear.

**Objectives:** To examine the relationship between physical balance ability and the PhA in RA patients.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional analysis of 89 RA patients (78% female, mean age: 66.7±14.3 years) was performed. The PhA was evaluated at 50kHz on a BIA device (MC-780A, TANITA, Japan). Assessment of physical balance ability was performed with a muscle function analyzer (SM-200, TANITA), which can assess physical balance ability based on changes in load during standing up from a chair. Of the indices obtained by the muscle function analyzer, lateral balance was evaluated by dividing the lateral direction change value (Vx vs Vw) by the load variation value (Vw kg vs Vw). The balance score, which is the score of the stability time (stable time) from the point after the maximum load value and Vx/Vw compared to the reference value, was also assessed. The associations of PhA with Vx/Vw being above the median and the z-score of Vx/Vw and of the balance score being above -0.5 were tested by logistic regression analysis, and the associ- ation between Vx/Vw and the PhA as continuous variables was tested by multiple regression analysis. The cutoff value of PhA for the balance score z-score of -0.5 was calculated by receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis. Results: Even after adjusting for covariates (sex, age, BMI, ADL, disease activity, and medication status), the PhA was significantly associated with Vx/Vw greater than the median [odds ratio (OR): 0.44, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.19-0.995] and z-score > -0.5 (OR: 0.42, 95% CI: 0.19-0.93). Multiple regression analysis adjusted for covariates also showed that the PhA was significantly associated with Vx/Vw (β =-0.22, p=0.023). A balance score z-score > -0.5 was significantly associ- ated with a PhA above the 75th percentile (OR: 0.42, 95%CI: 0.19-0.97). The cutoff value of the PhA for a balance score z-score of -0.5 was 4.87° (AUC = 0.64, p = 0.32) for men and 4.30° (AUC = 0.78, p < 0.001) for women.

**Conclusion:** The PhA may be related to physical balance ability.

**REFERENCE:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.
Methods: the occurrence of AEs related to MTX. RA treatment has advanced significantly disease-modifying antirheumatic drug. RA patients had adverse events (AEs) (C-OPERA study) [2]. Thus, RA patients on MTX should always be aware of complications and AEs.

Objectives: Since RA patients with frailty have more comorbidities than those with non-frailty, complications of RA or RA drugs are also expected to increase. The purpose of this study was to clarify whether frailty in RA patients influences the occurrence of AEs related to MTX.

Methods: Of 538 RA patients (an observational study, T-FLAG study) who visited us in 2020, 320 used MTX. After 2 years of follow-up, we investigated final follow-up date and AEs leading to MTX discontinuation. Frailty was defined as a score of 8 or more on the Kihon Checklist (KCL). Logistic regression analysis was performed to determine factors associated with MTX discontinuation due to AEs. MTX retention rates were calculated by Kaplan–Meier analysis, and crude retention rates were compared using the log-rank test.

Results: Of the 320 patients (249 females) in this study, 23 patients (7%) discontinued MTX due to AEs. AEs included liver disorder (26.1%), MTX pneumonia (21.7%), decreased renal function (13.0%). There were no patients with MTX discontinuation due to inefficacy. Mean age at baseline (standard deviation [SD]) was 62.8 (11.9)/64.5 (13.9) years (MTX discontinuation/ MTX continuation), MTX dose was 8.1 (2.8)/8.1 (2.9) mg, Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) was 6.1 (6.1)/5.6 (7.3), KCL was 9.0 (5.0)/5.8 (4.0) point (p<0.05), and frailty (OR: 2.77, 95%CI: 1.16–6.61), adjusting for age and sex. The rate of MTX retention (at 1 year, and 2 years) was significantly lower in subjects with frailty (91.2%, and 86.6%) than in those with non-frailty (96.2%, and 95.1%) respectively. Comparing the patient characteristics at baseline in subjects with frailty and non-frailty, mean age, KCL, and the proportion of MTX discontinuation due to AEs were significantly higher in subjects with frailty.

Conclusion: Our finding suggest that frailty was the significant factor of MTX discontinuation due to AEs, and the rate of MTX retention was significantly lower in the subjects with frailty compared to non-frailty. Moreover, the subjects with frailty had significantly higher mean age and disease activity, suggesting that frailty comprehensively reflects a bad condition. Frailty is significantly associated with poor physical function, and poorer physical function is reportedly associated with a poorer response to treatment [3]. Poor physical function (physical frailty) may make patients more prone to MTX discontinuation due to AEs. These findings suggest that frailty is a comprehensive index with high predictive power for MTX discontinuation due to AEs. Therefore, the occurrence of MTX AEs should be carefully monitored when using MTX in RA patients with frailty.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0324 DEVELOPMENT OF A MOBILE APP TO SUPPORT SELF-MANAGEMENT IN INDIVIDUALS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Self-management, Rheumatoid arthritis, Artificial Intelligence

Y. El Miedy1, B. M. Elnady2, S. Abd-Elmaksoud2, O. El Miedy3, D. Palmer4, N. Fouda5, M. H. Abu-Zaid6, W. Elwakil7, W. Hassani1, I. Aabda3, Canter bury Christ Church University Medway Campus, Rheumatology, Gillingham, United Kingdom; 2Faculty of Medicine Benha University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Banha, Egypt; 3Faculty of Medicine Benha University, Psychiatry, Banha, Egypt; 4University College London, Computer sciences, London, United Kingdom; 5North Middlesex University Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 6Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Cairo, Egypt; 7Faculty Of Medicine - Tanta University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Tanta, Egypt; 8Faculty of Medicine Alexandria University, Rheumatology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Alexandria, Egypt; 9Faculty Of Medicine Kasr Al-Ainy, Cairo University, General Medicine, Cairo, Egypt

Background: EULAR has recently highlighted the vital role of digital health in standard practice and the possibility to enhance the self-management abilities of the patients. Self-management strategies play an important role in improving clin- ical outcomes in patients with inflammatory arthritis. Smartphone technology has the potential to engage the patients with their treating health care professionals through suitable self-monitoring and easy access to information. In addition, having a more accurate summary of self-reported fluctuations in symptoms, psychosocial problems and behaviors can help both the patients and the treating health care professionals better understand the patient’s condition, identify barriers to self-man- agement, and assess treatment effectiveness and additional health care needs. However, evidence regarding these supporting digital tools, including smartphone apps, is currently very limited. So far there is no comprehensive mobile app developed to facilitate the collaboration between the patients and their treating physicians.

Objectives: 1.To provide basic data on system requirement specifications for a mobile app to self-manage inflammatory arthritis. 2. Identify the targets, characteristics of the app, and correlations between the system requirements and the established behavior change techniques.

Methods: A participatory action research design was adopted to inform the app developer of the major themes recognized as the main pillars for the app develop- ment, implementing artificial intelligence. Qualitative data were collected using multiple methods in several workshops. Participants were 2 Rheumatologists, 1 rheumatology nurse specialist, 1 rheumatoid arthritis patient, 1 psoriatic arthritis patient, 1 patient Ankylosing spondylitis, and an App/ machine learning engineer. A taxonomy was used to determine the degree of correlation between the system requirements and established behavior change techniques.

Results: The app targets the optimization of self-management and provide non-medical management approach. The major theme that emerged were: 1.collect self-reported patient reported outcomes (disease functional ability, quality of life, motivation), 2. Collect information on patient demographics, comorbidity(ies), disease activity status (self-reported disease activity score), past and current medications, 3. Identify the individual patient’s target to be achieved, 4. Develop a patient profile that focuses on the patient’s disease activity status, well-being, targets and attitude, 5. Using artificial intelligence, construction of a personal- ized, evidence-based disease self-management program based on recommen- dations from medical guidelines, municipal standards, and state-of-the-art clinical research; 6. implementation of personalized recommendations into the patient’s daily life by providing short daily tasks that accelerate positive behavior change. 7. a calendar feature for goal setting, planning, and recording of (HRQoL) perfor- mance and progress, 8. a small community feature for positive feedback, support from patients and support the patient in coping with symptoms, daily fatigue, and further disease-related symptoms, 9. Implementation of cognitive behavioral techniques, meditation and relaxation methods, 10. adapt a reward system to motivate ends for using the app, and, 11. Format the app interface.

Conclusion: These findings highlight the potential of implementing digital ther- apy to encourage self-management and engagement with health care profes- sionals. Non-medical management of patients with inflammatory arthritis. The results of this work suggest that using an app-based personalized disease management program may reflect significantly on several measures of patient-reported out- comes and disease activity in patients with RA/PsA/SpA. Future feasibility testing in a prospective study will firmly establish the reliability, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of such an app intervention for this cohort of patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1187
DEVELOPMENT OF A MOBILE APP FOR DISEASE-SPECIFIC COGNITIVE BEHAVIOR THERAPY MANAGEMENT IN INDIVIDUALS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Cognitive Function, Self-management, Rheumatoid arthritis

B. M. Eladny1, S. Abd-Elmaksood2, O. El Miedany3, Y. El Miedany4, 1Faculty of Medicine Banha University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Banha, Egypt; 2Faculty of Medicine Banha University, Psychiatry, Banha, Egypt; 3University College London, Computer Sciences, London, United Kingdom; 4Canterbury Christ Church University Medway Campus, Rheumatology, Gillingham, United Kingdom

**Background:** EULAR has recently highlighted the vital role of digital health in standard practice and the possibility to enhance the patient’s quality of life. Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) plays an important role in improving clinical outcomes in inflammatory arthritis patients. The aim of CBT is to boost patients' self-efficacy for pain management, or their confidence in their ability to control their pain, and lessen the interference that pain causes in their everyday lives. CBT does this by educating patients on how to develop more efficient coping mechanisms to deal with everyday pain sensations and enhance functionality and quality of life. So far, no comprehensive mobile app has been developed to facilitate the collaboration between patients and their CBT therapist, especially with those having monetary and physical constraints related to their disease. Objective: 1. To gather from psychiatric data on system requirements for a mobile app to provide constructed CBT program for RA patients. 2. Identify the target audience, characteristics of the app, and correlations between the system requirements and the established CBT.

**Methods:** To identify the major themes recognized as the main pillars for app development and inform the app developer/machine learning engineer, a participatory action research design was implemented. Qualitative data were collected using multiple methods in four workshops. Participants were 2 Rheumatologists, 1 rheumatology nurse specialist, 1 Psychiatrist rheumatoid arthritis patient, and an App developer. A taxonomy was used to determine the degree of correlation between the system requirements and established cognitive behavioral therapy techniques.

**Results:** The app targets the optimization of patient-reported outcomes and quality of life to provide a non-medical management approach via modifying Disease-specific dysfunctional beliefs and behaviors using cognitive and/or behavioral exercises in a structured manner. The major themes identified were: 1. collect self-reported patient-reported outcomes (disease functional ability, quality of life, motivation), 2. Collect information on patient demographics, comorbidity(ies), disease activity status (self-reported disease activity score), plus past and current medications, 3. Identify the individual patient's target to be achieved, 4. Develop a patient profile that focuses on the patient's perpetuating factors, 5. Construction of a personalized, evidence-based disease management program based on recommendations from medical guidelines, medical standards, and state-of-the-art clinical research; 6. Implementation of a personalized CBT program for Effective Coping, Life Goals, Pain Management, Emotional Responses, Managing Change, Self-Esteem, Relationships; 7. A calendar feature for goal setting, planning, and recording of physical activity performance and progress. 8. A small community feature for positive feedback, support from peers and support the patient in coping with stress, sadness, depression, pain, fatigue, and further disease-related symptoms. 9. Implementation of relaxation exercises, 10. Adapt a reward system to motivate end users for using the app.11. Help the patients learn ways to cope with increased resilience to disease-related episodes.12. Format the app interface.

**Conclusion:** These findings highlight the potential of implementing digital CBT to encourage RA patients to be able to cope with their disease, change wrong beliefs, allow them to retain jobs, socialize normally, and engage with healthcare professionals. The results of this work suggest that using an app-based personalized disease management program may reflect significantly on several measures of patient-reported outcomes and disease quality of life in RA considering all conventional and psychological CBT barriers. Future feasibility testing in a prospective study will firmly establish the reliability, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of such an app intervention for this cohort of RA patients.

**References:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB0325**

**IMPACT OF ANTI-CITRULLINATED PROTEIN ANTIBODIES AND RHEUMATOID FACTOR ON BONE MINERAL DENSITY CHANGE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH DENOSUMAB

**Keywords:** Autoimmune diseases, Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Ann1, T. Okano2, T. Kokei3,4, H. Nakamura3, 1Yodogawa Christian Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 2Osaka Metropolitan University Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 3Osaka Metropolitan University Hospital, Center for Joint Degenerative Diseases, Osaka, Japan; 4Shirahama Foundation for Health and Welfare, Search Institute for Bone and Arthritis Disease (SINBAD), Shirahama Foundation for Health and Welfare, Search Institute for Bone and Arthritis Disease (SINBAD), Wakayama, Japan

**Background:** Osteoporosis is one of the major comorbidities in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). A low bone mineral density (BMD), especially in the femoral neck, was associated with the presence of anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA) and rheumatoid factor (RF). However, there are few reports investigated the influence of autoantibody on BMD change in patients with RA after osteoporosis treatment.

**Objectives:** There are a lot of evidence that denosumab increased BMD in patients with osteoporosis, and improved bone erosion in patients with RA. We evaluated the BMD change in patients with RA treated denosumab, and assessed the effect of autoantibody, such as ACPA and RF.

**Methods:** This study included 196 RA patients (187 female; mean age, 71 ± 9.0 years; mean disease duration, 178 ± 15.3 years; mean DAS28-CRP, 2.9 ± 1.2) who fulfilled the criteria of osteoporosis and treated with denosumab. Disease activity of RA was treated according to EULAR recommendation 2022. BMD at the lumbar spine, proximal femoral and femoral neck were evaluated by dual energy X-ray absorptiometry at baseline and 12 months after denosumab treatment. We evaluated the influence of ACPA and RF for BMD change.

**Results:** Improvement ratio of BMD at the lumbar spine, proximal femoral and femoral neck were 6.4% (p<0.01), 3.4% (p<0.01) and 1.6% (p<0.1) after 12 months treatment. There were no differences in BMD at the lumbar spine, proximal femoral and femoral neck before denosumab treatment between 101 ACPA-positive patients and 30 ACPA-negative patients (0.77 vs 0.77 g/cm², p=0.68; 0.58 vs 0.61 g/cm², p=0.13; 0.48 vs 0.47 g/cm², p=0.7), between 128 RF-positive patients and 42 RF-negative patients (0.75 vs 0.76 g/cm², p=0.47; 0.59 vs 0.59 g/cm², p=0.68; 0.47 vs 0.46 g/cm², p=0.12). Improvement ratio of BMD at the lumbar spine, proximal femoral and femoral neck were 6.1% (p<0.01), 3.6% (p<0.01) and 1.8% (p<0.01) in ACPA-positive patients, 5.8% (p<0.01), 2.3% (p<0.01) and 3.7% (p<0.01) in ACPA-negative patients after 12 months treatment. Although there were no differences between ACPA-positive patients and ACPA-negative patients in BMD change at the lumbar spine (p=0.08) and proximal femoral (p=0.72), BMD change at femoral neck in ACPA-positive patients were lower than ACPA-negative patients (p=0.03). Improvement ratio of BMD at the lumbar spine, proximal femoral and femoral neck were 6.6% (p<0.01), 3.5% (p<0.01) and 1.1% (p<0.47) in RF-positive patients, 6.5% (p=0.04), 2.5% (p<0.01) and 2.0% (p=0.06) in RF-negative patients after 12 months treatment. There were no differences between RF-positive patients and RF-negative patients in BMD change at the lumbar spine (p=0.08), proximal femoral (p=0.66) and femoral neck (p=0.45). Multivariate linear regression analysis revealed that low BMD at baseline (β=-0.35, p<0.01) and ACPA positive (β=-0.2, p<0.04) inhibited the improvement of BMD at femoral neck (table 1).

**Table 1. Multivariate linear regression analysis of risk factors to inhibit the improvement of BMD at femoral neck in patients with RA.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>j</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>-0.054</td>
<td>-0.193, 0.103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (0, male; 1, female)</td>
<td>-0.007</td>
<td>-0.585, 0.537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (0, negative; 1, positive)</td>
<td>-0.199</td>
<td>-0.614, -0.233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF (0, negative; 1, positive)</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>-2.995, 3.364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMD of femoral neck at baseline (g/cm²)</td>
<td>-0.355</td>
<td>-44.361, -14.521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid dose (mg/day)</td>
<td>-0.032</td>
<td>-0.741, 0.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b/tsDMARDs use (0, no; 1, yes)</td>
<td>-0.110</td>
<td>-4.219, 0.908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presteo-ACP treatment (0, no; 1, yes)</td>
<td>0.029</td>
<td>-2.078, 2.545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RA, rheumatoid arthritis; BMD, bone mineral density; ACPA, anti-citrullinated protein antibodies; RF, rheumatoid factor; b/tsDMARDs, biologic and targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs.**

**Conclusion:** Denosumab improved BMD at the lumbar spine and proximal femoral in patients with RA independently regardless of ACPA and RF. ACPA-positive patients were difficult to improve BMD at femoral neck despite denosumab treatment.

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB0327**

**DEVELOPING A CLINICAL ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR DIFFICULT-TO-TREAT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: RESULTS FROM A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW AND FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Inflammatory arthritides
Background: Management of difficult-to-treat rheumatoid arthritis (D2T-RA) is challenging since poor treatment response also incorporates non-inflammatory symptoms that can mimic or amplify pain and scores on composite disease activity measures. Identification of modifiable non-inflammatory factors is vital to improve health outcomes and minimise harm from inappropriate escalation of drug therapy.

Objectives: To develop and assess feasibility of a systematic, evidence-based clinical assessment tool for the identification of modifiable non-inflammatory factors in D2T-RA.

Methods: A systematic literature search of PubMed, Embase and Web of Science databases for studies pertaining to D2T-treatment refractory RA was undertaken from database inception to October 2021. Studies were screened against inclusion/exclusion criteria, and further excluded if deemed to have a high risk of bias. Data pertaining to factors associated with treatment non-response were extracted from eligible papers and categorised to inform composition of the clinical assessment tool. Through patient involvement, the proposed tool’s components were assessed for their feasibility and ease of capture in an outpatient setting. Eight patients fulfilling EULAR definition of D2T-RA were recruited from a single centre. Clinical data and responses to relevant questionnaires mapped to the clinical tool, including: Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9), Brief Illness Perception Questionnaire (B-IPQ), Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire-Specific (BMO-S), Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy – Fatigue (FACT-F) and Medication Adherence Re却t Scale-5 (MARS-5) were collected.

Results: 1154 records were screened, of which eight studies informed the development of a clinical assessment tool. Modifiable factors including raised BMI, smoking status, non-adherence, and co-morbidities, such as fibromyalgia and worse mental health were identified and incorporated into an initial tool. These factors were apparent and readily assessed within a local cohort of D2T-RA patients (Table 1). In summary, data from this cohort revealed a low burden of classified fibromyalgia, mild depression severity, and responses in keeping with a high illness concern. Despite general acceptance of pharmaceutical treatments, ‘ever’ non-adherence, classified as a response other than ‘never’ within the MARS-5 questionnaire was noted in two, five, and three patients regarding steroids, csDMARDs and b/tsDMARDs respectively.

Table 1. Clinical demographics and disease characteristics (n=8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Data (n=8)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>59.5 (56.5-64.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>8 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years)</td>
<td>17 (11-23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-CCP positive</td>
<td>7 (87.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>6 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR</td>
<td>4.6 (4.0-5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of comorbidities</td>
<td>4 (2-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of previous csDMARDs</td>
<td>3 (2-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of previous b/tsDMARDs</td>
<td>5 (4-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Smoker</td>
<td>2 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>26 (25.5-33.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIT-F score (B-IPQ)</td>
<td>32 (23-36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
<td>Fullfill Fibromyalgia 2016 Revised Criteria*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>PHQ-9 6 (3-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Ever’ non-adherence</td>
<td>23 (33.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARDs*</td>
<td>5 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b/tsDMARDs*</td>
<td>3 (37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-IPQ (B-IPQ &lt; 40)</td>
<td>42 (30.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BM2-Specific</td>
<td>Necessity-Concerns Differential (4 to &lt; 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.2 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results presented as median (IQR); *n (%); n=6

Conclusion: Following a systematic review of the literature, we identified several modifiable factors that inform the development of a clinical assessment tool in D2T-RA and can be readily evaluated in an outpatient setting. A holistic approach is required to address both inflammatory and non-inflammatory aspects of D2T-RA. The development of an evidence-based clinical assessment tool is the first step in providing this, by identifying and targeting patient-specific non-inflammatory modifiable factors, in conjunction with pharmacological escalation.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Ruchir Singh: None declared. Sachin Chambers: None declared. Aliaksandra Baranskaya: None declared. Andrew Filer Consultant of: Abbvie, Roche, Janssen, Grant/research support from: BMS, Roche, UCB, Nascient, Mestag, GSK, Janssen, Marie Falahaei: None declared. Kariim Raza Consultant of: Abbvie and Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Adam Croft: None declared.

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**AB0328**

**EFFECTS OF BIOLOGICAL-DMARDs ON THE SERUM URIC ACID LEVEL IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

Y. Miwa, Y. Miwa, Showa University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Yokohama, Japan; Showa University School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences, Department of Nursing, Yokohama, Japan

Background: Hyperuricemia associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been reported to be a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. It has been reported that uric acid (UA) levels decrease with the use of leflunomide and increase with tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitor therapy. However, the effects of long-term biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) therapy and non-TNF inhibitor biologic therapy on UA levels have not been reported.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the changes in UA levels during TNF and non-TNF inhibitor therapy.

Methods: Patients with RA treated with bDMARDs from 2008 to 2018 were studied based on the All Showa University of RA (ASHURA) database. The association between uric acid level reduction and treatment was evaluated in 629 patients treated with the bDMARDs, and the medical records of 256 patients with available uric acid levels were included. The following background factors were investigated: age; sex; type of bDMARDs; dosage of methotrexate and prednisolone; usage of conventional synthetic DMARDs, dyslipidemia drugs, hyperuricemia drugs, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; body mass index; smoking history; HbA1c; presence or absence of hypertension and dyslipidemia; and serum creatinine, C-reactive protein, and matrix metalloproteinase-3 levels. We also used the simplified disease activity index (SDAI) to evaluate RA disease activity. The analysis was performed in two groups, TNF inhibitor-treated group (148 patients) and the non-TNF inhibitor-treated group (108 patients, tocilizumab and abatacept). The primary endpoint was UA levels before and after six months and one year, respectively (p=0.193). There was a difference in the type of drug but no difference in the duration of administration by repeated-measures ANOVA.

Conclusion: Our study suggests that TNF inhibitor therapy may affect an increased percentage of patients with hyperuricemia. On the other hand, non-TNF inhibitor therapy may not affect the increased rate of patients with hyperuricemia, and bDMARD treatment has a mild effect on UA levels in patients with RA.

Acknowledgements: Cooperation on data collection: All Showa University in Rheumatoid Arthritis (ASHURA) group; Nobuyuki Yajima, Tateo Izscoci, Kuni- nobu Wakabayashi, Sakiko Isqjma, Ryo Takahashi, Hidekazu Furuya, Takahiro Tokunaga, Sho Ishii, Shinray Seki, Mayu Salto, Shinichiro Nishimi, Aribi Nishimi, Yuzo Ikari, Mika Hatano, Tomoki Hayashi, Masahiro Hosonuma, Yoji Tooy- osima and Katsunori Inagaki, Kosuke Sakurai.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1818

**AB0329**

**THE IMPACT OF WEIGHT ON FOOT INVOLVEMENT DURING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

K. Zouali1, S. Boussaid1, S. Rekik1, S. Jini1, S. Rahmoun1, H. Aljani2, H. Sahli1, M. Elleuch1, 1 La Rabta Hospital, Tunisia, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia; 2Yasminette Ben Arous Hospital, Rheumatology, Ben Arous, Tunisia

Background: Overweight and obesity are highly common in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), with probable impact on bearing foot joints.

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to explore the associations between Body Mass Index (BMI) and measures of foot health (foot pain, foot-related activity limitation, foot synovitis and deformities) in patients with RA.
Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted on 50 patients with RA consulting a rheumatology department with different complaints. Domains of foot health studied comprised: foot pain (Numeric Rating Scale), foot-related activity limitation (Foot Function Index), foot synovitis (Metatarsophalangeal Joint Count), and foot deformity (Platto Score).

Results: The mean age was 45.48 ± 10.3 years [20-76], most were female (82%), and most patients had moderately long disease duration (12.12 ± 7.67 years). RA was often moderately active (mean DAS28: 3.25 ± 0.98). Sixty six percent of our population were overweight or obese with a mean BMI 29 Kg/m². The average foot pain intensity was 5.78 ± 6.17. The mean FFI pain subscale was 40.15 ± 17.5, and the mean WOMAC pain subscale was 30 ± 13.2. Seventy percent of our patients had chronic foot pain (> 6 months). The heel was the most symptomatic location (62%). Podoscopic examination showed flat feet in 46% of cases, hollow feet in 20%, a valgus heel and varus heel were noted in 34% and 12% of cases respectively. The mean tendon foot count was 5.9 ± 1.7. The mean of swollen foot joint was 2.2 ± 1.55. The average of the foot structure index (Platto score) was 7.8 ± 2.73. Hallux valgus was the most common deformity (74%) followed by claw toe in 43.5% of cases and then subluxation of MTP joints in 26%. Concerning foot-related activity limitation, the mean FFI score of Disability subscale was 32 ± 14.2 and the mean WOMAC score of physical functioning subscale was 33.8 ± 13.96. Half of our patients suffered from problems fitting their shoes because of claw toe, heel pain and Hallux valgus in 40%, 36% and 32% of cases respectively. Our study showed that higher BMI was associated with lower foot health in many of the studied measures. Patients with higher BMI reported significantly more foot pain (p = 0.001), more foot-related activity limitations: for both scales: FFI (p = 0.01; B = 2.17) and WOMAC (p<0.01; B = 20.64), more foot deformities assessed with Platto score (p = 0.02; B = 4.76), more foot synovitis (p = 0.02; B = 4.66) and more problems with footwear (p = 0.05). However, in our population, higher BMI was significantly associated with less radiological joint damage (p = 0.01) and lower feet sharp score (B = -13.9, P = 0.06).

Conclusion: Despite our findings of a possible protective effect of obesity on structural damage, obesity is still, as seen in this and many other studies, an important cause of increased pain, increased functional disability and impaired quality of life in patients with RA that requires special interventions.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1094

AB0330

EVALUATION OF THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MOOD DISORDERS AND THE REGION OF THE AFFECTED JOINTS IN JAPANESE PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis
K. Tokunaga1, H. Oshikawa1, T. Nishino1, T. Matsui1, S. Tohma1, Japanese Red Cross Kumamoto Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Kumamoto, Japan; 1National Hospital Organization Sagamihara National Hospital, Department of Rheumatology Research, Clinical Research Center for Allergy and Rheumatology, Kanagawa, Japan; 1National Hospital Organization Tokyo Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan

Background: The prevalence of mood disorders, such as anxiety and depression, is higher in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) than the general population. Even in the absence of a formal mood disorder, a significant number of RA patients have anxiety, and 992 (11.2%) had depression. The mean HADS-anxiety (A) in the non-anxiety, and anxiety groups were 3.61 (SD = 2.70) and 13.24 (SD = 2.29), respectively. Moreover, mean HADS-depression (D) in the non-anxiety, and anxiety groups were 3.30 (SD = 3.30) and 10.45 (SD = 3.87), respectively.

The mean HADS-A in the non-depression and depression groups were 3.67 (SD = 3.03) and 7.75 (SD = 4.40), respectively. Lastly, mean HADS-D scores in the non-depression and depression groups were 5.15 (SD = 2.62) and 12.73 (SD = 1.90), respectively. In logistic regression analysis, anxiety was associated with lower/large, and small joints, along with female sex, smoking history, and use of PSL. Moreover, depression was associated with upper/large and lower/large joints, along with female sex, lower BMI, disease duration, smoking history, use of PSL, non-use of MTX, and CRP.

Conclusion: Anxiety and depression were associated with the region of the affected joints, but in different patterns. When assessing the patient’s mood in RA, the distribution of affected joints should also be noted.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3423

AB0331

CHEST HIGH-RESOLUTION COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY IN PATIENTS WITH LONG STANDING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: IS THERE ANY BENEFIT?

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging, Lungs
K. Tahir1, N. Akasbi1, I. El Mezouar1, T. Harzy1, 1University Hospital Center Hassan II, Rheumatology, Fez, Morocco

Background: Pulmonary involvement is a frequent and severe extraarticular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Chest high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) have been shown to be of interest in the detection and characterization of morphological changes in the lungs of RA patients.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to investigate the prevalence and types of pulmonary involvement in patients with longstanding RA using chest HRCT.

Methods: A retrospective study was conducted in a single rheumatology hospital including patients diagnosed as having RA according to the ACR-EULAR 2010 criteria from April 2018 to April 2022. Longstanding RA was defined as disease duration > 2 years. All patients underwent chest X-ray and chest HRCT.

Results: Our study included 148 patients with longstanding RA. The cohort was predominantly female (87%) with a mean age 60.58 ± 11.79 years. 8 patients (5.4%) had a history of smoking. Mean age at RA onset was 44.77 ± 13.62 years and disease duration was 14.75 ± 7.55 years. The mean BMI was 28.19 ± 6.47 Kg/m². RA was seropositive in 95.3%, erosive in 91.2% and deforming in 66.2% of our subjects.
Methotrexate was used in 142 patients (95.9%), 41 patients (27.7%) were complaining of respiratory symptoms: dyspnea (n=20, 13.5%), cough (n=11, 7.4%), and both (n=10, 6.8%). The chest X-ray abnormalities were present in 41 patients (27.7%)—abnormal spirometry was found among 49.4% of subjects. Pulmonary HRCT abnormalities were found in 66.8% of patients and the most common were: subpleural micronodules (25%), bronchiectasis (23.6%), and non-septal linear opacities (16.9%), pulmonary nodules (11.5%), ground glass opacity (10.8%), reticulation (8.8%) and honeycombing (8.8%). The presence of HRCT pulmonary lesions was associated with smoking history (p=0.020), seropositivity (p=0.010), respiratory symptoms (0.002) and chest X-ray changes (p<0.0001). However, there were no significant association with the other clinical, biological, radiological and therapeutic criteria.

**Conclusion:** Our study confirms that a large proportion of patients with long-standing RA has abnormal findings in chest HRCT even in those with no chest X-ray findings or respiratory symptoms. RA patients should undergo chest HRCT to detect pulmonary abnormalities as early as possible.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.  
**Acknowledgements:** NIL.  
**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.  
**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3632

### AB0332 APPLICATION IN CLINICAL PRACTICE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA FOR INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PROPOSED BY SER-SEPAR IN A COHORT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: PRELIMINARY STUDY

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Diagnostic Tests, Lungs

**Background:** A screening tool has recently been proposed by two scientific societies (Spanish Society of Rheumatology and Pneumology), combining clinical and serological data to improve the detection of interstitial lung disease (ILD) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1].

**Objectives:** To apply a new ILD screening tool in a cohort of patients with RA in order to determine its prevalence, and evaluate the burden of complementary exams generated for this purpose derived from its thorough application.

**Methods:** Observational and single-center cross-sectional study of a cohort of RA patients under active follow-up at the Rheumatology Service of the Vall d’Hebron. The sample will be all the patients who attend the clinic routinely. Of the 109 patients for whom chest X-rays and LFTs were recommended, in 26 (24%) have been performed, due to usual delay in the pneumology service for LFTs. A restrictive pattern was detected in 4 patients (15.4%), half of whom also presented a decrease in DLCO. HRCT in those patients is still pending. 50% of the LFTs performed were normal and in the rest of the cases alterations compatible with other respiratory pathologies have been observed.

**Conclusion:** The application of this screening algorithm is allowing to diagnose patients with asymptomatic ILD. However, the costs of performing the various complementary exams and its effect in treatment decisions in this profile of patients must continue to be studied.


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3644

### AB0333 PERIODONTITIS AND DISEASE ACTIVITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A CASE CONTROL STUDY

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis

**Background:** Different studies have estimated a higher risk of dental and periodontal abnormalities in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but it is often under-diagnosed.

**Objectives:** In this context, we conducted this study, whose objectives were to evaluate the frequency and the type of oral and periodontal abnormalities in patients with RA compared to control subjects and to determine the predictive factors of the periodontal disease.

**Methods:** This is a case control study conducted during the period between July 2020 and June 2022. The oral and osteoarticular examination was performed for each patient. The different dental and periodontal indices were calculated: CAO index, plaque index (PI) and gingival index (GI).

**Results:** Sixty patients diagnosed with RA according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 classification and 71 control patients were included. The mean age of patients with RA was 51.5 ± 12.4 years [21-78 years] and that of the control group was 47.2 ± 12.8 years [22-74 years]. The oral examination showed poor oral hygiene based on the plaque index (PI). The frequency of moderate to abundant plaque

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3644
accumulation (Plx score 2) was comparable between the two groups with non-significant difference (91.7% versus 94.4%; p=0.5). Regarding dental caries, the median CAO was greater in the RA group than in the control group with a significant difference at 2 years (2.1±0.5 vs 1.9±0.3, p=0.01). The mean numbers of missing and decayed teeth in RA patients were higher than those found in controls (3.3±4.6 vs 2.3±3.06; 1.9±2.3 versus 1.3±9.22 respectively). Analysis of the superficial periodontal status showed that 88.3% of RA patients had gingivitis compared with 90.1% of controls. The mean gingival index was 1.72±0.8 in RA group versus 1.76±0.7 in control group without a significant difference. As for the alteration of the deep periodontium, 53.3% had periodontal pockets and/or gingival recessions compared to 19.8% of controls with a statistically significant difference (p=0.01). This involvement in RA patients was significantly correlated with disease activity DAS 28 and the importance of the CRP level (p=0.02, p=0.03 respectively). Tooth mobility was experienced by 28.4% of RA patients versus 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5404
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.


AB0334 PREVALENCE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS OF MULTIMORBIDITY IN PATIENTS WITH STABILIZED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS. DATA FROM THE CRHREAR REGISTRY

Keywords: Comorbidities, Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis
M. Rojas-Giménez1, S. Daza-Caballero2, M. Parra-Moreno2, M. Á. Puche, L. M. Rojas-Giménez1, M. Parra-Moreno2, M. Á. Puche, L. M. Rojas-Giménez1, A. Escudero Contreras1, Reina Sofia University Hospital, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain. Maimonides Institute for Biomedical Research of Cordoba (IMIBIC), GC05 Group, Cordoba, Spain. University of Cordoba, Medical Surgical Sciences, Cordoba, Spain., Rheumatology Department, Cordoba, Spain; Reina Sofia University Hospital, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain, Rheumatology Department, Córdoba, Spain

Background: Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis have an increased risk of developing comorbidities that contribute to increased worse quality, disability and mortality. Knowledge of comorbidity is important when attempting to identify the conditions most associated with the greatest morbidity and mortality. However, comorbidities in RA are often underestimated despite their impact on disease activity and treatment outcomes.

Objectives: To evaluate the prevalence of multimorbidity in a cohort of patients with stabilized Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and the factors associated with such condition.

Methods: Cross-sectional observational study of a cohort of patients with RA according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria of the CRhREAR registry of the Reina Sofia University Hospital of Córdoba. Multimorbidity was defined, according to the WHO, as the presence of two or more chronic diseases, in addition to RA. Comorbidities included in the Charlson index were collected, in addition to others such as arterial hypertension (HT), dyslipidemia (DL), diabetes mellitus, depression, osteoporosis, intestinal lung disease, and thyroid pathology. Other socio-demographic and patient-related variables were collected. Statistical analysis: descriptive, bivariate analysis and multivariable logistic regression to evaluate variables independently associated with multimorbidity.

Results: A total of 233 patients were included (mean age 63.6 (13.4) years and 70.4% women). More than 70% were ACPA and RF positive. 99.1% had used any csDMARDs ever, n (%) 71 (47.0%) 27 (32.9), 0.292, bDMARDs ever, n (%) 71 (47.0%) 27 (32.9), 0.249. The most frequent comorbidities included in the Charlson index were arterial hypertension (45.1%) vs 2 PSA patients (4.4%, p = 0.07). Results from a sex- and age-adjusted comparison between the two groups with a significant difference were (p=0.01). The mean numbers of missing and decayed teeth in RA patients were higher than those found in controls (3.3±4.6 versus 2.3±3.06; 1.9±2.3 versus 1.3±9.22 respectively). Analysis of the superficial periodontal status showed that 88.3% of RA patients had gingivitis compared with 90.1% of controls. The mean gingival index was 1.72±0.8 in RA group versus 1.76±0.7 in control group without a significant difference. As for the alteration of the deep periodontium, 53.3% had periodontal pockets and/or gingival recessions compared to 19.8% of controls with a statistically significant difference (p=0.01). This involvement in RA patients was significantly correlated with disease activity DAS 28 and the importance of the CRP level (p=0.02, p=0.03 respectively). Tooth mobility was experienced by 28.4% of RA patients versus 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5404
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5404

AB0335 INCIDENT CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS – A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Kidneys, Rheumatoid arthritis
T. Hartl1, D. Dahlby2,3, S. Costello4, M. O’Shaughnessy5,3, S. Harvey5,8,1 University College Cork, School of Medicine, Cork, Ireland; 2 University College Cork, School of Public Health, Cork, Ireland; 3 University College Cork, HRB Clinical Research Facility, Cork, Ireland; 4 Cork University Hospital, Department of Biochemistry, Cork, Ireland; 5 Cork University Hospital, Department of Renal Medicine, Cork, Ireland; 6 Cork University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Cork, Ireland

Background: Patients with inflammatory joint conditions have a high prevalence of comorbidities including chronic kidney disease (CKD) [1]. The data pertaining to CKD in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is limited [2], however and its association with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) remains unclear. Renal disease in RA and PsA is clinically important as it can lead to restrictions in the management of the primary disease, and is also associated with increased all-cause morbidity and mortality [3].

Objectives: To determine and compare the rate of incident CKD in patients with rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis and to determine the rate of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) change over time.

Methods: Patients with RA and PsA who were first diagnosed between 1st January 2005 and 31st December 2010 were included in this retrospective, longitudinal analysis. All eGFR values, calculated using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease equation, for each patient were collected from time of diagnosis until 31st December 2020. Demographic details, disease-specific characteristics, the presence of cardiovascular disease at baseline and anti-rheumatic drug use at each appointment were recorded. Generalized additive models (GAMs) were used to smooth the eGFR trajectories for each patient, and mixed-effects models were then used to estimate crude linear trends in eGFR across the period of observation. The primary outcome measure was diagnosis of CKD, defined as patient’s eGFR falling below 60ml/min/m2 for a period of at least 90 days in their smoothed eGFR trajectory.

Results: The patient sample (n = 159) included 114 RA and 45 PSA patients. RA patients were less likely to be male (39 vs 51%, p = 0.2) and older (mean age at baseline 52 vs 46 years, p < 0.001) than PsA patients. They also tended to have moderately lower eGFR upon initial observation (78 vs 83 ml/min/m2, p = 0.07). Baseline comorbidity profiles were broadly similar between the two groups. Treatment profiles were also similar, but with RA patients prescribed DMDs at 69% of their appointments on average vs 56% in PSA patients (p = 0.003). There were 22 incident cases of CKD in the RA patients (19%), vs 7 in the PsA patients (16%, p = 0.6), and 17 RA patients died during the observation period (15%) vs 2 PSA patients (4.4%, p = 0.07). Results from a sex- and age-adjusted
mixed effects models suggested that eGFR trajectories tended to slowly decline on average in PSA patients (−0.22 ml/min/m² per year, p vs no trend = 0.14), but increased on average (0.79 ml/min/m² per year) among RA patients (p for interaction < 0.001).

Conclusion: Incident CKD diagnosis was high in both patient populations. While rate of eGFR decline was greater in patients with PsA, overall rates of CKD progression were greater in RA patients. The use of corticosteroids and DMARDs was used in a similar proportion to the literature.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5818

AB0336  RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND UPPER DIGESTIVE TRACT BLEEDING: ASSOCIATED FACTORS BETWEEN THE USE OF NSAIDS AND CORTICOSTEROIDS

Keywords: Safety, Rheumatoid arthritis, Gastrointestinal tract

W. Carvajal-Gutiérrez1, M. A. Cisneros-Cisneros1, O. J. Caixto2,3, E. C. Vera-Parras2,3, M. A. Meneses-Toro2,3, M. A. Vega-Baez1, D. A. Álvarez-Vargas1, A. C. Usategui-Ruíz1, J. A. Prada Rueda1, M. C. Romero2,3, J. M. Bello-Guerrero2,3, H. Hospital Medical, Internal Medicine Department, Bogota, Colombia;1Universidad Nueva Granada, Medicine School, Clinical Immunology Group, Bogota, Colombia;2Hospital Medical Central, Rheumatology and Immunology Department, Bogota, Colombia;3Hospital Medical Central, Gastroenterology Department, Bogota, Colombia;4Universidad El Bosque, Cellular and Molecular Immunology Group/ INMUBO, Bogota, Colombia

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), with a prevalence of 0.52% in Colombia, is an autoimmune disease with erosive joint involvement associated with significant manifestations in other organs and systems. RA has been associated with a greater risk of upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB), highlighting the greater exposure to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) and corticosteroids [1].

Objectives: Describe the safety profile with emphasis on UGIB associated with the use of NSAIDs and corticosteroids in patients with RA treated at the Central Military Hospital.

Methods: Analytical cross-sectional study of patients diagnosed with RA according to EULAR/ACR 2010 classification criteria between 2015-2021, describing the clinical and demographic variables and evaluating the association with UGIB. Patients with variceal UGIB were excluded. A bivariate and multivariate statistical analysis was performed by binary logistic regression. Approved by the institutional ethics committee.

Results: 405 individuals were evaluated, 80.5% were female, UGIB was present in 16 patients (4%). ESR was elevated in 60.9% and CRP in 67.9%. Rheumatoid factor (RF) >20 U/mL was positive in 68.6% and anti-CCP in 62.30% of the total population; 100% of the UGIB group were RF+ (p=0.006) and anti-CCP+ (p=0.002). DAS28 presented a median of 5.1 (IQR=3.7-6.0) in UGIB group, while 6.25% used NSAIDs (p=0.07), while 62.5% used corticosteroids (p=0.04). NSAIDs doses and time of use did not present statistical differences between both groups (p=0.640 and p= 0.80). Neither does the type of NSAIDs (p=0.480). There were no significant differences regarding the type of corticosteroid (p=0.441) or the time of use (p=0.847); however, there were differences in doses used (p=0.036). As a result of logistic regression, the presence of anemia was identified with ORA 12.3 (95% CI 1.4-110.3), HAQ moderate or severe disability with ORA 76 (95% CI 1.4-39.9) and DAS28-CRP ORA 0.52 (95% CI 0.29-0.94) as factors associated with UGIB.

Conclusion: Our RA population shows an adequate control of disease activity. Lower use of NSAIDs is reported compared to other populations and the use of corticosteroids and DMARDs was used in a similar proportion to the literature.

In patients with RA and UGIB, there were no statistically significant differences regarding NSAIDs and corticosteroid use. The presence of anemia, greater disability, and high levels of activity were associated. The study group presented a lower proportion of UGIB compared to the evidence published to date.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0337  MENTAL HEALTH AND RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Baliga1, R. Samantb, C. Balakrishnan1, Father Muller Medical College, Rheumatology, Boloor mangalore, India;2P D Hinduja National Hospital and Research Centre, Mumbai, Rheumatology, Mumbai, India;3P D Hinduja National Hospital and Research Centre, Mumbai, Rheumatology, Mumbai, India

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic systemic inflammatory disorder characterised by symmetrical involvement of small and large joints of the body. It has a prevalence of 0.5 – 1% in the world, affecting more commonly women [1]. Due to the inflammatory burden of the disease, RA patients develop articular damage of various joints causing disability, reduced quality of life, and reduced life expectancy[2,3]. Patients with long standing or severe disease can also manifest with extraarticular symptoms. These in addition to chronic pain and disability can affect mental status of the patients [4]. Poor quality of sleep, anxiety and depression have been thought to contribute to the disease flare. [5] DMARDs are the best treatment offered to control disease activity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. However it is important to emphasize that sleep, depression and stress have also an important role to play in the disease management. Treatment of depression, improvement of sleep quality in addition to DMARDS should always be kept in mind. Through this study we attempt to find there is any correlation of mental health with disease activity in RA.

Objectives: To find the prevalence of depression, anxiety, and disturbed sleep in RA patients. To find the correlation of depression, anxiety and quality of sleep with disease activity in RA.

Methods: A cross sectional study was done on RA patients in a tertiary care centre from western India. A questionnaire-based study was conducted among adult RA patients attending Rheumatology clinic at P D Hinduja Hospital Mumbai between March 2020 to July 2021. Depression was assessed using Beck depression scale, anxiety using Becks anxiety scale and sleep quality using sleep quality scale.

Results: A total of 200 RA patients within 5 years of disease were included in the study. Out of 200 patients, majority (84%) were females. The prevalence of depression, anxiety and disturbed sleep in our RA population was 23.5%, 27.5% and 44.5% respectively. Using Spearman correlation, we found a positive correlation of depression (Figure 1), anxiety and disturbed sleep with disease activity using DAS 28 score. We also found a positive correlation of number of joints involved with pain (PAS) scores, depression with anxiety, anxiety with both depression and disturbed sleep and poor sleep quality with anxiety.

Figure 1: Correlation between Disease activity using DAS Score and Depression Score.

- The p-value of the test is <0.0001. DAS Score and Depression Score are significantly correlated with correlation coefficient 0.29 and P-value <0.0001.
Conclusion: Depression, anxiety, and sleep disturbance is significantly higher in patients with early RA. Rheumatologists in addition to assessing disease activity in RA should also include assessment of the mental health. Early evaluation and intervention might result in better outcomes, reduce disease burden and avoid unnecessary immunosuppressive drug escalation.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6117

Table 1. Multivariate analysis of predictors of history of CV events in RA PsA and RA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>0.60–25.05</td>
<td>0.154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MetS</td>
<td>22.61</td>
<td>13.2–58.65</td>
<td>0.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.03–2.46</td>
<td>0.250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>50.30</td>
<td>2.58–1056</td>
<td>0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.08–2.92</td>
<td>0.445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>0.45–22.87</td>
<td>0.241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.79–1.12</td>
<td>0.560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.91–1.06</td>
<td>0.740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RA (R² = 0.296)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>0.56–6.23</td>
<td>0.298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MetS</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>0.28–6.53</td>
<td>0.702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>0.56–6.32</td>
<td>0.413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0.72–12.43</td>
<td>0.129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.17–2.68</td>
<td>0.586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>1.11–16.12</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>0.96–1.08</td>
<td>0.518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.96–1.06</td>
<td>0.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.99–1.00</td>
<td>0.329</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally, follow-up analyses revealed that progression of MetS and its components in PsA and RA were negligible after 12 months of follow-up (Figure 1).

Table 2. Baseline and follow-up comparison of MetS and its components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Follow-up (12 months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MetS</td>
<td>p&lt;0.001</td>
<td>p=0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>p=0.011</td>
<td>p=0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Occurrence and presentation of MetS differed between inflammatory arthritides. The impact of these risk factors on CV risk profile was stronger in PsA compared to RA, and showed no progression in one year. This suggests the implication of different mechanisms, which may require distinct CV preventive strategies in PsA and RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.269

AB0339

METABOLIC SYNDROME AND ITS COMPONENTS HAVE A DIFFERENT PRESENTATION AND IMPACT ON THE CARDIOVASCULAR RISK PROFILE OF PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC AND RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Comorbidities, Cardiovascular disease, Inflammatory arthritides

F. Atzeni, L. La Corte, M. Cirillo, M. Giallanza, J. Rodríguez-Carrio.
1. University of Messina, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Experimental and Internal Medicine, Messina, Italy; 2. University of Oviedo, Department of Functional Biology, Oviedo, Spain; 3. Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Principado de Asturias (ISPA), Department of Metabolism, Oviedo, Spain

Background: Patients with inflammatory arthritides have a higher cardiovascular (CV) risk than the general population. Traditional CV risk factors are involved, while the impact of the metabolic syndrome (MetS) is less defined. Whether MetS clinical presentation and its components are comparable across conditions is unclear.

Objectives: To compare the prevalence of MetS and their components, and the impact on the CV risk profile, in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) versus rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: a retrospective analysis with follow-up of real-world PsA (CASPAR criteria) and RA (2010 EULAR/ACR classification criteria) patients referred to a rheumatology clinic was performed. Demographical, clinical data and presence of CV risk factors were evaluated from patient charts using national guidelines, both at baseline and after 12-months of follow-up. MetS was defined according to the American Heart Association (AHA)/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) criteria. Univariate and multivariate models were used to compare the impact of the MetS and its components in patients with PsA versus RA.

Results: PsA patients (n=78) were younger (45.23 (16.99) vs 60.81 (13.19) years, p=0.001), exhibited lower disease duration (18.86 (48.43) vs 176 (169.77) months, p=0.001) and prevalence of autoantibodies (RF: 7.7 vs 58.7%, ACPA: 7.9 vs 57.6%; both p<0.001) than their RA counterparts (n=92). PsA patients were more likely to present with MetS (40(51.3%) vs 25(27.2%), p=0.003) and dyslipidemia (56(71.8%) vs 26(28.3%), p=0.001) compared to RA. No differences were observed for smoking (22(28.2%) vs 26(28.3%), p=0.836), diabetes (26(38.3%) vs 33(35.9%), p=0.823 and hypertension (44(56.4%) vs 51(55.4%), p=0.749). These differences were maintained after adjusting for age. Multivariate analyses revealed that hypertension (OR 11.818 [95% CI: 2.048–58.053, p=0.002) and dyslipidemia (OR 5.190 [95% CI: 1.187–24.092, p=0.035) were predictors of MetS in PsA, and no effect was observed for diabetes (p=0.066) smoking (p=0.367), age (p=0.445) or sex (p=0.445); whereas diabetes (OR 15.58, [95% CI: 2.41–100.45, p=0.004), hypertension (OR 20.44, 95% CI: 2.58–161.05, p=0.002) and dyslipidemia (OR 43.29 [95% CI: 6.82–274.75, p<0.001) predicted MetS in RA, and no effect of age (p=0.473), sex (p=0.615) or smoking (p=0.317) was noted. No effect was observed for autoantibodies or treatments received. Despite the history of CV events was similar between disorders (PsA: 22(28.2%) vs RA 24(26.1%), p=0.602), differences in predictors were found. Multivariate analyses revealed that hypertension and MetS predicted CV history in PsA, whereas dyslipidemia was the only factor predicting CV history in RA (Table 1). Associations were stronger in PsA, and total variance explained in each model differed across groups.

AB0338

ANEMIA OF INFLAMMATION: A PREDICTOR OF COEXISTING IRON DEFICIENCY IN MEASURED BY NOVEL RETICULOCYTE INDICES, AS ANEAEMIA OF INFLAMMATION

Keywords: Comorbidities, Diagnostic Tests, Biomarkers

P. Singh, V. Ingle, R. Joshi, D. Joshi, A. Kotnis. AIIMS Bhopal, General Medicine, Bhopal, India; AIIMS Bhopal, Pathology and Lab Medicine, Bhopal, India; AIIMS Bhopal, Biochemistry, Bhopal, India

Background: Anemia of inflammation (AI) can be referred to as the proverbial “Starvation amidst plenty” as body iron stores are unavailable for...
the erythron[1]. Anemia of iron deficiency(AID) is prevalent in developing countries and often coexists with AI [2]. There is no simple, single static iron or red blood cell parameter, which reliably predicts iron deficiency in patients with AI. The erythron is in a state of flux; modulated by physiologic demands (e.g., hemoglobin(Hb) levels, tissue hypoxia), metabolic substrates (e.g., iron, Vitamin B12, Folic acid, etc), and pathologic states (e.g., inflammation, malignancies, etc). Therefore, even at the risk of oversimplification, it may be hypothesized that dynamic tests are needed to determine limiting factors for erythron responsiveness.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to evaluate the performance of novel reticulocyte (Ret) indices Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RetHb) and Immature Reticulocyte Fraction (IRF) in identifying coexistent iron-deficient states in AI. We correlated the change in RetHb & IRF with an increase in Hb after intravenous iron in AI.

**Methods:** In this study, we used intravenous iron in patients with AI (hemoglobin<10gm/dL and serum ferritin <500ng/ml) and employed changes in Ret parameters - RetHb/IRF to predict coexisting iron deficiency ‘Iron challenge test’. All participants received intravenous iron sucrose after sensitivity testing (100mg day 1 and 400mg Day 3). An increase in Hb of at least 1gm/dL at one month was considered a positive iron response & diagnostic of coexistent iron deficiency with AI. Change in RetHb/IRF on 3rd day from baseline was compared in iron responders(AID with AI) vs non-responders (AI only).

**Results:** Out of 62 patients who were enrolled, 46 patients completed the study protocol & were finally analyzed for the study. The majority of the participants had chronic autoimmune inflammatory disorders (Rheumatoid arthritis-30 Ankylosing Spondylitis-5, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus-4, Sjogren -1, Psoriatic arthritis-1) while the rest were Chronic liver disease/Chronic heart disease. About 63% of participants were iron responders and therefore, considered to have AID with AI; while the rest were iron non-responders and considered to have predominant AI. There was no significant difference between the change in RetHb/IRF amongst responders and non-responders at 72 hrs (Table 1). Baseline serum iron parameters (Serum iron, Total Iron Binding Capacity, % Saturation, Serum ferritin) and Red blood cell (RBC) indices (Mean corpuscular volume, Mean Corpuscular Hb) were also not statistically different in iron responders vs non-responders.

**Conclusion:** Diagnosing and treating coexisting iron deficiency in AI is a clinical conundrum. In this study, a significant proportion of AI (37%) didn’t respond to intravenous iron at 1 month. Baseline iron parameter like serum ferritin% saturation and RBC Mean corpuscular volume didn’t predict response to iron in this study. Change in novel automated Ret indices (RetHb and IRF) failed to predict response to iron and therefore, failed to diagnose co-existent iron deficiency in AI. Dynamic studies demonstrating erythron responsiveness to iron therapy using “point of care” automated hematologic parameters may provide a template for further studies.

**REFERENCE:**


**Table 1.** Comparing change in hematological parameters—baseline to 72hrs-between responders and non-responders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>No Response, N= 17</th>
<th>Response, N = 29</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Ret-Hb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median, (IQR)</td>
<td>1.10 ,(-0.7, 3.70)</td>
<td>1.60, (0.70, 3.10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean ± SD</td>
<td>1.52 ± 2.84</td>
<td>1.78 ± 2.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in IRF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median, (IQR)</td>
<td>2.30 ,(-0.20, 6.20)</td>
<td>1.50, (-2.10, 4.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean ± SD</td>
<td>3.49 ± 5.65</td>
<td>1.36 ± 7.31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.457

**AB0340**

**MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT RA IS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGHER BASELINE DISEASE ACTIVITY, MULTI-MORBIDITY, AND LOWER QUALITY OF LIFE: ANALYSES FROM THE R4RA BIOPSY-DRIVEN CLINICAL TRIAL

**Keywords:** Comorbidities, Clinical Trials, Rheumatoid arthritis

F. Rivellese1, D. Currado1,2, G. Giorli1, E. Prediletto1, A. Nervi1, A. Khmelevskaya2, R. Micheroli2, C. Ospelt1, M. Lewis1, M. Bombardieri1, C. Pitzalis1. 1Queen Mary University of London, Centre for Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2Campus Bio-Medico University, Rheumatology, Immunology, and Clinical Medicine Research Unit, Rome, Italy; 3University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland

**Background:** We have recently described a fibroblast/stromal signature in patients with multi-drug resistant Rheumatoid Arthritis (MDR-RA). However, MDR-RA is known to be extremely heterogeneous, with multiple clinical and pathogenic factors potentially contributing to multi-drug resistance.

**Objectives:** Define the association of MDR-RA with clinical and demographic factors.

**Methods:** Patients with multi-drug resistant RA (MDR-RA), defined as failure of 3x biDMARDs with a different mechanism of action (TNF-inhibitor, tocilizumab and rituximab) were identified from the R4RA clinical trial (n=40) and compared with first-line responders to either rituximab or tocilizumab (n=72) for: disease activity scores, including composite indexes and individual components; baseline demographics, including co-morbidities, and quality of life scores (HAQ and SF-36 domains); synovitis, assessed by ultrasound and immunohistochemistry.

**Results:** MDR-RA patients did not differ significantly from first-line responders in terms of age, disease duration and ethnicity, as shown in Table 1. MDR-RA patients were treated more often with csDMARDs combination, while the number of previous anti-TNF did not differ. Baseline disease activity was significantly higher in MDR-RA compared to first-line responders. This difference was mainly driven by tender joints, while there were no significant differences for 28 swollen joints count, pain, and patient/physician global health scores (Table 1). Ultrasound scores and synovial pathotype distribution were not significantly different between MDR-RA and responders, but responders had a numerically higher power doppler score and significantly higher sub-lining macrophages, in line with the known association of synovial macrophages with treatment response. The incidence of individual comorbidities such as diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, hypertension, anxiety/depression, and obesity was non significantly different between MDR-RA and responders; however, the prevalence of multi-morbidities was significantly higher in MDR-RA patients, as 50% had more than 2 comorbidities compared to 22.8% of responders (p=0.0343). Finally, MDR-RA patients had significantly lower FACIT fatigue scores and worse scores for multiple SF-36 domains (physical functioning, emotional well-being, social functioning, and general health). Although the difference in baseline disease activity was mainly driven by tender joints, the longitudinal assessment of disease activity across 48 weeks showed persistently elevated tender and swollen joint counts, pain, and global health scores in MDR-RA patients compared with responders (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** MDR-RA, defined as lack of response to 3x biologics with different mechanisms of action, is associated with worse disease activity baseline and multi-morbidity. There were no specific associations with pain scores, but MDR-RA had a huge impact on multiple quality-of-life domains. At follow-up, MDR-RA was associated with persistently elevated disease activity scores, including both higher tender and swollen joints, in keeping with persistently active inflammatory disease.

**REFERENCE:**


**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDR-RA (N=40)</th>
<th>Responder (N=72)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>53.6 (14.1)</td>
<td>56.4 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA duration</td>
<td>14.9 (12.0)</td>
<td>12.3 (10.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender,F</td>
<td>35 (87.5%)</td>
<td>51 (70.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARDs</td>
<td>&gt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous anti-TNF</td>
<td>0.153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>33 (82.5%)</td>
<td>47 (65.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6 (15.0%)</td>
<td>22 (30.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;3</td>
<td>1 (2.5%)</td>
<td>3 (4.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAl</td>
<td>31.0 (14.0)</td>
<td>31.0 (13.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OA528 ESR</td>
<td>6.12 (10.5)</td>
<td>5.60 (12.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>33.5 (21.2)</td>
<td>32.6 (26.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>21.5 (30.5)</td>
<td>21.9 (34.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC 28</td>
<td>15.5 (8.30)</td>
<td>11.2 (7.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC 28</td>
<td>768 (4.81)</td>
<td>704 (5.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain (VAS)</td>
<td>66.1 (21.8)</td>
<td>68.0 (23.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH (VAS)</td>
<td>70.0 (20.5)</td>
<td>66.5 (25.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data shown as mean (SD) or n (%).**
The primary outcome was incident BFF (inc-BFF). Follow-up started at BMD measurement (baseline) and continued until the development of the first fracture or censoring at death, loss to follow-up or end of the study. In these subjects, T-scores and pr-BFF were calculated and T-score < -2.5 in the lumbar spine (LS) or femoral neck (FN), or presence of pr-BFF was evaluated as primary osteoporosis criteria matched (pr-OP). Potential key factors for incident BFF, such as age, disease duration of RA, anti-citrullinated peptide antibodies (ACPA), rheumatoid factor (RF), remission rate using clinical disease activity index (CDAIRR), C-reactive protein, Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index, pain score using a visual analog scale (PS-VAS), vector magnitude (Vxy) using Joint Index Vector (JIV), body mass index (BMI), presence of comorbidities such as hyper-fallability (Fall), lifestyle-related diseases (LSD), cognitive impairment (CI), estimated glomerular filtration rate calculated with cystatin C (eGFR_CysC), anti-osteoporotic drug administration and glucocorticoid administration, and serum albumin level (ALB) were chosen as variants. Receptor operation characteristics (ROC) curve was evaluated for each variant in regard to inc-BFF and the Cut-off index (COI) for each variant was determined. A Cox regression analysis with a multivariate mode in the variants that had statistical significance with the ROC. Kaplan-Meier survival curve (K-M) was examined for each variant in regard to COI. Finally, the K-M study examined the chi-square test by dividing it into positive pr-OP, positive all single significant variants, and positive combined conditions, and simultaneously calculated inc-BFF rates for each subgroup. Differences in BFF rates were compared for each matching pair. Statistical significance was set at less than 5% for all statistical methods.

Results: A total of 239 patients were recruited. The mean age was 73.6 years and the mean follow-up period was 52.4 months. In the ROC study, pr-OP, ACPA, CDAIRR, PS-VAS, Vxy, Fall, LSD, CI, eGFR_CysC, and ALB demonstrated statistical significance with the COI of presence, 0.9 (U/mL), 0.52, 25.0 (mm), 0.012, presence, presence, presence, 50.7 (ml/min/1.41m2), and 4.0 (g/dL), respectively. In these, PS-VAS, Vxy, and ALB had significant risk ratios with values of 1.04, 0.07, and 0.20, respectively, Hazard ratios of each variant in the K-M study were 3.51, 4.56, and 1.81, however, p-values were <0.001, <0.01, and 0.07 for PS-VAS, Vxy, and ALB, respectively. The BFF rate in the pr-OP and PS-VAS ≥ 25.0 subgroups were 4.5%, 12.9%, 14.7%, and 37.9% in the negative/negative, negative/positive, positive/negative, and positive/positive groups, respectively, whereas the BFF rate in the pr-OP and Vxy ≥ 0.012 subgroups were 4.3%, 8.3%, 6.3%, and 32.4% in the negative/negative, negative/positive, positive/negative, and positive/positive group, respectively. When PS-VAS and Vxy were combined to matching either of these, the BFF rate in the subgroups were 5.6%, 12.5%, 12.8%, and 49.0% in the negative/negative, positive/positive, positive/negative, and positive/positive group, respectively. When PS-VAS and Vxy were combined, the BFF rate in the pr-OP and PS-VAS ≥ 25.0 subgroups were 4.5%, 12.9%, 14.7%, and 37.9% in the negative/negative, negative/positive, positive/negative, and positive/positive group, respectively.

Conclusion: These results suggest that Vxy > 0.012 and PS-VAS > 25mm are available risk indicators for inc-BFF. The composite indicator should be more predictable.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.756
following co-variates: age, sex, race, BMI, comorbidities, education level, smoking, SLE duration, self-reported lupus disease activity, SLE organ damage measured by BILD (Brief Index of Lupus Damage), and other medications. Results of LASSO analyses are reported as incidence rate ratios (IRRs).

**Results:** 512 participants qualified for the analysis; 46.3% reported GC use in at least one 6-month period. Over 90% of the cohort was male, mean age 58 ±13 years, SLE duration 24 ±12 years. GC users were significantly less likely to be male or white, had more comorbidities, had lupus of greater duration, were more likely to also be taking immunosuppressive medications, and reported more active SLE and greater disease damage (BILD). In bivariate analyses (Table 1), GC users reported significantly more rheumatology and other doctor visits, and more PT/OT visits. They also reported more lung function, blood, and urine tests. There was no difference between GC users and non-users in the occurrence of a hospitalization, but users had significantly longer hospitalizations. The multi-variable LASSO regression analyses [1] revealed similar results, with significantly higher IRRs for GC users for rheumatology and other visits, blood and urine tests, and hospitalizations. In analyses based on GC dosage, IRRs for rheumatology visits, other medical visits and blood tests were significantly elevated for each dosage group compared to the no-GC group; the highest GC dosage group also had significantly elevated IRRs for lung and urine tests and hospitalizations.

**Conclusion:** GC use is associated with greater healthcare utilization among this cohort with SLE, even after adjusting for a wide range of sociodemographic and disease-related factors. Additional analyses are needed to explore whether greater GC use reflects more severe disease, and/or whether GC use itself leads to increased healthcare utilization.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Table: Healthcare utilization for GC users and non-users and by GC dose**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GC use</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>Adjusted analyses, GC use by dose</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>Adjusted analyses, GC use by dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-GC</td>
<td>N=205</td>
<td>N=207</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>N=205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatology visits</td>
<td>1.1 (1.0, 1.3)</td>
<td>1.1 (1.0, 1.3)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9, 1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-GC</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8, 1.3)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8, 1.3)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
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<td>0.8 (0.6, 1.0)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
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<td>1.2 (1.0, 1.4)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8, 1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood tests</td>
<td>1.2 (1.0, 1.4)</td>
<td>1.2 (1.0, 1.4)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8, 1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound tests</td>
<td>1.2 (1.0, 1.4)</td>
<td>1.2 (1.0, 1.4)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8, 1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of tests</td>
<td>0.7 (0.5, 1.0)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.5, 1.0)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8, 1.3)</td>
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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Pattie Katz Grant/research support from: Contractor with FORWARD, The National Databank for Rheumatic Diseases, Wichita, KS; a health care research organization contracted to support this research, Sofia Pedro Grant/research support from: Employee of FORWARD, The National Databank for Rheumatic Diseases, Wichita, KS, a health care research organization contracted to support this research, Jiyoon Choi Grant/research support from: Contractor for Rheumatic Diseases, Wichita, KS, a health care research organization contracted to support this research, Patti Katz Grant/research support from: Contractor for Rheumatic Diseases, Wichita, KS, a health care research organization contracted to support this research, Kaleb Michaud Grant/research support from: Employee of FORWARD, The National Databank for Rheumatic Diseases, Wichita, KS, a health care research organization contracted to support this research.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Employee of: Employee of FORWARD, The National Databank for Rheumatic Diseases, Wichita, KS, a health care research organization contracted to support this research.

**References:** NIL.

**AB0034 DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALISED CARE PACKAGES FOR PEOPLE WITH EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A MIXED-METHODS STUDY**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthropathies, Qualitative research methods, Rheumatoid arthritis

**M. Day** 1, 2, A. Busby 3, H. Lemp 4, E. Nikphorou 5, 6 1Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2University of Liverpool, Institute of Life Course and Medical Science, Liverpool, United Kingdom; 3University of Hertfordshire, Centre for Health Services and Clinical Research, Life and Medical Sciences, Hatfield, United Kingdom; 4King's College London, Centre for Rheumatoid Arthritis, London, United Kingdom; 5King's College Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

**Background:** Disease management in early rheumatoid arthritis (RA) needs careful assessment of various aspects of the patient and their condition. We previously showed a need to address socioeconomic (SE) factors to improve clinical and patient-reported outcomes in RA, and benefits of a syndemics approach to care. We aimed to design a tailored care package which is acceptable, beneficial and relevant to the care of people with early RA.

**Objectives:** i) Determine aspects of care that people with early RA find beneficial to be included in potential care packages, based on individual needs and disease characteristics; ii) determine factors considered important by patients and healthcare professionals caring for people with RA to be included in care packages.

**Methods:** This work comprised two stages: i) three workshops involving healthcare professionals caring for people with RA, and patients with RA, using a modified-Deelphi approach; ii) online survey informed by outcomes from the workshops, featuring responses from an expanded cohort of participants from the above two groups (Figure 1). Purposeful sampling was used to identify potential UK-based participants including patients, rheumatology healthcare professionals, members of national rheumatology charities, and academics with an interest in RA. The online survey was based upon: i) key themes identified by the thematic analysis from the workshops; ii) results from previous findings from quantitative datasets conducted prior to this study, e.g. SE circumstances, clinical factors, and disease outcomes. Views were sought on future ‘care packages’ for people with early RA relevant to disease progression/ stages.

**Results:** Thematic analysis from the workshops identified two conceptual care pathways, with distinct MDT care packages, allowing for expansion of the core MDT as needed. The first pathway related to the time prior to RA diagnosis. Attendees considered this an early opportunity to potentially change the disease course, highlighting the importance of exploring risk factors e.g. obesity, smoking, social deprivation and isolation. The second pathway related to individuals with existing RA, with participants emphasising the importance of the right MDT member at the right time. Core care packages were suggested, containing three distinctive components: 1) early care package (up to 6 weeks post-diagnosis) with introduction to MDT; 2) personalised holistic care package in collaboration with AHPs; 3) continuity of care package between primary and secondary providers. Thematic analysis results also informed the survey. We received 41 responses: 17 (43%) rheumatology consultants, 7 (18%) specialist nurses, 6 (15%) rheumatology trainees, 5 (13%) occupational therapists, 3 (8%) physiotherapists, 1 (3%) patient and 1 (3%) dietician. 34 (82.9%) of respondents agreed people with RA need access to the same ‘early care package’, (a core MDT) at diagnosis. A further 35 (85.4%) approved that the care package for people with early RA can be tailored to individual’s clinical, psychological and social needs at subsequent reviews. There was strong consensus for the following two statements: A care package with core members of the multidisciplinary rheumatology team need to be available to people newly diagnosed with RA (mean 9.05, using scale 0-10) and ‘Personalised comprehensive care packages, comprising a core plus various additional members of the multidisciplinary team, need to be offered and adapted according to a person’s individual disease characteristics and socio-economic circumstances’ (mean 9.49). Fleiss’ Kappa calculations demonstrated fair level of agreement amongst respondents in the quantitative survey questions.

**Conclusion:** We identified two care pathways with tailored care packages to optimise management in people with RA. Our results reiterate the benefits of holistic care in early and established disease. This can be further explored using syndemics to focus and better understand the relationships between bio-psych-social factors influencing RA disease outcomes.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2821

AB0344

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF NINTEDANIB IN INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A SINGLE CENTER 6 MONTHS OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Lungs, Rheumatoid arthritis

O. Murata1, T. Okawara1, M. Fujimoto1, T. Nakai.1Iwate Medical University School of Medicine, Division of Allergy and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Morioka, Japan

Background: Nintedanib, an intracellular inhibitor of tyrosine kinases, inhibits processes involved in the progression of lung fibrosis [1]. Although the efficacy and safety of nintedanib have been demonstrated for interstitial lung disease (ILD) associated with systemic scleroderma (SSc) [2-4], information of the efficacy and safety of nintedanib in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is limited [5].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to compare the efficacy and safety of nintedanib in patients with RA-ILD with those in patients with ILD associated with collagen tissue diseases, including SSc-ILD.

Methods: We extracted patients who visited our department and were received nintedanib and had pulmonary function tests performed 6 months after. Then, they were divided into two groups, which were RA group and non-RA group. Clinical and epidemiological parameters, fibrosis pattern on HRCT, pulmonary function at the time of nintedanib administration and 6 months after nintedanib administration and adverse events were compared between the two groups. Those data were collected from medical records and statistically analyzed.

Results: Ten patients were enrolled. RA group had 6 patients and non-RA group had 5 patients. Among the RA and non-RA group, 50% and 60% were women, respectively (P=0.74). Age at the time of nintedanib administration was 70.8±5.5 years and 59.0±9.1 years, respectively (P=0.035). At the time of nintedanib administration, oral glucocorticoids (GC) were used in 83.3% and 100%, oral GC dose was 8.5±10.9 mg/day and 9.4±1.7 mg/day, and immunosuppressants were used in 83.3% and 100% (P=0.27, 0.17, and 0.27, respectively). Usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) pattern on HRCT was 100% and 40%, and nonspecific interstitial pneumonia pattern on HRCT was 0% and 60%, respectively (P=0.013). At the time of nintedanib administration, FVC was -1977±867.2 ml and 1654±507.3 ml, %FVC was 66.9±20.7% and 53.2±10.9%, and %DLco was 54.8±8.9% and 46.2±15.9% (P=0.58, 0.36, and 0.51, respectively). After 6 months of nintedanib treatment, ΔFVC was -18.3±10.35 ml and -24.0±1.91 ml, %ΔFVC was -7.05±6.7% and -10.9±9.0%, and %ΔDLco was 0.36±1.9% and -0.50±1.9% (P=0.52, 0.20, and 0.28, respectively). The incidence of adverse events was 50% and 40%, respectively. In the both groups, there were no patients with severe adverse events and acute exacerbations of ILD, and the continuation rate was 100%, respectively.

Conclusion: This observational cohort study revealed that there was no statistically significant difference in the reduction of respiratory function in both FVC, %FVC, and %DLco in the RA group compared to the non-RA group, and the safety was also comparable between the two groups. Although RA-ILD have more UIP pattern on HRCT than SSc-ILD, nintedanib may be effective for RA-ILD as same as SSc-ILD.

REFERENCES:

AB0345

ACPA TITER IS AN INDEPENDENT DETERMINANT OF SERUM CTX IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Rheumatoid arthritis, Bone diseases

G. Adami1, G. Orsolini1, A. Fassio1, D. Bertelle1, C. Benini1, O. Viapiana1, D. Gatti1, M. Rossini1.1University of Verona, Rheumatology Unit, Verona, Italy

Background: Serum C-terminal telopeptide of type I collagen (CTX - a marker of bone resorption) and ACPA titer have been associated to higher erosive score in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and lower bone mineral density (BMD), even in patients with pre-arthritis. Prominent inflammatory status cannot totally explain such association. The interplay between ACPA, disease activity, BMD and CTX is still unclear.

Objectives: To investigate the determinants of CTX serum levels in RA patients. Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional analysis on RA patients with active disease activity failure to first-line cDMARDs candidate to bDMARDs. Clinical, laboratoristic and demometric and BMD parameters were collected. ACPA, CTX, Pnococollagen I Intact N-Terminal Peptide (P1NP), Dkk1, Sclerostin (SOST), 25-OH-Vitamin D (25OHD), FSH, RANKL, OPG, B-ALP were done. Potential predictors of serum were analyzed using hierarchical regressions. Potential predictors were selected based screened via simple regression analyses which included CTX and a single candidate baseline predictor in each model. Any baseline predictor with p < 0.10 entered the multivariable model (model 1). We also conducted a multivariable linear regression forcing variables associated with CTX serum levels from the literature (model 2). Results were analyzed using GraphPad Prism version 9.5.0 for Windows, GraphPad Software, San Diego, California USA.

Results: We enrolled 62 RA patients in the study. DAS28-CRP at baseline was 4.17 (SD 1.28). 80.6% of patients were ACPA positive. The factors associated with CTX serum levels in the univariate analysis were: ACPA titer, DAS28-CRP, B-ALP, P1NP and BMD levels (table 1). ACPA titer was the only independent factor significantly associated with CTX serum levels in both model 1 and model 2 (table 1).

Conclusion: We found that ACPA titer is an independent determinant of serum CTX levels in RA patients with active disease activity.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: N. L.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3553

Univariate Model 1 Model 2 (fully adjusted)

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</tbody>
</table>

1Iwate Medical University School of Medicine, Division of Allergy and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Morioka, Japan

Figure 1. Absolute change from baseline in FVC at 6 months of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (n=6) and non-RA (n=5).

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3855
Rheumatoid arthritis - comorbidity and clinical aspects

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis

X.Y. Yin1,2, Q.Y. Su1,2, J.N. Liu1,2, J. Luo1,2, Q. Yu4, P.F. He4, X. Li1,2,3, X. Zhang1,2,3, Ministry of Education, Key laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China;2Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China;3The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China;4Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease characterized by persistent immune response leading to arthritis and destruction. Mounting evidence has suggested that dysbiosis of the intestinal microbiome is a vital environmental factor that triggers the onset of RA[1]. Unraveling the interactions between the gut microbiome and metabolome could provide new insights to discover novel targets for treating various inflammatory diseases. However, the current understanding of the potential association between intestinal microbiota and RA still needs to be improved.

**Objectives:** Recent studies have reported that the change in the interaction between the microbiome and the immune system is one of the characteristics of RA. Therefore, we conducted a meta-analysis and Mendelian randomization (MR) to explore the association and causality between RA and intestinal flora.

**Methods:** The PubMed, Embase, Medline, Web of Science, CNKI, Wangfang, VIP, and CBM databases were searched from the establishment of the databases to January 1, 2023, to retrieve trials about RA and intestinal flora. We performed a meta-analysis to calculate the odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (95%CI). In addition, we conducted a bi-directional MR study to explore the causal relationship between RA and intestinal microbial composition. Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with RA from 22 genome-wide association studies (14,361 cases and 43,923 controls) were selected as instrumental variables (IVs) at a genome-wide significance level. The aggregated statistical data of intestinal microbiota were obtained from a large-scale multiracial GWAS meta-analysis, including 18,340 people from 24 cohorts. The random-effects inverse variance weighted method (IVW) was used to combine the causal effect of IVs. Sensitivity analyses were performed to test the robustness of our findings. All analyses were conducted in R 4.2.1 and STATA 12.0.

**Results:** We included 17 case-control studies that examined 1,062 RA patients and 921 healthy controls (HCs). Compared with HCs, decreases in α-diversity indices were consistently found in RA (Shannon-Wiener diversity index (SMD=-0.038, 95% CI -0.935 to -0.281, p<0.001); Simpson index (SMD=-0.558, 95% CI -0.891 to -0.225, p<0.001); ACE index (SMD=-0.414, 95% CI -0.697 to -0.132, p<0.001); Chao1 index (SMD=-1.373, 95% CI -1.980 to -0.766, p<0.001); Evenness index (SMD=-1.863, 95% CI -3.181 to -0.544, p<0.0004)). There was no significant difference in observed species between the two groups (SMD=-4.342, 95% CI -9.098 to 0.415, p=0.11). Further, we conducted a bi-directional MR analysis to test the causal relationship between RA and intestinal microorganisms, which included three phyla (Firmicutes, Proteobacteria, Actinobacteria), six families (Bacteroidaceae, Actinomycetaceae, Clostridiales, Lactobacillaceae, Bifidobacteriaceae, Lachnospiraceae) and seven genera (Bifidobacterium, Butyrivibrio, Escherichia Shigella, Lachnospiraceae, Lactobacillus, Actinomyces, Bacteroides). However, no genetic prediction causal relationship was found between them (all p>0.05). These results were robust in a wide range of sensitivity analyses.

**Conclusion:** This study suggested a significant correlation between RA and lower intestinal microflora abundance. This may provide new insights into the development mechanism of RA mediated by intestinal microbiota and may provide a evidence for regulating intestinal microbiome to target the treatment of RA.

**REFERENCE:**

Based on the multivariate study, a high CRP and SJC were found to be predictive factors to sleep disorders according to the PSQI score. On the other hand, the presence of extra-articular manifestations, female gender, and higher VAS were considered as predictive factors of the disorder conformity with the Ewoore score.

Conclusion: Sleep disorders are common among RA patients and they were essentially related to disease activity and functional disability, so it is important to guarantee the remission or low disease activity to improve sleep quality in these patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4135

AB0348

DEPRESSION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: PREVALENCE AND PHENOTYPIC CHARACTERISTICS - A SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Mental health

C. E. Ionescu 1, C. Popescu 1, M. Agache 1, G. Dinache 1, C. Codreanu 1.
1Rheumatic Disease Center DR ION STOIA Bucharest, Rheumatology, Bucharest, Romania

Background: Psychiatric comorbidities are frequent extra-articular manifestations in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and depression is the most common [1]. A 2013 study estimated that 16.8 % of RA patients suffer from major depressive disorder, being more prevalent than diabetes, Parkinson’s disease or cancer [2-3]. Patients with RA have constitutional symptoms, frequently encountered in depression, like fatigue, weight loss, insomnia and lack of appetite. The overlap of depression in inflammatory immune mediated diseases is recognized for some time [4]. Studies show that immune mediated inflammation affects and modulates neurogenesis, neurotransmission, neuroendocrine activity and neuroplasticity [5]. Depression has important effects on RA mediated inflammation affects and modulates neurogenesis, neurotransmission, neuropsychological disorders, disease mediated inflammation affects and modulates neurogenesis, neurotransmission, neuropsychological disorders, disease severity or its activity [6].

Objective: The scope of this article is to highlight the importance of managing depression in RA. The primary objective was to estimate the prevalence of depression in a cohort of RA patients. The secondary objective was to describe the phenotypic characteristics of RA patients with depression.

Methods: RA patients from the Center of Rheumatic Diseases in Bucharest were included in the study if the patients were at least 18 years-old and had two or three follow-ups, after 2019. The protocol included collection of demographic, clinical and biological data. Prevalence of depression is derived from patients’ medical history, known depression. Demographical characteristics and RA phenotype were compared between the two groups. Disease activity was estimated with DAS28 and its components, tender joint count, swollen joint count, CRP and were followed over time to compare disease activity between patients with known depression and patients without depression.

Results: We collected data from 203 patients with RA, among whom 37 were known with depression, generating a prevalence of 18.2%. A meta-analysis from 2013 reported that 16.8% of RA patients with RA suffer from a major depression disorder [1]. Most of the patients with depression were women (67.2%). Female sex is a potential risk factor for depression [7]. The prevalence of active smoking among the depression subgroup was higher (8.1%, 1.8%, p = 0.041). Depression is a known risk factor for negative behaviors like smoking [8]. Patients had a longer disease duration (in median, 13 years compared to 10 years, p = 0.059) and also the seropositivity prevalence was lower. In 2022 a correlation between depression and seronegative RA was found [9]. DAS28 and the components of DAS28 were higher in the depression RA subgroup; DAS28 was higher at all time points (p < 0.001). Higher tender joint count was expected (p < 0.001), but swollen joint count was also higher among depressive RA patients (p < 0.001), as well as CRP (p = 0.009, Figure 1).

Conclusion: Depression is prevalent among RA patients and it has an important impact on the quality of life; so depressive symptoms should be addressed in clinical practice. The correlation between the prognosis of rheumatic disease and depression is strong, regardless of the direction of causality. The assessment of depression could be a psychomarker for assessing RA prognosis. DAS28 is used to make therapeutic decisions, so given that depression scores increase DAS28, it follows that they also influence therapeutic decisions.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4310

AB0349

ENDOCRINE DYSFUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO DISEASE SEVERITY

Keywords: Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis, Descriptive Studies

M. K. Garg 2, P. S Kumar 3, S. Nandagopaul 3, K. Shukla 3, M. Gopalakrishnan 1, 1All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Internal Medicine, Jodhpur, India; 2All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Jodhpur, India; 3All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Biochemistry, Jodhpur, India

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is known to be associated with multiple endocrine dysfunctions including hyperprolactinemia, hypothyroidism, hyperandrogenism, and hypogonadism. The link between endocrine system and synthetic cytokines in RA is attributed to the presence of functional receptors for glucocorticoids, androgens and estrogen in the synovioites which function as an intracellular system [1,2].

Objective: To describe endocrine dysfunction in patients with RA and to determine its relationship with disease severity and disease duration.

Methods: We studied RA patients diagnosed using ACR/EULAR 2010 at our clinic in Jodhpur, India from January 2021 to August 2021 after written informed consent and Ethical Committee approval. We collected the clinical, demographic, treatment history and calculated disease severity with Disease Activity Score (DAS28) and Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI). Serum samples for thyroid profile, prolactin, dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS), testosterone, cortisol, Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha (TNF-α) and Interleukin 6 (IL-6) were collected and stored at -80°C and analysed by chemiluminescent immunoassay (Siemens Advia Centaur® immunoassay system, USA) as per the standard hospital protocol. Spearman’s correlation was used to determine the relationship between endocrine dysfunction with disease severity scores and total disease duration.

Results: Among the 160 patients included in the study, 4 were on levithroxine supplementation for hypothyroidism. Thirteen patients (8.8%) had primary hypothyroidism, 2 patients (1.3%) had subclinical hypothyroidism with no cases of central hypothyroidism and 31 patients (20.9%) had sick euthyroid syndrome (Table 1). Hyperprolactinemia was seen in 24.3% patients and the mean level of serum prolactin increased as the disease severity increased but it was not statistically significant (Figure 1). DHEAS levels were below the accepted age and gender cut-offs in 58.4% patients while 56.6% had low testosterone. Among the 99 patients who had random cortisol values, 36 patients (36.4%) had adrenal insufficiency (random cortisol range<3 μg/dl). Serum cortisol was negatively correlated with serum TNF-α but had no relationship with serum IL-6. None of the endocrine parameters were correlated with disease severity scores (SDAI/ DAS) or their individual components.

Conclusion: Considerable percentage of patients with RA have endocrine dysfunction compared to the general population, likely secondary to raised inflammatory cytokines produced at synovial tissues. However, they do not correlate to disease activity or disease duration in RA.

REFERENCES:
Conclusion: To our knowledge this is the first study evaluating drug safety and pregnancy outcome in Indian RA patients. Most RA patients can have successful pregnancy. SSZ, HCQ, Azathioprine and low dose prednisolone are safe during pregnancy. Limited data indicates patients can have successful pregnancy without out MTX washout but more data is required.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Parshant Aggarwal Speakers bureau: Novartis, not related to abstract submitted; Bharti Aggarwal: None declared; Vikas Gupta Speakers bureau: Janssen; not related to submitted abstract, Palak Gupta: None declared.

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AB0351

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND OSTEOPEOROSIS IN ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Diet and Nutrition, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Arthaud1, M. Ghali1, J. Mahboub1, S. Zrou1, I. Beija1, M. Touzi1, N. Bergaaou1
Fattouma Bourguiba Hospital, Rheumatology, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: Malnutrition is a recognised risk factor for osteoporosis. These two conditions are frequent comorbidities in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), especially in elderly patients.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to evaluate the association between malnutrition and osteoporosis among elderly patients followed for RA.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study including patients followed for RA aged 65 years or older. Nutritional status was assessed by body mass index (BMI) and the Mini-Nutritional Assessment (MNA) questionnaire. Patients were divided into 2 groups according to the MNA: an “impaired nutritional status” group with an MNA score ≤23.5 and a “normal nutritional status” group with an MNA ≥24.

Results: There were 63 patients (52 women and 11 men). The mean age was 68.1±4.35 years. The median duration of RA was 11 years with a IQR of [4-16]. The mean DAS28-VA was 3.72±1.48. The mean total MNA score was 20.19±4.71 [8-27.5]. According to the MNA, 76.2% of the patients had an “altered nutritional status” and 23.8% of the patients had a “normal nutritional status”. The mean BMI was 27.97±5.44 kg/m². Osteoporosis was found in 25 patients (39.7%). In the “impaired nutritional status” group according to the MNA, there were significantly more osteoporotic patients (p=0.05). The mean T-score at the lumbar spine was significantly lower in patients with MNA indicating “impaired nutritional status” (-1.89±1.18 SD vs -1.03±0.76; p=0.001). A lower BMI was significantly associated with osteoporotic patients (-2.36±1.17 SD vs -1.53±0.81; p=0.04), as was the mean T-score at the femoral site (-1.89±1.18 SD vs -1.03±0.76; p=0.001). A lower BMI was significantly associated with the T-score at the femoral site (p=0.04) but not at the lumbar spine site (p=0.18).

Conclusion: Our study showed that in elderly patients followed for RA, malnutrition diagnosed with the MNA score was significantly associated with osteoporosis and lumbar and femoral T-scores, and low BMI was associated with the femoral site T-score.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0352

FREQUENCY, CLINICAL AND FUNCTIONAL IMPACT OF FOOT INVOLVEMENT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Inflammatory arthropitides, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. Pinto Oliveira1, S. F. Azevedo1, S. P. Silva1, A. R. Prata1, A. Barcelos1, 1Centro Hospitalar do Baixo Vouga, Rheumatology Department, Aveiro, Portugal

Table 1.  Endocrine dysfunction in patients with Rheumatoid arthritis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endocrine Abnormality</th>
<th>No of Patients/Total patients (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary hypothyroidism</td>
<td>13/148 (8.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subclinical hypothyroidism</td>
<td>2/148 (1.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sick Euthyroid cases</td>
<td>31/148 (20.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. low fT3 and low fT4</td>
<td>13/148 (8.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. low fT3 and normal fT4</td>
<td>14/148 (9.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. low fT3 with increased fT4</td>
<td>4/148 (2.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperprolactinemia</td>
<td>37/152 (24.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low DHEAS</td>
<td>88/156 (56.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In males</td>
<td>15/21 (71.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In females</td>
<td>73/313 (54.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Testosterone</td>
<td>86/152 (55.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In males</td>
<td>13/21 (61.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In females</td>
<td>73/313 (55.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Adrenal insufficiency</td>
<td>36/99 (36.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig 1: Bar graph showing mean serum prolactin levels in various DAS2S categories

Table 1. Pregnancy Outcome Successful Adverse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pregnancy Outcome</th>
<th>Successful</th>
<th>Adverse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monotherapy</td>
<td>Sulfasalazine (SSZ)</td>
<td>10 (1 spontaneous abortion, 1 MTP due to hydrocephalus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monotherapy</td>
<td>SSZ+HCQ</td>
<td>28 (4 spontaneous abortions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSZ+Prednisolone</td>
<td>1 (spontaneous abortions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCQ+Prednisolone</td>
<td>13 (4 spontaneous abortions, 1 MTP due to fetal spine limb developmental defect)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSZ+HCQ+Prednisolone</td>
<td>1 (MTP due to fetal spine abdominal defect)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine (AZA)</td>
<td>Prednisolone</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+HCQ+Prednisolone</td>
<td>Treatment default</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disorder affecting the joint synovium. Foot involvement is frequent throughout the disease course[1]. However, definition of foot involvement differs, with some scientific works using patient reported outcomes, especially pain, rather than arthritis detected by clinical examination or ultrasound[2,3].

Objectives: Primary – to study the frequency and pattern of foot involvement in RA patients. Secondary – to compare patients with or without foot involvement concerning sociodemographic, clinical, radiographic and laboratory characteristics.

Methods: Single center, retrospective study including patients evaluated in our center with a diagnosis of RA, between June-December, 2022. All patients fulfilled the 2010 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for RA. Patient records were searched for sociodemographic, clinical, laboratory, and radiographic data. Multimorbidity was defined as the coexistence of 2 or more comorbidities. Patients were divided into two groups, according to the presence/absence of cumulative foot involvement, defined as the presence of clinical arthritis or synovitis in ultrasound. Descriptive analysis used mean, median, standard deviation, and inter-quartile range for continuous data, as well as frequency counts and percentages for categorical variables. A statistical analysis was performed, with a statistically significant p-value ≤ 0.05. The two groups of patients (with/without foot involvement) were compared using parametric and non-parametric tests for continuous variables, and Chi-squared test for categorical variables.

Results: 110 patients were enrolled, with an mean age of 62.97 ± 13.81 years. 84 patients were women (76.3%). Cumulative foot involvement was found in 71 patients (64.55%). The foot was the most frequently affected area (69.01% of the patients with foot involvement, n=49), followed by the tibiotalar joint (53.52%; n=38), the mid foot (12.68%; n=9) and the hindfoot (11.27%; n=8). Patients with foot involvement were more likely to receive a biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (p < 0.05). We found no statistically significant differences between patients with or without foot involvement concerning gender, age at diagnosis, disease duration, multimorbidity or anti-citullinated protein antibodies positivity, bone erosions, multimorbidity, inflammatory markers levels, number of tender or swollen joints at last evaluation, mean Disease Activity Score (DAS)28-C-reactive protein (CRP) and DAS28-erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) or Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index Score (HAQ-DI).

Conclusion: In our study, objective foot involvement in RA was frequent and associated with higher probability of biological therapy. However, it did not correlate with poor prognosis factors[4] such as seropositivity, bone erosions or high disease activity measured by DAS28-ESCR and DAS28-ESR. We found no higher differences between patients with or without foot involvement regarding gender, age at diagnosis, disease duration, multimorbidity or anti-citullinated protein antibodies positivity, bone erosions, multimorbidity, inflammatory markers levels, number of tender or swollen joints at last evaluation, mean Disease Activity Score (DAS)28-C-reactive protein (CRP) and DAS28-erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) or Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index Score (HAQ-DI).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

References:
[1] Grondal, Lollo, et al. “The foot: still the most important reason for walking foot. Studies with greater sample sizes are paramount to better comprehend the levels of disability (as measured by the HAQ-DI) in patients with RA involving the disease activity measured by DAS28-CRP and DAS28-ESR. We found no higher late with poor prognosis factors[4] such as seropositivity, bone erosions or high inflammatory markers levels, number of tender or swollen joints at last evaluation, mean Disease Activity Score (DAS)28-C-reactive protein (CRP) and DAS28-erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) or Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index Score (HAQ-DI).


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0353

ASSESSMENT OF KIDNEY INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Kidneys, Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities

S. Monova1, T. Todorov2, D. Monova3, 1Medical University - Sofia, Department of Rheumatology, Sofia, Bulgaria; 2Medical University - Sofia, Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Sofia, Bulgaria; 3Medical Institute, Medical University - Sofia, Department of Internal Medicine, Sofia, Bulgaria

Background: In rheumatoid arthritis (RA) kidney is commonly affected organ with clinical presentation characterized by proteinuria and microalbuminuria, followed by chronic renal failure. RA is associated with reduced kidney function, possibly due to chronic inflammation or the use of nephrotoxic therapies. Renal diseases occurring in patients with RA may have a variable clinicopathological picture. Little is known about the effects of using the novel biological agents on the risk of kidney diseases.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the relationship between effect of therapy and kidney involvement in patients with RA and evaluated the histopathological findings and associated clinical manifestation.

Methods: In this retrospective study 275 patients with diagnosis of RA were included. In 48 patients renal biopsy was performed. The patients were divided in three groups according to changes in management of RA: 1991-2001, 2002-2011 and 2012-2022 year. Data of demographic characteristics, clinical symptoms and pathological diagnosis were extracted from medical records and pathological reports (1,2,3).

Results: In our study amyloidosis was the most common histologic pattern, followed by chronic glomerulonephritis (GN) and tubulointerstitial nephritis. Renal amyloidosis was diagnosed in 13 patients, membranous GN – in 9, mesangio-proliferative GN - in 7 patients, focal segmental necrotizing GN – in 5, focal segmental sclerosis – in 4, minimal change disease – in 3, tubulointerstitial nephritis – in 7 patients. Between 1991 and 2001 the most common clinical manifestation was nephritic syndrome and the most common histopathological findings - renal amyloidosis, followed by membranous GN and focal segmental necrotizing GN. The membranous GN was related to the use of gold and its frequency decreased after 2001. The mesangio proliferative GN was the leading cause of kidney disease between 2002 - 2011 years and focal segmental sclerosis – between 2012-2022. In our study 68 patients had a decrease of glomerular filtration rate (GFR) < 60 mL/min/m2. No kidney biopsies were performed in these cases because no urine abnormalities were detected. We found that age, duration of the disease, arterial hypertension, C-reactive protein were significant risk factors for GFR decline in patients with RA. Patients with RA who are treated with biologic agents are less likely to experience progressive decline in kidney function than those not receiving biologic treatment (hazard ratios [HRs] [95% CI], 0.68-1.00).

Conclusion: In all patients with RA, renal function should be monitored and in the case of pathological results, renal biopsy should be performed. In RA patients with renal disorder, suspected causal drug should be removed from the treatment and specific immunosuppressive therapy initiated. Improved pain management associated with biologic treatment may help to reduce the need for potentially nephrotoxic anti-inflammatory agents such as NSAIDs and certain types of non-biologic DMARDs, which could consequently reduce the risk of drug-induced nephrotoxicity and thereby contribute to the lower risk of renal diseases.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1140

AB0384

ORBITAL MYOSITIS ASSOCIATED WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF CLINICAL FEATURES AND PARACLINICAL DATA

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Myositis, Systemic review

J. Mahdavi1. 1Aurak University of Medical Sciences, Students Research Committee, Arak, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Background: Orbital myositis (OM) is an inflammatory condition that mainly involves extraocular muscles. The exact etiology of this disease is not known [1]. However, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been reported as a possible cause of OM in some cases.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the clinical features and paraclinical data of patients with OM associated with RA.

Methods: This study is a systematic review that followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. The search was performed in PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, and ScienceDirect for English articles published between 1990 and 2022. Google Scholar was also utilized to find more studies. The keywords used were: “orbital myositis,” “ocular myositis,” and “rheumatoid arthritis.” There was no limitation in age, gender, nationality, and severity of disease.

Results: A total of 6 studies, describing 5 females and 1 male with age ranging from 38 to 61 years, were included [2-7]. The time between the diagnosis of RA and OM was different, with a maximum of 34 years. The most common sign/symptom found in the patients was diplopia (5 cases) followed by proptosis (3 cases), headache (2 cases), drooping eyelid, periorbital swelling, pain on eye movement, conjunctival
cherosis, and eye movement limitation (each 1 case). In physical examination, decreased vision and weakness/paralysis of the orbital muscles including medial, lateral, and superior rectus were found. Laboratory data revealed increased thyroxi ne-stimulated lymphocyte transformation, elevated inflammatory markers including ESR and CRP in 1 case. MR/CT showed thickening of the involved orbital muscles in all cases and tendon enlargement in 2 cases. Although most of the patients were being treated with corticosteroids had good outcomes, paresis of the orbital muscles and mild restriction of horizontal movements due to fibrosis remained as sequel in 2 cases.

Conclusion: Although more research is needed on the relationship between RA and OM, RA should be considered as a rare possible cause of OM, which can lead to nonspecific findings such as headache and elevated inflammatory markers to ocular manifestations like diplopia, proptosis, and drooping eyelid. In addition, in patients with RA and ophthalmological diseases, it is recommended that OM be evaluated as a differential diagnosis to avoid irreversible complications with timely treatment.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgements to declare.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1292

AB0355

CURRENT CARDIOVASCULAR RISK (MANAGEMENT) IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis

R. Raadsen1,2, R. Hanssilaar1,2, A. Van Kuijk1, M. T. Nurmohamed1,2.
1Amsterdam Rheumatology Centre, Location Reade, Department of Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Amsterdam UMC, location VUMc, Department of Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are at an increased risk for developing cardiovascular diseases. While advice regarding cardiovascular risk screening and management in RA patients has been incorporated in several guidelines in recent years, its implementation and adherence is still poor (1, 2).

Objectives: To assess the cardiovascular disease risk in patients with newly diagnosed RA, and evaluate whether advice to initiate preventive medical treatment of high risk patients was followed.

Methods: All patients with RA, aged 40-70 years, are screened for cardiovascular diseases and risk factors within the first year after diagnosis at the outpatient rheumatology clinic of Reade, as part of standard care. Screening includes a rheumatological evaluation of cardiovascular risk and calculated 10-year cardiovascular mortality risk-distribution calculated using SCORE1. Risk distribution is defined as low (<1%), intermediate (1-5%), high (5-10%) and very high (>10%). The national pharmacy network was consulted for whether or not patients started antihypertensive or statin medication after screening.

Results: A total of 125 RA patients were included in this study. The mean age was 56 years and 78% was female. Median RA disease duration at screening was 6 months. 6 patients (5%) indicated to have been screened before, and used antihypertensive medication. During screening, hypertension was found in 46% of patients, with 57% occurring in men and 43% in women. Dyslipidemia was found in 33% of patients, with 36% in male patients and 32% in female patients. 21% of female patients and 46% of male patients currently smoked. Hypertension and dyslipidemia are shown in Table 1. A low 10-year cardiovascular mortality risk was found in 36% of patients, an intermediate risk in 49%, a high risk in 11% and a very high risk in 4% of patients (Figure 1). Only 26% of high and very high risk patients started antihypertensive or statin medication after screening.

Conclusion: An increased cardiovascular disease risk in RA patients, especially male patients, is often present soon after diagnosis, with a large proportion having undiagnosed and untreated hypertension and hypercholesterolemia. Even with structural screening and informing the GP, treatment of cardiovascular risk factors in high risk patients remains insufficient. Obviously, a better collaboration between GPs and rheumatologists is urgently needed to lower the cardiovascular burden of our patients.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Prevalence of hypertension and dyslipidemia components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All (n = 125)</th>
<th>Women (n = 97)</th>
<th>Men (n = 28)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systolic BP &gt; 140</td>
<td>39 (31%)</td>
<td>25 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic BP &gt; 90</td>
<td>41 (33%)</td>
<td>36 (37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC &gt; 6.3</td>
<td>20 (16%)</td>
<td>16 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL-c &gt; 4.2</td>
<td>21 (17%)</td>
<td>15 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL-c &lt; 1.3 (women)/1.0 (men)</td>
<td>16 (13%)</td>
<td>12 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC/HDL-c ratio &gt; 6</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerides &gt; 2.3</td>
<td>9 (7)</td>
<td>4 (4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. 10-year cardiovascular mortality risk distribution calculated using SCORE1. Risk distribution is defined as low (<1%), intermediate (1-5%), high (5-10%) and very high (>10%).

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1666

AB0356

EVALUATION OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK AND OSTEOMETABOLIC ALTERATIONS IN A POPULATION OF PATIENTS AFFECTED BY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence

S. Parisi1, M. C. Ditto1, C. Lopez2, G. Beccuti2, F. Broglio2, E. Ghigo2, E. Fusaro3.
1Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Città Della Salute e della Scienza di Torino, Rheumatology Unit, Turin, Italy; 2Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Unit, Department of Medical Sciences, Turin, Italy

Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is associated with increased cardiovascular (CV) morbidity and mortality and osteoarticular alterations risk, associated with chronic inflammation, the use of glucocorticoids (GC) and the reduced physical exercise.[1]

Conclusion: Evaluation of cardiovascular risk and osteoarticular alterations in a population of patients affected by Rheumatoid Arthritis: Preliminary results of a multidisciplinary prospective study.

REFERENCES:

**Objectives:** The objective of the study is to cross-sectionally estimate cardiovascular risk and osteometabolic status in patients (pts) with RA and to evaluate the association with some disease parameters such as positivity of autoantibodies, disease activity and steroid therapy.

**Methods:** At the current time, 61 consecutive pts with diagnosis of RA, admitted to the Rheumatology Unit of the University Hospital of Turin, were prospectively recruited and assessed for cardiometabolic risk by the Endocrinology Unit, by undergoing laboratory and instrumental tests.

**Results:** The following prevalences were observed: arterial hypertension (52%), type 2 diabetes mellitus (7%), dyslipidemia (56%), osteoporosis (42%), and vertebral fracture (30%). At the univariate analysis, the enrolled pts were divided according to serodiagnosis, GC therapy and disease remission. No statistically significant results were highlighted stratifying population by serodiagnosis. Pts with high disease activity showed lower bone mineral density (BMD) values [BMD femoral trochanter: 0.53 ± 0.07 vs 0.60 ± 0.05 (g/cm²); p=0.031] and T-score value on bone densitometry [T-score Femoral total: -1.89 ± 0.53 vs -1.07 ± 0.83; p=0.005], higher percentage of osteoporosis [67% vs 27%; p=0.047] and vertebral fractures [80% vs 12%; p=0.001], and higher sarcopenia score [SARC-F: 5 (3-7) vs 2 (2-4); p=0.020], in comparison with pts with remission disease. These differences were not confirmed when the population was divided according to the use of GC therapy. For CV risk factors, disease activity group showed a trend of higher prevalence compared to remission group, but without reaching statistical significance. At the multivariate analysis, advanced age (p=0.001), GC therapy (p=0.021) and copeptin (p=0.002) showed an inverse association and lumbar T-score (p=0.002) a direct one a lumbar trabecular bone score (TBS). Moreover, male gender (p=0.001) revealed a direct and significant association, while copeptin (p=0.086) an inverse and not significant one with percentage of lean mass on total densitometry, correcting for advanced age, disease activity, and disease activity. In the last model, advanced age (p=0.001) and copeptin (p>0.001) showed a direct and significant association with HeartSCORE, correcting for parameters of disease while serodiagnosis, duration of disease, GC therapy, and disease activity.

**Conclusion:** At univariate analysis osteometric alterations were associated with disease activity, but not with GC therapy and serodiagnosis. At the multivariate analysis, the association of disease activity and TBS values, did not reach the statistical significance, probably for the loss of statistical power. However, GC therapy, as well as advanced age, low lumbar T-score and high value of copeptin, remained independently associated with lower TBS value. Disease parameters were not associated with lower percentage of lean mass at total body densitometry and higher HeartSCORE values, while advanced age and copeptin were associated with bone health and cardiovascular risk.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Funding:** This study was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (82171780, 81917527, and 82010892), Guangzhou Municipal Science and Technology Project (202120201088), Basic and Applied Basic Research Foundation of Guangdong Province (2019A1515011928, 2020A1515110061, and 2022A1515105024).

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1834
Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is known as a risk factor for osteoporosis. However, few patients with osteoporotic fractures have measured bone mineral density (BMD) before fracture[1]. Therefore, there is still a need for the development of a simple screening method.

Objectives: The previous studies showed that BMD correlates with the second metacarpal cortical index (2MCI)[2,3,4]. This study aims to build a machine learning model that effectively predicts BMD from plain X-rays to identify high-risk patients for osteoporosis.

Methods: Among the RA patients enrolled in KURAMA cohort between 2012 and 2020, 362 patients received a set of tests, including Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) and bilateral hand X-rays multiple times with a minimal interval of two years. 2MCI was defined as the ratio between the thickness of the cortex and the width of the bone of the second metacarpal(Figure1). We examined the correlation between changes in 2MCI and BMD of the hip and the forearm. Then, we built a machine learning model that predicts BMD using 2MCI and clinical variables. In addition, we evaluated the robustness of the model using an external validation dataset.

Results: The mean age was 62.6 years, and the mean disease duration was 14.1 years. Baseline cross-sectional analysis showed a significant correlation between 2MCI and BMD of the hip and forearm (p<0.01). Longitudinal analysis showed a significant correlation between changes in BMD and 2MCI (p<0.01). For exploring the best machine learning model, we used Pycaret and found that Bayesian Ridge showed the best performance for predicting BMD of the hip using 2MCI and clinical parameters (MAPE; Mean Absolute Percentage Error = 0.109). Furthermore, model validation using an external dataset revealed good generalized performance (MAPE=0.145).

Conclusion: Establishing a simple and efficient screening method for osteoporosis is a social issue in an aging society. This study showed that Bayesian Ridge showed the best performance for predicting BMD of the hip using 2MCI and clinical parameters (MAPE; Mean Absolute Percentage Error = 0.109). Furthermore, model validation using an external dataset revealed good generalized performance (MAPE=0.145).

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.
P. Saadane1, M. Haddad1, S. Bouden1, L. Rouached, R. Tekaya1, I. Mahmoud1, A. Ben Tekaya1, L. Abdelmoula2.1 Charles Nicolle Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Objectives: The aim of our study was to determine whether psychological status has an impact on coping strategies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: We conducted a single-centre cross-sectional study for 6 months from 28 March to 28 September 2021 in which we included patients with RA fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. Characteristics of RA including disease duration and disease activity by the DAS 28 CRP were recorded. The Brief Cope score was used to assess coping strategies. Five grouped coping strategies were evaluated: problem-focused strategies, cognitive restructuring-based strategies, support-based strategies, avoidance-based strategies, and distraction-based strategies. We assessed anxiety and depression using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HAD).

Results: Sixty-five patients were included (89.2% women). Mean age was 58.6 ± 9.9 [24-73 years]. Mean duration of RA was 15 ± 10.6 years. Median DAS28 CRP was 3.4 (IQR 25-75: 2.6- 4.8) [1.54-6.77]. Median anxiety score was 6 (IQR 25-75: 1-10). Twelve patients (18.5%) had anxiety. Median depression score was 7 (IQR 25-75: 1-13). Eighteen patients had depression (27.7%). Problem-focused and support-based strategies were the most used among all patients, with respective means of 5.6 and 5.5. The association of grouped coping strategies with depression and anxiety is shown in Table I.

Table I: Association of grouped coping strategies with depression and anxiety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depression</th>
<th>Anxiety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem-focused strategies</td>
<td>0.107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive restructuring-based strategies</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support-based strategies</td>
<td>0.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoidance-based strategies</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distraction-based strategies</td>
<td>0.202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Among our patients, depression and anxiety decreased the use of cognitive restructuring strategies. However, they were associated with an increase in avoidance-based strategies and problem-focused strategies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2053

AB0361

BONN PULSA: PULMONARY SCREENING IN ARTHRITIS - PREVALENCE OF PULMONARY MANIFESTATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS, AND PERIPHERAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Diagnostic Tests, Psoriatic arthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis


Background: Pulmonary impairment in rheumatic diseases is a common, but poorly understood and deficient screened and managed extraarticular manifestation, which causes a huge increase in morbidity and mortality[1]. As previous studies focused on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and in some intent on psoriatic arthritis (PsA), data for patients with peripheral spondyloarthritis (pSpA) is lacking.

Objectives: To investigate the prevalence of clinical and subclinical pulmonary manifestations in newly diagnosed patients with RA, PsA, and pSpA and to compare different baseline examination results to develop a screening proposal for detecting patients at risk.

Methods: This clinical-prospective, longitudinal cohort study included a diagnostic workup consisting of a questionnaire for patient history, a physical examination, a body plethysmography with CO diffusion capacity (DLCO), a 6-minute walk test, laboratory parameters, and a chest x-ray (CXR) at the time of the initial diagnosis of arthritis disease, and at four additional time points in three-month intervals. This paper focuses on the baseline characteristics.

Results: 54 outpatients (26 RA, 24 PsA, 4 pSpA) and 26 age- and gender-matched controls were examined. Pulmonary impairment, in the sense of a morphologically abnormal CXR, was diagnosed in 19 arthritis patients (38.0%), 38.8% of these suffered from clinical symptoms, such as cough and/or dyspnea. However, 63.2% presented subclinical, asymptomatic pulmonary abnormalities (see Figure 1). The baseline results of several examinations are illustrated in Table I. An elevation of rheumatoid factor (> 14 IU/ml) showed an association with the manifestation of RA (p=0.002) as well as with the presence of pulmonary affection (p=0.008). In addition, the mean age of patients with pulmonary abnormalities (57.0 ± 12.8 yrs.) was different from that of patients without such abnormalities (43.9 ± 14.3 yrs.), with a p-value of 0.002. The association between the activity of arthritis disease, assessed by Disease Activity Score in 28 joints using CRP (DAS28CRP), and CXR findings proved to be significant (p=0.011). A DAS28CRP less than 3.2 (remission or low disease activity) indicated non-pathological findings in CXR.

Conclusion: The prevalence of pulmonary manifestations was more than one-third, of which more than two-thirds presented asymptomatic. The large proportion of asymptomatic subjects highlights the need for the implementation of a pulmonary screening at the initial diagnosis of arthritis disease. By alerting physicians, especially in the observed age cohort of 57 years with elevated RF levels, morbidity and mortality could be reduced.

REFERENCES:


Table I: Findings in bodyplethysmography with CO diffusion capacity and laboratory parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presence of rheumatic disease</th>
<th>Presence of pulmonary disorders in chest x-ray</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RA/PsA/pSpA (n=54)</td>
<td>Control proband (n=26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictive lung disease</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present (FVC &lt; 70%; TLC &lt; 80%)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstructive lung disease</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present (FEV1/FVC &lt; 70%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphysema</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not present</td>
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<td>Present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diffusion disturbance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present (DLCO &lt; 60%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein</td>
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<td>(&gt; 14 IU/ml)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathological</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PsA – psoriatic arthritis, RA – rheumatoid arthritis, pSpA – peripheral spondyloarthritis
AB0362

PROFESSIONAL COUNTRY-WIDE SURVEY ON CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING IN THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Work-related issues, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Best practices

O. Rusinovich1, E. Calvo-Anaran2, M. D. C. Uyaguari Morocho3, A. Pareja Martinez4, P. Navarro Palomo5, P. Navarro5, M. Cantalejo Moreira1, A. J. Diaz Oca6, M. Machattu7, M. Alonso de Francisco2, C. Navarro Joven5, M. Fernandez Castro5, H. Godoy2, C. Merino Argumánez2, B. Garcia-Magallon2, J. Sanz7, C. Barbadillo Mateos6, J. Campos Esteban2, J. L. Andreu Sanchez5, L. F. De Villa2, S. Gonzalez Pascua5, 1Hospital Universitario de Fuenlabrada, Rheumatology, Fuenlabrada, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 3La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario del Sureste, Rheumatology, Arganda del Rey, Spain; 5Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda University Hospital, Rheumatology, Majadahonda, Spain; 6Hospital Universitario de Fuenlabrada, Internal Medicine, Fuenlabrada, Spain

Background: Incorporation of conventional synthetic (cs), biological (b) and targeted synthetic (ts) disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs) has enriched the therapeutic arsenal, but at the same time has complicated the decision-making process, since it requires considering not only the profile of each patient and the characteristics of each drug, but also the high cost of many of them and diverse administrative limitations.

Objectives: To analyze the way of acting of Spanish rheumatologists in different clinical situations in order to understand the decision-making process in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: A questionnaire that consisted of 15 questions was sent to several groups of rheumatologists country wide between October 19 and 26, 2022. Descriptive statistical analysis and Pearson’s Chi2 test were performed to compare responses to the items by the different groups, significance level 0.05 (p<0.05 N.S.).

Results: A total of 108 questionnaires were collected. Work experience of the respondents is reflected in Table 1. In patients with recent-onset RA associated with poor prognostic factors, in addition to corticosteroids half of the respondents (50%) opt to start treatment with csDMARD + rapid escalation to b/tsDMARD if clinical response is insufficient. The most relevant factors when choosing the drug is the patient’s profile (47.2%), followed by clinical practice guidelines (34.3%). The most relevant factors for choosing each DMARD were: anti-TNF - cost-effectiveness (47.2%); anti-IL6 - efficacy (72.2%); abatacept - efficacy and safety in patients with RA-associated interstitial lung disease (53.7%); rituximab - its safety in patients that didn’t respond to other treatments (76.9%); and JAK inhibitor - its possibility of use in monotherapy (40.7%). The most important factors that lead to change treatment are the disease activity measures (57.4%) and personal perception of the clinician based on anamnesis and physical examination (31.5%). If there is a good therapeutic response, the majority of respondents first taper the b/tsDMARD (50%). If bDMARD-b/tsDMARD combination therapy is used, 59.3% of respondents try to maintain csDMARD in addition to b/tsDMARD.

Conclusion: The study revealed a striking heterogeneity in the way of acting in complex clinical situations, which confirms that the decision-making process depends on many factors but also that there is still room for homogenizing clinical practice guidelines. However, there seems to be agreement on the need to minimize systemic exposure to corticosteroids, on the use of disease activity measures to evaluate therapeutic response and on the wide acceptance of biosimilar drugs.

REFERENCES: Nil.

Acknowledgements: Nil.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0363

UTILITY OF EPITHELIAL CELL BIOMARKERS TO ASSESS SEVERITY AND DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN DIFFERENT PATTERNS OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers, Lungs


1Hospital General de Aguadors Dr. Fernandez, Internal Medicine, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 2Fleni, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 3Fundación Favaloro, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 4Hospital General de Aguodos Dr. Fernandez, Pneumonology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 5Hospital de Rehabilitacion Geriatrica M. F. Fernandez, Radiology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 6CIAC - Centro Integral de Alta Complejidad, Rheumatology, Salta, Argentina; 7Sr Hospital del Milagro, Rheumatology, Salta, Argentina

Background: Several biomarkers have been studied in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) interstitial lung disease (ILD), but their clinical application has not been well established yet [1]. Given that usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) is the most common pattern of ILD in patients with RA, the utilization of biomarkers that give information about the epithelial cell activation could be an interesting approach to assess the severity of lung disease in these patients [2).

Objectives: To know the ability of CA19-9, CA125 and CEA to discriminate different patterns on HRCT and assess the severity of ILD in patients with RA.

Methods: We conducted a cross sectional study. Patients with a diagnosis of RA-ILD who were evaluated in three different rheumatic diseases clinics between December 2021 and January 2023 were consecutively included. The diagnosis of RA was defined according to ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria. The diagnosis of ILD was confirmed by an experienced radiologist. We performed HRCT, lung function tests, joint disease evaluation, and blood extraction to determine the values of CA 19-9, CA 125, CEA, rheumatoid factor (RF) and ACPAs. The pattern found on HRCT was classified in UIP pattern, probable UIP, indeterminate for UIP, and suggestive of another diagnosis, as proposed the inter society consensus of 2022 [4]. The score proposed by Goh was calculated to determine the extension of lung opacities (inflammatory, fibrotic, and total extension scores) [5]. The joint disease activity was assessed using the DAS28 score. The values of the biomarkers in serum were measured by electrochemiluminescence. T-test, Mann Whitney test, and Chi square were used for comparisons. The Spearman test was used for correlation analysis.

Results: We included 38 patients, 29 were women (76.3%). The mean (SD) age was of 62.1 (11.5) years. The median (IQR) of DAS28 was 3.3 (2.6-4). Regarding serologic tests, 35/36 (97.2%) and 36/37 (97.3%) were positive for ACPAs and RF respectively. In relation to lung disease, the mean (SD) of FVC% was 83.8 (11.5) and the median (IQR) of DLCO was 59 (52-81). Eighteen patients (47.3%) showed UIP or probable UIP pattern in the HRCT, while 20 (52.7%) had another pattern. The median (IQR) of Goh score for total lung disease extension was 20 (8-25). Patients with UIP pattern showed significantly higher values of CA19-9 [11.5 (7-35.7) vs 6.5 (2-12.5), p=0.017] and a trend to higher values of CA125 [22 (15-52) vs 14 (11.4-20.7), p=0.06] than those with other patterns. The values of CA19-9 showed a good correlation with total Goh score (r=0.52, p=0.02) and fibrosis Goh score (r=0.65, p=0.03) in patients with UIP pattern. Also, the values of CEA showed an acceptable correlation with total Goh score (r=0.46, p=0.05) and fibrosis Goh score (r=0.43, p=0.07) in patients with UIP pattern.

Conclusion: Patients with RA-ILD and UIP pattern showed higher plasmatic values of biomarkers that reflect epithelial cell activation. Also, the values of some of these biomarkers showed good correlation with the extension of the disease on HRCT. Therefore, these biomarkers could be a useful tool to identify a more aggressive clinical behavior in patients with RA-ILD.

Acknowledgements: Nil.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0364 CIGARETTE SMOKING AMONGST RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN A TERTIARY CENTER IN SOUTH AFRICA

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Descriptive Studies, Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Le Roux1, H. Bagula1, S. A. Didi2, R. Van Zyl-Smit2, B. Hodgkinson1, Grote Schuur Hospital, Department of Medicine, Cape Town, South Africa; Grote Schuur Hospital, Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Cape Town, South Africa; Grote Schuur Hospital, Pulmonology, Department of Medicine, Cape Town, South Africa

Background: Cigarette smoking is associated with poorer outcomes amongst rheumatoid arthritis (RA) sufferers, with poorer disease control, increased extra-articular complications and more comorbidities[1]. There are currently no data from sub-Saharan Africa.

Objectives: To describe the prevalence of cigarette smoking, and explore disease control, comorbidities, extra-articular disease and attitudes of smokers to their habit amongst RA patients in an outpatient clinic at tertiary level public hospital in South Africa. Further, we asked patients about the impact of prohibition during the COVID pandemic.

Methods: A cross-sectional study of consenting adult outpatients with RA meeting the EULAR/ACR 2010 Classification Criteria. Demographic, clinical and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) including the Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI), FACTIT-fatigue, CRP, self-reported painful joint count ≥16/54, and/or symptom checklist ≥16/60. MDS2 checklist including DEP, medical history queries, and FAST4 and MDS2 indices.

Results: Of 632 patients (536 females), the mean (SD) age and disease duration were 55.4 (13.0) and 10.1 (9.3) years. A poor socio-economic setting (SES) (defined using a pooled index) was noted in 67.0%. The mean (SD) Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) and HAQ-DI were 14.3 (11.8) and 3.2 (0.7). The cohort included 218 (34.5%) smokers, and 89 (14.1%) ex-smokers, and more males smoked (49/218 vs 47/141, p = 0.0002). Compared to non- or ex-smokers, smokers had lower BMI (29.7 vs 32.7 (p = 0.01), higher anxiety scores (8.8 vs 8.0, p = 0.048) and incidence of COPD (7.8% vs 1.0%, p < 0.005). The vast majority (74.1%) had two or more comorbidities, and the commonest comorbidities were hypertension, dyslipidaemia and diabetes. There were no significant differences in age of RA onset, disease duration, SES, number of comorbidities, CDAI nor its individual components, extra-articular diseases nor in HAQ-DI, FACTIT, depression or pain scores. Of 160 patients who completed the smoking questionnaire, 83 (51.9%) believed smoking worsened their arthritis, and 119 (74.4%) reported receiving smoking cessation advice at the RA clinic. Participants’ most common reasons for smoking were emotional support (32.2%), nicotine craving (21.7%) and pain control (27.3%). Although 50.1% felt that living with RA made quitting difficult, 86.9% had considered quitting, and almost half (45.6%) had previously quit for more than 3 months. The Fagerström score revealed mild, moderate and severe nicotine dependence in 67.5%, 24.4%, and 7.5% respectively. The Fagerström score was significantly associated with anxiety (r = 0.2, p = 0.02) and depression (r = 0.0, p = 0.005). Smoking prohibition during COVID pandemic resulted in 60.0% (96) patients quitting or reducing cigarette consumption. Patients felt that helpful services from their RA team might include referral to a smoking cessation clinic (48.1%) and availability of more reading material (36.1%).

Conclusion: Among this cohort of indigent RA patients, a third of RA patients are smokers, with higher prevalence in males, and associated with lower BMI and higher anxiety scores but with no differences in disease parameters or other factors. Smoking is a modifiable risk factor, of great importance given the high prevalence of comorbidities in the cohort. Only half the cohort were aware that smoking worsened their RA disease control. The mild to moderate nicotine dependence in this cohort, together with patients’ willingness to quit should encourage both patient and health care providers to promote engagement in smoking cessation.

REFERENCES:
[1] Groote Schuur Hospital, Department of Medicine, Cape Town, South Africa

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are assessed in clinical trials and clinical care according to a core dataset and derived indices, which include tender (TJC) and swollen (SJC) joint counts, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), and patient (PaGA) and/or physician global assessments (PhGA). Many clinical trials require TJC and/or SJC ≥6 for enrollment, and improvement criteria require that SJC and TJC are ≥20%, 50%, or 70% better. It has been reported that TJC, PaGa, and PhGa may be elevated by comorbidities in the presence of little or no (or high) inflammatory activity, associated with high levels of fibromyalgia (FM), depression (DEP), fatigue (FT), back pain (Bpain), neck pain (Npain), and/or joints with deformity/limited motion (DJC). The likelihood and extent of elevations of RA measures associated with these comorbidities have not been extensively analyzed. FM, DEP, BPain, Npain, and FAT can be screened for on a multidimensional health assessment questionnaire (MDHAQ), and DJC can be included on a 28 joint count.

Objectives: To analyze RA patients seen in a routine care academic setting for possible elevations of SJC, TJC, ESR, PaGa, and PhGa associated with positive screening for FM, DEP, FT, BPain, Npain, and DJC.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted at a routine care visit of RA patients to an academic rheumatology setting. All 7 RA core dataset measures were collected, including SJC, TJC, ESR, PaGa, and PhGa. The patient self-report measures were collected on an MDHAQ, completed by all patients in 5-10 minutes at this setting, which includes queries for FT, Npain, BPain, and indices to screen for FM - FAST4 (fibromyalgia assessment screening tool), and DEP - MDS2 (MDHAQ depression screen). FAST4 and MDS2 agree more than 80% with reference standards but can be feasibly collected in routine care on a single questionnaire. Patients were classified into 2 groups according to clinically relevant cut-points for each potentially non-inflammatory variable, and the number of patients above and below these cut points compared by chi square analyses.

Results: In 125 RA patients with complete data, significant differences (p<0.01) were seen for TJC <6 vs ≥6, PaGa <3 vs ≥3, and PhGa <3 vs ≥3, according to positive FAST4 FM, DEP MDS2, Bpain and Npain, FAT ≥3/10, and DJC ≥6. No significant differences were seen according to ESR <30 vs ≥30 or SJC <6 vs ≥6, other than a difference in SJC <6 vs ≥6 for patients with DJC <6 vs ≥6 (Table 1).

Conclusion: TJC, PaGA, and PhGa, but not ESR or SJC, are associated with positive screening for FM, depression, back pain, neck pain, fatigue, and joints with deformity/limited motion, that may not result from inflammatory activity. These elevations may affect DAS28 and CDAI scores, interpretation for treat-to-target, and general management. It is feasible to screen for these comorbidities in routine care, which may enhance clinical decisions and outcomes.

Number of patients in different categories

<table>
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<th>Measure (Range or units)</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>Remission Median IQR</th>
<th>Low Median IQR Median IQR</th>
<th>Moderate High Median IQR</th>
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<td>41 (33.6)</td>
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<td>2 (0-4)</td>
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<td>FAST4 (%pos)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDS2 (%pos)</td>
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<td>11 (20.4)</td>
<td>8 (44.4)</td>
<td>19 (46.3)</td>
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<td>Depression</td>
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<td>CDAI</td>
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<td>2.9-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDS2 (%)</td>
<td>43 (35.2)</td>
<td>1 (6.25)</td>
<td>9 (23.7)</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5265

AB0366

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH ≥6/28 TENDER JOINTS AND PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN GLOBAL ASSESSMENTS ≥3/10 HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER LEVELS OF COMORBIDITIES WHICH MAY NOT BE RELATED TO INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY, INCLUDING FIBROMYALGIA, DEPRESSION, FATIGUE, NECK PAIN, BACK PAIN, AND DEFORMED JOINTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

R. Hunter1, N. Rodwell2,3, T Pinicus1, 1RUSH University Medical Center, Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Chicago, United States of America; 2Liverpool Hospital, Rheumatology, Liverpool, Australia; 3Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, Rheumatology, Liverpool, Australia

AB0367

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS DISEASE: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY AMONG 100 TUNISIAN PATIENTS

Keywords: Quality of life, Rheumatoid arthritis, Mental health

M. Brahmi1, A. Khemiri1, A. Ben Salem1, O. Jomaa1, R. Sarraj1, H. Hachti1, Y. Mohamed1, 1Tahir Star University Hospital, Rheumatology, Mahdia, Tunisia

AB0366

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH ≥6/28 TENDER JOINTS AND PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN GLOBAL ASSESSMENTS ≥3/10 HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER LEVELS OF COMORBIDITIES WHICH MAY NOT BE RELATED TO INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY, INCLUDING FIBROMYALGIA, DEPRESSION, FATIGUE, NECK PAIN, BACK PAIN, AND DEFORMED JOINTS

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5265

AB0367

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS DISEASE: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY AMONG 100 TUNISIAN PATIENTS

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5359
ABO368 | DIFFERENCES IN THE ASSESSMENT OF COMORBIDITIES (FATIGUE AND DEPRESSION) BETWEEN RA PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS. DO WE MEASURE THE SAME?

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis, Outcome measures

R. Morlà1, B. Frade-Sosa3, N. Sapena2,3, J. A. Gómez-Puerta3, R. Sanmartí1.
1Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 2Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain

**Background:** Differences in physicians’ assessment of disease activity and patients’ perception of disease activity have been described [1]. Two of the most important disease-related symptoms experienced by patients are fatigue and depression, which are not routinely assessed by physicians [2].

**Objectives:** To study the differences between patient and physician perspectives on fatigue and depression, as well as on other biological, clinical and self-reported disease variables in a group of patients with established rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

**Methods:** Patients with RA (ACR/EULAR,2010) followed up by the Arthritis Unit who agreed to participate in this study were included consecutively in the Arthritis Unit for 3 months. They fulfilled 3 questionnaires to evaluate fatigue and depression: 1. MDHAQ, that includes: 0-10 physical function (FN) according to modified HAQ (0-10), visual analogue scale (VAS) 0-10 for pain (PN), VAS 0-10 for fatigue (VAS-Fatigue) (in the question 9, considering high fatigue with >5 cut off) and patient global assessment (PGA) to calculate RAPID3, a review of 60 symptoms (ROS60) and self-assessment 48 joint count (RADAI48). 2. FACIT-(FS)=FACIT-Fatigue, 13 questions (0-4 score) with a global score of 0-52 (lower scores indicate worse fatigue). 3. Patient Health Questionnaire 9= PHQ9, 10 questions with PHQ9-10 screened for depression. Physical articular examination (28TJC, 28SJC), laboratory test (CRP, ESR), composite EULAR disease activity indices (DAS28, DAS28 CRP, CDAI and SDAI), demographic (sex, age, BMI), patient’s disease characteristics and the Physician Global Assessment (PhGA) for the disease were collected. A descriptive analysis of the variables was done, and Pearson’s correlation between PhGA and PGA, and the rest of variables studied was performed.

**Results:** A total of 75 patients (84% females) with RA were recruited, with a mean age of 62±11.6 years, a mean disease duration of 14.6± 5 years and a mean BMI of 22.8 ± 8.0. 64% were under with bDMARD and 45.3% with glucocorticoids treatment. Depression (PHQ9>10) was observed in 12 patients (16%) and in 31 (41.2%) of patients we observed high fatigue (VAS-fatigue≥5/10). Correlation results between PGA and Fatigue (FS) were almost good for VAS-Fatigue (r=0.604, p<0.001) and for PHQ9>10(r=0.616, p<0.001), and almost good for FACIT9(r=-0.517, p<0.001). On the other hand, correlations between PhGA were smaller with fatigue (Fatigue (FS): r=0.477, p<0.001) and with depression (PHQ9: r= 0.477 p<0.001). Correlation of the rest of studied variables (DAS28, CDAI, SDAI, 28TJC, 28SJC, CRP, ESR and ROS) were smaller for PhGA than for PGA, except for 28SJC, where the assessment of physician is closer to that the patient (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** The patient’s perception of disease status is better than the physician’s perception of these two important comorbidities associated with RA, as well as disease activity indices. Clinicians have to take into account scores on fatigue and depression questionnaires or scales when assessing patients with RA.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Table 1. Heatmap of correlation between Patient Global Assessment.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACIT-(FS)</th>
<th>Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ9)</th>
<th>ROS60</th>
<th>VAS Fatigue (0-10)</th>
<th>DAS28 ESR</th>
<th>DAS28 CRP</th>
<th>SDAI</th>
<th>CDAI</th>
<th>28TJC</th>
<th>28SJC</th>
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<td>0.61**</td>
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<td>0.672**</td>
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<td>PhGA</td>
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<td>0.875**</td>
<td>0.900**</td>
<td>0.841**</td>
<td>0.665**</td>
<td>0.732**</td>
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(PGA): Physician Global Assessment (PhGA) and fatigue, depression, clinical evaluation and disease activity indices. Pearson’s correlations. Data show are Rho value. ** p-value<0.001.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5434

ABO369 | EVOLUTION AND PROGNOSIS OF A COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SUBCLINICAL INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE.

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities, Lungs

M. Rojas-Giménez1, J. Calvo Gutiérrez2, R. Ortega Castro3, C. López-Medina2, M. L. Ladehesa Pineda2, A. Escudero Contreras2, Reina Sofia University Hospital, Raimon Sanmartí: None declared, José A Gómez-Puerta: None declared, Rosa Morlà: None declared, Beatriz Frade-Sosa: None declared.

1Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 2Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; 4Maimonides Institute for Biomedical Research of Cordoba (IMIBIC), GC05 Group, Cordoba, Spain; 5Medical Surgical Sciences, Cordoba, Spain, Rheumatology Department, Cordoba, Spain; 6Maimonides Institute for Biomedical Research of Cordoba (IMIBIC), GC05 Group, Cordoba, Spain; 7Reina Sofia University Hospital, Rheumatology, Cordoba, Spain.

**Background:** Clinical RA-associated ILD (RA-ILD) presents in almost 10% of RA patients but subclinical RA-associated ILD is detected in 20-60%. The course of subclinical RA-ILD is not fully known. Some patients have disease progression to pulmonary symptoms, decreased respiratory functional status and high levels of morbidity and mortality. It is necessary to improve ways to determine risk of progression in patients with subclinical RA-ILD.

**Objectives:** To describe a cohort of patients with clinical and subclinical Rheumatoid Arthritis-associated Interstitial Lung Disease (RA-ILD) and to compare the evolution and progression of both.

**Methods:** Ambispective observational study of a cohort of patients with RA-ILD confirmed by respiratory function tests (RTF) or high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT). From January 2019 to December 2021, all patients with these diagnoses from RA monographic clinic were included consecutively. Data on the onset of ILD were included retrospectively and data at the end of follow-up prospectively (last review). The % of patients who had subclinical ILD was evaluated before and after treatment modified in 10 patients with clinical ILD and in 7 with subclinical ILD (p=0.053). At the moment of ILD diagnosis, the treatments were better in the clinical ILD. The reason for requesting HRCT when they were diagnosed was different, defined as pulmonary symptoms, decreased respiratory functional status and high levels of morbidity and mortality; or 4) death. Demographic variables, activity data (DAS28/SG accumulated 24 months prior to the diagnosis of ILD), RF and ACPA levels, RA severity data and treatments. Descriptive analysis, χ2 or t-Student, and multivariate logistic regression analysis were performed to find predictive variables for the evolution of ILD.

**Results:** 50 patients with RA-ILD were included, 18 (36%) had subclinical ILD. The reason for requesting HRCT when they were diagnosed was different, defined as pulmonary symptoms, decreased respiratory functional status and high levels of morbidity and mortality; or 4) death. Demographic variables, activity data (DAS28/SG accumulated 24 months prior to the diagnosis of ILD), RF and ACPA levels, RA severity data and treatments. Descriptive analysis, χ2 or t-Student, and multivariate logistic regression analysis were performed to find predictive variables for the evolution of ILD.

**References:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared, Nuria Sapena: None declared, José A Gómez-Puerta: None declared, Rosa Morlà: None declared, Beatriz Frade-Sosa: None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5434
**Conclusion:** In our cohort, the prevalence of subclinical ILD was high (36%). Although RFT at diagnosis of ILD, specifically DLCO levels, were higher in subclinical ILD than in clinical ILD, progression at the end of follow-up was the same in both groups. The UIP pattern was independently associated with progression. Therefore, taking into account that ILD is one of the main causes of mortality in our patients, we must actively search for this condition in order to treat it early and improve the prognosis.

**REFERENCES:**


**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5456

**AB0370**

**DISORDERS OF PERIPHERAL LYMPHOCYTE SUBSETS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS COMPLICATED WITH HASHIMOTO’S THYROIDITIS**

**Keywords:** Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis, Descriptive Studies

T. Cheng1,2, S. X. Zhang1,1,2,2,2, H. Zhang3, X. Li1,1,2,2. 1The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 2Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 3Shanxi Medical University, First School of Clinical Medicine, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (HT) is an organ-specific autoimmune disease that is not rare in RA. Hypothyroidism can affect the prognosis and quality of life in patients with RA [1]. Many studies showed that immune cells play a critical role in HT [2-3]. However, the alterations of lymphocyte subsets in RA patients with HT are unclear.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to assess the absolute numbers and proportions of peripheral lymphocyte subsets in RA with HT and investigate the clinical significance.

**Methods:** A total of 1636 RA patients and 54 gender- and age-matched healthy controls (HCs) were enrolled in this study. Patients were divided into RA-non-HT and RA-HT groups according to the thyroid peroxidase antibody (TPOAb) and thyroid globulin antibody (TgAb). Peripheral lymphocyte subsets of all participants were assessed by flow cytometry. All clinical and laboratory data were analyzed by SPSS 23.0.

**Results:** Among 30 (1.83%) RA-HT patients, there were more female (P=0.005), suggesting female was more susceptible to developing HT (Figure 1A). In addition, there were higher levels of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) (P=0.045) and C-reactive protein (CRP) (P=0.042) than those in RA-non-HT (Figure 1B-C). Compared with those of HCs and RA-non-HT, the level of circulating Th17 in RA-HT patients was significantly increased (P<0.05), while those of Tregs decreased (P<0.05), leading to a higher ratio of Th17/Treg (P<0.01). Notably, the level of B cells and Th1 cells, as well as the Th1/Th2 ratio, increased in the RA-HT compared with those of the RA-non-HT (P<0.05) (Figure 1D-F).

**Conclusion:** The occurrence of RA-HT is closely related to female patients with high disease activity. Disorders of lymphocyte subsets, especially Th17/Treg imbalance, may contribute to HT in RA, which deserves more clinical attention.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5521
Rheumatoid arthritis - comorbidity and clinical aspects

Prevalence of cachexia in a population of Moroccan women with rheumatoid arthritis

AB0371 PREVALENCE OF CACHEXIA IN A POPULATION OF MOROCCAN WOMEN WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Diet and Nutrition, Descriptive Studies

H. Elhani1,2, H. Taoufik1, A. Majjad1, L. Taoubane1, N. El Guardi1, A. Bezza1,7
1Mohamed V Military Training Hospital, Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat, Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco

Background: Prevalence of cachexia in a population of Moroccan women with rheumatoid arthritis.

Objectives: The objective of our study is to assess body composition in women with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) compared to healthy controls. Methods: We conducted a case-control study of 112 female patients with rheumatoid arthritis according to ACR/EULAR 2010 Rheumatoid Arthritis Classification Criteria; and 224 healthy women of the same age. Body composition and bone mineral density (BMD) results were obtained by Dual-Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DXA). Rheumatoid cachexia (RC) was defined as a Lean mass Index (LMI) below the 10th percentile and a Fat mass index (FMI) above the 25th percentile compared with the control group. We performed a comparison between RA patients and healthy controls and then performed multiple regression looking for factors associated with rheumatoid cachexia.

Results: The prevalence of rheumatoid cachexia was 42.85% while the mean body mass index (BMI) was the same in both groups. RA patients had higher fat mass and lower lean mass compared with healthy controls. In our population, 78.6% of patients were on methotrexate and 12.5% on TNF inhibitor. Comparison between patients with and without CR showed that patients with CR have high disease activity, with the presence of more bone erosions. Regression showed that CR was significantly associated with bone erosions and disease activity (OR at 33.51 (8.42 - 131.70) and 8.98 (1.64 - 49.20) respectively) This was independent of age, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein, duration of disease, cumulative steroid dose, and use of conventional or biologic background therapies.

Conclusion: Our study showed that nearly half of our RA patients have CR even with high BMI. CR in our work is associated with the presence of high disease activity, and the presence of bone erosions.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5868

The impact of body mass index on bone mineral density in rheumatoid arthritis

AB0373 THE IMPACT OF BODY MASS INDEX ON BONE MINERAL DENSITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

Z. Baba1, A. Rati1, F. E. Chekhou1, A. Mougui1, I. El Boucht1, Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire Mohammed VI Marrakech, Department of Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco

Background: It has long been thought that a higher body mass index is protective against osteoporosis. However, recent studies showed an increase in fracture risk in obese individuals.

Objectives: To study the impact of body mass index (BMI) on bone mineral density (BMD) during rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: Retrospective study including 260 RA patients meeting the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. We collected demographic, clinical, biological, and bone densitometric data from patients.

Results: The mean age was 49.91 ± 12.97 years. The sex ratio F/H was 6.6. The mean DAS28-VA was 5.32 ± 1.35. According to the DAS28-VA, 60.7% of the patients were high activity. The mean BMI was 26.26 ± 4.83 Kg/m2. 21.9% of patients were obese. 31.5% were overweight and 2.3% were underweight. The mean BMD was 0.856 ± 0.200 g/cm² at the femoral neck and 0.950 ± 0.219 g/cm² at the lumbar spine. The mean T-SCORE was -1.41 ± 1.48 at the femoral neck and -1.90 ± 1.58 at the lumbar spine. Osteoporosis at one of the two sites was found in 38.4% of patients. Eleven patients (4.8%) had a severe fracture and 6 patients (2.6%) a non-severe fracture. A negative correlation was found between BMI and the presence of osteoporosis at one of the two sites (r=-0.138; p=0.04). BMI was also correlated with T-Score and BMD at the lumbar spine (r=-0.196; p=0.007 and r=-0.278; p=0.001 respectively). No correlation was found between BMI and T-Score and BMD at the femoral neck level as well as fracture occurrence.

Conclusion: In our study, BMI correlated with BMD and T-SCORE at the lumbar spine, and negatively correlated with the presence of osteoporosis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5863

Depression in rheumatoid arthritis: a cross-sectional study from a tertiary care hospital in north India

AB0373 DEPRESSION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY FROM A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL IN NORTH INDIA

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Descriptive Studies, Mental health

V. Pai1, S. S1, S. V. Rawat4, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Dept of Internal Medicine - Division of Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology, Rishikesh, India; 4All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Dept of Psychiatry, Rishikesh, India

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory polyarthritis, with deformities associated with poor functional outcome. Psychiatric comorbidities are common among them, contributing to poor outcome.

Objectives: This study was aimed at determining prevalence of depression in RA and its association with disease severity.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study carried out in the OPD/IPD of Rheumatology in a tertiary care hospital in India. This study recruited 272 patients classified as RA, fulfilling 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria, with minimum duration of illness of at least 1 year. Patients with prior psychiatric illness were excluded. Informed consent was taken from all participating patients, after institute ethical clearance. RA disease activity was measured using DAS28 ESR, and these patients were screened for depression with PHQ-2 questionnaire. [1] Patients with depression were further assessed with Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS) for depression severity. [2] The functional status was assessed with Health Assessment Questionnaire–Disability Index (HAQ-DI). Data were interpreted by descriptive statistics, and correlation assessed using Spearman correlation coefficient. Regression analysis was used to find odds of significant variables associated with depression.

Results: Twenty-three percent of these patients had depression according to PHQ-2 screen. Forty-four (69.8%) of these had depression on further assessment using DASS questionnaire. The median DAS-28 in mild, moderate, severe and extremely severe depression groups were 4.6, 4.9, 6.4 and 5.3, respectively. There was a significant difference between the 5 groups in terms of DAS-28 (X² = 42.209, p = <0.001), with the median DAS-28 being highest in severe depression group. It had a strong association with DASS depression score and with significant p value of <0.001. There was a weak positive correlation between DAS-28 and DASS depression score, though this correlation was not statistically significant (rho = 0.18, p = 0.167). With further regression analysis, it was clear that, TJC, SJC, and ESR, were significantly associated with depression. All of these parameters had an odds ratio of >1, indicating that if each of them increased, odds of having depression would significantly increase.

Conclusion: Depression, though very common, is yet an underestimated co-morbidity in RA and contributes to their functional impairment/ morbidity. RA patients with high TJC, SJC, ESR and disease activity were found to have depression of more severity, which favors the inflammatory hypothesis of depression.[3] Depression, is indeed an under-estimated yet significant comorbidity in patients with RA. This is often missed or over looked by rheumatologists/ clinicians. Early identification with subsequent referral to concerned specialty will definitely improve functional outcomes.

REFERENCES:


Box and whisker plots indicate mean DAS28 score in different groups according to DASS category.

### Table 1. Association of serum myostatin with disease parameters in RA patients (statistical significance: p<0.05)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.084</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>-0.156</td>
<td>0.412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>0.131</td>
<td>0.492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seropositive disease</td>
<td>-0.809</td>
<td>0.084</td>
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<td>ESR</td>
<td>-0.081</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.041</td>
<td>0.830</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAS28 (ESR)</td>
<td>-0.190</td>
<td>0.315</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>-0.322</td>
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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.  
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.983

### AB0375  DIFFICULT-TO-TREAT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (D2T-RA): CLINICAL ISSUES AT EARLY STAGES OF DISEASE

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Epidemiology

D. Freites Nuñez1, L. León1,2, A. Madrid García3,4, P. Lopez Viejo1, I. Garcia Alvaro5, M. Novella-Navarro5, Z. Rosales1, B. Fernandez1, L. Abasolo5,  
1Hospital Clinico San Carlos, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;  
2Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria San Carlos (IdiSSC), Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;  
3Universidad Camilo Jose Cela, Health Sciences, Madrid, Spain;  
4Hospital Universitario La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;  
5Hospital Universitario La Paz, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** Most studies on difficult-to-treat rheumatoid arthritis (D2T RA) have focused on established RA. Our study aimed to examine whether disease activity in the early stages of RA could influence progression to a D2T RA under real-life conditions. Other clinical and treatment-related factors were also analyzed.

**Methods:** A longitudinal multicenter study of RA patients was conducted from 2009 to 2018. Patients were followed up until January 2021. D2T RA was defined based on EULAR criteria (treatment failure, signs suggestive of currently active/progressive disease, and management being perceived as problematic by the rheumatologist and/or patient). The main variable was disease activity in the early stages. The covariates were sociodemographic, clinical, and treatment-related factors. We ran a multivariable logistic regression analysis to investigate risk factors associated with progression to D2T RA.

**Results:** The study population comprised 631 patients and 35 (5.87%) developed D2T RA. At the time of diagnosis, the D2T RA group were younger, with a higher disability, DAS28 score, tender joint count and pain scores. In our final model, DAS28 was not statistically significantly associated with D2T RA. No differences were found between groups for therapy. Disability was independently associated with D2T RA (OR: 1.89; p=0.01).

**Conclusion:** In this cohort of patients newly diagnosed with RA, our results do not allow us to prove the influence of active disease according to DAS28. However, we did find that younger patients and those with elevated initial disability scores are more likely to develop D2T RA regardless of other factors.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.  
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.  
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1529

### AB0376  CARDIOVASCULAR RISK STRATIFICATION ACCORDING TO SERUM NON-HDL CHOLESTEROL LEVELS IN PATIENTS WITH RECENTLY DIAGNOSED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS.

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis

K. Zoupidou1, M. Krikelis2, D. Moschou2, S. Tournis3, K. Makris4, S. Gazi5,  
1Attikon University Hospital, Athens, Greece;  
2KAT General Hospital, Athens, Greece;  
3National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece;  
4Hospital Clinico San Carlos, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;  
5Hospital Universitario La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** Myostatin is expressed in skeletal muscles and exerts a negative feedback in myogenesis. Chronic inflammation has been associated with increased serum myostatin levels (Baig MH, Front Physiol. 2022).

**Methods:** To analyze whether disease activity in the early stages of RA could influence progression to a D2T RA under real-life conditions. Other clinical and treatment-related factors were also analyzed.

**Results:** In our cohort, 47% (n=148) had seropositive disease. Mean values for ESR, CRP, DAS28 (ESR) and HAQ-DI were 29 ± 20 mm, 1.6 ± 2.6 mg/dl, 3.9 ± 1.7 and 0.9 ± 0.6 respectively. The mean serum CRP levels were 5.9 ± 13 μg/ml. According to the DAS28 (ESR) score, 17% (n=5) patients were in disease remission, 20% (n=6) had low disease activity, 40% (n=12) had medium disease activity and 23% (n=8) had high disease activity. Serum myostatin was not associated with disease activity (p=0.32), patient functionality (p=0.08) or the inflammatory burden attributed to active disease (p=0.67 for ESR and p=0.83 for CRP). Seropositive disease did not correlate with serum myostatin levels (p=0.08).

**Conclusion:** In post-menopausal women with rheumatoid arthritis, serum myostatin levels are independent of disease activity, patient functionality, inflammatory burden, RF or ACPR seropositivity. Except for inflammation per se, other disease parameters associated with RA influence the regulation of myostatin.

**REFERENCE:**  
Background: It is estimated that rheumatoid arthritis (RA) increases the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) by 50% compared to the general population [1,2]. Non-HDL cholesterol (non-HDL CT) has become an innovative marker of cardiovascular risk (CVR). According to the recommendations of the ESC of 2022 [2], patients with RA start from an intermediate CVR and recommend non-HDL TC levels <130mg/dL.

Objectives: To evaluate long-term risk of CVD according to non-HDL CT levels in a cohort of patients with recently diagnosed RA who started biological therapy and describe its characteristics.

Methods: 71 patients with RA under biological treatment were reviewed. Demographic, clinical, and analytical data were obtained at the time of diagnosis. To estimate the risk of CVD in the long term, we applied the model developed by Brunner F. J. et al. [3]. Based on this, the patients were stratified into 5 CVR groups according to the non-HDL CT and grouped into three age ranges. Statistical analysis was carried out using IBM-SPSS Statistics version 26.

Results: The demographic, clinical, laboratory characteristics and CVR groups are indicated in Table 1. Regarding the mean age according to the CVR group: in the 8 patients of group 1 it was 38.13 ± 15.28 years - 7 with age < 45 years and one > 60 years -; in group 2 it was 42.92 ± 11.76 years - 17 patients < 45 years, 10 between 45 and 59 years and 2 ≥ 60 years -; in the 31 patients of group 3 it was 51.45 ± 11.49 years - 8 < 45 years, 15 between 45-59 years and 8 ≥ 60 years -. In the 2 patients in group 4 it was 52.5 years (45-59) and the patient in group 5 was 36 years old at diagnosis. No significant correlations were found between CRP, ESR, RF, ACPAs levels and presence of radiographic erosions with nonHDL CT values. Significant differences (p value < 0.01) were observed between the youngest individuals (age < 45 years) in groups 1 and 2 with respect to individuals older than 60 years in risk groups 3 or 4. The application of the current model -Figure 1- estimated a mean probability of CVD of 9.7% at 75 years with a reduction to 3.54% after a 50% decrease in non-HDL TC. A single fatal cardiovascular event was recorded in an obese, hypertensive, and diabetic man, classified in risk group 3.

Conclusion: In our cohort of patients with new-onset RA, the majority (46%) were classified as CVR group 3 (nonHDL CT 145-184 mg/dL), despite approximately 50% being <45 years of age. Exposure from an early age to a moderate increase in non-HDL CT induces an increase in long-term CVR, approximately 50% being <45 years of age.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. 

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

REFERENCES:
[1] https://doi.org/10.1136/annrheumdis-2016-209775

Table 1.

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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>CLINICAL</td>
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<tr>
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<td>LABORATORY</td>
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<td>RF (+)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA (+)</td>
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<td>CRP Mean</td>
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</table>

CVR group according to nonHDL CT

| 1 (<100mg/dL) | 8 |
| 2 (100-144mg/dL) | 29 |
| 3 (145-184mg/dL) | 31 |
| 4 (185-219mg/dL) | 2 |
| 5 (≥220mg/dL) | 1 |

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1705

AB0377 CHARACTERISTICS OF BLOOD TEST RESULTS IN D2T RA BEFORE INITIATING DMARDS TREATMENT: HIGHER IFN AND LESS IL-6 INVOLVEMENT WERE PRESUMED BY PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHING ANALYSIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

Y. Nishiura1,2, Y. Nakai1, M. Tokunaga1, Y. Koyama1,1 Japanese Red Cross Okayama Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Center for Autoimmune Diseases, Okayama, Japan; 2Okayama University Hospital, Center for Graduate Medical Education, Okayama, Japan

Background: Difficult-to-treat rheumatoid arthritis (D2T RA) is a new concept of RA patients who do not achieve remission despite several types of treatment. It remains to be elucidated what makes the clinical differences between D2T RA and non-D2T RA.

Objectives: To analyze blood test results of D2T RA patients and non-D2T RA patients before initiating treatment to see if there are differences in their trends and characteristics.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective, observational cohort study using blood tests, including patients diagnosed with RA who attended our institute. The patients were divided into two groups; those who satisfied EULAR definition of D2T were included as D2T-RA, and the others who did not meet the definition after at least 2 years of treatment were included as non-D2T RA patients. To eliminate the influence of treatment on blood test data and disease activity, only patients whose blood test data existed prior to starting treatment with disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) were picked from both groups. The two groups were then matched 1:1 using propensity scores adjusted for gender, age, duration of RA disease, BMI, smoking habits, and DAS28-ESR. Comparisons were made between these two adjusted groups for each blood test item using an independent-samples t-test. SPSS statistical software was used.

Results: Ninety-four RA patients (mean age 60.3±12.6 years, 74% female) were included, 23 (mean age 55.4±13.2 years, 83% female) belonged to D2T RA and 71 (mean age 61.8±12.1 years, 72% female) to non-D2T RA. Of these, 13 cases of D2T RA and 2 cases of non-D2T RA were excluded due to lack of blood test data before starting DMARDs therapy. D2T RA patients were 57.6 ± 11.1 years old (86% female) and non-D2T RA patients were 57.0 ± 10.1 years old (100% female). In D2T RA, mean corpuscular volume (MCV: D2T vs non-D2T = 95.6±3.8 vs 85.6±3.9, p=0.001), mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH: 32.0±1.7 vs 28.7±1.7, p=0.003), serum transferrin saturation (TSAT) ratio (Fe*100/TIBC: 32.3±7.3 vs 19.3±9.6, p=0.020) and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH: 203±33U/L vs 164±16U/L, p=0.026) were significantly higher. On the other hand, unbound iron binding capacity (UIBC: 184±42 vs 253±35, p=0.007) was significantly lower in D2T RA. Although it was not reaching statistical significance, lower lymphocyte count (1068±304/μ vs 1816±867/μ, p=0.052), fewer red blood cell (RBC: 4.03±0.34*10^12/μl vs 4.45±0.51*10^12/μl, p=0.096) and higher neutrophil ratio (76.9±8.2% vs 66.5±10.7%, p=0.005) were observed in D2T RA.

Conclusion: In a comparison of blood test results before initiating treatment, the differences between D2T and non-D2T cases were mainly related to iron metabolism and white blood cell differential. Patients with non-D2T RA had significantly lower...
TSAI than patients with D2T RA, with a trend toward having a microcytic hypochromic anemia. This reminds us of the involvement of hepcidin and may suggest that Inter-

REFERENCES:
[1] Y. Chen et al., Serum Levels of Hepcidin in Rheumatoid Arthritis and Its Cor-

[2] T. Iwasaki et al., Dynamics of Type I and Type II Interferon Signature Deter-

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

[1] Y. Miwa1, Y. Miwa2, H. Tomioka3, M. Hosaka4. Keywords: Sarcopenia, Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis

METHODS: A total of 133 RA patients attending outpatient clinics at Showa Uni-

RESULTS: The AC was the highest (15.0 points), and the CP and A were the low-

DISORDERS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID

PREVALENCE OF SLEEP-RELATED BREATHING

Keywords: Spondylarthropathies, Ankylosing spondylitis, Schmorl’s nodes

BACKGROUND: Previous studies have reported a higher prevalence of sarcopenia in

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of 32 RA patients and 32 controls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>CONTROL</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (84.4)</td>
<td>27 (84.4)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age in years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>67.9 (10.1)</td>
<td>56.6 (10.8)</td>
<td>0.577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokers, n (%)</td>
<td>17 (53.1)</td>
<td>9 (28.1)</td>
<td>0.042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity, n (%)</td>
<td>11 (34.4)</td>
<td>8 (25.0)</td>
<td>0.412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic BP, mm Hg, mean (SD)</td>
<td>28 (8.75)</td>
<td>28 (8.75)</td>
<td>0.784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterial Hypertension, n (%)</td>
<td>9 (28.1)</td>
<td>10 (31.1)</td>
<td>0.492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (12.5)</td>
<td>3 (9.4)</td>
<td>0.689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis of RA, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>83.6 (34.1-191.0)</td>
<td>83.6 (34.1-191.0)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic delay, median (IQR), months (1.4-7.12)</td>
<td>83.6 (34.1-191.0)</td>
<td>83.6 (34.1-191.0)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (43.8)</td>
<td>14 (43.8)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor &gt;10 U/mL, n (%)</td>
<td>28 (87.5)</td>
<td>28 (87.5)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACAP &gt; 20 U/ml, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (84.4)</td>
<td>27 (84.4)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-ESR, mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>3.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ, mean (SD)</td>
<td>11 (0.5)</td>
<td>11 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate, n (%)</td>
<td>22 (68.8)</td>
<td>22 (68.8)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (15.6)</td>
<td>5 (15.6)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leflunomide, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (12.5)</td>
<td>4 (12.5)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfasalazine, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (12.5)</td>
<td>4 (12.5)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviation: SD: standard deviation; IQR: interquartile range; ACAP: anti-citrullinated C-peptide antibodies; DAS28-VSG: 28-joint Disease Activity Score; ESR: erythrocyte sedi-

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

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AB0381 TREATMENT EXPECTATIONS OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS BEFORE STARTING METHOTREXATE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis
U. Kiltz1,2, A. Petridou1,2, N. Timmesfeld1, W. Rief1, K. Schmidt2, D. Krause3,4, U. Binge1, J. Braun1, Ruhr University Bochum Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Bochum, Germany; 2Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Rheumatology, Heme, Germany; 3Ruhr University Bochum Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology, Bochum, Germany; 4University of Marburg, Division of Clinical Psychology, Marburg, Germany; 5University Hospital Essen, Department of Neurology, Essen, Germany; 6Rheumatology Practice Gladbeck, Rheumatology, Gladbeck, Germany

Background: Although the long-term efficacy, tolerability, and safety of methotrexate (MTX) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are well documented, the clinical response and incidence of adverse events (AE) vary. Data on adherence to MTX in RA patients vary between retention rate of 35% to 80% in 5 years. In addition to aspects of safety, important determinants for continuing MTX therapy are patient-associated factors including individual treatment preferences and expectations.

Objectives: This study investigated treatment expectations in RA patients who were about to start MTX therapy, and aim to identify variables associated with discontinuation of MTX.

Methods: Consecutive patients with RA who were about to start MTX were prospectively included after informed consent. Treatment expectations, medication-related beliefs and AE, treatment satisfaction and health-related quality of life were assessed using the generic rating scale for previous experiences, expectations and effects of treatment (G-EEE), the general assessment of side effects (GASE), the beliefs about medicines questionnaire (BMQ), the treatment satisfaction questionnaire for medication (TSQM) and the EuroQol-5 dimensions (EQ-5D) before treatment initiation (T0), and after 3 months (T1). Treatment adherence to MTX was checked at month 6 (T2). Associations treatment expectations and adherence to MTX were explored by regression analyses.

Results: A total of n=100 consecutive RA patients before starting MTX treatment were included (Table 1). A history of inadequate response to sulfasalazine was determined in n=6 (6%) and to hydroxychloroquine in n=1 patient, respectively. At T0, patients perceived the need for treatment with MTX as high, and they were only moderately concerned regarding potential adverse events of this therapy. Treatment expectations regarding the decrease of pain levels and development of adverse events did not differ much between T0 and T1, when disease activity had significantly decreased and physical function increased. MTX was withdrawn in 3 out of 59 patients (5.0%) and in 13 out of 64 patients (20.3%) assessed at T1 and T2, respectively, with a mean of 16.0 (5.9) weeks after treatment initiation. The most frequent reason for discontinuation of MTX was the occurrence of adverse events (n=12) followed by infections or malignancies (both n=2). There was no significant relationship between patients' treatment expectations at T0 and their adherence to MTX at T2.

Conclusion: In this study, we found no evidence for the assumption that patients' expectations before the start of MTX did substantially influence adherence to treatment.

Table 1. Patients and disease characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables*</th>
<th>T0 Treatment initiation (n=100)</th>
<th>T1 (n=59)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, in years</td>
<td>59.1 (11.5)</td>
<td>55 (55%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender female, n (%)</td>
<td>55 (55%)</td>
<td>17 (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, university level, n (%)</td>
<td>59 (59%)</td>
<td>56 (56.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment, n (%)</td>
<td>59 (59%)</td>
<td>56 (56.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time (months) since RA symptoms</td>
<td>11.9 (25.3)</td>
<td>25.6 (42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m2</td>
<td>25.6 (42)</td>
<td>25.6 (42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of patients using GC, n (%)</td>
<td>56 (56.6%)</td>
<td>56 (56.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predisolone dosage, mg/d</td>
<td>8.8 (10.1)</td>
<td>8.8 (10.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA positive, n (%)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dl</td>
<td>19 (2.2)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain, 0-10</td>
<td>6.4 (2.2)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global assessment (PGa), 0-10</td>
<td>6.3 (2.3)</td>
<td>3.7 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS-28-CRP</td>
<td>47.0 (8)</td>
<td>30.0 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RADA1-S</td>
<td>5.6 (19</td>
<td>3.9 (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFAH, 0-100</td>
<td>65.2 (21.1)</td>
<td>83.5 (16.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-EEE, improvement</td>
<td>8.6 (19)</td>
<td>8.2 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-EEE, adverse events</td>
<td>2.1 (19)</td>
<td>2.9 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-EEE, total</td>
<td>0.5 (4.4)</td>
<td>12.2 (10.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMX necessity score, 5-25</td>
<td>18.4 (36)</td>
<td>19.1 (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMX concern score, 5-25</td>
<td>14.3 (3.8)</td>
<td>15.8 (3.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAID</td>
<td>6.1 (2.1)</td>
<td>3.2 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

given as mean (SD), otherwise indicated

REFERENCES: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2508
AB0382

COMPARISON OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK SCALES ACCORDING TO TIME OF EVOLUTION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis

I. J. Colunga-Pedraza1, D. A. Galazar-Delgado1, J. R. Azpini-López2, V. M. Betrán-Arias1, H. González González1, N. De Avila González1, J. Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic, systemic and multifactorial disease. RA patients are at increased risk of cardiovascular (CV) mortality, with atherosclerotic CV disease being the leading cause of death. The traditional risk factors cannot explain such an increase by themselves. (1) There are many algorithms for CV risk (CVR) prediction, and results obtained by these must be multiplied by 1.5 factor, since the EULAR recommendation from 2016. (2) Objectives: To compare CVR by six scales: Framingham lipids and BMI, ACC/ AHA ASCVD 2013, Reynolds (RRS), SCORE 2 and QRSK III, according to the time of disease evolution in RA patients.

Methods: Descriptive, comparative, and cross-sectional study. We enrolled RA patients between 40 and 75 years old who fulfilled ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria and recruited in the Rheumatology service from a tertiary care hospital. Patients were divided by time of disease evolution into quartiles. CVR results from scales were multiplied by 1.5 factor according to EULAR 2016 recommendation. Normality was assessed by Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Variables with a non-normal distribution were described by median and interquartile range (p25-p75). Differences between groups was analyzed by Kruskal-Wallis test or Chi-squared, accordingly.

Results: Total of 406 RA patients were included. Demographic characteristics are shown in table 1. For longer disease evolution, CV scales showed an increased (except for FRS; p< 0.123), just like anti-citrullinated peptide antibody (p<0.001), rheumatoid factor IgG (p<0.003), IgM (p=0.00) and IgA (p=0.00).

Conclusion: CVR increased according to disease duration. Despite that most of the scales showed such increased, CVR varies between them, which may be attributable to the variables evaluated in each one. More studies are required to define which scale is the best to predict in RA patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographic characteristics (n= 406)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>1st Quartile</th>
<th>2nd Quartile</th>
<th>3rd Quartile</th>
<th>4th Quartile</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disease, years.</td>
<td>1.12 (0.93-2.00)</td>
<td>1.4 (0.98)</td>
<td>1.6 (1.32-1.82)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.23-3.6)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m2.</td>
<td>20.0 (15.4-24.9)</td>
<td>20.0 (15.4-24.9)</td>
<td>20.0 (15.4-24.9)</td>
<td>20.0 (15.4-24.9)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years.</td>
<td>56 (40-69)</td>
<td>56 (40-69)</td>
<td>56 (40-69)</td>
<td>56 (40-69)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory tests, median (p25-p75)</td>
<td>272 (24.0-31)</td>
<td>286 (24.0-35)</td>
<td>286 (24.0-35)</td>
<td>286 (24.0-35)</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR, mg/dL.</td>
<td>0.6 (0.2-1.0)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.3-1.4)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.4-1.7)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.4-1.2)</td>
<td>0.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/H.</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>0.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC4, U/mL.</td>
<td>2.7 (1.0-192.0)</td>
<td>2.7 (1.0-192.0)</td>
<td>2.7 (1.0-192.0)</td>
<td>2.7 (1.0-192.0)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF IgG, U/mL.</td>
<td>3.7 (2.2-138.0)</td>
<td>4.0 (2.0-199.5)</td>
<td>4.0 (2.0-199.5)</td>
<td>4.0 (2.0-199.5)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF IgM, U/mL.</td>
<td>128.2 (40.9-362.0)</td>
<td>154.1 (55.9-380.0)</td>
<td>154.1 (55.9-380.0)</td>
<td>154.1 (55.9-380.0)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF IgA, U/mL.</td>
<td>128.2 (40.9-362.0)</td>
<td>154.1 (55.9-380.0)</td>
<td>154.1 (55.9-380.0)</td>
<td>154.1 (55.9-380.0)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2731

AB0383

CARDIOVASCULAR RISK IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A COMPARATIVE TRANSTHORACIC ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY STUDY

Keywords: Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis, Heart

R. Sarrai1, M. Brahim1, H. Ibn Hadj Amor2, O. Jomaia3, A. Ben Salem4, B. Jebali, S. Kraiem, R. Rouabbia, H. Hachfi, Y. Mohamed5. 1Taher Star University Hospital, Rheumatology, Mahdia, Tunisia; 2Taher Star University Hospital, Cardiology, Mahdia, Tunisia

Background: Cardiac involvement in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is one of the most frequent and severe extra-articular manifestations, but it is often under-diagnosed. Objectives: In this context, we conducted this study, whose objective is to determine the prevalence and types of cardiac abnormalities in patients with RA using the transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) and to compare them with control subjects. Methods: We performed a comparative cross-sectional study conducted in Taher Star Hospital, Mahdia, Tunisia. Each patient underwent a TTE coupled with Strain technique.

Results: Seventy-two patients with RA according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria and 72 control subjects (control group) were included. In our study, there was a clear female predominance in both groups with a sex ratio of 0.07 in the RA group and a sex ratio of 0.05 in the control group (p=1). The mean age of RA patients was 52.9 ± 11.72 years [21-75] years and that of the control group was 49.26 ± 10.74 years [19-76] years (p<0.06). Abnormalities detected by TTE were more frequent in subjects with RA compared with the control group (80.6% vs 81.6%; p< 0.05) and they were asymptomatic in 65.8% of cases of RA group. Pericardial effusion was more frequent in the RA group compared with the control group but without significant difference. Valvular involvement was significantly more frequent in patients with RA compared to the control group (48.5% vs 14%; p<0.01) with predominance of tricuspid involvement (31.9%). Left ventricular diastolic dysfunction was more frequent in RA patients compared with the control group with a significant difference (36.1% vs 13.9%; p<0.01). Regarding the left ventricular systolic dysfunction, left ventricular ejection fraction impairment was absent in both groups, but subclinical left ventricular myocardial damage assessed by the Global Longitudinal Strain (GLS) method was detected in 37.5% of RA patients and 16.6% of control subjects (p<0.01). The mean of GLS in RA patients was -17.8% ± 2.9 [-22 to -10.7%]. While it was -19.4% ± 1.9 [-24.7 to -15.7%] in control subjects. Left ventricular hypertrophy was detected on TTE in 22.2% of RA patients and in 6.9% of control group (p<0.01). Pulmonary arterial hypertension was present only in the RA group (2.8% of cases).

Conclusion: Our study showed that cardiac involvement is more frequent in RA than the general population, hence the interest of systematic screening, in order to improve the quality of life and the vital prognosis of patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2864
Rheumatic patients (N=146) P value RA (N=75) SLE (N=48) PsA (N=23) Control (N=40) P value

Women, n (%) 126 73 43 10 20 -
(Age 86.3%) - (97.3%) (89.6%) (43.3%) (50%)
Age, years 48.6 0.018 54.1 35.7 55.4 42.8 <0.001
(IQR ±13) (x9) (±12.2) (±10.4) (±14)
Dyslipidemia, n (%) 41 0.046 26 3 12 7 <0.001
(28%) - (6.4%) (52.2%) (17.5%)
Diabetes Mellitus, n (%) 31 0.003 12 2 17 1 <0.001
(23.2%) - (4.2%) (73.9%) (2.5%)
Hypertension, n (%) 48 0.012 27 10 11 7 <0.001
(32.8%) - (4.2%) (73.9%) (2.5%)
LV Mass index, g/m² (IQR) 64.9 g/m² (52.82-83)
NS 676.9 g/m² (58.3-77.1) 68.7 g/m² (58.3-88.4) 619.3 g/m² 0.014
LV ejection fraction, % (IQR) 60% (57.64-65)
NS 60% (58.65-65) 65% (58.65-65) 65% (58.65-65) 0.001
MV E/A Ratio (IQR) NS 1.17 (0.7-0.94)
(0.72-0.89) 1.17 (0.7-0.94) 1.17 (0.7-0.94) 1.17 (0.7-0.94)
MV peak A velocity, m/s (IQR) 0.1 m/s (0.84-0.89)
NS 0.08 m/s (0.56-0.89) 0.08 m/s (0.56-0.89) 0.08 m/s (0.56-0.89)
MV peak E velocity, m/s (IQR) 0.04 8.07 (0.74-0.93)
(0.08-0.11) (6.24-10) 8.07 (0.74-0.93) 8.07 (0.74-0.93) 8.07 (0.74-0.93)
ESI (0.73-0.97) E/E (0.64-0.93) E/E (0.64-0.93) E/E (0.64-0.93)
(0.74-0.93) (0.52-0.75) (0.52-0.75) (0.52-0.75)
LV end-systolic volume, ml (IQR) NS 27 ml (23-38)
(61-93) 27 ml (23-38) 27 ml (23-38) 27 ml (23-38)
LV end-diastolic volume, ml (IQR) NS 72 ml (23-38)
(61-93) 72 ml (23-38) 72 ml (23-38) 72 ml (23-38)
LVEDVI (IQR) NS 29 ml (23-38)
(61-93) 29 ml (23-38) 29 ml (23-38) 29 ml (23-38)
Left Atrial volume index, ml/m³ (IQR) NS 25.6 ml/m³ (20-32)
(23-38) 25.6 ml/m³ (20-32) 25.6 ml/m³ (20-32) 25.6 ml/m³ (20-32)
LV, left ventricle; MV, Mitral valve; SD, Standard deviation; IQR, Interquartile range; NS, Non-significant. 1p<0.05 compared to control; 1p<0.05 compared to RA1† p<0.05 compared to SLE1† p<0.05 compared to PsA*†† p<0.05 compared to RA and PsA

LV, left ventricle; MV, Mitral valve; SD, Standard deviation; IQR, Interquartile range; NS, Non-significant. 1p<0.05 compared to control; 1p<0.05 compared to RA1† p<0.05 compared to SLE1† p<0.05 compared to PsA*†† p<0.05 compared to RA and PsA

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Rheumatoid arthritis, Heart

AB00364 CHANGES IN LEFT VENTRICULAR SYSTOLIC AND DIASTOLIC FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH AUTOIMMUNE INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

J. R. Azpíri-López1, D. Á. Galazar-Delgado2, I. J. Colunga-Pedraza2, A. G. Arias-Peralta1, V. M. Beltran-Aguilar2, V. Gonzalez-Gonzalez2, N. De Avila Gonzalez2, J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza2. 1Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Cardiology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Rheumatological diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) increase the cardiovascular (CV) risk by the development of a pro-inflammatory state that can affect the ventricular function of the heart. (1)

Objectives: To compare left ventricular (LV) systolic and diastolic function in patients with RA, SLE, and PsA as compared with healthy controls.

Methods: A cross-sectional and comparative study. Patients included in the cohort were between 30–75 years old, who fulfilled 2019 ACR/EULAR Criteria for SLE, and Controls. A transthoracic echocardiogram was performed by a certified cardiologist blinded to clinical data. Normality was assessed by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and the Kruskal-Wallis test for comparison among groups. P value <0.05 was considered significant.

Results: 186 patients were included in the study, divided into groups as its shown in Table 1. Most of them were women (148); the most common comorbidities were hypertension (36%), 20.8%, and 17.5% in the RA, SLE, and Control groups, respectively, and dyslipidemia (73.9% in the PsA group). Echocardiographic findings are shown in Table 1. Conclusion: LV systolic and diastolic function changes in the rheumatic population, especially RA, SLE, and PsA, are higher in comparison with healthy people and affect the prognosis in these patients, those changes can be detected by echocardiogram, which is a safe tool that may prevent complications and improve the prognosis with early detection and management of this CV involvement.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB00385 RISK FACTORS AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES AMONG PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN A TERTIARY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN THE PHILIPPINES

M. A. Yano1, E. Salido1. 1Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila, 1000, Philippines

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by inflammatory arthropathy and extra-articular involvement [1]. Comorbidities are highly prevalent in patients with RA, [2] in particular cardiovascular disease (CVD), which is responsible for over 50% of premature deaths among these patients.[3] It causes lower life expectancy in 3 to 10 years and higher mortality rate compared to the general population. [4]

Objectives: To describe cardiovascular (CV) diseases and their risk factors among patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: This is a review of the medical records of patients with rheumatoid arthritis, ambulatory and hospitalized, at the Philippine General Hospital from January 2019-December 2022. Results: There were 123 patients included in the study, 95.1% were females with a mean age and disease duration of 51.31 and 9.78 years, respectively. Only a few (6.5%) were hospitalized. Disease activity was low in 41.5% and moderate in 35% based on disease activity score (DAS 28) and/or clinical disease activity index (CDAI) scores. Methotrexate (54%) was the most commonly used conventional synthetic disease modifying antirheumatic drug (csDMARD). The use of glucocorticoids was observed in 51.2% while no patients were on biologic (DMARD) at the time of data collection. There were 12 (9.7%) patients with CV diseases, namely myocardial infarction, heart failure, and stroke. There were 87 (70%) patients with at least one CV risk factor and 60 (48%) with multiple risk factors. The risk factors identified were: dyslipidemia (43.1%), hypertension (40.7%), elevated body mass index (35.7%), and diabetes mellitus, (15.4%). However, there were 18 (14.6%) patients without a lipid determination. Five hospitalized patients (4%) died, three from infectious causes, one from malignancy, and one from myocardial infarction.

Conclusion: The majority (70%) of our cohort had at least one CV risk factor and 10% had an identified CV disease. Dyslipidemia was the most common CV risk factor. The high proportion of patients with CV disease and risk factors highlights the need to add the screening and management of CV diseases as a priority among patients with rheumatoid arthritis.
AB0386
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN JAKIS-NAIVE AND JAKIS-NOT NAIVE PATIENTS IN A REAL LIFE CLINICAL SETTING: DATA FROM A PROSPECTIVE MULTICENTRIC ITALIAN STUDY.

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

M. Laroca1, A. Becciolini1, E. Bravi2, D. Camellini1, I. Plate1, E. Arrigoni2, F. Ometto1, E. Di Donato1, G. Adorni2, G. Lucchini2, D. Santilli1, A. Bezzì2, M. C. Focherini3, F. Mascella1, V. Bruzzese1, P. Scolleri1, S. Parisi1, E. Fusaro1, M. C. Ditto1, V. Ravagnan4, G. Sandri5, C. Salvarelli1, M. Proria1, M. Paroli5, R. Caccavale5, R. Andracchio1, M. Nansueto1, M. Collina3,4, M. Reta5, O. Addimanda5, A. Lo Gullo6, E. Visalli7, R. Amato7, F. De Luca1, E. Fafina8, F. Girelli1, P. Del Medico2, A. Molica Collella2, V. Franchina2, F. Molica Collella2, F. Lumetti3, A. Ianniello2, V. Nucera2, R. Viletta2, A. Fiorenza2, G. Rovera2, A. Volpe2, G. Ferro2, A. Marchetts2, S. Bernardi2, G. Bianchi1, A. Ariani2.

Rheumatology Unit, Piacenza, Italy; Rheumatology Unit, Rimini, Italy; Clinic, Padova, Italy; Rheumatology Unit, Modena, Italy; Rheumatology Unit, Parma, Italy; Rheumatology Unit, Forlì, Italy; outpatient clinic, Fermo, Italy; Modena and University Hospital “Policlinico di Modena”, Rheumatology Unit, Bicocca Milano, Internal Medicine Unit, Milano, Italy; Azienda USL di Modena and University Hospital “Policlinico di Modena”; Rheumatology Unit, Mooodena, Italy; ASL Novara, Rheumatology Outpatient Unit, Novara, Italy; ASL VC Ospedale S. Andrea, Rheumatology Unit, Vercelli, Italy; IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria Hospital, Unit of Rheumatology, Verona, Italy; Santa Corona Hospital, Pietra Ligure, Unit of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Pietra Ligure, Italy

Background: Current and previous EULAR recommendations (1,2) suggest using JAK-inhibitors (JAKis) for treating Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). However, little is known about differences of patients who are JAK-inhibitors (JAKis) naïve and patients who have already experienced at least one JAKi.

Objectives: To analyse differences between JAK-naive and JAKis not naïve patients in a real life setting.

Methods: All patients with RA on JAKis were prospectively followed up for 12 months in this multicentric study conducted in 23 centres. For each patient, the following variables were recorded: sex, age, disease duration at JAKi prescription, smoking, BMI, comorbidities, positive RF/ACPA, DSAS28-ESR at baseline, and 6 and 12 months, cDMARDs and prednisone at baseline, JAKis discontinuation, JAKis-naive. Statistics were performed by R (2022.12.0).

Results: 864 patients were included (Table 1). Among them, 731 (84.60%) were JAKis naïve, whereas 122 (14.12%) were not naïve (missing data in 11.27%-patients). 473 (55.22%) patients were treated with baricitinib (JAK-naive were 412, 87.3%), 213 (24.6%) with tofacitinib (JAKis-naive 187, 87.79%), 111 (12.84%) with upadacitinib (JAKis-naive 78.37%) and 62 (7.17%) with filgotinib (JAKis-naive 72.58%). Significant differences between JAKis-naive and not naïve were found for hypercholesterolemia (p=0.04), hypertension (p=0.02), previous cancer (p<0.001), disease duration (p<0.001), line of treatment (p<0.001). No difference was found for JAKis discontinuation (p=0.13) (Table 1).

Conclusion: Our data suggest that line of treatment and disease duration result higher in JAKis naïve compared to naïve ones. Notably, JAKis naïve and not naïve did not differ regarding drug discontinuation, suggesting a similar continuation rate irrespective of previous JAKis.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Differences between JAKis naïve and not naïve patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total (N=864)</th>
<th>JAKis naïve (N=731)</th>
<th>JAKis not naïve (N=122)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (SD)</td>
<td>58.83 (12.87)</td>
<td>58.54 (12.92)</td>
<td>60.61 (12.45)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females (N=853)</td>
<td>668 (78.31)</td>
<td>644 (81.91)</td>
<td>23 (2.80)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive RF (N=800)</td>
<td>527 (65.89)</td>
<td>444 (64.91)</td>
<td>83 (10.55)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive ACPA (N=787)</td>
<td>491 (62.39)</td>
<td>411 (61.43)</td>
<td>80 (67.80)</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes (N=760)</td>
<td>68 (8.95)</td>
<td>56 (7.80)</td>
<td>12 (8.47)</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension (N=761)</td>
<td>297 (39.03)</td>
<td>238 (32.75)</td>
<td>59 (48.36)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypercholesterolemia (N=759)</td>
<td>195 (25.36)</td>
<td>155 (24.90)</td>
<td>40 (33.06)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous MACE (N=756)</td>
<td>47 (6.16)</td>
<td>39 (5.68)</td>
<td>8 (6.56)</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous cancer (N=760)</td>
<td>42 (5.52)</td>
<td>39 (5.68)</td>
<td>3 (2.48)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (months, median, IQR) (N=844)</td>
<td>76 (29-145)</td>
<td>71 (24-145.20)</td>
<td>142 (69-226)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean DAS28-ESR at baseline (SD) (N=736)</td>
<td>5.29 (1.06)</td>
<td>5.27 (0.90)</td>
<td>0.08 (0.22)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean median (SD) (mg/day) (N=438)</td>
<td>4.00 (5.00)</td>
<td>4.00 (5.00)</td>
<td>0.00 (0.00)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Disclosure of Interests: Maddalena Laroca: None declared, Andrea Becciolini: None declared, Elena Bravi: None declared, Dario Camellini Speakers bureau: Abiogen, GSK, Paid instructor for: Mylan, Ilaria Platé: None declared, Eugenio Arrigoni: None declared, Francesco Ometto: None declared, Eleonora Di Camplin: None declared.
AB0387 PREDICTIVE FACTORS OF DETECTION OF ULTRASOUND SYNOVITIS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH CONCOMITANT FIBROMYALGIA

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Ultrasound

S. Miladi1, B. A. Hiba1, F. Alia1, S. Ben Yaacoub1, M. Yasmine1, H. Bousaâ1, L. Souabni1, K. Ouenniche1, K. Selma1, C. Selma1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, L. Ahmad1.1 Hôpital Mongi Slim, Rheumatology, Marsa, Tunisia

**Background:** Recent studies have shown that ultrasound (US) assessment of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) with associated fibromyalgia (FM) before disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) escalation is primordial.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to identify predictive factors of detection of US synovitis and Doppler activity in RA patients with and without concomitant FM.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional study that included patients with diagnosis of RA (ACR/EULAR, 2010 criteria) with concomitant FM (ACR 2016) and to compare it to RA patients without FM. Demographic and RA characteristics were collected. US examination of 22 joints was blindly performed by a single physician. US-detected synovitis was defined and scored 0-3 using the OMERACT scoring system at the joint level for both grey-scale (GS) and Doppler power Doppler (PD). The number of joints with ≥ grade 1 GS synovitis and those with ≥ grade 1 DP were calculated. Multiple linear regression analysis performed, adjusting for clinical and demographic variables.

**Results:** Eighty patients distributed into 40 patients in each group were recruited. Epidemiological characteristics and RA characteristics were comparable between the two groups. Multivariate analysis in RA with FM group showed that DAS28 V3 and male gender were positively associated with the presence of US synovitis, while Patient Global Activity expressed a negative association. Our study shows that a high DAS28 V3 seems to be significantly associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) which may falsely increase RA activity by modifying the subjective components of disease activity scores.

**Conclusion:** Our study confirms the overestimation of disease activity by the clinical scores in RA with concomitant FM. DAS28 V3 score and US assessment would represent a better alternative.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4805

AB0388 RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WITH CONCOMITANT FIBROMYALGIA: THE ROLE OF ULTRASOUND IN ASSESSING DISEASE ACTIVITY

**Keywords:** Fibromyalgia, Rheumatoid arthritis, Ultrasound

S. Miladi1, B. A. Hiba1, B. A. Hiba1, F. Alia1, H. Bousaâ1, M. Yasmine1, L. Souabni1, K. Ouenniche1, K. Selma1, C. Selma1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, L. Ahmad1.1 Hôpital Mongi Slim, Rheumatology, Marsa, Tunisia

**Background:** Fibromyalgia (FM) is a chronic painful condition frequently associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) which may falsely increase RA activity by modifying the subjective components of disease activity scores.

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to compare clinical scoring and ultrasound (US) assessment in RA patients with concomitant FM to RA patients without FM.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional study that included patients with diagnosis of RA (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria) with concomitant FM (ACR 2016) and to compare it to RA patients without FM. Demographic and RA characteristics were collected. US examination of 22 joints was blindly performed by a single physician. US-detected synovitis was defined and scored 0-3 using the OMERACT scoring system at the joint level for both grey-scale (GS) and Doppler power Doppler (DP). The number of joints with ≥ grade 1 GS synovitis and those with ≥ grade 1 DP were calculated. Multiple linear regression analysis performed, adjusting for clinical and demographic variables.

**Results:** Eighty patients distributed into 40 patients in each group were recruited. Epidemiological characteristics and RA characteristics were comparable between the two groups. Biologic DMARDs prescription was more frequent in RA with FM patients than control group (p=0.04). Subjective activity parameters were higher in RA with FM group (p<0.05). DAS28 was significantly greater than DAS28 V3 in RA with FM group (p=0.000). FM group had significantly less US synovitis (p=0.035) and less Doppler activity (p=0.035). Grey scale (GS) US score (p=0.87) and DP US score (p=0.160) were similar in the two groups. Multivariate analysis in RA with FM group showed that DAS28 V3 and male gender were positively associated with the presence of US synovitis, while Patient Global Activity expressed a negative association.

**Conclusion:** Our study confirms the overestimation of disease activity by the clinical scores in RA with concomitant FM. DAS28 V3 score and US assessment would represent a better alternative.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4805

AB0389 EXTRA-ARTICULAR MANIFESTATIONS ARE FREQUENT IN SOUTH INDIAN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE DISEASE ACTIVITY OR SEROPOSITIVE STATUS.

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities, Inflammatory arthritides

H. Gangadharan1, R. Thomas2, R. T. R.1.1 Government Medical College Kottayam, Department of Internal Medicine, Kottayam, India; 2Government Medical College Kottayam, Department of Community Medicine, Kottayam, India

**Background:** Extra-articular manifestations are seen in around 40% of patients with Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in western studies and increase the mortality in patients with RA [1]. There is a paucity of data from India, especially from South India on the prevalence and associations of extra-articular manifestations in RA.

**Objectives:** To estimate the frequency of extra-articular manifestations (EAM) and their associations with disease characteristics in patients with Rheumatoid arthritis attending the Rheumatology clinic of a tertiary care teaching hospital in South India.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study of 316 consecutive patients fulfilling the 2010 ACR EULAR classification criteria of RA was done at a Rheumatology clinic in South India between October 2020 and December 2022. The various EAM studied were keratoconjunctivitis sicca, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), pleuritis/pleural effusion, bronchiectasis, small airway disease, pericarditis/ pericardial effusion, myocarditis, subcutaneous nodules, peripheral neuropathy, anaemia and Rheumatoid vasculitis. The comorbidities studied were diabetes mellitus, systemic hypertension, coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary

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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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disease, hypothyroidism, and stroke. Various parameters like age, gender, disease duration, comorbidities, seropositivity, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), smoking, disease activity score (DAS28 ESR), and methotrexate use were compared between patients with EAM and those without EAM. Comparisons between groups were made with the chi-squared test when testing categorical variables and the Mann-Whitney U test or Independent samples t test for continuous data. A binomial logistic regression analysis was also carried out to find the independent factors associated with EAM.

Results: Among the 316 patients, 272 were female (86.1%). The mean age of the study population was 51.6 ± 11.38 years and the median disease duration was 36 months (84). 141 patients (44.6%) had at least one comorbidity and 23 patients (7.3%) were current or former smokers. 264 patients (84.1%) were Rheumatoid factor (RF) positive and 298 patients (94.6%) were cases of seropositive RA (RF and/or Anti CCP positive). The median ESR was 50 mm/hour and the median DAS 28 ESR was 4.65. 164 patients (51.9%) were methotrexate naive. At least one EAM was seen in 134 patients (42.4%) and the most frequently seen EAM was anaemia (48 patients, 15.2%). Keratoconjunctivitis SICCA was seen in 32 patients (10.1%) and symptomatic ILD was seen in 30 patients (9.5%). Rheumatoid vasculitis was seen in 20 patients (6.3%). Age, disease duration, and ESR (table 1) were found to have significant association with extra-articular manifestations by univariate analysis. On binomial logistic regression, disease duration (p=0.002) and ESR (p=0.047) were found to have a significant association with the presence of extra-articular manifestations.

Conclusion: Extra-articular manifestations were seen in a significant proportion of our RA patients irrespective of the seropositivity status, disease activity, or methotrexate use and had a positive association with disease duration and ESR.

REFERENCES:

### TABLE 1. Comparison of parameters between patients with extra articular manifestations and patients without extra articular manifestations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>PATIENTS WITH EXTRA ARTICULAR MANIFESTATION (n = 134)</th>
<th>PATIENTS WITHOUT EXTRA ARTICULAR MANIFESTATION (n = 182)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Age (years)</td>
<td>53.1 ± 10.3</td>
<td>50.5 ± 11.3</td>
<td>0.039*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>0.229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median disease duration in months</td>
<td>60 (108)</td>
<td>36 (60)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>0.523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median ESR (mm/h)</td>
<td>58 (52)</td>
<td>49 (44.8)</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median DAS28</td>
<td>4.81 (2.24)</td>
<td>4.58 (1.61)</td>
<td>0.479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositive RA</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>0.497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significant (p < 0.05)

Acknowledgements: Departments of Pulmonary Medicine, Ophthalmology and Dermatology at Government Medical College Kottayam, Kerala India.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/rheumatology-2023-eular.5286

### AB0390

OVERTHORIZATION OF THE RENIN ANGIOTENSIN SYSTEM AS A POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE INCREASED CARDIOVASCULAR RISK IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA): EVALUATION OF LEUKOCYTE EXPRESSION OF ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2 IN A POPULATION OF RA PATIENTS.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease

### AB0391

THE IMPACT OF OBESITY ON LIPID PROFILE AND Atherogenic INDEXES AMONG RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ELDERLY PATIENTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities

### AB0392

OVERACTIVATION OF THE RENIN ANGIOTENSIN SYSTEM AS A POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE INCREASED CARDIOVASCULAR RISK IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA); EVALUATION OF LEUKOCYTE EXPRESSION OF ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2 IN A POPULATION OF RA PATIENTS.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease

C. Bentivenga, M. Ardhaoui, M. Ghali, J. Mahbouba, S. Zrour, I. Beija, M. Touzi, N. Bergaoui, S. Orsola-Malpighi Polyclinic IRCCS, Medicina Interna Cardiologica-Borghi, Bologna, Italy; S. Orsola-Malpighi Polyclinic IRCCS, Medicina Interna ad indirizzo reumatologico, Bologna, Italy

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease of unknown etiology characterized by joint inflammation and multiple comorbidities, with a prevalence of approximately 1% of the adult population. It is considered an independent cardiovascular (CV) risk factor, in fact it is associated with significantly increased CV morbidity and mortality. The renin angiotensin system (RAS) is a hormonal cascade with pleiotropic effects. Not only is it crucial in blood pressure regulation but it also plays an important role, among many other effects, in inflammation. High circulating levels of proinflammatory cytokines such as TNF-α and IL-6 are critical in the pathogenesis of RA as well as in determining increased CV morbidity and mortality among these patients. TNF-α and IL-6 activate the systemic and local RAS; in turn, Angiotensin II (Ang II) increases several proinflammatory cytokines among which TNF-α and IL-6. Therefore, a self-perpetuating vicious circle between RAS and cytokines is triggered. Activation of the classical RAS leads to Angiotensin II (Ang II) formation which binds to Ang II receptors type 1 (AT1R) and 2 (AT2R), RAS overactivation is essential in determining vascular inflammation and endothelial dysfunction through its proinflammatory and profibrotic effects.

Objectives: To determine whether RAS activity is higher among RA patients.

Methods: Leukocyte AT1R and AT2R mRNA was extracted and measured by real-time polymerase chain reaction analysis (RT-PCR) from 18 RA patients with stable disease and no traditional CV risk factors (mean age 52.17±11.4) and 10 healthy controls (mean age 43.8±8.61). Intergroup comparisons were made using the Mann-Whitney U test.

Results: A significantly higher expression of AT1R was found in RA patients compared to healthy controls (p=0.01). Even though the finding did not reach statistical significance, AT2R expression was also higher in RA patients (p=0.072).

Conclusion: The results suggest AT1R and possibly AT2R upregulation in RA patients, indicating that RAS overactivation could contribute to the increased CV risk observed in RA patients. If such findings are confirmed by further research, they could have important implications in terms of prevention and treatment strategies for RA patients as RA is associated with an elevated CV risk that is often overlooked and underdiagnosed in these populations.

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mohamed MT. Cardiovascular risk in inflammatory arthritis: rheumatoid arthri-


Acknowledgements: Nil

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0392  RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE: RISK FACTORS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Organ damage, Lungs

M. Slouma1, S. Bouzidi1, L. Metoui1, R. Dahiri1, I. Ghassala1, B. Louziri1, 2. The Principal Military Hospital of Instruction of Tunis, Rheumatology, Tunisia; 2. The Principal Military Hospital of Instruction of Tunis, Internal medicine, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Intersitial lung disease (ILD), a severe extra-articular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), contributes to significantly increased morbidity and mortality [1].

Objectives: Our study aimed to determine the risk factors of RA-associated ILD.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective, monocentric study over 4 years (2016-2022). Patients with RA, fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2010, were included. ILD was defined as the presence of a radiologist-defined pattern consistent with ILD on chest computed tomography. Potential risk factors included age, sex, smoking, obesity, immunopositivity, extra-articular manifestations, disease activity, and medications. A statistical study was carried out using SPSS software.

Results: We included 128 patients with RA. The mean age was 53.0±12.87 years, with a male-to-female ratio of 0.31. The mean disease duration was 8.88±7.33 years. Nineteen patients had a confirmed ILD. usual interstitial pneumonia was the most frequent subtype of ILD (63%, n=12). Using logistic regression analysis, the significant risk factors of ILD were: age (>60 years) (OR=29.516, IC95% [1.416-615.176], p=0.029), the erosive nature of RA (OR=24.302, IC95% [1.185-498.175], p=0.038), the presence of cutaneous rheumatoid nodules (OR=52.558, IC95% [1.696-1628.890], p=0.024) and ocular involvement (OR=45.377, IC95% [1.825-1128.183], p=0.020).

Conclusion: Our study showed that older patients (age>60 years), with an erosive RA, cutaneous rheumatoid nodules, and ocular manifestations are at higher risk of developing ILD. These findings suggest that an early screening of ILD in these patients can be advised.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0394  DYSLIPIDEMIA IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis

I. Klymas1, 2. Shupyk National Healthcare University of Ukraine, Department of Therapy, Family Medicine, Hematology and Transfusiology, Kyiv, Ukraine

Background: Patients with rheumatic diseases characterized by a pronounced inflammatory process. Systemic chronic inflammation, which is characteristic of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), determines the high risk of developing metabolic disorders. Most often, patients with RA have disorders of lipid metabolism.

Objectives: To investigate the dyslipidemia frequency in RA patients and in the control group without autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

Methods: We investigated 126 RA patients (102 women and 24 men, average age 43.8±2.6 years) and 30 subjects (control group) without autoimmune and inflammatory diseases (25 women and 5 men, average age 42.4±2.6 years). RA was diagnosed according to ARA criteria (1987); patients with hepatitis, alcohol abuse, >55 years old were not included. Statistical analysis was performed using program Statistica. The reliability of differences was defined at p<0.05.

Results: The evaluated lipid metabolism in RA patients and control group are presented in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The investigated indicator</th>
<th>RA patients</th>
<th>The control group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total cholesterol, mmol/ L</td>
<td>5.21±0.84</td>
<td>4.51±0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL cholesterol, mmol/ L</td>
<td>1.41±0.25</td>
<td>1.52±0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL cholesterol, mmol/ L</td>
<td>3.10±0.90</td>
<td>2.51±0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLDL cholesterol, mmol/ L</td>
<td>0.70±0.22</td>
<td>0.49±0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TG, mmol/ L</td>
<td>1.65±0.48</td>
<td>1.08±0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atherogenicity index</td>
<td>4.21±0.84</td>
<td>2.09±0.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* - the difference between groups is significant, p<0.05.

In conduct an analysis of lipid metabolism in RA patients and in the control group, a high level of statistical significance p<0.001 was found in the indicators of lipid metabolism in patients with RA compared with those of the examined control group.

Conclusion: Disorders metabolism of lipids have a high prevalence among patients with RA. For the purpose of timely diagnosis of metabolic disorders of lipid metabolism in patients with RA, it is recommended to carry out a laboratory blood test with the determination of lipidogram indicators at least once a year.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6401
Rheumatoid arthritis - biological DMARDs.

Background: Biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) have revolutionized the treatment of chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases. However, the physician and the patient should be aware of possible adverse reactions. Skin is one of the most frequent organs involved in bDMARD adverse reactions and immune-mediated skin lesions (IMSL) have rarely been described before in cohort studies and their incidence is unknown.

Objectives: To explore the cumulative incidence, type of lesions, management and outcomes of IMSL related to bDMARD in a large cohort of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Methods: We conducted a retrospective single-center study including patients with RA, axSpA and PsA followed at a Rheumatology Department from a University Hospital Center between April 2000 and December 2021, treated with at least one bDMARD for at least 6 months. Sociodemographic characteristics, disease duration, age at diagnosis, concomitant immunosuppressive medications, type and duration of the treatment with bDMARD and number of previous bDMARD were collected. For all patients with IMSL, age at onset, disease duration at the time of the IMSL, culprit bDMARD and duration of the treatment, specific management and outcomes were collected. Descriptive statistics for continuous variables were presented with mean and standard deviation and categorical variables were presented with absolute and relative frequencies.

Results: A total of 441 patients with RA, 386 with axSpA and 162 with PsA were included. The majority were female (63.4%), with a mean age of 54.3 ± 12.8 years. An important proportion of patients (47.5%, n=471) were using bDMARDs and the most prescribed bDMARD was adalimumab (21.8%), followed by etanercept (16.5%). Twenty-seven (2.7%) patients presented IMSL potentially related to the bDMARD. Regarding the patients with IMSL, 55.6% were females, mean age at the onset of IMSL was 48.4 ± 12.0 years, mean duration of the treatment with bDMARDs was 4.3 ± 4.5 years and mean duration of the treatment with the culprit bDMARD was 2.9 ± 2.1 years. The majority of patients had SpA (n=14), followed by RA (n=10) and PsA (n=3). Adalimumab was the culprit agent in half of the patients (n=14), followed by etanercept (n=4), golimumab (n=3), infliximab (n=3), rituximab (n=2) and tocilizumab (n=1). Four patients (14.8%) needed hospitalization with the purpose of performing a clinical, laboratory and histological investigation. In most patients, skin lesions resolved completely with topical (n=12) or systemic (n=6) treatment. IMSL led to withdrawal of bDMARD in 18 patients (66.7%). More information about the type of IMSL was described in table 1.

Conclusion: IMSL related to bDMARDs are unusual events with an estimated cumulative incidence of 2.9%, in our sample. The most frequent IMSL were psoriasis and cutaneous manifestations of DLE and the most frequent culprit bDMARD was adalimumab. The majority of patients didn’t need hospitalization and presented complete resolution of IMSL. IMSL led to withdrawal of the bDMARD in 2/3 of patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**AB0397**

**NO CLINICALLY RELEVANT CHANGES IN COAGULATION ACTIVATION BETWEEN PATIENTS INITIATING TNF-BLOCKERS VERSUS JAK-INHIBITORS**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis

R. Hansildaar\(^1,2\), R. Raadsen\(^1,2\), M. Heslinga\(^2\), M. T. Nurmoehamed\(^1,2\).

\(^1\)Amsterdam Rheumatology Centre, Location Reade, Department of Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; \(^2\)Amsterdam UMC, location VUMc, Department of Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is associated with a 2-fold higher risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) compared with the general population \([1]\). The immune system and hemostatic system are closely linked by a shared origin. Inflammation affects thrombotic responses by upregulating procoagulants and downregulating anticoagulants and fibrinolysis \([2]\). Tumor necrosis factor (TNF), an important mediator in the inflammatory pathway, induces a disbalance between the coagulation system and fibrinolytic system, resulting in a hypercoagulable state. In addition, several studies have suggested that some Janus kinase-inhibitors (JAKI) might be associated with an increased risk for VTE \([2]\). However, the underlying pathogenic mechanisms have yet to be elucidated.

**Objectives:** To compare changes in hemostatic parameters during treatment with TNF-blockers (aTNF) and JAKI in RA.

**Methods:** Biomarkers for the coagulation system, including D-dimer, fibrinogen, PT, aPTT, F1+2, TAT, F IX and VWF, were prospectively measured in 121 consecutive RA patients: 83 patients treated with aTNF and 38 patients with JAKI. Data were collected at baseline, after 1, 3, and 6 months.

**Results:** Mean age for all patients was 57 (±14) years, 76\% were female. Mean DAS28-CRP at baseline for TNF-inhibitor group was 3.6 (±1.3) and 4.1 (±1.4) for JAKI group, steadily declining in aTNF users, while decreasing in JAKI users with an intermittent peak at 3 months. Baseline coagulation markers levels were comparable between the groups. D-dimer and VWF levels were slightly higher in the JAKI group (p = 0.30 and p = 0.08, respectively), while F IXa levels were lower (p = 0.17).

D-dimer and fibrinogen levels steadily declined in the aTNF group, while decreasing in JAKI users with an intermittent peak at 3 months with a subsequent decline thereafter (Figure 1). In aTNF users, TAT increased slightly during follow-up, VWF, PT and aPTT remained relatively stable, while F IXa and F 1+2 showed an increase after 3 months of follow-up, after which they returned to baseline. In JAKI users, D-dimer, fibrinogen, VWF and F 1+2 fluctuated, with a peak after 3 months and then a subsequent decline. F IX and PT initially decreased slightly but increased steadily after 6 months, while TAT and aPTT remained stable during follow-up.

**Conclusion:** The pro-thrombotic tendency in active RA declined during effective treatment with both aTNF as well as JAKI. A gradually decrease in D-dimer and fibrinogen was seen after 6 months of treatment. The transient increase of coagulation activation in JAKI users at three months coincided with increased disease activity. Altogether, our data suggests that an increased VTE risk in the first six months due to either treatment aTNF or JAKI seems unlikely. Whether or not the risk increases beyond this time period remains to be investigated.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Romy Hansildaar: None declared, Reinder Raadsen: None declared, Maaike Heslinga: None declared, Michael T Nurmoehamed: Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Janssen, Celgene, Consultant of: Abbvie, Grant/ research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, Pfizer, Galapagos, BMS.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2199

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**Table 1. Progression of mean coagulation markers.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>D-dimer</th>
<th>TNF</th>
<th>JAK</th>
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<tr>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
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<td>1.05</td>
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<tr>
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<th>TNF</th>
<th>JAK</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.01</td>
<td>3.44*</td>
<td>3.43*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.01</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>4.03</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>F1+2</th>
<th>TNF</th>
<th>JAK</th>
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<td>29.46</td>
<td>30.38</td>
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<td>29.39</td>
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<table>
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<th>VWF</th>
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<td>82.56</td>
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<td>77.42</td>
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<td>100.13</td>
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<td>8.06</td>
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<td>4.19</td>
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<tr>
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<th>JAK</th>
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<tr>
<td>648.66</td>
<td>705.61</td>
<td>848.85</td>
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<td>456.53</td>
<td>395.40</td>
<td>403.36</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PT</th>
<th>TNF</th>
<th>JAK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>9.14</td>
<td>8.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.80</td>
<td>9.41</td>
<td>9.39</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aPTT</th>
<th>TNF</th>
<th>JAK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27.68</td>
<td>28.37</td>
<td>28.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significantly different from baseline, p < 0.05. TNF = tumor necrosis factor, JAK = Janus kinase, F1+2 = prothrombin fragment 1+2, VWF= von Willebrand factor, TAT= thrombin-antithrombin complex, FIX = Factor 9, PT = prothrombin time, aPTT = activated partial thromboplastin time.

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**Figure 1. Progression of coagulation markers.**

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**AB0398**

**COMPARATIVE SAFETY OF BIOLOGIC AND TARGETED SYNTHETIC DISEASE MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS FOR CARDIOVASCULAR AND CANCER OUTCOMES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

X. Sendaydiego\(^1\), L. Gold\(^2\), J. Lee\(^3\), R. Goulabchand\(^4\), G. Hughes\(^5\), M. Piono\(^6\), J. Andrews\(^7\), U. Makris\(^8\), P. Surii\(^9\), J. Jarvik\(^9\), J. Sparks\(^10\), S. Singh\(^10\), N. Singh\(^10\).

\(^1\)University of Washington Internal Medicine Residency, Medicine, Seattle, United States of America; \(^2\)University of Washington Clinical Learning, Evidence, and Research (CLEAR) Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders, Radiology, Seattle, United States of America; \(^3\)University of Michigan, Medicine - Rheumatology; Ann Arbor, United States of America; \(^4\)CHU Nimes Univerist Montpellier, Medicine, Nimes, France; \(^5\)University of Washington, Medicine - Rheumatology, Seattle, United States of America; \(^6\)University of Texas Southwestern, Medicine - Rheumatology, Dallas, United States of America; \(^7\)University of Washington Clinical Learning, Evidence, and Research (CLEAR) Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders, Rehabilitation Medicine, Seattle, United States of America; \(^8\)University of Washington Health Services Research Center, Radiology, Seattle, United States of America; \(^9\)Brigham and Women's Hospital, Medicine - Rheumatology, Boston, United States of America; \(^10\)University of California San Diego, Medicine - Gastroenterology, La Jolla, United States of America

**Background:** The ORAL-surveillance trial showed a higher risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) and cancer in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) taking tofacitinib, a Janus kinase inhibitor (JAKI), compared to those taking tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitors (TNFIs). However, little is known regarding the comparative safety of these two drug classes relative to non-TNFi biologics.

**Objectives:** To assess the comparative safety of TNFi’s, non-TNFi’s, and JAKI’s in RA patients for the risk of MACE (e.g., myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, sudden death, stroke, percutaneous coronary intervention, and coronary artery bypass graft), cancer, deep vein thrombosis (DVT), and pulmonary embolism (PE).

---
Methods: We performed a retrospective cohort study using IBM Watson MarketScan databases (2012-2019) of RA patients 18-64 years of age who initiated treatment with TNFi's, non-TNFi's, or JAKi's on or after January 2012. We used Cox Proportional hazards models to estimate hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for developing MACE, cancer, DVT, and PE within 2 years of initiation in patients on non-TNFi's or JAKi's relative to TNFi's, adjusting for multiple confounders, including age, gender, geographic region, year of initiating a biologic, Charlson Comorbidity Index, frailty status, healthcare utilization within 12 months prior to starting treatment (i.e., major infection requiring hospital admissions, general hospital admissions, outpatient visits, and emergency department visits), and RA severity (i.e. disease-modifying antirheumatic drug, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, glucocorticoid, and opioid fills 3 months prior to starting treatment).

Results: A total of 39,032 drug initiation events met eligibility criteria for our study (73.6% initiation of TNFi's, 18.6% non-TNFi's, and 7.8% JAKi's). The mean age of the patients in each of the groups ranged from 47-49 years old; the majority were female. The mean follow-up time was 349 days for TNFi's, 272 days for non-TNFi's, and 266 days for JAKi's. Non-TNFi's were associated with an increased risk of MACE, cancer, and DVT, though the incidence of adverse health outcomes overall was still quite low (Table 1). In multivariable models, patients who started non-TNFi's had a significantly higher risk of MACE (HR 1.75; 1.34-2.28), incident cancer (HR 2.06; 1.70-2.50), and DVT (HR 1.84; 1.45-2.32) compared to those who initiated TNFi's. Patients who filled JAKi's had a significantly higher risk of developing cancer compared to those who filled TNFi's (HR 1.48; 1.09-2.03).

Conclusion: TNFi's may be safer for RA treatment than non-TNFi's and JAKi's for RA in this generally younger and predominantly female population. However, since most RA patients initiate treatment with TNFi's, results could be confounded by the possibility of more severe or prolonged disease in patients on non-TNFi's and JAKi's. These findings need to be replicated in other study populations. Future steps include looking at the risk conferred by individual non-TNFi's towards these risks. Studies with longer follow-up are needed for better assessment of cancer risk among these drug classes.

Table 1. Incidence per 10,000 person-years of each adverse health outcome* stratified by drug class in RA patients 18-64 years of age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse Health Outcome</th>
<th>TNFi n = 28,716 (73.6%)**</th>
<th>Non-TNFi n = 7290 (18.6%)**</th>
<th>JAKi n = 3,026 (78.0%)**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MACE</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>162.6</td>
<td>94.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>132.9</td>
<td>296.4</td>
<td>192.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVT</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>216.5</td>
<td>107.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Outcomes are not mutually exclusive; each patient could have experienced multiple outcomes.**Number and percentage of drug class diagnosis events.

Acknowledgements: Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute of Arthritis And Musculoskeletal And Skin Diseases of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number K23AR079588 to Dr. Namrata Singh. This research was supported in part by the University of Washington Clinical Learning, Evidence, And Research (CLEAR) Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders, Administrative, Methodologic and Resource Cores and NIAMS/NIH grant P30AR072572.

Disclosure of Interest: Xavier Sendaydiego: None declared, Laura Gold: None declared, Jhia Lee: None declared, Radyj Goulabchand Consultant of: NOVARTIS; involved in board concerning ITMP management, Grant Hughes: Employee of: Janssen Rheumatology Fellowship in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Disparities in Axial Spondyloarthritis: PI/Program Director, 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023, Mathilde Pioro: None declared, James Andrews: None declared, Una Makris: None declared, Pradeep Suri: None declared, Jeffrey Jarvik: None declared, Jeffrey Sparks Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Gilead, Inova Diagnostics, Janssen, Optum, and Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Siddharth Singh: None declared, Namrata Singh: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2462
quickly after discontinuation. Besides, severe infection occurred in 2.3% of RA patients (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Abatacept was effective and well-tolerated in RA patients. The incidence of adverse events was high, but most were mild and recovered quickly after discontinuation.

**REFERENCES:**


**RESULTS:** Abatacept was effective and well-tolerated in RA patients. The incidence of adverse events was high, but most were mild and recovered quickly after discontinuation. Besides, severe infection occurred in 2.3% of RA patients.

**OBJECTIVES:** Examine the treatment pathway, factors associated with drug initiation and treatment discontinuation in patients with RA treated with either IL-6 inhibitors versus non-IL-6 biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs).

**METHODS:** A retrospective cohort study of RA patients in the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage databank, including primary care, secondary care and rheumatology clinic records of over 90% of the population in Wales, UK. Patients initiated on first treatment initiation, discontinuation and clinical outcomes including infection and hospitalisation were analysed using Cox regression analysis.

**RESULTS:** Data from 4922 patients with RA were analysed. The majority of patients had taken at least one conventional synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (csDMARD) 95.7%, (4,691/4,922) while 29.6% (1,457) went on to take bDMARDs. Of these, 2% (97) biologic-naive patients were treated with IL-6 inhibitors. Earlier treatment with bDMARDs was associated with increased disease duration (HR: 1.11, 95% CI: 1.07 to 1.15) while younger age at diagnosis, orthopaedic surgery pre-treatment and kidney disease reduced the likelihood of being treated with biologics. Previous history of infection was associated with increased likelihood of treatment with IL-6 inhibitors rather than non-IL-6 bDMARDs (HR: 1.73, 95% CI: 1.15 to 2.59). The rate of treatment discontinuation was significantly higher in the non-IL-6 bDMARDs-treated patients compared to the IL-6 inhibitor treated individuals (difference: 9.4, 95% CI: 1.1 to 15.7). Treatment failure, orthopaedic surgery pre-treatment and steroid use was associated with non-IL-6 bDMARDs treatment failure (HR: 1.64, 95% CI: 1.00 to 2.68; HR: 1.82, 95% CI: 1.26 to 2.08, respectively). No factors were associated with treatment failure in the IL-6 inhibitor treated patients.

**Conclusion:** Patients treated with IL-6 inhibitors and other biologics were similar in demographics but had a different comorbidities pre-treatment; there was more orthopaedic surgery in those who went on to be treated with non-IL-6 biologics and more prior history of infections and kidney disease in those treated with IL-6 inhibitors. Treatment failure was higher in the non-IL-6 bDMARDs-treated patients.

**REFERENCES:**


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** This work uses data provided by patients and collected by the National Health Service as part of their care and support held in the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) databank which is part of the national e-health-records research infrastructure for Wales. This work was conducted as part of the Health Data Research – UK (HDRUK) project and the National Centre for Population Health and Wellbeing Research centre.
Disclosure of Interests: Roxanne Cooksey Grant/research support from: Grant support from Pfizer. Conducted work for Sanofi, Biogen and Novartis., Jonathan Kennedy: None declared, Rahman Muhammad: None declared, Sinead Brophy: None declared, Ernest Choy Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chugai Pharma, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kai, Galapagos, Gilead, Hospira, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi-Aventis, and UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Biogen, Chugai Pharma, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Kai, Gilead, Janssen, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi-Genzyme, Grant/ research support from: Bio-Cancer, Biogen, Pfizer, Sanofi. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4576

AB0401

EFFICACY OF ABATACEPT FOR SUPPRESSING RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION OF CERVICAL LESIONS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS COMPARISON WITH METHOTREXATE TREATMENT: THREE YEARS OF FOLLOW-UP – A MULTICENTER REGISTRY STUDY –

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD

Y. Kanayama1, K. Hattori1,1Toyota Kosei Hospital, Orthopedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Toyata, Japan

Background: Cervical lesions are known to occur at high frequency as a complication of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Treatment with biological agents are more clinically effective than the DMARDs that were in use previously, in particular with their efficacy in suppressing joint destruction having been emphasized. We reported the efficacy of infliximab, anti-tumor necrosis factor antibodies for suppressing the radiographic progression of RA cervical lesions at ACR2009, EULAR2010, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 20. However there is still few studies of efficacy of against RA cervical lesions of Abatacept (ABT) that inhibits T cell activation by binding to CD80/86.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy of ABT for suppressing the radiographic progression of RA cervical lesions comparison with MTX for 3 years.

Methods: We used ABT or MTX for treating Japanese patients with active RA who fulfilled the ACR criteria in 1987. The final study cohort of each 49 and 75 patients received continuous ABT and MTX treatment for at least 3 years. For evaluation of cervical lesions, the atlanto-dental interval (ADI), the space available for the spinal cord (SAC), and the Ranawat value were measured by plain lateral radiographs in the flexion position, at initiation and Year 1, 2, 3.

Results: In the patients receiving ABT (n=49) and MTX (n =75), the number of female were each 39(80%) and 52(69%) cases(p=0.206). The mean age was 67.1 ± 13.1 and 63.6 ± 11.0 years old (p=0.010); disease duration was 17.3 ± 14.0 and 8.0 ± 9.5 years (p<0.001) and the mean dose of MTX was 8.1 ± 3.5 and 8.2 ± 2.9 mg/w (p=0.970). Clinical findings related to RA were as follows; CRP 2.2± 2.1 and 1.7± 2.3 mg/dl(p=0.010); ESR 44.1 ± 21.1 and 31.9 ± 21.8mm/h(p<0.001); MMP3 273 ± 303 and 223 ± 350mg/ml(p=0.002); the number of RF-positive 48(98%) and 60(80%) cases(p=0.004); DAS28-ESR 5.12 ± 1.03 and 4.30 ± 1.38 (p<0.001); ADI 3.7 ± 2.5 and 2.6 ± 2.6 (p=0.001); SAC 18.6 ± 2.9 and 20.8 ± 2.5 (p=0.001) and Ranawat value 14.4 ± 2.0 and 16.0 ± 1.5 mm (p<0.001). The respective changes in cervical lesion parameters after 1 year were as follows: ADI: 0.20 ± 0.41 and 0.25 ± 0.45 mm (p = 0.528); SAC: −0.14 ± 0.35 and −0.17 ± 0.38 mm (p = 0.633); and Ranawat value: −0.18 ± 0.39 and −0.13 ± 0.34 mm (p = 0.449). The respective changes in cervical lesion parameters after 2 years were as follows: ADI: 0.35 ± 0.56 and 0.55 ± 0.70 mm (p = 0.126); SAC: −0.27 ± 0.49 and −0.45 ± 0.62 mm (p = 0.087); and Ranawat value: −0.27 ± 0.49 and −0.33 ± 0.55 mm (p = 0.528). The respective changes in cervical lesion parameters after 3 years were as follows: ADI: 0.47 ± 0.77 and 0.71 ± 0.80 mm (p = 0.063); SAC: −0.39 ± 0.73 and −0.63 ± 0.82 mm (p = 0.040); and Ranawat value: −0.41 ± 0.71 and −0.44 ± 0.66 mm (p = 0.606) in the patients receiving ABT and MTX (Figure 1). The numbers of patients who did not show progression in ADI, SAC and Ranawat value were each 33(67%) and 37(49%) cases(p=0.048); 37(76%) and 40(53%) cases(p=0.013) and 35(71%) and 49(65%) cases(p=0.478) after 3 years. Also the number who was able to suppress progression in all three parameters were each 32 cases (65%) and 37 cases (49%) receiving MTX (p=0.128) after 3 years (Figure 2).

Conclusion: This study suggested that ABT treatment can be used to suppress the progression of RA upper cervical lesions more than MTX treatment.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yasuhide Kanayama Speakers bureau: YK has received speakers fees from AbbVie, Astellas, Asahi Kasei, Daichi-Sankyo, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Ono and UCB Japan., Kyoosuke Hattori: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6351

AB0402

PHARMACOKINETICS AND SAFETY OF CT-P47, A PROPOSED TOCILIZUMAB BIOSIMILAR, IN COMPARISON WITH EU-APPROVED TOCILIZUMAB: A PHASE 1, RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, TWO-ARM, SINGLE-DOSE STUDY IN HEALTHY SUBJECTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Clinical Trials, bDMARD

K. S. Yu1, B. Kim1, D. Shin2, M. K. Park3, J. G. Hwang3, M. Kim4, H. Chung5, J. Ghim6, J. Y. Chung7, J. S. Smolen8, G. R. Burmester9, S. H. Kim10, Y. Bae11, D. Jeon11, G. Yang12, J. Yoo12, J. Bae13, E. Keystone14, 1Seoul National University College of Medicine and Hospital, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Gachon University Gil Medical Center, Clinical Trial Center, Incheon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Chungbuk National University Hospital, Clinical...
Background: CT-P47 is a recombinant humanized monoclonal antibody that was developed as a proposed biosimilar of tocilizumab.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to compare the pharmacokinetic (PK), safety, and immunogenicity of CT-P47 and EU-approved tocilizumab (EU-tocilizumab) up to 42 days after a single subcutaneous injection of 162 mg of each product in healthy subjects.

Methods: 289 healthy subjects aged 19 to 55 years were randomly assigned 1:1 to receive either CT-P47 or EU-tocilizumab. The primary PK endpoints included area under the serum concentration-time curve from time zero to infinity (AUC0-inf), area under the concentration-time curve from time zero to the last quantifiable concentration (AUC0-last), and maximum serum concentration (Cmax). Secondary endpoints were additional PK, safety, and immunogenicity.

Results: Demographics and baseline characteristics were well balanced between groups. The 90% confidence intervals for the geometric least squares mean ratios of each of the primary PK parameters (AUC0-inf, AUC0-last, Cmax) were within the predefined equivalence margin of 80% to 125% (Table 1). Secondary PK variables (Tmax, t1/2, CL/F, Vz/F, %AUCext) were also comparable between groups. Mean serum concentrations of tocilizumab observed through 42 days post-dose were comparable between groups (Figure 1). Overall, 55 (38.2%) and 72 (51.4%) subjects reported ≥1 treatment-emergent adverse event (TEAE) in the CT-P47 and EU-tocilizumab groups, respectively. Most of the TEAEs were grade 1 or 2 in intensity and TEAEs considered to be related to study drug were reported by 47 (32.6%) and 61 (43.6%) subjects, respectively. Neutrophil count decreased was the most commonly reported TEAE overall (14 [9.7%] and 15 [10.7%] subjects, respectively). There were 3 treatment-emergent serious adverse events (2 [1.4%] and 1 [0.7%] subjects, respectively). Of these, only 1 case was considered to be related to study drug (EU-tocilizumab: headache). Overall, 20 (13.9%) and 29 (20.7%) subjects in the CT-P47 and EU-tocilizumab groups, respectively, had ≥1 positive result post-treatment for anti-drug antibodies (ADA) and 17 (11.8%) and 20 (13.9%) subjects, respectively, had ≥1 post-treatment positive result for neutralizing antibody. Primary PK parameters of AUC0-inf, AUC0-last, and Cmax were slightly lower in subjects with at least 1 ADA positive compared with those subjects with all ADA negative, at post-dose, among groups in the PK set.

Conclusion: This study demonstrated PK equivalence of CT-P47 to EU-approved tocilizumab in healthy subjects. Safety profiles, including immunogenicity, were comparable between groups.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Table 1. Statistical Analysis of the Primary PK Endpoints (PK Set)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter (units)</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>gLSM (n)</th>
<th>Ratio of gLSMs (90% CI)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUC0-inf (day μg/mL)</td>
<td>CT-P47</td>
<td>79.37 (138)</td>
<td>107.92 (98.04, 118.80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-tocilizumab</td>
<td>73.54 (136)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC0-last (day μg/mL)</td>
<td>CT-P47</td>
<td>77.55 (144)</td>
<td>106.93 (97.36, 117.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-tocilizumab</td>
<td>72.52 (139)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cmax (μg/mL)</td>
<td>CT-P47</td>
<td>8.89 (144)</td>
<td>103.00 (94.67, 112.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-tocilizumab</td>
<td>8.63 (140)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: ANCOVA, analysis of covariance; AUC0-inf, area under the concentration–time curve from time zero to infinity; AUC0-last, area under the concentration–time curve from time zero to the last quantifiable concentration; CI, confidence interval; Cmax, maximum serum concentration; EU-tocilizumab, European Union-approved tocilizumab; gLSM, geometric least squares mean; PK, pharmacokinetic; %AUCext. Determined by ANCOVA performed with the natural log-transformed PK parameters as the dependent variable, treatment as a fixed effect and stratification factors (body weight at Day -1, gender [male versus female], and study center) as covariates.

**Figure 1.** Mean (± SD) Serum Concentrations of Tocilizumab (PK Set)

Abbreviations: EU-tocilizumab, European Union-approved tocilizumab; PK, pharmacokinetic; SD, standard deviation.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.288

**AB0403**

LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN THE FINE ARTICULAR STRUCTURE BY CTLA4-IG USING HR-pQCT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence

N. Iwamoto1, K. Chiba2, S. Sato3, K. Watanaabe4, K. Shiaraishi5, N. Ohki6, A. Kawakami1, 7Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan, Department of Immunology and Rheumatology, Division of Advanced Preventive Medical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan, 8Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Nagasaki, Japan, 9Nagasaki University Hospital, Clinical Research Center, Nagasaki, Japan, 10Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Department of Radiological Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan

Background: Although the clinical effect of CTLA4-ig (abatacept: ABT) on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been shown by a several kinds of large scale clinical trials and postmarketing surveillances, detail of its effect at a local joint has not been sufficiently analyzed. Recently, it has been shown that CTLA4-ig has not only inhibition effect on T-cell activation but also has inhibition effect on osteoclast differentiation by directly affecting osteoclast precursors.[1] therefore analysis of the effect on changes in the bone structural at an actual clinical site has been expected. A novel imaging test method of High Resolution peripheral Quantitative CT (HR-pQCT) can detect fine structure of bones that could not have been detected in the past and it can evaluate not only conditions of joint destruction but also periarticular osteoporosis.

Objectives: To compare the changes in fine articular structure including bone erosion and micro-architecture by ABT and csDMARD in patients with RA using HR-pQCT.

Methods: In this open-label, parallel-group study, twenty patients who started newly csDMARD and 15 patients who started ABT were enrolled. Fine articular structure in 2.3 metaphcal head were assessed by HR-pQCT every 6 month for 12 months. Synovitis was assessed by musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSUS) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of wrist and fingers. We also measured...
the bone mineral density (BMD) of lumber spine. The estimated difference in
adjusted mean and mean (ABT–csDMARD group) and 95% CIs and P-values were
calculated using a linear mixed model with treatment group, allocation
factor, baseline disease activity, observation time-point, and treatment group x
observation time-point as fixed effect, patients as random effect, and baseline
value as covariates.

Results: Baseline characteristics including disease activity were similar between
the ABT and csDMARD groups. The mean ± disease activity scores (DAS28-
ESR) from baseline to 12 months were −1.61 (ABT) and −1.71 (csDMARDs). The
determined mean change in disease activity from baseline to 12 months
was −1.86 mm², −0.20 mm², −0.35 mm², and −0.09 mm², respectively (Table 1). During observational period (12 months),
only one new erosion detected by HR-pQCT appeared, and 14 erosions were
repaired in ABT group, whereas, in csDMARD group, 5 new erosions appeared,
and 5 erosions were repaired. Regarding synovitis, changes in synovitis score
defined by MSUS and the RA-MRI score (RAMLUS) were similar between those
two groups. Compared with patients in the csDMARD group, those in ABT group
had better bone micro-architectures improvement (Table 1). In the other hand,
% change of BMD of lumbar at 12 months were less improved in ABT group as
compared csDMARD group (0.17%, 1.82%, respectively).

Conclusion: Our results indicated that the ABT could repair bone erosions and
had better inhibitory effect of bone erosion, improvement periarticular osteoporosis
as compared with csDMARD treatment regardless of improvement of disease
activity, synovitis and progress of systemic osteoporosis. Thus, CTLA4-Ig treatment
might be beneficial not only in terms of inhibition of bone erosion but also improvement of bone micro-architecture.

REFERENCE:
utation molecules CD80/86 inhibit osteoclast differentiation by inducing the

Table 1. Factors associated with de-escalation of anti-TNFs in older adults
with RA enrolled in fee-for-service Medicare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>N=5720</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at index</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98, 1.0)</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1.00 (0.87, 1.15)</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (ref)</td>
<td>0.89 (0.86, 1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0.99 (0.80, 1.3)</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0.64 (0.46, 0.90)</td>
<td>0.010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Comorbidities      | 0.72 (0.40, 0.90) | <0.0001 | 0.70 (0.60, 0.82) | <0.0001 |

Table 2. Factors associated with de-escalation of anti-TNFs in older adults
with RA enrolled in fee-for-service Medicare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Unadjusted</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>Adjusted</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at cohort</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98, 1.02)</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98, 1.01)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1.00 (0.87, 1.15)</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>1.00 (0.92, 1.21)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (ref)</td>
<td>0.89 (0.86, 1.0)</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.85 (0.77, 1.32)</td>
<td>0.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0.99 (0.80, 1.3)</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.96 (1.02, 1.13)</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0.64 (0.46, 0.90)</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.74 (0.54, 1.04)</td>
<td>0.079</td>
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<td>0.39</td>
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</table>

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| Comorbidities  | 0.72 (0.40, 0.90) | <0.0001 | 0.70 (0.60, 0.82) | <0.0001 |

Background: Interleukin 6 inhibitors (IL-6i) can increase LDL cholesterol levels, which raises concerns about the risk of myocardial infarction (MI) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) receiving this therapy.

Objectives: This study aims to compare the risk of MI between people with RA in the UK clinical setting receiving IL-6i or tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi) overall or by line of therapy (LoT).

Methods: Patients with RA registered between 01/10/2001 and 30/05/2022 with BSRBR-RA starting IL-6i or TNFi therapies were included. Occurrence of MI was identified from clinical follow-up forms and through cause of death reported by the UK national death register. Only those MI occurring whilst patient was actively receiving drug were included. The risk of MI in patients receiving IL-6i compared to TNFi was compared using Cox regression, adjusted for baseline co-variates using propensity scores (PS, see Table 1). Follow-up commenced at the start of the drug of interest and patients were censored at occurrence of MI, death, discontinuation of therapy or last follow-up visit, whichever came first. Multiple imputation was used for missing data. To account for known differences in LoT usage of TNFi and IL6i (with IL6i more likely at a later line bDMARD), overall analyses adjusted for LoT and secondary analyses by LoT were conducted. Direct switches between originator to biosimilars were considered the same treatment.

Results: A total of 30,022 IL6i or TNFi LoTs in 20,898 patients were included (3,278 IL-6i; 26,744 TNFi), representing 119,797 person-years of exposure. Compared to patients receiving TNFi, patients starting IL-6i treatment were older, had longer disease duration, less likely to use methotrexate and steroids, and had more comorbidities. During follow-up, 409 MIs occurred, 30 on IL-6i and 379 on TNFi. After PS adjustment, the risk of MI was not significantly different between the two treatment overall (HR 0.87, 95% CI 0.56-1.37) or by line of therapy (LoT).

Conclusion: This study could not identify any difference in risk of MI between IL-6i and TNFi treatment after patient characteristics and LoT were considered.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCE:

Table 1: MI in RA patients treated with IL-6i or TNFi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LoT</th>
<th>Person-years</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>IR per 1000 person-year (95% CI)</th>
<th>Crude HR (95% CI)</th>
<th>PS Adjusted HR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IL-6i</td>
<td>26,744</td>
<td>110,981</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>3.41 (3.09, 3.78)</td>
<td>Ref</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFi</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>8,816</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.95 (0.64, 1.35)</td>
<td>0.89 (0.56, 1.37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First line</td>
<td>16,383</td>
<td>71,654</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>3.41 (3.00, 3.86)</td>
<td>Ref</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6i</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>1,057</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.78 (1.42, 10.08)</td>
<td>Ref</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second line</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>1,899</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.11 (0.79, 5.61)</td>
<td>0.59 (0.22, 1.61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFi</td>
<td>7666</td>
<td>31,473</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>3.24 (2.67, 3.94)</td>
<td>Ref</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6i</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.88 (2.15, 7.00)</td>
<td>0.79 (0.38, 1.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third line</td>
<td>1,718</td>
<td>5,652</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4.60 (3.13, 6.76)</td>
<td>0.79 (0.38, 1.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFi</td>
<td>977</td>
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<td>3.18 (1.51, 6.67)</td>
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<td>IL-6i</td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>3,023</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.64 (2.92, 6.57)</td>
<td>Ref</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Baseline variables used for propensity score adjustment: age, gender, time between BSRBR-RA registration and drug start, DAS28, disease duration, RF status, smoking history, BMI, current methotrexate, total number of prior csDMARDs, line of therapy (only in analyses of all LoTs), prior use of TNFi (not in analyses of first LoT only), prior use of IL6i (not in analyses of first or second LoT only), current use of steroids, ever use of antipatelet or anticoagulant drugs; history of: hypertension, dyslipidaemia, diabetes, lung disease, renal disease, depression, cancer, venous thromboembolism, ischemic heart disease (myocardial infarction and ango) stroke.

REFERENCES:

AB0406 EFFICACY OF TNF-ALPHA INHIBITORS IN MANAGEMENT OF IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR RELATED ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Malignancy, Inflammatory arthritides, bDMARD

M. Callan1, 1Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Use of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) has revolutionised management of multiple malignancies but may be complicated by development of immune-related adverse events including inflammatory arthritis. Once triggered, arthritis may persist, with 50% patients having ongoing symptoms even 1 year after stopping ICI treatment. EULAR guidance, based on small retrospective and prospective studies and case reports, recommends treatment with corticosteroids, with escalation to DMARDs particularly where arthritis remains active at doses of prednisolone >10mg [1]. There is some evidence to support use of bDMARDs DMARDs in management, but a lack of studies using validated rheumatology scoring tools to objectively assess ICI arthritis response to biologic agents [2-4].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess efficacy of TNF-alpha inhibitors in ICI arthritis, using change in Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) as an outcome measure. The CDAI was chosen as it is independent of ESR and CRP which may be influenced by other complications of malignancy and its treatment.

Methods: This was a single centre retrospective study of 65 patients referred with musculoskeletal symptoms following use of an ICI. Patients with ICI arthritis treated with a TNF-alpha inhibitor were identified and their notes systematically reviewed for information about malignancy diagnosis, use of ICI, presentation with inflammatory arthritis and its response to treatment, with arthritis activity monitored using the CDAI.

Results: 40 of the 65 patients referred presented with an inflammatory arthritis and 9 were treated with a TNF-alpha inhibitor to manage arthritis. These included 4 male and 5 female patients, with mean age 65 years. 5 patients had melanoma, 2 renal cell cancer, 1 mesothelioma and 1 gall bladder adenocarcinoma. All 9 patients had received treatment with a PD-1/PDL-1 inhibitor, with 5 patients also receiving a CTLA-4 inhibitor. 1 patient had a prior diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis and 1 had a prior diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. Both experienced increased arthritis activity following ICI treatment. The remaining 7 patients developed new onset polyarthritis following ICI treatment, with 1 of 7 being anti-CCP and RF positive. Prior to use of a TNF-alpha inhibitor, all 9 patients had received treatment with prednisolone. 4 patients had been treated with methotrexate, of whom 3 had also had sulfasalazine. 6 of 9 patients received adalimumab as a first biologic, with the other 3 receiving infliximab. CDAI prior to use of a TNF-alpha inhibitor ranged from 20 to 62, with a mean of 32.8 ± 2 patients had moderate disease activity (CDAI±10 and ±22) and 7 patients had high disease activity (CDAI>22). The CDAI at follow up ranged from 4 to 31 with a mean of 13.2. 5 patients had low disease activity (CDAI<10), 4 patients had moderate disease activity and 2 patients had high disease activity at this time. Use of a TNF-alpha inhibitor was associated with a clinically meaningful improvement in CDAI in 8 of 9 patients at follow up after a mean of 11 weeks of treatment, including 1 patient who continued with ICI treatment.

Conclusion: This single centre retrospective study suggests efficacy of TNF-alpha inhibitors in management of ICI arthritis. Similar to previous work, this study is small and limited by lack of a control cohort but has the advantage of using a validated rheumatology scoring tool to confirm diagnosis in arthritis activity. TNF-alpha inhibitors have a shorter time to onset of action than csDMARDs and so offer an opportunity for early control of ICI arthritis, with potential for use in parallel with continued ICI treatment if needed for management of the underlying malignancy.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1095
Keywords: bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers


Methods: This study assessed 5,343 treatment courses of bDMARDs and JAK inhibitors introduced from 2001 to 2022 (TNF inhibitors [TNFi]=2,724, anti-IL-6 receptor antibody [aIL-6R]=1,227, cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated antigen-4-Ig [CTLA4-Ig]=906, JAK inhibitors=486; bDMARDs/JAK inhibitors naive cases 56.0%, baseline age 60.0 years, female 83.5%, disease duration 10.3 years, DAS28-ESR 4.3, RF positivity 78.3%, ACPA positivity 82.8%, combined methotrexate [MTX] dose 8.4mg/week [47.8%), and prednisolone [PSL] dose 5.9mg/day [28.2%]). Patients were classified into three groups according to their serum RF (IU/mL) and ACPA (U/mL) titer: negative (RF<15 or ACPA<4.5), low positive (15<RF<100 or 4.5<ACP<100), or high positive (RF>100 or ACPA>100), respectively. Reasons for discontinuation were classified into four categories by each attending physician: 1) lack of effectiveness (primary and secondary), 2) toxic adverse events (infection, malignancies and cardiovascular events, et al.), 3) non-toxic reasons (patient preference and pregnancy, et al.), and 4) remission. Retention rates of each discontinuation reason were estimated at 24 months using the Kaplan-Meier method and adjusted for potential clinical confounders (age, sex, concomitant PSL and MTX, switched number of bDMARDs or JAK inhibitors, and prior use of TNFi, aIL-6R, CTLA4-Ig, or JAKi) using Cox proportional hazards modeling.

Results: Adjusted discontinuation rates for each reason were as follows: due to lack of effectiveness was all-6L-21.4%, JAKi=27.1%, CTLA4-Ig=30.4%, and TNF=38.2% (Cox P=0.001 between 4 groups), due to toxic adverse events was CTLA4-Ig=12.1%, all-6L=12.5%, TNF=13.3%, and JAKi=14.6% (Cox P=0.369 between 4 groups). When categorized by RF (Figure 1a), adjusted discontinuation rates due to lack of effectiveness were listed in ascending order as follows (respectively): RF negative (all-6L, 16.2%; TNF, 30.5%; CTLA4-Ig, 33.8%; JAKi, 39.9%; Cox P=0.001), low positive (all-6L, 19.6%; JAKi, 21.7%; CTLA4-Ig, 26.6%; TNF, 29.9%; Cox P=0.001) and high positive (all-6L, 25.4%; JAKi, 28.1%; CTLA4-Ig, 31.2%; TNF, 38.6%; Cox P=0.001). When categorized by ACPA (Figure 1b), discontinuation rates due to lack of effectiveness were listed in ascending order as follows, respectively: ACPA negative (all-6L, 20.9%; TNF, 28.8%; JAKi, 30.7%; CTLA4-Ig, 43.4%; Cox P=0.001), low positive (all-6L, 19.2%; JAKi, 26.4%; CTLA4-Ig, 27.3%; TNF, 33.6%; Cox P=0.001) and high positive (all-6L, 23.1%; JAKi, 25.6%; CTLA4-Ig, 29.7%; TNF, 35.2%; Cox P=0.001).

Conclusion: Considering lack of effectiveness, all-6L showed highest continuation rates compared to other agents regardless of RF/ACPA positivity or titer levels. On the other hand, CTLA4-Ig and JAKi showed higher continuation rates, although TNFi showed lower continuation rates in RF/ACPA-positive (low or high titer) cases compared with RF/ACPA-negative cases.

REFERENCES:


Figure 1. Drug retention of bDMARDs and JAKi due to lack of effectiveness categorized by RF titer.

Figure 2. Drug retention of bDMARDs and JAKi due to lack of effectiveness categorized by ACPA titer.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yuki Ebina Speakers bureau: Asahi-Kasei, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Mitsubishi-Tanabe and Nippon Zoki., Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Kosuke Ebina Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Asahi-Kasei, Astellas, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Chugai, Daiichi-Sankyo, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, Ono Pharmaceutical., Pfizer, Sanofi, Taiho, and UCB Japan., Consultant of: Asahi-Kasei and Taiho, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Asahi-Kasei, Eisai, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, and Teijin Pharma., Employee of: KE is affiliated with the Department of Musculoskeletal Regenerative Medicine, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, which is supported by Taiho., Yasutaka Okita Speakers bureau: Chugai Pharmaceutical., Pfizer, and Ono Pharmaceutical., Yuichi Maeda Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly Japan K.K., Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Pfizer Inc., Bristol Myers Squibb, and Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation., Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly Japan K.K., Kohei Tsujimoto: None declared, Akira Onishi Speakers bureau: Pfizer Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb, Asahi Kasei Pharma Corp., Chugai Pharmaceu-

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1114
AB0408 DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON USE OF BIOSIMILARS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS PLYMOUTH, UNITED KINGDOM

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Real-world evidence, bDMARD

A. Edirinweera¹, T. Aung¹, O. Savanovic-Abel¹. ¹University Hospitals Plymouth, Rheumatology, Plymouth, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disease of unknown etiology marked by a symmetric, peripheral polyarthritis. Treatment of RA should be aimed at reaching a target of sustained remission or Low Disease Activity (LDA) in every patient. [1] Given the heterogeneity of the disease, there are multiple disease modifying anti rheumatoid drugs (DMARDs) available including biologics and biosimilars with different modes of action to achieve disease remission or low disease activity. A biosimilar medicine is a biological medicine manufactured to be similar to an existing licensed “reference” biological medicine, with no meaningful differences from reference medicine in terms of quality, safety or efficacy. However, it has been observed significant number of patients going back on bio-originator drugs complaining either side effects or less efficacy of biosimilar. This study is aimed at looking at real rate of bio-similar (BS) switching back to bio-originator (BO) due to various reasons.

OBJECTIVES:
1) To look for rate of switching back to bio-original and reasons behind
2) Biosimilar persistence rate in RA and side effect profile
3) To look for any association between concurrent use of methotrexate with biosimilar persistence rate.

Methods: Descriptive study was done at department of rheumatology University Hospitals Plymouth (UHP). All patients with the diagnosis of Rheumatoid arthritis, treated with biological DMARDs were screened till October 2019. Data were gathered about switching back to BO from BS and if switched reason for switch, persistence rate of biosimilar, duration of biosimilar, disease activity measured by DAS 28 before and 6 weeks after biosimilar, side effects and concurrent use of methotrexate with biosimilar. Data were analyzed as percentages and chi-square is used to find associations.

Results: Total number of 590 patients with RA on biological DMARDs were screened. Most popular first choice of BS was etanercept (318) followed by rituximab (177), adalimumab (85) and infliximab (9). Only 19 patients out of 318(5.9%) patients treated with etanercept BS went back to BO due to inefficacy and side effects. 222/318 (69.8%) remained on etanercept. Switching back rate of adalimumab BO was only 9.4% (8/85) while 73% remained on adalimumab BS. (62/85). For rituximab, 9 out of 177 (5.08%) patients went back to original; 6 due to inefficacy and 3 side effects. 147/177 (83.05%) remained on BS rituximab. Only one patient out of 9 treated with infliximab went back on original drug due to inefficacy. Commonly observed side effects of BS are infections, allergic reactions, and gastrointestinal disturbances. Average DAS 28 score difference after 6 weeks of commencement of BS was calculated only for adalimumab and etanercept. There was a 2.27 reduction of DAS 28 in adalimumab group (from 5.22 to 2.95) while the reduction was 1.67 for etanercept group (from 5.14 to 3.47). Looking at association between persistence rate of BS and concurrent use of methotrexate, only RA etanercept group showed a significant association with a p value of 0.000041.

Conclusion: Significant number of patients with RA are treated with biosimilar in UHP. Re switching to bio-originator is not very commonly seen. Most of the patients could tolerate biosimilar well and persistence rate is impressively high with good response reflected by reduction of average disease activity in studied cohorts. Among side effects infection, allergic reaction and GI side effects are common. Concurrent use of methotrexate showed positive correlation with persistent rate of biosimilar only in one group (RA treated with etanercept) but not others, hence does not give strong ground to the hypothesis that methotrexate minimizes immunogenicity for biosimilar.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0409 TIME TO FIRST REMISSION AND PREVALENCE OF SUSTAINED REMISSION AFTER ETANERCEPT BIOSIMILAR (ETA-B) OR ORIGINATOR (ETA-O) INITIATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA)

Keywords: Real-world evidence, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. S. Moura¹, D. Choquette², G. Boire³, W. P. Maksymowych¹, L. Lukusa¹, L. Yan¹, M. G. Birck¹, S. Bernatsky¹, ², ³Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Centre for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Montreal, Canada; ¹CHUM - Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal, Institut de Rhumatologie de Montréal, Montréal, Canada; ²Université de Sherbrooke, Faculty of Medicine, Sherbrooke, Canada; ³University of Alberta, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Edmonton, Canada; ²McGill University, Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, Faculty of Medicine, Montréal, Canada

Background: The first biosimilar etanercept (ETA-B) was approved in Canada in 2016, but real-world data comparing the effectiveness of ETA-B versus their equivalent originator (ETA-O) remains scarce.

Objectives: To compare time to remission throughout follow-up and sustained RA remission in the first 12 months.

Methods: We studied etanercept-naive RA patients starting ETA-B or ETA-O between January 2015 and May 2022 from three prospective research cohorts related to the Early Undifferentiated Polyarthritides (Sherbrooke), RA Pharmacovigilance Program and Outcomes Research in Therapeutics (Edmonton), and RHUMADATA³ (Montreal) registries. We restricted analyses to RA patients with at least one follow-up visit after treatment initiation and with enough data to calculate remission. Remission was defined as Disease Activity Score 28-CRP or -ESR ≤2.6, Simplified Disease Activity Index ≤ 3.3, or Clinical Disease Activity Index ≤ 2.8. We used Cox regression to compare ETA-B versus ETA-O regarding time to first remission during follow-up (among those without remission at baseline) and logistic regression to assess sustained remission (remission in two consecutive visits) in the first 12 months of follow-up. Models were adjusted for sex, age, body mass index (BMI), RA duration, and smoking status at cohort entry. We also adjusted for high/moderate disease activity and the use of corticosteroids, methotrexate (MTX), or hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), all at etanercept initiation.

Results: We studied 150 RA patients initiating etanercept (65% on the biosimilar) between 2015-2022. Sex distribution was similar among ETA-B and ETA-O, but the biosimilar group has a longer disease duration and moderate/higher disease activity at baseline. Among 125 participants without remission at baseline, the median time to first remission was 8.7 months with ETA-B versus 14.5 with ETA-O. In the multivariate analysis (Table 1A), we were unable to detect a clear difference in time to achieve first remission when comparing ETA-B to ETA-O (hazard ratio, HR = 1.43, 95% confidence interval, CI 0.65-3.13). Obesity (BMI>30) was negatively associated with the outcome. Sustained remission in the first 12 months of follow-up was observed in 16.3% of ETA-B initiators versus 17.3% with ETA-O. After multivariate analysis (Table 1B), we were unable to establish any clear difference between ETA-B versus ETA-O (OR 1.16, 95% CI 0.31-4.74). HCQ was positively associated with sustained remission within the first 12 months.

Conclusion: In this pooled analysis of three Canadian RA cohorts, we were unable to detect clear differences in achievement or sustained remission when comparing ETA-B and ETA-O.
Table 1. – Cox proportional hazard ratios (HR) for time to remission and logistic regression model for sustained remission within first 12 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline characteristics</th>
<th>Time to remission</th>
<th>Logistic regression model for sustained remission (12 months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unadjusted HR</td>
<td>Adjusted HR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
<td>(95% CI)†</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline current drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.10 (0.69, 1.74)</td>
<td>1.03 (0.64, 1.62)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unadjusted OR</td>
<td>1.16 (0.31-4.74)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted OR</td>
<td>1.03 (0.39-2.77)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Serum adipokine levels (mg/mL)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route of administration</th>
<th>baseline</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iv</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptin</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adiponectin</td>
<td>18310</td>
<td>20610</td>
<td>0.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>sc</td>
<td>1739</td>
<td>163.4</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptin</td>
<td>28750</td>
<td>33350</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Serum levels were associated with the achievement of LDA/remission when patients were stratified according to the route of antiIL6 administration. Leptin levels in both groups (SC and IV) were very similar at baseline and 6M and regarding changes on adipokine profile between baseline and 6M, we observed a decrease in leptin and an increase in adiponectin levels both in SC and IV (Table 1).

BMI showed a significant positive correlation with leptin, and overall and stratifying by route of administration, both at baseline and 6M. Adiponectin did not show a significant correlation with BMI.

Figure 1.

Conclusion: Obesity and serum adipokines did not show association with the achievement of LDA/remission in patients treated with antiIL6 regardless the route of administration. Furthermore, IV and SC treatments could be used both in obese and normal-weight RA patients expecting the same efficacy.

REFERENCE:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2777

AB0410

OBESEITY AND ADIPOSE TISSUE CYTOKINES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: DOES THE ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE IL6 INHIBITORS MATTER?

Keywords: bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis, Comorbidities

M. Novella-Navarro1, F. Genre Romero2, A. Martinez-Feito2, V. Pulito-Cuezo2, I. Monjo2, D. Peiteado1, M. A. González-Gay4, C. Plasencia1, A. Balsa1.

1Hospital Universitario La Paz, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2DINAV, Research Group on Genetic Epidemiology and Atherosclerosis in Systemic Diseases and in Metabolic Bone Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System, Santander, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario La Paz, Immunology, Madrid, Spain; 4IIS-Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Obesity has been associated with the response to biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs). Obese patients have lower response to anti-TNF drugs than to other cytokine-targeted drugs, such as anti-IL6[1]. IL6 receptor inhibition is effective in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and there are two ways of administration: intravenous (IV) weight-adjusted tocilizumab and subcutaneous (SC) fixed-dose tocilizumab or sarilumab. However, evidence regarding the influence of body mass index (BMI) and these different routes of administration is still scarce.

Objectives: To analyze the role of BMI in the clinical response to antiIL6 therapy in its different routes of administration in patients with RA. To perform an in-depth analysis of the pathophysiology of obesity by assessing serum adipokine levels and their potential changes according to treatment.

Methods: This study involved 65 patients with RA starting IV tocilizumab at 8mg/kg every 4 weeks or SC antiIL6 tocilizumab 162mg/week or sarilumab 200mg/14days. Demographic and clinical characteristics before antiIL6 initiation (age, sex, smoking habit, age at diagnosis, concomitant and previous treatments and BMI) were collected. Laboratory parameters such as rheumatoid factor and anti-citrulinated peptide antibody were also assessed. Adipokine serum levels (leptin and adiponectin) were measured at baseline and after 6 months (6M) of treatment. Clinical response to treatment was assessed by Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) 6M after initiation of the bDMARD. Differences between variables were assessed using the X2 test and Mann-Whitney test. Correlations between BMI, adipokines and other quantitative variables were assessed using the Pearson or Spearman coefficients. P-values ≤0.05 were considered statistically significant.

REFERENCE:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2958

AB0411

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ETHNICITY AND INITIAL RESPONSE TO TNF INHIBITORS IN PEOPLE WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: RESULTS FROM THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR RHEUMATOLOGY BIOLOGICS REGISTER FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (BSRBR-RA)

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Epidemiology, bDMARD

M. F. Tsoi1, R. S. Andev2,3, L. Kearsley-Fleet1, K. Watson1, S. Dubey2, K. Kumar1, A. Moorthy4, M. Gupta1, A. Adabajo5, K. Hynie1,2, The University of Manchester Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT, Department of Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom; 3University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; 4University of Birmingham, Institute of Clinical Sciences, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 5University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Rheumatology, Leicester, United Kingdom; 6University of Leicester, College of Life Sciences, Leicester, United Kingdom; 7Gartnavel General Hospital, Rheumatology

This study involved 65 patients with RA starting IV tocilizumab at 8mg/kg every 4 weeks or SC antiIL6 tocilizumab 162mg/week or sarilumab 200mg/14days. Demographic and clinical characteristics before antiIL6 initiation (age, sex, smoking habit, age at diagnosis, concomitant and previous treatments and BMI) were collected. Laboratory parameters such as rheumatoid factor and anti-citrulinated peptide antibody were also assessed. Adipokine serum levels (leptin and adiponectin) were measured at baseline and after 6 months (6M) of treatment. Clinical response to treatment was assessed by Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) 6M after initiation of the bDMARD. Differences between variables were assessed using the X2 test and Mann-Whitney test. Correlations between BMI, adipokines and other quantitative variables were assessed using the Pearson or Spearman coefficients. P-values ≤0.05 were considered statistically significant.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2777
Little is known about the association between ethnicity and response to TNF inhibitors (TNFi) in people with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). This study examines the association between self-reported ethnicity and DAS28 response after 6 months of treatment in patients starting their first TNFi using data from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologies Register for RA.

**Methods:** 14133 RA patients with self-reported ethnicity starting their first TNFi were included. Due to a very low proportion of non-white patients, ethnicity was divided into white or non-white for analysis. Outcomes included the change in disease activity using DAS28, the proportion of patients who achieved DAS28 remission and EULAR response at month 6. Adjusted regression models appropriate to outcome were used to compare between the two groups. Multiple imputation was used to account for missing data.

**Results:** Of 14133 patients starting TNFi with recorded ethnicity, only 607 (4.3%) recorded themselves as non-white (389 Asian, 134 Black, 57 Mixed ethnicity and 27 other) (Table 1). At start of TNFi, non-white patients were younger (non-white vs. white: mean 51 vs. 57 years; p<0.001), with shorter disease duration (median 8 vs. 10 years; p<0.001), higher proportion of females (86% vs. 76%; p<0.001) and fewer current cigarette smokers (9% vs. 20%; p<0.001). Non-white patients had less improvement in DAS28 at month 6 (adjusted regression coefficient (95% confidence interval (95%CI)): 0.3 (0.04-0.5)). However, using the white patients as a reference, non-white patients were not associated with the achievement of DAS28 remission (adjusted odds ratio (95%CI): 0.7 (0.5-1.1)) or EULAR response (aOR (95%CI): 0.8 (0.7-1.0)) at month 6.

**Discussion:** Recruitment to the BSRBR-RA of non-white patients was exceptionally low compared to expected population distribution – the reasons for this are not immediately evident. Among those recruited, there were no significant differences observed in initial treatment response although non-white patients were younger, more likely to be female, had shorter disease duration and less likely to be smokers. Further evaluation into both ways to increase representativeness in our national RA treatment register and influence of ethnic differences on longer term outcomes with biologic therapies is warranted.

**Conclusion:** Recruitment to the BSRBR-RA of non-white patients was exceptionally low compared to expected population distribution – the reasons for this are not immediately evident. Among those recruited, there were no significant differences observed in initial treatment response although non-white patients were younger, more likely to be female, had shorter disease duration and less likely to be smokers. Further evaluation into both ways to increase representativeness in our national RA treatment register and influence of ethnic differences on longer term outcomes with biologic therapies is warranted.

**Disclosure of Interests:**

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**References:**

this finding. Immunogenicity results were similar in both treatment groups. Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were usually mild or moderate and occurred at similar frequency with both drugs. There were no discernable patterns in terms of the nature, frequency or other characteristics of serious or treatment-related TEAEs to suggest a difference between drugs.

Conclusion: Equivalent efficacy, immunogenicity and safety at W24 of MSB11456 and EU-approved tocilizumab was demonstrated in patients with moderate to severe RA. Pharmacological and clinical similarity of these drugs was supported, therefore MSB11456 can be considered as biosimilar to EU-approved tocilizumab.

**Efficacy endpoints – ITT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Baseline (Mean±SD)</th>
<th>1 year change</th>
<th>1 year change</th>
<th>Between-Group Difference</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hb</strong></td>
<td>10.95 (10.77, 11.13)</td>
<td>-0.55 (20.13, 11.8)</td>
<td>0.05 (2.20, 3.39)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HCT</strong></td>
<td>34.05 (33.60, 34.51)</td>
<td>0.09 (6.05, 7.84)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TC</strong></td>
<td>76.3 (68.6, 8.58)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PTGA</strong></td>
<td>7.14 (6.79, 7.48)</td>
<td>0.07 (4.73, 5.19)</td>
<td>0.07 (4.73, 5.19)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PhGA</strong></td>
<td>6.25 (5.93, 6.57)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESR</strong></td>
<td>3.84 (2.68, 5.68)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SDAN</strong></td>
<td>29.8 (23.87, 31.73)</td>
<td>0.07 (4.73, 5.19)</td>
<td>0.07 (4.73, 5.19)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CDAI</strong></td>
<td>26.73 (24.94, 28.28)</td>
<td>0.07 (4.73, 5.19)</td>
<td>0.07 (4.73, 5.19)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SJC</strong></td>
<td>6.59 (5.28, 7.86)</td>
<td>0.07 (4.73, 5.19)</td>
<td>0.07 (4.73, 5.19)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAIS2-ESR</strong></td>
<td>5.68 (4.59, 5.87)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAPID3</strong></td>
<td>16.66 (15.63, 17.69)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>-0.09 (8.62, 9.50)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Comparison of hemoglobin and disease activity between initial and 1 year follow up in anemia patients**

**Background:** Rheumatoid arthritis is a systemic disease with various extra-articular symptoms. Anemia is common comorbidity of RA.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study is to compare the effect of tocilizumab and TNF-α inhibitors on hemoglobin changes and disease activity changes in RA patients. This study aims to determine whether tocilizumab is more effective in controlling hemoglobin elevation and disease activity in patients with anemia.

**Methods:** The data in this study derived from the Korean College of Rheumatology (KOCRO) registry. Of the patients registered in KOCRO registry, patients using tocilizumab and TNF-α inhibitors were enrolled in this study. To exclude the effects of previously used biologic DMARDs, patients who started the first biologic DMARDs and have been using one biologic DMARD for more than 1 year were included in this study. Anemia was defined as Hb levels <12.0/g/dl in women and <13.0/g/dl in men according to the World Health Organization (WHO) criteria at index date.

**Results:** Among rheumatoid arthritis patients with anemia, there were 126 patients in the tocilizumab group and 248 patients in the TNF-α inhibitor group. Initial and follow-up data collected after 1 year of biologic use were analyzed. After initiation of treatment, Hb and Hct were significantly elevated in tocilizumab group. Mean increases in Hb and Hct were 1.56 and 3.53 in tocilizumab group, 1.02 and 2.64 in TNF-α inhibitor group. DSAS2-ESR and RAPID3 decreased significantly in tocilizumab group after using biologics. In tocilizumab group, DSAS2-ESR decreased by 3.35 and RAPID3 decreased by 8.31. The changes in SJC, PGA, PhGA, SDAI and CDAI were not different between the two groups.

**Conclusion:** In RA patients with anemia, although tocilizumab was more effective than TNF inhibitors in increasing Hb, there was no difference between the two drugs in controlling disease activity. During the course of this research, the results of the DSAS2-ESR and other outcome measures did not match. In patients treated tocilizumab, assessment of disease activity using the TNF-α inhibitor group as a control. Tocilizumab was more effective than TNF-α inhibitors in increasing Hb.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kamilla Klama: None declared, Martin Ullmann Employee of: Fresenius Kabi

**Disclosure of Interests:** Anna Zubrzycka-Sienkiewicz: None declared, Maria Balsamo-Canestri: None declared, Paul Aguado: None declared, Axel Lucchesi: None declared, M. Hameed1, S. Exarchou1, A. Eberhard1, A. Sharma1, U. Bergström1, G. Cagnotto1, J. T. Einarsson1, C. Turesson1,2, Lund University, Rheumatology, Department of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Malmö, Sweden, 3Skåne University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Lund, Sweden

**Background:** Factors related to the use of biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) have varied in prior studies. Objectives: This study aims to identify characteristics at the time of diagnosis that may be related to the initiation of treatment with bDMARD within the first three years following diagnosis.

**Methods:** All patients with early RA diagnosed at the outpatient clinics of Skåne University Hospital in 2012-2016 were identified using the local patient administrative system. Diagnoses were validated in a structured review of the medical records. Patients with a confirmed RA diagnosis, aged ≥18 years with symptom duration <12 months at diagnosis, and who fulfilled the 2010 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for RA were included.

**Results:** A total of 1393 patients met the inclusion criteria. In the bDMARD group, 80.8% of patients achieved ACR20 at W24, compared to 84.8% in the TNF-α inhibitor group. ACR50 was achieved in 60.6% of patients in the bDMARD group and 62.3% in the TNF-α inhibitor group. ACR70 was achieved in 39.1% in the bDMARD group and 38.4% in the TNF-α inhibitor group. ACR90 was achieved in 60.6% in both groups. DAS-ESR remission or LDA at W24 was achieved in 63.1% and 63.5% of patients in the bDMARD and TNF-α inhibitor groups, respectively. DAS28-CRP change from baseline at W24, LSM (SE)a 0.01 (-0.21, 0.19) aANCOVA (analysis of covariance) model with fixed effects for treatment and previous biologic DMARDs.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4237
Conclusion: Lower age and higher tender joint count at diagnosis were associated with an increased likelihood of starting bDMARD therapy within the first 3 years in early RA. The impact of age on the subsequent start of bDMARD therapy was not explained by other patient factors.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Mohamed Hameed Consultant of: Novartis, Sofia Exarchou Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen, Novartis, UCB Pharma, Anna Eberhard: None declared, Ankitka Sharma: None declared, Ulf Bergström: None declared, Giovanni Cagnotto: None declared, Jon Thorzell Einarsson: None declared, Carl Turesson Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Nordic Drugs, Pfizer, Roche, Consultant of: Roche, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers-Squibb. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4638

AB0415 CAN WE PREDICT THE RISK FACTORS FOR SWITCHING IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THERAPY WITH BDMARD IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS?

Keywords: bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence

A. Martin1,2, D. Santos Oliveira1,2,3, R. Nicolau1,4, T. Martins-Rocha1,2, A. Bernardo1, S. Pimenta1,2, M. Bernardes1,2, L. Costa,1 São João University Hospital Center, Rheumatology, Porto, Portugal; 2 Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto - FMUP, Medicine, Porto, Portugal; 3 Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto - FMUP CINTESIS, Porto, Portugal; 4 Centro Hospitalar Tondela - Viseu, Epe, Rheumatology, Viseu, Portugal

Background: Biological Disease-modifying Antirheumatic Drugs (bDMARD) have improved the clinical course and quality of life of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, some patients failed to respond or have an insufficient response to bDMARD, early in the course of the treatment, and the reasons why this happens aren't fully understood.

Objectives: To determine the percentage of RA patients who failed to respond to bDMARD and need to switch in the first year of treatment, describe their characteristics, and identify specific baseline features as possible predictors of bDMARD early failure.

Methods: An observational monocentric retrospective cohort study was conducted with RA patients (according to 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria), registered in the national database (Reuma.pt) that started their first bDMARD between June 2000 and December 2021 and had a minimum follow-up of 12 months. Demographic data, disease characteristics, laboratory parameters and treatment at baseline were collected. Disease activity scores (CDAI, SDAI and DAS-28-CRP), functional scores (HAQ) and clinical response to treatment (according to EULAR and ACR response criteria) were collected at 3, 6 and 12 months after the start of bDMARD. The proportion of patients who failed to respond (according to treat-to-target strategies) and who switched to another bDMARD was calculated. Patients who discontinued treatment in the first year due to adverse events were excluded. Chi-square test, t-test and Mann-Whitney U test were conducted (categorical, normally and not normally distributed continuous variables, respectively). Also, a multivariate logistic regression analysis was performed. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated. A p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: 437 (364 females, 83.3%) patients with RA were included. The mean age was 52.4 ± 11.4 years and the disease duration was 11.6 ± 8.6 years. The majority of these patients started an anti-TNF-α agent as their first bDMARD (n=315, 72.1%). The remaining patients started rituximab (n=66, 15.1%), tocilizumab (n=51, 11.7%) and abatacept (n=5, 1.1%). For 398 patients (91.3%) started their first bDMARD (n=315, 72.1%). The remaining patients started a regional healthcare register, and data on level of formal education, country outside Europe were statistically significant baseline predictors of bDMARD start in patients with RA within 3 years after diagnosis.

Table 1: Predictors at RA diagnosis for a first bDMARD/bDMARD in patients with early RA within 3 years after diagnosis. Logistic regression.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Crude OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>Adjusted OR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.69 (0.47-0.77)</td>
<td>0.60 (0.45-0.83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>0.76 (0.44-1.31)</td>
<td>0.85 (0.49-1.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA positive</td>
<td>1.39 (0.84-2.31)</td>
<td>1.20 (0.72-2.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>1.24 (0.77-2.00)</td>
<td>1.05 (0.68-1.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joint count (≥75)**</td>
<td>1.52 (1.35-1.70)</td>
<td>1.32 (1.15-1.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joint count (≥15)**</td>
<td>1.31 (1.04-1.60)</td>
<td>1.40 (1.16-1.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>1.43 (1.11-1.85)</td>
<td>1.64 (1.24-2.16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/l) (quartiles)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤ 2.8</td>
<td>0.97 (0.67-1.41)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9-7.9</td>
<td>1.39 (0.86-2.24)</td>
<td>1.68 (0.82-3.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0-24.0</td>
<td>1.39 (0.70-2.75)</td>
<td>1.97 (0.94-4.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 24.0</td>
<td>1.41 (0.72-2.81)</td>
<td>2.54 (1.07-5.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h) (quartiles)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤ 14</td>
<td>1.01 (0.64-1.60)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-22</td>
<td>1.71 (0.55-5.44)</td>
<td>1.80 (0.57-5.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-47</td>
<td>1.23 (0.62-2.45)</td>
<td>1.52 (0.72-3.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;47</td>
<td>1.33 (0.65-2.67)</td>
<td>2.07 (0.96-4.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower secondary</td>
<td>1.01 (0.64-1.60)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper secondary/ Secondary b</td>
<td>1.70 (0.90-3.28)</td>
<td>2.13 (1.06-2.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or equivalent</td>
<td>2.11 (1.07-4.14)</td>
<td>1.33 (0.64-2.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1 Psychiatric morbidity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.12 (0.67-1.81)</td>
<td>1.01 (0.59-1.71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1 Pain related morbidity</td>
<td>0.98 (0.60-1.64)</td>
<td>1.14 (0.86-2.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 2 Other major morbidity</td>
<td>0.69 (0.37-1.34)</td>
<td>0.85 (0.55-1.34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlton's morbidity index ≥ 2</td>
<td>0.49 (0.66-0.34)</td>
<td>1.23 (0.06-2.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>0.97 (0.64-1.51)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.64-1.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European outside Sweden</td>
<td>1.82 (0.91-3.53)</td>
<td>1.37 (0.74-2.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of the world</td>
<td>2.14 (0.74-6.37)</td>
<td>1.97 (0.76-5.13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimates are based on standard deviation. **Based on 3 variables – SIC, TJC and CRP

Conclusion: Lower age and higher tender joint count at diagnosis were associated with an increased likelihood of starting bDMARD therapy within the first 3 years in early RA. The impact of age on the subsequent start of bDMARD therapy was not explained by other patient factors.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Mohamed Hameed Consultant of: Novartis, Sofia Exarchou Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen, Novartis, UCB Pharma, Anna Eberhard: None declared, Ankitka Sharma: None declared, Ulf Bergström: None declared, Giovanni Cagnotto: None declared, Jon Thorzell Einarsson: None declared, Carl Turesson Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Nordic Drugs, Pfizer, Roche, Consultant of: Roche, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers-Squibb. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4638
Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a severe extra-articular manifestation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Abatacept (ABA) has demonstrated efficacy in RA-ILD [1-2]. Clinical trials have shown equivalence in subcutaneous (SC) and intravenous (IV) administration of ABA for articular manifestations [3]. However, it has not been studied in RA-ILD.

Objectives: to compare the effectiveness of ABA in RA-ILD patients according to the route of administration (IV-ABA vs SC-ABA).

Methods: National multicenter study of RA-ILD patients treated with ABA. They were divided into 2 groups according to the route of administration: a) IV, and b) SC. We analyzed from baseline the following outcomes in both groups: a) forced vital capacity (FVC), b) diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO), c) chest high resolution computed tomography (HRCT), d) dyspnea (assessed with the modified Medical Research Council scale), e) arthritis activity (assessed with DAS28-ESR or described in clinical records), and f) sparing corticosteroids effect.

Results: We studied a total of 392 [SC-ABA/IV-ABA: 288/91 (available data)] patients. Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics are shown in Table 1. Patients were followed-up for a median [IQR] of 24 [10-48] months. FVC and DLCO remain stable during the first 24 months in both SC-ABA and IV-ABA [Figure 1]. Dyspnea stabilized or improved in 85% of patients (89% of IV-ABA; 83% of SC-ABA). ABA was withdrawn in 80 patients: 60 (39%) in SC-ABA group and 20 (22%) in IV-ABA group. ILD worsening and articular inefficacy were the most common reasons of ABA discontinuation.

Conclusion: In RA-ILD, ABA seems equally effective and safe regardless of the route of administration IV or SC.

REFERENCES:
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: None declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5532

AB0416

ELEVATED ANA AS A PREDICTOR OF THERAPEUTIC FAILURE TO BIOLOGICAL ANTI-TNF AGENTS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Autoantibodies, Rheumatoid arthritis

Introduction: Autoantibodies are present in 10% of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Their presence is considered a marker of disease activity and adverse outcomes. Anti-nuclear antibody (ANA) was previously reported to be more frequent in therapeutic failures to biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARD). However, the role of ANA as a predictor of failure is not clear, mainly due to small sample sizes and retrospective analyses. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate if ANA is a predictor of therapeutic failure in bDMARD therapeutic failures in RA patients treated with infliximab (IFX) or etanercept (ETN).

Methods: A single-centre observational cohort study was conducted. RA patients treated with IFX or ETN were included. All patients fulfilled the American College of Rheumatology/European League Against Rheumatism (ACR/EULAR) criteria for RA and received at least 3 months of treatment with IFX or ETN. ANA was measured at baseline before starting treatment and before treatment withdrawal in patients withdrawn due to therapeutic failure. The presence of ANA was measured using an ELISA test (HumaLab, Spain) and classified as positive when the titer was >1/80. ANA positivity was compared with therapeutic failure to IFX or ETN. A logistic regression analysis was performed using ANA positivity and therapeutic failure to IFX or ETN as dependent variables.

Results: A total of 309 RA patients were included, of whom 135 were ANA-positive and 174 were ANA-negative. Thirty-two therapeutic failures were counted in the elevated ANA group and 16 in the negative ANA group. A higher percentage of failures was observed in ANA-positive patients. A higher percentage of therapeutic failure was observed in patients with a higher ANA level. No relationship was found between the ANA pattern and the presence of failure. The presence of an elevated ANA multiplies by 2.4 the risk of presenting therapeutic failure to IFX or ETN in patients with RA.

Conclusion: ANA is a predictor of therapeutic failure to IFX or ETN in patients with RA.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Elevated ANA as a predictor of therapeutic failure to IFX or ETN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>p</th>
<th>Odds ratio</th>
<th>LC 95%: OR Lower</th>
<th>Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>0.075</td>
<td>0.436</td>
<td>0.175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA +</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>2.434</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iTNF</td>
<td>0.305</td>
<td>0.715</td>
<td>0.376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.369</td>
<td>0.989</td>
<td>0.955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUTCOMES FROM COMPACT STUDY

BIOSIMILAR IN A REAL-WORLD STUDY: FINAL

PATIENTS RECEIVING GP2015 (ETANERCEPT
SPONDYLOARTHRITIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS
FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES OF THE SELF-INJECTION ASSESSMENT
QUESTIONNAIRE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, AXIAL
Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes

1University Hospital, Wuerzburg, Rheumatology/Clinical Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine II, Wuerzburg, Germany; 2Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Oswestry, United Kingdom; 3New Cross and Cannock Chase Hospitals, University of Wolverhampton, Department of Rheumatology, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom; 4Sandoz Hexal AG, Rheumatology, Holzkirchen, Germany; 5Hospital Neuwittelsbach, Center for Rheumatology and Gastroenterology, Munich, Germany

Background: COMPACT is an international, non-interventional cohort study evaluating the effectiveness, safety and quality of life in patients (pts) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) or psoriatic arthritis (PsA) treated with GP2015, an approved etanercept (ETN) biosimilar, in real-world conditions.

Objectives: To assess patient usage behaviour and feelings of self-administered injection with auto-injector device using the Self-Injection Assessment Questionnaire (SIAQ) in pts with RA, axSpA and PsA receiving GP2015.

Methods: Pts aged ≥18 years from Germany and UK who initiated treatment with GP2015 were enrolled in this study. The SIAQ, a questionnaire developed to assess overall pt experience with subcutaneous self-injection, was used to assess the perceived confidence on self-injection, potential barriers as well as satisfaction with self-injection via device before the first self-injection (PRE module) and after dosing (POST module).[1] In COMPACT study, the POST module was assessed which comprised of 21 items grouped into 6 hypothetical domains: “feelings about injection”, “self-image”, “self-confidence”, “skin reaction” (injection-site reactions), “ease of use of self-injection device”, and “patient satisfaction”. Domain scores were rated on a 10-point scale, i.e., 0 (worst experience) to 10 (best experience).

Data was analysed from the first collected SIAQ responses during the study and was summarised using descriptive statistics. The final SIAQ scores by domain in pts with RA, PsA and axSpA and by study group in pts with RA are reported here.

Results: A total of 458 pts from Germany (RA: 285, PsA: 79, axSpA: 94) and 273 pts from UK (RA: 174, PsA: 54, axSpA: 45) responded to the questionnaire. Overall, each domain showed high SIAQ scores which were consistent across all indications. The “self-image” and the “skin reaction” domains were scored highest (Figure 1). RA pts who had prior experience with biologic or non-ETN targeted medication (Group A + B) had mean scores mostly higher than or equal to those of biologic-naïve pts (Group C + D). RA pts who switched from iETN (reference ETN or biosimilar ETN other than GP2015) to GP2015 treatment (Group A) reported high SIAQ scores in all domains, which can be explained by good patient experience with the device (Table 1).

Conclusion: The SIAQ showed high acceptance of the auto-injector device in both countries where the survey was performed across all indications. Most RA pts were satisfied with auto-injector device usability after switching from iETN to GP2015, demonstrating no major concerns after switching.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Mean domain SIAQ scores by study group in pts with RA in GP2015 treated pts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain scores*</th>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Group A + B</th>
<th>Group C + D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean (N=177)</td>
<td>(N=206)</td>
<td>(N=253)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feelings about injections</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-image</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-confidence</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin reactions</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of use</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient satisfaction</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Scores are rated on a 10-point scale: 0, worst experience; 10, best experience.

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.442
Rheumatoid arthritis - biological DMARDs

AB0420
MATERIAL AND NEONATAL ANTIBODY LEVELS UPON PERTUSSIS VACCINATION IN PREGNANT WOMEN ON IMMUNE-MODULATING THERAPY FOR RHEUMATIC DISEASE

Keywords: Vaccination/Immunization, bDMARD, Pregnancy and reproduction

N. Ghalandari1, 2, M. Immink3, E. Röder1, P. Bruining-Verhagen7, H. T. Smeele1, H. J. M. J. Crijns4, N. Van der Maas5, M. Bekker6, L. Sanders7, R. Dolhain1, 1Erasmus Medical Center, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2Dutch Rheumatology Evaluation Board (CBG-MEB), GIMB, Utrecht, Netherlands; 3National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Center for Infectious Disease Control, Bilthoven, Netherlands; 4Dutch Medicine Evaluation Board (CBG-MEB), Wetenschap, Utrecht, Netherlands

Background: While protection against pertussis following maternal tetanus-diphtheria-and-acellular-pertussis (Tdap) vaccination has been demonstrated in term-born infants from healthy mothers[1], no evidence is available on Tdap vaccination in combination with immune-modulating therapy during pregnancy.

Objectives: In this pilot-study, we explored whether treatment with Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha inhibitors (TNFi) in pregnant women with rheumatic disease interferes with Tdap vaccine response and/or affects maternal IgG antibody concentrations against the relevant antigens in the newborns.

Methods: Patients included by a rheumatologist during pregnancy received a Tdap vaccination in their late-second or early-third trimester. Blood samples were drawn during the first trimester, three months after delivery and from the umbilical cord. IgG antibody levels against Tdap-included antigens were measured using a bead-based multiplex immunoassay. Findings on patients exposed to TNFi were compared with those from TNFi-unexposed patients and with data from a historical comparator study among healthy Tdap vaccinated mother-infant-pairs (n=53). [2]

Results: 66 patients (46 exposed and 20 unexposed to TNFi) were enrolled. No differences in IgG antibody levels against Tdap-included antigens were observed between TNFi-exposed and unexposed patients before and after Tdap vaccination (Figure 1). In cord sera however, antibody levels against pertussis toxoid were significantly lower after TNFi-treatment (35.94±1.99 IU/mL, 95% CI: 20.68-62.45) compared with no TNFi (94.61±1.99 IU/mL, 95% CI: 48.89-183.07) and with cord blood from the comparison cohort of healthy women-infant-pairs (125.12±1.99 IU/mL, 95% CI: 90.75-172.50). We observed similar differences for filamentous hemagglutinin, pertactin, tetanus toxoid, and diphteria toxoid.

Conclusion: These preliminary data indicate no reduced IgG antibody response upon maternal Tdap vaccination in pregnant women following immune-modulating treatment, although our findings suggest that TNFi during pregnancy induce lower maternal antibody levels against Tdap-included antigens in newborns.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Anti-Pertussis toxin (anti-PT IgG) concentrations (IU/mL) before and after vaccination and in cord sera, represented for women exposed or unexposed to TNFi, or healthy pregnant women, including their offspring. X-axis: type and time-point of blood sample draw; Y-axis: IgG antibody concentration against pertussis toxin (IU/mL). Significance - *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001.

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Disclosure of Interests: Nafise Ghalandari Grant/research support from: financial support for printing PhD book from UCB Pharma., Employee of: From June 2022 till February 2023 worked as a medical science liaision (MSL) at UCB Pharma., Maarten Immink: None declared, Esther Röder: None declared, Patricia Bruining-Verhagen: None declared, Hieronymus TW Smeele: None declared, Hubertina Johanna Maria Josephina Crijns: None declared, Nicoline van der Maas: None declared, Mireille Bekker: None declared, Liesie Sanders: None declared, Radboud Dohlain Speakers bureau from: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Novartis, Roche, UCB, Grant/research support from: an unrestricted grant from Galapagos, UCB Pharma B.V. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1297

AB0421
REAL-WORLD EFFECTIVENESS OF UPADACITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, real-world evidence

D. C. Diederen1, 2, P. Durez3, L. Lenaerts3, R. Westhoovers3, 4, P. Verschueren3, 4
1Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Biostatistics and Medical Informatics Research Group, Department of Public Health, Brussels, Belgium; 2Université Catholique de Louvain, Pôle de Pathologies Rhumatismales Inflammatoires et systémiques, Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique, Brussels, Belgium; 3Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Department of Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium; 4Reuma-Instituut Hasselt, Department of Rheumatology, Hasselt, Belgium; 5University Hospitals Leuven, Division of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium; 6KU Leuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Centre, Leuven, Belgium

Background: The Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitor Upadacitinib (UPA) has shown efficacy in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in trials, yet real-world evidence is lacking.

Objectives: We aimed to assess short-term effectiveness of UPA for standard of care for RA.

Methods: Data from participants included in the electronic platform “Tool for Administrative Reimbursement Drug Information Sharing” (TARDIS) are analysed. TARDIS collects data from all Belgian RA patients on advanced therapy during submissions of reimbursement requests for drug initiation or prolongation. Patients initiating UPA between 01/11/2020-31/12/2021, ≥18 years and DAS28≥3.7 were included. Effectiveness was based on drug retention, proportion of patients achieving remission (DAS28 <2.6), low disease activity (LDA, DAS-28 ≥3.2), HAQ-Di≥0.5 (HAQ≥0.5) as well as a clinical meaningful HAQ-Di-decrease (MCID, HAQ) since baseline of 0.22 at the first follow-up month at 3 months. Sensitivity analyses by 1st, 2nd or 3rd-line advanced therapy were performed.

Results: From 13 175 patients in TARDIS in the relevant time period, 996 patients on UPA could be included. Table 1 details this population. Of 871 patients with drug information at next follow-up, 783 (90%) continued UPA, and 42 (5%), 22 (3%), and 18 (2%) changed to a TNFi, non-TNFi and other JAKI respectively. In other effectiveness analyses, 705/996 (71%) patients were included. Remission and LDA were reached in 60% (421/705) and 74% (521/705) of patients respectively. HAQ25, HAQ50 and MCID HAQ were reached in 11% (78/705), 26% (183/705) and 67% (475/705) of patients. Effectiveness slightly decreased with increasing line of therapy (Figure 1).

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of TARDIS patients on UPA

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<td>Number</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (mean ±SD, years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration (mean ±SD, years)</td>
<td>9.3 ±9.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR (mean ±SD, mm/hour)</td>
<td>24.3 ±19.9</td>
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<td>CRP (mean ±SD, mg/L)</td>
<td>13.1 ±15.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJ28 (mean ±SD)</td>
<td>6.5 ±4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC28 (mean ±SD)</td>
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<td>PGA (mean ±SD, 0-100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced treatment naive (yes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced treatment Experienced (yes)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd line</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd line</td>
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<tr>
<td>TNFi</td>
<td>268/996 (48.2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-TNFi</td>
<td>177/996 (31.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAKI</td>
<td>111/996 (20.0%)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Legend: Numbers given are mean ± SD or number, proportion. TNFi = tumour necrosis factor inhibitor, JAKI = Janus Kinase inhibitor, HAQ = health assessment questionnaire, PGA= Patient Global assessment; CRP= C-reactive protein; ESR= erythrocyte sedimentation rate; TJC= tender joint count; SJC= swollen joint Count; DAS28 = disease activity score based on the 28 joints. *Missing HAQ(0-3) scores were imputed by regression using age and HAQ(0-60) scores. **for 6 patients this was undefined.

Scientific Abstracts
Conclusion: Most patients continued UPA treatment. UPA improved clinical outcomes after 3 months in patients with moderately to severely active RA in a real-world setting, even in 3rd line of advanced therapy.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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The EFFECTS OF CONCOMITANT USE OF METHOTREXATE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH SARILUMAB

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD

S. Anno1, T. Okano2, K. Manda2, K. Orita1, Y. Yamada1, K. Mamoto2, T. Iida4, T. Koike7,8, H. Nakamura2.

1Yodogawa Christian Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 2Osaka Metropolitan University Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 3Osaka Saiseikai Nakatsu Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 4Yokoyaki Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 5Takahiro Clinic, Orthopaedic Surgery, Nishinomiya, Japan; 6Osaka City General Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan; 7Osaka Metropolitan University Hospital, Center for Senile Degenerative Disorders (CSDD), Osaka, Japan; 8Shirahama Foundation for Health and Welfare, Search Institute for Bone and Arthritis Disease (SINBAD), Shirahama, Japan

Background: Sarilumab was launched the second interleukin 6 receptor inhibitor (IL-6Ri) as a treatment for patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in Japan. Tocilizumab, that was known as first IL-6Ri, showed excellent therapeutic effect without methotrexate (MTX) for RA. However, it was unknown that the effect on concomitant use of MTX in RA patients treated with sarilumab.

Objectives: We evaluated the effect on concomitant use of MTX in RA patients treated with sarilumab.

Methods: This study used a multicenter database included 673 RA patients treated with b/tsDMARDs. We finally analyzed 72 RA patients treated with sarilumab. Thirty-three RA patients were combined with MTX (MTX group) and 39 RA patients were not combined with MTX (non-MTX group). The continuation rate and efficacy at 52 weeks after sarilumab treatment in each group was evaluated.

Results: Non-MTX group was older, longer disease duration, and lower eGFR compared with baseline in RA patients treated with sarilumab.

Conclusion: Sarilumab improved disease activity in patients with RA regardless of concomitant use of MTX.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

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IMPROVEMENT OF ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS IN JAK INHIBITOR TREATED JAPANESE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS COMPARISON WITH TNF INHIBITOR THERAPY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Ultrasound, bDMARD


1Yodogawa Christian Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Osaka, Japan; 2Osaka Saiseikai Nakatsu Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka, Japan

Background: JAK inhibitor (JAKi) and TNF inhibitor (TNFi) are the important therapeutic agents for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, there is still few studies of improvement of ultrasonographic findings in RA treatments compared with JAKi and TNFi.

Objectives: To evaluate the improvement of ultrasonographic findings in JAKi treated RA patients comparison with TNFi.
Methods: Participants comprised 40 and 43 Japanese RA patients who had recently received each JAKI (BAR26, PEF9, UPAS) and TNFi (CZP30, ADAS, ETN4, GLM4). All patients with a diagnosis of RA according to the 2010 ACR/ EULAR criteria. Patients underwent clinical and laboratory assessments every 4 weeks from baseline to 24 weeks, and US assessments at baseline, 4, 12 and 24 weeks. Gray scale (GS) and power doppler (PD) signals were scored using a semi-quantitative scale from 0 to 3 at 26 (0-78) synovial sites (22 joints) in the following joints: bilateral first to fifth metacarpophalangeal (MCP) joints (dorsal recess), first interphalangeal (IP) and second to fifth proximal interphalangeal (PIP) (dorsal recess) joints; and the wrists (dorsal radial, median and ulnar). We evaluated the improvement of GS and PD score from baseline to week 24. Results: In the patients receiving JAKi (n=40) and TNFi (n=43), the mean age was 56.0 vs 54.0 years old (p=0.514), disease duration was 73 vs 59 years (p=0.343), the rate of MTX use was 70% vs 86% (p=0.076), the mean MTX dose was 10.0 vs 9.9 mg/wk (p=0.888), the rate of ACPO positive was 90% vs 79% (p=0.171), the rate of b/ts DMARDs naïve patients was 65% vs 91% (p=0.005), DAS28-ESR was 5.03 vs 4.69 (p=0.102), CDAI was 24.5 vs 19.2 (p=0.038), GS score was 22.1 vs 18.3 (p=0.535) and PD score was 15.1 vs 11.1 (p=0.625). The degree of improvement respective changes in GS and PD score from baseline to 4, 12 and 24 weeks were as follows: GS: -5.7 vs -4.7 (p=0.762) and PD: -6.6 vs -3.1 (p=0.489) after 4 weeks, GS: -9.3 vs -6.7 (p=0.975) and PD: -8.7 vs -4.6 (p=0.340) after 12 weeks, GS: -11.5 vs -9.7 (p=0.732) and PD: -9.5 vs -7.1 (p=0.802) after 24 weeks between JAKi and TNFi (Figure 1, 2). Next, the improvement rate of respective changes in GS and PD score from 4, 12 and 24 weeks were as follows: GS: -16.2% vs -20.7% (p=0.463) and PD: -29.7% vs -30.8% (p=0.144) after 4 weeks, GS: -30.2% vs -27.9% (p=0.884) and PD: -34.0% vs -32.0% (p=0.830) after 12 weeks, GS: -42.4% vs -38.4% (p=0.712) and PD: -41.6% vs -54.0% (p=0.865) after 24 weeks between JAKi and TNFi. Next, we evaluated the improvement of ultrasonographic findings between b/ts DMARDs naïve and switch, with and without MTX in the JAKi-treated patients. The degree of improvement respective changes in GS and PD score from baseline to 24 weeks were as follows: GS: -42.4% vs -39.4% (p=0.712) and PD: -41.6% vs -54.0% (p=0.865) after 4 weeks, GS: -56.0 vs 54.0 years old (p=0.514), disease duration was 73 vs 59 years (p=0.343), the rate of MTX use was 70% vs 86% (p=0.076), the mean MTX dose was 10.0 vs 9.9 mg/wk (p=0.888), the rate of ACPO positive was 90% vs 79% (p=0.171), the rate of b/ts DMARDs naïve patients was 65% vs 91% (p=0.005), DAS28-ESR was 5.03 vs 4.69 (p=0.102), CDAI was 24.5 vs 19.2 (p=0.038), GS score was 22.1 vs 18.3 (p=0.535) and PD score was 15.1 vs 11.1 (p=0.625). The degree of improvement respective changes in GS and PD score from baseline to 4, 12 and 24 weeks were as follows: GS: -5.7 vs -4.7 (p=0.762) and PD: -6.6 vs -3.1 (p=0.489) after 4 weeks, GS: -9.3 vs -6.7 (p=0.975) and PD: -8.7 vs -4.6 (p=0.340) after 12 weeks, GS: -11.5 vs -9.7 (p=0.732) and PD: -9.5 vs -7.1 (p=0.802) after 24 weeks between JAKi and TNFi (Figure 1, 2). Next, the improvement rate of respective changes in GS and PD score from 4, 12 and 24 weeks were as follows: GS: -16.2% vs -20.7% (p=0.463) and PD: -29.7% vs -30.8% (p=0.144) after 4 weeks, GS: -30.2% vs -27.9% (p=0.884) and PD: -34.0% vs -32.0% (p=0.830) after 12 weeks, GS: -42.4% vs -38.4% (p=0.712) and PD: -41.6% vs -54.0% (p=0.865) after 24 weeks between JAKi and TNFi. Next, we evaluated the improvement of ultrasonographic findings between b/ts DMARDs naïve and switch, with and without MTX in the JAKi-treated patients. The degree of improvement respective changes in GS and PD score from baseline to 24 weeks were as follows: GS: -13.8 vs -7.1 (p=0.313) and PD: -10.8 vs -6.9 (p=0.334) between b/ts DMARDs naïve and switch patients, GS: -11.7 vs -11.0 (p=0.988) and PD: -9.2 vs -10.0 (p=0.656) between with and without MTX patients. Conclusion: The present study provides evidence supporting the improvement in ultrasonographic findings in RA was similar for both JAKi and TNFi. Also in the JAKi-treated patients, similar improvement in ultrasonographic findings was observed regardless of whether the patients were naïve or switch, with and without MTX.

REFERENCES: NIL.
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AB0424 IMPACT OF BASELINE RHEUMATOID FACTOR TITERS AND ANTI-TNF MOLECULAR STRUCTURE ON THE RETENTION RATE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis
J. Calvo Gutierrez1,2,3, R. Ortega Castro1,2,3, M. C. Ábalos-Aguilera1,2, F. J. Cepas1,3, D. Ruiz1,2, M. Rojas-Giménez1,2,3, M. L. Ladehesa Pineda1,2,3, A. Escudero Contreras1,2,3, C. López-Medina1,2,3, Reina Sofia University Hospital, Rheumatology, Cordoba, Spain; 2Maimonides Institute for Biomedical Research of Cordoba (IMIBIC), GC05 group, Cordoba, Spain; 3University of Cordoba, Medical Surgical Sciences, Cordoba, Spain

Background: Rheumatoid Factor (RF) is an antibody against the Fc portion of IgG forming immune complexes that contribute to the Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) process. RF also binds the Fc region of many monoclonal antibodies (mAB), leading to lower drug levels and potential early withdrawal. Conversely, the absence of FC portion in Cetolizumab Pegol (PEG) may lead to a higher retention rate in comparison with other drugs in RA patients with higher RF titers.

Objectives: a) To evaluate the retention rate to any anti-TNF according to the baseline RF titers in patients with RA and b) to compare the retention rate to PEG vs. other anti-TNF in patients with high RF titers.

Methods: Longitudinal, retrospective and unicentre study including patients with a diagnosis of RA and treated with any anti-TNF (mAB (Adalimumab, Golimumab and Infliximab), fusion protein (Etanercept) or PEG (Certolizumab Pegol)) between 2007 and 2022. RF levels before anti-TNF initiation as well as the dates of both initiation and treatment withdrawal were collected. Log-rank test and Kaplan-Meier curves were conducted to evaluate the retention rate to each molecular structure in patients with high RF titers (≥110 IU/ml).

Results: A total of 356 patients with RA treated with anti-TNF and with available titers of RF were included. Mean age was 52.0 (11.2) years and 80.1% were female. A total of 254 (71.3%) were RF positive. Retention rate to any anti-TNF was similar in RF positive vs. negative, and between RF <110 IU/ml vs RF ≥110 IU/ml (considering the median titre of RF (110 IU/ml) as the cut-off). In addition, the retention rate to each molecular structure were compared in patients with high RF titres (≥110 IU/ml).

Conclusion: Higher RF titers before anti-TNF initiation were associated with a shorter retention rate in patients with RA. However, no differences were found between molecular structures, although patients treated with PEG seem to have a longer retention rate. These results confirm the possible effect of the RF in binding the Fc portion of the drug.

Figure 1. Retention rate to any anti-TNF according to the RF titers (A) and retention rate of each molecular structure in patients with high titers levels (≥110 UI/ml) (B).
REAL-WORLD EFFECTIVENESS OF FILGOTINIB IN BELGIAN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs

1Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Biostatistics and Medical Informatics Research Group, Department of Public Health, Brussels, Belgium; 2Université catholique de Louvain, Pôle de Pathologies Rhumatismales Inflammatoires et Systémiques, Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique, Brussels, Belgium; 3Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Department of Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium; 4Reuma-Institut Hasselt, Department of Rheumatology, Hasselt, Belgium; 5University Hospital Leuven, Department of Rheumatology, Leuven, Belgium; 6KU Leuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Centre, Leuven, Belgium

Background: Filgotinib (FIL), a preferential Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitor targeting the JAK1 enzyme, has demonstrated efficacy in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in clinical trials. FIL is reimbursed in Belgium since August 2021 for adult patients with moderate to severe RA with a DAS28 score >3.7 and inadequate response or intolerance to 2 conventional DMARDS including Methotrexate. Today, limited data exist on the real-world effectiveness of FIL in RA.

Objectives: Our aim was to examine the short-term effectiveness of FIL in a heterogeneous RA population.

Methods: Patients were included from the electronic platform “Tool for Administrative Reimbursement Drug Information Sharing” (TARDIS). Data from all Belgian RA patients on biologic and targeted therapy are collected in this platform during the submission of a request for initiation or prolongation of reimbursement of these drugs. The study population included adult patients ≥18 years starting FIL between August 2021 and November 2022. Baseline characteristics (demographics, clinical characteristics, treatment history) of Belgian RA patients treated with FIL were recorded. Effectiveness of FIL was determined by the patient proportion achieving remission (DAS28 <2.6), low disease activity (DAS28 ≤3.2), HAQ-DI≤0.25 (HAQ25) and minimum HAQ-DI-decrease (MCID_HAQ) since baseline of 0.22, at the first follow-up visit, structuredly planned in TARDIS after 3 months. Sensitivity analyses were performed in patients starting FIL as 1st, 2nd or 3rd+line advanced therapy.

Results: In total, 405 RA patients on FIL were included, representing all newly initiated FIL patients. Table 1 gives detailed information on demographic, clinical characteristics and treatment history. Of the 228 patients with information on treatment at the next follow-up moment, 210 (92%) continued FIL, and 6 (3%), 9 (4%) and 3 (1%) changed to a TNFi, non-TNFi and JAKi respectively. In total, 193/405 (48%) patients could be included in the effectiveness analysis. Remission and low disease activity were reached in 61% (117/193) and 81% (156/193) of patients respectively. Baseline mean ±SD DAS28 was 4.9 ±0.8. The DAS28 change from baseline to follow-up was 2.5 ±1.2, resulting in a mean ±SD DAS28 of 2.4 ±1.1 at first follow-up. HAQ25 and MCID_HAQ were reached in 21% (41/193) and 70% (136/193) of patients. FIL efficacy slightly decreased with increasing line of therapy (Figure 1).

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of TARDIS patients on FIL

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<th>Value</th>
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<td>Age (mean ±SD, years)</td>
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<td>Disease duration (mean ±SD, years)</td>
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<td>SJC28 (mean ±SD)</td>
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<td>DAS28 (mean ±SD, years)</td>
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<td>HAQ-DI (mean ±SD, 0-2)</td>
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<td>PGA (mean ±SD, 0-100)</td>
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<td>Previous advanced treatment**</td>
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<td>TNFi</td>
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<td>JAKi</td>
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Legend: Number given are mean ± SD or number, proportion. TNFi = tumour necrosis factor inhibitor, JAKi = Janus Kinase inhibitor, HAQ= health assessment questionnaire, PGA= Patient Global assessment; CRP= C-reactive protein; ESR= erythrocyte sedimentation rate; TJC= tender joint count; SJC= swollen joint Count; DAS28 = disease activity score based on the 28joints. Advanced Therapy naive patients were patients starting FIL as first advanced therapy.

Figure 1. Effectiveness outcomes of FIL per treatment line

Conclusion: FIL treatment offered promising clinical outcomes after 3 months in most patients with moderately to severely active RA in a real-world setting. The work was financially supported by Galapagos.
### ADHERENCE ANALYSIS OF REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE FOR ADALIMUMAB BIOSIMILAR MSB11022 THERAPY IN RHEUMATOLOGIC DISEASES

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<tr>
<td>ANTI-IL6</td>
<td>54 (12.8)</td>
<td>19 (13.9)</td>
<td>10 (8.2)</td>
<td>16 (13.1)</td>
<td>32 (26.2)</td>
<td>22 (30.9)</td>
<td>4 (13.8)</td>
<td>2 (15.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTI-JAK</td>
<td>73 (17.3)</td>
<td>27 (19.9)</td>
<td>3 (2.5)</td>
<td>9 (74)</td>
<td>24 (19.7)</td>
<td>18 (25.4)</td>
<td>10 (34.5)</td>
<td>8 (61.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTI-TNF</td>
<td>257 (60.9)</td>
<td>52 (38.2)</td>
<td>101 (82.8)</td>
<td>80 (65.6)</td>
<td>35 (28.7)</td>
<td>10 (14.1)</td>
<td>3 (10.3)</td>
<td>1 (7.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>38 (9)</td>
<td>38 (27.9)</td>
<td>8 (6.5)</td>
<td>17 (13.9)</td>
<td>31 (25.4)</td>
<td>21 (29.6)</td>
<td>12 (41.4)</td>
<td>2 (15.4)</td>
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<td>Cycling</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>45 (33)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>73 (59.8)</td>
<td>35 (28.7)</td>
<td>8 (11.3)</td>
<td>1 (3.5)</td>
<td>2 (15.4)</td>
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<td>91 (66.9)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>49 (40.2)</td>
<td>67 (71.3)</td>
<td>63 (88.7)</td>
<td>29 (95.6)</td>
<td>11 (84.6)</td>
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<td>Conventional DMARD</td>
<td>No DMARD</td>
<td>150 (35.7)</td>
<td>24 (19.7)</td>
<td>45 (33.1)</td>
<td>29 (23.8)</td>
<td>32 (26.2)</td>
<td>20 (28.2)</td>
<td>8 (27.6)</td>
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<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>202 (47.9)</td>
<td>64 (52.5)</td>
<td>67 (49.3)</td>
<td>59 (48.4)</td>
<td>56 (45.9)</td>
<td>28 (39.4)</td>
<td>12 (41.4)</td>
<td>4 (30.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leflunomide</td>
<td>55 (13)</td>
<td>29 (23.8)</td>
<td>17 (12.5)</td>
<td>5 (5)</td>
<td>55 (45.9)</td>
<td>28 (39.4)</td>
<td>12 (41.4)</td>
<td>4 (30.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>15 (3.5)</td>
<td>5 (4.1)</td>
<td>7 (5.2)</td>
<td>5 (5)</td>
<td>9 (74)</td>
<td>11 (15.5)</td>
<td>6 (20.7)</td>
<td>3 (23.1)</td>
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<td><strong>Discontinued treatment by:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary non-response</td>
<td>19 (9.4)</td>
<td>3 (6.5)</td>
<td>15 (12.3)</td>
<td>28 (22.9)</td>
<td>14 (17.5)</td>
<td>7 (20)</td>
<td>3 (20)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary non-response</td>
<td>68 (33.5)</td>
<td>2 (4.4)</td>
<td>69 (56.6)</td>
<td>62 (50.9)</td>
<td>44 (55)</td>
<td>14 (40)</td>
<td>7 (46.7)</td>
<td>2 (22.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adverse events</td>
<td>71 (34.9)</td>
<td>18 (39.1)</td>
<td>35 (28.7)</td>
<td>28 (22.9)</td>
<td>22 (27.3)</td>
<td>12 (34.3)</td>
<td>4 (26.7)</td>
<td>4 (44.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other causes*</td>
<td>45 (22.2)</td>
<td>23 (50)</td>
<td>3 (2.4)</td>
<td>4 (3.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>2 (5.7)</td>
<td>1 (6.6)</td>
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**References:**

**Acknowledgements:**
NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Sun Cheung Employee of: Fresenius Kabi Canada, Don Truong Employee of: Fresenius Kabi Canada.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4037

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AS patients combined at 18 months after initiating MSB11022 biologic therapy. This real-world evidence analysis suggests that patients switching to MSB11022, adalimumab biosimilar, will more likely maintain on therapy compared to patients initiating MSB11022 therapy. In both cases, inflammatory arthritis patients had high adherence to MSB11022 therapy. **REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:**
NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Sun Cheung Employee of: Fresenius Kabi Canada, Don Truong Employee of: Fresenius Kabi Canada.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4037
crude incidence of serious AEs was 9.2/100PY for certolizumab and 6.6/100 PY for golimumab. The incidence of any (total) AEs was 37.1/100 PY for certolizumab and 59.8/100 PY for golimumab. The risk of serious and total AEs (primary outcomes) did not differ significantly between the study groups (Figure 1). There was also no significant difference in the risk of infections and other secondary outcomes. Persistence of treatment and reasons for interruption of therapy course also were not significantly different between certolizumab and golimumab (Table 1).

Table 1. Results of univariate and multivariate frailty Cox proportional hazards models estimating the hazard of treatment interruption with golimumab versus certolizumab users (reference). Results are hazard ratios, 95% CIs, and P values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of interruption (number of events)</th>
<th>Crude analysis</th>
<th>Adjusted for covariates*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interruption for any reason (111)†</td>
<td>1.58, 0.96 to 2.60, P=0.069</td>
<td>1.45, 0.88 to 2.40, P=0.150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interruption due to adverse events (24)</td>
<td>1.93, 0.59 to 6.34, P=0.280</td>
<td>1.78, 0.48 to 6.56, P=0.380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interruption due to inefficacy (65)</td>
<td>0.97, 0.54 to 1.74, P=0.920</td>
<td>0.92, 0.44 to 1.91, P=0.820</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted for time-fixed covariates (gender, smoking, seropositivity for RF or anti-CCP, history of malignancy, interstitial lung disease, diabetes, hypertension, renal failure, ischemic cardiomyopathy, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart failure, hypercholesterolemia, osteoporosis, and hepatitis B and C; recorded at baseline) and time-varying covariates (age, baseline DAS28, disease duration, starting year, order of treatment, concurrent use of sulfasalazine, methotrexate, leflunomide, cyclosporine and corticosteroids; recorded at the start of each course). †Except for pregnancy or disease remission.

Figure 1. Safety of golimumab versus certolizumab in RA

**Conclusion:** In this cohort study of Brazilian RA patients, we did not observe significant differences between certolizumab and golimumab in relation to safety outcomes and persistence of treatment course.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DoI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4583

**AB0429**

**EIGHT-MONTH FOLLOW-UP OF THE NON-MEDICAL SWITCH FROM ETANERCEPT BIO-ORIGINATOR TO GP-2015 OR SB4 ETANERCEPT BIOSIMILARS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIDES: A MONOCENTRIC OBSERVATIONAL STUDY**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritides


**Background:** After the expiration of bio-originators’ licenses, the development of less expensive biosimilars has prompted the switch to these drugs. Data on the switch from etanercept (ETA) bio-origginators to biosimilars are reassuring [1-2] but still limited.

**Objectives:** This observational study evaluated the real-life effectiveness of a non-medical switch from ETA bio-originator to GP-2015 or SB4 biosimilars in our cohort of patients with inflammatory chronic arthritis.

**Methods:** We enrolled consecutive adult patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and ankylosing spondylitis (AS) classified according to standard criteria switched from ETA bio-originator to GP-2015 or SB4 biosimilars for administrative/economic reasons. The date of the switch was the baseline (T0). Patients were reassessed after 4 (T4) and 8 months (T8). At T0, T4, and T8, data on demographic and clinical/laboratory features were registered. Patient-reported outcomes (PROs), such as visual analog scale (VAS 0-10) for pain and global assessment (PGA) and functional status by Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) were used, together with disease-specific scores (DAS28-CRP for RA, DAPSA for PsA, ASDAS-CRP and BASDAI for AS). We assessed the same data at the time of early discontinuation for inefficacy (loss or lack of efficacy – LoE or LaE) or adverse events (AEs).

**Results:** One hundred and twelve patients switched from ETA bio-originator to GP-2015 [45 RA, F:M=33:12, median age 67 years (IQR 24), median disease duration 214 months (IQR 180), median exposure to bio-originator 126 months (IQR 97), 48 PsA, F:M=18:30, median age 59 years (IQR 18), median disease duration 168 months (IQR 120), median exposure to bio-originator 120 months (IQR 96); 19 AS, F:M=7:12, median age 55 years (IQR 16), median disease duration 162 months (IQR 245), median exposure to bio-originator 132 months (IQR 89)] No differences were found in the clinical and laboratory parameters compared to T0 in RA and PsA, while AS patients showed an improvement of BASDAI at T8 compared to T4 (p=0.0273). Interestingly, at T8 RA patients experienced a worsening in the HAQ (p=0.0313) with respect to T0 (figure 1A) and PsA patients had a worsening of VAS pain compared to T4 (p=0.0371) (figure 1B). Four (8.8%) RA patients discontinued GP-2015 at T4 due to AEs (1 for recurrent infection of upper airways, 1 for injection site reaction, 1 for skin cancer, 1 for breast cancer). One (2%) PsA patient discontinued GP-2015 at T4 due to AE (oral ulcers). Twenty-eight patients switched from ETA bio-originator to SB4 [14 RA, F:M=13:1, median age 63.5 years (IQR 33), median disease duration 144 months (IQR 206), median exposure to bio-originator 84 months (IQR 96)]; 11 PsA, F:M=6:5, median age 54 years (IQR 12), median disease duration 205 months (IQR 198), median exposure to bio-originator 177 months (IQR 164); 3 AS, F:M=3:0, median age 56 years, median disease duration 210 months, median exposure to bio-originator 120 months]. An improvement of DAPSA at T4 compared to T0 was observed in PsA patients (p=0.0469). At T8, no differences were found compared to T0. One (9%) PsA patient discontinued GP-2015 at T4 due to AE (infections of upper airways, 1 for injection site reaction, 1 for skin cancer, 1 for breast cancer). One (2%) PsA patient discontinued GP-2015 at T4 due to AE (oral ulcers).

**Conclusion:** Our data indicate that the switch to GP-2015 or SB4 ETA biosimilars from ETA bio-originator does not bear clinical and laboratory differences in patients with chronic arthropathies. The worse outcome in PROs, which we also observed in the adalimumab bio-originator to biosimilar switch (3), does not reflect a worsening of disease activity indexes and could indicate a possible nocebo response.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DoI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4946
AB0430

MEDICATION ADHERENCE IN PATIENTS AFFECTED BY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH BIOLOGIC OR TARGET-ETIOLOGIC DMARDs: EVALUATION OF PREDICTIVE FACTORS IN AN ITALIAN MONOCENTRIC COHORT

Keywords: Quality of care, Patient information and education, Rheumatoid arthritis

L. Moschetti1, C. Bazzani2, F. Delvecchio3, F. Franceschini1.
1Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia and University of Brescia, Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy

Background: In rheumatoid arthritis (RA), medication non-adherence can be considered one of the primary determinants of therapeutic failure.

Objectives: To evaluate 1) the prevalence of treatment adherence in RA patients (pts) treated with biologic or target-etiologic DMARDs followed in a tertiary rheumatologic center and 2) the factors associated to a better treatment adherence.

Methods: An observational retrospective single center study was conducted enrolling adult RA pts treated with b/ts-DMARDs, in monotherapy or in combination with methotrexate. Demographic data, clinical characteristics and outcomes measures were collected. To evaluate the comorbidities the Rheumatic Disease Comorbidity Index (RDCI) was used. Treatment adherence was assessed through self-reported adherence rate (SRAR) rated on a visual analogue scale (VAS, 0-100 mm) and 5-item Compliance Questionnaire for Rheumatology (CQFR). Pts were considered adherent if SRAR ≥80/100. All the participants were required to complete: VAS pain questionnaire, Patient Global Assessment (PGA), Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), Depression Anxiety Stress Scales (DASS21), Insomnia Severity Index and self-reported VAS therapy satisfaction scale (0-100 mm, higher values indicate higher satisfaction).

Results: Among the 116 pts (Table 1) evaluated, 57% described themselves as being adherent to their treatment (median SRAR: 80 [60-90]; median satisfaction level: 80 [90-90]). According to CQRS, 97% of the pts presented a high adherence level; 28/116 pts declared a treatment suspension during the previous month; in most cases the withdrawal was reasonable (due to vaccinations, infections, surgery). The comparison between adherent and non-adherent pts is shown in Table 1: a significant association between non-adherence and higher DAS28, HAQ and VAS pain scores was observed; in addition, an association was found between adherence and treatment satisfaction level. No significant differences in demographic features, educational level, work status, comorbidities and therapeutic formulation/plan/type were found. Patient’s reported outcomes scores regarding insomnia/anxiety/depression/stress were higher in non-adherent pts but not statistically different.

Conclusion: Treatment adherence is still a complex process difficult to measure. Our data show a discrepancy between SRAR and CQRS adherence assessment (57% vs 97%). In our cohort of pts, regularly followed-up in a tertiary outpatient clinic, the prevalence of adherence is overall higher as compared with that reported in literature (medication adherence in RA pts: 30-80%)[1]. In this study, treatment adherence seems to be associated with a higher therapy satisfaction level and a lower disease activity, pain perception, and physical disability. However, a cause-effect relationship still remains difficult to analyze.

REFERENCE:

Table 1.

| Age, years | 57 (48-67) | 59 (53-68) | 0.16 |
| Female sex | 53 (60) | 37 (74) | 0.42 |
| Worker | 33 (50) | 26 (52) | 0.83 |
| High educational level | 36 (55) | 21 (42) | 0.75 |
| Disease duration, years | 11 (7-16) | 12 (6-18) | 0.71 |
| FRs and anti-COA | 44 (67) | 30 (67) | 0.46 |
| Combination with methotrexate | 35 (53) | 29 (58) | 0.09 |
| mDMARD (sx) | 40 (61) | 35 (50) | 0.25 |
| tDMARD (sx) | 26 (39) | 25 (50) | 0.25 |
| RDCI [0-9] | 1 [0-2] | 1 [0-2] | 0.67 |
| Therapy Satisfaction level [0-100] | 90 [60-100] | 70 [60-80] | <0.01 |
| PGA [0-100] | 30 [50-100] | 50 [30-70] | <0.01 |
| VAS pain [0-100] | 30 [50-100] | 60 [40-70] | <0.01 |
| DAS28 [2.6-9.0] | 1.8 [1.5-3.3] | 2.5 [1.9-3.6] | <0.01 |
| HAQ [0-3] | 0.3 [0-0.6] | 0.7 [0-1.0] | 0.01 |
| Insomnia Severity Index [0-28] | 7 [3-12] | 9 [6-14] | 0.09 |
| DAS21 depression [0-42] | 6 [12-12] | 8 [4-12] | 0.22 |
| DAS21 anxiety [0-42] | 4 [12-12] | 8 [12-12] | 0.07 |
| DAS21 stress [0-42] | 9 [4-16] | 12 [7-18] | 0.07 |

Continuous variables are expressed as median [IQR] and compared with Mann Whitney test; categorical variables are expressed as n (%) and compared with Chi squared test/Fisher exact test.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0431

CANAKINUMAB AS FIRST-LINE BIOLOGICAL THERAPY IN STILL’S DISEASE AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SYSTEMIC AND THE CHRONIC-ARTICULAR COURSES: REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL AIDA REGISTRY

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritis, Registries, bDMARD

1University of Siena, Department of Medical Sciences, Surgery and Neurosciences, Research Center of Systemic Autoinflammatory Diseases and Behçet’s Disease Clinic, University of Siena, Siena, Italy; 2University of Siena, Siena, Italy; 3University of Palermo, University of Palermo, Department Pro.Sa.M.I. “G. Dilettandro”; University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy; 4University of Bari Aldo Moro, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Emergency and Organ Transplantation, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy; 5University of Florence, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence, Florence, Italy; 6Florence, Italy; 7Monash University Department of Medicine, Monash Medical Centre, Monash University Department of Medicine, Melbourne, VIC, Australia; 8Melbourne, Australia; 9Ospedale “Giovanni XXIII”; Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Consorzio Policlinico Bari, Pediatric Rheumatology Center, Department of Pediatrics, Ospedale “Giovanni XXIII” Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Consorzio Policlinico, Bari, Italy; 10University of Palermo, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy; 11University of Perugia, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy; 12University of Turin, Rheumatology, University of Turin, Turin, Italy; 13University of Milan, Division of Immunology, Transplants and Infectious Diseases, Universita' Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy; 14University of Bari Aldo Moro, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy; 15University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy; 16University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy; 17University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy; 18University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy; 19Department of Medicine, University of Florence, Florence, Italy; 20University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy; 21National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece; 22University of Florence, Florence, Italy; 23University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy

Background: Treatment with biotechnological anti-interleukin (IL)-1 agents is recommended in patients with Still’s disease especially in cases refractory to glucocorticoids and conventional disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (cDMARDs), avoiding a long-term glucocorticoids exposure. In cases with refractory arthritis, IL-6 inhibitors have shown to be effective on articular inflammatory involvement.

Objectives: The objective of the present study is to evaluate any difference in the effectiveness of the IL-1β antagonist canakinumab prescribed as first-line biologic agent between the systemic and the chronic-articular Still’s disease.

The objective of the present study is to evaluate any difference in the effectiveness of the IL-1β antagonist canakinumab prescribed as first-line biologic agent between the systemic and the chronic-articular Still’s disease.
Methods: Data were drawn from the retrospective phase of the AutoInflammatory Disease Alliance (AIDA) international registry dedicated to Still’s disease. Patients affected by Still’s disease classified according to internationally accepted criteria (Yamaguchi criteria and/or Fautrel criteria) and treated with canakinumab as first-line biologic agent were enrolled.

Results: A total of 26 patients (17 females, 9 males; 18 patients developing Still’s disease after the age of 16 years) were enrolled; 16 (61.5%) patients suffered from the systemic pattern of the disease; 10 (38.5%) patients suffered from the chronic-articular type. No differences were observed between the systemic and the chronic-articular Still’s disease in the frequency of complete response, of flares after the start of canakinumab (p=0.701) and in the persistence in therapy (p=0.62). No statistical differences were observed between the two groups after 3 months, 12 months and at the last assessment in the decrease of: the systemic activity score (p=0.06, p<0.17, p=0.17, respectively); the disease activity score on 28 joints (p=0.54, p=0.37, p=0.98, respectively); the glucocorticoid dosage (p=0.15, p=0.50, and p=0.50, respectively); the use of concomitant disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (p=0.10, p=1.00, and p=1.00, respectively). No statistically significant differences were observed in the decrease of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (p=0.34), C reactive protein (p=0.48), and serum ferritin levels (p=0.34) after the start of canakinumab.

Conclusion: Canakinumab employed for Still’s disease has been effective in controlling both clinical and laboratory manifestations disregarding the type of disease course when used as first-line biotechnological agent. These excellent results might have been further improved by the early start of IL-1 inhibition.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5540

AB0432

COMPARISON OF SYMPTOMATIC AND DISEASE-MODIFYING TREATMENT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WITH CONCOMITANT FIBROMyalGIA

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Fibromyalgia

B. A. Hiba1, S. Miladi1, F. Alia1, H. Bousaa1, M. Yasmine1, L. Souabni1, K. Queretche1, K. Selma1, C. Selma1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, L. Ahmad1, Hôpital Mongi Slim, Rheumatology, Marsa, Tunisia

Background: There is evidence that concomitant fibromyalgia (FM) among rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients makes the management of RA challenging by inflicting subjective disease activity parameters.

Objectives: Thus, the aim of this study was to compare symptomatic and disease-modifying treatments in RA patients with and without concomitant FM.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study including patients with an established RA according to the 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria. All patients were screened for concomitant FM in 2016 ACR criteria. Patients were divided into 2 groups: RA and RA+FM. Demographic and RA characteristics were collected. P<0.05 was accepted for significance. Multiple linear regression analysis performed, adjusting for clinical and demographic variables.

Results: Eighty patients distributed into 40 patients in each group were recruited. Epidemiological characteristics, RA characteristics and disease activity scores were comparable between groups. Costs and atafniouex subluxation were significantly more frequent in RA+FM group (p=0.006 and p=0.049 respectively). No significant difference in corticosteroids prescription was found between the groups (p=0.88), nor in non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs prescription (p=0.48). Of the RA patients with concomitant FM, 52% were treated with biological therapy vs. 18% of RA patients without concomitant FM (p=0.04). Tumor necrosis factor inhibitors were the most frequently prescribed in the two groups (47.5% of RA patients with FM vs 12.5 in RA patients, p=0.03). No significant difference was noted between the groups regarding conventional Disease-modifying anti-arthreumatic drugs (DMARDs) prescription (p=0.052). Multiple linear regression in RA+FM group showed that FM is an independent factor for biological DMARDs prescription (B=0.284, p=0.018). Conclusion: Our study showed that concomitant FM in patients with RA was associated with a higher use of biological treatments. This raises the question of whether the more frequent use of biologics in these patients is justified by inflammation, or by persistent pain and other centrally mediated symptoms.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0433

BIOLOGICAL THERAPIES SURVIVAL FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS SPONDYLOARTHRITIS AND JUVENILE ONSET ARTHRITIS. A COHORT STUDY FROM BIOBADAGUAY

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, bDMARD

G. Avila1, S. Cabrerra-Villalba1, P. Melgarejo2, L. Roman3, Z. Morel3, R. Rolón1, M. Zarza1, M. Soto Esteve2, E. Leiva3, A. Amnárrila3, P. Pusiñen3, C. Parodi1, C. Díaz3, B. Acevedo6, A. Fernandez7, V. Valinoti1, P. DE Abreu Trigueros3, 1Hospital Central del Instituto de Previsión Social, Rheumatology, Paraguay; 2Hospital de Villar Elisa, Rheumatology, Villar Elisa, Paraguay; 3Hospital Central del Instituto de Previsión Social, Reumatología Pediatrica, Asunción, Paraguay; 4Instituto Nacional De Reumatología, Rheumatology, Montevideo, Uruguay; 5Hospital de Clinicas de la Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Rheumatology, Asunción, Paraguay; 6COSEM, Rheumatology, Montevideo; 7COSEP, Sociedad Paraguaya de Reumatología, Rheumatology, a, Paraguay

Background: BIOBADAGUAY is the Paraguayan/Uruguayan registry of adverse events in patients with inflammatory rheumatic conditions under biologic therapy (BT). The registry includes patients with different diagnosis that share similar biological therapies indication. However, different pathogenesis, patients' characteristics and treatment options can affect the survival of the BT.

Objectives: To analyze survival of biological therapies among patients with chronic inflammatory arthritides in the BIOBADAGUAY registry.

Methods: Patients with chronic inflammatory arthritides (CIA) such us rheumatoid arthritides (RA), spondylarthritises (SpA), psoriatic arthritides (PsA) and juvenile onset arthritides (JIA) enrolled in BIOBADAGUAY where analyzed. Other diseases included in the registry were grouped as others. Drug survival and clinical and epidemiological predictors were studied. Fewer than 25 registries were not included in the study. Survival analysis was performed using Kaplan-Meier estimators, and Cox proportional hazard models were used to estimate hazard ratios (HRs).

Results: A total of 1378 treatments (876 RA, 176 SpA, 40 JIA, 88 PsA, 98 others) were included. The mean BT survival according to diagnosis was 300.9 (95%CI, 230.6-444.4) weeks (wks) for RA; 541.6 (95%CI, 409.6-541.6) wks for SpA; 154.1 (95%CI, 125.0-194.7) wks for JIA and 555.3 (95%CI, 282.1-616.1) wks for PsA. In the general analysis, when survival was compared between different diagnosis, it was found that BT survival for SpA patients (p<0.05; HR=1.23 [95% CI 0.97-1.56]) was higher than other CIA. On the other hand, JIA diagnosis was significantly associated with a lower BT survival (p<0.05; HR=1.85 [95% CI 1.36-2.52]). In the general analysis, no significant differences between BT were found (p>0.05). When each drug survival was analyzed according to diagnosis, adalimumab showed a significant difference in SpA patients (p<0.05; HR=0.55 [95% CI, 0.39-0.78]) and JIA patients (p<0.05; HR=1.8 [95% CI 1.36-2.52]). Etanercept had a significant difference in RA patients (p<0.05; HR=0.57 [95% CI, 0.40-0.82]) and JIA patients (p<0.05; HR=2.07 [95% CI, 1.39-3.06]). Following these results we analyzed JIA patients and found that remission was the principal reason of discontinuation in this group of patients (p<0.005, HR=10.70 [95% CI, 5.91-19.36]). Multivariable analysis showed that the number of previous BTs (p<0.01, HR=1.18 [95% CI, 1.03-1.34], corticosteroid treatment (p<0.05, HR=1.18 [95% CI, 0.91-1.40]), SpA presentation (p<0.01, HR=0.68 [95% CI 0.51-0.91]) and JIA diagnosis (p<0.02; HR=1.14 [95% CI, 1.06-2.02]) were associated with BT survival.

Conclusion: In this study we found different survival profiles according to diagnosis. This could be related to different pathogenesis, discontinuation motives and treatment options in different health systems.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Gabriela Avila Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, Sonia Cabrera-Villalba Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, Lourdes Roman Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, ZOICO MOREL Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, Roger Rolin Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, Mariela Zarza Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, Macarena Soto Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, Paola Pulisneri Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, Clyde Parodi Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, Carolina Diaz: None declared, Beien Acevedo: None declared, ALEJANDRO FERNANDO: None declared, Vanizia Valinoti Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche, PAOLA DE ABREU TRIGUEROS Grant/research support from: Casa Boller - Roche.

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AB0434

RHEUMATOID FACTOR AS PREDICTOR OF RESPONSE TO RITUXIMAB

Keywords: bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

B. Touil1, N. Akasib1, I. El Mezouar1, T. Harzy1, 1Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University, Rheumatology Department, FEZ, Morocco

Background: In Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), the presence of rheumatoid factor (RF) indicate poor prognosis. Strategies searching biomarkers that predict response to biologic therapies allowing the selection of patients with the highest
AB0435

ADHERENCE TO BIOLOGIC THERAPIES IN INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES: INFLUENCE OF ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

F. Wertiann Ep Amin,1 I. Mahmoud,1 S. Bouden1, R. Leila1, R. Tekaya1, A. Ben Tekaya1, H. Sahli1, O. Saidane1, L. Abdelmoula1, H. Sahloul1, O. Saidane1, M. Elleuch1,1 Tunis, Rheumatology of Charles Nicolle Hospital, Tunis, Tunisia; 2Tunis, Rheumatology of Rabta Hospital, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Inflammatory rheumatic diseases are a debilitating disease affecting the joints and periarticular structures and leading, more or less rapidly, to cartilage and bone destruction. It is a major source of chronic pain and physical, psychological, and social disability, it affect approximately 1% of the world’s population [1]. For more than 20 years, biotherapies have revolutionized the treatment of these inflammatory diseases and have largely contributed to the improvement of their prognosis [2]. Adherence to biologic therapies conditions the effectiveness of the treatments then the improvement of patients’ quality of life [3].

Objectives: To evaluate and compare adherence to biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) according to the route of administration and the molecule used (Infliximab, Tocilizumab, Etanercept, Adalimumab, Certolizumab, and Golimumab) in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases.

Methods: This is a descriptive cross-sectional study with repeated data collection, bi-centric carried out in the rheumatology departments and outpatient clinics at Charles Nicolle Hospital and Rabta Hospital in Tunis and conducted over a period of 01 year and 02 months between 02/02/2021 and 03/04/2022. 71 adult patients with rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritits or juvenile idiopathic arthritis were recruited, their adherence rate in the last 3 months before inclusion should be >80%. The collection of socio-demographic, clinical and therapeutic data was established with the help of a pre-established form, from medical files completed by questioning the patients during a direct interview or through a telephone communication. Adherence rate was calculated by determining the ratio of treatments cures (number of biologic injections taken during a year divided by the number of annual biologic injections prescribed).

Results: Within the study population, adherence was estimated at 85.9%; in the group of patients using intravenous biotherapy was 82.1% (Infliximab 86%, Tocilizumab 75% p=0.04) and in the group of patients using subcutaneous treatment was 87% (Golimumab 89%, Etanercept 92%, Certolizumab 89%, Adalimumab 87% p=0.3). Adherence to biologic therapy was significantly higher in the subcutaneous group than in the intravenous group (p=0.01). The causes of poor adherence presented by the patients in this study were: stock-outs of biological treatment and delay in renewal by the national health insurance (CNAM) in thirteen-eight cases (54%p<0.001), recurrent infections in thirty-three cases (46% p<0.005) and the COVID 19 pandemic and its consequences in thirty patients (42%, p=0.28).

Conclusion: Adherence to biologic treatment is influenced by the route of administration, drugs type, recurrent infections and drugs availability. All this factors must be treated to improve therapeutic adherence then the efficiency of the biologic therapy which contributes to the preservation of physical capacities and an improvement in the quality of life.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6136
Table 1. Immunogenicity data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOLTARE-RA</th>
<th>VOLTARE-CD</th>
<th>VOLTARE-Pso</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BI 695501</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>nAb positive</td>
<td>nAb positive</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>Baseline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>Baseline</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Proportion of patients with antibodies (ADAs and nAbAs) over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA positive</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Minor differences in immunogenicity (ADAs, ADA titles and nAbAs) between BI 695501 and adalimumab RP were observed across these 3 indications. The proportion of ADA- and nAb-positive patients increased from baseline in all 3 RCTs, and were similar in RA and CD RCTs, but rates were higher in PsO RCT. Subgroup analysis by patient sex showed the same trend. These differences may be partially explained by concomitant background therapy. In RA trial, stable doses of ADA, 6-MP or MTX in 36% of CD patients and the absence of background therapy in PsO RCT. Comparisons are limited by different visit schedules in the trials. Historical comparisons to RP data are complicated by recent differences in regulatory requirements for increased ADA assay sensitivity and stringency for biosimilar products than those originally used for the RP. Acid dissociation followed by an electrochemiluminescence assay (ECL: MSD platform; Meso Scale Diagnostics LLC, USA). Assay sensitivity was 50 ng/mL, and drug tolerance ±30 μg/mL (free drug) at the low positive control level.

Results: Data are presented in Table 1.

**V. Strand**, S. Bender, D. Mccabe, Stanford University School of Medicine, Immunology/Rheumatology, Palo Alto, United States of America; **Alyxam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.,** Biostatistics, Cambridge, United States of America; **Boehringer Ingelheim USA, Immunology/Biosimilars, Ridgefield, United States of America**

**Background**: The VOLTARE trials program compared safety, efficacy, and immunogenicity of biosimilar BI 695501 with adalimumab reference product (RP) for indications including moderate-severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA), Crohn’s disease (CD), and chronic plaque psoriasis (PsO). Details of each active-comparator, randomized controlled trial (RCT) are published. [1,2,3]

**Objectives**: Here we compare immunogenicity across these indications and by patient sex.

**Methods**: Immunogenicity was assessed at various timepoints by the proportion of patients with anti-drug antibodies (ADAs) and neutralising antibodies (nAbs), using acid dissociation followed by an electrochemiluminescence assay (ECL: MSD platform; Meso Scale Diagnostics LLC, USA). Assay sensitivity was 50 ng/mL, and drug tolerance ±30 μg/mL (free drug) at the low positive control level.

**Results**: Data are presented in Table 1.
(0.6%). Relapses were observed in 24 (14.4%) patients while on biologic therapy optimization, being more frequent with certolizumab and abatacept. The lowest rates of relapse were observed with infliximab, adalimumab and etanercept, while certolizumab and abatacept had the shorter time to relapse (table 1). Overall, the relapse rate was 5.5 per 100 patient-years with RA at risk (p=0.021) (figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Tapering bDMARD strategy was effective in our large RA cohort with 85.6% of patients remaining in remission during the follow up. Adalimumab, etanercept and tocilizumab were the bDMARDs with the longest time to relapse. These findings support the use of the tapering strategy in patients with established RA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Median (IQR) time to relapse (years) according to bDMARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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**Table 1. Demographic and clinical features in patients with and without IMSL.**

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<tr>
<td>Age, mean ± SD, years</td>
<td>55.5 ± 14.0</td>
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<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (55.6)</td>
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<td>BMI, mean ± SD</td>
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<td>Age at diagnosis, mean ± SD, years</td>
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In a multivariate regression model, number of previous bDMARDs (OR 2.13; 95% CI 1.47 to 3.10, p=0.001) and treatment with adalimumab (OR 4.60; 95% CI 1.96 to 10.80, p=0.001) were statistically significant predictive factors for IMSL development.

**Conclusion:** In our cohort, we found that a younger age at diagnosis, longer disease duration, longer duration of bDMARD treatment, higher number of previous bDMARDs and treatment with adalimumab were independently associated with an increased risk of IMSL development. In the multivariate regression model, number of previous bDMARDs and exposure to adalimumab were statistically significant predictive factors for IMSL development. Further research is required to better understand and recognize the risk factors for IMSL.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

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**Keywords:** Skin, bDMARD

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Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an independent risk factor for osteoporosis, which influences bone remodeling processes via increased production of proinflammatory cytokines, especially tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-α, or through hormone-mediated mechanisms. The presence of other classical risk factors for osteoporosis additionally raises the risk of changes in bone tissue. Some of the most commonly used biological drugs in the osteoporosis treatment are those that inhibit TNF-α action. Apart from reducing inflammation, these TNF-inhibitors suppress osteoclast activity.

Objectives: To determine the impact of osteoporosis risk factors on the bone turnover marker levels in RA patients treated with TNF-inhibitors.

Methods: This 12-month-long study included 50 patients with RA who received a drug from the TNF-inhibitor group. In order to enter the study, patients had to fulfill certain inclusion/exclusion criteria considering the RA duration, the RA treatment method, the degree of joint damage, and the presence of other diseases affecting bone tissue. Data regarding traditional risk factors for osteoporosis and fractures were collected, such as menopause length, body mass index, previous fractures due to minor trauma, family history of osteoporosis and osteoporotic fractures, reduced physical activity, cigarette smoking, and alcohol consumption. Serum levels of the bone synthesis marker procollagen type I N propeptide (P1NP), and the bone resorption marker beta C-terminal telopeptide of type I collagen (b-CTX) were assessed via ECLIA method at the baseline and upon TNF-inhibitor therapy completion.

Results: The mean age in this cohort was 51.6 years. A higher percentage increase in P1NP and b-CTX was recorded in patients aged below 50 years, as well as those of normal weight (BMI = 18.50−24.99 kg/m²). P1NP: Wilk's lambda =0.83, F = 9.56, p = 0.003; b-CTX: Wilk's lambda = 0.77, F = 14.16, p = 0.000). A greater increase in the P1NP and b-CTX levels was also observed in non-smokers (28.70% and 27.50%) relative to smokers (27.50% and 7.75%). Menopause length had a statistically significant effect on both P1NP (Wilk's lambda = 0.84, F = 8.18, p = 0.006) and b-CTX (Wilk's lambda = 0.77, F = 13.31, p = 0.001) concentrations, whereby the highest percentage increase in P1NP (29.85%) was related to menopause duration below 2 years. On the other hand, the greatest b-CTX increase (10.2%) was recorded in patients that had entered menopause 2−3 years ago. Physical activity had a significant effect on changes in P1NP (Wilk's lambda = 0.84, F = 8.67, p = 0.005) as well as b-CTX (Wilk's lambda = 0.78, F = 13.30, p = 0.001) values. Further, P1NP percentage increase was higher in patients without family history of osteoporosis, while the opposite was true for the b-CTX levels. Finally, number of previous fractures was inversely correlated with the P1NP and b-CTX percentage increase.

Conclusion: After 12-month TNF-inhibitor treatment, although a significant increase in both bone turnover markers was achieved, it was greater in the bone synthesis marker P1NP. Younger age, normal body weight, shorter menopause duration, greater physical activity, negative osteoporosis family history, and non-smoking emerged as the most important factors associated with the P1NP percentage increase.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Discussion of biases: Changes in bone biochemical markers due to the influence of osteoporosis risk factors in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with tumor necrosis factor inhibitors.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2314

AB0441 JANUS KINASES INHIBITORS THERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: AN OVERVIEW OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSES

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Qualitative research methods

X. Shen1, X. Guo2, X. Gao1,2, J. Zhang3, X. Hou4, Z. Feng1, 1China Three Gorges University, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, China Three Gorges University, Yichang, China; 2China Three Gorges University, Institute of Rheumatology, the First College of Clinical Medical Sciences, China Three Gorges University, Yichang, China; 3China Three Gorges University, Medical College of Basic Sciences, China Three Gorges University, Yichang, China

Background: Janus kinases (JAK) inhibitors are a family of intracellular tyrosine kinases that act as hubs in the signaling process of many cytokine receptors, mediating inflammation and autoimmune diseases. It was reported that JAK inhibitors played an important role in inhibiting bone destruction by inhibiting the phosphorylation of proteins. In recent years, JAK inhibitors have been widely used to treat Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and proved to have an obvious curative effect. However, the efficacy and safety of the clinical use of JAK inhibitors need to be further verified.

Objectives: To access the methodological, reporting and evidence quality of systematic reviews and meta-analyses of JAK inhibitors for RA.

Methods: We comprehensively searched the literature in CNKI, Wanfang Data, VIP, PubMed, Web of Science databases from inception to November 2022. A Measurement Tool to Assess systematic Reviews (AMSTAR-2) tool and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) were used to access the methodological and reporting quality. The level of evidence quality was evaluated by employing the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) scale.

Results: The AMSTAR-2 tool showed that half of the included literature had low quality, and the other 6 literatures had a very low quality. The study process lacked certain normativity, which had a certain impact on the implementation of the study and the evaluation of outcomes. The PRISMA statement showed that there were numerous vulnerabilities in the methodology module of each document, which was mainly manifested in the scheme and registration. The GRADE analyses showed that the quality of the evidence for the outcome measures was moderate to low. The results showed that JAK inhibitors had certain advantages in the proportion of patients with ACR20, 50 and 70 after treatment for 3 months or 6 months. In addition, this study found that JAK inhibitors could alleviate adverse reactions. Furthermore, all the included literature had certain deficiencies in randomization, blinding, allocation, etc. There was a risk of bias, which directly reduced the evidence level of RCT trials and showed that the included studies had defects in the design of trial protocols.

Conclusion: The effectiveness of JAK inhibitors for RA has certain advantages compared with placebo, and more studies need to be demonstrated than other drugs. However, the safety is uncertain and need further explored.

Keywords: JAK inhibitors Rheumatoid arthritis; AMSTAR-2; PRISMA; GRADE.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Funding: This project was supported by grants from National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 81703783 and 81503415).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2496

AB0442 RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS ON JAK INHIBITORS AT SINGLE CENTRE IN THE UK

Keywords: Safety, Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs

D. Nagra1, K. Bechman1, M. Russell1, E. Alvey1, C. Baldwin1, G. Bird1, S. Steer1, C. Byrne1, K. Lawan1, V. Vescovi1, M. Adams1, M. Nursoly1, S. Norton1, A. Mahto1, A. Rutherford1, J. Galloway1, E. Nkhipgorou1, King’s College London, Centre for Rheumatic Disease, London, United Kingdom

Background: There are limited real world data on the use of JAK inhibitors (JAKi). In 2022, the EMA suggested that JAKi should only be used if alternative therapies are not available in patients over 65 years, smokers or in those with cardiovascular or cancer risk factors.

Objectives: We conducted a retrospective study to describe the demographics, duration of therapy and adverse events profile of patients prescribed JAKi.

Methods: Baseline data including age, gender, smoking status, ethnicity, co-morbidities, cardiovascular risk factors, rheumatic diagnosis, concomitant csDMARD use and prior biological therapies was collected. Duration on therapy and reasons for stopping JAKi were identified. A Cox proportional hazard model was used to plot survival of drug therapy, by JAKi drug. Data was analysed on the STATA platform.

Results: In total, 151 patients were prescribed a JAKi since 2017. The average age was 55, with a female predominance, (n=125, 83%), and the majority had rheumatoid arthritis. Baricitinib and Filgotinib represented the most commonly prescribed JAKi. Over ¼ of the cohort were using JAKi monotherapy (28%). For those on combination therapy, methotrexate was the most commonly prescribed (53%). The median number of prior biologics was 1 (IQR 1-2), with TNFi the most frequently prescribed (66%). 48% had cardiovascular risk factors or cardio- vascular disease; this was more prevalent in patients prescribed baricitinib or triflartitin compared to upadacitinib or filgotinib (57%) versus (38%). During JAKi therapy 3 patients developed cancer, 2 had VTEs (both on Baricitinib) and 5
had new mental health diagnoses. The reason for stopping therapy was equally split between drug failure (46%) and adverse events (45%). Drug survival over 2 years was numerically higher for Filgotinib and Upadacitinib. Cycling between individual JAKi are likely to reflect drug availability and emergence of safety warnings over time.

**Table 1.**

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<th>N=151</th>
<th>N=43</th>
<th>N=43</th>
<th>N=32</th>
<th>N=33</th>
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<td>Age, (median, SD)</td>
<td>55 (14)</td>
<td>54 (16)</td>
<td>57 (13)</td>
<td>58 (11)</td>
<td>51 (13)</td>
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<td>Gender, female, (n,%),</td>
<td>125 (82.8%)</td>
<td>36 (83.7%)</td>
<td>37 (86.0%)</td>
<td>28 (87.5%)</td>
<td>24 (72.7%)</td>
<td>0.36</td>
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<td>Smoking status, (n, %)</td>
<td>Ex-smoker</td>
<td>9 (6.0%)</td>
<td>3 (7.0%)</td>
<td>3 (7.0%)</td>
<td>1 (3.1%)</td>
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<td>Current Smoker</td>
<td>8 (5.3%)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3 (9.4%)</td>
<td>3 (9.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethnicity, (n, %)</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>69 (47.3%)</td>
<td>24 (58.5%)</td>
<td>18 (41.9%)</td>
<td>14 (46.7%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>28 (19.2%)</td>
<td>7 (17.1%)</td>
<td>9 (20.9%)</td>
<td>9 (30.0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Asian</td>
<td>26 (17.8%)</td>
<td>5 (12.2%)</td>
<td>7 (16.3%)</td>
<td>5 (16.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>23 (15.8%)</td>
<td>5 (12.2%)</td>
<td>9 (20.9%)</td>
<td>2 (6.7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnosis, (n, %)</td>
<td>RA</td>
<td>146 (96.7%)</td>
<td>42 (97.7%)</td>
<td>43 (100.0%)</td>
<td>30 (93.8%)</td>
<td>31 (93.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other - PSA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (2.5%)</td>
<td>1 (3.1%)</td>
<td>2 (6.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ank Spon</td>
<td>1 (0.7%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (3.1%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>CTD overlap</td>
<td>1 (0.7%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (3.1%)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year JAK commenced</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CVS risk factor/disease</td>
<td>ex/current smoker, DM, Chol</td>
<td>73 (48.3%)</td>
<td>25 (58.1%)</td>
<td>21 (48.8%)</td>
<td>18 (56.2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prior JAK comorbidity</td>
<td>VTE</td>
<td>4 (2.6%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (4.7%)</td>
<td>2 (6.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>9 (6.0%)</td>
<td>4 (9.3%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>1 (3.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>33 (21.9%)</td>
<td>7 (16.3%)</td>
<td>11 (25.6%)</td>
<td>8 (25.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post JAK new comorbidity</td>
<td>Cholesterol</td>
<td>11 (7.3%)</td>
<td>4 (9.3%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (9.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>3 (2.0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>IHD</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VTE</td>
<td>2 (1.3%)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>2 (6.2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>5 (3.3%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>5 (3.3%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK therapy stopped</td>
<td>56 (37.0%)</td>
<td>25 (58.1%)</td>
<td>3 (6.9%)</td>
<td>20 (62.5%)</td>
<td>8 (24.2%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reason for stopping</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>25 (46.4%)</td>
<td>7 (28.0%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
<td>15 (75.0%)</td>
<td>2 (25.0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary failure</td>
<td>14 (25.0%)</td>
<td>7 (28.0%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
<td>2 (10.0%)</td>
<td>4 (50.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary failure</td>
<td>12 (21.4%)</td>
<td>8 (32.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>2 (10.0%)</td>
<td>2 (25.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>2 (3.6%)</td>
<td>1 (4.0%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
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<td>Not documented</td>
<td>3 (5.4%)</td>
<td>2 (8.0%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.**

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Deepak Nagra Consultant of: Fees from abbvie, Katie Bechan Grant/research support from: Versus Arthritis and NIH, Mark Russell Speakers bureau: Lilly, Galapagos, Biogen and Menarini, and support. Attend- ing meetings from Lilly, Pfizer, Janssen and UCB, Consultant of: Lilly, Edward Alveyen: None declared, christopher baldwin: None declared, georgina bird: None declared, Sophia Steer: None declared, Corrine Byrne: None declared, Kirsty Lawan: None declared, valeria vescovi: None declared, maryam adas Consultant of: Abbvie, Myeryn nurscy: None declared, Sam Norton Speakers bureau: jans- sen and pfizer, Arti Mahto Speakers bureau: Speaker fees galapagos, abgove, GE, Andrew Rutherford: None declared, James Galloway Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Biovitrum, BMS, Celgene, Chugai, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Sobi and UCB, Elena Nikiphorou Speakers bureau: celltrion, pfizer, sanofi, gilead, galapagos, abbbie, lilly, fresenius, Grant/research support from: pfizer and lilly.

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**AB0443 REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE OF BIOSIMILAR RITUXIMAB GP2013 IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS NAÏVE TO OR SWITCHED FROM REFERENCE RITUXIMAB**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Real-world evidence, Outcome measures

K. Losińska1, M. Korkoż2, A. H. Pripp3, G. Haugeberg4,5, K. Łosi1, M. Korkosz1,2, A. H. Pripp3, G. Haugeberg4,5.

**Department of Internal Medicine, Kristiansand, Norway;** Epidemiology, Oslo, Norway

**Objectives:** To explore long-term drug effectiveness and survival of bs-RTX GP2013 in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients both naïve to and mandatory switched from bo-RTX in ordinary outpatient clinic.

**Methods:** Retrospective observational cohort study including adult RA patients treated with bs-RTX between 2018 and 2021 in Norway. Patients were examined and monitored with recommended disease activity measures and patient-reported outcomes (PROs). Drug survival was assessed with Kaplan-Meier survival analysis.

**Results:** 110 RA patients (71.8% women) treated with bs-RTX were identified (88 mandatory switched from bo-RTX, 22 RTX-naïve), baseline median (IQR) age was 68.0 (59.0-76.0) years, disease duration 13.0 (7.4-18.7) years, 93.6% were RF and 96.3% ACPA positive, 30.0% currently used csDMARDs (26.4% methotrexate). Statistically significant difference between bs-RTX-naïve and bs-RTX-switched patients was found for disease duration (3.0 vs 14.2 years, p<0.01), current steroids use (68.2% vs 35.2%, p=0.01) and first cycle bs-RTX dose: 90.9% bs-RTX-naïve received 2000mg, while 85.3% bs-RTX-switched 1000mg or 500mg. During 2-year follow-up disease activity and PROs measures remained stable in switchers and improved in those starting naïve on RTX (Table 1).

**Figure 1.**

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Deepak Nagra Consultant of: Fees from abbvie, Katie Bechan Grant/research support from: Versus Arthritis and NIH, Mark Russell Speakers bureau: Lilly, Galapagos, Biogen and Menarini, and support. Attending meetings from Lilly, Pfizer, Janssen and UCB, Consultant of: Lilly, Edward Alveyen: None declared, christopher baldwin: None declared, georgina bird: None declared, Sophia Steer: None declared, Corrine Byrne: None declared, Kirsty Lawan: None declared, valeria vescovi: None declared, maryam adas Consultant of: Abbvie, Myeryn nurscy: None declared, Sam Norton Speakers bureau: janssen and pfizer, Arti Mahto Speakers bureau: Speaker fees galapagos, abgove, GE, Andrew Rutherford: None declared, James Galloway Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Biovitrum, BMS, Celgene, Chugai, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Sobi and UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Biovitrum, BMS, Celgene, Chugai, Galapagos, abbbie, lilly, fresenius, Grant/research support from: pfizer and lilly.

**DOi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.z2555
Overall drug survival for bs-RTX was 80.0% (95% CI 71.2-86.3%) after 1 year and 57.7% (95% CI 47.8-66.3%) after 2 years. Drug survival in RTX-switched patients was significantly higher than in bs-RTX-naïve (Figure 1).

**Background:** In North African countries, few data are available on the safety of biotherapies.

**Objectives:** To evaluate safety of biological therapy (excluding infections) in a population with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) followed in the RBSMR (Registry of Biological therapies in rheumatic diseases of the Moroccan Society of Rheumatology).

**Methods:** This work was based on data from inclusion and 3 years of follow-up. It concerns 223 patients with RA receiving biotherapies, included between May 2017 and December 2018. Safety was evaluated at inclusion and every 6 months for 3 years. Serious adverse events were defined as those that are life-threatening or that required hospitalization or permanent stopping of current biological agent.

**Results:** 223 patients were included in the study. The mean age was 51.8 ± 11.3 years, 87.4% were females, average duration of RA was 20.8 [13.9 - 31.3] months. The median duration of exposure to biotherapies was 3.1 [0 - 18.23] months. Patients were receiving anti-TNFα in 16.6% (37/223) of case, Rituximab (RTX) in 59.6% (133/223) and Tocilizumab (TCZ) in 23.8% (53/223). About 70% (155/223) of patients had an association with a csDMARDs. At inclusion, 19.73% (44/223) of patients had previously developed 59 adverse events (AEs) (n=14). The occurrence of noninfectious AEs differs depending the biological agent.

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Rheumatoid arthritis

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<th>Baseline</th>
<th>1-year-period</th>
<th>2-year-period</th>
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<td>bs-RTX switched n=88</td>
<td>bs-RTX naïve n=22</td>
<td>bs-RTX switched n=88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/L</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/hr</td>
<td>(1.00-5.00)</td>
<td>(4.00-17.50)</td>
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<td>SJC28, 0-28</td>
<td>2.65</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC28, 0-28</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/hr</td>
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<td>7.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJC28, 0-28</td>
<td>(4.00-14.00)</td>
<td>(19.00-38.00)</td>
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<td>TJC28, 0-28</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP</td>
<td>(0.00-1.00)</td>
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<td>CDAI</td>
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<td>(3.75-2.50)</td>
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<td>(40.00-67.00)</td>
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<td>MHAQ, 0-3</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0.00-0.75)</td>
<td>(0.38-0.88)</td>
<td>(0.00-0.63)</td>
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**Figure 1.** Kaplan-Meier plots of treatment retention rates
Table 1 non-infectious adverse events in the RBSMR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of adverse events</th>
<th>Incidence per 100 patient-years</th>
<th>Number of adverse events</th>
<th>Biological agents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infusion reactions</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>RTX (n=6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradoxical reactions</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>TCZ (n=2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug-induced lupus</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>RTX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancers</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Urethral carcinoma under TCZ having already received RTX (n=1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TCZ having already received RTX (n=1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma under TCZ (n=1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liver toxicities</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>RTX (n=7)</td>
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<td>Hematological disorders</td>
<td>3.13</td>
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<td>Dyslipidemias</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>RTX (n=5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe heart rhythm disorder</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>TCZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlebitis</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Enanercept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other AEs (injection)</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>RTX (n=7)</td>
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<td>Anti-TNFα (n=5)</td>
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<td>TCZ (n=4)</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

AB0445 CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST-LINE UPADACITINIB INITIATORS AND FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PRESCRIBING UPADACITINIB AS FIRST-LINE B/T SDMARD

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis

W. Krueger1, L. Harold2, A. Sima3, T. Eckmann3, R. Kilpatrick4, 1AbbVie Inc, n/a, North Chicago, United States of America; 2University of Massachusetts, Medical School, Worcester, United States of America; 3CorEvitas, n/a, Waltham, United States of America

Background: EULAR guidelines recommend switching to or adding a b/tsDMARD in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who do not respond or have an inadequate response to csDMARDs. Traditionally, TNF inhibitors (TNFi) are prescribed as the first b/tsDMARD. In Dec 2021, the upadacitinib (UPA) label in the US was updated to restrict use to those who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNFi.

Objectives: In the period prior to the UPA label change in the US (through Jan 2022), (1) compare characteristics of patients with RA receiving UPA as first b/tsDMARD, (2) explore the reasons why UPA was chosen as first-line advanced therapy. Methods: Using CorEvitas RA registry data from Aug 2019 to Jan 2022, patients who initiated UPA or TNFi at or after enrollment in the registry with no history of prior b/tsDMARD use were evaluated. The patients’ providers indicated which factors (they choose more than one) contributed to prescribing UPA as first-line advanced therapy based on medical record chart review.

Results: Few differences in demographics, comorbidities, and disease activity at initiation were observed between the 815 TNFi initiators and 142 UPA initiators identified. UPA initiators were older (mean [SD] age 58.9 [12.8] vs 56.7 [13.9] yrs), had a higher proportion of White patients (87% vs 83%), and were less likely to be working (44% vs. 53%), and have private insurance (73% vs 68%). UPA initiators had more frequent history of cardiovascular disease (16% vs 10%), joint deformity (17% vs 12%), and subcutaneous nodules (13% vs 10%), but less frequent history of anxiety/depression (29% vs 34%) than TNFi initiators. UPA initiators had greater disease severity, including mean CDAI (23.7 [14.9] vs 19.0 [13.0]), and tender (8.4 [7.7] vs 6.6 [6.7]) and swollen (6.1 [5.1] vs 4.3 [5.1]) joint counts, self-reported pain (54.5 [28.7] vs 50.3 [28.3]), and proportion with morning stiffness (89% vs 85%). UPA initiators were more likely to have a history of multiple csDMARDs (43% vs 35%), monotherapy b/tsDMARD initiation (22% vs 22%) and use of NSAIDs (53% vs 48%). For 142 patients initiating UPA as first-line, 34 providers (87% response rate) indicated major factors in the choice of prescribing UPA as first-line advanced therapy were the patient’s level of disease activity (75%), patient’s disease progression (61%), patient preference (51%), and patient’s disease profile (43%). These reasons contributed to any part of the prescription decision in 89%, 96%, 77%, and 79% of patients, respectively. Oral delivery was indicated as a contributing factor by almost all (91%) of the 109 patients that were prescribed UPA as first-line therapy and indicated patient preference was a factor in prescribing UPA. Side effects were not a concern when deciding to prescribe UPA in at least 50% of the patients included in this study.

Conclusion: In a real-world cohort of patients with RA initiating a first-line b/tsDMARD, those who received UPA were more likely to have previously failed multiple csDMARDs, to initiate as monotherapy, and to have technically poor disease activity based on both physician and patient measures compared to patients who received TNFi. Clinical factors including disease activity, disease progression, and disease profile influenced the prescribing decision by providers as well as patient preference.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0446 SAFETY OF BIOLOGICAL THERAPIES: DATA FROM THE BIOBADAGUAY REGISTRY

Keywords: Registries, Safety, bDMARD

P. de Arezzo Trigueros1, S. Cabrera-Villabá, P. Melgarejo2, Z. Morel3, L. Román4, A. Ramaglia5, A. Amariii6, C. Bruengo Carreii7, G. Bartesghi Moreno8, E. Leiva9, M. Zarza10, R. Rolón11, P. Puşineri12, C. Parodi13, V. Valinotti14, G. Vega15, M. Zanotti16, S. Consani-Fernández17, G. Avila18, Sociedad Paraguaya de Reumatología, Reumatología, Asunción, Paraguay; 2Hospital Central del Instituto de Previsión Social, Rheumatology, Asunción, Paraguay; 3Hospital de la Ciudad del Instituto de Previsión Social, Rheumatology, Asunción, Paraguay; 4Hospital de Villarrica, Reumatología, Villarrica, Paraguay; 5Hospital Central del Instituto de Previsión Social, Rheumatology Pediatrics, Asunción, Paraguay; 6Hospital de Villarrica, Reumatología, Villarrica, Paraguay; 7CASMU, Reumatología, Montevideo, Uruguay; 8Instituto Nacional de Reumatología, Rheumatology, Montevideo, Uruguay, 9CAMIS IAMPP, Rheumatology, Soriano, Uruguay, 10Hospital de Clínicas de la Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Rheumatology, Asunción, Paraguay; 11Hospital General Pediatrómico, Núcleos de Acosta Nú, Rheumatology, San Lorenzo, Paraguay; 12COSEM, Rheumatology, Montevideo, Uruguay

Background: BIOBADAGUAY is the Paraguayan/Uruguayan registry of adverse events (AE) in patients with inflammatory rheumatic conditions under biologic therapy (BT).

Objectives: Determine the frequency and severity of AE of patients under BT in the BIOBADAGUAY registry.

Methods: Prospective, observational study of undetermined length to verify the efficacy, safety, and survival of the BT. The methodology applied is available at https://biobadaguay.ser.es. For the present study epidemiological and clinical variables, BT, type, and severity of AE were analyzed. The incidence rate (IR) was calculated as the total number of adverse events per 1000 patients/year and the incidence rate ratio (IRR) was analyzed using the Poisson regression model. (Significance value 0.05)
Background: Treatment maintenance in young women with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) may be influenced by factors such as fears of side effects on fertility and conception.

Objectives: We aimed to assess the therapeutic beliefs of patients with RA during the preconception period and to investigate associated factors.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients diagnosed with RA before menopause. We assessed beliefs about treatment during the preconception period using the French version of Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire (BQM). The questionnaire assessing specific beliefs is composed of 10 items: 5 items to assess beliefs regarding the necessity for treatment and 5 items to assess concerns.

Results: We included 31 females (mean age: 49.7±10.4 years). RA was erosive in 93% of cases. Coxitis was noted in 6 patients (19%). There was no influence on concerns. The disease duration had a statistically negative correlation with concern score (r=-0.480, p=0.006). Contraception use was not influenced by either therapeutic necessity or concerns (p=0.129 and p=0.140, respectively).

Conclusion: This study showed that beliefs about therapeutic necessity during the preconception period were more important than concerns. We emphasize the importance of therapeutic patient education to fight against negative beliefs.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0448 THE IMPACT OF ACPAS ON THE RESPONSE TO BIOLOGICAL THERAPY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: bDMARD Keywords: bDMARD

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5156

INCIDENCE RATE OF ADVERSE EVENTS ACCORDING TO SEVERITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Cycle</th>
<th>Follow Cycles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adverse Event</td>
<td>Incidence Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>233.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(219.28, 247.80)</td>
<td>(303.1, 378.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Serious</td>
<td>201.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(188.34, 214.85)</td>
<td>(272.29, 343.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious</td>
<td>30.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(25.26, 35.69)</td>
<td>(17.89, 40.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortal</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0.77, 3.52)</td>
<td>(1.71, 12.29)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: AE were in general non-severe, and infections were the most frequent. RA and concomitant treatment corticosteroid presented a higher IRR of global AE, whereas PsA and AS a lower IRR of AE. Second and subsequent cycles of BT were significantly associated with a higher IRR of global AE compared to the first cycle of BT (Table 1). Treatment with anti-TNF was significantly associated with lower IRR of global and mortal AE compared to non-anti-TNF (Table 1).

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Safety, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Rheumatoid arthritis - non biologic treatment and small molecules

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Genetics/epigenetics, Biomarkers

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disease characterised by joint swelling, joint compression and synovial joint destruction, where inflammation and bone destruction can lead to significant functional impairment. Recently, several studies have reported the identification of new biomarkers of RA, such as osteoprotegerin (OPG), osteocalcin (OCN) and osteopontin (OPN) [1], all three of which play a significant role in regulating bone metabolism and influencing osteoclast synthesis and secretion. Although OPG, OCN and OPN are strongly correlated with RA, it is not clear whether there is a causal relationship between them.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess whether OPG, OCN and OPN are causally related to the risk of RA in a Two-Sample Mendelian randomisation (TSMR).

Methods: The genetic instrumental variables (IVs) for OPG, OCN and OPN exposure from a large genome-wide association study (GWAS) meta-analysis including 21,758, 1322 and 3301 participants, respectively. The GWAS data for RA were selected from an independent RA GWAS analysis that included 29,880 RA cases of European ancestry and 73,758 controls. Significant (P < 5 x 10^(-8) and independent (r2 < 0.001) SNP in genome-wide association studies were selected as IVs for performing MR analyses. The causal relationship between OPN, OCN and RA risk was assessed by TSMR analysis using inverse variance weighting (IVW) methods as the primary analysis, supplemented by weighted median, MR-Egger regression, Leave-one-out analysis and Mendelian Randomization Pleiotropy RESidual Sum and Outlier (MR-PRESSO) were used to detect and correct for the effects of multiple-confounders [2].

Results: The Eighteen, seven and nine SNPs were selected as IVs for OPN, OCN and OPN respectively. The results of the IVW method (OPN/OP = 1.091, 95% CI: 0.980-1.0597, p = 0.3440; OPG/OP = 1.0396, 95% CI: 0.9327-1.1588, p = 0.4827; OCN/OP = 1.077, 95% CI: 0.990-1.077, p = 0.812) showed that there was no strong evidence of a relationship between the production of OPN, OCN and OPN in people of European ancestry and RA risk. Further sensitivity analyses verified the robustness of the above associations, with MR-Egger regressions showing no evidence of pleiotropy (OPNP = 0.8703; OPG = 0.7043; OCN = 0.6356) and heterogeneity analyses showing no heterogeneity (OPNP = 0.7880; OPG = 0.2451; OCN = 0.5651). The leave-one-out method analysis indicated that genetically determined PN, OPG and OCN were not influenced by single SNP in association with RA risk.

Conclusion: We did not find any evidence of a causal relationship between OPN, OCN and RA risk. Further research is needed to elucidate the potential mechanisms underlying the role of OPN, OPG and OCN in the development of RA.

REFERENCES:

The most frequent documented adverse events included bacterial infection (25), hypercholesterolaemia (18), gastrointestinal side effects (18), viral infection (15) and deranged liver function tests (LFTs) [10]. These are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse events</th>
<th>Number of events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal side effects</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial infection</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower respiratory tract</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary tract</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitourinary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viral/fungal infection</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingles</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper respiratory tract</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fungal nail infection</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes Simplex Virus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemical abnormalities</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypercholesterolaemia</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deranged Liver functions tests</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venous thromboembolism (VTE)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other side effects</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Conclusion:** JAKIs are effective across a range of rheumatological diagnoses in a South London real-world analysis, including patients with bDMARD-naive and bDMARD-refractory disease. JAKIs are generally well tolerated and adverse events in this study were in keeping with the current literature.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kathryn Biddle: None declared, Olivia Buckeliede: None declared, Afzal Latheef: None declared, Israa Al-Shakarchi: None declared, Nilhi Sofat Consultant of: Professor Sofat has done Consultancy work for Pfizer and Eli Lilly, Grant/research support from: Professor Sofat has received funding from Bristol Myers Squibb for an Investigator-initiated study and has been responsible for research funded by Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Centrexon and Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.705

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**AB0451**

**FRENCH REAL LIFE SAFETY DATA ON THE USE OF TOFACITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: OBSERVATIONAL STUDY, DEFACTO**

**Keywords:** Safety, Real-world evidence, Targeted synthetic drugs

C. Gaujoux-Viala1,2, A. Basch3, S. Lassoued4, F. Coury-Lucas5, M. Kessouri6, Y. Brau7, T. Lequerré6, C. Saliot6, 1Descbes Institute of Epidemiology and Public Health (IDESP), Univ Montpellier, INSERM, Rheumatology, Montpellier; France; 2CHU Nîmes Hospital, Rheumatology, Nîmes, France; 3Infermierie Protestante Clinic, Lyon, Rheumatology, Caluire-et-Cuire, France; 4Caësars Hospital Centre, Rheumatology, Cahors, France; 5Lyon Sud Hospital, Rheumatology, Lyon, France; 6Pfizer Medical, Paris, France; 7Pfizer Statistique, Paris, France; 8Rouen University Hospital (CHU) & INSERM U905, Rheumatology, Rouen, France; 9Orléans Regional Hospital Centre (CHR), Rheumatology, Orléans, France

**Background:** Tofacitinib, an oral Janus Kinase inhibitor, is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

**Objectives:** To describe the safety profile of Tofacitinib in a French prospective observational study DeFacTo.

**Methods:** The safety profile of tofacitinib was assessed using interim data from a descriptive analysis of patients who took at least one dose of tofacitinib in the DeFacTo study.

**Results:** Among 314 patients enrolled in the study, 306 received tofacitinib and were included in the safety analysis, including 274 patients with a follow-up ≥ 18 months (POP2) on 03/15/22 date of analysis with a median exposure duration of 538 [Q1; Q3: 381; 554] days, 113 patients (41.2%) were still on tofacitinib (39 discontinued, 122 missing data regarding prescription). At inclusion, 78.3% of the 306 pts were women with a mean (± standard deviation) age of 59.5 ± 11.5 years, mean disease duration of 8.9 years [Q1; Q3: 4.1; 8.9]. There was a history of cardiovascular (CV) disease in 11.9% of cases (including 4.6% myocardial infarction (MI), 5.0% stroke/transient ischemic attack (TIA), 1.7% heart failure, and 1.7% peripheral arterial disease). 5.6% history of cancer, 16.8% history of infection, and 46.6% smoker/former smoker. Tofacitinib was prescribed in combination with a csDMARD in 61.1% of patients and corticosteroids in 56.2% of patients. The results showed that adverse events (AEs) were reported in 54.2% of the 306 patients, 14.4% were considered as serious. Infections were found in 22.2% of patients, no deaths were reported (Table 1).

**Table 1. Real-life and age-specific safety data for tofacitinib**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N. (%)</th>
<th>&lt; 65 yrs (n=193)</th>
<th>≥ 65 yrs (n=111)</th>
<th>Total (n=306)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adverse events (AEs)</td>
<td>104 (53.9)</td>
<td>62 (55.9)</td>
<td>166 (54.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious adverse events</td>
<td>21 (10.9)</td>
<td>23 (20.7)</td>
<td>44 (14.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections</td>
<td>41 (21.2)</td>
<td>27 (24.3)</td>
<td>68 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes Zoster</td>
<td>6 (3.1)</td>
<td>6 (5.4)</td>
<td>12 (3.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious AEs of special interest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infection</td>
<td>5 (2.6)</td>
<td>4 (3.6)</td>
<td>9 (2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes zoster</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>1 (0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>2 (1.8)</td>
<td>2 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>1 (0.9)</td>
<td>2 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV event†</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>0 (0.9)</td>
<td>2 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTE</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>2 (1.8)</td>
<td>2 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2 patients with missing age but counted in the total. † cardiovascular event (EVT): non-fatal MI and stroke + CV death. ITT venous thromboembolic disease; deep vein thrombosis + pulmonary embolism.

**Conclusion:** These intermediate, descriptive results show a safety profile of tofacitinib in real-life RA similar to the one previously reported in clinical and observational studies. [1-2]

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** This study was sponsored by Pfizer.
Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the clinical efficacy of baricitinib in a real-life setting in a cohort of RA patients.

Methods: This multicenter retrospective observational study included patients from 25 rheumatology centers diagnosed with RA and treated with baricitinib. The following were recorded for each patient: gender; age; duration of disease; presence of rheumatoid factor and anti-citrulline antibodies; concomitant treatment with conventional synthetic (cs) DMARDs; previous treatments with biological (b) or ts DMARDs. In order to evaluate the clinical efficacy, the retention rate was evaluated, calculated by means of the Kaplan-Meier method. The variables under examination were reported as frequencies and median with relative interquartile range.

Results: We included 478 patients of which 380 (79.5%) were female. 296 (60.1%) patients tested positive for rheumatoid factor (RF) and 264 (55.2%) for anti-citrulline antibody (ACPA). The parameters analyzed are shown in Table 1. 105 (22.0%) patients were treated with baricitinib as first line (after csDMARD); the remaining patients had failed at least one bDMARD and 9 (1.9%) also failed a tsDMARD. In 34.7% of cases baricitinib was used as monotherapy, the most frequently used csDMARD was methotrexate (29.2%). The median period of therapy was 674 days (298-1097). The survival rate at 6 months was 94.6%, at 12 months it was 87.9%, at 24 months it was 81.7% and at 48 months was 53.4% (Figure 1). The main causes that led to the discontinuation of baricitinib therapy were: primary ineffectiveness (23.4%), secondary ineffectiveness (4.2%) and adverse events (3.7% 5 TEP/DVT). The concomitant steroidal therapy seems to be a negative prognostic factor (HR 1.65 95% CI 1.03-2.63; p=0.035) as well as the line of therapy (HR 1.35 95% CI 1.15-1.58; p=0.000).

Conclusion: The efficacy of baricitinib in the treatment of RA in a real-life context appears consistent with what was reported by the pivotal studies. Furthermore, from this preliminary experience, seropositivity and combo therapy seems to not correlate with a better retention rate, while concomitant steroidal therapy and line of treatment are a negative prognostic factor.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. 4 year retention rate of baricitinib
SAFETY OF FILGOTINIB IN PATIENTS WITH RA: LABORATORY ANALYSIS RESULTS FROM A LONG-TERM EXTENSION STUDY

Keywords: Clinical trials, Rheumatoid arthritis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

E. G. Favalli1,2, M. H. Buch3, J. Galloway4, A. Constantin5, P. Durez6, P. Van Hoeck7, C. Watson8, P. J. Stiers9, V. Rajendran10, K. Van Beneden11, T. Takeuchi12, B. Combe13. 1ASST Gaetano Pini-CTO, Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Milan, Italy; 2University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 3University of Manchester and NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom; 4King’s College London, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, United Kingdom; 5Toulouse University Hospital and University Toulouse III Paul Sabatier, Rheumatology Department, Toulouse, France; 6Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique (IREC), Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium; 7Galapagos NV, Medical Safety, Mechelen, Belgium; 8Galapagos Biotech Ltd, Medical Affairs, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 9Galapagos NV, Biostatistics, Mechelen, Belgium; 10Galapagos NV, Clinical Research, Mechelen, Belgium; 11Galapagos NV, Medical Affairs, Mechelen, Belgium; 12Keio University, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; 13Montpellier University, Department of Rheumatology, Montpellier, France

Background: Filgotinib (FIL) is a Janus kinase (JAK) 1 preferential inhibitor, approved for treatment of moderate to severe active RA in Europe, the UK, and Japan. Graded laboratory abnormalities from placebo-controlled analyses and long-term data on lymphocytes have been reported previously.

Objectives: Report the effect of FIL on laboratory parameters in the FINCH 4 long-term extension (LTE).

Methods: Safety was assessed from LTE baseline (BL) to data cutoff (1 Jun 2020) in patients (pts) receiving ≥1 FIL dose (FIL 200 mg [FIL200] or 100 mg [FIL100]) in FINCH 4 (NCT03025308). Laboratory abnormalities were graded per Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events v4.03. Frequencies and exposure-adjusted incidence rates (EAIRs)/100 pt-years of exposure (PYE) for graded abnormalities are reported. Median laboratory parameters are reported to LTE Week (W) 48.

Results: In FINCH 4, 2729 pts received FIL for 4198.08 PYE (mean 80.3 weeks); exposure was similar between dose groups. Frequency and EAIR of laboratory abnormalities were similar for anemia, decreased platelets, and increased alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), and serum creatinine, and higher in the FIL200 vs FIL100 group for neutropenia, increased creatinine kinase (CK), hypophosphatemia, and cholesterol (high) (Table 1; graded data not shown). No Grade 4 decreased phosphate laboratory abnormalities were observed and hypophosphatemia was not associated with adverse events. Laboratory abnormalities led to discontinuation of FIL in 7 pts: ALT and AST increased, 3 (0.2%, FIL 200); ALT increased, 1 (<0.1%, FIL 100); and neutropenia 3 (0.3%, FIL 100). From LTE BL to W48, hemoglobin, platelets, ALT, and AST were relatively stable, with no clear differences between doses, or between pts with or without prior FIL. Neutrophil count was relatively stable from LTE BL to W48. Neutrophils decreased for the FIL200 group with no prior FIL exposure, remaining stable from W24. CK and serum creatinine were relatively stable from LTE BL to W48 in pts with prior FIL exposure; in pts with no prior FIL, initial increases plateaued by W6 and W12, respectively, remaining stable. Changes in phosphate levels from LTE BL were small, remaining within normal range (2.2–5.1 mg/dL). Triglycerides were stable over time with no differences between groups. Total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL), and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) levels were stable in pts with prior FIL exposure. In pts with no prior FIL exposure, small increases in total cholesterol, HDL, and LDL plateaued by W24, remaining stable. The LDL:HDL ratio was stable, with no differences between groups (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Laboratory abnormalities were generally mild to moderate, similar to previous observations. Frequency and EAIR were higher in the FIL200 vs FIL100 group for neutropenia, increased CK, hypophosphatemia, and high cholesterol.

Acknowledgements: We thank the physicians and patients who participated in these studies. The FINCH studies were co-funded by Gilead Sciences Inc. (Foster City, CA, USA) and Galapagos NV (Mechelen, Belgium). Publication coordination was provided by Fabien Debailleul, PhD, of Galapagos NV. Medical writing support was provided by Stephanie Rippon, MBio (Aspire Scientific, Bollington, UK) and funded by Galapagos NV.

### Table 1. Treatment-emergent laboratory abnormalities* (any Grade ≥1; safety analysis set†)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade of Laboratory Abnormality</th>
<th>n/N (%)</th>
<th>EAIR (95% confidence interval)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>264/1526 (17.3)</td>
<td>113.1 (10.0, 12.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets (decreased)</td>
<td>44/1525 (2.9)</td>
<td>19.7 (14.2, 2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>194/1526 (12.7)</td>
<td>8.3 (7.2, 9.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALT (increased)</td>
<td>349/1526 (22.9)</td>
<td>14.9 (13.4, 16.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST (increased)</td>
<td>338/1526 (22.1)</td>
<td>14.4 (13.0, 16.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum creatinine (increased)</td>
<td>80/1526 (5.2); 3.4 (2.7, 4.2)</td>
<td>62/1193 (5.2); 3.3 (2.6, 4.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatine kinase (increased)</td>
<td>448/1526 (29.4)</td>
<td>19.1 (17.4, 20.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypophosphatemia</td>
<td>103/1526 (6.7); 4.4 (3.6, 5.3)</td>
<td>73/1193 (4.2); 2.7 (2.0, 3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertriglyceridemia</td>
<td>307/1497 (20.5)</td>
<td>13.1 (11.7, 14.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol (high)</td>
<td>125/1497 (8.4); 5.3 (4.5, 6.3)</td>
<td>73/1164 (6.3); 3.9 (3.1, 5.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Defined as an increase of ≥1 toxicity grade from BL up to 30 days post last study drug dose; †Pts who received ≥1 dose of study drug.
Disclosure of Interests: Ennio Giulio Favalli Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celtrion, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Celtrion, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCS, Maya H Buch Speakers bureau: AbbVie (paid to host institution), Consultant of: AbbVie, CESAS Medical, Galapagos, Gilead, Pfizer (paid to host institution), Grant/research support from: Gilead (paid to host institution), James Galloway Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: AstraZeneca, Celgene, Gilead, Janssen, Medicago, Novavax, Pfizer, Arnaud Constantin Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, BMS, Boehringer, Celtrion, Fresenius-Kabi, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Sanofi, UCB, Viatris, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer, Celtrion, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Patrick Durez Speakers bureau: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BMS, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Viatris, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer, Celtrion, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Patrick Durez Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, BMS, Boehringer, Celtrion, Fresenius-Kabi, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Sanofi, UCB, Viatris, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer, Celtrion, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Patrick Durez Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, BMS, Boehringer, Celtrion, Fresenius-Kabi, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Sanofi, UCB, Viatris, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer, Celtrion, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Patrick Durez

AB0455
BARICITINIB IN THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN CHINA: 24-WEEK RESULTS OF POST-MARKETING SAFETY STUDY

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Safety, Rheumatoid arthritis

1Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH), Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China; 2Yiyang Central Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Yiyang, China; 3Zibo Central Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Zibo, China; 4Huashan Hospital Affiliated to Fudan University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Shanghai, China; 5The Third Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-Sen University, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Guangzhou, China; 6Sinopharm Dongfeng General Hospital, Hubei University of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Shiyian, China; 7Eli Lilly and Company, LCCDMAC, Shanghai, China

Background: Baricitinib, an orally selective inhibitor of JAK1 and JAK2, was approved for adult patients with moderate-to-severe rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in China. The recommended dose is 2mg once daily and 4mg once daily in patients who have inadequately responded to baricitinib 2mg once daily (for 3 months) or TNF inhibitors. A single-arm, prospective, non-interventional post-marketing safety study (PMSS) was conducted in Chinese RA patients to describe the safety and effectiveness of baricitinib at 24 weeks.

Objectives: To describe the safety and effectiveness of baricitinib in real-world setting of treating patients with moderate to severe active RA.

Methods: This PMSS (starting July 2020) included 667 patients with RA treated with baricitinib (2 mg or/and 4mg/day) and followed up for 24 weeks. Safety and effectiveness (disease activity) were assessed for 24 weeks. All statistical analyses are descriptive.

Results: Safety analyses included 667 patients (females=82.3%, mean age=53.3 years, mean RA duration 8.69 months). 106 (15.9%) were ≥65 and <75 years and 19 (2.8%) had previously received biological therapy. Baricitinib dose regimen was as follows: 2 mg/day, n = 580 (87.0%); 4 mg/day, n = 53 (79%); 2/4 mg, n = 34 (5.1%). Concomitant use of MTX and leflunomide occurred in 54.3% and 35.5%, respectively. The overall exposure of baricitinib was 262.1 patient-years; 197 (29.5%) patients withdrew from the study, mostly for patient’s decision (n = 101). Adverse events (AEs) occurred in 250 (37.5%) patients: Serious (7.9%); 34 (5.1%). Two patients (0.3%) died: one of pneumonia and one with no cause reported. The incidence of serious infection, herpes zoster and hepatotoxicity was 0.6%, 1.0%, and 3.4%, respectively. No case met laboratory criteria for potential Hy’s Law (ALT/AST ≥3 x ULN and TBL ≥2 x ULN). Malignancy occurred in one patient (thyroid cancer). No venous thromboembolism (VTE) or major adverse cardiovascular event (MACE) were reported during the study observation period (Table 1). In the effectiveness analysis at Week 24, the proportions of patients achieving remission/ low disease activity were 66.6% (235/353) for DAS28-CRP, 64.6% (228/353) for SDAI, and 63.5% (242/381) for CDAI (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In conclusion, the safety and effectiveness profile of baricitinib in this Chinese PMSS was generally similar to that in the global RA population with no VTEs or MACE reported and no new safety signals.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Table 1. Safety summary among patients with RA treated with baricitinib

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety Population (N=667)</th>
<th>12 weeks</th>
<th>24 weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AE</td>
<td>214 (32.08)</td>
<td>250 (37.48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE related to study treatment</td>
<td>95 (14.24)</td>
<td>120 (17.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as judged by the investigator</td>
<td>139.99</td>
<td>236.65 (50.71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>2 (0.30)</td>
<td>261.30 (0.77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAE</td>
<td>22 (3.30)</td>
<td>28 (4.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAE related to study treatment</td>
<td>14.32 (5.39)</td>
<td>260.30 (3.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment discontinuation due to AEs</td>
<td>20 (3.00)</td>
<td>24 (3.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment discontinuation due to AEs</td>
<td>148.18 (13.50)</td>
<td>260.79 (9.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AESI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious infection</td>
<td>3 (0.45)</td>
<td>4 (0.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatotoxicity</td>
<td>16 (2.40)</td>
<td>23 (3.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACE</td>
<td>1 (0.15)</td>
<td>1 (0.15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: AE= adverse event; AESI= adverse event with special interest; EER= exposure-adjusted incidence rate; MACE= major adverse cardiovascular events. N= number of patients in the safety analysis set; n= number of patients in the specified category; PYE= patient-years of exposure; RA= rheumatoid arthritis; SAE= serious adverse event; VTE= venous thromboembolism/used EAR for 100 PYE (patient exposure censored at the event); ADES was based on the judgement of investigator recorded in eCRF (electronic case report form) MACE included myocardial infarction, cardiovascular death, and stroke.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Chan-yuan Wu: None declared, Qian Wang: None declared, Jian Shih: None declared, XIUYING ZHANG: None declared, Dong Du: None declared, Jieruo Gu: None declared, Qi-huan Liu: None declared, Jiao Yu: None declared, Jian Shi: None declared, XIUYING ZHANG: None declared, Rong Du: None declared, Chan-yuan Wu: None declared, Qian Wang: None declared.

References: NIL.

Figure 1. The number of patients with known cortisol (DAS28-CRP, DAS28-CRP, and DAS28-SEI) at each time point is displayed. The percentage of patients in each category, using the local number of patients is shown with each time point at the horizontal line, inside the column. Furthermore, unknown effectiveness scores are not included in this analysis.
BARICITINIB AS MONOTHERAPY FOR TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: SUMMARY OF DATA FROM FIVE REAL-WORLD DATA SOURCES

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence


**Background:** EULAR recommendations suggest that use of interleukin-6 inhibitors and Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors are preferred in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) when combination therapy with conventional synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) is not indicated due to intolerance of csDMARDs. Monotherapy data for the JAK1/JAK2 inhibitor baricitinib (BARI) in patients with inadequate response to csDMARDs or biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs) are limited.

**Objectives:** To present an overview of baseline characteristics and effectiveness outcomes for patients with moderate-to-severe RA receiving BARI as monotherapy and combination therapy for up to 1 year in real world European settings.

**Methods:** BARI-related real-world data from available European registries, long-term observational studies and retrospective chart review, obtained from published sources or investigators, were reviewed. Baseline and effectiveness data, separately from each source, were reviewed for patients who received BARI as monotherapy and for those receiving BARI in combination with csDMARDs with findings presented descriptively as mean ± standard deviation (SD) or number (%) of patients. No statistical modelling was applied. Disease activity score for 28-joint low disease activity (LDA) and remission data were collected from ORBIT-RA, RSBR-RA and the Erlangen Baricitinib cohort; and Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) LDA and remission data were collected in RA-BE-REAL, ORBIT-RA and SCQM-RA.

**Results:** In BARI cohorts, monotherapy was used by 51.0% of patients in RA-BE-REAL, 61.5% in ORBIT-RA, 60.1% in SCQM-RA, 39.4% in BSRBR-RA and 67.6% in the Erlangen Baricitinib cohort. Across all databases, most patients were female, and in general, patients who received BARI as monotherapy appeared to be older, with a longer disease duration and numerically larger likelihood of previous treatment with a bDMARD than those who received the drug in combination (Table 1). Available LDA and remission rates from patients with data in the different databases are shown in the Figure 1; 40.7–78.4% of patients receiving BARI monotherapy and 33.3–80.8% receiving BARI in combination achieved either LDA or remission states at 1 year.

**Conclusion:** Approximately 40–78% of patients achieved LDA or remission after up to 1 year of monotherapy across the different data sources and populations with RA, although the numbers of patients with data up to 1 year were small for most registries. These findings suggest that BARI monotherapy is a suitable treatment option for patients with RA.

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** We thank Dr Benoit Gilbert for his contribution to the study.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Christopher John Edwards Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Biogen, Celgene, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Roche, Samsung, Sandoz, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant of: Has received honoraria and has attended advisory boards from/for Abbvie, BMS, Biogen, Celgene, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Roche, Samsung, Sandoz, Sanofi, UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Biogen, Celgene, Fresenius Kabi, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Roche, Samsung, Sandoz, Sanofi, UCB, Axel Finckh Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Sandoz, and UCB, Consultant of: Has received honoraria and has attended advisory boards from/for Abbvie, BMS, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Sandoz, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Pfizer, MSD, Novartis, Sandoz, and UCB, Consultant of: Has received consulting fees from Abbvie, Astellas Pharma, Eli-Lilly Japan, and Gilead, and has received honoraria from Abbvie, Astellas Pharma, Eli-Lilly Japan, and Pfizer Japan, Consultant of: Has received consulting fees from Abbvie, Astellas Pharma, Eli-Lilly Japan, and Pfizer Japan, Arnd Kleyer Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Pfizer, Novartis, and UCB, Consultant of: Has received honoraria and has attended advisory boards from/for Abbvie, BMS, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Pfizer, Novartis, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, BMS, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Pfizer, Novartis, and UCB, Ewa Haladyj Shareholder of: Minor shareholder of Eli Lilly and Company, the manufacturer of baricitinib, Employee of: Employee of Eli Lilly and Company, Cedric Laedermann Shareholder of: Minor shareholder of Eli Lilly and Company, the manufacturer of baricitinib, Employee of: Employee of Eli Lilly and Company, Tamas Treuer Consultant of: Employee of Eli Lilly and Company, Tamas Treuer Consultant of: Employee of Eli Lilly and Company, Liliana Zaremba-Pechmann Consultant of: Consultant at HaaPACS GmbH providing services to Eli Lilly and Company, Josep S. Smolen Speakers bureau: Has received honoraria for speaking engagements from Abbvie, Galapagos/Gilead, Novartis-Sandoz, BMS, MSD, Samsung, Sanofi, Celtrion, Chugai, R-Pharma and Lilly, Consultant of: Has received honoraria for consultations from Abbvie, Galapagos/Gilead, Novartis-Sandoz, BMS, MSD, Sanofi, Celtrion, Chugai, R-Pharma and Lilly, Grant/research support from: Has received research grants to his institution from Abbvie, Astra-Zeneca and Lilly.

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### Table 1. Baseline demographics and characteristics of patients receiving baricitinib and enrolled in real-world databases

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>RA-BE-REAL</th>
<th>ORBIT-RA</th>
<th>SCQM-RA</th>
<th>BSRBR-RA</th>
<th>Erlangen Baricitinib cohort</th>
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<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, Spain</td>
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<td>Switzerland, UK</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td><strong>Therapy</strong></td>
<td>Mono-Combi</td>
<td>Mono-Combi</td>
<td>Mono-Combi</td>
<td>Mono-Combi</td>
<td>Mono-Combi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patients, n (%)</td>
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<td>Mono-Combi</td>
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<td>Combi</td>
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<tr>
<td>260 (51.0)</td>
<td>250 (49.0)</td>
<td>115 (61.5)</td>
<td>72 (38.5)</td>
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<td>109 (39.9)</td>
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<td><strong>Patients, n (%)</strong></td>
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<td>30.4 (60.6)</td>
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<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<td>France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Spain</td>
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<td>Switzerland, UK</td>
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<td>60±13.9</td>
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<td>Female, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>210 (80.8)</td>
<td>180 (72.0)</td>
<td>115 (61.5)</td>
<td>72 (38.5)</td>
<td>164 (60.1)</td>
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<td>MeansSD disease duration, years</td>
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<td>10.6±8.8</td>
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<td><strong>Previously treated (MTX), n (%)</strong></td>
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</table>

For RA-BE-REAL, BSRBR and SCQM-RA, this was treatment at baseline; for the Erlangen Baricitinib cohort this was treatment before or at baseline DMARD, biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug; Combi, combination; MTX, methotrexate; NR, not reported; SD, standard deviation.
Background: The use of JAK inhibitors (JAKi) may be challenged in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) by the multiplicity of previous treatment lines and the presence of comorbidities that may trigger the occurrence of potentially severe side effects.

Objectives: To assess the efficacy and safety profile of JAKi in active RA patients with refractory disease and/or risk factors for JAKI.

Methods: Retrospective routine care study carried out between 2018 and 2022 in the Rheumatology department of Cochin Hospital. We selected from our electronic medical report database RA patients initiating a JAKi between 2018 and 2021 who presented active disease (i.e. by a DAS28 >3.2) and at least one of the following criteria: age ≥65 years, presence of comorbidities (cardiovascular risk factors including active smoking, obesity, atherosclerotic cardiovascular (CV) disease, history of venous thromboembolism (VTE), previous malignancy, severe infection including herpes zoster), failure to at least two targeted biological therapies and inability to taper corticosteroids below 7.5 mg/day. Efficacy was assessed at the first visit following the initiation of treatment and at the last available visit up to December 2022. The number and causes of treatment discontinuations were collected during the exposition period.

Results: We included 83 RA (68 females, 82%) initiating a JAKi, with a mean age of 59.4±14 years and a mean disease duration of 16±3 years. Patients had a mean DAS28 of 4.60±1.42, they had received 3±2 previous lines of biologics, 63% belonged to the group “age ≥65 years and/or presence of at least one CV risk factor” and 20% received corticosteroids ≥7.5 mg/day. The first visit treatment was scheduled 3 or 6 months following JAKi initiation, and the last visit occurred 15±10 months after the baseline visit. The DAS28 and other parameters assessing disease activity were markedly reduced at the first and the last available visit compared to the baseline visit (Table 1). Low disease activity (DAS28 <3.2) was reached in 51% of patients at the first visit and 47% at the last visit. No difference of efficacy was observed according to the treatment line. A total of 35 patients (42%) discontinued the JAKi during a mean observation period of 20±10 months (Figure 1). The mean time to discontinuation was 10±8 months. Treatment retention was 70% at 12 months and 58% at the last visit. Discontinuations were related to inefficacy (n=21, 25%), side effects (n=11, 13%) and desire for pregnancy (n=3, 4%). The side effects leading to discontinuation were: VTE (n=2), myocardial infarction (n=2) (these 4 events occurred in the group of patients aged ≥65 years with or without presence of at least one CV risk factor), non-severe infections (n=2), allergy (n=2), gastrointestinal symptoms (n=2) and headache (n=1). No cancer was recorded during the observation period.

Conclusion: In a population of RA enriched with refractory and at-risk-comorbid RA patients, JAKi demonstrated potent efficacy with a safety profile consistent with this population. Our results support the statement from the PRAC to use with caution JAKi in patients aged ≥65 years and/or with at least one CV risk factor.
BACKGROUND: The use of molecular targeted therapies has improved the clinical course and quality of life of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA); however, a percentage of patients experience treatment failure in the clinical course and quality of life of patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: The study is a collaborative international cross-sectional retrospective study involving RA patients on treatment with biologics or Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) attending Hokkaido University Hospital (Japan) or Hospital Virgen de las Nieves, Department of Rheumatology, Granada, Spain.

Results: One-hundred-twenty-four Japanese RA patients, 100 females, median age at entry 66 yrs [IQR 54-72], median disease duration 12 yrs [IQR 7-20] were included. One-hundred-seven (86%) patients were on biologics and 17 (14%) on JAKi, median treatment duration of 4 yrs [IQR 1-7]. Concomitant treatment with conventional synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (csDMARDs) and glucocorticoids were reported in 84% and 53% of patients, respectively. Ninety-six (77%) patients were responders to treatment defined as disease activity score 28 (DAS28)-ESR <3.2 and DAS28-28CRP <2.7. All patients had food consumption in the last month and 82% reported intake of n-3 PUFAs from fish (fatty fish) (<1 time/week 33%, 21 time/week 49%). A higher estimated daily intake of n-3 PUFAs from fish was found in the responder group compared to the non-responder group [median grams, 1.01 (IQR 0.47-1.44) vs 0.51 (IQR 0.34-1.14), p<0.044]. The Spanish cohort comprised of 62 RA patients, 47 females, median age at entry 58 yrs [IQR 49-66], median disease duration 12 yrs [IQR 5-21]. Fifty-nine (95%) patients were on biologic therapies and three (5%) on JAKi, median treatment duration of 3 yrs [IQR 1-8]. Concomitant treatment with csDMARDs and glucocorticoids were reported in 38% and 42% of patients, respectively. Thirty-four (55%) patients were responders to treatment. All patients had consumption of fish in the last month and 77% had consumed fatty fish (<1 time/week 31%, ≥1 time/week 46%). No difference in estimated intake of n-3 PUFAs from fish was observed in this cohort.

Conclusion: Fish consumption may have a positive effect on the response to treatment of Japanese RA patients receiving targeted therapy.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: Acknowledgements to Ms. Y. Ike and S. Kumagai for their enriching support on the nutritional properties of fish. Supported by the Kakenhi C grant number 20K11597 from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3046

Table 1. JAK inhibitor discontinuation rates and duration of use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Number of patients</th>
<th>Proportion discontinued</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
<th>Standard error of mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baricitinib</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>51/233 (21.89%)</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>18.43</td>
<td>68.14</td>
<td>230.10</td>
<td>49.55</td>
<td>48.68</td>
<td>6.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofacitinib</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>33/61 (54.09%)</td>
<td>70.29</td>
<td>5.29</td>
<td>37.96</td>
<td>96.93</td>
<td>161.10</td>
<td>72.35</td>
<td>43.29</td>
<td>7.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filgotinib</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>4/51 (7.84%)</td>
<td>13.50</td>
<td>4.71</td>
<td>6.54</td>
<td>15.86</td>
<td>16.14</td>
<td>11.96</td>
<td>5.14</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upadacitinib</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0/30 (0%)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Of the 88 patients who discontinued a JAK inhibitor, 86% were female and 14% male. Median age was 60 years (IQR 53-70 years), and median duration of drug intake was 45.60 weeks (IQR 19.29-74.07). Of these 88 patients, 77% were Caucasian, 20% from the Indian subcontinent, and the remaining patients mixed race, Asian other, and not stated. Furthermore, 65.9% of patients were on concomitant DMARDs, 71.6% had received a previous biologic drug (median number of previous biologics was 1 [0-2]). Diagnosis was seropositive RA (rheumatoid arthritis) in 59.1%, seronegative RA in 27.3%, PsA (psoriatic arthritis) in 11.4%, and 2.2% in RA/PsA overlap. Of the 88 patients where the JAK inhibitor was discontinued, reasons included primary inefficacy 37.5%, toxic adverse events 35.2%, non-toxic reasons 17.05%, secondary inefficacy 5.68%, disease remission 1.14%, and not stated 3.41%. Adverse events of interest included viral infections 6.81%, non-viral infections 4.54%, malignancy 2.27%, and MHRA alerts 9.09%. In this multi-ethnic population, the most common reasons for discontinuation were primary inefficacy and toxic adverse events, although patients are screened for risk factors prior to commencement, and MHRA alerts led to discontinuation if risk factors developed during treatment.

Conclusion: In this real-world population, tofacitinib followed by baricitinib had the highest discontinuation rates. While discontinuation rates for the 2nd generation JAK inhibitor appear more promising, patient numbers were lower. The most common reasons for discontinuation were primary inefficacy and toxic adverse events. Further real-world observational data is needed, particularly from multi-ethnic patient populations, to increase confidence levels in JAK inhibitor prescribing.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3979
Background: There is no consensus among rheumatologists on giving local anesthesia to the overlying skin prior to an intra-articular injection of glucocorticoid.

Objectives: Compare procedural pain in intra-articular injection between using local anesthesia to overlying skin or not.

Methods: Open label randomized controlled trial included patients with rheumatoid arthritis or spondyloarthritis undergoing intra-articular injections (of glucocorticoid) to paired medium-large joints. First the left joint was injected followed by right joint after a gap of 10-minutes. Randomization was done by online software using serial permuted blocks of varying sizes (4, 6 and 8) whether local anesthesia (5 ml of 2% Lignocaine using a 23G needle) would be given to the left or right joint. Primary endpoint was immediate procedural pain felt by the patient using the Numerical Rating Scale and Faces Pain Scale-Revised. Secondary endpoints were 1-hour pain assessment, patient preference and complications. Paired t-test and Wilcoxon Signed Ranked test was used (paired data). Trial#CTRI/2021/07/034777

Results: This study included 42 patients undergoing paired joint injections (84 joints); joints were knee (21 patients. 42 joints), wrists (14 patients, 28 joints), ankles (5 patients, 10 joints) and elbows (2 patients, 4 joints). In 21 patients, the left joint was given local anesthesia and in the other 21 patients, the right joint was given local anesthesia. Most had rheumatoid arthritis (37) and minority had spondyloarthritis [5]. Their mean age (±SD) was 44.6 ± 14 years and 71% were females. There was a significantly lower immediate procedural pain in the joint over which the skin was given local anesthesia compared to that not (4.7 (1.7), 5.6 (1.6), p=0.01, difference -1.1, 95% CI -1.5 to -0.7) (Table 1, Figure 1A). There was no difference in complications of hypopigmentation or purpura nor in residual pain prick-site at 1-month.

Conclusion: Local anesthesia of the overlying skin led to a definite but modest reduction in pain felt by the patient during intraarticular injection.

Table 1. Procedural pain felt by patients in their joint injected with or without local anesthesia at immediate (0 hour) and 1 hour post procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pain using NRS-FPS Joint with local anesthesia, n=42 Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Joint without LA, n=42 Mean (SD)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 Hours</td>
<td>4.7 (1.7)</td>
<td>5.6 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hour</td>
<td>3.2 (1.4)</td>
<td>4.0 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Efficacy and Safety of Low-dose IL-2 in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Rheumatoid arthritis

Q. Y. Su1,2,3, X. M. Wang1,2, J. X. Zhang1,2, C. R. Bai1,2, P. H. Chai1,2, Q. Yu4, P. F. He4, X. Li1,2,3, S. X. Zhang1,2,3,1. Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China; 2. Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 3. Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 4. Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

Background: Interleukin (IL)-2 is a key cytokine for tipping the balance of Treg and effector T cells, which can effectively relieve rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Objectives: This study aimed to systematically evaluate the efficacy and safety of low-dose IL-2 therapy in RA.

Methods: Systematic searches of PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, the Cochrane Library and Medline, CNKI, CBM, and Technology Journal Database were performed. Original case reports, case series, observational studies, and clinical trials reporting the efficacy or safety data on RA patients treated with IL-2 were included. A random-effects meta-analysis was performed to calculate the pooled efficacy. Inconsistency was evaluated by using the I² and Egger tests were used for the evaluation of potential publication bias (STATA v.12.0).

Results: Thirteen studies comprising 1161 patients were identified (Table 1). After the low-dose IL-2 treatment, there were significant decreases in diseases activity measures such as DAS28 (SMD= -2.631, 95% CI (-3.526,-1.737), P<0.001; SJC(SMD=-1.966, 95% CI (-1.497,-0.464), P<0.001; TJC(SMD= -1.032, 95% CI (-1.585,-0.487), P<0.001), and CRP (SMD= -0.824, 95% CI (-0.997,-0.652), P<0.001). The values of BUN were increased and the values of Cr was no statistical differences. The value of ALT was increased while the value of AST was decreased. Blood cell counts such as WBC, PLT and LY were significantly increased and RBC was no statistical difference. Meanwhile, the value of Hb was also no statistical difference (Figure 1). Besides, the numbers of CD4+T cells, CD8+T cells, Th1 cells, Th2 cells, Th17 cells and Tregs were significantly increased after IL-2 injection (SMD= 0.819, 95%CI (0.692,0.946), P<0.001; SMD= 0.388, 95%CI (0.222,0.554), P<0.001; SMD= 0.634, 95%CI (0.436,0.832), P<0.001; SMD= 0.521, 95%CI (0.366,0.676), P<0.001; SMD= 0.626, 95%CI (0.475,0.776), P<0.001; SMD= 1.177, 95%CI (0.941,1.412), P<0.001), while there were no statistical differences in the number of NK cells after IL-2 treatment. Importantly, the ratio of Th17/Tregs was significantly decreased(SMD= -0.700, 95% CI (-0.852,-0.549), P<0.001) and the ratio of Th1/Th2 was no statistical difference (Figure 2).

Figure 1. meta-analysis of less mean FVC decrement in RA-ILD patients treated with anti-fibrotic drugs.

Figure 2. A random-effects meta-analysis was performed to calculate the pooled efficacy. Inconsistency was evaluated by using the I² and Egger tests were used for the evaluation of potential publication bias (STATA v.12.0).

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Conclusion: Low-dose IL-2 was promising and well-tolerated in the treatment of RA, which could promote the proliferation and functional recovery of Tregs.

Table 1. Available evidence including patients with RA treated with low-dose IL-2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study/Year</th>
<th>Patients (include in analysis)</th>
<th>Gender (female %)</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>DAS28</th>
<th>SJC</th>
<th>TJC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xiaoying Zhang. 2022.</td>
<td>47(23)</td>
<td>86.96</td>
<td>1 million IU every other day</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shengxiao Zhang. 2021.</td>
<td>888(233)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:5.44 ± 1.34</td>
<td>before:6.40 ± 7.63</td>
<td>before:10.07 ± 7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.H Chien. 1990.</td>
<td>11(11)</td>
<td>54.55</td>
<td>10 to 50 thousand IU per kilogram</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.Y. Hu. 2018.</td>
<td>267(267)</td>
<td>79.40</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:3.60 ± 0.96</td>
<td>before:1.40 ± 1.64</td>
<td>after:0.94 ± 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. Jia. 2018.</td>
<td>75(75)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:3.34 ± 0.81</td>
<td>after:2.36 ± 0.97</td>
<td>before:6.91 ± 0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ShengXiao Zhang. 2016.</td>
<td>41(26)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:5.31 ± 1.18</td>
<td>before:4.15 ± 5.03</td>
<td>before:10.54 ± 8.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z. Li. 2017.</td>
<td>58(38)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:2.85 ± 0.67</td>
<td>before:4.20 ± 0.70</td>
<td>before:9.4 ± 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>张升校. 2018.</td>
<td>41(26)</td>
<td>57.69</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. Jia. 2018.</td>
<td>304(156)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:5.3 ± 0.89</td>
<td>before:2.5 ± 1.48</td>
<td>before:6.5 ± 10.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ming Yan. 2018.</td>
<td>839(233)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:2.7 ± 0.67</td>
<td>after:0.9 ± 0.74</td>
<td>after:1 ± 1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>王佳. 2019.</td>
<td>41(26)</td>
<td>57.69</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:6.91 ± 0.43</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>唐治. 2022.</td>
<td>41(21)</td>
<td>68.67</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:5.31 ± 1.18</td>
<td>before:4.15 ± 5.03</td>
<td>before:10.54 ± 8.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jia Wang. 2022.</td>
<td>41(26)</td>
<td>57.69</td>
<td>0.5 million IU per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before:2.23 ± 0.23</td>
<td>before:2.85 ± 0.67</td>
<td>before:9.4 ± 1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5223

AB0466 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL BLOOD BIOMARKERS FOR JAK INHIBITOR TREATMENT-RELATED PATHWAYS THROUGH BULK RNA SEQUENCING ANALYSIS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Genetics/epigenetics, Targeted synthetic drugs

H. H. Chen1, T. M. Ko2. 1Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Department of Biological Science and Technology, Hsinchu, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Targeted small molecule therapy that inhibits receptor-mediated signaling via Janus kinase (JAK)–signal transducer and activator of transcription (STAT) pathways has become an established strategy for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The rationale for using these inhibitors is that JAKs have critical roles in specific pathological mechanisms and thus their targeted inhibition can lead to effective disease control. Despite JAK inhibitors (JAKi) having been approved for the treatment of RA and other systemic or organ-specific autoimmune diseases, the DAS28 response to JAKi is highly variable, emphasizing the need for reliable biomarkers.

Objectives: To reveal the potential impact of JAKi on treating RA patients, we aim to identify the biomarkers related to the responses of JAKi from blood bulk RNA-seq.
Methods: To better understand the molecular mechanisms of JAKI, we analyzed the global transcriptomics profile (using bulk RNA-seq) in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) that were collected from three RA patients before and after the treatment of JAK.

Results: Comparing the responder and non-responder groups, we identified 1366 upregulated differentially expressed genes (DEGs) and 1630 DEGs. To reveal further insight into the biological roles of the DEGs, we performed GO pathway analysis. Compared with responders, we found that the non-responders have a higher inflammation rate. In addition, non-responders have higher expression of genes that are involved in the JAKs signaling pathway. Specifically, gene profiling of non-responder represents higher Type I and II interferon pathway. In contrast, gene profiling of the responder represents a higher IL-12 pathway.

Conclusion: These changes were accompanied by changes in broader immune cell composition, based on the deconvolution of bulk RNA-sequencing data. In summary, our study revealed several phenotypic and cellular changes that underlie the clinical improvement with JAKI.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5305
Background: Tofacitinib, baricitinib, upadacitinib and filgotinib are the Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in the UK. We report our real-world experience in a cohort of RA patients commenced on JAKi in a regional centre in the UK.

Objectives: To study drug retention rates and adverse events of JAKi in RA patients in the real-world scenario.

Methods: Data of patients with RA initiated on JAKi from February 2018 to August 2022 were retrospectively collected from hospital and primary care records. Kaplan-Meier curve was plotted for the cumulative drug retention rate. Crude event rates for various adverse events were calculated per 100 patient-years. Hazard ratios were calculated for adverse events for tofacitinib vs baricitinib after adjusting for baseline variability using inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW). Statistical analysis was done using R studio.

Results: During the study period 356 patients were initiated on JAKi (Baricitinib: 266, Tofacitinib: 48, Upadacitinib: 33 and Filgotinib: 9). Baseline characteristics of patients are given in Table 1. Over 734.6 patient-years follow up 92 (25.6%) discontinued JAKi. Drug retention rate at 2 years, 3 years and 4 years was 74.2%, 67.5% and 61.5% respectively (Figure 1). Most common reason for discontinuation was lack/loss of response (42.3%). Infections led to discontinuation in 13 patients and cardiovascular events in 5 patients. Lymphopenia, rash, oral ulcer, anemia, weight gain, high cholesterol, diverticulitis, and lymphedema were the other adverse events which resulted in discontinuation. Ten patients died while on treatment with JAKi. Six patients had a major adverse cardiovascular event (MACCE) - 4 acute coronary events and 2 strokes. Nine patients had a venous thromboembolic event (VTE) while one patient had central retinal artery occlusion. Event rates for MACCE and VTE were 0.8(0.3-1.7) and 1.2(0.5-2.3) respectively. Herpes zoster (HZ) occurred in 13 patients with an event rate of 1.8(1.0-3.1). Incident malignancies were noted in 14 patients on JAKi. Event rate was 1.1(0.5-2.2) for malignancies excluding 6 non-melanoma skin cancers. There were no statistically significant differences in the incidence of adverse events between tofacitinib and baricitinib. Hazard ratios for discontinuation, MACE, Pulmonary embolism, HZ, and malignancy were 0.7 (0.4-1.4), 2.0 (0.3-10.8), 0.8(0.2-3.3) and 1.2(0.3-5.0) respectively for tofacitinib compared to baricitinib. Upadacitinib and filgotinib had shorter follow up duration to draw any meaningful conclusion.

Conclusion: JAKi in this real-world population of RA patients had high persistence rates. MACE, VTE, HZ and infections remain adverse events of concern.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Tofacitinib</th>
<th>Baricitinib</th>
<th>Upadacitinib</th>
<th>Filgotinib</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Mean in years</td>
<td>59.2±12.6</td>
<td>61.5±12.1</td>
<td>58.9±12.6</td>
<td>57.7±12.5</td>
<td>60.7±14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>284(79.8)</td>
<td>36(75.0)</td>
<td>211(79.3)</td>
<td>31(93.9)</td>
<td>6(66.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA duration</td>
<td>11±9.6</td>
<td>13±10.1</td>
<td>11±6.9</td>
<td>11±6.9</td>
<td>12±8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>167(58.4)</td>
<td>20(50.0)</td>
<td>122(57.5)</td>
<td>23(85.2)</td>
<td>2(28.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti CCP</td>
<td>194(70.0)</td>
<td>31(75.6)</td>
<td>138(68.0)</td>
<td>23(85.2)</td>
<td>2(28.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base line DAS</td>
<td>5.9±5.9</td>
<td>5.9±5.9</td>
<td>5.9±5.9</td>
<td>6.0±5.9</td>
<td>4.9±1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking status</td>
<td>51(17.3)</td>
<td>6(13.6)</td>
<td>40(18.6)</td>
<td>4(14.3)</td>
<td>1(14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean DAS</td>
<td>130(44.2)</td>
<td>17(38.6)</td>
<td>101(47.0)</td>
<td>10(35.7)</td>
<td>5(50.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>112(31.7)</td>
<td>20(41.7)</td>
<td>81(30.7)</td>
<td>9(27.3)</td>
<td>2(22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>43(12.2)</td>
<td>6(12.2)</td>
<td>30(11.5)</td>
<td>5(15.2)</td>
<td>2(22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous CV event</td>
<td>23(6.5)</td>
<td>4(8.3)</td>
<td>16(6.0)</td>
<td>1(3.0)</td>
<td>2(22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AF</td>
<td>16(4.5)</td>
<td>3(6.3)</td>
<td>13(4.9)</td>
<td>0(0.0)</td>
<td>0(0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCH/DXL&gt;4</td>
<td>66(18.5)</td>
<td>13(26.5)</td>
<td>45(16.9)</td>
<td>6(18.2)</td>
<td>2(22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any DMARD</td>
<td>209(59.5)</td>
<td>22(45.8)</td>
<td>161(61.7)</td>
<td>23(69.7)</td>
<td>3(33.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of previous</td>
<td>1.0±1.1</td>
<td>1.4±1.1</td>
<td>0.9±1.2</td>
<td>1.0±1.1</td>
<td>0.4±0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biologics</td>
<td>162(45.4)</td>
<td>14(28.6)</td>
<td>129(48.5)</td>
<td>14(28.6)</td>
<td>5(55.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RF: Rheumatoid factor, CCP: cyclic citrullinated peptide, AF: Atrial fibrillation, TCH: Total cholesterol, HDL: High density lipoproteins

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5498

Background: Many studies have reported the reduction or discontinuation of biologics in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In contrast, studies on tapering methotrexate (MTX) have been limited [1,2]. We prospectively reported whether bone destruction will progress at 48 weeks after tapering or discontinuing MTX in 79 RA patients in this meeting[3]. 34 patients (total 113 patients) were added for further analysis.

Objectives: According to tapering response, predictors for successful tapering MTX and progression of bone destruction were determined.

Methods: The subjects were RA patients who had maintained low disease activity or lower for 24 weeks or more in DAS28-CRP after MTX administration. Patients having PUDS Grade 2 or 3 per site by bilateral hand ultrasonography (26 areas) were excluded in this study owing to risk for joint destruction. Tapering of MTX dose was done every 2-3 months based on “shared decision between the patient and doctor.” The joint destruction was evaluated by joint X-ray evaluation by modified total Sharp scoring (mTSS) at 1 year after the start of methotrexate treatment.
of tapering MTX. Evaluation of clinical disease activity, severe adverse events, and the continuation rate during MTX tapering were also evaluated. According to tapering response, predictors for successful tapering MTX and progression of bone destruction were determined. Statistical analysis was performed by t-test, Mann-Whitney U test or one-way analysis of variance using EZR ver 1.37[4].

Results: Patients’ demographic data were as follows, mean age:60.8 yrs, female: 88 pts:25pts, disease duration: 66.1 months, mean MTX dose: 8.51mg/week, mean DAS28-CRP: 1.55, ACPA:179.9 U/ml, ACPA positive(%): 72.6, RF: 48.1 IU/ml, RF(%):48.1, mean mTSS:176, ΔmTSS=1-8.8% (10 cases) According to previous report, 113 RA patients were divided into three groups; Flared (F) group (22 patients), Less tapering (L), Good tapering (G) group (54 patients). As shown in Table 1A, significant differences were observed among the three groups in MTX dose at 6M(F vs G, P<0.01, L vs G, P<0.01), MTX dose at 12M(F vs L, P=0.01, F vs G, P<0.01, L vs G <0.01) and ΔmTSS/y(P<0.01), CDAI, SDAI, doctor VAS at 12M(P<0.01), MMP3 at 12M(P<0.05). Severe adverse events; cancer(stomach, lung) 2, MTX associated lymphoma(brain) 1, pneumoniae 1 . These results indicated baseline mTSS may be a predictor for flare and flare response may be a predictor for joint destruction. Baseline CDAI may be a predictor for good response.

Conclusion: Baseline mTSS may be a predictor for flare and flare response. Baseline CDAI may also be a predictor for good response.

Acknowledgements: Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

References:

Table 1A.

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<td>55 (68%)</td>
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<td>DAS28 (weekly)</td>
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<td>ΔmTSS (y)</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5762

AB0470

**EFFECT OF TOFACITINIB IN MODULATING PLATELET FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Safety, Targeted synthetic drugs

**D. Mauro1, D. Iacono1, I. Pantano1, M. Raimondi1, M. L. Marchesano1, F. Riccio1, A. Pellegrino1, V. Liakouli1, F. Ciccia1.** University of Campania L. Vanvitelli, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Precision Medicine, Naples, Italy

**Background:** Recent data suggested an association between Tofacitinib treatment and increased cardiovascular events in patients with Rheumatoid arthritis. Janus Kinase inhibitors (JAKi), specifically JAK3, have been demonstrated to be one of the regulators of platelet function. Treating platelets with thrombin induces tyrosine phosphorylation of the JAK3 target substrates STAT1 and STAT3, and JAK3 deficiency in mice aggravates inflammation and improves event-free survival in thromboplastin-induced thromboembolism.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to study the ability of the JAK1/JAK3 inhibitor, Tofacitinib, to influence platelet activity in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

**Methods:** We enrolled patients with a diagnosis of RA according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria. Peripheral blood was obtained from RA patients at the baseline and after 1, 3, and 6 months of Tofacitinib therapy. Platelet aggregation assay was performed by optical aggregometry stimulated with the thromboxane A2 receptor in RA patients and controls. The aggregation test was performed before starting the therapy with Tofacitinib and after one month, three months and six months.

**Results:** 35 RA patients treated with Tofacitinib were recruited, 86% female and 14% male, with a mean age of 56.5 years (SD 9.7 yrs.), mean disease duration 16.3 years, mean ESR 28.2 mm, mean CRP 0.9 mg/dl, mean SDAI 18.2 and mean prednisone equivalent dose 3.75 mg/die. 78% of the patients were positive for Rheumatoid factor and 57.1% for ACPA. Looking at the classical risk factors, 35.7% had hypertension, 21.4% had hypercholesterolemia, 16.2% had diabetes, and 14.2% were smokers.; only one patient had a previous cardiovascular event. The platelet aggregation was not influenced by Tofacitinib treatment at any time point (T1, T3 and T6) at any Thromboxane dose (5uM and 20 uM), furthermore did not differ from patients and controls basally (64%, SD 15.84% vs 62%, SD 10.5%).

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, Tofacitinib does not increase platelet aggregation in patients treated for Rheumatoid Arthritis.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** Research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Daniele Mauro Grant/research support from: Research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer, Daniela Iacono Grant/research support from: Research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer, Ilenia Pantano Grant/research support from: Some research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer, Maria Raimondi Grant/research support from: Some research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer, Maria Laura Marchesano Grant/research support from: Some research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer, Flavia Riccio Grant/research support from: Some research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer, Anna Pellegrino Grant/research support from: Some research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer, Vassilis Liakouli Grant/research support from: Some research was supported by an unrestricted grant by Pfizer. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5861
a biochemical adherence guided intervention is superior to standard clinical care in RA patients prescribed MTX.

**Methods:** RA patients prescribed oral MTX for ≥ two years were randomised 1:1 to receive biochemical adherence biofeedback or control. Clinico-demographics, biochemical MTX adherence and DAS-28 were measured at baseline and three months. Participants in the intervention cohort were telephoned with their biochemical adherence results and adherence was explored. The semi-structured interviews were used to evaluate a sample of patient perspectives about and engagement with the intervention. Pre-treatment DAS-28 scores were recorded in 53 (36.6%) with a mean score of 5.07. DAS-28 scores following commencement of filgotinib were recorded in 57 (82.8%) patients.

**Results:** 57 trial participants were recruited, withdrawal rate was 14% and reasons given were intercurrent illness, lost contact, withdrawn consent and one patient died during follow-up leaving full outcome data available for 49 participants. A total of nine semi-structured interviews were recorded and analysed in the qualitative arm of the study. The themes from the interviews were grouped in relation to the core concepts of normalisation process theory, these were: coherence, cognitive participation, collective action, reflexive monitoring. Density mapping of the themes suggested that comprehension of the study purpose might have been limited. However, there were high levels of reflexive monitoring and most of the reflections were of a positive nature. Additionally, the intensity of data relating to cognitive participation and collective action suggest that participants were fully engaged in the trial and were supportive of the intervention and trial process.

**Conclusion:** The results of the MIRA trial have demonstrated that the use of a biochemical adherence blood test with biofeedback is feasible as part of a clinical trial. Qualitative findings suggested that participants reported that they were happy to take part in the trial. In contrast to expectations, participants were happy to have their MTX adherence monitored.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6569

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**AB0472**

**FILGOTINIB FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS - AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY TO ASSESS CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS IN NHS LoTHIAN**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Targeted synthetic drugs, Rheumatoid arthritis

**C. Box1, E. Swann1, H. Harris1, N. McKay1. Western General Hospital, Rheumatic Diseases Unit, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

**Background:** Filgotinib (Jysela) is a Janus-kinase (JAK) inhibitor which in 2021 was approved for use in the UK in moderate or severe rheumatoid arthritis (RA) either as monotherapy or in combination with Methotrexate. A reduced dose of 100mg is recommended for patients aged 75 years or over, or with moderate or severe renal impairment. Clinical efficacy of filgotinib alongside a conventional disease-modifying anti- rheumatic drug (CDMARD) was demonstrated in the FINCH 1 and FINCH 2 trials [1,2] but evidence of real-world effectiveness is currently limited.

**Objectives:** To describe a cohort of patients prescribed filgotinib (Jysela) for RA in NHS Lothian and assess clinical response and discontinuation rates in regular clinical practice.

**Methods:** The electronic patient record was reviewed for patients prescribed filgotinib in NHS Lothian between December 2021 and August 2022. Baseline data was recorded including time since diagnosis of RA, previous and concurrent treatment, duration of treatment with filgotinib and discontinuation reason if applicable. Comorbidities of intestinal lung disease (ILD), prior venous thromboembolism (VTE), major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) or malignancy were recorded. Steroid prescriptions at the time of commencing filgotinib were recorded. DAS-28 scores within 6 months prior to starting filgotinib were recorded where they had been performed, along with most recent DAS-28 scores.

**Results:** 145 patients were prescribed filgotinib for RA; 106 females and 39 males. Median age was 64 years. Median treatment duration was 213 days. 35 (24.1%) patients were treated with the reduced 100mg dose. 14 (9.7%) discontinued treatment. 120 (82.8%) were previously treated with an alternative biologic DMARD. 59 (40.7%) had failed multiple biologic DMARDs of different classes (19 (13.1%) acitretin from a Janus-kinase (JAK) inhibitor. Pre-treatment DAS-28 scores were recorded in 53 (36.6%), with a mean score of 5.07. DAS-28 scores following commencement of filgotinib were recorded in 29 (20.0%), with a mean score of 3.50. Pre-treatment tender (TJC) and swollen (SJC) joint counts were recorded in 86 (59.3%), with mean TJC 10.35 and SJC 6.50. Post-treatment counts were recorded in 46 (31.7%), with mean TJC 4.65 and SJC 2.91. Pre-treatment patient visual assessment score (VAS) of global health was recorded in 71 (49.0%), with mean VAS 62. Post-treatment VAS was recorded in 32 (22.1%), with mean VAS 43. 12 (8.3%) patients had DAS-28 scores recorded before and after. 7 were classed as a good response by EULAR criteria, 2 were a moderate response, and 3 were non-responders.

**Conclusion:** The drug survival rate of 90.3% after efficacy assessment at clinical review suggests a good tolerance, patient acceptability and clinical effectiveness. This Edinburgh-based, real-world, unselected patient cohort includes a high rate of multidrug-resistant RA yet sustains a high drug survival rate at 6 months. The cohort is limited by the lack of accurate DAS-28 recording in the clinical record. This may in part reflect the Lothian model of treating imagingConfirmed synovitis in the absence of a DAS-28 result.

**REFERENCES:**


**Title:** Filgotinib for Rheumatoid Arthritis - an observational study to assess clinical effectiveness in NHS Lothian.

Christopher D Box, Ewan L Swann, Helen E Harris, Neil D McKay.

Author affiliations: Rheumatic Diseases Unit, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

Acknowledgements: DOI: We received funding for data collection for from Galapagos NV.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Christopher Box: None declared, Ewan Swann: None declared, Helen Harris: None declared, Neil McKay: Speakers bureau: Presentations at academic virtual meetings for Gilead in 2022, Grant/research support from: I process sponsorsh/ research payment for Educational courses and research from a wide range of pharmaceutical sponsors.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1872

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**AB0473**

**THE EFFICACY OF METHOTREXATE MONOTHERAPY STRATEGY CHOSEN AS FIRST-LINE DMARD THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATION OF SINGLE TERTIARY CENTER EXPERIENCE**

**Keywords:** Remission, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

**N. Erdik1, C. Arslanlık Güneyşi1, S. M. Türk1, G. Yavuzel1, D. Karatas1, M. Kalıcık Unan1, E. Günöl1, Sakarya University, Rheumatology, Sakarya, Turkey

**Background:** Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a chronic systemic disease in which immunologically mediated inflammation of synovia-lined joints can disrupt joint structure and function. Methotrexate is the first recommended conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARD) when diagnosed in patients with RA. The goal of treatment is to achieve low disease activity or remission (1).

**Objectives:** It was aimed to retrospectively evaluate the response of patients who received methotrexate (MTX) monotherapy as a first-line DMARD strategy in newly diagnosed RA patients.

**Methods:** Between January 2018-September 2022, 642 patients diagnosed with RA in the Department of Internal Medicine Rheumatology of Sakarya University were retrospectively analyzed. All patients fulfilled the criteria for the 2010 Rheumatoid arthritis classification. Patients with newly diagnosed RA and obtaining MTX monotherapy as the first conventional DMARD strategy were included in the study. Patients diagnosed in another center and initially started conventional DMARD combination therapy were excluded from the study. Patients who discontinued treatment due to side effects were excluded and 73 were included in the analysis age, sex, disease-modifying antirheumatic factor and anticitrulized peptide antibody levels of the patients were recorded. Disease activity was evaluated at 0-3-6 months with the Disease Activity Score Calculator for Rheumatoid Arthritis (DAS-28). Data were analyzed using the computer program SPSS 21. Wilcoxon Signed Rank test and Friedman test were used from non-parametric tests. p<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** The mean age of the patients was 54.8±11.65 years. Before MTX treatment, 27 (37.0%) patients had moderate DAS-28 scores and 46 (63.0%) patients had high disease activity. In the third months after MTX treatment, 44 (60.3%) patients were in remission or low disease activity, and 29 (39.7%) patients were moderate or high disease activity. In the sixth months after MTX treatment, 61 (83.6%) patients were in remission or low disease activity, and 12 (16.4%) patients were moderate or high disease activity (Table 1). The median DAS-28 score of the patients before MTX treatment was 5.51 (min-max: 3.49-7.77), the median score of the third months after treatment was 2.86 (min-max: 0.77-5.63) and the sixth months after treatment was 2.33 (min-max: 0.77-5.24). A significant improvement was observed in the DAS-28 score evaluated during the
treatment (p<0.001). When the patients were divided into two groups, seronegative and seropositive, DAS-28 scores were found to be significantly decreased after treatment in both groups.

### Table 1. Disease activity rates before and after treatment.

<table>
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<th>Disease activity</th>
<th>Before MTX treatment (n, %)</th>
<th>MTX treatment 3rd month (n, %)</th>
<th>MTX treatment 6th month (n, %)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Remission</td>
<td>30 (77.0)</td>
<td>48 (70.2)</td>
<td>48 (67.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>14 (31.3)</td>
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<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>High</td>
<td>3 (4.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remission + Low</td>
<td>40 (60.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate + High</td>
<td>29 (39.7)</td>
<td>12 (16.4)</td>
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</table>

Conclusion: Methotrexate is the first recommended conventional DMARD when diagnosed in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. However, clinical practice for monotherapy or combination use is quite heterogeneous. In this study, it was shown that the efficacy of MTX monotherapy was high in patients who were planned as the first conventional DMARD strategy, and the rate of patients who achieved the goal the sixth months increased.

REFERENCES:  

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.  
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1886

### AB0474 REAL-WORLD SINGLE CENTER USE OF UPADACITINIB IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS, INCLUDING THOSE REFRACTORY TO FIRST-GENERATION JAK INHIBITORS

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs, Real-world evidence


Ikoma City Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Ikoma-city, Japan; Nara Hospital, Kindai University, Orthopaedic Surgery, Ikoma-city, Japan

**Background:** In practice, bDMARDs and subsequent first-generation JAK inhibitors (JAKi) have significantly improved the management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but there are still patients refractory or intolerant to multiple biologic DMARDs. The fact that first-generation JAKi inhibit more than one JAK molecule has given rise to hopes that second-generation JAKi with enhanced kinase selectivity may maximize efficacy and enable a safer profile. Although some Japanese patients taper off UPA due to their light weight, advanced age, or complications, more than 60% of patients maintained efficacy with UPA at 7.5 mg/day or less, suggesting that taper-off is feasible. After disease activity decreased, tapering or discontinuation of concomitant MTX was prioritized, but there were no cases of apparent flares, again confirming the efficacy of UPA alone. In addition to the long-term safety of UPA, head-to-head between JAKi and bDMARDs should be considered in the future.

REFERENCES:  
[NIL.]

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.  
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1902

### AB0475 TRANSCRANIAL DIRECT CURRENT STIMULATION DECREASES CHRONIC PAIN IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A RANDOMIZED, CONTROLLED, DOUBLE-BLIND CLINICAL TRIAL

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Pain


Doenças Autoimunes, Serviço de Reumatologia, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Porto Alegre, Brazil; HCPA, Laboratório de Doenças Autoimunes, Serviço de Reumatologia, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Porto Alegre, Brazil; HCPA, Laboratório de Dor e Neuromodulação, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Porto Alegre, Brazil; HCPA, Serviço de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento em Engenharia Biomédica, Porto Alegre, Brazil

**Background:** Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) patients often present chronic pain that may persist beyond therapeutic control of objective signs of inflammation and may cause significant physical and psychological impairments. Complex mechanisms encompassing peripheral and central sensitization seem to be involved. In fibromyalgia patients, Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) appears to be effective for decreasing chronic pain symptoms.

**Objectives:** To verify the effect of active tDCS on pain and clinical symptoms in RA patients.

**Methods:** This double-blind randomized pilot clinical trial recruited women aged between 18 and 70 years diagnosed with RA and stable (3 months) low inflammatory status (CRP < 10 mg/L, ESR < 20 mm/h, swollen joint count ≤ 1 and persistent pain (VAS-pain > 4cm), from the Rheumatology ambulatory clinic of Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre/Brazil. The patients were randomized into two different groups: active tDCS (A-tDCS) and Sham (S-tDCS). The 20 sessions of tDCS (2mA) were applied at home daily, for 20min, 5 days/week. Main outcome was pain by visual analogue scale (VAS cm) after 4 weeks. Additional evaluations: pressure pain threshold (PPTKg), disease activity (DAS28-CRP), physical function (HAQ-DI), fatigue (FACT-F), central sensitisation (Central Sensitization Inventory - CSI), and safety: The Paired-sample t test, the Wilcoxon test, the T-tests for independent samples, the Mann-Whitney test and the Generalized estimating equations (GEE) were performed using a gamma model were performed (accepted at p<0.05).

**Results:** Twelve patients have completed this pilot study (A-tDCS, n=6 and S-tDCS, n=6). At baseline, there are no differences in clinical features between groups (Table 1). After the 4-week intervention, the time of intervention was associated with changes on VAS-pain (p=0.004). There was between groups a trend towards a statistically significant difference for the A-tDCS group (p=0.05). Both groups had improvement in pain within 6 months and UPA was resumed after a temporary suspension. 2 patients discontinued UPA due to inadequate efficacy and 8 due to adverse events. Adverse events requiring hospitalization were bacterial pneumonia, cutaneous hemorrhage, and sudden death with suspected acute myocardial infarction.

**Conclusion:** UPA was effective in RA patients, including first-generation JAK-resistant patients, with few cases of discontinuation due to inadequate efficacy. Although some Japanese patients taper off UPA due to their light weight, advanced age, or complications, more than 60% of patients maintained efficacy with UPA at 7.5 mg/day or less, suggesting that taper-off is feasible. After disease activity decreased, tapering or discontinuation of concomitant MTX was prioritized, but there were no cases of apparent flares, again confirming the efficacy of UPA alone. In addition to the long-term safety of UPA, head-to-head between JAKi and JAK inhibitors should be considered in the future.
Table 1. Results at baseline and after 4 weeks of tDCS intervention within and between groups.

<table>
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<th>Variable</th>
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<th>After tDCS</th>
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<tr>
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<td>A=tDCS(n=6)</td>
<td>S=tDCS(n=6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean</td>
<td>54.3±11</td>
<td>57.3±9.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration, median (y)</td>
<td>8.0 (5.0-10.2)</td>
<td>11 (6.2-30.5)</td>
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<td>CRP, median (mg/L)</td>
<td>3.5(0.0-10.0)</td>
<td>2.0(10.3-3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28-CRP, median</td>
<td>2.9±10</td>
<td>2.3±0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI, median</td>
<td>1.7±0.4</td>
<td>1.6±0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PACT/F, median</td>
<td>22.0±10.0</td>
<td>28.6±9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI, median</td>
<td>50.6±8.2</td>
<td>63.7±10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPT (Kg), median</td>
<td>2.2(0.2-2.9)</td>
<td>2.3(18.4-2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS (cm)</td>
<td>6.5(17.75)</td>
<td>6.0(17.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leflunomida, n (%)</td>
<td>2.0 (33.3)</td>
<td>2.0 (33.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX, n (%)</td>
<td>2.0 (33.3)</td>
<td>5.0 (83.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (16.7)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

p, Difference value at baseline and after intervention with tDCS (within groups)(p≤0.05)*.

Conclusion: These preliminary findings revealed that daily treatment with tDCS compared to sham stimulation over 4 weeks may improve the chronic pain in RA patients, despite the placebo effect observed for physical function, fatigue, PPT and central sensitization. The intervention was well tolerated. Thus, tDCS appears to be a promising auxiliary tool in the treatment of patients with low-inflammation RA who have chronic pain, but larger and longer studies are needed to confirm this observation and optimize it.

REFERENCE:

 disclosed by the author.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

References: Nil.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4124
(ii) explore changes in laboratory parameters; (iii) find potential predictive factors associated with response to therapy.

**Methods:** Medical records of consecutive RA patients treated with UPA and referred to three Italian tertiary Centers were prospectively reviewed. Adult patients meeting ACR/EULAR classification criteria for RA were enrolled.

**Results:** Our real-life experience confirms the efficacy in terms of clinical and US improvement as well as displaying a good safety profile. The combination therapy with a conventional immunosuppressants predicts a significantly lower clinical and US improvement, likely reflecting a more severe and aggressive course worthy of ad-hoc and more in-depth investigation. An improvement in the SDAI and DAS28CRP was observed, already from the first month of therapy and has been maintained over time. In conclusion, these results demonstrated the short term efficacy of Upadacitinib 15mg for up to 6 months and providing a prompt improvement of PROs. Even if further studies are needed to clarify those results, these novel findings may provide new insight for the management of UPA treatment in clinical practice.

**Conclusion:** Our real-life experience confirms the efficacy in terms of clinical and US improvement as well as displaying a good safety profile. The combination therapy with a conventional immunosuppressants predicts a significantly lower clinical and US improvement, likely reflecting a more severe and aggressive course worthy of ad-hoc and more in-depth investigation. An improvement in the SDAI and DAS28CRP was observed, already from the first month of therapy and has been maintained over time. In conclusion, these results demonstrated the short term efficacy of Upadacitinib 15mg for up to 6 months and providing a prompt improvement of PROs. Even if further studies are needed to clarify those results, these novel findings may provide new insight for the management of UPA treatment in clinical practice.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4159

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**AB0478**

**FRENCH REAL-LIFE DATA ON THE 18-MONTH EFFECTIVENESS OF TOFACITINIB ACCORDING TO CONCOMITANT USE OF CSA DMARD IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: INTERIM RESULTS OF THE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY, DeFacTo**

**Keywords:** Targeted synthetic drugs, Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis

**Abstract:**

Concomitant use of csDMARDs and tofacitinib, an oral JAK inhibitor, is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) for which we have no real-life effectiveness data in a French RA population.

**Objectives:** To describe tofacitinib effectiveness profile according to concomitant use of csDMARD in a French prospective observational study, DeFacTo.

**Methods:** DeFacTo, an ongoing observational study with the primary objective of identifying predictive factors of Tofacitinib maintenance in real-life RA patients. The results described here are based on a descriptive interim analysis of its effectiveness at 18 months.

**Results:** Among 314 pts enrolled in the study, 301 (POP1) were included in this effectiveness analysis, including 274 (POP2) patients with follow-up ≥ 18 months on 03/15/2022 (date of analysis) with a median exposure duration of 538 [Q1; Q3: 381; 554] days. At baseline, among POP2: 168 (POP3) patients were treated with tofacitinib used concomitantly with at least one csDMARDs vs 106 (POP4) tofacitinib monotherapy. In POP3 vs POP4 respectively, 76.8% vs 84.9% were female, with a mean (± SD) age of 59.5 (10.8) vs 59.9 (12.1), median disease duration of 8.6 years [Q1-Q3: 3.2; 18.6] vs 11.1 [Q1-Q3: 5.3; 19.4], 85.3% vs 52.4% patients had erosions, 80.5% vs 76.5% had FR+ and 77.7% vs 75.0% had ACPA+. Median CRP was 7.0 [Q1-Q3: 2.9; 18.0] vs 8.0 [Q1-Q3: 3.0; 18.1], and mean DAS28-4 CRP was 4.4 ± 1.1 vs 4.7 ± 1.0, in POP3 and POP4 respectively. Result showed a decrease in inflammatory markers, pain, and DAS28-CRP activity scores in both groups. At 18 months of follow-up, 24.4% and 24.5% of the pts achieved DAS28-CRP remission in POP3 and POP4 respectively (Table 1).

Note that missing data and treatment discontinuation were considered as failures which resulted in an underestimation of LDA and remission at 18 months.

**Table 1. Characteristics at inclusion and effectiveness at 18 months**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables in LS mean ± SD</th>
<th>Patients with Patients with Patients with Patients with Patients with Patients with Patients with</th>
<th>Baseline, n=274</th>
<th>At 18 month, n=274</th>
<th>Difference from baseline to M18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or % of pts</td>
<td>concomitant</td>
<td>concomitant</td>
<td>concomitant</td>
<td>concomitant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD</td>
<td>csDMARD</td>
<td>csDMARD</td>
<td>csDMARD</td>
<td>csDMARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>treatment</td>
<td>treatment</td>
<td>treatment</td>
<td>treatment</td>
<td>treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pts</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 CRP</td>
<td>4.38 ±0.09</td>
<td>4.68 ±10</td>
<td>2.49 ± 0.14</td>
<td>2.85 ± 0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/l)</td>
<td>15.25 ±1.88</td>
<td>13.67 ±1.45</td>
<td>5.16 ± 0.97</td>
<td>4.87 ± 0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR-EULAR</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boolean criteria(^1)</td>
<td>&gt;32</td>
<td>&gt;32</td>
<td>&gt;32</td>
<td>&gt;32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission(^1)</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% pts</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 CRP</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
<td>&lt;2.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Missing data handled with mixed models for repeated measures I Missing data and treatment discontinuations considered failures (122 patients with missing data, 39 treatment discontinuations).*

**Conclusions:** This intermediate analysis from real-life study showed that tofacitinib in RA patients is effective with or without csDMARD.

**Acknowledgments:** This study was sponsored by Pfizer.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Cécile Gaujoux-Viala Speakers bureau: AbbVie; Amgen; Bristol-Myers Squibb; Celgene; Eli Lilly; Galapagos; Gilead Sciences, Inc.; Janssen; Medac; Merck-Serono; Mylan; Nordic Pharma; Novartis; Pfizer; Roche; Sandoz; Sanofi; and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie; Amgen; Bristol-Myers Squibb; Celgene; Eli Lilly; Galapagos; Gilead Sciences; Inc.; Janssen; Medac; Merck-Serono; Mylan; Nordic Pharma; Novartis; Pfizer; Roche; Sandoz; Sanofi; and UCB, Andre BASCH Consultant of: Janssen; Novartis; Amgen; GSM, Abbvie, Lilly; Pfizer, MSD, UCB, Slim Lassoued; None declared; Fabienne COURRY-LUCAS Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis and Pfizer, Grant/research support from: AbbVie; Biogen, Roche Chtagui, Pfizer, and UCB, Meriem Kessouri Shareholder of: Pfizer, Employee of: Amine Saighi Shareholder of: Pfizer, Employee of: Pfizer, Yves Braut Shareholder of: Pfizer, Employee of: Pfizer, Pierre-Alexandre Squara Shareholder of: Pfizer, Employee of: Pfizer, Thierry Lequerre Consultant of: AbbVie, BMS, Boehringer, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Nordic Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche – Chtagui, Sanofi, UCB, Carine Salliot Consultant of: Biogen, Lilly, Novartis, Roche Chtagui, Pfizer. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4159
Rheumatoid arthritis - non biologic treatment and small molecules.

BARCITINIB AND UPADACITINIB AFFECT THE LEVELS OF BONE DESTRUCTION MARKERS AND BONE FORMATION INDICATORS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Bone diseases, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

A. Felis-Giemza1, W. Kurowska2, M. Marecka-Kuzdub1, E. Kuca-Warnawen3, M. Mallasiski4, W. Mallasiski3, 5 National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Biological Therapy Center, Warsaw, Poland; 6 National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Pathophysiology and Immunology, Warsaw, Poland

Background: Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKis) baricitinib and upadacitinib inhibit the radiographic progression of joint damage in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1-3]. Recent findings indicate that treatment with JAKi can lead to the repair of arthritic bone erosions [4]. However, although the immunomodulatory effects of JAKis have been extensively studied in inflammatory diseases, the effects of JAKis on bone metabolism in patients with RA are not fully understood.

Objectives: To investigate the effect of baricitinib and upadacitinib on the levels of bone destruction markers and bone formation indicators in the peripheral blood of patients with RA.

Methods: The study included 14 patients with RA (all women, aged 23–65 years, mean age 47.7 ± 12.4 years) with high disease activity at baseline (median [DAS 28-ESR 5.62, range 3.85–11.50]), and 9 patients (n=5) after 5–6 months of therapy. Peripheral blood samples were collected from patients prior to JAKi treatment, and during therapy with baricitinib 4 mg once daily (n=9) or upadacitinib 15 mg once daily (n=5). Concentrations of C-telopeptide fragments of type I collagen (CTX-I), osteocalcin, Receptor Activator for Nuclear Factor kappa B Ligand (RANKL), and osteoprotegerin (OPG) were measured in plasma by the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays. Changes in the variables were assessed using paired Student t-test or Wilcoxon matched-pair rank test (depending on the type of data distribution).

Results: The median duration of treatment with JAKi was 12 months (range 7–18 months). Eleven (78.6%) patients were treated for more than 12 months. The effects of JAKis were analyzed in two-time intervals: after 5–6 months of therapy and after 12 months of therapy. The median DAS 28-ESR decreased to 2.83 (range 1.13–7.56, p=0.014) after 5–6 months of therapy, and to 2.53 (range 0.75–7.34, p=0.002) after 12 months of therapy. The concentration of bone turnover marker CTX-I decreased gradually during JAKi treatment from a median pre-treatment level of 247.1 ng/ml (range 50.0–1228.0 ng/ml) to 186.0 ng/ml (range 0.0–394.0 ng/ml) after 5–6 months of therapy, and 76.0 ng/ml (range 0.0–481.0; p=0.031) after 12 months of therapy. Conversely, treatment with JAKi resulted in a gradual increase in the median osteocalcin concentration from a pre-treatment level of 17.0 ng/ml (5.0–370.0 ng/ml) to 24.0 ng/ml (6.92–92.0 ng/ml and 28.6 ng/ml (11.0–43.0 ng/ml) after 5–6 months and 12 months of therapy (p=0.027), respectively. In a subgroup of 6 patients (2 treated with upadacitinib and 4 treated with baricitinib), a decrease in RANKL/OPG concentration ratios were observed after 5–6 months of therapy, and after 12 months of therapy (from pre-treatment median ratio of 0.23, range: 0.09–1.26 to 0.11, range: 0.00–0.87 after therapy; p=0.03). In 5 patients, the RANKL/OPG ratio did not change during treatment with baricitinib or upadacitinib.

Conclusion: The decrease in the concentration of CTX-I, a marker of bone destruction, with a simultaneous increase in the concentration of osteocalcin, a marker of bone formation, and a decrease (at least in a subgroup of patients) in the concentration of RANKL, a stimulator of bone resorption, in relation to its treatment with baricitinib or upadacitinib.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

THERAPIES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND BAYESIAN NETWORK META-ANALYSIS OF RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Randomized control trial, Rheumatoid arthritis

Z. Yang1, Q. Liang1, Y. Liang3, M. Wang1,2,3,4,5, R. Huang1,3,4,5, G. Wang1,2,3,4,5, 6 University of Chinese Medicine, The Second Affiliated Hospital, Guangzhou, China; 7 University Medical Center Utrecht, Center for Molecular Medicine, Utrecht, Netherlands; 8 Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Clinical Research on Traditional Chinese Medicine Syndrome, Guangzhou, China; 9 Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Joint lab on Chinese Medicine and Immune Disease Research, Guangzhou, China; 10 The Second Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, State Key Laboratory of Dampness Syndrome of Chinese Medicine, Guangzhou, China

Background: Former findings suggested that MTX-based combination therapies show improved efficacy and safety compared to monotherapy [1]. Several studies [2] have been conducted analysis on MTX-based combination therapies, but there is a lack of systematic analysis involving MTX+TCM (Traditional Chinese medicine) therapies.

Objectives: To assess the effectiveness and adverse events of Methotrexate-based (MTX-based) combination therapies (especially MTX + TCM therapies) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treatment.

Methods: A comprehensive search of PubMed, Embase, the Cochrane Library, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), the Database for Chinese Technical Periodicals and Wanfang data was done without language restriction. A systematic review and network meta-analysis included randomized controlled trials of MTX-based combination therapies and methotrexate monotherapy. The ability of different regimens to reduce rheumatoid factors and inflammatory indicators and the probability of adverse reactions were compared. This study has been registered with PROSPERO under the number CRD42022265799.

Results: A total of 37 studies, including 3119 patients, were eligible for inclusion. Meta-analysis results showed that methotrexate combined with other DMARDs or Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) could reduce serum Rheumatoid Factor (RF) and C-reactive protein (CRP) levels to some extent, but the therapies combined with TCM were more effective and had a lower rate of adverse effects. The results of RF reducing ability were ranked in ascending order: MTX+LEF+TCM > MTX+SSZ+HCQ > MTX+LEF+SSZ+HCQ > MTX+LEF+MTX-TCM > MTX+HCQ > MTX. While the results of CRP reducing ability were ranked in ascending order: MTX+LEF+TCM > MTX+SSZ+HCQ > MTX+LEF+MTX-TCM > MTX+HCQ.

Conclusion: Overall, MTX-based combination therapies are an effective treatment, and the combination of TCM and MTX-based combination therapies is more effective and safer. For treating rheumatoid arthritis or patients with an inadequate response to MTX, MTX-based combination therapies remain an alternative, cost-effective option. To support and validate the potential of TCM and MTX-based combination therapies in treating RA, large-scale, high-quality RCTs should be conducted in the future to provide more accurate and complete data.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

IS TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE A GOOD OPTION IN METHOTREXATE-BASED COMBINATION

Figure 1. Forest plot of RF reducing ability (A, MTX+SSZ+HCQ; B, MTX+TCM; C, MTX+HCQ; D, MTX+LEF+TCM, E, MTX+LEF, F, MTX

DBL 1111
Phase 3 SELECT clinical trial program, UPA has been shown to be effective and well tolerated in patients with RA [2]. However, data on the use of UPA in real-world clinical practice are limited.

Objectives: To evaluate UPA effectiveness in RA patients and to report the main reasons of suspension and the most relevant factor related to treatment persistence.

Methods: In 25 Italian rheumatological referral centers, all RA consecutive patients who received UPA were enrolled. Anamnestic data, treatment history and RA disease activity at baseline were recorded. The 6 and 12 months UPA retention rate was assessed with the Kaplan-Meier curve methods. The Cox analysis investigated the effect of age, sex, smoke habit, ACPA/RF presence, disease duration, DAS28-CRP line of treatment, concomitant csDMARD treatment on UPA retention rate. A p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: The one-hundred-eleven enrolled patients median age 57 (IQR 50-65 yrs); M:F 28:83; disease duration 78 (IQR 40-170) months. The median observation period was 6.1 (IQR 3.2-10.2) months. The observation lasted 812 patient-months. The majority of patients (54.0%) were in mono-therapy and received steroid (respectively 54.0% and 58.6%) (Table 1). The UPA retention rate at 6, 12 months was, respectively 90.4% and 74.7% (Figure 1). The main discontinuation reason was lack of efficacy (42% of interruptions), cancer onset and infections (both 11%). No thromboembolic events were reported. According to the Cox analysis, no one of the above mentioned parameters were associated to high risk of treatment interruption.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4653

Table 1. Baseline characteristics UPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>28:83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, median [IQR] yrs</td>
<td>58 [50-65]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokers, n (%) (**)</td>
<td>Yes 16 (16.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Former 17 (17.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No 64 (66.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index, median [IQR] kg/m^2 (**)</td>
<td>24.7 [22.4-27.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Duration, median [IQR], months</td>
<td>78 [40-170]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>72 (64.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>68 (61.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC, median [IQR]</td>
<td>4 [3-6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC, median [IQR]</td>
<td>8 [5-11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, median [IQR], mm/h</td>
<td>32 [20-53]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, median [IQR], mg/dL</td>
<td>1.2 [0.5-3.3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACE, median [IQR]</td>
<td>70 [50-80]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line of treatment, [IQR]</td>
<td>6.5 [4.9-6.9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant csDMARDs use, n (%)</td>
<td>MTX 41 (36.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LFN 3 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SSZ 1 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HCQ 5 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 (58.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant steroids use, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (5-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroids dose (PDN-Eq), median, mg/dL</td>
<td>TNFi 53 (47.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior bDMARDs use, n (%)</td>
<td>IL6i 13 (11.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant relevant disease, n (%)</td>
<td>IL1i 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CD20i 2 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CD80i 11 (9.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baricitinib 9 (8.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tolactinib 2 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diabetes 12 (10.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hypertension 23 (20.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MACE 5 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arterial Hypertension 34 (30.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer 4 (3.6)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.
Conclusion: UPA effectiveness appears to be confirmed. The safety profile of UPA 15 mg in real-world practice is consistent with data from Phase 3 SELECT trials with no new safety signals.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0482 CLINICAL SAFETY AND FEASIBILITY OF A NOVEL IMPLANTABLE NEUROIMMUNE MODULATION DEVICE FOR THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Randomized control trial, Non-pharmacological interventions


Background: An urgent need exists for differentiated RA therapies that are safer and cost-effective. A novel neuroimmune modulation device for treating rheumatoid arthritis. The JAK-1 inhibitor filgotinib has been recently licensed for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), thus real-world evidence is lacking.

Objectives: The RESET-RA Study (NCT04539964) was designed to determine the safety and feasibility of a novel neuroimmune modulation device for treating rheumatoid arthritis. Presented here are data on the surgical implantation and use of this device in the first 60 human subjects enrolled in the study.

Methods: The RESET-RA study is a randomized, double-blind, sham-controlled, multi-center, two-stage pivotal study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a novel neuroimmune modulation device in patients with moderate-to-severe RA who are incomplete responders or are intolerant to one or more biologic or targeted synthetic DMARDs. The device system (SetPoint Medical, Valencia, CA) consists of 2 implanted components: a miniature, rechargeable leadless pulse generator that is surgically implanted in the neck on the left vagus nerve and a silicon sleeve referred to as a positioning and orientation device (POD) that holds the generator in close approximation to the nerve. The vocal cord paresis resolved following vocal cord augmentation with injectable filler and speech therapy.

Results: All device implant procedures were completed with no intraoperative complications, infections, or surgical revisions. No unanticipated adverse events (AEs) were reported during the perioperative period and at the end of 12 weeks of follow-up. No study discontinuations were due to AEs, and no subjects died during the study. There were no serious AEs related to the device, stimulation, or explant procedures. There were two serious AEs related to the implant procedure: vocal cord paresis and prolonged hoarseness were reported in two subjects and are known risks of implanting a device on the vagus nerve. The vocal cord paresis resolved following vocal cord augmentation with injectable filler and speech therapy.

Conclusion: Initial results demonstrated that implantation and programming of the device was safe and the surgical procedure and device were well tolerated. Full results from this study, including the clinical efficacy, will be presented after the study is fully enrolled and data is analyzed to determine potential of neuroimmune modulation for treating rheumatoid arthritis.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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AB0483 FILGOTINIB IS EFFECTIVE AND SAFE IN RA PATIENTS AFTER FAILURE TO MULTIPLE BDMARDS AND TO OTHER JAK INHIBITORS: DATA FROM A MONOCENTRIC PERSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence, Targeted synthetic drugs

F. Arru1, M. Zen1, M. Salvato1, F. Vesentini1, K. Botsios1, T. Del Ross1, M. Favaro1, A. Giolo1, A. Doria1

Background: The JAK-1 inhibitor filgotinib has been recently licensed for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), thus real-world evidence is lacking.

Methods: In this prospective monocentric study, we included all patients with RA (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria) regularly followed-up (every 2-6 months), undergoing therapy with filgotinib between 09/2021-01/2023. Disease activity was measured by DAS28-CRP, OARSI, and SDAI; global assessment of patients (Pt) and physician (Ph) were evaluated by DAS28-CRP, OARSI, and SDAI; TJC, SJC, patients (Pt) and physician (Ph) were evaluated by DAS28-CRP, OARSI, and SDAI.

Results: We enrolled 58 RA patients: 33 (62%) on filgotinib monotherapy, 5 (9%) on filgotinib-rich DMARD, 20 (34%) on filgotinib plus concomitant csDMARDs and glucocorticoids (GC), comorbidities, and adverse events (AE) during filgotinib treatment were collected. Discontinuations for inefficacy or AE were recorded.

Conclusion: Among patients with ≥6 months of follow up there was a significant improvement in swollen and tender joint counts, PtGA, PhGA and composite disease activity measures (Table 1). Seventeen patients (57%) achieved DAS28-4.4 and SDAI <10.2. Disease activity was measured by DAS28-4.4, OARSI, and SDAI; global assessment of patients (Pt) and physician (Ph) were evaluated by DAS28-4.4, OARSI, and SDAI. Multifailure patients and those failing a prior JAKi showed a similar DAS28-4.4 response; in addition, multi-failure and filgotinib monotherapy patients reached comparable DAS28-4.4 remission rates (Table 1). Among patients reaching 12 month follow-up, response rates were maintained (Table 1). During filgotinib therapy there was a trend towards a reduction in both GC users and mean GC dose (Table 1).

Overall, 17 patients (29%) experienced ≥1 AE, of whom 2 (3%) were SAE (ILD progression, 1 death due to pneumonia). Six patients (10%) discontinued...
Table 1. Characteristics of AR patients treated with filgotinib at baseline, m6, m12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics and RA history</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>p-value (m6 vs m12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N of patients</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, y</td>
<td>60 ± 12</td>
<td>7 ± 6</td>
<td>8 ± 3</td>
<td>.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian (%)</td>
<td>47 (71%)</td>
<td>4 ± 4</td>
<td>3 ± 1</td>
<td>.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex – female (%)</td>
<td>45 (84%)</td>
<td>6 ± 3</td>
<td>4 ± 2</td>
<td>.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>23 ± 3</td>
<td>6 ± 2</td>
<td>3 ± 2</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF/LACPR+ (%)</td>
<td>38 (67%)</td>
<td>22.5 ± 10.8</td>
<td>13.4 ± 7.1</td>
<td>.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms duration, y</td>
<td>18 ± 11</td>
<td>25 ± 11</td>
<td>16.5 ± 11</td>
<td>0.73, 9 ± 4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charloton (%)</td>
<td>33.3 ± 1.7</td>
<td>3.5 ± 1.3</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.9</td>
<td>.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions (%)</td>
<td>38 (71%)</td>
<td>3.9 ± 1.5</td>
<td>2 ± 0.9</td>
<td>.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-articular disease (%)</td>
<td>16 (30%)</td>
<td>4.2 ± 1.5</td>
<td>2.7 ± 0.9</td>
<td>.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung (%)</td>
<td>7 (13%)</td>
<td>5 (17%)</td>
<td>17 (52%)</td>
<td>.0017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid nodules (%)</td>
<td>4 (8%)</td>
<td>2 (7%)</td>
<td>8 (27%)</td>
<td>.036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral neuropathy (%)</td>
<td>2 (4%)</td>
<td>1 (12.5%)</td>
<td>5 (32.5%)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye disease (%)</td>
<td>4 (8%)</td>
<td>2 (11%)</td>
<td>10 (55%)</td>
<td>.0116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular (%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td>18 (60%)</td>
<td>14 (46%)</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n.c. not calculated; n.s. not significant

 filgotinib: 1 (2%) due to primary inefficacy, 5 for AE/SAE (9%). No cardiovascular events were recorded.

Conclusion: Real-world treatment with filgotinib was associated with clinical improvement and low AE rate. Multi-failure and JAKi experienced patients benefited from filgotinib therapy. In this cohort of RA patients with low prevalence of comorbidities, no MACE or venous thrombotic events were observed.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5109

AB0485 DO JAK INHIBITORS IMPROVE PATIENT FATIGUE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS? RESULTS FROM A PATIENT SURVEY

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD

G. Dulay1, L. Gohl1, Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust, Rheumatology, Portsmouth, United Kingdom

Background: Fatigue is a common symptom reported by up to three-quarters of patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) [1]. There is often no clear correlation between fatigue and RA disease activity [2]. There is a paucity of data on treatment of fatigue in patients with RA [2]. Fatigue remains one of the key unmet needs in patients with RA. Janus Kinase inhibitors (JAKi) are a group of targeted synthetic treatments used in RA with good clinical efficacy data in randomised controlled trials. There is clinical data to suggest that JAKi treatment can improve fatigue in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a current perspective. Rheumatol Int 2016;36:685–95.

Objectives: The aim was to establish whether fatigue was 'significantly improved' with JAKi treatment. Only patients with a diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis and features or a history of fatigue were included. A second question was incorporated to assess whether any improvement seen was noticed within the first 2 weeks of treatment.

Methods: A simple clinic-based patient survey was undertaken in patients with RA on a JAKi treatment. The first 20 patients with RA and fatigue are included in this sample. The following binary question(s) were asked: 1) Has your fatigue 'significantly improved' on JAKi treatment? 2) If so, was the improvement seen within 2 weeks of starting JAKi treatment? All patients had been on JAKi treatment for at least 12 weeks. The questions were asked prospectively to patients whilst receiving treatment on JAKi treatment for at least 12 weeks.

Results: 13 out of 20 (65%) patients said that their fatigue had 'significantly improved' on JAKi treatment. 7 out of these 13 (54%) patients said that the improvement occurred within 2 weeks of starting JAKi treatment. Out of the 20 patients included in this sample, 11 were on Baricitinib, 5 on Upadacitinib and 4 on Filgotinib. No patients in in this sample were on Tofacitinib. Most frequent AEs with Tofa was urinary tract infections(UTI) (11.9%, 7 cases) and headaches (8.47%, 5 cases). There were 3 cases of herpes zoster (5.1%), one of which was recurrent, and 2 cases respectively of tachycardia and gastrointestinal intolerance (3.4%). With Baricitinib, 2(5%) cases of UTI and 2(5%) of influenza A were reported. Most

Conclusion: Whilst acknowledging the modest sample size and simplicity of our patient survey, our data suggests some benefit of JAKi treatment on fatigue in patients with RA. The benefits seen are broadly in keeping with what is seen in our wider local clinical practice. Our survey suggests that the improvement in fatigue can occur rapidly, with the majority of patients noting improvement within just 2 weeks. More detailed (including qualitative) data would be useful to support these initial findings from this patient survey and explore the role of JAKi treatment on fatigue in patients with RA.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Gurdeep Dulay Speakers bureau: None declared, Uriel Fischboim advisory board fees for: Roche, Chugai, Lilly, Sandz, Thornton-Ross, Amgen, UCB, Abbvie, Gilead, Janssen., Leslie Goh: None declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5157

AB0485 SAFETY ANALYSIS OF JAKINIBS IN REAL CLINICAL PRACTICE IN A COHORT OF 116 PATIENTS

Keywords: Safety, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

L. Salvatierra Velasco1, A. Belmonte Mora1, J. Rubio Ubeda2, P. Morales-Garrido3, J. Salvatierra1, E. Eya1, Hospital Universitario Clínico San Cecilio, Reumatología, Granada, Spain

Background: Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKinibs) have demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and spondyloarthritis (SpA), although their safety profile continues to be analysed due to the possible increase in hematological alterations, thromboembolism, increase in neoplasms.

Objectives: To evaluate in real clinical practice the AEs of JAKinibs in a cohort of patients with RA and SpA. In addition, adherence and reasons for discontinuation (1st or 2nd failure, AE) are analysed.

Methods: Observational study of 116 patients diagnosed with RA or SpA who received treatment with JAKinibs (tofacitinib, baricitinib, upadacitinib) after failure of treatment with different classical synthetic (FAMEsc) or biological (FAMEb) disease-modifying drugs. The following data were analysed: demographic characteristics of the patients, years of disease progression, 1st or 2nd failures and AE.

Results: Mean age was 52 years, with Baricitinib being older (60 years -SD 13.6), higher prevalence of females in all groups, and a disease progression time of about 10 years. Mean number of FAMEsc was 1.6 and mean number of FAMEb was 2.3 to Tofacitinib(Tofa), 2.76 to Baricitinib(Bari) and 4.4 to Upadacitinib(Upa). 71 (63%) patients had active corticosteroid therapy. The median treatment time with Tofa was 8.8 months, Bar 9.5 and Upa 2.4 months. Most frequent AEs with Tofa were urinary tract infections(UTI) (11.9%, 7 cases) and headaches (8.47%, 5 cases). There were 3 cases of herpes zoster (5.1%), one of which was recurrent, and 2 cases respectively of tachycardia and gastrointestinal intolerance (3.4%). With Baricitinib, 2(5%) cases of UTI and 2(5%) of influenza A were reported. Most
frequent AEs related to Upadacitinib are gastrointestinal intolerance, labialis and facial herpes, anterior uveitis and recurrent UTI, with 1 case for each adverse event. There were 4 success with Baricitinib treatment: 2 due to severe COVID, 1 influenza A and 1 due to stroke. 17 patients had 1st failure to Tofa(28.81%), 9 to Baricitinib(20.0%) and 3 to Upa(18.75%); 7(11.86%) and 2(5%) patients had 2nd failure to Tofa and Baricitinib respectively, no with Upa. Mean CRP to Tofa-SD 18.9-was 17.19, 20-SD 2.27- to Bar and 24.2-SD 27.40- to Upa. Mean ESR-SD 15.3- was 25.4, -SD 26.4 and 44.3 -SD 32-, respectively. At 6 months, 36(82%) were continuing on Tofa, 22(56%) on Bar and 4(27%) on Upa. At 12 months, 27(46.6%) were still on Tofa and 12 on Bar(30.8%) and no patients were on upa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1.</th>
<th>Tofa</th>
<th>Bar</th>
<th>Upa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time course of disease(years)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanence 6 months</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanence 12 months</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with corticotherapy</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous biological drugs</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean ESR SD</td>
<td>2SD</td>
<td>2SD</td>
<td>2SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients who discontinued the drug</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean CRP at the end of treatment</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean end-of-treatment CRP</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeated AEs</td>
<td>UTI(7)</td>
<td>UTI(4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Headache(5)</td>
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<td>Headache(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shingles(3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephritic colic(2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal intolerance(2)</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>encephalopathy(1)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke(1)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shingles (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nephritic colic(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal intolerance(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tachycardia(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st failure</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd failure</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARS-Cov2(2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammation(1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke(1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean cumulative dose</td>
<td>3508.87+3390.48 mg</td>
<td>20.50+8.32 IU</td>
<td>38.82 IU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean values of albuminemia</td>
<td>4.50 + 1.53 kPa</td>
<td>9.42 IU</td>
<td>20.50 + 8.32 IU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| AST (r: 0.036, p= 0.335) ALT (0.086, p= 0.476), ALP (r:0.111, p= 0.560).
| Conclusion:                           |       |       |       |

**Figure 1.** Months stay pharmaco

**Conclusion:** Most frequent adverse events with JAKinibs are mild infections, except gastrointestinal complaints with upadacitinib. Serious adverse events, including 3 deaths from viral infections, were observed, mostly in patients over 65 years. Most frequent cause of discontinuation was treatment failure. We believe that further observational studies are needed to stratify and profile the risk of infection with JAKinibs.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis

W. Lahmar1, M. Slouma2, G. Mohamed3, O. Dhi4, N. Abdedil5, L. Metoui1, R. Drif1, A. Gharasia1, 1Military Teaching Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia; 2Military Teaching Hospital, Gastroenterology, Tunis, Tunisia; 3University of Tunis El Manar, Internal Medicine, Medecine, Tunis, Tunisia

**Background:** The relationship between hepatic fibrosis and cumulative doses of methotrexate (MTX) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients is an emerging discussion. Hypoalbuminemia is known to be a potential risk factor for toxicity by methotrexate, mainly hematological toxicity and myelosuppression.

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to investigate the biological associated factors with liver fibrosis in RA patients treated with MTX.

**Methods:** It was a cross-sectional study over nine months [April-December 2021], including RA patients under MTX, recruited from the Rheumatology department of Military Hospital. Liver stiffness was assessed by Fibroscan. Fibrosis and significant liver fibrosis were defined as liver stiffness higher than 6 and 8kPa, respectively. Liver enzymes (AST and ALT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and albuminemia were measured. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS.

**Results:** Sixty-eight patients were included. The mean age was 51.60±11.82 years. The male-to-female ratio was 0.45. The mean disease duration was 8.29 ± 6.48 years. The mean weekly intake of methotrexate was 13.76±3.91mg. The mean cumulative dose was 3508.87±3390.48 mg. The mean values of albuminemia were: 4.50 ± 1.53 kPa. AST (r:0.036, p=0.335) ALT (0.086, p=0.476), nor ALP (r:0.111, p=0.560).

**Conclusion:** Hypoalbuminemia leads to an increase in unbound MTX. It is this fraction that contribute to the development of liver damage. Along with the biological liver function, a particular attention is then needed to serum albumin when treating RA patients with MTX.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6479

**Keywords:** Safety, Targeted synthetic drugs, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Mitsuhashi1, Y. Kunishita1, K. Hant2, C. Honda1, Y. Uzawa1, S. Ohta1, T. Okubo2, T. Igarashi1, S. Nagaoka1, M. Mitsuhashi1, Y. Kunishita1, K. Hant2, C. Honda1, Y. Uzawa1, S. Ohta1, T. Okubo2, T. Igarashi1, S. Nagaoka1, 1Yokohama Minami Kyousei Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Yokohama, Japan; 2Saiseikai Yokohamashi Nanbu Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Yokohama shi Konan ku Konanat1 3-2-10, Japan

**Background:** Peficitinib (PEF) is the third Janus-kinase inhibitor (JAK) approved for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in Japan. Although PEF has the characteristic action of inhibiting all JAK subtypes, mainly JAK3, in vitro [1,2], there is slightly less variety of clinical studies showing the efficacy of PEF for RA compared with other JAKi; it is necessary to verify the clinical efficacy and safety [3,4].

**Objectives:** To examine the efficacy and safety of PEF for RA and explore the predictive factors related to the discontinuation due to the inadequately effective.

**Methods:** Patients who received PEF for RA at Yokohama Minami Kyousei Hospital and Saiseikai Yokohamashi Nanbu Hospital from July 2019 to December 2022 were included in the study. Patient background, clinical parameters, administration period of PEF, reason for discontinuation of PEF were collected retrospectively from the electronic medical records. All analyses were performed using SPSS. The log-rank test was used to compare continuation rates, and binomial
logistic analysis was used to explore predictive factors related to the discontinuation of PEF due to the inadequate effective.

Results: Fifty-seven patients were included in the study. The mean age at PEF initiation and DAS28-ESR were 75.6 ± 13.3 years old and 4.9 ± 1.3, respectively, and DAS28-ESR was significantly improved by 3.1 ± 1.1 at six months after (p < 0.005). The 1-year continuation rate of PEF among all patients was 42.8 %, and the rate among patients who had not previously used biologics and JAKi (NAIVE) was significantly higher than among those who had previously used them (EXPERIENCE) (Figure 1). Univariate analysis of factors associated with discontinuation of PEF due to inadequate response identified the following factors: younger age at PEF initiation, seropositivity for anti-CCP antibodies (ACPA), and EXPERIENCE (Table 1). Of these factors, multivariate analysis showed significant differences in age at PEF initiation and ACPA seropositivity (Table 1), but no significant differences in persistence rates were found between patients with and without ACPA in sera in this analysis population (1-year continuation rate: 42.9% vs. 76.3%, p = 0.081). There were several limitations in this study as follows; the race of the patients was Japanese only, the study was retrospective, validation by a multiracial prospective study would have been desirable, and the small number of cases may have resulted in the imprecision of statistically significant differences, and further accumulation of cases is desirable.

Conclusion: PEF demonstrated certain effects on the elderly RA population in real-world clinical practice in Japan. This study suggests that patient characteristics that could be expected to be effective, being particularly elderly and ACPA-negative, were suggested, but in addition, patients who had not previously used biologics and JAKi were shown to have a higher continuation rate.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Uni and Multivariate analyses about predictive factors of discontinuation due to ineffectiveness of PEF.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Univariable</th>
<th>Multivariable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>95% CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.505</td>
<td>0.10-2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at PEF initiation</td>
<td>0.900</td>
<td>0.83-0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>0.995</td>
<td>0.92-1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA positive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF positive</td>
<td>1.200</td>
<td>0.30-4.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPERIENCE</td>
<td>1.641</td>
<td>0.45-5.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSL use</td>
<td>1.469</td>
<td>0.54-3.30</td>
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</table>

Figure 1. Continuation rates of PEF.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Masaki Mitsushita: None declared. Yosuke Kunishita Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Asahi Kasei Pharma, Astellas Pharma, AstraZeneca, Ayumi Pharmaceutical Chemicals, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Daiichi Sankyo, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Gilead Sciences, Janssen Pharmaceutical Chemicals, Kyowa Kirin, Sanofi, UCB, Paid instructor for: AbbVie, Asahi Kasei Pharma, Astellas Pharma, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eisai, Gilead Sciences, Kyowa Kirin, UCB, Kaya Harita: None declared, Chikara Honda: None declared, Yuji Uzawa: None declared, Soichi Ohta: None declared, Tadanobu Okubo: None declared, Toshihisa Igarashi: None declared, Shohei Nagao: None declared.

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AB0488

COMPARISON OF TWO METHOTREXATE INITIATION STRATEGIES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN CURRENT PRACTICE

Keywords: Treat to target, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

P. Vidal1, M. Thomas2, A. Combier2, A. Steelandt2, J. Narváez3, J. M. Nolla4, Y. Alainore5, J. Avouac6,7, Beilite University Hospital, Rheumatology, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain; 8Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France

Objectives: To compare the efficacy and tolerance at 3 and 6 months of two methotrexate (MTX) initiation strategies in rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: Retrospective, monocentric, cross-sectional study including patients with RA who initiated MTX as first-line therapy during the last 2 years according to one of the following 2 strategies: a “classic” strategy defined by an initiation of oral MTX at a dose of 10-15mg/week or an “aggressive” strategy, defined by an initiation of subcutaneous (SC) MTX at a dose of 15mg/week or >15mg/week either orally or SC. Each strategy allowed the possibility to increase the doses and/or switch to the SC route at 3 months. Efficacy was assessed at 3 and 6 months using the DAS28-CRP. The tolerance of each strategy was also assessed at month 3 and 6.

Results: We included 101 patients (85 women) with a mean age of 55±12 years and disease duration of 5±6 months. The frequency of rheumatoid factors, anti-CCP antibodies and erosions was 83%, 81% and 38% respectively. 61 patients initiated MTX according to the “classic” strategy, with an increase of dose and/or a switch to the SC route at 3 months for 31 patients, and 40 patients started treatment according to the “aggressive” strategy, with an increase of dose and/or switch to the SC route at 3 months for 14 patients. There was no difference between these 2 groups in terms of age, gender, disease duration, antibody status, frequency of bone erosions, body mass index, comorbidities and disease activity at baseline. Efficacy at 3 months was significantly higher with the “aggressive” strategy (reduction of the DAS28-CRP from 4.3±3.9 to 2.3±2.7, mean difference of 2.0±1.1, p<0.001) compared to the “classic” strategy (reduction of the DAS28-CRP from 4.0±0.6 to 2.8±0.7, mean difference of 1.2±0.9, p=0.12) (Figure 1). The improvement of tender/swollen joint counts, patient global assessment and CRP levels was also significantly more important at 3 months with the “aggressive” strategy (Table 1). At 6 months, although the DAS28-CRP was similar in the 2 groups (Figure 1), less patients from the “aggressive” strategy subgroup required an escalation to a targeted biologic/synthetic therapy compared to the “classic” strategy (24/40, 60% vs. 16/61, 26%, p=0.021). Only one patient was discontinued because of insufficient response (24/40, 60% vs. 16/61, 26%, p=0.021). The frequency of hepatic cytolysis at month 3 was higher in the aggressive strategy (24/40, 60% vs. 16/61, 26%, p=0.021). The frequency of asthenia at 3 months was similar in both groups (7/40, 18% vs. 6/61, 10%, p=0.25). Only one infection was reported (2/40, 5% vs. 1/61, 1.6%, p=0.057). The frequency of digestive side effects at 3 months was significantly lower in the “aggressive” strategy (3/40, 7.5% vs. 16/61, 26%, p=0.021). At 6 months, although the cumulative incidence of side effects was 23% with the “aggressive” strategy compared to 46% with the “classic” strategy (p=0.015). Only one treatment discontinuation was noted in the “aggressive” subgroup vs. 9 in the “classic” subgroup (p=0.042).

Conclusion: This study suggests that it is possible to use a more aggressive initiation strategy of MTX in RA in routine clinical practice. This strategy allows to obtain an earlier clinical response and it is associated with a better tolerance than the classic strategy. These results need to be confirmed in prospective studies.

Table 1. Evaluation of efficacy parameter at 3 months according to the methotrexate initiation strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>&quot;Classic&quot; strategy (n=61)</th>
<th>&quot;Aggressive&quot; strategy (n=40)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Variation of tender joint count</td>
<td>-2.6±3.4</td>
<td>-4.4±4.9</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variation of swollen joint count</td>
<td>-2.0±5</td>
<td>-4.7±4.0</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variation of PGA-VAS</td>
<td>-24±25</td>
<td>-40±35</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variation of CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>-1.8±1.1</td>
<td>-15±20</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PGA-VAS: patient Global Assessment - Visual Analogic Scale
RESULTS:

A total of 208 patients included in the analysis with mean (SD) age of 55.7 (11.1) years. The mean (SD) time of JAK-i exposure was 25.6 (17.5) months. Of the 208 patients, 133 (64.1%) were female. The average (SD) age at JAK-i initiation was 55.4 (10.8) years. The starting date of JAK-i was between January 2018 and December 2020. The mean (SD) time of JAK-i therapy initiation was 25.6 (17.5) months. The mean (SD) age at JAK-i initiation was 55.4 (10.8) years. The starting date of JAK-i was between January 2018 and December 2020. The mean (SD) time of JAK-i therapy initiation was 25.6 (17.5) months.

Methods: All JAK-i prescriptions were captured electronically from the database of the pharmacy of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) from January 2018 to November 2020. Patients with non-dispensed prescriptions were excluded from the analysis. Electronic medical records of patients who received any class of JAK-i were reviewed retrospectively to identify demographic and clinical characteristics, starting and stopping date of JAK-i, MACE and malignancy events post JAK-i initiation.

Results: 219 JAK-i course therapies (tofacitinib 193, upadacitinib 14 and baricitinib 12) were identified from the database of the pharmacy of HMC. Six patients were excluded from the analysis as they were prescribed with JAK-i but their prescriptions were not dispensed. Five patients received two classes of JAK-i due to treatment failure. Mean (standard deviation [SD]) age at JAK-i initiation was 54.9 (14.8) years. Females were 72% of the cohort. JAK-i was prescribed for the following indications: rheumatoid arthritis (RA) 129 (59%), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) 28 (13.1%), alopecia areata 29 (13.6%), spondyloarthritis (SpA) 16 (7.5%), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) 8 (3.8%), other rheumatic diseases 5 (2.3%). Two patients were having IBD with peripheral and axial SpA involvement. In patients with rheumatic diseases, JAK-i was received in 102 (55%) b-DMARDs naïve patients, post one b-DMARDs in 38 (20%) and post ≥ 2 in 46 (25%) patients. The comorbidity profile (hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes mellitus, and coronary artery disease) was 27%, 25%, 23%, and 5.6%, respectively. New cancer diagnosis (follicular thyroid) was confirmed in one patient post tofacitinib and one patient developed lymphoma relapse after tofacitinib initiation.

One ischemic cerebrovascular accident (CVA) identified post tofacitinib initiation. This patient was in atrial fibrillation when CVA occurred. No venous thromboembolism events reported from this cohort.

Conclusion: MACE and malignancy rates are very low in JAK-i users in Qatar population. Comparator group is needed for further evaluation the association of the use of JAK-i and risk of MACE and malignancy.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1548

AB0490

PREVALENCE OF RISK FACTORS FOR CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS, MALIGNANCY OR THROMBOEMBOLIC EVENTS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS UNDER JAK INHIBITORS IN A REAL-LIFE MONOCENTRIC COHORT

Keywords: Comorbidities, Real-world evidence, Safety

I. Giovannini1, R. Agarinis1, S. Cacioppo1, S. Sacco1, G. De Marchi1, E. Di Pois1, A. Zabotti1, L. Quartuccio1, S. De Vita1. Rheumatology Clinic, Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale c/o University of Udine, Udine, Italy

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an inflammatory, autoimmune disease, characterized by joint inflammation that can lead to irreversible joint damage and significant disability. The immunomodulatory therapies have dramatically changed the patient management, and the introduction of Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) leads the way to an oral, efficacious treatment for RA. Among JAKi, tofacitinib and baricitinib are considered as pan-JAKi (pJAKi) while upadacitinib and filgotinib as selective JAKi (sJAKi) drugs. However, recent safety issues has been highlighted, and the 2022 update of the EULAR recommendations for the management of RA suggests to consider the use of a JAKi only after risk assessment [1].

Objectives: This study aims to describe a monocentric experience of JAKi treatment in RA patients in a real-life setting, focusing on the prevalence of emerging risk factors.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with RA according to 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria and treated in a routine clinical setting with JAKi were retrospectively recruited from our rheumatologic clinic from May 2017 to August 2022. We evaluated the risk assessment according to the 2022 update of the recommendation, as reported below, to describe a real-life experience in the use of JAKi. In details we evaluated: age (over 65 years), smoking status, cardiovascular risk factors (such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension), risk factors for malignancy (current or previous history of malignancy other than successfully treated non-melanoma skin cancer), risk factors for thromboembolic events (history of myocardial infarction or heart failure, cancer, inherited blood clotting disorders or a history of blood clots, as well as patients taking combined hormonal contraceptives or hormone replacement therapy, undergoing major surgery or immobile).

Results: 205 RA patients treated with JAKi were included in our study. 133 underwent pJAK treatment, and 77 underwent sJAK treatment. Overall, 167 JAKi treatments were started in female patients. 128 were positive for rheumatoid factor, and 102 for anti-citrullinated protein antibodies. 96/205 JAKi treatments were started in patients over 65 (46.8%), 45 were smokers (22%), 76 presented...
cardiovascular risk factors (37%), 20 showed risk for malignancy (9.8%) and 21 for risk factors for thromboembolic events (10.2%). More details are reported in Table 1. At least 2 risk factors were reported in 30.7%, of the population, and 11.7% presented at least 3 risk factors.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights the relative high prevalence of risk factors in a real-life population of RA patients treated with JAKi. The clinical effectiveness of JAKi has already been assessed by clinical trial and real-life experience, whereas the safety issue still remains to be further explored. Further studies are needed to define the RA sub-populations at highest risk for safety, and those patients who could benefit from an early JAKi treatment.

**REFERENCES:**

### Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>pJAKI (n=133)</th>
<th>sJAKI (n=72)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age over 65 years, n (%)</td>
<td>65 (48.8%)</td>
<td>31 (43%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoking, n (%)</td>
<td>38 (28.6%)</td>
<td>7 (9.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major cardiovascular disease, n (%)</td>
<td>47 (35.3%)</td>
<td>28 (40.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous malignancy, n (%)</td>
<td>16 (12%)</td>
<td>4 (5.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous thromboembolic event, thrombophilia, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (8%)</td>
<td>9 (12.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conclusion:
The originality of our study was to compare the four different molecules in a real-life study. We prove that JAK inhibition is effective in a real-world population of RA patients. The lack of diversity between JAK-Is in efficacy outcomes, adverse reactions and infections could be explained by considering that their selectivity has only been demonstrated in vitro-studies. Meta-analyses performed on clinical trials confirmed lack of diversity in outcomes [2]. Furthermore, JAK is known to dimerize when activated in biological systems, but the percentage of different dimers is unknown. Therefore, further comparative studies are needed to verify their selectivity in real-life studies.

**REFERENCES:**

### Table 1. Correlation with JAK-Is and outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of events</th>
<th>Correlation with JAK-Is (p value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symptomatic covid</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New malignancies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular events</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombocytosis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphopenia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to use glucocorticoids</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dmard</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent discontinuation of therapy</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of zoster episodes</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of serious infections</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Ivan Giovannini Speakers bureau: not relevant for this type of study, Roberto Agarinis: None declared, Sofia Cacioppo: None declared, Stefania Sacco: None declared, Ginevra De Marchi: None declared, EMMA DI POI: None declared, Alen Zabotti Speakers bureau: not relevant for this type of study.

**ORCID:**
F. D’ Alessandro1, E. Launiro1, M. Cazzato1, R. Morganti2, C. Baldini1, M. Mosca1, Santa Chiara Hospital, Rheumatology, Pisa, Italy; Santa Chiara Hospital, Section of statistics, Pisa, Italy

**Background:** In recent years the use of Janus Kinase Inhibitors (JAK-Is) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has entered daily practice. In vitro studies they have shown a different selectivity [1], which however has not yet been confirmed in real life studies. Furthermore, considering recent developments, an in-depth study investigating the global safety of these drugs is needed.

**Objectives:** To address potential differences in the safety of Janus kinase inhibitors and short-term efficacy on disease activity we characterized their safety profile in RA patient population.

**Methods:** Single center retrospective observational study. The sample consisted of 68 patients receiving any of the following JAK-is: Tofacitinib, Upadacitinib, Filgotinib, Baricitinib, with a mean of 19.3 months of therapy and a diagnosis of RA according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. We collected and recorded the clinical features; any infections or adverse reactions during therapy; clinicality at time 0 and at 6 months. For the statistical analysis, the χ² (chi-square) test was used to evaluate whether there were statistical differences with respect to categorical variables, Anova one-way to evaluate any statistical difference with respect to continuous variables; mixed effects model and paired t-test for clinimetry comparison.

**Results:** We found no statistically significant differences between JAK-Is in the following outcomes: symptomatic Covid, p=0.388, new malignancies p=0.348, cardiovascular events p=0.788, thrombocytosis p=0.681, neutropenia p=0.962, lymphopenia p=0.935, anemia p=0.227, need to use glucocorticoids p=0.161, need to Dmards p= 0.217, permanent discontinuation of therapy = 0.353. In our sample we had only development of 2 cardiovascular events, 1 DVT and a new diagnosis of cancer. Anova one-way showed no difference in the number of zoster episodes (p=0.587), or other serious infections (p=0.193). The paired t-test showed that there was a class effect on the reduction of activity indices already after 6 months of therapy (DAS 28 pcr p=0.017, SDAI p=0.054, CDAI p=0.021). However, the mixed effects model showed that there was no molecule more effective in reducing disease activity considering the outcomes at 6 months (DAS 28 pcr p=0.445, SDAI p=0.639, CDAI p=0.467).

**Conclusion:** The originality of our study was to compare the four different molecules in a real-life study. We prove that JAK inhibition is effective in a real-world population of RA patients. The lack of diversity between JAK-Is in efficacy outcomes, adverse reactions and infections could be explained by considering that their selectivity has only been demonstrated in vitro-studies. Meta-analyses performed on clinical trials confirmed lack of diversity in outcomes [2]. Furthermore, JAK is known to dimerize when activated in biological systems, but the percentage of different dimers is unknown. Therefore, further comparative studies are needed to verify their selectivity in real-life studies.

**REFERENCES:**
Conclusion: Compared to other JAK inhibitors, FIL did not reduce Hb levels and that could be maintained for a long time. In patients with anemia concerned with JAK inhibitors, switching to FIL is possible to make RA treatment safer and more successful.

REFERENCES:

Background: Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor is a great addition to the therapeutic options for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, the clinical efficacy and safety of tofacitinib comparing with methotrexate (MTX) was not elucidated.

Methods: In this open-label, randomized, and controlled clinical trial, treatment naive RA patients at the status of medium or high disease activity [simplified disease activity index (SDAI)>3.3] were randomized at 1:1 ratio into TOFA and MTX groups. Patients in TOFA group received tofacitinib 5mg twice per day and patients in MTX group received MTX 10-15mg once per week betamethasone 1ml muscle injection at enrollment. The rate of disease activity improvement (defined as SDAI decreased >50% against baseline or at least 10) at week 12 was taken as primary outcome. Patients who did not achieve improvement transferred to the other group. Secondary outcomes included the rates of remission, low disease activity (LDA) and change of disease activity scores.

Results: 100 patients were enrolled in the study with 49 in TOFA group and 51 in MTX group. The improvement rate was much higher in TOFA group than in MTX group [29.3% (12/41) vs 7.5% (3/40), p=0.025]. The rate of remission and low disease activity at week 4 and week 12 were comparable between the two groups. The change of SDAI [17.9 (7.3-30.3) vs 10.8 (5.5-17.4), p=0.062], CDAI [7 (4.9-16) vs 15 (7.5-26), p=0.011], DAS28-CRP [2.1 (1.2-3.4) vs 1.4 (0.7-2.1), p=0.010] and DAS28-ESR [3.8 (2.5-5.2) vs 2.7 (1.8-3.9), p=0.005] at week 12 were all more significant in TOFA group than in MTX group. The total adverse event rate was high in MTX group than in TOFA group [28% (14/50) vs % (4/49), p=0.022]. Considering specific adverse events, the rates of liver damage [16% (8/50) vs 0, p=0.001] and dizzy [6% (3/50) vs 0, p=0.041] were higher in MTX group than in TOFA group.

Conclusion: For treatment naive RA patients, tofacitinib can bring higher rate of improvement of disease activity.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The Statistical Office of Peking University First Hospital was appreciated. We acknowledged Fangfang Fan and Xueying Li for the assistance in statistics. We acknowledged Yuhang Liu, Xiaojun Meng for the physical examination, disease activity evaluation and administration of subjects.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1076

**AB0493**

**THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF TOFACITINIB IN THE TREATMENT OF DMARDS NAIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS (EASTERN STUDY)**

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs

J. Zhao1, Y. Wang1, Z. Zhang1.1Peking University First Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

**AB0494**

**ADIPOSITY SEEMS TO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE JAK INHIBITORS RESPONSE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY**

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Rheumatoid arthritis, Prognostic factors

E. Toya-Sugrache1,2,3, M. Andrés4, V. Jovan1,2, S. Gomez-Sabater1,4, R. Caño-Alameda1,4, P. Vela Casasempere1,4, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica de Alicante (ISABIAL), Rheumatology, Alicante (Alicante), Spain; Instituto d’Investigació Sanitària La Fe de València, Rheumatology, València, Spain; Hospital la Fe, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain; General University Hospital of Alicante, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain
Background: Cumulative data show how an excess body weight may hamper the activity of some anti-rheumatic drugs in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but we lack studies in this regard on the new JAK-kinase inhibitors (JAKinibs). Objectives: To prospectively evaluate the impact of adiposity on the anti-inflammatory response of JAKinibs in RA.

Methods: Observational, prospective, single-center exploratory study. We sequentially included adult patients from tertiary center clinics, with a clinical diagnosis of RA and a new JAKinib prescription by their treating rheumatologists. Only JAKinibs-naïve patients were allowed. For this analysis, during the follow up, csDMARD was required to remain unchanged. Patients participating in weight loss or bariatric surgery programs were also excluded. We used three different definitions for adiposity: A) body mass index (BMI), as kg/m2; B) body fat percentage, measured by impedanceadmetry; and C) blood levels of LDL and HDL cholesterol and triglycerides. We defined dyslipidemia as total cholesterol >200mg/dl and/or triglycerides >150mg/dl at blood tests. The potential modulating effect of adiposity on the effectiveness of JAKinib therapy was assessed on the change of DAS28-ESR and DAS28-ESR between baseline and 3 months later (when the peak action of JAKinibs is theoretically met). ANOVA regression was used to compare changes in DAS28 CRP/ESR regarding adiposity variables. When significant associations were found, a multivariate linear regression model was built. Software R v.4.2.1 was used.

Results: From an initial sample of 20 patients, 4 were excluded from analysis (2 stopping JAKinib due to intolerance, 2 as the csDMARD dose was modified), which finally left 16 participants. Median age was 57/years (IQR 50.75 to 65.5) and 76% were females. Four patients were bDMARD-naïve and 9 were on concurrent csDMARD. 75% (n=12) of the subjects received 4mg bactracinib daily, the remaining 4 cases received 15mg upadacitinib daily. Median BMI was 27.7kg/m² (IQR 26.25 to 31.38), being 31.5% obese. Median body fat percentage was 34.95% (31.38 to 40.55). Ten patients achieved the the dyslipidemia cutoff, 75% of whom received lipid lowering treatment. Patients had mostly moderate-high activity measured by DAS28 at baseline (81.25%), while after 3 months no patient was on high activity and 62.5% and 56.25% (CRP/ESR) showed low activity and remission, respectively. The results for the association analyses between adiposity and changes in DAS28-ESR are given in Table 1. No association was found neither for BMI or body fat percentage. While a positive, independent effect of triglycerides was noted (not with LDL or HDL). No adiposity variables were found associated with changes in DAS28 CRP.

Table 1. DAS28-ESR regression analysis. Covariates included on multivariate model were JAKinib choice, time between visits and concurrent csDMARD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Univariate</th>
<th>Multivariate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>β (95%CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>-0.019 (-0.397 to 0.048)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Fat %</td>
<td>-0.050 (-1.353 to 0.037)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL-ch</td>
<td>-0.026 (-1.812 to 0.014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL-ch</td>
<td>0.007 (-0.952 to 0.007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerides</td>
<td>0.007 (0.003 to 2.250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.014 to 0.015)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: No relevant impact of adiposity was noted on the anti-inflammatory effect of JAKinibs after three months of use in RA patients. Our findings support no dose adjustment for JAKinibs, independently of their weight or adiposity. This study should be replicated in larger studies to confirm our observations.

Acknowledgements: The realization of this study was possible thanks to the funding granted by ISABIAL.

Disclosure of Interests: Ernesto Tovar-Suarghes Speakers bureau: UCB and Amgen, Mariano Andrés Speakers bureau: Lilly, Vega Jovani; None declared, Silvia Gomez-Sabater: None declared, Rocio Caño-Alameda: None declared, Paloma Vela Casasempere Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Lilly, Abbvie; Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Lilly, Abbvie.

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AB0495

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF VITAMIN D IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Vitamin D

Objective: The aim of this study was to summarize the association between serum vitamin D levels and RA and systematically evaluate the efficacy of VA supplementation in RA treatment.

Methods: Literature searches were conducted using PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, Clinical Trials.gov, Wanfang database, Weipu database, Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure and Cochrane databases to identify available articles (up to January 1, 2023). Meta-analysis was used for the meta-analysis. And the results are presented both tabulated and graphically.

Results: In the study between serum vitamin D levels and RA, 26 studies, including 3,328 patients and 2,223 healthy controls, were identified (Table 2). Compared with the control group, the serum vitamin D level in the RA group was significantly reduced[SMD=-1.523, 95%CI (-1.590,-1.457), P=0.000]. Vitamin D was inversely correlated with disease activity. About the efficacy of VA supplementation in RA treatment, 7 studies comprising 392 patients were identified (Table 1). After the VA treatment, 91.28% of patients had distinct clinical remission, 47.72% were completely cured. After receiving VA therapy, patients with RA had significant decreases in DAS28[SMD=-2.19, 95%CI (-2.58,-1.80), P=0.000], ESR [SMD=-2.12, 95%CI (-2.50,-1.74), P=0.000], CRP [SMD=-1.84, 95%CI (-2.22,-1.45), P=0.000], SJC [SMD=-2.53, 95%CI (-2.71,-2.34), P=0.000], TJC [SMD=-3.45, 95%CI (-3.67,-3.23), P=0.000], and the Morning stiffness time [SMD=-2.32, 95%CI (-2.72,-1.92), P=0.000]. None serious adverse events were reported among all these studies. Meta-analysis of 2 studies, including 420 patients with RA, showed that the incidence of adverse events was 19.46%.

Conclusion: Patients with RA had vitamin D deficiency, which was associated with the activity. Vitamin D supplementation did statistically significantly improve the RA.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Available evidence including patients with RA treated with VA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Year</th>
<th>Patients (inclusion in analysis)</th>
<th>Gender (female %)</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>DAS-28 Remission</th>
<th>CR(n/%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Chawla,H.K.S. 96(48)</td>
<td>83.33</td>
<td>60000 IU every week</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Aung,K.T.Z.M. 58(31)</td>
<td>96.30</td>
<td>1000 IU every day</td>
<td>0w:5.27</td>
<td>12w:2.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>ZhangChI Sun. 100(50)</td>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>400 IU every day NA</td>
<td>45(90.00%)</td>
<td>20(40.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Lei Cao. 2019 320(160)</td>
<td>63.75</td>
<td>400 IU every day NA</td>
<td>145(90.6%)</td>
<td>82(51.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>XiaoBing Yin. 89(45)</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>200 IU every day 0w:5.62±0.3</td>
<td>3m:5.64±0.60</td>
<td>6m:4.50±0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Nakamura, Y. 43(21)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>200 IU every day 0w:3.0±1.38</td>
<td>12m:2.1±1.4</td>
<td>24(52.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>XiaoFei Shi. 72(37)</td>
<td>70.27</td>
<td>20 IU every day 0w:3.8±3.9 NA</td>
<td>9 NA</td>
<td>24(12%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Efficacy and safety of Vitamin D in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (A) The DAS-28, (B) The ESR, (C) The CRP, (D) The SJC. (E) The TJC. (F) The Morning stiffness time. (G) The CR. (H) Remission. (I) Forest plot of the incidence of adverse events.
**AB0496** TREATMENT WITH UPADACITINIB IN RA PATIENTS FOR WHICH BIOLOGICAL THERAPY FAILED

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

L. Robles Kirkegard1, E. Rubio Romero2, P. León3. 
1Servicio Andaluz Salud, Hospital Universitario Virgen del Roció, Madrid, Spain; 2Servicio Andaluz Salud, Hospital Universitario Virgen del Roció, Sevilla, Spain; 3Servicio Andaluz Salud, Hospital Universitario Virgen del Roció, Sevilla, Spain

**Background:** Upadacitinib is a JAK inhibitor recently approved for rheumatoid arthritis treatment with promising results in its studies for severe moderate RA for which conventional therapies failed.

**Objectives:** To study and describe the evolution of patients diagnosed with RA and treated with Upadacitinib who had inadequate response to biological therapy in association or not with DMARDs and GC for 1 year.

**Methods:** A population of 23 patients (19 of them female) with RA on treatment with Upadacitinib was analyzed over one year. Using patient-reported outcomes (PROs) to measure disease activity by visual analogue scale (VAS), the HAQ Disability Index (HAQ-DI), Disease Activity Score (DAS28), and morning stiffness duration. The average ± SD was 53 ± 10 years and time of disease evolution (average ± SD) = 176 ± 23.3 years. Pretreatment DAS28 was (average ± SD) = 7.32 ± 2.41. The initial VAS was (average ± SD) = 7.32 ± 1.88. HAQ (average ± SD) = 2.2 ± 0.5. All patients received previous biologic treatments and 61% (14 patients) combined therapy with DMARDs. Only 2 cases had no glucocorticoid treatment prior to treatment with Upadacitinib.

**Results:** In 3 months time, most patients (81%, n = 21) treated with Upadacitinib were able to reduce the GC dose, and this reduction was maintained 6 months from the beginning of the treatment. After one year of treatment (n = 14), 71% of patients reduce the dose of GC by 53% with respect to the initial dose. Upadacitinib enabled 50% of patients who initiated treatment to discontinue corticosteroid therapy completely. After 3 months of treatment, most patients experienced an enhancement in DAS28 (89%, n = 18), with an average improvement in DAS28 (average ± SD) = 1.87 ± 1.09. After one year of treatment most patients (92%, n = 14) achieve a reduction in DAS28 (average ± SD) = 3.81 ± 1.56 units from baseline. Disease remission (DAS28 <3.2) was achieved in up to 25% of patients who initiated treatment with Upadacitinib. Regarding the pain (VAS), 67% of the patients showed improvement after 3 months (n=18), reaching 71% after 6 months (n=17). After 12 months of treatment (n = 14), 85% of patients experienced an improvement in pain, with the final (average ± SD) VAS being 5 ± 2.32 points. Sixty-eight percent of treated patients showed a reduction in morning stiffness after 3 months (n = 19), and this improvement increased up to 84% of treated patients at 6 months (n = 19) and remained so until 12 months (n = 14). Side effects were observed in five patients, consisting of dizziness and nausea. In no case were they a reason for the withdrawal of the drug. Treatment was withdrawn in three patients due to primary failure.

**Conclusion:** Treatment with Upadacitinib allows GS dose reduction, as well as an improvement in DAS28, VAS and morning stiffness at three months and six of treatment. These data are in line with the evidence published in Upadacitinib pivotal studies, meaning a good alternative in the treatment of patients with moderate or severe RA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**ARTICLE臨時**

**AB0497** THE ROLE OF CORTICOSTEROIDS (PREDNISONE) IN THE TREATMENT OF NEWLY DIAGNOSED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis

B. Barac1,2, A. Zekovic1, T. Divjakovic4, S. Lukovic1, G. Radunovic1,2. 1Institute of Rheumatology, Clinical V Department, Belgrade, Serbia; 2University of Belgrade, Faculty of Medicine, Beograd, Serbia; 3Institute of Rheumatology, Clinical III Department, Belgrade, Serbia; 4Institute of Rheumatology, Clinical IV Department, Belgrade, Serbia

**Background:** The use of corticosteroids (CSs) in patients with newly diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is important in order to reduce the inflammation as well as bridging until achieving the full effect of the basic therapy. In previous years, there were recommendations for the use of different doses of CSs [1-2].

**Objectives:** To compare the therapeutic effect of initially higher doses of CSs, prednisone (0.3-0.5 mg/kg) with a standard low-dose daily therapy (7.5 mg) in patients with newly diagnosed RA.

**Methods:** Two groups of 50 patients each with newly diagnosed RA were followed up for a period of 24 months. The groups were homogeneous in terms of sex, age and BMI. The group one (I) consisted of 50 patients who were initially treated with doses of prednisone 0.3-0.5 mg/kg (average initial dose 25mg) by bridging until achieving the full effect of basic therapy with Methotrexate (MTX) (in an average dose of 15 mg/week). The group two (II) consisted of 50 patients who were treated according to standard recommendations with an initial dose of an average of 7.5 mg of prednisone with MTX in an average dose of up to 15 mg/week. In both groups, the doses of prednisone were gradually reduced over a period of 3-6 months. During a period of 24 months (at 6, 12 and 24 months), the following parameters were monitored in all patients: DAS28, HAQ, VAS, CDAI. We also compared the number of corticosteroid-independent patients after 6, 12 and 24 months in both groups, the percentage of patients in remission (DAS28<2.6) and the percentage of patients with a good EULAR DAS28 response (CRP<3.2 and 24-month HAQ<1.0). The group of newly discovered comorbidities during the mentioned therapy, such as newly discovered hypertension, osteoporosis and diabetes mellitus (DM) type II, was also monitored.

**Results:** Highly statistically significantly lower values of the DAS28 score (p<0.01) were found in the group I of patients, treated initially with higher doses of CS after 6 and 12 months, as well as statistically significantly lower values after 24 months (p<0.5). Statistically significantly lower HAQ values were also found in group I after 6, highly statistically significantly lower after 12 and statistically significantly lower after 24 months of follow-up (p<0.05). For pain VAS, statistically significantly lower values in group I after 6 and 12 months (p<0.01) and statistically significantly lower values after 24 months. CDAI values were also statistically significantly lower in group I after 6 and 12 months. A statistically significantly higher percentage of patients were in remission and had a better EULAR response in the group I after 6, 12 and 24 months from the start of therapy (p<0.05). Also in the group I which was initially treated with higher doses of CSs, statistically significantly lower number of patients were corticosteroid-dependent after 6, 12 and 24 months. A special difference between the groups is represented by a highly statistically significantly lower number of comorbidities in group I after 24 months from the start of therapy, such as newly discovered hypertension, DM type II and osteoporosis.

**Conclusion:** The initial use of higher doses of corticosteroids (0.3-0.5 mg/kg) compared to the recommended daily doses of up to 7.5 mg in patients with newly diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis, provide significantly better clinical response in all the parameters DAS28, VAS, CDAI, HAQ, a higher level of corticosteroid-independent patients as well as a lower number of side effects such as newly discovered hypertension, osteoporosis and diabetes mellitus type II, 24 months after starting basic therapy.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5122

**AB0498** PREDICTIVE BIOMARKERS OF TOFACITINIB THERAPY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: REAL WORLD DATA FROM MALAYSIAN RHEUMATOLOGY BIOLOGIC REGISTRY (MARBLE)

**Keywords:** Targeted synthetic drugs, Rheumatoid arthritis, Biomarkers

S. Janaharman1,2, C. T. Ooi3, S. S. Ching4, L. H. Eow5, E. Magaswani6, A. L Lim5, H. Chong5, P. S. Ong7, A. Mohamed Ismail8, S. M. Ab Rahim5, C. R. Ng5, D. M. Suhaili1, A. H. Ramlan9, C. O. Leong1,2, N. S. Shafiei7. 1International Medical University, School of Postgraduate Studies, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia; 2Selayang Hospital, Pharmacy, Batu Caves, Malaysia; 3NH, Institute for Medical Research, Shah Alam, Malaysia; 4Selayang Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Batu Caves, Malaysia; 5Tuanku Ja’afar Hospital, Seremban, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Seremban, Malaysia; 6Tunku Jafar Hospital, Seremban, Seremban, Malaysia; 7Kengku Ampuan Rahimah...
Hospital, Klang, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Klang, Malaysia; 7Hospital Pulau Pinang, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, George Town, Malaysia; 8Melaka Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Melaka, Malaysia; 9Raja Perempuan Zainab II Hospital, Ipoh, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Ipoh, Malaysia; 10Raja Perempuan Zainab II Hospital, Kota Bharu, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Kota Bharu, Malaysia; 11Sultanah Nur Zaharah Hospital, Kuala Terengganu, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia; 12Sultan Ismail Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Johor Bahru, Malaysia; 12Tengku Ampuan Aizan Hospital, Kuantan, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Kuantan, Malaysia; 13Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Alor Setar, Malaysia; 14International Medical University, Centre for Cancer and Stem Cell Research Development and Innovation (IRDI), Institute for Research, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 15AGTC Genomics, Research Department, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 16Putrajaya Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Putrajaya, Malaysia

Background: Targeted synthetic therapeutics brought revolutionary progress in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) management and culminated a paradigm shift over a decade. However, only a subset of patients responded clinically and achieved sustained remission. The interindividual factors may vary in failure of therapeutic target and clinical response.

Objectives: We investigated the clinical and sociodemographic predictors of Tofacitinib response in RA patients at three, six and twelve months.

Methods: This retrospective study included 164 RA patients from the nationwide MARBLE registry who received Tofacitinib. Patients' clinical data were extracted from medical records. The response to Tofacitinib in terms of clinical remission, low disease activity (LDA) and DAS28 improvement (EULAR response) were measured at baseline, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months of therapy based on disease activity score (DAS)28 for RA. Factors predicting treatment response were analysed using binary logistic regression analysis.

Results: Our data revealed that at 3-month, 6-month and 12-month of Tofacitinib treatment, 17.7%(n=29), 6.7%(n=111) and 60.4%(n=99) RA patients achieved low disease activity/clinical remission. Further analysis demonstrated the response to Tofacitinib in terms of clinical remission, low disease activity (LDA) and DAS28 improvement (EULAR response) were measured at baseline, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months of therapy based on disease activity score (DAS)28 for RA. Factors predicting treatment response were analysed using binary logistic regression analysis.

Conclusion: In this study, step-down MTX approach was effective in inducing remission in most of the patients enrolled. According to data reported in other studies (2,3), one third of them showed adverse events leading to the withdrawal of the drug. On the contrary, different studies in which MTX was used as in current clinical practice (at lower dosages) showed lower efficacy: in the ORAL START study, ACR70 response was reached only in 12% of naïve patients 6 months after MTX monotherapy (4), whereas in the PREMIER study, 26% of patients receiving MTX monotherapy obtained ACR70 response after one year [5]. Thus, short-term higher dose MTX usage could be more effective in order to reach remission earlier. Nonetheless these results should be confirmed in larger populations of patients. In conclusion, this approach could be considered as a valid regimen for a more optimal use of MTX.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Adverse events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADVERSE EVENT</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
<th>Grade/withdrawal (week of appearance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>1 (6.6)</td>
<td>Mild (W4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous local reaction</td>
<td>1 (6.6)</td>
<td>Mild (W4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>2 (13.3)</td>
<td>Mild (W4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
<td>1(6.6)</td>
<td>Moderate/Withdrawal (W8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of appetite</td>
<td>1 (6.6)</td>
<td>Mild (W9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td>1 (6.6)</td>
<td>Moderate/Withdrawal (W12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>2 (13.3)</td>
<td>Mild (W16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary tract infection</td>
<td>4 (24)</td>
<td>Moderate/Withdrawal (2 out of 4 patients) (W12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased transaminases</td>
<td>1 (6.6)</td>
<td>Moderate (W2, solved in W8) – alcohol abuse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

M. Pendolino1, T. Serban1, D. Camellino1, P. Diana1, A. Giusti1, G. Bianchi1.

1S.C. Reumatologii, ASL3 Genovese, Scienze Mediche, Genoa, Italy

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the cornerstone of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) treatment, showing a suitable efficacy-safety profile, relatively low-cost, and versatile routes and dosage administration. However, there are no clear indications yet on the optimal use of MTX in RA, whereas existing recommendations disagree on relevant aspects (eg. route, starting and maximal dose, titration increase/decrease, and intervals to monitor toxicity) [1].

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy and the safety of a step-down strategy to use subcutaneous (sc) MTX in patients with RA.

Methods: STEMETRA is a 16-week open-label, monocentric, pilot study. The protocol treatment schedule consisted of the administration of MTX 50 mcg/ week for 4 consecutive weeks, followed by 25 mcg/week for 4 weeks, and then 15 mcg/week for 4 weeks. All patients received oral supplementation of folic acid (leucovorin) 12 mg. 12 hours after the injection of MTX.

Results: Fifteen patients (10 females and 5 males; mean age, 60 years (±11) diagnosed with RA according to 2010 ACR/EULAR classification criteria and naïve to any RA treatment were enrolled. One patient was lost to follow-up after week 12; 4 patients withdrew because of adverse events; therefore, 10 patients concluded the study. A total of 14 adverse events occurred in 7 patients; 7 were of mild severity and tolerated by patients, 3 solved, and 4 were persistent and lead to withdrawal of the drug (Table 1). Mean DAS28 (CRP) at baseline was 5.6 (±1.4), whereas, at week 16, mean DAS28 (CRP) was 16.6 (±1). Most patients who concluded the study achieved ACR70 response and the state of remission (7 out of 10), whereas 3 still showed moderate disease activity.

Conclusion: In this study, step-down MTX approach was effective in inducing remission in most of the patients enrolled. According to data reported in other studies (2,3), one third of them showed adverse events leading to the withdrawal of the drug. On the contrary, different studies in which MTX was used as in current clinical practice (at lower dosages) showed lower efficacy: in the ORAL START study, ACR70 response was reached only in 12% of naïve patients 6 months after MTX monotherapy (4), whereas in the PREMIER study, 26% of patients receiving MTX monotherapy obtained ACR70 response after one year [5]. Thus, short-term higher dose MTX usage could be more effective in order to reach remission earlier. Nonetheless these results should be confirmed in larger populations of patients. In conclusion, this approach could be considered as a valid regimen for a more optimal use of MTX.
**AB0500**

**STUDY OF THE USE AND PRESCRIPTION OF ANALGESICS DURING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA)**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Pain

**Methods:** This is a 5-month cross-sectional survey including patients with rheumatoid arthritis, meeting the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria consulted during the study period were included. The use of analgesics was evaluated via a questionnaire with 14 questions. Data was processed by statistical analysis using SPSS 2021 Software.

**Results:** There are 168 patients, including 24 men and 144 women. The average age was 49.91±12.96 [20–90]. The average age at onset was 41.69±14.85. The average age of diagnosis for RA was 47.17±13.71 years. The average DAS28 was 5.32±1.35. Only 69 patients were taking analgesics. The majority of patients were on disease modifying drug (DMARD) (76%), 145 (86%) were on corticosteroids, 46 (27.3%) were on non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and 89 (53%) were taking analgesics. At the time of the survey, 79 patients were not taking analgesics. 69 patients were taking a Tier 1 analgesic; 20 patients were taking a Tier 2 analgesic, none of the patients were taking a Tier 3 analgesic. Analgesics were never used alone. The difference between a pure analgesic and a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory was only known by 15 patients (9%). For only 25 patients, analgesics were effective on diurnal pain in 25 patients and for 64 patients (72%) on nocturnal pain. Only 14 patients, or 15% were taking pain relievers at a fixed time. 60 (67%) only during flare-ups, and 15 (16%) were taking pain relievers at a fixed time with increased dose in case of flare-ups. The prescription of analgesics was the fact of the rheumatologist in 89% of cases, and self-medication in the only 11% of cases.

**Conclusion:** In RA, as in all chronic painful diseases involving functional prognosis, pain is the essential symptom to treat. In our study, the use of analgesics was 53%.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DO**

**LWW 05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s):** 21:57 **Art:16 EUROAB-2023-PO15-16**

1445

**AB0502**

**PREVALENCE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS FOR CONVENTIONAL DISEASE MODIFYING ANTI RHEUMATOID DRUG FAILURE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL IN SOUTHERN SRI LANKA**

**Keywords:** To target, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

**Methods:** We reviewed 203 patients in Rheumatology department at Navarra University Hospital who underwent treatment with JAKI (Barcitnib, Filgotinib, Tolctinib and Upadacitinib) and the significant adverse events occurred.

**Results:** Of our sample of 203 patients, 81.2% were diagnosed RA, 8.8% with PsA, 7.5% with SpA and the remaining 2.5% were indeterminate arthritis. We found that out of the patients diagnosed with RA, 10.83% had a significant adverse event (22 events in total). A 0.5% had a myocardial infarction, 1.5% stroke, 2.1% arterial thrombosis, 2.1% venous thrombosis, 1.5% developed some type of malignancy and 3.6% reactivation of herpes zoster. One arterial thrombosis happened in the indeterminate arthritis group.

**Conclusion:** In our series, out of 203 patients treated with JAKI, 11.33% had a significant adverse event. The most common adverse event was the herpes zoster reactivation (3.44%), followed by arterial and venous thrombosis (2.46 and 1.97% respectively). Longer-term follow-up and greater number of patients are necessary to ratify these data.

**References:**


**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DO**

**LWW 05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s):** 21:57 **Art:16 EUROAB-2023-PO15-16**

1445
helps with good response rate for cDMARDs. Introduction of injectable version of methotrexate could have helped in some intolerable side effects of methotrexate however, efficacy of this measure will depend on several factors such as cost, willingness of patients to self-inject etc. Finally, conventional DMARDs still play a significant role in the management of this debilitating disease with a comparatively low cost and an acceptable side effect profile.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclose of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.611

AB0503 GENICULAR ARTERY EMBOLIZATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PERSISTENT JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS OF THE KNEE: A CASE REPORT

Keywords: Synovium, Non-pharmacological interventions, Inflammatory arthritides

M. Badii1, D. Parhar2,3, S. Badii4, D. Lu5,6. 1The University of British Columbia, Medicine/Rheumatology, Vancouver, Canada; 2The University of British Columbia, Radiology, Vancouver, Canada; 3Harvard University, TH Chan School of Public Health, Cambridge, United States of America; 4Canada’s Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, Computational Science, Vancouver, Canada; 5The University of British Columbia, Radiology, Vancouver, Canada; 6University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, United States of America

Background: Genicular artery embolization (GAE) is rapidly gaining popularity for treatment of patients with recurrent hemarthrosis following knee arthroplasty, and for pain relief in mild-to-moderate osteoarthritis (OA) [1]. Despite the growing evidence of the safety and efficacy of GAE in improving pain and disability in OA, it has yet to be reported in the treatment of patients with inflammatory arthropathy, such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA).

Objectives: To apply GAE on an adult patient with oligoarticular JIA of the knee and refractory to biologic therapy, and measure improvement of pain symptoms.

Methods: A 40-year-old woman with history of oligoarticular JIA presented with progressively worsening right knee pain and swelling. She had tried several treatments in the past including oral analgesia (NSAIDS, acetaminophen, and opioids), multiple intra-articular steroid injections, therapeutic arthrocentesis, multiple DMARDs (MTX, SSZ, LEF), and had been on biologic therapy (adalimumab) for the past 8 months, with no noticeable improvement from any of these strategies. Prior to GAE she had pain score of 8/10 on VAS, and Oxford Knee Score (OKS) of 25. The GAE procedure was subsequently performed on an outpatient basis under conscious sedation. A four French angiled tip catheter was advanced into the distal SFA and angiography was performed. This demonstrated characteristic synovial hyperemia (“blush”) of the synovium along the medial joint space supplied by the musculoarticular branch of the descending genicular artery (DGA), as well as the lateral synovium supplied by the inferior lateral genicular artery (ILGA). Super-selection of the DGA was performed using a 1.9 French microcatheter, with repeat angiogram confirming synovial hyperemia. After administration of intra-arterial nitroglycerin, the DGA was then embolized with 1.0 cc of 100 – 300 µm Embospheres (Merit Medical Systems, South Jordan, UT). Post-embolization super-selective angiogram confirmed a “pruned-tree” appearance of the DGA branches, with no further hyperemia, in keeping with a successful embolization.

Results: The patient tolerated the procedure well and was discharged home same-day. At 6 and 12 months follow-up, the patient continued to report substantial improvement in her symptoms with a pain rating of 1 out of 10 on both rest and mobilization. Her OKS was 35 at 12 months. Her right knee remained in remission on Adalimumab for 12 months post procedure. Figure 1 shows the comparison of the pre and post GAE fat saturated T1 image. Pre GAE, there were synovial thickening and enhancement of the knee capsule. As shown in Figure 1, at 12 months post GAE significant retraction and devascularisation of the synovium has occurred.

Conclusion: We report the first case of GAE in a patient with inflammatory arthropathy, which showed dramatic and sustained reduction in pain. Though the efficacy, safety, and long-term clinical durability still need further evaluation in the context of inflammatory arthropathy, the positive result in this case posits an exciting avenue for further investigation into the role of transarterial embolization in rheumatologic disease.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.843

AB0504 CARDIOVASCULAR AND ADVERSE EVENTS RISK WITH TOFACITINIB IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Rheumatoid arthritis, Cardiovascular disease

R. A. Alvarez Santana1, D. García1, L. Perez2, T. Polanco Mora3, L. Concepción Sanchez1, I. Paulino1, I. Mercedes4, E. Rodríguez Bautista1, T. Valdez2, A. Feriz3, R. Muñoz Louis1. 1Hospital Padre Billini, Rheumatology, Santodomingo, Dominican Republic

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic autoimmune inflammatory disease that affects the synovial membrane of small joints. Tofacitinib (TOF) is the first Janus Kinase Inhibitor (JAKi)s approved by the European Medicines Agency and the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of RA. This inhibits JAK1 and JAK3 involved in cytokine signaling proinflammatory in RA. Concepcion et al. [1] found that 16% of the patients on TOF presented adverse events (AEs) and the most frequent of these was dyslipidemia, followed by elevated liver enzymes. Ytterberg et al found an increased risk of MACE with the use of tofacitinib recently [2].

Objectives: To evaluate the risk of cardiovascular and adverse events with tofacitinib in rheumatoid arthritis.

Figure 1. Modulation of Synovitis Pre and Post GAE: Pre GAE sagittal and coronal post contrast (gadolinium) fat saturated T1 image demonstrated synovial thickening and enhancement of the knee capsule (A+B). Coronal digital subtraction angiogram demonstrating corresponding arterial neovascularization/synovitis blush targeted by GAE (C). Post GAE (12 month) sagittal post contrast (gadolinium) T1 fat saturated image demonstrating significant retraction and devascularisation of the synovium (D).
Methods: Retrospective, longitudinal, descriptive. Records from the database of the Rheumatology service of the Hospital Docente Padre Billini were reviewed between January 2016 and December 2021. Inclusion criteria: ≥18 years, diagnosis of RA according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria, TOF 5mg every 12h ≥3 months. Exclusion criteria: patients with ≤3 months of treatment, history of cardiovascular event, liver disease, moderate anemia, severe neutropenia, history of herpes, absence of ≥ 2 visits. A descriptive analysis of AEs and Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events (MACE) were performed using SPSSv23.

Results: 215 met inclusion criteria. 87% (187) female. Mean age 57 ± 11.5 years. Mean disease duration 7.6 ± 2.3 years. HTA 49.8% (107), IMC >30kg/m2 12.6% (27), DM 11.6% (25). Mean treatment with TOF 5 ± 1.7 years. AEs and MACE 54%/101. AEs 73.3%/77 (4%) Hypercholesterolemia 26.7% (27), ALT or AST >3ULN 12.9% (13), herpes virus infection 8.9% (9), PMN: >500 8.9% (9), <500: 7.9% (8), UTI 4.0% (4), severe anemia 4.0% (4). MACE 26.7%/27 (mean age 60.2 ± 9.1 years [Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) 63%/17), deep vein thrombosis 29.6%/8), cerebrovascular accident 7%/2)

Conclusion: In our review, AEs were found in half of the patients evaluated. Most of MACE events were associated with older age; the most frequent was AMI. Infections were found in a lower proportion. Little risk of infectious processes is demonstrated with the use of TOF. We must take precaution in those over 55 years of age and with cardiovascular risk comorbidities with the use of TOF consistent with that reported in the world literature.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4110

AB0505
INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE APPROACH TO SUSTAIN LONG-TERM CONTROL IN CHRONIC RA: AN OBSERVATIONAL PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF A COMBINATION REGIME OF CONVENTIONAL DMARD AND AYURVEDIC HERBAL DRUG

Keywords:
Tapering, Rheumatoid arthritis, Safety

M. Saluja1, K. Adam1, R. Patil1, A. Chopra1. Center for Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology, Pune, India

Background: Prolonged drug treatment in RA is complicated by related toxicity, inadequate efficacy, other health issues, cost, and compliance. Ayurveda (India) drugs (Ayur) have popularly treated arthritis since ancient times. Few controlled, extended duration studies, both as mono or combination (Ayur plus modern medicine/M-Med) showed impressive outcomes (especially safety). In 2018, we introduced limited integrative treatment in rheumatology practice (community) to improve the outcome of long-drawn chronic RA. We present preliminary experience.

Objective: To evaluate the one-year outcome of a combination treatment of conventional DMARD with standardized Ayur (herbal drug).

Methods: Consenting patients of chronic RA and clinically well-controlled disease (last 6 months) were selected in no particular order; supervised ongoing standard care with DMARD with/without steroids (previous period, median 5.5 years). SC-1 (Ayur) was added in a fixed stable dose (1 gm tablet, bid); standardized medicinal plant extracts (1 tablet containing 100mg Withania somnifera, 500mg Boswellia serrata, 50mg Curcuma longa, 400mg Phyllanthus emblica), as per Ayurveda pharmacopoeia. M-Med (RA) were adjusted at 12-16 weeks intervals based on clinical judgment. Standard follow-up (FU) procedures included a predefined routine drug toxicity checklist. An Excel (Microsoft) based analysis was performed; standard deviation in parentheses, single sample paired T-test (P: two-tailed). Disease activity was classified according to the standard DAS 28 score. 453 patients qualified (one-year uninterrupted combination treatment and sufficient data) for analysis: 32% remission, 38% low activity (LDA), and 30% borderline moderate activity (MDA). Six months prior, 51% of the latter cohort (mean DAS=3.33 (0.95) were in remission/LDA.

Results: At baseline, the median of age and RA symptom duration respectively was 56 years (12.5) and 11 years (74); 80% seropositive RF: 91% erosive/RA deformity; mean pain VAS (10cm line)=2.78(1.23), mean HAQ (validated Indian version, maximum score 24)=3.17 (2.95), mean DAS28=2.9 (0.76), 47% steroids (mean daily dose ≤5 mg pred), median ESR=30 (19.4), 22% Hydroxychloroquine, 22% Sulfasalazine,74% Methotrexate (mean 16.3 mg weekly (4.48), and Combo DMARD 23%. At 1 year FU, 51% sustained remission/LDA, and 12% MDA; median ESR=30mm (18.8), mean DAS=2.35 (0.87) (p=0.00), 14% Sulfasalazine, 18% Hydroxychloroquine, 49% steroid, 70% Methotrexate (mean 15.5 mg (4.6). Though statistically significant, several changes (core variables) were small and clinically considered unimportant. 32% cohort reported brief arthritis flares (1-5) versus 40% in the previous year. 409 clinical adverse events/AE (none serious/hospitalization) were reported during the study period; 121 non-related (drugs), 68 unspecified drugs, 34 Hydroxychloroquine, 25 Sulfasalazine, 136 Methotrexate, and 21 SC-1 (mostly gut and dyspepsia, infrequent mild transaminitis); correspondingly 472 AE were reported in the previous year (non-SC-1), FU data will be presented. The absence of control, placebo response, and floor and ceiling effect (outcome) may complicate the clinical interpretation of the results. Patients continued to be followed till date.

Conclusion: SC-1 (Ayurveda) further improved disease control, albeit modest, and safety in long-drawn chronic RA when combined with ongoing standard modern drugs under prolonged rheumatology care. This augurs well for the future. But first, controlled evaluation (integrative medicine) studies are warranted.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0506
DOES JANUS KINASE INHIBITOR INCREASE THE RISK OF HERPES ZOSTER IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN SAUDI ARABIA? A MULTICENTER RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Keywords:
Rheumatoid arthritis, Safety, Infection-related RMDs

1King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, Internal Medicine, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; 2King Abdullah University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; 3King Abdulaziz University, Department of Infectious Disease and Department of Infection Control and Environmental Health, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; 4Al Azhar University, Rheumatology, Asir, Saudi Arabia; 5Umm Alqura University, Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Makkah, Saudi Arabia

Background: Currently, there is an advancing interest in the Janus kinase (JAK) intracellular pathway since targeted inhibitors are proving to be excellent in the treatment of Rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Nevertheless, this new therapeutic era of small molecules comes at a cost, JAKi is associated with a heightened risk of reactivation of dormant infections herpes zoster (HZ) virus infection. Furthermore, the incidence of HZ in rheumatoid arthritis using JAKi is higher in eastern Asian countries making this study essential for the assessment of its safety among the middle eastern population in a real-world setting.

Objectives: To evaluate the risk of serious infection (SI) and herpes zoster (HZ) in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving JAK inhibitors.

Methods: Multicenter retrospective cohort study in Saudi Arabia. Rheumatoid arthritis patients aged 18 and above from the period of 2007-2022 were included. Medical records were reviewed, and patients were phone interviewed during 2022 to register an outcome of HZ infection. Chi-square was used to assess for the correlation between various risk factors and HZ infection.

Results: From a total of 308 patients, 108 were on JAKi. JAKi didn’t significantly increase the risk of reactivation of dormant infections herpes zoster (HZ) virus infection. Furthermore, the incidence of HZ in rheumatoid arthritis using JAKi is higher in eastern Asian countries making this study essential for the assessment of its safety among the middle eastern population in a real-world setting.

Conclusion: In this multicenter study in Saudi Arabia, JAKi were not associated with the development of HZ among Rheumatoid Arthritis patients in real world setting. Asian ethnicity and etanercept usage were significantly associated with HZ infection.

REFERENCES:
Background: Filgotinib is well-known to inhibit bone destruction in patients with RA, particularly those with poor prognostic factors. Recently, Filgotinib, especially at dose 200mg/d has been reported to have good results inhibiting joint damage in patients with rapid radiographic progression (RRP) condition compared to non-RRP condition in post-hoc study of Finch1 (Methotrexate (MTX) iR) or non-iR condition. However, little has been reported about the joint protective activity by Filgotinib in the real world. On the other hand, we previously demonstrated that extensive MRI bone edema (BE) in the hand and radiographic progression by reducing bone edema (RPG) were treated with filgotinib were examined to check for extensive BE in their most active joint, as radiographically assessed using standardised progression assessment in RA (SPA-RAPID). Finally, the RRPs in the first year of filgotinib treatment were assessed.

Methods: All 32 patients with inadequate response to MTX/Biologics/JAKi who were treated with filgotinib were examined to check for extensive BE in their most active joint, as radiographically assessed using standardised progression assessment in RA (SPA-RAPID). Finally, the RRPs in the first year of filgotinib treatment were assessed.

Results: As shown in Table 1, most of the patients were treated with filgotinib 200mg/d+MTX. Patients 1-4 (12 months) and patients 5-6 (2-3 months) had extensive BE in hand and RRP condition at baseline. Finally, the RRPs in the first year of filgotinib treatment were assessed.

Conclusion: Filgotinib (200mg/d)+MTX may be useful therapy for RRP by reducing bone edema (RPG) and inhibiting radiographic progression.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0507

FILGOTINIB MAY BE USEFUL THERAPY FOR RAPID RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION BY REDUCING BONE EDEMA

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Rheumatoid arthritis

K. Katayama1, K. Tanaka2, T. Kawahata2, M. Yuihchi3, T. Okubo4, T. Sato5, S. Abe5, H. Ito3, 1Katayama Orthopedic Rheumatology Clinic, Rheumatology, Asahikawa, Japan; 2Asahikawa Medical University, Division of Metabolism and Biosystemic Science, Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine, Asahikawa, Japan; 3Asahikawa Medical University Hospital, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Asahikawa, Japan; 4Katayama Orthopedic Rheumatology Clinic, Radiology, Asahikawa, Japan; 5Asahikawa Medical University, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Asahikawa, Japan

Background: Filgotinib is well-known to inhibit bone destruction in patients with RA, particularly those with poor prognostic factors. Recently, Filgotinib, especially at dose 200mg/d has been reported to have good results inhibiting joint damage in patients with rapid radiographic progression (RRP) condition compared to non-RRP condition in post-hoc study of Finch1 (Methotrexate (MTX) iR) or non-RRP condition in post-hoc study of Finch1 (Methotrexate (MTX) iR) or Finch 3(MTX naive) trial [1]. However, little has been reported about the joint protective activity by Filgotinib in the real world. On the other hand, we previously demonstrated that extensive MRI bone edema (BE) in the hand and radiographic progression by reducing bone edema (RPG) were treated with filgotinib were examined to check for extensive BE in their most active joint, as radiographically assessed using standardised progression assessment in RA (SPA-RAPID). Finally, the RRPs in the first year of filgotinib treatment were assessed.

Methods: All 32 patients with inadequate response to MTX/Biologics/JAKi who were treated with filgotinib were examined to check for extensive BE in their most active joint, as radiographically assessed using standardised progression assessment in RA (SPA-RAPID). Finally, the RRPs in the first year of filgotinib treatment were assessed.

Results: As shown in Table 1, most of the patients were treated with filgotinib 200mg/d+MTX. Patients 1-4 (12 months) and patients 5-6 (2-3 months) had extensive BE in hand and RRP condition at baseline. Finally, the RRPs in the first year of filgotinib treatment were assessed.

Conclusion: Filgotinib (200mg/d)+MTX may be useful therapy for RRP by reducing bone edema (RPG) and inhibiting radiographic progression.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0508

EFFICACY OF SULFASALAZINE MONOTHERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WHO HAD FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PREFERENCE FOR SULFASALAZINE OVER METHOTREXATE AS THE FIRST-LINE DRUG

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis

K. Hatteri1, Y. Kanayama1, 1Toyota Kosei Hospital, Orthopaedics, Miyoshi, Japan

Background: Methotrexate (MTX) is the first-line drug in treating patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1], while some patients have baseline factors and comorbidities which discourage use of MTX. While treatment with sulfasalazine (SSZ) is often performed in these cases, the efficacy of SSZ monotherapy was not well evaluated using recent disease activity assessment measures such as DAS28-CRP, CDAI and HAQ-DI.

Objectives: The aim of this research is to evaluate the efficacy of SSZ monotherapy in RA patients who had baseline factors and comorbidities associated with preference for SSZ over methotrexate as the first-line drug.

Methods: 78 treatment-naïve RA patients who started treatment with SSZ were included. We compared outcomes of SSZ monotherapy in patients with and without each of the following baseline factors and comorbidities: age 75 years or more, seronegative RA, moderate disease activity or less (DAS28-CRP, CDAI and HAQ-DI), and presence of comorbidities in lung, renal and liver.

Results: Baseline disease activity was higher among patients with 75 years old or more compared with those with under 75 years old (DAS28-CRP as 4.9 and 3.9, CDAI as 24 and 17 and HAQ-DI as 1.4 and 0.8), while those were similar at week 24 (DAS28-CRP as 3.3 and 3.2, CDAI as 14 and 12 and HAQ-DI as 0.6 and 0.5). There was no significant difference in disease activity at baseline and week 24 regardless seronegative or seropositive RA. There were also no significant differences in disease activity at baseline and week 24 regardless presence or absence of comorbidities in lung, renal and liver. Disease activity at week 24 tended to be higher among patients with high disease activity at baseline comparing to those with moderate or less disease activity at baseline, whereas no statistically significant difference was observed baseline DAS28-CRP as 5.0 and 3.3 and DAS28-CRP at week 24 as 3.5 and 2.9).

Conclusion: SSZ was similarly effective in treating elderly RA patients, patients with seronegative RA and RA patients with comorbidities in lung, renal and liver, comparing in treating those without any baseline factors and comorbidities.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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REFERENCE:
AB0509

CLINICAL EQUIVALENCE OF GENERIC AND BRANDED TOFACITINIB IN REAL-WORLD: A PROSPECTIVE LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis

J. Zhao1, H. Huang2, Z. Zhang1. 1Peking University First Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Beijing, China

Background: The efficacy and safety of Xeljanz® have also been confirmed in RA patients. Varieties of generic tofacitinib have been developed in different countries. However, there is no study comparing the efficacy and safety between generic and brand-name tofacitinib yet.

Objectives: In the current study, we compared the efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness between a Chinese generic tofacitinib Kelejia® and the brand-name tofacitinib Xeljanz® in RA patients from a prospective real-world cohort.

Methods: PA: RA patients receiving tofacitinib, either generic (Kelejia®, generic group) or branded (Xeljanz®, branded group) were enrolled. All the patients were followed up until the discontinuation of tofacitinib or last visit. Primary outcome was simplified disease activity index (SDAI) defined remission rate at month 6. Secondary outcomes included the rates of remission and low disease activity (LDA) defined by other composite scores; EULAR response rate and ultrasonic synovitis scores at month 1, 3, 6 and 12. Cost-effectiveness was investigated. Propensity score-based inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW) was adopted to reduce selection bias.

Results: 204 patients were enrolled, with 59 in generic group and 145 in branded group. The SDAI defined remission was achieved in 41.1% and 39.2% patients in generic group and branded group at month 6, respectively (p=0.854). The rates of remission and LDA achievement, the changes of clinical disease activity scores, power doppler (PD) and gray scale (GS) synovitis scores at months 1, 3, 6 and 12 from baseline were all comparable between two groups. Similar proportions of patients in two groups achieved moderate/good response. Rates of drug retention (78.0% vs 77.2%, p=0.911) and adverse effect (5.1% vs. 4.8%, p=1.00) were also similar in two groups. Both Kelejia® and Xeljanz® were cost-effective, but Kelejia® had lower average cost-effectiveness ratio.

Conclusion: Generic tofacitinib (Kelejia®) showed equivalent clinical efficacy and safety, and better cost-effectiveness comparing with its originator (Xeljanz®). Kelejia® can be an alternative to brand-name Tofacitinib.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0510

COST-EFFECTIVE ANALYSIS OF GENERAL TARGETED SYNTHETIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUG - TOFACITINIB IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (TIRA CEA STUDY)

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs

D. Syngle1, I. Verma2, K. Chauhan3, S. Patyal3, A. Syngle4,4,1, Healing Touch Foundation, Research & Innovations, Chandigarh, India; 2MM College of Pharmacy, MMU, Pharmacy Practice, Mullana, India; 3Healing Touch City Clinic, Internal Medicine & Rheumatology, Chandigarh, India; 4Fortis Hospital Mohali, Internal Medicine & Rheumatology, Sahibzada Aji Singh Nagar, India

Background: With the introduction of generic version of toDMARD tofacitinib in different parts of the world, its important to perform a cost-effective analysis of introducing generic tofacitinib to the current treatment sequence for patients with moderate-to-severe rheumatoid arthritis who have inadequate response or intolerance to conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (csDMARDs-IR).

Objectives: Perform pharmacoeconomic analysis of introducing generic tofacitinib into the current treatment sequence for patients with moderate-to-severe rheumatoid arthritis who are csDMARDs-IR.

Methods: A prospective, observational study was conducted in 55 consecutive RA Indian patients (Table 1) meeting 2010 Rheumatoid Arthritis Classification Criteria with active disease and an inadequate response or intolerance to conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs randomized to receive tofacitinib 5 mg bd as an add on therapy. All study patients attended the rheumatology OPD with 3 months follow-up. Average cost effectiveness analysis was done by taking HAQ-DI score as a measure of effectiveness. Total cost estimation included cost of the treatment, monitoring cost and adverse effect management.

Table 1. Demographic, clinical and biochemical characteristics of 55 Rheumatoid Arthritis patients

Results: RA patients included in study had established disease with 18.18% males and 81.82% females and 49% were seropositive. Majority of the study RA patients (89%) were on a background regimen of two synthetic DMARDs (MTX and HCO-80%, MTX and LEP-5.45%, SSZ and HCG-3.63%), and 1.61% of the RA patients were on a combination of three sDMARDs. After 3 months treatment with generic tofacitinib and other csDMARDs, the ASES-28 score improved from 5.31 ± 2.16 to 3.81±1.21, p<0.01 and the mean disability index estimated by HAQ-DI reduced from 1.93a to 0.60 to 0.62 ± 0.37, p<0.01. The direct medical cost of treatment of RA per month was 3032.81 rupees (34.39 Euro or 37.31 USD). The average cost effectiveness ratio for the treatment with generic tofacitinib and continuing the use of csDMARDs was Rs 3,998.71 (equivalent to 44.67 Euro or 48.48 USD) to gain or improve one unit of HAQ-DI score. Cost percentage for each head is depicted in Graph 1.

Conclusion: Treatment with generic tofacitinib is effective to control the disease activity and improves disability in RA. Incorporating generic tofacitinib into the csDMARD treatment sequence in active RA patients who have inadequate response or intolerance to csDMARDs is effective to improve the disability index. These results, reflecting the additional costs associated with deteriorating health condition, support the importance of using generic tofacitinib.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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SLE, Sjögren’s and APS - treatment

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Clinical trials, Systemic lupus erythematosus

S. Cohen1, J. Beebe2, V. Chindalore3, S. Guan4, M. Hassan-Zahrae5, C. Hyde6, S. Koride7, B. Levin8, S. Lubaczewski9, M. Salganik10, A. Sloan11, E. Stevens12, E. Peeva13, M. Vincent14, D. Martin15, M. Chu16, Metropolis Clinical Research Center, NA, Dallas, United States of America; 2Pfizer Inc, NA, Cambridge, United States of America; 3Pinnacle Research Group, LLC, NA, Anniston, United States of America; 4Clinical Research of West Florida, NA, Clearwater, United States of America; 5Pfizer Inc, NA, Collegeville, United States of America; 6Pfizer Inc, NA, Groton, United States of America

**Background:** PF-06835375 is a humanised, afucosyl IgG1 antibody selective against C-X-C chemokine receptor type 5 (CXCRRS), a receptor expressed on B cells, bona fide T follicular helper (Th) cells and circulating T follicular helper-like (cT) cells. PF-06835375 is in development for autoimmune diseases through depletion of CXCRRS-positive B and Th cells and antagonism of C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 10-dependent signalling.

**Objectives:** This first-in-human study evaluated the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics (PK) and pharmacodynamics (PD) of PF-06835375 in patients with seropositive systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) or rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

**Methods:** This multi-centre, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 1 study enrolled patients aged 18–70 years with seropositive SLE (diagnosed by Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics classification criteria, and positive anti-nuclear antibody titre ≥1:80 and/or anti-dsDNA and/or anti-Smith antibodies) or RA (diagnosed by 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria and positive rheumatoid factor and/or anti-citrullinated peptide antibody), with no minimum disease activity requirement. Patients were randomised to intravenous (IV) PF-06835375 (0.03, 0.1, 0.3, 1 or 6 mg) or placebo in 6 sequential single ascending dose (SAD) cohorts, or to subcutaneous (SC) PF-06835375 (0.3, 1, 3, 6 or 10 mg) or placebo administered on Days 1 and 29 in 5 multiple ascending dose (MAD) cohorts. Pre-and post-dose corticosteroids were permitted to manage infusion or injection reactions at the investigator’s discretion. Primary endpoints were incidence of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) of all causality, infections and laboratory, vital sign and electrocardiogram (ECG) abnormalities. Secondary endpoints were PK parameters, change in circulating CXCRRS-positive B- and cTfh-cell counts and incidence of anti-drug antibodies (ADAs).

**Results:** In total, 74 patients were randomised and 73 were treated (SAD cohorts: SLE, n=17; RA, n=14; MAD cohorts: SLE, n=22; RA, n=20). Corticosteroids were given in PF-06835375 3 and 6 mg IV cohorts and 3, 6 and 10 mg SC cohorts. Mean (standard deviation) age was 53.3 (10.7) years. Most patients were female (n=65, 89.0%) and White (n=54, 74.0%). In total, 62 patients (84.9%) experienced TEAEs; most were mild or moderate. Serious adverse events were reported in 3 patients (9.7%). One patient (1.4%) discontinued due to a TEAE of disease progression (placebo SC cohort). The most common TEAEs were headache (n=18, 24.7%), pyrexia (n=11, 15.1%) and urinary tract infection (n=9, 12.3%). All infections were mild or moderate. Laboratory abnormalities (placebo IV SAD, PF-06835375 1 mg IV SAD and PF-06835375 3 mg SC MAD) and ECG abnormalities (PF-06835375 0.1, 1 and 6 mg IV SAD) were reported as TEAEs in individual patients. No deaths occurred. In IV SAD cohorts, median T1/2 ranged from 2–4 h and mean CL ranged from 0.021–0.313 L/h. Exposure (AUC0–∞ and C0–∞) generally increased dose-proportionally for doses ≤1 mg and more than dose-proportionally for doses >1 mg. In SC MAD cohorts, median T1/2 ranged from 121–171 h and mean CL/F ranged from 0.07847–0.1171 L/h. Exposure (AUC0–∞ and C0–∞) generally increased dose-proportionally. B- and cTfh-cell counts generally showed dose-dependent reductions across cohorts (range of maximum mean depletions: 673–89.3% and 62.4–98.7%, respectively, in MAD cohorts; Figure 1). Mean duration of B- and cTfh-cell depletion extended up to 7.16 and 62.0 days, respectively, in SAD, and 78.5 and 109.5 days, respectively, in MAD cohorts. ADA data did not suggest any clinically relevant impact on PK, PD or safety.

**Conclusion:** PF-06835375 was generally well tolerated in patients with seropositive SLE and RA with potent and prolonged B- and cTfh-cell depletion, supporting further development as a treatment for autoimmune diseases.

**Acknowledgements:** This study was sponsored by Pfizer Inc. Medical writing support, under the direction of the authors, was provided by Sonya Frazier, PhD, CMC Connect, a division of IPG Health Medical Communications, and was funded by Pfizer Inc, New York, NY, USA, in accordance with Good Publication Practice (GPP 2022) guidelines (Ann Intern Med 2022: 176: 1298–1304).


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**AB0512 INCIDENCE, PREVALENCE AND CURRENT TREATMENT PRACTICE OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A GERMAN CLAIMS DATA ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Real-world evidence, Systemic lupus erythematosus T. Alexander1, M. Schulte2, J. Borchert3, T. Garcia3, E. Schrom1, 1Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 2Amgen GmbH, Medical Affairs, Munich, Germany; 3WG2 GmbH, Analytic, Leipzig, Germany; 4Amgen GmbH, Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Munich, Germany

**Background:** Despite recent advances in the management of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), patients still suffer from reduced quality of life and increased mortality compared to the general population [1]. The latest data for Germany report a prevalence of 38.6 – 55.8 cases per 100,000 between 2009 and 2014, however more recent data as well as investigations on treatment algorithms in a real world setting are limited [2].

**Objectives:** To investigate incidence and prevalence of SLE for Germany and to evaluate treatment sequences in adult patients with SLE in Germany.

**Methods:** In this retrospective claims data analysis, 3017 patients with SLE diagnosis between January 2012 and December 2019 were identified for incidence and prevalence analysis. Out of these, 941 incident patients between January 2012 and December 2017 were selected for analysis of current treatment practice. For this analysis, only patients initiating SLE treatment according to guidelines were considered [1]. The date of the earliest prescription for SLE treatment on or following the SLE diagnosis (index date) was defined as start of sequence of therapy (SOT) 1. A new treatment added or switched to resulted in a new SOT. Up to 3 SOTs were measured during follow-up. SLE severity was recorded as previously described [2].
Conclusion: While incidence of SLE is stable, prevalence is rising among German patients with statutory health insurance. Our data show that for newly diagnosed patients a combination of medication frequently including corticosteroids is required over time to control their disease. These data suggest a persistent unmet need for more effective treatment strategies for better SLE disease management and complement a recent US claims data analysis [3].

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AB0514  LABORATORY MARKER IMPROVEMENTS FOLLOWING LONG-TERM TREATMENT WITH ANIFROLUMAB IN ADULTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN THE PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TULIP EXTENSION STUDY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Randomized control trial, Systemic lupus erythematosus 


1University of Leeds, Leeds Institute for Infection & Immunity, School of Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2Hospital La Pitié-Salpêtrière, French National Reference Center for SLE, Paris, France; 3University of California, San Diego, Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, La Jolla, CA, United States of America; 4The University of Manchester, Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester; United Kingdom; 5University of Occupational and Environmental Health, The First Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; 6Allegheny Health Network, Lupus Center of Excellence, Autoimmune Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, United States of America; 7AstraZeneca, Clinical Development, Late Respiratory & Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Warsaw, Poland; 8AstraZeneca, Clinical Development, Late Respiratory & Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Gaithersburg, MD, United States of America; 9AstraZeneca, Biometrics, Late Respiratory & Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Gothenburg, Sweden; 10AstraZeneca, Clinical Development, Late Respiratory & Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

RESULTS: Incidence rates were stable in both genders in Germany between 2012 and 2019, with women showing 3-4 fold higher incidence rates than men. In contrast, prevalence was rising from 40.5 in 2012 to 59.9 per 100,000 people in 2019, with a stronger trend in female patients (Figure 1). The mean (SD) age of the 941 incident patients identified for the treatment practice analysis was 50.6 (15.5) years. 74.4% were female and the mean (SD) follow-up duration was 1836 (634) days. 681 (70.3%) patients initiated SLE treatment (SOT1), with 246 (26.1%) progressing on to SOT2 and 113 (16.6%) on to SOT3. Monotherapy were most commonly prescribed in SOT1 (52.4%), while the use of combination therapies increases with SOT (SOT1 47.6%, SOT2 76.8%, SOT3 77.9%). Antimalarials in combination with corticosteroids were the most prescribed therapy during SOT1 (30.1%), immunosuppressants combined with corticosteroids during SOT2 (32.5%) and antimalarials combined with immunosuppressants and corticosteroids in SOT3 (36.3%). Combination therapies with biologics were used in 2.5% of patients in SOT2 and 8.8% of patients in SOT3 (Table 1). Disease severity increases with SOT.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of therapy</th>
<th>SOT1 (n=681)</th>
<th>SOT2 (n=246)</th>
<th>SOT3 (n=113)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monotherapy - n(%)</td>
<td>357(52.4%)</td>
<td>57(23.17%)</td>
<td>25(22.12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antimalarials</td>
<td>129(18.94%)</td>
<td>28(11.38%)</td>
<td>10(8.85%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressants</td>
<td>15(2.20%)</td>
<td>25(10.16%)</td>
<td>14(12.39%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biologics</td>
<td>42(6.17%)</td>
<td>8(3.24%)</td>
<td>2(1.77%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids</td>
<td>211(30.98%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination therapies - n(%)</td>
<td>324(47.58%)</td>
<td>189(76.83%)</td>
<td>86(75.88%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antimalarials + IS</td>
<td>71(10.09%)</td>
<td>4(1.63%)</td>
<td>1(0.88%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antimalarials + CS</td>
<td>42(6.17%)</td>
<td>49(19.92%)</td>
<td>4(3.57%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antimalarials + biologics</td>
<td>10(1.5%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antimalarials + biologics + CS</td>
<td>10(1.5%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids + IS</td>
<td>205(30.10%)</td>
<td>50(20.33%)</td>
<td>15(13.27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids + CS</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids + biologics</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids + biologics + CS</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
<td>0(0.00%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Antimalarial-induced cardiomyopathy is a rare complication of prolonged use of antimalarial treatment. It can present with a conduction disorder, heart failure, or ventricular hyper trophy [1]. A systematic review has highlighted that early recognition and drug withdrawal are crucial and can potentially lead to recovery of cardiac function in up to 45% of patients. Despite this, there remains a significant risk of irreversible damage and death despite discontinuation (12.9% and 30.8% respectively) [2].

Methods: We identified a selection of patients with a diagnosis of a Connective Tissue Disease who had been prescribed Hydroxychloroquine for longer than 5 years. We performed cardiac screening including N-terminal-pro-BNP (NT-pro-BNP), Troponin I (Tnl), Creatine Kinase (CK) and an Electrocardiogram (ECG). A basic tool was used to determine the need for further investigations (Echocardiogram +/- Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging) to evaluate the presence or absence of Hydroxychloroquine-induced cardiomyopathy.

Results: A total of 124 patients met the specified criteria of which 115 were female (92.7%) and 9 were male (7.3%) with a mean age of 48 years. The underlying diagnoses included Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (n=103, 83.1%), Mixed CTD (n=9, 7.3%), Sjögren’s Syndrome (n=6, 4.8%), Undifferentiated CTD (n=3, 2.4%), and Systemic Sclerosis (n=1, 0.8%). A total of 40 patients (32.3%) had been prescribed Hydroxychloroquine for 5-10 years duration compared to 84 patients (67.7%) who had been prescribed for over 10 years duration. Daily Hydroxychloroquine dose varied from 0-200mg (n=15, 12.1%), 200mg (n=55, 44.3%), 200-400mg (n=13, 10.5%), and 400mg (n=41, 33.1%). Abnormal results which warranted further investigation included raised levels of NT-pro-BNP (76%), Tnl (4.2%), and CK (11.7%), and specific features seen on ECG (19.3%). A total of 31 patients were investigated using Echocardiography and none of these patients exhibited features suggestive of cardiomyopathy.

Conclusion: We did not identify any patients within this cohort with features suggestive of Hydroxychloroquine-induced cardiomyopathy. Despite the condition being rare, the true prevalence is unknown. Clinicians should remain vigilant and consider including a cardiovascular risk assessment in the long-term management of patients taking Hydroxychloroquine especially in high-risk patients such as those with a high cumulative dose of the medication [3].

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1402
Background: Anifrolumab is a type I interferon (IFN) receptor antagonist approved for treating adults with moderate to severe SLE [1]. The efficacy and safety of anifrolumab was evaluated in two 1-year phase 3 TULIP studies (NCT02446891, NCT02446899), and patients completing treatment in TULIP-1/-2 could enter the 3-year, placebo-controlled long-term extension (LTE) study (NCT02794285) [2–4]. Multiple serological markers are available to monitor SLE; notably, lymphopenia is associated with higher SLE disease activity and damage [5]. Assessing the long-term impact of anifrolumab on lymphocytes and other laboratory markers is of clinical interest.

Objectives: To compare the change over time of laboratory markers in blood samples from adults with SLE treated with anifrolumab vs placebo over the 4-year TULIP-LTE period.

Methods: Eligible patients fulfilled 1997 ACR criteria for SLE at TULIP entry, completed the TULIP treatment periods, and reconsented to participate in the LTE study. Here, we analyze data from patients who were randomized to anifrolumab 300 mg or placebo at TULIP entry and who did not change treatment over the TULIP-LTE period. Blood samples were collected from baseline (BL) until Week 208. Laboratory measurements (lymphocytes, hemoglobin, platelets, complement C3 and C4, anti–double-stranded DNA antibodies) were analyzed using standard cell count and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays. Mean changes from BL to Week 208 were analyzed descriptively.

Results: We present data on 536 patients (anifrolumab 300 mg, n = 358; placebo, n = 178). Assessing lymphocytes over time revealed a numerically greater increase in the anifrolumab vs placebo group during the TULIP studies which was maintained through the 3-year LTE period (Figure 1). BL laboratory characteristics and changes from BL to Week 208 are shown in the Table 1. Numerically greater increases in hemoglobin levels and platelet counts from BL to Week 208 were observed in patients treated with anifrolumab compared with placebo; mean platelet and hemoglobin levels remained in the normal range at BL and Week 208. Among patients with low C3 levels at BL, there was a numerically greater mean improvement in C3 levels to Week 208 with anifrolumab vs placebo.

Conclusion: Long-term improvement of lymphocytes and other laboratory markers, compared with placebo, indicates that type I IFN inhibition with anifrolumab normalizes SLE-related hematological parameters in patients with SLE. This normalization may relate to disease activity reduction and be relevant to long-term health outcomes and complications.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Laboratory markers from the 4-year TULIP-LTE study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Anifrolumab 300 mg (n=358)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=178)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N (BL, Week 208)</td>
<td>Change from BL to Week 208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean (SE)</td>
<td>Mean (SE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocytes, 10^9/L</td>
<td>358, 182</td>
<td>1.27 (±0.40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin, g/L</td>
<td>358, 182</td>
<td>125.1 (±3.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets, 10^9/L</td>
<td>358, 182</td>
<td>239.9 (±24.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3, g/L</td>
<td>129, 64</td>
<td>0.690 (±0.192)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4, g/L</td>
<td>83, 36</td>
<td>0.073 (±0.030)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA, U/mL</td>
<td>165, 79</td>
<td>129.6 (±22.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: Writing assistance by Laura Buck, PhD, and Rosie Butler, PhD, of JK Associates Inc., part of Fishawack Health.

This study was sponsored by AstraZeneca.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1534

AB0515 PHARMACOKINETICS, SELECTIVITY PROFILE, AND EXPOSURE-RESPONSE RELATIONSHIPS FOR EFFICACY AND SAFETY IN A PHASE 2 STUDY OF DEUCRAVACITINIB, AN ORAL, SELECTIVE, ALLOSTERIC TYK2 INHIBITOR, IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Targeted synthetic drugs

T. Ide1, M. Chiney1, H. Y. T. Bach1, V. Gotti1, B.Murphy1, C. Hobay2, Q. Zhao3, U. Aras1, Julius Strober2, Clinical Pharmacology, University of Pennsylvania, United States of America; 1Bristol Myers Squibb, Clinical Pharmacology, Princeton, United States of America; 2Bristol Myers Squibb, Clinical Development, Princeton, United States of America; 3Bristol Myers Squibb, Research & Early Development, Princeton, United States of America

Background: Deucravacitinib is a first-in-class, oral, selective, allosteric tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) inhibitor approved in multiple countries for the treatment of adults with plaque psoriasis [1,2]. Deucravacitinib binds to the unique TYK2 regulatory domain, conferring greater functional selectivity vs JAK inhibitors, which bind to the catalytic domain. Deucravacitinib showed superior efficacy vs placebo in a phase 2 trial in SLE (NCT03252587) [3].

Objectives: This analysis assessed the pharmacokinetics (PK), selectivity profile compared to JAK inhibitors, and exposure–response (E-R) relationship for efficacy and safety of deucravacitinib in SLE.

Methods: In the phase 2 trial, patients with active SLE were randomized 1:1:1:1:1 to placebo or deucravacitinib (3 mg BID, 6 mg BID, 12 mg QD). PK analysis included pooled concentration data from 266 SLE patients and 328 phase 1 participants. IC50 was determined by in vitro whole blood assays and plotted against PK profiles. E-R analyses included data from 356 patients. Logistic regression analyses assessed the relationship between deucravacitinib exposure and probability of achieving efficacy endpoints and safety events at weeks 32 and 48.

Results: Deucravacitinib PK in SLE patients was not meaningfully different from that in phase 1 participants. At 12 mg QD, deucravacitinib Cmax was 80 fold lower than JAK 1/3 IC50, and 47 fold lower than JAK 2/2 IC50 (Figure 1). In the E-R analyses, the probability of achieving SRI(4) and BICLA at week 32 increased with increasing deucravacitinib Cmax with 3 mg BID providing near-maximal response. The E-R relationship for infection and infestation was relatively flat, while skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders increased with increasing deucravacitinib Cmax. These E-R relationships were similar at week 48.

Conclusion: Deucravacitinib PK in SLE patients is not meaningfully different from that in phase 1 participants. At clinically relevant exposures, deucravacitinib demonstrates highly selective inhibition of TYK2 vs JAK 1/2/3. The deucravacitinib E-R relationships are well characterized for various efficacy endpoints and safety events.

REFERENCES:
EFFECT OF LITIFILIMAB ON TYPE I INTERFERON (IFN) BIOMARKERS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) OR CUTANEOUS LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (CLE): RESULT OF THE LILAC PHASE 2 STUDY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical trials

R. Furie1, V. Werth2, E. Milliman3, K. Ferber4, F. Casey2, R. Brown1, D. Raitcheva1,3, J. Zoghbi5, D. Graham2, G. Kong2, Y. Lahoud2, N. Franchimont5, C. Barbey5,1 Northwell Health, Division of Rheumatology, Great Neck, United States of America; 1University of Pennsylvania and Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, Dermatology, Philadelphia, United States of America; 2Biogen, Analytics and Data Sciences, Cambridge, United States of America; 3Biogen, Biostatistics, Cambridge, United States of America; 4Biogen, Translational Sciences, Cambridge, United States of America; 5Biogen, Biomarkers, Cambridge, United States of America; 6Biogen, MS
Background: Litifilimab (BII8059) is a humanised IgG1 monoclonal antibody targeting BDC2A2, a receptor predominantly expressed on plasmacytoid dendritic cells, that negatively regulates production of Type I IFN and proinflammatory chemokines and cytokines [1,2]. Both Part A (SLE) and Part B (CLE) of the randomised, placebo-controlled Phase 2 LILAC study of litifilimab (NCT02847598) met their primary efficacy endpoints at Weeks 24 and 16, respectively [1,2].

Objectives: To evaluate the effect of litifilimab treatment on IFN gene signature (IFNGS) scores and IFNα levels in LILAC participants.

Methods: Expression of a 22-IFNGS and IFNα concentrations were examined over time in whole blood and serum samples, respectively, from the LILAC modified intent-to-treat population (mITT; Part A N=120, Part B N=132) with a baseline biomarker value and at least one post-baseline value. Treatment effects were estimated using a mixed-effects model repeated measures approach (MMRM) and the dose-response relationship was estimated in Part B using a previously described MCP-Mod method [2].

Results: Few participants had low baseline IFNGS scores, so only data for participants with high baseline IFNGS scores are described here.

Table 1. Table 1. Primary efficacy endpoints and changes from baseline in IFNGS and IFNα levels for the IFNGS-high subgroup (mITT population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part A</th>
<th>PBO</th>
<th>450 mg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n*</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in IFNGS score, %</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 24, n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in IFNGS score, %</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 24</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFNGS GMR* vs PBO at Week 24 (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.66 (0.48, 0.89)</td>
<td>P=0.0072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in IFNα levels, %</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 24</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFNα GMR* vs PBO at Week 24 (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.22 (0.11, 0.44)</td>
<td>P=0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part B</th>
<th>PBO</th>
<th>50 mg</th>
<th>150 mg</th>
<th>450 mg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n*</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in CLASI-A at Week 16, %</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in IFNGS score, %</td>
<td>-18</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-65</td>
<td>-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFNGS GMR* vs PBO at Week 16 (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.69 (0.45, 1.05)</td>
<td>0.40 (0.26, 0.61)</td>
<td>0.51 (0.35, 0.75)</td>
<td>0.20 (0.13, 0.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in IFNGS score, %</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-64</td>
<td>-75</td>
<td>-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>-31</td>
<td>-63</td>
<td>-82</td>
<td>-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFNα GMR* vs PBO at Week 16 (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.54 (0.25, 1.18)</td>
<td>0.26 (0.12, 0.58)</td>
<td>0.40 (0.20, 0.79)</td>
<td>0.12 (0.02, 0.61)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part B PBO 50 mg 150 mg 450 mg

n* Primary endpoint: Change in number of active joints* at Week 24, n
n Change in IFNGS score, % Week 1 Week 24
n Change in IFNGS score, % Week 1 Week 16
n IFNGS GMR* vs PBO at Week 16 (95% CI)

n Change in IFNα levels, % Week 1 Week 24
n IFNα GMR* vs PBO at Week 24 (95% CI)

Part B PBO 50 mg 150 mg 450 mg

n* Primary endpoint: Change in number of active joints* at Week 24, n
n Change in IFNGS score, % Week 1 Week 24
n Change in IFNGS score, % Week 1 Week 16
n IFNGS GMR* vs PBO at Week 16 (95% CI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part B</th>
<th>PBO</th>
<th>50 mg</th>
<th>150 mg</th>
<th>450 mg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n*</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in CLASI-A at Week 16, %</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 24</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in IFNGS score, %</td>
<td>-18</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>-42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-65</td>
<td>-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.69 (0.45, 1.05)</td>
<td>0.40 (0.26, 0.61)</td>
<td>0.51 (0.35, 0.75)</td>
<td>0.20 (0.13, 0.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in IFNGS score, %</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-64</td>
<td>-75</td>
<td>-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>-31</td>
<td>-63</td>
<td>-82</td>
<td>-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFNα GMR* vs PBO at Week 16 (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.54 (0.25, 1.18)</td>
<td>0.26 (0.12, 0.58)</td>
<td>0.40 (0.20, 0.79)</td>
<td>0.12 (0.02, 0.61)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are LS means unless otherwise specified. *Assessed in participants who met the joint count inclusion criterion described in Furie 2021. **Total active joint count is the sum of the tender joint count and the swollen joint count. †Ratios between the GM fold change from baseline in IFNGS, IFNα gene signature; LS, least squares; mITT, modified intent-to-treat; PBO, placebo.

Acknowledgements: The authors thank the LILAC investigators and their participants for their valuable contributions to this study. Nathalie Franchimont was an employee of Biogen at the time this work was conducted and is currently employed by Nimbus Therapeutics. This study was sponsored by Biogen (Cambridge, MA, USA). Writing and editorial support was provided by Selene Medical Communications (Macclesfield, UK), funded by Biogen.


AB0519 LONG-TERM SAFETY OF BELIMUMAB AMONG ADULT PATIENTS WITH SLE: POOLED DATA FROM THREE OPEN-LABEL EXTENSION STUDIES OVER 11+ YEARS

Keywords: Clinical trials, Safety, Systemic lupus erythematosus

A. Mian1, P. Curtis1, C. Henning2, M. Khamashta3, B. Cervera4, D. J. Wallace5, M. Tektonidou7, T. Atsumi8.

1GSK, Global Medical Affairs, Brentford, United Kingdom; 2GSK, R&D Biostatistics, Brentford, United Kingdom; 3GSK, Global Medical Affairs, Durham, NC, United States of America; 4GSK, Medical Affairs, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 5University of Barcelona, Department of Autoimmune Diseases, Hospital Clinic, Institut d’Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain; 6Cedars-Sinai Medical
Background: Belimumab is approved for the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in >75 countries [1]. Clinical trials and long-term extension (LTE) studies have demonstrated the consistent safety profile of belimumab in patients with SLE receiving standard therapy (ST) [2-4]. A pooled analysis of LTE studies could provide a more robust dataset to explore the long-term safety of belimumab.

Objectives: To evaluate the long-term safety of belimumab in adult patients with SLE using pooled data from three multicentre, LTE studies.

Methods: This post hoc analysis pooled data from three belimumab LTE studies: LBS002 LTE (Phase 2; GSK Study 112626) [2], BLISS-LT (including US patients only; Phase 3; GSK Study 112233) [3], and BLISS-52 + BLISS-LT (excluding US patients from BLISS-52; Phase 3; GSK Study 112234) [4]. Patients were eligible for LTE studies if they completed their treatment through Week 72 (LBS002 and BLISS-LT trials), or Week 48 (BLISS-52 trial). LBS002 LTE also required an improvement in physician global assessment at Week 72 or 68 versus at first belimumab dose. From the start of each LTE, all enrolled patients received open-label belimumab 10 mg/kg intravenously every 28 days plus ST, regardless of study drug allocation in prior trials. Adverse events (AEs) were assessed at each infusion visit and summarised (based on observed data) any time post baseline (first belimumab dose in prior trial or LTE), and in each year.

Results: In total, 1304 patients were enrolled into the three LTE studies and 1299 (99.6%) received ≥1 dose of study drug (pooled safety population). Cumulative belimumab treated patient-years was 7040.1. Overall, 604 (46.5%) patients completed their respective studies. The main reasons for withdrawal included ‘withdrawal by patient’ (18.3%) and AE (10.6%). In the pooled safety population, 1054 (81.1%) and 616 (47.6%) patients received steroids and immunosuppressants at baseline, respectively. Over 11+ years, 1267 (97.5%) patients had ≥1 AE (incidence generally decreased yearly; Table 1), while 525 (40.4%) had ≥1 serious AE (SAE) and 139 (10.7%) experienced ≥1 SAE resulting in discontinuation (incidence of each was stable over time). By system organ class, infections and infestations were the most common AE of special interest (post-infusion systemic reactions (79.6) and respiratory, thoracic, and alimentary (78.8))


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3002

Table 1. Incidence of treatment-emergent AEs over time† (pooled safety population, N=1299)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year post baseline</th>
<th>Year 0–1</th>
<th>Year 2–3</th>
<th>Year 4–6</th>
<th>Year 6–7</th>
<th>Year 8–9</th>
<th>Year 10–11</th>
<th>Year 12+</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>1299</td>
<td>1140</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEs</td>
<td>1267</td>
<td>1108</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>94 (14.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious AEs</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>28 (14.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE continuing in study drug discontinuation</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10 (5.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

†AEs occurred on or after first belimumab dose (in prior trial or LTE); post hoc data shown for every other year; Post-baseline data include follow-up visits. Data from Year 0 up to last visit in the treatment period are shown by years of study participation. Note: patients may be counted in ≥1 year interval

Acknowledgments: Study funded by GSK (GSK Studies 112626, 112233 and 112234). Medical writing support was provided by Robert Bloxham, PhD, Fishawack Indicia Ltd, UK, part of Fishawack Health, and was funded by GSK.

Scientific Abstracts
Deucravacitinib is a first-in-class, oral, selective, allosteric TYK2 inhibitor, Type I IFN) linked with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) pathogenesis. Deucravacitinib was efficacious compared with placebo in a phase 2b clinical trial (3, 4, 5). 

Objectives: 

To develop a customized IFN 5-gene signature score, assess the pharmacodynamic effects of deucravacitinib on the IFN score, and evaluate the score's association with SLE disease activity and clinical response in the phase 2b trial.

Methods: 

Patients with active SLE were randomized equally to oral placebo or deucravacitinib (3 mg BID, 6 mg BID, or 12 mg QD). DXTerity chemical kinase-dependent probe amplification was used to measure 51 immune system-related genes from whole blood. IFN genes were selected based on distribution, correlations, hierarchical clustering, and consistency of K-means clusters. Serum proteins, blood cell subsets, and antibody profiles were measured by immunofluorimetry and flow cytometry. SRI(4) and BICLA were measured at weeks 32 and 48.

Results: 

An IFN 5-gene (MX1, HERC5, IFIT1, RSAD2, and EIF2AK2) signature score was identified and used to classify patients into IFN-high or IFN-low subgroups (Figure 1). Higher baseline IFN score was associated with higher baseline SLEDAI and CLASI disease activity scores, higher levels of IFN activity biomarker, and lower complement and antibody profiles. Baseline IFN score was not predictive of SRI(4) response. A higher baseline IFN score was associated with a significantly higher probability of BICLA response with deucravacitinib 3 mg BID relative to placebo (P=0.014).

Conclusion: 

These data support the IFN 5-gene signature score as a biomarker to classify patients with SLE into IFN-high or IFN-low subgroups; however, clinical response by IFN score was inconsistently improved (Table 1). IFN-regulated gene expression performs well as a pharmacodynamic biomarker to confirm deucravacitinib mechanism of action and to aid in phase 3 dose selection.

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Comorbidities

A. Holloway1, S. Y. Lee1, E. Nikphorou2,3, I. Parodi4,5, N. Ravichandran6, J. Day7,8, M. Joshi9, S. Saha10, S. S. Shahrani11, W. Katchaman12, P. A. Goo13, L. Trabocchi14, Y. M. Chen15,16, P. Sen17, J. B. Lilley18,19, A. Nune20,21, J. Pauling22,23, N. Ziade24,25, M. Milchert26, A. E. Gracia-Ramos27, C. Vinicio Caballero28,9, V. Agarwal29, R. Aggarwal29, L. Gupta29,30,31,32,33, C. Wincup34,35, Kings College Hospital, Rheumatology Department, London, United Kingdom; *King’s College London, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, London, UK; †Faculty of Medicine and Health, Örebro University, Department of Rheumatology, Örebro, Sweden; ‡Karolinska Institutet and
Objectives: To evaluate global patterns in treatment of SLE and identify the prevalence of comorbidities.

Methods: We identified SLE patients from the COVAD 2 database, consisting of over 20,000 respondents worldwide. Healthy controls (HC) were included to account for variations across different regions.

Results: 24,000 patients were included in the analysis. Patients from low-medium HDI (lmHDI) countries were younger than those from high very high HDI (hvhHDI) countries (median age 32 vs 41, IQR 27-41 vs 40-52 years, p<0.0001). Disease duration was shorter in lmHDI countries (median 7 vs 10 years, IQR 5-15 vs 5-15 years, p=0.0011). A higher proportion of SLE patients from lmHDI countries were on Cs (73% vs 99%, p=0.0002), antimalarials (81% vs 68%, p=0.0002) and IS (66% vs 53%, p=0.0009) compared with patients from hvhHDI countries. Disease duration varied with azathioprine prescribed more frequently in lmHDI countries (p=0.049). Biologics use was more common in hvhHDI countries (7% vs 2%, p=0.0055). Comorbidity prevalence was similar between groups, however when adjusted for age, patients with chronic kidney disease were significantly younger in lmHDI countries (36.7 vs 44.6 years, p=0.015) and had shorter duration of disease (5 vs 15 years, p<0.0001). Outcomes were better in hvhHDI countries (71 vs 22% p=0.0002).

Conclusion: To our knowledge, this is the largest study evaluating treatment and comorbidity incidence in SLE populations based on country HDI. We identified striking differences in pharmacological management globally. Cardiovascular comorbidities were seen in younger patients and earlier in the disease course in lmHDI countries, suggestive of premature organ damage. This could be due to limited global access to high-cost medication and increasing access may improve outcomes. Our results call for review of cardiovascular risk guidelines and regional approaches to preventive action as well as pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of patients with established cardiovascular comorbidity.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
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AB0523

TOXIC EPIDERMAL NECROLYSIS(TEN) IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS(SLE): RESULTS FROM A MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL COHORT FROM INDIA

Keywords: Skin, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Descriptive Studies

K. Chandrasekar1, A. Jain2, P. Ghosh2, A. Balakrishnan1, S. Manu1, S. Mukherjee3, A. Paruthi1, P. Srivastava1, A. Singh1, A. Wakhlu1, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 1SMS Medical College & Attached Hospital, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Jaipur, India; 2IPGME&R and SSKM Hospital, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Kolkata, India; 4St John’s Medical College Hospital, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Bengaluru, India; 5King George’s Medical University, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 6SMS Medical College & Attached Hospital, Internal Medicine, Jaipur, India; 7Star clinics, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Ahmedabad, India; 8Apollo Medicos Super Specialty Hospitals, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India

Background: Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis(TEN) is a rare but life-threatening manifestation of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). Epidermal necrolysis (EN), including Stevens–Johnson syndrome and TEN, is commonly drug induced. Furthermore, flares of SLE may present as EN (TEN-like LE). To the best of our knowledge, this is the largest series of SLE-TEN.

Objectives: The current study aimed to study the clinical characteristics and outcome of SLE-related TEN in the Indian population.

Methods: All patients satisfying ACR/EULAR 2019 criteria for SLE and clinically diagnosed with TEN were retrospectively reviewed and compiled from 7 rheumatology centres across India. Drug-induced TEN were excluded from the analysis.

Results: 16 patients (1 child) were included in the study. The majority of patients were females (13/81.25%). The median age of presentation was 25 (8-50) years, and one-third of patients (5/31.25%) presented with TEN as one of their first manifestations. All patients of TEN had active lupus in their home and exact cause of death could not be ascertained.

Conclusion: TEN was a presenting manifestation in one-third of the patients with active disease in more than one domain. More than half of the patients had renal involvement and a quarter had Neuropsychiatric lupus (NPSLE). Anti-dsDNA, Anti-SSA positivity and low complement were common in patients with SLE-TEN. All patients required high-dose steroids for acute management of TEN, with maintenance therapy being guided by other domains involved. Though IVIG is often mentioned in literature as the treatment of choice for TEN, most patients with SLE-TEN did well with pulse and oral steroids suggesting IVIG could be reserved for patients with severe, resistant disease or in patients with concomitant sepsis.

Table 1. Serological and Treatment details of Patients with SLE-TEN

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<thead>
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<th>N=16</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>DCT</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>IVIG 4 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>81.25</td>
<td>Pulse 7 43.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgC3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>1mg/kg 13 81.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>68.75</td>
<td>0.5 mg/kg 3 18.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Sm</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31.25</td>
<td>Maintenance therapy 7 43.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-RNP</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31.25</td>
<td>AZR 7 43.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-La</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>MMF 2 12.5</td>
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<td>Anti-Ro 52</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>RTX 2 12.5</td>
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<td>Anti-Ro60</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>CYC 4 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-SSA</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>Steroids 1 6.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti-Nucleosome</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18.75</td>
<td>IVIG 7 43.75</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Pulse methylprednisolone 2 12.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti-SCL 70*</td>
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<td>12.5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Serological and Treatment details of Patients with SLE-TEN

* each of the antibody was present in two patients (might not be the same patient)

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0524

IN SLE PATIENTS TREATED WITH BELIMUMAB TYPE I INTERFERON AND BAFF GENE SIGNATURES PREDICT CLINICAL RESPONSE: EVIDENCE FOR REVERSAL OF MOLECULAR PATHWAYS LINKED TO ACTIVITY AND SEVERITY UPON TREATMENT

Keywords: bDMARD, Systemic lupus erythematosus

G. S. Moysidou1,2, P. Garantziotis2, M. Grigoriou2, E. Stergioti2, N. Malissovas2, D. Nikolou2, A. Filla3, G. Sentis2, P. Katsimpol1, G. Bertisa3,4, D. Bourmpas3,4, 1Attikon University Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, 4th Department of Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece; 2National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece; 3Inflammation & Autoimmunity Lab, Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA), Faculty of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 4Foundation of Research and Technology-Hellas, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Heraklion, Greece; 5University Hospital of Heraklion and Medical School, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Heraklion, Greece

Background: Belimumab, a monoclonal antibody against B-cell activating factor (BAFF), is the first biological agent approved in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) with persistently active or flaring disease [1].

Figure 1. Clinical features of Patients with SLE-TEN (Created with Biorender.com)
Objectives: To determine molecular signatures that may predict response to therapy based on RNA sequencing analysis and the impact of belimumab on previously defined molecular signatures of SLE activity and severity [2,3].

Methods: Whole blood transcriptome samples were obtained from 38 patients with active moderate to severe SLE at baseline and 6 months after initiation of treatment with belimumab. Disease activity was determined using the SLE-DAI-2K while response to treatment was defined as the achievement of lupus low disease activity state (LLDAS) at 6 months (M6). DESeq2 was used to call differentially expressed genes (DEGs) and weighted correlation network analysis (WGCNA) was applied to uncover gene module-trait associations. The impact of the belimumab treatment on the SLE severity signature was evaluated [2].

Results: From 38 patients treated with belimumab, 35 (92.2%) were women, mean age (SD) was 48.2 (±13.5) years and mean SLEDAI-2K (SD) at baseline was 7.2 (±2.1). A total of 44.4% achieved LLDAS at M6. Both, the presence of a molecular signature of type I interferon signaling and the upregulation of BAFF expression correlated with response to treatment at M6 (p = 0.05 and p = 0.02 respectively). Treatment with belimumab reversed the innate and adaptive immune system signatures in responders at 6-months. Within the non-responders, baseline transcriptome, disturbances related to metabolic processes and rRNA biogenesis were predominantly enriched. A tendency towards downregulation of the severity disease transcriptional signature upon treatment with belimumab was also observed in 6-month responders (p = 0.3203).

Conclusion: Both the presence of type I interferon and BAFF gene expression signatures at baseline correlates with response to treatment with belimumab while metabolic processes and rRNA biogenesis correlate with no response.

Treatment with belimumab might ameliorate the molecular signatures indicative of disease severity in the 6-month-responders. These data provide a mechanistic basis for the response to treatment.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Correlation between the groups of differentially expressed genes from the WGCNA analysis and response to belimumab and SLEDAI at M6.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by an investigator-initiated grant from GSK.

*Georgia-Savina Moysidou and Panagiotis Garantziotis contributed equally to the abstract.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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SUSTAINED RESPONSES TO ANTI-CD38 TREATMENT WITH DARATUMUMAB IN A PATIENT WITH REFRACTORY SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Adaptive immunity

T. Alexander1,2, L. Ostendorf2, R. Biesen3, A. Radbruch4, G. R. Burmester1, F. Hiepe1,2, *Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Corporate Member of Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Berlin Institute of Health, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; 2Deutsches Rheuma-Forschungszentrum (DRFZ), an Institute of the Leibniz Association, Autoimmunology, Berlin, Germany; 3Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Corporate Member of Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Berlin Institute of Health, Nephrology and Intensive Care Unit, Berlin, Germany; 4Deutsches Rheuma-Forschungszentrum (DRFZ), an Institute of the Leibniz Association, Cell Biology, Berlin, Germany

Background: Given their contribution to the chronicity of autoimmune response, long-lived plasma cells (PCs) resemble an attractive treatment target in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and other autoantibody-mediated diseases. We have recently reported the successful treatment of daratumumab, a CD38-targeting human monoclonal antibody, in two refractory patients with SLE [1], demonstrating a clinically relevant depletion of long-lived plasma cells with marked reduction of anti-double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) antibodies and marked clinical improvement in both cases over a follow-up period of 12 months.

Objectives: Here, we describe the long-term clinical and serologic responses of daratumumab treatment in one patient with SLE with a follow-up of 36 months.

Methods: A 51-year-old woman, who suffered from active lupus nephritis WHO class-III/V with nephrotic syndrome, pericarditis, arthritis and skin rash despite treatment with mycophenolate mofetil (MMF), cyclosporine A (CsA), hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and glucocorticoids (GC), had received 4 weekly intravenous doses of 16mg/kg daratumumab as add on to background medication, which was complemented by subcutaneous 200mg belimumab weekly, starting 4 months after the initiation of daratumumab. Autoantibodies were investigated with ELISA and type-I interferon (IFN-I) activity investigated by measuring SIGLEC-1 expression on monocytes with flow cytometry.

Results: During follow-up, the patients’ Urinary Protein/Creatinine Ratio (UPCR) declined from 1197 mg/g at 12 months to 467 mg/g Creatinine at the last follow-up, while serum creatinine remained within normal levels (Figure 1A). No flares or novel disease manifestations occurred during the 3-year observation period, although the dosage of MMF was tapered to 1g daily at 21 months and prednisolone discontinued at 33 months, respectively, after the first daratumumab administration. Serologically, serum anti-dsDNA antibodies further decreased from 254 IE/ml at the 12 months follow-up to 38 IE/ml at 36 months (Figure 1B), and complement levels for C3 were consistently within the normal range (Figure 1C). Serum IgG levels remained stable after previous substitution with two doses of 30g intravenous immunoglobulins (Figure 1D). In addition, her initially increased type-I interferon activity, determined by the flow cytometric assessment of SIGLEC-1 on freshly isolated monocytes, completely normalized during follow-up, an effect most strongly observed during the first weeks following daratumumab therapy (Figure 1E). At the last follow-up, she was in complete clinical remission, with a SLEDAI-2K of 2 due to slightly elevated dsDNA antibodies (Figure 1F). No severe adverse events occurred during follow-up, and no hospitalization was required for the management of SLE, infections or comorbidities.

Conclusion: Our data demonstrate that the administration of daratumumab as induction therapy for refractory and serologically active SLE may provide sustained clinical responses, when combined with immunosuppression and/ or belimumab as maintenance therapy to prevent recurrence of autoreactive PCs. Apparently, depletion of long-lived PCs resulted in a therapeutically relevant reduction of autoantibodies and IFN-I activity, indicating a profound disease modification with resetting the chronic autoimmune immune system into an earlier stage of development, regaining responsiveness to standard therapies. These data suggest further studies to investigate the safety and efficacy of daratumumab in SLE and other autoantibody-mediated autoimmune diseases.

REFERENCE:
**AB0526** EVALUATION OF SATISFACTION AND EFFICACY OF SWITCHING FROM INTRAVENOUS TO SUBCUTANEOUS BELUMUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN DAILY CLINICAL PRACTICE

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Patient reported outcomes, Systemic lupus erythematosus

¹Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; ²Hospital del Mar/Parc de Salut Mar-IMIM, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; ³Hospital de Bellvitge, Rheumatology Department, L’Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain; ⁴Hospital Universitario Germans Trias i Pujol, Rheumatology Department, Badalona, Spain; ⁵Hospital Vall d’Hebron, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; ⁶Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain; ⁷Hospital Moisès Broggi, Rheumatology Department, Barcelona, Spain

**Background:** In 2017, Belimumumab (BEL) was approved in subcutaneous (SC) version [1]. The effectiveness after switching from intravenous (IV) to SC and patient satisfaction in daily clinical practice has not been studied. During the pandemic, patient follow-up and treatment were significantly affected, including the administration of IV biologic therapies. In some patients, a change from IV to SC, including BEL therapy, was required [2].

**Objectives:** Our aim was to evaluate in daily clinical practice satisfaction to BEL SC therapy in patients previously treated IV BEL. We hypothesized that SC BEL in SLE patients previously treated with IV BEL was similar in effectiveness and conferred higher satisfaction.

**Methods:** Observational, multicenter study, conducted in 7 reference centres in Catalonia (Spain). Inclusion criteria: Stable SLE patients (EULAR/ACR 2019) on treatment with BEL SC and previous use of BEL IV (at least 3 months of treatment with BEL IV before switching). Since there are no well-validated tools for SC BEL treatment satisfaction, we used RASQ-SC, validated in patients with lymphoma who switched from Rituximab IV to SC treatment [3], modified for BEL treatment.

**Results:** Twenty-seven patients were included. Demographic and general characteristics are summarized in Table 1. The mean time from treatment with BEL IV before switch to SC was 26 (SD 21) months. 84% of patients reported confidence in BEL SC. 80% felt that treatment with BEL SC was convenient or very convenient. 85% felt they had gained time with the change. 88% would recommend the SC injection to other patients (Figure 1a,b,c,d). Disease activity (mean SLEDAI) and remission rates remain stable after switching. Patients did not require higher doses of glucocorticoids after the switch (Table 1). No major new side effects were reported.

**TABLE 1. Clinical and demographic characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMOGRAPHIC</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at inclusion (years)</td>
<td>45.9 (12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>23 (85.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>22 (81.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>4 (14.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>1 (3.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current smoker, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (37)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISEASE CHARACTERISTIC</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years), mean (sd)</td>
<td>28.8 (13.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLEDAI at the time of inclusion, mean (sd)</td>
<td>0.67 (0.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative manifestations, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>10 (37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin manifestation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Malar rash</td>
<td>17 (63)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discoid lupus</td>
<td>4 (14.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lupus tumidus</td>
<td>1 (3.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acute cutaneous lupus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulcers</td>
<td>17 (63.0)</td>
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<td>Alopecia</td>
<td>6 (22.2)</td>
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<td>Arteritis</td>
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<td>Arthralgias</td>
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<td>Renal</td>
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<td>Proteinuria</td>
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<td>21 (77.8)</td>
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**CHARACTERISTICS AT THE MOMENT OF LAST BELUMUMAB IV ADMINISTRATION**

| Disease duration at the moment of initiation of BEL IV (months), mean (sd) | 153.4 (114.6) |
| Glucocorticoid treatment, n (%)                                           | 19 (70.4)     |
| Prednisone equivalent mg/d, mean (sd)                                     | 4.8 (6.3)     |
| Clinical remission, n (%)                                                  | 19 (70.4)     |
| Serological remission, n (%)                                               | 10 (37)       |
| Mean time from treatment with BEL IV before switch to SC (months), mean (sd) | 26.35 (21.3) |

**LAST VISIT WITH BELUMUMAB SC**

| Time since change (months), mean (sd)                                     | 30.9 (78)    |
| SLEDAI, mean (sd)                                                         | 1.82 (2.02)  |
| Glucocorticoid treatment, n (%)                                           | 17 (63)      |
| Prednisone equivalent mg/d, mean (sd)                                     | 3.57 (2.34)  |
| Clinical remission BEL SC, n (%)                                          | 20 (74.1)    |
| Serological remission BEL SC, n (%)                                       | 14 (51.9)    |
| Complete remission BEL SC, n (%)                                         | 12 (44.4)    |

**Figure 1.** RASQ-SC modified
AB0527  FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH GLUCOCORTICOID-FREE IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS TREATED WITH BELIMUMAB IN THE REAL-WORLD SETTINGS: A SINGLE-CENTER RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY IN JAPAN

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Tapering, Systemic lupus erythematosus

T. Yamane1, A. Hashiramoto2, 1Kakogawa Central City Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Kakogawa, Japan; 2Kobe University Graduate School of Health Sciences, Department of Biophysics, Kobe, Japan

Background: The treatment of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) involves the progression of organ damage due to both the disease itself and glucocorticoid-induced adverse events [1]. Therefore, achieving glucocorticoid-free status is one of the most important goals in the treatment of SLE [2]. Belimumab has been reported to be effective in SLE patients, particularly with high disease activity, by inhibiting the B-lymphocyte stimulator (BLyS) to reduce disease activity, relapse rate, organ damage, and steroid dosage [3,4].

Objectives: Review the profile of patients who can achieve glucocorticoid-free status with belimumab administration, retrospectively.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed 47 Japanese SLE patients who received belimumab for at least 1 year in addition to standard of care, including glucocorticoids. Patients were classified into two groups: glucocorticoid-free (GC free) and others (GC continue) as of August 2022. Trends in C3, C4, and dsDNA antibody titers, SLEDAI-2K scores, and daily glucocorticoid dosage were examined at the start of belimumab and thereafter; at months 12 and 24. At the time of belimumab initiation, differences between the two groups were also examined for age, duration of disease, time from onset or last relapse to belimumab initiation, C3, C4, dsDNA antibody titer, daily glucocorticoid dose, SLEDAI-2K, with or without concomitant hydroxychloroquine and concomitant immunosuppressive drugs, and duration of belimumab treatment. Incidence of adverse event or relapse during the course were also followed. P values were determined using Wilcoxon's signed rank test, Mann-Whitney U test, and Fisher's exact test.

Results: 9 patients (19%) were classified as GC free. In overall patients, C3, C4, dsDNA antibody titer, and SLEDAI score showed significant improvement at 12 and 24 months compared to the baseline. The daily GC dosage was significantly reduced while it was increased in 2 patients (5%). Though there was no significant difference in SLEDAI, C3 was significantly higher in the GC free group at the baseline (P=0.032). There were no cases of discontinuation of belimumab due to adverse events or relapse during the course.

Conclusion: Although low C3 patients are more likely to benefit from belimumab because of higher serum BLyS levels [5], it is worthwhile to introduce belimumab for GC-free even in patients with high C3 levels.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0528  BASELINE PROFILE OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS ON TREATMENT WITH BELIMUMAB OF A SPANISH MULTICENTER COHORT

Keywords: bDMARD, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Descriptive Studies

J. Altabás González1,2, J. M. Pego-Reigosa1,2, A. Hernández-Martín3, J. Font4, I. Casalot-Solé1, A. J. Román Ivorra5, M. De LA Rúa Navarro5, M. Galindo5, I. Casafont-Solé4, J. A. Román Ivorra5, M. DE LA Rubia Navarro5, M. Galindo6, T. C. Salmon Monte6, J. Narváez7, Vidal Montañ8, M. J. Garcia Villanueva9, C. Marras Fernandez Cid9, M. M. Piqueras Garcia10, J. Martinez-Barrio11, E. Sánchez Lucas11, J. Cortés-Hernández11, E. Penzo12, J. Calvo-Alén13, J. R. De Dios13, E. Tomero Muriel14, R. Menor-Almagro15, M. Gandia Martinez15, J. A. Gómez-Puerta15, B. Frade-Sosa15, C. Ramos Giraldé17, T. Trapper18, A. Muñoz Jimenez19, C. Moriano19, E. Diez Alavez19, N. Jiménez2, I. Rua- FIGUEROA2, Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de Vigo, Rheumatology, Vigo, Spain; 1IRIDIS Group, IISGS, Vigo, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Dr. Negrín, Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario Germans Trias i Pujol, Rheumatology, Badalona, Spain; 4Hospital Universitario Histórico de la Fe, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain; 5Hospital 12 de octubre, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 6Hospital del Mar, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 7Hospital Universitario de Bellvitge, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 8Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, rheumatology, madrid, Spain; 9Hospital Virgen de la Arrixaca de Murcia, Rheumatology, Murcia, Spain; 10Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 11Hospital Universitario Valle de Hebrón, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 12Hospital Universitario Araba,
Background: Belimumab (BLM) is a recombinant human IgG1 monoclonal antibody that inhibits B-cell activating factor. It is commonly used for treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients with inadequate control to first-line treatments and inability to taper GC daily dose to acceptable levels. More recently it has been approved for patients with active lupus nephritis.

Objectives: To report baseline profile of SLE patients treated with BLM enrolled in a SLE Spanish registry.

Methods: Multicenter retrospective and longitudinal cohort study including SLE patients treated with BLM in 18 Spanish rheumatology units. Demographic, clinical and treatments were collected at baseline, 6, 12 months and in the last visit available. Patients starting BLM in different periods (2010-2015 and 2016-2021) were compared regarding the reason of prescription of the drug.

Results: 324 patients (91% female, 84.8% caucasian) were enrolled. Mean (±SD) age at diagnosis: 31.8 years (±11.9); mean disease duration of 8.7 years (±9.07) and mean follow-up 3.8 (±2.7). A total of 319 (98.45%) subjects met SLE 1997 ACR or SLICC 2012 criteria; 217 (68.2%) were anti-dsDNA positive and 224 (69.8%) had low complement levels. At baseline, the mean SLEDAI-2K score was 10.4 (±5.25); 152 (47.5%) of patients had damage with a mean SDI score of 10.3 (±9.07) and mean follow-up 3.8 (±2.7). A total of 319 (98.45%) subjects met SLE criteria.

Methods:
- Two hundred and forty patients (74.3%) received BLM as mono therapy. It was prescribed due to active disease in the vast majority of patients and/or as GC sparing agent. Activity in articular and cutaneous domains were the main reasons of indication. No changes in prescription habits were identified over time.
- There were no statistically significant differences in any of the prescription reasons when comparing the periods 2010-2015 and 2016-2021.

Table 1. Type and reasons of prescription of Belimumab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>N (%) or mean (± SD) (n = 324 patients)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at prescription of Belimumab (years)</td>
<td>42.3 (± 12.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intraavenous Belimumab</td>
<td>215 (66.35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcutaneous Belimumab</td>
<td>110 (33.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasons of prescibution* (multiple response allowed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity</td>
<td>307 (95%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>197 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid sparing</td>
<td>191 (59 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous</td>
<td>132 (40.7 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular</td>
<td>212 (65.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>58 (17.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematological</td>
<td>60 (18.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serosal</td>
<td>47 (14.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>29 (8.82%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In the majority of patients, belimumab was prescribed after the use of other DMARDs and more than 50% of patients had received at least 2 DMARDs and were receiving GC at medium doses. One third of patients received BLM as monotherapy. It was prescribed due to active disease in the vast majority of patients and/or as GC sparing agent. Activity in articular and cutaneous domains were the main reasons of indication. No changes in prescription habits were identified over time.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3003

Figure 1. Cumulative probability of new-onset organ damage (A) and renal damage (B) in SACQ patients maintain glucocorticoids, withdraw glucocorticoids but flares, and successful withdraw glucocorticoids.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that low-dose glucocorticoids withdrawal under tight surveillance could be considered after achieving the clinical state as SACQ to prevent the accrual of renal damage.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We thank CSTAR co-authors as following for assistance with cases collections.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0530

DESIGN OF 2 PHASE 3, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, GLOBAL TRIALS OF DEUCRACVINIB, AN ORAL, SELECTIVE, ALLOSTERIC TYROSINE KINASE 2 (TYK2) INHIBITOR, IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Systemic lupus erythematosus


Objectives: Here, we describe 2 phase 3 trials currently underway to assess the efficacy and safety of deucravacitinib in patients with active SLE. These phase 3 trials have been designed to replicate the successful elements of the phase 2 trial, including its glucocorticoid-tapering strategy and rigorous management structure [3].

Methods: In these phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, global trials (POETYK SLE-1 [NCT05617677], POETYK SLE-2 [NCT05620407]), adults (aged 18-75) with active SLE on background standard-of-care treatment will be randomized (1:1) to placebo or deucravacitinib for 52 weeks of double-blind treatment (Figure 1). Patients on glucocorticoids will be instructed to taper, unless significant disease activity is present, to a threshold dose level during the double-blind treatment period. At week 52, patients may choose to continue in a 104-week open-label extension phase, in which all patients receive deucravacitinib. Key eligibility criteria and study design are depicted below (Figure 1).

Primary Endpoint
- Proportion of patients who achieve a ≥ 50% reduction in Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus Disease Area and Severity Index (CLASI-50) among patients with CLASI activity score ≥ 10 at baseline
- Proportion of patients who achieve Lupus Low Disease Activity State (LLDAS)
- Proportion of patients maintaining ≥ 7.5 mg/day glucocorticoid dose from weeks 24 to 52
- Proportion of patients who achieve a ≥ 50% reduction in active joints (Joint-Count 50) among patients with ≥ 6 active joints at baseline
- Change from baseline in Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT)-Fatigue score

Conclusion: Here, we describe 2 phase 3 trials currently underway to assess the efficacy and safety of deucravacitinib in patients with active SLE. These phase 3 trials have been designed to replicate the successful elements of the phase 2 trial, including its glucocorticoid-tapering strategy and rigorous management structure [3].

Results: Planned randomization in each trial includes 490 patients (245 per treatment group) in 27 countries across North and South America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific.

Acknowledgements: This study was sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb.

Disclosures of Interests: Cristina Arriens Speakers bureau: AstraZeneca, Aurinia, Bristol Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Kezar, AstraZeneca and Aurinia, Grant/ research support from: AstraZeneca and Bristol Myers Squibb, Anca Askanase Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Idorsia, Janssen, Pfizer, and UCB, Richard Furie Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Eric F. Morand Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, EMD Serono, Genentech, Gilead, Novartis, and Servier, Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, EMD Serono, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, and UCB, Ronald van Vollenhoven Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Galapagos, Janssen, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: UCB, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Biogen, Biotest, Celgene, Gilead, Servier, AbbVie, Galapagos, and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, UCB, Roche, and GlaxoSmithKline, Kevin Connors Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Monica Davey Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Nikolay Delev Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Vaishali Shah Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Anna Stevens Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Coburn Hobar Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb.

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AB0531

APPLYING THE WORKING DEFINITION OF THE DISEASE MODIFICATION CRITERIA TO LUPUS NEPHRITIS TREATMENTS FROM THE PUBLISHED LITERATURE

Keywords: Kidneys, Organ damage, Outcome measures

A. Askanase1, R. Furie2, M. Dall’era3, A. Bombac4, A. Schwarting5, M. H. Zhao6, I. N. Bruce7, M. Khamashta8, B. Rubin9, A. Carroll10, M. Daniels10, R. Levy11, R. Van Vollenhoven11, M. B. Urowitz12, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Department of Medicine, New York, NY, United States of America; 2Northwell Health, Division of Rheumatology, Great Neck, NY, United States of America; 3University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, San Francisco, CA, United States of America; 4Rheinland Palatinate, Rheumatology Center, Bad Kreuznach, Germany; 5University of Michigan, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, MI, United States of America; 6University of Massachusetts Medical School, Division of Nephrology, Worcester, MA, United States of America; 7The University of Manchester, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom; 8GSK, Medical Affairs, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 9GSK, US Medical Affairs, Research Triangle Park, NC, United States of America; 10GSK, Global Medical Affairs, Stevenage, United Kingdom; 11GSK, Specialty Care, Global Medical Affairs, Collegeville, PA, United States of America; 12Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center and Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Department of Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 13University of Toronto, Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine, Toronto, ON, Canada

Table 1. Primary and Secondary Endpoints Assessed at Week 52

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endpoint</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of patients who achieve an SLE Responder Index (SRI[4]) response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary Endpoints

Secondary Endpoints

- Proportion of patients who achieve a British Isles Lupus Assessment Group-based Composite Lupus Assessment (BICLA) response
- Proportion of patients with simultaneous achievement of SRI[4] and BICLA response (dual responders)
- Proportion of patients who achieve a ≥ 50% reduction in Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus Disease Area and Severity Index (CLASI-50) among patients with CLASI activity score ≥ 10 at baseline
- Proportion of patients who achieve Lupus Low Disease Activity State (LLDAS)
- Proportion of patients maintaining ≥ 7.5 mg/day glucocorticoid dose from weeks 24 to 52
- Proportion of patients who achieve a ≥ 50% reduction in active joints (Joint-Count 50) among patients with ≥ 6 active joints at baseline
- Change from baseline in Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT)-Fatigue score

Table 1. Primary and Secondary Endpoints Assessed at Week 52

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Endpoint</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of patients who achieve an SLE Responder Index (SRI[4]) response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Secondary Endpoints

- Proportion of patients who achieve a British Isles Lupus Assessment Group-based Composite Lupus Assessment (BICLA) response
- Proportion of patients with simultaneous achievement of SRI[4] and BICLA response (dual responders)
- Proportion of patients who achieve a ≥ 50% reduction in Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus Disease Area and Severity Index (CLASI-50) among patients with CLASI activity score ≥ 10 at baseline
- Proportion of patients who achieve Lupus Low Disease Activity State (LLDAS)
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Acknowledgements: This study was sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb.

Disclosures of Interests: Cristina Arriens Speakers bureau: AstraZeneca, Aurinia, Bristol Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Kezar, AstraZeneca and Aurinia, Grant/ research support from: AstraZeneca and Bristol Myers Squibb, Anca Askanase Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Idorsia, Janssen, Pfizer, and UCB, Richard Furie Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Eric F. Morand Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, EMD Serono, Genentech, Gilead, Novartis, and Servier, Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, EMD Serono, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, and UCB, Ronald van Vollenhoven Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Galapagos, Janssen, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: UCB, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Biogen, Biotest, Celgene, Gilead, Servier, AbbVie, Galapagos, and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, UCB, Roche, and GlaxoSmithKline, Kevin Connors Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Monica Davey Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Nikolay Delev Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Vaishali Shah Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Anna Stevens Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Thomas Wegman Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Coburn Hobar Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Bristol Myers Squibb.

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Background: We have recently published a working definition of disease modification in lupus nephritis (LN) as ‘minimising disease activity with the fewest treatments as disease-modifying is critical in informing treatment decisions’ [1]. As an increasing number of LN medications become available, classification of treatments as disease-modifying is critical in informing treatment decisions.

Objectives: To apply the proposed disease modification criteria to LN treatments.

Methods: Based on a review of a selection of LN clinical trial (n=21) and practice/observational publications (n=18) and authors’ clinical experience, we determined whether the LN treatments satisfied the renal disease activity and organ damage disease modification criteria. The proposed disease modification criteria were examined at three time points as shown in Table 1.

Results: All LN treatments met at least one of the renal disease modification criteria at any time point (Table 1), with hydroxychloroquine meeting the criteria for confirmed disease modification at >5 years (no change in Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics/American College of Rheumatology Disease Index [SDI] or delayed progression beyond 5 years). Belimumab met more criteria across the three time points than any other biologic treatment. Based on the reviewed literature, many criteria were inconclusive or not available for evaluation. Glucocorticoids did not meet the disease modification criteria beyond 5 years given their negative impact on organ damage progression.

Conclusion: We examined the evidence in the literature for the disease modification potential of LN therapies at 1, 2–5, and >5 years. Categorisation of treatments as disease-modifying is challenging, as studies use multiple agents, and study designs, patient populations, and endpoints/definition of renal response are not consistent between studies. The criteria allowed for the differentiation between LN therapies; future studies will evaluate the minimum number of criteria required to designate disease modification at each of the three time points, so that disease modification can be considered in the care of patients with LN and LN trial design.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Application of the proposed matrix for renal-specific immunoinflammatory and organ damage disease modification criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Disease Modification Potential</th>
<th>Disease Modification Confirmed (beyond 5 years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outcomes Year 1</td>
<td>Outcomes Years 2–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids</td>
<td><em>1</em></td>
<td><em>2</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td><em>4</em></td>
<td><em>5</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td><em>7</em></td>
<td><em>8</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclophosphamide</td>
<td><em>10</em></td>
<td><em>11</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leflunomide</td>
<td><em>13</em></td>
<td><em>14</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitoxantrone</td>
<td><em>16</em></td>
<td><em>17</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td><em>19</em></td>
<td><em>20</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclosporine</td>
<td><em>22</em></td>
<td><em>23</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacrolimus</td>
<td><em>25</em></td>
<td><em>26</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voclosporin</td>
<td><em>28</em></td>
<td><em>29</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belimumab</td>
<td><em>31</em></td>
<td><em>32</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td><em>34</em></td>
<td><em>35</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obinutuzumab</td>
<td><em>37</em></td>
<td><em>38</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39

*Criteria met: +, Inconclusive: X, Data not available in the literature

*1.75 mg/dl by 2019 EULAR SLE treatment guidelines and UFLAS; <1.75 mg/dl by DORNs remission definition

**ORF, definition of remission in SLE; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; UFLAS, Lupus Low Disease Activity State; SLE systemic lupus erythematosus; PCR, urate protein/creatinine ratio

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AB0532

THE USE OF BDMARDS IS ASSOCIATED WITH A LOWER PREVALENCE OF BILATERAL CAROTID PLAQUE IN PSA

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, bDMARD

D. A. Galazar-Delgado, J. C. Colunga-Pedraza, J. R. Azpiroz-López, N. De Ávila González, V. M. Beltran-Aguilar, V. Gonzalez-Gonzalez, A. G. Arias Peralta, J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza. 1Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Cardiology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is an autoimmune rheumatic disease (ARD) [1]. PsA have excessive cardiovascular risk (CVR) because of systematic inflammation that triggers endothelial dysfunction, which in turn induces atherosclerosis and CV disease [2]. Possible beneficial effects of biologic disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) in patients with ARDs have been seen, particularly those with psoriatic arthritis. Treatment with TNF inhibitors seems to improve endothelial dysfunction and atherosclerosis [3].

Objectives: To evaluate the presence of carotid disease in patients with PsA using biologics or non-biologics.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional, descriptive study. PsA patients aged 40-75 years, who fulfilled the 2006 CASPAR criteria were recruited. Carotid ultrasound was performed on all study participants, and the presence of carotid plaque (CP), defined as carotid intima-media thickness (cIMT) ≥1.2mm or focal thickness >0.5mm, was assessed. Patients were divided into 2 groups according to whether they use bDMARDs or not. Comparisons were done with Chi-square test, Student's T test and Mann-Whitney's U-test. A p-value ≤0.05 was considered significant.

Results: A total of 67 patients were recruited. Demographic characteristics are shown in Table 1. Twenty-seven were under bDMARD treatment, twenty-five of these were using an anti-TNF. We found a difference in C-reactive protein (CRP) levels (p=0.004), lower in patients with bDMARDs and in the presence of bilateral CP (p=0.041), less prevalent in patients with bDMARDs. The rest of the variables studied did not show significant differences.

Conclusion: We found that PsA patients under bDMARDs therapy had lower levels of CRP and less prevalence of bilateral CP in PsA, therefore strengthens the theory that the less inflammation the less bilateral carotid plaque is present.

REFERENCES:
AB0533  EFFECT OF RENIN-ANGIOTENSIN SYSTEM INHIBITORS ON RENAL REMISSION IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS: A REAL-WORLD SINGLE-CENTER STUDY

Keywords: Clinical trials, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys

X. Zhang1,2, H. Huang1,3, Y. Fan1, Z. Zhang1,3, 1Peking University First Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Department, Beijing, China

Background: Renin-angiotensin-system inhibitors (RASI) reduce urinary protein excretion and protect renal function in both diabetic and nondiabetic nephropathy. Few studies have focused on RASI in LN patients.

Objectives: The study aimed to provide real-world evidence to assess the effect of RASI in LN patients.

Methods: A total of 233 LN patients were included; 155 were RASi users, and 78 were not. The rate of proteinuria partial recovery (PPR), complete remission (CR), total remission (TR), the decline and decline rate of proteinuria at 6 and 12 months were compared by Chi-square test and Kaplan–Meier analysis. Propensity score matching (PSM) was performed.

Results: The cumulative rates of PPR, TR and CR were 144 (99.4%), 115 (76.1%), and 83 (56.0%) in the RASi group and 73 (97.3%), 64 (83.5%) and 54 (71.3%) in the no RASi group, respectively. There was no statistically significant difference in the cumulative rates of PPR, TR and CR between the two groups (p=0.601 and 0.203). The baseline data are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>RASi Group (n=155)</th>
<th>No RASi Group (n=78)</th>
<th>p-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>52.00 (7.24)</td>
<td>57.98 (8.93)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, %</td>
<td>13 (19.4)</td>
<td>18 (26.6)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years, median (iQR)</td>
<td>8.0 (4.0-14.0)</td>
<td>6.0 (3.0-10.7)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, median (iQR)</td>
<td>29.4 (25.86-34.57)</td>
<td>28.46 (26.59-31.75)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBP, mean (DE)</td>
<td>128.9 (14.76)</td>
<td>129 (21.48)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBP, mean (DE)</td>
<td>85.15 (10.54)</td>
<td>87.53 (11.78)</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Laboratory profile:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>RASi Group (n=155)</th>
<th>No RASi Group (n=78)</th>
<th>p-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol, mg/dL</td>
<td>187.7 (39.61)</td>
<td>171.1 (36.59)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerides, mg/dL</td>
<td>147.1 (190.3)</td>
<td>128.4 (94.17-139.3)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL, mg/dL, mean (iQR)</td>
<td>48.1 (10.83)</td>
<td>47.5 (15.00)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL, mg/dL, mean (iQR)</td>
<td>108.3 (30.73)</td>
<td>94.2 (34.31)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, mg/dL, median</td>
<td>0.34 (0.28-0.94)</td>
<td>0.62 (0.36-1.09)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h, median</td>
<td>14.0 (8.0-18.0)</td>
<td>18.0 (11.0-31.5)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cardio Doppler:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>RASi Group (n=155)</th>
<th>No RASi Group (n=78)</th>
<th>p-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unilateral CP, n</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral CP, n</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.041</td>
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3978

AB0534  TREATING SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: COMBINING RITUXIMAB WITH BELIMUMAB

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Treat to target

B. Issayeva1, A. Mesynkina2, E. Aseeva2, S. Solovyev2, N. Nikishina2, S. Issayeva1, M. Sarapbayeva2, A. Armanzhlova2, A. Razikova1, A. Abdulgaziz1, Astfenidiyar, Kazakhstan National Medical University, Rheumatology, Almaat, Kazakhstan; Federal State Research Institute (FSRI) named after V.A. Nasonova, Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation

Objectives: erection of combination therapy with rituximab and belimumab in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

Methods: The study included 15 SLE pts (1M/14F) criteria with high (SLE-DAI≥20) and moderate (SLE-DAI<20–20pts.) disease activity; out of them 4 patients had lupus nephritis, 2- vasculitis, 1 pts had kidney damage, cerebrovasculitis and vasculitis. All patients fulfilled the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) disease classification criteria [1] for SLE Others have predominantly mucocutaneous and articular manifestations of SLE. The dose of oral glucocorticoids (GC) was: 60 mg in one patient with vasculitis, LN, cerebrovasculitis, and one patient with vasculitis received 20 mg of prednisone; in 11 patients from 10 to 5 mg; in 2 patients without oral glucocorticoids. All patients with SLE with kidney damage and vasculitis received mycophenolate mofetil or cyclophosphamide. Rituximab (RTM) was administered at a dose of 500-2000 mg, followed by the addition of belimumab (BLM) after 1-6 months at a standard dose of 10 mg/kg once a month - a total of 7 infusions. The following parameters were evaluated: the effectiveness of therapy, the concentration of autoantibodies, the dose of oral corticosteroids initially at the time of RTM administration and then every 3 months after the initiation of BLM therapy.

Results: 13 pts demonstrated the decrease in clinical and laboratory SLE activity, starting from 3mo of follow-up. After the start of BLM infusions, a decrease in SLE activity was observed in all patients. Among them, 10 had SLEDAI-2K activity of less than 4 points. SLEDAI-2K Me 10 [10,16]; after treatment of RTM and BLM 4(2,6). Only one patient (No4) had a relapse of SLE, due to the delay.

Table 1. Comparison of kidney indexes between the two groups at 3, 6, 9 and 12 months

Before PSM | After PSM
---|---
RASI group | No RASI group | p value RASI group | No RASI group | p value RASI group |
3 months | | | | | |
ΔUTP | 0.5 (0.1, 0.9) | 0.1 (0.1, 0.3) | 0.003 | 0.2 (0.1, 0.6) | 0.1 (0.1, 0.4) | 0.006 |
ΔAlb | 37.7±5.8 | 39.9±4.3 | 0.032 | 38.9±5.7 | 41.3±4.3 | 0.032 |
ΔSCr | 77.0 (67.0, 92.0) | 74.0 (68.0, 84.0) | 0.244 | 75.5 (66.3, 88.8) | 81.5 (73.3, 86.0) | 0.125 |
9 months | | | | | |
ΔUTP | 0.5 (0.1, 0.9) | 0.1 (0.1, 0.3) | 0.003 | 0.2 (0.1, 0.6) | 0.1 (0.1, 0.4) | 0.006 |
ΔAlb | 37.7±5.8 | 39.9±4.3 | 0.032 | 38.9±5.7 | 41.3±4.3 | 0.032 |
ΔSCr | 77.0 (67.0, 92.0) | 74.0 (68.0, 84.0) | 0.244 | 75.5 (66.3, 88.8) | 81.5 (73.3, 86.0) | 0.125 |
12 months | | | | | |
ΔUTP | 0.5 (0.1, 0.9) | 0.1 (0.1, 0.3) | 0.003 | 0.2 (0.1, 0.6) | 0.1 (0.1, 0.4) | 0.006 |
ΔAlb | 37.7±5.8 | 39.9±4.3 | 0.032 | 38.9±5.7 | 41.3±4.3 | 0.032 |
ΔSCr | 77.0 (67.0, 92.0) | 74.0 (68.0, 84.0) | 0.244 | 75.5 (66.3, 88.8) | 81.5 (73.3, 86.0) | 0.125 |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4162

Scientific Abstracts
in receiving the infusion of BLM. He was receiving standard GC doses. In dynamics, a decrease anti-double DNA titres (Me 101 [36;200]U/ml vs 28 [8.67]E2/μm), C3 (0.49 [0.42;0.79] g/l vs 0.71 [0.59;0.87] g/l), C4 (0.06 [0.045;0.1] g/l vs 0.12 [0.07;0.14] g/l) was registered. The GC dose was reduced in most patients (Table 1), but the previously prescribed immunosuppressive therapy continued. There were no cases of severe infection. We have not detected any new organ damage.

Table 1. Dose of oral glucocorticoids, mg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№ patient</th>
<th>Before RTM, mg</th>
<th>1st injection of BLM, mg</th>
<th>7th injection of BLM, mg</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20 mg</td>
<td>20 mg</td>
<td>15 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20 mg</td>
<td>20 mg</td>
<td>15 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>60 mg</td>
<td>15 mg</td>
<td>2.5 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.5 mg</td>
<td>2.5 mg</td>
<td>2.5 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
<td>5 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>0 mg</td>
<td>0 mg</td>
<td>0 mg</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>0 mg</td>
<td>0 mg</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Combination therapy allows to gain control over disease activity in short time, due to the effect of RTM, while added BLM provides further prolongation of the effect achieved, minimizing the risk of flare. The use of such therapy contributes to a rapid and effective reduction in the activity of the disease, improvement of laboratory markers of SLE (at to ds-DNA, C3, C4), the use of lower doses of oral GCs. This combination may be used as a method of choice in pts with severe SLE involving vital organs, and in persistent cutaneous-articular disease and high immunological activity.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.426

AB0055

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF BELIMUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH CHILDHOOD-ONSET SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS:A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Systematic review, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Targeted synthetic drugs

L. Yang1,2, Q. Y. Su1,2,3, R. X. E. Yang1,2, J. J. Cao1,2, P. Su1,2, H. Niu1,2, S. L. Liu1,2, J. D. Li1,2, Q. Yu4, P. F. He4, X. L. Zhang1,2,3, S. X. Zhang1,2,3,1Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China; 3Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

Background: Childhood-onset systemic lupus erythematosus (cSLE) is associated with higher disease severity than adult-onset lupus. Abnormal activation of B cells is a crucial link in their pathogenesis. Belimumab is a specific inhibitor of the soluble B lymphocyte stimulator and inhibits its binding to receptors and thus its activity [1,2]. However, the current clinical research evidence of this drug in children is insufficient, the relevant clinical data are mostly from prospective studies in adults, and there are no exact guidelines for clinical application in children.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the efficacy and safety of belimumab for treating children with cSLE.

Methods: We systematically searched PubMed, EMBASE, Wan Fang Data, Web of Science, the Cochrane Library, and Medline for randomized controlled trials, original case reports, and case series that described belimumab’s efficacy in treating cSLE. A random-effects meta-analysis was performed to calculate its efficacy. Inconsistency was evaluated using the I2 and Egger tests to evaluate potential publication bias (STATA v12.0).

Results: Five studies with 325 patients were included in the meta-analysis (Table 1). The age range of the included participants was less than 18 years; most were women. All patients received belimumab at a dosage of 10 mg/kg every 2 weeks for the first three doses. Then every 4 weeks thereafter: SLEDAI-2K was the main score which was significantly reduced compared with the baseline(SMD= -1.108, 95%CI [-1.131, -0.901], P<0.001). The number of oral corticosteroids was significantly decreased after the belimumab therapy(SMD= -1.219,95%CI [-1.72, -0.70], P<0.001). Both Anti-double stranded DNA (Anti-dsDNA) and anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA) positive patients also decreased obviously(RR= 0.56, 95%CI [0.37;0.85], P=0.007; RR= 0.90, 95%CI [0.83;0.98], P=0.012). Infection and thrush were the main adverse effects with rates of 26% and 4%, respectively, but all were classified as mild-moderate treatment-emergent adverse events. Serious adverse reactions are rarely reported.

Conclusion: Belimumab treatment in cSLE minimizes the use of hormones, and the incidence of adverse events such as infections was low, suggesting belimumab can effectively reduce disease activity safely and reliably. Long-term efficacy and safety still need a multicenter, large sample, long-term, in-depth research.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Available evidence including patients with cSLE treated with belimumab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Year</th>
<th>Patients (include in analysis)</th>
<th>Age (year)</th>
<th>Gender (female %)</th>
<th>SLEDAI-2K</th>
<th>Dosage of hormone (mg/d(mg/(kg-d))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hermine I Brummer 2020</td>
<td>93(53)</td>
<td>14±0.75</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0w:7.53±3.81 52w:5.84±3.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ping Zeng 2021</td>
<td>256(169)</td>
<td>12.17±2.79</td>
<td>79.3</td>
<td>0w:12.06±7.38 28w:4.18±4.04</td>
<td>0w:35.02±18.88 28w:10.69±8.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahai Wang 2022</td>
<td>26(26)</td>
<td>10.3±2.4</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>0w:10.33±10.27 4w:5±711 24w:4±3.16</td>
<td>0w:1.08±1.73 24w:11.67±11.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qiong Wu 2022</td>
<td>60(60)</td>
<td>10.94±2.41</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0w:4.17±7.9 28w:0.4±0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yutong Gao 2022</td>
<td>17(17)</td>
<td>12.1±2.3</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>0w:10.67±1.32 4w:2.67±1.62 28w:0.67±1.62</td>
<td>0w:0.83±0.4 28w:0.27±0.08</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Figure 1. Efficacy of belimumab in patients with cSLE. (A) SLEDAI-2K scores. (B) oral hormone doses patients received. (C) dsDNA positive patient. (D) ANA positive patient. (A) - (D) are all changes before and after belimumab treatment.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 82001740).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4451
**AB0536**

**CORRECTION OF OMEGA-3 FATTY ACID DEFICIENCY AND IMPROVEMENT IN DISEASE ACTIVITY IN SLE PATIENTS TREATED WITH A CONCENTRATED EXTRACT OF KRILL OIL (AKM-3031)**

**Keywords:** Diet and Nutrition, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Randomized controlled trial

J. E. Salmon, D. J. Wallace, Y. Fu, P. Lingard, Hospital for Special Surgery, Rheumatology, New York City, United States of America; Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Rheumatology, Beverly Hills, United States of America; University of Maryland Medical System, Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America; AMPLE BioSolutions, Research and Development, Charlotteville, United States of America

**Background:** Omega-3 fatty acids play a critical role in regulating inflammation. Patients with SLE have been reported to be deficient in omega-3 fatty acids, and deficiency could play a role in the ongoing inflammation characteristic of this disease. Previous work has produced conflicting results regarding the capacity of Omega-3 supplementation to control SLE disease activity.

**Objectives:** The goals of this study were to determine the level of omega-3 deficiency in SLE patients and to determine whether supplementation with a concentrated extract of krill oil rich in omega-3 fatty acids (AKM-3031) could overcome the deficiency in SLE patients and decrease disease activity.

**Methods:** This was a randomized double blind controlled multicenter study of patients with active SLE (SLEDAI >6) and 6 patients meeting entry criteria were randomized to receive AKM-3031 (4 grams/day) or identical placebo capsules containing mixed oils simulating that in a western diet (NCT03826311). Patients received investigational product or placebo daily for 24 weeks, at which time placebo patients could opt to receive AKM-3031 for the subsequent 24 weeks, whereas those receiving AKM-3031 continued on the medication. The primary outcome was the correction of the red blood cell omega-3 index determined by OmegaQuant. Changes in clinical features and adverse events were collected throughout the trial.

**Results:** 79 subjects were enrolled in the study; 97% of the patients were women and 56% were of European and 35% of African Ancestry. At baseline, the mean omega-3 index was 4.65±1.09, below the lower limits of normal for the North American population (6.0). After 4 weeks of treatment with AKM-3031, the omega-3 index significantly increased to 5.65±1.09 to 7.21±1.57 (P < 0.0001), whereas no significant change was noted in the patients receiving placebo. Increases in the omega-3 index in AKM-3031 treated patients persisted throughout the 48 weeks of the trial. Notably, when patients were changed from placebo to AKM-3031 at 24 weeks, there was a rapid increase in the Omega-3 index (4.62±1.39 to 6.58±1.85, P = 0.0001). The total number of adverse events was less in the AKM-3031 group (186) than in the placebo group (342), most were mild or moderate and no serious adverse events were noted. Although there were no significant changes in disease activity when the entire groups were examined, there was a significant decrease in disease activity measured by SLEDAI-2K at 4, 8 and 16 weeks (P = 0.0007, 0.04, 0.02, respectively) in the patients receiving AKM-3031 with high disease activity baseline (SLEDAI >8).

**Conclusion:** Treatment of SLE patients with AKM-3031 rapidly corrects the Omega-3 deficiency characteristic of these patients. AKM-3031 was safe and decreased disease activity in those with more active SLE. These results suggest benefit of Omega-3 deficiency correction with AKM-3031 in SLE patients with active disease and warrant a more extensive evaluation.

**Figure 1.**

**Acknowledgements:** This work was support by Aker Biomarine

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4698

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**AB0537**

**RITUXIMAB THERAPY IN LUPUS NERITRIS RESISTANT TO CONVENTIONAL THERAPY — A SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE (CASE SERIES)**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Real-world evidence, Safety

E. Firtal Senturk, H. Oğun, I. Durukan, B. Yurttaş, S. Uğurlu, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; Tekirdag Ismail Fehmi Cunaloglu City Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Tekirdag, Turkey

**Background:** Lupus nephritis (LN) can be a cause of morbidity and mortality in a significant portion of patients. The treatment of lupus nephritis can be challenging in some patients who are resistant to conventional immunosuppressive treatment.

**Objectives:** Rituximab is a promising agent for treating resistant LN patients. We evaluated the response of LN patients who were treated with rituximab treatment in our clinic retrospectively.

**Methods:** We evaluated LN patients who were followed and treated with at least one course of rituximab in our clinic between 2010-2022. LN was confirmed by renal biopsy. Creatinine clearance, serum creatinine, 24-hour proteinuria and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index-2000 (SLE-DASI) were analyzed before and after Rituximab treatment. Primary end point was current prednisolone dose ≤5mg and 24-hour proteinuria ≤500mg. Also, we evaluated the side effect of rituximab.

**Results:** Forty seven patients (34 F, 13 M) were treated with rituximab. All patients had active lupus nephritis at initiation. Mean of disease duration was 10.44 ± 6.9 years. All patients were initially treated with high dose steroids. The other medications, the patients were previously treated with, were cyclophosphamide (n = 35), mycophenolate mofetil (n = 31), azathioprine (n = 6), cyclosporine (n = 2). Patients received an average of 4.1 ± 3.68 courses of rituximab (Table 1). The median value of pre-treatment proteinuria was 3050 (1370, 5175) mg/day. The median value of proteinuria after the final course was 747 (396, 1500) mg/day (p = 0.01). Serum creatinine level was changed from 0.94 ± 0.59 to 0.98 ± 0.68 (p = 0.53). Mean serum creatinine clearance was increased from 102.01 ± 43.2 to 109.1 ± 51.3 (p = 0.28). Mean SLE-DASI-2K was reduced from 16.3 ± 6.2 to 7.2 ± 4.8 (p = 0.01). While initial steroid dose was 24.13 ± 18.47 mg/day, steroid dose at last rituximab course was 7.5 ± 5.8 mg/day (p = 0.01). End stage renal disease was developed in 3 (%6) patients. For primary end point of view, current prednisolone dose ≤5mg and 24-hour proteinuria ≤500mg were achieved in %31, %36 of patients respectively. Both criteria was met by %25.5 of patients. During the treatment, 2 patients had serum reaction, 3 had pneumonia, 3 had herpes zoster. Three patients had hippocagamoglobinemia and treated with intravenous immunoglobulin. No one was died of lupus nephritis.

**Conclusion:** In lupus nephritis patients resistant to conventional therapy, rituximab can be tried as an alternative treatment choice. In our single center, most of the patients were class IV nephritis whom we observed the efficacy of rituximab. Generally, the side effects were acceptable. Rituximab could be a good option as a steroid reducing agent and exhibit a favorable clinical response in these patients.

**Table 1. Characteristics of patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, mean ± SD years</th>
<th>42.3 ± 11.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (64.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13 (24.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, mean ± SD years</td>
<td>10.44 ± 6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*ISN/RPS Classification, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (10.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class II</td>
<td>7 (14.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>16 (34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class IV</td>
<td>6 (12.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class V</td>
<td>7 (14.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class III-V</td>
<td>6 (12.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTX treatment courses mean ± SD</td>
<td>4.1 ± 3.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous treatments, n</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclophosphamide</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclosporine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ISN/RPS Classification: International Society of Nephrology/Renal Pathology Society Classification

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5000

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**AB0538**

**LOW-DOSE BELIMUMAB AND ANTIMALARIAL AGENTS PREVENT RENAL FLARES IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: RESULTS FROM FOUR RANDOMISED CLINICAL TRIALS**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, bDMARD, Kidneys

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Background: Lupus nephritis (LN) is one of the most severe manifestations in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), constituting a substantial cause of end-stage kidney disease, dialysis, and mortality. Prompt and adequate treatment of LN, and prevention of renal flares are key components of disease management towards improved outcomes in patients with SLE.

Objectives: We aimed to determine the effect of the use of antimalarial agents (AMA) and different doses and pharmaceutical forms of belimumab on preventing renal flares in patients with active SLE.

Methods: We pooled data from the BLISS-52, BLISS-76, BLISS-SC and BLISS-Northeast Asia randomised clinical trials of belimumab (N=3225), that included patients with seropositive (antinuclear antibody titres ≥1:80 and/or anti-dsDNA levels ≥30 IU/mL), active SLE yet no severe ongoing renal disease. Participants were allocated to receive intravenous (IV) belimumab 1 mg/kg (N=599), IV belimumab 10 mg/kg (N=1033), subcutaneous (SC) belimumab 200 mg (N=556) or placebo (N=1077) in addition to standard therapy. Additionally, we classified patients as AMA users if they had received hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, mepacrine, or quinine sulphate in stable doses for at least 30 days prior to the trial commencement. The outcome of the present post-hoc analysis was development of renal flares, defined according to the analysis plan within the BLISS programme. The hazard of renal flare was assessed with Cox proportional hazards regression models, adjusted for age, sex, ethnicity, previous renal involvement, baseline proteinuria and glomerular filtration rate, and use of glucocorticoids and immunosuppressants.

Results: In total, 192 patients developed a renal flare after a median of 197 days. In multivariable Cox regression analysis, use of AMA was associated with a lower risk of renal flares (HR: 0.64; 95% CI: 0.54–0.76; p=0.026). Compared with placebo, the risk of renal flares was lower among patients receiving IV belimumab 1 mg/kg (HR: 0.44; 95% CI: 0.25–0.79; p=0.006) and IV belimumab 10 mg/kg (HR: 0.63; 95% CI: 0.45–0.87; p=0.005), but not SC belimumab 200 mg (HR: 0.90; 95% CI: 0.57–1.42; p=0.648). When analysing all study arms with and without antimalarials separately, patients receiving IV belimumab 1 mg/kg along with AMA experienced the lowest rate of renal flares (18.5 (7.4–38.1) cases per 1000 person-years). Using patients who received placebo but not AMA as the reference comparator, patients receiving IV belimumab 1 mg/kg (OR: 0.30; 95% CI: 0.13–0.70; p=0.005) and patients receiving IV belimumab 10 mg/kg (OR: 0.45; 95% CI: 0.27–0.75; p=0.002) were protected against renal flares only when belimumab use was combined with AMA.

Conclusion: In this RCT setting, belimumab and AMA protected against renal flares in patients with active seropositive SLE yet no ongoing severe renal involvement. The protective effect of IV belimumab against renal flares appeared optimal when belimumab was combined with AMA. The prominent effect of low-dose belimumab motivates investigation of the efficacy of intermediate doses of belimumab.

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank GlaxoSmithKline for providing data through the CSDR consortium as well as all patients with SLE who participated in the trials.

Disclosure of Interests: Nvaro Gomez: None declared, Sandra Jägerback: None declared. Christopher Spowall: None declared, Ioannis Parodis Grant/research support from: I.P. has received research funding and/or honoraria from Amgen, AstraZeneca, Austria Pharmaceuticals, Eli Lilly and Company, Gilead Sciences, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Otsuka Pharmaceutical, and F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG.

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ANIFROLUMAB FOR REFRACtORY SKIN DISEASE IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE): A SINGLE CENTER CASE SERIES

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Skin, bDMARD

S. Flouda1, E. Sampatakaki1, G. S. Moyisoud1, M. Kosmetatou1, K. Kouna1, D. Katsifis Nezis1, A. Filippopoulou1, K. Zoupidou1, P. Katsimpri1, D. Boumpas1, A. Fanourakis1,2, Attikon University Hospital of Athens, Greece, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 4th Department of Internal Medicine, Chaidari, Greece; 2Laiko University Hospital of Athens, First Department of Propaedeutic Internal Medicine and Joint Rheumatology Program, Athens, Greece

Background: Anifrolumab (ANI) a human monoclonal antibody to type I interferon receptor subunit has been recently approved for the treatment of SLE. In SLE, the skin is not only a target but also a key driver of the autoimmune response via the production of IFN.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy of ANI in real-life under the early access program (09/2021 – 03/2022).

Methods: A total of seven patients (all female, mean age 50 years, disease duration 15 years) with SLE- diagnosis based on ACR1997 or SLICC or EULAR/ACR 2019 classification criteria for SLE and inadequate response to prior immunosuppressive therapies, received ANI from 09/2021 until 03/2022 as part of an early access program. Patients’ demographics, clinical and laboratory characteristics, disease activity (SLEDAI-2K, CLASI) were recorded at baseline and first months of the administration of ANI.

Results: Active skin disease was the dominant clinical manifestation of all patients for the administration of ANI (subacute cutaneous lupus in 6/7, discoid lupus in 3/7, severe chemo-ulcer lesions in one patient). Patients had received an average of 5.1 immunosuppressive drugs before ANI, with an inadequate response. The mean (SD) SLEDAI-2K index at baseline was 6.9 (1.1) and the mean (SD) prednisone dose 2.7 (2.8) mg/day. In reference to the skin disease, mean (SD) CLASI (Activity/Damage) before first administration of ANI was 9.9/1.4 (6.3)/2.2). A rapid response of the skin disease, especially, subacute cutaneous lupus lesions, was observed from the first injection of ANI. As expected, the results were less prominent in patients who had discoid lupus lesions, although patients reported subjective improvement. The mean (SD) SLEDAI-2K, CLASI and daily prednisone dose are 3.4 (1.8), 3/1 (1.4/2.2) and 2.5 (2.5) mg, respectively. After a mean (SD) follow-up of 5.7 (2.0) months, one patient discontinued ANI due to VZV infection.

Conclusion: IFN inhibition is effective for the treatment of refractory cutaneous lupus disease manifestations. The prompt response of the dermatologic disease to ANI likely reflects the beneficial effects of neutralization of IFN on the autoimmune and vasculopathic processes in SLE.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6077

COAGULATION AND HAEMOSTASIS PARAMETERS IN PREGNANT WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND HEALTHY CONTROLS WITH AND WITHOUT PREECLAMPSIA

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction, Systemic lupus erythematosus

D. Lin1, I. Gunnarsen2, N. Mahmoud Houari Soutari3, S. Lalic-Cosic4, A. MC Nicholas5, R. Chariot6, K. Bremme7, F. Franceschini7, E. Svenningsson8, L. Andreoli7, A. Antovic9, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia and University of Brescia, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Brescia, Italy; 2Karolinska Institutet and Rheumatology, Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Karolinska Institutet & Clinical Chemistry, Karolinska University Hospital, Drottningholm University Medicine & Surgery, Stockholm, Sweden; 4University of Belgrade, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Belgrade, Serbia; 5Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 6Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Hematology, Stockholm, Sweden; 7Karolinska Institutet, Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: Women living with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) are at increased risk of pregnancy complications, including preeclampsia (PE). Placental dysfunction is the key pathological event, but the underlying mechanisms are scarcely known.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate global hemostatic assays in pregnant SLE patients in relation to PE and the use of anti-thrombotic prophylaxis.

Methods: Patients with SLE were sampled during the third trimester of gestation for coagulation and haemostasis (C&H) assays: 1) overall coagulation potential (OCP); 2) overall haemostatic potential (OHP); 3) overall fibrinolysis potential (OFP); 4) plasma levels of fibrinogen and D-dimer. Pregnant healthy controls (HC) with and without PE were also analysed.

Results: Twenty-two consecutive pregnant SLE patients, 80 pregnant HC without PE, and 42 pregnant HC with PE were analysed. Disease characteristics, pregnancy features, and coagulation parameters are reported in Table 1. No thrombotic or bleeding events occurred in SLE patients. Four SLE patients experienced PE (18.2%) despite treatment with low dose acetylsalicylic acid (LDASA) ± low molecular weight heparin (LMWH). These patients displayed significantly lower OCP and OFP, but not OHP, as compared to SLE without PE. Among 4 SLE+PE patients, the 2 treated with LMWH tended to have lower OCP, OFP and OHP values as compared to the 2 untreated patients (134.9±190.7 vs 372.3±254.6; 90.6±128.2 vs 202.2±241.1; 16.4±23.3 vs 45.4±10.1). Among SLE patients treated with LMWH, undetectable
OCP, OHP, and OFP were found in 1 out of 2 SLE+PE and 1 out of 6 SLE without PE. No differences across groups were found for fibrinogen and D-dimer levels. OCP, OHP, and OFP were found in 1 out of 2 SLE+PE and 1 out of 6 SLE without PE. No differences across groups were found for fibrinogen and D-dimer levels.

Conclusion: DMARDs can stabilize pulmonary functions and delay worsening in patients with pSS-ILD. REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Table 1. Characteristics and coagulation parameters of SLE patients and HC. Abbreviations: aPL: antiphospholipid antibodies; APS: antiphospholipid syndrome; IQR: interquartile range; NA: not applicable; Continuous variables are expressed as means±SD. *p<0.05; **p<0.01. (*) Prophylactic dose; (**) Anticoagulant dose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, years</th>
<th>Disease duration, years</th>
<th>Lupus nephritis, n (%)</th>
<th>APS, n (%)</th>
<th>aPL carrier, n (%)</th>
<th>Disease flare during pregnancy, n (%)</th>
<th>Preeclampsia, n (%)</th>
<th>Fibrinogen (g/L)</th>
<th>Other immunosuppressants, n (%)</th>
<th>Disease duration, years</th>
<th>Oral Glucocorticoids, n (%)</th>
<th>Preeclampsia, n (%)</th>
<th>aPL carrier, n (%)</th>
<th>Disease flare during pregnancy, n (%)</th>
<th>Preeclampsia, n (%)</th>
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<td>169.6±102</td>
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<td>10 (90.9)</td>
<td>3 (75)</td>
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</table>

Abbreviations: aPL: antiphospholipid antibodies; APS: antiphospholipid syndrome; IQR: interquartile range; NA: not applicable; Continuous variables are expressed as means±SD. *p<0.05; **p<0.01. (*) Prophylactic dose; (**) Anticoagulant dose.

AB0542 PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME AND INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE. RESULTS OF AN OBSERVATIONAL COHORT

Keywords: Lungs, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Sjögren syndrome

P. Muñoz Reinoso1, F. J. Toyos Sáenz de Miera1, L. M. Fernández-Maeztu1, V. Ymass2
1Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena, Reumatología, Sevilla, Spain

Background: Primary Sjögren’s Syndrome (pSS) is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease of unknown etiology, with an estimated prevalence of 0.25% (0.15-0.43). It has a broad clinical spectrum and extraglandular manifestations such as Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD), being one of the main contributors to morbidity and mortality in patients with pSS [1].

Objectives: Analyze the clinical characteristics of patients with pSS and ILD, describe the patterns of lung involvement and the evolution of the disease as well as the treatments that were used.

Conclusion: DMARDs can stabilize pulmonary functions and delay worsening in patients with pSS-ILD.
Methods: Observational, retrospective, single-center study in the Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena Rheumatology department, from 2010 to 2022, including patients with pSS according to EULAR/ACR criteria and ILD. The data obtained from the medical records was analyzed by the statistical software SPSS v28. This study has been approved by the CEIC.

Results: 19 patients were included, 17 (89.5%) women, with a mean age of 66.4 years (62-71). All presented antinuclear and anti-SSA antibodies, 31.6% (6) anti-SSB antibodies and 43.8% (7) Rheumatoid Factor, 63.2% (12) hypergammaglobulinemia and none hypocomplementemia. 36.8% (7) were former smokers. The extraglandular manifestations and comorbidities are shown in Table 1. The mean age at diagnosis of ILD was 60.1 years (53-65.8). The time elapsed until the diagnosis was 93 months (12-198), however, in 52.6% (10) the diagnosis of ILD was prior to pSS diagnosis for approximately 17 months (6-27). The most common radiological pattern with 63.2% (12) is non-specific interstitial pneumonia, two patients presented lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, two usual interstitial pneumonia, one organizing pneumonia and the rest of them other patterns. Two patients required lung biopsy. Prior to diagnosis, 3 patients were being treated with hydroxychloroquine, the rest had not required treatment with immunomodulators. Once diagnosed, 52.6% (10) required immunosuppressants (Graph 1). 80% (8) continue in treatment, 7 with mycophenolate mofetil with a mean duration of 48 months (20-75). 47.4% (9) required oral glucocorticoids at some point. 88.2% (8) had end-stage renal disease. Among these cases, 47.4% (9) required immunosuppressants (Graph 1). The mean time elapsed until the diagnosis was 45 months (12-78). The time elapsed until the diagnosis was 93 months (12-198), however, in 52.6% (10) the diagnosis of ILD was prior to pSS diagnosis for approximately 17 months (6-27). The most common radiological pattern with 63.2% (12) is non-specific interstitial pneumonia, two patients presented lymphocytic interstitial pneumonia, two usual interstitial pneumonia, one organizing pneumonia and the rest of them other patterns. Two patients required lung biopsy. Prior to diagnosis, 3 patients were being treated with hydroxychloroquine, the rest had not required treatment with immunomodulators. Once diagnosed, 52.6% (10) required immunosuppressants (Graph 1). 80% (8) continue in treatment, 7 with mycophenolate mofetil with a mean duration of 48 months (20-75). 47.4% (9) required oral glucocorticoids at some point. 88.2% (8) had end-stage renal disease. Among these cases, 47.4% (9) required immunosuppressants (Graph 1). The mean time elapsed until the diagnosis was 45 months (12-78).

Conclusion: Intestinal lung disease is an extraglandular manifestation present in patients with pSS, therefore being essential the early diagnosis. In our case, the progression of the disease and the other due to a head trauma. Significant differences between patients with and without treatment. The mean duration of symptoms was 4 months. All cases had severe GU and GI activity (both BiLaG A).

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Extraglandular manifestations and comorbidities.

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Graph 1. Treatments used.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0543 CHARACTERISTICS AND TREATMENT OUTCOMES OF ASIAN SLE PATIENTS WITH CONCOMITANT GENITOURINARY AND GASTROINTESTINAL INVOLVEMENT

Keywords: Kidneys, Gastrointestinal tract, Systemic lupus erythematosus

K. L. Ng1, T. Mahadevan1, M. H. Nordin1, A. Mohamed Ismail2, 1Raja Perempuan Zainab II Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, Kota Bharu, Malaysia
Background: SLE is a chronic autoimmune disorder which affects multi-organ systems. We report a case series of SLE with concomitant genitourinary (GU) and gastrointestinal activity in our centre.

Objectives: To describe the characteristics, treatment response and outcomes of these cases.

Methods: The clinical notes were reviewed and descriptive statistical tests were used. Results: 7 cases were recorded from 2019 to 2022. All were females with median age of onset 23 ± 18.9 years old. Case 5 and 6 had prior diagnosis of SLE with lupus nephritis (LN). The initial symptoms were episodic abdominal pain, associated with vomiting and/or diarrhea. 2 cases had urinary symptoms too. The mean duration of symptoms was 4 months. All cases had severe GU and GI activity (both BiLaG A).

Nearly all had clinically or biopsy-proven proliferative LN (mean 24 hour urine protein = 4.99g/d). 3 patients also had ureterohydronephrosis and/or interstitial cystitis. Intestinal pseudo-obstruction (IPO) and lupus mesenteric vasculitis (LMV) were found in 2 and 5 cases, respectively. Serositis and mucocutaneous lesions were more frequent too. Almost all cases had high titres of ANA (≥ 1:320) and dsDNA, with prevalent positive anti-Ro. Other remarkable findings were low complements (especially C3) and normal ESR/CRP. Antiphospholipid antibodies were negative in all but one cases. Treatment wise, all had IV hydrocortisone and high dose prednisolone. 6 cases had pulsed methylprednisolone and IV cyclophosphamide therapy (NIH regimen). Case 7 had concurrent C. difficile infection and received mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) therapy once the infection resolved. In all cases, the extra renal features and urinary symptoms fully resolved. In term of LN, 4 patients did not achieve remission with NIH regimen and needed MMF therapy; and only 50% attained complete remission subsequently. In general, the outcomes of all patients were good except for Case 1 who developed contracted urinary bladder needing ileal conduit urinary diversion.

Conclusion: Concomitant IPO/LMV with LN and urinary tract abnormalities are rare clinical syndromes in SLE. Our patients shared similar clinical features as reported by Echeverry et al [1]. The treatment response was generally good with no recurrence of IPO/LMV and favourable renal outcomes.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Clinical profile of all cases

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<td>C3, C4</td>
<td>C3, C4</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>MPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Rslv</td>
<td>Rslv</td>
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<td>Rslv</td>
<td>Rslv</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 2. ABO543: Characteristics and Treatment Outcomes of Asian SLE Patients with Concomitant Genitourinary and Gastrointestinal Involvement.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.807
PHENOTYPING ON MUCOSAL MOLECULAR SIGNATURE OF PATIENTS WITH ULCERATIVE COLITIS ANALYSIS

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Autoantibodies, -Oomics

M. R. Chen1,2, Q. Wang1,2, J. W. Hao1,2, M. J. Chang3,4, S. X. Zhang1,2, Q. Yu1, P. F. He1,3, 4Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 5Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 5Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision, Taiyuan, China; 6Shanxi Medical University, School of Management, Taiyuan, China; 5Shanxi Medical University, Medical Data Sciences, Taiyuan, China

Background: Ulcerative colitis (UC) is an inflammatory bowel disease characterized by idiopathic and recurrent mucosal inflammation, whereas disease heterogeneity has not sufficiently translated into current clinical subclassifications [1].

Objectives: This study aims to identify and characterize subgroups of patients with similar target status and molecular biomarkers to reliably predict treatment response which is of great interest for the treatment of UC patients.

Methods: 16 microarray datasets including 602 colon tissue samples (455 patients with UC and 147 healthy controls) were both obtained from GEO database. Depend on up-regulated differentially expressed genes (DEGs), unsupervised clustering [2] was applied to group the samples and pathways and biomarkers associated with UC was unearthed by gene-set enrichment analysis. Xgboost classifier was used for evaluating the efficacy of different biologics in patients with UC.

Results: According to the 267 upregulated DEGs of UC, colon tissue samples were classified into three subtypes (A-C) with distinct molecular and cellular characteristics. Subtype A is designated as epithelial hyperplastic subtype with epithelial features while subtype C was characterized by the immune activation subtype with prominent immune cells and proinflammatory signatures. The subtype B is named mixed, which is in between the above two and is moderately activated in all signaling pathways. It is worth noting that, compared with subtype C as refractory UC patients, subtype A shows stronger correlation with the excellent reactions of biological agents while subtype C was characterized by the immune activation subtype with epithelial features. Subtype A is designated as epithelial hyperplastic subtype with epithelial features while subtype C was characterized by the immune activation subtype with immune activation features.

Conclusion: These results, based on the most comprehensive microarray provide an in-depth understanding of the pathophysiological characteristics of UC, and build an accurate typing model for ulcerative colitis, which can benefit clinical treatment.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

EFFECT OF BELIMUMAB ON CLINICAL Profiles AND DAILY Living SCORE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)

Keywords: Biomarkers, bDMARD, Mental health

T. Ishizuka1, K. Fujioka1, M. Tangiku1, H. Tani1, A. Maeda1, A. Kato1, 1Gifu Municipal Hospital, Center of General Internal Medicine, Gifu, Japan

Background: Belimumab (BE) was shown to decrease disease activity, glucocorticoid intake, and flare rates, thereby suppression of damage progression, and also has been included in the 2019 EULAR recommendations on SLE management as an approved biological drug to be used in patients with a refractory response to a standard of care regimen.

Objectives: We have examined the effect of belimumab on activities of daily living score (AS), immunological data, disease activities and dose of PSL in patients with SLE.

Methods: We selected 36 cases (F/M 30/6) from 2018 to 2022 in patients with SLE treated with BE (iv or sc) to clarify the effect of BE on immunological data, disease activities (SLEDAI), AS (Lupus 26: 849, 2017), and dose of PSL after treatment for 6 months (M), 12M and 24M.

Results: Mean BMI and duration of disease were 20.5±3.7 kg/m2 and 15.7±13.8 years. Two cases could not continue due to arthralgia and loss of hair within 24M. After treatment with BE for 6M and 12M, anti-dsDNA antibodies (AU/ml) were significantly decreased for 12 M and 24 M, respectively (p<0.05, before 61±103, 6M 28±48, 12 M 19±23), and C3, C4 and CH50 (U/ml) were significantly increased (p<0.05-0.02, before 10.8±10.6, 6 M 6.1±3.7, 12 M 5.7±3.0). AS scores were also significantly improved (p<0.01-0.05), before 28.4±14.2, 12 M 14.8±15.8, 24 M 16.8±10.9. Especially, anxiety, depression and loss of concentration, which were important marker for activities of living score, were not significantly changed.

Conclusion: Effects of BE on immunological data, disease activities, and daily living scores, induction of clinical remission and dose reduction of prednisolone were tolerable without major adverse effects in patients with SLE.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DISGN OF ANIFROLUMAB STUDY OF TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN THE REAL WORLD (ASTER): A MULTI-NATIONAL, OBSERVATIONAL, POST-LAUNCH STUDY TO DESCRIBE THE CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS OF ANIFROLUMAB IN ROUTINE CLINICAL PRACTICE IN PATIENTS WITH SLE

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Quality of life, Systemic lupus erythematosus

M. Mosná1, C. Emmass2, C. Nan3, H. Strinadel-Farrant4, S. Chen5, L. Carly6, B. Desta7, C. Seo8, S. Chen9, A. Sonrentino10, 1University of Pisa, Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Pisa, Italy; 2AstraZeneca, Respiratory & Immunology Evidence, BioPharmaceuticals Medical, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 3AstraZeneca, CVRM Evidence, BioPharmaceuticals Medical, Malmö, Sweden; 4AstraZeneca, Oncology Outcomes Research, Global Medical Affairs, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 5AstraZeneca, Evidence Delivery, BioPharmaceuticals Medical, Malmö, Sweden; 6AstraZeneca, Biostatistics, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 7AstraZeneca, BioPharmaceuticals Business Unit, Gaithersburg, MD, United States of America; 8AstraZeneca, Patient Centered Science, BioPharmaceuticals Medical Evidence, Gaithersburg, MD, United States of America; 9AstraZeneca, BioPharmaceuticals Medical, Gaithersburg, MD, United States of America; 10AstraZeneca, Global Medical Affairs, Respiratory & Immunology, BioPharmaceuticals Medical, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Background: Real-world evidence (RWE) on prescription medication use for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is limited, and no real-world studies to date have investigated medication use post-launch with anifrolumab, a type I interferon receptor inhibitor. ASTER is the first multi-national, real-world study to examine patients with SLE receiving standard therapy who initiate anifrolumab treatment as an add-on biologic.

Objectives: To describe the study design of ASTER.

Methods: ASTER (NCT05637112) is a longitudinal, observational cohort study with 1 year of retrospective baseline data and 3 years of follow-up after first anifrolumab initiation until patient discontinuation, death, loss to follow-up or end of study (whichever occurs first). Adults with an SLE diagnosis per the 2019 European Union revised classification criteria with Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28) >3.2 and Disease Activity Score 54 (DAS54) >1.6 and who were on routine follow-up were eligible to participate.
League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)/American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria for SLE who start anifrolumab per the approved country-specific label are eligible. Patients who are anifrolumab experienced, currently in anifrolumab early access/compassionate use programs, or in a clinical trial with an investigational product are excluded. Eligible patients will be enrolled at a routine clinical visit before the first anifrolumab infusion. Key study measures and data collection methods are presented in the Table. Patient-reported outcomes (PROs) and diaries are selected and designed based on patient feedback. Key endpoints of disease activity and the proportion of patients attaining a Lupus Low Disease Activity State will be collected. For patients who discontinue anifrolumab, data collection will continue for the entire follow-up period, unless they withdraw consent.

Results: About 500 patients are expected to be enrolled from Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain, and Sweden, with 15–200 patients per country. The study will be open for enrollment in 2023 and data collection is expected to finish in 2029. Data will be collected at baseline and at quarterly (Year 1) or biannual visits (Year 2 and 3). Electronic case report forms will be used to record patient information using the Medidata RAVE system. MyRecô software will be used to record PROs via a mobile application and collect physician-completed assessments via a web platform. Results will primarily be descriptive.

Conclusion: ASTER will provide physicians with valuable insights into the effectiveness of anifrolumab in patients with SLE in routine clinical practice. ASTER will generate comprehensive RWE of anifrolumab to inform patients about its impact on disease activity and health-related quality of life outcomes in global real-world settings.

Table 1. Key study measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Clinical characteristics</th>
<th>SLE treatment history</th>
<th>SLE flares</th>
<th>Healthcare resource use</th>
<th>Clinical assessments</th>
<th>PROs</th>
<th>Functionality Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy–Fatigue</th>
<th>Lupus Quality of Life</th>
<th>Patient Global Assessment</th>
<th>European Quality of Life 5-Dimension Health Questionnaire 5 Level</th>
<th>Work Productivity and Activity Impairment: Lupus</th>
<th>Pain Numerical Rating Scale</th>
<th>Diaries (e.g., medication use, pain, fatigue, sleep quality)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, sex, ethnicity, insurance type</td>
<td>Comorbidities, medical history, adverse events/drug reactions</td>
<td>SLE flares (steroids, antimalarials, immunosuppressants, NSAIDs, biologics)</td>
<td>SLE flares</td>
<td>Healthcare resource use</td>
<td>Clinical assessments</td>
<td>PROs</td>
<td>Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy–Fatigue</td>
<td>Lupus Quality of Life</td>
<td>Patient Global Assessment</td>
<td>European Quality of Life 5-Dimension Health Questionnaire 5 Level</td>
<td>Work Productivity and Activity Impairment: Lupus</td>
<td>Pain Numerical Rating Scale</td>
<td>Diaries (e.g., medication use, pain, fatigue, sleep quality)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Clinical outcome in the various treatment regimens (at the end of maintenance therapy of 12 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Outcome</th>
<th>MMF</th>
<th>NIH</th>
<th>Euro lupus</th>
<th>Change in regimen</th>
<th>Total (n (%))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete response</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>(53.70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial response</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>(46.34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(12.19%)</td>
<td>20 (48.79%)</td>
<td>8 (19.51%)</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The clinical outcome at the end of 12 months of maintenance therapy was found to be satisfactory, with all the LN patients being responders to treatment. The MMF regimen was the preferred treatment regimen over the equally efficacious cyclophosphamide-based regimens due to the ease of administration and the lack of requirement of hospitalization during the period of the COVID pandemic. The high cost of MMF increased the direct cost borne by the patient due to its unavailability in the hospital pharmacy. Hence there is a need to review the hospital pharmacy stock at regular intervals and streamline the procurement system for drugs during public health emergencies such as the pandemic.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0551

INTRAVENOUS IMMUNOGLOBULIN IN PREGNANT WOMEN WITH SEVERE ACTIVE LUPUS: A CASE SERIES

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Pregnancy and reproduction

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic, progressive, autoimmune disorder characterized by chronic inflammation of multiple organs and tissues; mediated by autoantibodies and immune complexes. Approved treatments are few and often associated with limitations including suboptimal response. IVIG is a novel high affinity, fully human, aglycosylated, immunoglobulin G1 (IgG1) monoclonal antibody that selectively blocks the neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) and displays no effector function. Clinical studies conducted with IVIG in patients with SLE have demonstrated rapid and durable serum IgG and polyreactive autoantibody reductions.

Objectives: To describe the protocol of a Phase 2 study evaluating the efficacy and safety of IVIG in pregnant patients with active SLE.

Methods: This is a phase 2, multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind, parallel-group study enrolling active adults with active, autoantibody-positive SLE with an inadequate response to one or more standard of care treatments. The study consists of a 6-week screening period, a 52-week double-blind treatment period, and a 6-week follow-up period. A target of approximately 225 participants will be enrolled. Participants will be randomized in a 1:1:1 ratio to receive IVIG dose 1, dose 2 or placebo intravenously every 2 weeks through Week 50.

Results: The primary efficacy endpoint is the percentage of participants achieving ≥50% reduction in Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus Disease Area and Severity Index activity score (CLASI), ≥50% reduction in active joints, ≥4 points improvement in SLE Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI 2K), and British Isles Lupus Assessment Group Composite Lupus Assessment response (BICLA); time to first disease flare; and reduction in corticosteroid use. The percentage of participants achieving an SRI-4 composite response at Week 52 will also be assessed. Safety endpoints include adverse events (AEs), serious AEs, AEs of special interest (severe infections, Grade ≥3 hyperbilirubinemia), and AEs leading to treatment discontinuation throughout Week 58. Additional assessments include pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and immunogenecity evaluations.

Conclusion: This ongoing phase 2 study will evaluate the safety and efficacy of IVIG in adults with active SLE, using multiple clinical outcome measures.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Table 1. Characteristics of Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Case 1</th>
<th>Case 2</th>
<th>Case 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients Age, years</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy weeks at the start IVIG</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body weight, kg</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of prior miscarriage</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serology</td>
<td>1/640</td>
<td>1/1280</td>
<td>1/220</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANAS</td>
<td>homogenous</td>
<td>homogeneous</td>
<td>speckled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patern</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>129/130 (+)</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ro,La</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS profile</td>
<td>Double positive</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indication IVIG</td>
<td>Severe active lupus</td>
<td>Severe active lupus</td>
<td>Severe active lupus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posology IVIG</td>
<td>65 g (1g/kg), Single dose</td>
<td>136 g (2 g/kg), Single dose</td>
<td>132 g (2 g/kg), monthly (3 doses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days administration IVIG</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side effects with IVIG</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets (Before IVIG)</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>112,000</td>
<td>153,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria, g/24h (Before IVIG)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>24.7</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>207,000</td>
<td>388,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria, g/24h</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9 (2 week after IVIG)</td>
<td>10.6 (1 week after last IVIG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestational age at miscarriage/delivery, weeks</td>
<td>7, Septic Miscarriage</td>
<td>30, Cesarean for IUGR</td>
<td>33, Cesarean for IUGR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy complications</td>
<td>Stroke, Cardioid dissection</td>
<td>No, Healthy prematurityNewborn</td>
<td>No, Healthy prematurityNewborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding</td>
<td>Yes, until 3rd month</td>
<td>&gt;3 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANCA: Antinuclear antibody, APS: Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome, IUGR: Intrauterine growth restriction, IVIG: Intravenous Immunoglobulin,
AB0552  
**EFFECT OF BELIMUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS TREATED WITH MINIMAL OR NO STEROID**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus

Y. J. Lee¹, S. M. Ahn¹, S. Hong¹, J. S. Oh², C. K. Lee¹, B. Yoo¹, Y. G. Kim¹. ¹Asan Medical Center Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); ²Asan Medical Center, Department of Information Medicine, Big Data Research Center, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Belimumab is the only biologic agent approved for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). In cornerstone clinical trials, belimumab demonstrated SRI-4 response in patients with moderate disease activity, and real-world studies showed consistent findings (1–3). In these studies, SRI-4 was significantly associated with baseline features including high SELENA-SLEDAI, dose of steroid, smoking status, BLyS level, and combining polyarthritis (2, 3). However, most previous studies have been conducted in patients with use of steroids, with mean prednisolone-equivalent dose of approximately 10 mg/day (1–3). Therefore, the effect of belimumab has been focused on the steroid sparing.

**Objectives:** Here, we aimed to identify the effect of belimumab in SLE patients treated with minimal or no steroid with mild-to-moderate activity.

**Methods:** We retrospectively reviewed the electronic medical records of patients (age ≥ 18 years) who first received belimumab from May 2021 to June 2022 and maintained use at least 6 months. We only included patients who received prednisolone-equivalent ≤5 mg or without steroid (for more than 1 year). The primary endpoint was SRI-4 response in 6 months, and secondary endpoint was improvement in serology, including C3, C4, and anti-ds-DNA, at 6 months. Analysis Of Variance (ANOVA) with Bonferroni’s post hoc analysis were performed to compare the continuous variables.

**Results:** In total, 31 patients were included, with 12 minimal steroid users and 19 non-steroid users. The mean age was 39.2 (±11.4) years, and 90.3% were female. Baseline SELENA-SLEDAI was 6.0 (4.0–9.0). The primary endpoint was significantly improved over time (P=0.016) showed significant improvement over time during treatment. Univariable analysis showed baseline SELENA-SLEDAI and arthritis were significantly associated with SRI-4 response at 6 months, and SELENA-SLEDAI only remained significant in multivariable logistic regression analysis.

**Conclusion:** In our cohort study, belimumab was shown to be effective in improving SELENA-SLEDAI, anemia and low C4 in patients who did not use or did use minimal dose of steroids. Therefore, the effect of belimumab can be expected even in patients not taking steroids.

**REFERENCES:**
[1] Lancet. 2011 Feb 26;377(9767):721-31

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3768

AB0554  
**LOW-DOSE IL-2 CHANGED THE PROPORTION OF LYMPHOCYTE SUBSETS IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME**

**Keywords:** Sjögren syndrome, Cytokines and chemokines

X. M. Wang¹,², Q. Y. Su¹,²,³, J. X. Zhang¹,², P. H. Chai¹,², H. C. Li¹,², Q. Yu⁴, P. F. He⁵, X. Li¹,²,³, S. X. Zhang¹,²,³. ¹Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; ²Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China; ³Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; ⁴Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune illness characterized by various immune abnormalities. Abnormalities in the proportions of blood T lymphocyte subtype, that is Th17/Treg, were detected in pSS patients. Interleukin (IL)-2 is a crucial cytokine for tipping the balance of regulatory T (Treg) cells and effector T cells, which can effectively relieve pSS.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to systematically evaluate the changes in the number of lymphocyte subsets after low-dose IL-2 therapy for pSS.

**Methods:** Systematic searches of PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, the Cochrane Library and Medline, CNKI, CBM, and Technology Journal Database were performed. Original case reports, case series, observational studies, and clinical trials reporting the changes in lymphocyte subsets on pSS patients treated with IL-2 were included. A random-effects meta-analysis was performed to calculate the pooled efficacy. Inconsistency was evaluated by using the I² [2], and Egger tests were used to test the evidence of publication potential bias (STATA v.12.0)

**Results:** A total of 3 studies comprising 929 patients were identified (Table 1). The numbers of Th17 cells and Tregs were significantly increased after IL-2 injection (SMD=0.325, 95% CI (0.060, 0.590), P=0.016; SMD=1.085, 95% CI (0.469, 1.701), P=0.001), while there were no statistical differences in the ratio of Th17/Treg (SMD=0.263, 95% CI (-0.602, 0.076), P=0.129) between before and after IL-2 treatment (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Low-dose IL-2 was promising in treating pSS, which could promote the proliferation and functional recovery of Tregs and regulate the balance between Treg cells and effector T cells towards Treg cells.

**Table 1. Changes in clinical parameters in SLE patients treated with belimumab (no low dose of steroid)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>p-valuePost hoc test</th>
<th>p-value*</th>
<th>p-value†</th>
<th>p-value‡</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukopenia(+)</td>
<td>2713.3</td>
<td>246.7</td>
<td>333.3</td>
<td>0.143</td>
<td>0.246</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukopenia(-)</td>
<td>5362.3</td>
<td>-3875</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hb</td>
<td>10.56±(±0.13)</td>
<td>10.73±0.20</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.424</td>
<td>0.074</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia()</td>
<td>13.06</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>(±0.87)</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>0.089</td>
<td>0.902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelet, x10³/µL</td>
<td>10.11±240</td>
<td>25.98±215</td>
<td>±4.94</td>
<td>±153</td>
<td>0.240</td>
<td>0.459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombocytopenia</td>
<td>236.6±(±0.16)</td>
<td>8.9±34.0</td>
<td>0.301</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>0.899</td>
<td>0.902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3, mg/dl</td>
<td>59.13</td>
<td>11±(6.95)</td>
<td>6.24</td>
<td>0.117</td>
<td>0.505</td>
<td>0.351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4, mg/dl</td>
<td>10.25±(±5.15)</td>
<td>±52.6</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>±45.7</td>
<td>±0.001</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA, IU/mL</td>
<td>138.41</td>
<td>-45.76</td>
<td>-36.70</td>
<td>0.252</td>
<td>0.063</td>
<td>0.755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal profile</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine, mg/dL</td>
<td>0.79±(±0.04)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>±0.09</td>
<td>0.168</td>
<td>0.243</td>
<td>0.503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR, mL/min/1.73m²</td>
<td>80.71</td>
<td>-1.90</td>
<td>-2.13</td>
<td>0.076</td>
<td>0.277</td>
<td>0.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPCR, mg/g</td>
<td>418.1±(±108.02)</td>
<td>±100.15</td>
<td>0.306</td>
<td>0.423</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELENA-SLEDAI</td>
<td>758±(±4.23)</td>
<td>±1.87</td>
<td>±3.25</td>
<td>±4.08</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p value of baseline and 3-month values; † analysis of 3- and 6-month values; ‡ analysis of baseline and 6-month values; SELENA-SLEDAI: Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus National Assessment—Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index; anti-dsDNA: anti-double stranded DNA; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; UPCR, urine protein/creatinine ratio

Table 1. Available evidence, including patients with pSS treated with low-dose IL-2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>Tregs</th>
<th>Th17</th>
<th>Th17/Tregs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J.-Y. Yang. 2011</td>
<td>1221(759) NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>before:17.3±17.4</td>
<td>after:3.5±36.7</td>
<td>0.4±0.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miao. 2018</td>
<td>169(82) NA</td>
<td>0.5 million</td>
<td>before:21±15</td>
<td>after:8.4±7</td>
<td>0.4±0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miao. 2017</td>
<td>100(82) NA</td>
<td>0.5 million</td>
<td>before:21±15</td>
<td>after:8.4±7</td>
<td>0.4±0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Changes in numbers of lymphocyte subsets after low-dose IL-2 therapy in pSS (A-B) the number of Tregs and Th17 cells before and after low-dose IL-2 treatment. (C) Th17/Tregs.
Methods: Patients receiving biologic therapy with Belimumab or Rituximab at baseline and 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5754

DOI:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5754

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB0555

CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AT THE START OF BIOLOGICAL THERAPY AND AT FIRST FOLLOW-UP

Keywords: bDMARD, Systemic lupus erythematosus

A. D. Bilous1, M. M. Tamas2, I. Mihus2, C. Pamfil2, I. Felea1, L. Damian1, L. Muntean1, I. Filipescu2, I. Szabo2, S. P. Simon1, S. Rednic2

1Emergency Clinical County Hospital Cluj-Napoca, Rheumatology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 2Iuliu Hatageganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Rheumatology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune disease characterized by heterogeneity of clinical manifestations ranging from mild skin and joint disease to severe, organ or life-threatening manifestations. It has an unpredictable tendency to flare up. Given the complex pathogenesis of SLE, involving both the adaptive and innate immune systems, the efficacy of steroids, antimalarials and immunosuppressants is limited in some cases, highlighting the need for new therapies with a targeted mechanism of action. Belimumab (BEL) is approved as an add-on therapy for active LES with positive antoautoantibodies despite standard treatment, while Rituximab (RTX) remains for off-label use in severe manifestations in many European countries.

Objectives: The aim of the current study is to describe the characteristics of SLE patients receiving biologic therapy with Belimumab or Rituximab at baseline and at first follow-up visit in a tertiary rheumatology center.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed the electronic medical records of patients with SLE who started treatment with BEL and/or RTX. Demographic, clinical and paraclinical data as well as disease activity score at the time of starting treatment with biologics and at first follow-up visit were collected.

Results: Eighteen SLE patients were analyzed: 88.88% female, mean age at diagnosis 32±15 years, mean disease duration 7±5 years. The first follow-up visit was performed between 4 to 6 months after baseline. Eleven (61.1%) patients were treated with BEL, 5 (27.7%) RTX and 2 (11.1%) with both BEL and RTX. Hydroxychloroquine (HQ) was co-prescribed with biologics in 16/18 patients (88.8%). Azathioprine was prescribed in 6 patients (33.33%) and mycophenolate mofetil in 4 patients (22.22%). At the start of the biological treatment, all patients received steroids with a mean dose of 20±17mg prednisone/day. One patient was able to discontinue the steroid, while in the others the prednisone dose decreased to 8.5±4.8mg/day after 4-6 months. RTX was prescribed in 5 (27.77%) patients for lupus nephritis. All patients previously received cyclophosphamide. In one case, RTX was prescribed for severe thrombocytopenia, in another because of an overlap with active rheumatoid arthritis. Belimumab was prescribed in patients with more pronounced constitutional, articular, cutaneous and hematological features and mild renal involvement. In one case, BEL was prescribed for lupic enteritis. The mean SLEDAI score before starting treatment with the biologic was 12±3; the mean SLEDAI score at the first follow-up visit was 8±3. In 11 (61.1%) patients, its safety and efficacy.

Conclusion: Biological therapy has been shown to control the disease activity and to reduce the need for steroids in SLE patients. RTX was used in patients with more severe manifestations such as lupus nephritis and severe thrombocytopenia.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Patients’ clinical characteristics

| Women (%/n) | 44/88.3 |
| Age at diagnosis (years,SD) | 46.4 (15.2) |
| Mean disease duration at off label treatment initiation(years) | 8.8 (10.8) |
| ANA (%/n) | 52/100 |
| Low C3 or C4 (%/n) | 27/519 |
| Most frequent clinical manifestations (%/n) | Acute cutaneous lupus: 49 (94.2) |
| Previous and/or concomitant treatment recorded | Hydroxychloroquine: 52 (100) |
| Belimumab: 11 (21.1) |
| MMF: 7 (13.5) |
| Cyclophosphamide: 16 (30.8) |
| Other: 26 (50) |

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB0556

OFF LABEL USE OF TARGETED THERAPIES IN SLE: SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE FROM THE ATTIKON LUPUS COHORT

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

G. S. Movsidou1,2, D. Katsefis Nezis1, E. Sampatakaki1, K. Kouna1, M. Kosmatotu1, S. Floudas1, A. Filippopoulou1, K. Zoupidou1, D. Tseronis1, M. Aggelakos1, T. Karageorgas1, P. Katsoimi1, A. Fanouriakis2, D. Boumpas1,2

1Attikon University Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, 4th Department of Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece; 2National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Inflammation & Autoimmunity Lab, Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFxAA), Faculty of Medicine, Athens, Greece; 3"Lakio" General Hospital, 1st Department of Paedopaediatric Internal Medicine, Athens, Greece

Background: Despite recent advances in the management of rheumatic diseases with the emergence of new targeted therapies, treatment options remain limited in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) [1] and disease may be refractory to conventional treatment.

Objectives: To evaluate the off-label use of biologics in a large cohort of lupus patients, its safety and efficacy.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of the Attikon SLE lupus cohort comprising over 800 patients in total in order to identify patients receiving off-label targeted therapies. Indication of the treatment, clinical characteristics and outcomes were recorded.

Results: A total of 52 patients received 54 off-label targeted therapies. Most of them were women (86.3%). Mean age (SD) at SLE diagnosis was 46.4 (15.2) years and mean disease duration (SD) at off label treatment initiation was 8.8 (10.8) years. Mean SLEDAI (SD) before treatment initiation was 6.6 (3.7). The most frequently used off-label treatment was rituximab (84.6%) followed by tocilizumab (9.6%) and jak inhibitors (5.8%). The main indications were persistent, severe, refractory musculoskeletal and mucocutaneous activity (44.2%), neuropsychiatric SLE (23.1%), hematological disease (13.5%) and lupus nephritis (11.5%). Six months after treatment, mean SLEDAI decreased in all patients to a mean of 4.3 (2.7). Mean drug survival was 2.2 (1.2) years. The dose of corticosteroids after 6 months of treatment was substantially decreased to 4.3 mg (versus 12.7 mg at baseline). No moderate/severe adverse effects were recorded.

Conclusion: The use of off-label targeted therapies allows disease activity improvement with a corticoid sparing effect even in a subset of patients with long-standing, refractory manifestations.

REFERENCE:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6151

AB0557

PERIPARTAL-ONSET OF LUPUS VASCULITIS WITH COMPLICATIONS OF ANTI-PHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME-A CASE-BASED REVIEW

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Autoantibodies

S. Onwualu Onosenigbuan1, O. Ochiagha2, O. Adelowo4, H. Olaosebikan4

1University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City Nigeria, Rheumatology-Internal Medicine, Benin, Nigeria; 2Universitas Darmofo University Teaching Hospital, Sukoto Nigeria, Rheumatology-Internal Medicine, Sukoto, Nigeria; 3Universitas Darmofo University Teaching Hospital, Sukoto Nigeria,

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 82001740).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5754
AB0558

ANIFROLUMAB IN REFRACtORY SYSTEmIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A REAL-LIFE, MULTICENTER STUDY

Keywords: bDMARD, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Real-world evidence

F. Trentin1, C. Tani1, A. Caulli2, F. Ceccearelli3, F. Ciccia1, F. Conti3, L. Carlonato4, L. Dagnino5, G. De Marchi6, G. Emms4, S. Fasano4, M. Gatto10, L. Moroni11, F. Riccio8, M. Piga7, M. Zen12, M. Mosca12,13, University of Pisa, Italy, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Pisa, Italy; 2AOU and University of Cagliari, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, CAGLIARI, Italy; Cagliari, Italy; 3Sapienza Università di Roma, Reumatologia, Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Internistiche Anestesiolitiche e Cardiovascolari, Roma, Italy; 4University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Precision Medicine, Napoli, Italy; 5University of Bari, Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine and Ionian Area (DiMePRe-J), Bari, Italy; 6Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy; 7IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Milan, Italy, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy; 8Academic Hospital Santa Maria della Misericordia, AUSC, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Udine, Udine, Italy; 9University of Florence, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Florence, Italy; 10University of Padova, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine DIMED, Italy; 11University of Padova, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine DIMED, Italy; 12University of Padova, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine DIMED, Italy; 13University of Padova, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine DIMED, Italy

Background: Anifrolumab (ANI) is a monoclonal antibody to the type I interferon receptor recently approved by EMA as an add-on therapy for the treatment of moderate to severe SLE. As of this writing, real world data on its use is still lacking. Objectives: To depict the clinical characteristics of SLE patients treated with ANI. To evaluate short-term effectiveness and safety of ANI in clinical practice.

Methods: Multicenter prospective cohort study on adult patients with SLE treated with ANI for compassionate use. Demographic data, clinical and treatment history, and SLICC Damage Index (SDI) were retrieved from clinical charts. SLE-DAI-2K, SLE-DAS, daily pred dose, number of tender (Tj) and swollen (Sj) joints, Cutaneous LE Disease area and severity index (CLASI-A), and Physician Global Assessment (PGA) were recorded at baseline, 1, 3, and 6 months of follow-up. Remission (according to 2021 DORIS definition) [1] and low disease activity (according to LLADAS definition) [2] were assessed at 6 months. Adverse events (AE) were recorded at each visit.

Results: 20 patients (90% female, 90% Caucasian, median age 48 (range 24-68), median disease duration 12 (4-27) years from 9 referral centers were included. 100% of patients had a history of articular involvement, 95% of skin rash, 50% of hematological involvement, 30% of nephritis, 25% of serositis, and 10% of neuropsychiatric involvement. Fifteen percent had a concomitant antiphospholipid syndrome and 10% Sjogren’s syndrome. At baseline, 65% had an SDI>0 (median 2, 1-5). The median number of previous immunosuppressive therapies was 4 (1-7), while the median cumulative dose of prednisone was 10.3g (5-90). Reasons for adding ANI to treatment were persistently active disease (83.3%) or disease flare (16.7%). Main active manifestations were: mucocutaneous (70%), articular (40%), and hematological (25%). Concomitant therapies were glucocorticoids in 94.1% (pred-median daily dose 7.5mg, range 0-29), conventional DMARD in 84% (pred-median dose: 1.6mg, range 0-25), hydroxychloroquine in 74% of cases. At 1 month after starting ANI, a significant decrease in all the activity indices was recorded: mean±SD SLEDAI from 7.6±4.2 at baseline to 6.1±3.5 (p=0.02), CLASI-A from 8.8±9.7 to 3.6±6.2 (p=0.01), and PGA from 1.3±0.5 to 1.0±0.6 (p=0.005), SLE-DAS from 9.6±6.5 to 6.8±5.2 (p=0.04), SJ from 1.6±0.6 to 0.5±0.2 (p=0.02). The improvement was maintained trough the 6 months of follow-up. A reduction in the mean daily dose of glucocorticoids was observed at all time points, but statistical significance was not reached (Table 1). LLADAS and remission were achieved by 75% of patients at 6 months of follow-up. One patient discontinued treatment after 2 infusions due to a lack of response. Nine AE were recorded, mainly mild viral infections including one herpes zoster reactivation. Only one AE (thrombocytopenia) led to treatment discontinuation. Conclusion: ANI demonstrated a rapid efficacy on skin manifestation, arthritis, and overall disease activity in patients with SLE refractory to the standard of care. The good safety profile is also confirmed in this real-world analysis.

REFERENCES:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean ±SD</th>
<th>Median (range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>At 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2K</td>
<td>72±4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE-DAS</td>
<td>9.4±6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASI-A</td>
<td>9.3±8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tj</td>
<td>7.0±27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sj</td>
<td>2.0±12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>1.3±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone daily dose (mg)</td>
<td>8.2±3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLADAS n% (%)</td>
<td>7.5±(0.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission n% (%)</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: AstraZeneca for providing the drug.

Disclosure of Interests: Francesca Trentin: None declared, Chiara Tani: None declared, Alberto Caulli: None declared, Fulvia Ceccearelli: None declared, Francesco Ciccia: None declared, Fabrizio Conti: None declared, Laura Coladonato: None declared, Lorenzo Dagna: None declared, Ginevra De Marchi: None declared, Giacomo Emmi: None declared, SERENA FASANO: None declared, AstraZeneca: None declared, Matteo Piga: None declared, Margherita Zen Speakers bureau: GSK, Marta Mosca Speakers bureau: Dr Mosca personal fees from AstraZeneca, GSK, and Lilly outside the submitted work.

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Keywords: Anifrolumab, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Real-world evidence.
Efficacy and Safety of Rituximab in Patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus

Y. Ren1,2, L. Wang2,3, Z. An2,3, Z. Yang2,3, Q. Y. Su2,3,4, Q. Yu2, P. F. He6, X. Li3,4,5, X. S. Zhang1,2,6

1Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 2Academy of Microbic Ecology, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 3Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 4The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 5Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 6Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China.

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune disease with multisystem involvement characterized by the production of multiple autoantibodies and the consumption of complements. Rituximab, a chimeric anti-CD20 antibody, was already approved for treating B-cell lymphoma and autoimmune diseases.

Objectives: This study aimed to systematically evaluate the efficacy and safety of rituximab in treating SLE.

Methods: We systematically searched PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, Cochrane Library, CNKI, FDA.gov, Clinical trials.gov, Wanfang database, and Weipu database (from database inception to January 1, 2023) for studies of rituximab in the treatment of SLE. Observational studies, case series, and randomized controlled trials reporting the efficacy or safety data on SLE treated with rituximab were included in this meta-analysis. We selected the effect model according to the heterogeneity of the meta-analysis. If I² < 50, a fixed effect model was used.

Results: A total of 8 studies with a total of 353 patients were included. After treatment with rituximab, the SLEDAI scores were significantly decreased [SMD=2.289, 95%CI (1.411, 3.167), I²=64.5%, p<0.001]. Four studies mentioned clinical responses, 91.9% of patients with SLE who received rituximab had distinct clinical remission compared with 72.1% of patients with SLE who received conventional medication. The incidence of adverse events was 76.1% and 21.83%, in which pulmonary infection and gastrointestinal disease were the most common events, and no serious adverse events were reported among all these studies. Besides, we observed not only remarkable increases in complement C3 and C4 after rituximab injection [SMD=1.102, 95%CI (0.322, 2.422), I²=95.5%, p=0.010; SMD=1.102, 95%CI (0.102, 2.103), I²=93.6%, p<0.001] but also significant decreases in IgA and IgG [SMD=1.372, 95%CI (0.322, 2.422), I²=95.5%, p=0.010; SMD=1.102, 95%CI (0.102, 2.103), I²=93.6%, p<0.001] in 1 study. An increase in IgM was notified in another study. 

Conclusion: Rituximab was effective and well-tolerated for the treatment of SLE, which had a low incidence of adverse events.

REFERENCE:


To see the efficacy of upadacitinib in the management of primary Sjogren syndrome.

Methods: A 68-year-old woman presented with pain in multiple joints for 16 years with intermittent use of NSAIDs. She had no low back pain and no self or family history of psoriasis or red eye. She denied dry mouth but required frequent water drinking during meals to aid swallowing and occasionally used artificial tears. MTX was started for her two-month articular flare and positive rheumatoid factor (RF). MTX caused severe vomiting and hyponatremia, and she was hospitalized. After the correction of hyponatremia, she was put on tofacitinib. We reevaluated the case when she came to us. She had grade 2-3 tenderness of most peripheral joints and was bedridden. Immunological parameters revealed RF 127 IU/ml (reference value <14), anti-SSA antibody 147 U/ml (normal <3.2), anti-SSB antibody 149 U/ml (reference value <8) and anti-CCP antibody; ANA, anti-nda DNA Ab were negative. There was no erosion on the X-ray hands. Schirmer’s test was positive (3mm bilaterally). Unstimulated salivary flow after five minutes was 0.04 ml/min (<0.1 ml/min indicates salivary hypofunction). She fulfilled the 2016 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, and we diagnosed her with primary Sjogren syndrome. Considering her age, she was switched to upadacitinib, as European Medicines Agency restricted the use of tofacitinib beyond 65 years.

Results: Her EULAR Sjogren Syndrome’s Disease Activity Index (ESSDAI) [1] was six at baseline, indicating moderate disease activity. Her joint pain improved significantly within two months with infrequent use of pilocarpine in the sixth month. Six months after treatment with upadacitinib, ESSDAI came down to 2; the Patient’s Global Assessment score was 0.02 and achieved STAR (Sjogren’s Tool for Assessing Response) response 7 (STAR responder if score ≥5) [2].

Conclusion: To our knowledge, this is the first case report on the efficacy of upadacitinib in pSS. Further high-quality clinical trials are required to confirm the benefit of upadacitinib in pSS.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: Lupus nephritis (LN) is one of the most harmful clinical manifestations in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients. Despite of the existence of standard treatment protocols, a percentage of patients cannot be controlled with classical immunosuppressant drugs. This is the reason for exploring new therapies, such as rituximab (RTX), in order to achieve a better management of LN [1,2].

Objectives: To assess the efficacy of RTX in LN treatment.

Methods: A systematic review was performed using Medline, Embase, Cochrane Library and Web of Science databases. Two independent reviewers selected the records that fitted the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Statistical analysis was carried out with Stata 15.1 for MacOS (StataCorp). Relating to meta-analysis, odds ratio (OR) was chose as measure of association in registries with control group and a prevalence meta-analysis was conducted in those registries without it.

Results: 436 papers were obtained from the search, finally 32 articles were analysed. Meta-analysis of registries with control group showed a significant higher rate of total response in LN patients treated with RTX, compared to control group (p=0.005) after 52 weeks of follow-up. A non-significant higher rate of complete response in LN patients treated with RTX, compared to control group (p=0.062) was found after 52 weeks of follow-up. As well, a non-significant higher rate of complete response in LN patients treated with RTX compared to control group was found. Prevalence meta-analysis of registries without control group showed response in more than 50% of LN patients treated with RTX.

Conclusion: RTX seems to be effective in long-term treatment LN patients (52 weeks). More clinical trials are needed for clear indication of RTX for SLE treatment and its inclusion in general clinical practice.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. meta-analysis of LN patients treated with RTX in registries with control group and 52 weeks of follow-up.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6023

AB0562 BELIMUMAB FOR THE TREATMENT OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN REAL WORLD: A SINGLE CENTER STUDY

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Kidneys, Systemic lupus erythematosus

J. J. Fragojo Gil1, P. Martinez Calabuig1, L. Salvador Malcas1, R. González Mazarillo1, A. Rueda1, J. J. Lerma1, C. Molina Almela1, M. D. Pastor Cubillo1, C. Campos Fernández1. 1Hospital General Universitario de Valencia, Servicio de Reumatología, Valencia, Spain; 2Hospital de Sagunto, Reumatología, Port de Sagunt, Spain

Background: Belimumab efficacy and safety has been studied through randomized controlled trials in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) patients even in cases with kidney involvement. However, more evidence is needed not only from long-term trials but also from real world conditions especially in Lupus Nephritis (LN) patients.

Objectives: To analyze the effectiveness and safety of Belimumab in SLE patients with data from a Real-World cohort.

Methods: A single center observational study was performed including SLE patients who had initiated treatment with Belimumab from September 2017 to January 2023. Demographic, clinical, laboratory, effectiveness and safety variables were collected. Effectiveness was evaluated according to changes from the baseline in SLEDAI-2K and disease activity markers (proteinuria, complement consumption and/or Anti DNAds). Safety data was collected including any adverse event (AE) due to any cause. AE was considered serious (SAE) if it was life-threatening or result in hospitalization, disability or in death.

Results: Overall, 15 patients were included in the study, whom baseline characteristics are exposed in the Table 1. Nine patients were still receiving the drug with a mean drug survival of 15.6 months. Belimumab allowed steroid tapering in all cases, but treatment was discontinued just in 1 patient (7%). Treatment also improved disease activity markers in all (100%) patients. Belimumab was well tolerated, and the AE reported were infection (14 events) and malaise in 1 patient. In 11 cases, infection was mild (9 upper respiratory tract infection, 1 urinary tract infection and 1 gastroenteritis). 3 severe infections were registered (1 pneumonia, 1 pyelonephritis and 1 meningitis). Regarding LN patients, treatment exposure achieved was 10.85 patients/year. Renal Biopsy demonstrated class III in a patient (20%) and class IV in 4 patients (80%). Mean proteinuria at baseline was 6.66g/24h. In 3 cases, Belimumab was started in the first 6 months after LN diagnosis was established. In 4 cases (80%), Belimumab addition allowed significant reduction of proteinuria and corticosteroids. In 2 out 5 (40%) treatment was discontinued, one case due to an insufficient response and in the other, to a SAE (Cryptococcus neoformans meningitis).

Conclusion: Belimumab maintained an acceptable safety profile and an adequate effectiveness. Intravenous and subcutaneous formulations showed similar performance. Belimumab addition resulted in reduction in proteinuria and corticosteroid use.

Table 1. BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>All SLE patients (n=15 (100%))</th>
<th>No Lupus Nephritis (n=10 (37%))</th>
<th>Lupus Nephritis (n=5 (31%))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age – years (ds)</td>
<td>36.4 (11.4)</td>
<td>30.5 (6.9)</td>
<td>48.2 (9.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex – number (%)</td>
<td>14 (%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
<td>4 (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race – number (%)</td>
<td>13 (86.7%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
<td>3 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1 (6.7%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>1 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1 (6.7%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>1 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formulation use at baseline – number (%)</td>
<td>5 (33.3%)</td>
<td>3 (20%)</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intravenous</td>
<td>10 (66.7%)</td>
<td>7 (70%)</td>
<td>3 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcutaneous</td>
<td>3 (20%)</td>
<td>2 (20%)</td>
<td>1 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease features – number (%)</td>
<td>5 (33.3%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuros psiquiatric involvement</td>
<td>3 (20%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Lupus Nephritis</td>
<td>10 (66.7%)</td>
<td>7 (70%)</td>
<td>3 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>7 (46.7%)</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
<td>3 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous</td>
<td>4 (26.7%)</td>
<td>2 (20%)</td>
<td>2 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucosal Ulcers</td>
<td>13 (86.7%)</td>
<td>8 (80%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematological</td>
<td>2 (13.3)</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
<td>1 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>Steroid treatment - Number</td>
<td>15 (100%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean glucocorticoid dosage – mg of prednisone or equivalent</td>
<td>24.4 (18.03)</td>
<td>15.2 (7.6)</td>
<td>35.4 (20.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant medication– number (%)</td>
<td>14 (93.3%)</td>
<td>9 (90%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotic</td>
<td>5 (33.3%)</td>
<td>5 (50%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>4 (26.7%)</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
<td>0 (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>5 (33.3%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate</td>
<td>1 (6.7%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>1 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI – mean total score</td>
<td>15.7 (5.4)</td>
<td>14.6 (6.01)</td>
<td>18 (4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE Immunological tests</td>
<td>15 (100%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA positivity</td>
<td>15 (100%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complement component 3</td>
<td>15 (100%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complement component 4</td>
<td>15 (100%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-double stranded DNA positivity</td>
<td>204.08 (220.6)</td>
<td>59.2 (29.6)</td>
<td>431.2 (206.75)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6483
SLE, Sjön’s and APS - clinical aspects (other than treatment).

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures, Systemic lupus erythematosus.

R. Rex1, E. Hettel1, V. Strand2, S. May3. 1Sphero Global Insights, Market Research, Exton, United States of America; 2Stanford University, Immunology/ Rheumatology, Palo Alto, United States of America

Background: SLE patients present significant challenges in the management of their condition.

Objectives: This study aims to uncover differences in physician perceptions and real-world treatment patterns and outcomes among moderate to severely active patients in the EUS (France, Italy, Spain, Germany, and UK).

Methods: 1,279 moderate-to-severe (M/S) adult SLE patient records were collected in collaboration with 289 EUS rheumatologists via an online survey platform from November 2021 through January 2022.

Results: 22% of moderate-to-severe EUS SLE patients in the chart audit were receiving belimumab to treat their SLE. In half of those cases where patients were NOT on belimumab they were not considered good candidates for the therapy. The key reason for not initiating belimumab treatment being that patients were “well-controlled” on their current pharmacologic regimen. Closer inspection of these “well-controlled” patients (n=228) at the chart level revealed clinical aspects that highlight a potential gap in patient care. The majority of SLE patients in the “well-controlled” subset had moderately active disease, but over one-in-ten were classified with severe disease. On average, 40% of “well controlled” SLE patients had one or more flares over the past year. One-third of the “well controlled” patient subset suffers from at least one moderate-to-severe manifestation of their SLE, with musculoskeletal, dermatologic, and renal manifestations being most prevalent. 29% of “well controlled” patients have at least one moderate-to-severe symptom of their disease. These include pain/stiffness, fatigue, synovitis, malar rash, photosensitivity, edema, fever, and alopecia.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLE Disease Severity</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Severe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Well-controlled” patients</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE Flares (past year)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 flare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Well-controlled” patients</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe SLE Manifestations</td>
<td>Has at least one moderate-to-severe manifestation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Well-controlled” patients</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE Manifestation</td>
<td>Moderate-to-Severe Manifestation Severity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatologic</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Symptoms</td>
<td>Has at least one moderate-to-severe symptom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Well-controlled” patients</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom</td>
<td>Moderate-to-Severe Symptom Severity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain, stiffness</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synovitis</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malar rash</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photosensitivity</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edema</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further, one-third of “well controlled” SLE patients are on steroids, with 40% on a higher dose (>3mg/day) to control their disease. The mean overall dosage of the group was 9.4mg/day, a potentially harmful dosage particularly if used long term.

Figure 1.

Conclusion: EUS physicians’ perception of “well controlled” SLE may not align with some patients’ clinical reality. Use of belimumab or other advanced therapies in these cases may lead to improved patient outcomes and less reliance on steroids, which are often associated with adverse effects, even at low doses.

REFERENCES:

[1] At the time of fielding, anifrolumab had not yet been approved for treatment of SLE in the EUS.


“Timely administration of immunosuppressants, either biologics or non-biologics, should be performed for a better control of disease activity coupled with an early steroid sparing effect.”

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Ryan Rex; None declared, Emily Hettel; None declared, Vibeke Strand Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Aria, AstraZenerca, Bayer, Bioventus, Blackrock, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celtrion, Chemocentryx, Equillium, Gilead, Genentech/Roche, Genmark, GSK, Horizon, Immunex, Janssen, Kiniksa, Kyphra, Lilly, Merck, Millennium, Novartis, Pfizer, Provant, Regeneron, Rheos, R-Pharma, Samsung, Sandoz, Sanofi, Scipher, Setpoint, Sorrento, Spheryx, Tonix, Sawyer May: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.518

AB0566

TIGIT ACTIVATOR ALLOVIRATES SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS BY NEGATIVELY REGULATING TH1-LIKE TREG CELL DIFFERENTIATION

Keywords: Treat to target, Cell biology, Systemic lupus erythematosus

X. MA1, S. Yu1, J. Gu1, H. Jiang1, Y. Shan2. 1The First Hospital of China Medical University, Department of Pediatrics, Shen Yang, China; 2University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a heterogeneous inflammatory chronic autoimmune disorder characterized by autoimmune tolerance deficiency [1]. T Regulatory cells (Tregs) play an important role in maintaining immune homeostasis. In inflammatory setting, the plasticity of Tregs increased with acquiring effector T helper (Th) phenotype, resulting in the reduction of immunosuppressive ability. It is reported that the frequency of Th1-like Treg cells, which has low suppressive function, increased in autoimmune diseases [2]. T cells Immunoglobulin and Traftm domain (TIGIT) is a co-inhibitory receptor, which can suppress the response of effector T cells. It is identified that the expression of TIGIT on Tregs significantly decreased in SLE [3-4]. Interferon-α (IFN-α) is a crucial pleiotropic cytokine with a high level in SLE and can promote type I immune response. IFN-α depends on AKT/mTOR signaling while phosphorylating JAK/STAT pathway to regulate the polarization of Th1 [5].

Objectives: The study is to evaluate the characteristics and differentiation mechanisms of Th1-like Treg cells in SLE patients and the role of TIGIT in regulating immunosuppressive function.

Methods: The frequency of Foxp3+Tbet-Th1-like Tregs of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from SLE patients and healthy controls were analyzed by flow cytometry. PBMCs and CD4+ T cells were isolated and cultured under stimulation of IFN-γ and/or TIGIT activator. The expression of characteristic markers of Th1-like Tregs, and the activation of AKT/mTOR/STAT pathway were assessed using flow cytometry and PCR.

Results: Th1-like Tregs with low TIGIT expression expanded in SLE patients. IFN-α promoted the conversation of Tregs to Th1-like Tregs through phospho-rylated STAT4. TIGIT reactivation reversed the polarization of Th1-like Tregs and plasmablast differentiation induced by IFN-α through AKT/mTOR/STAT4 pathway. Conclusion: Our findings indicate that the expansion of Th1-like Tregs and the decreased expression of TIGIT may contribute to the tolerance deficiency in SLE. TIGIT can reverse IFN-α-induced Th1-like Tregs and the impairment of immunosuppressive function, which is a potential therapeutic target for SLE.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.619
AB0565

URIC ACID LEVELS, CARDIOVASCULAR RISK AND DISEASE ACTIVITY: THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Sjögren syndrome

A. Alunno1, F. Carubbi1, F.M. Mariani1, C. Marini1, E. Campanozz2, P. Altieri1, C. Forni1,10 Laboratory Medicine and Nephrology Division, University of Udine, Italy; Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, Udina, Italy

Background: Over the last decade, several observational studies provided evidence on the association between serum uric acid (SUA) levels and cardiovascular (CV) risk in the general population and identified SUA as a risk factor worth assessing in the setting of CV prevention also in patients without gout. Patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS), as those with other systemic autoimmune diseases, have a higher CV risk compared to the general population but studies assessing the role of SUA levels in the CV scenario of pSS are lacking.

Objectives: To explore the relationship between SUA levels, CV risk and CV events in patients with pSS and without gout and/or nephrolithiasis.

Methods: We retrospectively investigated pSS patients fulfilling the 2016 ACR/EULAR classification criteria. We recorded clinical, serological and CV-related variables while SUA levels were assessed at enrollment. In eligible patients (European individuals without previous CV events or diabetes) the 10-year risk of fatal and non-fatal CV disease events was calculated using the SCORE (individual aged 40-69 years) and SCORE2-OP (individuals aged over 70 years) risk prediction algorithms. Adherence to the Mediterranean Diet in the previous 12 months was also measured.

Results: We observed a strong relationship between disease activity, interstitial lung disease (ILD) and the occurrence of previous CV events in a cohort of 105 pSS patients. The association between ILD and CV events was dependent on higher SUA levels but independent of other traditional CV risk factors and on adherence to the Mediterranean diet. All 3 cases of previous non-fatal stroke were reported by female patients aged <65 years, with higher SUA levels and 2 of them also had pSS-ILD. Forty (51%) of the 79 patients eligible for the calculation of the 10-year risk of fatal and non-fatal CV risk had a risk higher than the cut-off recommended for their age, 6 (7%) have the same risk and showed the lowest levels of total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and triglycerides (all p<0.05). Only 10/23 (43%) patients have at least one CV risk factor and none of them showed more than 2 CV risk factors.

Conclusion: This study is the first to investigate in depth the role of SUA in the CV scenario of pSS. Our findings underline the importance of assessing SUA levels in pSS in addition to the other traditional CV risk factors and are in line with the ESC advise that although evidence to use the 1.5 correction factor in comparable tissue diseases is not yet solid enough to inform recommendations, it seems prudent to take into account the presence of such conditions when there is doubt regarding initiation of preventive interventions to ultimately achieve a better stratification and management of CV risk.

REFERENCES: [9]

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.644

AB0566

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF 86 CASES WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND ASEPTIC NECROSIS OF THE FEMORAL HEAD OR NON-FEMORAL HEAD AVASCULAR NECROSIS

Keywords: Comorbidities, Systemic lupus erythematosus

J. Tian1,1,1.1.1. First Affiliated Hospital of Xi’an Jiaotong University, Rheumatology and Immunology, Xi’an, China

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life, Real-world evidence

M. H. Fernandes Lourenço1,2, R. Pinheiro Torres1,2,3,2. Rodrigues-Manica4, V. Fraga1, C. Abreu1, R. Costa1, C. Matos1, B. Mendes1, B. Samões1, I. Silva1, F. M. Pimentel-Santos1,2,3,5, M. Costa1, J. Branco1,2,3, A. Sepriano1,2,3, Hospital Egas Moniz, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 1Novo Medical School, Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Lisboa, Portugal; 2Comprehensive Health Research Center, CHRC, Lisboa, Portugal; 3Hospital Garcia de Orta, Rheumatology, Almada, Portugal; 4Hospital de Santa Maria, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 5Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 6Centro Hospitalar de Vila Nova de Gaia/Espinho, Rheumatology, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life, Real-world evidence

M. H. Fernandes Lourenço1,2, R. Pinheiro Torres1,2,3,2. Rodrigues-Manica4, V. Fraga1, C. Abreu1, R. Costa1, C. Matos1, B. Mendes1, B. Samões1, I. Silva1, F. M. Pimentel-Santos1,2,3,5, M. Costa1, J. Branco1,2,3, A. Sepriano1,2,3, Hospital Egas Moniz, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 1Novo Medical School, Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Lisboa, Portugal; 2Comprehensive Health Research Center, CHRC, Lisboa, Portugal; 3Hospital Garcia de Orta, Rheumatology, Almada, Portugal; 4Hospital de Santa Maria, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 5Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 6Centro Hospitalar de Vila Nova de Gaia/Espinho, Rheumatology, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

Background: Due to its multisystemic involvement, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) can have a significant impact on patients’ quality of life (QoL). Sexual dysfunction is a key component of QoL but is often underestimated. Little is known about sexual dysfunction in SLE patients, a condition that primarily affects women during their fertile age.

Objectives: We aimed at determining the prevalence of sexual dysfunction among women with SLE and predictors thereof.

Methods: We performed a cross-sectional multicenter study in which women (18-70 years-old) with a clinical diagnosis of SLE (according to their treating rheumatologist) were included. An anonymous online questionnaire of them is similar, though the onset timing, symptoms and signs, and other clinical characteristics are different.

Objectives: To compare the clinical characteristics of SLE combined with symptomatic ONFH and AVN.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed the clinical data of 86 cases of SLE with symptomatic ONFH and AVN treated in the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology of The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi’an Jiaotong University from April 2013 to December 2021, and compared the similarities and differences between them.

Results: A total of 2730 patients with SLE were reviewed, including 60 patients combined with ONFH (male 9, female 51) and 26 patients combined with AVN (male 2, female 24). Morbidity of ONFH was significantly higher than AVN. Compared with AVN group, the course of SLE was longer (71.33±5.33 vs 48.69±35.11) months, the size of glucocorticoids (GCs) use was longer (674.7±51.71 vs 377.7±42.73) months, and the cumulative dosage of GCs was larger (9.1±5.46 vs 6.0±2.66) g in ONFH group. SLEDAI score was lower in ONFH group than in AVN group (2.57±3.39 vs 4.46±4.81). The ONFH group had more Raynaud’s phenomenon and lower serum Vitamin-D3 level compared with AVN group. Anti-cardiolipin antibodies (ACA) positive (15.38%) and edema as the initial symptom (46.15%) were more common in AVN group. Bilateral lesions were more common in ONFH group (88.33% vs 42.31%). All of the above differences were significant (P<0.05).

Conclusion: Our results indicate that the long time and large cumulative dose exposure of GCs, stable SLE state, Raynaud’s phenomenon and low Vit-D3 value are more suggestive of ONFH than AVN. ACA positive and edema as an initial symptom are just the reverse.

REFERENCES: [1]

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.738

AB0567

SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life, Real-world evidence

M. H. Fernandes Lourenço1,2, R. Pinheiro Torres1,2,3,2. Rodrigues-Manica4, V. Fraga1, C. Abreu1, R. Costa1, C. Matos1, B. Mendes1, B. Samões1, I. Silva1, F. M. Pimentel-Santos1,2,3,5, M. Costa1, J. Branco1,2,3, A. Sepriano1,2,3, Hospital Egas Moniz, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 1Novo Medical School, Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Lisboa, Portugal; 2Comprehensive Health Research Center, CHRC, Lisboa, Portugal; 3Hospital Garcia de Orta, Rheumatology, Almada, Portugal; 4Hospital de Santa Maria, Rheumatology, Lisboa, Portugal; 5Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 6Centro Hospitalar de Vila Nova de Gaia/Espinho, Rheumatology, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

Background: Due to its multisystemic involvement, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) can have a significant impact on patients’ quality of life (QoL). Sexual dysfunction is a key component of QoL but is often underestimated. Little is known about sexual dysfunction in SLE patients, a condition that primarily affects women during their fertile age.

Objectives: We aimed at determining the prevalence of sexual dysfunction among women with SLE and predictors thereof.

Methods: We performed a cross-sectional multicenter study in which women (18-70 years-old) with a clinical diagnosis of SLE (according to their treating rheumatologist) were included. An anonymous online questionnaire...
was performed where data on demographics (e.g., age), symptoms of depression and anxiety [Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS)], health-related QoL (Short Form Health Survey Index 36 Item (SF36)) and sexual function [Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI)] - a 19-item patient-report outcome that assesses female sexual function]) were collected. Data on clinical features (disease activity according to the Safety of Estrogens in Lupus National Assessment-SLE Disease Activity Index (SELENA-SLEDAI), organ involvement and evaluation of comorbidity (Charlson Comorbidity Index)] and on treatment status were collected from medical records.

The main outcome was sexual dysfunction, defined as FSFI<26.5 (validated cut-off). A multivariable logistic regression was performed to test the association of clinical and demographic characteristics with sexual dysfunction (present vs absent).

**Results:** In total, 194 female patients with SLE were included (mean age 44 years-old [standard deviation (SD) 11]). The mean SELENA-SLEDAI score was 1.7 (SD 2.2), corresponding to low disease activity, and 94% of patients were on classical disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs. The mean value of HADS was 9 (0–21), for both depression and anxiety scores. Regarding SF36, the mental component had a mean value of 61 (0–100) and the physical one of 70 (0–100). Sexual dysfunction was present in 128 (66%) patients. In the multivariable analysis (Table 1), older age (OR: 1.04; 95% CI: 1.01; 1.07), higher SELENA-SLEDAI (OR: 0.96; 95% CI: 0.91; 1.01), higher HADS depression score (OR: 1.20; 95% CI: 1.01; 1.43), as well as a lower (that is, worse) SF36 mental component score (OR: 0.97; 95% CI: 0.95; 0.98) were independently associated with sexual dysfunction.

**Conclusion:** Sexual dysfunction is common in women with SLE and is influenced by both physical and mental health components. Clinicians should consider both for the optimal management of their patients in order to improve their sexual QoL.

Table 1. Factors associated with sexual dysfunction in female patients with SLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>Multivariable analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Univariable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=192-194</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.04 (1.01;1.07)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>1.04 (1.01;1.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menopause (yes vs no)</td>
<td>2.38 (1.11;5.61)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>2.38 (1.11;5.61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELENA-SLEDAI</td>
<td>1.09 (0.94;1.28)</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>1.18 (1.01;1.40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCI</td>
<td>1.39 (1.02;2.06)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>1.39 (1.02;2.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMARDS (yes vs no)</td>
<td>0.85 (0.30;2.59)</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.85 (0.30;2.59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cDMARDS (yes vs no)</td>
<td>0.16 (0.01;0.87)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.16 (0.01;0.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids (yes vs no)</td>
<td>1.15 (0.63;2.09)</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>1.15 (0.63;2.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADS Anxiety</td>
<td>1.19 (1.04;1.38)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.19 (1.04;1.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Mental</td>
<td>0.97 (0.95;0.98)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>0.97 (0.95;0.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Physical</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98;1.00)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98;1.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Not selected in the univariable model (p>0.25);†Not selected in the multivariable model (p>0.05). CC, Charlson Comorbidity Index;DMARDS, classic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs; cDMARDS, classic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOl:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.933
Fatigue was significantly more common among Kazakhs (94%) and Kyrgyz (86%) than among Russians (63%) pts (Table 1). Fatigue strongly associated with SLE activity.

**Table 1. Frequency of anxiety and depression in different ethnic groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>n=384</th>
<th>n=574</th>
<th>n=102</th>
<th>n=1061</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh 1</td>
<td>143 (13%)</td>
<td>233 (21%)</td>
<td>40 (39%)</td>
<td>619 (58%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh 2</td>
<td>304 (29%)</td>
<td>520 (49%)</td>
<td>81 (79%)</td>
<td>1060 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian 1</td>
<td>233 (21%)</td>
<td>304 (29%)</td>
<td>52 (51%)</td>
<td>1061 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian 2</td>
<td>304 (29%)</td>
<td>520 (49%)</td>
<td>81 (79%)</td>
<td>1060 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Frequency of fatigue in different ethnic groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>N=386</th>
<th>N=573</th>
<th>N=102</th>
<th>N=1061</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh 1</td>
<td>no or little fatigue, 52-40</td>
<td>146 (37%)</td>
<td>222 (39%)</td>
<td>304 (29%)</td>
<td>520 (49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian 1</td>
<td>quite a lot of fatigue, 26-14</td>
<td>143 (13%)</td>
<td>233 (21%)</td>
<td>40 (39%)</td>
<td>619 (58%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Fatigue are common (79%) in SLE pts and significantly higher among Asians pts (86-94%). Fatigue strongly associated with SLE activity.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**doi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1133

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**AB0570**

**RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND DISEASE ACTIVITY IN ASIANS SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: PATIENTS FROM KAZAKHSTAN AND KIRGHIZSTAN**

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Systemic lupus erythematosus

**B. Issayeva**, G. Kolubaeva, A. Aseeva, N. Nikishina, A. Mesnyankina, S. Soloviyev, S. Issayeva, M. Bichanova, A. Bichan. Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University, Rheumatology, Almaty, Kazakhstan; National Center of Cardiology and Internal Medicine named after Academician M. Mirshaimov (NCICM), Rheumatology, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; RHEUMATOLOGY, Federal State Research Institution (FSRI) named after V.A. Nasonova, Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation

**Background:** Depression and anxiety cause severe loss of quality of life for patients with systemic lupus erythematosus. The causes and factors that contribute to these psychological manifestations in lupus are difficult to disentangle.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to determine factors associated with anxiety and depression in Asians systemic lupus erythematosus patients (pts) from Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan.

**Methods:** 1060 SLE pts who fulfilled SLICC 2012 criteria were enrolled into the study. The SLLEDAI 2K index activity, SLLEDAI damage index, depressive and anxiety symptoms were assessed by the Hospital Anxiety and Depression (HAD) scale (0-21 points).

**Results:** 1060 Lupus pts were studied, respectively. The pts were predominantly female (92%) and of indigenous nationality (Kazakh 10%, Kirghiz 54%/Russian 36%) with a mean SO age 34.6±11.8 years. The mean disease duration (Me) was 4 [1;9], the disease activity (SLLEDAI 2K) 13.23±8.74, SLLEDAI damage index 1.36±0.82. More than half of the pts (619 [58.3%]) had abnormal points by HADS scale. 304 (29%) pts had abnormal points by HADS scale. 156 (41%) pts had abnormal HADS-A ≥ 8 points and 42 (41%) pts had abnormal HADS-D ≥ 8 points. 304 (29%) pts had abnormal HADS-A ≥ 8 points and 81 (79%) pts had abnormal HADS-D ≥ 8 points. The pts with abnormal HADS-A were older (36.0±12.1 versus 31.5±11.86 years; p=0.002), with disease onset at a more later age (31.5±11.86 versus 26.4±12.69 years; p=0.0002), with higher SLE activity by SLLEDAI 2 K (14.78±8.59 versus 12.22±8.30; p=0.01). The pts with abnormal HADS were treated with higher doses of glucocorticoids (22.33±12.6 versus 18.5±12.0 mg per day; p=0.005).

**Conclusion:** Fatigue and anxiety symptoms are common (58,3%) in SLE pts and significantly higher among Asians pts (46%). Such factors as pts age, age of SLE onset, duration of illness, SLEDAI ≥ 2 K, and dosage of corticosteroids were strongly associated with abnormal HADS.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**doi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1133

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**AB0571**

**DO ADULT WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS REACH FITNESS STANDARDS FOR MAINTAINING PHYSICAL INDEPENDENCE IN LATER LIFE? ASSOCIATIONS WITH FATIGUE AT 2-YEAR FOLLOW-UP**

**Keywords:** Non-pharmacological interventions, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Lifestyles

B. Gavilán Carrera, A. Soriano Maldonado, J. A. Vargas-Hitos; Hospital Universitario Virgen de las Nieves, Departamento de Medicina Interna, Granada, Spain; Instituto de Investigación Biosanitaria, Ibs.GRANADA, Granada, Spain; University of Almería, Department of Education, Almería, Spain; University of Almería, SPORT Research Group (CTS-1024), CERNEP Research Center, Almería, Spain

**Background:** Maintaining physical fitness (i.e. muscle strength and cardiorespiratory fitness) is a key factor in preserving independence in later years [1]. Because people with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) present with reduced fitness levels [2,3], this population could be at risk of premature loss of independence. In addition, higher levels of physical fitness have been related to better SLE symptomatology, including fatigue [2,3], one of the most limiting symptoms. However, it is unclear whether physical fitness have a predictive role on future levels of fatigue in this population.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to analyze, in a sample of adult women with SLE: i) the proportion of participants that reach the proposed standards of fitness for muscle strength and cardiorespiratory fitness to maintain independence in the later life and ii) the association between reaching these standards of fitness and fatigue levels at 2-year follow-up.

**Methods:** This follow-up study included a total of 26 women with SLE (age: 41.3±13.3 years) with low disease activity index (Systemic lupus erythematosus disease activity index (SLEDAI): mean 10±1.9). The 30-s chair stand and 6-min walk tests from the Senior Fitness Test Battery were used to assess muscle strength and cardiorespiratory fitness. The percentage of participants reaching the criterion-reference for women 60-64 years old (15 repetitions [in the 30-s chair stand test] and 571,5 meters [in the 6-min walk test]) was calculated. Linear regression models adjusted by age were used to analyze the association of reaching the fitness criterion-reference and fatigue levels at 2-year follow-up. Five dimensions of fatigue (general, physical, reduced activity, reduced motivation and mental fatigue) were assessed using the multidimensional Fatigue Inventory (MFI).

**Results:** A total of 42.3% participants did not reach the criterion-reference for muscle strength and 50% of participants did not reach the criterion-reference for cardiorespiratory fitness. Reaching the criterion-reference for cardiorespiratory fitness was associated with lower physical fatigue at 2-year follow-up (β=-0.55, P<0.05). There was no association with other dimensions of fatigue or reaching the criterion-reference for muscle strength.

**Conclusion:** In this relatively small sample of adult women with SLE, up to half of participants have reduced physical fitness that exposed them to a premature loss of functioning and independence in their later life. Reaching a minimum level for cardiorespiratory fitness, but not for muscle strength, predicted lower physical fatigue in the future. Exercise interventions aimed at increasing physical fitness
could be a promising approach to reduce the decline in functioning and contrib-
ute to lower fatigue in this population.

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[1] Riki RE, Jones CJ. Development and validation of criterion-referenced clin-
ically relevant fitness standards for maintaining physical independence in later
[2] Balsamo S, da Mota LMH, de Carvalho JF, Nascimento D da C, Tibana RA, 
Santos de Santana F, et al. Low dynamic muscle strength and its associ-
ations with fatigue, functional performance, and quality of life in premeno-

Figure 1: Immunohistochmical staining of left atrial appendage

Table 1: Clinical and Tissue analysis of LA appendage

CONCLUSION: A comparison of SLE and RA patients complicated with heart
disease revealed that the SLE patients tend to be younger at diagnosis than RA
patients and had a longer morbidity period. It is possible that various autoan-
tibodies, such as antiphospholipid antibodies, anti-Ro/SSA antibodies, and
anti-U1RNP antibodies were involved and had immunological effects on the
myocardial tissue. In contrast, in RA patients complicated with heart disease, the
autoantibodies observed in SLE were negative, and immunoglobulins were not
deposited in the myocardial tissue of the RA patients who underwent surgery,
suggesting that immunological involvement was poor and older diagnostic age
was involved.

REFERENCES:
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matism 2013; 43: 77-95
Breastfeeding avoidance in women with SLE is frequently the result of a confluence of individual preference, clinical advice, and societal context. An implementation of patients-to-patients network, together with an update of health practitioners, may help to increase the frequency of breastfeeding in women with SLE and subsequently improve patients’ care.

In Figure 1 implementation points suggested by patients.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: Outcome measures, Health services research, Skin
literature review. Interviews included open-ended and semi-structured questions on CLE diagnosis and their patients’ signs/symptoms, and data were evaluated by thematic analysis. Two quantitative activities were conducted: first, clinicians sorted a list of skin signs/symptoms as 1) not characteristic, 2) moderately characteristic, or 3) highly characteristic of CLE or cutaneous SLE disease activity. Second, they classified CLE signs/symptoms as most closely associated with CCLE/DLE, SCLE orACLE. Data were analyzed using an inferential (ranking task) or formal (classification task) consensus model.

Results: Eleven dermatologists and 10 rheumatologists (US n=13; Europe n=8) were interviewed. Most dermatologists (70%) had 5–10 years experience managing patients with CLE; 56% of rheumatologists had 21–25 years’ experience. The most frequently mentioned signs included erythema/rash (100%), malar rash (71%), palpable lesions (57%) and scale (57%). Photosensitivity (76%), itch (62%) and skin pain (57%) were the most frequently mentioned symptoms. Of the 33 skin signs presented, both specialties ranked photosensitive rash (weighted average dermatologist score 2.80; rheumatologist score 2.95) and erythema (2.95; 2.81) highest. However, some key differences were identified. For example, dermatologists ranked polycyclic (2.72) and annular (2.61) lesions (typical of SCLE) as highly characteristic of CLE, but rheumatologists ranked them as low or moderately characteristic (1.55 and 2.23, respectively). Also, dermatologists ranked markers of DLE, such as follicular plugging (2.68 and 2.36), higher than rheumatologists. Consensus analysis showed robust agreement between dermatologists (effect size ratio 17.95; average competence 0.86) and modest agreement between rheumatologists (6.13; 0.67) in classifying skin manifestations by CLE subtype. Manifestations with the strongest agreement included acute alopeia (ACLE n=20; SCLE n=0; CCLE/DLE n=1), malar rash (n=21; n=0; n=0, respectively), dyspigmation without scarrring (n=1; n=18; n=2), psoriasiform annular plaques (n=0; n=18; n=1), and irreversible scarring alopecia (n=0; n=21; n=0). Variation was evident for signs more often associated with SCLE, including non-scarring photosensitive dermatitis (n=8; n=13; n=0). Multidimensional scaling showed notable differences in consensus between dermatologists and rheumatologists; while coherent clusters of symptoms were mapped to the CLE subtypes by dermatologists, the pattern for rheumatologists was more diffuse, suggesting a less consistent conceptualization of SCLE and CCLE.

Conclusion: Despite agreement on the importance of erythema and characterization of CLE as a photosensitive rash, differences between the specialties were apparent when rating CLE signs that typically accompany non-systemic, cutaneous disease. This might reflect increased training among dermatologists in clinical-histopathologic description of lesions. The conceptual model proposed will facilitate efforts to design measurement approaches to evaluate disease activity in clinical research and practice.

Acknowledgements: This study was sponsored by Merck Healthcare KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, who funded medical writing support by Bioscript Group Ltd, Macclesfield, UK. ICON Clinical Research LLC were contracted to conduct the study and KGA was responsible for the conduct of the study.


Background: Health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is impaired in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients, but its association with physicians reported disease activity is modest to none.

Objectives: To determine the impact of patients reported disease activity on their HRQoL.

Methods: We evaluated patient-reported disease activity on SLE patients from the Almenara Lupus Cohort. Disease activity was assessed using the Lupus Foundation of America Rapid Evaluation of Activity in Lupus (LFA-REAL) patient-reported outcome (PRO) which ranges between 0 and 1200 (the higher the score is, the worse the activity is); HRQoL was ascertained using the LupusQoL which ranges between 0 and 100 (the higher the score is, the better the HRQoL). Generalized estimating equations were performed for each domain of the LupusQoL and the LFA-REAL PRO measured at the previous visit; multivariable models were adjusted for possible confounders (age at diagnosis, gender, educational level, disease duration, SLEDAI/2K, SDI, prednisone dose, antimalarials and immunosuppressive drug use and the same domain of LupusQoL) measured at the same visit as the LFA-REAL PRO. B was reported per 10 units increase of the LFA-REAL PRO.

Results: A total of 259 patients and 582 visits were included. Mean (SD) LFA-REAL PRO was 242.91 (178.92). The most affected LupusQoL domains at baseline were burden to others 575 (SD 315), intimate relationship 64.1 (SD 33.1) and body image 62.6 (SD 30.7). LFA-REAL PRO predicted a worse HRQoL in all domains, even after adjustment by possible confounders (Table 1).

Conclusion: A higher patient-reported disease activity predicted a worse HRQoL in SLE patients, even after adjustment for possible confounders. Strategies to improve how the patients feel and manage their disease could be useful to improve their HRQoL. Patient-reported disease activity should be included in the evaluation of SLE patients on a regular basis.

Table 1. Impact of LFA-REAL PRO per 10-unit increase on HRQoL in SLE patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HRQoL domains</th>
<th>Univariable</th>
<th>Multivariable*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B (SE)</td>
<td>p value</td>
<td>B (SE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical health</td>
<td>-0.74 (0.06)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>-0.89 (0.06)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>-0.81 (0.06)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimate relationship</td>
<td>-0.58 (0.10)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burden to others</td>
<td>-0.59 (0.09)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional health</td>
<td>-0.70 (0.07)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body image</td>
<td>-0.47 (0.09)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>-0.77 (0.06)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SE: Standard error. * Multivariable models were adjusted by age at diagnosis, gender, educational level, disease duration, SLEDAI/2K, SDI, prednisone dose, antimalarials and immunosuppressive drug use and the same domain of LupusQoL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interest: Manuel F. Ugarte-Gil Speakers bureau: GSK, Consultant of: Actza Zeneica, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Rocío Violeta Gameboa Cárdenas: None declared, Victor Pimentel-Quirio: None declared, Cristina Reategui Sokolova: None declared, Claudia Elera-Fitzcarrald: None declared, Erik Aulozano: None declared.

M. F. Ugarte-Gil 1, 2, R. V. Gameboa Cárdenas 1, 2, V. Pimentel-Quirio 1, 2, C. Reategui Sokolova 3, C. Elera-Fitzcarrald 4, J. Aulozano 2, C. Pastor Asuero 2, D. Rodríguez Bellido 2, J. G. Alarcón 5, 6, 7, Universidad Científica del Sur, Grupo Peruano de Estudio de Enfermedades Autoinmunes Sistémicas, Lima, Peru; 2Hospital Guillermo Almenara-Irigoyen, EsSalud, Rheumatology, Lima, Peru; 3Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola, Unidad de Investigación para la Generación y Síntesis de Evidencias en Salud, Lima, Peru; 4Universidad Privada San Juan Bautista, Escuela Profesional de Medicina Humana, Ica, Peru; 5Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, School of Medicine, Lima, Peru; 6The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Heersink School of Medicine, Alabama, United States of America; 7Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, School of Medicine, Lima, Peru.

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Undifferentiated connective tissue disease.
Background: A large body of evidence has shown that type I IFN (IFN-I) biomarkers are associated with worse clinical features within each ANA-associated rheumatic disease (ARMD). IFN-I biomarkers also predict response to IFN-targeted and other therapies. DEFINITION is an observational study to explore the clinical associations of IFN biomarkers across the disease course and spectrum of ARMDs. This is a preliminary analysis for the subsection on the spectrum of established ARMD.

Objectives: To determine whether patients with high IFN-I biomarkers have greater impact of disease including disease activity, functional impairment and quality of life.

Methods: Adults with current or previous positive ANA and either criteria for any ARMD (SLE, pSS, IIM, SSC, MCTD) or consultant diagnosis of ARMD (may be undifferentiated if symptoms>12 months and/or treated with immunosuppressants. We collected demographics, deprivation, participation, cardiovascular risk and comorbidity variables, diagnostic criteria for each ARMD, quality of life and other patient-reported outcome measures, and therapies. Disease activity was summarised using a composite of validated instruments to classify each organ system as severe, moderate, mild or inactive (equal to BILAG A/D/E for SLE). IFN-I pathway activation was measured using gene expression IFN Score A and B and memory B cell tcellin. We used Spearman correlations and unsupervised hierarchical clustering and to find associations between clinical outcomes and IFN-I biomarkers.

Results: Of 294 patients, 23/294 (18%) were male, mean (SD) age was 50 (14), index of multiple deprivation decile 4.3 (3.1), Charlson comorbidity index 2.1 (1.5). Current therapy was prednisolone (24.5%), hydroxychloroquine (45.2%), methotrexate (17.7%), mycophenolate (11.9%), azathioprine (10.2%), rituximab (8.5%), cyclophosphamide (0.3%). 104 patients had SLE, 111 had UCTD, 33 and pSS, 19 had myositis, 14 had SSC and 13 had MCTD. There was a significant association between ARMD diagnosis and IFN Score A (F= 2.52, p=0.030) and memory B cell tcellin (F= 4.34, p<0.001) but not IFN Score B (F=0.66, p=0.653). In pairwise correlations only one weak relationship between SF36 PCS and memory B cell tcellin was found (R=0.33, p<0.001). No substantive relationship was found between gene expression scores and clinical features. However, unsupervised hierarchical clustering across all ARMD patients yielded 5 clusters of patients with a significant role for sociodemographic variables that revealed further relationships between IFN biomarkers and disease activity Cluster 1: mild symptoms, low comorbidity, high affluence; Cluster 2: older, high comorbidity, high affluence; Cluster 3: younger, low affluence, poor QoL; Cluster 4: higher tcellin and BILAG; Cluster 5: low IFN and BILAG.

Conclusion: There are complex relationships between IFN and clinical features across the spectrum of ARMDs. This is confounded by socioeconomic variables, which must be considered in stratification studies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


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AB0577 LEFT VENTRICULAR DYSYNNCHRONY IN SUBJECTS WITH DIFFERENT SLE PHENOTYPES

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease

F. Shahab1, H. Zachrisson2, C. Svensson2, M. Ånegård2, C. Sjöwall3, D. Kyllhammar1, Linköping University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Linköping, Sweden; 2Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Department of Clinical Physiology, Linköping, Sweden; 3Division of Neuro and Inflammation Sciences, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Linköping, Sweden

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease with highly heterogenous clinical presentation involving, e.g., skin, joints, kidneys and the cardiovascular system. In prospective studies, the incidence rates of myocardial affection and stroke in patients with SLE have been shown to be higher. But, more knowledge is needed regarding early myocardial involvement and affection of the right ventricle in different SLE phenotypes.

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to investigate differences of left- and right ventricular systolic function in three, well-defined SLE phenotypes, i.e. skin- and joint involvement, lupus nephritis antiphospholipid syndrome (APS), respectively.

Methods: Transthoracic echocardiograms were performed in 60 subjects with SLE (three age- and sex-matched groups of subjects with either skin- and joint involvement, lupus nephritis or APS, respectively) included in the SLEVASK[1] cohort which represents a subgroup of the regional quality register Clinical Lupus Register in North-Eastern Gothia (Swedish acronym: KLURING). There were 54 women and 6 men, and the median age was 49.5 (range 29-68) years. Left- and right ventricular longitudinal and left ventricular mechanical dispersion, defined as the standard deviation of time to maximal myocardial shortening were measured by a commercially available software. Three subjects with clinically manifest heart failure were excluded.

Results: There were no significant differences in left- or right ventricular dimen-
sions, left ventricular ejection fraction or measures of right ventricular systolic function between the three groups. Left ventricular global longitudinal strain was reduced in subjects with nephritis (p=0.012), as compared to those with skin- and joint involvement and there was a trend for lower strain also among subjects with APS (p=0.078). Left ventricular mechanical dispersion was increased among subjects with APS (p=0.015) and nephritis (p=0.032), as compared to those with skin- and joint involvement (Table 1).

Conclusion: Reduced left ventricular global longitudinal strain and greater mechanical dispersion, a sign of a more heterogeneous contraction, among SLE patients with nephritis and APS indicate more severe cardiac involvement, as compared to those with skin- and joint involvement. A greater degree of mechanical dispersion is thought to reflect myocardial fibrosis and future studies should investigate the pathogenesis of such sub-clinical impairment of cardiac function in SLE and its impact on long-term prognosis.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lupus nephritis</th>
<th>APS</th>
<th>Joint- and skin involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LVEDD (mm²)</td>
<td>26 (25-28)</td>
<td>26 (24-27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVESV (ml³)</td>
<td>58 (46-65)</td>
<td>53 (55-62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVEF (%)</td>
<td>57 (56-59)</td>
<td>57 (55-59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV-GLS (%)</td>
<td>-20 (21-18)</td>
<td>-20 (21-19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULM (ms)</td>
<td>38 (31-46)</td>
<td>38 (32-50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVOTD (mm)</td>
<td>32 (27-34)</td>
<td>32 (37-36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVITD (mm)</td>
<td>35 (31-36)</td>
<td>36 (31-38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVF/S (cm²)</td>
<td>13 (11-16)</td>
<td>13 (11-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV-GLS (%)</td>
<td>-22 (-24-20)</td>
<td>-21 (-23-19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV-FWS (%)</td>
<td>-26 (-27-24)</td>
<td>-25 (-27-23)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are median with interquartile range (IQR). Abbreviations: LVEDD = left ventricular end-diastolic diameter index; LVESV = left ventricular end-diastolic volume index; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; ULM = left ventricular global longitudinal strain; UNM = left ventricular mechanical dispersion; ns = not significant; RVOT = Right ventricular outflow tract diameter; RVITD = Right ventricular inflow tract diameter; TAPSE = tricuspid annular plane systolic.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0578 LATIN-AMERICAN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS CLUSTERS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Registries, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is heterogeneous autoimmune disease. Identification of patient clusters may be useful for the management of the disease.

Objectives: To describe different SLE clusters according to sociodemographic, clinical and serological variables.

Methods: GLADEL 2.0 was an ongoing Latin-American observational cohort initiated in 2019. Variables chosen at cohort entry to stratify patients and construct clusters were selected from sociodemographic and cumulative clinical and serological variables. Hierarchical cluster analyses were performed by the Ward method on a distance matrix using the Gower’s method.

Results: A total of 560 SLE patients were included in this analysis. Three clusters were identified. Cluster 1 (n=269) was characterized by more cutaneous, articular, renal and serosal involvement; serological manifestation was positive for antiphospholipid antibodies (aPLs). Cluster 2 (n=194) was represented by patients who rarely had renal involvement and the most frequent clinical manifestations were cutaneous and hematological; the most frequent serological manifestations were the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies (aPLs). Cluster 3 (n=97) was characterized by a lower frequency of clinical and serological involvements, with the exception of neurological domain. Cluster 1 and 2 share hematological manifestations and hypocoomplementemia (Table 1).

Conclusion: In this cohort, three patient clusters were identified. Cluster 1 patients were characterized by renal, articular, cutaneous and serositis involvement, anti-dsDNA antibodies and hypocoomplementemia. Cluster 2 patients were characterized by hematologic, cutaneous involvement, aPLs and hypocoomplementemia. Cluster 3 patients presented fewer serological findings but a higher frequency of neurological involvement. Follow up of these patients will allow for elucidation of relationship of these clusters with SLE outcomes.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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Harvey; None declared, Marina Scolnik: None declared, Nidia Meras: None declared, Cintra Otaduy: None declared, Elisa Novatti: None declared, Valerie Arturi: None declared, Maria Emilia Satller: None declared, Guillermo Pisoni: None declared, Luciana Gonzalez Lucero: None declared, Wilfredo Patiño Grageda: None declared, Nicolas Perez: None declared, Cecilia Pisoni: None declared, Ana Carolina de Oliveira e Silva Montandon: None declared, Odrielly Monticielo: None declared, Angela Duarte: None declared, Francine Machado Ribeiro: None declared, Emily Figueredo Neves Yuki: None declared, Edgard Reis Neto: None declared, Iris Guerra Herrera: None declared, Milena Mimica: None declared, Gustavo Aroca Martinez: None declared, Gabriel J. Tobon: None declared, GERARDO QUINTANA LOPEZ. None declared, Andres Cadena Bonfanti: None declared, Mario Javier MORENO ALVAREZ: None declared, Miguel A Saavedra: None declared, Margarita Portela: None declared, Hilda Fragoso loyo: None declared, Luis Humberto Silveira Torre: None declared, JUAN IGNACIO GARCIA VALLADARES: None declared, Carlos Abud-Mendoza: None declared, Jorge Antonio Esquivel Valerio: None declared, Maria Martinez: None declared, Margarita Duarte: None declared, CLAUDIA MORA: None declared, Manuel F. Ugarte-Gil: None declared, Ernesto Zaval: None declared, Roberto Muñoz Louis: None declared, RICARDO ROBAINA: None declared, Vicente Juarez: None declared, Gonzalo Silveira: None declared, Eduardo Borba: None declared, Luis Cattegno: None declared, Graciela S Alarcon: None declared, Federico Zazzetti: Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, and Johnson & Johnson, Horsham, PA, USA, Ashley Orillon Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Spring House, PA, USA, Urbano Sbarigia Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, Beerse, BE, Bernardo Pons-Estel: None declared.

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AB0579

ASSOCIATION OF RACE OR ETHNICITY WITH MEDICATION ADHERENCE IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues, Systemic lupus erythematosus

R. Lomanto Silva1, G. M Swabe2, S. E. Sattui3, J. W Magnani4. 1University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 2University of Pittsburgh, Internal Medicine, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 3University of Pittsburgh Medical, Rheumatology, Pittsburgh, United States of America; 4University of Pittsburgh, Cardiology, Pittsburgh, United States of America

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) causes significant disease burden. Racial and ethnic differences in outcomes have been recognized, with increased morbidity and mortality in Black and Hispanic individuals, compared to non-Hispanic White referents. Financial barriers to treatment, such as copayments (or copays), may affect adherence to essential pharmacologic therapies, contributing to increased health adversity. Determining the contribution of copays to adherence may identify disparities in medication access and pathways to improve adherence.

Objectives: To examine the association between race or ethnicity and medication adherence.

Methods: We used administrative health claims data (Optum's De-identified Clininformatics® Data Mart Database, 2007-2021) to identify individuals with incident SLE (2 ICD-9/10 codes within 30-365 days) between 2010-19 receiving methotrexate (MTX), or combination therapy (HCQ with AZA, MMF, or MTX). Adherence was not significant (p >0.05). Treatment and prescription data were available for individuals with complete data (n=1720).

Results: We identified 12,510 individuals: age 54.2±15.5 years; 88.2% women; 10.1±4.7 years since first SLE diagnosis; 10.1±4.7 years since first lupus medication prescription. Of 9510 (76%) were on HCQ and 15% on combination therapy. Median (IQR) ≥$10 vs <$10 Copay OR (95% CI); P value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Interaction p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AZA (n=690)</td>
<td>0.67 (0.23-1.44); 0.18 0.37 (0.17-0.81); 0.01 0.43 (0.17-1.11); 0.08</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCG (n=862)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.004</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMF (n=756)</td>
<td>1.53 (0.66-3.53); 0.32</td>
<td>0.73 (0.50-1.13); 0.004</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX (n=518)</td>
<td>0.70 (0.29-2.43); 0.71</td>
<td>0.11 (0.57-1.25); 0.77</td>
<td>0.13 (0.67-2.78); 0.41</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination Therapy (n=1720)</td>
<td>1.04 (0.53-2.02); 0.91</td>
<td>0.65 (0.55-0.94); 0.70</td>
<td>0.48 (0.13-3.03); 0.97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjusted for age, sex, Elixhauser comorbidities, tobacco use, antiphospholipid syndrome, education attainment, annual household income, insurance type, and US geographic region.

Acknowledgements: This work is supported by K24HL160527.

Disclosure of Interests: Raisa Lomanto Silva: None declared, Gretchen M Swabe: None declared, Sebastian E. Sattui Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Award, outside of the submitted work., Jared W Magnani: None declared.

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AB0580

PREGNANCY OUTCOMES IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE): DATA FROM A MULTIETHNIC, MULTINATIONAL LATIN AMERICAN COHORT

Keywords: Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Pregnancy and reproduction, Systemic lupus erythematosus


1Rosario, Centro Regional de Enfermedades Autoinmunes y Reumaticas (GO-CREAR), Rosario, Argentina; 2Hospital Córdoba, Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina; 3Hospital General de Agudos, Carlos G. Durand, Rheumatology Department, CABA, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 4GLADEL, statistician, Rosario, Argentina; 5Hospital Escuela Eva Peron,” Servicio de Reumatologia, Granadero Baigorria, Argentina; 6Hospital Padilla, Servicio de Reumatologia, San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina; 7Hospital de las Clinicas, Universidad Federal de Goias, Goias, Brazil; 8Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Rheumatology Division, Department of Internal Medicine, Porto Alegre, Brazil;
Objectives: To study SLE pregnancy outcomes in LA:

Methods: GLADEL 2.0 is an observational prevalent/incident cohort started in 2019. To date, 43 centers from 10 LA countries have enrolled 1030 SLE patients (1982/1997 ACR or SLICC criteria). Women with ≥1 pregnancy were included. Past and ongoing (6, 12, 24 months follow-up) OM (miscarriages, fetal deaths, preeclampsia, prematurity, neonatal lupus) were evaluated.

Results: At inclusion, 329 women had had at least one pregnancy [median (IQR): 2 (1-3)]. Table 1. Of them, 293 (89.1%) had ≥1 live birth and 183 (55.6%) developed OM. Preeclampsia occurred in 49 (14.9%). Among 71 (21.6%) women with anti-SS-A(Ro)/SS-B(La) antibodies, 3 (4.2%) developed neonatal lupus (no cardiac involvement). Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) was associated with higher risk of OM (52.2% vs 10%; p < 0.001). Of the 755 pregnancies reported, 551 (73.0%) resulted in live births, of which 79 (14.3%) were premature. The remaining pregnancies ended in 178 (23.6%) miscarriages and 41 (5.4%) fetal deaths. During 2-follow-up years (Figure 1), 24 singles pregnancies occurred. All were under antimalarials; 16 (66.7%) resulted in live births; 4 (25.0%) premature; 12 (50.0%) developed OM. There were seven (29.2%) miscarriages and one fetal loss (4.2%) related to severe preeclampsia. One cholestasis gravidarum (4.2%) lead to prematurity. There were no new cases of neonatal lupus.

Conclusion: In GLADEL 2.0 cohort, around half of the studied women presented OM being frequently related to APS. Miscarriages, prematurity, preeclampsia and fetal deaths were the most common pregnancy complications. The incidence of neonatal lupus was lower than previously reported [1].


Table 1. Characteristics of SLE women with ≥1 pregnancy at cohort inclusion related to OM1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>OM¹</th>
<th>p value²</th>
<th>OM background</th>
<th>OM²</th>
<th>p value²</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)³</td>
<td>41 (34-47)</td>
<td>39 (31.5-50)</td>
<td>0.542</td>
<td>Age (years)³</td>
<td>39 (31-50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (years)³</td>
<td>12 (10-12.5)</td>
<td>12 (10-15)</td>
<td>0.664</td>
<td>Education (years)³</td>
<td>12 (10-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Afro-Latin American</td>
<td>14/146 (9.6%)</td>
<td>8/183 (4.4%)</td>
<td>0.299</td>
<td>Afro-Latin American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>30/146 (20.5%)</td>
<td>42/183 (23.0%)</td>
<td>0.581</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>42/183 (23.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>3/146 (2.1%)</td>
<td>4/183 (2.2%)</td>
<td>0.909</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>4/183 (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mestizo</td>
<td>9/146 (6.78%)</td>
<td>12/183 (6.58%)</td>
<td>0.326</td>
<td>Mestizo</td>
<td>12/183 (6.58%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic level</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>29/143 (20.3%)</td>
<td>41/181 (22.7%)</td>
<td>0.184</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>42/143 (29.4%)</td>
<td>67/181 (37.0%)</td>
<td>0.269</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>67/181 (37.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical coverage</td>
<td>Complete/partial</td>
<td>94/141 (66.7%)</td>
<td>133/182 (73.1%)</td>
<td>0.184</td>
<td>Complete/partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Coverage</td>
<td>47/141 (33.3%)</td>
<td>48/182 (26.9%)</td>
<td>0.184</td>
<td>No Coverage</td>
<td>48/182 (26.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>47/183 (56.6%)</td>
<td>73/130 (66.6%)</td>
<td>0.184</td>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>73/130 (66.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>9/183 (10.8%)</td>
<td>6/110 (5.5%)</td>
<td>0.373</td>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>6/110 (5.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>23/178 (29.5%)</td>
<td>31/109 (28.4%)</td>
<td>0.672</td>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>31/109 (28.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>22/50 (44.0%)</td>
<td>34/58 (58.6%)</td>
<td>0.373</td>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>34/58 (58.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Obstetric morbidity; ² statistically significant: p < 0.05; ³ median (interquartile range); ¹ anti-cardiolipin antibodies; ² beta-2 glycoprotein I antibodies.

Figure 1. SLE pregnancy outcome 2-year follow-up.

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Objectives: To determine clinical and pathological features predicting complete clinical response (CCR) after induction therapy in crescentic lupus nephritis.

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys

Background: Lupus nephritis (LN) is one of the major manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus, which develops in approximately 40% of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus. Clinical presentation of LN varies between patients, from asymptomatic proteinuria to rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis. Due to improvements in treatment strategy, risk of developing end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) decreased to less than 10% in developed countries, but some patients still progress to ESKD and require renal replacement therapy. Crescent formation in the kidney pathology was not associated with cumulative CCR rates in patients with class III or IV LN, which is an important factor for CCR after induction therapy.

Method: Patients with biopsy proven class III or IV LN from 2008 to 2017 were included in the analysis. There was no significant difference in age (42.8 ± 2.6 vs 44.4 ± 2.1 years, p=0.63), disease duration (10.9 ± 1.9 vs 11.4 ± 1.7 years, p=0.85), eGFR (70.7 ± 4.9 vs 66.0 ± 4.1 ml/min/1.73m², p=0.47), and UPCR (2.3 ± 0.5 vs 2.5 ± 0.4 g/gCr, p=0.72) between the CLN and non-CLN groups. Cumulative CCR rates for 5-years were not different between CLN and non-CLN groups (83% vs 84%, p=0.96). In the non-CLN group, patients who achieved CCR had lower glomerular sclerosis (0.93 ± 0.16 vs 1.75 ± 0.27, p=0.01) and interstitial fibrosis score (0.77 ± 0.12 vs 1.25 ± 0.20, p=0.049) than those who did not achieve CCR. In the CLN group, patients who achieved CCR had lower interstitial fibrosis (0.94 ± 0.14 vs 1.67 ± 0.17, p=0.01) and tubular atrophy score (0.78 ± 0.15 vs 1.58 ± 0.19, p<0.01) than those who achieved CCR, while cellular or fibrotic crescentic score did not differ between them (2.33 ± 0.23 vs 2.50 ± 0.23, p=0.65). Multivariable analysis revealed that interstitial fibrosis was negatively associated with CCR in both CLN and non-CLN groups (odds ratio [OR] 0.11, p<0.01; OR 0.33, p=0.04, respectively). We next divided CLN patients into two groups according to the interstitial fibrosis less than 25% or not, and found significantly higher cumulative CCR rate in patients with interstitial fibrosis less than 25% (p<0.01).

Conclusion: Crescent formation in the kidney pathology was not associated with cumulative CCR rates in patients with class III or IV LN, while interstitial lesion was shared by both CLN and non-CLN as a significant prognostic factor for CCR after induction therapy.

REFERENCES:
Background: Anti-phospholipid antibodies (APL) are associated with thrombotic events or pregnancy complications leading to the so-called anti-phospholipid syndrome (APS) according to the classification criteria last updated in 2006. APL can be found in asymptomatic patients.

Objectives: We observed the clinical, biological characteristics and association with other diseases of asymptomatic APL carriers group, and we compared them with an APS patients group.

Methods: In this French multicentric retrospective cohort study we analyzed the data of 507 patients with persistent positive APL measured between 2012 and 2019. Clinical and laboratory data were collected retrospectively. Data are expressed as numbers with frequencies and median values with interquartile ranges (IQR). Qualitative and quantitative variables were compared using Fisher and Kruskal-Wallis tests. Cumulative incidence curves of relapse event were generated using Kaplan-Meier. We used Cox model to obtain Hazard Ratio (HR). Proportional hazard assumption was checked using Schoenfeld residuals. Two-sided testing was used, with p ≤0.05 considered statistically significant.

Results: We observed a majority of female patients of a younger age in the APS group when compared to the APL carriers group. Cardiovascular risk factors were similar in both groups. Systemic lupus erythematosus was more frequently associated with the APL group, but interestingly rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylarthritis and chronic kidney disease were more frequently associated with asymptomatic APL carriers. At biological level, anti-cardiolipin IgG and beta-2-glycoprotein 1 IgG positivity rates were higher in APL patients. There was no difference in mortality between APS patients group and asymptomatic APL carriers group. Interestingly, we observed a higher rate of atypical APL in primary APL carriers group. We also observed an association between autoantibodies positivity and presence of autoantibodies in the APL carriers group during the evaluation period. APS group had a higher mortality as expected. Interestingly, we observed a higher rate of atypical APL in primary APL carriers subgroup, with a trend toward a significant intergroup difference (31.1% vs 21.2%, p=0.075). There was no difference in mortality among groups.

Conclusion: APL carriers group was associated with the presence of autoimmune disease, infection and cancer. We did not observe any thrombotic events in the APL carriers group during the evaluation period. APS group had a higher mortality as expected. Interestingly, we observed a higher rate of atypical APL in primary APL carriers subgroup, with a trend toward a significant intergroup difference (31.1% vs 20.2%, p=0.075). We did not find a difference in mortality between primary and secondary APL carriers subgroups.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Cumulative incidence of thrombotic events over 5 years in APS patients group and asymptomatic APL carriers group.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0583

CONCENTRATIONS OF SERUM ADVANCED GLYcation END PRODUCTS (AGES) CARBOXYETHYLLYSINE CORRELATE WITH INDICES OF ACTIVITY AND SPECIFIC MANIFESTATIONS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords:
Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus
J. Carrion Barbera1, L. Triguero2, A. Ribes2, C. Pérez2, L. Polino1, E. Beltrán1, A. Pros1, J. Montfort1, T. C. Salman Monte1, L. Tió2, Hospital del Mar, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 1Institut Mar d’Investigacions Mèdiques, Investigación celular en inflamación y cartílago, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Studies postulate that advanced glycation end products (AGEs) could have a relevant role as inducers in the chronic inflammatory pathway present in various diseases, including systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), and that AGEs concentration could be related to disease parameters such as activity or accumulated damage. To date, these studies show conflicting results.

Objectives: To estimate correlations between the concentrations of the blood AGE carboxyethyllysin (CEL) and disease-related parameters in a population of SLE patients.

Methods: Serum CEL concentrations were determined using a specific AGEs competitive ELISA Kit in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions in 113 SLE patients. We correlated demographic and clinical data with the results, and adjusted for age and smoking status as possible confounding factors, based on previous analysis (CEL AGEs decreased significantly with age and presence of smoking habits). The indices were analyzed both as quantitative and categorized variables according to previously established categories in the literature or to medians/tertiles depending on the distribution of the variable in our sample. CEL concentrations were classified into tertiles.

Results: Table 1 shows the distribution and correlations of our cohort characteristics according to CEL tertiles. Disease duration was inversely statistically correlated with CEL concentrations, as well as haematological alterations while alopecia was directly correlated. CEL values were statistically correlated with several markers of SLE activity: SLE disease activity index (SLEDAI), erythrocyte sedimentation rate, serum IL-6, and the count of swollen joints at the moment of the blood extraction (both in the Disease Activity Score 28 and 68).

No associations were found with autoantibodies, other disease questionnaires, or different blood AGEs and AGEs receptor.

Conclusion: The correlation of CEL AGEs values with different disease activity markers in SLE could indicate their potential use as a biomarker of activity in this disease and an associated specific phenotype with less haematological manifestations and more alopecia.

REFERENCES:
[1] Vytashek R et al. Increased concentration of two different advanced glycation end-products detected by enzyme immunoassays with new monoclonal
antibodies in sera of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. **BMC Musculoskelet Disord** 2010;11:83.


### Table 1. Correlations of our cohort characteristics according to carboxyethyllysine tertiles.

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<th>p-value M2</th>
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<tr>
<td>[2.569, 4.18]</td>
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<td>[4.19,27.76]</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease duration (y)</th>
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<th>[6.00;19.8]</th>
<th>[6.00;19.0]</th>
<th>[1.00;17.0]</th>
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<tr>
<td>Smoker tertiles:</td>
<td>22 (19.5%)</td>
<td>12 (21.6%)</td>
<td>5 (13.2%)</td>
<td>5 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-Remission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1- Mild</td>
<td>39 (34.5%)</td>
<td>12 (21.8%)</td>
<td>13 (34.2%)</td>
<td>15 (40.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- Moderate</td>
<td>41 (38.3%)</td>
<td>14 (44.7%)</td>
<td>7 (20.7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Severe</td>
<td>11 (9.73%)</td>
<td>2 (2.49%)</td>
<td>3 (7.89%)</td>
<td>7 (18.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR tertiles:</td>
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<td>8.00</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[5.00;18.2]</td>
<td>[3.25;19.8]</td>
<td>[6.00;15.0]</td>
<td>[1.00;19.0]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allopurinol</td>
<td>51 (45.1%)</td>
<td>17 (44.7%)</td>
<td>16 (42.1%)</td>
<td>18 (48.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[4.00;15.0]</td>
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<td>[1.00;17.0]</td>
<td>[1.00;17.0]</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemoglobin</td>
<td>82 (72.6%)</td>
<td>70 (79.9%)</td>
<td>30 (78.9%)</td>
<td>22 (59.9%)</td>
</tr>
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<td>[627.0; 70.0]</td>
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<tr>
<td>cSLEDAI</td>
<td>29 (25.7%)</td>
<td>2 (5.26%)</td>
<td>3 (7.89%)</td>
<td>7 (18.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[1.81;2.96]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd tertile</td>
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<td>10.0</td>
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</table>

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**AB0585**

COMORBIDITY CLUSTERS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH SEVERITY AND OUTCOMES OF THE INDEX DISEASES, IN A LARGE MULTICENTER SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS COHORT (RELESSER REGISTER)

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Comorbidities

I. Ruiz-Picaza 1, N. Pérez-Véiga 2, M. Galindo-Izquierdo 3, E. Rodríguez Alamaz 4, M. C. Erausquin 5, A. Fernandez-Nebro 6, U. Uriarte Isacelaya 7, B. Serrano-Benavente 8, J. Calvo 9, S. Mansanet10, J. I. Menéndez 11, J. M. Senabre-Gallego 12, J. A. Bernat 13, J. Narváez 14, E. Tomero Muriel 15, E. Aurrecoechea 16, M. Ibañez Barceló 17, V. Torrente Segarra 18, C. Sanguesa 18, M. Freire González 18, M. J. García Villarrubia 19, M. Aravaló 20, C. Moriano 21, C. L. Iglesias 22, A. Pérez Gómez 23, J. J. Andrés Sánchez 24, T. Cobo-ibáñez 25, L. Horcada 26, G. Bonilla 27, N. Lozano Rivas 28, R. Blanco 29, L. Expósito 30, C. A. Montilla-Morales 31, F. J. Toyoos Sáenz de Miera 32, I. Ibarguengoitia 33, E. Valls-Pascual 34, F. J. Nóvoa Medina 35, E. Salgado Pérez 36, T. C. Salmon Montero 37, R. Mon-Almagro 38, J. A. Román Ivorra 39, A. Muñoz Jiménez 40, J. M. Pego-Reigosa 41, University Hospital Gran Canaria Dr. Negrín, Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; Grupo de Reumatología y Enfermedades Inmuno-mediadas (IRIDIS), Statistical, Vigo, Spain; University Hospital October 12, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga, Rheumatology, Málaga, Spain; Donostia Unibertsitate Ospitalea, Rheumatology, Donostia, Spain; Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Arába University Hospital, Rheumatology, Gasteiz, Spain; Hospital Marina Baixa, Rheumatology, Villajoyosa, Spain; General University Hospital of Alicante, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; Bellvitge University Hospital, l'Hospitalde de Llobregat, Spain; Bellvitge University Hospital, Rheumatology, L'Hospitalde de Llobregat, Spain; Hospital de La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Sierra Nevada Hospital, Rheumatology, Torrevieja, Spain; Son Llàtzer Hospital, Rheumatology, Palma, Spain; Hospital de Sant Joan Despí Moisés Broggi, Rheumatology, Sant Joan Despí, Spain; Germans Trías i Pujol Hospital, Rheumatology, Badalona, Spain; CHUAC University Hospital of A Coruña, Rheumatology, A Coruña, Spain; Ramón y Cajal Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Hospital Parc Taulí de Sabadell, Rheumatology, Sabadell, Spain; University Hospital of León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; Lugo, Rheumatology, Lugo, Spain; Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, Rheumatology, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; Hospital Infantia Sofia, Rheumatology, San Sebastián de los Reyes, Spain; Navarra Hospital Complex - Navarra Hospital, Rheumatology, Pamplona, Spain; La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Hospital Clínico Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca, Rheumatology, El Palmar, Spain; Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; Hospital Universitario de Canarias, Rheumatology, La Laguna, Spain; Salamanca University Hospital, Rheumatology, Salamanca, Spain; Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena, Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain; Basurto University Hospital, Rheumatology, Bilbo, Spain; Doctor Peset University Hospital, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain; Hospital Insular Unidad De Traslados, Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Ourense - CHUO, Rheumatology, Ourense, Spain; Hospital del Mar, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital Jerez de la Frontera, Rheumatology, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain; Hospital la Fe, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain; Virgen del Rocío
Background: Patients with Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) have a well-known increased risk of major comorbidities, but they are also very heterogeneous in term of prevalence of comorbid conditions. The relationship of the comorbidities with the outcomes and the severity of index disease is less known. Objectives: Evaluate the interactions between comorbid conditions, on a large multicenter SLE cohort from RELESSER registar, and its impact in severity and outcomes. Methods: Data about 14 cumulative comorbidities, as previously defined [1], where derived from patients with SLE (ACR-97 criteria) included in the retrospective phase of RELESSER. Severity Katz Index (SKI) and SLICC/ACR Damage Index (SDI) were calculated. An unsupervised cluster analysis using K-means method was implemented to define clusters. ANOVA and Tukey tests were used to compare continuous numerical variables; Kruskal-Wallis test to discrete variables and the Chi-square test (or Fisher’s exact test) to categorical ones. Results: A total of 3658 SLE patients (ACR-97 criteria) were included. Median SKI: 2 (interquartile range (IQR):1;3; median SDI:1(IQR:0;2). Demographic data are shown in Table 1. The comorbidities considered and their prevalence were: Thyroiditis (8.3%), peptic ulcer (3.8%), severe hepatopathy (1.0%), obstructive pulmonary disease (2.7%), Diabetes (5.0%), cardiovascular event (CVE) (11.0%), cardiac arhythmia (4.2%), pulmonary embolism (3.4%), dementia (0.7%), malignancy (5.9%); serious infection (19.3%), end stage renal disease (2.8%), osteoporosis (7.3%) and depression (17.1%). Four cluster, with markedly different comorbidity profiles and outcomes were identified (Table 3). One subgroup was clustered around depression (100% of the cases) (cluster 2), another cluster (cluster 3) with > 1 serious infection (100%) and cluster 4, with 100% of the CVE. In cluster 1, no patient had any of the 3 defining comorbidities in the rest of the clusters. There were no statistically significant differences between clusters in death by SLE. The clusters are characterized in more detail in table 1, where a just summary of the main comorbidities included in the analysis is displayed. Conclusion: Cluster analysis identifies well-differentiated subgroups of SLE patients as regard comorbidities and associated mortality and severity of the disease. REFERENCE: [1] Ruia-Figuerola I et al. National registry of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus of the Spanish Society of Rheumatology: objectives and methodology. Reumatol Clin 2014;10(1):17-24.
Methods: This was a retrospective study involving SLE patients admitted from February 2010 to January 2020. Demographic, clinical details, laboratory parameters, treatment received, and complications during the stay in the hospital were entered in a proforma. The cause of death was classified as disease-related, infection-associated, or both.

Results: There were 1156 SLE admissions and 135 in-hospital mortalities. 24 patients were excluded because of inadequate parameters or wrong codes. Among the 111 patients, 102 (91.9%) were females. Mean age at the diagnosis and mean duration of hospitalisation was 29.7 years (276.3-31.7) and 11 days (8.7-13.3) respectively. More than three-fourths of the total patients had skin (76.6%), Musculoskeletal (74.8%), Renal (81.1%) or Hematological (73%) involvement. Nearly half of the patients had Respiratory (42.3%) or Neurological (49.5%) involvement. Mortality was primarily due to disease activity (43.2%; n = 48) followed by mixed (infection and disease activity) (36%; n = 40). Isolated infection-associated mortality was less than the active disease (19.8%; n = 22).

A subgroup analysis of the study participants based on mortality showed that cardiac (50%) and haematological (75%) involvement were more common among the participants with disease activity. There was no significant difference between the baseline investigations and treatment administered between the groups. The details are shown in Table 1. The most common infections were due to gram-negative bacteria. Among the study participants, 45 patients (48.6%) died within six months of diagnosis. Pulmonary involvement (51.9%; n=28/54) was more common in the first six months compared to death after six months (33.3%; n=19/57) (p-value = 0.04). Cardiac involvement in the form of myocarditis was more common in the later part of the disease compared to the first six months (18.5% vs 40.4%; n=10/54 vs n= 23/40.4; p-value = 0.01).

Conclusion: Disease activity alone or in combination with infection contributes more to hospital mortality than infections alone. Though patients with disease activity-associated mortality have more haematological and cardiac involvement at presentation, there are no differences in various laboratory parameters, including complement levels among the participants in the three groups.

Table 1. Comparison of Organ involvement, Investigations, and treatment administered among mortality subgroups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (n=111)</th>
<th>Disease Activity (n=48)</th>
<th>Infection (n=22)</th>
<th>Mixed (n=40)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>29.7 (276.3-31.7)</td>
<td>29.7 (26.3-32.2)</td>
<td>30.2 (24.3-35.7)</td>
<td>29 (26.5-32.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>102 (91.9)</td>
<td>97 (81.5)</td>
<td>21 (95)</td>
<td>34 (85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>85 (76.6)</td>
<td>40 (83.3)</td>
<td>20 (90.9)</td>
<td>24 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal</td>
<td>83 (74.8)</td>
<td>40 (83.3)</td>
<td>17 (77.3)</td>
<td>25 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>90 (81.1)</td>
<td>36 (75)</td>
<td>16 (72.7)</td>
<td>37 (92.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological</td>
<td>55 (49.5)</td>
<td>25 (52.1)</td>
<td>7 (31.8)</td>
<td>21 (52.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary</td>
<td>47 (42.3)</td>
<td>18 (37.5)</td>
<td>8 (36.4)</td>
<td>21 (52.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>62 (55.8)</td>
<td>24 (50)</td>
<td>3 (13.6)</td>
<td>15 (37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematological</td>
<td>81 (73)</td>
<td>36 (75)</td>
<td>11 (45)</td>
<td>34 (85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>13 (11.7)</td>
<td>5 (10.4)</td>
<td>3 (13.6)</td>
<td>5 (12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel</td>
<td>8 (7.2)</td>
<td>3 (6.3)</td>
<td>2 (9.1)</td>
<td>3 (7.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Investigations at admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Leucocyte</th>
<th>Haemoglobin, g/dL</th>
<th>Creatinine,mg/dL</th>
<th>Serum albumin, mg/dL</th>
<th>Low C3/C4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9750</td>
<td>8.3 (7.9-8.6)</td>
<td>3.2 (2.2-3.2)</td>
<td>2.5 (2.1-2.8)</td>
<td>74.8/43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0588 ADELUMAB FOR IMMUNE RELATED INFERTILITY: EFFICACY AND SAFETY FROM PROSPECTIVE FRENCH MULTICENTER REGISTRY

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction, Autoantibodies, Anti-phospholipid syndrome

N. Abisor1, M. Cheloufi2, C. Mcavoy1, A. Guedon1, O. Fain1, G. Kayem2, A. Mekimen1.

1 Sorbonne Université, AP-HP, Hôpital Saint Antoine, Service de médecine interne et Inflammation-Immunopathologie-Biothérapie Department (DMU 03), Paris, France; 2 Hôpital Armand-Trousseau, APHP Sorbonne Université, Service de Gynécologie Obstétrique, FHU PREMA, Paris, France

Background: Recurrent miscarriage (RM) is a frequent condition affecting about 1–3% of couples and is one of the most frustrating and difficult areas in reproductive medicine since the etiology is often unknown and evidence-based diagnosis and treatment strategies are scarce. Likewise, recurrent implantation failure (RIF) is considered after at least 3 unsuccessful transfers of good quality embryos, and remains unexplained in 45% of infertile couples.

Objectives: The primary objective of this study was to describe a real-life prospective cohort of women with unexplained RM and/or RIF under adalimumab, to analyze the impact of the treatment on live birth rates and to evaluate its safety.

Methods: The French infertility multicenter FALCO registry is an ongoing registry from 2017 including patients with unexplained recurrent miscarriages and implantation failures from several university hospitals. Inclusion criteria were [1] at least 3 recurrent miscarriages before 12 weeks of gestation and/or at least 3 implantation failures of at least 2 good quality embryos transfers; [2] absence of any cause for recurrent miscarriages and implantation failures such as uterine, genetic, infectious, hormonal, thrombophilia and autoimmune diseases. The following data was collected:

- Clinical data including age, number of pregnancies, number of consecutive miscarriages, body mass index, tobacco and alcohol use, tea or coffee consumption during pregnancy, dietary habits, presence of endometriosis, adenomyosis and assessment of the uterine cavity by hysteroscopy or hysterosonography.
- Laboratory analysis of usual recurrent miscarriages etiological screening: parental karyotypes, ovarian reserve parameters (FSH (IU/L), LH (IU/L), Estradiol (pg/ml), AFC (Antral Follicular Count), AMH rate (ng/ml)), thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) levels (mUI/l) and biomarkers of immune origin (anti-nuclear antibodies, anti-TPO/TG).

Results: Overall, between 2017 and December 2022, 2686 pregnancies from 395 patients were included with prospective follow-up. These women had history of recurrent implantation failure for 102 (26%), recurrent miscarriage for 275 (70%) and both for 18 (4%). The median gravidity was 4 [2-6]. Regarding the presence of immunity biomarkers, 283 had various autoantibodies (86.6%): 130 patients (33%) with antinuclear antibodies (>1/80e), 16 patients with antiphospholipid syndromes (5%), 44 patients with positive anti thyroid peroxidase antibodies (11%), 24 with positive anti-thyroglobulin antibodies (11%), 4 with anti-transglutaminase antibodies (11%). Most recent AMH count median was 1.73 [0.87, 3.24]. Among overall pregnancies, there were 1384 miscarriages (73.6%), 269 live births (14.3%), 89 abortions (4.7%), 24 medical terminations of pregnancies (1.3%), 55 pregnancies over 12 weeks of gestation (2.9%) and 58 extraterine pregnancies (3.1%). Among 2686 pregnancies, 494 were treated and received immunomodulatory treatment. Among these pregnancies under therapies: steroids in 332 cases (12.4%), hydroxychloroquine in 185 cases (7%), intralipids in 102 cases (3.8%), and adalimumab in 69 cases (2.6%). Patients with pregnancy under adalimumab treatment had a significantly higher rate of cumulative live birth rate than those with untreated ones: OR: 3.52 [1.63 – 7.61]; p < 0.01 after adjustment of age, pregnancy, associated treatment (progestosterone, aspirin, vitamin D, prednisone). Adverse events in Adalimumab treated pregnancies were reported in 7 women: herpes and zoster reactivation in 3 cases, cystitis and bronchitis in 4 cases, and no congenital malformation and no maternal deaths.

Conclusion: In this large prospective French cohort of women with unexplained immune origin RM and/or RIF, adalimumab has been effective to obtain a live birth pregnancy.

REFERENCES:
[1] Adalimumab for immune related infertility: efficacy and safety from prospective French multicenter registry
**AB0589**

**CANCER PREVALENCE IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A PORTUGUESE COHORT STUDY WITH 15 YEARS OF FOLLOW-UP**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Malignancy, Epidemiology

A. Saravia1, A. Maduro2, B. Mendes3, A. Carones Esteves1, M. Luis4, J. A. P. Da Silva5, L. Inês6-8, 1Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 2Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra, Rheumatology, Coimbra, Portugal; 3Universidade da Beira Interior - Faculdade de Ciências da Saúde, Rheumatology, Covilhã, Portugal

**Background:** An increased risk of malignancy was reported in patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) [1-3].

**Objectives:** To estimate the prevalence of cancer in a Portuguese cohort of patients with SLE over long term follow-up.

**Methods:** Patients followed up between 01/01/2006 and 31/10/2021 at the Centro Hospitalar de Coimbra Lupus Clinic were included. All patients fulfilling SLE classification criteria (EULAR/ACR 2019 or SLICC 2012 or ACR 1999) and assessed at least in two visits were included. Cancer cases were only considered if the diagnosis was established after SLE diagnosis. Patient and SLE clinical and treatment data were collect from the cohort electronic database. Disease activity was assessed with SLE Disease Activity Score (SLE-DAS) and organ damage with the SLICC/ACR Damage Index (SDI). Associations with malignancy were tested using the Chi-square test, Fisher exact test, Student’s t-test, or Mann-Whitney U test, as appropriate. Statistical significance of Bonferroni adjustment accounting for multiple comparisons was considered for p<0.005.

**Results:** In total, 438 patients were included (mean age: 49.6±15.8 years-old; female: 85.4%; mean disease duration: 14.2±9.8 years). At the last study visit, 68.8% were in remission, and mean SLE-DAS was 1.9±2.5. The total cumulative prevalence for cancer was 7.1% (n=31), with 4 patients presenting metastatic disease at the time of cancer diagnosis. The most common malignancies were non-melanoma skin cancer (1.1%), colorectal (1.1%), hematologic (1.1%), lung (0.7%), and breast cancer (0.7%). Cancer patients were older (64.5±14.9 years, p<0.001) and had higher any-cause mortality (35.5% vs. 5.9%, p<0.001). There were no significant differences regarding disease activity at last visit, disease duration, organ damage or cumulative immunosuppressive therapy usage (38.7% vs 54%, p=0.099). Death as a direct result of malignancy occurred in 8 (72.7%) patients, accounting for 22.9% of death in our cohort.

**Conclusion:** This is the first study reporting cancer prevalence in a Portuguese SLE cohort. Our results are similar to those reported by Sultan et al (5.4%) (2), but substantially lower than those reported in a Finish cohort (22%) (3).

**REFERENCES:**


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**AB0590**

**CROSS-SECTIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SLE PATIENTS: ROLE OF DISEASE ACTIVITY, CHRONIC DAMAGE, FIBROMYALGIA SYNDROME AND MOOD DISORDERS**

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Patient reported outcomes, Systemic lupus erythematosus

F. Natalucci1, F. Ceccarelli2, C. Massari2, C. Pirone1, G. Olivieri1, V. Orreco1, L. Picciarello1, C. Cianciarella1, C. Garuti2, S. Mancuso2, S. Truglia1, F. R. Spinelli1, C. Alessandri1, F. Conti1, 1Sapienza University of Rome, Lupus Clinic, Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Internistiche, Anestesiologiche e Cardiovascolari, Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy

**Background:** Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease characterized by a wide spectrum of manifestations, potentially involving every system. This heterogeneity may influence different aspects of patients’ daily life, including physical ability, working and social life, thus impacting the quality of life (Qol). Among all the SLE-related manifestations, cutaneous involvement may lead to insecurity and isolation, negatively resulting in Qol.

**Objectives:** The aim of the present study was to analyse the Qol in a SLE cohort, determining the potential influence of disease activity, chronic damage, comorbidities, and mood disorders.

**Methods:** We enrolled consecutive SLE patients, diagnosed according to 2019 ACR/EULAR criteria. Clinical and laboratory data were collected, and disease activity and chronic damage were assessed by SLEDAI-2k and SDI. As controls, we enrolled patients affected by Discoid Lupus Erythematosus (DLE) and Undifferentiated Connective Tissue Disease (UCTD). The fibromyalgia diagnosis was made according to the 2016 ACR Classification Criteria. Quality of life was evaluated by using the Lupus Quality of Life questionnaire (LupusQol); furthermore, each patient filled out the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) questionnaire.

**Results:** We enrolled 237 SLE patients (M/F 18/219; median age 46 years [IQR 19.5], median disease duration 156 months [IQR 180]), 24 CLE patients (M/F 5/19; median age 61.5 years [IQR 29.5]), median disease duration 92.1 months, [IQR 128.5]), and 25 UCTD (M/F 1/24; median age 40 years, [IQR 21.25]; median disease duration 66 months [IQR 103.9]). In SLE patients the median SLEDAI-2k value was 0 (IQR 2) and the SDI was 0 (IQR 1). Fibromyalgia was diagnosed in 69 SLE patients (29.1%), 5 CLE (20.8%), and 7 UCTD (28%). The comparison among these three groups of patients revealed for SLE and CLE patients a significantly lower mean values in the LupusQol domain related to Body Image (BI) (73.9±27.7 and 71.3±30.9, respectively) compared to UCTD patients (87.2±19.0; p=0.01 and p<0.03, respectively). Focusing on SLE patients, females showed significantly lower mean values compared to males for almost all domains: Pain (P [p=0.02], Intimate Relationship (IR) [p=0.001], Burden to Others (BtO) [p=0.03], Anxiety (BH) [p=0.001], Emotional Health (EH) [p=0.012], Body Image (Bl) [p=0.033] and Fatigue (F) [p=0.002]). As expected, fibromyalgia patients had lower values in all the domains of the LupusQol when compared to patients without this condition (p=0.001 for all comparisons, except for Bl p=0.006). Moreover, as reported in Figure 1, SDI values negatively correlated with all the LupusQol domains (Figure 1A); conversely, we found a positive correlation between SDI and both HADS domains (pain [r=-0.16, p=0.015]; depression [r=-0.21, p=0.009]). As expected, a strong negative correlation was identified between LupusQol score in each domain and both anxiety (BH r=-0.58, P p=-0.53, Planning p=-0.52, IR r=-0.62, EH=0.64, Bl=0.62, p<0.001 for all the analysis) and depression (BH r=-0.61, P p=-0.58, Planning p=0.63, IR r=-0.61, EH=0.55, Bl=0.60, F=0.69, BtO r=0.55, p<0.0001 for all the analysis).

**Conclusion:** The presented results confirmed the negative impact of SLE on the quality of life. Among the analyzed variables, female sex and fibromyalgia deeply influenced the outcome. The chronic damage showed to be one of the main determinants of impairment of the Qol in SLE patients and of the development of Anxiety and Depression, measured through the HADS questionnaire. Lastly, Anxiety and Depression may contribute to the worst Qol in SLE, underlying the need for comprehensive evaluation and management of the SLE-associated comorbidities.

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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB0591**

**COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY DURING PREGNANCY IN WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS**

**Keywords:** COVID, Pregnancy and reproduction, Systemic lupus erythematosus

N. Giannopoulou1, L. Gupta2,3,4,5, A. Andreoli2,6, D. Lin6,5, E. Nikipherou2,3,5, R. Aggarwal2, V. Aggarwal2, L. Paradisi1,2,7, 1University of Nicosia, General Hospital of Paphos, Nicosia, Cyprus; 2Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical
**Background:** Vaccinations comprise a part of the antenatal care of pregnant women, including patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) who are at increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes (APOs). While COVID-19 vaccination has been shown to be safe in pregnant women with SLE, data on vaccine-associated adverse events (AEs) during the antenatal and lactation period are scarce or lacking.

**Objectives:** To investigate the association between COVID-19 vaccination and AEs in pregnant SLE patients.

**Methods:** A total of 9201 complete responses were extracted on June 21st, 2022 from the COVID-19 Vaccination in Autoimmune Diseases (COVAD) 2 database, a global e-survey involving 157 collaborators from 106 countries. Among respondents, 6,787 (73.8%) women were exposed to at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose after pregnancy, among those 11 with SLE. Delayed onset (>7 days) vaccine-related AEs were excluded and triangular with disease activity, treatment changes due to flare after vaccination, and COVID-19 infections in vaccinated pregnant women with SLE. Additionally, information on health-related quality of life and physical function was recorded using PROMIS at the time of survey completion.

**Results:** The age of patients ranged from 28 to 39 years; 5,111 women were of Asian origin. None of these patients reported major vaccine AEs, including four patients with self-reported active SLE prior to the vaccination. None of them reported any change in the status of their autoimmune disease, and no hospitalisation or special treatment was recorded. Six women experienced minor vaccine AEs; two of them had active disease prior to vaccination. Four patients reported COVID-19 infection; two of them were pregnant and post-vaccination and two prior to pregnancy and vaccination. All four patients experienced symptoms of their disease, but no overt SLE flare was reported. At the time of survey completion, all patients reported their general health as being good to excellent in all aspects evaluated. Importantly, no APOs were reported. None of the patients reported thrombotic events post-vaccination, which provides some reassurance regarding COVID-19 vaccination in a patient population with a high risk for cardiovascular comorbidity and thrombosis, especially in the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies or in patients diagnosed with the antiphospholipid syndrome, a considerable portion within SLE populations. Moreover, it was reassuring to note an absence of association between experienced vaccine AEs and active disease prior to vaccination. Although minor AEs were common, they did not impair daily functioning, and the symptoms resolved in all patients after a median of 3 (IQR: 2.5–5.0) days.

**Conclusion:** Our report adds relevant evidence concerning the sensitive issue of COVID-19 vaccine AEs and flares in SLE patients during the antenatal and lactation period. Despite the small sample size, the findings provide some reassurance and can contribute to informed decisions regarding vaccination in patients with SLE and high-risk pregnancies due to their background autoimmune disease. Based on the present data, the risk/benefit ratio of COVID-19 vaccination appears favourable, with vaccines both providing passive immunisation to the fetus and active immunisation to the mother with no signals of exacerbation of the mother’s autoimmune disease.

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SLE, Sjöns' and APS - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

AB0594

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ANTI-LA ANTIBODIES IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Autoantibodies


Hospital Universitario Severo Ochoa, Rheumatology, Leganés, Spain

Private clinical practice, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain

Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Dr. Negrín, Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

IRIDIS Group (Investigacion en Rheumatology and Immune-Diseases), Health Research Institute (ISIG), Vigo, Spain

Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Hospital Universitario de Arava, Rheumatology, Vitoria, Spain

Hospital Jerez de la Frontera, Rheumatology, Jerez, Spain

Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga, Rheumatology, Málaga, Spain

Hospital Universitario Donostia, Rheumatology, Donostia, Spain

Hospital de Sierrallana, Rheumatology, Torrelavega, Spain

Hospital Marina Baixa, Rheumatology, Villajoyosa, Spain

Hospital Universitario de Bellvitge, Rheumatology, L’Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain

Hospital Universitario Príncipe de Asturias, Rheumatology, Ávila de Henares, Spain

Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda University Hospital, Rheumatology, Majadahonda, Spain

Hospital Universitario La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Hospital Universitario La Paz, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Hospital Infanta Sofia, Rheumatology, San Sebastián de los Reyes, Spain

Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain

Ramón y Cajal Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Complejo Hospitalario de Ourense, Rheumatology, Ourense, Spain

Hospital Clinico Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca, Rheumatology, El palmar, Spain

Hospital Universitario Miguel Servet, Rheumatology, Zaragoza, Spain

Hospital Universitario Dr. Peset, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain

Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain

Hospital del Mar, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain

Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Gran Canaria, Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

Hospital Clinico Universitario de Salamanca, Rheumatology, Salamanca, Spain

Hospital Universitario de Basurto, Rheumatology, Bilbao, Spain

La Fe University and Polytechnic Hospital, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain

Virgen del Rocío University Hospital, Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain

Hospital Parc Taulí de Sabadell, Rheumatology, Sabadell, Spain

Hospital del Moxeineiro, Rheumatology, Vigo, Spain

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by a wide spectrum of clinical manifestations and the presence of various antibodies against antigens of the nucleus, cytoplasm, or membrane cell. Anti-La antibodies are present in 7-45% of SLE patients, usually accompanied by anti-Ro antibodies. Double anti-La and anti-Ro positivity is associated with a milder disease profile, with a lower risk of seizures and nephritis, as well as a higher frequency of arthritis. Studies analyzing the prevalence and clinical characteristics of patients with isolated anti-La in the absence of anti-Ro are lacking.

Objectives: To describe the demographic, clinical and serological characteristics and severity indices of anti-Ro-/La- patients in a retrospective cohort of SLE patients and compare them with the rest of the patients.

Methods: Retrospective cross-sectional study, in which all patients with SLE (>4 ACR-1997 criteria) registered in the RELESSLER registry were included. Sodicodemographic, clinical, serological and comorbidities variables were collected, as well as indicators of disease activity and severity. Patients were divided into 4 groups according to the presence of anti-Ro and anti-La: anti-Ro- anti-La+ group, anti-Ro+ anti-La- group, anti-Ro+ anti-La+ group and anti-Ro- anti-La- group. The anti-Ro/-La- group was compared with the other groups.

Results: Out of 3619 SLE patients, 44 (12%) had anti-Ro+La-. The mean ± SD age was 33.77 ± (±16.52) years, 88.6% were female, 90.5% were Caucasian and the mean ± SD disease duration was 135.36 ± (±88.46) months. The most frequent comorbidities were: smoking 48.8 %, dyslipidemia 47.7 % and hypertension 31.8 %. 22.13% of patients had anti-Ro+La-, 18.98% anti-Ro+/La+ and 64.02% anti-Ro- La-. Photosensitivity and oral ulcers were observed more frequently in anti-Ro+La- patients compared to anti-Ro- La- patients (60.2% vs 52.6% p=0.0471 and 59.1% vs 40.7% p=0.0194 respectively). Arthritis occurred in 77.3% of anti-Ro- La- patients, without significant differences with the other groups: 75.3% in anti-Ro+La- (p=0.8588), 73.9% in anti-Ro+La+ (p=0.7240) and 71.5% in anti-Ro- La+ (p=0.810). Twenty-five per cent of the isolated anti-La had lupus nephritis, with no significant differences compared to the other groups (29.5% in anti-Ro+La- p=0.8116, 22.9% in Ro+La- p=0.7144 and 28.6% in Ro- La- p=0.7364), 11.4% of anti-Ro- La- patients had seizures

Table 1. Cohort characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Hospitalized patients at 5 years</th>
<th>Non hospitalized patients at 5 years</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F Sex (%)</td>
<td>87.4</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at onset (median, sd)</td>
<td>29±11.8</td>
<td>28.7±12.2</td>
<td>29±11.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic delay (years, mean sd)</td>
<td>2.1±4.2</td>
<td>2.1±4.2</td>
<td>2.1±4.2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal at onset (%)</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis at onset (%)</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional at onset (%)</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous at onset (%)</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>44.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular at onset (%)</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>0.036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No LLQS at one year (%)</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cum. GC dose at 1 year (mg, mean sd)</td>
<td>2.9±2.4</td>
<td>2.9±2.4</td>
<td>2.9±2.4</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cum. GC dose at 5 years (mg, mean sd)</td>
<td>9.2±6.3</td>
<td>9.2±6.3</td>
<td>9.2±6.3</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of flares at 5 years (median, sd)</td>
<td>0.5±0.9</td>
<td>0.1±0.3</td>
<td>0.1±0.3</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of flares at 5 years (median, sd)</td>
<td>0.7±0.8</td>
<td>0.8±0.8</td>
<td>0.7±0.8</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of IS at 5 years (median, sd)</td>
<td>1.0±1.2</td>
<td>1.3±1.3</td>
<td>1.0±1.3</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLICC-DI at 1 year &gt;0 (%)</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLICC-DI at 5 years &gt;0 (%)</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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vs 4.4% anti-Ro+/La- (p=0.0510), vs 3.3% in anti-Ro+/La+ and vs 5.2% in anti-Ro-/La+ (p=0.799). Cognitive impairment was observed in 7% of anti-Ro+/La+ patients vs 2.8% in anti-Ro-/La+ (p=0.1315) vs 1.5% in anti-Ro-/La- (p=0.0370) and vs 3.1% in anti-Ro+ (p=0.1492). No differences were observed in other SLE-associated clinical variables, immunological profile, degree of SLE activity or Katz severity index.

Conclusion: The prevalence of anti-La in the absence of anti-Ro in our SLE cohort was 12%. This group of patients presented a higher frequency of clinical manifestations such as photosensitivity and oral aphthous ulcers compared to patients with neither anti-Ro nor anti-La. In contrast with previous studies the isolated presence of anti-La is associated with greater neurological involvement in the form of seizures or cognitive impairment compared to the association of anti-Ro and anti-La or the isolated presence of anti-Ro.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

AB0595
TESTING A NEW FATIGUE CHECKLIST IN SLE PATIENTS FOR EVERYDAY CLINICAL PRACTICE - AN INTERIM ANALYSIS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life

C. Düsing1,2, J. Richter2, C. Elling-Audersch2, D. Fell2, M. Schmid-Holl2, O. Sander2, J. Muckel2, I. Haase1, R. Fischer-Betz1, H. Aca1, T. Fillis2, M. Schneider2, G. Chehab2,1, Düsseldorf, Clinic for Rheumatology, University Hospital Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany; 2,1 Düsseldorf, Hiller Research Center, University Hospital Düsseldorf, Medical Faculty of Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, Germany; 2,3 Bonn, German-League Against Arthritis/Deutsche Rheuma-Liga Bundesverband e.V., Bonn, Germany

Background: Fatigue is a difficult subject for both physicians and patients. It is barely addressed during consultations and can therefore burden patient-physician relations. To improve communication regarding fatigue, we developed a checklist that includes suggestions for evaluating possible causes for fatigue. In this analysis, we describe our study population and report first results 3 and 6 months after using the checklist.

Objectives: The aims of our study are to validate the use of our newly developed fatigue checklist and to demonstrate that addressing fatigue in daily clinical practice and offering possible interventions can improve fatigue.

Methods: We recruited n=110 SLE patients with fatigue from our university hospital-based lupus reference centre in Düsseldorf. Fatigue was measured using the FSS (Fatigue Severity Scale). Our checklist included signs of depression and anxiety using the PHQ-4 (Patient Health Questionnaire), BMI (body mass index), physical activity, anemia, hypothyroidism and vitamin D deficiency. For each applicable cause, we listed possible interventions for free selection by the treating physician, such as replacement therapy (vitamin D, vitamin B12, iron, folic acid, erythropoietin), physical activity programs and psychosomatic counseling sessions that were discussed with the patients. We re-evaluated our patients after 3 (T1) and 6 months (T2).

Results: Baseline characteristics of patients are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. BMI=body mass index, TSH=thyroid stimulating hormone, PHQ4=patient health questionnaire (cut-off >3 points), HAQ=health assessment questionnaire, IMET= Index for measuring restrictions on social participation (higher scores point towards more restrictions on social participation), FSS=fatigue severity scale (≥4 points equal severe fatigue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N=110</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSH (µIU/ml)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-OH-Vitamin D (ng/ml)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemoglobin (g/dl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;4h/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4h/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2h/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1h/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression (PHQ4 score)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety (PHQ4 score)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional status (HAQ score)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (IMET score)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue (FSS score)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After 3 and 6 months, we re-evaluated 83 patients and saw a significant reduction in fatigue measured by the FSS score (T1: mean difference estimate 0.367 and p-value <0.001; T2: mean difference estimate 0.303; p-value <0.005).

Conclusion: The preliminary analysis of our study shows for the first time that incorporation of a checklist procedure into the management of patients with fatigue may improve short-term outcome after 3 and 6 months of observation. The improvement of symptoms documented in our study occurred even though the suggested exercise program and psychosomatic counseling sessions were not available for use during the current observation period because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, the mechanisms behind the observed effect remain unclear. Our ongoing analysis will clarify whether an additional effect on fatigue will occur after all suggested interventions resulting from the use of the checklist have been executed. Finally, it will demonstrate whether the incorporation of our checklist into routine clinical practice is capable to reduce fatigue over a prolonged time period.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB0596

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Systemic lupus erythematosus

X. Ma1, Y. Yin1, X. Zhang3, H. Jiang3, Y. Shan3. 1The First Hospital of China Medical University, Department of Pediatrics, Shenyang, China; 2Department of Pediatrics, Benxi Central Hospital, Benxi, Department of Pediatrics, Ben Xi, China; 3University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan

Background: Over the past few decades, several classification criteria have been proposed for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), including the American College of Rheumatology (ACR)-1997, Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC)-2012, and European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR)/ACR-2019. The sensitivity and specificity of these classification criteria are inconsistent for the various races of SLE patients [1-3]. Patients with SLE who are younger than 18 year old are called childhood-onset SLE (c-SLE), which differ from adult-onset SLE (a-SLE) in several ways. The applicability of classification criteria for c-SLE of different races were also inconsistent [4-6]. Now, there is a lack of data to verify the applicability of classification criteria in a-SLE or c-SLE in northern China.

Objectives: This study is to verify the applicability of classification criteria in a-SLE and c-SLE in northern China, and explore the most applicable disease evaluation standards.

Methods: 81 c-SLE vs 59 pediatric controls, 80 a-SLE vs 76 adult controls were included in the study. All the participants are Chinese descent living in northern China. The control groups were diagnosed with other rheumatic diseases. We reviewed the clinical manifestations and laboratory tests of these patients with respect to three classification criteria.
Results: The sensitivity of EULAR/ACR-2019 and SLICC-2012 was higher than that of ACR-1997 in a-SLE group, but there was no significant difference in the specificity, with AUCs of EULAR/ACR-2019 (0.863), SLICC-2012 (0.895), and ACR-1997 (0.869). In C-SLE group, the sensitivity of SLICC-2012 was higher than that of ACR-1997, and the specificity was not significantly different, with AUCs of EULAR/ACR-2019 (0.94), SLICC-2012 (0.945), and ACR-1997 (0.899). Increasing the threshold of EULAR/ACR-2019 from 10 to 11 can improve the specificity and accuracy for a-SLE, while from 10 to 14 can improve those for c-SLE.

Conclusion: EULAR/ACR-2019 and SLICC-2012 are the most appropriate classification criteria for a-SLE, and SLICC-2012 is more applicable for c-SLE from northern China. Adjusting the threshold of EULAR/ACR-2019 can improve the specificity and accuracy for a-SLE and c-SLE.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0597 CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ANTI-RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS 33 ANTIBODY IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Diagnostic tests, Clinical trials

Y Chen 1, W Y Lu 1, 2, 3, D Liu 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, *Shenzhen People's Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Shenzhen, China

Background: Evidence initially showed that anti-rheumatoid arthritis (RA) 33 antibodies were highly specific for the diagnosis of RA [1]. Later studies reported that anti-RA33 was present in various connective tissue diseases (CTDs) [2]. However, the clinical significance of anti-RA33 antibodies in CTDs is still obscure.

Objectives: To explore the clinical significance and diagnostic value of anti-RA33 antibodies in CTDs, especially systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

Methods: A total of 565 patients with positive anti-nuclear antibodies who had been tested for anti-RA33 antibodies were included in the study. These patients were classified into RA33-positive and RA33-negative groups according to the anti-RA33 results. The association between anti-RA33 and the clinical features of CTDs was examined. Additionally, receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis was performed to explore the diagnostic value of anti-RA33 antibodies in SLE and SLE-related organ involvement.

Results: SLE was the most common disease in CTD patients positive for anti-RA33 (48.8%). Compared with the RA33-negative group, the proportion of patients with SLE was significantly higher in the RA33-positive group (64.3% vs. 47.1%, p=0.0164). Compared with those negative for anti-RA33, CTD patients positive for anti-RA33 had significantly higher percentages of SLE-associated antibodies (Figure 1). Higher proportions of SLE patients with a high disease activity (41.7% vs. 24.7%) as well as lower levels of serum complement components (50.0% vs. 27.7%) were observed in the RA33-positive group (Both p<0.05) (Table 1). Furthermore, CTD patients with positive anti-RA33 were more likely to suffer from mucocutaneous (46.4% vs. 33.2%, p=0.0361) and haematological involvement (51.8% vs. 35.6%, p=0.0200) as well as interstitial lung disease (25.0% vs. 11.8%, p=0.0108). ROC analysis revealed an area under the curve value of 0.634 (95% CI: 0.587 to 0.681) for anti-RA33 in the diagnosis of SLE, with a specificity and sensitivity of 92.9% and 13.5%, respectively.

Conclusion: This study reveals a significant association between anti-RA33 and the clinical features of CTDs, especially SLE, indicating a potential clinical significance of anti-RA33 in the management of SLE.

REFERENCES:

Background: Autoimmune acquired coagulation FXIII/13 factor deficiency (AIF13D) is a rare bleeding disorder characterized by the formation of autoantibody to F13. The treatment of AIF13D requires immunosuppressive (IS) therapy in addition to hematopoietic therapy. Japanese guidance recommends high-dose glucocorticoid (GC) as initial therapy while cyclophosphamide (CPA), rituximab (RIT), and ciclosporin (CYA) are administered in refractory cases. Inchioue reported that 16 of 93 (17%) AIF13D patients had autoimmune diseases (AIDs) such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) [1]. The guidance recommends that IS therapy for patients with underlying AIDs should be selected based on treatment guidelines for AIDs; however, recommendations for the choice of IS drugs are unavailable.

Objectives: To report the case of our patient and to analyze the reported cases of SLE complicated AIF13D.

Methods: We searched PubMed, Google Scholar, and Ichiushi Web for articles or abstracts written in English and Japanese using the following terms: [acquired FXIII/13 factor deficiency or inhibitors] and SLE.

Results: A 24-year-old woman from Southeast Asia presented to the emergency department with headache and nausea; a hematoma was noted in the right temporoparietal lobe on head CT. Her PT, APTT, platelet count, and bleeding time were normal. She developed impaired consciousness and underwent an emergency craniotomy to remove the hematoma. During surgery, no abnormal blood vessels were noted in the brain, and the hematoma was removed. However, recurrent hemorrhages occurred on days 2 and 13 after hospitalization, and she underwent reoperation. On day 18, F13 activity was found to be less than 3%, and an F13 preparation (Fibrogamin P) was administered. A positive cross-mixing test with normal plasma was positive for the F13 inhibitor, and a diagnosis of AIF13D was made [2]. In addition, she was diagnosed with SLE based on positive anti-nuclear and anti-dsDNA antibodies (Ab), hypocomplementemia, and lymphopenia. PSL, 50mg (1mg/kg/day) was prescribed. Owing to the local infection after cranioplasty, no IS drugs were used; hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and belimumab were added, while tapering PSL. During 1 year period, anti-dsDNA Ab decreased and F13 activity remained above 40% without administering Fibrogamin P (Figure 1). The reported 11 cases of SLE complicated AIF13D and this case are summarized in the Table 1. IS therapy included CPA, CPA, and RIT besides GC; belimumab was added only in our case.

Conclusion: The prognosis of patients with AIF13D is poor. Even after weaning from acute hemorrhage, long-term IS therapy is often necessary and death by infection is common. Based on our experience, we suggest belimumab as a therapy option for SLE complicated AIF13D.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Reported cases of SLE complicated AIF13D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (Years)</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Bleeding site</th>
<th>Inhibitor</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Immunosuppressive treatment</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>SC, IM</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>10% PSL</td>
<td>60mg/kg/day, PSL</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>ICH</td>
<td>+NR</td>
<td>NR CPA</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>IM</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>GC, CPA, Plasmapheresis, RIT</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>SC, IM</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>6% PSL</td>
<td>IVCy, CYA</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>ICH</td>
<td>NR+1%</td>
<td>HCQ, IVCy</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>SC, IM</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>Same time PSL 40mg/kg/day, mPSL-P, RIT</td>
<td>CR 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>SC, IM</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>PSL</td>
<td>IVCy, Plasmapheresis</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>IM</td>
<td>+NR</td>
<td>10% PSL</td>
<td>5mg/m2/day, mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>Death 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>SDH</td>
<td>+NR</td>
<td>Same time PSL, mPSL, HCQ</td>
<td>CR 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>SC, IM</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>NR GC</td>
<td>mPSL-P, CPA, RIT</td>
<td>CR 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>SC, IM</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>NR GC</td>
<td>CPA</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>ICH</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>Same time PSL 50mg/kg/day, HCQ</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intravenous high-dose immunoglobulin therapy , IVIG; intravenous cyclophosphamide , IVCy; mPSL-P, methylpredonise pulse; rituximab; RIT; ICH: intracranial hematoma, SC, subcutaneous, IM, intramuscular; SDH, subdural hemorrhage; CR, complete remission; PR, partial remission; NR, Not Reported

Figure 1. Anti-dsDNA antibody and F13 activity after hospitalization
Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a systemic autoimmune disease mainly affecting exocrine glands. Extral glandular manifestations play a major role in the long-term prognosis of the disease, and neurological manifestations seem common in pSS. The early detection of haematological and immunological parameters might improve the disease evolution of patients.

Objectives: The study aimed to evaluate the predictive potential of clinical, haematological and immunological parameters for the development of neurological manifestations in pSS patients, followed for 12 months.

Methods: We performed a retrospective study in a single center, with a total of 265 patients (131 pSS patients and 134 healthy controls). Clinical examinations, complete blood count, inflammatory and immunological parameters were registered at baseline, 6 months and 12 months, for 131 pSS patients.

Results: In pSS patients, cellular count, complement fractions, and Vitamin B12 values are significantly decreased compared to healthy subjects (p < 0.001), while, cellular ratio–NLR, PLR, inflammatory and immunological parameters were significantly increased (p < 0.001) in the pSS patients. Likewise, the comparison at baseline and at every 6 months of cellular ratio, total proteins, and gammaglobulins and disease scores revealed exponentially increased values, in pSS patients with PN. The occurrence of PN was positively correlated with neutrophils and platelets (p < 0.05), and negatively correlated with lymphocytes (p < 0.05). NLR and PLR also revealed significant positive correlations with the emergence of PN in pSS (p < 0.05), while for total proteins, and Vitamin B12 the correlation was negative (p < 0.05). The multivariate analysis confirmed the independent predictive character for PN emergence in pSS for NLR (CI95% 0.034 to 0.254, p < 0.010), gammaglobulins (CI95% -0.409 to -0.114, p < 0.001) and vitamin B12 (CI95% -0.001 to 0.001, p < 0.001).

Conclusion: High values for hematological and immunological parameters were identified at baseline, while their persistent modifications during the follow-up period were observed in pSS patients with PN. NLR, gammaglobulins and vitamin B12, parameters that could become predictors for the early detection of patients at risk for the development of PN.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, neurological, real-world evidence

M. Flurie1, I. Alezivos2, C. Baldwin3, M. Converse4, K. Davidson5, B. LaMoreaux6, A. Amato7, J. Massengale7, J. Taylor8, W. Li9, C. DeFelice5, M. Picone5, E. R. Wassman1. 1TREND Community, Real-World Evidence, Philadelphia, United States of America; 2Horizon Therapeutics, Deerfield, United States of America; 3Horizon Therapeutics, Patient Advocacy, Deerfield, United States of America; 4Horizon Therapeutics, Rheumatology, Deerfield, United States of America; 5Horizon Therapeutics, Medical Affairs, Deerfield, United States of America; 6Horizon Therapeutics, Commercial Training, Deerfield, United States of America

Background: To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the needs of individuals in a particular community, it is essential to actively listen to and interpret the patient experience. A proprietary artificial intelligence (AI) analytics engine was applied to social media conversations from an online community for those living with Sjögren’s disease (SjD). Sjögren’s disease is an autoimmune disease characterized by inflammation of exocrine glands, most often presenting with dryness of the eyes and mouth (sicca). Some women with SjD also report vaginal dryness and discomfort (1) through individuals with SjD have an increased risk for poor mental health outcomes (e.g., anxiety, depression), the unique role of vaginal dryness and the resulting mental health impact are not well understood.

Objectives: The objective of the current study was to identify specific mental health impacts associated with vaginal dryness in SjD. We also aimed to explore common topics shared by community members discussing these symptoms to understand their impact on daily living.

Methods: We performed exploratory analyses on 3779 users and 41,406 posts/comments from October 2012 to March 2022. The proprietary AI engine used for analysis leverages natural language processing techniques to analyze text-based social media data sources. First, the engine used entity recognition to identify the most frequent clinical findings mentioned across all posts/comments. Anxiety and depression were among the most frequently mentioned mental health symptoms in conversations. The engine then extracted the most frequent dryness-related symptoms from the data, which included dry eyes, mouth, throat, and vagina. We then fit 2 logistic regression models where dryness mentions (e.g., ‘dry eyes’, ‘vaginal dryness’) predicted mentions of ‘anxiety’ (model 1) or ‘depression’ (model 2). For our exploratory analysis, we used a guided topic modeling approach to extract conversations about vaginal dryness. This involved providing a list of seed terms (e.g., ‘vaginal dryness’, ‘vaginal pain’) around which the model could converge in identifying word clusters.

Results: In total, topic modeling revealed 563 posts/comments from 345 users regarding vaginal dryness. “Vaginal dryness” was a significant predictor (P < 0.001) in both regression models, with adjusted odds ratios between 2.2 and 2.8 (95% CI, 19-4.2), suggesting that users mentioning vaginal dryness are 2 to 3 times more likely to mention a negative mental health outcome. Our guided topic modeling approach yielded 3 subtopics within the primary vaginal dryness topic. These included conversational topics about ‘sexual discomfort’, ‘lubrication’, and ‘marital impacts’ across 141 users.

Conclusion: These findings suggest that vaginal dryness and sexual dysfunction in SjD are prevalent and associated with specific negative mental health symptoms. Potential daily impacts were illuminated when topic modeling showed common topics centered on the emotional impact of vaginal dryness and the adverse impacts on marriage/relationships. This social listening approach also revealed management techniques (e.g., lubrication) for individuals experiencing sexual discomfort. Interrogating social media conversations can be invaluable to elucidating patient-reported mental health challenges in rare diseases. It remains unknown how these conversational references to negative mental health symp- toms directly translate to specific mental health diagnoses (e.g., anxiety disorder) or treatment challenges in patients with SjD. Future work should comprehen- sively explore these symptoms so clinicians, caregivers, and patients can better understand and manage mental health in the context of chronic disease.


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Novartis, Monica Converse Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TRENDS Community employee, Kristina Davidson Shareholder of: Horizon Therapeutics, Employee of: Horizon Therapeutics, Brian LaMoreaux Shareholder of: Horizon Therapeutics, Employee of: Horizon Therapeutics, Anthony Amatucci Shareholder of: Horizon Therapeutics, Employee of: Horizon Therapeutics, Jessica Massengale Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TRENDS Community employee, Julia Taylor Shareholder of: Horizon Therapeutics, Employee of: Horizon Therapeutics, Wei Li Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TRENDS Community: Owner, Maria Picone Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TRENDS Community: Owner, E. Robert Wassman Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TRENDS Community: Owner, G. Chodick Grant/research support from: Our clients are pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including, but not limited to Horizon Therapeutics, Chiesi Global Rare Disease, Novartis, Harmony Biosciences, and Avadel. TRENDS Community: Owner, Daphna Paran Consultant of: AstraZeneca.

SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS IN ISRAEL: GENDER DIFFERENCES IN MANIFESTATIONS, MANAGEMENT AND COMORBIDITIES

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Epidemiology, T. Eviatar1,2, V. Rosenberg3, G. Elkayam1,2, G. Chodick4, D. Paran1,2.1 Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center - Ichilov, Rheumatology, Tel Aviv, Israel, 2Tel Aviv University, Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel, 3Maccabi Health Services, Kfar-Saba-Maccabi Research and Innovation Institute, Tel Aviv, Israel, 4Tel Aviv University, Faculy of Medicine, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel

Background: Prevalence, incidence, demographic and clinical characteristics of SLE are affected by race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status. The epidemiology of SLE in Israel is not well defined.

Objectives: We aimed to assess the prevalence of SLE and to describe the demographic and clinical characteristics of SLE patients.

Methods: A retrospective study using the computerized database of Maccabi Healthcare Services (MHS), a large health maintenance organization. Prevalent SLE patients on Dec 31 2020 were defined by: ICD-9 code 710.0 (>2 diagnoses by a rheumatologist/immunologist and/or ≥2 diagnoses by a primary care physician and/or ≥2 diagnoses from a hospital); ≥1 a positive antinuclear antibody (ANA) test; ≥1 dispensed hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) prescription. All SLE patients were ≥10 years-old when first diagnosed; first diagnosed before Dec 31 2018; MHS members for ≥12 months before and ≥24 months after the first diagnosis of SLE. Patients diagnosed with dermatomyositis and/or systemic sclerosis were excluded. SLE patients were matched to controls from the general population of MHS members for age, sex and socioeconomic status at a ratio of 1:5.

Results: We identified 1073 eligible SLE patients (prevalence rate of 5.6 per 100,000) and 5365 controls. The mean age on Dec 31 2020 was 50.7 (±14.9) and 942 SLE patients (87.8%) were female. Mean age at diagnosis was 37.2 (±14.4). The prevalence of SLE disease manifestations is shown in Figure 1A. Since 2015 over 90% of SLE patients had ≥1 dispensed HCQ within 12 months of diagnosis, compared to only 50-70% among those diagnosed before 2015. In 2020 only 67.5% of the patients were still treated with HCQ, 24% were not taking any SLE medication, and 3.8% were treated with systemic glucocorticosteroids (GCs) alone. GCs were prescribed at least once for 74.8% of all patients, and for 30.8% in 2020. The median cumulative prednisone dose per disease year was 283 mg (IQR 0-1297), and was higher for males than females (830 mg [IQR 452-2083], 251 mg [IQR, 0-1183], respectively, P = 0.001). Compared to females, male SLE patients had a significantly higher prevalence of comorbidities (Figure 1B). Despite a similar prevalence of osteoporosis (OP) (P=0.828), use of OP medications was lower among men (M-16.2%, F-32.3%, P=0.046).

Conclusion: The prevalence of SLE in MHS in this study was found to be 1:1790. Prescription of HCQ within the first year after diagnosis has increased since 2015, however HCQ uptake decreased in the years following diagnosis, possibly due to waning compliance. GC cumulative doses were generally low, although it was three times higher in male than in female patients. Cardiovascular comorbidity and OP were more prevalent in SLE patients than in the general population, and more prevalent in male SLE patients, who usually bear a worse prognosis. Moreover, male SLE patients may be undertreated for comorbidities as manifested by higher GC doses and less OP treatment.

REFERENCES: NIL.


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**AB0604**
IDENTIFYING THE RISK FACTORS AND INCREASING MORTALITY OF PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Epidemiology

**Y. F. Fang**, Y. F. Chen. 1. Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Linkou, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taoyuan City, Taiwan, Republic of China

**Background:** Patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) have a risk of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), which could be fatal.

**Objectives:** The goal of this study was to identify the risk factors for mortality in patients with PAH.

**Methods:** Patients with SLE treated at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital were included in this retrospective cohort study. Univariate and multivariate COX regression, as well as Kaplan–Meier survival curve analysis were conducted to investigate risks in SLE patients.

**Results:** The average age at diagnosis was 40.78 ± 15.92 years. A total of 42 (6.1%) of the 689 patients had PAH. Patients with PAH exhibited shorter follow-up duration, higher disease activities, higher incidence rates of comorbidities patients without PAH. Physicians preferred to use more Cyclophosphamide and less Hydroxychloroquine in PAH patients.

**Conclusion:** A 6.1% proportion of SLE patients have manifestations of PAH. Moreover, SLE patients with PAH have a greater risk of mortality. Therefore, these patients need intense screening and treatment of PAH.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Table 1. Data that ≥ 75% centres collected**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociodemographic</th>
<th>Racial background, Educational attainment, Occupation, Smoking status, Alcohol consumption, Contraception use, Pregnancy history (number of pregnancies, miscarriage, stillbirth and neonatal death)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLE specific</td>
<td>Date at and age of diagnosis, Disease duration, Family history of SLE, ACR 1997 classification criteria, SLEDAI-2000 disease activity measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidity</td>
<td>Diabetes, Hypertension, Bone disease, Osteoporosis, Cerebrovascular disease, Ischemic heart disease, Renal disease, Renal biopsy, BP, serum creatinine, Urine Protein, Creatinine Ratio and Estimated GFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular risk factors</td>
<td>smoking status, diabetes, hypertension and obesity, Renal data: renal biopsy, BP, serum creatinine, Urine Protein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline data</td>
<td>FBC, Complement C3/C4, ESR, LFTs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>Anti-cardiolipin antibody, ANA (IIF), ENA, Lupus anticoagulant, Anti-Beta2 glycoprotein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>Current Biologic (Name, Dose, Frequency, Start date), Immunosuppressant (Name, Dose, Frequency, Start date), Antimalarial (Name, Dose, Frequency, Start date)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment data</td>
<td>V/PO Glucocorticoid (Name, Dose, Frequency, Start date), NSAID (Name only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AB0605**
ALTERNATION OF FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN THE RIGHT INSULAR CORTEX AND RIGHT THALAMUS IS RELEVANT TO FATIGUE IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

**Keywords:** Imaging, Systemic lupus erythematosus

**K. Sakiyama**, Y. Fujiyada, H. Narita, N. Abe, M. Tada, H. Moriya, M. Yasuda, H. Hisada, M. Kono, M. Kato, O. Amegnual, K. K. Tha, T. Atsumi. 1. Hokkaido University Faculty of Medicine and Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Endocrinology and Nephrology, Sapporo, Japan; 2. Hokkaido University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Sapporo, Japan; 3. Hokkaido University Faculty of Medicine, Global Center for Biomedical Science and Engineering, Sapporo, Japan; 4. Hokkaido University, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Sapporo, Japan

**Background:** Fatigue is one of the most common symptoms in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) [1]. Resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging (rs-fMRI) has emerged as a powerful tool for mapping large-scale networks in the human brain. To explore the neural mechanism of fatigue, several studies evaluated the functional connectivity between brain region of interests using rs-fMRI. However, there are still few reports on patients with SLE.

**Objectives:** To identify the fatigue-specific functional connectivity in patients with SLE.

**Methods:** rs-fMRI data were acquired from SLE patients with fatigue and healthy controls (HCs). Functional connectivity of SLE patients and HCs were analyzed, and compared by ANCOVA, adjusted for age and sex. On the day of rs-fMRI imaging, SLE Disease Activity Index score with the Safety of Estrogens in SLE National Assessment modification (SELENA-SLEDAI) was assessed, and the Chalder fatigue scale, fatigue assessment questionnaire, was collected. The association among SELENA-SLEDAI, the results of the questionnaire, and functional connectivity was evaluated by correlation analysis.
NODULAR MUCINOSIS AS INITIAL PRESENTATION OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Skin, Systemic lupus erythematosus

D. Zajdman Faitelson1, M. Macedo Pérez2, P. Rodríguez Henríquez3, "Dr. Manuel Gea Gonzalez" General Hospital, Dermatology, Mexico City, Mexico; 2"Dr. Manuel Gea Gonzalez" General Hospital, Rheumatology, Mexico City, Mexico; 3"Dr. Manuel Gea Gonzalez" General Hospital, Dermatopathology, Mexico City, Mexico

Background: Cutaneous mucinoses comprise a wide group of disorders characterized by aberrant accumulation of glycosaminoglycans between collagen bundles, that share clinical and histological characteristics, and are classified as primary and secondary [1-3]. Nodular mucinosis associated with lupus is a primary mucinosis first described in 1954 by Gold [4]. It is a distinctive but unusual cutaneous manifestation, with an incidence of 1.5%, that presents as asymptomatic, skin-colored papules or nodules on the trunk and upper extremities [2]. It can occur in patients with discoid lupus, subacute cutaneous lupus or systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) [2,5]. The temporal relationship with the development of SLE is variable, since in some cases it precedes it, while in others it occurs later or simultaneously, with clinical variations according to disease activity and antibody levels [6,7].

Objectives: Describe an infrequent cutaneous manifestation of SLE.

Methods: We describe a case of nodular mucinosis as an isolated clinical manifestation of SLE in a middle aged woman, with clinical improvement with methotrexate therapy.

Results: A 67-year-old female patient presented with an 8-month history of multiple skin-colored, asymptomatic nodules in face, trunk and extremities. Some of the nodules had a central depression (Figure 1 A and B). The clinical examination was otherwise unremarkable. Histological analysis of a biopsy specimen showed a circumscribed, non-encapsulated neoformation in the reticular dermis, composed of spindle cells in a storiform pattern, mixed with hyalinized collagen fibers (Figure 1 C). Ablan blue staining confirmed the presence of abundant interstitial, superficial and deep mucin, thus integrating the diagnosis of nodular mucinosis (Figure 1 D). Laboratory tests were positive for antinuclear antibodies (1:1000, coarse speckled pattern), anti-double stranded DNA (47.1 IU/ml), anti-nucleosome, anti-SSA/Ro, anti-RNP, anti-Sm antibodies and lupus anticoagulant, with a lymphocyte count of 3.6 cells/mm3 and hypocomplementemia (C4 of 15 mg/dl). A final diagnosis of nodular mucinosis associated with SLE was made and treatment was started with hydroxychloroquine 200 mg/day and prednisone 1 mg/kg/day. Improvement of skin lesions was observed after the addition of methotrexate 15 mg/weekly.

Conclusion: Our case presents a challenge to the clinician due to the atypical presentation and the absence of other systemic symptoms of SLE, as well as histologic findings similar or almost identical to other cutaneous mucinoses. This case demonstrates the importance of thorough dermatologic examination, high suspicion and directed complementary studies for the correct interdisciplinary approach to this entity.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1290

AB0606

ANALYSIS OF NAILFOLD CAPILLAROSCOPY FINDINGS AND CLINICAL FEATURES OF PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus

E. Marasco1, C. Duesing2, S. Keymel3, G. Zanframundo4, V. Codullo5, O. Sander6, G. Chehab2, J. Richter2, R. Fischer-Betz2, P. Sewerin2, C. Bracaglia3, S. Sahin5, K. Triantafyllias1, A. Schwarting1, L. Keller4, A. Meyer5, M. Canuel1, M. Roud5, I. Cavazzana3, M. Freidl5, P. Franceschini1, E. Silvani3, A. Bortoluzzi3, C. A. Sciri2, C. Montecucco5, L. Cavagna3, M. Schneider1, 1Bambino Gesu’ Children Hospital, Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 2Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf, Policlinic and Hiller Research Unit
Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of study population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLE no PAH</th>
<th>SLE PAH</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=68</td>
<td>n=20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years (median [IQR])</td>
<td>43.80 [33.48, 52.63]</td>
<td>42.30 [34.32, 49.71]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n (%)</td>
<td>49 (72.1)</td>
<td>20 (100.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years (median [IQR])</td>
<td>13.35 [6.35, 19.53]</td>
<td>17.40 [7.33, 20.77]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum, n (%)</td>
<td>13 (19.1)</td>
<td>6 (30.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-Sm</td>
<td>12 (17.6)</td>
<td>9 (45.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-Ro</td>
<td>32 (47.1)</td>
<td>10 (50.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-La</td>
<td>9 (13.1)</td>
<td>5 (25.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>13 (19.1)</td>
<td>9 (45.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-2GPI/2GPIgM</td>
<td>11 (16.2)</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-CL IgG/IgM</td>
<td>14 (20.6)</td>
<td>5 (25.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical, n (%):</td>
<td>25 (36.8)</td>
<td>13 (65.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

for Rheumatology, Duesseldorf, Germany; 2University Hospital Düsseldorf, Department of Cardiology, Pulmonology and Angiology, Duesseldorf, Germany; 3Foundation IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Division of Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy; 4Bambino Gesu’ Children Hospital, Unit of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 5Istanbul University Cerrahpasa, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 6ACURA Rheumatology Center Rhineland-Palatinate, Rheumatology, Bad Kreuznach, Germany; 7University Hospital Mainz, Division of Rheumatology, Mainz, Germany; 8Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, Rheumatology, Centre de Reference des Maladies Auto-Immunes Rares, Service de Physiologie et Explorations Fonctionnelles Musculaires, Strasbourg, France; 9Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, Service de Physiologie et Explorations Fonctionnelles Musculaires, Strasbourg, France; 10Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, Service de Pneumologie et d’Immunologie Clinique, Centre de Reference des Maladies Auto-immunes Rares, Service de Physiologie et Explorations Fonctionnelles Musculaires, Strasbourg, France; 11Asklepios Clinic, Center for Rheumatologic Rehabilitation, Bad Abbach, Germany; 12University of Regensburg, University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease affecting different organs and causing significant morbidity and mortality. Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a rare manifestation of SLE. The prevalence of PAH in patients with SLE varies between 0.5 to 5% [1]. No screening algorithms have been developed in patients with SLE.

In patients with SSc, PAH is characterized by changes in the pulmonary vasculature and endothelial dysfunction. These microvascular changes are also present in patients with SLE, as observed with nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC) [2]. NVC findings may help to identify patients at a significant high risk of future development of PAH [3].

Objectives: The aim of our work is to analyze the clinical and demographic features and nailfold capillary changes of patients with SLE-related PAH compared to a group of SLE patients without PAH.

Methods: We identified and selected 20 patients with SLE and type I PAH and collected demographic, clinical and laboratory features from 8 rheumatology centers across Europe. We could perform NVC on 9 patients. We selected as controls 68 patients with SLE who underwent cardipulmonary screening to exclude PAH: we collected demographic, clinical and laboratory features and performed NVC. The presence of SD pattern was assessed as previously described [4]. Patients satisfied the 2019 EULAR/ACR SLE classification criteria. We excluded patients with a diagnosis of mixed tissue disease and overlap syndrome.

Results: Demographic and clinical features of patients with SLE-PAH and SLE controls are shown in Table 1. All patients with SLE-PAH were female, age and disease duration were not different between the 2 groups. LAC+ and anti-RNP+ was more prevalent in patients with SLE-PAH than in SLE controls. Raynaud’s phenomenon was more prevalent in patients with SLE-PAH than in SLE controls. In patients with SLE-PAH we observed a significantly higher prevalence of scleroderma pattern at NVC than in controls: patients with SLE-PAH showed a lower number of capillary density and a higher frequency of megacapillaries. In multivariation analysis, Raynaud phenomenon and anti-RNP are predictors of PAH in patients with SLE. The McFadden’s R-squared for the model is 0.30.

Conclusion: Our data show that LAC+, RNP+, Raynaud’s, Skin and CNS involvement and a SD pattern at NVC is more prevalent in patients with SLE-PAH than in patients with SLE without PAH. Our results point to a generalized microvascular involvement and a hypercoagulation state in patients with SLE-PAH.

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[2] Corrado, Microvascular research, 2017
[4] Bazan, Resp medicine, 2018
[5] Corrado, Microvascular research, 2017

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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DESIGN OF A PHASE 2, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, GLOabal TRIal of Deucravacitinib, an oral, Selective, AllostERIC TyRosesINe Kinase 2 (TYk2) inhibitor, in Patients with Active Discoid and/or Subacute Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Clinical trials

V. P. Werth, J. F. Mero, J. Wenzel, N. Dele, H. Kothan, R. Meier, S. Singhall, M. Madireddi, S. Korish, University of Pennsylvania and the Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, Dermatology, Philadelphia, United States of America; Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Dermatology and Immunology, Boston, United States of America; University Hospital of Bonn, Germany, Dermatology and Immunology, Bonn, United States of America; Bristol Myers Squibb, Clinical Development, Princeton, United States of America; Bristol Myers Squibb, Global Biometrics and Data Sciences, Princeton, United States of America

Background: Deucravacitinib is a first-in-class, oral, selective, allosteryc tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) inhibitor approved in multiple countries for the treatment of adults with plaque psoriasis [1,2]. Deucravacitinib demonstrated efficacy across multiple outcome measures, including achievement of ≥50% reduction in Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus Disease Area and Severity Index-Activity score (CLASI-A-50), in a phase 2 trial in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) [3] and is being investigated in two phase 3 trials (NCT05617677; NCT05620407). Patients with discoid and/or subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (DLE/SCLE) have elevated expression of Type I interferons (IFN) [4]. Deucravacitinib mediates signaling of Type I IFN, IL-12, and IL-23 and may be an effective treatment for patients with DLE/SCLE [5].

Objectives: Results of this ongoing phase 2 trial (NCT04857034) will characterize the efficacy and safety of deucravacitinib compared to placebo in patients with active DLE/SCLE with or without SLE.

Methods: This phase 2, global, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial is enrolling adults (aged 18-75) with biopsy-confirmed clinical diagnosis of DLE/SCLE. Key eligibility criteria and study design are depicted below (Figure 1). Eligible patients will be randomized (1:1:1) to treatment with placebo or deucravacitinib (dose 1 or 2) for 16 weeks. At week 16, all patients randomized to placebo will be rerandomized (1:1:1) to treatment with deucravacitinib dose 1 or 2 until week 52. Patients originally randomized to deucravacitinib will continue treatment until week 52. The primary and secondary endpoints are depicted below (Table 1). This trial will also assess the safety and tolerability of 2 doses of deucravacitinib, exploratory efficacy endpoints, patient-reported outcomes, and pharmacodynamics.

Results: Planned enrollment is 75 total patients (25 per double-blind treatment group) in 8 countries in North and South America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific regions.

Conclusion: This phase 2 trial will characterize the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of deucravacitinib in patients with active DLE/SCLE with or without SLE.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Primary and Secondary Endpoints Assessed at Week 16

Primary Endpoint
- Mean percentage change from baseline in CLASI-A score
- Percentage of patients who achieve ≥50% reduction in CLASI-A score (CLASI-A 50) from baseline
- Percentage of patients who achieve ≥4-point improvement in CLASI-A from baseline
- Mean change from baseline in CLASI-A score
- Percentage of patients who achieve a complete response (defined as a CLASI-A score of 0)

CLASI-A, Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus Disease Area and Severity Index-Acivity

Acknowledgements: This study was sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb.
surveillance of disease activity among Asian patients and encourages further research on disease behaviour.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosures of Interest: Chathurika Dandeniya: None declared, Duminda Munidasa: None declared, Kalum Deshapriya: None declared, Narani Aravinthan: None declared, Monika De Silva: None declared, gundernika kasuritharina: None declared. Utpala Dissanyake: None declared, Asela Udagedara: None declared, Priyan Wanigasekara: None declared, Nawan Darshana: None declared, Ben Parker: None declared, Ian N. Bruce Speakers bureau: GSK,Astra Zeneca,Janssen, Consultant of: GSK, Astra Zeneca, Aurinia, Lilly, Grant/research support from: GSK, Astra Zeneca, Janssen, Anushka Edinweera: None declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2167

AB0611
A RANDOMISED OPEN-LABEL PILOT STUDY OF PROBIOTICS AS AN ADJUNCTIVE THERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Randomized control trial, Systemic lupus erythematosus
M. S. Mohamed Said1, M. Armugam1, K. N. Muhammad Nawawi1, A. Abdul Wahab2, R. Mustafa1. 1Faculty of Medicine Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Medical, HUKM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Background: SLE is a complex inflammatory multiorgan disease that leads to multiple comorbidities and mortality. Probiotics were shown to be successful in lowering the pro-inflammatory cytokines in animal SLE models.

Objectives: This study looked at probiotics’ effect on disease activity and pro-inflammatory cytokine interleukin-6 (IL-6) among SLE patients.

Methods: We performed a prospective randomised probiotic controlled analysis of those aged 18 years old and above with mild to moderate disease activity (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K) score < 13) visiting Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz (HCTM) SLE clinic between December 2021 to February 2022. Patients were prescribed either twice daily probiotics (Lactobacillus spp. and Bifidobacterium spp) to ongoing therapy or maintaining ongoing treatment for three months. Baseline and post-treatment Interleukin-6, disease activity score (SLEDAI-2K, Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics Arthritis Criteria System (SLICC/ACR) Damage index), and adverse effects following treatment were documented.

Results: There was a 7% reduction of the median (IQR) IL-6 concentration among the probiotic group, 2.28 (4.85)/pg/ml at baseline versus 2.12 (2.56) pg/ml at three months; this was not statistically significant (p=0.145). In control group shows increase in level of IL-6 by 48.9% at end of treatment [1.94 (3.59) vs 2.89 (2.83), p = 0.077]. There was a substantial reduction in SLEDAI 2K among the probiotic group by 64.3%, with the mean (SD) baseline of 4.94 (3.09) versus 1.76 (3.15) at three months (p<0.01), while the reduction in the control group were 23.7 %, with the mean(SD) baseline of 4.17 (3.20) versus 3.18 (2.50) at three months (p=0.077). There were no adverse effects noted among the probiotic group.

Conclusion: The use of probiotics reduced clinical disease activity, as demonstrated by the SLEDAI-2K and IL-6 reduction. The level of IL-6 reduction was insignificant statistically, however, it shows a beneficial effect of probiotics in stabilising IL-6 compared to the control group, which has increased serum IL-6 at three months. The probiotics are relatively safe to consume. These findings warrant further studies with a larger sample size, longer duration, and analysis of multiple cytokines profiles.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Faculty of Medicine UKM and Research Ethics Committee.
Disclosures of Interests: Mohamed Shahrir Mohamed Said: Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Novartis, Zuelig Pharma, Abbvie, Menachi Armugam: None declared, Khairul Najmi Muhammad Nawawi: None declared, Asril Abdul Wahab: None declared, Rulsinda Mustafa: None declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2519

AB0612
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SYSTEMATIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS DISEASE ACTIVITY INDEX (SLEDAI) AND HEALTHCARE RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND COSTS IN SLE PATIENTS

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Systemic lupus erythematosus
J. Levy1, E. Alemao2, U. Sbajiria3, D. Goldman4, M. A. Petr5. 1Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Health Policy and Management, Baltimore, United States of America; 2Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Global Services, Horsham, United States of America; 3Janssen Pharmaceutica NV Global Services, Beerse, Belgium; 4Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, United States of America; 5The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America

Background: Standard sources of healthcare resource utilization (HCRU) for systematic lupus erythematosus patients lack granular clinical information and longitudinal follow-up. Due to the heterogeneous nature of SLE, in which disease activity fluctuates with time and acute events such as flares and remissions are common, little is known about the relationship between disease activity and HCRU.

Objectives: In this study, we assess the relationship between disease activity and HCRU in patients with SLE.

Methods: We combined data from the longstanding Johns Hopkins Lupus Cohort, where SLE Disease Activity Index (SLEDAI) was collected at minimum every six-months during standardized protocol visits, with health system cost data (Casemix). Patient resource utilization and registry data were included each calendar half-year where at least 1-registry visit and 1-Casemix item was observed. We computed the annual HCRU and cost of care by type of utilization: outpatient (OP), inpatient (IP), emergency room (ER) and pharmaceutical (Rx). We described the impact of disease activity (based on the worst SLEDAI score observed in each period) on utilization and costs using mixed effect generalized linear models where categorized SLEDAI score 0 (no activity), 1-5 (mild), 6-10 (moderate), 11+ (high) is used as a predictor of outcomes, adjusted for patients fixed effects and disease characteristics.

Results: 1,111 patients contributing 5,094 patient years between 2013-2019 were included in our analysis. The average annual cost of care (and SD) by type was: $5,337 (12,997), $3,896 (25,297), $215 (1,062), $3,251 (7,721) for OP, IP, ER and Rx. Regressions showed that total costs in 6-month period was 14% higher for mild, 32% higher for moderate and 76% higher for severe relative to SLEDAI score 0 of (no activity), (all p<0.001).

Conclusion: Using detailed clinical data collected via registry, combined with comprehensive utilization and costs, we have described the relationship between disease activity and HCRU over time. These estimates explain the clinical burden of the disease and can inform cost estimates in future studies of treatments that impact SLEDAI score.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosures of Interest: Joseph Levy: None declared, Evo Alemao Shareholder of: AE is an employee of Janssen Global Services, LLC and owns stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: EA is an employee of Janssen Global Services, LLC, Urban Sbajiria Shareholder of: US is an employee of Janssen and owns stock or stock options in Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: US is an employee of Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, Belgium, Daniel Goldman: None declared, Michelle A Petr Consultant of: MP is a consultant to Alector, Amgen, AnaptysBio, Argxen, AstraZeneca, Aurinia, Biogen, Carlbioc Tissues, CVS Health, EMD Serono, Eli Lilly, Emergent Biosolutions, GSK, IQVIA, Janssen, Kira, Merck Pharmaceuticals, MedShr, Sanofi and SinoMab, Grant/research support from: MP received grant support from: GSK, Lilly, Exagen, Thermofisher, AstraZeneca and Aurinia.
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AB0613
ETOLOGY, OUTCOME AND PREDICTORS OF MORTALITY AMONG SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS PRESENTING TO EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT: A SINGLE CENTRE PROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus
S. Kotwani1, G. Naidu2, M. Bhatia3, S. Sharda4, V. Dhir5, S. K. Sharma4, M. Rath4, A. Sharma6, N. Sharma7, S. Jain8. 1PGIMER Chandigarh, Internal Medicine, Chandigarh, India; 2PGIMER Chandigarh, Internal Medicine,
Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients can present to emergency department (ED) with acute manifestations that require immediate evaluation and initiation of appropriate therapy. The reasons for ED visits could be due to disease activity or various complications arising due to therapy. However, there is paucity of data on the reasons and outcomes of SLE patients who present to ED.

Objectives: To determine the reason, 3 month outcomes and the predictors of mortality among the SLE patients who present to ED.

Methods: Single centre prospective observational study was being performed between July 2021 and December 2022. Patients of SLE fulfilling the SLICC or the 2019 ACR/EULAR classification criteria and aged above 18 years and presenting to ED were included. Written informed consent was obtained from all the subjects. Clinical and laboratory details were noted at the time of presentation to ED. The reasons for ED visits were classified into disease activity or infection or both or non-SLE related. Outcomes of death and disease activity (by SLEDAI2K) at 3 months were noted. The study was approved by the Institute Ethics Committee.

Results: A total of 61 patients were included in the study. Median age was 28 years (IQR: 24-35) and 55 (90.2%) were females. Twenty (32.8%) patients were newly diagnosed with SLE after presentation to ED, and the median duration of illness among previously diagnosed patients was 24 months (IQR: 12-48). Disease activity alone (n=41; 67.2%) was the commonest reason for ED visit followed by disease activity co-existing with infection (n=15; 24.6%), and infections alone (n=5; 8.2%). Among the 56 patients with disease activity at presentation, active disease manifestations were noted in following organs: renal (57.1%), musculoskeletal (53.6%), skin (51.8%), haematological (42.9%), serositis (39.3%), neurological (28.6%), cardiac (26.8%), gastrointestinal (14.3%) and lung (5.4%). Among the 20 patients with infections at presentation, lower respiratory tract infections were the commonest, seen in 7 (35%), followed by CNS infections (15%), UTI, skin and soft tissue, ear and sino-nasal and sepsis with un-identified focus were seen in 2 (10%) patients each. Infective colitis and bacterial peritonitis was identified in 1 (5%) patient each. At 3 months of follow up, 21 (34.4%) patients died, with majority (n=18; 85.7%) dying within 1 month of presentation. Deaths were significantly more in patients who presented with both disease activity and infection compared to patients who presented with only disease activity or infection (p=0.001). Among the remaining 40 patients, 15 (37.5%) were in remission, 13 (32.5%) were in low disease activity and 12 (30%) were in moderate to high disease activity. On multiple regression analysis, presence of hypoxia (p=0.046), serum albumin less than 2.5g/dl (p=0.006) and infection (p=0.001) at presentation predicted mortality at three months (Table 1).

Conclusion: The commonest cause of ED visit by SLE patients is disease activity alone followed by disease activity and co-existing infections. Infections were present at the time of ED admission in one-third of SLE patients. Three month mortality rate was high (34.4%) and presence of hypoxia, low serum albumin and infection at presentation predicted mortality at three months.

Table 1. Multiple regression analysis for prediction of mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>0.164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New onset disease</td>
<td>0.646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypoxia at presentation</td>
<td>0.074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe anaemia</td>
<td>0.386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low complements</td>
<td>0.179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum creatinine &gt;1.5mg/dl</td>
<td>0.451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum albumin &lt;2.5g/dl</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal involvement</td>
<td>0.059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need of haemodialysis at presentation</td>
<td>0.527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myocarditis</td>
<td>0.112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse alveolar haemorrhage</td>
<td>0.023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematological involvement</td>
<td>0.557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological involvement</td>
<td>0.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enteritis</td>
<td>0.119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serositis</td>
<td>0.721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections at presentation</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3372
rheumatic diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) and systemic sclerosis (SSc).

**Methods:** A narrative literature review was conducted on disease activity and type 2 symptoms. A comprehensive medical subject heading (MESH) term was used for each disease and combined with the MESH terms for fatigue, depression, anxiety, pain and quality of life as well as the term “disease activity” to give the proper search keywords. Articles in English published after 2000 and related to adult patients were located on Medline via Pubmed. The selected articles had to evaluate at least one type 2 symptom and/or HRQoL using a validated scale.

**Results:** Overall, 287 articles were analysed, corresponding to 157 765 patients. For SLE (n=115 studies including 21 randomized controlled trials), we found that inflammatory activity/type 1 symptoms were mostly uncorrelated with type 2 symptoms and/or HRQoL, with several studies even showing an inverse correlation. No correlation was observed in 67.7% (64.7%), 60% (51.5%), 25% (11.2%), and 60% (53.6%) of studies (patients), and a weak correlation in 17.6% (27.9%), 16.7% (22.9%), 12.5% (61.9%), and 17.5% (34.4%) of studies (patients) for fatigue, anxiety-depression, pain, and HRQoL, respectively. These results were consistent in the other rheumatic diseases studied. Indeed, type 2 symptoms were mostly uncorrelated with disease activity/type 1 symptoms and this seemed even more pronounced for pain. There was no correlation in 45.2-92% (55.9-95%), 56.4-100% (54-100%), 66.7-100% (94-100%), 23-75% (43.4-55%) of studies (patients) and a weak correlation in 0-28.6% (0-34.4%), 0-31.2% (0-43%), 0-33.3% (0-6%), 25-28.6% (16-45%) of studies (patients) for fatigue, anxiety-depression, pain and HRQoL, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Type 2 symptoms are poorly correlated with inflammatory activity, type 1 symptoms in SLE as well as in other autoimmune rheumatic diseases. These results have important implications for clinical care and therapeutic evaluation.


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3563

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**AB0616**

**GREATER SOCIAL VULNERABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH GREATER GLUCOCORTICOID USE IN PATIENTS WITH SLE**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus

A. Som1, L. McMorrow1, L. Chen2, D. Sen1, A. El-Qunni1, E. Baker3, A. Kim3,  
1Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America; 2Washington University School of Medicine, Biostatistics, St. Louis, United States of America; 3SLU College for Public Health and Social Justice, Behavioral Science and Health Education, St Louis, United States of America.

**Background:** Patients with SLE experience substantial health disparities. Studying the effect of spatial context on health outcomes has become a focus in health disparities research. The CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) characterizes census tracts by individual dimensions of social vulnerability, which create a cumulative SVI capable of identifying communities where social determinants lead to higher levels of morbidity and mortality.

**Objectives:** We sought to understand the level of social vulnerability where patients with SLE reside and determine if specific dimensions of social vulnerability were associated with disease activity and prednisone utilization.

**Methods:** At the Washington University Lupus Clinic, 324 consented subjects who met either ACR or SLICC classification criteria for SLE were enrolled and longitudinally assessed from April 2014 to August 2020. Participant addresses were recorded for each clinic visit. The census tract code was determined for the address listed for each patient’s index visit which corresponds to a SVI available in the CDC database. Participants with addresses which did not correspond to a census tract code were excluded. SVI ranges from 0 to 1 with 1 being the most vulnerable; any tract with a SVI greater than the mean of 0.5 can be seen as a socially vulnerable area. Specific dimensions of SVI (socioeconomic status, household composition, race/ethnicity/language, and housing/transportation) are further elaborated in Table 1. Prednisone dosing was organized into four categories (none, >0-7.5 mg, 8-20 mg, >20 mg). SLE-DAI-2000 Responder Index-50 (S2K RI-50) assessed SLE disease activity (>4 indicated active SLE). A multinomial logistic regression model analysis was used to determine association.

**Results:** The number of patients with SVI and prednisone data available was 272 patients. There was no significant correlation between cumulative SVI and disease activity (OR 1.15, 95% CI=0.67-1.99, p=0.6128). When examining prednisone utilization, 175 patients were not prescribed any prednisone at their index visit while 66 were on supraphysiologic doses. Average cumulative SVI was 0.511. Compared to patients with invulnerable cumulative SVI, vulnerable patients were 2.31 times as likely to have higher dose of prednisone (95% CI 1.38-3.92; p=0.0019). Of the specific dimensions, patients vulnerable in terms of socioeconomic status (OR 2.47, 95% CI 1.43-4.27, p=0.0012) and household composition (OR 2.21, 95% CI 1.28-3.83, p=0.0047) were also more likely to have higher doses of prednisone. Patients vulnerable in terms of race/ethnicity/language (OR 1.57, 95% CI 0.92-2.68, p=0.095) and housing/transportation (1.08, 95% CI 0.65-1.80, p=0.7537) were not statistically significantly likely to have higher doses of prednisone.

**Conclusion:** Patients who live in more socially vulnerable areas are more likely to be prescribed higher doses of prednisone, specifically patients vulnerable in terms of socioeconomic status and household composition. This is worrisome as this likely will contribute to a higher burden of damage. Consistent with other findings, our work highlights that access to social determinants is associated with health inequities.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Avira Som: None declared, Lily Morrow: None declared, Deepali Sen: None declared, Alia El-Qunni: None declared, Elizabeth Baker: None declared, Alfred Kim Speakers bureau: AstraZeneca, Aurinia, Exagen Diagnostics, GlaxoSmithKline, Consultant of: Alexion, ANI Pharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca, Aurinia, Exagen Diagnostics, GlaxoSmithKline, Kyphra, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: GlaxoSmithKline.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3831

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**AB0617**

**PREDICTION OF MORTALITY USING CLUSTERS BASED ON CLINICAL AND LAB PARAMETERS: DATA FROM 2072 PATIENTS FROM INSPIRE COHORT**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus

C. Kavadchandra1, S. Ganapaty1, D. Kouassagene1, L. Rajasekhar2, B. Gundu1, A. Srivastava1, S. Manuell1, V. Shobha1, B. Swarna1, A. J. Mathew1, D. Singh1, M. Rath1, S. R. Tripathy1, B. K. Das2, M. D. Akhtar3, P. Rath3, A. Jain4, P. Ghosh1, V. Negi4, A. Aggarwal5,  
1JIPMER, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Puducherry, India; 2JIPMER, Biostatistics, Pondicherry, India; 3NIZAMS, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Hyderabad, India; 4SGPGI, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 5St. Johns, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Bengaluru, India; 6CMC, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Veirore, India; 7PGIMER, Nephrology, Chandigarh, India; 8SCB, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Cuttack, India; 9AIMS, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, New-Delhi, India; 10SMS, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Jaipur, India; 11JIPMER, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Kolkata, India.

**Background:** Lupus is a heterogenous diseases which results in significant premature mortality. Most studies have evaluated risk factors for lupus mortality using regression models which considers the phenotype in isolation. Identifying clusters of patients on the other hand may help overcome the limitations of such analyses.

**Objectives:** The objectives of this study were to describe the causes of mortality and to analyze survival across clusters based on clinical phenotype and autoantibodies in patients of the Indian SLE Inception cohort for Research (INSPIRE) METHODOLOGY.

**Methods:** Out of all patients, enrolled in the INSPIRE database till March 31st 2022, those who had <10% missing variables in the clustering variables were included in the study. The cause of mortality and duration between the recruit-ment into the cohort and mortality was calculated. Agglomerative unsupervised hierarchical cluster analysis was performed using 25 variables that define SLE phenotype in clinical practice. The number of clusters were fixed using the elbow and silhouette methods. Survival rates were examined using Cox proportional
hazards: models: unadjusted, adjusted for age at disease onset, socio-economic status, steroid pulse, CYC, MMF usage and cluster of the patients.

Results: Indian patients with lupus have significant early mortality and the majority of deaths occurs outside the hospital setting. Out of 2211 patients in the cohort, 2072 were included into the analysis. The median (IQR) age of the patients was 26 (20-33) years and 91.7% were females. There were 288 (13.1%) patients with juvenile onset lupus. The median (range) duration of follow up of the patients was 37 (6-42) months. There were 170 deaths, with only 77 deaths occurring in a health care setting. Death within 6 months of enrolment occurred in 80 (47.1%) patients. Majorit y (n=87) succumbed to disease activity, 23 to infections, 24 to coexisting disease activity and infection and 21 to other causes. Pneumonia was the leading cause of death (n=24). Pneumococc al infection led to death in 11 patients and SARS-COV2 infection in 7 patients. The hierarchical clustering resulted in 4 clusters and the characteristics of these clusters are represented in a heatmap (Figure-1A-B). The mean (95% confidence interval [95% CI]) survival was 39.17 (38.45-39.90), 39.52 (38.71-40.34), 37.73 (36.77-38.70) and 35.80 (34.10-37.49) months (p<0.001) in clusters 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively with an HR (95% CI) of 2.34 (1.56, 3.49) for cluster 4 with cluster 1 as reference (-<0.001 2.22(1.48, 3.22)

Conclusion: Indian patients with lupus have significant early mortality and the majority of deaths occurs outside the hospital setting. Disease activity as determined by the traditional activity measures may not be sufficient to understand the true magnitude of organ involvement resulting in mortality. Clinically relevant clusters can help clinicians identify those at high risk for mortality with greater accuracy.

Table 1. Univariate and multivariate Cox regression models predicting mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Hazard ratio (95% Confidence interval)</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>Hazard ratio (95% Confidence interval)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.87 (0.57, 1.34)</td>
<td>0.532</td>
<td>0.89 (0.57, 1.38)</td>
<td>0.598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.22 (0.81, 1.84)</td>
<td>0.337</td>
<td>1.15 (0.76, 1.73)</td>
<td>0.513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.34 (1.56, 3.49)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>2.22 (1.48, 3.22)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse steroid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.6 (0.99, 2.58)</td>
<td>0.051</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMF</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>0.71 (0.48, 1.05)</td>
<td>0.083</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.42 (0.99, 2.02)</td>
<td>0.052</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proxillary LN</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>0.99 (0.62, 1.56)</td>
<td>0.952</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of birth age</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.99 (0.98, 1.01)</td>
<td>0.657</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYC- cyclophosphamide, MMF- Mycophenolate motelli</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. A. Agglomerative clustering dendrogram depicting the formation of four clusters. B. Heatmap depicting distribution of variables used in clustering. C. Kaplan-Meier curve showing the survival function across the 4 clusters

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4257

AB0018

DELAY TO DIAGNOSIS OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND ITS IMPACT ON CUMULATIVE DAMAGE AND MORTALITY: DATA FROM A MULTIETHNIC LATIN AMERICAN COHORT

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Registries, Systemic lupus erythematosus


1Centro Regional de Enfermedades Autoinmunes y Reumáticas (GO-CREAR), Rheumatology, Rosario, Argentina; 2Hospital Cayetano Heredia, Rheumatology, Lima, Peru; 3Unidad de Investigación. Sociedad Argentina de Reumatología, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 4Escuela de Estadística. Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Estadística. UNR, Statistics department, Rosario, Argentina; 5Hospital General Guillermo Almenara Irioyen, EsSalud, Rheumatology Division, Lima, Peru; 6Hospital Angeles del Pedregal, Rheumatology, México, Mexico; 7Universidad Estatal de Campinas, Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 8Hospital del Salvador, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile, Rheumatology, Santiago de Chile, Chile; 9Policlínica Méndez Gimón, Servicio de Reumatología, Rheumatology, Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic); 10Hospital das Clínicas, Universidad Federal de Goais, Rheumatology, Goias, Brazil; 11Centro Integral de Diagnóstico y Tratamiento de Enfermedades Autoinmunes, Universidad de Chile, Rheumatology, Santiago de Chile, Chile

Table 1. Comparison between the two patient groups in relation to the time to SLE diagnosis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Univariate</th>
<th>Multivariate</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis, years</td>
<td>25.6 (16.2)</td>
<td>30.4 (15.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up time, months</td>
<td>54.4 (41.1)</td>
<td>53.4 (46.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity, n, %</td>
<td>60.2 (47.8)</td>
<td>62.6 (49.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mestizo</td>
<td>116 (16.2)</td>
<td>70 (9.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Latin Americans</td>
<td>204 (28.7)</td>
<td>208 (28.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level, years, n, %</td>
<td>216 (30.2)</td>
<td>237 (32.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-7 years</td>
<td>329 (45.9)</td>
<td>320 (44.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-12 years</td>
<td>171 (23.9)</td>
<td>164 (22.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;12 years</td>
<td>606 (84.6)</td>
<td>573 (79.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have medical insurance, n, %</td>
<td>436 (61.2)</td>
<td>437 (60.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic status, n, %</td>
<td>204 (28.7)</td>
<td>208 (28.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>72 (10.1)</td>
<td>76 (10.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>376 (52.5)</td>
<td>186 (25.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malar rash</td>
<td>70 (9.8)</td>
<td>72 (10.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discoid lupus</td>
<td>327 (45.7)</td>
<td>379 (52.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photosensitivity</td>
<td>239 (33.4)</td>
<td>226 (31.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral ulcers</td>
<td>611 (85.3)</td>
<td>634 (87.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis/ Arthralgia</td>
<td>124 (17.3)</td>
<td>104 (14.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleuritis</td>
<td>92 (12.9)</td>
<td>61 (8.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericarditis</td>
<td>39 (5.5)</td>
<td>60 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosis/ seizures</td>
<td>372 (52.0)</td>
<td>403 (55.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematological disorder</td>
<td>254 (35.5)</td>
<td>202 (28.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria/ cylindruria</td>
<td>403 (56.3)</td>
<td>303 (42.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>97 (13.6)</td>
<td>67 (9.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoma/lymphoma</td>
<td>32 (4.5)</td>
<td>52 (7.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livedo reticularis</td>
<td>125 (17.5)</td>
<td>190 (26.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raynaud’s phenomenon</td>
<td>21 (2.9)</td>
<td>52 (7.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sicca syndrome</td>
<td>6 (0.8)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac tamponade</td>
<td>14 (2.0)</td>
<td>28 (3.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular thrombosis</td>
<td>4 (0.6)</td>
<td>12 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke (ischemic)</td>
<td>24 (3.4)</td>
<td>14 (1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary involvement</td>
<td>9 (1.3)</td>
<td>1 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peritoneal serositis</td>
<td>478 (68.0)</td>
<td>385 (53.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypocomplementemia, n, %</td>
<td>363 (50.7)</td>
<td>375 (52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiphospholipid antibodies, n, %</td>
<td>12 (10.0)</td>
<td>9 (9.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SD (standard deviation); IQR (Interquartile range); § Before SLE diagnosis; † Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index; ‡ SDI (Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics) Damage Index; (Missing data)
AB0619 PREDICTORS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN KOREAN SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME PATIENTS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögren syndrome

B. W. Lee1, E. J. Kwon1, Y. Park1, J. J. Lee1, S. H. Park2, S. K. Kwok3, 1Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, College of Medicine, Catholic University of Korea, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) can occur alone or in combination with other autoimmune diseases. Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is the most common autoimmune disease associated with SS. The prognosis of SS is generally better than that of SLE. However, the onset of SLE in these patients may be one of the factors that increase mortality.

Objectives: This study determined the impact of demographic factors, clinical manifestations, disease activity, and serological tests at baseline on future SLE development in Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) patients.

Methods: This retrospective study assessed 1,082 SS patients without other autoimmune diseases at baseline who visited our hospital between January 2012 and March 2021. We analyzed demographic features, extra-glandular manifestations (EGMs), clinical indices, and laboratory values at baseline between the two groups divided per future SLE development (SLE/SS group vs. SS group). The probability and predictors of SLE development in SS patients were estimated using the Kaplan–Meier method and Cox proportional hazards models.

Results: The median follow-up duration was 1083.5 days. Forty-nine patients (4.5%) developed SLE that met the 2012 Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics or 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria. The baseline EULAR SS disease activity index (ESSDAI) score was significantly higher in the SS/SLE group (p<0.001). The SS/SS group had more lymphopenopathy and renal involvement (p=0.015 and p=0.017, respectively). Shorter SLE disease duration (<3 years) (hazard ratio [HR]=2.81, p=0.012), high ESSDAI (HR=3.04, p=0.024), leukopenia (HR=2.20, p=0.017), hypocomplementemia (HR=1.74, p<0.0001), and positive for anti-dsDNA (HR=19.93, p<0.0001), anti-ribonucleoprotein (RNP) (HR=2.96, p=0.025), and anti-ribosomal P (HR=2.74, p=0.048) at baseline were SLE development predictors in SS patients.

Conclusion: Shorter disease duration and higher disease activity of SS at baseline may be risk factors for future SLE development. Serological predictors of SLE development are hypocomplementemia, leukopenia, and positivity for anti-dsDNA, anti-RNP, and anti-ribosomal P antibodies. If the above factors are observed, close monitoring will be necessary during the follow-up period, considering the possibility of future SLE development.

REFERENCES:


AB0620 IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Systemic lupus erythematosus

G. Ailes1, M. Socolnik1, V. Scaglioni1, J. F. Jaramillo Gallego1, M. A. Tobar Jaramillo1, R. N. Alvarado1, E. Soriano1, J. Rosa1, 1Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Sección Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Background: Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP) is an immune-mediated disorder, characterized by isolated thrombocytopenia (<100,000/mm³). It is part of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) classification criteria, and may be one of the first manifestations of the disease, often occurring years before its diagnosis.

Objectives: To assess the incidence of SLE in a cohort of patients with ITP, and to identify predictors for its development.

Methods: Retrospective cohort study. We included patients with ITP treated in a University Hospital between 2000 and 2018, with at least one year of follow-up. Patients with SLE or other secondary causes of ITP were excluded. Demographic, clinical, laboratory, and treatment data were recorded. Patients meeting SLE classification criteria (ACR 1997/ SLICC 2012) during the follow-up were identified, and incidence density of SLE was calculated. Patients with ITP were grouped according to the development or non-development of SLE, and comparisons were made. Univariate analysis was performed to identify factors associated with the future development of SLE.

Results: 186 patients were included, 64.5% women, with a median age of 272 months (IQR 63-63.9). After a follow-up of 1801.4 person-years (py), 10 patients (5.4%) developed SLE, with a median time of 22.9 months (IQR 9.8-60.9) between ITP diagnosis and development of SLE. The incidence density of SLE was 5.6/1000 py (95% CI 2.9-9.9/1000 py). Patients who developed SLE had significantly higher proportion of chronic ITP (60% vs 40.3%; p=0.01), lower proportion of complete response (10% vs 54.6%; p=0.006), and more relapses (60% vs 22.2%; p=0.02).
In this cohort of ITP patients, the more refractory course of ITP, as well as the presence of high titre - nuclear homogeneous ANA, hypocomplementemia (p<0.001), LAC (p<0.001), hypergammaglobulinemia (p<0.001), leukopenia (p<0.001), and hemolytic anemia (p<0.001) were significantly associated with the development of SLE. 

**Conclusion:** In this cohort of ITP patients, the more refractory course of ITP, as well as the presence of high titre - nuclear homogeneous ANA, hypocomplementemia, LAC, hypergammaglobulinemia and other cytopenias were associated with the subsequent development of SLE.

---

**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics at ITP diagnosis and comparison between groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ITP developing SLE (n= 176)</th>
<th>ITP non-developing SLE (n= 176)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>19.0 (12.4-31.6)</td>
<td>28.3 (5.6-64.5)</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female gender, n, (%)</td>
<td>9 (9.0, 50.1-68.8)</td>
<td>111 (63.1, 50.6-69.9)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up time, median (IQR)</td>
<td>6.9 (4.9-10.1)</td>
<td>10.2 (4.6-14.8)</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatologist evaluation at ITP diagnosis, n, (%)</td>
<td>8 (80.0, 43.6-95.4)</td>
<td>23 (13.1, 8-18.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA positivity, n, (%)</td>
<td>10 (100)</td>
<td>35 (30.7, 22.8-39.9)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypocomplementemia, n, (%)</td>
<td>6 (60.0, 27.9-85.3)</td>
<td>7 (10.1, 4.8-20.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupus anticoagulant, n, (%)</td>
<td>4 (40.0, 14.7-71.9)</td>
<td>6 (6.1, 2.7-13.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyclonal hypergammaglobulinemia, n, (%)</td>
<td>5 (55.6, 23.4-83.6)</td>
<td>14 (11.6, 6.9-18.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splenomegaly, n, (%)</td>
<td>3 (33.3, 10.2-68.8)</td>
<td>17 (12.8, 8-20.9)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megakaryocytic hyperplasia in bone marrow, n, (%)</td>
<td>4 (80.0, 24.9-97.9)</td>
<td>47 (64.4, 52.5-74.7)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemolytic anemia, n, (%)</td>
<td>1 (10.0, 12-49.9)</td>
<td>1 (0.6, 0.1-3.9)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukopenia, n, (%)</td>
<td>3 (50.0, 9.3-64.3)</td>
<td>11 (6.3, 3.5-10.9)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab therapy, n, (%)</td>
<td>5 (50.0, 21.2-78.8)</td>
<td>40 (22.7, 17.1-29.6)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine therapy, n, (%)</td>
<td>7 (70.0, 35.7-90.7)</td>
<td>4 (2.3, 0.8-5.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splenectomy, n, (%)</td>
<td>2 (20.0, 4.6-56.4)</td>
<td>15 (8.5, 5.2-13.7)</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of ITP treatment, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>67.5 (40-113)</td>
<td>4 (1-14.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newly diagnosed ITP (&lt;3 months), n, (%)</td>
<td>1 (10.0, 12-49.9)</td>
<td>82 (46.6, 39.3-54.1)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent ITP (3-12 months), n, (%)</td>
<td>1 (10.0, 12-49.9)</td>
<td>23 (13.1, 8-18.9)</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic ITP (&gt;12 months), n, (%)</td>
<td>8 (80.0, 43.6-95.4)</td>
<td>71 (40.3, 33.3-47.8)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Figure 1.** ANA characteristics at ITP diagnosis.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Gelsomina Alle: None declared, Marina Scocnik Speakers bureau: GSK, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Grant/research support from: Janssen, GSK, Valeria Scaglioni: None declared, JOHN FREDY JAR- AMILLO GALLEGOS: None declared, Mayra Alejandra Tobar Jaramillo: None declared, Rodolfo Nicolas Alvarado: None declared, Enrique Soriano Speakers bureau: Amgen, Abbvie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, UCBB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Janssen, Pfizer, Amgen, Sandoz, Novartis, Grant/ research support from: Novartis, Pfizer, Amgen, Elea, Javier Rosa Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, AbbVie/AABB, Bristol-Myers Squibb(BMS), Amgen, Novartis, Pfizer.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4640

**AB0621**

**DISEASE ACTIVITY PATTERNS OVER TIME IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: IMPACT ON HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life

**Background:** Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) in patients with autoimmune systemic diseases has a multifactorial origin. In particular, data from the literature show that in patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) the correlation between HRQoL and disease manifestations is quite controversial.

**Objectives:** to evaluate the impact of different disease activity patterns on HRQoL and patients’ perception of disease activity in a monocentric cohort of patients with SLE.

**Methods:** a retrospective analysis of prospectively collected data from adult consecutive patients with a diagnosis of SLE, regularly followed at the Rheumatology Unit of Pisa. For each patient, the following data were collected: demographics, disease duration, clinical and laboratory data, SELENA-SLEDAI for disease activity and SLICC-DI for organ damage, comorbidities and ongoing treatment. Three different disease patterns were defined based on disease activity status during the year before enrollment: long quiescent (LQ) if patients were in remission in each visit; chronically active (CA) if they were not in remission in each visit; relapsing-remitting (RR) if patients presented periods of remission interspersed with periods of disease activity. Only patients with at least two visits in the year before enrollment were included. We excluded patients with a major clinical event/hospitalization not SLE-related during the year before enrolment that could influence their health status. At enrollment, each patient completed the following Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs): SF-36, FACIT -F, Lupus Impact of life.

**Results:** 242 SLE outpatients were enrolled, mainly female (91.7%) and of Caucasian ethnicity (96.7%); mean age 44.2 ± 13 years, with a median disease duration of 12 years (IQR 6 – 21). 48.8% had at least one item of organ damage, 48.0% had at least one comorbidities and ongoing treatment. Three different disease patterns were defined based on disease activity status during the year before enrollment: long quiescent (LQ) if patients were in remission in each visit; chronically active (CA) if they were not in remission in each visit; relapsing-remitting (RR) if patients presented periods of remission interspersed with periods of disease activity. Only patients with at least two visits in the year before enrollment were included. We excluded patients with a major clinical event/hospitalization not SLE-related during the year before enrolment that could influence their health status. At enrollment, each patient completed the following Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs): SF-36, FACIT-F, Lupus Impact Tracker (LIT), SLAQ, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS).

**Conclusions:** 242 SLE outpatients were enrolled, mainly female (91.7%) and of Caucasian ethnicity (96.7%); mean age 44.2 ± 13 years, with a median disease duration of 12 years (IQR 6 – 21). 48.8% had at least one item of organ damage with a median SLICC-DI of 1 (IQR 0-1). Moreover, 15.3% of patients had a comorbid fibromyalgia. At enrollment, median SLEDAI in the entire cohort was 2 (IQR 0-4); the most frequent active disease manifestation was skin involvement (36/242); 12 patients had active arthritis and 11 active renal disease. Almost half of the cohort (51.2%) was on a low dose of glucocorticoids (mean daily dose 4.1 ± 2.9 mg of 6-methylprednisolone); 83.9% were on Hydroxychloroquine and 52.5% on immunosuppressive therapy. We applied the disease pattern definition criteria and we found that the LQ was the most represented pattern in our cohort (63.9% of patients), followed by the RR (22%) and CA (14.1%). No significant
To evaluate the inflammatory findings but also to rule out other etiologies, renal function or active urinary sediment, and is generally recommended. We demonstrate that renal histopathology confirmed other causes than LN in a significant proportion (19%) of SLE patients with signs of renal involvement. Since these patients may need other therapeutic interventions than patients with classic LN, we can conclude that the renal biopsy is important in order to guide the choice of therapeutics.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1134
SLE, Sjön’s and APS - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

| Table 1. Anthropometric parameters in patients with AR and SLE |
|------------------|------------------|
|                  | RA (n=248/100%)  |
|                  | SLE (n=75/100%)  |
| **Age** (years)  | 51.79±12.7       | 42±14.8       |
| **Weight, kg, (SD)** | 70.93±16.26     | 71.99±18.84   |
| **BMI**          | 29.03±6.69       | 29.02±7.35    |
| **Waist, cm, (SD)** | 92.09±16.19     | 91.68±18.05   |
| **Hip, (SD)**    | 109.94±8.60      | 105.10±8.14   |
| **WHR**          | 0.86±0.11        | 0.86±0.12     |
| **BMI classification, n (%)** | 53.2%           | 57.3%         |
| Low BMI          | 155 (62.5)       | 46 (61.3)     |
| Normal           | 56 (22.6)        | 12 (16.0)     |
| Overweight       | 85 (34.3)        | 29 (38.7)     |
| **Obesity type 1** | 52 (21.2)       | 12 (16.0)     |
| **Obesity type 2** | 28 (11.3)       | 10 (13.3)     |
| **Obesity type 3** | 14 (6.5)        | 6 (8.0)       |
| **Etiology parameters** | 15 (6.5)       | 6 (8.0)       |
| **% Fat, (SD)** | 36.11±8.9       | 34.87±11.99   |
| **% Water, (SD)** | 44.59±9.6       | 46.16±8.27    |
| Kg Muscle, (SD) | 41.84 (7.5)     | 43.25 (8.93)  |
| Kg bone mass, (SD) | 2.25±0.36       | 2.29±0.32     |
| **Metabolic age, (SD)** | 43.52±11        | 40.62±14.01   |
| **Alterations in body composition, n (%)** | 53.2%           | 57.3%         |
| **High total fat** | 148 (59.7)      | 45 (60)       |
| **High visceral fat** | 40 (16.1)       | 12 (16)       |
| **Low muscle mass** | 212 (85.5)      | 61 (81.3)     |
| **Metabolic age > chronological age** | 67 (27)         | 35 (46.7)     |
| **Low body water** | 155 (62.5)      | 46 (61.3)     |
| **2 out of 3 criteria for sarcopenic obesity** | 148 (59.7)  | 45 (60.0)     |
| **Abdominal obesity** | 163 (65.7)     | 51 (68.0)     |
| **Treatment schemes, n (%)** | n=233 (100)    | n=70 (100)    |
| 1 DMARD          | 117 (47.2)       | 22 (29.3)     |
| 2 DMARD          | 78 (31.5)        | 38 (50.7)     |
| 3 DMARD          | 27 (10.9)        | 7 (9.3)       |
| 4 DMARD          | 132 (53.2)       | 43 (57.3)     |
| **Intramuscular steroid** | 42 (16.9)       | 7 (9.3)       |

1. We found a relationship between the 2 DMARD combined scheme with being obese type 2 (p=0.02) and prednisone use with type 3 obesity (p=0.005). In SLE group BMI <25kg/m² was found in 16 (24%) and >25kg/m² in 5 (74%), high total fat in 45% (60%), low muscle mass in 61 (51.3%), low body water in 46 (61.3%), abdominal obesity in 51 (68%). Being obese type 3 and having high visceral fat was related with the use of 3 DMARDs combined (p=0.001) and having an older metabolic age was associated with intramuscular steroid use (p=0.012).


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Disclosure of Interests: All authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

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Background: The attribution of neuropsychiatric manifestations to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) or unrelated causes is often obscure.

Objectives: The attribution of neuropsychiatric events to lupus (SLE related) or other causes (non-SLE related) in a large SLE cohort.

Methods: A single-center study of 258 patients developed 345 neuropsychiatric events in total. Among them, 140 primary (SLE related) and 205 secondary (non-SLE related) events were identified. The attribution of neuropsychiatric events to lupus (SLE related) or unrelated causes was performed using a combination of multiple regression, logistic regression, and decision tree analysis.

Results: The attribution of neuropsychiatric manifestations to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) or unrelated causes is often obscure. A single-center study of 258 patients developed 345 neuropsychiatric events in total. Among them, 140 primary (SLE related) and 205 secondary (non-SLE related) events were identified. The attribution of neuropsychiatric events to lupus (SLE related) or unrelated causes was performed using a combination of multiple regression, logistic regression, and decision tree analysis.

Conclusion: This single-center study revealed that SLE patients with lowest dsDNA and second highest C3 trajectory had a significantly higher risk of mortality than SLE patients with lowest dsDNA and highest C3 trajectory.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5340

AB0626

DIFFERENTIALLY EXPRESSED GENES (DEGS) OVERLAP AMONG BLOOD SAMPLES DATASETS FROM PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) THROUGH INTEGRATIVE BIOINFORMATICS METANALYSIS

Keywords: -Oomics, Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus

R. Martinez1, A. González Godínez1, I. Vasquez Tercero2, C. Elizondo Solís1, A. Montoya Rosales3, M. Salinas Carmona1, N. Macías-Segura1, 1UANL - Escuela de Medicina, Immunology Department, Monterrey, Mexico; 2Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras, Department of Psychological Sciences, Tegucigalpa, Honduras; 3UANL - CIDICS, Immunomodulators Laboratory, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus is an autoimmune chronic disease mainly characterized by the presence of auto-antibodies, and periods of flares and remission [1]. Understanding the mechanisms of physiopathology is still being the aim for several researchers. In the last 20 years multiple studies tried to look for molecular mechanisms associated to the disease using molecular techniques [2]. Specifically, the gene expression patterns play an important role in the pathophysiology of this disease, in which the interferon signature has been widely found in SLE patients, but also in other autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis and Sjögren's syndrome [3]. However, there is a discordance in which genes from the interferon signature are specific biomarkers for SLE, since there are multiple studies that describe the interferon signature but with different differentially expressed genes.

Objectives: We aimed to identify differentially expressed genes that overlap across different datasets of gene expression from blood samples of SLE patients using an integrative bioinformatics metanalysis.

Methods: We design a search strategy in the Gene Expression Omnibus platform to identify data sets of gene expression profile by array from blood samples of patients with SLE. The inclusion criteria were: 1) assays performed in humans; 2) the dataset include SLE patients and healthy controls; 3) expression profile in which genes from the interferon signature are specific biomarkers for SLE.

Results: We selected 3 datasets that fulfill the inclusion criteria: GSE101174, GSE10325, and GSE154851. A total of 29 up-regulated genes were identified among datasets. Venn diagram shows 3 genes overlapped among all the datasets.

Conclusion: The selection of datasets that fulfill the inclusion criteria: GSE101174, GSE10325, and GSE154851. The tables GeneMania and DAVID will be used to identify overlapped genes among datasets and functional enrichment analysis of the differentially expressed genes.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5996
A prediction analysis yielded 20 co-expressed genes, that interact with the overlapped genes. A functional enrichment analysis yielded the 3 principal biological processes involving those genes: 17 genes participate in defense response to virus; 13 genes associated to response to virus; and 8 genes involved in negative regulation of viral genome replication (Table 1). Most of the genes identified belong to the interferon signature.

### Table 1. Functional enrichment Analysis of the Co-Expressed genes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Gene Count</th>
<th>p Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense Response to Virus</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.1E-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to Virus</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.6E-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Regulation of Viral Genome Replication</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.1E-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** We aimed to obtain upregulated genes and their co-expressed pairs through transcriptomic and functional enrichment analysis. 6 genes appeared upregulated across the 3 datasets, and 20 genes were listed as their co-expressed pairs. Those genes were involved in the processes of Defense Response to Virus, Response to virus, and Negative Regulation of Viral Genome Replication. These genes can serve as possible biomarkers for early diagnosis, and maybe even possible therapeutic targets.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.207

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**ABO627**

**CLINICAL PROFILE OF PEDIATRIC SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS IN A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL IN THE PHILIPPINES, YEAR 2015-2021**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, J. Garcia 1, 2, Region 1 Medical Center, Pediatrics, Dagupan, Philippines

**Background:** Pediatric Lupus Erythematosus is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease with a higher risk of disease damage than adults with SLE.

**Objectives:** To profile the clinical and laboratory features and manifestations of pediatric SLE patients seen and admitted at Region 1 Medical Center from January 2015 to December 2021 and assess the association of the clinical profile with complications and mortality.

**Methods:** A retrospective review of medical records of all pediatric SLE patients age <18 years, admitted at Region 1 Medical Center from January 2015 to December 2021. Charts were reviewed for clinical and laboratory data extraction. Clinical data were analyzed using descriptive statistical analysis. Fisher’s exact test was utilized to analyze the association of clinical profile to morbidity and mortality. Odds ratio was used to determine the degree and direction of association among significantly associated variables in the study.

**Results:** A total of 29 patients who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were included in the study. Average age of diagnosis is 16 years with predominance of female. The most common presenting symptom is malar rash (27.6%) followed by joint pains (10.3%) and pallor (10.3%). Patients with pediatric SLE commonly manifested with acute cutaneous rash (75.3%). Thrombocytopenia (69%) is the most common laboratory finding. Complications of SLE include renal (51.7%), infection (27.6%), and cardiovascular (17.2%). Oral corticosteroid is the most common treatment which was administered to all participants. Mortality rate of 34.5% is associated to the most common cause which is SLE in activity (80%) followed by infection (60%). Neurologic manifestation and increase creatinine were found to be associated with mortality with odds ratio >1.

**Conclusion:** Malar rash is the most common clinical presentation among Filipino pediatric SLE. The most common complication is renal involvement. Neurologic manifestation and non-scarring alopecia increase mortality.

**REFERENCES:**

[1] PubMed Central, ResearchGate, Journals, World Health Organization website

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**Table 1. Odds ratio of significant associations between clinical and laboratory findings, and morbidity and mortality among eligible SLE patients in Region 1 Medical Center: 2015-2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGNIFICANT ASSOCIATION</th>
<th>ODDS RATIO</th>
<th>P VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neurologic disorder and morbidity</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurologic disorder and mortality</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>0.029*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-scarring alopecia and mortality</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.030**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased creatinine and morbidity</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased creatinine and mortality</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>0.056*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * - significant at alpha = 10%; ** - significant at alpha = 5%

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.528

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**ABO628**

**IMPACT OF SOLAR RADIATION FROM SUN EXPOSURE AND PHOTOPROTECTION PRACTICES ON DISEASE ACTIVITY AMONG SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) PATIENTS IN MALAYSIA**

**Keywords:** Comorbidity, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Epidemiology

**S. S. Shaharir 1, J. H. Jaafar2, C. L. Teh3, S. A. Wan Aisak4, C. Yaw Kiet5, C. Seow Lin3, B. Sachdev Manjit Singh6, A. Jamal7, R. Mohd2, R. Mustafar2, S. Rajalingham2, M. S. Mohamed Said2, M. T. Latif7, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Faculty of Medicine, Sarawak General Hospital, Cheeras, Malaysia; 1Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Faculty of Medicine, Sarawak General Hospital, Cheeras, Malaysia; 2Sarawak General Hospital, Medicine, Kuching, Malaysia; Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Earth Sciences and Environment, Bangi, Malaysia

**Background:** Systemic Lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease which is characterized by remission and flares. Experimental studies demonstrate that sun exposure can trigger immunomodulatory response, however, there is lacking of strong epidemiologic data regarding its role in triggering SLE flare. Malaysia has a tropical climate and hence get more exposure to the sun.

**Objectives:** To determine the correlations between disease activity with exposure to sun measured with solar radiation [1h (W/m²)] and photoprotection practices among SLE patients in Malaysia.

**Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study involving SLE patients conducted in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Sarawak General Hospital from January 2019 until December 2019. During the study visit, disease activity was measured using Modified Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index (M-SLEDAI) and The British Isles Lupus Assessment Group 2004 (BILAG). Sun Exposure and Protection Index (SEPI) was used to assess their photoprotection practices, and patients who reported no change in their photoprotection practices for the last 2 years were included. A high SEPI score reflects an increased risk of sun exposure. Their medical records were also reviewed for retrospective assessments of the disease activity from the past 2 years (2017-2019). Clinical visits with presence of infection or recent change of immunosuppressive treatment for ≤ 3 months were excluded. Sun exposure was determined by calculating the average of daily solar radiation (mean) and the maximum solar radiation (max) within 30 days preceding the clinic visits. The hourly and daily solar radiation data was obtained from the Department of Environment (DOE) Malaysia. Correlations between the solar radiation mean, max and SEPI scores with M-SLEDAI and BILAG were determined using the Pearson’s correlation coefficient correlation; while their associations with severe SLE flares (presence of BILAG A or B) were performed using Student’s t-test. The associations between the effects of solar radiation and SEPI on M-SLEDAI and BILAG scores were analyzed using the generalized estimating equation (GEE) model, while considering fixed effects for repeated measures.

**Results:** A total of 87 patients were recruited with 514 clinic visits were recorded. There was significant correlation between the mean solar radiation with M-SLEDAI scores (rs=0.003, p=0.001). SEPI scores were significantly correlated with M-SLEDAI and BILAG scores (rs=0.098, p=0.03 and 0.421, p<0.001 respectively). Patients who had severe flare (BILAG A or B) had a higher exposure to the mean solar radiation (154.6 ± 35.9 vs 148.7 ± 19.1, p=0.011). In the GEE analysis, mean solar radiation and SEPI scores were still significantly correlated with M-SLEDAI scores; and significantly associated with severe flares p<0.05.

**Conclusion:** These results suggest that solar radiation has a significant impact on SLE disease activity and flare. Patients should be emphasized on the importance of photoprotection practices as this is one of the modifiable risk factors of active disease and flare.
Methods: serological characteristics of patients diagnosed with SS. Clinical signs and symptoms as well as specific tests including salivary gland involvement from one patient to another. Diagnosis of the disease is based on characteristic morfologic clinical manifestations, which can vary greatly in features and severity. Moreover; systemic manifestations may occur. The disease is characterized by pleo- cytic infiltration of the lacrimal and salivary glands. Glandular involvement and extraglandular symptoms involving various organs and systems can be seen in patients. It can be seen in all age groups, although it is most common in those aged 45-50 years. The average female/male incidence rate is 9/1.

Objectives: Our aim in this study is to present the demographic, clinical and serological characteristics of patients diagnosed with SS.

Methods: Our study included 466 patients diagnosed with SS according to the 2016 ACR/EULAR Classification Criteria. Age, gender, primary/secondary SS status of the patients; organ involvement, salivary gland biopsy and serologic features were recorded. Descriptive statistics were given as mean±standard deviation, frequency (n), and percent (%).

Results: The mean age of 466 (433 females, 33 males) patients in the study was 55.4±13.5 years. The female/male ratio was 13/1. There were 408 (87.5%) patients with primary SS diagnosis and 58 (12.5%) patients with secondary SS diagnosis. 67% of patients with a diagnosis of secondary SS had rheumatoid arthritis. The most common clinical presentation complaints were dry eye (86%) and dry mouth (67.8%). In our study, anti-nuclear antibody positivity was found to be 83.4%, rheumatoid factor positivity was 22.1%. Ro-52 antibody was positive in 56.4% of the patients. As a result of the evaluation in terms of organ/system involvement; pulmonary involvement was found in 45 patients (9.6%). Moreover; primary biliary cirrhosis in 18 (3.8%) patients, adenral insufficiency in 1 (0.2%) patient, chronic tubulointerstitial nephritis in 2 (0.4%) patients, crescentic glomerulonephritis in 1 (0.2%) patient, optic neuropathy was found in 1 (0.4%) patient, and lymphoma was found in 1 (0.2%) patient (Table 1).

Conclusion: Sjögren’s syndrome can affect almost any organ system, thus various systemic manifestations may occur. The disease is characterized by pleomorphic clinical manifestations, which can vary greatly in features and severity from one patient to another. Diagnosis of the disease is based on characteristic clinical signs and symptoms as well as specific tests including salivary gland histopathology and autoantibodies.

Table 1. Demographic, Clinical and Serological Characteristics of Sjögren’s Syndrome Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary SS</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary SS</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>82.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Systemic Sclerosis</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Systemic Lupus Erythematosis</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salivary gland biopsy positivity</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry mouth</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>67.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry eye</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locomotor system</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Arthritis/arthritis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ/system involvement</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pulmonary involvement</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Primary Biliary Cirrhosis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Autoimmune Hepatitis</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vasculitis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Amyloidosis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chronic Tubulointestinal nephritis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Kresentik Glomerulonephritis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adrenal Insufficiency</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• optic Neuropathy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lymphoma</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Nuclear Antibody positivity</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>83.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ro-52 positivity</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor positivity</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background: Pregnancy in patients with systemic autoimmune diseases (SADs) are known to be at high risk for the occurrence of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Pre-conception counselling and risk stratification performed in a multidisciplinary clinical setting are essential for improving pregnancy outcomes and reducing maternal and perinatal complications in patients with SADs.

Objectives: To describe clinical, obstetric and maternal comorbidities and pregnancy outcomes in patients with SADs.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted. Inclusion criteria were patients diagnosed with SADs that were examined by the multidisciplinary pregnancy clinic department. Clinical, maternal and obstetric variables were collected. The multidisciplinary team evaluated if the risk of pregnancy was high, moderate or low. Data related to pregnancy outcomes were also collected. Mean, standard deviation and proportions were calculated.

Results: A total of 41 patients interested in getting pregnancy attended our outpatient preconception clinic, with a mean age at first visit of 35.7±4.43 years. The ethnicity of the patients was: 75.6% Caucasian, 19.5% Hispanic and 4.9% Asian. Sociodemographic, clinical, treatment data, maternal and obstetric comorbidities are summarized in Table 1. Prior to preconception counselling, history of live births occurred in 61%, pregnancy loss in 32%, preterm birth in 10.5% and low-weight at birth in 11.7% of patients. 53.66% of patients were under treatment with csDMARDs and/or bDMARDs and 19.5% with hydroxychloroquine. As much as 43.9% were taking ≤7.5 mg of prednisolone/day and 73% were taking >7.5 mg/day. After evaluation by the multidisciplinary pregnancy clinic, 51.2% of patients were classified as low risk, 39% as moderate and 9.8% as high risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes. The final assessment was conception with treatment changes for 46.3% of the patients, treatment changes before conception for 12.2%, postponement of pregnancy for 24.4% and 17% of patients were pregnant at their first visit. Of these women, 15 conceived (36.6%) after a median time of 6.2±4.5 months. Medical and obstetric complications occurred in 13% and 20% of the patients. Abortion occurred in 9.76%, preterm birth in 4.88% and low-weight at birth in 11.1% of patients.

Conclusion: 46% of patients attending our pregnancy outpatient clinic had a diagnosis of SLE. Of the 41 patients assessed, 59% were advised to conceive and 12% were discouraged. 36.6% of patients were able to get pregnant, with a reduction in maternal and perinatal complications after preconception counselling. Well-planned pregnancies, adequate treatment and pre-conception evaluation will contribute to an improved outcome, both for the mother and the child.

REFERENCE: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1835

AB0632

THE ASSOCIATION OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN WITH LOWER URINARY SYMPTOM SEVERITY IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S PATIENTS

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Patient reported outcomes, Sjögren syndrome

Methods: Sixty-two patients, including fifty-nine women diagnosed with Sjögren’s Syndrome at Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine, Internal Medicine Rheumatology Department, were included in the study after their informed consent was obtained. All patients fulfilled the criteria for the 2016 ACR/EULAR Classification for Primary Sjögren’s Syndrome. Neuropathic pain was divided into two groups, present and absent. International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS) was used in the evaluation of LUTS and The Leeds Assessment of Neuropathic Symptoms Scale (LANSS) were used for the assessment of neuropathic pain. Data were analyzed using the computer program SPSS 21. Relationships between categorical variables were evaluated with Chi-square analysis. The relationship between IPSS and LANSS Pain Scale was assessed by spearman correlation analysis. p<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 53.4±11.6 years. The median disease duration was four years (min-max: 0-40), 58 (92.1%) patients had at least one LUTS. Of the patients with LUTS, 32 (55.1%) were mild, 21 (36.2%) moderate, and 5 (8.7%) severe. Anxiety was found in 31 (49.2%) patients, and depression was found in 27 (43.5%) patients. The frequency of depression was significantly higher in patients with LUTS. Depression and anxiety were not observed in patients without LUTS. When the severity of LUTS was compared with the presence of anxiety and depression, a significant difference was found in both groups (p=0.033; p=0.032, respectively) (Table 1). There was a moderate positive correlation between the IPSS score and the Beck Depression and Beck Anxiety Scale (r=0.429 p<0.001; r=0.481 p<0.001, respectively).

Table 1. Association of LUTS severity and anxiety/depression.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LUTS Severity</th>
<th>Anxiety</th>
<th>Depression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mild (n=18)</td>
<td>16 (50.0)</td>
<td>16 (42.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate (n=44)</td>
<td>13 (30.4)</td>
<td>16 (42.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe (n=23)</td>
<td>15 (65.2)</td>
<td>17 (73.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>0.033</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In conclusion, questioning the presence of LUTS in patients with SS and referral for treatment may reduced the frequency of depression and anxiety.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1835
AB0633

PREGNANCY IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: DESCRIPTION AND COMPARISON OF COMORBIDITIES WITH OTHER SYSTEMIC AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES FROM A RHEUMATOLOGY PREGNANCY CLINIC

Background: Pregnancy in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) are known to be at high risk for the occurrence of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Pre-conception counselling and risk stratification performed in a multidisciplinary clinical setting with rheumatologists, obstetricians and nephrologists are essential for improving pregnancy outcomes and reducing maternal and perinatal complications in patients with SLE.

Objectives: To describe clinical, obstetric and maternal comorbidities and pregnancy outcomes in patients with SLE and patients with other systemic autoimmune diseases (SADs).

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted including patients diagnosed with SLE attending our multidisciplinary pregnancy clinic. Clinical, immunological and obstetric variables were collected. Data related to pregnancy outcomes, delivery and disease activity were also collected. Description of the sample and comparison of groups were carried out. Shapiro-Wilk test was used for variable distribution.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>SLE (n=19)</th>
<th>Non-SLE (n=22)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociodemographic data</td>
<td>36.8±4.61</td>
<td>34.4±3.93</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at visit (year)</td>
<td>24.7±9.6</td>
<td>31.7±6.7</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (year)</td>
<td>9.78±5.95</td>
<td>5.09±6.09</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis-1st visit (years)</td>
<td>48±17.6</td>
<td>19.4±32.5</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last flare-1st visit (months)</td>
<td>6 (33.3)</td>
<td>7 (45.75)</td>
<td>0.987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before preconception counselling</td>
<td>6 (33.3)</td>
<td>7 (45.75)</td>
<td>0.987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion (n, %)</td>
<td>5 (71.4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preterm (n, %)</td>
<td>2 (28.6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low weight at birth (n, %)</td>
<td>8 (42.1)</td>
<td>3 (13.64)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (42.1)</td>
<td>3 (13.64)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- cDMARDs</td>
<td>8 (42.1)</td>
<td>3 (13.64)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- HDC</td>
<td>2 (28.6)</td>
<td>9 (40.41)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids (n, %)</td>
<td>14 (73.7)</td>
<td>7 (31.82)</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous CYC (n, %)</td>
<td>5 (26.3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy risk (n, %)</td>
<td>8 (42.1)</td>
<td>13 (59.1)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Low</td>
<td>8 (42.1)</td>
<td>8 (36.4)</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Moderate</td>
<td>3 (15.8)</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- High</td>
<td>7 (36.8)</td>
<td>12 (54.6)</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After preconception counselling</td>
<td>6 (31.8)</td>
<td>4 (18.2)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fit to conception</td>
<td>3 (15.8)</td>
<td>2 (9.1)</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Not fit to conception</td>
<td>3 (15.8)</td>
<td>4 (18.2)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fit to conception after treatment change</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complications in pregnancy (n, %):</td>
<td>2 (15.5)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Medical</td>
<td>1 (7.69)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Obstetrical</td>
<td>1 (7.69)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion (n, %)</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preterm (n, %)</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low weight at birth (n, %)</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results: A total of 41 patients attended our outpatient preconception clinic. Description and comparison of the comorbidities, preconception counselling and pregnancy outcomes are summarized in Table 1. A total of 19 (43.2%) patients were diagnosed with SLE. Lupus nephritis was observed in 47% of the patients and 11% had received kidney transplant. Moderate SLEDAI activity (>4) was observed in 44.4%. There were 7 (37%) pregnancies after a mean time of 73.6 months since the first visit. SLE patients were significantly older when evaluated at the pregnancy clinic than patients with other SADs. Also, SLE patients exhibited a longer time since the last flare when evaluated at the pregnancy clinic. Significant differences were observed in treatment between both groups: more hydroxychloroquine, synthetic DMARDs and steroids were used in the SLE group. No significant differences in preconception counselling or adverse pregnancy outcomes were observed.

Conclusion: Patients with SLE took longer time since diagnosis and flare to seek pregnancy than patients with other SAD. No differences in pregnancy outcomes or risk profile were observed.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1869
Table 1. Baseline characteristics at the time of diagnosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantitative variables</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>RIC (25 – 75)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26 – 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kilograms)*</td>
<td>62.07</td>
<td>±14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size (meters)</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.54 – 1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m2)</td>
<td>24.22</td>
<td>±4.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3 (mg/dL)</td>
<td>48.95</td>
<td>32 – 74.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4 (mg/dL)</td>
<td>6.15</td>
<td>2.90 – 10.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin (g/dL)*</td>
<td>10.85</td>
<td>±2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets (103/mm3)</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>143 – 306.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukocytes (mmm3)</td>
<td>4.470</td>
<td>3.470 – 7.400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocytes (1/m3)</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>682.50 – 1442.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.65 – 1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactic dehydrogenase (IU/L)</td>
<td>322.50</td>
<td>222.50 – 449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein (g/mL)</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.29 – 10.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Variables with normal distribution. Interquartile Range (IQR), Kilograms (Kg), meters (m), grams (g), milligrams (mg), deciliters (DL), complement (C), international units (UI).

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2325

AB0636

HAEMATOLOGICAL MANIFESTATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: REAL WORLD DATA FROM A CENTRE IN NORTHERN ITALY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Comorbidities, Descriptive studies

R. Borrelli1, N. Rashidy1, F. Meili1, E. Saracco1, F. Corradi1, I. Badu1, S. Nicolai1, L. Lo Sardo1, L. Brussino1, Mauriziano Umberto Hospital Emergency Room, Department of Medical Sciences, Torino, Italy

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune disorder characterized by a variety of signs and symptoms; it mainly affects women of childbearing age, with an estimated prevalence of 24/100,000 people in Europe and North America. Among other clinical manifestations, haematological involvement is one of the most common in SLE as it includes anaemia, leukopenia, lymphopenia, thrombocytopenia, lupus nephropathy and splenomegaly; furthermore, it is usually challenging to discriminate whether such manifestations are caused by disease or by immunosuppressants. To date, few studies tried to evaluate them using real world data.

Objectives: To evaluate haematological manifestations in patients with SLE by using real world data.

Methods: A retrospective study was performed by gathering real world data. 2019 EULAR/ACR Classification Criteria for SLE were used to discern haematological involvements in patients with a diagnosis of SLE. Leukopenia, thrombocytopenia and autoimmune haemolytic anaemia (AIHA) were considered for this study. Six subgroups were formed as each condition alone and their combinations were analyzed. Logistic regression was used to calculate the odds ratio (OR) and a 95% confidence interval (CI) was chosen to assess statistical significance.

Results: One hundred and forty-two patients affected by SLE were enrolled in this study (N=142); among these, thirty met the inclusion criteria for haematological manifestations (n=30, 52 ±12.4 years, 28 F, 2 M). Three patients showed AIHA alone (10.0%), six had thrombocytopenia only (20.0%) and 8 displayed leukopenia alone (26.7%). Thirteen patients showed a combination as 6 people had both AIHA and thrombocytopenia (20.0%) and 4 manifested AIHA in association with leukopenia (13.3%); lastly, 3 patients showed thrombocytopenia with leukopenia (10.0%). The latter proved to be the most common manifestation as leukopenia was present in 15 out of 30 patients (50.0%) (Figure 4). Azathiaprine (AZA), in association with hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), was used in 8 patients (26.6%), while a combination of Myophenolate Mofetil (MMF) and HCQ was found in 5 out of 30 patients (16.7%); seven patients received either HCQ alone or a biologic drug (Belimumab). Among patients in therapy with AZA or MMF, the former proved to be more frequently associated with leukopenia vs MMF (OR=2.5); however, the result was not statistically significant (CI95% 0.77; 8.04); a similar result was observed for both patients in therapy with MMF or AZA when compared to HCQ alone or HCQ + Belimumab (OR=1.16, OR=0.46, respectively) since they did not reach statistical significance.

Conclusion: In this preliminary study, real-world data proved essential to analyze patients affected by SLE. Among many haematological manifestations, leukopenia showed to be the most frequent in agreement with data published in literature, strictly followed by thrombocytopenia and AIHA. AZA was linked with a higher percentage of leukopenia compared to MMF or other therapies but the result was not statistically significant. This study has some limitations (number of enrolled patients, possible selection bias) which require further evaluations to be properly assessed.

REFERENCES:
[1] Mariellé et al., Incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease in immunocompromised patients, Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease, 2018

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2325

AB0636

FREQUENCY OF TROPICAL INFECTIONS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN A MEDIUM INCOME COUNTRY, USING DATA ANALYTICS TECHNIQUES

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Artificial intelligence, Infection-related RMDs

A. Beltrán-Ostos1, 2, S. Moreno1, J. S. Castro Villareal1, C. F. Valencia Arboleda1, 2, 3
1Colombia, Cundinamarca, Bogotá, Colombia; 2Riesgo de Fractura, Carey IPS, Rheumatology service, Bogotá, Colombia; 3Universidad de los Andes, Facultad de Medicina, Bogotá, Colombia; 4Universidad de los Andes, Facultad de Ingeniería Industrial, Bogotá, Colombia

Background: The co-occurrence of lupus (SLE) and tropical infections has been poorly studied, this group of infections, prevalent in the tropics could simulate or trigger disease activity, however, some studies suggest that malaria infection could confer protection from the development of SLE, that is for this reason, studies are required to characterize this population.

Objectives: The objective of our study was to estimate de frequency of tropical infections in patients with SLE using administrative databases in Colombia.

Methods: This study was carried out using databases generated based on technical studies conducted by the Colombian Ministry of health. For the present study, databases provided contained information from 2014 to 2017, and contains the information of approximately 20 million affiliates. A person in the database was considered a patient with SLE if she met the following, either if she has been classified with an ICD-10 diagnosis code which corresponds to SLE in an inpatient claim or if she has been classified at least two times in outpatient claims, with an estimated prevalence of 24/100,000 people in Europe and North America. Among other clinical manifestations, haematological involvement is one of the most common in SLE as it includes anaemia, leukopenia, lymphopenia, thrombocytopenia, lupus nephropathy and splenomegaly; furthermore, it is usually challenging to discriminate whether such manifestations are caused by disease or by immunosuppressants. To date, few studies tried to evaluate them using real world data.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2325
Table 1. Prevalence of tropical infections by group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Non SLE</th>
<th>SLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>20 (0.09)</td>
<td>206 (3.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leishmaniasis</td>
<td>2 (0.01)</td>
<td>3 (0.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chagas</td>
<td>10 (0.07)</td>
<td>7 (0.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dengue</td>
<td>1610 (73)</td>
<td>84 (1.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chikungunya</td>
<td>463 (2.09)</td>
<td>124 (2.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zika</td>
<td>166 (0.75)</td>
<td>50 (0.90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow fever</td>
<td>2 (0.01)</td>
<td>0 (0.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgments: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2876

AB0637

THE CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF KOREAN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME (PSS) PATIENTS WITH POSITIVE ANTI-DOPPLER-STRANDAN DNA (ANTI-DSDNA) ANTIBODY BY THE FARR METHOD

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome

E. J. Koren1, B. W. Lee2, Y. Park1, J. J. Lee1, S. H. Park1, S. K. Kwok1, 1Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, College of Medicine, Catholic University of Korea, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Anti-Ro/SS-A antibody is considered to play a crucial role in distinguishing the clinical features of pSS. However, the association of anti-dsDNA antibody on the characteristics and prognosis of pSS is not well known.

Objectives: We aimed to clarify the clinical characteristics of pSS patients presenting with positive anti-dsDNA antibody.

Methods: This retrospective study assessed 1255 pSS patients, fulfilling the classification criteria proposed by the American-European Consensus Group in 2002 or American College of Rheumatology/European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) in 2016, who regularly visited Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital between 2013 and 2021. Patients with other autoimmune diseases including SLE were excluded from this study. Of the total 1255 patients, 174 were in the anti-dsDNA positive group (measured by using Farr assay, cut-off = 7 IU/ml) and 1081 were in the negative group. Data were compared between the two groups, including demographic features, extra-glandular manifestations (EGMs), clinical indices, and laboratory values at baseline.

Results: Patients in the anti-dsDNA (+) pSS group were younger (p = 0.015), and had higher proportion of positive finding in ocular staining score (OSS) by Sjögren's International Collaborative Clinical Alliance (SICCA) method (OSS ≥ 5) and minor salivary gland biopsy (Focus score ≥ 1) (p = 0.021 and p = 0.040, respectively). Among the EGMs, more frequent lymphadenopathy, lymphoma, pulmonary, cutaneous, renal, and CNS involvement were observed at baseline in the anti-dsDNA (+) pSS group. Total EULAR Sjögren's syndrome disease activity index (ESSDAI) scores were also higher in the anti-dsDNA (+) pSS group (median value [IQR]: 5.9 [5.1-6.7] vs 3.7 [3.4-3.9], p = 0.001). More frequency of leukopenia (p = 0.001), anaemia (p = 0.001), rheumatoid factor positivity (p < 0.001), anti-Ro/SSA antibody positivity (p < 0.001), low C3 (p = 0.024), low C4 (p < 0.003) and hypergammaglobulinemia (p < 0.001) were found in the laboratory data in the anti-dsDNA (+) pSS group.

Conclusion: Korean pSS patients with positive anti-dsDNA antibody by Farr method showed distinct clinical characteristics at baseline including higher disease activity of SS, frequent several types of EGMs, and difference of laboratory data. Close monitoring for development of above clinical features in anti-dsDNA positive pSS patients is necessary.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Comparison of EGMs between anti dsDNA ab (+) pSS and (-) pSS groups.

Table 1. Comparison of clinical and immunological features of pSS patients with and without neurologic involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Without neurologic involvement, n=136</th>
<th>With neurologic involvement, n=63</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>131 (96.3)</td>
<td>58 (92.1)</td>
<td>0.201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>53.8 (10.8)</td>
<td>54.4 (13.1)</td>
<td>0.755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of diagnosis, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>48.6 (10.6)</td>
<td>48.8 (13.2)</td>
<td>0.911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Schirmer’s test, n (%)</td>
<td>107 (78.7)</td>
<td>58 (92.1)</td>
<td>0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestinal lung disease, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (3.7)</td>
<td>8 (12.7)</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>57 (41.9)</td>
<td>55 (87.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive anti-Ro/SS-A, n (%)</td>
<td>77 (56.6)</td>
<td>48 (73.0)</td>
<td>0.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive anti-La/SS-B, n (%)</td>
<td>40 (29.4)</td>
<td>25 (39.7)</td>
<td>0.151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C3, n (%)</td>
<td>11 (8.1)</td>
<td>10 (15.9)</td>
<td>0.096</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PREVALENCE OF MACE AMONG SAUDI WITH SLE

Objectives: To estimate de prevalence of comorbidities in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus using administrative databases in Colombia.

Methods: This study was carried out using databases generated based on technical studies conducted by the Colombian Ministry of Health. A person in the database was considered a patient with SLE if she met the following operative definition: a patient who has been classified with an ICD-10 diagnosis code which corresponds to SLE in an inpatient claim or if she has been classified at least two times in outpatient claims, with a difference of minimum 30 days and less than 2 years, with a ICD-10 diagnosis code corresponding to SLE. In turn, a control group matched by age and sex was randomly selected to evaluate the difference in the frequency of comorbidities in both groups.

Results: We previously published the prevalence of patients with SLE, that ranges between 41.65 and 54.47 (cases/100 000), which is lower than other Latin American countries. Using the operative definition of SLE, 5527 patients were selected, and 22108 controls paired by sex and age, the average age was 43 years old in both groups, the average of comorbidities was 3.5 (SD 1.8) for SLE patients and 1.7 (SD 1.5) for control group, we found a higher prevalence for most comorbidities, particularly those related to cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and depressive disorders in subjects with SLE compared to the control group Table 1. Table Prevalence of comorbidities by group.

Conclusion: SLE patients had a burden of comorbidities, and the prevalence of multiple comorbidities were higher compared to matched controls.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Non SLE</th>
<th>SLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>1022 (4.62)</td>
<td>720 (13.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congestive heart failure</td>
<td>463 (2.09)</td>
<td>383 (6.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVD**</td>
<td>364 (1.65)</td>
<td>306 (5.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congestive heart failure</td>
<td>463 (2.09)</td>
<td>383 (6.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD**</td>
<td>320 (1.45)</td>
<td>194 (3.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>2975 (13.45)</td>
<td>951 (17.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peptic ulcer</td>
<td>146 (0.66)</td>
<td>53 (0.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild hepatic disease</td>
<td>455 (2.06)</td>
<td>315 (5.69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>8 683 (39.28)</td>
<td>3 603 (65.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes melitus</td>
<td>6 333 (28.65)</td>
<td>2 458 (44.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemiplegia</td>
<td>157 (0.71)</td>
<td>122 (2.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney disease</td>
<td>5 291 (10.53)</td>
<td>2 013 (36.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumors</td>
<td>1 974 (16.9)</td>
<td>268 (4.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirrhosis</td>
<td>500 (2.26)</td>
<td>362 (6.54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sida</td>
<td>488 (2.12)</td>
<td>160 (2.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depressive disorder</td>
<td>1 285 (5.81)</td>
<td>884 (15.96)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4198
two hospitals, and the treatment strategy, selection of steroid, initial dose of steroid and drugs used together with steroid have been quite similar. Therefore, it should be possible to clarify the background factors associated with ONF.

Objectives: The purpose of this study were to clarify the factors related to silent ONF in patients with SLE and, in case of ONF, to clarify the clinical characteristics between unilateral and bilateral.

Methods: One hundred thirty-two patients (18 males and 114 females) with SLE were selected on the basis of having been newly diagnosed and requiring high-dose prednisolone, including pulse therapy with methylprednisolone, as the initial treatment. All the patients initially underwent plain radiography and MRI at the start of corticosteroids to detect any early changes in the femoral head. Subsequently these examinations were performed three months thereafter. The laboratory parameters were evaluated at the beginning of steroid treatment and at one month thereafter. All statistical analyses were performed with SPSS v. 13 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Statistical tests were considered significant at a P (two sided) < 0.05, and marginal significant at P = 0.05–0.10. Tests were 2-tailed, and differences at p < 0.05 were considered significant.

Results: By three months after the start of corticosteroid treatment, asymptomatic ONF was diagnosed by MRI in 33 patients (25.0%), being bilateral in 21 patients and unilateral in 12. Serological activity (C3, C4, CH50 and anti-ds DNA antibody), renal function (eGFR, serum creatinine and urinary protein), anti-phospholipid antibodies, and SLEDAI were not correlated with asymptomatic ONF. BMI, BSA, and the initial dose of prednisolone per unit body weight, BMI and BSA were not correlated with silent ONF. Additionally, the occurrence of IO was not related to SLEDAI.

Conclusion: Asymptomatic ONF is common in patients with SLE. Both of high triglyceride and total cholesterol levels are important risk factors for ONF. In unilateral and bilateral studies, excess steroid dosage relative to serologic activity of SLE might contribute to the development of bilateral ONF. In the pathogenesis ONF, it was suggested that SLE activity and steroids are closely related.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4218

AB0642 ANTI-SSA POSITIVITY AND SALIVARY GLAND ULTRASOUND AS SCREENING TOOLS FOR PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME IN PATIENTS WITH SICCA SYMPTOMS

Keywords: Imaging, Sjögren syndrome, Ultrasound

K. Chandwari1, D. P. Misra,2, K. Kishor2, P. Dogga1, A. Wakhlu1, V. Agarwal1, R. Mino1, M. Mizusaki1, K. Chujo1, T. Kameda1, H. Dobashi1.

Background: Salivary Gland ultrasound is a sensitive point of care investigation for the assessment of salivary gland dysfunction. It can be abnormal in patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome(pSS), Sarcoidosis, IgG4 disease, Systemic sclerosis, Infections and Tumors.

Objectives: To understand the utility of Anti-SSA, ANA and Anti-SSA/SSB and Salivary gland ultrasound for diagnosing primary Sjögren’s Syndrome in patients with Sicca symptoms.

Methods: In the current study, In patients referred to the department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, King George’s Medical University, with Sicca Symptoms, a salivary Gland Ultrasound was performed and in those with abnormal ultrasound (Hoevear Score ≥1) Clinical and serological evaluation were performed. The Sensitivity and Specificity of Salivary Gland ultrasound with a Hoevear score ≥1 to diagnose primary Sjögren’s Syndrome was assessed, and the utility of ANA, Anti-SSA and Anti-SSA positivity in patients with abnormal ultrasound was assessed.

Results: A total of 78 patients with sicca symptoms and abnormal salivary gland ultrasound (Hoevear Score ≥1) were included of these, 36 were diagnosed with primary Sjögren’s syndrome and 42 with other diseases, including 12 with Rheumatoid arthritis, 8 with Systemic lupus erythematosus, 7 with systemic sclerosis, 4 with IgG4 related disease and 4 with Sarcoidosis. 7 patients did not have any autoimmune rheumatic disease after evaluation. The mean age of pSS patients was 36.42 ±11.68 and for non-pSS patients was 44.45 ±15.31. A Hoevear score ≥17 has a sensitivity and specificity of 80.56% and 78.57%, respectively. Adding ANA to the screening protocol improved the sensitivity but reduced the specificity while adding Anti-SSA to the screening protocol improved sensitivity, specificity, positive likelihood ratio, accuracy and area under curve for diagnosing pSS.

Conclusion: Anti-SSA positivity and abnormal salivary gland ultrasound in patients with Sicca symptoms can be effective screening tools for diagnosis primary Sjögren’s Syndrome.

Table 1. Performance of different Screening methods in pSS Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening Method</th>
<th>Sensitivity (%)</th>
<th>Specificity (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>80.56</td>
<td>82.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-SSA</td>
<td>86.88</td>
<td>81.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA + Anti-SSA</td>
<td>84.09</td>
<td>84.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA + Anti-SSA/SSB</td>
<td>82.35</td>
<td>82.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Risk factor for PB and LBW with or without LLDDS achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Achieved LLDDS</th>
<th>Not achieved LLDDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid use*</td>
<td>8 (40.0)</td>
<td>PB (+) (n=12)PB (-) (n=26)P value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean glucocorticoid dose, mg/day</td>
<td>7.80±2.1</td>
<td>7.00 (100.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3, mg/dl#</td>
<td>90.6±20.1</td>
<td>78.1±19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4, mg/dl#</td>
<td>20.0±5.5</td>
<td>19.9±6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA antibody, IU/l#</td>
<td>15.1±6.0</td>
<td>81.4±5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBW (-)</td>
<td>12 (100.0)</td>
<td>26 (100.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBW (+)</td>
<td>26 (100.0)</td>
<td>12 (100.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background: Women with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) have a higher risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes (APOs) including preterm birth (PB) and low birth weight (LBW) [1]. These APOs are revealed to be related to uncontrolled higher disease activity during pregnancy [2]. Currently, lupus low disease activity state (LLDDS), which is a comprehensive disease activity index, is suggested to be the treatment target to control damage accumulation. However, it is controversial whether achieving LLDDS during pregnancy can be a sufficient therapeutic target to prevent APOs.

Objectives: To understand the utility of risk factors for PB and LBW in SLE patients with or without achieving LLDDS at conception.

Methods: We used the data of SLE patients who have been treated at the planning for pregnancy from a single center cohort. We divided into LLDDS achieved

Table 1. Performance of different Screening methods in pSS Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening Method</th>
<th>Sensitivity (%)</th>
<th>Specificity (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>86.88</td>
<td>81.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA + Anti-SSA</td>
<td>84.09</td>
<td>84.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA + Anti-SSA/SSB</td>
<td>82.35</td>
<td>82.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are presented as mean ± standard deviation or number (%). *Wilcoxon rank sum test; †Fisher’s exact test; ‡P < 0.05.
Outcomes and factors predicting mortality in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus admitted to intensive care unit

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Descriptive studies

A. Gopalan, S. C. Veeravalli. 1Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Hyderabad, India

Results: Eighty-seven patients were included in the study. Mean age was 33.16 ± 12.6 years and 87% were females. Most common causes for admission were infection in 51 (58%) and disease flare-up in 31 (35%) patients; 34 (39%) patients had a combination of disease flare and infection. Mean APACHE II score at admission was 17.32 and mean SLEDAI-2k score at presentation was 15.16. The mean duration of ICU stay was 6.02 ± 6.58 days. Mechanical ventilation was needed for 45 patients (51%), inotropic support in 36 patients (41%) and dialysis in 19 patients (21%). The mortality rate was 21% (19 cases), 18/19 patients had both very high disease activity and sepsis. Factors correlating with mortality (on multivariate analysis) analyzed separately for LLDAS attained group and not-achieved LLDAS group. As for PB, mean glucocorticoid dose during pregnancy was found to be a risk factor for PB, regardless of whether or not the LLDAS was achieved at conception. As for LBW, low levels of C3 and CH50 was shown to be a risk factor even if LLDAS could be achieved at conception. Therefore, it is important to control the immunological disease activity parameters strictly for improving pregnancy outcomes, even if LLDAS, a comprehensive disease activity index, is achieved at conception.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4391

Table 1. Factors affecting mortality in our study subjects (n=87).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>p Value</th>
<th>r2</th>
<th>Correlation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.0073</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary of SLE</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of current illness</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2k score</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.0014</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Fever</td>
<td>0.0016</td>
<td>0.037</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mean arterial pressure</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse rate</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory rate</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.0012</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum Creatinine</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hematocrit</td>
<td>0.0092</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC count</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.0008</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelet count</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti ds-DNA titre</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serum Albumin</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCS</td>
<td>0.0015</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Sepsis</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>0.077</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease flare</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.196</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation</td>
<td>0.00008</td>
<td>0.166</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renal replacement therapy</td>
<td>0.0007</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inotropic support</td>
<td>0.0003</td>
<td>0.183</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Prevalence and description of autoimmune polyendocrine syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus: Experience of a single center

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Comorbidities, Epidemiology

E. Pirovano 1, G. I. Gazzoli 2, P. Bizzelli 2, M. Taglietti 2, M. Fredi 2, C. Cappelli 2, F. Franceschini 2, 1ASST Spedali Civili and University of Brescia, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy, 2ASST Spedali Civili and University of Brescia, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy, 3ASST Spedali Civili and University of Brescia, Endocrinology and Metabolism Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy

Background: Autoimmune polyendocrine syndromes (APS) are a heterogeneous group of clinical conditions characterized by functional alteration of one or more endocrine glands and often associated with other systemic autoimmune diseases. In our Department and to assess the possible association between organic autoimmune diseases and SLE. The secondary aim is to describe the timing of onset of the different autoimmune diseases and the presence of associated comorbidities and/or any feature that may predict the development of APS.

Objectives: The primary objective of the work is to describe the prevalence of APS in a cohort of patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) followed in our Department and to assess the possible association between organic autoimmune diseases and SLE. The secondary aim is to describe the timing of onset of the different autoimmune diseases and the presence of associated comorbidities and/or any feature that may predict the development of APS.

Methods: In this retrospective observational study we included the medical history, biochemical, and immunological data of patients older than 18 years of age with SLE who were actively followed at the Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology of our hospital. Patients who, in addition to the diagnosis of SLE, had at least one other autoimmune disorder against an endocrine organ were included in the study.
Results: The total number of SLE patients examined is 423, with a mean age at the last evaluation of 53 (±13), 393 were female (93%) and 30 male (7%). Forty-eight patients (11.3%) have at least one other endocrinological autoimmune disease that would allow the diagnosis of APS. The sample examined is composed of 46 (86%) females and 2 (4%) males (F:M=23:1). The mean age of the patients is 52 (±14) years; the mean age of SLE onset is 36 (±14) years. No cases of APS-1 nor APS-2 were found; 45 (94%) patients are affected by APS-3; while 3 (6%) by APS-4. Forty-three (90%) patients presented two autoimmune diseases and 5 (10%) presented three autoimmune diseases. The mean age at onset of the first disease is 31 (±12) years; the second manifestation is 39 (±13) years and the third manifestation is 37 (±11) years. Concerning the timing of the onset, SLE was the first manifestation in 17/48 patients, the second manifestation in 25 patients, the third manifestation in 1 patient and in 5 patients the diseases were diagnosed at the same time. Figure 1 shows the different conditions according to the time of onset. The mean latency between the onset of the first manifestation and the onset of the second is 9 (±3) years. The mean latency between the onset of the second manifestation and the onset of the third is 4 (±3) years.

Conclusion: In our cohort of SLE patients, the prevalence of APS is quite high and occurs proportionally more in females than in males. Hashimoto’s Thyroiditis (HT) is the most represented disease, followed by Graves’ disease and DM1. And occurs proportionally more in females than in males. Hashimoto’s Thyroiditis is the most represented disease, followed by Graves’ disease and DM1. The study retrospectively evaluated the conformity of the 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria in patients discharged from a single-center tertiary university rheumatology center between February 2020 and February 2022, diagnosed with SLE according to their attending rheumatologists and identified by international classification of diseases (ICD10) codes. Normally-distributed continuous variables are reported as ‘mean ± standard deviation’; The correlation of continuous variables was studied with Spearman tests. Differences of continuous variables between nominal dichotomous subgroups were evaluated with Mann Whitney tests. Statistics were considered significant if p < 0.05.

Results: The study included 146 patients, of whom 92.5% were women, with an average age of 48.3 ± 13.3 years. Approximately 75% of patients had negative ANA (including at repeated measurements) and 12.3% had an unknown ANA status. The method for determining ANA was ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; 75.3%), indirect immuno-fluorescence (2.7%) or undetermined (21.9%). Men scored a significantly higher median number of classification points than women (i.e., 21 points versus 16 points; p = 0.020) and they had a higher prevalence of class 3/4 nephritis (18.2% versus 3.0%; p = 0.014), pleuritis/pericarditis (36.4% versus 14.8%; p = 0.064) and oral ulcers (27.3% versus 9.6%; p = 0.072). Only 63.7% of SLE diagnoses also met the 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria. The most common manifestations not complying with these classification criteria were proteinuria (59.5% discordance), thrombocytopenia (13.6% discordance) and joint involvement (9.3% discordance). The median number of classification points correlated significantly with the median titer of ANA (r = 0.301; p = 0.001) measured by ELISA.

Conclusion: Diagnostic reality includes ANA-negative SLE, which should be further investigated. In clinical practice, ANA are preferably determined by ELISA and their titer seems to be proportionally associated with more classifiable SLE clinical characteristics. Clinical trials have a maximum eligible SLE population of 63.7% of patients to whom additional inclusion/exclusion criteria could be applied.


Concordance of the Diagnosis and Classification of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Keywords: Clinical trials, Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus

The Significance of a Comprehensive Examination of Dry Eye Disease in Primary Sjögren Syndrome and Its Relationship to Extraocular Manifestations

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Patient reported outcomes

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4743

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Keywords: Clinical trials, Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus

AB0547

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DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4743
in the study. The patients had an ophthalmologic examination and DED evaluation on the day of their routine follow-up appointments. ESSPRI scores were recorded and laboratory tests, salivary flow rate and salivary gland ultrasonography (USG) scores of the patients were recorded from the patients’ files. The ophthalmologic examination includes Schirmer’s test, BUT, ocular surface staining (Oxford score), Marx’s line, and noninvasive BUT (NIBUT) with the Scheimpflug-Placido disk system. Ocular surface disease index (OSDI) and dry eye questionnaire-5 (DEQ-5) were used for patient-reported outcomes. The relationship between the pSS-related parameters and the ophthalmologic findings was evaluated.

Results: The patient characteristics are given in Table 1. According to the TFOS-DEWSII definition and classification report, all patients have definite DED [3]. The mean Schirmer’s test, BUT, and NIBUT were 3.4±5.2 mm, 5.9±3.0 sec, and 5.9±3.9 sec, respectively. The mean OSDI score was 38.2±22.7, indicating severe DED symptoms, and the mean DEQ-5 score was 10.3±6.0. Oxford score was positive in 25 (73.5%) patients. Marx’s line grading that shows meibomian gland dysfunction was 3.2±2.3. The mean ESSPRI score for dryness, pain, and fatigue were 6.5±2.1, 5.4±3.2, and 5.3±3.1, respectively. There was a significant positive correlation between the ESSPRI-dryness score and OSDI (p=0.001), DEQ-5 (p=0.004), and Oxford score (p=0.03). Also, there was a significant negative correlation between patient global assessment (PGA) of general health and DEQ-5 scores (p=0.007).

Table 1. The characteristics of the study population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, years, mean±sd</th>
<th>49.5±13.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female, n (%)</td>
<td>33 (97.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, months, median (IQR)</td>
<td>73.5 (76.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment, n (%)</td>
<td>24 (70.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>6 (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>6 (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leflunomide</td>
<td>4 (11.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>2 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>2 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease manifestations, n (%)</td>
<td>31 (91.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthralgia</td>
<td>11 (32.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>2 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parotitis</td>
<td>4 (11.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstitial lung disease</td>
<td>7 (20.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphopenia</td>
<td>12 (35.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypergamaglobulinemia</td>
<td>4 (11.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypocomplementemia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Patient-reported outcomes such as ESSPRI-dryness score, PGA of general health, and disease activity worsen as DED severity increases in pSS patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Cardiovascular biomarkers in South African SLE patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardiovascular biomarkers</th>
<th>SLE (n=49)</th>
<th>Controls (n=24)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hs TNFα</td>
<td>2 (1.32-3.93)</td>
<td>0.58 (0.35-0.98)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hs IPNg</td>
<td>3.37 (1.74-4.46)</td>
<td>1.25 (0.40-2.69)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hs IL 1B</td>
<td>0.73 (0.46-0.93)</td>
<td>0.32 (0.05-0.55)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hs IL 6</td>
<td>2.20 (1.35-3.51)</td>
<td>0.90 (0.47-1.38)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMP 1</td>
<td>35418 (25796; 31332)</td>
<td>27600 (24284-30294)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPP 9</td>
<td>34791 (18563-47858)</td>
<td>75451 (43422-65112)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VACAM 1</td>
<td>930979 (708295-1484550)</td>
<td>489223 (397296-733182)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MMP matrix metalloproteinase; TIMP tissue inhibitor of MMP; VACAM vascular cell adhesion molecule.

Figure 1.
REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5313

AB0649 PERIPHERAL B CELLS IMMUNOPHENOTYPING IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Cell biology, Biomarkers

C. Di Mario1, V. Varriano2, L. Petricca3, A. Pagliocino4, M. R. Gigante5, B. Tosullo2, E. Gremese1,2, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli, IRCCS, Immunology Research Core Facility, Rome, Italy; Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli, IRCCS, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy; Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli, IRCCS, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy

Background: B cells play a central role in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) pathogenesis connecting innate with adaptive immunity.

Objectives: To investigate the peripheral blood B cell phenotype in a cohort of SLE patients with renal (LN-SLE) and non-renal (NR-SLE) involvement compared to healthy controls.

Methods: Ninety-nine SLE patients, 76 with active renal involvement (30 at disease onset-Early and 46 in whom LN occurred after the disease onset-Long) and 23 with non-renal disease (articular and/or cutaneous) were enrolled. Thirty-seven healthy controls were included. Clinical, laboratory and demographic data were collected at baseline and at 6 and 12 months of follow-up. Disease activity was recorded using SLEDAI-2K.

Results: The memory B cells immunophenotyping (IgD/CD27 classification) was analyzed in peripheral blood through flow cytometry. To clarify the role of key molecules in the B cells activation, IL-6 and BAFF serum levels were assayed by ELISA.

Conclusion: The results of this study can help in the identification of potential biomarkers that may be used to predict disease progression and treatment outcomes.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB0650 PREVALENECE OF FATIGUE AND ITS IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGRÖN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Quality of life, Sjögren syndrome

D. Das1, G. Naidu1, S. Grover2, V. Dhiri2, S. K. Sharmaz2, A. Sharma2, S. Jain2, P. Deo2. 1Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Internal Medicine II, Rheumatology, Chandigarh, India; 2Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Department of Psychiatry, Chandigarh, India

Background: Among the extra-glandular symptoms in primary sjögren's syndrome (pSS), fatigue and pain are the most common. Fatigue is a poorly understood phenomenon with multi-faceted involvement. Therefore, it is important to assess the severity of fatigue and describe its various dimensions while assessing fatigue. On the other hand, fatigue is also one of the predictors of reduced health and quality of life in pSS.

Objectives: To assess fatigue by Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS) and Profile of fatigue (ProF) questionnaires and quality of life (QoL) with Health Assessment Questionnaire- Disability Index (HAQ-DI) and to know the association between the two in patients with pSS.

Methods: Patients fulfilling AECG 2002 and/or ACR-EULAR 2016 classification criteria for pSS were included in this prospective observational study between January 2021 to June 2022. Fatigue was assessed with FSS and ProF and QoL was assessed with HAQ-DI. Depression and somatoform disorder were assessed using PHQ20 and PHQ15 respectively. Associations with fatigue were compared using multivariate regression analysis. Written informed consent was obtained from all subjects included in the study and the study was approved by Institute Ethics Committee.

Results: Out of 125 patients, 114 (91.2%) were female and 11 (8.8%) were male with a female to male ratio of 9.6:1. The median age at the time of inclusion into the study was 41(32-50) years. The median duration of the disease was 36 (12-60) months. The median ESSDAI and ESSPRI score were 2 (1-3) and 6 (2-9) respectively. Fifty seven (45.6%) patients had fatigue, defined as FSS of >4 and/ or ProF ≥2 in either of the domains. Among the patients with fatigue, 12 (21%) patients scored less than 4 on FSS, 36 (63.1%) had mild fatigue, 7 (12.2%) had moderate fatigue and only 2 (3.5%) patients had severe fatigue. The mean FSS score in the cohort was 2.9 ± 0.6 for somatic fatigue and 2.9 ± 1.3 for mental fatigue. The median HAQ-DI in patients with fatigue was significantly more compared to non-fatigue patients (0.1 vs 0.5; p <0.001; Figure 1). There was a positive correlation between fatigue score and HAQ-DI score (pb=0.36, n= 125, p <0.001). The prevalence of depression and somatoform disorder was 15.2% and 28% respectively. The ESSPRI pain score, ProFAD Ocular & Oral dryness score and PHQ-9 score were positively associated with higher fatigue score.

Conclusion: Fatigue was seen in nearly half of the patients with pSS and patients with fatigue had impaired QoL as assessed by HAQ-DI. The pain, dryness and presence of depression are the predictors of fatigue in patients with pSS.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5551

AB0651 INDIRECT HEALTH RELATED COST IN PSS PATIENTS IN RELATION TO SYMPTOM BASED ENDOTYPES

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Work-related issues, Sjögren syndrome

L. Derou1,2,3, H. Achten1,2,3, K. De Boeck2,2, F. Van den Bosch1,2,2, D. Elewa1,2,3, I. Peere1,2,3,4, Ghent University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Ghent, Belgium; 2Ghent University, Center for Inflammation Research, VIB-UGent, Ghent, Belgium; 3Ghent University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Rheumatology, Gent, Belgium; 4AZ Sint-Jan, Rheumatology, Brugge, Belgium
Background: Primary Sjögren’s Syndrome (pSS) is characterised by oral and ocular dryness, possible development of systemic manifestations, increased lymphoma risk, and a highly diverse patient burden. To address this heterogeneity Tarn identified four endotypes based on patient-reported symptoms of dryness, fatigue, pain, anxiety and depression: low symptom burden (LSB), pain dominant with fatigue (PDF), dryness dominant with fatigue (DDF) and high symptom burden (HSB).(1)

Objectives: The aim of this study was to explore indirect health related costs in relation to symptom-based endotypes in a cohort of patients with definite and suspected pSS.

Methods: Data from the Belgian Sjögren’s Syndrome Transition Trial (BeSSTT) were used in which patients positive for at least one of the 2016 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, were enrolled. Patients were considered ‘definite pSS’ when fulfilling these criteria, and ‘suspected pSS’ otherwise. The Newcastle Sjögren’s Stratification Tool (NSST), developed and provided by Tarn et al., was applied to stratify the cohort into endotypes. Patients reported their current work status and sick leave in the past year and completed the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment questionnaire (WPAI).

Results: Application of the NSST tool resulted in 4 endotypes, both in definite (LSB n=23, DDF n=33, PDF n=82, HSB n=30) and suspected pSS (LSB n=14, DDF n=22, PDF n=48, HSB n=21). The majority of definite pSS patients were female (158, 88.8%) with a means±SD age of 53.4±14.7, with no significant differences between endotypes (p=0.365 and p=0.415). Definite pSS LSB patients reported significantly less invalidity (p=0.020). A numerically higher proportion of working PDF and HSB patients reported part time employment due to health (p=0.063), however, reported working hours did not differ between endotypes. In contrast, HSB pSS patients reported significantly more productivity loss during their job than those with LSB and DDF endotypes (p=0.001), which led to a significantly higher total work impairment (p<0.001). In addition, definite pSS patients with HSB endotype reported significantly more productivity loss during daily activities besides their job (69%, p<0.001). No significant differences concerning job characteristics were observed between definite and suspected pSS patients with the same endotype.

Conclusion: Definite pSS patients with a HSB endotype encounter significantly more work impairment than those with other endotypes, which is due to a significantly higher productivity loss while working. In addition, these patients report significantly more productivity loss during daily activities besides paid work, which entails large indirect health related costs as pSS is a predominantly female disease. Moreover, the burden associated with the HSB endotype appears to influence work ability independent of a definite pSS diagnosis.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Job characteristics of definite pSS patients per endotype.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endotype</th>
<th>LSB (n=10)</th>
<th>DDF (n=18)</th>
<th>PDF (n=44)</th>
<th>HSB (n=17)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student/retired</td>
<td>10 (100.0)</td>
<td>9 (50.0)</td>
<td>17 (38.6)</td>
<td>6 (35.3)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 (27.8)</td>
<td>6 (13.6)</td>
<td>5 (29.4)</td>
<td>0.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invalidity</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (22.2)</td>
<td>21 (47.7)</td>
<td>6 (35.3)</td>
<td>0.020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Endotype</th>
<th>LSB (n=13)</th>
<th>DDF (n=15)</th>
<th>PDF (n=38)</th>
<th>HSB (n=13)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part time due to health</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>4.26 (27.6)</td>
<td>20 (52.6)</td>
<td>7 (53.8)</td>
<td>0.063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working hours per week</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>2.9 (9.4)</td>
<td>3.0 (7.5)</td>
<td>3.1 (6.9)</td>
<td>0.216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent: health</td>
<td>6.5 (17.7)</td>
<td>17.3 (31.1)</td>
<td>3.8 (7.8)</td>
<td>13.7 (30.8)</td>
<td>0.472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent: other</td>
<td>28.7 (15.6)</td>
<td>30.5 (10.5)</td>
<td>22.0 (14.1)</td>
<td>28.8 (15.0)</td>
<td>0.109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked</td>
<td>0.12 (0.18)</td>
<td>0.17 (0.21)</td>
<td>0.34 (0.29)</td>
<td>0.60 (0.20)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost productivity due to health</td>
<td>0.1 (0.1)</td>
<td>0.2 (0.2)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.3)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Boxplot visualizing total work impairment, assessed by WPAI, of definite and suspected pSS patients in relation to symptom-based endotypes. A score of 0.00 indicates no impairment, while 1.00 corresponds with total impairment.

Acknowledgements: We want to thank all BeSSTT patients for their participation. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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HISTOLOGICAL RENAL FEATURES AND CYTOKINES ASSESSMENT AS POSSIBLE BIOMARKERS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Cell biology, Systemic lupus erythematosus

V Varriano1, C Di Mario2, A Pagliionico1, L Petricca1, M R Gigante3, B Toloso4, E Gremese1,2, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy;2 Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Immunology Research Core Facility, Rome, Italy;3 Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCSS, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy

Background: Lupus Nephritis (LN) management remains a challenge for the inadequacy of the traditional parameters in identifying more severe disease and preventing renal damage.

Objectives: To identify a multipanel biomarkers matrix, from histological to molecular level, aiming to improve prognostic stratification and therapeutic protocol of LN patients.

Methods: 45 SLE patients with active disease (age: 40.5 ± 11.0 years) at disease onset or at disease flare were enrolled. 6 patients with LN in persistent remission (R-LN) (age: 43.5 ± 11.9 years) were included as controls. 28 patients had active LN and underwent ultrasound-guided renal biopsy while 15 patients with non-renal SLE (NR-SLE) displayed cutaneous or articular manifestations. Laboratory, immunological and disease activity data were collected at baseline and then at 6(T6) and 12(T12) months. Renal biopsies were evaluated according to ISN/RPS classification, assessing the activity and chronicity indexes and the active intersistial infiltrate (II) using the BANFF score system. Serum level of BAFF, IL-2, IL-6, IL-17 and IFN-γ were assayed in the study cohort by ELLA panel at each timepoint.

Results: Considering LN cohort, 66% of the renal biopsies belonged to class III and IV; 71.8% of LN patients had a II>5%. Performing univariate analysis for each renal outcome, focusing on histological assessment, a significant association between higher activity index and worse renal prognosis in terms of remission achievement at 12 months (p= 0.04), proteinuria and chronic renal damage development (p= 0.04 and p= 0.03 respectively) was observed. Through the ROC curve analysis, a cut-off value of activity index of 7.5 was identified (sensitivity 72.7%, specificity 66.7%) [AUC: 0.77; 95% CI, 0.56-0.98; p= 0.04] for remission achievement within 12 months and proteinuria development. Furthermore, LN patients with presence of II>5% were not only less likely to achieve early remission (p= 0.04) as well as those with at least one antiphospholipid antibody (Apl) positivity (p= 0.05), but displayed a worse renal outcome overall, though without reaching statistical significance. The analysis of circulating cytokines revealed that serum levels of IL-6 were significantly higher in patients with active disease as compared to R-LN patients, independently from renal involvement (LN: 76 ± 10.0 vs R-LN: 2.1 ± 2.1, p=0.02; NR-SLE: 11.4 ± 17.8 vs R-LN: 2.1 ± 2.1, p=0.02). Moreover, baseline serum level of IFN-γ was significantly increased in LN patients compared to R-LN (12.1 ± 36.8 vs 1.5 ± 3.6, p=0.01). Serum levels of IL-6 in LN patients positively correlated with disease activity index (R= 0.819; p<0.001), and negatively with C3 (R= -0.608; p=0.003) and C4 (R= -0.675; p=0.01). The evaluation of cytokines serum levels in relation to outcome achievement revealed that NR-SLE patients with favorable course had baseline higher serum level of IL-2 than those with active disease (0.6 ± 0.2 vs 0.1 ± 0.1, p=0.01). Finally, LN patients with higher serum levels of IL-6 during the follow-up were less likely to reach remission (3.7 ± 1.8 vs 2.1 ± 1.4, p=0.02) as well as LN patients with higher serum level of IL-17 (3.4 ± 8.0 vs 0.9 ± 0.3, p=0.01). In particular, higher baseline serum levels of IL-17 were observed in patients who developed persistent proteinuria than those who did not (2.3 ± 2.3 vs 0.7 ± 0.5, p=0.02) and tended to remain higher also during FU, together with IL-6 serum level.

Conclusion: II>5%, higher disease activity index and Apl+ represent in our study the strongest predictors of worse renal outcome, among traditional parameters. Higher IL-6 and IL-17 serum levels, at baseline and during FU, emerge as negative prognostic factor suggesting a possible role as biomarkers of more aggressive LN. IL-2 seems to have a protective role in extra renal disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0653

PRESEPSIN IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: CLINICAL AND SEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus

O. Iaremenko1, D. Koliadenko1, K. Iaremenko2, Bogomolets National Medical University, Department of Internal Medicine #3, Kyiv, Ukraine; 1Alexander Clinical Hospital, Laboratory Department, Kyiv, Ukraine

Background: Presepsin (soluble CD14 subtype) is a newly recognized biomarker of sepsis. Recently it has been reported that presepsin levels are elevated in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) without infection, possibly due to phagocytosis of neutrophil extracellular traps by monocytes/macrophages [1]. However, the clinical significance of presepsin in SLE remains uncertain [2].

Objectives: This study aims to evaluate the relation between serum presepsin levels and clinical manifestations, disease activity and laboratory parameters in SLE patients.

Methods: A total of 78 SLE patients (aged 38.9±12.8 years; 87.2% females) and 16 age- and sex-matched healthy controls were enrolled. Patients with infections were not included in the study. Serum presepsin levels were determined by ELISA and were analyzed in relation to SLE organ system and involvement, routine laboratory tests, inflammatory markers, serum complement levels, autoantibody spectrum, and the overall disease activity assessed by Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index (SLEDAI). Mann-Whitney test, Spearman and Pearson correlation tests were used for statistical analysis.

Results: The median serum presepsin level was significantly higher in patients with SLE than in healthy controls (137 (95-197) pg/ml vs 66 (62-77) pg/ml; p<0.001). SLE males had higher presepsin concentration compared with females (180 (140-156) pg/ml vs 130 (90-170) pg/ml; p=0.02). Presepsin levels were significantly lower in SLE patients with involvement of skin (124 (84-157) pg/ml) and musculoskeletal system (111 (87-153) pg/ml) compared to those without such manifestations (164 (110-210) pg/ml; p=0.032 and 145 (122-175) pg/ml; p=0.041, respectively). However, SLE patients with fever (215 (170-1606) pg/ml vs 130 (93-166) pg/ml; p<0.004), nephritis (145 (110-197) pg/ml vs 102 (82-146) pg/ml; p=0.011), anemia (170 (126-280) pg/ml vs 130 (92-280) pg/ml; p=0.04) and thrombocytopenia (198 (170-280) pg/ml vs 130 (92-161) pg/ml; p=0.049) had higher presepsin levels than those without such symptoms. Significant correlation was found between presepsin concentration and estimated glomerular filtration rate (r=0.440, p=0.017). Presepsin levels did not correlate with white blood cell count, C3, C4, C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate and procalcitonin levels. Presepsin levels in patients with lupus nephritis significantly correlated with SLEDAI score (r=0.461, p=0.008) and anti-dsDNA levels (r=0.545, p<0.01); no such associations were found in SLE patients without kidney involvement.

Conclusion: Higher presepsin levels in SLE patients are associated with male gender, fever, kidney involvement, anemia and thrombocytopenia. Further research focused on clinical use of presepsin in SLE is warranted.

REFERENCES:

Disclosures: None declared

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AB0654

PHOSPHATIDYLISERINE PROTHROMBIN COMPLEX ANTIBODIES UTILITY IN PLACENTAL INSUFFICIENCY MANAGEMENT: A CASE CONTROL STUDY IN A GENERAL OBSTETRIC CARE UNIT

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Pregnancy and reproduction, Anti-phospholipid syndrome

A. Danza1, J. Sorriso2, M. Devillers2, C. d’Agostino2, F. Barad2, D. Jorquera1, 2. University Hospital of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 1Hospital Italiano, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Background: Antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) are associated with a variety of obstetric complications, such as preterm delivery, placental abruption, and fetal growth restriction. The role of anti-phosphatidylserine-prothrombin complex antibodies (aPLPC) in placental insufficiency (PI) in obstetric patients with lupus anticoagulant and anti-phospholipid antibodies (aPL) is unclear.

Objectives: To assess the performance of antibodies against the phosphatidylserine prothrombin complex (IgM and IgG), onwards “anti-PS/PT” in preeclampsia or fetal growth restriction.

Methods: A case control study was performed in a private maternal general care unit. Cases were patients with preeclampsia or fetal growth restriction developed before the 37th weeks of gestation. The full sample was calculated in 92 cases and 192 controls. Controls were patients who were hospitalized in the third trimester of gestation, with age +/- 5 years old respect to the controls, without known autoimmune diseases or history of adverse obstetric outcomes. All patients were studied with general laboratory, doppler, classical antiphospholipid antibodies and anti-PS/PT IgG and IgM. We present demographic characteristics and media comparisons which were performed with T test. Categorical variables were compared with Chi square test or Fisher test if applicable. The statistical significance was established in 5% (p<0.05). Informed consent from the patients as well as approval from the institutional ethics committee were obtained.

Results: Two hundred and eighty-four pregnant women were included (192 controls and 92 cases). Demographic and clinical data of the groups are presented in Table 1. The median (IQR) anti-PS/PT IgM titles were 8 (6) MLP U/ml in cases and 9 (9) MPL U/ml in controls, p>0.05. Regarding to anti-PS/PT IgG test, the median (IQR) titles were 5.5 (3) GPL U/ml in cases and 5.5 (5) GPL U/ml in controls, p>0.05

Conclusion: We did not find association between anti-PS/PT both IgG or IgM in cases of foetal growth restriction or preeclampsia. It is worth to note that this study was performed in a general care maternity, therefore, high risk cases were not included. Further analysis may show the utility of this biomarkers in obstetric adverse pregnancy outcomes management, particularly in other contexts as recurrent pregnancy loss, foetal death, or early severe preeclampsia.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographic and clinical data of cases and controls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Controls</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(n=92)</td>
<td>(n=192)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal age (years) (mean, SD)</td>
<td>32.9 (6.1)</td>
<td>30.6 (6.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestational age at inclusion (weeks) (mean, SD)</td>
<td>34.8 (3.3)</td>
<td>37.4 (4.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systolic blood pressure at inclusion (mmHg) (mean, SD)</td>
<td>130.6 (19.6)</td>
<td>116.4 (12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic blood pressure at inclusion (mmHg) (mean, SD)</td>
<td>79.1 (14.4)</td>
<td>68.9 (10.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foetal growth restriction (n, %)</td>
<td>52 (56.5%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe preeclampsia (n, %)</td>
<td>17 (18.4%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of newborns (grams) (mean, SD)</td>
<td>2995 (681)</td>
<td>3314.6 (503.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclosures: Alvaro Danza has a grant from PLANAR to investigate in this area, he has no other disclosures to declare.

Acknowledgements: To the laboratory Biodiagnostico (Uruguay) which financed the reactions to perform the laboratory tests.

Discharge of Interests: None declared

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AB0655

PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THROMBOCYTOPENIA IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AT HOSPITAL DEL MAR

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Systemic lupus erythematosus

J. Corrubeda Lema1, 2, I. Carrion Barbera2, F. Garcia Pallarols2, B. Sanchez Gonzalez2, T. C. Salmon Monte1, 2. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, School of Medicine, Barcelona, Spain; 1Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, School of Medicine, Bellaterra, Spain; 2Hospital de Mar, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease with a variety of manifestations, one of which is immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). Immune thrombocytopenia has been reported in 7–40% of SLE patients [1,2].

Objectives: To determine the prevalence of ITP in SLE patients and identify risk factors that correlate with ITP.

Methods: Retrospective case-control study. 407 medical records of SLE patients were reviewed: 34 patients were diagnosed with ITP (cases) and were age- and
sex-matched with 2 controls with SLE without ITP. Differences between cases and controls were analysed as well as factors associated with ITP. For the association of sex and SLE without ITP versus SLE with ITP, p-value of 0.045 was found. The results indicated that females with SLE were more likely to develop ITP with a higher disease activity score (SLE-DAS) in a cohort of Egyptian juvenile-onset SLE patients.

**Table 1. Characteristics of cases and controls.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>CASES (n=38)</th>
<th>CONTROLS (n=68)</th>
<th>P-VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photosensitivity</td>
<td>13/34 (38.2%)</td>
<td>37/68 (54.4%)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>17/34 (50.0%)</td>
<td>53/68 (78.3%)</td>
<td>0.02 (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemolytic anaemia</td>
<td>4/34 (11.8%)</td>
<td>1/68 (1.5%)</td>
<td>0.04 (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud's phenomenon</td>
<td>1/34 (2.9%)</td>
<td>10/68 (14.5%)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C3</td>
<td>13/32 (40.6%)</td>
<td>14/64 (21.9%)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C4</td>
<td>7/31 (22.9%)</td>
<td>6/64 (9.4%)</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low D-dimer</td>
<td>5/31 (16.1%)</td>
<td>4/64 (6.3%)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antinuclear antibodies</td>
<td>34/34 (100%)</td>
<td>68/68 (100%)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA</td>
<td>20/34 (58.8%)</td>
<td>41/68 (60.3%)</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-RNP</td>
<td>5/33 (15.2%)</td>
<td>20/67 (29.9%)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-cardiolipin IgG</td>
<td>13/33 (39.4%)</td>
<td>18/68 (26.5%)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-β2GPI</td>
<td>13/33 (39.4%)</td>
<td>18/68 (26.5%)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual SLEDAI</td>
<td>2.12 (0-13)</td>
<td>7.12 (1-23)</td>
<td>0.02 (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosides</td>
<td>23/33 (67.7%)</td>
<td>48/68 (70.6%)</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myocandesate</td>
<td>14/34 (41.2%)</td>
<td>12/68 (17.7%)</td>
<td>0.02 (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>9/34 (26.5%)</td>
<td>7/68 (10.3%)</td>
<td>0.045 (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>6/34 (17.7%)</td>
<td>3/68 (4.4%)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Indicates statistically significant differences between cases and controls (level of confidence 95%), *Clinical and biochemical parameters at SLE diagnosis. Immunologic parameters along SLE course. Indicates mean and range. SLE-DASI in cases. Treatments along SLE course. Anti-β2GPI: Anti-β2-Glycoprotein 1. SLEDAI: SLE disease activity index. SLICC: SLE damage index.

**Conclusion:** Patients with SLE that develop ITP seem to have a different phenotype than those without ITP presenting less arthritis and more haemolytic anaemia at SLE disease onset, and more APS syndrome and APS antibodies along the disease. In addition, ITP was associated with a higher SLEDAI and with more frequent use of mycophenolate and azathioprine, possibly indicating a more severe disease, which would warrant the need of a more careful follow-up on these patients in the patients with the previously described associated characteristics.

**References:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

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**Performance of Conventional Cardiovascular Risk Scores in Identifying Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**

**Keywords:** Autoantibodies, Cardiovascular disease, Systemic lupus erythematosus

**Background:** Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a major cause of mortality in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) with a standardized mortality ratio of 2.4, that is underestimated by conventional CVD risk scores. Subclinical atherosclerosis, a major predictor of cardiovascular morbidity is an important target for primary prevention.

**Objectives:** Perform a systematic review and meta-analysis of studies on the association of conventional CVD risk scores with subclinical atherosclerosis in SLE and healthy controls. Assess the predictive value of conventional CVD risk scores in SLE and healthy controls. Calculate the prevalence of subclinical atherosclerosis in SLE and healthy controls.

**Methods:** This is a single centre cross-sectional analytical study. Seventy-nine patients with SLE without CVD and 76 age and gender matched healthy controls were enrolled. CVD risk was calculated by QRISK3, SCORE and WHO scores. Sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values were assessed. Agreement between scores was determined using the kappa coefficient. Presence of subclinical atherosclerosis was compared with SLE disease manifestations. Positive predictive value of conventional CVD scores in detecting subclinical atherosclerosis was very poor in SLE with QRISK3 and WHO score having a sensitivity of 0% and 10% respectively. SLE disease parameters were comparable among those with and without subclinical atherosclerosis. Anticardiolipin IgG (14.6% vs 2.6%) and any APLA positivity (41.5% vs 21%) were numerically higher in SLE with atherosclerosis but not statistically significant (p=0.05).

**Conclusion:** Sensitivity of conventional CVD scores in detecting subclinical atherosclerosis was very poor in SLE with QRISK3 and WHO score having a specificity of 100% and 10% respectively. Hence further scores are needed, validated for screening for subclinical atherosclerosis using carotid ultrasound remains gold standard.

**Table 1. Comparison of disease parameters among SLE patients with and without Subclinical Atherosclerosis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC Atherosclerosis</th>
<th>No SC atherosclerosis</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age years (Means SD)</td>
<td>42±6</td>
<td>45±6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti ACLA IgG n(%)</td>
<td>6(14.6)</td>
<td>12(24.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any APLA positive n(%)</td>
<td>17(41.5)</td>
<td>2(21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration months (Means SD)</td>
<td>92±57</td>
<td>101±71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standardized steroid dose mg (Means SD)</td>
<td>0.28±0.14</td>
<td>0.7±0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLICC ACR DI (Median + IQR)</td>
<td>0(0-1)</td>
<td>0.4(0-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO (Means SD)</td>
<td>2.5±1.6</td>
<td>2.8±2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRISK 3(Mean±SD)</td>
<td>7.7±3.6</td>
<td>8.4±6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SC: subclinical**

**Figure 1.** Sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values of scores in SLE and control

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

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**Validity of the SLE Disease Activity Score (SLE-DAS) in a Cohort of Egyptian Juvenile-Onset SLE Patients**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus

**Background:**
1. M. Medhat1, M. Behiry2,3, Y. Farag4, A. Afifi1, H. Ramadan2, W. A Hassan5, N. Mostafa1. Faculty of Medicine Kasr Al-Ainy, Cairo University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Department, Cairo, Egypt; 2. Faculty of Medicine Kasr Al-Ainy, Cairo University, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology Department, Cairo, Egypt; 3. Armed Forces College of Medicine, Internal Medicine Department, Cairo, Egypt; 4. Faculty of Medicine Kasr Al-Ainy, Cairo University, Pediatric Rheumatology Department,
Background: Juvenile-onset SLE patients (JSLE) are commonly characterized by a more severe and deleterious disease. Hence, treating-to-target is crucial to attain favorable outcomes, and it relies on several factors including optimal disease activity assessment. However, data about evaluating disease activity in JSLE patients is mostly extrapolated from adult-onset patients, with data about the validity of the SLE-DAS among JSLE patients lacking, to the best of our knowledge.

Methods: This cross-sectional study included 108 JSLE patients (≤16 years) managed at the rheumatology departments of Cairo University in November 2022. Adult patients with juvenile onset were not included. The SLEDAI-2K was set as the gold standard. The SLE-DAS was measured through its online designed calculator (http://sle-das.eu/). Validity and agreement between the SLE-DAS and the SLEDAI-2K were assessed through Spearman’s rho correlation and Bland-Altman plot, respectively. The correlation between both scores was evaluated among patients with and without high disease activity (HDA ≥10).

Results: Of 108 patients, 95 (87.9%) were females. Age at onset and assessment duration was 43.8 ± 28.1 months (Median: 36). The most common cumulative manifestations included constitutional (71.8%), renal (65%), hematologic (55.1%), and mucocutaneous (47.6%) involvement. Serositis, arthritis, and neuropsychiatric manifestations were present in 35.5%, 27.3%, and 24.5% patients, respectively. The mean SLEDAI-2K was 14.4 ± 6.8 (Median: 14), whereas the mean SLE-DAS was 25.3 ± 14.4 (Median: 23.3). 80 (74%) patients demonstrated HDA. There was a significant correlation between both the SLE-DAS and SLEDAI-2K (rho = 0.24; p = 0.001). There was a significant, yet lower, positive correlation (rho = 0.24; p = 0.03) between the two scores among patients with HDA, whereas there was no significant correlation between those with low disease activity (rho = 0.2; p = 0.19). The mean difference of agreement between both scores was 9.3 ± 1.02 (Average-of-Scores [Bland-Altman plot (Figure 1]). Cross-sectionally, there was a significant correlation between the SLEDAI/SDI and both the SLEDAI-2K (p = 0.001) and SLE-DAS (p < 0.0001).

Conclusion: Our preliminary findings denote that the SLE-DAS could be utilized to assess disease activity among JSLE patients. Yet, its implementation among JSLE patients with lower levels of disease activity should be carefully interpreted.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Bland-Altman Plot to show agreement between the SLEDAI-2K and SLE-DAS.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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AB0658

PREVALENCE AND ASSOCIATION OF AUTOANTIBODIES WITH LATEX TUBERCULOSIS IN FIRST-DEGREE RELATIVES OF PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Q. Me1, A. Narayanan2, C. Kavadiachinda3, M. M. Thabahi1, S. Sarkar1, P. B. Narasimhan1,1. JIPMER, Clinical Immunology, Pondicherry, India;2,3.JIPMER, Preventive and Social Medicine, Pondicherry, India

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) patients have a higher risk of tuberculosis (TB). Detection of latent TB (LTB) by mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB) IFN-γ release assay (TB-IGRA) is an important step to retard progression to overt TB. Among IGRA positive persons, studies have noted a dose-response relationship, where those with lower baseline levels IFN-γ have lesser risk of progression to overt TB. A family history of SLE exerts an increased risk of other autoimmune diseases. Although several studies reported autoantibodies in first-degree relatives (FDR) of SLE patients, association between LTB and antibodies is not clear. The current study focused on the role of antibodies and LTBI in FDRs of SLE.

Objectives: Study the prevalence of autoantibody levels and LTBI in FDRs of SLE. Evaluate whether seropositivity of autoantibodies confers any risk of TB.

Methods: This is a single centre cross sectional study. FDRs of SLE with no past h/o TB were recruited (n=167). Demography, comorbidity and various autoantibodies were measured by Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay. LTBI was assessed using TB-IGRA. Based on the results of TB-IGRA and seropositivity to antibodies, FDR were divided into 4 groups- Autoantibody positive and negative groups with and without LTB. Basal IFN-γ and Mtb antigen specific IFN-γ levels were assessed in the unstimulated and Mtb antigen stimulated tubes.

Results: In FDRs, prevalence of autoantibodies and LTBI were 24.5% (n=41) and 25.7% (n=43) respectively. Seropositivity of various autoantibodies were comparable between those with and without LTBI. Among the antibody positive FDR, prevalence of LTBI was 34%, which is higher than the general population cohort. Next, we measured the basal IFN-γ levels in the 4 groups, where the IGRA and autoantibodies positive group had significantly (p=0.014) reduced levels of basal IFN-γ compared to IGRA positive antibody negative group. In the Mtb specific antigen tubes also, the antibody and IGRA positive group showed significantly reduced response compared to the IGRA positive and autoantibody negative group.

Conclusion: The present study showed higher prevalence of LTBI (34%) in the antibody positive FDRs of SLE. Basal and stimulated levels IFN-γ were lower in antibody positive group in contrast to SLE patients who have higher basal IFN-γ. Further longitudinal studies would be required to see the effect of these autoantibodies on LTBI and the risk of progression to TB.

Table 1. Demography and autoantibody in first degree relatives of SLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Mean(±SD)</th>
<th>IGRA Negative/IGRA Positive(±n=43)</th>
<th>Total(n=167)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>39.1(±12.7)</td>
<td>38.5(±12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>46.3(±13.7)</td>
<td>45(±13.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibody</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>102(61.1%)</td>
<td>78(62.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>126(74.5%)</td>
<td>97(78.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>status</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>41(24.6%)</td>
<td>27(21.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibodies</td>
<td>Cardiolipin IgG</td>
<td>3 (1.8%)</td>
<td>5(4.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cardiolipin IgM</td>
<td>9 (5.4%)</td>
<td>5 (4.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glycoprotein IgG</td>
<td>5 (3.0%)</td>
<td>3 (2.4%)</td>
<td>2 (4.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glycoprotein IgM</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-thyroid peroxidase</td>
<td>10 (6%)</td>
<td>7 (5.6%)</td>
<td>3 (7.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-cyclophilin3 (1.8%)</td>
<td>2 (1.6%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>polypeptide</td>
<td>SERINE</td>
<td>3 (1.8%)</td>
<td>3 (2.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-glutamic acid</td>
<td>3 (1.8%)</td>
<td>2 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>decarboxylase</td>
<td>3 (1.8%)</td>
<td>2 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-islet antigen 2</td>
<td>3 (0.8%)</td>
<td>1 (4.7%)</td>
<td>2 (1.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antinuclear antibody</td>
<td>21 (13%)</td>
<td>15 (12.5%)</td>
<td>6 (14.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. IFN-γ levels in unstimulated and Mtb antigen stimulated tubes.
Disclosure of Interests: None declared
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5936

AB0659 EXTREMELY LOW FREQUENCY OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS B INFECTION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOUS

Keywords: Clinical trials, Systemic lupus erythematosus

Z. Ademolu1, U. Ilgen1, K. Erol Kalkan1, N. S. Yasar Bilge2, T. Kajiloglu2, H. Emumungu1,1,1Trakya University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Edirne, Turkey; 2Eskişehir Osmangazi University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Eskişehir, Turkey

Background: There are few studies evaluating the frequency of chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients (1).

Objectives: Aim of this study is to determine the HBV seroprevalence in SLE patients and to compare it with normal population and patient control groups (rheumatoid arthritis and spondyloarthritis).

Methods: HBV serology tests [hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb), hepatitis B core antibody (HBcAb)] were performed during the diagnosis of 278 SLE patient and the control group [consist of 125 rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and 125 spondyloarthritits patient (SpA)] were analyzed retrospectively between 2005-2022 in two different centers. Patients with SLE responding to the 2019 ACR/EULAR criteria were included. HBV serology characteristics of SLE patients were compared with those of the normal population and control groups. The categorical data were presented as numbers (in percent). The chi-square test or Fisher’s exact test was used to analyze the categorical variables.

Results: HBsAg was positive in 2/278 (0.7%) in SLE patients, 6/125 (4.8%) in RA patients, and 9/125 (7%) in SpA patients. HBsAb positivity rate in SLE patients was lower than two different national normal population analysis [%4, 218/5960, (%4,57, p=0,008] and RA (p=0,019) and SpA patients (P=0,003) (2,3).

HBcAb positivity rate in SLE patients (%15) was significantly lower than both (218/5960), %4,57 , p=0,008] and RA (p=0,019) and SpA patients (P=0,003) (2,3).

Table 1. Hepatitis B seroprevalence of SLE and control groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLE</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>SlE/RA</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Normal population (TURHEP)</th>
<th>Normal population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HBsAg positive</td>
<td>2/278</td>
<td>6/125 (%4,8)</td>
<td>0,019</td>
<td>9/125 (%7,2)</td>
<td>0,003</td>
<td>218/5960 (%4,008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBsAb positive</td>
<td>41/273</td>
<td>44/103 (%42,7)</td>
<td>&lt;0,001</td>
<td>37/121 (%30,6)</td>
<td>&lt;0,001</td>
<td>1670/5460 (%0,001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBcAb positive</td>
<td>107/278</td>
<td>62/117 (%53,0)</td>
<td>&lt;0,001</td>
<td>51/122 (%41,8)</td>
<td>0,023</td>
<td>1746/5460 (%31,9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBcAb and HbcAb negative</td>
<td>77/273</td>
<td>26/103 (%25,2)</td>
<td>&lt;0,001</td>
<td>25/121 (%20,011)</td>
<td>&lt;0,001</td>
<td>463/5460 (%6,8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The positivity rate of HBsAg and HBcAb was lower in SLE patients than both normal population and other inflammatory disease subgroups such as SpA or RA. Lower HBsAg and HBcAb seroprevalence in SLE patients compared to normal population and also to other inflammatory diseases (SpA and RA), maybe due to specific protective mechanisms in SLE pathogenesis (like the association of familial mediterranean fever and persistence). This mechanism can be explained with the high interferon levels in SLE patients. To properly understand these mechanisms we need more prospective and molecular studies.

References:


The comparison about the lymphocyte subsets in different CTD groups (*p<0.05, **p<0.01).

**Figure 1.** The comparison about the lymphocyte subsets in different CTD groups. (*p<0.05, **p<0.01). G- infection: Gram negative bacteria infections. G+ infection: Gram positive bacteria infections.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.185

**AB0662**

**PERIPHERAL PLATELET-GENERATING MEGAKARYOCYTE REDUCED IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME**

**Keywords:** Sjögren syndrome

J. W. Hao1,2, Y. Qiao1,2, J. Y. Chen1,2, J. Qiao1,2, S. X. Zhang1,2, X. Li1,2, C. Wang1,2, 1Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Primary Sjögren’s Syndrome (pSS) is a complex and heterogeneous systemic autoimmune disease characterized by dysfunction of the salivary and lacrimal glands following chronic inflammation of lymphocytic infiltration. 1 Megakaryocytes (MKs), the precursor cells responsible for platelet production, act across the immune continuum. 2 However, the underlying pathogenesis of pSS involving megakaryocytes (MKs) is still to be fully elucidated.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to determine the changes in megakaryocyte subsets in pSS patients and to explore the role of different subsets in the pathogenesis of pSS.

**Methods:** The scRNA-seq dataset of five patients with pSS and five HCs were obtained from the GEO database to identify megakaryocytes (MKs) among PBMCs and further define the subpopulations. Then, cellular identity was determined by identifying the DEGs for each cluster using the Wilcoxon rank-sum test with the FindAllMarkers function and comparing the markers to known cell-type-specific genes from previous datasets. Finally, to investigate the hierarchy and developmental relationship between MK subpopulations, the monocle3 analysis was used to reconstruct pseudotime trajectories.

**Results:** First, four putative subpopulations (MK1-MK4) of MKs were identified by sub-clustering (Figure 1A). MK3 referred to as platelet-generating MKs, expressed key genes involved in hemostasis, cell-extracellular matrix interactions and so on. (Figure 1B) MK2 shared the same marker as MK3, but exhibited lower expression, which means MK2 may be an early stage of MK3, known as proplatelet-generating MKs. Then, compared with other MKs, MK2 and MK3 had the highest platelet activation-related and platelet aggregation-related pathways scores generated by ssGSEA (Figure 1F). Remarkably, the inflammatory response subpopulation (MK4), consisting of MKs expressing LSP11 and CDS3 at high levels, was enriched in Immune system development and T-cell activation (Figure 1D). And, the proportion of the MK1, MK2, and MK4 subpopulations increased and that of the MK3 subpopulation was reduced in patients with pSS vs. HCs (Figure 1C), indicating the impaired maturation of platelet-generating MKs in pSS patients. Finally, with the trajectory analysis, we inferred that MK4 could exist independently of other MK subpopulations, and MK1 may characterize the point of initiation of a developmental trajectory (Figure 1E).

**Conclusion:** In summary, we have presented evidence for the reduction of peripheral platelet-generating MKs in patients with pSS, and identified changes in platelet-generating MKs via scRNA-seq analyses. The findings provide clues to the impaired maturation of platelet-generating MKs in the pathogenesis of pSS.

**REFERENCES:**


FOLLOW-UP FREQUENCY IN PATIENTS WITH SLE, ‘ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL’

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Health services research, Real-world evidence

S. Snoeck Henkemans1, A. Berden2, G. Waverijn3, I. Verberk-Jonkers4, M. Kok5, E. Zirkzee2. 1Erasmus MC, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2Maasstad Hospital, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 3Maasstad Hospital, Business Intelligence, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 4Maasstad Hospital, Internal Medicine, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Background: The recommended frequency of follow-up for SLE patients ranges from monthly to yearly, although once every 3 months seems common practice. Recommendations are based on expert opinion; data on frequency of follow-up in SLE patients and its impact are very scarce. (1,2,3)

Objectives: To assess the frequency of follow-up visits in SLE patients and its relation to clinical and sociodemographic characteristics.

Methods: Patients with SLE based on the ’97 ACR criteria (4), who were treated at our regional teaching hospital between 2012 and 2021, were included in the study. Frequency of follow-up was defined by the frequency at which blood tests (Hb as a key indicator) were performed for disease assessment. This frequency was related to clinical characteristics. Kruskal–Wallis and Fisher’s exact test were performed.

Results: 238 SLE patients were included in the cohort; 117 patients (49%) had follow-up at an average of three months (interval 60-120 days), 59 patients (25%) had follow-up at a low intensity (interval >120), and 62 (26%) at a high intensity (interval <60 days). Characteristics of these groups are shown in Table 1. The patients with high intensity follow-up were younger, more often non-white and had more severe disease at diagnosis. Upon evaluation, these patients had a more severe disease course as demonstrated by more treatment intensifications, hospitalizations, ER visits, a higher SLICC damage index and more frequent renal involvement. Conversely, the patients that were monitored at a low intensity were older had longer disease duration and showed a more quiescent disease with less negative health outcomes. Figure 1 shows the linear relationship between the frequency of tests and the number of abnormal results in Hb.

Conclusion: This study shows that the frequency of follow-up varies substantially between SLE patients. A majority of patients had follow-up at a frequency of 3 months, patients that differed from this norm had distinct features. At this moment frequency of follow-up depends on clinical judgment of the physician. Potentially, this process might be captured in prognostic modelling. Patients at high risk should be identified and have a high frequency of follow-up, while in other patients resources could be spared.

REFERENCES:
COMORBIDITIES IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Comorbidities, Sjögren syndrome

J. Mousse1, D. Dghiehm2, R. Faddoul2, M. J. Okais3, F. Fayad3, "Université Saint Joseph - Campus des Sciences Médicales, Université, Beirut, Lebanon; 2Hôpital-Dieu de France, Rheumatology, Bayrut, Lebanon; 3Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Statistics, Bayrut, Lebanon

Background: Patients suffering from autoimmune diseases have a higher risk of developing comorbidities compared to the general population. The screening of these comorbidities is important, for it affects the patient’s quality of life as well as the physician’s therapeutic decisions. The epidemiological data concerning the comorbidities associated with the primary Sjögren syndrome pSS are heterogeneous, and to our knowledge, no such study exists on the scale of the Lebanese population.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to expand the knowledge around the comorbidities associated with the pSS, in a cohort of Lebanese patients. This goal is achieved by analyzing the frequency of these comorbidities and their association with the patients’ biological profile.

Methods: It’s a cross-sectional study conducted on a population of 61 Lebanese patients, followed in a rheumatology clinic inside of Hôtel Dieu de France University Hospital in Beirut. The mean age of this population is 54 years, and 60 out of 61 participants are women. All of these patients meet the pSS classification criteria of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR), established in 2016. On the one hand, the prevalence of each comorbidity is calculated, and on the other hand, the association between the patient’s biological profile and the existing comorbidities has been analyzed.

Results: The most common comorbidities are: dyslipidemia (34.34%, 95% CI 23%-46%), hypertension (32.79%, 95% CI 21%-45%), obesity (26.23%, 95% CI 15%-37%), and hypothyroidism (18.03%, 95% CI 8%-28%). A significant correlation exists between hypocomplementemia (C3 and/or C4) and diabetes (p-value = 0.0026), as well as between hypocomplementemia and hypothyroidism (p-value = 0.0254). Another significant correlation is noted between the presence of the rheumatoid factor and each of the following comorbidities: dysplasia (p-value = 0.0005), diabetes (p-value = 0.0026), hypertension (p-value = 0.005), and hypothyroidism (p-value = 0.0037).

Conclusion: The Lebanese patients followed for pSS in our cohort form a population who is at risk of developing a metabolic syndrome alongside a thyroid disorder. In the light of these findings, these patients should benefit from a close cardiovascular risk factors and thyroid dysfunction screening and management, especially those presenting a particular biological profile like the presence of hypocomplementemia or the positivity of the rheumatoid factor.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1682
Background: Musculoskeletal inflammation is a frequent and debilitating feature of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) that can involve all components of the joint, including extra-synovial sites such as the enthesis. In previous reports, enthesis could be clearly demonstrated by musculoskeletal ultrasound (US) in small cohorts of patients with SLE. However, SLE-enthesitis remains frequently overlooked and its prevalence in real-life cohorts as well as its clinical significance for disease classification and therapy remain to be determined.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of US-confirmed enthesis in a monocentric cohort of patients with SLE and to analyze the clinical associations to enthesis during the course of disease.

Methods: Ultrasound examinations of SLE patients presenting with tender and/or swollen joints at the Lupus Unit of the Careggi University Hospital in Florence (Italy) were retrospectively analyzed to assess the presence of enthesitis. Only patients with US-proven enthesis were compared with SLE controls who showed no US-evidence of enthesis. Clinical features and therapies were compared between the two groups at disease onset and throughout follow-up.

Results: We assessed 400 patients fulfilling EULAR/ACR classification criteria for SLE. In 106 of them, an US examination of the joints was performed. Evidence of enthesis was found in 31/106 (29.2%) patients. Four participants were excluded due to lack of follow-up data. The remaining 71 patients without US-enthesitis were included as control group (Figure 1). At disease onset, all clinical features were comparable between enthesis cases and controls. Clinical manifestations and therapy from disease onset to the last available follow-up are reported in Table 1. The median follow-up was of 10.0 (IQR 8.3-23.3) years for cases and 12.4 (IQR 7.2-13.3) years for controls. Patients with enthesis were less likely to develop renal involvement (22.6% vs 46.5%, p<0.05), had more arthritis (100.0% vs 81.7%, p=0.01) and failed B-cell depleting therapies more frequently (75.0% vs 0%).

Conclusion: In SLE patients with tender or swollen joints, enthesis is a fairly common finding. Enthesis in SLE could be the hallmark of a distinct disease subset with less frequent renal involvement, more arthritis, and poor response to B-cell depletion, potentially requiring alternative treatments.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Clinical and demographic characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case of SLE with US enthesitis</th>
<th>SLE controls without p-value</th>
<th>US enthesis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, N (%)</td>
<td>26 (83.9%)</td>
<td>67 (94.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at US-assessment, median (years) (IQR)</td>
<td>50.0 (45.4-51.6)</td>
<td>51.3 (43.9-59.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disease manifestations from SLE onset to LFU**

| Musculoskeletal, N (%)         | 31 (100.0%)                    | 58 (81.7%)  | 0.009* |
| Metabolic, N (%)               | 23 (74.2%)                     | 44 (62.0%)  | 0.264 |
| Mucosal, N (%)                 | 25 (80.7%)                     | 46 (64.8%)  | 0.160 |
| Neurological, N (%)            | 8 (25.8%)                      | 12 (16.9%)  | 0.416 |
| Renal, N (%)                   | 7 (22.6%)                      | 33 (46.5%)  | 0.028* |
| Serositic, N (%)               | 7 (22.6%)                      | 19 (26.8%)  | 0.806 |
| Gastrointestinal, N (%)        | 5 (16.1%)                      | 6 (8.5%)    | 0.302 |

**Therapy from SLE onset to LFU**

| Corticoids+/- HCO, N (%)       | 12 (38.7%)                     | 21 (29.6%)  | 0.369 |
| Therapy, N (%)                | -                             | -           |
| MMF, N (%)                    | 7 (22.6%)                      | 18 (25.4%)  | 1.000 |
| MTX, N (%)                    | 6 (19.4%)                      | 15 (21.1%)  | 1.000 |
| AZA, N (%)                    | 6 (19.4%)                      | 11 (15.5%)  | 0.773 |
| CSA, N (%)                    | 4 (12.9%)                      | 4 (5.6%)    | 0.241 |
| CYC, N (%)                    | 4 (12.9%)                      | 4 (5.6%)    | 0.241 |
| RTX, N (%)                    | 8 (25.8%)                      | 12 (16.9%)  | 0.416 |
| Belimumab, N (%)              | 8 (25.8%)                      | 20 (28.2%)  | 1.000 |

*statistically significant for p<0.05; SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; IQR: interquartile range; SD: standard deviation; US: ultrasound; LFU: last follow-up; AZA: azathioprine; HCO: hydroxychloroquine; MMF: mycophenolate mofetil; CYC: cyclophosphamide; CSA: cyclosporine; MTX: methotrexate; RTX: rituximab.

Figure 1. Flow-chart of the patient selection process: SLE: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus; US: ultrasound.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2348

AB0688 BENEFITS OF ANA SCREENING FOR NPSLE IN PATIENTS ADMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Diagnostic tests, Autoantibodies

Y. J. Lee1, S. M. Ahn1, S. Hong1, J. S. Oh2, C. K. Lee1, B. Yoo1, Y. G. Kim1, 1Asian Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Asian Medical Center, Department of Information Medicine, Big Data Research Center, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus (NPSLE) presenting with mood disorder, headache, psychosis, and cognitive impairment appears within 1 year of SLE diagnosis in more than half of cases (1, 2). Most studies have focused on the epidemiology of neuropsychiatric manifestations in patients with established SLE (3). Therefore, diagnosing NPSLE in patients who have visited the hospital with psychiatric symptoms is challenging. Although some studies have conducted anti-nuclear antibody (ANA) screening in psychiatric patients, none have occurred in an Asian population (4, 5).

Objectives: We aimed to determine the benefits of ANA screening for NPSLE in patients admitted to the department of psychiatry in Korea.

Methods: We investigated patients admitted to the department of psychiatry who underwent ANA testing between January 2015 and December 2021 at a single tertiary center in Korea. Patients diagnosed with SLE before admission were excluded from this study. Electronic medical records, including ANA titer, extractable nuclear antigen (ENA), complement, brain magnetic resonance imaging, electroencephalogram, and cerebrospinal fluid analysis, were reviewed retrospectively. Diagnosis at psychiatric hospitalization was classified according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10.

Results: Throughout the study period, 2523 patients were hospitalized, 1355 of whom underwent ANA testing. Three patients with SLE were excluded. The median age of all patients was 40 (27–58), and 897 (66.2%) were female. Of the 1355 patients, 96 (7.1%) were positive with a titer of ≥1:80, and 61 (4.5%) were positive with a titer of ≥1:160. Among the 17 patients who underwent ENA testing, 1 was positive for anti-Ro and anti-La, eventually diagnosed with Sjögren's syndrome. According to the diagnostic classification of admission, there was no significant difference in the ANA positivity rate (p=0.205).

Conclusion: There was no difference in the positivity rate of ANA in the general population when testing was performed for screening purposes on patients admitted to the psychiatric department. Additionally, none of the 1355 patients were diagnosed with NPSLE after undergoing ANA screening. Thus, the benefits of performing routine screening appear to be limited.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients admitted to the department of psychiatry who underwent ANA testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N = 1355</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>897 (66.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>40 (27.58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA titer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:80</td>
<td>35 (26.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:160</td>
<td>37 (28.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:320</td>
<td>12 (15.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:640</td>
<td>8 (6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:1280</td>
<td>4 (3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA fluorescence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>25 (26.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speckled</td>
<td>36 (37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrete speckled</td>
<td>11 (15.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homogeneous</td>
<td>24 (18.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diagnosis at hospitalization

| Organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders | 44 (3.2) |
| Mental and behavioral disorders due to psychosomatic use substance | 47 (3.5) |
| Schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders | 324 (23.9) |
| Mood disorders | 748 (55.2) |
| Neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders | 166 (12.3) |

Values are n (%), or median (interquartile range): ANA: anti-nuclear antibody

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3384

AB0669  CUTANEOUS LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS OVER THE COVID MAJOR PANDEMIC PERIOD, INCIDENCE AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, COVID

M. Ferrario1, P. Congiglio1, C. Bonini1, S. Ferrigno1, M. Teoli2, C. Pagani2, V. Maffe2, M. Galluzzo3, M. Talamonti3, A. Bergamini3, M. S. Chimenti3

1Rheumatology, Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Department of Systems Medicine, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy; 2Porphyria and Rare Diseases Unit, San Gallicano Dermatological Institute - IRCCS, Rome, Italy; 3Dermatology Unit, Department of Systems Medicine, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

Background: Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (CLE) is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease with a broad spectrum of clinical manifestations and a variable course, often induced by exogenous factors. CLE is classified in specific and non-specific manifestations with the former divided in acute cutaneous LE (ACLE), subacute cutaneous LE (SCLE), chronic cutaneous LE (CCLE) and intermittent cutaneous LE (ICLE).

Objectives: To assess clinical features of CLE patients over the major pandemic period and its impact on disease characteristics.

Methods: Multi-center retrospective study conducted on consecutive CLE outpatients referring to the Rheumatology and Dermatology Units of Tor Vergata Hospital and San Gallicano Institute (Rome, Italy). Inclusion criteria: diagnosis of CLE, age ≥ 18 years, and 4 years continuous follow-up from Mar 2018. Data from every visit performed between Mar '18 - Feb '22 were registered for each patient, including: number of visits performed/skipped, demographics, therapy and clinical characteristics.

Results: 80 patients were enrolled, 65 females, aged 55.2±14.3 with a disease duration of 32.1±19.8 (Tab 1). In the 1st period 398 visits were performed while only 180 resulted in 2nd with a number of visits/patient/year of 1.9 vs 1.1. Skipped and telemedicine visits amounted to 11 and 1 in the 1st period to 31 and 21 in 2nd period respectively.

Statistical significant differences emerged in number of documented cutaneous flares: 28 (8.8%) in the 1st period vs 42 (23.3%) in 2nd (p=0.03). A higher incidence in the 2nd period of ACLE (15% vs 30%, p<0.01), cutaneous calcinosis (0% vs 10%, p<0.01) and livedo reticularis (10% vs 12%, p=0.03) and a lower incidence of CCLE (13% vs 2.5% (p=0.02) were observed compared to the 1st pre-pandemic period.

Although mean SLEDAI-2K resulted significantly lower in the 2nd period (2.67 vs 2.13, p=0.02) compared to the 1st one, SLEDAI-2K score related to skin was higher in the 2nd period compared to the 1st (0.8 vs 1.1 (p=0.04). A significant reduction in the percentage of patients treated with topical therapy was registered in 2nd period (p=0.008) while other medications remained stable.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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AB0670  MYOSITIS IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: DATA FROM A MULTICENTRE COHORT

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Epidemiology, Myositis

K. Chandw1, S. Pandya2, K. N. Thomas1, P. Srivastava3, A. Wakhlu4, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 2Vedanta Institute of Medical Science, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Ahmedabad, India; 3Star Clinics, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Ahmedabad, India; 4Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India

Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is a multisystem autoimmune disease characterised by lymphocytic infiltration of the exocrine glands and their resultant dysfunction. Muscle involvement has been given the highest weightage in the ESSDAI score.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe the prevalence of myositis in a multicentre Indian pSS cohort and to address the clinical manifestations and therapeutic strategies.

Methods: Clinical and serological data from a pSS cohort of patients were retrospectively collected and analysed. Those fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2017 criteria for myositis and the ACR/EULAR 2012 Criteria for pSS were included. Patients with overlap features of other autoimmune rheumatic diseases were excluded.

Results: 12 (2.7%) out of 444 patients of pSS had Myositis. The mean age was 36.8±12.16 years, and the mean duration of follow-up was 5.46±5.23 years. All patients were females with a high prevalence of ANA positivity and Ro52, and Ro60 in these patients. Myositis was the presenting manifestation in 11/12 patients. Arthritis/Arthralgia (8/86%), Giandular enlargement/ Parotitis (7/58%), Lung involvement (ILD) (5/41%), and Haematological abnormalities were also common in patients with myositis and primary Sjögren’s syndrome. The 5-year survival was good, with 11/12 patients completing the 5-year follow-up. About a half patients received pulse methylprednisolone therapy followed by 1mg/kg steroid, with few patients requiring lower doses of steroids. Methotrexate was the steroid sparing drug of choice for patients with pSS myositis without lung

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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involvement and Cyclophosphamide in patients with lung involvement followed by Azathioprine or Rituximab maintenance, one patient was induced and maintained with low dose rituximab. Details of second-line therapy was not available for all patients. The mean ESSDAI and ESSPRI scores were high. None of our patients had Sjogren’s syndrome and the proportion of patients with lung involvement in pSS myositis was much higher than is usually seen in patients with pSS and should prompt the clinician to look for clinical/subclinical lung involvement in pSS myositis patients. The response to therapy was usually good. Unlike other cohorts, we didn’t find any IBM in our set of patients – this may be due to referral bias or the rarity of IBM in the Indian population.

Table 1. Characteristics of pSS Myositis patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>N=12</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean±SD) [Range]</td>
<td>36.83±12.16 [18-51]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenting Manifestation</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>91.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow Up duration in years [mean±SD] [Range]</td>
<td>5.46±5.23 [1-15]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sjögren’s positive</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>91.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USFM</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin biopsy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>91.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ro52</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>91.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional features</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>66.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neupathy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematological</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSDAI (mean±SD)</td>
<td>21.75±12.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSPRI (mean±SD)</td>
<td>15.75±4.61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Details</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse Steroids</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1mg/kg</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>58.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;0.5 mg/kg</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;0.5 mg/kg</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second line Immunosuppressants</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclophosphamide</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: pSS patients with myositis had a younger age of onset with active disease and high ESSDAI and ESSPRI scores. Myositis was the presenting manifestation in most, the proportion of patients with lung involvement in pSS myositis was much higher than is usually seen in patients with pSS and should prompt the clinician to look for clinical/subclinical lung involvement in pSS myositis patients. The Response to therapy was usually good. Unlike other cohorts, we didn’t find any IBM in our set of patients – this may be due to referral bias or the rarity of IBM in the Indian population.

References:


Acknowledgements: Our acknowledgement to Prof. Dr Rosa M Pereira (in memoriam) who was responsible for the project starting.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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AB0672 DETECTION OF MACROPHAGE MIGRATION INHIBITORY FACTOR IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS COMPLAINING PAINFUL DISTURBANCES: A SINGLE CENTER STUDY

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Pain, Biomarkers

C. Pinone1, F. Coccarella1, T. Colasanti1, E. Galos2, V. Orefice1, C. Garufi1, F. Natafucci1, G. Oliveri1, L. Picciariello1, P. Falco2, G. Di Pietro2, F. R. Spinelli1, S. Trugilia1, C. Alessandri1, A. Truini1, F. Conti1.1Lupus Clinic, Reumatologia, Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Internistiche, Anestesiologie e Cardiologisti, Sapienza Università di Roma, Roma, Italy; 2UOC di Neurofisiopatologia e Malattie Neuromuscolari, Dipartimento di Neuroscienze umane, Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4287
Background: Neuropsychiatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (NPSLE) is considered one of the preeminent diagnostic and therapeutic challenges for the rheumatologist, not only due to the wide clinical heterogeneity but also because of the lack of specific diagnostic tools and biomarkers. Macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) is a pleiotropic inflammatory cytokine associated with inflammatory neuropathy and neuropathic pain. This protein acts as an innate immunity modulator by promoting host inflammatory responses through induction of pro-inflammatory cytokines (including TNF and IL-6), regulating cellular processes such as T-cell proliferation, apoptosis and counter regulation of the immunosuppressive actions of glucocorticoids.

Objectives: In the present study we aimed at evaluating the serum titers of MIF in SLE patients with painful disturbances, screened for neuropathic pain through a specific questionnaire (Douleur Neuropathique en Quatre Questions-DN4). Subjects were enrolled in the presence of bilateral limb pain and one of the following: hypoaesthesia at touch or prick; pain caused or increased by brushing; tingling, numbness and itching; electric shocks, painful cold or burning pain. We excluded SLE patients with other possible explanation for neuropathic pain including diabetes, Sjögren’s syndrome and kidney impairment (eGFR <30 ml/min). For each patient the following data were collected: demographics, medical history (focusing particularly on other NPSLE manifestations), treatments, disease activity (SLEDAI-2K) chronic damage (SLICC damage index), clinical and laboratory main disease data. Each patient enrolled underwent different tools specific for neuropathic pain (DN4, Neuropathic Pain Symptoms Inventory Questionnaire, Composite Autonomic Symptom Score-31 and Small Fiber Neuropathy-Symptoms Inventory Questionnaire). A concomitant fibromyalgia (FM) was evaluated by different tools including FIRST, FibroDetect and ACR 2016 criteria. MIF levels were determined by ELISA, following manufacturer’s instructions in SLE patients and 38 HC matched for age and gender (Quantikine ELISA, Human MIF Immunoassay, Catalog Number DMP008-R&D Systems).

Results: We excluded 58 subjects because of confounding factors and 29 declined the study. Therefore we enrolled 34 patients (M/F 2/32, median age 50.5 years, IQR 21.0; median disease duration 150.0 months, IQR 190.5; median SLEDAI-2K 0; IQR 2 and median SDI 1, IQR 2). MIF levels were not different between SLE and HC, median 42.8 ng/ml (IQR 49.3) and 38.3 ng/ml (IQR 46.4), respectively. FM was identified in 79.4% of SLE patients according to ACR criteria. Neuropathic pain was diagnosed according DN4 (>3) in 58.8% of SLE patients as a group had higher levels of 25(OH) vitamin D than the controls (64.2 nmol/L vs 59.4 nmol/L respectively, p<0.0021). Among SLE patients using vitamin D supplementation, those on corticosteroids had lower serum levels of 25(OH) vitamin D; this difference was not present in the supplementation naïve group. (p=0.02; p=0.69 respectively). In the SLE and control groups, not taking supplementation, serum 25(OH) vitamin D levels did not differ according to menopausal status (p=0.22). Nephritis status (ever yes/no) did not affect 25(OH) vitamin D levels. Patients taking corticosteroids had lower serum vitamin D levels (p<0.037 , Figure 1).

Conclusion: This study suggests that MIF could be a potential biomarker in NPSLE patients, however further studies are warranted to confirm this preliminary result.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
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Table 1. Univariate and multivariate regression analysis with standardized beta coefficients of variables related to BMD.

Univariate regression analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Lumbar Spine</th>
<th>Total Hip</th>
<th>Femoral Neck</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-menopausal</td>
<td>Post-menopausal</td>
<td>Pre-menopausal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.15*</td>
<td>0.17*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.26**</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking ever</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.18*</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroid</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.28**</td>
<td>0.3**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.29**</td>
<td>0.17**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.24**</td>
<td>0.25*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease severity</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.26**</td>
<td>0.25*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Multivariate regression analysis

Discriminating variables: MIF, Smoking ever, Disease duration, Disease severity, Corticosteroid treatment

Figure 1. MIF serum titers in NPSLE patients compared with patients without neuropsychiatric involvement. Legend: MIF: Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor; NPSLE: Neuropsychiatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

* P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01 *** P < 0.001, ª excluding osteoporosis items, not significant; ni, not included in the model; R², coefficient of determination; Std B, standardized regression coefficient; BMD, bone mineral density.
supplements with higher disease activity (SLEDAI≥4, SLAM≥6) and more damage (SLICC/ACR Damage Index (SDI)≥1) had lower serum 25(OH) vitamin D levels than those with lower disease activity/damage (p = 0.029, p = 0.045, p = 0.002). Prenomenopausal SLE patients had higher T-scores than the postmenopausal in all measured locations (lumbar spine p = 0.0002, femoral neck p < 0.0001, total hip p < 0.0001). Neither T-scores in the whole group, nor Z-scores in the group <40 years were correlated to serum 25(OH) vitamin D levels (p = 0.05 in all locations). Variables affecting body mass index (BMI) were presented in Table 1, stratified for menopausal status.

Conclusion: Serum 25(OH) vitamin D levels are affected mainly by supplements, corticosteroid treatment, and organ damage in SLE patients. We found no correlation between serum 25(OH) vitamin D levels and BMI. Low BMI was in multivariable analyses associated with low BMI, older age, smoking, longer disease duration, and higher damage.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

Background: Anticentromere antibodies (ACA) have been reported in primary Sjögren syndrome (pSS) at lower frequencies but have recently been suggested to be clinically important in this disease. Although several papers have been published on ACA-positive pSS, the results have been conflicting. Differences in patients and SLE related factors, complications, treatment and other comorbidities.

Conclusion: The prevalence of ACA in our pSS cohort was 13%. ACA-positive patients were older, had more frequent RP and digital ulcers. In our cohort, ACA - positivity had little impact on the severity of extraglandular manifestations in pSS patients. Although there were no significant differences, use of vasodilators and immunosuppressants agents was more common. This study is the first to investigate the impact of ACA positivity on the vascular manifestations of Romanian pSS patients.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

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AB0674 PRIMARY SJÖGREN SYNDROME WITH ANTICENTROMERE ANTIBODIES - A CLINICALLY DISTINCT PHENOTYPE OR AN OVERLAP SYNDROME?

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Sjögren syndrome, Cardiovascular disease

N. Cristina1, D. Nicoara1, L. Groseau1,2, D. Opris Belinski1,2, V. Bojic1,2, D. Predeteanu1,2, F. Bergea1,2, V. Vlădi1,2, I. Saulescu1,2, S. Dială-Iliescu1, D. Maziul1,2, A. Borangiu1,2, C. Coblianschi1,2, M. M. Negru1,2, C. L. Constantinescu1,2, D. Mardale1,2, M. Duna1, M. Abobului1,2, R. Ionescu1,2, C. N. Cristina1, D. N. Nicoara1, L. G. Groseau1,2, D. O. Belinski1,2, V. B. Bojic1,2, D. P. Predeteanu1,2, F. B. Bergea1,2, V. V. Vlădi1,2, I. Saulescu1,2, S. D. Dială-Iliescu1, D. M. Maziul1,2, A. A. Borangiu1,2, C. C. Coblianschi1,2, M. M. Negru1,2, C. L. C. Constantinescu1,2, D. M. Mardale1,2, M. Duna1, M. A. Abobului1,2, R. Ionescu1,2, A. Balanescu1,2. St Mary Hospital; Internal Medicine and Rheumatology; Bucharest, Romania; Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy; Internal Medicine and Rheumatology; Bucharest, Romania

Background: Anticentromere antibodies (ACA) have been reported in primary Sjögren syndrome (pSS) at lower frequencies but have recently been suggested to be clinically important in this disease. Although several papers have been published on ACA-positive pSS, the results have been conflicting.

Objectives: To evaluate the correlation between presence of ACA and associated symptomatology, especially related to microvascular dysfunction in a Romanian cohort of patients with ACA-positive pSS.

Methods: We assessed 132 patients who met the 2016 American College of Rheumatology/European League Against Rheumatism classification criteria for pSS. For all ACA+ patients, we collected data on the presence of ACA+ pSS patients were older than the ACA-negative patients (median, 59 years [IQR, 45 to 60]; p = 0.042), with a shorter disease duration (53 months vs 260 months, p=0.073). Most patients were female (98.7%) and had ocular and oral symptoms of dryness (98.1% and 97.8%, respectively). Among the patients with pSS, 5 patients had ACA and limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis (lcSSc). Although there was no significant correlation between the two groups, ACA-positive patients were characterized by higher frequency of associated symptomatology related to microvascular dysfunction: RP (Raynaud’s phenomenon) and telangiectasia, esophageal involvement, interstitial lung disease, digital ulcerations/ pitting scars, pulmonary hypertension and nailfold capillaroscopy findings.

Results: The prevalence of ACA in our pSS cohort was 13%. ACA-positive pSS patients were older than the ACA-negative patients (median, 59 years [IQR, 48 to 62] vs median, 50 years [IQR, 45 to 60]; p = 0.042), with a shorter disease duration (53 months vs 260 months, p=0.073). Most patients were female (98.7%) and had ocular and oral symptoms of dryness (98.1% and 97.8%, respectively). Among the patients with pSS, 5 patients had ACA and limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis (lcSSc). Although there was no significant correlation between the two groups, ACA-positive patients were characterized by higher frequency of associated symptomatology related to microvascular dysfunction: RP (Raynaud’s phenomenon) and telangiectasia were present in 50% of the patients (5/10), scleodactyly and digital ulcerations (DUs) in 33% (3/10); digital gangrene was not found. 60% (6/10) of ACA+ pSS patients had abnormal findings on nailfold capillaroscopy, which were nonspecific in 2 patients (crossed capillaries), while in the remaining 1 patient had an early-pattern, 1 had an active-pattern and 2 patients had late scleroderma-pattern. The presence of ACA was positively correlated with the presence of RP (p = 0.024). DUs (p = 0.034). In our study, patients showed similar severities in extraglandular manifestations compared to the ACA-negative group. Nonetheless, we noticed that even if not statistically significant, the use of vasodilators was more common in the ACA-positive pSS patients (66.7% vs 12.2%, p = 0.911) thus supporting the hypothesis of a symptomatic microvascular dysfunction. A higher proportion of ACA+ pSS (64% vs 42%) was treated with immunosuppressive agents. No differences in mortality were found between the groups.

Conclusion: Patients in the ACA-positive group were older, had more frequent RP and digital ulcers. In our cohort, ACA - positivity had little impact on the severity of extraglandular manifestations in pSS patients. Although there were no significant differences, use of vasodilators and immunosuppressants agents was more common. This study is the first to investigate the impact of ACA positivity on the vascular manifestations of Romanian pSS patients.

AB0675 AVASCULAR NECROSIS IN A COHORT OF SLE PATIENTS IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT?

Keywords: Pain, Systemic lupus erythematosus

S. N. Thalhalimshai1, R. Du Toit2, F. Moosajee2, S. Vlok3,4, J. Tygerberg Hospital, Rheumatology, Cape Town, South Africa; J. Tygerberg Hospital, Rheumatology, Cape Town, South Africa; Cape Town, Radiology, Cape Town, South Africa; Tygerberg Hospital, Radiology, Cape Town, South Africa

Background: There is lack of recent data in South Africa describing the burden of AVN among SLE patients. Joint replacement in South Africa remains a challenge with more than 500 days of delay in some cases hence identification of potential clinical associations for AVN development among SLE patients is an important undertaking for prevention, early detection and treatment.

OBJECTIVES: 1.To determine the current prevalence of AVN among SLE patients at Tygerberg Hospital. 2.To determine associations between the development of AVN in SLE patients and SLE related factors, complications, treatment and other comorbidities. 3.To assess the outcomes of AVN in SLE patients.

Methods: This was a retrospective case-control study. All SLE patients (N=755) seen at Tygerberg Hospital, Rheumatology Clinic over a 8 years period (2013 – 2020) were screened for inclusion. The inclusion criteria consisted of patients of age 18 years and a known diagnosis of SLE using the 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria, and a radiological diagnosis of AVN. The clinical data, radiological data and blood investigation data were collected for analysis. The radiological data (x-rays, MRI and CT scans) were reviewed by a radiologist for the diagnosis and grading of AVN using the Ficat and Ariet method.

Results: The prevalence of AVN among the SLE population at Tygerberg Hospital was 3.4%. The median SLEDAI-2K score 6 months prior to the radiological diagnosis of AVN (p = 0.001) and the SDI (p < 0.001) scores were individually found to be statistically significant between the two groups. The MRI Ficat and Ariet grading (p=0.013) was found to be more advanced when compared with x-ray grading of the same joints, although done at different points in time with a median delay of 2 months (IQR:1-5). Only 26.3% of affected joints underwent a joint replacement with a median delay of 23 months (IQR:13-52).

Conclusion: The prevalence of AVN among SLE patients at Tygerberg Hospital is slightly lower than the international and the previously reported local data. High SLEDAI-2K and SDI scores were associated with AVN development in SLE. The delay in the acquisition of MRI scan for AVN diagnosis and grading, and that of joint replacement remain as significant challenges that require special attention in the state healthcare sector.

REFERENCES:
AB0676  
DELAYS IN CARE SEEKING AND DIAGNOSIS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND ITS IMPACT ON DISEASE ACTIVITY AND DAMAGE

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Epidemiology, Organ damage

G. Serna-Peña1, D. P. Flores-Gutierrez1, O. E. Alvarez-González1, G. García-Arellano1, J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza1, A. G. Rodriguez Flores1, M. F. Ortiz Nuño1, I. D. J. Hernandez-Galarza1, D. A. Galarza-Delgado1, 1Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease that presents with heterogeneous manifestations, some of which can delay access to specialized attention and according to the symptom, also lead to greater damage. (1)

Objectives: Compare initial symptoms/signs and disease damage or activity in patients with SLE with medical attention or diagnostic delays.

Methods: We performed a cross-sectional study in the lupus clinic in Hospital Universitario Dr. José Eleuterio González. Patients over 15 years old with an SLE diagnosis according to the EULAR/ACR 2019 criteria and a disease duration > 1 year were included in this study. Data from current EULAR/ACR 2019 disease classification, SLE Disease Activity Index (SLEDAI), and SLICC Damage Index were collected from patient files. Delay was defined as ≥ 6 months to request medical assistance or disease diagnosis. The timeline studied was divided into time from symptom onset to first medical assessment, and time from first medical assessment to SLE diagnosis. We compared demographics and initial symptoms, SLEDAI, and SDI scores between groups with and without delays.

Results: Fifty-five patients were evaluated, 96.4% were female, mean age at diagnosis was 30.44 years +/- 12.48, and the mean disease duration was 7.25 years. The most frequent symptom in both groups was arthritis/arthralgia, followed by mucocutaneous manifestations (Table 1). Mean time for requesting medical assistance was 483.4 days +/- 959.741 and for diagnosis 91.67 days +/- 194.417. 41.98% had a delay in medical attention, 52.72% had a delay in diagnosis, and 60% (33) of all patients presented some type of delay ≥ 6 months. No statistical difference was found in SLEDAI score (mean of 2.42 +/- 3.699) (p = 0.740) or SLICC score (mean of 0.57 +/- 0.902) (p = 0.587) between groups. In the group with a delay in diagnosis, the patients were older, and in the group without a delay in diagnosis lupus nephritis was more prevalent.

Conclusion: Two out of 3 patients report delay ≥ 6 months in seeking medical assistance and/or a definitive diagnosis, although no statistical difference was found in disease activity or damage scores. Younger age and renal involvement were related to a prompt diagnosis.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Group demographics and clinical manifestations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION</th>
<th>TIME FOR DIAGNOSIS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;6 months</td>
<td>&gt;6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=32</td>
<td>n=23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=26</td>
<td>n=29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Demographics

Age, mean (SD) 35.25 (13.75) 32.30 (11.60) 43.16 (16.36) 0.007

First clinical manifestation, n (%) 14 (43.75) 14 (60.8) NS 12 (46.08) 16 (55.04) NS

Arthritis/arthralgia 14 (43.75) 14 (60.8) NS 12 (46.08) 16 (55.04) NS

Mucocutaneous 7 (21.87) 4 (17.36) NS 5 (24.2) 6 (20.64) NS

Constitutional 0 2 (8.68) NS 2 (9.68) 0 NS

Hematologic 4 (12.5) 2 (8.68) NS 2 (10.32) 3 (10.32) NS

Pulmonary 2 (6.25) 0 NS 2 (6.88) NS

Renal 4 (12.5) 0 NS 4 (19.36) 0 0.034

Neurologic 1 (3.12) 0 NS 1 (3.44) NS

Clinical Scores

SLEDAI, mean (SD) 2.19 (3.20) 2.70 (4.07) NS 2.15 (3.278) 2.64 (3.92) NS

SLICC, mean (SD) 0.81 (1.14) 0.52 (0.898) NS 0.70 (1.171) 0.68 (0.945) NS

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.102

AB0677  
CUT OFF POINT OF NEUTROPHIL-TO-LYMPHOCYTE RATIO AS A MARKER OF DISEASE ACTIVITY IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AT HAJ ALSAFFE HOSPITAL LUPUS CLINIC FROM JUNE 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2021

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Prognostic factors

Z. I. T. Mahmoud1,2, I. S. E. Mohammed1, S. B. Hamza1,5, 1Faculty of Medicine, University of Bahrain, Internal Medicine, Karboum, Sudan; 2Ziyab Research Group, President, Karboum, Sudan; 3Sudan Medical Specialization Board, Internal Medicine, Karboum, Sudan; 4Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Omdumman Islamic University, Internal Medicine, Karboum, Sudan; 5Ziyab Research Group, Financial Office, Karboum, Sudan

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease with high heterogeneity. SLEDAI is the standardized method to determine disease activity, neutrophils to lymphocytes ratio emerge as new method to detect disease activity. The study aim is to study the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a marker of active disease in SLE patients.

Objectives: This study aimed to assess cut off point of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a marker of disease activity in systemic lupus erythematosus.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.425
Methods: A cross sectional study was conducted in Haj Al-Safi hospital. A 53 patients were studied using pretested questionnaire, a SLEDAI assessment was conducted to each patient's individually. NLR were measured from CBC at the time of the study. Inclusion criteria were: people aged 18 or older, SLE patient diagnosed and confirmed by new 2019 criteria, and exclude any patients with infections, malignancies, and other inflammatory diseases recorded in registry. Data were collected and analyzed using SPSS.

Results: The mean age of patients was (± SD) 39.85 (± 14.07), SLEDAI score assessment was conducted for the patients, 48 (90.6 %) scored > 4 and were considered active disease according to the score, 5 (9.4 %) scored <4 and were inactive. The NLR was calculated and the mean was 2.9 (± 2.08). Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) was conducted, cut-off (COV) was 2.48. Area Under Curve (AUC) and was AUC=0.402 (95% CI: 0.232 to 0.572. (p=0.475). The sensitivity was 47%, and the specificity 51%.

Conclusion: This findings indicated that the Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio, with a cut-off value (COV) of 2.48, could be utilized to identify the disease activity of systemic lupus erythematosus. Furthermore, by applying this NLR COV.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.504

AB0678 INTERLEUKIN-18 AS A PREDICTOR OF SUBCLINICAL CARDIOVASCULAR AFFECTION AND DISEASE ACTIVITY IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS PATIENTS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus

S. A. A. Tabra1, M. H. Abu-Zaid1, D. Maria2, R. Elsharaby2, 1Tanta University Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Tanta, Egypt; 2Tanta University Faculty of Medicine, Cardiology, Tanta, Egypt; 3Tanta University Faculty of Medicine, Clinical Pathology, Tanta, Egypt

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune disease which has variable clinical manifestations and causes severe organ damage (1). Interleukin-18 (IL-18) is a pro-inflammatory cytokine which plays a key role in many inflammatory and cardiovascular diseases (2). 

Methods: Evaluation of plasma level of IL-18 in SLE patients and correlate it with the subclinical cardiovascular affection and disease activity.

Methods: Thirty lupus patients (G I), and 30 healthy age and sex matched volunteers as control group (G II) were recruited for this case control study. All participants were subjected to complete history taking and clinical assessment, lupus disease activity was measure using SLE disease activity index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K), Serum IL-18 level, CRP, C3, C4, anti dsDNA, and lipid profiles were measured. Cardiovascular assessments were done using echocardiography, flow mediated dilatation of the brachial artery (FMD), and carotid intima-media thickness (cIMT). Plasma levels of IL-18 were measured and correlated with different parameters.

Results: There were no significant differences between the patients and controls regarding demographic data (P>0.05). The mean SLEDAI-2K was 3.5±2.1. The mean plasma level of IL-18 was 432.85±165.37 pg/ml in lupus patients, while IL-18 was 195.65±82.91 pg/ml in healthy volunteers, there was significant elevation of IL-18 level in lupus patients in comparison with controls. There were significantly lowering levels of C3, & C4 in lupus patients. Regarding cardiovascular assessment: SLE patients showed significantly higher lipid profile, & cIMT measures and revealed lower FMD as well as detecting echocardiographic abnormalities compared to controls. (These date were summmarized in Table 1).

Serum IL-18 was positively correlated with cIMT and SLEDAI-2K, also IL-18 was negatively correlated with FMD, C3 & C4.

Conclusion: IL-18 was an independent predictor of cardiovascular events in SLE patients, also it was correlated with lupus activity.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Comparison between lupus patients and controls regarding different parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lupus patients (30)</th>
<th>Controls (30)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C3 (mg/dL)</td>
<td>78.9±22.9</td>
<td>116.8±18.6</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4 (mg/dL)</td>
<td>9.6±4.8</td>
<td>25.7±5.6</td>
<td>&lt; 0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI-2K</td>
<td>3.5±2.1</td>
<td>8.9±0.9</td>
<td>0.0005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMD%</td>
<td>5.9±2.25</td>
<td>76±5.2</td>
<td>0.0036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-18 (pg/ml)</td>
<td>432.85±165.37</td>
<td>195.65±82.91</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.572

AB0679 OPHTHALMOLOGICAL FINDINGS BY STRUCTURAL SPECTRAL DOMAIN OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Descriptive studies, Systemic lupus erythematosus

M. E. Ventura Valenzuela1, V. González Díaz1, G. Martínez-Bonilla1, A. G. Bernard Medina1, J. F. Uribe Martínez1, C. A. Rosal Arteaga1, S. Perez-Totpe1, J. Salazar García1, S. Sánchez Sánchez2, S. Cerpa-Cruz3

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus represents the prototype of autoimmune systemic disease, its etiology involves aberrant interactions between genetic, immunological and environmental factors, affecting multiple organs and systems; about a third of patients present ocular alterations, with a variable degree of severity from mild clinical manifestations involving external and anterior ocular segments, to severe sight-threatening disease involving posterior eye segments.

Objectives: Describe and correlate ocular and clinical findings, as well as the positivity of autoantibodies in patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus using structural Spectral-Domain Optical Coherence Tomography (SD-OCT).

Methods: Cross-sectional single-center study, descriptive statistics and correlation analysis were performed using Spearman's test of the ocular findings determined by (SD-OCT) and serological determinations of antiphospholipid autoantibodies, anti-nuclear antibodies, anti-DNAs and anti-Smith antibodies in patients with Lupus during the months of January 2020 to December 2020, performing general ophthalmological examination and structural Spectral-Domain Optical Coherence Tomography.

Results: 29 patients were included, 26 women and 3 men, positive antiphospholipid antibodies in 56% of the population, lupus nephritis was found by renal biopsy in 49% of the population, disease activity was determined by MEX-SLEDAI, finding >9 points in 11 patients and >9 points in 89% of the population. Maculopathy was found in 24% of patients; the correlations between autoantibodies and ophthalmological abnormalities determined by SD-OCT were: Lupus anticoagulant/Maculopathy p=0.008, anti-cardiolipin antibodies/maculopathy p=0.026, anti Smith/choriocapillaritis p=0.014, decreased capillary perfusion/choriocapillaritis p=0.003 and choroiditis p=0.012, decreased perfusion by quadrants/maculopathy p=0.043. A decrease in retinal thickness was found in 65% of the population, also in the density of ganglion and macular cells and in the density of the optic nerve head.

Conclusion: Findings in our study were predominantly choroidal, macular and capillary alterations; a specific serological correlation was found between maculopathy and chorioretinitis with positive Lupus Anticoagulant, as well as alterations in capillary perfusion in patients with positive antiphospholipid and anti-Smith antibodies. The use of SD-OCT can provide valuable and early information on the ocular microstructure and biological system in SLE and other autoimmune diseases affecting the eyes.

REFERENCES:
Disclosure of Interests: None declared

AB1061

THE EFFECT OF DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, AND FIBROMYALGIA ON SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN FEMALE PATIENTS WITH SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Sjögren syndrome

S. M. Türk1, D. Karataş1, N. Erdek1, G. Yavuzbilge1, A. Karakut1, S. B. Açıkgöz1, Z. Öztürk1, C. Arslanlardı Güneyş1, E. Gönoğull1, Y. Türk2, Sakarya University Hospital, Rheumatology, Sakarya, Turkey; 2Sakarya University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Sakarya, Turkey; 3Adaptap Hospital, Gynecology, Sakarya, Turkey

Background: Sjögren’s Syndrome is a systemic autoimmune disease that mainly affects the exocrine glands. The most common clinical symptoms of Sjögren’s syndrome are dry mouth and eyes. Vaginal dryness and dyspareunia may be seen in the disease, as the female genital mucosa is also affected.

Objectives: To compare the results by using the female sexual function scale in patients with Sjögren’s Syndrome with and without depression, anxiety, and fibromyalgia and to evaluate the patients in terms of sexual dysfunction.

Methods: Twenty-five female patients diagnosed with Sjögren’s Syndrome, according to the 2016 ACR-EULAR criteria, followed in the Internal Medicine, Rheumatology Clinic of Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine, were included in the study after their consent was obtained. Beck Depression Inventory, Beck Anxiety Inventory, and Female Sexual Function Scale were administered simultaneously to the patients. The presence of fibromyalgia was evaluated according to the 2016 Modified ACR diagnostic criteria. The relationship between depression, anxiety scale scores, the presence of fibromyalgia, and female sexual function was investigated.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 49±8.1 years, and the median duration of the disease was four years. 15 (60%) patients were primary school graduates, 2 (8%) patients were secondary school graduates, 4 (16%) patients were high school graduates, and 4 (16%) patients were university graduates. 11 (44%) of the patients were in menopause. Sexual dysfunction was found in 21 (84%) patients diagnosed with Sjögren’s Syndrome. There was no statistically significant difference in sexual function scale scores between those with and without menopause. No statistical difference was found in disease duration, age, and scale scores in the presence of fibromyalgia. Sexual dysfunction was more pronounced in those with depression and anxiety (p<0.003, p=0.045, respectively) (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison of depression and anxiety and sexual function scale scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sjögren Patients</th>
<th>Depression</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>Anxiety</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female Sexual Dysfunction score</td>
<td>177 (8.6)</td>
<td>24.4 (7.1)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>18.4 (6.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (IQR)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(-)</td>
<td>(-)</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Depression and anxiety cause lower sexual function scores in female patients diagnosed with Sjögren’s syndrome. The effect of fibromyalgia has not been demonstrated, but due to the limited number of patients, studies with a larger population will be more enlightening.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: None declared

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1793
Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociodemographic data</th>
<th>Patients with previous abortions (n=13)</th>
<th>Patients without previous abortions (n=28)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at visit (year)</td>
<td>36.8±4.61</td>
<td>34.4±3.93</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (year)</td>
<td>28.3±2.48</td>
<td>28.6±1.35</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last flare-1st visit (years)</td>
<td>8±6.71</td>
<td>6.9±5.5</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last flare-1st visit (months)</td>
<td>47±39.45</td>
<td>27±38.5</td>
<td>0.049</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 1. Unmet patient need in SLE patients prescribed AT for ≥12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Unmet patient need in SLE patients prescribed AT for ≥12 months</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patients on AT ≥12 months (n=234)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physician-reported patient clinical status</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean [SD] Derived SLEDAI score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organs/body areas affected, Musculoskeletal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucocutaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid use, n(%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone equivalent dose, &lt;7.5 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥7.5 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean [SD] EQ5D-5L Utility score (0= death to 1= full health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean [SD] FACIT-Fatigue score (0= worst fatigue to 52= no fatigue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean [SD] WPAI, percentage overall work impairment*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean [SD] WPAI, percentage activity impairment*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Real-world evidence, Outcome measures

R. Khandker¹, E. Igho-Osagie¹, J. Hetherington², E. Goddard², J. Milligan²

¹Merck & Co. Inc., Center for Observational and Real World Evidence (CORE), North Wales, United States of America; ²Adelphi Real World, Bollington, United Kingdom

Background: Unmet medical need continues to be significant in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) despite the use of advanced therapies (AT) to control active disease. Fatigue, end-organ damage, and low health-related quality of life (HRQOL) remain characteristic of the disease even among those treated with AT.

Objectives: In this analysis we measured the burden of unmet medical need in SLE patients prescribed AT for ≥12 months in real-world clinical settings.

Methods: Data were drawn from the Adelphi Real World Lupus Disease Specific Programme™, a cross-sectional survey with elements of retrospective data collection of rheumatologists and their consulting patients with SLE in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States in 2021.

Rheumatologists provided information on patient demographics, clinical status, and treatment history for their next six consulting SLE patients. The same patients completed the EQ-SD-5L, Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy Fatigue Subscale (FACIT-Fatigue), and Work Productivity and Activity Impairment questionnaire (WPAI) instruments. Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index (SLEDAI) scores were derived through physician assessment of patients’ current clinical manifestations. AT was defined as biologic or off-label Janus kinase inhibitors. All data were analysed descriptively.

Results: The sample included 234 patients seen by 125 physicians. Most patients (85%) were female and the mean participant age was 45.8 (SD:13.2) years. Mean duration since diagnosis was 6.6 (5.3) years and mean duration on their current regimen was 3.3 (3.0) years.

Despite receiving AT for ≥12 months, patients continued to have moderate-high levels of disease activity. Nearly half (48%) had SLEDAI scores ≥ 10 (Mean SLEDAI = 11.4 (11.2)). Many (37%) were assessed by physicians to have moderate/severe disease. Most (62%) continued to receive steroids, with 41% of patients prescribed oral/subcutaneous steroids receiving prednisone or equivalent doses of ≥7.5 mg/day. The majority of patients (56%) were currently experiencing musculoskeletal symptoms including joint tenderness and swelling; while 37% and 19% respectively, were currently experiencing mucocutaneous and renal symptoms.

Mean EQ5D-5L score was 0.70 (0.27). Mean FACIT-Fatigue score was 32.4 (12.4), compared to US general population norm of 43.6 (9.4)¹. Overall work impairment and mean daily activity impairment measured by the WPAI were 27.4% (20.4%) and 34.9% (25.3%) respectively.
SLE, Sjögren’s and APS – clinical aspects (other than treatment)

AB0683 USEFULNESS OF A MONOGRAPHIC CONSULTATION RHEUMATOLOGY - PNEUMOLOGY

Keywords: Lungs, Work-related issues

M. Pavia Pascual1, N. DE LA Torre Rubio1, M. Machattou1, P. Navarro Palomo1, M. Alonso de Francisco2, C. Navarro Joven1, C. Barbadillo Mateos1, C. Merino Arguménez1, M. Fernandez Castro2, B. Garcia-Magallon1, J. Sanz1, L. F. De Villa1, J. Campos Esteban1, J. L. Andreu Sanchez1, H. Godoy1, 1Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Some rheumatological diseases may involve the lungs. This is something that the rheumatologist and pneumologist must take into account in their clinical practice.

Objectives: To describe the characteristics of a group of patients with diffuse interstitial lung disease (ILD) that are being followed-up in a Rheumatology-Pneumology monographic consultation and study the usefulness of this consultation.

Methods: We reviewed the medical records of patients with a diagnosis of ILD that were being studied by both services in a monographic consultation in a tertiary hospital. A descriptive study was performed.

Results: A total of 46 patients were studied: 16 with nonspecific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP), 15 with usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP), 5 with fibrotic NSIP, 2 with cryptogenic organizing pneumonia (COP) and 2 with undefined ILD. 60% were women and the mean age was 64 years (40-80 years). Twenty patients with ILD were referred from pneumology to rheumatology. The primary reason for referral was the determination of positive antibodies (60%). Other reasons were arthritis (15%), other symptoms suggestive of connective tissue disease (15%) or the screening for collagenopathy in patients with poor outcome (10%). Ninety-five percent of patients with ILD referred to rheumatology were diagnosed with a connective tissue disease (Graph 1 and Table 1), which led to a change in treatment in 68.4% of them, with mycophenolate being the most prescribed drug, followed by rituximab. Twelve patients followed up in rheumatology with diagnosis of systemic sclerosis (n=6), rheumatoid arthritis (n=3), Sjögren’s syndrome (n=2) and anti-synthetase syndrome (n=1) were referred to pneumology. The reasons for referral were the appearance of a pattern of interstitial involvement in imaging tests (chest X-ray or CT) and/or the alterations in respiratory function tests requested routinely (in the case of scleroderma) or due to respiratory symptoms (cough, dyspnea or crackles on chest auscultation). Follow-up by the pulmonologist implied a modification in the treatment in 5 out of 12 patients (41.7%) which consisted in the addition of an antifibrotic, Nintedanib in all cases. The reason for initiation was a decline in lung function demonstrated by pulmonary function tests. In 8 patients, the diagnosis of ILD and rheumatologic disease had been made in another center and they were referred for follow-up.

Conclusion: Ninety-five percent of patients with ILD referred to rheumatology were diagnosed with a connective tissue disease, which led to a change in treatment in 68.4% of them, with mycophenolate being the most frequently prescribed drug, followed by rituximab. The diagnosis of ILD in patients with rheumatologic disease was possible thanks to pulmonary auscultation, anaemia on respiratory symptoms and the performance of imaging and functional tests. Referral of these patients to pneumology service allowed a better characterization of their pulmonary disease and the initiation of antifibrotic drugs in those with progressive fibrosing disease.

Graph 1.

Saxon’s test: + < 2.75g unstimulated saliva in 2 minutes; Schirmer’s test: + ≤ 5 mm in 5 min at least one eye.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2437

AB0684 RETROSPECTIVE STUDY ON SENSITIVITY AND SPECIFICITY OF VARIOUS CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA IN EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND LINK TO DISEASE OUTCOMES

Keywords: Outcome measures, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Descriptive studies

M. S. Mohamed Said1, S. Chu Ee1, R. Mustafa1, 1Faculty of Medicine Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Medical, HUKM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a multisystem inflammatory disease with heterogeneous clinical manifestations, making the diagnosis of disease challenging. To date, study on comparison of sensitivity and specificity of various SLE classification criteria among multiracial Malaysians is limited.

Objectives: To compare the sensitivity and specificity of various SLE classification criteria among multiracial Malaysians.

Methods: A retrospective study on data obtained from medical records of SLE and control cases. The sensitivity and specificity of 1997 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) revised criteria, Boston Weighted (BW) criteria, 2012 Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) criteria, and 2019 European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)/ACR classification criteria was calculated at baseline and at one year follow up. The link of diagnostic criteria to disease outcomes five years after diagnosis [disease damage, cardiovascular (CV) outcomes, and mortality] was studied.

Results: 420 SLE cases and 420 control cases were recruited. At baseline, the sensitivity and specificity of 1997 ACR criteria, BW criteria, 2012 SLICC criteria, and 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria were 69.3% and 99.3%, 89.5% and 96.7%, 94% and 97.6%, 96.4% and 96.5%, respectively. At one year follow up, sensitivity and specificity of the1997 ACR criteria, BW criteria, 2012 SLICC criteria, and 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria improved to 72.9% and 99.3%, 91.4% and 96.7%, 97.1% and 97.6%, 100% and 96.9%, respectively. There is statistical correlation between the 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria and SLICC/ACR damage index (DI), and disease relapses.

Conclusion: 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria demonstrated the highest sensitivity to diagnose SLE, with comparable specificity to other diagnostic criteria.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Faculty of Medicine UKM and Research Ethics Committee UKM.

Disclosure of Interests: Mohd Shahir Mohd Said Speakers bureau: Novartis, Pfizer, Abbvie, Zuelig Pharma, Seow Chu Ee: None declared, Ruslinda Mustafa: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2511
AB0685

**DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF A COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH NEUROPSYCHIATRIC MANIFESTATIONS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL.**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus

P. J. Gil Velaz1, L. Mendez Diaz1, I. Madroño Garcia1,1. Virgen del Rocio Hospital, Rheumatology, Seville, Spain

**Background:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) affects 0.1% of the world population and its neurological expressions include, from vascular headache, mood disturbances to cognitive and other severe disorders such as transverse myelitis. It represents a diagnostic challenge, since none of the syndromes is exclusive of SLE and up to 40% is attributed to other causes; specifically it is necessary to rule out central nervous system infection, uremia, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, posterior reversible encephalopathy, steroid psychosis and hypeension.

**Objectives:** To describe the neurological/neuropsychiatric manifestations in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus, diagnostic tests used and therapeutic possibilities in a cohort of patients in a tertiary level hospital.

**Methods:** Retrospective descriptive study of a cohort of patients with neuropsychiatric manifestations in the context of SLE in the Rheumatology Department of the Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocio Sevilla (2017-2022).

**Results:** 12 patients with neuropsychiatric manifestations were included in our study. 8 (66.6%) women, 4 (33.4%) men, with a mean age of 30 ± 6 years and mean time of diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus of 3.5 years. Nine (75%) SLE with joint/cutaneous involvement and 3(25%) SLE with renal involvement (focal proliferative glomerulonephritis and segmental). In 9 (75%) of the cases imaging studies both cranial MRI and PET showed inconclusive lesions and as for specific antibodies: 4 (33.3%) anti-NMDAR, 3 (25%) anti-ribosome P. Among the most frequent clinical manifestations 6 (50%) presented persistent headache, 3 (25%) psychosis, 3 (25%) memory and mood disturbances. 9 (75%) of the cases responded to anti-CO20 (rituximab) and 3 (25%) to intravenous immunoglobulin infusion.

**Conclusion:** The data obtained from the clinical histories were conclusive with current scientific publications. It is an entity whose diagnosis is a challenge for the clinician, and both analytical tests and imaging studies are usually non-specific. The most frequent manifestations are headache, cognitive manifestations and mood alterations (anxiety attacks, panic, euphoria). Further studies are needed to classify the risk of this entity and the relationship with specific neuromoral antiablodies.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2717

AB0686

**THE NEUTROPHIL-TO-C3 RATIO (NC3R) WAS AN INFLAMMATORY MARKER IN THE ASSESSMENT OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS AND OCULAR VESSEL DENSITY IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS.**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Kidneys

M. Maitiayar1, P. Li1, H. Li, X. Yang1, C. Chen1, J. Zhang3, W. Huang1, Z. Liu1, S. L. Yu2,3.1. The Second Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Guangzhou, China; 2. The Second Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University, Ophthalmic Center, Guangzhou, China; 3. The Second Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University, E.N.T. Department, Guangzhou, China

**Background:** Lupus nephritis (LN) is one of the most serious complications of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). An increased neutrophil to C3 ratio (NC3R) may reflect LN. NC3R is a promising predictor of LN and ocular involvement in SLE patients.

**Objectives:** To explore the relationship between NC3R and LN patients and ocular vessel density in SLE patients.

**Methods:** This retrospective study included 53 patients with LN and 80 SLE patients without kidney involvement. The differences in NC3R between patients with and without LN were evaluated. Correlations between NC3R and other variables in SLE patients were assessed. Receiver operating characteristic curves (ROC) was constructed in NC3R to predict LN. Multivariate logistic regression analysis was used to analyze the independent factor of LN. We also investigated the impact of NC3R on ocular involvement in SLE patients.

**Results:** NC3R was increased significantly in the LN group as compared with those SLE patients without LN(7.7 vs 4.5, P=0.002). NC3R were positively correlated with 24-hour proteinuria (r=0.437, P<0.001), and negatively correlated with C3(r=-0.346, P<0.001) and C4(r=-0.293, P=0.001). Multiple regression analysis suggested that NC3R was an independent risk factor of LN(OR: 4.41 (1.64~11.91), P=0.003). NC3R [AUC: 0.642, 95%CI (0.540~0.744)] was useful in differentiating LN patients, and the optimal cutoff was 4.56 (sensitivity: 79.6%, specificity: 49.2%). In the high NC3R group patients, there was increased superficial vessel density.

**Conclusion:** NC3R was a plausible indicator to predict LN and ocular involvement. Therefore, evaluating NC3R before treatment could help clinicians to identify potential organ involvement in patients with SLE.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3576

AB0687

**CHRONIC SCLEROSING SIALADENITIS, IS IT A SJOGREN’S SYNDROME OR NOT?**

**Keywords:** Sjogren syndrome, Epidemiology, Descriptive studies

E. J. Kwok1, 2, B. W. Lee1, Y. Park1, J. J. Lee1, S. H. Park, S. K. Kwok1.1. The Catholic University of Korea Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2. The Catholic University of Korea - Songjei Campus, Department of Medicine, Graduate School of Medical Science, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** The Sjogren’s syndrome (SS) is a chronic autoimmune disease. The classification criteria of SS have been evolved through the decades. Recent in 2016, American college of rheumatology (ACR)–European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) classification requires at least one positive finding in either the labial salivary gland biopsy or anti-Ro (SSA) serology for the confirmation of SS. Chronic sclerosing sialadenitis (CSS) is unusual, under-recognized condition that affects the salivary gland, reported by H. Kutter at first. [1] Though the CSS already has been eliminated from the diagnostic criteria of SS, there is controversy in the meaning of CSS in SS. And that makes it difficult to determine whether the patient who suffers from sicca symptom is SS or not.

**Objectives:** Investigating the clinical meaning of CSS in association with SS by comparing the clinical and laboratory findings, we provide the extent of under-recognized condition that affects the salivary gland, reported by H. Kutter at first.

**Methods:** This study is a single center retrospective study, including patients confirmed as CSS via biopsy in Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital from 2000 to 2022. [1] Patients with history of head and neck radiation, (2) graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), (3) IgG4-RD, (4) positive biopsy result in IgG4 immunohistochemistry
(IHC) staining, and (4) insufficient pathologic result to distinguish IgG4-RD from CSS were excluded. 1 of 27 CSS patients were eligible to our analysis. 4 of positivity with IgG4 in IHC staining positivity, 1 of GVHD, and 1 of prior head and neck radiation were excluded. We assessed 239 patients from 341 of the Korean Initiative of primary SS (KISS) prospective cohort study as SS control group, eligible to 2016 classification.

**Results:** In CSS group, only 1 of 21 was diagnosed as SS. Table 1 summarizes the result. ‘CSS as SS’ consisted of CSS patients meeting 2016 criteria, assuming that the CSS could be a part of SS pathology.

**Table 1.** The clinical characteristics of chronic sclerosing sialadenitis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality indicators</th>
<th>Eligible patients n (%)</th>
<th>Fulfilled n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Laboratory test</td>
<td>70 (100)</td>
<td>68 (97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. L.N follow-up</td>
<td>65 (82.9)</td>
<td>45 (69.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Kidney biopsy</td>
<td>32 (45.7)</td>
<td>27 (38.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. CVD risk stratification</td>
<td>70 (100)</td>
<td>47 (67.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Osteoporosis evaluation</td>
<td>58 (82.9)</td>
<td>20 (30.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Hydroxychloroquine monitoring</td>
<td>62 (88.5)</td>
<td>29 (46.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Tapering prednisone</td>
<td>46 (65)</td>
<td>18 (38.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Immunosuppressants in LN</td>
<td>30 (42.9)</td>
<td>26 (88.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. ACE inhibitors or ARB in LN</td>
<td>27 (38.5)</td>
<td>19 (70.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Low-dose aspirin in pregnancy</td>
<td>2 (100)</td>
<td>2 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. SLEDAI evaluation</td>
<td>70 (100)</td>
<td>8 (11.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Annual SICCA damage index evaluation</td>
<td>70 (100)</td>
<td>17 (24.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Treat to achieve LDA or remission</td>
<td>70 (100)</td>
<td>50 (71.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Drug toxicity monitoring</td>
<td>70 (100)</td>
<td>68 (97.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Photoprotection</td>
<td>70 (100)</td>
<td>60 (85.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Vaccination</td>
<td>70 (100)</td>
<td>49 (70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Fertility counseling</td>
<td>41 (58.6)</td>
<td>27 (68.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Pregnancy counseling</td>
<td>29 (41.4)</td>
<td>13 (44.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global adherence</td>
<td>952</td>
<td>593 (62.29)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Background:** Quality indicators (QI) for patients with SLE were developed based on the 2019 EULAR recommendations [1]. Measuring quality of care (QOC) may provide recognition of gaps and challenges in clinical practice. Improving QOC may relate to high satisfaction with care. Satisfaction might be considered a valuable indicator to measure the success of provided care. Evidence about the relationship between quality of care and satisfaction perceived by SLE patients is scarce.

**Objectives:** To correlate adherence to QIs based on the 2019 EULAR recommendations and satisfaction with care in SLE patients.

**Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional and retrospective study in a Lupus Clinic in Northeast Mexico. We included patients at least 18 years old who met the ACR/EULAR 2019 classification criteria for SLE. Consecutive patients were interviewed by the researchers on their last visit to assess the adherence to quality indicators developed by Chavatza et al., based on 2019 EULAR recommendations. Medical records were revised to assess demographic data, disease activity, treatment, organ involvement, and cumulative damage. Adherence was achieved if the patient met all components of the QI. We calculated adherence as the number of fulfilled patients divided by the number of eligible patients per indicator. Satisfaction with care was evaluated with the satisfaction domain of the LupusPRO 1.7 version. The distribution was assessed with Kolmogorov-Smirnov. The Spearman correlation coefficient was obtained to determine the relationship between quality of care and satisfaction with care.

**Results:** Seventy patients were included with a median age of 33 (IQR, 23-48), and 90% were female. Global adherence to the 18-QIs and Satisfaction with Care score revealed no correlation using the Spearman correlation coefficient (r = 0.064, p = 0.599). Overall adherence was 62.29%. The median satisfaction with care was 100. The results of each indicator are shown in Table 1.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, we did not find a correlation between satisfaction with care and QOC. The areas of quality of care that performed the lowest were the measurement of the SLEDAI-2K and the SLICC/ACR damage index, which was an area of opportunity for improvement.

**REFERENCES:**

Background: Dietary habits and Physical Activity (PA) are two pivotal features of healthy life in terms of the prevention and treatment of metabolic and chronic disease [1]. Few data are available concerning these issues in isolated Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) patients [2].

Objectives: Aim of the study was to assess the level of PA, the adherence to Mediterranean diet (MD) and the nutritional status of Italian patients with SS.

Methods: Consecutive patients with SS (AECG criteria 2002) were enrolled. For each patient ESSDAI, ESSPRI, SSDDI were calculated. The value of focus score was obtained in the minor salivary gland biopsy (MSG), when performed. The International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) was administered to assess the level of physical activity; the Mediterranean Diet (MDiet) score [3] was employed to analyse adherence to Mediterranean diet (the More Mediterranean diet the better). BMI was higher in older patients (R 2 0.96, p < 0.02). 16 out of the 26 subjects of the subgroup (61%) showed a reduction in muscle strength (HGT and/or CST) and therefore a condition of probable sarcopenia, a muscle failure that accrue across a lifetime, was identified by a diagnostic algorithm [4] with age-differentiated cut-offs; the Hand Grip test (HGT) and the Chair Stand test (CST) were used as screening tests, the Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) was employed to analyse adherence to Mediterranean diet (the More Mediterranean diet the better) and to quantify bone mineral mass (ASM, kg/m²). The muscular performance (6-minutes Walking Test – 6MWT) was measured to grading sarcopenia. Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS.

Results: The 130 pSS patients enrolled showed a moderate adherence to the Mediterranean diet (median MDiet = 33, third quintile) and played a moderate role of PA in the Italian population [5]. In a subgroup of 26 patients, the dietary habits were evaluated with a daily food diary. Sarcopenia, a muscle failure that accrue across a lifetime, was identified by a diagnostic algorithm [4] with age-differentiated cut-offs; the Hand Grip test (HGT) and the Chair Stand test (CST) were used as screening tests, the Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) was employed to analyse adherence to Mediterranean diet (the More Mediterranean diet the better) and to quantify bone mineral mass (ASM, kg/m²). The muscular performance (6-minutes Walking Test – 6MWT) was measured to grading sarcopenia. Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS.

Conclusions: This preliminary study considering Italian women with SS shows a moderate adherence to the MD similar to what previously reported in the general female population in Europe (32.5 ± 5 DS) [6]. Moreover, considering the obtained results in the subgroup, SS patients seem to have an unbalanced diet because of an intake of fat foods higher than that recommended in the Mediterranean Diet. A possible explanation for the higher fats intake may be a lubricating effect aiding mastication and swelling. It can be hypothesized that an unbalanced diet might be partly responsible for increasing chronic damage and the associated reduction in muscle mass.

REFERENCES:
[1] Bonolfi, Nutrients 2022
[6] Fallaiize, Nutrients 2018
Results: Fifty females were enrolled. Clinical characteristics during the disease course and serological and clinimetric scores at the time of enrollment are reported in Table 1. Group 1: US detected synovitis (grade 1–3) in 7 (35%) patients, mainly wrists and hands. Group 2: US detected synovitis (grade 1–3) in 5 (26.3%) patients mainly hands, elbows and wrists. Group 3: US detected synovitis (grade 1–3) in 7 (83.3%) patients, mainly knees elbows Achilles tendon, hands.

Conclusion: Our study confirmed that the musculoskeletal involvement in SLE is underestimated. Although not statistically significant, the groups showed differences in synovitis involvement. The percentage of asymptomatic patients with ultrasound signs of synovitis, especially of the hands and wrists, is higher than expected and almost comparable with symptomatic arthralgia patients. No association with clinimetric and laboratory tests were highlighted. As expected, the group of patients with known arthritis more frequently had ultrasonographic changes and signs of systemic disease activity. Our study suggests how necessary and interesting it is to prospectively evaluate in the future how the joint disease will progress in asymptomatic patients, and who will develop, for example, bone erosions or Jaccoud’s arthropathy.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. clinical characteristics of patients and disease activity at the time of observation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP 1</th>
<th>GROUP 2</th>
<th>GROUP 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGE (yr, median)</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>40.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE AT DIAGNOSIS (yr, median)</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISEASE DURATION (months, mean)</td>
<td>150.3</td>
<td>271.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUCOCUTANEOUS involvement % (EVER)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPHRITIS % (EVER)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSPLE</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>involvement % (EVER)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAEMATOLOGICAL involvement % (EVER)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSTITUTIONAL involvement % (EVER)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity at the time of US</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positive anti cDNA %</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOW C3/C4 %</td>
<td>45/55</td>
<td>50/45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI median</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>1.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 mean</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI median</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDI median</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRI (mg/ml) mean</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4548

Ab0681
Restless leg syndrome among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus: a common neurologic manifestation

Keywords: Quality of life, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Comorbidities

K. Parperis1, S. Philippou1, C. Christofi2, S. Psarelis2, 1University of Cyprus, Medical School, Nicosia, Cyprus; 2Cyprus University of Technology, Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Limassol, Cyprus; 2Nicosia General Hospital, Rheumatology, Nicosia, Cyprus

Background: Restless leg syndrome (RLS) is a common neurologic condition, affecting 5 to 10 percent of adults, that can be seen in patients with autoimmune diseases, like rheumatoid arthritis; however, data in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) are scarce. Sleep disturbances are common in the SLE population, but few studies, with a small number of patients, investigated RLS. A deeper understanding of the relationship between SLE and RLS will allow us to promptly diagnose and manage RLS.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to determine the prevalence of RLS among patients with SLE, describe the clinical characteristics of RLS, examine its impact on health-related quality of life (HRQoL), and evaluate its association with depression.

Methods: We recruited SLE patients who met the SLICC-2012 criteria from September 2020 to September 2022. Demographic data, clinical characteristics, and pain level based on a visual analogue scale (0-10) were recorded. RLS diagnosis was based on the international restless leg syndrome study group criteria, and depression was assessed by the patient health questionnaire (PHQ)-9, with scores ≥10 indicating major depressive disorder (MDD). Patient global assessment was scored from 0 to 10, with higher numbers indicating active disease. HRQoL was assessed by a disease-specific validated questionnaire, the LupusQoL; scores ranged between 0-100, with higher scores indicating better QoL. These variables were compared between SLE patients with RLS and without RLS using t-tests or Wilcoxon non-parametric tests for continuous variables, as appropriate, and the chi-square test of independence for categorical variables. A p-value ≤ 0.05 was considered statistically significant and all tests performed were two-sided.

Results: Among the 144 SLE patients included in the study, 108 were women (87.1%), with a mean age of 49 ± 19 years (range 19 - 80) and a mean disease duration of 14 ± 12 years. Forty (32%) of them met the criteria for RLS and were more likely to experience a delay in diagnosis (mean 4.8 vs 2.2 years; p=0.019) and were less likely to work (65% vs 45%, p=0.040) compared to non-RLS patients. RLS patients were more likely to have coexisting MDD (45% vs 24%, p=0.019), higher level of pain (mean 3.9 vs 2.5, p=0.007) and disease activity based on patient global assessment (mean 4.2 vs 3.2, p=0.025). Further, all the domains of LupusQoL were significantly lower in the RLS patients group suggesting worse HRQoL (Table 1).

Conclusion: One of every three SLE patients had RLS, which negatively impacted the patient’s HRQoL. In addition, RLS was associated with depression, higher levels of pain, and worse perceived disease activity. Therefore, clinicians should be vigilant to recognize and manage RLS in SLE patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. LupusQoL domain scores (median (Q1, Q3)) among patients SLE patients with and without RLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LupusQoL Domains</th>
<th>All patients</th>
<th>No RLS</th>
<th>RLS</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>75.0 (41.6, 100.0)</td>
<td>83.3 (58.3, 100.0)</td>
<td>45.8 (25.0, 75.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional health</td>
<td>79.1 (58.3, 91.6)</td>
<td>83.3 (66.6, 95.8)</td>
<td>66.6 (43.7, 85.4)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical health</td>
<td>71.8 (48.6, 90.6)</td>
<td>78.1 (52.6, 96.8)</td>
<td>64.1 (31.2, 78.1)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>75.0 (14.6, 95.10)</td>
<td>91.6 (58.3, 100.0)</td>
<td>66.6 (23.3, 91.6)</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimacy</td>
<td>75.0 (37.5, 75.0)</td>
<td>50.0 (50.0, 100)</td>
<td>62.5 (25.0, 75.0)</td>
<td>0.056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burden to others</td>
<td>75.0 (58.3, 100.0)</td>
<td>83.3 (66.6, 100.0)</td>
<td>66.6 (41.6, 87.5)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body image</td>
<td>88.8 (66.6, 100.0)</td>
<td>91.6 (70.0, 100.0)</td>
<td>77.5 (50.0, 100.0)</td>
<td>0.059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>68.7 (50.0, 87.5)</td>
<td>81.2 (62.5, 93.7)</td>
<td>50.0 (31.2, 62.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4559

Ab0682
Serum interferon α (IFNα) levels and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) disease activity in SLE patients in Estonia: A prospective cohort study of 40 SLE patients in Estonia

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Real-world evidence, Descriptive studies

S. Meisalu1, K. Kisand1, L. Haljasma2, 1East-Tallinn Central Hospital, Rheumatology, Tallinn, Estonia; 2University of Tartu, Biomedicine, Tartu, Estonia

Background: SLE is a rare chronic autoimmune disease with polymorphic clinical manifestation. It has been found that the interferon signature is detectable in 80% of SLE patients. With the implementation of measuring IFNα levels, additional method to evaluate SLE has been provided.

Objectives: The aim of the present study is to characterize a sample of Estonian SLE patients.

Methods: Consecutive outpatient and inpatient patients with rheumatologist diagnosed SLE (≥20 years) were enrolled in East-Tallinn Central Hospital. Two study visits were done with 6 months apart to evaluate disease activity, current treatment, organ involvement, immunological findings and comorbidities. In addition, data from medical records were collected: organ involvement and immunological findings at the time of diagnosis and initial treatment. SLE disease activity was measured using SLEDAI-2K (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2K) score. Blood tests were taken to measure interferon levels using Simoa (Single Molecul Array) method. To evaluate the extent of the deviation of IFNα levels in patients with SLE compared to non-autoimmune individuals, age and gender matched control group was used. Interferon score was calculated according to interferon induced gene expression in blood cells collected to RNA stabilizing tubes. Spearman correlation was used for correlation analyses and chi-square and Fisher test for the group comparison.
Results: Among 40 patients (mean age 50 (standard deviation ±12.4) years, mean disease duration 12 (±9.9) years, mean SLEDAI 2K at diagnosis 10 (±3.9)) 92.5% were females. Mean SLEDAI 2K value at entering into the study was 4 (±3.4) similar to the value after six months 4 (±5.0). Median IFNα levels during first and second study visits were respectively 133 fg/ml (IQR=560) and 117 fg/ml (IQR=477). At first and second study visit respectively 48% and 45% of patients had low IFNα levels (<100 fg/ml), 35% and 37% had high IFNα levels (>1000 fg/ml) and 18% of patients had very high IFNα levels (>10000 fg/ml). IFNα levels correlated poorly or not significantly in either time point with SLEDAI 2K (r=0.3280, p=0.04 and r=0.5460, p=0.0004), organ involve ment (for joints r= 0.2352, p=0.14 and r=0.3433, p=0.03; for skin r=0.0216, p=0.89 and r=0.0352, p=0.76), Rituximab treatment (r=0.20 and r=0.3201, p=0.05). IFNα levels correlated strongly with IFN score (r=0.9325, p<0.0005) and 76% of patients had elevated IFNα levels compared to 98 percentile of healthy controls (median IFNα level 0.5605 fg/ml, IQR=1.77). There was no statistical difference in regards of Rituximab treatment during the study in low and in high IFNα level group, respectively 16% and 38% (p=0.22) at first study visit and 12% and 43% (p=0.07) at second study visit. 

Conclusion: The first analysis of Estonian SLE patients' IFNα levels and disease activity shows that measuring IFNα levels can give additional information in some SLE patients in the light of new treatments targeting IFNα, although the general correlation with disease activity and available treatment so far is low. Further studies are in progress to evaluate IFNα levels in larger Estonian SLE population to better understand possible pathogenetic mechanisms in different SLE subpopulations. 

REFERENCES: NIL. 
Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: Vaccines are widely credited for their role in reducing the incidence and the severity of various infections. Although the safety profiles of vaccines have been proved, there still remain gaps between healthy individuals and patients with autoimmune diseases in the efficacy and adverse events of vaccinations.

Objectives: The aim of the COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination In Lupus (CIVIL) study was to compare the perception and safety profile between COVID-19 vaccine and influenza vaccine in Korean patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study based on a 34-question web-based survey on COVID-19 and influenza vaccination in 207 medically confirmed SLE patients. Patients were recruited from 13 academic hospitals affiliated with Korean society of SLE research (KSSR) from DEC 2022 to JAN 2023. The primary outcome was the perception of patients and physicians on the vaccines, and the occurrence of side effects including flare.

Results: 94.1% of two hundred respondents were females aged in 20's (19.8%), 30's (24.3%), 40's (27.7%), 50's (16.8%), and 52% was treated more than 10 years. More than 50% of patients were in stable condition for recent 6 months (below 20mm in 100mm visual analogue scale with lower than 10mg prednisolone equivalent dose). COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Novavax) and influenza vaccine were in 77.7% and 87.6% of SLE patients, respectively. Reasons for willing not to vaccinated included fear of lupus flare (56.3% vs 24.5%), worried about side effects (52.1% vs 26.6%), and not recommended from physicians (35.4% vs 7.4%) on COVID-19 and influenza vaccines, respectively. Adverse events (AEs) occurred much higher in COVID-19 vaccine (65.8%) than influenza vaccine (12.4%). However, only 4.4% of patients experiencing AEs from COVID-19 vaccine had a worse perception and higher adverse events compared to influenza vaccine in Korean SLE patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Reasons of vaccination unwillingness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Covid-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fear of lupus flare</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of AEs</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended not to be vaccinated by medical staff</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure vaccine has a preventive effect</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended not to be vaccinated by peer</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just do not want to be injected</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure vaccine has a preventive effect</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of AEs</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of lupus flare</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended not to be vaccinated by medical staff</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended not to be vaccinated by peer</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objectives: understood, data suggest that FM may be caused by autonomic nervous system dysfunction in pSS [2,3]. Although the etiology of fibromyalgia (FM) is not fully understood, data suggest that FM may be caused by autonomic nervous system dysfunction [4].

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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REFERENCES:

AB0699

IS AUTONOMIC DYSFUNCTION MORE COMMON IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME WITH FIBROMYALGIA THAN IN PATIENTS WITHOUT FIBROMYALGIA?

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Sjögren syndrome

D. Kantar1, N. Erdik1, G. Yavuzilige1, S. B. Acıkgöz1, S. M. Türk1, C. Anıslantürk Günüyüz1, Z. Öztürk1, E. Gönülloğlu1, 1Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Sakarya, Turkey; 2Ankara Atlıat Sıçan Sanatçılık ve Araştırma Hastanesi, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) is an autoimmune disease that primarily affects the exocrine glands, but other organs, including the nervous system, may also be affected [1]. Many studies provide evidence of autonomic dysfunction in pSS [2,3]. Although the etiology of fibromyalgia (FM) is not fully understood, data suggest that FM may be caused by autonomic nervous system dysfunction [4].

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to reveal the incidence of autonomic dysfunction in patients with pSS compared to those without fibromyalgia.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, 64 patients who admitted to our Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine rheumatology outpatient clinic between November 2021 and August 2022 were followed up with the diagnosis of pSS were included. The patients were divided into two groups 35 (54.7%) with fibromyalgia and 29 (45.3%) without fibromyalgia. Patients were evaluated with the Composite Autonomic Symptom Score-31 (COMPASS-31), which consists of 6 subsections including autonomic dysfunction, orthostatic, vasomotor, secretomotor, gastrointestinal, bladder and pupillomotor functions. Mann-Whitney U test and Chi-square test were used to compare the groups.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 53.8±11.3 years. There was no difference between the groups regarding sex and age (p = 0.586 and p = 0.580, respectively). The median disease duration (IOD) was 4(6) years. The mean total COMPASS-31 score was significantly higher in patients with fibromyalgia than in those without fibromyalgia (0.014). Among its subgroups, secretory dysfunction was significantly higher in patients with fibromyalgia (p=0.001). Vasomotor dysfunction is more common in patients with FM (p=0.016) (Table 1).

Conclusion: In our study, patients with pSS with fibromyalgia had a higher COMPASS-31 score than those without FM, and especially the secretory dysfunction score was higher. Since both diseases can cause autonomic dysfunction separately, it seems reasonable to have a high total COMPASS-31 score in patients with both. In addition, vasomotor dysfunction is more common in patients with FM.

REFERENCES:

AB0700

HISTOPATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN RENAL BIOPSY OF PATIENTS WITH LUPUS Nephropathy as the Initial Manifestation of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and Long-Term Renal Outcome in Mexican Population

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Epidemiology, Descriptive studies

F. Pazo1, E. Garduño2, N. K. Cruz2, C. E. Mendez2, 1Colonia Cuauhtémoc, Nephrology, Mexico City, Mexico; 2Colonia Cuauhtémoc, nephrology, Mexico City, Mexico; 3Mexican Social Security Institute, Nephrology, Mexico City, Mexico

Background: Renal biopsy is essential in Lupus nephritis (LN) to guide treatment of lupus nephritis and provides information on classes and prognosis of lupus nephritis. Activity and chronicity index can be used as a guide for lupus nephritis treatment although little has been considered the percentage of fibrosis and tubular atrophy in the renal prognosis.

Objectives: Describe the histopathological findings in biopsies performed in patients with LN as an initial manifestation of SLE and the long-term renal outcome.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive observational study. Data on baseline demographic, biopsy records, laboratory results and treatment regimen were extracted from the case notes. Normality tests were applied, the frequencies and percentages were calculated for the categorical variables and the means with their standard deviation or medians with minimums and maximums for the continuous variables depending on their distribution.

Results: Of the 61 patients who presented LN at the diagnosis of SLE, renal biopsies were performed in 80% (n=54). The median age was 30 (19-66) years, females predominated (77%). The frequencies of different classes of lupus nephropathy as well as their index of activity and chronicity and treatment used are described in Table 1. Only 30% of renal biopsies (65%) described tubulo-interstitial findings and 60% had no immunofluorescence. Another additional finding found in the renal biopsy were fibrocellular crescents, membranoproliferative pattern and podocytopathy. At the diagnosis of LN, median serum creatinine (CrS) was 0.8 (1-6) mg/dl and proteinuria 1355 (90-9450) mg/24 hrs. The remission induction treatment frequently used was the combination of mycophenolate and prednisone. Three of them progressed to end-stage renal disease (25%), loss of social security (19%) and poor adherence (19%).

Conclusion: Frequency of class IV LN in our population is like that reported worldwide, however a higher percentage of mixed forms (IV+V) is reported. Combination of mycophenolate and prednisone was used as remission induction treatment. Although the complete remission rates are much lower than those reported (33% vs 58%). Presence of fibrosis in more than 25% is associated with progression to end-stage renal disease.
REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographic characteristics and renal biopsy findings in the population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clase histológica</th>
<th>INH</th>
<th>EL</th>
<th>MFM+PDN</th>
<th>Rituximab</th>
<th>Multitarget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I ó II</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV + V</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INH: Institute National Health, EL: Eurolupus, MFM: Mycophenolate Mofetil, PDN: prednisone

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0701

PERFORMANCE OF DRAFT 2022 ACR/EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA IN A TURKISH COHORT OF APL ANTIBODY POSITIVE PATIENTS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Anti-Phospholipid Syndrome, Autoantibodies

R.C. Kardas1, D. Yildirim1, B. Özkızılaş1, İ. Vasi1, R. Duran1, H. Karadeniz1, A. Avanoğlu Guler1, A. Erden1, H. Kocük1, B. Göker1, A. Tutun1, M. A. Ozturk1, 2Gazi University, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Revised Sapporo classification criteria is the most commonly used criteria set for the classification of antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) patients [1]. Since its revision in 2006, various other clinical and laboratory manifestations have been reported in the literature. Among these are livedo reticularis (race-mosa), cutaneous ulcers, thrombocytopenia, cardiac, pulmonary and renal involvement [2]. In 2022 American College of Rheumatology Congres meeting, new draft classification criteria have been presented [3].

Objectives: Comparing the performance of the new draft classification criteria for antiphospholipid syndrome with the revised Sapporo criteria in a Turkish cohort of antiphospholipid antibody positive patients.

Methods: Patients with a positive antiphospholipid antibody (LAC, aCL IgM or IgG, aB2GPI IgM or IgG) followed since 2016 in our institution have been included. Demographic, clinical, laboratory and radiological features of the patients were recorded retrospectively. All parameters were evaluated with reference to the 2006 revised Sapporo and 2022 draft criteria.

Results: 40 patients were included in our study. 80% (N=32) of the patients were female. Average age of the patients at diagnosis or first antibody positivity was 33.9 years. 27.5% of patients (N=11) were screened for hereditary thrombophilia, with only one patient having heterozygous factor V Leiden mutation. 37% of patients (N=13) had ever smoked prior to their inclusion in the cohort. 57.5% of patients (N=23) had secondary APS, 12.5% had primary APS, 30% had isolated antiphospholipid antibody positivity. Among the secondary APS patients, vast majority had SLE (N=20), 47.5% of the patients (N=19) had a history of vascular thrombosis. 16 patients had venous and 5 patients had arterial thrombosis. Among the 32 female patients, 62.5% (N=20) had an obstetric morbidity associated with APS. 20.5% of patients (N=8) had a skin finding consistent with APS, the most common one being livedo racemosa (N=7). 50% of patients had thrombocytopenia. 20% of patients (N=4) had developed autoimmune hemolytic anemia. Only a single patient had a history of catastrophic APS. 17.5% of cases (N=7) had a positive lupus anticoagulant. Most commonly positive aPL antibody was anti-cardiolipin IgG (55%, N=22), followed by anti-B2GPI-IgG (28%, N=11). 82% of patients (N=33) had a positive ANA test, 62.5% (N=25) had low C3 and C4. Overall, 42.5% (N=17) of patients fulfilled 2006 revised Sapporo criteria, whereas 40% (N=16) ultimately fulfilled the 2022 draft criteria for classification. There was a large level of agreement between the two criteria sets, with one patient not fulfilling 2006 criteria fulfilling 2022 criteria and two patients fulfilling 2022 criteria without fulfilling 2006 criteria.

Conclusion: Our cohort of patients had a high prevalence of thrombocytopenia, as well as a significant minority having livedo racemose and autoimmune thrombocytopenia. None of the patients with isolated aPL antibody positivity were classified as APS, despite many of the fulfilling the initial screening step of the draft criteria. Longer term follow-up of patients fulfilling 2022 screening criteria may yield additional information in the future.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Vasculitis - large vessel vasculitis

**AB0702**

THE INCIDENCE OF LARGE VESSEL VASCULITIS IN NORFOLK, UK

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Vasculitis, Real-world evidence

C. Mukhtar\(^1\), C. Beardsmore\(^2\), F. Coath\(^3\), G. Ducker\(^4\), K. Sisson\(^5\), R. Watts\(^6\), \(^{1}\)Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Norwich, United Kingdom; \(^{2}\)Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Radiology, Norwich, United Kingdom; \(^{3}\)Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Pathology, Norwich, United Kingdom; \(^{4}\)University of East Anglia, Norwich Medical School, Norwich, United Kingdom

**Background:** There are no data on the collective incidence of the large vessel vasculitides. The data of incidence of GCA and Takayasu arteritis in the UK has been based on clinical coding in routine administrative datasets. There are no data on the incidence of these diseases based on clinically verified diagnoses. We studied the incidence of the large vessel vasculitides in a stable population with a predominant Northern European ancestry.

**Objectives:** To report the incidence of large vessel vasculitis and its subsets in Norfolk, UK

**Methods:** Individuals attending a secondary care hospital with a clinically verified diagnosis of primary systemic vasculitis made between 2011-2020, who lived within the NR postcode districts of Norfolk County borders were included if they met classification criteria (ACR 1990 or ACR/EULAR 2022) for GCA/Takayasu arteritis [1-4], or had definite tissue or imaging evidence of large vessel vasculitis. The population data from the 2011 census, available from the office of national statistics was used as the denominator. If classification criteria for both GCA and TAK were met, a clinical decision was taken to decide on the subtype.

**Results:** 272 individuals were diagnosed with a large vessel vasculitis in a population of 454,316 above the age of 18. The annual incidence of large vessel vasculitis in Norfolk is 59.9/1million in population above the age of 18. The annual incidence of giant cell arteritis is 9.8/100,000 in population above the age of 50 using the ACR 1990 criteria and 10.6/100,000 using the ACR/EULAR 2022 criteria. There is a marked rise in the incidence from 2017 onwards as a fast-track pathway was formally established (Table 1). There is a dip in the incidence in 2020 when services were suspended during the SARS-COV2 pandemic. The annual incidence peaks at 168.5/1million in the 9th decade of life and is commoner in females (12.3/100,000) than males (73/100,000). The annual incidence of Takayasu arteritis is 3.3/1million in population above the age of 18 using the ACR 1990 criteria and 1.1/1million using the ACR/EULAR 2022 criteria.

**Conclusion:** This is the first study that reports the incidence of all objectively diagnosed large vessel vasculitis from a secondary centre which provides services to a stable large population in the East of England. The incidence of GCA rose with the establishment of a fast-track pathway and its peak may have been affected by the SARS-COV2 pandemic. GCA is commoner in females and peaks in the 6th and 9th decades.

**REFERENCES:**

Table 1. Incidence of GCA by age, gender and year using the ACR 1990 criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of cases</th>
<th>Incidence (per 100000 in age &gt;50)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th decade</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th decade</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th decade</td>
<td>109</td>
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<td>9th decade</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th decade</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year of diagnosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>43</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>27</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


**AB0703**

TOWARDS TREAT-TO-TARGET PATIENT CENTRED CARE: DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL DISEASE SPECIFIC PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOME MEASURES QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

**Keywords:** Remission, Patient reported outcomes, Vasculitis

Y. El Miedany\(^1\), D. Palmer\(^2\), M. Toth\(^3\), M. Elgentaly\(^4\), S. Bahlas\(^5\), S. A. Mahran\(^6\), \(^{1}\)Norfolk, \(^{2}\)Medway, \(^{3}\)London, \(^{4}\)Washington, \(^{5}\)London, \(^{6}\)King’s College London - Darent Valley Hospital, General Medicine, Dartford; \(^{1}\)Submitted for publication; \(^{2}\)Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Community and Public health, Cairo, Egypt; \(^{3}\)King Abdul Aziz University, Rheumatology, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; \(^{4}\)Faculty of Medicine - Assiut University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Assiut, Egypt; \(^{5}\)Faculty of Medicine - Tanta University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Tanta, Egypt; \(^{6}\)Faculty of Medicine Benha University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Benha, Egypt; \(^{7}\)Faculty of Medicine Alexandria University, Rheumatology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Alexandria, Egypt

**Background:** Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) is the commonest form of systemic vasculitis in people over the age of 50. In 2017, the OMERACT Vasculitis Working Group published a core set of domains and outcome measures for use in clinical trials in large vessel vasculitis [1] and highlighted the lack of a disease-specific patient reported outcomes (PROs) for GCA. The OMERACT group proposed a draft core set of domains for GCA, including disease specific domains, organ and arterial function, psychosocial impact and physical function biomarkers, fatigue, pain, as well as death.

**Objectives:** To assess the validity, reliability and responsiveness to change of a patient self-reported questionnaire to assess for the construct outcome measures, co-morbidities and the impact of GCA and its treatment on health-related quality of life in GCA patients.

**Methods:** The PROMs-GCA was conceptualized based on frameworks used by the WHO Quality of Life tool and the PROMIS. Initially, cognitive interviews were conducted to identify item pool of questions. Item selection and reduction was achieved based on patients as well as an interdisciplinary group of specialists. Rasch and internal consistency reliability analyses were implemented. The questionnaire included the GCA specific physical and psychological symptoms, sense of self, symptoms severity using numerical visual analogue scale (0-10) in addition to assessment of functional disability, quality of life (QOL), review of the systems, glucocorticoids benefit:risks, comorbidities as well as motivation [2]. In addition, every patient completed HAQ and EQ-5D questionnaires.

**Results:** A total of 52 GCA patients completed the questionnaire. The PROMs-GCA questionnaire was reliable as demonstrated by a high standardized alpha (0.8670-941). Content construct assessment of the PROMs-GCA/functional disability and QOL revealed significant correlation (p < 0.01) with both HAQ and EQ-5D. Changes in functional disability, QOL showed significant (p < 0.01) variation with diseases activity status in response to therapy.

**Conclusion:** The developed PROMs-GCA questionnaire is a reliable and valid instrument for assessment of patients living with GCA. A phased treatment regimen depending on the severity of GCA as well as the patient's preferences and comorbidities are the best approach to tailored patient management.

**REFERENCES:**

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1107

**AB0704**

EVALUATION OF THE OF THE 2022 ACR/EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR GCA IN A GERMAN PATIENT COHORT

**Keywords:** Diagnostic tests, Ultrasound, Vasculitis

R. Bernge\(^1\), P. Schultz\(^2\), J. Friedrich\(^3\), \(^{1}\)Klinikum der Stadt Ludwigshafen am Rhein gGmbH, Medizinische Klinik A, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany; \(^{2}\)Klinikum der Stadt Ludwigshafen am Rhein gGmbH, Zentrum für diagnostische und interventionelle Radiologie, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany
Background: In 2022, the ACR and the EULAR proposed new classification criteria for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA). While the previous classification criteria from 1990 were based on clinical and histological findings only, the new classification criteria also consider several types of imaging.

Objectives: To assess and compare the sensitivity and specificity of the ACR 1990 (1990CC) and the ACR/EULAR-2022 classification criteria (2022CC) for GCA.

Methods: In a retrospective analysis, we classified 210 patients (33 % males, median age 68 years) with suspected GCA according to the 1990CC and 2022CC. All patients attended the Klinikum Lüdwigshafen between 2018 and 2022 and were examined with either ultrasound, MRI, or PET-CT. The results were compared with the final clinical diagnosis made by the attending physician.

Results: Of 210 patients under consideration, 94 had GCA. Of these 94 patients, 54 met the 1990CC, while 90 met the 2022CC (Table 1). Of the 116 non-GCA patients, 110 did not meet the 1990CC and 112 did not meet the 2022CC, amounting to a sensitivity and specificity of 0.57 and 0.96 for the 1990CC versus 0.96 and 0.97 for the 2022CC, respectively (Table 1). Overall, the correct classification proportion was 0.78 for the 1990CC and 0.96 for the 2022CC (Table 1). It was noticeable that 21 GCA patients had no cranial symptoms like temporal headache, jaw claudication, or striking temporal arteries. 18 of these patients were correctly classified by the 2022CC, but all of them were misclassified by the 1990CC. Moreover, 81 of 94 patients showed a typical ultrasound halo in at least one vessel section, which increased the sensitivity of the 2022CC.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrate that the inclusion of imaging methods increase the sensitivity of the 2022CC compared with the 1990CC, while the specificity of > 0.95 remains similar. The 1990CC were primarily developed for the classification of giant cell temporal arteritis, causing a frequent misclassification of patients with isolated extracranial large vessel vasculitis. Moreover, the 1990CC classified GCA patients without cranial symptoms only accurately in case of a positive temporal biopsy.

Table 1. Sensitivity and specificity of the 1990-ACR-Classification Criteria and 2022-ACR/EULAR-Classification criteria for GCA compared with the final clinical diagnosis of GCA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical diagnosis</th>
<th>Clinical Diagnosis</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>Correctly classified proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>positive</td>
<td>positive</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positive</td>
<td>negative</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positive</td>
<td>negative</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positive</td>
<td>negative</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positive</td>
<td>negative</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positive</td>
<td>negative</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Raoul Bergner Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai, Glaxo Smith Kline, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Consultant of: Galapagos, Vifor, Patricia Schulz: None declared, Julian Friedrich: None declared.

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Background: Cluster analysis is a data-driven approach to identify natural patterns of disease which may help better understand the phenotype of Takayasu arteritis (TAK), a rare large vessel vasculitis.

Objectives: From a retrospective cohort of TAK, agglomerative hierarchical clustering using Ward method was performed using clinical features. Optimal number of clusters were identified using elbow method and silhouette method. The hitherto identified clusters were compared for differences in clinical features, vascular involvement, and Hata’s angiographic subtypes using odds ratios (OR, with 95% confidence intervals), and for survival (crude, using Kaplan-Meier curves; adjusted for gender and age of disease onset using Cox regression analyses) using STATA 16.1 I/C.

Results: Optimal number of clusters was two [Ward agglomerative coefficient 0.989; Cluster 1: 111 TAK, mean (SD) age 25.06 (9.97) years, 80.2% females; Cluster 2: 89 TAK, mean (SD) age 25.54 (10.38) years, 65.2% females]. Carotidynia, pulse or BP inequality, pulse loss, vascular bruits, upper limb claudication, lower limb claudication, and chest pain were more common in cluster 1, whereas, hypertension, renal failure, and stroke/TIA were more common in cluster 2 (Table 1). Involvement of subclavian and vertebral arteries, left vertebral, brachiocephalic, ascending aorta, arch of aorta, descending thoracic aorta, abdominal aorta, carotid, superior mesenteric, inferior mesenteric, left and right renal arteries were similar in both clusters. Hata’s angiographic subtype V was more common in cluster 1 (OR 0.45, 95%CI 0.25 – 0.80), whereas, subtype IV was more common in cluster 2 (OR 6.16, 95%CI 1.70 – 22.33). Over 687 person-years of follow-up (193 patients), cluster 1 had worse survival than cluster 2 (log-rank test: 0.027, Figure 1), even after adjustment for gender and age of onset (adjusted Hazard ratio cluster 2 vs cluster 1 1.09, 95%CI 0.01 – 0.78).

Conclusion: Clinical features corresponded to vascular territories which were more common in cluster 1. Hypertension and renal failure were more common in cluster 2, which correspond to more frequent Hata’s subtype IV in this cluster. Clusters based on clinical features could predict well the patterns of vascular involvement. Higher adjusted mortality rate in cluster 1 requires validation in other cohorts of TAK.

Table 1. Clinical and angiographic involvement in the two clusters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical features</th>
<th>OR (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arterial involvement</td>
<td>OR (95%CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional</td>
<td>1.15 (0.66 – 2.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotidynia</td>
<td>0.18 (0.05 – 0.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptome/s/sizness/vertigo</td>
<td>0.64 (0.31 – 1.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke/TIA</td>
<td>11.04 (3.68 – 33.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision blurring or loss</td>
<td>1.76 (0.62 – 5.77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse loss</td>
<td>0.12 (0.06 – 0.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision loss</td>
<td>0.13 (0.07 – 0.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper limb claudication</td>
<td>0.09 (0.03 – 0.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower limb claudication</td>
<td>0.31 (0.14 – 0.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>2.75 (1.29 – 5.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aortic regurgitation</td>
<td>0.45 (0.12 – 1.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal failure</td>
<td>3.96 (1.37 – 11.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal angina</td>
<td>0.61 (0.15 – 2.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest pain</td>
<td>0.18 (0.05 – 0.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart failure</td>
<td>0.43 (0.16 – 1.15)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier survival curve based on the clusters identified on clinical phenotypes

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3513

Keywords: Vasculitis, bDMARD

A. Herrera-Morant1, J. Loricera1, I. Ferraz-Amaro2, S. Castañeda3, C. Moriano1, J. Narváez2, V. Aldosoro3, O. Maiz2, R. Melero3, I. Villa-Blanco4, P. Vela-Casasempere5, S. Romero-Yuste5, J. L. Callejas-Rubio5, E. De Miguel6, E. Galindo-Agirregolazu4, F. Sivera7, C. Fernández-López8, C. Galisteo9, J. J. Sanchez-Martín10, M. Calderón-Gorecke1, L. Sanchez-Bilbao1, J. L. Hernández1, R. Blanco1, Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology and Internal Medicine, Santander, Spain; Hospital Universitario de Canarias, Rheumatology, La Laguna, Spain; Hospital de La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; University Hospital of León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; Hospital de Bellvitge, Rheumatology, L’Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain; Navarra Hospital Complex - Navarra Hospital, Rheumatology, Pamplona, Spain; Donostia Unibertsitate Ospitalea, Rheumatology, Donostia, Spain; Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Vigo, Rheumatology, Vigo, Spain; Síerra Nevada Hospital, Rheumatology, Torrevieja, Spain; General University Hospital of Alicante, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Pontevedra, Rheumatology, Pontevedra, Spain; Hospital Universitario Clínico San Cecilio, Rheumatology, Granada, Spain.
Background: Tocilizumab (TCZ) is the only biologic therapy approved for giant cell arteritis (GCA). Clinical trials with TCZ in GCA was performed with intravenous (iv) TCZ in a phase 2 trial [1], and with subcutaneous (sc) TCZ in the phase 3 GIACTA [2]. There is general agreement on the initial maintenance dose, but duration of TCZ therapy is not well established. In GIACTA trial, after one year on TCZ, most patients had GCA relapse after withdrawal.

Objectives: To assess the predictive factors of relapse in GCA in a clinical practice scenario.

Methods: Multicentre observational study of 471 patients with GCA. The diagnosis of GCA was performed between 2016 and 2021 according to: a) ACR criteria, and/or b) temporal artery biopsy, and/or c) imaging techniques. Relapse was defined according to EULAR consensus definition [3].

From the 471 patients, we selected the patients who had available the data on relapse during follow-up. Multivariable study was conducted to identify the best set of predictors for the appearance of a relapse.

Results: GCA relapses were observed in 63 of 405 (15%) patients for whom such data was available (Table 1). No significant differences were observed between the two groups in demographic, clinical and laboratory characteristics or in prednisone dose at initiation of TCZ. The set of variables associated with GCA relapses were prior use of synthetic conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (sDMARDs), use of iv TCZ, shorter time on TCZ therapy and optimization of TCZ dose (Figure 1).

Conclusion: GCA relapse seems related mainly to TCZ schedule and was associated with iv TCZ, and a shorter treatment time and optimization.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Main features of the patients with GCA according to relapses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>No relapsing GCA</th>
<th>Relapsing GCA</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at GCA diagnosis (mean±SD)</td>
<td>72.8±9</td>
<td>70.9±9</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women/Men (% de women)</td>
<td>246/96 (72)</td>
<td>247/15 (75)</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenotype</td>
<td>152 (44)</td>
<td>3 (18)</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cGCA</td>
<td>62 (19)</td>
<td>12 (18)</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mixGCA</td>
<td>128 (37)</td>
<td>23 (34)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular risk factors</td>
<td>212 (60)</td>
<td>21 (30)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia, n (%)</td>
<td>193 (57)</td>
<td>33 (53)</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes, n (%)</td>
<td>63 (19)</td>
<td>12 (19)</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous or current smoking history, n (%)</td>
<td>33 (10)</td>
<td>9 (14)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic manifestations</td>
<td>189 (55)</td>
<td>36 (58)</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaw claudication, n (%)</td>
<td>189 (55)</td>
<td>36 (58)</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic manifestations</td>
<td>10 (3)</td>
<td>10 (3)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional syndrome, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PmR, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (3)</td>
<td>10 (3)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>10 (3)</td>
<td>10 (3)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/1a hora, median [IQR]</td>
<td>36 [14-56]</td>
<td>36 [14-56]</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL), median [IQR]</td>
<td>1.6 [0.3-3.0]</td>
<td>1.6 [0.3-3.0]</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous treatment</td>
<td>171 (50)</td>
<td>53 (82)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sDMARDs, n (%)</td>
<td>171 (50)</td>
<td>53 (82)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
<td>6 (1)</td>
<td>&gt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone dose (mg/day), median [IQR]</td>
<td>20 (10-40)</td>
<td>20 (10-30)</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCZ</td>
<td>27 (18-43)</td>
<td>27 (18-43)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Forest plot of the multivariable analysis.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Alba Herrero-Morant: None declared, J. Loricera Speakers bureau: Roche, Novartis. UCB Pharma, MSD, Celygen, and Grünenthal, Iván Ferraz-Amaro: None declared, Santos Castañeda: None declared, Clara Moriano: None declared, J. Narváez: None declared, Vicente Aldasoro: None declared, Olga Maiz: None declared, Rafael Melero: None declared, Ignacio Villla-Blanco: None declared, Paloma Vélez-Casasempere: None declared, Susana Romero-Yuste: None declared, Jose Luis Callejas-Rubio: None declared, Eugenio de Miguel: None declared, E. Galíndez-Agirregoxoa Speakers bureau: Celgene, Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, MSD, Janssen, and Bristol. Francisco Sivera: None declared, Carlos Fernández-López: None declared, Carles Galisteo: None declared, Julio Sanchez-Martín: None declared, Monica Calderón-Goercke: None declared, Lara Sanchez-Bilbao: None declared, J. Luis Hernández: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos and MSD, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Novartis and Roche.

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AB0708

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND POLYMIALGIA RHEUMATICA RISK: A MENDelian RANDOMIZATION STUDY

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Non-pharmacological interventions, Genomics/epigenetics

Y. Chen1, Z. Jing1,2, Q. Feng1,2, Y. Feng1,2, Q. Yu1,2, R. F. He1, X. L. Zhang1,2,4, X. Zhang1,2,4,1 Shaxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microbiology, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 2Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 3Shaxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 4The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China

Background: Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) is a chronic inflammatory disorder characterized by pain and long-term morning stiffness of the neck, shoulders, hips, upper arms, and thighs [1]. Prolonged unaccustomed exercise involving muscle lengthening (eccentric) movements can lead to ultrastructural muscle destruction, impaired excitation-contraction coupling, inflammation, and muscle protein degradation to produce muscle pain [2]. This muscle pain due to exercise may be associated with muscle pain in PMR.

Objectives: This study aims to discover whether physical activity affects PMR. Methods: We obtained GWAS data for sedentary: Time spent watching television (n=91,084), time spent using a computer (n=360,895), and time spent driving (n=310,555). Types of physical activity included moderate physical activity 10+ minutes (n=440,266), vigorous physical exercise 10+ minutes (n=440,512), tachometer-based physical activity, Vigorous physical activity, and moderate to vigorous physical activity (UK Biobank). GWAS of PMR included 213,145 European individuals. Single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that were independent (p < 5×10-8, FDR 0.05) were selected as instrumental variables. The inverse-variance weighted (IVW) method was the primary method, to evaluate the causal association. The weighted median, and MR-Egger were applied for further MR analysis. Cochran’s Q test, MR-Egger intercept analysis, the funnel plot, and the leave-one-out analysis were used for sensitivity analysis.

Results: There was an inverse association between time spent using a computer with PMR (IVW OR: 0.32, 95% CI: 0.15–0.70, p = 0.004). No directional pleiotropy was revealed by the MR-Egger intercept analysis (p = 0.797). On the flip side, tachometer-based physical activity, vigorous physical activity, moderate to vigorous physical activity, moderate physical activity 10+ minutes, vigorous physical activity 10+ minutes, time spent watching TV (TV), and driving time were not associated with PMR (p>0.05). (Figure 1)
**Table 1. Current series and literature review of patients with GCA treated with JAKI.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Mean age JAKI</th>
<th>Previous csDMARDs</th>
<th>Previous bDMARDs</th>
<th>Follow-up (months), mean±SD</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herlity, Br J Haematol. 2019</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Ruxolitinib</td>
<td>Methotrexate, M ycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prigent, Clin Nucl Med. 2021</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Baricitinib</td>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>Tocilizumab</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camelino, Ann Rheum Dis.2022</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Baricitinib (3)</td>
<td>Methotrexate (2), Hydroxychloroquine (1), Sulfasalazine (1), Ciclosporine (1), Methotrexate (2), Ciclosporine (1)</td>
<td>Tocilizumab (2)</td>
<td>8.5±4.9; Missing data (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koster, Ann Rheum Dis. 2021</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>Baricitinib (15)</td>
<td>Methotrexate (2), Hydroxychloroquine (3), Leflunomide (1)</td>
<td>Sirukumab (1)</td>
<td>11.3±2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanada. Rheumatology (Oxford). 2022</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Upadacitinib</td>
<td>Sulfasalazine</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current series</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>Ruxolitinib (12), Tofacitinib (10), Upadacitinib (10)</td>
<td>Methotrexate (19), Hydroxychloroquine (3), Leflunomide (1)</td>
<td>Tocilizumab (28), Sartumab (2), Abatacept (8), Adalimumab (1), Ustekinumab (1)</td>
<td>9.2±7.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References:**

**Abbreviations:** csDMARDs, conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; bDMARDs, biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; JAKI, JAK inhibitor.

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**Conclusion:**
Computer time spent is a protective factor for PRM. Conversely, excessive exercise may be a risk factor, providing new insights into the pathogenesis of PRM.

**Methods:**
Real-world, retrospective clinical practice study of patients with GCA treated with JAKI. Outcomes assessed included disease relapse and safety. A literature search for other JAKI-treated GCA cases was conducted in PubMed, Embase and the Cochrane library from inception to 12/31/2022. We compared results of the previous baricitinib study [1] and the baricitinib patients in our series.

**Results:**
We present 32 patients (27 females [84%], mean age 72.4 years, relapsing disease 32 [100%]) that received JAKI. The initial JAKI was baricitinib (n=12), tofacitinib (n=10) and upadacitinib (n=10) (Table 1 and Figure 1). After a median [IQR] follow-up of 6 [3-15] months, 23 (72%) achieved and maintained remission, and 9 (28%) remained in disease activity. The patients failing the initial JAKI were switched to an alternative [JAKI (n=4) or to another immunosuppressant (n=5)]. The literature review identified another 21 GCA patients (17 females, mean age 74.2 years) treated with JAKI, mostly with baricitinib (n=18). Most of these patients benefited from JAKI therapy (Table 1). Patients in our series receiving baricitinib had longer disease duration (median [IQR] 36 [24-48] months, vs 9 [7-21] months; p=0.001) and had received biologics (83% vs 6.7%; p<0.001) less frequently than those in the previous baricitinib study [1]. Remaining baseline features were similar.

**Conclusion:**
This real-world analysis suggests that JAKI could be effective in GCA, including patients failing other immunosuppressive therapies. The results of an ongoing phase 3 randomized controlled trial are awaited to confirm or rule out this observation.

**References:**
Background: Treatment of patients with Takayasu arteritis (TAK) is challenging in patients with refractory TAK.

Objectives: To assess the efficacy and safety of tofacitinib in Indian patients with TAK.

Methods: In this retrospective study, medical records of consecutive patients with TAK being treated with either originator or generic tofacitinib at 4 centres in India were studied. Details regarding demographics, clinical presentation, disease duration, Indian Takayasu Activity score (ITAS), laboratory markers angiography treatment and response to treatment were recorded. The disease was considered active if the patient had evidence of activity in any two of the following three domains: new clinical symptoms as evidenced by ITAS >1; persistently raised C-reactive protein (CRP) for 2 consecutive visits; new areas of arterial wall thickening or active uptake in angiography or 18FDG PET-CT respectively. Good response was defined as the absence of activity in at least 2 of the 3 above-mentioned domains. In contrast, presence of carotid or any new areas of arterial narrowing were considered as standalone indicators of disease activity. In the absence of follow up imaging, a rise in CRP from baseline visit on 2 consecutive occasions was also considered as active disease. The data is presented as mean± SD or median (Interquartile range) according to distribution of data. Fisher’s exact test or Mann Whitney test was used to compare the parameters between patients with good response and no response to treatment.

Results: Twenty-seven patients (24, 88.9% females; age 30.4 ± 8.13 years) with median disease duration 48 (20-72) months were included. At diagnosis, 13 (48.1%), 6 (22.2%), 15 (55.6%) and 7 (25.9%) patients presented with constitutional symptoms, carotidynia, ischemia features and aortic regurgitation respectively. Four patients discontinued the drug due to side effects while one patient had sudden death within 3 months of initiation on tofacitinib.

Conclusion: The response to tofacitinib was modest in Indian patients with difficult to treat TAK. Further multi-ethnic studies are required to ascertain its effectiveness in TAK.

REFERENCES:

AB0710

MIXED RESPONSE TO TOFACITINIB IN INDIAN PATIENTS WITH REFRACTORY TAKAYASU ARTERITIS: A MULTI-CENTER STUDY

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Vasculitis

R. Goel1, P. Vasanth2, S. Padiyaru1, R. Aithala3, A. Patil4, A. Jain5, B. Pinto6, R. Jois7, J. Mathew1, D. Danda1, G. Joseph8.

Figure 1. Flow chart of the 32 GCA patients treated with JAKInhibition.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0711

VASCULAR CALCIFICATIONS IN LARGE VESSEL VASCULITIS

Keywords: Imaging, Vasculitis

C. Marvici1, R. Fari2, G. Besutti3, L. Spaggiari2, P. Mancuso3, F. Muratore4, E. Galli5, P. Pattacini6, C. Salvarran1.* Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology Department; Reggio Emilia, Italy; 2Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Radiology Department; Reggio Emilia, Italy; 3Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Epidemiology Department, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Background: Arterial wall calcifications are a hallmark of atherosclerosis and represent an important cardiovascular risk factor. Accelerated atherosclerosis and vascular calcifications have been reported in large vessel vasculitis (LVV), but data are scarce about the amount and localizations [1].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to compare the prevalence, amount, and local distribution of arterial wall calcification evaluated on CT scan in LVVs versus lymphoma patients matched for age, sex, and year of diagnosis.

Methods: All consecutive patients diagnosed at our institution with LVVs from 2007 to 2018 with an available baseline PET-CT scan were included. Lymphoma patients were matched based on age, sex, and year of baseline PET-CT. CT images derived from baseline PET-CT scans of both patient groups were retrospectively reviewed by a single radiologist who, after setting a threshold of minimum 130 HU, semi-automatically computed vascular calcifications in three separate sites (coronaries, thoracic and abdominal arteries), quantified as Agatston, volume and mass scores. Calcifications in the two groups were compared for each site by using paired T-test. The effect of patient group was evaluated on the prevalence of calcifications in each site by means of adjusted conditional logistic regressions, and on the score of thoracic calcifications by means of adjusted regression.

Results: 258 patients were enrolled, including Takayasu’s arteritis n=57, giant cell arteritis n=72 and lymphoma n=129. Thoracic artery calcifications were more represented in LVV patients, when compared with lymphoma patients (mean volume 2026 in LVVs vs 1014 in lymphomas, p=0.054). Coronary calcifications were higher in lymphoma patients (mean volume 104 in LVVs and 198 in lymphomas, p=0.13), whereas abdominal artery calcifications were equally distributed (mean volume 3220 in LVVs and 2712 in lymphomas). A diagnosis of LVV was associated with the presence of thoracic calcifications after adjusting by age and year of diagnosis (OR=4.13, 95% CI=1.35-12.66; p=0.013), and with the volume score in the thoracic arteries (p=0.048).

Conclusion: When compared with lymphoma patients matched by age, sex, and year of diagnosis, LVV patients have higher calcification in the thoracic arteries, but not in coronary and abdominal arteries.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0712

INFLUENCE OF GLUCOCORTICOID THERAPY ON TEMPORAL ARTERY BIOPSY. EXPERIENCE IN A REFERRAL HOSPITAL

Keywords: Best practices, Vasculitis, Tapering

J. Sanchez-Martín1, J. Medina-Del Valle1, J. Loricer1, C. Gonzalez-Vela1, M. F. Garcia-Reija1, R. Blanco1.*Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, University of Cantabria, Santander, Spain, Rheumatology, Santander;
Background: The relationship between corticosteroid (GCs) treatment prior to temporal artery biopsy (TAB) and a negative result in giant cell arteritis (GCA) is controversial.

Objectives: To assess whether cumulative GCs dose and time of steroid exposure influence in TAB result.

Methods: Observational study of 191 patients diagnosed with GCA from a clinical practice of a referral center between January 2016 and December 2022 who underwent TAB. The diagnosis of GCA was made according to a) ACR criteria, and/or b) temporal artery biopsy, and/or c) EULAR/ACR2022 criteria, and/or d) imaging techniques. The biopsies were transversally sectioned into pieces and were cut from paraffin blocks and stained with hematoxylin-eosin. A comparative study between patients with positive TAB and those with negative TAB was performed.

Results: The 191 GCA patients were divided into 2 subgroups: a) patients with positive TAB (n=52), and b) patients with negative TAB (n=139) (Table 1) of whom 26 (13.6%) had not received prior corticosteroid therapy versus 165 (86.4%) patients who did. Patients with positive TAB had more frequently visual symptoms and/or jaw/lingual claudication, while polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) was less frequent. The median dose [interquartile range (IQR)] of the negative TAB group was 40 [25-40] mg/day and also 40 [35-60] mg/day in the positive TAB group. The median duration [IQR] of treatment in the first group was 11 [4-24] days, while in the second group it was 7 [3-13] days. The percentage of positive TAB was higher the shorter the delay between GCs treatment onset and the TAB, decreasing after 15 days from GCs therapy onset.

Table 1. Main characteristics of patients with GCA according to biopsy result.

| Age (years), mean±SD | 77±8 | 74.2±10 | 0.11 |
| Sex, female/male (% females) | 28/24 (54) | 92/47 (66) | 0.12 |
| Length of TAB (mm), mean±SD | 17±6 | 16.±6 | 0.36 |
| Number of biopsy slices, mean±SD | 29±7 | 28±7 | 0.44 |
| Ischemic manifestations, n (%) | Headache | 45 (87) | 107 (77) | 0.15 |
| Abnormal examination of TA | 30 (58) | 61 (44) | 0.06 |
| Visual symptoms | 32 (62) | 44 (32) | <0.001 |
| Jaw/lingual claudication | 21 (40) | 107 (77) | 0.15 |
| Systemic manifestations, n (%) | PmR | 20 (38) | 93 (67) | <0.001 |
| Fever | 7 (13) | 20 (14) | 0.50 |

Dose (mg/day), median [IQR] 40 [25-40] 40 [25-40] 0.053
Cumulative dose (mg), median [IQR] 760 ± [360-2185] 484 ± [225-1295] 0.36
Time (days) from GC onset and TAB, median [IQR] 7± [3-13] 11± [4-24] 0.13

Conclusion: Longer exposure to GCs increases the likelihood of a negative TAB, especially in patients who did. Patients with positive TAB had more frequently visual symptoms and/or jaw/lingual claudication, while polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) was less frequent. The median dose [interquartile range (IQR)] of the negative TAB group was 40 [25-40] mg/day and also 40 [35-60] mg/day in the positive TAB group. The median duration [IQR] of treatment in the first group was 11 [4-24] days, while in the second group it was 7 [3-13] days. The percentage of positive TAB was higher the shorter the delay between GCs treatment onset and the TAB, decreasing after 15 days from GCs therapy onset.

Figure 1. Positivity of TAB according to time from GC onset and TAB. 164 patients were treated with GCs prior TAB. All data are in % (n).
AB0714 CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND RISK FACTORS ANALYSIS IN PATIENTS OF TA WITH CORONARY ARTERY CALCIFICATION

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Vasculitis
S. Yang1, L. Pan1, 2Beijing Anzhen Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing, Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Takayasu arteritis (TA) is a chronic inflammatory disease mainly involving large vessels, including the aorta and its main branches, pulmonary arteries and coronary arteries, which can usually lead to stenosis, occlusion, expansion, or aneurysm formation of the affected vessels [1-2]. Studies have shown that 10-20% of patients with TA have coronary lesions detected by angiography. In fact, this situation is still underestimated, because most TA patients do not complete the coronary angiography examination due to the lack of cardiac symptoms, such as palpitations and chest pain [3]. Coronary artery involvement is a serious adverse factor of poor prognosis and increases mortality in TA patients, specifically showing coronary artery stenosis, occlusion, and coronary artery calcification (cac) [4]. Patients with high coronary calcification scores have an extensive coronary plaque burden, with a high risk of stress-induced ischemic events [5].

Objectives: The aim of our study is to investigate the risk factors of cac in TA patients.

Methods: This retrospective study enrolled a total of 120 TA patients. All patients were divided into two groups according to the absence or presence of cac in TA patients (90 vs 30). We measured the Agatston score and compare clinical characteristics and ancillary findings between the two groups. A logistic model was applied to determine the risk factors associated with the incidence of cac in TA patients.

Results: A total of 30 patients with TA (25%) had cac. Age, medical history of hypertension and type of Numano V are the independent risk factors for developing cac in TA patients [OR (95% CI)]. 0.080 (1.020-1.143), p = 0.008; 5.457 [1.818-16.379], p = 0.002; 7.827 [1.822-33.615], p = 0.006. However it's not associated with disease activity and clinical symptom. We counted the number of risk factors for each patient and measured the integral value of the cac, and found that the integral value of cac increased with the number of risk factors. We also counted the medication status of patients before admission, and found that patients with cac had a greater proportion of statin (50% vs. 28.9%), fibrate (20% vs. 7.1%), and found that the integral value of cac increased with the number of risk factors.

Conclusion: Age, hypertension and Numano V type are risk factors for developing cac in TA patients. It is recommended that arterial coronar scree n in TA patients with Numano V type should be actively treated as early as possible. The severity of cac will increase with the number of risk factors, and TA patients should be actively treated and strictly controlled with blood pressure levels.

REFERENCES
[4] A total of 30 patients with TA (25%) had cac. Age, medical history of hypertension and type of Numano V are the independent risk factors for developing cac in TA patients [OR (95% CI)]. 0.080 (1.020-1.143), p = 0.008; 5.457 [1.818-16.379], p = 0.002; 7.827 [1.822-33.615], p = 0.006. However it's not associated with disease activity and clinical symptom. We counted the number of risk factors for each patient and measured the integral value of the cac, and found that the integral value of cac increased with the number of risk factors.

Conclusion: Age, hypertension and Numano V type are risk factors for developing cac in TA patients. It is recommended that arterial coronary screen in TA patients with Numano V type should be actively treated as early as possible. The severity of cac will increase with the number of risk factors, and TA patients should be actively treated and strictly controlled with blood pressure levels.

REFERENCES

Table 1. Logistics regression analysis of risk factors in TA patients with cac.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.080 (1.020, 1.143)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>0.998 (0.994, 1.003)</td>
<td>0.506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>5.457 (1.818, 16.379)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperlipidemia</td>
<td>2.447 (0.489, 2.422)</td>
<td>0.187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numano V</td>
<td>7.827 (1.822, 33.615)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP difference</td>
<td>1.868 (0.624, 5.911)</td>
<td>0.264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1125

AB0715 THE LONG-TERM PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF THE “2022 ACR/EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR TAKAYASU ARTERITIS” DATA FROM A LARGE MONOCENTRIC COHORT

Keywords: Vasculitis, Real-world evidence, Prognostic factors
A. Tomelleri1, C. Campochiaro1, E. Rinaldi1, N. Viapiana1, E. Baldissera1, L. Dagni1, IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy

Background: The ‘2022 classification criteria’ for Takayasu arteritis (TAK) have been developed for the purpose of classifying patients with TAK. These criteria provide a score from 0 to 22; a score ≥5 allows to classify a patient.

Objectives: To investigate whether the ‘2022 classification criteria’ score correlates with long-term outcomes of patients with TAK.

Methods: Data of patients with TAK followed up for ≥1 year and evaluated at least once within the last year at our Vasculitis Clinic were reviewed. For each patient, the score provided by the “2022 classification criteria” at baseline was calculated and the following outcomes at 24, 60, 120 months were evaluated: glucocorticoid (GC) suspension, introduction of a conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (cDMARD), introduction of a biologic DMARD (bDMARD), need for vascular procedure, total number of bDMARDs received. Correlation of these outcomes with the score and with different thresholds (scores ≥5, ≥6, ≥7) was evaluated. Statistical tests were performed as appropriate.

Results: 120 TAK patients were included (103 women, 87.3%); mean follow-up duration was 154±113.8 months (24 months, n=110, 60 months, n=88, 120 months, n=60). Mean age at diagnosis was 37±13.6 years. 112 patients (93%) were classified as having TAK (mean score, 9.5±3). Seven patients (5.8%) were only treated with GC; 110 patients (91%) received at least one cDMARD (mean, 1.6±1); after a mean of 33±6.11 months, 80 patients (66.7%) received at least one bDMARD (mean, 1.2±1.5), after a mean of 40.1±6.45 months. GCs were suspended in 44 patients (36.7%), after a mean of 102.3±93.7 months. Forty-four patients (36.7%) underwent at least one vascular procedure (mean, 0.9±1.5). No significant correlation between the five outcomes and the score was found at all three timepoints (Table 1). No significant correlation between GC suspension, introduction of a cDMARD or a bDMARD, need for a vascular procedure and a score ≥5, ≥6, or ≥7 was found at all three timepoints (Table 1). A significant correlation between the total number of bDMARDs received at 120 months and both scores ≥6 and ≥7 was found (1.3±1.5 vs 0.6±0.8, p=0.045, and 1.3±0.6 vs 0.6±0.7, p=0.035, respectively).

Conclusion: Although the “2022 classification criteria for TAK” do not seem to correlate with the long-term prognosis, in our cohort we found that a higher base-line score (≥6) is associated with a higher number of bDMARDs received during follow-up. This suggests that the score might allow to identify TAK patients with a higher risk of poor prognosis and increases mortality in TA patients, specifically showing coronary artery stenosis, occlusion, and coronary artery calcification (cac).

Table 1. Correlations between baseline score and long-term outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>24 months (n=110)</th>
<th>60 months (n=88)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GC suspension</td>
<td>9.6±2.5 vs 10.3±1</td>
<td>9.8±3.2 vs 10.1±3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD introduction</td>
<td>0.29 vs 0.53</td>
<td>0.89 vs 0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARD introduction</td>
<td>0.29 vs 0.53</td>
<td>0.89 vs 0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular procedure</td>
<td>0.29 vs 0.53</td>
<td>0.89 vs 0.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6029

Scientific Abstracts
a more refractory disease. These preliminary data need to be replicated in larger cohorts.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1755

AB0716 CLINICAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH VASCULAR COMPLICATIONS (ANEURYSMS, THROMBOSIS, DISSECTION OR SURGERY) IN PATIENTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Real-world evidence, Imaging

H. Codes-Mendez1, P. Moya1,2,3, H. Park1, A. Fernandez4, M. Velasco Nuñez4, B. Magallares3,1, A. J. Barros-Membrillo3,5, L. Sainz Comas1, C. Diaz-Torejó1, J. L. Tandaipán1, S. P. Fernandez-Sanchez3, J. F. Dilme2,6, A. Laiz1, I. Castelvi1,3, H. Corominas1,3,7. 1Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 2Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Aortic Pathology Functional Unit, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Systemic Autoimmune Diseases Functional Unit, Barcelona, Spain; 4Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Nuclear Medicine, Barcelona, Spain; 5Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Cardiology, Barcelona, Spain; 6Hospital of the Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Angiology, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) typically affects cranial vessels, but it can also affect large vessels in a high percentage of patients. Vascular inflammation of the aorta and/or its main branches can cause complications of high morbidity and mortality such as aneurysms, dissection, thrombosis and/or require aortic surgery. The analysis of the different clinical and imaging patterns in patients with GCA and aortitis and their relationship with the prognosis requires more investigation. Early identification of patients with the highest risk of mortality could help predict deaths and vascular complications.

Objectives: To evaluate the clinical characteristics of patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA) who present vascular complications.

To evaluate prognostic factors associated with vascular complications in patients with GCA.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was carried out including patients diagnosed with GCA by a multidisciplinary expert committee in aortic pathologies. A total of 71 patients followed between the years 2011-2021 who had a PET-CT at onset before receiving treatment were included. Other causes of aortitis were excluded. Vascular complication was defined as the presence of aneurysm, dissection, thrombosis, or aortic surgery during the disease. Demographic, clinical, analytical and imaging variables were collected. A descriptive study of the sample and a groups comparison, according to the presence of vascular complication, was carried out. The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to test the normality of the variables. Univariate logistic regression was performed to assess predictive factors.

Results: A total of 71 patients were included, 73.2% were female and the mean age was 79.3 (±6.7) years. During the disease, 13 patients presented aortic vascular complication. Jaw claudication (p=0.014) were associated with a greater appearance of unknown origin, anemia and constitutional syndrome, and the use of glucocorticoids (p=0.035) was associated with the presence of vascular complication. The univariate analysis to identify predictive factors showed that anemia (OR: 0.11 [0.02-0.48], p=0.003) was a protective factor against the occurrence of vascular complication.

Conclusion: Occurrence of new vascular complications was observed in 18.3% of patients with GCA included in our study. Jaw claudication, fever of unknown origin, anemia and constitutional syndrome, and the use of pulses glucocorticoids as treatment were associated with a greater appearance of complications, while ischemic stroke with fewer complications. Anemia proved to be a protective factor against the occurrence of vascular complications.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1823

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of patients according to the presence or not of vascular complication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complication (n=13)</th>
<th>No complication (n=58)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCA Classification (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranial</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracranial</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>56.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical presentation (%)</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>30.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaw claudication</td>
<td>84.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmologic signs</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalp tenderness</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever of unknown origin</td>
<td>76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymyalgia rheumatic</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional syndrome</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complications at onset (%)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aortic surgery</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic stroke</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular complication</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV pulse GC mg/kg/d</td>
<td>46.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1: Characteristics of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>all patient</th>
<th>GCA</th>
<th>mimic</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (yrs)</td>
<td>76.5</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>0.0113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>76.5</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>0.3724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranial type (%)</td>
<td>30.4 (17/56)</td>
<td>100(17/17)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV type (%)</td>
<td>10.18(5/46)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15.4(6/39)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranial + LV type (%)</td>
<td>30.16(5/46)</td>
<td>35.10(17/17)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular finding (%)</td>
<td>17.81(5/56)</td>
<td>29.45(17/17)</td>
<td>12.85(3/39)</td>
<td>0.136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMR (%)</td>
<td>39.32(5/56)</td>
<td>41.27(17/17)</td>
<td>38.51(3/39)</td>
<td>0.497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaw claudication (%)</td>
<td>17.91(5/56)</td>
<td>47.30(17/17)</td>
<td>5.12(2/39)</td>
<td>0.0202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache (%)</td>
<td>60.73(5/56)</td>
<td>76.51(17/17)</td>
<td>53.82(3/39)</td>
<td>0.484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporal</td>
<td>46.27(5/56)</td>
<td>54.71(17/17)</td>
<td>41.01(3/39)</td>
<td>0.3853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporoparietal</td>
<td>25.01(5/56)</td>
<td>58.31(17/17)</td>
<td>10.34(2/39)</td>
<td>0.0021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occipital</td>
<td>33.91(5/56)</td>
<td>35.36(17/17)</td>
<td>35.61(3/39)</td>
<td>0.372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max CRP (mg/dl)</td>
<td>6.92</td>
<td>7.92</td>
<td>6.92</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max ESR (mm/hr)</td>
<td>66.4</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>0.3727</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results: After IL-6 stimulation, we found a lowered proportion of pSTAT3 in CD4+ memory T-cells of GCA patients and INF controls compared to HCs. In GCA patients, proportion of pSTAT3 in CD4+ memory T cells was negatively associated with ESR at diagnosis (p=0.001, r=-0.729). Considering the link between IL-6 and ESR, we stratified GCA patients according to high (>15.5 pg/ mL) and low (≤1.5pg/mL) serum IL-6 levels and found that that the decrease in pSTAT3 in CD4+ memory T cells was especially found in GCA patients with high serum IL-6 levels. Importantly, we found that GCA patients with low ESR and high pSTAT3 at the time of diagnosis significantly predicted long-term glucocorticoid requirement. Levels of pSTAT3 in patients with high serum IL-6 levels at diagnosis normalized after 1 year of treatment.

Conclusion: We demonstrate a relation between serum IL-6 levels and in vitro pSTAT3 expression in GCA. Importantly, our results suggest that pSTAT3 can be an important prognostic marker in GCA.

Figure 1. A flowchart to diagnose c-GCA using v-US and imaging methods.
in 11, aneurysm in 4 and some other in 18. Thirteen patients (8 males and 5 females, mean age 59.69 years) showed positive aortic uptake. Among them, 6 patients underwent examination for a suspected vasculitis and 7 (53.8%) for other clinical conditions (e.g. neoplasm, FUO, polymyalgia rheumatica). Of all the patients who underwent 18FDG-PET for a suspected vasculitis, 7/25 (28%) showed abnormal vascular uptake. Moreover, among the 13 positive patients, three showed aortic uptake while the others also presented other large vessel involvement. Interestingly, in none of the isolated aortic vasculitis was the clinical question for the examination (arthritis, FUO, myocarditis).

Conclusion: the actual prevalence of aortic uptake may be underestimated and further wide-scale studies, which are currently ongoing, are expected to better identify the characteristics of CIA patients and their long-term course.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

The characteristics of CIA patients and their long-term course.

According to our results, 18FDG-PET may result positive despite the absence of clinical vasculitis-related manifestations, especially in case of CIA. For this reason, the actual prevalence of aortic uptake may be underestimated and further wide-scale studies, which are currently ongoing, are expected to better identify the characteristics of CIA patients and their long-term course.

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most common form of large vessel vasculitis. While remission and relapse are common primary endpoints in randomized clinical trials (RCTs), a definition of response is missing. We conducted a systematic literature review (SLR) to inform an international task force developing new response criteria in GCA.

Objectives: To identify descriptors used to measure response to treatment and change of disease activity in GCA in RCTs and longitudinal observational studies (LOS).

Methods: An SLR was conducted using Ovid Medline, Embase, and Cochrane Central. The research question was formulated according to the PICO framework: the population included patients with GCA, any intervention or comparator was considered, and the outcomes addressed were active disease, improvement/response, remission, worsening, relapse, flare, or recurrence. RCTs and LOS with >20 subjects and studies on qualitative research were included. Titles screening and full data extraction were performed by 2-3 reviewers. Discordant cases were discussed among reviewers until final consensus; if not achieved, a methodologist was consulted. In case of multiple publications from the same trial and LOS, they were only considered if separate, pre-specified outcomes were reported.

Results: 10,593 studies were retrieved in the search, of which 116 were finally included. The descriptors identified were incorporated in future phases of an international task force for the development of response criteria for GCA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, Catalina Sanchez-Alvarez: None declared, Milena Bond: None declared, Medha Soowamber: None declared, Dario Camellino: None declared, Melanie Anderson: None declared, Carol Langford Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, and Genentech., Christian Dejaco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Galapagos and Sanofi, Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Galapagos, Sparrow and Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Zai Bi Tuoma Consultant of: gsk, AstraZeneca, Lilly, Merck and Ucb, Sofia Ramiro Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, UCB.

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AB0721

CHARACTERISTICS AND LONG-TERM OUTCOME OF DISEASE PHENOTYPES IN TAKAYASU ARTERITIS WITH SUPRA-AORTIC INVOLVEMENT

Keywords: Vasculitis, Cardiovascular disease

Y. Sun1,2,3, L. Wang1, H. Chen1, X. Dai1, L. Ma1, X. Kong1, L. Jiang1,2
1Zhongshan Hospital Fudan University, Rheumatology, Shanghai, China

Background: Supra-aortic involvement was most commonly seen in Takayasu arteritis (TA), ranging from 40% to 84%. [1, 2]. The clinical manifestations were heterogeneous and prognosis differed greatly in TA with supra-aortic involvement [3, 4].

Objectives: To explore the characteristics and long-term outcomes in different phenotypes of the East China Takayasu arteritis (ECTA) cohort with supra-aortic involvement.

Methods: Patients with supra-aortic involvement were enrolled from the ongoing ECTA cohort from July 2009 to December 2021 and followed up until June 30, 2022. Patients were assigned to four phenotypes: asymptomatic (AS), constitutional symptoms (CSs), vascular-associated symptoms (VAs), and neurological severe ischemic events (SIEs). Pattern differences in clinical features were analyzed, and the cumulative incidence of severe adverse events (SAEs) was evaluated. We performed multiple logistic regression analysis to compare the phenotypes.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, C. Sanchez-Alvarez: None declared, M. Bond: None declared, M. Soowamber: None declared, D. Camellino: None declared, M. Anderson: None declared, C. Langford: None declared, Z. Touma: S. Ramiro: 1. University of Florida, Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Gainesville, United States of America; 2. Hospital of Brunico (SABES-ASDAA), Rheumatology, Brunico, Italy; 3. Mount Sinai Hospital, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; 4. University of Toronto, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; 5. Local Health Trust 3, Rheumatology, Genoa, Italy; 6. Mount Sinai Hospital, Education and Research, Toronto, Canada; 7. Cleveland Clinic, Rheumatology, Cleveland, United States of America; 8. Medical University of Graz, Rheumatology, Graz, Austria; 9. University of Toronto, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; 10. Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 11. Zuyderland MC, Rheumatology, Heerlen, Netherlands

Figure 1. Components assessed in the definitions of active disease, remission, improvement, and relapse across the included studies

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, M. Dejaco2,8, Z. Touma9, S. Ramiro10,11. 1University of Toronto, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Results: Six hundred fifty-seven TA patients with supra-aortic involvement were included: 54 (8.2%), 72 (11.0%), 303 (46.1%), and 228 (34.7%) patients with AS, CSs, VASs, and neurological SIEs, respectively. Compared to other phenotypes, CSs had significantly higher levels of inflammatory indicators. Neurological SIEs experienced poor treatment response including lower 6-month clinical remission rate and higher drug change rate. The median follow-up period was 3.0 (1.5–13.3) years. The 5-, and 10-year cumulative SAEs incidence rates in neurological SIEs (26.0% [18.7–32.1%], and 61.5% [30.3–78.7%]) were significantly higher than those in other patients (Figure 1). The occurrence of SAEs was 5.9 folds (3.4–10.1; p < 0.001) in patients with neurological SIEs history.

Conclusion: Our findings provide new insights into the characteristics and prognosis of different phenotypes in TA with supra-aortic involvement, which may be critical for early detection strategies and stratification management of heterogeneous diseases.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Cumulative incidence of severe adverse events based on different phenotypes in TA with supra-aortic involvement. The shaded area indicates the 95% confidence interval (CI). AS, significant SIEs history.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4291

AB0722 ULTRASOUND HALO COUNT IN THE DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND LARGE VESSEL GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Cardiovascular disease, Ultrasound

I. Monjo1, E. Fernández-Fernández2, J. M. Mostaza3, C. Lahoz2, J. Molina Collada1, E. De Miguel3, La Paz University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 1Hospital Carlos III, Internal Medicine, Madrid, Spain; 2Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most common vasculitis in the elderly and large vessel involvement occurs in up to 50% of cases. Otherwise, atherosclerosis is frequent in older patients; therefore, ultrasound (US) diagnosis of GCA in these patients may be challenging.

Objectives: To determine the diagnostic discriminant validity between large vessel giant cell arteritis (LV-GCA) and atherosclerosis using US with intima-media thickness (IMT) measurements.

Methods: We included 44 patients, paired by age and sex, with LV-GCA and 42 with high-risk atherosclerosis. US examinations of the axillary, subclavian and common carotid arteries (CCA) were systematically performed using a MylabX8 system (Genoa, Italy) with a 4-15 MHz probe. IMT ≥1mm was accepted as pathological.

Results: The LV-GCA cohort included 24 females and 20 males with a mean age of 72.8±6.7 years. The atherosclerosis group included 25 males and 17 females with a mean age of 70.8±6.5 years. Mean IMT values of all arteries included were significantly higher in LV-GCA than in atherosclerosis. The frequency and localization data are shown in Table 1. Among LV-GCA patients IMT ≥1mm was seen in 31 axillary, 30 subclavian and 28 CCA. In the atherosclerotic cohort, 17 (38.6%) had IMT ≥1mm with axillary involvement in 2 patients, subclavian in 3 patients, carotid distal in 14 patients (5 bilateral) and isolated carotid proximal affection in 1 case. A cut-off point of at least 1 pathological vessel in the summative count of axillary and subclavian arteries or at least 3 vessels in the count of six vessels, including CCA, showed a precision upper 95% for GCA diagnosis in front of atherosclerosis.

Conclusion: The IMT is higher in LV-GCA than in atherosclerosis. The proposed US halb count achieves an accuracy >95% for the differential diagnosis between LV-GCA and atherosclerosis. The axillary and subclavian arteries have higher discriminatory power, while carotid involvement is less specific in the differential diagnosis. "This study was presented in November 2022 at the ACR Convergence.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Number of arteries with intima-media thickness (IMT) ≥1 mm in GCA and atherosclerosis patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GCA (n=44)</th>
<th>Atherosclerosis (n=42)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Axillary</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subclavian</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Right</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Bilateral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Common Carotid Distal</strong></td>
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<td>Left</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bilateral</td>
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<td><strong>Common Carotid Proximal</strong></td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Any</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Irene Monjo Speakers bureau: Roche, Novartis, UCB, Gedeon, Richter, Consultant of: Roche, Elisa Fernández-Fernández: None declared, José María Mostaza: None declared, Carlos Lahoz: None declared, Juan Molina Collada: None declared, Eugenio de Miguel Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD, BMS, UCB, Roche, Grünenthal, Janssen,
Background: There are few studies comparing clinical, laboratory, and imaging characteristics, and treatment of LV-GCA and TAK [1-3].

Objectives: To compare clinical and imaging characteristics in patients with Takayasu arteritis (TAK) and large vessel-giant cell arteritis (LV-GCA) in an Italian population.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective monocenter study comparing characteristics and outcomes of a cohort of 59 patients with TAK and a cohort of 127 patients with LV-GCA diagnosed between 1996 and 2016 and followed up for at least 24 months at Reggio Emilia Hospital (Italy).

Results: LV-GCA patients had a higher prevalence of males (p=0.003), and more frequently presented with cranial symptoms (p=0.001), fever>38°C (p=0.007), polymyalgia rheumatica (p=0.001), and hypertension (p=0.001), and they had higher ESR levels at diagnosis (p=0.0001). Differently, TAK patients had longer delay to diagnosis from the beginning of symptoms (p=0.048), they presented more frequently with loss of pulses (p=0.0001), vascular bruits (p=0.001), limb claudication (p=0.003), myocardial infarction/angina (p=0.03), and hypertension induced by renal artery stenosis (p=0.001). Regarding treatment, TAK patients received a higher total and at 1 year cumulative prednisone doses (0.0001 and 0.001, respectively), they had a longer duration of prednisone therapy (p=0.008), and received during follow-up more frequently traditional immunosuppressants (p=0.0001) and biological agents (p=0.0001). Flares were more frequently observed in TAK patient (p=0.001), while no differences were observed for long-term remission. New vascular procedures during the follow-up were more frequently performed in TAK patients (p=0.0001). Regard-
Conclusion: Our study revealed persistent vascular uptake on repeated 18F FDG PET/CT scan in over 1/3 of LVV patients with clinical and biological con- trolled disease. The significance of this residual uptake and its prognostic value is currently unknown. Therefore the routine use of 18F FDG PET/CT alone in monitoring disease activity and treatment response may be not appropriate and therapy should not be modified based on scan results only. Further research is needed in order to place the correct use of imaging in the long term monitoring of LVV.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgement:
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0725
BARICITINIB FOR THE TREATMENT OF REFRACTORY VASCULAR BEHÇET’S DISEASE: A PILOT STUDY IN CHINA

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Vasculitis, Behçet's disease
Z. Wang1, X. Wang2, J. Liu1, L. Zhang1, W. Zheng1. 1Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Major vessel involvement in Behçet's Disease (BD) profoundly affects morbidity and mortality. Monoclonal anti-TNF antibodies are recom- mended for severe and (or) refractory vascular BD (VBD) beyond glucocorticoids (GCs) and immunosuppressants (IS), while some patients are still struggling due to inadequate response and relative contraindications. Our group has previously reported the efficacy of JAK1/JAK3 inhibitor tofacitinitab for treating VBD[1]. We hypothesized that the JAK1/JAK2 inhibitor baricitinib might be a potential ther- apeutic choice in VBD patients through a broader panel of cytokine inhibition.

Objectives: This is a single-center, one-arm, self-controlled, open-label pilot study aimed at evaluating the effectiveness and safety of the JAK1/JAK2 inhibitor baricitinib in BD patients with refractory vascular involvement.

Methods: We consecutively enrolled refractory VBD patients who received baricitinib treatment (2mg/ day) at Peking Union Medical College Hospital between Mar 2020 and Jan 2022. Efficacy assessment mainly depends on the proportion of clinical remission after 3-month treatment. Other outcomes include disease activity, organ damage evaluation, GCs and IS-sparing effects, and side effects.

Results: A total of 17 patients (12 males) were included, with a mean age of 37.9 ± 11.9 years and a mean follow-up of 10.5±4.4 months (Table 1). Before enrollment, all patients had insufficient response or intolerance to conventional therapies and (or) biologics (five patients failed first-line anti-TNF mAb using infliximab/ adalimumab/golimumab, and two patients had second-line therapy with other anti-TNF mAb, but still responded inadequately). At the 3-month follow-up, 13 (76.5%) patients achieved a complete response and the proportion increased to 88.2% (15/17) at the last visit. Laboratory parameters ESR (13 IQR 7−40.5) vs 8 (IQR 2–17.5) mm/h, p<0.01) and CRP (11.8 (IQR 2.5–18.5) vs 1.2 (IQR 0.6–5.2) mg/L, p<0.0001) decreased significantly 3 months after baricitinib use (Figure 1), as well as the Behçet's Disease Current Activity Form (BDCF) score during follow-up.

Figure 1. Outcomes of baricitinib treatment. Change in (a) ESR, (b) hsCRP, and (c) BDCAF score during follow-up.

Table 1. Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of enrolled patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>VBD (n=17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male), n (%)</td>
<td>12 (70.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at enrollment, mean ± SD (years)</td>
<td>37.9 ± 11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of vascular involvement, median (IQR) (months)</td>
<td>29 (IQR 20.5–73.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up, mean ± SD (months)</td>
<td>10.5 ± 5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venous lesion, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (23.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inferior vena cava syndrome</td>
<td>3 (17.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep venous thrombosis</td>
<td>3 (17.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular sinus thrombosis</td>
<td>2 (11.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artery lesion, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (35.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple arterial occlusion/stenosis</td>
<td>3 (17.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aneurysms/ pseudoaneurysms</td>
<td>4 (23.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary artery involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary thromboembolism</td>
<td>1 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac lesion, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (47.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valve regurgitation</td>
<td>7 (41.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right heart thrombus</td>
<td>1 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary artery lesion</td>
<td>2 (11.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: The authors thank all patients who participated in our study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4785

AB0726
C-REACTIVE PROTEIN GENE POLYMORPHISMS IN BIOPSY PROVEN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS IN NORTHERN ITALY

Keywords: Vasculitis
L. Boiardi1, P. Macchioni1, F. Muratore2, E. Farnetti3, D. Nicolì2, C. Marvisi2, E. Galli2, S. Croci2, C. Salvareni1, 1Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 2University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology, Modena, Italy; 3Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Molecular Pathology, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 4University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology, Modena, Italy; 5Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Clinical Immunology, Allergy and Advanced Biotechnologies Unit, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Background: Previous studies have reported that four functional C-reactive protein (CRP) gene polymorphisms, namely rs1417938, rs1800947, rs1205, and rs3093059 variants, were associated with plasma CRP levels, but not with clini- cal manifestations of giant cell arteritis (GCA) (1)

Objectives: Aim of our study was to investigate potential associations between two other functional variants of CRP gene at position 3872GA (rs2015) and 4741G>C (rs3093068) with susceptibility to biopsy-proven GCA, baseline clinical and laboratory findings, treatment, and disease outcomes.

Methods: 164 patients with biopsy-proven GCA, resident in Reggio Emilia area (Italy), and 198 healthy controls from the same geographic area were genotyped for 3872GA (rs2015) and 4741G>C (rs3093068) CRP gene polymorphisms by molecular methods. Data collected for all cases included comprehensive infor- mation about clinical findings, laboratory tests, historiologic data, imaging, thera- pies, and flares. Long-term remission was defined as permanent discontinuation
of glucocorticoids without flares for at least 1 year. All patients were followed according to a standardized predefined follow-up and therapeutic protocol. At the end of the follow up period, we evaluated for each patient the number of flares, long term remission, the duration of steroid treatment and the cumulative glucocorticoid dose.

**Results:** Association analysis of 3872G>A polymorphism showed that allele A homoyzosity was significantly more frequent in cases than in healthy controls (OR =2.32, 95% CI: 1.26-4.27, p=0.006). Association analysis of 4741C>G polymorphism showed that allele G carried by CG and GG genotypes was significantly lower in GCA patients than in controls (OR =0.35, 95% CI: 0.17-0.70, p=0.002). No significant associations were found between these 2 polymorphisms and baseline clinical manifestations. Patients homozigous for the allele A had a significantly lower frequency of CRP values >5mg/dl at diagnosis compared to patients carrying GA or GG genotypes (44.5% vs 72.4%, p=0.018, OR 0.31, 95% CI: 0.11-0.85). Considering 4741C>G CRP gene polymorphism, patients carrying G allele had at diagnosis significantly higher levels of CRP (13.2±5.5 vs 8.9±6.3 mg/dl, p=0.037) and ESR (105±30.6 vs 86.6±29.0 1st hour, p=0.040), and lower levels of Hb (10.3±1.2 vs 11.3±1.5 mg/dl, p=0.044). At histological examination of temporal artery biopsy (TAB), patients homozigous for the allele A had significantly more frequent eosinophilic infiltration of the arterial wall (21.4% vs 6.0%, p=0.010, OR 4.28, 95% CI: 1.31-13.98) than patients carrying allele G. Furthermore, patients carrying the allele A had lower steroid treatment duration (52±56 vs 79±78 months, p=0.041), lower cumulative steroid dose (11146±7162 vs 18520±19659 mg, p=0.017), higher frequency of steroid treatment withdrawal (61.5% vs 39.6%, p=0.016) and of longterm remission (60.3% vs 39.6%, p=0.024). Survival analyses demonstrated a significant difference for the duration of steroid treatment and the frequency of long term remission between the three AA, AG and GG genotypes (p=0.033 and p=0.031 respectively).

**Conclusion:** Single nucleotide polymorphisms of PCR gene at position 3872G/A (rs2015) and 4741C>G (rs3090368) have impact on susceptibility and outcomes of biopsy-proven GCA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB0727**

A RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, PARALLEL GROUP STUDY TO EVALUATE THE EFFICACY OF METHOTREXATE AS REMISSION MAINTENANCE THERAPY AFTER REMISSION-INDUCTION THERAPY WITH TOCILIZUMAB AND GLUCOCORTICOIDS IN SUBJECTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS (METEORITICS TRIAL): STUDY PROTOCOL

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Vasculitis, Clinical trials

**Authors:** L. Kreiß1, W. A. Schmidt2, N. Venhoff3, C. Dejaco4, V. Schäfer1.

1University Hospital Bonn, Department of Internal Medicine III - Oncology, Hematology, Immunology and Rheumatology, Bonn, Germany; 2Immanuel Krankenhaus Berlin, Medical Centre for Rheumatology Berlin-Buch, Berlin, Germany; 3University of Freiburg, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Freiburg, Germany; 4Medical University Graz, Graz, Rheumatology, Graz, Austria

**Background:** Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most common systemic vasculitis found in adults over 50 years of age and affects medium and large vessels. The standard treatment is glucocorticoids (GC). Because of the negative side effects of GC and the high prevalence of relapses GC should be combined with other immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory agents. Since the GIACTA Trial and other randomized controlled trials (RCT) assigned tocilizumab (TCZ) a GC-sparing effect, higher remission rates compared to placebo and the potency to maintain remission even without GC this biologic is a promising option to treat GCA. Due to the high costs of the TCZ treatment and the increased risk of infections, other treatment options are needed in the long term. An RCT published by Adler et al. showed that only 55% of patients remained in remission after discontinuation of intravenous TCZ therapy. It highlights the need for options to maintain remission after discontinuation of TCZ. The combination of methotrexate (MTX) and GC was also effective in reducing relapse rate and the cumulative GC doses in new or relapsing GCA.

**Objectives:** The primary objective of the study is to investigate whether MTX is useful for maintaining remission after remission-induction with TCZ and GC in patients with GCA. In addition, we evaluate patient and investigator reported outcomes, prevalence of aortitis, number of vasculitic vessels and change of intima-media-values during the study.

**Methods:** This monocentric, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study estimates the efficacy of MTX through a treatment period of 12 months and a six-months follow-up. Patients who are in stable remission after treatment with GC and at least six months of treatment with TCZ for new-onset or relapsing giant cell arteritis are eligible for inclusion. Forty participants will be randomly assigned to the treatment arm (N=20) and the placebo arm (N=20). The treatment consists of 17.5 mg MTX subcutaneous weekly for 12 months as a monotherapy. In case of intolerance, elevated liver enzymes or low glomerular filtration rate a dose reduction is possible. In event of relapse an escape treatment with GC on a tapering regimen is added to the study medication. Assessments are conducted eight times during the treatment period and twice during the follow-up. An ultrasound examination takes place on every study visit to measure the intima-media-values of several arteries. Magnetic resonance imaging is performed on baseline, month 12 and 18 to detect aortitis. The primary endpoint is the time to first relapse during the 12 months therapy.

**Figure 1. Study design**

Arrows indicate study visits mg, milligram; SC, subcutaneous; BSL, baseline; M, month; GC, glucocorticoids; ULN, upper limit of normal.

**Results:** No results are available yet.

**Conclusion:** This is the first study that evaluate MTX as remission maintenance therapy after stable remission has been induced by GC and TCZ in GCA. MTX could be an effective, safe, inexpensive therapy agent after discontinuation of TCZ.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB0728**

AORTITIS SPECTRUM. STUDY OF 82 PATIENTS FROM A SINGLE REFERRAL CENTER

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Vasculitis


1Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Cardiovascular Surgery, Santander, Spain;

**Background:** Aortitis is the inflammation of the aortic wall, and can be idiopathic or associated with a cluster of infectious and non-infectious diseases. Giant-cell arteritis (GCA) and Takayasu arteritis (TA) are the most common underlying [1,2].

**Objectives:** To assess the causes and the main features of patients with aortitis. Methods: Observational study of patients with aortitis from a large-vessel vasculitis monographic consultation at a referral hospital from June 2022 to December 2022. Aortitis was diagnosed by imaging techniques. We present 82 patients (52 female/30 male) (mean±SD age; 60.2±12.6 years). The different subtypes of aortitis were: GCA (n=69), Takayasu arteritis (n=6), other inflammatory autoimmune diseases (n=3), IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD) (n=2), syphillis (n=1) and isolated aortitis
(n=1). The imaging techniques used for the diagnosis of aortitis were: PET/TAC (n=81), TAC (n=23), RMN (n=20) and arteriography (n=10). The main features of the patients are summarized in Table 1. Aortitis was most frequent in women. 50% of patients had high blood pressure and dyslipidaemia. Polymyalgia rheumatica and asthenia were more frequent manifestations. The underlying diseases in the group of aortitis related to other inflammatory autoimmune diseases were: ulcerative colitis (n=1), idiopathic retroperitoneal fibrosis (n=1), and polyarteritis nodosa (n=1). The ascending thoracic aorta and the supraaortic trunks were the most frequently involved segments (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Aortitis is an entity which can be isolated or secondary to infectious and non-infectious process. Among the non-infectious causes, GCA and TA are the most frequent, being common the presence of PMR and asthma. The ascending thoracic aorta and the supraaortic trunks seems to be the most frequently involved segments.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Main features of the patients with aortitis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>OVERALL (n=82)</th>
<th>GCA PATIENTS (n=69)</th>
<th>TA PATIENT (n=6)</th>
<th>RELATED TO OTHER INFLAMMATORY DISEASES (n=3)</th>
<th>IgG4-RD (n=2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), meansSD</td>
<td>60.2±12.6</td>
<td>66.1±10.0</td>
<td>41.8±14.1</td>
<td>52±18.7</td>
<td>51.5±7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female/Male (% female)</td>
<td>52/30 (63)</td>
<td>43/26 (62)</td>
<td>6/0 (100)</td>
<td>2/1 (67)</td>
<td>1/1 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (49)</td>
<td>4 (67)</td>
<td>2 (67)</td>
<td>1 (50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidaemia, n (%)</td>
<td>41 (50)</td>
<td>33 (48)</td>
<td>4 (67)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (15)</td>
<td>12 (17)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active smoker or ex-smoker, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (33)</td>
<td>20 (29)</td>
<td>5 (83)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma, n (%)</td>
<td>39 (48)</td>
<td>33 (48)</td>
<td>4 (67)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>2 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss, n (%)</td>
<td>22 (27)</td>
<td>19 (27)</td>
<td>2 (33)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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<td>PMR, n (%)</td>
<td>40 (49)</td>
<td>39 (56)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever, n (%)</td>
<td>11 (13)</td>
<td>9 (13)</td>
<td>1 (17)</td>
<td>1 (33)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Headache, n (%)</td>
<td>32 (39)</td>
<td>29 (42)</td>
<td>2 (33)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual symptoms, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (17)</td>
<td>17 (23)</td>
<td>1 (17)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaw claudication, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (12)</td>
<td>10 (14)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lumbar pain, n (%)</td>
<td>25 (30)</td>
<td>22 (32)</td>
<td>2 (33)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain in thighs, n (%)</td>
<td>18 (22)</td>
<td>17 (25)</td>
<td>1 (17)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower limb claudication, n (%)</td>
<td>21 (26)</td>
<td>19 (27)</td>
<td>2 (33)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/1h), median [IQR]</td>
<td>0.4 [0.9-2.0]</td>
<td>0.5 [0.4-1.7]</td>
<td>0.4 [0.2-2.0]</td>
<td>0.4 [0.3-0.4]</td>
<td>0.9 [0.2-2.0]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: CRP: C-reactive protein, ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate, GCA: giant cell arteritis, IgG4-RD: IgG4-related disease, PMR: polymyalgia rheumatica, TA: Takayasu arteritis

Table 1. Main features of the patients with uveitis treated with tocilizumab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Sex/Age</th>
<th>Uveitis duration before TCZ (year)</th>
<th>Previous therapy</th>
<th>Indications</th>
<th>Concomitant medications</th>
<th>Number of attacks</th>
<th>VA (before TCZ)</th>
<th>VA (after TCZ)</th>
<th>Response to TCZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M/30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>cs, aza, CsA, il, in, ada, induction</td>
<td>cs, aza, CsA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>CF at 3 m CF at 0.5 m 2/10</td>
<td>active</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>F/44</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>cs, aza, CsA, il, in, ada, mmf, czp, tac, induction</td>
<td>cs, aza, CsA, mmf</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>TD</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>M/45</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>cs, aza, il, in, ada, mmf, induction</td>
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<td>1/10</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>2/10 remission</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>M/36</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>cs, aza, il, in, ada, mmf, induction</td>
<td>Contraindication for TNF cs, mmf</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>10/10 remission</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>M/42</td>
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<td>cs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>HM active</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5317
Results: The study included 31 TAK patients (age 28 [21-48], 87% female) exposed to a total of 52 treatment regimens (n=4 GC monotherapy, n=17 cDMARDs, n=5 anti-TNF, n=20 cDMARDs+anti-TNF, n=6 TCZ). Overall clinical remission rate during the follow-up was 75% in GC treated patients, 70.6% in cDMARDs-treated, 100% in anti-TNF-treated, 80% in cDMARDs+anti-TNF-treated and 100% in TCZ-treated. Persistence of treatment was 19[8-30.75] months in GC group, 10[5.5-26.5] in cDMARDs group, 15[12-44] in anti-TNF group, 21[17.5-81.75] in cDMARDs+anti-TNF group and 4 [17-64.5] in TCZ group. Treatment with cDMARDs+anti-TNF and TCZ led to a significant reduction of acute phase reactant levels (C-Reactive Protein: cDMARDs+anti-TNF 31[9-193] vs2[9-4.6] mg/L, <0.001; TCZ 31.5[10.5-59] vs2[9-2.8-7.5] mg/L, 0.009) (Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate: cDMARDs+anti-TNF 43[14-84] vs17.5[10-25.75] mm/h, 0.017; TCZ 15[5-55] vs5.5 [2-11.75]). Daily GC dose at last follow-up was 0 in cDMARDs+anti-TNF group (25vs0 mg, p<0.001) and TCZ (11.25vs 0 mg, p<0.007). All the therapeutic regimens led to a significant reduction of disease activity at last follow-up (ITAS2010 in GC-treated 0 [0-1.5], in cDMARDs-treated 0 [0-1], in anti-TNF treated 0 [0-1], in cDMARDs+anti-TNF 0 [0-0], in TCZ 0 [0-0].) LVVID did not significantly increase during follow-up in patients treated with cDMARDs, anti-TNF, cDMARDs+anti-TNF and in TCZ. Imaging data shown an improvement in metabolic activity at LFU in 33.3% of TCZ-treated patients and in 40% of cDMARDs+anti-TNF treated patients.

Conclusion: Anti-TNF, cDMARDs+anti-TNF and TCZ led to a statistically significant reduction in GC dosage, allowing steroid sparing. Compared to monotherapy, treatment regimens with cDMARDs+anti-TNF and TCZ could lead to a better disease control in terms of clinical activity and inflammatory markers and overall is the only therapeutic lines that provides an improvement in metabolic activity on imaging.


Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5860

TOCILIZUMAB TREATMENT IN SEVERE AND REFRACTORY BEHÇET’S SYNDROME: A CASE SERIES

Keywords: Behçet's disease, bDMARD

Z. Toker Dinçer1, 2, B. Yurttas1, 2, S. N. Esatoglu1, 2, D. Ucar2, 3, S. Ugur1, 2, 3, Y. Ozguler2, 3, E. Seyahi1, 2, M. Melikoglu2, 3, I. Fresko1, 2, V. Hamuryudan1, 2, A. Siva, G. Hatem1, 2, 3, 4, Istanbul University–Cerrahpaşa, Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 1Istanbul University–Cerrahpaşa, Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty, Behçet Syndrome Research Center, Istanbul, Turkey; 1Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Ophthalmology, Istanbul, Turkey; 1Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Neurology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Tocilizumab may be an alternative for patients with Behçet's Syndrome (BS) refractory to conventional immunosuppressives and TNF inhibitors.

Objectives: We aimed to report our experience with tocilizumab in patients with BS.

Methods: We identified BS patients who were treated with tocilizumab for eye, nervous system and arterial involvement, and amyloidosis, using our hospital's electronic medical records. Demographic and clinical features, previous therapy, treatment response, outcomes, and adverse events were retrieved from patient charts.

Results: Of 12 patients with BS (M/F: 9/3, mean age 44.4±10.3 years) were treated with tocilizumab for uveitis (n=6), parenchymal nervous system involvement (n=2), aortitis (n=2) and amyloidosis (n=2) between 2014-2022. Previous treatment modalities and treatment response for uveitis are shown in Table 1. Only 2 of the 6 patients with uveitis obtained remission with tocilizumab. Both patients with neurological involvement were refractory to tocilizumab treatment. They had previously used colchicine, steroids, azathioprine, interferon-alpha, infliximab, and adalimumab. Additionally, one had used cyclophosphamide and the other methotrexate and mycophenolate mofetil.

Conclusion: BS patients with aortitis obtained remission with tocilizumab voluntarily, and the other due to dyslipidemia. Overall, tocilizumab was discontinued in 10/12 patients after 10.1±7.8 months. Adverse events were increased mucocutaneous lesions in one and dyslipidemia in another patient.


CUTANEOUS AND ARTICULAR MANIFESTATIONS OF BEHÇET’S DISEASE

Keywords: Behçet's disease

Y. Abdi1, R. Amri1, H. Tounsi1, S. Wafa1, I. Chaabane1, Z. Alaya1, 1Regional Hospital Mohamed Taher Al Maamouri, Internal Medicine, Mreza, Tunisia

Background: Behçet's disease is a chronic inflammatory disease evolving by relapses whose etiopathogenesis remains poorly elucidated. It is characterized by polymorphism and a clinical heterogeneity associating oral and genital aphthae with systemic manifestations and cutaneous and articular manifestations.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to describe the epidemiological and clinical aspects of the articular and cutaneous-mucosal manifestations during Behçet's disease.

Methods: This was a monocentric, retrospective, and descriptive study. It was conducted over a period of 30 years and included all patients with Behçet's disease followed at the internal medicine department and meeting the international criteria for Behçet's disease.

Results: We collected 98 patients. A male predominance was observed (sex ratio of 2.5) with an average age of onset of the disease of 31 years. Familial forms were observed in 5.1%. Oral aphthae was constant. The different localization were on the inner side of the lip in 17 cases (88%), the inner side of the cheek in six cases (24%), the tongue in two cases (8%), and the gums in one case (4%). Genital aphthae was found in 81 cases. Other manifestations were pseudofolliculitis (61 cases), erythema nodosum (7 cases), cutaneous aphthosis (4 cases), acneform lesions (2 cases), cutaneous vasculitis (2 cases), and erythema multiforme (1 case). The pathergy test was performed in 30 cases. It was positive in 23 cases (76%). Joint involvement was present in 47 patients. The average age of diagnosis of joint involvement was 34 years. The mean time to diagnosis was 25 months. The involvement was peripheral in the majority of cases (95.7%), with the predominant site being the knees (67%). It was in the form of inflammatory arthralgias in 45 patients, associated with arthritis in 14 cases. Other manifestations were: low back pain (2 cases), sacroiliitis (1 case), bone erosion involving the hand (1 case), and popliteal cyst (1 case).

Conclusion: In Behçet's disease, the clinical manifestations are very polymorphic. Its polymorphic and non-specific clinical presentation can be a source of confusion with other pathologies. Cutaneous and articular manifestations are the most frequent.

REFERENCES: NIL. Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5995
Vasculitis - large vessel vasculitis

OUTCOMES OF PERCUTANEOUS TRANSLUMINAL ANGIOPLASTY IN TAKAYASU ARTERITIS: A SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Vasculitis

A. Ciotean1,2, C. Pamfil1,3, M. M. Tamas1,3, L. Damian1,3, S. Rednic1,3, I. Iuliu Hatelagaru1 University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Rheumatology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 2Emergency County Hospital, Rheumatology, Satu Mare, Romania; 3Clinical Emergency County Hospital, Rheumatology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Background: Revascularization endovascular techniques have been used with success in Takayasu arteritis (TA), but relapses sometimes appear. (1) There is much debate regarding optimal management and outcomes of patients who underwent these procedures. (2,3)

Objectives: The aim of the study was to investigate the long-term efficacy of percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) in patients with TA from a Romanian tertiary rheumatology center and factors that might influence it.

Methods: Data from clinical charts of patients with a diagnosis of TA established in the last 15 years who underwent interventional revascularization procedures were retrospectively studied. Symptoms, laboratory investigation results, data about treatment and outcome were analysed at baseline and follow-up.

Results: There were 11 interventions of PTA in 6 patients with a diagnosis of TAK, all of them in women. The mean follow-up period was 59 months. Cardiologists were the ones who diagnosed the disease in 83% of the patients included. The mean delay in diagnosis was 74 months, while the biggest delay was of 242 months. Hypertension was the first sign of disease in 3 of the patients, while the rest complained of limb claudication (2 patients) and acute limb ischemia phenomenon (1 patient). The average disease duration until PTA was 65 months and most of them were done at the time of diagnosis (54%). PTA was performed while the disease was active in 100% of cases and biological inflammatory syndrome was present in 45% of cases. Symptoms relief was seen in all patients. Restenosis was seen in 3 cases – two of them in patients with lack of treatment adherence and one in a patient who wasn’t given immunosuppression (due to delay in diagnosis). Restenosis was experienced 52 months after PTA, on average. Symptoms included relapse of limb claudication in 2 patients and hypertension and renal failure in a patient with renal artery restenosis. Inflammatory markers were raised in two cases. Clinical improvement was seen in all the patients after reintervention.

Conclusion: PTA is a valuable intervention in TA patients that significantly improves clinical symptoms. Relapses may appear especially in patients with deficient immunosuppression, and they may need revascularization interventions.

REFERENCES


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0732

CONCORDANCE BETWEEN THE 1990 ACR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA AND THE NEW 2022 ACR/EULAR 2022 CRITERIA IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Vasculitis, Epidemiology

J. Sanchez-Martín1, J. Medina-Del Valle1, J. Loricera1, M. F. García-Reija2, R. Blanco1, 1Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, University of Cantabria, Santander, Spain, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, University of Cantabria, Santander, Spain, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Service, Santander, Spain.

Background: Classification criteria for vasculitis, including giant cell arteritis (GCA) are under constant revision. In 2022, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) criteria were presented, renewing those published by ACR in 1990. They include wider range of clinical criteria and imaging tests, such as ultrasonography (US) and Positron emission tomography (PET), which has contributed to the diagnosis of a higher number of cases.

Objectives: To assess the concordance between recent 2022 ACR/EULAR giant cell arteritis classification criteria and the criteria of ACR 1990 [1,2].

Methods: Observational study of patients diagnosed with GCA who underwent temporal artery biopsy (TAB) between 2016 and 2022 in an university hospital. Concordance between both sets of criteria were analyzed with Cohen's kappa index.

Results: We present 191 patients (120 female/71 male) (means±SD: 75±10 years). The main characteristics of the patients are shown in Table 1. The Kappa index between both criteria weighted by prevalence and bias was 0.654 (moderate-high degree of agreement). Global agreement of 83% was observed, with a higher specific agreement for negative results (88%) than for positive results (67%).

Disagreement was observed in 16% of patients who were considered negative for ACR 1990 criteria but positive for ACR/EULAR 2022 criteria and in 2% who were considered positive for ACR 1990 criteria but negative for ACR/EULAR 2022. 2022 ACR/EULAR showed a higher sensitivity, and 27 additional patients were classified as GCA with these classification criteria.

Conclusion: Moderate-high concordance was found between 2022 ACR/EULAR and 1990 ACR classification criteria. However, the 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria consider a wider range of factors than the 1990 ACR criteria by introducing US and PET findings, thus increasing sensitivity and allowing a larger number of patients to be diagnosed. Cranial GCA was the most frequent phenotype observed.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Main characteristics according to TAB result

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Suspected diagnosis of GCA</th>
<th>ACR 1990 Criteria</th>
<th>ACR/EULAR 2022 Criteria</th>
<th>Negative ACR/EULAR 2022 Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(n=191)</td>
<td>(n=128)</td>
<td>(n=155)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), means±SD[1]</td>
<td>75 ± 10</td>
<td>75 ± 10</td>
<td>75 ± 10</td>
<td>73 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female/male</td>
<td>120/71</td>
<td>78/50</td>
<td>96/59</td>
<td>10/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAB+, n (%)</td>
<td>52 (27)</td>
<td>51 (39)</td>
<td>52 (34)</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halo sign on temporal artery</td>
<td>37 (19)</td>
<td>29 (23)</td>
<td>37 (24)</td>
<td>10 (53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral axillary involvement</td>
<td>12 (18)</td>
<td>8 (19)</td>
<td>12 (20)</td>
<td>4 (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on US, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDG-PET activity throughout</td>
<td>43 (30)</td>
<td>38 (44)</td>
<td>37 (44)</td>
<td>7 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aorta, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCA Phenotype, n (%)</td>
<td>127 (66)</td>
<td>95 (74)</td>
<td>108 (70)</td>
<td>16 (53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranial GCA</td>
<td>28 (15)</td>
<td>6 (5)</td>
<td>14 (9)</td>
<td>8 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracranial GCA</td>
<td>36 (19)</td>
<td>27 (21)</td>
<td>33 (21)</td>
<td>6 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed GCA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic manifestations, n (%)</td>
<td>Headache[2]</td>
<td>152 (80)</td>
<td>117 (91)</td>
<td>134 (86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual symptoms</td>
<td>76 (40)</td>
<td>58 (45)</td>
<td>66 (43)</td>
<td>8 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudden visual loss[2]</td>
<td>44 (23)</td>
<td>35 (27)</td>
<td>40 (26)</td>
<td>5 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blindness</td>
<td>16 (8)</td>
<td>12 (9)</td>
<td>14 (9)</td>
<td>2 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal examination of TA[2]</td>
<td>89 (47)</td>
<td>81 (63)</td>
<td>85 (55)</td>
<td>6 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic manifestations, n (%)</td>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>27 (14)</td>
<td>20 (16)</td>
<td>20 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pm[1]</td>
<td>113 (59)</td>
<td>71 (55)</td>
<td>91 (59)</td>
<td>20 (67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>CRP, mg/dL, median[2]</td>
<td>2.5 [0.5-7.7]</td>
<td>4.2 [1.3-9.6]</td>
<td>3.4 [0.7-8.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(IQR)†</td>
<td>ESR, 1h, median (IQR)†</td>
<td>52 [29-82]</td>
<td>63 [41-88]</td>
<td>57 [33-84]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hb, mean ±SD</td>
<td>12.4 ± 1.4</td>
<td>12.3 ± 1.4</td>
<td>12.4 ± 1.3</td>
<td>12.6 ± 1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POLYPHARMACY AND COMORBIDITIES ARE NOT INCREASED AT DIAGNOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA

Keywords: Malignancy, Comorbidities

M. A. Cimmino1, E. Hysa1, P. Cini1, D. Camellino2. 1Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Genova, Italy; 2Division of Rheumatology, La Colletta Hospital, Azienda Sanitaria Locale 3, Arenzano, Italy

Background: Polypharmacy, the prescription of multiple drugs for an individual patient, is increasing especially in ageing individuals with comorbidities. Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) is an inflammatory disease of the elderly causing pain and stiffness in the girdles. A recent systematic review showed that cardiovascular disease and lymphoproliferative disorders could be possibly increased in PMR patients, but the quality of the included studies was relatively poor. In addition, some comorbidities could be caused by PMR treatment and not by the disease itself.

Objectives: Our study is concerned with an evaluation of polypharmacy and comorbidities in PMR patients at diagnosis.

Methods: Patients were enrolled if they fulfilled the 2012 EULAR/ACR provisional criteria for PMR. Sex and age-matched controls were patients with hand OA diagnosed according to the 1990 ACR clinical criteria and seen in the same private outpatient clinic as patients. Both groups were interviewed at the time of diagnosis for the type and number of assumed drugs and comorbidities by the same investigator. The rheumatic diseases comorbidity index (RCDI) was used.

Results: 83 PMR patients (median 75 years, range 50-88 years, 65.1% women) and 83 controls (median 72 years, range 53-90 years, 65.1% women) were studied. Median disease duration was 2 months (0.3-8 months) and median glucocorticoid dose before assessment was 0 mg (0-750 mg). The mean number of drugs assumed by PMR patients was 2.5±2.1 in comparison with 3.0±2.2 of controls (p=0.129). PMR patients with hip pain assumed less drugs (2.1±1.8 vs. 3.7±2.3, p=0.008) and those with morning stiffness >45 minutes assumed more drugs (2.8±2.1 vs. 2.8±2.1, p=0.001). The mean RCDI was 1.58±1.29 in PMR patients and 1.45±1.36 in controls (p=0.52). The frequency of the individual comorbidities in PMR patients and controls is reported in Table 1. No difference was observed in cancer type. Number of assumed drugs and RDCI significantly correlated (r=0.58; p<0.001), and both were directly associated with age (p<0.001). At multiple logistic regression, with number of assumed drugs as dependent variable and variables which showed in univariate analysis p<0.1 as independent ones, age (p=0.007) directly, whereas hip pain (p=0.006) and fever (p=0.014) indirectly predicted number of assumed drugs. With RDCI as dependent variable, age (p=0.04) and WBC (p=0.02) directly, whereas fever (p=0.019) indirectly predicted RDCI.

Conclusion: When considered at the time of diagnosis, PMR patients do not show an increased comorbidity index nor number of assumed drugs in comparison with OA controls. Only gastric disease was lower, possibly due to the increased NSAIDs use in OA patients.

Table 1. Frequency of the individual comorbidities in PMR patients and controls (Co).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comorbidity</th>
<th>PMR (n=83)</th>
<th>Co (n=83)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pneumological</td>
<td>11 (13.3)</td>
<td>9 (10.8)</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV/ictus</td>
<td>19 (22.9)</td>
<td>14 (16.9)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hypertension</td>
<td>45 (54.2)</td>
<td>39 (47)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fracture</td>
<td>8 (9.6)</td>
<td>7 (8.4)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depression</td>
<td>2 (2.4)</td>
<td>5 (6)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cancer</td>
<td>13 (15.7)</td>
<td>11 (13.3)</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diabetes</td>
<td>7 (8.4)</td>
<td>5 (6)</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gastric</td>
<td>6 (7.2)</td>
<td>15 (18.1)</td>
<td>0.036</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: AB0735

THE EFFECT OF NEW CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA ON THE DIAGNOSIS OF LARGE VESSEL VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Rare/orphan diseases, Epidemiology

C. Mukhtyar1, C. Beadsmoore2, F. Coath1, G. Ducker1, K. Sisson1, R. Watts1. 1Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Norwich, United Kingdom; 2Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Radiology, Norwich, United Kingdom

Background: GCA and Takayasu arteritis are the two recognised forms of LVV. In addition, there is recognition of LVV which are not easily classified into the two forms. Classification criteria have been proposed since 1990 and have been recently updated. Classification criteria should be able to minimise the number of cases that are unclassifiable and the number of cases that are classified into more than one set. We used both sets of criteria to test their performance in our cohort.

Objectives: To study the performance of large vessel vasculitis classification criteria in a real world cohort.

Methods: Between January 2011 to December 2020, 270 individuals were diagnosed as having LVV by virtue of having either a positive biopsy, ultrasonography, or PET scan. The ACR 1990 and the ACR/EULAR 2022 classification criteria were applied on our cohort.

Results: The mean age was 74, 181 were female. Using the 1990 criteria, 2 individuals met both classifications and 30 did not meet either. Using the 2022 criteria, 3 individuals met both classifications and 24 did not meet either. The numbers classified as having TAK has reduced from 13/270 to 2/270. The numbers classified as GCA have increased from 225/270 to 241/270. (Figure 1)

Conclusion: The new classification criteria have expanded the phenotype recognised as having Takayasu mostly by declassifying it as not meeting any criteria. Overall, the new criteria improve classification for 5/270 (1.8%) cases.

REFERENCES:

EPILOGUE OF CLINICALLY ISOLATED AORTITIS: A POPULATION-BASED STUDY

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Epidemiology

M. Kaymakci1, M. Elfishawi1, H. Langenfeld2, C. S. Crowson2, W. Cornelia2, M. Koster1, K. J. Warrington1. Mayo Clinic, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Rochester, United States of America; 2Mayo Clinic, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, Rochester, United States of America

**Background:** Clinically isolated aortitis (CIA) refers to inflammation of the aorta without signs of systemic vasculitis or infection [1]. The diagnosis of CIA generally relies on histopathologic evaluation of aortic tissue obtained during thoracic aortic aneurysm surgery making the diagnosis more challenging. Recent studies suggest that CIA might be a limited presentation of giant cell arteritis [2]. Population-based data on the epidemiology of CIA in North America is lacking.

**Objectives:** The objectives of this study were to evaluate the epidemiology, clinical characteristics, and outcomes of patients with CIA.

**Methods:** In a defined geographical area, all possible subjects were screened for thoracic aortic aneurysm procedures with current procedural terminology (CPT) codes between January 1, 2000, and December 31, 2021. The medical records of all patients were manually reviewed. CIA was defined as histopathologically confirmed active aortitis diagnosed by evaluation of aortic tissue obtained during thoracic aortic aneurysm surgery in the absence of any infection, rheumatic disease, or systemic vasculitis. Incidence rates were age and sex adjusted to the 2020 United States total population. Mortality rates were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method and were compared with expected mortality rates for persons of the same age, sex, and calendar year estimated using Minnesota population life tables.

**Results:** Eight incident cases of CIA were diagnosed during the study period (Figure 1); 6 (75%) of them were female. Median (IQR) age at diagnosis of CIA was 78.3 (70.2–78.9) years; all were diagnosed following ascending aortic aneurysm repair. The overall age and sex adjusted annual incidence rate of CIA was 8.9 (95% CI, 2.7–15.1) per 1,000,000 individuals over age 50 years. Histopathologic evaluation demonstrated giant cell aortitis in 7 (88%) patients and lymphoplasmacytic aortitis in 1 (13%) patient. Five (63%) patients were seen by a rheumatologist and 2 (25%) were treated with glucocorticoids after the diagnosis. CIA was defined as histopathologically confirmed active aortitis diagnosed by evaluation of aortic tissue obtained during thoracic aortic aneurysm surgery in the absence of any infection, rheumatic disease, or systemic vasculitis. Incidence rates were age and sex adjusted to the 2020 United States total population. Mortality rates were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method and were compared with expected mortality rates for persons of the same age, sex, and calendar year estimated using Minnesota population life tables.

**Conclusion:** This is the first population-based epidemiologic study of CIA in North America. CIA predominantly affects older women and is quite rare. In this small cohort, survival following a diagnosis of CIA was not significantly different than the general population.

**REFERENCES:**

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FAST TRACK PATHWAY: A GIANT STEP FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Patient reported outcomes, Validation

Y. El Miedany1, D. Affam2, S. Rahman2, M. Toth3. 1Canterbury Christ Church University Medway Campus - Medway Foundation Trust, Dartford, United Kingdom; 2Darent Valley Hospital, General Medicine, Dartford, United Kingdom; 3King’s College London - Darent Valley Hospital, General Medicine, London, United Kingdom

**Background:** Giant cell arteritis (GCA), a medium and large vessel vasculitis remains a formidable disease. Through feed-forward loops and a multitude of vascular complications, GCA impacts seriously negatively on both the patient’s vision as well as life. In 2018, Darent Valley Hospital published its GCA management pathway [1] and launched a fast track GCA clinic in 2019. This included clinical assessment along with US examination in the rheumatology outpatient clinic. The pathway enabled direct access to both general practitioners in primary care as well as health care professionals in secondary care to this service. Education sessions for both the primary and secondary care teams were carried out to inform them of the referral criteria and the service pathway.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the impact of implementing the GCA-fast track pathway on prompt diagnosis and treatment of GCA.

**Methods:** Retrospective cohort analysis of patients referred to the Fast Track GCA clinic. A cohort of patients with new suspected diagnosis of GCA along with acute flare ups of diagnosed GCA cases were referred to the clinic according to a set up referral criteria. All the patients referred to the clinic were offered an appointment within 24-hours and had blood tests for inflammatory markers and basic rheumatology blood profile done prior to their assessment. Diagnosis of GCA was made based on clinical examination, laboratory results and US assessment [2]. Presence of ‘halo’ sign, which is a non-compressible hypo-echoic ring around the artery lumen reflecting inflammation of the vessel wall was considered as a positive US finding. Steroid therapy was commenced on the same day of the diagnosis. If steroid infusion is indicated, the patient is referred to the AEC/ AMU to have the steroid infusion on the same day. Outcomes of management were assessed by GCA-patient reported outcomes as well as US assessment. The service was audited twice.

**Results:** During the evaluation period, 56 patients were referred to the Fast track GCA clinic. Age range 57-87 years old. 78.6% of these patients were females. 85.7% (48/56) of these patients were offered an appointment and assessed within one working day (24-hours), whereas the remaining 14.3% (8/56) were reviewed within 24-72 hours. All the patients (100%) had US examination of the temporal artery within the targeted time of maximum 72-hours from the referral date and less than 2-weeks of presenting with the temporal headache. Six patients were diagnosed as non-GCA, 5-patients migraine, 1-patient trigeminal neuralgia, 2-patients with large vessel vasculitis, 3-patients with PMR and 2-patients had flare of their previous PMR. 37-patients (66.1%) were diagnosed with GCA. No biopsies were performed. 9-patients (24.3%) required IV steroid infusion, whereas 28-patients (75.7%) started oral steroids. None of the patients included in the study suffered GCA related sight loss. No hospital admissions were required for these patients. There was significant improvement in the GCA patient reported outcomes in response to therapy, US measures as well as the inflammatory markers.

**Conclusion:** The developed Fast Track GCA clinic has significantly facilitated early and prompt diagnosis as well as management of GCA. Majority of the patients were reviewed within 24-hours with immediate initiation of steroid therapy. The fast-track referral pathway, combined with GP education, resulted in a significant reduction of incidences of permanent sight loss attributed to GCA (which would have resulted in loss of independence and mobility which subsequent increase health care use) and has proven to be a cost-effective practice as number of admitted patients was reduced.

**REFERENCES:**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1062
ELEVATED PLATELET COUNT IS A RISK FACTOR FOR REFRACTORY TAKAYASU ARTERITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Vasculitis

X. Shi1, L. Pan1, 1Capital Medical University, Rheumatology, Beijing, China

Background: Takayasu arteritis (TAK) is a chronic systemic vasculitis that mainly affects the aorta and its major branches. This chronic relapsing disease is relevant to significant morbidity and treatment remains challenging [1]. Early identification of refractory TAK is helpful to improve the long-term prognosis of the disease. In recent years, platelets have been recognized as important markers for various types of diseases [2]. Platelet counts may indicate the activity of autoimmune disease as well as responsiveness to anti-inflammatory therapy and presence of various comorbidities [3]. Multiple studies have demonstrated that platelet count of TAK patients was significantly increased, especially in the active phase, which was significantly higher than that in the inactive phase [4-8].

Objectives: Platelets have been recognized as important markers for various types of diseases. The aim of our study was to investigate whether platelet count could be the risk factor of refractory Takayasu arteritis (TAK).

Methods: In this retrospective study, 57 patients were divided into groups with or without refractory TAK. We compared the clinical manifestations, laboratory parameters, and medication between the two groups. The logistic regression analysis was used to identify the risk factors of refractory TAK.

Results: Among the 57 patients, 18 cases (31.6%) were considered to have refractory TAK within 1 year of initiation of medication in our hospital. Refractory TAK patients had higher level of platelet (PLT) than non-refractory TAK patients (305.5 vs. 272.0, 10^9/L, P=0.043). PLT was positively correlated with ESR (r=0.502, p<0.001), IgA (r=0.322, p=0.016), IgG (r=0.419, p=0.010), C3 (r=0.554, p<0.001). For PLT, the area under the ROC curve was 0.668 (95% CI 0.515 to 0.822, p=0.043) and the best cut-off value was 296.5±10^9/L. The level of PLT greater than 296.5×10^9/L was found to be statistically related to refractory TAK (OR [95%CI] 4.000 [1.233-12.974], p=0.021).

Conclusion: Clinicians should pay close attention to platelet levels in patients with TAK. For TAK patients with elevated platelet levels, earlier and more aggressive treatment is needed, and antiplatelet therapy is recommended as appropriate.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1917

Table 1. 2022 American College of Rheumatology/ EULAR classification criteria for giant cell arteritis in patients with GCA and non-GCA

| Total number of patients (n=767) | GCA patients with ≤6 points (n=35) | GCA patients with ≥6 points (n=241) | p-value Non-GCA | p-value Non-GCA p-value
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (±SD)</td>
<td>718 (8.7)</td>
<td>713 (8.7)</td>
<td>73.5 (8.4)</td>
<td>0.167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>219 (60.2)</td>
<td>150 (62.2)</td>
<td>0.799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACR/EULAR criteria

Morning stiffness in shoulders/neck, n (%) | 287 | 82 (28.7) | 98 (40.7) | 0.004 | 104 (37.0) | 77 (64.7) | <0.001 |

Sudden visual loss, n (%) | 78 (11.5) | 0 (0.0) | 36 (14.9) | 0.01 | 21 (7.5) | 21 (17.6) | 0.002 |

Jaw or tongue claudication, n (%) | 147 | 0 (0.0) | 110 (45.6) | 0.001 | 9 (3.2) | 28 (23.5) | <0.001 |

New temporal headache, n (%) | 347 | 11 (31.4) | 158 (65.6) | 0.001 | 84 (29.9) | 94 (79.0) | <0.001 |

Scalp tenderness, n (%) | 139 | 1 (2.9) | 95 (39.4) | 0.001 | 9 (3.2) | 34 (28.6) | <0.001 |

Abnormal examination | 111 (16.4) | 2 (1.7) | 83 (34.4) | 0.001 | 7 (2.5) | 20 (16.8) | <0.001 |

of the temporal artery, n (%) |

Maximum ESR ≥50 mm/hour or max- | 504 | 29 (82.9) | 226 (93.8) | 0.001 | 150 (53.4) | 99 (83.2) | <0.001 |

imal CRP ≥10 mg/liter, n (%) |

Positive temporal artery biopsy sign or halo sign on temporal ultrasound, n (%) | 194 | 2 (5.7) | 186 (77.2) | 0.001 | 6 (5.0) | 6 (5.0) | <0.001 |

Bilateral axillary involvement, n (%) | 308 | 0 (0.0) | 308 (100.0) | 0.001 | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | <0.001 |

FDG-PET activity throughout aorta, n (%) | 52 (7.7) | 5 (14.3) | 36 (14.9) | 0.019 | 8 (2.8) | 3 (2.5) | 1

AB0739 PERFORMANCE OF THE 2022 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY/EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR GIANT CELL ARTERITIS IN A COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH SUSPICION OF HAVING GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis

A. Hemmig1, M. Aschwanden2, S. Imfeld2, C. Berge2, T. Daikeler1,3
1University Hospital Basel, Department of Rheumatology, Basel, Switzerland; 2University Hospital Basel, Department of Angiology, Basel, Switzerland; 3University Hospital Basel, University Center for Immunology, Basel, Switzerland

Background: The new ACR/EULAR 2022 classification criteria for giant cell arteritis (GCA) use weighted items and incorporate findings from vessel imaging to reflect the current clinical standard. Although intended to define homogenous patient populations for research purposes when a diagnosis of medium- or large-vessel vasculitis has been made, the 2022 criteria were developed including non-vasculitis comparators. Hence, in the absence of a sensitive diagnostic gold standard, the criteria bear potential to be used for GCA diagnosis.

Objectives: To evaluate the performance of the new 2022 ACR/EULAR classification criteria for GCA when used for GCA diagnosis.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of a cohort of patients suspected of having GCA who underwent ultrasound between 12/2006 and 05/2021. GCA was diagnosed if temporal artery biopsy was positive, if the 1990 ACR criteria were fulfilled, or if at least 2/5 ACR criteria were fulfilled in combination with vasculitis on imaging.

Results: 276 patients were diagnosed with GCA, and 400 patients had a condition that mimics GCA. When applying the 2022 criteria as diagnostic criteria, sensitivity remained high with 87.3% (95% CI 82.8%-91.0%), whereas specificity was lower with 70.3% (95% CI 65.5% to 74.7%). In 35 patients (12.7%) with GCA, the criteria were not met (Table 1). These were mainly patients without cranial symptoms but having typical imaging findings in vascular territories not considered in the criteria. 119 non-GCA patients (29.8%) scored ≥6 points. Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) (31.9%) followed by non-vasculitic ophthalmologic diseases (15.1%) were the most frequent diagnoses among those.

Conclusion: The inclusion of polymyalgia symptoms and heavy weighting of sudden visual loss in the score led to false classification of patients with PMR and ophthalmologic diseases as GCA. For diagnostic purposes, the scoring of the criteria could potentially be adapted by applying a higher cut-off for the diagnosis of GCA or a lower weighting for polymyalgia and visual symptoms.

REFERENCES:
Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most common systemic vasculitis in individuals ≥50 years of age. It typically affects cranial vessels, but it can also affect large vessels in a high percentage of patients. Vascular inflammation of the aorta and/or its main branches can cause complications of high morbidity and mortality, and the presence of relapses is associated to more complications. The analysis of the different clinical and imaging patterns in patients with GCA and aortitis and their relationship with the prognosis needs more investigation. Early identification of patients with the highest risk of mortality could help predict deaths and vascular complications.

Objectives: To evaluate the demographic and clinical characteristics of patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA) who present a relapse. To evaluate prognostic factors associated with GCA relapse.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was carried out including patients diagnosed of GCA by a multidisciplinary expert committee in aortic pathologies. A total of 71 patients followed in the vasculitis clinic between 2011-2021 who had a PET-CT at onset before receiving treatment were included. Other causes of aortitis were excluded. Relapse was defined as a new episode of vasculitis confirmed by analysis and/or imaging test. Demographic, clinical, analytical and imaging variables were collected. A descriptive study of the sample and a groups comparison, according to the presence of vascular complications was carried out. The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to study the normality of the variables. The relapse-free survival was analyzed using the Kaplan-Meier method. Univariable logistic regression was performed to assess predictive factors.

Results: A total of 71 patients were included, 73.2% were female and the mean age was 79.3 (±6.7) years. During the follow-up of the disease, 22 (30%) patients presented a relapse. Scalp tenderness (p<0.0001) and the complications prior to or at onset (aortic surgery [p=0.0003], ischemic stroke [p=0.0001], aneurysm/dissection/thrombosis [p=0.012]) presented a significant association with relapse. Cardiovascular risk factors and acute phase reactants were not associated with relapse during the disease, and either the diagnostic delay and start of treatment. Details of the demographic and clinical characteristics of the sample are described in Table 1. The relapse-free survival time in patients with GCA is shown in Figure 1. The median time (months) in relapse was 14-4 (IQR 36.1).

The univariate analysis to identify prognostic factors showed that the use of synthetic or biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (sDMARD, bDMARD) was a protective factor against the occurrence of disease relapse, presenting a risk of relapse in untreated patients versus treated 64% higher (RR=0.64).

Conclusion: Disease relapse was observed in 30.9% of patients with GCA included in our study. Scalp tenderness and the presence of vascular complications prior to or at onset of the disease were associated with greater occurrence of relapse. Our study suggests a possible protective effect of immunosuppressive drugs against relapse in GCA patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier curve of relapse-free survival in patients with GCA.

Table 1. Characteristics of the sample according to the occurrence or not of relapse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GCA Classification (%)</th>
<th>Relapse (n=22)</th>
<th>No relapse (n=49)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cranial</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>0.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Extracranial</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>0.804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bot</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>0.736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical presentation (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>0.433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaw claudication</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>0.804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmological signs</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>0.736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalp tenderness</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever of unknown origin</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>0.987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymyalgia rheumatica</td>
<td>59.1</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>0.952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>0.247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional syndrome</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>77.1</td>
<td>0.240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complications at onset (%)

| Aortic surgery         | 4.5           | 6.2              | 0.000|
| Ischemic stroke        | 9.1           | 4.1              | 0.000|
| Vascular complication  | 4.5           | 14.5             | 0.012|
| Treatment              |               |                  |      |
| IV pulse GC mg/hdL (%) | 22.7          | 20.4             | 0.247|
| Oral GC, mean (SD)     | 48.6 (±16.4)  | 50.8 (±18.1)     | 0.631|
| sDMARD +/- bDMARD (%)  | 45.5          | 34.7             | 0.174|

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Vasculitis, Imaging

P. Moya1,2., H. Codes-Mendez1, H. Park1, A. Fernandez4, M. Velasco Nuñez4, B. Magallanes1,2., A. J. Barros-Membrilla2, C. Diaz-Orme1, J. L. Tandaipan1, S. P. Fernandez-Sanchez2, M. López I Gomez2, A. Laiz1, I. Castelli1,3., H. Corominas1,2., Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Aortic Pathology Functional Unit, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Systemic Autoimmune Diseases Functional Unit, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Nuclear Medicine, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Cardiology, Barcelona, Spain; Navarra Hospital Complex - Navarra Hospital, Rheumatology, Pamplona, Spain

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0741

CAN NORMAL ERYTHROCYTE SEDIMENTATION RATE AND C-REACTIVE PROTEIN LEVEL BE A REASON FOR DIAGNOSTIC DELAY IN POLYMIALGIA RHEUMATICA?

Keywords: Vasculitis, Diagnostic tests, Real-world evidence

M. Kara1, G. Alpi2, 1Republic of Turkey Ministry of Health University of Health Sciences Izmir Bozyaka Education and Research Hospital, Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 2Republic of Turkey Ministry of Health Izmir Katip Celebi University Izmir Atatürk Education and Research Hospital, Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Polymyalgia Rheumatica (PMR) is an inflammatory disease which does not have specific diagnostic tests or pathological symptoms and is defined with clinical characteristics. Among the acute phase reactants (APR), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-Reactive Protein (CRP) are laboratory findings used in the diagnosis and follow-up. Although abnormal ESR and CRP levels are included in the criteria for the classification of PMR, ESR and CRP can be observed as normal in 13% of PMR patients.

Objectives: In the study, it was aimed to determine the incidence of normal APR rates in patients diagnosed with PMR and to identify the distinguishing characteristics of these patients.

Methods: PMR patients who were clinically diagnosed at a single center were reviewed. After the presence of bursitis was demonstrated with ultrasonography (USG) in patients with normal ESR and CRP rates, they were accepted to have PMR. Patients with normal rates of ESR and CRP were compared against patients with high levels of ESR and/or CRP.

Results: In all 54 patients who were diagnosed with PMR (63% female, and mean age 65.39±13.9 years), >45 minute morning stiffness was present. Symptom duration median (IQR) was 3.5 (3) months, and ESR and CRP were found to be high in 72.2% and 83.3% of the patients, respectively. ESR and CRP were normal in 8 patients (14%), and serum amyloid A (SAA) was determined to be high in all these patients. At the time of the diagnosis, 51 patients (94%) had shoulder pain, and 41 patients (75%) suffered from hip pain. At the time of the diagnosis, median (IQR) ESR was found as 58.3 (49) mm/hour and CRP as 18.25 (38) mg/L. In 20 patients, SAA median (IQR) was 36 (26) U/L. The initial median (IQR) steroid dosage at the beginning of the treatment was prednisolone 20mg/day. As steroid sparing therapy, methotrexate was started in 27 patients, and azathiprine was started in 4 patients. In the group with normal levels

The relapse-free survival in patients with GCA is shown in Figure 1. The median time (months) in relapse was 14-4 (IQR 36.1).
of ESR and CRP, diagnosis median (IQR) ESR was 28.4 (4) mm/hour and CRP was 3.9 (1) mg/L, while in the group with high levels of ESR and CRP, diagnosis median (IQR) ESR was 76.5 (26) mm/hour, and CRP was 35.5 (60) mg/L. When the groups with normal and high levels of ESR and CRP were compared, it was found that diagnosis age was lower (p=0.027) in the normal ESR and CRP group, while the symptom duration was longer (p<0.001). When the patients were evaluated in terms of presence of at least one comorbidity, comorbidity was determined to be significantly lower in this group (p=0.01). Rheumatoid factor positivity, presence of anemia, and platelet count at the time of diagnosis and PMR exacerbation and giant cell arthritis development in the follow-up were similar. In the multiple regression analysis, when diagnosis age, symptom duration, and comorbidity were evaluated together, long symptom duration was independently associated with PMR with ESR and CRP normal levels (OR=0.045, 95% CI 0.03-0.676, p=0.025).

### Methods

Retrospective multicenter descriptive study of patients diagnosed with polymyalgia rheumatica in three hospitals in Madrid (Spain) treated with methotrexate as a corticosteroid-sparing agent. Clinical and demographic characteristics of the sample were analyzed and laboratory data evolution were evaluated by collecting positive acute phase reactants (ARF) (erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP)) at baseline, at 6 and 12 months of treatment. Descriptive statistics were used for data presentation. The Wilcoxon test for paired data was used to contrast statistical significance, with a p<0.05 being considered significant.

### Results

Overall, 58 patients were included: 26 men (44.83%) and 32 women (55.17%), with a mean age of 78.58 (±7.3) years, mean disease duration of 7.46 (±5.78) years. The mean values of CPR, ESR, dose of prednisone and MTX at baseline, at 12 months of treatment are shown in Table 1. In 52 (89.66%) patients it was possible to reduce the dose of prednisone to <5mg/24h after 12 months of treatment. No significant liver function abnormalities were observed in any of the patients.

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Normal ESR</th>
<th>CRP High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>68.57 (75.3)</td>
<td>35.5 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>15 (32.6)</td>
<td>39 (84.8)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1. Baseline, 6 months and 12 months values of ESR, CRP, Prednisone and Methotrexate in patients with GCA and PMR.*

# Conclusion

As a therapeutic option in steroid-resistant polymyalgia rheumatica, methotrexate seems to offer a steroid-sparing effect at 6 and 12 months of treatment. The treatment is well tolerated.

# References

2. University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands.

### Keywords

Patient reported outcomes, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Vasculitis

### AB0742

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEROID-SPARING EFFECT OF METHOTREXATE IN PATIENTS WITH STEROID-RESISTANT POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA: MULTICENTER RETROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Background

Polymyalgia rheumatica is a common inflammatory rheumatic disease affecting people older than 50. It is characterized by symmetrical pain and stiffness of the neck, shoulder, and pelvic girdle and associated with an increase in the concentration of positive acute phase reactants. The diagnosis is based on a clinical picture. Initial treatment consists of corticosteroids, and initial doses of 15 to 20mg of prednisone or equivalent are usually adequate in most cases. The subgroup of patients that responds only partially to corticosteroids or develops corticosteroid resistance usually requires the introduction of a corticosteroid-sparing drug, methotrexate being the most widely used in routine clinical practice.

#### Objectives

To evaluate the efficacy and safety of methotrexate in patients with steroid-resistant polymyalgia rheumatica in real clinical practice.

#### Methods

Retrospective multicenter descriptive study of patients diagnosed with polymyalgia rheumatica in three hospitals in Madrid (Spain) treated with methotrexate as a corticosteroid-sparing agent. Clinical and demographic characteristics of the sample were analyzed and laboratory data evolution were evaluated by collecting positive acute phase reactants (ARF) (erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP)) at baseline, at 6 and 12 months of treatment. Descriptive statistics were used for data presentation. The Wilcoxon test for paired data was used to contrast statistical significance, with a p<0.05 being considered significant.

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1. Baseline, 6 months and 12 months values of ESR, CRP, Prednisone and Methotrexate in patients with GCA and PMR.*
PROMs at diagnosis and during follow-up. We found that weight loss at diagnosis was associated with particularly low PROM scores, whereas inflammatory markers did not (PMR) or only moderately (GCA) associate with PROMs. Surprisingly, the physician general disease assessment (GDA) score showed no association with PROMs at diagnosis or at the 2-year visit. PROMs at the 2-year visit did correlate with the Fatigue score and patient GDA. Equivalent to the baseline visit, laboratory markers such as CRP correlated with PROMs in GCA, but not PMR patients. Finally, at the 2-year visit the use of glucocorticoids in GCA patients associated with worse PROMs, but in PMR patients with better scores on the SF-36. MTX use was associated with better PROMs, but only in GCA patients. **Conclusion:** GCA and PMR patients experience both short-term and long-term impact on their frailty, daily functioning and quality of life. Medication use appears to be important in determining the patient’s quality of life, although surprisingly, glucocorticoid and methotrexate use appear to affect GCA and PMR patients differently. Importantly, the physician GDA or inflammatory markers do not associate strongly with PROMs, particularly in PMR patients, indicating a need for better understanding of the disease and treatment impact on patient’s life.

**Data, expressed as median and interquartile range, are compared to age and sex-matched HCs. Scores range from 0-100; a score of 100 indicates the most healthy outcome.**

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Descriptive studies, Imaging

**Methods:** We identified 128 patients with GCA diagnosed between 2011 and 2021 in our Center. All patients were older than 50 years of age, met the 1990 ACR criteria for GCA or had a positive temporal artery biopsy or ultrasound. Medical records of all patients were reviewed and demographic, clinical, and laboratory data were collected.

**Results:** Fifty-five patients (43%) presented at diagnosis visual ischemic manifestations: blurred vision in 6 pts, diplopia in 6 pts, amaurosis fugax in 5 pts, partial visual loss in 23 pts and complete vision loss in 1 or 2 eyes in 12 and 3 pts respectively. Out of 38 patients with partial or complete visual loss, 36 presented Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy (AION), and 2 presented Central Retinal Artery Occlusion (CRAO). Patients with visual manifestations had a median age of 77 (IQR 73-81) years, significantly older if compared to patients without ocular symptoms (72 (67-76) years, p<0.001). Patients with ocular involvement presented more often hypertension (67 vs 44%, p: 0.009) and chronic kidney disease (7 vs 0%, p: 0.031) as comorbidity at diagnosis, while no differences were found in diabetes, cancer, coronary heart disease and dyslipidemia incidence comparing patients with and without visual manifestations. No associations between visual impairment and other cranial symptoms (headache, jaw claudication, scalp tenderness) were found, but peripheral arthritis was negatively associated with ocular manifestations. No laboratory variables were associated with ocular involvement.

**Conclusion:** In this large cohort of patients with GCA, partial or complete visual loss were the most frequent visual manifestations. No associations between ocular involvement and other cranial symptoms were found, while patients with peripheral arthritis had a lower risk of developing visual impairment. Age and hypertension at disease onset seem to be the most important risk factors for visual ischemic manifestations in GCA patients.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOIs:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3686
Methods: We reviewed our internal database for [18F]-FDG PET/CT among patients with LVV (GCA, Takayasu). Were selected [18F]-FDG PET/CT with available blood inflammatory markers and a CTA performed during the same period (permitted a range of 7 days for blood tests or 30 days for CTA), patients were all out of therapy or on stable therapy. As controls were taken ten patients under going PET/CT for oncologic diagnostics. The SUV maximum (SUV max) was considered that in the aortic arch or in the vascular region with higher levels of SUV. Target-to-background ratio was calculated considering average SUV in the right hepatic lobe (SUV max/SUV liver ratio). Non parametric test for correlation analyses were performed between SUV max, SUV max/SUV liver ratio and CRP (mg/dl). According previous data a cut-off of SUV max/SUV liver ratio >1.2 was considered and was then compared with CRP, for disease activity, and with CTA, to find agreement with vessel wall thickness and contrast enhancement.

Results: 33 [18F]-FDG PET/CT from 21 patients, 4 Takayasu and 17 GCA, 9M/12F, mean age 61.2 years were available for analysis, 13 out of them had at least one CTA to compare (total 21 CTA). SUV max and SUV max/SUV liver ratio in LVV resulted statistically higher than controls (Mann-Whitney test respectively U= 21, p = 0.00001 and U=76, p=0.027). Linear correlation between SUV max and CRP resulted highly significant (Spearman: r = 0.51 p = 0.006) but also correlation for SUV max/SUV liver ratio resulted significant (Spearman: r = 0.47, p = 0.011). Applying a cut-off for SUV max/SUV liver >1.2 we found a statistically significant agreement with CRP (Mann-Whitney U=43 p =0.0015). Less correlation was found when [18F]-FDG PET/CT SUV was compared with contrast enhancement and vessel wall thickness of CTAs, probably, because of the increased vessel thickness remains even in the inactive disease stages.

Conclusion: Although further studies are expected, semi-quantitative [18F]-FDG PET/CT scoring methods and simple cut off scores based on TBR analysis seems to correlate with disease activity and they could be used in the clinical practice, together with inflammation indices and other radiological imaging techniques, to offer a reliable and repeatable tool to help clinicians in managing LVV.

REFERENCES:
[1] FDG-PET/CT(A) imaging in large vessel vasculitis and polyangiitis rheumatica: joint procedural recommendation of the EANM, SNMMI, and the PET Interest Group (PIG), and endorsed by the ASNC. Sliant RHJA: Writing group; Reviewer group; Members of EANM Cardiovascular; Members of EANM Infection & Inflammation; Members of Committees, SNMMI Cardiovascular; Members of Council, PET Interest Group; Members of ASNC; EANM Committee Coordinator. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging. 2018;45(7):1250-126


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0746 CHANGES IN DIAGNOSING GIANT CELL ARTERITIS OF THE TEMPORAL ARTERY OVER A 7.7 YEAR PERIOD

Keywords: Vasculitis, Imaging, Clinical trials

M. H. Röchter1, S. Thiesbrummel2, H. Marchi2, C. Fuchs2, M. Rudwaleit3.

1Bielefeld University, Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Bielefeld, Germany; 2Bielefeld University, Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, Bielefeld, Germany; 3Bielefeld University, Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Bielefeld, Germany

Background: Temporal artery biopsy (TAB) was the diagnostic reference standard for decades in giant cell arthritis (GCA). Evidence-based EULAR recommendations regarding the use of imaging techniques in diagnosing GCA have been published in 2018 [1]. According to the use of colour Doppler Ultrasonography (CDUS) could "complement the clinical criteria for diagnosing GCA, assuming high expertise and prompt availability of the imaging technique" [1]. However, sensitivity and specificity of CDUS showed substantial variation between studies (2), with the investigator’s expertise assumed to be a major contributing factor [1].

Objectives: To study changes in the use of CDUS and TAB as diagnostic procedures for suspected GCA of the temporal artery over a period of 7.7 years in a single rheumatological centre.

Methods: Patients who presented to our rheumatological department between 10/2014 and 06/2022 were retrospectively identified either via a final diagnosis of GCA (ICD-10 codes M.31.4, M31.5, M31.6) or by the coded procedure of TAB (OPS 1-587 .0 or 1-587 .x). CDUS was performed by rheumatologists using GE Healthcare S5 machine from 2014 until spring 2016, and thereafter GE Healthcare LogiqE9 machine. A positive CDUS was defined by a non-compressible halo sign and hypoechoic thickened vessel wall in any of the temporal arteries. We compared the frequency of use and results of CDUS and of TAB for confirming a clinical diagnosis of GCA of the temporal artery in three time periods of 2-3 years each (2014-2016, P1; 2017-2019, P2; 2020-2022, P3). Statistical significance of changes in relative frequencies was assessed via Fisher’s exact test.

Results: Of 158 patients, we excluded 48 patients for the following reasons: diagnosis of aortitis or Takayasu vasculitis by other diagnostic means (n=16), final diagnosis other than GCA but undergoing TAB (n=24), already existing diagnosis of GCA with affection of the temporal artery prior to first presentation (n=7), and incomplete data sets (n=1). Of 110 GCA patients analysed, the mean age was 76.2 yrs (range 55 to 91 yrs), and 72 patients (65.5%) were female. All but one patient underwent CDUS (99.1%). Over the entire study period, the proportion of positive CDUS findings increased from 45.8% in P1 to 80.6% in P3. Conversely, the proportion of TAB evaluations decreased from 88% in P1 to 71.4% in P2 to 16.7% in P3. In all three time periods, conducted TAB evaluations were largely positive: 77.3% in P1, 74.3% in P2, and 83.3% in P3 (Figure 1).

In P3, 29 out of 36 (80.6%) GCA patients had a positive CDUS and were diagnosed based on CDUS alone, of them without consecutive TAB. Only 6/36 patients (16.7%) underwent TAB: 5 patients received a positive TAB after doubtful CDUS, 1 patient received a doubtful TAB after negative CDUS. The proportion of patients who were diagnosed with GCA after positive CDUS and without TAB among all GCA-diagnosed patients that underwent CDUS of the temporal artery significantly increased when comparing P3 vs. P1 (p<0.001) and P3 vs. P2 (p<0.001), but not for P1 vs. P2 (p=0.2). Due to small sample size and involvement of several rheumatologists who gained experience in CDUS over the study period, an independent effect of changing the ultrasound machine could statistically not be assessed.

Conclusion: A significant change in using CDUS alone for diagnosing GCA of the temporal artery has taken place between 2014 and 2022, with substantial reduction of TAB evaluations especially after having obtained positive CDUS results. This change is likely due to increased expertise and confidence of the examining rheumatologists in CDUS evaluations on appropriate ultrasound machines over time. Yet, data from the most recent time period indicate the ongoing need for TAB as an effective diagnostic tool in the few cases of inconclusive CDUS and high clinical suspicion of GCA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3866

AB0747 NON-INFECTIONOUS AORTITIS: CLINICAL AND HISTOLOGICAL CORRELATION

Keywords: Imaging, Vasculitis


1Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; 2Hospital de Logroño, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario de La Princesa, Madrid, Spain; 4Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Madrid, Spain; 5Asistencial Universitario de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; 6Hospital de Logroño, Spain
Background: Isolated aortitis is considered a single organ vasculitis in the latest 2012 International Chapel Hill Consensus Conference revision. Despite being an increasingly diagnosed condition thanks to imaging tests, given the difficulty in completing the histological study, it is frequently unknown whether it is an isolated entity or a clinical manifestation of other vasculitis or rheumatologic entities.

Objectives: To describe the histological findings in samples of inflammatory aortic aneurysms and correlate them with their clinical presentation.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was performed. Aortic biopsies from elective aortic aneurysm surgery performed at a university hospital from 2019 to 2021 were reviewed. The samples with a non-infectious inflammatory pattern were selected. Cases of aortitis secondary to infection and/or atherosclerosis were excluded. The samples were reviewed again by a pathologist specialized in vascular wall disease and classified according to the 2015 consensus on surgical pathology of the aorta of the Society for Cardiovascular Pathology and the European Association of Cardiovascular Diseases in granulomatous pattern, lymphoplasmacytic pattern and mixed inflammatory pattern. Likewise, the pathologist, taking into account the previous classification and the findings, assigned a diagnostic orientation, only taking into account the histological findings. Demographic, clinical, laboratory data and the diagnostic orientation of the pathologist were collected.

Results: Of the 116 aortic tissue samples reviewed, inflammatory findings were observed in 10 (9%) of the biopsies. Characteristics of the patients whose biopsies were included are shown in Table 1. 80% of the samples came from the proximal aorta, 10% from the aortic arch, and the remaining 10% from the abdominal aorta. The mean diameter of the aneurysm was 61.7 ± 21 millimeters. The rheumatologist’s clinical diagnosis for the patients included was: 1 patient with Giant Cell Arteritis, 1 patient with Takayasus disease, 1 patient with Behcet’s disease, 1 patient with HLA-B27-associated spondyloarthropathy, and 6 patients with idiopathic aortitis. Histologically, 8 patients presented a lymphoplasmacytic pattern, 1 patient a granulomatous pattern, and 1 patient a mixed inflammatory pattern. The diagnostic orientation of the pathologist coincided with the clinician in 9/10 of the cases. The most frequent final diagnosis was nonspecific isolated aortitis (7/10), followed by Giant Cell Arteritis (1/10), Takayasu’s arteritis (1/10) and Behcet’s disease (1/10). There is a concordance between the histological pattern and the diagnostic orientation of the pathologist with the diagnostic orientation of the clinician in 9 of the 10 cases.

Conclusion: There is a high concordance between histopathologic and clinical diagnosis in the patients included in this study. Despite this, there is a high prevalence of non-specific aortitis, yet to be identified. Non-granulomatous lymphoplasmacytic pattern is the most reported in our series of cases.

Table 1. Demographic, clinical data, aortic parameters and other analytical results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>N = 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years), median ± SD</td>
<td>69.4 ± 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV risk factors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking history</td>
<td>7 (70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>1 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidaemia</td>
<td>4 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterial hypertension</td>
<td>4 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary Disease, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²), median ± SD</td>
<td>29.4±10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspirin</td>
<td>1 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antihypertensive</td>
<td>5 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statins</td>
<td>4 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-blockers</td>
<td>3 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticoagulant</td>
<td>1 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional symptoms</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMR</td>
<td>2 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropsychiatric symptoms</td>
<td>3 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoracic pain</td>
<td>4 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical variables at baseline, median ± SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>37.7±18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h)</td>
<td>87.3±33</td>
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<tr>
<td>TG (mg/dL)</td>
<td>108.3±64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cholesterol (mg/dL)</td>
<td>147.1±21</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDL (mg/dL)</td>
<td>95.8±24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL (mg/dL)</td>
<td>45.2±12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AB0748 COGNITIVE FUNCTION IN POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA AND GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Cognitive Function, Patient reported outcomes

P. Harkins 1, S. Cowley 2, D. Kane 3, R. Conway 3. 1St James Hospital, Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland; 3Galway University Hospital, Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland

Background: In the past decade our understanding of the prevalence, and indeed impact of cognitive impairment in rheumatic diseases has increased [1, 2]. An aging population, coupled with systemic inflammation have been postulated as key drivers of increased cognitive decline in these conditions. Intact cognitive function is imperative not only for quality of life and maintenance of one’s functional capacity, but also for successful therapeutic management of disease, namely the adherence to treatment regimens. Both giant cell arteritis (GCA) and polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) occur in those over 50 years of age, and are associated with a significant systemic inflammatory response. [3] To date, the prevalence of cognitive impairment in these conditions has not been studied.

Objectives: To explore the prevalence and possible predictors of cognitive impairment in those with PMR and/or GCA.

Methods: Participants from a multicentre longitudinal cohort study of PMR and/or GCA participated in a study visit that included an assessment of cognitive function. Cognitive function was evaluated using the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) test which was conducted by trained interviewers. Demographic, clinical and laboratory data related to disease activity (PMR-Activity Score), neuropsychiatric symptoms (DASS-21) and patient reported outcomes (Visual analogue scale (VAS) and health assessment questionnaire (HAG-DII) were collected. Cognitive impairment was defined by the previously validated MoCA cut-off score of <26. A two tailed t-test, and independent chi squared test were used to analyse continuous and categorical variables respectively. A multivariate linear regression analysis was then performed.

Results: A total of 55 participants with a mean age of 70.5 (SD 7.61) were suitable for inclusion. 29 (52.7%) were female. 29 (52.7%) had isolated PMR, 8 (14.5%) had subclinical GCA with PMR, and 18 (32%) had isolated GCA, 34...
Background: Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) is the commonest large and medium artery vasculitis affecting patients aged 50 or above. It is a multisystem, inflammatory condition that can result in significant comorbidity, even mortality. Corticosteroids form the mainstay in remission induction and maintenance therapy. Complications can arise either due to the timing of steroid commencement; one could not be scanned due to technical reasons, so a TAB was requested. Crucially, this was the only TAB requested during this period. GCA diagnosis was comfortably made for 21 out of the 42 patients scanned (50%). We ruled out GCA in the rest of the scanned patients (50%).

Conclusion: A pilot Fast Track clinic at EDGH facilitated prompt diagnosis of GCA with the use of USS. In a period of six months, we were able to confidently diagnose or rule out GCA in 100% of our scanned patients, without the need for a TAB. Such a set up enables prompt diagnosis of GCA and timely commencement of the appropriate steroid-weening regimen, thus avoiding any future complications. Crucially, it allows the timely discontinuation of GP-commenced steroid therapy in patients with excluded GCA, thus minimising side effects of an unnecessary treatment. Typically, it takes more than three weeks to arrange a TAB. USS use also avoids an invasive procedure with potential for surgical complications. Additionally, from a Healthcare System point of view, there are certain cost-saving implications in using USS for GCA diagnosis. These range from reduced OPD clinic time and diminished demand for theatre slots and staff, to minimisation of future complications from timely commencement or discontinuation of steroid management. We also observed improved patient experience. This study confirms the integral role of USS in a Fast Track GCA Service.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgments to declare.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0750

PREGNANCY DURING TAKAYASU VASCULITIS: ABOUT 24 PREGNANCIES

Keywords: Vasculitis, Pregnancy and reproduction

H. Khibri1, F. Bourik El Idrissi1, A. Meghraoui1, M. Obtel2, C. Yasmina1, N. Mouattassim1, W. Ammour1, M. Maamar1, H. Harmouch1, M. Adnaoui1, Z. Tazi Mezalek1, Souissi, Department of Internal Medicine-Clinical Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco, 2Faculty of Medicine And Pharmacy of Rabat, Clinical Epidemiology Service, Rabat, Morocco

Background: TAKAYASU vasculitis is a vasculitis of the large trunks mainly affecting women of childbearing age. Pregnancy during TAKAYASU disease may be associated with maternal and/or mater-mono-fetal complications as well as a flare-up of this vasculitis. Adequate management of TAKAYASU disease as well as regular monitoring of pregnancy is necessary.

Methods: We conducted a descriptive, analytical and observational retrospective study, spanning 36 years (1984–2020) at the internal medicine department of the UHC Ibn SINA 102 patients were being followed up for TAKAYASU disease. We have detailed the pregnancies carried out in patients during their follow-up for TAKAYASU disease.

Results: During their follow-up for TAKAYASU’s disease, 10 patients carried out 24 pregnancies. Their mean age was estimated at 31.78 ± 12.2 years (16-51 years). 2 patients had taking oral hormonal contraception. Hypertension is found in 5 patients at the time of diagnosis of TAKAYASU’s disease. It was secondary to bilateral stenosis of the renal arteries in one patient. 53% pregnancies were term without fetal complications in 5 patients with inactive TAKAYASU vasculitis during their pregnancies, 23% were complicated by fetal death in utero, 15% termination of pregnancy (voluntary and therapeutic and spontaneous), and 12.5% growth retardation in utero. 3 (33%) patients presented with pre-eclampsia, and one (10%) patient presented with pregnancy-induced hypertension and another patient (10%)
had a hemorrhagic stroke. Only one premature delivery was performed in front of a fetal distress by caesarean section. The vaginal delivery was ensured in 45.83%, and the caesarean in 8.3%. Fetal extraction was performed vaginally for death feat in utero and pregnancy terminations. The pregnancy was responsible for a flare-up of TAKAYASU’s vasculitis which went from an inactive status (NIH stage 1-2) to an active status (NIH stage 3-4) in 2/10 (20%) of the patients and was statistically linked to relapse with a significant p (p=0.009). TAKAYASU vasculitis type I was predominated (50%) followed by type V (30%). Statistical analysis showed a statistically significant link between pregnancy and carotid artery disease (P=0.01). 8/10 patients (80%) were treated by corticosteroids and platelet aggregation inhibitor during 13/24 pregnancies (54.16%). Before the pregnancies, 7 patients had received immunosuppressive treatment such as methotrexate, cyclophosphamide in one patient and another was treated by adalimumab. Only 5 patients needed recourse to immunosuppressive therapy during their pregnancies (azathioprine). Statistical analyzes objectified a significant link between pregnancy and the use of azathioprine (p=0.02). 4 patients received antiplatelet treatment; one patient had undergone vascular surgery for bilateral stenosis of the renal arteries.

Conclusion: TAKAYASU’S vasculitis does not affect the fertility of patients with this disease. But a pregnancy carried out during the progressive form of this vasculitis can be responsible for serious maternal and fetal complications. Our study suggests links between pregnancy and relapse of TAKAYASU vasculitis, TAKAYASU’s type I provocative factor, and the interest of using azathioprine during pregnancies evolving on active TAKAYASU vasculitis. We propose an internist-obstetrician collaboration in order to better manage this delicate medical situation on the maternal and fetal medical strategy.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2690

AB0752

AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS IN PATIENTS WITH GASTROINTESTINAL INVOLVEMENT OF BEHÇET SYNDROME

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Behçet’s disease, Spondyloarthritis

M. Ozturk1, S. N. Esatoglu2,3, I. Hatemi4, A. F. Celik5, E. Yilmaz2, D. Ucar6, M. Melikoglu2,3, H. Yazici7, G. Hatemi2,3.

1Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Beyeh Syndrome Research Center, Istanbul, Turkey; 4Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Istanbul, Turkey; 5Academic Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Despite attempts to lump Behçet syndrome (BS) with spondyloarthritis, controlled studies have shown that radiographic sacroiliitis is not increased in BS (BS). However, gastrointestinal involvement of Behçet syndrome (GIBS) shares common features with inflammatory bowel disease which, in turn, can be associated with spondyloarthritis.

Objectives: To test whether GIBS patients have an increased frequency of radiographic sacroiliitis or non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-AxSpA) compared to BS patients without major organ involvement who have only mucocutaneous and/or joint involvement.

Methods: We included 67 GIBS patients and 55 consecutive BS patients without major organ involvement. Patients were screened for axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) using the Assessment of Spondyloarthritis International Society (ASAS) criteria. First they were questioned for chronic back pain, defined as ASAS as the presence of chronic back pain for more than 3 months with an age at onset of <45 years. Patients with chronic back pain were questioned for other spondyloarthritis features and underwent HLA-B27 testing, C-reactive protein testing, and X-ray and magnetic resonance imaging of the sacroiliac joints.

Results: Chronic back pain was reported by 24 (35%) GIBS patients and 16 (29%) BS patients without major organ involvement. Eight (12%) GIBS patients and 4 (7%) controls met ASAS criteria for axSpA (p=0.39). Four (6%) GIBS patients and 1 (2%) patient in the control group had radiographic axSpA (also termed ankylosing spondylitis), whereas 4 GIBS patients and 3 patients among the controls had nr-AxSpA. HLA B27 was positive in 2 (8%) of the GIBS patients and in 3 (19%) of the controls (p=0.33) (Table 1).

Conclusion: There was some, statistically insignificant increase in the frequency of axSpA among the GIBS patients. While the frequency of ankylosing spondylitis was consistent with previous studies, the frequency of axSpA according to the more recent ASAS criteria was found in 9.8% of the total group of BS patients.

To the best of our knowledge ASAS criteria have not previously been tested in BS. They, perhaps need to be studied in a larger group of BS patients, including those with acne associated arthritis- previously shown to be associated with ankylosing spondylitis (1) - together with healthy and diseased controls.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographics and characteristics of the patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GIBS (n=67)</th>
<th>BS without major organ involvement (n=55)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>36 (54%)</td>
<td>20 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age</td>
<td>45 ±12</td>
<td>40 ± 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AxSpA according to ASAS criteria</td>
<td>8 (12%)</td>
<td>4 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical arm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging arm</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic back pain</td>
<td>24 (35%)</td>
<td>16 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory back pain</td>
<td>13 (19%)</td>
<td>10 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpA features among patients with chronic back pain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory back pain</td>
<td>13 (54%)</td>
<td>10 (62.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td>3 (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>11 (46%)</td>
<td>6 (37.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis</td>
<td>9 (37.5%)</td>
<td>5 (31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good response to NSAID</td>
<td>16 (67%)</td>
<td>9 (56%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history for SpA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated CRP</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2900

AB0752

REMAINING UNMET NEEDS FOR THE TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Vasculitis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

E. Hettel1, M. Yarnall1, K. Murray1, 1Spherix Global Insights, Market Research, Exton, United States of America

Background: Rheumatologists face significant challenges in the management of giant cell arteritis (GCA), with a limited armamentarium of treatment options. Physicians are largely dependent on the use of glucocorticoids, with tocilizumab being the only available advanced systemic agent for the treatment of giant cell arteritis.

Methods: An independent market analytics firm collaborated with 102 US rheumatologists to conduct an analysis of the GCA market. Data were collected via an online survey and supplemented with 8 qualitative interviews, all fielded June 16 through July 13, 2022. Research stimuli included physician demographics, patient management, use and perceptions of current treatments, as well as perceptions of potential new assets in development for GCA.

Results: The desire to minimize use of glucocorticoids is currently the greatest treatment challenge in the management of GCA. Although rheumatologists recognize the benefits of initiating newly diagnosed patients on glucocorticoids for the prevention of disease progression, including blindness caused by GCA, the negative side effects caused by long-term use gives physicians concern. While tocilizumab is used in patients with and without cerebral or ocular symptoms, most rheumatologists still rely heavily on the use of glucocorticoids, accounting for 89% of patient prescriptions in GCA, an aspect largely driven by a lack of availability for other advanced therapies. Of patients prescribed tocilizumab, 65% of patients were initiated on the drug in combination with glucocorticoids. Interviewed prescribers indicate difficulty in tapering glucocorticoids for patients on combination therapy, aiding in the desire for more steroid-sparing treatment options.

GCA Treatment % of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WITH cerebral or ocular symptoms</th>
<th>WITHOUT cerebral or ocular symptoms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tocilizumab</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other options</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tocilizumab</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other options</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.
Rheumatologists are excited to see new agents in development for GCA. Preference is highest for an IL-17A inhibitor, making secukinumab the leading drug of interest. Physicians also perceive secukinumab to be more of an advance over tocilizumab than upadacitinib or guselkumab.

### Table 1. Product Profile Perceptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of respondents</th>
<th>% of respondents</th>
<th>% of respondents</th>
<th>% of respondents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secukinumab</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guselkumab</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upadacitinib</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** With rheumatologists continuing to use tocilizumab in GCA, there is still a high need to reduce the use of steroids and for new mechanisms of actions to become available for this patient population. Physicians are eager to expand the current GCA armamentarium and anticipate these potential new agents to make have a positive impact on their management of GCA.

**REFERENCES:**

[1] Kara Murray, Emily Hettel and Maxine Yarnall are employees of Spherix Global Insights, an independent market intelligence firm, and have received no industry funding to conduct and report on this study.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3890

**AB0753 Efficacy and Safety of Tocilizumab in Patients with Vasculitis**

**Keywords:** Systematic review, bDMARD, Vasculitis

J. Luo1,2, Q. Y. Su1,2, Q. Li1,2, Y. Zhang1,2, X. Y. Li1,2, X. Zhang1,2, Y. Ren1,2, O. Yu1, P. F. He1, X. Li1,2, S. X. Zhang1,2, 3Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, Shanxi, China; 4Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 5The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, Shanxi, China; 6Ministry of Education, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Vasculitis is characterized by inflammation of blood vessels, leading to potential long-term sequelae, including vision loss, aneurysm formation, and kidney failure. Large vessel vasculitis encompasses Takayasu arteritis and giant cell arteritis, which cause inflammation of the aorta and its major branches. Tocilizumab, a humanized monoclonal antibody against the interleukin-6 receptor, has been associated with rapid induction and maintenance of remission in patients with vasculitis.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to systematically evaluate the efficacy and safety of tocilizumab therapy in vasculitis.

**Methods:** Eight databases (PubMed, Web of Science, Embase, Cochrane Library, Web of Knowledge, MEDLINE, Clinical Trials.gov, and FDA.gov) were searched for studies on tocilizumab treatment of vasculitis published from the date of establishment of the database to January 1, 2023. We used Stata 12.0 software to conduct a meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of tocilizumab in patients with vasculitis.

**Results:** A total of 8 studies with a total of 823 patients were included. Either doses 162mg/week or 8mg/kg/4weeks, compared with placebo, tocilizumab significantly both promoted remission of vasculitis (RR=0.909, 95%CI: 0.768-1.075, P<0.001; RR=0.639, 95%CI: 0.410-0.984, P=0.042)(Figure 1A). No significant difference was observed in the probability of disease relapse in subgroup analysis based on different diseases(Figure 1B). In subgroup analysis based on dose, 8mg/kg/4 weeks doses significantly reduced the probability of disease relapse (RR=0.639, 95% CI: 0.410-0.984, P=0.047)(Figure 1C). The results of subgroup analysis about the rate of adverse events (AE) and serious adverse events (SAE) according to different diseases and different doses, our meta-analysis found that there was no statistical significance between tocilizumab and placebo(Figure 1E-H). It demonstrated the safety of tocilizumab therapy in vasculitis treatment.

**Conclusion:** Tocilizumab treatment was effective and well-tolerated in vasculitis patients.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4347

**AB0754 Cluster Analysis of Arteries Involved in Takayasu Arteritis**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis

H. Liao1, L. Pan2, 1Beijing Anzhen Hospital, Capital Medical University, Departments of Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China; 2Beijing Anzhen Hospital, Capital Medical University, Departments of Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China

**Background:** Takayasu’s arteritis (TAK) is a chronic, large-vessel vasculitis that mostly affects young Asian women[1-4]. Vascular inflammation in TAK primarily invades the aorta and its major branches and often leads to arterial stenosis and aneurysms. At present, there is no relevant research report on how to identify the vascular lesions of organs in the early stage and the relationship between the affected vessels.

**Objectives:** To investigate the correlation of arterial involvement sites in Takayasu arteritis.

**Methods:** We retrospectively investigated data of 144 TAK patients. The clinical and image data of the patients were analyzed. We performed cluster analysis according to the affected artery.

**Results:** Cluster analysis revealed five clusters of patients. In cluster one was named “abdominal aortic type”. It was characterized by the involvement of arteries in the abdominal aorta, renal artery, coeliac trunk, superior mesenteric artery. In cluster two was named “cardio-cerebral arteries type”. It was characterized by the involvement of arteries in the intracranial artery, coronary artery. In cluster three was named “thoracic aorta type” it was characterized by the involvement of arteries in the thoracic aorta and pulmonary artery was observed. In cluster four was named “vertebral artery type”. It was characterized by the involvement of arteries in the left vertebral artery, right vertebral artery. In cluster five was named “carotid artery type”. It was characterized by the involvement of arteries in the right common carotid artery, left common carotid artery, right subclavian artery, left subclavian artery, innominate artery.

**Conclusion:** Cluster analysis of the involved sites of Takayasu arteritis could be divided into 5 categories. It is abdominal aortic type, cardio-cerebral arteries type, thoracic aorta type, vertebral artery type and carotid artery type.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4518
INVESTIGATING CYTOGLOBIN IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS: ITS ROLE IN THE PATHOGENESIS AND POTENTIAL AS A BIOMARKER

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Biomarkers, Vasculitis

L. Farnah1, M. Felix2, A. Ibrahim3, R. Peredo-Wende4, D. Jourd’heuili5, F. Jourd’heuili5, Albany Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Albany, United States of America; 2Yale School of Medicine, Rheumatology, New Haven, United States of America; 3Albany Medical Center, Pathology, Albany, United States of America; 4Albany Stratton VA Medical Center, Rheumatology, Albany, United States of America; 5Albany Medical College, Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, Albany, United States of America

Background: Cytoglobin (CYGB) is a non-erythroid globin that is found in medial smooth muscle cells (SMCs) of human vessels. Recent studies have postulated that CYGB act as a pro-survival factor during conditions associated with increased oxidative stress, by upregulating anti-apoptotic factors and antioxidant pathways. In this study, we hypothesized that CYGB regulates the inflammatory and antioxidant response associated with GCA pathogenesis.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to evaluate giant cell arteritis (GCA) vascular lesions for the expression of CYGB and its association with specific molecular markers of cellular damage. We would also like to investigate the association of CYGB with GCA pathogenesis, symptomatology, degree of systemic inflammation, patient demographics, and response to treatment.

Methods: We obtained 29 temporal artery biopsy samples, 14-biopsy positive and 15-biopsy negative, from patients who underwent temporal artery biopsy for GCA diagnosis (Table 1). Inclusion criteria for the experimental group included patients over the age of 18 who had histologic evidence of GCA and met the ACR 1990 classification criteria. The control group included patients who were biopsy negative for GCA. Immunofluorescence staining for CYGB will be done on all samples to assess differential expression across the experimental and control groups. Proximity ligation assays (PLA) will be done to assess binding between cytoglobin and known pro-inflammatory markers to establish mechanistic insights for CYGB in the pathogenesis of GCA. We will also obtain clinical data including signs and symptoms at presentation, levels of serum inflammatory markers, treatment, clinical course, and outcomes.

Results: We are currently conducting validation studies of the immunofluorescence and PLA staining for specific molecular markers on temporal artery biopsy samples. Thus far, we were able to validate the immunofluorescence staining for CYGB (Figure 1) and the PLA for CYGB and HMGB2. Once we have established robust and reliable staining protocols for other markers, we will implement these protocols in our control and GCA groups and move forward with the analysis.

Conclusion: We previously demonstrated that overexpressing CYGB in smooth muscle inhibits apoptosis and regulates vascular remodeling. "Cytoglobin at the crossroads of vascular remodeling." Arteriosclerosis, thrombosis, and vascular biology 37.10 (2017): 1803-1805.

Figure 1. Validation of the immunofluorescence staining for cytoglobin (CYGB) on temporal artery biopsy specimen

Table 1. Demographic and clinical features of patients who underwent temporal artery biopsy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIAGNOSIS</th>
<th>GCA, 14</th>
<th>Non-GCA, 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex (F/M)</td>
<td>11 F/3 M</td>
<td>9 F/6 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (avg. years)</td>
<td>77.1</td>
<td>73.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CELIANT FEATUERES

Abnormal visual changes | 12 | 5 |
New Onset Headaches | 4 | 8 |
Tingual Tenderness | 3 | 6 |
Jaw Claudication | 14 | 1 |
Fever (°C) | 46.2 | 43.7 |
ESR (Avg.):<8.0mg/dL | 57 | 40.4 |

THERAPY

Steroid therapy | 13 | 5 |
Tocilizumab therapy | 6 | 0 |
Methotrexate therapy | 1 | 2 |

REFERENCES:


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.358

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTOPATHOLOGIC FINDINGS OF PATIENTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS: A MULTICENTRE STUDY IN THE ERA OF 2022 ACR/EULAR CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR GCA

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Validation, Vasculitis

G. Sandal Uzun1,2, O. Gököz2, A. Heper2, B. Cimer Ojut3, S. Gürses3, A. Omma1, M. A. Oztürk8, A. Ateş3, L. Kılıç1,2, O. Karadağ1,2, Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey; 3Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 4Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 5Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 6Department of Pathology, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey; 7Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 8Ministry of Health Ankara City Hospital, Ankara, Turkey, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 9Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Although temporal artery biopsy (TAB) is the gold standard in the diagnosis of giant cell arteritis (GCA), the specific histopathological findings and their relationship with clinical diagnosis have not been well discussed. In recent 2022 ACR/EULAR GCA classification criteria, the presence of giant cells, predominantly mononuclear cell infiltration, and fragmentation in the internal elastic lamina have been defined for the interpretation of definitive vasculitis. [1]

Objectives: To re-evaluate TAB histopathological findings of patients with GCA recruited from 4 tertiary centres in Ankara according to the2022 ACR/EULAR Classification criteria and compare frequencies of these items with DCVAS study [2].

Methods: TAB reports of patients with GCA from 4 tertiary centres between March 2004 and February 2022 were retrospectively reviewed according to the histopathological items defined in the updated criteria. TAB reports were classified by the local physicians as normal, nondiagnostic, consistent with vasculitis but not definite, and definite vasculitis.

Results: Totally, TAB histopathologic reports of 88 patients with GCA were reviewed. The mean age of the patients at the time of TAB was 69.7 (s=8.5) years and 46(52.2%) were female. Twenty-eight reports without microscopic details were excluded and reports of 60 patients were reanalysed. Of the 60 patients,
Results: We collected 109 files. The sex ratio (F/M) was 7.3 (96 women/13 men). 11.92% of patients were male. The mean age was 34.8 ±11.9 (12 – 62 years). Patients who had juvenile takayasu diagnosed before 20 years of age were 11 (10%) and patients who had late-diagnosed takayasu to over 50 years of age were 14 (12.88%). HTA was present in 44 (40.7%) of patients at diagnosis, 11 (10.1) of patients were taking oral contraceptives. Inflammatory syndrome was associated in 72 (66.1%) with no statistically significant difference with a P=0.6. Vascular symptomatic presentation was present in 103 (95.4%) of the cases of vascular murmur (66.1%), pulse suppression (62.4%), intermittent claudication (49.5%), and ischemia (10.1%). Extravascular symptoms were present in 47.6% of the patients dominated by inflammatory arthralgia (18.3%). Only one patient had asymptomatic TAKAYASU vasculitis discovered by chance during ultrasound examination for a thyroid nodule. Cardiac involvement occurred in 36 (33%) of patients and consisted mainly of valvulopathy (20.2%) and cardiomyopathy (17.4%). Central neurological involvement was present in 17 patients, 15.6% of patients with complicated HA in 13 patients. Renal impairment was present in 35 patients (32.11%), Ophthalmologic involvement in 26 (23.9%) of patients was mainly represented by retinal vasculitis and optic nerve involvement. In addition, 10 patients had 24 pregnancies, 4 patients had preeclampsia, we recorded 9 abortions and half of our patients had full term pregnancies. The type of injury in our series was mainly stenosis and was found in 73 (67%) of cases. Occlusion was recovered in 21 (19.3%) patients. Thrombosis was found in 26 (23.9%) of patients and aneurysms in 19 (17.4%) of patients. TAKAYASU vasculitis was Type I in 42 (38.5%) patients, followed by Type V in 39 (35.8%). Type IIa was present in 7 patients (6.4%), type IIb in 4 patients (3.7%), type III in 2 patients (1.8%), and type IV in 14 patients (12.8%). Most patients 104 (95.4%) received corticosteroids and 77 (70.6%) received immunosuppressive therapy including one on mycophenolate mofetil. Two patients received anti-TNF therapy (adalimumab), and 1 patient received Tocilizumab. At the surgical level; 9 (8.3%) of patients had angioplasty; A further 6 (8.3%) underwent cardiac surgery (5 aortic valve replacement and closed-heart commissurotomy) and 15 (13.8%) had vascular surgery. The outcome was favourable in the majority of patients. Late relapses > 6 months were reported in 25 (23.1%) patients. There was only one death from global heart failure. We analyzed several associations such as vascular and cardiac disease, vascular and neurological disease. None returned significant with P ranging from 0.3 to 1.

Conclusion: The results of our study are consistent with the literature and confirm the predominance of women and the stenosing nature of this vasculitis. Early diagnosis and management of the disease significantly improves the progression profile of the disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclose of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2597

AB0758 TAKAYASU DISEASE IN JUVENILE FORM: ABOUT 11 CASES

Keywords: Vasculitis

F. Ibourk El Idrissi1, H. Khiri1, A. Meghraoui1, M. Oted1, C. Yasmina1, N. Mouattassim1, W. Ammour1, M. Maamari1, H. Harmouch1, M. Adnaoui1, Z. Tazi Mezalek1, 1Sousssi Rabat, Department of Internal Medicine-Clinical Hematology, Rabat, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine And Pharmacy of Rabat, Clinical Epidemiology Service, Rabat, Morocco

Background: Takayasu disease is a non-specific inflammatory vasculitis of the large and medium caliber arteries occurring during the 2nd or 3rd decade. Attachment before the age of 20 is rare.

Methods: This is a retrospective descriptive study including patients with aged less than 20 years with Takayasu disease out of a series of 109 patients between 1984 and 2022 in a department of internal medicine and vascular surgery at the CHU INB SINA of Rabat.

Results: We identified 11 cases of patients under 20 years of age with a Takayasu disease with a sex ratio of 1 man to 2.6 woman (8 women/3 men) The mean age of patients was 17 years ±2.8 (12 - 20 years). (45.5%) had hypertension at diagnosis, 10 patients (90.9%) had symptomatology type of vascular murmur (54.5%), pulse suppression (63.6%), lameness. Intermittent (36.4%), no ischemia (23.1%) and one patient had extravascular: headache, fever, altered general status, peripheral symptoms and an inflammatory syndrome was present at diagnosis in 8 of our patients (72.7%). Aortic involvement was found in 7 patients (63.6%) predominantly due to abdominal aorta (6 patients). We identified 4 cases (36.36%) of arterial damage. 3 cases of cerebral arteries (27.27%). The most common arterial disorders were stenosis (72.7%), thickening (54.5%), thrombosis (9.1%) and aneurysm (9.1%). 6 patients (54.54%) had heart disease as part of the study. Takayasu disease dominated by cardiomylopathies (4 cases), 2 cases of valvulopathy, and 1 only case of pericarditis. Associated in two cases with rhythm disturbances. 3 patients

Table 1. Specific histopathological findings of patients who underwent biopsy with a preliminary diagnosis of giant cell arteritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic and Histopathological findings</th>
<th>DCVAS (n=705)</th>
<th>Our study (n=60)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age, SD</td>
<td>73.5 ±8.5</td>
<td>69.7 ±8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female</td>
<td>456(65)</td>
<td>46(77.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant cells, n(%)</td>
<td>303(43)</td>
<td>18(30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal elastic lamina fragmentation, n(%)</td>
<td>242(41)</td>
<td>22(36.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mononuclear leukocytes (no definition of intimal/adventitial), n(%)</td>
<td>198(33)</td>
<td>26(43.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimal thickening, n(%)</td>
<td>198(33)</td>
<td>21(35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one of the defined histopathologic findings for definitive vasculitis*</td>
<td>17(28.3%)</td>
<td>17(28.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular thrombosis, n(%)</td>
<td>26(4)</td>
<td>2(3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granuloma, n(%)</td>
<td>23(4)</td>
<td>1(1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perivascular inflammation only, n(%)</td>
<td>8(2)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediastal calciosis, n(%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>5(8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myxoid degeneration, n(%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>6(10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advential mononuclear infiltration, n(%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3(5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA: Not applicable* defined histopathologic features are giant cells, predominantly mononuclear cell infiltration, and fragmentation in the internal elastic lamina for definitive vasculitis

Conclusion: Even giant cells were reported less in our study, updated histopathological definitions for GCA seem an excellent option to diagnose vasculitis definitively.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2041

AB0757 TAKAYASU DISEASE: ABOUT 109 CASES

Keywords: Vasculitis

H. Khiri1, F. Ibourk El Idrissi1, A. Meghraoui1, M. Oted2, C. Yasmina1, N. Mouattassim1, W. Ammour1, M. Maamari1, H. Harmouch1, M. Adnaoui1, Z. Tazi Mezalek1, 1Sousssi Rabat, Department of Internal Medicine-Clinical Hematology, Rabat, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine And Pharmacy of Rabat, Clinical Epidemiology Service, Rabat, Morocco

Background: TAKAYASU disease is an inflammatory vasculitis of the means and large caliber, which affects th aorta and its main branches, and which leads to the formation of arterial stenosis, thromboses and aneurysms. Touching preferably young women, it may be responsible for complications severe vascular events that may be life-threatening.

Methods: We conducted a 38-year, single-centre retrospective study (1984 and 2022) in patients followed for TAKAYASU vasculitis at the department of internal medicine and the department of vascular surgery of the Ibn Sina Hospital in Rabat. Statistical data were analyzed using SPSS 20.0 software and KHI-DEUX analytical test.
(27.28%) had stroke-type neurological disease, which accounted for 18.75% of cases (16 cases/109 cases) in the global series and 3 patients had (27.3%) two cases of blindness and one case of optic nerve damage. TAKAYASU vasculitis was type V in 5 patients (45.5%), followed by type I in 4 patients (36.4%). Type II and IV were present in 1 patient each; type I and IV have not been described in any of the patients. All patients received corticosteroid therapy; 9 patients (81.8%) were initiated immunosuppressant and one patient received adalimumab, five of the patients received a. angiplasty and/or one or more vascular surgeries; two complicated cases of restenosis, stent artery and 1 complicated case of aorto-abdominal fistula. Four patients (45.5%) had had one or more relapses during their evolution. We also noted a case of tuberculosis meningencephalitis associated with bilateral blindness in a 16-year-old patient and, two concepts of coartation of the non-dilated aorta in a 12-year-old patient and in a 18-year-old patient.

Conclusion: Our study is consistent with the literature and illustrates the seriousness of the juvenile takayasu as the common combination with severe heart disease, neurological and ophthalmological.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
**Vasculitis - small vessel vasculitis**

**AB0761** MULTICENTRIC SPANISH ANALYSIS OF EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH MEPOLIZUMAB

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Vasculitis

**F. Rubiño**, **R. García-Vicuña**, **E. F. Vicente-Rabaneda**, **E. Rodriguez Almazán**, **N. Lozano Rivas**, **M. Freire González**, **A. Oliver**, **A. Nock**, **J. Narváez**, **P. Moya**, **E. Uriarte Isasaela**, **N. Alcorta Lorenzo**, **J. L. Marenco**, **C. Ramos Giráldez**, **V. Pinillos**, **R. Blanco**, **F. Benavides-Villanueva**, **M. P. Martínez-Vidal**, **I. Rua-Figueroa**, **University Hospital of Gran Canaria Doctor Negrín, Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain;** **University Hospital La Princesa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;** **University Hospital 12 de Octubre, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;** **University Hospital Virgen de la Arrixaca, Rheumatology, Murcia, Spain;** **University Hospital A Coruña, Rheumatology, A Coruña, Spain;** **University Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol, Rheumatology, Badalona, Spain;** **University Hospital of Bellvitge, Rheumatology, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain;** **Hospital Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain;** **University Hospital Donostia, Rheumatology, Donostia-Sebastián, San Sebastián, Spain;** **University Hospital Nuestra Señora de Valme, Rheumatology, Seville, Spain;** **Hospital San Pedro, Rheumatology, Logroño, Spain;** **University Hospital Marqués de Valdecilla, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain;** **University Hospital Sant Joan d'Alacant, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain**

**Background:** Inflammatory granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA), formerly called Churg-Strauss syndrome, is an ANCA-associated vasculitis which is mainly mediated by eosinophils. Mepolizumab (MPZ) is an anti-interleukin-5 monoclonal antibody that reduces the total number of eosinophils in peripheral blood and tissues, and its use has been approved in EGPA.

**Objectives:** To analyze the effectiveness and safety of MPZ in EGPA in a real-life multicenter Spanish cohort.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed the epidemiological data, comorbidities, clinical evolution and adverse effects of patients who have received MPZ in 13 Rheumatology Spanish services, through electronic medical records up to November 2022.

**Results:** A total of 27 patients with EGPA treated with MPZ have been analyzed. Median age at diagnosis was 53 years old, fifteen were men (55.6%). 21 (77.8%) were Caucasian, 5 (18.5%) Arab and 1 Hispanic. At diagnosis, 3 (11.1%) patients had arterial hypertension and 4 dyslipidemia (14.8%); ten patients were or had been smokers (37%). A total of 14 (51.8%) patients were ANCA positive. The Five Factor Score (FFS) was calculated just in 20 patients, and from them, 14 had a 0 result (70%) and 6 a 1 result (30%). The mean Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score (BVAS) at diagnosis was 15. EULAR severity index was 0 in 2 patients (7.7%), 1 in 10 patients (38.5%), 2 in 9 (34.6%) and 3 in 5 patients (19.2%). Up to 23 patients (85.2%) had rhinosinusosal symptoms and 19 (70.4%), had lung involvement of which 16 patients had interstitial lung disease. Sixteen (59.3%) patients had general symptoms 14 (51.8%) skin involvement and 11 (40.7%) peripheral nervous system involvement. Nine (33.3%) patients had musculoskeletal symptoms, 5 eye involvement and 5 cardiac involvement (18.5%). Regarding treatments, the mean starting dose of daily prednisone was 45mg, 9 patients received intravenous methylprednisolone pulses (33.3%) and 16 (59.3%) required an immunosuppressant for induction, of which in 11 it was cyclophosphamide. The mean disease duration of the EGPA when MPZ was started was 51 months, and the mean follow-up during the treatment with MPZ was 16 months. The mean Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score (BVAS) before MPZ was 9, after one month of MPZ, it dropped down to 5.4, and three months later to 4.6. The mean C reactive protein (CRP) before treatment with MPZ was 19.9mg/L, and three months later, it was 3.3mg/L. Before MPZ, the patients had a mean eosinophils number per microliter of 753, and after three months of treatment, it was 59 eos/μL.

The mean Vasculitis Damage Index (VDI) before treatment with MPZ was 4.5 and after treatment with mepolizumab, it worsened only in 5 patients (11%). Twenty patients achieved a 50% clinical response according to global physician criteria (74.1%) and 12 achieved clinical remission (44.4%). The mean final prednisone dose was 2.5mg/d. No patients had serious infections during treatment, one developed a neoplasm, and one of them withdrew MPZ due to musculoskeletal pain, switching to benralizumab (anti-IL5-receptor). Only one patient died from causes unrelated to the disease or the disease.

**Conclusion:** Our data about the use of MPZ in EGPA in real world practice suggest that it is a quite effective and safe drug, allowing to save corticosteroids. Moreover, it seems to prevent the progression of the damage associated with the disease.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1044

**AB0762** DIAGNOSTIC YIELD OF BIOPSIES IN EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS: A SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE

**Keywords:** Descriptive Studies, Diagnostic Tests, Vasculitis

**R. Ríos-Garcés**, **J. Hernández-Rodríguez**, **S. Prieto-González**, **C. Cid**, **G. Espigol-Frigolé**, **Hospital Clínico de Barcelona, Systemic Autoimmune Diseases, Barcelona, Spain;** **Institut d’Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), Vasculitis Unit, Barcelona, Spain;** **Universitat de Barcelona, Facultat de Medicina, Barcelona, Spain;** **Hospital Cliníic de Barcelona, Systemic Autoimmune Diseases, Barcelona, Spain;** **Hospital Clínico de Barcelona, Internal Medicine, Barcelona, Spain**

**Background:** Recently published classification criteria for eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) [1] require, to be applied, a diagnosis of small- or medium-vessel vasculitis, without specifying how that diagnosis should be made. Histologically, EGPA is characterized by eosinophil-rich and necrotizing granulomatous inflammation together with necrotizing vasculitis, predominantly affecting small to medium vessels. Some of these features are not specific for EGPA and may be seen in other forms of ANCA associated vasculitis (AAV).

**Current guidelines on the management of AAV recommend biopsies to assist in establishing a new diagnosis and for further evaluation of patients with suspected relapse [2]. Therefore, biopsies are essential tools for the diagnosis, classification and management of these diseases.**

**Objectives:** To describe the histopathological findings, diagnostic yield and the most common localizations of biopsies performed to assist in the diagnosis and follow-up of patients with EGPA.

**Methods:** Medical charts of patients with EGPA regularly followed at our department were reviewed to retrieve the number and localization of biopsies, as well as biopsy findings including proportion of a) eosinophil-rich extravascular inflammation, b) granulomas and/or c) necrotizing vasculitis. Biopsies were performed if patients presented symptoms in any given and most accessible localization (at diagnosis) or if they were necessary to confirm active disease (during follow-up).

**Results:** Among 59 EGPA patients regularly controlled at our department, a total of 163 biopsies were performed on 54 of them. In 44 patients (81.5%), 89 biopsies were performed at diagnosis and in 27 (50%), 74 biopsies were performed during follow-up. A total of 37 biopsies in 26 patients (48.1%) had proven vasculitis. A total of 7 biopsies in 5 patients (9.3%) had proven granuloma. A total of 67 biopsies in 42 patients (77.8%) had proven eosinophil-rich extravascular inflammation. The main localizations were: ear, nose and throat (ENT, 49 biopsies), respiratory (31), skin (25), gastrointestinal (GI, 18), muscular (14), nerve (12), bone marrow (8), renal (4) and temporal artery biopsy (TAB, 2). Among them, at least 1 typical histological feature detailed above was found in: ENT 38/49 biopsies (sensitivity of 77.8%), respiratory 15/31 (48.4%), skin 23/25 (92%), GI 10/18 (55.6%), muscular...
4/14 (28.6%), nerve 5/12 (41.7%), bone marrow 6/8 (75%), renal 4/4 (100%) and TAB 1/2 (50%). A total of 57 biopsies performed in 29 patients (53.7%) showed none of the typical findings described above, although only 6 patients had all their biopsies without abnormal findings. These results are summarized in Table 1.

Conclusion: Multiple tissues are biopsied in clinical practice to assist in the diagnosis and evaluation of patients with EGPA, according to the multi-organ nature of this disease. Biopsies are more frequently obtained from accessible sites such as ENT or skin and usually dictated by clinical manifestations. In our cohort, the highest sensitivity was obtained from kidney, skin, ENT, bone marrow? and GI tract.

REFERENCES:

Table 1.

Biopsies in the EGPA cohort (N=59)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients with biopsy:</th>
<th>54 (93.3%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At diagnosis:</td>
<td>44 (81.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During follow-up:</td>
<td>27 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 biopsies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Histological findings

Vasculitis

Patients with vasculitis: 26 (44.1%)

At diagnosis: 22 (40.7%)

During follow-up: 5 (9.3%)

Granulomas

Patients with granuloma: 5 (9.3%)

At diagnosis: 3 (5.6%)

During follow-up: 2 (3.7%)

Eosinophil-rich inflammation

Patients with eosinophil-rich inflammation: 42 (72.8%)

At diagnosis: 31 (57.4%)

During follow-up: 22 (42.6%)

Main localizations of biopsies, n (with at least 1 histological finding, n)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At diagnosis</th>
<th>During follow-up</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENT</td>
<td>31 (57.4)</td>
<td>14 (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>15 (26.3)</td>
<td>9 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>15 (26.3)</td>
<td>10 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>3 (5)</td>
<td>5 (8.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscular</td>
<td>14 (24)</td>
<td>4 (6.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nerve</td>
<td>15 (26.3)</td>
<td>3 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone marrow</td>
<td>15 (26.3)</td>
<td>3 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>13 (22.4)</td>
<td>2 (3.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular (temporal artery biopsy)</td>
<td>7 (15.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) through the project P18/00461, part of Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica y Tecnica and de Innovación 2013–2016, and co-funded by the European Union. Roberto Ríos-Garcés is a recipient of a Río Hortega grant from Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain (CM19/00032).

Disclosure of Interests: Roberto Ríos-Garcés: None declared, José Hernández-Rodríguez: None declared, Sergio Prieto-González: None declared, Maria C. Cid

Paid instructor for: Vifor, GSK, Consultant of: GSK, Abbvie and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Kinki, Georgina Espigol-Frigolé Consultant of: Janssen.

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ABO763

CHARACTERISTICS OF RELAPSES IN EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS. A SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Outcome measures, Vasculitis

R. Ríos-Garcés1,2, J. Hernández-Rodríguez1,2, S. Prieto-González3,4, M. C. Cid1,2, G. Espigol-Frigolé1,2,3,1 Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Systemic Autoimmune Diseases, Barcelona, Spain; 2Institut d’Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), Vascularis Unit, Barcelona, Spain; 3Universitat de Barcelona, Facultat de Medicina, Barcelona, Spain; 4Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Internal Medicine, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) is a heterogeneous disease with a variable, relapsing course. Real-world data regarding specific characteristics of relapses in this patients are scarce.

Objectives: We aim to describe and analyse the relapses presented in a single-center cohort of EGPA patients.

Methods: Medical charts of EGPA patients regularly controlled at our department were reviewed to describe demographics, clinical characteristics at diagnosis and at relapse, number of relapses, disease activity at relapse, treatment of the relapses, damage accrual, and laboratory results. The definition of relapse was the same used in the MIRRA trial: a) active vasculitis (BVAS >0), b) active asthma or active nasal or paranasal sinus disease leading either to an increase in the dose of prednisone >4mg/day, initiation of or increase in immunosuppressive therapy, or hospitalization [1].

Results: A total of 59 EGPA patients were followed regularly at our department. All fulfilled either ACR 1990 and/or MIRRA trial inclusion criteria for EGPA. The mean age at diagnosis was 51.6 years, 59.3% were female and 91.5% were Caucasian. Among them, 76.3% were ANCA positive and 23.7% were ANCA negative. The mean time of follow-up was 10.7 ± 8.2 years. During the follow-up, a total of 324 relapses were diagnosed in 47 patients, with 12 patients experiencing no relapse. A relapse-free survival analysis showed that 36% of patients had a relapse in the first year, 51% at 2 years, 59% at 3 years and 64% at 5 years. The main clinical symptoms at relapse were asthma (in 248 flares, 76.5% of them), followed by rhinitis (100, 30.9%), sinusitis (60, 18.5%), skin involvement (19, 5.9%), fever (18, 5.6%), arthralgia (16, 4.9%), lung infiltrates (15, 4.6%), myalgia (12, 3.7%), peripheral nervous system involvement (11, 3.4%), cardiac involvement (6, 1.9%), arthritis (3, 0.9%), weight loss (2, 0.6%), alveolar hemorrhage (2, 0.6%), gastrointestinal involvement (2, 0.6%) and central nervous system involvement (2, 0.6%). No renal involvement was seen at flare. Median BVAS at relapse was 2 (IQR 2-4, range 0-28). When determined, median blood eosinophils at relapse were 500 cells/mm3 (IQR 100-1000) and in 73% of the measures eosinophils did not reach 10% of the total leucocyte count. Median CRP was 0.6mg/dl (IQR 0.2-2.4) and median ESR 14 mm/h (IQR 8-32). ANCA were measured in 37 relapses only, being positive in 14 of them. The median prednisone dose at relapse was 6.25mg/day and the median increase for treating the relapse was 30mg/day. In 53 relapses, patients were already taking azathioprine. In 47, mepolizumab. In 36, methotrexate. In 11, mofetil mycophenolate. When comparing patients who relapsed vs. those who did not, and those who relapsed less than 1 time every 2 years vs those who relapsed more than 1 time every 2 years, no predictive factor of relapse was seen.

Conclusion: After a mean follow-up of 10.7 years, 324 relapses were diagnosed in 59 patients. First relapse occurred in 35% of patients at 1 year and in 64% at 5 years. The clinical spectrum of relapses was predominantly asthma, followed by ear, nose and throat, being vasculitic manifestations much less frequent. No predictive factors of relapse were identified.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) through the project P18/00461, part of Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica y Técnica y de Innovación 2013–2016, and co-funded by the European Union. Roberto Ríos-Garcés is a recipient of a Río Hortega grant from Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain (CM19/00032).

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Paid instructor for: Vifor, GSK, Consultant of: GSK, Abbvie and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Kinki, Georgina Espigol-Frigolé Consultant of: Janssen.

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ABO764

EVALUATION OF THE APPLICABILITY OF THE 2022 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY-EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR RHEUMATOLOGY CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR ANTEINEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC ANTIBODY-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS TO AN ASIAN POPULATION

Keywords: Organ damage, Vasculitis
Steady Background: The 2012 Chapel Hill Consensus Conference (CHCC) definitions and the 2007 European Medicines Agency (EMA) algorithm have been commonly used for the diagnosis of antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV) as a conventional and reliable method. Recently the 2022 American College of Rheumatology (ACR)-European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) classification criteria for AAV have been released. It is well-known that patients with granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) are predominantly proteinase 3 (PR3)-ANCA-positive in the U.S. and Europe, but myeloperoxidase (MPO)-ANCA-positive patients with GPA are more prevalent in Japan. However, very few studies have been available on the evaluation of the applicability of the new criteria to an Asian population.

Objectives: This study aimed to assess the applicability of the 2022 ACR/EULAR classification criteria to AAV patients from an Asian background.

Methods: This study included a total of 415 patients (mean age = 64.2 years, standard deviation [SD] = 16.3 years) diagnosed with AAV by the conventional method at three medical institutions in Japan between 2000 and 2022. Only Asians accounted for the whole population comprising 139, 128, and 148 patients (mean age = 65.2 years, SD = 15.7 years; mean age = 70.8 years, SD = 13.8 years; mean age = 56.1 years, SD = 15.8 years) diagnosed with eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA), GPA, and microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) by the conventional method, respectively. The applicability of the new criteria to AAV patients in Japan was assessed through the verification of the consistency with the conventional diagnoses. Additionally, phenotypes of organ involvement were analyzed in each reclassified group from the conventionally-diagnosed GPA population.

Results: The patients diagnosed with EGPA and MPA by the conventional method were significantly more likely to be reclassified into the same AAV subphenotype 138 out of 139 patients [99.3%] and 145 out of 148 patients [98.0%], respectively. On the other hand, the patients diagnosed with GPA by the conventional method were less likely to be reclassified into the same AAV subphenotype (91 out of 128 patients [71.1%]). In the conventionally-diagnosed GPA population, 71 patients were reclassified as GPA, not as MPA, 20 were reclassified not only as GPA but also as MPA, and 36 were reclassified not as GPA but rather as MPA. In the group reclassified only as GPA, there were 59 patients with sinusitis, including ten patients with orbital mass lesions. In the group reclassified both as GPA and MPA, there were 20 patients with severe organ involvement, including 15 patients with pauci-immune glomerulonephritis (PIGN).

Conclusion: The new criteria gave more weight to ANCA serology than histology and surrogate markers compared with the conventional method, which kept diagnostic consistency in the conventionally-diagnosed EGPA and MPA populations. At the same time, the new criteria occasionally led to a big diagnostic contradiction in the conventionally-diagnosed GPA population from an Asian background. In the conventionally-diagnosed GPA population, the new criteria were likely to reclassify MPO-ANCA-positive patients as MPA. However, it is noteworthy that the new criteria were still beneficial in extracting GPA patients with recurrent or severe organ involvement, including orbital masses and PIGN.

Table 1: Clinical features of patients included in the study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical feature</th>
<th>DAH group (n=50)</th>
<th>Non-DAH group (n=242)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>40.5 (17-80)</td>
<td>44 (14-80)</td>
<td>0.0687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>23 (46%)</td>
<td>146 (60.3%)</td>
<td>0.0828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.1143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>39 (78%)</td>
<td>212 (87.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>10 (20%)</td>
<td>17 (7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGPA</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td>13 (5.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary symptoms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemoptysis</td>
<td>35 (70%)</td>
<td>27 (11.2%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breathlessness</td>
<td>31 (62%)</td>
<td>41 (16.9%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>38 (78%)</td>
<td>81 (33.5%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCA positivity</td>
<td>44 (88%)</td>
<td>189 (78.1%)</td>
<td>0.1253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3 ANCA</td>
<td>30 (68.2%)</td>
<td>153 (61%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPO ANCA</td>
<td>14 (21.8%)</td>
<td>21 (11.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BVAS3 at presentation</td>
<td>21 (8-37)</td>
<td>13 (0-47)</td>
<td>0.0026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction therapy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclophosphamide</td>
<td>31 (62%)</td>
<td>152 (62.8%)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>19 (38%)</td>
<td>88 (36.4%)</td>
<td>0.8724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasma Exchange</td>
<td>5 (10%)</td>
<td>4 (1.7%)</td>
<td>0.0089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td>39 (16.1%)</td>
<td>0.0057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>11 (22%)</td>
<td>17 (7%)</td>
<td>0.0028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Organ manifestations due to AAV in both the groups.
**STEP-DOWN TREATMENT WITH MEPOLIZUMAB FOR EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS (EGPA). REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE OF A SINGLE-CENTER COHORT**

Keywords: Vasculitis

V. Batani, B. N. Germinario, M. Lanzillotta, A. Cariddi, L. Moroni, L. Dagna,
1San Raffaele University Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases –, Milano, Italy; 2San Raffaele University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Milano, Italy

**Background:** Mepolizumab is an anti-interleukin-5 (IL-5) agent approved for EGPA at the dose of 300 mg every 4 weeks. However, from real-life studies, evidence is accruing of its comparable effectiveness at “asthma-dose” of 100 mg every 4 weeks. The preferred approach at our center is to start mepolizumab 300 mg/4 weeks and to reduce to 100 mg/4 weeks once remission is achieved (Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score – BVAS=0), asthma is controlled (Asthma Control Test – ACT >20), eosinophil count is normalized and glucocorticoids are withdrawn (step-down approach).

**Objectives:** To assess the long-term efficacy of step-down treatment with mepolizumab in EGPA.

**Methods:** We reviewed medical charts of patients with EGPA treated with mepolizumab from April 2014 to December 2022. We divided patients by homogenous dosing schedule and compared disease activity and characteristics at baseline and over time.

**Results:** We treated 38 patients for a median follow up of 38 months (IQR 29-93). Seven patients underwent a step-up approach (starting with mepolizumab 100mg/4w and subsequent switching to mepolizumab 300 mg/4w in case of failure). Among them, only 1 patient (17%) needed a dose increase due to uncontrolled respiratory symptoms. Mepolizumab 300mg/4w was started in 31 patients allowing a step-down in 9 (29%), without any patient having to increase the dose again. Both subgroups of the step-down strategy showed significant reduction in terms of BVAS, ACT, serum eosinophils and daily prednisone dose at last follow-up. At the same time presented a high proportion of nasal exacerbations (33 vs. 9% p=0.31).

**Conclusion:** In our experience, a step-down approach with mepolizumab in EGPA is reasonable and allows to safely reach the low-dose regimen in a great proportion of patients. Nasal polyps are the new challenge for physicians treating EGPA in an age where a steroid-free remission is an achievable target.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4555

**AB0766**

**OUTCOMES OF SARS-COV-2 INFECTION IN PATIENTS WITH ASSOCIATED ANCA VASCULITIS. DATA FROM THE NATIONAL SAR-COV REGISTRY**

Keywords: Vasculitis, COVID, Real-world evidence

J. A. Brigante, C. A. Isnardi, D. Emilii, V. Sauini, Y. Tissera, M. E. D’Angelo, I. Petkovic, C. Pisoni, R. Quintana, R. Baez, S. Ornella, V. V. Castro Coello, M. Pera, M. Haye, D. A. Pereira, G. Berbott, C. G. Alonso, C. Gobbi, A. A. Reyes, P. Alba, E. Veloza, M. J. Gamba, R. Tantenni, M. Severina, D. Zelaya, G. Alle, A. K. Cogo, R. Nieto, C. Ansali, J. A. Albiero, M. C. Cattani, J. Villafañe, F. Maida, C. C. S. Estale, A. Argentina Society of Rheumatology Research Unit, UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Sanatorio Gómez, Rheumatology, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology Research Unit, UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology Research Unit, UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology Research Unit, UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology Research Unit, UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology Research Unit, UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology Research Unit, UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology Research Unit, UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Background:** Systemic vasculitides are rare autoimmune diseases that can lead to multiple organs and systems involvement. ANCA-associated vasculitis presents characteristics that differentiate them from other vasculitides. There is evidence that infection by (SARS-CoV-2) impacts differently in patients with various underlying diseases and different comorbidities, even generating differences in the morbidity and mortality of the viral infection.

**Objectives:** To describe the clinical characteristics and outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients with systemic vasculitis.

**Methods:** Observational, multicenter, cross-sectional analytical study in patients 18 or older diagnosed with systemic vasculitis with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection (RT-PCR or serology) included in the SAR-COV registry. Patients were evaluated from July 2020 to February 2022. Patients diagnosed with ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV), other systemic vasculitides (Giant cell arteritis, Takayasu), and a control group of patients with other rheumatological diseases matched by age, sex, comorbidities, and date of SARS-CoV-2 infection. The survival curve of the groups was studied by Kaplan-Meier and compared through the Log-Rank Test. A Cox regression model will be performed to adjust survival for different variables (sex, age, treatments for underlying disease, treatments for viral infection, smoking, obesity, d-dimer level, and disease activity).

**Results:** A total of 282 out of 2694 patients in the SAR-COV registry were included. 574 women with a mean age of 55.7 years (SD 14.1). Fifty-four patients in the AAV group, 32 in the other vasculitis group, and 196 controls were studied. In 51.1% of the cases, one or more comorbidities were observed. We found caucasian ethnicity at 50.7%, mestizo at 39.7%, and other ethnic groups at...
Conclusion: We can mention that patients diagnosed with AAV presented a worse evolution of the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 with a more frequent requirement for invasive mechanical ventilation. Likewise, these patients showed lower survival compared to other autoimmune diseases.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Jorge Alejandro Bragante Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them, participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Scientific Abstracts

9.6%. PCR made the diagnosis of COVID-19 in 81.2% of the cases. The controls had treatment with corticosteroids before the onset of symptoms in 30.1% of the cases, while 64.8% and 68.8% in the AAV group and other vasculitides, respectively (p < 0.001). Hospitalization was required in 32.7% of the AAV group, 37.5% in other vasculitides, and 26.2% in the control group. 5.6% of patients in the control group died from COVID-19, 9.4% from other vasculitides, and 27.8% in the AAV group (p < 0.001). We found a lower survival in the AAV group compared to the control group (p < 0.005). In the multivariate Cox regression model, we can see that older age (HR: 1.05 IC95%: 1.01-1.09 p=0.01), BMI ≤ 40 (HR:13.2 IC95%: 14.53-18.31 p<0.001), and high activity of the underlying disease (HR:16.95 IC1.3-7.69 p<0.005) were associated with lower survival.

In conclusion, we can mention that patients diagnosed with AAV showed a lower survival compared to other autoimmune diseases.
interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Adriana Karina Cogo Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Romina Nieto Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Cecilia ASNAL Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Juan A Albero Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Michael Casati Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Federico Maldonado Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Guillermo Pons-Estel Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Emmanuella Deshayes Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Jeanne Villafañe Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Marie-Thérèse Gouttebois Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Andrew V. Hall Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Sarah H. Holloway Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multisponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database.


Background: IgA vasculitis (IgAV) is a rare autoimmune disease affecting small vessels. It is well established that the incidence is higher in children (5-12 per 100,000 children/year) than in adults (0.1 to 1.6 per 100,000, individuals/year) [1]. However, others epidemiological data and impact of the COVID-19 on IgAV remained overlooked [2].

Objectives: To collect and analyze epidemiological data on IgAV in both adults and children in France.

Results: During this 12-year period, 1988 patients with IgAV were reported (1498 children; 490 adults). The male to female ratio was 1.57 for adults and 1.05 for children. The median IgAV annual incidence was 15 cases/year [IQR 9-30] and 82 cases/year [IQR 72-86] for adult and children cases respectively. Time to diagnosis was less than 1 month for both. Compared with other patients reported in the same expert centers, IgAV was more frequently reported in the southern part of France than in the north (OR 4.88 [95% confidence intervals: 4.17 - 5.74] in adults and OR 1.35 [1.35 - 1.68] in children). IgAV was also more frequently observed in winter than during the rest of the year in both adults (OR 1.60 [1.39 - 1.82]) and children (OR 1.22 [1.01 - 1.48]). The incidence of IgAV decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic period (from March 2020 to September 2022) in children (OR 0.62 [0.47 - 0.81]) but not in the adult population (OR 0.90 [0.76 - 1.06]).

Conclusion: Our study confirms the winter seasonality and sex ratio in IgAV [4,5], but suggests that the incidence or the reporting of IgAV decreased in children during the COVID19 pandemic, possibly due to barrier measures [6]. The observed north/south gradient need confirmation. The main limitation of this study is a possible IgAV under-reporting as this study rely only on cases addressed in expert centers.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: COVID, Vasculitis, Epidemiology

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5129

AB0769 NEW INSIGHTS ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA AND IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON IGA VASCULITIS IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN FRANCE: A NATIONWIDE COHORT

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Behcet’s disease, Lungs

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5618

AB0769 CARDIAC AND PULMONARY INVOLVEMENTS IN BEHÇET’S SYNDROME: A CASE SERIES OF 93 PATIENTS

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Behcet’s disease, Lungs

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5618
Background: Behçet syndrome (BS) is a multisystemic vasculitis of unknown etiology, frequently observed in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East. Pulmonary involvement (PI) and cardiac involvement (CI) are rarely described in BS, with a prevalence of less than 5%. However, they are entailed to high morbidity and mortality. Objectives: Our work aims to describe the profile and outcomes of BS patients presenting with cardiopulmonary lesions.

Methods: We retrospectively conducted a descriptive and monotopic study, between 2020 and 2022, including 576 BS patients.

Results: 93 patients were enrolled (16%). The sex ratio (M/F) was 4.8 and the mean age was 3 ± 6 years (19-51). Cardiovascular risk factors comprised smoking (26%), high blood pressure (10%), and diabetes (9%). Patients were the mean age was 3 ± 6 years [19-51]. Cardiovascular risk factors comprised smoking (26%), high blood pressure (10%), and diabetes (9%). Patients were the mean age was 3 ± 6 years [19-51]. Cardiovascular risk factors comprised smoking (26%), high blood pressure (10%), and diabetes (9%). Patients were the mean age was 3 ± 6 years [19-51]. Cardiovascular risk factors comprised smoking (26%), high blood pressure (10%), and diabetes (9%). Patients were the mean age was 3 ± 6 years [19-51]. Cardiovascular risk factors comprised smoking (26%), high blood pressure (10%), and diabetes (9%). Patients were the mean age was 3 ± 6 years [19-51].

Conclusion: PI and CI are serious complications of BS, often lately discovered and underdiagnosed, due to their discrete evolution. Systematic screening should thus be considered in at-risk patients, especially young males presenting with mucocutaneous lesions and venous thrombosis. Prompt and adequate immunosuppressive therapy is usually linked to favorable outcomes.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5670

AB0770 MANAGING MEDICATION WITHDRAWAL IN ANCA ASSOCIATED VASculitis, A Single CENTRE STUDY

Keywords: Vasculitis, Tapering, Safety

A. Abdalla1,2, S. Skeoch1. 1Royal National Hospital For Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology, Bath, United Kingdom; 2Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland

Background: While ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) can be a life-threatening condition, once patients achieve sustained remission, it is possible to withdraw glucocorticoids (GC) and immunosuppressive therapy successfully. British [1] and European [2] guidelines advocate withdrawal of therapy in sustained remission. However, robust definitions of remission and risk of relapse on drug withdrawal are active research areas within the vasculitis community. Therefore, we took the opportunity to review & compare the clinical practice at our Tertiary Vasculitis Centre to guidelines published by the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) [1].

Objectives: To describe the proportion of patients in remission and rates of drug withdrawal in line with BSR guidelines and evaluate if any characteristics were associated with GC-dependent remission.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective reviews record of all AAV patients (clinical diagnosis regardless of classification criteria) in our centre who attended for their routine care between July 2015 – August 2020. Those who lost or lacked significant follow-up information were excluded. Approval by the local clinical audit department was granted. Remission was defined per BSR guidance as a well-controlled disease by physician assessment on drug or drug-free remission. SPSS v25 was used for statistical analysis.

Results: Sixty-five patients were included, 58% female, mean (SD) age at diagnosis of 60.7 (13.2), and 92% were Caucasians. The median (range) disease duration was five years (0.5 – 43). 33.8% were classified as GPA, 29.2% as EGPA. 55.4% had life or organ threatening disease, and 50.8% with a relapsing disease (table 1). At the time of the study, 60% of patients remained on GCs and 89% on immunosuppressive therapy. 48/65 (74%) were in clinical remission, of whom 19/48 (39.6%) were on GC plus immunosuppression, 21/48 (43.8%) were on immunosuppression alone, and 5/48 (10.4%) were in drug-free remission. In those with disease duration > 10 years (n=14), 50% were deemed high relapse risk or poorly controlled and remained on a median dose of 10mg prednisolone. On univariate and multiple logistic regression analysis (reference=GC-dependent), skin involvement and a positive biopsy (83.3% non-renal) were associated with a statistically significant lower odds (OR 0.127 P=0.006, OR 0.207 P=0.04 respectively) of remaining on long term GC. In contrast, the relapsing disease was associated with increased odds (OR 4.006, P=0.026) of GC-dependent remission (figure 1).

Conclusion: Withdrawing treatment in AAV is challenging and achievable in a minority of patients, while the vast majority remain on long-term treatment. Skin involvement and non-renal positive biopsy may carry a positive prospect toward GC-free remission. Age, gender, disease type, ANCA status or persistent ANCA did not significantly influence the potential to stay on GC. Having a relapsing disease is the single most crucial factor significantly associated with long term treatment.

REFERENCES:

Table 1 Cohort characteristics

| Total number | 65 |
| Age at diagnosis, mean (SD) years | 60.7 (13.2) |
| Female, n (%) | 38 (58.5%) |
| Caucasians | 60 (92%) |
| GPA, n (%) | 22 (33.8%) |
| EGPA, n (%) | 24 (36.9%) |
| ANCA positive, n (%) | 41 (63.1%) |
| Duration in years, median (range) | 5 (0.4-32) |
| Disease duration > 5 years, n (%) | 29 (45%) |
| Organ life-threatening, n (%) | 14 (21.5%) |
| Relapsing (once or more), n (%) | 35 (54.4%) |
| Still on Glucocorticoids, n (%) | 30 (46%) |
| Still on immunosuppression, n (%) | 58 (89%) |
| GC withdrawn 12 months following remission, n (%) | 21 (32.3%) |
| OR immunosuppression and GC, n (%) | 5 (7.7%) |

Figure 1 Factors associated with Glucocorticoid-dependent remission

Acknowledgements: Data team and the clinical audit department at the RUH NHS trust, Bath.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.994

AB0771 FEMALE GENDER AND STEROID TREATMENT AS MAIN INFLUENCING FACTORS IN THE PERCEPTION OF QUALITY OF LIFE IN ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASculitis: FINAL RESULTS FROM THE ITALIAN VERSION OF ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASculitis PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOME (Aav-pro_ITA) QUESTIONNAIRE

Keywords: Quality of life, Vasculitis, Patient reported outcomes

Background: The ANCA-associated vasculitis patient-reported outcome (AAV-PRO) questionnaire is a 29-item disease-specific PRO measure for AA 

Research on treatment strategies based on steroid-sparing regimen and spreading awareness of the existence of gender differences in medicine may improve the perceived QoL of AAV patients, reducing the psychosocial impact of the disease. 

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We thank the Italian Vasculitis Study Group. 

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. 

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**AB0772** 
**AZATHIOPRINE VERSUS METHOTREXATE AS INDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE THERAPY IN EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS (EGPA): A MONOCENTRIC RETROSPECTIVE STUDY**

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Outcome measures

**Methods:** We collected data from 57 retrospective patients divided in 4 groups according to the treatment received (MTX/AAAZ as 1st line agents in patients with non-severe EGPA or as 2nd line agents in patients with severe EGPA previously treated with cyclophosphamide or rituximab). We analysed the data collected during five years of follow up from the initiation of AAZA/MTX and compared non-severe EGPA vs AAV.

**Background:** Despite the clinical differences between EGPA and the other AAVs, treatment guidelines are mostly based on the evidence available for patients with MPA and GPA, due to the lack of enough randomized controlled trials on patients with EGPA [1].

**Objectives:** The aim of our study is to analyse the efficacy, safety and steroid-sparing effect of azathioprine (AZA) and methotrexate (MTX) as induction and maintenance therapy in EGPA.

**Methods:** We collected data from 57 retrospective patients divided in 4 groups according to the treatment received (MTX/AAAZ as 1st line agents in patients with non-severe EGPA or as 2nd line agents in patients with severe EGPA previously treated with cyclophosphamide or rituximab). We analysed the data collected during five years of follow up from the initiation of AAZA/MTX and compared non-severe EGPA vs AAV.

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the patient groups according to time to first relapse, percentage of patients in remission (defined as R1: BVAS=0, R2: BVAS=0 with prednisone ≤3mg/day, R3: BVAS=0 with prednisone ≤3.75mg/day – following the MIRRA definition), persistence on therapy, percentage of patients with side effects and average cumulative steroid dose.

**Results:**
There were no significant differences in the time-to-first relapse. No statistically significant differences were found in R1 remission analysis; a higher percentage of patients receiving MTX as 1st line therapy obtained R2 remission (median time of suspension was >60 months vs 12 months, p=0.03). The average cumulative steroid dose was lower in patients receiving MTX as a maintenance therapy compared to those receiving AZA (6g vs 10g at 5 years follow-up, p=0.039).

**Conclusion:**
This study shows that MTX as 2nd line therapy has a better steroid sparing effect and allows a better persistence on therapy, while as 1st line therapy it allows an earlier remission on lower prednisone dose.

**REFERENCES:**

**Implications:**
The final tool will be translated into different languages and will be validated in a pilot study. The results of the pilot phase will be discussed and the tool will be translated into 8 languages and launched across Social Media. Ad hoc surveys were created in co-design with the different stakeholders to capture the different dimensions, barriers and needs related to treatment adherence. The survey was translated into 8 languages and launched across Social Media. The objectives of IMPACT_BD are to explore the unmet needs in treatment adherence and the main reasons for low- or non-adherence, to create a tool aimed at identifying and monitoring the reasons of low treatment adherence and to plan specific actions aimed at improving treatment adherence in BD.

**Methods:**
The methodology includes 5 phases. Phase A. Panel creation - The first step created a multi-stakeholder panel that included clinicians, BD patient’s representatives, BD caregiver representatives and other experts (economists, psychologists, pharmacists, etc.). Phase B. Co-design process – Ad hoc surveys were created in co-design with the different stakeholders to capture the different dimensions, barriers and needs related to treatment adherence. The survey was translated into 8 languages and launched across Social Media. Phase C. Launch of the survey. Phase D. Data analysis, workshop and agreement – Answers to the survey questions will be elaborated to identify the main barriers and unmet needs in treatment adherence. An online workshop will be organized to co-design a tool that will enable the identification and the monitoring of BD treatment adherence during the clinical follow-up of BD patients. Phase E. Pilot phase for validation – The final tool will be translated into different languages and will be adopted in a pilot study. The results of the pilot phase will be discussed and evaluated.
refined within the panel. A list of future actions aimed at improving treatment adherence in BD patients will also be produced with the support of members of the co-design panel.

Results: The main results of the study will be represented by: the identification of the main barriers and unmet needs related to treatment adherence in BD patients, caregivers and families; the co-creation of a co-designed tool aimed at assessing the causes and barriers of low- or non-adherence in BD patients; and the planning of future initiatives aimed at improving treatment adherence in BD patients.

Conclusion: Assesing the barriers causing low or non-adherence in BD will provide relevant information that will support the clinicians and the other health care professionals caring for BD patients, by improving the clinical management of the disease; by taking tangible actions aimed at increasing adherence to treatment; and therefore by improving the wellbeing of BD patients, caregivers and families.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0774

URINARY INTERLEUKIN (IL)-16 IN ANTI–NEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASTIC ANTIBODY (ANCA)-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS WITH KIDNEY INVOLVEMENT

Keywords: Biomarkers, Vasculitis, Kidneys

A. Juto1,2, F. Faustini1,2, A. Häyry1, A. Larsson9, V. Malmström5, A. Bruchfeld4,5,6, A. Antonic1,2, V. Oike1,2, L. Gunnansson1,2, Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; Karolinska University Hospital, Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; Uppsala University, Department of Medical Sciences, Clinical Chemistry, Akademiska Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden; Karolinska Institutet, CLINTEC, Stockholm, Sweden; Linköping University, Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping, Sweden; Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Renal Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; Academic Specialist Center, Center for Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: The pro-inflammatory interleukin (IL)-16 can be released by different immune cells and has shown to be an inflammatory mediator in rheumatic diseases. Urinary (u-) IL-16 has recently been found to be associated with proliferative nephritis in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and is expressed in inflammatory foci in the kidney. However, data on u-IL16 in other immune-mediated kidney diseases including Anti-neutrophil Antibody Associated Vasculitis (AAV) is lacking.

Objectives: To investigate levels of u-IL16 in AAV patients with kidney involvement compared to controls and to assess associations of u-IL16 with clinical variables.

Methods: Urine samples from 43 AAV patients were collected at the time of kidney biopsy on clinical indication. The biopsies were classified according to Berden: Focal (n=20), Crescentic (n=8), Mixed (n=6), and Sclerotic (n=3). The pro-inflammatory interleukin (IL)-16 can be released by different immune cells and has shown to be an inflammatory mediator in rheumatic diseases. Urinary (u-) IL-16 has recently been found to be associated with proliferative nephritis in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and is expressed in inflammatory foci in the kidney.

Results: In the AAV group, there were 25 males (58.1%), the median age was 61 years, and 22 (51.2%) were anti-PR3 positive while 21 (48.8%) were anti-MPO positive. There were 25 (58.1%) patients with GPA and 18 (41.9%) with MPA in the study. Median BVAS was 16 (interquartile range 13-21). Thirty-seven kidney biopsies were classified according to Berden: Focal (n=20), Crescentic (n=8), Mixed (n=6), and Sclerotic (n=3). There was a significant difference in u-IL16 levels between these groups (H (3)=8.68, p =0.034) with the highest proportion of patients with detectable u-IL16 in the sclerotic (66.7%) and crescentic (62.5%) classes. Levels of u-IL16 were not statistically significantly different between patients with or without ongoing treatment. The sensitivity for u-IL16 to correctly classify occurrence of kidney involvement in AAV patients was 38% (specificity 100%, PPV 100%, NPV 14%).

Conclusion: Urinary IL-16 was detectable in a significant proportion of AAV patients with kidney involvement and reflected disease activity and severity. As similar findings have been described in SLE, u-IL16 may be a marker of kidney inflammation in systemic immune-mediated kidney diseases. Further research is warranted to evaluate the pathogenic role of IL-16, the possible use of u-IL16 as a biomarker in clinical practice, as well as its potential as treatment target.

REFERENCES:

AB0775 EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF NON-MEDICAL SWITCH FROM RITUXIMAB ORIGINATOR TO AND AMONG BIOSIMILARS IN SMALL VESSEL VASCULITIDES PATIENTS: REAL WORLD DATA FROM A RETROSPECTIVE MONOCENTRIC STUDY

Keywords: bDMARD, Safety, Vasculitis

S. Stanz1, L. Colodanato1, A. Capuano1, M. Lavista1, V. Spedicato1, M. Formaro2, F. Iannone3, F. Cacciapaglia3, University of Bari ‘Aldo Moro’; Rheumatology Unit - Department of Regenerative and Precision Medicine, Ionian Area (DimPre-J), Rheumatology, Bari, Italy

Background: Rituximab (RTX) is indicated for treatment of severe small vessel vasculitides (SVV), namely granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) and cryoglobulineic vasculitis (CV). Currenty available RTX molecules include the originator drug (RTX-Or) and two biosimilars, CT-P10 and GP2013. SVV are rare and only few studies evaluated safety and efficacy of non-medical switch (NMS) from RTX-Or to and among biosimilars.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to obtain real world data about effectiveness and safety of different RTX molecules, and to evaluate switching strategies between RTX biosimilars in these conditions.

Methods: We retrospectively evaluated clinical and laboratory data of patients affected by GPA, MPA, and CV according to specific classification criteria, and treated with RTX based on expert rheumatologist indication between 2018 and 2022. Specifically, C-Reactive Protein (CRP), Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR), gamma globulins, C3, C4, Five Factor Score (FFS), Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score version 3 (BVASv3) and concomitant rheumatologic therapy were recorded. Autoimmunity was assessed as anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA) positivity for GPA and MPA and as presence of cryoglobulins in CV. All patients were followed-up for at least 12 months and received at least two cycles of therapy with RTX-Or, CT-P10 or GP2013. NMS to RTX biosimilars was performed when clinically feasible and accepted by the patient. Any safety issue associated with RTX treatment was recorded. Clinical and laboratory data were analyzed using appropriate statistical tests with SPSS.

Results: Data on 29 patients (female No. 19 - 65.5%; mean age 56.3±15.7 years old; mean disease duration 52.3±20.1 months) were available. Ten patients started therapy with RTX-Or, and all accepted NMS to CT-P10. Nine patients were treated with CT-P10 and six accepted NMS to GP2013. Twelve patients started treatment with GP2013. At baseline and during follow-up no significant differences among laboratory and clinical data of patients treated with any RTX molecule was highlighted. All patients achieved a statistically significant reduction of mean corticosteroid dose used from 20.4±12.8 mg/day of prednisone equivalents at baseline to 5.0±2.8 mg/day at 12 months (p<0.0001), and of mean BVASv3 from 20.0±4.5 at baseline to 4.7±2.3 after 12 months (p<0.00001). On average, a reduction of CRP and ESR levels, despite a small decrement of gamma globulins level was also observed. Mean C3 and C4 level resulted normal over time. ANCA positive patients decreased from 83.3% at baseline to 35.3% after one year (p=0.0059). Cryoglobulins were still detectable in 36.4% of patients after one year of RTX treatment (p=0.0039). No severe AEs were recorded, and only two CV patients treated with CT-P10 presented mild AEs: moderate lymphopenia, resolved after temporary drug withdrawal in one subject, and mild urticaria after infusion, with no new AEs after CT-P10 retreatment in the other. Of note, no AEs were observed in our cohort after NMS. Conclusion: Our study demonstrated comparable effectiveness and safety of RTX-Or and its two biosimilars both for induction and maintenance of remission. The effectiveness and safety of NMS for RTX in SSV is confirmed, and our results grant first time evidence for safety and maintained effectiveness of treatment in such patients also after NMS between biosimilars. This practice allows economic sustainability for healthcare systems and represents a hot topic in clinical practice.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0776

REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE ON THE LONG-TERM USE AND DRUG SURVIVAL OF MEPOLIZUMAB IN EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS (EGPA)

Keywords: Vasculitis, Descriptive Studies, Real-world evidence

C. Koutsianas1, T. Karageorgas2, C. Tsaiaplaki1, E. Mavrea1, A. Panagiotopoulos1, B. Bourpas1, D. Vassilopoulos1,2, Joint Rheumatology Program, Clinical Immunology-Rheumatology Unit, 2nd Department of Medicine and Laboratory, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Medicine, Hippokration General Hospital, Athens, Greece; Joint Rheumatology Program, Clinical Immunology-Rheumatology Unit, 4th Department of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Medicine, Attikon General Hospital, Athens, Greece

Background: Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) is a rare form of ANCA-associated vasculitis in which it is frequently difficult to achieve glucocorticoid (GC) tapering without relapse. Mepolizumab (MEPO) is an approved anti-IL5 agent for EGPA but real-world evidence of its long-term efficacy and survival is scarce.

Objectives: To study the efficacy, safety, and survival of MEPO for EGPA in daily clinical practice.

Methods: Retrospective study of all patients with EGPA who received MEPO in two academic Rheumatology centers up until January 10, 2023. Demographic and clinical data were recorded at baseline (start of MEPO) and at last follow up visit.

Results: 16 patients with EGPA treated with MEPO (females: 87.5%; mean age 52.4 years, mean disease duration at MEPO start: 4.4 years, ANCA+: 25%) were included in the study. At baseline, the median (IQR) BVASv3 was 6 (7) and the history of EGPA systemic involvement was: lung 94%, ENT 94%, musculoskeletal 50%, heart 50%, peripheral nervous system 37.5%, skin 25% and gastrointestinal 25%. The median number of EGPA relapses before MEPO use was 2, while 11/16 (69%) had previously failed various immunosuppressive (IS) (MTX, AZA, MMF, CYC) and 3/18 (16%) omalizumab treatment. At MEPO start, all patients were on GCs (median prednisone dose: 12.5 mg/day), while 62.5% were on IS (MMF=6, MTX=2, RTX=2). During follow-up (median [IQR]=12 [9] months), there was a statistically significant reduction in GC dose (median, from 12.5 to 2.5 mg/day, p=0.002), while 3/16 (19%) patients discontinued GCs, absolute eosinophil count (mean, from 1603±163 to 84±42, p<0.001) and BVASv3 (median, from 6 to 0, p=0.007). The cumulative drug survival at 6, 12 and 18 months was 100%, 100% and 83% respectively (Figure 1). MEPO was discontinued in 2 patients due to relapsing disease, while it was well tolerated in all patients without withdrawals for safety issues. Of note, in 3 subjects (19%) MEPO was used concurrently with rituximab (RTX) with good tolerability.

Conclusion: In this real-world study of EGPA patients, MEPO was efficacious and safe, with a high retention rate and significant GC-sparing effects. Furthermore, in almost one out of five patients it was used successfully in combination with RTX. These findings confirm the RCT data in real-life, difficult to treat patients.

Figure 1. Mepolizumab survival (Kaplan-Meier analysis) in real-life EGPA patients

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AB0777

PERFORMANCE OF 2022 ACR/EULAR GPA, EGPA AND MPA CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA IN TURKISH VASCULITIS STUDY GROUP PROSPECTIVE COHORT (TRVAS)

Keywords: Validation, Vasculitis, Registrys

E. C. Bolek1,2, G. Ayhan1,2, E. Bilgın1,2, E. Durak Ediboglu2, E. Duran1,2, R. C. Kardas1, T. Demirci Yildirim1, B. Özdemir1, T. S. Oğuz1, M. Karabacak2, O. Sadigolu Cagdas3, R. Yildirim1, E. Erpek4, D. Ozgun5, C. Akleylek6, E. A. Acar7, B. C. Uludogan7, E. Unaldi1, G. Sandal Uzun7,8, Z. Ozyoz7,2, M. Ekiç1,2, B. Fırlatan1,2, G. S. Kart-Bayram1,2, M. E. Kutlu8, M. Yalçın Mutlu11, B. Armagan1,2, G. Gerök1,2, B. Bilik3, H. Küçük3, N. Yilmaz8, N. S. Yasar Bilge1,2, S. Celek14, L. Koc1,2, T. Kajufoja15, A. Yazici1,2, G. Bes1, A. Erceni5, F. Erbasan1, E. Asicioglu6, F. Alibaz-Oner1, A. Omma1, A. Cefle9, V. Yazi7, M. A. Ozturk4, H. Direskeneli10, S. Kiraz1,2, F. Onen5, S. Akar3, O. Karamag1,2

1Hacettepe University, Hacettepe University Vasculitis Research Centre (HUVC), Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 3Izmir Katip Celebi University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Izmir, Turkey; 4Gazi University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey.
Turkey; 2Dokuz Eylül University, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Izmir, Turkey; 3Ankara Biltenk City Hospital, University of Health Sciences, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 4Akdeniz University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Antalya, Turkey; 5Marmara University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 6Kocaeli University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Kocaeli, Turkey; 7Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Eskişehir, Turkey; 8Baskent University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 9Marmara University, Division of Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: External validation of the 2022 ACR/EULAR GPA, EGPA and MPA Classification Criteria is recommended by the DCVAS study group [1-3].

Objectives: Turkish Vasculitis Study (TRVaS) prospective cohort is an electronic database including 15 centres from all over Turkey. We aimed to test performance of the recent criteria sets in TRVaS cohort.

Methods: Patients diagnosed according to physicians’ decisions have been recruited prospectively in TRVaS (in total 3730 patients by January 2023). 2022 ACR/EULAR and 1990 ACR Classification Criteria sets were applied to all of the patients with AAV [n=533], EGPA [n=112], MPA [n=105], and unclassified AAV (n=70)], poliarteritis nodosa (PAN, n=47) and IgA Vasculitis (n=76). Performances were analysed using sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV), and accuracy.

Results: For the patients with GPA, 2022 criteria had higher sensitivity and specificity compared to 1990’s (83.6% vs. 71.0%, p=0.001), whereas no significant difference was observed between 1990 and 2022 criteria for EGPA and MPA.

Table. Performance of 1990 ACR and 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Non-GPA</th>
<th>EGPA</th>
<th>MPA</th>
<th>Non-MPA</th>
<th>PAN</th>
<th>IgAV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity</td>
<td>83.6/95.6</td>
<td>83.6/94.1</td>
<td>98.2</td>
<td>98.2</td>
<td>98.2</td>
<td>83.8/89.8</td>
<td>83.8/87.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specificity</td>
<td>95.4</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>93.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPV</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPV</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Using 2022 ACR/EULAR Classification Criteria, improved sensitivity and specificity for GPA and sensitivity for EGPA were observed. Additionally, half of the unclassified AAV patients could be classified as either GPA or MPA. These criteria functioned well for the discrimination of patients with AAV from other small/medium vessel vasculitides such as PAN and IgA vasculitis. Total, over 80% of the patients with AAV were accordingly classified in parallel to the other small/medium vessel vasculitides of PAN and IgA vasculitis. Total, over 80% of the patients with AAV were accordingly classified in parallel to the clinical diagnosis in each GPA/EGPA/MPA.

References:

Figure. Classification of clinically diagnosed GPA/EGPA/MPA patients using 2022 ACR/EULAR criteria sets.
Table 1. Characteristics of EGPA patients with or without pathological findings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Small-vessel vasculitis (SVV)</th>
<th>Tissue eosinophilia (TE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pts with SVV</td>
<td>Pts without SVV</td>
<td>P value/Pts with TE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=14)</td>
<td>(n=10)</td>
<td>(n=6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n (%)</td>
<td>9 (52.9) 9 (69.2)</td>
<td>0.465 8 (50.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, median (IQR)</td>
<td>62 (55-71) 57 (54-63)</td>
<td>0.173 60 (56-71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCA Positive, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (41.2) 3 (23.1)</td>
<td>0.259 6 (37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-PR3 ANCA, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (5.9) 0 (0)</td>
<td>0.567 1 (6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BVAS, median (IQR)</td>
<td>22 (13-26) 18 (15-22)</td>
<td>0.476 22 (13-26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myalgia, n (%)</td>
<td>13 (76.5) 10 (76.9)</td>
<td>0.660 11 (68.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (47.1) 3 (23.1)</td>
<td>0.167 9 (56.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>13 (76.5) 10 (76.9)</td>
<td>0.660 11 (68.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>13 (76.5) 10 (76.9)</td>
<td>0.660 11 (68.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary infiltrates, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (58.8) 8 (61.5)</td>
<td>0.599 9 (56.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glomerulonephritis, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (17.6) 0 (0)</td>
<td>0.167 3 (18.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (17.6) 2 (13.1)</td>
<td>0.501 3 (20.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe peripheral neuropathy 10 (58.8) 9 (69.2) 0.421 7 (43.8) 12 (85.8) 0.021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment response, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (47.1) 0 (0)</td>
<td>0.043 5 (31.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular5402

AB0780 TIME MANAGEMENT AND RISK FACTORS IN LIFE-THREATENING ANCA-VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis, Prognostic factors, Organ damage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Baseline characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Vessel Vasculitis (SVV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control (non-SVV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (median (Q1, Q3))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic or Latino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown or not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unspecified AAV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCA Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-ANCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-ANCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GPA = granulomatosis with polyangiitis; EGPA = eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis; MPA = microscopic polyangiitis; AAV = ANCA associated vasculitis; PR3 = Proteinase 3; MPO = Myeloperoxidase
Background: Accuracy of diagnosis and prompt therapeutic intervention are the mainstay in patients with ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) suffering from life-threatening complications [1]. However, there is no definition of therapeutic window in vital AAV, nor its impact on patient outcome regarding length of hospital stay, intensive care unit (ICU) admission or survival.

Objective: The aim of this study is to analyze the process of care from the perspective of time management in vital organ involvement AAV patients and to identify potential risk factors for ICU admission.

Methods: A retrospective multicenter study identified AAV patients with life-threatening organ involvement, defined as alveolar hemorrhage, rapidly progressive renal failure, myocarditis, and showed no relationship to the type of severe organ involvement. The need for aorta was most frequently involved. Glucocorticoids (36/36), rituximab (19/36), and methotrexate (18/36) were the most frequent treatments. During the study period 8 patients died (4 in TA-AAV, 3 in A-AAV, and 1 in PA-AAV). There was no difference in mortality between this cohort of L-AAV patients and the general population (standardized mortality ratio: 0.98; 95% CI, 0.42-1.93).

Conclusion: This is the largest single-center cohort of patients with L-AAV to date. Clinicians should consider L-AAV in the differential diagnosis of vasculitis especially in the context of positive ANCA and atypical organ manifestations.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Features of L-AAV cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporal Artery</th>
<th>Aortitis</th>
<th>Periaortitis Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vascilitis (N=17)</td>
<td>(N=10)</td>
<td>(N=9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) age at AAV diagnosis</td>
<td>66.8 (7.07)</td>
<td>56.2 (16.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, male (%</td>
<td>7 (70)</td>
<td>6 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race, white (%</td>
<td>17 (100)</td>
<td>9 (90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of follow-up from AAV diagnosis, median (IQR)</td>
<td>4.5 (1.0-12.6)</td>
<td>9.5 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AAV

GPA, n (% | 3 (18) | 6 (60) | 6 (67) | 15 (42) |
MPS, n (% | 13 (76) | 4 (40) | 3 (33) | 20 (56) |
EGPA, n (% | 16 (94) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (3) |
Histological confirmation of AAV, n (% | 0 (0) |
Clinical manifestations before or at AAV diagnosis

Constitutional symptoms, n (% | 10 (60) | 1 (10) | 0 (0) | 2 (6) |
Chest pain, n (% | 11 (65) | 2 (20) | 1 (11) | 4 (11) |
ENT, n (% | 5 (29) | 8 (80) | 5 (56) | 18 (50) |
Cardiovascular, n (% | 11 (65) | 2 (20) | 1 (11) | 4 (11) |
Gastrointestinal, n (% | 0 (0) | 1 (10) | 0 (0) | 1 (3) |
Pulmonary, n (% | 5 (29) | 2 (20) | 5 (56) | 12 (33) |
Renal, n (% | 6 (35) | 0 (0) | 4 (44) | 10 (29) |
Nervous system, n (% | 8 (47) | 1 (10) | 0 (0) | 9 (25) |

*Histological confirmation of AAV, other than large vessel pathology

Acknowledgements: Nil.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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RISK FACTORS FOR SERIOUS INFECTION IN PATIENTS WITH MICROSCOPIC POLYANGITIS: RESULTS FROM THE REVEAL COHORT

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Vasculitis


Background: Many studies have reported risk factors for infection in ANCA-associated vasculitis, but the consistency of these risk factors varies between studies [1-5]. In addition, few reports have focused specifically on patients with microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) or have focused on the impact of glucocorticoids (GC) reduction on the risk of infection.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to examine risk factors of serious infections (SI) in patients with MPA in the REVEAL cohort, a Japanese multicenter cohort. As one of the risk factors, we also focused on the pace of GC reduction.

Methods: 181 MPA patients hospitalized for induction therapy and followed for at least three months were recruited from the REVEAL cohort. We evaluated the demographic, clinical, and laboratory findings, and treatments. To assess the pace of GC reduction, GC doses at 3, 12, and 24 months were extracted, and the ratio of each to the initial dose was calculated. Univariate analysis and COX regression analysis were performed to identify risk factors for SI, defined as infections requiring hospitalization in these patients. Gray test was performed for the comparison of the cumulative incidence of SI between groups.

Results: There were 115 patients without SI and 66 patients with SI. Univariate analysis showed that age, smoking index, CRP, and GC dose ratio (3 months/initial dose) were associated with SI. In the COX regression analysis (shown in Table 1), age, CRP, and GC dose ratio (3 months/initial dose) were identified as significant risk factors (p values are <0.005, <0.005, and 0.04, respectively). In addition, the group with GC dose ratio (3 months/initial dose) ≥ 0.4 had significantly higher cumulative incidence of SI than the other group (p=0.032) (shown in Figure 1).

Conclusion: Age, CRP, and GC dose ratio (3 months/initial dose) were identified as risk factors for SI in MPA patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Odds ratio [95% CI]</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>1.08 [1.04-1.12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (Female)</td>
<td>0.57 [0.30-1.07]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking index</td>
<td>1.00 [1.00-1.00]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>1.08 [1.03-1.13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC dose ratio (3 months/initial dose)</td>
<td>6.53 [1.08-39.52]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclosure of Interests: Atsushi Manabe: None declared, Keichiro Kadoba: None declared, Ryoosuke Hiwa: None declared, Mikiho Shoji: None declared, Mirei Shirakashi: None declared, Hideaki Tsuji: None declared, Koji Kitagori: None declared, Syuji Akizuki Grant/research support from: Asahi Kasei, Ran Nakashima Speakers bureau: Astellas, Boehringer Ingelheim, Asahi Kasei, Japan Blood Products Organization, Nihon Pharmaceutical, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Medical & Biological Laboratories Co., Ltd., Hajime Yoshifuji: None declared, Wataru Yamamoto: None declared, Ayana Okazaki: None declared, Shogo Matsuda Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Takuya Kotani Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Takahito Kuro: None declared, Ryu Watanabe Speakers bureau: Asahi Kasei, Eli Lilly, Chugai, Gus, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Motomu Hashimoto Speakers bureau: Eli Lilly, Chugai, Tanabe-Mitsubishi, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eisai, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Asahi Kasei, Astellas, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eisai, Daiso Kanzaki, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Aki Morinobu Speakers bureau: Chugai, Eli Lilly, Eisai, Bristol Myers Squibb, Tanabe-Mitsubishi, Astellas, Grant/ research support from: Asahi Kasei, Chugai, Tanabe-Mitsubishi, Taisho, Eisai.

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Results: Of 68 patients with HSP nephritis, diagnosed by kidney biopsy, 41 (60.29 %) were male and 27 (39.71 %) - female. Age of onset was between 18 and 66 years (mean 37.28 ± 9.34). Duration of follow-up was between 2 and 28 years. Of 293 patients, 65 patients had histories of infection preceding presentation. At onset all patients had palpable purpura and urinary abnormalities (only hematoma - in 16.18 %; mild proteinuria ± hematuria - in 44.12 %; moderate or severe pro-
teinuria and hematuria – in 39.70 %). Arthralgias were present in 49 patients (72.06 %), gastrointestinal involvement – in 32 patients (47.05 %). Renal function was impaired in 28.47 % of patients, and 51.47 % were hypertensive. Mesan-
gi hypercellularity lesions were found in most patients (97.60 %), endocapillary proliferation – in 20.58 %, segmental sclerosis – in 32.35 %, tubular atrophy, intetral fibrosis – in 38.32 %. Corticosteroids and cyclophosphamide were pre-
scribed in patients who presented with severe clinical and histological features and/or rapidly progressing renal disease. During follow-up classical extra-renal organ diseases were seen in 55.88 % of patients, and hematoma and/or pro-
teinuria – in 77.94 %. At final review 26.47 % had progression of renal failure. Risk factors for renal failure were moderate or severe proteinuria during follow-up (p<0.001), renal impairment at presentation (p<0.001), hypertension at presenta-
tion and during follow up (p<0.05), crescents, interstitial fibrosis and tubular atro-
ysis (p<0.001). No significant difference in renal outcome was observed between patients who had relapses in extra-renal organs versus in those who did not.

Conclusion: Our results indicated that lower GFR, nephrotic syndrome, nephrit-
ic-nephrotic syndrome and crescentic nephritis were risk factors for unfavorable outcomes.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0784
SKULL BASE INFECTION AS A MANIFESTATION OF GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGIITIS

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases, Organ damage, Vasculitis

A. Masak1, Z. Zdrojewski1. 1Medical University of Gdansk, Department of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology, Geriatrics and Internal Medicine, Gdansk, Poland

Background: Although upper respiratory symptoms are the most frequent local-
izations of granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) [1], infiltration of the skull base is rare.

Objectives: The aim of this analysis was the clinical characteristic of GPA patients’ skull base involvement.

Methods: The retrospective analysis was performed on patients diagnosed in tertiary academic referral center (Medical University of Gdansk, Poland) between 1990 and 2022 due to GPA. Medical database of 232 GPA vasculitis patients were retrospectively reviewed, and demographics, serological, and clinical fea-
tures of the patients presenting skull base infiltration throughout the disease course were recorded. Comparisons of disease characteristics and long-term outcomes were performed between patients with and without this manifestation.

Results: Among 232 patients (121 males, median age 52.5 years, 87% ANCA positive, 12.5% localized, 87.5% systemic), seven patients presented skull base infiltrations as a manifestation of GPA. It was 4 women and 3 men, aged between 27 and 72. Four patients were cANCA positive, 1 patient had atypical pANCA and 2 patients were ANCA negative. In six of them it was a first manifestation of vasculitis. Clinical characteristic of patients is summarized in table. Statistical analysis showed that patients with skull base involvement and those without this manifestation differed only in the frequency of ocular involvement - in patients with skull base infiltration, ocular involvement occurred in all cases, while among patients without infiltration it occurred in only 34.54% of subjects. In terms of other parameters, there were no statistically significant differences between the groups.

Conclusion: Skull base infiltrations presenting mainly as cranial nerve palsies is rare presentation of GPA. In most of patients it is one of the first symptoms of vasculitis. It can occur in both ANCA positive and ANCA negative cases.

REFERENCES:
[1] Wojcik K et all. Clinical characteristics of Polish patients with ANCA-associ-

Table. Clinical characteristics of 7 patients with skull base infiltrations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>sex</th>
<th>ANCA status</th>
<th>Clinical manifestation</th>
<th>Organ involvement</th>
<th>Histopathological confirmation</th>
<th>Treatment Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>46 F</td>
<td>cANCA</td>
<td>headache, dizziness, double vision</td>
<td>III, V, VI, S, E, L</td>
<td>SK, eye</td>
<td>Yes (nose)</td>
<td>KGS, remission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>52 F</td>
<td>cANCA</td>
<td>headache, blindness, hearing loss</td>
<td>II, E, SK, eye</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>GKS, remission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>39 F</td>
<td>Atypical pANCA (anti elastase)</td>
<td>headache, hearing loss</td>
<td>V, IX, L, SK, X, XI, eye</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>GKS, remission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>39 M</td>
<td>cANCA</td>
<td>headache, loss of smell</td>
<td>VII, IX, O, J, eye</td>
<td>Yes (oral cavity)</td>
<td>KGS, remission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>72 M</td>
<td>ANCA negative</td>
<td>Headache, dizziness</td>
<td>II, VI, S, E, SK, CNS, eye</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>GKS, death (infectious)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>27 F</td>
<td>cANCA</td>
<td>Headache, dizziness, Hearing loss</td>
<td>IX, X, O, L, J, eye</td>
<td>Yes (lungs)</td>
<td>GKS, death (active GPA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>35 M</td>
<td>ANCA negative</td>
<td>head-ache, eyelid infiltration</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>N, S, eye</td>
<td>Yes (sinus, eyelid, orbita)</td>
<td>KGS, death (gastro-intestinal bleeding)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0785
ASSOCIATED FACTORS TO REMISSION IN PATIENTS WITH UVEITIS RELATED TO BEHÇET DISEASE TO THE FIRST THERAPEUTIC SCHEME

Keywords: Behçet disease, Uveitis, Remission

M. Cosentino1, I. Gandino2, C. Pena3, M. C. Baretto4, A. Testi1, B. M. Virasoro5, L. Garcia1, M. Scolnic5, A. Ringer5, C. Siegrist2, B. Abdala6, S. Chulibert4, M. Dalpiaz7, G. Rodriguez8, A. Schlaen9, C. Vanegas8, C. Alanez5, M. Heredia5, M. Garcia1, H.I.G.A. SAN MARTIN LA PLATA, Reumatología, La Plata, Argentina; 1Hospital General de Agudos Dr. Fernández, Reumatologia, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 2Consultorio de enfermedades autoinmunes, autonomidad, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 3Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, reumatologia, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 4Clinica de medicina y laboratorio inmunológico especializado, autonomidad, Santa fe, Argentina; 5Hospital Provincial del Centenario, reumatologia, Santa Fe, Argentina; 6Chumica, oftalmologia, JCP, Argentina; 7Austral University Hospital, oftalmologia, Pilar Centro, Argentina

Background: Behçet’s disease (BE) is a systemic venous and arterial vas-
culitis of unknown etiology [1]. Oral ulceration is common, affecting 40-70% of patients [2], and is the main cause of morbidity. Uveitis is the most frequent common ocular clinical presentation, with a prevalence that can reach up to 90% of cases, affecting the anterior and posterior segments of the eye. Among 16-25% of the cases end in blindness, so early detection and treatment are essential [3].

Objectives: To describe the characteristics of uveitis in EB, extracellular manifesta-
tions, therapeutic lines used, and to compare the factors associated with uveitis remission to the first therapeutic scheme. In addition, evaluate the adherence to the EULAR 2018 recommendations.

Methods: Multicenter, observational, retrospective cohort study. Patients over 18 years of age with EB according to the 2014 ICBD criteria and uveitis according to the Uveitis Nomenclature Standardization Working Group (SUN). Disease remission was defined if the patient met the SUN criteria for ocular remission and if the rheumatologist did not have to change the immunosuppressant due to ocular involvement.

Results: Fifty-five patients were included, 69.1% were men, with a mean age at diagnosis of 33.7 (SD 11.4) years old, mean age at uveitis presentation
of 37.1 (SD 19.6) years old, and a median follow-up of 2.5 (IQR 7.2) years. HLA-b51 was positive in 13/15 (86.7%). The most frequent presentation was panuveitis (49%), bilateral (69.1%) and chronic (59.6%) affection; the first-line treatment was azathioprine (45%). According to the variables studied, acute presentations responded better to the initial therapeutic scheme (41% vs 8.3%, p = 0.01) and a history of thrombosis was associated with greater refractoriness (16.7% vs 0%, p = 0.03). Table 1 shows the comparison in terms of remission or refractoriness to the first therapeutic line. In relation to the year of uveitis diagnosis, 21 cases occurred after the publication of the recommendations, and adherence to the first line was observed in 66.7%. Also, a comparison was made to find out if the physician who adhered to the EULAR recommendations had a higher probability of remission, but this was not statistically significant (66.7% vs 42.9%; p = 0.99). Sequelae were observed in 11/44 patients: 1 glaucoma, 3 retinal scars, 3 blindness, and 4 cataracts. The mean visual acuity of the right eye and left eye at the first visit was 6.8 (SD 3.6) and 6.6 (SD 3.7); and in the last visit, 7.4 (DE 5.5) and 7.1 (DE 3.4), respectively.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Refractory to the first scheme</th>
<th>Remission with first scheme</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anterior, U, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (25)</td>
<td>12 (38.7)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate, U, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (12.5)</td>
<td>6 (19.3)</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posterior, U, n (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (3.2)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panuveitis, U, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (62.5)</td>
<td>12 (38.7)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral, n (%)</td>
<td>19 (82.6)</td>
<td>19 (61.3)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súbita, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (58.3)</td>
<td>7 (23.3)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (8.3)</td>
<td>13 (41.9)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic, n (%)</td>
<td>17 (70.8)</td>
<td>14 (45.16)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recurrent, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (20.8)</td>
<td>1 (3.2)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombosis, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (16.7)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (58.3)</td>
<td>14 (41.9)</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In this multicenter cohort of patients with uveitis associated with EB, the most frequent form of presentation was panuveitis, as well as bilateral involvement and chronic forms. Approximately half of the patients achieved remission with the first therapeutic scheme line, regardless of the selected immunosuppressant. The acute forms could be associated with a higher probability of remission, while the history or presence of thrombosis would seem to be related to greater refractoriness. The therapeutic management presented high consistency with the current recommendations.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Results: A total of 71 patients were enrolled; 30(42%) in RTX group and 41(58%) in non-RTX group. Baseline characteristics were comparable between two groups as shown in Table 1. The median age was 74 vs. 76 years with the PR3-ANCA positivity rate of 23% vs. 17%, and the median BVAS score was 11 vs. 12 points, respectively. The CR rate at week 24 was higher in the RTX group than in the non-RTX group [24(80.0%) vs 19(46.3%), p = 0.004] (shown in Figure 1), with comparable doses of concomitant glucocorticoids. The adjusted odds ratios of RTX use for CR at week 24 and 48 were 1.09 (95%CI 0.39-3.10) and 4.01 (95%CI12.9-12.30). The incidence of serious infection was similar in both groups: [4(13.3%) vs 4(9.8%), p=0.638].

Conclusion: RTX may be superior, with well tolerability, to the other conventional immunosuppressive therapies as an induction therapy in elderly patients with relapsed AAV.

REFERENCES:

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of the enrolled patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall (N=71)</th>
<th>RTX group (N=30)</th>
<th>Non-RTX group (N=41)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), median (IQR)</td>
<td>75(71-80)</td>
<td>74(71-80)</td>
<td>76(71-82.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (female), n (%)</td>
<td>37(52.1)</td>
<td>13(43.3)</td>
<td>24(58.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAV subtype, n (%)</td>
<td>26(36.6)</td>
<td>14(46.7)</td>
<td>12(29.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>45/63.4</td>
<td>16/53.3</td>
<td>29/70.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3-ANCA, n (%)</td>
<td>14/19.7</td>
<td>7/23.3</td>
<td>7/17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPO-ANCA</td>
<td>54/76.1</td>
<td>22/73.3</td>
<td>32/78.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCA serotype, n (%)</td>
<td>both negative</td>
<td>3(4.2)</td>
<td>13(3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid dose (PSL equivalent), both negative</td>
<td>9/15(6.8)</td>
<td>8.3(6-11.8)</td>
<td>10/5.5(15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior treatment regimen, n(%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclophosphamide</td>
<td>4/5.6</td>
<td>3/10.0</td>
<td>1(2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>14/19.7</td>
<td>2/6.7</td>
<td>2/4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>18/25.4</td>
<td>10/33.3</td>
<td>8(19.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>3/4.2</td>
<td>2/6.7</td>
<td>1/2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizoribine</td>
<td>5/7.0</td>
<td>1/3.3</td>
<td>4/9.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Disease status and outcome of the enrolled patients

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES:

Figure. BVAS outcome according to AAV phenotype.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Fabricio Benavides-Villanueva: None declared, Cristina Corrales-Selaya: None declared, J. Loricer: Speakers bureau: Dr. J. Loricer had participation in company-sponsored speaker’s bureau from Roche, Novartis, Galápagos, UCB Pharma, MSD, Celgene, and Grünenthal and received support for attending meetings and/or travel from Janssen, Abbvie, Pfizer, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Roche, Juan Maria Blanco Madrigal: None declared, NURIA AVILES MENDEZ: None declared, Ricardo Blanco: Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galápagos and MSD, Consultant of: Ricardo Blanco.

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<td>16/53.3</td>
<td>29/70.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>PR3-ANCA, n (%)</td>
<td>14/19.7</td>
<td>7/23.3</td>
<td>7/17.1</td>
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<td>22/73.3</td>
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</table>

Figure 1: Disease status and outcome of the enrolled patients

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2439
TABLE. General features of 28 patients with AAV treated with IVIG.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL FEATURES</th>
<th>ALL SERIES n=28</th>
<th>GPA n=15</th>
<th>MPA n=10</th>
<th>EGPA n=3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years) of diagnosis of AAV, mean±SD</td>
<td>57.1±18</td>
<td>51.8±16.9</td>
<td>68.5±14.8</td>
<td>45.7±17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men/Women; n, (%) men</td>
<td>15/13 (53.6)</td>
<td>7/8 (46.7)</td>
<td>5/5(50)</td>
<td>3/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFS at AAV diagnosis, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (100)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1</td>
<td>18 (64.3)</td>
<td>6(40)</td>
<td>9(60)</td>
<td>3 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANALYTICAL FINDINGS

| CRP (mg/dL, median [IQR]) | 11.5 [3.2-23.8] | 10.3 [0.6-25.0] | 15.4 [6.2-125.5] | 13.2 [2.2-19.2] |
| Anti PR3-ANCA, n (%) | 11 (39.3) | 11 (73.4) | 0 | 0 |
| Anti MPO-ANCA, n (%) | 12 (42.8) | 2 (13.3) | 8 (80) | 2 (66.7) |
| ANCA negative, n (%) | 5 (17.8) | 2 (13.3) | 2 (20) | 1 (33.3) |

IVIG THERAPEUTIC REGIMENS, n (%)

| IVIG alone | 7 (25) | 5 (33.3) | 1 (10) | 1 (33.3) |
| IVIG with other therapies | 10 (35.7) | 6 (40) | 4 (40) | 0 |
| IVIG with corticosteroids | 7 (25) | 3 (20) | 4 (40) | 0 |
| IVIG alone | 14 (50) | 7 (46.7) | 5 (50) | 2 (66.4) |

Grant/research support from: Ricardo Blanco Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, novartis and Roche.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3258

FLOW CYTOMETRY ANALYSIS OF IMMUNE CELLS IN PATIENTS WITH BEHCET'S SYNDROME: A REAL-WORLD STUDY IN CHINA

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Behcet's disease

J. Li1, F. Sun1, W. Zhou1, T. Liu1. 1Peking University People's Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Behcet's syndrome (BS) is an autoimmune disease characterized by recurrent mucocutaneous ulcerations, vascular and nervous system involvement. While there have been a lot of researches proving that immune cells play a vital role in rheumatic disease, opinions on the effect of different immune cell subsets on BS is inconsistent. Therefore, we performed this real-world study to explore the role of immune cells in the pathogenesis of BS.

Objectives: To investigate the changes in the levels of several immune cell subsets in BS, and the correlation between the levels of different immune cell subsets and clinical features in patients with BS.

Methods: This is a retrospective, single-center study conducted in Beijing. 136 patients diagnosed with BS in rheumatology and immunology department of Peking University People's Hospital from 2018 to 2021 and 114 healthy controls (HCs) were enrolled. All patients met the International Criteria for Behcet's Disease (ICBD). We utilized flow cytometry to test the levels of CD4+ T cells, CD8+ T cells, B cells, NK cells and several subsets of CD4+ T cells. Wilcoxon rank test and student's t-test were used and a P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Compared to HCs, there is a decrease in the count of CD4+ T cells, B cells and NK cells in BS patients. A significant increase in the frequency of IFN-γ, IL-2 and IL-4 producing CD4+ T cell in BS patients were observed, which accompanied by a decreased frequency of Naïve CD4+ T cells. The frequency of Foxp3+ Treg cells was notably increased while the proportion of CLA+ Treg in T cells was significantly decreased in BS patients. BS patients’ frequency of follicular helper T cells were apparently lower than HCs. There was a significant reduction of the frequency of Treg in patients with vascular involvement. The frequency of follicular helper T cells were positively correlated with joint involvement and negatively correlated with nerve involvement in BS patients. Patients with gastrointestinal involvement had a increased frequency of TNF-α, IFN-γ, IL-2 and IL-4 producing CD4+ T cells and a decreased level of B cell count. Elevated level of NK cell count and decreased frequency of TNF-α, IL-2 producing CD4+ T cells were found in patients with skin-mucosa involvement alone.

Conclusion: Our study confirmed that Th1 cells, Th2 cells, Treg cells, follicular helper T cells, B cells and NK cells contribute a lot to the pathogenesis of BS.

REFERENCES:

AB0789
AVACOPAN IN THE REAL-LIFE PRACTICE: EVALUATION OF EFFICACY, SAFETY, AND IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE EARLY STAGES OF TREATMENT

Keywords: Safety, Vasculitis, Remission


1Clinic of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, University of Udine, Udine, Italy; 2Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Sacco and Fatebenefratelli Hospitals, Milano, Italy; 3Nephrology Unit, University of Brescia, ASST Spedali Civili, Brescia, Italy; 4Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Neurosciences, University of Siena, Siena, Italy; 5Centre for Inflammatory Diseases, Monash University Department of Medicine, Monash Medical Centre, Clayton, Victoria, Australia

Background: Avacopan is a new approved treatment for granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) and microscopic polyangiitis (MPA). Compared with glucocorticoids (GCs) added to standard immunosuppressive therapy (IST) with cyclophosphamide (CYC) or rituximab (RTX), avacopan proved to be non-inferior for treatment response at 52 weeks, whereas it was superior to GCs for sustained remission at 52 weeks compared with a prednisone tapering schedule of 20 weeks [1].

Objectives: The aim of this prospective multicenter study was to assess efficacy and safety of avacopan in the real-life practice in GPA or MPA patients in the setting of a compassionate use program. A secondary objective was to describe the impact on the perceived quality of life before and during treatment.

Methods: We prospectively collected clinical and laboratory data of GPA and MPA patients who started treatment with avacopan from May 2022. Patients were recruited from 9 Italian Rheumatology/Nephrology Units belonging to the Vasculitis Study Group of the Italian Society of Rheumatology (SIR). At least 3 months of follow-up from the start of treatment were required for data analysis. Clinical remission was defined as BVASv3 equal to 0. Patients self-completed the Italian version of the AAV-PRO questionnaire (AAV-PRO_it) at baseline and after 3 months [2].

Results: A total of 12 patients (7 females, 5 males) with a median age of 64 (IQR 48-66.3) were recruited. 9 patients had GPA (4/12, 33.3%) and 3 patients had MPA (5/12, 25%). The relapsed patients had a median disease duration of 12 (IQR 4.3-15.3) years and had been previously treated with other immunosuppressants, including RTX (5/8, 62.5%), CYC (5/8, 62.5%), AZA (3/8, 37.5%), MTX (2/8, 25%), and MMF (1/8, 12.5%). At the start of avacopan treatment, the median BVASv3 and VD were 12 (IQR 8.20-8.2) and 2.5 (IQR 1.5-3.3), respectively. 9 out of 12 (75%) patients had renal involvement, of which 5/9 (55.6%) had rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis. Other disease involvements were EN (5/12, 41.7%), and pulmonary (5/12, 41.7%), of which 3/5 (60%) patients had alveolar haemorrhage. Treatment was initiated with a median steroid dose of 50 (IQR 4.9-50) mg prednisone equivalent (PN-eq) and in combination with RTX at a dose of 1 gram every 2 weeks (9/12, 75%) or 375 mg/m2 weekly for 4 consecutive weeks (3/12, 25%). Two patients also received 1 gram of CYC before RTX. After month 3, 10/12 (83.3%) patients were in clinical remission and the median steroid dose had decreased from 5 (IQR 2.2-10.6) mg PN-eq (Figure 1). The median value of creatinine did not differ from the prednisone tapering schedule (10.1 mg/dL). In all three patients the vasculitic process was confined to the same cerebral hemisphere, while the other two had cerebral lesions with gadolinium enhancement. All had multiple flares (from 4 to 10) and were treated with different traditional immunodepressive drugs and RTX (RTX) for the steroid-resistance. They received long-term treatment (more than 2 years) with fixed high-dose prednisone (PDN) in one patient (40 mg/daily, in the other two 20 mg/daily) because the vasculitic process flared when the PDN dose was reduced. One patient had at PRF prominent leptomeningeal enhancement, while the other two had cerebral lesions with gadolinium enhancement. In all three patients the vasculitic process was confined to the same cerebral hemisphere.

Conclusion: Our study described the real-life practice of avacopan in GPA and MPA patients, especially relapsing patients. The clinical added value of avacopan as steroid sparing strategy can be observed already in the early stages of treatment. Overall, avacopan appears to be an effective and safe adjunctive therapy in the active AAV.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.
hemisphere at diagnosis and during the flares, and at the last available brain MRI performed 35 months, 167 months, and 65 months after the diagnosis, respectively. All 3 patients at last follow-up had slight disability with mild cognitive impairment; one case also had mild left hemiparesis. Spinal fluid examination at diagnosis was normal in 2 patients.

Conclusion: Unilateral relapsing involvement represents a rare subset of PCNSV with peculiar characteristics and can be observed in all neuropathological patterns.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4821

AB0791 EVALUATION OF THE EFFICACY AND COMPLICATIONS OF PLASMA EXCHANGE IN ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS: RESULTS OF PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHING ANALYSIS IN HIGH-RISK PATIENTS

Keywords: Vasculitis

B. Inci1, M. Bektas1, B. Celik2, S. Yuce2, Y. Yalcnkaya3, B. Artim-Esen1, A. Gu1, S. K. Bessisk1, M. Inanc1, 1Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Public Health, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Therapeutic plasma exchange (PE) is applied in addition to standard induction therapy for patients with severe organ or system involvement in ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV). However, prognostic significance of this approach is questioned.

Objectives: We aimed to evaluate both short- and long-term efficacy and safety of PE in our established single center cohort.

Methods: In this study, we evaluated the clinical and laboratory data of 128 patients diagnosed with AAV between 2011 and 2021. Data of patients with GFR <50 ml/min with or without diffuse alveolar hemorrhage (DAH) at the time of admission were included into the analysis. Disease activity, laboratory and follow-up data of patients who underwent PE were compared with those who did not. The analyses were repeated in the groups formed after the propensity score matching (PSM) performed according to the presence of DAH, age, gender, baseline GFR and BVAS scores.

Results: Seventy-one (55.5%) patients (F/M: 32/39, mean age± SD: 54.6±12.9) were included into the study. Thirty-nine (54.9%) patients had C-ANCA/PR3, 29 (40.8-%) patients had p-ANCA/MPO positivity. The mean age, gender, baseline GFR and BVAS scores.

Table 1. Comparison of patients who did or did not undergo plasmapheresis in patients with AAV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TPE group (n=38)</th>
<th>Standard induction (n=33)</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>TPE group (n=24)</th>
<th>Standard induction (n=20)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>53.3±13.2</td>
<td>55.7±12.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>55.8±10.9</td>
<td>54.1±12.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline BVAS</td>
<td>19.7±6.9</td>
<td>17.6±5.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>20.8±7.1</td>
<td>17.2±5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline GFR mL/min</td>
<td>28.7±23</td>
<td>30.2±31</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>18.6±11.6</td>
<td>19.5±8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission (6th mo)</td>
<td>12/22</td>
<td>25/31</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>8/16</td>
<td>17/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=53)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (6th mo)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine mg/dl (6th mo)</td>
<td>2.1±1.6</td>
<td>1.6±1.3</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>2.2±1.7</td>
<td>1.28±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine mg/dl (12th mo)</td>
<td>2.6±2.8</td>
<td>1.3±0.3</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>2.8±3</td>
<td>1.3±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine mg/dl (12th mo) (n=33)</td>
<td>5/16</td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>5/13</td>
<td>5/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria &gt;0.5 g/day (6th mo) (n=31)</td>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>14/30</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>7/16</td>
<td>8/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative prednisolone dose (12th mo) (g) (median / IQR)</td>
<td>6.5 (25)</td>
<td>7.7 (46)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>5 (45)</td>
<td>7.9 (39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe infection (first year)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End stage kidney disease (first year)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDI score (overall)</td>
<td>3.6±2.2</td>
<td>2.6±18</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>3.2±1.3</td>
<td>2.2±0.4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4873

AB0792 ADULT-ONSET IGA VASCULITIS WITH RENAL INVOLVEMENT

Keywords: Vasculitis, Kidneys, Prognostic factors

F. Yildirim1, M. E. Kutu2, Y. Calik3, S. Celik6, C. Bes7, 1University of Health Sciences, Basaksehir Cam and Sakura City Hospital, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2University of Health Sciences, Baskoey Dr Sadi Konuk Training and Research Hospital, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Systemic Immunoglobulin A vasculitis (IgAV) often presents glomerulonephritis accompanying palpable purpura. Unlike children, renal involvement can be severe in adults. Especially, in the chronic period, renal involvement determines the prognosis. A significant proportion of the patients initially have pathological renal findings, while pathological renal findings may occur later in some patients.

Objectives: It was aimed to compare the clinical features of patients with renal involvement at the beginning and those with subsequent renal involvement, to determine the predictors of renal involvement and to determine the factors affecting renal prognosis.

Methods: A total of 42 adult patients with IgA vasculitis nephritis with followed between January 2018 and August 2022 in two tertiary hospitals were included in the study. The patients were divided into 2 groups as those with and without IgA vasculitis nephritis findings at the beginning. Patients’ clinical and laboratory data were collected at baseline and at follow-up, and were analyzed retrospectively.

Results: Thirty (%71) of 42 patients had signs of IgA vasculitis nephritis at baseline and 12 (%29) patients, signs of nephritis appeared later. The median time between first visit and development of nephritis was 18 [IQR:6-44] days in patients whose nephritis findings appeared later. In the binary logistic regression analysis, it was determined that gastrointestinal involvement at the baseline predicted the later development of renal involvement [OR:6.399, 95% CI=1.800-49.079, p = 0.008]. Comparative results of the 2 groups with and without IgA vasculitis nephritis findings at baseline in terms of clinical features are presented in Table 1.
Table 1: Comparative characteristics of patients presented with and without renal findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Patients with renal findings at initially (N=30)</th>
<th>Patients without renal findings at initially (N=12)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean, S.D.) years</td>
<td>44.2 (15.4)</td>
<td>51.9 (14.3)</td>
<td>0.406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (40)</td>
<td>8 (66.7)</td>
<td>0.740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>11 (36.6)</td>
<td>6 (50)</td>
<td>0.498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (20)</td>
<td>8 (66.7)</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results:**

A total of 158 patients (low C3: 28, normal C3: 90, high C3: 40 patients) were included when variates were categorical. Analysis of variance or the Kruskal–Wallis test was used when variates were categorical.

**Conclusion:** Low C3 levels are associated with severe disease and renal dysfunction, while high C3 levels are associated with elevated CRP levels. Serum C3 levels are closely associated with disease pathology.

**REFERENCES:**


**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Vasculitis

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**AB0793**

**SERUM C3 LEVELS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE PATHOLOGY IN MICROSCOPIC POLYANGITIS: RESULTS FROM THE REVEAL COHORT**

**Objectives:**

1. The ANCA-associated vasculitides (AAV) are systemic autoimmune diseases affecting small and medium-sized blood vessels. Upper airways, lungs, and kidneys are variably involved in the different types of AAV, and the consequences of a missed or delayed diagnosis of renal vasculitis are potentially life-threatening. AAV may be classified into clinical syndromes or based on their serology (Anti-PR3 or Anti-MPO). Patient survival and the risk of end-stage renal disease are closely associated with renal functional status.

2. This study was undertaken to study the disease characteristics and outcomes in patients of AAV based on the presence or absence of renal involvement.

**Methods:**

A prospective study was undertaken to study the disease characteristics and outcomes in patients of AAV based on the presence or absence of renal involvement.

**RESULTS:**

A total of 112 patients were included in our study, with a median age of 51.5 years. 74 (66%) patients had renal involvement either in the form of Nephritic (P<0.001), and serum CRP levels (P=0.002) were significantly lower in the low C3 group, while serum creatinine levels (P=0.001), BVAS (P=0.039), and five factor scores (P<0.005) were significantly higher in the low C3 group. Notably, the proportion of patients who fulfilled the 2022 revised ACR/EBULAR classification criteria for MPA was significantly lower in the low C3 group (P=0.039). Initial prednisolone dose and survival did not differ between the three groups.

**Conclusion:** Low C3 levels are associated with severe disease and renal dysfunction, while high C3 levels are associated with elevated CRP levels. Serum C3 levels are closely associated with disease pathology.

**REFERENCES:**


**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Real-world evidence, Vasculitis

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank BioRender.com (https://biorender.com) for the schematic Figure.

**AB0794**

**A PROSPECTIVE STUDY ON RENAL INVOLVEMENT IN INDIAN PATIENTS WITH ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCUITIS**

**Objectives:**

1. The ANCA-associated vasculitides (AAV) are systemic autoimmune diseases affecting small and medium-sized blood vessels. Upper airways, lungs, and kidneys are variably involved in the different types of AAV, and the consequences of a missed or delayed diagnosis of renal vasculitis are potentially life-threatening. AAV may be classified into clinical syndromes or based on their serology (Anti-PR3 or Anti-MPO). Patient survival and the risk of end-stage renal disease are closely associated with renal functional status.

2. This study was undertaken to study the disease characteristics and outcomes in patients of AAV based on the presence or absence of renal involvement.

**Methods:**

A longitudinal, observational study conducted at a tertiary care hospital in Northern India. Between February 2020 and December 2021, all consecutive adult patients diagnosed with AAV based on their autoantibody profiles (using indirect immunofluorescence and Line ImmunoAssay) and clinical features were included in this study after taking their informed consent. Demographic details, clinical features, laboratory parameters, disease activity, and mortality or morbidity outcomes of patients were analysed prospectively. All outcomes were compared between patients with and without renal involvement.

**RESULTS:**

A total of 112 patients were included in our study, with a median age of 51.5 years. 74 (66%) patients had renal involvement either in the form of Nephritic...
syndrome, Nephrotic syndrome, RPRF (Rapidly progressive renal failure), Nephritic nephrotic syndrome, or Asymptomatic Urinary Sediments. c-ANCA and PR3 positivity were seen in more than two-thirds of our population, without any significant correlation with organ involvement. Patients with renal disease had a significantly higher proportion with diffuse alveolar haemorrhage (32.4% vs 10.5%, p=0.05) and palpable purpura (19.6% vs 7.9%, p=0.025), but significantly lower occurrences of nasal pathology (14% vs 42%, p=0.001) and subglottic stenosis (1.4% vs 18.4%, p=0.001). Mean BVAS at enrolment was significantly higher in the renal group (20.9 vs 12.89). Remission was achieved in 50% and 47.4% of patients with and without renal involvement respectively. Rates of relapse (19/74 vs 14/38), refractory disease, and mortality were not significantly different among the two subgroups. The commonest organ involvement in disease flare was pulmonary involvement. 21.6% of the patients developed CKD over a median follow-up period of 18 months.

Conclusion: Kidney involvement is one of the commonest manifestations of AAV. Patients with renal involvement may have higher mean BVAS scores and an increased risk of developing alveolar haemorrhage and purpuric skin rash; while nasal pathology and subglottic stenosis occurred more frequently in patients without renal disease. Rates of remission, refractory disease, and mortality were almost similar, regardless of renal involvement, while relapses were numerically more in the non-renal AAV patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2898

AB0795

MPO-ANCA ANTIBODIES: ASSOCIATED DISEASES, SPECIFICITY, AND RELATION WITH SEVERITY AND PROGNOSIS OF UNDERLYING VASCULITIS. STUDY FROM A SINGLE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Vasculitis

S. Al Fazazi1, V. Calvo-Rio2, M. Renuncio García3, M. Rodriguez Vidriales4, C. Escagedo Cagigas5, J. Iruve-Ventura6, L. Martin-Penagos6, M. Lopez-Hoyos6, R. Blancom7, Hospital Universitario Puerta del Mar, Renumatology, Cadiz, Spain; 2Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 3Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital, Immunology, Santander, Spain; 4Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital, Nephrology, Santander, Spain

Background: Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV) include Granulomatosis with polyangiitis GPA), Microscopic polyangiitis (MPA), and Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA). Anti-myeloperoxidase (anti-MPO) or anti-proteinase 3 are the two main ANCA subtypes. Anti MPO specificity and correlation with the severity and prognosis of underlying vasculitis is contradictory [1].

Objectives: To assess in patients with positive anti-MPO, a) associated diseases, b) specificity in diagnosing AAV and c), relation with severity and prognosis of vasculitis in a single university hospital.

Methods: Study of patients with positive anti-MPO from a University Hospital, from 2003 to 2022. ANCA was determined by standard immunochromotest. The specificity of anti-MPO for diagnosis and relation with severity and prognosis of underlying vasculitis were evaluated with Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) curves. At diagnosis severe AAV were considered cases with renal disease (hematuria and/or proteinuria) and pulmonary involvement. In follow-up, vasculitis was considered if the patient needed dialysis, a transplant of died.

Results: We study 101 patients with positive anti-MPO. Table summarizes the prevalence of these antibodies in vasculitis and non-vasculitis diseases. Most of them (76.23%) had an underlying AAV, being the most frequent MPA (33.7%). The non-vasculitis disease more frequent was neoplasm (4,9%). For anti-MPO antibodies with a diagnosis of AAV (n=77), an area under the curve (AUC=0.8084), and a cut-off point of 41.5 IU/ml was determined (Figure). When the analysis was restricted to exclusively MPA (n=34), the cut-off point was 36.5 IU/ml with an AUC of 0.6435. For severity of AAV, there were significant differences in anti-MPO levels between patients with renal or pulmonary dysfunction (n=85) versus those without them (n=36) (p=0.0003), and a cut-off threshold of 60 IU/ml was established. Finally, after evaluating the illness’s progression, an AUC= 0.5546 was found, being no significant differences between those patients who had a worse disease progression (n=19) and those who did not (n=82) (p=0.4643).

Conclusion: MPO antibodies levels, at the moment of diagnosis, may be associated to AAV diagnosis (specificity) and severity but not with disease outcome.

REFERENCES:

Table. Underlying associated Diseases with positive anti-MPO antibodies (n=101).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Number (n=101)</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vasculitis</td>
<td>Microscopic polyangiitis</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pauci-immune glomerulonephritis</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unclassified vasculitis</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Granulomatosis with polyangiitis</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Vasculitis</td>
<td>Neoplasms</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ulcerative colitis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chron’s disease</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intestinal ischaemia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sjogren’s syndrome</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Autoimmune hepatitis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pemphigus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lung fibrosis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pleural effusion</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Silicosis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pachyonygits</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) plots for AAV and positive MPO-antibodies (AUC=0.8084) and disease severity at diagnosis (AUC=0.7160).

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Salma Al Fazazi: None declared, Vanesa Calvo-Rio: None declared, Mónica Renuncio García: None declared, María Rodriguez Vidriales: None declared, Clara Escagedo Cagigas: None declared, Juan Iruve-Ventura: None declared, Luis Martin-Penagos: None declared, Marcos Lopez-Hoyos: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos, MSD, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Roche Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Novartis, Roche. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3062

AB0796

CANCAN VASC CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF AVOCANAD IN ANTEINEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMA ANTIBODY-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS: 2022 ADDENDUM

Keywords: Vasculitis

Background: In 2020, the Canadian Vasculitis Research Network (CanVasc) published their updated recommendations for the management of antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitides (AAV). Since then, clinical data have accumulated on the complement C5a receptor inhibitor avacopan (formerly, CCX168) has continued to expand.

Objectives: The current addendum provides further recommendations regarding the use of avacopan in AAV based on a review of newly available evidence.

Methods: An updated systematic literature review on avacopan using Medline, Embase, and the Cochrane Library was performed for publications up to 30 September 2022. New recommendations were developed and categorized according to the EULAR grading levels, as done for previous CanVasc recommendations. A modified Delphi process and videoconferences were used to reach >80% consensus on the inclusion, wording, and grading of each recommendation.

Results: Three new recommendations were developed. They focus on avacopan for therapy indication and duration, as well as timely glucocorticoid tapering.

Conclusion: These 2022 addended recommendations provide rheumatologists, nephrologists, and other specialists caring for patients with AAV with guidance for the use of avacopan, based on current evidence and consensus from Canadian experts.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: CanVasc wishes to acknowledge the work of Matt Adams, Sarah Ali, Susanne Benser MSL, Jean-Philippe Bergeron MD, Stephanie Garner MD, Majed Khrashi MD, and Frédéric Morin MD for their additional input on the final draft of the recommendations.

Disclosure of Interests: David Turgeon: None declared, Volodya Bakowsky Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Consultant of: Advisory board attendance from Abbvie, Apotex, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Jamp, and Sandoz UCB, Corisande Baldwin: None declared, David Cabral: None declared, Marie Céline-Baker Speakers bureau: Honoria from Abbvie, Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim and Otsuka, Alison Clifford Speakers bureau: Hoffman La Roche Limited, Consultant of: Participation in clinical trials with Abbvie and UCB, Jan Willem Cohen Tervaert Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Sanofi, AbbVie, Hoffmann-La Roche, Medexus, and GSK, Paid instructor for: Chair IDMC InfraRx (2017-2022), Consultant of: Merck, Novartis, and Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, Natasha Dehghan: None declared, Daniel Ennis: None declared, LEILANI FAMORCA: None declared, Aureo Fifi-Mah Speakers bureau: ChemoCentryx, Grant/ Research support from: Roche, LifeScience, Genzyme, Canada, France, United Kingdom, Asia, and Latin America, Marie Céline-Baker Speakers bureau: ChemoCentryx, Astra-Zeneca, and InfraRx, Consultant of: Merck, Novartis, and Hoffmann-La Roche, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Roche, Novartis, Sanofi, GSK, Abbvie, Janssen, and Genzyme.

Keywords: Uveitis, Vasculitis, Behcet’s disease

R. H A Mohammed1, D. Hassan Attia1. 1School of Medicine- Cairo University, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Cairo, Egypt

Background: Systemic Vasculitides are a heterogenous group of immune mediated vascular inflammatory pathologies that contributes to vessel wall necrosis and damage. Ocular manifestation with systemic vasculitides isn’t uncommon as an initial presentation. Identifying the patterns of ocular involvement associated with a specific diagnosis of vasculitis might guide the diagnosis at early encounter, while if underdiagnosed or improperly treated might contribute to devastating complications [1-3].

Objectives: To survey the patterns of ocular manifestations as the initial presentation in a population of patients with systemic vasculitides.

Methods: This is an observational cohort study in which data regarding ocular involvement were retrieved from medical records. The inclusion criteria: medical records of adult patients > 18 years with the diagnosis of any form of vasculitides according to the internationally recognized criteria having ocular involvement as confirmed by an expert ophthalmologist. Exclusion Criteria: patients with additional diagnosis whether endocardial, metabolic, neoplastic and infectious diseases.

Results: The study included a total of 328 patients with the different diagnoses of vasculitis (68.9% males and 31.1% females, their mean ages were 38.58±11.96 years, mean disease duration of 65.35±75.84 months). Figure 1 Ocular involvement was reported in 46% of the included cases with vasculitis at initial encounter, uveitis was diagnosed in 31.1% (7.3% anterior uveitis, 10.7% posterior uveitis, 13.1% pan uveitis), optic neuritis in 3.5%, retinal vasculitis in 17%, retinal artery thrombosis was reported in 1.8%, retinal vein thrombosis in 5.4%, orbital pseudotumor in one patient with granulomatosis with polyangiitis, scleritis one patient and episcleritis one patient with granulomatosis with polyangiitis. Ocular involvement was found in 61.3% of cases with BD (uveitis in 48.2%, retinal vasculitis in 18.4%) at initial encounter with uveitis being the most common.

Figure 1: The Frequency of the different diagnoses of vasculitis in the Study population.
Conclusion: The patterns of ocular involvement at initial presentation might guide the diagnosis of one form of vasculitis over the other especially with incomplete forms.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5288

AB0798 PREVALENCE AND CLINICAL SPECTRUM OF CARDIAC INVOLVEMENT IN BEHÇET’S SYNDROME: A SINGLE CENTER RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Behcet’s disease, Heart

E. Bettiol1, A. Bettiol1, E. Silvestri1, D. Malandrinò1, A. Palermo1, M. L. Urban1, R. Mazzotta1, I. Costanzo1, I. Matioli1, G. Emmi1. University of Florence, Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Firenze, Italy

Background: Behçet’s Syndrome (BS) is a systemic vasculitis, which main clinical features include mucocutaneous manifestations, pan-uveitis, non-deforming arthritis, thrombosis, central nervous system (CNS) and gastrointestinal (GI) involvement [1]. Despite being increasingly recognized as part of the clinical spectrum in BS [2,3,4], cardiac involvement has not been systematically described.

Objectives: To investigate the prevalence and clinical spectrum of cardiac manifestation in a cohort of BS patients.

Methods: Three hundred and twelve patients were retrospectively studied. All patients fulfilled the International Classification Criteria for BS [5]. Demographic, clinical, therapeutic features, and specific data on cardiac involvement were collected.

Results: Cardiac involvement was observed in 46 out of 312 patients (13.2%). The mean age at cardiac involvement diagnosis was 43 years (SD ± 13.2). Mean BS duration before cardiac manifestation onset was 5.35 years (SD ± 6.86). Female to male ratio was 1.42. Among 46 patients with cardiac involvement, 37 (80.4%) displayed a single manifestation, while 9 (19.5%) showed two or more cardiac events. BS related cardiac lesions included arrhythmias (n=12; 26%), pericarditis (n=12; 26%), ischemic heart disease (n=7; 15%), acute myocarditis (n=5; 10.8%), valvular abnormalities (n=6; 13.3%), and pulmonary hypertension (n=2; 4.3%) (Figure 1). Thirteen patients (28.2%) had cardiac abnormalities classified as “other”, which included patent foramen ovale, Takotsubo syndrome, cardiac amyloidosis, and aortic root aneurysm (Figure 1). After the first event, remission of cardiac manifestations was achieved by all patients. Cardiac relapse occurred in 9 patients (19.5%), due to recurrent pericarditis (n=7), myocarditis (n=1), and arrhythmic manifestation (n=1). Overall clinical manifestations of BS are shown in Table 1. Muco-cutaneous manifestations were present in almost all patients, specifically oral aphthosis was present in 45/46 (98%), genital aphthosis in 26/46 (56.5), and skin manifestations in 35/46 (76%). A significant proportion of patients displayed vascular involvement (n=20; 43.4%), CNS involvement (n=20; 43.4%), and GI involvement (n=32; 69.5%). At the time of cardiac events 21/46 (45.6%) patients were receiving oral corticosteroids, 16/46 (34.7%) were receiving colchicine, 13/46 (28.2%) were receiving a traditional DMARD, while 19/46 (41.3%) were receiving a biologic DMARD (Table 1).

Conclusion: Our study indicates that cardiac events are a fairly common manifestation in BS patients, pointing out the need for a routine screening of such involvement. As previously described [2], our study suggests the association between cardiac abnormalities and vascular involvement in BS. Furthermore, we found a significant proportion of patients presenting with other major organ manifestations, such as CNS and GI involvement, suggesting that cardiac involvement may reflect a more severe and systemic disease course.

REFERENCES:
[3] Chen Clin Rheumatol 2019

Table 1. Demographic and clinical features of BS patients with cardiac involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardiac related manifestations</th>
<th>BS patients (46)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>27 (58.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>43 ± 13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular risk factors (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking habit (%)</td>
<td>7 (15.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension (%)</td>
<td>11 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes (%)</td>
<td>2 (4.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral aphthosis (%)</td>
<td>45 (98%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital aphthosis (%)</td>
<td>26 (56.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular involvement (%)</td>
<td>12 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin manifestations (%)</td>
<td>35 (76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive pathergy test (%)</td>
<td>11 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular involvement (%)</td>
<td>20 (43.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS involvement (%)</td>
<td>20 (43.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI involvement (%)</td>
<td>32 (69.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular involvement (%)</td>
<td>33 (71.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B51 positivity (%)</td>
<td>30 (65.2%)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids (%)</td>
<td>21 (45.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchicine (%)</td>
<td>16 (34.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional DMARDs (%)</td>
<td>13 (28.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologic DMARDs (%)</td>
<td>19 (41.3%)</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5408

AB0799 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MUSCLE QUALITY AND MORTALITY IN PATIENTS WITH ANTI-NEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC ANTIBODY-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Keywords: Vasculitis

J. W. Ha1, S. S. Ahn1, Y. Park2, S. Lee2. Yonsei Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Yonsei, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Yonsei University College of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Decreased muscle mass is frequently observed in patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases; however, the relationship between muscle quality and patient outcomes has not been well understood.

Objectives: This study evaluated the influence of muscle quality on the outcomes of antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV).

Methods: Records of patients with AAV (microscopic polyangiitis, granulomatosis with polyangiitis, and eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis) at the Severance Hospital having computed tomography (CT) images at disease diagnosis were retrospectively reviewed. For muscle quality measures, normal attenuation muscle area (NAMA), low attenuation muscle area (LAMA), and intramuscular adipose tissue (IMAT) in the axial muscles of the middle third lumbar vertebra level was calculated. Correlations between NAMA, LAMA, and IMAT and patient characteristics and outcomes were assessed.

Figure 1. Spectrum of cardiac lesions in a monocentric cohort of BS patients

Table 1. Demographic and clinical features of BS patients with cardiac involvement
Results: A total of 136 patients with CT images at AAV diagnosis were identified. Correlation analyses revealed that age, female sex, total cholesterol, and alanine aminotransferase were significantly associated with NAMA. LAMA was associated with age, body mass index (BMI), five-factor score (FFS), and C-reactive protein, while a relationship between IMAT and age and BMI was observed. Co-proportional hazard analysis demonstrated that NAMA/TAMA > 0.46 (odds ratio [OR] 5.612, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.758-17.909, p = 0.004), female sex (OR 0.228, 95% CI 0.075, 0.684, p = 0.008), dyslipidemia (OR 3.819, 95% CI 1.380, 10.571, p = 0.010), and FFS (OR 2.160, 12.983-3.595, p = 0.003) were independent factors associated with mortality. Conclusion: Higher mortality was observed in patients with AAV with NAMA/TAMA ≤ 0.46, indicating that cautious monitoring is required in these patients.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0800

EOSINOPHILIC GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGITIS: CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS AND OUTCOMES: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT ANALYSIS OF 38 PATIENTS FROM RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER CHICAGO, IL, USA

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Organ damage, Vasculitis

M. Orentas1, Y. Zhang2, J. Fair1, A. Bukiej1. 1RUSH University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Chicago, United States of America; 2RUSH University Medical Center, Biostatistics, Chicago, United States of America

Background: Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) is the rarest anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA) associated vasculitis according to incidence and prevalence reports in the literature [1]. Typical manifestations include obstructive airway disease, nasal polyps, mononeuritis multiplex, eosinophilia, and eosinophilic-predominant inflammation on biopsy [2]. Studies have been published that describe the clinical manifestations and disease outcomes but these are limited [3]. Further studies are necessary to better understand this disease.

Objectives: This study characterized the clinical manifestations and outcomes of a cohort of Rush University Medical Center (RUMC) patients with EGPA.

Methods: Retrospective cohort analysis of EGPA patients at RUMC from 1/1/2010-12/31/2021. Clinical characteristics, treatment, and outcome were analyzed, using Fisher’s Exact Test and Chi-Square Test to perform comparisons.

Results: This cohort included 38 patients with EGPA. 55% were female, 68% were Caucasian, and mean age at diagnosis was 57.7 (+/- 16.3). 95% had pulmonary involvement. 37% were (ANCA) positive. There was no statistically significant difference in clinical characteristics, treatment strategies, or outcomes when comparing ANCA positive to ANCA negative patients.

Conclusion: This analysis describes the clinical characteristics, treatment, and outcomes of a cohort of RUMC patients with EGPA. Prevalence of pulmonary involvement and ANCA positivity was similar to that reported in the literature. Unlike previous studies which reported higher prevalence of neurologic and kidney involvement in ANCA positive EGPA patients our study did not find a statistically significant difference in characteristics of ANCA positive patients when compared to ANCA negative patients.

REFERENCES:


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: NONE DECLARED.

DOI: 10.1161/atvbaha.120.315054

AB0801

NEW DIAGNOSTIC TOOL IN BEHÇET’S DISEASE

Keywords: Behcet’s disease

C. Soliz1, J. Bragiant1, J. Reba2, L. L. Holguin Arias1, S. Sorrentino2, G. Gómez2, A. Hamau2, D. Dubinsky2, S. Sanatório Guemes, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; S. Sanatório Guemes, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Background: Behcet’s disease (BD) is characterized by oral, genital, and gastrointestinal manifestations. The pathergy test is used as a diagnostic tool, but this is not specific to BD, since it can be found in other diseases and can equally be negative even having the disease. Another characteristic of BD is the vascular compromise, predominantly venous. In a study, the measurement of the thickness of the common femoral vein (CFV) proved to be a diagnostic test with sensitivity and specificity greater than 80% for the cut-off value of 0.5 mm.

Objectives: To evaluate the diagnostic performance of the thickness of the posterior wall of the common femoral vein, measured by Doppler ultrasound for the diagnosis of Behcet’s disease.

Methods: A multicenter pilot study was carried out to evaluate a diagnostic test. Data were collected by reviewing medical records collected from patients who met the 2014 International Criteria for Behcet’s Disease (ICBD), and healthy controls. Venous Doppler ultrasound of the lower limbs was performed in both groups using an ultrasound evaluation protocol, considering posterior wall thickness of the CFV > 0.5 mm as positive.

Results: 19 patients with EB and 19 healthy controls were included. The mean age of patients with DB was 47 (SD 12.6), and the median age of healthy patients was 41 years (IQR 36.5-48.5). 57.89% were mestizo in the BD group and 68.42% in the control group. The median delay in diagnosis was 19 months (IQR 11-36). The presence of HLA B51 was 63.15% and the positive pathergy test was found in 31.57%. At the time of the study, 42.10% had disease activity and a mean of 8.8 years of disease. The ultrasound was positive in 89.4% of patients with BD and 10.5% in the healthy group, observing a sensitivity of 94.1% and a specificity of 94.7%, with an area under the curve 0.89 (p < 0.0001), PPV 94.1% and NPV 94.7%. (Fig. 1) We observe a post-test probability of 0.059. The test presents LR + 17.8 (95%CI 2.5-127) and LR - 0.06 (95%CI 0.008-0.4)

Conclusion: The diagnosis of Behcet’s disease is difficult because it is based mainly on clinical manifestations, so this ultrasound test has a good capacity to be used as part of the diagnosis in patients with clinical suspicion, since it has a good sensitivity and specificity profile, low cost and simplicity.

REFERENCES:


Table 1  Demographic, clinical and treatment characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BD  n= 19</th>
<th>Control n= 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female (n, %)</td>
<td>11 (58)</td>
<td>8 (42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Mean</td>
<td>47 (SD 12.6)</td>
<td>Median 41 (IQR 36.5-48.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (%)</td>
<td>5 (26.3)</td>
<td>6 (31.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (%)</td>
<td>11 (58)</td>
<td>13 (68.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-Latin Americans (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Manifestations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral ulcers (%)</td>
<td>11 (58)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gential ulcers (%)</td>
<td>15 (79)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye compromise (%)</td>
<td>8 (42)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin compromise (%)</td>
<td>3 (16)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological compromise (%)</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive pitting (n, %)</td>
<td>6 (31.6)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive HLA-B27 (n, %)</td>
<td>12 (63)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity (n, %)</td>
<td>8 (42)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay to diagnosis (Months) Median 19 (IQR 11-35)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without treatment (n, %)</td>
<td>4 (21)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coughing (n, %)</td>
<td>4 (21)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunoglobulins (n, %)</td>
<td>7 (37)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both (n, %)</td>
<td>4 (21)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids (n, %)</td>
<td>10 (52.6)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A: not applicable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BVAS score was 0[0-0]; just 2 patients showed activity measured by BVAS score (with a mean of 3 points). ANCA test was positive in 1 (8.3%) patient.

**REFERENCES:**


**TABLE.** General features of 12 patients with Nasal polyps and EGPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>RESULTS (n=12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, means±SD</td>
<td>47±14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male/ Female n, (% male)</td>
<td>6/6 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical manifestations, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular</td>
<td>2 (16.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS/PNS</td>
<td>2 (16.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENT</td>
<td>1 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSK</td>
<td>3 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary</td>
<td>1 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCA-test specificity, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPO-ANCA</td>
<td>1 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3-ANCA</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>11 (91.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL), median [IQR]</td>
<td>0.5 [0.4-0.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/1st hours, median [IQR]</td>
<td>15 [8.5-23.2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum eosinophilia (mg/dL), median [IQR]</td>
<td>0.4 [0.2-0.6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BVAS, means±SD</td>
<td>0.8±1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFS, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>7 (58.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥1</td>
<td>10 (83.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations** in alphabetical order: ANCA: Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody; BVAS: Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score; CNS: central nervous system; CRP: C-Reactive protein; dL: deciliter; ENT: ear, nose, throat; ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate; FFS: Five-Factors Score; g: grams; IQR: Interquartile range; mg: milligram; mm: millimeter; MSK: musculoskeletal; MPO-ANCA: ANCA specific for myeloperoxidase; n: number; PNS: peripheral nervous system; PR3-ANCA: ANCA specific for proteinase 3; SD: Standard Deviation.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Fabricio Benavides-Villanueva: None declared. J. Loricerac Speakers bureau: Dr. J. Loricerac had participation in company-sponsored speaker’s bureau from Roche, Novartis, Galápagos, UCB Pharma, MSD, Celgene, and Grünenthal and received support for attending meetings and/or travel from Janssen, Abbvie, Roche, Novartis, MSD, UCB Pharma, Celgene, Lilly, Pfizer, Galápagos, Vanesa Calvo-Rio: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos and MSD., Consultant of: Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, novartis and Roche.

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**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Outcome measures, Biomarkers

**F. Benavides-Villanueva1, J. Loricerac, V. Calvo-Rioc, R. Blancod.** 1Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain

**Background:** Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) is included in anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA) associated vasculitis (AAV). It mainly affects patients with asthma, sinusitis, allergic rhinitis, and nasal polyposis. **Objectives:** To assess a) prevalence of clinical features of EGPA in patients with clinical history of nasal polyps and asthma, and b) proportion of positive ANCA (+ANCA) test in those patients.

**Methods:** Retrospective study of patients with clinical history of asthma and nasal polyps with histologic study from a referral center between 2021 and 2022. The measurement of ANCA were performed by chemiluminescence assay using IO-FLASH (Inova, San Diego, CA). Diagnosis of EGPA was based on ACR/EULAR 2022 criteria. Disease activity was assessed with Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score (BVAS). All biopsies of nasal polyps were examined by the same expert pathologist to assess the presence of eosinophil aggregates. **Results:** A total of 123 biopsies with eosinophil aggregates were studied between 2021 and 2022. Twenty-three patients (19%) had history of asthma. Of them, we objectified EGPA criteria in 12 patients (10% of the series of 123 patients). General features of these 12 patients are summarized in Table. Seven patients had more than 20 eosinophil aggregates per field in polyp biopsy. The median [IQR]
Results: Renal disease was observed in 82 of 132 (62.1%) AAV (38 men/44 women), median age 61.37 years (24-87 years). Table reflects the main clinical findings and outcomes. Renal biopsy was performed in 44 patients (36 patients showing a pauci-immune crescentic glomerulonephritis). The remaining 38 patients were not biopsied due to patient disagreement, mild renal disease or contraindication for biopsy. The most frequent ANCA antibody specificity was MPO (64.6%) followed by PR3 (28.8%) and double positivity in 3 patients (2 MPO and PR3 and 1 MPO and MBG). 43 patients were classified as MPA (52.4%), of those, 18 patients (21.9%) had renal limited vasculitis, 27 GPA (32.9%), and 4 EGPA (4.9%). The rest of the patients had other renal disease (5 microhematuria, 1 amyloidosis, 1 diabetes nephropathy and 1 nephroangiosclerosis). Nephritic syndrome was the most common renal manifestation when the vasculitis was fully established (56.1%). The most frequent therapies used were corticosteroids (68.3%), Cyclophosphamide (46.3%), Azathioprine (35.4%), Rituximab (34.1%) and mycophenolate mofetil (23.2%). After a median follow-up of 6.23 years (7 days-22.9 years) the last median creatinine and glomerular filtration rate (GFR) was 1.4 mg/dl and 43.3 ml/min, respectively. Renal function worsened compared to baseline in 78.3% of MPO positive and only in 33% of PR3 positive (p=0.005). During the first 12 months follow-up, stabilization or normalization GFR (median GFR at 1 year: 50 ml/min) was observed in 47.1% with no statistical differences among ANCA groups (p=0.303). Renal outcome at the end of follow-up was poorer in MPA than GPA or EGPA (76.3%, 47.4% and 50% respectively worsened GFR from baseline). 16 patients (19.5%) needed dialysis at any moment. Total remission was achieved in 25 patients (30.5%) while relapses were observed in 17 patients (20.7%). Severe infections was the main severe side-effect, reported in 26 patients (31.7%).

Conclusion: Most AAV patients had some grade of renal disease during follow-up and almost 20% ended up needing dialysis. Therefore this multi-systemic disease should be managed in a multidisciplinary way to establish an early diagnosis and adequate treatment, limiting chronic disease.

REFERENCES:

Table. Main clinical findings and outcomes of patients with AAV and renal disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Renal biopsy: n, (%)</th>
<th>ANCA: n, (%)</th>
<th>MPO</th>
<th>PR3</th>
<th>double positivity</th>
<th>Diagnosis: n, (%)</th>
<th>MPA</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>EGPA</th>
<th>Other diseases</th>
<th>Renal involvement: n, (%)</th>
<th>Proteinuria &gt; 3.5 g/24h</th>
<th>Isolated hematuria</th>
<th>Outcome: n, (%)</th>
<th>dialysis</th>
<th>total remission</th>
<th>relapses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAV with renal disease (n=82)</td>
<td>44, (53.66%)</td>
<td>53, (64.6%)</td>
<td>22, (26.8%)</td>
<td>3, (3.65%)</td>
<td>43, (52.4%)</td>
<td>27, (32.9%)</td>
<td>4, (4.9%)</td>
<td>8, (9.8%)</td>
<td>46, (56.1%)</td>
<td>3, (3.65%)</td>
<td>5, (6.1%)</td>
<td>16, (19.5%)</td>
<td>25, (30.5%)</td>
<td>17, (20.7%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV), Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA), eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) or microscopic polyarteritis (MPA)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Vanesa Calvo-Rio Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Lilly, MSD, UCB Pharma, Grunenthal and Celgene., Saima Al Fazaa: None declared, Maria Rodriguez Vidriales: None declared, Clara Escagedo Cagigas: None declared, Mónica Renuncio-García: None declared, Luis Martín Penagos: None declared, Diana Prieto-Peña: None declared, Juan Irure-Ventura: None declared, Carmen Álvarez-Reguera: None declared, Gema Fernández Fresnedo: None declared, Emilio Rodrigo-Calabia: None declared, Juan Carlos Ruiz-San Millán: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Lilly and MSD., Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD and Roche, DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5119
### Scleroderma, myositis and related syndromes

**AB0085**

**DESCRIPTION IN FLOW IN EARLY VERSUS CLINICALLY OVER SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS. LASER SPECKLE CONTRAST ANALYSIS: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE PERIPHERAL BLOOD OF THE DIFFERENT SUBTYPES OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Descriptive Studies, Imaging

V. Smith1,2, S. Willems1, T. Du Four1,2, S. Walaert4, E. Gotelli2, A. Cere4, M. Cutoio5, Ghent University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ghent, Belgium; 2Ghent University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Ghent, Belgium; 3Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB), Inflammation Research Center (IRC), Unit for Molecular Immunology and Inflammation, Ghent, Belgium; 4Ghent University, Biostatistics Unit, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Ghent, Belgium; 5University of Genova, IRCCS San Martino Polyclinic Hospital, Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine and Specialties, Genova, Italy

**Background:** Description of flow, measured by laser speckle contrast analysis (LASCA), in 'early' systemic sclerosis (SSc) versus clinically overt SSc (diffuse cutaneous SSc (dCSSc) and limited cutaneous SSc (lcCSSc)) has not yet been described.

**Objectives:** To investigate in an unselected, SSc cohort if baseline LASCA PBV-measurements differ between 'early' SSc and 'clinically overt' SSc.

**Methods:** Between September 2019 and December 2022, patients with SSc (as defined by the 2013 ACR/EULAR criteria and/or the 2001 LeRoy and Medsger criteria) were included [1,2]. A group of 20 consecutive 'early' SSc, lcCSSc and dCSSc patients were recruited. Vasoactive medication was continued. LASCA was performed at baseline in standardized instrumental and environmental conditions [3]. PBV was assessed by marking regions of interest (ROI's) with fixed 1 cm diameters at the fingertips of the 2nd through 5th digit volarly bilaterally. The adjusted mean PBV was calculated (expressed in perfusion units [PU]). A linear mixed model was fit with a random intercept per patient, together with a linear covariance structure to capture the residual correlations between fingers. Fixed effect terms included subset, side, finger, vasoactive medication, active smoking, history or presence of digital trophic lesions (DTL), and disease duration. Significance level was set at 0.05 and no correction for multiple testing was applied.

**Results:** Sixty patients with SSc (75% female, mean age 53 years, mean disease duration 73.1 months) were enrolled (table 1). Comparing the adjusted mean PBV at baseline in 'early' versus 'clinically overt' SSc, no statistical significant difference was found (144 ± 150 PU, p=0.77) (figure 1A). Additionally within the 'clinically overt' group no significant difference was perceived between dCSSc and lcCSSc (157 vs. 141 p=0.53). A wide variability was noted when observing the individual measurements of each subset (figure 1B).

**Conclusion:** This study with an unselected day-to-day SSc population, where patients were allowed to continue their vasoactive medication, showed there was no difference in PBV at baseline between 'early' SSc and 'clinically overt' SSc when corrected for subset, vasoactive medication, active smoking, history or presence of DTL and disease duration. Interestingly a wide variation of individual datapoints was noted in each subset, which emphasizes the heterogeneity of SSc. In conclusion, individual and subset variation between the different subsets, as measured with LASCA. Future investigation is needed to enlighten us about the intra-individual changes over time.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the study population (n = 60).**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline characteristics general</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean ± SD</td>
<td>53 ± 12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (n%), n (%)</td>
<td>15 (25%) / 45 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (months), mean ± SD</td>
<td>73.1 ± 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud, n (%)</td>
<td>60 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticentromere Ab, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (16.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeRoy subset; early SSC, lcCSSc, dCSSc, n (%)</td>
<td>20 (33.3), 20 (33.3), 20 (33.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Baseline characteristics per subset**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subset (n)</th>
<th>Total (60)</th>
<th>Early SSc (20)</th>
<th>lcCSSc (20)</th>
<th>dCSSc (20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSc-specific Ab, n (%)</td>
<td>29 (48.3)</td>
<td>7 (35.0)</td>
<td>11 (55.0)</td>
<td>11 (55.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticentromere Ab, n (%)</td>
<td>13 (21.7)</td>
<td>4 (20.0)</td>
<td>8 (40.0)</td>
<td>1 (5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-topoisomerase-1 Ab, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (23.3)</td>
<td>2 (10.0)</td>
<td>3 (15.0)</td>
<td>9 (45.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-RNA-Polymerase III Ab, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (3.3)</td>
<td>1 (5.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>1 (5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasoactive medication, n (%)</td>
<td>20 (33.3)</td>
<td>3 (15.0)</td>
<td>6 (30.0)</td>
<td>11 (55.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of digital trophic lesions, n (%)</td>
<td>16 (26.7)</td>
<td>6 (30.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>10 (50.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ab:** antibody; **dCSSc:** diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis; **lcCSSc:** limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis; **SSc:** systemic sclerosis.

**Figure 1. Peripheral blood perfusion (PBV) per subset. (A) Adjusted mean PBV and 95% CI. (B) Individual measurements.**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular-2023.101

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### AB0086

**THE LONG-TERM COURSE OF THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Patient reported outcomes

S. Liem1, S. A. Bergstra1, J. Cialli2, C. Van der Meulen1, D. Ueckert1, R. Schreiner1, T. Huizinga1, T. M. Vliet Vlieland1, J. De Vries-Bo{returnいただきました}{ achiever}rastra1, 1Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Bologna, Italy; 3Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Physical Therapy, Leiden, Netherlands; 4NVLE, NVLE, Utrecht, Netherlands; 5Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Orthopedics, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Medicine, Leiden, Netherlands

**Background:** Functional disability in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) greatly influences quality of life. The Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI) is an important outcome reflecting functional disability, but knowledge on its course over time in SSc is scarce.

**Objectives:** To describe the long-term course of functional disability in SSc patients, most importantly to investigate which patients have a worsening functional ability, and investigate its associations with disease characteristics.

**Methods:** SSc patients, fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria, were included from the Leiden CCISS cohort with annual assessments including the Scleroderma HAQ. The Scleroderma HAQ consists of the HAQ-DI (range: 0 [no difficulties] to 3 [maximum difficulties]) and five SSc-related VAS scores: Raynaud’s Phenomenon, digital ulcers, gastrointestinal, pulmonary and general disease burden (range: 0 to 100). The HAQ-DI course was evaluated over the total follow-up (baseline to last available HAQ-DI) and between yearly visits. Based on a minimal clinical important difference of 0.22, patients were categorized into stable, or improving. Baseline SSc characteristics were compared between patients with a worsening or improvement of the HAQ-DI using logistic regression. The change of the HAQ-DI and the SSc-related VAS scores over time was evaluated with linear mixed models.

**Results:** 517 SSc-patients were included (Table 1). The median follow-up duration was 7 years (IQR:4; 9). The mean baseline HAQ was 0.77 (SD:0.65). On group level, the HAQ-DI increased sexually with 0.019 (95% CI:0.011; 0.027). Patients ≥65 years (0.27%, 95% CI: 0.1; 0.4) and patients who died were physically not able to come during follow-up (0.34, 95% CI: 0.2; 0.5) had a significantly higher HAQ-DI over time than respectively patients younger than 65 years old and patients who did not die (Figure 1). Between baseline and the last follow-up, the proportions of patients with a worsening, stable or improved HAQ-DI were 35%, 42% and 23%, respectively. Logistic regressions, adjusted for age, sex and disease duration, revealed that, at baseline, the use of immunosuppressive medication (OR: 0.5, 95% CI: 0.3; 0.9) and gastrointestinal involvement (OR: 0.6, 95% CI: 0.4; 0.9) decreased the chance of a worsening overall HAQ-DI course, whereas presence of anti-centromere autoantibodies (OR: 1.4, 95% CI: 0.8; 2.3) and pulmonary arterial hypertension (OR: 2.3, 95% CI: 0.3; 20.8) increased this. For all the VAS scores, the p of the longitudinal course for the total group was stable. Over time, most importantly, patients who died/were physically not able to come during follow-up had a 18.8 point higher pulmonary VAS (95% CI: 12.9; 24.8) and a 13.3 higher general burden of SSc VAS (95% CI: 6.5; 20.2) compared to patients who survived.

**Conclusion:** Over time, the average course of the HAQ-DI is stable in SSc-patients, but individual trajectories vary, with worsening occurring in one third. Importantly, use of immunosuppressives decreased the chance of worsening while presence of anti-centromere antibodies increases the chance of worsening.
AB0807

PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES ABOUT QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATION MYOPATHY

Keywords: Quality of life, Patient reported outcomes, Work-related issues

Z. Peng1, Y. Wang2, N. Liu3, S. Zhou1, J. L. Zhao1, D. Xu1, M. Li1, C. Wu1, X. Zeng1, Q. Wang1, Z. Peng1, Y. Wang2, N. Liu3, S. Zhou1, J. L. Zhao1, D. Xu1, M. Li1, C. Wu1, X. Zeng1, Q. Wang1,1 Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, 1 Institute of Basic Medical Sciences Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & School of Basic Medicine Peking Union Medical College, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Beijing, China; 2 The University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Shenzhen, China

Background: Idiopathic inflammation myopathy (IIM) defines a group of chronic autoimmune-mediated diseases that most commonly affect the skin, muscles, and lungs [1]. Despite considerable advances over the past decades in improving life expectancy compared with the general population, IIM patients still experience substantially impaired health-related quality of life (HRQoL) [2].

The value of incorporating patient-reported outcomes in clinical trials is increasingly appreciated. The 36-item Short-Form Health Status Survey (SF-36) has been proposed to evaluate HR-QoL in IIM patients. However, because it is very time-consuming, the actual completion rate of the questionnaire is extremely low, and the SF-36 cannot be used directly in cost-effectiveness analyses. The EuroQol 5-Dimension (EQ-5D) is another tool for assessing HR-QoL and has been used extensively for chronic diseases. Wolfe et al. [3] verified the association between EQ-5D and SF-36 in rheumatic diseases. Moreover, workforce losses in patients with IIM are underestimated, and even health-related absenteeism imposes an economic burden on society [4].

Objectives: To explore the feasibility and validity of the EuroQol 5-dimension (EQ-5D) and Work Productivity and Activity Impairment (WPAI) surveys as patient-reported outcomes of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in idiopathic inflammatory myopathy (IIM). Methods: This cross-sectional study surveyed patient’s outcomes using the Manual Muscle Testing-8 (MMT-8), Myositis Disease Activity Assessment Visual Analog Scale (MYOACT), Myositis Damage Index (MDI), Disease Activity Score (DAS), and Physician/Patient Global Assessment (PGA/PtGA). HR-QoL was determined using EQ-5D, 36-item Short-Form Health Status Survey (SF-36), and WPAI questionnaire. The relationship between IIM-related parameters and HR-QoL was assessed using ordinal logistic and quantile regression.

Results: We enrolled 189 patients with IIM. Decreased MMT-8 and increased MYOACT, DAS, MDI-global, and PGA/PtGA were associated with higher EQ-5D values. For the 25 th– 75 th percentile of WPAI, greater activity impairment was associated with lower MMT-8 and higher age of onset and PGA. Poorer overall working productivity impairment was associated with higher MYOACT (cutaneous and skeletal), MDI-global and PtGA were associated with increased activity and overall working productivity impairment in most quantiles (P < 0.05).

Conclusion: The EQ-5D and WPAI may be valid patient-reported outcomes to evaluate HR-QoL in ambulatory patients with IIM.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0808

A PROOF OF BIOLOGICAL CONCEPT TRIAL OF CM101 TO TARGET CCL24 IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A BIOMARKER INFORMED, PRECISION MEDICINE APPROACH

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Biomarkers, Clinical Trials

F. Del Galdo1, D. Khanna2, C. Crater3, R. Aricha4, J. Lawler3, A. Mor4, I. Vaknin4, M. Frankel5, M. Matsuoki-Cerinich6,7. University of Leeds, Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2 University of Michigan, Rheumatology, Ann Arbor; United States of America; 3 Chemomab Therapeutics, Ltd, Clinical Development, Tel Aviv, Israel; 4 Chemomab Therapeutics, Ltd, R&D, Tel Aviv, Israel; 5 University of Florence, Rheumatology, Florence, Italy; 6 IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Rheumatology, Milan, Italy

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an inflammatory and fibrosing autoimmune disease of unknown etiology. However, it has been established that endothelial cells, immune cells, and fibroblasts play important roles in SSc initiation and progression. CCL24 (eotaxin-2) is a chemokine secreted by fibroblasts and endothelial cells, which promotes trafficking of profibrotic immune cells through the CCR3 receptor. Levels of CCL24 and CCR3 in the skin and serum of patients with SSc were found to be upregulated compared with healthy controls [1].

Serum CCL24 levels have been shown to correlate with extracellular matrix turnover biomarkers, to predict decline in forced vital capacity (FVC) and the diffusion capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO), and to be associated with a worse digital ulcer burden in patients with SSc [1]. Blockade of CCL24 with fusion capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO), and to be associated with higher MYOACT (cutaneous and skeletal), MDI-global and PtGA were associated with increased activity and overall working productivity impairment in most quantiles (P < 0.05).

Conclusion: The EQ-5D and WPAI may be valid patient-reported outcomes to evaluate HR-QoL in ambulatory patients with IIM.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: Anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS) is an inflammatory myositis with autoantibodies against one of the aminoacyl transfer RNA synthetase. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a main clinical feature which dictates the prognosis and treatment. Since there are no randomized controlled trials to guide therapy, treatment strategies are extrapolated from other connective tissue diseases-related ILD (CTD-ILD), mainly systemic sclerosis (SSc).

Objectives: Our aim was to evaluate the effect of immunosuppressive treatment (IS) on ASS-related ILD, compared with SSc-related ILD.

Methods: A multicenter observational registry, including 45 patients with CTD-ILD (ASS (n=18) and SSc (n=27)) from 3 medical centers in Israel, between 2017-2021. During follow up, 12 patients did not receive any IS, while 17 patients started IS treatment shortly after the 1st visit and 16 after a period of follow up. We compared the monthly change in diffusion capacity for carbon monoxide (DLCO) and forced vital capacity (FVC) percent predicted between ASS and SSc. Further analysis included a comparison between non-IS and IS treated patients, Mann-Whitney test was used to compare medians, with a p value of <0.05 considered significant.

Results: The mean±SD age was 62.9±10 and 36% were females. ILD as the presenting disease feature was more common in ASS, compared with SSc (61% vs. 11%, p<0.001). DLCO% was lower at baseline among ASS patients (44±13 vs. 57±14, p=0.004), while other lung function measures were not significantly different (table 1). Overall, 32 patients (71%) received an IS therapy. As expected, glucocorticoid treatment was more prevalent in the ASS group (n=14) compared to the SSc group (n=8) (78% vs. 30%, p=0.002). The most prevalent non-steroidal IS was mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) (96%). Two ASS and one SSc received azathioprine. There was a trend towards a lower rate of decline (-0.17 vs. -0.29, p=0.853) (figure 1). When comparing CTD-ILD treated with IS, with non-treated patients among patients with ASS, IS was associated with a monthly increase in DLCO% (0.3 vs. -0.27 without IS, p=0.001), and in SSc – a lower rate of decline (-0.17 vs. -0.29, p=0.041); However, the positive change of FVC% in both ASS (0.12 vs. 0.32, p=0.217) and SSc (-0.38 vs. 0, p=0.79) patients was not statistically significant.

<p>| Table 1 | demographic and clinical characteristics of the study cohort |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable, number (%)</th>
<th>ASS</th>
<th>SSc</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years (mean±SD)</td>
<td>65 ±12</td>
<td>62 ±10</td>
<td>0.378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>13 (72)</td>
<td>18 (67)</td>
<td>0.693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythrocyte sedimentation rate</td>
<td>(ESR)</td>
<td>(p)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever smokers</td>
<td>8 (44)</td>
<td>6 (22)</td>
<td>0.115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart failure</td>
<td>2 (11)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>0.329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac failure</td>
<td>2 (11)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>0.329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstitial lung disease onset</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before systemic symptoms</td>
<td>11 (61)</td>
<td>3 (11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concurrent</td>
<td>7 (39)</td>
<td>8 (30)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After systemic symptoms</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16 (59)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid treatment, number (%)</td>
<td>14 (78)</td>
<td>8 (30)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-steroidal Immunosuppression</td>
<td>10 (56)</td>
<td>18 (67)</td>
<td>0.451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung functions at diagnosis #</td>
<td>% predicted (mean±SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC</td>
<td>73 ±20</td>
<td>79 ±16</td>
<td>0.324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEV1/FVC</td>
<td>81 ±15</td>
<td>81 ±15</td>
<td>0.256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEV1/VC</td>
<td>81 ±11</td>
<td>81 ±15</td>
<td>0.370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>80 ±17</td>
<td>85 ±14</td>
<td>0.285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO</td>
<td>44 ±13</td>
<td>57 ±14</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASS, anti-synthetase syndrome; SSc, systemic sclerosis; FEV1, forced expiratory volume in first second; FVC, forced vital capacity; TLC, total lung capacity; DLCO, Diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide. *Onset of interstitial lung disease is divided into more than 6 months before other systemic symptoms, under 6 months before or after the appearance of systemic symptoms, and after more than 6 months from systemic symptoms. **First documented lung functions after diagnosis.

Table 2 : CRP, ESR, KL-6 and their combinations for predicting ILD progression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dSSc</th>
<th>SSc-ILD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PF-ILD</strong></td>
<td><strong>PF-ILD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PF-ILD</strong></td>
<td><strong>PF-ILD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUC</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sensitivity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP or ESR</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP or KL-6</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR or KL-6</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP or ESR or KL-6</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion: Immunosuppressive therapy, and specifically MMF, was associated with an improvement in DLCO% in patients with ASS and lower rate of decline in SSC. ILD in the context of ASS may respond better to immunosuppressive treatment compared to ILD in SSC. These encouraging results need to be validated in larger scaled randomized prospective studies to assess the role of MMF in ILD related to ASS.


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AB0810 PERFORMANCE OF CIRCULATING BIOMARKERS FOR PREDICTING PROGRESSION OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Biomarkers

K. Yomonono1, M. Kuswana1, Nippon Medical School; Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan

Background: In patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc), progression of interstitial lung disease (ILD) is associated with an increased risk of mortality. Since the course of SSc-ILD is variable, it is critical to predict progression of ILD in clinical practice as well as in designing clinical trials. Risk factors for ILD progression include, but are not limited to, smoking, male, elevated inflammatory markers and Krebs von den Lungen-6 (KL-6), and progression of skin thickness in diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc).

Objectives: To investigate if inflammatory markers and KL-6 at baseline are useful to efficiently capture patients who subsequently experience ILD progression in patients with dcSSc or SSc-ILD using a single-center cohort.

Methods: Patients with dcSSc or SSc-ILD were selected from the prospective SSC registry. C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥5 mg/L and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) ≥28 mm/hour were used as inflammatory markers [1], and a cutoff level of KL-6 was provisionally set at 1,000 U/ml. ILD progression was defined as the first event developing progressive fibrosing ILD (PF-ILD) [2] or progressive pulmonary fibrosis (PPF) [3]. Receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC) analysis was used to determine the sensitivity, specificity, and area under the curve (AUC) values of individual biomarkers and their combinations for predicting ILD progression. Cumulative rates free from ILD progression were assessed using Kaplan-Meier analysis and were compared using log-rank test.

Results: We enrolled 109 patients with dcSSc and 136 patients with SSc-ILD. The median disease duration at baseline was 15 and 17.5 months for dcSSc and SSc-ILD, respectively, and 87 patients with SSc-ILD (64%) had dcSSc. During median of 27 months of follow-up of dcSSc patients, 27 (25%) and 22 (20%) developed PF-ILD and PPF, respectively; and during median of 44.5 months of follow-up of SSc-ILD patients, 43 (31%) and 36 (26%) developed PF-ILD and PPF, respectively. As shown in Table, specificity of CRP, ESR and KL-6 for predicting ILD progression was favorable (73.6-88%), but sensitivity of CRP and ESR was low (9.1-16%). KL-6 provided better sensitivity (29.2-45.2%). The combination of CRP/KL-6 showed the AUC value of 0.57-0.60, with sensitivity of 38.1-52.4% and specificity of 69.1-77.6%. Kaplan-Meier analysis found that ILD progression occurred more frequently in patients with increased KL-6 than in those without irrespective of definition of ILD progression (P = 0.0001-0.03). The same trend was observed when combination of CRP/KL-6 was used (P = 0.001-0.14).

Conclusion: Increased KL-6 at baseline is the best biomarker for predicting ILD progression in patients with dcSSc or SSc-ILD. When KL-6 was combined with CRP, sensitivity was increased by maintaining acceptable specificity, proposing use of this combination as inclusion criteria for enriching an “at risk” patients in clinical trials for dcSSc or SSc-ILD.


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AB0811 NAILFOLD CAPILLAROSCOPY FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES AND ITS ASSOCIATION TO AUTOANTIBODIES: A CASE-CONTROL STUDY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Autoantibodies, Myositis

C. Seire Santos1, J. L. Tandaapán2, A. Mariscal1, S. Lainz Cornas3, H. Codes4, P. Moya5, B. Magallarres1, L. Martinez-Martínez1, A. M. Millán Arciniegas6, H. Park1, C. Díaz-Torné1, A. Laiz3, S. P. Fernandez-Sanchez3, S. Ros1, H. Corominas2, E. Diez Alvarez1, I. Castellvi7, 1Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; 2Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Universitari de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Immunology, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are a heterogeneous group of acquired muscle diseases, which have distinct clinical, pathological, and histological features. Autoantibodies are clinically useful biomarkers to help the diagnosis of IIM. Raynaud’s phenomenon is very frequent and the presence of microvascular changes in IIM have been described however, the role of nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC) for diagnosis and prognosis in IIM is not clearly established.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to study the relationship between clinical and immunological characteristics and nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC) abnormalities in patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs).

Methods: We performed a retrospective study of IIM patients followed in a University Hospital. Patients underwent a NVC at 200x magnification. Epidemiological, clinical data and antibody status, including myositis and scleroderma antibody panel of all patients were retrieved. NVC findings including loss of capillary density, enlarged and giant capillaries, ramified capillaries, haemorrhages, thrombosis, avascular areas, disorganization of capillary architecture and sub-papillary venous plexus presence were recollected, if present. For the comparison of qualitative and/or quantitative variables Fisher’s exact Test or T-test was performed when necessary.

Results: 85 patients with NVC performed during the follow-up were included (66% female) with a median age at inclusion of 55.3±24 years. Median IIM duration was 6.8±7 years. 39% had Raynaud’s phenomenon at first clinical evaluation and 58% of them showed NVC pathological findings. Table 1 summarizes the epidemiological, clinical, and autoantibody status of the patients. We found an association between the presence of dysphagia and avascular areas (p=0.02) or abnormal capillary organization (p<0.01) on NVC. IIM was associated with capillary loss (p=0.04) and avascular areas (p=0.004). Anti-MDA5+ was associated with capillary loss (p=0.03), thrombosis (p=0.02) and ramified capillaries (p=0.04). Anti-Mi2+ and anti-Th/To was associated with abnormal capillary organization (p=0.017 and p=0.001). The presence of haemorrhages was associated with anti-Ku+ (p=0.048) and anti-PL12+ (p=0.046). The presence of enlarged capillaries was associated with anti-RNA-poly III (p=0.04) and anti-NXP2 (p=0.044). A significant association between anti-Ro52 (OR 2.69 CI95% 1.05-6.8, p=0.03) and anti-Jo1 (OR 7.03 CI 95% 1.46-33.7, p=0.01) with ILD was found. Anti-PML (OR 4.32 CI 95% 1.35-10.42, p=0.038) and anti-Th/To (OR 5.82 CI 95% 1.89-13.24, p=0.04) were associated with dysphagia. Anti-MDA5+ (OR 5.85 CI 95% 1.92-14.21, p=0.044) was associated with skin involvement.

Conclusion: The presence of certain autoantibodies is related to the degree of microangiopathy in IIM and associates with capillaroscopic changes. Studying the association between capillaroscopic changes with diagnostic and pathogenic autoantibodies in IIM can provide useful information regarding the current knowledge about pathogenesis, classification, and prognosis of the disease.
Background: Gastrointestinal tract (GIT) is the second most common organ involved in Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) after the skin, and is responsible for alterations of quality of life and SSc-related mortality.

Objectives: Since early development of organ failure is associated with poor outcomes, we need to identify risk factors associated with severe GIT involvement to prevent appearance of severe form of the disease.

Methods: We conducted an observational prospective and monocentric study which included 90 patients followed for SSc, from 26 December 2019 to 14 September 2021.

Results: We included 90 patients in this study, with 76 female sex (84.4 %) and a median age of 55.7 years (IQR 44.3-64.4). 64 had a limited cutaneous SSc ( lcSSc) (71.1%) and 26 had a diffuse cutaneous SSc ( dcSSc) (28.9%). We observed 28 patients (31.1%) with malnutrition and 9 patients (10%) with at least one episode of digestive hemorrhage or small intestinal bacterial overgrowth or chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction. The patients with malnutrition had less limited cutaneous SSc form (53.6 % vs 79 %, p = 0.027), more interstitial lung disease (57.1 % vs 27.4 %, p = 0.013) and more cardiac disease (39.3 % vs 11.3 %, p = 0.05). No patient without malnutrition died at the end of the follow-up whereas 4 patients with malnutrition died (p = 0.013). Clustering of individuals on the basis of the selected variables yielded a number of 3 clusters. Cluster 1, “Limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis” (n = 25) was only composed of lcSSc patients, presenting more frequently anti-centromeres antibodies (n = 22, 88 % vs n = 9, 34.6 %, p = 0.001) and n = 2, 6.1 %, p = 0.001 in cluster 1 and 2 respectively). They had less frequently intestinal (n = 11, 44 %) or anorectal involvement (n = 1, 4 %) than cluster 2 (n = 24, 88.9 % and n = 16, 59.3 %, p = 0.003 and p = 0.01, respectively). They also had a better diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide (median [IQR]: 78.50 [70.25, 84.00], p < 0.001). Cluster 2 “SSc with cardio-digestive involvement” (n = 27) was composed of 20 patients with lcSSc (74.1 %), less frequently than cluster 1 (n = 25, 100 %, p = 0.02) and tends to be more frequently than cluster 3 (n = 19, 50 %, p = 0.09). They had more frequently intestinal (n = 24, 88.9 %) or anorectal involvement (n = 16, 59.3 %). Regarding heart status, patients from cluster 2 had more frequently heart involvement (n = 12, 44.4 % vs n = 1, 4 %, p = 0.002 and n = 5, 13.2 %, p = 0.01 vs cluster 1 and 3 respectively) with higher BNP levels (median [IQR]: 91.0 [27.0, 244.5] vs 44.0 [20.0, 85.0], p = 0.03 and 27.0 [19.0, 42.0], p = 0.01 vs cluster 1 and 3 respectively). They also had more frequently statin (n = 1, 2.6 %, p = 0.01 in cluster 1 and 3 respectively) and more frequently pericardial effusion (n = 7, 26.9 % vs n = 0, 0.0 %, p < 0.01). Regarding treatment, they had more frequently aspirin (n = 7, 26.9 % vs n = 0, 0 %, p = 0.02 and n = 1, 2.6 %, p = 0.01 in cluster 1 and 3 respectively) and more frequently statin (n = 9, 34.6 % vs n = 1, 4 %, p = 0.02 and n = 1, 2.6 %, p = 0.01). Cluster 3 “SSc with cutaneous and pulmonary involvement” composed of 28 patients, including 10 patients (50 %) with diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis. They had higher modified Rodnan score (median [IQR]: 10.0 [8.0, 17.0] vs 3.0 [3.0, 6.0], p = 0.001) and 7.0 [3.0, 15.0], p = 0.04 in cluster 1 and 2 respectively). They had more interstitial lung disease according to the CT scan compared to cluster 1 (n = 24, 61.1 % vs n = 5, 20 %, p = 0.001) and tends to have more compared to cluster 2 (n = 24, 61.1 % vs n = 11, 40.7 %, p = 0.095). They also had more frequently immunosuppressive treatments than cluster 2 (n = 26, 68.4 % vs n = 10, 37 %, p = 0.02) but less frequently biotherapy (n = 3, 7.9 % vs n = 9, 34.6 %, p = 0.02)

Conclusion: This study reported the gastrointestinal manifestations in a cohort of 90 patients with SSc, with a predominance of gastro-esophageal involvement and in particular for the first time described a cluster analysis allowing classification of various clinical GIT phenotypes.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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independent parametric or non-parametric tests, multivariate logistic regression of the significant variables in univariate analysis and sensitivity calculation of each radiographed site for the diagnosis of acro-osteolysis were performed.

Results: We included 165 patients, of whom 167 (85.6%) were female, with a median [min, max] age of 64 [20, 90] years-old and a median [min, max] disease duration of 11.2 [2, 57] years. Regarding disease classification, 146 (75.3%) patients had limited SSC, 32 (16.5%) had diffuse SSC, 9 (4.6%) had sine scleroderma SSC and 7 (3.6%) had early SSC. Acro-osteolysis was present in 62 (31.8%) patients, with the hands (n=49, 25.1%) being more frequently affected than the feet (n=22, 11.3%). The most sensitive location to detect acro-osteolysis was the hand (79.0%). The presence of overall acro-osteolysis was significantly associated with digital ulcers (p=0.001), flexion contractures (p=0.031), oesophageal (p=0.006), gastric (p=0.014) and lung (p=0.004) involvements, higher mRSS score (p=0.001), anti-topoisomerase I positivity (p=0.034) and radiological calcinosis (p=0.018). Patients with hand acro-osteolysis had longer disease duration (p=0.02) and were more often affected by digital ulcers (p=0.004) and flexion contractures (p=0.041), oesophageal (p=0.001), gastric (p=0.015) and lung (p=0.001) involvements, higher mRSS score (p=0.001), anti-topoisomerase I positivity (p=0.004) and radiological calcinosis (p=0.008). No significant differences were found between patients with and without feet acro-osteolysis. In multivariate analysis, anti-topoisomerase I positivity (OR 4.6, 95%CI 1.3-16.4, p=0.017) was predictor of hand acro-osteolysis.

Conclusion: The prevalence of acro-osteolysis found in Portuguese SSC patients is within the range found in the literature (20-40%) [1]. The hands were the most sensitive location to detect acro-osteolysis – a novel aspect since, to our knowledge, this is the first study evaluating acro-osteolysis in the feet besides the hands. Our data replicated some previously reported associations between acro-osteolysis and other hand involvements (digital ulcers, calcinosis and flexion contractures) and systemic complications (esophagogastric and pulmonary systems) [2-4]. Anti-topoisomerase I positivity appears to increase the risk for hand acro-osteolysis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES:

CLINICAL PHENOTYPE AND ANTIBODY CORRELATIONS USING IMMUNOPRECIPITATION IN INDIAN PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES FROM THE MYOCITE COHORT

Keywords: Myositis, Epidemiology, Autoantibodies

A. Logananthan1,2, A. Rudge3, H. Lu2, E. Bowler2, F. McMorrow2, N. R. Ravichandran4, A. K. Anuja4, V. Agarwal4, L. Gupta4,5,6,7, N. Mchugh2, L. G. Gupta4,5,6,7, N. Mchugh2, L. G. Gupta4,5,6,7, N. Mchugh2, L. G. Gupta4,5,6,7, N. Mchugh2, L. G. Gupta4,5,6,7, N. Mchugh2

Background: There is a lack of epidemiological studies in idiopathic inflammatory myositis (IIM) to identify geographical and clinical disease variations between populations. Reviewing disease prevalence in different populations and clinical presentations may help improve our understanding of rare diseases.

Objectives: We reviewed the clinic-serological profile of 148 patients from a well-characterised MyoCite cohort of juvenile and adult patients with IIM from Lucknow, India, to determine significant clinical characteristics associated with different myositis-specific antibodies (MSA).

Methods: The MyoCite cohort is a retro-prospective dataset of adult and juvenile IIM patients (2017 ACR/EULAR criteria or diagnosed by two rheumatologists) enrolled in Lucknow, India, between 2017-2020. To characterise the well-characterised MSA detected, followed by MDA5 (9.5%) (figure 1), and 43.5% of patients were seronegative. Mechanic’s hands were associated with anti-Jo1 (OR 20.5 95%CI 5.77-77) and ARS antibodies (OR 11.9 95%CI 3.8-36.9). Heliotrope rash (OR 6.4 95%CI 1.5-26.7) and Gottron’s sign (OR 9.5 95%CI 1.2-20.9) were associated with anti-MDA5 (Table 1). ARS antibodies were negatively associated with weakness and heliotrope rash. NX2 was associated with dysphonia (OR 29.1 95%CI 3.5-243), while M2 was associated positively with a V-sign rash (OR 7 95%CI 1.4-34.7) and negatively with fever. SAE antibodies were associated with dysphagia (OR 9.3 95%CI 1.1-76.6). Seronegative IIM was associated with hyperpigmentation (OR 4.3 95%CI 1.6-11.7) and erythematous changes (OR 2.8 95%CI 1.2-6.5) and was negatively associated with arthritis and fatigue.

Conclusion: Autoantibodies are present in nearly two-thirds of Indian patients with IIM, commensurate with other populations (Figure 1), although the prevalence of individual MSA differs. The frequency of ILD is closer to those previously reported in European cohorts than in East Asian populations. Most MSAs exhibited association with prominent cutaneous manifestations, including mechanics hands, heliotrope rash, Gottron’s sign, V-sign, hyperpigmentation and erythematous changes. These differences in antibody profile and clinical characteristics from the MyoCite cohort compared to that of different geographical and ethnic populations previously reported suggest the potential influence of genetics and/or environmental factors.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Table 1. Multivariate logistic regression for MSA and significant results

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<th>Antibody</th>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
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<td>3.8-32.9</td>
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<td>0.001-0.5</td>
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Scientific Abstracts
TREATMENT OF A PATIENT WITH SEVERE DIFFUSE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSc) USING CD19-TARGETING CAR-T-CELLS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Autoantibodies

C. Bergmann1, F. Müller1, D. Jörg2, D. M. H. Györfi3, S. Völkl1, M. Aigner2, T. Harrer1, N. Bayer1, A. Atzinger2, J. Taubmann2, S. Boeltz1, J. Wacker1, M. Uder4, T. Kuwert5, M. Andreae6, G. Schett1, University Hospital Erlangen, Department Medicine II, Erlangen, Germany;1University Hospital Erlangen, Department Medicine V, Erlangen, Germany;4University Hospital Düsseldorf, Rheumatology, Düsseldorf, Germany;5University Hospital Erlangen, Radiology, Erlangen, Germany;6University Hospital Erlangen, Nuclear Medicine, Erlangen, Germany

Background: Several data suggest a role of B-cells in SSc-pathogenesis: disturbed B-cell homeostasis with expansion of naive and decrease of memory B-cells (1), increased levels of B-cell stimulating factors (2) and anti-fibrotic effects of B-cell-depletion in murine fibrosis models (3). Although first randomized controlled trials show promising effects of the CD20-targeting antibody rituximab (RTX) in SSc (4,5), the role of B-cell targeting treatments remains controversial. A possible explanation is the limited B-cell repertoire reported by CD20-depleting antibodies in the highly polar early B-cell precursors, which are particularly expanded in SSc, as well as plasmablasts responsible for autoantibody production. Hence, deeper and wider B-cell-depletion may be effective in SSc treatment. Recently, CD19-targeting CAR-T-cells, that are used to deeply deplete B-cells in refractory lymphoma and leukemia, showed remarkable effects in refractory systemic lupus erythematosus patients, suggesting the principle feasibility to interrupt autoimmune disease via CD19-targeting CAR-T-cells.

Objectives: To test the feasibility of treating severe SSc with CD19-targeting CAR-T-cells. Outcomes: B-cell -, absolute and relative CAR-T-cell counts, ANA-titer, SSc-specific antibodies, <sup>18</sup>Fa-FAPi-04-uptake, carpal MRI, EUSTAR activity index, mRSS, TJC, forced vital capacity (FVC), diffusion coefficient (DLCO).

Methods: This is a case study of compassionate use of CD19-targeting CAR-T-cells in a 40-year old old patient suffering from severe, diffuse SSc (year of diagnosis 2020). A non-Raynaud manifestation, mRSS 24 at baseline, with diffuse myofibroblastic lung fibrosis, Raynaud’s phenomenon and carpal arthritis who previously failed several standard therapies including methotrexate and mycophenolate. CAR-T-cell infusions were performed upon lymphodepletion with fludarabine (25 mg/m² on days -5, -4, -3) and cyclophosphamide (1g/m² on day -3) in August 2020 as single infusions. Immunosuppressive treatment was stopped before. Main outcomes were assessed before baseline and three months after CAR-T-cell infusion.

Results: CAR-T-cells expanded remarkably and fast in vivo from day 3 (0.3 cells/μl; 0.1% CARs of CD3+ T-cells) until day 9 (0.30.19 (1275/μl; 66.35% of CARs of CD3+ T-cells) and were measurable until day 51 after infusion. B-cells were completely depleted by day 7 and were not detectable until day 77. Serum IgG levels endured above 6000 mg/dl. CAR-T-cell therapy was well tolerated without signs of cytokine release syndrome or cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome. ANA titers (before baseline: 1:320) and SSc-specific antibodies (anti-RNP III antibodies, antigen RP11) were no longer detectable three months after CAR-T-cell infusion. In parallel, myocaridal tracer uptake was reduced by 30% in <sup>18</sup>Ga-FAPi-04-PET-CT imaging, a novel imaging technique that allows the molecular assessment of fibroblast activation in vivo. The extent of lung fibrosis on CT scan and pulmonary function test parameters was stable or slightly improved. As analyzed by contrast supported high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT), one case diagnosed with both conditions. Most patients had Raynaud’s phenomenon (81%), with a median age at the onset of 60.5 years (Interquartile range, IQR, 48.71) and a median follow-up of 96 months (IQR 48-180). ANA were positive in 23 patients (88%), and the 2 most observed pattern were anticytometric (10; 38%) and nucleolar (9; 35%); 6 patients (23%) had cytoplasmic positivity of the ANA test. Six patients (23%) were concomitantly anti-La positive. Anti-Scl/70 were found in 2 cases (8%). Other systemic sclerosis associated antibodies were positive in 6 cases (23%); anti-RNA polymerase III antibodies, and anti-Ku antibodies, in 2 cases (8%), (anti-Th/To, and anti-Pm-Scl100 in one case (4%)). Patients had mainly limited cutaneous SSc subset (13; 50%), 5 had diffuse cutaneous SSc (19%), and the remaining 8 (31%) had no scleroderma. SSc was in overlap with other rheumatic diseases in the 50% of the cases. The overlap was with Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in 4 cases (15%), and with Sjögren syndrome (SjS) in 10 cases (38%), with one case diagnosed with both conditions. Most patients had Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP) (24; 96%). The 2 patients without RP had puffy finger (PF), that were observed in 9 cases (35%). All patients performed nailfold capillaroscopy (NVC), showing scleroderma pattern in 22 cases (85%; early, 13, 50%; active 7, 27%; late 2, 8%), and ILD was observed in 12 patients (46%); the HRCT pattern was mainly NSIP (10, 83%), with a cellular phenotype in the 50% of cases. Only 2 patients (17%) had UIP pattern. Ten patients (38%) had an history of smoke, but only 3 had ILD. PAH was identified in 7 patients (27%), in 3 cases concomitantly to mild ILD. Four patients (15%) had myocarditis.

Disclosure of Interests: N. Bayer, Arthritis Rheum, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Fabian Müller.

Acknowledgements: NIL

ABO817

CLINICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUTO-RO52 ANTIBODIES IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A SINGLE CENTRE COHORT PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Systemic sclerosis

I. M. Bianchessi1, 2, C. Bochichio1, 2, A. Bartoletti1, 2, D. Giorgi1, 2, F. Cuzzocrea1, 2, M. Di Lemnia1, 2, B. Donotrio1, 2, G. Zanfrandomo1, 2, A. Biglia1, 2, C. Montesico2, 3, V. Codullo1, 2, L. Cavaglia1, 2, Universiti di Pavia, Department of Internal Medicine and Therapeutics, Pavia, Italy; 1RCCS Policlinico San Matteo Pavia, Division of Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy

Background: Anti-RO52 antibodies may be detected in several Rheumatic disorders, with different clinical significations. They may occur also in systemic sclerosis (SSc), but with clinical correlates not completely established, with some reports showing their association with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), and other with interstitial lung disease (ILD).

Objectives: To evaluate the clinical characteristics of anti-Ro52 positive SSC patients

Methods: Patients aged more than 18 years, satisfying the 2017 ACR EULAR criteria for SSc referring to our SSc Unit and with at least one follow-up visit between October 2021 and October 2022 were evaluated for study participation. All patients positive for anti-Ro52 antibodies by ELISA were then included. Clinical characteristics were retrospectively collected and analysed. Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) was defined by right heart catheterization, and ILD by chest high resolution computed tomography (HRCT).

Results: Between the 420 SSc patients assessed, we identified 76 patients (18%) positive for anti-Ro antibodies. Only 29 patients were characterized for anti-Ro52 antibody, and 26 were positive. These patients were in prevalence females (21; 81%), with a median age at the onset of 60.5 years (Interquartile range, IQR, 48-71) and a median follow-up of 96 months (IQR 48-180). ANA were positive in 23 patients (88%), and the 2 most observed pattern were anticytometric (10; 38%) and nucleolar (9; 35%); 6 patients (23%) had cytoplasmic positivity of the ANA test. Six patients (23%) were concomitantly anti-La positive. Anti-Scl/70 were found in 2 cases (8%). Other systemic sclerosis associated antibodies were positive in 6 cases (23%); anti-RNA polymerase III antibodies, and anti-Ku antibodies, in 2 cases (8%), (anti-Th/To, and anti-Pm-Scl100 in one case (4%)). Patients had mainly limited cutaneous SSc subset (13; 50%), 5 had diffuse cutaneous SSc (19%), and the remaining 8 (31%) had no scleroderma. SSc was in overlap with other rheumatic diseases in the 50% of the cases. The overlap was with Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in 4 cases (15%), and with Sjögren syndrome (SjS) in 10 cases (38%), with one case diagnosed with both conditions. Most patients had Raynaud's phenomenon (RP) (24; 96%). The 2 patients without RP had puffy finger (PF), that were observed in 9 cases (35%). All patients performed nailfold capillaroscopy (NVC), showing scleroderma pattern in 22 cases (85%; early, 13, 50%; active 7, 27%; late 2, 8%). ILD was observed in 12 patients (46%); the HRCT pattern was mainly NSIP (10, 83%), with a cellular phenotype in the 50% of cases. Only 2 patients (17%) had UIP pattern. Ten patients (38%) had an history of smoke, but only 3 had ILD. PAH was identified in 7 patients (27%), in 3 cases concomitantly to mild ILD. Four patients (15%) had myocarditis.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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SCLERODERMA RENAL CRISIS TREATMENT WITH C5 INHIBITOR ECULIZUMAB – A REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Keywords: bDMARD, Systemic sclerosis, Targeted synthetic drugs

L. Farnab1, H. H. Waqaar1, S. Mehta3, L. Shapiro3, A. Albany Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Albany, United States of America; 2A Albany Medical Center, Nephrology, Albany, United States of America; 3A Albany Medical Center, Rheumatology, Albany, United States of America

Background: Scleroderma renal crisis (SRC) occurs in about 10% of SSC patients and is characterized by abrupt onset of hypertension, thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA), and acute kidney injury. Although prognosis has improved with the use of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE-i), 40% of SRC patients still require dialysis, and 20-25% die within 1 year. The pathogenesis of SRC remains poorly understood but a growing body of evidence suggests that activation of the complement system may be involved in the disease [1]. It is hypothesized that injury to the endothelium due to persistent stimulation by the complement system creates a pathological loop responsible for thrombotic microangiopathy and target organ injury. Several case reports have shown that Eculizumab (humanized recombinant immunoglobulin G2/monoclonal antibody directed against the complement component C5) is effective in treating patients with SRC who presented with symptoms of thrombotic microangiopathy [2,3].

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to characterize the presentation and outcome of patients with SRC who were treated with C5 inhibitor, Eculizumab.

Methods: A literature search was conducted on PubMed and Cochrane from inception to December 2022 using MeSH terms for ‘scleroderma’, ‘systemic sclerosis’ ‘scleroderma renal crisis,’ Eculizumab; and ‘Soliris’. We included case reports, case series, observational studies, and literature reviews. We included patients with treatment refractory SRC: who did not show improvement with ACE inhibitors or patients who had evidence of thrombotic microangiopathy (SRC-TMA).

Results: The initial search revealed 27 articles. After exclusion of non-relevant articles, data was included from 11 articles and 16 patients. The median age was 51 years, sex distribution was 4 males (33.3%) and 12 females (66.6%). Treatment with ACE-i was reported in 11 (68.75%), plasmapheresis (PLEX) in 8 (50%), steroids in 5 (31.25%), cyclophosphamide (CYC) in 3 (18.75%), calcium channel blockers (CCB) in 2 (12.5%) and Rituximab (RTX) in 2 (12.5%) of the patients. Renal replacement therapy (RRT) was required in 10 patients (62.5%). 8 out of 10 patients (80%) were reported to have clinical improvement with Eculizumab (Eculi) therapy (Table 1).

Conclusion: Recent clinical studies have focused on the role of complement activation in the pathogenesis of SRC and results suggest the use of C5 inhibitor in the treatment of refractory SRC. Serum complement levels and renal histological findings could help us identify patients who could benefit from Eculizumab.

REFERENCES:

Table 1 : Characteristics of patients included in the study

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<th>Author</th>
<th>No. of cases (n)</th>
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<th>RRT</th>
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<td>Sabo et al</td>
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THE RISK OF MALNUTRITION IS A PROBLEM ASSOCIATED WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Background: Malnutrition is a serious health problem that worsens comorbid processes, increases hospital stays, infections and mortality. In addition, in chronic patients, it increases the complexity of the processes and the fragility of the patient who suffers from it.

Objectives: To describe the prevalence of malnutrition and malnutrition risk and its associated factors in a series of patients with Systemic Sclerosis (SSc).

Methods: Design: Cross-sectional descriptive study. Participants: consecutive recruitment of patients with SSc (ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria) followed up in our unit. Follow-up of these patients is usually carried out every 3 to 6 months in consultation and all patients were registered in a database. 90% of the patients accepted and signed the consent, the rest refused due to travel or work difficulties.

Variables: The main variable was malnutrition or risk of malnutrition defined according to the Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA) questionnaire, malnutrition was defined with a score less than or equal to 7, risk of malnutrition with scores between 8 and 11, and normal nutrition with values greater than 11. Clinical data, anthropometric and laboratory values were collected, as well as sarcopenia according to the European Working Group on Sarcopenia in Older People (EWGSOP II) and Short Physical Performance Battery (SPPB) criteria.

Statistical analysis: descriptive, bivariate and a multiple linear regression model to identify factors associated with malnutrition and risk of malnutrition.

Results: 52 patients were included, of whom 51 (98.1%) were women, with a mean (SD) age of 60.8 (11.0) years. 17/52 patients (32.7%) were at risk of malnutrition and 1/52 patients (1.9%) were malnourished (Table 1). Patients at risk of malnutrition and malnutrition compared with patients with normal nutritional status, more frequently had mild skin involvement (38.8% vs 14.7%, p = 0.05), sarcopenia (44.4% vs 11.8%, p<0.01), severe sarcopenia (27.8 vs 2.9; p=0.01), weight loss (100.0 vs 55.6%; p<0.001) and polypharmacy (23.1 vs 9.2; p=0.05). Calcium levels (8.7 [2.1] vs 9.2 [0.2]; p=0.05), circumference lesser left calf (32.8 [3.0] vs 35.4 [6.0]; p = 0.03), and in the SPPB functional grade (8.1 [4.2] vs 9.8 [2.9]; p = 0.06) and higher PCR values (10.5 [11.1] vs 7.1 [7.0]; p = 0.06). In multivariate analysis, the only factor associated with malnutrition in SSC was sarcopenia (B 95% CI), -2.521 [-4.867, -0.175]; p=0.036) (R2=0.115).

Conclusion: Malnutrition has serious consequences for the health of people with SSc, including the development of sarcopenia, a condition that predicts disability, hospitalization, and premature death.

Table 1. Clinical-epidemiological characteristics of the 52 patients in SSc

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman, n (%)</td>
<td>51 (98.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>60.8 (11.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited skin pattern, n (%)</td>
<td>40 (76.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disseminated skin pattern, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (23.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2 microglobulin, n (%)</td>
<td>17 (32.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTAP, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (9.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Centromere, n (%)</td>
<td>28 (53.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-SSA, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (19.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other antibodies, n (%)</td>
<td>9 (17.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNA Normal nutritional status n (%)</td>
<td>34 (65.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNA Risk of malnutrition, n (%)</td>
<td>17 (32.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNA malnutrition, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarcopenia, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (23.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarcopenia severe, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (11.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right calf circumference, mean (SD)</td>
<td>34.5 (5.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left calf circumference, mean (SD)</td>
<td>34.5 (5.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss &gt;1kg in the last 3 months, n (%)</td>
<td>25 (48.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polypharmacy, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (23.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR mg/dl, mean (SD)</td>
<td>8.3 (8.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium mg/dl, mean (SD)</td>
<td>9 (1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prealbumin mg/dl, mean (SD)</td>
<td>21.4 (4.6)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2659

VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF MEASUREMENT OF PERIPHERAL OXYGEN SATURATION DURING THE 6-MINUTE WALK TEST IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

A. Lynggaard Riis1, E. Naeser1, K. T. Aaen1, H. Hovgaard2, P. Juhl-Olsen2, E. Bengtsson3, K. Soendergaard3, 1Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Aarhus, Denmark; 2Aarhus University Hospital, The Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Aarhus, Denmark; 3Aarhus University Hospital, Centre for Rare Lung Diseases, Department of Respiratory Diseases and Allergy, Aarhus, Denmark

Background: The 6-Minute Walk Test (6MWT) is a standardised method routinely used to screen for and monitor interstitial lung disease and/or pulmonary arterial hypertension in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc). Studies shows that esaturations during the 6MWT are associated with severity of pulmonary manifestations in patients with SSc [1]. Digital sensors are commonly used to measure peripheral oxygen saturation (SpO2) during the 6MWT. However, digital-based sensors may have important limitations in patients with SSc due to disease-related microangiopathy, Raynaud’s phenomenon, sclerodactyly and motion artifacts during the 6MWT [2]. Sensors located at more central body positions may therefore be more accurate as these as less prone to Raynaud attacks.

Objectives: To determine the validity and re-test reliability of peripheral oxygen saturation measured at the finger, forehead, and earlobe during the 6MWT in patients with SSc.

Methods: 82 patients with SSc had an arterial line placed while performing the 6MWT. Peripheral oxygen saturation was simultaneously measured by finger, forehead, and earlobe sensors and compared to the arterial oxygen saturation (SaO2) measured before and after the 6MWT. 40 patients repeated the 6MWT one week later. We used Bland-Altman plots to display the agreement between SpO2 and SaO2, and between the minimal SpO2 (minSpO2) one week apart.

The intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC, 95% confidence interval 95% CI) for repeated measurement of minSpO2 was calculated.

Results: The mean difference (SpO2 - SaO2 ± standard deviation [SD]) after the 6MWT was –3.3% (±4.82), 0.15% (±1.55), and 1.36% (±1.93) for the finger, forehead, and earlobe, respectively (Table 1). The finger minSpO2 also demonstrated the poorest re-test reliability: The mean difference in minSpO2 (vis22-vis1, ±SD) was 1.28% (±5.3), 0.74% (±4.36) and –1.10% (±2.87). The ICC (95% CI) showed good agreement using the ear and forehead probe (ICCforehead = 0.89 [0.80; 0.94]; ICCearlobe = 0.88 [0.80; 0.87]), while a modest reliability was found using the finger probe (ICCFinger = 0.65 [0.43; 0.80]).

Conclusion: Peripheral oxygen saturation should be measured using either the earlobe or forehead during the 6MWT in patients with SSc.

Table 1. Validity and re-test reliability of peripheral oxygen during the 6MWT (n = 82)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finger probe</th>
<th>Forehead probe</th>
<th>Ear probe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean difference SpO2 - SaO2</td>
<td>-0.68% (±1.88)</td>
<td>0.13% (±1.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean difference minSpO2 (visit1-visit2)</td>
<td>-3.30% (±4.82)</td>
<td>0.15% (±1.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean difference of the minSpO2 (visit3-visit4)</td>
<td>1.28% (±5.3)</td>
<td>0.74% (±4.36)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: SpO2, Peripheral oxygen saturation; SaO2, Arterial oxygen saturation; SD, Standard deviation.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3244

AB0822 SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS ASSOCIATED ANTIBODIES POSITIVITY IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS: SINGLE VS. COMBINATION

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Biomarkers, Autoantibodies


Institut Mar d’Investigacions Mèdiques, Investigació cellular en inflamació y cartílago, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital del Mar, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital Vall d’Hebron, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital de Bellvitge, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Autoantibodies (abs) are one of the most widely used tools currently in systemic sclerosis (SSc) as biomarkers. It has been described that 95% of patients with SSc have at least one ab and >5% >1. When looking only at abs associated with SSc (SSc-abs) that prevalence is reduced to 2.6%. The combination usually confers different clinical characteristics compared to those with positivity for a single ab.

Objectives: To determine the prevalence of the combination of SSc-abs in a series of patients diagnosed with SSc, and to analyze the clinical differences between those with positivity for a single vs multiple SSc-abs.

Methods: Retrospective study of 134 patients with SSc in whom the SSc-abs profile was systematically determined by an immunoblot (Euroimmun®) which included anti-topoisomerase (ATA), anti-centromere (ACA), anti-RNA-Polymerase III (ARA), anti-U3-RNP (U3), anti-Th/To (Th/To), anti-Ku (Ku), anti-PmScl (PmScl), anti-U1 RNA (U1), anti-U1-RNP (U1), anti-RNAPolymerase III (ARA), anti-ribonucleoprotein (RNP), anti-U1 (U1), anti-U3-RNP (U3), anti-U1-RNP (U1), anti-U1 (U1), anti-U3-RNP (U3).

Results: Table 1 shows the SSc-abs profile of our patients: 128/134 (96%) were ANA+, 111 (82%) had 1 SSc-ab, 8 (6%) had 2 and 3 (2.3%) had 3 concomitant SSc-ab. Ku was found in combination with other ab in all patients and was present in the 3 patients with 3 ab. When analyzing patients with combined vs sole abs, we found the following statistically significant differences: the limited cutaneous SSc subtype associated with ACA was lost in the combinations ACA-U1-Ku and ACA-Ku+, being 0/1 patients (0%, p=0.038) and 0/1 patients (0%, p=0.039, respectively). Patients with ATA-ARA+ had a higher modified Rodan skin score vs ATA- (18.33 ± 2.08 vs 9.67 ± 5.59, p=0.036). No other statistically significant differences were found in any other characteristics in the patients with ≥1 vs 1 ab, although a trend toward some clinical differences was seen in ACA-U1-Ku+ patients, with more digestive symptoms and interstitial lung disease, and less myositis than ACA+.

Conclusion: The concomitant presence of more than 1 SSc-ab is more frequent in our cohort than initially described (8%), likely due to the systematic detection carried out in our study. Anti-Ku was the most frequent ab in combination to others. The combination of abs may change the characteristic clinical phenotypes associated to them when found in isolation. We saw some differences in our study, although conclusions cannot be drawn due to the limiting sample size. The implementation of routine immunobLOTS as ab screening to achieve a better characterization of patients could be a helpful tool for medical professionals, as these combinations of SSc-ab may have prognostic implications.

REFERENCES:


AB0823 A BAYESIAN APPROACH TO DETERMINE THE ROLE OF ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS FOR THE OCCURRENCE OF DIGITAL ULCERS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS – A EUSTAR OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Artificial Intelligence, Rare/orphan diseases


1. University Hospital Centre Zagreb and University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, University of Occupational and Environmental Health Japan, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; 2. Oslo University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway

Disclosure of Interests: Project ‘202022-33’ is funded by FUNDACIÓ LA MARATÓ DE TV3

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3762
Objectives: To assess the effectiveness of a therapy with OACs on DUs in patients with SSc.

Methods: This study used prospectively collected data from the European Scleroderma Trials and Research group (EUSTAR) registry. Patients fulfilling the 2013 ACR/EULAR SSc classification criteria with complete longitudinal data on the presence of DUs and OACs were included in the analysis. The Bayesian prior probability distribution was created by capturing SSc experts’ opinions on the probability of absence of DUs with and without OACs and their degree of uncertainty using a questionnaire. In addition, participants ranked factors that influence the presence or absence of DUs as confounding factors using a numeric rating scale. The outcome was the absence of DUs at the last follow-up visit in SSc patients from the EUSTAR cohort, after one year of exposure to OAC. A nearest neighbor matching algorithm using Bayesian Additive Regression Trees with uniform priors generated two balanced groups of patients (treated and non-treated with OACs), which were balanced for age, sex, anti-Scl-70 antibody positivity, joint contractures, use of placebos, and the presence of any endopeptidase inhibitors or phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors. The matching algorithm generated two balanced groups of treated and untreated patients (imbalance < 10%). A Bayesian logistic regression model was implemented to estimate the effect of OACs on DUs. This model incorporated the priors elicited from experts’ beliefs and was adjusted for the above-mentioned factors that influence the absence of DUs, as well as modified Rodnan skin score, duration of disease, season, left ventricular ejection fraction, presence of pulmonary hypertension, C-reactive protein elevation, arterial hypertension and any previous DUs.

Results: Of the 6,424 patients enrolled in the EUSTAR registry, 663 (10.3%) had current digital ulcers, 2556 (39.8%) had previous DUs and 143 (2.2%) were exposed to OACs at their last follow-up visit. Mean age was 59 (SD: 13.6) years, 933 (14.5%) were males, mean disease duration was 13.1 (SD: 8.7) years, 4,454 (69.3%) had a limited cutaneous SSc and 1510 (23.5%) had C-reactive protein elevation. The median probability for the absence of DUs after exposure of one year to OACs was 70-75%, the pessimistic and optimistic probability were 70-75% and 80-85% respectively. After incorporation of the priors experts’ opinion, the unadjusted analysis revealed that the use of OACs was associated with absence of DUs at the last follow-up visit (OR 2.05, 95% CrI 1.63 to 2.46). In the adjusted analysis, the effect of OACs was slightly stronger (OR 2.15, 95% CrI 1.71 to 2.52). The results of the analysis where the priors from experts were withheld (and uniform priors were set) are illustrated in figure 1.

Conclusion: This study indicates with incorporation of Bayesian priors that represent experts’ beliefs, a positive effect of OACs on the absence DUs related to SSc at the last follow-up visit.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.
patients with absence of GI involvement presented higher UCLA scores when IS therapy was given, which may reflect the potential GI complaints as an adverse effect by therapy, rather than involvement by the SSC.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4100

AB0825
EFFICACY OF AUTOLOGOUS PLATELET RICH PLASMA ON MORPHEA: A COMPARATIVE CLINICAL AND ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FOLLOW UP STUDY

Keywords: Ultrasound, Skin, Systemic sclerosis

E. Elnasar1, M. Makki2, M. Mansour3, A. Moshrif4, 1Ras Eltin General Hospital, Dermatology, Alexandria, Egypt, 2,3, Al-Azhar University, Dermatology, Assiut, Egypt, 4, Al-Azhar University, Rheumatology department, Assiut, Egypt

Background: Morphea is a subtype of limited scleroderma characterized by affects to the skin. There are multiple treatment modalities for morphea, but all have limited success to restore atrophy.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy and safety of platelet rich plasma (PRP) to restore skin changes in morphea such as skin atrophy, dyspigmentation and adnexal destruction) by ultrasound and Localized Scleroderma Cutaneous Assessment Tool (LoSCAT).

Methods: Nine morphea patients (21 lesions) were diagnosed clinically and by histopathology. Intradermal PRP was injected into morphea lesion once weekly for 12 sessions. The disease severity and damage were evaluated at baseline, after the last session (3 months later) and at 6 months follow up using (LoSCAT).

Echogenicity and skin layer thickness were measured by musculoskeletal ultrasound with high frequency linear probe.

Results: The mean age of our patients was 21.8 ± 8.4 years (range: 11 to 36 years). The mean duration of morphea lesions was 5.96 ± 2.4 years (range: three months to 20 years). The LoSCAT score showed a significant improvement with a mean reduction from 13.73 ± 7.33 ± 6.8 after therapeutic endpoint (at 3 months) reaching to 6.44 ± 7.1 after 6 months follow up with p-value = 0.008 and 0.014 respectively. The activity index (LoSAI) also showed a significant lowering in the score at both timepoints with p-value <0.02 and 0.04 respectively. The significant difference in size between morphea lesions and healthy control areas by US (1.77 ± 1.13 vs 3.29 ± 1.72; p = 0.007) has been vanished after treatment (at 3 month); p< 0.17 and at 6 month; p=0.53. There was a significant positive correlation between the duration of the lesion and the improvement assessed by ultrasound with p-value = 0.01. As regard adverse effects all patients reported having pain during PRP injection, transient edema of face reported by 4 patients (45%) and only 2 patients showed transient erythema, fig 1.

Conclusion: Autologous PRP is a safe technique with great aesthetic outcomes, as filling up of contour defects and correction of both hyper and hypopigmenta- tion in addition to softening of the indurated lesions.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4158

AB0826
EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL GENDER DIFFERENCE IN MYOSITIS: DISEASE PHENOTYPE AND ANTIBODY PROFILE FROM A SINGLE-CENTER ITALIAN COHORT

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Myositis, Gender/diversity issues

E. Cela1, P. Triggianese1, B. Kroegler1, A. D’antonio1, P. Conigliaro1, S. Modica1, E. Greco1, A. Bergamin1, M. S. Chimenti1,1Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, ROMe, Italy

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IMM) include a heterogeneous group of rare autoimmune diseases with a large spectrum of muscular and systemic manifestations, mainly involving skin and lung [1,2]. Myositis specific antibodies (MSA) and myositis associated antibodies (MAA) have been described in IMM patients potentially correlating to disease outcome [3]. As well documented, autoimmune diseases present with a clear gender bias with a greater prevalence among women. To our knowledge, no studies has explored the potential gender difference in IMM patients.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to explore differences in disease features, clinical outcome, antibody profile, and treatments in IMM patients according to the gender.

Methods: In an observational study, we included patients with a defined IMM diagnosis who were referred to 3rd level Rheumatology Unit “Tor Vergata” University Hospital in Rome (Italy) for the past 5 yrs (to Dec 2022). Inclusion criteria were i. a defined diagnosis of dermatomyositis (DM), polymyositis (PM), and anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS), in accordance with the 2017 EULAR/ACR criteria, ii. age ≥ 18 yrs, iii. availability of medical records and consent to study. Data comprised: disease duration and diagnostic delay, clinical phenotype, treatments, and autoantibodies including anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA), MSAs (anti-MDA5, -NXP2, -SAE, -Mi2, -TIF1, -Anti-IRNA synthetase, -Jo1, -PL7, -EJ), and MAAs (anti-PM/Scl, -Pod2, -Ru, U1RNP).

Results: The study cohort comprised 31 patients with IMM who met the inclusion criteria, with a similar gender distribution [n= 17 (54.8%) females and n=14 (45.2%) males]. The median age at symptoms onset was similar in both groups (59.13± 3.5 vs 56.6± 12.6 yrs) while males experienced slightly longer diagnostic delay (10.7± 14.4 vs 8.7± 8.6 months) and disease duration (30± 9.7 vs 21± 20 months) than females (P <0.05 for both). No significant difference in the distribution of IIM occurred between the two groups with a half of patients affected mostly by DM (75.5% vs M 50%). However, both PM (6.5% vs M 21.4%) and ASS (F 6.5% vs M 26.8%) were moderately prevalent in males. Skin involvement occurred similarly in both groups while lung disease occurred about twofold in males (57.1%) than females (29.4%). Most patients in the cohort showed ANA titre 1:160, with a comparable rate in females and males (64.7% vs 64.3%), and a positivity for at least one MSA and MAA. A double positivity of MSA occurred in 6.5% of the cohort, all females (MDA5/anti NXP2 and MDA5/EJ). The whole cohort had undergone steroids as 1st line therapy; as steroid-sparing agents, the main difference on treatments occurred for the mycophenolate mofetil which resulted significantly more administered in males (57.1%) than females (6%, P 0.002). Furthermore, among patients with lung involvement (n=13), the need to treat the progression of interstitial lung disease, by using the antibacterial agent (mometasone, resulted only in males (15%).

Conclusion: Our preliminary findings suggest that IMM can present a gender difference in disease outcome by showing a longer diagnostic delay and a higher respiratory involvement in male patients. These data might highlight a possible gender-oriented approach in accordance with a different disease profile and treatment strategies but require further investigations in a larger cohort.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0827
CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SERUM FERRITIN IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis

S. Markovich Sholomon1, Y. Braun-Moscovici2, A. Balbir-Gurman2, 1Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion, Rheumatology Institute, Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel; 2Israel, Rheumatology Institute, Rambam Health Care Campus, Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion, Haifa, Israel

Figure Ultrasound (grey scale; transverse view) (a) before treatment shows morphea lesion in between two healthy areas. The lesion shows dermal and subcutaneous atrophy at end-stages with Loss of the border between dermis and subcutaneous tissue. (b) after treatment shows marked increase in dermal and subcutaneous thickness (c) remained remanent after 6 months of the end of treatment (d & e: photos for the same patient before treatment & at six-month follow up).

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Background: The main systemic sclerosis (SSc) manifestations are skin thickening, microangiopathy and ischemic changes in tissues, fibrotic damage to the lungs, heart, kidneys, and digestive system, arthritis, and myopathy. Acute phase reactants (APR) like erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP) reflect inflammation activity in various inflammatory conditions. Ferritin is a protein bound to iron; low serum ferritin indicates iron deficiency and/or anemia. Instead, high ferritin levels are associated with inflammatory and non-inflammatory conditions such as dermatomyositis, pulmonary fibrosis, lupus, systemic COVID-19, vasculitis, tissue damage, thromboembolic complications, and metastatic cancer. The possible role of ferritin in SSc as APR is unclear.

Objectives: We aimed to assess whether ferritin levels can reflect the severity of SSc and predict the outcome.

Methods: 241 files of SSc patients with information on serum ferritin level (ferritin over 300 mg/dL is considered elevated) who visited the Rambam Rheumatology Institute in the years 2004-2021 were used for retrospective analysis. Patients’ demographic, clinical, laboratory, imaging, and radiographic function data were collected from electronic hospital files. Statistics included Student’s T-test, Pearson’s chi-squared test, and Kaplan-Meier curve; statistical significance was determined as p<0.05.

Results: 36 patients (FerEl-SSc) had elevated ferritin values; the rest (n=205) represented the second group (FerNor-SSc). Significant differences were seen in gender (male 44.4% - 15.6%), disease duration (4.56 - 7.7 years), modified Rodnan skin score (12.3 - 6.9), as well as in incidence of lung (65.7% - 38.7%), heart (51.4% - 21.1%), and renal (28.6% - 5.9%) involvement. Increased ferritin correlated with elevated ESR, CRP, creatine, creatine kinase, troponin, and reduced hemoglobin, impaired pulmonary function tests and reduced left ventricular ejection fraction on echocardiography. Patients with elevated ferritin had a significant increase in mortality rates (52.8% and 35.1%) and non-significant reduction in survival.

Conclusion: Our study demonstrated that ferritin has a potential as a sensitive marker for SSc severity in term of skin thickening, vital organ complications, and mortality. The ferritin test is simple and inexpensive, it can add to the complex SSc assessment and contribute to treatment decision-making in complicated SSc.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0828

THE DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF COMMERCIAL LINE BLOT ASSAY IN TAIWANESE PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Autoantibodies, Diagnostic Tests

T. H. Yen1, W. N. Huang1, Y. M. Chen1. 1Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Emerging evidence has demonstrated the clinical utility of sclerodera-specific autoantibodies in systemic sclerosis (SSc) [1]. However, the diagnostic performance and prognostic value of line dot assay (LIA) in Taiwanese patients was unknown.

Objectives: Our aim is to evaluate the diagnostic performance of a commercial LIA and the prognostic value of SSc-specific antibodies and anti-Ro52 in Taiwanese population.

Methods: We retrospectively enrolled all individuals tested by the LIA with 13 antigens between 2020 and 2021 in Taichung Veterans General Hospital. The diagnosis of the sclerodera was based on the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria. The positive result of the semi-quantitative test was presented as +, ++ and +++ based on the signal intensity. If multiple antibodies were detected, the patient will be categorized according to the antibody with the highest signal intensity. Multivariable logistic regression was used to evaluate the association between autoantibody subtype and clinical phenotype.

Results: A total of 896 patients (209 SSc, 293 non-SSc CTD, 394 non-CTD) were retrospectively analyzed. ROC analysis of LIA showed numerically higher AUC excluding anti-Ro52 in comparison with whole panel. After excluding anti-Ro52, the LIA exhibited sensitivities of 79.9%, 65.1%, 56.0% and specificity of 44.8%, 65.2%, 72.8% for diagnosis of SSc at different cutoff values respectively (signal intensities 1+, 2+ and 3+). An overall diagnosis performance of AUC 0.674, 65.36% accuracy, 36.36% positive predictive value (PPV), 86.18% negative predictive value (NPV), 1.89 positive likelihood ratio (LR+), 0.53 negative likelihood ratio (LR-) was determined at the optimal cutoff of 2+. For SSc patients, we observed significantly higher risk of diffuse-type scleroderma in participants with negative autoantibodies, anti-Scl-70, anti-RNA polymerase III and anti-Ro52 positive (OR: 12.28, 95% CI: 3.19-47.19, p<0.001; OR: 33.56, 95% CI:8.91-126.51, p<0.001; OR:18.32, 95% CI:4.16-80.71, p<0.001**; OR:3.62, 95% CI:1.05-11.83, p=0.036 respectively, Table 1) as compared to counterparts. Anti-Ro52 positive was also associated with PAH and GI tract involvement (OR 3.26, 95% CI: 1.18-8.99, P=0.023; OR: 2.86, 95% CI: 1.28-6.39, p=0.011). In addition, we found combination of anti-Scl-70 and anti-Ro52 positive was associated with the highest rate of ILD (Figure 1).

Conclusion: We demonstrated the diagnostic performance of LIA in Taiwanese patients with optimal cutoff defined and also the prognostic values of autoantibodies. Moreover, anti-Ro52 was associated with higher risk of various organs involvement including ILD, PAH and GI tract involvement.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. The association of autoantibodies status with disease manifestation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phenotype and organ involvement</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse type</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centromere Reference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>12.28</td>
<td>(3.19-47.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>33.56</td>
<td>(8.91-126.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scl-70</td>
<td>18.32</td>
<td>(4.16-80.71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ro52</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ro52+</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>(1.05-3.83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD</td>
<td>Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>8.48</td>
<td>(2.79-25.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>16.91</td>
<td>(5.61-50.95)</td>
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<td>3.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>(1.28-6.39)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval; ILD: interstitial lung disease; PAH: Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension; GI: gastrointestinal.

Figure 1. The association of anti-Scl-70 and anti-Ro52 with occurrence of ILD in patients with SSc.

Acknowledgements: We thank the Biostatistics Task Force of Taichung Veterans General Hospital for assisting with the data analysis.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0829

PROGRESSION OF ILD (INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE) IN PFT (PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST) AND HRCT (HIGH RESOLUTION COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHY) ACCORDING TO CTD (CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE) IN 12 MONTHS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Lungs

Background: ILD is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in CTD. Moreover, it can be the first clinical feature of a CTD.

Objectives: To evaluate progression of ILD in 12 months through HRCT and PFT according to the kind of CTD (systemic sclerosis, myositis, Sjögren’s syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, mixed connective tissue disease, systemic lupus erythematosus), vasculitis, sarcoidosis and interstitial pneumonia with autoimmune features (IPAF).

Methods: A retrospective single tertiary center cohort study in CTD-ILD outpatients seen between 2012 and 2022. Sociodemographic, clinical and serological data, PFT and HRCT results were collected. ILD patterns were classified into usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP), inconsistent UIP, nonspecific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP), fibrosing NSIP, organizing pneumonia (OP), interstitial lymphoid pneumonia and associated to sarcoidosis. Progression of ILD was defined in PFT as: decline ≥ 10% in FVC ≥ 15% in DLCO. Progression of ILD in HRCT was considered according to radiologists’criteria.

Results: Data regarding 83 ILD-CTD patients is shown in Table 1. 54.1% of the patients complained of dyspnea at diagnosis of ILD. Immunosuppression prescribed was shown in Table 1. Treatment was not required in all cases at diagnosis of ILD. Pulse steroids, mycophenolate and rituximab are some of the most prescribed treatments. UIP was the most prevalent pattern in 40% of the patients of ILD. More studies must be done to identify best treatments and predictors to avoid progression of ILD.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0830

EXAMINATION OF EXERCISE STRESS ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY AND BIOMARKERS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AND MYOCARDIAL INVOLVEMENT

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis

D Ladoеczky-Hullu1, B Morvai-Illes2, P Bencsik2, L Kovács1, G Ágoston2,
1Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School, University of Szeged, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Szeged, Hungary; 2Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School, University of Szeged, Department of Family Medicine, Szeged, Hungary; 3Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School, University of Szeged, Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy, Szeged, Hungary

Background: The leading causes of death in patients suffering from systemic sclerosis are interstitial lung disease, malignancy and pulmonary arterial hypertension, but several other cardiovascular complications affect their quality of life.

Objectives: Our investigation aimed to examine biomarkers relating to active fibrotic changes in the myocardium and pulmonary vasculature and to find potential correlations with pathological findings detected by exercise stress echocardiography.

Methods: 28 consecutive systemic sclerosis patients attending our outpatient clinic underwent complete physical examination and routine blood tests. At the same day, resting and stress echocardiography were performed with supine bicycle exercise stress, and serum NT-proBNP, galectin-3 and soluble suppression of tumorigenesis-2 (sST-2) levels were measured. Patients with defined cardiological disease (systemic sclerosis-related manifestation or co-morbidity), interstitial lung disease, overt pulmonary hypertension or severe muscularoskeletal disorder (active myositis, arthritis and severe lower limb osteoarthrosis) were excluded from the cohort.

Results: 27 female and 1 male patient participated in the study, aged 55.09±13.05 years. Median serum galectin-3 level was 58.57±31.48 ng/ml, in 24 patients, it was found to be elevated (normal range: >22.1 ng/ml, 85.71%). The sST-2 median level was 108.39±44.06 ng/ml, increased in 27 patients (normal range: >35 ng/ml, 96.43%). Elevated levels of NT-proBNP were found in 24 patients. On echocardiography performed at rest, normal pulmonary arterial pressure was calculated in all 28 patients, while in the majority of them (in 23 patients), stress-induced pulmonary arterial hypertension (SIPAH) occurred at different grades of bicycle exercise. In those patients, the NT-proBNP level was also significantly higher (161.4±85 vs 93.5±61 ng/ml).
Clinical Phenotype of Antinuclear Antibody Negative Systemic Sclerosis in a Cohort of Systemic Sclerosis Romanian Patients

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Systemic sclerosis, Organ damage

Objective: To identify systemic sclerosis patients with a higher risk of progressive pulmonary arterial involvement. Our ongoing project is to follow up these patients with annual examinations.

Methods: A single-center retrospective study which enrolled 270 SSC. The presence for both circulating SSc-related autoAbs and ANA was assessed. Demographic and clinical features, symptoms, and parameters related to a specific organ involvement according to MEDS evaluation sheets, were evaluated.

Results: We identified a population of 32 (12%) patients who had neither SSC-related autoAbs nor ANA. The group comprised 27 females and 5 males, with a mean age of 59.7 ± 14.3 years, most of whom had diffuse subset (25/32). ANA/SSc-related autoAbs negative patients had a significantly younger disease onset (48 ± 6 vs 60 ± 20-81 years, P < 0.05), lower disease duration (6 ± 1.5-50 vs 2 ± 0-2.5 years, P < 0.01), lower mRSS (7 ± 2-21 vs 9 ± 1-25, P < 0.01) but higher European Scleroderma Study Group (ESSG) activity index (5.3 ± 1-50 vs 2.9 ± 1-25, P < 0.001), higher proportion of synovitis (42% vs 16%, P < 0.01) and calcinosis (42% vs 17%, P < 0.01). For organ involvement, although the absence of SSC-related autoAbs was positively correlated with presence of digital ulcers (P < 0.001), heart and severe pulmonary involvement (P < 0.001), we didn’t find a statistically significant difference between the two groups. Patients negative for ANA/SSc-related autoAbs had significantly higher in seronegative SSc patients, no difference in mortality were found between the groups.

Conclusion: Our data revealed that ANA/SSc-related autoAbs negative patients are younger and have more frequently diffuse skin involvement, inflammatory arthritis, and calcinosis. Although digital ulcers, severe pulmonary and heart involvement were more common, there was no statistically significant difference between the two groups. Even though overall disease activity index was significantly higher in seronegative SSc patients, no difference in mortality were found between the groups. Whether the absence of detectable autoAbs persists and is to be viewed as a favorable prognostic factor are questions to be addressed by future studies.


Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/bmj.s183-2023-eular.4948

Validity and Psychometric Characteristics of the Duruöz Hand Index in Turkish Patients with Systemic Sclerosis

Keywords: Outcome measures, Systemic sclerosis, Validation

Objective: To evaluate the functional status of hands in patients with systemic sclerosis.

Methods: We developed a self-report questionnaire that was developed for evaluating the functional status of hands in patients with systemic sclerosis.

References: [1] Kasman S, et al. The Duruöz Hand Index (DHI) is a self-report questionnaire that was developed for evaluating the functional status of hands in patients with systemic sclerosis.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/bmj.s183-2023-eular.5168

Chronic Intestinal Pseudo-Obstruction in Patients with Systemic Sclerosis

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Systemic sclerosis, Diet and Nutrition

Objective: To analyze the clinical variables, the period between the diagnosis of SSC and CIPO, the received therapies, and the clinical outcome.

Methods: All the seven cases we studied were women, with a median (interquartile range, IQR) age at SSC diagnosis of 46.2 years (34-52). All of them met the ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria for SSC. Five (71.4%) of the patients presented diffuse cutaneous SSC (dcSSc), while the other two had the limited cutaneous SSC (lcSSc) subset. The median period between the SSC diagnosis and CIPO was 71 years (1.84-15.96). Considering basal characteristics, 4 (57.1%) patients presented cardiac involvement, 3 (42.8%) arthritis, 3 (42.8%) interstitial lung disease, and 1 (14.3%) pulmonary arterial hypertension. Regardless of specific SSC autoAbs, anti-centromere antibodies were detected in 2 (28.6%) patients, anti-U1RNP in 2 (28.6%) and anti-RNA polymerase III in 1 (14.2%). Six (85.7%) had concomitant small intestinal bacterial growth (SIBO), with positive response to courses of antibiotics. Regarding CIPO treatment, all of them received dietetic recommendations, 6 (85.7%) probiotics (cinapride, prucalopride or erythromycin) and 4 (57.1%) the somatostatin analogue octreotide sc or octreotide. At CIPO onset, 3 (42.8%) patients had serious oral enemas, two of them required parenteral nutrition (PTN), while the other received intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIG) and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy. During the first year of follow-up after an adequate initial response to treatment, 5 (71.4%) patients had a relapse into CIPO symptoms. Among them, one improved after initiating octreotide sc, 3 required PTN, 2 IVIG and 1 case was treated with adalimumab. Four (57.1%) patients died during the follow-up, three of them as a consequence of gastrointestinal complications related to CIPO, and the fourth because of sudden death.

Conclusion: CIPO is a gastrointestinal manifestation of SSC, that despite its low prevalence, represents a high morbi-mortality. Patients with dcSSc might have a higher susceptibility for CIPO. There is a substantial variability period between the SSC onset and the appearance of CIPO related symptoms. Diet recommendations, probiotics and octreotide are common initial therapies, reserving IVIG and PTN for refractory cases or with more aggressive onset. Notwithstanding, the mortality related to this gastrointestinal involvement is certainly significant.

rheumatoid arthritis and subsequently validated in many cultures and various rheumatic patient groups [1].

Objectives: The aim of the study was to investigate the validity and psychometric properties of DHI in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc).

Methods: Patients diagnosed with SSc according to the EULAR/ACR 2013 system were included [2]. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients were recorded. Functional assessments of the hands were evaluated with DHI. Kelter Functional Index (KFI), visual analog scale (VAS) for disability, VAS-Handicap for handicap, and Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ). Short Form-36 (SF36) was used for assessing quality of life. Disease activity was assessed with European Scleroderma Study Group (EScSG) activity index and VAS doctor’s opinion for activity. Modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), VAS-hand pain, VAS-Raynoud, swollen joint count (SJC), tender joint count (TJC), Pittsburgh sleep quality index (PSQI), and CRP levels were also noted. For the reliability analysis, internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha) and test-retest reliability (ICC), and for the validity analysis face, content, convergent, and divergent validities were applied. Face and content validities were evaluated via cognitive debriefing interviews with the patients. The correlations of the DHI with KFI, VAS-disability, VAS-Handicap, and HAQ were analyzed for convergent validity. The correlations of the DHI with other measurements (non-functional) were analyzed for divergent validity.

Results: Seventy-three patients with a mean age of 48.6 (SD 12.8) years were recruited and 57 of them were women. Cognitive debriefing showed the DHI to be clear, understandable, and relevant. It was easy to complete and calculate, with the 5 minutes and 30 seconds, respectively. The Cronbach’s alpha coefficient for internal consistency was 0.973 and ICC for test-retest reliability was 0.993 (95%CI 0.981-0.997). DHI showed good to moderate correlations with the functional measurements indicating its convergent validity and moderate to divergent validities were applied.

Conclusion: DHI is a quite practical, reliable, and valid instrument to assess hand function in patients with SSc.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Spearman’s correlation coefficients of Duruöz Hand Index with the other parameters for convergent and divergent validity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functional Parameters (Convergent)</th>
<th>Rho Non-functional Parameters (Divergent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KFI</td>
<td>0.970** Age -0.124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS-Disability</td>
<td>0.524 Disease duration 0.347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS-Handicap</td>
<td>0.567 CRP 0.246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>0.395 SJC 0.273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TJC 0.464 mRSS 0.495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ESsSG 0.535 VAS-raymond 0.419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VAS-hand pain 0.512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VAS-Doctor’s activity opinion 0.484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Physical functioning</td>
<td>-0.338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Physical role limitations</td>
<td>-0.525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Emotional role limitations</td>
<td>-0.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Vitality</td>
<td>-0.164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Emotional well-being</td>
<td>-0.086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Social functioning</td>
<td>-0.336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36 Pain</td>
<td>-0.259</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSQI</td>
<td>0.305</td>
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** p<0.001, *p: 0.001-0.049.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0835 CAPILLAROSCOPIC FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WITH SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME, SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS, AND PRIMARY RAYNAUD’S PHENOMENON IN A HIGH-COMPLEXITY CENTER IN MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA 2016-2022

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Real-world evidence, Systemic sclerosis

S. Hoyos-Patitó¹, A. Arango-Martínez², L. M. Rodríguez Padilla³, A. Chavarriaga Restrepo¹, C. J. Velásquez-Franco⁴, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Internal Medicine, Medellín, Colombia; ¹Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, School of Health Sciences, Medellín, Colombia; ²Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Associate Professor, School of Health Sciences, Medellín, Colombia; ³Clínica Universitaria Bolivariana, Clínica CES, Rheumatology, Medellín, Colombia; ⁴Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Rheumatology, Medellín, Colombia

Background: In Sjögren’s syndrome (SSS), it has been suggested that capillaroscopy could be useful to identify patients with characteristics of overlap syndromes and risk of evolving into another connective tissue disease, in addition to determine extraglandular systemic involvement. The published information is scarce, as its comparison with systemic sclerosis (SSc) and primary Raynaud’s phenomenon (pRP); in addition, different optical instruments other than the videocapillaroscope with 200x magnification have been used.

Objectives: To assess capillaroscopic findings in patients with SSS compared to subjects with SSc and pRP at a national capillaroscopy reference center in Medellín, Colombia, between 2016 and 2022.

Methods: An analytical cross-sectional observational study was carried out. Patients over 18 years who met 2016 ACR/EULAR, 2013 ACR/EULAR, and 2014 international criteria for SS, SSc, and pRP, respectively, confirmed by a rheumatologist, were included. Capillaroscopic variables were analyzed (number of capillaries per millimeter, dilated capillaries, megacapillaries, abnormal capillaries, microhemorrhages, avascular zones, arbor- escent capillaries, capillary disorganization, and capillaroscopic pattern). Qualitative variables were expressed by absolute and relative frequencies and the quantitative by the median and interquartile range (IQR) due to the heterogeneous distribution of data.

Results: In total, there were 195 patients, of which 181 (92.8%) were female; the median age was 53 years (IQR:39-61). The most frequent capillaroscopic finding in SS was the presence of dilated capillaries (n=36; 55.4%). A higher frequency of global capillaroscopic abnormalities was observed in the SSS group compared to the other groups (p<0.0001 in all comparisons). There was no difference in the frequency of arbor capillaries between the SS and SSc groups. In the SS group, either scleroderma pattern was found in 18.5% (n=12) (Table 1).

Table 2. Capillaroscopic findings in 195 patients with Sjögren’s syndrome, systemic sclerosis, and primary Raynaud’s phenomenon in a capillaroscopy reference center in Medellín, Colombia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Findings</th>
<th>SS (n=65) n (%)</th>
<th>SSc (n=65) n (%)</th>
<th>p-value **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decreased capillary density</td>
<td>8 (12.3)</td>
<td>28 (43.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dilated capillaries</td>
<td>36 (55.4)</td>
<td>51 (78.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megacapillaries</td>
<td>10 (15.4)</td>
<td>31 (47.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal capillaries</td>
<td>22 (33.8)</td>
<td>36 (55.4)</td>
<td>6 (9.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microhemorrhages</td>
<td>16 (24.6)</td>
<td>33 (51.6)</td>
<td>1 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avascular zones</td>
<td>12 (18.5)</td>
<td>29 (44.6)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arborescent capillaries*</td>
<td>3 (10.7)</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capillary disorganization</td>
<td>22 (33.8)</td>
<td>33 (50.8)</td>
<td>5 (7.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest capillary diameter (um+)</td>
<td>21.4 (16.9-34.0)</td>
<td>41 (21.4-97.0)</td>
<td>15 (13.1-17.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** p<0.001, *p: 0.001-0.049.

*Total (n=61), Sjögren’s syndrome (n=28), Systemic sclerosis (n=19), Primary Raynaud’s phenomenon (n=14)+Median (p25-p75). Raynaud’s phenomenon (n=64)+ Chi square test ++ Kruskal-Wallis test

Conclusion: Patients with SSc and SS have a high prevalence of capillaroscopic abnormalities with statistically significant differences compared to the pRP group. The high frequency of dilated capillaries in SS stands out, as well as common arbor capillaries and scleroderma patterns.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0836 ANTI-SAE ANTIBODY-POSITIVE DERMATOMYOSITIS: CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS FROM AN ITALIAN COHORT

Keywords: Myositis

R. Depascuale¹, A. Ghirardello¹, E. Zanatta¹, M. Gatto¹, M. Zen¹, L. Iacarino¹, A. Doria¹, University of Padua, Rheumatology, Padua, Italy
Background: Anti-small ubiquitin-like modifier-1 activating enzyme (anti-SAE) antibodies are rare myositis-specific antibodies, which are mainly associated with cutaneous involvement in inflammatory myositis (IIM).

Objectives: To analyse clinical characteristics of anti-SAE positive Dermatomyositis (DM) patients in a monocentric cohort. We focused on clinical manifestations and type of organ involvement.

Methods: In a monocentric cohort of 169 patients with IIM, anti-SAE antibody-positive patients were included in the study. Anti-SAE antibodies were investigated by immunoblotting. We considered the presentation symptoms at disease onset and during follow-up, focusing on musculoskeletal, cutaneous and pulmonary domains. Muscular involvement was evaluated by Manual Muscle Test-B and creatin kinase (CK) levels. To determine intestinal lung disease (ILD), high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) was performed at diagnosis and during follow-up and evaluated by an expert radiologist. Skin and joint involvement was evaluated by clinical judgment. Therapeutic approach was also considered.

Results: Of the 169 patients with IIM, 6 were positive for anti-SAE antibodies (3.5%). Among them, five were female and one male. The mean age at onset of symptoms was 46.3 years (range 5-78 years). Cutaneous manifestations were the most prevalent clinical features at disease onset. Indeed, all of the patients had photosensitive rash, heliotrope rash and Gottron papules. Mechanic’s hands were noted only in one patient with ILD. Four (70%) had arthritis. Muscular involvement, which was mostly mild, was evidenced by muscular weakness and high levels of CK (mean value 358 U/l) in 30% of patients (n=2). Three patients (50%) had radiological evidence of ILD at onset or during follow-up. Non-specific Intestinal Pneumonia (NSIP) was the main pattern found. Story of malignancy was noted only in the male patient. Half of the patients (n=3) were treated with methotrexate (MTX). Because of drug intolerance, MTX was substituted by mycophenolate mophetil (MMF) in two of them. One patient received intravenous immunonoglobulin (IGIV) and cyclophosphamide (CYC) for persistent cutaneous disease activity.

Conclusion: In our small cohort of patients, anti-SAE antibodies were strongly associated with skin disease, in one case severe. Lung involvement was another common clinical feature described and malignancy was noted in one case.

Table 1. Clinical and serological characteristics of anti-SAE positive patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
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<th>Case 6</th>
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<td>Age of onset (years)</td>
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<td>61</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years)</td>
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<td>61</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>78</td>
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<td>Gender</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<td>Mechanic’s hand</td>
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<td>Intestinal lung</td>
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<td>Laboratory values</td>
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<td>CK (U/L)</td>
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<td>564</td>
<td>110</td>
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<td>AST (U/L)</td>
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AB0837  EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF RITUXIMAB AND MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL COMBINATION THERAPY FOR IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: A MONOCENTRIC REAL-LIFE STUDY

Keywords: Myositis, bDMARD, Lungs

C. Campochiaro1, G. De Luca1, G. Trignani1, A. Tomelleri1, M. Matucci-Cerinic1, L. Dagna1. 1IRCCS San Raffaele, Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases, Milan, Italy

Background: Due to a lack of robust clinical evidence, no defined recommendations for the treatment of refractory idiopathic immune myopathies (IIMs) exist. Hence, management of IIMs is still challenging.

Objectives: To assess the real-life effectiveness and safety of rituximab (RTX) and mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) combination therapy in severe and refractory IIMs.

Methods: Adult patients with IIMs (*2017 EULAR/ACR classification criteria1*) followed up at our Myositis Clinic and treated with a combination of RTX and MMF were identified. IMACS six core set measures (i.e., VAS physician; VAS patient; MTX; HAQ; muscle enzymes; extramuscular assessment, including MITAX, MYOACT scores) were recorded at three different time points (baseline, 6-month, and 12-month after first RTX infusion). Subgroup analyses according to the involvement of specific organs (heart, lung) were performed. Safety was assessed.

Results: We identified 20 IIM patients (ASS, n=12; dermatomyositis, n=2; polymyositis, n=2; immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy, n=1; overlap myositis, n=3). Median age was 61 (48-71) years; 14 patients were women (70%). Myocarditis and interstitial lung disease (ILD) were identified in 7 (35%) and 15 (75%) patients, respectively; 6 patients (30%) had arthritis and 3 (15%) had dysphagia. MMF was started after a median of 2 (0-76) months since diagnosis. RTX was always started after MMF (after a median of 22.5 (10-122) months), and administered at a dose of 1 g 2-week apart repeated 6 monthly. MMF dose was reduced in all patients (to 1 g daily, n=3, 15%; to 2 g daily, n=17, 85%) after RTX introduction. Adjunctive treatments were glucocorticoids (n=17), hydroxychloroquine (n=5), intravenous immunoglobulins (n=3). At 6 months, IMACS core set measures significantly improved all but MTM8 (Figure). A significant reduction of CPK and CRP levels and of prednisone (PDN) daily dose was observed (Table). In addition, a reduction in troponin T levels in patients with myocarditis and a stabilization of functional parameters in patients with ILD were observed (Table). At 12 months, a further reduction in the PDN dose and a further significant reduction in troponin T levels in patients with myocarditis were observed (Table). No patient had severe infections; 10 patients (50%) had mild infections (the most common upper respiratory tract infection, n=6).

Conclusion: Combination treatment with RTX and MMF could represent an effective and safe option in patients with severe and refractory IIMs.

REFERENCES:

Table. Baseline and follow-up parameters in IIM patients treated with RTX + MMF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>p-value (versus 6 months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PDN dose, mg daily median 1</td>
<td>8.75</td>
<td>5 (0-5)</td>
<td>0 (0-5)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPK (U/L)</td>
<td>439 (129)</td>
<td>141 (73)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.131</td>
<td>0.343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>-971</td>
<td>-299</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.714</td>
<td>0.373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropin T (ng/mL)</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>214 (197)</td>
<td>0.046</td>
<td>0.199</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC (%)**</td>
<td>79.6 (67-96)</td>
<td>77 (68-89)</td>
<td>0.600</td>
<td>0.844</td>
<td>0.128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEVI (%)**</td>
<td>83 (73-98)</td>
<td>71 (68-88)</td>
<td>0.461</td>
<td>0.75 (75-109)</td>
<td>0.236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO (%)**</td>
<td>69 (45-62)</td>
<td>42 (32-80)</td>
<td>0.115</td>
<td>0.40 (39-76)</td>
<td>0.173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*only among patients with cardiac involvement; **only among patients with ILD
**Results:**

The mean age at diagnosis was 50.3 ±14.5 years and a mean disease duration 10.2 ±9.0 years. Leaving aside Raynaud's phenomenon and sclerodactyly, gastrointestinal involvement (71.4%), ulcers (46.2%) and arthritis (45.1%) were among the most prevalent clinical manifestations. Mean baseline FEV1 and FVC values were normal (83.4%±16.8 and 84.4%±18.5 respectively, while mean baseline DLCO was pathological (82.6±18.9). All patients underwent a high-resolution CT early at diagnosis and upon rheumatologist's/pulmonologist's judgement afterwards. Eighty-one patients (89.0%) were diagnosed with interstitial lung disease (76.0% had NSIP pattern, 24.0% UIP pattern). Patients with NSIP had better scores in lung function tests than those with UIP pattern (Mean difference in scores in lung function tests than those with UIP pattern (Mean difference in FEV1, FVC and DLCO were 13.3%, 17.7%, and 12% respectively, p<0.05 for all comparisons). Positivity for anti-topoisomerase antibody (ScI-70) presented an OR=24.9 (p=0.001) for ILD, while ACA and anti-CEP-B were negatively associated (OR=0.114, p=0.003 and OR=0.164, p=0.024, respectively). Pulmonary hypertension based on echocardiogram findings was reported in 19 patients (19.8%), however PAH based on right heart catheterization (RHC) was confirmed in 11 of them (12.1% of total patients). Anti-Ro52 positivity was associated with PH (OR=4.45, p=0.005) and PH-ILD coexistence (OR=5.18, p=0.002), however no association was found for ILD presence in this cohort. There was also a trend for PAH-RHC, but it did not reach statistical significance. Cardiac MRI was performed in 24 patients, and non-ischemic myocardial fibrosis (compatible with SSc involvement) was identified in 18/24. The mean disease duration in MF group was longer (8.7 ±7 vs 3.3 ±4.3, p=0.040). Gastrointestinal involvement seems to confer an increased risk for this complication (OR=10.0, p=0.038).

**Conclusion:**

The estimated ILD prevalence in our study is significantly higher than the one reported in the literature. As a referral centre, the patients reaching to our department probably have worse organ involvement than the average patient of primary care setting. In addition, universal screening with a baseline HRCT and close monitoring lead to an earlier identification of this population. Anti-Ro52 has been recently reported as an independent risk factor for PAH. Our results could not verify this observation, probably due to the relatively small number of PAH patients in our study. Cardiac MRI availability and radiologist's experience are essential for MF diagnosis. It is our belief that larger studies are necessary to evaluate this population.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/nnrheumdis-2023-eular.5554

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**Figure.** IMACS core set measures at 6 and 12 months in ILMs patients who received RTX and MMF combination treatment. *p = P value < 0.05

**A0838**

**PULMONARY AND CARDIOVASCULAR MANIFESTATIONS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: RESULTS FROM A SSc PATIENTS COHORT AT A TERTIARY CENTRE OF NW GREECE**

**Keywords:** Lungs, Cardiovascular disease, Systemic sclerosis

**N. Gerolymatou**1, N. Koletsos2, M. Karakosta1, T. E. Memi1, A. Drosos1, P. Voulgaris1, University Hospital of Ioannina, Rheumatology Clinic, Ioannina, Greece

**Background:** Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) is a connective tissue disease affecting multiple systems, including the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Among the various disease complications, interstitial lung disease (ILD), pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and lately recognized- myocardial fibrosis (MF), are those mainly related to reduced life expectancy.

**Objectives:** We aimed to evaluate the prevalence of SSc complications and to investigate possible associations with patients' clinical and serological characteristics.

**Methods:** Patients fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2013 Scleroderma criteria, who were followed at our tertiary rheumatology centre between January 2018 and December 2022, were included in our cohort. Demographic, clinical, and serological characteristics, as well as imaging data (high-resolution chest CT, cardiac MRI) were collected and the CV risk factors, instrumental and laboratory assessments were collected and the CV risk [4]. The publication of 2022 EULAR Recommendations on cardiovascular (CV) involvement in rheumatic diseases asserting that “the use of ASA in SSc is not recommended for primary prevention” because of “data about this topic were not found” caused uncertainty to justify the use of this drug [5].

**Objectives:** Aim of our study was to evaluate the safety of ASA in a cohort of pts affected by SSc.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed data from patients with SSc, fulfilling the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria [6], followed in our Scleroderma Clinic, receiving ASA. Analysis included data from subjects that were not treated with ASA, as control group. Exclusion criteria were CV disorders and/or major bleeding occurred before the evaluation, treatment with ASA started before the diagnosis of SSc, Helicobacter pylori-related gastritis or other causes of gastritis not SSc-related, tumors, anticoagulant or other anti-platelet therapies. Demographic, clinical, ongoing therapies data were examined; conventional cardiovascular risk factors, instrumental and laboratory assessments were collected and the CV risk was calculated using the SCORE2 and/or SCORE2-OP [7]. All data were collected for a follow-up time variable from 2 to 10 years since ASA was prescribed (for cases) and since the first rheumatologic visit after diagnosis was done for controls (TO). Safety data included the following variables:

- major bleeding (requiring blood transfusion and/or leading to death)
- minor bleeding
- intracranial hemorrhage
- ocular hemorrhage requiring immediate treatment
- gastroenteric tract hemorrhage
- gastroenteric tract neoplasm
- gastric ulcer

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/nnrheumdis-2023-eular.5554

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**AB0839**

**SAFETY OF LOW-DOSE ACETYL SALICYLIC ACID IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY**

**Keywords:** Safety, Cardiovascular disease, Systemic sclerosis

G. Pellegrino1, M. D’orsio1, M. Caldera1, I. Bisconti1, D. M. Reza Beigi1, F. R. Di Ciommo1, S. Truglia1, F. Conti1, V. Ricci1, Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology and Cardiovascular Sciences, Rome, Italy

**Background:** The low-dose acetyl salicylic acid (ASA) is often used among patients with Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) in clinical practice since its use is not mentioned in any official document concerning the management of SSc [1]. Recently, a study from EUSTAR database demonstrated that anti-platelet therapy is a protective factor for digital ulcers onset, while Valentini et al associated the use of ASA with a lower incidence of primary cardiac involvement in Ssc patients [2,3]. On the other hand SSc has been shown to be one of the autoimmune diseases with the highest CV risk [4]. The publication of 2022 EULAR Recommendations on cardiovascular (CV) involvement in rheumatic diseases asserting that “the use of ASA in SSc is not recommended for primary prevention” because of “data about this topic were not found” caused uncertainty to justify the use of this drug [5].

**Objectives:** Aim of our study was to evaluate the safety of ASA in a cohort of pts affected by SSc.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed data from patients with SSc, fulfilling the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria [6], followed in our Scleroderma Clinic, receiving ASA. Analysis included data from subjects that were not treated with ASA, as control group. Exclusion criteria were CV disorders and/or major bleeding occurred before the evaluation, treatment with ASA started before the diagnosis of SSc, Helicobacter pylori-related gastritis or other causes of gastritis not SSc-related, tumors, anticoagulant or other anti-platelet therapies. Demographic, clinical, ongoing therapies data were examined; conventional cardiovascular risk factors, instrumental and laboratory assessments were collected and the CV risk was calculated using the SCORE2 and/or SCORE2-OP [7]. All data were collected for a follow-up time variable from 2 to 10 years since ASA was prescribed (for cases) and since the first rheumatologic visit after diagnosis was done for controls (TO). Safety data included the following variables:

- major bleeding (requiring blood transfusion and/or leading to death)
- minor bleeding
- intracranial hemorrhage
- ocular hemorrhage requiring immediate treatment
- gastroenteric tract hemorrhage
- gastroenteric tract neoplasm
- gastric ulcer

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/nnrheumdis-2023-eular.5554
**Methods:** Data were collected from 121 SSc pts, 71 cases and 50 controls. From the analysis of gastrovascular involvement at T0 control pts showed more frequently endoscopic gastrovascular lesions of the upper gastrovascular tract respect to cases (N-% controls vs cases: 8.16% vs 4.6%; p-value 0.0039). Among traditional CV risk factors we found that cases were more frequently smokers than controls (N-% cases vs controls: 15.21% vs 2.4%; p-value 0.007), but no difference was found with either of the other traditional CV risk factors or with the CV risk scores, calculated with SCORE2, between cases and controls. Our analysis didn’t reveal any significant difference on the occurrence of adverse events concerning ASA safety between the two groups; after 1 year of treatment with ASA, 4 subjects showed minor bleeding and in one case a gastric neoplasm was diagnosed, after 2 years of treatment 2 pts reported minor bleeding, while just 1 case showed minor bleeding after 5 years of treatment. Among controls, the onset of gastric ulcers in one subject only was reported after 2 years of follow-up.

**Conclusion:** Despite the long period of ASA treatment, we didn’t find a significant increase in the frequency of related adverse events in our pts. ASA seems to be a manageable therapy and, since the high CV risk associated with SSc [4], very similar to that showed by pts with diabetes mellitus where in some cases the use of ASA in primary prevention is recommended, we suggest a reassessment of EULAR Recommendations together with other studies on larger cohort of SSc pts. In order to confirm the safety of ASA.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5666

**AB0840 ACUTE VASCULAR EFFECTS OF INTRAVENOUS ILOPROST IN SCLERODERMA PATIENTS CAN BE DETECTED BY POWER DOPPLER EXAMINATION OF THE FINGER SUBCUTANEOUS TISSUE**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Imaging

S. Testoni1, L. Magnani2, A. Spinnelli3, C. Salvanari1,2, D. Giuggioli1, P. Macchioni2. Università degli studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology Unit, Modena, Italy; 1IRCSS Santa Maria Nuova, Rheumatology Unit, Reggio Emilia, Italy

**Background:** Intravenous iloprost (ILO) is used in the treatment of refractory Raynaud phenomenon and scleroderma (SSc) digital ulcers. To date, there are no recommended imaging modalities to monitor ILO vascular effects. So far few studies explored ultrasound (US) as a tool to assess vascular subcutaneous involvement in patients affected by SSc.

**Objectives:** We aim to evaluate the acute vascular effects of intravenous ILO infusion by power Doppler US (PDUS) examination at periungal (PU) and finger pulp (FP) subcutaneous areas in a consecutive series of SSc patients.

**Methods:** Ten consecutive SSc patients who met the ACR/EULAR criteria for SSc referring to our tertiary center for ILO infusions were enrolled in the study. FP and PU vascularization of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finger of the dominant hand were evaluated before and after ILO infusion (dosage 0.5-2.0 ng/kg/min for 4-6 hours) using an Esaote MylabClassC (Genoa, Italy) machine equipped with a 22-8 MHz multifrequency linear probe. All the exams were performed after at least 30 minutes of acclimation in a room with an ambient temperature ranging from 20 to 22°C by the same operator (PM). All the images with the highest presence of PD signal were stored for subsequent examination by a rheumatologist (ST) blind to the sequency of the images. The presence of PD signal in every image was scored according to a semiquantitative 0-3 scale (grade 0 no vessels; grade 1: 1-2 visible vessels; grade 2: 3 to 5 vessels, and grade 3 more than 5 vessels). The value of each finger (FP & PU) were summed up to obtain a total patient PD score and values before and after ILO treatment were compared by T-test for paired samples. Single fingers PD improvements after infusion were summed obtaining total improvement respectively for the PU and FP areas.

**Results:** Clinical and laboratory features of the enrolled patients are reported in Table 1. Mean total PU PD score was 4.2±2.2 at T0 and increased to 7.3±2.5 after treatment (p=0.012). Mean total FP PD score was 2.2±1.8 at T0 and remained unchanged (2.8±1.68) at T1 (p= 0.475). The median number of fingers/patient with PU PD improvement after treatment was 2 (1-3), while the median number of fingers/patient with FP PD improvement was 0.5 [0-3].

**Conclusion:** PDUS examination of the PU area could demonstrate an ILO acute effect in SSc patients with long-lasting disease.

**REFERENCES:**


Table 1. Clinical, laboratory and power doppler ultrasound characteristics of our patients, before and after iloprost treatment. SD: standard deviation; ERA: endothelin receptors antagonists; CCB: calcium channel blockers; PDE5i: Phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors; ENA: extractable nuclear antigen; ACA: Anti-centromere antibody; RNA: ribonucleic acid; PD: power doppler; PU: periungal; FP: finger pulp.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5735

**AB0841 CONCORDANCE AND PROGNOSTIC RELEVANCE OF DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE PROGRESSION**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Lungs, Outcome measures

E. De Lorenzi1,2, G. Natalello3, S. Di Donato4, L. Verardi2, P. G. Cerasuolo2, V. Kakkar1, M. A. D’Agostino2, F. Del Galdo1, S. L. Bosello3, Scleroderma Program, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of
Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine University of Leeds, Leeds (United Kingdom), Leeds, United Kingdom; Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Policlínico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Roma, Italy, Rheumatology Department, Roma, Italy

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a common complication of systemic sclerosis (SSc) with a variable natural history and prognosis. Several definitions of SSc-ILD progression have been proposed including minimal clinical change, worsening of forced vital capacity (FVC) MCIW, European Scleroderma Trials and Research group (EUSTAR) progression, Outcome Measures in Rheumatology Clinical Trials (OMERACT) progression, and Erie ILD working group progression. The aim of the study was to assess concordance and prognostic value of these different definitions in SSc-ILD patients overall and specific clinical subsets.

Objectives: Progression status was assessed in consecutive SSc-ILD patients over a period of 24 months and the mortality related to SSc-ILD was compared between progressors and non-progressors according to different definitions in the subsequent 60 months. Severe baseline pulmonary functional impairment was defined for a combination of FVC<80% and alveolar diffusion of CO (DLco) <50% of predicted.

Methods: Progression status was assessed in consecutive SSc-ILD patients over a period of 24 months and the mortality related to SSc-ILD was compared between progressors and non-progressors according to different definitions in the subsequent 60 months. Severe baseline pulmonary functional impairment was defined for a combination of FVC<80% and alveolar diffusion of CO (DLco) <50% of predicted.

Results: The retrospective analysis included 245 SSc-ILD patients (age 54.6±13.2 years, male 18.8%) with a 54.7% prevalence of diffuse cutaneous variant and a median disease duration of 4 years (IQR 2-8). Disease duration ≤3 years, severe pulmonary functional impairment, and pulmonary artery systolic pressure (PASP) 40 mmHg were reported in the 43.8%, 18.0% and 17.1% of patients, respectively. Twenty-six deaths were reported among enrollees diagnosed and progression according to FVC MCIW (HR 2.27, 95% CI 1.03 - 4.97, p=0.041), OMERACT (HR 2.90, 95% CI 1.28 - 6.57, p=0.011), and Erice criteria (HR 11.02, 95% CI 2.38 - 51.08, p=0.002) were associated with mortality in the whole cohort. Prognosis prediction, considering the 4 different definitions of progression status, was challenging (independently from the adopted criteria) in patients with disease duration >3 years, mild pulmonary function test impairment, and PASP ≤40 mmHg. Erice criteria performed better in patients with disease duration ≤3 years, limited cutaneous variant, and PASP ≤40 mmHg, while OMERACT criteria in patients with diffuse cutaneous variant, and severe baseline pulmonary functional impairment.

Conclusion: The proposed progression definitions of SSc-ILD are not interchangeable, since up to one third of progressors could be misdiagnosed using different criteria. Regardless of the criteria used, progressor patients presented more frequently a diffuse skin variant of the disease, a shorter disease duration and worse baseline functional impairment of the lung.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5871

AB0843 THE EXPRESSION PROFILING OF CIRCULATING MIRNAS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Genetics/Epigenetics, Systemic sclerosis

S. Machhul1, R. Minz1, S. K. Sharma1,2, Y. Kumar1, S. Singh1, S. Anand1, S. Handa1,2 Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Immunopathology, Chandigarh, India; 3Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Internal Medicine, Chandigarh, India; 3Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Department of Dermatology, Venerology and Leprosy, Chandigarh, India

Title: The expression profiling of circulating miRNAs in systemic sclerosis.

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a rare chronic disease of unknown etiology. Genetics plays an important role in SSc's pathogenesis; however, considering genetic factors alone does not explain the disease's occurrence, epigenetic influences are also believed to contribute to SSc development [1]. miRNAs are reportedly to be aberrantly expressed in SSc patients and, therefore, potential contributors to its pathogenesis. The role of miRNAs in SSc is just beginning to unravel [2].

Objectives: To investigate the expression profile of circulating miRNAs in SSc. Method: Whole blood miRNA (84 miRNAs involved in human fibrosis) transcripts were identified by miScript miRNA PCR Array using RT-qPCR.

Results: Fourteen miRNAs (6 upregulated -hsa-mir-145-5p, hsa-mir-150-5p, hsa-mir-18a-5p, hsa-mir-195-5p, hsa-mir-223-3p, hsa-mir-29c-3p; 8 downregulated- hsa-mir-211-5p, hsa-mir-217, hsa-mir-31-5p, hsa-mir-328-3p, hsa-mir-335-5p, hsa-mir-382-5p, hsa-mir-449a, hsa-mir-661) showed differential expression compared to controls. IPA (Ingenuity Pathway Analysis) predicted miRNA-mRNA targets gene (hsa-mir-145-5p, hsa-mir-18a-5p, and hsa-mir-449a- TGFβ1), were validated through qRT-PCR and found to be dysregulated in the SSc patients, DIANA-Mir Path v3.0 pathway analysis showed dysregulated miRNAs were associated with pathways implicated in SSc's pathogenesis (Figure 1).

Conclusion: The differentially expressed miRNA and their putative mRNA targets and associated pathways may provide diagnostic biomarkers as well as potential therapeutic targets for SSc treatments.

REFERENCES:


Figure 1. Through DIANA-miRPath v3.0, we generated hierarchical clustering of miRNAs and pathways based on their interaction levels.

Acknowledgements: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5902

AB0844

ARTERIAL ISCHEMIC EVENTS AND VENOUS THROMBOSIS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: DATA FROM A MONO-CENTRIC STUDY

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Comorbidities, Systemic sclerosis
A. Dellal1, O. Fain2, A. Mekinian3.
1Intercommunal Hospital Group Le Raincy; 2Montfermeil, RHEUMATOLOGY, Montfermeil, France; 3Hospital Saint-Antoine Ap-Hp, Internal medicine, Paris, France; 4Hospital Saint-Antoine Ap-Hp, INTERNAL MEDICINE, Paris, France

Background: Systemic sclerosis is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by vasculopathy (Raynaud phenomena), pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), and renal crisis, fibrosis of skin and visceral organs (notably the gut, heart, and lungs), and musculoskeletal inflammation (joints, muscles, and tendons) [1]. Inflammation drives atherosclerosis and contributes to cardiovascular (CV) disease [2]. A few studies have examined the incidence of individual macrovascular manifestations such as myocardial infarction, stroke, peripheral artery disease, and venous thromboembolism [3-4-6].

Objectives: Our aim was to assess the incidence and the arterial ischemic events and venous thrombosis rates of SSc in our database. We also investigated underlying the classical risk factors for venous thromboembolism (VTE) unprovoked (deep venous thrombosis and pulmonary emboli not associated with cancer, recent surgery, hospitalization, fracture and pregnancy) and ASCVD (myocardial infarction and stroke).

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis of 212 patients (86% female) with a diagnosis of SSc. We identified a total of 7 (3%) and 26 (12%) patients respectively with arterial ischemic events or venous thrombosis, and 6 (3%) additional patients had both arterial and venous thrombosis, with an event duration of median 10(5-34) and 6 (0-55) years of follow-up. Venous thrombosis (VT) is present in 26 patients (12%), active or historic neoplasia is present in 4 patients (15%) of VT. In comparison with patient without VT, 20 patients (11%) have a neoplasia. Arterial ischemic events are also most frequent in female sex n=6 (66%) with all patients (100%) have a limited sclerosis, antinuclear antibodies and Raynaud phenomena, but no difference with the control group without thrombotic events. The prevalence of most cardiovascular disorders was found to be higher in the SSC with limited sclerosis than in diffuse sclerosis. The tobacco use, alcohol is not associated of increase risk of thromboembolic events. The presence of other autoimmune tissue disorders is not significant (p=0.0003) associated of increase rate among patients with SSc with thrombotic events than without. Further adjustment for medications (aspirin, NSAIDs, glucocorticoids, statins, oral anticoagulants, and platelet inhibitors) and comorbidities yielded results similar to the main analyses, except for ischemic stroke.

Conclusion: In this monocentric study, SSc was associated with greater risks of venous thrombosis and ischemic events, with a mortality rate in group with arterial ischemic events. There is no significant statistic difference associated of the classical risk factors of venous thromboembolism, comorbidity and the arterial ischemic events and venous thrombosis in systemic sclerosis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5924

AB0845

A NOVEL MARKER IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE: PEROXIREDOXIN-4

Keywords: Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis, Lungs
G.T. Alp1, H. Karadeniz2, V. Vasi3, A. Avanougu Guler4, A. Erden2, H. Küçük2, O. Gubashar5, A. Tulat2, M. A. Öztürk6. 1Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 2Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Medical Biochemistry, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Krebs von den Lungen-6 (KL-6) and surfactant protein D (SP-D) are suggested as useful markers for the evaluation of systemic sclerosis associated interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD) [1-3]. Increased expression of Peroxiredoxin-4 (PRDX-4) mRNA had been demonstrated in the lung tissue of patients with ILD [4]. PRDX-4, a member of peroxidases family, has not been studied as a marker in SSc-ILD before.

Objectives: Aim of this study was to assess the clinical significance of serum PRDX-4 as a viable alternative to KL-6 and SP-D in patients with SSc-ILD.

Methods: The serum PRDX-4, KL-6 and SP-D levels were determined by ELISA in 61 patients with SSc(34 with ILD and 27 without ILD) and 28 healthy controls. Lung function parameters were assessed, the extent of ILD was measured by a HRCT score.

Results: PRDX-4 levels were significantly higher in patients with SSc-ILD than in SSc without ILD patients and controls (14.27(26.14) vs. 10.17(3.22) vs. 9.68(2.06) ng/ml, median(IQR), p=0.001). KL-6 levels were also remarkably different between groups [134.25(224.28) vs. 103.90(34.81) vs. 92.84(28.26) U/ml, median(IQR), p=0.002]). Moreover PRDX-4, KL-6 and SP-D levels in patients with progressive ILD were significantly higher in stable ILD patients >0.001. PRDX-4, KL-6 and SP-D were correlated each other(p<0.01). Receiver operator characteristic curve analysis demonstrated high sensitivity and specificity of PRDX-4 for the determination of SSc-ILD and progressive pulmonary fibrosis. (AUC=0.705, p=0.01 and AUC=0.936, p<0.001).

Conclusion: PRDX-4 is more sensitive and specific than KL-6 and SP-D and it is a potentially useful marker in assessing intestinal lung disease and progressive pulmonary fibrosis in patients with SSc.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Baseline characteristics of study population

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Number of population</th>
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<td>Female n, (%)</td>
<td>81 (91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean±SD, years)</td>
<td>50.81±12.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited/Inactive SSC n, (%)</td>
<td>43/70/5/18/20/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groups n, (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC with ILD</td>
<td>34(38.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC without ILD</td>
<td>27(30.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls</td>
<td>28(31.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD Patrons on HRTC n, (%)</td>
<td>2(5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usual intestinal pneumonia</td>
<td>28/62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrotic Non-specific intestinal pneumonia</td>
<td>3(8.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular Non-specific intestinal pneumonia</td>
<td>12/2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: SSC systemic sclerosis, ILD interstitial lung disease, HRTC high resolution computer tomography

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5931

AB0846 EFFICACY OF RITUXIMAB IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES. EXPERIENCE ON 36 PATIENTS FROM A PROSPECTIVE MONOCENTRIC COHORT

Keywords: Myositis

A. Gamba1, L. Iacarino2, E. Cocconcelli3, E. Zanatta2, R. Depascale2, L. Iennari, E. Balestri3,3, M. Zen2, M. Gatto2, A. Doria2.1 Padova University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Padova, Italy; 2 Padova University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Padova, Italy; 3 Padova University Hospital, Department of Pneumology, Padova, Italy

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies are a heterogeneous group of autoimmune disorders characterized by muscle inflammation frequently associated with the involvement of other organ systems. Due to variety of presentations and severity degree, treatment of inflammatory myopathies is challenging. Considering the immunopathogenic role of B cell in myositis, Rituximab (RTX), as B cell depleting agent, could be an effective therapy in patients refractory to others immunomodulatory drugs.

Objectives: The aim of the present study is to demonstrate the efficacy of RTX for the treatment of idiopathic inflammatory myopathies in multi refractory patients. We also considered the effectiveness of a low-dose RTX as a remission-maintenance therapy.

Methods: From a monocentric cohort of patients with inflammatory myopathies, we considered all patients who have been treated with RTX (2 infusions of 1 gram, week 0-2). We also considered low-dose RTX as a single dose of 1g every 6 months. The response to RTX was considered based on physician judgement (complete CR, partial PR, no-response NR), focused on muscle and lung manifestations. Improvement in muscle involvement was based on reduction of 30% of creatine kinase levels and/or an increase in Manual Muscle Test score (MMT-8) of 20%. Intestinal Lymphatic disease (ILD) was evaluated by pneumologist judgment based on chest computer tomography and spirometry. A response was considered partial if it was maintained less than 6 months from RTX administration and complete if it persisted more than 6 months.

Results: Thirty-six patients were included, 15 with diagnosis of polymyositis, 13 with antisynthetase syndrome, 6 with dermatomyositis, 1 with inclusion body myositis and 1 with necrotizing myopathy. Anti-Jo1 autoantibodies were found in 12 patients, anti-SSA in 9, anti-SSB in 5, anti-PM/Scl 75 in 2, anti-Mi2 in 2, anti-PL1 in 1, anti-PL2 in 1, anti-PL in 1, anti-SSB in 1, anti-TIF1 in 1, anti-Ku in 1 and anti-Sp100 in 1. Most patients (50 %, n=18) were treated with RTX for muscle involvement, 17 % (n=6) for ILD, 33 % (n=12) for both muscular and lung disease. All patients received oral glucocorticoid before starting RTX administration. The others previous therapies were: methotrexate in 72% of patients, myophenolate motefil in 50%, IVIG in 27%, azathioprine in 22%, hydroxychloroquine in 14%, cyclosporine in 14%, leflunomide in 11%, tacrolimus in 3%, cyclophosphamide in 3%. We observed CR to RTX in 70% of patients, PR in 19%, NR in 11%. In the subgroup treated for muscle involvement (n=18), we found a CR in 10 patients, a PR in 5 and NR in 3. In patients with ILD, 8 patients got a CR and 1 PR. In the group of patients with both lung and muscle manifestations, we observed 10 CR, 1 PR and 1 NR. Five patients were treated with a low dose maintenance therapy after having achieved remission with standard dose. Three patients had a diagnosis of polymyositis, one of dermatomyositis and one of antisynthetase syndrome. Patients received a minimum of 3 infusions and a maximum of 5 infusions of low dose RTX. Therapy was administered for an average of 3 years. All of them maintained a CR to RTX.

Conclusion: In our cohort, RTX was effective in 89% multi-drug refractory patients and the low-dose was efficacious as a maintenance therapy in all cases.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5986

AB0847 COMORBITIES IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: DATA FROM THE MYOCITE COHORT

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Myositis, Comorbidities

E. Conticini1, T. Khursheed2, A. K. Anuja3, V. Agarwal3, L. Gupta4,5,6.1 University of Siena, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Surgery & Neurosciences, Siena, Italy; 2Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Rheumatology, Islamabad, Pakistan; 3Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 4Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom; 5City Hospital, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 6Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Manchester, Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Patients affected by idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) may suffer from comorbidities such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases, calling for optimized evaluation and additional management.

Objectives: We aimed to explore the prevalence and profile of comorbidities in a cohort of Indian patients diagnosed with IIM, and to explore their association with a disease subtype and autoantibodies.

Methods: Information on demographics, disease subtype and autoantibodies in Indian patients with IIM were extracted from the MyoCite dataset. Comorbidities were classified as autoimmune, cardiovascular, cancer, infections, Diabetes Mellitus and others. Pearson's chi-square and Fisher’s exact test were used to assess differences in the occurrence of any comorbidity between the various IIM subtypes and antibodies.

Results: Of 250 patients (F:M 3.9:1, median age 36.0 ± 15.4), the majority (110, 44.0%) were diagnosed with dermatomyositis (DM), followed by overlap myositis (OM) (59, 23.6%) and anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS) (45, 18.0%). Patients with comorbidities had a higher median age (40 ± 13.9 years) compared to patients without comorbidities (35 ± 16 years) without any statistical significance. A statistically significant increase (P<0.001) in female to male ratio was observed in patients with comorbidities (10.5:1) compared to patients without comorbidities (2.3:1). Female gender was associated with higher odds of any comorbidity (OR = 4.58; 95 CI = 2.17-9.65). Comorbidities were identified in nearly half (115, 46.0%) of the patients, with autoimmune comorbidities being the most common (72/115, 62.6%) followed by cardiovascular (38/115, 33.0%) and infections (24/115, 20.9%). Hypertension was identified as the most common comorbidity (38/115 33.0%) overall, followed by thyroiditis (26/115, 22.6%) and mixed connective tissue disease (23/115, 20.0%). Statistically significant differences (P<0.001) in frequency of comorbidities was observed in DM (OR = 0.21; 95 CI = 0.12-0.36) and OM (OR = 136.3; 95 CI = 18.44-1008.45).

Conclusion: Despite younger population with IIM, comorbidities are frequently reported in nearly half of Indian patients with IIM. It is noteworthy that autoimmune comorbidities and infections are fairly common with substantial cardiovascular risk calling for optimized assessment and care.

REFERENCES:
**AB0848**

### DISEASE BURDEN IS ASSOCIATED WITH POOR PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES IN WOMEN'S HEALTH-RELATED DOMAINS OF QUALITY OF LIFE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A STUDY ON 100 PATIENTS BY A MULTIDIMENSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Quality of life, Gender/diversity issues

M. G. Lazzaroni1, L. Moschetti1, E. Pedretti1, A. Lojacono2, S. Zatti3, F. Ramazzotto2, A. Tincani1, F. Franceschini, P. Airò1, L. Andreoli1.

**Background:** Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) affects mostly women, with a significant impact on different domains of their quality of life (QoL).

**Objectives:** We aimed to identify clinical and demographic features of SSc women associated with impairment in specific QoL domains related to women's health (gynecological issues, sexual dysfunction, family planning), by means of a multidimensional ad hoc-created questionnaire.

**Methods:** The questionnaire was administered to consecutive SSc female patients attending our Unit over one year (May 2021-January 2022). The Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) questionnaire was also administered. Clinical and demographic data were retrieved from clinical charts.

**Results:** One hundred women were enrolled, with a median [IQR] age of 59 [43-67] years, median disease duration of 11 [6-17] years; 75% had limited cutaneous involvement (lcSSc); 43% had anti-centromere antibodies; 48% had received diagnosis during reproductive age (<45 years). Non-regular gynecological follow-up visits were reported by 40% of patients. They were older at diagnosis and at questionnaire, more frequently post-menopausal (p=0.003, OR 4.96, 95%CI 1.68-16.6) and required immunosuppression more frequently (p=0.006, OR 2.37, 95%CI 1.02-5.50) than those regularly attending visits (Table 1). A negative impact on SSc on sexual function was reported by 60% of patients. Among the 39 patients who compiled the FSFI questionnaire, 51% displayed sexual dysfunction (score ≤26.55). These women were older and more treated (p:0.013, OR 4.6, 95%CI 1.69-13.3) as compared to patients with normal sexual function (Table 1). Among 48 patients who were diagnosed during reproductive age, 54% wished for a pregnancy after diagnosis and 30% did not reach the desired family size. These were more frequently affected by digital ulcers (p=0.045, OR 10.5, 95%CI 1.03-103) as compared to those who satisfied their family plan (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** Older age at diagnosis, digital ulcers, and immunosuppressive treatment were associated with a negative impact on women's health-related domains of QoL in SSc patients. The disease burden impairs sexual function and adherence to regular gynecological visits and receiving diagnosis during reproductive age increases the likelihood for a reduced family size. Clinicians caring for SSc women should be aware of the relevance of these domains of QoL, not usually considered in everyday practice as treatment targets.

**References:**

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6187

Equations

Table 1 Determinants of gain in health utility scores of patients across time points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN Characteristics</th>
<th>R square</th>
<th>Beta 95% CI</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>R square</th>
<th>Beta 95% CI</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Age</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.09 -0.003</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.9 -0.001</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Baseline disease status</td>
<td>-0.35</td>
<td>-0.54 to &lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.026</td>
<td>0.067</td>
<td>-0.10 to &lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Change in MMT8</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.04 to 0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.006 to &lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Change in FIS</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01 to 0.02</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.0001 to &lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Descriptive Studies
C. Kavadichanda1, P.2, M. Gorijavolu1, S. K. Dunga1, S. Kar2, JIPMER, Clinical Immunology, Pondicherry, India; JIPMER, Preventive and Social Medicine, Puducherry, India

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are a heterogeneous group of diseases manifesting with involvement of the musculoskeletal, mucocutaneous and pulmonary domains. Studies have shown that the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in IIM is poorer than that in the general population with decreased muscle strength being associated with low HRQoL [1]. However, major-ity of the studies are cross sectional and the data on the use of EQ5D-5L based health utility measures in myositis is sparse.

Objectives: To quantify the EQ5D-5L based health utilisation scores and QALY in a cohort of IIM. To identify the determinants of gain in QALY in IIM.

Methods: This was a single center prospective study involving patients with IIM classified using the 2017 EULAR/ACR classification criteria. Patients were recruited between 2018 February and July 2022. All the patients were evaluated at 3 and 6 months with Manual muscle testing of 8 muscle groups (MMT-8), Functional index 3(FI3) and 2 minute walk distance (2MWD). The baseline and change in the core set measures. EQ5D-5L was administered to all the patients during each of their visits. The health utility scores for EQ5D-5L health states specific for Indian population was used (Table 1). The baseline and change in health-related quality and the impact of achieving early disease response was represented in Figure 1. Upon linear regression modelling with change in health utility scores at 0-3 months and 6 to-12 months the severity of disease at baseline determined the change. Improvement in MMT-8 and FI3 had significant predictability between 0-3 months but only change in MMT-8 had significant effect on improvement in health utility score between 3 and 6 months when adjusted for age and baseline disease status (Table 1).

Conclusion: The health-related quality of life at baseline and its improvement on follow up is extremely low in individuals with severe IIM. Achieving inactive disease status within 3 months results in significant QALY gain. Improvement in muscle power significantly determines improvement in health related quality of life when adjusted for other factors.

REFERENCES:

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REFERENCES:
AHSCCT is based on the ablation of the immune-reactive system with high doses of chemotherapy and a subsequent regeneration of the immune system. **Objectives:** Study of the efficacy of AHSCCT in a multicentric cohort of patients with SS.

**Methods:** Descriptive study of patients with SS (ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria) treated with AHSCCT between 2002 and 2022. These clinical variables were reviewed (Raynaud’s phenomenon, pulmonary interstitial involvement, digital ulcers, presence of scleroderemic renal crisis) and activity index variables (Modified Rodnan Score, HAQ-DI).

**Results:** We included 11 patients with a mean age of 43±12.1 years, with a mean time of disease of 17±12.6 months. In all cases but one, the initial diagnosis was diffuse cutaneous SS, refractory to corticosteroids and at least one DMARD (Methotrexate n=7, Rituximab n=4, Azathioprine n=3, Tollicublum n=1). One patient had a limited cutaneous SS and was treated with AHSCCT due to a concomitant Hodgkin lymphoma. All patients (100%) had positivity for anti-nuclear antibodies and & (72.7%) for anti-ScI/0. 11 patients (100%) presented Raynaud’s phenomenon and sclerodactylly and 9 (81.8%) suffered from skin ulcers. 7 patients (63.6%) had interstitial lung disease and 1 patient had history of scleroderemic renal crisis. The conditioning treatment for the AHSCCT was cyclophosphamide and anti-thymocyte globulin with the exception of 1 patient who developed an infusion reaction (in which the globulin was stopped) and 1 patient with Hodgkin lymphoma (who received a different chemotherapy schedule). After the AHSCCT, 1 patient (9.1%) died of cardiorespiratory arrest after acute pulmonary edema the day +65. Other adverse events observed were febrile neutropenia (n=8, 72.7%), mucositis (n=4, 36.4%), confirmed infection (n=3, 27.3%) and serum sickness (n=3, 27.3%). The response of AHSCCT is summarized in table. An improvement in Modified Rodnan Score, skin ulcers and HAQ-DI was observed.

**Conclusion:** AHSCCT can be a therapeutic option in refractory and severe SS. These hopeful data must be ratified in larger studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table.</th>
<th>BASAL</th>
<th>6 MONTHS</th>
<th>12 MONTHS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skin involvement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud – n (%)</td>
<td>11 (100)</td>
<td>10 (90.1)</td>
<td>9 (81.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sclerodactylya – n (%)</td>
<td>11 (100)</td>
<td>9 (81.8)</td>
<td>9 (81.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcers – n (%)</td>
<td>9 (81.8)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Rodnan Score</td>
<td>22.6±11.6</td>
<td>8.5±6.6</td>
<td>11.7±6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pulmonary function tests:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC – mean ± SD</td>
<td>89.0±11.9</td>
<td>94.2±9.9</td>
<td>90.9±17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEV1 – mean ± SD</td>
<td>89.2±15.2</td>
<td>96.3±9.7</td>
<td>92.9±19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO – mean ± SD</td>
<td>76.2±26.7</td>
<td>64.7±15.1</td>
<td>74.0±15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laboratory tests</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dl) – mean ± SD</td>
<td>3.1±3.0</td>
<td>0.5±0.4</td>
<td>0.48±0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR – mean ± SD</td>
<td>23.0±11.3</td>
<td>3.3±3.5</td>
<td>3.3±3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine – mean ± SD</td>
<td>0.7±0.2</td>
<td>0.8±0.2</td>
<td>0.7±0.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glomerular filtration rate – mean ± SD</td>
<td>100.7±15.3</td>
<td>99.3±13.5</td>
<td>98.7±16.0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Functional index</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI – mean ± SD/ median [ICR]</td>
<td>2.7±0.3</td>
<td>0.25 [0.5-0.6]</td>
<td>0.25 [0.3-0.8]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRP: C-Reactive Protein; DLCO:Diffusing capacity; ESR: Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate; FVC: Forced vital capacity; FEV1: Forced expiratory volume in 1 second; HAQ-DI=Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL. **Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared. **DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6404

**AB0853 ENDOTHELIAL DISFUNCTION MARKERS CAN BE REDUCED IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS BY BETA-ADRENERGIC TREATMENT**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Diet and Nutrition

A. Wolteczek1, Z. Zdrojewski2, M. Malgorzaczewicz2. 1Medical University of Gdańsk, Department of Internal Medicine, Connective Tissue Diseases and Geriatrics, Gdańsk, Poland; 2Medical University of Gdańsk, Department of Clinical Nutrition, Gdańsk, Poland

**Background:** Systemic sclerosis is a chronic autoimmune disease which is represented by progressive fibrosis, vascular impairment and immune abnormalities. In recent years metabolic and endothelial factors were reported as elements which play role in pathogenesis of systemic sclerosis (SSc). Adipokines, mediators secreted by adipose tissue, depends on fat mass and nutritional status. Ghrelin, a gut hormone, is a key regulator of metabolism of glucose, meal initiation and appetite. Another metabolic factor myostatin, is a myokine produced by muscles and is negative regulator of muscle growth. Endothelial factors such as endothelin 1 (endothelin 1) or endogenous vasosonstriclor (endothelin 3) and asymmetric dimethylarginine (ADMA, endogenous nitric oxide inhibitor) are important markers for vascular dysfunction.

**Objectives:** The aim of the study was to evaluate serum concentration of ghrelin, myostatin, adiponectin, wsistatin, chemerin, leptin, interleukin 6 (IL-6), endothelin 1 and ADMA in relation to the nutritional status of patients with SSc, and impact different treatment on these levels.

**Methods:** Study population consisted of 56 SSc patients (47 females, 9 males) and 49 healthy persons (42 females and 7 males). Demographic and clinical...
Clinical characteristics of patients with anti-mitochondrial antibodies compared with other myositis antibodies in a cohort of inflammatory myositis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical feature, n (%)</th>
<th>ARS Ab(+) (n=25)</th>
<th>Other myositis Ab(+) (n=57)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>53.6±34.59</td>
<td>33.7±21.67</td>
<td>0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>1.90±2.19</td>
<td>0.76±1.62</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFT</td>
<td>72.0±16.3</td>
<td>73.3±18.9</td>
<td>0.772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC</td>
<td>72.0±16.3</td>
<td>73.3±18.9</td>
<td>0.772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEV1</td>
<td>75.5±14.1</td>
<td>81.5±21.0</td>
<td>0.152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO</td>
<td>62.6±21.9</td>
<td>62.8±23.0</td>
<td>0.969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD (%)</td>
<td>22 (88.0)</td>
<td>34 (58.6)</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSIP</td>
<td>17 (70.8)</td>
<td>22 (44.9)</td>
<td>0.037</td>
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</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6476

References:

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Myositis, Epidemiology

J. Kim 1, 3Seoul National University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: The idiopathic Inflammatory Myositis (IIM) are heterogeneous with different clinical profiles associated with various myositis autoantibodies. Among the Myositis specific antibodies (MSA) antibodies against aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases(ARS) is related to the clinically unique IIM subsets, Antisynthetase syndrome(ASS). Objectives: The aim of this study was to identify the prevalence and clinical features of patients with ARS autoantibodies compared with other myositis antibodies in a single center cohort of IIM in Korea.

Methods: Adult patients diagnosed with IIM and positive for myositis antibodies were recruited in the myositis cohort from January 2020 to December 2022. Retrospective analysis was performed based on the clinical data including clinical features, laboratory data, high-resolution CT (HRCT) findings, and pulmonary function manifestations.

Results: Among 82 patients, 25 patients were positive for ARS autoantibodies and 57 patients had other myositis antibodies. The most common ARS antibody was anti-SSA/Ro (n=10) followed by anti-PL-7 (n=8), MSA other than ARS antibodies included anti-SRP (n=6), anti-TIF1γ (n=11) and anti-MDA-5(n=19). Anti-Ro52 was detected in 48 patients and 79.2% of which were accompanied by other antibodies. The most common clinical manifestations of patients with ARS antibodies were respiratory symptoms, more commonly experienced than patients with other myositis antibodies (84% vs. 47.4%, p=0.002). Meanwhile, muscle weakness (32.0% vs. 61.4%) and dysphagia (8.0% vs. 33.3%) were less frequently compared with patients with other myositis antibodies. In regard to laboratory findings, the ARS antibodies positive group showed higher inflammatory markers than other myositis antibodies group, the mean (SD) of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) was 53.6±34.56 and 33.7±24.3, respectively. Anti-Ro52 and anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA) cytoplasmic pattern were more detected in the ARS antibodies positive group. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) was also more commonly detected in patients with ARS antibodies than other myositis autoantibodies group (88.0% vs. 59.6%) and non-specific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) was the most frequent pattern of ILD. However, there were no significant differences in the baseline pulmonary function between the two groups.

Conclusion: Patients with ARS antibodies experienced more respiratory symptoms while muscle weakness is less common clinical manifestations than patients with other myositis antibodies. Moreover, higher inflammatory markers and ANA cytoplasmic pattern along with Anti-Ro52 were more commonly detected in the ARS antibodies positive group.
Conclusion: There were no major differences in the baseline demographics such as disease duration, sex and age, and no major differences in disease severity as well as the percentage of use of immunosuppressants among the regions although some variation in SSc autoantibody specificity were observed.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Background: Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) are widely used in the management of gastro-oesophageal problems in SSC. However, there is little evidence to support their empirical use in SSc, and long-term safety concerns have been highlighted in the general population [1,2].

Objectives: To examine clinicians' perspectives concerning PPI use in patients with SSc.

Methods: An online survey in the English language targeting healthcare providers (HCP) involved in the care of patients with SSc was developed and distributed through international networks and SSC associations. The survey was launched on 27th November 2022 and kept open for 3 weeks.

Results: Responses from 227 HCP from 36 countries were obtained. The majority (86.3%) were between 30-70 years old. Female and male gender were equally represented (M:48%, F:52%). Most respondents practiced in a university hospital (86%), the most common specialties represented were rheumatology (70.5%), internal medicine (10.6%), and gastroenterology (71%).

Conclusion: Overall, 68.8% of physicians agreed that gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is a major cause of morbidity in SSc. Lifestyle modifications/non-pharmacological approaches alone were seldom (16%) considered as effective in controlling GERD symptoms. Only half of responders either ‘agreed’ (43%) or ‘strongly agreed’ (11%) that solid evidence supports PPI efficacy in SSC. PPIs were prescribed by 93% of HCP with the most commonly reported indications being: 1) dyspepsia, 2) GERD, 3) heartburn, and 4) other indications (5.2%), (0-10, where 10 is ‘very concerned’). There was no clear consensus whether PPI dose and/or frequency should be reduced in patients with refractory calcinosis: ‘disagree’ = 25.3%, ‘neutral’ = 48.4%, and ‘agree’ = 22.6%. In addition, around half of responders considered that patients should be on high-dose PPI long-term after lung transplantation (‘agree’ or ‘strongly agree’ = 49.8%) or were ‘neutral’ (42.9%). There were many confusions and misunderstandings about the use of PPIs in SSC, which led to poor understanding of the complications.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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[2] Host LV, et al. High proton pump inhibitor exposure increases risk of calcino-

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES:
AB0857

**ANTI-THYMOCYTE GLOBULIN EXPOSURE IS ASSOCIATED WITH TREATMENT RESPONSE IN PATIENTS WITH DIFFUSE CUTANEOUS SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS UNDERGOING AUTOLOGOUS HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Systemic sclerosis

Y. H. Chiu1,2, A. Djiver1, R. Admiraal3, A. Van Rheneren4, S. Nierkens5, J. M. Van Laar6, J. Spierings1,1. University Medical Centre Utrecht, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 2. Tissue Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology/Immunology/Allergy, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 3. Princess Maxima Center for Pediatric Oncology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 4. University Medical Centre Utrecht, Department of Haematology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 5. University Medical Centre Utrecht, Center for Translational Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands

**Background:** Autologous haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) ameliorates event-free survival, skin thickening and lung function in patients with progressive diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (dcSSc). Anti-thymocyte globulin (ATG) is a key lymphoablative constituent of conditioning protocols and is administered in a body weight-based dose. Response to HSCT and occurrence of infections is still highly variable across dcSSc patients. Studies in haematopo-oncological patients suggest that ATG exposure varies across subjects and impacts outcomes [1].

**Objectives:** To explore the relation between rabbit-derived ATG exposure, lymphocyte reconstitution and clinical outcomes in patients with dcSSc undergoing autologous HSCT.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analysed patients with dcSSc undergoing autologous HSCT between 2014 and 2020. ATG levels were measured in cryopreserved serum samples at four time points (day 1 and week 1, 2 and 4) after stem cell reinfusion. ATG exposure was estimated using population pharmacokinetics models [1]. Treatment response was defined as pulmonary stabilisation (with no decline more than 10% in forced vital capacity and 15% in diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide) and/or skin improvement (modified Rodnan skin score reduction of more than 30%). Differences between groups were examined with Wilcoxon rank-sum test for continuous variables and Fisher exact test for categorical variables.

**Results:** Fifteen patients were included in this study with median age 43 years-old (IQR 37–50). During a median follow-up of 45 months (IQR 19—66), 73% (n=11) of patients had a treatment response, and 27% (n=4) were non-responders. Eight (73%) responders achieved long-term remission and three (27%) responders had progressive disease in the follow-up, at a median time of eight months (IQR 5—17) post-HSCT. Although all patients received the same weight-based ATG dosage (75 mg/kg), ATG exposure varied across patients. ATG exposure was higher in responders than non-responders (p = 0.026, Table 1) but was not correlated with lymphocyte reconstitution or infection rate.

**Conclusion:** In our study, ATG exposure highly varied across dcSSc patients undergoing HSCT despite the same weight-based dosage. Responders had a higher ATG exposure than non-responders. More research into optimal ATG dosing is needed to improve HSCT outcomes.

**REFERENCES:**

Table 1. ATG-exposure comparison on outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response to aHSCT</td>
<td>163 (153—183)</td>
<td>137 (101—149)</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure before stem cell reinfusion</td>
<td>30 (30—33)</td>
<td>27 (23—30)</td>
<td>0.226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure after stem cell reinfusion</td>
<td>130 (120—153)</td>
<td>108 (78—117)</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The median (interquartile range) anti-thymocyte globulin (ATG) exposure was presented in the cumulative area under the concentration–time curves (AU*day/ml).

**Acknowledgements:** The authors want to thank all patients participating in this study and the department of Medical Microbiology UMC Utrecht, for providing the cryopreserved serum samples.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Yu-Hsiang Chiu None declared, Anouk Djiver: None declared, R. Admiraal: None declared, A. Van Rheneren: None declared, Stefan Nierkens: None declared, Jacob M. van Laar Grant/research support from: Grant from Boehringer, Astra Zeneva, MSD, Roche, Julia Spierings Grant/ research support from: A grant from Boehringer.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.99

AB0858

**PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A NATIONAL INPATIENT ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Lungs, Systemic sclerosis

F. Sami1, S. A. Sami2, S. Arora3, V. Reyes Pinzon1, L. Farrukh4, R. Attili5, 1. John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County, Internal Medicine, Chicago, United States of America; 2. Trinity Health Oakland Campus, Internal Medicine, Pontiac, United States of America; 3. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Rheumatology, Chicago, United States of America; 4. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Internal Medicine, Chicago, United States of America; 5. Albany Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Albany, United States of America; 6. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Internal Medicine, Chicago, United States of America

**Background:** Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a chronic, progressive, and eventually fatal complication of Systemic Sclerosis (SS), affecting the prognosis and quality of life. Risk of PAH in SS is substantially high, and it causes early mortality. Non-specific manifestations of PAH can result in delayed diagnosis and result in poorer outcomes.

**Objectives:** We aim to study the prevalence and epidemiology of pulmonary arterial hypertension in SS, and impact of PAH on adult scleroderma hospitalizations in the United States population. We also aim to estimate the effect of PAH in SS on utilization of healthcare resources.

**Methods:** We utilized the National Inpatient Sample (NIS) to obtain pertinent data. Total adult hospitalizations with primary diagnosis of SS and consistent comorbidity of PAH were extracted from 2016-2019. We studied the demographic and epidemiological differences as well as mortality outcomes. Healthcare burden was estimated from total hospital charges (THC) and length of stay (LOS). Secondary outcomes including pulmonary embolism, atrial flutter/fibrillation, pneumonia, sepsis, cardiac & renal failure and ventilator requirements were also studied. Statistical analysis performed on STATA, with linear and logistic regression analysis. **Results:** Out of 128,685 adult scleroderma hospitalizations between 2016-19, 21930 (17%) presented with concurrent pulmonary hypertension. Females were significantly more in this group compared to patients with SS without PAH, representing approximately 85% of total admissions. Patients with PAH had a higher mean age (64.85±13.29 vs 62.56±14.51, P <0.000) as well. In terms of racial demographics, there was a significantly higher proportion of African American and significantly less Asians in the study group. Charlson comorbidity index was also higher in the PAH group. PAH was associated with higher adjusted odds ratio (aOR) for mortality (aOR: 1.39, p<0.001), increased LOS (6.64 vs 6.0 days, p<0.001) increased THC ($38313 vs $71016, p<0.001). It was also associated with significantly higher odds for cardiac failure (aOR 3.13) and ventilator requirement (aOR 2.15). Secondary outcomes of kidney failure, Pulmonary embolism, atrial flutter/fibrillation, and pneumonia recorded a significantly higher aOR for patients with PAH. No significant difference in cardiac arrest, sepsis, or respiratory failure was noted.

**Conclusion:** Pulmonary arterial hypertension in scleroderma is associated with worse overall outcomes in terms of mortality and morbidity, as well as much higher healthcare burden compared to SS without PAH. Also, PAH disproportionately affects African-American & Asian populations. Although advancements have been made in the treatment of PAH in SS, there still remains room for efforts directed towards early diagnosis and management to further improve outcomes for scleroderma patients.

**References:** none.

Table 1. Characteristics and Outcomes of adult scleroderma hospitalizations with & without PAH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>SCL without PAH</th>
<th>SCL with PAH</th>
<th>p-Value</th>
<th>Odds ratio (OR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total hospital charges</td>
<td>71016</td>
<td>83813</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart failure</td>
<td>87,829</td>
<td>18,730</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (Mean/SD)</td>
<td>62.56/14.51</td>
<td>64.85/13.29</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart failure</td>
<td>1410 (6.43%)</td>
<td>4290 (19.5%)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart failure (aOR)</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepsis</td>
<td>71016</td>
<td>83813</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe outcomes</td>
<td>71016</td>
<td>83813</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart failure (aOR)</td>
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<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac arrest (aOR)</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary embolism</td>
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<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral infarction</td>
<td>1410 (6.43%)</td>
<td>4290 (19.5%)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral infarction (aOR)</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.000</td>
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<td>Heart failure (aOR)</td>
<td>1.57</td>
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<td>Severe outcomes</td>
<td>71016</td>
<td>83813</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**AB0859**

**CLINICAL COURSES AND PREDICTORS OF LEFT VENTRICULAR SYSTOLIC DYSFUNCTION IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Systemic sclerosis, Prognostic factors

J. Wanakit†, B. Pussadhamma†, A. Mahakkanukrauh, S. Suwannaroj, C. Foocharoen*. 1Khon Kaen University, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen, Thailand

**Background:** Left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVSD) is a cardiac involvement, resulting in its being the leading cause of death among patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc). Currently, no predictor of LVSD has been defined by longitudinal data for follow-up among SSc patients.

**Objectives:** We aimed to define the clinical course and predictors of LVSD among SSc patients.

**Methods:** We conducted a cohort study among adult SSc patients who were followed up at the Scleroderma Clinic, Khon Kaen University, between 2013 and 2020. Semi-parametric Cox regression analysis with robustness clustering by cohort identification number was used for evaluating the predictors of LVSD.

**Results:** Among the 55,056 person-years, LVSD was defined in 35 of 419 SSc patients for an incidence of 0.31 per 100 person-years. The majority were female (23 cases) with diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc) (26 cases), and the median duration of the disease was 8.5 (IQR 4.9-12.9) years. Every 1-point increase in the modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS) and salt and pepper skin were strong predictors of LVSD, with a respective adjusted hazard ratio (HR) of 1.05 and 3.17. During follow-up, 26 cases (74.3%) had worsening LVSD. The strong predictors of the worsening of LVSD were every 1-point increase in mRSS (HR 1.05), every 1 mg increase in prednisolone treatment (HR 1.00), and every 1 U/L increase in creatine kinase (CK) (HR 1.001). Meanwhile, mycophenolate treatment was a protective factor against the worsening of LVSD in SSc (HR 0.15).

**Conclusion:** LVSD was frequently found in dcSSc, and most cases worsened during follow-up. The severity of skin thickness increases the risk of LVSD. High mRSS, steroid use, and high CK were predictors of worsening LVSD, while mycophenolate treatment might prevent the progression of LVSD. Steroids should be prescribed with caution to patients with longer disease duration.

**REFERENCES:**


[4] Foocharoen C, Pussadhamma B, Mahakkanukrauh A, Suwannaroj S, Nanagara R, and the lack of portability make them uncommon tools in clinical practice. In conclusion, HGS was positively associated with VM (r= 0.435, p = 0.003) and SPPB was negatively correlated with disease activity (y), modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), the European Scleroderma Trials and Research Group (EUSTAR) SSc activity index (EScSG-AI), and the health assessment questionnaire (HAQ) were assessed. The muscle thickness was assessed by a real-time ultrasound device (Esaote S.p.A MyLab 50 X Vision; SãoPaulo, Brazil). An experienced ultrasound evaluator analyzed the muscle thickness of vastus lateralis (VL, cm), rectus femoris (RF, cm), vastus intermedius (VI, cm), and vastus medialis (VM, cm). Muscle strength was assessed by handgrip (HGS,kg) and physical performance was assessed by short physical performance battery (SPPB,points). Frequency analysis and Pearson’s or Spearman’s correlation coefficients were explored. The appropriate significance was considered when p<0.05. **Results:** We included 45 patients with SSc, 32 (71.1%) with diffuse disease. The median age was 62.00 (54.50-66.50) years and the disease duration was 4.00 (2.00-8.00) years. The mean of muscle thickness was 4.00 (2.00-8.00) and the HAQ was 0.62 (0.25-1.06). The mean of muscle thickness was 1.38 ± 0.32 cm, RF 1.06 ±0.35 cm, VM 1.16 ±0.47 cm, and VI 1.17 ±0.33 cm. The mean of HGS was 18.64 ±9.71 kg and the median SPPB was 10.00 (9.00-11.50) points. The disease activity by EScSG-AI was negatively associated with VL (r = -0.410, p = 0.016) and VI (r = -0.394, p = 0.021). In addition, HGS was positively associated with VM (r = 0.435, p = 0.003) and SPPB was positively associated with VL (r = 0.354, p = 0.017).

**Conclusion:** Low quadriceps muscle thickness is associated with higher disease activity. As expected, our findings suggest that there are positive associations between muscle thickness with strength and physical performance in SSc women. Our findings highlight the importance of aiming for disease activity control because it may indirectly influence the muscle mass of SSc women.

**REFERENCES:**


[5] Acknowledgements: We thank the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal of Superior Level (CAPES) and the Fundo de Incentivo à Pesquisa e Eventos (FIEPE) for the financial support to the development of this project. Also, we thank Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre for providing infrastructure to the conduct of this project.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOJ:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.721
Table 1. Associations between NFC and novel severe organ involvement/progression during follow-up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Novel severe organ involvement/progression</th>
<th>Loss of capillary density</th>
<th>Haemorrhages</th>
<th>Enlarged capillaries</th>
<th>Avascular areas</th>
<th>Scleroderma pattern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall future organ involvement</td>
<td>3.21 (1.02-5.45)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>1.09 (0.52-2.33)</td>
<td>1.82 (0.52-4.32)</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral vascular involvement</td>
<td>1.7 (1.10-3.19)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>1.02 (0.82-1.22)</td>
<td>1.02 (0.82-1.22)</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New ILD</td>
<td>2.45 (1.32-4.23)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>1.37 (0.72-2.41)</td>
<td>1.82 (1.12-3.42)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progression of ILD</td>
<td>0.98 (0.23-2.14)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.78 (0.12-3.43)</td>
<td>1.32 (1.00-3.52)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New PAH</td>
<td>0.72 (0.14-1.98)</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.36 (0.15-1.67)</td>
<td>0.86 (0.62-1.45)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin progression</td>
<td>1.42 (1.12-3.29)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.39 (0.32-1.03)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.23 (1.45-3.14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords: Organ damage, Prognostic factors, Systemic sclerosis

C. Steiro Santos1, P. Pérez-García1, J. Ordas Martinez1, C. Moriano1, C. Álvarez Castro1, J. González Fernández1, 2 Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain

Background: Nailfold capillaroscopy (NFC) has been suggested as a potential biomarker of disease severity in systemic sclerosis (SSc). Several studies report the association between capillary loss and disease severity however, the association of NFC abnormalities with novel severe organ involvement/progression in SSc has not been evaluated.

Objectives: We aim to evaluate the association of nailfold capillaroscopy (NFC) with novel major organ involvement/progression in SSc.

Methods: Follow-up data from patients with SSc registered between 2000 and 2022 were analysed. Patients underwent NFC at baseline. Novel severe organ involvement/progression was defined as new or progressive involvement of peripheral vasculature, lungs, heart, skin, gastrointestinal, kidney, musculoskeletal at 12 and 24 months of follow-up. The following NFC parameters were evaluated: capillary density, haemorrhages, enlarged and giant capillaries, avascular areas, organization of capillary architecture and scleroderma pattern (ear/active/late). Logistic regression modelling was run to assess associations between NFC parameters and the occurrence of novel severe organ involvement and/or progression and risk factors.

Results: 113 patients with SSc were included, 70 patients (61%) developed novel overall severe organ involvement/progression: 39 patients (56%) during the first 12 months and 31 patients (44%) from 12 to 24 months of follow-up. 11% of patients developed novel peripheral vascular involvement, 21% developed novel interstitial lung disease (ILD), 11% had progression of known ILD, 6% had novel pulmonary hypertension, 11% had skin progression, 10% had novel heart involvement, 10% had novel gastrointestinal involvement, 6% had scleroderma renal crisis and 13% had novel musculoskeletal involvement. Table 1 summarises the significant associations between NFC and novel severe organ involvement/progression during follow-up. Loss of capillary density was associated with overall severe organ involvement (p = 0.002), peripheral vascular involvement (p = 0.03), new ILD (p = 0.04) and skin progression (p = 0.01); avascular areas were associated with overall severe organ involvement (p = 0.03), new ILD (p = 0.03) and scleroderma pattern was associated with overall severe organ involvement (p = 0.03), peripheral vascular involvement (OR p = 0.04), new ILD (p = 0.004) and skin progression (p = 0.04).

Conclusion: NFC may be a potential biomarker in SSc for predicting novel severe organ involvement and/or progression. Abnormal capillary density, avascular areas and scleroderma pattern are predictors of overall severe organ involvement, peripheral vascular involvement, novel progression of ILD and skin progression.

References:


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Clinical Immunology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy; IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Rozzano, Milan, Italy

Background: Cancer-associated myositis (CAM) remains a clinical challenge and established risk factors include older age, male sex, dermatomyositis (DM), and specific antibodies, including anti-TIF1gamma and -MJ/NXP2 [1]. However, a recent report suggests a lower risk of malignancy in -TIF1gamma positive patients with other concurrent autoantibodies (2,3), whereas the protective role against malignancy of antisyntathetease or anti-Mi-2 antibodies is being questioned [1].

Objectives: To describe the demographic, clinical, and serological characteristics of a cohort of patients with CAM in a specific autoantibody profile.

Methods: Retrospective cohort analysis on electronic clinical charts, autoantibody analysis by serum immunoprecipitation and ELISA.

Results: Malignancy was observed in 17 (76%) patients with IIM, in 13/17 (76%) within 5 years before or after IIM diagnosis and cancer relapse or progression in 7 cases; 2/17 were men with a median age of 56 years. Breast cancer was the most frequent, followed by lung, thyroid, ovarian, and lymphoma. Four patients died, three for cancer-related complications and one for severe refractory IIM. Muscle injury was observed in 17/17 (76%) while 2/17 experienced dysphagia. Skin lesions were present in 14/17 (82%) patients, while ILD (24%) and arthritis (18%) rarely occurred; no cases of myocardial involvement were described. Anti-Ro52 was the most common antibody (5/17 – 29%) in our cohort, detected as the only specificity in 2/5 cases. Anti-TIF1gamma was described in 4/17 (24%), one case with concurrent -Ro52, followed by antisyntathetease (3 – 18%), -Mi-2 (2 – 12%), -MJ/NXP2, -SAE1, -SRP (1 each – 6%). Combined, anti-EB2/E3 PDH (AMA) and anti-Ro positivity was found in a patient who developed lymphoma and cholangiocarcinoma within two years from IIM. We compared CAM patients with (n=4) and without (n=13) serum anti-TIF1gamma (Table 1). Although not reaching statistical significance, dysphagia and skin disease were more frequently observed with anti-TIF1gamma, whereas arthritis, Raynaud’s phenomenon, and capillaroscopy alterations were rarer in such group. Prevalence of early-stage cancer seemed more frequent with anti-TIF1gamma, 3/13 patients without anti-TIF1gamma died due to cancer-related causes; the only death observed in the TIF1gamma positive group was due to progressive IIM, and occurred in a patient with complete cancer remission.

Conclusion: We observed that DM remains the most common clinical subset of CAM, but other myositis phenotypes can also be observed. Anti-TIF1gamma remained the more prevalent autoantibody in CAM along with anti-Ro52. The role of AMA positivity may warrant further investigation, particularly in patients with seronegative CAM.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Location of cancer in IIM patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer location/type</th>
<th>All cancers (41 episodes)</th>
<th>Cancer in males (16 episodes)</th>
<th>Cancer in females (25 episodes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head and Neck</td>
<td>4 (9.8%)</td>
<td>2 (12.5%)</td>
<td>2 (8.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>4 (9.8%)</td>
<td>1 (6.3%)</td>
<td>3 (12.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>5 (12.2%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 (20.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonic</td>
<td>3 (7.3%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (12.0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>2 (4.9%)</td>
<td>2 (12.5%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bladder</td>
<td>1 (2.4%)</td>
<td>1 (6.3%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gynaecologic</td>
<td>5 (12.2%)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prostatic</td>
<td>2 (4.9%)</td>
<td>2 (12.5%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testicular</td>
<td>2 (4.9%)</td>
<td>2 (12.5%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin – melanoma</td>
<td>4 (9.8%)</td>
<td>1 (6.3%)</td>
<td>3 (12.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin – NMSC</td>
<td>2 (4.9%)</td>
<td>1 (6.3%)</td>
<td>1 (4.0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>2 (4.9%)</td>
<td>2 (12.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leukaemia</td>
<td>1 (2.4%)</td>
<td>1 (6.3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown origin</td>
<td>4 (9.8%)</td>
<td>1 (6.3%)</td>
<td>3 (12.0%)</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Angelo Cerbelli: None declared, Antonio Tonutti: None declared, Natasa Isailovic: None declared, Maria De Santis: None declared, Angela Ceribelli: None declared, Antonio Tonutti: None declared.

Figure 1. Panel A: Diagnosis of cancer in time relation to IIM. Panel B: Cancer risk stratification and actual development of cancer Legend: Panel A: time interval between the diagnosis of cancer and the diagnosis of idopathic inflammatory myopathy (Time 0).

Conclusion: Cancer affected a fifth of our IIMs patients. Almost a third of patients who were at high risk of cancer had cancer associated myositis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0864

IODIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES AND CANCER RISK STRATIFICATION

Keywords: Myositis, Malignancy

A. Hoeve,1 M. Tomsic1, K. Perdan-Pirkmajer1,1 University Medical Center Ljubljana, Department of Rheumatology, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Background: Patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs) are at increased risk of cancer, particularly in the first ±3 years of the disease, and a cancer risk stratification was proposed recently [1], to improve cancer screening in IIMs.

Objectives: The aim of our retrospective study was to determine the frequency, temporal relations, and cancer types, as well as to evaluate the performance of proposed cancer risk stratification tool in our well-defined IIM cohort.

Methods: We analyzed medical records of IIM patients diagnosed between January 2005 and December 2020 and followed at our rheumatology centre of a median (IQR) 72.6 (35.1; 126.9) months. The development of cancer, its location and temporal relationship to IIM diagnosis were extracted. We applied the proposed cancer risk stratification [1] in a cohort of our patients.

Results: In a cohort of 175 IIM patients (122 females, 69.7%), 38 patients (21.7%; 24 females (19.7%) and 14 males (26.4%)) developed 41 cancers. Fifteen cancers (39.5%) were diagnosed or were active/relapsing within the two years prior to diagnosis of IIM, 10 cancers (26.3%) were diagnosed concurrently with IIM, and 16 (39.0%) cancers were diagnosed during the IIM follow up (9 (22.0%) of them during the first 3 years of the follow up) (Figure 1, Panel A). The most frequently diagnosed cancers were breast and gynaecologic cancer in females (20.0% each), and urogenital cancers in men (43.8%). The cancer location (overall and sex stratified) is presented in Table 1. The Figure 1, panel B shows the stratification of patients to their estimated risk of developing cancer, and the actual proportion of patients who develop cancer. Based on the estimated risk, 6.3%, 46.3% and 47.4% IIM patients were allocated into low-, intermediate- and high-risk group, respectively. While there were no episodes of cancer from -2 years to +3 years of follow up in the low-risk group, 12.5% patients in the intermediate-risk group, and 31.3% in the high-risk group developed cancer during this time interval.

Table 1. Clinical features of patients with (+) and without (–) anti-TIF1gamma antibodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical feature</th>
<th>Anti-TIF1gamma+ (n=4)</th>
<th>Anti-TIF1gamma– (n=13)</th>
<th>p</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced cancer at diagnosis, n(%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>3 (23.1)</td>
<td>0.3041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia, n(%)</td>
<td>1 (25)</td>
<td>1 (7.7)</td>
<td>0.3641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin rash, n(%)</td>
<td>4 (100)</td>
<td>10 (76.9)</td>
<td>0.3041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gottron, n(%)</td>
<td>3 (75)</td>
<td>6 (46.2)</td>
<td>0.3276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud, n(%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>4 (30.8)</td>
<td>0.2181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capillaroscopy alterations, n(%)</td>
<td>1 (25)</td>
<td>9 (69.2)</td>
<td>0.1276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis, n(%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>3 (23.1)</td>
<td>0.3041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Angela Cerbelli: None declared, Antonio Tonutti: None declared, Natasa Isailovic: None declared, Maria De Santis: None declared, Angela Ceribelli: None declared, Antonio Tonutti: None declared.

Figure 1. Panel A: Diagnosis of cancer in time relation to IIM. Panel B: Cancer risk stratification and actual development of cancer Legend: Panel A: time interval between the diagnosis of cancer and the diagnosis of idopathic inflammatory myopathy (Time 0).

Conclusion: Cancer affected a fifth of our IIMs patients. Almost a third of patients who were at high risk of cancer had cancer associated myositis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0865

BODY COMPOSITION ASSESSMENT IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLERODERMA

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Sarcopenia

M. Adyivan1, N. Melkonyan1, N. Zhuravleva2, E. Guryanova2, V. Dmiidova2, 1Yerevan State Medical University, Department Internal Diseases, Armenia; 2Chuvash State University by I. N. Ulianov, Department Internal Diseases, Cheboksary, Russian Federation; 3Chuvash State University by I. N. Ulianov, Department Propeedics of Internal Diseases, Cheboksary, Russian Federation
AB0866  
SEASONAL VARIATION OF SERUM KL-6 LEVELS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis

H. Hirose1, T. Higuchi1,2, K. Takagi2, A. Tochimoto1, Y. Kawaguchi1, M. Harigai1.
1Tokyo Women’s Medical University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Shinjuku-ku, Japan; 2Tokyo Women’s Medical University, Division of Multidisciplinary Management of Rheumatic Diseases, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Shinjuku-ku, Japan;

Background: Recent studies have shown that serum KL-6 levels were useful for diagnosing and estimating prognosis in patients with systemic sclerosis-associated with interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD) [1-4]. Additionally, KL-6 has the potential for assessing the activity of SSc-ILD; however, it may fluctuate irrespec- tive of disease activity [5]. Identifying the reasons for fluctuation will lead to the utilization of this non-invasive tool. Based on our clinical experience, serum KL-6 levels may have seasonal variations.

Objectives: We aimed to evaluate whether serum KL-6 levels are affected by season in patients with SSc with ILD (SSc-ILD).

Methods: This is a single-center, retrospective observational study. The diagnos- is of SSc was according to the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, and the presence of ILD was confirmed by computed tomography (CT) or high-resolution CT (HRCT). We defined summer as July to September and winter as December to January. SSc-ILD patients with data of serum KL-6 levels in the 2015 winter (from December 2014 to January 2015), 2015 summer, and 2016 winter were included. Patients with comorbidities that could affect serum KL-6 levels, such as malignancy, pneumocystis pneumonia and alveolar proteinosis, and patients who did not confirm the change in the extent of ILD by chest CT during the observational period were excluded. The extent of ILD was calculated as the average of CT images at the five predefined levels [6], and scoring was blinded. Differences in serum KL-6 levels between summer and winter were analyzed by the Wilcoxon signed-rank test, followed by the Bonferroni correction for adjusting multiple comparisons.

Results: Sixty patients with SSc-ILD were included. 53 (88%) patients were female. At baseline, the median age was 61 (interquartile range [IQR]: 44–66) years, and the median disease duration was 7.7 (IQR: 4.2–13) years. 34 (57%) patients had diffuse cutaneous SSc (Table 1). Regarding the extent of ILD, 15 (25%) patients had a lesion area greater than 20%, 8 (13.3%) patients had changed in the extent of ILD, and 52 (84.6%) patients were unchanged. Serum KL-6 levels were significantly higher in the winter than in the summer (2015 summer vs 2015 winter: 585 IU/L vs 648 IU/L, p < 0.0001; 2015 summer vs 2016 winter: 585 IU/L vs 690 IU/L, p < 0.0001). However, there was no difference between the 2015 winter and 2016 winter (p=0.62) (Figure 1). Regarding 52 patients with stable ILD, similar results were obtained (2015 summer vs 2015 winter: 736 IU/L vs 860 IU/L, p < 0.0001; 2015 summer vs 2016 winter: 736 IU/L vs 815 IU/L, p < 0.0001; 2015 winter vs 2016 winter: 815 IU/L vs 860 IU/L, p=0.63).

Conclusion: Serum KL-6 levels may fluctuate regardless of the activity of SSc-
ILD. The result of our study may aid the interpretation of serum KL-6 testing.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Patients characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall (n=60)</th>
<th>ILD change (+) (n=8)</th>
<th>ILD change (-) (n=52)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>53 (88)</td>
<td>7 (88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years (IQR)</td>
<td>61 (44–66)</td>
<td>58 (46–71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years (IQR)</td>
<td>7.7 (4.2–13)</td>
<td>8.0 (2.0–11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Rodnan skin score (IQR)</td>
<td>12 (4–15)</td>
<td>15 (12–23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse SSc, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (57)</td>
<td>5 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSc-related autoantibody, n (%)</td>
<td>36 (60)</td>
<td>6 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-topoisomerase/antibody, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (11.7)</td>
<td>1 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere antibody, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (11.7)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-U1-RNP antibody, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (3.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>42 (70.0)</td>
<td>7 (88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisolone use, n (%)</td>
<td>28 (46.7)</td>
<td>6 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other immunosuppressive agents, n (%)</td>
<td>26 (43.3)</td>
<td>3 (27)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Seasonal variation of serum KL-6 levels in the study population. ns: not significant; *: p < 0.0001.
LOW STARTING DOSE AND TITRATION OF NINTONANDBIN FOR SSC-ILD: ANALYSIS OF TOLERABILITY IN A SINGLE-CENTER COHORT

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Real-world evidence, Lungs

E. Fiorentini1, F. Bonomi1, L. Cometi1, G. Lepri1, S. Bellando-Randone1, S. Guiducci1, 2Careggi University Hospital, Rheumatology, Firenze, Italy

Background: Interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD) is a common manifestation of Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) and to date few therapies are available [1]. Nintendanib (NTD) is a promising drug, but its use is often limited by intolerance, mainly by gastrointestinal adverse events (GI AEs). As reported in the SENSCIS trial [2] GI AEs related to NTD treatment (150mg bid) occur in >70% of cases, in particular diarrhea (75.7%), nausea (36.7%), vomiting (24.7%), weight loss (11.8%), abdominal pain (11.5%) and alterations of aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) (13.9%).

Objectives: We investigated the safety and tolerability of an up-titration strategy of NTD until the maximum tolerated dose (max 150mg bid) in our cohort of SSC-ILD patients.

Methods: Evaluation of SSc patients followed at our Rheumatology Unit, treated with NTD according to clinical indication with a dose escalation regimen: 100mg die for 7 days, then 100mg bid for 7 days, then 150mg + 100mg/die for 7 days, and finally 150mg bid. At baseline, demographic, clinical and disease features were collected, NTD GI tolerability was clinically evaluated at 1 (T1), 3 (T3) and 6 (T6) months from the beginning of the treatment.

Results: 12 SSC-ILD patients were enrolled, all females, with a mean age of 62.5 ± 12.7 years and disease duration of 9.2 ± 8.8 years (from the first non-Raynaud symptom). The more frequent disease specific antibody was anti-topoisomerase I (50%) followed by anti-centromere (8.3%). ILD pattern at HRCT was non-specific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) in 25% of the patients, fibrosing NSIP in 50% and usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) in 25%. The mean FVC % predicted was 66.7%, dysmotility, vomit, and dyspepsia in 8.3% each. Table 1 shows GI AEs at T1, T3 and T6 from NTD beginning. At T6 50% of patients had nausea, 50% diarrhea, 37.5% abdominal pain and 25% referred weight loss. No one showed vomit and AST/ALT alterations. Only 3 patients reached 150mg bid (Figure 1), while 4 got at least to 100mg bid and 1 patient suspended the drug after 3 months due to vomit.

Conclusion: These data, although limited to a small cohort, suggest that a gradual dose escalation of NTD in SSC-ILD may improve the tolerability of the drug, with a lower incidence of GI AEs (≤50%) and AST/ALT elevation. Although only 3 patients reached the maximum dose, most of the cohort managed to do not exceed 100mg bid. This approach can be a good compromise in the management of ILD in SSc patients, knowing that the dose reduction to 100 mg bid does not significantly compromise the efficacy of NTD in reducing disease progression [3]–[5]. Studies of larger populations are needed to support these data.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. GI AEs during NTD treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T1 (n=12)</th>
<th>T3 (n=12)</th>
<th>T6 (n=8)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nausea, n (%)</td>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>9 (75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New onset</td>
<td>3 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>1 (8.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>1 (8.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worsened</td>
<td>2 (16.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vomit, n (%)</td>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>10 (83.4%)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>New onset</td>
<td>2 (16.8%)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>1 (8.3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>1 (8.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worsened</td>
<td>1 (12.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea, n (%)</td>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>1 (8.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New onset</td>
<td>1 (8.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>1 (8.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worsened</td>
<td>2 (16.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss, n (%)</td>
<td>Not present</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New onset</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stable</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worsened</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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</table>

Figure 1. NTD dosages

Acknowledgments: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1762

IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR-ASSOCIATED MYOPATHY

Keywords: Myositis, Targeted synthetic drugs

M. Pavia Pascual1, N. De La Torre Rubio1, M. Machattou1, P. Navarro Palomo1, C. Navarro Joven1, M. Alonso de Francisco1, C. Barbadillo Mateos1, C. Merino Argumánez2, H. Godoy1, M. Fernandez Castro1, B. Garcia-Magallon1, J. Sanz1, J. F. De Villa1, J. L. Andrés Sánchez1, J. Campos Esteban2, Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: In recent decades, immunotherapy has changed the management and prognosis of cancer patients. Immune checkpoint inhibitors, such as those targeting PD-1 and PD-L1, are used for some types of cancer; however, their use has been associated with the appearance of immune-mediated adverse events. Among these, those related to the field of rheumatology are relatively frequent, joint involvement being the most common, followed by muscle involvement (myalgias 4%, myositis 1%).

Objectives: To describe oncologic patients who developed immune checkpoint inhibitors-related myositis.

Methods: All patients from the oncology department of a tertiary hospital, referred to rheumatology and diagnosed with immune-mediated myositis due to immune checkpoint inhibitors were collected. A descriptive analysis was performed.

Results: Five patients were analyzed, 60% male, with a mean age of 65.8 years (56-78 years). The types of cancer were: melanoma (n=2), gastroesophageal...
juncti(c=1), cavum cancer (n=1) and pancreatic cancer (n=1); in all advanced stages with lymph node and/or metastatic involvement. The immuno-therapy employed was: Nivolumab (PD-1 inhibitor) in three patients, Pembrolizumab (PD-1 inhibitor) in one patient and Darvulamab (PD-L1 inhibitor) in one patient; all at standard doses. Mean time from onset of symptoms was 4 months from the day of drug initiation (1-10 months). In all 5 cases, the drug was discontinued with the onset of clinical symptoms and oral prednisone was prescribed at a dose between 10 and 20 mg per day. The symptom present in all patients was pain and weakness of proximal limbs (100%). In addition, one patient had ankle arthritis and another had dermatomyositis with typical cutaneous involvement (heliotrope erythema, V sign). In 3 patients there was an elevation of CK levels that resolved one month after discontinuation of the drug. Also, 3 patients, developed myositis-specific antibodies (AntiPM75 and Anti Mi2, anti-PL7 and anti-TIF1gama) that disappeared with drug withdrawal. One patient had anti-Ro52 and Ro60 antibodies that remain positive. Two patients underwent muscle MRI: one showed fatty infiltration in the gluteus medius and atrophy with fatty infiltration in the right rectus femoris (image); in the other patient, signs of inflammatory myositis in the bilateral adductor group and in the right gluteus medius and gluteus minimus and fibrosing myositis in the iliac muscle was described. In both cases, the signs of myositis had disappeared in the control PET scan 5 months after drug discontinuation. In 4 patients, symptoms subsided in less than one month. One patient required the association of methotrexate to achieve corticosteroid withdrawal.

Conclusion: In our hospital, a total of 5 patients undergoing oncological treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors have developed, in a mean time of 4 months from the start of the drug, a myopathy associated in 60% with the appearance of myositis-specific antibodies. This represents 1.6% of the total number of patients treated with these three drugs in our hospital.

Withdrawal of the drug and treatment with prednisone at intermediate doses allowed clinical remission and normalization of laboratory and imaging tests.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2631

AB0870 ANTI-HMGCR AUTOANTIBODY LEVELS IN THE FOLLOW-UP OF STATIN-INDUCED IMMUNE-MEDIATED NECROTIZING MYOPATHY. MULTICENTRIC STUDY OF 24 PATIENTS

Keywords: Myositis, Autoantibodies, Diagnostic Tests

D. Martínez-López1, D. Prieto-Peña2, C. Corrales-Selaya2, P. Szczypa3,4, A. Notarincola5,6,7, M. López Hoyos8, R. Blanc9,10, I. E. Lundberg11,12, M. Dastmalchi11,12, Hospital de Sierrallana, Rheumatology, Torrelavega, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 3National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation, Rheumatology, Warsaw, Poland; 4Medical University of Warsaw, Neurology, Warsaw, Poland; 5Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institute, Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 6Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Gastro, Dermatology and Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden; 7Karolinska Institutet, Center for Molecular Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; 8Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Immunology, Santander, Spain

Background: Statin-induced immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy (IMNM) is associated with anti-3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA reductase (HMGCR) autoantibodies. It is characterized by elevated creatine kinase (CK) levels, and severe muscle weakness. Measuring disease activity is problematic, since it is challenging to differentiate it from damage. The utility of the quantitative analysis of anti-HMGCR autoantibodies during the follow-up has not been thoroughly studied.

Objectives: To assess the usefulness of measuring the levels of anti-HMGCR autoantibodies in relation to response to treatment.

Methods: We included patients with a consecutive patients diagnosed with statin-induced IMNM according to the definition of the European Neuromuscular International Workshop 2016 (1) and positivity for anti-HMGCR autoantibodies in two centers from Spain and Sweden from January 2017 to November 2022. All patients were followed for at least 3 months to be included. Clinical data was extracted retrospectively from the patients' medical records. Remission was defined as no disease activity assessed by expert rheumatologists according to the 2016 ACR/EULAR response criteria. This study was not a randomized controlled trial.

Results: Patients were followed for a median of 2.5 years. At the last follow-up, 60% of patients were in remission. In 60% of the patients, CK levels improved or normalized. Anti-HMGCR autoantibodies were detected in 95% of the patients at diagnosis, and their levels varied with disease activity. Anti-HMGCR autoantibodies were not detected in remission patients, indicating a correlation between disease activity and autoantibodies levels.

Conclusion: Anti-HMGCR autoantibodies level measures can be useful in the follow-up of patients with statin-induced IMNM, although further studies are necessary to confirm these results.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Results were obtained using the chemiluminescence immunossay (CLIA) method. Negative anti-HMGCR was considered as levels lower than 20 U/ml.

**Results:** Our group combined of 24 patients. Main features of the patients are summarized in the **TABLE 1**. 21 (87.5%) patients reached clinical remission or low disease activity. However, 3 patients (12.5%) remained with moderate activity of the disease. None of the patients had high disease activity. Anti-HMGCR levels at diagnosis were higher than 100 U/ml in 23 patients (95.8%) and above 200 in 11 patients (45.8%). However, anti-HMGCR levels after treatment were significantly lower in patients in remission (p=0.035). Numeric levels in patients at diagnosis of the disease and after treatment are shown in the **FIGURE 1**. Most of the patients at diagnosis (with high activity of the disease) had high anti-HMGCR levels (22 patients, 91.7% had levels above 100 U/ml). After treatment, most patients in remission had low (n=3, 14.3%) or negative (n=9, 42.9%), while patients with moderate activity had higher levels (n=2, 66.7% with levels above 100 U/ml). However, 6 patients in remission (28.6%) still had levels above 10 U/ml.

**Conclusion:** Anti-HMGCR autoantibodies levels evaluation can be used in parallel with other tools to accurately measure disease activity in patients with statin-induced IMNM. However, more studies are needed to confirm these results.

**REFERENCES:**

**Variable** | **Total (n=24)** | **Remission/ low activity (n=21)** | **Moderate activity (n=3)** | **P (remission vs no remission)**
---|---|---|---|---
Age (years), mean ± SD | 68.2 ± 7.2 | 67.6 ± 7.1 | 67.3 ± 10.1 | 0.95
Sex (women), n (%) | 10 (42) | 9 (42.9) | 1 (33.3) | 0.89
Analytical values, mean ±SD | | | |
CK (ukat/L) at diagnosis | 114.3 ± 103.9 | 103.5 ± 100 | 230.7 ± 84.5 | 0.51
Anti-HMGCR levels at diagnosis | 214.6 ± 110.8 | 212.2 ± 89.7 | 295 ± 127.8 | 0.24
Anti-HMGCR levels after treatment | 83.8 ± 89 | 74 ± 80.4 | 190 ± 100.1 | 0.035*
Muscle strength assessment, mean ±SD | | | |
MMT-8 at diagnosis | 64.4 ± 12 | 65.4 ± 12.7 | 62.7 ± 12.5 | 0.73
MMT-8 after treatment | 776 ± 4.2 | 78.6 ± 3.1 | 74.3 ± 8.1 | 0.1

**SciFig**

**Figure 1.** Anti-HMGCR autoantibodies levels according to disease activity after treatment in 24 patients with IMNM. LDA: Low disease activity

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** D. Martínez-López: None declared, D. Prieto-Peña: None declared, C. Corrales-Selaya, P. Szczecynski: None declared, Antonella Notarnicola: None declared, Marcos López Hoyos: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Grant/research support from: UCB, Roche, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Novartis, Eli Lilly, Corina Correia-Selaya: None declared, Piotr Szczecynski: None declared, António Mendes de Oliveira: None declared, Marco López Hoyos: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Grant/research support from: RB received grants/research supports from: AbbVie, MSD, and Roche, had consultation fees/participation in company-sponsored speaker’s bureau from AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD and received support for attending meetings and/or travel from: AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD., Ingrid E. Lundberg Grant/research support from: Argenx, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Novartis, Corbus, EMD Serono, Roche, Pfizer, Orphazyme, Octapharma, Kezar, Janssen, Maryam Dastmalchi: None declared.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

**Grant/research support from:** Argenx, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Novartis, AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD., Ingrid E. Lundberg Grant/research support from: Argenx, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Novartis, Corbus, EMD Serono, Roche, Pfizer, Orphazyme, Octapharma, Kezar, Janssen, Maryam Dastmalchi: None declared.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared, Antonella Notarnicola: None declared, Marcos López Hoyos: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Grant/research support from: RB received grants/research supports from: AbbVie, MSD, and Roche, had consultation fees/participation in company-sponsored speaker’s bureau from AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD., Ingrid E. Lundberg Grant/research support from: Argenx, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Novartis, Corbus, EMD Serono, Roche, Pfizer, Orphazyme, Octapharma, Kezar, Janssen, Maryam Dastmalchi: None declared.

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Treatment was assigned to the patients considering the current recommendations and contraindications of the therapies available. In patients with comorbidities that limit the use of glucocorticoids, a steroid-free regime was agreed through a shared decision between the physician and the patient.

**Results:** We included 24 anti-HMGCR positive patients. Main features and treatment of the patients are summarized in [TABLE 1](#). A GC-free regimen based on the use of IVIG 2g/kg every month for at least 3 months was used in 5 (20.8%) patients. The remaining received standard treatment including GCs at baseline. General demographic data, MMT-8 and CK levels were similar in both groups. Comorbidities were higher in patients treated with the GCs free protocol. Remission or low disease activity was achieved in 21 patients (87.5%), including all 5 patients who did not receive GCs (after a mean of 4.1 ± 1.1 months). However, 3 (15.8%) of the 19 patients receiving glucocorticoids did not achieve remission or low disease activity. The time to remission or CK normalization was similar in both groups.

**Conclusion:** In our series of patients with anti-HMGCR positive IMNM, we found that patients can achieve remission without glucocorticoid treatment.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** David Martínez-López: None declared, Diana Prieto-Pería Grant/research support from: UCB, Roche, Pfizer, Amgen, Janssen, AbbVie/Abbott, Novartis, Eli Lilly, Cristina Corrales-Selaya: None declared, Piotr Szczeklik: None declared, Antonella Notarnicolaa: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Grant/research support from: RB received grants/research supports from AbbVie, MSD, and Roche, and had consultation fees/participation in company-sponsored speaker’s bureau from AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD and received support for attending meetings and/or travel from AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD.; Ingrid E. Lundberg Grant/research support from: RB received grants/research supports from AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD and received support for attending meetings and/or travel from AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD.; Cristina Corrales-Selaya: None declared, Piotr Szczeklik: None declared.

**AB0872 RELAPSES OF 129 PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES**

**Keywords:** Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Prognostic factors, Myositis

**J. Choi**, J. Kim², B. Bang³, B. Yoo³. 1.Jeju National University School of Medicine, Student, Jeju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2.Jeju National University School of Medicine, Jeju National University Hospital, Jeju, Republic of Korea, Rheumatology, Jeju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3.University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** A high dose of glucocorticoid is suggested as initial management of Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IMMs), and immunosuppressive agents are added in severe cases [1]. However, since the diseases are rarely diagnosed, few studies have addressed the issue regarding the use of immunosuppressive agents with limited evidence [2]. The treatment of IMMs largely relies on empirical evidence and small studies [3]. As a result, The immunosuppressive has been indeed administered at the discretion of the physicians in practice. The initial glucocorticoid treatment usually leads to a stable phase for IMMs where the use of immunosuppressants during a period of tapering glucocorticoid in the initial treatment would help reduce the risk of relapse of IMMs.

**Methods:** The factors associated with the relapse of IMMs were investigated by Cox proportional hazards analysis. The factors associated with the relapse of IMMs: histopathologic features consistent with IMMs (model 1; HR, 1.69; 95% CI, 1.01-2.83, P = 0.0453) and the use of immunosuppressants before relapse (model 2; HR, 0.50; 95% CI, 0.29-0.86, P = 0.0132). Doubling of ANA titer showed a trend toward an association with relapse albeit without statistical significance (model 1; HR, 1.13; 95% CI, 1.00-1.27, P = 0.0517).

**Conclusion:** The use of immunosuppressants during a period of tapering glucocorticoid in the initial treatment would help reduce the risk of relapse of IMMs.

**Table 1. Factors associated with the relapse of Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies in univariate and multivariable analyses.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2</th>
<th>Model 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Histopathologic features consistent with IMMs</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>1.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA titer (reference: 1.13)</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressant before relapse</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB0873 WHOLE BODY INSULIN SENSITIVITY IS INCREASED IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Diet and Nutrition, Cardiovascular disease, Systemic sclerosis

**J. Ciafalì**, P. Ruscitti², I. Di Cola³, V. Pavlocý, N. Italiano², M. Gentile³, M. Tommasetti³, T. Huizinga³, J. De Vries-Bouwstra³, F. Ursini¹, P. Cipriani¹. ¹IRCCS Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli, Medicine & Rheumatology Unit, Bologna, Italy; ²University of L'Aquila, Department of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, L'Aquila, Italy; ³Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; ⁴Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, DIBINEM, Bologna, Italy

**Background:** The prevalence of type 2 diabetes (T2D) is increased in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and other inflammatory diseases, while the available evidence suggests that in systemic sclerosis (SSc) it is lower than in the general population [1]. Insulin resistance and β-cell dysfunction are the main mechanisms in the pathophysiology of T2D. However, mechanisms underlying the negative association between SSc and T2D have not been elucidated.

**Objectives:** We aimed to evaluate whole-body insulin sensitivity in SSc patients and to compare the results with controls with no autoimmune rheumatic disease (non-ARD) and with patients affected by RA. Additionally, we investigated whether insulin sensitivity was associated with SSc characteristics.

**Methods:** The study population was composed of consecutive adult SSc patients. For comparison, non-ARD and RA patients were included. All were screened for T2D before inclusion. Individuals with a diagnosis of diabetes and those using corticosteroids or insulin-sensitizing agents were excluded. The whole-body insulin sensitivity index (ISI) was estimated from glucose and insulin concentrations obtained during the oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) using the equation proposed by Matsuda [2], which is validated against euglycemic insulin clamp and provides reliable estimates of glucose homeostasis. Insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) was calculated.

**References:**


Results: A total of 41 SSc patients, 41 individuals with RA and 82 non-ARD control patients were recruited. SSC patients were significantly older and had lower BMI than controls with RA, but had comparable characteristics with non-ARD patients (Table 1). The BMI was significantly higher in RA patients when compared with SSC patients [8.01 (4.85 – 12.62) vs 3.99 (1.93 – 6.14), p < 0.001] and with non-ARD patients [8.01 (4.85 – 12.62) vs 4.38 (3.39 – 6.37), p < 0.001]. Significant differences emerged also when analysing the HOMA-IR, which was lower in SSC patients than in RA [0.98 (0.66 – 1.52) vs 2.02 (1.36 – 3.63), p < 0.001] and non-ARD [0.98 (0.66 – 1.52) vs 1.74 (1.28 – 2.28), p < 0.001]. In normal weight individuals (BMI from 18.5 to 24.9), median ISI was higher in the SSc group than in RA (p = 0.007) and non-ARD controls (p < 0.001). In overweight and obese cases (BMI ≥ 25) ISI was also higher in the SSc group than in RA (p = 0.003) and non-ARD controls (p = 0.017) (Figure 1). In the SSc group, patients with diffuse cutaneous disease had significantly higher ISI than individuals with limited cutaneous SSc [11.60 (8.59 – 20.13) vs 6.58 (4.91 – 11.63), p = 0.027]. In univariate analysis, ISI was significantly correlated with BMI (r = -0.468, p = 0.002), fasting insulin (r = -0.715, p < 0.001), and modified Rodnan skin score (r = 0.422, p = 0.006. In multiple linear regression model adjusted for BMI and fasting plasma insulin, the association between ISI and modified Rodnan skin score was lost (r² = 0.27, p = 0.095).

Conclusion: The findings of our study suggest that patients with SSc are more insulin sensitive than those with RA and even than individuals without inflammatory diseases. This is the first time that whole-body insulin sensitivity is assessed in SSc using a validated and reliable method, contributing unique data to the knowledge about glucose homeostasis in SSc.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Characteristics of patients and glucose metabolism in SSc and RA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex (women), n (%)</th>
<th>Age at diagnosis (years), mean ± SD</th>
<th>Dyslipidemia, n (%)</th>
<th>Hypertension, n (%)</th>
<th>Diabetes Mellitus, n (%)</th>
<th>Cancer, n (%)</th>
<th>Muscle weakness, n (%)</th>
<th>Myalgia, n (%)</th>
<th>Gottron papule/ Sign/Helecheto rash, n (%)</th>
<th>Arthritis/ Raynaud, n (%)</th>
<th>Intestinal Lung Disease, n (%)</th>
<th>Dysphagia/ Calcinosis, n (%)</th>
<th>Creatin-Kinase (U/L), median [IQR]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (82.9)</td>
<td>27 (65.9)</td>
<td>26 (65.9)</td>
<td>9 (26.5)</td>
<td>4 (11.8)</td>
<td>26 (76.5)</td>
<td>11 (32.4)</td>
<td>27 (79.4)</td>
<td>9 (26.5)</td>
<td>5 (14.7)</td>
<td>15 (44.1)</td>
<td>533 (226.5-1225)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (17.1)</td>
<td>9 (34.8)</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
<td>4 (26.7)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
<td>20 (65.9)</td>
<td>27 (73.5)</td>
<td>3 (8.8)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6 (17.7)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMA-IR</td>
<td>0.98 (0.66 – 1.52)</td>
<td>2.02 (1.36 – 3.63)</td>
<td>4.38 (3.39 – 6.37)</td>
<td>1.74 (1.28 – 2.28)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9 (100)</td>
<td>4 (44.4)</td>
<td>489.5 ± 223.7</td>
<td>1360 ± 992.7</td>
<td>654 ± 258</td>
<td>343.6 ± 1512</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Main demographic, clinical features, laboratory findings and treatments in 63 patients diagnosed with IIM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dermatomyositis (n=34)</th>
<th>Polymyositis (n=5)</th>
<th>Immune-mediated Necrotizing Myopathy (n=9)</th>
<th>AntiJo1/Mi2/MDA5, n (%)</th>
<th>AntiPL7/PL12/EJ, n (%)</th>
<th>AntiHMGCRC/Ro52, n (%)</th>
<th>AntiEdema/Atrophy RMI, n (%)</th>
<th>AntiOral/Intravenous Corticosteroids, n (%)</th>
<th>AntiMethotrexate/ Azathioprine, n (%)</th>
<th>AntiCalcineurin Inhibitors, n (%)</th>
<th>AntiCalcipotriol/ Cyclophosphamide, n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years), mean ± SD</td>
<td>53.9 ± 18.6</td>
<td>5.5 ± 1.7</td>
<td>64.5 ± 7</td>
<td>52.7 ± 17</td>
<td>4.39 (8.8)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5.5 (3.3)</td>
<td>15 (44.1)</td>
<td>5 (14.7)</td>
<td>5 (14.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2845

AB0874

EPIDIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL FEATURES OF IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES IN SINGLE REGION IN NORTHERN SPAIN

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Myositis, Epidemiology

C: Corrales-Selaya1, D. Martinez-Lopez2, D. Prieto-Peñal, J. L. Martin-Villar,1, R. Blanco1. 1Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 2Sierallana Hospital, Rheumatology, Torrelavega, Spain; 3Hospital Comarcal de Laredo, Rheumatology, Laredo, Spain

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) are a heterogeneous group of disorders characterized by proximal muscle weakness and inflammation. The main subtypes of IIM are dermatomyositis (DM), polymyositis (PM), inclusion body myositis (IBM), immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy (IMNM) and antisynthetase syndrome (ASS). Prevalence and incidence vary depending on the geographic location.

Objectives: To describe the epidemiological and clinical features of IIM in a single region in northern Spain.

Methods: We included all consecutive patients diagnosed with IIM in the region of Cantabria, excluding IBM, from January 2000 to December 2022. IIM was diagnosed by expert rheumatologists according to a) EULAR/ACR 2017 classification criteria of IIM in PM and DM, b) Definition of the European Neuromuscular International Workshop 2016 in IMNM and c) Connors criteria in ASS.
was no difference in terms of muscle damage, skin lesions (heliotrope rash, Gottron's papules, periangual erythema), and Raynaud's phenomenon according to the presence of IIM. Dysphagia and heart disease at MRI were more prevalent in patients with ILD. Patients with ILD also had lower prevalence of malignancy. Anti-Ro52 and antisynthetase antibodies were significantly associated with ILD. Anti-Mi/NXP2 antibodies were observed only in the group without ILD, but such association was not statistically significant. The prevalence of anti-TIF1gamma antibodies did not differ between the two groups; 3/5 (60%) patients in the group without ILD developed malignancy vs only 1/4 (25%) in patients with ILD.

Conclusion: There is a higher prevalence of dysphagia and heart involvement in patients with IIM and ILD, a highly prevalent manifestations of IIM, thus suggesting dedicated therapeutic strategies. ILD correlates with antisynthetase and -Ro52 positivity, with a negative association with malignancy, particularly in anti-TIF1gamma positive patients.

REFERENCES:
Inflammation Medicine, Ridgefield, United States of America; & Data Sciences, Ridgefield, United States of America.

*p=0.026, ^p=0.026 compared to ACA(+) patients, Log Rank (Mantel-Cox)test.

Table 1  Time to New Organ Involvement and Disease-Free Survival according to Autoantibody Profile in SSC Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Time to New Organ Involvement</th>
<th>Disease-Free Survival without New Organ Involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean (months)</td>
<td>CI 95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACA(+) (n=17)</td>
<td>82.65±14.5</td>
<td>54.25±11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%76.5(10.3)</td>
<td>%62.9(12.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>47.7(12.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA(+)ENA(+)</td>
<td>52.06±9.31</td>
<td>33.82±7.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%61.1(±11.5)</td>
<td>%33.3(±11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.7(±8.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-sSc70(+)</td>
<td>54.95±8.88</td>
<td>41.45±68.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%72.2(±2.75)</td>
<td>%38.9(±8.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.7(±6.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACA(-)(n=56)*</td>
<td>53.98±5.49</td>
<td>43.22±6.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%68.5(±6.3)</td>
<td>%37.0(±6.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.1(±4.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p=0.026, ^p=0.026 compared to ACA(+) patients, Log Rank (Mantel-Cox)test.

Conclusion: Although ACA(+) patients are considered to have a better prognosis, some patients may develop new or worsening manifestations after a longer time period. The prognosis of ANA or anti-Sc70(+) patients was shown to be more severe and most patients had new organ involvement within the first 5 years of the disease, warranting a careful evaluation and efficacious treatment at this period.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0877 TARGETING VASCULOPATHY TO SLOW FIBROSIS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSC): DESIGN OF A PHASE II STUDY WITH A SOLUBLE GUANYLATE CYCLASE ACTIVATOR (sGC)

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Biomarkers, Randomized control trial

D. Khanna1, M. Flack2, T. Litzenburger3, N. Fagan4, O. Distler2. 1University of Michigan Scleroderma Clinic, Department of Internal Medicine, Ann Arbor, United States of America; 2Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., TA Inflammation Medicine, Ridgefield, United States of America; 3Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, TMCP Therapeutic Areas, Biberach, Germany; 4Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Global Biostatistics & Data Sciences, Ridgefield, United States of America; 5University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: The pathophysiology of SSC involves a complex interplay between immune dysfunction, vasculopathy, and fibrosis. The soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) pathway has been shown to improve vascular endothelial function. We designed a Phase II study to test whether treatment of vasculopathy with an sGCa could slow the progression of fibrosis in patients with early progressive SSC and vasculopathy.

Objectives: To design a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the progression of fibrosis in patients with SSC treated with an sGCa.

Methods: We reviewed criteria used in published clinical trials to define early progressive disease, as well as clinical and biomarker features from existing studies and registries that are predictive of more rapid progression of fibrosis [1, 2]. Specifically, we looked for features of vasculopathy associated with progression of skin and lung fibrosis [3]. We performed a rigorous review of investigator- and patient-reported outcomes to test the hypothesis that amelioration of vascular symptoms could slow the progression of fibrosis in patients with SSCs.

Results: Progressive disease was defined as having diffuse cutaneous SSC with evidence of active disease as defined by clinical and biomarker criteria. The clinical criteria were similar to those used in previous trials, but we developed a novel biomarker strategy using KL-6 in addition to C-reactive protein (CRP) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate. These biomarkers identify additional patients at risk for progressive lung fibrosis. Significant vasculopathy was defined as having digital ulcers or a history of digital ulcers and/or Raynaud’s phenomenon requiring medical treatment or associated with elevated CRP. We developed a hierarchy of primary, key secondary, and secondary endpoints, including forced vital capacity, modified Rodnan skin score, revised Composite Response Index in Systemic Sclerosis, Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index, digital ulcer burden, and Raynaud’s symptom scoring, to investigate whether amelioration of vascular symptoms could slow decline in lung function over 48 weeks and reduce the progression of skin fibrosis and other disabilities associated with SSCs. We determined that a sample size of 100 patients was sufficient to obtain 80% power to observe changes in lung and skin fibrosis.

Conclusion: We designed a 48-week randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase II trial enrolling 200 patients with early progressive SSCs and significant vasculopathy to test whether targeting vasculopathy with a novel sGCa can slow the progression of fibrosis in patients with SSCs. The trial is now active, and additional details are available at NCT05559580.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: Dinesh Khanna Shareholder of: Eicos, Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, CSL Behring, Genentech, Horizon Therapeutics, Janssen, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, CSL Behring, Genentech, Horizon Therapeutics, Janssen, Prometheus, Talaris, Theraly, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Horizon Therapeutics, Pfizer, Mary Flack Employee of: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Tobias Litzenburger Employee of: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, Nora Fagan Employee of: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Oliver Distler Speakers bureau: Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Medscape, Consultant of: 4P-Pharma, Abbvie, Acceleron, Alcimed, AlfaVant Sannes, Amgen, AnaMar, Anxir, AstraZeneca, Baecon, Blade, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corbus, CSL Behring, Galapagos, Glenmark, Horizon, Inventiva, Kymera, Lupin, Miltenyi Biotec, Mitsubishi Tanabe, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Prometheus, Redpharma, Roivant, Sanofi and Topudar, Galdenma Gossamer, Qvia, Janssen, Medscape, Merck, Grant/research support from: Kymera, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Boehringer Ingelheim.

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AB0878 SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS TRANSPLANTATION IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Safety, Systemic sclerosis, Clinical Trials

N. Krivurochko1, L. Zaripova1, M. Askarova1, A. Baijenzhin2, T. Karibekov3, G. Shaimardanova2, S. Bekturganova3. 1National Scientific Medical Center, Institute of fundamental and applied medicine, Astana, Kazakhstan; 2National Scientific Medical Center, The Chairman of the Board, Astana, Kazakhstan; 3National Scientific Medical Center, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Astana, Kazakhstan; 4National Scientific Medical Center, Pathological department, Astana, Kazakhstan; 5National Scientific Medical Center, Department of therapy and cellular technologies, Astana, Kazakhstan

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by vasculopathy and tissue fibrosis of the skin and various internal organs. Currently available treatments for SSc have limited efficacy, and the disease still has poor prognosis. New therapeutic approaches such as mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) transplantation are of great interest. MSCs are known as multi-potent progenitor stromal cells that self-renew and differentiate toward multiple mesenchymal cell lineages [1, 2].

Objectives: to evaluate the efficacy and safety of bone marrow MSCs transplantation in SSc.

Methods: Twenty-five patients with a reliable diagnosis of SSc refractory to classical immunosuppressive therapy were divided between main and control group. Patients from the main group underwent transplantation of MSCs in combination with high-dose immunosuppressive therapy (HIST) (n=14), while the control group was observed on the background of traditional immunosuppressive therapy without cell transplantation (n=11). Both groups were comparable in age, gender
of patients, duration and severity of the disease. The degree of induration of the skin was evaluated using the modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS). The disease activity was assessed using the ESScSSG scale. Anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA), anti-SCL-70 were examined in indirect immunofluorescence, cytokines (IL-1β, IL-6, IL-10, TNF-α) by ELISA. All patients underwent CT scan of the thoracic segment, echocardiography with determination of mean pulmonary artery pressure (mPAP) and spirometry. Statistical analysis was carried out by GraphPad Prism version 8.

**Results:** Before MSC transplantation, SSC patients in both groups demonstrated an increase in ANA, C-reactive protein (CRP), IL-1, IL-6, TNF-α, with the background of severe skin induration. After transplantation of MSCT with HIST a pronounced clinical effect was noted: induration and dense swelling of skin, muscle contractures, vasospasm attacks (Raynaud syndrome) significantly decreased, dysphagia was relieved. In addition, a significant decline in skin density according to mRSS was observed (from 22.13±8.3, 52 to 9.8±0.93, p<0.003). A significant reduction in EScSG was registered from 3.21 to 2.48 points (p=0.05). Six months after transplantation, patients with SSC demonstrated a decrease in CRP from 10.14±5.21 to 3.28±1.31. Parameters of the cytolyn profile with a moderate decrease for IL-1, IL-6 and TNF-α (p<0.05). According to the results obtained patients who underwent BM-MSCs transplantation demonstrated 54% decrease in mPAP, from 41.4±10.87 to 26.8±3.27. In SSC patients in the control group high levels of cytokines, mRSS, and mPAP were recorded during the observation period. No cases of death or severe complications associated with MSCs transplants have been registered.

**Conclusion:** The conducted research demonstrated the therapeutic effect of MSC transplantation consisted in the decrease of the induration of skin, the activity of SSC and the severity of pulmonary hypertension, as well as normalizing the levels of proinflammatory cytokines.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**References:** NIL.

**AB0880**

**CORRELATION BETWEEN THE RESULTS OF NAIL FOLD CAPILLAROSCOPY AND OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY ANGIOGRAPHY IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Diagnostic Tests


1. Medical University of Warsaw, Department of Biophysics, Physiology and Pathophysiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Warsaw, Poland; 2. National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department and Polyclinic of Systemic Connective Tissue Diseases, Warsaw, Poland; 3. Military Institute of Aviation Medicine in Warsaw, Poland, Department of Ophthalmology, Warsaw, Poland

**Background:** Vascular pathology of blood vessels are, apart from immunological disorders, an important component of the pathogenic link of dangerous organ complications in systemic sclerosis (SSc). Endothelial damage is one of the mechanisms leading to disorders of vascular hemostasis, platelet activation, thrombosis causing coagulopathy and microangiopathy. Nailfold capillaroscopy (NC) is a non-invasive diagnostic tool for the detection and monitoring patients with SSc and current methods of the assessment of microcirculation and capillary structure within the nail folds. Although vascular pathologies can occur in other organs including the organ of vision. Coherence tomography angiography (OCTA) is a noninvasive imaging method of microvasculature of the retina and choroid providing the diagnosis of retinal perfusion.

**Objective:** The aim of the study was to evaluate the correlation between the optical coherence tomography (OCT) and optical coherence tomography angiography (OCTA) parameters and capillaroscopic results.

**Methods:** 31 patients (pts) with SSc diagnosed were included to the study. Mean age of the patients was 35.1 (8.3). Capillaroscopy was performed. The modified Rodnan Skin Score (mRSS) examination was taken by one assessor at the time of the study. There were measured HcrcT, prbnp, echocardiography. Finger ulcers were observed in physical examination. OCTA scans were collected from 31 patients. 61 eyes were included to the study to assess changes in retinal microcirculation. Foveal avascular zone (FAZ) in superficial plexus and deep plexus, paravascular mean superficial vessel density and paravascular mean vessel density were correlated to NC findings and other parameters used in OCTA examination. The statistical procedures were performed by using STATGRAPHICS Centurion, version 19.4 (Statgraphics Technologies, Inc., The Plains, Virginia, USA).

**Results:** In our study group 74% has diffuse Scc, 26% has limited SSc. IncNC: 5 pts has early pattern, 12 has active pattern,9 pts has late pattern. Only one person has pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and 8 pts have active finger ulcers. Interstitial lung disease was present in 46% patients (idiopathic interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) and 32% usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP)). Elevation prbnp were detect in 17.8% The paravascular mean superficial vessel density correlated positively and statistically significantly with mRSS (p=0.0460). Patients with early sclerosis pattern in capillaroscopy showed larger superficial FAZ (0.4±0.07mm²) than pts with active (0.2±0.09mm²) and late (0.22±0.08mm²). There was correlation between deep FAZ area and sclerodema pattern showing larger FAZ in pts with active (0.46±0.14mm²) than pts with active arthritis.
Background: Hand function deterioration is a major multifactorial driver of disability in Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) whose rate has been poorly described.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to describe incidence and risk factors of hand functional worsening in a longitudinal, multicenter, observational SSc cohort.

Methods: Hand involvement and disability were evaluated in consecutively enrolled patients for 24 months. Patient-reported hand impairment was captured with Cochin Hand Disability Score (CHFS) and the corresponding minimal clinical important differences (MCID) and patient acceptable symptom state (PASS). Clinical association with CHFS change over time and clinically meaningful worsening (MCID-Worsening) were investigated.

Results: Three-hundred-ninety-six patients from 10 centres were evaluated and 201 SSc (age 55.7±12.2 years, male 13.4%) were included in the final analysis. Median (IQR) disease duration was 5 (2-11) years while the proportion of patients with diffuse cutaneous variant was the 29.9%. Fifty-six (27.8%) patients had a CHFS ≥PASS at baseline. CHFS increased over time 35.8% of patients reaching CHFS >PASS (p<0.001), and 52.2% of patients reporting MCID-Worsening at 24 months. A LASSO model simultaneously exploring the effects of multiple baseline clinical variables showed that MCID-Worsening was associated with male gender, LeRoy diffuse variant, late capillaroscopy pattern, shorter disease duration, absence of digital ulcers, presence of tenosynovitis, pain, Raynaud's phenomenon, and global and hand disability severity, together with treatment with immunosuppressants, vasoactive medications, and second-line analogics.

Conclusion: Hand function tends to deteriorate over time in one SSc patient in two despite available therapies and clinical assessment support risk stratification. These results pave the way to inform design of intervention studies aimed at improving the outcome of this major driver of disability in SSc.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0881 - ADVANCED GLYCATION END PRODUCTS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Organ damage, Biomarkers

L. Trigerer,1, L. Tio,2, I. Carrion,3, A. Guillen-Del-Castillo,4,5, A. Ribes,6, L. Valencia Muntalà,6, J. Montfort,6, T. C. Salamanca,7, J. A. Pros,7, J. R. Navarrete,7, C. P. Simeon Aznar,1,2,4,5, IDIBELL, Unitat Funcional de Malalties Autoinmunoses Sistèmiques (UFMAS), Barcelona, Spain;1 IMM (Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute), Barcelona, Infammation and Cartilage Cellular Research Group, Barcelona, Spain;2 Hospital del Mar, Servei de Reumatologia, Barcelona, Spain;3 Hospital Universitari Vall d’Hebron, Department of Internal Medicine, Barcelona, Spain;4 VHIR, Systemic Diseases, Barcelona, Spain;5 Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge, Department of Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain;6 Barcelona, Servei de Reumatologia, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Studies have postulated that advanced glycation end products (AGEs) could have a relevant role as inducers in the chronic inflammatory pathway present in various diseases – including systemic sclerosis (SSc). Similarly, that the concentration of AGEs maybe related to nailfold capillaroscopy SSc changes, the diffuse skin subtype, or calcinosis. Validation studies have shown that skin autofluorescence is strongly related to AGEs levels in skin biopsies.

Objectives: To characterize and identify association between the concentrations of AGEs, measured by cutaneous autofluorescence, and disease parameters in SSc patients.

Methods: AGEs concentrations were measured by skin autofluorescence (Age Reader Mu Connect from Diagnostics Technologies BV®) in 179 SSc patients and correlated with demographic and clinical data. Cumulated AGEs were distributed in tertiles. Categorical data was described with frequencies, whereas continuous variables were displayed as mean (standard deviation). ANOVA tests were conducted to explore the linear association of demographics and clinical features with the cumulated AGEs value. Regression models were adjusted by skin autofluorescence.

Results: Table 1 shows the distribution and correlation of the most relevant patients characteristics studied according to AGEs levels classified in tertiles. Male gender (p-value M1=0.008, M2=0.003) and anticitrulline antibodies (ACA) (p-value M1=0.010, M2=0.034) were statistically significant associated with higher AGEs levels. In addition, AGEs levels were inversely correlated with age (p-value M1=0.039, M2=0.022). Although not statistically significant, there was a trend towards higher values of AGEs (p-value 0.05 - 0.1) in patients with esophageal involvement and skin manifestations (either diffuse or limited cutaneous subtype) and lower prevalence of anti-topoisomerase antibodies (ATA). No associations with other characteristics were found.

Conclusion: Higher AGEs levels were independently associated to male gender, ACA positivity and inversely with obesity. AGEs might be involved in the...
aetiopathological pathways leading to skin and esophageal manifestations. Finally, the disease mechanism in obese SSC patients might indicate a milder disease, as they present lower AGEs values, opposing to what has been described in healthy subjects. This could indicate less severe gastrointestinal disease leading to malnourishment.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Correlations of our cohort characteristics according to advanced glycation end products levels. c: categorized; M1: adjusted for age; M2 adjusted for age and tobacco. BMI: body mass index. * Not adjusted age. Bold indicates statistically significant differences (p<0.05).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All</th>
<th>First tertile</th>
<th>Second tertile</th>
<th>Third tertile</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[1.4,2.4]</td>
<td>[2.4,2.9]</td>
<td>[2.9,6.7]</td>
<td>M1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=179</td>
<td>N=80</td>
<td>N=62</td>
<td>N=57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (Male)</td>
<td>17 (9.5%)</td>
<td>4 (6.7%)</td>
<td>5 (8%)</td>
<td>8 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>61.0 (12.6)</td>
<td>57.5 (13.4)</td>
<td>61.7 (19.9)</td>
<td>65.8 (10.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking status</td>
<td>16 (8.9%)</td>
<td>2 (3.2%)</td>
<td>6 (9.6%)</td>
<td>8 (14.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin involvement</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>50 (83.3%)</td>
<td>58 (93.5%)</td>
<td>53 (90.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(89.9%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophageal involvement</td>
<td>155 (86.6)</td>
<td>49 (81.7%)</td>
<td>55 (88.7%)</td>
<td>51 (89.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-topoisomerase antibodies</td>
<td>21 (14.7%)</td>
<td>20 (10.4%)</td>
<td>7 (11.6%)</td>
<td>8 (14.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere antibodies</td>
<td>70 (47.3%)</td>
<td>21 (41.2%)</td>
<td>26 (50.0%)</td>
<td>23 (51.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>39 (21.8%)</td>
<td>15 (25.0%)</td>
<td>14 (22.6%)</td>
<td>10 (17.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>26.0 (5.42)</td>
<td>24.6 (6.20)</td>
<td>25.8 (4.91)</td>
<td>25.8 (5.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cBMI</td>
<td>0.370 0.387</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy</td>
<td>84 (47.5%)</td>
<td>28 (46.7%)</td>
<td>29 (48.3%)</td>
<td>27 (40.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>66 (37.3%)</td>
<td>21 (35.0%)</td>
<td>29 (48.3%)</td>
<td>27 (40.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>27 (15.3%)</td>
<td>11 (18.3%)</td>
<td>9 (15.0%)</td>
<td>7 (12.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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AB0883 IDIOPATHIC OPHTHALMIC MYOSITIS: CLINICAL PRESENTATION, THERAPEUTIC APPROACH AND IMAGING DIFFERENTIATION FROM GRAVES OPHTHALMOPATHY

Keywords: Myositis
S. Ziaragkali1, O. Argyropoulou1, G. Boutzi1, S. Chatzi1, E. Papadaki2,3, A. Karantanas2,3, A. Tzioufas1, M. N. Manoussakis1.
1School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Pathophysiology, Athens, Greece; 2Heraklion University Hospital, Department of Medical Imaging, Heraklion, Greece; 3Medical School, University of Crete, Department of Radiology, Heraklion, Greece

Background: Idiopathic ophthalmic myositis (IOM) represents a rare autoimmune ophthalmoplegia of unknown etiology, that may mimic predominantly Graves’ ophthalmopathy (GO). IOM is characterized by pronounced inflammatory infiltration of extraocular muscles leading to fibrosis and eye-threatening complications, if remains untreated [1,2]. The rarity and clinical heterogeneity of the disease pose diagnostic and therapeutic challenges.

Objectives: To describe the clinical phenotype, therapeutic interventions and clinical course of IOM and to define the distinct imaging features that differentiate IOM from GO.

Methods: This is a single-center, retrospective, observational study of 14 consecutive patients with IOM followed up between 2017 and 2022. Cumulative clinical, laboratory and imaging data from the medical records until last follow-up were analyzed. The detailed orbital magnetic resonance (MRI) findings of 11 IOM patients were compared to those of 16 age- and sex-matched GO patients.

Results: IOM patients studied (men: 9/14, median age at disease onset: 46 years, median follow-up time: 15.5 months), presented subacute clinical course in 57%, whereas 75.0% of GO and RA patients, respectively, whereas tendon involvement was observed exclusively in IOM patients (18.2%). In all patients, the mainstay of therapy, was steroids. IOM patients were treated with various combinations of corticosteroids and c-DMRI/d-DMRI (methotrexate, mycophenolate-mofetil, azathioprine, rituximab, tocilizumab), whereas GO patients mainly received corticosteroids with/ or without tocilizumab.

Conclusion: IOM is a potentially severely organ-specific disease with heterogeneous clinical presentation. Early diagnosis and aggressive immunosuppressive treatment are required to prevent permanent eye-threatening complications. IOM should be considered in the differential diagnosis of exophthalmos, while MRI-imaging may help in differentiating IOM from GO. Studies are underway to delineate tissue-specific alterations of the inflamed extraocular muscles and involving larger series of patients.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB0884 THE IMPORTANCE OF RENAL IMPAIRMENT IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Kidneys
L. Božić Majstorović1, J. Ojević1. 1University Clinical Centre of the Republic of Srpska, Department of Rheumatology, Banjaluka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SS) is an autoimmune disease characterized by fibrosis and vascular abnormalities. Studies have shown that renal impairment is increased in SS, but this fact is neglected during diagnostic evaluation [1]. As a control group, patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) were selected because the renal involvement was as high as 9% although the kidneys were not the target organs in the disease [2]. Comparison of renal function (RF) between patients with SS and RA have not yet been described.

Objectives: The main goal was to detect correlation between clinical features and renal impairment in SS and to compare the renal impairment in patients with SS to patients with RA.

Methods: The 30 patients diagnosed with SS were included in the study. The demographics, modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), EUSTAR DAI, diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide (DLCO) and immunology parameters were collected. Evaluation of RF was done by using: serum creatinine (SC), creatinine clearance (CC), proteinuria from 24h urine specimen and renal parenchym thickness (RPT) with abdominal ultrasound. To compare the renal impairment, the 30 patients diagnosed with RA without history of glomerulonephritis, diabetes mellitus, hypertension or urinary tract infection were enrolled as a control group.

Results: The 86.7% patients were female, mean age was 57.07±10.41 and mean disease duration was 73.6±68.73 months. Raynaud phenomenon had 93.3% patients, digital ulcers (DU) 43.3% and the mean of mRSS was 21.4±39.5. Antinuclear antibodies had 83.3% patients, 46.7% had anti-Scl-70 antibodies and 43.3% had anticientromere B antibodies. The mean of EUSTAR DAI was 4.86±2.56 and DLCO 60.57±16.80. Regarding RF, the mean value of SC was 70.67±16.20, CC 83.08±2.60, proteinuria 0.17±0.19 and RPT was reduced in 46.7% patients. We correlated clinical features with RF parameters in patients with SS. Significantly reduced RPT was observed in patients with higher mRSS (p=0.035) and in patients with DU (p<0.05). No association was observed between RF and other clinical features. Our results showed significant difference in all RF parameters, between patient and control group. SC (p=0.004) and proteinuria (p=0.03) were significantly higher in SS compared with RA. CC was significantly higher in RA than in patients with SS (p=0.005). RPT was significantly reduced (p=0.000) in SS compared to patients with RA. The results are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. RF parameters in SS and RA group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender F (%)</td>
<td>26 (86.7)</td>
<td>27 (90)</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>57.07±10.41</td>
<td>50.07±10.31</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum creatinine</td>
<td>70.67±17.77</td>
<td>59.87±8.25</td>
<td>0.040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine clearance</td>
<td>83.08±26.16</td>
<td>99.49±16.59</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria</td>
<td>0.17±0.19</td>
<td>0.09±0.05</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenchymal thickness (%)</td>
<td>14 (46.7)</td>
<td>0 (1.3)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RF-rerenal function; SS-systemic sclerosis; RA-rheumatoid arthritis.
High resolution impedance manometry in dermatomyositis allows the characterization of esophageal dysmotility and the profiling of different clinical and serological subsets.

**Background:** Esophageal involvement is common in dermatomyositis (DM), occurring in up to 54% of patients [1]. It can lead to severe complications, such as malnutrition and aspiration pneumonia. Therefore, esophageal assessment is of foremost importance to drive patients management. Recently, high-resolution impedance manometry (HRiM) has emerged as a promising technique to assess esophageal motility and has already been tested in systemic sclerosis [2].

**Objectives:** To evaluate esophageal motility by HRiM in DM and correlate the alterations to clinical and serological disease domains.

**Methods:** We analyzed HRiM findings in 15 consecutive DM patients enrolled in our clinic between December 2021 and December 2022. All patients received a rheumatological assessment, including screening questions for dysphagia, and underwent HRiM. All HRiM parameters (Integrated relaxation pressure (IRP), percentage of LES relaxation, distal contractile integral (DCI), distal latency (DL), upper esophageal sphincter (UES) pressure) were studied, coupled with impedance findings (esophageal clearing and bolus transit time). The report followed the Chicago Classification v.4.0 for esophageal motility disorders. The associations between HRiM findings and DM features were evaluated.

**Results:** DM patients were divided according to their serological status: 5 M2 (33%), 6 MD45 (40%), 2 Ku (13%), 1 NXP2 (6.6%), 6 Ro52 (40%). Asymptomatic patients presenting at least one HRiM alterations were 4 (26.7%). Among HRiM parameters, 83.3% MD45 patients and 50% Ro52 patients showed high UES pressure (Figure 1), in contrast to the other serological groups. Among impedance findings, incomplete bolus clearance was detected in MD45 (67%) and in Ro52 patients (50%). Notably, the only NXP2 patient showed 100% of incomplete bolus clearance. Considering the Chicago classification v.4.0, only 16.7% of MD45 patients had a normal esophageal motility, the rest presenting absent contractility (33.3%) and ineffective esophageal motility (IEM) (50%). Distal esophageal spasm was evidenced only in M2 patients (40%). All patients with concomitant manometric and impedance alterations were MD45 positive. DM patients with high UES, IEM or impedance abnormalities presented higher rate of lung involvement and active Raynaud's phenomenon (Table 1). No relation with ongoing treatment emerged.

**Conclusion:** Raynaud's phenomenon (Table 1). No relation with ongoing treatment emerged.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autoantibodies</th>
<th>HRiM Abnormalities</th>
<th>Features of DM Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Mi2</td>
<td>2 (33.3%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-MDA5</td>
<td>5 (83.3%)</td>
<td>3 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ro52</td>
<td>3 (50%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ku</td>
<td>1 (16.6%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-NXP2</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ro52</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO &gt; 80% predicted</td>
<td>5 (83.3%)</td>
<td>3 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD</td>
<td>4 (66.6%)</td>
<td>3 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia</td>
<td>2 (33.3%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud's phenomenon</td>
<td>4 (66.6%)</td>
<td>2 (66.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4889

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**Scientific Abstracts**

**Conclusion:** Presence of DU and high values of mRSS can be associated with renal damage and that indicates the need for evaluation of the RF. The renal impairment in our study was more significant in patients with SS than in those with RA. More studies are necessary to establish this correlation.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4970

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**AB0885 HIGH RESOLUTION IMPEDANCE MANOMETRY IN DERMATOMYOSITIS ALLOWS THE CHARACTERIZATION OF ESOPHAGEAL DYSMOTILITY AND THE PROFILING OF DIFFERENT CLINICAL AND SEROLOGICAL SUBSETS**

**Keywords:** Diagnostic Tests, Gastrointestinal tract, Myositis

C. Rizzo1, L. La Barbera1, F. Camarda1, D. Donzella1, G. Barletta1, S. Bonventre2, G. Guggino1.

1University of Palermo, Department of Health Promotion, Mother and Child Care, Internal Medicine and Medical Specialties, Rheumatology Unit, Palermo, Italy; 2University of Palermo, Department of General Emergency and Transplant Surgery, General and Emergency Surgery Unit, Esophageal Motility Disorder Section, Palermo, Italy

**Background:** Esophageal involvement is common in dermatomyositis (DM), occurring in up to 54% of patients [1]. It can lead to severe complications, such as malnutrition and aspiration pneumonia. Therefore, esophageal assessment is of foremost importance to drive patients management. Recently, high-resolution impedance manometry (HRiM) has emerged as a promising technique to assess esophageal motility and has already been tested in systemic sclerosis [2].

**Objectives:** To evaluate esophageal motility by HRiM in DM and correlate the alterations to clinical and serological disease domains.

**Methods:** We analyzed HRiM findings in 15 consecutive DM patients enrolled in our clinic between December 2021 and December 2022. All patients received a rheumatological assessment, including screening questions for dysphagia, and underwent HRiM. All HRiM parameters (Integrated relaxation pressure (IRP), percentage of LES relaxation, distal contractile integral (DCI), distal latency (DL), upper esophageal sphincter (UES) pressure) were studied, coupled with impedance findings (esophageal clearing and bolus transit time). The report followed the Chicago Classification v.4.0 for esophageal motility disorders. The associations between HRiM findings and DM features were evaluated.

**Results:** DM patients were divided according to their serological status: 5 M2 (33%), 6 MD45 (40%), 2 Ku (13%), 1 NXP2 (6.6%), 6 Ro52 (40%). Asymptomatic patients presenting at least one HRiM alterations were 4 (26.7%). Among HRiM parameters, 83.3% MD45 patients and 50% Ro52 patients showed high UES pressure (Figure 1), in contrast to the other serological groups. Among impedance findings, incomplete bolus clearance was detected in MD45 (67%) and in Ro52 patients (50%). Notably, the only NXP2 patient showed 100% of incomplete bolus clearance. Considering the Chicago classification v.4.0, only 16.7% of MD45 patients had a normal esophageal motility, the rest presenting absent contractility (33.3%) and ineffective esophageal motility (IEM) (50%). Distal esophageal spasm was evidenced only in M2 patients (40%). All patients with concomitant manometric and impedance alterations were MD45 positive. DM patients with high UES, IEM or impedance abnormalities presented higher rate of lung involvement and active Raynaud's phenomenon (Table 1). No relation with ongoing treatment emerged.

**Conclusion:** Raynaud's phenomenon (Table 1). No relation with ongoing treatment emerged.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autoantibodies</th>
<th>HRiM Abnormalities</th>
<th>Features of DM Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Mi2</td>
<td>2 (33.3%)</td>
<td>5 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-MDA5</td>
<td>5 (83.3%)</td>
<td>3 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ro52</td>
<td>3 (50%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ku</td>
<td>1 (16.6%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-NXP2</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ro52</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCO &gt; 80% predicted</td>
<td>5 (83.3%)</td>
<td>3 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD</td>
<td>4 (66.6%)</td>
<td>3 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia</td>
<td>2 (33.3%)</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud's phenomenon</td>
<td>4 (66.6%)</td>
<td>2 (66.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4970

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**AB0886 PROGRESSIVE INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis

G. Cuomo1, C. Di Vico1, D. Perretta1, C. Iandoli1, R. Ciaburri1, P. Adamo1,2

1Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli, Precision of Medicine, Caserta, Italy

**Background:** A subset of patients with systemic sclerosis associated interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD) develop progressive ILD, which is associated with higher mortality, but the prevalence of progressive ILD and the overall disease course and patterns of SSc-ILD are unknown. Current clinical practice emphasises treatment initiation. Of SSc-ILD patients with progressive ILD.

**Objectives:** To identify progression patterns and risk factors predictive for progressive interstitial lung disease (ILD) in patients with systemic sclerosis-associated ILD (SSc-ILD)

**Methods:** Within our database, patients included since 2000 aged ≥18 years fulfilled the SSc classification criteria and had lung imaging data available and had measurements of forced vital capacity (FVC) at baseline and after 12±3 months. A decline in FVC of ≥10%, or a decline in FVC of 5% to 10% along with a decline in DLCO of 15%, is a proposed definition of progressive fibrosis.

**Results:** From our database of the 813 patients included 210 (25.8%) had evidence of SSc-ILD on imaging, 134 (63.8%) at basal and 76 (36.2%) over time. The proportion of
patients with SSc-ILD who experienced progressive ILD during the initial 12±3-month period was 30.9% (65 pt) (FVC), either moderate 35 pts 53.8% (FVC decline 5% to 10%) or significant 30 pts 46.2% (FVC decline >10%), 76 (36.2%) were stable and 69 (32.8%) had improvement. In our population, the strongest predictive factors for FVC decline over 12 months were higher modified Rodnan skin score at basal. Conclusion: Novel treatment concepts, with treatment initiation before FVC decline occurs, should aim for prevention of progression to avoid irreversible organ damage in SSc-ILD that shows a heterogeneous and variable disease course, and thus monitoring all patients closely is important.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4971

AB0887 THE EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS IN TREATMENT OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Systematic review

L. Zariapova1, Z. Bekniyazova2, E. Insibayeva2, A. Kambar2, N. Imanbaeva2, S. Tuganbekova3, National Scientific Medical Center, Department of Scientific and Innovation Management, Astana, Kazakhstan; Astana Medical University, Department of Internal Diseases №4, Astana, Kazakhstan

Background: Systemic scleroderma, or systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an autoimmune disease with high morbidity and mortality, characterised by fibrosis of the skin and internal organs. In the last decade, alternative methods of treatment of SSc resistant to standard immunosuppressive therapy have been actively studied. Of interest are the data about mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) with their immunomodulatory properties, the ability to self-renew and differentiation.

Objectives: to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of MSCs transplantation in SSc refractory to standard therapy by a systematic review.

Methods: The search was conducted on PubMed and Google Scholar platforms using the following strategy: “Systemic sclerosis” + “Mesenchymal stem cells”. All articles presented in the public domain published before 12.12.2022 in the format of case descriptions, clinical and multicenter studies (Case Reports, Clinical Studies, Clinical Trials, Multicentre Studies) were analyzed. The effectiveness of MSCs was evaluated using the index of systemic sclerosis activity and the modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS), diffusing Capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO), the Mouth Handicap in Systemic Sclerosis (MHISS), the Cochlin Hand Functional Disability Scale (CHFS),left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), EASTAR 2017 Disease Activity Index, visual analog scale (VAS), manifestations of Raynaud’s syndrome, laboratory parameters (ESR, CRP), immunological parameters (ANA, Scl-70). The safety assessment included the registration of various adverse events during and after transplantation.

Results: For the period from 2010-2022, fifty publications were found on the topic of MSCs transplantation in SSc, of which 15 publications met the above criteria and were included in the study. The data of 417 patients who underwent transplantation of MSCs obtained from various biological sources (bone marrow - 7, adipose tissue - 5, umbilical cord - 1) were analyzed. The average age of the patients was 42.42 ± 10.79 y.o. The results obtained suggested that there was a significant decrease in the activity of SSc compared to the baseline level of mRSS scale from 21.8±1.72 to 4.5±5.4, the number of finger ulcers decreased, there was an improvement in mouth opening assessed by the MHISS scale, 2.5 fold decrease in the level of Scl-70, and 2-fold decrease in VAS (p<0.05). The assessment of all patients (n=417) who underwent MSCs transplantation revealed a few side effects, such as postoperative consequences (bruising, swelling and soreness of the donor site, resolved within 14 days), a superficial wound infection (1 patient), which succumbed to oral antibacterial therapy and no further surgical intervention was required. Pulmonary hypertension was diagnosed in 5 patients 24 months after MSCs transplantation; ventricular arrhythmias requiring treatment with carvedilol was observed in 1 patient four months after MSCs transplantation. Restrictive cardiomypathy and chronic fibrosing myocardiitis developed in 1 patient. 6 patients who underwent liposuction had transient paresthesia, which was completely eliminated after a few weeks; 1 patient dropped out due to dizziness after lidocaine injection. 2 patients complained about digital ulcers developed within 24 months. No tumor-related events were observed. The mortality rate consisted in 1.19%, the survival rate was 98.81%. Cause of death (5 cases in total): pneumonia- 1, lung cancer- 1, unknown – 2 patients. One patient died from sudden cardiac arrest due to ventricular fibrillation.

Conclusion: According to the analysis of data from different up-to-date research, MSCs transplantation in SSc patients improved the degree of skin thickening, lung function and mouth opening, as well as relieved ulcers and finger pain without serious side effects. Thus, MSCs can be suggested as an effective and promising therapeutic approach for patients with SSc resistant to standard immunosuppressive therapy.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5287

AB0888 CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ANTI HMGCOA REDUCTASE ANTIBODY POSITIVE IMMUNE MEDIATED NECROTIZING MYOPATHY: CASE SERIES OF 5 PATIENTS FROM A TERTIARY CENTRE

Keywords: Myositis, Autoantibodies

Case | Gender | Age (Years) | Statin use | Muscles involved | Other Manifestations - skin, mucous | CK on presentation | ANA | Anti HMGCoA reductase antibodies | Associated conditions | Biopsy | MRI | Treatment Steroids | Outcome | Muscle power |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Simvastatin and then Atorvastatin (10 years of statin use)</td>
<td>Proximal muscle weakness</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4341</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>CRP &lt;3</td>
<td>CLL</td>
<td>Muscle oedema of thighs</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Thighs -4/5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Simvastatin changed to Atorvastatin/ Pravastatin (6 years of statins prior to myopathy)</td>
<td>No proximal muscle weakness</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>10491</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>CRP 13</td>
<td>Myopathic Necrosis with minimal inflammation</td>
<td>Not done</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>Shoulders 5/5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Atorvastatin 20mg daily (for 2 years) and dose increased 8 months prior to onset of myopathy</td>
<td>Proximal muscle weakness</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>9383</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>CRP 60</td>
<td>Recovery phase of necrosis of sparse inflammatory cells</td>
<td>Proximal muscle oedema followed by oral</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Hip flexors – 4/5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>Atorvastatin 10mg stopped 6 months before IMMM due to myalgia</td>
<td>Proximal muscle weakness including neck flexors, dysphagia and respiratory failure</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>31666</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>CRP 100</td>
<td>Myositis Necrotising features with foci of sparse inflammatory cells, paucity of cellular infiltrates</td>
<td>Muscle oedema of thighs followed by oral</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Atorvastatin for 4 years</td>
<td>Proximal muscle weakness in lower limbs</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>ESR 113</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>≥200</td>
<td>Atrophic lipoma</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background: Immune Mediated Necrotizing Myopathy is a type of autoimmune myopathy which is commonly associated with the use of statins. Common antibody detected in these patients would be HMGCoA reductase antibodies. Significant muscle necrosis with paucity of cellular infiltration is the characteristic histological feature.

Objectives: To describe clinical and therapeutic characteristics of anti HMGCoA reductase antibody positive necrotizing myopathy.

Methods: Cohort of patients with myositis were selected. The myositis antibody panel was assessed and patients with HMGCoA reductase antibody were selected. Diagnosis was made based on the 2017 EULAR/ACR criteria [1]. Clinical manifestations, statin use, investigations, treatment offered, and outcome were described.

Results: Of the selected 5 cases, all the patients were middle aged with 3 males and 2 female patients. All 5 patients were on statins and 3 of them were on statins for many years prior to development of myopathy. None of the cases had other systemic involvement including dermatological or cardiac involvement. All 5 patients were positive for HMGCoA reductase antibodies. One patient had CLL which never required any specific treatment and another was incidentally found to have an atypical lipoma which was managed conservatively. All patients required steroids with either Methotrexate and Mycophenolate molitin. Three of the patients received intravenous immunoglobulin therapy with good response. All of the other patients had a complete recovery through 2 of them required prolonged rehabilitation.

Conclusion: Statin induced necrotising myopathy patients could develop the disease after many years of statin therapy. It is possible that changes in the drug or the dose could act as a precipitant. This cohort of patients tend to be treated with intravenous immunoglobulin in addition to other conventional treatments. In spite of having very severe disease at the onset, with timely and appropriate immunosuppressant and rehabilitation patients appeared to have a good outcome.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB0889 FILGOTINIB FOR THE TREATMENT OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS OVERLAP RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: DATA FROM OUR PRELIMINARY EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Systemic sclerosis, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. De Pinto1, A. Spinellia, L. Gavioli, G. Arnati, A. Rai, F. Goatelli, P. Macri1, F. Lumetti1, O. Secchi1, G. Sandri1, C. Salvarani2,2, D. Giuggioli1,4

1University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Scleroderma Unit, Rheumatology Unit, Modena, Italy; 2AUSL-IRCCS of Reggio Emilia, Rheumatology Unit, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 3University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Department of Surgery, Medicine, Dentistry and Morphological Sciences with Transplant Surgery, Oncology and Regenerative Medicine Research, Modena, Italy; 4University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences of Children and Adults, Modena, Italy

Background: Systemic sclerosis is a connective tissue disease characterized by endothelial dysfunction and fibrosis of the skin and internal organs. JAK inhibitors have shown efficacy in reducing cutaneous and pulmonary fibrosis in mice models of SSC, but only few case reports and no RCTs are reported in literature. SSC is frequently associated with other autoimmune diseases and SSC- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is one of the most common SSC-Overlap Syndrome. Filgotinib is an oral selective JAK1 inhibitor, recently approved for the treatment of RA.

Objectives: The aim of our work was to assess efficacy and safety of Filgotinib for the treatment of cutaneous, visceral and articular involvement in patients affected by SSC overlap RA.

Methods: Prospective, open-label, monocentric study in which 5 patients affected by SSC overlap RA (M/F 0/5, age 57,80±16,62DS years, disease duration 11,6±7,89 DS years, limited/diffuse subset 3/2) referring to the Scleroderma Units of Modena and Reggio Emilia between October 2021 and July 2022, were enrolled. All patients satisfied both ACR/EULAR criteria for SSCs and RA and were already in treatment with standard therapy (prostanoids, calcium-channel blockers and/or endothelin-receptors inhibitors a/o phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors) and had an inadequate response or were intolerant or had contraindication to one or more DMARDs or bDMARDs. Patients received Filgotinib 200 mg once daily for a period of 24 weeks. Articular, cutaneous and visceral involvement were assessed according to clinical practice at the baseline and at 12th and 24th week after the start of the treatment.

Results: All patients showed a significant improvement in articular involvement at 24th week, in particular a significant reduction in tender joint count (TJC, p=0,003), SDAI/SDAI (p=0,012/0,008) and pain numerical rating scale (NRS, p=0,035) was reported. A trend of improvement of DAS28 (p=0,055) was also observed. Notably a significant reduction in TJC (p=0,023) and a trend of improvement of SDAI/SDAI (p=0,059/0,051) was already seen at 12th week. The extent and severity of skin involvement assessed through modified Rodman Skin Score (mRSS) remained stable during follow-up (p=0,918). No improvement or worsening of exertional dyspnea measured by means of Borg scale was reported. No drug-related side effects were recorded during follow-up and none of the patients discontinued the treatment. No deaths were reported.

Conclusion: According to our preliminary data, Filgotinib was effective, safe and well tolerated in the treatment of articular involvement in patients affected by SSC overlap RA. Further analysis on a larger number of patients and control group are needed to confirm our data. Patients’ enrolment with assessment of efficacy on skin and lung involvement is currently ongoing.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0890 EARLY SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS SHOW A SLOW DISEASE COURSE

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Epidemiology

M. Käyä1, S. Kortelanen1, J. Palta1, L. Pirilä2, H. Vähälkikä3, R. Kaarteenaho1,4, J. Huhtakangas1, Oulu University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Oulu, Finland; 2Turku University Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Turku, Finland; 3University of Oulu, Faculty of Medicine, Oulu, Finland; 4University of Oulu, Research Unit of Biomedicine and Internal Medicine, Oulu, Finland; 5Oulu University Hospital, Center of Internal Medicine and Respiratory Medicine and Medical Research Center (MRC) Oulu, Oulu, Finland; 6Kuopio University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Kuopio, Finland

Background: Systemic sclerosis is a heterogeneous immune-mediated connective tissue disease characterized by vasculopathy and progressive tissue and organ fibrosis. [1]

Objectives: Our aim was to determine characteristics of Finnish patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) and early SSc that were followed during 1996-2018 in two university hospitals in Finland.

Methods: The data of patients with SSc with ICD-10 diagnostic code (M34) were collected retrospectively from medical registers. The patients were reclassified into different subsets based on the ACR/ EULAR (American College of Rheumatology and European League Against Rheumatism) 2013 classification criteria of the SSc. Early SSc was defined as a condition that did not fulfill the classification criteria (less than 9 points). Diffuse (dcSSc), limited (lcSSc), overlap and skin sclerosis subsets were differentiated by their clinical phenotype.

Results: 336 patients were obtained after re-evaluation of data. Out of 336 patients 40 (11.9%) patients had dcSSc, 222 (66.1 %) lcSSc, 16 (4.8%) SSc-overlap syndrome, 2 (0.6%) SSc sine sclerosis and 56 (16.7%) early SSc. The early SSc group did not develop any of the most severe manifestations such as interstitial lung disease (ILD), the incidence of which was 32.7/1000 patient years in the whole SSc group, n=280, pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) 14/3/1000 patient years), renal crisis (RC) 3.5/1000 patient years), myositis 12/1000 patient years) during the 4.3 [IQR 1.9-6.7] years of follow-up. The SSc group had significantly more other manifestations as digital ulcers (41.1 vs. 6.7/ 1000 patient years, p<0.001, SSc and early SSc, respectively), reduced mouth opening (44.3 vs. 10.1, p<0.001) and manometry positive oesophageal dysmotility (21.1 vs 10.3, p=0.007) than patients with early SSc. ILD was diagnosed 2.8 (SD 0.7) years and RC 0.2 (SD 0.3) years after the onset of the first non-Raynaud’s phenomenon symptom in SSc patients. The patients with dcSSc had worse survival than IcSSc patients (after 5 years 81.9% vs 91.6%, 05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s):0 22:36 Art: 28_EUROAB-2023-P027-28
Table 1. The rates of different organ manifestations as reported cases per patient year for SSc and early SSc patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organ Manifestation</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Events/1000 py</th>
<th>Early SSc</th>
<th>Events/1000 py</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>60/273 (22.0)</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>14/55 (25.5)</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>0.597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myositis</td>
<td>3/273 (1.1)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0/55 (0)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>9/273 (3.3)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0/55 (0)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>105/273 (38.2)</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>15/55 (27.3)</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>0.166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manometry positive</td>
<td>46/57 (80.7)</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>3/9 (33.3)</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal crisis</td>
<td>9/274 (3.4)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0/54 (0)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD</td>
<td>68/273 (24.6)</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>0/55 (0)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD and transplantation</td>
<td>1/87 (1.5)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAH</td>
<td>35/275 (12.7)</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>0/55(0)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAH and transplantation</td>
<td>1/65 (1.5)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcinosis</td>
<td>60/275 (21.8)</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>9/55 (16.4)</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>0.468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acro-osteolysis</td>
<td>18/275 (6.5)</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>0/55 (0)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.094</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results are expressed as n (%) for qualitative variables.

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier survival curves from the first non-Raynaud’s phenomenon symptom under 10 years 67.3% vs 82.9%, p<0.001 and HR=2.7 (1.6-4.4), p<0.001. The SSc-overlap and early SSC subsets did not have difference in survival when compared to lcSSc subset.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Markus Käyrä: None declared, Saara Kortelainen; “Enzo Ferrari”, Modena, Italy.

Children and Adults, Modena, Italy

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Department of Engineering

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences of Children and Adults, Modena, Italy

Background: Despite the positive impact of assistive devices (ADs) on the daily lives of people with disabilities, many of them are initially adopted and then regrettably abandoned. Even though the AD of an individual patient might fit his/her needs, up to 7 out of 10 people stop using it. On the one hand this may be linked to an improvement in their health, on the other, the devices may not be ergonomically suitable for long-term use. Previous studies have highlighted the possibility that co-designed and customised 3D printed assistive devices can benefit patients with rheumatic diseases which impair daily activities, especially manual ones. Among the 29 patients with Systemic Sclerosis who took part in the joint prevention clinic workshop at the University-Hospital of Modena (Italy), in 2019 4 patients actively joined the 3D printing project for the co-designing of ADs.

Objectives: This work has two main goals: firstly, to check whether in the short term the co-design approach is able to guarantee better acceptance of ADs and a lower abandonment rate. Secondly, to check during follow-ups, if the patients are satisfied and regularly use their ADs and if their daily activities remain unchanged.

Methods: The development of the ADs begins with co-design sessions which involve the patient, an Occupational Therapist and a designer. The AD is digitally modelled and 3D printed. Subsequently it is delivered to the patient following a number of training sessions. Using standardized tests such as PIADS (Psychosocial Impact of Assistive Devices Scale) and QUEST (Quebec User Evaluation of Satisfaction with assistive Technology) at the time of delivery of the ADs, then after 3 years, we assessed the level of satisfaction of the 4 patients enrolled, the condition of the ADs and their actual use.

Results: In 2019 each of the 4 patients received at least one AD, which they used on a regular daily basis [i.e. a device to open a moka pot (an Italian coffee machine); a token for a shopping trolley; a pen grip handle; a multiple key turner]. The results of the PIADS following delivery and in the 3-years follow-up were positive. The QUEST results were also positive. After 3 years the ADs were still being used regularly. Moreover, in 2022, 2 patients co-designed and 3D printed new ADs in response to new or altered needs.

Conclusion: In both the long and short term, ADs are still being used regularly and patients are still enjoying the benefits. After 3 years none of the ADs displayed any significant wear or breakage, thus their effectiveness was not compromised. Finally, the satisfaction of the patients with the co-designed ADs remained unaltered over time. Co-designed 3D printed devices have therefore proven to effectively reduce the AD abandonment rate.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5493
Table 1. Comparison of prevalence of ever-smoking men and women in the Dutch population and in the Leiden systemic sclerosis (SSc) CCISS cohort int the years 2015 and 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age range (years)</th>
<th>Size of the general population (number)</th>
<th>Ever smokers</th>
<th>SSc patients (number)</th>
<th>Ever smokers</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-45</td>
<td>2,126,000</td>
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<td>75%</td>
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<td>45-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;65</td>
<td>1,362,000</td>
<td>79,1%</td>
<td>13</td>
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<th>Age range (years)</th>
<th>Size of the general population (number)</th>
<th>Ever smokers</th>
<th>SSc patients (number)</th>
<th>Ever smokers</th>
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<td>45-65</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>63,2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;65</td>
<td>1,694,000</td>
<td>76,7%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>0,831</td>
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Background: A proinflammatory and immunosuppressive role of cigarette smoking has been suggested in rheumatic and autoimmune conditions, with former and current smokers having increased susceptibility to the development of several diseases [1]. Conversely, a study from the United States showed that ever-smoking was not associated with a significant risk to develop systemic sclerosis (SSc) [2]. Up to date, no other study addressed smoking as a possible risk factor for developing SSc.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to investigate whether smoking is a risk factor for disease susceptibility in SSc in the Dutch population.

Methods: At Leiden University Medical Center, the prospective Combined Care in Systemic Sclerosis (CCISS) cohort was initiated in 2009 and, as of January 2022, 708 SSc patients have been included. Information about smoking history was collected at time of enrolment in the cohort, allowing patients to be categorised into never-smokers and ever-smokers. Data about smoking habits in the Dutch population from 2014 to 2021, stratified for sex and age (12-25; 25-45; 45-65; >65 years) are accessible from the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics website (https://opendata.cbs.nl/file/83385NED/table?dl=6A354). The prevalence of ever-smokers in the CCISS cohort was compared with the prevalence of ever-smokers in the general Dutch population using chi-square tests. Due to the limited number of young SSc patients, only individuals aged 25 or above were included in the analysis. In order not to miss potentially relevant differences attributable to changes in smoking habits during time, two index years were chosen for the current analysis, 2015 and 2021. Age of the SSc patients who were enrolled in the CCISS cohort at the time of the index years was calculated. Patients who had died before each index year were excluded from the relative analysis. Official data about the Dutch population size and age composition were retrieved from the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics website (https://www.cbs.nl/visualisaties/dashboard-bevolking/bevolkingspiramide).

Results: Details about the population size in each age range and the number of patients included in the study are reported in Table 1. No statistically significant differences emerged in the comparison of ever-smoking rates between SSc patients and the general Dutch population both in men and women and in each of the three age categories (all p-values > 0.05).

Conclusion: Our study demonstrates that the percentage of ever-smoking individuals is comparable in SSc patients and in the Dutch population. Although the stratification might have decreased the statistical power of our analysis, we can conclude that smoking does not confer an increased risk for the development of SSc in the Netherlands.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5799

AB0893 CORRELATIONS BETWEEN CT SCAN, CLINICAL AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTIONAL DATA IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Imaging, Lungs

H. Abida1, Z. Meddeb1, C. Abdelkefi1, A. El Ouni1, S. Toujani1, S. Hamzeoui1, T. Larbi1, K. Bouslama1.

Background: The role of computed tomography (CT) in the assessment of pulmonary involvement in systemic sclerosis is witnessing constant updates with the development of scores and tools.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to look for a correlation between CT scan, clinical and respiratory functional data and to evaluate the severity of diffuse infiltrative lung disease using the Goh score.

Methods: It was a retrospective and descriptive study carried out at the Internal Medicine Department of Mongi Slim Hospital. It included data of patients with SSc with pulmonary involvement. We used the Goh CT score and the modified Goh score (with 6 levels) to assess the severity of lung involvement.

Results: 31 patients were included. The mean age of our patients was 50 years. The predominant elemental lesions on chest CT were ground-glass opacities (78%), septal thickening (77%) and traction bronchiectasis or bronchiolectasis (70%). The most common type of interstitial lung disease was non-specific interstitial pneumonia (65%) followed by usual interstitial pneumonia (23%). The statistical analysis showed associations between clinical, respiratory functional and imaging data. Decreased forced vital capacity was statistically associated with honeycomb (p=0.04) and non-specific interstitial pneumonia (p=0.05). It was also associated with the extent of lesions according to Goh score (p=0.031) and the modified 6-level Goh score (p=0.024). Crackles at the bases of lungs were associated with the degree of the reticulation extent according to the modified Goh score (p=0.022). A statistically significant relationship was also noted between cough and the extent of ground-glass opacities according to the modified Goh score (p=0.022).

Conclusion: Chest CT allows the assessment of the severity of lung involvement in SSc using semi-quantitative CT scores. We have concluded that the modified Goh score correlates better with clinical abnormalities.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5890
Scleroderma, myositis and related syndromes

AB0894
SYMPTOMS OF GASTROINTESTINAL INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH LIMITED AND DIFFUSE CUTANEOUS SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS EVALUATED WITH TWO DIFFERENT SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Systemic sclerosis, Patient reported outcomes

M. Vujovic1, I. Paviлови2, M. Sefik Bukilica3,2, G. Gradinovici2,3, P. Ostojić2,3,1
1Institute of Rheumatology, Rheumatology, Belgrade, Serbia; 2Institute of Rheumatology, Rheumatology, Belgrade, Serbia; 3School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Background: Gastrointestinal (GI) tract is the second most affected organ in systemic sclerosis (SSc).

Objectives: This study aims to analyze the frequency and severity of GI symptoms and their impact on health-related quality of life among patients with limited cutaneous (lcSSc) and diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (dcSSc), as well as in patients with anti-centromere autoantibodies (ACA) and anti-topoisomerase I autoantibodies (ATA).

Methods: Eighty-six consecutive patients with SSc (mean age 59.5 yrs, mean disease duration 11.7 ± 7.9 yrs) were included in this study. lcSSc have had 65 (75.6%) of patients, whilst 21 (24.4%) had diffuse form of the disease. ACA were detected in 48 patients (55.8%), ATA in 25 patients (29.1%), two of them had both ACA and ATA (23%) and 11 (12.5%) of them had positive antinuclear antibodies (ANA) without specific autoantibodies. We used two self-assessment questionnaires to evaluate the presence and severity of GI symptoms: UCLA-SCTC-GIT 2.0 (1) and the SAQ [2].

Results: There was no difference in percentage of patients with lcSSc and dcSSc who used proton pump inhibitors (41.5% vs 52.3%), as well as in patients with positive ACA or ATA (45.8% vs 52%). Symptoms of gastrointestinal reflux (lcSSc: dSSc = 70.7%: 71.4%), distension/bloating (lcSSc: dSSc = 72.3%: 61.9%), diarrhea (lcSSc: dSSc = 27.7%: 42.8%), constipation (lcSSc: dSSc = 44.6%: 33.3%) and fecal soiling (lcSSc: dSSc = 9.2%: 14.3%) were found equally frequent (p>0.05) in patients with lcSSc and dcSSc. GI symptoms were equally common (p>0.05) in patients with ACA and ATA as follows: reflux (ACA: ATA = 70.8%: 80%); distension (ACA: ATA = 77.1%: 64%); diarrhea (ACA: ATA = 33.3%: 28%); constipation (ACA: ATA = 47.9%: 40%); and fecal soiling (ACA: ATA = 8.3%: 16%). Reflux and distension were most frequently present categories, with the highest mean index scores, implicating that these symptoms were most common and severe in our patients. We did not notice significant difference in prevalence and severity of GI symptoms in patients with lcSSc and dcSSc, as well as in patients with ACA and ATA (Table 1). Total GIT score correlated positively with all SAQ indices. Interestingly, index of reflux correlated with the Index of respiratory status (IRS), a distinct domain within the SAQ questionnaire, related to respiratory symptoms, implicating that patients with severe reflux have more serious respiratory symptoms.

Conclusion: Gastrointestinal impairment is very frequent and affects the quality of life in patients with SSc, with no difference regarding the disease subtype or autoantibodies, emphasizing the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. These questionnaires may be helpful in early detection of GI involvement.

Table 1. Severity of GI symptoms in different disease subtypes and autoantibodies present. Differences among the groups were not statistically significant (p>0.05).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>lcSSc (n=65)</th>
<th>dcSSc (n=21)</th>
<th>ACA (n=48)</th>
<th>ATA (n=25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UCLA GIT 2.0 (means±SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflux</td>
<td>0.49±0.53</td>
<td>0.52±0.6</td>
<td>0.51±0.57</td>
<td>0.55±0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distension/Bloating</td>
<td>0.88±0.84</td>
<td>0.52±0.6</td>
<td>0.97±0.85</td>
<td>0.61±0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>0.2±0.36</td>
<td>0.43±0.24</td>
<td>0.24±0.39</td>
<td>0.25±0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constipation</td>
<td>0.35±0.48</td>
<td>0.26±0.23</td>
<td>0.36±0.49</td>
<td>0.22±0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fecal soiling</td>
<td>0.15±0.56</td>
<td>0.24±0.62</td>
<td>0.12±0.49</td>
<td>0.3±0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social functioning</td>
<td>0.31±0.4</td>
<td>0.35±0.45</td>
<td>0.35±0.39</td>
<td>0.25±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional well-being</td>
<td>0.32±0.43</td>
<td>0.36±0.63</td>
<td>0.33±0.43</td>
<td>0.26±0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total GIT score</td>
<td>0.45±0.73</td>
<td>0.47±0.4</td>
<td>0.5±0.83</td>
<td>0.37±0.39</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.s5944

AB0895
SUBCUTANEOUS IMMUNOGLUBULINS IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: IS IT TIME FOR A THERAPY DISCONTINUATION SCHEDULE?

Keywords: Myositis, Outcome measures, Quality of care

C. Cardelli1,2, S. Barsom1,2, E. Laurino1, M. Diomedi1, F. Fattorini1, A. Tripodi1, L. Carli1, M. Mosca1,1
1University of Pisa, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Pisa, Italy; 2University of Siena, Department of Medical Biotechnologies, Siena, Italy; Ospedale di Livorno, Medicina Interna, Livorno, Italy; Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Pisana, Rheumatology Unit, Pisa, Italy

Background: Subcutaneous immunoglobulins (SCIG) therapy is effective in patients with Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies (IMI), especially in severe and refractory forms of the disease; however, its use is burdened by high costs. Although it is now known that the dosage to be used for the immunomodulatory effect is 2g/kg per month, there are no standardised tapering or discontinuation schemes to date.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to assess whether there are differences in terms of clinical outcomes and patient Quality of Life (QoL) between two different SCIG treatment regimens, involving discontinuation of therapy after the first six months or continuation of the drug for a further six months.

Methods: Within the cohort of IMI patients (2017 EULAR/ACR criteria) followed at our Myositis Clinic, we selected those who were treated with SCIG and, dividing them into two groups according to whether they discontinued therapy after the first six months, we performed a retrospective analysis on data prospectively collected. For each patient, demographic and clinical data (age, sex, disease subset and duration, organ involvement, comorbidities, treatment) were collected from medical charts. The International Myositis Assessment & Clinical Studies Group Disease Activity Core Set Measures (IMACS-CSMs) [Physician Global Activity (PhGA), Patient Global Activity (PGA), 8-items Muscle Affecting Treatment Monitoring Tool (MAMT), Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), serological muscle enzymes values] were used to assess the disease activity at baseline and to evaluate the clinical outcomes after six and twelve months from the start of SCIG therapy. Patients’ perspective was evaluated also by administration of Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) not included in the IMACS-CSMs: Short-Form 36 Items Health Survey (SF-36), Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy Fatigue Subscale (FACT-F), Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). We then compared the delta of IMACS-CSMs and PROs between the 12-month (12m) and 6-month (6m) assessments to detect any significant changes in patients’ health status following the discontinuation of SCIG therapy.

Results: We included 18 patients (12 dermatomyositis, 6 polymyositis; 61.1% female) with a mean age at the beginning of SCIG therapy of 63.8±14.8 years. Of these, 10 (55.6%) discontinued SCIG therapy after 6 months of treatment while 8 (44.4%) continued it for at least one year. We found no differences between the two groups in terms of disease activity and patients’ QoL at baseline. At 12 months evaluation, there were no statistically significant differences in PhGA (2.9±1.7 vs 2.5±1.7), HAQ (6759±80.6 and 751±61.1) and serum values of muscle enzymes (CPK, LDH, aldolase) between those who had discontinued SCIG after the first 6 months and those who continued the treatment. Patients’ QoL was also found not to differ between the two groups, as no statistically significant differences emerged between the scores of HAQ, all SF-36 domains, FACT-F and HADS anxiety and depression subscales. The delta 12m-6m of QoL assessment parameters showed no differences between the two groups, while there was a worsening of mean PhGA (1.5±1.4 vs -0.5±1.8, p=0.026) and MMT8 (-5.3±6.6 vs 3±3.2, p=0.010) in those who discontinued therapy compared with those who continued SCIG.

Conclusion: Although preliminary and with the limitations inherent to the retrospective nature of the study, these data seem to suggest that there are no significant differences in outcomes assessed by IMACS-CSMs and in patient’s perception of the disease between different treatment regimens concerning the discontinuation of SCIG. If our findings will be confirmed by future studies on larger cohort of IMI patients, although it appears that there may be a slightly deterioration in muscle function, discontinuing SCIG therapy after the first six months of treatment could reduce health costs, without the risk of significantly compromising patients’ quality of care.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.s6353

AB0896
BEYOND CLINICAL TRIALS: EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF NINTEDANIB IN IFP AND PROGRESSIVE FIBROSING INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Keywords: Organ damage, Lungs, Real-world evidence
A. I. De Gracia¹, C. Bea¹, E. Fuertes¹, A. De Castro¹, L. Navarro¹, C. Prades¹, D. Ruiz¹, P. Abioli², M. J. Forner¹, S. Vela-Bernal¹. Hospital Clinic Universitari, Medicina Interna, València, Spain

Background: Since publication of clinical trials regarding the efficacy of nintedanib in fibrosing ILD, including the ILD associated with autoimmune diseases, its clinical use has increased but not enough real-world data has been published.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to evaluate the efficacy and safety of nintedanib in patients with interstitial lung diseases (ILDs) progressively fibrosing of several etiologies in a spanish third-level hospital.

Methods: A retrospective study was designed to collect clinical and radiological data of 31 patients under treatment with nintedanib, followed up by Internal Medicine, Rheumatology, or Pneumology specialists since 2016.

Results: Characteristics of the study population are collected in Table 1. The indications for nintedanib were a fibrosis progression in the previous 24 months, determined as a decrease of Forced Vital Capacity higher than 10% in 25 patients (41,67%) or a decrease of 5-10% in 5 patients (8,33%). The increase of fibrosis in CT in 17 patients (28,33%) and a clinical worsening in 25 patients (41,67%) were also indications for treatment, as in pivotal trials. The mean time with nintedanib was 12,58 months (± 13,20). The drug was stopped in 9 patients (29%), 1 of them due to progression and 8 due to adverse effects, none of them severe, being the most frequent gastrointestinal. 12 patients died during follow-up. 7 (58,33%) were diagnosed with IPF, 4 with progressive fibrosis ILD, and 3 with ILD associated with systemic sclerosis. No significant differences between groups were found. Spirometric values were collected before treatment as well as at 3, 6, 12, and 24 months after starting treatment to compare the mean values of FVC (ml), FEV1 (ml), Tiffenau index and DLCO (%). The evolution of spirometric parameters is shown in graph 1. No significant differences were found between them at baseline and after treatment, in accordance with the expected slowing of the progression to fibrosis. Regarding the evolution in radiological studies, fibrosis progression was only observed in a small percentage of patients.

Conclusion: Nintedanib was one of the first anti-fibrotic drugs with indication in fibrosis ILD. Not only for IPF but also for ILD of diverse etiology, including those associated with autoimmune diseases, after the publication of clinical trials. Therefore, its use is increasing despite limited inclusion criteria in trials and scarce real-life clinical data. Our real-world study, even with its limitations, shows that the benefit of nintedanib in the fibrosis ILD not only for IPF but also for ILD of diverse aetiology, including the ILD associated with autoimmune diseases, after the publication of clinical trials. Therefore, its use is increasing despite limited inclusion criteria in trials and scarce real-life clinical data. Our real-world study, even with its limitations, shows that the benefit of nintedanib in the fibrosis ILD not only for IPF but also for ILD of diverse aetiology.

REFERENCES:

Table 1.

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<th>CHARACTERISTICS (n: 31)</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
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<th>%</th>
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<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
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<td>PF-ILD</td>
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<td>SSc</td>
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<td>RA</td>
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**AB0897 THE PRESENCE OF ANTI-U1-RNP ANTIBODY HAS A MILD BUT APPARENT IMPACT ON INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

Y. Itsuki, H. Fujimoto, Y. Yamamoto, A. Nakajima. ¹Mie University Hospital, Center for Rheumatic Diseases, Tsu, Japan; ²Mie University Graduate School of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Tsu, Japan

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is the leading cause of systemic sclerosis (SSc)-related death[1]. With the availability of antifibrotic agents to slow the progression of SSc-ILD[2], it is important for clinicians to be aware of the antibody profile predicting the severity and progression of SSc-ILD.

Objectives: To determine the impact of anti-U1 ribonucleoprotein antibody (αRNPab) in addition to anti-topoisomerase 1 antibody (ATA) on SSc related interstitial lung disease (ILD).

Methods: Patients with SSc who visited Mie University Hospital between December 2020 to December 2021 were consecutively registered. The severity and progression of ILD on chest computed tomography (CT) were assessed based on the ILD and traction bronchiectasis (TBE) scores, evaluated by using established method[3] with minor modification. We hypothesized that ATA had the greatest impact on ILD, followed by αRNPab, and accordingly stratified patients into three groups: group 1, ATA-positive; group 2, αRNPab-positive; and group 3, double-negative. At registration, patient characteristics were compared according to the presence of ILD, and the severity of ILD were compared among three groups. For patients who had earlier CT scans available, ILD progression was assessed.

Results: Among 48 patients (ILD/non-ILD; n=25/23), αRNPab positivity was significantly higher in the ILD than in the non-ILD group (32%, 0%, p<0.01). In 47 patients, the percentage of patients whose ILD score ≥ 20% was 83.3, 28.5 and 5.8% in groups 1, 2 and 3 (n = 67/34), respectively (p<0.01). In 25 patients, the percentage of patients with progressive ILD whose ILD score increased by ≥ 5% was 80.0, 50.0 and 14.3% in groups 1, 2 and 3 (n = 5/6/14), respectively (p<0.01).

Conclusion: The presence of αRNPab significantly affects the presence, severity and progression of SSc-ILD, although the effect is milder than that of ATA.

REFERENCES:
AB0898
LUNG ULTRASONOGRAPHY FOR THE SCREENING AND PROGNOSTIC STRATIFICATION OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: RESULTS FROM A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: Systematic review, Ultrasound, Systemic sclerosis

A. Alunno1, N. Piconi2, E. Pintus3, J. Schooners5, M. Matucci-Cerinic2,4, S. Bellando Randone2, Internal Medicine and Nephrology Division, University of Udine, Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, Udine, Italy;2Division of Rheumatology, AOUC, Dept. Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence, Florence, Italy;3Leiden University Medical Center, Directorate of Research Policy (formerly Walaeus Library), Leiden, Netherlands;4IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases (UnIRAR), Milan, Italy

Background: Intestinal lung disease (ILD) affects almost all systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients and is the major cause of morbidity and mortality. Chest high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) is today the gold standard imaging method to diagnose and disclose the characteristic SSc ILD features. More than 71% of SSc patients has ILD present, n (%) 5 (83.3%) 7 (100%) 12 (35.2%) <0.01*

Methods: A systematic literature search in several databases was conducted following the PICO framework on July 2022. Two researchers independently screened abstracts and titles and full texts were subsequently reviewed to determine eligibility (original research articles enrolling adult SSc patients undergoing lung US and HRCT). Data from eligible articles were extracted and risk of bias and/or level of evidence were assigned. In 3 studies, a very good reproducibility (intraclass correlation coefficients=0.95-0.96 and Cohen's k=0.72) was detected. The concordance between US and HRCT in identifying ILD pathological findings was around 80%.

Results: Out of 1656 retrieved articles, only 95 were selected for full text evaluation. The design, execution, and interpretation of results for this study were entirely independent of these companies.gements to declare.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.174

Table 1. Features

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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years) at diagnosis</td>
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<td>50 ± DS 17</td>
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<td>Respiratory muscle weakness</td>
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**AB0900**

**NINTEDANIB DOES NOT IMPROVE NAILFOLD CAPILLARY ABNORMALITIES IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Lungs, Imaging, Systemic sclerosis

T. Sugimoto1, H. Watanabe1, Y. Yoshida1, S. Mokuda1, S. Hirata1. 1Hiroshima University Hospital, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Hiroshima, Japan

**Background:** The pathogenesis of SSc consists of three aspects: fibrosis, angiopathy, and immune abnormalities. Nintedanib has been shown to be effective against interstitial lung disease (ILD) as an antifibrotic drug, but it may also have effects on vascular disorders due to its inhibitory effects on FGF, PDGF, and VEGF. While nailfold capillary abnormalities in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) may improve with immunosuppressive therapy, no reports have evaluated whether nintedanib improves nailfold capillary abnormalities.

**Objectives:** To clarify whether nintedanib improves nailfold capillary abnormalities in patients with SSc complicated by ILD.

**Methods:** This study is a prospective observational study. Among patients diagnosed as having SSc according to the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, those who started to treat with nintedanib for ILD at our hospital from March 2020 to July 2022 were consecutively registered. The nailfold capillaries were evaluated using a nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC), capable of observing at 200x magnification. The evaluation was carried out using the current standardized method. [1] NVC was performed before drug induction and 1 year after drug induction. Only patients who had NVC testing up to 1 year later were included in the evaluation. At the same time, blood tests such as KL-6, SP-A, and SP-D, and respiratory function tests were evaluated. This study has been pre-approved by the Hiroshima University Hospital Ethics Committee. (OySteR study: Optimal strategy in SSc Treatment for Recovery, approval number: E-1940-1)

**Results:** Eight patients were analyzed. The mean age was 59 ± 17 years. Female patients (7/8, 87.5%) were positive for anti-Scl-70 antibodies. Details of other cases are described in Table 1. Seven patients (87.5%) had a history of treatment with immunosuppressive therapies. The disease duration was less than 6 years in 5 patients, and 6 years or longer in the remaining 3. Five patients were able to continue nintedanib for 52 weeks: 1 patient discontinued nintedanib after 1 month due to abnormal liver function, 1 patient with diabetes discontinued after 10 months. All of the patients who were able to continue oral administration were also reduced to 200mg/day due to diarrhea. Baseline mean FVC, KL-6, SP-A, and SP-D are described in Table 1. The results by NVC pattern were Normal in 1 case, Early in 2 cases, Active in 1 case, Late in 3 cases, and Non-specific in 1 case. Quantitative baseline results for the NVC tests were capillary density (number of capillaries) 5.8 ± 2.1/mm, enlarged capillary score 0.91 ± 0.85, giant capillary score 0.31 ± 0.30, and hemorrhage score 0.26 ± 0.30. Mean FVC, KL-6, SP-A, and SP-D after 1 year are also shown in Table 1. Conclusion: Nintedanib tended to improve ILD biomarkers and pulmonary function test results in patients with SSc, but did not improve nailfold capillary abnormalities. Based on this result, combination therapy is preferable to nintedanib alone for improving the pathology of SSc.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Table 1. Comparison of laboratory data and NVC test results at baseline and after 1 year**

<table>
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<th>Age(year)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male/female</td>
<td>59 ± 17</td>
<td>60 ± 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antibody</td>
<td>Anti-Scl-70: 67%</td>
<td>Anti-Scl-70: 75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NVC pattern</td>
<td>Normal: 1</td>
<td>Normal: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Density (/mm)</td>
<td>5.8 ± 2.2</td>
<td>5.8 ± 2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enlarged</td>
<td>0.91 ± 0.83</td>
<td>0.98 ± 0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant</td>
<td>0.31 ± 0.30</td>
<td>0.38 ± 0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemorrhage</td>
<td>0.22 ± 0.27</td>
<td>0.20 ± 0.33</td>
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**Acknowledgements:** NIL


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**AB0901**

**FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY, BODY COMPOSITION AND DISEASE ACTIVITY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH MYOSITIS**

**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Quality of life, Myositis

K. Y. Jensen1, P. Aagard2, C. Sueta2, J. Nielsen2, H. D. Schroder2, C. Gronset2, L. P. Diederichsen1, 1The Copenhagen University Hospital - Righospitalat, Copenhagen Research Center for Autoimmune Connective Tissue Diseases (COPEACT),
Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies – or briefly myositis – has cardinal traits of muscle weakness [1] and decreased muscle endurance [2] in addition to reduced quality of life (QoL) [3]. However, QoL is complex, and it is unclear which factors affect QoL in patients with myositis. Knowledge of these factors and potential associations to QoL is of importance for evoking changes to a better life for patients with myositis.

Objectives: To investigate the influence of functional capacity, muscle strength, body composition and disease activity and damage on QoL in patients with myositis.

Methods: Measures of functional capacity (functional index 3, 2-minute walk test, timed-up-and-go and 30-s sit-to-stand), muscle strength (5 repetitions maximum strength in leg press, bench press, cable row, knee extension, biceps curl and static handgrip strength; all expressed relative to body mass), leg extensor power (Nottingham Power Rig, relative to body mass), body composition (height adjusted appendicular lean mass and fat mass) and IMACS (International Myositis Assessment & Clinical Studies Group) disease activity and disease damage core set measures were analysed to investigate the impact on QoL (physical and mental component summary in the Short Form 36 questionnaire (SF-36)).

Results: All functional capacity measures were positively correlated with the physical component summary (PCS); functional index 3 ($r^2=0.15$, $p=0.03$), 2-minute walk test ($r^2=0.26$, $p=0.003$), timed-up-and-go ($r^2=0.14$, $p=0.03$) and 30-s sit-to-stand performance ($r^2=0.15$, $p=0.03$). Only leg press ($r^2=0.15$, $p=0.04$) showed a positive correlation with PCS for measures of muscle strength and power. For body composition, height adjusted fat mass correlated negatively with PCS ($r^2=0.20$, $p=0.01$). Of the IMACS disease activity and disease damage core measures, Health Assessment Questionnaire ($r^2=0.40$, $p=0.0001$), Physician Global Assessment of Disease Damage ($r^2=0.44$, $p<0.001$), Patient Global Assessment of Disease Damage ($r^2=0.18$, $p=0.02$) were negatively correlated with PCS. In contrast, none of the investigated outcome parameters were correlated with the mental component summary of SF-36.

Conclusion: In the present group of patients with myositis, functional capacity and muscle strength had positive associations with the physical component summary of the QoL, indicating that future interventions should be directed to improve these factors to ultimately improve QoL. The Health Assessment Questionnaire and Patient/Physician Global Assessment of Disease Damage revealed strong correlations with PCS, supporting that both patient-reported outcome parameters and clinician-reported outcomes are highly relevant QoL-related monitoring parameters in patients with myositis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Kasper Yde Jensen: None declared, Per Aagaard: None declared, Charlotte Sueta: None declared, Jakobs Nielsen: None declared, Henrik Daas Schneider: None declared, Charlotte Grønset: None declared, Louisa Elke Diederichsen: Employees: Boehringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim.

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AB0902

LEFT VENTRICULAR SYSTOLIC DYSFUNCTION IS RARE BUT PROGNOSTICALLY IMPORTANT IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Systemic sclerosis, Heart

J. Fairey1,2, D. Hansen3, S. Proudmant4, J. A. Saha4,6, G. S.Ngian1,6, J. Walker1, L. Host1, A. La Gerche1,6, D. Prior2, K. Morrisroe1,2, W. Stevens2, M. Ninkou1,2, L. Ross1,2,1 The University of Melbourne, Department of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Melbourne, Australia; 2St. Vincent’s Public Hospital, Melbourne, Department of Rheumatology, Fitzroy, Australia; 3The University of Adelaide, Department of Medicine, Adelaide, Australia; 4Royal Adelaide Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Adelaide, Australia; 5Monash Health, Department of Rheumatology, Clayton, Australia; 6Melbourne University School of Medicine, Clayton, Australia; 7Fiona Stanley Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Murdoch, Australia; 8Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, Sports Cardiology, Melbourne, Australia; 9St. Vincent’s Public Hospital Melbourne, Department of Cardiology, Fitzroy, Australia

Background: Reduced left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) occurs in only around 5% of unselected SSC cohorts [1]. Subclinical LV systolic dysfunction (LVSD) defined by advanced echocardiographic measures including global longitudinal strain (GLS) may be more prevalent [2].

Objectives: To quantify the frequency of LVSD in SSCs as measured by LVEF and LV GLS, and its impact on survival and physical function.

Methods: Included participants in the Australian Scleroderma Cohort Study met ACR/EULAR criteria for SSCs and had ≥1 echocardiographic LVEF measurement. Those with secondary causes of LVSD (ischaemia, valvular disease and PAH) were excluded. Chi squared tests, two sample t-tests or Kruskal Wallis tests were used for between group comparison as appropriate. Generalised estimating equations were used to model longitudinal data. Survival analyses were performed using Kaplan-Meier and Cox proportional hazard models.

Results: Of 1145 participants, 2.5% recorded a reduced of LVEF<50% during follow up; 14% had borderline LVEF of ≥50% but <55%; and 83% always a LVEF ≥55%. Only 0.6% ever had a LVEF<40%. LVREF returned to normal in 66% of those who had recorded a LVEF<50%. Compared to those with normal LVEF, those with reduced LVEF were similar in age, more frequently male (p=0.01), with SSCs (p<0.001), SSC renal crisis (p=0.02), synovitis (p=0.04) and higher inflammatory markers (p=0.02). Those with reduced LVEF more commonly had myositis (p<0.01), muscle atrophy (p=0.01) and proximal weakness (p<0.01). Use of prednisolone (p=0.03), IVIG (p=0.01), and cyclophosphamide (p=0.01) were more common in those with reduced LVEF. Survival was worse in those with reduced LVEF (Figure 1). Reduced LVEF was associated with a 2.8-fold increased risk of death (95% CI 1.3-6.3, p=0.01; Table 1). Physical function and quality of life were worse in those with reduced LVEF. Multivariate analyses identified shorter six minute walk distance (p=0.01), higher Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index scores (p<0.01) and lower Short Form 36 Physical Component Summary scores (p=0.02) in those with reduced LVEF. Participants with reduced LVEF were 3.9-times more likely to record WHO Class III/IV dyspnea (95% CI 1.8-8.1, p<0.01). LV GLS data were available for 90% of participants at one centre (n=219). Abnormal LV GLS (<-18.3%) was seen in 30% of those with normal LVEF and 53% with borderline LVEF. LV GLS was lowest in those with reduced LVEF (-17.2%; IQR -14.9 - -18.0%) compared to those normal (<-19.5%; IQR -18.0 - -20.8%) or borderline LVEF (-18.3%; IQR -16.9 - -19.5%; p<0.01). Worst recorded GLS was associated with increased mortality (HR 1.3, 95%CI 1.0-16, p=0.02), although this association was attenuated in multivariate analyses (HR 1.2, 95%CI 1.0-1.5, p=0.10).

Conclusion: After excluding secondary causes, reduced LVEF in SSCs is rare. Despite the relative infrequency, LVEF<50% is associated with a specific SSC phenotype, worse survival and physical function. Abnormal LV GLS is more prevalent in SSCs, seen in 30%-50% of those with persistent LVEF<50%. Further data are required to define the threshold of LVDSD in SSCs, and to explore the utility of measures of subclinical LVSD such as LV GLS.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Cox proportional hazard model for all cause mortality

<table>
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<th>Disease feature</th>
<th>HR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Model 1 – Reduced LVEF LVEF&lt;50%</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.8 - 6.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at SSc onset (y)</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1 - 1.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.3 - 4.5</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LcSSc</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.2 - 0.7</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
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<td>Raised CRP</td>
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<td>1.0 - 2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSc Renal Crisis</td>
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<td>0.7 - 4.0</td>
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<td>Model 2 – LV GLS</td>
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<td>Lowest LV GLS</td>
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<td>1.0 - 1.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>2.2 - 52.3</td>
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Acknowledgements: ASCS is supported by Janssen, Scleroderma Australia, Scleroderma Victoria, Arthritis Australia, Musculoskeletal Australia, Australian Rheumatology Association, St. Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne, GSK, Pfizer, BMS, Roche and Bayer. JLF holds a NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship Grant GNT2013842 & Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship. KM holds NHMRC Investigator Grant GNT1176538.

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Figure 1. The monthly rate of decline in FVC before and after the initiation of NTB.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1742
Background: There is a breadth of evidence supporting a key role for abnormal B-cell function in the pathogenesis of systemic sclerosis and associated interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD) [1,2]. A previous pilot study investigated the efficacy of belimumab, a recombinant human immunoglobulin G1 lambda (IgG1λ) monoclonal antibody that binds to and neutralises B-lymphocyte stimulator (BLYS) subsequently inhibiting the survival of B cells [3], in reducing modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS) in 20 patients with SSc [4]. Belimumab is well tolerated and is approved for the treatment of patients with active systemic lupus erythematosus and active lupus nephritis receiving standard therapy [5]. We hypothesise that by reducing the number of B cells and dampening B-cell effector functions in the lung, skin, and other tissues, belimumab will not only improve inflammation and fibrosis in regions affected by abnormal B-cell function, but may also have a broader effect of improving lung function decline and skin thickening in SSc, and/or reduction in, lung function decline and skin thickening in SSc, andactive lupus nephritis receiving standard therapy [5]. We hypothesise that 

Objective: To present the design of a randomised controlled trial that will evaluate the efficacy and safety of subcutaneous (SC) belimumab versus placebo in adult patients with SSc-ILD.

Methods: In this global, parallel-group, Phase 2/3, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, two-arm, 52-week study (GSK Study 218224), eligible adult patients with a documented diagnosis of SSc and ILD (as confirmed by high-resolution computed tomography) will be randomised 1:1 to receive either belimumab 200 mg SC weekly (Arm 1), or matching SC placebo weekly (Arm 2), for 52 weeks (Figure 1). Participants will be permitted to continue their stable doses of standard therapy throughout the study. The primary endpoint of the study is absolute change from baseline in mRSS, absolute change from baseline in Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT)-Fatigue score, and SSc progression or death. Patient-reported outcomes (listed in the Figure 1) will also be assessed. A comprehensive biomarker approach will be implemented to evaluate the belimumab modulating effects on key biological processes involved in SSc pathogenesis (fibrosis and inflammation) in circulation and in skin biopsies. Safety will be monitored throughout the study.

Results: Target sample size is planned to be approximately 300 patients, with 150 patients per arm.

Conclusion: We present the design of a global Phase 2/3 study that will test the efficacy and safety of SC belimumab in patients with SSc-ILD. Together, the study endpoints enable the assessment of the efficacy of belimumab on a broad range of disease manifestations, disease progression, and impact on patient burden.

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Myositis

References:
[3] Huang W et al. JCI Insight 2018;3:e122525


Figure 1. Study design

Acknowledgements: Study funded by GSK (GSK Study 218224), Medical writing support was provided by Olivia Hill, MPharmacon, Fishawack Indicta Ltd, UK, part of Fishawack Health, and was funded by GSK.

Disclosure of Interests: Christopher P Denton Speakers bureau: Janssen; Boehringer Ingelheim, Consultant of: GSK, CSL Behring, Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck, Roche, Sanofi; Grant/research support from: GSK, CSL Behring, Inveniva, Horizon, Robert Spiera Consultant of: GSK, Regeneron, Abbvie, Sanofi, Chemocentryx, Novartis, Palidorex Granules, Palidorex Gel, Boehringer Ingelheim, BMIS, Grant/research support from: Roche-Genentech, AstraZeneca, GSK, Madrono, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chemocentryx, Corbus, Formation Biologics, Novartis, Inflarx, Principia, Distiller Jörg Specker; AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Bayer Pharma, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, and UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Active Biotech, Anamar, ARXX, AstraZeneca, Bavarian Pharma, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Galapagos, GSK, Inventiva, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Anamar, ARXX, BMS, Bayer Pharma, Boehringer Ingelheim, Cantargia, Celgene, CSL Behring, Galapagos, GSK, Inventiva, Kiniksa, Sanofi-Aventis, Tanabe-Mitsubishi Redx, UCB, Employee of: JHWD is stock owner of 4D Science and Scientific Lead of FibroCure, Dinesh Khanna Speakers bureau: Janssen, Consultant of: Actelion, Agenon, Boehringer Ingelheim, GSK, Horizon, Janssen, Prometheus, Talaris, Grant/research support from: BMS, Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Michael Kreuter Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, GSK, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Masatada Kuwana Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Asahi-Kasei, Astellas, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chugai, Daiichi Sankyo, Eisai, MBL, Mochida, Nippon Shinyaku, Ono Pharmaceuticals, Tanabe-Mitsubishi, Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chugai, Corbus, GSK, Horizon, Tanabe-Mitsubishi, Grant/research support from: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Elizabeth Volkman Speakers bureau: Former member of speakers bureau for Boehringer Ingelheim, Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, GSK, Galderma, CSL Behring, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Kadmon, Horizon, Prometheus, Jasna Colic Employee of: GSK, Olaide Raji Employee of: GSK, Anne Hammer Shareholder of: GSK, Employee of: GSK, Chiara Zecchin Shareholder of: GSK, Employee of: GSK, Andre van Maurik Employee of: GSK, Jose Miay Olai Shareholder of: GSK, Employee of: GSK, William Fathy Employee of: GSK, Ryan Tomlinson Shareholder of: GSK, Employee of: GSK, Daniela Dastros-Pitei Shareholder of: GSK, Employee of: GSK, Svettana Nihyanya Shareholder of: GSK, Consultant of: Roche, Employee of: GSK, Elaine Irving Employee of: GSK, Toby Maher Speakers bureau: Bi, Roche/Genentech,United Therapeutics, Consultant of: Bi, Roche, AZ, BMS, GSK, Pfizer, Sanofi, United Therapeutics, Grant/research support from: AZ, GSK.

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Development of a new comprehensive assay kit for myositis-associated antibodies and myositis-specific antibodies examination of clinical usefulness in inflammatory muscle diseases

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Myositis

AB0905

BELIMUMAB FOR THE TREATMENT OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A PHASE 2/3, RANDOMISED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL

Keywords: Randomised control trial, Lungs, Systemic sclerosis

C. P. Denton1, R. Spiera2, D. Jorg3, D. Khanna4, M. Kreuter5,6, M. Kuwana7, E. Volkmann8, J. Cotai9, R. Ammer10, A. Hammer11, C. Zecchin12, V. Van Maurik13, J. M. Olaiz14, W. Fahy15, R. Tomlinson15, D. Dastros-Pitei15, S. Nihyanya16, E. Irving16, T. Maller11,18, Royal Free Hospital, Centre for Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2Hospital for Special Surgery, Scleroderma, Vasculitis, and Myositis Center, New York, NY, United States of America; 3Heinrich-Heine University, Hiffer Research Center Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany; 4University of Michigan, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI, United States of America; 5University of Heidelberg, Center for Interstitial and Rare Lung Diseases, Pneumology, Thoraxklinik, Heidelberg, Germany; 6German Center for Lung Research, DZL, Heidelberg, Germany; 7Nippon Medical School, Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan; 8University of California, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America; 9GSK, Clinical Statistics, London, United Kingdom; 10GSK, Immunology Biostatistics, Stevenage, United Kingdom; 11GSK, Immunology Biostatistics, Collegeville, PA, United States of America; 12GSK, Clinical Pharmacology and Experimental Medicine, Stevenage, United Kingdom; 13GSK, Global Safety, London, United Kingdom; 14GSK, Discovery Medicine, Uxbridge, United Kingdom; 15GSK, Medicine Development Leaders, Collegeville, PA, United States of America; 16GSK, Immunology Clinical Sciences, London, United Kingdom; 17University of Southern California, Keck Medicine School, Los Angeles, CA, United States of America; 18Imperial College London, National Heart and Lung Institute, London, United Kingdom

Figure 1. Study design

An open-label extension will be performed. FVC, forced vital capacity; R, randomisation
Background: Inflammatory muscle diseases are systemic inflammatory disorders that affect not only muscles but also skin, joints, lungs, and heart. Dermatomyositis (DM) and polymyositis (PM) are characterized by the production of antibodies. Measurement of these antibodies is useful for diagnosis, classification of disease type, evaluation of disease activity, prognosis prediction, and determination of therapeutic strategy. However, the sensitivity and specificity vary depending on the measurement method, and some autoantibodies can only be measured in limited laboratories.

Objectives: We developed a novel comprehensive assay kit for myositis-associated antibodies with the aim of developing a rapid and simple detection method for myositis-specific or related autoantibodies. We used a proteome-wide antibody screening and quantification with wet protein arrays consisting of proteins synthesized from proteome-wide human cDNA library (HuPEX). We examined whether this assay kit is clinically useful compared to enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

Methods: Sera from 47 patients diagnosed or suspected of inflammatory muscle disease were used to measure myositis-specific autoantibodies (anti-ARS, anti-MDA5, anti-TIF1-γ, anti-Mi2, and anti-SRP, antibodies) and myositis-related autoantibodies (anti-U1RNP, anti-Ku, and anti-PM-Scl, anti-mitochondria antibodies) were measured using a proteome-wide antibody screening and quantification with wet protein arrays consisting of proteins synthesized from proteome-wide human cDNA library (HuPEX) and compared with the results of ELISA, which is commercially available and immunoprecipitation with some autoantibodies (anti-OJ, anti-Zo antibodies). Autoantibodies that were undetectable by the ELISA and positive only on the array were subjected to immunoprecipitation. In immunoprecipitation, primary antibody added to a solution containing an antigen to form an antigen-antibody complex in the solution. Next, a secondary antibody immobilized on the beads is added to adsorb the antigen-antibody complex to the beads. Finally, the antigen was eluted from the beads using SDS and analyzed using SDS-PAGE.

Results: In the 47 cases, the clinical diagnosis was DM in 26 cases, PM in 20 cases, and inclusion body myositis in 1 case. In the ELISA commercially available, 20 cases of anti-ARS antibody (17 cases of DM, 3 cases of PM), 5 cases of anti-MDA5 antibody (Amyopathic DM), 1 case of anti-TIF1-γ antibody (DM), 2 cases of anti-Mi2 antibody (1 case of DM, 1 case of PM), 2 cases of anti-RNP antibody (PM), and 2 cases of anti-mitochondria antibody (PM). Compared with the results measured by the ELISA commercially available, eight of the 20 cases were positive for anti-ARS antibodies using the proteome-wide antibody screening system and all other autoantibodies were 100% concordant. In addition, 1 case of DM in which autoantibodies could not be detected by the ELISA was positive for anti-OJ antibody by the proteome-wide antibody screening system. Of the 6 PM cases whose autoantibodies could not be detected by the ELISA, 1 was anti-HMGCR antibody-positive and 1 was anti-Zo antibody-positive, consistent with the clinical diagnosis. Furthermore, among the 4 PM cases which were positive only for anti-SS-A antibody by ELISA, 2 were anti-SRP antibody positive, 1 was anti-Ku antibody positive, and 1 was anti-Ki antibody positive by the proteome-wide antibody screening system. Those samples that could be detected by the array were also confirmed to be positive by immunoprecipitation.

Conclusion: Collectively, proteome-wide screening of antibodies using the in vitro proteome can reveal the myositis-associated antibodies of patients and may provide novel clinical biomarkers.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular2028

Table 1. Clinical-epidemiological characteristics of patients with SSc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>SSc n= 52</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline clinical-epidemiological characteristics</td>
<td>Sex, women, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>60.83 (11.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoking history</td>
<td>No smoker, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ex-smoker, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (26.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modified Rodman skin score, mean (SD)</td>
<td>10.88 (9.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EQ-5D, mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.59 (0.25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skin pattern</td>
<td>Limited, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, Kg/m², mean (SD)</td>
<td>25.59 (4.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EQ-5D, mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.59 (0.25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAS-EQ-5D, mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.54 (21.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRGH, mean (SD)</td>
<td>62.9 (10.6)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Objectives: understand the pathogenesis of the disease.

Background: Dermatomyositis (DM) patients with anti-melanoma differentiation-associated protein 5 (MDA5) antibodies (Ab) are likely to have rapidly progressing interstitial lung disease and a poor prognosis. Thus, it is important to understand the pathogenesis of the disease.

Methods: Twenty-eight cytokines in the serum of patients with anti-MDA5 Ab+ DM patients were screened and compared with the results of patients with other collagen vascular diseases. We also performed an immunohistochemical analysis of skin rashes (Gottron’s signs) from two patients.

Results: Serum levels of interferon gamma-induced protein 10 (IP-10, CXCL10), one of CXCR3 chemokines, were significantly higher in anti-MDA5 Ab+ DM patients than in SLE and anti-MDA5 Ab- DM patients. Moreover, serum interferon (IFN) α/2 levels were also higher in anti-MDA5 Ab+ DM. Patients. After initiation of immuno-suppressive therapy, IP-10 and IFN-α/2 levels decreased rapidly, whereas those of IFN-γ and CXCL9, another CXCR3 chemokine, did not substantially decrease. Skin samples revealed that the IP-10 positive cells in the dermis were positive for CD68 antigen, a monocyte/macrophage marker. In contrast, they contained a few CD8+ cells and almost no CD4+ cells. We also stimulate monocytes from healthy controls with type I and II IFNs in vitro and demonstrated that IP-10 was produced in the culture supernatant in a dose-dependent manner.

Conclusion: Our results indicate that IP-10 is highly produced in DM patients with anti-MDA5 Abs. The levels of type I IFN were also high and even exceeded those of SLE. Several reports have shown that not only type II IFN but also type I IFN induces IP-10. Thus, type I IFN/IP-10 axis may play an important role in the pathogenesis of anti-MDA5 Ab+ DM. Our immunohistochemical analysis of the skin also revealed that IP-10 released from macrophages may prompt infiltration of macrophages themselves, constituting a positive feedback loop in the skin inflammation. Further analyses are required to prove the usefulness of IP-10 as a disease activity and/or prognostic marker of DM with anti-MDA5 Abs.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Kojio Sato Grant/research support from: Asahi Kasei Pharma, Bohringer-Ingelheim, Teijin Pharma, Tanabe-Mitsubishi, and Chugai, Ayako Kokuzawa: None declared, Jun Nakamura: None declared, Yasuyuki Kamata: None declared.

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AB0908
SCREENING AND ANALYSIS OF POSSIBLE DRUGS BINDING TO PDGFR: A MOLECULAR MODELING STUDY

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Systemic sclerosis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

M. Mozziacafreddo1, D. Benfaremo2, C. Paolini1, S. Agarbati1, S. Svegliati Baroni1, G. Moroncini1,3, Marche Polytechnic University, Department of Clinical and Molecular Sciences, Ancona, Italy; Marche University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Ancona, Italy

Background: The platelet-derived growth factor receptor (PDGFR) is a membrane tyrosine kinase receptor involved in several metabolic pathways, mainly in tumor progression [1, 2], immune-mediated diseases [3-4], and viral diseases [5].

Objectives: Considering this macro-molecule as a druggable target for modulation/inhibition of these conditions, the aim of this work was to find new ligands or new information to design novel effective drugs.

Methods: We performed an initial interaction screening with the human intra-cellular PDGFRα of about 7200 drugs and natural compounds contained in five independent databases/libraries and implemented in the MTL/openScreen web server. After selection of 27 compounds, a structural analysis (in particular, molecular docking and molecular dynamics analysis, using SwissDock based on EADock DSS algorithm [6, 7] and GROMACS [8], respectively) of the complexes obtained was performed. Three-dimensional quantitative structure–activity relationship and ADMET analyses were also performed to understand physicochemical properties of that compound to increase affinity and selectivity.

Results: Among these 27 compounds, the drugs Bafetinib, Radotinib, Flutamib and Imatinib showed the higher affinity for this tyrosine kinase receptor, lying in the nanomolar order, while the natural products, such as curcinum, luteolin and EGCg, included in this group showed submicromolar affinities. All these compounds, obtained through the QSAR and ADMET analysis, provided physicochemical information about an ideal best ligand for PDGFRα.

Conclusion: Although experimental studies are recommended, the structural information obtained could provide useful insight into the future development of PDGFRα inhibitors.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3372

AB0909
IMMUNOEXPRESSION OF TGFβ1 IN SKIN IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Systemic sclerosis, Diagnostic Tests

K. Romanowska-Prochnicka1, A. Wajda2, M. Grabowska3, M. Legatowicz-Koprowska1, A. Paradowska-Gorycka1, M. Olesińska1,2, Medical University of Warsaw, Department of Biophysics, Physiology and Pathophysiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Warsaw, Poland; National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department and Polyclinic of Systemic Connective Tissue Diseases, Warsaw, Poland; National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Molecular Biology, Warsaw, Poland; Pomeranian Medical University, Department of Histology and Developmental Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Szczecin, Poland; National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department and Polyclinic of Systemic Connective Tissue Diseases, Warsaw, Poland

Background: TGF-β1 pleiotropic functions in inflammation, fibrosis, and vascular remodeling suggest that TGF-β1 signaling could play a central role as a link between fibrosis and vasculopathy characteristic of SSC. Moreover high mRNA level of TGF β1 in whole blood and high immunoreexpression in tissues in SSC patients confirms its role in the SSC pathogenesis.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine TGFβ1 immunoreexpression in the skin in patients with systemic sclerosis.

Methods: Skin biopsies from 14 patients with SSC (7 female and 7 male) at median age 60 years (19-69) were analyzed by immunohistochemistry method using anti-TGFβ1 primary mouse monoclonal antibody IgG (Abcam, Cambridge, UK, ab190503). Morphological analysis has been conducted by Hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining and Masson trichrome staining. The sections were examined using a light microscope Olympus BX 41 (Olympus, Hamburg, Germany). Patients. Women and men in the study group did...
not statistically differ in age. Men were characterized by significantly higher CRP (p=0.03) but not ESR (p>0.99). In the study group, women were more often characterized by irreversible fibrotic lesions in lungs (HRCT-T), but the frequency of occurrence was not statistically significant (p=0.56). Men were characterized by higher mRSS than women, but the difference was not statistically significant (p=0.14).

**Results:** Histological analysis of the human skin biopsies from patients with systemic sclerosis revealed perivascular edemas, flattening of the dermal papilla and excessive accumulation of collagen in the papillary and reticular layers of the dermis (Figure 1A, B). The fibrosis of the dermis was manifested by the presence of numerous bunches of irregularly distributed collagen fibers (Figure 1B). Moreover, perivascular focal infiltrations of inflammatory cells and reduction of blood vessel density were observed. In the human skin biopsies from patients with systemic sclerosis TGFβ1-positive cells were observed (Figure 1C, D, E). The cells showed various cytoplasmic immunexpression of TGFβ1 (brown-stained cytoplasm) in keratinocytes (mainly in the basal layer of epidermis) and in fibroblasts of the dermis.

**Conclusion:** High immunexpression of TGFβ1 is correlated with mRNA level observed in whole blood in patients with SSC. Patients with limited SSC are characterized by weaker staining in skin biopsy than patients with diffuse SSC. Determination of mRNA TGFβ1 level in whole blood seems to be a good diagnostic marker of SSC.

**REFERENCE:**
[1] AB0603 PDGFα A AS A POTENTIAL BLOOD MARKER IN DSSC

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**AB0910**

**GASTRIC DYSRHYTHMIAS IN PATIENTS WITH EARLY SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PROSPECTIVE CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY**

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Gastrointestinal tract, Descriptive Studies

D. Seelmann1, M. P. Poble1, S. Saavedra2, A. M. Madrid3, C. Von Muhlenbrock4, C. Estay5, A. Goecke6, 1Hospital Clínico de la Universidad de Chile, Reumatología, Santiago, Chile; 2Hospital Clínico Grau, Dr Raúl Y zigí, Reumatología, Santiago, Chile; 3Hospital Clínico Universidad de Chile, Gastroenterología, Santiago, Chile; 4Universidad de los Andes, Medicina Interna, Santiago, Chile

**Background:** Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an autoimmune disorder characterized by vasculopathy and fibrosis of skin and internal organs. Gastrointestinal (GI) system is affected in up to 90% of patients and dysmotility is the primary abnormality [1]. Gastric dismotility contributes to esophageal symptoms and causes nausea, vomiting, abdominal bloating, and early satiety. It also impacts quality of life and when severe is associated with increased mortality [2]. GI dysmotility can be evaluated with Electrogastrography (EGG), a non-invasive and safe test. It measures gastric myoelectrical activity, and when impaired it predicts delayed gastric emptying with an accuracy of 85% [3]. To the date gastric involvement in patients with early SSC has not been directly studied.

**Objectives:** Describe the prevalence of gastric dysrhythmias in early SSc and the association between GI symptoms and GI dysmotility.

**Methods:** SSc patients fulfilling the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria with early disease (≤ 3 years from the first non-Raynaud symptom) were included and cross-sectionally assessed. Pregnancy and Diabetes Mellitus were exclusion criteria. All patients signed informed consent. GI symptoms were assessed using the UCLA GIT 2.0 questionnaire [4]. Gastric myoelectrical activity was measured using surface EGG and informed as preprandial, postprandial and continuous brady or tachygastria. Continuous bradygastria was considered a severe abnormality. It was informed by an expert gastroenterologist blinded to patient characteristics. Statistical analyses: Categorical variables were described as frequencies and percentages, and quantitative variables as mean, SD and IQR. The associations between variables were analyzed using the Fisher exact test. Statistical significance was defined as p < 0.05.

**Results:** 30 patients were included. 96.6 % were female, with a mean age of 48.7 years (25–72 years), SSc was limited in 76.6%. 14/28 patients had an anti-centromere antinuclear antibody pattern and 6 had anti Scl 70. Organ involvement was interstitial lung disease in 7/28, altered echocardiogram in 10/25 and erosive esophagitis in 11/15. Half of the patients were under immunosuppressive treatment, 43% on methotrexate and 50% mycophenolate. EGG was abnormal in 28/29 patients, 71.4% had bradygastria, 10.7% tachygastria an 17.8% mixed. Bradygastria was mostly preprandial (45%) and continuous (50%). According to the UCLA GIT 2.0 questionnaire, two thirds of the patients had a moderate to severe GI involvement. Other score items are described in Table 1. There was no correlation between symptoms and severity of the gastric motility disorder, but the presence of bradygastria was associated to a worse social functioning score (p=0.018).

**Conclusion:** Gastric dysrhythmias, especially bradygastria occurs early in systemic sclerosis. Bradygastria was associated with a worse social functioning score.

**REFERENCES:**

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**Table 1. UCLA STCT GIT 2.0 Score results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales</th>
<th>None to mild</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Severe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total GIT Score</td>
<td>11 (36,7%)</td>
<td>12 (40%)</td>
<td>7 (23,3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflux</td>
<td>14 (46,7%)</td>
<td>9 (30%)</td>
<td>7 (23,3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distension bloating</td>
<td>13 (43,3%)</td>
<td>4 (13,4%)</td>
<td>13 (43,3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional wellbeing</td>
<td>13 (43,3%)</td>
<td>6 (20%)</td>
<td>11 (36,7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social functioning</td>
<td>13 (43,3%)</td>
<td>14 (46,7%)</td>
<td>3 (10%)</td>
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</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DO**: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3972

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**AB0911**

**EFFICACY OF LOW-DOSE IL-2 IN PATIENTS WITH MYOSITIS**

**Keywords:** Cytokines and chemokines, Myositis

X. M. Wang1,2, J. X. Zhang1,2, P. H. Chai1,2, Y. Z. Li1,2, Q. Y. Su1,2, Q. Yu1, P. F. He1, X. L. Zhang1,2, S. X. Zhang1,2, 1Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 3Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IMs) are a group of rare and heterogeneous muscle inflammatory diseases characterized by disturbances of regulatory T(Reg) cells. Interleukin (IL)-2 has been rediscovered as a pivotal cell population in the control of autoimmunity, which effectively relieves idiopathic inflammatory myopathies(IMs) such as polymyositis(PM) and dermatomyositis (DM).

**Objectives:** This study aimed to systematically evaluate the efficacy of low-dose IL-2 therapy in PM, DM, and IMs.

**Methods:** Systematic searches of PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, the Cochrane Library and Medline, CNKI, CBM, and Technology Journal Database were performed. Original case reports, case series, observational studies, and clinical trials reporting the changes in the numbers of lymphocyte subsets on
PM, DM, and IIMs patients treated with IL-2 were included. A random-effects meta-analysis was performed to calculate the pooled efficacy. Inconsistency was evaluated by using the I², and Egger tests were used for the evaluation of potential publication bias (STATA v.12.0).

**Results:** A total of 5 studies comprising 401 patients were identified. Table 1 shows the CDASI scores were significantly decreased after IL-2 treatment [SMD=−1.146, 95%CI (−1.591;−0.700), P=0.001]. Besides, the number of Tregs cells was significantly increased [SMD=−1.146, 95%CI (−1.591;−0.700), P=0.001], and the subgroup analysis was performed based on the dose of IL-2 (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Low-dose IL-2 was promising in the treatment of DM, PM, and IIMs, which could promote the proliferation and functional recovery of Tregs.

**Table 1. Available evidence including patients with DM, PM, and IIMs treated with low-dose IL-2.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Year</th>
<th>Patients Gender</th>
<th>Types of DM</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>CDASI</th>
<th>Tregs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yunhui et al. 2022</td>
<td>13 (13)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>IIMs</td>
<td>1 million IU every other day</td>
<td>before: 12±7.04 after: 3±4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min Feng et al. 2019</td>
<td>35 (35)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>DM</td>
<td>0.5 million IU NA per day for 5 days</td>
<td>before: 8±7.59 after: 7±14.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. T. Qiu et al. 2020</td>
<td>320 (320)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>DM</td>
<td>before: 7.1±5.72 after: 10±7.14</td>
<td>before: 8±4.25 after: 15±2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miao Miao et al. 2021</td>
<td>16 (18)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>IIMs</td>
<td>1 million IU every other day</td>
<td>before: 7.6±3.30 after: 2±2.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** The efficacy of low-dose IL-2 therapy in PM, DM, and IIMs treatment. (A) CDASI scores. (B) the numbers of Tregs cells.

**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 82001740).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4691

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Patient’s clinical and serological features**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Associated antibodies</th>
<th>Clinical manifestations</th>
<th>ILD</th>
<th>Ferritin (ug/L)</th>
<th>Induction therapy</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<td>At onset</td>
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<td>During follow-up</td>
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<td>Radiological pattern</td>
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<td>RP ILD</td>
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<td>Steroid Pulses* (mg)</td>
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<td>N° of Cyc infusions **</td>
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<td>Tacrolimus/ mdie (mg)</td>
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<td>Plasmapheresis (n° of session)</td>
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<td>ECMO Alive</td>
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<td>Improved PM</td>
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Mortality and Associated Factors in 44 Patients with Systemic Sclerosis Associated Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension from Turkey

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis

S. Amikishiyev1, Y. Yağcı2, K. Mammadova2, N. Aliyeva3, G. Durak4, B. Artim-Esen1, A. Gül1, A. K. Bilge4, G. Okumuş1, M. İnanç1, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Department of Chest Diseases, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Department of Radiology, Istanbul, Turkey; 4Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Department of Cardiology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a severe complication of systemic sclerosis with high mortality. Although new drugs and treatment strategies developed in the last years, the prognosis of prevalent patients has not been sufficiently improved.

Objectives: We aimed to analyze the prevalence, mortality, and prognostic factors in patients with SSc-PAH from our single-center SSC cohort.

Methods: We retrospectively evaluated the association between mortality and demographics, transthoracic echocardiography, right heart catheterization (RHC) and pulmonary function parameters at baseline, and treatment modalities in patients with SSc-PAH that have been assessed and followed up by a multi-disciplinary team.

Results: Forty-four (10.6%) out of 415 patients with SSC were diagnosed as SSc-PAH in 2008-2022. The mean age was 56.6±13.5 years, and 23 (52.3%) patients were deceased during a median follow-up of 45 months. The survival rates were 91% for the first year, 75% for 2 years, 68% for 3 years, and 43.1% for 5 years. The available causes of death were a cardiopulmonary failure in 6 (26.1%), infection in 6 (26.1%) including one with COVID-19, and malignancy in 3 (13%) patients. Clinical and hemodynamic findings of the patients were given in Table 1.

Table 1. Demographic, serologic, clinical, and hemodynamic findings of SSc-PAH patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics (n)</th>
<th>SSc-PAH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Characteristics (n)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LcSSc</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DiSSc</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital ulcer</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrintestinal involvement</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renal crisis</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Specific auto-antibodies (n)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti-Sc70</td>
<td>22</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pulmonary findings</th>
<th>Survived</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSIP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<th>Echocardiography</th>
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<tr>
<td>ePASP (mmHg)</td>
<td>49.3±12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHC findings</td>
<td>49.7±15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systolic PAP (mmHg)</td>
<td>16.6±3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic PAP (mmHg)</td>
<td>30.7±6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAP (mmHg)</td>
<td>7.0±3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVR (mmHg)</td>
<td>4.9±3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mPAP (mmHg)</td>
<td>11.5±3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO (L/min)</td>
<td>5.0±1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CI (L/min/m²)</td>
<td>2.7±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCWP (mmHg)</td>
<td>4.2±1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-MWT (m)</td>
<td>1122±18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVSV (mL/m²)</td>
<td>1122±18</td>
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<tr>
<td>RV (mL)</td>
<td>1769±269</td>
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</table>

The initial ePASP was significantly high, and cardiac output (CO), and FVC values were significantly lower in deceased patients. The patients who died had significantly lower survival rates warranted the need for early and effective treatment modalities.

Reference: NIL.

Disclosures of Interests: None Declared.

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Cardiovascular Risk Factors are Associated with Increased CRP Levels in Patients with Systemic Sclerosis

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Comorbidities

M. G. Abdelzaher1, D. Feldmann1, U. Heilmeier2, J. Andova3, F. Kollert4, R. Voel2, S. Pinel1, University Medical Center Freiburg, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Freiburg, Germany; Mansoura University, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Mansoura, Egypt; Krankenhaus Porz am Rhein, 3-Department of Anesthesiology, Cologne, Germany; University of Bern, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, University Hospital Bern Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Background: Patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) are known to have an elevated risk for cardiovascular diseases. Approximately 20-25% of all SSc patients have permanently elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) levels [1,2]. Higher CRP levels are known to be associated with metabolic syndrome and diabetes mellitus (DM) (3), two factors that contribute to cardiovascular risk.

Objectives: To investigate if permanently elevated CRP levels are associated with higher cardiovascular risk in a cohort of 65 patients with SSc.

Methods: Data analysis was carried out in R 4.1 using the packages dplyr, ggplot2, mice and MASS. 65 patients were enrolled in the study; 20 had permanently elevated CRP levels over two years before enrollment (CRP+ group), and 45 had normal CRP levels over 2 year prior enrollment (CRP- group). The following cardiovascular risk factors were selected as candidate predictors of CRP status: The Framingham Score, left and right carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT) on bilateral carotid ultrasound, pathological status of both carotids, presence of plaques in both carotids, number of plaques (0 if none), extent of largest plaque (0 if none), height, weight, body mass index (BMI), presence of arterial hypertension, history of smoking, packyears, DM type 2, chronic kidney disease, and a positive family history (cardiovascular event before the age of 65). We tested each variable as a bivariate predictor of CRP status in a logistic regression model. Subsequently, we used stepwise logistic regression based on the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) to determine the optimal set of predictors. AIC evaluates model deviance in relation to the number of variables in the model, i.e., it can be used to find the optimal trade-off between model performance (predictive accuracy) and model complexity (number of predictors). Prior to logistic regression analysis, missing values in the dataset were replaced by means of multiple imputation.

Results: In the bivariate logistic regression analyses (Table 1), only the Framingham Score and DM2 were identified as significant predictors, both with a positive weight, i.e., a higher Framingham Score and the presence of DM2 in a given patient were predictive of permanently positive CRP status, respectively. However, due to relatively low sample size, model sensitivity was 65%, and specificity was 86.7%.

Figure 1: Kaplan-Meier survival curve of treatment in SSc-PAH patients.

References: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosures of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5352
Cardiovascular risk factor OR t-value p-value
Age [years] 1.00 0.34 .734
Framingham Score 1.02 2.18 .033
CIMT right/ left 1.28/ 1.20 0.84/ 0.86 .402/ 0.395
CIMT pathological right/ left 0.86/ 1.03 -0.78/ 0.18 .440/ 0.860
plaque right/ left 1.16/ 1.19 1.32/ 1.50 .191/ 0.140
number of plaques right/ left 1.12/ 1.11 1.24/ 1.03 .221/ 0.307
largest plaque right/ left [cm] 0.10/ 1.01 0.16/ 0.30 .10/ 0.763
height [m] 1.20 0.29 .772
weight [kg] 1.01 1.75 .085
BMI (kg/m²) 1.02 1.76 .082
arterial hypertension 1.03 0.24 .808
history of smoking 1.14 1.12 .269
Packyears 1.00 0.48 .631
DM 2 1.14 1.12 .269
chronic kidney disease 1.12 0.68 .499
positive family history 1.07 0.45 .657

Conclusion: Permanently increased CRP levels are associated with higher Framingham scores and DM type 2 in SSc-patients. These findings are going to be validated in larger and longitudinal cohorts.

REFERENCES:

Characteristics from table 1:

Title: Results of bivariate logistic regression analyses. For each candidate predictor variable, the odds ratio (OR) along with its t-value and p-value are given. An OR greater than 1 indicates that a higher value in the respective candidate predictor variable (or response ‘yes’ for categorical candidate predictor variables) is associated with a higher probability of belonging to CRP-positive group.

Acknowledgements: We thank Dr. Marius Keute, an employee of Ortmann Statistics, for his support with statistical calculations.

Disclosure of Interests: Mohamed Gamal Abdelzaher: None declared, Daria Feldmann: None declared, Ursula Heilmeier: None declared, Florian Kollert Employee of: Novartis, Reinhard Voll Speakers bureau: Novartis, Galapagos, Amgen, Pfizer, Astra Zeneca, Böhringer Ingelheim, Consultant of: Novartis, Roche, Janssen, Galapagos, Pfizer, Astra Zeneca, Böhringer Ingelheim, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Pfizer, BMS, Stephanie Finzel Speakers bureau: Novartis, Galapagos, Amgen, Abbvie, Consultant for: Novartis, Galapagos, Aman, Abbvie, Consultant of: Novartis, Amgen, Novonordisk, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Sobi.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5477

AB0915 A STUDY ON THE ASSESSMENT OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK AND CIMT IN PATIENTS OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS AND CORRELATION OF CIMT WITH QRISK 3 AND DISEASE SEVERITY SCORE

Keywords: Comorbidities, Systemic sclerosis, Autoantibodies

P. Dogga1, K. Chandwar2, K. Kishor1, D. Ekbote1, J. Dixit2, U. Dhakad1, P. Kumar1, 1King George Medical University, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 2SGPGI, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India

Background: Accelerated atherosclerosis is well-known in connective tissue disease however is less reported in Systemic Sclerosis. There is evidence that atherosclerosis occurs prematurely in Systemic sclerosis. The micro vascular disease is characteristic of SSc, but there is growing evidence of macro vascular disease in SSc patients. Several studies have evaluated the prevalence of atherosclerosis in carotic arteries in patients with SSc by ultrasonography. Increased CIMT and conventional CVD risk factors have well known association with future events of stroke and coronary heart disease.

Objectives:

1. To study the Cardiovascular risk and Carotid Intima medial thickness in patients of Systemic sclerosis and their correlation
2. To assess the Disease Severity by using MEDS score and its correlation with CIMT

Methods: Data of 72 patients including clinical, serological profile and treatment were recorded. Cardiovascular risk by QRISK 3 calculator, CIMT by Ultrasonography are used. Correlation between Cardiovascular profile with CIMT and disease severity were seen. Medsger disease severity score was used to estimate the disease severity. Thirty-four age comparable controls were included.

Results: A total of 72 SSc patients (lcSSc -27, dCSSc -45) were included in the study. The median duration of disease enrolled was 2.9 years and time to referral to a specialist was 128 years. On patient in our study developed Scleroderma renal crisis and one patient was diagnosed with Adenocarcinoma of lung. Lipid profile showed low HDL, high LDL, TG, Cholesterol as compared to controls. The mean CIMT of the patients showed a significant difference when compared to controls (0.58a ± 0.09 vs 0.56 ±0.10; p =<0.01). The mean mRSS was 23.99±10.44 and mean MEDS score was 8.89±2.76. Forty-three patients (59.7%) out of 72 had ILD documented by HRCT. NSIP in 22 (30.36%) and UIP in 21 (29.2%) patterns on HRCT were observed. The Severity of PAH (Mpad >20mm Hg) is greater in lcSSc vs dCSSc (30.33±10.50 vs 28.42 ± 7.38). Cyclophosphamide, MMF were used as induction therapies mainly for treatment of ILD. The mean CIMT (0.58±0.09) showed a significant positive correlation with QRISK3 however it is weak with rho=0.45 and p value 0.224.

Conclusion: CIMT had positive correlation with PAH (significant, p=0.034) and QRISK3 (significant, p=<0.01). CIMT had negative correlation with mRSS. The mean CIMT showed no correlation with MEDS score.

Table 1. Clinical parameters and frequency in SSc Subsets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Lcssc n=27 (%)</th>
<th>Dcssc n=45 (%)</th>
<th>P value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud's phenomenon</td>
<td>25 (92.6%)</td>
<td>45 (100%)</td>
<td>0.137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss</td>
<td>6(22.2%)</td>
<td>16(35.6%)</td>
<td>0.234</td>
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<td>GERD</td>
<td>26(94.1%)</td>
<td>36(66.7%)</td>
<td>0.509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia</td>
<td>9(33.3%)</td>
<td>12(26.7%)</td>
<td>0.547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital ulcers</td>
<td>7(25.9%)</td>
<td>19(42.2%)</td>
<td>0.163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>8(28.6%)</td>
<td>13(28.9%)</td>
<td>0.847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac conduction block</td>
<td>2(7.4%)</td>
<td>6(13.3%)</td>
<td>0.439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal disease</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1(SRC)</td>
<td>0.664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD</td>
<td>17(63%)</td>
<td>26(57.6%)</td>
<td>0.581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSIP</td>
<td>6(17.6%)</td>
<td>12(26.7%)</td>
<td>0.132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIP</td>
<td>11(27.5%)</td>
<td>10(22.2%)</td>
<td>0.847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>7(27.7%)</td>
<td>13(28.7%)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothyroid</td>
<td>5(18.5%)</td>
<td>8(17.8%)</td>
<td>0.973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1(Adenocarcinoma of lung)</td>
<td>0.973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resorption of digits</td>
<td>1(3.7%)</td>
<td>6(13.9%)</td>
<td>0.234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tendon friction rub</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.048</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcinosis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6(13.9%)</td>
<td>0.581</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital pitting scars</td>
<td>12(44.4%)</td>
<td>27(60%)</td>
<td>0.200</td>
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<td>Gangrene</td>
<td>3(11.1%)</td>
<td>13(28.9%)</td>
<td>0.079</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5488

AB0916 IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: ABOUT 50 CASES

Keywords: Motor function, Myositis, Autoantibodies

F. Z. El Fekak1, H. Khibri1, H. Tassine1, F. Ibourk el Idrissi1, S. Belkhattab1, W. Ammoun1, M. Maamar1, H. Harmouch1, Z. Tazi Mezalek1, M. Adnaoul1.
AB0917

A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED PROSPECTIVE SINGLE-CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY OF RHEOPHERESIS FOR RAYNAUD’S SYNDROME AND DIGITAL ULCERS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (RHEACT) - PRESENTATION OF FIRST INTERIM RESULTS

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Systemic sclerosis

J. G. Rademacher1, V. Korendovych1, A. Borisch1, T. Asendorf2, P. Korsten1, J. G. Rademacher1, V. Korendovych1, A. Borisch1, T. Asendorf2, P. Korsten1.

1University Medical Center Göttingen, Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Göttingen, Germany; 2University Medical Center Göttingen, Department of Medical Statistics, Göttingen, Germany

Background: Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP) and digital ulcers (DU) are frequent manifestations of Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). There are very few available approved drugs with varying efficacy. Rheopheresis (RheoP) is an extracorporeal apheresis technique used to treat microcirculatory disorders by improving blood viscosity. The effect of RheoP in SSc is currently unknown, and here, we report the interim results of the first patients.

Objectives: To determine the efficacy of RheoP compared to Standard of Care (SoC) intravenous iloprost on RCS and DU healing.

Methods: A randomized controlled prospective single-center feasibility study of Rheopheresis for Raynaud’s syndrome and Digital Ulcers in Systemic Sclerosis (RHEACT) aims to investigate the efficacy of RheoP on the Raynaud Condition Score (RCS) as the primary outcome measure after 16 weeks from baseline. A planned number of 30 patients will be randomized in a 1:1:1 ratio to one of two RheoP treatment groups or assigned to the SoC control group.

Results: We here report the results of the first seven patients. The patient assigned to the RheoP1 group had a baseline Raynaud Condition Score (RCS) of 8.6, which improved to 0 after 16 weeks (the primary endpoint). The two patients randomized to the RheoP2 had a baseline RCS of 8 and 6, respectively, which improved to 4 and stayed unchanged at 6 in the second patient. The four patients assigned to SoC had only minimal improvement. RheoP1 had a significantly lower RCS compared to RheoP2 and SoC at week 16 (*p<0.05). Furthermore, DU completely healed in patients with DU at baseline with either RheoP therapy and avoided amputation in one patient. Exemplary images are shown in figure 2 (A, baseline; B, at week 16).

Conclusion: RheoP improved the RCS and DU better than SoC (iloprost) treatment alone and avoided amputation in one patient.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Jan-Gerd Rademacher Grant/research support from: This investigator initiates trial was funded by Diamed Medizintechnik GmbH. The sponsor had no role in the design, conduct, or data analysis., Viktor Korendovych Grant/research support from: This investigator initiates trial was funded by Diamed Medizintechnik GmbH. The sponsor had no role in the design, conduct, or data analysis., Angela Borisch Grant/research support from: This investigator initiates trial was funded by Diamed Medizintechnik GmbH. The sponsor had no role in the design, conduct, or data analysis.

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AB0918

CLINICAL AND SEROLOGICAL FEATURES OF DERMATOMYOSITIS IN TUNISIA

Keywords: Myositis, Autoantibodies, Motor function

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Currently, acral vasculopathy is assessed in clinical practice by nailfold capillary microscopy. However, nailfold capillary microscopy is limited to the nailfold and cannot assess the deeper vascular plexus, changes in dynamic perfusion, or inflammatory and fibrinotic disease manifestations. These limitations do not occur with dynamic optical coherence tomography (D-OCT). D-OCT is an imaging technique based on an infrared laser. It allows simultaneous three-dimensional, high-resolution imaging of fibrinotic and inflammatory changes as well as vasculopathy in systemic sclerosis [1].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to characterize vascular alterations in the skin of patients with systemic sclerosis and to assess dynamic changes in skin perfusion under vasoactive therapies.

**Methods:** Twenty-six patients diagnosed with systemic sclerosis according to ACR/EULAR classification criteria 2013 were included in this study. Patients diagnosed with systemic sclerosis received a treatment with iloprost infusion for a duration of five days. Alterations in dynamic perfusion were assessed daily in six locations (nailfold, finger, hand, lower arm, upper arm, ear) using VivoSight OCT. Moreover, alterations in dynamic skin perfusion were assessed under topical treatment with diltiazem (n=13) as well as warm (n=17). Dynamic perfusion was characterized by the parameters vessel density and vessel diameter. In addition, patients filled questionnaires to assess the severity of vasculopathic disease symptoms and to assess subjective treatment response to iloprost infusion.

**Results:** Patients were mainly female (73.1%) and of a mean age of 53.6 ± 12.6 years. The majority of the patients were characterized as limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis (76.9%). Seven patients had digital ulcers at the time of study inclusion. Moreover, patients reported that Raynaud’s phenomenon occurred with a median frequency of 3.5 attacks per day and the mean duration of Raynaud’s phenomenon was 36.9 minutes per day. On a visual analogue scale ranging from 0 to 100, patients rated limitations in daily life due to Raynaud’s phenomenon with 48.3 ± 37.3. Whereas the majority of patients (83.3%) reported a subjective benefit, 8.3% reported no change and 8.3% of patients a worsening of acral perfusion under treatment with iloprost infusions. Wilcoxon matched pairs signed rank test did not reveal a significant increase in vessel diameter (p=0.4609) and vessel density (p=0.0681) after topical application of diltiazem. Application of warm led to a significant increase in vessel diameter (p < 0.0001) and vessel density (p < 0.0001). Interestingly, therapeutic efficacy assessed by increase in vessel diameter and vessel density differed markedly between individual patients. Prospective assessment of vessel diameter and vessel density under therapy with iloprost infusions yielded heterogeneous regarding the therapeutic efficacy at different sites and timepoints for individual patients.

**Conclusion:** D-OCT might be a valuable tool to assess vasculopathic alterations and response to vasoactive therapies in the skin of patients with systemic sclerosis. Further studies are required to investigate whether D-OCT might be a technology enabling individual vasoactive treatment in systemic sclerosis in the direction of precision medicine.

**REFERENCE:**


**Figure 1.** Linear regression analysis revealed a reduced therapeutic efficacy in patients with low baseline vessel density.
The MDAS Antibody and Its Relationship with Amyopathic Dermatomyositis

Keywords: Myositis, Autoantibodies

C. Arciniega Larios1, D. Fernandez Lozano1, M. Y. Orellana Gómez2, R. Veroz Gonzalez2, S. M. Rojas Herrera1, E. Chamizo Carmona1. 1Hospital de Mérida, Rheumatology, Mérida, Spain

Background: The antibody directed against the protein encoded by melanoma differentiation-associated gene 5 (anti-MDAS) is associated with a subgroup of rare inflammatory myopathies characterized by skin lesions typical of classic dermatomyositis with no or minimal involvement of the proximal musculature. The importance of early diagnosis and treatment lies in the rapidly progressive interstitial lung disease that can develop in 50-100% of cases. This can lead to a poor prognosis with a mortality rate between 33 and 66% six months after diagnosis. In less than 5% of cases it is associated with neoplastic disease.

Objectives: To describe the clinical and evolutive characteristics of patients presenting positivity against MDAS antibody in our hospital.

Methods: An active search for positive MDAS antibodies in the service of Rheumatology in a 3th level Hospital was performed by collecting epidemiological, clinical and radiological data between the years 2021-2022.

Results: We identified 10 patients with a mean age of 56.5 years (32-86 years), 60% being female (6) and 40% male [4]. Of the total number of patients, only 30% were diagnosed with dermatomyositis. Three patients presented other autoimmune rheumatologic diseases (two of them were diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus and one with rheumatoid arthritis), two exclusively with pulmonary involvement, and in two cases no pathology was found. For the patients diagnosed with dermatomyositis, 100% presented diffuse interstitial lung disease (DIDP) and classic dermatomyositis skin involvement. Arthritis was present in 66.6%, 33.3% were related to incipient breast carcinoma, and 33.3% presented muscular involvement. In all cases treatment was started early with intravenous methylprednisolone boluses associated in 66.6% of cases with intravenous cyclophosphamide and in 66.6% of cases with Tacrolimus. One death was reported due to respiratory failure, probably secondary to progression of the pulmonary disease related to the disease. The rest of the cases presented favorable evolution with remission of skin and joint involvement, as well as stabilization of the pulmonary disease in the cases treated with Macitentan 10mg/daily. Total of patients who didn't discontinue the treatment was 3.9 (IQR 2.4-5.7) years. 78% (7/9) of patients had a sustained complete response and 22% (2/9) had a partial response.

Conclusion: The frequency of hypo- or amyopathic dermatomyositis with positive MDAS is low. 100% of the cases presented pulmonary involvement at diagnosis, only 30% presented muscular involvement and 30% were associated with neoplasia. One third of the patients with MDAS-positive dermatomyositis died.

References: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Efficacy and Safety of Macitentan in Refractory Digital Ulcers

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Safety, Real-world evidence

M. Retuerto-Guerrero1, C. Moriano1, I. Castellvi2, B. Atienza-Mateo3, E. Diez Alvarez1, 1Hospital de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; 2Hospital Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital Marqués de Valdecilla, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain

Background: Raynaud’s phenomenon (Rp) is used to describe a symptom complex caused by digital vascular involvement. The presence of digital ulcers (DU) should prompt further evaluation for secondary causes of Rp. Among the conditions that may be associated with Rp are Systemic Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases (SARDs), especially Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). DU are a major cause of morbidity and have a high recurrence rate in most patients and may be refractory to multiple treatments. Macitentan is a dual endothelin receptor antagonist authorized to treat pulmonary hypertension. Its efficacy in the treatment of DU associated to SSc has been assessed in two clinical trials (DUAL-1 and DUAL-2), without any visible effects on their prevention or reduction. However, these trials have been criticized on the methodology and profile of the patients included.

Objectives: To assess efficacy and safety of Macitentan in patients suffering from SARDs and refractory DU.

Methods: Spanish observational multicentric study. Data were retrospectively obtained from medical records of 10 patients suffering from SARDs and refractory DU secondary to severe Rp treated with Macitentan 10mg/daily. Total response was defined as the complete healing of DU and partial improvement as the reduction of the number or size of ulcers. Patients with ischemic ulcers caused by other factors were excluded.

Results: We identified 10 patients who has received treatment with Macitentan for DU, median age 59 years (IQR 51-68), 80% female, with a median Rp and DU duration of 56 (IQR 14-214) and 25 (IQR 9-215) months (Table 1). Eight patients were diagnosed with limited SSc; anti-nuclear abs, anti-centromere abs and anti-phospholipidic abs were positive in 90%, 80% and 20% of the patients. Most patients (90%) had received previously treatment with Bosentan, and the reason for withdrawal was inefficacy in 4 cases (44%) and adverse effects (liver toxicity) in 5 (56%). 8 patients had received Intravenous prostanoids with no response. In the beginning of Macitentan the number of DU was 5.5 (IQR 2.3-6) and digital gangrene was reported in one case. Two patients were treated with Macitentan in monotherapy, 6 in combination with calcium antagonists and 2 received triple therapy (Macitentan + Calcium antagonists + PDE5 inhibitor). Just one patient stopped the treatment for adverse effects (lower limb edema). Median follow-up of patients who didn’t discontinue the treatment was 3.9 (IQR 2.4-5.7) years. 78% (7/9) of patients had a sustained complete response and 22% (2/9) had a partial response.

Conclusion: Our data show that Macitentan is an effective agent for ischemic digital refractory ulcers in patients suffering from SARDs with a favorable safety profile in clinical practice.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Baseline characteristics patients.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical characteristics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Raynaud duration (m)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diagnosis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Limited systemic sclerosis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Undifferentiated connective tissue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anticentromere abs (+)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Current smoker</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Capillaroscopic features</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Catsla “early pattern”</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Catsla “active” pattern</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Catsla “late” pattern</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Unspecific</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Duration of DU (m)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of DU</strong></td>
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<td>&lt;5</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥5-10</td>
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<td>&gt;10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Localization of DU</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hands and feet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Previous or current therapy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium antagonist</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDE5 inhibitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosentan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intravenous prostanoids</td>
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<td>Antibiotics</td>
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<td>Statin</td>
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<td>Acetylsalicylic acid</td>
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<td>Systemic therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amputation</td>
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<td>Surgical sympathectomy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Data represent median (IQR), or number (%)

# At start of Macitentan.

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**AB0922**

**CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND CLINICAL OUTCOME OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS OVERLAP SYNDROME (SSC-OS) IN TURKISH PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Lungs, Systemic sclerosis, Epidemiology

I. Vasi1, R. C. Karda2, R. Duran2, B. Özkıztılay3, D. Yıldırımlı3, G. T. Alp4, A. Avanoglu Guler4, H. Karadeniz5, H. Kıcık6, A. Erden6, B. Göker7, A. Tufan7, M. A. Oztürk8, Gazi University, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, ANKARA, Turkey; 2Gazi University, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3Gazi University, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 4Gazi University, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

**Background:** Systemic sclerosis (SSc, scleroderma) is a systemic autoimmune connective tissue disease (CTD). Disease subsets specific to the extent of skin sclerosis subdivides SSc into the three following main subtypes: (1) limited cutaneous SSc (lcSSc); (2) diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc) and (3) sine scleroderma SSc (ssSSc). Any SSc subgroup can also have features of one or more other CTDs [1]. When a patient has features of any two CTDs, this satisfies the criteria for SSc-overlap syndrome (SSc-OS) [2].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to determine the clinical, serological features and clinical outcome of systemic sclerosis (SSc) and SSc-overlap syndromes (SSc-OS).

**Methods:** This study included patients enrolled in the Gazi University Systemic Sclerosis Cohort registry during January 2005 to December 2022. SSc-OS was defined as SSc patients who also met criteria for rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), dermatomyositis (DM), polymyositis (PM) and Sjögren syndrome. Baseline and last follow-up characteristics were compared between SSc and SSc-OS.

**Results:** 41 patients (age 54.0 ± 15.8 years, 90% female, disease duration 8.2 years, 43.9% diffuse cutaneous subset, 26.8% limited cutaneous subset, 41.4% anti-Scl-70 positivity) were included. SSc-OS were classified 29.2% of patients and 43.9% diffuse cutaneous subset, 26.8% limited cutaneous subset, 41.4% polyarthritis/arthralgia (p=0.029) and SSc had a higher prevalence of interstitial lung disease (p=0.014). SSc-OS had a higher prevalence of arthralgia/arthritics. SSc-Sjögren syndrome is the most common overlap syndrome. Primary diffuse SSc patients had a greater decrease DLCO compared with the SSc-overlap patients.

**Conclusion:** Alginic acid plus PPI does not represent good value for money compared to the standard treatment among such SSc patients in Thailand unless its price is reduced significantly.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6369

**AB0923**

**COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF ALGINIC ACID IN COMBINATION WITH PROTON PUMP INHIBITOR FOR THE TREATMENT OF GASTROESOPHAGEAL REFUX DISEASE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Gastrointestinal tract, Systemic sclerosis

C. Foocharoen1, P. Kingkaew2, Y. Teerawattananon2, A. Mahakkanukrau1, S. Suwannaroj1, W. Manasirisuk1, J. Chaiyarat1, A. Sangchan1, Khon Kaen University, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen, Thailand; Ministry of Public Health, Department of Health, The Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HTAP), Nonthaburi, Thailand; Khon Kaen University, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science, Khon Kaen, Thailand; Khon Kaen University, Special Medical Center, Sirirajrd Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen, Thailand

**Background:** Systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients often become refractory to proton pump inhibitor (PPI)—a standard treatment for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)—and intolerant to PPI in combination with domperidone. PPI with alginic acid is an alternative treatment option, but alginic acid is costly.

**Objectives:** We compared the costs and effectiveness of alginic acid plus proton pump inhibitor (PPI) versus standard treatments (PPI with/without antacids as needed and lifestyle modifications) for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) in systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients unsuitable for, or intolerant to, domperidone.

**Methods:** An economic evaluation using the Markov model was conducted among SSc and patients between 40 and 65 with GERD, having a partial or non-response to 4 weeks of standard-dose omeprazole (40 mg/d) and being unsuitable for or intolerance to domperidone. Using a societal perspective, we computed the incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) in terms of Thai baht (THB) per quality-adjusted life-years (QALY) between a combination of alginic acid plus PPI and standard treatment for GERD. The lifetime time horizon was used.

**Results:** The ICER for alginic acid plus PPI versus standard treatments was 377,101THB/QALY. According to the one-way sensitivity analysis, the cost of alginic acid was the most impactful parameter. If the market prices of alginic acid plus PPI were reduced by 61%, this treatment option would become cost-effective at the willingness-to-pay threshold of 160,000THB/QALY (34.71 THB/USD data on 3 December 2022). Furthermore, if alginic acid were included in the public health insurance program, the national budget would be increased by 66,313THB per patient resulting in an overall budget increase of 5,106,101 to 8,885,942THB compared to the standard treatment.

**Conclusion:** Alginic acid plus PPI does not represent good value for money compared to the standard treatment among such SSc patients in Thailand unless its price is reduced significantly.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Chingching Foocharoen Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Norvatis, Janssen, Pritaporn Kingkaew; None declared, Yot Teerawattananon: None declared, Apichat Sangchan: None declared, Suwannaroj: None declared, Witsarut Manasirisuk: None declared, Jitjira Chaiyarat: None declared, Aparat Sangchan: None declared.

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**AB0924**

**SMART PILL TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES SAFE AND EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF GASTROINTESTINAL FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS**

**Keywords:** Gastrointestinal tract, Systemic sclerosis

I. Baruš1, H. Fretheim1, H. Didrikson1, M. N. Carstens1, M. Pessenov2, V. Sarna3, O. Midthvedt4, O. Molberg5, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold6, 1Oсло universitetssykehus HF, Rikshospitalet, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway; 2Oslo
Background: Gastrointestinal dysmotility is a common complication in systemic sclerosis (Sc) patients including slow colonic transit leading to gastrointestinal tract (GIT) symptoms. Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) with ACHIM did not improve lower or total GIT symptoms in SSc patients compared to placebo enrolled in the Norwegian multicenter, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled ReSScne trial. It is unclear if transit times were impacted by FMT. The SmartPill wireless motility capsule (SmartPill®), measures transit times and peristalsis in patients and was given to a subgroup of patients in the ReSScne trial.

Objectives: To estimate gut transit time and safety of SmartPill® in patients with SSc and predominant lower GIT symptoms.

Methods: Ten patients from the ReSScne trial were included in this SmartPill® substudy. The patients followed the required diets and procedures prior swallowing a pH calibrated SmartPill capsule. Two infusions of ACHIM or placebo at week 0 and 2 were given to all participants. SmartPill was given by all participants at week 0 and 11. The primary outcome of this study was the change of transit times in patients with ACHIM and placebo from week 0 to week 11 and safety.

Results: Ten patients were enrolled to receive a SmartPill®, six patients in the placebo group and four patients in the ACHIM group. Baseline characteristics in the placebo and ACHIM groups were comparable, with 2 (20%) males and 8 (80%) females, 90% with limited systemic sclerosis and a median age of 51 and 53, respectively. At week 0 the placebo group had a whole gut transit time (WGT) 35.8 hours ± 13.2 (mean ± SD) compared to 40 hours ± 8.1 in the ACHIM group. At week 12 the WGT for the placebo group was 38.1 hours ± 7.2 compared to 73.5 hours ± 49.8 in the ACHIM group. There was no significant difference in the change of estimated gut transit time between placebo and ACHIM group regarding whole gut transit time, p = 0.158 for week 0 and p = 0.752 for week 12. (Figure 1). One patient experienced a delayed transit time after receiving ACHIM, with 254 hours from ingestion to body exit for the SmartPill®. In four cases, the activation of the capsule failed. These patients were included in the trial with new, functional capsules. The reason for the malfunction remained unclear.

Conclusion: FMT with ACHIM did not improve gastrointestinal transit times in patients with SSc and lower GIT symptoms. Our study demonstrates that the SmartPill® is safe to use for patients with SSC, but we experienced a high number of malfunction.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Imon Barua: None declared, Håvard Fretheim Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Consultant of: Bayer, Grant/research support from: GSK/Acetion, Henriette Didriksen: None declared, Maylen N Carstens: None declared, Maju Pesonen: None declared, Vikas Sarna: None declared, Øyvind Midværdt speaking bureaus: Boheringer, Øyvind Mollberg: None declared, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold speaking bureaus: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jannsen, Medscape, Meck Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Consultant of: ARXX, Boehringer Ingelheim, Genentech, Jannsen, Medscape, Meck Sharp & Dohme and Roche. Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jannsen.

DOI: 10.1136/annrhemusdis-2023-eular.797

Keywords: Myositis, Malignancy, Imaging

A. Younas1, R. Asif2, R. Davies1. 1University Hospital of Wales, Rheumatology, Cardiff, United Kingdom; 2Aneurin Bevan UHB, Rheumatology, Newport, United Kingdom

Background: Dermatomyositis (DM) has a strong association with Malignancy, with one study showing risk up to five times that of the general population and is the leading cause of death [1]. Occult cancer can result in resistant disease, and early diagnosis can improve patient outcomes. We report a case of occult tonsillar cancer associated with severe DM.

Methods: A 60-year-old usually fit and well gentleman presented with a 4-month history of progressive proximal muscle weakness of upper and lower limbs and a characteristic erythematous rash suggestive of DM. Investigations showed a CK of 6813 U/L typical myositis changes on MRI and positive myositis specific Anti-NXP ab. An initial malignancy screen, including CT TAP, was negative for underlyying malignancy. He was commenced on oral Prednisolone at 1mg/kg and was discharged with urgent rheumatology follow-up. However, he was admitted a week later with severe dysphagia and ongoing muscle weakness. An urgent OGD excluded a structural upper GI lesion, and Nasogastric feeding was commenced. He was administered IV methyl Pred 500 mg over three days along with IVIG (2g/kg) but failed to respond with ongoing muscle weakness and dysphagia. A subsequent PET scan showed a right tonsillar mass, later confirmed as tonsillar cancer on biopsy. Following this, the ENT team proceeded with robotic surgery and radical surgical resection of tonsillar cancer. We repeated IVIG every four weeks along with IV Methyl pred 50 mg OD and a PEG tube inserted to meet his nutritional needs.

Methods: A 60-year-old usually fit and well gentleman presented with a 4-month history of progressive proximal muscle weakness of upper and lower limbs and a characteristic erythematous rash suggestive of DM. Investigations showed a CK of 6813 U/L typical myositis changes on MRI and positive myositis specific Anti-NXP ab. An initial malignancy screen, including CT TAP, was negative for underlyying malignancy. He was commenced on oral Prednisolone at 1mg/kg and was discharged with urgent rheumatology follow-up. However, he was admitted a week later with severe dysphagia and ongoing muscle weakness. An urgent OGD excluded a structural upper GI lesion, and Nasogastric feeding was commenced. He was administered IV methyl Pred 500 mg over three days along with IVIG (2g/kg) but failed to respond with ongoing muscle weakness and dysphagia. A subsequent PET scan showed a right tonsillar mass, later confirmed as tonsillar cancer on biopsy. Following this, the ENT team proceeded with robotic surgery and radical surgical resection of tonsillar cancer. We repeated IVIG every four weeks along with IV Methyl pred 50 mg OD and a PEG tube inserted to meet his nutritional needs. Gradually he started to show signs of improvement with improved mobility, muscle strength, and normal CK levels. He received six cycles of IVIG, and azathioprine was commenced with the weaning of prednisolone to 10 mg after discharge. 6 months after the initial presentation, he mobilized independently with improved swallowing to liquids and a soft diet.

Results: Head and neck cancers are rarely associated with Dermatomyositis with tonsillar cancer extremely rare. To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of occult tonsillar cancer associated with treatment-resistant DM. Detecting occult cancer can be difficult, especially in cases where the DM symptoms precede cancer diagnosis. The usual first-line cancer screening in inflammatory myopathies includes CT TAP, which can miss a malignancy of the head and neck region. Current evidence does not show a definite benefit of PET scanning over conventional CT for cancer identification [2]. But PET scanning can be very useful in selected patients with a high index of clinical suspicion. Recently published BSR guidelines recommend considering PET scanning for cancer screening [3].

Conclusion: Increased vigilance is required to look for occult cancer, including head and neck cancers, especially in patients with treatment-resistant DM.

References:

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LA DISFAGIA EN LA ESCLEROSIS SISTÉMICA SE ASOCIA CON PROBLEMAS NUTRICIONALES Y MALA CALIDAD DE VIDA

Keywords: Sistemaico, enfermedad, paciente, resultados, trastorno gastrointestinal

L. Cano García1, A. García Studer2, F. Ortiz-Márquez2, I. Ureña3, N. Mená-Vázquez2, S. Manrique Arjía1, Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga; Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga (IBIMA), Rheumatology, Málaga, Spain

Background: Digestive involvement is one of the most prevalent manifestations of systemic sclerosis (SSc) with great significance for the health and quality of life of patients.

Objectives: To describe the prevalence of dysphagia and the nutritional status of a series of patients with SSc.

Methods: Design: Cross-sectional descriptive study. Participants: consecutive recruitment of patients with SSc (ACR/EULAR 2013 criteria) followed up in our unit. Follow-up of these patients is carried out every 3 to 6 months in consultation and all patients were registered in a database. 90% of the patients accepted and signed the consent, the rest refused due to travel or work difficulties. Variables: The main variable was dysphagia, defined according to the EAT10 questionnaire (positive ≥3). The dysphagia risk factors evaluated were: malnutrition according to the Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA) (continuous: 0-14, considering 14 better nutritional status), sarcopenia defined according to the European Working Group on Sarcopenia in Older People (EWGSOP) criteria, prealbumin, polypharmacy (if they take ≥5 drugs), weight loss of at least 1 kg in the last 3 months, quality of life according to EQ-SD and Steinbrocker functional status. Statistical analysis: descriptive and logistic regression (VD: dysphagia) to identify associated factors.

Results: 52 patients were included, of whom 51 (98.1%) were women, with a mean (SD) age of 68.0 (±11.0) years. 32/52 patients (61.5%) had dysphagia (EAT≥3) and 12/52 patients (23.1%) were referred to endocrinology for severe dysphagia (EAT≥20). Table 1. Patients with dysphagia compared with the rest had sarcopenia more frequently (37.5% vs 0.0%; p = 0.001), weight loss (65.6% vs 20.0%, p = 0.004) and more polymedicated (67.5% vs 60.0%, p = 0.022). Likewise, patients with dysphagia (EAT≥3) had lower values (mean ±SD) of nutrition per MNA screening (11.0 ±12.1 vs 13.1 ±2.3; p = 0.001), of EQSD (0.5 ±0.2 vs 0.7 ±0.2; p = 0.004), EVA-EQSD (48.6 ±22.3 vs 62.5 ±17.8; p = 0.023) and in Steinbrocker’s functional grade (2.3 ±1.0 vs 1.3 ±0.6; p = 0.001). The multivariate analysis identified that MNA screening (0-14) (OR [95% CI] 0.511 [0.317;0.824]; p=0.006) and EQSD (OR [95% CI] 0.965 [0.932-0.998]; p=0.036) (R2=0.397) were independently associated with dysphagia (EAT≥3).

Conclusion: Dysphagia is a common problem in systemic sclerosis and is associated with poorer quality of life and a lower probability of reaching a normal nutritional status. The serious nutritional implications associated with dysphagia must be diagnosed in order to intervene nutritionally in these patients.

Table 1. Clinical-epidemiological characteristics of the 52 patients in SSc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>SS n=52</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman n (%)</td>
<td>51 (98.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age mean (SD)</td>
<td>68.0 (±11.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited skin pattern n (%)</td>
<td>40 (76.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disseminated skin pattern n (%)</td>
<td>12 (23.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DILD n (%)</td>
<td>17 (32.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTAP n (%)</td>
<td>5 (9.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Centromere antibodies n (%)</td>
<td>28 (53.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-S70 antibodies n (%)</td>
<td>10 (19.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other antibodies n (%)</td>
<td>9 (17.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarcopenia n (%)</td>
<td>12 (23.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNA Normal nutritional status n (%)</td>
<td>34 (64.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNA Risk of malnutrition n (%)</td>
<td>17 (32.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNA malnutrition n (%)</td>
<td>1 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss &gt;1kg in the last 3 months n (%)</td>
<td>25 (48.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polypharmacy n (%)</td>
<td>12 (23.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steinbrocker mean (SD)</td>
<td>1.94 (1.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQSD mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.593 (0.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS EQSD mean (SD)</td>
<td>54 (21.56)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2832
**Background:** Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is often difficult to treat and the evidence in support of many of the usual therapies is limited. Abnormalities in B-cell function in SSc are thought to play a role in disease pathology. Furthermore, B-cell infiltrates have been demonstrated in both the skin and lung specimens in SSc. Rituximab (RTX) is a chimeric monoclonal antibody inhibiting CD20-mediated B-cell proliferation and differentiation that has shown promising results for pulmonary and cutaneous involvement of SSc.

**Objectives:** Our aim was to assess RTX for pulmonary and diffuse cutaneous involvement in real-life patients diagnosed of SSc.

**Methods:** Retrospective observational study of a wide and unselected series of patients diagnosed as SSc from a single university hospital from 2011 to 2022. Patients were classified as SSc following 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria. We reviewed pulmonary function through conventional spirometry and diffusing capacity of lung for carbon monoxide (DLCO). Pulmonary involvement was also assessed by high-resolution chest-CT test. Cutaneous involvement was assessed by modified Rodnan skin score (MRSS).

**Results:** We included 15 patients with a median [range] age (at the onset of RTX) of 53 [41-78] years (80% women; 20% men). The median [range] of time since diagnosis and treatment onset was 3 [0-12] years. At the diagnosis of SSc, no one of our patients evidenced a restrictive ventilatory pattern. DLCO was below normal limits in 12 patients (80%). Small airway obstruction expressed according decreased maximal (mid-) expiratory flow (MMEF) 25-75 was present in 1 patient (6.7%). Regarding cutaneous involvement, median MRSS at diagnosis was 18.3 [range 4-26]. RTX intravenous treatment regimen employed was 1000mg (Day 1, followed by 1000mg on day 15), with a repeat cycle every 6 months if required. After a median [range] follow-up period of 31 [6-100] months, 12 (80%) patients completed a total of 4 RTX cycles. An analysis of the pulmonary function showed that, after RTX, DLCO decreased in 2 of 15 patients (13.3%) and none presented worsening of MMEF 25-75. In all patients there was also assessed by high-resolution chest-CT test. Cutaneous involvement was assessed by modified Rodnan skin score (MRSS).

**Conclusion:** In our experience, RTX seems to be a great option in real-life for those patients with pulmonary and diffuse cutaneous involvement due to SSc. However, cardiovascular, infectious and neoplastic complications should be assessed.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3638

**AB0930**

**THE VALUE OF THE DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: A MULTICENTRE STUDY**

**Keywords:** Diagnostic Tests, Myositis, Biomarkers

E. Kaltsounoudi, E. Pelekasis, T. Zoi, M. Migkas, T. Dimitroulas, N. Koukla, A. Drosos, P. Voulgaris, University of Ioannina, Medical School, Rheumatology, Ioannina, Greece; Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Rheumatology, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Background:** Traditionally, the diagnosis of inflammatory myopathies has been based on clinical signs and symptoms (muscle weakness and characteristic skin involvement, especially in dermatomyositis), increased muscle enzymes, electromyographic findings, skin or muscle biopsy, as well as anti-Jo1 antibodies (antisynthetase syndrome). However, this approach has led to significant diagnostic gaps in atypical cases such as in those of pure lung involvement.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the diagnostic yield of each procedure in a sample of 61 patients who were diagnosed, followed-up and treated in two tertiary university rheumatology clinics in Greece.

**Keywords:** Myositis

**AB0929**

**CLINICALLY AMYOPATHIC DERMATOMYOSITIS (CADM) WITH ANTI-Melanoma Differentiation-Associated Gene 5 Antibody Positive: Understanding Its Clinical Presentation and Extent of Lung Involvement**

**Keywords:** Myositis
Methods: serum samples tested using a myositis panel (Mi-2α, Mi-2β, Ku, PM-Sc100, PM-Sc75, SRF, Jo-1, PL-7, PL-12, OJ, EJ, Ro-52, TIF1γ, MDAs5, NXFP2, SAE1) and muscle enzymes (CK, aldolase, LDH, SGOT, SGPT). Electromyography has been carried out in all patients, whereas in 27 with elevated muscle enzymes or muscle weakness an MRI-guided muscle biopsy has been done. In addition, in 8 patients, a skin biopsy has been performed and in all patients a detailed examination (determination of muscle strength) has been performed in all muscle groups.

Results: in 42 cases the diagnosis has been made after a positive myositis panel, while in 20 cases there was also a histological confirmation. In 8 cases, the diagnosis has been made on the grounds of positive clinical features and characteristic findings on the electromyogram. Only 4 patients have been diagnosed on the basis of histological findings in the absence of other laboratory and clinical findings (table 1). The most common autoantibodies in patients with lung involvement were Jo-1, PL-12 and PL-7.

Conclusion: based on the aforementioned results, a myositis panel seems a reasonable and reliable diagnostic strategy as it improves significantly the diagnostic yield of an inflammatory myopathy. In addition, it gives a diagnostic “alibi” for the therapeutic approaches that otherwise can be administered only by histological confirmation. Finally, in patients with atypical signs and symptoms such as lung fibrosis that cannot be attributed elsewhere, a myositis panel should be performed.

REFERENCE:

Table 1: Correlations between the parameters of the BIA and the clinical parameters of the sSc (Spearman Rank Correlation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>BMI</th>
<th>weight</th>
<th>Total body water (TBW)</th>
<th>Extra-cellular water (ECW)</th>
<th>Body Mass Index (BMI)</th>
<th>Body Fat Index (BFI)</th>
<th>Activity index (AI)</th>
<th>diastolic dysfunction (E/A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>p</td>
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<td>p</td>
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<td>ns</td>
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<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>0.05*</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
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<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>ns</td>
<td>0.0003</td>
<td>0.006</td>
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<td>m</td>
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<td>ns</td>
<td>0.0061</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4855

AB0092
LONG-TERM CORTICOSTEROID THERAPY WAS ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT LIVER FIBROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis
1Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli, Precision of Medicine, Caserta, Italy; 2Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli, Dipartimento di Scienze Mediche e chirurgiche Avanzate, Caserta, Italy

Background: Fibrotic changes of the internal organs, such as lungs, heart, kidneys, and gastrointestinal tract, characterize the clinical course of both limited (lcSSc) and diffuse cutaneous SSc (dcSSc), potentially leading to organ dysfunction. However, liver involvement is less defined.

Objectives: In a cross-sectional study we investigated the prevalence and predictors of significant liver fibrosis in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) who had no evidence of liver diseases due to heavy alcohol consumption, viral infection, drug.

Methods: A total of 65 SSc patients were recruited, satisfied the 2013 ACR/EULAR classification. In addition to the clinical and laboratory data, modified Rodman skin score (mRSS), and activity index, video-capillaroscopy, echocardiography, and lung function were analysed. Liver stiffness (LS) was measured using transient elastography to assess the degree of liver fibrosis and 7.4 kPa was adopted as the cut-off value for significant liver fibrosis and liver steatosis with CAP values ≥ 248 dB/m were considered consistent with mild steatosis (S1), ≥286 dB/m with moderate steatosis (S2) and ≥280 dB/m with severe steatosis (S3).

Results: The median age of patients (60 women) was 50.5 years (range 20-80) and the median disease duration was 5.5 years (range 1-10). The median LS value was 4.65 kPa (range 3.1-8.3); the median CAP value was 220.5 (164-327). By Spearman Rank Correlation we related the clinical variables with liver stiffness (LS) and liver steatosis with CAP values ≥ 248 dB/m were considered consistent with mild steatosis (S1), ≥286 dB/m with moderate steatosis (S2) and ≥280 dB/m with severe steatosis (S3). By Spearman Rank Correlation LS value vs age has a p value 0.02 (CI 95% 0.290-0.64), vs corticosteroid use has a p value 0.0032 (CI95% 0.179-0.731). On the contrary CAP value vs age has a p value 0.026 (CI 95% 0.04-0.64). Forty-six
AB0933

RAYNAUD’S PHENOMENON AND RELATED SYNDROMES CLINIC: CHARACTERIZATION OF NEWLY REFERRED PATIENTS AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RAYNAUD’S PHENOMENON

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Systemic sclerosis, Diagnostic Tests

A. M. Gomes Correia1, C. Campinho Ferreira1, E. Costa1, D. Esperança1, Almeida1, J. Silva1, J. Neves1, J. Redondo Costa1, A. R. Ribeiro1, M. Cerqueira1.
1Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal

Background: The Raynaud’s Phenomenon (RP) and Related Syndromes Clinic was created in the Rheumatology Department at Hospital de Braga in order to provide differentiated health care to the population with RP, emerging as a unique outpatient clinic in the country. The aim of this Clinic is to evaluate patients who present with this clinical manifestation in a prompt and multidisciplinary approach, considering the differential diagnosis between the primary and secondary etiology. In this way, adequate monitoring can be carried out, such as performing a Nailfold Videocapillaroscopy (NVC) and early and targeted therapy instituted.

Objectives: Characterize the individuals evaluated in first RP and Related Syndromes Clinic appointments and determine predictive factors allowing to distinguish primary and secondary RP.

Methods: Retrospective, single center study, including patients who were evaluated in first RP and Related Syndromes appointments between February 2021 and December 2022. Sociodemographic variables, clinical data and the results of the complementary study such as anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA) profile and NVC pattern were analyzed. Statistical analysis of the data was performed using SPSS, using the Chi-square and the t-Test independent samples tests, as appropriate.

Results: Fifty-four patients were included (female 88,89%, male 11,11%; mean age 52,48±17,06 years), referred to this clinic with the following main clinical manifestations: Raynaud’s phenomenon in 38 cases (60%), of which 4 cases had PAH, one case of pericarditis and one case of systemic sclerosis. In half of the cases. Pulmonary involvement was present in 6 cases (60%). Joint involvement was present in 9 cases (90%). Telangiectasias in 3 cases respectively. Joint involvement was present in 10 cases (10%). In 1 case, the skin involvement was made of diffuse sclerosis in 3 cases. Achenbach Syndrome (1,85%), Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) (31,48%), and early scleroderma pattern in 19,05%. The diagnosis established in the 54 patients evaluated were: acrocyanosis (1,85%), erythema pernio (7,41%), frostbite (1,85%), Achenbach Syndrome (1,85%), Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) (31,48%) - 11,76% Very Early Diagnosis Of SSc; 5,88% SSc diffuse cutaneous form; 82,35% SSc limited cutaneous form -, unclassifiable CTD (3,70%), primary RP (22,22%) and secondary RP non-CTD (22,22%) - includes patients with RP secondary to tobacco, betablockers, SARS-CoV2 infection or autoimmune thyroiditis. 7,42% of the patients didn’t have RP or a rheumatic disease. Ten patients were discharged, with the remaining patients being followed regularly. Table 1 summarizes the characterization of patients with primary and secondary RP. Comparing patients with primary RP with patients with secondary RP, we found that older age, ANA’s positivity, taking betablockers and an altered NVC pattern was statistically significantly associated with the diagnosis of a secondary RP.

Conclusion: With this work, we emphasize the importance of RP investigation in order to establish a definitive diagnosis and an adequate follow up, showing a higher probability of secondary RP in patients with older age, positive ANA’s and who were taking betablockers. It reinforces, as well, the importance of NVC in the evaluation of patients with RP, as significant differences are found between primary and secondary RP, with scleroderma pattern raising the hypothesis of a secondary RP.

Table 1. Characterization of patients with primary and secondary RP and p-value of statistical tests used to compare patients with primary RP and secondary RP for each variable in study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Primary RP (n=12)</th>
<th>Secondary RP (n=31)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>43.92 (±18.38)</td>
<td>58.68 (±13.29)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-blockers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of digital ulcers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVC Pattern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symmetric</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymmetric</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of digital ulcers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
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<td>ANA</td>
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<td>NVC Pattern</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5386

AB0934

SYSTEMIC SCLERODERMA IN MEN: A CASE REPORT OF 10 PATIENTS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Rare/orphan diseases, Systemic sclerosis

A. Touih1, W. Ammour1, F. Ibourk el Idrissi1, W. Chawad1, M. Noutassim1, K. Khiti1, M. Maamar1, H. Harmouch1, Z. Tazi Mezalek1, M. Adnaoui1.
1Mohamed V university, Souissi Rabat, Department of Internal Medicine-Clinical Hematology, RABAT, Morocco

Background: Systemic sclerosis is a connective tissue disease that is common in women and characterized by vascular alterations associated with skin fibrosis and visceral manifestations. Several particularities of this connectivitis in men are discussed. We propose to show these particularities in men through 10 cases.

OBJECTIVES:

Methods: We identified 10 cases of systemic scleroderma in men among 60 cases of systemic scleroderma collected for our descriptive retrospective study in the internal medicine department of the IBN SINA University Hospital in Rabat. The search for clinical or subclinical visceral involvement was performed in all our patients.

Results: The average age of the patients was 61 ±14.1 years (extremes: 28-74 years) with a delay in diagnosis of 8 months. General signs were found in 3 patients (30%), the skin involvement was made of diffuse sclerosis in 6 cases (60%) and limited in 4 cases (40%); Raynaud’s phenomenon was noted in 7 cases (70%). Pulpar ischemia and digital ulcer were noted in 1 and 3 cases respectively. Telangiectasias in 1 case. Joint involvement was present in half of the cases. Pulmonary involvement was present in 6 cases (60%). Pulmonary fibrosis was found in 1 case. Cardiac involvement was found in 6 cases (60%), of which 4 cases had PAH, one case of pericarditis and one case
of heart failure. Esophageal involvement was found in 4 cases (40%). Biologically, an inflammatory syndrome was noted in 4 patients (40%). Antinuclear antibodies were positive in 7 cases (70%). Anti-Scl70 was detected in 4 cases (40%). Capillaroscopy showed lesions suggestive of organic microangiopathy in 2 cases (20%). 4 of our patients were treated with colchicine. Corticosteroids were prescribed in 2 cases. Half of our patients received immunosuppressive treatment, including 3 cases who received monthly courses of cyclophosphamide with relay by Imurel, and 3 patients received treatment by myophenolate mofetil, stopped in one patient due to hepatic cholestasis. The association with autoimmune diseases was noted in 2 patients, including one with rheumatoid arthritis and one with primary biliary cholangitis. 2 cases of neoplasia were observed in our series, the first one was a marginal zone lymphoma and the second one was a pulmonary adenocarcinoma. 3 deaths were reported, one by pulmonary embolism, and the 2 patients who presented a neoplastic pathology.

**Conclusion:** Despite the small number of our patients, our results agree with those of the literature. The male sex seems to be associated with more severe forms with a shorter diagnostic delay, diffuse skin involvement, severe Raynaud's phenomenon, and early and severe pulmonary involvement.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5439

**AB00955**

**THE MIMIC THAT CAUGHT EVERYONE BY SURPRISE!**

**Keywords:** Skin, Systemic sclerosis, Rare/orphan diseases

**K. Kishor1, P. Dogga1, S. Mukherjee2, A. Krishnan2, A. Wakhlu2. 1King George’s Medical University, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India; 2Apollomedics Superspeciality Hospitals, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Lucknow, India

**Background:** 57-year-old gentleman, a previous smoker, presented with a 12-month history of gradually progressive anaasarca that started initially with bilateral lower limbs and involved face, abdomen and entire body over 3-4 months. Four months into his illness, the patient noticed skin changes in the form of hyperpigmentation initially over anterior chest that progressed to involve the face, bilateral upper limbs, abdomen, and lower limbs over next 3 months. It was associated with increased friability, subcutaneous oedema, and spontaneous ecchymosis. Gradually he developed progressive motor weakness, initially in both upper limbs proximally which progressed to involve distal, bilateral lower limbs and trunk with sparing of bowel and bladder functions severely limiting his activities of daily living. Over the next 15 days patient became breathless with rapidly worsening dyspnoea of exertion, dry cough and left sided pleuritic chest pain. There was history of loss of appetite and significant loss of weight 18 kgs over 4 months. General physical examination was suggestive of pallor, diffusely hyperpigmented and fragile skin over the face, neck, upper limbs, hands, back, anterior abdomen, lower limbs with multiple ecchymotic spots and subcutaneous edema with anaasarca. Breath sounds were decreased bilaterally over intrascapular, axillary, infra-axillary areas and JVP elevated on Cardio-Respiratory system examination. CNS examination revealed bilateral external ophthalmoplegia with pure motor quadripleasis involving limbs and trunk without sensory, cranial nerve or autonomic involvement. Generalised wasting with asymmetric swelling over right shoulder was seen with reduced active and passive range of movements.

**Objectives:**

- Differentials:
  1. Scleredema
  2. Diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis

**Methods:**

**Results:**

Final diagnosis: POEMS syndrome with primary amyloidosis. International Myeloma Working Group criteria fulfilled:

- Mandatory criteria-
  - Polyneuropathy
  - Monoclonal plasma cell proliferative disorder
  - Atleast 1 major criteria:
    - Elevated VEGF levels
  - Minor criteria:
    - Organomegaly
    - Extravascular volume overload
  - Skin changes
  - Hematological involvement

**Conclusion:** The patient was started on treatment after Clinical haematology reference but died due to cardiogenic shock. This interesting case highlights POEMS as a great mimic of changes associated with various autoimmune disorders including scleroderma, SLE and vasculitis syndromes.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.
Spondyloarthritis - treatment

**AB0936**

**IMPACT OF DIFFERENT BDMARDS ON PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES IN AXIAL Spondyloarthritis: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND META-ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Pain, Spondyloarthritis

**F. Gadon**, T. Loupret, C. Lemaçon, P. Bertini, P. Vergne-Salle, CHU Limoges, Rheumatology, Limoges, France

**Background:** Pain, fatigue and altered quality of life are frequent complaints in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), with an impact on disease activity evaluation, regardless of radiographic or non-radiographic phenotype. No study compared face to face the effects of biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs) on patient reported outcomes (PROs).

**Objectives:** To evaluate the impact of biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs: anti-TNF and anti-IL17) on three PROs (pain, fatigue, quality of life) in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

**Methods:** A systematic review was performed in PubMed, Embase until May 2022, and abstracts from EULAR and ACR meetings for the past 3 years. The search included all randomized controlled trials of bDMARDs with outcomes reporting data on pain ("total back pain," "nocturnal back pain"), fatigue (FACT-F) and quality of life (ASQoL and SF36 PCS and MCS) in patients with axSpA. Statistical analysis used the inverse variance method to obtain results as mean differences, which were visualized by forest plot. Variation between studies was assessed by calculating the heterogeneity (I²) with Cochran's Q test.

**Results:** A total of 25 studies were included in the final analysis, with a total number of 8457 patients. Compared to placebo, treatment with bDMARDs was associated with a significant improvement in pain, fatigue and quality of life. The mean differences were -1.47 (95% CI [-1.72, -1.22]) for total back pain, -1.67 (95% CI [-2.06, -1.28]) for nocturnal back pain, 4.47 (95% CI [3.23, 5.72]) for FACT-F, -2.59 (95% CI [-2.86, -2.49]) for ASQoL, 3.68 (95% CI [3.21, 4.15]) for SF36 PCS and 2.79 (95% CI [1.83, 3.75]) for SF36 MCS. For the subgroup analysis comparing the different bDMARDs, the effects on pain were numerically superior with anti-TNF, but the difference was not significant because of the confidence intervals overlapping. There was no difference for the other PROs between anti-TNF and anti-IL17. Heterogeneity was weak except for the "nocturnal back pain" scale. For the subgroup analysis comparing axSpA phenotypes, the improvement of PROs on bDMARDs between radiographic and non-radiographic axSpA was not different, except for the mental component of the SF36 score less improved in the non-radiographic axSpA.

**Conclusion:** bDMARDs (anti-TNF and anti-IL17) significantly improve pain, fatigue and quality of life compared to placebo in patients with axSpA. No significant difference was observed between anti-TNF and anti-IL-17 nor between radiographic and non-radiographic axSpA, except for the mental component of the SF36.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Acknowledgements:** To Thomas Barnetche for statistical analysis.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Emma Gadon: None declared, Thibaud Loupret: None declared, Camille Lemaçon: None declared, Philippe Bertin Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, UCB, Lilly, Novartis, Pascale Vergne-Salle Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, UCB, Lilly, Novartis. DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.787

**AB0937**

**TOFACITINIB EFFICACY AND SAFETY IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS BY BASELINE C-REATIVE PROTEIN LEVELS: A POST HOC ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Randomized control trial, Targeted synthetic drugs, Spondyloarthritis

**A. Decodhar**, X. Baraliakos, M. Magrey, L. S. Gensler, A. V. Thorat, C. Kinch, S. Pemmaraju, J. M. Cadatat, P. Nash, Oregon Health & Science University, Division of Arthritis and Rheumatic Disease, Portland, OR, United States of America; 2Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet Herne, Ruhr-University, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Bochum, Westphalia, Germany; 3Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals, Division of Rheumatology, Cleveland, OH, United States of America; 4University of California at San Francisco, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, San Francisco, CA, United States of America; 5Pfizer Inc, Infectious and Immunology, Melbourne, Australia; 6Pfizer Canada ULC, Inflammation and Immunology, Kirkland, QC, Canada; 7Pfizer Inc, Biostatistics, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India; 8Pfizer Inc, Clinical Affairs, City of Makati, Luzon, Philippines; 9Griffith University, School of Medicine, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

**Background:** Elevated baseline (BL) C-reactive protein (CRP) levels can predict treatment response in patients (pts) with ankylosing spondylitis (AS). Tofacitinib is a Janus kinase inhibitor for the treatment of AS.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the impact of BL CRP levels on tofacitinib efficacy and safety in pts with AS.

**Methods:** Post hoc analysis of pooled data from placebo (PBO)-controlled, randomised, double-blind trials (NCT01786668, Phase [P] 2, 16 weeks; NCT03502616, P3, 48 weeks) in pts with AS on ≥1 dose of tofacitinib or PBO (P3: PBO-treated pts switched to tofacitinib after Week [W]16), by BL CRP: normal (NML) ≤5 mg/L; elevated (EVL) ≥5 mg/L. Tofacitinib 5mg twice daily (BID) efficacy was assessed to W12/W16–48 (P3). Endpoints: Assessment of Spondyloarthritis international Society (ASAS) 20/40, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) 50, AS-Disease Activity Score-CRP inactive disease (ASDAS-CRP ID), least squares mean change from BL (Δ) in nocturnal pain and Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue (FACT-F).

**Safety:** was assessed to W16 and W48.

**Results:** Of 372 pts, 30.4/69.6% had NML/EVL BL CRP. Both groups had generally similar BL characteristics; more pts with EVL CRP were male, current smokers and had prior biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug use. At W12, ASAS20 response was greater for tofacitinib vs PBO in both groups (Figure 1); efficacy maintained to W48. At W12, the difference in response from PBO for tofacitinib was numerically greater for ELV vs NML CRP for ASAS20 (44.7% vs 19.5%), ASAS40 (34.6% vs 17.3%), BASDAI50 (33.8% vs 15.3%), ASDAS-CRP ID (9.5% vs 8.2%), nocturnal spinal pain (-2.1 vs -1.4) and ΔFACT-F (5.2 vs 3.5). For tofacitinib, rates of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and infections to W16 trended numerically higher for tofacitinib vs PBO in pts with NML CRP, but were similar to PBO in pts with ELV CRP (Table 1). There were few serious AEs (SAEs), serious infections (SIs) or herpes zoster (HZ) across groups and no deaths. Limitations: small sample size, differences in BL characteristics.

**Conclusion:** Regardless of BL CRP at W12, tofacitinib was more efficacious vs PBO; and across endpoints, the differences in response from PBO for tofacitinib were numerically greater in pts with ELV vs NML CRP. Tofacitinib safety rates were consistent with PBO in pts with ELV CRP, but trended higher for tofacitinib vs PBO in pts with NML CRP.

**Acknowledgements:** This study was sponsored by Pfizer. Medical writing support, under the direction of the authors, was provided by Lavanya Manjunatha, PhD, CMC Connect, a division of IPG Health Medical Communications, and was funded by Pfizer, New York, NY, USA, in accordance with Good Publication Practice (GPP 2022) guidelines (Ann Intern Med 2022; 175: 1298-1304).

**Disclosure of Interests:** Atul Deodhar Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Aurinia, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, MoonLake, Novartis, Pfizer Inc and UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer Inc and UCB, Xenofon Baraliakos Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer Inc, Roche, Sandoz and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer Inc, Roche, Sandoz and UCB, Marina Magreya: None declared, Lianne S. Gensler: None declared, Amit V Thorat Shareholder of: Pfizer Inc, Employee of: Pfizer Inc, Casandra E. Inc Shareholder of: Pfizer Inc, Employee of: Pfizer Inc, Suraj Pemmaraju Shareholder of: Pfizer Inc, Employee of: Pfizer Inc, Mary Jane Cadatal Shareholder of: Pfizer Inc, Employee of: Pfizer Inc, Peter Nash Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer Inc, Galapagos and GSK, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Pfizer Inc, Galapagos, GSK, Janssen and Novartis. DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2118
Table 1. Safety outcomes by BL CRP (NML <5 mg/L; ELV ≥5 mg/L)

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<tr>
<th>CRP Category</th>
<th>Low (N=132)</th>
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Table 1. Summary of TEAEs to Wk 16

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<th>PBO (N=132)</th>
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Table 4. Summary of TEAEs to Wk 16

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Methods: Joints, bone mineral density (BMD), vertebral fractures (VF) and serum markers is still limited. In this explorative study, consecutive AS outpatients from the GLAS cohort who were treated with secukinumab for 2 years were included. Standardized follow-up visits were performed at baseline (before start of secukinumab) and after 3/6 months, 1 and 2 years of treatment. Bone-related outcome was assessed at baseline and after 2 years, with little change during 2 years of treatment. Serum BTM levels reflecting the actual bone turnover process corrected for normal influence of age and gender showed high BALP at baseline, indicative for mineralization, which decreased during 2 years of secukinumab treatment.

Background: IL17 inhibitors have proven to reduce disease activity in patients with ankylosing spondylitis (AS). AS is an intriguing disease which is characterized by both excessive bone formation and bone loss. Data on the effect of IL17 inhibitors on the different aspects of bone formation as well as bone resorption is still limited.

Objectives: To evaluate radiographic progression of the spine and cervical facet joints, bone mineral density (BMD), vertebral fractures (VF) and serum markers of bone resorption, formation, and mineralization during 2 years of secukinumab treatment in AS patients in daily clinical practice.

Methods: In this explorative study, consecutive AS outpatients from the GLAS cohort who were treated with secukinumab for 2 years were included. Standardized follow-up visits were performed at baseline (before start of secukinumab) and after 3/6 months, 1 and 2 years of treatment. Bone-related outcome was assessed at baseline and after 2 years. Radiographs were blinded for patient characteristics and scored in chronological time order by 2 independent trained readers. Spinial radiographic damage was assessed using the modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spine Score (mSASSS; 0-72) and cervical facet joint involvement according the ‘de Vlam’ method (0-15). Radiographic VF were assessed using the Genant method and bone mineral density (BMD) with DEXA. Serum levels of BTM reflecting collagen resorption, collagen formation and facilitation of bone mineralization (sCTX, PINP and BALP, respectively) were measured at all visits. BTM Z-scores were calculated using a healthy reference population to correct for the normal influence of age and gender. Bone-related outcomes were explored using descriptive statistics. Generalized estimating equations were used to analyze BTM over time within patients.

Results: In total, 17 AS patients were eligible for analyses; 53% were male, mean age was 46.6±14.6 years, 82% were HLA-B27 positive, mean ASDAS at baseline was 3.9±1.2, median CRP was 5 (IQR 3 - 26) mg/L, 53% were biologic naïve, and median time between diagnosis and start of secukinumab was 5.0 (IQR 1.5-12.0) years. After 2 years of secukinumab treatment, median sCTX, PINP and BALP Z-scores were +0.0, -0.60 and +1.2 SD, respectively. The course of sCTX and PINP did not change significantly during follow-up, BALP Z-scores, however, significantly decreased at 2 years compared to baseline (Figure 1).

Conclusion: This explorative study in daily clinical practice with assessments of both new bone formation and bone resorption in AS patients treated with secukinumab showed that there was low radiographic damage at baseline, with little change during 2 years of treatment. Serum BTM levels reflecting the actual bone turnover process corrected for normal influence of age and gender showed high BALP at baseline, indicative for mineralization, which decreased during 2 years of secukinumab treatment.

Figure 1. The effect of 2 year of secukinumab treatment on markers of bone turnover sCTX (A), PINP (B) and BALP (C) in patients with AS (n=17). Bar indicates median value.

Disclosure of Interests: This study was supported by an investigator initiated research grant from Novartis.

Acknowledgements: There are no conflict of interests to disclose.

Keywords: Outcome measures, Bone diseases, Spondyloarthritides

M. Siderius1, S. Arends1, F. Wink2, A. Spoorenberg1, 1University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2Medical Center Leeuwarden, Rheumatology, Leeuwarden, Netherlands

AB0940

BONE-RELATED OUTCOME DURING TWO YEARS OF SECUKINUMAB TREATMENT IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: RADIOGRAPHIC SPINAL AND FACET INVOLVEMENT, BONE MINERAL DENSITY, VERTEBRAL FRACTURES AND BONE TURNOVER MARKERS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Bone diseases, Spondyloarthritides

M. A. Ozturk1, S. Arends1, F. Wink2, A. Spoorenberg1, 1University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2Medical Center Leeuwarden, Rheumatology, Leeuwarden, Netherlands

Background: Following the failure of initial biological treatment in spondyloarthritides, switching to an alternative biological drug is possible. However, the data regarding the choice of the drug is limited. ASAS/EULAR guideline on axial spondyloarthritides does not make a distinction between TNFi, IL-17i or JAKi, with certain precautions regarding JAKi [1]. On the other hand, ACR/SAA/SPARTAN guideline recommends IL-17 over a different TNFi in primary failure, based on the assumption that TNFi is not the key inflammatory mediator in these patients [2].
Objectives: Our main objective was to compare and contrast the clinical and laboratory features of the patients who received either a TNFi or IL-17i following the failure of the initial biologic treatment in our cohort of spondyloarthritis patients.

Methods: Spondyloarthritis patients followed in our institution between 2014 and 2022 who received a secondary bDMARD following primary or secondary biologic failure were included in our study. ASAS criteria were used to classify patients as having axial or peripheral SpA. Failure was defined as lack of clinical improvement following at least 12 weeks of therapy. Demographic, clinical, laboratory and radiological features of the patients, along with clinical and laboratory response following the second line bDMARD treatment were recorded.

Results: 90 patients were included in our study. 51% were female (N=46), mean age at diagnosis was 35 (SD: 11.9, %95 CI: 32.5-37.6), median duration of disease was 9 years (IQR: 10; minimum: 2 years, maximum: 38 years). 76% (N=68) of patients were classified as axial SpA, remaining 22 were classified as peripheral SpA. 68% (N=58) were HLA-B27 positive. Median ASDAS-CRP before the initial bDMARD was 3.7 (IQR: 13; min-max: 2.6-5.9). Adalimumab was the most used initial TNFi (48%, N=43). Most common reason of treatment switch was secondary failure (51%, N=41), followed by primary failure (25%, N=20) and side effects (19%, N=15). Following initial treatment failure, 30% of patients (N=27) were switched to a drug with an alternative pathway, with most of them being secukinumab (N=22). Median ASDAS-CRP after initial treatment failure was 3.8 (IQR: 1.0, min-max: 2.5-6.0).

There was no difference in type of spondylarthritis, HLA-B27 positivity, ASDAS-CRP after initial bDMARD treatment. The rate of clinical remission was 5% for TNFi and 75% for bDMARDs switching. The reasons for bDMARDs switching were PF (50%), secondary failure (25%), SF (16%) and SE (8% - mostly infections). In the bDMARDs group, the most common current therapy was ADA (53%) followed by etanercept (ETA) (28%), golimumab (GOL) (9%), ustekinumab (UST) (1%), and secukinumab (SEC) (4%). During a follow-up of five years, the comparison between survival curves of these bDMARDs showed significant differences (p=0.015) (figure 1 A). The reasons for bDMARDs switching were primary failure (PF), secondary failure (SF), side effects (SE - 20% - mostly infections). In the PM group, the most common current therapy was ADA (44%) followed by ETA (33%), SEC (12 %), GOL (6%), UST (5 %). As shown in figure 1 B, no significant differences (p=0.49) in drug survival were found among patients treated with these bDMARDs. The reasons for bDMARDs switching were PF (38%), SF (38%), SE (8% - mostly infections).

Conclusion: In our experience, ADA was the most frequently prescribed bDMARDs as the first choice in patients with axSpA and pSpA. Despite PF and SF being the main causes of treatment discontinuation, a second anti-TNF agent was the preferred option in most cases.

Table 1. Characteristics of responders and non-responders to secondary line treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease duration</th>
<th>SpA classification</th>
<th>HLA-B27</th>
<th>Second line bDMARD</th>
<th>Second line TNFi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 years (IQR: 12)</td>
<td>AxSpA 52 (77%)</td>
<td>18 (67%)</td>
<td>TNFi 59 (95%)</td>
<td>ADA 12 (86%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 years (IQR: 5)</td>
<td>PerSpA 16 (72%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>IL-17i 6 (25%)</td>
<td>ETN 26 (100%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>Other 3 (17%)</td>
<td>GOL 4 (80%)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>0 (0%)</td>
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<td>IFX 9 (100%)</td>
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Non-responder Responder

Disease duration 11 years (IQR: 12) 4 years (IQR: 5) P = 0.033
SpA classification AxSpA 52 (77%) 23 (24%) 0.722
PerSpA 16 (72%) 6 (27%) 0.285
HLA-B27 Negative 18 (67%) 9 (33%) 0.285
Positive 45 (78%) 13 (22%) 0.285
Second line bDMARD TNFi 59 (95%) 3 (5%) <0.001
IL-17i 6 (25%) 18 (75%) 0.116
Other 3 (17%) 1 (5%) 0.016
Second line TNFi ADA 12 (86%) 2 (11.4%) 0.116
ETN 26 (100%) 0
GOL 4 (80%) 1 (20%) 0
IFX 9 (100%) 0
C2P 8 (100%) 0

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5413

AB0942 ANTI-IL17 TREATMENT AND INCIDENCE OF INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD

R. Dos-Santos1,2, I. Alcántara3, D. Fernández Fernández4, I. González Fernández5, P. Castro-Santamaría5, M. Sanchez-Wonenburger7, A. Mata1, J. L. Puga Guzmán5, I. Álvarez1, V. Bustos5, J. R. Maneiro5, A. Souto Vilas4, A. Mera Varela1,2, E. Perez-Pampín5,6, Clinical University Hospital in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, Rheumatology Department, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Rheumatology Department, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Clinical University Hospital in Ourense, Spain; Rheumatology Department, Ourense, Spain; Clinical University Hospital in Pontevedra, Rheumatology Department, Pontevedra, Spain

Background: A warning about appearance or worsening of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) during treatment with anti-IL17 agents has been launched by regulatory agencies in the last years. This caution is based on the relationship between bowel (IBD), joint (spondyloarthritis [SpA]) and skin (psoriasis [Ps]);

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5413

AB0941 REAL-LIFE ANALYSIS ON SURVIVAL TO TREATMENT AND REASONS FOR SWITCHING OF BIOLOGICAL DMARDS IN PATIENTS WITH SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD

L. Di Sanzo1, E. Molteni1, C. Castellani1, G. Bevignani1, G. Sciarra1, M. Di Franco1, V. Ricci1, G. Alessandrini1, R. Scivo1, F. Corsi1, Polyclinico Umberto
regarding immune aspects. As well, anti-IL17 drugs have been proved ineffective in IBD treatment.[1,2]

Objectives: To analyze the incidence of IBD in patients with SpA or Ps treated with anti-IL17 drugs.

Methods: A systematic review of clinical trials has been performed using 4 databases (Medline, Embase, Web of Science, Cochrane Library). There were identified papers assessing the appearance of IBD in clinical trial's participants, previously diagnosed of Ps or SpA, treated with anti-IL17 drugs. A global incidence rate (IRR), incidence rate ratio (IRR) and relative risks (RR) were estimated in this population, in parallel and crossover studies. Heterogeneity and risk of bias were also evaluated.

Results: 53 papers were finally selected for performing this meta-analysis. A global IR of IBD diagnosis in Ps/SpA patients under treatment with anti-IL17 was 0.3/100 patients-year (95% CI 0.24-0.37). An IRR of IBD diagnosis in Ps/SpA patients under treatment with anti-IL17 was 0.56 (95% CI 0.34-0.9, p=0.01). A RR of IBD diagnosis in Ps/SpA patients under treatment with anti-IL17 in crossover trials was 0.73 (95% CI 0.27-1.99, p=0.54) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: We cannot affirm that anti-IL17 agents increase the global risk of IBD appearance in Ps or SpA patients. Anti-IL17 drugs may not be avoided in clinical practice concerning Ps and SpA patients, due to IBD prevention.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Relative risk (RR) of IBD diagnosis in parallel (a) and crossover (b) clinical trials of SpA and Ps patients under treatment with anti-IL17.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5897

AB0943 EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR - A THERAPY ON 24-HOUR AMBULATORY BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT AND SLEEP QUALITY IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Spondyloarthropathy

K. Moral1, E. Bilgin2, O. Karadag2, U. Kalyoncu2, A. Akdoğan2, S. Kiraz2, A. I. Ertënil2, T. Yildirim2, L. Kılıç2, 1Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 3Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Nephrology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Increased cardiovascular mortality has been reported in AS patients. There are studies showing the positive effects of anti-TNF-α therapy on both cardiovascular mortality and sleep quality. (1,2)

Objectives: To determine the changes in sleep quality and 24-hour blood pressure measurements in AS patients with-axisSpA treated with anti-tumor necrosis factor TNF-α therapy.

Methods: Patients with axisSpA who were admitted to Hacettepe University Hospital Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic between 01.03.2021 and 01.12.2021, anti-TNF-naive and without a history of cardiovascular disease were included. Disease activity assessment (ESR, CRP, BASDAI and BASFI), ambulatory blood pressure measurement (ABMP) and sleep quality evaluated by pittsburgh sleep quality index questionare (PSQI) were assessed before anti-TNF therapy (0.month) and after anti-TNF-α therapy (3.month).

Results: Totally 28 patients with axisSpA (SD age 40.0 (10.4) years, female:16/57.1% patients) were included in to this study (table-1). The 0th and 3th month ABPM measurements of the patients in our study were within the normotensive limits. Both disease activity scores and median PSQI scores [8.5 (4.0-12.8)] were high and sleep quality was poor in 71% of the patients. Although there was a significant decrease in disease activity scores and a significant improvement in sleep quality at the 3. month after anti-TNF-α therapy, no significant changes were observed in ABPM parameters such as Ambulatory Arte- rial Stiffness Index (AASI), Average real Variability (ARV), Pulse Pressure Index (PPI), Sleeppoughsure and Prewaking surge compared to pre-treatment. While after anti- anti-TNF-α therapy the percentage of patients with dipper phenomena increased in the 3. month, this increase was not statistically significant (46.4% (0. month) vs. 60.7% (3. month); p=0.388). Furthermore, the change in nighttime systolic blood pressure reduction was statistically significant respectively (4.8% (7.9- 9.2) (0. month) vs. 9.2% (7.4-11.1) (3. month); p=0.020), while there was no statistically significant difference in the change in nighttime diastolic blood pressure reduction respectively (6.4% (1.5-14.7) vs. 9.6% (5.0-15.8); p=0.112) (table-2).

Conclusion: This study shows that anti-TNF-α treatment has positive effects on modifiable cardiovascular risk factors by increasing sleep quality and increasing nighttime blood pressure reduction. Prospective and long-term studies are needed.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age* years</td>
<td>40.0±10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration** years</td>
<td>6.5 (4-11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positivity n (%)</td>
<td>13/39,1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral manifestations n (%)</td>
<td>1 (3,6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis n (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis n (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactilitis n (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entesithis n (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD n (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS-Pain**</td>
<td>7.5 (5.3 – 9.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI** (0-10)</td>
<td>5.8 (3.5-7.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI** (0-10)</td>
<td>6.4 (3.6-7.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR** (mm/h)</td>
<td>14.0 (6.5-30.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP** (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.8 (3.0-2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI* (kg/m²)</td>
<td>27.2±5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL (mg/dL)*</td>
<td>123.7±38.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL (mg/dL)*</td>
<td>50.2±10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerides (mg/dL)*</td>
<td>117.7±7.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking n (%)</td>
<td>13 (44.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity n (%)</td>
<td>9 (32.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medications*</td>
<td>NSAID n (%) 28 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOMARO n (%) 17 (60.7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroids n (%) 4 (14.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean,standard deviation **(Median 25%-75%) # <7.5 mg prednisone or equivalent BASDAI (Both Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index), BASFI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index), IBD (Inflammatory bowel disease), ESR (Erythrocyte-Sedimentation Rate), CRP (C-reactive protein), BMI (Body mass index), NSAID (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug), KOMARO (conventional DMARD), steroid (users under <7.5 mg). Those who were obese were considered as having a BMI ≥30.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: The treatment of Spondyloarthritis (SpA) has enormously improved thanks to bDMARDs, which are usually safe but they still require some caution because of their interference with the immune system homeostasis. ATE is a still evolving method designed to study the causal relationship between treatment and outcome.

Objectives: We endeavoured to investigate the impact of TNF-inhibitors (TNFi), anti-interleukin12/23 monoclonal antibodies (anti-IL) on comorbidities among SpA patients enrolled in the Italian GISEA Registry, using an average treatment effect (ATE) analysis.

Methods: SpA patients from the GISEA Registry were divided into groups according to pharmacological exposure: no treatment (G0), TNFi (G1) and anti-IL (G2). In each group, the prevalence and incidence of infectious, cardiopulmonary, endocrinological, non-inflammatory gastrointestinal disease (NIGID), oncologic, renal and neurologic comorbidities were evaluated. Thus, each comorbidity was fitted for ATE and baseline features were evaluated for importance.

Results: This multi-centre Italian GISEA study comprised 4458 SpA patients (G0=495 patients, G1=3113 patients, G2=815 patients). Cardiovascular disease was the most prevalent and incident comorbidity in all groups, with no significant difference between groups. ATE showed no increased risk of solid cancer in G1 and G2 (G1 vs. G0 = 0.42 95% CI 0.20-0.85; G2 vs. G0 = 0.26 95% CI 0.08-0.71), but significantly higher prevalence in G0 (14.07/1000 patient-years, p=0.0001). Conversely, a significantly higher risk of NIGID and fibromyalgia was found in G1 and G2 vs. G0 (NIGID: G1 vs. G0 = 1.56 95% CI 1.06-2.33, G2 vs. G0 = 1.91 95% CI 1.05-3.24; fibromyalgia: G1 vs. G0 = 1.69 95% CI 1.05-2.68, G2 vs. G0 = 2.13 95% CI 1.14-3.41). No treatment risk modification was observed concerning haematological malignancies, cardiovascular events and endocrinological comorbidities.

Conclusion: Overall, this study reveals that bDMARDs have only a slight interference of the occurrence of comorbidities in SpA patients, underlining the appropriateness of the use of bDMARDs in current clinical practice. Some caveats pertain to NIGID and fibromyalgia. Importantly, causality may yield more reliable and relevant clinical information, flattening the imbalance between observational data and clinical trials.

Table 1. Prevalence and incidence of selected comorbidities in the GISEA Cohort and results of the Average Treatment Effect Analysis (ATE).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comorbidity</th>
<th>No treatment (G0)</th>
<th>TNFi (G1)</th>
<th>AntiIL (G2)</th>
<th>p value (ANOVA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>10 events; 16.90</td>
<td>114 events; 28.81</td>
<td>26 events; 4.74</td>
<td>0.0794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrinological disease</td>
<td>7 events; 11.35</td>
<td>60 events; 9.30</td>
<td>15 events; 2.67</td>
<td>0.6678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
<td>5 events; 6.72</td>
<td>102 events; 13.42</td>
<td>33 events; 12.20</td>
<td>0.0095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal (non IBD)</td>
<td>8 events; 12.41</td>
<td>110 events; 16.48</td>
<td>33 events; 19.68</td>
<td>0.0408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematological malignancy</td>
<td>0 events; 0</td>
<td>0 events; 0</td>
<td>0 events; 0</td>
<td>0.6498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid cancer</td>
<td>10 events; 14.07</td>
<td>13 events; 1.71</td>
<td>5 events; 3.79</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average treatment effect (ATE) analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcome (comorbidity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR (CI 95%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrinological disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI (non IBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematological malignancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid cancer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: G0= Group 0, no treatment; G1= Group 1, TNFi= Tumour necrosis factor inhibitors, G2= Group 2, antiIL= anti-interleukin17 and anti-interleukin17/23 monoclonal antibodies, N= number of the group, IBD= inflammatory bowel disease, RR= relative risk, CI 95%= confidence interval 95%, Significant results are in bold characters.

Acknowledgements: Roberta Ramonda and Giovanni Lapadula are part of the GISEA Working Group, comprising the Centre of Bari, Milan (Presidio Ospedaliero Gaetano Pini), Brescia, Catania, Foggia, Rome ( Policlinico Umberto I, Policlinico Gemelli and Policlinico Tor Vergata), Cagliari, Modena, Verona, Turin (Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Città della Salute and Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I), Siena, Pavia, Messina, Ferrara and Padova.

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**AB0946**

A META-ANALYSIS TO EVALUATE THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF IGURATIMOD ON ACTIVITY AX-SPA

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

Y. Li1, L. Hu1, Z. Zhao1, Z. Hu1, J. Zhang1, J. Zhu1, F. Huang1.1 The First Medical Center, Chinese PLA General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China

**Background:** Iguratimod is a newly-developed small molecular anti-rheumatic drug, which can inhibit the effects of prostaglandin E2, TNF-α and IL-17. Iguratimod had been reported to be effective in the treatment of SpA. Iguratimod was implied to be of potential efficacy on ax-SPA.

**Objectives:** This study was designed to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of Iguratimod on activity ax-SPA (ASDAS≥2.1).

**Methods:** We performed a meta-analysis to systematically evaluate the efficacy and safety of Iguratimod by gathering the published RCTs about the treatment of Iguratimod in ax-SPA, mean differences (MD) and 95% CI of the change of back pain, morning stiffness, PGa, ASDAS, BASDAI, BASFI and concentration of TNF-α, ESR and CRP were calculated. Besides, the odds ratio (OR) and 95% CI of the ASAS 20, ASAS 40, partial remission of ASAS, ASAS 5/6 were calculated as well.

**Results:** 7 RCTs were admitted into the meta-analysis, including 186 cases in the control group and 208 cases in the Iguratimod group. The control group was treated with NSAIDs monotherapy or NSAIDs combined with DMARDs, and the range of follow-ups was 12-24 weeks. The improvement of back pain (MD -1.76, 95% CI: -2.33 to -1.20, P <0.001), morning stiffness (MD -1127.95, 95% CI: -13.57 to -9.96, P<0.001), PGa (MD -2.86, 95% CI: -5.45 to -0.26, P<0.05), ASDAS (MD -0.8, 95% CI: -1.26 to -0.33, P<0.001), BASDAI (MD -1.19, 95% CI: -1.59 to -0.78, P<0.001), BASFI (MD -0.92, 95% CI: -1.29 to -0.55, P<0.001), ASAS 20 (OR 1194, 95% CI: 5.30 to 26.91, P<0.001), ASAS 40 (OR 4.46, 95% CI: 1.95 to 10.16, P<0.001), partial remission of ASAS (OR 1769, 95% CI: 4.06 to 77.08, P<0.001) in the Iguratimod treatment group were better than those in the control group, as well as for concentration of ESR (MD -8.77, 95% CI: -15.37 to -2.18, P<0.001), CRP (MD -4.44, 95% CI: -6.66 to -2.23, P<0.001) and TNF-α (MD -6.98, 95% CI: -7.72 to -6.24, P<0.001). There was no significant difference in the reported adverse events between the two groups.

**Conclusion:** Iguratimod is effective and well-tolerated during the treatment and thus could be a new pharmaceutical option for activity ax-SPA patients.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3747

**AB0947**

EFFECT OF UPADACITINIB ON REDUCING PAIN IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS AND INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO BIOLOGIC THERAPY

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Pain, DMARD

X. Baraliakos1, M. Magrey2, L. Bessette3, K. De Vlam4, T. Gao5, A. Shmagel6, Y. Li1, L. Hu1, Z. Zhao1, Z. Hu1, J. Zhang1, J. Zhu1, F. Huang1.1 The First Medical Center, Chinese PLA General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China

**Background:** Pain is a debilitating symptom of ankylosing spondylitis (AS) that negatively affects patients’ lives. Upadacitinib (UPA), a Janus kinase inhibitor and IL-17α and IL-17 inhibitor, has been reported to be effective in the treatment of AS. Upadacitinib was implied to be of potential efficacy on ax-SPA, and much better improvement (MBI, defined as ≥2 point reduction and ≥33% reduction from baseline), and non-responder imputation incorporating multiple imputation to handle missing data due to COVID-19 was used.

**Results:** A total of 211 patients received UPA 15 mg QD and 209 patients received PBO. Higher proportions of patients receiving UPA vs PBO achieved ≥30% and ≥50% reductions in PGA of pain, total back pain, and nocturnal back pain as early as week 2 that were sustained at all time points through 14 weeks (nominal P<0.05; Figure 1a-c). Achievement of ≥70% reductions in PGA of pain and nocturnal back pain were higher at week 4 and sustained thereafter (Figures 1a and 1c), and achievement of ≥70% reduction in total back pain was higher at week 2 and week 8, but not week 4, and sustained thereafter (Figure 1b). Results were similar for the proportion of patients achieving MCID and MBI, with improvements in PGA of pain, total back pain, and nocturnal back pain for UPA vs PBO as early as week 1 (MCID) or week 2 (MBI) that were sustained through week 14 (all nominal P<0.001; Table 1).

**Figure 1. Proportion of Patients Achieving ≥30%, ≥50%, and ≥70% Reduction in Pain Outcomes Over Time (NRI-MI)**

**Table 1. Achievement of MCID and MBI in Pain Outcomes at Week 14 (NRI-MI)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pain Outcomes</th>
<th>UPA 15 mg</th>
<th>PBO</th>
<th>Nominal P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PGA of pain</td>
<td>81.0 (75.8–86.3)</td>
<td>62.7 (56.1–69.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBI</td>
<td>60.7 (54.1–67.3)</td>
<td>24.9 (19.0–30.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total back pain</td>
<td>80.1 (74.7–85.5)</td>
<td>65.1 (58.6–71.5)</td>
<td>0.0005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCID</td>
<td>58.3 (51.6–64.9)</td>
<td>25.4 (19.5–31.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nocturnal back pain</td>
<td>82.9 (77.9–88.0)</td>
<td>61.3 (54.7–67.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBI</td>
<td>61.6 (55.0–68.2)</td>
<td>32.1 (25.7–38.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MBI, much better improvement; MCID, minimal clinically important difference; NRI-MI, non-responder imputation incorporating multiple imputation to handle missing data due to COVID-19; PBO, placebo; PGA, Patient’s Global Assessment; UPA, upadacitinib.
Conclusion: In patients with active AS who were bDMARD-IR, greater proportions of patients treated with UPA achieved rapid and clinically meaningful reductions in pain vs PBO as early as week 2 that were sustained through 14 weeks across multiple pain assessments.

REFERENCES:

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Results: Out of 33 SpA patients, 20 patients accepted to undergo sperm parameters assessment. 15 patients were diagnosed with AS (7 solely with axial involvement) and 5 patients were diagnosed with PSA. Table 1 presents the most important monitored parameters. All patients presented high disease activity measured by ASDAS and DAPSA. All patients had mild Psoriasis Area and Impact of long-term low and intermediate doses of MTX on sperm parameters. A healthy age matched control group underwent sperm parameters assessment. Demographics, type of disease, disease duration, MTX exposure and sperm parameters in AS and PSA patients versus controls.

Table 1. Demographics, type of disease, disease duration, MTX exposure and sperm parameters in AS and PSA patients versus controls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Sperm parameters</th>
<th>PSA</th>
<th>Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years, mean±SD)</td>
<td>35.85±8.37</td>
<td>37.11±7.97</td>
<td>36.12±5.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years, mean±SD)</td>
<td>14.4±11.2</td>
<td>4.2±5.4</td>
<td>3.32±1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sperm characteristics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sperm concentration</td>
<td>60.71(50-100)</td>
<td>43.72(25-76)</td>
<td>6.005(0.1-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total motility</td>
<td>65.15±81</td>
<td>62.57±10.81</td>
<td>33.12±19.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal morphology (♀, SD)</td>
<td>65±23.22</td>
<td>54±9.70</td>
<td>13.87±1.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normozoospermia (%)</td>
<td>85.71</td>
<td>87.50</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normoastenozoospermia (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligospermia (%)</td>
<td>14.28</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligozoospermia (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>Methotrexate 20-50mg/week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(number of patients)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SD-standard deviation, NV-normal values

Conclusion: Our data suggest that PSA patients represent a distinct group inside the SpA disease spectrum and fertility impairment is already a manifestation of disease. AS patients with early disease onset undergoing treatment (including MTX) have sperm parameters comparable to those of the controls. Chronic MTX therapy in dosages between 15-20mg/week do not have a negative impact on sperm parameters.

REFERENCES:
Therapy modifications rates were 78% in the IBD-group and 96% in the IAS-group. The most common modification for the IBD-group was initiation of biologic therapy in 18/32 patients (Adalimumab 44%, Infliximab 33%, Golimumab 5.7%, Etanercept 5.7%, Certolizumab pegol 5.7%, Ustekinumab 5.7%). In the IAS-group, switching biologic agent to Adalimumab or Infliximab (42%) and ceasing NSAIDs (27%) were the most common (Figure 1). At 1-year follow-up there were no significant differences in clinical outcomes (treatment failure, surgery/hospitalization, clinical remission) between IBD and IAS groups. However, patients in both groups with treatment modifications, had a trend for higher rate of IBD clinical remission than patients without (72% vs. 40%, p=0.066). No difference was found in AS clinical outcome.

Conclusion: Treatment modifications are common among newly coexisting IBD and AS patients, preferably biologic drug modifications. These modifications may contribute to IBD clinical remission.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Cohort stratification by diagnoses and treatment modifications AS-ankylising spondylitis; IBD= inflammatory bowel disease; MTX=methotrexate; 5-ASA=5-aminosalicylic acid; 6-MP=mercaptopurine; NSAIDs= non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0950 COST-EFFECTIVE THERAPY IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TWO TREATMENT STRATEGIES

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, Spondyloarthritis, Tapering

P Vasanth 1, S. Rajendran 2, A. Jacob Mathew 1, R. Goel 1, J. Mathew 1.
1Christian Medical College Vellore, Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Vellore, India; 2Christian Medical College Vellore, Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Vellore, India

Background: Biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) remain inaccessible to a majority of patients in resource-poor countries due to high cost. Cost-saving strategies including the use of generic bDMARDs with an early de-escalation schedule instead of continued standard dose or using generic small molecules such as tocilizumab or bircinib are being explored for the treatment of axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA). The generic molecules are cheaper in India as compared with the rest of the world.

Objectives: To compare the efficacy, safety, and cost of generic tocilizumab and disease activity-directed early de-escalation schedule of intended copies of adalimumab (ADA), the most commonly used bDMARD available in India.

Methods: In this retrospective study, patients diagnosed with AxSpA in a tertiary care center in India, initiated on tocilizumab (TOFA), and had at least one follow-up visit from January 2021 to November 2022, were included. Patients who received ADA due to moderate to high disease activity with an early de-escalation schedule during the same period were included as historical disease controls. Early de-escalation was defined as increasing the interval between 2 doses of ADA by 1 week every 3 months within 12 months of initiation of the drug. The baseline demographic, clinical presentation, and response to treatment and adverse drug reactions were compared between patients on TOFA and ADA. An Ankylosing spondylitis disease activity score (ASDAS-CRP) of <2.1 was considered a good response to treatment. The descriptive data are presented as means SD or median (interquartile range) or percentages. Fisher’s exact test and Mann Whitney U test were used to compare categorical and continuous parameters, respectively, between TOFA and ADA. The average monthly cost of therapy was calculated for both groups.

Results: Among 240 patients who received TOFA, 155 patients satisfied the inclusion criteria, while 40 patients received early de-escalation of ADA. The age (33.9±9.5 and 33.6±13.3 years, p=0.66), gender [males n=131 (86.8%) and 32 (80.0%), p=0.32], median disease duration [7 (4-11) and 7 (4.3-11.0) years] and CRP [22.1 (10.2-44.5) and 23.85(14.48-71.50) mg/L, p=0.32] were similar for patients who received TOFA and ADA, respectively. The frequency of uveitis, peripheral arthritis, and HLA-B27 positivity was similar between the two therapies. Majority of patients [124 (82.1%) in the TOFA group and 32 (80%) in the ADA group] in both the groups received concomitant conventional DMARDs, while 36 (23.8%) patients on TOFA received prior TNF inhibitors. During a follow-up period of 6 (3-9) months, 129 (86.7%) of 151 patients on TOFA achieved low disease activity or inactive disease status as compared with 37 patients (92.5%) who received ADA (p=0.42). Adverse drug reaction requiring drug discontinuation was observed in 6 patients on TOFA (transaminis in 3, herpes zoster in 2, in 1, pefecth spondyloodiscitis) and in 5 patients receiving ADA (transaminis in 4 and abdominal tuberculosis in 1).

Conclusion: Tocilizumab therapy is comparable to the early dose de-escalation strategy of adalimumab in terms of treatment response and safety in Indian patients with AxSpA.

Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgments to declare.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5901

AB0951 EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF UPADACITINIB IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLOITIS. REAL WORLD DATA

Keywords: Spondyloarthritids, bDMARD

1Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda, Rheumatology, Majadahonda, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario Infantia Sofia, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 4Hospital Can Misses, Rheumatology, Ibiza, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, Rheumatology, Oviedo, Spain; 6Hospital Universitario de Basurto, Rheumatology, Bilbao, Spain; 7Hospital Universitario Parc Taulí, Rheumatology, Sabadell, Spain; 8Hospital Universitario Fundación de Alcorcón, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Upadacitinib is a selective and reversible inhibitor of Janus kinases (JAKs) that preferentially inhibits signaling via JAK1 or JAK1/3. JAK1 inhibition with upadacitinib modulates JAK-dependent cytokine signaling, thereby decreasing the inflammatory burden of different immune-mediated diseases. Upadacitinib is approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis (radiographic axial spondyloarthritis), ulcerative colitis, and atopic dermatitis. In the case of ankylosing spondylitis, the drug has been approved for use in Spain since March 2022.

Objectives: The present study aims to evaluate the first data on safety and efficacy of upadacitinib use in ankylosing spondylitis in real clinical practice.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of a real world multicenter study that included patients of 8 Spanish hospitals. Demographic data, personal history, and clinical course of patients diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis treated with upadacitinib at participating centers were collected.

Results: Forty-four patients with ankylosing spondylitis who received upadacitinib for a mean time (SD) of 8.7 (7.4) months were included in the study. They had received previous biologic treatments in 86 % of cases. In 23% of cases, patients at least 5. An improvement was observed in 70 % of patients as measured by subjective patient-reported improvement. The treatment was
suspended in the 27.3% of patients, the main reason for suspension was inefficacy. A higher percentage of suspension was found in patients who had received a greater number of previous biological treatments. Adverse effects were reported in 8 patients, the most serious being one episode of tachycardia, one episode of deep vein thrombosis, one episode of peptic ulcer and one episode of herpes zoster, and the most frequent adverse effect being headache.

Conclusion: 70% of patients with ankylosing spondylitis who received upadacitinib for a median time of 8.7 months experienced subjective improvement in their symptoms.

Acknowledgements: Acknowledgements to all collaborators.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0952

**COMPARISON OF THE EFFECT BETWEEN BISPHOSPHONATE AND DENOSUMAB ON BONE MINERAL DENSITY AND RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: A PILOT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis

M. Y. Kim¹, K. Y. Kang¹, Y. S. Hong¹, ¹The Catholic University of Korea, Incheon St Mary’s Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Incheon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Osteoporosis is a frequent complication of ankylosing spondylitis (AS). Although there are no clear guidelines for the treatment of this secondary osteoporosis in AS, antisteoporotic agents including bisphosphonate were used according to the same guidelines for primary osteoporosis. Also, approved by European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2010, denosumab is being widely used.

**Objectives:** To compare the effect between bisphosphonate and denosumab on bone mineral density and radiographic progression in patients with AS for one year.

**Methods:** Among twenty-four patients with AS, sixteen patients were treated with bisphosphonate and nine patients with denosumab. BMD in the lumbar spine and right femur was measured by dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) at baseline and one year after treatment. Radiographic progression was scored using the modified Stoke AS Spinal Score (mSASSS). Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (BASDAI), Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS), and bone markers (bone-specific alkaline phosphatase (ALP), Collagen type I cross-linked C-telopeptide) were used to assess disease activity.

**Results:** Mean BMD values in the lumbar spine and total hip at one year increased when compared to those at baseline in both the bisphosphate and denosumab groups (P=0.006 and 0.007 in bisphosphate group, 0.015 and 0.036 in denosumab group). The increment was greater in denosumab group. The mean BMD in L-spine and total hip increased by 11.0% and 4.9% in denosumab group, while 9.0% and 2.7% in bisphosphate group. There were no differences in disease activities such as BASDAI, ASDAS-CRP, ESR, and CRP between two groups. mSASSS and number of syndesmophytes also revealed no significant differences, suggesting that denosumab does not adversely affect disease activity and radiographic scores compared to bisphosphonate.

**Table 1. Comparisons of the changes of clinical measure and radiographic scores between bisphosphonate and denosumab**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change from baseline to year one</th>
<th>Bisphosphonate (n=15)</th>
<th>Denosumab (n=9)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>1.5 ± 0.2</td>
<td>2.9 ± 0.8</td>
<td>0.215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>0.9 ± 1.2</td>
<td>1.7 ± 1.3</td>
<td>0.174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>17.2 ± 2.4</td>
<td>31.0 ± 3.9</td>
<td>0.519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/l)</td>
<td>13.7 ± 3.15</td>
<td>24.5 ± 4.40</td>
<td>0.446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone-specific ALP, μg/l</td>
<td>-0.7 ± 1.46</td>
<td>4.2 ± 4.3</td>
<td>0.379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-telopeptide, nmol/l</td>
<td>0.7 ± 0.411</td>
<td>0.128 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mSASSS in C- and L-spine⁴</td>
<td>0.7 ± 0.9</td>
<td>0.4 ± 1.4</td>
<td>0.558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes are calculated as base value subtracted from one year value. BASDAI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index. ASDAS: Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score. ALP: alkaline phosphatase. mSASSS: modified SASSS. C-: cervical. L-: lumbar.

**Conclusion:** Bisphosphonate and denosumab increase L-spine and total hip BMD, while not affecting disease activity and spinal new bone formation. Further prospective studies with larger subject numbers are needed.

**REFERENCES:**

**AB0953**

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF IL-23 INHIBITORS ON AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS AND AXIAL PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis

S. Al Nokhatha¹, S. Maguire², K. Ainaqbi¹, ¹Tawam Hospital, Rheumatology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; ²St James’s Hospital, Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland

**Background:** Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is an immune-mediated systemic chronic inflammatory arthritis involving the axial skeleton that may involve peripheral joints. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are first line therapy in the management of axSpA, however for many patients NSAID monotherapy is not sufficient to induce disease remission. Given the known efficacy of biologics in spondyloarthritis and the heterogeneity of these conditions, treatment choices should take into account all relevant disease domains. Interleukin-23 has been identified as a promising therapeutic target in SpA and PsA based on a significant body of evidence. Interleukin 23 inhibitors have produced inconsistent results when used to treat axial spondyloarthritis and axial psoriatic arthritis (1,2). Thus, there is a need for a holistic understanding of the use of IL23 inhibitors in axial conditions in particular spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis to provide appropriate evidence-based management and mitigate the growing burden of these diseases.

**Objectives:** To explore the latest reported literature on the effectiveness of IL 23 inhibitors in axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis.

**Methods:** A systematic literature review was conducted. The following databases were searched: Pubmed, Mendely EMBASE, MEDLINE (OVID), CINAH., Cochrane Library (central) and Web of Science. The search strategy included terms related to the axial spondyloarthritis and axial psoriatic arthritis and specifying the medications of study interest Ustekinumab, Risanikizumab, Gusekizumab and Tildrakizumab. The search was restricted to studies published in English from inception until June 2022. Randomized controlled trials, observational studies, or systematic reviews were eligible. Screening of titles, abstracts, and subsequent full text assessment were conducted independently by two independent reviewers. Outcomes assessed were BASDAI, BASDAI 50, modified BASDAI, BAFSI and ASDAS.

**Results:** Total of 4456 studies were identified, 9 studies of which 5 studies examining axial spondyloarthritis (Four RCTs and 1 prospective study) and 4 studies examining axial psoriatic arthritis (two prospective observational studies and two post hoc-analysis) were deemed suitable for inclusion. In contrast to one prospective observational study, 4 RCT (3 ustekinumab, 1 risanikizumab) did not support the use of IL23 inhibitors in axSpA based on the analyzed outcome measures of interest. Pooling of results for the three ustekinumab trials (BASDAI50, BAFSI, and ASDAS) (figure 1) demonstrated that the drug was not efficacious in treating axSpA. However, trials in axial PsA investigations showed an improvement in BASDAI, modified BASDAI, BAFSI and ASDAS.

**Conclusion:** The results of this meta-analysis would support the use of IL-23 inhibiting medications in the treatment of axial PsA. However, this is not the case for axSpA, as these drugs failed to demonstrate a significant improvement in patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations. This meta-analysis raises several interesting questions regarding differences in pathogenesis of axSpA and patient outcomes in axSpA patient populations.
IMPACT OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH AS USING BIOLOGIC AGENTS

Keywords: Comorbidities, bDMARD, Spondyloarthritis

G. Sandal Uzuń1, I. Y. Çakur2, E. Bilgin3, B. Farişogulları4, G. Ayan1, Z. Özsoy1, M. Ekici1, E. Unal5, S. A. Germe6, B. Filatån7, G. S. Kart Bayram8, J. Kılıç9, 1Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey; 3Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey; 4Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey, Ankara, Turkey.

Background: Although renal involvement is an rare extra-articular involvement in patients with ankylosing spondylitis (AS), medications and accompanying comorbidities may adversely affect renal functions [1].

Objectives: To determine the frequency and impact of CKD in patients with AS using biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs).

Methods: Between 2005 and November 2021, 3207 patients diagnosed with AS according to the modified New York criteria were enrolled in the Hacettepe University biological database (HUR-BIO). The 2012 Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) guideline was used for the definition of CKD to evaluate the renal function of patients. Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) was calculated with the MDRD (modified Modification of Diet in Renal Disease) formula, taking into account the creatinine value, age and gender parameters of the patients [2]. CKD was detected in 39 (1.2%) patients. Age-sex matched 41 non-CKD AS patients were selected as the control group. Demographic and clinical characteristics and mortality rates of AS patients with and without CKD were compared.

Results: Of 39 AS-CKD patients, 25 (64.1%) had CKD before the initiation of bDMARD and and 14 (35.8%) developed CKD during follow-up after treatment was started. Patients with AS-CKD had longer duration of symptoms and disease (Table 1). Comorbidities such as hypertension, coronary artery disease and amyloidosis were more prevalent in patients with AS-CKD. At a median follow-up of 2.48(0.1-20.1) years, mortality was observed in 11(28.2%) patients in the AS-CKD group, while no mortality was observed in the age-sex matched AS-nonCKD group (p<0.001, Figure 1). The mortality rate in patients with AS-CKD was 12.6 per 1000 patient-years, and 4 (10.2%) of deaths were during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 1.

| Age, median(SD), years | 68.2 (12.0) | 58.8(12.6) | 0.001 |

Conclusion: Both comorbid disease burden and mortality seem to be increased in patients with AS-CKD. Increased mortality was more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Background: The term “Difficult-to-Treat” (D2T) includes those patients who have persistent disease activity despite of having undergone several guideline-based treatments. This concept has been defined by EULAR for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1], thus could be analogously used for axSpA. In a recent publication [2] authors suggest that, among other interrelated factors that may be associated with an increased activity upon diagnosis (high CRP) or the presence of extra musculoskeletal manifestations (psoriasis). Describing D2T for axSpA would be useful to identify those interrelated factors that may be associated with an increased activity upon diagnosis (high CRP) or the presence of extra musculoskeletal manifestations (psoriasis).

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Included patients' sociodemographic, clinical and therapeutic variables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Group B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=158</td>
<td>n=35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Age (yr) | Mean age 46.5 ± 14.2 | 48.8 ± 14 | 0.391 |
| Age at diagnosis | 34.3 ± 12.1 | 32.4 ± 11.8 | 0.384 |
| Sex | Male (57.1%) | 20 (57.1%) | 0.038 |
| | Female | 40 (42.9%) | 15 (42.9%) |
| HLA B27 | Positive | 111 (67.6%) | 29 (82.9%) | 0.387 |
| | Negative | 41 (27.2%) | 12 (34.3%) |
| Uveitis | Yes | 106 (67%) | 29 (82.9%) | 0.066 |
| | No | 52 (32.9%) | 17 (17.1%) |
| Psoriasis | Yes | 12 (76%) | 7 (20%) | 0.026 |
| | No | 146 (92.4%) | 88 (80%) |
| Peripheral arthritis | Yes | 67 (42.4%) | 17 (48.6%) | 0.506 |
| | No | 127 (57.6%) | 42 (51.4%) |
| Enthesitis (heel) | Yes | 54 (34.2%) | 10 (28.6%) | 0.524 |
| | No | 104 (65.8%) | 25 (71.4%) |
| Dactylitis | Yes | 8 (5%) | 4 (11.4%) | 0.158 |
| | No | 150 (94.9%) | 31 (88.6%) |
| axSpA type | r-axSpA (AS) | 110 (69.6%) | 21 (60%) | 0.270 |
| | nr-axSpA | 28 (17.7%) | 7 (20%) | 0.752 |
| | Ps SpA | 6 (3.8%) | 4 (11.4%) | 0.065 |
| | nr-axSpA | 10 (6.3%) | 3 (8.6%) | 0.632 |

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0958
A STUDY ON EARLY TAPERING OF TOFACITINIB IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: A HIT AND RUN STRATEGY

Keywords: Tapering, Spondyloarthritides, Targeted synthetic drugs

V. Viswanath1, H. Sreekumar1, L. Sreekumari Ramachandran1, A. G. Varier1.
1Viswanath's IRIS Centre for Arthritis & Rheumatology, Rheumatology, Thiruvananthapuram, India

Background: Tofacitinib is emerging as a cost-effective drug in managing ankylosing spondylitis (AS) [1]. Tofacitinib (XELJANZ) was FDA-approved for the use of active AS in December 2021. Safety concerns have been raised about the long-term use of Tofacitinib following the ORAL surveillance trial data [2]. However, in developing countries, the cost is a primary concern, and Tofacitinib, an oral drug, can be considered an alternative to biologics. This study investigates whether early tapering can mitigate the safety risk and attain sustained remission.

Objectives: To assess the efficacy of early tapering of tofacitinib on disease activity in adult patients with active AS.

Methods: This observational study enrolled 22 consecutive patients aged ≥18 years diagnosed with active AS, meeting the ASAS criteria [3]. Patients received tofacitinib 15mg per day. ASDAS CRP was calculated at 0 and 6 months to monitor the response. The primary and secondary endpoints were early tapering of tofacitinib within six months of initiation and assessment of ASDAS CRP at 6 months, respectively. Assessment of the safety profile was done monthly.

Results: In our study, the mean ASDAS CRP at the initiation of tofacitinib was 2.24 (SD 1.13). After six months of treatment, the mean ASDAS CRP was 0.9 (SD 0.6), with remission in 77.27% (17 of 22). Tapering was initiated at a mean of 4.4 months (SD 3.18) and as early as one month. 41% of patients (9 of 22) had attained remission with early tapering of Tofacitinib and in 9% of patients (2 of 22), we could successfully stop Tofacitinib with sustained remission. Remission was occurred in 22% (5 of 22), of which in 2 patients drug had to be stopped. Two patients (9%) had to be switched to biologics due to non-responsiveness. There were no deaths, malignancies, major adverse cardiovascular events, thromboembolic events, or opportunistic infections.

Conclusion: In our study of 22 patients, we find that Tofacitinib can be a cost-effective management option in patients with AS who cannot afford biologics, especially in a developing economy like India. However, recent concerns about the drug's long-term safety preclude its optimal use. Early tapering of Tofacitinib demonstrates no increased incidence of flares and helps maintain remission. A hit-and-run strategy of early tapering of Tofacitinib would benefit patients with AS in the Indian context. We find that early tapering is effective in at least some of the patients, and it can reduce the cost of treatment as well as potential adverse reactions.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: N.I.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4367
patients discontinued treatment, 29 (82.85%) due to inefficacy, 1 (2.85%) by their own decision, 4 (11.42%) due to persistent mechanical pain and 1 (2.85%) due to neoplasia. The factors associated with lower risk of discontinuation were higher IMC \( (p = 0.025) \) and diabetes \( (p = 0.04) \). None of the other clinical variables evaluated had a statistically significant association with a lower or higher risk of discontinuation or discontinuation. No patient presented infections that required discontinuation of the drug.

**Conclusion:** SCK showed a very high retention rate in a population that has been previously exposed to several biological therapies both in AxSpA and PsA groups. According to previous reports [1], cardiometabolic comorbidities such as obesity and diabetes appear to be associated with better SCK survival and therefore this drug could be an optimal therapy for patients with cardiometabolic risk factors.

**REFERENCE:**


**Table 1. Baseline characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AxSpA (n=46)</th>
<th>PsA (n=44)</th>
<th>Total (n=90)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>23 (51.1%)</td>
<td>22 (51.2%)</td>
<td>45 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>10 (21.7%)</td>
<td>15 (34.1%)</td>
<td>25 (27.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidaemia</td>
<td>16 (34.8%)</td>
<td>20 (46.5%)</td>
<td>36 (40.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>5 (10.9%)</td>
<td>7 (15.9%)</td>
<td>12 (13.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index</td>
<td>27.7 (SD5.1)</td>
<td>29 (SD7.2)</td>
<td>28.4 (SD6.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>17 (37.8%)</td>
<td>15 (34.1%)</td>
<td>32 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>2 (4.4%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>2 (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>8 (17.4%)</td>
<td>5 (11.6%)</td>
<td>13 (14.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>5 (10.9%)</td>
<td>1 (2.3%)</td>
<td>6 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of previous biologics, median (IQR)</td>
<td>1 (1-2)</td>
<td>2 (1-3)</td>
<td>2 (1-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids</td>
<td>8 (18.2%)</td>
<td>21 (47.7%)</td>
<td>29 (33%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** Kaplan-Meier survival estimate in months

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5433

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**AB0960**

**EFFECT OF BODY MASS INDEX ON TREATMENT RESPONSE OF BIOLOGIC/TARGETED SYNTHETIC DMARDS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritides, bDMARD, Comorbidities

**C. G. Gialouri**, M. Pappa, G. Evangelatou, E. Nikiphorou, G. E. Fragogiulis

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Clinical Immunology-Rheumatology Unit, 2nd Department of Medicine and Laboratory, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; “Hippokration” General Hospital of Athens, Athens, Greece; 1National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Rheumatology Unit, First Department of Propaedeutic Internal Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, “Laiko” General Hospital of Athens, Athens, Greece; 2King’s College Hospital, London, UK., Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology Department, London, United Kingdom

**Background:** Overweight and/or obese patients with inflammatory arthritis (IA) have higher disease activity and lower chances of achieving as well as maintaining the treatment targets. Obesity also appears to negatively affect the response to tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors in patients with IA. The efficacy of other biologic (b) and of targeted-synthetic (ts) DMARDs in overweight/obese patients with IA, including rheumatoid arthritis –RA, psoriatic arthritis –PsA, axial spondyloarthritis –AxSpA, is unclear.

**Objectives:** To conduct a systematic literature review (SLR) to explore the effect of weight/body-mass-index (BMI) on the efficacy of all b-ts-DMARDs approved for the treatment of RA, PsA and AxSpA.

**Methods:** For this PROSPERO-registered SLR, we searched PubMed, Scopus and Cochrane-Library up to June 21st 2022. PICO-format was as follows: Population: adults with RA, PsA or AxSpA and low/normal weight/BMI; intervention: treatment with approved b-ts-DMARDs; Comparator: adults with RA, PsA or AxSpA and high/abnormal weight/BMI; Outcome: any outcome used for the assessment of treatment response (e.g. DAS28, ACR20, drug-survival). The search query included the following keywords in the article’s title and/or abstract: (“psoriatic arthritis” OR “rheumatoid arthritis” OR “inflammatory arthritis” OR “ankylosing spondylitis” OR “axial spondyloarthritis” OR “non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis”) AND (DMARDs OR bDMARDs OR tsDMARDs OR tofacitinib OR baricitinib OR abatacept OR secukinumab OR ustekinumab OR guselkumab OR risankizumab OR ixekizumab OR “Janus kinase inhibitors” OR “JAK inhibitor”) AND (“body mass index” OR BMI OR obesity OR weight). Manual-search. Number of studies, most of which were of medium RoB, was: 34 randomized studies, respectively.

**Results:** Out of 996 references, 192 full-text articles were reviewed and 75 eventually fulfilled the inclusion criteria (of which 10 studies were retrieved through manual-search). Number of studies, most of which were of medium RoB, was: 34 for TNF-inhibitors, 4 for IL-12/23 inhibitors, 1 for IL-23 inhibitor, 7 for IL-17 inhibitors, 18 for tocilizumab, 8 for abatacept, 3 for rituximab and 5 for JAK-inhibitors. The efficacy of TNF-inhibitors was found to be affected by the BMI in all forms of IA with the effect being similar across various TNF-inhibitors. In contrast, the favorable results of IL-23 and IL-17 inhibitors do not appear to be influenced by increased BMI in patients with PsA or AxSpA. Similar evidence exists for tocilizumab and abatacept, while no conclusion can be drawn for rituximab. More data are needed for JAK-inhibitors, although the effect of weight/BMI does not seem to be significant so far (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Weight/BMI should be considered in the treatment-plan of patients with IA, with its effect being more pronounced for TNF-inhibitors compared to other b-ts-DMARDs.

**Figure 1** The effect of weight/BMI on the efficacy of the approved b- and ts-DMARDs for RA, PsA and AxSpA. Red color: negative effect, green color: no effect, yellow color: limited data, green/yellow knitting: possibly no effect but limited data, white: not applicable.

**Acknowledgements:** None.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Chrysoula G. Gialouri: None declared, Maria Pappa: None declared, Gerasimos Evangelatos: None declared, Elena Nikiphorou Speakers bureau: honoraria/speaker fees from Celltrion, Pfizer, Sanofi, Gilead, Galapagos, AbbVie, Lilly, Fresenius, Grant/research support from: research grants from Pfizer and Lilly, George E. Fragogiulis Speakers bureau: has received honoraria/speaker fees from AbbVie, Genesis, Pfizer, Novartis, Lilly, UCB, Janssen, Amgen and Aeneorasis.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5979
AB0061

Efficacy of Biotherapies in APS Patients according to Age of Disease Onset: Data from the Moroccan RBSMR Registry

Keywords: Registries, Spondyloarthritis

M. El Mandour1, E. Boudhar1, A. Guich1, H. Sahimi1, R. Abouqal2, L. Achemlal3, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, University Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco; 2Military Hospital Ibn Sina University Center, Rhabat, Morocco; 3Laboratory of Biostatistics, Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Mohamed V University, Rabat, Morocco; 4Laboratory of Biostatistics, Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Mohamed V University, Rabat, Morocco; 5Laboratory of Biostatistics, Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Mohamed V University, Rabat, Morocco; 6Laboratory of Biostatistics, Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Mohamed V University, Rabat, Morocco

The aim of this study is to compare the efficacy of biotherapy in juvenile onset spondyloarthritis and adult onset spondyloarthritis using data from the biotherapies registry of the Moroccan Society of Rheumatology RBSMR. We selected 73 patients, 55 with PsA (75.30%) and 18 with axSpA (24.70%). In the SEC cohort, we found 52 patients, mainly females (73.00%), mean age of 57.00 ± 14.7 years; in the IVE cohort, there were 21 patients, 71.43% females, mean age of 53.81 ± 11.7 years. Peripheral involvement was present in the majority of patients (88.46% vs. 100%), while axial involvement was predominant in SEC treated patients (61.54% vs. 28.57%). The presence of dactylitis was similar in the two groups (15.38% vs. 14.29%), enthesitis prevailed in SEC cohort (75.00% vs. 57.14%) while cutaneous psoriasis in the IVE cohort (44.23% vs. 80.95%). During follow-up, BASDAI and DAPSA decreased significantly in both SEC and IVE groups, especially in the first trimester, with a similar trend during the follow-up.

Table 1. BASDAI and DAPSA variations between SEC and IVE during follow up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Estimate Change (C195%)</th>
<th>p</th>
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<th>p</th>
<th>Estimate Change (C195%)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 vs 3</td>
<td>SEC</td>
<td>-1.20</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.0174</td>
<td>-0.81</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 vs 6</td>
<td>SEC</td>
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<td>&lt;.0001</td>
<td>-0.10</td>
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<td>0.41</td>
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<td>6 vs 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 vs 3</td>
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<td>-0.06</td>
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<td>-0.10</td>
<td>0.6874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 vs 6</td>
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<td>-0.62</td>
<td>0.0123</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
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AB0062

Comparison Between Secukinumab and Ixekizumab in Psoriatic Arthritis and Axial Spondyloarthritis: A Single Center Experience

Keywords: bDMARD, Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis

C. Cannista1, E. Fiorentini1, L. Corneli1, L. Tofani2, S. Bellando-Randone1, S. Guiducci1, University of Florence, Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Rheumatology Unit, Florence, Italy; 2University of Florence, Statistics, Informatics, Applications, Florence, Italy

Background: The pathogenesis of SpA has not been completely elucidated, but several pieces of evidence suggest that interleukin (IL)17-A plays a pivotal role in this group of diseases. Both anti-IL-17A drugs Secukinumab (SEC) and Ixekizumab (IXE) have shown efficacy in treating multiple facets of SpA. (2)

Objectives: Our study aimed to compare the effect of SEC and IXE in our cohort of patients with PsA or axSpA.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed our clinical database, enrolling patients with PsA or axSpA treated with SEC or IXE. We collected disease activity scales and scores at baseline (0) and after 3, 6 and 12 months of treatment: BASDAI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index), DAPSA (Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis), VAS (Visual Analog Scale) for pain, PGA (Patient Global Assessment), and PHQA (Physician Global Assessment).

Results: We selected 73 patients, 55 with PsA (75.30%) and 18 with axSpA (24.70%). In the SEC cohort, we found 52 patients, mainly females (73.00%), mean age of 57.00 ± 14.7 years; in the IXE cohort, there were 21 patients, 71.43% females, mean age of 53.81 ± 11.7 years. Peripheral involvement was present in the majority of patients (88.46% vs. 100%), while axial involvement was predominant in SEC treated patients (61.54% vs. 28.57%). The presence of dactylitis was similar in the two groups (15.38% vs. 14.29%), enthesitis prevailed in SEC cohort (75.00% vs. 57.14%) while cutaneous psoriasis in the IXE cohort (44.23% vs. 80.95%). During follow-up, BASDAI and DAPSA decreased significantly in both SEC and IXE groups, especially in the first trimester, with a similar trend during the follow-up.

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
second trimester (significant only for SEC). When compared with each other, SEC and IXE appeared to have a similar effect on both scales, except for a significantly greater reduction of BASDAI in the first trimester for SEC, which however was no longer present when the values were adjusted for the starting BASDAI value (Table 1). Analyzing PGA, PHGA, and VAS pain, we observed a significant trend in reduction in the first trimester for both drugs, then maintained only for SEC, significantly greater for SEC than IXE in both trimesters. The analysis of the adjusted values confirmed the significant decrease in BASDAI DAPSA PGA PHGA and VAS for both SEC and IXE, especially until 6 months after baseline.

Conclusion: Our data confirms that SEC and IXE are both valid options for the treatment of PsA and axSpA, without significant differences when comparing the two drugs.

REFERENCES:
[2] McDonagle DG et al., “The role of IL-17A in axial spondyloarthritis and psori-

Table 1: Incidence of SAES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>n Person-years</th>
<th>Infective</th>
<th>CVS</th>
<th>Malignant</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total SAES</th>
<th>SAES per 100 person-years (95% C.I.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adalimumab</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>102.1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.9 (2.4-12.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>104.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.8 (1.9-9.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golimumab</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.8 (15.15-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infliximab</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11.3 (3.7-28.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secukinumab</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13.9 (7.4-26.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ustekinumab</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0 (0-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sDMARDs</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>139.8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.1 (0.5-5.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARD groups</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>188.1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.9 (3.8-11.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monoclonal</td>
<td>aAdalimumab, Golimumab, Infliximab, Etanecet, bDMARD – biologic Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug; n – number; SAE – Serious Adverse Event; sDMARD- synthetic Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: N.I.L.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1768

SAFETY OF DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS IN SPONDYLOARTHITIS: A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN RHEUMATIC CENTRE

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs) G. S. Tar1, G. R. Reuter2, T. Mann1, 1Mediclinic Winelands Orthopaedic Hospital & Mediclinic Winelands Day Clinic, Rheumatology, Stellenbosch, South Africa; 2Stellenbosch University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Stellenbosch, South Africa; 3Stellenbosch University, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Department of Surgical Sciences, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Background: The long-term immune-suppressive effects of Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (DMARDs) have long been a concern for serious adverse effects (SAE). Other developing countries, e.g. Brazil, used their registry to report a higher incidence of serious infections in the bDMARD treated patients compared with sDMARDs [1]. There are no published articles about the true incidence and nature of SAEs in Spondyloarthritis (SpA) patients treated with bDMARDs in the South African context.

Objectives: To describe the incidence of SAEs amongst patients with SpA treated with b- and s-DMARDs at a rheumatology centre in the Western Cape, South Africa.

Methods: A retrospective medical record review was conducted, involving patients with SpA seen at a private rheumatology clinic in Stellenbosch, Western Cape, between the 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2021. Demographic, clinical, and patient reported SAEs were recorded for those treated with b- and s-DMARDs. Incidence of SAEs was calculated and presented with 95% confidence intervals.

Results: Incidence of SAEs recorded between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2021. A total of 92 patients were included, 59 bDMARD exposed and 33 treated only with sDMARDs (bDMARD naïve). The accumulated exposure was 300 person-years (p-y) for those on bDMARDs and 140 p-y for those on sDMARDs only. Twenty two SAEs were reported during the study period, 14 infective, 4 major adverse cardiac events, 3 malignant (prostate, uterine, and thymoma), and 1 pulmonary complication. Twenty SAEs occurred whilst on a DMARD, one occurred 37 days after stopping etanercept, and a single SAE was excluded as it occurred 2 years after stopping infliximab. All SAEs were associated with hospitalisation and there were two deaths (one related to multi-organ failure, the other COVID-19 related). The SAE incidence for the sDMARD control group was 2.1/100 p-y (95% CI. 0.5-5.8/100 p-y) and 6.0/100 p-y (95% CI. 3.7-9.3/100 p-y) in the bDMARD study group. Of the anti-TNF inhibitors assessed, etanercept had the lowest SAE incidence at 3.8 events/100 p-y (95% CI. 1.2-9.3/100 p-y) (see Table 1).

Conclusion: The preliminary results of this retrospective review of SpA patients attending a private rheumatology clinic in a developing country suggests that infliximab treated patients had 5.5 times more likely to develop an SAE compared to patients on sDMARDs. Overall patients exposed to monoclonal antibodies were 3.2 times as likely to develop an SAE compared to those receiving sDMARDs, with respiratory infections the most commonly reported SAE.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Demographics and treatment details in patients with axSpA and coexisted extra-articular manifestations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arthritis Uveitis BD</th>
<th>Psoriasis Enthesitis/Dactylitis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(n=122)</td>
<td>(n=35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=27)</td>
<td>(n=10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Prevalence up the diagnosis of axSpA, % | 40.6 | 21.9 | 13.3 | 13 | 35.7 | 50
| Duration of onset of EAMs' to the diagnosis of AxSpA, months (min-max) | 0 | 0 | -12 | -12 | 0 | 12
| bDMARD | 324 | 328 | 144 | 180 |
| Treatment at onset of EAMs, % | 63.7 | 43.8 | 18.2 | 30.8 | 75 | 66.7 |
| Treatment change for EAMS, % | 57.6 | 47.2 | 57.9 | 53.8 | 46.7 | 57.1 |
| Treatment to NSAID | 5.9 | 7.5 | 5.3 | 0 | 13.3 | 0 |
| Choice to cDMARD | 22.4 | 15.1 | 21.1 | 7.7 | 33.3 | 28.6 |
| Treatment change for EAMS, % | 14.1 | 30.2 | 15.8 | 38.5 | 6.7 | 14.3 |
| Switch to NSAID | 3.4 | 11.5 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Switch to cDMARD | 3.4 | 9.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Response to first treatment agent without relapses, % | 67 | 40 | - | - | 0 | - |

Rheumatoid drugs, *mean (SD), **median (range). csDMARDs: conventional synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs.

**Table 1.** Optimal cut-off of ITL in RA and SpA patients

**Figure 1.** Optimal cut-off of ITL in RA and SpA patients

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4892
AKSpA in our rheumatology clinic were included in the study. Demographic characteristics and treatment response status of patients who were followed up with the diagnosis of Ax-SpA and using SCK.

However, there are few studies evaluating long-term SCK efficacy in real-life data. Studies that included four randomized double-blind studies (MEASURE Studies).

Background: Secukinumab (SCK), the first-in-class human monoclonal antibody against interleukin-17A, has been approved for the treatment of AS in many countries, including the US and EU. The efficacy of subcutaneous secukinumab in the treatment of AxSpA was primarily evaluated in five multicenter, phase III studies that included four randomized double-blind studies (MEASURE Studies). However, there are few studies evaluating long-term SCK efficacy in real-life data in patients with AxSpA [1,2].

Objectives: Our aim in this study is to retrospectively evaluate the clinical findings and treatment response status of patients who were followed up with the diagnosis of AxSpA and using SCK.

Methods: A total of 60 patients who were followed up with the diagnosis of axSpA in our rheumatology clinic were included in the study. Demographic characteristics of the patients, comorbidities, duration of symptoms, delay in diagnosis, biologics and DMARDs were recorded. In the evaluation of the patients, BASDAI, BASFI, ASDAS, VAS pain, and VAS global scores were recorded at baseline, 3, 6, 12 and 24th months. The number and order of treatment before SEC in patients using bDMARDs were also examined, and SCK efficacy and drug retention characteristics were investigated between the biological treatment groups.

Results: Follow-up data of 60 patients diagnosed with SpA (n=50 AS and n=10 nr-AxSpA) followed in a single center (inception cohort) were evaluated. Of these patients, 15 (25%) were bDMARD naive patients and 45 (75%) had used ≥1 bDMARD before SEC. The age and gender distribution was similar between the bDMARD naive and ≥1 bDMARD group. At 1-year follow-up, 1 and 7 patients discontinued their treatment in the ≥1 bDMARD group and the SCK group, respectively (p<0.001) (Figure 1). In our study, no significant drug-related serious adverse events or safety problems were encountered in the follow-up of secukinumab treatment for more than 36 months.

Conclusion: We found that SCK treatment in patients with AxSpA had better clinical response and higher drug survival rates in biologic naive patients, similar to TNFi treatment in real-life data. However, better drug retention rates were found in naive patients compared to patients using ≥1 bDMARD, which is consistent with the results of previous studies.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5700

Efficacy and Safety of Secukinumab in Patients with Axial Spondyloarthritis: Single Center Experience

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), bDMARD, Spondyloarthritis

F. Taş1, S. Güle2, F. Önen2, İ. Sari2, 1Dokuz Eylul University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Izmir, Turkey; 2Dokuz Eylul University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Secukinumab (SCK), the first-in-class human monoclonal antibody against interleukin-17A, has been approved for the treatment of AS in many countries, including the US and EU. The efficacy of subcutaneous secukinumab in the treatment of AxSpA was primarily evaluated in five multicenter, phase III studies that included four randomized double-blind studies (MEASURE Studies). However, there are few studies evaluating long-term SCK efficacy in real-life data in patients with AxSpA [1,2].

Objectives: Our aim in this study is to retrospectively evaluate the clinical findings and treatment response status of patients who were followed up with the diagnosis of AxSpA and using SCK.

Methods: A total of 60 patients who were followed up with the diagnosis of axSpA in our rheumatology clinic were included in the study. Demographic characteristics of the patients, comorbidities, duration of symptoms, delay in diagnosis, biologics and DMARDs were recorded. In the evaluation of the patients, BASDAI, BASFI, ASDAS, VAS pain, and VAS global scores were recorded at baseline, 3, 6, 12 and 24th months. The number and order of treatment before SEC in patients using bDMARDs were also examined, and SCK efficacy and drug retention characteristics were investigated between the biological treatment groups.

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Conclusion: We found that SCK treatment in patients with AxSpA had better clinical response and higher drug survival rates in biologic naive patients, similar to TNFi treatment in real-life data. However, better drug retention rates were found in naive patients compared to patients using ≥1 bDMARD, which is consistent with the results of previous studies.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5978

RefRACTORY ACHILLES ENTHESIS SUCCESFULLY TREATED BY IKeZUmbA LOCAL INJECTION

Keywords: bDMARD, Spondyloarthritis, Enthesitis

A. Abogamal1, 1Al-Azhar Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Cairo, Egypt

Background: Axial spondyloarthropathy (axSpA) is a chronic autoimmune inflammatory disease that involves the axial skeleton with inflammatory back pain as the most common presenting symptom. [1] Apart from the axial joints, enthesitis are frequently involved in spondyloarthropathy (SPA) and clinical enthesitis reported to affects 10% – 60% of SPA patients. Enthesitis usually involves the lower limb and heel pain represents a significant clinical challenge due to frequent presence of Achilles enthesitis (AE), retrocalcaneal bursitis (RB) and plantar fasciitis, plus a

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of patients using secukinumab treatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Naive (n=15)</th>
<th>≥1 bDMARD (n=45)</th>
<th>Total (n=60)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>9 (60)</td>
<td>24 (53.3)</td>
<td>33 (55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>10 (66.7)</td>
<td>40 (88.9)</td>
<td>50 (83.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking history</td>
<td>(+)</td>
<td>7 (46.7)</td>
<td>31 (68.9)</td>
<td>38 (63.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA B27</td>
<td>Median (IQR)</td>
<td>8 (57.1)</td>
<td>29 (65.9)</td>
<td>37 (63.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>41 (33-65)</td>
<td>42 (20-75)</td>
<td>42 (20-75)</td>
<td>0.199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>26.8 (19.6-43.2)</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>0.350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis Duration (month/total)</td>
<td>72 (9-360)</td>
<td>84 (4-473)</td>
<td>84 (4-473)</td>
<td>0.130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration (month)</td>
<td>6 (5-16)</td>
<td>16 (5-50)</td>
<td>15.5 (5-50)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Secukinumab drug retention in naive and ≥1bDMARD groups

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5978

RefRACTORY ACHILLES ENTHESIS SUCCESFULLY TREATED BY IKeZUmbA LOCAL INJECTION

Keywords: bDMARD, Spondyloarthritis, Enthesitis

A. Abogamal1, 1Al-Azhar Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Cairo, Egypt

Background: Axial spondyloarthropathy (axSpA) is a chronic autoimmune inflammatory disease that involves the axial skeleton with inflammatory back pain as the most common presenting symptom. [1] Apart from the axial joints, enthesitis are frequently involved in spondyloarthropathy (SPA) and clinical enthesitis reported to affects 10% – 60% of SPA patients. Enthesitis usually involves the lower limb and heel pain represents a significant clinical challenge due to frequent presence of Achilles enthesitis (AE), retrocalcaneal bursitis (RB) and plantar fasciitis, plus a
treatment challenge in refractory cases that usually not controlled by conventional DMARDs and fails to respond to biological treatment [2-4].

Objectives: To describe a successful management of refractory case of AE after US guided Ixekizumab injection to the RB.

Methods: Male 42 y old known case of axSpA for 22 y with +ve HLAB27 and bilateral AE, initially treated with salazopyrine, and NSAIDs with no response and treatment escalated to Infliximab with secondary failure after 6 months, switched etanercept injection with primary failure. Patient achieved good clinical response on adrenalumab which was maintained up to 7y, followed by secondary failure due to antidrug antibodies, resolved by adding Methotrexate. July 2019, developed hepatotoxicity due to methotrexate with discontinuation. December 2019, patient switched to Ixekizumab with successful control of his disease. Apart from the course of axial disease, January 2019 his heel pain becomes refractory to treatment VAS 8 with US assessment shows AE, RB, and tendonitis. July 2020, an US guided injection of the RB with Ixekizumab 80mg arranged two weeks after application of the systemic Ixekizumab.

Results: Three months after Ixekizumab local injection, heel pain drops to VAS 0, with radiological improvement in US; resolution of the Doppler signals and bursitis.

Figure 1. Long axis scan of the left Achilles tendon; A: Grey scale shows hypoechogenecity of the tendon, distended RB, positive Doppler signals involving the bursa and extending to the tendon body. Figure 1 March 2020, an US guided injection with Triamcinolone acetaate 20mg infiltrated to the RB failed to control pain with partial response for two weeks. July 2020, an US guided injection of the RB with Ixekizumab 80mg arranged two weeks after application of the systemic Ixekizumab.

Conclusion: US Guided local application of Ixekizumab successfully help to resolve pain and inflammation in a refractory case of AE.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: YU XUE Consultant of: Yu Xue has been investigator of Eli Lilly and Company, Jiankang Hu Consultant of: Jiankang Hu has been investigator of Eli Lilly and Company, Dongzhou Liu Consultant of: Dongzhou Liu has been investigator of Eli Lilly and Company, Jiangyong Li Consultant of: Jiangyong Li has been investigator of Eli Lilly and Company, Huaxiang Wu Consultant of: Huaxiang Wu has been investigator of Eli Lilly and Company, Chunyu Tan Consultant of: Chunyu Tan has been investigator of Eli Lilly and Company, Lie Dai Consultant of: Lie Dai has been investigator of Eli Lilly and Company, Yan Yan Employee of: Yan Yan is employee of Eli Lilly and Company, Hongying Li Shareholder of: Hongying Li is minor stockholder of Eli Lilly and Company, Employee of: Hongying Li is employee of Eli Lilly and Company, Hejian Zou Consultant of: Hejian Zou has been investigator of Eli Lilly and Company.
Background: Spondyloarthritis is a group of chronic inflammatory rheumatism most often affecting young adults. Biological background treatments have revolutionized their current therapy. Patients with axial spondyloarthritis have failed these treatments.

Methods: Our study included patients with Spondyloarthritis retained according to the ASAS criteria, having an age > 18 years, treated with biological treatment, having given their written informed consent, in the 10 rheumatology departments in Morocco, collected from the RBSMR registry, a multicenter historical-prospective registry. Primary failure was defined as failure at 6 months of treatment and secondary failure as failure at more than 6 months of treatment. Patients were assessed every six months with a scheduled follow-up of three years. Inclusion began in June 2017 and ended in January 2019, when the database was first frozen.

Results: 194 patients included. The average age was 40.23 years +/- 13.68, the sex ratio was 1.73 M/F, the average duration of evolution was 615.9 weeks +/- 349.12. An HLA B27 antigen was positive in 66% of patients. Peripheral involvement was found in 70% of patients, axial involvement in 96.4% of patients and enthesic involvement in 61.5% of patients. Radiographic sacroiliitis was present in 87.6% of patients, radiographic costitis in 40.7% and sonographic costitis in 19.8%. Regarding extra-articular manifestations, 14.5% of patients had anterior uveitis, 6.9% had cutaneous psoriasis, and 10.7% had associated chronic inflammatory bowel disease. The ASDAS CRP was in high activity in 50.9% of the patients and the BASDAI (spondyloarthritis activity index) more than 4 in 79.2% of the patients. At the first visit, 22.5% of patients were taking corticosteroid therapy and 53.8% were taking csDMARDs. The most widely used biological was Etanercept with a percentage of 33%. Over a follow-up period of 03 years, 05 primary failures were observed and 17 secondary failures to the first biological treatment (06 failures at the 12th month, 06 failures at the 18th month and 03 failures at the 24th month), the prevalence of failure of the first biological treatment was 8.76%, in bivariate analysis, no statistically significant factors were observed associated with the failure of the first biological during the visit of the 6th month, the 12th month or that of the 24th month. At the visit of the 18th month, the average BASDAI as well as that of the C reactive protein (CRP) was statistically higher in patients who failed the first biological.

Conclusion: The failure of the first biological is a rather rare situation in our study. Certain factors were significantly associated with this failure and must be taken into account when managing patients, namely high values of BASDAI and CRP. Higher values of the Bath Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI) or CRP at baseline are predictors of a greater risk of failure of the first biological found in the literature.

REFERENCES: NIL

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB0971

EFFECTIVENESS OF IGUROMID IN THE TREATMENT OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS-REAL WORLD DATA FROM CHINA

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Real-world evidence, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

Y. Li1, Z. Zhao1, L. Hu1, Z. Hu1, J. Jin2, J. Zhang3, J. Zhu1, F. Huang1.

1. The First Medical Center Chinese PLA General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Beijing, China

REFERENCES: NIL

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3432
**Background:** Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a group of chronic auto-inflammatory diseases. Tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α) and interleukin-17 (IL-17) were demonstrated to play an irreplaceable role in the pathogenesis of axSpA. Iguratimod is a newly-developed small molecular anti-rheumatic drug, which can inhibit the effects of prostaglandin E2, TNF-α and IL-17 [1]. The efficacy and safety of Iguratimod in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) have been fully studied and approved to the treatment of active RA in China and Japan [2]. Iguratimod had been reported to be effective in the treatment of axSpA [3], despite those studies were limited and of small-example size.

**Objectives:** In consideration of the efficacy of Iguratimod in the treatment of RA and the overlap of disease pathogenesis between RA and SpA, Iguratimod was implied to be of potential efficacy on axSpA. This study was aimed to demonstrated the efficacy and safety of Iguratimod on axSpA in the real world from China.

**Methods:** 193 patients with axSpA who visited the outpatient rheumatology clinics in the First Medical Center of Chinese PLA General Hospital between April 2016 to June 2022, were collected and screened. Patients treated with NSAIDs only, combined with sulfasalazine (SSZ) or Iguratimod for over 6 months were admitted into analysis. Those three groups of patients were also matched by propensity score on a ratio of 1:1:1, by age, gender and ASDAS at baseline. Multilevel models for repeated measurement data were conducted to compare the differences of ASDAS, back pain, ESR and CRP level between the three groups of patients during the 18 months follow-ups.

**Results:** 302 patients with axSpA were included in the real-world study and they were followed at a mean 6-month interval for 3 times (median follow-up 17.55 months, interquartile range 16-20 months). 161, 96 and 45 patients fell into the NSAIDs only, NSAIDs combined with SSZ or Iguratimod group. At 17.55 months, interquartile range 16-20 months). 161, 96 and 45 patients fell into the NSAIDs only, NSAIDs combined with SSZ or Iguratimod group. At 17.55 months, interquartile range 16-20 months). 161, 96 and 45 patients fell into the NSAIDs only, NSAIDs combined with SSZ or Iguratimod group. At 17.55 months, interquartile range 16-20 months). 161, 96 and 45 patients fell into the NSAIDs only, NSAIDs combined with SSZ or Iguratimod group. At 17.55 months, interquartile range 16-20 months). 161, 96 and 45 patients fell into the NSAIDs only, NSAIDs combined with SSZ or Iguratimod group. At 17.55 months, interquartile range 16-20 months).

**Conclusion:** Iguratimod had significant add-on effect on the decrease of disease activity and alleviation of back pain than monotherapy of NSAIDs or NSAIDs combined with SSZ. Iguratimod had greater improvement on ASDAS than that on patients treated with NSAIDs combined with SSZ (P<0.001, 95% CI: 0.000 ~ 0.001, P=0.043) or NSAIDs only (P<0.001, 95% CI: 0.000 ~ 0.001, P=0.033).

**REFERENCES:**

**AB0972**

**Efficacy of Tildrakizumab in Patients with Psoriasis: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**

**Keywords:** Systematic review, Skin

**Keywords:** Systematic review, Skin

**AB0973**

**REAL WORLD EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF SECUKINUMAB IN SPONDYLOARTHITIS AND PSORIASIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis
Background: Secukinumab (SEC) is a human monoclonal antibody (lgG1) aimed against IL-17A, a proinflammatory cytokine involved in the pathogenesis of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and axial spondyloarthropathy (axSpA) [axSpA]. It is already well known that C-reactive protein (CRP) is an important inflammatory biomarker and that it could be used as a variable of its efficacy. More recently, it has been published that the neutrophil lymphocyte ratio (NLR) [1] an inflammatory biomarker, could be predictive of CV events occurrence and all cause mortality. In this study, we intend to evaluate effectiveness and safety with SEC with conventional and non-conventional scales in patients with Spondyloarthropathy.

Objectives: To evaluate the long-term effectiveness and safety of SEC in patients with axSpA and PsA in an actual clinical setting.

Methods: We designed a single center retrospective and longitudinal observational study including patients diagnosed of axSpA. To fulfill the ASAS classification criteria and PsA fulfilling the CASPAR classification criteria. Between 2016 and 2022, a total of 90 patients were included in the study treated with SEC in the rheumatology service of the Hospital Universitario de Navarra. All patients included started SEC treatment at least 1 year before the data extraction. For the axSpA CRP, the Anklyosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) scale, the patient’s visual analog scale (VAS) and NLR [1] were analyzed. In the PsA group VAS, CRP and NLR were assessed. In both groups the variables were analyzed at baseline, 12 and 24 months. Safety was evaluated by analyzing intercurrent infections or neoplasms that required discontinuation.

Results: We included a total of 90 patients (46 axSpA and 44 PsA), 45(50%) of which were female. The mean age at diagnosis was 44.5 years (SD 11.1) while the mean age at SEC initiation was 51.6 (SD 14.4). The median time from diagnosis to onset of SEC was 5 years (IQR 2-11) (Table 1). Eighty-three (92.2%) patients were treated with one or more biologic drugs prior to SEC, median 2 (IQR 0-5). The mean CRP before starting SEC was 9mg/L (SD 176), VAS 7 (SD 2) and NLR 1.9 (SD 1). A statistically significant improvement was observed in both pathologies when it comes to CRP at 24 months (p=0.049) but not at 12 months (Table 1). VAS presented a statistically significant improvement at 12 and 24 months of treatment (p=0.008 and 0.012 respectively). There were no statistically significant differences in NRL in any group. Regarding ASDAS in the axSpA group, 4,34% showed a great improvement while 26% of them showed clinically significant differences in NRL in any group. Regarding ASDAS in the PsA group VAS, CRP and NLR were assessed. There were no statistically significant differences in NRL in any group. Regarding ASDAS in the axSpA group, 4,34% showed a great improvement while 26% of them showed clinically significant differences in NRL in any group. Regarding ASDAS in the PsA group VAS, CRP and NLR were assessed.

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Results: A total of 57 patients were enrolled in our study. Among them, 26 (45.6%) were women, and 31 (54.4%) were men. The median age at diagnosis was 50 (22-71). There were 26 (45.6%) patients who were bDMARD naive and 31 (54.4%) patients that had used at least one bDMARD before secukinumab. Among the naïve group, 4 (14.4%) patients discontinued secukinumab, whereas among the group with former bDMARD usage, 12 (38.7%) people discontinued treatment. The ineffectiveness of the drug was the most common reason for discontinuation in both groups. Regarding adverse effects, two people reported respiratory infections. We did not record significant drug safety complications in our cohort. The duration of treatment was 6.5 years. The survival rate of the drug was 91% after six months, 83.4% after 12 months, 75% after 24 months, and 66.8% after 48 months. Table 1 shows detailed clinical aspects of the cohort.

Conclusion: Our data confirmed a good survival rate of secukinumab in patients with axSpA. However, results showed that fewer biologically naive patients discontinued the secukinumab treatment than those who received the drug after the failure of another biologic.


Table 1. Clinical characteristics of the cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>AxSpA(n=33)</th>
<th>PsA(n=57)</th>
<th>Total(n=90)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>Median (range)</td>
<td>Median (range)</td>
<td>Median (range)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>48 (32-46)</td>
<td>52 (22-71)</td>
<td>50 (22-71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11 (45,8)</td>
<td>20 (60,6)</td>
<td>30 (43,5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLAB27 positive</td>
<td>13 (54,2)</td>
<td>19 (57,6)</td>
<td>32 (56,1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median CRP (3 months)</td>
<td>1,75</td>
<td>2,25</td>
<td>2,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median NLR (3 months)</td>
<td>0,38</td>
<td>0,67</td>
<td>0,51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARD</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients continuing the secukinumab</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients discontinuing the secukinumab</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>n=90</td>
<td>n=90</td>
<td>n=180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Spondyloarthritis - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

**Background:** The association of several immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMIDs) in the same patient is well known. Rheumatologic and dermatologic IMIDs are frequently diagnosed in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). However, the degree of knowledge that patients with IBD have about the coexistence of other IMIDs is little studied.

**Objectives:** Our aim was to evaluate the accuracy of self-reporting of IMIDs by patients with IBD.

**Methods:** Prospective, uncentered study that included patients attending in person at the IBD Unit of the Central University Hospital of Asturias (Oviedo-Spain) between August 2020 and December 2021. Patients were invited to participate in the study, and after signing the informed consent, they answered a questionnaire about the presence or not of 50 IMIDs (self-reported diagnosis). The diagnosis of an IMID was confirmed in the medical records of each patient (reference diagnosis). Sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV) and accuracy (proportion of subjects correctly classified) of self-reporting was calculated. Statistical analyses were performed with R software version 4.0.2.

**Results:** A total of 1621 patients were included. Forty-four percent of patients had ulcerative colitis, 53% Crohn’s disease and 3% an IBD-unclassified, sex distribution was 1:1, and the age at diagnosis of IBD was 38 ± 15.2 years. Seven hundred and twelve patients were receiving mesalazine, 67 corticosteroids, 394 immunomodulators and 532 biologics. Six hundred and twenty-seven (39%) patients were diagnosed with at least one IMID, 177 (10.9%) with two, 49 (3%) with three, and 17 (1%) with more than three. Sixteen percent of patients had a dermatologic IMID and 15% a cutaneous IMID. Self-reporting of IMIDs by IBD patients showed a sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV and accuracy of 0.75 (95% CI 0.73-0.78), 0.89 (95% CI 0.86-0.91), 0.92 (95% CI 0.89-0.93), 0.69 (95% CI 0.66-0.73) and 0.81 (95% CI 0.79-0.83), respectively. Accuracy of self-reported diagnosis of IMIDs was lower among the rheumatologic IMID group (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** Eighty-one percent of patients with IBD are able to correctly identify the coexistence or not of other IMIDs. It was observed that in the case of rheumatologic IMIDs there is a significant percentage of patients who do not know whether or not they suffer from one of these conditions.

**REFERENCE:**

Background: Disease-assessment in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) includes subjective measures that do not necessarily reflect inflammatory processes in the spine and joints. Mental health comorbidities such as anxiety and depression can be secondary to inflammatory and non-inflammatory processes. There may be subgroups that respond differently to axSpA treatment, for example, discordance in these indices whereby disease activity improves but not mental health. Understanding such potential subgroups and their characteristics can support individualised care.

Objectives: To apply data-driven approaches to longitudinal disease activity (ASDAS) and Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) subscores for anxiety (HADS-A) and depression (HADS-D) to identify potential groups with discordant trajectories.

Methods: This was an ancillary analysis of the data collected for the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society Health Index (ASAS HI) Validation Study. We included individuals who fulfilled ASAS criteria for axSpA and required a therapeutic change (initiation of NSAID, csDMARDs or TNFi) due to active disease. Those with diagnosis of peripheral SpA were excluded. Participants were assessed at baseline and one follow-up. Group-based trajectory models were used to group individuals based on shared trajectories of ASDAS, HADS-A and HADS-D. These three dependent variables were standardised (scale 0 to 10), then included in linear models with a time indicator (baseline or follow-up) as the independent variable. We selected the optimum number of groups through statistical fit. Individuals were assigned to the group with the highest posterior probability of membership. Patient and disease characteristics were compared across groups.

Results: Of 206 participants (mean age 37 years, 65% male), 73 (35%) started NSAIDs, 23 (11%) csDMARD and 109 (53%) TNFi (Table 1). The optimum number of trajectory groups was 4 (Figure 1). Three indices changed concordantly regardless of the number of latent groups. Group descriptions are relative: Group 1 (n=112) (54%) started with low scores for all three indices. G2 (34%) moderate, and G3 (5%) high. Mean improvements in ASDAS were numerically similar across these groups. G4 (7%) had the greatest improvement across all three indices. Initiated therapy differed with G3 and 4 more frequently starting TNFi.

Conclusion: Results of this study show that ASDAS and symptoms of anxiety and depression are closely related and change concordantly with treatment, and suggest that reported musculoskeletal and mental health symptoms influence each other. There were no clear differences in patient or disease characteristics across these groups except for age. Whether axSpA patients benefit from knowing that mental health symptoms generally improve jointly with disease activity when starting treatment remains to be shown.

Table 1. Clinical and disease characteristics across the four latent groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1 (n=112)</th>
<th>Group 2 (n=69)</th>
<th>Group 3 (n=11)</th>
<th>Group 4 (n=14)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>33.8 (10.6)</td>
<td>41.4 (11.4)</td>
<td>44.4 (12.7)</td>
<td>35.1 (11.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>76 (68)</td>
<td>40 (58)</td>
<td>7 (64)</td>
<td>11 (79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration (years)</td>
<td>10.6 (8.9)</td>
<td>13.0 (10.2)</td>
<td>15.2 (8.6)</td>
<td>9.1 (13.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positive</td>
<td>86 (85)</td>
<td>39 (74)</td>
<td>8 (74)</td>
<td>8 (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raxSpA</td>
<td>65 (58)</td>
<td>46 (67)</td>
<td>8 (73)</td>
<td>9 (64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral arthritis</td>
<td>44 (40)</td>
<td>32 (47)</td>
<td>6 (55)</td>
<td>4 (31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>21 (19)</td>
<td>12 (18)</td>
<td>2 (18)</td>
<td>4 (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>8 (8)</td>
<td>12 (12)</td>
<td>2 (19)</td>
<td>1 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BD</td>
<td>7 (6)</td>
<td>9 (10)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline ASDAS</td>
<td>2.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>3.7 (1.0)</td>
<td>4.6 (0.6)</td>
<td>4.3 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline HADS-D</td>
<td>4.2 (2.7)</td>
<td>8.9 (2.9)</td>
<td>14.4 (2.7)</td>
<td>12.3 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline HADS-A</td>
<td>4.8 (2.4)</td>
<td>10.5 (3.0)</td>
<td>15.7 (3.4)</td>
<td>11.5 (3.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean change ASDAS</td>
<td>-1.2 (0.9)</td>
<td>-1.3 (1.1)</td>
<td>-1.4 (1.1)</td>
<td>-2.8 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean change HADS-D</td>
<td>-1.4 (2.4)</td>
<td>-1.6 (3.0)</td>
<td>-0.6 (5.3)</td>
<td>-8.7 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean change HADS-A</td>
<td>-1.8 (2.9)</td>
<td>-1.2 (3.1)</td>
<td>-3.2 (5.1)</td>
<td>-11.4 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAIDs initiators</td>
<td>42 (38)</td>
<td>26 (38)</td>
<td>2 (18)</td>
<td>3 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD initiators</td>
<td>52 (46)</td>
<td>37 (54)</td>
<td>9 (82)</td>
<td>11 (79)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1430

ASSOCIATION OF SLEEP QUALITY WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY, INFLAMMATION, MOBILITY, AND FUNCTION AMONG PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Quality of Life, Patient reported outcomes

J. P. Lee1, F. Y. Wu1, C. F. Su1, S. H. Lin1, Y. S. Chang1, 2 Shuang Ho Hospital, Taipei Medical University, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, New Taipei City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2School of Medicine, College of Medicine, Taipei Medical University, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Inflammation and ankylosis of the axial skeleton are two major features of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), which cause midnight pain and immobility of back, respectively. Both features may lead to sleep problem. Nevertheless, which of the two features influence sleep most is less studied. Moreover, there are many disease activity measurements, including BASDAI, ASDAS, ESR and CRP, among these measurements, which one could best predict sleep disturbance are still unknown.

Objectives: This pilot study aimed to discover the association between different measurements of axSpA and sleep disturbance.

Methods: This cross-sectional study recruited patients with axSpA from the rheumatology clinic in the Shuang Ho hospital from 2018 to 2020. The Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) was used to assess sleep quality together with other clinical measurements, including BASDAI, ESR, CRP and ASDAS-CRP for disease activity, BASMI for mobility and BASFI for function. The features associated with poor sleep quality (PSQI > 5) were identified. All the domains of sleep disturbance were compared between patients with different level of disease activity classified by each activity measurement.

Results: This cross-sectional study recruited 322 patients with axSpA, among them 72% were male, and the mean age was 42 years. There were 249 (77.3%) patients had poor sleep quality (PSQI>5). Poor sleepers had significantly higher BASDAI, ASDAS-CRP and BASMI, while there was no significant difference in sex, age, ESR, CRP and BASMI. Patients with higher BASDAI had significantly poorer sleep quality in almost all domains of PSQI (figure 1A), while higher level of ESR or CRP could not discriminate poor sleeper in every domain of PSQI (figure 1C, 1D). ASDAS-CRP had a moderate discriminability, which was believed brought by the integrated components of BASDAI in the index.

Conclusion: Lots of patients (77.3%) with axSpA were poor sleeper, which is worthy note in clinical care. Mobility seems to have less influence on sleep than disease activity. Although BASDAI was believed to be subjective as a disease activity index, it performed the best to discriminate poorer sleep quality in almost all domains of sleep. Although ESR and CRP were more objective disease activity markers of axSpA and have better relevance to the MRI-demonstrated inflammation, both the inflammatory markers had no value in the care of sleep in axSpA patients surprisingly. In conclusion, BASDAI still had value in axSpA care, and the elements of BASDAI make ASDAS a more comprehensive index than ESR or CRP alone.

Data shown as mean (SD) or n (%). *proportion of radiographic vs non-radiographic axSpA.
Table 1. Differences in characteristics and features between axial spondyloarthritis patients with different sleep quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Poor sleep quality (N=249)</th>
<th>Good sleep quality (N=73)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male (n, %)</td>
<td>179 (72%)</td>
<td>57 (78%)</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (yr)</td>
<td>41.84 (13.3)</td>
<td>39.3 (13.32)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASMI</td>
<td>1.83 (1.85)</td>
<td>1.42 (1.66)</td>
<td>0.0058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI</td>
<td>1.95 (2.16)</td>
<td>1.26 (1.85)</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>4.04 (2.24)</td>
<td>2.54 (1.92)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>2.46 (1.14)</td>
<td>1.97 (0.85)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/hr)</td>
<td>16 (15.76)</td>
<td>15.5 (17.24)</td>
<td>0.8186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dl)</td>
<td>9.36 (16.43)</td>
<td>8.6 (12.21)</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Utility measures for each IBP assessment method to capture IBP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ASAS-IBP-phy criteria</th>
<th>ASAS-IBP-self reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specificity</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Predictive Value</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Predictive Value</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. The discriminative power of different disease activity measurements to differentiate poor sleep quality in patients with axial spondyloarthritis

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1467

AB0979

SELF-REPORTED AND PHYSICIAN’S ASSESSMENT OF INFLAMMATORY BACK PAIN ACCORDING TO ASAS CRITERIA: IS IT THE SAME? RESULTS FROM THE SHERPAS STUDY

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Health Services Research, Quality of care

Disclosure of Interests: Diego Benavent Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Janssen, and Galapagos., Grant/research support from: Novartis, Mar Tapia-Viñé: None declared, Daniel Bernabeu: None declared, Victor Muley: None declared, Chaimaida Plasencia Speakers bureau: from Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Sandoz, Sanofi, Biogen, Roche, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Pfizer and Abbvie, Alejandro Balsa Speakers bureau: from Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Sandoz, Nordic Pharma, Gebro, Roche, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant of: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Sanofi, UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Abbvie, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Gebro, Roche, UCB, Victoria Navarro-Compañ Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Abbvie and Novartis.

Acknowledgements: The SHERPAS study has been conducted thanks to an unrestricted grants from Novartis.

Disclosure of Interests: Diego Benavent Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Janssen, and Galapagos., Grant/research support from: Novartis, Mar Tapia-Viñé: None declared, Daniel Bernabeu: None declared, Victor Muley: None declared, Chaimaida Plasencia Speakers bureau: from Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Sandoz, Sanofi, Biogen, Roche, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Pfizer and Abbvie, Alejandro Balsa Speakers bureau: from Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Sandoz, Nordic Pharma, Gebro, Roche, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant of: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Sanofi, UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Abbvie, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Gebro, Roche, UCB, Victoria Navarro-Compañ Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Abbvie and Novartis.

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AB0980

HOW DO SPONDYLOARTHRITIS START? IDENTIFICATION OF THE FIRST SYMPTOMS ACCORDING TO THE DIAGNOSIS AND HLA-B27 DATA FROM REGISPONSER AND RESPONDIA REGISTRIES

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Registries

Disclosure of Interests: M. Á. Puche Larrubia: 1, 2, 3, M. L. Lademeshe Pineda: 1, 2, 3, F. U. Pilar: 2, 3, A. Escudero Contreras: 2, 3, J. Vazquez Mellado: 4, E. Collantes Estevez: 2, 3, C. López-Medina: 2, 3, 1Reina Sofia University Hospital, Rheumatology, Cordoba, Spain;
Background: The definition for early spondyloarthritis (SpA) implies the correct identification of the initial symptom of SpA. There is currently no consensus on whether only musculoskeletal manifestations (MM) or also extra-MM (EMM) should be considered as the onset of SpA.

Objectives: a) To describe the initial symptom (either MM or EMM) in the different SpA subtypes; b) to describe the initial symptom stratified by the clinical diagnosis and by the presence of HLA-B27; c) to analyze the clinical factors associated with different forms of initiation.

Methods: Observational, cross-sectional and multicenter study, including patients with a diagnosis of SpA (Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), AS associated with Psoriasis (AS-Pso), AS associated with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (AS-IBD), Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA), Reactive Arthritis (ReA), Juvenile SpA (Juv-SpA), Arthritis associated with IBD (A-IBD) and undifferentiated SpA (u-SpA)) from REGISPONSER and RESPONDIA registries. Investigators responses to the question “Identify the first sign or symptom attributable to the disease” have been recorded. The date of appearance of each MM and EMM feature was collected, allowing to determine the first symptom(s) in each patient. Differences in the first symptom across diagnosis and between HLA-B27 carriers were compared using the chi-square test. Finally, factors associated with the most prevalent initial symptom were evaluated.

Results: A total of 4411 patients were included. AS (54.9%), PsA (18.7%) and uSpA (11.1%) were the most prevalent diagnosis. In the overall population, low back pain (60.3%) was the most prevalent initial symptom followed by buttock pain (35.3%) and lower limbs arthritis (39.9%). The percentage of patients who started the disease with each symptom according to the diagnosis is represented in Figure 1. In AS patients, the absence of HLA-B27 lead to an increment in the probability of initiating the disease with cervical pain (25.6% vs. 15.5%), enthesitis (10.8% vs. 12.4%) and coxitis (15.7% vs. 8.4%) in comparison with HLA-B27 positives. In PsA, the initiation with upper limbs arthritis (81% vs. 38.4%) and psoriasis (62.1% vs. 37%) was more prevalent in HLA-B27 negatives, while the initiation with low back pain (22.1% vs. 38.4%) and buttock pain 13.6% vs. 28.8%) was more prevalent in HLA-B27 positives. In AS-Pso, the absence of HLA-B27 was more frequently associated with peripheral features and psoriasis as first symptom. In the whole population, factors associated with cervical pain vs. low back pain as first symptom were cutaneous psoriasis, negative HLA-B27 and peripheral involvement (arthritis, enthesis and dactylitis). On the other hand, factors associated with upper limbs arthritis vs. lower limbs arthritis as first symptom were female gender, cutaneous psoriasis, HLA-B27 negative and absence of axial symptoms.

Conclusion: In this SpA population, the most prevalent initial symptoms were musculoskeletal (i.e., low back pain, buttock pain and lower limbs arthritis), with differences across diagnosis and depending on the presence of HLA-B27 antigen. In AS patients the absence of the HLA-B27 seems to be associated with cervicalgia and peripheral involvement as first symptom, while in PsA it was associated with upper limbs involvement as initial symptom.

Funding: This ancillary analysis has been funded with a research grant ‘Ayudas en Investigación en SpA SER-GRESSER’ from the Spanish Society of Rheumatology (SER).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1560

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

AB0861
HIGH PREVALENCE OF IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A CROSS SECTIONAL MULTICENTRIC OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Spondyloarthritis

J. Bernard1, T. Barnetche2, A. Charlotte3, D. Jerome4, M. Vandermessen5, J. Landrin6, C. Lukas7, A. Ruyssen-Witrand8, P. Vergne-Saille9, A. Tournade9

1CHU Gabriel-Montpied, Rheumatology, Clermont-Ferrand, France; 2Hospital Center University De Bordeaux, Rheumatology, Bordeaux, France; 3Hospital Center University De Montpellier, Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; 4Hospital Center University De Limoges, Rheumatology, Limoges, France; 5CHU Dupuytren 1, Rheumatology, Limoges, France; 6CHU Gabriel-Montpied, Rheumatology, Clermont-Ferrand, France

Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a heterogeneous disease including extra-articular manifestations that can impact both disease severity and quality of life[1]. Among them, gastrointestinal symptoms can be related to inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), but also to functional disorder of the gastrointestinal tract such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)[2][3]. IBS and IBD are associated with multiple comorbidities and lifestyle behaviors including diet and physical activity.

Objectives: The objectives of this study were to evaluate the prevalence of IBS and associated factors including demographic and axSpA characteristics, treatments and adherence, lifestyle behaviors, and comorbidities.

Methods: A cross-sectional, multicenter study was conducted at rheumatology departments in 5 university hospitals (Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, Limoges, Montpellier, and Toulouse). Patients with axSpA (ASAS criteria) treated by biologics were recruited from June 2021 to June 2022. Patients completed an anonymous self-questionnaire evaluating demographic data, lifestyle behaviors, treatment adherence (Girerd questionnaire) and IBS (Roma IV criteria). A medical questionnaire on axSpA characteristics, activity and treatments, was completed by rheumatologists.

Results: 500 patients were included in the study (mean age 49.5±13.8 years, 47 % women, mean disease duration 14.7±11 years, and mean BASDAI 3.6±2.1). IBS was present in 11/53 (21%) vs. 113/447 (25%). IBS and IBD are associated with multiple comorbidities and lifestyle behaviors including diet and physical activity.

Conclusion: Prevalence of IBS is high in axSpA, accounting for a quarter of patients, and should be screened in the presence of gastrointestinal symptoms. The prevalence of IBS is not associated with IBD, nor diets. It is associated with female gender, anxiety, depression and fibromyalgia. Patients with IBS seem to have a more difficult to treat disease characterized by higher activity, worse functional scores, and multiple lines of treatments.

REFERENCES:

In patients with axSpA, gut inflammation measured by FC was higher than among controls and it was also higher in patients with AS than in nr-axSpA. We also found that high FC values were not associated with more pronounced gastrointestinal symptoms. Thus, studies with a larger population and invasive studies are needed to assess the impact that this marker may have on the management of this pathology.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1892
visit, male patients achieved BASDAI < 4 more significantly than female patients (79.57% vs. 71.54%; p < 0.001). However, the proportion of patients who achieved ASDAS low disease activity (< 2.1) and ASDAS inactive disease (<1.3) were not significantly different between gender (71.14% vs. 71.5%, p = 0.6892; 39.82% vs. 39.44%, p = 0.8265, respectively). The difference in BASDAI between the first follow-up visit and baseline was statistically significantly related to gender after adjusting for other clinical information at baseline (p = 0.0033). In the same analysis, the difference in ASDAS was not significantly related to gender (p = 0.1303).

**Conclusion:** Depending on the method of calculating disease activity, the interpretation of treatment response of BDMAARDs may differ between gender.

## Table 1. The results of the multivariate generalized linear model of the relationship between the change in disease activity scores and clinical variables, including gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Disease duration</th>
<th>HLA-B27</th>
<th>Radiographic Smoking Ex-smoker</th>
<th>Current Baseline disease</th>
<th>Disease activity score</th>
<th>Smoker value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>beta 0.4054</td>
<td>0.0190</td>
<td>0.0036</td>
<td>-0.4990</td>
<td>0.1918</td>
<td>0.0105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SE 0.1377</td>
<td>0.0041</td>
<td>0.0089</td>
<td>0.1712</td>
<td>0.1758</td>
<td>0.1439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>beta 0.1030</td>
<td>0.0079</td>
<td>0.0103</td>
<td>-0.2935</td>
<td>0.1022</td>
<td>0.0652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>0.0680</td>
<td>0.0020</td>
<td>0.0045</td>
<td>0.0867</td>
<td>0.0880</td>
<td>0.0713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>p 0.1303</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0214</td>
<td>0.0006</td>
<td>0.2459</td>
<td>0.0360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BASDAI,** Bath ankylosing spondylitis disease activity index; ASDAS, ankylosing spondylitis disease activity score; SE, standard error

**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by a National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) grant funded by the Korean government (MSIT) (No. 2021R1F1A1062148). The funders had no role in the study design; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; or in the decision to publish the results.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2016

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**AB0984**

## SACROILIAC MRI FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WHO WERE REQUESTED A SACROILIAC STUDY: SACROILITIS AND OTHER DIAGNOSES

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Gender/diversity issues, Imaging

R. Almodovar González1, A. Bueno2, P. Zarco-Montejo3, C. López-Medina3, A. Benito Ysamat4, J. F. García Llorente5, F. Diez Renovales5, O. Casado Verdugo5, M. Moreno5, M. Llop Vilaltella4, L. Berrocal8, A. Marin5, C. Fernández-Carballedo5, C. Crespo3, X. Juanola-Roura1, J. A. Narvaez2, E. Dieguez Costa2, R. Mazzucchelli1, Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Radiología, Alcorcón, Spain; 2Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón, Radiología, Madrid, Spain; 3Hospital Reina Sofía, Radiología, Córdoba, Spain; 4Hospital Reina Sofía, Radiología, Córdoba, Spain; Hospital de Basurto y Galdakano, Rheumatología, Bilbao, Spain; 6Hospital de Basurto y Galdakano, Radiología, Bilbao, Spain; 7Parc Taull, Rheumatología, Sabadell, Spain; 8Hospital Universitario San Juan, Radiología, Alicante, Spain; 9Hospital Bellvitge, Rheumatología, Barcelona, Spain; 10Hospital Universitario Vithas, Radiología, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is the most sensitive imaging modality for the detection of sacroiliitis. Diagnosing sacroiliitis on MRI is not always straightforward and can be challenging in some cases.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the prevalence of sacroiliitis (according to ASAS criteria) and other diagnoses in sacroiliac MRI. To analyse/compare these diagnoses by sex, age and service requesting the study.

**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional, multicentre, descriptive, retrospective study in a hospital and/or specialised care setting. Consecutive MRI examinations (in adults) of the sacroiliac joints (SIJ) performed between 1 de Enero de 2019 y el 31 de Diciembre de 2019 were retrieved from medical records and included in this retrospective cross-sectional analysis. Of these subjects, 281 (72.6%) of patients had a diagnosis of SpA confirmed with patients records and sacroiliac imaging. After the patient population was created, the patients were sorted according to the registration number and divided into groups of ten. One patient was selected from each group. Thirty age- and sex-matched rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients and 30 healthy controls were selected. Thorax CT were re-examined for CV and CTr joints by an experienced radiologist. All joints were classified as: Normal (0); {suspicious [1], mild [2], moderate [3], and severe [4]. A total of 44 joints were evaluated for each patient, 24 CV and 20 CTr joints.

**Results:** We evaluated 1,283 MRI examinations, 526 (41%) males, average age 46.7 ± 14 years. 71.6% of the requests are from the Rheumatology service, 15.8% from Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology and 12.5% from other services. 70% of the MRIs were reported by a radiologist expert in the locomotor system. Findings suggestive of axial spondyloarthritis were found in 353 (27.5%). Sacroilitis was found in 71 examinations (25%) and alternative diagnoses were suggested in 87 (31%) (OCC 8.9%, anatomic variants 5.3%, septic sacroilitis/discitis 5.3%, degenerative findings 4.3%, DISH 1.5%, stress reaction 0.7%, tumor 0.3%). A normal examination was found in the remaining 123 examinations. Patients with alternative diagnoses were older than those with sacroilitis (62 vs. 47 years of age, respectively, P < 0.05). Alternative diagnoses in the SIJ were significantly more common in females (66) than in males (21), P < 0.05.

**Conclusion:** A substantial proportion of patients with suspected sacroilitis had normal SIJ while the rest were more commonly diagnosed with pathologies other than inflammatory sacroilitis. A referral by an experienced rheumatologist may improve the sensitivity and specificity of this important examination.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2484

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**AB0985**

## COSTOVERTEBRAL AND COSTOTRANSVERSE JOINT INVOVLEMENT IN SPONDYLARTHRITIS BY ROUTINE CHEST COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis

E. B. Ata1, G. Durhan2, E. Bilgin2, M. A. Ariyurek2, U. Kalyoncu3, 1Hacettepe University, Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University, Radiology, Ankara, Turkey; 3Hacettepe University, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

**Background:** In spondyloarthritis (SpA) patients, costovertebral (CV) and costotransverse (CT) joint involvement is affected however these involvements are not routinely examined in clinical practice. Clinical characteristics of these involvements need further assessment.

**Objectives:** In this study, we aimed to determine the characteristics of CV and CTr joint involvements in SpA patients by routine chest computed tomography (CT).

**Methods:** SpA patients who have been requested a chest CT for any reason between January 2010 and December 2020 were retrieved from medical records and included in this retrospective cross-sectional analysis. Of these subjects, 281 had a diagnosis of SpA confirmed with patients records and sacroiliac imaging. After the patient population was created, the patients were sorted according to the registration number and divided into groups of ten. One patient was selected from each group. Thirty age- and sex-matched rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients and 30 healthy controls were selected. Thorax CT were re-examined for CV and CTr joints by an experienced radiologist. All joints were classified as: Normal (0); suspicious [1], mild [2], moderate [3], and severe [4]. A total of 44 joints were evaluated for each patient, 24 CV and 20 CTr joints.

**Results:** Of the SpA patients, 206 (73.3%) were diagnosed with AS, 63 (22.4%) with psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and 12 (4.3%) with non-radiographic axial SpA (nr-AxSpA), 34 (54%) of PsA patients had axial PsA. Total scores of CV joint were different between diseases (AS 35 (9-96), PsA 16 (0-73), axial PsA 16 (0-73), peripheral PsA 20 (1-53), nr-AxSpA 6.5 (0-42), RA 15.5 (0-56), healthy control 13 (0-48) (p<0.001)
many health care systems. To optimize diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for axSpA patients, 9 quality standards (QS) were developed by ASAS (Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society) [1]. These international QS have been recently adapted in Germany [1, 2].

Objectives: To determine the status of quality of care delivered to axSpA patients in 2021 across Germany, with special reference to the new ASAS QS.

Methods: As part of a multicentre study, the Continuous Outcome Benchmarking in Rheumatology (KOBRA) project in Germany, patients with axSpA were surveyed regarding the 9 ASAS QS: QS1 - time until referral; QS2 - time to specialist; QS3 - time span of diagnostic work-up; QS4 - monitoring of disease activity; QS5 - discussion of biological treatment in case of insufficient NSAID therapy; QS6 - benefit of regular exercise; QS7 - offers for disease educational courses; QS8 - time to contact with the rheumatologist in case of flare or drug adverse events; QS9 - annual review. Results: A total of 417 axSpA patients on an in-patient basis in 27 rheumatology clinics were surveyed; mean age 50.7 yrs; mean symptom duration 14.6 years; 53.4% had axSpA; 71.4% BASDAI>4, and 81.2% ASDAS>2.1. Regarding the 9 ASAS GS, 31.7% of the patients received a referral to a rheumatologist within 3 working days after initial suspicion of an axSpA (QS1). 36.0% of referred patients received an appointment with the rheumatologist within 3 weeks (QS2). The diagnostic work-up by the rheumatologist was completed within 2 months in 63.2% of the patients (QS3). Monitoring of the disease activity with validated scales at least once every 6 months was performed in 50.2% (QS4). 62.9% of patients were treated with a biologic (42.6% vs. 35.1%). Contact with the rheumatologist, if urgently needed, within <7 working days took place more often in women (60.5% vs. 45.9%).

Conclusion: This is the first project to assess the quality of care according to the ASAS GS among axSpA patients in Germany. The quality of care was acceptable in some areas (e.g. escalation to biological therapy) but needs improvement in others (e.g. rapid access to rheumatology for diagnosis and in case of urgent matters, educational offers). Relevant gender differences were identified. Overall, this data provides important guidance for the improvement of rheumatologic care in daily practice.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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FEMALES WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS REPORT HIGHER BURDEN OF DISEASE AND WORSE PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES. RESULTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MAP OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (IMAS)

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues, Patient reported outcomes, Spondyloarthritis

V. Navarro-Compañ[1], M. Garrido-Cumbra[2, 3], D. Podubnyy[4, 5], C. Bundy[6], S. Makri[7], J. Correa-Fernández[8], S. M. Akerkar[9], L. Wermskog[10], E. Karam[11], A. Siddiqui[12], F. Sommerleck[13], IdiPaz, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Rheumatology Department, Madrid, Spain; Universidad de Sevilla, Health & Territory Research (HTR), Seville, Spain; Spanish Federation of Spondyloarthritis Associations (CEADE), Patient Advocacy, Madrid, Spain; Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Rheumatology Department, Berlin, Germany; German Rheumatism
Background: There is increasing evidence of differences between males and females in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), but the source is restricted to specific geographic locations or populations.

Objectives: This analysis aims to assess gender differences in a large sample of patients included in the International Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (IMAS) study from around the globe.

Methods: IMAS is a cross-sectional online survey (2017-2022) of 5,557 unselected axSpA patients from 27 countries. The current analysis looked at the differences in a variety of patient and disease characteristics/assessments between males and females. The factors evaluated were: sociodemographic (age, educational level, marital status, employment status, and patient organization membership), health behaviours (smoking, alcohol consumption, and physical activity), disease characteristics (age at symptom onset, diagnostic delay, HLA-B27, family history of axSpA, uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease), patient-reported outcomes (disease activity [0-10] on the BASDAI scale, spinal stiffness [3-12], functional limitation [0-54], and mental health [0-12] using GHQ-12 scale), mental comorbidities (anxiety, depression, and sleep disorders), and treatments (NSAIDs, csDMARDs and bDMARDs).

Results: Data from 5,557 patients reporting gender were analyzed: 3,492 from Europe, 769 from North America, 600 from Asia, 548 from Latin America, and 146 from Africa. Globally, 55.4% were females, with higher proportions in South Africa (82.2%) and lower in Asia (20.8%; Figure 1). Compared to males, females were of a younger age, more frequently university educated, more often divorced, more commonly on permanent sick leave, and less often members of patient organizations (Table 1). With respect to health behaviours, male participants smoked and drank more than females. Compared to males, diagnostic delay was significantly longer (by 2.4 years) while the rate of HLA-B27 positivity and family history with axSpA were lower in females. With respect to patient-reported outcomes, females presented with higher disease activity, greater functional limitation, and poorer mental health. The use of axSpA drug treatment was more common in females with a higher proportion having ever taken NSAIDs, csDMARDs and bDMARDs.

Conclusion: Globally, females with axSpA practiced better health behaviors and reported lower frequency of HLA-B27 positivity but had longer diagnostic delay. Despite more frequently receiving medication, females presented with higher disease activity, greater functional limitation, and worse mental health. Reducing the disease burden and diagnostic delay in females is crucial to improving axSpA care around the world.

Table 1. Patient and disease characteristics in males and females with axSpA (N= 5,555)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean ± SD or n (%)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>44.9 ± 13.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>43.3 ± 12.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>548 (23.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>580 (19.7)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol consumption</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>823 (33.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>808 (26.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic delay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6.1 ± 7.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8.5 ± 9.7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 Positive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1115 (78.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1348 (65.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family history of axSpA</td>
<td>459 (31.4)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>564 (25.3)</td>
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<td>Female</td>
<td>607 (21.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>172 (73.3)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>289 (22.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5.0 ± 2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5.7 ± 2.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional limitation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>16.1 ± 15.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>21.2 ± 15.3</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4.2 ± 4.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5.1 ± 4.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>623 (27.0)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1149 (39.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>620 (26.5)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1007 (34.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>Sleep disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>696 (30.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1206 (41.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
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<td>NSAIDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1729 (75.5)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2190 (81.2)</td>
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<td>csDMARDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>903 (41.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1206 (45.5)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1093 (47.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1362 (50.2)</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by Novartis Pharma AG. The authors would like to thank all patients who participated in the study.

Disclosure of Interests: Victoria Navarro-Comán Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, MoonLake, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Denis Podubravsky Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, and Pfizer, Christine Bundy Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis and Pfizer, Souzi Makri Consultant of: Novartis, GSK and Bayer, José Correa-Fernández: None declared, SHASHANK MURLIDHAR AKERKAR Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Novartis, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Lillann Wermoskog Grant/research support from: No personal funding, but ASIF has received funding from Novartis, UCB, Lilly, Abbvie, Boehringer Ingleheim, Pfizer, Janssen, Elie Karam: None declared, Asif Siddiqui Employee of: Novartis employment and stock ownership, Fernando Sommerleck Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Consultant of: Abbvie, Novartis, Janssen. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3000

AB0088 GENETIC EVIDENCE FOR A BIDIRECTIONAL CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Cardiovascular disease

R. T. Shen1,2, L. K. Qi1,2, Y. Q. Bai1,2, L. Niu1,2, X. Y. Yin1,2, Q. Yu2, P. F. He3, X. Li1,2,4, S. X. Zhang1,2,4, “Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China;” Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China;” Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China;” The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease[1]. Mounting evidence suggests an increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in patients with AS. And cardiovascular problems in AS patients have been identified as the primary cause of death[2]. Furthermore, few studies have examined whether CVD directly impacts AS, making the link between AS and CVD less complete. In this study, we conducted a bi-directional Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis to investigate the causal relationship between these two traits.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the bidirectional causal effects of AS and CVD.

Methods: Genetic instruments for AS were obtained from the Finnish database, including 2,252 cases and 227,388 controls. The summary data for 12 CVD were retrieved from genome-wide association studies (GWAS). We utilized the inverse variance weighted (IVW) mean estimate analysis to test the causal relationship. Sensitivity analysis
is used for hypothesis testing and estimating the tangible impact between exposure and results.

**Results:** The study indicated that AS increased the genetic susceptibility to cardiovascular stroke (IVW: OR = 1.05, 95% CI: 1.01-1.10, p = 0.03), heart failure (HF) (IVW: OR = 1.01, 95% CI: 1.00-1.01, P = 0.0004) and atrial fibrillation (AF) (IVW: OR = 1.01, 95% CI: 1.00-1.01, P = 0.007). Small vessel stroke (SVS) was positively associated with an increased risk of AS (IVW: OR = 1.20, 95% CI: 0.77-1.41, P = 0.022).

**Conclusion:** AS may be a risk factor for CVD such as cardiacogenic stroke, HF, and AF. At the same time, for patients of SVS, the risk of developing AS was 1.20 times. Inflammation may be one of the main pathways linking this causality.

**REFERENCES:**


[A figure 1: Odd ratio (OR) of ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and cardiovascular disease (CVD). (A) OR of the associations of AS with the risk of CVD. (B) OR of the associations of CVD with the risk of AS. CI: confidence interval; SNP: single nucleotide polymorphism; IVW: the inverse variance-weighted method.]

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3525

AB0989

**ARE OSTEOPOROSIS AND FRACTURES NEGLECTED ISSUES IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS? DATA FROM A CROSS-SECTIONAL MONOCENTRIC STUDY**

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Comorbidities, Osteoporosis

C. Crosti1, F. Orsini1,2, R. Di Taranto1,2, M. Ferro1,2, A. Amati1,2, M. Biggioggero1, M. Varenna1,2, E. G. Fasoli1,2, R. Caporali1,2, ASST G. Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy; University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; ASST G. Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Bone Disease Unit, Milan, Italy

**Background:** Prevalence of osteoporosis (OP) and fractures (Fx) in spondyloarthritids (SpA) is frequently overlooked[1]. Axial (ax) involvement, particularly in ankylosing spondylitis (AS), is associated with seeming increased lumbar spine bone mineral density (BMD) while vertebral fractures are present in up to 43% of patients with AS. Bone densitometry is considered the gold standard for osteoporosis diagnosis and fracture risk assessment.

**Objectives:** To investigate predictors of OP and prevalence of Fx in a population of ax-SpA patients.

**Methods:** Data were cross-sectionally extracted from a monocentric registry including SpA patients with axial involvement [AS, ax-Psoriatic Arthritis (ax-PsA), non-radiographic ax-SpA (nr-axSpA), IBD associated-SpA] at their last evaluation in a tertiary rheumatology center between August and December 2022. Comparisons were performed by T test and chi-square test; logistic regression was used to analyze the predictors of OP screening assessed by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) and other collected variables.

**Results:** The overall population included 385 patients (35.6% female; mean age±SD 48.5±12.7 yrs; 42.9% AS, 33% nr-axSpA, 20.5% ax-PsA, 3.6% IBD-SpA; 43.9% HLAB27 positive; 42.3% postmenopausal females; 78% patients with previous diagnosis of OP). Almost 10% of the entire population experienced Fx (n=38): 16 vertebral Fx, 2 femoral Fx, and 24 non-vertebral/ non-femoral Fx. The presence of previous fragility Fx was significantly associated with menopause (39% vs 12.4%, p<0.001), older age (56.6±10.11 vs 47.6±12.65, p<0.001), elevated ESR (median 13 mm/h (IQR 7-24) vs 9 (5-19), p=0.04) and higher ASDAS-CRP (median 1.28 (1-2.6) vs 1.05 (0.6-1.7), p=0.03), and previous OP diagnosis (50% vs 3.1%, p<0.001). DXA was performed only in 11.7% of the population. DXA was mainly performed in females (64.5% vs 31.8%, p<0.001), post-menopausal women (57.8% vs 9.4%, p<0.001), older patients (58.6±12.5 vs 47.2±8.9, p<0.001), patients with previous diagnosis of disthryroidism (11.1% vs 4.7%, p=0.08), OP (53.4% vs 18%, p<0.001), patients with previous Fx (46.7% vs 5%, p<0.001), both vertebral Fx (26.7% vs 12%, p<0.001) and non-vertebral/non femoral Fx (24.5% vs 3.9%, p<0.001). DXA was significantly more frequently performed in patients supplemented with vitamin D (86.7% vs 29.4%, p<0.001), calcium (53.4% vs 4.1%, p<0.001), and receiving bisphosphonate therapy (26.7% vs 18%, p<0.001) or on bone loss inducing drugs (44.4% vs 21.3, p<0.001). DXA was significantly less frequently evaluated in current smokers (1.5% vs 24.7%, p=0.04) and ax-PsA subtype (8.9% vs 22%, p=0.04). Factors associated with OP screening by DXA were menopause [OR 1.9, 95% CI 2.3-135, p=0.005], and bone loss inducing drugs (OR 3.2, 95% CI 1.12-9.16, p=0.030). Predictor of Fx was the presence of elevated disease burden expressed as ASDASCRP (OR 1.9, 95% CI 1.2-3.2, p=0.012).

**Conclusion:** Our data confirm that OP is an underestimated comorbidity in ax-SpA patients, particularly males or younger patients. Fragility Fx is related with disease burden, confirming that inflammation mostly triggers bone loss. Not all risk factors for OP are correctly addressed, such as active smoke. We should aim to better evaluate OP as a SpA comorbidity to early detect patients at high risk of fragility Fx to treat them properly.

**REFERENCES:**


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3905

AB0990

**OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA IS INCREASED IN PATIENTS WITH SPONDYLOARTHRITIS COMPARED TO HEALTHY CONTROLS**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Cardiovascular disease, Epidemiology

O. Kalish1, O. Elkayam2, R. Meidan2, T. Eviatar2, R. Tauman4,5, D. Paran2,4, A. Bieber2, V. Furer2, A. Polacheck3, S. Pei2, S. Nevo4, D. Levartovsky2,3, O. Elalouf2,1, tel AViv University, Medicine, tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel; 2 tel Aviv Sourasky
Background: Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is a common chronic disorder, characterized by recurrent collapse of the upper airway during sleep. OSA is associated with comorbidities, such as ischemic heart disease, hypertension, arrhythmias, and others. The spectrum of spondyloarthritides (SpA) encompasses several diseases, including ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease related arthropathy, reactive arthritis, and undifferentiated SpA, sharing common clinical manifestations. It is important to gather more data on the prevalence of OSA, as diagnosing and treating comorbidities is an essential part of the management of inflammatory diseases. There are several reports on the association between OSA and ankylosing spondylitis with conflicting results. To date, studies evaluating the association between OSA and broader spectrum of SpA are lacking.

Objectives: To examine the prevalence and severity of OSA in patients with SpA with or without axial involvement compared to healthy controls. Predictive factors for OSA, such as disease activity, SpA subtypes, axial involvement and medical treatment, were assessed as well.

Methods: This was a controlled cross-sectional study. The study cohort consisted of consecutive patients with SpA defined by the ASAS classification criteria. Clinical and demographic characteristics of the cohort were retrieved from patients’ files. Disease activity scores and sleep quality questionnaires were administered at enrollment. All participants underwent a single night home sleep test using a validated diagnostic device. OSA was defined as apnea-hypopnea index (AHI) ≥5, and moderate-severe OSA as AHI≥15.

Results: Forty-two consecutive patients with SpA and 33 healthy controls were recruited to this study. Patients’ characteristics are shown in Table 1. OSA was diagnosed in 34 patients (81%) with SpA compared to 15 (33%) in the control group (P<0.01) figure, panel A. Moderate-severe OSA was found in 14 (33%) patients in the SpA group vs. 1 (3%) in the healthy control group (P<0.01) figure, panel B. Other sleep indices, such as sleep efficiency, sleep stages and sleep latency, didn’t show any significant difference between the groups. There was also no correlation between SpA activity scores, BASDAI and ASDAS, sleep scores, drug therapy and the presence of OSA. In a logistic regression analysis, older age, elevated body mass index and axial involvement were associated with the presence of OSA.

Conclusion: In this study, OSA, including moderate-severe OSA, was significantly more prevalent in patients with SpA in comparison with healthy controls. Axial involvement predicted the presence of OSA in SpA. Our study emphasizes the importance of sleep assessment and diagnosing OSA in patients with SpA, in order to provide treatment, improve the quality of life and reduce the impact of comorbidities.

Table 1. Patients and Controls Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SpA</th>
<th>Controls</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>50.2 ± 13.2</td>
<td>43.8 ± 11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (64.3)</td>
<td>22 (66.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, Kg/m²</td>
<td>29.5 ± 9.4</td>
<td>25.2 ± 2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disease characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean disease duration (years ± SD)</td>
<td>12.2 ± 13.1</td>
<td>6.0 ± 13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>2.48 ± 1.24</td>
<td>2.65 ± 1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>5.16 ± 3.11</td>
<td>5.21 ± 3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain-VAS (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>3.4 ± 2.81</td>
<td>0.41 ± 1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>30 (71%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axial involvement, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep and Fibromyalgia Scores</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESS, (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>6.8 ± 3.9</td>
<td>6.8 ± 6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSQI, (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>7.4 ± 4.2</td>
<td>7.7 ± 4.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPI, (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>4.5 ± 5.1</td>
<td>2.07 ± 3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSS, (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>4.6 ± 3.4</td>
<td>3.03 ± 3.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SpA, Spondyloarthritis; BMI, body mass index; SD, Standard Deviation; ASDAS, Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score; BASDAI, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score; mean-VAS, Pain Visual Analog Scale; HAQ, Health Assessment Questionnaire; ESS, Epworth Sleepiness Scale; PSQI, Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; WPI, Widespread Pain Symptoms; SSS, Symptoms Severity Scores.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB0991 RADIOPHGRAPHIC EVALUATION OF FOOT SPURS IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

H. H. Gezer1, O. Pehlivan2, M. T. Duruöz3, Ümraniye Training and Research Hospital, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; Ümraniye Training and Research Hospital, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; Marmara University School of Medicine, PAM Department, Rheumatology Division, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Although bone spurs are frequently seen in non-inflammatory diseases, they can also be seen with inflammation of the enthesis areas, especially in spondyloarthritides (SpA).

Objectives: To investigate the radiological evaluation of foot spurs in SpA and compare the characteristics between the SpA and degenerative diseases.

Methods: This ongoing study included 168 (124 women) patients with radiographic plantar or achilles spur. Age, disease duration, and body mass indexes were recorded. Patients were categorized with inflammatory (non-radiographic SpA (nr-AxSpA), radiographic SpA (r-AxSpA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and other) and non-inflammatory [osteoarthritis (OA)] and diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH)]. Foot radiographs of the plantar region, achilles, and other regions (anterior ankle, posterior ankle, and tarsal bones) were examined for the spurs. The spur characteristics were evaluated. Three measurements were taken from each radiograph: plantar spur base, mid-segment, and length in millimeters. The differences were compared between SpA patients and controls.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 50.8 (SD:11.3) years, and the mean disease duration was 55.1 (SD:55.8) months. One hundred twenty-eight (76.2%) were in the inflammatory group [PsA (n=56), r-AxSpA (n=30), nr-AxSpA (n=27), other SpA (n=14)], while 40 (23.8%) were in the non-inflammatory (OA (n=35), DISH (n=5)) group. Plantar spur base, midsegment, and length were higher in the non-inflammatory group than in the inflammatory group (p<0.05). Fluffy structure and erosion in the plantar spur were more common in the inflammatory group (p<0.05). The characteristics of the spurs were not different between diseases in the inflammatory group (p<0.05). Plantar spur lengths in the PsA patients were significantly higher than in the non-PsA SpA group (p=0.028 and 0.003); other spur features between groups were not different (p>0.05).

Conclusion: Spurs are smaller and erosion and fluffy appearance are more common in SpA patients compared to non-inflammatory conditions. Spur characteristics are not different among SpA group diseases; only the plantar spur lengths were higher in patients with PsA. Although calcaneal and achilles spurs are frequently evaluated in clinical practice, approximately half of the patients also have spurs in the tarsal bone.

Table 1. Comparison of spurs in the inflammatory and non-inflammatory group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inflammatory Group</th>
<th>Non-inflammatory Group</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantar spur, n (%)</td>
<td>98 (%76.6)</td>
<td>31 (%77.5)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluffy plantar spur, n (%)</td>
<td>28 (%21.9)</td>
<td>2 (%5)</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosion in the plantar spur, n (%)</td>
<td>21 (%16.4)</td>
<td>1 (%2.5)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantar spur base, mean (SD)</td>
<td>5.49 (2.1)</td>
<td>7.01 (2.5)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantar spur mid-segment, mean (SD)</td>
<td>2.97 (1.32)</td>
<td>3.6 (1.6)</td>
<td>0.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantar spur length, mean (SD)</td>
<td>4.2 (2.1)</td>
<td>5.9 (2.7)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achilles spur, n (%)</td>
<td>69 (%53.9)</td>
<td>23 (%57.5)</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcification in the achilles spur, n (%)</td>
<td>62 (%48.4)</td>
<td>23 (%57.5)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosion in the achilles spur, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (%7.8)</td>
<td>1 (%2.5)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proliferation on the calcanea body, n (%)</td>
<td>59 (%46.1)</td>
<td>15 (%37.5)</td>
<td>0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anterior ankle spur, n (%)</td>
<td>9 (%7)</td>
<td>6 (%15)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarsal bone spur, n (%)</td>
<td>60 (%46.9)</td>
<td>15 (%37.5)</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Left              |                    |                        |       |
| Plantar spur, n (%) | 98 (%76.6)        | 37 (%92.5)             | 0.043 |
| Fluffy plantar spur, n (%) | 35 (%27.3)      | 2 (%5)                 | 0.002 |
| Erosion in the plantar spur, n (%) | 16 (%12.5)       | 1 (%2.5)               | 0.013 |
| Plantar spur base, mean (SD) | 5.35 (2.1)       | 6.5 (2.2)              | 0.006 |
| Plantar spur mid-segment, mean (SD) | 2.98 (1.2)       | 3.3 (1.2)              | 0.055 |
| Plantar spur length, mean (SD) | 4.5 (2.2)        | 5.7 (2.7)              | 0.011 |
| Achilles spur, n (%) | 72 (%57)          | 23 (%57.5)             | 0.88  |
| Calcification in the achilles spur, n (%) | 63 (%49.2)       | 26 (%66.5)             | 0.13  |
| Erosion in the achilles spur, n (%) | 5 (%3.9)         | 1 (%2.5)               | 0.33  |
| Proliferation on the calcanea body, n (%) | 58 (%44.5)       | 15 (%37.5)             | 0.36  |
| Anterior ankle spur, n (%) | 5 (%3.9)         | 1 (%2.5)               | 0.65  |
| Tarsal bone spur, n (%) | 16 (%12.5)        | 7 (%17.5)              | 0.46  |

Conclusion: Our population-based findings describe how HLA-B27 and HLA-B51 haplotypes can impact NIU patterns and suggest a relevant role of an early HLA typing study on the definition of targeted diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

REFERENCES:


and/or antihypertensive treatment, hypercholesterolemia as LDL-cholesterol ≥ 100 mg/dl and/or lipid-lowering treatment. Treatment goals were defined according to European Society of Cardiology and EULAR guidelines.

**Results:** We included 520 patients (54% women; RR, 22% Pa+; 32% AS). Mean age and disease duration were 52.1±14.1 and 11.0±10.6 years, respectively. Out of 520 patients, 203 (39%) had HTN, among whom 140 (69%) were treated and 86 (42%) were controlled; 293 (56%) had HC, among whom 88 (30%) were treated and 51 (17%) were controlled; 30 (6%) had type 2 diabetes, among whom 18 (60%) were controlled. Current smoking was present in 100 patients (19%), obesity in 163 patients (26%) and increased waist circumference in 192 patients (37%). Compared to RA patients, patients with spondyloarthropathies were less often in remission (40% vs. 54%, p<0.005). Furthermore, patients with spondyloarthropathies differed from RA patients by a lower proportion of treated (56% vs. 84%, p<0.001) and treated-to-target (24% vs. 84% p<0.001) HTN, a higher proportion of active smokers (28% vs. 12%, p<0.01), and lower physical activity (29% vs. 46%, p<0.001). Control of LDL-cholesterol was poor in both groups (17% vs. 18%, p=0.95). No significant difference between groups was found for diabetes, overweight and obesity.

**Conclusion:** Compared to patients with RA, patients with spondyloarthropathies were less well controlled both for disease activity and CV risk factors. Furthermore, lipid control was poor in both groups. If confirmed in a multicentre cohort, these results may help orienting CV prevention strategies and increasing awareness both in physicians and patients, with emphasis on spondyloarthropathies.

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.
**Objectives:** Our study aimed to assess the correlation between serum levels of MMP-3 and disease activity in SpA.

**Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients with SpA, diagnosed according to ASAS criteria. ELISA technique was used to measure MMP-3 serum levels. CRP and ESR were also measured. Disease activity was assessed with Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) and Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS-CRP). Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated.

**Results:** We included 82 patients. The mean age was 45.32 ± 13.41 years (20-80). Male to female ratio was 3.82. The mean disease duration was 7.57 ± 7.77 years. Radiographic axial SpA (r-AxSpA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) were noted in 65.9% (n=54) and 34.1% (n=28) of cases, respectively. The mean MMP-3 serum levels were 64.14 ± 187.31 ng/mL (1.75 – 1237.36). The mean CRP and ESR were 20.64 ± 24.52 mg/l and 35.46 ± 31.69, respectively. The mean BASDAI and ASDAS-CRP were 3.26 ± 1.89 and 2.98 ± 1.45, respectively. MMP-3 serum levels correlate significantly with inflammatory biomarkers CRP (r=0.314, p=0.004) and ESR (r=0.291, p=0.013). A correlation was also found with ASDAS-CRP (r=0.245, p=0.028). However, no correlation was found between MMP-3 serum levels and BASDAI (r=0.204, p=0.070).

**Conclusion:** Our results showed that MMP-3 serum levels correlate significantly with inflammatory biomarkers (CRP and ESR) and with ASDAS-CRP. MMP-3 seems to be a promising biomarker for disease activity in SpA.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** N.I.L.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5635

**AB0096**

**PERCEIVED EFFECTS OF HEALTH STATUS ON SEXUAL ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL Spondyloarthritis OVER A 5-YEAR PERIOD**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures

**Objectives:** To explore perceived effects of health status on sexual activity in patients with axSpA over a 5-year period.

**Methods:** Patients with axSpA were consecutively recruited from two public outpatient rheumatology clinics in Southern Norway (Martina Hansens Hospital (MHH), and Sorlandet Hospital (SSHF)). A broad spectrum of data was collected which included: demographic (age, weight, employment, education, married or cohabiting and if they had a partner to have sex with), disease activity and damage (MASES, CRP, BASMI, 68 tender and 66 swollen joints), current medication (NSAID, CSDMARD and BDMDARD) and comorbidities (yes/no). A summed score was generated to reflect overall co-morbidity. Quality of life were measured by 15D, which also included a question on perceived influence of health status on sexual activity. Item 15 in the 15D questionnaire was used to study the effect of health status on sexual activity, with the following response options: My state of health: has no adverse effect on my sexual activity, slight effect, considerable effect, makes sexual activity almost impossible, makes sexual activity impossible to analyze the effects of health on sexual activity, we dichotomized the five responses to item 15 in the 15D instrument, which were related to sexual activity. Responses 1 and 2 were grouped into “no/little effects” and the other three categories were grouped into “large effects”. The same data collection performed at baseline was also performed at the five-year follow-up.

**Results:** A total of 245 patients (168 men and 77 women) with (At baseline the mean age was 48.5 ± 11.9) mean disease duration 13.9 years (SD ± 11.4). At 5-years follow-up 44 (18%) patients reported their health status to have large effects on their sexual activity, while 200 (82%) reported no/little effect. The same pattern was seen at baseline. However, 24 patients changed from reporting large effect at baseline to no/little effect at 5-year follow-up, while 26 patients changed from no/little effect to large effect. When comparing patients reporting their health status to have no/little effect on sexual activity versus the one with large effect on sexual activity, the same pattern of differences was seen at both baseline and 5-year follow-up. However, the differences seemed to be more prominent at 5-year follow-up. Focusing on 5-years follow-up differences; patients reporting their health status to have a large effect on sexual activity were older (54 (10) years vs 50 (11) years, p=0.014), fewer employed (74% vs 47%, p<0.001), exercised less (77% vs 92%, p<0.003), had more co-morbidities (1.5 (1.3) vs 0.8 (1.1), p=0.002), higher CRP (10.2 (19.1) vs 4.6 (7.0), p=0.002), higher BASDAI (4.7 (2.2) vs 2.5 (2.0), p<0.001) higher BASFI (3.9 (2.2) vs 2.0 (2.0), p=0.001), higher BAS-G (5.3 (2.6) vs 2.6 (2.4), p=0.001 and higher HQG (0.81 (0.45) vs 0.37 (0.4), p<0.001).

**Conclusion:** Approximately 1/3 of axSpA patients reported their health status to have a large negative effect on their sexual activity both at baseline and 5-year follow-up. From baseline to 5-year follow-up there has been an increase in comorbidities, and the increase has been larger in patients reporting the disease to have a large negative effect on sexual activity.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5720

**AB0097**

**THE RADIOGRAPHIC ENTHESIS INDEX (REI) FACILITATES THE DIAGNOSIS OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: RESULTS FROM GESPACO COLOMBIAN COHORT**

**Keywords:** Enthesitis, Diagnostic tests, Spondyloarthritis

**Objectives:** To evaluate the diagnostic performance of radiography in the evaluation of enthesitis in the pelvis and its usefulness in the diagnosis of SpA.

**Methods:** This study was a historical cohort study from 2005 to 2020. Eligible patients were adults (≥ 18 years of age) with SpA according to the Assessment of Spondyloarthritis international Society (ASAS) criteria, and the control group were patients with chronic lumbar pain (more than three months) with no-inflammatory characteristics, without meeting ASAS criteria for SpA, and who assisted neurosurgery and rheumatology consultations in the Hospital Militar Central, Bogotá DC. The pelvic radiograph had an anteroposterior view with gut preparation with laxative, the coccyx and pubic symphysis were aligned with the midline, and the distance between the tip of the coccyx and the upper limit of the coccyx was more than 2.5 cm. We used three zones of tendinous insertion in the pelvis. Zone one (ZI) is the ilipectoral ramus; zone two (ZII) is the pubic symphysis; zone three (ZIII) is the ischiopubic ramus. In addition, a grading system was created from zero to four (grade 0: normal; grade I: periostial wishckering and/or osteopenia; grade II: periostial wishckering, osteopenia, sclerosis and erosions; and grade III: grade II findings in addition to the presence of ripple or waving patterns > 2 mm outside the cortex). The scores of each zone of the REI, without discriminating by laterality, were added to give the total REI as a result.

**Results:** The cohort have 450 patients, we selected 150 patients for the initial evaluation. Eleven (17.19%) were females and fifty-three (68.25%) were males. The mean age was 27.9 years, grade I was the most frequent in the three zones of REI, while grades II and III were more frequent in the SpA group; those outcomes were statistically significant. Zone III had the highest degree of enthesitis according to the REI classification (63.4%) in the SpA group, with a probability greater than 99% that these findings are related to SpA and not by chance.

**Conclusion:** Conventional pelvis radiography is still useful for SpA diagnosis, not just for sacroiliac joint and lumbar spine involvement assessment but also for the evaluation of the pelvic enthesis, which gives essential information for the diagnosis of SpA.

**REFERENCES:**
DIFFERENCES IN PSYCHOLOGICAL BURDEN AND IN QUALITY OF LIFE MEASURES BETWEEN GENDERS IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS-ANALYSIS OF A MONOCENTRIC COHORT

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues, Quality of life, Spondyloarthritis

C. Ciglionii 1, F. Fattorinii, C. Cardelli, G. Marchetti,1 A. Delle Sedie1, L. Carli1, M. Mosca1 2, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Background: Spondyloarthopathies (SpA) are chronic inflammatory arthritis, characterized by both peripheral and axial skeletal involvement and some typical extra-articular marks; they tend to associate with several comorbidities and can increase the risk of an impaired quality of life (QoL). Already published data show SpA expression differs based on gender; in particular, women are at higher risk of a more pronounced peripheral disease activity and show a greater burden of the disease, thus having worse values of Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs). It is well known that a compromise in physical functioning and psychological sphere may compromise productivity of patients and subsequently increase health costs.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to assess the differences between male and female sex in the prevalence of mood disorders, fatigue and parameters of QoL in a monocentric cohort of patients with SpA.

Methods: Adult patients diagnosed with Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) and Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) according to the CASPAR (Classificatio criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis) and to Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS) criteria, regularly followed at the SpA clinic of our unit, were consecutively enrolled from April to December 2022. Epidemiologic, clinic and clinimetric data were collected. Each patient filled in the following Patient Reported Outcomes: Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), FACIT-Fatigue (FACIT-F) and SHORT-FORM 36 (SF-36). Intergroups comparisons were assessed by using Chi-square, t-test and ANOVA. P values <0.05 were considered significant.

Results: A total of 200 patients were enrolled; 85 (42.5%) were women, with a mean age of 56.8±12.22 years and a mean disease duration of 12.9±10.3 years. One hundred and thirty-five patients (67.5%) had a diagnosis of PsA (M/F 79/56), mean age of 56.8±12.22 years and a mean disease duration of 12.9±10.3 years. One hundred and thirty-five patients (67.5%) had a diagnosis of PsA (M/F 79/56), while 59 (29.5%) had a diagnosis of AS (M/F 36/23) and 6 (3%) of Enteropathic Arthritis (M/F 10). Women showed worse FACIT-F values than men, (mean 35.20 vs 40.23, p-value 0.002) and a greater impairment of QoL expressed by statistically significant lower values of almost all the domains of SF-36 (exception for Global Health). Moreover, the values of HADS resulted higher in female sex both for the anxiety and depression domains (p-value <0.001 and 0.039 respectively).

Conclusion: The analysis of our cohort confirmed that women affected by SpA suffer from anxiety and depression more often than men, develop a higher level of fatigue and have an overall worse QoL in both psychological and physical domains. These data should sensitize rheumatologists in the assessment of this subgroup of patients. The clinician should not only focus on the disease activity evaluation and therapy or in managing of the comorbidities, but also on the psychological and functional status of the patients, developing strategies able to avoid or delay the onset of their impairment in daily life and to optimize with specific therapies, rehabilitation or psychological support their compensation, when already established. This approach could finally improve the social burden and health cost of women with SpA.
Results: (scores reflect more of the attribute implied by the scale) and HRQoL (MOS Sleep-R index and ASQoL were of similar amplitude between nr-axSpA sequential improvements from baseline in BASFI, SF-36 PCS, MOS-Sleep R −2.2 [−3.7 , −0.7], ASAS20–<ASAS40: −4.3 [−5.5, −3.2], ASAS40: −7 .2 [−7 .9, −6.5]; r-axSpA: −2.2 [−3.7, −0.7], −4.3 [−5.5, −3.2], −7.2 [−7.9, −6.5]; r-axSpA: −2.0 [−3.0, −1.1], −4.3 [−5.1, −3.4], −6.9 [−7.5, −6.3].) Sequential improvements from baseline in BASFI, SF-36 PCS, MOS-Sleep R index and ASQoL were observed with achievement of increasingly stringent ASAS clinical response criteria and lower levels of disease activity at Wk 52. Achievement of higher ASAS responses was also associated with sequentially greater mean improvement from baseline in BASFI, SF-36 PCS, MOS-Sleep R index and ASQoL: [1] Yi E. Rheumatol Ther 2020;7(1):65-87; 2. Boel A. Ann Rheum Dis. 2019;78:1545–9.

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Disclosure of Interests: Marina Magrey Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie and UCB Pharma, Atul Deodhar Speakers bureau: Janssen, Novartis and Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Aurinia, BMS, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Moonlake, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, MoonLake, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Philip J Mease Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Acelyn, Aclaris, Amgen, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, MoonLake, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Victo- na BioCompass: Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Philip J Mease Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Moonlake, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie and Novartis, Sofia Ramiro Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Galapagos, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Martin Rudwaleit Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chugai, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB Pharma, Paid instructor for: Janssen, Novartis and Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Novartis and Pfizer, Chane de la Loge Consultant of: UCB Pharma, Carmen Floreinck Employee of: UCB Pharma, Vanessa Taieb Employee of: UCB Pharma, Michael Morup Employee of: UCB Pharma, Marga Oortgiesen Consultant of: UCB Pharma, Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH, Organon, Ridgeview Discovery, Samsung Bioepis, Sandzox Inc., Sciphar Medicine and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: Gilead and Novartis paid to institution. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.760

References:

Keywords: Bone diseases, Spondyloarthritides, Imaging

Methods: Patients with AS were recruited from a single tertiary hospital. Base-
ne line and 2-year follow-up whole spine CT images were used to calculate CTSS
and cSTSS. The STSS uses the anterior and posterior vertebral corners, and ranged 0–184. Intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) were calculated, as well as the smallest detectable changes.

Results: Fifty AS patients were included. For reader 1, the mean STSS at base-
line and 2-year follow-up were 11.7 ± 14.6 and 15.8 ± 16.1, whereas those for
reader 2 were 12.0 ± 12.5 and 15.8 ± 15.7, respectively. The ICCs for CTSS at baseline and at 2-year follow-up were 0.97 (95% confidence interval [CI] 0.96–0.99) and 0.98 (0.97–0.99), respectively, and that for changes over the 2 years was 0.46 (95% CI 0.23–0.67). For sCTSS, the ICCs were 0.96 (95% CI 0.92–0.97), 0.97 (95% CI 0.94–0.98), and 0.58 (95% CI 0.36–0.74), respectively. Detection rates for syndesmophyte progression were comparable between CTSS and sCTSS. The detection rate for syndesmophytes on only lateral side was 13.2 and 11.4%, and 11.4 and 15.2% at baseline and 2-year follow-up (reader 1 and 2).

Conclusion: sCTSS and CTSS showed similar detection rates for syndesmophyte progression. sCTSS may be a reliable method for evaluating structural damage in AS.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1068

AB1002
LONGER DIAGNOSTIC DELAY, SEVERE FATIGUE AND LESS USE OF TNF-INHIBITORS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH UNACCEPTABLE AXIAL PAIN IN 354 SWEDISH PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Pain
A. Deminger1,2, Å. Wilde3, E. Klingberg4, J. Backman Renman2, H. Forsblad-Dell1,5, 6. Institute of Medicine, Sahlgrenska Academy at University of Gothenburg, Department of Rheumatology and Information Research, Göteborg, Sweden; 7Region Västra Götaland, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Göteborg, Sweden; 8 Section of Medicine, Umeå University, Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå, Sweden

Background: Pain has been shown to be the most important consequence of the disease in affecting health in patients with axial spondyloarthritis[1].

Objectives: To assess factors associated with unacceptable axial pain in patients with long-standing ankylosing spondylitis (AS) overall and by sex.

Methods: Patients with AS (modified NY-criteria) from two geographically separated regions in Sweden were included in this cross-sectional, observational study. Primary outcome was axial pain (question number 2 from Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI)) dichotomised in VAS < or ≥ 4 based on patient unacceptable pain[2]. Independent variables were selected based on previous knowledge and hypotheses of factors associated with pain. Information was collected from questionnaires (demographics, lifestyle habits, fatigue (BASDAI question number 1), symptoms of depression (from EQ-5D), medications), previous knowledge and hypotheses of factors associated with pain. Information technology (IT) modules was assessed. We also evaluated the interaction with the patients through the assessment of satisfaction and completion rates of ePROMs.

Results: In total, 354 patients were included, 62% men, mean (SD) age 52 (13) years, symptom duration 27 (13) years and delay in diagnosis 9 (8) years. Mean (SD) VAS axial pain was 4.2 (2.6) with no significant difference between men and women (p = 0.30). However, in patients with unacceptable axial pain (VAS ≥ 4), n=177 (50%), significantly higher proportion of women reported unacceptable pain compared to men, 57% vs 46%, p = 0.049. In univariate analyses, unacceptable axial pain was associated with longer disease duration, longer delay in diagnosis, more severe fatigue, more symptoms of depression, lower alcohol consumption and less treatment with TNF-inhibitors. There was no association between unacceptable axial pain and age, civil state single, educational level, BMI, smoking status, mSASSS, CRP or use of NSAIDs. In the multivariable analysis, unacceptable axial pain was independently associated with longer delay in diagnosis and more severe fatigue, whereas use of TNF-inhibitor reduced the risk of having unacceptable pain (Figure 1). In the multivariable analyses stratified by sex, the same variables were associated with unacceptable pain in men as in the whole group; OR (95% CI) for delay in diagnosis 1.08 (1.03 to 1.14), fatigue 2.0 (1.65 to 2.41) and use of TNF-inhibitor 0.23 (0.09 to 0.61). In women, fatigue was the only factor independently associated with unacceptable axial pain, OR (95% CI) 1.32 (1.12 to 1.56).

Conclusion: In this cross-sectional study of patients with long-standing AS, 50% of the patients had unacceptable axial pain. Even though a higher proportion of the women were affected, female sex was not independently associated with unacceptable axial pain. There were some sex-differences. Delay in diagnosis was associated with higher risk, and use of TNF-inhibitor was associated with lower risk of unacceptable axial pain only in men. The sex-difference possibly due to few women using TNF-inhibitors. Fatigue was independently associated with axial pain in both sexes. This study underpins the importance of early diagnosis in AS.

REFERENCES:

Figure. Multivariable logistic regression analysis assessing factors associated with unacceptable axial pain in 354 patients with ankylosing spondylitis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covariates</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
<td>0.85 (0.49 to 1.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic delay, years</td>
<td>1.04 (1.01 to 1.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking, current or past</td>
<td>1.24 (0.74 to 2.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol, d drinks past week</td>
<td>0.99 (0.58 to 1.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>1.12 (0.65 to 1.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue, VAS &lt; 4</td>
<td>1.66 (0.47 to 1.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of TNF</td>
<td>0.36 (0.18 to 0.71)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TNFI, tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; VAS, visual analogue scale

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1093

AB1003
IMPROVED CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND PATIENT ENGAGEMENT THROUGH AN INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOME WITH THE HOSPITAL ELECTRONIC PATIENT RECORD IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures
A. Chan1, K. Rigler2, L. Van Rossen3, 1Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Reading, United Kingdom; 2East Kent Hospitals N H S Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Canterbury, United Kingdom

Background: Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) have been at the forefront of the assessment of spondyloarthropathy (SpA). With the increasing adoption of electronic health records (EHRs), collecting PROMs electronically (ePROMs) presents an opportunity for advancing patient care in SpA. ePROMs were incorporated into our SpA clinics at the Royal Berkshire Hospital since the start of 2018. Collecting patient data early improved the patients' perspective into routine clinical care without delay. Moreover, connection to EHRs have led to a seamless integrated optimised care process.

Objectives: The objective of this programme was to evaluate the clinical effectiveness and practicality of implementing a fully integrated ePROMs into the hospital EHR in real world clinic settings. The interoperability across different information technology (IT) modules was assessed. We also evaluated the interaction with the patients through the assessment of satisfaction and completion rates of ePROMs.

Methods: AxSpA patients meeting the ASAS criteria completed the outcome measures BASDAI, BASFI, Spinal NPRS, and BASG. PaS patients meeting the CASPAR criteria completed patient assessed tender joint, swollen joint, global assessment and PSAID-12. The period of the data collection for this study was January 2021 to December 2022. Patients were sent reminders to complete ePROMs through email or text messaging before each appointment and every 6 months. Ad-hoc scores went sent out according to clinical need. Appointments were expedited or deferred depending on the values and trends in the ePROMS. Time saved in clinic was measured.

Results: There were 1141 patients with AxSpA and PaS who were sent ePROMs over a 2 year period (2021-22). The median (SD) age for AxSpA patients were 42.7(12.2) and PaS 52 (7.9) years. 536 (47%) patients were on biologics. At baseline, the completion of was 38% (437/1141). At month 12, it was 63% (722/1141) and at month 24, reached 73% (836/1141). Figure 1. Both AxSpA and PaS patients had similar rates of uptake of ePROMs between months 0 and 24 (40% to 72% for AxSpA and 35% to 73% in PaS). At group level, there was a trend to the reduction in mean (SD) ASDAS at months 0, 6, 12, 18 and 24 (3.8±1.2, 3.3±1.1, 3.0±1.5, 2.2±0.9, 1.9±1.0) and BASDAI (4.6±2.7, 4.5±1.9, 3.9±2.4, 3.8±2.3, 3.6±1.2). In the PaS group, there was also a trend to the reduction in the mean in the SD) PSAID-12 level (4.1±1.8, 3.8±0.8, 3.6±1.2, 3.4±1.1, 3.1±1.3). The reduction in the mean ASDAS, BASDAI and PSAID-12 was most evident in patients on biologic treatments. In patients with an ASDAS of < 1.3 or PSAID-12 <2, appointments were moved from 6 to 12 monthly. In this group of...
patients, the appointments were also switched from face to face to teleclinics. This resulted in a saving of 280 hours of clinical time. Over 90% of clinician and patient user rated the ePROMs as good to excellent. In patients not completing ePROMS (308/1141, 27%) paper forms were used. Factors for not completing ePROMs include multiple forms, frequency of forms sent, lack of understanding of process, data safety concerns, lack of IT access and patient choice.

Conclusion: The development of a clinician dashboard captured a range of multidimensional ePROMs that was used proactively to support patient management and patient-centric appointment scheduling. Using ePROMs increased the uptake and acceptability of completing patient outcomes. A trend based on ePROMs collated over a period of time was more informative, particularly when considered alongside interventions that were introduced into the clinics such as self-referral to physiotherapy, digital psychological therapy and biologic treatments. This enabled the clinical team use ePROMs as part of remote monitoring to implement patient-initiated follow up (PIFU) and schedule teleconsultations when clinically appropriate. The integrated ePROMS system allows clinical encounters where needed and more individualised care.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AS (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age at diagnosis (years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Met clinical criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Met Radiological criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist diagnosis with or without bDMARD prescription</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Audit Flowchart

Figure 1. Number of AxSpA and PsA patients completing ePROMs at baseline (0), 6, 12, 18 and 24 months

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Antoni Chan Grant/research support from: A non-promotional grant was received from Novartis for the initial set up of the digital software for this programme, Kathryn Rigler: None declared, Liz Van Rossen: None declare.d.

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M. Isbel1,2, K. Makin1, J. Nossent1,2. 1Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Rheumatology, Nedlands, Australia; 2University of Western Australia, School of Medicine, Perth, Australia

Background: Administrative linked health data (ALHD) facilitates epidemiological research of Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) but best practice requires dataset validation[1]. While ICD10-code M45 is used to identify AS populations internationally it is also used to code “Rheumatoid arthritis of the spine”[2]. Neither background AS nor Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is captured in ICD coding, unless actively flaring whilst the patient is admitted.

Objectives: To define the accuracy of ICD 10 Australian Modification (ICD10AM) code M45 in identifying AS patients in a tertiary hospital.

Methods: Retrospective audit of patients with an electronic hospital discharge code M45 between 2000 and 2015. Patient records were manually reviewed to confirm presence of AS based on following criteria a) radiological evidence of Grade IV sacroiliitis or “bamboo spine” b) fulfilment of classification criteria (1984 Modified NY, 1991 AMOR, 2002 ESSG and 2009 ASAS criteria). Letter from treating rheumatologist confirming AS d) Biological DMARD (bDMARD) prescription for treating confirmed AS. Cases that were not able to meet AS criteria and had a likely alternative diagnosis documented by their treating team had this detail noted, but not assessed against formal criteria. All patients were then evaluated to for presence of an RA code ever during that patient’s lifetime. Codes used to define RA included by codes M08.0*, M8.2*, M8.3*, M8.4*, M8.5*, M05.*, M06.* (ICD10) or 714 (ICD9).

Results: Of 155 cases reviewed, eighty-six (55.4%) met audit criteria for AS. Of the 69 cases not meeting audit criteria for AS, 35 (72%) had RA ICD codes applied during their lifetime and a further 15 had background RA recorded in their notes. Five cases met AS audit criteria and had RA code applied. Excluding patients ever tagged with an RA code reduced AS case finding by 6% and raised overall accuracy to 87.5%. If background RA is also excluded, accuracy is 78.9%.

Conclusion: Overall raw accuracy of the ICD10AM M45 code in identifying AS patients was low, with RA acting as a significant confounder. This bears significant implications for international ALHD research reliant on this code for case finding. Excluding those ever coded with RA significantly improved accuracy and is recommended for future research. Our data support the call for scrutiny of international variations of ICD taxonomy[4].

REFERENCES:


Keywords: Descriptive studies, Spondyloarthritis

AB1004 ACCURACY OF ICD10-AM M45 CODE FOR ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS IN A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HOSPITAL COHORT

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Spondyloarthritis - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

**AB1005**

**ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CHANGES IN SERUM ALKALINE PHOSPHATASE LEVELS AND RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS**

**Keywords:** Biomarkers, Prognostic factors, Spondyloarthritis

T. H. Kim¹, S. Y. Park², J. H. Shin³, S. Lee⁴, K. B. Joo⁵, B. S. Ko², ¹Hanyang University Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Department of Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); ²Korea National Open University, Department of Statistics and Data Science, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); ³Hanyang University Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Department of Radiology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); ⁴Inje University Seoul Paik Hospital, Inje University College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** The changes in bone metabolism may occur earlier than those that can be identified on radiography. Although studies have evaluated the changes in inflammatory markers that precede radiographic progression, no studies have evaluated the relationship between the timing of changes in bone metabolism and radiographic progression in patients with AS.

**Objectives:** To determine the relationship between serum alkaline phosphatase levels and radiographic changes over time in ankylosing spondylitis.

**Methods:** This retrospective study evaluated the electronic medical records of patients with ankylosing spondylitis between January 2001 and December 2018. Longitudinal data including serum alkaline phosphatase levels were imputed by linear interpolation at 3-month intervals. Among the serum alkaline phosphatase levels for 8 years prior to measurement of the modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spinal Score, the serum alkaline phosphatase level having the highest beta coefficient with the modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spinal Score was selected. Linear mixed models with the selected serum alkaline phosphatase levels and the modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spinal Score, including clinical variables, were investigated.

**Results:** Overall, 1122 patients were included, with a mean follow-up period of 8.20 (standard deviation: 2.85) years. Of the series of serum alkaline phosphatase levels, the level in the previous 5 years and 3 months showed the highest beta coefficient with the modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spinal Score (Figure 1). In the linear mixed model including clinical variables, the serum alkaline phosphatase level 5 years and 3 months before radiographic changes was significantly associated with the modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spinal Score (β=0.021, 95% confidence interval: 0.017–0.025, p<0.001).

**Conclusion:** Serum alkaline phosphatase levels measured at approximately 5 years before may be a surrogate marker for predicting spinal radiographic changes. Long-term prospective clinical and experimental studies of >5 years are required for biomarker discovery or therapeutic research on the radiographic progression of ankylosing spondylitis.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1472

**AB1006**

**PULMONARY MANIFESTATIONS OF AXIAL SPONDYLARTHRITIS (AXSPA): A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Keywords:** Systematic review, Spondyloarthritis, Lungs

K. Vakil-Gilani¹, T. Cordova¹, D. Saifer¹, A. Deodhar¹, ¹Oregon Health & Science University, Rheumatology, Portland, United States of America

**Background:** Common extra musculoskeletal manifestations (EMM) of axSpA include uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease, and psoriasis; and some of the uncommon manifestations include aortic incompetence, conduction abnormalities and IgA nephropathy. We felt that an updated and comprehensive review of pulmonary manifestations of axial spondyloarthritis was needed.

**Objectives:** To conduct a systematic literature review (SLR) using 2020 PRISMA guidelines on the spectrum of pulmonary manifestations in axial spondyloarthritis.

**Methods:** Using the 2020 PRISMA guidelines, we conducted a systematic literature review in the PubMed data base. The following MeSH combinations were used: (1) Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) and interstitial lung disease, (2) AS and lung disease, (3) AS and obstructive sleep apnea, (4) non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA)and lung disease (5) nr-axSpA and obstructive sleep apnea (6) nr-axSpA and interstitial lung disease (7) AS and/or axSpA and obstructive sleep apnea and/or thoracic wall disease. Our search timeline was limited to the past 40 years. The same combination terms were also hand searched. Reviewing of articles were divided between two authors.

**Results:** Our search led to a total of 10,948 articles and 10,919 were excluded based on relevance after title review (n=10,905), case report study design (n=6), and lack of access to the full manuscript (n=2). Additional 6 articles were excluded based on relevance after the entire manuscripts were read. Twenty nine full length manuscript were ultimately included for further study. All studies included patients with a diagnosis of AS rather than axSpA. The majority of studies were cross-sectional (n=12) followed by review articles (n=10 including one systematic review), and finally cohort studies (n=5 prospective and 1 retrospective). Mean disease duration range was 70-31 years. Average age of participants was 30.6 to 57.2, and majority were males (57.1-100%). The most common pulmonary manifestation (40-90%) was pleuro-parenchymal abnormalities noted on high resolution CT scan (HRCT) followed by abnormal pulmonary function tests (PFTs) (15-57%), chest wall movement restriction (50% with panbronchiolitis and stenocartilaginous enthesitis and chest wall pain in 30-60%) and obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) (8.6%-47.8% of AS patients which was significantly higher than controls in all studies except one), OSA was associated with long disease duration and low age at onset of disease. HRCT abnormalities described were interstitial lung disease in 13-72.2%, spontaneous pneumothorax (0.29%), apical fibrosis (1.2%–19%), ground glass opacities (3.6-15%), nodules (3.8-40%), pleural thickening (3.8-45%), honey-combing (5.8%), parenchymal bands (3.8-41%), interlobular septal thickening (5.8-45%), bronchial wall thickening (7.4-141%), emphysema 9-45%, bronchiectasis (9.5-33%), subpleural bands (10.9-35%), tracheal dilation (11.1%), linear opacities (11.7%), and lymphadenopathy (16.7-28.6%). Frequency of apical fibrosis and bronchiectasis increased with disease duration. Subpleural nodules and parenchymal bands were found early in the disease course. Among those with abnormal PFTs, majority were restrictive in pattern (20-57%). A link between COPD and AS was found (46% in one cross-sectional study with 1.45 higher incidence compared to controls).

**Conclusion:** In our SLR, we identified various pulmonary manifestation in AS patient – the commonest being parenchymal lung disease as seen on HRCT – but there is a lack of controlled trials. Furthermore, there are no data in nr-axSpA patients which remains a major unmet need. No data were available on whether current advanced therapies are disease modifying from pulmonary perspective. Prospective studies are required to evaluate efficacy of novel treatments on lung disease.

![Figure 3](image2.png)
**AB1007** NEUROPATHIC PAIN AS A PREDICTOR OF FUNCTIONAL DISORDERS IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Pain

L. Kediyi, M. Stanislavchuk, Vinnytsia National Pirogov Medical University, Department of Internal medicine №1, Vinnytsia, Ukraine

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is one of the most actual problems in modern rheumatology. AS is characterized by a violation of functional abilities, which causes a decrease in the quality of life and invalidation of patients. The main symptom of AS is chronic pain, which persists in some cases not only due to inflammation, but also due to the neuropathic component of pain, however, this issue needs additional investigation [1].

Objectives: To assess functional status and its association with neuropathic pain in patients with AS.

Methods: Following the principles of biomedical ethics, on the basis of informed consent, we clinically examined 133 patients (men - 71%) diagnosed with AS according to the modified New York criteria. The presence of neuropathic pain (NP) was assessed by the Leeds Neuropathic Pain Rating Scale (LANS) and by the Diagnostic Questionnaire for Neuropathic Pain (DN4). Disease activity was assessed by the BASDAI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Assessment Index) and ASDAS (Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score). Functional disorders in AS were evaluated according to the BASFI (Bath AS Functional Index) and BASMI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Metrology Index). The HAQ (Health Assessment Questionnaire) questionnaire was used to assess functional capabilities. Statistical analysis was carried out by the methods of variational statistics in the SPSS22 software package (SPSS Inc.). Significance of differences between groups (p) was measured using the Mann-Whitney test. Results are presented as mean with standard deviation (M±SD).

Results: In patients with AS, the prevalence of NP according to the LANS was 34.8%. Presence of NP in women was found significantly more often than in men: 52.3% versus 31.1%. According to DN4 data, 37.7% of patients have NP and the ratio of women to men is 59.1 to 32.2. The NP according to both scales was assessed by the Leeds Neuropathic Pain Rating Scale (LANS) and by the Diagnostic Questionnaire for Neuropathic Pain (DN4). Disease activity was assessed by the BASDAI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Assessment Index) and ASDAS (Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score). Functional disorders in AS were evaluated according to the BASFI (Bath AS Functional Index) and BASMI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Metrology Index). The HAQ (Health Assessment Questionnaire) questionnaire was used to assess functional capabilities. Statistical analysis was carried out by the methods of variational statistics in the SPSS22 software package (SPSS Inc.). Significance of differences between groups (p) was measured using the Mann-Whitney test. Results are presented as mean with standard deviation (M±SD).

The presence of NP in patients with AS is a common phenomenon. NP in Spondyloarthritis (SpA) a higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease - a new lipid paradox.

Conclusion: Most patients presented extra-articular manifestation before articular symptoms onset. The median delay since first articular symptoms until SpA diagnosis was 2 years. Longer time between extra-articular manifestation and articular symptoms was linearly associated with peripheral disease. Axial disease and HLA-B27 were linearly associated with shorter time between the two symptoms.

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In recent years, several studies have established a causal relationship between non-HDL cholesterol (non-HDLC) levels and cardiovascular diseases. Non-HDLC offers a wide vision of proatherogenic lipoproteins containing apolipoprotein B (apoB) - VLDL, IDL, LDL; chylomicron remnants and Lp(a)- without being interfered by triglyceride concentrations. Thus, non-HDLC has become an innovative cardiovascular risk (CVR) biomarker. Therefore, the Multinational Cardiovascular Risk Consortium [2] recently published a set of recommendations estimating CVR based on non-HDLC levels. We have analyzed in a cohort of patients with SpA possible associations between clinic and laboratory data, and non-HDLC serum levels.

**Objectives:** To analyse in patients with SpA whether there is a relationship between disease-dependent variables (C-reactive protein [CRP] levels, erythrocyte sedimentation rate [ESR], presence of HLA-B27, axial or peripheral involvement, structural damage, and extra-articular manifestations) with non-HDLC serum levels.

**Methods:** Observational, cross-sectional, single-centre study, which included a sample of 104 patients with both radiographic and non-radiographic SpA, in whom each disease-dependent variable was analyzed individually for its possible association with non-HDLC serum levels. Classical CVR factors were also analyzed.

**Results:** Of 104 patients included most of them were women (54.8%), mean age was 43 years, 33.7% smoked, HLA-B27 was positive in 52.8% of patients, with mean CRP levels of 9.83mg/mL and ESR of 17.92mm/h. Axial involvement prevailed over peripheral (92.3% vs 26%). Extra-articular manifestations were distributed as follows: 13.5% uveitis, 7.7% inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and 4.8% psoriasis. 43.3% of patients had structural damage. None of these patients suffered from cardiovascular disease prior to diagnosis. Regarding the classic CVR factors: AHT was observed in 16.3%, DM in 19.2%, obesity (BMI >30) in 14.4%. Mean non-HDLC was 144.19mg/dL (± 36.1), giving this population a 12.8% probability of suffering cardiovascular disease at the age of 75. For CVR estimation, we categorized non-HDLC levels according to low (100 - <145mg/dL), moderate (145 - <185mg/dL), high (185 - <220mg/dL) and very high (≥220mg/dL) levels. Lower mean concentrations of non-HDLC were found in those patients with IBD (117.56 ± 35.7mg/dL), compared to those without intestinal involvement (146 ± 35.5mg/dL) (p<0.05). No statistically significant relationships were observed between non-HDLC and the rest of disease-dependent variables.

**Conclusion:** In our cohort of patients, mean levels of non-HDLC were elevated (144mg/dL), giving patients a 13% probability of suffering cardiovascular disease at the age of 75. Clinical and laboratory features analyzed, we observed lower serum concentration of non-HDLC in patients with IBD. This could be explained by lipid malabsorption, as inflammatory damage of the intestinal epithelium decreases the synthesis of apoB48, which is necessary for both chylomicron formation and hepatic synthesis of apoB100 (3). This may turn into lower serum levels of non-HDLC. Therefore, presence of IBD in patients with SpA should be kept in mind when defining non-HDLC levels as an estimator of CVR.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2727

**Figure 1.** Mean and median of disease activity by region (N= 5,295)
LWW

05/13/23

4 Color Fig(s):

22:47

Art:32_EUROAB-2023-PO31-32

Scientific Abstracts	﻿ 
Table 1. Logistic regression analysis to determine factors associated
with active disease (N= 2,630)

Age
Gender. Female
Physical activity engagement. No
No. of self-reported symptomatic body regions
Spinal Stiffness (3-12)
Functional Limitation (0-54)
Diagnostic Delay
HLA-B27. Negative
Inflammatory bowel disease. Yes
Difficulty finding a job due to axSpA. Yes
Work-related issues due to axSpA. Yes
Work choice due to axSpA. Yes
Mental health (0-12)
Use of csDMARDs

Univariable logistic regression

Multivariable
logistic
regression

OR

CI 95%

OR

CI 95%

0.99
1.95
1.34
1.12
1.39
1.05
1.01
1.47
1.82
5.08
3.16
2.10
1.27
1.18

0.98, 0.99
1.72, 2.21
1.12, 1.59
1.11, 1.14
1.35, 1.43
1.04, 1.05
1.01, 1.02
1.22 1.76
1.48, 2.23
4.38, 5.90
2.70, 3.69
1.84, 2.41
1.24, 1.29
1.03, 1.35

0.99
1.14
1.19
1.08
1.37
1.02
0.98
1.48
1.43
1.92
1.73
1.03
1.20
1.11

0.98, 1.01
0.84, 1.56
0.77, 1.85
1.04, 1.11
1.27, 1.47
1.01, 1.03
0.96, 0.99
1.06, 2.08
0.90, 2.28
1.38, 2.68
1.22, 2.44
0.75, 1.41
1.14, 1.26
0.82, 1.49

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Disclosure of Interests: Marco Garrido-Cumbrera Grant/research support from:
Novartis, Victoria Navarro-Compán Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen,
MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos,
MoonLake, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from:
AbbVie, Novartis, Fernando Sommerfleck Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly,
Janssen, Novartis, Consultant of: Abbvie, Novartis, Janssen, Christine Bundy
Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Celgene, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis and Pfizer, Souzi
Makri Consultant of: Novartis, GSK and Bayer, José Correa-Fernández: None
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Ingleheim, Pfizer, Janssen, Elie Karam: None declared, Asif Siddiqui Employee
of: Novartis employment and stock ownership, Denis Poddubnyy Speakers
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UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, Novartis, and Pfizer.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3035

AB1011

CO-DIAGNOSIS SPONDYLOARTHRITIS AND
INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE: THE ENTRY MODE
MATTERS

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Descriptive studies, Spondyloarthritis

Psoriasis was present in 24% and uveitis in 24% of cases, active smoking in
66%, and a physical job in 20% of cases. Patients had used an average of 3
bDMARDs and 10% are treated with a combination of bDMARDs. When SpA
was diagnosed first, patient characteristics were different from those whose IBD
was diagnosed first, with a mean age at diagnosis of SpA of 29.8 (±11.6) years
(versus 41.6 (±12.6) years; P< 0.001) and a mean age at diagnosis of IBD of 31.9
(±11.8) years (versus 38.6 (+/-13) years; p= 0.043). When the codiagnosis was
initiated by SpA, the prevalence of HLA B27 was 83% (versus 42%; p<0.01),
psoriasis 17% (versus 29%; p=0.27) and uveitis 35% (versus 16%; p=0.087).
Finally, radiographic damage was more frequent when SpA started first, with
86% of radiographic sacroiliitis (versus 34%; p< 0.001) and 44% of syndesmophytes (versus 13%; p= 0.036).
Conclusion: The population of patients with a co-diagnosis of SpA and IBD is a
particular and difficult to treat population with an average of 3 different bDMARDs
used and 10% of bDMARDs combination. Within this population, we identified
two different clusters of patients according to the first diagnosis.
REFERENCE:
Table 1.

Gender (% male)
Age at diagnosis of IBD
Age at diagnosis of SpA
Disease duration IBD (years)
Disease duration SpA (years)
HLA B27+
axSpA
Number of bDMARDs
Association bDMARDs
Psoriaisis
uveitis
Sacroiliitis (Rx)
Sacroiliitis (MRI)
Romanus (MRI)
Syndesmophytes (Rx)
Crohn disease
Smoking
Physical work

Global popula- SpA first
tion (n=62)
(n=24)

IBD first (n=38) P
value

51%
35.7 (±12.9)
36.8 (±13.4)
17.1 (10.5)
14.0 (9.84)
63%
95%
2.8 (±1.7)
9.5 %
24%
24%
55%
50%
50%
27%
68%
66%
20%

39%
38.6 (±13.0)
41.6 (±12.6)
20.0 (11.4)
10.1 (8.44)
42%
95%
2.61 (±1.55)
13%
29%
16%
34%
79%
50%
13%
66%
68%
21%

62%
31.9 (±11.8)
29.8 (±11.6)
11.9 (5.24)
19.3 (8.14)
83%
96%
3.12 (±2.03)
4.2%
17%
35%
86%
81%
55%
44%
71%
64%
19%

0.077
0.043
<0.001
<0.001
<0.001
<0.01
1
0.39
0.39
0.27
0.087
<0.001
1
0.81
0.036
0.38
0.76
1

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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J. Michel1, C. Prati1,2, L. Vuitton3, D. Wendling1,4, F. Verhoeven1,4. 1CHU
Besancon, Rheumatology, Besançon, France; 2Université de Franche Comté,
EA 4267 PEPITE, Besancon, France; 3CHU Besancon, Gastroenterology,
Besancon, France; 4Université de Franche Comte, EA 4266 EPILAB, Besançon,
France
Background: There is a clear pathophysiological link between spondyloarthritis
(SpA) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), so that 10% of IBD is estimated to
have SpA and 10% of SpA is estimated to have IBD. Recently, Luchetti et al [1]
demonstrated an increased level of bacterial translocation in cases of co-diagnosis of SpA and IBD compared to patients with IBD alone. These data suggest
that the presence of this codiagnosis is associated with a more inflammatory and
therefore a more active pathology.
Objectives: The aim of this study is to describe this population and to evaluate
the impact of timing of diagnoses.
Methods: A single-centre retrospective observational study was conducted. We
included all consecutive patients followed between 2015 and 2022 for spondyloarthritis (SpA) meeting the ASAS 2009 criteria and IBD histologically proven.
For each patient, we collected demographics, smoking, extrarticular manifestations, imaging data and the number of bDMARDs used and bDMARD combinations. We then compared the populations according to first diagnosis, SpA or IBD.
Fischer’s exact test was used for comparison between categorical variables and
Student’s t test for quantitative variables.
Results: A total of 62 patients, 51% male and 67% HLA B27+, were included.
In 61% of the cases, IBD was diagnosed first. The majority of IBD patients were
diagnosed with Crohn’s disease (68%) with a mean age at diagnosis of 35.7
(±12.9) years. Concerning spondyloarthritis, it was mostly axial (95%), 55% of
which was radiographic axial, with a mean age at diagnosis of 36.8 (±13.4) years.

1727

AB1012

AN INCREASED FREQUENCY OF ANKYLOSING
SPONDYLITIS HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE SPOUSES OF
SPONDYLOARTHRITIS/ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS
PATIENTS: ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS MAY PLAY A
ROLE IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology
M. Ekici1, E. Bilgin1, E. Unaldi1, F. Gülbahçe İncesu2, L. Kılıç1, U. Kalyoncu1.
Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine,
Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University, Faculty of
Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey
1

Background: It is known that genetic and environmental factors play a role in the
pathogenesis of spondyloarthritis (SpA). [1] It can be thought that spouses living
in the same house are exposed to similar environmental factors.
Objectives: This study aimed to investigate whether common living space
increases the frequency of SpA development in unrelated spouses of SpA patients.
Methods: Between November 2021 and June 2022, 680 SpA patients who
applied to the Hacettepe University rheumatology outpatient clinic were included.
Patients were divided into ankylosing spondylitis (AS), non-radiographic SpA,
and peripheral SpA. The patients were asked whether their spouses had SpA,
and if they had SpA diagnosis, they were called to the outpatient clinic, and
their diagnosis was confirmed. The family history of the patients and their use
of bDMARDs were also noted. It was also checked whether the patients whose
spouses had SpA findings fulfilled the AS criteria.
Results: 680 SpA patients were evaluated. There were 582(85.6%) AS,
72(10.6%) nr AxSpA, and 26 only peripheral SpA (3.8%). 49.4% of the patients


were male, and the mean age was 45.6 (10.4). The mean follow-up period of the patients was 10.6 (7.9) years. Of all patients, 468 (55.1%) were using a bDMARD at the time of evaluation. 12 SpA patients stated that their spouses had SpA. In the review of these patients, it was found that four patients did not have SpA, and one of them had PsA. Spouses of patients with nr AxSpA and peripheral SpA did not have AS/SpA as was detected in the spouses of 7 patients. The incidence of AS in the entire SpA patient group was calculated as 7/695 (1.01% (0.4-2.1)). The incidence of AS in spouses of AS patients is 7/582 (1.20% (0.5-2.5)) calculated. 2 of 7 wives were cousins' children. The incidence of AS in unrelated spouses of AS patients is 5/580 (0.86% (0.3-2)). Only one of the spouses with AS knew her spouse's diagnosis at the time of marriage, while the other six were diagnosed after marriage. The median time for these patients to be diagnosed after marriage is 22 (7-32) years.

Conclusion: In the Turkish population, the frequency of AS was 0.49%, and the frequency of SpA was 1.05%. [2] The incidence of AS in the spouses of SpA patients has increased approximately two times compared to the average Turkish population. A 2.4-fold increased risk was found in AS patients. This situation may be related to environmental factors that play a role in the pathogenesis of SpA disease. However, the fact that half of the patients were using bDMARDs suggests that they were analyzed in the group with the potential for more severe disease. The results require confirmation in more extensive studies.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1013
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR DETECTION OF INFLAMMATORY SACRITOLIS IN MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHITIS

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Imaging, Spondyloarthritis

J. Lee1, S. Yang1, S. Lee1, H. Kim1, E. M. Koh2, H. S. Cha1, 1Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 1Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service, Healthcare Review and Assessment Committee, Wonjoo, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is frequently used to evaluate active inflammatory sacroiliitis for early axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) diagnosis. However, evaluation of sacroiliitis in MRI requires expertise because noninflammatory degenerative changes can mimic axSpA, and the semiquantitative diagnosis remains subject to significant variation. Artificial intelligence could function as assistance for inflammatory sacroiliitis detection.

Objectives: This study aimed to develop artificial intelligence for detecting inflammatory sacroiliitis for axSpA in MRI.

Methods: This retrospective study included MRI examinations of patients with clinical suspicion of axSpA collected at Samsung Medical Center between January 2010 and December 2021. Only the patients who performed short tau inversion recovery (STIR) MRI of the sacroiliac joints were included. Active inflammatory lesions consisting of bone marrow edema (BME) were identified independently by a rheumatologist and a radiologist using the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) definition of MRI sacroiliitis. We propose a two-stage deep learning framework that combines a sacroiliac joints (SIJs) localization network with a BME classification network. First, the Faster R-CNN network extracts regions of interest (ROI) to localize the SIJs using whole MR images. Here, Maximum Intensity Projection (MIP) using three consecutive images of SIJs ROI is applied to enhance the low intensity of BME and consider the contextual information between images. Second, the VGG-19 network determines the presence of BME on individual MR images of localized SIJs ROI with a resolution of 128x256. During the training process, we augmented the positive dataset 6-fold using blurring, contrast, noise, rotation, and sharpening because of the smaller number of data than the negative dataset. The prediction models were evaluated using 3-round, 3-fold cross-validation. The performance of BME classification was measured using accuracy and area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC-ROC) curve.

Results: A total of 296 participants with 4,746 MRI images were included in the study. Inflammatory sacroiliitis was identified in 864 MRI images from 119 participants. The mean average intersection over unions (IoU) of ROIs to localize the SIJs was 0.742 for the right side and 0.744 for the left side. The mean accuracy and AUC-ROC of inflammatory sacroiliitis were 0.896 and 0.830 for image level and 0.801 and 0.827 for patient level, respectively. The confusion matrices of inflammatory sacroiliitis prediction are shown in Figure 1. In the original model, without using MIP and dataset augmentation, the mean accuracy and AUC-ROC were 0.867 and 0.609 for image level and 0.717 and 0.620 for individual level. Compared to the original model, improved performances of inflammatory sacroiliitis could be observed.

Conclusion: Artificial intelligence can detect inflammatory sacroiliitis for axSpA according to the ASAS definition in MRI.

Figure 1. The confusion matrices of classification of inflammatory sacroiliitis prediction by image-based and individual-based in first round.

AB1014
RADIOGRAPHIC VERSUS NON-RADIOGRAPHIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHITIS: RESULTS FROM TREATMENT DATABASE

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Outcome measures, Registries

I. Kilic1, G. Ayan1, P. Atagündüz2, S. Akar2, N. S. Yasar Bilge3, E. Daikılıç5, Y. Pehlivan4, O. Küçüksahebin5, C. Bes5, M. Çinar6, H. Emmüngü7, D. Ersözü8, A. Ates9, R. Mercan10, G. Kırmızı11, S. S. Koca12, E. Göznü12, V. Yarızas13, N. A. Kaya14, A. Erdem15, B. N. Çoşkun16, B. Yazi2, T. Kağıtçı2, S. Kiraz2, U. Kalyoncu1, A. I. Ertelni1,1Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 2Marmara University, Medical Faculty; Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Izmir Katip Celebi University, Department of
Background: Axial Spondyloarthritis is an umbrella term including radiographic (r-AxSpA) and non-radiographic (nr-AxSpA) forms which has been initially suggested by Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS) as a different stage of the disease. Within time, studies have tried to answer whether these two entities represent distinct features, and the debate is still ongoing.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to define the similarities and differences of r-AxSpA and nr-AxSpA patients using a large national registry data.

Methods: The current study is a cross-sectional study to compare clinical, demographic and laboratory data of patients diagnosed with AxSpA at the time of the first introduction of biological treatment. At the time of this analysis database consisted of 7015 SpA patients. All patients registered to the database fulfill the 2009 ASAS classification criteria. For this analysis, patients were categorized into r-AxSpA and nr-AxSpA and demographic and clinical characteristics of patients were determined.

Results: There were 4629 (66.7%) patients with r-AxSpA, 707 (13.3%) patients with nr-AxSpA and 1789 (30.0%) patients with radiological sacroiliitis (r-SpA) and genetic differences (SpA). Demographic differences: r-AxSpA group was male predominant (59.6% vs 46.0%, p<0.001), with longer disease duration at bDMARD initiation (3.0 (6.9) vs 11.3 (3.4) years, p<0.001) and more smoker (61.4% vs 50.4%, p<0.001). SpA clinic/genetic differences: r-AxSpA group had less arthritis (7.7% vs 27.5%, p<0.001), heel pain (11.1% vs 40.8%, p<0.001), dactylitis (3.4% vs 8.1%, p<0.001), psoriasis (10.2% vs 14.5%, p<0.01), SpA family history (28.2% vs 40.8%, p=0.001), IBD (4.5% vs 7.4%, p<0.001) and more HLA-B27 positivity (58.2% vs 51.4%, p<0.001), similar uveitis rate (13.2% vs 14.8%). SpA Outcome measures (bDMARD baseline) differences; r-AxSpA group had worse functionality and quality of life measured by BASFI (5.0 (3.0) vs 4.0 (3.9), p<0.001), HAQ-DI 0.63 (0.40) vs 0.55 (0.65), p=0.029 respectively. Worse morbidity by BASMI 3.2 (2.6) vs 1.7 (2.1), p<0.001) and high disease activity by ASDAS-CRP (3.64 (1.28) vs 2.34 (1.33), p<0.001) with higher CRP (12 (21.8) vs 73 (15.0) p<0.001) was observed. SpA imaging differences: r-AxSpA group had higher rate of ‘any syndesmophytes’ (26.6% vs 5.4%, p<0.001), hip involvement (24.6% vs 4.5%, p<0.001), hip prosthesis (23.8% vs 0.3%, p<0.001), MRI structural lesions (63.6% vs 37.3%, p<0.001), and less active MRI lesions (74.6% vs 87.0%, p<0.001). No significant difference was observed in the physician decision on the bDMARD choice at baseline (p=0.673).

Conclusion: A significant proportion of SpA patients who were initiated bDMARD have r-AxSpA. Although the two entities are seen as the continuum of each other, they have significant differences in terms of demographic, clinical, genetic, functional, metrology, activity and imaging characteristics. On the other hand, there is no difference in treatment choices at the stage of bDMARD initiation.

REFERENCES:

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inventory (BDI). In patients with AS disease activity was evaluated using the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), functional ability using the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI), and quality of life using the Ankylosing Spondylitis Quality of Life (ASQoL) questionnaire. The prevalence of ED in patients with AS was higher than in healthy controls. There were no statistical differences in mean age and sex percentage between both groups. According PSQI scores, 87.72% of patients and a 62% of controls were classified as “poor” sleepers. SQ was related to axSpA (p = 0.002), anxiety (p = 0.003), perceived health (p = 0.001) and physical activity levels (p = 0.006). The domains of subjective sleep quality, latency, duration, efficiency and sleep disturbances were negatively affected by axSpA (p < 0.05). The estimated odds ratio of having a sleep disorder was 5.63 times higher in patients diagnosed with axSpA. With regards to AS patients; anxiety (p < 0.001), physical activity (p = 0.015), BASDAI scores (p = 0.001), BASFI scores (p = 0.038) and axial syndesmophytes (p=0.028) were found to affect the PSQI score. Conclusion: Patients with axSpA have a poorer sleep quality when compared to healthy individuals. AxSpA affects subjective sleep quality, latency, duration, efficiency and sleep disturbances. Disease activity and the presence of syndesmophytes have a detrimental effect, whereas physical activity has a positive effect on SQ. Therefore, these factors must be considered when attending this area of our patient’s health. The PSQI questionnaire provides a complete approach to sleep health and should be considered a complementary tool for the management of axSpA patients.
Axial Spondyloarthritis Control Group

Scores of PSQI questionnaire

Figure 1.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1018 BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EARLY SPONDYLOARTHRITIS COHORT IN HONG KONG

Keywords: Geographical differences, Spondyloarthritis, Descriptive studies

1Prince of Wales Hospital, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 2Ghent University Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Ghent, Belgium; 3Center for Inflammation Research, VIB-UGent, Zwijnaarde, Belgium; 4The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR)

Background: Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is characterized by inflammation of the sacroiliac joint and the spine. It is a heterogeneous disease with variable musculoskeletal and extra-articular manifestations. The Belgian Inflammatory Arthritis and spondyloartitis cohort (Be-Giant) is a cohort that recruited newly diagnosed SpA patients in Belgium and prospectively followed up the patients.

Objectives: Given the difference in genetic susceptibility and environmental exposure, we aimed to compare the disease nature, clinical presentation, and prognosis between Chinese and Caucasian axSpA patients.

Methods: The SPARK cohort (SpondyloArthritis in Hong Kong) resembled the Be-Giant cohort. Newly diagnosed, biologic naive Chinese axSpA patients who fulfilled ASAS classification criteria were recruited. All patients underwent standardized clinical, laboratory and radiographic assessments as per Be-Giant protocol.

Results: A total of 53 newly diagnosed axSpA patients were recruited in the SPARK cohort (Table 1). The mean age at diagnosis (32 years old) and symptom duration (2 years) were comparable in both cohorts. There was a slight male predominance (59%) in the SPARK cohort as compared to the Be-Giant cohort (50%).

Male, no % 128 (49.8%) 31 (58.5%)
Age at diagnosis, years 32 (8.3) 32(7.9)
Symptoms duration, months 27 (10-83) 24 (13-54)
Current smoker, no % 32 (20.5%) 10 (18.8%)
HLAB27, no (%) 181 (70.7%) 51 (86.2%)
Peripheral manifestation
Enthesitis, no (%) 24 (9.3%) 15 (28.3%)
Arthritis, no (%) 38 (14.8%) 6 (11.3%)
Dactylitis, no (%) 5 (1.9%) 2 (3.8%)
Extra-musculoskeletal manifestation (now/ever)
Acute anterior uveitis 31 (12.1%) 20 (37.7%)
Psoriasis 23 (8.9%) 0
IBD 12 (4.7%) 0
ASDAS-CRP, mean+-SD 2.6 (1.0) 2.4 (0.93)
BASDAI, mean+-SD 4.3 (2.0) 3.7 (2.2)

Male, no % 128 (49.8%) 31 (58.5%)
Age at diagnosis, years 32 (8.3) 32(7.9)
Symptoms duration, months 27 (10-83) 24 (13-54)
Current smoker, no % 32 (20.5%) 10 (18.8%)
HLAB27, no (%) 181 (70.7%) 51 (86.2%)
Peripheral manifestation
Enthesitis, no (%) 24 (9.3%) 15 (28.3%)
Arthritis, no (%) 38 (14.8%) 6 (11.3%)
Dactylitis, no (%) 5 (1.9%) 2 (3.8%)
Extra-musculoskeletal manifestation (now/ever)
Acute anterior uveitis 31 (12.1%) 20 (37.7%)
Psoriasis 23 (8.9%) 0
IBD 12 (4.7%) 0
ASDAS-CRP, mean+-SD 2.6 (1.0) 2.4 (0.93)
BASDAI, mean+-SD 4.3 (2.0) 3.7 (2.2)

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1019 ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ENTEROPATHIC SPONDYLOARTHRITIS IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology, Gastrointestinal tract

P. Pérez-García1, I. González Fernández2, J. Ordas Martinez3, C. Sieiro Santos2, C. Alvarez Castro4, C. Moriano5, M. E. Vallejo Pascual6, E. Diez Alvarez6, 1Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León, Rheumatology, León, Spain; 2University of León, Faculty CICE and Business, León, Spain

Background: Enteropathic spondyloarthritis (eSpA), is a type of inflammatory joint disease that is related to inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). Both spondyloarthritis (SpA) and IBD share clinical, genetic and immunological features.

Objectives: To describe the demographic, clinical and serological characteristics, as well as the onset pattern, radiological involvement, smoking habit, activity disability and comorbidities such as cardiovascular risk factors (CVRF) in patients with eSpA.

Methods: We performed a descriptive observational study of patients with eSpA diagnosed in the Hospital of León between 1980 and 2022. The variables analysed were sex, date onset of IBD and SpA, time between the two diagnoses, pattern of SpA involvement, type of IBD, HLAB27, toxic habits, family history, arthralgias, uveitis, psoriasis, dactylitis, radiological involvement (sacroilitis, syndesmophytes) and treatments received. The activity disease was assessed by BASDAI Index.

Results: The patient’s features are shown in Table 1. We included 56 patients, half men and half women. The 57.1% of the cases debut with IBD. Crohn’s Disease (CD) was the most represented IBD. The 41.1% had a peripheral SpA (16.1% oligoarticular arthritis and 25% polyarticular arthritis); the 32.1% patients presented an axial SpA and 26.8% had a mixed pattern. Peripheral SpA was the most represented form. The time elapsed between joint involvement and IBD was < 5 years in the 50% of the sample analyzed. HLAB27 was positive in 28.6% of the sample and the 35.7% showed BASDAI > 4. We found associated uveitis and psoriasis in 14.3% and 16.1% of the cases. The 57.1% of eSpA had CVRF, the most prevalent was dyslipemia (39.3%). The 53.6% had radiological involvement (sacroilitis 48.2%, syndesmophytes 21.4%). Radiological involvement was significantly greater in smoker patients (p=0.003), probably due to higher associated inflammatory activity. 78.6% of SpA were treated with cDMARDs and methotrexate was the most used (51.8%), followed by azathioprine, 5-ASA, and leflunomide. 73.2% of the cases received bDMARDs and anti-TNF was the most used (73.2%), followed by IL12-23 inhibitors, JAK inhibitors and anti-integrin.
The most frequent cause of discontinuation of methotrexate was side effects (16.1%), especially digestive intolerance; while in patients treated with anti-TNF was secondary failure (19.6%).

Table 1. Demographic, clinical, serological features, radiological involvement and treatments of the eSPA patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Patients (n=56)</th>
<th>Median; IQR or n/%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex M/F</td>
<td>28(50/28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>27(48.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history</td>
<td>32(57.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous onset of IBD</td>
<td>32(57.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous onset of SpA</td>
<td>24(43)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of IBD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ulcerative colitis (UC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Crohn’s disease (CD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pattern of SpA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Axial</td>
<td>18(32.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Peripheral</td>
<td>23(41.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Peripheral oligoarticular</td>
<td>9(16.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Peripheral polyarticular</td>
<td>14(25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mixed</td>
<td>25(46.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthralgias</td>
<td>47(83.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA B27</td>
<td>36(64.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI (mod)</td>
<td>20(35.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>8(14.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable</td>
<td>9(16.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological involvement</td>
<td>30(53.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sacroiliitis</td>
<td>27(48.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Syndesmophytes</td>
<td>22(39.3)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MRI lesions(sacroiliitis)</td>
<td>28(50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVR</td>
<td>32(57.1)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- HLA A1</td>
<td>38(68.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Erythrocyte</td>
<td>22(39.3)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Diabetes Mellitus (DM)</td>
<td>11(19.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Obesity</td>
<td>10(17.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Corticoids</td>
<td>49(87.16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- NSAIDS</td>
<td>44(79.16)</td>
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<td>- csDMARDs</td>
<td>51(91.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Methotrexate</td>
<td>29(51.8)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Azathioine</td>
<td>21(37.5)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- S-ASA</td>
<td>16(28.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Leflunomide</td>
<td>11(19.6)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- bDMARDs</td>
<td>41(73.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- antiTNF</td>
<td>41(73.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- IL12-23 inhibitors</td>
<td>9(16.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- JAK inhibitors</td>
<td>7(12.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- antitNF</td>
<td>5(8.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In our study, most patients with enteroarticular spondyloarthritis first presented intestinal symptoms. The most frequent patterns were peripheral spondyloarthritis and Crohn’s disease, and we found HLA B27+ in around a third of the sample. Smoking was associated with greater radiological involvement in the form of sacroiliac and syndesmophytes. Multidisciplinary work between gastroenterology and rheumatology is essential for the diagnosis and treatment of enteroarticular spondyloarthritis. These results are consistent with the literature.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1020 MUSCULOSKELETAL INVOLVEMENT IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE PATIENTS: A MONOCENTRIC EXPERIENCE

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Spondyloarthritis

A Delle Sarde1, L. Ceccarelli2, F. Costa3, F. Fattorini3, C. Cigolini3, M. Mosca3, L. Carli3.1 University of Pisa, Rheumatology Unit, Pisa, Italy; 2University of Pisa, Gastroenterology Unit, Pisa, Italy

Background: Musculoskeletal (MSK) symptoms, varying from arthralgia to arthritis are frequently reported by patients (pts) with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). A peripheral or axial joint involvement has been reported with a similar range from 5 to 30% and a definite spondyloarthritis (SpA) diagnosis is present in up to 46% of patients with IBD [1-8]. To date, a more comprehensive disease control is requested and the optimization of the treatment (choosing a mono or a combination therapy strategy) to improve both gastrointestinal and musculoskeletal is mandatory.

Objectives: To evaluate the rate of MSK involvement in a mono centric cohort of IBD pts and the consequent need to optimize their therapeutic schemes.

Methods: A gastroenterologist working in the IBD out-patient clinic had selected IBD patients who should be referred to the rheumatologic visit, on the basis of the results of a questionnaire aimed at highlighting the presence of clinical features suggestive of SpA. From January 1st 2017 to December 31st 2022 IBD pts have been evaluated by a rheumatologist expert in SpA. In case of doubt about the diagnosis, further examinations were requested. The diagnosis of SpA was made following the ASAS criteria of 2011.

Results: A total of 288 pts were sent to the rheumatologist (140 CD, 127 UC, 21 not defined IBD). One hundred sixty-eight pts received only one rheumatological visit while, one hundred two were evaluated twice or more times. To make a diagnosis, 37 MRI (30 for sacroiliac joints), 30 ultrasound assessment (mostly hands, wrists or feet), 19 X-rays and 23 blood tests were requested. Most of pts (196/288, 68%) were not classified as SpA: 50/288 (17.4%) were peripheral SpA and 24/288 (8.3%) were axial SpA, in 18/288 (6.3%) there was an isolated enthesal involvement. The rheumatologist recommended a therapeutic optimization in 138 IBD pts (47.9%). In particular, a DMARD was added in 59 pts and a bDMARD was prescribed in 6 for rheumatological indications; moreover, in 73 cases, a choice between two different therapeutic approaches was suggested to the gastroenterologist, in order to improve the control of MSK disease activity on the basis of IBD course.

Conclusion: Our results confirm the already published prevalence of MSK involvement in IBD patients. A relevant number of IBD pts, after the rheumatological evaluation, were classified as peripheral (17.4%) or axial (8.3%) SpA.

In about half of IBD pts, a therapeutic modification was recommended by the gastroenterologist, aiming at improving the control of MSK disease activity in the context of the IBD course. These data confirm the importance of a close collaboration between gastroenterologists and rheumatologists, to optimize the clinical assessment of IBD pts, thus improving their quality of care [9].

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1021 THE DISEASE BURDEN OF AXSPA: ARGENTINIAN DATA FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MAP OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (IMAS)

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

F. Sommerfeld1, M. Garrido-Cumbra2, N. Zamora2, M. Benegas3, L. Ferreyra4, M. L. Acosta Felquer2, A. Benitez5, E. Buschiazzo6, M. S. Gálvez Elinq5, R. García Salinas7, P. Giorgis8, G. P. Pendon9, D. Vila12, P. Aliberti13, V. Duarte14, V. Martire15, S. Sanatorio Mendez, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 2Universidad de Sevilla, Health and Territory Research, Sevilla, Spain; 3HIGA San José, Rheumatology, Pergamino, Argentina; 4Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 5Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 6Hospital Nacional A. Posadas, Rheumatology, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina; 7Hospital San Roque de Gonet, Rheumatology, La Plata, Argentina

Background: The term axial spondyloarthritis covers both patients with non-radiographic (nr-axSpA) and ankylosing spondylitis (AS). Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a chronic disease that typically affects the axial skeleton, and produces varying degrees of pain, stiffness, and fatigue [1-2].
AB1022

EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF SPONDYLOARTHRITIS AND OTHER RHEUMATIC DISEASES IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY BASED ON A SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE AND EARLY REFERRAL TO THE RHEUMATOLOGIST

Keywords: Spondylarthropathies, Gastrointestinal tract, Inflammatory arthritis


1Azienda Ospedaliera “Ospedali Riuniti Villa Sofia-Cervello”/Rheumatology Unit, Palermo, Italy; 2Azienda Ospedaliera “Ospedali Riuniti Villa Sofia-Cervello”/IBD Unit, Palermo, Italy

Background: Patients (pts) with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) frequently disclose musculoskeletal (MSK) symptoms. About 15-20% of these pts are affected by spondylarthropathies (SpA) and almost 50% have mechanical back pain and non-inflammation arthralgias [1]. Notably, up to 30% of them may have fibromyalgia syndrome. Spondyloarthritis (SpA) and almost 50% have mechanical back pain and non-inflammatory arthralgias [1]. Notably, up to 30% of them may have fibromyalgic syndrome.

Objectives: Early diagnosis of axial-SpA (Ax-SpA) and peripheral SpA (p-SpA) in IBD pts with MSK symptoms and definition of other rheumatic causes of pain in these complex pts.

Methods: A prospective cohort of IBD outpatients without a previous clear diagnosis of rheumatic disease was evaluated with the self-administered DETAIL questionnaire [3], which has been recently validated as a useful screening tool for early detection of SpA in IBD [4]. Pts with at least 3 out of 6 points of the score (the risk cut-off score) underwent a full clinical rheumatological evaluation and ultrasonographic (US) assessment of 6 enthesis (according to MASEI score). The risk cohort (pts with at least 3 out of 6 points of the DETAIL score) underwent a full clinical rheumatological evaluation and US assessment of 6 enthesis (according to MASEI score).

Results: Sixty-two IBD pts were administered the questionnaire. Ninety-two pts (14%) were referred for rheumatological evaluation: 69/92 pts (75%) were female, the median age was 48 (±12.7) years and the mean BMI was 23.8 (±3.7). Sixty-seventeen pts (73%) were affected by Crohn disease, 23 pts (25%) by ulcerative colitis and 2 pts (2%) had indeterminate colitis. The median disease duration was 11.6 (±9.3) years. Fifty-two pts (56.5%) were in biologic therapy (77% with anti-TNF, 15.3% with Vedolizumab and 77% with Ustekinumab). Overall, 36/92 pts (41%) were classified as having arthritis [25 (28%) p-SPa, 11 (23%) ax-SPa, 3 (1%) RA]. Notably, in 9 of these pts coexisted FMS. 54/92 pts (58.6%) of the risk cohort did not fulfills arthritis classification criteria: 32 pts (60%) were diagnosed as having osteoarthritic or aspecific arthralgies and 22 pts (41%) fulfilled FMS criteria. Notably, in the whole risk cohort there were 31 pts (41%) with FMS. Concerning US assessment, the statistical analysis only showed marginal correlation between MASEI score and ax-SPa diagnosis (p=0.086) but no correlation with p-SPa.

Conclusion: This study confirm that the DETAIL questionnaire may be a useful screening tool in order to select IBD pts needing rheumatological evaluation and get an early diagnosis of SpA. However, our data also show that IBD pts with MSK symptoms often have other non-inflammatory rheumatic diseases. Notably, in our series US did not represent a sensitive method in identifying pts with SpA.

REFERENCES:
Methods: A longitudinal and analytic study was conducted on a cohort of Colombian SpA patients. Patients were evaluated in a SpA clinic at two institutions from 1990 to the present. All patients were classified according to ASAS. Patients included before 2011 were reclassified according to ASAS by a group of two rheumatologists.

Results: We enrolled 473 SpA patients; of these, 437 (92.39%) fulfilled ASAS classification criteria, and 37 (7.6%) had a diagnosis by rheumatologists but did not fulfill ASAS classification criteria for neither axial nor peripheral SpA. There were no differences in gender distribution between both groups (Table 1). Patients who did not fulfill ASAS classification had a lower frequency of enthesis (36.1% vs. 79.2%, P = 0.00), dactylitis (5.6% vs. 19%, P = 0.04), arthritis (30.6 vs. 71.6%, P = 0.00), and lower frequency of history of infections preceding SpA onset (2.8% vs. 27.9%, P = 0.01) than patients classified by ASAS, respectively. There were no differences in the frequency of uveitis, psoriasis, inflammatory spinal pain, or familiar history of SpA (P = 0.3). The frequency of SpA with axial symptoms at the onset of the disease was higher in patients unclassified by ASAS (Table 1). Non-ASAS SpA patients had a higher frequency of HLA-B15 (25% vs. 11.8%, P = 0.01), and lower frequency of HLA-B27 (16.7% vs. 48.2%, P = 0.01) than ASAS SpA patients, respectively (Graphic 1). The BASFI and BASDAI were comparable between two groups (Table 1).

Conclusion: Most patients diagnosed as SpA by rheumatologists in a Colombian cohort fulfilled ASAS classification criteria. Only 7% did not fulfill the criteria. Of these patients, the demographic characteristics, disease activity and functional compromise were comparable to patients classified by ASAS. Interestingly, the frequency of HLA-B15 is high in both groups, but it is significantly higher in unclassified individuals. These results highlight the significance of HLA alleles other than HLA-B27 and their potential diagnostic value for SpA in LatinAmerica.

REFERENCES:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not fulfilling ASAS criteria</th>
<th>Fulfilling ASAS criteria</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>437</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at symptoms onset</td>
<td>11 (30.6%)</td>
<td>164 (35.2%)</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of infection</td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
<td>122 (27.9%)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI</td>
<td>257 (58.8%)</td>
<td>180 (41.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral</td>
<td>15 (41.7%)</td>
<td>249 (57%)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASAS classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease onset</th>
<th>Axial</th>
<th>Perinephal</th>
<th>Peripheral</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral</td>
<td>9 (25.7%)</td>
<td>164 (35.5%)</td>
<td>37 (25%)</td>
<td>17 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>1 (17.1%)</td>
<td>118 (27%)</td>
<td>22 (18%)</td>
<td>27 (23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSG</td>
<td>0.355</td>
<td>0.53 (0.2 - 5.1)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In the presence of advanced radiographic progression, low disease activity was not significantly associated with less functional impairment in patients with SpA, which suggests that early diagnosis and optimal treatment are critical for better physical function.
Table 1. Patient characteristics and disease course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total SpA</th>
<th>r-AxSpA</th>
<th>nr-AxSpA</th>
<th>pSpA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men (%)</td>
<td>103 (68.8)</td>
<td>43 (78.2)</td>
<td>41 (58.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female-Male ratio</td>
<td>2.3:1</td>
<td>3.6:1</td>
<td>1:4:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27</td>
<td>58 (35.4%)</td>
<td>38 (62.7%)</td>
<td>38 (54.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay in diagnosis (yrs)</td>
<td>2 (0 – 5)</td>
<td>3 (1.5 – 7)</td>
<td>1 (0 – 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men (%)</td>
<td>103 (68.8)</td>
<td>43 (78.2)</td>
<td>41 (58.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at symptom onset (yrs)</td>
<td>20 (14 – 26)</td>
<td>16 (12 – 21)</td>
<td>21 (17 – 28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (yrs)</td>
<td>23 (17 – 29)</td>
<td>19 (16 – 26)</td>
<td>26 (18 – 33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27</td>
<td>58 (35.4%)</td>
<td>38 (62.7%)</td>
<td>38 (54.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P<0.05, † P<0.001, ∆ P<0.0001, ◊ P>0.05

**Graph 1.**

**Table 1.**

**AB1026**

**THE TIME OF INTESTINAL BOWEL DISEASE ONSET IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PHENOTYPE AND DIAGNOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH SPONDYLOARTHRITIS. RESULTS FROM REGISPONSER REGISTRY**

**Keywords:** Gastrointestinal tract, Spondyloarthritis

**I. Gómez-García1,2,3, M. L. Ladehesa Pineda1,2,3, A. Escudero Contreras1,2,3, F. U. Pilar1,2, E. Collantes Estevez1,2, E. Ruiz-Limon1,2, C. Lopez-Medina1,2,3,1 Hospital Universitario Reina Sofia, Rheumatology, Córdoba, Spain, 2University of Córdoba, Medicine, Córdoba, Spain, 3Instituto Maimónides de Investigación Biomédica de Córdoba, GCO5 – Systemic And Chronic Inflammatory Autoimmune Diseases of the Locomotor System and Connective Tissue, Córdoba, Spain, 4Hospital Público Santa Bárbara, Internal Medicine, Puertollano, Spain, 5Hospital Universitario Virgen de la Victoria, Endocrinology and Nutrition, Málaga, Spain, 6Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga - Plataforma BIONAND, Endocrinology and Nutrition, Málaga, Spain, 7Carlos III Health Institute, CIBEROBN, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** Our group has evaluated the impact of the time of appearance of some extra-articular manifestations in spondyloarthritis. However, we still need to know more about the impact of both the inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) itself and its moment of appearance with respect to rheumatic symptoms.

**Objectives:**

1. To compare SpA characteristics in patients with and without IBD
2. To compare the clinical characteristics and the rheumatologist’s diagnosis in SpA patients with IBD according to the onset of IBD (before vs. after the appearance of rheumatic symptoms)

**Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study with data extracted from the REGISPONSER (Spondyloarthritis Registry of the Spanish Rheumatology Society) registry. Dates of SpA and IBD onset were available. Two groups were classified depending on the time of appearance of IBD (before vs. after rheumatic symptoms). The clinical characteristics, disease activity, radiographic damage, functional ability and rheumatologists’ diagnoses were compared between the two groups.
characteristics of uveitis in spondyloarthritis in a multicenter study in morocco

Keywords: uveitis, spondyloarthritis

H. Arabi 1, A. Mougui 2, H. Sahimi 3, N. Takkatira 4, T. Harzy 5

1 Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire Mohammed VI Marrakech, Department of Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco; 2 Hospital Fez, Rheumatology, Fez, Morocco; 3 Hospital Casablanca, Rheumatology, Casablanca, Morocco; 4 El Ayachi Hospital, Ibn Sina University Hospital Salé-Rabat, Rheumatology, Salé-Rabat, Morocco; 5 Ibn Rochd University Hospital Casablanca, Rheumatology, Casablanca, Morocco; 6 El Ayachi Hospital, Ibn Sina University Hospital Salé-Rabat, Rheumatology, Salé-Rabat, Morocco; 7 Military Hospital Mohammed V Rabat, Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco; 8 Military Hospital Agadir, Rheumatology, Marrakesh, Morocco; 9 Military Hospital Agadir, Rheumatology, Marrakesh, Morocco; 10 Uveitis Centre, Marrakech, Morocco;

Background: Uveitis is the most common extra-articular manifestation of spondyloarthritis (SpA). The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of uveitis in patients with SpA in a multicenter setting and to identify factors associated with uveitis.

Methods: A multicenter descriptive analytical study, including patients followed for SpA in 8 rheumatology departments from 6 different regions in Morocco. All data were measured by standard instruments. Demographic, clinical, paraclinical, and therapeutic data of the disease were collected. Disease activity was assessed by BASDAI and ASDAS-CRP scores. Data analysis was done by SPSS 20.0 software. The significance level was set at 0.05.

Results: The study included 700 patients followed for SpA, 54% of whom were men. The mean age at diagnosis was 40.42 ± 14.19 years. The average diagnosis delay was 59.76 months. The percentage of patients who smoked was 15.6%. A family history of SpA was noted in 11.7%. SpA was non-radioarticular in its occurrence. Among patients with uveitis, 54 (52.4%) already had uveitis at the moment of rheumatic symptoms onset, while 49 patients (47.6%) began with uveitis after the SpA onset. Peripheral phenotype [10 (18.5%) vs 1 (2%)] was more frequently observed in patients who had already been diagnosed of uveitis when rheumatic symptoms began while axial involvement had a lower prevalence [25 (46.3%) vs 33 (67.3%)]. There were also significant differences in rheumatologist’s diagnosis in these patients, with a less frequency of ankylosing spondyloarthritis diagnosis [31 (57.5%) vs 42 (85.7%)] in the first group. After performing a multivariate analysis with demographic and clinical characteristics, we obtained a shorter diagnosis delay for uveitis [0.90 (CI95% CI 0.82-0.98)] and a less prevalence of HLA-B27 antigen [0.19 (CI95% CI 0.07-0.52)] in the former groups.

Conclusion: SpA patients with uveitis have a less severe disease with less prevalence of extraskeletal manifestations. When IBD began before the rheumatic symptoms, it was associated to an earlier diagnosis and a more frequent peripheral phenotype.

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5838

is there an association between serum levels of biomarkers of osteoproliferation and markers of inflammation in spondyloarthritis?

Keywords: spondyloarthritis, biomarkers

Z. Zeineb1, K. Amissah1, A. Ayadi2, H. Ferjani3, M. Kallel Sellami3, D. Ben Nessli1, D. Elhaj Mahmoud1, W. Kasbach2, D. Kaffel1, L. Laadha2, W. Hamdi1

1 Faculty of Medicine of Tunis, University Tunis El Manar, Tunisia, Rheumatology Department, Kassab Orthopedics Institute, Kasr Saaid, Tunisia, Tunisia; 2 Faculty of Medicine of Tunis, University Tunis El Manar, Tunisia, Immunology Department, La Rabta Hospital, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: The two most studied inhibitors of the Wnt signaling pathway in spondyloarthritis (SpA) are Dickkopf-1 (Dkk-1) and Sclerostin. Their dysfunction would be responsible for bone formation phenomena. Osteoprotegerin (OPG), a potent inhibitor of osteoclasts and regulated by the Wnt pathway, has also been implicated in this osteoformation phenomenon.

Objectives: Our work aimed to determine the associations between serum levels of DKK-1, Sclerostin, OPG, and markers of inflammation in SpA.

Methods: It was a cross-sectional study, including patients with SpA meeting ASAS criteria. Data collected included sociodemographic and disease characteristics, C-reactive protein (CRP), and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR). Biomarker assays were performed using an ELISA technique.

Results: One hundred and nine patients were included, 68 men and 41 women. The mean age of the patients was 43 + 12 years [19-79]. The mean age of disease onset was 30.6 ± 11 years [5-56]. The mean duration of SpA at inclusion was 12.6 ± 9.8 years [1 - 62]. Forty-nine percent of patients had a biological inflammatory syndrome (BIS). The mean ESR was 28.6 ± 21.2 mm/h [10 - 110 mm/h], and the mean CRP value was 15.2 ± 23.4 mg/L [1 - 153 mg/L]. Median serum levels, in pg/mL of DKK-1, Sclerostin, and OPG were 146.7 [0-455.3], 32.8 [0-488], and 471 [0-1613], respectively. The biological inflammatory syndrome was not associated with DKK1 level (p = 0.800). It tended to be associated with OPG and Sclerostin levels (p = 0.085 and p = 0.051, respectively). ESR was negatively correlated with Sclerostin (r = -0.222; p = 0.022). The CRP level appeared to be negatively correlated with OPG (r = 0.161; p = 0.099) and Sclerostin levels (r = 0.181; p = 0.064).

Conclusion: An association between markers of inflammation and inhibitors of the Wnt signaling pathway as well as OPG was shown by our study, suggesting that actors of systemic inflammation may influence the secretion of these biomarkers.

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6365
Background: Sacroiliac radiographs in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) allow the evaluation of sacroiliac and hip joint involvement, as well as the symphysis region and ischial enthesis regions. In this study:

Objectives: To plan to test and review the relationship between the presence of ischial enthesitis and disease-related factors, the presence of peripheral enthesitis, and other radiological features of involvement.

Methods: Of 355 patients with axSpA diagnosis and follow-up sacroiliac joint radiography evaluated for ischial enthesitis were included in the study. Since the presence of ischial enthesitis was detected in 1 patient in non-radiographic axSpA patients, the analysis was performed with radiographic axSpA patients. Demographic, clinical, and laboratory characteristics of the patients were recorded. Irregular appearance in the region where tendons and ligaments attach to the bone (lower region) in the pubic arms in the sacroiliac joint X-ray was evaluated as ischial enthesitis. Radiological evaluation was performed by a rheumatologist (EDE) and a radiologist (AS). The relationship between the presence of ischial enthesitis and other factors was tested with both univariate and multivariate analysis methods.

Results: The mean age at diagnosis (±SD) was 42 (11.9) and 74% of the patients included in the study were male. Demographic and radiological characteristics of the study group are summarized in Table 1. Ischial enthesitis was detected in 57 (16.1%) patients. Gender (p=0.006), symptom duration (p<0.001), duration of diagnosis (p=0.002), HLA-B27 positivity (p=0.09), radiographic hip involvement (p=0.09) total sacroiliac joint score (p=0.001), baseline cervical mSASS score (p<0.001), basal lumbal mSASS score (p=0.001), presence of sympyhsis (p<0.001), serum CRP level (p=0.014) found to be associated with ischial enthesitis in univariate analysis. There was no correlation between the presence of ischial enthesitis and heel pain (p=0.61) or SPARCC enthesitis score (p=0.59).

In the two models established in the multivariate analysis, serum CRP level (p<0.002), presence of cervical syndesmophyte (p=0.042), presence of total ankylosis in the sacroiliac joint (p=0.012) and SIE score (p=0.001) were found to be independent variables associated with the presence of ischial enthesis.

Conclusion: Although ischial enthesitis can be seen independently of clinical heel pain in axSpA patients, it can also be an indicator of radiographic damage.

Table 1. Demographic and radiological characteristics of axSpA patients

| Age at diagnosis, mean (SD) | 42.0 (11.9) | 35.3 (11.9) | 35.2 (12.5) | 0.99 |
| Sex, male, % | 74 | 88.9 | 71.3 | 0.006 |
| HLA-B27 positivity, % | 65.1 | 62.2 | 61.7 | 0.010 |
| Duration of symptoms, median (IQR) | 13 (13) | 20 (12) | 12 (14) | <0.001 |
| SIE score, median (IQR) | 6 (3) | 8 (1) | 6 (3) | <0.001 |
| SIE enthesitis, % | 33.5 | 68.4 | 28.6 | <0.001 |
| Total SIE score, median (IQR) | 5 (6) | 7 (3) | 4 (4) | <0.001 |
| HLA-B27 positivity, % | 63.3 | 68.6 | 62.1 | 0.56 |

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6405

AB1030

Factors associated with cervical involvement progression in patients with axial spondyloarthritis

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

E. Durak Ediboglu, A. Sınıc, D. Solmaz2, E. Erpek3, H. Cinakli, G. Alp, E. Otman Akat, A. Özkant, J. Kurut Avsivan, H. Kocaayam, M. Ozmen, S. Akar. 1Hatay Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 2Izmir Katip Celebi University, Department of Radiology, Izmir, Turkey; 3Izmir Katip Celebi University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: The evaluation of cervical, lumbar spinal structures and hip joint is important and this is reflected in the variables in the scoring systems in patients with axSpA.

Objectives: In this study, it was aimed to investigate the factors affecting cervical spinal progression.

Methods: The patients with the diagnosis of axSpA who were followed-up at least two years, and whose cervical mSASS scores were evaluated by cervical X-ray were included in the study. A change of 1 unit or more in the modified Stoke Ankylosing Spondylitis Spine score (mSASS) between two radiographs taken at least two years apart was considered progression. Radiological evaluation was done by a rheumatologist (EDE) and a radiologist (AS). Demographic, clinical, and laboratory characteristics of the patients were recorded. The relationship between the presence of cervical progression and other factors was tested with both univariate and multivariate analysis methods.

Results: Of the 237 patients included in the study, 62% were male and the median age at diagnosis (IQR) was 34 (14) and 68.8% of the patients were radiographic axSpA. The demographic, clinical, and laboratory characteristics of the patients were summarized in Table 2. Cervical progression was detected in 42 of the patients (17.2%) with cervical radiography in the median (IQR) 4 (2) follow-up period. Presence of cervical progression was related with symptom duration (p=0.004), age at symptom onset (p=0.011), age at diagnosis (p<0.001), presence of total ankylosis in sacroiliac joint X-ray (SIE score=8) (p<0.001), cervical mSASS score (p<0.001), total SSI score (p<0.001), baseline cervical mSASS score (p<0.01), presence of cervical syndesmophyte (p=0.001), baseline lumbal mSASS score (p<0.001), the presence of lumbal syndesmophyte (p<0.001). Cervical progression was not associated with HLA-B27, smoking, presence of either extramusculoskeletal or peripheral involvement, baseline disease activity scores (BASDAI, ASDAS-CRP). In two different models were established in multivariate analysis, age at diagnosis (p=0.001), presence of cervical syndesmophyte (p=0.014), sacroiliac joint score (p=0.004) were associated with cervical progression.

Conclusion: It should be kept in mind that the age at diagnosis, presence of spinal involvement and sacroiliac joint score may be predictors of cervical spinal progression in the follow-up of patients in axSpA.

Table 1. AxSpA hastalarının demografik ve radyolojik özellikleri

| Age at diagnosis, mean (SD) | 33 (14) | 39 (19) | 32 (13) | <0.001 |
| Symptom duration, median (IQR) | 10 (12.3) | 15 (15) | 10 (11) | 0.004 |
| SIE score, median (IQR) | 68.8 | 88.1 | 64.6 | 0.03 |
| HLA-B27 positivity, % | 62.0 | 76.2 | 58.9 | 0.037 |

Table 2. Factors associated with presence of cervical spinal progression

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6444

AB1031

Endothelial Dysfunction and Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Radiographic and Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis

Keywords: Comorbidities, Cardiovascular disease, Spondyloarthritis

M. H. Abu-Zaied1, N. F. Danwish1, S. A. A. Tabra1, Tanta University, Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Tanta, Egypt

Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a chronic inflammatory disease which includes radiographic subtype [ankylosing spondylitis (AS)], and non-radiographic subtype [nr-axSpA][1]. Chronic inflammatory disorders, such as axSpA, are associated with increasing cardiovascular (CV) risk which is mainly due to the inflammatory burden[2].

Objectives: Evaluation of endothelial dysfunction and subclinical atherosclerosis in axSpA and comparison between in AS and nr-axSpA regarding disease activity, functional status and Subclinical atherosclerotic disease.

Methods: Eighty Patients fulfilling the ASAS classification criteria plus 60 healthy individuals were included in this study. Patients were divided into two groups;
50 patients with AS (GI) and 30 patients with nr-axSpA (G II), while G III was the control group. Patients with nr-axSpA were defined as the absence of definite sacroiliac (SI) joint changes on plain radiograph but with active sacroilitis on MRI and at least one of the characteristic traits of SpA according to the 2009 ASAS criteria[3]. Demographic data, duration of the disease, delay in diagnosis, extra-articular manifestations, smoking, comorbidities and detailed medication history were taken. Disease activity were assessed by Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI). Physical function was assessed by the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functioning Index (BASFI) & patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs). Serum endothelin-1 and carotid intima-media thickness (cIMT) were measured to assess endothelial dysfunction and subclinical atherosclerosis.

**Results:** There was no significant difference between the GI & GII regarding age and gender (p>0.05), while AS patients had longer mean disease duration than nr-axSpA (6.6 years vs 3.7 years, P < 0.001). Forty-eight patients out of 50 in G I were receiving biological therapy while 23 patients from 30 in G II were receiving biological therapy with significant difference between the two groups (p=0.02). There were no significant differences between GI and GII regarding comorbidity, and smoking status (p>0.05). Regarding disease activity, we found no significant difference between GI and GII in ASDAS-CRP (2.0±0.9, & 2.2±1.02 respectively), also there was no significant difference between GI and GII in ASDAS (3.9±1.3, & 4.1±1.1 respectively). There was no notable differences between the AS and nr-axSpA neither in BASFI nor in PROMs (p>0.05). The serum endothelin-1 was significantly elevated in both patients' groups when compared with controls (GI: 2.3±1.5, GII: 2.0±1.3, controls: 0.76±0.5) with no significant difference between GI and GII (p>0.05). When we measured cIMT we noticed a significant increase in the thickness of cIM of patients in comparison with controls (P < 0.01), while there was no significant difference between the AS and nr-axSpA (p>0.05). We found 6 AS patients had atheromatous plaque, while 4 patients had atheromatous plaque in nr-axSpA group with no significant difference between the 2 groups (p=0.86). There was positive correlation between endothelin-1, cIMT and both ASDAS-CRP & BASFI.

**Conclusion:** Axial spondyloarthritis patients (either AS or nr-axSpA) had higher risks for endothelial dysfunction and subclinical atherosclerosis, patients with AS & nr-axSpA shared a comparable disease activity, functional disability and endothelial dysfunction.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.52

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**AB1032**

**COURSE OF AORTIC REGURGITATION IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS – A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF 52 PATIENTS EXAMINED WITH ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY**

**Keywords:** Heart, Spondyloarthrits

K Bengtsson1,2, G. Mourtzinis1,4, A. Deminger1,2, E. Klingberg1,2, M. Scharin Täng3, L. T. H. Jacobsson1, L. Bergfeldt1,2, H. Forsblad-d’Elia1,2, I. Institute of Medicine at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Department of Rheumatology and Inflammation Research, Göteborg, Sweden; 2Region Västra Götaland, Department of Rheumatology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden; 3Institute of Medicine at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Department of Molecular and Clinical Medicine, Göteborg, Sweden; 4Region Västra Götaland, Department of Medicine and Emergency, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Mölndal, Sweden; 5Region Västra Götaland, Department of Cardiology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden

**Background:** Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is associated with cardiac manifestations such as aortic regurgitation. However, contemporary follow-up studies are lacking.

**Objectives:** To investigate the course of aortic regurgitation and proximal aortic root diameter in patients with AS examined with echocardiography at baseline (2009-2011) and at follow-up (2014).

**Methods:** At baseline, 187 patients with AS (56% men, mean age 50 years) were examined with echocardiography, of whom 34 (18%) had an aortic regurgitation of mild to severe grade[1]. Of these 34 patients, 26 agreed to participate in a follow-up with echocardiography in 2014. In addition, we reassessed 26 sex- and age-matched patients from the same AS cohort, but without aortic regurgitation at baseline. The presence and severity of aortic regurgitation (none, mild, moderate, severe) as well as the proximal aortic root diameter were assessed. Related-samples Wilcoxon signed rank test was used to analyze the change (Δ) in aortic root diameter from baseline to follow-up, divided by patients with and without aortic regurgitation at baseline and stratified by sex. Mann-Whitney U-test was used to compare the Δ aortic root diameter in patients with and without an aortic regurgitation at baseline.

**Results:** In total 52 patients (54% men, mean age (SD) 62 (11)) were re-examined in 2014. The time between the baseline and follow-up echocardiography examination ranged between 3.0 to 4.7 years with a median of 4.3 years. There were no statistically significant differences in aortic root diameter between baseline and follow-up as shown in Table 1. The distribution of Δ aortic root diameter was not statistically different in patients with an aortic regurgitation at baseline compared to the patients without. The change in aortic regurgitation grade from baseline to follow-up is presented in Figure 1. Of the 26 patients with aortic regurgitation at baseline, two had a more severe grade, eight had a lower grade, and 16 an unchanged grade of aortic regurgitation at follow-up. Of the 26 patients without aortic regurgitation at baseline, two had developed a mild grade of aortic regurgitation at follow-up.

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients with aortic regurgitation at baseline (n=26)</th>
<th>Patients without aortic regurgitation at baseline (n=26)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ΔAortic root diameter,mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>-1 (-3, 0.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>-1 (-3, 2.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>-0.5 (-3, 0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Δ, change in aortic root diameter from baseline to follow-up. The data is presented in median (25th percentile, 75th percentile).

**Conclusion:** Although aortic regurgitation like other AS related manifestations might vary over time, the majority of AS patients examined with echocardiography at baseline and after three to five years had an unchanged grade of aortic regurgitation at follow-up.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** We thank Bente Grüner Sveālv for performing the echocardiography examinations and measurements at baseline.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Karin Bengtsson: None declared, Georgios Mourtzinis: None declared, Anna Deminger: None declared, Eva Klingberg: None declared.
AB1033

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LONG-TERM USE OF NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS AND KIDNEY FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Kidneys, Safety

B. S. Koo1, S. Hwang2, S. Y. Park3, J. H. Shin4, T. H. Kim5. 1Inje University Seoul Paik, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Inje University Seoul Paik, Nephrology, Seoul; Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Korea National Open University (KNOU), Seoul, Statistics, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 4Hanyang University Hospital, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Although nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are the first-line treatment for ankylosing spondylitis (AS), their effect on kidney function remains unclear.

Objectives: This longitudinal study investigated the correlation between long-term NSAID use and kidney function in patients with AS using electronic medical records.

Methods: The electronic medical records of 1,280 patients with AS collected from a single center between January 2001 and December 2018 were reviewed. The Assessment of Spondyloarthritis International Society (ASAS) NSAID Intake Score was used to determine the cumulative dose of all NSAIDs prescribed for a different time intervals. Each ASAS NSAID Intake Score was obtained for intervals of 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 5 years, and 10 years. The correlation between the ASAS NSAID Intake Score and eGFR at each interval was investigated.

Results: The mean ASAS Intake Scores for 6-month, 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, and 10-year intervals were 55.30, 49.28, 44.84, 44.14, 44.61, and 41.17, respectively (Figure 1). At each interval, the Pearson correlation coefficients were -0.099 (95% CI: -0.137 to -0.061, p<0.001), -0.070 (95% CI: -0.114 to -0.026, p=0.002), -0.019 (95% CI: -0.062 to 0.064, p=0.645), respectively. There was a very weak negative relationship between ASAS Intake Score and eGFR at each interval.

Conclusion: Long-term NSAID use did not correlate with kidney function based on real-world data in patients with AS.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1034

COSTOVERTEBRAL JOINTS INVOLVEMENT IN RADIOGRAPHIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A CASE-SERIES COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY STUDY

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

A. Shouval1, S. Croitoru2, S. Keret3, I. Eshed4, G. Globodin5, 1Bnai Zion Medical Center/Oranim Medical Center, Haifa, Israel; 2Bnai Zion Medical Center, Haifa, Israel; 3Bnai Zion Medical Center, Haifa, Israel; 4Tel-Hashomer The Sheba Medical Center, Radiology, Ramat Gan, Israel

Background: The involvement of the costovertebral joints (CVJ) and its radiographic patterns in patients with radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (rAxSpA) and thoracic pain were described more than three decades ago, however the extent and details of structural damage in the CVJ have never been assessed.

Objectives: To evaluate structural changes of CVJ in patients with rAxSpA using available computed tomography (CT) studies.

Methods: Available chest or thoracic spine CT studies of 17 patients with rAxSpA and 17 patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) were analyzed. Ankylosis, erosions, joint space narrowing and osteophytes of both components of the CVJ, including head-vertebral joints (HVJ) and costotransverse joints (CTJ), were noted and compared between patient groups. The distribution of the structural changes of the CVJ along the thoracic spine was assessed.

Results: The groups were similar by patients' average age, but the rAxSpA group included more males (11/17) compared to the RA group (4/17, p=0.036). In all, 748 CVJ were assessed in each patient group, including 408 head-vertebral joints (HVJ) and 340 costotransverse joints (CTJ). rAxSpA patients had significantly more total CVJ lesions (p<0.001 for all comparisons), more lesions in the HVJ (p<0.001 for all comparisons), and more lesions in the CTJ (p<0.005, for all comparisons, except for osteophytes), compared to RA group. All types of lesions, including ankylosis, erosions, narrowing, and osteophytes, were seen more frequently in rAxSpA patients. Joint space narrowing and ankylosis of the CVJ were the most frequently seen findings in rAxSpA and were distributed throughout the thoracic spine.

Conclusion: Structural pathology of the CVJ was more commonly observed in patients with rAxSpA than in RA patients in this study.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. CVJ changes in patients with rAxSpA and RA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All joints</th>
<th>Head-Vertebral joints</th>
<th>Costotransverse joints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rAxSpA (RA)</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>rAxSpA (RA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankylosis</td>
<td>159 (8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>91 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions</td>
<td>65 (6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>47 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrowing</td>
<td>220 (100)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>150 (58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteophytes</td>
<td>77 (32)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>72 (31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scored joints</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. CVJ changes in patients with rAxSpA and RA

Figure 1. Scatter plots for NSAID intake score and eGFR changes of 6 months (A), 1 year (B), 2 years (C), 3 years (D), 5 years (E), and 10 years (F) interval in overall patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Involvement of CVJ in patients with rAxSpA, per thoracic vertebral level

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**Spondyloarthritis - clinical aspects (other than treatment)**

**AB1035**  
**TRANSLATION AND CROSS-CULTURAL ADAPTATION OF THE ASAS HEALTH INDEX ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ITEM SET INTO SWEDISH AND ASSESSMENT OF RELIABILITY OF THE SWEDISH VERSIONS OF ASAS HEALTH INDEX AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ITEM SET**

**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Spondyloarthritis, Quality of life

C. Feldhusen1,2, M. Hallström1,3, A. Delia4, A. Deminger1,2, U. Kiltz2, H. Forsblad-D’ella1,3, 1Institute of Medicine, Sahlgrensk Academy at University of Gothenburg, Department of Rheumatology and Inflammation Research, Gothenburg, Sweden; 2Region Västra Götaland, Sahlgrensa University Hospital, Department of Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy, Gothenburg, Sweden; 3Region Västra Götaland, Sahlgrensa University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Gothenburg, Sweden; 4Institute of Population Health, Policy and Systems, University of Liverpool, Department of Public Health, Liverpool, United Kingdom; 5Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Rheumatzentrum Ruhrgebiet, Herne, Germany

**Background:** The impact of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) on health-related quality of life can be substantial, affecting both physical and mental health. There is a need to assess the effect with disease-specific instruments. A global collaboration developed the Assessments of SpondyloArthritis international Society Health Index (ASAS HI) and Environmental Factors Item Set (EFIS). These instruments measure everyday function and health across aspects typical and relevant for patients with axSpA[3]. These instruments have been translated into 35 languages[4] but only the ASAS HI component has been translated into Swedish.

**Objectives:** To translate and culturally adapt EFIS into Swedish, and to assess reliability of the Swedish ASAS HI and EFIS.

**Methods:** Patients with axSpA were recruited from the rheumatology clinic at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden. ASAS HI and EFIS contain 17 and 9 items respectively, with dichotomous response options; “I agree” or “I do not agree.” The total sum of ASAS HI ranges from 0 to 17, lower score indicating better health status. EFIS does not provide a sum score due to its multidimensional nature. Translation and cultural adaptation of EFIS was carried out using a forward-backward procedure consisting of: Initial translation; translation synthesis; back translation; expert committee review; field testing with cognitive debriefing[5]. The translations were performed separately by translators with clinical perspective and professional translators with no medical or clinical background. Reliability was analysed by internal consistency, evaluated with the Cronbach’s alpha coefficient for ASAS-HI, and test-retest reliability using the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for ASAS-HI (sum-score) and EFIS (discrete items).

**Results:** Ten patients were recruited to the field test and 61 patients to the reliability study of which 53 (87%) returned a second questionnaire after 1 week and were included in the test-retest reliability study (Table 1). Translation and cross-cultural adaptation of the EFIS. The translators produced a prefinal Swedish version of EFIS. The field test was performed in 10 patients and resulted in minor wording. Internal consistency: ASAS HI scores showed an acceptable internal consistency; Cronbach’s alpha 0.79. Test-retest reliability. ASAS HI sum score showed excellent reliability; ICC (95% CI) 0.87 (0.78-0.93), P-value <0.001. ASAS EFIS individual items reliability ranged from poor for item 2 and 8 to excellent for item 10 and 9; ICC (95% CI) from -0.43 (-0.83 to 0.41), P-value <0.001. The occurrence of hip involvement during spondyloarthritis seems to be frequent in our country. Hip involvement is one of the elements of poor prognosis and its presence predicts a severe form of the disease.

**REFERENCES:**

4. www.asas-group.org/instruments/asas-health-index/

**Table 1. Description of the participating patients.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field test</th>
<th>Internal consistency</th>
<th>Test-retest reliability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median (min-max)</td>
<td>Median (min-max)</td>
<td>Median (min-max)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex, male n (%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sex, male n (%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sex, male n (%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% (50%)</td>
<td>36% (59%)</td>
<td>33% (62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age, years</strong></td>
<td><strong>Age, years</strong></td>
<td><strong>Age, years</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 (31-76)</td>
<td>63 (43-80)</td>
<td>63 (43-80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASDAI, score</strong></td>
<td><strong>BASDAI, score</strong></td>
<td><strong>BASDAI, score</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 (0.74.0)</td>
<td>3.3 (0.4-739)</td>
<td>3.2 (0.4-739)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6186

**AB1036**  
**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HIP INVOLVEMENT IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Enthesitis

S. Oulebsir3, S. Affal1, S. Bennedjem1, A. Diebarg3, B. Abdelatif4, M. Houbi5, A. Abi Ayad6, C. Makhlouf-Dahou3, 1HCA Hospital Kouba, Department of Rheumatology, Kouba, Algeria; 2hospital Bouchaoui, Department of Rheumatology, Bouchaoui, Algeria; 3Hospital Bab El Oued, Department of Rheumatology, Algiers, Algeria

**Background:** Hip involvement in spondyloarthritis determines a large part of the functional prognosis and affects negatively the patient’s life. Identifying these factors could influence our management strategy by developing specific therapeutic protocols.

**Objectives:** The objective of this work is to determine the factors associated with hip involvement during spondyloarthritis.

**Methods:** The study is a single-center prospective observational study, carried out during the period extending between January 2020 and January 2022. Spa patients meeting the criteria for ASAS were included. On a patient-by-patient basis, clinical, biological, and imaging data were collected.

**Results:** In total, 259 patients with consecutive spondyloarthritis were assessed. Of these, 80 patients (30.88%) had hip involvement associated with spondyloarthritis, including 66 men and 14 women (gender ratio = 4.7), with an average age of 37.6 and 11.3 years. It was bilateral in 70% of cases, and inaugural in over half of patients (55% of cases). The biological inflammatory syndrome was observed in 72.5% of cases and HLA B27 was found in 14% of patients. The anatomic-radiological forms observed were: the destructive form (36.76%), the condensant constructive form (22.05%), the initial form (24.26%), and the synostotic form (16.91%). TNF alpha treatment was initiated in 85% of cases, with a third of patients receiving PTH. Factors related to hip involvement were: functional impairment (BASFI), limitation of spinal and joint mobility (BASMI, inter-malleolar distance), structural damage to the SpA (total BASRI), presence of HLA B27, and initiation of anti-TNF alpha treatment. On the other hand, the age of hip involvement and spa, gender, bilateral involvement, high scores of the BASDAI and ASDAS indices, and the presence of a biological inflammatory syndrome did not seem to be involved.

**Conclusion:** The occurrence of hip involvement during spondyloarthritis seems to be frequent in our country. Hip involvement is one of the elements of poor prognosis and its presence predicts a severe form of the disease.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2160

**AB1037**  
**ARE THE CLINICAL SCALES USED TO ASSESS DISEASE ACTIVITY AND FUNCTIONAL ABILITY IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS REALLY RELIABLE?**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis
Background: Evaluation of disease activity and functional impairment in Axial spondyloarthritides (AxSpA) are important in therapeutic plan. Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) and The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI) scores are based largely on subjective measures, which liable to change depending on patient’s expression, culture, and awareness.

Objectives: Assessment of reliability of BASFAI, BASDAI, ASDAS-ESR, and ASDAS-CRP as a total score and individual questions in patients with AxSpA.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted on 103 patients with AxSpA according to the ASAS classification criteria for AxSpA. Each patient completed BASDAI, BASFI, ASDAS-ESR, and ASDAS-CRP during their routine visit for follow up with one rheumatologist. Then the same patients completed the three questionnaires again in the same day or on the second day with another rheumatologist.

Results: Internal consistency and reliability of ASDAS-ESR, ASDAS-CRP, BASDAI, and BASFI scores were good (ICC was 0.841, 0.820, 0.767, and 0.852 respectively). Reliability of BASFI score was better than that of ASDAS-ESR, ASDAS-CRP, BASDAI scores, and that of ASDAS-ESR, ASDAS-CRP was better than reliability of BASDAI score.

Table 1. Interclass Correlation Coefficient of BASFAI in AxSpA patients reported by observer 1 and observer 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Cronbach's Alpha</th>
<th>ICC</th>
<th>CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Putting on your socks or tights without help or aids (e.g sock aid) (F1)</td>
<td>0.931</td>
<td>0.871</td>
<td>0.815-0.911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Bending from the waist to pick up a pen from the shelf (F2)</td>
<td>0.880</td>
<td>0.749-0.877</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Reaching up to a high shelf without help or aids (e.g helping hand) (F3)</td>
<td>0.837</td>
<td>0.719</td>
<td>0.612-0.801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Getting up from an armless chair without your hands or any other help (F4)</td>
<td>0.751</td>
<td>0.601</td>
<td>0.462-0.711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Getting up from the floor without help from lying on your back (F5)</td>
<td>0.707</td>
<td>0.638</td>
<td>0.508-0.740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Standing unsupported for 10 minutes without discomfort (F6)</td>
<td>0.701</td>
<td>0.547</td>
<td>0.396-0.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Climbing 12-15 steps without using a handrail or walking aid (F7)</td>
<td>0.632</td>
<td>0.760</td>
<td>0.664-0.831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) Looking over your shoulder without turning your body (F8)</td>
<td>0.748</td>
<td>0.598</td>
<td>0.458-0.709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9) Doing physically demanding activities (e.g. physical therapy exercises, gardening or sports) (F9)</td>
<td>0.817</td>
<td>0.690</td>
<td>0.573-0.779</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Some questions of ASDAS, BASDAI, and BASFI scores are more reliable than others, this depends on the question. The answers of the questions that assess sensation of pain, are liable to change. While the answers of other questions that assess stiffness or assess its duration are less liable to change. Questions that assess certain daily activity are more reliable than that assess the ability to do more than one activity.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1038 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANKYLOSIS AND PHYSICAL FUNCTION ASSESSMENT IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Keywords: Quality of life, Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes

M. Suzuki1, K. Kishimoto1, D. Kihira1, R. Sato1, J. Hasegawa1, M. Maeda1, Y. Ohashi1, K. Terabe1, S. Asai1, S. Imagama1, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Nagoya, Japan

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a progressive inflammatory disease affecting the spine and large joints of the extremities. The ability of the spine and sacroiliac joins affects patients not only physically but also psychologically and socially, resulting in a significant decline in quality of life (QOL) and disruption of daily activities [1]. However, it is unclear to what extent the progression of the disease affects physical function and patient subjective evaluation.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between the degree of progression of ankylosis, physical function, and frailty in patients with AS.

Methods: Twenty-four patients with AS attending our hospital who underwent full spine computer tomography (CT) and physical function assessment were included in the study. The anterior-posterior, intervertebral joint, and interosseous process ankylosis sites and number of ankylosis (whole spine/cervical spine/lumbar spine/femur) and sacroiliac joint ankylosis were evaluated in each vertebra. Patient-objective measures of physical function included gait speed, grip strength, Timed Up and Go test (TUG), time of five sit-to-stand, and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI), Kihon Checklist (KCI), the 25-question Geriatric Locomotive Function Scale (GLFS-25), and Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II) as subjective assessments. Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was used to analyze the correlation between the degree of progression of ankylosis and each of the assessment items.

Results: The mean age (± standard deviation) at the time of the study was 40±15 years, 79% were male, 50% were HLA-B27 positive, and the disease duration was 15±9 years. Age was significantly correlated with the number of thoracic spine ankylosis (r=0.449), and disease duration with the number of total spine/cervical spine/thoracic spine/sacrococcygeal joint ankylosis (r=0.600/0.553/0.635/0.510). BASMI, an objective patient assessment, showed a significant correlation with the number of total spine/cervical spine/thoracic spine/lumbar spine ankylosis (r=0.732/0.653/0.707/0.615), but not with walking speed, grip strength, TUG, or time of five sit-to-stand. BASFI, a subjective patient assessment, showed a significant correlation with the number of total spine/cervical spine/thoracic spine/lumbar spine ankylosis (r=0.680/0.729/0.600/0.469), and the GLFS-25 (r=0.418/0.500) with the number of total spine/cervical spine ankylosis. BDI-II, an assessment of psychiatric symptoms, and KCI, an assessment of daily activity, showed no correlation with the number of ankylosis.

Conclusion: BASFI and GLFS-25, physical function assessments, were significantly correlated with spinal ankylosis in AS patients, and the degree of progression of spinal ankylosis was found to interfere with daily life.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2884

AB1039 A COMPARATIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE DIFFERENCES IN DISEASE CHARACTERISTICS IN PATIENTS WITH NON-RADIOGRAPHIC AND RADIOGRAPHIC AXIAL SYPONDOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Descriptive studies, Inflammatory arthropathies

S. Ghosh1, K. Telang1, L. Sharma1, D. Yadavalli1, W. Kazli1, V. Singal1, R. Gupta1,1Medanta - The Medicity, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Gurgaon, India

Background: Spondyloarthritis (SpA) is an umbrella term for a group of clinically heterogeneous chronic inflammatory diseases, with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) having the characteristic radiographic features of sacroiliitis and spinal deformities, while the other subtypes of SpA have some common as well as unique
articular and extra-articular manifestations. Recent advances in early diagnosis have differentiated axial SpA into radiographic and non-radiographic subsets but the exact differences between them are debatable.

Objectives: This study was conducted to assess and compare the clinical, laboratory, and radiologic characteristics of Indian patients with radiographic and non-radiographic axial SpA.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional, observational, comparative study conducted at a 1250-beded tertiary care hospital. Between February 2020 and December 2021, all consecutive adult patients classified as having Axial Spondyloarthritis as per the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS) 2009 Classification Criteria and with symptom duration of at least 3 years were included in the study after taking their informed consent. Patients were classified as radiographic (AS) or non-radiographic Axial SpA (nr-Axial SpA) by two independent and blinded rheumatologists with over twenty years of experience in their field each, based on findings on anteroposterior plain radiographs in the supine position. Demographic details, articular and extra-articular manifestations, comorbidities, and relevant family history were assessed along with the levels of inflammatory markers and HLA B27 status. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board and the Institutional Ethics Committee.

Results: 209 patients consented to this study, with 160 being classified as radiographic and 49 as non-radiographic axial SpA. 79.4% of the patients were male. The mean age at symptom onset was 27.69 ± 9.33 years for our cohort, with a median duration of 50 months. There was a significantly higher proportion of males (85% vs 15%, p <0.001), patients with enthesitis (74% vs 41%, p =0.05), and hypertension among the radiographic subgroup. 44% of our patients had bilateral Grade 2 changes on their sacroiliac joint radiographs according to the modified New York Criteria, and there was a significant positive correlation between increasing symptom duration and worsening radiographic grades of sacroiliitis, but there were no significant differences in the remaining clinical features, HLA B27 positivity, or age at symptom onset among the AS and nr-Axial SpA patients. Mean values of BASDAI, BASMI, and ASDAS-ESR scores were also significantly higher in patients with radiographic Axial SpA.

Conclusion: Data from our Indian cohort of axial Spondyloarthritis revealed a significant association of radiographic disease with male gender and the presence of enthesitis, as well as higher mean values of inflammatory markers and composite scores. However, non-radiographic axial SpA was similar to AS as far as most other features were concerned. With increasing symptom duration, the majority of patients may develop radiographic disease, and they may be considered as two ends of the same spectrum, justifying early therapy even in nr-Axial SpA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1040

CHARACTERIZATION OF ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION AND THEIR IMPACT ON DISEASE ACTIVITY, FATIGUE AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH ANTI-TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR ALPHA AGENTS

Keywords: bDMARD, Spondyloarthritis, Quality of life D. Santos Oliveira 1,2, A. Martins 1,2, R. Nicolau 1,4, C. Vaz 1,2, T. Martins-Rocha 1,2, A. Bernardes 1, L. Bernardes 1, L. Costa 1, Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João, Rheumatology Department, Porto, Portugal; 2Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Department of Medicine, Porto, Portugal; 3Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Center for Health Technology and Services Research (CINTESIS), Porto, Portugal; 4Centro Hospitalar Tondela-Viseu, Viseu, Rheumatology Department, Viseu, Portugal

Background: The psychological health of patients with spondylarthritides (SpA) influences their response to anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha (anti-TNF-α) therapy. However, little is known about the correlation between anxiety and depression symptoms and clinical outcomes over time.

Objectives: Hence, based on clinical practice setting, this study, aimed to explore the impact of anxiety and depression symptoms on clinical outcomes in patients with SpA treated with anti-TNF-α agents on.

Methods: An observational retrospective longitudinal cohort study was conducted. Adult patients with diagnosis of SpA according to Assessment of Spondyloarthritis International Society (ASAS) classification criteria, who started their first anti-TNF-α agent between 2002 and 2022 were included. Sociodemographic, clinical and laboratory data were obtained from the national register Reuma.pt at the time of initiation of the first anti-TNF-α agent and after 12 months. (M). Anxiety and depression symptoms were assessed by Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). A score ≥8 on the HADS-Anxiety and HADS-Depression indicates the presence of clinically significant anxiety and depression symptoms, respectively. Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) Disease Activity Score Activity Score with CRP (ASDAS-CRP) and Bath AS Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) were assessed to measure disease activity. Pain Visual-Analogue-Scale (VAS), Bath AS Functional Index (BASFI) and Bath AS Metrorlogical Index (BASMI) were also collected to assess pain severity and disability. To evaluate enthesitis the Maastricht AS enthesitis score (MASES) was performed. Clinical response was evaluated by ASDAS response. Fatigue was evaluated using Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT)-Fatigue: score ≥39 indicates the presence of clinically significant fatigue and health-related quality of life with EQ-5D. In order to correlate anxiety and depression with clinical outcomes, Pearson coefficient was used. Linear regression models adjusted for age, gender and disease duration were used to assess the impact of anxiety and depression symptoms on clinical outcomes.

Results: A total of 130 patients with SpA (mean age of 40.6±10.8 years old; 85.4% female; 74% with AS) with a median disease duration of 7 [4-14] years were included. Nearly half (50.6%) of patients had anxiety, 33.8% depression and 30% had both anxiety and depression symptoms. At the baseline, the median of anxiety and depression symptoms was 8 [4.5-12] and 6 [3-8], respectively. At the baseline, there were statistically significant correlations between anxiety and depression symptoms and pain-VAS at night (r =0.47, p=0.03 and r =0.6, p=0.004, respectively); between depression symptoms and BASMI (r =-0.34, p=0.006) and between anxiety and depression symptoms and EQ-5D (r =-0.56, p=0.04 and r =-0.65, p=0.011, respectively). At 12M, there were statistically significant correlations between anxiety symptoms and BASDAI (r =-0.23, p=0.03), FACIT-Fatigue (r =-0.68, p<0.001) and EQ-5D (r =-0.51, p=0.001); and between depression (r =-0.65, p<0.001) and EQ-5D (r =-0.59, p<0.001). In the multivariable regression models, depression symptoms at baseline moment predicted VAS at night (β =0.6, p=0.06). At 12M anxiety symptoms predicted BASDAI (β =0.2, p=0.027), FACIT-Fatigue (β =0.7, p=0.001) and EQ-5D (β =-0.5, p=0.002); depression symptoms also predicted EQ-5D (β =-0.6, p=0.001).

Conclusion: Anxiety and depression are common conditions in patients with SpA treated with anti-TNF-α agents. After 12M of treatment, anxiety and depression symptoms predicted worse quality of life and anxiety also predicted higher disease activity and fatigue. Our results encourage the assessment and monitoring of anxiety and depression symptoms over time in these patients in order to design more individualized multidisciplinary approaches. Further longitudinal research is needed to explore the impact of anti-TNF-α agents on anxiety and depression symptoms.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1041

AUTOMATED VERTEBRAL FRACTURE ASSESSMENT AS A SCREENING TOOL IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SpondyloArthritis

Keywords: Outcome measures, Imaging, Spondyloarthritis M. Siderius 1, L. Bares 1, N. Littmann 1, G. Richter 1, Y. Van der Knaap 2, R. Slart 3, A. Spoorenberg 1, S. Arends 1, University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2University Medical Center Groningen, Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Groningen, Netherlands; 3University of Twente, Biomedical Photonic Imaging, Enschede, Netherlands

Background: Bone loss reflected by low bone mineral density (BMD) is common in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and often already noticed at early stages of disease. Severe bone loss may lead to vertebral fractures (VF). Prevalent VF, low BMD and older age are well-known risk factors for the development of new VF. Manual assessment of VF according to the method of Genant et al. is considered as the gold standard, however, this is time consuming in research and clinical settings. Nowadays, when performing BMD measurements an automated screening method for detecting VF in patients with axSpA.
Objectives: To investigate the performance of aVFA in comparison to manual assessment of radiographic VF according to Genant method in patients with axSpA.

Methods: In this pilot study, we included axSpA patients from the GLAS cohort who underwent DEXA with aVFA and had spinal radiographs available within 1 year. Two independent trained readers assessed the vertebral bodies on the lateral view of the thoracic and lumbar spine for radiographic VF. Anterior, middle, and posterior heights of the 4th thoracic vertebra (Th4) to the 4th lumbar vertebra (L4) were exactly measured. VFA scans were analyzed from T4 to L4 by using a viewer (QDR, Hologic) with software supplied by the manufacturer and in which a computer-aided fracture assessment semi-automatically performs total vertebral assessment for each vertebra (T4-L4) on a lateral VFA image. In both methods, radiographic VF were defined according to the method of Genant et al.[1]. A prevalent VF was defined as ≥20% reduction in any vertebral height. Vertebrae were categorized as grade 0 (normal, <20% height reduction), grade 1 (mild, ≥20-<25% reduction), grade 2 (moderate, ≥25-<40% reduction) or grade 3 (severe, ≥40% reduction) fractures. Agreement was compared at vertebral level.

Results: In total, 40 axSpA patients were included; 58% were male, mean age was 46.2±14.2 years, mean symptom duration was 18.0±12.4, 80% were HLA-B27 positive, mean ASDAS was 2.1±1.0 and mean mSASSS (n=35) was 5.2 (IQR 1.2-18.3). At group level, median BMD T-score and BMD Z-score of the lumbar spine was -0.5 (-1.3-0.8) and -0.1 (-1.0-0.7), respectively. Osteoporosis was found in 1 (2.6%) patient and 15 (38.5%) patients had osteopenia, of these 56% were male and mean age was 46.7±14.1 years. In 477 (91.7%) vertebrae, there was absolute agreement on the aVFA and manual assessment (missing, normal or fracture and accompanying grade and fracture shape). In total, manual assessment detected 2 radiographic VF in 2 patients and aVFA detected 10 VF in 6 patients. The 2 fractures found with the manual method were seen in the lumbar spine, both grade 2 and wedged or biconcave shaped. The 10 aVFA fractures were found in the thoracic (n=5) and lumbar (n=5) spine; grade 1 (n=5), grade 2 (n=4) or grade 3 (n=1) and wedged (n=4) or biconcave (n=6) shaped. The fractures detected with manual assessment were both also detected with aVFA, but the fracture grading was different for one of these fractures (manual grade 2 vs. aVFA grade 3). 8 fractures detected with aVFA were not found with manual assessment. In 6 of these cases, the patient had extensive radiographic damage. X-ray quality was low in the 2 remaining cases. Regarding vertebrae defined as missing; aVFA could not assess 26 (5%) vertebrae compared to 8 (1.5%) for manual assessment.

Conclusion: In this pilot study using data from our observational cohort, aVFA seems a good first screening tool for the detection of radiographic VF in axSpA. Agreement was compared at vertebral level. The fractures detected with manual assessment were both also detected with aVFA, but the fracture grading was different for one of these fractures (manual grade 2 vs. aVFA grade 3). 8 fractures detected with aVFA were not found with manual assessment. X-ray quality was low in the 2 remaining cases. Regarding vertebrae defined as missing; aVFA could not assess 26 (5%) vertebrae compared to 8 (1.5%) for manual assessment.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

References: None.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Mark Siderius Consultant of: Novartis., Lucas Bares: None declared, Nigel Littmann: None declared, Gregor Richter: None declared, Yvonne van der Knaap: None declared, Riemer Slart: None declared, Anneke None declared, Nigel Littmann: None declared, Gregor Richter: None declared.

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology

AB1042

PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS AND SPA FEATURES IN RECENTLY DIAGNOSED AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS STRATIFIED FOR CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS AND ASAS CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA; RESULTS FROM STANDARD-OF-CARE COHORT

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues, Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology

J. M. Nijmeijer1, S. Kieskamp1, F. Wink2, S. Arends1, A. Spoorenberg2

1 University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2 Medical Center Leeuwarden, Rheumatology, Leeuwarden, Netherlands

Background: In axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), besides the characteristic symptoms of chronic (inflammatory) back pain and stiffness, patients may suffer from peripheral and extra-skeletal manifestations. Within axSpA patients, patients can be diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) or non-radiographic axSpA (nr-axSpA) based upon the presence or absence of radiographic sacroiliitis. Furthermore, patients can be classified as axSpA according to the ASAS criteria into the imaging arm for which radiographic sacroiliitis and/or sacroiliitis on MRI is mandatory or into the clinical arm for which the presence of HLA-B27 is mandatory. Until now, little is known about patient characteristics in these subgroups of axSpA with recent axSpA diagnosis.

Objectives: To explore patient characteristics and SPA features in recently diagnosed axSpA patients diagnosed as AS or nr-axSpA and in patients fulfilling the imaging or clinical arm of the ASAS classification criteria.

Methods: This cross-sectional analysis included consecutive axSpA patients between 2009 and 2019 diagnosed no more than 1 year before inclusion in the Groningen Leeuwarden Axial Spondyloarthritis (GLAS) cohort. Demographic data and all SPA features based on the ASAS classification criteria (sacroiliitis on pelvic radiograph according to the modified New York criteria, sacroiliitis on MRI according to the ASAS criteria, inflammatory back pain (IBP) according to the ASAS criteria; peripheral manifestations (peripheral arthritis, enthesitis and dactylitis); extra-skeletal manifestations (uveitis, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease); good response to a NSAID; family history of SpA; HLA-B27 status and CRP level) were collected at the GLAS baseline visits. Characteristics and features of the following axSpA subgroups were analyzed: clinical diagnosis AS vs. nr-axSpA, imaging arm vs. clinical arm of the ASAS classification criteria, only axial disease vs. axSpA with ≥1 peripheral manifestation.

Results: In total, 319 axSpA patients were included, with a mean age of 38.2 ± 12.0 years, 175 (55%) were male, mean symptom duration was 25 (19-34) years and 242 (76%) were HLA-B27 positive. 177 (55%) patients were diagnosed with AS and 142 (45%) with nr-axSpA. AS patients were more often male (65% vs. 42%, p<0.001), had more often IBP (89% vs. 78%, p=0.004), more often a SpA family history (38% vs 22%, p=0.002) and higher CRP (median 5 vs. 2, p=0.001) compared to patients diagnosed with nr-axSpA. The number of SPA features was not significantly different between patients diagnosed with AS or nr-axSpA (median 3.7 vs. 3.7, p=0.73). 265 (83%) axSpA patients fulfilled the imaging arm and 54 (17%) patients fulfilled the clinical arm. Patients fulfilling the clinical arm were per definition all HLA-B27 positive (100% vs. 71%, p<0.001), had more often IBP (92% vs. 80%, p=0.040) and a positive SpA family history (51% vs. 25%, p<0.001) compared to patients fulfilling the imaging arm. Furthermore, patients from the clinical arm showed a higher CRP (median 4 vs. 2, p=0.028) and had more SPA features (median 4.1 vs. 3.6, p=0.019). 200 (64%) axSpA patients had only axial involvement without peripheral manifestations and 111 (36%) axSpA patients had ≥1 peripheral manifestations, of which 69% had a history of peripheral arthritis, 37% enthesitis and 17% dactylitis. Accordingly, axSpA patients with peripheral manifestations presented significantly more SPA features than patients with only axial involvement (median 4.5 vs. 3.2, p=0.001).

Conclusion: In this large cross-sectional study of recently diagnosed (<1 year) axSpA patients, the presence of IBP, positive family history and higher CRP occurred significantly more often in patients diagnosed with AS compared to patients diagnosed with nr-axSpA and in patients fulfilling the clinical arm compared to patients fulfilling the imaging arm of the ASAS classification criteria.

References: None.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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(16.6 ± 11.7 vs 13.6 ± 9.4; p=0.045), higher body mass index (26.7 ± 4.6 vs 26.0 ± 4.8; p=0.043) and psoriasis (13.1% vs 3.8%; p=0.001) were more frequent in familial cases. HLA B27 positivity was higher tendency without statistical significance in patient with family history (66.4% vs 56.7%; p=0.60). In terms of structural damage, basal syndesmophyte, basal mSSASS, mSSASS progression and new syndesmophyte development could not differ between the groups. Family history was found in 30% of nr-axSpA patients. HLA B27 positivity, higher baseline mSSASS and basal syndesmophyte frequency were found more frequently in patient with family history among nr-axSpA. And also more mSSASS progression was detected in the same group (Table 1). In the nr-axSpA group, there was no difference in structural damage or radiological progression, except for longer symptom duration in those with a family history.

Conclusion: There was a significant frequency of family history in AxSpA and it might be contribute to the disease phenotype at different rates. The presence of family history in both baseline and follow-up data, especially in radiographic, seems to increase severity in disease subgroups.

### Table 1. Comparison of family history in r-axSpA and nr-axSpA groups *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>r-axSpA Family History (n=92)</th>
<th>No Family History (n=285)</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>r-axSpA Family History (n=61)</th>
<th>No Family History (n=140)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean ±SD</td>
<td>43.0±12.35</td>
<td>41.5±11.7</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>36.0±10.99</td>
<td>36.3±10.70</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, n/total</td>
<td>27/29.3</td>
<td>70/23.6</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>42/68.9</td>
<td>82/58.6</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, median (IQR)</td>
<td>175±12.25</td>
<td>14±12.62</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>9.1±8.76</td>
<td>7.1±7.34</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking, mean ±SD</td>
<td>69/92;75.0</td>
<td>210/278;75.5</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>36;59</td>
<td>81/137;59;1.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, mean ±SD</td>
<td>27.0±4.69</td>
<td>26.1±4.94</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>26.4±4.45</td>
<td>25.8±4.5</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis, n/total</td>
<td>14;15.5</td>
<td>14;9.9</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD n/total</td>
<td>2/67.2</td>
<td>9/208;4.3</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>2/354.3</td>
<td>9/191;76</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA B27</td>
<td>51/73;69.9</td>
<td>196/206;50.6</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>32/52;61.5</td>
<td>50/122;41.0</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positivity</td>
<td>CRP mg/dl, mean 17.3±22.98</td>
<td>18.1±25.72</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>11.1±14.9</td>
<td>8.9±17.0</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BSFI, mean ±SD 4.0±2.9</td>
<td>4.2±2.9</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>3.0±2.26</td>
<td>2.6±2.24</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BASDAI, mean ±SD 4.4±3.8</td>
<td>4.3±3.3</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>4.1±2.22</td>
<td>4.0±1.22</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASDAS-CRP, mean ±SD 3.0±1.16</td>
<td>3.0±1.22</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>2.3±1.06</td>
<td>2.4±1.05</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BASMI, mean ±SD 3.9±1.92</td>
<td>3.8±1.94</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>2.4±1.25</td>
<td>2.4±1.15</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basal mSSASS*, 15.5±22.0</td>
<td>10.2±17.9</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.64±1.41</td>
<td>0.27±1.22</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mean ±SD 10 (4.5)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mSSASS progression</td>
<td>4/31;12.9</td>
<td>0.029</td>
<td>4/22.18.2</td>
<td>1.4±6.22</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basal syndesmo-44/78.54</td>
<td>139/257;54.1</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>12/48;25.0</td>
<td>11/133;37.6</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Continuous variables mean ±SD; categorical variables are expressed as n (%). **Median (IQR)

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3780
Background: The absence of categoric radiographic evidence of structural changes in the sacroiliac joints serves to distinguish AS from nr-axSpA. Both groups of patients are characterized by active inflammatory changes, established by magnetic resonance tomography (MRT) of the sacroiliac joints, which, with the progression of the disease, are structurally progressive. Objectives: To determine whether it is possible to detect erosions, subchondral osteosclerosis, and bone marrow metaplasia on a magnetic resonance imaging of the sacroiliac joints in patients with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis and symptom duration less than 3 years.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted with rheumatologists and their consulting patients in Bulgaria from February 2012 through April 2019. Patients who had a rheumatologist confirmed diagnosis of nr-axSpA were eligible to participate. All patients met ASAS criteria for IBD with duration from 3 months to 2 years. All patients had no changes reported after the conventional X-ray of the sacroiliac joints and a performed subsequent MRI. Sacroiliac joint inflammation was assessed using the Canadian Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium (SPARCC). The SPARCC scores of sacroiliac joint inflammation and sacroiliac joint structural damage (SSSD) (erosions, bony bone metaplasia and subchondral osteosclerosis) were evaluated by both - a radiologist and a rheumatologist.

Results: A total of 98 patients with non-radiographic were included in this analysis. A higher proportion of patients were male patients (51% vs 37%). The mean age was 33.8±7.71 with mean symptoms duration 0.76±0.26 years. MRI showed bone marrow edema (BME) in all 98 patients and at least 1 structural lesion in 32 patients (92.5%). The most prevalent chronic lesions were erosive changes in 7.14% (n = 7) and narrowed joint space in 7.14% (n = 7). Fat metaplasia was found in 5.10% (n = 5) in the patients with nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis. The mean values of SPARCC score in patients with the different arm of nr-axSpA is 22.42 ± 15.18. The burden of disease activity measured by BASDAI, ASDAS-CRP and VAS as well as ASQoL did not differ in patients with SSSD compared to those with BME only (p>0.05).

Conclusion: Patients with nr-axSpA are characterized by a short duration of symptoms. Regardless of this recent onset and initially normal X-ray image of the sacroiliac joints, in some patients there are objective data of previous inflammation of the sacroiliac joints that may have not been detected on X-ray. That arise raised question of low sensitivity of conventional radiography as well as the presence of risk factors for rapid structural damage and progression in some patients with nr-axSpA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.8088
shown at Figure 1. FM patients were associated with a higher median tender joint count [1.0 vs 0, p=0.020] and swollen joint count [1.5 vs 0, p=0.037], BAS-DAI=14/10 [75.8%] vs 34/16.5%, p=0.002], mean ESSD index [0.6 vs 0.88, p=0.001], median overall work impairment [65 vs 10%, p=0.002], and activity impairment [50 vs 10%, p=0.001] than those without FM.

Figure 1. Pain areas and symptoms according to the 2016 Revisions fibromyalgia diagnostic criteria comparing participants with fibromyalgia and without fibromyalgia.

Conclusion: The prevalence of FM among Thai patients with SpA is low. However, it is important to identify and treat because it is associated with reduced productivity and poor quality of life. Active inflammation is associated with FM. Controlling SpA disease can also help to control FM.

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by a grant from the Siriraj Research Fund, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand (grant no. R016331042). The authors gratefully acknowledge the participants that participated in this study; the EuroQol group for permission to use the Thai version of the EQ-5D-5L.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4194

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presence in at least 1 enthesis of:</th>
<th>Patients that developed SpA</th>
<th>Patients that not developed SpA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power Doppler signal positivity</td>
<td>4 (100%)</td>
<td>9 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosions</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcification</td>
<td>2 (50%)</td>
<td>7 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echostucture</td>
<td>6 (100%)</td>
<td>6 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural thickness</td>
<td>4 (100%)</td>
<td>18 (72%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Power Doppler signal positivity: χ² = 0.78 p = 0.3
Erosions: χ² = 0.17 p = 0.7
Calcification: χ² = 0.78 p = 0.3
Echostucture: χ² = 1.7 p = 0.18
Structural thickness: χ² = 1.5 p = 0.22

Conclusion: MASEI score and PD US positivity at entheseal level are possible predicting factors for the development of SpA in IBD patients. Further investigations from long term prospective studies need to confirm these preliminary data.

REFERENCES:
HCs [SMD = -0.324, 95% CI (-0.971, 0.323), P = 0.327]. Because of a significant statistical heterogeneity observed [p < 0.1, I^2 = 89.2%], we conducted sub-analyses based on individual definitions of Breg cells. We found that the proportions of CD19^+CD24^+CD38^- Breg cells have no significant difference between AS and HCs [SMD = -0.965, 95% CI (0.339, 1.590), P = 0.003] with no publication bias based on the Egger tests (t = 1.35, p = 0.236).

Conclusion: The levels of CD19^+CD24^+CD38^- Breg cells were significantly increased in AS patients, suggesting that the abnormalities of Breg cell numbers and function are the critical causes in the development of AS.

### Table 1. Characteristics of the individual studies included in the meta-analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publish year</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Breg cells' definition</th>
<th>Breg cell ratio (mean/median)</th>
<th>Breg in PBMC/CD19^+B cells</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yu Zhang</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>CD19^+CD24^+CD38^-</td>
<td>AS: 6.125 ± 0.219</td>
<td>PBMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guo-Hui Xue</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>CD19^+CD24^+CD38^-</td>
<td>HC: 9.02 ± 4.527</td>
<td>PBMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiao-Wan</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CD19^+CD24^+CD38^-</td>
<td>HC: 3.44 ± 0.8</td>
<td>PBMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria-Belen</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>CD19^+CD24^+CD38^-</td>
<td>HC: 4.3 ± 1.1</td>
<td>PBMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changyi</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>CD19^+CD24^+CD38^-</td>
<td>HC: 6.2 ± 3.2</td>
<td>PBMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhukangxiang</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>CD19^+CD24^+CD38^-</td>
<td>HC: 16.5 ± 3.5</td>
<td>PBMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chenmeng</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>CD19^+CD24^+CD38^-</td>
<td>HC: 5.8 ± 1.1</td>
<td>PBMC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The fact that fCal level in the NSAID group is higher than the anti-TNF Group supports the literature that NSAIDs cause leaky gut syndrome by adversely affecting the gut microbiota. Higher fCal level in the NSAID group makes us think that in addition to intestinal inflammation caused by the disease, it is originated by the NSAID treatment [1]. In our study, the reason why the level of IL-23 in the NSAID group is lower may be the underlying mechanism through PGE2, and the reason why it is higher in the anti-TNF group may be that anti-TNF treatment has not had enough effect on the IL-17/23 pathway [2,4]. Especially the relationship of IL-17 level with MASES using for the clinical evaluation of the enthesitis areas, clinically shows us the role of the IL-17/23 pathway in the enthesal inflammation as well [5].

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 82001740).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4557

**Keywords:** Cytokines and chemokines, Spondyloarthritis, Gastrointestinal tract

**AB1050**

**THE LEVELS OF FECAL CALPROTECTIN, SERUM INTERLEUKIN 17/23, MALONDIALDEHYDE, GLUTATHIONE PEROXIDASE IN THE PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS AND THEIR CORRELATIONS WITH CLINICAL, LABORATORY PARAMETERS, DISEASE ACTIVITY SCALES**

**Keywords:** Cytokines and chemokines, Spondyloarthritis, Gastrointestinal tract

**AB1051**

**PREGNANCY IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Pregnancy and reproduction
Background: There is limited information available on the course of axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) during pregnancy, in contrast to other chronic inflammatory disorders. AxSpA poses a special set of challenges because it has anatomical and inflammatory consequences on pregnancy.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the course of AxSpA during pregnancy.

Methods: In order to evaluate the course of AxSpA during pregnancy, an observational descriptive retrospective study was carried out at a private rheumatology clinic. Data were gathered using a self-administered questionnaire from 70 women who were diagnosed with AxSpA prior to pregnancy.

Results: The average age at disease onset was 23.6 years. Approximately one-third (35.7%) of patients said their AxSpA symptoms were worse during pregnancy, compared to 64.2% who said their symptoms got better. The postpartum flare was reported by 52.5% women. The mode of delivery was by cesarean section in 76% patients. Back pain and stiffness during pregnancy were the most prevalent symptoms. None of the patients had extra-articular manifestations during pregnancy or postpartum. Adverse pregnancy outcomes were reported by 15.7% patients. In our study, we found that the majority of women avoided using drugs even when they felt the need to do so out of concern for the foetus.

Conclusion: A large number of patients reported ease of symptoms during pregnancy. Due to the significant risk of flare, patients should be followed up during postpartum period. AxSpA females have an increased prevalence of cesarean sections.

REFERENCES:
[4] Singh, Neetu; Pradeep, Yasodhara; Jauhari, Sugandha 1. Indications and Accompanying Conditions

Table 1. Disease course of AS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accompanying Conditions</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>n%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Periphera arthritis</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>64.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms Experienced During Pregnancy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip and Back pain</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>71.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning stiffness</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>57.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREGNANCY OUTCOMES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode Of Delivery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cesarean Section</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>76.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>32.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverse Pregnancy Outcome</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscarriage</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5562

AB1052

COMPARISON OF HIP INVOLVEMENT IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS AND NON-RADIOGRAPHIC AXIAL SPONDYLARTHRITIS: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

AB1053

MATRIX METALLOPROTEINASE-3: A BIOMARKER OF SPONDYLARTHRITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers, Spondyloarthritis, Diagnostic tests
Background: Several studies reported that matrix metalloproteinase 3 (MMP-3), an enzyme of the proteolytic system, is implicated in the pathogenesis and progression of several rheumatic diseases [1].

Objectives: We aimed to compare MMP-3 serum levels between spondyloarthriti s (SpA) patients and healthy controls.

Methods: We conducted a case-control study, including 164 subjects divided into two groups, all matched for age and gender: G1 including 82 SpA patients, diagnosed according to ASAS 2009 criteria, and G0 including 82 healthy controls. ELISA technique was used to measure MMP-3 serum levels. Statistical analyses were carried out using SPSS software, fixing a P value of <0.05.

Results: Each group included 65 men. The mean age was 45.32 ± 13.41 years. The mean disease duration was 757 ± 779 years. Radiographic axial SpA (r-AxSpA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) were noted in 65.9% (n=54) and 34.1% (n=28) of cases, respectively. In G1, axial manifestations were noted in 81.7% (n=67). A peripheral syndrome was associated in 45% (n=18); arthritis in 42.7% (n=35) and enthesis in 14.6% (n=12). The mean MMP-3 serum levels were statistically higher in G1 than in G0 (G1: 64.14 ± 187.31 [1.75 – 1237.36] versus G0: 12.06 ± 10.99 ng/mL [2.98 – 58.94], p=0.01). MMP-3 serum levels were significantly higher in PsA than in r-AxSpA patients (141.65 ± 366.33 [2- 1238] ng/mL versus 23.95 ± 31.67 [3- 149] ng/mL, p=0.006). The cutoff of 10.43ng/mL could discriminate G1 from G0 with a sensitivity and a specificity of 67.1% and 61% respectively (AUC: 0.647, p=0.001).

Conclusion: Our study showed that MMP-3 serum levels were significantly higher in SpA patients compared to controls. This finding suggests that MMP-3 plays a role in the pathogenesis of SpA. However, MMP-3 did not have high sensitivity and specificity in discriminating patients from healthy controls. Thus, MMP-3 was not a good biomarker for the diagnosis of SpA.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5668

AB1054 - SPONDYLOARTHRITIS IN FIRST DEGREE RELATIVES OF ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Imaging, Spondyloarthritis, Genetics/epigenetics

K. Bubov1, L. Hasikova1, M. Gregova1, K. Mintalova1, S. Forejtova1, L. Senoil1
1Institute of Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Background: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a relatively common inflammatory rheumatic disease with strong familial risk and heritability. The aim of this study was to examine first-degree relatives of patients diagnosed with AS to determine the presence of active spondylitis, fulfillment of Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) classification criteria for axial and/or peripheral spondyloarthritis (SpA), and the clinical diagnosis of SpA.

Methods: One hundred subjects without a previous rheumatological diagnosis with a first-degree relative treated for AS were included in the study. Clinical data were collected and rheumatological examinations were performed by trained rheumatologists. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the sacroiliac joints (SIJ) was read by a trained rheumatologist who was blinded to all patient data. Subjects were further divided into both SpA (according to ASAS classification criteria and clinician opinion) and non-SpA subgroups.

Results: A total of 26 subjects met ASAS classification criteria for SpA, of which the diagnosis of SpA was confirmed in 14 subjects (13 subjects met ASAS classification criteria for axial and 1 subject for peripheral SpA). In addition, 12 individuals met the clinical arm of the ASAS classification criteria for axial SpA, but were not diagnosed with axSpA in the clinicians’ opinion. Active spondylitis as defined by MRI was present in all 13 individuals diagnosed with axSpA, 7 (54%) of whom also had advanced radiographic changes on conventional radiographs of the SIJ. In addition, active spondylitis as defined by MRI was also present in 4 individuals who did not have back pain. The data are shown in Figure 1. Analysis of clinical characteristics showed a significant difference in CRP and BASDAI between the SpA vs. non-SpA subgroups (6.8 ± 10.5 vs. 23.3 ± 14.1 mg/L, P<0.0048, and 3.1 ± 1.8 vs. 1.76 ± 1.78, respectively). Individuals diagnosed with SpA were more likely to be HLA-B27 positive and had inflammatory back pain compared to the non-SpA subgroup (87% vs. 43%, p=0.0069 and 57% vs. 9%, p=0.0002, respectively). Individuals who were not diagnosed with SpA but met the clinical arm of the ASAS classification criteria for axSpA were excluded from the analysis. Other clinical characteristics and differences between subgroups are shown in Table 1.

Conclusion: In this cross-sectional study, a quarter of the relatives of patients with AS met the ASAS classification criteria for SpA, and 14% were diagnosed with SpA based on physician opinion. These individuals had a significantly higher prevalence of HLA-B27, inflammatory back pain, and disease activity indices. It should be kept in mind that in a small proportion of individuals, active spondylitis may be present in relatives with first-degree AS even in the absence of back pain.

Table 1. Patient characteristics and subgroups differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>SpA</th>
<th>Non-SpA</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=100</td>
<td>N=14</td>
<td>N=74</td>
<td>SpA vs non-SpA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean (SD)</td>
<td>34.4 (11.3)</td>
<td>36.5 (10.5)</td>
<td>33.7 (11.4)</td>
<td>0.2966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Males, number (%)</td>
<td>54 (70)</td>
<td>40 (51)</td>
<td>28 (38)</td>
<td>p=0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²), mean (SD)</td>
<td>28.8 (3.9)</td>
<td>24.8 (4.9)</td>
<td>30.2 (4.51)</td>
<td>0.7069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI, mean (SD)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.8)</td>
<td>3.1 (1.8)</td>
<td>1.76 (1.78)</td>
<td>0.005*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L), mean (SD)</td>
<td>3.4 (6.0)</td>
<td>8.9 (10.5)</td>
<td>2.3 (4.1)</td>
<td>0.004*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP, number (%)</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>14 (100)</td>
<td>48 (65)</td>
<td>0.0082*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP, number (%)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8 (67)</td>
<td>7 (9)</td>
<td>0.0002*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokers, number (%)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>7 (50)</td>
<td>20 (27)</td>
<td>0.1185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal distances: Schober (cm), mean (SD)</td>
<td>4.8 (1.2)</td>
<td>4.5 (0.9)</td>
<td>4.9 (1.2)</td>
<td>0.276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(SD) chic-chest (cm), mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.5 (1.4)</td>
<td>0.6 (2.9)</td>
<td>0.4 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.0714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height (cm), mean (SD)</td>
<td>0.2 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.1 (1.6)</td>
<td>0.1 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.0873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest expansion (cm), mean (SD)</td>
<td>5.4 (1.7)</td>
<td>6.0 (2.0)</td>
<td>5.3 (1.7)</td>
<td>0.2773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positivity, number (%)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>12 (22)</td>
<td>44 (60)</td>
<td>0.006*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASDAI, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; BMI, Body mass index; BP, back pain; CRP, C-reactive protein; HLA, human leukocyte antigen; IBP, inflammatory back pain; * P value < 0.05

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5744

AB1055 - COMORBIDITIES IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: DATA FROM THE MOROCCAN RBSMR REGISTRY

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Comorbidities

Z. Babai, A. Mouldi1, R. Abouqui, F. Allia2, R. Bahiri, A. Bezza, A. El Maghraoui1, I. El Ghozlani, T. Harzy, H. Hassikou2, I. Hamouchi1, I. I. Linda, S. Janani, R. Niamane, I. El Bouchti, 1Mohammed VI University Hospital, Amrzi Hospital, Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco; 2Laboratory of Biostatistical, Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Rabat, Morocco; 3El Ayachi Hospital, Ibn Sina University Hospital, Rheumatology B, University Mohammed V/Rheumatology B, Rabat, Morocco; 4El Ayachi Hospital, Ibn Sina University Hospital, Rheumatology, University Mohammed V/Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco; 5University Mohammed V, Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco; 6Rheumatology Department, Mohammed VI University Hospital, Mohammed I University, Rheumatology, Oujda, Morocco; 7Rochel University Hospital, Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Casablanca, Morocco; 8Military Hospital Avicenne, Mohammed VI University Hospital, Mohammed III University, Rheumatology, Casablanca, Morocco; 9Temara Hospital Center, Rheumatology, Temara, Morocco; 10Health Sciences College, International University of Rabat (UIR), Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco; 11Rheumatology Department, Mohammed VI University Hospital, Mohammed I University, Rheumatology, Oujda, Morocco; 12Military Hospital Avicenne, Mohammed VI University Hospital, Mohammed III University, Rheumatology, Casablanca, Morocco

Background: In addition to the extra-articular manifestations associated with spondyloarthritides such as IBD, psoriasis and uveitis, spondyloarthritis is linked to an increased risk of comorbidities.

Figure 1: The distribution of examined first-degree relatives of patients diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis according to prevalence of comorbidities.

References: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5744

Keywords: Spondyloarthritides, Outcome measures, Patient reported outcomes

AB1057 INTERPRETATION OF DISEASE-SPECIFIC QUESTIONNAIRES ON DISEASE ACTIVITY, FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN DAILY PRACTICE IN AXIAL Spondyloarthritis

Methods: Patients were recruited through a cohort study in a tertiary care university hospital. Participants were asked to complete a disease-specific questionnaire on disease activity, functional capacity, and quality of life at each visit. The questionnaire used was the Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (ASDAS) and the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ).

Results: A total of 100 patients were included in the study. The mean age of the patients was 45.2 years, and 80% were male. The mean ASDAS was 1.6, and the mean HAQ was 0.6. The questionnaire showed good discriminative power, with higher scores indicating worse disease activity and lower functional capacity.

Conclusion: The disease-specific questionnaires used in daily practice were found to be reliable and valid tools for measuring disease activity, functional capacity, and quality of life in axial spondyloarthritis. Further research is needed to determine the impact of these measures on patient outcomes and to identify optimal cutoffs for clinical decision-making.
Background: Spondyloarthritis (SpA) are a group of autoimmune diseases, mainly affecting the musculoskeletal system, with typical axial or peripheral forms. Recent data from the literature show significant differences in SpA subsets, levels of disease activity, drug efficacy and quality of life between male and female sex. [1, 2] It is well known how disease activity and comorbidities could compromise physical function and quality of life of SpA patients.

Objectives: To describe the clinical characteristics of women with SpA in our single-centre cohort compared to men, in relation to clinical characteristics, disease activity, therapy and comorbidities.

Methods: Adult patients with a diagnosis of Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) and Axial Spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) according to CASPAR (ClASsification criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis) and Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) criteria, regularly followed at the SpA clinic of our unit, were consecutively enrolled from April to December 2022. Their epidemiologic, clinic and clinimetric data were collected. Intergroups comparisons were assessed by using Chi-square, t-test and ANOVA. P values <0.05 were considered significant.

Results: A total of 200 patients were enrolled, 115 male (57.5%) and 85 female (42.5%) with comparable mean age values (M 56.13±14.48 years, F 56.84±12.22 years; p=0.508) and with a significantly shorter disease duration in women (12.9±10.3 years vs 17.05±12.08 years; p<0.001). No differences in the distribution of PsA or AxSpA based on gender were observed. Six patients had a diagnosis of enthesopathic SpA, all of them were women. Taking into account the clinimetric evaluations, female patients show higher values of both Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis DAPSA (15.63 vs 9.40; p=0.003), Leeds Enthesitis Index (LEI) (0.46 vs 0.16; p=0.02) and Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium of Canada (SPARCC) Enthesitis Index (0.7 vs 0.4; p=0.05). The total number of drugs [both Biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) and conventional synthetic DMARDs] taken for disease control was 4.47±2.45 for women and 3.79±2.07 for men (p=0.012); no differences were observed between the 2 groups for any specific drug. Among the comorbidities, none of them was more prevalent in men, while osteoporosis (OP) (p=0.006), mood disorders (0.009), fibromyalgia (FM) (p=0.000015), osteoarthritis (OA) (0.007) and thyroid disease (p=0.000015) were significantly more frequent in women.

Conclusion: Women of our cohort show a significantly higher risk of developing an inflammatory bowel disease than men. Female patients have also higher levels of peripheral disease activity, both on joints and enthesis; moreover, they show a significantly lower persistence in drug therapy. Besides, they have a more complex disease, suffering more frequently of OP, OA, FM and thyroid diseases than men. Finally, it is very interesting to note how women tend to develop a much more complex disease, even with a significantly shorter disease duration than male patients. These data confirm how rheumatologists should focus on the assessment of women with SpA, aiming at promoting a closer monitoring of gastrointestinal symptoms, peripheral arthritis and enthesis and at preventing the development of comorbid conditions, thus optimizing also their quality of life and physical functioning.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6328

AB1059

NETRIN-1 IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A NOVEL MARKER TO PREDICT DISEASE ACTIVITY?

Keywords: Biomarkers, Real-world evidence, Spondyloarthritis

F. Baykal1, S. Erten2, B. C. Güven3, A. Kor4, F. Eren4, S. Neşeliolu4, B. Polat5, K. Gök6, B. Armagan7, I. Dogan8, Y. Mara8, S. Bayer9, O. Erel9. *Yildirim Beyazit University Medical School, Internal Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; **Yildirim Beyazit University Medical School, Internal Medicine, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; *Ankara City Hospital, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; **Yildirim Beyazit University Medical School, Biochemistry, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Netrin-1 is a chemorepellent and inhibits the migration of monocytes, neutrophils and lymphocytes by activation of its receptors. It has been revealed that netrin-1 can limit the inflammatory response, reduce tissue damage due to hypoxia and simultaneously suppress apoptosis. Due to this immune regulatory role, it has been hypothesized that netrin-1 can be used as a biomarker in rheumatic diseases.

Objectives: To compare plasma netrin-1 levels in axial spondyloarthritis (SpA) patients with the healthy subjects and to evaluate its relationship with disease activity and other clinical and laboratory parameters.

Methods: Patients with axial SpA between the ages of 18-65 who applied to Ankara City Hospital Rheumatology outpatient clinic between November 2021 and January 2022 were consecutively enrolled upon acceptance to participate. Pregnant patients, patients with systemic disease other than axial SpA and patients who were taking regular medication other than axial SpA treatment were excluded. A control group was formed from healthy volunteers with similar age and gender characteristics. In both groups, in addition to regular laboratory tests netrin-1 level was measured by an Enzyme Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay (ELISA) kit with an analytical unit of pg/mL (Elabscience, Texas, USA, Catalog No: E-EL-K3238; Lot No: GZWTKZ5SWSK).

Results: A total of 60 axial SpA patients and 56 healthy controls were included in the study. There was no statistically significant difference between the groups in terms of age, gender and netrin-1 levels between patients and controls (Table 1). Data regarding clinical characteristics, HLA-B27 positivity, acute phase reactants at the time of evaluation and disease activity scores of the axial SpA group was presented in Table 1. No significant differences were observed in netrin-1 levels in any comparison among all axial SpA patients, in ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-ax SpA) patient subgroups, and in healthy controls (all axial SpA vs control p=0.361, AS vs nr-axSpA p=0.790, AS vs control p=0.360, nr-axSpA vs control p=0.700).

Netrin-1 levels had a significant positive correlation with BASDAI (r=0.301 p=0.032), ASDAS CRP (r=0.320 p=0.022), VAS pain (r=0.340 p=0.015). Our results demonstrated a positive correlation between netrin-1 levels and disease activity in axial SpA patients, implying that netrin-1 may come to the forefront as a novel biomarker to predict disease activity in axial SpA.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Demographics of subject groups, clinical and laboratory characteristics of axial SpA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axial SpA (N=60)</th>
<th>Control (N=56)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean ± SD</td>
<td>39.51 ± 10.88</td>
<td>44.57 ± 13.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, female, n (%)</td>
<td>37 (53.6)</td>
<td>32 (46.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of axial SpA, n (%)</td>
<td>49 (81.66)</td>
<td>11 (18.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>CRP, mg/L, mean ± SD</td>
<td>8.09 ± 9.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-ax SpA</td>
<td>ESR, mm/hour, years, mean ± SD</td>
<td>13.4 ± 10.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>22 (64.7)</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>VAS pain, mean ± SD</td>
<td>4.11 ± 2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>BASDAI, mean ± SD</td>
<td>3.00 ± 2.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>ASDAS CRP, mean ± SD</td>
<td>2.30 ± 1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Serum Netrin-1, pg/mL, mean (min-max)</td>
<td>74.43 ± 30.27-237.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Out of 34 patients with a HLA-B27 test result, SpA: spondyloarthritis, AS: ankylosing spondylitis, nr-ax SpA: non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, HLA-B27: human leukocyte antigen B27, CRP: C-reactive protein, ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate, VAS: visual analogue scale, BASDAI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index, ASDAS CRP: Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score CRP

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6349
Spondyloarthritis - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

**AB1060**

**EXPLORING DISEASE ACTIVITY AND PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS (AS) IN EUROPE**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis

D. Baldock1, M. Thoo2, R. Connolly3, E. Baynton1.1 United Kingdom, Ipsos Healthcare, London, United Kingdom; 2Kuala Lumpur, Ipsos Healthcare, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia; 3New York, Ipsos Healthcare, New York, United States of America

**Background:** Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) is a form of arthritis that primarily affects the spine. It causes inflammation of the spinal joints that can lead to severe, chronic pain and discomfort[1]. The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) is the most frequently used patient-reported outcome to measure disease activity in axial spondyloarthritis. There is no validated definition for disease remission using BASDAI, although a threshold of ≤3 has been used in clinical trials for low disease activity[2].

**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to examine AS patient characteristics of those with low disease activity (LDA) (BASDAI score ≤3), highlighting any nuances in treating these patients.

**Methods:** A multi-centre online medical chart review study of patients with AS was conducted between July 2022 – September 2022 among UK, FR, DE, IT & ES rheumatologists practicing across hospital and private practices. Physicians were screened for practice and patient volume. Charts of patients pre-scribed with biologics were included in the analysis.

**Results:** 262 sampled physicians collectively reported 524 AS patients. From the reported AS patients, 277 were recorded as having achieved LDA (‘LDA’) and 165 were recorded as not having achieved LDA (‘not LDA’). Among not LDA reported patients, a higher proportion were female vs the LDA cohort (32% vs 19%). Reported not LDA patients were more likely to suffer any additional co-morbidities vs LDA cohort (63% vs 44%). When analysing disease severity (physician-defined) status between these two patient groups, reported not LDA patients were more likely to be recorded as ‘mild’ at diagnosis vs LDA (14% vs 4%). In contrast, current (i.e. at time of consult) disease severity was more likely to be recorded as moderate/severe for the not LDA cohort vs the LDA cohort (76% vs 20%). In addition, reported not LDA patients recorded with higher mean disease and haematology scores.

**Table 1. Reported patient disease and haematology scores (mean)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported AS patients</th>
<th>Tender joint count (TJC)</th>
<th>Swollen joint count (SJc)</th>
<th>C-reactive protein (CRP)</th>
<th>Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved LDA</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not achieved LDA</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most prominent biologic therapy class used to treat both patient groups are still TNFis; notable JAKI usage is more prominent in the not LDA cohort vs the LDA cohort (5% vs 5%).

**Conclusion:** From the sample submitted, it appears the not achieved LDA group are milder at diagnosis but show a greater disease severity/activity on their most recent consultation compared to the LDA cohort – it could be inferred that initial mild severity resulted in a lesser need to treat earlier and, as such, disease progression ensued. There may therefore be an argument to treat early with advanced therapies, regardless of initial disease severity. Further investigation using comparator cohort is warranted.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1040

**AB1062**

**RENAIINVOLVEMENT IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Descriptive studies, Spondyloarthritis, Kidneys

S. Boude1, M. Ben Messaoud1, O. Saidane1, L. Rouached1, A. Ben Tekaya1, I. Mahmoud1, R. Tekaya1, L. Abdelmoula1.1 Hospital Charles Nicolle, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

**Background:** Spondyloarthritis (SpA) encompasses a group of inflammatory diseases characterized by enthesitis, axial and eventually peripheral skeletal involvement. Extra-articular manifestations are common and important systemic features of SpA. The most common extra-articular manifestations are represented by uveitis, bowel disease, skin, heart, lung and kidney involvement. Renal complications are frequent among patients with SpA.

**Objectives:** The aim of the present study was to assess the epidemiological, clinical, biological and histological features of renal diseases in SpA.

**Methods:** A retrospective monocentric study was performed including patients diagnosed with SpA according to the ASAS criteria. Baseline data were obtained during the period from 2002 to 2022. We reviewed sex, age, disease duration and results of laboratory examination and uroanalysis in order to detect renal abnormalities.

**Table 1. The comparison between different treatment groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biologics(n=43)</th>
<th>cDMARD(n=18)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>43±9</td>
<td>34±9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/hr)</td>
<td>14 [8-35]</td>
<td>21 [9-34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>2 [0-9]</td>
<td>4.4 [2-10]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sublatn (mg/mL)</td>
<td>0.3 [0.1-0.8]</td>
<td>0.89 [0.6-1.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTHRC1 (ng/mL)</td>
<td>54 [39-89]</td>
<td>71 [40-181]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTRP3 (ng/mL)</td>
<td>1.9 [1-7]</td>
<td>2.2 [1-8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6 (pg/mL)</td>
<td>15 [15-2.6]</td>
<td>2.85 [1-8.6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-17 (pg/mL)</td>
<td>70 [55-80]</td>
<td>73 [55-138]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNFα (pg/mL)</td>
<td>93 [76-128]</td>
<td>118 [97-163]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP</td>
<td>2.4±1.0</td>
<td>2.8±0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>3.4±1.8</td>
<td>4.1±1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data are given in median [25-75] or meansSD **ESR: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP: C-reactive protein; CTHRC1: Collagen triple helix repeat-containing protein-1; CTRP3: C1qTNF-related protein-3; CTRP6: C1qTNF-related protein-6; TNF: Tumor necrosis factor; BASDAI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; ASDAS-CRP: Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score-CRP

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1040

**AB1061**

**CORRELATION OF SUBFATIN, CTHRC1, CTRP3, CTRP6 LEVELS WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Spondyloarthritis

I. M. Baytarolu Uçar1, G. Sarg1, A. Tuzcu2, S. Cildag1, T. Senturk1. 1Usak Training & Research Hospital, Rheumatology, Usak, Turkey; 2Adnan Menderes University, Rheumatology, Aydin, Turkey; 3Adnan Menderes University, Biochemistry, Aydin, Turkey; 4Aydın Rheumatology, Aydın, Turkey

**Background:** It has been determined that biological treatments affect the serum concentration of these biomarkers independently of disease activity. As current adjuvants and known modulators of inflammation, it may play a role in evaluating the efficacy of treatment, especially in cases using biologic agents.

**Objectives:** To analyze novel biomarkers from the C1q TNF superfamily and their function in autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic disorders, as well as to look for a biomarker capable of evaluating both the clinical disease activity and aiding in the evaluation of therapy efficacy.

**Methods:** Sixty-one AxSpa patients and 30 healthy controls were enrolled in the study. Serum biomarkers subatlin, CTHRC1, CTRP3, CTRP6, IL-6, IL-17, TNF-α and disease activity indexes BASDAI, BASFI, MASES, ASDAS-ESR-CRP were evaluated and compared. Patients were then classified, and their serum biomarkers were also assessed according to their disease activity scores, and further according to their treatment regimens.

**Results:** None of the examined biomarkers revealed a discernable difference between patients and healthy controls. Although the difference was not statistically significant, healthy controls were found to have lower median concentrations of serum subatlin, CTHRC1, CTRP3, CTRP6, IL-6, IL-17, and TNF-α, Furthermore, no association between the research biomarkers and clinical disease activity was seen once the patients were categorized according to the severity of their disease. Finally, it was discovered that biological therapies had an impact on these biomarked serum concentrations (Table 1) regardless of the disease's activity.

**Conclusion:** Circulating levels of subatlin, CTHRC1, CTRP3, CTRP6, IL-6, IL-17, and TNF-α, which are novel adipokines and well-known inflammatory mediators, may be important for determining treatment effectiveness, particularly in patients receiving biologics. We were unable to prove a connection between serum bio-marker levels and clinical disease activity, though.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.564
AB1063

PREDICTORS OF ACTIVITY OF ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS DURING PREGNANCY

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Pregnancy and reproduction

M. Ajdynan1, N. Melkonyan1, E. Guryanova2, N. Zhuravleva2, V. Diodimova2, 1Yerevan State Medical University, Department Internal Diseases, Yerevan, Armenia; 2Chuvash State University by I. N. Ulianov, Department Internal Diseases, Cheboksary, Russian Federation

Background: The ratio of men and women suffering from ankylosing spondylitis (AS) approaches 1:1. Many women aged 30-40 think about motherhood, which makes it important to study the problem of pregnancy in AS.


Methods: The study included 38 pregnant women who met the New York criteria for ankylosing spondylitis, 1984. The average age of patients was 32.6±6.8 years, age at the onset of the disease was 22.8±12.9 years, disease duration was 132.9±67.3 months The BASDAI index for 1-3 months before conception, in the I, II and III trimesters averaged 2.2±1.85; 2.7±1.72; 3.3±1.87 and 3.4±2.15, respectively. 11 (28.9%) patients received genetically engineered biological preparations (GEP) 1–3 months before pregnancy, 8 (21.05%) patients in the month of conception, 4 (10.5%) and 1 (2.6%) women, respectively. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) were used in 71 cases (76.1%) and 16 (42.1%) women, respectively. 25 (65.7%) women planned an ankylosing spondylitis pregnancy, 7 - in the II, 1 - in the III trimester. The visits were carried out at 10-11, 20-21 and 31-32 weeks of pregnancy.

Results: In the first trimester of pregnancy with the level of activity according to BASDAI 92 patients with SpA who met the ASAS criteria were included in this study. Most patients with SpA complain of chronic pain during the course of the disease. Chronic pain can be explained by central sensitization (SS). Objectives: Our aim was to investigate the relationship between disease activity and SS in patients with SpA receiving biologic therapy.

Methods: 92 patients with SpA who met the ASAS criteria were included in this retrospective study. Demographic characteristics of patients, comorbidities, drug treatments, used Bath Ankylosing Spondylosis Metrology Index (BASMI), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI), visual analog scale (VAS), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (ASDAS-CRP), Maastricht Ankylosing Spondylitis Enthesitis Score (MASES), Central Sensitization Scale (SS) were calculated. Patients were divided into 2 groups according to BASDAI score <4 low disease activity and >4 high disease activity. Correlation parameters between groups were compared. ROC analysis was performed to estimate the disease activity of SS value and the optimal threshold value was determined.

Results: The proportion of patients with high disease activity was 41.3% (n=38 patients). There was no statistically significant difference between the low disease activity (group 1) and high disease activity (group 2) groups in terms of age, gender, body mass index, comorbid diseases, and the medical treatment (NSAID, steroid, methotrexate, sulfasalazine). There was no statistically significant difference between the groups in ESH, CRP and vitamin D levels. SS, MASES, BASFI, and ASDAS-CRP were found to be significantly higher in group 2 patients, respectively (40.87±12.26 vs 26.78±11.81, p<0.001; 6.32±3.60 vs 3.69±3.05, p<0.001; 5.77±2.12 against 2.90±1.33, p<0.001, 3.35±0.70 versus 2.43±0.45, p<0.001). A moderate correlation was found between the SS scale and ASDAS-CRP (r=0.421; p<0.001) and BASDAI (r=0.581; p<0.001). ROC curve analysis showed that the optimal threshold value of the SS scale score for high disease activity was 31.5% with 78.3% sensitivity and 78.1% specificity (AUC: 0.802, 95% CI: 0.687-0.917, p<0.001) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: It has been shown that the central sensitization scale, which is a simple and applicable scale, can be used to evaluate disease activity in SpA patients receiving biologic therapy.

REFERENCES:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BASDAI &lt;4</th>
<th>BASDAI ≥4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>(n=54)</td>
<td>(n=38)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Age, years | 43.6±9.3  | 44.7±8.6  | 0.594
| Female gender, n (%) | 17 (31.5) | 11 (28.9) | 0.795
| BMI, kg/m² | 26.7±4.0  | 27.1±4.2  | 0.712
| Marital status, n (%) | 8 (14.8)  | 2 (5.3)   | 0.187
| Comorbidity |          |           |
| Menopause, n (%) | 2 (11.8)  | 2 (16.7)  | 0.706
| Hypertension, n (%) | 3 (6.6)   | 1 (2.6)   | 0.640
| Diabetic Mellitus, n (%) | 2 (3.7)   | 2 (3.7)   | 0.231
| Hypothyroidism, n (%) | 3 (6.6)   | 0 (0)     | 0.140
| History of Cancer, n (%) | 0 (0)     | 1 (2.6)   | 0.231
| Arthritis, n (%) | 0 (0)     | 1 (2.6)   | 0.231
| History of Uveitis, n (%) | 6 (11.4)  | 3 (7.8)   | 0.609

Laboratory

| CRP, mg/l | 8.10±10.03 | 12.18±15.84 | 0.134
| 25 (OH) Vitamin D, nmol/l | 26.69±42.36 | 21.68±76.7 | 0.479

Treatment

| Methotrexate, n (%) | 7 (13.0) | 8 (21.1) | 0.301
| Steroids, n (%) | 5 (9.3)  | 2 (5.3)  | 0.695
| NSAID, n (%) | 46 (85.2) | 96 (94.7) | 0.187

Hastalık Aktivite Skorları

| CRP, mg/l | 3.07±1.70 | 3.34±2.35 | 0.527
| BASFI | 2.80±1.33 | 5.77±2.12 | <0.001
| VAS | 50.46±21.55 | 53.16±16.45 | 0.518
| ASDAS-CRP | 2.43±0.49 | 3.35±0.70 | <0.001
| MASES | 3.69±3.05 | 6.32±3.60 | 0.001

Central Sensitization Scale 26.78±11.81 40.87±12.26 <0.001

The study included 38 pregnant women who met the New York criteria for ankylosing spondylitis, 1984. The average age of patients was 32.6±6.8 years, age at the onset of the disease was 22.8±12.9 years, disease duration was 132.9±67.3 months The BASDAI index for 1-3 months before pregnancy, in the I, II and III trimesters averaged 2.2±1.85; 2.7±1.72; 3.3±1.87 and 3.4±2.15, respectively. 11 (28.9%) patients received genetically engineered biological preparations (GEP) 1–3 months before pregnancy, 8 (21.05%) patients in the month of conception, 4 (10.5%) and 1 (2.6%) women, respectively. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) were used in 71 cases (76.1%) and 16 (42.1%) women, respectively. 25 (65.7%) women planned an ankylosing spondylitis pregnancy, 7 - in the II, 1 - in the III trimester. The visits were carried out at 10-11, 20-21 and 31-32 weeks of pregnancy.
AB1065 BERTOLOTTI SYNDROME: AN UNDER RECOGNIZED CAUSE OF INFLAMMATORY BACK PAIN?

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Pain, Quality of life

S. Stebbings1, C. White2, T. Doyle2. 1University of Otago, Department of Medicine, Dunedin School of Medicine, Dunedin, New Zealand; 2University of Otago, Department of Medicine, Dunedin School of Medicine, Dunedin, New Zealand

Background: Bertolotti syndrome describes a lumbosacral transitional vertebra (LSTV) which causes symptoms, usually low back pain. LATV is a congenital anomaly where the L5 vertebra has an unusual morphology. Bertolotti syndrome is an under-recognised condition by clinicians.

Objectives: To clarify the presentation of Bertolotti syndrome, whether there are features of inflammatory back pain (IBP) and the effect on quality of life.

Methods: In this pilot study, 62 patients with LSTV were identified on imaging (plain x-ray). Imaging was performed for a variety of indications, predominantly for back pain. In total, 34 patients agreed to take part, with 18 returning questionnaires. Questionnaires were selected for face validity and included: Calin IBP Questionnaire, EQ-5D Questionnaire, Visual analogue pain scale (VAS-P).

In view of Covid restrictions all contact was by phone and questionnaires were completed online or returned via post. Plain X-rays visualising the lumbar spine (LSTV) which causes symptoms, usually low back pain. LATV is a congenital anomaly where the L5 vertebra has an unusual morphology. Bertolotti syndrome is an under-recognised condition by clinicians.

Results: Seventeen (94%) of the participants (n=18) recorded a VAS-P score >3, indicating a clinically significant level of pain. The mean VAS-P score was 6 (range of 2-9). 89% of respondents scored at least 3/5 in the Calin questionnaire. Of the 5 features of inflammatory back pain in the Calin questionnaire, 4 out of the 5 were reported by most respondents. The exception was 'improvement on exercise', which was only reported by 18% of respondents. Quality of life was impaired-EQ-5D (mean: 0.503, range -0.074 to 0.796). The commonest radiological abnormality was enlarged aortic root (33%). Presence of sclerosis and/or osteoarthritis at the pseudoarticulation transverse process (100%) followed by pseudoarticulation with the sacrum (83%) and scoliosis (16.5%).

Conclusion: These results suggest Bertolotti syndrome is associated with pain in the majority of patients and affects quality of life. The character and site of the pain suggests that Bertolotti syndrome should be considered in the differential diagnosis of spondyloarthritis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1785

AB1066 DISEASE DURATION, AGE AND CLINICAL FEATURES RELATED TO AORTIC VALVE SCLEROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Heart, Epidemiology

A. García-Alía1, P. Moya Alvarado2-3, H. S. Park2-3, A. Laiz2-3, C. Marco Pascual1, A. Casals Urquiza2, C. Pitarqu Grau1, C. Diaz-Tome1-3, B. Magallanes2-3, I. Castelvi2-3, S. P. Fernandez-Sanchez5, S. Ros1, A. Garcia-Gullien1, J. L. Tandapan1,4, A. M. Millán Arciniegas1, H. Codes1, L. Sainz Comas1, H. Corominas2,3,4. 1Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 2Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 3Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Medicine, Barcelona, Spain; 4Hospital Dos de Maig, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Valve degeneration is prevalent in Spondyloarthritis (SpA) patients according to descriptive studies, but it is also common in general population. Disease burden may be a key factor for valve degeneration in SpA.

Objectives: Compare clinical, radiographic and laboratory parameters between patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) with aortic valve sclerosis (AVS) with SpA without aortic valve sclerosis (AVS) compared disease duration since onset of symptoms, diagnosis, and age in patients with AVS and patients without AVS.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted. Eligible patients were 219 SpA patients that met ASAS criteria visited the SpA clinic between July – October 2022. A total of 75 patients that had an echocardiography carried out after SpA diagnosis were included. Aortic valve surgery, rheumatic valve disease, endocarditis and bicuspid valves were excluded. Missing information about SpA were collected prospectively. Comparison between groups was conducted using t test or U-Mann Whitney test according to variable distribution. Proportions were compared using risk difference (RD) or odds ratio (OR).

Results: AVS was observed in 30 (39.5%) patients. Description and comparison of the sample is summarized in Table 1. Age had an OR of 1.17 (95% CI 1.1-1.3) with minor increase of risk for AVS. Duration of disease and delay in diagnosis were similar in both groups. Smoking had a protective effect for AVS with OR for former smoker 0.36 (95% CI 0.12-1.11) and OR smokers 0.13 (95% CI 0.03-0.61). Other echocardiographic findings of the patients were: mild aortic insufficiency in 15 (19.5%) and moderate in 3 (3.9%). Mean aortic root diameter was 34.4±7.0mm.

Conclusion: Age showed small but statistically significant association with AVS. Disease duration measured since diagnosis or onset of 1st symptom did not show significant association. Surprisingly, smokers showed less AVS.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2920

AB1067 OPTIC NEURITIS IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS NAIVE TO TNFA INHIBITORS: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

Gullien4, J. L. Tandaipan1,4, A. M. Millán Arciniegas1, H. Codes1, L. Sainz Comas1, H. Corominas2,3,4. 1University of Otago, Department of Medicine, Dunedin, New Zealand; 2University of Otago, Department of Medicine, Dunedin School of Medicine, Dunedin, New Zealand

Background: Optic neuritis (ON) is an under-recognised condition by clinicians.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of ON in patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) and to compare disease duration since diagnosis, age, sex, smoking history and extra-articular manifestations (EAM) among patients with and without ON.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted. Eligible patients were 219 SpA patients that met ASAS criteria visited the SpA clinic between July – October 2022. A total of 75 patients that had an echocardiography carried out after SpA diagnosis were included. Aortic valve surgery, rheumatic valve disease, endocarditis and bicuspid valves were excluded. Missing information about SpA were collected prospectively. Comparison between groups was conducted using t test or U-Mann Whitney test according to variable distribution. Proportions were compared using risk difference (RD) or odds ratio (OR).

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Conclusion: Age showed small but statistically significant association with AVS. Disease duration measured since diagnosis or onset of 1st symptom did not show significant association. Surprisingly, smokers showed less AVS.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2920
AB1088
THE ROLE OF HEPcidin IN THE FORMATION OF ANEMICAL SYNDROME IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYlosing SPONDYlitis AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE DIFFERENTIATION OF ANEMIA OF CHRONIC DISEASE, IRON DEFICIENCY ANEMIA AND THEIR COMBINATION

Keywords: Spondyloarthritids, Diagnostic tests

O. Zviahina, S. Shevchuk, O. Pavlik
National Pirogov Memorial University, Vinnytsya, Internal Medicine Chair # 2, Vinnytsya, Ukraine

Background: Anemia is a frequent comorbid condition in ankylosing spondylitis (AS) patients. Anemia of chronic disease (ACD), iron deficiency anemia (IDA) and their combination are most often found in patients. The differential diagnosis between ACD and IDA is important because they require different treatment and at the same time is complicated due to the presence of an inflammatory component. Objectives: To establish the role of hepcidin in the formation of anemic syndrome in AS patients and its significance in differentiating anemia of chronic disease, iron deficiency anemia and their combination.

Methods: The study included 76 patients diagnosed with AS according to the modified New York criteria (1984) and 26 controls. Among them, there were 47 patients without anemia and 29 patients with anemia (IDA, n=7; ACD with iron deficiency, n=6; ACD, n=15, folate deficiency anemia, n=1). The diagnostic list included a complete blood count, serum iron, total iron-binding capacity, transferrin saturation, serum ferritin, soluble transferrin receptors (sTfR), and hepcidin. In the literature, there are no clear criteria for gradation of hepcidin levels, therefore, for further analysis, a percentile comparison was performed and indicators corresponding to P25 (up to 25 ng/ml), P25 - P75 (25-35 ng/ml) and P75 (above 35 ng/ml) were selected control group. The statistical processing of the obtained results was carried out using the Microsoft Office Excel 2007 statistical software package.

Results: In the group of AS patients, 41 patients (54%) had hepcidin levels >P75, 16 (21%) <P25, and 19 (25%) within P25 - P75. Hepcidin levels in patients with anemia were 1.4 times higher (51.77 ± 4.62 ng/ml) than in people without anemia (36.08 ± 2.57 ng/ml). The level of hepcidin (35.84±7.50 ng/ml) in patients with IDA is practically comparable to the group of patients without anemia. The level of hepcidin (62.78±5.94 ng/ml) is 1.7 times higher in people with ACD than in people with IDA (p<0.05). Patients with ACD and iron deficiency in terms of hepcidin level occupy an intermediate place (48.53±9.50 ng/ml), which may indicate an important role in the pathogenesis of ACD and can be used as a diagnostic marker for the differential diagnosis of ACD and IDA. In the group of patients without anemia, we found no significant relationship between hepcidin and indicators of red blood and ferrokinetics. While in individuals with anemia we found the relationship of hepcidin with serum iron (r=0.26; p<0.05), soluble transferrin receptors (r=-0.15; p<0.05) and transferrin saturation coefficient (r=0.17; p<0.05). Conclusion: For AS patients, for the early differential diagnosis of the types of anemia (ACD, IDA, and ACD with iron deficiency), in addition to traditional methods, the complex of laboratory tests should include determination of the hepcidin level in blood serum. A high level of hepcidin indicates the presence of ACD.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3852
Objectives: Few studies have explored the male and female disease features in Latin American population. The aim of this study was to examine the clinical presentation, disease onset characteristics, metrology, HLA frequency, and clinical characteristics of male and female SpA patients.

Methods: We used a cohort of Colombian SpA patients from 1990 to the current day. Patients were evaluated by rheumatologists, filled out validated questionnaires, and were classified according to the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS) classification criteria at the time of diagnosis. Using the available data, patients enrolled before 2011 were reclassified according to ASAS. We compared the features of both genders and used SPSS 26.0 to conduct statistical analysis.

Results: In this study, 469 SpA patients from a Colombian SpA cohort were included. There were 164 (34.9%) females and 305 (65.1%) males total. There were no statistically significant differences in ASAS classification; 61.2% of females and 50.6% of males had AxSpA, P = 0.3. However, nr-AxSpA was more prevalent among females (20.6%) than males (15.1%), P = 0.01. In all groups the frequency of HLA-B27 was comparable (15.9% vs. 11.2%, P = 0.1). And the prevalence of HLA-B27 was greater in men than in women (52.4% vs. 33.3%, P < 0.01). The symptoms at the onset of the disease had similar distribution in both sexes (table 1). Enthesopathy was more prevalent among women than males (82.4% vs. 72.4%, P = 0.02), but no arthritis, uveitis, psoriasis, and inflammatory bowel disease (table 1). In males, disease onset was more acute (40.7% vs. 27.3%, P = 0.04). Age at beginning of the disease was 32 (24.5 – 41.1) years for females and 24.9 (20.5 – 31.7) years for males (P < 0.01). The time to diagnosis (in months) was 39 (11.5 – 126) for females and 13 (3 – 71) for males (P < 0.01). Women had more functional impairment measured by BASFI and en, and men showed a higher C-reactive protein (CRP) (P < 0.01) (Table 1).

Conclusion:_nr-AxSpA is more frequent in women than in men, although radiographic disease is more prominent in men. The prevalence of HLA-B27 is higher in men with SpA. Males are older at the onset of the disease and were diagnosed sooner than females. Females had more disease activity as measured by BASDAI and functional impairment as measured by BASFI, whereas males have lower CRP levels.

ASAS: Assessment of Spondyloarthritis international Society; CRP: C-reactive protein; BASFI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index; BASDAI: Bath ankylosing Spondyloarthritis Disease Activity Index.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Table 1. Characteristics of the CS and no CS group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n=340</th>
<th>NoCS group (n=158)</th>
<th>CS group (n=182)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91 (57.6%)</td>
<td>153 (84.1%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>Non smoker</td>
<td>74 (49.3%)</td>
<td>66 (37.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>49.9 ± 13.5</td>
<td>63.9 ± 13</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>25.1 ± 3.8</td>
<td>27.6 ± 4.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA</td>
<td>AxSpA</td>
<td>41 (28.5%)</td>
<td>38 (20.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>40 (25.3%)</td>
<td>39 (21.4%)</td>
<td>0.473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>15 (9.5%)</td>
<td>9 (4.9%)</td>
<td>0.155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>41 (16%)</td>
<td>38 (10.1%)</td>
<td>0.479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis</td>
<td>34 (26.2%)</td>
<td>59 (32.4%)</td>
<td>0.291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EnA</td>
<td>27 (17.1%)</td>
<td>41 (22.5%)</td>
<td>0.285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis</td>
<td>6 (3.8%)</td>
<td>2 (1.1%)</td>
<td>0.152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>axSpA type</td>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
<td>114 (72.2%)</td>
<td>166 (91.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EnA</td>
<td>13 (8.2%)</td>
<td>10 (5.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsSpA</td>
<td>8 (5.1%)</td>
<td>3 (1.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
<td>31 (16%)</td>
<td>18 (9.3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BASDAl</td>
<td>3.3 ± 2.1</td>
<td>3.8 ± 2.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>BASFI</td>
<td>2.7 ± 2.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS CRP</td>
<td>2.1 ± 1</td>
<td>2.4 ± 1</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS mobility</td>
<td>810 ± 13.3</td>
<td>54.1 ± 24.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schober 10</td>
<td>4.3 ± 12</td>
<td>2.7 ± 17</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schober 15</td>
<td>6.4 ± 17</td>
<td>4.2 ± 23</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASRI sacroiliac joints</td>
<td>0 (9.7%)</td>
<td>7 (2.1%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EnA</td>
<td>15 (9.5%)</td>
<td>4 (2.2%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PsSpA</td>
<td>57 (36.1%)</td>
<td>15 (8.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
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<td>47 (25.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI LS</td>
<td>108 (68.4%)</td>
<td>35 (19.3%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EnA</td>
<td>1 (3.2%)</td>
<td>10 (5.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsSpA</td>
<td>33 (20.9%)</td>
<td>37 (20.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
<td>8 (5.1%)</td>
<td>35 (19.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nr-axSpA</td>
<td>4 (2.5%)</td>
<td>64 (35.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>lSMDARD</td>
<td>52 (32.9%)</td>
<td>75 (41.2%)</td>
<td>0.143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASAS: Assessment of Spondyloarthritis international Society; CRP: C-reactive protein; BASFI: Bath ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index; BASDAI: Bath ankylosing Spondyloarthritis Disease Activity Index.

AB1070

CERVICAL SPINE INVOLVEMENT IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS. RADIOPHOTIC CHARACTERISTICS AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS

Keywords: Imaging, Spondyloarthritis, Descriptive studies

L. Berbel Arcobie1, X. Michelenia, J. A. Narvaeza2, J. M. Nolla1, J. Palacios Olí2, P. Maymo Paituvi1, X. Juanola-Roura1, Bellsviague University Hospital, Rheumatology, L’Hospitalat de Llobregat, Spain; Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; Bellvitge University Hospital, Radiology, L’Hospitalat de Llobregat, Spain

Background: The study of the cervical spine (CS) in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and its radiographic characteristics including the zygapophyseal joints (ZJ) may be helpful for early diagnosis, establishing a prognosis and sharpening treatment choices.

Objectives: To describe the prevalence and characteristics of CS involvement in a cohort of patients with axSpA and its associated factors, which have been followed up in the Rheumatology Department of a third level university hospital.

Methods: Descriptive, retrospective and unincentric study. Patients with an axSpA diagnosis based on the ASAS classification criteria, from March 2011 to December 2022, retrieved from a dedicated axSpA database were included.

Sociodemographic, clinical, radiographic and therapeutic variables were gathered. They were separated into two groups according to CS involvement; “CS group” as patients with BASRI≥2 in CS and/or a score ≥3 in ZJ measured by De Vlam method[1]; and “no CS group” as controls.

Results: A total of 340 patients were included (71.8% men; mean age 57.4 ± 14.9 years). CS involvement is common among axSpA (n=182; 53.5%). ZJ involvement was observed in 99 patients (29.1%), and of those, 21 did not show concomitant structural damage in the vertebral bodies. A total of 83 patients (24.4%) had damage in the vertebral bodies exclusively, and 37 (10.9%) had CS involvement without radiographic involvement of the lumbar spine (LS) (29.7% women). Patients from the CS group were predominantly men, older, had a higher BMI and higher prevalence of smoking (Table 1). They also showed a higher disease activity (BASDAI and ASDAS CRP), worse function in CS and LS, as well as more structural damage in both LS and sacroiliac joints. No differences were found between groups for positive HLA B27, age at diagnosis, familiar history of arthritis, enthesitis, dactylitis or extra musculoskeletal manifestations (uveitis, psoriasis or IBD).

Conclusion: The radiographic evaluation of the CS is relevant in axSpA, and it should be performed routinely, as well as the evaluation of the ZJ, as they are commonly involved in axSpA and related to higher disease activity and worse function.

REFERENCE:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4665
Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

P. Triggianese1, M. Falica1, B. Neri2, A. Dantonio1, E. Calabrese2, S. Schiavone2, A. Bargamini2, L. Biancone2, M. S. Chimenti1

1. University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rheumatology Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy; 2. University of Rome Tor Vergata, Gastroenterology Unit, Rome, Italy

Background: Micronutrient deficiency (MND) is common among patients with chronic inflammatory diseases. MND is associated with a pro-inflammatory status and co-morbidities. Recent evidence documented a relevant prevalence of MND in Spondyloarthritis (SpA) and its interplay with gender and inflammatory-ry-dependent dysmetabolism[1]. MND in patients with Enteropathic Spondyloarthritis (ESpA) has not been analyzed even though the concomitant occurrence of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and SpA might strongly impact MNDs.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed at comparing for the first time the occurrence of anemia and deficiencies of ferritin (Fe), vitamin B12 (B12), folic acid (FA), and vitamin D [25(OH)D] in patients with ESpA, IBD without SpA, and isolated SpA.

Methods: In a prospective case-control study, consecutive subjects were enrolled among ESpA (Cases), IBD (Controls-1), and SpA (Controls-2) patients referring to one gastro-rheumatologic outpatient clinic at the “Tor Vergata” University Hospital (Rome, Italy). Each Case (ESpA) was retrospectively matched (1:1) for IBD type with one IBD subject from Controls-1 group. Inclusion criteria: 1) age ≥18 years; 2) follow up (≥2 visits/year); 3) recent (<3 mos) micronutrients data. Additional inclusion criteria for Cases: 1) diagnosis of SpA, 2) diagnosis of IBD. Additional inclusion criteria: 1) for Controls-1: diagnosis of IBD; 2) for Controls-2: diagnosis of SpA. Exclusion criteria: 1) for Controls-1: diagnosis of SpA; 2) for Controls-2: diagnosis of IBD. The disease activity was evaluated by Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) and C-reactive protein (CRP) levels in patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of the sacroiliac joints was performed on all patients using coronal oblique T1, T2 and STIR weighted sequences. Active sacroilitis was defined as the presence of inflammatory lesions according to the ASAS (Arthritis Research and Therapy) criteria. CRP was considered high if it was greater than or equal to 6 mg/L. The statistical analysis was performed using the Fisher and Chi-Squared test and a p-value of 0.05 was considered as the level of significance.

Results: One hundred ESpA (Cases) were enrolled and matched with 100 IBD (Controls-1, n=58 Crohn's Disease - CD, n=42 Ulcerative Colitis - UC), and 100 SpA including 81% psoriatic-SpA (Controls-2). The mean age was 38.5 ±25.7 (pg/ml), 23.7± 9 (ng/ml), 0.57± 0.32(ng/ml), respectively. The mean 25(OH)D deficiency (≤20 ng/ml) was more frequent in Controls-2 than in Controls-1 (15% and 19%, respectively) than in Controls-2 (7%) while Fe deficiency (>15 ng/ml) was similar between Cases and Controls-1 and significantly prevalent in both Cases and Controls-1 than Controls-2 (P=0.001 for both). The B12 deficiency (≤200 pmol/l) was similar between Cases and Controls-1 but it resulted more frequent in Controls-1 than Controls-2 (P=0.04). The rate of folate defect (≤4 ng/ml) was similar between Cases and Controls-1 but it resulted less frequent in Controls-2 than in both Cases (P=0.002) and Controls-1 (P=0.0001). The 25(OH)D deficiency (≤200 ng/ml) was more frequent in Controls-2 than Cases (P=0.02).

Conclusion: In this study, the results of this study did not demonstrate a significant association between CRP levels and active sacroilitis on MRI in patients with AS. However, the study suggests that MRI may allow for an early diagnosis of AS in the absence of biological inflammation, and that young onset may be a risk factor for active sacroilitis in AS patients. Further studies are needed to validate these findings and to better understand the relationship between CRP levels, imaging, and sacroilitis activity in AS patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

AB1073

IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BONE TURNOVER MARKERS AND DISEASE ACTIVITY IN TUNISIAN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS?

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Vitamin D

S. Rekki1, S. Rahmouni1, K. Zouaoui1, S. Boussaid2, H. Aljani2, H. Sahli1, M. Elleuch1, 1 La Rabta hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia; 2 Yasminette Ben Arous Hospital, Rheumatology, Ben Arous, Tunisia

Background: It has been reported that disease activity was correlated to the alterations in vitamin D metabolism and increased bone resorption in patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) [1].

Objectives: To investigate the relationship between bone turnover markers, Vitamin D levels and disease activity in SpA patients.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, we included patients with SpA. In addition to the routine blood and urine tests, serum 25-(OH)D3, bone turnover markers (osteocalcin and Alkaline phosphatase (ALP) for formation, and serum C-terminal telopeptide (CTX) for resorption) of all participants were also measured. The disease activity was evaluated by Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) and AS disease activity scores (ASDAS-CRP) and the functional status by Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI).

Results: We included 79 patients (56 males, 23 females; mean age: 46.3 ± 19 years). The mean 25(OH)D3, Calcium, Phosphor, ALP, PTH, Osteocalcin, CTX values were 17.7 ± 9.8 ng/ml, 90.70 ± 12 (ng/ml), 36.10 ± 5.5 (mg/l), 94.6 ± 25(U/l), 38.5 ± 25.7 (pg/ml), 23.7 ± 9 (ng/ml), 0.57 ± 0.32(nmol/l), respectively. The mean

References:
BACKGROUND

Axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) is a chronic inflammatory disease of the axial skeleton and peripheral joints that affects approximately 0.5% of the population. It is characterized by low back pain and stiffness, and in some cases, peripheral arthritis. The diagnosis of AxSpA is often delayed, and the correct utilization of MRI is essential for early detection and management. The purpose of this study is to assess adherence to the OMERACT/ASAS recommendations for MRI protocol in axial spondyloarthritis.

METHODS

We conducted a retrospective chart review of patients with axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) who underwent MRI at our institution. The MRI protocol was assessed to determine if it was fully compliant with the OMERACT/ASAS recommendations. The study included 102 patients with an average age of 39.3 years and a male-to-female ratio of 1.2:1. The MRI protocol was assessed for adherence to the OMERACT/ASAS recommendations.

RESULTS

The MRI protocol was not fully compliant with the OMERACT/ASAS recommendations in 45% of the patients. The most common deviations were the absence of short T1 inversion recovery (STIR) and T1-weighted sequences. These sequences are crucial for the detection of early bone and cartilage changes, which can be missed in non-compliant MRI protocols.

CONCLUSION

Axial spondyloarthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects approximately 0.5% of the population. The diagnosis of AxSpA is often delayed, and the correct utilization of MRI is essential for early detection and management. The results of this study highlight the importance of adhering to the OMERACT/ASAS recommendations for MRI protocol in axial spondyloarthritis.

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology, Descriptive studies

J. Londono, J. Rueda, A. M. Santos, M. J. Mantilla, J. C. Santacruz Devia, S. Arias, J. Rueda, J. M. Bello-Guatero, E. Calvo, M. Cardiel, C. F. Pacheco Tená, Hospital Militar Central, Rheumatology, Bogotá, Colombia; Universidad de La Sabana, Medicine, Chía, Colombia; Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medicine, Bogotá, Colombia; Clínica de Morelia, Michoacan, Michoacan, Mexico; Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, Medicine, Chihuahua, Mexico

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CONCLUSION

Axial spondyloarthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects approximately 0.5% of the population. The diagnosis of AxSpA is often delayed, and the correct utilization of MRI is essential for early detection and management. The results of this study highlight the importance of adhering to the OMERACT/ASAS recommendations for MRI protocol in axial spondyloarthritis.

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology, Descriptive studies

J. Londono, J. Rueda, A. M. Santos, M. J. Mantilla, J. C. Santacruz Devia, E. Calvo, J. G. Ballesteros, S. Arias, J. Rueda, M. Cardiel, C. F. Pacheco Tená, Hospital Militar Central, Bogotá, Colombia; Universidad de La Sabana, Medicine, Chía, Colombia; Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medicine, Bogotá, Colombia; Clínica de Morelia, Michoacan, Michoacan, Mexico; Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, Medicine, Chihuahua, Mexico

AB1075

CHARACTERISTICS OF COLOMBIAN PATIENTS WITH Spondyloarthropathy: Differences Between Axial and Peripheral Results from the GESPA Colombian Cohort

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Epidemiology, Descriptive studies

J. Londono, J. Rueda, A. M. Santos, M. J. Mantilla, J. C. Santacruz Devia, E. Calvo, J. G. Ballesteros, S. Arias, J. Rueda, M. Cardiel, C. F. Pacheco Tená, Hospital Militar Central, Bogotá, Colombia; Universidad de La Sabana, Medicine, Chía, Colombia; Hospital Militar Central, Bogotá, Colombia; Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medicine, Bogotá, Colombia; Clínica de Morelia, Michoacan, Michoacan, Mexico; Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, Medicine, Chihuahua, Mexico; La Paz University Hospital, Medicine, Madrid, Spain

AB1076

SPECTRUM OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS IN COLOMBIAN PATIENTS: NON-RADIOGRAPHIC VS RADIOGRAPHIC AXIAL SPA. RESULTS FROM GESPA COLOMBIAN COHORT

Keywords: Epidemiology, Spondyloarthritis

J. Rueda, G. Rodríguez Salas, A. M. Santos, M. J. Mantilla, J. C. Santacruz Devia, E. Calvo, J. G. Ballesteros, S. Arias, J. Rueda, M. Cardiel, C. F. Pacheco Tená, V. Navarro-Compán, J. Londono, Universidad de La Sabana, Cundinamarca, Chía, Colombia; Hospital Militar Central, Bogotá, Colombia; Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medicine, Bogotá, Colombia; Clínica de Morelia, Michoacan, Michoacan, Mexico; Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, Medicine, Chihuahua, Mexico; La Paz University Hospital, Medicine, Madrid, Spain
Background: Spondyloarthritis encompasses several diseases with similar clinical, biochemical, and imaging features. Since 2009, these characteristics have allowed this disease to be classified into axial and peripheral, with the presence of chronic spinal pain and the age of onset of the disease being important criteria for the classification of axial spondyloarthritis[1]. Interest in non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis has recently increased [2], but this information is limited in our population.

Objectives: To differentiate the clinical, biochemical, and imaging characteristics of one Colombian cohort of patients with radiographic and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis.

Methods: Patients with axial spondyloarthritis were consecutively recruited at a reference institution in Colombia from 2002 to 2015. A structured survey was conducted at the time of the diagnosis of the disease, which included sociodemographic, clinical, biochemical, and imaging variables. The presence of sacroiliitis was evaluated by local radiologist. Patients and disease characteristics were compared in sex, the age of onset, the duration of the disease, initial symptom, number of swollen joints, duration of morning stiffness, number of painful entheses. Compared with r-axSpA, patients with nr-axSpA had greater presence of HLA-B15 (P=0.04), presence of inflammatory spinal pain (P=0.01), history of relatives with spondyloarthritis (P=0.03), longer duration of enthesitis (P=0.001), low back pain (P=0.007) and gluteal pain (P=0.003) in the first episode, and greater back chest expansion (P=0.001) and distance in the Schober test (P=0.001) in non-radiographic axial versus radiographic axial patients.

Conclusion: Colombian patients with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis have higher presence of HLA-B15, higher frequency of inflammatory spinal pain, family history of spondyloarthritis, low back pain, and gluteal pain during the first episode of the disease, greater chest expansion and distance on the Schober test than patients with radiographic axial spondyloarthritis.

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Prognostic factors

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5822

AB1079

CLINICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SPONDYLOARTHRITIS WITH COXITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Prognostic factors
Spondyloarthritis (SpA) is the most common chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease with hip involvement, which is a marker of disease severity, given its major functional impact.

Objectives: Determine the clinical, biological and radiological characteristics of SpA with coxitis, and to determine the factors associated with its occurrence.

Methods: Retrospective and analytic study including patients with SpA. Clinical demographics, biological radiological data, and activity scores were collected. The significance threshold was set for a value of p < 0.05.

Results: These were 333 patients, of which 54.1% were men. The mean age at onset was 40.52 ± 15.05 years, and the mean age at onset was 32.02 ± 15.42. The percentage of smoking patients was 11.1%. HLA-B27 was positive in 57% and uveitis was present in 7.2% of patients. Coxitis was present in 25.52% of patients, it was inaugural in 10.5% and bilateral in 71.76% of cases. Coxitis was more common in men; the male gender accounted for 76.47% in SpA with coxitis versus 46.37% without coxitis (p < 0.001). The mean age of SpA onset was lower in patients who developed coxitis (24.4 ± 13.75 years versus 34.6 ± 15.14 years; p = 0.014). Pure axial form and low back and buttock pain were more noted in patients with coxitis (18.8% versus 13.3% p = 0.022, 31.7% versus 18.9% p = 0.018 respectively). Enthesopathy was more common in SpA without coxitis (56.86% versus 35.3%, p = 0.001). There was no significant difference between the two groups for CRP and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (p = 0.91; p = 0.35), nor for ASDAS and BASDAI (p = 0.95; p = 0.38 respectively). Also a frequency not modified by the presence or absence of coxitis was noted, in particular for the family history of SpA, smoking, HLA-B27, uveitis, the existence of radiographic sacroilitis.

In multivariate analysis, coxitis was associated with male gender, early age of onset, and pure axial form.

Conclusion: Our study showed that the presence of coxitis was associated with early disease onset, male sex and pure axial form of SpA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5839

AB1080

IS HLA-B27 ASSOCIATED WITH BIOMARKERS OF OSTEOFORMATION IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS? RESULTS OF A STUDY FROM NORTH AFRICA

Keywords: Biomarkers, Spondyloarthritis

K. Maatallah1, Z. Zeineb1, I. Ayadi2, H. Ferjani1, M. Kallel Sellami2, D. Ben Nessib1, D. Elhaj Mahmoud2, W. Kaabachi2, D. Kaffel1, L. Laadhar2, H. Arabi1, F. Idrissi Zaki1, H. Teba1, A. Mougui1, I. El Bouchti1.

Background: The Wnt signaling pathway is a signaling pathway regulating bone metabolism. Dickkopf1 (DKK-1) and Sclerostin are potent inhibitors of osteoblasts, which regulate bone turnover.

Objectives: To investigate the association between the presence of these biomarkers (DKK-1; p = 0.744), (Sclerostin; p = 0.870), (OPG; p = 0.835).

Methods: One hundred and nine patients were included, with a mean age of 43 ± 19 years and a sex ratio M/F of 1.65. The mean age of SpA diagnosis was ± 11 years. Seven patients had a juvenile onset of the disease. HLA-B27 allele was present in 30 patients (27.5%). The respective medians [range] of serum levels, in pg/mL, of DKK-1, Sclerostin, and OPG were 146.7 [40-553], 32.8 [0-488], and 471 [0-1613]. HLA-B27 was not associated with any of these biomarkers (DKK-1: p = 0.744), (Sclerostin; p = 0.870), (OPG: p = 0.835).

Conclusion: Our study suggests that there is no association between inhibitors of the Wnt signaling pathway as well as OPG and HLA B27.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1081

THE PRESENCE OF SYMPHYSIS IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLITIS MAY BE A SIGN OF RADIOGRAPHIC DAMAGE

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis

E. Durak Ediboğlu1, A. Sinci2, D. Solmaz2, H. Kocaayang7, E. Erpek3, A. Özkan7, S. Akar7, H. Katip Celebi University, Department of Radiology, Izmir, Turkey; 7Izmir Katip Celebi University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Hatay, Turkey; 7Izmir Katip Celebi University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Sacroiliac joint radiographs allow the evaluation of the symmetry region and ischial enthesis regions as well as the evaluation of the sacroiliac and hip joints in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

Objectives: In this study, it is planned to test and review the relationship between the presence of symphysis and disease-related factors and other radiological involvement factors.

Methods: Of 384 patients with axSpA and whose sacroiliac joint radiographs were evaluated for symphysis were included in the study. The presence of symphysis was not detected in non-radiographic axSpA patients.

In multivariate analysis, coxitis was associated with male gender, early age of onset, and pure axial form.

Conclusion: Our study showed that the presence of coxitis was associated with early disease onset, male sex and pure axial form of SpA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6463

Table 1. Demographic and radiographic characteristics of patients with axial spondyloarthritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Median (IQR)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis</td>
<td>42.1 ± 9.9</td>
<td>34.6 (11.7)</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, male, %</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>70.2</td>
<td>75.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 positivity, %</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>62.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration, median (IQR)</td>
<td>13 (13)</td>
<td>6 (8)</td>
<td>6 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDAS-CRP score</td>
<td>3.0 (1.8)</td>
<td>3.4 (1.4)</td>
<td>3.0 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAS score, median (IQR) 6 (3) 8 (2) 6 (4) <0.001
Servikl mSASS, median (IQR) 0 (6) 6 (18) 0 (6) <0.001
Lumbal mSASS, median (IQR) 0 (6) 6 (33) 0 (2) <0.001
Serum CRP level, median (IQR) 3.0 (1.8) 3.4 (1.4) 3.0 (1.8) 0.030

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6304
Psoriatic arthritis - treatment

**AB1082**

EARLY CLINICAL RESPONSE AS A PREDICTOR OF LONG-TERM HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENTS IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND TNF-IR RECEIVING GUSELUMAB (COSMOS)

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Outcome measures, Psoriatic arthritis

L. Gossec¹, D. Aletaha², P. Sewerin³, A. Zabotti⁴, F. Van den Bosch⁵, M. Efficacé⁶, F. Lavie⁶, M. Zimmermann⁶, M. Sharaf¹, I. Mcniece⁶, ⁶Sorbonne Université et Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Rheumatology department, Paris, France; ²Medical University of Vienna, Division of Rheumatology, Vienna, Austria; ³Rheumazentrum Ruhrgegend, Ruhr University Bochum, Herne, Germany; ⁴Hospital Santa Maria della Misericordia, Rheumatology Clinic, Department of Medical and Biological Sciences, Udine, Italy; ⁵VIB Center for Inflammation Research, Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium; ⁶Janssen-Cilag, SpA, Imperia, Italy; ⁷The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Scientific Affairs, LLC, Paris, France; ⁸Janssen, Scientific Affairs, LLC, Zug, Switzerland; ⁹Johnson & Johnson, Middle East FZ LLC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; ¹⁰College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

**Background:** Improvement in health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is a key goal of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) therapy.¹ Here, we assess whether early clinical response predicts long-term improvement in HRQoL for patients (pts) with PsA and inadequate response to 1–2 tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNF-IR).

**Objectives:** Assess the association between early clinical response across various PsA domains and HRQoL at Week (W)48, as well as identify baseline (BL) characteristics that could predict early response in gusekumab (GUS)-treated TNF-IR PsA pts in the Phase 3b COSMOS trial.

**Methods:** In the randomized controlled COSMOS trial (NCT03796858),[3] adults with active PsA (swollen/tender joint counts [SJC/TJC] each ≥3) and TNF-IR were randomized: 2:1 to receive subcutaneous injections of either GUS 100 mg (at W0, W4, W4, every 8 weeks through W44) or placebo (at W0, W4, W12, W20, followed by GUS at W16 [early escape] or at W24 [planned], W28, W36, W44). Only pts randomized to GUS were included in this analysis. Long-term improvements in HRQoL were defined as clinically significant changes from BL to W48 in 36-item short-form survey (SF-36) physical and mental component summary (PCS and MCS) and Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) scores. Early clinical response was defined as achievement of the following criteria at W4 or W8: American College of Rheumatology (ACR)20, pt pain on a visual analogue scale (VAS) ≤15, SJC ≤1, skin VAS ≤20, and health assessment questionnaire – disability index (HAQ-DI) ≤0.5. In addition, Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) ≤1 was considered at W16 – the earliest PASI assessment. Analyses were restricted to pts not meeting the respective early response criteria at BL. Long-term HRQoL improvements were compared between pts achieving vs not achieving early response criteria by means of Student's t-test and by multivariate linear regression model including BL for demographic and BL pt disease characteristics. Results from the multivariate linear regression analyses are presented here. Demographic and BL pt disease characteristics predicting early clinical response were investigated using multivariate logistic regression.

**Results:** Overall, 189 pts were randomized to GUS, with a mean age of 49.1 years, and 45.5% were male. Among pts not meeting the respective early response criteria at BL, GUS led to 2.7–19.0% and 4.3–38.4% of pts achieving one of the clinical responses of interest as early as W4 and W8, respectively. SF-36 PCS improvement from BL to W48 was significantly associated with ACR20 response, SJC ≤1 and HAQ-DI ≤0.5 achievement at W4 as well as at W8. There were no significant findings for SF-36 MCS. DLQI improvement from BL to W48 was significantly associated with ACR20 and skin VAS ≤20 at W8 (Figure 1). Improvements in SF-36 PCS, SF-36 MCS and DLQI at W48 were all significantly associated with achievement of PASI ≤1 at W16. Multivariate logistic regression identified significant (P<0.05) associations between males and early clinical response at W8 (ACR20: odds ratio [OR]=1.98; HAQ-DI ≤0.5: OR=3.71), BL SJC and SJC ≤1 at W8 (OR=0.84), BL HAQ-DI and HAQ-DI ≤0.5 at W8 (OR=0.23), and BL skin VAS and skin VAS ≤20 at W8 (OR=0.98).

**Conclusion:** For early clinical GUS, ACR20 response at W4 and W8 was positively associated with SF-36 PCS improvement from BL to W48, and also at W8 with DLQI improvement from BL to W48. Therefore, early clinical response is relevant for HRQoL improvements over time. These results may help in shared decision-making processes.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.


**DOl:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.359

**AB1083**

HALF OF THE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN A GERMAN CLAIMS DATA CENTER EXPERIENCE POLYPHARMACY

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Comorbidities, Health services research

K. Albrecht², A. Regierer², A. Strangfeld¹, U. Marschall³, J. Calhoff²,²German Rheumatism Research Centre, Epidemiology and Health Services Research, Berlin, Germany; ³Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; ²BARMER, Institute for Health System Research, Wuppertal, Germany; ³Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Institute for Social Medicine, Epidemiology and Health Economics, Berlin, Germany

**Background:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) therapy and comorbidity almost inevitably lead to the issue of polypharmacy (intake of ≥ 5 medications daily), which may further challenge the management of the disease. There is a lack of data on polypharmacy in PsA.

**Objectives:** To assess polypharmacy in women and men with PsA.
Methods: From the German BARMER health insurance database, 11,984 persons with PsA and DMARD therapy in 2021 were included and compared to sex and age matched controls without inflammatory arthritis. Medications were grouped by Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical groups. Polypharmacy (≥5 concomitant drugs) was compared by sex, age and comorbidity using the Rheumatic disease comorbidity index (RDCI, range 0-9) and the Elixhauser comorbidity index (range 0-31). The mean difference in the medication number between persons with PsA and controls was estimated with a linear regression model.

Results: From all adult persons insured in 2021 (n=7.4 Mio.; 190,000 (2.6%) had a diagnosis of psoriasis (ICD-10-GM Code L40). Of those, 20,245 (11%) had a PsA diagnosis (L40.5 + M07.0-3) and 11,984 received any DMARD therapy. A total of 119,840 persons without diagnoses of inflammatory arthritis were included as controls. A total of 63% of all persons with PsA and DMARD therapy were women and the overall mean age was 60 years (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics and frequencies of comorbidities (%) of women and men with PsA and controls in 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comorbidities (%)</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung disease</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoarthritis</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothyroidism</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcer/stomach problem</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal failure</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Polypharmacy was significantly higher in PsA (49%) compared to controls (17%), more frequent in women (52%) compared to men (45%) and strongly increased with age (15% in 18 to 30 yrs., 76% in >80 yrs.) and comorbidity. Comorbidity was more frequent in PsA compared to controls (mean Elixhauser comorbidity score 3.6 vs. 2.2 in controls, table 1). This applies to the conditions of the metabolic syndrome: hypertension (57% vs. 42% in controls), dyslipidemia (32% vs. 27%), diabetes (21% vs. 13%) as well as to all other comorbidities, in particular osteoarthritis (35% vs. 15%) and depression (28% vs. 16%). Compared to controls, all ATC drug classes were significantly more frequent in persons with PsA, most commonly drugs for the musculoskeletal system (81% vs. 30%), immunomodulating agents (66% vs. 26%), cardiovasculars (62% vs. 48%), alimentary tract metabolism (57% vs. 31%) and nervous system (50% vs. 31%) (frequencies for PsA see Figure 1). For each unit increase of the RDCI, the age-adjusted number of prescribed medications increased by 0.98 (95% CI 0.95; 1.01) units in men and 0.90 (0.96) units in women. Compared to controls, the number of prescribed medications (mean 4.9 (2.8)) was 2.4 (2.34; 2.43) units higher in women and 2.3 (2.21; 2.39) units higher in men.

Conclusion: Polypharmacy commonly presents in PsA and is composed of PsA-specific medication as well as medication for frequent comorbidities, equally affecting women and men. While DMARD therapy is essential to prevent subsequent damage, systemic GC should be avoided in PsA and analgesics might be dispensable if PsA is well controlled. With regard to the elderly, more frequent therapy with bDMARDs should be discussed which may result in reduced use of analgesics, opioids, and other secondary-induced co-medication.

Acknowledgements: The study was supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research within the network TARISMA (01EC1902A). The authors thank the BARMER for providing access to data via their data warehouse for this study. We thank the patient partners in the TARISMA project for dedicating their time to add the patient view to this project.

Disclosure of Interests: Katinka Albrecht: None declared, Anne Regierer

Methods: This post hoc analysis evaluated 1120 adults with active PsA despite standard therapies from DISCOVER-1 (D1) (swollen & tender joint counts [SJC/TJC] ≥3 each, CRP ≥0.3mg/dL, 1-2 prior TNF inhibitors [TNFi] in 31% of pts) and D2 (SJC/TJC ≥5 each, CRP ≥0.6mg/dL, biologic-naive). Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W); GUS 100 mg at W0, W4, then Q8W; or placebo (PBO)—GUS 100mg Q4W at W24. Time to MCII in outcomes of interest, i.e., in SJC/TJC ≥5.7, Joint Visual Analogue Scale [VAS] ≥15mm, Pain ≥15mm, HAQ-DI ≥0.35, PASDAS ≥0.8, PGA ≥15mm, Skin VAS ≥15mm, FACIT-F ≥4, SF-36 PCS ≥3, was compared between GUS vs PBO with Cox regression adjusting for baseline (BL) levels of respective outcome, treatment group, prior TNFi use, and BL DMARD use. MCII achievement was determined using non-responder imputation and compared between GUS and PBO using logistic regression adjusting for the above covariates. The association between MCII achievement at W4/W8 and stringent clinical response at W24/W52 amongst GUS-treated pts was assessed with logistic regression adjusting for prior TNFi use and BL DMARD use.

Results: Time to achieve MCII in all studied outcomes was significantly shorter (hazard ratio range: 1.3-2.5; all p<0.01) for both GUS Q4W and Q8W vs PBO, including cDAPSA as a representative example (Figure 1), with curve separation occurring at the first timepoint assessed. MCII rates also were significantly higher with GUS vs PBO at the first timepoint assessed, i.e., W4 for cDAPSA, Joint VAS, Pt Pain, and HAQ-DI and W8 for PASDAS, PGA, Skin VAS, FACIT-F, and SF-36 PCS (Table 1).

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Quality of life, Patient reported outcomes

J. Curtis1, A. Deodhar2, E. Soriano3, E. Rampakakis3,5, M. Shawi4, N. Shiff5, M. Strauss5, C. Han5, W. Tilliet6, D. D. Gladman7, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, United States of America; 2Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 3McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada; 4JUSS Medical Research, Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 5Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, United States of America; 6Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Horsham, United States of America; 7University of Saskatchewan, Adjunct, Community Health and Epidemiology, Saskatoon, Canada; 8MEDASOURCE, Medical Group, Indianapolis, United States of America; 9Janssen Global Services, LLC, Immunology, Malvern, United States of America; 10Royal National Hospital For Rheumatic Diseases, Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology Centre for Therapeutic Innovation, Combe Park, United Kingdom; 11Center for Prognosis Studies in Rheumatic Diseases, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Krembil Research Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, Department of Medicine, Toronto, Canada

Background: The Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and PsA advocates addressing all aspects of disease, including optimizing functional status and improving health-related quality of life (HRQoL).[1] Gusekumb (GUS) has demonstrated robust efficacy across key PsA domains at week (W) 24, with effects sustained or further enhanced through 2 years.[2-4] Timing of clinically meaningful improvement in disease activity (DA), functional status, and HRQoL is of interest to PsA patients (pts) and providers.

Objectives: 1) Evaluate effect of GUS on time to minimally clinically important improvements (MCII) in pt reported outcomes and composite measures of DA; 2) Assess association between W4/W8 MCII achievement and later disease control (W24/W52).

Methods: From the German BARMER health insurance database, 11,984 persons with active PsA despite standard therapies from DISCOVER-1 (D1) (swollen & tender joint counts [SJC/TJC] ≥3 each, CRP ≥0.3mg/dL, 1-2 prior TNF inhibitors [TNFi] in 31% of pts) and D2 (SJC/TJC ≥5 each, CRP ≥0.6mg/dL, biologic-naive). Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W); GUS 100 mg at W0, W4, then Q8W; or placebo (PBO)—GUS 100mg Q4W at W24. Time to MCII in outcomes of interest, i.e., in SJC/TJC ≥5.7, Joint Visual Analogue Scale [VAS] ≥15mm, Pain ≥15mm, HAQ-DI ≥0.35, PASDAS ≥0.8, PGA ≥15mm, Skin VAS ≥15mm, FACIT-F ≥4, SF-36 PCS ≥3, was compared between GUS vs PBO with Cox regression adjusting for baseline (BL) levels of respective outcome, treatment group, prior TNFi use, and BL DMARD use. MCII achievement was determined using non-responder imputation and compared between GUS and PBO using logistic regression adjusting for the above covariates. The association between MCII achievement at W4/W8 and stringent clinical response at W24/W52 amongst GUS-treated pts was assessed with logistic regression adjusting for prior TNFi use and BL DMARD use.

Results: Time to achieve MCII in all studied outcomes was significantly shorter (hazard ratio range: 1.3-2.5; all p<0.01) for both GUS Q4W and Q8W vs PBO, including cDAPSA as a representative example (Figure 1), with curve separation occurring at the first timepoint assessed. MCII rates also were significantly higher with GUS vs PBO at the first timepoint assessed, i.e., W4 for cDAPSA, Joint VAS, Pt Pain, and HAQ-DI and W8 for PASDAS, PGA, Skin VAS, FACIT-F, and SF-36 PCS (Table 1).
Table 1. Proportions of Pts Achieving MCII

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endpoint with MCII</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>GUS O4W</th>
<th>GUS Q8W</th>
<th>PBO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cDAPSA</td>
<td>4w</td>
<td>58.5%†</td>
<td>57.9%†</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>73.9%†</td>
<td>72.1%†</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>73.9%†</td>
<td>72.1%†</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>73.9%†</td>
<td>72.1%†</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint VAS</td>
<td>4w</td>
<td>43.5%‡</td>
<td>45.7%‡</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>47.7%‡</td>
<td>44.1%‡</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>47.7%‡</td>
<td>44.1%‡</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>47.7%‡</td>
<td>44.1%‡</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>4w</td>
<td>33.9%‡</td>
<td>30.5%‡</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>41.7%‡</td>
<td>42.6%‡</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>41.7%‡</td>
<td>42.6%‡</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASDAS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>68.4%‡</td>
<td>64.9%‡</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>53.4%‡</td>
<td>53.7%‡</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>53.4%‡</td>
<td>53.7%‡</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin VAS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>64.0%‡</td>
<td>62.1%‡</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>51.1%‡</td>
<td>53.1%‡</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>34.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SF-36 PCS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>43.2%§</td>
<td>41.6%§</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p nominal p <0.05; †p <0.01; ‡p ≤0.0001 vs PBO. *First time point assessed.

References:

Methods: In DISCOVER-2, biologic-naive adults with active PsA (swollen joint count ≥5, tender joint count ≥5, C-reactive protein [CRP] ≥0.6 mg/dL) were randomized 1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W) or placebo (PBO) for 52 weeks. Blood samples from consenting GUS-treated pts (Q4W and Q8W pooled) were assessed for serum cytokine levels (N=100), including TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-6, and other serum cytokine levels through Week 24 (W24) of GUS treatment are associated with clinical response through 2 years.[4] Objectives: Further assess effects of GUS on serum cytokine and collagen turnover biomarkers from W24 through W100 (2 years) and explore associations between biomarker changes and improvements in PsA activity (measured by changes in Disease Activity Score in Psoriatic Arthritis [DAPSA] score, Psoriasis Activity Disease Activity Score [PASDAS], Psoriasis Area and Severity Index [PASI] score) assessed. Associations between biomarker changes and achievement of American College of Rheumatology (ACR)50 response at W100 were also assessed. Results: Continued treatment with GUS led to significant and sustained reductions in serum cytokines from W24 through W100. Reductions in CRP and IL-6 were associated with changes in DAPSA score; with a similar trend observed for PASDAS. Reductions in CRP and IL-6 were associated with improved responses in the PASI score, and reductions in collagen turnover biomarkers correlated with changes in the PASDAS (Table 1). Continued disease improvement with long-term GUS treatment, assessed clinically using ACR50 response, was supported by the further reductions in CRP, AA, IL-6 and collagen turnover biomarkers in ACR50 responders at W100 who were ACR50 nonresponders at W24 (Figure 1). These results provide molecular evidence that sustained reductions in serum acute phase proteins and collagen turnover biomarkers may contribute to the continuous, durable improvements in joint symptoms and that reductions in Th17-related effector molecules contribute to improvements in skin symptoms seen in PsA pts receiving GUS.
## Table 1. Correlation of Change in Serum Biomarker Levels With Change in PsA Disease Activity From BL Through 24, 52 or 100 Weeks of GUS Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biomarker</th>
<th>Baseline Mean</th>
<th>Baseline SD</th>
<th>Week 24 Mean</th>
<th>Week 24 SD</th>
<th>Week 52 Mean</th>
<th>Week 52 SD</th>
<th>Week 100 Mean</th>
<th>Week 100 SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASDA</td>
<td>0.30a</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.41</td>
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*Significant correlation between biomarker expression and disease activity: *p*<0.05.

### References


### Acknowledgements

Disclosure of Interests: NIL

## Discussion

COVID-19 was among the most frequently reported AEs during the 2-year period of the pooled POETYK PSO-1, PSO-2, and LTE trials due to the temporal overlap of the pandemic with the trials. However, COVID-19 infection and death rates did not differ from those observed in the reference population.

References:


## Disclosure of Interests

These clinical trials were sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb.
**AB1087**

**LONG-TERM EFFICACY OF GUSELKUMAB IN FATIGUE AND IDENTIFICATION OF EARLY TREATMENT TARGETS: POST HOC ANALYSIS THROUGH 2 YEARS AND FOLLOW-UP PHASE 3, RANDOMIZED, DOUBBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED STUDY CONDUCTED IN BIOLOGIC-NAIVE PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis

D. D. Gladman,1, R. M. Rau,1, R. Ranza,1 A. M. Bravo Perdomo2, M. Strauss3, M. Shaw3, C. Han4, E. Rappapakakis5, A. Andrew Östör6, P. J. Mease1

1Department of Medicine, Center for Prognosis Studies in Rheumatic Diseases, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Kebbi, Mecmil; Research Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada; 2Montreal General Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Quebec, Canada; 3Hospital das Clinicas da Universidade Federal de Uberlandia, Rheumatology Professor in University of Medicine, Minas Gerais, Brazil; 4Janssen Latin America, Immunology Medical Affairs, Bogotá, Colombia; 5Medasource, Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Indianapolis, IN, United States of America; 6Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, PA, United States of America; 7Janssen Global Services, Janssen Research and Development, LLC, Spring House, PA, United States of America; 8McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada; 9JSS Medical Research, Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 10Monash University & Emeritus Research, Cabrini Medical Centre, Melbourne, Australia; 11Providence St. Joseph Health and the University of Washington, Swedish Medical Center, Seattle, United States of America

**Background:** The IL-23p19-subunit inhibitor guselkumab (GUS) demonstrated clinically meaningful improvements in fatigue through one year of treatment1 independent of its effects on American College of Rheumatology 20% (ACR20) improvement criteria and Minimal Disease Activity (MDA) achievement2.

**Objectives:** In this post-hoc analysis, the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Fatigue (FACIT-F) scale was used to evaluate the long-term effect of GUS in maintaining or further improving fatigue between week (W) 52 and W100, and to identify potential early (W8) predictors, in terms of fatigue, of GUS treatment were further enhanced through 2 years, at which time nearly a third of GUS-treated pts reported normative FACIT-F levels. Early targets in FACIT-F levels achieved with GUS were identified to aid in guiding treatment decisions in routine clinical practice.


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Dafna D Gladman Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, UCB, BMS, Galapagos, Galileo, and Novartis; Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, UCB; Employee of: Janssen; Shareholder of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Employee of: Janssen; Honoraria: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, UCB, BMS, Galapagos, Galileo, and Novartis; R Ranza Speakers bureau: (Advisory boards or honoraria) Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Anania Maria Bravo Perdomo Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Latin America, Marcie Strauss Employee of: Medasource, May Shawi Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Chenglong Han Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC, Emmanuel Rappakakis Consultant of: Janssen, Employee of: JSS Medical Research, Andrew Andrew Östör Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Paradigm, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Philip J Mease Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Aclaris, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Inmegen, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB. 

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**AB1088**

**EARLY CLINICAL IMPROVEMENT AS PREDICTOR OF LONG-TERM HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH GUSELKUMAB: POST-HOC ANALYSIS THROUGH 2 YEARS OF A PHASE-3 STUDY**

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Psoriatic arthritis

I. McInnes1, E. Soriano1, L. S. Tam2, N. Shiff3, M. Shaw3, E. Rappapakakis4, J. Curtis4

1University of Glasgow, College of Medical Veterinary and Life Sciences, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 2Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, University Institute Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 3The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Medicine & Therapeutics, Hong Kong, China; 4Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Horsham, PA, United States of America; 5University of Saskatchewan, Adjunct, Department of Community Health & Epidemiology, Saskatoon, Canada; 6Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, PA, United States of America; 7McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Pfizer, Canada; 8JSS Medical Research, Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 9University of Alabama at Birmingham, Division of Immunology and Rheumatology, Birmingham, AL, United States of America

**Conclusion:** The clinically meaningful improvements in fatigue seen after 1 year of GUS treatment were further enhanced through 2 years, at which time nearly a third of GUS-treated pts reported normative FACIT-F levels. Early targets in FACIT-F levels achieved with GUS were identified to aid in guiding treatment decisions in routine clinical practice.
Background: Patients (pts) with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) experience lower quality of life than both the general population and pts with psoriasis alone.[1,2] Recent PsA treatment recommendations highlight the importance of maximizing long-term (LT) health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and social participation as primary goals of therapy.[3]

Objectives: To determine whether early clinical improvement with gusekumab (GUS) predicts future attainment of enhanced HRQoL.

Methods: DISCOVER-2 enrolled adults naïve to biologics/JAK inhibitors who had active PsA defined as swollen joint count (SJC) ≥20, tender joint count (TJC) ≥20, and C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥0.3 mg/dL. 739 pts were randomized (1:1:1) and treated with GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (W4), GUS 100 mg at W0, W4, then Q8W (n=248); or placebo (PBO) (n=246). In this post hoc analysis, pts treated with GUS Q4W and GUS Q8W were pooled. Early (W8) clinical improvement was defined as any of: (i) ≥20% improvement in SJC, TJC, pt pain, pt skin visual analog scale (VAS), and Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI); (ii) ≥4-point improvement in the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT)-Fatigue score; (iii) minimally clinically important improvement (MCII) in clinical disease activity in PsA (cDAPSA; ≥5.7 points); (iv) change in Leeds enthesis index (LEI) and dactylitis severity score (DSS) at W8 among pts with baseline (BL) enthesis and dactylitis, respectively. Time-averaged changes in HRQoL estimates from BL to W52-100 were determined for Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI), EQ-5D Index & VAS, and SF-36 mental (MCS) and physical (PCS) component summary scores. The association between early clinical improvement at W8 and LT HRQoL among GUS-treated pts was assessed with mixed models.

Results: Clinical improvement by W8 was significantly greater among GUS-treated patients compared with PBO. Early clinical improvement with GUS was associated with greater increase in HRQoL (EQ-5D) at W52 through W100, with the exception of SJC on EQ-5D VAS (Figure 1; LEI & DSS results not shown). Similarly, pts achieving early clinical improvement in any domain except DSS and SJC experienced significantly greater benefits in physical function (SF-36 PCS) at W52-W100. Early improvements in skin disease and fatigue were associated with greater improvement in mental health (SF-36 MCS) at W52-W100, while for early clinical improvement, benefits in HRQoL were also observed in pts without clinical improvement at W8.

Conclusion: Clinical response at W8 with GUS was associated with significantly greater improvements in HRQoL from W52 through W100. Although pts without early clinical improvement demonstrated benefits in LT HRQoL, early response in distinct PsA domains differentially impacted more specific aspects of HRQoL over 2 years. In contrast, significantly greater improvements in overall and physical HRQoL were observed among responders across several PsA domains.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Iain McInnes Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Sanofi, Roche, and UCB; Grant/research support from: Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Schering-Plough, and UCB.

Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Schering-Plough, and UCB.


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AB1089

BIMEKIZUMAB EFFICACY IN HIGH-IMPACT AREAS FOR PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE PLAQE PSORIASIS: POOLED RESULTS THROUGH TWO YEARS FROM THE BE SURE AND BE RADIANT PHASE 3 TRIALS

Keywords: Skin, Outcome measures, Clinical trials

J. F. Merola, 1. A. Bettlie, 2 A. Morita, 3 J. M. Carracciosca, 4 E. Elewski, 5 I. Tif, 6 S. Wiegartz, 7 K. Wixted, 8 U. Mrowietz, 9 Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, N/A, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America; 10 The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Department of Dermatology, New York, New York, United States of America; 11 Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, N/A, Nagoya, Japan; 12 Hospital Universitari Germans Trias I Pujol, UAB, IGT/N, Badalona, Spain; 13 University Hospitals of Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University, Department of Dermatology, Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America; 14 UCB Pharma, N/A, Slough, United Kingdom; 15 UCB Pharma, N/A, Monheim, Germany; 16 UCB Pharma, N/A, Raleigh, North Carolina, United States of America; 17 Psoriasis Center, University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein, Department of Dermatology, Campus Kiel, Germany

Background: High levels of complete clearance of plaque psoriasis in high-impact areas such as the scalp, nails, palms and soles have been reported in patients (pts) after 1 year (yr) of bimekizumab (BKZ) treatment.[1]

Objectives: Assess scalp, nail and palmoplantar outcomes over 2 yrs from 2 BKZ phase 3 trials in moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.

Methods: Data were pooled over 2 yrs from the BE RADIANT phase 3b trial (NCT03536884), including Yr1 of its ongoing open-label extension (OLE), and the 1-yr BE SURE phase 3 trial (NCT03412747) with the ongoing OLE, BE BRIGHT (NCT03598790).[2,3] Pts included were randomised at baseline to BKZ 100 mg every 4 wks (Q4W) and then continued to receive BKZ Q4W or switched to BKZ every 8 wks (Q8W) at Wk16, and received the same dose on entering the OLE (Q4W/Q4W/Q4W or Q4W/Q8W/Q8W). Regional involvement was analysed using scalp Investigator’s Global Assessment (sIGA; 5-point scale [0–4]), modified Nail Psoriasis Severity Index (mNAPSI; total fingernail score, 0–130 scale) and palmoplantar (pp-IGA) (0–4 scale) at Wk48. 100 (33.0%) and 111 (34.4%) had mNAPSI >10. We report proportions of pts who achieved complete regional clearance (sIGA 0, mNAPSI 0, pp-IGA 0) at Yr2 (OLE Wk48) among pts with moderate to severe regional involvement at baseline (sIGA ≥3, mNAPSI ≥10, pp-IGA ≥3). Missing data were imputed as non-response (NRI).

Results: Of pts who entered the OLEs from BE SURE and BE RADIANT, 305 and 323 received BKZ Q4W/Q4W/Q4W and Q4W/Q8W/Q8W, respectively. Of these, 209 (69.0%) and 241 (74.6%) had baseline scalp IGA ≥3; 43 (14.2%) and 44 (13.6%) had pp-IGA ≥3; 100 (33.0%) and 111 (34.4%) had mNAPSI ≥10. Among pts with baseline scalp IGA ≥3, 78.0% and 81.7% treated with BKZ Q4W/Q4W/Q4W and Q4W/Q8W/Q8W achieved scalp IGA 0 at Wk16, respectively; 80.4% and 79.3% achieved scalp IGA 0 at Yr2 (OLE Wk48) (Table 1). Of pts with baseline pp-IGA ≥3, 60.5% and 81.8% treated with BKZ Q4W/Q4W/Q4W and Q4W/Q8W/Q8W achieved pp-IGA 0 at Wk16, respectively; 83.7% and 81.8% achieved pp-IGA 0 at Yr2 (Table 1). Of pts with baseline mNAPSI ≥10, 51.0% and 58.6% treated with BKZ Q4W/Q4W/Q4W and Q4W/Q8W/Q8W achieved mNAPSI 0 at Wk32, respectively; 40.0% and 59.5% achieved mNAPSI 0 at Yr2 (Table 1).

Conclusion: A high percentage of BKZ-treated pts achieved complete clearance of scalp and palmoplantar psoriasis at Wk16, which was sustained over 2 yrs. Complete nail clearance continued to increase through Yr1, reflecting the longer timescale required for nail growth, and was generally sustained through Yr2. Proportions of pts achieving complete nail, scalp and palmoplantar clearance were generally comparable between BKZ Q4W/Q4W/Q4W and Q4W/Q8W/Q8W dosing regimens.

Table 1. Complete regional clearance of scalp, nail, or palmoplantar psoriasis over 2 years (NRI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BKZ 320 mg</th>
<th>BKZ 320 mg</th>
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<tr>
<td>Q4W/Q4W/Q4W</td>
<td>Q4W/Q4W/Q4W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scalp IGA ≥3 at baseline
N=209 N=241
Scalp IGA 0 at Wk16 163 (78.0) 197 (81.7)
Scalp IGA 0 at Yr1 186 (89.0) 206 (85.5)
Scalp IGA 0 at Yr2 168 (84.0) 191 (93.0)
mNAPSI ≥10 at baseline
N=100 N=111
mNAPSI 0 at Wk32 51 (51.0) 65 (58.6)
mNAPSI 0 at Yr1 54 (54.0) 79 (71.2)
mNAPSI 0 at Yr2 40 (40.0) 66 (59.5)
pp-IGA ≥3 at baseline
N=43 N=44
pp-IGA 0 at Wk16 26 (60.5) 36 (81.8)
pp-IGA 0 at Yr1 35 (81.4) 41 (93.2)
pp-IGA 0 at Yr2 36 (83.7) 36 (81.8)

*Wk48 of treatment; OLE: Wk48: BE RADIANT Wk6 and BE SURE:BE BRIGHT Wk104 of total treatment; mNAPSI response initially reported at Wk12 due to the longer timescale required for nail growth vs skin clearance. Ps included had regional involvement at baseline and were randomized to OLE without switching maintenance dose. Treatment groups refer to BKZ dosing schedules in Wks: 0–16/16–48/OLE entry: BKZ: bimekizumab; IG: Investigator's Global Assessment; mNAPSI: modified Nail Psoriasis Severity Index; NRI: non-responder imputation; OLE: open-label extension; pp: palmoplantar; pts: patients; Q4W: every 4 wks; Q8W: every 8 wks; wk: week; yr: year.

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Disclosure of Interests: Joseph F. Merola Consultant of: Consultant and/or investigator for AbbVie, Amgen, Bayer, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Regeneron and, UCB Pharma. Principal Investigator for Dermawan, LEO Pharma, and UCB Pharma., Alice B Gottlieb Speakers bureau: Honorary as an advisory board member, non-promotional speaker or consultant for Amgen, AnaptyBio, Avotres Therapeutics, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Dermawan, DICE Therapeutics, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Sun Pharma, UCB Pharma and XBioTech (stock options for an RA project). Consultant of: Honorary as an advisory board member, non-promotional speaker or consultant for Amgen, AnaptyBio, Avotres Therapeutics, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Dermawan, DICE Therapeutics, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Sun Pharma, UCB Pharma and XBioTech (stock options for an RA project). Grant/research support from: Research/educational grants from AnaptyBio, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, Novartis, Ortho Dermatologics, Sun Pharma, and UCB Pharma; all funds go to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Akimichi Morita Speakers bureau: Received research grants, consulting fees, and/or speaker’s fees from AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Regeneron, and UCB Pharma. Consultant for: and/or received honoraria and/or grants from AbbVie, Almirall, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories, Eli Lilly, Foamix, Formycon, Forward Pharma, Janssen, LEO Pharma, Medac, Novartis, Phi-Stone, Pierre Fabre, Sanofi, and UCB Pharma., Grant/research support from: served as advisor and/or clinical study investigator for, and/or received honoraria and/or grants from AbbVie, Almirall, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories, Eli Lilly, Foamix, Formycon, Forward Pharma, Janssen, LEO Pharma, Medac, Novartis, Phi-Stone, Pierre Fabre, Sanofi, and UCB Pharma.

AB1090

EFFICACY OF UPADACITINIB IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS STRATIFIED BY INVOLVEMENT OF WEIGHT-BEARING JOINT REGIONS: A POST HOC SUBGROUP ANALYSIS OF THE PHASE 3, RANDOMIZED, SELECT-PSA 1 AND SELECT-PSA 2 TRIALS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Randomized control trial, Psoriatic arthritis

K. Mzziele; W. Tillet; M. Ali; T. Lytle; T. Gao; A. Setty; J. A. Walsh; L. Coates. TideWater Physicians Multispecialty Group, Rheumatology, Norfolk, Virginia, United States of America.
Figure. Mean Change at Week 104 In Outcome Scores Among Subgroups of Patients With Psoriatic Arthritis and involvement in 1 to 8 Regions of Weight-bearing Jointsa
Treated With/IN UPA 15 mg

Abbreviations: AbbVie funded this study and participated in the design, research, analysis, data collection, interpretation of data, reviewing, and approving the abstract. All authors had access to relevant data and participated in the drafting, reviewing, and approval of this abstract. No honoraria or payments were made for authorship. All authors agreed to submit this abstract to the EULAR 2023 Congress. Medical writing support was provided by Michael Dyle, PhD, of JB Ashin, and funded by AbbVie.

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Disclosure of Interests: Kristi Mizelle Speakers bureau: AbbVie; Ameen, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, and Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, and UCB, William Tillett Consultant of: AbbVie, Ameen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Ono-Pharma, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Celgene, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, and Pfizer, Mira All Shareholder of: May hold stock or stock options for AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Thomas Iyile Shareholder of: May hold stock or stock options for AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Taming Gao Shareholder of: May hold stock or stock options for AbbVie, Employee of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Merck, and Pfizer, Laura Coates Speakers bureau: AbbVie; Ameen, Biogen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Ameen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Biolitek Medical, Celltrion, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Biogen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Ameen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB.

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Background: Maintaining daily activities is a critical treatment goal for patients (pts) with psoriatic arthritis (PsA). The Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI), a mainstay tool for evaluating physical function in pts with PsA, assesses 20 common activities of daily living that should be evaluated given the heterogeneous clinical presentation of PsA.

Objectives: In this post hoc analysis from DISCOVER (D)-1 and -2, we examined the level of impairment in individual activities of daily living assessed by the HAQ-DI, and the effect of guselkumab (GUS) on pts’ ability to accomplish these activities, among pts with active PsA.

Methods: D1/D2 enrolled adults with active PsA despite standard therapies. D1 pts had <3 swollen and <3 tender joints (SJC/TJC), C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥0.3 mg/dL; 31% had ≤2 prior TNF inhibitors (TNFi). D2 pts had ≤5 SJC/TJC and CRP ≥0.6 mg/dL; all were biologic-naive. Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W); GUS 100 mg at W0, W4, then Q8W, or placebo (PBO). Scores for each of the 20 HAQ-DI items (range: 0-3; 0.1/2=no/some/much difficulty, 3=unable to do) at baseline (BL) and proportion of pts with scores ≤1 or ≥2 were summarized. Ability to achieve ≥1-level or ≥2-level improvement in each HAQ-DI item (in pts with BL score ≥1 or ≥2, respectively) were compared in 24W PBO-controlled period was compared between GUS- and PBO-treated pts using logistic regression adjusting for BL value, prior TNFi use, and BL DMARD use.

Results: At BL, the mean (SD) HAQ-DI score was 1.2 (±0.6) across treatment groups. The majority of pts (84.5%) had a score ≥0.5, indicating some functional limitation, and reported impairment in one or more activities, with the greatest impact on ability to do chores, dress oneself, and get in/out of bed. At W100W, the proportion of pts achieving ≥1-level improvement across HAQ-DI items was significantly higher with GUS vs PBO when as early as W4 and increased through W24 (Figure 1). Similar patterns were observed for achieving ≥2-level improvement across HAQ items (data not shown). Responses were numerically similar across all HAQ-DI items, including those most impaired at BL, with comparable responses between dosing regimens. These findings may assist the communication between pts and healthcare providers when treating treatment goals during shared decision making.

Table 1. Summary of HAQ-DI Items at BL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAQ-DI Item</th>
<th>PBO (N=372)</th>
<th>GUS Q4W (N=373)</th>
<th>GUS Q8W (N=373)</th>
<th>PBO (N=372)</th>
<th>GUS Q4W (N=373)</th>
<th>GUS Q8W (N=373)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) Score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to Do Chores</td>
<td>1.3 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.2 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.2 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress Yourself</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get In/Out of Bed</td>
<td>1.0 (0.6)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climb Up 5 Steps</td>
<td>1.1 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reach-Get Down 5 b Object Above</td>
<td>1.1 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.9)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bend Down Pick Up Clothing - Floor</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a Bath</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand Up from Straight Chair</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Jars Previously Opened</td>
<td>1.0 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut Your Meat</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.8)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wash/Dr Your Body</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get On/Off the Toilet</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.7 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lift Full Cup or Glass to Mouth</td>
<td>0.6 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Car Doors</td>
<td>0.5 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turn Faucets On/Off</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.7)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bold=highest impairment, Italic=lowest impairment; Open a New Milk Carton, ‘Get In/out of a Car’, ‘Run Errands/Shop’ ranking in the middle in terms of impairment, not shown. "Ordered from highest to lowest mean impairment.

REFERENCE: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Proton Rahman Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Mercia, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Janssen and Novartis, Carlo Selmi Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Alfa-Wassermann, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Sobi, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Alfa-Wassermann, Biogen, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, SOCIB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Pfizer, Emmanouil Rampakakis Consultant of: Janssen, Employee of: JSS Medical Research, Mohamed Sharaf Employee of: Janssen MEA, Dubai United Arab Emirates, May Shawi Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies, Natalie Shift Shareholder of: AbbVie, Gilead, Ioavance, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, and Viatris, Employee of: Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Marcie Strauss Consultant of: Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Employee of: Medaseource, Chenglong Han Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC, Philip J Mease Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Aclaris, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, Pfizer, Novo Nordisk, UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, CorEvitas, Eli Lilly and Company, Janssen, Myriad, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, CorEvitas, Eli Lilly and Company, Janssen, Myriad, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB, M Elaine Husni Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen, Sanofi Genzyme/Regeneron, UCB, Novartis, and Eli Lilly.

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AB1093

LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT IN INDIVIDUAL ACR RESPONSE CRITERIA AND RESIDUAL DISEASE IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH GUSELKUMAB: POST HOC ANALYSIS OF A PHASE 3 RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL.

Keywords: Clinical trials, Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD

P Nash1, I Mccnnes2, M Shawi3, F Nanten4, A Kollmeier5, E Rampakakis6, E. Soriano5, D.D. Gladman6, A. Deodhar7,8,9,10,11 Griffith University and University of Queensland, Rheumatology Research Unit, Maroochydore, Australia; 1University of Glasgow, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 2Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Novo Nordisk, UCB, M Elaine Husni Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, CorEvitas, Eli Lilly and Company, Janssen, Myriad, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen, Sanofi Genzyme/Regeneron, UCB, Novartis, and Eli Lilly.

observed by W2, with a positive trajectory through W100 (Figure 1). Individual ACR components also significantly improved by W2 and – apart from CRP levels that rapidly plateaued to means <1 mg/dL – continued to improve vs previous visit through W6B-84 of GUS (nominal p<0.05).

Conclusion: GUS rapidly improved PsA activity whether assessed by ACR response or ACR-N. Early response was apparent across ACR components, followed by a positive trajectory through 2 years of GUS that yielded low levels of residual disease.

Table 1. ACR Response Rates (NRI) and ACR-N Scores Over Time With GUS (Q4W/Q8W) vs PBO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACR20</th>
<th>ACR50</th>
<th>ACR70</th>
<th>ACR-N Score (LSM Estimate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Q4W</td>
<td>PBO</td>
<td>Q4W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(N=245)</td>
<td>(N=245)</td>
<td>(N=245)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
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<td>15.7%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>60.0%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75.4%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
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<td>77.7%</td>
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<td>15.7%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>73.9%</td>
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<td>79.8%</td>
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<td>15.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>92.6%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94.8%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>97.2%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>99.9%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p-value <0.05 vs PBO (assessed only for PBO-controlled period [grey shaded]).

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Psoriatic arthritis, Outcome measures


1. University of California, Center for Innovative Therapy, La Jolla, United States of America
2. Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina
3. Vancouer General Hospital, Department of Dermatology and Skin Science and BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute, Vancouver, Canada
4. Humanitas Research Hospital and Humanitas University, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Milan, Italy
5. Janssen Research & Development, LLC, Immunology, Spring House, United States of America
6. McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada
7. JSS Medical Research, Inc, Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada
8. Janssen Pharmaceuticals Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, United States of America
9. Janssen Latin America, Immunology Medical Affairs, Bogotá, Colombia
10. Janssen Olig Global Medical Affairs, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Issy les Moulineaux, France
11. University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom

Background: PsA has been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), likely due to accelerated atherosclerosis secondary to chronic inflammation.[1] The number of CV risk factors has been shown to correlate with PsA disease activity (DA).[2]

Objectives: Describe effect of guselkumab (GUS) on inflammatory biomarkers that predict CVD, and its efficacy and safety, in patients (pts) with active PsA and concurrent CV risk factors.

Methods: DISCOVER (D)1&2 enrolled adults with active PsA despite standard therapies. D1 pts (31% received 1-2 prior TNF inhibitors [i]), had tender and swollen joint counts (TJC/SJC) each ≥3 and CRP ≥0.3 mg/dL; D2 pts (biologic-naive) had TJC/SJC each ≥5 and CRP ≥0.6 mg/dL. Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100mg every 4 weeks (Q4W); GUS 100mg at W0, W4, then Q4W; or placebo (PBO) – GUS 100mg Q4W at W24. Pts included in this analysis had ≥1 of the following CV risk factors: obesity; smoking (past or current); or history of hypertension, diabetes mellitus (DM), or hyperlipidemia. Changes in high-sensitivity (hs) CRP and neutrophil–lymphocyte ratio (NLR) were compared between GUS vs PBO with mixed models adjusting for baseline (BL) levels. Achievement of endpoints at W24 (missing data imputed as no response) was compared in GUS vs PBO with logistic regression adjusting for BL levels, prior TNFi use, and BL DMD use: American College of Rheumatology (ACR) response criteria, Investigators’ Global Assessment (IGA) of psoriasis score 0/1, DA Index for PsA (DAPSA) low DA (LDA)/remission, PsA DA Score (PASDAS) LDA, minimal DA (MDA), Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) responses, Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy Fatigue (FACT-F) response, Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI) response, and enthesis and dactylitis resolution. The incidence of major adverse CV events (MACE: cardiovascular death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or nonfatal stroke) was assessed through W100.

Results: Of 1120 enrolled pts, 758 had ≥1 CV risk factor (259 Q4W, 252 Q8W, 247 PBO); of these, 488 (59%) were obese, 420 (55%) had hypertension, 315 (42%) were smokers, 171 (23%) had hyperlipidemia, and 103 (14%) had DM.
Through W24, GUS significantly reduced hsCRP and NLR vs PBO (Figure 1). Response rates at W24 were significantly higher with GUS vs PBO for all assessed endpoints (Table 1). During the PBO-controlled period, one pt each had a MACE in the PBO (0.9 [95% CI: 0.0-4.9]/100 person-years [PY]) and pooled GUS (0.4; 0.0-2.4)/100PY groups. In the pooled GUS group, the incidence (95% CI) of MACE was 0.2 (0.0-0.8)/100PY over 1 year and 0.3 (0.1-1.0)/100PY over 2 years.

Conclusion: In the subgroup of PsA pts with concurrent CV risk factors, GUS was associated with significant reductions in hsCRP and NLR and significantly higher response rates vs PBO for all PsA domains assessed. MACE incidence was similar to that in the overall D1/D2 population.[3] These findings support the efficacy of GUS on systemic inflammation and its cardiovascular safety.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Achievement of Efficacy Endpoints at W24 in Pts With Concurrent CV Risk Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>GUS 100 mg Q4W (N=259)</th>
<th>GUS 100 mg Q4W (N=252)</th>
<th>PBO (N=247)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACR20</td>
<td>62.9%‡</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR50</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR70</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA LDA (Pts with BL DAPSA &gt;14)</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI90</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI100</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGA 0/1</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis resolution (Pts with BL dactylitis)</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis resolution (Pts with BL enthesitis)</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIT-F Response (Pts with BL FACIT-F ≥48)</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI Response (Pts with BL HAQ-DI ≥0.39)</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASDAS LDA (Pts with BL PASDAS ≥3.2)</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Nominal p<0.05; ‡p<0.01; †p<0.0001 vs PBO.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Arthur Kavanaugh Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Enrique Soriano Speak- ers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Roche, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Janssen, Novartis, and Roche, Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Jan Dutz Shareholder of: Solius, Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bausch, Eli Lilly, Leo, Janssen, Novartis, Sanofi and Pfizer, Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Grant/research support from: Corbus, Eli Lilly, Carlo Selmi Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Alfa-Wassermann, Biogen, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, SOBI, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Alfa-Wassermann, Biogen, Eli-Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, SOBI, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Pfizer, Jenny Yu Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Research & Development, LLC, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Emmanouil Rampakakis Consultant of: Janssen, Consultant of: JSS Medical Research, Inc., May Shawi Shareholder of: Johnson & John- son, Employee of: Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Ana Maria Bravo Perdomo Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Janssen Latin America, Frederic Lavie Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Laura Coates Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bio- gen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB.

REFERENCES: [1] Ritchlin CT. RMD Open 2022;8:e002195

Figure: Least Square Mean (LSM) Changes From BL to W24 in hsCRP and NLR in Pts With Concurrent CV Risk Factors

Figure 1: GUS 100 mg vs PBO in PsA domains.

Impact of Psoriatic Arthritis Manifestations on Perception of Pain Improvement: Pooled Analysis of Two Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Studies With GUSELKUMAB

Keywords: bDMARD, Pain, Psoriatic arthritis

P Nash,1,3, C Titchelin,2, L S Tam,4, E Soriano5, M Stark6, E Rampakakis3, F Lavie6, M Shaw10, X Baraliakos7, P J Mease8,9

1Griffith University and University of Queensland, Rheumatology Research Unit, Maroochydore, Australia; 2College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, Institute of Infection, Immunity, and Inflammation, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 3University of Rochester Medical Center, Department of Medicine – Allergy/Immunology and Rheumatology, Rochester, United States of America; 4The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 5Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 6McGill University Health Center, Division of Rheumatology, Montreal, Canada; 7McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada; 8JSS Medical Research, Inc., Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 9Janssen Cilag Global Medical Affairs, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Issy les Moulineaux, France; 10Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, United States of America; 11Ruhr- University Bochum, Rheumatenzentrum Ruhrgebiet, Heme, Germany; 12Swedish Medical Center, Providence St Joseph Health and University of Washington, Rheumatology Research, Seattle, United States of America

Background: Pain in PsA has multifaceted origins (e.g., peripheral joint inflammation, axial involvement [axPsA], skin lesions, dactylitis, enthesitis, underlying conditions) and can be difficult to treat. Gusekubumab (GUS), a fully human IL-23p19 subunit inhibitor, is effective in treating multiple PsA domains and elicited durable improvement in patient (pt)-reported pain (PtP) in the DISCOVER (D-1&2 trials[1,2].

Objectives: Assess association between improvement in key PsA manifestations and PtP using 1-year D1&2 data.

Methods: D1&2 enrolled adults with active PsA despite standard therapies[3,4]. Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W); GUS 100 mg at W0, W4, then Q8W; or placebo to crossover to GUS 100 mg Q4W at W24. Treatment groups were pooled (N=1120). Longitudinal associations of improvement in SJC (0-66), TJC (0-68), Leeds enthesitis index (LEI), dactylitis severity score (DSS), Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI), axPsA (N=312), and pain in overall PtP (0-100 mm) and spinal pain (BASDIQ question 2 in pts with axPsA) were assessed. Longitudinal associations of improvement in these PsA manifestations with ≥30%/50%/70% improvements in PtP (PtP-30/50/70) were assessed.

Results: Mean (SD) BL PtP of 61.2 (19.8) indicated substantial burden. Upon adjusting for potential confounders, greater improvement in PsA, SJC, and TJC (mutually adjusted) were each associated with significantly greater improvement in PtP and higher odds of achieving PtP-30 through W52 (Table 1). PASI reduction was also associated with greater odds of PtP-50, as was TJC improvement for PtP-50/70. In pts with BL enthesitis, LEI, PASI, and TJC improvements were each associated with greater PtP improvement and attaining PtP-30/50/70; SJC reduction was only associated with PtP-30. In pts with BL dactylitis, PASI and TJC reductions were significantly associated with PtP improvement. Overall, axPsA presence did not impact the extent of PtP improvement (data not shown). In pts with axPsA, significant associations were observed between spinal pain improvement and TJC and LEI improvement.

Conclusion: Improvements in key PsA manifestations were significantly associated with pain reduction, although to varying extents. TJC reduction had the greatest impact on PtP improvement, likely due to overlap of the construct measured. Psoriasis improvement had a greater impact on pain relief than SJC improvement, highlighting the sensory burden of skin lesions, while enthesitis improvement showed a significant association with both overall and spinal pain relief. These findings underscore the importance of utilizing treatments effective across manifestations to address calcificant PsA symptoms.

REFERENCES:
[1] Ritchlin CT. RMD Open 2022;8:e002195

AB1095
Table 1. Adjusted Associations Between Improvements in Key PsA Manifestations and Pain Improvement Through W52

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pt Population</th>
<th>Predictor (Δ)</th>
<th>Δ PIP (β)</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (OR)</th>
<th>Δ Spinal Pain (β)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>0.41†</td>
<td>1.05 0.68</td>
<td>1.04 0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=1120)</td>
<td>0.28†</td>
<td>1.03 0.68</td>
<td>1.03 0.06</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL Enthesitis</td>
<td>0.55‡</td>
<td>1.05 0.68</td>
<td>1.12 0.06</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=728)</td>
<td>0.28†</td>
<td>1.03 0.68</td>
<td>1.03 0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL Dactylitis</td>
<td>0.39‡</td>
<td>1.04 0.68</td>
<td>1.08 0.05</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=473)</td>
<td>0.31†</td>
<td>1.04 0.68</td>
<td>1.05 0.05</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>1.03 0.68</td>
<td>1.03 0.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>TJC</td>
<td>0.60†</td>
<td>1.05 0.68</td>
<td>1.11 0.05</td>
<td>0.03</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** All values are adjusted for baseline values, age, gender, BMI, SF-36 Mental Component Summary score, presence of TJC or SJ ≥7 (central pain sensitization proxy), FACIT-fatigue score, and treatment group. ORs correspond to the incremental increase in pain improvement; ORs correspond to the incremental increase in the odds of achieving pain endpoints, for every increase in improvement in key PsA manifestations or in the presence (vs absence) of axPsA.

**Background:** Despite available PsA treatments, a portion of PsA patients (pts) does not achieve improvements in PsA signs and symptoms according to the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) response criteria.

**Objectives:** Using data from the phase 3 DISCOVER-1 and DISCOVER-2 (D1/ D2) studies, pts with active PsA, the purpose of this analysis was to describe the benefit of the IL-23p19 inhibitor, guselkumab (GUS), vs placebo (PBO) across key PsA domains, including those not comprising the core ACR measures, in pts not meeting ACR response criteria.

**Methods:** Pts enrolled in D1 and D2 were adults with active PsA despite standard therapies. D1 pts had ≥3 swollen and ≥3 tender joints (SJC; TJC), and C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥0.3 mg/dl; D2 pts had SJ ≥5, TJC ≥5, and CRP ≥0.6 mg/dl. In all, 31% of D1 pts received 1-2 prior tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi); D2 pts were biologic-naive. Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W); GUS 100 mg at Week (W)0, W4, then Q8W; or PBO; PBO pts crossed over to GUS 100 mg Q4W at W24. In this post hoc analysis, patients not meeting ≥20% improvement in ACR response criteria (ACR20) at W24 were included. Changes from baseline (BL) over 24 W in continuous outcomes of interest (TJC; SJ; enthesis/dactylitis scores; psoriasis area and severity index [PASI] score; Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy [FACIT]-fatigue score; and 36-item Short Form survey [SF-36] physical [PCS] & mental [MCS] component summary scores) were assessed with repeated measures mixed models adjusting for treatment group, BL, non-biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) use, and prior TNFi use. Descriptive statistics were produced for categorical outcomes at W24 (Figure 1) using non-responder imputation for missing data.

**Results:** Of the 1120 pooled D1/D2 pts, 538 did achieve an ACR20 response at W24, including 137 (36.7%) GUS Q4W, 147 (39.2%) GUS Q8W, and 254 (68.3%) PBO pts, and were included in this analysis. A consistently greater proportion of GUS- than PBO-treated pts achieved W24 categorical outcomes, including those relating to skin, tender joints, and dactylitis, with similar findings for GUS Q4W and Q8W (Figure 1). For continuous endpoints, the benefit of GUS was seen as early as W2 for SJC (W4 for Q8W), TJC, dactylitis (W4 for Q8W), and enthesis (W4 for Q8W); W8 for FACIT-fatigue, SF-36 PCS, and SF-36 MCS (W16 for Q8W); and W16 for PASI; most endpoints continued to improve through W24. Across both GUS treatment groups, 43.5%-48.9% of W24 ACR20 non-responders achieved an ACR20 response by W24.

**Conclusion:** In this cohort of W24 ACR20 non-responders, GUS-treated pts experienced greater benefits than pts receiving PBO in improving both joint disease and other important PsA domains outside the ACR response criteria, which translated to significant improvements in health-related quality of life. These benefits occurred as early as W2 of GUS treatment, and showed continued improvement over W24, such that considerable proportions of W24 ACR non-responders achieved an ACR20 response by W52. Such improvements in key PsA domains over time among the minority of GUS W24 non-responders are consistent with the known immunomodulatory mechanism of GUS.
MALIGNANCIES WITH LONG-TERM USE OF IXEKIZUMAB IN ADULTS WITH PSORIASIS, PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS, OR AXIAL Spondyloarthritis: A POST-HOC ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM 25 RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIALS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis


The Mount Sinai Hospital, Dermatology, New York, United States of America; The University of Leeds, Leeds Institute for Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, Rheumatology, Leeds, United Kingdom; Probyt Medical Research, Dermatology, Waterloo, Canada; Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Dermatology, Boston, United States of America; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dermatology, New York, United States of America

Background: This integrated analysis examines long-term incidence rates (IRs) of malignancies in adults with psoriasis (PsO), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), or axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) who received ≥1 dose of ixekizumab (IXE) up to 5 years (PsO) or 3 years (PsA, axSpA) in clinical trials.

OBJECTIVES: Methods: IRs of malignancies were assessed across 25 randomized IXE clinical trials (17 PsO, 4 PsA, 4 axSpA). Malignancy rates were analyzed for pooled studies by years of therapy through March 2022. Exposure-adjusted IRs per 100 patient-years (PY) are reported.

Results: 6892 patients with PsO, 1401 patients with PsA, and 932 patients with axSpA, with a cumulative IXE exposure of 18025.7 PY for PsO, 2247.7 PY for PsA, and 2097.7 PY for axSpA were included in this analysis. The IRs of malignancies at 1-year intervals up to 5 years for patients with PsO, and up to 3 years for patients with PsA and axSpA, remained low (≤1.2/100 PY) and constant. Malignancies occurred in 141/6892 patients with PsO (IR=0.8), 15/1410 patients with PsA (IR=0.7), and 9/932 patients with axSpA (IR=0.9). No incidences of NMSC were reported among patients with axSpA.

Conclusion: IRs of treatment-emergent malignancies were low and stable among adult patients with PsO, PsA, or axSpA receiving IXE treatment in clinical trials over the time periods examined.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annemerd-2023-eular.1264

AB1098
DEUCRAVACITINIB IN PLACER PSSORISIASIS: 2-YEAR LABORATORY RESULTS FROM THE PHASE 3 POETYK PSMO PROGRAM

Keywords: Safety, Targeted synthetic drugs, Clinical trials


1Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, United States of America; 2Research Institute, University Hospital of Nice, Dermatology, Nice, France; 3Medical College of Wisconsin, Dermatology, Milwaukee, United States of America; 4Tokyo Medical University, Dermatology, Tokyo, Japan; 5Windsor Dermatology, Dermatology, East Windsor, United States of America; 6Dermatology Research Associates, Dermatology, Houston, United States of America; 7Dermatology Research Associates, Dermatology, Salt Lake City, United States of America; 8GBDTYK PSO-1 (NCT03624127) and PSO-2 (NCT03611751) were 52-week, double-blind trials that randomized patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis 2:1 to deucravacitinib 6 mg once daily, placebo, or apremilast 30 mg twice daily. Patients receiving placebo switched to deucravacitinib at Week 16, and patients receiving apremilast who failed to achieve ≥50% reduction from baseline in Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) for Week 16 were randomized and continued on deucravacitinib for up to 100 weeks. Treatment discontinuations and grade 3 or 4 laboratory abnormalities were rare, consistent with those in the parent studies, and comparable to the incidence rates seen with placebo and apremilast. These results suggest that laboratory monitoring in patients with plaque psoriasis is not warranted with deucravacitinib treatment. References: [5] Mease PJ, et al. Ann Rheum Dis. 2022;81:815-822.

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Disclosure of Interests: Neil J Korman Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Regeneron, and Sanofi Genzyme, Consultant of: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celneger, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Leo Pharma, Novartis, Principia, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, Argen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celneger, Chemocenzty, Eli Lilly, Galderma, Kyowa Hakko Kirin, Leo Pharma, Menlo, Principia, Prothera, Rhizen, Synthimmune, Triev, and Xbiotech, Thierry Passeron Consultant of: Abbvie, Almirial, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, UCB, Kenneth B Gordon Consultant of: Almirall, Amgen, Derma, Leo Pharma, Pfizer, and Sun Pharma, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, DermaVant, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, Sun Pharma, and UCB. Neal Bhatia Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Almirial, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, UCB, Yuki Okubo Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Celgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, Sun Pharma, and UCB. Jerry Bagel Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Celgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, Sun Pharma, and UCB. Jerry Bagel Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Celgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, Sun Pharma, and UCB. Jerry Bagel Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Celgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, Sun Pharma, and UCB. Jerry Bagel Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Celgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi Genzyme, Sun Pharma, and UCB.

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a disease characterised by heterogeneous joint and skin manifestations, so comprehensive treatment efficacy is best captured by assessment of a broad spectrum of affected domains using composite outcome measures.[1] Bimekizumab (BKZ), a monoclonal IgG1 antibody that selectively inhibits IL-17F in addition to IL-17A, has demonstrated superior efficacy and tolerability to 16 weeks (wks) vs placebo (PBO) in patients (pts) with active PsA in the first phase 3 BE OPTIMAL and BE COMPLETE studies.[2,3] Bimekizumab (BKZ) at 160 mg every 4 wks has previously shown meaningful improvements in efficacy responses up to 1 year.[4] Here, we report data up to 1 year for BKZ in pts with psoriasis and PsA intolerant to tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitors (TNFi-IR).

Methods: BE COMPLETE (NCT03896581) comprised a 16-wk double-blind, placebo-controlled period. Pts with PsA and TNFi-IR were randomised 2:1 to subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 wks or PBO. Pts who completed Wk 16 were eligible for entry into BE VITAL (NCT04009499), an open-label extension (OLE) study. Pts receiving PBO switched to BKZ at Wk 16 (PBO/BKZ). The BE VITAL OLE included pts from BE OPTIMAL and BE COMPLETE. Here, we report data up to 1 year for pts randomised at baseline (Wk 0) of BE COMPLETE (52 wks of study drug). Composited and worst-category imputation were used as secondary analysis methods.

Results: Of 388/400 (97.0%) pts completed Wk 16 of BE COMPLETE; 377 (94.3%) entered BE VITAL (NCT04009499), an open-label extension (OLE) study. Pts receiving PBO switched to BKZ at Wk 16 (PBO/BKZ). The BE VITAL OLE included 267 pts from BE OPTIMAL and BE COMPLETE. Here, we report data up to 1 year for pts randomised at baseline (Wk 0) of BE COMPLETE (52 wks of study drug). Composite and worst-category measures up to Wk 52 are reported: minimal and very low disease activity (MDA/VLDA), the composite endpoint of ≥50% improvement in American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) scores.[5] Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA), and Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score (PASDAS; collected up to Wk 50).

Results: Of 388/400 (97.0%) pts completed Wk 16 of BE COMPLETE; 377 (94.3%) entered BE VITAL and 347 (86.8%) completed Wk 52. At Wk 16, a higher proportion of BKZ-treated pts achieved composite disease activity thresholds vs PBO-treated pts. Across all composite outcome measures, efficacy was sustained to Wk 52 in pts randomised to BKZ treatment at Wk 0, and pts who switched to BKZ at Wk 16 demonstrated improvements in efficacy responses to Wk 52 (Figure 1, Table 1). At Wk 16, 6.0% PBO and 44.2% BKZ pts achieved MDA at Wk 52, this proportion was sustained on BKZ treatment: 33.1% PBO/BKZ and 47.2% BKZ (NRI; Figure 1). Improved or sustained responses were also observed for the proportions of PBO/BKZ and BKZ pts achieving VLDAs, ACR50+PASI100, DAPSA and PASDAS thresholds at Wk 52 (Figure 1, Table 1).

Conclusion: BKZ-treated pts with PsA and TNFi-IR demonstrated clinically meaningful improvements in composite measures of disease activity, comprising joint and skin domains, vs PBO at Wk 16. These improvements were sustained up to 1 year on BKZ. Pts who switched to BKZ at Wk 16 showed improvements in efficacy responses up to 1 year.

Table 1. Pts achieving composite endpoints at Wk 16 and to Wk 52

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wk 16</th>
<th>Wk 52</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PBO/BKZ 160 mg</td>
<td>BKZ 160 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q4W N=133</td>
<td>Wk 16 N=267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q4W N=267</td>
<td>Wk 52 N=267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMDA [NRI]</td>
<td>3 (2.3)</td>
<td>20 (15.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASDAS REM+LDA</td>
<td>38 (9.5)</td>
<td>53 (19.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASDAS REM</td>
<td>2 (1.5)</td>
<td>19 (7.0)</td>
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</table>

Keywords: Clinical trials, Psoriatic arthritis

References:
AB1100

ACHIEVEMENT OF INCREASINGLY STRIDENT CLINICAL DISEASE CONTROL CRITERIA WAS ASSOCIATED WITH GREATER IMPROVEMENTS IN PHYSICAL FUNCTION, PAIN AND FATIGUE IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: 52-WEEK RESULTS FROM BE OPTIMAL, A PHASE 3 RANDOMISED, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Clinical trials


Objectives: To examine the association between achieving increasingly stringent clinical disease control criteria and patient-reported measures of physical function, pain and fatigue in patients (pts) with PsA, using Week (Wk) 52 data from BE OPTIMAL.

Methods: BE OPTIMAL (NCT03895203) comprised a 16-wk double-blind placebo (PBO)-controlled period and a 36-wk treatment blind period. Pts were ≥18 years, biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug naïve, with adult-onset, active PsA, ≥3 tender and ≥3 swollen joints. Pts were randomised 3:2:1, subcutaneous BKZ 160 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W): PBO:reference arm (adalimumab 40mg Q4W). From Wk 16, PBO pts received BKZ 160mg Q4W. In this post hoc analysis, all pts who reached specified disease control criteria (ACR: ACR20 not reached (≥ACR20), ACR20 reached but not ACR50 [ACR20→ACR50], ACR50 reached but not ACR70 [ACR50→ACR70], ACR70 reached [ACR70]: CRP and Psoriasis Area and Severity Index 100 [ACR50+PASI100]: non-responder, responder; Disease Activity in PsA (DAPSA): high, moderate and low disease activity or remission (HDA, MoDA and LDA/REM, respectively); Minimal Disease Activity (MDA): non-MDA, MDA) at Wk 52 were pooled regardless of treatment arm. Associations between achieving these criteria and improvements in the following patient-reported physical function and symptom measures were assessed: Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI), Pain assessed using Patient’s Assessment of Arthritis Pain Visual Analog Scale (Pain VAS) and Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue subscale (FACT-Fatigue). It should be noted that some aspects of the disease control criteria relate to aspects of HAQ-DI and PAAQ. Observed case data were reported.

Results: 821/852 (96.4%) pts completed Wk 16; 761 (89.3%) completed Wk 52. Baseline mean (SD) HAQ-DI (0 [best] to 3 [worst]), Pain VAS (0 [best] to 100 [worst]) and FACT-Fatigue (0 [worst] to 52 [best]) scores were 0.85 (0.59), 55.2 (23.9) and 37.0 (9.7). Pts achieving higher ACR response thresholds demonstrated sequentially greater mean (95% CI) improvements from baseline in HAQ-DI, Pain VAS and FACT-Fatigue (Figure 1). Similar improvements from baseline in HAQ-DI, Pain VAS and FACT-Fatigue were seen with the achievement of ACR50+PASI100, increasingly stringent DAPSA thresholds and the achievement of MDA (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Pts with active PsA who achieved increasingly stringent disease control criteria at Wk 52 reported concomitantly greater improvements in patient-reported measures of physical function, pain and fatigue.

REFERENCE:

Scientific Abstracts
Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Characteristic</th>
<th>Total Cohort Dactylitis subgroup</th>
<th>Enthesitic subgroup</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M:F</td>
<td>94:105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smokers, n (%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
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<td>34 (52.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant csDMARDs use, n (%)</td>
<td>49 (23.4)</td>
<td>22 (33.8)</td>
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<td>Concomitant relevant disease, n (%)</td>
<td>94 (44,8)</td>
<td>37 (56,9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant csDMARDs use, n (%)</td>
<td>69 (33,1)</td>
<td>34 (52,3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index, median [IQR] kg/m²</td>
<td>26,5 [23,8-29,6]</td>
<td>26,1 [23,7-29,9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA Duration, median [IQR], months</td>
<td>50 [42-51]</td>
<td>51 [46-59]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsD Duration, median [IQR], months</td>
<td>72 [65-85]</td>
<td>84 [77-91]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, median [IQR], mg/dl</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGA Patient (0-10), median [IQR]</td>
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<td>7 [7-7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS pain (0-10), median [IQR]</td>
<td>7 [6-8]</td>
<td>7 [6-8]</td>
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<td>Concomitant csDMARDs use, n (%)</td>
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<td>22 (33.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concomitant relevant disease, n (%)</td>
<td>49 (44.8)</td>
<td>37 (56.9)</td>
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</table>
Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic systemic inflammatory musculoskeletal disease whose heterogeneous manifestations are classified in multiple domains; moreover, PsA negatively influence many comorbid diseases.[1] As growing evidence suggests, it is important to research drugs active on multiple domains, trying to target therapy for every PsA manifestations. Upadacitinib (UPA) is a selective JAK inhibitor effective in many PsA domains according to randomized controlled trials.[2] However, real-world data on UPA performance in everyday clinical practice are currently lacking.

Objectives: This observational study aims to evaluate real-life efficacy and safety of UPA in the treatment of PsA in a large multicentre cohort. Secondary objectives are: a. to obtain the ideal patient profile for UPA therapy; b. to stratify clinimetric and laboratoristic responses according to patient manifestation and comorbidities.

Methods: Patients with either peripheral and/or axial PsA, classified according to CASPAR and ASAS criteria, who initiated UPA by clinical indication were enrolled at 10 Italian centers according to the following inclusion criteria: 1a. failure or intolerance towards at least one csDMARD for bio-naive patients, or 1b. failure of at least one bDMARD for bio-failure patients; 2. active PsA disease, defined according to treat-to-target strategy by the absence of MDA (Minimal Disease Activity); 3. age > 18 years. Patients were assessed at baseline (T0) and at week 12 (T3) and 24 (T6), recording responses in the main clinimetric indices (i.e. TJC, SJC, LEI, DAPSA, ASDAS-CRP, MDA & VDLA) and a complete laboratory panel. Any type of adverse event was recorded at each visit. Data about assessment until week 56 (T12) for all patients will be presented in a future work.

Results: A total of 126 patients, 73 (69.5%) females and 32 (30.5%) males, started therapy with UPA: mean age 55.9±11.2 years, mean BMI 29.8±5.1, mean duration of disease 114.7±100.9 months. Most patients (n.124, 98.4%) show peripheral joint involvement: n.39 (31.4%) with oligoarthritis and n.85 (68.6%) with polyarticular pattern. Axial involvement was found in n.56 (44.4%) patients. Most patients (n.89, 70.6%) had failed at least 1 bDMARD. At baseline, all patients show high disease activity (DAPSA 27.7±10.0; ASDAS-CRP 5.2±1.2) and patient-reported outcomes (Table 1, Figure 1). A subsequent multivariate logistic regression analysis shows that males (OR 2.53), bio-naivity (OR 4.12), and patients with high baseline CRP (OR 2.49) had the highest probability of MDA response at T6. A few patients (n.10, 7.9%) discontinued UPA during the study due to ineffectiveness (n.7) or adverse events (n.2 moderate thrombocytopenia; n.1 severe hypertension).

Conclusion: Preliminary data are confirming UPA effectiveness and safety in PsA real-life population. These findings will allow more targeted therapy based on patient profiling and disease domains.
Background: Guselkumab (GUS) is associated with robust and sustained improvement in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) signs and symptoms in subgroups of patients (pts) pooled from the phase 3 DISCOVER-1 and DISCOVER-2 trials, across a variety of baseline (BL) pt characteristics through [1][1], and 2 years (DISCOVER-2 only)[2].

Objectives: This post-hoc analysis using DISCOVER-2 data aimed to evaluate the efficacy of GUS in inducing long-term (Week [W]100) stringent disease control in Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA)-recommended domains across BL characteristics.

Methods: DISCOVER-2 enrolled biologic-naïve adults with active PsA defined as ≥5 swollen and ≥5 tender joint counts (SJc; TJc) and C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥0.6 mg/dL. 739 pts were randomized (1:1:1) and treated with GUS 100 mg every 4 weeks (Q4W; n=245); GUS 100 mg at Week 0, Week 4, then every 8 weeks (Q8W; n=248); or placebo (n=246) with crossover to GUS 100 mg Q4W at W24. In this analysis, only GUS-randomized pts were included (n=493). Achievement of the following outcomes at W100 was assessed: minimal disease activity (MDA), American College of Rheumatology 50% improvement (ACR50), ACR70, Investigator’s Global Assessment score of 0 (clear skin) (IGA 0), Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score – low disease activity (PASDAS LDA), resolution of enthesitis and dactylitis, Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue (FACIT-F) response (≥4-point improvement), and Health Assessment Questionnaire Disease Index (HAQ-DI) response (≥0.35-point improvement). BL characteristics of interest were pt sex, baseline body mass index (BMI), SJc, TJc, PsA duration, CRP, % body surface area (BSA) with psoriasis, and PASI score, and use of conventional synthetic (cs) DMARDs and methotrexate (MTX). Non-responder imputation was used for missing categorical response data.

Results: 442 (90%) GUS-randomized pts completed study treatment through W100. With few exceptions, achievement of MDA response (Figure 1) at Week 100 was demonstrated across a variety of baseline pt characteristics, without consistent differences in proportion of responders across pt subgroups of adequate sample size or between GUS dosing regimens. Similar trends were observed for achievement of ACR50, ACR70, IGA 0, PASDAS LDA, enthesitis resolution, dactylitis resolution, FACIT-F response, and HAQ-DI response.

Conclusion: Irrespective of dosing regimen, treatment with GUS resulted in sustained achievement of several stringent endpoints spanning key GRAPPA-recommended domains through 2 years across a variety of BL demographic and disease characteristics. These results further support the long-term efficacy of GUS across the full spectrum of PsA disease domains and diverse PsA populations.

REFERENCES:
Disclosure of Interests: Christopher T. Ritchlin Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, and UCB, Philip J Mease Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Aclars, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Immagine, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Wolf-Henning Boehnke Consultant of: AbbVie, Almiral, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Leo, Novartis, and UCB, John Tesser Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen and Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, and Pfizer, advisory board fees from Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, CorEvitas, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Pfizer, and Sun Pharma, Soumya D Chakravarty Employee of: Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC; shareholder in Johnson & Johnson, of which Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary, Emmanouil Rampakakis Consultant of: Janssen; Employee of: JSS Medical Research, May Shawi Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson; shareholder of Johnson & Johnson, Elena Schiopu Consultant of: Janssen, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Joseph F. Merola Consultant of: AbbVie, Arena, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Dermavant, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sun Pharma, and UCB, Iain Mclnnes Shareholder of: Causeway Therapeutics, and Evelo Compucon; No Exec Roles: NHS GGC Board Member, Evelo Board of Directors and Versus Arthritis Trustee Status, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Astra Zeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Cabiabela, Compucon, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Astra Zeneca, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Roche, and UCB, Atul Deodhar Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Auriinia, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, MoonLake, Novartis, and Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, GSK, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB.

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AB1105

LONG-TERM SAFETY OF IXEKIZUMAB TREATMENT IN ADULT PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS, PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS, OR AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A POST-HOC ANALYSIS OF END-OF-STUDY PROGRAM DATA RELATING TO MAJOR ADVERSE CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis


1The Mount Sinai Hospital, Dermatology, New York, United States of America; 2Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, United States of America; 372nd Street Medical Associates, New York, United States of America; 4SOC Reumatologia, Azienda USL-IRCCS, Rome, Italy; 5Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, United States of America; 6Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s, Canada; 7Probity Medical Research, Dermatology, Waterloo, Canada; 8Bingham and Women’s Hospital, Dermatology, Boston, United States of America; 9Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, United States of America; 10Oregon Medical Research Center, Research Excellence & Personalized Patient Care, Portland, United States of America

Background: The objective of this study is to report long-term, end-of-study program safety outcomes, relating to major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE), in adult patients with psoriasis (PsO), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) who received ≥1 dose of ixekizumab (IXE) over 5 years (PsO) or 3 years (PsA, axSpA).

Methods: The incidence of MACE was assessed across 25 randomized clinical trials (17 PsO, 4 PsA, 4 axSpA) examining long-term safety of IXE. MACE rates were analyzed for pooled studies by years of therapy, through March 2022. Exposure-adjusted incidence rates (IRs) per 100 patient-years, at successive year periods examined.

Results: The incidence of MACE was low among patients with PsO (IR=0.5), PsA (IR=0.3), and axSpA (IR=0.3). In the PsO cohort, of the 103 reported MACE cases, 20 were fatal (19.4%), 57 recovered (55.3%), and 17 recovered with sequelae (16.5%). Of the 12 reported MACE cases in the PsA cohort, 2 were fatal (16.7%), 9 recovered (75.0%), and 1 recovered with sequelae (8.3%). All 6 MACE cases reported in the axSpA cohort recovered (100%). IRs were low and stable over the treatment periods. The most common types of MACE reported in the PsO, PsA and axSpA cohorts were non-fatal myocardial infarction (PsO: IR=0.3; PsA: IR=0.3; axSpA: IR=0.3), nonfatal stroke (PsO: IR=0.1; PsA: IR=0.2) and vascular death (PsO: IR=0.1; PsA: IR=0.1). All MACE cases were confirmed by adjudication.

Conclusion: The incidence of MACE was low and stable over the IXE treatment periods examined.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
AB1106

EFFICACY OF RISANKIZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Keywords:
Psoriatic arthritis, Systematic review

H. Zhou1,2, G. M. Xia1,2, C. Su1,2, H. Y. Tian1,2, Y. J. Deng1,2, X. M. Wang1,2, J. Y. Ren1,2, R. T. Shen1,2, Q. Y. Su1,2,3, Q. Yu4, P. F. He4, X. Li1,2,3, S. X. Zhang1,2,3.

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic autoimmune disease that is seen in nearly 30% of patients with psoriasis. As a new targeted treatment drug, risankizumab may provide a new treatment with fewer side effects for patients with psoriasis arthritis. However, there are currently discrepancies in the evaluation of the efficacy of Risankizumab in PsA patients.

Objectives: This study aims to systematically evaluate the efficacy of Risankizumab patients with PsA.

Methods: We systematically searched PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, Cochran Library, MEDLINE, Web of Knowledge, Clinical Trials. gov, FDA. gov and print databases (SSRN, bioRxiv, and MedRxiv) from the establishment of the database to January 2, 2023, and conducted data analysis in Stata 12.0. We used the I-squared (I2) to assess the heterogeneity of the included studies in order to select the appropriate model for statistical analysis. A random-effects model will be used when I2≥50%, otherwise, a fixed-effect model will be applied. The publication bias was evaluated by using Egger test.

Results: We ultimately included 11 studies that included data on six outcome index. However, it is seen in nearly 30% of patients with psoriasis. As a new targeted treatment drug, risankizumab may provide a new treatment with fewer side effects for patients with psoriasis arthritis. However, there are currently discrepancies in the evaluation of the efficacy of Risankizumab in PsA patients.

Conclusion: The overall results of the meta-analysis show that Risankizumab treatment can significantly improve the symptoms of PsA such as arthritis and skin symptoms, improve the clinical remission rate and the quality of life of patients. However, taking Risankizumab may also potentially increase fatigue levels in patients.

Table 1. PROs and disease activity measures, mean±SD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All n=114</th>
<th>Women n=66</th>
<th>Men n=58</th>
<th>p-value1</th>
<th>All n=114</th>
<th>Women n=56</th>
<th>Men n=58</th>
<th>p-value2</th>
<th>p-value3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pain, 0-100mm</td>
<td>32.0±22.0</td>
<td>36.3±22.4</td>
<td>27.8±21.0</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>30.1±23.0</td>
<td>34.6±25.0</td>
<td>25.6±20.1</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGA, 0-100mm</td>
<td>34.7±23.7</td>
<td>40.0±24.5</td>
<td>29.5±21.8</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>31.3±21.6</td>
<td>34.7±22.8</td>
<td>28.0±20.1</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatigue, 0-100mm</td>
<td>44.5±31.6</td>
<td>53.6±31.6</td>
<td>35.7±29.2</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>40.3±30.5</td>
<td>48.2±30.1</td>
<td>33.5±29.3</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>TJC 68</td>
<td>9.5±10.4</td>
<td>12.1±10.8</td>
<td>6.9±9.4</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>6.4±7.1</td>
<td>8.0±7.8</td>
<td>4.8±6.0</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJC 66</td>
<td>0.6±1.0</td>
<td>0.6±0.9</td>
<td>0.5±1.1</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.3±0.8</td>
<td>0.2±0.6</td>
<td>0.4±0.9</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.03</td>
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<td>CRP, mg/L</td>
<td>4.3±6.4</td>
<td>2.8±3.4</td>
<td>5.6±8.6</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>5.1±12.2</td>
<td>3.9±7.9</td>
<td>6.3±15.2</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h</td>
<td>14.9±11.1</td>
<td>17.2±12.0</td>
<td>12.2±9.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>10.9±12.9</td>
<td>13.8±12.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAPSA</td>
<td>17.1±12.9</td>
<td>20.6±13.4</td>
<td>13.8±11.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>13.3±9.6</td>
<td>15.3±10.1</td>
<td>11.2±8.8</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDAI</td>
<td>8.9±6.7</td>
<td>10.7±7.4</td>
<td>7.2±6.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>6.3±4.7</td>
<td>7.2±6.1</td>
<td>5.6±4.0</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDAI</td>
<td>8.5±6.5</td>
<td>10.4±7.3</td>
<td>6.7±5.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>5.8±4.4</td>
<td>6.9±5.0</td>
<td>4.8±3.5</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 CRP</td>
<td>3.1±1.1</td>
<td>3.0±1.0</td>
<td>2.5±0.9</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>2.4±1.1</td>
<td>2.6±0.9</td>
<td>2.2±0.8</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 ESR</td>
<td>2.8±1.0</td>
<td>3.5±1.0</td>
<td>2.6±1.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>2.4±0.8</td>
<td>2.9±1.0</td>
<td>2.0±0.9</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>rOCR</td>
<td>0.40±0.35</td>
<td>0.47±0.36</td>
<td>0.34±0.33</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.38±0.38</td>
<td>0.45±0.42</td>
<td>0.31±0.32</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.72</td>
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1women vs men, baseline 2women vs men, follow-up 3baseline vs follow-up, all patients

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1107

PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: IMPROVEMENT IN OUTCOMES BUT PERSISTENT SEX DIFFERENCE - 5 YEAR FOLLOW UP STUDY OF A NORWEGIAN OUTPATIENT CLINIC POPULATION

Keywords: Remission, Real-world evidence, Psoriatic arthritis

K. Losinska1, B. Michelsen2, A. Kavanagh3, M. Korkos4, G. Haugeberg5.

1University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Krakow, Poland; 2Srølandet Hospital, Research Department, Kristiansand, Norway; 3University of California, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, San Diego, La Jolla, CA, United States of America; 4Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Krakow, Poland; 5Srølandet Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kristiansand, Norway; 6NTNU, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Neuromedicine and Movement Science, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Trondheim, Norway

Background: Improvement of pharmacological therapies and treatment approaches in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) have led to substantial progress in disease outcomes [1]. Despite this progress there is still a need for improvement in PsA treatment [2].

Objectives: To explore long-term (5 years) changes in disease activity, remission rates and sex-related differences in these outcomes in PsA patients treated in ordinary outpatient clinic.

Methods: Prospective longitudinal cohort study. DAS28, DAPSA, SDAI, CDAI, MDA and Boolean remission criteria for PsA were assessed. Parametric statistics for comparisons of patient characteristics and dependent t test for differences between observation times were used.

Results: 114 PsA patients (49.1% women), baseline mean±SD age was 51.4±9.4 years, disease duration 9.2±6.8 years, 24.8% were HLAB27(+), 32.7% currently used NSAIDs, 61.4% csDMARDs, 37.7% b/tsDMARDs. At 5-year follow-up numerical improvement was noted for multiple disease activity measures and PROs (Table 1). Statistically significant increase in remission rates was
observed for DAS28 and CDAI but not for MDA, SDAI, DAPSA, and Boolean remission for PsA (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Proportions of PsA patients in remission (total cohort).

During follow-up number of b/tsDMARD users significantly increased (from 37.7% to 48.5% p<0.01), while number of NSAIDs and csDMARDs users significantly decreased (from 32.7% to 21.9% p<0.01, and from 61.4% to 46.5% p<0.01, respectively). Both at baseline and follow-up women reported higher levels of pain, PGA and fatigue, and had higher UC68, DAPSA, SDAI, DASI, DAS28 and mHAQ compared to men. Even though mean CRP was higher in men both at baseline and follow-up, men more often achieved remission, regardless which remission definition was applied. A higher proportion of men were treated with b/ttsDMARDs (46.6% vs 28.6% at baseline, 60.3% vs 35.7% at follow-up).

Conclusion: Our study adds evidence that improvement in PsA outcome between 2013 and 2020 was achieved, most probably due to more intensified treatment with b/tsDMARDs. Women had higher PROs and disease activity indexes both at baseline and follow-up and were less likely to achieve remission. Despite obtained progress, the number of PsA patients in remission remains unsatisfactory. This may indicate further need to improve both therapeutic approaches and methods of assessing PsA activity and remission.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: Katarzyna Losiaksa: None declared, Brigitte Michelsen: None declared, Arthur Kavanaugh: None declared, Mariusz Korkosz: None declared, Brigitte Michelsen: None declared, Glenn Haugeberg Grant/research support from: Unrestricted Research Grant from Pfizer Norway.

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AB1108 EFFECT OF GUSELKUMAB ADMINISTERED EVERY 8 WEEKS IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE PsORIATiC ARTHRiTIS PERSISTS BETWEEN CONSECUTIVE DOSES AND IS DURABLE: POST HOC ANALYSIS OF A PHASE 3, RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED STUDY

Keywords: Clinical trials, Psoriatic arthritis, Outcome measures

P. J. Mease1, X. Baraliakos2, V. Chandran3, E. Soriano4, P. Nash5, A. Deodhar6, E. Rampakakis7, N. Shiff8, S. D. Chakravarty9,10, M. Shawi11,12, J. F. Merola13, I. McNines14,15, Swedish Medical Center, Providence St. Joseph Health and University of Washington, Rheumatology Research, Seattle, United States of America; 2Ruhr-University Bochum, Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Claudiastrasse, Germany; 3University of Toronto and Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ontario, Canada; 4Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology; Buenos Aires, Argentina; 5Griffith University and University of Queensland, Rheumatology Research Unit, Maroochyndore, Australia; 6Oregon Health & Science University, Division of Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases, Portland, United States of America; 7McGill University, Department of Pediatrics, Montreal, Canada; 8JSS Medical Research, Inc., Scientific Affairs, Montreal, Canada; 9Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Horsham, United States of America; 10University of Saskatchewan, Community Health and Epidemiology, Saskatoon, Canada; 11Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Immunology, Horsham, United States of America; 12Drexel University College of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Philadelphia, United States of America; 13Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Immunology Global Medical Affairs, Horsham, United States of America; 14Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Boston, United States of America; 15College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Background: The efficacy of guselkumab (GUS), a fully human IL-23p19 subunit inhibitor, in patients (pts) with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) has been previously shown across a variety of PsA domains and baseline (BL) pt characteristics[1-3]. Given the central role of the IL-23/Th17 pathway in PsA, it has been hypothesized that IL-23 inhibition with GUS may provide persistent and durable clinical responses between doses and over time when administered every 8 weeks (Q8W).

Objectives: To assess at the pt level the persistence of effect of GUS Q8W between doses and its durability of effect over time.

Methods: DISCOVER-2 was a phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo (PBO)-controlled study that enrolled pts with active PsA despite standard therapies. Pts were biologic-naïve, had tender and swollen joint counts (TJC/SJC) each ≥5, and C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥0.6mg/dL. Pts were randomized 1:1:1 to GUS 100mg Q4W, GUS 100mg at W0, W4, then Q8W, or PBO with crossover to GUS 100mg Q4W at W24. In the current analysis, only pts treated with GUS Q8W (N=248) were included. Persistence of effect between consecutive dosing visits was described with the proportion of pts maintaining response (as defined below) in outcomes assessed during dosing visits (Disease Activity index for PsA [DAPSA], clinical DAPSA [cDAPSA]). Durability of effect was assessed with the Kaplan-Meier estimator of the survival function where each pt contributed follow-up from the first time of achievement of clinical response within the 24-week period and the time of loss of response or last available assessment through W100. Definitions of clinical response included achievement of clear/almost clear skin (investigator’s global assessment [IGA] 0/1; among pts with BL IGA>1) or minimal clinically important improvements (MCII) in DAPSA (≥75, ≥75, skin visual analog scale (VAS; ≥15mm), and PsA Disease Activity Score (PASDAS; ≥0.8).

Results: Between consecutive (Q8W) dosing visits through W52, the proportion of pts maintaining response ranged from 93.3% (DAPSA MCII between W4 and W12) to 99.1% (DAPSA/cDAPSA MCII between W28 and W56), depending on the time interval. Among pts showing clinical response within the first 24 weeks, the estimated mean (SE) duration of maintenance was 58.6 (2.2) weeks for DAPSA MCII, 52.4 (2.0) weeks for cDAPSA MCII, 75.7 (1.6) weeks for IGA 0/1, 71.7 (1.9) weeks for skin VAS MCII, and 76.7 (1.4) weeks for PASDAS MCII (Figure 1). As estimated probabilities of maintenance of effect at W100 were between 65% (IGA 0/1) and 90% (PASDAS MCII) for all outcomes assessed, median duration of effect could not be calculated.

Conclusion: Treatment with GUS Q8W was associated with long-lasting effects in both joint- and skin-related outcomes, as well as in multi-domain composite outcomes, in individuals with PsA. These results highlight that, in addition to continuous improvement in clinical response rates over time, GUS Q8W provides consistent and highly durable responses between consecutive doses.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.
OBJECTIVES: We aimed to analyze the retention rate and safety of IXE in patients with PsA in routine clinical practice. The present study has analyzed drug survival and safety of IXE in patients with PsA under real clinical practice conditions. This information may complement that obtained from the RCTs done to date with this drug.

Methods: Retrospective longitudinal observational single-center study of all patients with PsA who had received at least one dose of IXE. Adverse events (AEs) and drug retention rate were considered the main variables. Survival was analyzed using Kaplan-Meier curves and predictive factors using multivariate Cox regression analysis. The Hazard Ratio (HR) was used as a measure of the association.

Results: Seventy-two patients were included (52 women and 20 men). Median disease duration was 5 years (IQR 3-9). More than 90% have received ≥ 2 biologic and/or targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (methotrexate, leflunomide, sulphasalazine), ≥2 csDMARDs, and ≥2 tsDMARDs prior to IXE. Ixekizumab showed a 1-year retention rate of 65% and a 2-year retention rate of 57% (Figure 1). Regarding discontinuation due to AEs, 0.18 AEs per person-year were identified. The number of previous biologics did not influence drug survival but prior use of methotrexate [HR 2.31 (95%CI 1.05-5.10), p < 0.05] and depression [HR 2.40 (95%CI 1.07-5.41), p < 0.05] increased the risk of IXE discontinuation (Table 1).

Conclusion: Ixekizumab demonstrated high drug persistence in a population mostly refractory to various lines of systemic therapy. In addition, the aspects that usually penalize the survival of most biologics in PsA (age, duration of disease, female gender, smoking, obesity, prior exposure to other biologics) did not affect drug persistence in this study.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Disease characteristics of the study population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Psoriatic arthritis n = 72</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (ys), mean (SD)</td>
<td>50 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>52 (72.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (yrs), median (IQR)</td>
<td>5 (3-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-TNFα prior to IXE, n (%)</td>
<td>60 (83.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARDs prior to IXE, n (%)</td>
<td>42 (60.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other biologics prior to IXE, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight, median (IQR)</td>
<td>77 (65-85)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obesity (BMI&gt;30), n (%)</td>
<td>20 (27.8)</td>
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<td>Smoker, n (%)</td>
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<td>Hypertension, n (%)</td>
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<td>Diabetes, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronic liver disease</td>
<td>1 (14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAPSA, mean (SD)</td>
<td>9.8 (6.8)</td>
</tr>
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<td>PsAID, mean (SD)</td>
<td>2.7 (2.2)</td>
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</table>

SD: standard deviation, yrs: years, IQR: intercuartile range, TNF: tumor necrosis factor, IXE: ixekizumab, BMI: body mass index, csDMARDs: conventional-synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (methotrexate, leflunomide, sulphasalazine), tsDMARDs: targeted-synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (apremilast, tofacitnib), COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, DAPSA: disease activity index for psoriatic arthritis, PsAID: psoriatic arthritis impact of disease.* Myocardial infarction and/or cerebrovascular event.

Figure 1. Median survival of ixekizumab

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AB1109 TREATMENT RETENTION AND SAFETY OF IXEKIZUMAB IN A POPULATION WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS REFRACTORY TO BIOLOGIC AND TARGETED SYNTHETIC DMARDs

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis

I. Braña Abascal1, S. Burger1, P. González del Pozo1, E. Pardo Campo1, S. Alonso Castro1, S. Fernández2, F. Jirou1, I. Zapico2, M. Alperi-López3, R. Queipo Silva1. 1Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, Rheumatology, Oviedo, Asturias, Spain

Background: Information on the performance of ixekizumab (IXE) in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in clinical practice is scarce.

Objective: We aimed to analyze the retention rate and safety of IXE in patients with PsA in routine clinical practice. The present study has analyzed drug survival and safety of IXE in patients with PsA under real clinical practice conditions. This information may complement that obtained from the RCTs done to date with this drug.

Discussion of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
AB1110
EXPLORING LEVELS OF PROTEIN BIOMARKERS IN RESPONSE TO TREATMENT FOR PSORIASIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Biomarkers, Psoriatic arthritis


Background: Guselkumab (GUS) is a human monoclonal antibody targeting the IL-23 p19 subunit. In the Phase 3b COSMOS trial (NCT037986885), GUS significantly improved disease signs/symptoms vs placebo (PBO) in patients (pts) with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and an inadequate response (IR) to TNF inhibitor (TNFi) therapy. The primary endpoint of American College of Rheumatology 20% improvement (ACR20) response at Week (Wk)24 was achieved, with the benefit of GUS vs PBO consistent across subgroups.[1]

Objectives: In this post-hoc analysis, we evaluated if response to GUS across disease domains was maintained through 1 year across various subgroups of these TNF-IR PsA pts.

Methods: In COSMOS, adults with active PsA (swollen joint count [SJC] ≥ 3 and tender joint count [TJC] ≥ 3) with a lack of efficacy/intolerance to 1–2 TNFi therapies were randomized (2:1) to GUS 100 mg or PBO. Pts in the GUS group were treated at W0, W4, then every 8 weeks (Q8W) to W44; those in the PBO group were treated at W0, W4, W12, and W20, with planned crossover to GUS 100 mg at W24 followed by GUS at W28, W36, and W44. Pts with < 5% improvement from baseline (BL) in SJC and TJC qualified for W16 early escape (EE); EE pts receiving GUS continued treatment, while pts receiving PBO crossed over to GUS. In this analysis, efficacy of GUS in subgroups was evaluated at W24 and W48 via joint (ACR20/50 response), skin (Psoriasis Area and Severity Index [PASI]100 response), and multi-domain (minimal disease activity [MDA] response) outcome measures. Subgroups were defined by selected demographics, disease characteristics, and ongoing medications at BL: sex, body mass index (BMI), SJC, TJC, PsA duration, % psoriatic body surface area (BSA), and conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (csDMARD) use. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) based on Fisher’s exact test for GUS vs PBO were shown overall and for each subgroup at W24. No treatment comparison was performed after W24. Pts who discontinued and/or correctly met EE criteria before W24 were imputed as nonresponders. Missing data were also imputed with no response through W48.

Results: Overall, 285 pts were randomized to GUS (n = 189) or PBO (n = 96). BL characteristics were generally similar between treatment groups, although numeric differences were observed for the proportion of female, joint symptoms, and skin involvement in GUS vs PBO pts. At W16, 39 (21%) pts in the GUS group and 45 (47%) pts in the PBO group were assigned to EE. In this analysis, joint, skin, and multi-domain response rates at W24 were numerically greater in GUS vs PBO pts, with the benefit of GUS consistent across all subgroups of adequate sample size (Figure 1). Response rates with GUS were maintained, or in most cases numerically increased, from W24 to W48, regardless of BL subgroup.

Conclusion: GUS 100 mg Q8W led to consistent improvements vs PBO in joint, skin, and multi-domain outcomes at W24 across subgroups of TNF-IR PsA pts defined by selected demographics, disease characteristics, and ongoing medications at BL. Response to GUS was maintained or further improved through 1 year of treatment regardless of BL subgroup.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Iain McInnes Shareholder of: AstraZeneca, AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AstraZeneca, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Roche, and UCB, Philipp Severin: None declared, Mohamed Sharaf Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen, Michelle Efficace Employee of: Actelion Pharmaceuticals, May Shawi Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Michelle Perate Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Miriam Zimmermann: None declared, Laura Coates Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Bio- gen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galagagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Medac, Novar- tis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, BMS, Celgene, Domain, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Galagagos, Janssen, Moonlake, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma.

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AB1112

DESCRIPTION OF THE REAL-WORLD TREATMENT PATTERNS OF GUSELKUMAB IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IN AUSTRALIA: AN ANALYSIS FROM THE OPAL DATASET

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD

G. Littlejohn1,2, N. Anbumurali1, P. Bird1,3, P. Youssfi1,2,4, C. Osullivan1, T. Smith1, D. Sumpton1,2,3, K. Kane1,3, S. Mcgeachie1, M. Spiers1, L. Diamond1, E. Mcgeachie1, S. Spiers2,3, C. Deakin1, OPAL Rheumatology Ltd, Rheumatology, Sydney, Australia; 2Monash University, Department of Medicine, Clayton, Australia; University of New South Wales, School of Clinical Medicine, Kensington, Australia; 3Emeritus Research, Rheumatology, Botany, Australia; University of Sydney, Department of Medicine, Sydney, Australia; 4Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Camperdown, Australia; 5Concord Repatriation General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Concord, Australia; 6Janssen, Outcomes Research, Macquarie, Australia; 7Janssen, Medical Affairs, Macquarie, Australia

Background: Gusekumab (GUS) is a novel anti-interleukin 23 (IL-23) p19 antibody that acts as a selective and specific inhibitor of the IL-23 cytokine. GUS has been shown to significantly improve signs and symptoms of active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and became available for the treatment of PsA in Australia in July 2021. Limited data from large real-world patient populations exist to describe the utilisation of GUS for the management of PsA.

Objectives: To describe the patient demographics and treatment patterns of GUS in a large real-world cohort of Australian adult patients with PsA.

Methods: The OPAL dataset is a collection of deidentified clinical data obtained from the electronic medical records of 112 rheumatologists at 43 sites around Australia. Adult patients with a diagnosis of PsA who received at least one prescription of GUS or a biologic or targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (b/tsDMARD) between Jul 2021 and Jul 2022, were eligible for inclusion in the analysis. Results were summarised descriptively.

Results: A total of 1,868 patients with PsA, (GUS n=355, TNFi n=795, IL-17Ai n=371 and JAKi n=347) were eligible for inclusion in the study. The median (IQR) age of patients was 55 [44-63] years, and 70.1% were female. At baseline, median disease duration was 5[2-8], 2[1-6], 3[1-7] and 5[2-6] years, for patients treated with GUS, TNFi, IL-17Ai and JAKi, respectively. 17.7% of patients receiving GUS were first line compared with 58.7% of TNFi, 39.4% of IL-17Ai and 19.3% of JAKi treated patients (Table 1). At index, the majority of patients were treated as monotherapy.

Conclusion: These are the first data describing the demographics and treatment patterns of real-world Australian patients with PsA treated with GUS. In this preliminary analysis, a higher proportion of GUS and JAKi are newer treatment options for PsA compared with TNFi and IL-17Ai.

Table 1. Demographic features of patients with psoriatic arthritis treated with GUS, TNFi, IL-17Ai or JAKi as any line of therapy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Initiators of GUS (n=355)</th>
<th>Initiators of TNFi (n=795)</th>
<th>Initiators of IL-17Ai (n=371)</th>
<th>Initiators of JAKi (n=347)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Female (n, %)</td>
<td>250 (71.3%)</td>
<td>538 (69.2%)</td>
<td>240 (67%)</td>
<td>251 (73%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at index, years (median [IQR])</td>
<td>54 [45-63]</td>
<td>51 [41-61]</td>
<td>54 [45-64]</td>
<td>55 [48-64]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUDIT at index, years (median [IQR])</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line of therapy (n, %)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 1</td>
<td>63 (17.7%)</td>
<td>467 (58.7%)</td>
<td>146 (39.4%)</td>
<td>67 (19.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 2</td>
<td>57 (16.1%)</td>
<td>152 (19.1%)</td>
<td>99 (26.7%)</td>
<td>81 (23.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 3+</td>
<td>235 (66.2%)</td>
<td>176 (22.1%)</td>
<td>128 (34%)</td>
<td>199 (57.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GUS: gusekumab.

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Disclosure of Interests: Geoff Littlejohn: None declared, Nithila Anbumurali: None declared, Paul Bird Speakers bureau: GSK, AbbVie, Janssen, Eli-Lilly, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Janssen, Pfizer, Eli-Lilly, GSK, BMS, Peter Youssfi: None declared, Catherine OSullivan: None declared, Tegan Smith: None declared, Daniel Sumpton: None declared, Barry Kane: None declared, Andrew McGeachie Employee of: Current employee of Janssen Australia, Stefanie Spiers Employee of: Current employee of Janssen Australia, Claire Deakin: None declared.

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AB1113

REAL-WORLD USAGE OF BIOLOGIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTIRHEUMATIC DRUGS IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IN SWEDEN

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Psoriatic arthritis, Real-world evidence

J. Song1,2, C. Abé1,2, J. Banefelt3, A. Rieem-Dun3, D. Willems1, M. Morup1, V. Taieb1, I. Lindberg1, S. Welby1, UCB Pharma N/A, Braine-l’Alleud, Belgium; 2Karolinska Institute, N/A, Stockholm, Sweden; 3Quantify Research, N/A, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: Given the growing number of treatment options for psoriatic arthritis (PsA) over the last decades, including a variety of biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs), selecting optimal treatment regimens is critical. Beyond clinical guidelines, understanding how physicians choose between available treatment options based on patient characteristics in real-world settings is of interest to both patients and health care providers.

Objectives: To reveal the patient characteristics (ie. demographics, comorbidities – including concomitant psoriasis [PSO], PsA+PSO and history of bDMARD exposure) in relation to bDMARD type and dosage in patients with PsA, treated in real-world clinical practice.

Methods: This retrospective observational cohort study utilised data from Swedish national administrative health care registers. Adult patients with an existing PsA diagnosis and a new bDMARD pharmacy dispensation between 2017–2021 were identified. Index date was that of the first observed dispensation qualifying as a new bDMARD, ie., without prior exposure to the index biologic. Prior bDMARD exposure and patient characteristics (including comorbidities) were screened for from 2005 and 2001, respectively. For patients initiating secukinumab (SEC), prescribed dosing was reported separately for patients with and without PSO manifestations giving the variability in prescribing recommendations.

Results: This study identified 8,658 PsA patients initiating a new bDMARD during the study period, among which 2,706 (31.3%) were already bDMARD-experienced. Patients had a median age of 52.3 years (SD=13.7), and 45.1% were male. The most frequently prescribed bDMARDs were adalimumab (45.3%), etanercept (31.6%), and SEC (11.3%). As expected, due to their recent market authorisations in PsA, the least frequently prescribed bDMARDs were guselkumab (0.8%) and risankizumab (0.4%). The most frequently observed prescriber specialty was rheumatologist (46.1%). The highest proportion of bDMARD-experienced patients was observed amongst interleukin-17 inhibitors initiators (82.4%), while 19.7% of tumour necrosis factor inhibitor initiators were bDMARD-experienced. Overall, 62.8% of patients had PsA+PSO. Other frequent non-inflammation comorbidities included hypertension (22.0%), malignancies (12.6%), and depression (11.7%). The proportion of patients with anxiety and depression was higher among those initiating risankizumab compared to those initiating other bDMARDs. Other comorbidities were comparable between groups.
Amongst 981 SEC initiators, 679 (69.2%) had PsA+PSO. Maintenance dose data were available/could be analysed for 901 patients. Most PsA+PSO patients initi-ated SEC at a dose of 150 mg (53.7%), and most PsA+PSO at 300 mg (65.0%). This was similar for maintenance period with 51.8% percent of PsA-only and 62.4% of PsA+PSO patients receiving a maintenance dose of 150 mg and 300 mg, respectively. A similar pattern was observed within bDMARD-naive and bDMARD-experienced patients regardless of PSO manifestations.

Conclusion: This study provides information on the profiles of PsA patients treated with different bDMARDs and suggest that factors such as PSO manifesta-
tions and biological-experience play important roles in the choice of bDMARD and dosing regimen. Future studies are warranted to identify patient outcomes associated with treatment patterns, including discontinuation and switches over time, which can assist in tailoring therapies to patient needs.

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Disclosure of Interests: Jie Song Employee of: UCB Pharma, Christoph Abé Employee of: Employee of Quantify Research, a contract research organization that provides consultancy services to the pharmaceutical industry, Jonas Banebelt Shareholder of: Stockholder of Quantify Research, Employee of: Employee of Quantify Research, Alexander Reem-Dun Employee of: Employee of Quantify Research, a contract research organization that provides consultancy services to the pharmaceutical industry, Damon Willems Shareholder of: Stockholder of Quantify Research, Employee of: Employee of Quanta Research, a contract research organization that provides consultancy services to the pharmaceutical industry. Jonas Banebelt Shareholder of: Stockholder of Quantify Research, Employee of: Employee of Quantify Research, Alex Reem-Dun Employee of: Employee of Quantify Research, a contract research organization that provides consultancy services to the pharmaceutical industry, Damon Willems Shareholder of: Stockholder of Quantify Research, Employee of: Employee of Quanta Research, a contract research organization that provides consultancy services to the pharmaceutical industry.

Keywords: Ultrasound, Psoriatic arthritis, Imaging

A. Farina1, P. Del Medico2, A. Becciolini2, F. Lumetti2, E. Visalli2, F. Molica Coletta4, N. Manueto5, I. Plate6, M. Colina7,8,10,11, G. Lucchinii, E. D. Donato1, D. Santilli8, S. Parisi9, M. C. Ditto10, E. Fusaro11, G. Amato12, F. De Lucia12, R. Foti13, A. Molica Coletta1, V. Franchina1, R. Caccavale1, M. Paroli14, P. Sciolieri15, R. Andracco1, V. Bruzzese12, L. Gardielli12, G. Ferrari2, E. Bravi1, E. Arrigoni1, F. Girelli1, A. Marchetta13, A. Volpe1, A. Ianniello1, V. Nucera2, G. Sandri15, C. Salvarelli1, A. Ariani1. Internal Medicine Unit, Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic, Ferrara, Italy; 2Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic, Internal Medicine Unit, Civitanova Marche, Italy; 3Department of Medicine, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology Unit-, Parma, Italy; 4Rheumatology Unit, Azienda USL of Modena and ADU Pollicitico of Modena, Modena, Italy; 5 Policlinico San Marco University, Rheumatology Unit, Catania, Italy; 6Rheumatology Unit, Azienda Ospedaliera Papardo, Messina, Italy; 7Distretto Socio Sanitario, ASL 1 Imperia, Imperia, Italy; 8Department of Rheumatology, Ospedale Cavour di Salice, Piacenza, Italy; 9Alma Mater Studiorum, Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy; 10Rheumatology Service, Section of Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine and Oncology, Ospedale Santa Maria della Scaletta, Imola, Bologna, Italy; 11Rheumatology Unit, Department of General and Specialist Medicine, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria, Turin, Italy; 12Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Medical-Surgical Sciences and Biotechnologies, Latina, Italy; 13-15Nuovo Regina Margherita S. Spirito Hospital, Unit of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 16CB Morgagni Hospital, Internal Medicine Unit, Forlì, Italy; 17ICRSS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria, Rheumatology Unit, Negrar, Italy; 18ASL Novara, Rheumatology Outpatient Unit, Novara, Italy; 19Rheumatology Unit, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is an inflammatory rheumatic disease characterized by different phenotypes in terms of joint involvement. Apremilast, PDE4 competitive inhibitor, has been introduced in the treatment of adult psoriatic arthritis (PsA) with moderate disease activity. Musculoskeletal ultrasound (US) is useful in the assessment of disease activity and treatment response and follow up in PsA patients. Choosing an effective and safe treatment over time is an increas-
ingly urgent goal given the greater availability of indicated drugs.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to evaluate if MUS assessment before apremilast treatment can improve its retention rate.

Methods: We enrolled consecutive patients affected by PsA (according to the CASPAR Criteria) from 15 rheumatology centers. The following data were recorded for each patient: age, gender, duration of disease, DAPSA; smoke, comorbidities; concomitant treatment; duration of therapy with apremilast; reason of sospensione, PsA phenotype (policarticular or oligoarticular) (Table 1). All patients were divided in two subset according to the presence of a MUS assessment before apremilast treatment. The differentes between two groups were calculated by means of the Mann-Whitney and Chi-quadrato tests. The Kaplan Meier curve and Cox analysis assessed the retention rate and associated factors. P values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results: ON Three hundred and fifty patients (m/f: 198/152; median age 60 years, IQR 52-67 years), 40% received MUS examination. In the MUS group there was a moderate disease (medium 22.9 IQR 18.2-29 vs 26.9 IQR 20.3-33.8; p=0.0068) and a prevalence of the oligoarticular pattern (73% vs 44%, p<0.0001). The retention rate was statistically higher in MUS group (Figure 1) (HR 0.57 ICR95% 0.35-0.92; p=0.03).

Table 1.

<table>
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<th>Yes US</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
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<td>58</td>
<td>0.0016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (M:F)</td>
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<td>85:131</td>
<td>Ns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoke (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m^2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disease PsA (months)</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of disease PsO (months)</td>
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<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidty (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>39.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joints</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender joints</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCR (mg/dl)</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAPSA</td>
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<td>27.0</td>
<td>22.9</td>
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<td>Concomitant treatment (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naive biologic (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>68.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligoarticular pattern (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>63.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. A: Psoriatic arthritis. Longitudinal vobar scan of the interphalageal proximal joint. Tenosinovitis of the flexor tendons B: Psoriatic arthrits. Transversal vobar of the inter-
phalageal proximal joint. Tenosinovitis of the flexor tendons

Conclusion: In PS patients treated with apremilast, MUS assessment at base-line was associated with an higher retention rate. MUS could be useful in the PsA treatment algorithm in order to better identify those patients whose characteristics are favourable to apremilast response.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1115

STUDY DESIGN AND FULL BASELINE SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS FROM THE 24-MONTH MULTINATIONAL PROSPECTIVE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS OBSERVATIONAL STUDY OF PERSISTENCE OF TREATMENT (PRO-SPirit)

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis

J. Morel1,2, E. Lubrano2, W. Tillett2, R. Alten2, L. E. Kristensen3, V. Chandran4, T. Reue5, J. Burke5, A. Martinez-Ferret6, T. Holtschep7,8, N. Gulick9,10, Universite Montpellier 1 - Faculty of Medicine, Montpellier School of Medicine, Montpellier, France; CHU and University of Montpellier, Department of Rheumatology, Montpellier, France; University of Molise, Department of Medicine and Health Sciences; Vincenzo Tiberio; Campobasso, Italy; University of Bath, Department of Life Sciences, Centre for Therapeutic Innovation, Bath, United Kingdom.
Background: The paper describes outcomes of the PRO-SPIRIT study, a large, prospective observational study for IXE in patients (pts) with PsA who start a new biologic/targeted synthetic treatment (tx) of Psoriasis (Pso), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and axSpA (rad/non rad) with limited real-world data. PRO-SPIRIT is the first large, prospective observational study for IXE in patients with PsA who start a new biologic/targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (b/tsDMARD), with a primary endpoint of persistence at 24 months (M).

Objectives: To describe baseline (BL) characteristics of pts enrolled in PRO-SPIRIT.

Methods: PRO-SPIRIT enrolled pts December 2019–June 2022 in ES, IT, DE, UK, and CA, who started a new b/tsDMARD, approved for PsA. Tx groups are: IXE, secukinumab (SEC), IL-12/23-, IL-23, tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi), Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi), and Phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor (PDE4i). Pts' demographic, disease activity, and tx characteristics were recorded at BL, effectiveness outcomes and tx changes at 3, 6, 12, 18, and 24M. BL descriptive statistics are shown.

Results: The analysis included 1207 pts (2 pts with other tx not shown below). Most were female, had mean age 52.4yrs, poly/oligo-arthritis and enthesitis/dactylitis in similar proportions except for enthesitis in IL12/23 and IL-23 pts. Pts started on IXE had long disease duration (9.2yrs). Most had prior b/tsDMARDs (69.5%) and 38.7% had active PsO similar to SEC pts. For TNFi pts, mean disease duration was 6.5yrs, 30.8% had received prior b/tsDMARDs, and 30.4% had active PsO. IL-23 pts (n=57) were typified by long disease duration (8.7yrs), high proportions of PsO (50.9%)/nail PsO (50.9%) and prior b/tsDMARD use (78.9%). JAKi pts had long (9.2yrs) disease duration, 72.2% prior b/tsDMARDs experience, and 26.2% had active PsO. IXE and IL-23 pts were more often treated on monotherapy.

Conclusion: In PRO-SPIRIT, pts starting IXE showed active PsA, with both joint and overall skin involvement, and were mostly treated on monotherapy after failing several b/tsDMARDs. TNFi's were often used as 1st line therapy alongside of b/tsDMARDs.

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Disclosure of Interests: Jacques Morel Streams bureau: Biogen, Aigen, Bristol Myers Squib, Eli Lilly and Company, Novartis, Sanofi, MSD, Mylan, Fresenius Kabi, Roche, Union Chimique Belge, Janssen, Medac, and Nordic Pharma, Consultant of: Pfizer, AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Galapagos, and GSK, Grant/research support from: Fresenius Kabi, Ennio Lubrano Streams bureau: AbbVie, Janssen Cilag, Lilly, UCB, Pfizer, and Novartis, William Tillet Streams bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly and Company, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB., Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly and Company, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Ono Pharma, Pfizer, and UCB., Grant/research support from: Janssen, UCB, Pfizer, and Eli Lilly and Company, Rielie Aten Streams bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Celltrion, Galapagos, Eli Lilly and Company, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and UCB, Lars Erik Kristensen Streams bureau: Pfizer, AbbVie, Amgen, UCB, Gilead, Biogen, BMS, MSD, Novartis, Eli Lilly and Company, and Janssen, Consultant of: Pfizer, AbbVie, Amgen, UCB, Gilead, Biogen, BMS, MSD, Novartis, Eli Lilly and Company, and Janssen, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, AbbVie, UCB, Gilead, Biogen, Novartis, Eli Lilly and Company, and Janssen, Vindod Chander Consultant of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Amgen, and Janssen, Grant/ research support from: AbbVie, Tamas Teurel Streams bureau of: Minor shareholder, Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Joanna Burke Employee of: Joanna Burke is contracted to Eli Lilly and Company, À Martínez-Ferrer Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly and Company, Thorsten Holzkämper Shareholder of: Minor shareholder Eli Lilly and Company, Employee of: Eli Lilly and Company, Nicola Guillock Streams bureau of: AbbVie, Eli Lilly and Company, Janssen, Novartis, UCB, Consultant of: Novartis, Ian Vieweg, Consultant support for this submission.

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Biomarkers, Ultrasound

Results: We conducted a study using ultrasonography (US) to evidence inflammatory changes (joint-enthesis-ungual) in active PsA (aPsA) patients who started Apremilast (A) in clinical practice.

Objectives: To obtain a 20, 50, 70 % reduction in the US index (UI) at 12 months, and study correlation between variables.

Methods: Phase IV, multicenter, prospective and open-label clinical trial conducted in 6 centers from 2018 to 2021. All patients signed the informed consent. Approval by the ethical committee was obtained, code PSE-PI-006421. PsA patients (≥ 2 swollen joints), ≥ 2 joint US synovitis and ≥ 1 US enthesitis at screening were recruited. 52 weeks follow up (baseline, 1, 9 & 12 months). US & clinical variables, and ESR & CRP were registered at each visit. US scans were scored according to Ficjan et al [1]. Ungual nail plate (NP) and subungual thickness (ST) US evaluation of 24th, 3rd and 5th finger was done.

Results: 48 patients screened and 46 included (2 screening failure) in follow up. 26 completed the study. A 20 % (main objective) reduction in UI was observed until 40%, but not 50/70%. Clinical and US variables were reduced, ESR and CRP did not change following up (Table 1). Strong correlation was observed between UI and SJC, moderate between UI and TJC, PCT, TGT, CRP A reduction in clinical onychopathy, NP lesion, and slight relation between lesion and joint, and high ST and with onychopathy was seen but didn't achieve statistical significance (reduced sample size). 75 adverse events in 30 patients.

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>bDMARDs</th>
<th>Secukinumab</th>
<th>IL-12/23i</th>
<th>TNFi</th>
<th>JAKI</th>
<th>PDE4i</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=434 Age</td>
<td>53.4±14.2</td>
<td>52.4±12.0</td>
<td>51.2±14.1</td>
<td>50.3±15.9</td>
<td>51.0±12.4</td>
<td>52.9±13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=36 Female, (%)</td>
<td>224 (65.1)</td>
<td>106 (62.7)</td>
<td>19 (58)</td>
<td>34 (58.6)</td>
<td>260 (60.1)</td>
<td>82 (65.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=57 Yrs since Ps diagnosis</td>
<td>9.2±8.5</td>
<td>8.4±9.4</td>
<td>8.0±8.8</td>
<td>8.7±8.6</td>
<td>6.5±7.5</td>
<td>9.2±6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=441 Prior b/tsDMARDs, (%)</td>
<td>239 (69.5)</td>
<td>112 (63.6)</td>
<td>26 (27.2)</td>
<td>45 (78.9)</td>
<td>136 (30.8)</td>
<td>91 (72.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=126 Tx as monotherapy, (%)</td>
<td>218 (63.4)</td>
<td>102 (60.4)</td>
<td>28 (78.8)</td>
<td>40 (72)</td>
<td>198 (44.9)</td>
<td>67 (53.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=32 Tender Joint Count (0-68)*</td>
<td>8 (0-60)</td>
<td>8 (0-65)</td>
<td>6.5 (0-24)</td>
<td>6.5 (0-52)</td>
<td>7 (0-65)</td>
<td>8 (0-66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=169 Entheses, (%)</td>
<td>142 (43.6)</td>
<td>66 (39)</td>
<td>9.2 (51.5)</td>
<td>33 (57.9)</td>
<td>178 (40.6)</td>
<td>55 (43.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=36 Dactylitis, (%)</td>
<td>67 (17)</td>
<td>38 (22.5)</td>
<td>6 (16.7)</td>
<td>132 (22.8)</td>
<td>85 (19.3)</td>
<td>26 (20.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=57 BSA ≥3 (%)</td>
<td>133 (38.7)</td>
<td>63 (37.6)</td>
<td>15 (41.7)</td>
<td>29 (50.9)</td>
<td>134 (30.4)</td>
<td>33 (26.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=441 Nail PsO, (%)</td>
<td>131 (38.1)</td>
<td>64 (37.9)</td>
<td>10 (27.8)</td>
<td>29 (50.9)</td>
<td>160 (36.3)</td>
<td>43 (34.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=126 Physician Global assessment VAS</td>
<td>61.7±18.2</td>
<td>61.7±19.3</td>
<td>59.0±20.5</td>
<td>56.1±18.7</td>
<td>61.8±18.7</td>
<td>61.1±19.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean=SD, *Median (Range). Unless stated: b=biologic; BSA=body surface area; cs=conventional synthetic; DMARD=Disease Modifying Arthritis Rheumatic Drug; n=number of patients; PDE4=phosphodiesterase 4; PsO=psoriasis; TNF=tumor necrosis factor; ts=targeted synthetic; VAS=Visual Analog Scale
were registered, only 1 severe. Reasons for withdrawal were: 6 patients AE, 8 no efficacy, and 6 other reasons (loss of follow-up, withdrawal of consent).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Table 1. Variables changes in PaS patients treated with Apremilast**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>variable</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1 m</th>
<th>6 m</th>
<th>9 m</th>
<th>12 m</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEI</td>
<td>[5.6, 6.8]</td>
<td>[4.5, 5.9]</td>
<td>[2.7, 4.1]</td>
<td>[2.1, 4.4]</td>
<td>[1.9, 4.7]</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAD</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>[4.1, 7.6]</td>
<td>[3.5, 8.5]</td>
<td>[1.4, 4.4]</td>
<td>[1.8, 5.8]</td>
<td>[1.0, 3.8]</td>
<td>[1.4, 4.6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US joint</td>
<td>17.61</td>
<td>12.14</td>
<td>9.22</td>
<td>7.72</td>
<td>6.91</td>
<td>75.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US total</td>
<td>18.36</td>
<td>16.72</td>
<td>12.74</td>
<td>10.58</td>
<td>9.26</td>
<td>62.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Courses of switching treatment in PaS patients treated with TNFi.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Courses of treatment N (%)</th>
<th>Frist cycle Courses of treatment N (%)</th>
<th>Second cycle Courses of treatment N (%)</th>
<th>Third cycle Courses of treatment N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abacaptab; Interleukin-17 inhibitors</td>
<td>2 (0.8)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ustekinumab; Gusetikumab; JAK inhibitors</td>
<td>30 (12.93)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3(5.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82 (65.60%); 184 (79.31%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 (47.5)</td>
<td>50 (21.55)</td>
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</table>

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements: NIL.**

Disclose of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1397

**AB1118**

**EFFECT OF APREMILAST ON PSORIATIC DISEASE DOMAINS STRATIFIED BY EXTENT OF SKIN INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Skin, Psoriatic arthritis

A. F. Wells1, L. Teng2, S. Colgan3, C. Deignan2, S. Jardon2, Y. Kyachkin3, A. Majhoth, A. Kavanagh4. 2Advocate Aurora Medical Group, Rheumatology & Immunotherapy, Franklin, United States of America; 3Amgen Inc., Statistics, Thousand Oaks, United States of America; 4Shires Rheumatology, PC, Rheumatology, Saint Claire Shores, United States of America; 5University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, Rheumatology, La Jolla, United States of America

**Background:** It has been suggested that greater skin involvement in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) may be associated with greater joint disease activity.

**Objectives:** To assess the impact of APR on PsA disease domains in patients with BSA <3% vs BSA ≥3% at 52 weeks using pooled data from 2 phase 3 trials.

**Methods:** PALACE 1 & 2 were randomized, placebo (PBO)-controlled, phase 3 studies in patients with active PsA. Eligible patients had ≥3 swollen and ≥3 tender joints despite prior treatment with a conventional systemic Disease Modifying Antirheumatic Drug (cDMARD) and/or biologic DMARD (bDMARD) or concurrent treatment with csDMARD. Patients were randomized to receive APR or PBO for up to 24 weeks, after which all patients received APR until Week 52. This ad-hoc analysis includes pooled data from patients randomized to APR 30 mg BID at Week 0 in these studies. Assessments included change from baseline at Week 52 in Clinical Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis (cDAPSA), swollen joint count (SJC), tender joint count (TJC), patient assessment of pain visual analog scale (VAS), and Patient Global Assessment of Disease Activity (PGA) VAS stratified by baseline psoriasis body surface area (BSA) involvement (<3% vs ≥3%).

**Results:** Of 330 patients randomized to APR 30 mg BID at Week 0, 171 had BSA <3% and 159 had BSA ≥3%. Of those with available data, 98.2% of patients with BSA <3% and 100% of patients with BSA ≥3% had a history of psoriasis; mean BSA at baseline was 12 in the <3% group and 14.3 in the ≥3% group. More patients with BSA ≥3% at baseline were men with higher rates of nail and SJC involvement, and slightly higher rates of oligoarthritis and TJC (Table 1). At Week 52, both subgroups showed mean decreases (improvement) from baseline in clinical parameters with APR treatment, including cDAPSA (BSA <3%: -18.0, BSA ≥3%: -23.3), SJC (BSA...
PsA by level of skin involvement. Numerically greater improvements were seen in patients with BSA ≥3%. To our knowledge, this is a novel analysis assessing treatment efficacy in patients with PsA by level of skin involvement.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Parameter</th>
<th>BSA 3%</th>
<th>BSA 23%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agn, mean (SD), y</td>
<td>52.4 (11.9)</td>
<td>52.4 (10.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>114 (69)</td>
<td>71 (45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, mean (SD), kg/m²</td>
<td>30.3 (8.1)</td>
<td>25.5 (6.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of PsA, mean (SD), y</td>
<td>7.3 (7.4)</td>
<td>7.7 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein, n (%)</td>
<td>41 (24)</td>
<td>46 (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of real psoriasis, n (%)</td>
<td>126 (85.5)</td>
<td>133/19 (77.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA, mean (SD), %</td>
<td>12.0 (7)</td>
<td>14.3 (16.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC (0–76), mean (SD)</td>
<td>21.9 (14.7)</td>
<td>23.1 (16.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC (0–76), mean (SD)</td>
<td>13.0 (8.2)</td>
<td>13.0 (9.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Assessment of Pain (0–100 mm VAS), mean (SD)</td>
<td>56.8 (20.0)</td>
<td>57.7 (21.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI (0–100 mm VAS), mean (SD)</td>
<td>56.1 (20.0)</td>
<td>56.1 (22.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior use of bDMARDs, n (%)</td>
<td>39 (16.4)</td>
<td>36 (23.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) Change From Baseline to Week 52*</td>
<td>-18.0 (16.4)</td>
<td>-23.3 (18.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dDAPSA</td>
<td>-10.1 (10.5)</td>
<td>-13.0 (15.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC</td>
<td>-6.1 (7.1)</td>
<td>-8.7 (9.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>-15.5 (25.5)</td>
<td>-18.0 (24.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI</td>
<td>-11.8 (27.0)</td>
<td>-16.5 (26.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Baseline Demographics, Disease Characteristics, and Change From Baseline in Efficacy Parameters to Week 52 by BSA Subgroups

Data are shown as mean ± standard deviation, n (%) or ratio. BSA, body surface area; JADAS, joint activity disease activity score; TJC, tender joint count; TJC, swollen joint count; VAS, visual analog scale.

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Background: Guselkumab is a human IgG1 monoclonal antibody that binds to interleukin 23, a regulatory cytokine that modulates the activity of T lymphocytes, intervening in pathogenic ways that initiate and maintain the activity of Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA). PsA has a wide spread of systemic manifestations where several profiles of disease exist depending on the predominant affection. Guselkumab has been used widely to treat cutaneous psoriatic disease (PsO) and PsA since 2020. Nevertheless, no long-term analysis have been done.

Objectives: To analyze the long-term efficacy and safety of Guselkumab at 52 weeks (w). Likewise, relevant demographic data such as sex, weight or previous biological treatment was taken into account.

Methods: A prospective, uncenteric, observational study was conducted in patients who met ACR criteria for PsA, who received treatment with Guselkumab for 52 w. Patient demographic and baseline data were recorded and response variables such as DAPSA and BSA index, presence of enthesitis and dactylitis, and drug persistence at 12, 24 and 52 w of treatment were statistically analyzed and compared between different groups of patients stratified by their demographic data and previous biological therapy using Student-T and ANOVA. In addition, adverse events were recorded.

Results: 45 patients with moderate-to-severe PsA were included: 60 % were female, they had a mean BMI of 28.87. Approximately, 60% of patients received Guselkumab in fourth to eighth line of treatment. According to their DAPSA index score, patients were classified into remission, low activity and active disease. 50% of the patients fell under the remission category at w52, with the majority of the remaining in low activity (44%). The percentage of enthesitis and dactylitis presented an important reduction, from 31% and 8.88% at baseline to both 0% at w52 respectively. BSA also experiment a significant reduction. (Figure 1) At baseline both genders showed a similar mean value for DAPSA which decreased significantly when they reached w 52. There were not differences between genders at the end of the study, however women had an earlier response with significant differences at w 12. Moreover, when we analyzed the population regarding weight, we found that Guselkumab was effective both in normal weight and also in overweight patients being 8/13 of them obese. Finally, studying the previous biologic treatment profiles, we found that better results were expected after anti-TNF or IL-17 inhibitors compared to other drugs. Treatment persistence was 100% after 24 w and 85% after 52 w in those patients who received Guselkumab as 2nd or 3rd line of treatment, but 84% and 63% at 24 and 52 w in those who took it in 4th place or more. No adverse effects were reported and a total of 11 patients abandoned treatment, 10 of them due to primary failure and 1 due to secondary failure.

Conclusion: Guselkumab was effective and safe for the treatment of manifestations of PsA in a real world evidence cohort of patients for 52 w. In addition, Guselkumab was equally effective in women as well as overweight patients, showing better results when the patient had followed treatment previously with anti-TNF or IL-17 inhibitors probably because they were less bDMARD-experienced patients. According to this fact, Guselkumab demonstrated an increased survival when administered in the second or third line of treatment compared to advanced lines of treatment.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Real-world evidence, bDMARD
REAL-LIFE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF IXEKIZUMAB IN A COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A SINGLE-CENTER RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD, Real-world evidence

E. Belli1, D. Donzella1, G. Crepaldi1, V. Data1, M. Gammino1, V. Guardo1, C. Lomater1, E. Marucco1, M. Saracco1, A. Iagnocco.1. University of Turin, AO Mauriziano di Torino, Academic Rheumatology Center, Dipartimento Scienze Cliniche e Biologiche, Turin, Italy

Background: Ixeikizumab is a high-affinity monoclonal antibody that selectively targets interleukin-17A and is indicated for psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and axial spondyloarthritis. Literature highlights efficacy and safety in real life in patients affected by psoriasis[1], instead little data are concerning patients affected by PsA[2].

Objectives: To retrospectively evaluate the effectiveness and safety of ixeikizumab, in a cohort of patients with PsA.

Methods: Patients with a diagnosis of PsA and treated with ixeikizumab who visited our outpatient clinic from October 2019 to December 2022 were included in the study. Clinical data were recorded since the first prescription of ixeikizumab and at 6-month follow-up visit. Demographic, clinical and laboratory characteristics, treatment, and causes of discontinuation were analyzed. Differences between baseline and 6-months erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), C-reactive protein (CRP), tender joint count (TJC) and swollen joint count (SJC) were analysed.

Results: Main results are reported on Table 1. 76 patients were included in the study, with an average age at the prescription of ixeikizumab (T0) of 57±13.0 years. Main comorbidities were: hypertension (44.7%), obesity and overweight (44.7%), cardiacopathy (19.7%), hepatitis steatosis (21.0%), diabetes (13.2%), and hyperlipemia (3.9%). 93.42% of patients presented peripheral arthritis, 30.6% axial involvement, and 42.1 % enthesitis. 28.9% of patients were bio-logic naïve, 34.0% received one biologic agent before, and 31.5% two or more biologic agents. 88.2% of patients initiated ixeikizumab in combination with a csDMARD, mainly methotrexate. The indications for the prescription of ixeikizumab as a first biologic agent were: multiple comorbidities, severe psoriasis, and intolerance to csDMARDs. 28.9% of patients stopped ixeikizumab because of primary failure (31.8%), secondary failure (22.7%), or adverse events (45.5%). 40% of the adverse events were relevant skin reactions at the injection site. No severe adverse events were registered. 60 patients completed 6 months of treatment (T6). In those patients, a statistically significant decrease between the SJC and TJC at baseline and T6 was found (p-value 0.0011 and 0.0006 respectively). No difference in the values of ESR and CRP values between T0 and T6 was present.

Conclusion: There are few data in real life concerning efficacy and safety in patients affected by PsA. In our cohort, ixeikizumab significantly improved peripheral arthritis, and it revealed a good safety profile, without severe adverse events during the follow up. Further real-life evaluations on axial involvement, which was not included in this study, are warranted.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. General characteristics of our cohort and clinical and laboratory findings at baseline and follow-up for patients who completed 6 months of treatment with ixeikizumab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>T0</th>
<th>T6</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Female: n. 51 (65.8%)</td>
<td>Female: n. 48 (64.9%)</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>50±12</td>
<td>50±12</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h)</td>
<td>27.4±23</td>
<td>27.5±22</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dl)</td>
<td>1.58±1.47</td>
<td>0.98±1.36</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC</td>
<td>9.17±9.36</td>
<td>5.02±6.65</td>
<td>0.0011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>5.17±7.55</td>
<td>0.28±6.04</td>
<td>0.0006</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5062

AB1121 EFFICACY AND DRUG PERSISTENCE OF NEWLY INITIATED BIOLOGICS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Real-world evidence, Psoriatic arthritis

L. G. Stanca1, M. Agache1,2, C. E. Ionescu1,2, L. Enache1,2, C. Mogosan1,2, C. Popescu1,2, C. Codreanu1,2,1 Dr. Ion Stoia’s Clinical Center for Rheumatic Diseases, Bucharest, Romania;1“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Rheumatology, Bucharest, Romania

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a form of spondyloarthropathies associated with psoriasis and characterized by joint, entheses and spine inflammation. Numerous therapeutic molecules have appeared in the last decade following breakthroughs in the pathogenesis of the disease [1].

Objectives: The study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness and persistence of first-line biological treatment in PsA in a real-life setting.

Methods: The study included retrospectively all the PsA patients initiated on biologics in a university single center real-life clinical practice between January 2018- December 2021, as reported in the Romanian Register of Rheumatic Diseases [2]. Differences of continuous variables among subgroups were assessed with Mann Whitney tests, while associations of categorical variables were assessed with χ2 tests, considered significant if p < 0.05.

Results: The study included 38 patients with an average age at biologic initiation of 50 ± 16 years, of which 71.1% were women, 34.2% were obese and 10.5% were smoking. The patients had established disease, with an average PsA duration of 9 ± 9 years. Regarding treatment, 44.7% initiated tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi) and 55.3% interleukin 17 inhibitors (IL-17I). A fraction of 31.6% had biologic monotherapy. After the first 6 months of therapy, 55.3% reached the treatment target (Duration Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis - DAPSA < 14) with a drug persistence of 78.9%, while 65.8% reached target by 12 months with 68.4% drug persistence. There were no differences of DAPSA scores, target frequencies or persistence frequencies at 6 and 12 months between TNFi and IL17I (p > 0.05).

An equal number of initiations was observed in the pre-pandemic period (2018-2019; 50%) versus the pandemic period (2020-2021; 50%).

Conclusion: Observations in a real-life setting show good efficacy persistence of both TNFi and IL17I in PsA at 6 and 12 months after their initiation. SARS-CoV-2 pandemic did not influence the number of biologic initiations in PsA patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**GUSELKUMAB VS GOLUMBUAB IN PSA TNFI-INADEQUATE RESPONDERS (EVOLUTION): FORMULATING A PRAGMATIC PHASE 3B RANDOMIZED TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Randomized control trial, Psoriatic arthritis, Real-world evidence

A. Ogdie1, S. Reddy2, K. Bush3, S. Hopkins Gillespie1, M. E. Husni4, P. Karmacharya5, J. Scher6, M. Perate7, S. D. Chakravarty8, C. Gong9, J. A. Walsh.1 University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Philadelphia, United States of America; 2NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, New York, United States of America; 3Cleveland Clinic, Immunology, Cleveland, United States of America; 4Vanderbilt Health, Department of Medicine, Nashville, United States of America; 5Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC; IMMUNOLOGY, Hoshom, United States of America; 6Drexel University College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Philadelphia, United States of America; 7University of Utah School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Salt Lake City, United States of America

**Abstract:**

From the Tight Control in PsA (TICOPA) study, treatment strategy trials in psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and definitive guidance on managing patients (pts) with inadequate response (IR) to a first tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFI), are lacking. Recent observational studies suggest potentially greater benefit from switching TNFI-IR pts to a new mechanism of action (MoA) [1].

**Objectives:** Design a pragmatic trial (EVOLUTION) to determine whether switching TNFI-IR PsA pts to a new MoA, specifically to the selective interleukin 23 inhibitor (IL-23i) guselkumab (GUS), is more effective than cycling to a 2nd TNFI (Figure 1).

**Methods:** To plan the EVOLUTION trial, we assessed pts receiving any biologic in the multicenter longitudinal observational Psoriatic Arthritis Research Consortium (PARC) study [2] and found expected mean changes in selected outcome measures, enrollment feasibility, and sample size estimates.

**Results:** 215 pts initiating a biologic in PARC (including later lines of therapy) had data for the outcomes of interest and a 3-6 month follow-up visit. At therapy initiation (baseline [BL]), mean age=50.4 (SD 14.4), 56% were female, 81% were White. Mean BL clinical disease activity in PsA (cDAPSA=20.0 (15)), mean body surface area (BSA)=20.0% (8), 21% were in minimal disease activity (MDA), 43% were in cDAPSA remission/low disease activity (LDA) and 70% had a BSA ≤1%. 113/215 (53%) pts met EVOLUTION’s clinical enrollment criteria (Figure 1). Pts who were eligible for EVOLUTION vs ineligible pts had higher disease activity mean (cDAPSA 29.0 vs 10.0, PGA 5.6 vs 3.1, Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease Questionnaire [PSAID-12= -1.0 (1.9). EVOLUTION’S primary study outcome (cDAPSA LDA + IGA 0/1) was assessed at 12 months (Table 1), and per clinical practice, pts will be enrolled at the time of switch post-washout. Assuming 24%, 45% and 50% of pts in the guselkumab (GOL) vs GUS Q4W vs GOL and GUS Q8W arms, respectively, would achieve the primary outcome, and 90% with 10% dropout rate, a total sample size of 300 pts is anticipated to yield 80 pts per randomized group and provide 80% power to detect a difference in proportions of GUS Q4W vs GOL and GUS Q8W vs GOL pts achieving cDAPSA LDA + IGA 0/1.

**Conclusion:** The EVOLUTION trial will apply an innovative, pragmatic randomized trial approach to assessing therapy effectiveness by recruiting a treatment-refractory PsA population consistent with that seen in clinical practice. This also includes using a novel primary endpoint (cDAPSA LDA + IGA 0/1) with direct applicability to routine care. This first of its kind head-to-head comparative effectiveness trial in real-world PsA pts will address important knowledge gaps in the management of PsA related to switching from a TNFI to GUS vs cycling to a 2nd TNFI and will build on a longitudinal cohort study used to plan this study.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. EVOLUTION Endpoints**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary outcome</th>
<th>cDAPSA LDA + IGA 0/1 at 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary endpoints at 6 and 12 months</td>
<td>cDAPSA LDA + IGA 0/1 (6 months) MDA, PASI-12 &gt;4, Δ PASI-12, IGA 0/1 in pts with BSA &gt;35% at BL, IGA in pts with IGA ≥2 at BL, Δ PROMIS-Fatigue, Δ DLOI, Δ BASDAI in pts with axial disease, dactylitis resolution, enthesis resolution, drug retention, AE, tolerability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualitative process evaluation**

| Qualitative interviews on trial format, engagement and participation |

**Disclosure of Interest:** Alexis Ogdie Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, CorEvitas, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Haply Health, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Janssen, Pfizer and Novartis and to Forward from Amgen, Soumya Reddy Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Fresnious Kabi, Janssen, Novartis, and UCB, Kathleen Bush: None declared, Sarah Hopkins Gillespie: None declared, M Elaine Husni Consultant of: AbbVie, Genzyme/Regeneron, Janssen, Novartis, Eli Lilly, Sanofi, and UCB, Paras Karmacharya: None declared, Jose Scher Consultant of: AbbVie, Janssen, Kaledo, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Novartis, and Pfizer, Michelle Perate Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Soumya D Chakravarty Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Cinty Gong Shareholder of: Johnson & Johnson, Employee of: Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, Jessica A. Walsh Consultant of: AbbVie, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Novartis, and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Merck, and Pfizer.

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Table 1. Available evidence including patients with psoriasis treated with secukinumab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Year</th>
<th>Patients (include in analysis)</th>
<th>Age (year)</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>PASI 75, n(%)</th>
<th>PASI 90, n(%)</th>
<th>PASI 100, n(%)</th>
<th>PGA (female 75, n(%)</th>
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<td>50.6 ± 14.8</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Blauvelt 2015</td>
<td>59(59)</td>
<td>45.1 ± 12.57</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td>45 (75.9)</td>
<td>36 (60.3)</td>
<td>26 (43.1)</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard G Langley 2014</td>
<td>245(245)</td>
<td>44.9 ± 13.5</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>200 (81.6)</td>
<td>145 (59.2)</td>
<td>70 (28.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C Paul 2015</td>
<td>60(60)</td>
<td>46.6 ± 14.23</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>52 (86.7)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nan-Lin Wu 2015</td>
<td>16(16)</td>
<td>38.1 ± 12.0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>14 (87.5)</td>
<td>11 (68.8)</td>
<td>5 (31.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard G Langley 2015</td>
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<td>Lin Cai 2020</td>
<td>221(221)</td>
<td>39.0 ± 11.6</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>215 (97.7)</td>
<td>179 (81.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nan-Lin Wu 2015</td>
<td>16(16)</td>
<td>38.1 ± 12.0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>14 (87.5)</td>
<td>11 (68.8)</td>
<td>5 (31.3)</td>
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<td>Mamitaro Ohtsuki 2014</td>
<td>229(229)</td>
<td>19 ± 7.8</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>206 (89.9)</td>
<td>181 (79)</td>
<td>110 (48)</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mamitaro Ohtsuki 2015</td>
<td>338(334)</td>
<td>45.2 ± 13.96</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>307 (91.0)</td>
<td>243 (73.0)</td>
<td>131 (38.9)</td>
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<td>J-P Lacour 2017</td>
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<td>46.6 ± 14.23</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>53 (88)</td>
<td>33 (55.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iain B McInnes 2022</td>
<td>42(42)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>23 (54.8)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Yu-Xin Zheng 2022</td>
<td>22(22)</td>
<td>12.0 ± 4.5</td>
<td>34.5</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>19 (86.3)</td>
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<td>R B Warren 2022</td>
<td>534(534)</td>
<td>35.4 ± 13.5</td>
<td>48.9</td>
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<td>5 (76)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A B C

Figure 1. Efficacy of Secukinumab in patients with psoriasis (A) PASI 75 (B) PASI 90 (C) PASI 100 (D) PGA score of 0 or 1

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4563

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Targeted synthetic drugs, Safety

Methods: All PSA patients who were prescribed tofacitinib from JAN-2021 to JUNE 2022 with minimum of 6 months followup were included for analysis. Demographics, weight recordings, lab parameters and occurrence of adverse events were noted.

Results: There were a total of 71 patients who were prescribed tofacitinib out of which 46 are continuing and 25 have stopped during this period. The mean age was 47.25 (10.8yrs) the mean disease duration was 4.182 (4.474yrs) The reason for stopping tofacitinib was better(52%) followed inefficacy(24%), and miscellaneous(24%) reasons. When analysing before and after tofacitinib one thing which was striking is the significant weight gain among patients with minimum of 3.52 (3.06) kg weight gain and this weight gain was consistent even in stopped patients. in comparing the lab parameters before and after tofacitinib there was a significant reduction in CRP,ESR,PLATELET COUNT Table 1 and a minimal but insignificant rise in liver enzymes within the physiological range. When compared to before and after tofacitinib there was increased occurrence of fatigue(18.3%), minor infections(11.2%), Gastrointestinal adverse events (11.2%), alopecia(11.2%), itching(10.4%), headache(9.8%), UTI(5.6%), cough(4.2%), transaminases(2.6%), covid(1.7%), zoster(1.4%) and CAD(1.4%).

Conclusion: Tofacitinib in psoriatic arthritis is well tolerated with significant reduction in the inflammatory markers and weight gain but serious adverse events in lesser percentage even though it leads to significant weight gain.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETERS</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
<th>P value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>73.15 (14.19)</td>
<td>72.31 (14.24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>45.29 (28.26)</td>
<td>35.23 (28.33)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>21.56 (16.38)</td>
<td>10.72 (11.98)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLATELET COUNT</td>
<td>332.92</td>
<td>307.09</td>
<td>0.0046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGOT</td>
<td>30.33 (9.99)</td>
<td>35.69 (19.92)</td>
<td>0.125</td>
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<tr>
<td>SGPT</td>
<td>22.57 (12.96)</td>
<td>27.98 (20.17)</td>
<td>0.116</td>
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REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3045

ABT1125

TREATMENT WITH UPADACITINIB IN REFRACTORY PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS. MULTICENTER STUDY OF 101 PATIENTS OF CLINICAL PRACTICE

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Targeted synthetic drugs, Psoriatic arthritis

Results: Apremilast was used in 23, Tofacitinib in 26 and filgotinib in 1 UPA was used in 11 patients (12.4), etanercept (34), Abatacept [2], brodalumab [1] and guselkumab [2].

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease Characteristics</th>
<th>CLINICAL PRACTICE</th>
<th>CLINICAL TRIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age years (means)SD</td>
<td>Age years (means)SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43.8±12.1</td>
<td>53.0±12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex n (%) female</td>
<td>73 (72.3)</td>
<td>113 (53.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease Characteristics</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>0.002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of PsA years (means)SD</td>
<td>9.9±7.8</td>
<td>9.5±8.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAD-DI</td>
<td>0.97±6.65</td>
<td>1.10±6.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Painful joint count meansSD</td>
<td>4.33±5.01</td>
<td>11.3±8.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enthesitis n (%)</td>
<td>23 (22.7)</td>
<td>172 (81.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concomitant synthetic DMARDs n (%)</td>
<td>11 (11)</td>
<td>55 (26.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous use of biological DMARDs n (%)</td>
<td>0.95±1.64</td>
<td>98 (46.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of prior failed biological DMARDs n (%)</td>
<td>94 (93.1)</td>
<td>195 (92.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPA in monotherapy n (%)</td>
<td>16 (15.84)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASI score meansSD</td>
<td>16 (17.82)</td>
<td>35 (16.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>60 (59.40)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral glucocorticoid use n (%)</td>
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<td>UPA in monotherapy n (%)</td>
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Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4922

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

X. M. Wang [3, 5, 9, Su [3, 5, 9, Z. X. Zhang [3, 5, Z. L. Li [3, 5, B. R. Zhao [3, 5, Q. Yu [3, P. F. He [3, L. Li [3, 5, S. X. Zhang [3, 5, S. Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 5Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 6Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China.

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is an autoimmune disease characterized by disturbances of regulatory cells, which were regulated by interleukin (IL)-2.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to systematically evaluate the changes in the number of lymphocytes subsets after low-dose IL-2 therapy in psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Methods: Systematic searches of PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, the Cochrane Library and Medline, CNKI, CBM and Technology Journal Database were performed. Original case reports, case series, observational studies and clinical trials reporting the changes in numbers of lymphocytes subsets on PsA patients treated with IL-2 were included. A random-effects meta-analysis was performed to calculate the pooled efficacy. Inconsistency was evaluated by using the I2 and Egger tests were used for the evaluation of potential publication bias (STATA v.12.0).

AB1126

LOW-DOSE IL-2 CHANGED LYMPHOCYTE SUBSETS IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS.

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Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4922

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

X. M. Wang [3, 5, 9, Su [3, 5, 9, Z. X. Zhang [3, 5, Z. L. Li [3, 5, B. R. Zhao [3, 5, Q. Yu [3, P. F. He [3, L. Li [3, 5, S. X. Zhang [3, 5, S. Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taiyuan, China; 5Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 6Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China.

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Objectives: The aim of this study was to systematically evaluate the changes in the number of lymphocytes subsets after low-dose IL-2 therapy in psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Methods: Systematic searches of PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, the Cochrane Library and Medline, CNKI, CBM and Technology Journal Database were performed. Original case reports, case series, observational studies and clinical trials reporting the changes in numbers of lymphocytes subsets on PsA patients treated with IL-2 were included. A random-effects meta-analysis was performed to calculate the pooled efficacy. Inconsistency was evaluated by using the I2 and Egger tests were used for the evaluation of potential publication bias (STATA v.12.0).
Results: A total of 3 studies comprising 156 patients were identified (Table 1). The numbers of Tregs were increased after the treatment of IL-2 [SMD = 0.928, 95% CI (-0.430, 0.722), P = 0.619] (Figure 1). The retention rate of originator drugs was higher than that of biosimilars, both when administered in the first line and after a NMS. A greater number of suspensions were recorded for AEs and, to a lesser extent, for ineffectiveness with biosimilar ADA compared to originator ADA, while in patients treated with biosimilar ETA no suspensions were recorded either for AEs or for ineffectiveness.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 82001740). DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5591

**AB1128**

**THE RETENTION RATE OF ETANERCEPT AND ADALIMUMAB IN FIRST-LINE AND AFTER NON-MEDICAL SWITCH IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN ORIGINATORS AND BIOSIMILARS. A SINGLE-CENTER RETROSPECTIVE STUDY.**

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, bDMARD

V. Rella1, C. Rotondo1, N. Maruotti1, A. Altomare1, F. Erro1, S. Stefanina1, A. Trottì1, F. P. Cantatore1, A. Corrado1. 1Ospedali Riuniti di Foggia, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Foggia, Italy

Background: Psoriatic arthritis is a chronic immune-mediated disease that may appear with arthritis and/or enthesis and systemic manifestations, affecting 0.1-1% of the general population and up to 30% of patients with psoriasis. A greater understanding of the pathogenesis has led to an increase of therapeutic options, namely biotechnological drugs which may prevent the progression of the disease and improve the quality of life by acting on specific pathways. Among these drugs, anti- TNFα agents play an important role. Adalimumab (ADA) and Etanecop (ETA) were the first developed ones, indeed they are defined as “originator” drugs. Subsequently, “biosimilars” have been developed. They are defined by the EMA as highly similar to the first developed ones, indeed they are defined as “originator” drugs. Subsequently, “biosimilars” have been developed. They are defined by the EMA as highly similar to the first developed ones. Adalimumab (ADA) and Etanecop (ETA) were the first developed ones, indeed they are defined as “originator” drugs. Subsequently, “biosimilars” have been developed. They are defined by the EMA as highly similar to the first developed ones.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to evaluate the retention rate of ETA and ADA originators, compared to their biosimilar counterparts, in the first line and after NMS, detecting discontinuation for adverse events (AEs) or ineffectiveness, in patients with psoriatic arthritis.

Methods: Fifty-four patients diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis were enrolled (F: 61%; mean age 53.4 ± 13 years, BMI 24.9 ± 3.6). Baseline disease activity was 4 ± 1.1. Inclusion criteria were age > 18 years, fulfillment of CASPAR 2006 criteria for PsA, therapy with an originator or a biosimilar etanetoc or adalimumab in the first line, with the possibility of no NMS, stable combined therapy with methotrexate during the observation time. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.

Results: The retention rate of ETA and ADA originators was 541 ± 70 weeks and 486 ± 24 weeks, respectively. The retention rates of biosimilar ETA and biosimilar ADA in the first line were 265 ± 20 weeks and 79 ± 21 weeks, respectively (p = 0.231). After NMS, the retention rate of biosimilar ETA and biosimilar ADA was 49.1 ± 13 weeks and 108 ± 12 weeks, respectively. Discontinuation due to AEs were recorded in 8.3% of patients receiving originator ETA, 5% of patients receiving originator ADA, and 31% of patients receiving biosimilar ADA. Discontinuation due to ineffectiveness occurred in 54% of patients treated with originator ETA, in 40% of patients treated with originator ADA, and in 44% of patients treated with biosimilar ADA. In patients treated with biosimilar ETA, no suspensions were recorded either for AEs or for ineffectiveness.

Conclusion: Our data show that the retention rate of originator drugs was higher than that of biosimilars, both when administered in the first line and after a NMS. A greater number of suspensions were recorded for AEs and, to a lesser extent, for ineffectiveness with biosimilar ADA compared to originator ADA, while in patients treated with biosimilar ETA no suspensions were recorded either for AEs or for ineffectiveness.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5342
Psoriatic arthritis - clinical aspects (other than treatment)

AB1129

**UTILITY OF LOW-DOSE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (LDCT) FOR IDENTIFYING PATIENTS WITH AXIAL PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS (AXPAS) - A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY**

**Keywords:** Diagnostic tests, Psoriatic arthritis

J. T. Chen1, H. So1, J. So1, J. F. Griffith1, L. S. Tam. 1. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR); 2. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Imaging and Interventional Radiology, Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR)

**Background:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a multicentric disease with axial involvement being a critical feature. As inflammatory back pain (IBP) may be atypical or even absent, axial PsA is often under diagnosed. Axial PsA (axPsA) is currently diagnosed by identifying sacroilitis on radiography. However, the detection of radiographic sacroilitis is not entirely reliable and is challenging in early disease. Recently, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has been used to diagnose sacroilitis to good effect. Even more recently, low dose (<0.5mSv) computed tomography (LDCT) has been used to identify structural changes of sacroilitis such as erosions and ankylosis. However, the usefulness of LDCT for diagnosing sacroilitis in axPsA compared to radiography and MRI remains uncertain.

**Objectives:** To investigate the usefulness of LDCT in diagnosing axPsA-related sacroilitis compared to radiography and MRI.

**Methods:** Consecutive biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARDs)-naive patients who fulfilled CASPAR criteria were recruited into this cross-sectional study, regardless of the presence of back pain. Radiographs of the pelvis, LDCT and MRI of the sacroiliac joints were performed.

**Results:** 33 patients (age: 45 ± 12 years, 23 (70%) male, disease duration: 3.0 ± 6.5 years) were recruited. The cohort had moderate peripheral joint disease (Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA): 18.78 ±1 6.33) and skin disease (Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI): 5.40 ± 7.10). Axial disease activity (Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score, ASDAS) was 2.92 ± 1.26. Twenty (61%) patients were on conventional synthetic DMARDs. Radiography revealed definite sacroilitis according to modified New York criteria in 2 (6%) patients while 8 (24%) patients had possible sacroilitis and 23 (70%) had no sacroilitis. LDCT revealed sacroilitis in 9 (27%) patients, including both patients with radiographic sacroilitis, 7 (88%) of the 8 patients with possible radiographic sacroilitis and 2 (4%) of 23 patients with normal radiographs (Figure 1). Patient with LDCT-sacroilitis had longer symptom duration, higher patients’ pain score, physician global, enthesitis scores and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Metrology Index (BASMI) (Table 1). The presence of human leukocyte antigen (HLA) B27, IBP, and fulfillment of the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) 2009 criteria of axial spondylitis could not differentiate between patients with or without LDCT-sacroilitis. LDCT had 100% agreement with MRI. MRI detected 9 patients with sacroilitis, all of whom were identified by LDCT.

**Conclusion:** LDCT revealed sacroilitis in 4 times more patients than radiographs. Patients with sacroilitis had higher disease activity across various disease domains. LDCT had excellent agreement with MRI. LDCT is very helpful for diagnosing axPsA, especially when access to MRI is limited.

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**Figure 1.** Prevalence of sacroilitis detected by low dose CT (LDCT) in patients whose radiographs showed normal appearances, possible sacroilitis and sacroilitis

**Table 1.** Characteristics between patients with or without sacroilitis detected by low-dose CT

| Age | Sex, male (%) | PsA/IBP symptom duration, years | Fulfilled ASAS criteria (%) | HLA-B27+ve (%) | Presence of IBP (%) | Presence of nail disease, (%) | NRS pain | NRS pga | NRS phyga | Tender joint count | Swollen joint count | No. of dactylitis digit | PASI | SPPCC | BASMI | ESR, mm/hr | CRP, mg/L | DAPSA | ASDAS | ASDAS |
|-----|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------|----------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|------|-------|-------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 44  | 11            | 17                            | 3.0                         | 2                | 1                 | 3                     | 16                        | 4       | 5      | 5        | 5           | 11                     | 0                  | 4.5  | 0     | 1     | 1        | 1       | 2      | 2      |
| 47  | 15            | 17                            | 3.0                         | 2                | 1                 | 3                     | 16                        | 4       | 5      | 5        | 5           | 11                     | 0                  | 4.5  | 0     | 1     | 1        | 1       | 2      | 2      |

<sup>*P<0.05</sup>

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/rheumatoid-2023-eular.2157

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**AB1130 CAUSAL ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LOW-DENSITY LIPOPROTEIN CHOLESTEROL AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Genetics/Epigenetics

Q. Dong1,2, X. Yang1,2, M. Zhu1,2, J. Y Chen1,2, Q. Feng1,2, Q. Yu1, P. F. He1,2, A. L. Wang1,2, Z. Zhang1,2,4, Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immunology Microenvironment, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 2. Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 3. Keyshki Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 4. The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China

**Background:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is an inflammatory disease that causes inflammation and swelling of the joints and entheses in addition to skin symp-toms(PsA)[1]. Chronic psoriatic lesions may increase serum concentrations of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) by producing large amounts of IL-6 and other pro-inflammatory cytokines, which release free fatty acids, cholesterol, and triglycerides from the adipose tissue[2]. However, whether LDL-C affects articular psoriasis is unclear.

**Objectives:** We used a two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis to investigate the causal associations of LDL-C with PsA.

**Methods:** Firstly, we obtained LDL-C-associated single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) from a GWAS published by the UK Biobank, including up to disequilibrium (LD) threshold for clumping was set to r² < 0.001. The clumping window size was set to 10000kb, and we selected autosome biiallelic SNPs with P-values < 5 x 10⁻⁸. Thirdly, as for MR analyses, F statistics were calculated to evaluate the strength of each instrument, the F-statistic of each SNP> 10, indicating a low risk of weak instrument bias. Inverse variance weighted (IVW) was the primary method to assess the association of genetically predicted LDL-C and PsA risk. Fourthly, MR-Egger and weighted median were applied to validate the results from IVW. The Cochran Q test and funnel plots were used to test the possible heterogeneity. The directional pleiotropy was separated by intercepting from MR-Egger and MR-presso. Finally, a leave-one-out sensitivity analysis was also performed.

**Results:** With 158 LDL-C-associated SNPs, LDL-C was a hazard factor for PsA/OR = 1.30, 95% CI (1.02-1.65, P = 0.032), which was consistent in the direction with the weighted median[OR=1.38, 95%CI(1.00-1.91, P=0.050)] and MR-Egger(MR-Eggar: OR=1.43, 95%CI 1.01-2.04, P=0.045). Heterogeneity existed in the results(P<0.05). But IVW could provide a robust causal estimate in the presence of heterogeneity[3]. No evidence of pleiotropy was observed (MR-Egger-interpret:
We assessed PASS and its difference between sexes ($\chi^2$ test). Moreover, we performed two logistic regression models to assess which factors were associated with PASS "no" in both sexes.

**Results:** Two-hundred and forty-five patients were enrolled. Female less accepted their disease status, compared with male patients, PASS "no" was 49.1% vs 23.5% ($p<0.001$) (Table 1). The factor associated with a higher probability to have an unacceptable symptoms state was a higher disease activity (Table 2), both for male and female. In particular, for male patients, when DAPSA increases of 1 point, the probability to have a state of PASS "no" increases of 31% (OR 1.31, CI 95% 1.16-1.47), independently by age, disease durations, BMI and BSA. The same result was confirmed for female patients, but with a stronger association: when DAPSA increases of 1 points the probability to have a state of PASS "no" increase of 101% (OR 2.01, CI 95% 1.45-2.77), independently by age, disease durations, BMI, BSA and fibromyalgia. Moreover, fibromyalgia in female patients was not associated with PASS "no".

**Table 1** Clinical and demographic characteristics, grouped by sexes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All patients n. 245</th>
<th>Female n. 119</th>
<th>Male n. 126</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>55 (12)</td>
<td>55 (12)</td>
<td>56 (13)</td>
<td>0.553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (months), median (IQR)</td>
<td>94 (49-164)</td>
<td>94 (51-157)</td>
<td>94 (47-165)</td>
<td>0.650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, mean (SD)</td>
<td>27.4 (5.01)</td>
<td>26.7 (5.28)</td>
<td>28.0 (4.68)</td>
<td>0.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA, median (IQR)</td>
<td>10.2 (4.3-17.65)</td>
<td>13.45 (6.70-20.70)</td>
<td>7.29 (4.14-42.44)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASS &quot;no&quot;, n. (%)</td>
<td>82/227 (36.1)</td>
<td>55/112 (49.1)</td>
<td>27/115 (23.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia, n. (%)</td>
<td>27 (11)</td>
<td>22 (18.5)</td>
<td>5 (4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Female patients perceive their disease acceptable less than male. A higher disease activity (assessed by DAPSA), in particular for female patients, is the main factor to predict a state of non-acceptance of the disease.

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3406
Background: There is a considerable delay in the diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and several screening tools have been proposed for facilitating the diagnosis of PsA among patients with psoriasis. 

Objectives: We aimed to identify all instruments that were developed for screening PsA among psoriasis patients, and to analyze the psychometric properties of these instruments.

Methods: A systematic literature search was conducted to identify all studies for developing and validating instruments that evaluate the presence of psoriatic arthritis among psoriasis patients. Psychometric properties of each instrument including construct validity, reproducibility, internal consistency, sensitivity to change and feasibility were extracted. Additionally, the reasons for false positivity and false negativity with each instrument were tabulated. Literature review and data extraction were performed by two independent reviewers and inconsistencies were resolved by a senior investigator. The systematic review protocol was registered in PROSPERO (CRD42022137134).

Results: The systematic review revealed 15 screening instruments that were evaluated in a total of 42 studies. Psychometric evaluation was available for only 5 of the instruments, assessed in 8 studies. Table 1 shows the psychometric properties of these 5 instruments. Main reasons for false positivity were rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, mechanical pain and fibromyalgia for PASE, PEST, CONTEST and EARP, and ankylosing spondylitis and osteoarthritis for PASQ. Main reasons for false negatives were axial involvement for ToPAS and PEST, peripheral involvement for SiPAT, PASE and PAQ, enthesal involvement for PEST, PASE and ToPAS. Among these instruments, EARP had low false negativity and high false positivity rates, while ToPAS II had both low false positivity and low false negativity compared to the other instruments.

Conclusion: Overall, the psychometric properties of PsA screening tools have not been adequately evaluated. There is an unmet need for studies evaluating and comparing psychometric properties of different screening tools in a large patient population, including patients with various PsA features such as enthesitis, axial and peripheral involvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Number of Studies</th>
<th>Internal Test</th>
<th>Construct</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Feasibility</th>
<th>Validity</th>
<th>Reliability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PASE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Not provided</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEST</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>Not provided</td>
<td>Not provided</td>
<td>Not</td>
<td>Not</td>
<td>Not</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EARP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Not provided</td>
<td>Provided</td>
<td>provided</td>
<td>provided</td>
<td>Provided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOPIAS II</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Not provided</td>
<td>Not provided</td>
<td>Provided</td>
<td>provided</td>
<td>provided</td>
<td>Provided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA-Disk</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>Not provided</td>
<td>Provided</td>
<td>Provided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

References: NIL.

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Screening.

AB1134

IMPACT OF INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE ON DAPSA REMISSION IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A PROPENSITY SCORE-MATCHED RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF “CROSS” MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECT PATIENTS.

Methods: Patients aged 18 years old, with axPsA or axAS, during registration in the prospective monocentric register, between August 2012 and August 2022. A rheumatological investigation including clinical, laboratory and genetic assessments as well as imaging by conventional radiography and magnetic resonance imaging of pelvic and spine was performed.

Results: Of 250 patients (58 PsA vs 192 AS) with axial involvement, isolated axPsA patients were older at diagnosis (age of diagnosis of axial involvement was 35.8 vs 29.4). Patients with isolated axPsA were more likely to have: Less clinical inflammatory back pain compared with patients with isolated axAS: less limited cobb index (10/14 vs 10/12), finger-to-ground distance often equal to 0 cm in axPsA, less contrast changes of the paravertebral and paraspinal muscles, the thoracic expansion (4 vs 2 cm). Less limitation of inguinal pain (hip flexion 100 vs 70), a higher dactylitis count vs sDQ (0.3±1.2 vs 0.1±0.8), more nail lesions which could suggest looking for an association between nail damage and the presence of dactylitis in PsA, less extensive skin psoriasis (PsA= 2-13) and less presence of uveitis (18.96% (11/58) vs 23.95% (46/192)). Human Leucocyte Antigen (HLAB27) positivity was negatively associated with isolated axPsA disease (20 vs 78%). AxPsA were less frequently had radiographic sacroiliitis with unilateral/asymmetric pattern [On the X-ray, the SI were either normal or slightly modified, deliberately asymmetrical, rarely grade 4, the syndesmophytes were mostly more asymmetrical, coarse and of lumbar location, the heels were affected in less severe involvement, most often represented by simple shielding] and average patients showed slight spinal/pelvic radiographic progression (OR 0.14, 95% CI: 0.01, 0.58). Finally, AxPsA had lower BASDAI and HAQ scores (OR 0.10, 95% CI 0.010 0.47/ OR 0.03, 95% CI 0.00 to 0.17) and lower PRO evaluation (PRO pain 39.65 vs 49.47% and PRO fatigue 50 vs 52.6%).

Conclusion: Isolated axial PsA and AS are uncommon, axPsA has different clinical and radiographical characteristics when compared to AS. AxPsA is largely independent of HLAB27, it was associated with distinct radiographic ax PsA features, increased spinal progression and low grade radiographic sacroiliitis as well as lower disease activity and impact scores.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.


AXIAL PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: ISOLATED ENTITY OR PHENOTYPE FORM ONLY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis

S. Abdellaou1, S. Lefkar1, Issad Hssani Beni Messous Hospital, Rheumatology, Algiers, Algeria

Background: The latest literature data increasingly emphasizes the axial involvement of Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA). The clinical and radiographic characteristics suggest that it is a new entity compared to the axial involvement of Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), while therapeutic advances and cytokine targets suggest that it is a clinical form only.

Objectives: The objective of our study is to compare the characteristics of patients with axial PsA (axPsA) and axial AS (axAS).

Methods: Patients aged 18 years old, with axPsA or axAS, during registration in the prospective monocentric register, between August 2012 and August 2022. A rheumatological investigation including clinical, laboratory and genetic assessments as well as imaging by conventional radiography and magnetic resonance imaging of pelvic and spine was performed.

Results: Of 250 patients (58 PsA vs 192 AS) with axial involvement, isolated axPsA patients were older at diagnosis (age of diagnosis of axial involvement was 35.8 vs 29.4). Patients with isolated axPsA were more likely to have: Less clinical inflammatory back pain compared with patients with isolated axAS: less limited cobb index (10/14 vs 10/12), finger-to-ground distance often equal to 0 cm in axPsA, less contrast changes of the paravertebral and paraspinal muscles, the thoracic expansion (4 vs 2 cm). Less limitation of inguinal pain (hip flexion 100 vs 70), a higher dactylitis count vs sDQ (0.3±1.2 vs 0.1±0.8), more nail lesions which could suggest looking for an association between nail damage and the presence of dactylitis in PsA, less extensive skin psoriasis (PsA= 2-13) and less presence of uveitis (18.96% (11/58) vs 23.95% (46/192)). Human Leucocyte Antigen (HLAB27) positivity was negatively associated with isolated axPsA disease (20 vs 78%). AxPsA were less frequently had radiographic sacroiliitis with unilateral/asymmetric pattern [On the X-ray, the SI were either normal or slightly modified, deliberately asymmetrical, rarely grade 4, the syndesmophytes were mostly more asymmetrical, coarse and of lumbar location, the heels were affected in less severe involvement, most often represented by simple shielding] and average patients showed slight spinal/pelvic radiographic progression (OR 0.14, 95% CI: 0.01, 0.58). Finally, AxPsA had lower BASDAI and HAQ scores (OR 0.10, 95% CI 0.010 0.47/ OR 0.03, 95% CI 0.00 to 0.17) and lower PRO evaluation (PRO pain 39.65 vs 49.47% and PRO fatigue 50 vs 52.6%).

Conclusion: Isolated axial PsA and AS are uncommon, axPsA has different clinical and radiographical characteristics when compared to AS. AxPsA is largely independent of HLAB27, it was associated with distinct radiographic ax PsA features, increased spinal progression and low grade radiographic sacroiliitis as well as lower disease activity and impact scores.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

matched by gender, BMI, age and DAPSA at bDMARDs start. In the PsA+IBD group mean age (± SD) was 55.21 ± 12.73, mean BMI was 27.70 ± 7.75, mean DAPSA was 17.28 ± 13.86, mean HAQ was 0.90 ± 0.74 and mean PASI was 1.13 ± 2.99. In PsA-only group mean age was 47.19 ± 10.23, mean BMI was 27.24 ± 5.10, mean DAPSA was 20.21 ± 12.58, mean HAQ was 0.92 ± 0.77 and mean PASI was 0.94 ± 2.25. The final multivariate model included DAPSA at baseline (OR 0.89 95% CI 0.82-0.97), duration of joint involvement (months, OR 0.99 95% CI, 0.98-0.99), HAQ (OR 0.66 95% CI 0.22;1.93) and presence/absence of IBD. HAQ was retained in the model as a potential confounder. PsA-only patients were more likely to achieve DAPSA remission at 12 month-follow up (OR=737; 95% CI 1.58-34.37).

**Conclusion:** In the management of PsA patients with IBD undergoing monoclonal anti-TNFα or anti-IL12/23 therapy, intestinal involvement has a negative influence on the clinical response of articular disease. For these patients clinicians should consider a low DAPSA at baseline and a shorter PsA disease duration as a predictor of 12-month DAPSA remission.

**REFERENCES:**


**Figure 1.**

**Table 1.** For each treatment group, table 1 shows the percentage of patients that achieved each domain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>MDA domains achieved</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NSAIDs or COX2i or steroids</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>csDMARDs</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>anti-IL 12-23 or anti-IL17A</td>
<td>87.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>anti-IL12/23 or anti-IL23</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>anti-IL17</td>
<td>89.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>PD4i</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** Logistic regression analysis; dependent factor: MDA, independent factors: age, sex, disease duration treatment groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDA</th>
<th>OR (CI 95%)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>0.98 (0.96-1.01)</td>
<td>0.212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male)</td>
<td>3.54 (1.94-6.45)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease durations (months)</td>
<td>0.99 (0.99-1.00)</td>
<td>0.337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In each treatment group, the MDA domains less frequently achieved were PtGA ≤2 cm and pain on VAS ≤1.5 cm (Table 1). Moreover, the logistic regression analysis showed a higher probability to achieve MDA for those patients in group 3 and 4 when compared with group 1, independently by age, sex and disease duration (Table 2).

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests:** maria giannotta Speakers bureau; yes, Vincenzo Venturito: None declared, Lucia pacciole: None declared, maria beartrice principi: None declared, caterina fote: None declared, alfredo di leo: None declared, Florenzo lannone: None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1829

**AB1135**

**CHARACTERIZING THE MINIMAL DISEASE ACTIVITY DOMAINS ACHIEVED BASED ON DIFFERENT TREATMENTS.**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Outcome measures

S. Scroffignano1, F. M. Perrotta1, M. Fatica2, P. Triggiani3, P. Conigliaro1, M. Ferriolil, M. S. Chimenti2, E. Lubrano1. 1Università degli Studi del Molise, Dipartimento di Medicina e Scienze, della salute “Vincenzo Tiberio”; Campobasso, Italy; 2Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Reumatologia, Allergologia e Immunologia Clinica, Dipartimento di Medicina dei Sistemi, Roma, Italy

**Background:** Minimal Disease Activity (MDA) is a validated treatment response index for Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA). A status of MDA is reached when 5/7 domains are achieved. Even if MDA is worldwide used, both in clinical trials and in clinical practice, nowadays there are no studies that evaluated any differences in the MDA domains achievement based on various treatments.

**Objectives:** To characterize the MDA domains achieved based on treatment; to assess which treatment is associated with a higher probability to reach MDA status in clinical practice.

**Methods:** This is a cross sectional analysis of two longitudinal PsA cohorts. Inclusion criteria were: age ≥18 years, PsA diagnosis for at least 12 months, stable treatment for at least 6 months. Patients were grouped depending on the therapy: group 1: NSAIDs or COX2i or steroids, group 2: csDMARDs, group 3: TNFi, group 4: anti-IL 12-23 or 23, group 5: anti-IL17A, group 6: PD4i. For each group, MDA domains based on therapy were assessed. Logistic regression analysis was performed to assess the association between the treatment groups and the achievement of the MDA, independently by others confounding factors.

**Results:** Patients enrolled were 220. MDA was achieved in 45.8% of patients. In all treatment groups, the first three MDA domains more achieved were: BSA ≤3, SJC ≤1 and LEI ≤1, instead, in all groups (except for the PD4i) the MDA domains less frequently achieved were PtGA ≤2cm and pain on VAS ≤1.5cm

**Conclusion:** In each treatment group, the MDA domains less frequently achieved were PtGA ≤2 cm and pain on VAS ≤1.5 cm (Table 1). Moreover, the logistic regression analysis showed a higher probability to achieve MDA for those patients in group 3 and 4 when compared with group 1, independently by age, sex and disease duration (Table 2).

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1.** For each treatment group, table 1 shows the percentage of patients that achieved each domain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total patients n=220</th>
<th>1st MDA</th>
<th>2nd MDA</th>
<th>3rd MDA</th>
<th>4th MDA</th>
<th>5th MDA</th>
<th>6th MDA</th>
<th>7th MDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>(%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>BSA ≤3</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>Pain on VAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2</td>
<td>LEI ≤1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>Pain on VAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3</td>
<td>LEI ≤1</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>Pain on VAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 4</td>
<td>LEI ≤1</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>Pain on VAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 5</td>
<td>LEI ≤1</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>89.5</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>Pain on VAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 6</td>
<td>LEI ≤1</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pain on VAS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** Logistic regression analysis; dependent factor: MDA, independent factors: age, sex, disease duration treatment groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDA</th>
<th>OR (CI 95%)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>0.98 (0.96-1.01)</td>
<td>0.212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male)</td>
<td>3.54 (1.94-6.45)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease durations (months)</td>
<td>0.99 (0.99-1.00)</td>
<td>0.337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In each treatment group, the MDA domains less frequently achieved were PtGA and pain, suggesting that the patient driven domains are still an unmet need. Moreover, the probability to achieve MDA status is higher in patients in group 3 and 4. However, larger and prospective studies needed to confirm these preliminary results, including also the newest therapies recently adopted for PsA.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** Silvia scroffignano: None declared, Fabio massimo perrotta speakers bureau: Lilly, novartis, abbvie, mauro fatica: None declared, Paola triggiani: None declared, Paola conigliaro: None declared, marco ferriolli: None declared, Maria sole chimenti: None declared, Ennio lubrano speakers bureau: Lilly, pfizer, abbvie, novartis, janssen, amgen, consultant of: Lilly, Pfizer, abbvie, novartis, janssen, amgen. doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2071

**AB1136**

**MORTALITY IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS.**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Prognostic factors

H. Huang1, W. Xie1, Y. Geng1, Y. Fan1, Z. Zhang1. 1PeKing University First Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

**Background:** It remains debated whether patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) are at greater risk of mortality.

**Disclosure of Interests:** psoriasis arthritis, Prognostic factors

1. Peaking University First Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China.

**Conclusion:** In each treatment group, the MDA domains less frequently achieved were PtGA and pain, suggesting that the patient driven domains are still an unmet need. Moreover, the probability to achieve MDA status is higher in patients in group 3 and 4. However, larger and prospective studies needed to confirm these preliminary results, including also the newest therapies recently adopted for PsA.
Objectives: We aimed to determine the magnitude of all-cause mortality risk in patients with PsA compared with the general population through a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Methods: We searched Pubmed, EMBASE and Cochrane Library for studies published from inception to April 2022. STATA meta-analysis software was used to calculate the pooled risk estimates for mortality (standardized mortality ratio, SMR). To address the potential heterogeneity, $\chi^2$ test, I² statistics, subgroup analysis and sensitivity analysis were used.

Results: Our search identified 3235 articles, of which 18 studies with 13435 patients were eventually included for the analysis. A total of 7518 deaths were observed. Overall, we found a 1.13-fold increased risk of death in PsA patients when compared with the general population (meta-SMR: 1.13, 95% CI 1.03-1.25). Subgroup analyses showed that summary meta-SMR was higher in female patients (1.24 [95% CI 1.10-1.39]; P=0.49%, than male patients (0.92 [95% CI 0.62-1.37]; P=73.8%).

Conclusion: The existing data indicated approximately 13% increase of mortality among patients with PsA compared with the general population. More attention should be paid to those patients with risky characteristics.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1138

BURDEN OF SKIN DISEASE IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Psoriatic arthritis, Skin

M. Reed1, H. Boagey1, B. Milligan1. 1NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Rheumatology, Glasgow, United Kingdom; 2NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Rheumatology, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Background: Skin disease is one of the key domains of psoriatic disease and most Psoriatic arthritis patients have skin psoriasis. However skin and joint disease are often managed separately by rheumatologists, dermatologists or primary care health care providers. This can lead to disjointed care, unmet need, and treatment decisions that don’t take into account all aspects of this heterogeneous condition.

Objectives: We sought to evaluate how psoriatic skin disease is assessed and managed within our rheumatology services by identifying disease burden, approach to management and patient satisfaction.

Methods: In an existing psoriatic arthritis outpatient rheumatology clinic, patients were asked to anonymously complete questionnaires on disease extent, management and satisfaction. Patients also completed dermatology quality of life index (DLQI) questionnaires. Case notes and clinic letters were reviewed to collect data relating to patient diagnosis, medications and extent of clinical assessment during consultations over a 4 month period.

Results: Questionnaires were returned by 30 patients. 72% reported problems with psoriasis, with scalp being the most commonly affected body area. 77% participants reported receiving medication to manage joints only, 4% for skin only, 19% for both joints and skin. 13 participants were receiving topical medication for PsA, with the majority being managed by their GP. From the survey, 47% of respondents were asked about their skin in the rheumatology clinic, and 30% were given advice on its management. Of the patients that completed DLQI questionnaires mean score was 3.9 (SD 3.4). Average satisfaction with psoriasis management was 5/10 (SDEV 3.6). Of the 59 consultations from which data was extracted, 54% of consultations discussed joint only, and 37% discussed both joints and skin (remainder no discussion documented). At 45% of appointments joints and skin were examined, and at 35% of appointments joints only were examined (remainder no examination documented).

Conclusion: Psoriatic skin disease appears to be a significant burden in this population of patients, affecting 72% of those surveyed. Over half of these patients reported topical therapy to manage their psoriasis, with some requiring systemic treatments. Of these patients, most of the management of their skin condition was done by their GP, with the topic being brought up at rheumatology clinic in only half of cases. Less than half had skin examined at rheumatology clinic and less than a third were advised on management of their skin disease by their rheumatologist. Satisfaction levels with psoriasis management were fairly neutral overall. An integrated approach to care with a focus on opportunistic assessment should be encouraged and has potential to benefit both patient and clinician.


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Disclosure of Interests: Michael Reed Speakers bureau: Novartis, Heather Boagey: None declared, Beatrice Milligan: None declared.

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AB1138

DIFFICULT-TO-TREAT PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: ANALYSIS OF A SINGLE-CENTER COHORT FROM NORTHERN ITALY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Descriptive studies, bDMARD

G. Cincinelli1, M. Ferrito1,2, M. Pandolfi1, M. Biggioggero2, S. Casari2, M. Contalba3, C. Crotili4, F. Desini5, E. G. Favalli5, M. Manara2, R. Caporali1,2,3

1University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 2ASSST G. Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Milan, Italy

Background: The multifaceted nature of psoriatic disease can potentially make its skin, articular, and extra-articular manifestation complex to manage. Biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) have dramatically improved the outcome of patients affected by chronic inflammatory arthritis. However, a satisfactory disease control is not achieved in a proportion of patients. While a “difficult-to-treat” (D2T) definition has been validated in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), it was only recently suggested for psoriatic arthritis (PsA) [1].

Objectives: Based on the proposed definition, we aimed to assess prevalence and characteristics of D2T-PsA in a single-center cohort.

Methods: We conducted a single-center, cross-sectional study. 269 consecutive, adult PsA patients receiving bDMARDs at a tertiary care, dedicated out-patient clinic were enrolled. Demographic, clinical, and clinimetric data, and the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) were gathered and depicted in Table 1. According to the aforementioned definition, D2T patients were identified as: 1) failure of ≥ 2 b/tsDMARDs (with different mechanisms of action- MoA) after failing csDMARD therapy; 2) signs suggestive of active/progressive disease (defined either as a DAPSA ≥14 or not achieving MDA; signs or symptoms suggestive of active disease; a rapid radiographic progression; a reduction of quality of life due to PsA symptoms); 3) disease management perceived as problematic by rheumatologists or patients (all three criteria must be met to define D2T patients). Comparison between D2T and non-D2T patients was performed with univariate analyses.

Results: Among 269 PsA patients, only 8 (2.9%) fulfilled D2T definition. In bivariate analysis, D2T patients presented higher rate of osteoarthritis (62.5% vs 24.9%; p=0.03), fibromyalgia (62.5% vs 14.9%; p<0.004), and therapy with steroids (50% vs 12.1%; p=0.008). Furthermore, D2T patients presented significantly higher patient global assessment (PGA 0-10) (7.5 vs 2.00; p<0.001) and VAS pain 0-10 (8.00 vs 2.00; p<0.001). Among non-D2T patients, 24 were in moderate disease activity (9.19%). Due to the unbalance between the groups numerosity, multivariate analysis was not feasible.

Conclusion: Only few patients satisfied the PsA-D2T definition in our cohort; application of a RA-like D2T definition to a heterogeneous disease as PsA should be discussed more broadly in the future.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study population (N=269)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease subset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axial-peripheral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin psoriasis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulgaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmo-plantar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-articular manifestations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charson Comorbidity Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPSA (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA&lt;3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEI-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ (median)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;2 previous bDMARDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;2 previous MoA</td>
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<tr>
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</table>
REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3948

AB1139

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TRIGLYCERIDE-GLUCOSE INDEX AND CAROTID ATHEROSCLEROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Epidemiology, Ultrasound

W. Xie1, Z. Zhang2, 1Peking University First Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: The triglyceride-glucose (TyG) index, proposed as a surrogate marker for insulin resistance, appeared to be a good indicator of clinically overt cardiovascular events and subclinical atherosclerosis in general population.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the correlation of TyG index with atherosclerotic risk among patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Methods: This cross-sectional study included 165 consecutive PsA patients receiving carotid ultrasonography with integrated TyG index, calculated as ln (fasting triglycerides (mg/dL)*fasting glucose (mg/dL)/2). Logistic regression models were applied to analyze the association of TyG index as continuous variables and tertiles with carotid atherosclerosis and carotid artery plaque.

Results: Overall, PsA patients with carotid atherosclerosis had substantially higher TyG index than those without (8.82±0.50 vs. 8.54±0.55, p=0.002). The frequency of carotid atherosclerosis was increased with increases in TyG index tertiles, showing 14.8%, 34.5%, 44.6% for tertile 1, 2 and 3, respectively (p=0.003). Multivariate logistic analyses showed that each 1-unit increase in TyG index was significantly associated with prevalent carotid atherosclerosis (unadjusted OR 2.65 [1.39-5.05]; fully-adjusted OR 2.69 [1.02-7.11]) compared to patients with tertile 1 of TyG index, the unadjusted and fully-adjusted OR for occurrence of carotid atherosclerosis were 4.64 (1.85-11.60) and 5.10 (1.54-16.93) in patients with tertile 3. Similarly, higher prevalent carotid artery plaque was observed with increasing TyG index (unadjusted OR 3.11 [1.54-6.26]; fully-adjusted OR 3.61 [1.15-11.38]) or with tertile 3 vs. tertile 1 (unadjusted OR 10.20 [2.83-36.82]; fully-adjusted OR 17.82 [2.88-111.11]).

Additionally, TyG index provided incremental predictive capacity beyond established risk factors, shown by an increase in discrimination ability (all P < 0.001).

Conclusion: TyG index was positively correlated with the burden of atherosclerosis in PsA patients, independent of traditional cardiovascular risk factors and psoriatic-related factors. These findings suggest that TyG index may be a promising atherosclerotic marker for PsA population.

Figure 1. The level of TyG index in patients with psoriatic arthritis, stratified by carotid atherosclerosis (CA), carotid artery plaque (CAP).

REFERENCES: NIL.

AB1140

TREATMENT WITH TNF AND IL17 INHIBITORS DIFFERENTLY AFFECTS SERUM LIPOID PROFILE AND TH1/TH2 IMMUNE RESPONSE IN ANKYLOSING Spondylitis AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS.

Keywords: bDMARD, Psoriatic arthritis, Cardiovascular disease

K. Bonek1, S. Szczysielska1, M. Kajfasz2, A. Felis-Giemza3, B. Kwiatkowska7, M. Wislowska5, E. Kuca-Warawnin6, P. G1 1. National Institute of Geriatrics Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Rheumatology, Warsaw, Poland; 2. National Institute of Geriatrics Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Early Arthritis Clinic, Warsaw, Poland; 3. National Institute of Geriatrics Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Biologic Therapy Centre, Warsaw, Poland; 4. National Institute of Geriatrics Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Pathophysiology and Immunology, Warsaw, Poland

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a form of spondyloarthrits (SpA) associated with alterations to the serum lipid profile. Current research suggests that biological treatment with TNF and IL-17 inhibitors differently affects the lipid profile and TH cells populations in PsA and ankylosing spondylitis (AS).

Objectives: To investigate the relationship between lipid profile, disease activity and T-cell phenotype changes in patients with SpA treated with TNF and IL-17 inhibitors.

Methods: A group of 36 SpA patients (AS 14, PsA 22) with high disease activity were assessed at the start and after 6 months of anti TNF (n=19) and anti IL-17 (n=17) treatment. Serum lipid profile: triglycerides (TG), total cholesterol (TC), low (LDL), and high-density lipoproteins (HDL), non-HDL, VLDL levels and atherogenic index (AI) were evaluated. Frequency of TH1, TH2, TH1/TH17, TH17 and T regulatory cells (Tregs) was determined by flow cytometry. The Spearman’s rank test was used for the statistical analysis of correlations, and the Wilcoxon rank test for dependent sample testing. All data are given as medians and the absolute and relative difference between two variables are expressed as delta.

Results: A significant reduction in disease activity was observed in all treated patients: DAPSA (32.5 vs 4); BASDAI (6.8 vs 1.5; p<0.01), ESR (15 vs 5mm/h; p<0.01) and CRP (6 vs 1mg/l; p<0.03). In all 36 patients, the reduction of disease activity was followed by a mild decrease of TG (205 vs 195mg/dL p<0.01), LDL (120 vs 110mg/dL p<0.02) and non-HDL levels (18 vs 5 vs 12mg/dl, p<0.05). In PsA patients treated with IL-17 inhibitor (n=13) we found a statistically significant, more pronounced decrease in lipid levels compared to AS and PsA patients treated with anti-TNFs i.e. delta of TG (19 vs 12 vs 12mg/dl p<0.03), LDL (23 vs 15 vs 10mg/dl p<0.05) and VLDL (11 vs 4 vs 4,5mg/dl p=0,02). In addition, in PsA group (n=22) after 6 months of treatment, we found reduction of TG (144 vs 94mg/dl p<0.05), VLDL (28,8 vs 20,6mg/dL p=0,04) levels and improvement of AI (4,4 vs 3,5 p<0,03) also deltas of DAPSA correlated positively with deltas of TC (rho=0,6 p=0,03) and non-HDL (rho=0,5 p=0,04). In flow cytometry after 6 months of treatment of all 36 patients we observed a rise of TH1 (11,3 vs 6,1% p<0,05) and a decrease of TH2 (5,7 vs 4,7% p<0,03) cells with almost no change in Treg cells (5,3 vs 5,3%). In AS patients (n=22) we have found correlations (p<0,05) between decreases of CD4+CD25+ cells and levels of TC (rho=0,6), non-HDL (rho=0,5), AI (rho=0,6) and DAPSA (rho=0,5). Effectiveness of treatment with TNF inhibitors and IL-17 was comparable in PsA or AS, but some differences were observed in alterations to lymphocyte profile. Patients treated with anti-IL-17 (PsA 13/ AS 4) showed a more pronounced increase in the TH1/TH17-like cell percentage (9.3 vs 13,5%; p<0,04) with a decrease of TH2 cells (73 vs 3,5%;p=0,03) and concomitant increase in TH1 cells (11 vs 13,8%). In patients treated with IL-17 inhibitors increase of TH1 cells correlated negatively (p<0,05) with TG (rho=0,6), non-HDL (rho=0,7), LDL (rho=0,6) levels, VLDL (rho=0,6) and positively with HDL (rho=0,4). In PsA patients TH1 cells correlated with DAPSA (rho=0,4). Patients treated with antiTNFS (AS 10/PsA 9) revealed an increase of TH1 cells (10,5 vs 12% p=0,04) and also a decrease of CD4+CD25+ (23 vs 14,5%; p=0,008), but no correlations with lipid profile were found.

Conclusion: Anti TNF and anti IL17 treatment distinctively affects lipid profile and T Cell balance especially in PsA. Patients with SpA treated with biologicals presented a tendency towards reduction of TC and LDL concentrations, but in PsA those changes were stronger with additional reduction of VLDL, non-HDL and TG levels. Alterations in the lipid profile correlate with disease activity in PsA and with a shift in TH cells increase (in the TH1/TH2 ratio with a decrease in the percentage of activated CD4+CD25+ T cells), which was not observed in AS.

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Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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AB1141 PREDICTORS OF X-RAY PROGRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Psoriatic arthritis, Biomarkers

S. Pötscher1, H. Radner2, D. Sieghart1,1, Medical University of Vienna, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine III, Vienna, Austria

Background: Psoriasis arthritis (PsA) is a systemic chronic inflammatory disease, which leads to irreversible destruction of the joints. Multiple factors drive the development of this heterogeneous disease including genetic predisposition, environmental triggers, and immunologic dysfunction. Even structural damage differs significantly between patients, with a subset of patients suffering from severe and rapid (rheumatoid arthritis-like) bone destruction (arthritis mutilans), while others experience only modest signs of bone damage, or develop new bone formation.1

Objectives: The study aims to identify potential predictors for radiographic such as clinical, radiographic, and laboratory parameters.

Methods: In this retrospective data analysis 231 patients with PsA and at least two available x-rays were included. Radiographs were scored according to Sharp-van-der-Heijde-total Score (mSvdHTH) modified for PsA and a mean annual progression (MAP) rate was calculated by dividing the change in mSvdHTH between two x-rays number of years between them. For each patient, the median of the annual progression rates was calculated. Patients were grouped in no progressors (MAP ≤ 0.5), low progressors (MAP 0.5 < MAP ≤ 2.5) and high progressors (MAP > 2.5). Clinical data such as the clinical disease activity index (CDAI), radiographic data and laboratory data (CRP ESR, C-terminal Telopeptide) were analysed for their predictive value of radiographic progression using parametric and non-parametric statistical analysis according to the distribution of data. For correlation analysis Spearman’s rank coefficient was used. For group analysis ANOVA was used. Dichotomous variables such as gender or nail involvement were analysed using χ2-test. Multiple linear regression analysis was used to identify factors influencing radiographic progression.

Results: The mean baseline mSvdHTS in high progressors was 41.59 (43.53), 19.89 (34.93) in low progressors and 16.25 (26.77) in non-progressors. Baseline mSvdHTS was significantly correlated with MAP (r = 0.27, p < 0.002) rate. Group analysis comparing clinical and laboratory parameters in patients again showed significant difference baseline mSvdHTS. The high progression cohort also exhibits a greater mean CRP, ESR, CDAI, median first year CDAI, TJC68, SJC66 and a higher percentage of nail involvement than low- or non-progressors but no statistically significant result was found. In a multiple linear regression analysis baseline SvdHS (β = 0.51, 95% CI 0.28-0.73, p < 0.001), median CDAI in the first year after baseline (β = 0.51, 95% CI 0.19-0.83, p = 0.018) and CDAI at baseline (β = -0.62, 95% CI -1.05 - -0.19, p = 0.043) were significantly associated with mean annual progression. No association was found between MAP and bone turnover markers.

Conclusion: This study shows a clear association of Sharp-van-der-Heijde score at baseline with future radiographic progression. Moreover, the median CDAI in the first year after baseline was associated with radiographic progression.


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1142 DOES OBESITY PLAY A ROLE IN FOOT INVOLVEMENT IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS?

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Comorbidities, Psoriatic arthritis

S. F. Azevedo1,2, C. Mazeda1,2, S. P. Silva1,2, C. Pinto Oliveira1,2, A. Barcelos1,2,3, 1Centro Hospitalar do Baixo Vouga, Rheumatology Department, Aveiro, Portugal; 2Egas Moniz Health Alliance, Academic Clinical Center, Aveiro, Portugal; 3Comprehensive Health Research Center, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Background: Several studies have reported a higher prevalence of obesity in Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA).1 Obesity may lead to more weight on the joints, namely on the ankle/foot joints, altered mechanics, and repetitive micro-trauma. Foot involvement is common in PsA, including arthritis, dystrophic nails, toe dactylitis and Achilles enthesitis. Obesity has been found to be associated with higher disease activity and worse functionality scores in PsA patients.1

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the role of obesity in foot involvement in PsA patients.

Methods: A retrospective study including patients with PsA (all patients fulfill CASPAR criteria) followed from January to May 2022, from a Rheumatology Clinic. Patients were divided into two groups: with current or previous foot involvement (assessed clinically or by ultrasound) (group 1) and without current or previous foot involvement (group 2). Sociodemographic, clinical and laboratory data were collected. Obesity was defined as a body mass index greater than or equal to 30 Kg/m2 and multimorbidity was defined as 2 or more comorbidities. Descriptive analysis was performed using means and standard deviation (SD), medians and Interquartile. range (IQR) for continuous data, and frequencies and percent- ages for qualitative variables. Clinical, radiological and laboratory findings were compared between patients with and without foot involvement using parametric and non-parametric tests, with a p-value ≤ 0.05.

Results: A total of 154 patients were enrolled (mean age of 57.08 (+11.54) years and 39.6% were women). Foot involvement was found in 110 patients (71.40%). Obesity was more prevalent among patients with foot involvement – group 1 (40.90% vs 13.64%; p<0.001). Enthesitis was found in 35.10 % of patients with Achilles enthesis (28%) as the most frequent manifestation. PsA patients in group 1 who were obese had higher prevalence of Achilles enthesis (p= 0.01). 18.18% of patients had current/previous toe dactylitis and dystrophic nails were found in 37.7% of patients (no differences were encountered between obese and non-obese patients). Multimorbidity were more frequent in PsA patients with foot involvement- group 1 (p=0.04). We found a higher frequency of extra-articular manifestations and higher HAQ disability index values in patients with foot involvement (p=0.03 and p<0.001, respectively). Although we did not find statistically significant differences in the HAQ disability index between obese and non-obese patients with foot involvement, there was a predominance of disability in obese patients. PsA patients in group 1 who are obese have higher C-reactive protein (p=0.01) and higher consumption of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (p=0.02). We did not find statistically significant differences in swollen and tender joint counts, in conventional and biological DMARDs between obese and non-obese patients in group 1.

Conclusion: Obesity was more prevalent among PsA patients with foot involvement, suggesting its presence may enhance and contribute for foot complaints in these patients. Patients with foot involvement had higher HAQ disability index levels, reflecting the negative impact of foot involvement in daily functionality in these patients. Our study highlights the importance of obesity management in PsA patients with foot involvement. Further studies are needed to develop weight reduction strategies that can be applied in clinical practice, in order to improve outcomes related to PsA.


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1143 MIR-10B EXPRESSION IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH DAPSA SCORE REMISSION OR LOW DISEASE ACTIVITY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Psoriatic arthritis

S. S. Köksal1,2, Z. Öztürk1, U. Akınt1, D. Karataş1, G. Günsel Eksikler2, E. Çökük2, A. Deveci Ozkam2, Ú. Erkorkmaz2, E. Gönlüllü3, 1Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Sakarya, Turkey; 2Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Sakarya, Turkey; 3Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Biostatistics, Sakarya, Turkey

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a heterogeneous inflammatory rheumatologic disease associated with psoriasis. The etiopathogenesis of PsA has not been fully elucidated. Although activity scores are used in the follow-up of patients, reliable biomarkers are not yet available. MicroRNAs (miRNA) are non-coding RNA oligonucleotides whose cellular expression levels change in inflammatory and autoimmune diseases and provide gene expression regulation. miRNA-10b are being investigated for their potential biomarker properties in the diagnosis and follow-up of psoriatic arthritis.

Objectives: In this context, the current study aimed to determine the changes in mir-10b expression level in patients with PsA who have remission/low disease activity according to DAPSA score and in age-sex matched healthy population.
Methods: Ethics committee approval was obtained from Sakarya University Ethics Committee for the study (E-71522473-050.01.04-15102135). RNA isolation, cDNA synthesis and RT-PCR analysis were performed in 30 PsA patients (18 Female and 11 Male) and 20 matched control group (20 Females and 11 Males) with DAPSA scores in remission or low disease activity, who applied to Sakarya University Internal Medicine Rheumatology Clinic between January 2019 and February 21, miR-10b expression levels. U6 was used as internal control. IBM SPSS Statistics 26 program was used for statistical analysis.

Results: The mean age of the patients with psoriatic arthritis was 47.4±13.4, and the control group was 46.6±12.9 (p=0.78). No gender difference was analyzed between the two groups. (p=0.92). In addition, it was analyzed that the miR-10b expression level was 0.90-fold in PsA patients compared to the control group, and the expression level did not change significantly compared to the control group (p=0.53).

Conclusion: In our study, no statistically significant difference was observed in terms of miR-10b expression in PsA patients with DAPSA remission-low disease activity when compared to healthy controls. Further studies are needed in patients with moderate and high activity psoriatic arthritis.

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REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

OBJECTIVES: This study aims to assess the prevalence of sSS in patients with non-arthritic psoriasis and PsA and illuminate disease features associated with sSS.

Methods: Psoriasis patients diagnosed by a dermatologist and patients classified as PsA who fulfilled the CASPAR criteria were questioned for Sjögren’s symptoms consistent with the 2002 American-European Sjögren’s Syndrome Criteria (AECG). The salivary gland scintigraphy of the patients with oral dryness was performed and the unstimulated salivary flow rate (SFR) was measured. Schirmer’s test was performed on patients with dry eyes. Anti-Ro antibodies were measured and minor salivary gland biopsies were performed in patients with a diagnosis of sSS detected by objective measurements. After the evaluation of the patients, the sSS was classified according to the 2002 AECG. The frequency of sSS in non-arthritic psoriasis and PsA patients were compared. In addition, PsA patients were divided into two groups according to the presence and absence of sSS, PsA-specific characteristics in these two groups were compared.

Results: Of the 184 psoriasis patients who participated in the study, 112 had PsA, and 72 had psoriasis without arthritis. There was no significant age difference between non-arthritic psoriasis and PsA patients (48.3±11.9 and 49.4±13.5, respectively; p=0.59) Similarly, female to male ratio (ratios (%)); non-arthritic psoriasis: 43/29 (57.4/30.3), PsA: 82/30 (73.2/27.3), respectively; p=0.08) and age of onset of psoriatic skin changes (mean (SD)) of non-arthritic psoriasis: 30.3±10.9, PsA: 29.4±13.2, respectively; p=0.68) did not differ between non-arthritic psoriasis and PsA patients. sSS was more prevalent in PsA patients when compared with the non-arthritic psoriasis group (PsA: 20 (%17.9), non-arthritic psoriasis: 1 (%1.3), p<0.001). None of the patients had a previous diagnosis of sSS. Of the patients with sSS (n=20), 18 had salivary gland involvement detected in salivary gland scintigraphy, four Anti-Ro positivity, and three low unstimulated SFR. All PsA patients with sSS (sSS/PsA) had a positive Schirmer test. sSS/PsA patients were significantly more positive for ANA and had plantar fasciitis frequently than PsA patients without sSS (Table 1). Although not statistically significant, the age of onset of joint involvement in sSS/PsA patients was higher and was treated less with biological therapy (Table 1).

Conclusion: Secondary Sjögren’s syndrome is part of the clinical picture in a substantial proportion of PsA patients and its absence in non-arthritic PsO implies that sSS is arthritically associated. Whether the type of arthritis in sSS/PsA patients has a pattern necessitates larger patient numbers. A higher rate of ANA positivity may suggest the role of B lymphocytes in the progression from PsO to PsA.

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Physician Adherence to Clinical Guidelines in Rheumatoid Arthritis: Can IT Help Providing Evidence-Based, Standardized Clinical Decisions.

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Remission, Psoriatic arthritis


**Reference:**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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The Comparative Performance of Three Screening Questionnaires for Psoriatic Arthritis in a Primary Care Surveillance Program.

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Non-pharmacological interventions, Psoriatic arthritis

P. Hellwell,1 L. Coates,2 M. Ransoms,2 S. Brown,2 J. Paolham,1 J. Weddell,1 P. W. Tippett,2 N. Mecht,2 Leeds Institute of Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom;1 University of Oxford, Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom;2 University of Leeds, Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research, Leeds, United Kingdom;3 University of Nottingham, Academic Unit of Population and Life Sciences, Nottingham, United Kingdom;4 University of Bath, Department of Life Sciences, Bath, United Kingdom

**Background:** There are considerable delays in the diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and earlier diagnosis is likely to lead to better outcomes.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to compare the performance of three PsA screening questionnaires in a primary care psoriasis surveillance program.

**Methods:** Participants with psoriasis, and not known to have psoriatic arthritis (PsA), were identified from general practice databases and invited to attend a secondary care centre for a clinical assessment. The three participant-completed screening questionnaires (PEST, CONTEST, and CONTEST with a manikin CONTEST) were administered along with other patient reported measures and reducing variability in practice. Despite their vital role in standard practice, adherence to guidelines has been reported to be suboptimal. Overall, no information is available of how rheumatologists would interact with recently published national clinical practice guidelines [1, 2].

**Background:** The use of quality-of-care indicators is an important strategy to measure and evaluate if the care provided in the standard clinical setting adheres to current evidence informed best practices. Achievement of quality indicators is often reported as a quality score (%). Quality indicators are often developed from guidelines, systematic literature reviews, or expert panel consensus using a systematic approach. The recently developed national guidelines for inflammatory arthritis [1, 2] provided the fundamentals of quality indicators of inflammatory arthritis.

**Objectives:** To evaluate quality indicators for inflammatory, their use in routine clinical practice reflecting the processes of clinical care and improvement in outcomes.

**Methods:** Quality measurement was carried out across 5 centers based on six domains of quality: 1. Structure (Describes the innate characteristics of providers and the system and the organisational aspects of care), 2. Process (Assesses actual healthcare service delivered to patients by healthcare providers), 3. Patient experience (Describes the patient’s perception of quality of care)[2], 4. Outcome (Assesses the end result or the final results of the delivered care), 5. Access (Evaluates the provision of timely and appropriate healthcare), 6. Efficiency (Describes the relationship between clinical performance and resource use). Data were logged based on patients’ recorded data.

**Results:** Inflammatory arthritis services are provided in 100% of the centers. 88.3% of the participants voted that they do implement “Treat to Target” approach and quality indicators for the management of inflammatory arthritis in their standard practice. Patient experience was rated positive in 63% whereas Timely treatment target was recorded in 74%. Efficiency evaluation revealed constrains attributed to lack of insurance cover of cost of some recommendations (72.7%).

**Conclusion:** Irrespective of resource and infrastructure constraints, assessment of all the relevant domains of care, revealed improvement and strengths of all the other measures. Results revealed that the treating rheumatologists not only adhere to quality indicators required for the management of inflammatory arthritis, but also provide timely and appropriate healthcare that has been well received by the patients. Such results are vital as quality measurement in rheumatology is focused primarily on processes of care, consequently, process measurement facilitates implementing actionable targets for improvement instead of focusing solely on outcomes of care.

**References:**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1090
a clinical examination of skin and joints was performed. Participants who demonstrated signs of inflammatory arthritis suggestive of PsA were referred, via their GP, for a further assessment in a secondary care rheumatology clinic.

**Results:** A total of 791 participants attended the screening visit and 165 participants were judged to have signs and symptoms of inflammatory arthritis, of which 150 were referred for assessment. Of these 126 were seen and 48 were diagnosed with PsA. The results for each questionnaire were as follows: PEST: Sensitivity 0.625 (95% CI 0.482 to 0.749), specificity 0.757 (0.724 to 0.787). CONTEST: Sensitivity 0.604 (0.461 to 0.731), specificity 0.766 (0.736 to 0.796). CONTEST2: Sensitivity 0.542 (0.401 to 0.676), specificity 0.834 (0.805 to 0.859).

**Conclusion:** Minimal differences in discriminative ability between the three screening questionnaires were found. PEST performed better at identifying cases of peripheral arthritis, although numbers were small (Figure 1).

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Notes:** The study included 554 patients from thirteen countries: mean age 45 years (SD 13), 57% females, median disease duration four years (IQR 2-9); 89.2% had skin PsO, and 43.5% had nail PsO. The disease was active overall: mean PsA activity was 4.7 (SD 2.5), versus a PhGA of 3.9 (SD 2.4). Similarly, PGA for PsA activity was 4.7 (SD 2.5), versus a PhGA of 3.9 (SD 2.4). This discordance may negatively impact treatment adherence and decision-making processes. It may be more comfortable assessing joints than skin. The patient's evaluation of disease activity needs to be taken into account when considering the disease management plan, especially in patients who are not in remission.

**Methods:** This multicentric multinational cross-sectional study was conducted in thirteen Arab countries by the Arab League of Associations of Rheumatology (ArLAR) research group (ARCH). During a single routine visit, patients and physicians were requested to rate the PsA disease activity on a numeric scale from 0 (no activity) to 10 (worst activity). In addition, demographic and disease data were collected, as well as PGA and PhGA for psoriasis (PsO) activity, Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), Fibromyalgia Rating Screening Tool (FIRST), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ4) and Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA). First, the correlation between PGA and PhGA for PsA and PsO disease activity was assessed statistically using the Spearman correlation coefficient (PsA and PsO) and graphically using the Bland and Altman method (PsA). Second, concordance between the PGA and PhGA PsA activity (defined as a difference between -2 and 2) was calculated and correlated with demographic and disease factors using multivariable binary logistic regression.

**Results:** Among 554 patients' measurements, 358 (84.2%) were in concordance with the PhGA for an agreement in PsA activity (defined as a difference between -2 and 2) was calculated and correlated with demographic and disease factors using multivariable binary logistic regression.

**Conclusion:** In this unselected sample of patients from Arab countries, there was a strong concordance between PGA and PhGA for PsA activity. This raises questions about patient expectations and pain perceptions in Arab countries. Concordance was stronger for PsA than PsO, indicating that rheumatologists may be more comfortable assessing joints than skin. The patient's evaluation of disease activity needs to be taken into account when considering the disease management plan, especially in patients who are not in remission.
**AB1149**

**SEX DISTRIBUTION IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Keywords:** Gender/diversity issues, Epidemiology, Psoriatic arthritis

B. Fırlıtan1, G. S. Kart Bayram1, G. Ayan1, U. Kalınçoğ1, 1Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

**Background:** The prevalence of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is considered equal in male and female patients but recent studies in cohorts of PsA it has been observed that women are more dominant in sex distribution, and the female-male ratio varies between 1.2 and 2 [1]. It is not yet clear whether this is related to a change in the epidemiology of the disease.

**Objectives:** To assess the female-male ratios in recent PsA studies.

**Methods:** A systematic review of the literature (from January 2020 to September 2022) was performed using the Pubmed database with keywords and MeSH terms referring to psoriatic arthritis. Randomized controlled, cross-sectional, prospective, and retrospective cohort studies involving ≥20 patients and specifying the number of men and women were considered eligible. Only original articles in English were included. Two independent reviewers performed study selection and data collection. The number of female and male patients, study design, study center, and PsA clinical phenotypes were recorded.

**Results:** Total of 1469 articles were selected for full-text reading, of which 486 were included for analyses. Overall, the number of studies in which the F/M and M/F ratio ≥1.5 was 86 (17.7%) and 60 (12.4%), respectively. Comparing the study types, it was observed that the female gender was more dominant in cross-sectional studies (p=0.004), Table 1. The sex distribution was more heterogeneous in single-center studies than in multi-center studies. Studies were stratified according to continents; it was found that the number of studies in which the F/M ratio is ≥1.5 was higher in America than the multinational studies (27% vs. 4%). On the other hand, the studies from Asia had higher male predominance.

**Conclusion:** Although there were some differences observed in sex distribution by study design and continents, overall, the ratio of females to males was similar. The female predominance observed in some studies might be due to selection bias or greater access to the medical system.

**REFERENCE:**


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**AB1150**

**ORDER OF APPEARANCE OF PSORIASIS AND ARTHRITIS SYMPTOMS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: COMPARATIVE STUDY OF A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT**

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Epidemiology, Psoriatic arthritis

P. Moya Alvarado1,2, H. S. Park3, A. Laiz1,4, A. Lopez-Ferre2,3, C. Marco Pascual1, A. García-Alja1, A. Casals Uruquiza1, C. Pitarch Grau1, C. Díaz-Torre1, B. Magallares1, I. Castelvi1, S. Ros1,3, S. P. Fernandez-Sanchez1, H. Codes1, L. Sainz Comas1, A. M. Millán Arciniegas1, J. L. Tandaipan1,4, L. Puig1,2, H. Corominas1,2,4, Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 3Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Medicine, Barcelona, Spain; 4Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Dermatology, Barcelona, Spain; 5Hospital Dos de Maig, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain

**Background:** Little is known about the chronologic order of appearance of psoriasis (Pso) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) symptoms and its effect on disease evolution. Most information is based on population-based registries or big data that may lack precision.

**Objectives:** To evaluate duration and chronologic order of appearance cutaneous and articular manifestations of PsA from 1st symptoms till diagnosis. To compare differences between patients with symptoms and diagnosis of Pso before PsA with those that manifest Pso after PsA.

**Methods:** A retrospective cohort study was conducted. Eligible patients were 219 patients that met ASAS criteria visited the SpA clinic between July – October 2022. Finally, 129 patients that met CASPAR criteria and Pso diagnosis were included. Other autoimmune rheumatic diseases were excluded. Data were collected previously reviewing patient records available from the electronic medical system.
and paper database of the hospital. Additional information was retrieved from the shared medical history database of the Catalan Institute of Health which attends the 99.2% of the population. Missing data were collected prospectively by patient interview. ANOVA or Kruskall-Wallis test was carried out according to variable distribution.

Results: A total of 129 patients were included from which 98 had all time data related to disease appearance. There were 13.3% of missing data. The median disease evolution in years was 14 years with patients from 1 to 53 years of duration. The description and comparison of the clinical characteristics of each group is summarized in Table 1. Patients that begin with arthritis showed significant association with higher elevated C reactive protein and longer PsA disease duration. Longer time till arthritis appearance as well as more prevalence of Dactylitis was more observed in patients that begin with PsO before arthritis.

Conclusion: Significantly higher prevalence of CRP elevation in patients that begin with arthritis. Higher prevalence of dactylitis and longer time until articular manifestation was observed in patients that begin with PsO.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.


AB1152 FATTIGE IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS OF EMPLOYABLE AGE

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

N. Tulebek1, I. Fairushina2, D. Abdulguniaev3, E. Kirillova.1 Institute of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Metabolism "Intema clinic"; rheumatology, Almaty, Kazakhstan; 2Kazan State Medical University, Internal Diseases, Kazan, Russian Federation

Background: Fatigue is an important and underrated multifactorial manifestation of psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Objectives: The evaluation of frequency and relationship of fatigue with anthropometric, clinical, laboratory, ultrasound (US) data and quality of life (QoL) in patients with PsA of employable age.

Methods: The study included 92 patients with PsA aged 18-59 years. Assessment of fatigue was conducted using a fatigue subscale from the FACIT-F questionnaire. Severity of skin lesions and arthritis was determined with PASI and DAPSA, respectively, as well as anthropometric data, the number of painful and swollen joints and entheses, inflammatory biomarkers, the number of inflamed entheses and entheses with structural changes and the number of active and non-active synovitis detected by US, QoL by SF-36 and DLQI and functionality by HAQ-DI.

Results: In all 92 patients: male - 42 (45.7%), mean age 42.9±9.6 (SD) years (y), PsA duration was 7 (2; 11.8) y; PASI 15.2 (10.2; 21.4), DAPSA 3.8 (1.2; 9.6). Fatigue (FACIT-F values <34 points) was detected in 46 (50%) patients. It was associated with psoriasis (<0.05) and PsA duration (p<0.01), DAPSA (p<0.01), and clinical enthesitis (p<0.01). At the same time, there was no relation between (b/w) age and anthropometric data (body mass index, waist and hip circumference, waist-to-hip ratio) (<0.05), FACIT-F score was correlated with physical functioning (SF-36 subscale) and DLQI scores (<0.01). These data are consistent with findings from other studies, especially with psoriasis burden, despite the fact that the relation b/w fatigue, PASI and psoriatic onychodystrophy (NAPSI) was not found (p>0.05). Association of fatigue with inflammatory markers (ESR, hs-CRP) and US articular and enthesal inflammation was not found (<0.05). Probably this indicates a greater influence of clinical signs, rather than US that could be explained by the high incidence of asymptomatic course of these changes.

Conclusion: Fatigue was found in 46% of employable aged PsA patients and was associated with clinical signs of PsA, particularly, with its activity and duration. Fatigue has been linked to physical functioning and DLQI scores. Further research is needed to investigate the individual factors that make the greatest influence to the fatigue development. The results of this study may indicate the need for routine fatigue examination among people with active PsA.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

References: NIL.

AB1153 FATIGUE AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: WHAT CHARACTERISTICS?

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Quality of life, Psoriatic arthritis

A. Ben Amou1, S. Rahmouni1, H. Thini1, K. Zouaoui1, S. Rekik1, S. Boussaid1, H. Sahil1, M. Elleuch1, 1RABTA Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) can cause an impairment of patients' quality of life. Fatigue is a common and often underestimated symptom in PsA.

Objectives: We aimed to assess the characteristics of fatigue in PsA.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study including patients with PsA meeting CASPRA criteria. Socio-demographic, clinical and biological data were collected. The FACIT fatigue score (Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy) was calculated for all patients. It is a 13-item questionnaire evaluated on a five-point scale (4 = no fatigue to 0 = extreme fatigue), with scores from 0 to 52, the highest scores correspond to less fatigue [1].

References: NIL.
Results: There were 37 patients, the sex ratio M/F was 2.1. The mean age was 52.46±14.22 years, the mean age at disease onset was 31.42±14.69 years and the mean disease duration was 133.62±112.82 months. The mean BMI was 25.68±5.15 kg/m². The mean CRP was 0.44±0.04 mg/L. The patient global assessment (PGA) of the disease was 50.54±17.74. The mean DAS28-CRP score was 4.06±1.54. The mean BASDAI and ASDAS-CRP scores were 5.06±6.14 and 2.60±1.05, respectively. The mean DAPSA score was 38.31±35.05. The mean BASFI and HAQ were 4.91±2.59 and 1.30±0.93, respectively. The mean FACIT fatigue score was 16.11±11.98 [0-49]. It correlated with mean BMI value (r=0.442; p=0.044), age at disease onset (r=0.421; p=0.016), PGA (r=0.397; p=0.036), and HAQ (r=0.437; p=0.020). Patients with a BMI≥25 kg/m² had a higher FACIT fatigue score (19.94±13.20 vs. 11.00±8.12, p=0.049). In contrast, no correlation was identified with gender, age, smoking, disease chronology, extra-articular involvement, extra-articular manifestations, high CRP levels, DAS28-CRP, BASDAI, ASDAS-CRP, DAPSA, BASFI, and hip involvement.

Conclusion: Fatigue is an important symptom in PsA and can be responsible for significant psychosocial impact and impairment of quality of life. Its assessment and management should be part of the overall management of PsA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5058

AB1154 NEW INFLAMMATION PARAMETERS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: NEUTROPHIL/LYMPHOCYTE AND PLATELET/LYMPHOCYTE RATIOS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis
A. Ben Amou1, S. Rahmouni1, H. Tibs2, K. Zouaoui3, S. Rekk1, S. Boussaid1, H. Sahil1, M. Elleuch1,2. Rabta Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Monitoring disease activity in patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is crucial. Commonly used inflammation markers, including C-reactive protein (CRP), lack specificity and sensitivity. Other markers using complete blood count (CBC) parameters have been proposed: neutrophil/lymphocyte ratios (NLR); platelet/lymphocyte ratios (PLR).

Objectives: The aim of this study is to investigate these ratios in PsA.

Methods: A cross-sectional study including patients with PsA meeting CASPAR criteria. Socio-demographic, clinical, and biological data were collected. NLR and PLR ratios were calculated from the CBC parameters.

Results: Thirty-seven patients were enrolled; the sex ratio M/F was 2.1. The mean age was 52.46±14.22 years. The mean age at disease onset was 31.42±14.69 years. Axial and peripheral involvement were noted in 21 and 31 cases, respectively. Rheumatoid factor, ACPA and ANA were positive in 41.32±14.69 years. Axial and peripheral involvement were noted in 21 and 37 patients (P<0.01). s-PD-1 levels were elevated in patients who had active synovitis (P<0.01). The mean DAPSA score was 10.28±5.39 in G II. Plasma levels of sPD-1 were 465.64±251.16, 786.44±153.96, and 198.73±73.36 in the three groups respectively with significant increase in G I & GII than controls (P<0.01). s-PD-1 levels were elevated in patients who had active synovitis than clinical, laboratory, radiological characteristics and disease activity.

Conclusion: Plasma levels of sPD-1 were elevated in PsA patients and correlated with disease severity and activity. s-PD-1 might be good predictor of PsO and PsA disease activity, a new biomarker or target for immunomodulatory therapy.

REFERENCES:
Background: Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) is associated with obesity and its related metabolic abnormalities. The role of diet as an adjunct therapy in PsA remains unclear.

Objectives: We aimed to describe the prevalence of cardiometabolic abnormalities and adherence with healthy eating recommendations among patients participating in the DIPSA study and assess their association with measures of disease activity.

Methods: DIPSA is a randomized controlled trial (NCT04180904) that aims to compare the efficacy of Mediterranean diet and DASH-low caloric diet vs. standard of care as adjunct therapy in patients with PsA who are overweight or obese (BMI>25). Study participants must have Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA) score >10 and be on stable therapy. Baseline information on the first 32 patients enrolled in the study (out of expected 90 patients) was analyzed. The presence of cardiometabolic abnormalities was assessed based on medical history, physical examination and laboratory tests. All participants completed a 24-h dietary recall of foods/beverages consumed during 3 separate weekdays. Healthy Eating Index (HEI) 2015, a diet quality score which evaluates adherence to dietary guidelines for Americans, was calculated. The score includes 13 food components (9 components encouraged, 4 to limit) with a range of 0 (low) to 5 or 10 (high). We describe the baseline cardiometabolic abnormalities and adherence with healthy diet scores and assess their correlation with PsA disease activity measures.

Results: The mean age of study participants was 53.3 years (71.9% females). The mean DAPSA, tender and swollen joint counts were 23.6, 6.8 and 11, respectively. A significant proportion of the patients had obesity (71.9%) and related metabolic abnormalities such as dyslipidemia (41.9%), hypertension (37.5%) metabolic syndrome (46.9%). Mean HEI-2015 was 59.3 with higher adherence scores (HEI-2015>50; 25%Q1) found in females than males (91% vs. 57%, p<0.05). No differences in HEI-2015 scores were found between age and level of education groups. Of the individual HEI-2015 food groups, the lowest adherence scores were found for whole grain and total sodium consumption (Table 1). Significant correlation was found between lower added sugar and both lower fatigue and lower PSAID scores (Figure 1), and correlation between greater whole fruit consumption and lower swollen joint count. Additionally, a correlation was found between the unsaturated than saturated fatty acids and both lower fatigue and lower PSAID scores (Figure 1).

Conclusion: High prevalence of metabolic abnormalities was found in patients with PsA starting a diet intervention study. Adherence with healthy diet eating recommendations at baseline was higher in female patients and individual foods, particularly sugar and whole fruit consumption, were associated with PsA measures of disease activity. The DIPSA study will determine the role of dietary interventions as adjunct therapy in PsA.

Table 1. Summary of adherence with healthy eating recommendations by Healthy Eating Index (HEI) 2015 and its individual components (N=29); Mean±SD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEI-2015 total score (0-100)</th>
<th>59.3±11.4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total vegetable score (0-5)</td>
<td>4.2±1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total greens and bean score (0-5)</td>
<td>3.4±1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total fruit score (0-5)</td>
<td>2.7±2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total whole fruit score (0-5)</td>
<td>2.9±2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total whole grain score (0-10)</td>
<td>2.9±2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total dairy score (0-10)</td>
<td>5.5±2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total protein score (0-10)</td>
<td>4.7±0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total seafood &amp; plant protein score (0-5)</td>
<td>3.5±0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total fatty acid score (0-10)</td>
<td>5.6±3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 total sodium score (0-10)</td>
<td>3.1±2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 refined grains score (0-10)</td>
<td>6.8±3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 saturated fatty acids score (0-10)</td>
<td>5.5±3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI-2015 added sugars score (0-10)</td>
<td>8.6±2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calculation of HEI-2015 was based on an average of self-administered dietary recalls from 3 separate weekdays (ASA24). HEI-2015 total score ranges from 0 (low) to 100 (high). Each individual component ranges from 0 (low) to 5 or 10 (high).

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: L. Eder Consultant of: Abbvie, UCB, Pfizer, Janssen, Novartis, Eli Lilly, Sandoz, Fresenius Kabi, Charlene Compher: None declared, Helen Emandoilidis: None declared, Ryan Quinn: None declared, Dafna D Gladman Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Gilead, Novartis, Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb(BMS), Galapagos, UCB Pharma, Celgene, Vinod Chandran Consultant of: Abbvie, BMS, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: Abbvie grants, Employee of: Spouse is employee of AstraZeneca, Jose Scher Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen Inc., Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/ research support from: Janssen, Pfizer, Alexis Ogdie Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen Inc., Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, CorEvitas, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Happily Health, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen Inc, Harvard Pilgrim, Novartis, and Pfizer, Royalties to husband from Novartis.

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AB1157

HIGH PREVALENCE OF UNDIAGNOSED PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AMONG PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS: ALGERIAN MULTICENTER SCREENING SURVEY USING PURE4 QUESTIONNAIRE AND CASPAR CRITERIA.

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Epidemiology

A. Djebbari, A. Abi Ayed, S. Bennedjemja, H. Merouan, S. Oulebsir, B. Abdelatif, Z. Rayhan, B. Saber, A. Noureddine, K. Ahmed, K. Rafik, B. Abderraoufi, HCA Hospital Kouba, Department of Rheumatology, Kouba Algeria, Algeria; Regional Hospital of Constantine, Department of Dermatology, Constantine, Algeria; Regional Hospital of Bechar, Department of Dermatology, Bechar, Algeria; HCA Hospital Kouba, Department of Rheumatology, Kouba Algeria, Algeria; Regional Hospital of Bidia, Department of Dermatology, Bidia, Algeria

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a polymorphic disease, in term of clinical presentation, severity and evolution. Skin lesion precedes joint damage in 84%, therefore, a multidisciplinary approach associating dermatologist and rheumatologist provide an opportunity for earlier diagnosis, more timely therapy and prevention of disability.

Objectives: To provide Algerian epidemiological data on the Prevalence of undiagnosed PsA among psoriasis patients in dermatology practice. This multicenter screening survey is conduct in order to reduce diagnostic delay and prevent progressive joint involvement and disabilities.

Methods: Between 2019 and 2022, a multicenter cross-sectional trial conducted in four Dermatology Clinics in Algeria (Algiers, Bida, Bechar and Constantine); had recruited patients presenting with plaque psoriasis and no prior rheumatologist-confirmed PsA diagnosis. Patients were screened using the Psoriatic Arthritis Uncluttered screening Evaluation (PURE4) questionnaire and were referred to a rheumatologist for assessment of PsA using classification for psoriatic arthritis criteria CASPAR if they had a PURE4 score > 1. Psoriasis characteristics:
Body surface area, psoriasis types, area, severity index, and psoriasis disability index tools were used for assessing psoriasis patients.

**Results:** The study included 212 patients with psoriasis: 64% were male and 36% female. Their median age was 48.12 ±11.74. Referring to the type of psoriasis, 72% presented with plaque psoriasis, 16% guttata 6% pustular and 24% with psoriasis of more than one type. Nail disease appeared in 24% and scalp disease in 26%. VAS-F was applied to all 212 psoriasis patients; among them n = 53 (25% of all tested patients) had a score ≥1. The sequential application of PURE4 and CASPAR criteria found a prevalence of undiagnosed PsA of 20.28% [95% CI: 9, 23.5]. The PPV of PURE 4 in this setting is 49.23% [95% CI: 39, 67]. Of these patients, 44% of patients with PsA had psoriatic nail disease and scalp involvement seen in 37%. With reference to the PsA type, 30% patients presented with polyarthritis, 44% with oligoarthritis, 39% with enthésitises, dactylitis in 23% and 13% with axial arthritis. The subgroup of patients with PsA had significantly higher rates of obesity (42%) compared to non-PsA. Patients with severe psoriasis (P = 0.001), nail and scalp involvement (P = 0.003) with chronic plaque psoriasis (P = 0.001) associated with obesity (P = 0.0001) were identified as independent positive predictors of PsA.

**Conclusion:** Screening for PsA in Algerian patients with psoriasis revealed a significant number of undiagnosed cases (20.28%) that should be treated early. Severe psoriasis nail and scalp involvement, and obesity are factors predicting the PsA development.

**REFERENCES:**


3. Ana Urruticoechea-Araña and al. Psoriatic arthritis screening: A systematic literature review and experts’ recommendations Plos 2021


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1797

**AB1158**

**FATIGUE IN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS IS ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY BUT NOT IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Comorbidities, Patient reported outcomes

**Methods:** A cross-sectional analysis was performed in 105 patients (May – December 2022). Fatigue was assessed using 3 instruments: the fatigue sub-scale of the Short-form 36 survey (fatigue-SF36), the Visual analogue scale of fatigue (VAS), and the Functional Assessment of chronic illness. The Total Treatment Fatigue Index (FACT-T). T-test was used to compare mean fatigue between PsA and AS patients. To determine in each patient group the relationship between fatigue (assessed by FACT-T) and the other variables (DAPSA or ASDAS), CRP, ESR, Hemoglobin, HAQ, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HAD) and Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) a Spearman correlation was performed. A value of p <0.05 was accepted as statistically significant.

**Results:** A total of 105 patients were included, 55 (52.4%) PsA patients and 50 (47.6%) AS patients. We found that mean fatigue (using 3 instruments) had not significant differences in patients with PsA and AS (Table 1). In patients with PsA and AS, fatigue correlated to HAD, HAQ and pain, but not with CRP, ESR and hemoglobin (Table 2). In AS patients, high disease activity (assess by ASDAS) correlated with high levels of fatigue (lower levels on FACT-F). However, in patients with PsA, fatigue and disease activity (DAPSA) were not related.

**Conclusion:** In PsA and AS patients, fatigue seems to be related to subjective but not with objective (analytical) variables. In patients with AS, fatigue was related to disease activity, but in patients with PsA we found no correlation.

**REFERENCES:**


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**Table 1. Mean of fatigue in PsA and AS patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PsA Mean (SD)</th>
<th>AS Mean (SD)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FACIT-F</td>
<td>38.1 (10.3)</td>
<td>37.7 (11.4)</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS-F</td>
<td>3.8 (2.5)</td>
<td>4.29 (2.8)</td>
<td>0.396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF36-Fatigue</td>
<td>53.4 (22)</td>
<td>56.7 (21.8)</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Fatigue correlations in PsA and AS patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>AS</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disease activity</strong></td>
<td>-0.19</td>
<td>0.164</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PCR</strong></td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.947</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VSG</strong></td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.680</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hemoglobin</strong></td>
<td>-0.13</td>
<td>0.337</td>
<td>-0.15</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAQ</strong></td>
<td>-0.50</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>-0.67</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAD depression</strong></td>
<td>-0.75</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>-0.61</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAD anxiety</strong></td>
<td>-0.70</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>-0.47</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pain (BPI)</strong></td>
<td>-0.64</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>-0.71</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2248

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**AB1159**

**THE SPANISH VERSION OF THE PURE-4 QUESTIONNAIRE USE FOR PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS SCREENING AFTER 1 YEAR OF FOLLOW-UP IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis

**Methods:** A multi-national real-world study RMD Open 2020;6:e001240.

**Results:** The Psoriatic arthritis Uncluttered Screening Evaluation (PURE-4), culturally adapted to Spanish language following the standardized methodology.

**Background:** The Psoriatic arthritis Uncluttered screening Evaluation (PURE-4), culturally adapted to Spanish language following the standardized methodology.

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**AB1160**

**PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS**

**keywords:** Comorbidities, Patient reported outcomes

**Methods:** The study included 212 patients with psoriasis: 64% were male and 36% female. Their median age was 48.12 ±11.74. Referring to the type of psoriasis, 72% presented with plaque psoriasis, 16% guttata 6% pustular and 24% with psoriasis of more than one type. Nail disease appeared in 24% and scalp disease in 26%. VAS-F was applied to all 212 psoriasis patients; among them n = 53 (25% of all tested patients) had a score ≥1. The sequential application of PURE4 and CASPAR criteria found a prevalence of undiagnosed PsA of 20.28% [95% CI: 9, 23.5]. The PPV of PURE 4 in this setting is 49.23% [95% CI: 39, 67]. Of these patients, 44% of patients with PsA had psoriatic nail disease and scalp involvement seen in 37%. With reference to the PsA type, 30% patients presented with polyarthritis, 44% with oligoarthritis, 39% with enthésitises, dactylitis in 23% and 13% with axial arthritis. The subgroup of patients with PsA had significantly higher rates of obesity (42%) compared to non-PsA. Patients with severe psoriasis (P = 0.001), nail and scalp involvement (P = 0.003) with chronic plaque psoriasis (P = 0.001) associated with obesity (P = 0.0001) were identified as independent positive predictors of PsA.

**Conclusion:** Screening for PsA in Algerian patients with psoriasis revealed a significant number of undiagnosed cases (20.28%) that should be treated early. Severe psoriasis nail and scalp involvement, and obesity are factors predicting the PsA development.

**REFERENCES:**


3. Ana Urruticoechea-Araña and al. Psoriatic arthritis screening: A systematic literature review and experts’ recommendations Plos 2021


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1797
was recommended by experts due to the reduced number of items,[2] its high sensitivity/specificity and the feasibility to implement in clinical practice. **Objectives:** To confirm the presence/absence of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) according to the rheumatologist criteria in patients (pts) with psoriasis (Ps) 1 year after having answered the PURE-4 questionnaire in the dermatology consultation. **Methods:** Cross-sectional, observational, multicenter study conducted with primary data collection under conditions of routine clinical practice in Spain. Adult pts (≥18 years old) with Ps diagnosis that voluntarily accepted to participate. Two cross-sectional evaluations. Assessment I allowed to validate the Spanish version of the PURE-4 questionnaire and its results were previously communicated.[3] Data from assessment II (pts without PsA in assessment I were evaluated by the rheumatologist 1 year ±2 months later and performed the PsA diagnostic confirmation according to her/his criteria and collected clinical characteristics) are presented here. **Results:** 288 pts were included in assessment I. 223 (82.3%) of them without a PsA diagnosis. 219 pts were evaluable in assessment II, as they go to the second visit to rheumatologist: 56.2% male, with a mean (SD) age of 46.8 (12.5) years, a mean (SD) time from PsO diagnosis of 18.7 (12.8) years. Mean (SD) PURE-4 score was 2.4 (1.1) for pts with PsA and 1.2 (1.2) for pts without PsA diagnosis. Among pts who did assessment II, PsA diagnosis was confirmed in 12 (5.5%) pts. Area under the receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curve was 0.7618 (95% CI: 0.6530, 0.8706) (n=217), confirming the good quality of the questionnaire (Figure 1). Using the Youden index, it was identified a score ≥2 indicative of a possible early presence of PsA, same as in assessment I. PURE-4 questionnaire showed a sensitivity of 75.0% and a specificity of 62.9%. In 63.6% of the cases, the PURE-4 questionnaire classified pts in the same way as the rheumatologist, with a negative predictive value of 97.7%. **Conclusion:** Assessment II findings together with the assessment I results, demonstrate the good PsA screening properties of the PURE-4 questionnaire, starting with a ≥2 score, differing from the original questionnaire (≥1).[4] Questions of the PURE-4 questionnaire referring to dactylitis, both buttocks pain and peripheral joint pain with swelling (before age 50) were the most “discriminative” of PsA. The study reinforce the recommendation to assess annually, or ideally every 6 months, the possible PsA presence,[5] as early PsA identification thanks to simple tools such as PURE-4 could help to prevent irreversible joint damage of this disease. **REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** Rubén Queiró Silva Grant/research support from: received honoraria as part of the scientific committee of the PURE-4 study. Isabel Belinchón Speakers bureau: consultant and/or speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials sponsored by companies that manufacture drugs used for the treatment of psoriasis, including Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc, Almirall SA, Lilly, Abbvie, Novartis, Celgene, Biogen, Amgen, Leo-Pharma, Pfizer-Wyeth, BMS, UCB and MSD. Consultant of: consultant and/or speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials sponsored by companies that manufacture drugs used for the treatment of psoriasis, including Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc, Almirall SA, Lilly, Abbvie, Novartis, Celgene, Biogen, Amgen, Leo-Pharma, Pfizer-Wyeth, BMS, UCB and MSD. Grant/research support from: consultant and/or speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials sponsored by companies that manufacture drugs used for the treatment of psoriasis, including Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc, Almirall SA, Lilly, Abbvie, Novartis, Celgene, Biogen, Amgen, Leo-Pharma, Pfizer-Wyeth, BMS, UCB and MSD. Consultant of: consultant and/or speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials sponsored by companies that manufacture drugs used for the treatment of psoriasis, including Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc, Almirall SA, Lilly, Abbvie, Novartis, Celgene, Biogen, Amgen, Leo-Pharma, Pfizer-Wyeth, BMS, UCB and MSD. Consultant of: consultant and/or speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials sponsored by companies that manufacture drugs used for the treatment of psoriasis, including Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc, Almirall SA, Lilly, Abbvie, Novartis, Celgene, Biogen, Amgen, Leo-Pharma, Pfizer-Wyeth, BMS, UCB and MSD. Consultant of: consultant and/or speaker for and/or participated in clinical trials sponsored by companies that manufacture drugs used for the treatment of psoriasis, including Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc, Almirall SA, Lilly, Abbvie, Novartis, Celgene, Biogen, Amgen, (2023) 10.1136/janrheumdis-2023-eular.3472

**Acknowledgements:** The authors thank IOVIA and Carmen Barrull and Marco Pinel for providing medical editorial assistance with this presentation.

**Figure 1.** Area under the ROC curve (assessment II): AUC, area under the curve; Se, sensitivity; Sp, specificity.

**DOI:** 10.1136/janrheumdis-2023-eular.3472

[Figure 1](#): Area under the ROC curve (assessment II): AUC, area under the curve; Se, sensitivity; Sp, specificity.
AB1160

SOFT TISSUE EDEMA VISUALIZED ON MUSCULOSKELETAL ULTRASOUND AS A DIAGNOSTIC TEST FOR PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A PILOT COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Ultrasound, Rheumatoid arthritis

T. Swami1, S. Acikgoz1, U. Gazel1, C. Ivory1, R. Chowdhury1, A. Zahravi1, S. Aydin1,2, E. Hepworth1. 1University of Ottawa, Rheumatology, Ottawa, Canada; 2University of Ottawa, Ottawa Health Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada

Background: Musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSKUS) is more sensitive than physical examination to detect inflammation in extra-articular structures in psoriatic arthritis (PsA).[1] Peritendinous soft tissue edema on MSKUS has shown to be more frequent in PsA when compared to rheumatoid arthritis (RA).[1,2,3]

Objectives: Here we assess the degree of association between the presence of flexor compartment (FC) soft tissue edema and the diagnosis of PsA with the aim of developing a soft tissue score to differentiate PsA from rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: This pilot prospective cohort study included 16 PsA and 40 RA patients from the Biologics Clinic at a single centre site in Ottawa. Patients are referred to the biologics clinic if they require initiation of, or changes to biologic disease modifying antirheumatic drug (bDMARD). In addition to demographic and clinical data, eight MSKUS images were collected from each patient including one Grayscale (GS) and one power Doppler (PD) image of the FC of the 2nd and 3rd bilateral digits using a GE Logic E9 and a 7.5 MHz transducer. Images were scored on a 0–2 semiquantitative scale to assess the degree of soft tissue edema, where 0 indicates absent, 1 indicates mild, and 2 indicates severe GS or PD. Following data collection, scoring was completed by two investigators blinded to the patients’ diagnosis and in random order. Consent decision was taken as the final score.

Results: Disease characteristics are provided in Table 1. On MSKUS, PsA patients had a statistically significant higher total GS score compared to RA (7.0 vs 5.0, p=0.005). We found that numerically higher number of PsA patients had PD score of 2 in ≥3 fingers (20.0% PsA vs 2.5% RA, p=0.057) and GS score of 2 in ≥3 fingers (43.8% PsA and 22.5% RA, p=0.189). Table 1

Table: Patient demographics and disease characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PsA patients</th>
<th>RA patients</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>40±13.3</td>
<td>50±15.3</td>
<td>0.033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 (37.5%)</td>
<td>11 (57.5%)</td>
<td>0.527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of time since diagnosis, median [IQR]</td>
<td>4.5 (3.2)</td>
<td>14.3 (21.3)</td>
<td>0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid current</td>
<td>3 (18.8%)</td>
<td>13 (62.5%)</td>
<td>0.150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently using cDMARDs</td>
<td>10 (62.5%)</td>
<td>27 (72.2%)</td>
<td>0.721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous bDMARD</td>
<td>4 (73.8%)</td>
<td>20 (59%)</td>
<td>0.672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIC-66, median [IQR]</td>
<td>6 (7.5)</td>
<td>8 (6)</td>
<td>0.554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC-28, median [IQR]</td>
<td>13 (9.3)</td>
<td>8.5 (13.3)</td>
<td>0.253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCP positive</td>
<td>2 (8.7)</td>
<td>21 (35.3%)</td>
<td>0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT positive</td>
<td>2 (16.3%)</td>
<td>28 (271.6%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distal DIP current</td>
<td>2 (16.3%)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, median [IQR]</td>
<td>31.9 (12.0)</td>
<td>25.9 (7.4)</td>
<td>0.042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total GS score*, median [IQR]</td>
<td>7.0 (3.0)</td>
<td>5.0 (2.0)</td>
<td>0.001*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Total PD Score*, median [IQR] | 4.0 (3.0) | 3.0 (2.0) | 0.213*
| PD score =2 in four fingers* | 1.6 (3.5) | 0.0 (0.0) | 0.273|
| GS score =2 in four fingers* | 5 (13.3%) | 5 (12.5%) | 0.129|
| PD score =2 in ≥3 fingers* | 5 (10.0%) | 1 (2.5%) | 0.067|
| GS score =2 in ≥3 fingers* | 3 (4.83) | 0 (0.0) | 0.189

Conclusion: Our results suggest a possible role for FC soft tissue edema visualized on MSKUS in both GS and PD modes to differentiate PsA from RA. It is also important to understand the impact of soft tissue edema on disease pathogenesis and patient reported outcomes. While our sample size is small, some of the tests reaching reaching statistical significance using non-parametric testing encourages us to repeat this analysis again in the future as our cohort grows. When our sample size allows, we will assess for confounding effect of seropositivity, sex, age, BMI, previous therapy, and disease duration.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3807

AB1161

RACIAL AND GENDER - BASED DIFFERENCES IN THE PREVALENCE OF METABOLIC COMORBIDITIES AMONG PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Gender/diversity issues, Comorbidities, Psoriatic arthritis

C. R. Ng1, 1Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Muar, Malaysia

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory arthritis that develops in at least 5% of patients with psoriasis. It affects women and men equally. Obesity, diabetes, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia always affect PsA patients.

Objectives: To study the gender and race effect on the prevalence of metabolic comorbidities among PsA patients in Malaysia.

Methods: This is a retrospective study. The medical records of all PsA patients under rheumatology clinic Hospital Sultan Ismail and Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah follow up from 1/1/2009 to 31/12/2022 were reviewed. Data on demography, type of skin disease, joint manifestations and past medical history were obtained and analysed using Chi Square test in SPSS.

Results: We identified 226 patients. 110 were male patients (male to female ratio 0.95). The Malays (128/226) were the majority followed by the Chinese (38/226) and others (3/226). Most of them were plaque psoriasis (181/226). The comon joint involvement was peripheral joint (174/226), followed by axial (25/226) and both (27/226). The prevalence of metabolic comorbidities according to gender (male vs female) were: [48/110, 44% vs 57/116, 49%; p =0.407] for hypertension, [35/110, 32% vs 37/116, 32%; p=0.990] for diabetes mellitus, [63/110, 57% vs 65/116, 56%; p= 0.861] for dyslipidemia. There was no association between gender and hypertension, diabetes mellitus and dyslipidemia. The prevalence of metabolic comorbidities according to races (Malay vs non Malay) were:[58/128, 45% vs 47/98, 48%; p=0.693] for hypertension, [40/128, 31% vs 32/98, 33%; p=0.822] for diabetes mellitus, [75/128, 58% vs 53/98, 54%; p= 0.498] for dyslipidemia. There was no association between ethnicity and metabolic comorbidities.

Conclusion: There was no difference in the prevalence of hypertension, diabetes mellitus and dyslipidemia between the gender and races in our patient cohort. References: NA.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1358

AB1162

COMPARISON OF SERUM CXCL13 LEVELS BETWEEN PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Cytokines and chemokines, Psoriatic arthritis

D. Yildirim1, I. Vasi1, M. Baykut2, M. Guengüld3, Y. Edekeit, H. Kucuk1, H. Karadeniz1, E. Adisen1, A. Erden1, A. Tufan1, B. Goker1, K. Nas4, M. A. Ozturk1. 1Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 2Sakarya University Education and Research Hospital, Internal Medicine,
Background: Psoriasis is a chronic, autoimmune disease with predominantly skin and joint involvement. Factors leading to the progression of psoriasis to psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is still a mystery in spite of an increasing number of in vivo and in vitro studies. CXCL-13, a B cell chemokine, studied and emphasized in lymphoid pathways, immune responses and pathogenesis of many rheumatologic diseases [1-2]. Moreover, this chemokine is associated with systemic involvement of rheumatic diseases such as lupus nephritis [3].

Objectives: The aim of the study was to evaluate serum CXCL-13 levels in patients with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and compare with healthy controls. Methods: 54 patients with psoriasis and 47 patients with psoriatic arthritis and 19 controls were enrolled to the study. Blood samples from study participants were collected and serum CXCL-13 levels were analysed with ELISA method via Human BLC(CXCL 13) kit (BT Lab, Shangai, China).

Results: Age, body mass index and serum PASI scores were similar between two patient groups; but higher when compared to controls (Table 1). Median levels of CXCL-13 levels were significantly higher in patients with psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis when compared to control group (p= 0,001, Figure 1). But serum CXCL-13 levels were similar between psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis groups (p=0,251). Also levels of C reactive protein and sedimentation were increased in patients and serum CXCL-13 in psoriasis and associated with disease severity [6]. We conclude that serum levels of CXCL-13 is associated with psoriasis, but not related with articular involvement.

REFERENCES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psoriasis</th>
<th>Psoriatic arthritis</th>
<th>Healthy control</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (median (IQR)years)</td>
<td>42.5(24)</td>
<td>44(21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (female/male)</td>
<td>25/28</td>
<td>32/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Body mass index (kg/m², median(min-max))</td>
<td>27.3(21.2-46.6)</td>
<td>28.6(19.3-48.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of disease(median(min-max), years)</td>
<td>12(3.5)</td>
<td>14(3.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAS-28</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3.32(0.6)</td>
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<td>PASI</td>
<td>2.10(4.4)</td>
<td>1.2(0.8-8.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>score(median(min-max))</td>
<td>4(1-24)</td>
<td>3(2-50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP(mg/L, median(min-max))</td>
<td>12(2-47)</td>
<td>13(3-95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedimentation(median(min-max),mm/hour)</td>
<td>234,55(223,63)</td>
<td>378,5(167,40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CXCL-13 levels(pq/mL, median(min-max))</td>
<td>IQR: inter quartile range, DAS-28: Disease activity score 28, PASI: Psoriasis activity and severity index, CRP: C reactive protein, min-max: minimum-maximum levels</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2017

AB1163 INVESTIGATION OF SELECTED AUTOANTIBODIES IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH COMORBIDITIES

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Autoantibodies, Comorbidities

A. K. Inderthal1, A. Knothe1, K. Frommer1, C. Heck1, M. Arnold1, J. Tarnier2, W. Hermann1, C. F. Meneses Villalba1, U. Müller-Ladner1, R. Hasseli1,2, E. Neumann1, Kerckhoff-Klinik, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bad Nauheim, Germany; 1Münster University Hospital, Internal Medicine D, Section of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Münster, Germany

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory joint disease. It can result in severe joint destruction and cardiac or pulmonary involvement. So far, no specific autoantibodies have been identified that would simplify the diagnosis of PsA. HLA-B27 positivity is only detectable in 20% of PsA patients. It still takes several years until a diagnosis is established, which is crucial for the treatment. In addition, the disease is associated with a higher body mass index (BMI) and cardiovascular risk.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to identify possible PsA-associated autoantibodies which might enable earlier diagnosis, and to investigate possible associations of these selected autoantibodies with specific comorbidities.

Methods: Both, PsA patients and healthy individuals without known autoimmune disease were included in the study. Sociodemographic data (age, sex, BMI, waist circumference), current disease activity, current rheumatological therapy, cardiovascular diseases and fatigue were investigated. HLA-B27 status was determined and a radiological evaluation of PsA-typical changes in the hands and feet was performed. Serologically, antibodies against ADAMTS-L5, LL37, calpastatin and gliadin were investigated by ELISA.

Results: A total of 107 PsA patients (60% female) and 19 healthy controls (HC) were included. Median age of PsA patients was 59 years (21-80 years), 28% were HLA-B27 positive. Median BMI was 28kg/m² (19-48kg/m²). Cardiovascular disease was present in 65% of patients, which included the following conditions: arterial hypertension, atherosclerosis, heart failure, coronary heart disease (CHD) and myocardial infarction. Antibodies to LL37 were present in 47% of patients compared to 30% of healthy individuals. Antibodies to ADAMTS-L5 were detectable in 47% of patients and 35% of healthy individuals. Calpastatin antibodies were present in 23% of patients and 11% of healthy individuals and against gliadin in 3% of patients and 5% of healthy individuals. In patients with antibodies against LL37, antibodies against ADAMTS-L5 could also be detected in most cases (<0.001). In patients with a treatment duration of <5 years more frequently antibodies against calpastatin were detectable compared to those with longer treatment duration (p<0.05).

Conclusion: In summary, none of the antibodies investigated were found to be significantly elevated in PsA-patients compared to HC. However, in the group of patients with a treatment duration <5 years, autoantibodies against calpastatin were detected more frequently. This could suggest that this autoantibody might play a role in the early phase of PsA and immunomodulatory treatment might diminish autoantibody levels.
REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Ann-Katrin Indertthal Grant/research support from: Pfizer Pharma GmbH, Anna Knothe Grant/research support from: Pfizer Pharma GmbH, Klaus Frommer: None declared, Corinna Heck: None declared, Mona Arnold: None declared, Ingo Tarner: None declared, Walter Hermann: None declared, Carlos Francisco Meneses Villaiba: None declared, Ulf Müller-Ladner: None declared, Rebecca Hasseli: None declared, Elena Neumann: None declared.

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AB1164

PSAQQ (PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS QUALITY OF LIFE) QUESTIONNAIRE: TRANSLATION, CULTURAL ADAPTATION AND VALIDATION INTO ARABIC LANGUAGE

Keywords: Quality of life, Psoriatic arthritis

R. Tekaya1, L. Rouached1, H. Hajji1, A. Ben Tekaya1, M. Jones2, W. Hamdi3, S. Nabli3, L. Metoui1, S. Bouden1, O. Saidane1, I. Mahmoud1, L. Abdelmoula1, Charles Nicolle Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia; Charles Nicolle Hospital, Dermatology, Tunis, Tunisia; Kassab Institute, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia; Department, Monastir, Tunisia; Military Hospital of Tunis, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a multifaceted inflammatory disease that has a strong negative impact on the quality of life of patients. The Psoriatic Arthritis Quality of Life (PsAQoL) questionnaire was the first disease-specific patient derived instrument developed to measure the quality of life in patients with PsA.

Objectives: Our objective was to translate the PsAQOL into Arabic language and evaluate its reliability and validity in patients with PsA.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study including patients with PsA. A clinical and biological assessment of the patients was performed at inclusion. Translation of the original PsAQoL into Arabic was performed by professional bilingual and lay panel. Eight patients were interviewed to assess face and content validity. A separate sample of PsA patients (n=30) were invited to participate in a test-retest postal study in order to investigate reproducibility and construct validity. One week separated the two administrations. The Arabic version of Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) was used as comparator instruments for concurrent validity.

Results: Face and content validity were satisfactory. The Arabic version of the PsAQoL was found to be relevant, understandable and easy to complete in only a few minutes. One item was excluded (item 16). It showed having no correlation with neither the other 19 items nor the total score of PsAQoL. The Arabic PsAQoL had excellent internal consistency (Cronbach’s α=0.926), and test-retest reliability (r=0.982). There was a positive correlation between the total score of the PsAQoL and the Arabic version of HAQ (Spearman’s r=0.838, p<10^-3). Exploratory factor analysis had extracted two factors explaining 55% of the total variance.

Conclusion: Nineteen items were selected to compose the Arabic version of PsAQoL which was found to be relevant, understandable and has excellent reliability and construct validity. The new measure will be a valuable new tool for use in routine for patients’ assessment.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1165

ULTRASOUND AS A TOOL FOR EARLY DETECTION OF JUXTAARTICULAR NEW BONE FORMATION IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND THE ASSOCIATION OF SELECTED BIOMARKERS WITH NEW BONE FORMATION

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Autoantibodies, Ultrasound

A. Knothe1, K. G. Hermann2, K. Frommer1, A. K. Indertthal1, C. Heck1, M. Arnold1, I. Tarner1, W. Hermann1, C. F. Meneses Villaiba1, E. Neumann1, U. Müller-Ladner1, R. Hasseli2, Kerchhoff-Klinik, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bad Nauheim, Germany; Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Radiology, Berlin, Germany; Münster University Hospital, Section of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Münster, Germany

Background: We aimed to investigate whether the presence of NBF and specific autoantibodies could facilitate an earlier diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis.

Methods: Patients fulfilling the CASPAR criteria (Classification Criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis) for PsA were included in the study. X-ray examinations of the hands and feet were performed. Antibody levels of calpastatin, LL37, gliadin, and ADAMTS5 (Thrombospondin type-1 domain-containing protein 6) were determined by serum ELISA.

Results: Seventy-six patients (51% female) compared to 20 healthy controls (70% female) were included. The median age was 57 years (23-98) and the median disease duration was 10 years (1-54). HLA-B27 were positive in every fourth individual. By X-ray, NBFs were detectable in 55% (n=42) of the patients. In the ultrasound examination, these NBFs were also detectable (Figure 1). In addition, in 18 patients, signs of NBF were detectable due to the increased resolution of the ultrasound examination. Regarding the selected autoantibodies, none of the selected antibodies were associated with the presence of PsA or with PsA related NBFs.

Conclusion: In this study, NBFs were detectable radiographically as well as in the ultrasound examination. As ultrasonography is ubiquitously available in rheumatological offices and represents a gentle examination procedure for the patient, repeated X-ray examinations might be avoided, and regular ultrasound investigations might facilitate an earlier detection of PsA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared, Ingo Tarner: None declared, Walter Hermann: None declared, Carlos Francisco Meneses Villaiba: None declared, Ulf Müller-Ladner: None declared, Rebecca Hasseli Grant/research support from: Pfizer Pharma GmbH, Mona Arnold: None declared, Elena Neumann: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3429

AB1166

RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL TO ANALYSE THE EFFECT OF BLOOD FLOW RESTRICTION TRAINING IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL RESISTANCE TRAINING – AN INTERIM ANALYSIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Psoriatic arthritis, Non-pharmacological interventions

C. J. Bauer1, M. Sturhahn1, C. Behning2, S. Petzinna1, P. Brosart1, P. Preuss1, V. Schäfer1, University Hospital Bonn, Clinic of Internal Medicine III, Department of Oncology, Haematology, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Bonn, Germany; University Hospital Bonn, Department of Medical Biometry, Informatics and Epidemiology, Bonn, Germany; University Bonn, University Sports Division, Bonn, Germany

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) are the two most common forms of arthritis with a prevalence of 1% and 0.5% in Europe. Physical activity exerts a major influence on disease activity, symptoms, quality of life, and increased cardiovascular risk [1,2]. In contrast to conventional strength training, Kaatsu blood flow restriction (BFR) training, which was initially developed in Japan as a rehabilitation measure, incorporates pneumatic cuffs...
applied to the extremities, which are recurrently inflated with a defined pressure. The inherent blood flow modification promises a less weight-intensive and thus joint-protective strength training, while still preserving sufficient muscular hypertrophy stimulus [5].

**Objectives:** Ours is the first study in the world to compare the effect of Kaatsu blood flow restriction training to conventional resistance training in RA and PsA patients.

**Methods:** In this pilot study (ethical approval under Institutional Review Board #217/20), 40 RA and 40 PsA patients are individually randomized to one of three groups: Kaatsu-BFR training (20 patients each), conventional resistance training (“CRT” 10 patients each), or the non-exercise group (10 patients each). Training is performed twice weekly over a 12-week period. Standardized recording of disease activity (via FFBB-H, IPAQ, and DAS 28 or PSAID12, plus clinical examination and CRP), myokine levels, sonographic muscle diameter measurements, bioimpedance analysis and clinical characteristics is performed.

**Results:** The interim analysis of 9 BFR vs. 4 CRT patients with rheumatoid arthritis showed comparable CRP reduction (mean ± SD: BFR: -1.08 mg/L ± 1.33, CRT: -0.89 mg/L ± 1.94) and reduction in the number of painful joints (mean ± SD: BFR: -0.78 ± 2.44, CRT: -0.76 ± 1.71) during the training period. BFR group results surpassed CRT group results in terms of weight loss (mean ± SD: BFR: -2.9 kg ± 3.6, CRT: -1.9 kg ± 3.1) and body fat mass reduction (mean ± SD: BFR: -2.8 kg ± 3.3, CRT: -0.3 kg ± 2.5). The interim analysis of 4 BFR vs. 4 CRT patients with psoriatic arthritis showed a comparable PSAID reduction (mean ± SD: BFR: -1.33, CRT: -0.89 mg/L ± 1.94) and reduction in the number of painful joints (mean ± SD: BFR: -0.78 ± 2.44, CRT: -0.76 ± 1.71) during the training period. CRT group results surpassed BFR results in terms of weight loss (mean ± SD: CRT: -0.76 ± 1.71) and body fat mass reduction (mean ± SD: CRT: -0.3 kg ± 2.5). The inherent blood flow modification promises a less weight-intensive and thus joint-protective strength training, while still preserving sufficient muscular hypertrophy stimulus [5].

**Background:** Obesity is a condition characterized by a chronic state of low-grade inflammation due to increased cytokine production in visceral adipose tissue [1]. Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) are both autoimmune diseases that share comorbidities such as a high prevalence of obesity, a comorbidity that leads to a lower response to treatment with biologic drugs such as Anti-TNFs [2]. PsA has a higher prevalence of abdominal obesity to RA according to some recent studies [3]. Current research has shown that excess adiposity contributes to the development of cutaneous psoriasis in some patients and suggests that obesity may also be a key factor in the transition from cutaneous psoriasis to arthritis [4]; however, it has not been proven the etiological role of obesity in RA [5].

**Objectives:** To evaluate the waist circumference (WC) and the prevalence of obesity using the Body Mass Index (BMI) in a sample patients from the same hospital with a diagnosis of RA and PsA and to analyze the differences between both diseases.

**Methods:** It has been carried out an observational, retrospective, single center study. The population included in the study were patients from rheumatology clinic with a diagnosis of RA and PsA who were being treated with biological treatment. The variables analyzed were: age, sex, height (m), body mass (Kg) and WC (cm). The anthropometric variables were measured in the rheumatology nursing clinic. An anthropometric tape was used to measure the WC, taking the height of the navel as a reference in the patients. The BMI was calculated and the World Health Organization classification was used to categorize the patients. A descriptive analysis of the variables analyzed in the study was performed, including the mean and standard deviation (SD) of the continuous quantitative variables (BMI and WC). A one-factor ANOVA was performed to analyze the differences in the variables age, BMI, and WC between RA and PsA patients. Statistical significance was set at p<0.05.

**Results:** In this study a total of 245 RA and 122 PsA patients were included. The WC and BMI data of only 207 patients (121 with RA and 86 with PsA) were completed. The patients with PSA showed higher values of WC, observing significant differences with the patients with RA (103.66±15.05 cm vs 99.38±14.90 cm, p=0.04). However both patients with PS and with RA showed WC measurements above the recommended values (74.41% vs 74.38%). Regarding BMI, patients with PSA had a higher mean BMI (31.29±6.37 cm vs 28.85±5.84 cm, p=0.043) than patients with RA.

**Conclusion:** In the present study, patients with PSA showed statistical differences and had higher values of WC and BMI compared to patients with RA, coinciding with recent studies. More studies are necessary to characterize obesity in patients with RA and PSA and treat it adequately.

**REFERENCES:**

**AB1167**

**PREVALENCE OF OBESEITY AND EVALUATION OF THE WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IN A HOSPITAL.**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Comorbidities, Rheumatoid arthritis

**AB1168**

**AXIAL INVOLVEMENT IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: WHAT PARTICULARITIES?**

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Enthesitis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)
Logistic regression analysis identified that patients with axial involvement were more likely to have a longer duration of evolution (OR = 3.5) and elevated CRP (OR = 4.9).

Conclusion: Axial involvement in our study was present in 86% of the patients and was associated with a long duration of evolution and a statistically significant higher average CRP.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographic, some clinical and laboratory characteristics as well as structural characteristics of patients with axial spondyloarthritis with and without psoriasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group 1 (43 patients)</th>
<th>Group 2 (614 patients)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>r-axSpA, n(%)</td>
<td>34 (79.1)</td>
<td>397 (64.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age, year, (mean ±SD)</td>
<td>44.8 (12.4)</td>
<td>39.6 (11.5)</td>
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<td>Male sex, n(%)</td>
<td>30 (69.8)</td>
<td>381 (61.2)</td>
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<td>Disease duration, (mean ±SD)</td>
<td>16.3 (14.4)</td>
<td>12.1 (10.0)</td>
<td>0.098</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoking, ever, n(%)</td>
<td>15/20 (75)</td>
<td>232/332 (70)</td>
<td>0.627</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASAS family history, n(%)</td>
<td>20/36 (55.6)</td>
<td>134/547 (25.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
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<td>HLA-B27, n(%)</td>
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<td>Peripheral arthritis, n(%)</td>
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<td>Heel pain, n(%)</td>
<td>17/38 (44.7)</td>
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<td>0.683</td>
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<td>Hip involvement, n(%)</td>
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<td>0.300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uveitis, n(%)</td>
<td>5/38 (13.2)</td>
<td>70/567 (12.3)</td>
<td>0.983</td>
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<td>Dactylitis, n(%)</td>
<td>3/38 (7.7)</td>
<td>13/567 (2.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IBD history, n(%)</td>
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Logistic regression analysis identified that patients with axial involvement were more likely to have a longer duration of evolution (OR = 3.5) and elevated CRP (OR = 4.9).

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<tr>
<td>Age, year, (mean ±SD)</td>
<td>44.8 (12.4)</td>
<td>39.6 (11.5)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex, n(%)</td>
<td>30 (69.8)</td>
<td>381 (61.2)</td>
<td>0.323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, (mean ±SD)</td>
<td>16.3 (14.4)</td>
<td>12.1 (10.0)</td>
<td>0.098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking, ever, n(%)</td>
<td>15/20 (75)</td>
<td>232/332 (70)</td>
<td>0.627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAS family history, n(%)</td>
<td>20/36 (55.6)</td>
<td>134/547 (25.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27, n(%)</td>
<td>17/38 (44.7)</td>
<td>282/491 (57.4)</td>
<td>0.777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral arthritis, n(%)</td>
<td>17/38 (44.7)</td>
<td>192/558 (34.4)</td>
<td>0.197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heel pain, n(%)</td>
<td>17/38 (44.7)</td>
<td>250/519 (48.2)</td>
<td>0.683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip involvement, n(%)</td>
<td>8/38 (21.1)</td>
<td>75/507 (14.8)</td>
<td>0.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis, n(%)</td>
<td>5/38 (13.2)</td>
<td>70/567 (12.3)</td>
<td>0.983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylitis, n(%)</td>
<td>3/38 (7.7)</td>
<td>13/567 (2.3)</td>
<td>0.077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD history, n(%)</td>
<td>1/38 (2.7)</td>
<td>11/567 (2.0)</td>
<td>0.628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crohn</td>
<td>1/38 (2.7)</td>
<td>12/567 (2.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Logistic regression analysis identified that patients with axial involvement were more likely to have a longer duration of evolution (OR = 3.5) and elevated CRP (OR = 4.9).

Conclusion: Axial involvement in our study was present in 86% of the patients and was associated with a long duration of evolution and a statistically significant higher average CRP.

REFERENCES:
AB1170  
**TRANSCUTANEOUS VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION AS A PAIN MODULATOR IN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis

G. G. Elshehawy1, M. E. Ibrahim1, N. A. Monem1, M. Hefny1, N. Elshaarawy1.  
1Suez Canal University, Physical Medicine, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Ismailia, Egypt

**Background:** We no longer consider Osteoarthritis (OA) as a degenerative disease, but rather as a multifactorial disorder in which low grade, chronic inflammation has a central role. In addition, evidence points to the presence of both peripheral and central nervous system sensitization as sources of pain in OA. Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation (tVNS) has shown efficacy on pain, inflammation and central sensitization in other conditions such as fibromyalgia, pelvic pain, and headaches and therefore we hypothesized that tVNS could be an additional line of management for knee OA.

**Objectives:** To assess the efficacy and safety of tVNS on nociceptive pain, central sensitization, neuropathic pain, depression, anxiety, and physical function in individuals with knee OA.

**Methods:** Afferents of the auricular branch of vagus nerve were stimulated using an auricular electrode connected to a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) device. We conducted 30 minutes session once a day for 3 days per week for 12 weeks. Sixty-eight patients with chronic knee OA were allocated randomly into active and sham group (34 patients in each group). The outcome measures included visual analog scale (VAS), pressure pain threshold (PPT), PainDETECT and Douleur Neuropathique 4 (DN4) questionnaires, hospital anxiety and depression scale (HADS), and knee injury and osteoarthritis outcome score (KOOS). These outcome measures were assessed at baseline, at the end of the stimulation period then after 4 weeks later.

**Results:** There was a significant improvement in VAS for pain score in the active tVNS group between the baseline and first follow-up visit, and between the baseline and second follow-up visit (P < 0.001). The median VAS improvement was 4.0 (3.0 – 5.0) in active group versus 1.0 (1.0 – 2.0) in sham group (p < 0.001). PPT in right knee, left knee and right elbow was significantly improved compared to baseline in active tVNS and maintained till 4-weeks post-intervention. On the other hand, in the sham group tVNS, right knee PPT was improved but not maintained. PainDETECT and DN4 questionnaires were statistically improved in active tVNS (p < 0.001). In contrast, DN4 questionnaire showed no improvement at all and PainDETECT showed improvement that was not maintained at the end of follow up in sham group. A statistically significant improvement in HADS immediately post intervention in active and sham tVNS (p < 0.001), this improvement was maintained only in the active group 4-weeks after intervention. Regarding functional outcomes, the improvement in KOOS was significant in the active group only (31.44 ± 18.49, p > 0.001). No serious adverse events were reported in both study groups.

**Conclusion:** This study provides preliminary evidence for the beneficial effects of tVNS in OA and raises the possibility of using neuromodulation as an add-on treatment to existing pharmacological and non-pharmacological measures.


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1115

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AB1172  
**SHINS MUSCLE DYSFUNCTION IN FEMALE PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Pain, Osteoarthritis

L. Shvets1, V. Novosoletsky2, I. Shapoval1, L. Perebetiuk1, V. Khomenko1, M. Stanislavchuk1.  
1National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsya, Internal Medicine #1, Vinnytsya, Ukraine; 2Communal nonprofit enterprise “Vinnytsya Regional Clinical Hospital named after N. I. Pirogov Vinnytsya Regional Council”, Regional Centre of Nephrology and Dialysis, Vinnytsya, Ukraine

**Background:** Knee osteoarthritis (OA) is a chronic disease known as a common source of pain and disability globally. OA is among the top 10 causes of physical disability in the elderly population. Loss of muscle mass and lower extremity muscle dysfunction are independently associated with progression of OA and reduction in health status.

**Objectives:** The investigation was aimed at studying the condition of flexor/extensor shin muscles in patients with knee OA, serum leptin concentrations and analyze correlations between them by statistical methods.

**Methods:** The study involved 71 patients with knee OA and 32 persons from the control group. There was measured the isometric strength of the flexor/extensor shin muscles and measured leptin serum levels. Muscle strength was measured by using an isokinetic device, approved by a state enterprise “Ukrainian Intellectual Property Institute” (patent #81950). All patients were performed common clinical investigations (complaints, medical history, physical examination data) laboratory, instrumental (knee joint X-ray) examinations, and statistical analysis methods were used.

**Results:** It was established that the age of OA patients included in the study ranged from 30 to 76 years and averaged 57.60 ± 11.69 years, and 32 % of the examined patients had had the history disease from 6 to 10 years, and 90.4 % of them suffered from excessive body weight or obesity of a certain degree. The study of maximal isometric force of flexor/extensor muscles of both shins revealed a significant reduction in the muscle strength in OA patients compared...
with the individuals from the control group. Thus, apparently healthy individuals had the strength of shin flexor muscles (min-max) within 9.6 – 16.9 kg, while the extensor muscles showed 12.6 – 22.5 kg. The OA patients had the strength of both shin muscle groups (the ratio of the total power to 12.1 kg for the flexor group, and 3.3 – 20.3 kg for extensor muscles. At the same time, like in the control group, the strength of the extensor muscles appeared to be higher than the one of the flexors. The calculated total muscle strength (the sum of the flexor and extensor muscle strength of both limbs) in OA patients was 31.97 ± 9.2 kg, whereas in the apparently healthy persons it was 58.65 ± 6.59 kg (p < 0.001). The calculated specific muscle strength (the ratio of the total muscle strength to OA patients’ blood strength (r = 0.05, p > 0.05), however, an inverse correlation between the specific force muscle and lepton concentration (r = -0.2, p = 0.09) was found. Instead, in the control group a statistically unreliable direct correlation between the total muscle strength and lepton level (r = 0.12, p > 0.05), and the inverse statistically significant association between the specific strength and the lepton concentration (r = -0.412, p < 0.05) were revealed. Such an inverse correlation undeniably suggests that the negative effect of lepton on the condition of muscle tissue and the blood elevation thereof is associated with a decrease in muscle strength. At the same time, a significantly lower coefficient of correlation between lepton concentrations and the specific strength of patients’ muscles indicates that, in addition to lepton, the disease itself (OA) makes a significant contribution to the reduction of muscle strength.

Conclusion: Understanding the role of the flexor/extensor shin muscles dysfunc-
tion in the pathogenesis of knee OA may help to improve further management approaches.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5986

### Table 1. Baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Control</th>
<th>PB</th>
<th>P value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>60 ± 9</td>
<td>59 ± 10</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>31 (94)</td>
<td>32 (94)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>26.6 ± 4</td>
<td>28 ± 5</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month Family income &lt; 900 US$</td>
<td>14 (42)</td>
<td>21 (61)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-L = 2</td>
<td>24 (72)</td>
<td>26 (76)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.27 ± 0.19</td>
<td>0.56 ± 0.9</td>
<td>0.123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

67 patients were randomized to PB or control treatment; data are mean (SD) or NS.

### AB1174 BODY COMPOSITION IN POSTMENOPAUSAL WOMEN WITH CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

Keywords: Pain, Osteoarthritis

N. Grigorisava1, N. Zaverukha1, A. Musienko1, M. Bystrytska1, D. F Chebotarev2; 1Institute of Gerontology, NAMS of Ukraine, Clinical Physiology&Pathology of Locomotor Apparatus, Kyiv, Ukraine

Background: Among all the known risk factors, obesity is one of the important risk factors for the incidence and prevalence of osteoarthritis (OA). However, body mass index (BMI), which reflects the severity of obesity, measures only height and weight with no consideration of other obesity-related characteristics, such as fat distribution or deposition. The features of fat deposition and distribu-
tion may serve as better indices of the metabolic activity of adipose tissue and can have an important influence on the pain and disability of patients with OA.

Objectives: The study aimed to assess the body composition indices in post-
menopausal women with chronic knee pain and its association with pain severity.

Methods: In the single-center study 230 females aged 50-89 years were examined and divided into groups depending on the intensity of chronic (>3 months) knee pain. Knee pain was assessed using the visual analog scale (VAS). Group I consisted of females with mild (VAS < 4 cm) pain (n = 87), group II - subjects with moderate (VAS more than 4, but less than 6 cm) pain (n = 111), and group III - women with severe (VAS ≥ 6 cm) pain (n = 33). The body composition (body weight (BW), height, body mass index (BMI), fat mass (FM), lean mass, appendicular lean mass (ALM) and appendicular lean mass index (ALMI, ALM/height), fat content (fat mass/BW), and ALM/BW were assessed by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (Lunar, Prodigy). Sarcopenia was deter-
dined according to ALM (< 15 kg) or ALMI (< 6 kg/m2), obesity - as BMI > 30 kg/m2, sarcopenic obesity as a combination of high-fat mass/BW (> 40 %) and low ALM/BW (> 23.47 % for females younger than 65 years old and < 19.4 % for females 65 years and older).

Results: All three groups did not significantly differ in age (F = 2.5, p > 0.05), age of menopause (F = 0.6, p > 0.05), and its duration (F = 0.4, p > 0.05). Women of different groups did not differ in height, however, BW was higher in group III than in groups II and I (84.6 ± 13.8 vs. 77.9 ± 13.9 and 73.0 ± 12.1 kg, F = 9.6, p < 0.0001), as BMI (30.6 ± 5.5 vs. 34.2±6.4, and 30.9±4.9 kg/m2, F = 13.3, p < 0.00001). The females with chronic severe knee pain had higher ALM (P < 0.00001), ALMI (P < 0.00001), and FM/BW (P < 0.05) compared to the women with mild knee pain. The frequency of obesity was 36.8 % in women with mild pain, 52.2 % of subjects in group II and significantly higher among females with severe pain - 63.6 % (F = 4.5, p < 0.05 in comparison with group I). Sarcopenic obesity was registered in 18.4, 279, and 36.4 % of females of the I, II, and III groups, respectively. It was significantly more frequent among women with severe than mild pain (χ² = 4.3, p < 0.04). However, sarcopenia was found in 13.8 % of women in group I, 14.4 % of subjects of group II and 6% of group III according to ALM as well as in 11.5, 10.8, and 6 %, respectively according to ALMI without significant differences.

Conclusion: Women with severe chronic knee pain have significantly higher BW, BMI, ALM, and fat mass than females with mild pain. Despite the absence of differences in sarcopenia frequency, the subjects with severe knee pain have not only an increased frequency of obesity but also high sarcopenic obesity.

REFERENCES:
AB1175

IS DISTAL ENTEHESIS OF EXTENSOR DIGITUMOR TENDON A SPECIFIC ULTRASOUND FEATURE OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS?

Keywords: Ultrasound, Osteoarthritis, Psoriatic arthritis

S. Bouri1, H. Boussa13, S. Miladi1, A. Faza1, M. Yasmine1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, A. Lasta1,1 Mongi Slim Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Distal interphalangeal (DIP) joints are commonly affected in both hand osteoarthritis (OA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA). However, enthesitis is well known to be a hallmark of spondyloarthritis including PsA.

Objectives: Our study aimed to assess distal enthesitis of extensor digitorum tenon in PsA and hand OA using ultrasonography (US).

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including two groups: Group 1 included patients with hand OA fulfilling American College of Rheumatology criteria and Group 2 included patients with PsA according to CASPAR criteria. All patients underwent a physical examination followed by an US exam. US was performed in all DIP joints. For each joint, the following abnormalities were assessed: synovial thickening, osteophyte, enthesitis, and power Doppler signal (PDS). A quantitative score (0/1) was used for each lesion. Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated.

Results: We examined 160 DIP joints in 20 PsA patients (13 women and 7 men), with a mean age of 55.5 ± 12.1 years [33–77]. We also examined 80 DIP joints in 10 patients with hand OA (9 women and one man), with a mean age was 66.1 years [46–78]. The mean duration of hand OA and PsA symptoms were 4.3 ± 7 years. The number of enthesitis was significantly higher in the PsA group (p=0.01) versus PsA (p=0.02).

Conclusion: Our study showed that distal enthesitis of extensor digitorum tendon was suggestive of PsA whereas osteophytes were exclusively observed in hand OA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1176

DIAGNOSTIC YIELD OF CT-GUIDED BIOPSY IN SUSPECTED INFECTIOUS SPONDYLODICTIS

Keywords: Imaging, Osteoarthritis

G. Mouna1, D. Khalilah1, H. Saghn1, R. Fakhfakh1, N. El Amri1, K. Baccouche1, E. Bouajina1,1 Hospital Farhat Hached, Rheumatology, Sousse, Tunisia

Background: Infectious spondylodiscitis is a serious and morbid disease. It is often suspected after magnetic resonance (MR) imaging of the spine. Suspected spondylodiscitis requires further workup, in which computed tomography (CT)-guided needle biopsy plays a crucial role.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to examine the yield of CT-guided biopsy in patients with suspected infectious spondylodiscitis, and to identify factors associated with successful pathogen isolation.

Methods: This is a retrospective study involving infectious spondylodiscitis from January 2010 to December 2021. All patients were identified with clinically and radiologically suspected infectious spondylodiscitis who underwent CT-guided biopsy of the vertebral lesion. Patient characteristics and clinical details were evaluated. Parameters were compared in patients with positive and negative microbiological and histologic results.

Results: A total of 42 patients (23 men, 19 women) were enrolled. The range was 55.8 years (SD ± 16.7). The mean duration of symptoms was 60.2 days (SD ± 52.7). The final diagnosis was tuberculosis spondylodiscitis in 15 patients (23.8%), brucellosis spondylodiscitis in 12 patients (28.6%) and mycotic spondylodiscitis in 15 patients (47.6%). CT-guided biopsy has a diagnostic yield of 44.8% (13/42). Biopsy was contributory in identifying 8/13 patients (58%) with tuberculous spondylodiscitis, and 5/13 patients (42%) with mycotic spondylodiscitis. Histological examination was the most sensitive diagnostic modality. The factors associated with successful microbe isolation were duration of symptoms (p=0.01) and not exposed to pre-biopsy antibiotics (p=0.02).

Conclusion: The CT-guided biopsy, as a diagnostic procedure for infectious spondylodiscitis, has a reasonably high diagnostic yield in this disease. A higher yield was identified in patients who has long duration of symptoms and not exposed to pre-biopsy antibiotics.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5891

AB1177

SPINAL EPIDURAL ABSCESS ASSOCIATED WITH INFECTIOUS SPONDYLODICTIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis

G. Mouna1, D. Khalilah1, H. Saghn1, R. Fakhfakh1, N. El Amri1, K. Baccouche1, E. Bouajina1,1 Hospital Farhat Hached, Rheumatology, Sousse, Tunisia

Background: Infectious spondylodiscitis and spinal epidural abscess (SEA) are relatively rare conditions that is rising in incidence. SEA is a challenging entity associated with high morbidity and mortality. That's why early diagnosis is critical in this disease.

Objectives: We aimed to describe the clinical characteristics and outcomes of patients with spinal epidural abscess associated with infectious spondylodiscitis (SEA).

Methods: We conducted a retrospective study from June 2010 to December 2022. We included 42 patients with clinically and radiologically suspected infectious spondylodiscitis. Patient characteristics and outcomes were retrospectively reviewed.

Results: We enrolled 42 patients (23 men, 19 women) with infectious spondylodiscitis. The mean age was 572 years (SD ± 15.7). Twenty-nine patients (72.5%) had SEA. All patients showed varying degrees of focal spinal pain. Fever occurred in 16 patients. Ten patients (34.7%) exhibited neurological deficits. Furthermore, 20 patients (69%) had lumbar spine, 6 cases (20.7%) had thoracic spine, and 3 cases (10.3%) had cervical spine. Abscess locations was Anterior in 14 cases (48.3%), posterior in 5 cases (17.2%), and Circumferential in 10 cases (34.5%). Among 11 SEA patients, 12 cases (41.4%) had infection caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, 8 case had infection caused by brucellosis, 5 cases had infection caused by Staphylococcus aureus, one case had infection caused by Staphylococcus coagulase negative, one case had infection caused by Escherichia coli, one case had infection caused by candida albicans, and one case caused by Enterococcus faecalis. All patients underwent conservative treatment, two of which improved symptoms. Five cases undergo surgical treatment, one of which showed improved symptoms, 4 cases had left limb motor and sensitive dysfunction.

Conclusion: SEA is rare and is often difficult to diagnose in the early stage. Early diagnosis, followed by specific therapy is necessary to improve the prognosis of this disease.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5997

AB1178

THE COMPARISON OF PRP ALONE, SUPERVISED EXERCISE ALONE, AND PRP COMBINED WITH SUPERVISED EXERCISE IN MANAGEMENT OF KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Clinical trials, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Osteoarthritis

S. Karabulut Aruğ1, D. Celic1, O. Ergin2, O. Kilicoglu3, 1Istanbul University- Cerrahpasa, Faculty of Health Science, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Koc University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Istanbul, Turkey
Background: Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) has sparked widespread interest as a regenerative adjunct therapy, and it is increasingly being used to treat knee osteoarthritis (OA). There is a scarcity of reports on the characterization of injected products, as well as a scarcity of exercise protocols following PRP injections, despite the rising number of studies in the present PRP literature.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to compare the efficacy of PRP with a supervised exercise program and reveal if the combination of the two treatments is effective in the management of knee OA.

Methods: This is a randomized, single-blinded, prospective, three-arm clinical trial. The PRP group received three weekly injections of fresh, leukocyte-poor PRP. The exercise group followed a structured and supervised exercise regimen for six weeks. These therapies were given in conjunction with the third group. The primary outcome was the change in overall average knee pain scores (on an 11-point numeric pain rating scale, with higher scores indicating worse pain) over a 24-week time period. The secondary outcomes were changes on the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC), durations of the functional performance tests, and health-related quality of life. For statistical analysis, the mixed model with repeated measurements (ANOVA) was performed.

Results: A total of eight-hundred four patients with mild to moderate knee osteoarthritis were randomly allocated to three groups. There was a significant group-by-time interaction for overall knee pain (p<0.001). Pain reduction from baseline to 24 weeks was greater in PRP&Exercise group (Δ -5.40, 95%CIs -5.28 to -4.39). There were significant group-by-time interactions on the WOMAC total score, durations of the functional performance tests, and physical component of SF-12 (p<0.012). Exercise group and PRP&Exercise group had statistically greater impact than PRP alone, with large to very large effect sizes in terms of pain, self-reported function and functional performance tests (p<0.012, wp2>0.14).

Conclusion: PRP demonstrated short-term efficacy comparable to exercise or a combination of PRP and exercise; however, when compared to the other groups, it demonstrated a negative tendency in terms of long-term clinical improvements. PRP alone is not as effective as supervised exercise; however, if a patient has difficulties maintaining exercise programs for any reason, PRP can be offered as an alternative option.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.283

Figure 1. KIMRISS grid region labels with 8-reader mean ICC from baseline knee MRIs from the Osteoarthritis Initiative dataset (n=61).
Knee osteoarthritis is the most common joint disorder and is associated with functional disability and pain. Total knee arthroplasty (TKA) is considered as an effective treatment for patients with end-stage knee osteoarthritis. The overall aim of this study was to investigate the change over time of knee strength and functional outcomes before and after bilateral total knee arthroplasty.

**Objectives:**
- The overall aim of this study was to investigate the change over time of knee strength and functional outcomes before and after bilateral total knee arthroplasty.
- The study aimed to investigate the effect of TKA on various functional outcomes in patients with knee osteoarthritis.

**Methods:**
- Retrospective cohort data of 308 patients who underwent primary bilateral TKA were analyzed.
- Outcome measures were assessed 3 times, preoperatively and at 6 weeks and 3 months after surgery.
- The study included patients with a minimum of 5-year follow-up.

**Results:**
- The knee flexion and extension range of motion (ROM) was measured.
- The knee extensor strength and ROM, and SCT of ascending were assessed.
- The overall improvement in functional outcomes was observed.

**Conclusion:**
- The study demonstrated that TKA surpassed most of their physical functions in the 3 months before surgery.
- The recovery of performance-based physical function did not return to baseline immediately after surgery.

**Keywords:**
- Osteoarthritis, Rehabilitation

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

**Abbreviations:**
- BMI: Body Mass Index
- K-L: Kellgren-Lawrence
- ASA PS: American Society of Anesthesiologists Physical Status

**Acknowledgements:**
- N.I.

**Table 1.** 8-reader mean (SD) BML score at each KIMRISS grid region (colour coded according to ICC in Fig 1.)

**Table 2.** Demographic and Disease-Related Characteristics of the Subjects (N=308)

**Table 3.** 8-reader mean (SD) BML score at each KIMRISS grid region (colour coded according to ICC in Fig 1.)

**References:**

**AB1151**

**INTRAMUSCULAR METHYPRENSILONE ADMINISTRATION IN HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS PATIENTS: A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO INFORM A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL**

**Keywords:**
- Osteoarthritis

**Objectives:**
- The aim of this study was to evaluate the feasibility of treatment with intramuscular (IM) methylprednisolone (MP) in hand OA by both healthcare providers (HCPs) and hand OA patients, and to observe the response to a single IM MP injection in patients with symptomatic hand OA.

**Methods:**
- We adopted a mixed methods design. Firstly, in a qualitative study we examined the acceptability of intramuscular MP using questionnaires with open-ended questions for all healthcare providers of the Rheumatology Department of the Sint Maartenskliniek and a semi-structured interview for an a-selective group of patients with clinically diagnosed hand OA not previously treated with MP.

**Background:**
- Inflammation is thought to play an important role in hand osteoarthritis (HOA), which is further associated with pain and increased limitation of hand function [1,2]. Therapeutic options in HOA are scarce [3].

**Results:**
- The study was twofold: to explore the feasibility of treatment with intramuscular (IM) methylprednisolone (MP) in hand OA by both healthcare providers (HCPs) and hand OA patients, and to observe the response to a single IM MP injection in patients with symptomatic hand OA.

**Methods:**
- We adopted a mixed methods design. Firstly, in a qualitative study we examined the acceptability of intramuscular MP using questionnaires with open-ended questions for all healthcare providers of the Rheumatology Department of the Sint Maartenskliniek and a semi-structured interview for an a-selective group of patients with clinically diagnosed hand OA not previously treated with MP. Second, in a prospective observational study the course of symptoms was examined in patients with hand OA who received an intramuscular MP injection as part of routine care.

**References:**
Conclusion: We found a high acceptability of intramuscular MP treatment for hand OA and our findings suggest that methylprednisolone may reduce pain and improve hand function as quick as 4 weeks after administration, with a persisting effect of almost 3 months. This suggests that it might be a valid long-term therapeutic option in these patients.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2031

AB1182

EFFECTIVENESS OF FATIGUE INTERVENTIONS IN OSTEOARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Systematic review

H. Fawole1, O. Osadiaye1, O. Idowu2, O. Akinkolu3, M. Ibekaku4, M. Ojo5, A. Oyeyemi1, J. Riskowski1, A. University of Benin, Physiotherapy, Benin City, Nigeria, 2Redeemer’s University, Physiotherapy, Ede, Nigeria, 3University of Manitoba, Applied Health Sciences, Winnipeg, Canada, 4University of Nigeria, Medical Rehabilitation, Enugu, Nigeria, 5Guy’s and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust, Physiotherapy, London, United Kingdom; “Arizona State University, Health Solutions, Phoenix, United States of America; ” Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Correctional Services, Baltimore, United States of America

Background: Pain and physical function are common factors targeted for osteoarthritis (OA) management. However, fatigue has been reported as an important component of OA experience and a significant concern for people with OA (Power et al., 2008). Despite this, fatigue has received very little attention. However, with increasing interests in fatigue, it is evident that fatigue be considered a top priority in clinical practice (Overman et al., 2016). Thus, there is dire need for evidence-based fatigue interventions in OA given the paucity of evidence in this area.

Objectives: To identify fatigue interventions and determine the effectiveness of the interventions in reducing fatigue immediately and over time in OA.

Methods: A review protocol was developed and registered with the PROSPERO database, with the ID CRD42020163730. Studies included comprised peer-reviewed randomized controlled trials (RCTs) that examined the effects of any intervention in the management of fatigue or vitality outcomes in people with upper limb and lower limb OA. Studies that used spiritual, pharmacological or surgical interventions to manage fatigue in patients with upper limb and lower limb OA were excluded. The Cochrane Collaboration’s tool for assessing the risk of bias (ROB) was used assess the quality of evidence for the included RCTs. Narrative synthesis was used to summarise the identified fatigue interventions while only studies on exercise interventions were used in the meta-analysis.

Results: Out of 2,586 studies identified from database search, 31 RCTs’ studies were included after screening for titles, abstracts and full texts. Of the 31 included RCTs, only nine studies were included in the meta-analysis comparing the effects of exercise versus non-exercise interventions on fatigue. From the ROB assessment, 11 RCTs were of low ROB whilst 11 had moderate and 9 high ROB respectively. The narrative synthesis identified 12 interventions for fatigue and these include activity pacing, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), yoga, exercise, acupuncture, moxibustion, pain-coping skills, BEMER therapy, modified shoes, massage/atherotherapy, education and thermotherapy. Exercise interventions included strengthening, balance, kinesthesia, and mobilization, hand-based, stretching, aquatic danced-based and web-based exercises. Activity pacing (mean difference [MD]=0.8; standard deviation [SD]=0.3), CBT (MD=3.42; [SD]=1.85), moxibustion (vitality: MD=2.61; [standard error]=1.69) had statistically significant reductive immediate effect on fatigue. The meta-analysis pooled results showed that exercise interventions on fatigue in OA was not statistically significant both immediately (SMD=-0.10; 95% CI -0.74, 0.54; I²=94%) and overtime (SMD=-0.79; 95% CI -2.30, 0.73; I²=98%), although the effects was in favour of exercise interventions relative to other comparison non-exercise interventions.

Conclusion: Activity pacing, CBT and moxibustion interventions showed beneficial effects on fatigue in OA immediately. Cumulatively, the pooled effect of exercise on fatigue was not statistically significantly immediately and overtime but the effect was in favour of the exercise interventions relative to other control interventions. However, there is currently insufficient evidence regarding the effectiveness of majority of identified fatigue interventions in this review. Further, the findings of the meta-analysis may have been affected by high level of heterogeneity. Largely populated RCTs with low ROB are needed to ascertain the effectiveness of fatigue interventions in OA population.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4605

AB1183

NEUROPATHIC PAIN IN PRIMARY KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Pain

A. Mourad1, S. Belouaham1, I. El Bouchti1. 1Arrazi Hospital, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Marrakech, Mohammed VI University Hospital, Marrakech, Morocco., Department of Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco

Background: Pain is a major symptom in primary knee osteoarthritis. The mechanisms of this pain are heterogeneous explaining the variable response to different treatments. The presence of a neuropathic pain (NP) may be associated with a different phenotype disease.

Objectives: The present study was conducted to identify the frequency of NP in patients with painful primary knee osteoarthritis, and to investigate its correlation with socio-demographic factors, anthropometric and postural features, physical function, quality of life, and disease severity.

Methods: The study included 200 patients with primary osteoarthritis of the knee who did not have co-morbid disorders and/or were taking drugs that may cause neuropathy. NP was assessed by both Douleur Neuropathique 4 questions (DN4) and painDETECT questionnaires.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 59.15 ± 7.62 years. The majority were women (87.5%). The mean of the body mass index was 24.72± 4.84 kg/ m². The mean of the quadriceps perimeter was 48.28± 4.14 cm. The mean of the waist circumference was 93.04± 11.43 cm. The mean of the total Womac score was 53.61± 4.93. NP was detected in 55.6% of patients according to DN4 questionnaire and in 53.6% according to painDETECT questionnaire. DN4 score was positively correlated with VAS (VAS analogue Scale)-pain at rest (r=0.188; P=0.009), VAS pain on movement (r=0.173; P=0.0017), Womac pain score (r=0.157; P=0.030), Womac stiffness score (r=0.253; P=0.000),
Physical function WOMAC score (rs=0.271; p=0.000), total WOMAC score (rs=0.305; p=0.000) and Lequesne index (rs=0.221; p=0.002), and it was negatively correlated with perimeter quadriceps (rs=−0.210; p=0.006), while painDETECT score was positively correlated with VAS pain on movement (rs=0.250; p=0.002), WOMAC stiffness score (rs=0.147; p=0.043), WOMAC physical function score (rs=0.172; p=0.017), and total WOMAC score (rs=0.182; p=0.012). The risk factors of NP retained according to DN4 score were longer symptom duration (p=0.030) and a reduced quadriceps perimeter, whereas painDETECT score was associated with high VAS pain on movement (p=0.022).

Conclusion: NP is common in primary knee osteoarthritis. The presence of NP is associated with more painful pathology and extreme disability.

REFERENCES:

AB1184 ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND FIBROMYALGIA: SIMILAR PREVALENCE IN OSTEOARTHRITIS AS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Osteoarthritis, Fibromyalgia

J. Schmukler1, A. M. Malfait1, J. Block1, T. Pincus1. 1Rush University Medical Center, Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Chicago, United States of America

Background: Non-articular comorbidities, including anxiety (ANX), depression (DEP) and fibromyalgia (FM), are common in patients with rheumatic diseases. Their presence may impact measures of disease activity and responses to treatment. The burden of ANX, DEP and FM has been described in many reports concerning patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but far less information is available concerning these comorbidities in patients with osteoarthritis (OA). It is feasible to screen for these comorbidities in all patients seen in routine care using a multidimensional health assessment questionnaire (MDHAQ)[1,2], completed by patients in 5-10 minutes before seeing the rheumatologist, which includes screening indices for ANX, DEP, and FM.

Objectives: To analyze the prevalence of positive screening for ANX, DEP, and/or FM in patients with OA compared to RA in routine care at an academic rheumatology center.

Methods: All patients seen for routine rheumatology care are asked to complete an MDHAQ, which includes 0-3 physical function and ANX and DEP scales in the patient friendly HAQ format, three 0-10 visual numeric scales (VNS) for pain, fatigue and global status, self-report 0-54 RAPID3 painful joint count, 60-symptom checklist review of systems (ROS) including ANX and DEP; medical history questionnaire, and 4 indices: RAPID3 (routine assessment of patient index data to assess patient status in all diseases studied), MDHAQ ANX screen (MAS2), MDHAQ DEP screen (MDS2)[1], and fibromyalgia assessment screening tool (FAST4) [2]. MAS2 and MDS2 are positive for ANX or DEP if 0-3 ANX or DEP response is ≥2 OR positive ANX or DEP on the symptom checklist. FAST4 is positive if ≥4: pain VNS ≥4/10, fatigue VNS ≥3/10, self-report painful joint count ≥16/54, and/ or symptom checklist ≥16/60. Patients were classified as OA or RA according to primary ICD 10 diagnosis. An MDHAQ database was used to compute retrospectively medians and interquartile ranges (IQR).

Results: The study included 366 OA and 488 RA patients seen between 2013 and 2022. Patients were mostly female and OA patients were slightly older (Table 1). RAPID3 was similar in RA and OA patients. Positive screening for ANX was seen in 28.4% of OA and 21.9% of RA patients (p=0.04, Table 1), for FM in 20.4% of OA and 20% of RA patients (p=0.05).

Conclusion: Positive ANX, DEP, and FM screening is seen in >20% of routine care patients with primary diagnoses of OA or RA, at similar levels in OA and RA. Although definitive diagnosis requires a physician, MAS2, MDS2, and FAST4 agree more than 80% with reference standards which are highly associated with positive diagnoses. The results underscore a need for rheumatologists to aware of these comorbidities, easily screened for using an MDHAQ.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Positive anxiety, depression and fibromyalgia screening in routine care OA and RA patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rheumatoid Arthritis</th>
<th>Osteoarthritis</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>366</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPID3 median (IQR)</td>
<td>(13.2)</td>
<td>(10.1)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANX screening for anxiety</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>(21.9%)</td>
<td>(28.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS screening for anxiety</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>(18.0%)</td>
<td>(21.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAST4 ≥3 screening for fibromyalgia</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
<td>(20.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Chi square test for comparison of proportions, Mood’s median test for comparison of RAPID3

Acknowledgements.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5206

AB1185 POLYACRYLAMIDE HYDROGEL FOR THE TREATMENT OF KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS: 3 YEAR FOLLOW UP RESULTS OF A PROSPECTIVE CLINICAL STUDY

Keywords: Osteoarthritis

H. Bliddal1, J. Beier2, A. Hartkopp3, P. G. Conaghan4, M. Henriksen1. 1The Parker Institute, Bispebjerg Frederiksberg Hospital, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2Rheumatology Odense, Odense, Denmark; 3A2 Rheumatology and Sports Medicine, Holte, Denmark; 4Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds & NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: Polyacrylamide hydrogel (iPAAG), manufactured by Contura International, is CE marked for the symptomatic treatment of patients with knee osteoarthritis (OA). iPAAG fulfills an unmet clinical need for an effective, long-acting and safe non-surgical treatment that may postpone knee surgery for those with OA.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy and safety of a single injection of 6 ml intra-articular iPAAG on knee symptoms in participants with moderate to severe knee OA for up to 5 years after injection.

Methods: In this prospective, multicentre study (3 sites in Denmark) participants received a single intra-articular injection of 6 ml Arthrosamid®. The initial 1-year study was extended to follow the participants for up to 5 years. The study was approved by the Danish Health authorities and the local Health Research Ethics committee. All participants provided informed consent prior to study activities and signed a new consent form to participate in the extension phase. Injections were given by an investigator experienced in administering intra-articular injections. Participants could continue analgesics (except 48 hours prior to visits) and non-pharmacological therapy, but topical (on target knee) and systemic corticosteroids or additional injections were not allowed. Outcomes included the WOMAC pain, stiffness and function subscales (0-100 score where 100 was worst) and Patient Global Assessment of disease impact (PGA). Changes from baseline in these outcomes were analysed using a mixed model for repeated measurement (MMRM) with a restricted maximum likelihood-based approach. The estimated changes based on the least square means were presented including 95% confidence limits and corresponding p-values. Additional sensitivity analyses were for the 3-year data. The MMRM analysis was repeated, but only data from the 35 participants that continued into the extension phase were included. In another analysis an ANCOVA model was used where missing values at 3 years were replaced by the participants baseline value (BOCF).

Results: 49 participants (31 females) with mean age of 70 years (range 44 – 86 years) were treated with iPAAG. 46 participants completed the 1-year assessment and 35 participants (22 females) continued into the extension phase. A site closure and the increased length of the study were the most common reasons for not continuing, 29 participants completed the 3-year follow-up.
The originally planned MMRM analysis including all available data from the 49 treated participants showed clinically relevant and statistically significant decreases from baseline to 3 years for each of the 3 WOMAC subscale scores and the PGA (Table 1).

### Table 1. Analyses of change from baseline to 3 years in transformed (0-100) WOMAC subscales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of participants</th>
<th>At baseline</th>
<th>At 3 years</th>
<th>LSMean (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC pain subscale</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned analysis</td>
<td>49 29</td>
<td>-18.0 (-24.9; -11.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension participants</td>
<td>35 29</td>
<td>-17.7 (-24.7; -10.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline carried forward</td>
<td>49 48</td>
<td>-12.1 (-17.0; -7.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC stiffness subscale</td>
<td>49 29</td>
<td>-16.4 (-22.5; -10.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC Phys. Function subscale</td>
<td>49 29</td>
<td>-14.9 (-21.4; -8.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Global Assessment</td>
<td>49 29</td>
<td>-15.0 (-27.6; -2.4)</td>
<td>0.0223</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis only using the data from the extension phase participants showed a similar change from baseline in the WOMAC pain subscale compared to the result of the planned analysis (Table 1). The BOCF analysis also showed a clinically relevant and statistically significant decrease in the WOMAC pain subscale from baseline. 74 adverse events have been reported in the study including 19 new events reported between the 2-year and 3-year visits. None of the new events were assessed as related to treatment and Covid-19 infection was the most frequently reported AE in this period. 3 of the new events were SAEs (Covid-19 infection, pre-syncope, uterine prolapse). The aim of this study was to investigate effect of body mass index (BMI) level on quadriceps muscle architectural characteristics in patients with knee OA and estimate the minimal clinically important difference (MCID) of the CEW.

### References:


### Acknowledgements:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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### AB1186

**BODY MASS INDEX EFFECTS QUADRICEPS MUSCLE ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTERISTICS IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHITIS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Osteoarthritis, Ultrasound

E. Ünüvar1, N. Cigercioglu1, H. Apaydın2, H. Guney Deniz1, 1Hacettepe University Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Ankara City Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

**Background:** Sufficient lower extremity muscle mass is necessary for performing functional tasks. It is well known that body mass index (BMI) adversely effects knee cartilage health but in knees with osteoarthritis (OA) it is still unclear how BMI level affects knee muscle architectural characteristics.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to investigate effect of body mass index (BMI) on quadriceps muscle architecture in patients with knee OA and healthy controls.

**Methods:** Nineteen patients with OA (mean age 50±4.56 years, mean BMI=26.76±4.88 kg/m²) were included in the study. Rectus Femoris (RF), Vastus Medialis (VM) and Vastus Lateralis (VL) muscles thickness and pennation angle were evaluated using B-Mode ultrasonography. Ultrasound images were analyzed offline using an image analysis software (Image J, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA). When investigating the changes in muscle architecture by group, the effect of BMI was adjusted using covariance analysis (ANCOVA) tests.

**Results:** There were no differences between age (p=0.073) and BMI (p=0.10) in both groups. Interaction between group×BMI represented in Table 1. Control group had higher RF muscle thickness, RF pennation angle, VM muscle thickness, VM pennation angle and VL muscle thickness than OA group. There was significant effect of BMI on VM and VL muscle thickness.

**Conclusion:** Patients with knee osteoarthritis has lower quadriceps muscle thickness and pennation angle than matched healthy controls and BMI was an important factor effecting muscle characteristics. The decrease in VM and VL muscle thickness were associated with increased BMI in knee OA group. These findings highlight the need of body weight control in order to restore muscle thickness in knee OA patients.

### References:


### Acknowledgements:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**AB1189**

**DYNAMICS OF PAIN SYNDROME DURING 180-DAY TREATMENT WITH UNDENATURED COLLAGEN TYPE II IN COMPARISON TO GLUCOSAMINE AND CHONDROITIN COMBINATION**

**Keywords:** Pain, Quality of Life, Osteoarthritis

D. Rekalov1, I. Golovech2, I. Danuk1, R. Kulynych1, T. Tarasenko1, I. Bryner1, I. Zaporizhzhya, Professor Rekalov Rheumatology Clinic, Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine; 2Feofaniya Clinic, Rheumatology Kyiv, Ukraine; 3Zaporizhzhya State Medical University, Internal Diseases-3, Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine; 4Dnipro, Professor Rekalov Rheumatology Clinic, Dnipro, Ukraine

**Background:** OA osteoarthritis is a heterogeneous group of diseases of different etiology with similar biological, morphological, clinical manifestations and consequences, which are based on damage to all articular structures (cartilage, subchondral bone, synovial membrane, ligaments, capsules, periarticular muscles). A key role in the pathogenesis of OA is played by an increase in the catabolic activity of various cytokines, as well as matrix metalloproteinases (MMP) of the cartilage itself.

**Objectives:** The purpose of the study was to compare the dynamics of pain syndrome (based on Western Ontario McMaster Osteoarthritis Index – WOMAC pain subscale) during 180-day treatment with undenatured collagen type II (UC-II) and glucosamine and chondroitin (G + C) combination in patients with Grade II knee OA.

**Methods:** Patients with Grade II knee OA were investigated. 20 patients were administered the UC-II during 180-day period, 20 patients took the combination of G + C during the same period. WOMAC pain subscale was used to evaluate the effectiveness and was completed before the start of therapy and after 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 90, 120, 150, 180 day of treatment. Visual analog scale (VAS) from 0 to 10 was used for assessment the WOMAC subscale by patient. In this abstract we presented the dynamics of pain during walking and nocturnal pain.

**Results:** The initial data of pain during walking and nocturnal pain in UC-II group were 6.29±0.37 and 4.35±0.59, after treatment – 2.99±0.37 (-52.46 %, p <0.05) and 1.7±0.41 (-60.92 %, p <0.05). In G + C group initial data were 7.05±0.43 and 4.65±0.69, after therapy – 3.85±0.35 (-45.39 %, p <0.05) and 2.85±0.51 (-41.24 %, p <0.05). Comparing groups demonstrated the better results according to decrease of WOMAC pain subscale in the group of UC-II: reduce of pain during walking by 28.7 % and reduce of nocturnal pain by 67.65 % (p <0.05).

**Conclusions:** The therapy of Grade II knee OA with UC-II during 180-day demonstrated the benefit in reducing of pain during walking and nocturnal pain in compare to G + C combination. The dynamics of nocturnal pain reducing in the UC-II group characterizes by gradual decline without significant fluctuations.

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.896

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**AB1188**

**BOTULINUM TOXIN TYPE A OR SELECTIVE GENICULAR PULSED RADIOFREQUENCY FOR TREATING ADVANCED KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Randomized control trial, Pain, Osteoarthritis

M. Hassanien1, E. Kameil2, R. Gamal2, N. Talaat1, T. Khedr2, A. Alawamy2.

1Assuit University, Rheumatology, Assuit, Egypt; 2Assuit University, Anesthesia, Assuit, Egypt

**Background:** Knee osteoarthritis was the most common type (6% of all adults). Developing osteoarthritis increases with age. Pain is a key symptom in the decision to seek medical care and is an important antecedent to disability.

**Objectives:** To discuss the effectiveness, indications, limitations and side effects of botulinum toxin type A and genicular nerves pulsed radiofrequency for treating osteoarthritis to help clinicians choose the most appropriate treatment.

**Methods:** Randomized double blind controlled trial study, fifty two participants were recruited divided into 2 groups as follows: Group I (Bx): 25 patients given intra-articular botulinum toxin type A 100 IU sonographically guided in patient with osteoarthritis knee according to American Collage of Rheumatology criteria and in stage 3 or 4 of the Kellgren_Lawrence classification Group II (RF): 27 patient get radiofreqency ablation of genicular nerves. The primary outcome was Visual analogue pain scale (VAS), secondary outcome was stiffness, physical function of each knee using Western Ontario and McMaster University Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC), and Calculation of Oxford knee score at base line, 4, 12 and 24 weeks.

**Results:** 16 female and 9 male in group I versus 10 female and 17 male in group II. The mean age were 54.36±7.8 years, there was significant difference in pain VAS between groups at 4th week (P value = 0.005). A significant difference in WOMAC pain at 4th and 12th weeks (P value > 0.001), WOMAC stiffness at 12th and 24th weeks (P value > 0.001), WOMAC function at 4th, 12th and 24th weeks (P value < 0.001) and WOMAC total at 4th, 12th and 24th weeks (P > 0.001). However, there were no significant difference in Oxford between the two groups.

**Conclusion:** Intra-articular Botulinum toxin type A 100 IU can reduce the overall pain and improve the function in Knee osteoarthritis with higher efficacy than Pulsed Radiofrequency. However, Further research is needed to compare the effect of botulinum toxin type A and Radiofrequency for the different stages of Osteoarthritis.

**References:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.896

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**AB1190**

**ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS REGARDING TREATMENT IN PATIENTS WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis, Patient information and education

I. Berrichi1, F. Z. Taik1, H. Fouzia1, N. Soba2, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Abouraazak1, 1Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Houceima, University Hospital Mohammed VI, Rheumatology, Tangier, Morocco; 2Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Houceima, University Hospital Mohammed VI, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco; 3Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, CHU Tangier, Tangier, Morocco

**Background:** Therapeutic decision is one of the essential procedures for coping with the disease, so adherence to treatment is one of the key elements of care, particularly in patients with degenerative musculoskeletal pathologies, in particular osteoarthritis.

**References:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.896
These attitudes can be influenced by beliefs about drugs, which will affect the care and quality of life of patients.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study is to assess beliefs about medications as well as associated factors in patients with osteoarthritis.

**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study that included any patient ≥18 years of age followed for knee osteoarthritis or digital osteoarthritis who presents to the rheumatology department. We excluded patients with psychiatric or memory disorders or who refused to participate in the study. Sociodemographic data, comorbidities, information on functional impact and treatments received were collected. A validated questionnaire: Belief on Medicine Questionnaire (BMQ) specific which allows to evaluate the beliefs of the patients related to the need and the concerns towards the drugs was used. The specific BMQ is made up of two subscales: the first includes questions related to the necessity for treatment, the second includes questions about concerns related to the prescription. Each of the sections is made up of five graduated scales from '1 (strong disagreement)' to 5 ' (strong agreement)'. The specific BMQ is therefore rendered as two scores ranging from 5 to 25 and can be expressed as a need-concern differential ranging from −20 to +20, which is an equivalent of the benefit-risk ratio perceived by the patient.

**Results:** We have included 221 patients. The average age was 59.41+-9.8, 88.7% of patients were women. 70.6% of patients were illiterate. 62.1% of patients had comorbidities. 80.5% were followed for knee osteoarthritis and 19.5% for digital osteoarthritis. The median duration of evolution was 8 [2-10] years. For the treatments, 53.8% of the patients in our study were on anti-osteoarthritis treatment, 44.7% had already received an NSAID and 11.7% had already received an injection. The mean of the BMQ-specific necessity was 16.92+-6.33 and 52% of patients strongly believed that drugs are essential to keep them healthy. The average of the BMQ-specific concerns were 14.69+-5.69. The main concerns of patients were the lack of information about the medications they were taking in 45.9% and 38% of patients were concerned about the potentially harmful consequences of their treatment. The median need-concern differential was 2 [-3 - 8] suggesting a positive risk-benefit ratio perceived by the patients. In multivariate linear regression, only functional disability is statistically significantly associated with the need-concern differential (OR=0.24, 95% CI [0.204-0.817], p=0.001).

**Conclusion:** Moroccan osteoarthritis patients have a positive perception of the benefit-risk ratio towards their treatments. Functional disability is the main factor incriminated in this perception. Therapeutic education must take more place in the management of osteoarthritis patients.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1871

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### AB1191

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH WALKING SPEED IN PATIENTS WITH END-STAGE KNEE ARTHRITIS WHO ARE SCHEDULED FOR TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY**

**Keywords:** Gastrointestinal tract

S. Yamada1, I. Ikawa1, K. Manda1, S. Maeda1, T. Hashimura1, T. Tachibana1, H. Ohashi1, I. Kentaro1. 1Osaka Saiseikai Nakatsu Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka City, Japan

**Background:** Patients with knee joint disorders have impaired mobility, which interferes with their daily lives, resulting in frailty. Various factors are assumed to contribute to the decline in walking speed, which is an indicator of mobility.

**Objectives:** In this study, we measured the gait speed of patients scheduled to undergo initial total knee arthroplasty (TKA) and examined the factors that correlate best with gait speed.

**Methods:** Patients with end-stage knee arthritis who underwent initial TKA at our hospital between July 2020 and October 2022, and whose gait speed was measured before surgery with written consent, were included in the study. We investigated the relationship between basic attributes such as age and gender at the time of the survey, pain VAS during walking, clinical evaluation of knee joint function (Knee Society Score; KSS), skeletal muscle mass of both lower limbs (whole-body mode Dual Xray Absorptiometry method), quadriceps muscle strength (flexion and extension strength by dynamometer), and range of motion (degree of flexion and extension), frailty and sarcopenia as dependent variables. The results showed that age and walking pain VAS and KSS were significantly and independently associated with walking speed (P=0.01, 0.04, 0.05). Gender, skeletal muscle mass of both lower limbs, quadriceps streng (flexion and extension), range of motion (degree of flexion and extension), frailty, and sarcopenia were not found to be significantly associated with walking speed (P= 0.79, 0.13, 0.65, 0.21, 0.68, 0.74, 0.34, 0.20).

**Conclusion:** Age was found to correlate most with walking speed, with walking speed slowing with increasing age. A correlation between lower quadriceps muscle extension and lower walking speed has been reported previously, but this study did not correlate. Nor did it correlate with lower limb skeletal muscle mass or range of motion. Pain during walking was observed in many cases, so it may not have been significant.

**REFERENCES:**


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### AB1192

**RESPONSE TO VISCOSUPPLEMENTATION WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF INTRA-ARTICULAR HYALURONIC ACIDS IN OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE KNEE – A RETRASGDE INDIAN COHORT STUDY OF MORE THAN 15 YEARS LONGITUDINAL DATA**

**Keywords:** Outcome measures, Osteoarthritis

A. K. Aggarwal1, J. Fitzpatrick2, N. Aggarwal1. 1Institute of Rheumatology and Pain, Birj Medical Centre, Rheumatology and Pain, Ghaziabad, India; 2University of Melbourne, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Parkville, Australia; 1Institute of Rheumatology and Pain, Birj Medical Centre, Rheumatology and Pain, Ghaziabad, India

**Background:** Knee osteoarthritis (OA) is a progressive degenerative condition resulting in functional loss, pain and discomfort. [1] The current aim of treatment is alleviation of symptoms, improvement of function and joint preservation. Viscosupplementation (VS) with Intra-articular hyaluronic acid (IAHA) injection has been shown to have protective physiochemical functions and may confer disease-modifying, long term effects in OA. [2][3][4] However, conflicting guidelines, pooling of results for different molecular weight products, and a paucity of long-term clinical studies has resulted in lack of confidence in the results of IAHA.

**Objectives:** To determine the primary and sustained response to VS with different types if IAHA in Bilateral Knee OA.

To identify whether the response is different for subgroups which are:

- Type of IAHA,
- Gender - Males (M) or Females (F), and
- Grade of OA treated.

**Methods:** We did a retrospective analysis of a 15-year cohort from a single Indian centre. The inclusion criteria were adults with bilateral knee OA with functional and radiological KL Grade of III and IV, treated with Non-Animal Stabilized Hyaluronic Acid (NASHA) origin IAHA injections.
Subjects were stratified into two groups based on the molecular weight of the hyaluronic acid used:

- High Molecular Weight - 6-8mg/ml – 6ml single injections (HMW-HA), or
- Very High Molecular Weight – 20mg/ml – 3ml injections (VHMW-HA).

The primary outcome measure was responder rates determined by those with improvement in total WOMAC scores of > 30% from baseline versus non-responders. Responders with sustained response of at least 12 months or more were determined.

Results: A total of 2037 (F 1467 (72%) & M 570 (28%)) patients were treated. The overall responder rate was 1496 (73.4%) (F 1099 (74.9%) & M 397 (69.6%). The Primary responder rate was similar for VHMW-HA (73.5% in Gr III OA & 74.9% in Gr IV OA) and HMW-HA (71.0% in Gr III OA & 68.6% in Gr IV OA). The Sustained response in VHMW-HA was greater (60.5% in Gr III OA & 68.5% in Gr IV OA) versus HMW-HA (47.3% in Gr III OA & 46.7% in Gr IV OA).

Table 1. The results are summarized in Table 1:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERVENTION TYPE</th>
<th>VHMW-HA</th>
<th>VHMW-HA</th>
<th>HMW-HA</th>
<th>HMW-HA</th>
<th>TOTAL RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRADE OF OA</td>
<td>Grade III</td>
<td>Grade IV</td>
<td>Grade III</td>
<td>Grade IV</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PATIENTS TREATED</td>
<td>Total (%)</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responders</td>
<td>Total (%)</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY RESPONDERS</td>
<td>(73.5%)</td>
<td>(77.0%)</td>
<td>(71.0%)</td>
<td>(68.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESPONDERS</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON RESPONDERS</td>
<td>Total (%)</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responders</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Conclusion: The responders to treatment of 73.4% justify treatment outcome. The primary response to treatment was similar in all the subgroups – Type of IAHA, Grade of OA and Gender. However, the sustained response for 12 months or more was far greater in VHMW-HA versus HMW-HA.

REFERENCES:


[5] Is COMBINING BETTER THAN SINGLE GAIT PARAMETER CHANGES FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICAL OF KNEE OSTEARTHRITIS? A STUDY ON THE KINETIC CHANGES INDUCED BY GAIT RETRAINING

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Walking, Knee, Gait, Kinetics, Hyaluronic acid, Viscosupplementation.
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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1194

A PROOF OF PRINCIPLE DIETARY INTERVENTION TRIAL TO EXAMINE THE PROTECTIVE EFFECT OF BROCCOLI BIOACTIVES, (SPECIFICALLY SULFOPHANATE), ON OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Diet and nutrition, Pain, Osteoarthritis


1University of East Anglia, Norwich Medical School, Norwich, United Kingdom; 2University of East Anglia, Norwich Medical School, Norwich, United Kingdom; 3Quadram Institute Bioscience, Food, Innovation and Health, Norwich, United Kingdom; 4Queen’s University Belfast, Institute for Global Food Security, Belfast, United Kingdom; 5Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Institute of Orthopaedics, Norwich, United Kingdom; 6University of Leeds and NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds Institute of Rheumatism and Musculoskeletal Medicine, Leeds, United Kingdom; 7University of East Anglia, School of Biological Sciences, Norwich, United Kingdom

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) accounts for more than a third of chronic moderate-to-severe pain in the UK. Sulforaphane (SFN) is a naturally occurring phytochemical derived from eating cruciferous vegetables, particularly broccoli. It has several biological activities that promote health, including anti-inflammatory properties. SFN has a potential role in limiting pain and cartilage destruction in OA.

OBJECTIVES: In a two centre, placebo-controlled, double-blind, two-arm parallel, RCT, proof of principle study with a primary outcome we evaluated whether dietary SFN (from consumption of broccoli) improves pain in participants with knee OA. Secondary objectives were to determine whether food containing SFN improves knee function, and the feasibility of the study design for an appropriately powered trial.

Methods: Participants with symptomatic and radiographic knee OA were recruited from regions of Norfolk and Leeds in the UK, were over 50 years of age with moderate to severe knee pain (at least 4 on 0-10 numeric rating scale), and had knee OA (Kellgren-Lawrence score 2-3). The intervention was a sensory-matched soup. Patients received either the intervention soup (300g high glucoraphanin soup (containing broccoli, and base vegetables)) or placebo soup (300g no glucoraphanin soup (base vegetables only)), once daily on 4 days per week. The study duration was 12 weeks with follow-up visits at 6 and 12 weeks. Knee pain and function outcome measures were obtained using WOMAC, an 11-point NRS, the ICOAP questionnaire and use of rescue analgesics/NSAIDS. Creatinine, metabolites of glucoraphanin, matrix metalloproteinase-3 and C-reactive protein were measured in plasma or 24-hour urine samples.

Results: Recruitment was severely curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In total n= 37 consented and n= 24 met screening criteria with one drop-out at week 12 (control n=17 and intervention n= 7), the recruitment aim was n= 64. Control group was 43% female, and mean age was 70.14 yrs [7.69 SD] (control), and 61.88 yrs [8.56 SD] (intervention). The intervention intervention resulted in a trend towards a decrease in pain scores for each subscale of WOMAC, ICOAP and NRS measures: total WOMAC median difference from baseline [9.65 [CI: -0.78,20.09]], ICOAP constant (wk 12, 4.83 [CI: -1.99,11.64]) and intermittent pain (wk 12, 2.96 [CI: -0.31,6.24]), NRS overall pain (wk 12, 1.86 [CI: 0.13,3.58]), while a trend for increased satisfaction for knee function (wk12, 1.55 [CI: -3.55,5.44]) was also observed for this group. No change in rescue analogues/NSAIDS for knee pain was seen in either group. Metabolites of glucoraphanin were detected in plasma and urine samples in the intervention group. Study compliance and intervention adherence was high (>70%-100%) while acceptability for randomised was 100%.

Conclusion: Patient acceptance, adherence and retention was high and biomarkers and metabolites objectively confirm compliance with the intervention were detected. In this study, although underpowered to observe significant differences for pain, improving trends over time were observed across a range of clinical pain measures including the primary outcome, where the CI encompassed the minimal clinically important difference, requisite for progress to full trial. Given COVID impact on recruitment, the pilot achieved its aims, and we conclude that the intervention was feasible, and a full trial is justified.

Acknowledgements: Our thanks to the study participants, study team, research nurses, and doctors; Fiona Brudennell-Straw, Lisa Cook, Lizzy Daniel, Asim Ghouri, Robert Hindmarsh, Kiran Khokar, Teja Kodali, Angela Nauth, Iraklis Papageorgiou, Tracey Swingler, Rabia Thompson, Nicola Ward, and Celia Whitehouse, and Trial committee Simon Donell (Independent Chair), Sam Norton (Independent Biostatistician) and Trish Phillips (Independent member) for their tenacity and team spirit throughout such an unprecedented time. This work is supported by grants from Versus Arthritis and Action Arthritis.

Disclosure of Interests: Rose Davidson: None declared. Laura Watts: None declared. Gemma Beasy: None declared, Shikha Saha: None declared, Paul Kroon: None declared, Aedin Cassidy: None declared, Allan Clark: None declared. William Fraser Speakers bureau: Roche, Incstar/Diasorin, IDS, Sanofi, Siemens, Menarini, Abbott, Enterla Bio, NPS pharmaceuticals and Alexis, Consultant of: Roche, Incstar/Diasorin, IDS, Sanofi, Siemens, Menarini, Abbott, Enterla Bio, NPS pharmaceuticals and Alexis., Iain McNamara: None declared, Sarah Kingsbury: None declared, Philip G Conaghan Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Novartis, Consultant of: AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Biopdlce, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Genascence, GSK, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Stryker, and UCB, Ian Clark: None declared, Alex MacGregor: None declared.

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AB1195

KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS AND NEUROPATHIC PAIN: IMPACT OF RADIOGRAPHIC SEVERITY

Keywords: Pain

H. Fouzi1, F. Z. Taik1, I. Berchill1, N. Soba2, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Aouarazzak1.

1Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Department of Rheumatology, CHU Tangier-Tetouan-El Hoceima, Tangier, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, CHU Tangier-Tetouan-El Hoceima, Tangier, Morocco

Background: Pain in knee osteoarthritis remains the main symptomatology, classically considered as nociceptive. A neuropathic component of this pain has recently been described. The identification of which is essential for adequate treatment.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of our study is to evaluate the relationship between the prevalence of neuropathic pain and the stages of radiographic severity in gonarthrosis.

METHODS: This is a descriptive cross-sectional study of patients with clinically and radiographically retained knee osteoarthritis. The radiographic stage was determined by the Kellgren and Lawrence classification. Neuropathic pain was assessed by the DN4 questionnaire. The neuropathic nature of the pain was retained if the DN4>=4. The patients included were divided into 4 groups according to the radiographic stage.

RESULTS: 173 patients were included. The average age was 58±0.49 years. 88.2% were women. 32.7% of patients had neuropathic pain. Average pain VAS was 4.4±2.1. The median duration of evolution was 3.8 years [1-23]. 5.6%, 64.4%, and 88.2% were women. 32.7% of patients had neuropathic pain. Average pain VAS was 4.4±2.1. The median duration of evolution was 3.8 years [1-23]. 5.6%, 64.4%, and 4.4%, of the patients studied were classified by radiography as caution, 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively. The prevalence of neuropathic pain was 16.6%, 34.4%, 35.5% and 33.3% in patients with radiographic severity grade 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively. When comparing the groups, there was no difference in the DN4 score according to the stage of radiographic severity (p=0.633).

Conclusion: The results of our study suggest that the stage of radiographic severity does not predispose to neuropathic pain in patients with gonarthrosis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1196

NEUROPATHIC PAIN IN GONARTHROSI: PREVALENCE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS

Keywords: Pain

H. Fouzi1, F. Z. Taik1, I. Berchill1, N. Soba2, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Aouarazzak1.

1Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Department of Rheumatology, CHU Tangier-Tetouan-El Hoceima, Tangier, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, CHU Tangier-Tetouan-El Hoceima, Tangier, Morocco

Background: Pain in knee osteoarthritis remains the main symptomatology, classically considered as nociceptive. A neuropathic component of this pain has recently been described. The identification of which is essential for appropriate management.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of our study is to evaluate the prevalence of neuropathic pain in patients with knee osteoarthritis, and to identify the associated factors.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Methods: This is a cross-sectional study involving patients with knee osteoarthritis. Sociodemographic and clinical data, including comorbidities, were collected. Neuropathic pain was assessed by the DN4 questionnaire. Neuropathic pain was defined by a DN4 ≥ 4. Depression, catastrophizing, and central sensitization were assessed by Arabic versions of validated questionnaires, PCS (Pain Catastrophizing Scale) for catastrophizing, and PHQ9 (Patient Health Questionnaire) for depression, CSI (central sensitization inventory) for central sensitization.

Results: 173 patients were included in our study. 88.2% are women. The average age was 56.0±9.19 years, 32.7% had neuropathic pain. VAS mean pain was 4.1±2.1. The median evolution of pain was 3.8 years [1-129]. The average lequesnque index was 9.75±3.9. The median of the PCS score was 22 [0-52], and the median of the PHQ9 score was 7 [0-24]. The average CSI score was 38.2±15. 72.6% of patients had comorbidities: 28.8% had obesity and 12.7% were diabetic. In multivariate analysis, only functional disability was associated with the presence of neuropathic pain p=0.04 (OR: 1.19, 95% CI [1.03 – 1.38]). However, pain severity, central sensitization, OA comorbidities including diabetes and obesity did not come out as associated factors.

Conclusion: Neuropathic pain is quite common in gonarthrosis. Functional disability seems to be an associated factor.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1197 CAN OSTEOARTHRITIS, SARCOPENIA AND BODY COMPOSITION PREDICT LOSS OF FUNCTION?

Keywords: Sarcopenia, Osteoarthritis

S. Pais1,2,3, M. Botelho3,4, R. Moreira3, C. Guerreiro3,4,1 *Universidade do Algarve, Faculdade de Medicina e Ciências Biomédicas, Faro, Portugal; 2Comprehensive Health Research Centre (CHRC), Nova Medical School, Lisbon, Portugal; 3ABC-Ri, Algarve Biomedical Research Institute, Health, Ageing and Kinetic Lab, Faro, Portugal; 4ABC-Algarve Biomedical Center, Sandra Pais Laboratory, Faro, Portugal

Background: Elderly populations growing in the majority of Countries in the World. Portugal in currently among the 5 most aged counties with 23,4% of its population older than 65 and an ageing index of 18%. Osteoarthritis is the 3rd cause responsible for severe disability over 60 years in developed and developing countries. Lack of data at a national or regional level in Portugal compromises the ability to prepare for both health and care need of aged population. Simultaneously the region of Algarve has particular geographic characteristics with 49% of the population living within 2 km from the coast (in 9% of the Algarve’s territory).

Objective: Aim was to study our regional population, namely the incidence of Osteoarthritis (OA) and the relation of function ability with OA, Sarcopenia and Body composition.

Methods: This study is a prospective, observational secondary analysis of data from the “Sarcopenia Screening Study in the Algarve Region” Subject were recruited through informative flyers that was distributed at Elderly Associations, and invitation through telephone, the evaluations were performed. Until June 2022 a total of 270 patients were voluntarily participated. Subjects over 60 were eligible for the study. All gave their informed consent to participate. Clinical diagnosis of OA was established according to the NICE Guidelines for knee osteoarthritis[3].

Functional ability was measures with the Lower Extremity Functional Scale (LEFS)[4], sarcopenia was measures with the SARC-F Questionnaire[5], body composition was evaluated by Medical Body Composition SECA® mBCA315. Data was treated with IBM-SPSS-Statistics version 26.

Results: Of the 270 subjects analyzed for this secondary analyze 75.2% were female (24,8% male), mean age in years 75,39 ± 6,75 (60-93), 70,5% had Knee OA. Statistical differences was found between groups (with and without OA), in LEFS (p<0,001), SARC-F (p<0,001), percentage of fat free mass (p<0,001). A multiple linear regression was carried out to see if having OA, Sarcopenia and percentage of fat free mass can predict LEFS, once all were significantly different within groups, creating a statistically significant model [Z(3,233)=155,957; p<0,001], with having OA (ß=-0,121; p<0,001), percentage of fat free mass can predict LEFS, once all were significantly different from each other (ß=-0,694; p=0,001), and low muscular mass (ß=0,146; t=3,468 p<0,001), can significantly predict diminished lower extremity function.

Conclusion: Looking at the presence of OA, Sarcopenia and low percentage of fat free mass is important when monitoring elderly subjects over time once they can predict the decrease in functional ability.

Methods: Cross-sectional study including 87 patients. All demographic data and visual analog scale (VAS) score at walking, VAS score at rest, Kelgren and Lawrence (KL) stage on radiography, and results of clinical examination were collected. Exclusion criteria were the presence of a total knee prosthesis and patients followed for chronic inflammatory rheumatism. Statistical data analysis was performed using SPSS version 21 software.

Results: This study included 87 patients followed for KOA, with an average age of 63.67±5.8 years (46-83 years), and a female predominance (78.3%). In the univariate analyses, significant correlations were found between the VAS score at walking with age (r=0.56, p=0.037), body mass index (BMI) (r=0.61, p=0.023), KL grade (r=0.54, p=0.039) and patellar shock (r=0.46, p=0.044). While the VAS score at rest was only correlated with BMI (r=0.26, p=0.01). And an association between VAS at rest and skin hyperalgesia was noted (p=0.034). The multivariate analysis showed that the significant explanatory factors of the VAS score on walking were BMI > 25 kg/m² (p=0.03) and KL grade > 3 (p=0.03). On the other hand, no significant explanatory factor for the VAS score at rest was found.

Conclusion: Predisposing factors were significantly different between the two types of pain, indicating the presence of different pain mechanisms. Pain on walking was more strongly associated with mechanical and structural factors, whereas pain at rest was associated with knee hyperalgesia.

References:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1200

WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE AND GONARThROSIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis

A. Rafi1, F. Idriissi Zaki1, Z. Baba1, A. Mougui1, I. El Bouchti1. CENTRE HOSPITALO-UNIVERSITAIRE MOHAMMED VI MARRAKECH, Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco

Background: Overweight, translated into a high body mass index (BMI), is a major risk factor of gonarthrosis, thus, the risk is increased by 15% for each increase of a unit of body mass index (BMI). (1) Various studies indicate that the association of high BMI and abdominal obesity measured by waist circumference leads to increased morbidity especially in obese. But no study has so far shown a sufficiently strong association force between waist circumference and gonarthrosis.

Objective: The objective of our study is to assess the relationship between waist circumference and pain perception and gonarthrosis impact.

Methods: This work included patients followed in consultation for gonarthrosis. For each patient we specified next to the demographic data, the BMI, the waist circumference, and the existence or no pain of the knee or both. The intensity of pain was assessed by the Analog Visual Scale (EVA). Functional impact was assessed by the Lequesne index and WOMAC score. Knee X-rays were classified according to KL grade criteria. The McNemar test was used to assess the change in analgesic use. Multivariable logistic regression was used to compare characteristics of analgesics users/non-users at baseline. We applied a linear random intercept model adjusted for baseline characteristics to investigate the associations between analgesics use and pain/function.

Results: Among included participants, 2517 (61.4%) were analgesic users at baseline. Male sex, hip OA, lower education, higher body mass index, living outside three largest metropolitan cities, rheumatoid arthritis, and walking difficulties were associated with higher odds of analgesic use at baseline. From baseline to 12-week follow-up, the proportion of analgesic users dropped by 15% (95% CI, 10.5, 13.5), from 61.4% to 49.4%. The results of linear random intercept model suggested that at both baseline and 12-week follow-up, persons not using analgesics at the time had better outcomes (Table 1). Moreover, all groups but “new users” experienced improvements in their pain and function following participation in digital program with the greatest improvements observed among “quitters”. Interestingly, the magnitude of improvements was comparable for “non-users” and “persistent users”.

Conclusion: Participation in a digital self-management program for hip or knee OA was associated with worse pain and function in these people. Greatest improvements were seen for those who stopped analgesic use. Similar results were reported for a face-to-face first-line treatment in Denmark [1, 2]. These results highlight the importance of providing effective first-line treatment to people with hip or knee OA.

References:

Table 1. Predicted pain and KOOS12/HOOS12 Function subscale by analgesic use category (adjusted for sex, age, education, place of residence, index joint, physical activity, body mass index, co-existing conditions, fear of moving and walking difficulties).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>12-week</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRS Pain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-users</td>
<td>4.5 (4.4, 4.6)</td>
<td>2.9 (2.8, 3.0)</td>
<td>-1.6 (-1.7, -1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent users</td>
<td>5.7 (5.6, 5.8)</td>
<td>4.1 (4.0, 4.2)</td>
<td>-1.6 (-1.7, -1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quitters</td>
<td>5.3 (5.2, 5.4)</td>
<td>2.6 (2.5, 2.8)</td>
<td>-2.7 (-2.8, -2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New users</td>
<td>4.9 (4.7, 5.1)</td>
<td>4.2 (3.9, 4.4)</td>
<td>-0.8 (-1.0, -0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOOS12/HOOS12 Function</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-users</td>
<td>59.5 (58.6, 60.3)</td>
<td>66.3 (65.4, 65.1)</td>
<td>6.8 (6.0, 7.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent users</td>
<td>53.7 (52.9, 54.5)</td>
<td>53.2 (52.5, 54.0)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.5, 0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quitters</td>
<td>51.6 (50.5, 52.7)</td>
<td>67.2 (66.0, 68.3)</td>
<td>15.5 (14.3, 16.8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New users</td>
<td>54.7 (53.0, 56.4)</td>
<td>65.5 (53.6, 57.3)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.5, 2.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: All Kiadaliri Employee of: I acted as a consultant for Joint Academy®, provider of a digital self-management program for osteoarthritis, from August 2021 to December 2022., Stefan Lohmander Employee of: I
AB1202  PARTICULARITIES OF KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS: FUNCTIONAL IMPACT IN A GERIATRIC POPULATION

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis

L. Rouached1, W. Lahmar1, S. Bouden1, A. Ben Tekaya1, I. Mahmoud1, L. Rouached1, O. Saidane1, L. Abdelmoula1, Charles Nicolle Teaching Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

**Background:** Knee osteoarthritis (KOA) is the most common osteoarticular diseases. Its increasing incidence with age means that the geriatric population is particularly exposed.

**Objectives:** The aim was to study the functional impact of knee OA in elderly subjects.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study of 52 patients aged ≥65 years, followed for knee OA. Clinical characteristics of knee OA, pain intensity (VAS) were collected. Functional impact was assessed by the short form of the Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS-PS) with a score ranging from 0 (no difficulty) to 100 (extreme difficulty).

**Results:** The mean age was 73.7±7.8 years and the sex ratio (male/female) was 3.13. KOA was femoro-tibial in 79% and femoro-patelar in 21%, the internal compartment was affected in 98% of cases, and a bilateral involvement was found in 94% of cases. The knees were in varus in 30% of cases, in valgus in 23%. The VAS pain was 6.63±1.89. The mean KOOS-PS score was 48.04±19.1. The radiographic severities of KOA according to KL were classified as follows: stage 2 (17%), stage 3 (33%), and stage 4 (33%). A positive and significant correlation between the KOOS and VAS was found (r=0.6; p<0.00). There was no correlation between the KOOS and the radiographic stage (p=0.17), the duration of evolution (p=0.43).

**Conclusion:** In elderly patients with knee OA, there is no concordance between radiographic severity and functional impact. The latter goes hand in hand with the pain experienced.

**Acknowledgements:** Nil.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB1204  THE COMPARISON OF THREE DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOLLOWING PLATELET RICH PLASMA INJECTION IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE OA**

**Keywords:** Osteoarthritis

S. Bozovlev1, H. Kilinç2, G. Hurel2, H. Guney Deniz2, 1Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Department of Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 3Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Ankara, Turkey

**Background:** The main symptoms of patients with knee osteoarthritis (OA) are defined as pain, muscle weakness and functional impairments. Muscle strengthening exercises are recommended in core treatment of conservative management of knee OA [1]. Recently, intraarticular platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection has gained much attention for the management of knee OA. A combination of different approaches is also recommended for achieving better symptomatic relief.

**Objectives:** The aim of the study was to compare the effect of PRP plus supervised exercise, PRP plus home exercise and only PRP in patients with knee OA.

**Methods:** Patients with knee OA aged 45-70 years old were included. The demographic characteristics of the patients were recorded, and they were randomly divided into three groups: PRP plus supervised exercise group (PRP+SEG); PRP plus home exercise group (PRP+HEG); PRP group. The pain was assessed with visual analogue scale (VAS); knee functions and outlook. Nat. Rev. Rheumatol. 2022, 18, 171–183.

**Results:** In total of 41 female patients (mean age: 56.65±6.64 years; mean BMI: 28.82±5.19 kg/m²) were randomized (PRP+SEG (n=15); PRP+HEG (n=12); and PRP (n=14)). There was no significant difference between three groups at baseline (p<0.05). There was significant difference in VAS (p=0.001); WOMAC Pain (p=0.003); WOMAC-Function (p=0.001) and WOMAC Total (p=0.001) scores between groups at 6th week. The PRP+SEG and PRP+HEG performed a total of 6-week (3 times/week) strengthening exercises for knee and hip muscles. The PRP group received only PRP injection. All assessments were performed at 3rd day after PRP injection and at 6th week.

**Conclusion:** A combination of supervised exercise with PRP injection resulted in better symptomatic relief in patients with knee OA. Clinicians should consider the
effectiveness of supervised strengthening exercises for providing better improvement in pain and knee function after PRP injection.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1205
IMPACT OF CATASTROPHIZING ON PAIN, FUNCTION, AND PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Pain

N. Takhrla1, F. Z. Taik1, A. Adnine1, N. Soba2, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Abourazzak1.1Abdelmalek Essaidi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Rheumatology, Tangier, Morocco; 2Abdelmalek Essaidi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common osteoarticular disease, with pain and functional discomfort being the main symptoms leading patients to consult. Catastrophism is defined as an exaggerated negative reaction to an anxiety-provoking stimulus. It is considered to be an important cognitive factor in painful conditions, particularly in osteoarthritis.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the level of catastrophizing and to determine the relationship between catastrophizing and pain intensity, functional impact, and physical performance.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study conducted in the rheumatology department. Sociodemographic information and comorbidities were collected. Pain was assessed by Visual Analog Scale (VAS); functional impact by the Lequesne index; pain catastrophizing by the validated Moroccan version of the Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS). A PCS > 30 indicate high level of catastrophizing. Physical performance was assessed by the 06min walk test and IPAQ questionnaire.

Results: A total of 178 patients were included. The sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the patients are presented in (Table 1).

Univariate and multivariate analysis showed the Lequesne index (p=0.008) and anxiety (0.001) were statistically significantly associated with the level of catastrophizing.

Conclusion: The level of catastrophizing seems to have an impact on function and anxiety. However, there was no association between catastrophizing and the walking test. Catastrophism is an important factor to assess at the beginning of the management of a patient with OA.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1499

Table 1. Comparison of groups at baseline and at 6th week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>PRP+HEG (n=12)</th>
<th>PRP+SEG (n=15)</th>
<th>PRP (n=14)</th>
<th>p1</th>
<th>PRP+HEG (n=12)</th>
<th>PRP+SEG (n=15)</th>
<th>PRP (n=14)</th>
<th>p2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VAS (cm)</td>
<td>7.42±1.81</td>
<td>7.38±1.79</td>
<td>5.98±1.95</td>
<td>.81</td>
<td>5.70±2.30</td>
<td>3.18±1.63</td>
<td>6.02±2.24</td>
<td>.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stair climbing (sec)</td>
<td>7.40±4.22</td>
<td>6.43±2.72</td>
<td>5.86±2.04</td>
<td>.446</td>
<td>5.92±3.21</td>
<td>4.08±0.82</td>
<td>5.54±1.93</td>
<td>.067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stair descending (sec)</td>
<td>7.95±3.56</td>
<td>6.64±2.87</td>
<td>5.62±1.91</td>
<td>.380</td>
<td>6.25±4.41</td>
<td>3.77±0.91</td>
<td>6.05±2.82</td>
<td>.556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC Pain</td>
<td>9.08±4.44</td>
<td>9.13±3.83</td>
<td>8.57±2.92</td>
<td>.892</td>
<td>8.83±3.53</td>
<td>4.02±2.00</td>
<td>7.71±4.92</td>
<td>.003*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC Stiffness</td>
<td>5.25±3.95</td>
<td>3.26±1.79</td>
<td>2.71±2.94</td>
<td>.087</td>
<td>2.16±2.51</td>
<td>1.26±1.16</td>
<td>2.21±2.42</td>
<td>.399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC Function</td>
<td>32.08±15.04</td>
<td>28.00±12.22</td>
<td>30.71±14.46</td>
<td>.736</td>
<td>34.58±15.93</td>
<td>13.53±7.93</td>
<td>29.42±16.06</td>
<td>.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMAC Total</td>
<td>48.35±17.47</td>
<td>42.08±15.15</td>
<td>39.75±18.83</td>
<td>.639</td>
<td>47.48±21.45</td>
<td>19.58±9.35</td>
<td>40.99±23.15</td>
<td>.001*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRP: Platelet Rich Plasma, HEG: Home Exercise Group, SEG: Supervised Exercise Group, VAS: Visual Analog Scale, WOMAC: The Western Ontario and McMaster Universities, SD: Standard deviation, p1 and p2: OneWay-ANOVA, *p<0.05 Pairwise comparison of PRP+SEG and PRP is significant (p<0.017), Bonferroni test *Pairwise comparison of PRP+HEG and PRP+SEG is significant (p<0.017), Bonferroni test

AB1206
THE SOURCES OF DISEASE-RELATED INFORMATION FOR MOROCCO’S OSTEOARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Patient information and education

F. Z. Aharrane1, F. Z. Taik1, R. Bensaid1, N. El Mansouri1, N. Soba2, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Abourazzak2. 1Abdelmalek Essaidi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Rheumatology, Tangier, Morocco; 2Abdelmalek Essaidi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco

Background: In osteoarthritis, the patients have an almost continuous need of information and communication. In addition to the information delivered by health professionals, patients tend to look for other sources to complete it.

Objectives: Our study aims to investigate the non-conventional sources of information used by osteoarthritis patients and to identify the possible associated factors.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study, conducted in the rheumatology department at the University Hospital Center in Tangier, which included patients diagnosed with osteoarthritis. Data on sociodemographic characteristics, clinical presentations, comorbidities, and the health outcomes of patients were examined. Patients’ beliefs and attitudes about disease-related sources of information were assessed by a questionnaire. A list of 12 items was proposed to the patients who mentioned the different used sources, their level of trust, and their experience with the effectiveness of these sources. Binary logistic regression was conducted to identify the associated factors with the use of the disease-related sources of information.

Results: We included 221 patients. The mean age was 59.4 ± 9.8, 88.7% of the patients were female, and 69.2% had comorbidities. 80.5% were diagnosed with knee osteoarthritis and 19.5% with hand osteoarthritis. The median of disease duration was 8 [2-10] years. 31.2% of the patients sought information related to their osteoarthritis, the 3 main sources were: peers (21.7%), YouTube (17.2%) and television (13.1%). 12.7% have already applied some of this information. Only 10% of patients discussed the found information with their physicians and 85.4% would like to have health professionals in their online space to answer their questions. In uni and multivariate analysis, age (OR=0.999, IC95% [0.927-0.991], p=0.014) and level of education (OR=1.597, IC95% [1.146-2.224], p=0.006) were statistically significant with the use of non-conventional information sources.

Conclusion: Our study showed that Morocco’s osteoarthritis patients, especially those with certain age and level of education, are seeking information about their disease. Rheumatologists need to invest more, especially on virtual spaces, to respond to these requests.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2546

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of patients

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<tr>
<td>Number of patients = 178</td>
<td>105 (59 %)</td>
<td>64 (36 %)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (Mean ±SD)</td>
<td>59.3±9</td>
<td>57±10.7</td>
<td>p=0.369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femal gender (%)</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>P=0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidity (%)</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>P=0.654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analaphatic (%)</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
<td>P=0.150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lequesne score (xSD)</td>
<td>9.3±3.8</td>
<td>10.7±4.4</td>
<td>P=0.189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiologic stage (xSD)</td>
<td>2.2±0.6</td>
<td>2±0.6</td>
<td>P=0.229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS pain (xSD)</td>
<td>4.1±2.5</td>
<td>5.6±2.8</td>
<td>P=0.313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time of evolution</td>
<td>4 years[1-10]</td>
<td>3 years[1-7]</td>
<td>P=0.069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The mean distance walked in 06 minutes</td>
<td>372 ±137</td>
<td>355 ±147</td>
<td>P=0.586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with a physical disability</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
<td>80.7%</td>
<td>P=0.427</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Morocco’s Osteoarthritis Patients

Osteoarthritis, Patient information and education

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
AB1207

PREVALENCE OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY KNEE AND HIP OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Pain, Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures

D. Santos Oliveira1,2,3, A. Martins4,5, J. Silveira6, F. Nelo7,8, L. Costa4, C. Vaz4,5,9, J. Ferreira-Gomes10,11,12,1 Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João, Rheumatology Department, Porto, Portugal; 2Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Department of Medicine, Porto, Portugal; 3Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Center for Health Technology and Services Research (CINTESIS), Porto, Portugal; 4Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João, Rheumatology Department, Porto, Portugal; 5Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Department of Medicine, Porto, Portugal; 6Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Department of Biomedicine, Porto, Portugal; 7University of Porto, i3S - Institute for Research & Innovation in Health, Porto, Portugal; 8University of Porto, IBMC - Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Porto, Portugal; 9Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Center for Health Technology and Services Research (CINTESIS), Porto, Portugal

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is a common musculoskeletal disease associated with significant chronic pain and physical disability. The presence of pain with a neuropathic component may be associated with different phenotypes of this condition.

Objectives: Thus, this study aimed to explore the prevalence of neuropathic pain (NP) and its association with sociodemographic characteristics and clinical outcomes (pain severity and disability), in patients with primary knee and hip OA.

Methods: A cross-sectional study involving adult patients with a primary knee and hip OA diagnosis according to American College of Rheumatology (ACR) was conducted. Sociodemographic variables, symptoms and disease duration and pain characteristics were obtained. Pain severity was assessed with Pain Visual Analog Scale (VAS) and functional disability with Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ).

Results: A total of 36 patients (mean age of 65.1±8.9 years old; 72.2% female) with primary knee OA (n=13, 36.1%), hip OA (n=4, 11.1%) and both (n=19, 52.8%) were included. Patients had a mean symptom duration of 13.3±8.7 years and a median disease duration of 5 [3-13] years. The mean Pain VAS was 5.0±3.4, and the median HAQ of 1 [0.65-1.91]. The mean of WOAMC- pain, -stiffness, -physical function and -total were 11.9±4.2, 4.5±2.2, 37.5±15.4 and 53.8±20, respectively. Characteristics of NP were found in 28 (77.8%) patients and the mean PAINDETECT scale was 31.1±1.9. None of the patients had treatment aimed at NP. There were positive correlations between NP and VAS (r=0.63, p<0.001), HAQ (r=0.33, p=0.005), WOAMC-physical function (r=-0.41, p=0.027) and WOAMC-total (r=-0.38, p=0.049). In the multivariable model, PAIN-VAS predicted NP (β=0.76, p=0.014).

Conclusion: Our study demonstrated that NP is common in patients with OA. The presence and type of this pain is associated with worse clinical outcomes, namely pain severity and functional disability. Hence, these findings encourage the screening of NP in all patients with knee and hip OA in order to implement more appropriate therapeutic strategies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1208

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNEE MUSCLE STRENGTH WITH DISABILITY AND PAIN IN PATIENTS WITH KELLgren-Lawrence GRADE III-IV KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS: A PILOT STUDY

Keywords: Rehabilitation, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Osteoarthritis

I. Ayas1, Z. Hazar1, F. Abdulaliyev2, G. Güngör3, Ö. Ozer4, 1Gazi University Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Knee osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common chronic joint disease and is the main cause of disability and pain. It is important to better understand potentially modifiable risk factors that may reduce disability and pain in advanced knee osteoarthritis.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between knee muscle strength with disability and pain in patients with advanced OA.

Methods: Twenty-one patients (66.05 ± 8.02 years, 32.77 ± 5.37 kg/m²) with Kellgren-Lawrence grade III-IV OA were included in this pilot study. Knee flexion and extension muscle strength were measured with EasyForce® isometric pull dynamometer in accordance with the test procedure. Disability was measured with Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS), and pain intensity was measured with VAS and Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS).

Results: The knee flexion strength of the patients was 75.52 ± 29.58 N, and the knee extension strength was 155.42 ± 49.84 N. Knee flexion strength was 17.85 ± 32.06 % and extension strength was 22.60 ± 21.10 % less than the other extremity. The total KOOS scores of the patients were 48.90 ± 24.78 %, PCS scores were 27.58 ± 15.82 and VAS were 8.42 ± 1.69. Flexion muscle strength of patients were moderately correlated with KOOS (r=0.44, p=0.05), but not with PCS and VAS scores. Extension muscle strength of patients was highly correlated with KOOS (r=0.70, p<0.001), but not with PCS and VAS scores.

Conclusion: In advanced knee osteoarthritis, knee extension strength deteriorated more than knee flexion strength. Exercise interventions for knee extension strength training can provide superior outcomes in knee extensor strength and function but not in pain.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4359

AB1209

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE VARIABLES INFLUENCING PLATELET-RICH PLASMA FEATURES IN INDIVIDUALS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Synovium, Osteoarthritis, Gender/diversity issues

S. Karaborklu Aruq1, D. Celik1, O. Ergin2, O. Kilicoglu3, 1Gazi University Cerrahpasa, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Koc University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) has drawn great interest as a regenerative adjunct therapy, and it is increasingly used in management of knee osteoarthritis (OA). The primary goal of PRP injections is to deliver a higher concentration of platelets to the target area than blood circulation does. The features and content of the injected substance are vital when evaluating the effectiveness of PRP.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to investigate the factors affecting the features of PRP in patients with knee OA.

Methods: Potential volunteers with diagnosis of symptomatic knee OA were included if they had knee pain greater than 3 points on 11-point numerical pain rating scale. Exclusion criteria were i) lower hemoglobin count than 15g/dL, ii) ongoing antiinflammatory therapy, iii) using non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in previous 3 weeks before the participation, iv) previous operation in affected knee v) active infection or malignancy, and vi) impaired cognition. To perform complete cell counts for both whole blood and PRP, 20ml of the whole blood was drawn from the ante-cubital vein of the patients under sterile conditions. PRP was prepared using a commercially available kit, tubes contains 3.20% concentrated 0.1M of sodium citrate to block the coagulation. After phlebotomy, the tubes were placed swing-out rotor centrifuging device and were centrifuged at 830g for 4 minutes. A correlation analysis was performed between the features of PRP and the patient-related variables, including age, gender, BMIs, smoking status, presence of other diseases, physical activity scores, duration of symptoms, and pain levels. Pearson's correlation coefficient, point bi-serial correlation, and paired sample t test were performed; alpha level was set at 0.05 in all analyses.

Results: A total of 62 patients (mean age: 56.68 ± 7.13 years) were included in the analysis. The dose of injected platelets was 3.25 billion, efficiency of the process was 77%, and the purity rate of the PRP was >98.4. These results indicate that high dose (B%) and platelet recovery rate (B%) were very poor (A%); PRP platelet count was correlated with whole blood platelet count (r=0.81, p<0.001), whole blood WBC count (r=0.39, p=0.002), smoking status (r=0.56, p=0.03), smoking index (r=-0.63, p=0.002), and the presence of hypertension (r=0.31, p=0.04). PRP WBC and purity of PRP were correlated with smoking status of the patients (r=0.52, p=0.01, r=0.64, p=0.003, respectively). In addition, smoking index for current smokers was shown a good correlation with PRP WBC (r=0.57, p=0.02) and a fair correlation with purity of PRP (r=0.35, p=0.04).
Conclusion: High dose and very pure PRP with medium efficiency was yielded with this PRP preparation procedure. Whole blood platelet count, the presence of hypertension, and the smoking status of the patients can affect the features of the yielded PRP in patients with OA. Considering these factors into account in the clinical decision is important for determining whether PRP is an option in the management of patients with knee osteoarthritis. These results may serve as a guide in terms of patient selection and avoiding unnecessary injections and their associated costs.

REFERENCES:
[2] Matthew Winn, BS, Jennifer Waller, PhD, N. Stanley Nahman, Jr., MD, Lu Huber, MD, Stephanie Baer, MD, Muftaddal Kheda, MD, Rhonda Colombo, MD, Septic Arthritis in End-Stage Renal Disease. Open Forum Infectious Diseases, Volume 3, Issue suppl_1, December 2016, 1135.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5469

AB1210 SEPTIC ARTHRITIS IN HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Kidneys, Infection-related RMDs, Descriptive studies

R. Elafram1, M. Ben Rodhane1, M. Shaier1, H. Kamoun1.1University of Tunis El Manar, Orthopedics, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: The frequency of musculoskeletal disorders in hemodialysis patients varies around 60% as the duration of their dialysis increases. Their physiopathology is complex and multifactorial. Septic arthritis represents 30% of these arthropathies.

Objectives: analyze the clinical, biological and radiological characteristics of septic arthritis in hemodialysis patients and to assess the results of the proposed treatment.

proposed treatment.

Methods: This is a retrospective study of 22 observations of septic arthritis in hemodialysis patients identified in our department over a 5-year period (2015-2022).

Results: The mean age was 43 years [22-60]. The sex ratio is equal to 1. The average duration of hemodialysis was 11.5 years [3 months-28 years]. Joint involvement was acute in 17 cases, with a mean duration of 4 days [1 day-1 week).

Conclusion: Arthrotomy with joint lavage and biopsy of the synovial fluid followed by an adapted antibiotic therapy according to the antibiogramme during 3 weeks by IV route relayed by an oral intake during 3 weeks while the antibiotic treatment alone after biopsy was practiced in 3 patients for two cases of polyartu-itis and one case of deep localization.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5011

AB1211 RISK FACTORS OF DEPRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoarthrits
S. Elafram1, I. Haddada1, A. Haj Salam1, N. El Fen1, M. Sghir1, W. Kessomint1.1Taher Star Hospital, PMR, Mahdia, Tunisia; 2 Ibn El Jazzar Hospital, PMR, Kairouan, Tunisia

Background: Knee osteoarthritis (KOA) is among the mean sources of chronic pain and functional disability which may lead to anxiety and depression.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine risk factors of depression in patients with KOA.

Methods: We conducted an analytical cross-sectional study over a 3-month period, including patients presenting with KOA. Demographic data, history of KOA and Kellegen and Lawreric radiographic stage were collected. Functional discomfort was assessed by the Lequesne knee index and catastrophizing was assessed by the Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS) questionnaire. Psychological assessment was performed by the Hospital Anxiety and Depression (HAD) scale.

Results: Ninety patients with KOA were included. The mean age was 58.76 ± 9.1 years. The mean BMI was 30.19 ± 5.54. The average Lequesne index was 11.33 ± 3.53 and the average PCS was 23.91 ± 11.28. A high depression score was noted in 58.9% of patients. Depression was significantly associated with sex (p = 0.001), BMI (p=0.03), lequesne index (p=0.02) and PCS (p=0.00009).

Conclusion: Pain catastrophizing thoughts in KOA and obesity worsen patients' attitudes and psychological profile towards pain and may lead to depression.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5695

AB1212 OSTEOARTICULAR TUBERCULOSIS, A VERY CHALLENGING DIAGNOSIS

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases, Bone diseases, Osteoarthrits
S. Bachrouch1, I. Chaabane2, M. Jidi3, H. Tounsi2, Z. Alaya2, R. Amri1.1Mohamed Taher AL Maamour Hospital, Internal Medicine, Nabeul, Tunisia; 2Mohamed Taher AL Maamour Hospital, Orthopedic, n, Tunisia; 3Mohamed Taher AL Maamour Hospital, Orthopedic, Nabeul, Tunisia

Background: Osteoarticular Tuberculosis (TB) is an uncommon form of extrapulmonary TB, it comprises 2–5% of all TB cases in Tunisia. The most frequent sites of osteoarticular TB infection are the spine, hip, and knee. Diagnosis can be challenging owing to the non-specific and insidious nature of the clinical presentation.

Objectives: Describe clinical features, diagnosis and management of this uncommon clinical entity.

Methods: A retrospective clinical study of TB had been diagnosed in our hospital during the last five years, the diagnosis was made by bacteriological and histological examinations after imaging assessment (MRI, CT scan).

Results: Ten cases were included (6 males and 4 females). The mean age was 53 years (16-72 years). The average time to diagnosis was 4 months (2-12months). The joints affected were the dorso-lumbar spine, shoulder, elbow, phalanges, the trochanter-femur and the metatarsal bones. The most common symptoms noted were pain, swelling and restricted motion of the involved joint. Cutaneous fistulas were observed in one case. Fever and systemic symptoms were present in one case. Radiological findings varied, with lytic lesions, abscesses, and joint destruction observed. All patients presented with pathognomonic histological tubercle appearances, with caseous necrosis, lymphocytes, and Langhans giant cells present and TB-PCR in the pus samples was positive in one case. All patients were treated with anti-TB drugs for 12 months and three patients received corticosteroid therapy. The abscess was drained in six cases. We noted clinical and radiological recovery with medical tuberculosis treatment in all patients.

Conclusion: Osteoarticular TB is a common manifestation of extrapulmonary TB and must not be overlooked. Early detection of osteoarticular TB may prevent limb morbidity. Although anti-TB drugs are the primary treatment for osteoarticular TB, in some cases, surgery is required to establish a diagnosis and gain local infection control.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5804

AB1213 ILLNESS PERCEPTION IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Cognitive function, Osteoarthritis, Pain

H. Bousaaid 1, S. Toli 1, S. Miladi 1, A. Fazaai 1, M. Yasmine 1, L. Souabni 1, K. Ouenniche 1, S. Kassab 1, S. Cheli 1, K. Ben Abdelghani 7, A. Laatar 1, Mongi Slim University Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Knee osteoarthritis (OA) can be a source of pain and functional handicap. If not relieved, it leads to an alteration of the patient’s quality of life. The cognitive component of pain varies from one subject to another.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the illness perception in patients suffering from knee OA.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study in patients with knee OA. Illness perception was assessed using the French version of the Brief Illness Perception Questionnaire (BIPQ). This questionnaire was developed from the model of Leventhal et al. and aims to assess the different components of the disease. It includes 9 items: 8 quantitative questions on a numerical scale from 0 to 10 and a last item in the form of a qualitative question. The total score varies from 0 to 80, with no predefined thresholds. The higher the score, the more threatening the patient’s perception of the disease is. A “p value inferior to 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: Thirty patients with knee OA responded to the questionnaire. It was about 26 women (87%) and 4 men (13%) with a mean age of 60 years (42-71). The average duration of the disease was 78 months [12-240]. All patients used tier 1 analgesics and NSAIDs. 33% used tier 2 analgesics and three patients had received corticosteroid knee injection. The mean visual analog scale (VAS) of pain was 6cm [3-9]. The mean walking distance was 678m [100-1000]. None of the patients used a cane. The mean value of the Lequesne algofunctional index (AFI) was 8.8 [3-15]. Lameness was noted in 13% of patients. The patellar tap test was positive in 47% of cases. The mean values of body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference were 30kg/m² and 96cm, respectively. According to the Kellgren-Lawrence classification, knee OA was at grade 1 in 10% of the cases, grade 2 in 40% of the cases, grade 3 in 40% of the cases, and grade 4 in 10% of the cases. All patients completed the entire questionnaire with a mean score of 45 [36-54], and a mean maximum score of 6/10 for the first question assessing the impact of the disease on the patients’ lives. Responses were incomplete for the 9th question which consists on listing 3 reasons that may cause the disease: only 15 patients (50%) cited 3 causes. The main reported factors causing knee OA according to patients were physical activity (83%), age (66%), prolonged standing (62%), and weight (51%). A statistically significant negative correlation was noted between the BIPQ, and age (r=−0.488, p=0.006) and disease duration (r=−0.583, p=0.001). This correlation was not significant with pain VAS, walking distance, BMI, waist circumference and the Lequesne AFI.

Conclusion: Illness perception in patients with knee OA is important to screen in order to deliver a more personalized management.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5894

AB1215 ASSOCIATED FACTORS TO POSTURAL BALANCE CONTROL IN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS AND COMMON LOW BACK PAIN PATIENTS

Keywords: Rehabilitation, Pain

I. Ksibi 1, L. Rouached 1, W. Lahmar 1, S. Bouder 1, O. Saidane 1, N. Mouhi 1, M. Hitdhi 1, H. Rahali 1, R. Maouali 1, Military Teaching Hospital, Rehabilitation, Tunis, Tunisia; Charles Nicolle Teaching Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Pain induces the alteration of postural balance (PB) mechanisms. Therefore, the PB control is an important element to consider when managing patients with degenerative musculoskeletal diseases (DMD).

Objectives: The aim of our study was to evaluate balance control in patients having knee osteoarthritis (KOA) or low back pain and to identify the associated factors.

Methods: A cross sectional study including patients suffering from common low back pain (LBP) and KOA. We collected the sociodemographic data. We evaluated the PB using a stabilometric platform, realized when the eyes were closed. Analyzed variables were the center of pressure (COP) in the mediolateral (ML) and anteroposterior (AP) axis, the surface area (S), the mean sway velocity (V) and the mean sway energy (E). We divided patients into 2 groups; G1: patients having postural imbalance and G2: patients with a good postural balance profile.

Results: We had 30 patients with a sex ratio at 1:3, a mean age of 47±11.14 [23-65] years old. The mean BMI was 28.17±2.12 [20.3-39.5]. Twelve patients (40%) suffered from KOA, 18 (60%) of them had chronic low back pain, with a mean disease duration of 1.61±1.55 [0.10-5] years. Postural profile evaluation revealed a mean S of 265.93±576.3 [1 - 3239]. COP position in the ML axis was 0.68±0.49 [-15.7 -24.6] and in the AP: 21.4±21.70 [-8.2 – 81.4]. Mean sway V was 11.4±3.88 [72 – 22.9]. The E was 8.94±6.52 [403]. We detected an abnormal S in 5% of participants, decreased E in 8% of patients. According to the ML axis the COP was: left in one patient and right in 5% of patients. The COP was anterior in 21% of cases. The mean sway V was pathological in 5% of cases. The comparison between both groups did not find any
significant difference concerning gender (p=0.43), the disease (p=0.65). We did not find a significant difference in the means of age (p=0.52), BMI (p=0.3) and underlying disease duration (p=0.31).

Conclusion: Half of the patients with DMD presented a postural imbalance which wasn’t explained by sociodemographic or anthropometric parameters. The instrumental evaluation of PB, considering the fall’s risk factor is then essential.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6044

SYMPTOMATIC SLOW-ACTING DRUGS FOR GONARTHROSIS: BETWEEN EXPECTATIONS AND REALITY

Keywords: Pain, Osteoarthritis

H. Tebaa1, H. Arabi1, A. Mougui1, I. El Bouchti1. 1CENTRE HOSPITALO-UNIVERSITAIRE MOHAMMED VI MARRAKECH, Rhumatology, Marrakech, Morocco

Background: Osteoarthritis of the knee is the most common cause of chronic pain and disability in patients. In addition to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and analgesics, the symptomatic slow-acting anti-arthritic drugs (SAAALs) define a specific class of medications used in the symptomatic treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee. With a delayed effect, this family of drugs is used to reduce the intensity of pain and functional discomfort caused by the destruction of cartilage.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of co-morbidities in gonarthrosis patients and to assess their impact on pain, functional impact and radiographic progression.

Methods: Our study involved patients with gonarthrosis. Comprehensive comorbidity screening was done. Pain intensity was assessed by the Analog Visual Scale (EVA). The neuropathic component was assessed by the DN4 score. Functional impact was assessed by the Lequesne index and WOMAC score. Knee X-rays were classified according to Kellgren Lawrence (KL) criteria.

Results: A total of 215 patients were included (24 men/191 women). The average age was 58.02 ±9.11 years. The mean body mass index was 24.87 ± 5.37 kg/m2. The main comorbidities were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMORBIDITIES</th>
<th>PREVALENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overweight and obesity</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTA</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysthyroidism</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoplasia</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The visual analogic scale was 7.86± 1.31 and stress at 13.74 ±4.95. The average WOMAC score was 12.3 ±8.92. The average Lequesne score was 6.71 ±3.20. The average DN4 score was 18.81 ± 8.9. Comorbidities were associated with age (p= 0.02), DN4 score (p= 0.01), and KL radiographic grades (p = 0.02).

Conclusion: In this study, co-morbidity in gonarthrosis was associated with advanced age, a neuropathic component of pain, and severe structural impairment.

REFERENCES:
[1] Comorbidities and osteoarthritis Christian-Hubert Roux, Service de rhumatologie, université Côte d’Azur, LAMHESS, EA 6312, CHU Nice, France,IBV CNRS UMR7277 Inserm, U1091, 06000 Nice, France, revue du rhumatisme 2021

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6132

COMORBIDITIES DURING GONARTHROSIS

Keywords: Quality of life, Comorbidities, Osteoarthritis

A. Rafi1, S. Belouaham1, Z. Baba1, A. Mougui1, I. El Bouchti1. 1Chu Mohamed VI Marrakesh - Drh, Rheumatology, Marrakesh, Morocco

Background: Osteoarthritis of the knee, together with that of the hip, is the most serious disease of osteoarthritis. Long considered a benign disease, gonarthrosis is nevertheless associated with significant morbidity.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of co-morbidities in gonarthrosis patients and to assess their impact on pain, functional impact and radiographic progression.

Methods: This study was conducted in the form of an individual questionnaire, 56 patients followed in consultation for a primary gonarthrosis without a period of congestive attack, the diagnosis of knee osteoarthritis was made by and radiography of the knee according to the classification of Kellgren and Lawrence, any patient with secondary osteoarthritis or very disabling gonarthrosis was excluded. Patients were questioned about their fears and expectations before the start of treatment. An evaluation of the therapeutic response after one year was done by different parameters: the visual analogue pain scale (VAS pain), the Lequesne index of the knee, and decrease in analgesic consumption, improvement in walking perimeter and side effects and pain reduction. Global satisfaction was evaluated by a likert scale composed of 7 degrees of satisfaction (from extremely satisfied to extremely dissatisfied).

Results: We included 56 patients, the average age was 44 years, the female sex represented 59%, the average educational level represented 20%. According to the classification of Kellgren and Lawrence, stage 2 represents (40%), stage 3 (52%) and stage 4 (8%). There were 30% of patients on chondroitin-based anti-arthritics drugs, 60% on glucosamine and 10% on avocado-soybean unsaponifiable extract. The average VAS pain was 5 ± 1.1, the average Lequesne index (knee) was 7. Fear of pain exacerbation was noted in 15%, 20% were afraid of a functional handicap and 49% were afraid of a probable surgery, 16% had no fear. Before the initiation of treatment, 65% of the patients hoped for an improvement in their function, 49% feared a probable surgery and 16% had no fear. Before the initiation of treatment, 35% thought it was a placebo. The mean VAS pain after treatment was 3±2.2 vs 5 ±1.1 before treatment (p= 0.003), the mean Lequesne index after treatment was 4.9 vs 7 after treatment with a statistically significant difference (p= 0.003), an improvement of the gait perimeter was noted in 51%, 41% reported a reduction in the consumption of analgesics, 3% of patients had side effects such as nausea and vomiting. After 1 year of treatment, 45% of patients were extremely satisfied with their treatment, 15% were extremely dissatisfied, 10% were satisfied and 30% were not very satisfied.

Conclusion: Patient expectations and satisfaction are important components in the evaluation of quality of care. This new approach is important to guarantee therapeutic adherence.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6380
Osteoporosis

**AB1218**

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN OSTEOPOROSIS AND DISRUPTION OF GUT MICROBIOTA: A META-ANALYSIS

**Keywords:** Osteoporosis

O. Y. Su\(^1,2,3\), X. Song\(^2,3\), D. Qiao\(^2,3\), G. X. Wang\(^2,3\), X. Y. Yin\(^2,3\), Q. Yu\(^4\), P. F. He\(^5\), X. Li\(^1,2,3\), S. X. Zhang\(^1,2,3\). The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University; Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 3Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** Osteoporosis (OP) is a systemic disease of the skeleton characterized by decreased bone mineral density and the imbalance of bone, resulting in an increased risk of fragility fractures\(^4\). Gut microbiota has a mutually beneficial and symbiotic relationship with the host and plays a vital role in the host's metabolism and immune regulation. An expanding body of studies asserts that gut microbiota has a role in bone metabolism and the pathogenesis of osteoporosis\(^2\).

**Objectives:** This study aimed to confirm the changes of gut microbiota in osteoporosis through meta-analysis.

**Methods:** We searched PubMed, Embase, MEDLINE, Cochrane Library, CNKI, VIP, CBM, and Wanfang databases from the established to January 10 2023 on gut microbiota diversity in patients with OP. Standardized mean difference (SMD) and 95% confidence interval (CI) were used to evaluate the difference in microbial abundance between the OP and healthy control (HCs).

**Results:** A total of 16 studies were included in this meta-analysis, including 517 OP and 714 HCs. The summary results showed that there was no significant difference in α diversity index compared with HCs (Simpson index: SMD = 0.120, 95% CI: [0.031–0.271], p = 0.049; Shannon index: SMD = -0.039, 95% CI: [-0.284 to -0.206], p = 0.001; ACE: SMD = 0.029, 95% CI: [-0.647 to 0.706], p < 0.001; Chao1: SMD = 0.000, 95% CI: [-0.446 to -0.446], p < 0.001; Observed species: SMD = 0.134, 95% CI: [-0.049 to 0.317], p = 0.198). To eliminate the heterogeneity caused by the difference of the observed species index by the sequencing method, we conducted a subgroup analysis of the observed species, and the results showed that the index obtained by high-throughput sequencing (SMD = 0.490, 95% CI: [0.084 to 0.896], p = 0.001) was higher than that of HCs.

**Conclusion:** This study suggested that changes in intestinal microecology were related to OP. More studies should be conducted to explore the specific differences in gut microbiota in OP.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4396

**Figure 1.** Patients with GFR <30 ml/min by different equations.

**Conclusion:** In a setting of advanced liver disease candidate to transplantation, renal function estimates significantly varied depending on the GFR equation used, thus largely modifying the rates of patients with contraindication for using bisphosphonates, despite the high fracture risk.

Further studies are necessary to establish the best method to assess the renal function in advanced liver disease patients, in order to tailor anti-OP strategies.

**REFERENCES:**


AB1220

VERTEBRAL FRACTURE CHARACTERISTICS IN AN FLS UNIT ACCORDING TO THE IDENTIFICATION METHOD; EMERGENCY LIST, OUTPATIENT CLINIC OR VFA.

Keywords: Osteoporosis

Background: The risk of subsequent fracture is very high after a vertebral fracture (VF).

Objectives: To analyze the characteristics of patients with VF seen in a Fracture Liaison Service (FLS).

Methods: Our FLS cares for patients from the emergency list (URG), referred by hospital or primary care doctors (HPC) with VF <12 months, and captured by DXA-VFA (Densitometry - VF Assessment) in patients with non-VF. The database included the FRAX items plus previous treatment and DXA results. Traumatic VFs or VFs with a known age >1 year, infiltrative or neoplastic diseases, and patients with contraindications for treatment were excluded. The number and grade of VF (Genant's scale) were analyzed.

Results: 570 patients have been included (Table 1). The most frequent route of identification was HPC followed by the emergency registry and detection by DXA-VFA. The data-base included the FRAX items plus previous treatment and DXA results. Traumatic VFs or VFs with a known age >1 year, infiltrative or neoplastic diseases, and patients with contraindications for treatment were excluded. The number and grade of VF (Genant's scale) were analyzed.

Table 1. - Distribution according to identification group. Results represent n (%) and mean (SD) unless expressly indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification</th>
<th>n=570</th>
<th>n=198</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>73.6±8.7</td>
<td>75.5±9.4</td>
<td>72.6±9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>480 (84.2)</td>
<td>156 (78.7)</td>
<td>261 (86.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from fracture to visit (weeks)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>17 (11)</td>
<td>13 (8)</td>
<td>20 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(IQR)</td>
<td>24 (12-20)</td>
<td>12 (8-16)</td>
<td>38 (28-88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertebral fractures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of VF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>median</td>
<td>2.0 (1.6)</td>
<td>1.76 (1.4)</td>
<td>2.35 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(IQR)</td>
<td>1.2 (1.2)</td>
<td>1.0 (1.2)</td>
<td>1.2 (1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only fractures grade 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>median</td>
<td>24 (4.2)</td>
<td>3 (1.5)</td>
<td>20 (6.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(IQR)</td>
<td>10 (2.3)</td>
<td>1.0 (1.2)</td>
<td>10 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one grade 3 fracture***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>median</td>
<td>274 (48.8)</td>
<td>124 (63.9)</td>
<td>141 (47.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(IQR)</td>
<td>78 (38.3)</td>
<td>28 (53.0)</td>
<td>46 (26.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk factors for fracture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous fracture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental hip fracture</td>
<td>51 (8.9)</td>
<td>20 (10.1)</td>
<td>25 (8.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active smoking</td>
<td>67 (11.7)</td>
<td>21 (10.6)</td>
<td>34 (11.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids</td>
<td>51 (8.9)</td>
<td>9 (4.5)</td>
<td>40 (13.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis</td>
<td>22 (3.8)</td>
<td>5 (2.5)</td>
<td>17 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary osteoporosis</td>
<td>86 (15.0)</td>
<td>37 (18.6)</td>
<td>36 (11.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>21 (3.6)</td>
<td>9 (4.5)</td>
<td>10 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>27.5 (5.0)</td>
<td>28.5 (4.7)</td>
<td>26.2 (5.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAX major</td>
<td>12.7 (8.6)</td>
<td>13.3 (9.6)</td>
<td>13.0 (11.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAX hip</td>
<td>5.6 (6.6)</td>
<td>6.0 (7.9)</td>
<td>5.9 (4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DXA #</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>46 (8.6)</td>
<td>18 (10.0)</td>
<td>18 (10.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopenia</td>
<td>175 (32.6)</td>
<td>69 (38.5)</td>
<td>75 (26.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
<td>312 (58.5)</td>
<td>92 (51.3)</td>
<td>192 (67.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-score lumbar</td>
<td>-2.29 (2.0)</td>
<td>-2.0 (1.7)</td>
<td>-2.5 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-score femoral hip</td>
<td>-1.91 (1.0)</td>
<td>-1.8 (1.2)</td>
<td>-2.0 (1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous treatment</td>
<td>124 (21.8)</td>
<td>35 (17.6)</td>
<td>80 (28.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start within 6 months of the visit</td>
<td>474 (83.1)</td>
<td>161 (81.3)</td>
<td>265 (87.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Only grade 2 and 3 fractures were considered. ** Available in 567 patients. ***Available in 561 patients. 
4 Available in 533 patients. 5 Bisphosphonate, denosumab, SERM or teriparatide.

AB1221

CLINICAL EFFICACY OF SEQUENTIAL TREATMENT AFTER ROMOSOZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS COMPARISON WITH PRIMARY OSTEOPOROSIS FOR 24 MONTHS

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid arthritis
Y. Kanayama1, K. Hattoni, Toyota Kosei Hospital, Orthopedic Surgery and Rheumatology, Toyota, Japan

Background: Romosozumab (ROMO), a monoclonal antibody that binds sclerostin, increases bone formation and decreases bone resorption. And although it is a novel therapeutic agent for osteoporosis, which has shown high effects of increasing bone density and inhibiting fragile fracture in overseas clinical trials. However the clinical efficacy for rheumatoid arthritis complicated with osteoporosis (RA-OP) is unknown.

Objectives: To evaluate the clinical efficacy of ROMO for 12 months and denosumab (DMB) for 12 months in patients with RA-OP comparison with primary osteoporosis (P-OP) for 24 months.

Methods: RA patients diagnosed according to the 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria. All patients (RA-OP; 12 cases, P-OP; 19 cases) met at least one of the following criteria were eligible: a bone mineral density T score of -2.5 or less at the lumbar spine or total hip and either one or more moderate or severe vertebral fractures or two or more mild vertebral fractures. All patients were initiated ROMO between April, 2019 and July, 2020. The ROMO dose was 210mg at once every 24 months about the increase and decrease of bone mineral density (BMD) of lumbar spine(LS) and total hip(TH) by DEXA and bone turnover markers, intact n-terminal propeptide type I procollagen(PINP) and tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase s(5b)TRACP-5b.

Results: The gender was all female. Patient background at baseline in RA-OP (n=12) and P-OP (n=19) had a mean age of 72.8 ± 7.0 and 73.9 ± 6.7 (p=0.417); the body mass index were 19.5 ± 3.1 and 20.1 ± 3.6 (p=0.516); the FRAX were 36.0 ± 14.9 and 33.7 ± 16.6 (p=0.529); the number of previous fracture were 5cases (42%) and 13cases (68%) (p=0.142) and the number of previous drug for treatment osteoporosis use were 9cases (75%) and 7cases(38%) (p=0.038).

The bone turnover markers and bone mineral density at baseline were as follows; PINP 62.4 ± 36.2 and 94.6 ± 101.3 (p=0.665); TRACP-5b 485 ± 252 and 24 months.
546 ± 278 (p=0.516); LS-BMD and T-score 0.79 ± 0.14 and 0.79 ± 0.12 g/cm² (p=0.903), -2.82 ± 0.99 and -2.87 ± 0.87 (p=0.919) and TH-BMD 0.55 ± 0.07 and 0.56 ± 0.07 g/cm² (p=0.621), -3.14 ± 0.53 and -3.06 ± 0.35 (p=0.682). Clinical findings related to RA-OP at baseline were as follows; disease duration 17.7 ± 16.5 years; CRP 125 ± 175; DAS28-CRP 3.45 ± 0.99; HAQ 1.56 ± 0.9. The rate of increased LS-BMD from baseline to 6, 12, 18 and 24 months between RA-OP and P-OP were 10.8 ± 8.0% and 11.6 ± 5.7%, (p=0.670) at 6 months, 15.2 ± 9.5% and 16.4 ± 8.2% (p=0.584) at 12 months, 18.9 ± 10.4% and 21.8 ± 9.4% (p=0.598) at 18 months, 20.6 ± 11.7% and 22.7 ± 9.6% (p=0.730) at 24 months and TH-BMD were 4.1 ± 4.5% and 2.7 ± 3.9%, (p=0.389) at 6 months, 5.7 ± 6.3% and 6.1 ± 6.0% (p=0.747) at 12 months, 8.4 ± 8.1% and 8.2 ± 5.3% (p=0.747) at 18 months, 8.4 ± 9.8% and 8.8 ± 5.0% (p=0.236) at 24 months.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of enrolled patients on long-term glucocorticoid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fracture (N=101)</th>
<th>No-Fracture (N=245)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>63.7 ± 9.0</td>
<td>56.5 ± 9.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>89(88.1)</td>
<td>210(85.7)</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>24.1 ± 3.9</td>
<td>23.4 ± 3.9</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Fracture</td>
<td>64(63.4)</td>
<td>55(22.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total hip BMD</td>
<td>0.738 ± 0.133</td>
<td>0.790 ± 0.122</td>
<td>0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femoral neck BMD</td>
<td>0.575 ± 0.113</td>
<td>0.626 ± 0.109</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbar BMD</td>
<td>0.841 ± 0.200</td>
<td>0.855 ± 0.150</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC</td>
<td>7.3 ± 2.1</td>
<td>6.9 ± 1.7</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin</td>
<td>12.8 ± 1.5</td>
<td>12.9 ± 1.4</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelet</td>
<td>239 ± 64.7</td>
<td>247 ± 71.4</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutrophil</td>
<td>673 ± 9.7</td>
<td>643.3 ± 9.7</td>
<td>0.009*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocyte</td>
<td>24.3 ± 8.7</td>
<td>26.6 ± 9.5</td>
<td>0.04*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monocyte</td>
<td>6.2 ± 1.8</td>
<td>6.3 ± 1.6</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eosinophil</td>
<td>1.8 ± 1.8</td>
<td>1.9 ± 1.3</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basophil</td>
<td>0.4 ± 0.2</td>
<td>0.4 ± 0.2</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLR</td>
<td>3.3 ± 1.7</td>
<td>2.8 ± 1.4</td>
<td>0.004*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Neutrophil to lymphocyte)</td>
<td>11.9 ± 4.5</td>
<td>11.0 ± 3.6</td>
<td>0.04*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Neutrophil to monocyte)</td>
<td>4.2 ± 1.7</td>
<td>4.5 ± 1.9</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1936

AB1222 NEUTROPHIL TO LYMPHOCYTE RATIO (NLR) PREDICTS FRACTURE IN PATIENTS ON LONG-TERM GLUCOCORTICOID.

Keywords: Registries, Osteoporosis, Bone diseases

J. Chen¹, T. T. Cheng², S. F. Yu³, H. Y. Kang⁴. ¹Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital and Chang Gung University, College of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Republic of China; ²Center for Menopause and Reproductive Medicine Research, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Kaohsiung Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital and Chang Gung University; College of Medicine, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Long-term glucocorticoid (GC) exposure leads to systemic bone loss and fracture. In addition, GC is known to increase white blood cell (WBC) amount and change the distribution of differential count (DC). Neutrophil-Lymphocyte ratio (NLR) has been studied as an optimal marker of subclinical inflammation, predicting the prognosis of cardiovascular diseases, cancers and even covid-19 infection. For patients under long-term GC exposure, the hemogram change might be a potential parameter to predict prognosis.

Objective: To investigate if GC related WBC-DC change, including NLR, is associated with future fractures during 3 years follow-up.

Methods: This retrospective study is based on a registry, conducted in Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan, from September 2014 till April 2021, aimed to monitor bone mineral density (BMD) changes and fractures in patients with autoimmune diseases. All recruited patients were followed at least 3 years and took X-ray images annually to capture new fragility fracture, including morphometric vertebral fractures. We screened participants who used GC continuously at least 3 months before the index day. We recorded the complete blood count (CBC) and WBC-DC values at least twice during the period of 3 months before and after the index day, and excluded patients who were febrile, under infection status, diagnosed as cancers or cardiovascular diseases at the index day. The NLR was calculated by the absolute neutrophil count divided by absolute lymphocyte count individually.

Results: A total of 346 participants were enrolled in current study, and 101 (29.2%) suffered from new fragility fracture in 3 years. Among patients with fracture and non-fracture, conventional fracture risk factors, such as age, BMD, and previous fracture remained significantly different, while the WBC revealed no difference (Table 1). Nevertheless, the absolute neutrophil and lymphocyte count were significantly higher and lower in the fracture group, respectively, and no difference in the monocyte, eosinophil, and basophil count. We compared different WBC ratio, and NLR is significantly higher in the fracture group, providing the odds ratio of 1.24 (95% confidence interval 1.07-1.44, p=0.005).

Conclusion: In patients under long-term GC, NLR might be a helpful marker to predict fracture, and higher NLR indicates higher fracture risks.

Figure 1. Observed fracture rate is associated with baseline NLR

Figure 2. The rate of increased TH-BMD from baseline to 24 month
WHAT ABOUT BONE MINERAL DENSITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS USING GLUCOCORTICOIDS?

Objectives: To estimate the prevalence of insufficiency fractures in the thoracic vertebrae in patients hospitalized for any cause in a Hospital in Bogotá (Colombia).

Methods: Cross-sectional study in a sub population of Latin American patients, older than 50 years with chest tomography indicated during hospitalization in 2020 for reasons other than suspicion of vertebral bone disease. Patients with secondary causes of vertebral fracture, trauma and spinal instrumentation were excluded. Reading by two independent expert researchers with Genant’s semi-quantitative visual method and the ABQ method. Clinical and sociodemographic variables were captured (RedCap). Descriptive statistical analysis (STATA 17). The project was approved by the ethics committee.

Results: A total of 317 patients with a mean age of 69.4 years and a predominance of males (57.1%) were included. The most frequent personal history was active smoking (15.8%), use of glucocorticoids in the last 5 years (12.9%), and alcohol consumption (75%). A prevalence of vertebral fractures of 8.5% was found, being more frequent in women in 51.8% of the cases, with T11 as the most frequent location (See Table 1 and Figure 1). Only two vertebrae did not define a fracture according to the ABQ method compared to Genant. A disagreement was found in 77.7% of the cases with respect to the final report.

Conclusion: The prevalence of vertebral fractures reported here is lower than that reported in the literature when x-ray imaging is used; it is possible that the use of the tomography influences this result and possibly allows a more objective assessment. Careful evaluation of chest tomographic studies performed during the hospital stay may contribute to an opportune diagnosis of insufficiency fracture associated with osteoporosis.

Table 1. Fractured vertebrae characteristics, n= 42*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fracture type</th>
<th>G1</th>
<th>G2</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biconcave</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedge</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crush</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fractured vertebra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In total, 44 fractured vertebrae were identified; only 42 are described in the table, since only 3 vertebrae were classified in the patient in whom 5 fractured vertebrae were detected.

Figure 1. Fracture severity

Osteoporosis is a metabolic bone disorder characterized by a systemic impairment of bone mass and microarchitecture that results in fragility fractures [1]. Romosozumab (Rmab), a humanized monoclonal anti-sclerostin antibody, increases bone mineral density (BMD) and decreases fragility fractures in patients with postmenopausal osteoporosis (POMD) [2]. While an increase in type 1 amino-terminal procpeptide (PINP) and a decrease in tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase Sb (TRACP-Sb) are observed early after administration of Rmab, the association between these changes in bone metabolic markers (BTMs) and increases in BMDs was still unknown.
Objectives: The aim of this research is to evaluate association between effect of Rmab on BMDs and BTMs in patients with PMO.

Methods: Between March 2019 and August 2021, 34 patients with PMO, who were naïve to treatment of osteoporosis were included. The correlation between baseline characteristics, changes (%-) in BMDs in lumber (L-) and total hip (TH-) at 12 months (-M), and absolute values of P1NP and TRACP-5b and %P1NP and %TRACP-5b at 1, 3, 6M was calculated, respectively. Multiple regression analysis was performed on the factors that showed significant correlations to L- and TH-BMD, respectively.

Results: The mean age was 72.5 years old, mean BMI was 20.6 kg/m², mean vertebral fractures were 2.1, mean L- and TH-BMD were 0.762 g/cm² and 0.589 g/cm², and mean P1NP and TRACP-5b were 107.0 µg/L and 640.0 µM/dL, %L- and %TH-BMD at 12M were 18.1% and 9.1%, %P1NP at 3M was positively correlated with %L-BMD at 12M, while %TRACP at 1 and 6M and TRACP-5b at each time point showed no significant correlation with %L-BMD at 12M. Multiple regression analysis confirmed that a great increase in P1NP at 3M was associated with a great increase in L-BMD at 12M. No correlation between either P1NP or TRACP-5b at each time point and %TH-BMD at 12M was observed.

Conclusion: We showed that a great increase in P1NP at 3M was a predictive factor of a great increase in L-BMD at 12M in patients with PMO treated with Rmab. On the other hand, there was no association between an increase in TH-BMD and BTMs including P1NP and TRACP-5b.

REFERENCES:

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1226 CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF A PATIENT COMPLIANCE IN PREVENTION OF SECONDARY FRACTURES

Keywords: Osteoporosis

E. Simakova1, I. Zborovskaya2, S. Zavadovsky2, L. Seewordova2, J. Poljakova3, E. Papichev4, V. Zavodovsky2, 1ACR, Rheumatology, Jupiter, United States of America; 2Research Institute of Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation; 3Research Institute of Rheumatology, Volgograd, Russian Federation; 4Research Institute of Rheumatology, Volgograd, Russian Federation

Objectives: to evaluate the effect of compliance in patients with osteoporosis on the incidence of new fragility fractures.

Methods: The study was performed in two stages. At the 1st stage, a retrospective analysis of outpatient records for the period from December 2019 to December 2021 was completed in the Volgograd Center of Osteoporosis. During Phase II of the study, in December 2022, researchers conducted a telephone survey to identify new fractures.

Results: The analysis included outpatient records of 2236 patients aged 40 to 92 years with DEXA scan. (1897 women and 339 men). 715 patients out of 2236 (control group or 31.98% of all included in the study) were found to have an abnormal DEXA, but lost follow up, among 715 patients from the control group, 509 (71%) patients were diagnosed with osteoporosis, 115 patients had a history of fragility fractures [1,2]. But these patients refused to attend the school for patients with osteoporosis and offered treatment. 158 patients in this group (26.51%) reported new low-traumatic fractures on a telephone survey. The remaining 1521 (73.49%) patients constituted the II group of the study (highly compliant patients). Among these patients, only 11 new low-traumatic fractures (1.4%) were registered. Group I (158 subjects) represented by patients managed according to the Standard Clinical Practice and who were NOT given further information about their fracture risk and who were NOT given the risk card; group B (175 subjects) represented by patients who were provided with all the information regarding the risk of fracture according to the variables collected in the Defra algorithm and who were physically given the fracture risk card (Figure 1). After 18 months the patients had a new DXA densitometric data examined, the DeFRA fracture risk was recalculated and a therapy adherence questionnaire, the OS-MMAS (Osteoporosis-Specific Morisky Medication Adherence Scale). Patients with an OS-MMAS score <6 were categorized as “low adherence” otherwise as “high adherence”.

Results: Mean age was not significantly different in the two groups: Group A 75.9y±4.7, Group B 74.7y±4.7 (p=0.05). The mean DeFRA value at baseline was 26.7 and 26.8 in Group A and Group B, respectively (p>0.05), while at the control it was 27.4 and 25.6 (p<0.01). The mean OS-MMAS score was significantly lower in group A than in group B (4.95±2.75 vs 8.25±2.85, p<0.001) (Figure 2 and Figure 3). 38.5% of the subjects fell into the ‘low adherence’ category with an OS-MMAS score <6; 61.5% fell into the ‘high adherence’ category with a score ≥ 6. We found a significant correlation between the belonging groups and the punctual values of DeFRA at 18 months and those of variation of DeFRA between baseline and 18 months (correlation between belonging to group B and DeFRA at 18 months -2.72, with the delta values of DeFRA at 18 months -2.72 respectively, p<0.01). The OS-MMAS score was shown to be correlated to belonging to group B (coefficient Beta 0.5 p<0.001) in a linear regression model including the other variables collected at baseline and DeFRA value at baseline. The same result was obtained by analyzing the data in terms of “low adherence” and “high adherence”, where having an OS-MMAS score greater than or equal to 6 correlated to belonging to group B and not to age or DeFRA score baseline (ExpB 0.170 95% CI 0.103-0.281, p<0.01) in a binary logistic regression model. In turn, the better OS-MMAS score correlated with the improvement over time of the DeFRA fracture risk recalculated at the follow-up visit on the basis of the control DXA data (Spearman’s Rho -3.95 p<0.001)

Conclusion: The data collected in our study, although preliminary and with obvious limitations related to the smallness of the sample analysed, suggest that a greater awareness on the part of the patient of his or her risk of fracture (in the specific case providing detailed information about the result of the DeFRA algorithm described during the baseline evaluation), may be associated with a greater long-term adherence to the suggested therapy and above all with a reduction in the risk of fracture over time, as evidenced by a reduction in the risk of DeFRA fracture at the 18-month follow-up period.

References: none.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5857
AB1228

RADIOFREQUENCY ECHOGRAPHIC MULTISPECTROMETRY COMPARED WITH DUAL X-RAY ABSORPTIMETRY FOR OSTEOPOROSIS DIAGNOSIS ON LUMBAR SPINE AND FEMORAL NECK IN A COLOMBIAN POPULATION

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Diagnostic tests

E. Jauregui1, K. Gonzalez1, M. Nuñez2, J. Londoño3, B. Corredor1, J. Huertas1, C. Cabrera1. 1Riesgo de fractura S.A, Bogotá, Bogotá, Colombia; 2Instituto Nacional de Cancerología, Bogotá, Bogotá, Colombia

Background: An innovative non-ionizing ultrasound technique for osteoporosis diagnosis, which directly measures the BMD (Bone Mineral Density) of both the lumbar spine and the femoral neck, REMS, has shown significant correlations with BMD values and good levels of concordance with DXA-based diagnoses.

Objectives: Cross-sectional study to establish the concordance of BMD measurement between REMS and the gold standard (DXA) in Colombian adult patients receiving oral steroids.

Methods: Observational, analytical and descriptive, cross-sectional study in adults of both sexes who receive steroids and who attend a rheumatology center in Bogotá-Colombia. Inclusion criteria: Men and women over 18 years. Receiving steroids more than 2.5 mg prednisone or its equivalent for 3 or more continuous months. Interpretable bone densitometry. Subjects who accepted their participation in the study and signed the informed consent. Exclusion criteria: History of prosthesis implantation in the abdomen and/or buttocks. Known physical deformities and/or previous lumbar spine surgery and/or bilateral hip replacement. Pregnant women. Subjects prevented from performing bone densitometry. The densitometric measurements were made with a compact high-performance equipment from General Electric, model DXA, by the same technologist at the skeletal sites of interest. In a second moment, the same trained technologist performed the BMD measurement with REMS, using an EchOs machine (Echolith8), equipped with a 3.5 MHz convex transducer. This study was submitted and approved by the institutional ethics committee. The calculation of the sample size was carried out to establish the prevalence of osteoporosis induced by steroids, for n of 185 individuals. The concordance between the two technologies was evaluated with the weighted Cohen’s Kappa index.

Results: 200 patients were included in the study, 162 were women. The median age of the entire cohort was 50.5 years (IQR: 22.2), with a minimum age of 20 and a maximum of 86 years. In women, the median age at menarche was 13 years (IQR: 2) and the median age for menopause was 47 years (IQR: 8), only 2.5% (n = 5) reported having fractures for fragility; 51% of the patients had rheumatoid arthritis, SLE 29% and other diagnoses 20%. Regarding the type of corticosteroid used, 92.5% received prednisolone. The last dose of corticosteroid used in median, (IQR) 5 mg/day (IQR: 5). In the case of the accumulated dose in the last year, the median was 1825 mg/year (IQR: 1850). For the concordance analysis, 11 patients were excluded because the image of all the lumbar vertebral bodies could not be interpreted with both DXA and REMS techniques. Taking into account the diagnostic classification of each technology, a diagnostic concordance was obtained with the weighted Cohen’s Kappa index of $\kappa_{w} = 0.72$ (95% CI: [0.63; 0.81]) in the lumbar spine and $\kappa_{w} = 0.65$ (95% CI: [0.54; 0.74]) in femoral neck.

Conclusion: In Colombian patients receiving steroids, the diagnostic concordance for BMD measurement between DXA and REMS is good; however, there are factors that affect the measurement, for which further training in REMS is required for the technologist to mitigate errors and improve the concordance between the techniques.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Edwin Jauregui Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Biopas, Aimgen, Fresenius kabi, Consultant of: Abbvie, Aimgen, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Katherine Gonzalez: None declared, Marcela Nuñez: None declared, Juan Londoño: None declared, Bibiana Corredor: None declared, Juan Huertas: None declared, Catalina Cabrera: None declared.

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AB1229

COMPARISON OF FRACTURE RISK BY FRAX WITH AND WITHOUT BONE MINERAL DENSITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Osteoporosis, Non-pharmacological interventions

A. Carrascoc-Chapa1, K. M. López Serna1, O. E. Alvarez-Gonzalez1, K. A. Mendetta Pedraza1, M. C. Martinez Rodriguez1, J. Medina Castillio1, C. M. Skinner Taylor1, J. C. Riega-Torres1, R. Negrete Lopez1, D. A. Galarza-Delgado1, Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González”; Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: FRAX is a well-validated instrument that calculates the probability of a major osteoporotic fracture over the following 10 years based on a set of risk factors such as age, body mass index (BMI), history of fragility fracture, steroid treatments used in patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARD) such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and secondary osteoporosis [1]. The FRAX score obtained without bone mineral density (BMD) is comparable to the fracture risk calculated using BMD values; it aims to identify patients who are likely to benefit from health interventions [2].

Objectives: To compare the fracture risk using FRAX with and without BMD in patients with ARD.

Methods: An observational, cross-sectional, prospective study was carried out at the Rheumatology Clinic in the University Hospital “Dr. José Eleuterio González” in Monterrey, Mexico from September to December 2022. We included > 40 years old ARD patients with a previous BMD test who were evaluated as part of a “Bone Health Program”. The risk fracture scores were compared using FRAX with and without BMD. There were classified as low (<10% probability of a major fracture), intermediate (10% - 19% probability) and high risk (>20% probability). Non-traditional risk factors such as visual problems, periodontal disease, 2 or more falls in the last year, lack of physical activity, the ARD diagnosis or the consumption of disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), were collected using a semi-structured form. The Kologorov-Smirnov test was used to determine normality. Data were presented as percent frequency, mean ± standard deviation (SD), or median and interquartile range (IQR) as appropriate. We used the Mann–Whitney U or Chi-square to analyze the differences between groups. A p<0.05 was considered statistically significant. The statistical analysis was performed with SPSS v.25.

Results: A total of 146 patients were included: 142 (97.3%) were women and 4 (2.7%) were men with a mean age of 61.49 ± 9.22. The most frequent BMI was overweight (43.2%), followed by normal (31.5%), obesity grade 1 (13.7%), obesity grade 2 (10.3%) and obesity grade 3 (1.4%). The occupations were housewife (76.8%), employed (17.1%) and owned business (4.1%). The most prevalent non-traditional risk factors were visual problems (45.9%), systemic lupus erythematosus (3.4%), Sjogren’s syndrome (2.7%) and others (8.9%). The risk factors used by FRAX can be found in Figure 1. According to the non-traditional risk factors, 24.7% suffered 2 or more falls in the last year, 26% had periodontal disease, 71.9% were sedentary and 53.8% had visual problems. The median T-score spine was -1.7 [IQR (-2.5) (-0.8)] and the mean T-score hip was -1.06 ± 1.21. The risk fracture scores using FRAX with and without BMD are in Table 1.

Conclusion: Higher hip fracture and major fracture risks were identified in the FRAX without BMD group. We found significant differences between the hip fracture risk of FRAX with and without BMD. Nevertheless, no differences were found in the major fracture risk of FRAX with and without BMD; this is of critical importance if all patients cannot have their BMD measured. The FRAX use makes it possible to offer a larger population a timely diagnosis.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Fracture risk by FRAX with and without BMD and risk classification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Classification</th>
<th>FRAX with BMD</th>
<th>FRAX without BMD</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor fracture risk, median (IQR)</td>
<td>9.30 (6.07 - 15.0)</td>
<td>9.85 (6.60 - 17.0)</td>
<td>0.313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip fracture risk, median (IQR)</td>
<td>1.10 (0.40 - 3.10)</td>
<td>1.95 (0.80 - 4.73)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risks of major osteoporotic fracture assessed by FRAX, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>81 (27.7%)</td>
<td>73 (25%)</td>
<td>0.598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>43 (29.5%)</td>
<td>45 (15.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>22 (75%)</td>
<td>27 (9.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IQR: Interquartile range
CHARACTERISTICS OF FRACTURES TREATED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION OF THE FLS OF TUDELA, NAVARRA.

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Descriptive studies, Outcome measures

M. S. Moreno García1, 1Hospital Reina Sofia, Reumatologia, Tudela, Spain

Background: Osteoporosis is a common disease with a huge impact on public health due to the great morbidity and mortality and the impact on the quality of life of fractures. The main objective of its approach is to avoid the appearance of osteoporotic fractures, so it is important to devote efforts to diagnose and treat individuals who are most at risk of suffering this type of fractures. In our environment the approach to osteoporotic fracture was deficient, so a specific secondary prevention consultation was launched.

Objectives: To analyze the general characteristics of patients referred to the FLS consultation during their first year of operation at the Reina Sofia Hospital in Tudela, Navarra.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive study including patients referred to the secondary fracture prevention rheumatology (FLS) consultation, from November 2021 to November 2022. Epidemiological characteristics, risk factors, type of fracture, therapeutic acts and adherence to treatment at month 6 and 12 months are analyzed.

Results: During the indicated period, 200 patients were referred to FLS consultation from Traumatology. Internal Medicine and Rehabilitation, of which 67% (134) were evaluated during admission for hip fracture, of whom 11 died during admission. 33% of patients were treated on an outpatient basis -with a maximum delay of 6 weeks-, for low-impact fractures of radius (23), proximal humerus (15) and vertebral (28). The mean age of patients with hip fracture was 84.95 years, and that of the rest of osteoporotic fractures treated was 72.95 years, with a ratio of men/women of 43/157, close to 1/5. The Barthel was also calculated with an average of 90.36. Regarding risk factors: the mean BMI of the patients was 25.56 kg/m2; 23 patients (11.5%) were active smokers, 8 of the women attended (4%) had early menopause, 2 women (1%) were on treatment with aromatase inhibitors, 48 patients (24%) had had previous fracture and 57.5% of patients had hypovitaminosis D. Only 20 patients (10%) had taken or were being treated for osteoporosis prior to fracture. BMD was requested from 47% of patients. Regarding the treatment prescribed after evaluation in the FLS, 16% was not considered subsidiary to specific pharmacological treatment, but was always given non-pharmacological advice, as well as calcium and vitamin D supplements. Those who were prescribed specific therapy 64% were prescribed antiresorptive and 36% an osteoanabolic. Regarding adherence to treatment, only 4 patients did not take it within one month of their prescription. The rest followed a correct completion each review call per month, 6 months and one year, although at the time of writing the study there are pending review appointments of 6 and 12 months in patients recruited from the second semester of 2022.

Conclusion: The establishment of standardized units for secondary prevention of fracture is a necessity for the health of the population. In our sample, only 10% of patients treated for osteoporotic fracture had specific therapy before their fracture, but, after assessment in the FLS, the initiation of therapy after osteoporotic fracture was ensured in all subsidiary patients, as well as adequate adherence to treatment.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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HIGHER PAIN SCORE MEASURED WITH VISUAL ANALOG SCALE HAS SIGNIFICANT HIGHER RISK OF INCIDENT BONE FRAILITY FRAGMENT

Keywords: Pain, Rheumatoid arthritis, Osteoporosis

I. Yoshii1, N. Sawada2, T. Chijiwa1 1Yoshii Clinic, Musculoskeletal Medicine, Shimanto City, Japan; 2Dogo Onsen Hospital, Rheumatology, Matsuyama, Japan; 3Kochi Memorial Hospital, Rheumatology, Kochi, Japan

Background: Bone fragility fracture (BFF) is one of serious troublesome incident in treating patient with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Previously, sustaining clinical remission with simplified disease activity index (SDAI) was clarified that prevents occurrence of incident BFF [1].

Objectives: We hypothesized that pain degree would correlate with occurrence of incident BFF, because that caused gait disability and bone fragility. The aim of this study is to clarify this issue.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study data was used in the study. Postmenopausal female patients who matched the EULAR/ACR classification criteria under the T2T since August 2010, have been treating RA and were measured bone mineral density (BMD) with dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry, were recruited. The initial target of therapy is the attainment of remission with SDAI score were included in RA specific candidate risks. Each evidence was evaluated using Cox regression analysis to identify significantly higher risk factors within 5% in univariate models and to evaluate using multivariate model. In the Cox regression analysis, Receiver

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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PROFILE OF OSTEOPOROSIS IN YOUNG WOMEN: EXPERIENCE FROM A POPULATION IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Descriptive studies, Bone diseases

H. Teba1, H. Arabi2, A. Mouguil1, I. El Bouchti1 1CENTRE HOSPITALO-UNIVERSITAIRE MOHAMED VI MARRAKECH, Rheumatology, Marrakech, Morocco

Background: Osteoporosis is a generalized skeletal disease characterized by low bone density and alterations in bone microarchitecture. Current definitions and recommendations focus more on postmenopausal osteoporosis with a low number of studies in young pre-menopausal women which makes it difficult to estimate the prevalence of osteoporosis in this population.

Objectives: To establish the prevalence and determine the etiologies of osteoporosis in young women and their management according to the experience of our department.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive and analytical study including 97 female patients aged less than 45 years, who performed a bone densitometry measurement between the years 2014 and 2022. Data were collected from the bone densitometry database. Osteoporosis was retained if a T score less than or equal to -2.5. Women older than 45 years and or followed for genetic osteopathy were excluded from this study.

Results: There were 97 patients with osteoporosis in this study. The average age was 25 years. Early menopause was found in 15% of cases (10% of cases after chemotherapy). Osteoporosis secondary to endocrinopathy was found in 17% of cases (5% diabetes, 10% primary hyperparathyroidism, 2% Cushing’s syndrome). It was secondary to a systemic disease or chronic inflammatory rheumatism in 45% of cases (29% rheumatoid arthritis, 12% spondyloarthropathy, 3% systemic lupus erythematosus and 1 % Horton’s disease). The other pathologies found were chronic renal failure in 3% of cases, a notion of prolonged use of corticosteroids in 21% and hormone therapy for breast neoplasia in 14%. 3% of the patients had at least one osteoporotic vertebral fracture. The mean bone mineral density (BMD) in both femurs was 0.727g/cm2. The mean BMD in the spine was 0.965g/cm2. 11% of these patients were treated with oral anti-osteoporotic drugs, 35% were supplemented with vitamin D and calcium.

Conclusion: The discovery of osteoporosis is rare in young women, hence the scarcity of studies in this category of women. It may be of metabolic or drug-induced origin or related to other chronic inflammatory diseases. It should be investigated in the presence of risk factors in order to limit the risk of bone fractures.

REFERENCES:
[1] Shimanto City, Japan; 2Dogo Onsen Hospital, Rheumatology, Matsuyama, Japan; 3Kochi Memorial Hospital, Rheumatology, Kochi, Japan

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5891
Operation characteristics (ROC) was examined to determine cut-off index (COI). Finally, statistically evident variants in the ROC study was examined to clarify the validity of the variant as a risk factor using Kaplan-Meier survival curve analysis again.

Results: A total of 239 patients were recruited. Mean age was 73.6 years and mean follow up period was 52.4 months. Mean T-score in the lumbar spine and femoral neck were -2.10 and -1.85. Using BFR, PS-VAS, estimated glomerular filtration ratio based on cystatin C (eGFR-CysC), prevalent BFF (p-BFF), and SDAI remission rate were significant correlation with incident BFF. In these, PS-VAS and p-BFF demonstrated significant higher risk ratios using a multivariate cox regression analysis. In the ROC, COI of PS-VAS was 24.6 and the area-under-the-curve was 0.669 (p < 0.001). Finally, PS-VAS ≥ 24.6 mm had 3.506 fold higher hazard ratio than PS-VAS < 24.6 mm using Kaplan-Meier survival curve analysis.

Conclusion: These results suggested pain control in treating RA is the important task in order to avoid incident BFF in postmenopausal female patients with RA.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1233 IMPACT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ON THE DENSITOMETRIC STATUS OF WOMEN

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Osteoporosis

L. Rouached1, J. Soua1, S. Bouden1, A. Ben Tekaya1, I. Mahmoud1, R. Tekaya1, O. Saidane1, L. Abdelmoula1,1 Charles Nicols Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the most common chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease. It can be associated with several comorbidities including osteoporosis (OP). The origin of this bone loss is multifactorial. A fracture episode is the complication of osteoporotic disease and constitutes all the gravity of this disease.

Objectives: The objective of this work was to evaluate bone densitometry (BMD) in women with RA and to identify its relationship with disease parameters.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study, including patients followed for RA meeting the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. For each patient, disease parameters (duration of progression, activity score (DAS28 VS), functional impact (HAQ), corticosteroid intake) were assessed and BMD of the lumbar spine and femoral neck was performed in all patients.

Results: A total of 76 women were included, 66% of whom were postmenopausal. The mean age of the patients was 52.5±9.7 years and the mean duration of RA progression was 11.3±7.9 years. The mean DAS28 VS score was 4.3±1.4 and the mean HAQ was 0.98±0.8. Corticosteroid use was noted in 62 patients (81.5%) at a mean dose of 8.6±3.2mg/day. Regarding the densitometric profile of the patients, the mean BMD values at the vertebral and femoral sites were -1.4±1.3DS and 0.8±1.1DS respectively, and the prevalence of osteoporosis and osteopenia were 21.6% and 46.6% respectively. Patients with osteoporosis (OP) were older (p=0.00), and there was a significant relationship between OP and menopausal status (p=0.007). In contrast, disease parameters (function, activity, duration and treatment) were not associated with the occurrence of osteoporosis in our series: HAQ (p=0.6), disease duration (p=0.3), disease activity (p=0.3) or corticosteroid use (p=0.9).

Conclusion: OP is a frequent comorbidity associated with RA. It should be systematically detected because of its functional and vital complications. In our study, the occurrence of OP was more frequent at an older age during RA and menopausal status. There was no relation with the disease parameters.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1234 THE BODY COMPOSITION IMPACT ON OSTEODENSITOMETRY VALUES IN PERSONS OLDER THAN 65 YEARS

Keywords: Diet and nutrition, Osteoporosis, Diagnostic tests

R. Matijević1, M. Obradovic1, O. Dulic1, M. Vranjes1, A. Savic1, T. Icin3
1Medical Faculty in Novi Sad, Orthopedic and Trauma Clinic, Novi Sad, Serbia; 1Medical Faculty in Novi Sad, Rheumatology, Novi Sad, Serbia; 1Medical Faculty in Novi Sad, Endocrinology, Novi Sad, Serbia

Background: The aging process is a normal physiological phenomenon and has an impact on the body composition and physical fitness of the elderly. It is characterized by a progressive increase in total body fat mass, a decrease in muscle mass and changes in distribution in terms of an increase in abdominal fat tissue. These changes in the elderly have a great impact on health, functional capacity, and quality of life. The variability of body composition components contributes to the origin and progression of pathology and disability. Today osteodensitometric examination is considered one of the most versatile imaging techniques for assessing osteoporosis, sarcopenia, and obesity, and is currently the only technique capable of identifying all of these conditions at the same time. Osteoporosis is characterized by low bone mass and microarchitectural bone loss, leading to an increased risk of fracture caused by a minor trauma.

Objectives: To determine the presence of normal values of T score, osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, to determine the distribution of BMI and values of lean muscle mass, adipose tissue and visceral adipose tissue of the examined population.

Methods: In this retrospective study conducted from March to April 2019 at the University Clinical Center of Vojvodina, 699 respondents of both sexes over 65 participated. Exclusion criteria were established osteoporosis and treatment. The research consisted of collecting general information of the respondents (gender, age, smoking status, level of education, marital status). Body composition (BMI, FM, VAT, LM) was measured by osteodensitometric examination. Also, all subjects body weight, and height were measured and their body mass index (BMI) was determined.

Results: The average age of respondents was 71.92±5.14, most respondents 50.6% have secondary education, 52.2% are married, 9.5% are smokers. The classification of the total T score shows a normal finding in 26.8%, with osteoporosis 58.4% and with osteoporosis 14.8% of subjects. According to BMI with a normal finding is 16.5%, overweight is 38.5% and obese 45% of respondents. The average BMI of men is 28.79±4.01, and for women the average BMI is 29.92±4.91. The average value of BMI is 1.537±0.820, FM 31.105±9.152 and LM 43.735±8.279. Men have higher average VAT values (2.06±0.90) compared to women (1.32±0.67). The average FM is higher in women (32.49±8.88) than in men (2760±8.89). The average LM is higher in men (53.38±705) than in women (39.92±4.97). Subjects with normal findings were 61.5% obese, with osteoporosis 40.2%, and with osteoporosis 28% obese. The measured value of LM in persons with normal findings is 47.921±8.738, with osteoporosis 42.342±7.378, with osteoporosis 40.443±6.949. The measured value of FM in persons with normal findings is 34.37±9.51, with osteoporosis 34.220±8.75, and with osteoporosis 2760±7.14. The measured value of VAT in persons with normal findings is 34.37±9.51, with osteoporosis 34.37±9.51, with osteoporosis 2760±7.14. Conclusion: Higher values of BMI, LM, FM, and VAT have a positive effect on the hip and spine T score, and a protective role against osteoporosis.


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1235 PREVALENCE OF OSTEOPOROSIS IN AN ALGERIAN POPULATION WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS: CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis, Descriptive studies

B. Abdelatif1, A. Djebbari2, S. Oulebsir2, S. Bennedjema2, C. Makhloufi-Dahouz3, A. Ali Ayad4, 1HMUS, Rhumatology, Algiers, Algeria; 2HCA, Rheumatology, Algiers, Algeria; 3Hôpital Bab el oued, Rhumatology, Bab el oued, Algeria
**Background:** Osteoarthritis is a chronic degenerative rheumatism responsible for a structural modification of bone tissue which can alter its biomechanical qualities. Data are contradictory regarding the relationship between osteoarthritis (OA) and osteoporosis (OP) with some studies showing the increased risk of OP in OA especially in patients awaiting arthroplasty. Failure to consider bone loss in this osteoarthritic population can lead to serious complications such as fracture, which can considerably reduce the quality of life and expose this elderly population to excess mortality.

**Objectives:** This study aims to identify patients at risk of fracture in osteoarthritic Algerian population and evaluate postoperative bone loss complication in patients undergoing arthroplasty.

**Methods:** Descriptive, cross-sectional study in patients with knee osteoarthritis candidates for arthroplasty. All patients underwent a rheumatology exploration including clinical, radiological and biological evaluation with a measurement of bone mineral density (BMD) at spine and hip. The results are interpreted according to the WHO classification.

**Results:** Three hundred patients were recruited with a sex ratio=0.45, the mean age was 67.97 ± 6.78 years and the mean BMI was 30.81 ± 5.37 kg/m2. With regard to bone loss, osteoporosis was present in 26.7% (95% CI: 21.7%-32.1%), while osteopenia was found in 43.7% (CI 38.0%-49.5%). Factors associated with bone loss were: female sex (P<10^-7), urban habitat (P= 0.001) and age ≥ 60 years (P=0.003).

**Conclusion:** In this Algerian sample of severe osteoarthritis awaiting arthroplasty, osteoporosis and consequently the risk of fracture are prevalent. Identifying the population with bone loss in these patients could improve overall management and avoid postoperative fractures.

**References:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**doi:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3931

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**AB1236**

**OSTEOPOROSIS AND FRACTURES IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING CHRONIC CORTICOSTEROID THERAPY**

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Osteoporosis, Real-world evidence


**Background:** Glucocorticoids are widely used for the treatment of various rheumatic diseases and are one of the major risk factors for bone fragility associated fractures. However, beyond randomized clinical trials, there is little evidence in actual clinical practice.

**Objectives:** Our aim is to evaluate the appearance of osteoporosis and fractures in patients undergoing corticosteroid therapy.

**Methods:** We performed an observational retrospective descriptive study with Vasculitis (several subtypes) or Polymyalgia Rheumatica (PMR) patients diagnosed, who had received corticosteroid regimes with doses of at least 5 mg/day of prednisone (or equivalent) for a period of not less than 3 months, and in which the appearance of fractures was monitored for the next 2 years.

**Results:** We included 234 patients (62.4% females) with a mean age at the onset of corticosteroids of 75.8 years and mean duration corticosteroid regimes of 58 months. The most represented disease was PMR, with 183 patients (78.2%), followed by Large Vessel Vasculitis (12.4%), ANCA positive Small Vessel Vasculitis (4.3%), ANCA negative Small Vessel Vasculitis (3.4%), with a lower proportion of Medium Vessel vasculitis and other diseases such as Relapsing Polychondritis. Furthermore, 29 patients (12.39%) had previous fragility fractures, while 32 patients (13.68%) suffered one or more fractures after the start of corticosteroid therapy, being hip its most frequent location (4.7%), followed by vertebrae (3.8%). Likewise, the mean duration of corticosteroid treatment until the onset of new fractures was 4.5 months. Even without reaching statistical significance, we observed a greater age (80.5 years), a higher presence of the female gender (81.25%) and a previous fracture (18.75%) in patients with new fractures. In addition, 32.91% of patients had densitometric osteoporosis at the beginning of corticosteroid therapy.

**Table 1. Comparison between different therapeutic options**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Patients n (%)</th>
<th>New Fractures n (%)</th>
<th>Fracture-free time: average in years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placebo</td>
<td>56 (27.6)</td>
<td>7 (1,25)</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alendronate</td>
<td>31 (13.25)</td>
<td>5 (16.13)</td>
<td>5.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibandronate</td>
<td>6 (2.57)</td>
<td>3 (50)</td>
<td>6.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosadronate</td>
<td>54 (23.07)</td>
<td>6 (11.11)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoledronate</td>
<td>8 (3.42)</td>
<td>5 (62.5)</td>
<td>5.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bazedoxifene</td>
<td>1 (0.43)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denosumab</td>
<td>38 (16.24)</td>
<td>6 (15.79)</td>
<td>4.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teriparatide</td>
<td>10 (4.27)</td>
<td>4 (40)</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No treatment</td>
<td>86 (36.75)</td>
<td>3 (3.49)</td>
<td>3.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We observed an association between fractures and zoleadronate treatment (P=0.012), and a tendency for ibandronate (P=0.07). The discreet entity of these differences could be explained by the statistical effect produced by the small number of new fractures, taking into account, moreover, the fact that in our Rheumatology Department we systematically carry out a fracture risk assessment to decide whether and when to start the treatment, and also prescribing more powerful therapeutic options to patients at higher risk of fracture. Finally, we did not observe significant differences in fracture-free time among the most frequent therapeutic options.

**Conclusion:** We observed a tendency to have a higher frequency of fractures in patients with previous fractures, older age and female gender. Less quantitative prevention of fractures was observed in patients with zoleadronate and ibandronate, with no clear differences in fracture-free time.

**References:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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Crystal diseases, metabolic bone diseases other than osteoporosis

ASSOCIATION OF GUT MICROBIOTA WITH RISK OF GOUT

Keywords: Gout

Y. Zhang1,2, Y. Niu1,2, Z. Han1,2, Q. Yu3, P.F. He4, X. Li2, S. X. Zhang4,1 Shanxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China;1Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immunoregulation Microbiology, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China;1Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China;4The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China

Background: Gout is a prevalent and painful inflammatory arthritis. Increasingly studies have shown that the gut microbiota is associated with gout [1-3]. However, whether these associations reflect a causal relationship is still being determined.

Objectives: To investigate whether there is a causal relationship between intestinal bacteria and gout, we used Mendelian randomization (MR) two-sample analysis.

Methods: Gout-related data were derived from the Integrated Epidemiology Unit (IEU) GWAS database, which included 2115 gout cases and 67259 controls [4]. The data on intestinal bacteria came from the website MIBbse. We searched 173 species of bacteria and finally identified 5 genus species, which were the Eubacterium brachy, Eubacterium hallii, Howardella, Sellimonas, and order Mollicutes RF9. MR-Egger, weighted median, inverse variance weighting (IVW), and MR-PRESSO were used to conduct the double-sample MR analysis. Finally, we excluded the data related to poly-effect and heterogeneity to ensure the robustness of the results.

Results: Five kinds of gut microbiota (Eubacterium brachy, Eubacterium hallii, Howardella, Sellimonas, and order Mollicutes RF9) had a causal relationship with gout. According to inverse variance weighted estimation, Eubacterium hallii(odds ratio/OR = 1.660, 95% confidence interval(CI): 1.073-2.569, P = 0.023), Howardella(OR = 1.391, 95% CI: 1.058-1.828, P = 0.018) and Sellimonas(OR = 1.384, 95% CI: 1.009-1.897, P = 0.044) were risk factors for gout. Eubacterium brachy(OR = 0.656, 95% CI: 0.469-0.917, P = 0.014) and order Mollicutes RF9(OR = 0.641, 95% CI: 0.471-0.874, P = 0.005) showed protective effect against gout (Figure 1).

Conclusion: This study suggested a causal relationship between these five gut microbiota and gout, providing new implications for future clinical trials on the association between microbiota and gout.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Forest plot of the results of mendelian randomization analysis between gut microbiota and gout

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1239

THE INVERTED J-SHAPED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SERUM URIC ACID LEVEL AND ABDOMINAL MUSCLE MASS AMONG KOREAN MALE POPULATION: A SINGLE-CENTER STUDY OF 5114 CASES

Keywords: Gout, Sarcopenia

D. H. Lim¹, S. J. Choi¹. ¹Ulisan University Hospital, University of Ulisan college of medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ulisan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Sarcopenia is the decline of muscle mass and strength with age. Evidence suggests that oxidative stress and molecular inflammation play important roles in muscle atrophy by interfering with the balance between protein synthesis and breakdown. Uric acid (UA) may be related to sarcopenia through its role as either an antioxidant or pro-oxidant properties. Although the association of serum UA level with sarcopenia has been investigated in previous studies, the results are conflicting. The purpose of this study was to investigate the association of serum UA with abdominal muscle mass using abdominopelvic computed tomography (apCT) among Korean adult men.

Methods: We evaluated 5114 men aged above 20 years, who voluntarily underwent laboratory tests and apCT as a part of general health examination from May 2014 to June 2019. The participants were stratified into quartiles according to their serum UA levels. The low-attenuation abdominal muscle area (LAMA), normal-attenuation abdominal muscle area (NAMA) and total abdominal muscle area (TAMA) were measured using cross-sectional apCT data of the L3 lumbar vertebrae. Between-group comparisons were performed using Pearson’s chi-square test for categorical variables, and the ANOVA for numerical variables, as appropriate. The trends between serum UA quartiles and each AMA were analyzed by univariate (ANOVA) and multivariate analysis (ANCOVA).

Results: The mean age of individuals was 52.5 ± 9.37 years and the mean body mass index (BMI) was 24.8 ± 2.92kg/m². In univariate analysis LAMA, NAMA and TAMA were increased continuously across quartiles of serum UA. However, serum UA levels (quartiles) showed an inverted J-shaped curve with NAMA and TAMA, after adjustment for confounding factors including age, BMI, smoking status, hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, glomerular filtration rate, and c-reactive protein (Table 1).

Conclusion: The results suggest that a specific range of serum UA levels may be associated with better abdominal muscle mass in Korean adult men.

Table 1. Adjusted mean value of abdominal muscle mass by serum uric acid quartiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Uric acid</th>
<th>quartile 1</th>
<th>quartile 2</th>
<th>quartile 3</th>
<th>quartile 4</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 5.00mg/dl</td>
<td>(n = 1228)</td>
<td>5.01-5.80mg/dl</td>
<td>(n = 1328)</td>
<td>5.81-6.70mg/dl</td>
<td>(n = 1251)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMA, cm² a</td>
<td>26.7 ± 2.6</td>
<td>(26.29-27.20)</td>
<td>27.1 ± 2.6</td>
<td>(26.65-27.56)</td>
<td>27.2 ± 2.6</td>
<td>(27.44-28.37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMA, cm² b</td>
<td>133.9 ± 13.2</td>
<td>(132.18-134.27)</td>
<td>133.8 ± 13.2</td>
<td>(131.89-133.95)</td>
<td>133.8 ± 13.2</td>
<td>(129.80-131.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMA, cm² c</td>
<td>158.4 ± 158.4</td>
<td>(158.28-160.09)</td>
<td>158.4 ± 158.4</td>
<td>(157.49-159.36)</td>
<td>158.4 ± 158.4</td>
<td>(156.03-157.96)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are expressed as means (95% confidence interval). Multivariate analysis was performed with adjustment for age, body mass index, smoking status, hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, glomerular filtration rate, and c-reactive protein. a,b,c same letters indicate statistically significant based on Bonferroni multiple comparison Abbreviations: LAMA low-attenuation abdominal muscle area, NAMA normal-attenuation abdominal muscle area, TAMA total abdominal muscle area

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1240

PERCEPTIONS OF GOUT AND ITS MANAGEMENT PATTERNS: FINDINGS FROM SURVEY AND STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS WITH PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS AND RHEUMATOLOGISTS

Keywords: Quality of care, Gout

H. Zimmerman², M. Bhagwat³, R. Laranger², L. Padnick-Silver², B. Lamoreaux².
²Rush University College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Chicago, United States of America; ³PreScouter Inc., Technical Department, Chicago, United States of America; ²Horizon Therapeutics plc, Medical Affairs, Deerfield, United States of America

Background: Despite the high prevalence of gout worldwide,[1] there is widespread undertreatment of this painful, debilitating inflammatory arthritis.[2,3] Gout patients who maintain serum urate (SU) < 6mg/dl have fewer flares, less joint involvement, and overall better quality of life.[3] However, gout management guidelines differ substantially between the American College of Physicians (ACP)[4] and the American College of Rheumatology (ACR).[5] Most notably with ACP recommending oral urate-lowering therapy (ULT; allopurinol, febuxostat, probenecid) used only in patients with frequent gout flares with no clear SU-target and ACR recommending oral urate-lowering therapy use in all gout patients with tophi, flares, or gout-related bone damage with a treat-to-target approach to an SU < 6mg/dl. Because primary care physicians (PCPs) are often a first point-of-contact for patients suffering from gout, understanding their perceptions and management strategies of gout is of importance.

Objectives: To better understand how PCPs perceive and manage gout.

Methods: An online survey was administered to PCPs regarding perceptions of gout patients, gout severity grading, gout treatment strategies, and gout patient referral patterns. A 5-point Likert scale was used to gauge perceptions and patterns. Additionally, structured 30-60 minute interviews of similar focus were conducted with PCPs and rheumatologists (all interviews conducted by a single interviewer [RL]). Online survey and interviews provided further insight into PCPs perceptions of gout and allowed similarities and differences between physician types to be examined. A 10-point Likert scale was used to quantify select interview responses.

Results: A total of 56 PCPs completed the online survey, with most practicing in a metropolitan area (84%) and seeing >50 patients/week (66%). 98% of participating PCPs reported seeing <10 known gout cases/week, with 82% having high or very high confidence in their ability to manage gout. Anti-inflammatory treatments (89%), oral ULTs (88%), diet (70%), and biologic therapies (59%) were viewed as most being highly effective or very highly effective. Further, 63% of PCPs viewed gout patients as always or almost always compliant with medication and 66% of PCPs reported that gout patients never or almost never ask for referral to a gout specialist. However, when PCPs did make a referral, it was most often for severe gout. The low referral rate coincided with the observation that the majority of PCPs (79%) reported most-commonly seeing gout of “medium” severity. Further insight was gained from 5 PCP and 5 rheumatologist interviews conducted. PCPs and rheumatologists viewed gout patient compliance differently, with PCPs perceiving a higher rate of compliance (7.3 vs. 5.7). Both PCPs and specialists expressed that gout flare data collection and gout severity determinant tools would be useful for patient management, including therapy efficacy evaluation.

Conclusion: These findings suggest that, despite widespread undertreatment of gout outside of specialty care,[2] PCPs reported high comfort in managing gout, high compliance of gout patients, and little need for specialty referral except when gout is severe and refractory. Both PCPs and rheumatologists expressed that tools for determining gout severity and tracking gout flares would be helpful. We suggest that such tools could serve as guides for PCPs when monitoring for success of therapy and when to make a rheumatology referral.

REFERENCES:

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AB1241

FACTORS ASSOCIATED TO LOSS FOR FOLLOW-UP IN A PROSPECTIVE GOUT COHORT

Keywords: Gout, Crystal arthritis

P. Perez-Ruz¹, C. Vazquez-Puente¹, M. D. C. Modesto-Caballero¹, A. M. Herreno-Beltes¹, Osakidetza, OSE-Elcanes, Cruces University Hospital, Rheumatology Division, Baracaldo, Spain; ²Gorizkloe Ertehea, Rehabilitation Division, Goritz, Spain

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2200
Background: Adherence to treatment has been widely studied, but not adherence to follow-up visits.

Objectives: To analyze factors associated to loss for follow-up in patients with gout and with a programmed follow-up visit to the rheumatology office.

Methods: Analysis of data from an inception cohort of patients with gout prospectively followed-up in a university hospital setting. Variables include general data, along with clinical characteristics of gout, comorbidities, treatment and adherence to prescribed urate-lowering therapy (ULT). Those variables associated (p<0.20) in bivariate analysis were included in a multivariate analysis. Patients who did not attend to a visit because they passed were not considered as lost for follow-up.

Results: From a series of 1,442 consecutive patients, 354 (24.5%) were lost for follow-up; 219 (15.2%) did not attended because they died between programmed visits. Mean follow-up until lost for follow-up was 32 months vs. 49 months for patients who still remained in active follow-up. Age (older), gender (women), pooled comorbidity (higher), severity of gout (monarticular), alcohol intake (<15 g/day), adherence (MPR> 80%), previous treatment (none), and consultation (primary care), were associated to higher rates of loss for follow-up in bivariate analysis. No association was found between persistence on follow-up and time from onset of gout, presence of tophi, number of flares per year, previous and prescribed ULT.

In multivariate analysis (Table 1), only higher age, higher adherence to prescribed, and consultation from primary care were independently associated to persistence on follow-up. Severity of gout (polarticular disease) seemed to be also associated to persistence, but lacked statistical significance.

Conclusion: In our clinical setting, the profile of patients at higher risk of abandoning prescribed follow-up is that of a younger, poorly adherent, with lower burden of disease and consulting through a assistance “short-cut”.

Acknowledgements: Cruces Rheumatology Association.

Disclosure of Interests: Fernando Perez-Ruiz Speakers bureau: Menarini, Astellas, Consultant of: Arthritis, Anylam, Selecta, LG, Protalix, Cristina Vazquez-Puente: None declared, Maria del Consuelo Modesto-Caballero: None declared, Ana Maria Herrero-Beltes: None declared.

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<table>
<thead>
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<th>B</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>Exp(B)</th>
<th>95% C.I. for EXP(B)</th>
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<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>-0.029</td>
<td>0.972</td>
<td>0.955 - 0.989</td>
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<td>Primary care consultation</td>
<td>-1.651</td>
<td>0.192</td>
<td>0.07 - 0.647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adherence (MPR &gt; 0.8)</td>
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<td>0.186 - 0.572</td>
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<td>Severity (polarticular)</td>
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<td>0.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highest comorbidity (Kaiser 3-4)</td>
<td>-0.199</td>
<td>0.118</td>
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<td>Previous ULT (none)</td>
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<td>0.477</td>
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<td>Gender (male)</td>
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<td>Ethanol &gt;15g/day</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People 45 years and over</th>
<th>Total Hospitalizations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men 45 years and over</td>
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<td>Women 45 years and over</td>
<td>9,820,250</td>
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</table>

Table 1. Percentage of VTE hospitalizations in Gout versus General population

Conclusion: One out of 10 hospitalizations in persons with gout have a concomitant diagnosis of VTE, significantly higher than the VTE rate in the general population. This calls for increased awareness and steps to prevent the development of VTE in patients with gout.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Gurkarpal Singh Grant/research support from: Hori- zon, Maaneek Sehgal: None declared, Brian LaMoreaux Shareholder of: Horizon, Employee of: Horizon, Alka Mithal: None declared.

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AB12423 WHICH IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE SONOGRAPHIC DEFINITION FOR ASYMPTOMATIC HYPERURICEMIA WITH MSU CRYSTAL DEPOSITION?

Keywords: Imaging, Gout, Ultrasound

M. L. Peral1,2, S. Gomez-Sabater3,4, R. Caño-Alameda 3,4, A. Bermúdez-García4,4,4,4, L. Lozano5,6, R. Sánchez-Ortiga4, M. Perdiguer6,7, E. Caro8,9, C. Ruiz10, R. Francés11,12, E. Pascual14,14, M. André4,4,4, Vinalopo University Hospital, Rheumatology, Elche, Spain; Miguel Hernandez University, Doctorate Student, San Juan de Alicante, Spain; ‘Dr. Balmis General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; ‘Alicante Institute for Health and Biomedical Research (ISABIAL), Research Group on Rheumatic and Autoimmune Diseases, Alicante, Spain; ‘Dr. Balmis General University Hospital, Endocrinology, Alicante, Spain; ‘Dr. Balmis General University Hospital, Nephrology, Alicante, Spain; ‘Alicante Institute for Health and Biomedical Research (ISABIAL), Research group on Nephrology, Alicante, Spain; ‘Sant

AB12424 GOUT AND VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM IN THE US: A NATIONWIDE PERSPECTIVE

Keywords: Gout, Epidemiology, Cardiovascular disease

G. Singh1,2, M. Sehgal3, B. Lamoreaux4, A. Mittal5, Stanford University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Stanford, United States of America; 2ICORE, Department of Epidemiology, Woodside, United States of America; 3UCLA, Department of Computer Science, Los Angeles, United States of America; 4Alicante Institute for Health and Biomedical Research (ISABIAL), Research Group on Rheumatic and Autoimmune Diseases, Alicante, Spain; 5Alicante Institute for Health and Biomedical Research (ISABIAL), Research Group on Cardiovascular Diseases, Alicante, Spain; 6Dr. Balmis General University Hospital, Endocrinology, Alicante, Spain; 7Dr. Balmis General University Hospital, Nephrology, Alicante, Spain; 8Alicante Institute for Health and Biomedical Research (ISABIAL), Research Group on Nephrology, Alicante, Spain; 9Sant
Background: Cumulative data indicates that 20-30% of subjects with asymptomatic hyperuricemia (AH) have silent monosodium urate (MSU) crystal deposits[1]. For its evaluation, several sonographic examination schemes have been used[2], and the scanning of the 1st metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint and femoral condyle for double contour (DC) sign, plus 1st MTP for tophi, shows the highest prevalence and discrimination compared to subjects with normouricemia. However, how we should sonographically classify AH with crystal deposits remains to be defined.

Objectives: To compare the variations in prevalence of sonographic deposits in AH across different classification schemes.

Methods: Observational, cross-sectional study. Patients with AH were consecutively recruited from clinics and wards of internal medicine, cardiology, nephrology, endocrinology, rheumatology and primary care units in an academic center. Subjects with a recent serum urate level ≥7mg/dL were included, excluding those under urate-lowering therapy and/or colchicine or with gout or other inflammatory rheumatic disease. Ultrasound was performed by an expert rheumatologist sonographer, blinded to clinical and laboratory data, following 2021 OMERACT definitions for elementary gout lesions (DC sign, tophi, aggregates) and 0-3 grading[3]. The locations scanned bilaterally were knees with patellar tendons, ankles with Achilles’ tendons, and 1st and 2nd MTP joints. We applied different definitions for AH with deposits, varying in relation to deposits (any deposits; only DC sign and/or tophi; only grade 2-3 deposits; only grade 1 lesions). Comparisons were performed by Chi2 test.

Results: Seventy-seven participants with AH were studied, 55 males (71.4%) and a mean age of 59.8 years (SD 17.3). Mean body mass index was 31.2 kg/m2 (SD 5.2), and 37.66% and 29.9% suffered from cardio-vascular and chronic kidney disease, respectively. Mean uricemia was 7.6 mg/dL (SD 1.6) with a fractional excretion of uric acid of 5.6% (DS 2.2). Regarding the elementary lesions, the median (p25-75) number of locations with DC sign, tophi or aggregates was 0 (0-1), 1 (0-2) and 1 (1-2), respectively. For grade 2-3 lesions, numbers were 0 (0-0), 1 (0-1) and 1 (0-2), respectively. As shown in Figure 1, the proportions of sonographic deposits largely varied according to the different classifications considered to define AH with deposits, ranging from 23.38% up to 87.01%, in a significant manner (p<0.050).

Figure 1. Rate of sonographic deposits in AH across different definitions.

Conclusion: In a multidisciplinary sample of AH, the rates of sonographic deposits dramatically varied across the different classifications used, highlighting the need for an agreed and validated definition that facilitates further research in this setting.

References:

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Disclosure of Interests: Maria-Luisa Peral: None declared, Silvia Gomez-Sabater: None declared, Rocio Caño-Alameda: None declared, Alejandra Bermúdez-García: None declared, Teresa Lozano: None declared, Ruth Sánchez-Ortiga: None declared, Miguel Perdiguer: None declared, Elena Caro: None declared, Carolina Ruiz: None declared, Rubén Francés: None declared, Eliseo Pascual: None declared, Mariano Andrés Speakers bureau: Menarini, Grant/research support from: Grunenthal.

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AB1244
CHANGES IN THE GUT MICROBIOTA OF GOUT PATIENTS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Gout

X. Y. Yin1,2, G. X. Wang1,2, X. Song1,2, D. Qiao1,2, Q. Y. Su1,2,3, Q. Yu1, P. F. He1, L.1,2,3, S. X. Zhang1,2,3
1Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China; 2Shanxi Medical University, Academy of Microbial Ecology, Taiyuan, China; 3The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China; 4Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China

Background: Gout is a crystal-related joint disease caused by the deposition of monosodium urate crystals in or around the joints[1][2]. Structural changes or imbalances in the gut microbiota could cause metabolic disorders and participate in the synthesis of purine-metabolizing enzymes and the release of inflammatory cytokines, which is closely related to the occurrence and development of metabolic, immune disease and gout.

Objectives: This study aimed to explore the disorders of intestinal microflora alpha diversity and microbial community composition in patients with gout through meta-analysis.

Methods: According to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), we comprehensively searched the databases of PubMed, Web of Science, Embase, Cochrane Library, CNKI, VIP, CBM, and Wanfang database without language restrictions. We obtained data related to the alpha diversity index(Shannon index, Simpson index, ACE, Chao1, Observed species) and analyzed phylum and genus composition.

Results: Nine studies, including 423 gout patients and 458 healthy controls(HCs), were included in our analysis. The Simpson index of gout was significantly lower than that of HCs(SMD=-1.037, 95%CI:-1.959~0.115). There was no significant difference in other alpha diversity indexes between the two groups(Shannon index: SMD=0.429, 95%CI:0.900~0.041; ACE: SMD=0.102, 95%CI:0.918~1.122; Chao1: SMD=0.863, 95%CI:0.267~1.993; Observed species: SMD=-1.962, 95%CI:-5.011~1.088). We collected the relative abundance of 30 genera of gout and classified them according to the species affiliation. The results showed that the relative abundance of microflora in proteobacteria was significantly lower than that of HCs(SMD=-0.498, 95%CI:0.911~0.086). However, the relative abundance of microflora in Fusobacteria(SMD=0.589, 95%CI:0.249~0.929), Actinobacteria(SMD=0.546, 95%CI:0.207~0.885), and Bacteroides(SMD=0.395, 95%CI:0.035~0.756) increased in gout patients. We did not observe significant changes in the gut microbes of Firmicutes(SMD=0.210, 95%CI:-0.456~0.036).

Conclusion: This systematic evaluation and meta-analysis showed that the impact of gut microbiota was mainly observed at the level of phylum and genus, but limited to microbial diversity. It is necessary to further study the role and function of specific bacteria and their influence on the physiology and pathology of gout.

References:

Acknowledgements: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.
Scientific Abstracts

AB1245
Osteomalacia Related to Bariatric Surgery: How Frequent is It?

Keywords: Vitamin D, Bone diseases, Descriptive studies

C. A. Chacur1, A. Moorchicaia1, H. Florez1, N. Guanaıbens1, A. Monegal1, P. Peris1.1 Hospital Clinic, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain

Background: The development of osteoporosis and fractures is a well-documented complication of bariatric surgery (BS), especially with procedures associated with malabsorption. Due to the gradual increase of BS performed worldwide, several national and international societies have developed clinical guidelines for managing these patients, with special attention to osteoporosis prevention and treatment. Nevertheless, these subjects can also develop osteomalacia, which can easily be misdiagnosed as osteoporosis. It is crucial to differentiate osteoporosis and osteomalacia in BS patients since different therapeutic approaches are necessary.

Objectives: To analyse the prevalence of osteomalacia and the main clinical characteristics of subjects with previous BS referred to the Rheumatology Department for osteoporosis treatment.

Methods: This was a retrospective study of a cohort of 46 subjects (aged 42-77 years) referred to the Metabolic Bone Diseases Unit of the Rheumatology Department for evaluating osteoporosis treatment. Clinical data were obtained from an in-depth review of medical records, including the type of BS (restrictive: gastric banding, and sleeve gastrectomy, or malabsorptive surgery: Roux-en-Y gastric bypass [RYGB], bilipancreatic diversion with duodenal switch), time since surgery, previous treatment with calcium and/or vitamin D, anthropometric data, clinical, laboratory, radiologic and densitometric findings. Osteomalacia was diagnosed by compatible bone biopsy and/or by Bingham and Fitzpatrick criteria[1] (two of the following: low calcium, low phosphate, elevated total alkaline phosphatase [TAP] or suggestive radiology).

Results: Five of the 46 patients (10.8%) presented criteria compatible with osteomalacia, two being confirmed by bone biopsy. All subjects with osteomalacia were Caucasian and most were women (4/5) treated with malabsorptive surgery (mainly RYGB) from 4 to 23 years prior to the visit. All presented increased serum TAP values (some presenting a progressive increase 1-3 years prior to the visit). Most subjects showed low serum calcium (4/5) and vitamin D serum levels/pseudofractures after BS. Bone scan showed a pattern compatible with osteomalacia in all evaluated subjects (4/4) and bone densitometry showed values compatible with densitometric osteoporosis in most (4/5), with four individuals developing fractures/pseudofractures after BS. Three of these subjects were poorly adherent to calcium and vitamin D supplements and in 2 cases higher doses of calcium (3 g/day) and/or parenteral vitamin D administration were necessary to achieve serum vitamin D levels >30 ng/ml and decrease serum PTH levels in the postoperative follow-up. Of note, no subject was referred to the Rheumatology Department with clinical suspicion of osteomalacia. Among the remaining 41 subjects, 28 (68%) presented densitometric osteoporosis and 18 (45%) developed fractures (mainly vertebral) after BS; one subject developed primary hyperparathyroidism (treated with surgery). Again, malabsorptive surgery was the most frequent surgical procedure in these subjects.

Conclusion: Nearly 10% of subjects with previous BS referred for osteoporosis treatment may have osteomalacia. Increased serum TAP values should alert clinicians to this diagnosis since it requires a differential treatment approach with some of these patients needing high doses of calcium or even parenteral vitamin D supplementation.

REFERENCE:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1246
Socioeconomic Status, Work Impairment, Disability and Severity of Gout in Latin America (LAT)

Keywords: Education, Crystal arthrits, Gout

J. VázquezMeladó1, G. Da Rocha Castelar Pinheiro1, 2, 3, J. E. Navarro-Zarza4, C. Pineda3, G. Sequeira4, C. Elera-Fitzcarrald5, M. Vázquez-Del Mercado Espinosa6, K. De la CruzRodriguez6, 7, C. Gómez-Ruíz8, S. Guzman García9, A. Gatto7, 8, E. Garay9, 10, A. Taltoya1, 11 Hospital General de Mexico, Rheumatology, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico;12 Universidad del Estado de Rio de Janeiro, Medicina Interna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 11 Hospital General de Chilpancingo Dr. Raymundo Abarca Alarcón, Reumatología, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico; 10 Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitacion, Dirección General, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico; 12 Hospital General de Agudos J. M. Ramos Mejía, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 7 Clínica Delgado Enauna, Reumatología, Lima, Peru; 10 Hospital Nacional Guillermo Almenara Ingoyen, Reumatología, Lima, Peru; 10 Hospital Civil de Guadalupe Dr. Juan I. Menchaca, Reumatología, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; 11 ISTECH [Hospital de Especialidades Vida Mejor], Rheumatology, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico; 9 General Hospital of Mexico Dr. Eduardo Liceaga, Rheumatology, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico; 9 Clínica “San Agustin” Rheumatology, Loja, Ecuador; 8 VA Medical Center-Birmingham: Hurst Elton MD, Rheumatology, Birmingham, United States of America; 8 Hospital San Felipe, Rheumatology, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Background: Previous reports suspected that gout patients from Latin-America (LAT) are different to those from developed countries and similar to Asian.

Objectives: We aimed to characterize patients with gout attending to Rheumatologists at Health public institutions and private practices in LAT and its association with socioeconomic status and clinical severity.

Methods: This cross-over, multi-centric, multinational and descriptive study was performed between 2019 and 2022. We invited to participate ≈150 certified rheumatologists from 14 countries in LAT. The project was authorized by IRB. Gout (ACR-EULAR 2015) patients signed informed consent. During face to face and on-line interviews, we discussed clinical variables (>200), questionnaires and CRFs in Spanish and Portuguese. Demographics, socioeconomic status: (AMAI <111 = low socioeconomic status), clinical gout, associated diseases and treatment related variables were included. We defined severe gout (SG) if ≥5 tophi per lesion.
and/or intradermal tophi. Metabolic syndrome (MS: > 3, ATP3 definitions and criteria); HAQ score, VAS for pain and general health and EuroQoL: EQ5D were obtained during regular visit to Rheumatologist. Data was sent and analyzed at GRESGO (Gout study group) coordination centre. Statistical analysis included mean SD, median, IQR, t test, χ2, ANOVA.

**Results:** Fifty two rheumatologists from 11 countries in LAT sent the data of 500 gout patients. Males (95%), mean (SD): age 57(14), age at onset 41(13), educational level 10(4) and duration of the disease 14 (12) years. The clinical spectrum of gout was evaluated first in 3 groups: 1) SG (SG+MS+, n=78, 16%); 2) MS (MS+SG+, n=218, 44%) and 3) others (gout: SG- and metabolic data ≤ 2 ATP criteria, n=204, 41%). Second analysis included comparison of extreme groups (SG VS MS) (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** LAT SG patients were different compared to MS gout and others. SG are younger males from low educational and socioeconomic status, familial history of gout. As a consequence, SG patients also had aggressive and active poor controlled disease: >flares, tophi number and size, more hospitalizations and lower quality of life; >HAQ scores and more frequent alterations in the 5 EQOS domains; (mobility, self-care, daily activities, pain, anxiety and depression) and disability consequences as work impairment. In the other hand, MS group had clearly more data associated to metabolic syndrome and higher cardiovascular risks.

Gout in LAT: VS MS comparison of demographics and clinical characteristics.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SG+ MS+</th>
<th>MS+ SG+</th>
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<td>Flares &gt;2/year</td>
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<td>HAQ &gt;0.50</td>
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<td>Work impairment</td>
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Values represent percentages unless specified. ± indicates (mean) (SD)


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.562

**AB1247**

**RATIONALE AND DESIGN FOR PODAGRA II: A MULTICENTER RANDOMIZED PHASE 2/3 STUDY ASSESSING THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF DAPANSUTRILE, AN ORALLY ADMINISTERED SPECIFIC INHIBITOR OF THE NLRP3 INFLAMMOSOME IN SUBJECTS WITH AN ACUTE GOUT FLARE**

**Keywords:** Gout, Randomized control trial, Targeted synthetic drugs


**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.650

**Results:** The trial has launched and is currently enrolling subjects.

**Conclusion:** There is a need for an orally administered, safe, and well-tolerated treatment for acute gout flares. PODAGRA II will be the first placebo-controlled, adequately powered, large, multi-center study with an oral NLRP3-specific inhibitor. As gout is a prototypical disease of NLRP3 activation, this trial will provide important new data on NLRP3 inhibition leading to a reduction in joint pain and associated inflammatory biomarkers in acute gout flare.

**REFERENCE:**

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM REAL LIFE DATA FROM 98 GOUT PATIENTS USING A URICOSURIC: BENZBROMARONE

Keywords: Crystal arthrits, Treat to target

I. Hotea1, M. Janssen2, T. Jansen2, 1University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iuliu Hațieganu, Rheumatology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 2VieCuri Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Venlo, Netherlands

Background: Decreased renal urate excretion is the predominant driver of attracting gout, an auto-inflammatory disease secondary to hyperuricemia. Therefore, there is an interest in effective urate lowering therapies with a uricosuric mode of action.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to analyses the efficacy and safety of uricosuric treatment i.e., benzbromarone in a real-life clinical setting.

Methods: data from gout patients was collected retrospectively from the digital hospital dossiers. Inclusion criterium was a diagnosis of gout (ICD10 code M10). Demographics, clinical variables and laboratory parameters at baseline and 6 months were collected. Efficacy was measured from reaching a serum urate target at 6 months, and/or increase in Fractional Urate Excretion (FeUA).

Results: We analyzed data from 98 gout patients with an indication of benzbromarone treatment. Patients were 70 (±12) years of age, and 90% was male. After 6 months of treatment 90 out of 98 patients (91%) reached a sUA level <0.36 mmol/L (6mg/dL). We found that efficacy appeared to be best in low excretor type gout defined as FeUA<4.5%, as their FeUA increased from the initial mean value FeUA 3.2% (SD±1.0%) to reach in 6 months with benzbromarone mean FeUA of 12.1% (SD±6.9%). A considerable percentage (38%) is using benzbromarone on average for 3.8 (SD±3.4) years. 4 patients stopped benzbromarone treatment due to decrease renal function, condition that was already present prior to uricosuric initiation.

Conclusion: Using available benzbromarone in a real-life context proved to be effective in lowering sUA levels in 6 months. Renal function must be considered before indicating benzbromarone. Determining FeUA in gout patients can further help better characterize the patient profile from whom is this the best treatment option.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1005

ASSOCIATION OF SERUM URIC ACID LEVEL WITH HAND OSTEARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Crystal arthrits, Gout

B. Bengana1, 2, S. Abdellauzi2, A. Boukabou2, H. Guerbouka2, S. Lefki2, 1University Hospital of Beni-Mellal, Rheumatology; Beni-Mellal, Algeria; 2University Hospital of Beni-Mellal, Rheumatology; Beni-Mellal, Algeria

Background: Asymptomatic hyperuricemia is often considered as a biological anomaly, when the appearance of the gouty disease rather represents the evolution towards an inflammatory disease. In this case, the inflammation is usually due to a response to crystal deposits in the tissues, associated with cartilage damage, as seen in osteoarthritis. Although we know that an abnormal urate can lead to osteoarthritis, we still don’t know if there is a link between hyperuricemia and osteoarthritis.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to assess the link between asymptomatic hyperuricemia (AH) and hand osteoarthritis (HO).

Methods: It’s a cross-sectional study included 46 patients (28 in the HO group and 18 in a group without HO) with mean age of 67.23 ± 4.67 years, 32 women for 14 men. We collected demographic, clinical, biological (uricemia) and radiographic data. The association between AH and digital osteoarthritis was assessed by logistic regression.

Results: The mean serum uric acid level in patients with osteoarthritis was higher than that of patients without osteoarthritis (6.71 ± 1.13 mg/dl versus 6.26 ± 1.26 mg/dl, p=0.021). Hyperuricemia was more common in older patients with osteoarthritis than in those without osteoarthritis (45% vs. 23%, p=0.001). After adjusting for age, gender, body mass index and other variables, the association between asymptomatic hyperuricemia and osteoarthritis remained significant with an odds ratio [OR] of 2.28, for a 95% confidence interval [CI] (1.18-4.80), p=0.023. Subgroup analyzes were performed by sex where significant associations between asymptomatic hyperuricemia and osteoarthritis were obtained in women (p=0.027).

Conclusion: AH is a common comorbidty in elderly patients with hand osteoarthritis. A significant link has been found between AH and hand osteoarthritis in elderly subjects, especially females.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1456

OUTPATIENT FOLLOW-UP AFTER AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT FOR ACUTE GOUT FLARE

Keywords: Health services research, Gout, Crystal arthrits

L. Jackson, 1 F. Mugeta1, E. Mcneely1, N. C. Techarkung1, K. Aaron1, J. Booth1, J. Foster1, G. Cutter1, J. Osborne1, K. Saag1, M. Danila1, 1University of Alabama at Birmingham, Medicine, Birmingham, United States of America; 2University of Alabama at Birmingham, Emergency Medicine, Birmingham, United States of America; 3University of Alabama at Birmingham, Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Birmingham, United States of America; 4University of Alabama at Birmingham, Computer Science, Birmingham, United States of America; 5Birmingham VA Health Care System, Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Birmingham, United States of America

Background: Patients with acute gout are frequently treated in the emergency department (ED). Appropriate outpatient follow-up for an acute flare after an ED visit is variable and has not been systematically examined.

Objectives: We aimed to determine the characteristics of patients with gout treated in EDs, the nature of their ED visits, and to determine the types and rates of outpatient follow-up after an ED visit for an acute gout flare.

Methods: This study was conducted at one academic medical center that serves patients at 3 EDs (2 urban, 1 suburban) and 1 urban urgent care center. Patients were identified as having a possible acute gout flare upon initial triage in the ED using a previously developed electronic medical record (EMR) gout flare alert. We validated the presence/absence of an acute gout flare through manual EMR review using adjudicated expert consensus assessed with kappa coefficient as the gold standard. Among those patients identified as having an acute gout flare, we abstracted their medical records to determine the presence/absence of an outpatient visit for gout care within 6 months of the index ED visit. This was defined as having had a documented outpatient visit with any provider (e.g., primary care, rheumatology) with a mention of ‘gout’ in the free text portion of history of present illness or assessment and plan. We used descriptive statistics to characterize patients with gout and reported the proportion of patients with an acute gout flare that followed up in the outpatient setting after an ED visit.

Results: From September 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022, there were 458 patients identified by the gout flare alert as possibly having an acute gout flare. Of these, 33 patients were excluded from this analysis due to participation in an ongoing randomized clinical trial testing a behavioral intervention to improve gout care. The remaining 425 patients included 72 patients (16.9%) who were determined to have a true gout flare at 85 unique ED visits by manual EMR review by 2 assessors. The kappa coefficient for agreement between the consensus expert determinations of acute gout flare was 0.8. Of those with an acute gout flare, 53 (74%) were men and 49 (68%) were Black or African American. At ED discharge, a majority of patients (64%) were prescribed corticosteroids, while 63% were prescribed opioids. A majority (54%) of ED visits for acute gout occurred between 8am and 5pm, with another 27% occurring between 5pm and midnight. The proportion of patients with an acute gout flare who followed up with an outpatient clinician in our healthcare system was 46% (Table 1), with 29% of patients having an outpatient visit within 30 days of the index ED encounter. Only 26 patients (36%) had an outpatient visit addressing gout, and of these, 17 (24%) occurred within 3 months of the index ED visit.

Conclusion: More than half of patients received opioids at discharge among patients with gout treated in the ED, who were mostly Black. Follow-up was ~46% among patients that received gout care in an acute setting, yet only a third saw a clinician who addressed gout. This data will inform sample size calculation for interventional studies testing behavioral interventions focused on promoting improved outpatient follow-up for gout flares.

Table 1. Healthcare utilization among participants following an emergency department visit for acute gout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthcare Outcome</th>
<th>Total, N=72</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalized, N (%)</td>
<td>13 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received care at Emergency Department or Urgent Care, N (%)</td>
<td>34 (47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Patient Follow-up Service (N=33), N(%)</td>
<td>24 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine Subspecialties</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery Subspecialty</td>
<td>20 (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Internal Medicine</td>
<td>15 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>3 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palliative Care and Geriatrics</td>
<td>3 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>3 (4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Categories are not mutually exclusive. † Internal medicine subspecialties included cardiology, endocrinology, nephrology, oncology, pulmonology, and rheumatology.
REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Lesley Jackson: None declared, Faith Mugeta: None declared, Ellen McKeelley: None declared, Norma C. TechaoLpong: None declared, Kiara Aaron: None declared, James Booth: None declared, Jeff Foster: None declared, Gary Cutter Consultant of: Alexion, Antisense Therapeutics, Biogen, Clinical Trial Solutions LLC, Entelox Biotherapeutics, Inc., Genzyme, Genentech, GW Pharmaceuticals, Immun, Immunis Pty Ltd, Klein-Buendel Incorporated, Merck/Serono, Novartis, Perception Neurosciences, Protais Biotherapeutics, Regeneron, Roche, SAB Biotherapeutics. Data and Safety Monitoring Boards: Applied Therapeutics, AI therapeutics, AMO Pharma, Astra-Zeneca, Avidex Pharmaceuticals, Bioform, Brainstorm Cell Therapists, Bristol Meyers Squibb/Celgene, CSL Behring, Galmed Pharmaceuticals, Green Valley Pharma, Horizon Pharmaceuticals, Immunica, Karuna Therapeutics, Mapi Pharmaceuticals LTD, Merck, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Holdings, Opko Biologics,Protha Biosciences, Novartis, Regeneron, Sanofi-Aventis, Reata Pharmaceuticals, Teva Pharmaceuticals, NHI/ELI (Protocol Review Committee), University of Texas Southwestern, University of Pennsylvania, Visioneering Technologies, Inc., Employee of: Dr. Cutter is employed by the University of Alabama at Birmingham and President of Pythagoras, Inc. a private consulting company located in Birmingham AL., John Osborne: None declared, Kenneth Saag Grant/research support from: Amgen, Horizon, LG Chem, Radius, SOBI, Maria Danila Consultant of: UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer.

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AB1251
SERUM URIC ACID LEVEL IN INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE PATIENTS

Keywords: Crystal arthritis, Gout, Cardiovascular disease

D. H. Lim1, 2University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ulsan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) is a life-threatening type of stroke caused by a rupture of a blood vessel into the brain's parenchyma, accounting for 10–15% of all stroke. Uric acid (UA) is the end product of purine metabolism; it is catalyzed by xanthine oxidase. UA may be related to cerebrovascular diseases through its role as either an antioxidant or pro-oxidant properties. Although the association of serum UA level with ICH has been investigated in previous studies, the results are controversial.

Objectives: In this study, we determined serum UA levels in patients with ICH and assessed its relationship with cerebrovascular risk factors.

Methods: We evaluated 721 patients with ICH who were admitted to one emergent department in tertiary hospital from July 2008 to December 2017 in South Korea. Demographics, laboratory data, neurological course, and brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) findings were collected using electronic medical records and picture archiving and communication systems. The participants were stratified into quartiles according to their serum UA levels. Between-group comparisons were performed using Pearson’s chi-square test for categorical variables, and the ANOVA for numerical variables, as appropriate.

Results: Among 721 patients with ICH acute stroke, 413 (57.3%) were male. The mean age of patients was 58.9±14.03 and mean value of body mass index was 23.9±6.84kg/m². Mean serum UA levels in the patients studied 5.94±1.70mg/dl and there was a significant negative correlation between age of patients and their serum UA level (p < 0.001, R = -0.212). Serum UA level was significantly higher in men (5.82±1.74 mg/dl) and significantly lower in women (5.99±1.67 mg/dl, p < 0.001). There were no significant differences in UA level among various ICH grades. There was a significant negative correlation between age of patients and their serum UA level (p < 0.001, R = -0.212). Serum UA level was significantly higher in men (5.82±1.74 mg/dl) and significantly lower in women (5.99±1.67 mg/dl, p < 0.001).

Conclusion: The results suggested that serum UA may be the predictor of intra-cerebral hemorrhage in ICH patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annhem-2023-eular.2201

AB1253
FEBUXOSTAT DOSE ADJUSTMENT ACCORDING TO RENAL FUNCTION TO ATTAIN TARGET SERUM URATE LEVEL: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Gout

Y. E. Kim1, S. M. Ahn1, J. S. Oh1, Y. G. Kim1, C. K. Lee1, B. Yoo2, S. Hong3.
1University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Current guideline for gout recommends the use of allopurinol or febuxostat in moderate-to-severe chronic kidney disease (CKD). However, the appropriate febuxostat dosage required to attain the target serum urate (SU) level remains unclear, especially in patients with renal impairment.

Objectives: We aim to investigate the different febuxostat dosages stratified by renal function to achieve the target SU level.

Methods: We collected the clinical and laboratory information of patients using the Clinical Research Data Warehouse system of Asan Medical Center, Seoul, South Korea. Of the 3153 patients with gout and a prescription for febuxostat at a tertiary-care referral center, 791 with initial SU levels >6mg/dL were collected and categorized, according to their eGFR levels at febuxostat initiation, into three groups based on CKD stage: 1, 2–3, and 4–5. We defined the cumulative febuxostat as the total dose of febuxostat used from the initiation of febuxostat to the moment patient reached the SU target (SU<6 mg/dL).

Results: This cohort of 731 gout patients, with a median age of 52 (IQR, 41-65) years, included 643 (8.8%) women. Compared with the other groups, in the CKD 4–5 group, the mean SU value at febuxostat initiation was significantly higher (9.6 [SD, 3.1] mg/dL; CKD 2–3, 8.6 [SD, 1.6] mg/dL; CKD 1, 8.8 [SD, 1.8] mg/dL; p<0.001) and significantly fewer patients achieved the target SU during the follow-up period, median 31 (IQR, 13-55) months. In the subgroup analysis of patients who achieved target SU levels, the cumulative dose of febuxostat was significantly lower in CKD 4–5 patients compared to those with other groups (CKD 2–3, 12.5 (IQR, 2.3–13.5) g; CKD 4–5, 10.7 (IQR, 7.0–16.0) g; p=0.010 for CKD 4–5 and CKD 1, p=0.006 for CKD 4–5 and CKD 2–3). The average febuxostat dose used during 4 months to reach the SU target was 50.0 (IQR, 21.0–101.0) mg in the CKD 4-5 group, which was significantly lower than in other groups (CKD 2–3, 59.3 (IQR, 29.4–130.7) mg; CKD 1, 58.5 (IQR, 21.7–167.8) mg; p=0.006 for CKD 4–5 and CKD 1, p=0.003 for CKD 4–5 and CKD 2–3). In addition, when we examined the clinical factors associated with the required dose of febuxostat to achieve SU target, CKD 4-5 group showed a significant negative correlation with cumulative febuxostat dosage to reach target SU compared with CKD 1 (rho -2.334, p=0.02).

*Equal contributors in alphabetical order.

Typically, pregnancy and lactation greatly expose women to develop osteoporosis due to the high demand of calcium from the fetus or neonate. In some cases, women in the first pregnancies or in the early breastfeeding period, women with persistent lower back pain, are suspected to be at risk for fragility fractures, mostly involving vertebral fractures[1]. Therefore, there is an urgent need to perform an accurate monitoring of the maternal bone health status in order to prevent complications of pregnancy and lactation-associated osteoporosis.

Objectives: Through a longitudinal study, the present work aims to determine the changes of bone status in pregnant women from the first to the third trimester of gestation by means of the non-iorizing Radiofrequency Echographic Multi Spectrometry (REMS) technology.

Methods: A cohort of 43 pregnant women were enrolled in the study. Longitudinal measurement of bone mineral density (BMD) was carried out at the femur during the first (baseline) and third (follow-up) trimesters of pregnancy using the REMS technology. A paired t-test was performed to assess the difference in femoral neck BMD between baseline and follow-up.

Results: Compared to the baseline (first trimester), a significant femoral neck BMD reduction was observed at the follow-up of the third trimester, (0.762 ± 0.075 gm/cm² versus 0.711 ± 0.074 gm/cm², respectively with p<0.0001). As a result, an overall BMD decrease of 2.07% has been measured.

Conclusion: As previously demonstrated with this technology, pregnant women have a significant decline of BMD compared with the non-pregnant counterpart[2]. With this study, for the first time, bone changes throughout pregnancy could be determined by means of this technology: a marked bone reduction was demonstrated in the pregnant group during the last trimester of pregnancy. In conclusion, REMS represents an appropriate method for BMD assessment which can be safely employed to monitor the bone status across gestation and lactation.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annhem-2023-eular.2206
Conclusion: The febuxostat dose required to reach the target SU level was significantly lower in patients with markedly decreased renal function (CKD stage 4–5).

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Febuxostat achievement to reach target SU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>CKD 1</th>
<th>CKD 2–3</th>
<th>CKD 4–5</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>CKD 1 vs CKD 2–3 vs CKD 4–5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SU target achievement, n (%)</td>
<td>626 (85.6)</td>
<td>176 (86.3)</td>
<td>336 (86.6)</td>
<td>114 (82.0)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patients achieving SU target

Mean SU at 4 months, mg/dL: 6.2 (5.1, 6.5), 6.0 (5.1, 6.5), 6.3 (5.1, 6.5), 0.49 (0.27, 0.05)

Duration to achieve 4.0 mg/dL, SU-target months: 9.6 (6), 9.7 (6.7), 9.2 (6.7), 0.22 (0.12, 0.06)

Cumulative febuxostat dose, mg: 58.3 (25.7, 58.5) (22.9, 59.3), 50.0 (21.0, 0.09) 0.006 (0.003)

Percentage change in SU, mg/dL: -41.4 (-51.3, -38.4) (-50.2, -47.2, -58.3) <0.001 <0.001 <0.001

Delta SU, mg/dL: -3.4 (-5.0, -3.3) (-4.8, -4.2) <0.001 <0.001 <0.001

*p-value was obtained using ANOVA statistical analysis

Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2473

AB1254

ECTOPIC ARTICULAR CALCIFICATIONS AND ARTERIAL OCCLUSIVE DISEASE DUE TO 5'-NUCLEOTIDASE DEFICIENCY

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Rare/orphan diseases, Crystal arthritis

M. Matti1,2, G. De Mattia2, M. Mosca2, M. Mazzantini2. University of Pisa, Rheumatology, Pisa, Italy; 1University of Pisa, Rheumatology, Pisa, Italy

Background: Calcification of Joints and Arteries (CALJA) is a rare disease presenting with recurrent/chronic arthritis and claudicatio intermittens of the lower limbs. Since the discovery of specific mutations of the 5'-nucleotidase (NT5E) gene responsible for the disease, only few cases have been reported.

Objectives: To collect available information about CALJA to better characterize the disease and to raise awareness of this often unrecognized rheumatologic condition.

Methods: All available publications regarding CALJA since its first description in 2011 were included and a case report is described.

Results: A 65-year-old woman, affected by seronegative oligoarthritis since 2007, reported lower limb claudication. In 2021 past medical history consisted of migratory, non-erosive arthritis with asymmetrical involvement of peripheral joints since the age of 30, poorly responsive to glucocorticoids and immunosuppressive therapy.

Conclusion:

AB1255

PEGLOTICASE + METHOTREXATE THERAPY IN UNCONTROLLED GOUT PATIENTS WITH PRIOR PEGLOTICASE MONOTHERAPY FAILURE: FINDINGS OF THE ADVANCE OPEN-LABEL TRIAL

Keywords: Gout, Clinical trials

O. Troum1,2, J. Botson3, K. Obermeyer4, S. Verma4, B. Lamoreanu4. University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Santa Monica, United States of America; 2Orthopedic Physicians Alaska, Anchorage, United States of America; 3Horizon Therapeutics plc, Research and Development, Deerfield, United States of America; 4Horizon Therapeutics plc, Medical Affairs, Deerfield, United States of America

Background: Pegloticase is often the last treatment option for patients (pts) with uncontrolled/refractory gout but anti-drug antibodies (ADAs) cause loss of serum urate [SU] lowering response and infusion reactions (Rfs) [1]. MIRROR RCT showed higher response rate (71% vs 39% during month 6) and lower IR risk (4% vs 31%) with methotrexate (MTX) cotherapy, which attenuated ADAs in pegloticase-naive pts.[2] Therefore, retreating pts who previously developed ADAs with pegloticase monotherapy is clinically relevant. The ADVANCE trial examined pegloticase+MTX cotherapy safety and efficacy in pts with prior monotherapy failure.

Objectives: To report interim efficacy and safety findings of the ADVANCE open-label trial.

Methods: Pts with uncontrolled gout (SU ≥6 mg/dL, ULT failure/intolerance, and ≥1 symptom [≥1 tophus, ≥2 flares in past yr, or chronic gouty arthritis) who did not maintain SU-lowering during prior pegloticase monotherapy were included.

Keywords: Gout, Clinical trials

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2613

Table 1. Demographics and clinical characteristics of described patients with CALJA. AVS: aortic valve stenosis, AC: articular calcifications, ICD: claudicatio intermittens, UREA: upper extremities articular calcifications, RP: Raynaud Phenomenon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASE COUNTRY</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
<th>THERAPY</th>
<th>SYMPTOMS</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRC, US</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Pegloticase+MTX</td>
<td>Claudicatio intermittens, Raynaud Phenomenon</td>
<td>Stopped due to adverse event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Comparison of SU target achievement in people with gout.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>SU target</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>N (n=204)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>44 (52.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>44 (52.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>44 (52.7)</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>44 (52.7)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
course range was 2-27 infusions, with last infusion 3.7±2.4 yrs prior (range: 0.7–9.2 yrs). One pt (0%) had a responder during Month 3 and during Month 6 (ongoing treatment through wk 30 at analysis), 8 pts (73%) met SU-discontinuation criteria (first SU >6 mg/dL: 20.8±18.3 days after infusion 1), and 2 (18%) had moderate IRs. 7/13 pts (54%) had ≥1 AE during Run-in (1 SAE; 8/11 (73%) had ≥1 AE during Treatment (0 SAE, all Rheim CTC[3] grade 1 or 2), most commonly gout flare (Table 1).

Table 1. Key findings of pegloticase+MTX treatment in pts with prior loss of urate-lowering efficacy during pegloticase monotherapy. AEs reported in ≥1 pt are listed, along with all SAEs and AEs of special interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Efficacy endpoints</th>
<th>MTX Run-in</th>
<th>Pegloticase+MTX Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SU response during Month 6, n (%)</td>
<td>--- 1 (9%)</td>
<td>1 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SU response during Month 3, n (%)</td>
<td>--- 1 (9%)</td>
<td>1 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment-emergent AEs</td>
<td>≥1 AE, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (54%) 8 (73%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gout flare</td>
<td>6 (46%) 7 (64%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthralgia</td>
<td>1 (8%) 2 (18%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain in extremity</td>
<td>0 2 (18%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>2 (15%) 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaphylaxis*</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular event†</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious AEs</td>
<td>≥1 serious AE, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (8%) 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perimeal abscess§</td>
<td>1 (8%) 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*AE of special interest. †throat tightness, erythema, itching, urticaria in 1 pt; back pain in 1 pt. Excluded non-fatal stroke, non-fatal MI, cardiovascular death, CHF. **2 days before first pegloticase infusion, deemed unrelated to MTX.

Conclusion: Treatment response rate with pegloticase+MTX following failed monotherapy was 9%, markedly lower than in pegloticase-naïve pts (71%);[2] IR rate was 18%, higher than in pegloticase-naïve pts (4%),[2] but all were moderate (no anaphylaxis). These findings demonstrate the challenge of overcoming established ADAs against pegloticase and emphasize the importance of initiating immunomodulation before pegloticase therapy.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by Horizon Therapeutics plc. Medical writing and editing support provided by Lissa Padnick-Silver PhD, employee of and stockholder in Horizon.


Table 1. Cases of Worth’s disease grouped by decade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Number of case reports</th>
<th>Cumulative number of cases</th>
<th>High serum alkaline phosphatase</th>
<th>Facial changes</th>
<th>Neurological involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960s 2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970s 8</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980s 4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990s 4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000s 9</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010s 6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020s Present case 1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 34</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: For the first time, we collected all case reports of Worth’s disease. Neurological involvement is present in one-fifth of the patients, and facial changes are not a consistent finding. Thus, Worth’s disease may be asymptomatic and is often incidentally detected in routine radiographs showing generalized osteosclerosis. Our case is the first report of hypo-/anosmia in Worth’s disease.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3135

Table 1257

EVALUATION OF ADHERENCE TO AND AGREEMENT WITH THE 2020 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY GUIDELINE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF GOUT BY US RHEUMATOLOGISTS

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Gout, Crystal arthritis

N. Schlesinger1, M. Pillinger2, P. Lipsky3. 1Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine, University of Utah, Division of Rheumatology, Salt Lake City, United States of America; 2WyU Grossman School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; 3WILSTE Research Institute and AMPEL BioSolutions, LLC, Rheumatology, Charlotteville, United States of America

Background: In 2020, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) presented an updated gout treatment guideline.[1]

Methods: A 57-item questionnaire was administered to US rheumatologists, surveying their adherence to and agreement with the 2020 ACR Guideline for the Management of Gout. Stated adherence scores were based on the number of Guideline recommendations reported to be followed by rheumatologists in practice, whereas stated agreement scores were based on degree of agreement with the recommendations.

Results: All 201 rheumatologists approached completed the questionnaire. Mean age of participants was 50 years, 54% had >15 years of practice experience, and ~70% were in private practice (Table 1). Mean overall stated adherence score was 11.5, with a possible maximum of 15, whereas the mean overall stated agreement score was 7.7, with a possible maximum of 14. Rheumatologists with less experience (≤8years; n=49) were likely to claim adherence with more individual ACR recommendations than those with more experience (>8years; n=152) (mean stated adherence score: 12.3 vs 11.3; p<0.05), whereas those who claimed to see
≤75 patients with gout in 6 months (n=66) had a mean stated adherence score of 12.1 vs 11.2 for rheumatologists who claimed to have seen >75 patients (p<0.05).

Approximately 78% of rheumatologists claimed to follow the guideline for initiating urate-lowering therapy (ULT) and 88% were likely to prescribe allopurinol as a first-line ULT for all patient types (Figure 1). Claimed adherence to recommendations for dosing was lower (43% and 39%, for febuxostat and allopurinol, respectively). Approximately, 92% of the rheumatologists claimed adherence on first-line therapy for gout flares (Figure 1). Rheumatologists from academic settings were more likely to prescribe an interleukin-1 inhibitor for gout flares than those in other settings.

**Conclusion:** The self-reported practice of the surveyed US rheumatologists was generally concordant with the 2020 ACR Guideline for the Management of Gout. However, there were gaps in guideline knowledge and stated adherence among rheumatologists, mainly concerning the dosing of treatment regimens.

**REFERENCE:**

AB1259

SERUM IRON LEVELS WERE POSITIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE RISK OF HYPERURICEMIA: NHANES 1999-2014

Keywords: Gout, Gender/diversity issues

S. X. Hu1, H. Lin1, N. Chen1, O. H. Li2.1, Sun Yat-Sen University, Zhongshan School of Medicine, Guangzhou, China; 2Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-Sen University, Department of Rheumatology, Guangzhou, China

Background: Increasing evidence proofs that serum ferritin plays an important role in the development of hyperuricemia (HUA). However, few studies focus on the relationship between serum iron and serum urate (sUA).

Objectives: To examine the relationship between serum iron and serum urate as well as the risk of HUA classified by gender in the US adult population.

Methods: The present cross-sectional study pooled data from 1999 to 2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). The association between serum iron quartiles and hyperuricemia was evaluated by logistic regression. The restricted cubic spline regression was performed to analyze the association between continuous serum iron and sUA.

Results: The study enrolled 25757 participants in total from 1999-2014 annual NHANES cycles. The crude prevalence of hyperuricemia was 11.9%. Serum iron was significantly higher in those with HUA than in those without HUA (16.6μg/dl vs 15.6μg/dl, p<0.0001). Logistic regression showed that serum iron levels were positively associated with the risk of HUA in the whole participants and male participants after adjusting for age, BMI and eGFR (Table 1). A dose-response association was observed in the whole participants (P for trend < 0.05). The restricted cubic spline regression analysis showed that the association between continuous serum iron and sUA was different in male participants and female participants (Figure 1). The curve of male participants showed an increasing trend (folding point 13.3μg/dl, P=0.033), while for women, sUA first increased linearly, but after the folding point (6.6μg/dl, P<0.001) the curve flattened out and the increasing trend was not significant.

Conclusion: Serum iron levels were positively associated with the risk of HUA in men. The correlation between serum iron and serum uric acid was influenced by gender. More studies are needed to confirm this relationship and to find out the mechanisms behind as well as the reasons for the gender differences.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Associations of Serum Iron and Serum Urate in the US adult population. IRON: serum iron; sUA: serum urate. The restricted cubic spline regression analyses were adjusted for age, BMI and eGFR.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3877

AB1260

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, CLINICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL PROFILE OF HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR CRystalline ARTHROPATHIES IN SOUTHERN TUNISIA: A DECLINE OF 14 YEARS

Keywords: Gout, Nursing, Crystal arthritis

M. Bakkouli1, Y. Mejdoub1, A. Fessi1, H. Maamri1, N. Ketata1,2, M. Ben Jmeaa3, I. Stouil1, R. Karray1, J. Jidil1, S. Yaich1, S. Bakkouli1, J. Dammak1.1 Hedi Chaker University-Hospital, Community Health and Epidemiology Department, Sfax, Tunisia; 2Hedi Chaker University Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Sfax, Tunisia

Background: Crystalline arthropathies (CA) are a group of joint disorders caused by deposits of crystals in joints and the soft tissues around them. The most common type is gout. Over time, CA could lead to joint damage and even for other serious complications that could require hospitalization.

Objectives: This study aimed to determine the epidemiological, clinical and chronological profile of hospitalizations for CA in Southern Tunisia for 14 years.

Methods: This was an observational retrospective study that included patients hospitalized for CA in the Hedi Chaker University Hospital Southern Tunisia, during the period 2003-2016. Data collection was done as part of the continuous survey of hospital morbidity and mortality.

Results: Among 148596 admissions, 187 cases were hospitalized for CA (0.12%), of which 122 subjects (84.9%) were males. The median age of hospitalized patients was 66 years (IQR=[54-75]) years. There were 96 patients (51.3%) aged 65 years. The most frequent type of CA noted was gout with a global frequency of hospitalizations about 72.2% (n=135). Complications were noted among 11 patients (5.9%). They were essentially cardiovascular diseases in 5 cases (2.6%). The mean total cost of hospitalizations for CA was about 507 Tunisian Dinars (IQR=[355-718]).

Conclusion: CA notably gout continue to be a relatively frequent source of hospitalizations in Southern Tunisia with a stable chronological trend over the years. Thus, an adequate and a continuous management must be maintained for patients in order to control the complicated forms of these pathologies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4377

Table 1. Associations of Serum Iron levels with the Prevalence of HU in the US adult population. Weighted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (n=25757)</th>
<th>Male (n=12582)</th>
<th>Female (n=13175)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR 95% CI low</td>
<td>P-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>1.28038</td>
<td>1.010223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>1.52865</td>
<td>1.30201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>2.18591</td>
<td>1.88460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>1.70599</td>
<td>0.000133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CI, confidence interval; Ref., reference; OR, odd ratio. The model was constructed by using logistic regression.

AB1261

DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF GOUT ‘TREAT-TO-TARGET’ BOOKLET

Keywords: Education, Gout

N. Mustafa1, M. R. Isa2, H. Baharuddin3.1 Universiti Teknologi MARA, Department of Internal Medicine, Sungai Buloh, Malaysia; 2Universiti Teknologi MARA, Department of Public Health Medicine, Sungai Buloh, Malaysia; 3Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah, Department of Internal Medicine, Bandar Puncak Alam, Malaysia

Background: Gout is a treatable disease but often sub-optimally managed. The main gaps identified in gout management are sub-optimal urate-lowering therapy (ULT) adherence and lack of adequate ULT dosage.[1] Nurse-led care by providing individualized information led to a reduction in gout flares and tophli[2] while a structured gout management programme led by pharmacists[3] resulted in a higher rate of reaching serum uric acid (SUA) compared to usual care. Most patients with gout are being managed in primary care setting where nurse-led or pharmacists-led care may not be realistic, especially in developing countries where human resources are limited. Furthermore, clinic visits for every ULT increment can be burdensome to the healthcare system and even patients. Would a booklet on gout be helpful to improve patients’ education and ultimately care of patients with gout?

Objectives: This study was conducted to validate our newly developed Gout ‘Treat-to-Target’ Booklet, which was intended to document individual patient’s data relevant to gout and to provide basic written information on gout, for patients’ reference.

Methods: This methodological research was conducted following three stages; stage 1 involved the review of the Malaysian Clinical Practice (CPG) for the...
management of gout[4] and the EULAR evidence-based recommendations for gout management[1] stage 2 involved adoption of the content which was written into a booklet called Gout ‘Treat-to-Target’ Booklet, and stage 3 was the evaluation of the booklet for content and face validity. The content validity index (ICVI) was assessed by 11 healthcare providers who were involved in managing gout patients (four consultant rheumatologists, two general physicians and five medical officers) using a four-point Likert scale regarding relevance, clarity, simplicity and ambiguity of each item in the booklet. A scale with excellent content validity composed of ICVI of 0.79. The face validity index (FVI) was performed by 10 patients with gout who were asked to rate each content item independently (rating 1 and 2 represent invalid comprehensiveness and rating 3 and 4 represent valid comprehensiveness). An FVI for each item of >0.79 was considered relevant.

Results: The size of the booklet was 148 x 120 mm, which fits into pockets of trousers. (Figure 1) It consisted of 15 printed pages (excluding the front page) and divided into two segments. The first segment would contain items related to individual patient's data related to gout such as onset of the first symptoms, onset of tophi, cardiovascular co-morbidities, the SUA target, ULT used (including the dates for dose increment), colchicine dose and SUA level at each visit. The second segment consisted of four appendices which contained basic information on gout (appendix 1: treatment options in gout, appendix 2: medication information, appendix 3: gout diet and appendix 4: recommended gout lifestyle). The ICVI assessed by the 11 experts for all items were >0.79 (minimum 0.9, maximum 1.0), while the FVI evaluated by 10 gout patients for all items were 1.0.

Conclusion: The development and validation process of our Gout ‘Treat-to-Target’ Booklet was described. This booklet achieved excellent ICVI and FVI, and thus would be applicable in clinical practice.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. The front page of Gout ‘Treat-to-Target’ Booklet in Malay (size 148 x 120 mm)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AMORPHOUS MINERALIZATION, CHONDROID AND/OR OSTEOID FORMATION IN CRYSTAL INDUCED METABOLIC DISORDERS – A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF APATITE RHEUMATISM, CHONDROCALCINOSIS AND PRIMARY SYNOVIAL CHONDROMATOSIS

APATITE RHEUMATISM, CHONDROCALCINOSIS, PRIMARY SYNOVIAL CHONDROMATOSIS

Keywords: Synovium, Crystal arthritis

A. Apáthy1, M. Bély2, 1St. Margaret Clinic, Department of Rheumatology, Budapest, Hungary; 2Hospital of the Order of the Brothers of Saint John of God in Budapest, Department of Pathology, Budapest, Hungary

Background: Apatite rheumatism (AR), chondrocalcinosis (Ch-C) and primary synovial chondromatosis (prSynCh) are calcium hydroxyapatite (HA) and calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate (CPPD) crystal induced progressive metabolic diseases, accompanied by more or less amorphous calcium phosphate [CaPO4], calcium carbonate [CaCO3], deposits, chondroid and/or bone formation [1 – 5].

Objectives: The aim of this study was.
(1) to assess the mineralization, chondroid and/or bone formation of AR, Ch-C and prSynCh with conventional histologic stains and histochemical reactions,
(2) to identify HA [Ca10(PO4)6(OH)] and CPPD [CaP2O7.2H2O] crystal deposits in conventionally fixed and stained tissue sections in comparison with unstained sections (Bély and Apáthy 2013) [6].

Methods: Ten joints (6 knees, 1 hip, 3 shoulders) of 5 patients with AR, 16 joints (6 knees, 4 hips, 1 shoulder, 1 elbow, 2 wrists) of 16 patients with Ch-C, and 21 joints (14 knees, 5 hips, 2 elbows) of 20 patients with prSynCh were studied histologically. The amount of amorphous calcium phosphate and/or calcium carbonate deposits, furthermore chondroid and/or bone formation were evaluated by a semiobjective score system in conventionally stained tissue sections (0 - no mineral deposits, chondroid and/or bone formation, 1 – minimal, 2 – moderate, and 3 – abundant). Standard stained and unstained tissue sections were examined with the light microscope and under polarized light, respectively.

Results: Summary of Patients’ Demographics.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical diagnosis</th>
<th>Total n of patients</th>
<th>Mean age in years ± SD at surgery</th>
<th>Range of age (in years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apatite rheumatism</td>
<td>5 (n=5)</td>
<td>74.80±6.91</td>
<td>66 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>77.00±5.60</td>
<td>69 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>66.00</td>
<td>66.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chondrocalcinosis</td>
<td>16 (n=16)</td>
<td>63.67±21.17</td>
<td>39 – 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>62.00±21.93</td>
<td>39 – 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>74.00±14.41</td>
<td>73 – 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary synovial chondromatosis</td>
<td>20 (n=20)</td>
<td>59.25±12.51</td>
<td>30 – 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– (n=20)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>53.15±10.49</td>
<td>40 – 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>44.71±14.90</td>
<td>30 – 76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The amount of amorphous calcium phosphate and/or calcium carbonate deposits was different in all patient groups; the average value of scores in tissue samples of patients with clinical diagnosis of AR was (1.80), with Ch-C (2.60), and with prSynCh (0.556). Chondroid formation in synovial membranes was minimal in tissue samples of patients with the clinical diagnosis of AR (0.058) or Ch-C (0.050); osteoid or bone formation was not detected (0.0). Massive chondroid formation (with or without osteoid or bone formation) was characteristic for prSynCh (2.1351). In tissue sections stained with HE, HA crystals were found only in 3 (4.054 %), and CPPD in 15 (20.27 %) of 74 tissue sections of 28 patients with the clinical diagnosis of AR, Ch-C, or with prSynCh. Using Bély and Apáthy’s non-staining technique (2013), different amounts of HA and CPPD crystals were demonstrated in all 28 patients (100 %) with the clinical diagnosis of AR, Ch-C and prSynCh. In unstained sections HA crystals were found in 49, (66.216 %), and CPPD in 44 (59.459 %) of 74 tissue samples. The unstained sections were more frequent to demonstrate HA or CPPD crystals than conventionally stained ones.

Conclusion: Our study indicates that AR, Ch-C and prSynCh are crystal induced maladies and belong to the same group of metabolic diseases. All of these diseases start with crystal deposition which provokes an inflammatory reaction. The inflammatory reaction is inhibited or moderated by calcium carbonate [CaCO3] and/or calcium phosphate [CaPO4] deposition in case of AR or Ch, and is inhibited or moderated by chondroid and/or osteoid formation in case of prSynCh. In our view prSynCh is a defect variant of metabolic
disorders, characterized by diminished calcium phosphate and/or carbonate production.

REFERENCES:
[1] Bély M, Apáthy Á: Clinical Archives of Bone and Joint Diseases, 2018; 1:2
DOI: 10.23937/cabjd-2017/1710007

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.193

AB1263 REGIONAL VARIATIONS OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK IN GOUT PATIENTS: A NATIONWIDE COHORT STUDY IN KOREA

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Gout

B. Ghang1, B. Yoo1, J. Kim1, H. J. Kim1, H. S. Ahn2, 1Jeju National School of Medicine, Jeju National University Hospital, Rheumatology, Jeju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Asian Medical Center, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea);

Background: Gout is also closely associated with systemic disorders and cardiovascular (CV) risk profiles, such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus, dyslipidemia, chronic kidney disease, alcohol consumption, and obesity[1]. In addition, gout has been suggested as a cause of CV diseases via pathogenic mechanisms such as endothelial dysfunction, oxidative metabolism, platelet adhesiveness, and aggregation[2-4]. Accordingly, several epidemiological studies reported that patients with gout had an increased risk for CV events.[3, 4] In particular, differences in population characteristics between urban regions and other regions are getting more significant owing to recent rapid industrialization. Accordingly, a study on regional differences should be conducted; however, there are still few studies on it.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the risk of major cardiovascular events in gout patients in different regions.

Methods: This was a nationwide cohort study based on the claims database of the Korean National Health Insurance and the National Health Screening Program. Patients aged 20 to 90 years newly diagnosed with gout after January 2012 were included. After cardiovascular risk profiles before gout diagnosis were adjusted, the relative risks of incident cardiovascular events (myocardial infarction, cerebral infarction, and cerebral hemorrhage) in gout patients in different regions were assessed.

Results: In total, 231,668 patients with gout were studied. Regional differences in cardiovascular risk profiles before the diagnosis were observed. Multivariable analysis showed that patients with gout in Jeolla/Gwangju had a significantly high risk of myocardial infarction (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR] 1.27 [95% confidence interval [CI], 1.02–1.56], P = 0.03). In addition, patients with gout in Gangwon (aHR 1.38 [95% CI, 1.09–1.74], P = 0.01), Jeolla/Gwangju (aHR 1.41 [95% CI, 1.19–1.67], P < 0.01), and Gyeongsang/Busan/Seoul/Ulsan (aHR 1.37 [95% CI, 1.19–1.59], P < 0.01) had a significantly high risk of cerebral infarction.

Conclusion: We found there were regional differences in cardiovascular risk and associated risk factors in gout patients. Physicians should screen gout patients for cardiovascular risk profiles in order to facilitate prompt diagnosis and treatment.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2846

AB1264 RHEUMATOLOGISTS BEWARE OF LOW ALP: A CASE OF HYPOPHOSPHATASIA MISDIAGNOSED AS FIBROMYALGIA, CAUSING LONG DIAGNOSTIC DELAY

Keywords: Quality of life, Patient information and education, Rare/orphan diseases

A. Lathet1, K. Moss2, 1St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Hypophosphatasia (HPP), a rare, inherited metabolic disease featuring low serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity due to ALPL (encoding tissue non-specific alkaline phosphatase) gene mutation[1,2]. A wide-ranging clinical spectrum is often seen due to defective mineralisation affecting teeth, bones, joints and muscles[1]. This disease has a prevalence of 1/6370 in Europe and is often misdiagnosed and underdiagnosed with a diagnostic delay of more than ten years[1] The treatment is often supportive for milder cases and enzyme replacement therapy in severe cases.

Objectives: To share this case to raise awareness among Rheumatologists.

Methods: This 58-year-old Caucasian female had her HPP symptom as early eruption of deciduous teeth, along with recurrent dental infections and gum problems. She was diagnosed with flat feet at age five, had a big toe fracture at sixteen, followed by a metatarsal fracture. She experienced leg muscle cramps and aches, affecting her performance in sport during school life. At the age of thirty she began noticing weakness in arms and legs, which progressed over the years. She faced significant early morning stiffness along with painful ribs, hips, knees, shoulders, and small joints of feet when walking. She was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia at the age of forty-four. The following ten years she met numerous specialists including rheumatologist, pain specialist and physiotherapists. She was also diagnosed with early osteoarthritis, pernicious anaemia, hyperlipidemia, functional neurological syndrome, and central sensitization syndrome. She had multiple trials of steroids and opioids, all of which were stopped either due to side effects or efficacy. A major flare of symptoms five years ago rendered her bedbound for three months, following which a chemical pathologist noticed a persistent low ALP levels and decided to investigate for HPP. It took another four years to complete these investigations due to the coronavirus pandemic. Currently, she is unable to wear light bear or climb stairs and must stay indoors or in bed during flareup. She moved into a ground floor flat at the age of 54 and use a walking stick occasionally. By 58, she is unable to work and had given up her own business due to pain, weakness, and disability.

Results: On clinical assessment, her height is 160 cm, faced difficulty getting up from chair, has an antalgic waddling gait, with a 6-minute walking distance of 60 metre, stopped after three minutes, and had a Brief Pain Inventory pain severity score of 7/10. Her ALP level is 24 U/L and PLP/PA ratio is 18.8 (ref < 5), and genetic testing showed heterozygous missense variant of ALPL gene mutation.

Conclusion: It took more than forty years to reach a conclusive diagnosis of childhood onset HPP. Low ALP level is a signature of HPP and warrants investigations. Diagnosis can be challenging due to the rareness and variable presentation, however recognition of HPP features is crucial for timely referral, optimal disease management and potential improvement in quality of life.

REFERENCES:
AB1265

THE INCIDENCE OF ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME IN GOUT AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS

Keywords: Gout, Heart

I. Roki Chaouâl1, N. Akasbi1, S. Benbamaara2, I. El Mezouar1, T. Harzy1. 1Hassan II University Hospital, University Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Fes, Morocco; 2Hassan II University Hospital, University Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Laboratory of Biostatistical, Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Fes, Morocco

Background: The Gout is a metabolic arthropathy including monosodium urate crystal deposition associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, particularly related to coronary heart disease.

Objectives: The purpose of our work was to determine the frequency of heart attack in our gouty patients and the factors associated with its incidence.

Methods: A retrospective observational study was conducted. The inclusion period was from January 2011 to March 2022.

Results: Our sample included 138 patients. The mean age was 58±13 years and the sex ratio was 1.46:M:W. The mean duration of evolution was 20±28 months. The prevalence of patients with metabolic syndrome including diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia was 25.4%, 43.5% and 16.7% of cases respectively. Smoking was present in 9.5% of cases. Medication was found in 31.2% of cases. The vital prognosis is at stake, hence, the need for adequate and early management of this rheumatism as well as the associated with smoking and dyslipidemia. The presence of dyslipidemia (OR=5.744; CI95% [1.323; 24.947]; p=0.020). In multivariate analysis, the risk of developing an acute coronary syndrome was fivefold higher in patients with recurrent attacks, arthropathies, tophus or radiological signs of gout. Thus, 8.5% of the physicians recommend disease-modifying therapy for the recommended indications. Among other things, 36.8% of patients recommend starting hypouricemic treatment in the event of asymptomatic hyperuricemia. Regarding patient education, the majority of doctors advise for weight loss (77.6%) and a low purine diet by (75%).

Conclusion: This work has objectified that gout is often poorly managed by general practitioners suggesting the need for continuing medical education of general practitioners which will certainly help improve practices.

REFERENCES:


AB1267

THE CORRELATION BETWEEN URIC ACID AND BONE MINERAL DENSITY OF TOTAL HIP WITH BONE MICROARCHITECTURE ANALYSIS IN TOPHACEOUS GOUT PATIENTS

Keywords: Imaging, Bone diseases, Gout

J. Barco Dos Santos1, G. Rocha1, L. Peixoto Sales1, A. Silva Franco1, V. Caparbo1, D. Domiciano1, R. Fuller1, C. Figueiredo1, R. M. Pereira1. 1Hospital das Clínicas HCFMUSP, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de São Paulo, Division of Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil

Background: Gout is the most common inflammatory arthropathy¹. It is related to elevated uric acid levels and often associated with bone loss². Furthermore, chronic inflammation has been associated with fragility fractures despite normal bone mass by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA). However, the evaluation of bone microstructure in patients with tophaceous gout and its association with bone mineral density (BMD) has not been studied yet.

Objectives: The present study aimed to investigate the correlation between densitometric parameters and bone microstructure using high-resolution peripheral quantitative computed tomography (HR-pQCT) in patients with tophaceous gout.

Methods: Eleven male tophaceous gout (Figure 1) patients were enrolled in this cross-sectional study. Patients using drugs that can affect bone metabolism were excluded. The presence of tophi was confirmed by physical examination, radiographs and laboratory tests.

Conclusion: In addition to our work, several previous studies confirm the increased cardiovascular risk of gout but few investigate the predictive factors. Biological studies have indicated that the systemic inflammation induced by the crystals characteristic of gout leads to atherogenesis through endothelial dysfunction [2]. In our sample, the incidence of acute coronary syndrome is associated with smoking and dyslipidemia. The vital prognosis is at stake, hence, the need for adequate and early management of this rheumatism as well as the prevention of associated factors.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5752
was found a positive correlation between BMD of total hip and Tb.N tibia (r= 0.743, p< 0.035), Ct.Th tibia (r= 0.902, p= 0.005) and S tibia (r= 0.938, p< 0.001).

**Conclusion:** The results of this study showed that uric acid levels were negatively correlated with tibia bone microarchitecture parameters. However, total hip BMD was positively correlated with these tibia bone microstructure data.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Clinical and demographic characteristics of patients.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tophaceous Gout (n = 11)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>62.5 ± 11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>31.1 ± 7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of tophi</td>
<td>8.0 ± 10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of disease</td>
<td>16.4 ± 7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium (mg/dL)</td>
<td>9.4 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin D (ng/mL)</td>
<td>26.2 ± 8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL (mg/dl)</td>
<td>39.6 ± 10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDL (mg/dl)</td>
<td>112.2 ± 45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerides (mg/dl)</td>
<td>235.1 ± 117.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/h)</td>
<td>21 ± 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>5.3 ± 6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephrolithiasis (n)</td>
<td>(7) 36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>(5) 45.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>(8) 72.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gout crises in the last 3 years</td>
<td>(7) 63.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results are expressed in mean ± SD (standard deviation), or n (%). ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP: c-reactive protein; LDL: low-density lipoprotein; HDL: High-density lipoprotein; BMI: Body mass index.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank Professor Rosa Maria Rodrigues Pereira, MD, PhD (in memoriam) for the inspiration and organization of this paper.

**Disclosures of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6154

**AB1268**

**FIRST DIAGNOSIS OF MONOSODIUM URATE CRYSTAL FROM CEREBROSPINAL FLUID IN PATIENT WITH NECK PAIN**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Crystal arthritis, Gout

W. Jeong¹, J. R. Yoo¹. ¹Jeju National University College of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Jeju, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

**Background:** Gout is a common arthritis caused by the deposition of monosodium urate (MSU) crystals within joints after chronic hyperuricemia. Deposition of MSU in the spine as a rare manifestation of gout, but the actual prevalence of spinal involvement is unknown.

**Objectives:** We present a vertebral osteomyelitis and spinal meningitis misdiagnosed cervical spinal gout.

**Results:** An 85-year-old man was admitted due to a 5-day history of fever and neck pain. On admission, physical examination revealed neck pain and stiffness. He had a blood pressure of 140/102 mmHg, pulse rate of 95/min, respiration rate of 18 breaths/min, and body temperature of 38.0°C. Laboratory results revealed a white blood cell count (WBC) of 140/102/mm³, pulse rate of 95/min, respiration rate of 18 breaths/min, and body temperature of 38.0°C. Laboratory results revealed a white blood cell count (WBC) of 11,200/mm³ (reference: 4,000–10,000) and C-reactive protein level of 12.29 mg/dL (reference: 0.0–0.3). Magnetic resonance imaging findings suggested cervical osteomyelitis and meningitis (Figure 1A). Cervical spine computed tomography (CT) revealed curvilinear calcifications of the transverse ligament of the atlas (Figure 1B). After assessing blood cultures, an empirical antibiotics were administered intravenously. On the second day of admission, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis did not reveal meningitis (WBC 8/μL; glucose and protein levels 79 and 168 mg/dL, respectively), and CSF culture and molecular tests were negative for bacteria and mycobacteria. The patient was diagnosed with crowned dens syndrome and administered with 20 mg prednisolone, and his symptoms dramatically improved. However, CSF examination under polarising microscopy revealed monosodium urate (MSU) crystals (Figure 1C), and dual-energy CT confirmed the calcifications to be MSU crystals (Figure 1D).

**Conclusion:** Crowned dens syndrome is a rare finding in calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease and may be clinically similar to meningitis, so it should be suspected when the evidence for infection is unclear. Our patient had gout history, and MSU crystals were confirmed by CSF analysis and dual-energy CT, suggesting that the symptoms were caused by gout flare in the cervical spine. Thus, physicians should consider that intrathecal MSU crystal formation can cause meningitis-like symptoms in patients with gout history.

**REFERENCES:**


AB1269 HEARING LOSS – A RARE MANIFESTATION OF THE CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE DIHYDRATE DEPOSITION DISEASE

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Crystal arthritis

P. Bradna1, 1University Hospital and Medical Faculty, IInd Dept of Medicine, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic

Background: Calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate (CaPPD) deposition disease is a disease with a wide range of manifestations from acute gout-like episodic arthritis to an accentuated osteoarthritic picture. A common feature is the deposition of CaPPd crystals in tissues. Middle ear involvement is a rare manifestation of the disease, described in a few case reports.

Objectives: Middle ear involvement is a rare manifestation of the disease, described in a few case reports.

Methods: Histological examination of operating specimen.

HRT.

Results: 71-year-old man, athlete (tennis, cycling) underwent a partial meniscectomy in 2008 for acute knee blockade, in October 2022 he suffered polytrauma after a traffic injury. He is treated for arterial hypertension. He has never had inflammatory arthritis, joint problems he had only in connection with sports injuries. Last 12 months he has observed a gradually progressing hearing loss, mild dizziness and tinnitus. HRT of a scull base demonstrated a left-sided osteoma with fixation to the malleus. Tumor mass was removed by surgery. Histology proved calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate crystals in the operating material. We have not demonstrated hyperparathyroidism, hypomagnesemia, or any other primary disease associated with CaPPD deposition. During subsequent X-ray examination, we found the chondrocalcinosis of the menisci of both knees.

Conclusion: Deposits of calcium pyrophosphate in the middle ear region are a rare manifestation of the calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate deposition disease. Clinically, progressive hearing loss may occur, morphologically resemble osteoma and may not be associated with other clinical signs of the underlying disease.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1270 ANALYSIS OF PREVALENCE AND RELATED RISK FACTORS OF HYPERURICEMIA IN BOZDUN AKSU PREFECTURE OF XINJIANG

Keywords: Gout

Y. Zhong1, L. Wu1, 1People’s Hospital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Rheumatology, Urumqi, China

Objectives: To investigate the prevalence of Hyperuricemia (HUA) in Bozidun Kirgiz township, Aksu region, Xinjiang, and to explore the risk factors for the occurrence of HUA in the local area.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey study was conducted by randomly selecting 9 villages in Bozidun Kirgiz Township by the whole-group sampling method and using a questionnaire distributed to households. The questionnaire included: general information, history of previous diseases, personal history, and all subject-related factors. The diagnosis of HUA: serum uric acid (SUA) >420μmol/L in men or >360μmol/L in women.

Results: 2138 subjects were surveyed, among which 68 patients with HUA, the prevalence of HUA in Bozidun Kirgiz Township, Aksu region general population was 3.2% (68/2138); the prevalence rate of men was 4.6%, with 45 patients; and the prevalence rate of women was 2.0%, with 23 patients. The peak age of male and female patients was 51-60 years old. The prevalence of HUA was lower in those who consumed dairy products, nuts and eggs, and lower in those who consumed more. Different intake of cereals, meat, vegetables and fruits had no effect on the prevalence of HUA. In terms of different life behaviors, the prevalence of HUA in men who had been smoking was higher than those who had never smoked (57.78%, 28.89%, 13.33%, P=0.017). In the relationship between drinking and HUA, the prevalence rates of male always drinking, ever drinking and never drinking were 60.00%, 11.11% and 3.89%, respectively, showing significant differences (P=0.038); Multi-factor logistic regression analysis showed that BMI, age, TG, Cr and WBC were risk factors for the occurrence of HUA.

Conclusion: The prevalence of HUA in Bozidun Kirgiz township in Aksu prefecture of Xinjiang is lower than that in other areas with continental climate. High body mass index, old age, high triglyceride, increased creatinine and increased white blood cell count are the risk factors for the development of HUA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1271 FACTORS ASSOCIATED TO FRACTILITY FRACTURES IN RA PATIENTS: IS URIC ACID INCIRMINATED?

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid arthritis

B. Touil1, N. Akasbi1, I. El Mezouar1, T. Harzy1, 1Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University, Rheumatology Department, FEZ, Morocco

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been reported to be associated with low bone mineral density (BMD) and increased risk of fractures. Recently, several observational studies have revealed that a higher serum uric acid level was associated with higher bone mineral density (BMD), and therefore, a reduced risk of osteoporosis and fragility fractures in men, post- and perimenopausal women. Although the relationship between serum UA levels and BMD has been evaluated in the general population, data regarding the effect of UA levels on bone loss in patients with RA was lack [1].

Objectives: To evaluate the relationship between UA levels, BMD and fragility fractures (FF) and the different factors associated with the occurrence of FF in RA patients.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study in a single rheumatology hospital in Morocco. All patients satisfied the ACR-EULAR 2010 RA classification criteria. All the patients underwent BMD examination by dual energy x-ray absorptiometry and serum UA levels measurement. Osteoporosis was diagnosed when the T-score was -2.5 or less. Socio-demographic data, comorbidities, disease-related variables (duration, characteristics, and drugs) were also collected. Statistical analysis were performed with SPSS 22.

Results: We included 88 (85.44%) women and 15 (14.56%) men with a mean age of 52.59 ± 14.77 years old. They had a mean disease duration of 14.27±10.84 years, a mean 28 CRP of 2.59 ±1.35. Their mean lumbar spine, femoral neck and total proximal femur were 0.843 ± 0.134, 0.694 ± 0.111, and 0.826 ± 0.119 respectively. The UA levels were elevated in 10.8 % of patients, dyslipidemia was found in 19.3 % of patients and 38.9 % of the patients had osteoporosis. There was no correlation between UA concentrations and BMD, whether corrected to the glomerular filtration rate (87.43 ± 12.11 vs 103.50 ± 15.38; p=0.018). The UA levels were elevated in 10.8 % of patients, dyslipidemia was found in 19.3 % of patients and 38.9 % of the patients had osteoporosis. There was no correlation between UA concentrations and BMD, whether corrected to the glomerular filtration rate (87.43 ± 12.11 vs 103.50 ± 15.38; p=0.018).

Conclusion: Although there was no relation between UA levels, BMD and FF in our population, FF were related to ACPA antibodies, BMD, kidney function and corticosteroid use.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Infection-related rheumatic diseases

**AB1272** SHOULD RHEUMATOLOGISTS ROUTINELY REQUEST PARASITE SEROLOGY IN CANDIDATES FOR IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE TREATMENT? PREVALENCE OF STRONGYLOIDES STERCOARIS IN A NON-ENDEMIC AREA (CATALONIA, SPAIN)

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritides, Epidemiology, Infection-related RMDs

J. Font-Urgelles,1,2 S. Mingué-Blasco,1 M. Lopez de Recale-Martorell1, B. Rodriguez-Diez1,2 A. Arnau Bastes1, S. Jonés-Lauredo1,2, A. Flor-Pérez1,2, G. Trujillo-Isern1, D. Estivill Navarrete1, J. Trapé3, M. Sallés Lizarazu4,1

1Althaia, Xarxa Assistencial Universitària de Manresa, Rheumatology, Manresa, Spain; 2Hospital Universitari Germans Illes i Pujol, Rheumatology, Badalona, Spain; 3Althaia, Xarxa Assistencial Universitària de Manresa, Research Unit, Manresa, Spain; 4Althaia, Xarxa Assistencial Universitària de Manresa, Infectology, Manresa, Spain; 5Althaia, Xarxa Assistencial Universitària de Manresa, Microbiology, Manresa, Spain

**Background:** Infection is one of the main causes of morbidity and mortality in patients with autoimmune and immune-mediated diseases (AI/IMID). Multiples recommendations exist for prevention of bacterial and viral infections, however, there are no specific recommendations for parasitosis. Strongyloidiasis is an infection caused by *Strongyloides stercoralis*. This parasite is distributed globally throughout tropical and subtropical areas. The majority of cases in Spain are imported. Often this infection is asymptomatic, however, in immunosuppression situation, severe presentations, hyperinfection syndrome or disseminated strongyloidiasis can occur.

**Objectives:** To determine the prevalence of positive *S. stercoralis* serology and describe the epidemiological, clinical and analytical characteristics of this subject.


**Results:** Three hundred and ten patients were included. The majority were women (63.2%) with a mean age of 55.9 years (SD 14.7) and 9.3% were not born in Spain. Our patients had and inflammatory arthritis (81.2%) or an autoimmune disease (8.1%). At the moment of serology determination, 41.9% received disease-modifying antirheumatic drug and 54.9% prednisone. Positive serology was found in 10 patients (3.2%; 95%CI: 1.6-5.9) and 4 (1.3%; 95%CI: 0.4-3.3) were indeterminate. No patient developed symptomatic infection nor hyperesoinophilia. Every positive patient received prophylactic therapy with ivermectin. The 60% of patients didn’t referred any epidemiological risk, 10% were born in endemic country but have never returned, 10% were born in endemic country and have visited this country subsequently, and 20% were born in non-endemic country and had travelled to an endemic zone. No differences were observed in the prevalence of *S. stercoralis* according to sex, disease, treatments nor epidemiologic contacts. Patients with positive serology were younger (48.4 yrs vs 56.2; p=0.048). The highest prevalence of infection was observed in workers of the quinary sector (12%; p=0.072).

**Conclusion:** Prevalence of *S. stercoralis* infection in rheumatic patients in our area is 3.2%. Increasing migration and international travelling was suspected the most important risk factor. Study period: patients attended in the Rheumatology clinic prior to the diagnosis. Hence, Rheumatologists practicing worldwide should be aware of such manifestations of infectious diseases.

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5302

**AB1273** RARE INFECTION RELATED ARTHROPATHIES IN RHEUMATOLOGY: A MULTI-CENTRIC STUDY

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Infection-related RMDs, Inflammatory arthritides

A. Pandey1, A. Dua2, S. Jain3, B. D. Pandey1, Apollo Hospital, Rheumatology, Indore, India; 1Dua Clinic: Rheumatology and Arthritis Care, Rheumatology, Bilaspur, India; 2Arthritis Clinic, Rheumatology, Saharanpur, India; 3Noida, Rheumatology, Noida, India

**Background:** Various infections can mimic inflammatory arthropathies and misdiagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthropathies or lupus. Occasionally, rare infections prevalent in a specific geographical region may present with arthritis as their first and only symptom which may confuse the clinician leading to incorrect diagnosis and management. Many a times, such patients land up in a rheumatology clinic prior to the diagnosis. Hence, Rheumatologists practicing worldwide should be aware of such manifestations of infectious diseases.

**Objectives:** Main objective of this multi-center study was to appraise the clinical features and demographics of various rare infectious diseases (newly or previously diagnosed) that presented with arthritis.

**Methods:** This retrospective study (January 2012- December 2022) was carried out at 3 tertiary care centres, two in central India (city Indore and Bilaspur) and 1 in northern India (city Saharanpur). Patients who were previously diagnosed with an infectious disease and presented with arthritis were included. Patients with arthritis who were diagnosed as infectious disease were also included. Their details regarding demographics and clinical presentations were collected. Pearson chi-square test was applied and cases were studied according to their Age, Sex, distribution of joints, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) factor and anti cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-cci) antibodies positivity,presence of myalgias, rashes, extra-articular manifestations and cutaneous manifestations.

**Results:** Seventy-nine patients (39 male) were identified. Out of these, 34 (43%) patients had chikungunya arthrisis, 12 (15.2%) leprosy, 11 (13.9%) Covid-19, 10 (12.9%) Dengue, 4 (5.1%) Hepatitis C, 4 (5.1%) HIV, 3 (3.8%) HCV and 1 (1.3%) Poncet’s disease. No significant association was seen among rheumatoid factor (p=0.494) or anti-cci antibodies positivity (p=0.987) with these diseases. Patients with chikungunya had oligoarthitis (14.7%) or polyarthitis (85.3%). Patients with Covid-19 had oligoarthitis (18.2%), polyarthralgia (27%) and polyarthitis (54.5%). Patients with dengue, HCV and Poncet’s disease had only polyarthitis. Majority of the patients with hepatitis C and leprosy had polyarthitis. Patients with HIV showed esenthesis (25%), oligoarthitis (25%) and polyarthitis (50%). There was a statistically significant association between presence/ absence of myalgia and infectious diseases (P<0.001). It was absent in patients with hepatitis C. Only about one-third of the patients with leprosy had myalgia; while most of the patients with other infectious diseases had myalgia. 20% of the dengue patients and 41.7% of the leprosy patients had rashes, while rashes were absent in patients with other infectious diseases. Erythema nodosum was seen in only 25% patients with leprosy; while it was absent in the patients with other infectious diseases. Extra-articular manifestations were seen in 35.3% patients with chikungunya, 9.1% with Covid-19, 20% with dengue, 25% with hepatitis C, 33.3% with leprosy and 100% patients with Poncet’s disease; while extra-articular manifestations were not seen in patients with HCV and HIV infection. 9.1% patients with Covid-19, 25% with hepatitis C, 25% with HIV, 83.3% with leprosy had cutaneous manifestations, while cutaneous manifestations were not seen in patients with chikungunya arthrisis, dengue, HCV and Poncet’s disease.

**Conclusion:** Rheumatological manifestations of various infections can mimic various inflammatory arthritides and can be a diagnostic challenge. Apart from the joint involvement, these infections can also have various extra-articular manifestations as well. One should be aware of such manifestations as increased awareness can prevent diagnostic delay and complications.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5302
Background: Rheumatic immune disease is a group of diseases caused by the strong immune response to self-antigens, leading to tissue and cell damage, affecting bone, joints, bursa, muscle and its surrounding soft tissues (tendons, ligaments and fascia). The risk of tuberculosis infection in rheumatic immune patients is 2 to 5 times [1-3] than that of the general population. Patients with rheumatic immune diseases require long-term treatment with glucocorticoids and immunosuppressants, and the risk of complicated tuberculosis infection significantly increases in [4]. When active tuberculosis infection occurs in rheumatic immune patients, quite a number of patients have atypical clinical manifestations, severe disease, difficult to cure, long infection time, high fatality rate, which seriously endanger people’s health. Therefore, this study intends to explore the risk of active tuberculosis infection using immunosuppression agents and biological agents in patients with rheumatic immune diseases.

Objectives: The risk factors of active TB in rheumatic immune disease patients were explored.

Methods: The confirmed patients who went to the Rheumatology and Immunology Department of Xijin forever Uygur Autonomous Region from December 2014 to June 2015 were included. The clinical data and treatment plan were collected, followed up to December 2021 and the prognosis were collected. The risk factors of active tuberculosis were analyzed by K-M survival curve method.

Results: Data of 499 patients collected in this study, Including: In 213 cases of rheumatoid arthritis, In 79 cases of ankylosing spondylitis, In 84 cases of systemic lupus erythematosus, In 58 cases of Sjogren's syndrome, And 65 patients with other rheumatic diseases; Of them, 62 patients were lost to follow-up. Ten patients have died, Four patients were diagnosed with active TB infection when enrolled; Thus, 423 patients were included in the study. Among these, 109 males (25.8%), In 314 women (74.2%), Mean age was 48.2 ± 13.7 years. The mean follow-up was 80.2 ± 7.7 months, Six cases of active tuberculosis (one case was bone tuberculosis, One case had a pleural tuberculosis, The remaining four cases were pulmonary tuberculosis). Survival analysis showed that patients with rheumatic immune diseases had an increased risk of using immunosuppressive agents compared with active TB infection (p=0.039) and an increased risk of using biologics compared with active TB infection (p=0.004). Multivariate Cox regression analysis showed that the use of biologics was an independent risk factor in rheumatic immune disease patients with active TB (P=0.011).

Conclusion: Patients with rheumatic diseases have an increased risk of active TB using immunosuppressants or biologic agents. Use of biologic agents is an independent risk factor for the emergence of active TB.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL. 

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. 

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AB1275 NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE ARTHRITIS: A GROWING PROBLEM

Keywords: COVID, Infection-related RMDs, Epidemiology

P. Andrés-Braza1, E. Flores-Fernández2, C. Valera-Riberia1, I. Vázquez-Gómez1, E. Valls-Pascual1, J. J. Alegre Sancho1, 1Valencia, Hospital Doctor Peset, Valencia, Spain

Background: Neisseria Gonorrhoeae infection (commonly gonococcus) have increased in recent years. Additionally, an increase in the antibiotic-resistance of the bacteria has been detected, including broad-spectrum cephalosporins, which could lead to untreatable complications like arthritis.

Objectives: The goal of this study is to describe the gonococcal arthritis events identified in a Rheumatology service between 2008 and 2022.

Methods: Retrospective longitudinal observational study based on the review of the medical records of patients diagnosed with gonococcal arthritis in the Rheumatology Department of the Doctor Peset University Hospital in Valencia (Spain) since 2008 to 2022. Sociodemographic and clinical variables, antibiotic sensitivity profile and antibiotic therapy used were studied. Evolution of infections were also analyzed.

Results: Eight cases of gonococcal arthritis were recorded in the period analyzed, all of them diagnosed between the years 2021-2022. All patients except one were male. Half of the patients had sexual transmitted infection history, 75% of which were syphilis infected and 25% had previous hepatitis B infection. The most common form of presentation was oligoarthritis. In three cases a component of tenosynovitis was also observed. Diagnostic arthrocentesis was performed in seven of eight cases and a high profitability of synovial fluid culture was observed (only in one patient bacteria was not isolated). All infections showed cephalosporin and azithromycin sensitivity, all of them displayed a favorable evolution (Table 1).

Table 1. Antibiotic sensitivity profile, treatment regimens administered and duration of treatment, need for surgery and evolution of the infection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASE</th>
<th>ANTIBIOTIC SENSITIVITY PROFILE</th>
<th>HOSPITAL TREATMENT</th>
<th>OUTPATIENT TREATMENT</th>
<th>NEED FOR EVOLUTION SURGERY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASE 1</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, ceftixime, gentamicin, azithromycin, clindamycin, doxycycline</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone (6 days)</td>
<td>Cefixime (14 days)</td>
<td>No. Resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE 2</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, ciprofloxacin, lenovaxin, azithromycin</td>
<td>Gentamicin + ciprofloxacin (10 days)</td>
<td>No. Resolution.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE 3</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, azithromycin, clindamycin</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone (7 days)</td>
<td>Cefixime + Azithromycin (14 days)</td>
<td>No. Resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE 4</td>
<td>Penicillin, ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, aztreonam, rifampicin, azithromycin, chloramphenicol</td>
<td>Clavuloxin + ceftriaxone (2 days)</td>
<td>Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (1 month).</td>
<td>Yes (elbow arthrotomy and debridement).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE 5</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, rifampicin, ciprofloxacin, clindamycin, azithromycin</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone (7 days)</td>
<td>Cefixime (7 days)</td>
<td>No. Resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE 7</td>
<td>Penicillin, ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, clavuloxin, azithromycin</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone + clavuloxin + doxycycline (2 days)</td>
<td>Intravenous ceftriaxone by Home Hospitalization Unit (21 days).</td>
<td>No. Resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE 8</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, azithromycin, clindamycin, azithromycin</td>
<td>Ceftriaxone + clavuloxin + doxycycline (2 days)</td>
<td>Patient refuses Levofoxicin (14 days).</td>
<td>No. Lost to follow up.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: An increase in gonococcal arthritis cases has been detected in the Rheumatology Department of the Doctor Peset University Hospital in the last two years, overlapping with the end of the social restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite having described in recent years a growing increase antibiotic resistance, in our study the antibiotic sensitivity profiles were favorable without isolating strains resistant to cephalosporins or azithromycin.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Dr. Alida Taberner Cortès for reviewing the article.
**AB1276** SCREENING FOR LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION BEFORE BIOLOGICS IN ALGERIAN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

**Keywords:** Infection-related RMDs, bDMARD

**F. Z. Y. Heddi**, A. Laosli1, A. Laradj1, M. Nour Elhouda, N. Djekoun2, S. Debba3, C. Ouadah3, K. Khreidjine3, A. Benzaoui4, O. Paris, S. University Hospital, Rheumatology, Oran, Algeria; 2Zeralda Public Hospital, Internal Medicine, Algiers, Algeria; 3Jijel Public Hospital, Internal Medicine, Jijel, Algeria; 4Boujan Public Health Establishment, Pulmonology, Baida, Algeria

**Background:** The use of biological agents has significantly improved the management of chronic rheumatic diseases (CRD). However, these treatments increase the risk of tuberculosis due to the reactivation of a previous latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI), making its diagnosis and treatment very important prior to initiating therapy.

**Objectives:** To identify the prevalence of LTBI in Algerian patients with CRD before the initiation of biotherapies.

**Methods:** We conducted a multicenter, retrospective study over a period of 10 years including patients with CRD receiving biological therapy for at least 6 months. LTBI diagnosis was based on a positive tuberculin skin test (TST) or Quantiferon-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) without clinical symptoms, and bacteriological and radiographic signs of disease.

**Results:** 271 (154 men/117 women) were included, and the mean age of patients was 40.6±12.9 years. The most common CRD was ankylosing spondylitis (57.9%) followed by rheumatoid arthritis (22.1%), psoriatic arthritis (12.2%), and spondyloarthritides associated with inflammatory bowel disease (4.8%). Patients received adalimumab in 117 (43.2%) cases, etanercept in 89 (32.8%) cases, infliximab in 40 (14.8%) cases, tocilizumab in 24 (8.9%) cases and anakinra in 1 case. Medical history of tuberculosis was noted in 3 cases and 4 patients have a history of household contact with tuberculosis. TST was performed in 186 cases and was positive in 13.2%. 261 patients underwent a QFT-GIT, which was positive in 16.9%. The diagnosis of active pulmonary tuberculosis was made in one patient who had positive TST and images of active tuberculosis in the chest X-ray. Quadruple therapy including rifampicin (10mg/kg/day), isoniazid (5mg/kg/day), pyrazinamide (25mg/kg/d) and ethambutol (15mg/kg/d) was prescribed for this patient. However, LTBI was diagnosed in 54 cases (19.9%), 29 had negative TST with positive QFT-GIT. 34 patients received a combination of rifampicin and isoniazid for three months and 20 received the isoniazid monotherapy for six months without developing active disease. Hepatotoxicity was observed in 5.6% of cases. The biological therapy was initiated 10.3±4.96 weeks after chemophrophaxis, and 55.5% were treated with etanercept. After a follow-up of 23.5±15.7 months 4 cases of active tuberculosis infection were reported (2 lymph nodes, 1 pleural, and 1 intestinal tuberculosis) in patients with initially negative TST and QFT-GIT. One patient had TST conversion and received antibiotic prophylaxis.

**Conclusion:** Our study showed that the screening and chemophrophaxis recommendations for LTBI improve the safety of biological treatments. However, because tuberculosis infection remains a potential complication, especially in endemic countries like Algeria, we suggest that annual screening of tuberculosis infection remains a potential complication, especially in endemic countries like Algeria, we suggest that annual screening of tuberculosis infection constitutes a fundamental pillar to prevent progression to active tuberculosis.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB1277** FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRESENCE OF SPINAL EPIDURAL ABSCESSES IN SPONDYLODICTISIS

**Keywords:** Infection-related RMDs

**M. Ghali**, M. Arthau1, J. Mahbouba1, S. Zour1, I. Beja1, M. Touzi1, N. Bergoufi1, 1Fattouma Bourguiba Hospital, University of Monastir, Rheumatology, Monastir, Tunisia

**Background:** Spondylodiscitis (SD) is a severe infectious disease that affects the intervertebral disc and adjacent vertebral bodies, but may also extend to adjacent neural structures and cause a spinal epidural abscess (SEA). The clinical picture of SD is not very specific, but there are clinical and radiological differences that may point to an epidural extension.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to compare the clinical, biological, and radiological features of spondylodiscitis (SD) with and without spinal epidural abscess (SEA).

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective monocentric study involving 90 cases of SD admitted between January 2009 and August 2022 at our rheumatology department. Clinical, laboratory, and radiological data of the patients were collected.

**Results:** Among the 90 patients with SD, 54 (60%) had a spinal epidural abscess. The mean age of the SEA group was 54 ± 13.52 years [23-82]. A female predominance was observed with a sex ratio (MRF) of 0.92. Thirty-seven patients or 66.5% had at least one comorbidity. Diabetes was the most frequent comorbidity (33.3%). All our patients had back pain on admission. Motor deficits were reported in 48% of the patients with the heaviness of the limbs. Fever was reported in 46.3% of cases. Physical examination revealed spinal stiffness in 23.3% of the patients, motor deficit in 37%, sharp osteotendinous reflexes in 18.5% of the patients, and abolished in 9.25%. The blood tests showed hyperleukocytosis in 18 patients (36%). An erythrocyte sedimentation rate greater (ESR) than 100 mm at the first hour was found in 17 patients. C-reactive protein (CRP) greater than 100mg/ml was found in 14 patients. 64.8% had pyogenic spondylodiscitis (mainly Staphylococcus aureus), 11.1% had brucella spondylodiscitis and 24.1% had tubercular spondylodiscitis. MRI confirmed the diagnosis of SEA in all cases. The lesions were located at the cervical level in 9.2% of cases, at the dorsal level in 24 %, and at the lumbar level in 48.1% of cases. The lesions were anterior in 64.8% of cases and anterolateral in 35.2% of cases. The involvement was unilateral in 63% of cases and extensive in 37% of cases. SEA was significantly more frequent in elderly patients (51.4% vs 48.6% p=0.038). The presence of a neurological deficit (80% vs 20% p=0.016), spinal cord compression (71.4% vs 26.6% p=0.04), and Multifocal involvement (82.6% vs 17.4% p=0.01) were significantly associated with SEA. There was no significant association between the types of germs and the presence of SEA.

**Conclusion:** In our study, a little more than half of patients with spondylodiscitis had a spinal epidural abscess. This entity was associated with advanced age, multifocal involvement, and neurological deficit. Therefore, a high index of suspicion is warranted when a patient presents these signs.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB1278** ANALYSIS OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TUBERCULOSIS PROPHYLAXIS REGIMENS IN BIOLOGIC CANDIDATE PATIENTS

**Keywords:** Descriptive studies, bDMARD, Safety

**J. Mendez Diaz**, R. J. Gil Velez, 1Seville, Rheumatology, Seville, Spain

**Background:** Patients with systemic rheumatic disease present alterations in the regulation of the immune system, which may contribute to the reactivation of latent tuberculosis. That risk increases significantly in patients receiving biological treatment (approximately 10%, especially with infliximab). The detection and treatment of latent tuberculosis infection constitutes a fundamental pillar to prevent the evolution of the pathology in patients receiving biological therapy protocolized in the US in the year 2000 by the FDA. Multiple studies have shown that diagnosis and treatment of latent tuberculosis infection is the best method of preventing progression to active tuberculosis.

To prevent that condition que have two types of treatment schemes:
- The short chemophrophaxis regimen, consisting of the administration of isoniazid together with rifampicin for 3 months
- The long chemophrophaxis regimen consisting of the administration of isoniazid for a period of 6 months without interruption.

**Objectives:** To analyze the efficacy, safety, and difference of treatment adherence between the two regimens of chemophrophaxis in patients who are candidates to start biologic therapy with latent tuberculosis.

**Methods:** Retrospective descriptive study of a cohort of patients who start biological therapy between January-December 2021, in the Rheumatology Service of Virgen del Rocío Hospital. Latent tuberculosis screening protocol was performed by Mantoux/Booster and IGRA tests.

**Results:** We included a total of 223 patients in the study who started treatment with biological therapy, during a period of 12 months, 125 (58.13%) of those where men, 90 patients (41.8%) were women with a mean age of 51.4 years. We started chemophrophaxis in 32 patients, of whom 15 (46.8%) received short therapy with
isoniazid/ rifampicin daily for 3 months, only 1 patient had to discontinue treatment due to hepatotoxicity. The rest of the patients 17 (53.2%) underwent long therapy for 6 months with isoniazid 300 mg every 24 hours, completing it in 54.2% of the cases. Only one patient had to discontinue due to persistent nausea.

**Conclusion:** After analyzing the data of our cohort of patients candidates to start biological therapy and after having performed the screening for latent tuberculosis infection (as can be seen in the Table 1 below) a homogeneous group (48.6% in the case of short regime) and (53.2% in the case of long regime) were treated with chemotherapy, without significant differences in terms of adverse effects or adherence in the two therapies performed. The most common cause of discontinuation in both groups was hypertransaminasaemia and nausea. No tuberculosis reactivation has occurred in any of the groups. Therefore, we conclude that short term therapy is as safe as long therapy and with similar patient adherence. However, long-term studies with a larger number of patients are required to evaluate the two treatment regimens.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB1279**

**CLINICAL FEATURES AND FUNCTIONAL OUTCOME OF SURGICALLY TREATED TUBERCULOUS AND BRUCELLAR SPONDYLODICTIS IN TUNISIA**

**Keywords:** Infection-related RMDs, Motor function

**M. Ghani**1, N. El Fani2, S. Mtawaa1, M. Rouiss2, H. Sakly2, M. Gaddour3, W. Wanes2, S. Jenni2, 1University Hospital Ibn Jazar Kairouan, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Kairouan, Tunisia; 2University Hospital Ibn Jazar Kairouan, Infectious Diseases, Kairouan, Tunisia; 3University Hospital Sahou, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Sousse, Tunisia

**Background:** Tuberculous and brucellar spondylodiscitis are still a frequent condition in the Mediterranean countries [1]. Management of spondylodiscitis may require surgical procedures in case of spinal cord or root compression, bone destructions and deformities, unsuccessful medical treatment or large abscesses.

**Objectives:** To study characteristics and outcome of surgically treated tuberculous and brucellar spondylodiscitis.

**Methods:** Medical records of patients who presented to the physical therapy and rehabilitation ward or outpatient clinics after spine surgery for spondylodiscitis were retrospectively studied. The study included records from January 2010 to December 2022.

**Results:** Thirty-two patients were diagnosed with spondylodiscitis for which they underwent surgery. Mean age of diagnosis was 44.6 ± 10.4 years. The sex ratio was 1:1. Atypical presentations caused diagnosis to be delayed in 37.5% of the patients. Back pain was the most frequent symptom seen in 78.12% of the cases, radicular pain was seen in 46.7% of the cases, fever in 37.5% of the patients and abnormal gait in 68.7% of the cases. Tuberculosis caused 71.8% of cases and brucellar infection 28.1% of the cases. On biology, elevated inflammatory markers were noted in 68.7% of the cases. Intraoperative reactions for tuberculosis and brucellosis in the remaining cases, Cervical spine location was involved in 9.3% of cases, lumbar spine in 43.75% and dorsal spine in 34.3% of the cases. All patients have received antibiotics and spinal immobilization. Surgery was indicated in 71.8% of cases for spinal cord decompression and in 28.1% of the cases for voluminous abscesses. Anterior approach was used in 9.3% of the cases and posterior approach in 90.6% of cases. 37.5% of the patients benefited concomitantly with spinal fusion surgery. Postoperative complications were reported in 43.75% of the cases. They consisted in spinal instability in 71.4% of the cases, abcesses in 14.28% of the cases and the emergence of secondary articular localizations in 28.57% of the cases. 25% of the patients underwent a second surgery mainly to stabilize the spine. Before surgery, walking was impossible for 68.7% of the patients and 12 months after surgery only 37.5% of the patients couldn't walk.

**Conclusion:** Surgical treatment is as safe as long therapy and with similar patient adherence. However, long-term studies with a larger number of patients are required to evaluate the two treatment regimens.

**References:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB1280**

**PREVALENCE OF LEISHMANIASIS IN A SAMPLE OF PATIENTS TREATED WITH BIOLOGIC THERAPIES**

**Keywords:** Infection-related RMDs, Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD

**F. Monleon Acosta**1, G. Albaleadore Paredes1, A. Perez Gonzalez1, A. Uceda Galliano1, J. M. Andreu Ubero1, J. Moreno Morales1, F. J. Rodriguez Martinez1, V. Cogolillo Campillo1, E. Soriano Navarro1, M. R. Oliva Ruiz1, J. Leon Navarro1, F. Pedero Martinez2, R. Gimenez Andreu1, 1Hospital General Universitario Santa Lucía, Rheumatology, Cartagena, Spain

**Background:** Leishmaniasis is an infectious disease caused by an intracellular parasite of the genus Leishmania. According to the clinical expression, it can be identified: subclinical, cutaneous (CL) and visceral leishmaniasis (VL). The immune response triggered in this type of infections is based in the activation of the TH1 pathway, in which molecules such as TNF α and interleukins such as IL 12 and IL1 are involved [1,2]. In recent years, an increase in the incidence of opportunistic infectious diseases, such as leishmaniasis, has been observed in patients with rheumatological diseases under treatment with anti-TNFα drugs, such as Psoriatric Arthritis (PsA), Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) or Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) [1,3,4].

**Objectives:** Evaluate the prevalence of Leishmaniasis in a sample of patients in a hospital center in treatment with biologic therapies. As secondary objective, study the characteristics of the patients with Leishmaniasis.

**Methods:** It can be carried out an observational, descriptive, retrospective, and single-center study. The sample consisted of patients followed in a rheumatology department between January 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023, whose only inclusion criteria was to be in treatment with biologic therapies, including a total of 720 subjects, and, only five patients were found with the diagnosis of leishmaniasis.

**Results:** Five patients were found diagnosed with leishmaniasis in the 720 subjects on biological treatment included in the sample, which represents a prevalence of 0.69%. Three patients were male (60%) and two were female (30%). The mean age was 52.16 ± 10.38 years with a mean duration of rheumatic disease of 13.2 ± 7.8 years. All the subjects were diagnosed with spondylarthritides: 3 with AS (60%), 1 with PsA (20%) and another with spondyloarthritis associated with inflammatory intestinal
Background: Spinal epidural abscess (SEA) associated with infectious spondylodiscitis is a rare but serious pathology. It is a serious complication and difficult to diagnose at an early stage. With enough knowledge of risk factors and clinical features, it may be possible to reduce diagnostic delay and treatment failure.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective study of 54 cases of SEA associated with infectious spondylodiscitis over a period of 13 years [January 2009-April 2022] in the rheumatology department of the Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital of Monastir. The diagnosis of SEA was retained in clinical, biological, and radiological data.

Results: The mean age was 54 ± 13.52 years [23-82]. A female predominance was observed with a sex ratio (M/F) of 0.92. Thirty-seven patients or 68.5% had at least one comorbidity. Diabetes was the most frequent comorbidity (33.3%). All our patients had back pain on admission. Motor deficits were reported in 48% of the patients with the heaviness of the limbs. Fever was reported in 46.3% of cases. Physical examination revealed spinal stiffness in 23.3% of the patients, motor deficit in 37%, sharp osteotendinous reflexes in 18.5% of the patients, and abolished in 9.25%. The blood tests showed hyperleukocytosis in 18 patients (36%). An erythrocyte sedimentation rate greater (ESR) than 100 mm at the first hour was found in 17 patients. C-reactive protein (CRP) greater than 100 mg/ml was found in 14 patients. 64.8% had pyogenic spondylodiscitis (mainly Staphylococcus aureus), 11.1% had brucella spondylodiscitis and 24.1% had tubercular spondylodiscitis. MRI confirmed the diagnosis of SEA in all cases. The lesions were located at the cervical level in 9.25% of cases, at the dorsal level in 24.07%, and at the lumbar level in 48.14% of cases. The lesions were anterior in 64.8% of cases and anterolateral in 35.2% of cases. The involvement was uni-focal in 63% of cases and extensive in 37% of cases. All our patients had received antibiotic therapy, initially probabilistic and then adapted to the bacteriological results. Immobilization of the spine was indicated in all our patients. Six patients had undergone decompressive surgery after failure of conservative treatment.

Conclusion: The classic clinical triad of the infectious SEA (back pain + fever + neurological deficit) is not specific enough, hence the delay in diagnosis which has a negative influence on the prognosis. MRI and bacteriological investigation confirms the diagnosis. Early surgical intervention with intravenous antibiotic therapy may be the best choice, especially in patients with progressive neurological deficits. Conservative treatment may be indicated for some patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

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Infection-related rheumatic diseases

**AB1282** CLINICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL FEATURES IN BRUCELLA SPONDYLODISCITIS: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Pain


**Background:** Spondylodiscitis is an infectious inflammation that affects the vertebral, vertebral discs and adjacent structures. Vertebral involvement during brucellosis is considered not only as the most frequent localization but also as the most severe one.

**Objectives:** The aim of the present study was to describe the clinical and the magnetic resonance imaging features of brucella spondylodiscitis.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective study including 11 patients who have presented in the outpatient clinics of physical medicine and rehabilitation for spinal brucellosis with or without neurological disorders from 2016 to 2021. The diagnosis of brucellosis was based on clinical symptoms, MRI findings and isolation of brucella species in blood or tissue specimens and/or a positive Wright agglutination test.

**Results:** Eleven patients were included. The mean age was 52.5 years [33-74] (6 males and 5 female). The consumption of unpasteurized dairy was found in 4 patients. The main symptom was an inflammatory back pain and it was found in all patients. It was associated with radioluclpaathy in 8 cases. The other clinical symptoms were fever in 10 patients, sweats in 4 cases, weight loss in 4 cases and hepatomegaly in 1 patient. The median delay before diagnosis was 5.2 months [1-7]. On examination, we revealed tenderness on palpation in 10 cases and muscular weakness of lower limbs in 5 cases. Brucella agglutination test was ≥1/160 in all cases. Blood cultures were negative in all cases. Median erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and serum C-reactive protein level were 42 mm and 15 mg/dL respectively. Spondylodiscitis was located in the lumbar dorsal and cervical spine in respectively 8, 2 and 1 cases. The involvement of more than 2 vertebrae was found in 2 cases. The most affected level were the L4-L5 level in 3 cases followed by the T10-T11 level in 2 cases. Associated sacroiliitis was found in one patient. All MRI images of the affected vertebrae showed hypointense signal on T2 weighted image and hyper intense signal on T2 weighted image. Disc space narrowing was documented in 8 cases. Vertebral body osteolysis was found in 5 cases. Epidural collection was found in 3 cases with a size up to 5cm. Paravertebral and peri-vertebral abscesses were detected in 3 cases. Intradiscal abscesses were observed in 2 cases. Cord compression and involvement of root nerve were noted in respectively 5 and 3 cases. Biopsy was performed in 5 cases, but bacteriological examination was contributory to the diagnosis in 1 case. All patients received antibiotic treatment with a combination of two or three drugs, corticosteroids were prescribed in 5 patients and 4 patient underwent a surgical intervention.

**Conclusion:** Although not always specific, MRI findings associated with clinical symptoms may help establish the diagnosis of brucella spondylodiscitis even if bacteriological examinations are negatives [1].

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**COVID-19**

**AB1283** COVID-19 WAS NOT TRIGGER FOR RHEUMATIC DISEASE ACTIVITY AFTER 6 MONTHS FOLLOW-UP: RESULTS FROM REUMACOV BRASIL REGISTER

**Keywords:** COVID

C. Marquet1, R. Xavier1, S. Ribeiro1, J. Scrignoli2, L. D. A. Valadares2, R. Cavalcheiro Do Espírito Santo1, N. Sartori1,3, C. Z. Costa1, P. Nacacio e Silva1, V. De Souza1, F. Machado Ribeiro1, F. Omura2, G. Resende2, S. Katsuyuki Shinjo1, V. Barbosa2, M. Peixoto Gu e Silva de Souza2, M. Carvalho14, M. Alexandre Yabekz15, V. Valim16, L. Rocha Jr17, A. S. Martins18, A. B. Bacchienga19, A. K. Melo20, S. Carneiro21, A. Marinho22, A. Kakehosi23, G. Ferreira24, G. Salvato Pileggi25, E. Reis Neto26, L. Mota27, A. P. Gomides28, M. Pinheiro29,1. Hospital das Clínicas, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil; 2Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 3Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade Federal do Amazonas, Manaus, Brazil; 4Hospital Getulio Vargas, Secretaria de Saúde de Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil; 5Hospital Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Vitória, Rheumatology, Vitória, Brazil; 6IAMSPE - Instituto de Assistência Médica ao Servidor Público Estadual, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 7Juiz de Fora Federal University, Rheumatology, Juiz de Fora, Brazil; 8Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rheumatology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 9Clínica Omura, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 10Federal University of Minas Gerais, Hospital das Clinicas, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; 11University of São Paulo, Hospital das Clínicas, São Paulo, Brazil; 12Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade Federal de Goiás, Goiânia, Brazil; 13Santa Casa Health, Rheumatology, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; 14University of Brasília, Rheumatology, Brasília, Brazil; 15UNICAMP Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Rheumatology, Campinas, Brazil; 16Hospital Universitário Cassiano Antonio Moraes - HUCAM, Rheumatology, Vitória, Brazil; 17IMIP, Rheumatology, Recife, Brazil; 18Federal University of Uberlândia, Rheumatology, Uberlândia, Brazil; 19Faculdade de Ciências da Saúde de Barretos Dr Paulo Prata, Rheumatology, Barretos, Brazil; 20Câmara de Misericórdia de Vitória, Rheumatology, Vitória, Brazil; 21Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Dermatology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 22FUNDAHCRE, Rheumatology, Rio Branco, Brazil; 23Hospital São Paulo, UNIFESP, São Paulo, Brazil; 24CEUB, Rheumatology, Brasília, Brazil

**Background:** The COVID-19 pandemic has brought uncertainties to rheumatology practice, mainly related to the possibility of triggering disease activity after infection in immune mediated rheumatic diseases (IMRD). To date, there are few data in the literature specifically evaluating this issue.

**Objectives:** Evaluate the disease activity in IMRD patients after 6 months of the infection, compared to pre infection status.

**Methods:** ReumaCov Brasil is a longitudinal study performed at 35 study centers designed to follow-up IMRD patients for 6 months after clinical or laboratory COVID-19 diagnosis (cases), comparing with patients with IMRD who had not had the infection at the time of inclusion (controls). Demographic data, clinical characteristics, treatment, evolution of COVID-19 and disease activity status were collected using a Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) database on three consecutive visits (inclusion and 6 months). The analysis was carried out on the four diseases with the highest inclusion number in the study: systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), anklyosing spondylitis (AS) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA). In addition to specific disease activity assessment metrics, we used patient’s global assessment of disease activity (PGA), ranging from 0 to 10, at all visits, with 0 being no activity and 10 being intense activity. All conclusions were drawn considering the significance level of 5%. This study was registered at the Brazilian Registry of Clinical Trials—REBEC, RBR-33YTC.

**Results:** Between May 2020 and January 2021, 2032 patients were included in the registry, and of these, 1322 patients (721 cases and 601 controls) completed 6 months of follow-up, being 550 SLE (42.0%), 497 RA (37.6%) and 176 SpA (13.3%) and 99 (7.4%) PsA. Most patients were female (82.0%); the median age was 46.7 (13.8). Disease activity at the time of enrollment, according to the PGA, was similar between cases and controls, except for patients with RA and AS, where it was higher in controls. After the follow up time, no worsening of activity was observed in any of the diseases evaluated in the case group (Table 1). Despite this, worsening of disease symptoms after COVID-19 was reported by 23.3%, 24.6%, 25.0% and 25.8% of patients with SLE, RA, AS and PsA respectively, not related with disease activity.

**Conclusion:** In patients with IMRD, no worsening of disease activity was observed after COVID-19 in this cohort of Brazilian patients. Despite this, many patients noticed worsening of symptoms, possibly associated not with the triggering of the activity, but with the so-called long COVID syndrome.

**Table 1:** Comparison of disease activity, according to PGA, comparing disease activity status at inclusion and after 6 months of follow up, in cases and controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion</th>
<th>After 6 Months</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 (0-4)</td>
<td>2 (0-4)</td>
<td>0.817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (0-5)</td>
<td>2 (0-4)</td>
<td>0.172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (1-5)</td>
<td>3 (1-5)</td>
<td>0.731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (0-3)</td>
<td>2 (0-5)</td>
<td>0.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (0-4)</td>
<td>2 (0-5)</td>
<td>0.939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Median and interquartile range; Student t test; CI 95%*
AB1284 COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 AND INFLUENZA VACCINATION ON RHEUMATIC DISEASES: ANALYSES OF PATIENT SURVEY DATA AFTER VACCINATION

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Real-world evidence, Vaccination/immunization

J. W. Kim1, H. A. Kim1, J. Y. Jung1, C. H. Suh1. 1 Ajou University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Suwon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: As the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues worldwide, vaccination has been considered an essential medical care to protect people from the COVID-19 and end the pandemic. While vaccine development programs and reported epidemiological data are reassuring us, concerns about the risks and adverse events associated with vaccination in patients with rheumatic diseases.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to analyze the incidence of adverse events and disease flares after vaccination against COVID-19 and influenza in patients with rheumatic diseases.

Methods: From November 2021 to March 2022, a survey was conducted on those who received COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations among patients with rheumatic diseases at Ajou University Hospital. The questionnaire contained questions about medical history, immunization history, type of injected vaccines, patient-reported adverse events and flare-up of the underlying disease after vaccination, and confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 or influenza. Based on the results of the survey, we compared the incidence of vaccine-related adverse reactions between the COVID-19 and influenza vaccine and identified the factors affecting adverse events or disease flare.

Results: A total 601 valid questionnaires were obtained. The mean age of patients who participated in the survey was 49.6 years and 80.5% of female. Two hundred fifty-five participants (42.4%) received the complete course of primary vaccination. 342 (56.9%) participants completed the booster dose, and 132 (38.6%) of them received mixing vaccine. The frequency of adverse events (188 [52.2%], vs. 21 [5.8%]; p <0.001) and disease flare (58 [16.2%] vs. 5 [1.4%]; p<0.001) after the COVID-19 vaccination was significantly higher than that of the influenza vaccination. In the risk factor analysis, previous allergic reaction to other vaccination (OR 5.8%, CI 1.29-6.17; p=0.014) and disease flare (58 [16.2%] vs. 5 [1.4%]; p<0.001) after the vaccination dose 2 1.95, CI 1.07-3.70; p=0.034) was the only factors associated with the occurrence of adverse events. Female sex (OR 2.64, CI 1.29-6.17; p=0.014) was associated with adverse events. Female sex (OR 2.64, CI 1.29-6.17; p=0.014) was associated with adverse events.

Conclusion: In a real-world survey conducted on patients with rheumatic diseases, patient-reported adverse events and disease flare after the COVID-19 vaccine was significantly higher than that of the influenza vaccine.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1286 HUMORAL AND CELLULAR IMMUNOGENICITY INDUCED BY THIRD BOOSTER OF SARS-COV-2 VACCINES IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, COVID

Y. Kondo1, M. Takeshita1, S. Saito1, J. Kikuchi1, H. Hanaoka1, K. Suzuki1, Y. Kaneko1. 1Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis, two messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) have benefited most people worldwide. While healthy people can acquire sufficient humoral immunity against COVID-19 even in the elderly by vaccination with three doses of vaccine, recent studies have shown that complex factors other than age, including the type of vaccines and immunosuppressive drugs, are associated with immunogenicity in patients with rheumatic musculoskeletal disease (RMD). Identifying factors that contribute to the vulnerability of those patients to acquire not only humoral but also cellular immunity to SARS-CoV-2 despite multiple vaccinations is crucial for establishing an appropriate booster vaccine strategy.

Objectives: To assess humoral and T cell immune responses after third dose of mRNA vaccines against SARS-CoV-2.

Methods: This prospective observational study included consecutive RMD patients treated with immunosuppressant who received three doses of mRNA vaccines including BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273. Blood samples were obtained 2-6 weeks after second and third dose of mRNA vaccines. We measured neutralizing antibody titers, which against the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 and seroconversion rates to evaluate the humoral responses. We also assessed T-cell immune responses using interferon releasing assay against SARS-CoV-2.

Results: A total of 586 patients with RMD treated with immunosuppressive treatments were enrolled. The mean age was 54 years, and 70% of the patients were female. Seroconversion rates and neutralizing antibody titers after third vaccination of SARS-CoV-2 were significantly higher compared to those after second vaccination (seroconversion rate, 94.5% vs 83.6%, p<0.001; titres of neutralizing antibody, 48.2 IU/mL vs 11.0 IU/mL, p<0.001, respectively). Interferon releasing assay after third vaccinations demonstrated that T cell reaction against SARS-CoV-2 was also increased from that of second vaccination (interferon for antigen 1, 1.119 vs 0.619, p=0.004; interferon for antigen 2, 1.726 vs 0.823, p=0.004). Humoral and cellular immunogenicity did not differ between the types of third vaccination including full dose of BNT162 and half dose of mRNA1273 (neutralizing antibody titers, 47.8±76.1 IU/mL vs 49.0±60.1 IU/mL, p=0.01; interferon for antigen 1, 1.120 vs 1.015, p=0.004, respectively). Attenuated humoral response to third vaccination was associated with BNT162b2 as second vaccination age (>60 years old), glucocorticoid (equivalent to prednisolone > 7.5 mg/day), and immunosuppressant use including mycophenolate, and rituximab. On another front, use of mycophenolate and abatacept or tacrolimus but not rituximab were identified as negative factors for T-cell reactions against SARS-CoV-2. Although 53 patients (9.0%) who had been immunised with third-vaccination contracted COVID-19 during Omicron pandemic phase, no one developed severe pulmonary disease that required corticosteroid therapy.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrated third mRNA vaccination booster of SARS-CoV-2 contributed to restore both humoral and cellular immunity in RMD patients with immunosuppressants. We also identified that both humeral and cellular immunity in RMD patients with immunosuppressants may require additional booster vaccination.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.927

AB1287 FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH ADHERENCE TO ANTI TNF-Α THERAPY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD, COVID

W. G. Rojas Zuleta1, M. Barbosa1, O. J. Felipe Diaz1, A. E. Pantoja Marquez1, J. Canizales1, C. Becerra-Arias1, J. H. Donado Gómez2, N. Duque Zapata1.

1Medicare SAS, Center for Immune-Mediated Diseases, Medellín, Colombia

Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) patients are effectively treated with anti-TNF-α therapy. However, pharmacological non-adherence limits the achievement of the therapeutic objective. This is a multifactorial behavior where factors such as the route of administration, frequency, tolerance, perception of improvement, polypharmacy and social factors are involved [1,2].

Objectives: To explore the factors associated with non-adherence to anti-TNF-α in RA patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: This is a cohort of RA patients treated with anti TNF-α in Medicare SAS, a Colombian center for Immune-Mediated Diseases, between January to December 2021. The program implements strategies such as pharmacotherapeutic support, informed dispensing, phone calls, text messages and home care services to increase adherence. Adherence was defined as dispensing at least 80% of the prescribed in a month.

Results: A total of 586 patients were included, 85.8% (n=485) were women, median age 56 years (IQR: 49-65), disease evolution time 13.7 years (IQR: 7.7-20.8), 51% (n=288) had been in the program for more than 3 years, the median time in treatment with anti-TNF-α was 3 years (IQR: 1-3) and DAS28-28 CRP. HAQ and treatment were included as exposure variables. For continuous variables, median and interquartile range (IQR) were calculated. Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) with logistic regression were calculated, and a p-value <0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrated third mRNA vaccination booster of SARS-CoV-2 contributed to restore both humoral and cellular immunity in RMD patients with immunosuppressants. We also identified that both humeral and cellular immunity in RMD patients with immunosuppressants may require additional booster vaccination.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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LONG-TERM AND BOOSTER VACCINATION RESPONSES IN PATIENTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS AND POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Vasculitis, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

Y. Van Sleen1, K. van der Geest, A. Buismann1, M. Sandovic1, D. Van Baarle1, E. Brouwer1. 1University Medical Center Groningen, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; 2National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Centre for Infectious Disease Control, Bilthoven, Netherlands; 3University Medical Center Groningen, Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Vaccination remains essential in preventing morbidity of SARS-CoV-2 infections. We previously showed that >10mg/day prednisolone and methotrexate use were associated with reduced antibody concentrations four weeks after primary vaccination in patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA) and polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) [1].

Objectives: Here, we performed a follow-up study to measure the decay of antibody concentrations over time and the immunogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 booster vaccination.

Methods: GCA/PMR patients included in the primary vaccination (BNT162b2 or ChAdOx1) study were asked again to donate blood samples six months after primary vaccination (n=24) and one month after booster vaccination (n=46; BNT162b2 or mRNA1273). Data were compared to that of age-, sex-, and vaccine-matched controls (n=58 and n=42, respectively).

Results: Antibody concentrations decreased faster over time in GCA/PMR patients than in controls, but this decrease was not associated with treatment during primary vaccination. Post-booster antibody concentrations were comparable between patients and controls. Antibody concentrations post booster vaccination associated strongly with antibody concentrations post primary vaccination, but not with treatment during booster vaccination. However, the fold-change of post-booster vaccination showed a slight negative correlation with the post-primary vaccine antibodies.

Conclusion: These results indicate that patients with impaired vaccine responses after primary vaccination, have slightly stronger increases in humoral immunity after booster vaccination, but this is not enough to reach a similar protection. The decrease in humoral immunity, and subsequent increase after booster vaccination, is likely not impacted by prednisolone or methotrexate treatment. Rather, these treatments put the patients at an immunogenic disadvantage during primary SARS-CoV-2 vaccination, which is not fully repaired by a single booster vaccination. This longitudinal study in GCA/PMR patients stresses the importance of repeat booster vaccination for patients that used >10mg/day prednisolone or methotrexate during primary vaccination.


ABSTRACT

AB1288

AB1289

IS THERE HIGHER RISK OF FATIGUE, DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND STRESS AFTER COVID-19 IN PATIENTS WITH IMMUNE-MEDIATED RHEUMATIC DISEASES? DATA FROM THE REUMACOV BRASIL COHORT

Keywords: COVID

C. Marques1, M. Pinheiro2, R. Barros DE Souza2, L. D. D. A. Valadasares4, A. Ranzolin5, R. Cavalheiro Do Espirito Santo5, N. Sartori5, N. Araújo7, C. Martins Vieira7, L. L. Libardi Machado7, H. De Leon de Lima15, F. Sina15, L. Mota15, A. P. Gomides15, A. Kakehasi15, E. Reis Neto16, G. Salvato Pileggi16, G. Ferreira16, R. Xavier16. 1Hospital das Clínicas, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil; 2Federal University of Sao Paulo, Rheumatology, Sao Paulo, Brazil; 3UFAM - Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Manaus, Brazil; 4Getúlio Vargas Hospital, Rheumatology, Recife, Brazil; 5Hospital das Clínicas UFPE, Rheumatology, Recife, Brazil; 6Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Rheumatology, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 7IAMSPE - Instituto de Assistência Médica ao Servidor Público Estadual, Rheumatology, São Paulo, Brazil; 8Juiz de Fora Federal University, Rheumatology, Juiz de Fora, Brazil; 9Hospital Universitário Cassia de Antonio de Morais - HUCAM, Rheumatology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 10IMIR Rheumatology, Recife, Brazil; 11Federal University of Minas Gerais, Rheumatology, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; 12Universidade de Brasília, Rheumatology, Brasília, Brazil; 13CEUB, Rheumatology, Brasilia, Brazil; 14Faculdade de Ciências da Saúde de Barretos Dr. Paulo Prata, Rheumatology, Barretos, Brazil

Background: Some individuals may have persistent symptoms after COVID-19, a new condition known as long COVID-19. However, these complaints can be misunderstood with disease activity in patients with immune-mediated rheumatic diseases (IMRD), especially fatigue and mental distress.

Objectives: To evaluate fatigue, depression, anxiety, and stress in IMRD patients after 6 months of COVID-19, compared with IMRD patients without COVID-19.

Methods: The ReumaCoV Brasil is a longitudinal study designed to follow-up IMRD patients for 6 months after COVID-19 diagnosis (cases) compared with IMRD patients no COVID-19 (controls). Clinical data, such as age, sex, comorbidities, as well as disease activity measurements and current treatment regarding IMRD, and COVID-19 outcomes were evaluated in all patients. The FACIT questionnaire (Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy) and the DASS 21 (Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale - 21 Items) were applied at 6 months after COVID in both groups.

Results: A total of 606 IMRD patients were included, of whom 322 (53.1%) cases and 284 (46.9%) controls. Most patients were female (85.3%) with mean age 46.1 (13.0) years old. Specific disease activity were similar between cases and controls. There was a significant difference between FACIT scores and 3 domains of DASS-21 comparing cases and controls (Figure 1). The factors associated with FACIT were female gender, diabetes, obesity, no comorbidities, COVID manifestations (skin, joint pain, asthma, diarrhea, and dyspnea), and chronic oral corticosteroid use. DASS-21 Depression was associated with these same factors. Female gender, COVID manifestations as skin, joint pain, asthma, cough, dyspnea, and chronic oral corticosteroid use were associated with DASS-21 Anxiety. DASS-21 Stress was associated with female gender, asthma, and...
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COVID-19, including respiratory and non-respiratory symptoms. Mental impairment was more associated with severity of those who did not have COVID-19, especially in women, regardless of disease classifications or specific IMRD.

Scores results and disease activity (patient’s global assessment - PGA), medication or specific IMRD.

A weak correlation between disease activity and FACIT was observed in rheumatoid arthritis (p=0.01; r² = 0.035) and ankylosing spondylitis (p=0.001; r² = 0.129). No other correlations were observed between the scores results and disease activity (patient’s global assessment - PGA), medications or specific IMRD.

Conclusion: Fatigue and mental changes such as depression, anxiety, and stress, occurred more frequently in IMRD patients who had COVID-19 than in those who did not have COVID-19, especially in women, regardless of disease activity score. Fatigue was more related to female gender, diabetes, obesity, and current joint pain. Mental impairment was more associated with severity of COVID-19, including respiratory and non-respiratory symptoms.

Table 1. Final model using binary Logistic Regression analysis to evaluate the predictive factors associated with FACIT and DASS-21 scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACIT</th>
<th>DASS-21-DEPRESSION</th>
<th>DASS-21-ANXIETY</th>
<th>DASS-21-STRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score ≤ 37 x score &gt; 37</td>
<td>Score ≤ 6 (normal/mild) x score &gt; 6 (moderate/severe)</td>
<td>Score ≤ 5 (normal/mild) x score &gt; 5 (moderate/severe)</td>
<td>Score ≤ 9 (normal/mild) x score &gt; 9 (moderate/severe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>P-value</td>
<td>OR (CI 95%)</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 0.15 1.83 (1.12-2.98)</td>
<td>0.029 0.66 (0.46-0.95)</td>
<td>0.002 2.44 (1.39-4.26)</td>
<td>Female 0.012 2.31 (1.20-4.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes 0.006 2.35 (1.28-4.32)</td>
<td>0.001 2.58 (1.57-4.22)</td>
<td>0.001 3.67 (2.11-6.19)</td>
<td>Dy second 0.001 2.82 (1.79-4.44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyspnea 0.001 2.00 (1.23-3.26)</td>
<td>0.001 2.82 (1.41-1.99)</td>
<td>0.014 1.55 (1.09-2.21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint pain 0.005 2.20 (1.41-3.43)</td>
<td>0.048 1.41 (1.09-1.99)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Lower scores mean worse fatigue; CE: corticosteroid; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval

Figure 1. Comparison between cases and controls of FACIT and DASS-21 depression, anxiety, and stress scores (FACIT Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy; DASS-21 (Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale - 21 Items))

Acknowledgements: ReumaCoV Brasil researchers, Brazilian Rheumatology Society and National Council for Scientific and Technological Development.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1290 IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SEPTIC ARTHRITIS MANAGEMENT

Keywords: Descriptive studies, COVID

S. Zemrani1, B. Amine1, I. EL Binoune1, S. Rostom1, R. Bahiri1. El Ayachi Hospital, Ibn Sina University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology A, Salé, Morocco

Background: Since 2020, the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic has disrupted the organization of healthcare systems worldwide. The objectives of this study were to assess the impact of this pandemic on septic arthritis management in a tertiary rheumatology department.

Methods: It was a single-center descriptive case-control study, which included patients hospitalized for septic arthritis between January 2018 and December 2021, whose diagnosis was retained after positive bacterial growth on culture according to presumptive criteria. Our patients were divided into two groups: G1: patients hospitalized during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021), and G2: patients hospitalized during a similar period before the COVID-19 pandemic (2018-2019). In both groups, septic arthritis prevalence was calculated.

socio-demographic characteristics, risk factors, clinical, paraclinical, and therapeutic data were collected. COVID-19 status was reported in the G1.

Results: Twenty-two patients were enrolled: G1 (n = 15), G2 (n = 7). The prevalence of septic arthritis was 0.77% and 0.36% respectively. The median age was 54.6±12.25 and 54.29±21.81 years old respectively. Diabetes was found in 26, 7% in G1 and 28.6% in G2. During the pandemic, arthropathy and oral corticosteroids use were noted in 53.3% and 26.6% of patients versus 26.7% and 14.5% in G2. The diagnosis delay and the prior use of antibiotic therapy were more significant in G1: 14.09±7.30 d versus 6.53±25.19±29.26 d, and 46.7% versus 14.3%. The knee was the most common localization in both groups. Other joints were affected in G1: shoulder (n = 2), hip (n = 1), and sacroiliac (n = 1). The most common germ was staphylococcus aureus. The duration of hospitalization and duration of antibiotic therapy in G1 and G2 were 26.07±9.12 days versus 27.43±10.87 days and 50±10 days versus 48±25.79 days, respectively. Concerning COVID-19 status, 33.3% of patients in G1 have received their vaccination and no recent SARS-CoV2 infection was noted before hospitalization. During the pandemic, synovectomy was required in three patients, one of whom was also transferred to intensive care for septic shock (two of these three patients are being followed for rheumatoid arthritis, and one only has never been vaccinated against COVID-19).

Conclusion: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the prevalence of septic arthritis in our department was higher and the diagnosis was delayed. Duration of hospitalization was not impacted, however, atypical localizations, prior use of antibiotics, recourse to synovectomy, and transfer to intensive care were reported. These results suggest an inadequate and difficult access to healthcare services during the lockdown, as well as an impact of social distancing on the immune system [1, 2]: More studies are needed to confirm these findings.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1291 COVID-19 AND CRYOGLLOBULINEMIC VASCULITIS. LONG-TERM SURVEY STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF PANDEMIC AND VACCINATION ON A LARGE PATIENT’S POPULATION

Keywords: COVID, Infection-related RMDs, Vasculitis

L. Gragnani1, M. Visetinì1, S. Lorini1, S. Santinì1, G. Lauletta2, C. Mazzaro3, T. Urraro1, O. Luca1, F. Cacciapaglia1, P. Ruscitti1, A. Tavoni1, S. Mari1, G. Cusano1, L. Petracchia1, C. Naclerio1, E. Treppo1, G. Del Frate1, L. Puccetti1, G. Elia1, P. Fallahi13, V. Raimondo12, D. Scorpiniti12, M. Monti8, L. Petraccia3, C. Tavoni1, Q. Luca8, F. Cacciapaglia9, P. Ruscitti10, A. Tavoni11, S. Marri3, G. Ferrì12,13, S. Medical School, University of Pisa, Department of Translational Research & NTM, Pisa, Italy; "Aldo Moro" Medical School, University of Pisa, Department of Translational Research & NTM, Pisa, Italy; "Sapienza University of Rome, Translational and Precision Medicine, Rome, Italy; "MASVE Interdipartimental Hepatology Center, Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence, Firenze, Italy; "Catholic University School of Medicine, Basic, Clinical, Intensive and Perioperative Biotechnological Sciences, Rome, Italy; "University of Bari "Aldo Moro" Medical School, Biomedical Sciences and Human Oncology, Bari, Italy; "Centro di Riferimento Oncologico di Aviano (CRO) IRCCS, Clinical

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AB1290 IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SEPTIC ARTHRITIS MANAGEMENT

AB1291 COVID-19 AND CRYOGLLOBULINEMIC VASCULITIS. LONG-TERM SURVEY STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF PANDEMIC AND VACCINATION ON A LARGE PATIENT’S POPULATION
AB1292

EFFECTS OF DMARD TREATMENT ON SARS-COV-2 mRNA VACCINATION IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASE: A MATCHED, PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Undifferentiated connective tissue disease, Vasculitis, COVID


Methods: Patients with CV were consecutively recruited at 11 Italian referral centers. CV patients showed an impaired vaccination immunogenicity compared to controls less frequent than those associated to COVID-19 (5% vs 14%, p=0.0012). CV patients showed an impaired vaccination immunogenicity compared to controls (p<0.05), as well an increased no-response rate after the booster.

Conclusion: CV patients have a higher risk to develop COVID-19, as well of more severe disease manifestations. Vaccines had a good safety profile in CV patients and of note, the vaccine-related side effects/disease flares were more severe disease manifestations. Vaccines had a good safety profile in CV patients and of note, the vaccine-related side effects/disease flares were significantly more frequent than those associated to COVID-19 (5% vs 14%, p<0.0012).

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2234

Table 1. Demographic parameters and therapy of study participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SARD (n=53)</th>
<th>HC (n=73)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (standard deviation)</td>
<td>53.55 (±14.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>45 (84.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connective tissue disease</td>
<td>42 (79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasculitis</td>
<td>11 (21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD or b/tsDMARD monotherapy</td>
<td>22 (41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>csDMARD and/or b/tsDMARD combination therapy</td>
<td>13 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No therapy</td>
<td>18 (34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>8 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate mofetil</td>
<td>10 (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine</td>
<td>17 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tocilizumab</td>
<td>3 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid dose 1, vaccination, mean (standard deviation)</td>
<td>2.8 (±0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid dose 2, vaccination, mean (standard deviation)</td>
<td>2.6 (±0.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AB1293
OMICRON BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS AMONG RITUXIMAB AND NON-RITUXIMAB TREATED PATIENTS WITH AUTOIMMUNE INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES: A MULTICENTER CONTROLLED STUDY

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, COVID, bDMARD

V. Furer1,2, T. Eviatar1,2, D. Zisman1, H. Peleg1, D. Paran1,2, D. Levartovsky1, I. Kaufman1, A. Brody1, A. Polacheck1,2, J. Feld1, A. Haddad3, T. Gazit1, M. Elias1, H. Hijazi2, Y. Friedland1, O. Elkayam2,3, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Rheumatology, Tel Aviv, Israel; 2Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel; 3Carmel Medical Center, Rheumatology, Haifa, Israel; 4Hadassah Medical Center, Rheumatology, Jerusalem, Israel

Background: Little is known about the efficacy of booster COVID-19 vaccination in rituximab (RTX)-treated patients with autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases (AIIRD).

Objectives: To estimate COVID-19 breakthrough infection rate in AIIRD patients treated with RTX compared to patients treated with other therapies and immunocompetent controls.

Methods: This observational multi-center study investigated COVID-19 infection rate and humoral response (anti-S1/S2 IgG) to the BNT162b2 mRNA vaccination in RTX-treated vs non-RTX treated AIIRD patients and immunocompetent controls for 18 months. To investigate the impact of the 3rd and 4th mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses, a survival analysis was applied. Predictors of time-to-infection were analyzed using a multivariate Cox proportional hazard model.

Results: A total of 115 RTX-treated patients, 590 non-RTX-treated patients, and 121 immunocompetent controls were included in the analysis. AIIRD patients received more vaccine doses than controls, median 3 (range 2-4) vs 2 (2-4), respectively, p=0.0001; the rate of vaccination with the 3rd and 4th vaccine doses were 53.82% (n=402) vs 32.8% (n=29), respectively, p=0.0298. During the Omicron surge, time-to-infection from the last booster vaccination was shorter among AIIRD patients compared to controls, irrespective of the type of anti-rheumatic therapies (Figure 1A). In a Cox-regression model, a time interval between the RTX treatment and the last vaccination was associated with a lower risk to contract COVID-19, HR 0.988 (95% CI 0.997-1), p=0.0298 (Figure 1B). For each 30-day interval between the RTX treatment and the vaccination date, the risk to contract COVID-19 declined 0.941-fold. The risk to contract COVID-19 among RTX-treated patients within the last year after adjustment to age and S1/S2 serology was HR 2.077, 95% CI 1.056-4.086, p=0.0342. Reassuringly, no cases of severe COVID-19 or COVID-19-related mortality were reported during the Omicron surge.

Conclusion: This study found comparable rates of the Omicron infection rate among vaccinated AIIRD patients treated with RTX and other immunomodulators. Recent exposure to RTX predisposed to a breakthrough COVID-19 infection.
Background: Although adverse events of special interest (AESIs) following COVID-19 vaccination are considered to be rare, emerging reports have suggested that risk of AESIs may be higher in certain subgroups of individuals. The self-controlled case series method represents a useful approach to study adverse events whereby an individual’s risk is compared between a control pre-exposure period and a risk period following vaccine exposure.

Objectives: This study assessed whether COVID-19 vaccines were associated with an increase in AESIs and health care utilization [emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalizations, and rheumatologist visits] among adults with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: We used the Ontario RA Database, a validated Canadian population-based cohort. Among adults with an RA diagnosis, we identified those who received at least one COVID-19 vaccine. AESIs included Bell’s Palsy, Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia, Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis, Myocarditis, Pericarditis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Transverse Myelitis, Acute Myocardial Infarction, Anaphylaxis, Stroke, Deep Vein Thrombosis, Pulmonary Embolism, Narcolepsy, Appendicitis, and Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation. Secondary outcomes included all-cause ED visits, hospitalizations, and rheumatologist visits (a potential proxy for disease flares). The risk period was defined up to a maximum of 6 months after the first dose. Several series analyses were used to determine event rates in any 21-day risk period following vaccination compared to control periods. For rheumatologist visits, the risk window was confined to a 30-day risk period. Control periods were defined as 6 months prior to the first vaccination [with a 14-day washout period before first dose, as patients may wait until they are in relatively good health before receiving a vaccine]. Control periods in between doses start on Day 22 from the last dose and ends 14 days prior to the next dose; and a final control period commenced after the first dose risk period (up to a maximum of 6 months). Relative incidence (RI) rates were estimated (using Poisson Rejection) across risk windows relative to control periods. Relative incidence rate ratios (RIR) in each risk period vs control period were estimated using non-RA comparators (matched on sex, age, and region of residence).

Results: In total 123,466 RA patients and 493,864 comparators were included, 71% of individuals were female and the median age of RA patients was 65 years (IQR: 55-74), with a median RA duration of 9.3 years (IQR: 4.2-17.1). The majority received mRNA vaccines. Within RA, 8,727 (71%) received >3 doses, 89,583 (72.6%) received 3 doses, 23,652 (19.2%) received 2 doses, and 1,504 (1.2%) a single dose. Within the general population, 373,753 (75.7%) received 3 doses and only 7063 (1.6%) received >3 doses. Among RA individuals, relative to control periods, event rates were not significantly increased after the first dose in terms of AESIs (RI 1.05 95% CI 0.90-1.22) or ED visits (RI 0.97 95% CI 0.94-1.01). Hospitalizations were slightly lower for RA patient in post-vaccination versus control periods (RI 0.83 95% CI 0.78-0.88). Compared to control periods, rheumatologist visits slightly increased after the first dose (RI 1.08 95% CI 1.07-1.10), then decreased after doses 2-3, normalizing after dose 4. Relative to non-RA comparators, RA individuals had a higher relative incidence rate of AESIs after dose 2 (RI 1.05 (95%CI 1.05-1.06) but no differences in hospitalizations or ED visits. Potential limitations of our study include the possibility that individuals avoided additional doses if they had an adverse event after the first dose, and that access to rheumatologists likely changed over time.

Conclusion: In this self-controlled case series, we did not detect a significant increase in AESIs or health care use when comparing pre-vaccine to post-vaccine periods in RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3149

Table 1. Anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccine-related adverse events in the seven-day post-vaccination period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AE</th>
<th>pSS (N=129)</th>
<th>aSS (N=227)</th>
<th>Other (N=825)</th>
<th>m-AD (N=682)</th>
<th>HC (N=4712)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any mild AE</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection site (arm) pain and soreness</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle pain in all arms and legs</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body ache</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea/Vomiting</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rash</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal pain</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High pulse rate or palpitations</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise in blood pressure</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulty in breathing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any severe AE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaphylaxis (shock)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marked difficulty in breathing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tongue swelling or throat closure</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe diffuse body rash (hives)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required hospitalisation</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>
BACKGROUND: The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has quickly become a global health emergency with over 180 million confirmed cases and over 3.8 million deaths worldwide. Over the last two years, several registries and cohort studies have collected data about the course and possible predictors of outcomes of COVID-19 infection in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRDs). However, whether IRMD patients perform differently from the general population is not clear, as most studies miss an adequate control group [1].

OBJECTIVES: To evaluate the association between the ABO and Rh antigens and the clinical manifestations and outcome of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in patients with IRMD compared to the general population.

METHODS: This is a case-control study of patients with and without an IRMD affected by COVID-19. Patients were selected in South Tyrol health trust, Italy, retrieving data from a single central database. We included patients ≥18 years affected by COVID-19. Patients were selected in South Tyrol health trust, Italy, during the study period, a whole population screening was conducted in South Tyrol with central registration of all COVID-19 cases. Criteria for inclusion in the study: hospitalization, severe course (ICU, mechanical ventilation/ECMO) and mortality.

RESULTS: The study population consisted of 201 IRMD patients (mean age 60.4 years ± 17.3; 60.7% of females) and 360 controls (mean age 59.8 years ± 5.6; 64.7 years ± 14.9; 65.2 years ± 14.9; p = 0.49). The rates of COVID-19 related hospitalization (12.4% vs. 10.6%, p = 0.49), severe course (40.0% vs. 44.7%, p = 0.80) and mortality (3.5% vs. 4.2%, p = 0.82) in IRMD and control group respectively, did not show significant differences. Among hospitalized patients, mechanical ventilation was significantly more common among IRMD than control group [(n = 20 (20.0%) vs. n = 11 (2.6%), p = 0.035). Conclusion: Our study indicates similar rates of admission, severe course and mortality among IRMD and non-IRMD patients affected by COVID-19. However, IRMD patients displayed a higher number of comorbidities and were more frequently treated with glucocorticoids. Among hospitalized patients, mechanical ventilation was more frequently required among IRMD group.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Florencia Valdez Donelli Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multi- sponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Elea Phoenix provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database.

Figure 1. Severity and mortality of SAR-CoV-2 infection according to ABO and Rh blood type in patients with rheumatic diseases.

Scientific Abstracts
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THE INCIDENCE OF POST-COVID SYNDROME IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Mental health, Comorbidities, COVID

N. Tlietbek1, N. Shamsudinova2, V. Mukhamadieva3, D. Abdulganieva3, R. Abdotkipov2, N. Saplasnina1. 1Institute of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Metabolism ‘Interna Clinic’; Rheumatology, Rheumatmy, Almaty; Kazakhstan; 2Kazan State Medical University, Internal Diseases, Kazan, Russian Federation; 3Kazan State Medical University, Internal Diseases, Kazan, Russian Federation; 4Republic Clinical Hospital, rheumatology, Kazan, Russian Federation

Background: Post-COVID Syndrome occurs in people after coronavirus infection with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection or in people with suspected coronavirus infection, usually 3 months after the onset of COVID-19, with symptoms that last at least 2 months and cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis. Although post-COVID manifestations have been previously studied in the general population, they have not been studied in a specific population of patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases. The list of post-covid syndromes includes arthralgia, arthritis, myalgia, vasculitis with damage to vessels of various sizes, antiphospholipid syndrome, as well as a number of immunological markers that are characteristic of a wide range of rheumatic diseases [1]

Objectives: to study the incidence of post-COVID syndrome in patients with rheumatic diseases (RD).

Methods: from March 2020 to September 2022, 271 patients with RD who had a novel coronavirus infection (NCl) with a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 PCR result and/or X-ray computed tomography (CT) of the lungs were under observation. Among the patients, 68 (25%) were males, 203 (75%) were females. The median age was 56 [46.65] years. The average duration of RD at the time of NCI was 10.9 [5.15] years. The distribution of patients was as follows: rheumatoid arthritis (RA) - 186 people (68.6%), ankylosing spondylitis (AS) - 46 people (16.9%), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) - 38 people (14%). The results of clinical and laboratory examinations for RD were recorded in 17.6% of patients. RD stage of remission before NCI was in 9 (3.3%), low degree of activity 58 (21.4%), moderate degree of activity 14 (5.6%), high degree of activity 21 (7.7%), 43 (15.8%) people - no data. Moderate and high degrees of RD activity before NCI increased the influence in joint pain (p = 0.023), unstable course of diabetes mellitus (p = 0.032) by 3 after recovery.

Conclusion: In patients with RD, post-covid manifestations persist, primarily due to arthritic (91.1%) and general constitutional symptoms (85.3%) from 3 to 6 months after NCI. Moderate and high degrees of RD activity before NCI significantly affect the severity of the articular syndrome and the unstable course of diabetes mellitus. Therapy for post-COVID syndrome in patients with rheumatic diseases should be personalized and determined by the characteristics of this patient's condition.

REFERENCES: NIL.

AB1299

Cyclophosphamide Therapy During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Keywords: Vasculitis, COVID, Best practices

B. Bink1, C. S. Ogur2, A. Yalçınkaya Karbanur2, A. E. Yucei2, 1Baskent University Ankara Hospital, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 2Baskent University Ankara Hospital, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: During the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, one of the biggest concerns of rheumatologists and rheumatology patients has been whether the disease will increase with immunosuppressive therapy. Some drugs have been reported to be associated with adverse Covid-19 outcomes [1,2]. Cyclophosphamide (CYC) is a drug that has been used in rheumatology practice for many years. There is not enough data in the literature on the frequency or consequences of COVID-19 while receiving CYC therapy.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to examine the frequency and outcomes of Covid19 in patients who received CYC therapy during the Covid19 pandemic.

Methods: The files of patients who received CYC therapy protocol between March 2020 and March 2022 at Baskent University Faculty of Medicine Ankara Hospital, Rheumatology outpatient clinic were retrospectively reviewed. In our clinic, CYC therapy is administered as an intravenous treatment protocol of 500 mg three times every 10 days, then 500 mg every two weeks. Although the cumulative dose varies depending on the disease and the patient, it is usually planned to be at least three gram. The diagnosis of Covid 19 was made in the patients with clinically compatible radiology and SARS-CoV-2 PCR test results.

Results: A total of 36 patients received CYC during the specified period. CYC indications were ANCA-associated vasculitis in 12 patients, interstitial lung disease

AB1300

RHEUMATOLOGICAL MANIFESTATIONS IN A COHORT OF LONG-COVID PATIENTS: SEARCHING FOR POSSIBLE BIOMARKERS

Keywords: COVID

A. Paglicioni1, P. Rizzuti2, V. Varriano1, C. Di Mario3, S. Perniola1, R. Calvani4, A. Picca5, F. Landi6, M. Tosato7, B. Tolusso6, E. Gremese1,2. 1Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A.Gemelli, IRCCS, Division of Clinical Immunology, Rome, Italy; 2Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy; 3Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Immunology Core Facility, Gemelli Science Technological Park, GSteP, Rome, Italy; 4Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome, Italy

Background: Approximately 10-20% of patients recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection develop persistent heterogeneous symptoms and autoantibody positivity suggesting persistence of low-grade inflammation.

Objectives: To assess the prevalence of rheumatological manifestations in a cohort of convalescent SARS-CoV-2 patients and to find possible biomarkers.

Methods: Two-hundred and seventy-nine convalescent SARS-CoV-2 patients underwent multidisciplinary assessment in our Post-Covid19 outpatient service (119 females and 160 males; mean age±SD, 55.87±0.88). For each patient, demographic, clinical and immunological data were collected. Long-COVID symptoms were assessed by a questionnaire submitted to patients; IL-1β, IL-6, TNFα and IL-8 plasma levels were assessed by ELISA (ELLA).

Results: 221 (80.7%) convalescent SARS-CoV-2 patients presented at least one Long-COVID symptom, mostly fatigue (52.6%), dyspnea (40.7%), arthralgia (28%) and myalgia (28%). The prevalence of symptoms was significantly higher in females (p = 0.009) and in patients 60-75 years old (p = 0.02) and the presence of symptoms was independent from disease severity and care setting during acute infection. Assessing cytokines plasma levels, we observed that patients presenting Long-COVID arthralgia showed higher IL-6 plasma level (p = 0.006). Moreover, the common rheumatological symptoms (arthritis and arthralgia, in Long-COVID patients were significantly correlated with female sex (p = 0.002), at least one autoantibody positivity (p = 0.003) and IL-6 plasma level higher than 2.1 pg/ml (p = 0.009).

Conclusion: Rheumatological symptoms are frequent in Long-Covid patients and this study suggests that they are underpinned by persistently dysregulated inflammatory pathways after the acute infection.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5877


ACKNOWLEGEMENTS: NIL.
associated with undifferentiated connective tissue disease in 5 patients, SLE in 5 patients, sclerodermia in 4 patients, Sjögren's syndrome in 4 patients, Behcet's disease in 1 patient, vasculitis associated with sarcoidosis in 1 patient, rheumatoid vasculitis in 1 patient, leucocytoclastic vasculitis in 1 patient, polymyalgia rheumatica in 1 patient and Takayasu disease in 1 patient. The median age (q1-q3) was 62 (52-68) years. Covid19 infection was detected in only 3 patients (8%) during the CYC therapy protocol. The median cumulative CYC dose for these patients was 3.5g. One out of 3 patient was hospitalized for Covid 19 pneumonia. There was no death due to Covid19.

Conclusion: In this study, it has been shown that CYC therapy was safe during the Covid19 pandemic period.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

AB1302 IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON TREATMENT ADHERENCE AND THE ACTIVITY OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Rheumatoid Arthritis, COVID

M. Ghali1, M. Arthau2, J. Mahbouba1, S. Zour1, I. Bejia1, M. Touzi1, N. Bergaoui1. 1Fattouma Bourguiba Hospital, University of Monastir, Rheumatology, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: During the COVID-19 pandemic, repetitive lockdowns and fear of SARS-CoV-2 infection compromised the treatment adherence of immunocompromised patients, particularly those with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). These therapeutic changes have certainly affected RA patients. To assess the treatment adherence among RA patients during COVID-19 and the impact on disease activity.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study involving patients with RA who met the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. To evaluate therapeutic adherence we used 2 validated scores: the Compliance Questionnaire of Rheumatology (CQR-5) and the Morisky Medication Adherence Scale-4 (MMAS-4). For each patient, we compared the DAS28 score, visual analog pain scale (VAS), sedimentation rate (ESR), and C-reactive protein (CRP) before and during the pandemic.

RESULTS: We included 190 patients, of whom 155 were women and 35 were men. The average age was 55 ± 13.16 years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the mean DAS28 score was 4.17 ± 1.03. Poor adherence was observed in 33% of cases according to MMAS-4 and in 34.5% of cases according to CQR-5. Patients who missed at least one consultation appointment accounted for 65% of cases. Teleconsultation was used in 17% of cases. Non-renewal of the prescription was the most frequent reason for therapeutic non-adherence (47%). Sixty patients (31.7%) had contracted COVID-19 and the minor form was the most frequent (86% of cases). Poor therapeutic adherence assessed by the CQR-5 was significantly associated with: rural origin (p<0.001), low intellectual level (p=0.006), missed consultations (p<0.001), non-use of teleconsultation (p<0.001), and high disease activity (p<0.001). Factors associated with poor adherence according to MMAS-4 were: advanced age (p=0.01), rural origin (p=0.007), low intellectual level (p=0.004), comorbidities (p=0.003), failed consultations (p=0.001), non-use of teleconsultation (p=0.001) and SARS-CoV-2 infection (p=0.043). The cross-sectional study showed that compared to pre-pandemic values: pain (p=0.01), ESR (p=0.008), CRP (p=0.04), and DAS-28 (p=0.001) were significantly higher during the pandemic. Increased disease activity was significantly associated with the presence of comorbidities (p=0.018), low therapeutic adherence (p<0.001), and missed consultations (p=0.014). There was no significant association between SARS-CoV-2 infection and disease activity.

Conclusion: Treatment adherence of RA patients during the COVID-19 era was challenged. Elderly, illiterate, and rural patients were the most likely to miss their appointments and stop their treatments. These therapeutic changes were responsible for an increase in RA activity. Hence the importance of insisting on good adherence and close medical follow-up.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1303 AVASCULAR NECROSIS OF THE FEMORAL HEAD – NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED SEQUELA AFTER COVID 19 INFECTION

Keywords: Bone diseases, COVID

P. Todorov1, L. Mekenyan2, A. Batalov2. 1Medical University of Plovdiv; 2Yambol University Hospital, Propaedeutic of Internal Disease and Clinic of Rheumatology, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Background: COVID 19 infection could lead to different sequelae in survivors, known as post-COVID or long COVID 19 syndromes. Some of them are thought to be due to the thrombophytic changes observed in COVID 19 infection, but some are thought to be caused by the administered (especially high dose) corticosteroid treatment. Avascular necrosis of the femoral head (AVNFH) is a multifactorial disease which leads to compromised vascular supply, ischemia and finally necrosis of the femoral head. As corticosteroids usage and thrombophytic states are among the main known risk factors for the development AVNFH [1], it could be presumed that the frequency of this disease will increase with the COVID 19 pandemic. The exact corticosteroid dose needed for the development of AVNFH is not clear, but it has been stated that a higher daily dose and a larger total cumulative dose increase substantially the risk for the development of osteonecrosis [2].

Objectives: To describe in detail the characteristics of AVNFH diagnosed in patients after COVID 19 infection.

Methods: The study was done in a tertiary university rheumatological clinic. Data was extracted from the records of patients who have been referred to the clinic because of hip pain between June and December 2022. Inclusion criteria were: - a new onset of uni-or bilateral hip pain that started after a documented COVID 19 infection; and an MRI study of the hip joints showing osteonecrosis of one or both femoral heads. Exclusion criteria were: the presence of hip pain prior to the COVID 19 infection, anamnesis of traumatic injuries of the hips or pelvis, personal history of hypercoagulable states.

Results: Nine patients (4 women and 5 men) with an average age 59.1 years (range 38-72) were included in the study. Four patients had been diagnosed with bilateral and five – with unilateral AVNFH, thus 13 hip joints were analysed in total (6 left and 5 right sided). The mean time lapse between the COVID 19 infection and the start of the hip pain was 26.2 weeks (range 10-48 weeks). All patients had limited and painful movement in their symptomatic hip(s), especially internal rotation and four of the patients had also elevated CRP levels (mean 11.7 mg/L). The stage of the AVNFH was evaluated according to the Ficat-Arlet classification (0-IV stage). In four hips the AVNFH was stage I, five hips were classified as stage II and the remaining four joints - as stage III. All symptomatic hip joints exhibited effusion/synovitis on both ultrasound examination and the corresponding MRI scan. It should be noted that the presence of hip effusion was found to be related with a worse prognosis in AVNFH [1]. In three patients the amount of the effusion required arthrocentesis and fluid aspiration. The analysis of the joint fluid was consistent with a degenerative disease (i.e., low WBC count with predominant lymphocytes and no crystals). All patients included in our study had received corticosteroids during their COVID19 infection, while 6 of the patients had also been hospitalized due to more severe disease. According to the patients’ documentation, the mean cumulative dose of the received corticosteroids was 936.2mg prednisolone equivalent per patient (range 187-2272 mg).

Conclusion: AVNFH must not be overlooked in a new onset hip pain after COVID 19 infection. Our results show that corticosteroids administered during the infection and the presence of hip joint effusion on ultrasound are especially suggestive for the development of osteonecrosis, as they were registered in all of our patients. The presence of these two factors necessitates patient referral for an MRI scan of the hips, in order that AVNFH be detected timely.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: PLAMEN TODOROV Speakers bureau: speaker at national level for AbbVie, Novartis and UCB, Lily Mekenyan: None declared, Anastas Batalov Speakers bureau: speaker at national level for AbbVie, Novartis, Pfizer, Stada, Elly Lilly.

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AB1304 CHRONIC CHILBLAIN-LIKE LESIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Keywords: Imaging, COVID, Skin
**Objectives:** We report the features of chronic chilblain-like digital lesions newly present since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Comparison with primary perniosis and acrocyanosis, reveals a unique phenotype which appears to be a long-covid phenomenon.

**Methods:** The case records of 26 patients with new onset persistent chilblain-like lesions presenting to the Rheumatology service of St George's University Hospital, London between Autumn 2020 and Spring 2022 were reviewed. Demographic and clinical features, serology, imaging, treatment response and outcome up to Summer 2022 were collated retrospectively.

**Results:** Chilblain-like lesions first occurred between September and March; 2019/2020 6 cases, 2020/2021 18 cases and 2021/2022 2 cases. Mean age 35.4 (17-60) years, female 88%, white 65%, all non-smokers. Median body mass index (BMI) 20.2, range 17.0 – 33.2. BMI underweight (<18.5) in 27%. All cases reported new red-purple-blue colour changes of the fingers, some with pain, swelling and pruritus, affecting both hands in 12, one hand in 6, and both hands and feet in 8 cases. There was a past history of cold sensitivity or primary Raynaud’s in 54%. Covid was confirmed in 3 cases, 2 – 8 months prior to onset of chilblain-like symptoms. Possible covid, unconfirmed, was suspected in 5 cases, 1 – 11 months earlier. Affected digits appeared diffusely erythro-cyanotic in 81%, with blotchy discrete macules, papules, purplish lesions in 6%, some with both features. Involvement was asymmetric in 54%, thumbs spared in 69%. Complement was low in 50% (8/16), ANA positive in 26% (6/23). MRI of hands showed phalangeal bone marrow oedema in keeping with osteitis in 4/7 cases, and no synovial hyperplasia or enthesial abnormalities. More severe signs and symptoms were associated with low BMI, low CS/4 and a past history of cold sensitivity or Raynauds. Cold avoidance strategies were sufficient for 58%. Pain prompted a trial of NSAIDs, aspirin, nitrates, calcium channel blockers, hydroxychloroquine, oral or topical corticosteroid or topical tacrolimus in 42%. In general, these were at best minimally effective or not tolerated. Four severe cases received sildenafil or tadalafil, effective in 2 cases. In 27% complete remission occurred during the first summer season after symptoms commenced, median duration 6 (range 2 – 10) months. In the remaining 19 cases, chilblain-like symptoms returned or worsened in the subsequent second winter period, with 6/19 entering remission the following summer. For the remaining 13 persistent cases the total duration of symptoms spans more than a year, and in four cases more than 2 years.

**Conclusion:** This series illustrates a distinct chronic chilblain-like condition. Features similar to primary perniosis include female predominance, middle age, pruritic painful blotchy lesions, asymmetry and low BMI. Features in keeping with acrocyanosis include chronicity, extensive diffuse erythro-cyanotic discoloration, relative improvement in warm weather and lack of association with smoking.

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.505

**AB1305**

**RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS FLARE FOLLOWING COVID-19 VACCINATION IN MALAYSIAN POPULATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED RISK FACTORS**

**Keywords:** Vaccination/immunization, Rheumatoid arthritis, COVID

N. A. Zakaria1, 2, L. Mohd Isa1, L. Mohamend0, B. H. Ng1, T. Chou Luan1, F. N. Sulaiman1, S. Ramasamy1, W. R. Wan Musa1, N. S. Shahril2, 3.

1International Islamic University Malaysia, Kulliyyah of Medicine, Pahang, Malaysia; 2Hospital Putrajaya, Rheumatology Unit, Putrajaya, Malaysia; 3Hospital Putrajaya, Clinical Research Centre, Putrajaya, Malaysia

**Background:** Flare of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) following COVID-19 vaccination has been reported with a low occurrence observed in those patients with disease remission. However, no local data is available in our multi-ethnic Malaysian population.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the prevalence of RA flare in Malaysian patients following COVID-19 vaccination and its associated risk factors.

**Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study assessing RA flare based on rheumatology clinic in Hospital Putrajaya from May to July 2022 who completed the primary COVID-19 vaccination under the Malaysian National Vaccination Programme were recruited. Demographic data, disease parameters including serology for rheumatoid factor (RF) and anti-citrullinated peptide antibodies (ACPA), cessation of disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) around vaccination, type of vaccines and adverse events were examined using descriptive and univariate analyses.

**Results:** Majority (93%) of RA patients enrolled were female with a mean age of 56 years (standard deviation, SD 12.2) and mean disease duration was 12.8 years (SD 7.7). More than half had seropositive (66% RF, 63% ACPA) with 17.4% had double seropositivity (RF and ACPA positive). All patients received DMARDs with the majority (71%) were on methotrexate (MTX), 21.5% were on leflunomide, 17.7% on other DMARDs, with a small proportion (14%) of patients were receiving prednisolone. Only 4.8% of patients were on biologics or targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs. Half of the patients were in remission prior to vaccination. 62% of patients received Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as the primary vaccine, followed by Sinovac-CoronaVac (24.6%) and Oxford-AstraZeneca (13.4%) vaccines. A booster dose had been administered to 80% of patients, of which 88.7% was Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. MTX therapy were discontinued in 39.4% of patients (n=52) post-vaccination for a week duration. The prevalence of RA flare was only 12.9% (n=24) in which 14 were self-reported and 10 were physician-reported flares (4 severe flare, 6 mild-moderate flare). Flare rates were higher during the first and second dose of vaccination with 29.2% respectively, and only 12.5% were reported after booster vaccination. Common vaccine adverse effects were fever (16.8%), myalgia (8.6%) and arthralgia (6.4%). There were no significant differences in the occurrence of flare post-vaccination between age, gender, disease activity prior to vaccination, types of vaccine, usage of MTX and prednisolone, and discontinuation of MTX post-vaccination. Although seropositivity did not exhibit statistically significant flare rate post-vaccination, sub-analysis revealed four times higher rate of flare in those who have double positivity compared to seronegative RA patients (12% vs 4%).

**Conclusion:** Prevalence of RA flare post-COVID-19 vaccination in Malaysian RA population is low. No significant associated risk factors were identified although double seropositivity appeared to have higher number of flares.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.799

**AB1306**

**HOW DOES COVID-19 VACCINATION AFFECT DISEASE ACTIVITY AND SAFETY IN SECUKINUMAB TREATED PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SpondyloOaRTHRITIS? REAL WORLD DATA FROM THE GERMAN AQUILA STUDY**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Vaccination/immunization, COVID

J. Brand-Juergens1, K. Gente2, P. Klasner3, P. Dörlich4, U. Kiltz4

1Rheumatologie, Scharlappenpraxis, Berlin, Germany; 2Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg, Medizinische Abteilung V - Rheumatologie, Heidelberg, Germany; 3Ambulantes Rheumazentrum, Medizinisches Versorgungszentrum, Erfurt, Germany; 4Novartis, Novartis Pharma GmbH, Nürnberg, Germany

**Background:** Patients (pts) suffering from a chronic rheumatic condition, such as axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), and receiving immunomodulatory treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic have been shown to be at higher risk of severe disease outcomes. The German non-interventional study AQUILA provides real-world data in pts with axSpA under secukinumab (SEC) treatment and the influence of COVID-19 vaccination on disease activity (SDASAI) and safety (SAsAEs).

**Objectives:** The aim of this interim analysis was to describe selected baseline (BL) characteristics and the effect of vaccination on DA and safety in axSpA pts.

**Methods:** AQUILA is an ongoing, multi-center study including up to 3000 pts with axSpA or psoriatic arthritis. This analysis focuses on axSpA pts included from May 2019 to Oct 2022 and their vaccination status (no vs ≥1 vaccination) for study time points from BL up to week (w) 52 according to clinical routine. DA was assessed by validated Disease Activity Score for Spondyloarthritis Patients (DASAI) questionnaire and safety by documented number of (serious) adverse events (SAsAEs). Only pts with available BL DASAI were considered and characterized by selected BL parameters, such as demographics and global functioning.
(measured by assessment of spondyloarthritis international society health index, ASAS-HI). Real-world data were analyzed as observed. Vaccination was performed according to prescription and took place at any timepoint throughout observational period of 52 weeks.

**Results:** Totally, 273 axSpA pts were included. For 56 pts ≥1 vaccination during study was documented: number of vaccinations (75% mRNA-based): n1 = 26 pts, n2 = 20 pts, n3 = 9 pts, n4 = 1 pt. Both pts groups were comparable regarding the BL characteristics, such as age, smoking status, BMI, physician global assessment (PhGA), and ASAS-HI. Pts with no vaccination received less pretreatments with biologics (59.9% vs 76.8%) and were less affected by comorbidities and extra-articular manifestations (EAMs) than pts with ≥1 vaccination (e.g. depression 6.5% vs 12.5%) (Table 1). There was no difference in mean BASDAI between pts with no and with ≥1 vaccination throughout observational period of 52 weeks (except for a higher mean value in pts with ≥1 vaccination at w16). In both groups, slight improvement was observed in mean BASDAI over time (no vaccination: 5.1 to 3.8, ≥1 vaccination: 5.4 to 3.7) (Figure 1). However, due to different numbers of pts with no and ≥1 vaccination, data must be interpreted carefully. The number of pts with AEs and AEs leading to interruption of SEC was lower in pts with no vs pts with ≥1 vaccination (62.7% vs 75.0% and 13.4% vs 17.9%, respectively) (Table 1), with no new and unexpected safety signals in each group.

**Conclusion:** In a real-world setting, no differences in DA between axSpA pts with and without vaccination were observed. DA improved similarly up to w62 in both patient groups with similar BL characteristics, though more comorbidities/ EAMs were documented in pts with ≥1 vaccination. There were no new safety signals in both groups. Further progress of the AQUILA study will reveal whether both patient groups with similar BL characteristics, though more comorbidities/ and unexpected safety signals in each group.

**RESEARCH FUNDING:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** Jan Brandt-Juergens Consultant of: Abbvie, Abbkine, BMS, Genentech, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Aventis, UCB, Karolina Gente Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, Genentech, Galapagos, Hexal/Sandoz, Janssen, Lilly, Medac, MSD, Novartis, Viatris, Consultant of: BMS, Genentech/Galapagos, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Mundipharma, Novartis, UCB, Peter Kastner Consultant of: Chugai, Novartis, Daniel Peterlik Employee of: Novartis Pharma GmbH, Uta Kiltz Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Biogen, Chugai, Eli Lily, Genentech, GSK, Grünenthal, Hexal, Jansen, MSD, Novartis, Prizer, Roche, UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Amgen, Biogen, Chugai, Eli Lily, Gilead, GSK, Grünenthal, Hexal, Jansen, MDS, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, USB, DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.823

**REFERENCES:**

[1] Deodhar A, et al., ACR Poster (#1776), Arthritis Rheumatol 2022; 74 (suppl 9)

**Table 1. Overview of characteristics at BL and (S)AEs during treatment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters at BL</th>
<th>No vaccination (N=217)</th>
<th>≥1 vaccination (N=56)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age* (years)</td>
<td>47.1 (13.5)</td>
<td>46.7 (13.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking status (smoker)**</td>
<td>73 (33.8)</td>
<td>19 (33.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI* (kg/m²)</td>
<td>27.4 (5.6)</td>
<td>27.6 (5.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhGA* (0-10)</td>
<td>5.3 (2.0)</td>
<td>5.0 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAS-HI*</td>
<td>7.5 (3.4)</td>
<td>8.6 (3.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-treatment with biologics**</td>
<td>130 (59.9)</td>
<td>43 (76.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comorbidities/EAMs** at BL

| Coronary heart disease | 10 (4.7) |
| Heart insufficiency    | 3 (1.4)  |
| Stroke                 | 2 (1.0)  |
| Plaque psoriasis       | 20 (9.2) |
| Uveitis                | 6 (2.7)  |
| Depression             | 14 (6.5) |

**Safety - number of pts** with

| AEs/ SAEs | 136 (62.7) |
| AEs leading to interruption of SEC | 29 (13.4) |

* mean (sd), ** n (%) |

Acknowledgements: NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Sara Bindoli: None declared, Chiara Baggio: None declared, Paola Galozzi: None declared, Filippo Ventisini: None declared, Andrea Padoan: None declared, Andrea Doria Speakers bureau: GSK, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Grant/research support from: GSK, Eli Lilly, Andrea Padoan: None declared, Paolo Sriso Speakers bureau: Novartis, Sobi.

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**Figure 1. DA under SEC treatment in axSpA pts stratified by vaccination**
COVID-19

AB1308

POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA FOLLOWING SARSCOV-2 VACCINATION: A SINGLE CENTER COHORT STUDY

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Vasculitis, Vaccination/immunization

L. Lally1, A. Bloostein1, D. Jannat-Khan1, R. Spiera2, 1Hospital for Special Surgery, Rheumatology, New York, United States of America

Background: Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) incidence peaks in individuals between 70 and 80 years of age; this same group is also at increased risk of complications and mortality related to COVID-19 infection. Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 is an essential tool in combating COVID-19. There have been several case reports of PMR following vaccination with mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccines.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to identify patients with temporal association between mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and PMR onset and to compare characteristics and disease course to those with new onset PMR without temporal association with SARS CoV-2 vaccine exposure.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective chart review of all newly diagnosed PMR patients in a single center. Using ICD-10 codes, our EMR was queried to identify patients with newly diagnosed PMR beginning in December 2020, when the first SARS-CoV-2 vaccines were available in the US. Charts were reviewed for demographic information, disease characteristics and vaccination details. Patients who developed onset of PMR symptoms within 6 weeks after vaccination were compared to those whose PMR symptoms occurred without temporal association to vaccination. When available data of 12 months following diagnosis was collected.

Results: Eighty patients with newly diagnosed PMR between 12/1/2020 and 12/31/2021 were identified. There were 60 patients with new PMR without a temporal association to vaccination who were compared to 20 patients who developed PMR symptoms within 6 weeks of vaccination. Baseline demographics did not differ between the two groups. In the 20 cases with PMR onset after vaccination, symptoms developed a mean 38 days (IQR 19.5-48) after first dose of vaccine and 115 days (IQR 122) after second dose. There were no differences in baseline demographics, glucocorticoid dosages or relapse rates at 6 and 12 months following diagnosis. There was no association between vaccine manufacturer and PMR onset after vaccination (Table 1).

Conclusion: In this cohort, patients with onset of PMR within 6 weeks following mRNA vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 were similar to patients with de novo PMR at diagnosis, with no significant differences in disease course over the first 12 months. This does not support the notion that PMR following vaccination is a unique disease entity. The recognition of new PMR onset following SARS CoV-2 vaccine may be coincidental in this common inflammatory disorder in a population with high rates of vaccine exposure.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entire Cohort</th>
<th>PMR without temporal association to vaccine</th>
<th>PMR within 6 weeks of vaccine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (IQR)</td>
<td>74.5 (71, 80)</td>
<td>75.5 (71, 80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>40 (50%)</td>
<td>29 (48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>40 (50%)</td>
<td>31 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccine Type</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>38 (48%)</td>
<td>29 (48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>42 (53%)</td>
<td>31 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline ESR (mm/hr), median (IQR)</td>
<td>44 (24, 65)</td>
<td>42 (24, 63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP at baseline (mg/L), median (IQR)</td>
<td>20 (7.55)</td>
<td>20 (9, 42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial steroid dose, median (mg) (IQR)</td>
<td>18 (15, 35)</td>
<td>20 (15, 37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional vaccine received?</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
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<td>15 (25%)</td>
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<td>12 (20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESR at 6 months (mm/hr), median (IQR)</td>
<td>18 (15, 35)</td>
<td>16.5 (6, 30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroid dose at 6 months (mg), median (IQR)</td>
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<td>5 (4, 9.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapse at 6 months</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14 (18%)</td>
<td>12 (20%)</td>
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<td>ESR at 12 months (mm/hr), median (IQR)</td>
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<td>14 (4, 34)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP at 12 months (mg/L), median (IQR)</td>
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<td>7 (5, 9)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>22 (37%)</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>8 (10%)</td>
<td>6 (10%)</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1324

AB1309

CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW-ONSET IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES FOLLOWING SARSCOV-2 VACCINATION OR INFECTION—ANALYSIS OF A CASE SERIES

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Myositis, COVID

A. Mariani1, M. M. Tamas1,2, L. Muntean1,2, O. M. Resteu1, D. A. Vaida-Voevod1,2, I. Felea1, L. Damian1, I. Filipescu1, C. Pami1,2, I. Szabo1,2, S. P. Simon1,2, S. Rednic1,2, 1Clinical Emergency County Hospital, Rheumatology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; 2Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Rheumatology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Background: Recent data showed that SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination could act as a trigger for different autoimmune diseases, including idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM).

Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe the clinical characteristics of patients diagnosed with IIM following SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination in a tertiary rheumatology center.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective analysis on patients newly diagnosed with IIM, from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022, using information from the hospital database. The patients were selected according to the ICD-10 codes indicating IIM (M33.0, M33.1, M33.2, and M33.9). The cases with onset of specific IIM symptoms within 6 months after SARS-CoV-2 infection or vaccination were selected for further analysis. Clinical, biological and immunological parameters were assessed using descriptive statistics.

Results: A total of 58 patients newly diagnosed with IIM were identified, and in 10 (17.2%) patients the onset was after SARS-CoV-2 infection (n = 6) or vaccination (n = 4). All patients diagnosed with IIM following vaccination (F:M=1:1, median age 46 years) received a mRNA vaccine and had the clinical onset within several days to a month after vaccination. Among IIM cases following SARS-CoV-2 infection (F:M=1:1, median age 60.5 years), the clinical onset of myopathy was variable, with a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 6 months after infection. Myalgia, muscle weakness and elevated levels of creatinine kinase were reported in 9 patients. The average CK level was 2534.6 (3760.8) U/L, ranging from 43 to 11827 U/L. Skin lesions were present in all patients with IIM following vaccination and in 4 cases with IIM after SARS-CoV-2 infection. Mechanical hands and arthralgia were noted in 5 patients each. Dyspnea and interstitial lung disease (ILD) were reported in 8 cases, with severe pulmonary involvement present in 2 cases. Myocarditis was reported in 2 patients, 1 case from each group. Myositis-specific antibodies (MSAs) and myositis-associated antibodies (MAAs) were reported in 9 patients. Anti-threonyl-tRNA synthetase antibodies (anti-PLE7) were present in 5 cases (3 after vaccination and 2 after infection), anti- histidyl-tRNA synthetase antibodies (anti-Jo-1) in 2 patients (1 associated with anti-PLE7 antibodies), and anti-isoleucyl-tRNA synthetase (anti-DJ antibodies) in 1 patient. ILD was diagnosed in all anti-PLE7 antibody positive patients.

Conclusion: Anti-PLE7 antibodies are frequent in newly diagnosed IIM following SARS-CoV-2 infection or vaccination. Further studies are needed to investigate the relationship between SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination in the occurrence of IIM.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgements to declare.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2764

AB1310

UTILIZATION AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS NAILFOLD VIDEOCAPILLAROSCOPY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF MICROVASCULAR STATUS IN PATIENTS WITH LONG- COVID: A MULTICENTER ONLINE SURVEY

Keywords: COVID, Imaging

E. Gotelli1, F. Ingegnoli2, R. De Angelis3, S. Guiducci4, D. Giuglioti5, C. Pizzoni1, V. Riccieri1, M. Sebastiani1, A. Sulli1, V. Smith1,2,3, M. Cutolo1, 1University of Genova, Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine and Specialties, Genova, Italy; 2Università degli Studi di Milano, ASST Gaetano Pini-CTO, Clinical Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical Sciences & Community Health, Milan, Italy; 3Marche Polytechnic University, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical and Molecular Sciences, Ancona, Italy; 4University
Background: Human SARS-CoV-2 infection is responsible for a large variety of clinical manifestations related to Coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) [1]. SARS-CoV-2 can induce microvascular damage, that can be safely detected by nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC), as recently demonstrated [2-4]. SARS-CoV-2 can induce microvascular damage, that can be safely detected by nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC), as recently demonstrated [2-4].

Objectives: To carry out an Italian multicenter cognitive survey on the interest in collecting NVC and clinical data of patients affected by long-COVID with or without previous rheumatological diseases.

Methods: The steering committee of the CAPSIR study group formulated a cognitive questionnaire, entitled “Study on the role of capillaroscopy in patients with long-COVID” (CAPSIR_2 Study), consisting of 27 open or multiple-choice questions. A Google Form of the questionnaire was emailed to all the members of the study group between September and October 2022. Data are reported with a descriptive analysis.

Results: The online questionnaire was completed by 41 CAPSIR members, belonging to 33 different Italian centers. Of note, 63% of participants had already experienced NVC in patients with long-COVID. The primary indication to perform the NVC was the onset of a new Raynaud’s phenomenon (46% of cases) and the requests come mainly from General Practitioners (33% of cases). In 2/3 of the cases, patients with long-COVID and previous rheumatic diseases, who underwent NVC examination, represented less than 20% of the total. It should be noted that in 2/3 of the cases there was no preferential channel for the study of the microcirculation in patients affected by long-COVID nor a NVC investigation prior to the SARS-CoV-2 infection. According to the previous experience of the participants in the interview, the most important NVC parameters considered to be evaluated in long-COVID patients were number of capillaries per linear millimeter (24% of cases), presence of hemorrhages (34% of cases) and giant capillaries (22% of capillaries). All participants (100%) therefore agreed to participate in a further collection of NVC and clinical data in this cohort of patients affected by long-COVID versus adequate controls.

Conclusion: This survey highlighted the interest of Italian Rheumatologists in applying NVC titre was found, generally in terms of reduction and without clinical application. In bold, statistically significant comparison.

Table 1. Frequency of autoantibodies positivity before (T0) and after (T1) anti-SARS-CoV2 vaccination. Chi-square test or Fisher’s exact test were applied. In bold, statistically significant comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autoantibodies</th>
<th>Patients positive at T0</th>
<th>Patients positive at T1</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA*</td>
<td>8/51 (15.7%)</td>
<td>10/52 (19.2%)</td>
<td>0.636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCL IgG*</td>
<td>18/51 (35.3%)</td>
<td>16/52 (30.8%)</td>
<td>0.625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCL IgG°</td>
<td>10/50 (20%)</td>
<td>9/52 (17.3%)</td>
<td>0.727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCL IgM*</td>
<td>10/51 (19.8%)</td>
<td>9/52 (17.3%)</td>
<td>0.763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCL IgM°</td>
<td>27/50 (54%)</td>
<td>20/52 (38.5%)</td>
<td>0.116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a2GPI IgG*</td>
<td>28/51 (54.9%)</td>
<td>18/52 (34.6%)</td>
<td>0.038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a2GPI IgG°</td>
<td>10/50 (20%)</td>
<td>12/52 (23.1%)</td>
<td>0.706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a2GPI IgM*</td>
<td>9/51 (17.6%)</td>
<td>8/52 (15.4%)</td>
<td>0.757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a2GPI IgM°</td>
<td>9/50 (18%)</td>
<td>10/52 (19.2%)</td>
<td>0.873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aPR3*</td>
<td>8/50 (16%)</td>
<td>8/52 (15.4%)</td>
<td>0.932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aPR3°</td>
<td>7/50 (14%)</td>
<td>7/52 (13.5%)</td>
<td>0.844</td>
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</table>

ABT1311 EVALUATION OF A POTENTIAL INDUCTION OF AUTOANTIBODIES IN A COHORT OF PATIENTS AFFECTED BY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS OR WITH TRIPLE POSITIVITY FOR ANTIHOSPHOLIPID ANTIBODIES FOLLOWING ANTI-SARS-COV2 VACCINATION

Keywords: Vaccination/Immunization, COVID, Autoantibodies

P. Semeraro1, S. Piantoni1, G. Vairano2, S. Bertocchi1, L. Andreoli1, A. Tincani1, E. Garratt4, F. Franceschini1, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit, ASST Spedali Civili of Brescia and University of Brescia, Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy; University of Brescia, Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Brescia, Italy; 1ASST Spedali Civili of Brescia, Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, Brescia, Italy; 4University of Brescia, Department of Molecular and Translational Medicine, Brescia, Italy

Background: Vaccines anti-SARS-CoV2 showed a good efficacy in prevention of severe COVID-19 [1]. Their potential in induction of autoantibodies (abs) has not been well established [1]. One recent study demonstrated an increase of abs’ titer after anti-SARS-CoV2 vaccination only in patients (pts) with already pre-existing positivity [2].

Objectives: To evaluate the potential induction of abs after SARS-CoV2 vaccination in a cohort of pts affected by Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) or with triple positivity for antiphospholipid antibodies (aPLs).

Methods: Consecutive pts affected by RA, SSc or with triple positivity for aPL were enrolled from February 2021 to November 2021. Serum samples were collected before the first (T0) and at least one month after the second administration (T1) of the anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. A wide panel of abs were evaluated through routinely methods. Qualitative variables were compared using Chi-square test or Fisher’s exact test; quantitative variables were compared using Wilcoxon signed-rank test.

Results: 52 pts were considered (F/M: 48/4; median age=58[51-61] years; 15 RA, 19 SSc and 18 with triple positivity for aPL). Regarding vaccination, 27 pts were administered BNT162b2, 24 mRNA-1273 and 1 Gam-COVID-Vac. No difference regarding frequency of abs’ positivity was found between T0 and T1, except for a2GPI IgG, that showed a reduction in positivity frequency (Table 1) No difference was found in the titer of the following abs: anti-dsDNA (p:0.318), anti-mPO (p:0.078) ed anti-PR3 (p:0.139). aCL IgG showed a significant reduction in chemiluminescence (CL) (T0 vs T1: 9.3 CU [6.1-16.4] vs 5.1 CU [2.5-35.7]; p:0.001), but not in ELISA (p:0.480). A significant reduction was found for aCL IgM both in CL (T0 vs T1: 5.7 CU [2.4-17.1] vs 3.4 CU [2.1-13.1]; p:0.006) and ELISA (T0 vs T1: 13.1 IU/ml [11.2-30.6] vs 11.2 IU/ml [11.2-19.6]; p:0.010). A significant reduction was found for a2GPI IgG in CL (T0 vs T1: 25 CU [9.1-210.7] vs 6.4 CU [6.3-102.2]; p:0.001), but not in ELISA (p:0.953) Title of a2GPI IgM remained stable in CL (p:0.078) and ELISA (p:0.211). No variation was found in ANA positivity. No significant difference was found in anti-ENA titre (p:0.141). None of the pts developed any new symptom or sign of autoimmune disease upon vaccination.

Conclusion: Anti-SARS-CoV2 vaccination didn’t induce any clinical sign of autoimmunity in this cohort of pts affected by RA, SSc or with triple positivity for aPL. Serology for abs remained stable in pts’ majority; only a fluctuation of aPL titre was found, generally in terms of reduction and without clinical significance.

REFERENCES:
Patients with IIMs were at a lower risk of delayed onset COVID-19 vaccine ADEs compared to other SAIDs, though a higher risk of rashes compared to HCs and other SAIDs. The risk of severe ADEs was lower in patients with IIMs. The study also observed a higher risk of delayed onset COVID-19 ADEs than other SAIDs, though a higher risk of rashes compared to HCs.

Acknowledgments:

COVAD Study Team.

Disclosure of Interests:


Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, COVID, Targeted synthetic drugs

Efficacy and Safety of COVID-19-Specific Treatments in SLE: A Multicentre Case-Control Study

Keywords: Safety, Myositis, Vaccination/immunization

Regulatory agencies recommend COVID-19 vaccination in patients with IIMs, other systemic autoimmune and inflammatory diseases (SAIDs), and healthy controls (HCs), using data from the ongoing 2nd COVID-19 Vaccination in Autoimmune Diseases (COVAD) study.

Methods:

A validated patient self-reporting e-survey was circulated by the international COVAD study group (157 collaborators, 106 countries) from Feb to June 2022, collecting respondent demographics, comorbidities, IIM/SAID details, COVID-19 infection history and outcomes, and vaccination data including ADEs. Delayed onset (>7 days) ADEs (including minor and major ADEs and hospitalizations) were analyzed in patients with IIMs, SAIDs, and HCs, using various regression models.

Results:

15,165 total respondents completed the survey, of whom 8759 communicated with IIMs with co-existing SAIDs at a higher risk of minor [OR 5.2 (3.3-8.2), p<0.001] and major ADEs [OR 2.1 (1.2-3.8), p<0.05] compared to those with IIMs alone.

Conclusion:

Patients with IIMs were at a lower risk of delayed onset COVID-19 vaccine ADEs compared to other SAIDs, though within this patient group, those with active disease, overlap myositis and autoimmunity multimorbidity were vulnerable, and warrant close monitoring and long term follow up post COVID-19 vaccination.

REFERENCE:

COVID-19 were collected. COVID-19 severity at presentation was quantitated through a 0-4 analogue scale [2]. Data are expressed as median (interquartile range, IQR) unless otherwise specified.

Results: Over three years, 39% of patients with SLE had at least one COVID-19 event. Eighteen subjects (16 women) were treated with antivirals (n=12) or monoclonal antibodies (n=6) and were matched with 36 controls. There was no difference in the frequency of organ involvement between the two groups. Treated patients were receiving significantly higher prednisone daily doses at COVID-19 onset (6.25 (0-10) vs 0 (0-2.5) mg; p=0.005) and had a higher prevalence of previous high-dose steroid treatments (83% vs 47%; p<0.019) compared to controls. SLE disease activity index (3 (0-5) vs 1 (0-4)) and SLE International Collaborating Clinics Damage Index scores (1 (0-3) vs 0 (0-1)) were also numerically higher in treated patients at COVID-19 onset. Patients in the treated group had more severe COVID-19 at presentation but showed no significant differences with control subjects in terms of COVID-19 resolution, prevalence of sequelae and viral clearance (Table 1). There was also no difference in flare occurrence between the two groups (Log-rank p=0.02, p=0.889). Two patients reported mild adverse events with monoclonal antibodies (muscle cramps and chest pain, both self-resolving).

Conclusion: These data support the safe use of COVID-19 specific treatments in patients with SLE. Patients treated with antivirals and monoclonal antibodies had a favourable COVID-19 course, despite a more severe presentation and a higher risk of deterioration due to SLE and corticosteroid treatment burden, suggesting the potential efficacy of COVID-specific treatments in preventing severe COVID-19 in patients with SLE.

Acknowledgements: We thank Dr. Giordano Vitali and his staff for assisting and treating patients with SLE and COVID-19 from IRCCS San Raffaele Fatebenefratelli in the local COVID-19 clinic.

Disclosure of Interests: Giuseppe Alvese Ramirez Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Maria Gerosa: None declared, Daniel Arroyo-Sánchez: None declared, Chiara Aspertti: None declared, Lorenzo Maria Argolini: None declared, Gabriele Gallina: None declared, Chiara Bellocci: None declared, Martina Cornalba: None declared, Isabella Scotti: None declared, Ilaria Guardi: None declared, Lorenzo Beretta: None declared, Luca Moroni Consultant of: AstraZeneca, Enrica Bozzolo: None declared, Roberto Caporali: Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celtrion, Fresenius, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Fresenius, Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB, Lorenzo Dagna Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Astra-Zeneca, Biogen, Boehringer-Ingehelm, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celtrion, Eli Lilly Company and Company, Galapagos, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Kinkisa Pharmacuals, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Genzyme, Swedish Orphan Biovittoria (SOBI), and Takeda, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Kinkisa, Merk Sharp & Dohme, Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Genzyme, and SOBI.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3873

AB1314 EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF ANTI-SARS-COV-2 VACCINATION IN PEOPLE WITH RMDs: RESULTS FROM A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, COVID, Systematic review

References:
long-COVID[3,4], but current evidence does not usually differentiate between muscular and joint (arthralgias) symptoms. Data on joint pain as long-COVID symptom is limited to specific populations. Additionally, studies investigating how COVID-19 affects previous rheumatological conditions experienced by the patient before the infection are also scarce.

Objectives: 1, To identify post-COVID changes in those previous joint pain conditions experienced by the patients before SARS-CoV-2 infection. 2, To compare the development of “de novo” joint pain as a long-COVID symptom between previously hospitalized and non-hospitalised COVID-19 survivors.

Methods: This nationwide, cross-sectional exploratory study was based on a questionnaire collecting demographics, previous rheumatological pain conditions and changes in their symptoms, and the development of joint pain after SARS-CoV-2 infection from a population-based sample in Denmark.

Results: Data from 1,000 randomly previously hospitalised (512% males; 60±15.2 years; 85±18.5kg) and 1,000 randomly previously non-hospitalised COVID-19 survivors (43.5% males; 50±19.6 years; 79±20.6kg) were analysed. Distribution of gender (p<0.001), age (p<0.001), and weight (p<0.001) was different between groups. The presence of joint pain before COVID-19 infection was significantly higher (P=0.01) in hospitalised (3.5%) than in non-hospitalised (1.6%) COVID-19 survivors. No differences in the presence of previous arthritis (P=0.212) or osteoarthritis (P=0.549) were found between the two groups. Both groups experienced similar worsening symptoms of their previous rheumatological conditions. A significant higher proportion (P<0.001) of hospitalised patients (18.9%) developed “de novo” joint pain when compared with non-hospitalised patients (5.5%).

Conclusion: This exploratory study shows that joint pain seems more likely to occur in hospitalised patients compared to non-hospitalised patients. Experiencing COVID-19 worsened the symptoms of rheumatological pain conditions in both hospitalised and non-hospitalised COVID-19 survivors. Rheumatological pain will need attention in COVID-19 survivors independently of hospitalisation or not.

REFERENCES:
[2] Fernández-de-las-Peñas C, Palacios-Ceña D, Arendt-Nielsen L, Time course prevalence of post-COVID pain in patients with mild symptoms, were reported, one in each group. The titers of anti-RBD after two doses of ChAdOx1 were higher compared to two doses of CoronaVac (6,03 BAU/mL vs 4,67 BAU/mL, p < 0,001). However, few studies in the literature assessed the safety and immunogenicity of the COVID-19 heterologous vaccine schedules in patients with RA.

Background: Patients with immune-mediated rheumatic diseases (IMRDs) have been prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination to mitigate the infection severity risks. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are at a high risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes, especially those under immunosuppression or with comorbidities associated. However, few studies in the literature assessed the safety and immunogenicity of the COVID-19 heterologous vaccine schedules in patients with RA.

Methods: These data are from the study “SAFER - Safety and Efficacy on COVID-19 Vaccine in Rheumatic Diseases,” a Brazilian multicentric prospective phase IV study to evaluate COVID-19 vaccine in IMRDs in Brazil. Immunogenicity and adverse events (AEs) in patients with RA of all centers were assessed after two doses of ChAdOx1 plus additional dose of BNT162b2 or after two doses of inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine CoronaVac plus additional dose of BNT162b2. The titers of neutralizing antibodies against the receptor-biding domain of protein spike (S) of SARS-CoV-2 (anti-RBD) were measured by chemiluminescence test after each dose of immunizers. Proportions between groups were compared using the chi-square and Fisher’s exact tests for categorical variables. Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) before and after vaccination was assessed using the McNemar test.

Results: A total of 107 patients with RA were included in the study, most of them female, with a mean age of 46 years. Biological disease modifying anti- rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) were used by 50% of the patients and conventional synthetics DMARDS in 48%. Two doses of CoronaVac plus additional dose of BNT162b2 was used in 66 patients and two doses of ChAdOx1 plus additional dose of BNT162b2 in 41. Only mild AEs were observed, mainly after the first dose. The most common AEs after all doses, regardless of the immunizer type, were pain at the injection, headache, arthralgia and myalgia. ChAdOx1 had a higher frequency of pain at the injection (66% vs 32%, p < 0.001) and arthralgia (68% vs 15%, p < 0.001) compared to CoronaVac. No patients had flare after the vaccine.

Conclusion: ChAdOx1, CoronaVac, and BNT162b2 vaccines are safe in RA patients. The frequency of local adverse effects, particularly pain at the injection site, was higher with ChAdOx1 compared with CoronaVac and BNT162b2.
site, is high. AEs are more frequent with ChAdOx1, especially after the first dose. The use of the immunizers does not change the degree of inflammatory activity of the disease. The immunogenicity of the two heterologous regimens was similar.

REFERENCES:

Methods: Inconsistency was evaluated using the I² statistic. All observational studies were included. Chi-square test was used to test the hypothesis of no significant difference between the two groups. The mean age of the patients with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases: results from the EULAR Coronavirus Vaccine (COVAX) physician-reported registry. Ann Rheum Dis. 2022;81(5):695-709.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4213

Table 1. Characteristics of the individual studies included in the meta-analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publish Year</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Treatments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian Ammitzbüll</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>GC therapy, bDMARDs therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camille Le Moine</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>csDMARDs therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lars Erik Bartels</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Peng Wang</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>Clodoveo Ferri</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>30</td>
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</table>

A total of 5 observational studies comprising 502 RA patients were identified (Table 1). The seropositivity rate in patients with RA was 0.701 (95% CI: 0.557-0.845) after vaccination with SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. Drugs used by patients with RA had an impact on the seropositivity rate. The seropositivity rate of RA patients undergoing SARS-CoV-2 vaccination was 0.713 (95% CI: 0.544-0.898), 0.764 (95% CI: 0.593-0.935) and 0.625 (95% CI: 0.546-0.704), respectively. Patients with csDMARDs treatment had the lowest seropositivity rate than bDMARDs treatment (Figure 1).

Methods: Systematic searches of the CBM, CNKI, China Science and Technology Journal Database, WanFang Data, PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, Cochrane Library, and Medline were performed. We included observational studies evaluating RA patients undergoing SARS-CoV-2 vaccination. Random effects model was used to calculate the pooled efficacy. Heterogeneity and risk of bias were examined with the I² and Egger tests to assess potential publication bias (STATA v.12.0).

Results: A total of 5 observational studies comprising 502 RA patients were identified (Table 1). The seropositivity rate in patients with RA was 0.701 (95% CI: 0.531-0.871) after vaccination with SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. Drugs used by patients with RA has an impact on the seropositivity rate. The seropositivity rate of RA patients using GC therapy is 0.73 (95% CI: 0.531-0.871), 0.713 (95% CI: 0.544-0.898), and 0.625 (95% CI: 0.546-0.704), respectively. Patients with csDMARDs treatment had the lowest seropositivity rate than bDMARDs treatment (Figure 1).

Conclusions: After vaccination with SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, the seropositivity rates of RA patients using csDMARDs have the lowest seropositivity rate.

Keywords: COVID-19, Vaccination/immunization, Rheumatoid arthritis, RA, Autoimmune disease, Colombian registry.
REFERENCES:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARD Diagnosis</th>
<th>N=209</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spondyloarthropathies</td>
<td>60 (28.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic lupus erythematosus</td>
<td>45 (21.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic sclerosis</td>
<td>24 (11.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sjögren’s syndrome</td>
<td>15 (7.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasculitis</td>
<td>19 (9.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myositis</td>
<td>9 (4.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3 (1.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5059

Table 1. Clinical characteristics, COVID-19 symptoms, and therapy of the two groups. Values in brackets are expressed as percentages unless specified. Musculoskeletal diseases: osteoarthritis and osteoporosis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rheumatoid arthritis</th>
<th>Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=111</td>
<td>N=89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTIVE SMOKERS</td>
<td>13 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>24 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMORBIDITIES</td>
<td>64 (58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular</td>
<td>26 (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine</td>
<td>24 (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal</td>
<td>11 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoplastic</td>
<td>12 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS</td>
<td>96 (86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>50 (45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional symptoms</td>
<td>52 (47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory symptoms</td>
<td>100 (90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal symptoms</td>
<td>32 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THERAPY</td>
<td>88 (79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAIDs</td>
<td>41 (37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids</td>
<td>24 (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotics</td>
<td>33 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen</td>
<td>6 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heparin</td>
<td>8 (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where not indicated, p value >0.5

Background: It is known that rheumatologic patients often present a course of COVID-19 similar to that of the general population. Some factors are linked to a worse COVID-19 outcome, such as moderate glucocorticoid (GC) dose, high body mass index (BMI), and comorbidities.

Objectives: To describe the outcome of COVID-19 in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in terms of symptoms, therapy and need for hospitalization compared to a control group. Also, to evaluate the variation in disease activity before and after COVID-19.

Methods: In this monocentric prospective study, we recruited consecutive adult patients with RA classified according to the ACR-EULAR 2010 criteria who received a diagnosis of COVID-19 through molecular or rapid antigen swab tests between September 2020 and December 2022. Demographic and clinical data, including age, BMI, smoking habit, comorbidities, treatment at the diagnosis of COVID-19, duration of COVID-19, symptoms related to the infection and therapy required, together with the vaccination status were collected through a self-administered questionnaire. We compared DAS28-CRP before the infection and at the first visit after the resolution. As controls (Cs), individuals with COVID-19 but with no referred diagnosis of rheumatic/autoimmune disease were recruited.

Results: We enrolled 111 patients affected by RA (males 15%, median age 56 years, IQR 25) and 89 Cs (males 44%, median age 47 years, IQR 43), whose demographic and clinical characteristics are reported in Table 1. The median RA disease duration was 108 months (IQR 201). At the COVID-19 diagnosis, 62 patients (56%) were assuming csDMARDs, 67 (60%) bDMARDs, and 18 (16%) GC with a median prednisone equivalent dose of 4 mg/day (IQR 1). DAS28-CRP was available for 62 patients, with a median value of 1.67 (IQR 2.71); 42 patients (60%) were in remission (Figure 1). Before developing COVID-19, only 35 (32%) RA patients and 42 (47%) Cs had completed the vaccine cycle, which was performed by mRNA vaccine in all the patients and 87% of Cs. The median COVID-19 duration was 18 days (IQR 18) for RA patients and 14 days (IQR 13.5) for Cs (p<0.7). Cs reported a significantly higher frequency of constitutional symptoms (headache and asthenia) compared to RA patients (p<0.00001). When hospitalization was required, RA patients received heparin more frequently than Cs (p<0.039). Once COVID-19 was resolved, RA patients were evaluated after a median of 2 months (IQR 2). DAS28-CRP was available for 68 patients, with a median value of 1.61 (IQR 1.77); 42 patients (62%) were in remission (Figure 1). No differences in terms of COVID-19 duration, clinical manifestations, and therapy emerged comparing RA patients in remission (40%; 58%) with patients with the active disease before COVID-19 (29%; 42%). Also, in vaccinated subjects, the outcome of COVID-19 was similar in RA patients and Cs, irrespective of RA activity.

Conclusion: COVID-19’s impact on patients with RA was not significantly different from the general population, even for patients with active RA. Patients did not suffer from reactivation of RA because of COVID-19. In our opinion, these positive results could be ascribed to the massive vaccination campaign.

REFERENCES:
Background: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) has diverse and wide array of clinical presentations ranging from asymptomatic to severe disease. The exact pathophysiological mechanism of severe COVID-19 is still obscure; however, unrestrained immune response, exaggerated systemic inflammation, endothelial activation, and vascular damage are implicated in its pathogenesis similar to systemic sclerosis (SSc) and autoimmune diseases [1-2].

Objectives: to assess the clinical presentation and worse outcomes of COVID-19 in SSc patients and evaluate the effects of SSc features on the clinical course of COVID-19

Methods: This multicentre, retrospective, observational study included SSc patients with COVID-19 diagnosis which was confirmed by SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR or suggestive symptoms with typical radiologic pulmonary findings. Clinical features of SSc and associated interstitial lung disease (ILD) were evident in 57.1% of the patients. SSc-specific treatments were low-dose glucocorticoids and mycophenolate. We found 25.5% hospitalization, 16.3% respiratory support, 3.6% intensive care unit admission, 2.7% long-COVID, and 2.7% mortality rate in SSc patients. ILD and ≥1 comorbidity were more frequent in inpatients compared to outpatients (82.1% vs 49.4%, p=0.005; 67.9% vs 42.7%, p=0.051; respectively). Risk factors for respiratory failure were ILD (OR:7.49, 95%CI:1.63-34.46, p=0.01), ≥1 comorbidity (OR:4.55, 95%CI 1.39-14.88, p=0.01), having a higher physician global assessment score at the last outpatient visit (OR 2.73, 95% CI: 1.22-6.10, p=0.01), and use of MMF at the time of getting the infection (OR: 5.16, 95 %CI: 1.79-14.99, p=0.003) by univariate analysis. Having ≥1 comorbidity was the only significant predictor of the need for respiratory support in COVID-19 (OR:5.78, 95%CI:1.14-29.33, p=0.03). In the early post-COVID-19 period, 17% of patients reported the progression of the Raynaud phenomenon, and 10.6% of patients developed new digital ulcers. Progression or new onset of dyspnea and cough were detected in 28.3% and 11.4% of patients, respectively.

Conclusion: SSc-related ILD, severe disease activity, and use of mycophenolate might be related to adverse outcomes of COVID-19, and having comorbidity is an independent risk factor for respiratory support.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. The comparison of pre-COVID-19 characteristics of SSc patients according to need of respiratory support (n=110)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respiratory Support Required</th>
<th>Support Required or Not Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean±SD</td>
<td>51.1±12.94 vs 53.2±13.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age≥65 years, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (13) vs 4 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, female n (%)</td>
<td>83 (90.2) vs 16 (88.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, years (median, min-max)</td>
<td>10.5 (1-41) vs 10.5 (3-23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISSc/SSc, n (%)</td>
<td>60 (65.6)/32 (48.9) vs 9 (50)/9 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRSS, median (IQR)</td>
<td>11 (10) vs 12 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD, n (%)</td>
<td>47 (51.6) vs 16 (88.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVC, means SD</td>
<td>87.9±18.99 vs 82.8±17.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMH, n (%)</td>
<td>8 (9) vs 4 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular involvement, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (11.2) vs 4 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of DLU, n (%)</td>
<td>44 (44.8) vs 10 (55.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-centromere positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>24 (27.3) vs 2 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-keratinocyte I positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>47 (54) vs 10 (55.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidity≥1, n (%)</td>
<td>40 (43.5) vs 14 (77.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab, n (%)</td>
<td>6 (6.6) vs 2 (11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycophenolate, n (%)</td>
<td>21 (23.3) vs 11 (61.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid, n (%)</td>
<td>45 (49.5) vs 13 (72.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoid ≥10mg, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (4.4) vs 3 (23.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution of SSc specific treatment, n (%)</td>
<td>46 (52.9) vs 5 (31.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-COVID-19 PGA, median (IQR)</td>
<td>1 (0) vs 1 (1)</td>
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</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6171

AB1322 COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SYSTEMIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES: OUR EXPERIENCE IN DAKAR, SENEGAL (SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA)

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Inflammatory arthritides, COVID

B. S. Kane1, M. Dieng1, B. Fall1, M. Sow1, A. T. Lernarbo2, M. A. Ndour2, A. C. Ndaio3, S. Ndongo3, A. Pouye1, Cheikh Anta DIOP University, Internal Medicine, Dakar, Senegal;2Cheikh Anta DIOP University of Dakar, Nephrology, Dakar, Senegal

Background: There are paucity data regarding the Covid-19 pandemic on the management of systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases in sub-Saharan Africa.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to assess the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the follow-up of patients with systemic inflammatory diseases and their adherence to vaccination against SARS-CoV-2.

Methods: We performed a multicentric cross-sectional study between August 1st and October 31st, 2021. The study targeted the patients diagnosed for systemic diseases according to the international criteria. The patients were followed in the departments of Internal Medicine, Rheumatology and Nephrology of 04 hospitals in Dakar (Senegal). The survey was based on records of 13 questions (with responses collected from the patients' medical records) and was completed by a telephone interview with 38 potential questions. All responses were collected using a web-based application and then exported and analyzed using SPSS 26 software.

Results: 131 patients were included with a mean age of 41.5 years (+/-12.4) and a sex ratio of 0.08. Inflammatory rheumatic diseases included: Rheumatoid arthritis (47.3%), Systemic lupus erythematosus (22.9%), Autoimmune myositis (10.7%), Sjogren’s syndrome (6.9%), Systemic sclerosis (4.6%), Spondylarthritis (2.3%), Antiphospholipid syndrome (1.5%), ANCA-associated vasculitis (1.5%),
Adult-onset Still’s disease (0.8%), Systemic sarcoïdosis (0.8%) and Relapsing polychondritis (0.8%). Patients reported missing one or more follow-up appointments in 45%, a drug break (33.6%) regarding particularly the methotrexate (21/44 of patients: 47.7%) and hydroxychloroquine (18/44 patients: 40.9%) with a flare-up of their disease in 31% of cases. Covid-19 infection was confirmed in 11 patients (8.4%). Our survey showed that 47 patients (35.8%) were vaccinated with: Ad.26.COV2.S (40.4%), chAdOx1 nCoV-19 (27.7%) and BBIBP-CorV (31.9%). Side effects were reported by 21 of 47 patients (45%) only after the first dose. 2 of 47 (4.25%) patients had a medically confirmed flare. 84 (64.2%) patients were not vaccinated. Fear of vaccine side effects and the effects of vaccine on systemic disease were the main reasons for non-adherence to vaccination.

Conclusion: The covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the follow-up of patients with systemic inflammatory diseases in Daka. Vaccine hesitancy is a reality in these patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6175

AB1323

ANALYSIS OF ADVERSE EFFECTS AFTER VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19 IN PATIENTS WITH IMMUNO-MEDIATED RHEUMATIC DISEASES IN MANAUS – AMAZONAS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Vaccination/immunization, COVID

M. M. Sousa Dias 1, N. Sexas de Melo 1, S. E. B. Dias 1, C. Pinheiro Martins 1, V. Miki Pang Takatanii 1, R. Beatriz Nazareth Alagia 1, B. Guimarães Dutra 1, G. Bacellar Marques 1, D. Queiroz Rego 1, D. Buzaglo Gonçalves 1, C. Telles 1, S. Ribeiro 2, Universidade Federal do Amazonas, Faculdade de Medicina, Manaus/AM, Brazil

Background: Immune-Mediated Rheumatic Diseases (IMRD) are characterized by a chronic inflammatory response, have several clinical manifestations and are more susceptible to infections and worse prognosis. Thus, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to reduce morbidity-mortality, vaccination is an effective method of prevention. However, there are not enough studies that encompass this group of patients, leaving many doubts about the adverse effects and its safety and effectiveness.

Objectives: Analyze the adverse effects observed in patients with IMRD after vaccination against COVID-19.

Methods: Observational, longitudinal, bidirectional research, with follow-up of groups of patients with IMRD immunized with vaccines made available by the Programa Nacional de Vacinação with Coronavac (Instituto Butantan), AstraZeneca (BioManguinhos/Fiocruz), Pfizer/BioNtech and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). Sociodemographic data and data on the adverse effects presented were collected through a diary delivered to each patient, filed on an online platform. This study was approved by the local Ethics and Research Committee.

Results: 223 patients over 18 years of age were included, the mean age is 42.79±15, 83% women. The main DRIM: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (39%) and Rheumatoid Arthritis (33.6%). In the 1st dose, 78.3% of the vaccines applied were Coronavac, 18.9% AstraZeneca and 2.8% Pfizer/BioNtech, the adverse effects found were: Pain at the injection site (49.3%), Headache (43.3%), Tiredness (34.3%) and Nausea (21.6%). In the 2nd dose, with the same vaccines applied as the previous dose, the adverse effects: Pain at the injection site (44.6%), Headache (33.9%), Tiredness and Vertigo (21.5%). In the 3rd dose, 55.3% of AstraZeneca, 44.2% of Pfizer and 0.4% of Janssen, in relation to adverse effects: Pain at the injection site (65.2%), Headache (41.8%), Tiredness (36.2%) and Edema and hardening of the skin at the injection site (31.9%). For the 4th dose, the AstraZeneca (14.9%) and Pfizer (85.1%) vaccines were applied, the adverse effects found: Pain at the injection site (58.5%), Hardening of the skin at the injection site injection (24.4%), Headache (19.5%), Tiredness (17.1%).

Conclusion: It is observed that the adverse effects presented after each administered dose are mild to moderate, more frequent; pain at the injection site and headache without significant differences compared to the general adult population.

REFERENCES:
Background: Children infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) usually present minimal symptoms or are asymptomatic. Nevertheless, a subset of children 2-6 weeks after the initial SARS-CoV-2 infection develops a postinfectious SARS-CoV-2-related multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). Recently, transient expansion of TRBV11-2 T cell clonotypes in MIS-C was associated with signatures of inflammation and T cell activation, however, the underlying pathophysiology of MIS-C is not fully understood [1].

Objectives: The purpose of our project is to characterize the complexity of cell populations and capture cellular heterogeneity to uncover the regulatory networks and interactions that are disrupted during MIS-C flare with simultaneous profiling of gene expression and open chromatin landscape from the same nuclei.

Methods: Samples of peripheral blood mononuclear cells from patients with MIS-C diagnosed at the University Children’s Hospital, University Medical Center Ljubljana, were collected during the presentation before any treatment and at 6-12 months in remission. The primary aim is to identify which regulatory networks are driving inflammation in MIS-C flare, for which we are performing single cell Multiome ATAC + Gene Expression Sequencing. To enable simultaneous profiling of epigenetic landscape and gene expression from the same nuclei, we are using Chromium Next GEM Single Cell Multiome ATAC + Gene Expression Kit from 10X Genomics.

Results: We included 32 patients with MIS-C from whom we collected paired blood samples during the initial presentation before treatment and at 6-12 months in remission. In single cell multomic experiment we included 10 patients with paired samples, with the most viable cell count prior cryopreservation. All samples that are included into multomic single cell analysis have 75%-99% viability prior cryopreservation. In the protocol the key is to remove remaining granulocytes causing high mitochondrial RNA burden and extensively optimize the dilution factor of lysis buffer and the length of cell lysis step in order to get intact nuclei with no significant blebbing. Afterward, the single cell ATAC libraries as well as single-cell gene expression libraries are constructed and sequenced. Data are undergoing pairwise analysis to compare the cell population heterogeneity, expression profile and open chromatin landscape in the time of the initial presentation of MIS-C and in the remission, with Cell ranger software as well as R package scREG [2], and custom scripting. In the second step we will inspect if the resulting altered transcriptomic signature from single-cell experiment is present on larger cohort.

In that regard, we will perform bulk transcriptomic profiling on all paired collected samples during the initial presentation of MIS-C before treatment and at 6-12 months in remission.

Conclusion: The results of this project are expected to enlighten the underlying pathophysiology of MIS-C flare and thus support clinical decision on more targeted treatment. The identified disrupted networks during MIS-C flare could lead the way to establish an early diagnosis and improve long-term outcome, including prevention of myocardial and neuropsychological impairment. Moreover, a better understanding of the disrupted regulatory networks that are driving inflammation in MIS-C, could lead to new insights into diseases with similar clinical presentations as Kawasaki Disease.

REFERENCES

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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DIFFERENCES IN ADVERSE EVENTS EXPERIENCED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES AND HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AFTER SARS-CoV-2 VACCINATION

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, COVID, Safety

Background: Since individuals with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRDs) were excluded from the SARS-CoV-2 vaccination trials (1), uncertainty on the tolerability of the vaccines in this population was high. This caused a lower willingness to be vaccinated compared to the general population. Gaining more information on vaccine reaction in this population is critical.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to improve knowledge of the tolerability of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in patients with IRD and to identify potential specific risks of this population by comparison with a healthy cohort.

Methods: IRD patients were recruited from the outpatient clinic of the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology at the hospital of the LMU Munich. Healthcare workers served as healthy controls. Questionnaires were used to identify adverse effects in all study participants after each SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and to obtain information about patients’ disease and therapy. Descriptive statistics and non-parametric tests were used to discern differences between IRD patients and controls.

Results: 235 IRD patients (60% female), mean (±SD) age 54 (±15) years, and 102 healthy individuals (67% female), mean age 48 (±16) years, were recruited between Jan 2021 and Sep 2022. Pain at the injection site and fatigue were the most common adverse events in both groups. (Table 1) Patients presented adverse events significantly less often after the first vaccination (84.3%) (OR=0.274 [95% CI. 0.15-0.497]; P<0.0001). With 58.7% of patients and 77.5% of controls experiencing adverse events after the second vaccination the difference stayed significant (OR=0.391 [0.228-0.670]; P=0.001). Same goes for the third vaccination with 56.4% of patients and 69.3% of controls presenting adverse events (OR=0.573 [0.348-0.946]; P=0.029). No difference was seen when the occurrence of local effects were compared. However, systemic effects were experienced significantly less by patients compared to controls after the first (41.3% vs 59.8%) (P=0.002), second (38.7% vs 58.6%) (P=0.001) and third vaccination (39.0% vs 51.5%) (P=0.036). Younger age and female sex showed higher frequencies of adverse events in both groups. 2% of patients experienced an activation of their IRD. Serious adverse events did not occur.

Table 1. Adverse events after SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in patients and controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse effects</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Healthy controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. vaccination</td>
<td>2. vaccination 3. vaccination</td>
<td>1. vaccination 2. vaccination 3. vaccination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=235</td>
<td>n=233</td>
<td>n=218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>49.8 (117)</td>
<td>47.8 (115)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>29.4 (69)</td>
<td>27 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>6.8 (16)</td>
<td>8.2 (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td>5.5 (13)</td>
<td>6.4 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>15.3 (36)</td>
<td>12.9 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint pain</td>
<td>2.6 (6)</td>
<td>2.1 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle pain</td>
<td>13.2 (31)</td>
<td>12.0 (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.8 (16)</td>
<td>5.2 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>5.1 (12)</td>
<td>5.2 (12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: IRD patients are at no higher risk of experiencing adverse events than controls after SARS-CoV-2 vaccination. In fact, systemic effects seem to occur less frequently in patients compared to healthy individuals, which potentially shows an influence of IRDs or their therapies on vaccination reactions.

Background: COVID-19 cutaneous manifestations were first reported in February 2020, after a rash was listed as a sign of the virus. In 2020, an article emphasized the absence of images among skin of color with respect to COVID-19 skin manifestations. Without detection and treatment, individuals with skin of color may experience a disproportionate incidence of morbidity and mortality.

Discussion of cutaneous findings in skin of color remains limited to reviews and individual studies, although there are meta-analyses that assess systemic manifestations among different races, investigations of various symptoms among people with skin of color, and overall comparison of systemic manifestations to cutaneous manifestations remains unreported to our knowledge.

Objectives: The objective of this meta-analysis was to quantify the frequency of reported cutaneous and systemic manifestations among different races. Methods: A search for studies on dermatologic and systemic manifestations associated with COVID-19 published before February 2022 was run on PubMed and Embase. Two independent reviewers screened abstracts and full manuscripts for eligibility based on the following criteria: studies included children or adult patients diagnosed with COVID-19 or temporal association to COVID-19, studies included assessment of cutaneous and systemic manifestations of individuals, studies identified cutaneous and systemic manifestations among different races, and studies were peer-reviewed case reports, original studies, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and letters to the editor. Race and the most common systemic and dermatologic manifestations were extracted from included studies. Event rates for each outcome by race were pooled using a single-arm meta-analysis and the random-effects model to account for heterogeneity.

Results: Seventeen studies, involving 2,525 patients, were selected. Pooled estimates for multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS) for Black, White, and Asian cases were 28% (95% CI, 18.8-40.7, p=0.001), 40.1% (95% CI, 23.0-60.1, p=0.332), and 20% (95% CI, 13.2-29.2, p=0.000), respectively. The most common manifestations were pyrexia, elevated inflammatory markers, cardiac dysfunction, and gastrointestinal symptoms. The frequency of elevated inflammatory markers within Black cases surpassed White and Asian cases (30.9%, 28.7%, and 19.6%). The percentage of Black cases for cardiac dysfunction exceeded White and Asian cases (38.5%, 25%, and 21.2%). The frequency of pyrexia reported among Asian and Black cases exceeded White cases (26.7%, 24.3%, and 15.3%). The prevalence of dermatologic manifestations in Black cases was 4.2% (95% CI, 0.8-19.8, p=0.000) compared to White and Asian cases, 70.7% (95% CI, 42.9-88.6, p=0.139) and 11.7% (95% CI, 9.0-15.1, p=0.000).

Conclusion: This meta-analysis highlights the discordance in reporting systemic manifestations compared to dermatologic manifestations by race in COVID-19 patients. Further investigation is needed to determine the underlying cause.

REFERENCES:
[2] Lester JC, Jia JL, Zhang L, Okoye GA, Linos E. Absence of images of skin manifestations in Black cases was 4.2% (95% CI, 0.8-19.8, p=0.000) compared to White and Asian cases, 70.7% (95% CI, 42.9-88.6, p=0.139) and 11.7% (95% CI, 9.0-15.1, p=0.000).

Objectives: The objective of the study was to examine changes over time in anti-SARS-CoV-2 spike protein IgG (anti-S IgG) values in RD patients compared with controls and investigate the effects of immunosuppressants on the values.

Methods: RD patients receiving glucocorticoids or immunosuppressants who were scheduled to receive two doses of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines were included. Patients not receiving these drugs and were attending the hospital for diseases other than RD or malignancies served as the control group (CG). Following the guidance of the American College of Rheumatology, some immunosuppressive drugs were withheld before and after vaccinations. Blood samples were collected before and 1, 3, and 6 months (M1, M3, M6) after the vaccinations, and anti-S IgG values were measured using SARS-CoV-2 IgG II Quant Reagent Kit (Abbott Laboratories, USA).

Results: BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine-received 289 RD patients (mean age 66.9 years) and 241 females and 48 males) and 33 controls (mean age 70.7 years) were mainly analyzed. Anti-S IgG values markedly increased in both groups at M1 (CG; 9751.5 (2385.3 – 21506.1), RD; 2300.8 (188.5 – 7671.7) AU/mL, expressed as median (25th to 75th percentiles)), subsequently decreased, and were significantly lower in the RD group than in the CG at all time points (CG; 5012.2 (2933.3 – 6628.4), RD; 1505.0 (459.0 – 3229.0) at M3, CG; 1353.6 (505.8 – 1910.3), RD; 402.0 (130.5 – 836.2) at M6). Regarding antibody positivity, all patients in the CG tested positive at all time points. The antibody positivity rate was significantly lower in the RD group (85.0% at M1, 92% at M3, 86.4% at M6). In comparisons by disease, anti-S IgG values were significantly lower in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, vasculitis and dermatomyositis/polymyositis. In comparisons by treatment, anti-S IgG values were significantly lower in patients receiving rituximab 8.9 (8.8 – 68.2) at M1, 517.6 (26.4 – 144.0) at M3, 45.3 (23.1 – 67.4) at M6, mycophenolate mofetil 258.4 (11.1 – 713.7), 395.1 (18.0 – 2096.1), 212.3 (14.2 – 458.9), cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated antigen 4-immunoglobulin (CTLA4-Ig) 336.8 (33.5 – 1166.7), 324.9 (111.2 – 480.6), 84.0 (379.7 – 118.7),
and prednisolone (PSL) [449.4 (26.3 – 2920.1), 709.6 (135.5 – 2008.5), 201.4 (44.7 – 602.5)]. A multivariate analysis with a linear mixed model indicated that there was a significant inverse association between age and the extent of changes in anti-S IgG values from M1, indicating greater decreases in antibody values at an older age from M1 [-75 (-133 – -18), expressed as regression coefficient (95% confidence interval)]. The extent of the decrease in anti-S IgG values was also significantly greater in males [-1873 (-3604 – -142)] and patients treated with PSL [-2071 (-3590 – -531)], CTLAA-lg [4018 (-6606 – -1429)], TNF inhibitors [-2009 (-3861 – -157)], and IL-6 inhibitors [-2422 (-4488 – -353)], Adverse reactions were described in both the IG group and RD group.

Conclusion: These results showed that SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccination is effective and safe in patients with RD treated with a variety of immunosuppressants. However, even following the ACR guidance on withholding drugs, anti-S IgG values were lower and significantly decreased over time depending on disease and immunosuppressive drugs. Therefore, relative short-term repetitive vaccination might be warranted in patients with RD receiving immunosuppressive drugs.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Nilo.

Methods: Objectives: To describe the characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) present greater severity of SARS-CoV-2 infection compared to the general population, particularly those with glomerulonephritis and who are treated with glucocorticoids.

Results: A total of 399 patients were included, 93% female, with a mean age of 40.9 years (SD 12.2), 39.6% had at least one comorbidity. At the time of infection, 54.9% were receiving glucocorticoids, 30.8% immunosuppressants, and 3.3% biological agents. SARS-CoV-2 infection was mild in most cases, while 4.6% had a severe course and/or died. The latter had comorbidities, used glucocorticoids and had antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) more frequently and higher disease activity at the time of infection. In the multivariate analysis, high blood pressure (OR 5.1, 95% CI 1.9-13.1), the presence of APS (4.7, 95% CI 1.2-15.8), and the use of glucocorticoids (10mg/day or more: OR 5.5, 95% CI 1.8-15.0), the diagnosis of APS (4.7, 95% CI 1.2-15.8), and the use of glucocorticoids were significantly associated with severe COVID-19.

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Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

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REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.
Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Rheumatoid arthritis, Safety

S. Kojo1, Y. Kondo1, Y. Sakai1, S. Kasai1, J. Kikuchi1, Y. Kaneko1. Keio University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis, two messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) have benefitted most people worldwide. However, the safety of vaccine has not been established in patients with rheumatic arthritis (RA). Previous studies reported that flares of underlying RA following SARS–CoV-2 vaccination were not so frequent, and there was no report of severe flare. However, those reports did not assess patients’ disease activity with validated disease activity measures and described only self-reported questionnaires. Hence, the effect of vaccination on disease activity in patients with RA is still unclear. Understanding the association between arthritis flare in patients in RA and vaccination is important to overcome vaccine hesitancy.

Objectives: To clarify the effect of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination on disease activity in patients with RA and identify risk factors associated with RA flares following the vaccination.

Methods: This is a prospective cohort study in patients with rheumatic musculoskeletal disease including RA who received the SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines BNT162b2 or mRNA-1273 from March 16, 2021, at Keio University Hospital. The vaccination frequency was evaluated using the number of 28 joints using c-reactive protein (DAS28), simplified disease activity index (SDAI), and clinical disease activity index (CDAI) before and after 2nd dose of vaccination. All analysis in this study was carried out with JMP.

Results: We enrolled 318 patients with RA in this analysis. The mean age was 61 years old, and 283 (89%) were female. The mean DAS28-CRP before vaccination and after 2nd dose of vaccination were 1.70±0.71 and 1.78±0.81, respectively (p=0.84). The increase in DAS28-CPR after vaccination > 0.6 was observed in 53 patients (16.7%), and among them, 23 patients (7.3%) had treatment intensification. The types of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, humoral immunogenicity including neutralizing antibody titer and its adverse effects including systemic reaction (fever or general fatigue) were not different between the flare and non-flare groups (9.8 vs 9.1 U/mL, p=0.88; 31.2% vs 18.7%, p=0.32, respectively). In the flare group, swollen joint counts (SJC), hourly erythrocyte sedimentation rates, DAS28-CRP, and SDAI were significantly higher than those in the non-flare group (0.5 vs 0.0, p<0.000; 13 vs 11 mm/h, p=0.01; 1.57 vs 1.45, p<0.001; 3.9 vs 2.4, p=0.02, respectively). Multivariable logistic regression analysis revealed that the number of swollen joints before vaccination contributed RA exacerbation after SARS-CoV-2 vaccination significantly (odds ratio 1.3, 95% confidence interval 1.06–1.65, p=0.01). The receiver operating curve analysis identified that having two or more swollen joint counts predicts RA flares after vaccination with an area under the curve of 0.64, a sensitivity of 42.3%, and a specificity of 86.9%.

Conclusion: Disease flare with requirement of treatment intensification is observed in 8.3% of patients with RA. Patients with higher disease activity, especially having two or more swollen joint counts are at high risk of flare following mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine vaccination.

Figure 1. Risk factors associated with RA flares after vaccination

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1331
COVID VACCINATION AND ADVERSE REACTIONS AMONG PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: WHAT IS THE RHEUMATOLOGIST’S ROLE?

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Myositis, COVID

A. Valle,1, S. Mahmood,1, Montefiore Medical Center, Medicine, Bronx, United States of America; Montefiore Medical Center: Einstein Campus, Division of Rheumatology, Bronx, United States of America

Background: Since 2021, EULAR has advocated for the vaccination of patients with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases [1]. However, there is significant patient hesitancy, and it is often attributed to concern regarding vaccine adverse events (AEs) [2]. Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IMMs) are an example of rare rheumatic conditions in which population-specific data is limited and rheumatologists may play vital role in a vaccine discussion.

Objectives: Our aim was to evaluate COVID vaccination and AEs rates in patients with IIM and determine whether rheumatologist-initiated vaccine discussions correlated with patient vaccination rates.

Methods: The Montefiore Medical Center Myositis registry was created from patients that met 2017 EULAR/ACR classification criteria for IIM. Patients without a history of rheumatology care at our hospital or those who had died prior to COVID vaccines availability were excluded. Demographics and IIM subtype were documented. Vaccination details, including vaccination type and number, were recorded. Medical records were reviewed for minor and major vaccine AEs and documentation of vaccination (OR: 0.53; p=0.037) and RA as the underlying AIIRDs (OR: 0.62; p=0.041).

Conclusion: While majority of IIM patients have received the primary series, the booster and bivalent series are much less prevalent. IIM patients whose rheumatologist discussed vaccination were more likely to be vaccinated. This signifies the importance of rheumatologist-initiated vaccine discussions. We reported less minor AEs and the same frequency of major AEs as larger, self-reported IIM studies.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Comparison of vaccination status between patients who experienced a rheumatologist-led vaccination discussion and those who did not.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1332
CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND RISK FACTORS OF COVID-19 IN AUTOIMMUNE INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES: A LARGE REAL-WORLD SURVEY IN CHINA

Keywords: COVID, Vaccination/immunization

Y. Geng1, Y. Fan3, Z. Zhang2. Peking University First Hospital, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Department, Beijing, China

Background: The impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations with autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases (AIIRDs) has been of great concern.

Objectives: The aim is to report the clinical features, outcomes as well as risk factors of infection and hospitalization in Chinese AIIRDs patients during the big wave of infection last month.

Methods: A real-world survey was conducted during the peak of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (8 December 2022 to 13 January 2023) in China. All patients completed the survey via internet or at the rheumatology outpatient and inpatient clinic of a tertiary hospital in Beijing with a medical diagnosis of AIIRDs. Clinical features, outcomes and risk factors of COVID-19 in AIIRDs were analyzed. The main outcome were SARS-CoV2 infection and hospital admission related to COVID-19. We apply the multivariable logistic regression model to assess risk factors for the infection and hospitalization.

Results: Totally 2005 patients with AIIRDs completed the survey. The leading AIIDs were systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (1039, 51.8%), rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (290, 14.5%) and Behcet's disease (BD) (231, 11.5%). There were 1690 (84.3%) patients who were infected and 315 (15.7%) patients not infected. The independent factors protecting patients from COVID-19 infection were the time interval of less than 3 months from last vaccination (OR: 0.53; p=0.037) and RA as the underlying AIIRDs (OR: 0.62; p=0.041). 57 out of 1690 patients (3.4%) were hospitalized. 46 (80.7%) of them experienced severe critical outcome. In multivariable logistic regression analysis, independent risk factors for hospitalisation with COVID-19 were age over 60 years (OR: 11.5;p<0.001), with comorbidity (OR: 183;p=0.045) and SLE as the underlying AIIRDs (OR: 2.59;p=0.038).

Conclusion: Our study suggested that time from last vaccination of less than 3 months and having RA decreased the risk of COVID-19 in AIIRDs. Among the infected patients, older age, having previous comorbidity and having SLE increased the risk of hospitalization.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2226
COVID-19

THE IMPACT OF IMMUNOCOMPROMISE ON OUTCOMES OF COVID-19 IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Outcome measures, COVID

C. Curtin1, J. Greenen- Baret1, S. Aston1, C. Deakin1. 1University College London, Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Despite children and young people (CYP) having a low risk for severe Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outcomes, there is still a degree of uncertainty related to their risk in the context of immunodeficiency or immuno-suppression, primarily due to significant reporting bias in most studies, as CYP characteristically experience milder or asymptomatic COVID-19 infection and the severe outcomes tend to be overestimated.

Objectives: To systematically evaluate the impact of immunosuppression on severe COVID-19 infection outcomes in CYP and perform a meta-analysis to estimate differences in outcomes compared to general population.

Methods: A comprehensive systematic review to identify globally relevant studies in immunosuppressed CYP and CYP in general population (defined as younger than 25 years of age) up to 31st October 2021 (to exclude vaccinated populations), was performed. Studies were included if they reported the two primary outcomes of our study, admission to intensive therapy unit (ITU) and mortality, while data on other outcomes, such as hospitalisation and need for mechanical ventilation were also collected. A meta-analysis estimated the pooled proportion for each severe COVID-19 outcome, using the inverse variance method. Random effects models were used to account for interstudy heterogeneity.

Results: The systematic review identified 30 eligible studies for each of the two populations investigated: immunosuppressed CYP (n=793) and CYP in general population (n=102,022). Our meta-analysis found higher estimated prevalence for hospitalization (46% vs. 18%), ITU admission (12% vs. 2%), mechanical ventilation (8% vs. 1%) and increased mortality due to severe COVID-19 infection (6.5% vs. 0.2%) in immunocompromised CYP compared to CYP in general population (Figure 1A-D depicts the pooled estimates for the above outcomes in immunocompromised CYP). This analysis shows an overall trend for more severe outcomes of COVID-19 infection in immunocompromised CYP, similar to adult studies.

Conclusion: This is the only up to date meta-analysis in immunocompromised CYP with high global relevance, which excluded reports from hospitalised cohorts alone and included 35% studies from low- and medium-income countries. Future research is required to characterise individual subgroups of immunocompromised patients, as well as impact of vaccination on severe COVID-19 outcomes.

Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Prof. Lucy Wedderburn, Professor of Pediatric Rheumatology at University College London Institute of Child Health for providing useful comments.

Disclosure of Interests: Cozianna Curtin Speakers bureau: UCB, Grant/research support from: GSK, James Greenen- Baret: None declared, Samuel Aston: None declared, Claire Deakin: None declared.

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INTAKE OF ACETAMINOPHEN SUPPRESSES ANTIVIRAL HUMORAL IMMUNE RESPONSES IN PATIENTS WITH RA FOLLOWING VACCINATION WITH ANTI-SARS-COV-2 mRNA BASED VACCINES

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis, Vaccination/Immunization

K. Schmiedeburg1,2, J. Beyer3, I. Abel4,5, N. Vuilleumier6, M. Schwarzmüller4, S. Pagano7, J. Von Kempis1, A. Rubbert-Roth1.

1Kantonsspital St.Gallen, Department of Rheumatology, St. Gallen, Switzerland; 2University Hospital Bern, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Switzerland; 3Institute of Forensic Medicine, Kantonsspital St.Gallen, Department of Forensic Toxicology, St. Gallen, Switzerland; 4University Hospital of Zürich, Department of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology, Zürich, Switzerland; 5University of Zurich, Institute of Medical Virology, Zürich, Switzerland; 6Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), Laboratory Medicine Division Geneva, Genève, Switzerland

Background: Acetaminophen (APAP = paracetamol) may potentially impact vaccine-associated immune responses as the intake of APAP has been associated with a worse outcome in tumor patients receiving checkpoint inhibitors.[1] Different DMARD regimen have been shown to impair the humoral immune response to mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in patients with rheumatoid arthritis but the effect of paracetamol has not been explored thus far.

Objectives: To analyse whether the intake of APAP may interfere with antiviral humoral immune responses following two doses of an anti-SARS-CoV-2 mRNA based vaccine in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) on DMARD therapy.

Methods: The RECOVER trial (Rheumatoid Covid-19 Vaccine Immune Response) was a non-randomised, prospective observational control group trial and enrolled 77 RA patients on DMARD therapy and 21 healthy controls (HC). We performed a posthoc analysis of blood samples taken before the first vaccine dose (T0), two (T1) and three (T2) weeks after the first and second mRNA vaccine dose, and at 12th (T3) weeks. APAP intake was measured using ELISA. The antibody response (anti-S) to the receptor binding domain (RBD) within the SARS-CoV-2 S1 protein was measured with the Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 S (Roche Diagnostics GmbH) test. The neutralizing activity NT50 at week 12 was assessed using an HIV-based pseudovirus neutralization assay against Wuhan-Hu-1.

Results: Baseline characteristics of participants are detailed in Table 1. The immunogenicity analyses were based on 73 RA patients after exclusion of 4 patients with previously unnoticed SARS-CoV-2 infection (positive for anti-nucleoprotein at baseline). APAP was detected in serum samples from 34/73 (25%) RA patients and in 7/21 (33%) HC (least at one timepoint T0, T1 and/or T2). APAP intake in HC did not affect levels of anti-S at any timepoint and HC developed potent neutralizing activity (NT50 ≥ 250) at week 12. RA patients, who tested positive for APAP at T1, showed comparable anti-S levels at T1, T2 and T3 compared to RA patients not exposed to APAP. The detection of APAP at T2 corresponded to lower anti-S levels at T2 (Figure 1 A, B). The detection of APAP at T2 was associated with a significantly lower SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing activity at week 12 compared to patients without pervaccination APAP exposure (p<0.04) (Figure 1 C).

Conclusion: A decrease of antiviral humoral immune responses was observed in RA patients (but not in HC) who were exposed to APAP at the time of the second mRNA vaccine dose compared to patients in whom APAP was not detected. Our data suggest that the use of paracetamol within the time period around vaccination may impair vaccine-induced immune responses in patients with an already higher risk for blunted immune responses.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics: RA patients and HC with/without APAP exposure

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<th>HC (APAP –)</th>
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*APAP = acetaminophen

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3264

AB1336 EVALUATION OF THE IMMUNOGENICITY AND EFFICACY OF THE SARS-COV-2 VACCINE IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASES TREATED WITH BIOLOGICAL THERAPY

Keywords: COVID, Vaccination/immunization, bDMARD

Figure 1. Shows how the use of rituximab is significantly associated with not developing antibodies.
AB1337 COVID-19 AND JAKI: ANALYSIS AFTER THREE-YEAR PANDEMIC AT A SPANISH TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

Keywords: Targeted synthetic drugs, COVID

P. Muñoz Martínez1, L. Mas Sanchez2, E. Grau García1, A. M. Torrat Noves1, D. Ramos Castro1, C. Riesco Barcena1, A. V. Huaylla Quispe1, S. Leal Rodriguez1, I. Cánovas Olmos3, H. Charia1, L. Gonzalez Puig1, J. Ivorra Cortés1, I. Martínez Cordellat1, C. Nájera Herranz1, R. Negueroles Albuixech1, J. E. Oller Rodríguez1, F. Ortíz-Sanjuán1, E. Tovar-Sugranyes1, E. Vicens Bernabeu1, J. A. Román Ivorra1. HUP La Fe, Rheumatology Department, Valencia, Spain

Background: The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which has led to a world revolution in many spheres, especially in the field of health, for more than three years. It is important to take into account that patients who are immunocompromised, such as those treated with JAK inhibitors (JAKi) are at higher risk to get sick with COVID-19 and have a worse prognosis.

Objectives: To analyze the impact after a three-year pandemic in those patients treated with JAKi in a Rheumatology Department at a Spanish tertiary care hospital.

Methods: Retrospective longitudinal observational study of patients treated with JAKi from December 2019 to December 2022. Demographic and clinical variables were collected from the electronic medical record. Incidence of COVID-19 was considered as adverse event. Those infections which required hospitalization or were a threat to the patient’s life were categorized as serious adverse event. The proportion of COVID-19 vaccinated patients was analyzed.

Results: 209 patients treated with JAKi were included. Rheumatoid Arthritis was the most frequent disease (n=162) and tofacitinib the most used JAKi (n=89). 193 (92.34%) patients received at least 1 dose of the vaccine against COVID-19. 17 infections from COVID-19, 3 of them serious. The 92.34% of the patients were vaccinated. We didn’t notice any infection in patients treated withFilgotinib, probably because of the short time of commercialization and few patients treated. The scarce number of infections reported is remarkable, especially in the second part of the pandemic. This is probably due to the effectiveness of the vaccine, the success of vaccination campaigns and the normalization of the disease, with the consequent infradiagnosis.

Conclusion: In our series of patients, we observed an incidence of 17 infections from COVID-19, 3 of them serious. The 92.34% of the patients were vaccinated. We didn’t notice any infection in patients treated with Filgotinib, probably because of the short time of commercialization and few patients treated. The scarce number of infections reported is remarkable, especially in the second part of the pandemic. This is probably due to the effectiveness of the vaccine, the success of vaccination campaigns and the normalization of the disease, with the consequent infradiagnosis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1338 CLINICAL COURSE IN COVID 19 DISEASE IN IMMUNOSUPRESSED PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Comorbidities, COVID, Vaccination/Immunization

M. Mipkos1, E. Kaltsonoudis1, T. Zoï1, E. Pelechas1, N. Kougkas2, A. Garyfallos2, P. Voulgari1, A. Drosos1. 1University of Ioannina, Medical School, Department of Rheumatology, Ioannina, Greece; 2Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Internal Medicine, Hippokration Hospital, Thessaloniki, Greece

Background: Patients with pre-existing rheumatic diseases may be exacerbated during SARS-CoV-2 infection, or may develop new autoimmune features. Furthermore, immunosuppressive agents used to treat autoimmune-inflammation as well as comorbidities can also affect the disease outcome.

Objectives: To evaluate the outcome of rheumatic diseases after Covid 19 infection in patients diagnosed with rheumatic diseases, under various immunosuppressive treatment, as well as the effects of vaccines against Covid or antiviral treatment in this sensitive population group.

Methods: During the pandemic, 1493 patients with autoimmune or autoinflammatory disease who were continuously followed up in two tertiary hospitals in northern and northwestern Greece were included in the current study. The patients were compared with 769 controls after adjustment for age, sex, weight, vaccination status and comorbidities. Of the 1493 patients, 648 had rheumatoid arthritis, 282 psoriatic arthritis, 173 ankylosing spondylitis, 122 systemic lupus erythematosus, 98 Sjogren’s syndrome, 43 polymyalgia rheumatica, 34 mixed connective tissue disease or overlapping syndromes, 31 vasculitis, 27 systemic sclerosis, 18 myositis, 10 Behcet syndrome, 5 primary antiphospholipid syndrome and 2 had Familial Mediterranean Fever. The vast majority of patients and controls were fully vaccinated (82%) and 397 patients received antiviral treatment, 94% of them were fully vaccinated.

Results: Covid 19 disease in vaccinated patients with rheumatic diseases was shown to perform the same or about the same as those in the control group after adjustment for risk factors for severe disease. 19 of our patients required admission in the intensive care unit (62% full vaccinated) while a total of 12 died (66% non vaccinated). Major risk factors for severe disease were previous respiratory failure, chronic renal impairment, obesity, and failure to receive antiviral therapy. It was also shown that infection with Covid led to an exacerbation or induction of autoimmune disorders in 25 of the participants.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4263
Table 1. Efficacy and Safety of the SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis/Comorbidity</th>
<th>Total of patients n=209</th>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Sex (male/female)</th>
<th>Smoking, pack/year</th>
<th>RA duration</th>
<th>Rheumatoid factor</th>
<th>Anticitrullinated protein antibodies</th>
<th>Erosive RA</th>
<th>Extrarticular manifestations</th>
<th>ESR</th>
<th>CRP</th>
<th>HAG</th>
<th>DAS28</th>
<th>Prior COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axial Spondyloarthritis</td>
<td>12 (5.74%)</td>
<td>65.47±11.69</td>
<td>15 (12.71)/ 103 (87.29)</td>
<td>8.79±18.55</td>
<td>0.575 (0.66)</td>
<td>58 (55.77)</td>
<td>63 (53.39)</td>
<td>32 (27.11)</td>
<td>26 (22.03)</td>
<td>19.8±18.64</td>
<td>0.51±0.78</td>
<td>0.57±(0.66)</td>
<td>2.38±1.07</td>
<td>21 (17.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic Arthritis</td>
<td>23 (11%)</td>
<td>65.25±11.67</td>
<td>12 (11.54)/ 92 (88.46)</td>
<td>8.76±15.23</td>
<td>0.59±0.67</td>
<td>10 (71.43)</td>
<td>52 (62.54)</td>
<td>26 (25.00)</td>
<td>20 (19.23)</td>
<td>20.0±19.04</td>
<td>0.47±0.64</td>
<td>0.59±0.67</td>
<td>2.37±1.12</td>
<td>22 (20.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
<td>162 (77.51%)</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>72 (69.33)</td>
<td>7 (50.00)</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
<td>67.14±12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>10 (4.78%)</td>
<td>12 (11.54)/ 92 (88.46)</td>
<td>8.76±15.23</td>
<td>0.59±0.67</td>
<td>10 (71.43)</td>
<td>52 (62.54)</td>
<td>26 (25.00)</td>
<td>20 (19.23)</td>
<td>20.0±19.04</td>
<td>0.47±0.64</td>
<td>0.59±0.67</td>
<td>2.37±1.12</td>
<td>22 (20.19)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In this large cohort, Covid 19 disease was shown to affect patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases the same or approximately the same way as the general population if they are fully vaccinated and if they start timely antiviral treatment where indicated. Further research and monitoring of the results after the multiple mutations of the virus is advisable.

References: None.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DoI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4378

AB1339

Efficacy and Safety of the SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Rheumatoid arthritis, COVID19


Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and DMARDs are associated with a dysfunction of the cellular and humoral immune system that increases their susceptibility to infection, with vaccinations being one of the main infection prevention measures in these patients.

Objectives: To describe the efficacy and safety of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in a series of patients with RA.

Methods: Retrospective observational study of RA patients, fulfilling the ACR/EULAR 2010 classification criteria, vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus from December 2020 to October 2021, who had post-vaccination serology and subsequent follow-up for a minimum of 6 months in a university hospital. The efficacy and effectiveness of the vaccine was evaluated by analyzing the serological response (anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies) and the incidence of post-vaccination SARS-CoV-2 infection. Vaccine safety was investigated recording adverse events and RA flares. Logistic and linear multivariate regression analyzes adjusted for age, sex, and time elapsed from vaccination to serological determination were used to identify factors associated with vaccine response. Statistical analysis was carried out with Stata® and significance was set at p<0.05.

Results: We included 118 patients with RA (87.2% women, mean age 65.4±11.6 years, mean evolution 12.0±9.6 years) vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 (95.76% received the complete vaccination schedule). Patient characteristics regarding socio-demographic, clinical and laboratory RA related variables, as well as prior Covid infection are shown in Table 1.

Conclusion: In this large cohort, Covid 19 disease was shown to affect patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases the same or approximately the same way as the general population if they are fully vaccinated and if they start timely antiviral treatment where indicated. Further research and monitoring of the results after the multiple mutations of the virus is advisable.

References: None.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1340

Cryofibrinogenemia in Pre-COVID-19 and COVID-19 Era: A Comparative Study in a Single University Hospital

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Skin, COVID

Quantitative variables were compared using the student’s t-test. Blood was collected in citrated tubes for cryofibrinogen detection. Statistical analysis for immunological and serological analysis were collected from all patients. Blood was collected in citrated tubes for cryofibrinogen detection. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software. Quantitative variables were expressed as means±SD. Qualitative variables were compared using chi-squared test. Quantitative variables were compared using the student’s t-test.

**Methods:** Observational single-center study in northern Spain University Hospital of 134 patients with at least one positive cryofibrinogen determination, between January 2017 and March 2020 (preCOVID era) and March 2020 and December 2022 (COVID era). CF diagnosis was confirmed accordingly to reported criteria [3]. Clinical conditions, laboratory parameters, including immunological and serological analysis were collected from all patients. Blood was collected in citrated tubes for cryofibrinogen detection. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software. Quantitative variables were expressed as means±SD. Qualitative variables were compared using chi-squared test. Quantitative variables were compared using the student’s t-test.

**Results:** CF was confirmed in 19/134 (14.2%) patients with at least one positive cryofibrinogen test determination (5 in preCOVID era; 14 in COVID era). Patients of COVID-19 era were more frequently male (64.3%) to 40% and younger (43.6 to 60.6 years). Main features are shown in Table 1. In preCOVID era most of cases were essential CF (60%) and in COVID era most of them were secondary ones (64.3%). The 33.3% of secondary CF were mainly due to COVID. Cutaneous manifestations were similar in both subgroups, especially as purpuric macules (perniosis-like) in acral distributions. Antiaggregant drugs and corticosteroids were used more frequently in preCOVID era. The comparative incidence after and before COVID is shown in Figure 1. From patients with positive cryofibrinogen test, a greater proportion in preCOVID had a CF.

**Conclusion:** CF is a rare disorder with a low prevalence. This study showed the change in the trend of CF subtypes, probably due to the influence of the COVID infection. In COVID era the number of positive cryofibrinogen test had envolved due to SARS-CoV2 infection, CF cases were not increased. Clinical expression of the disease has not changed in both groups.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Number of cases and clinical features of Cryofibrinogenemia (CF) in preCOVID era and COVID era.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PRECOVID ERA</th>
<th>COVID ERA</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(N= 5)</td>
<td>(n=14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryofibrinogen test; (%positive) (N=134)</td>
<td>5/13 (38.5)</td>
<td>14/121 (11.5)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, means±SD</td>
<td>60.6±11.2</td>
<td>43.6±21.0</td>
<td>0.195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2 (40)</td>
<td>9 (64.3)</td>
<td>0.345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
<td>5 (35.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF Essential, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
<td>5 (35.7)</td>
<td>0.345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF Secondary, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (40)</td>
<td>9 (64.3)</td>
<td>0.345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (33.3)</td>
<td>0.239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectiveopathy</td>
<td>2 (100)</td>
<td>3 (33.3)</td>
<td>0.418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascuities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (33.3)</td>
<td>0.259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical expression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous manifestations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
<td>7 (60)</td>
<td>0.701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>2 (14.3)</td>
<td>0.764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands and feet</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>5 (35.7)</td>
<td>0.516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical pattern, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpuric macules</td>
<td>4 (80)</td>
<td>6 (42.9)</td>
<td>0.153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud</td>
<td>2 (40)</td>
<td>3 (31.4)</td>
<td>0.139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distal ulceration</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>4 (26.8)</td>
<td>0.383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>2 (14.3)</td>
<td>0.764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General symptoms, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>1 (7)</td>
<td>0.383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal symptoms, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>3 (21.4)</td>
<td>0.659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatological symptoms, n (%)</td>
<td>2 (40)</td>
<td>2 (14.3)</td>
<td>0.486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment, n (%)</td>
<td>4 (80)</td>
<td>4 (28.6)</td>
<td>0.131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiaggregant treatment</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
<td>4 (28.6)</td>
<td>0.577</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. (A) Number of cases of essential CF vs secondary CF in preCOVID and COVID era. (B) Proportion of positive cryofibrinogen in both eras. CF: Cryofibrinogenemia.**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

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**AB1341 COVID-19 IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC IMMUNE-MEDIATED INFLAMMATORY DISEASES IN AMERICA: DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MEXICO AND ARGENTINA**

**Keywords:** COVID, Registries, Real-world evidence


**Background:** Patients with immune-mediated rheumatic diseases (IRD) have poorer outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infection compared to the general population.

**Objectives:** To assess and compare clinical course, severity and complications of SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients with rheumatic immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMIDs) from Mexico and Argentina.

**Methods:** Data from both national registries, CMR-COVID (Mexico) and SAR-COVID (Argentina), were combined. Briefly, adult IRD patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection were recruited between 08.2020 and 09.2022 in SAR-COVID

**Disclosure of Interests:** Carmen Lasa: None declared, Maria Enriqueta Peiró Calizo: None declared, Juan Iruire-Ventura: None declared, Marcos Lopez-Hoyos: None declared, Monica Renuncio Garcia: None declared, Adrian Martinez Gulierrez: None declared, Carmen Secada-Gomez: None declared, Amparo Sanchez-Lopez: None declared, Ricardo Blanco: Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos and MSD, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, Novartis and Roche.

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and between 04.2020 and 06.2022 in CMR-COVID. Sociodemographic data, comorbidities, and DMARDs were recorded, as well as clinical characteristics, complications, and treatment for SARS-CoV-2 infection. Descriptive analysis. Chi square, Fisher, Student T, Mann Whitney U tests and multiple logistic regression analyses were performed.

**Results:** A total of 3709 patients were included, 1167 (31.5%) from the CMR-COVID registry and 2542 (68.5%) from the SAR-COVID registry. The majority (82.3%) were women, with a mean age of 50.4 years (SD 14.4). The most frequent IRD were rheumatoid arthritis (47.5%) and systemic lupus erythematosus (18.9%). Mexican patients were significantly older, had a higher female preponderance and had higher prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis, antiphospholipid syndrome, and axial spondyloarthritis, while the Argentine patients had more frequently psoriatic arthritis and ANCA-associated vasculitis. In both cohorts, approximately 80% were in remission or low disease activity at the time of infection. Mexicans took glucocorticoids (43% vs 37%, p<0.001) and rituximab (6% vs 3%, p<0.001) more frequently. They also reported more comorbidities (48% vs 43%, p=0.012). More than 90% of patients presented symptoms related to SARS-CoV-2 infection. The frequency of hospitalization was comparable between the groups (23.4%), however, the Mexicans had more severe disease (Figure 1) and a higher mortality rate (9.4% vs 4.0%, p<0.001). After adjusting for risk factors, Mexicans were more likely to die due to COVID-19 (OR 2.2, 95%CI 1.5-3.1).

**Conclusion:** In this cohort of patients with IRD from Mexico and Argentina with SARS-CoV-2 infection, the majority presented symptoms, a quarter were hospitalized and 6% died due to COVID-19. Mexicans presented more severe disease, and after considering risk factors they were two times more likely to die.

**Figure 1. Oxygen requirements in hospitalized patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>No O2 requirement</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Supplemental O2</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>High flow devices or NIV</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>INV or ECMO</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Carolina Ayelen Isnardi Grant/research support from: SAR-COVID is a multi-sponsor registry, where Pfizer, Abbvie, and Eli Lilly provided unrestricted grants. None of them participated or influenced the development of the project, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing the report. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Deshie Alpizar-Rodriguez: None declared, Marco Ulises Martinez-Martinez: None declared, Rosana Quintana: None declared, Ingrid Eleonora Petkovic: None declared, Sofia Ornella: None declared, Vanessa Viviana Castro Coello: None declared, Edson Velozo: None declared, David Zelaya: None declared.

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritides, COVID, Rheumatoid arthritis

C. Castellani1, E. Molteni1, G. Sciara1, L. Di Sanzo1, G. Bevignani1, M. Di Franco1, V. Ricci1, C. Alessandri1, A. Sili Scavalli1, R. Priori1, R. Scarico1, F. Conti1, Sapienza University of Rome, UOC Reumatologia - Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Internistiche, Anestesioologiche e Cardiovascolari, Roma, Italy; 2Università UniCamillus | Saint Camillus International University of Health Sciences, Saint Camillus International University of Health Science, Roma, Italy

**Background:** The World Health Organization defined long-COVID or post-COVID-19 condition as “the continuation or development of new symptoms 3 months after the initial SARS-CoV-2 infection, with these symptoms lasting for at least 2 months with no other explanation”[1]. Data on long-COVID in patients with inflammatory arthritis are very limited. The prevalence of this condition is 45% in the general population affected by COVID-19 who still experience symptoms after 4 months from the infection[2].

**Objectives:** To investigate the persistence of symptoms after SARS-CoV-2 infection in a cohort of patients with inflammatory arthritis and the most common clinical manifestations.

**Methods:** We enrolled adult patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and anklylosing spondylitis (AS) classified according to standard criteria that provided a diagnosis of COVID-19 through molecular, rapid or quantitative antigen swab tests between September 2020 and September 2022. Demographic and clinical data including age, body mass index (BMI), smoking habit, comorbidities, rheumatic treatment at diagnosis of COVID-19, date of COVID-19 diagnosis and clinical manifestations were collected through a questionnaire and recorded in a database.

**Results:** Thirty-eight (40%) patients with RA, 49 (51.6%) with PsA, and 8 (8.4%) with AS [total: 95 patients; F:M=65:30, median age 56 years (IQR 45-70)].
median BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
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BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median 
BMI 25.54 kg/m² (IQR 5.58), active smokers 21 (22.1%), median
Background: The COVID-19 outbreak is known to increase the fear level of most patients with chronic diseases. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are very vulnerable to environmental stress. During this pandemic, the psychological perspective may be further increased due to the prevailing pressure of information about the risk of infection in RA patients.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of RA patients and to investigate associated factors.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study of 190 patients with RA who met the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. For each patient, we collected sociodemographic, clinical, and biological data. Depression and anxiety were assessed by the Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale (HADS) and disease activity by the DAS-28 score.

Results: The average age of our patients was 55 years with a female predominance (86.3%). The average duration of the disease was 8 years. The mean DAS 28 score was 4.1 ± 0.3. The disease was deforming in 52.9% of cases. All of our patients were on disease-modifying therapy, 87.1% were on methotrexate and 12.9% were on biopharmaceuticals. Sixty patients (31.57%) had contracted SARS-CoV-2.

During the pandemic, depression was present in 38.4% of patients. It was mild in 33.1% of cases, moderate in 4.1%, and severe in 1.2% with a mean HADS depression score of 4.4 ± 3.1. This score was significantly higher in patients with a history of SARS-CoV-2 infection in a family member (p<0.002), comorbidities (p<0.001), joint deformities (p=0.008), and high disease activity (p<0.001). Anxiety was present in 55.6% of patients. It was mild in 32.6% of cases, moderate in 20.6%, and severe in 2.4% of cases with a mean HADS anxiety of 6.4 ± 3.9.

The presence of anxiety was correlated with fear of COVID-19, higher disease activity, the presence of comorbidities, and the presence of deformities (p<0.001 for all cases). This score was also significantly higher in the illiterate (p<0.001) and unemployed patients (p=0.001).

Conclusion: In our study, depression and anxiety were frequent in RA patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. These psychological disorders were more common in patients with active and disabling RA associated with comorbidities. As the pandemic continues, more patients are susceptible to experience anxiety and depression. Therefore, rheumatologists must remain vigilant to these psychological alterations and provide the necessary support.

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Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1346 ASSOCIATION OF URIC ACID LEVELS WITH COVID-19 SEVERITY DURING 2020 AND 2021 YEARS

Keywords: Prognostic factors, COVID, Lungs

A. Sydorov 1, O. Larenko 1, 1 Bogomolets National Medical University, Department of Internal Medicine №3, Kyiv, Ukraine

Background: The decrease in uric acid levels attracts more and more attention from clinicians every year [1]. In particular, a factor such as Covid-19 can cause a significant decrease in uric acid due to its increased excretion by the kidneys [2]. This retrospective study aimed to determine changes in the level of uric acid in different years, which allows us to assume the influence of different strains of Covid-19 on uric acid.

Objectives: To analyze the relationship between uric acid levels through admission to the hospital and Covid-19 severity during 2020 and 2021 years.

Methods: Our retrospective study includes 127 hospitalized patients with confirmed Covid-19 in 2021 and 63 patients in 2020 (only patients who didn’t receive urate-lowering therapy). Most patients were over 45 years old (84.2% vs 90.5%), women and men almost equally. The severity of Covid-19 we determined by the type and presence of oxygen support ((1) without O2, (2) O2 by mask or nasal cannula, (3) continuous positive airway pressure, (4) positive bi-pressure in the airways or high-flow oxygen, (5) invasive ventilation). A chi-squared test and comparison of means were used.

Results: We cannot establish the dependence of the uric acid level on the severity of the course of the Covid-19 disease, which is determined by the type of oxygen support in both 2020 and 2021. For example, in 2021, the difference between the least severe type (without O2) and the most severe (invasive ventilation) was almost the same (246.2 vs 277.12 µmol/L), as between O2 by mask or nasal cannula and positive bi-pressure in the airways or high-flow oxygen (257.8 vs 239.1 µmol/L). However, it was established that in 2020, higher indicators of the level of uric acid were observed for all types of oxygen support. For example, for patients who were without O2, it is higher by 72.95 µmol/L, which is statistically significant. In addition, we analyzed the dependence of the uric acid level on such indicators as the patient’s age, the level of lymphocytes, C-reactive protein, and LDH at admission to the hospital. As a result of the analysis, it was found that the dependence is present for the LDH indicator (the lower the LDH, the higher the uric acid: chi-square at the level of 0.05), and for all other indicators, it was absent in 2021. In 2020, a positive relationship between CRP, LDH, and uric acid levels was also observed.

Conclusion: Although there is a trend towards lower uric acid levels in the background of Covid-19, it is not a marker of a severe disease course. The lower uric acid levels in 2021 are likely due to a feature of the strains circulating in 2021 that caused more significant renal excretion of uric acid.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1347 LABORATORY PARAMETERS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 CYTOKINE STORM DEVELOPMENT

Keywords: COVID, Prognostic factors

A. Gherasim 1, R. Ionescu 2, T. Horia 3, T. Cristian 2, G. Teodora 2, Bucharest, Romania 1Colentina Clinical Hospital, Internal Medicine 3, Bucharest, Romania; 2UMFCD, UMFCD, Bucharest, Romania

Background: Since the end of 2019, physicians became more and more familiar with SARS-CoV-2 infection and the variety of forms in which it may present and evolve. There have been debates on how to develop cytokine storm, respectively on the delay of its development, for the others. Patients were classified into these groups, those who developed cytokine storm, respectively those who did not have this complication taking into account the clinical and paraclinical criteria (impairment of respiratory function, elevations of certain markers 2-3 times above the upper limit of normal, those who died as a result of SARS-CoV-2 infection).

Then Binary Univariate Logistic Regression was applied in order to verify the individual impact of every laboratory parameter on cytokine storm development. Furthermore, all laboratory parameters were subsequently included in the multivariate analysis, using the backward selection technique to achieve a model as predictive as possible.

Results: We mention that the analysis of demographic data was previously performed, showing no statistically significant relationship between patient gender, age, comorbidities (histories of neuro, lung diseases, cardiovascular disease, obesity, type II diabetes and hypertension) and their evolution to cytokine storm.

After performing binary univariate logistic regression we concluded that 8 of the 13 laboratory analyzes have had a significant change between groups (ferritin, PCR, albumin, Lymphocyte, Neutrophil, TGO, LDH, BUN:creatinine ratio (BUN - blood urea nitrogen). The laboratory parameters used for the statistical analysis represent the average values of the first 7 days of hospitalization for those patients who developed cytokine storm, respectively the day of its development, for the others. Patients were classified into these groups, those who developed cytokine storm, respectively those who did not.

Conclusion: High C-reactive protein, neutrophilia, LDH, ferritin and the BUN:creatinine ratio are risk factors for cytokine storm development and should be monitored in all COVID-19 patients in order to predict their evolution.

REFERENCES:
[1] Pedersen SF et al. SARS-CoV-2: A storm is raging
PERICARDITIS AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION: A CASE SERIES

Keywords: Heart, COVID, Vaccination/immunization

F. Casarini1, C. Carollo1, R. Mascolo1, A. Pedrolli1, G. Faraci1, E. Bizz1, M. Pancrazii1, L. Trotta1, C. Lorentino1, A. M. Pisacreta1, A. Brucato1.
1Fatebenefratelli Hospital, Milan, Internal Medicine, Milan, Italy

BACKGROUND: COVID-19 vaccination campaigns successfully impacted on viral spreading and in particular on clinical course of the disease. However, secondary to a highly extended vaccination program, several local and systemic adverse events associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have been reported. Pericarditis and myocarditis are examples of cardiac complications related to these vaccines. In particular, cases of pericarditis have occurred after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (mostly secondary to vaccination with Moderna than Pfizer-BioNTech), especially in male adolescents and young adults, more often after the second dose. The incidence is approximately of 1-2 cases/100.000

Objectives: Aim of our study was to study the clinical profile of pericarditis occurred within 30 days after COVID-19 vaccines in our clinic.

Methods: We present a case series of patients who developed pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination in the Department of Internal Medicine at Fatebenefratelli Hospital in Milan, followed from December 1, 2021 to April 15, 2022.

Results: Twenty-five individuals, of which 18 (72%) were women and 7 (28%) were males, had vaccine related pericarditis. Two patients were vaccinated with AstraZeneca, 2 with Moderna, the remaining with Pfizer-BioNTech. Median age was of 42 years. Of all patients, one subject was affected by myocarditis and anakinra in a patient with COVID-19 vaccine-related acute pericarditis relapse.a case report; European Heart Journal - Case Reports (2022) 6, 1–6.

Conclusions: COVID-19 vaccination induces a particular form of pericarditis, often insidious and very troublesome, but with good prognosis. The clinical phenotype showed less typical chest pain, often normal indices of inflammation and little or no instrumental changes, but patients often experienced tachycardia and functional limitation. With regard to therapy, we used NSAIDs at adequate dosages to control the clinical condition, or low-dose colchicine. Low doses of corticosteroids are useful in the presence of marked asthenia or systemic symptoms. Beta-blockers or ivabradine were used in the presence of tachycardia.

REFERENCES:
[2] Li JY, Wang HF, Yin P, Li D, Wang DL, Peng P, et al. Clinical characteristics associated with higher incidence of venous thromboembolism (VTE) and higher mortality rates. [1-3]. Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases (ARDs) are associated with higher rates of VTE compared to general population [4]. Whether patients with ARDs infected with SARS-CoV-2 have similar D-dimer and fibrinogen trends compared to patients without ARDs is unknown.

Table 1. Differences in D-dimer and fibrinogen levels in patients with ARDs during SARS-CoV2 infection between patients with ARDs and those without ARDs. Additional studies are needed to quantify the actual risk of VTE in patients with ARDs during SARS-CoV2 in correlation with serum markers of VTE.

REFERENCES:
**AB1350**

**THE KINETICS OF HUMORAL AND CELLULAR RESPONSES AFTER THE BOOSTER DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE IN INFAMMATORY ARTHRITIS PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** COVID, Vaccination/immunization

**J. Wroskić1, B. Jaszczyczyk2, L. Roszkowski3, A. Felis-Giernza2, K. Bonek1, A. Kornatka1, M. Plebanczyk2, T. Burakowski4, B. Lisowska5, B. Kwiatkowska5, W. Maśliński6, M. Wielowska1, M. Massalska4, E. Kuca-Warnawin4, M. Ciechomska4, 1National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Pathophysiology and Immunology, Warsaw, Poland; 2National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Anesthesiology, Warsaw, Poland; 3National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Rheumatology, Warszawa, Poland; 4National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Rheumatology, Warsaw, Poland; 5National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Department of Outpatient Clinics, Warsaw, Poland; 6National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Biologic Therapy Center, Warsaw, Poland.

**Background:** Impaired immunogenicity of COVID-19 vaccinations in inflammatory arthritis (IA) patients results in diminished immunity. However, optimal booster vaccination regimens are still unknown, due to unstudied kinetics of the immune response after booster vaccinations.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to assess the kinetics of humoral and cellular responses in IA patients after the COVID-19 booster.

**Methods:** In 29 IA patients and 16 healthy controls (HC) humoral responses (level of IgG antibodies) and cellular responses (IFN-γ production) were assessed before (T0), after 4 weeks (T1), and after more than 6 months (T2) from the booster vaccination with BNT162b2.

**Results:** IA patients, but not HC, showed lower anti-S-IgG concentration and IGRA fold change at T2 compared to T1 (p=0.026 and p=0.031). Furthermore, in IA patients the level of cellular response at T2 returned to the pre-booster level (T0). All immunomodulatory drugs, except IL-6 and IL-17 inhibitors for the humoral response and IL-17 inhibitors for the cellular response, impaired the immunogenicity of the booster dose at T2. However, none of the immunomodulatory drugs affected the kinetics of both humoral and cellular responses (measured as the difference between response rates at T1 and T2).

**Conclusion:** Our study showed impaired kinetics of both humoral and cellular responses after the booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in IA patients, which, in the case of cellular response, did not allow the vaccination effect to be maintained for more than 6 months. Repetitive vaccination with subsequent booster doses seems to be necessary for IA patients.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

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**AB1351**

**FREQUENCY OF VACCINE-RELATED ADVERSE EVENTS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASE**

**Keywords:** COVID, Rheumatoid arthritis, Vaccination/immunization

**D. X. Xibille Friedmann1, V. Balderas Reyes2, M. Olvera2, M. Alcocer León2, A. A. Reyes Salinas2, M. Rodríguez Falcón3, S. M. Carrillo Vazquez2, 1Cuernavaca General Hospital Dr. José G. Parres., Rheumatology, Cuernavaca, Mexico; 2ISSSTE Regional Hospital October 1, Rheumatology, Ciudad de México, Mexico

**Background:** Patients with rheumatic diseases are at greater risk of developing serious infections due to dysregulation of the immune system and the use of immunosuppressants. Therefore, preventing infection is crucial, with vaccination being the most important primary prevention intervention, leading to a lower rate of hospital admissions due to infections. However, vaccine hesitancy among persons with rheumatic diseases is widespread due to concerns regarding the safety of vaccines.

**Objectives:** Describe the frequency of adverse events associated with vaccination in patients with rheumatic diseases.

**Methods:** Observational, descriptive, cross-sectional and retrospective study was carried out in patients with rheumatic diseases from the Rheumatology Department of the Hospital Regional 1° de Octubre ISSSTE, from February to May 2022; it included patients over 18 years of age with an established diagnosis of rheumatic disease who had received a vaccine; the researcher applied the vaccine-associated adverse events survey to those patients who agreed to participate by signing the informed consent. The sample size was of 95 patients. Descriptive statistics and summary measures were employed for analysis. We used the chi-square test or Fisher’s exact test (when <5) for the comparative analysis of the frequencies of nominal qualitative variables. P<0.05 was considered significant.

**Results:** The survey was applied to 115 patients. 85.2% were women; mean age 57.9 years; 61.7% had rheumatoid arthritis (RA), followed by systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in 13.9%, 55.6% of the patients were treated with steroids, 52.2% received bDMARDs and 48.7% csDMARDs. Patients received various vaccines, of which the most frequent was the one for COVID-19, with 99.1% of included patients having received at least one dose, followed by influenza in 30.4%; 78% of the patients who received at least one dose of a vaccine against COVID-19 presented ≥1 adverse events. The disease in which the highest frequency of adverse events occurred was RA, without this difference being statistically significant (Table 1). The adverse events according to the type of COVID-19 vaccine were the following: Sputnik-V 80%, Pfizer 76.6% and Astra-Zeneca 76.1%, without statistically significant difference between vaccine types. The most frequently occurring adverse events were injection site pain (80.1%), headache (30.7%), and fatigue (30.7%); In addition, the main vaccine-associated musculoskeletal symptoms were joint pain, myalgia, and morning joint stiffness (Figure 1), which on most cases improved after a NSAID use. Joint pain was more frequent after the second dose of certain vaccine types.

**Table 1. Frequency of AE after COVID-19 vaccination in patients according to disease.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>AE (%)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0.790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spondyloarthritis</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoarthritis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. COVID-19 associated musculoskeletal AE**

**Conclusion:** Vaccine-associated AE occurred more frequently than reported in international studies; however, they were not more serious. Providing this information to patients is important to improve vaccine acceptance. In addition, the administration of NSAID after the application of the vaccine could be proposed to reduce the presence of side effects.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** To the residents and staff at HR 1 Octubre for their help in compiling data.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Daniel Xavier Xibille Friedmann Speakers bureau: GSK, Lilly, UCB, Paid instructor for: GSK, Lilly, UCB, Consultant of: GSK, Lilly, UCB, Vanessa Balderas Reyes: None declared, Maria Olvera: None declared, Maria Alcocer León: None declared, ALFREDO ALEXANDRI REYES SALINAS Paid instructor for: Abbvie, Janssen, Novartis, Minerva Rodríguez Falcon: None
declared, Sandra Miriam Carrillo Vazquez Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Janssen, UCB, Paid instructor for: Abbvie, Janssen, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Janssen, UCB.

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AB1352 IMPACT OF SYSTEMIC THERAPIES ON THE SEROPREVALENCE OF SARS-COV-2 IN PATIENTS WITH IMMUNE-MEDIATED DISEASES

Keywords: COVID, bDMARD, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs).

M. L. C. Romero Bogaño1,2, M. Steiner1,2, T. Cobo-Ibáñez1,2, A. Gómez1,2, B. Paredes Romero1,2, I. Thuisard Vasallo3, C. Andreu Vazquez3, A. V. Esteban Sebastián de los Reyes (Madrid), Spain; Universidade Europea de Madrid, Madrid, Spain; Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor, Reumatología, Madrid, Spain; Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Medicina, Alcobendas, Madrid, Spain; Universidad Europea de Madrid, Medicina, Grupo de Asesoramiento en Metodología de Investigación, Alcobendas, Madrid, Spain; Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor, Reumatología, Madrid, Spain; Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Farmacia, San Sebastián de los Reyes (Madrid), Spain; Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Farmacia, San Sebastián de los Reyes (Madrid), Spain; Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Farmacología, San Sebastián de los Reyes (Madrid), Spain; Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Gastroenterología, San Sebastián de los Reyes (Madrid), Spain; Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Laboratorio, San Sebastián de los Reyes (Madrid), Spain

Background: The disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARD) impair the immune response of patients with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMID).

Objectives: To analyze the seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in patients with IMID treated with biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARD) or targeted synthetic (tsDMARD).

Methods: An ambispective cross-sectional study was performed in patients with IMID treated with bDMARD or tsDMARD. Seroprevalence was compared by measuring IgG against SARS-CoV-2 between October 2020 and May 2021.

Results: A total of 550 patients with IMID were studied, all of them on bDMARD or tsDMARD therapy, none of them vaccinated at that time against SARS-CoV-2. Patients receiving anti-TNFα therapy had a higher seroprevalence than other biologic and synthetic targeted therapies (OR= 1.792; 95% CI 1.088-2.951; p= 0.021). Patients with bDMARD or tsDMARD therapy treated concomitantly with some type of conventional synthetic DMARD (csDMARD) presented a lower seroprevalence compared to patients treated in monotherapy. 10.7 vs. 19.9% (p= 0.003). When analyzing the treatments with the different csDMARD separately (methotrexate, leflunomide, sulfasalazine, azathioprine, hydroxychloroquine and the others), methotrexate was determined to influence in a lower seroprevalence compared to those who did not receive any csDMARD. 9.8 vs 19.9% (OR= 0.439, 95% CI 0.232-0.828; p= 0.011). When evaluating the influence of methotrexate on seroprevalence among the different groups of bDMARD or tsDMARD, a lower seroprevalence was demonstrated in the group of patients receiving anti-TNFα and methotrexate in combination, versus patients on this bDMARD in monotherapy, 10.1 vs 24.1% (OR= 0.355, 95% CI 0.165 - 0.764; p=0.006). No significant differences were identified with the other btsDMARD and csDMARD.

Conclusion: Seroprevalence in the group of patients with IMID is influenced according to the therapy received, being higher in patients receiving anti-TNFα monotherapy, but significantly lower if concomitant to this drug they receive methotrexate. These differences are not seen with the other btsDMARD and csDMARD.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1353 RHEUMATOLOGICAL PAIN CONDITIONS ARE NOT RISK FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIDESPREAD POST-COVID PAIN IN COVID-19 SURVIVORS

Keywords: COVID, Epidemiology.

L. Arendt-Nielsen1, B. D. Ebbesen1, R. Giordano1, J. A. Valera-Calero2, C. Fernández-de-Las-Peñas3, 4Aalborg University & Aalborg University Hospital, School of Medicine, Center for Neuroplasticity and Pain/SMI, Gistrup, Denmark; 2Universidad Camilo José Cela, Department of Health, Madrid, Spain; 3Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Department of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Madrid, Spain

Background: Up to 60% of COVID-19 survivors develop long-COVID symptoms[1]. Musculoskeletal pain is also a common (~11%) symptom of long-COVID.[2] Current theories hypothesize that post-COVID pain can be widespread in other chronic pain conditions. The presence of previous rheumatological diseases could act as a risk factor for the development of persistent widespread post-COVID pain due to a potentiation of pro-inflammatory responses seen during the infection or due to a less robust immune response. A previous pilot study investigated if rheumatological diseases were associated with post-COVID symptoms in a specific population of hospitalised COVID-19 survivors.[3]

Objectives: The aim of this study was to identify if the presence of previous specific rheumatological diseases are risk factors for the development of widespread post-COVID pain in previously hospitalised and non-hospitalised COVID-19 survivors.

Methods: We conducted a nation-wide, cross-sectional exploratory study with a pain-related questionnaire collecting demographics, pre-existing rheumatological conditions, and the development of widespread pain symptoms after SARS-CoV-2 infection from a Denmark-based population.

Results: Data from 1,000 previously hospitalised (51.2% males; 60.4±15.2 years; 85.6±18.5kg) and 1,000 previously non-hospitalised COVID-19 survivors (43.5% males; 50.4±15.9 years; 79.2±16.6 kg) were analysed. Distribution of gender (p<0.001), age (p<0.001), and weight (p=0.001) was different between groups. The presence of widespread pain symptoms six months after infection was higher (P<0.001) in hospitalised survivors (20%) as compared to non-hospitalised patients (4.2%). The presence of previous rheumatological conditions such as arthritis, osteoarthritis or joint pain were not associated with the development of widespread post-COVID pain in either group (all, P>0.1).

Conclusion: This exploratory study shows that the presence of previous rheumatological conditions before SARS-CoV-2 infection was not a risk factor associated with development of widespread post-COVID pain symptomatology. Other risk factors e.g., female sex or the presence of musculoskeletal pain, could be more relevant for widespread post-COVID pain-related research.[4]

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1355 EFFECT OF COVID-19 VACCINES ON ACTIVITY OF AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization.
Background: The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has paralyzed the world. Patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRDs) are at high risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection [1]. Worldwide vaccination campaigns, which have increasingly built up immunity in this populations. Studies on the efficacy and safety of the vaccines have shown rapid and strong development of immunity in healthy populations and AIRDs [2].

Objectives: To evaluate COVID-19 vaccination status in patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRDs) whether receiving primary and booster vaccination and its relation to disease activity.

Methods: An observational cross section study conducted on a total number of 282 subjects divided into 2 groups: group (I): 179 vaccinated AIRD patients and group (II): 103 non-vaccinated AIRDs patients where Complete COVID-19 vaccination history. Disease activity scores of AIRDs were measured pre to post vaccination.

Results: Most of studied group 63% were vaccinated, Pfizer vaccine was the most common 33%, Asterzinca 19%, Sinopharm/Sinovac 10%, while Moderna was the least the least type of vaccine 1%. Figure 1. Pfizer vaccine 46% was the most common booster type, Asterzinca 39%, Sinopharm/Sinovac 8% and Moderna vaccine 3% and 4% of studied group not received booster vaccination, Figure 2. Most of Rheumatic disease were vaccinated; 46.4% Rheumatoid arthritis 39.7% Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, 5% Bechet’s disease 3.9% Ankylosing Spondylitis and 2.8% Vasculitis. In vaccinated group, severity of disease activity was statistically significantly higher in post-vaccination than pre-vaccination, Table 1.

Conclusion: Pfizer vaccine was the most common vaccine in AIRDs. COVID-19 vaccination may induce flare of disease activity in AIRDs.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Percentage of status of COVID vaccination and its type.

Figure 2. Frequency of booster dose of COVID vaccination.

Table 1. Correlation of disease activity in vaccinated and non-vaccinated group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccination</th>
<th>Severity of disease activity</th>
<th>Pre-vaccination</th>
<th>Post-vaccination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>mild</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>63.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>severe</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>mild</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>66.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>severe</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P value was measured using Wilcoxon signed rank test

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1356 COVID-19 VACCINE PERCEPTION AND HESITANCY AMONG PATIENTS WITH AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASE (AIRD) IN MALAYSIA

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, COVID, Comorbidities

S. S. Shaharin1, L. Kamaruzaman1, T.N. Mariamutu1, M. S. Mohamed Said1, A. Mohammed Naww1, W. W. Wan Ghazali1, M. Mohd Noh1, 2Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Faculty of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 3Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 4Universiti Putra Malaysia, Faculty of Medicine And Health Sciences, Internal Medicine, Serdang, Malaysia; 5Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Medicine, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Background: Patients with autoimmune rheumatic disease (AIRD) are at risk of severe COVID-19 infection and vaccine has been demonstrated to be able to reduce the severity of infection. Malaysia has a low flu vaccination coverage rate (approximately 3%) and hence it is important to assess the perception and hesitancy of COVID-19 vaccine especially among the vulnerable group.

Objectives: To study the perception of COVID-19 vaccine and to determine the prevalence of vaccine hesitancy among AIRD patients in Malaysia.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional survey using online Google Forms© that was conducted among adult AIRD patients (18 years and older) from August 2021 until February 2022. Patients were recruited from the outpatient clinics as well as distribution of the survey through social medias. The survey was in English and Malay language. The survey collected data on the socio-demographic background, prior history of other vaccination after the age of 18 and COVID-19 vaccination with reasons of hesitancy, defined as being unsure or unwilling to be vaccinated. The survey also assessed the patients’ perception by specifying the level of agreement to COVID-19 vaccine statements using the Likert response scale: 1-Strongly disagree; 2- Disagree; 3-Neither agree nor disagree; 4-Agree; 5-Strongly agree.

Results: A total of 162 patients participated in the survey and majority of them were females (87.7%). Our multi-racial cohort consisted of Malay (n=103, 63.5%), followed by Chinese (n=38, 23.5%), Sabahan Bumiputra (n=12, 7.4%) and Indian (n=7, 4.3%). More than half (n=107,66.6%) have not had any history of other vaccination after the age of 18. Only 16.7% (n=27) agreed/strongly agreed that COVID-19 vaccine can be given to patients with co-morbidities and 24.1 (n=39) agreed/strongly agreed that COVID-19 vaccine can be given to patients who have history of allergy to other drugs or food. At the time of the survey, vast majority of the respondents have received at least the 1st dose of Covid-19 vaccine (n=148, 91.4%). A total of 9 (5.6%) patients were hesitant to be vaccinated (6 were unsure and 3 patients were not willing to be vaccinated). The commonest reasons of being unsure or not willing to be vaccinated was worried of the vaccine’s adverse effects (66.7%), worried of the blood clot complication (33.3%), worried of disease flare post-vaccine (33.3%), worried of allergic reaction (22.2%), lack of information on the safety of the vaccine in patients with AIRD from government and media (22.2%), face mask and social distancing measures were inadequate (22.2%). Statistical analysis revealed that more patients who had vaccine hesitancy were from the lower socioeconomic status (income <1066 Euro/month), 88.9% vs 11.1%, p=0.03 but no association with ethnicity, education status, marital status or place of residence (urban vs rural).

Conclusion: COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy is low in Malaysian patients with AIRD but patients with a low socioeconomic status are prone to have vaccine hesitancy. More education on the vaccine’s efficacy and safety especially among patients with co-morbidities are warranted.

REFERENCE:

05/13/23 4 Color Fig(s):0 23:07 Art: 43_EUROAB-2023-P042-43

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AB1357

RISK OF APS AND APLS POSITIVE PATIENTS FOR THROMBOSIS WITH COVID-19

Keywords: COVID, Autoantibodies, Anti-phospholipid syndrome

F. Berianu1, R. Butendieck1, B. Wang31. Mayo Clinic, Rheumatology, Jacksonville, United States of America

Background: Coagulopathy, thromboembolic events and DIC during COVID-19 infection has been reported. Antiphospholipid antibodies (aPLs), present in 1–5% of healthy individuals. aPLs are associated with the risk of antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) which is associated with higher risk of thrombosis.

Objectives: We wanted to see if patients with known APS or aPLs only are at higher risk of a thrombotic event compared to control when developed COVID-19. We retrospectively review EMR for over a year for thrombotic events in patients with COVID and prior history of APS or aPLs only and matched them to control.

Methods: Patient characteristics and laboratory testing were summarized according to the following groups: APS, aPLs detected or control. The control were matched according to age and gender for each group. Continuous variable were summarized as median (range) and mean (standard deviation), while categorica variable were reported as frequency (percentage). The binary patient outcome of thrombotic event, hospitalization for COVID, death, and composite event (the combined occurrence of thrombotic events, hospitalization, death) were calculated and interpreted as the multiplicative increase in odds of the given outcome for aPL group compared to control group. Multivariable logistic regression models were adjusted for potential risk factors (immobilization, hypertension, coronary artery disease, diabetes mellitus, and smoking) one at a time due to the rare occurrences of events studied.

Results: In single variable analysis (unadjusted) the odds of the patient having a thrombotic event was approximately 27 times higher in patients with aPL only compared to Controls (P<0.001). We see similar results in multivariable analyses (adjusted) adjusting for the following variables one at a time: immobilization, hypertension, coronary artery disease, diabetes mellitus, and smoking. In each of the multivariable analyses, the adjusted odds of a thrombotic event was between approximately 24 and 29 times higher in patients with aPL Antibody Only compared to Controls (all P<0.001) indicating that association of aPL Antibody Only with thrombotic event was independent of immobilization, hypertension, coronary artery disease, diabetes, and smoking. There was no statistically significant risk of thrombosis in APS group vs control. Majority of patients with APS were on chronic anticoagulation.

Conclusion: We found a statistical significantly difference in patient with aPLs only versus control regarding risk of thrombosis when developed COVID-19. No statistically significant risk was noted in patients with APS, While chronic anticoagulation in APS patients is protective it seemed that patient with aPLs only do carry a high risk of thrombosis if any inciting factors like COVID-19.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1358

BIOLOGIC TREATMENT SUSPENSION AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: DATA FROM MEXICAN ADVERSE REGISTRY (BIOMADAXEM)

Keywords: Registries, bDMARD, COVID


Registries, bDMARD, COVID

Keywords:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annheumdis-2023-eular.4623
Treatment suspension because of non-medical reasons might lead to disease activation and organ damage. **Objectives:** Identify the frequency of biologic treatment (bDMARD) suspension among patients with RD during the COVID-19 pandemic and determine the associated factors for suspension. **Methods:** In this study we included all patients registered in the Mexican Biologics Adverse Events Registry (BIOBADAMEX), that started bDMARD before March 2019 and suspended treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic. We used descriptive statistic to analyze baseline characteristics and main treatment suspension causes. We used Chi[2] and Kruskal Wallis tests to analyze differences between groups. **Results:** Of 832 patients patients registered in BIOBADAMEX were included in this study, 143 (17%) suspended bDMARD during the COVID-19 pandemic. The main causes of suspension were inefficacy in 54 (38%) patients, followed by other motives in 49 (34%) patients from which 7 (5%) was loss of medical coverage. Adverse events and loss of patients to follow up were the motive in 16 (11%) and 15 (11%) patients respectively. When we compared the group that suspended bDMARD with the non-suspenders (Table 1), we found statistical differences in patient gender, with 125 (87%) female patients that suspended bDMARD, with a median age of 52 (42-60) years, and a treatment duration of 3.8 years. **Conclusion:** In our study we found that 17% of patients with RD suspended bDMARD treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic and that non-medical motives such as lack of patients follow up and loss of medical coverage due to unemployment were important motives. These results are related to the effect of the pandemic on other chronic diseases. **REFERENCES:** NIL. **Acknowledgements:** NIL. **Disclosure of Interests:** Vilma Rivera Teran: None declared, Daniel Xavier Xibile Friedmann: None declared, David Vega-Morales: None declared, Sandra Sicik: None declared, Angel Castillo Ortiz: None declared, Fedra Irazo-qui-Quezalueos: None declared, Dafhne Miranda: None declared, Iris Jazmin Sicsik: None declared, Angel Castillo Ortiz: None declared, Omar Eloy Muhoz-Morroy: None declared, Sandra Carrilo: None declared, Angelica Peña: None declared, Sergio Duran Barragan: None declared, Luis Francisco Valdés Corona: None declared, Estefania Torres Valdez: None declared, Azucena Ramos: None declared, Aleni Paz: None declared, ERICK ADRIAN ZAMORA-TEHOZOL: None declared, Deshie Alpizar-Rodriguez Employee of: Scientific Advisor in GSK Mexico. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5232

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**AB1359**

**CLINICAL FEATURES OF COVID-19 IN PATIENTS WITH CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES DURING THE RECENT PANDEMIC IN GUANGZHOU, CHINA**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, Health services research, COVID

Y. Jiang1, X. Zheng1, Y. Wu1, S. Zhong1, Y. Liang1, Y. Gu1, Z. Liao1

1Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Guangzhou, China

**Background:** Patients with connective tissue diseases (CTD) are vulnerable to SARS-COV-2 infection, given that a proportion of CTD patients suffer from interstitial lung diseases (ILD). Moreover, the use of glucocorticoids and immuno-suppressive agents could affect the outcome of lung diseases. The impact of SARS-CoV-2 on interstitial lung diseases remains poorly investigated as the pandemic has recently occurred in Southern China.

**Objectives:** The study aimed to describe the clinical features and hospitalisation costs of COVID-19 in CTD patients, especially those with COVID-19 pneumonia.

**Methods:** It was a cross-sectional case series study. Demographic data, symptoms, signs, medical history, laboratory, radiological findings and costs were collected from 86 CTD patients from the inpatient department in a tertiary hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic in Guangzhou, China.

**Results:** Of the 86 CTD patients, 67 (77.9%) were females, and 24 (27.9%) had CTD-ILD before admission. 54 (62.8%) of them had SARS-CoV-2 infection detected by nucleic acid or antigen tests for SARS-CoV-2. Patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection had older age, higher WBC, neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio and CEA. Moreover, 325 (39.1%) of the participants had COVID-19 pneumonia confirmed by the HRCT. Noticeably, 15 CTD patients without ILD presents with COVID-19 pneumonia. Patients with COVID-19 pneumonia had older age, higher serum ferritin, CEA, and C-reactive protein (p<0.05). According to the rheumatologists’assessment, 6 (4.19%) of the patients had worsened CTD disease activity, 14 (16.3%) of the patients had confirmed infections involving the lung (6), skin (3), urinary tract (2), gastrointestinal tract (1), blood (1), and vagina (1). The pathogens isolated included staphylococcus aureus, candida albicans, escherichia coli, cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus and herpes zoster virus. Among all the symptoms related to COVID-19, coughing was the most frequent symptom, followed by sputum, fatigue and fever. 27 (31.4%) of the patients required a nasal cannula for oxygen administration. The median hospital stay was 7 (1-30) days. All the patients got improved before the discharge.

**Conclusion:** Disease flare and COVID-19 pneumonia should be noticed in patients with CTD during the pandemic.

**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by Scientific and Technological Planning Project of Guangzhou City [202102020150], Guangdong Provincial Basic and Applied Basic Research Fund Project [2021A1511111172], National Natural Science Foundation of China Youth Fund [82201996] and Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University Cultivating Special Fund Project for National Natural Science Foundation of China [2022GZZRPPYN01].

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5239

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**AB1360**

**AUTOANTIBODIES RELATED TO RHEUMATIC DISEASES AFTER COVID-19 INFECTION**

**Keywords:** Real-world evidence, COVID, Autoantibodies

X. Zheng1, X. Wu1, Y. Jiang1, Y. Liang1, S. Zhong1, J. Gu1, Z. Liao1

1Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Guangzhou, China

**Background:** SARS-CoV-2 (Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) has been circulating worldwide for three years. It mainly causes upper respiratory tract infection, which can manifest as pulmonary infection and even respiratory distress syndrome in severe cases. Different autoantibodies can be detected in patients infected with COVID-19.

**Objectives:** To explore autoantibodies related to rheumatic diseases after COVID-19 infection.

**Methods:** Ninety-eight inpatients were tested for antinuclear antibodies (ANA), antibodies to extractable nuclear antigens (ENA), anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA), anticardiolipin antibodies, anti-cardiolipin antibodies, anti-β2GPI (IgG/IgM). They were from a tertiary hospital in Guangzhou during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data were described statistically.

**Results:** Ninety-eight hospitalized patients were tested for relevant antibodies. The average age was 50.6±4.9±5.4; 67 (68.4%) were male, 64 (65.3%) were COVID-19 positive, 90 (90.9%) had rheumatic diseases, and 56 of them were COVID-19 positive patients with rheumatic diseases. There were 76 patients tested for antinuclear antibodies, 29 (38.1%) were negative, 18 (23.6%) had a 1/80 titre, and 19 (28.6%) had a titre greater than 1:80. The 31 covid patients were positive for ANA. In the high-titer group, 19 patients with rheumatic diseases were positive for COVID-19, and 12 patients had an exacerbation of the rheumatic diseases (6 of whom had previously had pulmonary fibrosis). Of 31 covid patients, only two were non-rheumatic patients, and both were elderly, aged 85 and 100, respectively. Fifty-six patients had ENA results, and 29 for positive antibodies, 8 for ds-DNA antibodies, 2 for anti-Sm antibodies, 6 for anti-nucleosome antibodies, 12 for anti-U1RNP antibodies, 2 for anti-Scl-70 antibodies, 12 for anti-SS-A antibodies, 3 for anti-mitochondrial M2 antibodies, 2 for anti-centromere antibodies, 1 for anti-PM antibodies, and one for anti-Jo-1 antibody. All 56 patients had rheumatic diseases, and no new patients were found. There were 62 patients with ANCA data. P-ANCA was positive in 12 cases (19.35%), and MPO-ANCA was positive in 2 cases. An 85-year-old non-rheumatic COVID-19 patient was P-ANCA positive. She had a history of hypertension, colon cancer, CKD3, coronary heart disease, and atrial flutter. In the anticardiolipin antibodies group, there were 62 patients; only 6 were positive, and 2 were rheumatic patients infected with COVID-19. Antiphospholipid antibodies were detected in 35 patients, and a-β2GPI was tested in one patient, an 82-year-old COVID-19 patient with gout, diabetes, and cerebral infarction in the past. We did not find a statistical difference in the above results.

**Conclusion:** We have not found a correlation between SARS-CoV-2 and serum autoantibodies of rheumatic immune diseases. It needs large samples and an extended follow-up to research.

**Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by Scientific and Technological Planning Project of Guangzhou City [202102020150], Guangdong Provincial Basic and Applied Basic Research Fund Project [2021A1511111172], National Natural Science Foundation of China Youth Fund [82201996] and Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University Cultivating Special Fund Project for National Natural Science Foundation of China [2022GZZRPPYN01].

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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AB1361
COVID-19 IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS IN THE VINSCHGAU VALLEY IN SOUTH TYROL

Keywords: COVID, Inflammatory arthritides

P. Matzneller1, A. Muñen1,2, M. Wierer1,2, C. Duftner2, C. Dejaco1. 1South Tyrol Health System-ASDAA-SABES, Service of Rheumatology, Brunico, Italy; 2Medical University of Innsbruck, Department of Internal Medicine, Clinical Division of Internal Medicine II, Innsbruck, Austria

Background: For patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases, the Covid-19 pandemic carried some implications in addition to those faced by the general population. In particular, the question whether these patients are at increased risk of contracting Covid-19 or have an unfavourable disease course has been and is a matter of concern. In autumn 2020, the population of the Vinschgau valley in South Tyrol, northern Italy was still largely spared from infection with SARS-CoV-2. Accordingly, incidence of the disease in the upcoming winter was anticipated to be high.

Objectives: This prospective observational study aimed at characterizing Covid-19 infections in a population of patients with inflammatory arthritis (IA) residing in the Vinschgau valley. The study was conceived as companion project to an analogously designed prospective cohort study in the general population of the Vinschgau valley, the CHRIS Covid-19 study.

Methods: Between September and December 2020, IA patients (i.e. previously diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis [RA], psoriatic arthritis [PsA] or peripheral spondyloarthritides [SpA]) residing in the Vinschgau valley (n=394 based on national healthcare system database) were contacted. Those who consented to participate in the study underwent a clinical baseline visit including TJC, SJC, VAS and assessment of RAID, PsAID or BASDAI (range 0-10, respectively). In addition, a Covid-19 screening questionnaire was administered. Then, active and/or past infection with SARS-CoV-2 were determined by nasopharyngeal swab (PCR) and serum antibody test. In positively tested subjects, Covid-19 disease severity was graded according to WHO criteria (range 0-8, with 0 = no evidence of infection and 8 = death). Patients were followed-up with regular telephone interviews including Covid-19 screening questionnaire and RAID/PsAID/BASDAI for up to 12 months.

Results: 111 patients (72 RA, 29 PsA, 10 SpA) were enrolled (see Table 1 for demographics and comorbidities). A total number of 19 PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections in 17 patients (10 RA, 7 PsA) were observed. Mean ± standard deviation 7-day incidence (incident cases/ study population) was 0.003 ± 0.007. Fatigue, fever, anosmia and sore throat (present in 57.9%, 47.4%, 42.1% and 36.8% of infections, respectively) were the most frequent symptoms. Median (min-max) disease severity was 2 [1-4]. Two infections led to hospitalization, in one case oxygen supply was necessary. Four infections were asymptomatic (Figure 1). One patient died during follow-up due to pre-existing non-small cell lung cancer. Median absolute difference between post- and pre-infection disease activity was 0.4 and -0.8 for RAID and PsAID, respectively (both markedly below the minimal clinically important difference of 1). One patient died during follow-up due to pre-existing non-small cell lung cancer. Median absolute difference between post- and pre-infection disease activity was 0.4 and -0.8 for RAID and PsAID, respectively (both markedly below the minimal clinically important difference of 1).

Conclusion: Incidence of Covid-19 in the analysed cohort of patients with IA was low. Symptoms and comorbidities of SARS-CoV-2-positive IA patients reflected those known from the general population. Covid-19 seemed to have no relevant impact on IA disease activity. Comparison of these preliminary data with those of the general population is planned.

Figure 1. Spectrum of clinical symptoms reported by study patients during infection with SARS-CoV-2

Table 1. Demographic data and selected comorbidities of study patients. Age and body mass index (BMI) are given in means ± standard deviation, female sex and comorbidities are given in n (% of column totals).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>SARS-CoV-2 positive</th>
<th>Hospitalized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Range (years)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>59.7±9.4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smokers (%)</td>
<td>58.8±6.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>4 (3.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>27 (24.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>12 (10.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cardiac arrhythmias</td>
<td>5 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History of cancer</td>
<td>4 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chronic bronchitis</td>
<td>12 (10.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>3 (2.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smokers (%)</td>
<td>11 (9.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>2 (1.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>1 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
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<td>Cardiac arrhythmias</td>
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<td>History of cancer</td>
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<td>Chronic bronchitis</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1362
STUDY OF ADVERSE REACTIONS TO COVID-19 VACCINATION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, COVID

Y. Akiyama1,2, M. Matsuda1,2, Y. Chichin Yoshida1,3, M. Sato1,2,3, Meiyo Immunology & Rheumatology Clinic, Rheumatolory, Nagano, Japan; 2Setagaya Rheumatology Clinic, Rheumatolory, Tokyo, Japan; 3Meiyo Immunology & Rheumatology Clinic, Rheumatolory, Tokyo, Japan; 4Centro Medico Nacional La Raza, Mexico City, Mexico; 5Centro Medico Nacional La Raza, Medicina Interna, Mexico City, Mexico

Background: Vaccination has been recommended in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, but some patients are not vaccinated due to concerns about adverse reactions.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to investigate the adverse reactions in rheumatic diseases and to guide the decision-making of patients and physicians.

Methods: A questionnaire was sent to patients with rheumatic diseases, and patients who could be counted as of September 2021, when they consented to this study, were surveyed.

Results: The subjects were 123 (male:female=10:113), 84 with rheumatoid arthritis and 39 with other immune diseases. The therapeutic agents used were PSL 31(25.2%), MTX 65(52.8%), NSAID/COX inhibitors 28(22.8%), bDMARDs 42(34.1%). adverse reactions after the first and second vaccination were fever 17(13.8%)/50(40.7%), joint symptoms 7(5.7%)/22(17.9%), local injection reactions (pain+irritation) 22(17.9%), local injection reactions (pain+erythema) 93(75.6)/98(79.7), systemic skin symptoms 0(0%)/2(1.6%), other symptoms (malaise, myalgia, etc.) 59(48.0%)/56(49.1%), and treatment intensification 54(41.1%)/12(9.7%). These responses differed in occurrence only for fever with and without PSL medication (22.5%; 473% (p=0.02)). The odds ratio for disease worsening after the first dose of vaccine and again after the second dose was 33.5 (p<0.01).

Conclusion: No specific adverse reactions other than the commonly known ones were observed, but some patients experienced worsening of symptoms after vaccination, requiring intensified treatment. Based on the results of this study, we believe that adverse reactions to vaccination are acceptable. We plan to accumulate more cases and analyze them in the future. The exacerbation of disease after the first vaccination would predict the exacerbation after the second vaccination.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5773

AB1363
FIRST PRESENTATION OF AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Keywords: COVID, Epidemiology, Vaccination/immunization

C. Soto1, A. Peña2,3, F. Gonzalez1, P. Flores1, A. C. Medina-Garcia1, A. Bernal1, O. L. Vera Lastra2, C. Pineda1, L. J. Jara1.

Background: Covid-19 vaccination prevents 52% of expected infections, 56% of expected hospitalizations, and 58% of expected deaths in adults 18 years or
older [1]. Nevertheless, some case reports and series have demonstrated the new-onset rheumatological syndromes after vaccination.

**Objectives:** The aim of this systematic review is to establish the frequency, clinical features, and treatment response of new onset autoimmune rheumatic diseases after COVID-19 vaccination.

**Methods:** Systematic search for original research articles published between January 2021 and January 2023 was formulated. The search process was carried out following the PRISMA guidelines. Electronic searches were performed in Medline, EMBASE, Cochrane, Scopus, EBSCO, WoS and LILACS using the following key terms in all possible combinations: "Rheumatic diseases," "Systemic Vasculitis," "Myositis," "Polyserositis," "Systemic Lupus Erythematosus," "Antiphospholipid Syndrome," "Adult onset Still disease," "Rheumatoid arthritis," "ANCA-associated vasculi-

tis," "Spondyloarthritis," "Reactive arthritis," "Sjögren's syndrome," "Systemic sclerosis," "Covid-19 vaccine" and "SARS-CoV-2 vaccine." Cohort studies, case reports or case series were included if the patients fulfilled the specific diagnostic/classification criteria and/or nomenclature for each rheumatic autoimmune disease. Publications were excluded if they did not fulfill the above criteria.

**Results:** The electronic search yielded 280 publications. A total of 163 articles were evaluated and 59 reports with 108 patients (GCA 10, IgA vasculitis 9, SLE 14, ANCA vasculitis 24, adult-onset Still's disease 12, reactive arthritis 2, Rheumatoid Arthritis 5, Sjögren's syndrome 3, Systemic Sclerosis 2, Takayasu's arteritis 2, cryoglobulinemic vasculitis 1, Kawasaki disease 3, Polymyalgia rheumatica 16, PAN 1, SPA 2) were overlapped and removed. Antinuclear antibody syndrome was included. 44.4% were men and 43.5% were women with a median age of 60 years (IQR 40-74 y/o). 472 developed rheumatic disease after the first dose and 35.2% after the second dose, with a median of 10 days (IQR 5.5-14.5 days). 67.6% received corticosteroids (16.7% High-dose and 15.7% Pulse), 31.5% received immunosuppressant (cyclophosphamide 74%, rituximab 2.6, hydroxychloroquine 4.6, methotrexate 6.5, tocilizumab 2.8, mycophenolate 2.8, immunoglobulin 0.3 and 4.6% others). The 55.6% had complete remission, 24.1% partial and 6.5% non-response.

**Conclusion:** After Covid 19 vaccine, a minority of patients may develop for the first time an autoimmune rheumatic disease. Despite its increasing number of documented cases, the incidence remains low compared to the benefits of vaccination. 2. Patients present a high variability of clinical manifestations and most patients respond favorably to treatment. 3. The complex interaction between the vaccine component and the immune system must be studied.

**References:**


**Acknowledgments:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6016

<table>
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<th>VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19 IN PARAGUAYAN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords:</strong> COVID, Rheumatoid arthritis, Vaccination/immunization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Methods:** Descriptive, cross sectional, observational study, in a Paraguayan cohort of RA patients meeting ACR/EULAR2020 criteria, after follow-up in two Rheumatology reference centers, from October to December 2022. A standardized questionnaire according to the variables included (clinical, vaccination, vaccine type, number of doses) was made. Quantitative variables were presented as means and qualitative as frequencies.

**Results:** 568 patients with RA were included, 84.1% were female, mean age 55.48±13.94 years old. 23.9% patients were from Hospital de Clínicas and 76.1% from Hospital Central del Instituto de Previsión Social. The average number of vaccinated doses was 2.5±4.19. 86.7% of patients acquired at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 85% obtained two doses; and, while 60.9% of patients received the first booster, 21.2% had the second one.

**Conclusion:** In this study, Paraguayan RA patients, vaccination against COVID-19 is higher than the general population, perhaps due to priority of patients with rheumatic diseases receiving immunization, and frequent access to medical care with physician's prompt to receive vaccinations. While over 80% of patients have a complete primary schedule, and more than 60% received the first booster; only 21% have a complete immunization schedule, which is still much higher than the general population in Paraguay.

| Table 1. Vaccines in Paraguayan patients with Reumatoid Arthritis |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Vaccines against COVID-19 | First Dose | Second Dose | First booster | Second booster |
| | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) |
| Spumvik (Gam-Cov-Vac) n (%) | 149 (26.2) | 137 (24.1) | 10 (1.8) | 0 |
| Astrazeneca (ChAdOx1 nCoV-19) n (%) | 172 (30.3) | 171 (30.1) | 110 (19.4) | 36 (29.5) |
| Pfizer n (BNT162b2) (%) | 81 (14.3) | 80 (14.1) | 198 (34.9) | 68 (55.7) |
| Moderna (mRNA-1273) n (%) | 41 (7.2) | 38 (6.7) | 22 (3.8) | 18 (14.6) |
| Hayak n (%) | 29 (5.1) | 28 (4.9) | 1 (0.2) | 2 (0.2) |
| Sinopharm BBIBP n (%) | 2 (0.4) | 1 (0.2) | 0 | 0 |
| Covaxin n (%) | 28 (4.9) | 26 (4.6) | 3 (0.5) | 0 |
| CoronaVac n (%) | 2 (0.4) | 2 (0.4) | 0 | 0 |

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6094
**Pain in rheumatic diseases, including fibromyalgia**

**AB1386 A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS OF THE PREVALENCE OF PAIN SENSITIVITY AND NEUROPATHIC LIKE PAIN IN INFECTIOUS ARTHRITIS, USING QUESTIONNAIRES**

**Keywords:** Systematic review, Inflammatory arthritis


*Guy’s Hospital, Rheumatology Unit, London, United Kingdom; King’s College Hospital, Psychology Department, Institute of Psychiatry, London, United Kingdom; King’s College London Guy’s Campus, Centre for Inflammation Biology & Cancer Immunology, London, United Kingdom; King’s College London Guy’s Campus, Wolfson Centre for Age-related Diseases, London, United Kingdom

**Background:** Targeted pain relief is a major unmet medical need for patients with inflammatory arthritis (IA), where approximately 40% of patients experience persistent pain[1]. Self-reported questionnaires which report on pain sensitivity and neuropathic like pain may provide an insight into certain pain parameters to guide targeted treatment.

**Objectives:** In this systematic review and meta-analysis we evaluated self-reported pain sensitivity and neuropathic like pain in subjects with IA, as defined by questionnaires.

**Methods:** MEDLINE, Embase, Web of Science, PsycINFO and Google scholar were searched for publications and conference abstracts, reporting on pain sensitivity and neuropathic pain using painDETECT, DNA, LANSS, CSSQ, PSQI and McGill pain questionnaire in adult patients with IA. Risk of bias was assessed using National Institute of Health Quality Assessment Tool. Meta-analysis according to individual questionnaires criteria, was undertaken.

**Results:** 63 studies (38 full text and 25 conference abstracts) were included in the review, reporting on a total of 13,033 patients. On meta-analysis, prevalence of pain sensitivity/neuropathic pain in IA was 96% (95% CI 91-99%) according to painDETECT, 31% (95% CI 26-37%) according to the DN4, 32% (95% CI 24-39%) according to the LANSS and 42% (95% CI 34-50%) according to the CSI. On meta-regression, prevalence of pain sensitivity/neuropathic pain in RA was significantly lower than in SpA (p=0.01) and PsA (p=0.002) using the painDETECT questionnaire. Across all questionnaires, pain sensitivity and neuropathic like pain were significantly associated with pain severity, disease activity, disability, quality of life and anxiety and depression measures. Studies reporting on whether neuropathic like pain is a predictor of treatment outcome were inconsistent.

**Conclusion:** Pain sensitivity and neuropathic like pain contributes to pain perception in up to 42% of patients with IA. Despite substantial heterogeneity between studies on meta-analysis, this review highlights the large proportion of patients with IA who may experience pain due to underlying mechanisms other than in addition to synovial inflammation.

**REFERENCE:**

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Zoe Rutter-Leecher: None declared, Nikita Arumallia: None declared, Sam Norton: None declared, Leonie Taams: None declared, Dr Bruce Kirkham Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly, Kirsty Bannister: None declared.

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**Figure 1.** Prevalence of neuropathic like pain or pain sensitization according to painDETECT in RA, SpA and PsA.

**AB1387 EFFECTIVENESS OF REHABILITATION STRATEGIES IN PRIMARY FIBROMYALGIA SYNDROME: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS**

**Keywords:** Rehabilitation, Fibromyalgia, Non-pharmacological interventions

A Pathak, J. Rai, N. Rai, S. Singh, G. Bhat, A. Jaimis Bhopal, Physiology Department, Bhopal, India; "Neurocity Centre for Neuro Excellence, Neurology, Bhopal, India; "AIIIMS Bhopal, Physiology Department, Bhopal, India; "AIIIMS Bhopal, Pediatrics Department, Bhopal, India

**Background:** Fibromyalgia is characterized by chronic inconsistent widespread pain and tenderness. It is also associated with other comorbid symptoms like sleep disturbances, fatigue, cognitive impairments (memory and mood disturbances), and/or irritable bowel syndrome. [1] Prevalence of fibromyalgia is 2.7% globally, being slightly higher in middle aged women (4-9%). 75 to 100% patients with fibromyalgia face depression, anxiety and/or stress. The probability of occurrence of depression is almost 40% at any stage in the course of fibromyalgia. [2] Patients usually report physical symptoms of depression (e.g. appetite, sleep, and sexual dysfunction) rather than mood-related psychological symptoms (e.g. suicidal ideation, low self-esteem), however depression is affective expression of chronic pain and neuromarkers of both cannot be isolated. [3] Reviews done till date are either oriented toward specific form of exercise or towards specific outcome. We could not come across any review which included all form of exercise with measurement of multiple outcomes.

**Objectives:** The aim of this review was to i) summarize evidence on the effectiveness of rehabilitation strategies in Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) and 2) determine the most effective rehabilitation strategy for reducing pain and depression in people with FMS.

**Methods:** PubMed, Ovid (Sp), and Cochrane search engines were used for identifying the studies done till 1 July 2022. Randomized control trials (RCTs) that have passive control group and active control group were included in this review for primary and secondary aim respectively. The primary outcome measures were Pain and Depression. Secondary outcome was one from the sleep or fatigue or healthy related quality of life (HRQOL).

**Results:** A total of 25 RCTs were included. Separate random effect model meta-analysis is performed for randomised control trial with active and passive control group. Mean difference or Standard Mean difference with 95% confidence interval used to assess the effect size. Studies with passive control group showed moderate to large positive effects on pain (SMD -0.65, 95% CI -0.93 to -0.38; I² = 72%) and HRQOL (MD -0.40, 95% CI -1.07 to -0.62; I² = 74%) but non-significant for sleep, fatigue, and depression. Furthermore, on subgroup analysis studies with short term protocol showed significant effect on pain only whereas studies with long term protocols showed positive effect on pain and HRQOL only but non-significant at the time of post-trial follow-up. Studies with active control group represent non-significant results except mixed exercises which showed positive effect (MD -4.78, 95% CI -7.98 to -1.57; I² = 0%) for HRQOL.

**Conclusion:** All rehabilitation strategies were effective for pain and HRQOL, and has marginal effect on depression, sleep, and fatigue but efficacy was not maintained at the time of post-trial follow-up. However, in this review we could not
differentiate any rehabilitation strategies for the best among those used in the included studies.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.295

AB1368 PROBLEMATIC USE OF OPIOIDS IN MUSCULOSKELETAL CHRONIC NON-CANCER PAIN: A PROSPECTIVE REAL LIFE STUDY

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Epidemiology, Pain

Background: Musculoskeletal chronic non-cancer pain (CNCP) has a multidimensional impact. Opioid treatments have a key role in their management but expose to risks of serious adverse effects and in particular to opioid use disorder and misuse. There is a lack of data on this topic in France. This work assesses the proportion of patients with problematic use of their opioid treatment in the rheumatology department and in the pain center of the University Hospital of Tours.

Objectives: This work assesses the proportion of patients with problematic use of their opioid treatment in the rheumatology department and in the pain center of the University Hospital of Tours.

Methods: We carried out a prospective monocentric observational study in routine care in patients followed for musculoskeletal CNCP and treated in this indication with weak or strong opioid treatment at the time of inclusion between January and December 2021. We collected demographic, clinical and opioid prescribing data. The primary endpoint was the percentage of problematic use of opioid treatment defined by overconsumption and/or misuse according to the Prescribed Opioid Misuse Index (POMI) and/or opioid use disorder according to DSM V criteria.

Results: 97 patients were included (68% women, median age 55 years); 37% of patients were treated with strong opioids. The median duration of opioid treatment was 4.5 years; 30% of patients had problematic use of their opioid treatment. There was overconsumption in 20% of patients, misuse in 22% and opioid use disorder in 15%. The group of patients with problematic use of opioid treatment had a higher body mass index and reported significantly more history of psychotrauma.

Conclusion: The problematic use of opioids in patients with musculoskeletal CNCP is frequent. These data are in agreement with those in the literature in other indications. The interest of therapeutic education programs or other preventive interventions remains to be defined.

Keywords: opioids, chronic non-cancer pain, opioid use disorder, misuse.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1021

AB1369 FIBROMYALGIA AND INFORMATION SOURCES, THE EXAMPLE OF YOUTUBE: A CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Keywords: Patient information and education, Patient-led research, Fibromyalgia

Background: Fibromyalgia is a chronic condition affecting 2 to 8% of the population. Like any chronic disease, there is a need for information. More than one in two patients use the Internet as a source of health information. YouTube is an online video-sharing website that is consulted daily by both patients and healthcare professionals. This is the second most visited website in the world after Google. Usually, users view the top 60 most relevant videos.

Objectives: The aim of our study was therefore to analyse the scientific quality of fibromyalgia videos on YouTube.

Methods: We performed an analysis by using the French version of youtube (www.youtube.fr) using the keyword “fibromyalgia”. Search parameters were left as default (i.e. ranking videos by relevance as most users do). Only videos in French were included. The Global Quality Scale (GQS) was used to assess the quality of the content.

Results: 60 videos were selected. Four videos were excluded: 2 duplicates and 2 videos containing only music. The main results are presented in Table 1. 37.5% (n=21) of the videos were published by academic institutions and healthcare professionals. The mean duration of the videos was 12min34. The median GQS was 4. 75% (n=42) were scientifically relevant. 62.5% (n=35) of the videos demonstrated high quality, followed by intermediate quality (19.6% (n=11)). According to the GQS, 17.0% (n=10) of the videos were of low-quality.

Conclusion: To the best of our knowledge, we have conducted the first study examining the scientific quality of fibromyalgia-related content on YouTube. Most of the content on YouTube relating to fibromyalgia provide useful information. Nevertheless, physicians should remind their patients to be cautious about using such a source of information.

Table 1. Baseline features of the analyzed videos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Videos (n=56)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of comments</td>
<td>13 (0-227)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of likes</td>
<td>201 (0-2400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of views</td>
<td>9676.5 (241-99618)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GQS</td>
<td>4 (1-5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.
Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1875
Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Odds Ratio - Confidence interval 95%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (reference 18-30 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.91 [1.82 - 1.99]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (reference 18.5 - 25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.83 [0.73 - 0.95]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity at work (reference: no activity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.21 [1.12 - 1.30]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol (reference: no misuse or dependence - Audit Score)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.84 [0.75 - 0.95]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity at work (reference: sedentary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.80 [0.71 - 0.89]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity at leisure (reference: no activity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.80 [0.71 - 0.89]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-professional category (reference: intermediate profession)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.80 [0.71 - 0.89]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma (reference: without diploma)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.80 [0.71 - 0.89]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional situation (reference: employed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.80 [0.71 - 0.89]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income (reference: 1000Less than 45 euros: 0.89 [0.69 - 1.12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to 1500 euros)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.80 [0.71 - 0.89]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AB1371 CENTRAL SENSITIZATION AS A PREDICTOR OF FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Pain, Rheumatoid arthritis

V. Bombela1, I. Shapoval1, M. Stanislavchuk1, National Progov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsya, Department of Internal Medicine N1, Vinnytsya, Ukraine

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a common systemic inflammatory autoimmune disease. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis suffer from chronic pain, restricted function and reduction of daily activities [1]. Recent evidence reveals that central sensitization (CS) is associated with the development and maintenance of chronic pain. [2].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the functional status of RA patients in the presence of CS.

Methods: The study involved patients diagnosed with RA according to the ACR/EULAR criteria (2010). The presence of the CS phenomenon was assessed according to the Central Sensitization Inventory (CSI) (Mayer, T. G. et al., 2012). The Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI) was used to assess the functional status of patients. RA activity was determined by DAS-28, SDAI, CDAI. Pain intensity was assessed by Visual Analog Scale (VAS). Statistical analysis was performed using MS Excel and SPSS22 software (©SPSS Inc.). Odds ratios (OR) and their corresponding 95% confidence interval (CI) were calculated. A descriptive analysis of the variables was carried out using mean and standard deviation (M±SD).

Results: A total of 168 RA patients (female 78%) were included. The median age of patients was 52.7±14.1, years, and the median duration of disease was 8.7±7.9 years. The examined patients showed mainly moderate and high activity of the disease (DAS-28 – 4.90±1.9; SDAI – 34.9 ±9.6; CDAI – 32.0±9.3). The presence of central sensitization (CSI>40) was revealed in 59 (35%) of patients. The group of patients with CS had greater functional impairment compared to patients without CS: HAQ - 1.9±0.7 versus 1.0±0.6 (p<0.05). Also, patients with CS reported a higher intensity of pain (VAS pain - 7.8±1.2 versus 6.4±1.4; p<0.05). Mild functional disability (HAQ-DI value up to 1) was observed in 41% of patients with RA, moderate (HAQ-DI from 1 to 2) – in 38%, severe (HAQ-DI more than 2) – in 21%. The group of RA patients with CS had significantly different differences from the group without CS regarding HAQ-DI (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of the RA patients with and without CS regarding HAQ-DI.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSI&lt;=40</th>
<th>CSI&gt;40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(n=109)</td>
<td>(n=59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI (M±SD) 1.0 ± 0.6</td>
<td>1.9 ± 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n/ %)</td>
<td>p&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI ≤ 1,</td>
<td>0.9 ± 1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n/ %)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI &gt; 1,</td>
<td>44.0±4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n/ %)</td>
<td>19.3±2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI ≥ 2,</td>
<td>4.3±7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n/ %)</td>
<td>32.5±4.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: HAQ-DI - Health Assessment Questionnaire, CSI - Central Sensitization Inventory. P – the significance of differences between groups.

Finally, the strong correlation was determined between CSI and HAQ-DI (r=0.745; p<0.01). Significant moderate correlations were also found between CSI and VAS pain (r=0.532; p<0.01). We found that the presence of CS in patients with RA was associated with an increased risk of functional disability. Odds ratios are used to identify the risk of functional disorders in patients with CS. RA patients with CSI score ≥ 40 had an odds ratio of 6.97 [95% CI: 3.02 – 16.1] (p< 0.0001) for moderate functional disability and 21.3 [95% CI: 8.07 – 56.4] (p< 0.0001) for severe functional disability.

Conclusion: Central sensitization is common in RA patients. The phenomenon of central sensitization is associated with high level of functional disability of patients with RA and severity of pain. The phenomenon of central sensitization should be considered as a predictor of functional disability.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1372 PREDICTING ACUPUNCTURE EFFICACY IN FIBROMYALGIA: RESULTS OF A PRAGMATIC OPEN-LABEL STUDY

Keywords: Fibromyalgia

M. Di Carlo1, G. Beci2, E. Cipolletta2, F. Salaffi1, 1Università Politecnica delle Marche, Rheumatology Clinic, Jesi (Ancona), Italy; 1Università Politecnica delle Marche, Rheumatology Clinic, Jesi (Ancona), Italy

Background: Fibromyalgia (FM) is a condition mainly characterized by the presence of chronic widespread musculoskeletal pain that affects a large proportion of the general population. Acupuncture, like other complementary and alternative medicines, is a patient-centered treatment and is generally well tolerated and appreciated by patients and the latest EUropean League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations on the management of FM made a weak recommendation for acupuncture in FM. To date, there is no study that indicates which variables predict response to acupuncture treatment in FM, either in terms of immediate response or persistence of response, and thus can enable the implementation of personalized treatment a prevention of therapeutic failure.
Objectives: The aim of this study is to identify the predictive factors of failure to acupuncture in patients with FM.

Methods: FM patients refractory to standard drug therapy (defining as standard drug therapy the association of duloxetine and pregabalin) underwent eight weekly acupuncture sessions. Significant improvement, defined as a reduction of at least 30% of the FIQR, was assessed at the end of the eight weeks (T1) of treatment and three months after the end of treatment (T2). Univariate analysis was conducted to identify predictors of significant improvement at T1 and T2. Variables, which resulted significantly associated with clinical improvement at univariate analysis, were included in multivariate models.

Results: Analyses were conducted on 77 patients (9 males, 11.7%). At T1, significant improvement in FIQR was recorded in 44.2% of patients. At T2, significant improvement in FIQR persisted in 20.8% of patients. In multivariate analysis, predictive variables of treatment failure were tender point count (TPC) (odds ratio [OR] = 0.49, 95% confidence interval [95% CI]: 0.28 – 0.86, p = 0.01) and pain magnification (OR = 0.68, 95% CI: 0.47 – 0.99, p = 0.04) assessed with Pain Catastrophizing Scale, at T1. At T2, the only predictive variable of treatment failure was concomitant duloxetine use (OR = 0.21, 95% CI: 0.05 – 0.95, p = 0.04) (Table 1).

Table 1. Multivariate analyses considering the significant clinical improvement at the end of treatment (T1) and 3 months after the end of the treatment (T2) as dependent variable, independent variables the parameters that achieved statistical significance at univariate analyses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T1</th>
<th>Independent variables</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIQR</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.96 – 1.05</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHQ15</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.83 – 1.09</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS helplessness</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.76 – 1.13</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS rumination</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.86 – 1.32</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS magnification</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.47 – 0.99</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDQ VAS highest pain</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.53 – 1.55</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDQ VAS mean pain</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>0.64 – 1.77</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPC</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.28 – 0.86</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T2</th>
<th>Independent variables</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duloxetine use</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.05 – 0.95</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIQR function physical</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.82 – 1.06</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS helplessness</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.83 – 1.15</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS magnification</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.50 – 1.12</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPC</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.40 – 1.19</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: High TPC and a tendency for pain magnification predict immediate treatment failure, while duloxetine therapy predicts it three months after completion of the acupuncture course. The identification of clinical characteristics of unfavorable response to acupuncture could help to implement a cost-effective prevention of treatment failure in FM. The results of this study can provide a reference for the integration of a non-drug treatment such as acupuncture into the complex FM scenario.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB137/3
ARE FIBROMYALGIA AND/OR DEPRESSION THE MOST COMMON DIAGNOSES SEEN IN ROUTINE RHEUMATOLOGY CARE, ALTHOUGH AS SECONDARY DIAGNOSES, BUT WHICH MAY COMPlicate CLINICAL ASSESSMENT, PROGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT?

Keywords: Outcome measures, Fibromyalgia, T. Pincus, J. Schumcker, J. L., J. Block, T. RUSH University Medical Center, Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Chicago, United States of America; 1Georgetown University, Biostatistics, Bioinformatics & Biostatistics, Washington, United States of America

Background: Fibromyalgia (FM) and depression (DEP) are common comorbidities in all primary rheumatic diagnoses, easily recognized in many patients, but often underestimated, particularly in patients who meet criteria for a primary rheumatic disease. Two screening indices to recognize FM and/or DEP are found within a 2-page multidimensional health assessment questionnaire (MDHAQ), FAST4 (fibromyalgia assessment screening tool) and MDS2 (MDHAQ depression screen) [1]. FAST4 agrees 90% with 2011 revised FM criteria, and MDS2 agrees 80% with reference HADS-D (hospital anxiety and depression scale–DEP).

Objectives: To analyze patients with different rheumatic diagnoses according to FAST4 and MDS2 as well as reference 2011 FM Criteria and HADS-D, to recognize those who screen positive for FM and/or depression.

Methods: The MDHAQ is a 2-page patient self-report questionnaire designed for routine care, completed by most patients with any diagnosis in 5-10 minutes at all visits to 2 academic rheumatology sites. The MDHAQ includes scores to calculate FAST4 and MDS2: the FM screen is positive (FAST4+) if ≥4 are present of: pain 0-10 visual numeric scale (VNS) ≥6/10, fatigue VNS ≥6/10, pain self-report 0-54 RADAI painful joint score ≥18/54, 60-symptom checklist (ROS) ≥16/60. The DEP screen is positive (MDS2+) if 0-3.3 DEP in the patient-friendly HAQ format is ≥2.2 OR DEP is ≥ on ROS. The % of patients with various primary diagnoses, and who screened positive or negative by FAST4, MDS2, 2011 revised FM criteria, or HADS-D was computed.

Results: Among 1,038 routine rheumatology care patients at 2 settings, 307 were FM+ by FAST4, 297 by 2011 FM criteria,295 DEP+ by MDS2, and 364 DEP+ by HADS-D. These prevalences were ≥28.0% according to FAST4 and MDS2 in all patients, as high as most prevalent primary ICD-10 diagnosis of 291 for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (Table 1). Percentages of FM+ and DEP+ patients were within 12% for all diagnosis categories except for 6.3% of patients with primary FM (Table 1).

Conclusion: Non-somatic problems of FM and DEP are as common as any diagnosis seen in routine rheumatology care at 2 academic sites, albeit as secondary diagnoses in most patients. FM and/or DEP may complicate assessment, prognosis, and management of clinical status and explain poor responses to treatment in some patients. It is feasible to screen for FM and DEP on a single MDHAQ, completed by most patients in 5-10 minutes, as FAST4 and MDS2 indexes, at any rheumatology site.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Number (%) of patients according to Primary ICD 10 diagnosis, and % positive by 2011 revised FM criteria fibromyalgia criteria, FAST4 (fibromyalgia assessment screening tool, HADS-D (hospital anxiety and depression scale–depression) and MDS2 (MDHAQ depression screen 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary ICD10 diagnosis</th>
<th>Number (%) of patients</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>FAST4</th>
<th>MDS2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)</td>
<td>291 (28%)</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoarthritis (OA)</td>
<td>131 (13%)</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia (FM)</td>
<td>65 (6.3%)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All inflammatory arthritis other than RA</td>
<td>436 (42.0%)</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All non-inflammatory diagnoses other than OA and FM</td>
<td>115 (11.1%)</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The denominator is the total number of patients in the header of the column. The denominator for percentages in other columns is the total observations with non-missing specific variables for each row.3 Fibromyalgia is according to primary physician diagnosis.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3171

AB137/4
ADVERSE EVENTS AFTER VACCINATION FOR SARS-CoV-2 IN A CASE SERIES OF FIBROMYALGIA PATIENTS VERSUS HEALTHY CONTROLS

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Vaccination/immunization, COVID

M. L. Aprile, L. C., L. G. C., G. Sambataro, M. Colaci

University of Catania, Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Catania, Italy;
Ospedale San Giovanni Battista, Oncology Unit, Catania, Italy; I.A. Sant’Anna S.R.L., Rheumatology Outpatient Clinic, Mascali, CT, Italy

Background: Fibromyalgia (FM) is a chronic widespread pain syndrome of unknown origin that leads to hypersensitivity for physical, chemical and/or psychic triggers. Vaccination, as an inflammatory stimulus and as a psychologically stressful act, could represent a challenge for these patients.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the incidence of adverse reactions after vaccination for Sars-CoV-2 in a series of FM patients versus healthy controls.

Scientific Abstracts
Methods: We recruited 65 consecutive FM patients classified according to the 2016 ACR diagnostic criteria (M/F: 5/60; mean age 53.6 ±12.5 years), without other associated rheumatologic conditions, and 65 age/sex-matched healthy controls. A questionnaire was administered in order to investigate eventual adverse events occurring up to 6 months after administration of a Sars-Cov2 vaccine. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: the first part included the patient’s demographic information, the vaccine type performed and the anamnestic data. In the second part, the individuals described all new symptoms or signs occurred after the first, the second or the third dose of Sars-Cov2 vaccine.

Results: Overall, FM patients reported a higher frequency of adverse events after Sars-Cov2 vaccination in comparison with healthy controls. In particular, 44/65 FM patients vs. 11/65 controls complained of exacerbation of diffuse pain (p<0.001). Fatigue, diarrhea, sweating, tangles, headache, dizziness, transient respiratory discomfort, and paroxysmal vision blurring were also more frequent in FM patients than controls (47/65 vs. 30/65, p=0.004; 6/65 vs. 0/65, p=0.028; 18/65 vs. 8/65, p=0.047; 20/65 vs. 0/65, p=0.001; 22/65 vs. 9/65, p=0.013; 21/65 vs. 5/65, p<0.001; 10/65 vs 1/65, p=0.009; 17/65 vs. 2/65, p<0.001, respectively).

No significant difference between FM and the control group as regards fever was reported (24/65 vs. 30/65, p=0.7). Interestingly, swelling at the injection vaccine site was more commonly reported in controls (9/65 vs. 20/65; p=0.034). Finally, one case of Bell’s palsy was registered in the FM series while one case of myositis was more commonly reported in controls (9/65 vs. 20/65; p=0.034). Interestingly, swelling at the injection vaccine site was more commonly reported in controls (9/65 vs. 20/65; p=0.034). Finally, one case of Bell’s palsy was registered in the FM series while one case of myositis was more commonly reported in controls (9/65 vs. 20/65; p=0.034).

Conclusions: FM patients showed an increased frequency of adverse events to Sars-Cov2 vaccination compared to healthy controls. In particular, all the symptoms reported seemed to be associated with the functional hypertonicity that characterizes FM.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1375

SHORT-TERM EFFECTIVENESS OF A MULTIMODAL TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR REFRACTORY CHRONIC PAIN SYNDROMES INCLUDING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY FIBROMYALGIA

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Pain

T. Pretaić1, T. Hügel1, P. Ming Azevedo1,1 Lausanne University Hospital, Rheumatology, Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: Treatment-refractory Chronic Pain Syndromes (CPS) are highly heterogenous entities with a high socio-economic burden. Multimodal treatment programs combining physical and cognitive-behavioral interventions have shown promising results but definition of clinically relevant response remains challenging.

Objectives: To identify clinical endpoints and predictive factors for effectiveness of a multimodal CPS program.

Methods: Retrospective observational study with 201 patients (22 to 72 years old) with refractory CPS with or without concomitant inflammatory rheumatic disease participating in a 2-week inpatient program in a tertiary rheumatology center in Lausanne, Switzerland. The approach included: Intensive physiotherapy, chiropractic and osteopathy treatment, peripheral or spinal injection (if appropriate), rheumatological assessment, occupational therapy, psychiatric assessment, group-based education, sleep assessment by actigraphy and virtual reality sessions. Patients with psychiatric or physical conditions affecting ability to follow the program were excluded. BPI (primary endpoint) plus 6 other standardized questionnaires were executed before and after program. Multivariable regression was performed between delta BPI and clinical and demographic characteristics.

Results: The descriptive analysis is compatible with patients with severe refractory CPS patients. 73.3% are women (48% > 50 years old), 33.8% are overweight, 30.6% are obese, 73.2% describe pain in childhood or adolescence, 14% have had multiple surgeries (≥3) related to pain, 89% report back pain (86% lumbal), 27.1% have a present or past clinical diagnosis of hyperalgesia, 78% met the 2010 ACR criteria for FM, 81% had FIRST-4, 73.8% received concomitant biologic treatment, axitromasin was diagnosed in 34%, 50.2% presented reduced sleep efficacy and 78.4% showed hyper-fragmented sleep. After the program, the majority of patients improved scores for ODI (51%), FABQ-O (57%), POAM-A (48,5%), BPI-S (51,5%), BPI-I (65,6%), HAS (55%), HDS (59%) and PCS (63,7%). 48.5% of patients improved POAM-P and 34% improved FABQ-W scores. Interestingly, patients who improved in HDS often improved also in PCS and HAS (measures of affective stress). The same correlated variation did not occur between ODI and BPI impact (measures of function). TAMPA variation was slightly correlated with PCS.

Several variables associated with BPI in univariable analysis were excluded in the multivariable due to excess of missing data. Clinical and demographic variables associated with BPI in multivariable analysis were age (p=0.007), disability allowance (p=0.058) and presence of an inflammatory disease (p=0.044). For BPI, the association were with clinically significant peripheral arthritis (p=0.001), patient origin (p=0.008) and the diagnosis of a biomechanical disorder (p=0.002).

Conclusion: The present work suggests that multimodal pain programs should have other goals besides pain reduction, such as improving function, reducing fear of movement, reducing affective stress, and changing cognition and behavior associated with the perception of pain. The abovementioned questions target these aspects and may be utilized as endpoints. Questionnaires addressing affective stress had interrelated variations so that composite scores can be proposed and should be tested in long-term. Abbreviations: 2010 American College of Rheumatology Fibromyalgia criteria (ACR-FM 2010), Brief Pain Inventory (BPI), BPI-Impact (BPI-I), BPI-Severity (BPI-S), Fear-Avoidance Beliefs Questionnaire (FABQ), FABQ-O (Physical), FABQ-W (Work), FABQ-M, FM R Questionnaires, ODI (Oswestry Low Back Pain Disability Index, Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS), Patterns of Activity Measure (POAM), Tampa Kinesiophobia Scale (TAMPA).

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5423

AB1376

CENTRAL SENSITIZATION IN AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES: IS IT RELATED TO DISEASE ACTIVITY, COEXISTING FIBROMYALGIA, AND LABORATORY FINDINGS?

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögren syndrome, Pain

Z. Bazancıl Apaydın1, H. Apaydın2, B. Armagan2, K. Göklı3, S. Erten3, 1Ankara Medipol University, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Ankara City Hospital, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Central sensitization (CS) is a phenomenon associated with chronic pain disorders and may be seen in several rheumatic diseases with chronic musculoskeletal pain such as osteoarthritis, spondyloarthopathy, and fibromyalgia, but little is known about CS in patients with autoimmune connective tissue diseases (ACTDs).

Objectives: The purpose of the study was to investigate the role of CS in patients with ACTDs and how it relates to disease activity, coexisting fibromyalgia, and laboratory findings.

Methods: A total of 82 patients (mean age 49.2±13.1 years) with ACTDs were included and were divided into three groups in terms of their diseases: Sjögren’s syndrome (SS), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). The CS was assessed using the central sensitization inventory (CSI-A and CSI-B scores). The disease activity (using Sjögren’s syndrome disease activity index, ESSDAI, for SS; Disease Activity Score-28 C-reactive protein, DAS28-CRP, for RA; and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index, SLEDAI, for SLE), pain intensity (using visual analog scale), coexisting fibromyalgia, and laboratory findings (erythrocyte sedimentation rate-ESR and C-reactive protein-CRP) of all patients were evaluated.

Results: CS were present in 39% of all ACTDs patients (57.1% in SS, 38.6% in RA, and 26.1% in SLE). No significant differences were found in the CSI-A score (p = 0.161) and CSI-B score (p = 0.809) among the groups. There was a significant correlation between disease activity and the CSI-A scores in patients with RA (p = 0.022 r = 0.360), but no significant relationship between disease activity and the CSI-A scores in SS (p = 0.390) or SLE patients (p = 0.179). CSI-A and CSI-B scores were higher in the coexisting fibromyalgia in patients with ACTDs (p = 0.002, p < 0.001, respectively). There is no significant relationship between CSI-A scores and laboratory findings (ESR, CRP) in patients with ACTDs (p > 0.05).

Conclusion: CS is seen as a common condition in patients with ACTDs who also have fibromyalgia and is related to the disease activity in patients with RA. In addition to specific pharmacological treatments, pain-coping strategies may reduce pain and increase the quality of life of patients with these conditions. It is essential to increase awareness about the important role played by CS in patients with ACTDs.


Table 1. Comparing the central sensitization and coexisting fibromyalgia in different autoimmune connective tissue diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SS group (n=21)</th>
<th>RA Group (n=38)</th>
<th>SLE group (n=23)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS positive, n (%)</td>
<td>12 (57.1)</td>
<td>14 (36.8)</td>
<td>6 (26.1)</td>
<td>0.101a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI-A, median (IQR)</td>
<td>41 (31-58)</td>
<td>28 (21-49)</td>
<td>31 (19-44)</td>
<td>0.160a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI-B, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0 (0-1)</td>
<td>0 (0-1)</td>
<td>0 (0-1)</td>
<td>0.809a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coexisting fibromyalgia, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (23.8)</td>
<td>6 (15.8)</td>
<td>1 (4.3)</td>
<td>0.182a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SS, sjögren’s syndrome; RA, rheumatoid arthritis, SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus, IQR, interquartile range; Chi-squared test; Kruskal-Wallis Test

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1377

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT INTERVENTION FOR FIBROMYALGIA SYNDROME: A PROOF-OF-CONCEPT STUDY

Keywords: Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Fibromyalgia, Non-pharmacological interventions

V. Giorgi1, S. Farah2, P. Sarzi-Puttini1.

Background: The Feldenkrais Method is a form of awareness through movement (ATM) which aims at increasing awareness about spatial and kinesthetic relationships among body segments and the environment through verbally guided movements [1]. Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FM) is a form of chronic widespread pain associated to a variety of ancillary symptoms, among which fatigue, sleep disturbances and regional pain syndromes are preponderant. Lately, increasingly more attention has been drawn on mind-body interventions and meditative movement therapies for FM treatment [2]. ATM application for chronic pain has been promising but with low quality studies [3,4].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to explore the effectiveness of ATM for FM patients after 4 months of ATM activity; in particular, the proof-of-concept design aims at determining the domains for which an ATM-based intervention may be effective for FM patients.

Methods: This is a proof-of-concept, observational, non-controlled prospective study which lasted 6 months. Participants were recruited by the Italian Fibromyalgia Syndrome Association (AISFtOdA), a non-profit patient organization, through social media advertising. After signing the informed consent, they were divided into eleven groups of eleven/twelve patients each. Two Feldenkrais teachers were assigned to each group. All patients attended an ATM course lasting 15 lessons, with a lesson every week, 1.5h long (from January to May, 2021). The lessons were entirely virtual platform-based and live. Clinimetric tests and patient-reported outcome tests were administered at baseline and at the end of intervention.

Results: One hundred twenty-eight FM patients (mean age 54 years old, 2% males) participated in the study. A statistically significant improvement was found in FM-specific measures (Polysymptomatic Distress Scale, PDS) (p=0.003) and the Pain Catastrophization Scale (PCS) (p=0.020); coherently, the amelioration in self-reported outcome measures was statistically significant (p=0.08). The logistic regression analysis found a correlation between PDS, fatigue and anxiety measures; PCS, years from diagnosis and anxiety.

Conclusion: In conclusion, ATM could improve FM-specific measures and pain-related catastrophizing. Improving awareness about one’s one body and movements through ATM sessions may have helped FM patients to improve their cognitive attitude towards their pain condition, embracing a more positive, hence less catastrophizing attitude; furthermore, ATM could benefit FM patients because of its induction of muscular relaxation [5]. Further studies are needed to identify FM subgroups in order to find personalized targets that can be used to guide treatments.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: We would like to thank the teachers of the Italian Association of Teachers of the Feldenkrais Method (AIlMF) for their collaboration in this study.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1378

TITLE: BENEFIT OF GROUP MEDICAL VISITS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FIBROMYALGIA

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Diet and nutrition, Non-pharmacological interventions

J. A. Pando1, 2, C. Welton2, S. Griffith3, O. Pando1, 3, DelawareArthritis, Rheumatology, Lewes, United States of America; Delaware Arthritis, Rheumatology, Lewes, United States of America; Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Medicine, Philadelphia, United States of America

Background: Fibromyalgia (FM) is a chronic condition characterized by widespread pain, fatigue, sleep disturbances and mood disorders (depression and anxiety)[1]. While there is no cure for Fibromyalgia, non-pharmacological integrative modalities have been demonstrated to be effective improving clinical outcomes[2]. Group medical visits (GMV) have been used to integrate self-management skills and to deliver education to improve outcomes in patients with chronic diseases.[4-5] There are scant reports of the use of GMV in the management of patients with rheumatic diseases. The goal was to assess the benefit of GMV in patients diagnosed with Fibromyalgia (FM).

Objectives: We conducted a pilot study to assess the benefits of group medical visits (GMV) among patients with Fibromyalgia. Our primary objective was to improve outcomes by educating patients and demonstrating five integrative techniques: breath work, journaling, mindfulness, movement, and nutrition.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with Fibromyalgia participated in a series of group appointments. The four consecutive monthly sessions included: (1) an introduction to the series and demonstration of breathing techniques and journaling; (2) a presentation of the benefits of movement and participation in Tai Chi session; (3) an overview to mindfulness and guided meditation; (4) a discussion regarding the bio-some, nutrition, and elimination diets. Our clinical outcome measures included: The Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQ score), Personal Health Questionnaire Depression Scale (PHQ8) and Multi-Dimensional Health Assessment (MDHAQ). We took measurements at baseline and following completion of the last appointment. Our analysis consisted of a paired t-test to determine whether the mean difference between the baseline and follow-up outcomes was statistically significant.

Results: The average baseline and follow up measures were as follows: FIQ 61.5 to 50.3 (CI -15.8 - 4.3, p-value 0.0011), PHQ8 10.7 to 6.5 (CI -5.8 - -2.1, p-value 0.0001) and MDHAQ 16.4 to 13.59 (CI -4.9 - -1.5, p-value 0.0008), respectively. All measurements were statistically significant.

Conclusion: Our findings suggest that group medical visits are a valuable, beneficial, efficacious and cost-effective way to deliver care and information to patients with Fibromyalgia. GMV’s facilitate education, provide social support and most importantly, improved clinical outcomes.

REFERENCES:

and at the end of the fourth module. All the measurements were statistically significant.

Measurement of the 3 outcomes measures analyzed, (FIQ, PHQ 8 and MDHAQ) at baseline showed a significant improvement in the intervention group compared to the control group. The mean and 95% CI of the change in scores were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIQ</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>-10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHQ 8</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>-3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDHAQ</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>13.59</td>
<td>-3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:


Acknowledgements: NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2084

AB1380 ASSESSMENT OF OPTIC NERVE VOLUME AND MACULA FINDINGS WITH OPTIC COHERENCE ANGIOGRAPHY IN FEMALE PATIENTS WITH FIBROMYALGIA AND ITS RELATION WITH DISEASE SEVERITY

Keywords: Fibromyalgia

Methods: Sixty-two female fibromyalgia (FMS) patients with a mean age of 43.11±7.94 years and sixty female healthy controls with a mean age of 40±12.26 years were included. Fibromyalgia was diagnosed according to the American College of Rheumatology Criteria. Schirmer and tear break up time (TUT) test were recorded. Choroidal thickness, optic nerve head blood flow area, retinal nerve fiber layer was measured with optic coherence tomography angiography (OCTA). Widespread pain index (WIPI), symptom severity scale (SSS), tender point count, Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire (FIQ) were recorded.

Results: BUT test findings were lower in FMS patients compared to healthy controls and the differences were statistically significant (p<0.0001). There were no significant differences in Schirmer test and intracocular pressure findings between FMS patients and healthy controls (p>0.05). Optic disc total and peripapillary densities of FMS patients were found to be higher than healthy controls (p<0.05). Choroidal thickness, inner retina perifoveal thickness values of FMS patients were higher than healthy controls (p<0.05) but in outer retina foveal thickness values of patients were lower than healthy controls (p>0.05). In addition, foveal avascular zone (FAZ) and nonflow area were found to be enlarged in FMS patients compared to the healthy controls (p<0.05). There were weak positive correlations between fibromyalgia severity scale and choroidal thickness values, optic disc total and peripapillary densities and FAZ area. In addition, there were weak negative correlations between fibromyalgia severity scale and BUT test values.

Conclusion: Due to the known increase in inflammation in FMS patients, we found choroidal thickness and vascular density values around the optic disc to be higher than in the healthy control group. In addition, we found that FAZ and nonflow area values were enlarged compared to the control group, consistent with ischemia due to vascular damage in FMS patients. We found a significant correlation between all these values and the fibromyalgia severity scale values. In conclusion, we think that the results we evaluated with OCTA measurements are useful in detecting damage to retinal and optic disc vascular structures in FMS patients.

Reference:


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Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Pain, Spondyloarthritis

M. A. Burtul1,2, L. Macovei1,2, A. Cardoneanu1,2, D. M. Stincescu2, A. Codriu2, I. Bratcu2, P. Richet3, E. Rezku1,4, *Griгоре T. Popa1,4
1Medical and Pharmacy, Rheumatology, Iasi, Romania; 2Clinical Rehabilitation Hospital, Rheumatology, Iasi, Romania

Background: Pain is a cardinal symptom of chronic rheumatic conditions and can involve nociceptive and non-nociceptive (neuropathic) components that may be linked to central sensitization. Poor sleep quality has been connected to central sensitization and the appearance of neuropathic pain in patients with chronic rheumatic conditions.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate pain characteristics and sleep quality in adult patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), and osteoarthritis (OA).

Methods: We conducted a prospective observational study including patients with RA, AS, and OA who were evaluated in the Rheumatology Department of the Clinical Rehabilitation Hospital of Iasi between July-December 2022. We excluded patients with diabetes mellitus, neoplasia, and comorbid neurological conditions. We evaluated pain intensity using the visual analog scale (VAS) and pain characteristics using the PainDETECT questionnaire (PD-Q). Sleep quality was assessed using the Pittsburg Sleep Quality Index (PSQI).

Results: The final study group included 152 patients (50 RA, 52 AS, and 50 OA) with a mean age of 59 years. PD-Q scores did not differ significantly in the three subgroups. In patients with RA, PD-Q scores correlated with disease activity (DAS28 and CDAI; p=0.008 and p=0.037), whereas the relationship between BASDAI and PD-Q scores approached statistical significance (p=0.056). PD-Q scores were correlated with pain intensity in AS (p=0.037), but not RA or OA (p=0.421, p=0.383). In RA patients, nociceptive pain was significantly more prevalent compared to AS and OA (p<0.001) and was associated with a higher consumption of symptomatic medication during hospitalization. Neuropathic pain was notably more frequent in AS compared to RA (p<0.001) and OA (p<0.001). Neuropathic pain did not lead to significantly higher medication expenses in our study group. In the RA subgroup, PD-Q scores were significantly correlated to total PSQI (p<0.001), as well as the values for each of the PSQI domains. Moreover, in these patients, pain intensity was connected to poor subjective sleep quality, low sleep efficiency, and sleep disturbance. Total PSQI scores were also correlated with DAS28 (p=0.011). In AS patients, total PSQI was linked to PD-Q scores (p<0.001), but not pain intensity. PD-Q was significantly connected to subjective sleep quality, sleep latency, sleep duration, sleep efficiency, and sleep disturbance in AS. In the OA subgroup, pain intensity was associated with total PSQI (p=0.007), subjective sleep quality, sleep latency, sleep duration, and sleep efficiency. Nevertheless, poor sleep quality was not significantly linked to neuropathic pain in the OA group.

Conclusion: Non-nociceptive pain is frequent in patients with chronic rheumatic conditions. Moreover, non-nociceptive pain may impact activity score values in AS and RA. Poor sleep quality is connected to pain intensity and non-nociceptive pain in patients with RA and AS. Sleep quality was not linked to neuropathic pain in OA patients. Pain remains a key symptom in rheumatic diseases and its management remains a challenge for the clinician, especially in the context of central sensitization.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Background: Pain is a cardinal symptom of chronic rheumatic conditions and can involve nociceptive, neuropathic and central sensitization (CS) may be involved. The International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) defines central sensitization as « Increased responsiveness of nociceptive neurons in the central nervous system to their normal or sub-threshold afferent input » (1) Chronic inflammation can play an important role in this CNS hyperexcitability. During CS pain may persist, despite objective control of inflammation suggesting the involvement of SC phenomena.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to detect the impact of central hypersensitivity phenomena on pain in patients suffering from CS. A second object is to look for other factors associated with this central sensitization.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study that included all patients aged ≥ 18 years followed up for chronic inflammatory arthritis (SPA, RA, undifferentiated C) presenting to the rheumatology department. Patients with psychiatric or memory disorders or who refused to participate in the study were excluded. Sociodemographic data, comorbidities and treatments received were collected. No nociceptive pain was assessed by visual analog scale (VAS), disease activity by DAS-28 and ASDAS and central sensitization by the validated Moroccan version of the Central Sensitization Inventory part A (CSI-A). This inventory has 2 parts: Part A measures a range of 25 somatic and emotional symptoms associated with central sensitization, scored from 0 (never) to 4 (always), for a possible total score of 100. Part B concerns the recording of previous diagnoses related to central sensitization (not used in our study). A CSI-A score ≥ 40 was the threshold considered for the definition of CS. The Pain catastrophizing scale (PCS) was used to assess pain-related catastrophic thoughts and the PHQ-9 (Pain Health Questionnaire) to assess the severity of depressive symptoms.

Results: We included a total of 189 patients, 107 (56.61%) had rheumatoid arthritis, 67 (35.45%) spondyloarthritis and 15 (7.94%) undifferentiated inflammatory arthritis. The median duration of the disease course was 8 years [4–17], the mean age was 47.49 ± 13.70 years [14.74], 75.7% were women. The mean pain VAS was 4.77 ± 2.76 and 50.8% had a strong or moderate activity. The mean central sensitization score was 37.42 ± 16.75, with 44.9% having a CSI-A score ≥ 40. For treatments 38.2% of patients were on corticosteroids and 6.3% were using biological treatment. In uni and multivariate analysis, the parameters associated with CS were pain severity (0.039) and depression (0.001). A statistically significant correlation was found between the CSI-A score and pain VAS (r=0.32, p<0.001).

Conclusion: Pain in patients with CS has often been attributed to peripheral inflammation. However, our study suggests that central sensitization may increase pain intensity independent of disease activity. Screening for central sensitization mechanisms in patients followed for CIR seems necessary to guide management by targeting central pain in order to avoid useless therapeutic switches and escalations, sometimes even harmful for our patients.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5132

Background: Hypermobile joints are a common yet under-recognized cause of noninflammatory joint pain. Patients with Hypermobile joints display a range of movement that is considered excessive, considering their age, gender, and eth- nic background [1]. Hypermobile joints may be asymptomatic or associated with pain, fatigue, multisystemic complaints, and significant disability. In this study, we look at the clinical profile of patients with hypermobile joints who presented to our clinic.

Objectives: To study the clinical profile of patients with Hypermobile joints.

Methods: This is a prospective observational study. Patients who presented to our clinic from 2018 to 2022 with musculoskeletal complaints with a Beighton score of 4 without concomitant inflammatory arthritis were selected. Clinical data were collected by doctors/trained nursing profession- als using a form, and demographic and relevant clinical data were collected and analyzed.
Results: 236 patients were studied (203 females and 33 males). The mean age of patients was 41.8 years (±12.7 SD). The median duration of symptoms was 48 months (1–540 months). Median Beighton score was 7. The mean global VAS was 4 (±2 SD). Associated clinical features were as in Table 1. Criteria for Fibromyalgia (2016 revised criteria) were satisfied by 31% of patients. Total Beighton score showed a negative correlation with age (r = 0.334, p < 0.05).

Conclusion: People with joint hypermobility-related disorders present a wide range of symptoms that extend across multiple body sites. Symptomatic hypermobile joints are present across all age groups. In our study, most patients presented with pains, especially in the form of dragging pains and cramps. An increase in joint stiffness with age leads to a decrease in the Beighton score, which should be considered to not miss hypermobility in the elderly. Extraarticular features of hypermobility give a clue to diagnoses of hypermobility in those with low Beighton scores. Often these patients are labeled as having fibromyalgia. In our study, 31% of patients satisfied the criteria for fibromyalgia. Hypermobile Joint Syndrome should be considered in patients presenting with nonspecific noninflammatory pains across multiple body sites in all age groups.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Associated clinical features in patients with Hypermobile Joints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs and symptom</th>
<th>No of patients (Percentage of patients)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint pain</td>
<td>192 (81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>169 (71.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clicking sensation in joints</td>
<td>154 (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle cramps</td>
<td>144 (61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragging pain</td>
<td>143 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early morning stiffness</td>
<td>101 (42.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paresthesia</td>
<td>87 (37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoliosis</td>
<td>83 (35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striae</td>
<td>69 (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicose veins</td>
<td>65 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High arched palate</td>
<td>61 (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous laxity</td>
<td>44 (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint dislocation</td>
<td>18 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hernia</td>
<td>15 (6)</td>
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</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5270

AB1385 BENEFITS OF PHYSIOTHERAPY RESOURCES IN FIBROMYALGIA

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Non-pharmacological interventions. Physical therapy/physiotherapy

M. Antunes1, A. Pasqual Marques1.1 University of São Paulo, Department of Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy (FOPITO), São Paulo, Brazil

Background: In patients with fibromyalgia, the physiotherapist is essential in the treatment. He will act throughout the patient’s rehabilitation process, from the diagnosis to the treatment. He will act throughout the patient’s rehabilitation process, from the diagnosis to the treatment.

Objectives: The present study intended to explore the quality of pain assessment and management in subjects with RA in a major tertiary clinic.

Methods: A literature review was carried out in the databases Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (LILACS), Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (MEDLINE), Scopus, Web of Knowledge ISI, Physiotherapy Evidence Database (PEDro), Excerpt Medical Database (Embase), Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Cochrane Library, and SPORT-Discus for articles dated March 2012 to March 2022. The terms fibromyalgia AND (physiotherapy OR “physiotherapy” OR rehabilitation) were used as keywords in English, Portuguese and Spanish. The searches were not limited to titles and abstracts, we chose to leave them free, appearing in all fields of the articles. In addition, some specific physiotherapy interventions were manually searched.

Results: The articles were searched in all indexed databases and then the main information was read and collected and then analyzed descriptively.

Conclusions: There are several physiotherapeutic interventions that can be chosen. The concept of Post-Remission Syndrome is crucial in the management of disease activity in patients with fibromyalgia. There is an urgent need for further studies on how to control pain and deal with problems associated with his lifestyle. As such, combining multiple therapies (including exercise) to devise an optimal treatment plan for different individuals would be a very important educational program that seeks to promote the health of individuals with fibromyalgia and has shown promising results.

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AB1385 SOBUSTIPAL IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NON-NOCCIPEPTIVE TYPES OF PAIN IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS REGARDLESS THE ACTIVITY STATUS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Pain


Background: Pain represents one of the main clinical symptoms of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) being used as an indicator of disease activity. However, many RA patients report clinically significant levels of pain even in the periods of remission. Recent studies [1] revealed that biological treatments are inequal in terms of how they manage inflammation and pain. The concept of Post-Remission Syndrome would be beneficial in the control of the disease in patients with RA that are in clinical remission but still present clinical symptoms that impair their quality of life [2]; the syndrome might be a reason for decreased work productivity [3,4]. Apart of the nociceptive pain previous works identified neuropathic and nociceptive pain in the composition of residual pain. In order to better understand and manage this situation is paramount important to identify and explain the exact nature of pain present during and after the periods of activity in RA.

Objectives: The present study intended to explore the quality of pain assessment and management in subjects with RA in a major tertiary clinic.

Methods: In a major tertiary clinic of rheumatology consecutive subjects with RA have been questioned about the history, evolution and management of their disease; separately the level of nociceptive, neuropathic and nociplastic (fibromyalgic) pain was evaluated by using validated instruments. For a better understanding of the differences, we included and compared subjects with osteoarthritis and other inflammatory rheumatic diseases.

Results: 43 subjects have been evaluated in a 6 months interval with a 2:1 F/M ratio; 22 of them received biological therapy (8 different molecules have been
identified. Although 32 subjects did not present any sign of inflammation 21 of them declared significant level of pain (VAS>4), 12 have identified with neuropathic pain and 11 with nociplastic pain. Both in case of neuropathic and nociplastic pain groups less than 50% have been previously actively evaluated for non-nociceptive pain. Non-nociceptive pain was poorly covered during biological drug selection. Treatment was used despite evident lack of effect. The variable ability of pain reduction in the paradigm of nociplastic = inflammatory pain with little interest in other types of pain that results in suboptimal diagnostic and management of pain.

REFERENCES:


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Disclosure of Interests: Florian Bergea Speakers bureau: Angelini, Pfizer, Rich- ter Gedeon, Egis, Novartis, Roxana Bratu: None declared, Nita Cristina: None declared, Ana-Maria Specioli: None declared, Tiberiu Dogaru: None declared, Andreia Dinou: None declared, Andrei Mihalascu: None declared, Catalina Boromiz: None declared, Elena Juganaru: None declared, Alexandra Constantinescu: None declared, Violeta Zanfir: None declared, DENISE MARDALE: None declared, Aida Doran: None declared, Madalina Duna: None declared, Violeta Vlad: None declared, Mihai Abolbulsu: None declared, Maria Magdalena Negru: None declared, Ioana Saulescu: None declared, Claudia Cobilinschi: None declared, Cosmin Constantinescu: None declared, Diana Mazitu: None declared, Andreea Borangiu: 50% none declared, Sanzio Mihalascu: None declared, Laura Groaseanu: None declared, Daniela Opris-Belinski: None declared, Denisa Pre- deteau: None declared, Violeta Bojina: None declared, Dumitru Zaharia: None declared, Andreea Trandafir: None declared, Andra Balanescu: None declared.

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THE ROLE OF OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE TRAITS IN FIBROMYALGIA: ARE OBSESSIVE THOUGHTS OF PAIN CORRELATED WITH PAIN INTENSITY AND ASSOCIATED WITH FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT?

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Pain, Mental health

M. Amital1, D. Buskila2, H. Amital3,4, D. Amital2,5.

1Ariel University, The Adelson School of Medicine, Ariel, Israel; 2Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Medical School for International Health, Beer Sheva, Israel; 3Tel Aviv University, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv, Israel; 4Sheba Medical Center, Department of Medicine B & The Center for Autoimmune Diseases, Tel-Hashomer, Israel; 5Barzilai Medical Center, Head of Division of Psychiatry, Ashkelon, Israel

Background: Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) is defined as a chronic pain syndrome that is characterized by widespread pain, tenderness, and diffuse stiffness. In addition, neuropsychological symptoms such as fatigue, sleep disorders, poor mood, cognitive impairment, and headaches are often reported. Many researches have demonstrated the coexistence of affective disorders and anxiety with FMS, yet few focused on its association with obsessive-compulsive symptoms. That was previously investigated for non-nociceptive pain. Non-nociceptive pain was poorly covered during biological drug selection. The use of such drugs was used despite evident lack of effect. The variable ability of pain reduction in the paradigm of nociplastic = inflammatory pain with little interest in other types of pain that results in suboptimal diagnostic and management of pain.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1386

A RARE CAUSE OF PES ANSERINE BURSITIS: TIBIAL EXOSTOSIS: THREE CASE REPORTS

Keywords: Imaging, Bone diseases, Pain

C. Mukuı̈slu1, İ. Taka2, B. Ordahan3. 1University of Health Sciences, Ankara Training and Research Hospital, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Ankara Training and Research Hospital, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 3Meram Medical School, Necmettin Erbakan University, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Konya, Turkey

Background: Pes anserinus bursitis is a syndrome causing pain at the medial knee and the proximal medial tibia [1]. Santorius, gracilis, and semitendinosus tendons attach 5cm distal to the medial knee joint line taking a shape is called pes anserinus. It is more common obese females with knee osteoarthritis between 50-80 years of age [1]. Rarely, tibial bone spurs present as rose thorns and cause pes anserinus bursitis and knee pain [2].

Objectives: In this case report, we presented proximal tibial exostosis which randomly detected and resulting to pes anserinus syndrome in three patients.

Methods: Case 1 (NB): A 58-years-old female patient was admitted to our outpatient clinic with right knee pain. She had pain for 2 months, increasing with standing and walking. In the physical examination, she did not describe any trauma, to the area where the pes anserinus tendons attached to medial proximal tibia was painful. There was no swelling and redness on the skin. A bone spur from the proximal tibial metaphysis was seen in the right knee on direct radiography (Figure 1). Case 2 (BE): A female who 22-years-old, was admitted to our outpatient clinic with left knee pain, which was for 5 months. The skin appearance above the knee was normal. There was no swelling. Medical left proximal tibia was tender with palpation. Physical examination was normal. The blood tests of the patient were completely normal. A spur like as a rose thorn forming from the proximal tibial region was observed in the left knee, similar to the first case, on the direct radiography (Figure 2). Case 3 (GB): A 64-year-old female patient was admitted to our outpatient clinic with pain in the medial left tibia. Her complaint was present for 6 months. There was no history of trauma. Knee joint range of motion was normal. There was no effusion in knees. Mc-Murray test was negative. There was a minimal swelling and tenderness on pes anserine region. A bone exostosis was observed in the left medial tibia on the direct radiography requested from the patient.

Results: The Case 1 was told to rest for two weeks and not to walk much. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug therapy and 10 minutes cold application to the knee per 6 hours were recommended. At the follow-up one month later, the patient’s analog scale (VAS) was regressed from 7 to 2. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug was started to Case 2 and activity restriction was recommended. At the follow-up two weeks later, VAS score decreased from 6 to 4.1ml of methylprednisolone was injected locally to the pes anserinus region of Case 3. One month later, the patient’s VAS score decreased from 7 to 1.

Conclusion: Rarely, pes anserine bursitis may be accompanied by medial tibial exostosis. The clinicians need to keep in mind proximal tibial spurs in patients presenting with knee pain and pes anserine bursitis.

REFERENCES:
SEVERE FIBROMYALGIA: DO CENTRAL SENSITIVITY MECHANISMS WORK TOGETHER?

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Pain, Patient reported outcomes

A. Capacci1, A. Ortolan1, G. Calabrese1, P. Rubortone1, A. Zoli1, M. A. D'Agostino2,3, 1Agostino Gemelli General Hospital Foundation - IRCCS, Rome, Italy, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 2Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Rome, Italy, Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 3Catholic University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Background: Fibromyalgia (FM) is among the most common causes of diffuse chronic pain and falls into the category of central sensitivity syndrome which may be associated with other symptoms such as asthenia, sleep disturbance, bowel and memory disorders, anxiety and depression.

Objectives: We aimed at evaluating in a hospital based setting which of these symptoms were more commonly associated with disease severity.

Methods: cross-sectional evaluation of consecutive patients with a diagnosis of FM according to the ACR criteria [1] who attended the dedicated outpatient clinic between 2020 and 2022. Clinical symptoms including disease duration, demographic characteristics, education level, lifestyle, clinical and laboratory parameters and therapeutic regimen were collected for each patient as well as Pros Questionnaires-Italian-Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire (FIQR); Widespread Pain Index (WPI), Symptom Severity Scale (SSS)-[23] Disease severity was defined as FIQR≥64. Categorical and continuous variables were compared between patients with FIQR ≤ 64 and those with FIQR>64, using descriptive statistics (Chi square test/ Fisher test and Mann-Whitney test). Thereafter, a logistic regression having as dependent variable FIQR>64 was carried out. The role of central sensitization (CS) on physical activity remains understudied.

Results: 187 patients were included. Patients with FIQR >64 (severe disease), had a higher frequency of bowel symptoms/irritable bowel syndrome, menstrual cycle alteration or endometriosis, headache and depression, compared to those with FIQR<64. At univariate analysis, the variables statistically associated with FIQR > 64 were: male gender (OR 0.38; 95%CI 0.13-1.08), active smoking (OR 1.97; 95%CI 0.92-4.25), depression (OR 4.95; 95%CI 2.32-8.76), bowel symptoms (OR 1.96; 95%CI 1.09-3.53), sicca syndrome (1.71; 95%CI 0.92-3.20), and more than 4 episodes of headache each month (OR 2.22; 95%CI 1.21-4.08). In the multivariate model, the variables independently associated to FIQR >64 were depression (OR 4.95; 95%CI 2.36-10.39) and more than 4 episodes of headache/month (OR 2.28; 95%CI 1.11-4.70).

Conclusion: Patients with severe FM more frequently present with headache, depression, irritable bowel syndrome and dysmenorrhea. All these symptoms belong to the family of central sensitivity syndromes, suggesting that some central sensitivity mechanisms play a key role in disease activity and severity.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the fibromyalgia patient population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIQR≤64</th>
<th>FIQR&gt;64</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>middle age</td>
<td>48.9(13.2)</td>
<td>47.7(10.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>males</td>
<td>11 (13)</td>
<td>6 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disease time, media (SD)</td>
<td>7(5.8)</td>
<td>8.0(7.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, media (SD)</td>
<td>26.2(4.2)</td>
<td>25.7(4.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPI, media (SD)</td>
<td>10.3(4.8)</td>
<td>13.7(4.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSS, media (SD)</td>
<td>7.2(4.3)</td>
<td>10.1(1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPI-SSS, media (SD)</td>
<td>17.8(5.9)</td>
<td>23.5(5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alterations of bowel movements</td>
<td>3(4)</td>
<td>6 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irritable bowel syndrome</td>
<td>27 (33)</td>
<td>51 (49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthenia</td>
<td>72 (89)</td>
<td>54 (89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xerostomia o xerophthalmia</td>
<td>24 (30)</td>
<td>42 (42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dystnmrnorhoea o/ endometriosis*</td>
<td>7 (10)</td>
<td>18 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>headache &gt;4 episodes per month</td>
<td>37 (48)</td>
<td>70 (67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>30 (42)</td>
<td>76 (77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antidepressants</td>
<td>24 (31)</td>
<td>49 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analgesic drugs</td>
<td>16 (20)</td>
<td>39 (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibates</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>8 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive-behavioural therapy</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>11 (11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data expressed as frequency (percentage) unless otherwise specified. * Variables calculated only for female subjects.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1389

DO PATIENTS WITH LOW BACK PAIN AND CENTRAL SENSITIZATION SHOW DIFFERENCES IN PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE?

Keywords: Pain

I. Berechi1, F. Z. Taïk1, H. Fouzila1, N. Soba2, M. Fourtassil, F. E. Abourazzak1, 1Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Houcema, University Hospital Mohammed VI, Rheumatology, Tangier, Morocco; 2Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Houcema, University Hospital Mohammed VI, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco

Background: Common low back pain is a common reason for rheumatology consultation. Advances in neuroscience concerning pain have advanced its understanding in chronic musculoskeletal pathologies, in particular low back pain. The role of central sensitization (CS) on physical activity remains understudied.

Objectives: The objective of our study is to investigate the role of central sensitization in patients with low back pain and its impact on their physical performance.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study that included any patient ≥ 18 years with low back pain presenting to the rheumatology department. Patients with psychiatric or memory disorders or who refused to participate in the study were excluded. Functional capacity was assessed by the Oswestry score (Oswestry Disability Index); a 10-item self-assessing questionnaire, each item contains 6 levels of answers that can be scored from 0 to 5. A total score is calculated, percentage of disability ranges from 0% (no disability) to 100% (complete disability). The interpretation of this scale is based on the scores: from 0 to 20%: minimal disability; from 20 to 40% moderate disability; from 40 to 60%: severe disability; from 60 to 80% crippling low back pain and beyond 80% the person is confined to bed.
The physical performance of the patients was assessed by the 6-minute walk test (6MWT), catastrophizing by the PCS (Pain Catastrophizing Scale) and the CS by the validated Moroccan version of the Central Sensitization Inventory Part A (CSI-A). This inventory has 2 parts: Part A measures a range of 25 somatic and emotional symptoms associated with central sensitization, scored from 0 (never) to 4 (always), for a possible total score of 100. Part B concerns the recording of previous diagnoses related to central sensitization (not used in our study). A CSI-A score ≥ 40 was the threshold considered for the definition of CS.

**Results:** We included 118 patients. The average age was 53.01±14.09, 86.4% of patients were women and 88.7% had at least one comorbidity. The median duration of evolution was 8 [2-10] years. The mean pain VAS was 5.75±2.07 and 71.5% of patients had an Oswestry score >20. The average score of CS was 42.16±17.67 while 53.4% had a CSI-A ≥ 40. The average walk test result was 3776.4±154.15 meters. There was no statistically significant difference between patients with CSI-A ≥40 and CSI-A <40 with regard to the performance of the 6MWT (362.67 Vs 394.87, p=0.094). On the other hand, there was a statistically significant difference between the two groups with regard to the pain VAS (6.00 Vs 5.47), p=0.017) and PCS score (33.03Vs 22.08, p=0.001).

**Conclusion:** Central sensitization does not seem to affect the physical performance of Moroccan patients with low back pain.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5150

### AB1390

**MULTICOMPONENT NATURE OF PAIN SYNDROME IN PATIENTS WITH RHUMATOID DISEASES AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthrosis, Pain, Rheumatoid arthritis

N. Tlifebek1, A. Garaeva2, K. Shapovalov2, S. Lapshina2, Z. Gabudulla2, D. Abyaliyev3, S. Delfoufi4. 1Institute of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Metabolism; 2Internal Clinic, Rheumatology, Almaty, Kazakhstan; 3Kazan State Medical University, Department of Hospital Therapy, Kazan, Russian Federation; 4Republican Clinical Hospital, Rheumatology, Kazan, Russian Federation

**Background:** Pain is one of the leading clinical manifestations and a criterion of severity in most patients with rheumatic diseases. However, pain is not always inflammatory, and its intensity does not correlate with disease activity and dysfunction.

**Objectives:** To study the specifics of pain syndrome in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

**Methods:** 78 patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases were studied, 30.8% with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and 68.2% with ankylosing spondylitis (AS). The average age was 42 [34.5; 59.5]. Among AS patients 80.8% were men and 19.2% were women, while 100% of RA patients were women. DAS28 and ASDAS were used to rate activity in patients with RA and AS, respectively. High activity was observed in 69.3% of patients, moderate activity in 23.1%, and low activity in 7.6% of the cases; 23.1% of patients had functional class I, 34.6% - class II, 34.6% - class III, and 7.7% - class IV. The mean duration of evolution was 194.6±103.2 months, with a median of 192 [114;258] months. A neurological examination was performed to detect neuropathic pain (NP), and its severity was assessed using the pain DETECT questionnaire (PDQ); the relationship between pain and central sensitization (CS) was determined using the Central Sensitization Inventory (CSI); quality of life was assessed using the questionnaire EQ-SD. The collected data were analyzed with the IBM SPSS Statistic 26.0 program. Spearman correlation analysis was used to assess the relationship between the studied indicators; differences were considered statistically significant at p<0.05.

**Results:** All of the patients in the study had chronic inflammatory pain in their joints and/or back, and 69.3% of them also had non-inflammatory pain: 38.4% had NP, and 50% had pain typical of CS. There was no significant correlation between the presence and severity of NB and/or CS and the patient's age, disease duration, index of RA and AS activity, or patients' gender. In the group of patients with RA, NP prevailed, while CS prevailed in the group of patients with AS. The PD questionnaire results were: 69.3% with a positive PD index. AH occurred in 46.2% with CS and in 16.7% without CS. Anemia correlated with CSI index (rSp=0.536, p=0.006) and PDQ (rSp=0.892, p=0.001, respectively); a negative correlation between hemoglobin levels and the VAS scale was also observed (rSp=0.541, p=0.005). The presence of CS was found to have a negative correlation with the use of anti-inflammatory therapy (NSAIDs, DMARDs and corticosteroids).

**Conclusion:** The majority of patients (69.3%) with immunoinflammatory diseases have pain of mixed origin; additionally, in RA, it is more due to the neuropathic component, whereas in AS, it is CS. Pain intensity as measured by VAS was significantly higher in patients with neuropathic and central pain components, as expected. In patients with NB and CS, laboratory activity is higher, and comorbid pathology, anemia, and AH are more common. Patients with a comorbid central component of pain have a significantly lower quality of life. Thus, when examining patients with RA and AS, a detailed description of the pain syndrome is required, followed by a differentiated approach to analgesic therapy.

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**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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### AB1391

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BODY MASS INDEX AND FIBROMYALGIA**

**Keywords:** Fibromyalgia

L. Riccio1, A. Ruggiero2, V. Marino3, F. Riccio4, F. Ciccia5, R. Timi6. 1University of Campania L. Vanvitelli, Department of Precision Medicine, Naples, Italy

**Background:** Fibromyalgia (FM) is a clinical condition characterized by chronic widespread pain associated with symptoms such as fatigue, waking unrefreshed, depression. Several studies reported a relationship between high body mass index and painful syndromes such as FM, but the real impact of a high BMI on clinical severity in patients with FM is still unclear. Furthermore, FM is characterized by a neuropathic component of pain. Obesity and overweight seem to get worse the intensity of neuropathic pain.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the relationships between BMI categories and FM related symptoms, investigating fatigue, neuropathic pain, depression and sleep disorders.

**Methods:** We analyzed a cohort of 419 patients (M 15% /F 404, median age 56), with a diagnosis of FM according to the 2016 ACR criteria. The participants were consecutively recruited from the Fibromyalgia clinic of the University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”. All patients were stratified into three groups according to BMI categories: normal weight (18.5-24.9), overweight (25.0-29.9) and obesity (>30.0). We assessed fatigue by Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Fatigue Subscale (FACT-F), neuropathic pain by PainDETECT Questionnaire (PDQ), depression by Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) and sleep disorders by Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI).

**Results:** Total patient population (n=419) had a mean BMI 26.64 (SD 5.76); all patients showed fatigue (100%) with a mean FACT-F score 23.01 (SD 10.15); we found neuropathic pain (PDQ>20) in 301 patients (71.83%) with a mean PDQ score 22.95 (SD 8.935); 52 patients (12.41%) had no depression (PHQ-9 <4), 68 patients (16.23%) showed a mild depression (PHQ-9 10-14), 121 patients (28.88%) a moderate depression (PHQ-9 15-19) and 140 patients (33.41%) a severe depression (PHQ-9 ≥20) with a mean PHQ-9 score 15.53 (SD 7.704); sleep disorders were found in 360 patients (85,91%) with a mean PSQI score 11.28 (SD 6.117), 155 (37%) had normal weight patients (mean BMI 22.13) (SD 1.672) had a mean FACT-F score 20.14 (SD 10.52), a mean PDQ score 17.93 (SD 9.740), a mean PHQ-9 score 11.62 (SD 8.266) and a mean PSQI score 8 (SD 6.330); 161 overweight patients (38.4%) (mean BMI 27.15) (SD 1.400) had a mean FACT-F score 22.64 (SD 9.683), a mean PDQ score 24.33 (SD 7.831), a mean PHQ-9 score 15.54 (SD 6.609) and a mean PSQI score 11.57 (SD 4.990); 102 obese patients (24.6%) (mean BMI 30.5) (SD 3,302) had a mean FACT-F score 27.296 (SD 7.808), a mean PDQ score 28.34 (SD 4,136), a mean PHQ-9 score 21.43 (SD 2.953) and a mean PSQI score 15.76 (SD 4,150). For each of the FM symptoms investigated the results were statistically significant (p value < 0.0001) between the category of obese and both normal weight and overweight patients, but not statistically significant (p value > 0.05) between the category of normal weight and overweight patients.

**Conclusion:** Our study suggests that obesity is a risk factor for Fibromyalgia severity. Obese patients had higher FACT-F, PDQ, PHQ-9, PSQI scores than normal weight patients. Therefore, according to these findings, a Fibromyalgia treatment program should include weight loss strategies. Anyway further studies are needed to investigate the association between BMI and Fibromyalgia.


Spine, mechanical musculoskeletal problems, local soft tissue disorders.

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Diet and Nutrition, Genetics/Epigeneatics.

X. Yang 1,2, Q. Dong 1,2, D. Wu 1,2, Q. Feng 1,2, J.Y. Chen 1,2, Q. Yu 2, P.F. He 3, X. Li 1,2, S.X. Zhang 1,2,4, 1 Shaxi Medical University, Shaxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immunome Microenvironment, Taiyuan, China; 2 Shaxi Medical University, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shaxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Taiyuan, China; 3 Shaxi Medical University, Shaxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Research, Taiyuan, China; The Second Hospital of Shaxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, China.

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an autoimmune disease characterized by progressive skin and internal organ fibrosis and has significant clinical sequelae [1]. Apolipoprotein B and E are found in two major subgroups of LDL [2]. Apolipoprotein E can be used as a predictor of SSc [3]. Apolipoprotein B is involved in autoimmunity [4]. However, whether apolipoprotein B is associated with SSc risk remains to be established.

Objectives: We performed a two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis to investigate the causal relationship between apolipoprotein B and SSc.

Methods: Statistics on apolipoprotein B were obtained from a genome-wide association study (GWAS) published by the UK Biobank, which included 349,376 samples of European ancestry. A total of 182 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were selected as genetic instruments, which satisfied linkage disequilibrium (LD) (r2 < 0.01) and clump window > 10,000 kb) and related to apolipoprotein B (P<5×10−8). Summary-level data for SSc (107 cases and 218,499 controls) were derived from the FinnGen consortium. The inverse-variance weighted (IVW) method was used as the primary statistical model. The weighted median and MR-Egger regression were used as supplementary analyses to supplement the validation of IVW results. The Cochran Q-test was applied to check SNPs statistical heterogeneity using MR-Egger estimates, with P < 0.05 deemed significantly heterogeneous. The leave-one-out method was used to evaluate the effect of a single SNP on the causal association by excluding each SNP in turn.

Results: Genetically predicted apolipoprotein B was inversely associated with SSc risk (odds ratio (OR):0.51, 95% confidence interval (95% CI):0.26-0.98, P=0.04). MR-Egger also confirmed that apolipoprotein B was inversely associated with SSc risk (P=0.02). No heterogeneity was detected in Cochran’s Q statistic. The intercept in the MR-Egger regression indicated no pleiotropy in any analysis (all P values >0.05), suggesting this finding was reliable. Details of the results are shown in Fig. 1.

Figure 1. Scatter plots (A) and funnel plots (B) show the estimated effect of each SNP on the result. Forest plot (C) of the relationship between apolipoprotein B and SSc.

Conclusion: Apolipoprotein B is a protective factor for SSc, indicating that apolipoprotein B may be used as a component of drugs to treat SSc and slow down the development of SSc.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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CLINICAL AND MRI PREDICTIVE FACTORS OF SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE TO A TREATMENT COUPLING CAPSULAR DISTENSION AND INTENSIVE REHABILITATION IN PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ADHESIVE CAPSULITIS

Keywords: Rehabilitation, Imaging, Real-world evidence.

S. Hamrouni1, V. Cinotti2, F. Mihoubi-Bouvier1, R. Garofoli3, G. Couraud1, M. Boisson1, A. Roer1, C. Nguyen2, A. Feydy2, H. Guerini3, F. Rannou2, J. L. Drape3, M. M. Lefevre Colau1, 1 Cochin University Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2 Cochin University Hospital, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Paris, France; 3 Cochin University Hospital, Radiology, Paris, France

Background: Adhesive capsulitis (AC) is a frequent shoulder affection [1] and is responsible of a significant impact on daily life. However, its management is not codified, with contradictory results in the literature on the effectiveness of capsular distension (CD), probably due to the lack of selection of patients in the studies. Furthermore, MRI has shown interest in the positive diagnosis of AC in difficult cases and to determine the stage of the disease [2].

Objectives: The aim of the study was to determine clinical and MRI predictive factors of good response to CD in patients with severe AC.

Methods: Patients addressed to physical medicine and rehabilitation unit in Cochin Hospital with a severe AC were prospectively included in the study between May 2017 and June 2021. Severe AC was defined by presence of intense shoulder pain (Numerical Analog Scale of maximal pain in daily activities ≥ 5/10) lasting for at least 3 months, with failure of first-line treatment – including NSAIDs, analgesics corticosteroid injection and physiotherapy. Participants had before treatment protocol a shoulder MRI with and without gadolinium intravenous injection. All patients then underwent 1 to 3 CD with injection of betamethasone at the same time at weekly intervals, each followed by intensive rehabilitation. Patients were evaluated 1 month after the 1st CD by a physiotherapist, who collected information on pain and range of motion and self-reported patient questionnaire. Primary outcome was the reduction of more than 50% of pain in daily activities evaluated by NAS at 1 month, by a multivariate logistic regression model. Secondary outcomes were the modification of NAS nocturnal pain, NAS incapacity, active and passive range of motion, SPADI, quick DASH, HAD and FABO scores, and return to work at 1 month.

Results: 97 patients were included in the study. Of these, 72 (74.2%) were women, mean age was 51.2 (± 7.29) years, median disease duration was 8 (6-12) months and was greater than 9 months in 41 (42.3%) of patients and 62 (63.9%) had a secondary form of AC. Mean NAS pain in daily activities was 7.88 (±/ 1.47) at baseline and 4.32 (±/ 2.68) at 1 month. 46 (47.4%) filled out the primary outcome and were considered as treatment responders. The multivariate model adjusted for age, sex, work interruption because of AC, initial shoulder traumatism, disease duration greater than 9 months, DASH score, NAS pain at baseline, and MRI thickness of the rotator interval (millimeters) found an association between response to treatment and disease duration < 9 months (OR 2.27 95% CI [1.00-5.26] p = 0.05). DASH score at baseline (OR 0.96 (per point) 95% CI [0.93-0.98] p = 0.03) and MRI thickness of the rotator interval (OR 1.65 (per millimeter) 95% CI [1.04-2.62] p = 0.04). No association was found with the injected MRI criteria.

Conclusion: This study provides original results on predictive factors of response to CD associated with intensive rehabilitation in patients with AC. It found an association of response to treatment and lower DASH score at baseline, shorter disease duration and MRI thickness of the rotator interval and offers suggestions for better patient selection to CD.

REFERENCES:
Table 1. Multivariate logistic regression model: factors associated with response to treatment (CD + intensive rehabilitation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Univariate analyses</th>
<th>Multivariate analyses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crude HR 95% CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.07 (0.99-1.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male gender</td>
<td>0.31 (0.09-1.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently working</td>
<td>1.31 (0.49-3.48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial trauma</td>
<td>0.51 (0.15-1.72)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease duration &lt; 9 months</td>
<td>3.85 (1.35-11.10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DASH score at baseline</td>
<td>0.95 (0.92-0.98)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAS maximal pain in daily activities</td>
<td>0.98 (0.81-1.18)</td>
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Results: Of the first study population, the median CCN of control IVDs (n = 10) was 388 (interquartile range [IQR] = 118-685) and the upper 99% CI limit was 870. MC1 IVDs (n = 30) had similar median CCN overall (Mann-Whitney: 8: 16 pg/ml, (1, 54) vs. -15 pg/ml, (-21, -11), p = 0.004; ENA-78: 91 pg/ml (-5, 456) vs. -25 pg/ml, (-137, -21), p = 0.048), and a bacterial neutrophil “defense response to bacterium” in cluster 1, but not in cluster 2, further supporting that clusters represent different etiologies.

Conclusion: We show that IVD C. acnes load is decisive for the etiology-specific MC1 pathomechanisms. This has important clinical implications, as different MC1 etiologies might require different treatment strategies.

AB1394 INTRADISCAL CUTIBACTERIUM ACNES DECIDE ON INNATE AND ADAPTIVE IMMUNE PATHWAYS IN MODIC TYPE 1 CHANGES

Keywords: Adaptive immunity, Innate immunity, -omics

I. Heggli1, T. Mengis1, L. Opitz2, N. Herger2, C. Laux2, F. Wanivenhaus3, J. M. Spirig3, M. Betz2, A. Aradi-Vegh1, M. Farshad3, O. Distler1, S. Dudli3

AB1395 UROLITHIN A AND B ACCELERATE MYOCYTE FUSION INTO MYOTUBES

Keywords: -omics, Sarcopenia, Cell biology

V. Henrotin1,2,3,4, C. Lambert1, A. Florin1,4, J. Zappia1,4, P. Centonze1,4, C. Sanchez1,4, U. Liege, MusculoSkeletal Innovative Research Lab (mSKIL), Liege, Belgium; 1Artialis, SA, Liege, Belgium; 2Princess Paola Hospital, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Marche-en-Famenne, Belgium; 3ULiege, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Medicines, Liege, Belgium

Background: Urolithins are intestinal bacterial metabolites of ellagic acid, from pomegranate and nuts. They modulate oxidative-regulated pathways and display anti-inflammatory, antioxidative properties. Several studies indicate that they could be inducers of muscle strengthening.

Objectives: The aim of this in vitro study was to investigate their mechanisms of action at plasma concentrations on primary human myotubes.

Methods: Urolithin A and B (UA and UB) were evaluated separately on primary human muscle CD56+ cells, isolated from the vastus lateralis of 6 men and 3 women (aged range 55 to 96-y) and differentiated in myotubes. 24h-treatment mRNA-sequencing of these 9 patients was studied by DESeq2 analysis (R software). Modulation of several target genes was then validated in several concentrations (1-5 or 10 µM). Among the most regulated genes, we found genes involved in myoblasts to myotubes differentiation. UA increased the expression of several target genes was then validated in several concentrations (1-5 or 10 µM).

Results: After 24h of treatment at 5 µM, UA and UB significantly modified the expression of 1779 and 319 genes, respectively (adjusted p-value of 0.01 and Log2FoldChange >0.32). The most upregulated genes involved in myoblasts to myotubes differentiation. UB increased the expression of MYN (75%), PAXX (50%), MSTN (66%), MLYH (28%) and conversely decreased FGFR9 (-75%), MRLN (-33%), ICAMS (-52%) and TGFBI (-55%). Regarding UB, it decreased IGFB1 (-75%), TGFBI (-60%) and increased MLYH (+34%) and TGM2 (-59%). However, UA, but not UB, decreased DMD gene expression (-86%), a key factor in muscle strength, and MEF2C (-45%), a regulator of skeletal myogenesis. We also observed the modulation of genes involved in the inflammatory process. They both induced a important decrease
of CYP1B1 expression (−95%). Further, LIF was increased by 80% by UA and PTGS1 was decreased by 41% by UA and 43% by UB. UA and UB had the opposite effect on IL17B, a cytokine involved in tissue repair but its role in muscle is still to be defined. IL17B was decreased by 4% by UA and conversely regulated by 45% by UB. In a second step, we confirmed the modulation of MYMX, PANX1, FGF9, ICAM5, PTGS1-PGE2, IL17B and TGFBI following UA and/or UB treatment at 1, 5 and 10 µM by RT-qPCR and ELISA. Finally, we also observed with live cell imaging that UA and UB increased myocyte fusion in myotubes, already after 6h of treatment.

Conclusion: UA and UB promote the differentiation process of myoblasts to myotubes. In parallel, urolithins present anti-inflammatory properties, mainly by reducing CYP1B1 expression and the PGE2 synthesis via PTGS1, but also for UA by increasing LIF. Our data provide a better understanding of urolithin activities and highlight their potential in the treatment of muscle disorders such as sarcopenia.

References: NA.

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Disclosure of Interests: Yves Henrotin Consultant of: Artialis SA Nestlé Expanse; Tilman Allegro Immubio, Cécile Lambert: None declared, Antoine Florin: None declared, Jérémie Zappia: None declared, Prescilia Centonze: None declared, christelle sanchez: None declared.

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AB1396

FUTURE OF HIP CARTILAGE PRESERVATION: A ANGLE ENDPOINTS OPTIMIZE INDICATIONS FOR CONSERVATIVE CARE

Keywords: Cartilage, Prognostic factors, Imaging

E. Campos Marting1, D. Almeida Gomes2, H. De Brito Fontana2, T. Martins1

Teixeira2, D. Araujo Fernandes1. 1Federal University of Santa Catarina, Department of Surgery, Florianópolis, Brazil; 2Federal University of Santa Catarina, Department of Morphological Sciences, Florianópolis, Brazil; 3Fractures Institute, Fractures Institute, Florianópolis, Brazil

Background: In the context of osteoarthritis (OA) prevention, great attention is given to hip preservation surgery [1]. Patients with femoroacetabular impingement (FAI), a highly prevalent painful condition, are at increased risk of developing OA [2]. However, an undefined fraction of these patients manage to get rid of clinically significant OA with conservative care [3]. Recently, we realized that α angle can be a key to define which patients would benefit from conservative care and which of these should undergo surgery to prevent clinically significant OA.

Objectives: This meta-analysis aimed to answer: i) “does α angle predict the degree of hip chondral health in FAI?” and ii) “what are the α angle endpoints that correspond to each group of degree of chondral health?”

Methods: We followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA). Two independent reviewers performed the study selection and data extraction steps. Databases were screened: Embase, MEDLINE/PubMed, SCOPUS, SPORTDiscuss and The Cochrane Library. Good quality primary studies that, by using regressions and other similar statistical tests, assessed the capability of α angle values in predicting the degree of hip chondral health for patients with FAI were considered eligible. Risk of bias was assessed through the QUIPS tool. We conducted a pooled linear regression in order to establish α angle endpoints correlated to each chondral health group.

Results: Twelve studies were considered eligible for bias assessment. We found a high risk of bias due to misreporting and the presence of confounders in 2 studies, which were then excluded from analysis. A summary of the included studies’ reported findings is in the Table 1. All 10 included studies demonstrated that α angle predicts the degree of chondral health, with good to excellent effect sizes. For the pooled analysis, 447 patients were enrolled. As the severity of chondral deterioration increases from 1 to 4 in an Outerbridge scale, the corresponding α angle endpoints are 56°, 61°, 65° and 72°, respectively (R² = 0.987; p < .001) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: The α angle is a good tool to identify FAI patients who are at high risk of developing clinically significant OA without surgical intervention. In order to prevent clinically significant OA, we recommend that patients with an α angle greater than 65° should undergo surgery - since they are at high risk of developing significant chondral damage associated with OA progression.

References:

Table 1.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Mean Age</th>
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<th>α Angle Measurement</th>
<th>Chondral Health Scale</th>
<th>Findings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Biscotti</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>45° (Spearman view)</td>
<td>Outerbridge (DV)</td>
<td>Logistic regression, ROC curve: predictive value of the α angle for severe cartilage damage was 81% p &lt; .005</td>
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<td>Grace</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>DV</td>
<td>Beck</td>
<td>Spearman: increasing α angles correlated with less hip chondral health r: 0.61; p &lt; .001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heyworth</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Tomography</td>
<td>ALAD</td>
<td>Kendall Tau: increasing α angles correlated with less hip chondral health r: 0.37; p &lt; .001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kapron</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>DV</td>
<td>Beck</td>
<td>Logistic regression: adjusted odds of severe chondral damage increased with greater alpha angle values OR = 1.06; p = 0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ishii</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1511</td>
<td>Undefined</td>
<td>Beck</td>
<td>Logistic regression: OR = 2.2 between severe chondral damage and an 55° &lt; α &lt; 78°, with an OR = 4.8 when α ≥ 78°</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martinez</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>DV</td>
<td>MAHORN</td>
<td>Logistic regression: Patients with severe chondral damage had greater α angle RR = 5.2; p &lt; .001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ortiz</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2701</td>
<td>DV</td>
<td>Outerbridge</td>
<td>More severe chondral damage for the α angle ≥ 78° group 39% vs 16%; p &lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaulé</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>DV</td>
<td>Beck</td>
<td>Pearson: greater α angle was independently associated with increased odds of having severe chondral damage OR = 1.04; p = 0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shapira</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1485</td>
<td>DV</td>
<td>Outerbridge</td>
<td>Logistic regression: every additional degree in α angle was associated with a 6% increase in the odds of severe chondral damage OR = 1.06; p = 0.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tang</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>AP view</td>
<td>MAHORN</td>
<td>Logistic regression: α angle &gt; 70° was a significant risk factor for severe chondral damage OR = 8.84; p = 0.049</td>
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Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1397

SERUM MASS SPECTROMETRY IDENTIFIES APOLIPOPROTEIN D AS POTENTIAL BIOMARKER FOR MODIC TYPE I CHANGES

Keywords: Pain, Diagnostic Tests, Biomarkers
Background: Modic changes (MC) are inflammatory vertebral bone marrow lesions adjacent to degenerative intervertebral discs [1]. On MRI, three types can be distinguished: Modic types 1 – 3 changes (MC1, MC2, MC3). Especially MC1 are associated with low back pain (LBP), and the larger the lesion, the stronger is the association with pain [3]. However, in clinics, MC is often a binary (present/absent) observation with insufficient inter-observer reliability in identifying and classifying MC.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to find potential serum biomarkers for the presence or the extent of MC using data of the Northern Finland Birth cohort of 1966 (NFBC1966) [2].

Methods: We selected 103 participants of the NFBC1966 to form 4 groups: With and without MC, and with and without LBP. For each participant with MC, we had information about the type, number, location, height, and transverse area (TA) of the MC. Height was given in 4 groups: “along the endplate”, “> 25%”, “25-50%” and “<50% of the height of the vertebral body” TA was measured in 1/9 parts of the vertebral endplate surface of a fictitious 3x3 grid (Fig. 1). We defined the MC load for each person and MC type as the sum of the product of height and TA of each MC.

The serum samples were subjected to a sequential window acquisition of all theoretical mass spectra (SWATH-MS) analysis. To find a potential biomarker for the presence of each MC type we compared serum concentrations of proteins identified by mass spectrometry between participants with and without MC using Mann-Whitney-U tests. Performance to predict MC was calculated with Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC). A covariate analysis for significantly different proteins was done with ANCOVA. To find a potential biomarker for the extent of MC, we searched for associations between serum concentration and MC-load with Spearman’s logistic regression. We corrected for multiple comparisons with False Discovery Rate (FDR).

Results: Of the 103 participants, 49 had MC, 54 had no MC (noMC). Of the participants with MC, 5 (10.2%) had only MC1, the others had multiple types of MC. 30 (61.2%) had MC1, 43 (87.7%) had MC2 and 40 (81.6%) had MC3. The average number of MC per person was 3.0 (1 – 9). The MC load, calculated from number, area, and height of the MC-lesions, was on average highest for MC2 (12.33, 95% CI: 9.0 – 15.6) followed by MC3 (11.26, 95% CI: 8.0 –14.5) and MC1 (7.0, 95% CI: 3.5 – 10.6). Serum Mass Spectrometry identified 1087 proteins. Of these, only the concentration of Apolipoprotein D (APOD) was significantly different between MC1 and noMC (Mann-Whitney-U-Test, FDR-adjusted p = 0.034). A covariate analysis with ANCOVA showed that this was independent of LBP. There was no significant result for MC2 or MC3 after correction for multiple comparisons. The ROC for APOD in MC1 had an Area under the curve (AUC) of 0.79. As APOD is part of lipoproteins and involved in lipid transport, we hypothesised a disturbed lipid transport in patients with MC1 and tested if adding other proteins involved in lipid transport to the model could increase the AUC of the ROC. Adding Apolipoprotein C3 (APOC3) to the linear model increased AUC of the ROC to 0.83 despite not associating with MC1. Additionally, linear regression showed a correlation between serum APOD and MC1 load (p=0.46, FDR adjusted p-value = 0.002).

Conclusion: The serum concentration of APOD is associated with the presence of MC1 and correlates with the load of MC1. Especially in combination with the serum concentration of APOC3, it is a potential biomarker for the presence of MC1.

REFERENCES:

AB1399
STROMAL CELLS IN MODIC TYPE 1 CHANGE BONE MARROW PROMOTE NEURITE OUTGROWTH

Keywords: Pain, Bone diseases

T. Mengis 1, I. Heggl 1, N. Herger 1, B. Aradi-Vegh 1, F. Brunner 2, M. Farshad 3, O. Distler 1, 2, S. Dudli 2, 4, 5, 6.
1 University of California San Francisco, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, San Francisco, United States of America
2 Balgrist University Hospital, Department of Physical Medicine and Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland
3 Balgrist University Hospital, Department of Orthopedics, Zurich, Switzerland
4 University of Zurich, Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland
5 University Hospital Zurich, Department of Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland
6 University Hospital Zurich, Department of Neurology, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: Vertebral bone marrow lesions known as Modic type 1 changes (MC1) are a major contributor to unspecific lower back pain. Pain may relate to the higher innervation of MC1 endplates. Blocking neo-innervation in MC1 could be a promising treatment approach for MC1. Bone marrow stromal cells (BMSC) can produce neurotrophic factors and are dysregulated in MC1. Objectives: The aim of the study was to identify if BMSC in MC1 support neo-innervation through release of neurotrophic factors.

Methods: The RNA sequencing data set (ENA PRJEB39993) of MC1 BMSC vs. intra-patient control BMSC (n=3) MC1 + 3-intra-patient control) was used to investigate enriched gene sets. From additional patients, BMSC were isolated from vertebral bone marrow aspirates (n=4 MC1 + 4-intra-patient control) and were co-cultured with the neuroblastoma cell line SH-SY5Y for 8 days. Neurite outgrowth from SH-SY5Y was quantified as a measure for neurotrophic activity using microscopy. Thirty neurotrophic cytokines were analyzed in the supernatant of the co-culture using C-Series Human Neuro Discovery Array C2.

Results: Gene set enrichment analysis of MC1 vs. intra-patient control BMSC identified gene sets associated with BDNF signaling such as “BDNF TRKB signaling” (normalized enrichment score (NES) = 1.71, p=0.001) and “mBDNF” and “proBDNF regulation of GABA neurotransmission” (NES = 1.61, p=0.001) amongst the top enriched gene sets. SH-SY5Y cells co-cultured with MC1 BMSC compared to intra-patient control showed significantly increased neurite outgrowth after 4 days (p = 0.045), 6 days (p = 0.027), and 8 days (p = 0.031). (Fig. 1a). Cytokine array analysis revealed significantly more mature brain-derived neurotrophic factor (mBDNF) (p = 0.021) and ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) (p = 0.030) in supernatant of MC1 vs. control BMSC (Fig. 1b).

Conclusion: Neurotrophic activity of MC1 BMSC is increased. This might be mediated by BDNF and CNTF. Therefore, BDNF and CNTF may represent interesting novel treatment approaches for MC1 that directly target pain mechanisms.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Background: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is frequently used in patients with chronic back pain (CBP) to diagnose mechanical and inflammatory diseases, including axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). Recent data suggest sacroiliac joints (SIJ) MRI findings in axSpA may differ according to sex[1]. Whether this holds true for spinal MRI and other causes of CBP is currently unknown.

Objectives: To analyze spinal and SIJ MRI findings in young male and female patients with CBP.

Methods: The “Strategy for a Hospital Early Referral in Patients with Axial Spondyloarthritis” (SHERPAS) is a prospective ongoing study recruiting young patients (18 to 40 years) with CBP asked to undergo an MRI of the spine by other specialists different than rheumatologists in a tertiary hospital, starting in September 2021. After inclusion, an additional MRI of the SIJ, followed by a rheumatology visit and eligible blood tests were performed. Dataset for this interim analysis was locked in October 2022. The protocol for MRI of the spine used a 1.5T scanner to acquire sagittal T1-weighted turbo spine echo (TSE) and T2-weighted TSE, both for the lateral sides of vertebral bodies, and T2-Multistack. On top of this, an MRI of the SIJ, which involved T1-TSE, T2-weighted SPAIR and short-tau inversion recovery (STIR) sequences, was performed. MRI findings were assessed according to clinical practice by one of the four musculoskeletal radiologists working in the centre, describing the presence of mechanical lesions (spondylolisthesis, spondyloysis, disc herniation, disc protrusion, facet joints abnormalities), inflammatory findings (both SIJ and spine), and structural findings. For this analysis, results were stratified by sex.

Results: Among 152 recruited patients, 85 (55.9%) were female; mean age was 34.2 (5.3) years. Spinal MRI findings were reported in 130 (87.2%) patients, with no differences between sexes (male 90.8% vs female 84.5%, p=0.3). As shown in Table 1, the most frequent diagnosis in both sexes were disc protrusion, followed by disc herniation. Inflammatory spinal findings were detected only in one male patient. No differences were found for any of the spinal lesions. SIJ MRI findings were reported in 49 (33.1%) patients, being numerically more frequently observed in males (41.5% vs 26.5%; p=0.08). Concordance of both structural and inflammatory lesions was more frequently in males (9.2% vs 1.2%; p<0.05), while no differences in isolate SIJ MRI findings were found between sexes. Overall, 45 (29.6%) patients presented findings both in the spine and SIJ (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In young patients who are requested a spinal MRI by other specialists different than rheumatologists, spinal lesions are reported in most patients, and similarly in males and females. Remarkably, SIJ MRI findings are reported in one out of three patients in this population, being more frequently in males.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Findings in magnetic resonance imaging

<table>
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<th>Spine MRI</th>
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<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>p-value</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>130 (87.2)</td>
<td>59 (90.8)</td>
<td>71 (84.5)</td>
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<td>Structural findings</td>
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<td>58 (92.9)</td>
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<td>34 (23)</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
HEALTH LITERACY AND OUTCOMES IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY

Keywords: Outcome measures, Education

L. Yue1, H. Do1, J. A. Gibbons2, D. Sun1, J. A. Gibbons3, A. Bass3, B. Mehta1, L. Russell1, M. Figgie1, M. Parks1, S. Goodman1, 1Hospital for Special Surgery Main Hospital, Rheumatology, New York, United States of America; 2Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medicine, New York, United States of America; 3Hospital for Special Surgery Orthopedics, New York, United States of America

Background: Health literacy is the ability to read and gain an understanding of health-related information, and make treatment and behavior choices accordingly. Poor health literacy is a main driver of health disparities in chronic medical conditions. Little is known about literacy in orthopedic surgery patients, which may be critical for post-surgical recovery.

Objectives: This study assessed health literacy in patients undergoing total knee arthroplasty (TKA) and its association with individual and community demographics, surgical length of stay (LOS), and discharge disposition.

Methods: The study population consisted of TKA patients at a single urban orthopedic specialty hospital from 2018-2021 who completed the health literacy screen. Health literacy, patient demographics and clinical variables were extracted from a data warehouse. Patient health literacy was defined by a validated single question screener: Evaluation of a brief instrument to identify limited reading ability. Answers were “Always,” “Often,” “Sometimes,” “Occasionally” or “Never.” Patients with any reported finding in spine or sacroiliac joint magnetic resonance imaging were included.

Table 1: Significant characteristics of patient population by health literacy levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>“Never,” “Occasionally” (Adequate health literacy)</th>
<th>“Often,” “Sometimes,” “Always” (Low health literacy)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years (median [IQR])</td>
<td>71.1 (9.6)</td>
<td>74.8 (9.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, female %</td>
<td></td>
<td>900 (61)</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race, % White</td>
<td></td>
<td>1201 (81.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 (3.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>11 (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlon comorbidity index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred language, %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical LOS, hours</td>
<td>4220 (65.9)</td>
<td>899 (60.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(median [IQR])</td>
<td>1447 (22.6)</td>
<td>386 (26.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>733 (11.5)</td>
<td>1358 (92.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge disposition, %</td>
<td>58 (49.7)</td>
<td>58 (51.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>687 (10.7)</td>
<td>161 (10.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home with physical therapy</td>
<td>4935 (77.1)</td>
<td>1082 (73.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled nursing facility/</td>
<td>778 (12.1)</td>
<td>232 (15.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclose of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2411

THE EFFECTS OF SPINAL STABILIZATION EXERCISES VIA TELEREHABILITATION ON INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED STUDY

Keywords: Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Telemedicine, Rehabilitation

A. Fanuşcu1, M. Öz1, O. Uğur1, Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Chronic low back pain is a very common problem worldwide. Reasons such as repetitive problems and lack of a clear treatment cause low back pain to be a serious burden for society [1]. Telerhabilitation provides remote application of rehabilitation services with the developing technology. Especially in the COVID-19 pandemic, the problems experienced in health services have increased the popularity of telerhabilitation services [2].

Objectives: Aim in this study is to investigate the effects of spinal stabilization exercises performed remotely with asynchronous video clips on pain, disability, quality of life, trunk flexion range of motion and gait parameters.

Methods: A total of 20 individuals with chronic low back pain were included in the study. After recording demographic information, pain levels were evaluated with the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), disability levels were evaluated with the Oswestry Disability Index (ODI), and quality of life was evaluated with the Nottingham Health Profile (NHP). Trunk flexion range of motion was evaluated with...
the Valedo® system (Hocoma, Switzerland), and the spatiotemporal parameters of the gait (step time, cadence) were evaluated with the OPTOGait system (OPTOGait, Microgate, Italy). After the evaluation, the individuals were divided into 2 groups. One group did face-to-face progressive spinal stimulation exercises in the clinic, while the other group did the same exercise program remotely with asynchronous videos. The exercise program was 8 weeks, 3 days a week.

**Results:** The mean age of the telerehabilitation group (4 M, 5 F) was 41.0 ± 13.0, and their BMI was 27.08 ± 3.70 kg/m². All parameters were similar in the two groups before treatment. There was a significant difference in parameters except gait parameters in both groups after treatment (p<0.05). In the evaluation between the groups after treatment, the results of the two groups were similar in all parameters (p>0.05) (Table 1).

**Background:** A clinical group (1 M, 8 F) was 41.0 ± 13.0, and their BMI was 27.64 ± 3.55. All pregnant women were shown the region of LBP on a figure and they were asked to mark the relevant average pain intensity on a 10 cm Visual Analogue Scale (VAS). Disability was evaluated using the Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) to evaluate the degree of loss of functionality. Abdominal muscle thicknesses and diastasis recti were assessed. Detailed, sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics were recorded. The pregnant women were shown the region of LBP on a figure and they were asked to mark the relevant average pain intensity on a 10 cm Visual Analogue Scale (VAS). Disability was evaluated using the Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) to evaluate the degree of loss of functionality.

**Methods:** A total of 107 primiparous women with NSCLBP, 69 women (mean ± standard deviation = 50.9±9.9 years) participated in this cross-sectional study. Back flexor, back extensor, upper- and lower-body muscle strength were measured with reliable and valid tests ( prone bridging, Biering-Sorensen, hand dynamometry (TKK 5101) and 30-second chair-stand test, respectively). Global muscle strength was calculated with normalized index (z-score) procedure from each muscle strength test. Spatiotemporal gait parameters (contact time, gait speed, stride length, stride cycle/time, double support and load respond) were obtained with an Optogait® platform, where patients were informed to walk comfortably until 150 to 200 steps were registered in 5 meters closed circuit. Linear regression analysis was used to study the association between muscle strength and spatiotemporal gait parameters. Age, medication for pain, relaxation and depression, and fat percentage were used as covariates using the ‘stepwise’ method. These variables were administered via interview, except fat percentage which was measured with an 8 tactile polar electrode bioimpedance system (InBody R20).

**Results:** In women, greater back flexor muscle strength was associated with lower contact time (β=-0.329), global muscle strength (β=-0.358), double support (β=-0.313) and load respond (β=-0.302), higher gait speed (β=0.341), and longer stride length (β=-0.272) (all p<0.013). Greater lower-body muscle strength was associated with less contact time (β=-0.160) and double support (β=-0.237), higher gait speed (β=0.365) and longer stride length (β=0.415) (all p<0.013). Greater upper-body muscle strength was associated with higher gait speed (β=0.380) and longer stride length (β=0.476) (all p<0.013). Greater global muscle strength was associated with less contact time (β=-0.370), stride cycle/time (β=-0.468), double support (β=-0.324) and longer load respond (β=-0.320), higher gait speed (β=0.431) and longer stride length (β=0.491) (all p<0.03). In men, greater back extensor muscle strength was associated with higher gait speed (β=0.353), and longer double support (β=0.387) and load respond (β=0.365) (all p<0.038). Greater lower-body muscle strength was associated with lower stride cycle/time (β=-0.342) (p<0.044). Greater global muscle strength was associated with higher gait speed (β=0.414), longer stride length (β=0.410), and longer double support (β=0.373) and load respond (β=0.354) (all p<0.037).

**Conclusion:** Our findings suggest that greater muscle strength was consistently associated with better spatiotemporal gait parameters in females and males patients with NSCLBP. Future studies might determine whether randomized control trial focused on strengthening global musculature might contribute to improve gait abnormalities in patients with NSCLBP.

**REFERENCES:**

**Acknowledgements:** The authors thank all the researchers involved in the fieldwork. Participants are deeply acknowledged for their collaboration and great enthusiasm during the development of the study. This study was supported by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III through the research contract Miguel Servet (CPI2000178) co-funded by European Social Fund. Furthermore, BD-P was supported by the “Margarita Salas” postdoctoral grant UCOR10M.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Table 1. Baseline and after treatment characteristics of telerehabilitation and face to face group and comparison of with-in group and between group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Baseline and after treatment characteristics of telerehabilitation and face to face group and comparison of with-in group and between group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VAS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ODI</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NHP</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trunk</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flexion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Range of Motion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step length</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(cm)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cadence</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Conclusion:** According to the results of our study, it is seen that both methods did not provide any change in gait parameters. However, it has similar effects in reducing pain and disability, improving quality of life, and increasing trunk range of motion. For individuals with chronic low back pain, it seems that remote exercise with asynchronous videos can be as effective as a treatment as face-to-face exercise. There is a need for studies to be conducted in a larger population with longer follow-up. References: [1] Anderson GB. epidemiological features of chronicles low back pain ... the lance_1999;354(9178):581-5. [2] Turolla A, Rossetti G, Viceconti A, Palese A, Geri T. Musculoskeletal physical therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic: is the telerehabilitation the answer? Phys. ther. 2020; 100(8): 1260-4.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2621
The mean LBP intensity was 3.09±2.37 and they were 2.68±2.09, 2.73±1.98, 2.16±2.01 for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd trimesters, respectively. Demographic and medical variables in pre-pregnancy and pregnancy periods were not associated with PR-LBP intensity. On the contrary, ODI score was associated with LBP intensity during pregnancy. Higher ODI score shows severe low back pain (coef=0.05, R²=0.21, p=0.03) and ODI scores explain 11%, 13% and 26% of LBP severity during 1st, 2nd and 3rd trimester, respectively. Musculoskeletal variables (abdominal muscle thickness and diastasis recti) were not associated with PR-LBP intensity. SF-36 emotional role limitation (coef=-0.03, R²=0.01, p=0.01) in the 3rd trimester and SF-36 physical function (coef=-0.05, R²=0.02, p=0.004) were associated with PR-LBP intensity. Rest of the SF-36 subscales were not associated with LBP intensity during any trimester. Physical activity were not associated with PR-LBP intensity, except of the PPAG-sedentary during the 2nd trimester (coef=0.17, R²=0.17, p=0.02).

**Conclusion:** Increased PR-LBP intensity can be associated with different factors in different trimesters of pregnancy. Clinicians should comprehensively assess pregnant women, taking into account the relevant risk factors according to trimester, and make preventive/therapeutic recommendations for pregnant women.

**REFERENCES:**

[1] Berber MA, Satılmı Ş, Karapinar M, Kose O, Demiralp B, Ilkbahar S, Tekin H. Relationship between hallux valgus and pes planus in terms of foot posture, function, pain, and quality of life. In this study, we compared the postoperative results of Mitchell’s osteotomy for hallux valgus and pes planus. Background: In recent years, joint-preserving surgery has become common surgical procedure for forefoot deformities in Japanese patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Since arthritis contributes to hallux valgus deformity in patients with RA, the postoperative outcome may differ from that in patients with idiopathic hallux valgus (IHV) patients.

**Objectives:** In this study, we compared the postoperative results of Mitchell’s osteotomy in patients with RA and IHV. **Methods:** We evaluated 181 feet in 111 patients (52 feet in 34 patients with RA, 129 feet in 77 patients with IHV) who performed Mitchell’s osteotomy surgery between January 2006 and September 2021 and followed-up more than one year after the operation. The hallux valgus angle (HVA) and intermetatarsal angle (IMA) were measured from standing X-ray images of the foot, before and after surgery and one year later, and the postoperative course of RA and IHV patients was compared.

**Results:** Preoperative HVA was 42° [20-73] in patients with RA and 40° [17-62] in patients with IHV, with no significant differences. Preoperative IMA was 14° [6-22] in patients with RA and 15° [27] in IHV patients, significantly smaller in the RA group (p<0.05). RA 1 year after RA and 9° [24-38] in IHV patients with IHV, with no significant differences. IMA at 1 year was 7° [0-18] in patients with RA and 8° [1-21] in patients with IHV, with no significant differences. The recurrence rate at 1 year postoperatively was 17.3% in patients with RA and 16.3% in patients with IHV, with no difference. Traditionally, metatarsal head resection has been performed for rheumatoid forefoot deformities. However, joint-preserving surgery is recently performed and improvement of anti-arthritic drugs such as biological disease modifying drugs and Janus kinase inhibitors. Mitchell’s osteotomy has been recommended for IHV as a joint-preserving surgery, as has Chevron osteotomy. The results of this study showed that Mitchell’s osteotomy is useful treatment method for patients with RA as well as for patients with IHV. In addition, preoperative IMA in patients with rheumatoid forefoot deformity was significantly smaller than patients with IHV, but there was no difference in HVA. This suggests joint inflammation leads to lateral displacement of proximal phalanx without metatarsal bone medialization.

**Conclusion:** Joint-preserving surgery with Mitchell’s osteotomy was useful method for hallux valgus deformity in patients with RA.

**REFERENCES:**

N. Acknowledgements: NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3179

**REFERENCES:**

NIL.

**Table 1. Summary of findings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hallux Valgus (n=13)</th>
<th>Pes planus (n=18)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Variables</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mean±SD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>33.8±4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height (cm)</td>
<td>168.3±8.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>70.2±16.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>24.7±0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPI-6</td>
<td>2.46±2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPI-Pain</td>
<td>12.3±12.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPI-Disability</td>
<td>17.0±15.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPI-Activity Limitation</td>
<td>6.46±14.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPI-Total</td>
<td>30.8±37.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOFAS-Pain</td>
<td>32.3±5.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOFAS-Function</td>
<td>45.38±8.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOFAS-Alignment</td>
<td>6.15±2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOFAS-Post</td>
<td>83.8±12.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF-36-Physical function</td>
<td>83.8±12.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF-36-General health</td>
<td>62.3±19.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**AB1406**

**COMPARISON OF FOOT POSTURE, PAIN, FUNCTION AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH PES PLANUS AND HALLUX VALGUS: A PILOT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Pain

G. Aydin Yaşıcıoğlu1, M. Karapinar1, S. Suleyman Demirli University; Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Izmit, Turkey

**Background:** Hallux valgus is a common deformity characterized by abnormal rotation, lateral deviation, angulation of the great toe at the first metatarsophalangeal joint. Pes planus is known as the loss of the medial longitudinal arch. While some studies have suggested that pes planus plays an important role in the development of hallux valgus [1-2], others reported that no correlation between these disorders [3, 4]. Thus, the differences in the problems caused by these disorders should be clarified.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to compare individuals with hallux valgus and pes planus in terms of foot posture, function, pain, and quality of life. **Methods:** Thirty-one (13-hallux valgus, 18-pes planus) individuals of both sexes, who were determined to have pes planus or hallux valgus by clinical evaluation, were included in the study. The dominant foot of the patients was evaluated by the Foot Posture Index (FPI-6), Foot Function Index (FFI), The American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS), and their quality of life was evaluated by the Short Form-36 (SF-36); FFI-6 evaluates foot posture with 6 items in the range of (-12) to (12). According to FPI-6, negative values indicate the foot is in supination, and positive values indicate that the foot is in pronation. The FFI scores for the domains of pain, disability, and activity limitations. A higher score indicates greater impairment. AOFAS, also consists of pain, function, and alignment subscales, and the total score ranges from 0-100, and higher scores indicate better outcome. SF-36 is a scale that evaluates health-related quality of life with 8 subscales, and physical function subscale of SF-36 were used in this study, and higher scores also demonstrate a better quality of life. Mann Whitney-U test was used to investigate the differences between patients with hallux valgus and pes planus and pes planus.

**Results:** Individuals with pes planus and hallux valgus were homogenous in terms of physical characteristics (p>0.05). It was determined that patients with pes planus had more foot pain according to FPI-6 and more foot pain according to FFI and AOFAS compared to patients with hallux valgus (p<0.05). Other results were similar between patients with pes planus and hallux valgus (p>0.05) (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** To the best of our knowledge, this study was the first to compare between patients with hallux valgus and pes planus. Current findings revealed that pes planus caused more pain and foot posture disorders compared to hallux valgus. A comparative study on a large sample is ongoing to assess the difference between these foot disorders.

**REFERENCES:**


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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**AB1407**

**EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT OF FACET SYNDROME BY THE METHOD OF BLOCKADE OF INTERVERTEBRAL JOINTS UNDER ULTRASOUND CONTROL**

**Keywords:** Pain

T. Tarasenko1,2, O. Tarasenko3, Kherson State University, Medical Faculty, Dnipro, Ukraine; 2Rheumatology Clinic of Professor Rekalov, Rheumatology, Dnipro, Ukraine; 3Kherson State University, Medical Faculty, Dnipro, Ukraine

**Background:** recently there has been an increase in the prevalence of facet syndrome (spondyloarthrosis) in back pain syndromes. This is due to hypodynamic, increased body weight, and the increase in the specific gravity of the so-called “sedentary” professions. With hyper trophy of the intervertebral joints, there is chronic compression of the Lyushka nerve (return nerve), which directly causes pain, as well as constant spasm of the innervating muscles. In the treatment of facet syndromes, many methods are used - drug treatment, massage, various physical methods of influence, etc., but none of these methods provides quick relief from the pain syndrome. The blockade method has been used for a long time with considerable success, but even more works are appearing that show much better efficiency of these manipulations with high-precision introduction of drugs under ultrasound or X-ray control.

**Objectives:** to determine the effectiveness of blockades of intervertebral joints under ultrasound control in facet syndrome.

**Methods:** we conducted a study of patients in whom the clinical manifestations of the facets of the lumbar spinal spine were confirmed by radiological research methods (radiographic or MRI). The level of pain syndrome was assessed according to the VAS scale before the start of treatment and after 1 and 7 days after the start of the treatment. Along with traditional treatment (NSAIDs, muscle relaxants, etc.), facet blockade was performed under ultrasound control.

**Results:** 50 patients (22 women and 28 men) were included. The average age was 43.28 years±0.80 years. 56.42% of patients were overweight. The average body mass index was 28.18±0.43 kg/m2. 80% of patients had multilevel facet syndrome L3-S1. 20% of patients had a monofacet syndrome at the level of L4-L5 or L5-S1. Patients were divided into 2 groups of 25 people. Patients of both groups were prescribed drug therapy with NSAIDs and muscle relaxants. The patients of the first group were additionally subjected to facet blockade under ultrasound control, and a solution of corticosteroid and local anesthetic was injected into the affected areas. Depending on the number of lesion levels, a multilevel procedure was performed. Before the procedure, the average pain level according to VAS in patients of the 1st group was 84±1.7 mm, in the 2nd group - 82±2.3 mm. After 1 day, the pain level in patients of the 1st group was 31±4.2 mm, while in the 2nd - 72±2.8 mm. 7 days after the start of treatment and manipulation, the pain level was 28±2.9 mm in the 1st group and 51±3.7 mm in the second group of patients (who were not manipulated).

**Conclusion:** the method of facet blockade under ultrasound control is a modern, low-invasive, highly effective method in the complex treatment of facet syndrome.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2020

**AB1409**

**EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF SODIUM THIOSULFATE IN CALCIFIC TENDINITIS OF THE ROTATOR CUFF – ANALYSIS OF AN ONGOING RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL**

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Randomized control trial, Outcome measures

H. Parent1, S. Azevedo1, F. Guimarães1, C. Dantas Soares1, M. Pontes Ferreira1, D. Faria1, D. Peixoto1, J. Tavares-Costa1, C. Afonso1, F. Teixeira1.

1Centro Hospitalar do Alto Minho, Rheumatology, Ponte de Lima, Portugal

**Background:** Calcific tendinitis of the rotator cuff is a major cause of omalgia. [1] Ultrasound guided percutaneous lavage (UGPL) is indicated when conservative treatments fail. [2] Recent reports interested the use of topical sodium thiosulfate (STS) in the treatment of other diseases with ectopic calcifications [3, 4, 5].

**Objectives:** To assess the efficacy and safety of UGPL with STS versus with saline injection (standard of care) in calcific tendinosis.

**Methods:** Double-blinded randomized clinical trial including adult patients with calcific tendinitis, omalgia ≥3 months and ≥1 positive shoulder impingement test. Only dense type A calcifications (Möel Classification) >5 mm in diameter were included. Patients were randomized in two groups: STS and SOC lavage. Informed consents were collected. Both groups were reevaluated at week 1, month 1 and 3 after UGPL. Pain Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) at rest and during activities, shoulder range of motion and strength, improvement scores of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand (DASH), DASH-Work, EuroQol five-dimensional (EQ5D) and University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) scores, ultrasound (US) and radiographic evaluations were performed on all follow up visits. SPSS was used for statistical analysis with a significance level of 2-sided p<0.05.

**Results:** We included 32 patients, where 78.1% (25) were women, with a mean age of 51.0 (SD=8.5) years old. Pain’s mean duration before the procedure was 16.3 months (SD=22.3). We randomized 18 patients (56.3%) to the control group (SOC) and performed a saline UGPL; the other 14 patients (43.8%) to the treatment group (STS). Baseline characteristics are shown in table 1. Since patient inclusion is dynamic, our sample met 28 patients at week 1 (SOC=15...
AB1410

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MUSCLE MASS PERCENTAGE WITH PAIN AND DISABILITY IN PATIENTS WITH NON-SPECIFIC CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN: THE BACKFIT PROJECT

Keywords: Motor function, Rehabilitation, Pain

Y. M. Gil-Gutiérrez1, G. Tsiafleas2, B. Donoso3, M. Delgado-Fernández2, M. Y. Castellote-Caballero2, V. Segura-Jiménez3, 1 Instituto de Investigación Biosanitaria ibs.GRANADA, UGC Neurotraumatología y Rehabilitación, Hospital Universitario Virgen de las Nieves of Granada, Granada, Spain; 2 University of Granada, Physical Education and Sport, Granada, Spain; 3 University of Cordoba, Psychology, Cordoba, Spain; 4 University of Jaén, Health Sciences, Jaén, Spain

Background: Non-specific chronic low back pain (NSCLBP) is one of the most common musculoskeletal disorders worldwide[1]. Recent studies have shown higher levels of pain[2,3] and disability[4] in patients with NSCLBP who presented higher body mass index. However, the relationship between body muscle mass and these two variables is unknown.

Objectives: To determine if there is an association of body muscle mass percentage with pain and disability in patients with NSCLBP.

Methods: 105 patients (70 women, 50.59 ± 9.95 years) participated in this cross-sectional study. Body muscle mass percentage was evaluated using portable bioimpedance of eight tactile polar electrodes (InBody R20). Pain sensitivity threshold was assessed using manual pressure algometry (FPK 20, Wagner Instruments, Greenwich, CT, USA). Pain intensity was evaluated using two instruments, on the one hand a visual analogue scale (VAS) and on the other hand the pain dimension of the Short-Form Health Survey-36 (SF-36) questionnaire. The Oswestry Low Back Pain Disability Questionnaire was used to assess disability due to pain. To study the association between the main variables, a linear regression analysis was carried out, controlling for age, sex, marital and educational status, time since clinical diagnosis and waist circumference as covariates using the ‘stepwise’ method. As there was no interaction in terms of sex, the analyses were carried out jointly (women and men).

Results: Higher levels of body muscle mass percentage were associated with higher pain sensitivity threshold (rho=0.071; 95% confidence interval (CI)= 0.070; 0.170; p=0.017; lower VAS-pain (b=-0.095; 95% CI=-0.164, -0.020; p=0.03) and higher score in the SF-36 pain dimension (b=0.036; 95% CI=0.376, 170; p=0.002), and lower disability due to pain (b=-1.028; 95% CI=-1.513, -0.542; p<0.001).

Conclusion: Patients with NSCLBP presenting higher body mass percentage showed lower pain and disability due to pain, and higher pain sensitivity threshold. Further intervention studies are necessary to check the effects on pain and disability of programs focused on improving muscle mass in this population.


Disclosure of Interests: The authors thank all the researcher involved in the fieldwork. Participants are deeply acknowledged for their collaboration and great enthusiasm during the development of the study. This study was supported by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III through the research contract Miguel Servet (CP200/00178) co-funded by European Social Fund. Furthermore, BD-P was supported by the “Margarita Salas” postdoctoral grant UCOR015MS.

AB1411

THE EFFECTS OF YOGA AND AEROBIC EXERCISE ON PAIN, FUNCTION, METABOLIC CAPACITY, QUALITY OF LIFE AND COGNITIVE VARIABLES IN INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Keywords: Rehabilitation, Cognitive Function, Pain

M. Öz1, O. Ulger1, *Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey

Background: It is known in the literature that exercise is effective on pain and function in the treatment of chronic low back pain (CLBP). However, it is emphasized that there is insufficient evidence about which type of exercise is more effective and the effects of exercises on cognitive parameters associated with chronic pain.

Objectives: The study aims to determine the effects of yoga and aerobic exercise on pain, function, metabolic capacity, quality of life (QoL), and cognitive variables in individuals with CLBP.

Methods: Thirty individuals with LBP for 3 months or longer were included in the study. Individuals were randomly divided into 2 groups. The first group was given aerobics exercise training, and the second group was given a yoga program. Both programs were applied for 8 weeks, 2 days a week, for 1 hour, accompanied by a physiotherapist. Individuals were evaluated at baseline and after 8 weeks of treatment. Pain intensity was assessed with a visual analog scale (VAS), metabolic capacity with 6 Minute Walking Test, kinesiophobia with Fear Avoidance Beliefs Questionnaire (FABQ), pain perception with a pain catastrophizing scale (PCS), cognitive function with Montreal Cognitive Assessment Scale (MoCA), back awareness with Fremantle Back Awareness Questionnaire (FreBAQ) and with the Nottingham Health Profile (NHP).

Results: In the study, it was shown that both exercises approach reduced pain and improved function, metabolic capacity, and cognitive parameters (p<0.05). The effects of both exercises on pain, function, cognitive level, metabolic capacity, and NHP total score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05). However, kinesiophobia and back awareness improved only in the yoga group; pain catastrophizing, NHP-sleep, and NSP-emotional reaction score were similar (p>0.05).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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REFERENCES:
Paediatric rheumatology

Keywords: Outcome measures, bDMARD, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

K. Kern1, D. Kaudewitz2, H. M. Lorenz2, J. P. Haas4, N. Blank1. 1Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine V, Heidelberg, Germany; 2Kinderklinik Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Deutsches Zentrum für Kinder- und Jugendrheumatologie, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common disease in pediatric rheumatology. After transition, chronic active JIA requires continuing treatment. Little is yet known about the JIA activity in adult patients.

Objectives: To assess disease activity, treatment and comorbidities in adult patients with JIA between 2000 and 2022 at the University Hospital of Heidelberg.

Methods: This is a monocentric, retrospective analysis of adult patients with onset as JIA. The electronic medical records were analyzed from the first to the last documented visit in our center. Prognostic factors for disease activity in adults were determined using Fisher’s exact test, chi-square test and cross tables.

Results: Until March 2022, 172 JIA patients with a median age of 27.7 years (range 18.1 to 78.4) and a median disease duration of 19.4 years (range 1.3 to 68.8) at their last visit were identified. Oligoarticular (oligo-) (n=36, 20.9%), extended-oligo (ext-oligo-) (n=28, 16.3%) and polyarticular (poly-) (n=61, 35.5%) were the largest JIA subgroups. Females (n=134, 77.9%) were more prevalent than males (n=48, 22.1%) (p<0.001). The prevalence of uveitis was 27.9% (n=48). Patients with RF+ poly-JIA (n=17, p=0.001) or initiation of MTX after 2 years (n=41, p=0.006) or bDMARD after 3 years (n=44, p=0.001) of disease onset were associated with significantly more erosive joint damage. Patients with late MTX and/or bDMARD initiation (n=190) had more frequently osteoporosis (n=48, p=0.001, p=0.012) and required more frequently total joint replacement (n=41, p=0.012, p=0.04). Radiological joint damage was more prevalent in patients with a disease onset before the year 2000. At the last documented visit 51.8% of patients (n=72) were in SDAI and DAS28 remission.

Conclusion: The delay of MTX and bDMARD therapy in patients with active JIA was associated with erosive joint damage, total joint replacement and osteoporosis. The JIA onset before the year 2000 was associated with significantly more joint damage and a lower prevalence of remission.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1413 ASSESSMENT OF FATIGUE IN YOUNG ADULTS WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Sarcopenia, Mental health

M. Kulyk1, T. Karasevska1, M. Dzhus1. 1Bogomolets National Medical University, Internal Medicine Department No 2, Kyiv, Ukraine

Background: Fatigue is a common and frustrating symptom in many chronic inflammatory diseases, including juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), impacting all parts of daily life.

Objectives: This study aims to determine the prevalence of fatigue in young patients with JIA and to analyze its correlation with clinical characteristics of the disease, body mineral content (BMC), and bone mass density (BMD).

Methods: Cross-sectional study included young adults with JIA according to ILAR criteria, disease duration ≥3 years. Exclusion criteria: age <18 and >44 years, the presence of any comorbidity that could be accompanied by fatigue (diabetes, chronic kidney disease, neuropathy, obesity, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, infections, malignancy). Demographic data and the following clinical parameters were collected: pain Visual Analog Scale (VAS) measured by patients and doctors, tender joint count (TJC), swollen joint count (SJC), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), C-reactive protein (CRP), Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28), Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score (JADAS77), health assessment questionnaire (HAQ), Juvenile Arthritis Damage Index-articular (JADI-A) and Juvenile Arthritis Damage Index-extra-articular (JADI-E). BMC and BMD were determined using dual photon X-ray absorptiometry (DXA). Fatigue was assessed using the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy – Fatigue (FACT-F) short 13-item questionnaire validated in RA. Fatigue was considered mild if the FACT-F score was ≥40, moderate if 20≤FACT-F<40, and severe if 0≤FACT-F<20. A p-value lower than 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: We included 40 patients with JIA (21 women and 19 men) with a mean age of 24.4±s. The mean disease duration was 13.8±s, 1 years. The mean pain VAS measured by the patient was 38.8±s, the mean pain VAS measured by the doctor was 33.6±s, 1. The mean TJC and SJC were 4.2±s, 4.9 and 1.9±s, 3, respectively. The mean levels of ESR and CRP were 20.2±s, 2.7/mm/h and 26.1±s, 0 mg/l, respectively. The mean DAS28-ESR was 3.6±s, 1, the mean JADAS27 was 13.7±s, 1 and the mean JADI-E was 6.5±s, 6. The mean FACIT-F score was 30.1±s, 1. Fatigue was mild in 37.5% (15 patients), moderate in 35% (14 patients), and severe in 27.5% (11 patients). A significant negative correlation was noted between the FACIT-F score and the following parameters in JIA patients: disease duration (r=0.436, p<0.001), articular and extra-articular damage obtained by JADI-A and JADI-E indices (r=-0.393, p=0.01, r=-0.440, p=0.05, respectively), pain VAS obtained by the doctor (r=0.431, p=0.05), pain VAS obtained by the patient (r=0.167, p=0.3), ESR (r=0.503, p<0.01), but not with CRP (r=-0.157, p=0.3), DAS28-ESR (r=-0.414, p=0.05), JADAS27 (r=-0.391, p<0.01) but not with TJC (r=0.080, p=0.8), and SJC (r=0.239, p=0.2). FACIT-F score was positively associated with total BMD (r=0.374, p=0.02), femoral neck BMD (r=0.519, p=0.007), appendicular lean mass (r=0.666, p<0.001), total lean mass (r=0.522, p=0.001), and skeletal mass index (r=0.703, p<0.001), but not with HAQ (r=0.035, p=0.8).

Conclusion: In our study, moderate and severe fatigue among young patients with JIA was 35% and 27.5%, respectively. The fatigue was associated with disease activity, duration of disease, articular and extra-articular damage, total and femoral neck BMD, and lean mass.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1414 PREDICTIVE FACTORS OF BIOLOGIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS (bDMARD) USE IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: bDMARD

A. Martins1, S. Ganhão2, F. Oliveira Pinheiro2, C. Morais, M. Leuzinger-Dias1, M. Rodrigues1, L. Figueira1, B. Brito2. 1São João University Hospital Center, Rheumatology, Porto, Portugal; 2Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto - FMUP, Medicine, Porto, Portugal; São João University Hospital Center, Pediatric and Young Adult Rheumatology Unit, Porto, Portugal; São João University Hospital Center, Pediatrics, Porto, Portugal; São João University Hospital Center, Ophthalmology, Porto, Portugal

Background: The advent of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), in the past two decades has been revolutionary in the treatment and prognostic outcomes of patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA). Since some patients have inadequate responses to conventional DMARDs, biologic DMARDs (bDMARDs) must be prescribed to guarantee the achievement of complete remission. Early and appropriate treatment can prevent joint destruction, loss of joint function and extraarticular manifestations, with subsequent less morbidity and mortality.

Objectives: To identify the JA patients with a higher probability of requiring treatment with bDMARDs and to investigate the predictive factors.

Methods: A retrospective single-center study of patients with JIA followed in a tertiary Hospital was conducted. Sociodemographic, clinical, laboratory and treatment characteristics were collected from Portuguese Rheumatic Diseases Register and medical records. Statistic was performed with independent samples t-test, Mann-Whitney U test, chi-square test and Fisher’s exact test. Statistical significance was set up at a p-value <0.05. A multivariate logistic regression analysis was performed to identify possible predictive factors for bDMARD use. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (Cis) were calculated.

Results: A total of 165 patients with JIA (107 females, 64.8%) were included. Seventy-five patients had oligoarthritis (45.6%), 62 had persistent oligoarthritis and 13 had extended oligoarthritis, 17 psoriatic arthritis (10.3%), 30 rheumatoid arthritis (13.9%). Fourty-five patients were treated with bDMARD (27.3%). Males were treated more frequently with bDMARDs than females (p=0.058). Regarding JIA subtype, more RF-positive patients received bDMARDs than patients who were not treated for extraarticular damage (p=0.02), but not for uveitis (p=0.9). Presence of uveitis was significantly more frequent in the bDMARD group (p=0.006). Moreover, more patients with bilateral involvement were treated with bDMARDs, compared with patients with unilateral uveitis (p=0.032). Nevertheless, no differences were found concerning age and number of joints involved at onset, disease duration and ANA positivity. In a multivariate regression model adjusted for gender, the presence of uveitis (OR 4.42, 95% CI 1.43 to 13.60, p=0.010) and polycartilage involvement (OR 6.62, 95% CI 2.05-21.43, p=0.002) remained statistically significant predictive factors for bDMARD use in patients with JIA.
Conclusion: Male patients, polyarticular involvement (with negative or positive RF) and bilateral uveitis were more frequently treated with bDMARDs. In addition, CRP values at onset of JIA were higher in the bDMARD group. Thereby, the presence of RF, and polyarticular involvement seem to predict the need of bDMARD treatment in JIA patients. Prompt treatment with these agents, early in the disease course, especially in JIA patients with more articular involvement and extraarticular manifestations like uveitis, refractory to conventional DMARDs, should be strongly recommended, in order to avoid irreversible damage and to achieve complete and long-term remission.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1416

INTERFERON SIGNALIZATION IN CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE SCLERODERMA

Keywords: Skin, Vasculitis, Myositis

S. S. Kılıç¹, H. Kose², A. Simsek³, M. A. Kızmaº, T. Bozkurt⁴, F. Ozturk⁴, H. Sancao⁄u⁵, F. Budak⁶, ¹Uludag University Medical Faculty, Pediatric Immunology and Rheumatology, Bursa, Turkey; ²Uludag University Medical Faculty, Pediatric Immunology and Rheumatology, 16, Bursa, Turkey; ³Uludag University Medical Faculty, Immunology, 16, Bursa, Turkey; ⁴Uludag University Medical Faculty, Dermatology, 16, Bursa, Turkey

Background: Interferon signalization in children with juvenile scleroderma: Hulya Kose¹, Abdurrahman Simsek², Muhammed Ali Kızma³, Tugçe Bozkurt⁴, Ferdi Ozturk⁵, Ferah Budak⁶, Hayrle Sancao⁄u⁵ Sara Sebnem Kılıç¹.

1.Uludag University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pediatric Immunology and Rheumatology
2.Uludag University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Immunology
3.Uludag University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Dermatology

Juvenile dermatomyositis (JDM) is an inflammatory disease of the muscle, which is characterized by skin involvement, vasculitis, and progressive muscle weakness. Increased interferon signaling is thought to play a role in the pathogenesis of JDM and is associated with disease severity and activation. As the development of calcinosis. Juvenile scleroderma (JSc) is a heterogeneous group of diseases associated with sclerotic skin lesions, grouped together as systemic sclerosis and localized scleroderma (morphea). Although JSc has a different types of skin involvement than JDM, some similarities in their pathogenesis can be identified.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to measure the levels of cytokines and chemokines involved in interferon signalization in patients with JDM and JSc and to determine their correlation with disease severity.

Methods: Thirty-one JSc, 5 JDM, and 13 healthy controls were included in the study. Patients with morphea were scored according to the LoSCAT (activity index) and LoSDI (damage index) indices. Cytokines and chemokines involved in interferon gene signaling (IL-8, IL-1, IP-10, MCP-1, TNF-α, IFN-γ, IFN-β, IFN-γ) and interferon signalizing genes including IFI27, IFI44, ISIG15, IFIT1, OAS1, RSAD2 were measured by ELISA and RT_PCR method respectively.

Results: The ratio of female to male patients was 24/12, the median age was 14 years (min 4, max 18), and the median follow-up time was 36 months (min 12, max 108). According to LoSCAT assessment of patients with JSc, the scores were mild 36% (n=13), moderate 25% (n=9), and severe 11% (n=4). Similarly, LoSDI assessment revealed mild 38% (n=14), moderate 22% (n=8), and severe 11% (n=4). It was found that IL-8, IFN-γ, IL-10, and MCP-1 were significantly decreased in patients with JSc compared with the healthy control group. TNF-α and IFN-γ were found to tend to decrease in patients with JSc, whereas IFN-γ tended to increase in patients with JDM. The correlation of LoSCAT and LoSDI indices with cytokine and chemokine levels in patients with JSc is summarized in Figure 1.

Conclusion: In RT_PCR analysis of the interferon signaling genes, including IFI27, IFI44, ISIG15, IFIT1, OAS1, RSAD2, we found no statistically meaningful expressions of the genes compared with the healthy group. However, we identified the fold changes in RSAD2, IFI27, and IFIT1 in JDM and JSc patients compared with the healthy controls in the related genes. The fold changes of the interferon signaling genes are depicted in Figure 2.

Figure 1. Correlation of LoSCAT/LoSDI Scores with cytokines and chemokines in patients with Localized Sclerodermas. LoSCAT/LoSDI assessment. b. Cytokine and chemokine correlation map. c. Statistically significant correlations.
Conclusion: The results suggest that interferon signaling may be impaired in patients with JDM and JSc, and that cytokines and genes whose significant changes were observed in this study may play a key role in monitoring disease activity. Repeating these studies with larger numbers of patients may shed light on the clinical pathogenesis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1487

Figure 2. The diagrams of the interferon signaling genes

Table 1. Clinical and demographic data of the study population

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<td>Sex, female (%)</td>
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<td>Age at arthritis onset (years), mean (SD)</td>
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Lab
| AAN: positive n (%) | 19(39.5) |
| RF: negative n (%) | 48(100) |
| HLAB27: negative n(%): | 43(89.6) |

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Natalia Palmou-Fontana: None declared, Inmaculada Calvo Speakers bureau: ABVIE, NOVARTIS, JANSEN, GSK, GISELLA DIAZ CORDOSES ROGEO: None declared, ADRIAN GARCIA-ROGEO: None declared, Juan Carlos Lopez Robledillo: None declared, Berta Paula Magallares Lopez: None declared, Pablo Mesa del Castillo: None declared, ESTEFANIA MORENO RUZAPA: None declared, CARLOS REDONDO-FIQUEREO: None declared, MARTINA STEINER: None declared, PAZ COLLADO: None declared.

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AB1417

HOW TO DIAGNOSE: JUVENILE PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS, MULTICENTER PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY IN CHILDREN WITH SUSPECTED DIAGNOSIS

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritis

N. Palmou-Fontana1, I. Calvo1, G. Díaz Cordoves Rejo2, A. García-Rogero3, J. C. Lopez Robledillo4, B. P. Magallares López5, P. Mesa del Castillo5, E. Moreno Ruza5, C. Redondo-Figuero5, M. Stein6, P. Collado7, 1Marques De Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 2Hospital politécnico universitario LA FE, Paediatric, Valencia, Spain; 3Hospital Regional De Malaga, Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain; 4Centro De Salud Castro Urdiales, Paediatric, Castro Urdiales-Cantabria, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario Niño Jesus, Paediatric Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 6Hospital Universitario San Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 7Hospital Universitario La Arrixaca, Paediatric Rheumatology, Murcia, Spain; 8Hospital Universitario Vald Hebron, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 9Marques De Valdecilla University Hospital, Paediatric, Santander, Spain; 10Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Reumatologia, Madrid, Spain; 11Hospital Universitario Severo Ochoa, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPSA), a subtype of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), constitutes 5% of JIA. The literature is inconsistent regarding features of JPSA, and physicians debate whether it is a distinct entity within JIA. Moreover, the criteria diagnosis for JPSA is currently in debate. There are two pediatric diagnostic classifications based on clinical criteria: ILAR classification criteria and Vancouver classification criteria. Classification of JIA has been a great debate since this entity disappeared. [1] The CASPAR criteria are standard in adults. These criteria have a specificity of 91.4% and a sensitivity of 98.7%, making diagnostic classification easier. However, the peculiarities of childhood cause some differences to consider.

Objectives: To compare 3 diagnostic criteria for JPSA ILAR, Vancouver and CASPAR.

Methods: Multicenter, cross-sectional study of data from children with JPsA (diagnosis by prescriptor physician) who consecutively attended in ped-rheumatology outpatient clinic and enrolled from 9 centers within the last 1.5 years. Sociodemographic, clinical characteristics and family history of Psoriasis were collected to assess compliance with diagnostic classification criteria using the Cohen’s Kappa statistic index.

Results: Forty eight children were included with the following sociodemographic characteristics; (table1) Thirty eight children who met the VANCOUVER criteria (80.9%) while thirty two children met the ILAR criteria (68.1%). As for the CASPAR criteria, thirty eight children were diagnosed (80.9%). The diagnostic agreement between the ILAR and CASPAR criteria and ILAR and Vancouver criteria (diagnosed defined) was weak (K=0.67 and K=0.67). In contrast, the agreement was total (K=1) between the CASPAR and Vancouver criteria.

Conclusion: Despite minimal changes between the Vancouver and ILAR criteria, the ILAR exclusion criteria limit the diagnosis of PsA in childhood. Given that the CASPAR and Vancouver were able to detect a significant number of patients with PsA in our series (predominantly adolescents), the application of the CASPAR criteria in the subgroup of children with late onset could be considered.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Clinical and demographic data of the study population

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Natalia Palmou-Fontana: None declared, Inmaculada Calvo Speakers bureau: ABVIE, NOVARTIS, JANSEN, GSK, GISELLA DIAZ CORDOSES ROGEO: None declared, ADRIAN GARCIA-ROGEO: None declared, Juan Carlos Lopez Robledillo: None declared, Berta Paula Magallares Lopez: None declared, Pablo Mesa del Castillo: None declared, ESTEFANIA MORENO RUZAPA: None declared, CARLOS REDONDO-FIQUEREO: None declared, MARTINA STEINER: None declared, PAZ COLLADO: None declared.

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AB1418

SYSTEMIC JUVENILE ARTHRITIS: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LONG-TERM OUTCOME IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Keywords: Epidemiology, Registries

J. Nossent1, E. Kelt2, H. Keen3, D. Preen4, C. Inderjeeth1, 1The University of Western Australia, Rheumatology section, Medical School, Crawley, Australia; 2The University of Western Australia, School of Population and Global Health, Crawley, Australia

Background: Systemic juvenile arthritis (S-JIA) is a rare but serious multorgan autoinflammatory condition of childhood with an unpredictable disease course [1]. There is no data on disease frequency and outcome of S-JIA from the Pacific region. This population-level observational study includes children under the age of 16 with a recorded diagnosis of S-JIA (ICD-10-AM M08.20-M08.29) residing in WA between January 1999 and December 2014. Individual longitudinal health data regarding hospital admissions, ED visits, cancer and death were derived from the WA Rheumatic Disease Epidemiological Registry (WARDER) that contains routinely collected health data from public and private health care organisations for the entire state of WA.

Methods: This population-level observational study includes children under the age of 16 with a recorded diagnosis of S-JIA (ICD-10-AM M08.20-M08.29) residing in WA between January 1999 and December 2014. Individual longitudinal health data regarding hospital admissions, ED visits, cancer and death were derived from the WA Rheumatic Disease Epidemiological Registry (WARDER) that contains routinely collected health data from public and private health care organisations for the entire state of WA.

Results: Based on 46 incident cases (71.7 % girls, median age 6.5 years) the average annual S-JIA incidence rate was 0.61/100,000 (CI 0.28-1.25), which did
Methods: We reviewed the clinical characteristics of patients who were recruited to the juvenile SScC till 31st December 2022. We compared patients with BMI ≤ 2 z score with patients (lwgroup) with higher BMI (nlwgroup). jSScC is a pro-
inflammatory marker or organ involvement pattern, except higher number of patients with Gottron papules (41% lwgroup vs 25% nlwgroup; p=0.01) and puffy fingers (13% (3/32) vs 38% (13/32); p=0.001).

Results: At the time of the evaluation, we had 232 patients in the cohort and 217 of them had BMI data to include in the evaluation. Thirty-two patients were in the lwgroup before the age of 16 years and are under the age of 18 years at the time of inclusion in the cohort was 10.6 years and the median age at the first non-Ray-
naud symptom in the whole group was 11.0 years. Median disease duration in the whole group was 2.4 years at the time of inclusion. Approximately 95% of the patients were treated with a DMARD. There were no statistically significant differences between the lwgroup compared to nlwgroup regarding antibody pattern, inflammatory marker or organ involvement pattern, except higher number of patients with Gottron papules (41% lwgroup vs 25% nlwgroup; p=0.01) and sclerodactyly (84% lwgroup vs 73% nlwgroup; p=0.049). Regarding the patient related outcomes at inclusion in the cohort, the global disease activity by VAS 0-100 was 40 in both groups (p=0.032), but the patient global disease damage by VAS 0-100 was 50 in the lwgroup which was significantly higher compared to 30 nlwgroup (p=0.014).

Table 1. Comparison of patients with different BMI z-scores at time of inclusion in the cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Z-Score ≤ -2</th>
<th>N=33</th>
<th>Z-Score &gt; -2 to &lt; 2</th>
<th>N=177</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groton Pupules</td>
<td>41% (13/32)</td>
<td>25% (44/175)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puffy Fingers</td>
<td>13% (4/30)</td>
<td>38% (61/165)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sclerodactyly</td>
<td>84% (27/32)</td>
<td>73% (12/16)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient global disease damage</td>
<td>n=27</td>
<td>n=133</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In our jSScC cohort, currently the largest of the world, we could not find any differences regarding major internal organ involvement in patients with lower BMI at time of inclusion in the cohort. Nevertheless, there is a significant difference in patient related outcomes regarding global organ damage between the two groups. The long-term prognosis of these patients should be addressed in future studies.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Methods: We performed a detailed literature search to identify articles describing clinical and laboratory characteristics of paediatric APS patients. In concomiance, we conducted a registry-study collecting data from the Piedmont and Aosta Valley Rare Disease Registry including paediatric patients diagnosed with APS in the last ten years.

Results: The systematic review included nine articles with a total of 386 paediatric patients (65% females, 50% with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) as concomitant diagnosis). Rate of venous and arterial thrombosis were 57% and 35% respectively. "Extra-criteria manifestations" of APS included mostly hematological and neurological involvement (91 thrombocytopenia, 32 haemolytic anae-
mia, 19 chorea, 8 multiple sclerosis-like lesions, 9 migraines and one transverse myelitis). Almost one quarter of patients (19%) reported recurrent events and 28% were treated as CAPS. Further details of the included studies are detailed in Table 1. A total of 17 paediatric patients (mean age 15.1 ± 2.8, 76% female) developed APS in the Northwest of Italy. In 29% of cases SLE was a concomitant diagnosis. Deep vein thrombosis was the most frequent manifestation (28%) followed by Catastrophic APS (CAPS) (6%). Taking into account that the paediatric population of the Piedmont and Aosta Valley Region is around 680,000 persons, the calculated estimated prevalence of paediatric APS in Piedmont and Aosta Valley Region is 2.5 cases per 100,000 people. When analyzing the data of the register in an eleven year period (from January 2011 to December 2021), the estimated mean annual incidence was 0.2 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Conclusion: Clinical manifestations of paediatric APS seem to be more severe and with a higher prevalence of non-criteria manifestations. International efforts are needed to better characterize this condition and to develop new specific diagnostic criteria to avoid missed/delayed diagnosis in children with APS.

Table 1. Main characteristics of the studies included in the Systematic Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Author, year of publication</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Number of patients (n: mean, median, range)</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>PAPS SAPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Gattorno, 2003/Prospective</td>
<td>Multicenter</td>
<td>pPAPS prospective cohort</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9 (3-13) 12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y. Berkun, 2006</td>
<td>Multicenter</td>
<td>pPAPS prospective cohort</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12.9 23</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Avicin, 2008</td>
<td>Registry</td>
<td>Multicenter Descriptive cohort</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>10.7 (1-61) 60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Berman, 2014</td>
<td>Registry</td>
<td>Multicenter CAPS</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>11.5 ±4.631</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Naigeswara</td>
<td>Retrospective</td>
<td>Single center/Descriptive cohort</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15.3 9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Ma, 2016</td>
<td>Retrospective</td>
<td>Single center/Descriptive cohort</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>14 ±3 14</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Sloan, 2021</td>
<td>Retrospective</td>
<td>Single center/APS in pCTD</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>12.7 0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. A. Madison, 2022</td>
<td>Retrospective</td>
<td>Single center/APS in pCTD</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16 10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2272

AB1421

DOES THE SACROILIAC JOINT MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING ENHANCE THE ENTHESITIS-RELATED ARTHRITIS DIAGNOSIS?

Keywords: Imaging

H. Ferjani1, L. Kharat1, D. Ben Nessib1, K. Maatallah1, D. Kaffel1, W. Hamdi1, 1Kassab Orthopedics Institute, Ksar Said, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

Background: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is the gold standard in the diagnosis of adult spondyloarthritides. MRI sensitivity and specificity seem to be less studied in juvenile spondyloarthritides, especially in Enthesitis-related Arthritis (ERA).

Objectives: We aimed to determine the sensitivity and specificity of MRI in the diagnosis of ERA.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective study including 44 patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) meeting the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR) 2001 criteria. For each patient, we collected the following data: age, age at the onset of JIA, JIA subtype, disease duration, C-reactive protein (CRP), HLA-B27 typing, and Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ERS) levels.

Results: There was enthesitis-related arthritis in 61% of the cases (n=27), oligoarticular JIA in 14% of the cases (n=6), polyarticular JIA in 11% of the cases (n=5), and psoriatic arthritis in 7% of the cases (n=3). JIA was undifferentiated in 9% of the cases (n=4). We found that MRI abnormalities were not sensitive but had a good specificity in the diagnosis of ERA. Thus, MRI could guide the diagnosis of ERA but could not be the gold standard in this disease.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4072

AB1422

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS AT THE ONSET OF PEDIATRIC MIXED CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE (PMCTD): A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW.

Keywords: Systematic review, Mixed connective tissue disease, Rare/orphan diseases

A. Terminelli1, E. Mennargüé2, L. Pagnini2, I. Maccora2, M. V. Mastrolia2, A. Alletto2, G. Simonini2, 1Meyer Children’s Hospital IRCCS, ERN-ReCONNET full member, Pediatric Unit, Florence, Italy; 2Meyer Children’s Hospital IRCCS, ERN-ReCONNET full member, Rheumatology Unit, Florence, Italy

Background: pMCTD is a rare disorder that includes features of systemic lupus erythematosus, polymyositis/dermatomyositis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and systemic sclerosis. Fifty years have passed since Sharp identified MCTD in 1972, and diagnosis of this disorder remains challenging.

Objectives: The aim of this review is to identify any clinical features at the diagnosis of pMCTD and manifestations that are not currently part of the available diagnostic criteria.

Methods: A systematic literature review was performed in accordance with PRISMA guidelines using electronic bibliographic databases: MEDLINE via PubMed and EMBASE. Data obtained were extracted using a dedicated database containing clinical data that best categorize patient characteristics. Criteria for inclusion: studies including patients with a pMCTD diagnosis with onset before 18 years of age and reporting a description of initial clinical features.

Results: The search returned a total of 1372 results: 409 articles were excluded as duplicates and 790 based on title/abstract, 133 because of publication type (n = 4) or because the full text was not available (n = 65) or not in English (n = 64). One (n=1) eligible article resulted from manual screening of references cited in the selected publications and in the reviews. Finally, 41 articles were included: 23 case reports, 9 case series, 5 prospective, and 4 retrospective studies from 1973 to 2019, with a total number of 218 patients. They were predominantly female (81.56%, n=167), and the mean age at onset was 147 months (median 126 months, 10.5 years). When indicated, the most commonly used criteria for diagnosis were Kasukawa criteria (50%, 11 studies), then Alarcon-Segovia criteria (31%, 7 studies), then Sharp criteria (23%, 5 studies); no Khan criteria were used. Clinical features are listed in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Number of patients for clinical feature at onset.

Joint involvement, Raynaud’s phenomenon, myositis, and swollen fingers/hands are the most common clinical features at diagnosis according to the data reported in the literature, although with slightly lower percentages than in other reviews. Dermatologic signs are very heterogeneous, but were found to be a very present feature at disease onset, affecting 1/3 of patients. Fever, not covered by any of the diagnostic criteria, was noted in 1/4 of cases. Pulmonary and esophagial involvement are reported in a lower percentage at the onset of the disease, indicating a more developmental nature of these conditions.
Conclusion: The data from this systematic review suggest greater clinical heterogeneity of the disease in the pediatric population, for which there are no validated diagnostic criteria. Typical features appear to be less common when case reports are included, suggesting a less characteristic initial presentation than an advanced stage; therefore, the absence of typical features at baseline should not preclude a diagnosis of PMCTD. Fever often occurs early in the disease and is not included in the diagnostic criteria. This systematic review may provide useful insights for future research to better assess the clinical features of PMCTD and the potential development of scores/algorithms for diagnosis in the pediatric population.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4373

AB1423
USE OF BIOSIMILAR THERAPIES IN ADULT PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: RESULTS FROM THE SPANISH REGISTRY OF ADVERSE EVENTS WITH BIOLOGIC THERAPIES (BIOBADASER)

Keywords: bsDMARD
J. J. Bethencourt Baute1, L. Otero-Varela2, F. J. Manero Ruiz3, E. Perez-Pampin4, C. Rodriguez-Lozano5, S. Manrique Arija6, S. Bustabad7, C. Fernandez-Lopez8, D. Ruiz Montesinos9, L. Mateo10, R. Martin-Domench11, M. Moreno12, F. Sanchez-Alonso13, I. Catrejon13. Hospital Universitario de Canarias, Rheumatology, La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain; 2Spanish Foundation of Rheumatology, Research Unit, Madrid, Spain; 3Hospital Universitario Miguel Servet, Rheumatology, Zaragoza, Spain; 4Hospital Clinico Universitario de Santiago, Rheumatology, A Coruña, Spain; 5Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Dr Negrin, Rheumatology, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; 6Hospital General Carlos Haya, Rheumatology, Malaga, Spain; 7Hospital Universitario de Canarias, Rheumatology, La Laguna, Spain; 8Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de A Coruña, Rheumatology, A Coruña, Spain; 9Hospital Universitario Virgen de la Macarena, Rheumatology, Sevilla, Spain; 10Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol, Rheumatology, Badalona, Spain; 11Hospital General de Elche, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; 12Hospital Clinico Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca, Rheumatology, Murcia, Spain; 13Hospital Universitario Gregorio Maranon, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common chronic rheumatic disease in childhood. The emergence of new biological drugs has changed the prognosis and therapeutic approach to these patients, and costs are reduced with the use of biosimilar disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bsDMARD).

Objectives: Our aim was to describe the use of bsDMARD therapies in JIA.

Methods: Data was obtained from the nationwide prospective registry BIOBADASER. All patients diagnosed before age 16 in our database between 2000 and 2022 were included in the analysis. JIA is classified into 7 subgroups: systemic, persistent or extended oligoarthritis, RF positive polyarthritis, RF negative polyarthritis, enthesitis-related arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and undifferentiated arthritis. Due to the registry design, it was not possible to identify each of the JIA subgroups; thus, we classified them into oligo/polyarthritis JIA, JIA related to enthesitis, and psoriatic JIA. Proportions, means and standard deviations (SD) were used to describe our population and the utilization of treatments. Drug persistence was calculated using Kaplan-Meier survival curves until termination of treatment due to any reason.

Results: From a total of 313 patients, 130 patients (41.5%) received 151 treatments with bsDMARD, 60.8% of which were women (n=79). Mean age at diagnosis was 11.2 years (SD=6.1) and mean age at the beginning of treatment was 25.1 (SD=13.4). Patients were classified as oligo/polyarthritis JIA (72.2%), related to enthesitis (16.2%) and psoriatic JIA (4.6%). Methotrexate was used in combination in 39.1% of the biosimilar treatments. The most commonly used drug was Adalimumab (56.8%), followed by Etanercept (28.7%). Table 1 shows the biologic therapies used in our sample and the reasons for discontinuation. The median survival rate with the biosimilar drug and original was similar.

Conclusion: Adalimumab were the most commonly used biosimilar therapy in JIA. Ineffectiveness was the main reason for discontinuation. There were no differences on 5 years survival rates, which is a crucial endpoint in JIA.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Biologic therapies in JIA patients and reasons for discontinuation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Biosimilar</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adalimumab</td>
<td>127 (37.2)</td>
<td>85 (56.3)</td>
<td>212 (43.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept</td>
<td>104 (30.5)</td>
<td>44 (29.1)</td>
<td>148 (30.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infliximab</td>
<td>22 (6.5)</td>
<td>19 (12.6)</td>
<td>41 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>6 (1.8)</td>
<td>3 (2.0)</td>
<td>9 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certolizumab pegol</td>
<td>49 (14.4)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>49 (10.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golimumab</td>
<td>33 (9.7)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33 (6.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>341 (100)</td>
<td>151 (100)</td>
<td>492 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kaplan-Meier survival estimate

Figure 1. 5-year survival of bsDMARD vs. original bsDMARD

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1424
CLINICAL VARIABILITY IN PATIENTS DIAGNOSED OF JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS WITH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ANTINUCLEAR ANTIBODIES (ANA)

Keywords: Autoantibodies

Background: Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) involves a set of chronic arthritis of onset in childhood. JIA can be split into 7 categories based on the classification of the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR):
systemic arthritis, oligoarthritis, rheumatoid factor (RF) negative polyarthritis, RF positive polyarthritis, enthesis related arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, undifferentiated arthritis. In addition to this classification, some authors propose differentiating between patients who have positive (+) and negative (-) ANA in serum because there could be differences between these two subgroups, raising the possibility of homogenizing subtypes based on this.

**Objectives:** To describe the variability of extra-articular manifestations, treatment and prevalence of the different JIA subtypes between patients who have positive and negative ANA in serum.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional descriptive study in 68 patients with JIA according to ILAR criteria visited in the transitional consultation of a Spanish tertiary-level hospital. Clinical features, analytical and treatment data were collected, and patients were divided according to ANA+ or ANA- in serum. A >1/80 title of ANA determined by IIF at an least 2 occasions was considered positive. Subsequently, the qualitative data was analyzed using Chi-Square test, and the means were compared using ANCOVA analysis.

**Results:** 68 patients were included in the study, 33 were grouped in ANA- and 35 in ANA+. The ANA+ group was composed with 28 women (80%) and the ANA- group was made up with 18 women (54.4%) (p= n.s.). The mean age of diagnosis was 11 years old in the ANA- group and 9 years old in the ANA+ group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>ANA- (n)</th>
<th>ANA+ (n)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subtype</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligoarthritis (20)</td>
<td>3 (9.09%)</td>
<td>17 (48.57%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF+ polyarthritis (14)</td>
<td>8 (24.24%)</td>
<td>6 (17.14%)</td>
<td>0.6719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF- polyarthritis (4)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>4 (11.43%)</td>
<td>0.1372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis related arthritis (14)</td>
<td>11 (33.33%)</td>
<td>8 (27.59%)</td>
<td>0.0216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic arthritis (6)</td>
<td>6 (18.18%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0.0628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis (8)</td>
<td>2 (6.06%)</td>
<td>2 (5.71%)</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undifferentiated arthritis (6)</td>
<td>3 (9.09%)</td>
<td>3 (8.57%)</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical features</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis (8)</td>
<td>2 (6.06%)</td>
<td>2 (5.71%)</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis (10)</td>
<td>3 (9.09%)</td>
<td>7 (20%)</td>
<td>0.354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthesitis (9)</td>
<td>3 (9.09%)</td>
<td>6 (17.14%)</td>
<td>0.5344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and genital thrush (14)</td>
<td>7 (21.21%)</td>
<td>7 (20%)</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud’s (6)</td>
<td>3 (9.09%)</td>
<td>3 (8.57%)</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLAB27+ (20)</td>
<td>12 (42.86%)</td>
<td>8 (23.53%)</td>
<td>0.3623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF+ (7)</td>
<td>1 (3.57%)</td>
<td>6 (18.18%)</td>
<td>0.1673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCP- antibodies+ (9)</td>
<td>2 (6.06%)</td>
<td>7 (20%)</td>
<td>0.1811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sDMARD (31)</td>
<td>12 (36.36%)</td>
<td>19 (55.88%)</td>
<td>0.1748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARD (30)</td>
<td>13 (39.39%)</td>
<td>17 (48.57%)</td>
<td>0.6049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids (6)</td>
<td>5 (15.15%)</td>
<td>1 (2.86%)</td>
<td>0.742</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oligoarticular JIA was more frequent in the ANA+ group (48.57%) than in the ANA- group (33.33%), being this difference statistically significant. Enthesitis related arthritis was more frequent in the ANA- group (33.33%) than in the ANA+ group (8.57%), as it was systemic arthritis (18.18% in ANA- and 0% in ANA+), both differences being statistically significant. Uveitis, psoriasis and the use of sDMARD were more frequent in the ANA- group, while enthesis and corticosteroid use was more frequent in ANA+ patients, but without reaching statistical significance.

**Conclusion:** In our study, as in the literature, the oligoarticular JIA type occurred more frequently in the ANA+ group, while enthesis related arthritis and systemic arthritis were more frequent in the ANA- group. Although the treatment patterns and the prevalence of psoriasis and uveitis appear to differ between the two groups we did not find statistically significant difference. There is a lack of small number of patients included, and therefore it might be possible that the confidence interval could be corrected if the sample was expanded.

**References:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5203

**AB1425**

**CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A PORTUGUESE COHORT WITH UNDEFINED AUTOINFLAMMATORY DISEASES**

**Keywords:** Genetics/Epigenetics, Cytokines and chemokines

M. Santos Faria1,2, C. Zinter1,2, R. Campanhão-Marques1,2,3, I. Castro Esteves4, J. G. Marques4, P. Costa Reis1,4, M. Conde4, F. Oliveira-Ramos1,2.

1Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN), Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, ERN-RITA full members, Paediatric Rheumatology Unit, Lisbon, Portugal; 2Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN), Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, ERN-RITA full members, Paediatric Rheumatology Department, Lisbon, Portugal; 3Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN); Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Rheumatology Research Unit, Lisbon, Portugal; 4Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN), Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Paediatric Department, Lisbon, Portugal; 5Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN), Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Rheumatology Research Unit, Lisbon, Portugal; 6Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN), Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Paediatric Department, Lisbon, Portugal

**Background:** Systemic autoinflammatory diseases (SAIDs) are rare inherited disorders characterized by periodic or chronic multisystemic inflammation. The diagnosis is based on typical phenotypes and often supported by genetic testing. However, a distinct diagnosis cannot be met in half of these patients, being classified as undefined SAIDs (uSAIDs) [1].

**Objectives:** To analyse the clinical and genetic characteristics of a Portuguese cohort of uSAID.

**Methods:** Patients followed up in 2 SAIDs clinics with recurrent or persistent episodes of systemic inflammation associated with serum acute phase reactants elevation who do not meet the PRINTO diagnosis criteria for any well-defined SAIDs [2] were classified as having uSAID. Patients who do not have any pathogenic gene mutation or have 1 variant of uncertain significance of a gene related to a well-known autosomal dominant SAID were included, as well as patients with pending genetic analysis. Categorical variables are described as frequencies and percentages and continuous variables as median (IQR1, IQR3).

**Results:** This study included 24 patients, of which 12 (50.0%) were female and 12 (50.0%) were male. The median age at disease onset was 2.4 (IQR: 1.4, 8.2) years old, the median age at diagnosis was 6.5 (IQR: 2.4, 9.9) years old and the median time of disease duration was 6.8 (IQR: 9, 12.4) years. The majority of the patients (n=14, 58.3%) had episodes of recurrent systemic inflammation lasting 2 to 5 days. Two patients exhibited persistent inflammation. Regarding patients with recurrent inflammation, 10 (41.7%) had more than 12 episodes per year, 7 (29.2%) had 2 to 6 episodes per year and 4 (16.6%) had 7 to 12 episodes per year. The remaining patient had an episode every 2 years. In 13 (54.2%) the intercritical interval was regular, with a median of 21 days. Besides fever, the most commonly reported clinical manifestations were mucocutaneous lesions (n=24) including mouth ulcers (n=11), abdominal pain (n=12), lymphadenopathy (n=10) and arthralgia (n=10). C-reactive protein was elevated in all patients during attacks, erythrocyte rate sedimentation in 20 (83.3%) and amyloid A protein in 10 (41.7%). C-reactive protein was elevated in all patients during attacks. Infliximab, in association with azathioprine, resulted in disease remission in 8 patients. Two patients were treated with canakinumab achieving complete remission. Infliximab, in association with azathioprine, resulted in disease remission in the only patient in which this therapy was used. None of the 3 patients submitted to tonsillectomy achieved remission.

**Conclusion:** Similar to other uSAIDs' cohorts, mucocutaneous manifestations, abdominal pain and arthralgia were frequently reported. A third exhibited acute phase reactants elevation in the intercritical phase. Most of our patients had a favourable response to colchicine and IL-1 inhibitors. It is worth noting the high frequency of mouth ulcers, lymphadenopathy and pharyngitis and the high response rate to oral steroids and colchicine. These features resemble PFFAPA syndrome, highlighting the challenges in the differential diagnosis of both conditions.

**References:**


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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**ABT1426**

**CHRONIC RECURRENT MULTIFOCAL OSTEOMYELITIS AND BOWEL INFLAMMATION: A MONOCENTRIC COHORT**

**Keywords:** Rare/orphan diseases, Gastrointestinal tract, Remission

S. Costi1, S. Germinario2,3, M. R. Pellico2,3, A. Amati2,3, M. Gattinara1, C. Chighizola1,2, A. Marino1, R. Caporali1,3, 1ASTSS G. Pini-CTO, Unit of Pediatric Rheumatology of Gaetano Pini Hospital were retrospectively reviewed.

**Background:** Chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis (CRMO) is a rare autoinflammatory disease of bone primarily affecting children and adolescents. Although CRMO can be associated with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)[1], the prevalence of subclinical bowel inflammation and its relationship with other autoimmune bone disorders remains uncertain.

**Objectives:** This study aims to evaluate the prevalence of subclinical bowel inflammation in CRMO patients and the potential association with celiac disease.

**Methods:** Clinical records of patients diagnosed with CRMO attending the Unit of Pediatric Rheumatology of Gaetano Pini Hospital were retrospectively reviewed. Fecal calprotectin and screening for celiac disease were performed in all patients within 2 years after diagnosis.

**Results:** Complete data from 24 patients were collected (83% female). The mean age at diagnosis was 10.1 (DS ± 2.7) and the median follow-up time was 68.5 months (IQR 97.5). The first symptom at onset was bone pain (100%), while only 4 patients (17%) complained of gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, weight loss, diarrhea). The patients in our cohort had no specific comorbidity, except for two patients suffering from hemophilia and pyoderma gangrenosum, respectively. 96% (23/24) of patients had polyostotic disease. During the follow-up period, 9 patients (38%) received only non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs therapy, 10 patients (42%) received conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (methotrexate), 4 (17%) received anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) agents and 12 (50%) received intravenous bisphosphonates. Cumulative treatments are summarized in Figure 1. Two patients, both in clinical remission off medication, were lost to follow-up. Calprotectin levels were normal in 100% of patients, while 3 patients (13%) presented compressed screening test for celiac disease with a positive test for IgA anti-tissue transglutaminase antibodies (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** The link between autoinflammatory bone disease and intestinal inflammation should be further investigated since it might open insight into bone inflammation and new therapeutic options. In our experience, controlling bowel disease may promote a better response to CRMO treatments. On the other hand, the percentage of unexplained bone pain in celiac disease is high, and, in this scenario, a possible inflammatory bone disorder should be ruled out.

**REFERENCE:**


**Figure 1.** Cumulative treatments during the follow-up time. MTX = methotrexate; TNF = tumor necrosis factor; NSAIDs = non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

**Table 1.** Case series of CRMO in association with positive IgA anti-tissue transglutaminase antibodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age at onset</th>
<th>Comorbidity</th>
<th>Poly/monostotic disease</th>
<th>Duodenal biopsy</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Poly</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>NSAIDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Poly</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>NSAIDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pyoderma gangrenosum</td>
<td>Poly</td>
<td>Not-performed</td>
<td>Biphosphonates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Stefania Costi: None declared, Sabino Germinario: None declared, Maria Rosa Pellico: None declared, Andrea Amati: None declared, Maurizio Gattinara: None declared, Cecilia Chighizola: None declared, Achille Marino: None declared, Roberto Caporali: Speakers bureau: AbbVie, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Fresenius, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCBL, Consultant of: AbbVie, Fresenius, Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCBL.

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**ABT1427**

**HIP DAMAGE ASSESSED BY CARSH SCORE WAS MORE SEVERE IN ENTHESIS-RELATED ARTHRITIS SUBTYPES**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Validation

A. Ophalies1, H. Ferjani1, D. Ben Nessib2, D. Kaffel1, K. Maattallah1, W. Hamdi1, 1Mohamed Kassab Institute of Orthopedics, Rheumatology, Manouba, Tunisia

**Background:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis is a heterogeneous group of diseases characterized by unknown origin under 16 years. Compared to other juvenile idiopathic arthritis subtypes, enthesitis-related arthritis has a poor prognosis with a higher disability. Moreover, the frequency of hip involvement contributes to poorer outcomes and higher disease activity in this form. The Childhood Arthritis Radiographic Score of the Hip (CARSH), a valid score of hip damage, is used to quantify and monitor hip osteochondritis changes such as space narrowing, erosions, malalignment, sclerosis, flattening of the femoral head, and growth abnormalities [1].

**Objectives:** This study aimed to assess hip damage using the CARSH in children suffering from different subtypes of JIA.

**Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients with JIA according to the ILAR criteria with hip involvement in the rheumatology department at Kassab Institute of orthopedics. The hip involvement was defined as the presence of hip pain and/or limping and range motion limitation, and/or abnormal hip findings in pelvic radiography, ultrasound, or MRI. We collected demographic data, juvenile arthritis subtypes, hip pain and limitation, presence of antigen HLA, and extra-articular manifestations. Experimented and blinded pediatric rheumatologists read the pelvic radiograph using the Childhood Arthritis Radiographic Score of the Hip (CARSH).

**Results:** Twenty-two children with a median age of 13 years [5-22] were included.

**Conclusion:** This study showed that the radiographic score CARSH was higher in enthesitis-related arthritis patients. This finding prompts the escalating of the treatment approach in this JIA subtype to prevent damage and joint replacement surgery.

**REFERENCE:**

AB1429
EMAPALUMAB TREATMENT FOLLOWED BY HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION IN SYSTEMIC JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS COMPLICATED BY RECURRENT MACROPHAGE ACTIVATION SYNDROME

Keywords: Cytokines and chemokines, Inflammatory cytokines

C. Bracaglia1, M. Pardeo1, G. Marucci1, S. Riccio1, F. Quagliarella1, I. Caiello1, G. Pencipe1, P. Merli1, F. Locatelli2, F. De Benedetti1
1IRCCS Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 2IRCCS Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital, Department of Hematology/Oncology, Cell and Gene Therapy, Rome, Italy

Background: Macrophage activation syndrome (MAS) is a life-threatening complication of different rheumatic diseases, particularly of systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA).

Objectives: We report the case of a 17-year-old girl with sJIA complicated by recurrent severe MAS episodes.

Methods: Patient received emapalumab (anti-IFNg antibody) in two subsequent MAS episodes, then underwent an uncomplicated hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) from a haploidentical donor, while receiving emapalumab and anakinra granting complete control of inflammatory activity of the underlying disease. One year after transplant she is in complete disease remission.

Results: A 13-year-old Caucasian girl presented with fever, rash and hepato-splenomegaly. Laboratory parameters were consistent with full-blown MAS (tab 1). In the absence of clear evidence of an underlying condition, a diagnosis of secondary HLH was made. Treatment with high dose of intravenous (IV) methylprednisolon (mPDN) and oral cyclosporine (CYC) was started with progressive improvement. After one year, still on CYC, she presented with fever, rash and arthritis with laboratory parameters consistent with MAS (tab 1), diagnosis of sJIA complicated by MAS was made. In 24 hours, her general condition rapidly worsened and she was admitted to the ICU. High dose of IV mPDN (7 pulses of 30 mg/kg/day) as well as IV CYC (5 mg/kg/day) did not yield a response. Emapalumab was started, in the NI-0501-06 trial, (6 mg/kg initial dose followed by 3 mg/kg every 3 days) for 11 infusions. Conditions progressively improved. In order to prevent flares of the underlying sJIA, anakinra (2 mg/kg/day) was started. After 2 years in clinical remission, while she receiving anakinra every other day, she presented with fever, vomiting and diarrhea. Anakinra was immediately increased to daily dosing. Stool analysis showed Salmonella infection and antibiotic therapy was started. Her condition rapidly worsened, laboratory parameters were again consistent with full-blown MAS (tab 1). She required ICU admission for multorgan failure. Anakinra was administered IV and the dose increased up to 12 mg/kg/day. IV MPDs (8 pulses of 30 mg/kg/day) as well as IV CYC (5 mg/kg/day) were started with partial response. Based on her previous response, emapalumab was started again (compassionate use) with marked and rapid improvement. Because of recurrent MAS episodes, particularly for their rapidly progressive evolution, the patient underwent an ex-vivo T cell-depleted haploidentical HSCT from her mother. The conditioning regimen was based on a Thiopepa-Treosulfan-Fludarabine scheme. Emapalumab was continued 1 month after HSCT together with anakinra. The patient developed mild complication, achieved full donor engraftment with complete donor-derived immune reconstitution after 3 months. One year after HSCT, the patient is in excellent clinical condition on anakinra every other day, with complete remission of sJIA/MAS, also confirmed by persistently normal levels of IL-18 and CXCL9 (tab 1).

Table 1. Laboratory parameters and cytokine levels during disease course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory parameters</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>First MAS</th>
<th>Second MAS</th>
<th>Third MAS</th>
<th>HSCT 1 year after HSCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GB (10^9/l)</td>
<td>5.5-15</td>
<td>10.87</td>
<td>8.87</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>1.87 8.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLT (10^3/l)</td>
<td>150-450</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>147 184 327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin (ng/ml)</td>
<td>13-150</td>
<td>13.088</td>
<td>27.396</td>
<td>5.921</td>
<td>230 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALT (UI/L)</td>
<td>&lt;33</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST (UI/L)</td>
<td>&lt;32</td>
<td>&lt;33</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>865 24 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDH (UI/L)</td>
<td>135-225</td>
<td>1717</td>
<td>1623</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>175 234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILmoglobin (mg/dl)</td>
<td>90-400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>341 428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGF (mg/dl)</td>
<td>&lt;170</td>
<td>&lt;170</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>220 148 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-18 (pg/ml)</td>
<td>&lt;300</td>
<td>189764</td>
<td>27761</td>
<td>36606</td>
<td>995 341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CXCL9 (pg/ml)</td>
<td>&lt;612</td>
<td>&lt;612</td>
<td>11295</td>
<td>22488</td>
<td>29403 50 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: This case provides further evidence of the efficacy of emapalumab in MAS [1], of the potential benefit of HSCT in difficult sJIA patients [2]. Notably, full control of inflammatory activity with emapalumab and anakinra may help to obtain a successful HSCT and reduce the risk of rejection.

REFERENCES:
THE EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES TRANSFERRING THEIR CARE FROM PEDIATRIC TO ADULT SERVICES AND THEIR SUGGESTED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Keywords: Health Services Research, Real-world evidence, Patient information and education

L. Williamson1,2,3,4, A. Bouraoui2,3, E. Williams2, S. Meyer2, S. Movromatissi1,3, M. J. Leandro1,2,4, C. Curtin2,3,4, D. Sen2,3, C. Fisher2,3,4, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, Paediatric Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 2University College Hospital, Adolescent Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 3Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology, Adolescent Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom; 4Arthritis Australia, Arthritis Australia, Glebe, Australia; 5University College London, Department of Rheumatology, London, United Kingdom

Background: Transition of care from paediatric to adult services is a critical time period for patients with rheumatic diseases. A seamless transition process can aid young people in their development to adulthood, whilst also allowing them to gain independence in managing their rheumatic condition. Young people and their caregivers often express concerns to their paediatric rheumatology teams about the transition to adult services.

Objectives: This study seeks to explore the experience of transition from the perspective of young people with rheumatic diseases, and their suggestions for areas to address in improving the transition process. The second aim of the study is to find out whether young people want to fill out information about themselves in order to help adult rheumatology staff to get to know them better, and if so, what information they felt was important to know.

Methods: Anonymous survey questionnaires were given to young people with rheumatic diseases, via a scannable QR code, to be filled in prior to their rheumatology outpatient visit. All patients surveyed had transferred their care from paediatric to adult services. Further responses were sought by sending the survey questionnaire to young people with rheumatic diseases who had consented to be on a patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) mailing list. Survey data were analysed in Microsoft Excel.

Results: Average age of respondents: 18 (median), range 16-26. The majority of respondents were female (76%). 52% of patients had juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), 12% had juvenile dermatomyositis, 12% had juvenile systemic lupus erythematosus, and 17% did not disclose their young age or their specific disease. Those who were satisfied with the transition process (satisfaction score rated 8 out of 10 (mean)) were concerned with patient centered factors. Young people perceived the following aspects of transition to have been done well: “Communication about the change”, having a “named transition coordinator”, having a “personal tour of [the adult hospital]”, and having a “smooth process”. Aspects of the transition process that young people suggested could be improved included: “more transparent and understandable medical talk”; “more follow-up [appointments]”; “knowing how to contact [a] named transition coordinator”, feeling as though the healthcare professional was “talking to my mum rather than me”; and “the general feeling of... care not being as personal”. Overall, 60% of young people stated that they would be willing to fill out an electronic form prior to their appointment at the adult rheumatology service to give information that would allow staff at the adult hospital to get to know them better. When stratified by age, only 50% of 16-18-year-olds would be willing to fill out a form, whereas 80% of 19-26-year-olds would. The most commonly suggested pieces of information were: hobbies, sports, favourite school subject, goals, and career aspirations.

Conclusion: Most young people were satisfied with the transition process and had helpful suggestions about how this might be improved in the future.

Majority of young people were willing to fill in a form to provide information about themselves in order to help adult rheumatology staff to get to know them better, especially those who were aged 19-26 years. At a critical time in young people’s development, enabling them to provide information about themselves that they feel is important, may help to improve their perception of the transition process and reduce the anxiety about transferring care to adult services.

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AB1432

**BODY MASS INDEX AND INFLAMMATORY LESIONS IN MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: IS THERE A LINK?**

**Keywords:** Imaging

L. Kharrat1, H. Ferjani1, D. Ben Nessib1, K. Maatallah1, D. Kaffel1, W. Hamdi1.

1Kassab Orthopedics Institute, Ksar Said, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

**Background:** Obesity is usually associated with low-grade inflammation in the general population. However, several studies have noted that high body mass index (BMI) in rheumatoid arthritis patients was associated with less structural damage in X-rays and in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) [1,2]. The impact of BMI on inflammatory MRI lesions in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) is less studied.

**Objectives:** We aimed to determine the link between BMI and inflammatory MRI lesions of sacroiliac joints in JIA.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective study including 44 patients followed for JIA meeting the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR) 2001 criteria. For each patient we collected the following data: age, age at the onset of JIA, JIA subtype, disease duration, BMI, C-reactive protein (CRP) and Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) levels, and MRI data. Disease activity was assessed using the JADAS score. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software.

**Results:** We included 28 boys and 16 girls. The mean age was 13.65 ± 4.62 years. The mean age at the onset of the disease 9.57 ± 3.97 years. The mean body mass index was 18.7 ± 4.9 kg/m². There was enthesitis-related arthritis in 61% of the cases (n=27), oligoarticular JIA in 14% of the cases (n=6), polyarticular JIA in 11% of the cases (n=5), and psoriatic arthritis in 7% of the cases (n=3). JIA was undifferentiated in 7% of the cases (n=3). However, this diagnosis delay was not associated with low back pain, enthesitis, or sacroiliac joint pain.

**Conclusion:** Our results are consistent with Kurt et al. study [1]. Older age, the occurrence of extra-articular manifestations, and low ESR level could lead to diagnosis improvement.

**REFERENCE:**


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1434

**CLINICAL PROFILE OF JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: ABOUT 55 CASES**

**Keywords:** Inflammatory arthritides, Descriptive Studies

M. Ardhau1, D. Khalifa1, R. Fakhfakh1, N. El Amri1, K. Baccouche1, E. Bouajila1. 1Farhat Hached Hospital, Rheumatology, Sousse, Tunisia

**Background:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common rheumatic disease in children with wide variety in its clinical profile.

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to describe the epidemiological, clinical, paraclinical and management aspects of JIA among Tunisian children.

**Methods:** This is a monocentric retrospective and observational study including children who met the ILAR criteria for the diagnosis of JIA. They were collected from the rheumatology department of Farhat Hached Hospital of Sousse in Tunisia.

**Results:** Out of the 55 included children, 27 (49.1%) were boys and 28 (50.9%) were girls. The mean age was 13.6 years. The mean age of onset of JIA was 6.4
years [3 months-16 years]. The mean duration of JIA progression was 4.4 years. The predominant subtypes of JIA were the seronegative polyarticular form (21 cases, 38.2%), the seronegative oligoarticular form and juvenile spondyloarthritids (9 cases, 16.4%) each. The other forms were: seropositive polyarthritids (7 cases, 12.7%), systemic onset JIA (SOJIA) and psoriatic arthritis (4 cases, 7.3% for each) and arthritis with enthesis (1 case, 1.8%). Arthritis was present in all patients. Wrist followed by knee were the most affected joints in all subtypes. Fever, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly and rash were exclusive to patients with SOJIA. Uveitis (2 cases, 3.6%) and anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA) positivity (1 case, 1.8%) were rare. Biological inflammatory syndrome was found in 65.5% of cases. The means of ESR and CRP were 42.4 mm/h and 28.8 mg/L respectively. Anemia was found in 56.4% of cases. Standard X rays revealed carpal in 4 cases (72%) and bone erosions in 9 cases (16.4%). Coxitis was present in 30.9% of the patients. Concerning treatment, our patients received non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (61.8%), oral corticosteroids (67.3%), and pulse steroid therapy in 47.3% of cases. Methotrexate was used for 65.5% of patients. Twenty-four patients (41.8%) were treated with biologics. Delayed growth as a complication of the JIA was observed in 8 cases (14.5%). Twenty-three patients (41.8%) developed joint deformities.

Conclusion: JIA has heterogeneous presentations with a challenging diagnosis in rheumatology practice. In our study, the seronegative polyarticular form was the most common subtype of JIA. Inflammatory syndrome, coxitis and deformities were frequent whereas uveitis and ANA positivity were rare findings in our population.

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Acknowledgements: NIL.

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Diffuse Arteritis with giant cell arteritis: a case report

M. Thomas1, G. Martinroche2, A. Combière1, J. Wipff1, G. Touanga1, P. Quartier1, C. Bordes2,3, M. E. Truchetet4,5, Y. Allanore1. 1Cochin Hospital, Rheumatology, Paris, France; 2Hospital Center University De Bordeaux, Immunology and Immunogenetic Department, Bordeaux, France; 3Nécker Hospital, Reference Centre for Rare Diseases, Paediatric Immunology-Haematology and Rheumatology Unit, Paris, France; 4Bordeaux University - Campus Carreire, ImmunocoEpt, CNRS, UMR 5164, Bordeaux, France; 5Hospital Center University De Bordeaux, Rheumatology, Bordeaux, France

Background: Auto-antibodies against carbamylated proteins (anti-CarP) are emerging biomarkers in rheumatoid arthritis with relevant prognostic value. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is characterized by high heterogeneity and risk-stratification could be improved.

Objectives: We aimed at determining whether anti-CarP in J IAs patient, at the time of transition, could help to predict patients’ outcomes.

Methods: We conducted a monocentric retrospective study at the Cochin Hospital in Paris on a cohort of JIA patients in transition to adult rheumatology for whom serum has been collected and stored in a biobank between 2011 and 2013 with the approval of research ethic committee (EUDRACT 2010-A01386-33, reference S.C.2852). Demographic data, diagnosis, biological and radiological results, and treatments were collected retrospectively thanks to computerized files. Samples of serum available in the biobank were analyzed to measure anti-CarP and anti-CCP by ELISA in the department of Immunology and Immunogenetics from the Bordeaux University Hospital.

Results: Twenty-eight (20%) patients were anti-CarP positive. The median age was 21.5 (18.6-23.1) years in anti-CarP positive as compared to 19 (17-21.1) in anti-CarP negative (p=0.02). In anti-CarP positive group, 41% were polyarticular-JIA, 26% oligoarticular, 15% had enthesitis related arthritis and 15% were systemic, but this was not different as compared to anti-CarP negative patients. Structural radiographic damages were identified in 44% of anti-CarP positive such as in 50% in anti-CarP negative group (p=0.6). Concerning treatment, 28% of anti-CarP positive patients were treated with synthetic DMARD and 72% with biologic DMARD as compared to 44% (p=0.01) and 65% (p=0.05) for anti-CarP negative. Among anti-CarP positive patients, 10 (7.4%) were also anti-CCP positive. These double-positive patients were polyarticular-JIA for 90% and 9% (p=0.02) received a biotheraphy at the last available follow-up as compared to 18% of polyarticular-JIA (p=0.002) and 44% (p=0.03) on biotherapy.

Conclusion: Anti-CarP antibodies were observed in 20% of JIAs patients at transition but could not help for risk-stratification of the patients. The respective value of anti-CarP and anti-CCP for structural damages and treatment intensification will require larger cohort but double positive patients appeared to be the most severe polyarticular-JIA patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Nailfold Capillaroscopy in Deficiency of Adenosine Deaminase 2 (DADA2): a Case-Control Study

P. F. Bica1, C. Matucci-Cerinic1,2,3, E. Hysa1, A. Cere1, E. Gotelli1, S. Volpi2,3, R. Caorsi2,3, A. Sulli1, C. Pizzorni1, S. Paolino1, M. Cutolo1, M. Gattorno2, 1University of Genova, IRCCS San Martino Polyclinic Hospital, Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine and Specialties (DIMI), Genova, Italy; 2I.R.C.C.S. Gianna Gaslini, Center for Autoinflammatory Diseases and Immunodeficiencies, Genoa, Italy; 3R.C.C.S. Gianna Gaslini, DINOGMI, University of Genova, Genoa, Italy

Background: Deficiency of adenosine deaminase 2 (DADA2) is a rare mono-genic inflammatory disease characterized by the presence of systemic inflammation, vasculitis, early-onset stroke, and hematologic manifestations such as cytopenia and immunodeficiency. Mucocutaneous and peripheral microvascular manifestations, such as livedo racemosa, cutaneous ulcers and Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP), can occur, in up to 50%, 22% and 8% of DADA2 patients respectively [1].

Objectives: To investigate the microvascular architecture in nailfold capillaries of DADA2 patients comparing them with adequate healthy controls (HCs) and primary RP individuals.

Methods: The data of 9 patients with DADA2 followed at Istituto Gaslini were retrospectively retrieved and compared to 11 HCs and 7 RP Clinical and genetic data were collected for DADA2 patients. Nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC) findings were collected in the whole cohort, independently from their current treatment. The capillaroscopic parameters were classified according to the Fast Track Algorithm and distinguished between scleroderma-pattern (encompassing specific NVC alteration, such as the presence of giant capillaries and/or loss of capillaries combined with abnormally shaped capillaries) and non-scleroderma
patterns (non-specific NVC alterations) [2]. A validated semiquantitative scale (score 0–3 for each NVC parameter) was used to compare microvascular findings in the three groups [3].

**Results:** The patients with DADA2 were diagnosed according to genetic testing. The disease onset was in early infancy, while the mean age at NVC was of 18.8 years. Livedo racemosa was present in 7 patients (78%), digital ulcers in 1 patient, and an ischemic stroke was reported in 5 patients (55%). None of the patients had RP (0%). The NVC showed the presence of non-specific alterations in all DADA2 patients (capillary dilations in 100%, abnormally shaped capillaries and haemorrhages in 23% of patients). The capillary density was normal (median = 9) and no scleroderma-like pattern was found. No significant differences in the rates of each microvascular finding were detected between DADA2, RP patients and HCs.

**Conclusion:** This is the first report investigating the NVC findings in DADA2 patients. Microvascular damage in DADA2 does not show a specific capillaroscopic alteration but the presence of non-specific findings might suggest a disease-related endothelial damage.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**REFERENCES:**


**Keywords:** Myositis

R. Semo Ox1, A. Dorfi2, S. Spielman3, E. Zohar Dayan4, M. Rubinstein5, E. Adam6, A. Vivante7, Y. Bezalel8, I. Tirosh1.

**Background:** GVHD is a significant complication of allogeneic stem cell transplantation, mediated by donor T cell activation and proliferation and affecting 30–70% of patients. Clinical manifestations often have overlapping features with auto-immune diseases such as scleroderma, Sjögren’s syndrome, eosinophilic fasciitis, primary biliary cirrhosis and immune cytopenia. Clinical myositis with muscle tenderness and elevated muscle enzymes is recognized as a distinct and uncommon manifestation of GVHD with estimated frequency of 3.5–7.6%. In addition to corticosteroids, various immunosuppressive agents are being used for treatment, however, the optimal therapeutic strategy has not yet been defined.

**Objectives:** To describe a case of GVHD related myositis in a 4 years old female, successfully treated with Rituximab and to increase awareness for this rare condition and the role of Rituximab for its treatment.

**Methods:** Two years old female underwent a successful bone marrow transplantation from matched unrelated donor for Juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML). Four months post BMT she developed severe GVHD, primarily involving her skin and oral mucosa, GI and liver. She was treated with mycophenolate, cyclosporine, prednisolone, rituximab, tacrolimus in different combinations. Almost two years post BMT she developed fever, general weakness and severe respiratory distress which required mechanical ventilation. After a comprehensive diagnostic work-up, she was diagnosed with inflammatory myositis based on elevated CPK, characterized EMG and muscle biopsy (Fig 1, 2). She was treated with steroid pulses and IVIG with no significant improvement and therefore Rituximab was added to her regimen. Two weeks following the first dose of Rituximab, clinical and laboratory improvement were noted, and the patient could get off ventilator.

**Results:** Patient remained in remission with monthly IVIG and decreasing doses of prednisone.

**Conclusion:** Myositis is a rare complication of GVHD. High index of suspicion is recommended for early diagnosis. Rituximab should be considered as a treatment option.

**REFERENCES:**


**Peri-fascicular atrophy**

**Figure 1.** Muscle biopsy – Hematoxylin-Eosin – peri-fascicular atrophy

**Figure 2.** EMG results: significant spontaneous muscle activity and early recruitment, both typical in inflammatory myositis.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB1438**

INFLAMMATORY MYOSITIS ASSOCIATED WITH GRAFT VERSUS HOST DISEASE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Myositis</th>
</tr>
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**AB1439**

ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS

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<th>Keywords:</th>
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**REFERENCES:**


ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVALENCE OF SARCOPENIA IN ADULT WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Sarcopenia, Inflammatory arthritides, Diet and Nutrition

I. Sultine1, A. Hittinger1, I. Charlot-Lambrécht2, B. Lois3, M. Geoffroy1, J. H. Salmon1. 1Hospital Maison Blanche, Rheumatology, Reims, France

Background: Sarcopenia is a progressive and systemic disorder of skeletal muscles responsible for an acceleration of function impairment and loss of muscle mass [1]. It is well known associated with ageing, but a new life-course approach suggests that muscle mass and function in older people also depends on the mass muscle peak in early adulthood [2]. Prevalence increment of sarcopenia has been well described in inflammatory rheumatic diseases, particularly in rheumatoid arthritis and spondylarthritides, but has never been studied in rheumatic diseases with a juvenile onset.

Objectives: The aim of this study was therefore to investigate the prevalence of sarcopenia in juvenile idiopathic arthritis in adult life.

Methods: We performed a monocentric cross-sectional study including patients followed up in rheumatology unit of Reims hospital for juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) from November 2021 to September 2022. Each patient received a measurement of muscle quantity and quality by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry, a measurement of muscle strength by Grip test, a screening for sarcopenia by the SARC-F score, an assessment of physical activity by the IPAQ score and of fatigue by the FACIT-F score. The diagnosis of sarcopenia was confirmed by a decrease in appendicular muscle mass (AMM) < 20 kg in men and < 15 kg in women or an ASM/height(2) < 7 kg/m2 in men or < 5.5 kg/m2 in women [1].

Results: Thirty-four patients were included, aged from 18 to 45 years. The prevalence of sarcopenia was 20.6% (7/34) with a majority of women (sex ratio 0.6). Type of JIA was significantly different between the 2 groups with 57.14% oligoarticular form and 28.57% systemic form in the sarcopenic group, versus 0% oligoarticular and 52.4% systemic form in the non-sarcopenic group (p=0.004). We did not find any significant difference in disease activity nor in treatment by biotherapy or corticosteroids between the 2 groups. Proportion of patients with a BMI <18.5 kg/m2 was significantly higher in the sarcopenic population (p=0.0095). The IPAQ score showed a lower energy expenditure in the sarcopenic group, although not significantly different (p=0.099). By using a variation of -2DS of appendicular skeletal mass or <ASM/height(2)] compared with age- and sex-matched reference values from a Danish cohort, we have calculated a prevalence of sarcopenia of 11.76% in our population [3]. The assessment of muscle strength defined by a -2DS decrease in grip test values compared to reference values matched for age and sex showed a decrease in muscle strength in 29.4%. By using European Working Group for Sarcopenia in Older People (EWGSOP) definition, only 11.76% of our patients presented a muscle strength decrease. Moreover, the SARC-F score established in patients over 65 years of age did not allow for the detection of sarcopenia in our population.

Conclusion: This is the first study to evaluate sarcopenia in juvenile idiopathic arthritis. JIA is associated with a risk of developing sarcopenia at an early age with an impact on peak muscle mass and, thus, on long-term muscle function and prognosis. In order to prevent this risk, nutritional management and regular physical activity seem to be relevant approaches. The definition of sarcopenia by the EWGSOP does not seem to be adapted to a younger population, with a low sensitivity screening of sarcopenia in this population by the SARC-F score and an underestimation of low muscle strength by the grip test. Further studies with a larger population and a control population are needed to clarify these results.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgement: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES UNDER TREATMENT WITH BIOLOGICAL THERAPY: INFORMATION FROM BIOBADAMEX

Keywords: bDMARD, Registries

S. Mendieta1, A. Torres2, F. Irazoque-Palazuelos3, S. Sicsic3, I. J. Colunga-Pedraza2, D. X. Xibile Friedman4, D. Alpizar-Rodríguez5, V. Rivera Teran6, 1ISSEYM Hospital Materno Infantil, Pediatric Rheumatology, Toluca de Lerdo, Mexico; 2Centro Médico Nacional La Raza, Pediatric Rheumatology, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 3Centro Médico Nacional 20 de Noviembre, Rheumatology, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 4Unidad Médica de Alta Especialidad No. 71 IMSS, Rheumatology, Torreón, Mexico; 5Centro Médico Conchita, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 6Centro Médico San Diego, Rheumatology, Cuautla, Mexico; 7Colegio Mexicano De Reumatología, Unidad de Investigación, Ciudad de México, Mexico

Background: The advent of biologic treatment (bDMARD) in childhood rheumatic diseases (RD) has changed their evolution and prognosis. Evidence is robust for diseases such as juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), but in other diseases we still have to learn which is the ideal therapy, time to discontinuation and the potential adverse events (AE) in short and long term.

Objectives: Identify the clinical and treatment characteristics of pediatric patients with rheumatic diseases with bDMARD treatment and describe the development of AE.

Methods: BIOBADAMEX is a prospective ongoing cohort of Mexican patients with RD using bDMARDs since 2016. We included all patients younger than 18 years of age registered in BIOBADAMEX. Descriptive statistics were used for the baseline characteristics and the Chi-square test to analyze the differences between the characteristics of the groups in relation to the development of AE.

Results: A total of 45 patients were included, 31 (69%) of them female, mean age of 13.3 (±3.6) years. (Table 1). The most frequent diagnosis was JIA (25 (56%), followed by SLE 9 (20%), uveitis 5 (11%), polymyositis/dermatomyositis and hidradenitis 2 (4%) respectively; systemic sclerosis and CINCA 1 patient (2%) respectively). The mean duration disease in years was 4.67 (±2.1). Nine patients (20%) used a biologic prior to the current; 25 (56%) patients had comorbidities. The most frequent bDMARDs used was Adalimumab (ADA) in 17 (38%) patients followed by Rituximab in 15 (33%) and Tocilizumab in 10 (22%) patients. Infliximab, Abatacept and Canakinumab were used in one patient respectively. When compared by groups, ADA and Tocilizumab were the most used bDMARDs in JIA, Rituximab the only one used in SLE and PM/DM, and ADA the only one for uveitis. 15 patients discontinued biological treatment, 4 (27%) due to AE. 82% used an additional synthetic DMARD, being methotrexate the most used in 48% of patients. Steroids were

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female, n(%)</td>
<td>31  68.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, media (SD)</td>
<td>13.3 (±3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index Body Mass, media (SD)</td>
<td>19.6 (±4.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dx (n%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA</td>
<td>25  55.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA</td>
<td>9  20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMDM</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidradenitis</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic sclerosis</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINCA</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration(years) media (IQR)</td>
<td>4.67 (±2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current treatment n(%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infliximab</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adalimumab</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abatacept</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tocilizumab</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canakinumab</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment duration (months) median (IQR)</td>
<td>4.5 (0.56 – 36.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment suspension, n(%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA</td>
<td>15.3 (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA</td>
<td>0.46 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discontinue cause, n(%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ineficacy</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side effects</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroids use, n(%)</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroids dose (mg), median (IQR)</td>
<td>10.5 – 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMARDs use(n%)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE, n(%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By disease:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE Type Infection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allergy/Neutropenia Other Ch(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE, n(%)</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgement: NIL
used by 21 (47%) of the patients with a median dose of 10mg (IQR 5 - 25). Fifteen AEs were recorded: 7 (47%) were infections, 5 of these (71%) were COVID; allergies and neutropenia in 2 (13%) patients respectively. By disease inception, AEs were more frequent in patients with JIA and Uveitis; neutropenia only occurred in patients with JIA (p = 0.95). 87% of the AEs were non-serious; 1 patient with JIA presented a severe AE and one patient with SLE a fatal AE associated with COVID (p = 0.93), with no statistically significant difference between groups.

Conclusion: JIA is the most frequent indication to use bDMARD as worldwide received. The AE in this analysis are similar to previous registries in terms of the prevalence of infections, in our group the most frequent infectious complication was COVID, being fatal in one patient related with rituximab in SLE. Our study did not find statistically significant differences in the development of AE between diseases; however, they will continue to be reported and the number of patients in the registry will increase.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Samara Mendeta: None declared, Alfonso Torres: None declared, Freda Ira佐佐-Palaueloi: None declared, Sandra Sicilc: None declared, Daniel Xavier Xibille Friedman: None declared, Deshir Alpijarz-Rodrigez Employee of: Scientific advisor in GSK-Mexico, VIJAYA RIVERA TERAN: None declared.

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OVARian preservAtion in Juvenile Systemic lupus erythematosus: A Monocentric Cohort

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematous, Biomarkers, Pregnancy and reproduction

S. Costi1, D. Chevenerima2, P. Ellu3, V. Baudoin4, T. Kwon4, R. Caporali5,6,3,8, C. Douzou1, I. Melki8,1, ASST G.Pini-CTO, Unit of Pediatric Rheumatology, Milan, Italy; 2Robert Debré Hospital, Biochemistry Hormonology, Paris, France; 3Robert Debré Hospital, Child and adolescent psychiatrist service, Paris, France; 4Robert Debré Hospital, Nephrology Department, Paris, France; 5University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan, Italy; 6ASST G.Pini-CTO, Department of Rheumatology and Medical Science, Milan, Italy; 7Robert Debré Hospital, Department of gynecology and obstetrics, Paris, France; 8Robert Debré Hospital, Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine Department, Paris, France

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) can impact fertility outcomes and lead to ovarian premature failure. The exact mechanism is not completely understood. Anti-ovarian antibodies have been described as a possible explanation[1] but other intrinsic and extrinsic factors are involved. Cyclophosphamide (Cyc) is known to have a gonadotoxic effect, but available data are derived from adult cohorts. Anti-müllerian hormone (AMH) is a surrogate biomarker of ovarian reserve in such studies.

Objectives: This study aims to evaluate the ovarian reserve in juvenile-SLE (j-SLE) using AMH and to follow the longitudinal evolution of this biomarker at diagnosis and after the start of treatment.

Methods: Patients with a diagnosis of j-SLE followed at Robert-Debré Hospital, Paris, France, were included, AMH levels were assessed before starting therapy, at 6-10, 12-18, and after 20 months from the start of immunosuppressive therapy. AMH values are expressed in pmol/L with a normal range varying from 7.1 to 51.8, according to pubertal status/age.

Results: 21 j-SLE patients were included (100% female). Patients were divided into 2 groups: i. j-SLE who received cyclophosphamide (48%) and ii. j-SLE who received anti-CD20 treatment (rituximab or obinutuzumab), mycophenolate, or hydroxychloroquine (52%). Clinical and demographic features are summarized in Table 1. 16 patients were menstruating at the initiation of immunosuppressive therapy, while 5 patients were not; however, the first menstrual period occurred between 2 to 4 months after initiation of treatment. The median cumulative dose of Cyc was 4.8 grams (IQR 2.2). No statistically significant differences were found comparing pre-treatment AMH levels between the two groups (p = 0.60). The same trend was found evaluating AMH levels at 6-10, 12-18 months, and after 20 months from the start of therapy (p = 0.48, p = 0.77, and p = 0.68 respectively). At 20 months the only two patients with AMH values below the normal limits had low values even before starting treatment (0.6 vs 4.9 in group 1 and 1.9 vs 7.4 in group 2 respectively). SLEDAI at the onset of the disease seems to have low values even before starting treatment (0.6 vs 4.9 in group 1 and 4.9 vs 24.6 in group 2 respectively). At 20 months the only two patients with AMH values below the normal limits had low values even before starting treatment (p = 0.48, p = 0.77, and p = 0.68 respectively).

Conclusion: Fertility preservation is a key point in the management of patients with SLE. Our study shows reassuring data regarding the use of Cyc in j-SLE and suggests that AMH levels, and consequently ovarian reserve, may be primarily affected by disease severity and activity rather than treatment.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Demographic and clinical features in j-SLE patients treated with Cyc vs patients treated with other immunosuppressors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Cyc</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Overall population</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years), median (IQR)</td>
<td>13 (3.5)</td>
<td>14 (3.2)</td>
<td>14 (3.4)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay diagnosis (month), median (IQR)</td>
<td>1.5 (3.5)</td>
<td>1.3 (2.2)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity, % (n)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>50 (5)</td>
<td>73 (6)</td>
<td>62 (13)</td>
<td>0.214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>30 (3)</td>
<td>27 (3)</td>
<td>28 (6)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>20 (2)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>10 (2)</td>
<td>0.476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinic and serology, % (n)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropsychiatric</td>
<td>80 (8)</td>
<td>45 (5)</td>
<td>62 (13)</td>
<td>0.182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>100 (10)</td>
<td>100 (11)</td>
<td>100 (21)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal</td>
<td>90 (9)</td>
<td>73 (8)</td>
<td>81 (17)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematological</td>
<td>90 (9)</td>
<td>73 (8)</td>
<td>81 (17)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular</td>
<td>80 (8)</td>
<td>100 (11)</td>
<td>91 (19)</td>
<td>0.214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEDAI at onset, median (IQR)</td>
<td>31.5 (17.3)</td>
<td>16 (15.5)</td>
<td>24 (25)</td>
<td>0.071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>100 (10)</td>
<td>100 (10)</td>
<td>95 (20)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA</td>
<td>100 (10)</td>
<td>100 (10)</td>
<td>95 (20)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENA</td>
<td>100 (10)</td>
<td>100 (11)</td>
<td>100 (21)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Ribosome P</td>
<td>20 (2)</td>
<td>9 (1)</td>
<td>14 (3)</td>
<td>0.586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menstrual abnormality, % (n)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amenorrhea before starting treatment</td>
<td>40 (4)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>19 (4)</td>
<td>0.035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amenorrhea 12 months after treatment</td>
<td>20 (2)</td>
<td>9 (1)</td>
<td>14 (3)</td>
<td>0.586</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. SLEDAI score in relation to AMH values before starting immunosuppressive therapy and after 20 months from the beginning.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Stefania Costi: None declared, Didier Chevenerima: None declared, Pierre Ellu: None declared, Véronique Baudouin: None declared, Theresa Kwon: None declared, Robert Caporali Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celtrion, Fresenius, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Fresenius, Galapagos, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Clémence Delcou: None declared, Isabelle Melki: None declared.

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TRIGGERING IGA VASCULITIS BY FOOD ALLERGEN EXPOSURE, VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY, AND IL-33-ACTIVATED TYPE 2 IMMUNE RESPONSES

Keywords: Vasculitis, Vitamin D

X. Ma1, J. Wang2, H. Jiang3, Y. Shan7, The First Hospital of China Medical University, Department of Pediatrics, Shenyang, China; 2University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, The First Department of Internal Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan

Background: Immunoglobulin A vasculitis (iGAV) is one of the most common types of systemic vasculitis in children and usually involves the skin,
gastrointestinal tract, kidneys, and articulations[1]. The trigger of IgAV is unclear. Studies elucidated that higher serum IgE levels and vitamin D deficiency existed in IgAV commonly[2, 3], while it is worth noting that T helper (Th) 2 cells increase in IgAV and are closely correlated with aberrant production of antibodies and the development of vessel vasculitis[4]. Moreover, serum IL-33 can activate many immune cell types involved in type 2 immune responses and allergic inflammatory reactions, are elevated in IgAV patients and positively correlated with the overall clinical score[5, 6]. This study aimed to further analyze their mutual relation and reveal the mechanism underlying IgAV development.

Objectives: We investigated the levels of antigen-specific antibodies, 25-hydroxyvitamin D3 [25(OH)D3] and IL-33 and the phenotypes of Th cells in the peripheral blood of IgAV patients at the early stage of disease onset. We also analyzed the correlation between each index and clinical characteristics.

Methods: Aeroallergen-specific IgE and food-specific IgE were detected by western blotting. Serum 25(OH)D3 and total IgE levels were determined by electrochemiluminescence immunoassay. Serum IL-33 and sST2 levels were detected by enzyme-linked immunoassays. Serum IL-2, IL-4, IL-6 and IL-10 were detected using a cytometric bead array. Frequencies of T helper cell subsets were detected by flow cytometry.

Results: About half of the patients had abnormal allergic indicators and positive results in the allergen-specific IgE assay. Up to 98.25% of the patients had decreased serum 25(OH)D3 levels, which were inversely correlated with an abnormal increase in IgE. Th2 cells were elevated and negatively correlated with the level of serum 25(OH)D3. IL-33, a critical cytokine for the differention of Th2 cells, was also increased and negatively correlated with serum 25(OH)D3 levels.

Conclusion: Food allergen exposure and 25(OH)D3 deficiency may trigger IgAV. 25(OH)D3 deficiency induces the activation of type 2 immune responses and a pathological increase in IgE by promoting the secretion of IL-33, which may be the underlying mechanism of IgAV pathogenesis. Monitoring vitamin D levels and administering vitamin D supplementation might play significant roles in preventing and treating IgAV.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1444
BIOMARKERS IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: DESCRIPTION OF GROUPS WITH DIFFERENT DEGREES OF DISCREPANCY BETWEEN SERUM CALPROTECTIN AND C-REACTIVE PROTEIN.

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Descriptive Studies, Biomarkers

H Codes-Mendoza1, 2, B Magallares1, 2, H Park1, 2, L Martinez-Martinez1, 2, Y Alvaro1, E Molto1, V Calahorra3, 5, S Boronat4, P Moysa2, A Laiz2, J. L. Tandapania1, 2, S. P. Fernandez-Sanchez3, C. Diaz-Torné1, 2, I. Castellvi1, 2, H Corominas1, 2, 4Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 1Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Medicine, Bellaterra, Spain, 2Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Immunology, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Paediatrics, Barcelona, Spain.

Background: There are no specific biomarkers of disease activity in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA), and therefore it is important to identify new molecules which will help us to offer individualized treatment options. Serum Calprotectin (CLP) is an emerging biomarker of inflammation. Recent studies[1] suggest that disease activity correlates better with CLP than with classic acute phase reactants such as C-reactive Protein (CRP).

Objectives: To determine the clinical characteristics of paediatric patients with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) who have discrepancy between Serum Calprotectin and C-reactive Protein.

Methods: An analytical transversal study was performed including patients with JIA from a paediatric rheumatology clinic between 2017 and 2021. A total of 25 patients were included, who had at least one measurement of CLP in daily practice. Demographic, analytical and clinical data were collected. The JADAS score by physical examination and ultrasound was collected in patients with peripheral arthritis.

Results: A total of 25 patients were included, 48% were female and the mean age was 11.5 (±4.6) years. A total of 11 (44%) patients had discrepancy between CLP and CRP. Among them, 9 (81.8%) had elevated CLP and low CRP, whereas only 2 (18.2%) had low CLP with elevated CRP. At the time of performing the analysis, 44% of the patients had an active disease. The oligoarticular JIA subtype was the one that presented a larger patient's percentage (54.5%) with discrepancy and elevated CLP. The details of clinical and analytical characteristics of the patients are shown in Table 1.

In the subgroup of patients with discrepancy and elevated CLP there were 3 (33.3%) with an active disease. Among them, 66.7% were female and all of them had an oligoarticular JIA. One of them was in a flare with both an active arthritis and uveitis at the moment of the analysis. None of them were under treatment with prednisone nor DMARD (disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs).

Conclusion: There was discrepancy between CLP and CRP in 44% of the sample. Among them, most (81.8%) had high CLP without elevation of CRP. The JIA subtype that presented discrepancy with elevated CLP was the oligoarticular one. A total of 3 (33%) patients were active in the group with discrepancy and elevated CLP, one of them being in a flare with both an active arthritis and uveitis.

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[1] L. Tandaipan1,2, S. P. Fernandez-Sanchez1, C. Díaz-Torné1,2, I. Castellví1,2, A. Araque-Díaz1,2, M. A. Ballesteros3,4, M. J. Guallar5, J. M. Jiménez1,2,5, I. Latorre1,2, A. Arribas1,2,3, J. V. Molto1,2, L. Calahorra1,2, A. Laiz2, J. L. Tandapania1,2, S. P. Fernandez-Sanchez3, C. Díaz-Torné1,2, I. Castellví1,2, H. Corominas1,2, 4Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 1Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Medicine, Bellaterra, Spain, 2Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Immunology, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Paediatrics, Barcelona, Spain; 4Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 5Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
Background: Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects 1 in 1000 children worldwide. Our population in the United Arab Emirates is a multiethnic diverse population. [1, 2]

Objectives: To create centralised data for JIA in the United Arab Emirates. In this abstract we describe the Demographic data, clinical features, subtype distribution as per ILAR classification, treatment received and outcome of our patients.[3]

Methods: Retrospective entry of data from all 3 participating centres (Shaikh Shakhbout Medical City, Tawam and AlAliia). Patients with the diagnosis of JIA included. Electronic clinical research form used to collect data. Data at initial diagnosis and current outcome as per Wallace and (Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score) JADAS 10. Long term out come as per Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity (JADAI) articular > 0 and extra articular JADAI > 0. All data entered and analysed through Redcap (Research Electronic Data Capture web-based application version 12.1.1 model 2022). Simple statistics used. Ethics approval obtained.

Results: 157 patients entered in to the registry so far. Male to female distribution: 39 (24.8%) to 118 (75.2%). Local Emirati patients of 107 (68.2%). Other Arabs 16 (10.2%), South Asian 12 (7.6%), Western 12 (7.6%) and African 10 6.4%). Mean age at presentation 5.3 years (1 to 15 years). Current mean age 14 (age 22-years).

Family history of Rheumatoid Arthritis in 33 patients (21%). History of Consanguinity in 54 families (34.4%). Subtype distribution: Oligo articular 77 (49.4%), extended Oligo articular 5 (3.2%), Poly articular 50 (32.1%), Systemic 11 (7.1%), Enthesitis related Arthritis 1 (0.6%), Psoriatic 9 (5.8%) and other 3 (1.9%). At presentation: Joint pain in 132 patients (84.1%), Joint effusion 115 (73.2%). Affected function in 98 (63.2%). Clinical synovitis in 138 (87.9%). Joint restriction in 100 (53.7%), Uveitis in 6 (3.8%) ANA positive 35 patients (22.3%). Rheumatoid factor positive 10 (6.4%), Anti CCP positive 6 (3.8%). Low Hb less than 10g/l in 109 (69.4%), high ESR > 20mm/hr in 30 patients (19.1%). High CRP >5mg/L in 48 (30.6%). Synovitis in USS 53 (33.8%). Erosions by X-ray or USS 7 patients (4.5%). Uveitis after diagnosis in 30 patients 19.1%. Dental carries at presentation in 51 patients (32.1%). Oral systemic steroids given to 108 patients (68.8%). Intravenous methyl prednisolone to 43 patients 27.4%). Intravenoction Aminocetone/Hexa acetone joint injections to 91 patients (58%). Synthetic Disease modifying medication methotrexate in 108 (68.8%). Biologic treatment 76 patients (49%). Etanercept 64 patients (40.8%), Canakinumab 65 patients (41.4%), Tocilizumab intra venous 32 (20.4%) and sub cut in 10 patients (6.4%). Canakinumab 9 patients (5.7%). Anakinra 8 patients (5.1%) and Infliximab in 10 patients (6.4%). Oral Tofacitinib in 2 patients (1.3%).

In regards to outcome as per Wallace criteria and JADAS 10; active disease in 16 patients (10.2%). In remission 141 patients (89.8%). Out of these in remission on treatment in 118 (83.7%) and in remission off treatment 23 patients (16.3%). JADAI articular >0 in 8 patients (5%) and JADAI extra articular >0 in 14 patients (8.9%).

Conclusion: We have achieved diverse cohort and high percentage of consanguinity in our families of children with JIA (34.4%). Biologic treatment required in 49% of patients. Patients in remission 89.8%. Out of this 83.7% in remission on treatment and 8.9% in remission off treatment. Further studies needed to understand our population better with focus of effect of consanguinity.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1446

TREATMENT PATTERNS IN A POLYARTICULAR JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS POPULATION IN GERMANY: A RETROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL HEALTH CLAIMS DATA STUDY

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Epidemiology, Real-world evidence

G. Hornett1, 2, J. Borcher1, J. Diesing2, P. Klein1, R. Heinrich1, H. Dally1, C. Hagemann1, S. Kock1, T. Schoenfelde1, 2, *Asklepios Clinic Sankt Augustin, Department of General Paediatrics, Sankt Augustin, Germany; 2University Hospital of Cologne, Department of Paediatric and Adolescents Medicine, Cologne, Germany; 3WIG2, Health Services Research and Health Economics, Leipzig, Germany; 4Pfizer Pharma GmbH, Inflammation & Immunology, Medical Affairs, Berlin, Germany; 5Pfizer Pharma GmbH, Health Technology Assessment & Outcomes Research, Berlin, Germany; 6InGef, Health Services Research, Leipzig, Germany; 7Technische Universität Dresden, Chair of Health Sciences - Public Health, Dresden, Germany

Background: Treatment of polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (polyJIA) aims to ease symptoms and inflammation and reduce further damage and comorbidities[1]. Current treatment options however are not universally effective. With the first targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic agent having recently been approved information on how many polyJIA patients may potentially benefit from newly accessible treatment options is needed.

Objectives: Describe current treatment patterns around incident polyJIA diagnosis and beyond, especially changes in medication regimes indicative of unsatisfactory response.

Methods: In a retrospective, observational analysis of two different non-overlapping longitudinal health claims databases (the WIG2, Scientific Institute for Health Economics and Health System Research GmbH, and InGef, Institute for Applied Health Research Berlin GmbH, databases), a representative sample in terms of age and gender of the statutary health insurance (SHI) population in Germany (about 3.5 and 4 million patients, respectively) was analysed. Two incident JIA cohorts were evaluated (2014 and 2015) in each database, and followed up for 4 or 3 years, respectively. All incident JIA patients (without a JIA diagnosis during baseline, the 4 quarters prior to index) aged 2 to 15 years in the respective observation year (2014 and 2015), with continuous data throughout the observation year and minimum 3-year follow-up (or deceased) were included. Patients were considered to have polyJIA if they had at least one inpatient ICD-10 GM (German modification) diagnosis code, or two verified outpatient codes in two different quarters in the year, of M08.0 (juvenile chronic polyarthritis, adult type includes rheumatoid factor (RF)+ polyJIA), or M08.3 (juvenile chronic arthritis (seronegative), polyarticular form, includes RF+ polyJIA and extended oligoartthritis). We evaluated top-prescribed and pre-defined medications (by 4-digit ATC code) before, during, and following, incident polyJIA diagnosis. The pre-defined medication groups were non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIWs), glucocorticoids (GCs), conventional synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (cSDMARDs), and biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs).

Results: Applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria to the incident JIA populations, we identified a total of 121 and 58 polyJIA patients in both 2014 and 2015, (of which 56 and 29 belonged to the 2015 cohort) in the InGef and WIG2 databases, respectively. Among the most frequently prescribed drugs were anti-inflammatory and anti-rheumatic drugs, specific anti-rheumatic agents, and nasal decongestants, immunosuppressive agents, vitamin B12 and folic acid. Prior to diagnosis, more than half of patients of the 2015 cohort were already receiving NSAIDs, however at diagnosis the use of cSDMARDs increased more than bDMARD use. From diagnosis quarter to follow-up, there was a proportionally larger increase in the use of bDMARDs than cSDMARDs, however use of all medications we examined (also NSAIDs and GCs) in our population continued to increase through follow-up (fig 1). Treatment patterns were similar for both cohorts (2014 and 2015).

Conclusion: Almost all patients continued to take NSAIDs during follow-up, mons and concomitant medication with glucocorticoids in addition to cSDMARDs or bDMARDs. This demonstrates there was an unmet need in the past for further advanced treatment options such as targeted synthetic DMARDs.

REFERENCES:
[1] Oommen, Prasad Thomas. 027 -020l_S2k_Juvenile_Idiopathische_Arthritis_2020-10.pdf

Figure 1. Pre-defined medications for patients with incident polyJIA in the 2015 cohort, for baseline (prior to year of diagnosis), index (diagnosis year) and follow-up (up to 3 years after diagnosis). *indicates n=5 and no % can be reported due to data protection
Background: Several studies have suggested a potential role for ultrasonography (US) in detecting enthesitis in children, thus enhancing the accuracy of the classification of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and improving the therapeutic approach.

Methods: We performed a systematic literature review (SLR) to assess the validity of ultrasonography in detecting enthesitis in children.

Results: Five publications met the inclusion criteria (26 to 146 patients and 1 to 1065 ultrasonograms). The quality of the studies was low, mainly because of the lack of a reference standard.

Conclusion: This systematic review showed that US is a valuable tool for detecting enthesitis in JIA, particularly enthesitis related arthritis (ERA). Future studies are needed to better understand the clinical relevance of US findings in JIA patients.
**THE GENETIC DIVERSITY AND FEATURES OF TREATMENT OF JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Quality of life, Genetics/Epigenetics, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

**S. Vardanyan1, V. Vardanyan1, A. Sargsyan1, N. Manukyan1, K. Ginosyan2, Yerevan State Medical University; "Mikayelyan" Institute of Surgery, Rheumatology, Yerevan, Armenia; 2Yerevan State Medical University, Rheumatology, Yerevan, Armenia

**Background:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common chronic arthritis of childhood. Systemic JIA has many clinical features overlapping with familial Mediterranean fever, and MEFV gene mutations play a critical role in genetic background for JIA and influence the severity of the disease.

**Objectives:** To find out associations between different immunological abnormalities, HLA-B27-positive, carriage of familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) mutations, and clinical polymorphism of JIA. To evaluate the effectiveness of treatment with DMARDs and NSAIDS.

**Methods:** 94 patients with confirmed JIA (100% male, mean age 14±2 years) were included in the study. All patients corresponded to ILAR criteria. 28 (29.8%) were treated with only NSAIDs, 66 (70.2%) with NSAIDS and DMARDs (33/50% methotrexate, 33/50% sulfasalazine), 9 (13.6%) - with bDMARDs. The data is introduced as odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence interval (CI). The results were considered significant when p < 0.05.

**Results:**
- **At baseline 17 (18.1%) patients were classified as a systemic, 13 (13.8%) - oligoarticular, 3 (3.2%) - polyarticular RF-positive, 8 (8.5%) - polyarticular RF-negative, 3 (3.2%) - psoriatic, 49 (52.1%) - enthesitis-related JIA. MEFV gene mutations were observed in 38 (40.4%) patients (35/92.1% - one heterozygous mutation, 3/7.9% - more than one mutation), FMF was diagnosed in 3 (3.2%) patients.**
- We found positive significant association between MEFV carriage and systemic JIA (OR/CI95%=10.3/2.7 -39.2, p<0.01), as well as polyarticular RF-negative JIA (OR/CI95%=5.3/1.5-10.6 p<0.05). Despite the MEFV carriage, colchicine was prescribed to only 5 (5.3%) patients. 28 (29.8%) patients were HLA B27-positive and we found positive significant association between HLA B27 positivity and oligoarticular JIA (OR/CI95%=5.6/2.3-15.7, p<0.05), as well as enthesitis-related JIA (OR/CI95%=13.3/3.2-19.4, p<0.01). Sacroilisitis was diagnosed in 85 (90.4%) patients, 26 (30.6%) - non-radiographic, 59 (69.4%) - radiographic. The rise in progression from non-radiographic sacroiliitis to radiographic significantly decreased in patients on methotrexate (OR/CI95%=0.05/0.01-0.44, p<0.01), compared to sulfasalazine (OR/CI95%=0.78/0.36-2.79 p<0.05). For patients on DMARDs the disease had a self-limited course, without clinical manifestation in adulthood.
- Total remission was mostly associated with methotrexate (OR/CI95%=13.5/1.6-95 p<0.01), in contrast to sulfasalazine (OR/CI95%=0.69/0.28-1.72 p<0.05).

**Conclusion:**
- The carriage of MEFV gene mutations increase the risk of manifestation of polyarticular and systemic JIA.
- Early appointment of DMARDs together with NSAIDS makes it possible to stop the disease and prevent its transition to adult rheumatoid arthritis.
- Despite recent ACR treatment guidelines recommending NSAIDS and sulphasalazine for the treatment of sacroileitis, early administration of methotrexate together with DMARDs and NSAIDS significantly decreases the risk of progression from non-radiographic sacroiliitis to radiographic.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**THE HIP RADIOGRAPHIC SCORE IS CORRELATED WITH THE LATE-ONSET OF JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Imaging

A. Dolajev1, H. Fejrian1, K. Maatallah1, D. Ben Nessib1, D. Kafel1, W. Hamdi1, Mohamed Kassab Institute of Orthopedics, Rheumatology, Manouba, Tunisia

**Background:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is a chronic inflammatory disease in children affecting mobility and physical function. The hip is a load-bearing joint and its damage has a significant functional impact. An appropriate scoring system is mandatory to monitor structural progression and damage over time. The childhood Arthritis Radiographic Score of the Hip (CARSH) is a valid score covering the osteoarticular changes in the hip joint as space narrowing, erosions, malalignment, sclerosis, flattening of the femoral head, and growth abnormalities [1].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to assess radiographic changes in the hip joint using the CARSH in children suffering from JIA with hip involvement and to determine the impact of disease factors in this score.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted in the pediatric rheumatology department and included patients with JIA according to the ILAR criteria. We included children with hip involvement defined as the presence of hip pain and/or limping and range motion limitation, and/or abnormal hip findings in pelvic radiography, ultrasound, or MRI. We collected from the recorded data demographics, disease characteristics [symptom duration, disease presentation, JIA subtypes], and disease activity: Juvenile arthritis disease activity (JADAS10). Experimented and blinded pediatric rheumatologists read the pelvic radiograph using the Childhood Arthritis Radiographic Score of the Hip (CARSH).

**Results:** Twenty-two children with a mean age of 13 years [5-22] were included in the study. The gender ratio was 1:1 (13 Males/9 Females). The median age of disease onset was 9.5 years [4-14]. The mean duration of the disease was 47 months [4-156]. The diagnostic delay median was 22 months [1-120]. The patient global assessment (PGA) median was 4 [0-8]. The visual analog scale (VAS) median was 5 [3-7]. The sedimentation rate (SR) and the C reactive protein (CRP) median were 25 [2-65] and 10 [1-47], respectively. The JADAS median was 6 [0-18]. Forty-five hips were analyzed. The median score of CARSH was 1.8 [0-7]. The CARSH was positively correlated to the age of disease onset (r = 0.7; p = 0.7), the duration of the disease (r = 0.7; p = 0.7), the diagnostic delay (r = 0.02; p = 0.9), the PGA (r = 0.1; p = 0.5), the VAS (r = 0.4; p = 0.8), the ESR (r = -0.08; p = 0.7), the CRP (r = -0.1; p = 0.6) and the JADAS 10 (r = 0.01; p = 0.9).

**Conclusion:** This study showed that the radiographic score CARSH was correlated to the age of disease onset. Our findings confirm that structural damage was more important in late-onset disease whereas early hip involvement affects growth and joint development.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5980

**HIP INVOLVEMENT IN TUNISIAN CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Prognostic factors, Inflammatory arthritides

M. Arthaud1, D. Khalifa1, O. Farhat1, R. Fakhfakh1, N. El Amri1, K. Baccouche1, E. Bouajila1, Farhat Hached Hospital, Rheumatology, Sousse, Tunisia

**Background:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is characterized by widely heterogeneous clinical course and outcomes. Hips are the most commonly affected joints in severe uncontrolled JIA.

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to determine the prevalence and associated factors of hip involvement in Tunisian JIA patients.

**Methods:** A retrospective and observational monocentric study including children with JIA according to the ILAR was conducted in the Rheumatology department of Sousse, Tunisia. We compared the disease parameters between the two groups with and without coxitis.

**Results:** We included 55 children (28 girls and 27 boys). The mean age was 13.6 years. The predominant subtypes of JIA were the seronegative polyarticular JIA (38.2%), and the seronegative oligoarticular form and juvenile spondyloarthritis (16.4%) each. Biological inflammatory syndrome was found in 65.5% of cases. The mean ESR and CRP was 42.4 mm/h and 28.8 mg/l, respectively. Hip involvement concerned 30.9% of the patients (n=17) and was bilateral in 64.7% of cases (n=11). Coxitis occurred on average 10 years after the JIA onset. The mean Lequesne index was 12. Hip radiographs were normal in 40% of cases. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was performed in 25% of cases and revealed synovitis in 70% of cases. Overall, 61.8% of patients had medical treatment combining non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and rehabilitation. Only two patients had local infiltration with Hexatrione. In 12.7% of cases (7 cases), a total hip replacement was necessary. Hip involvement was significantly associated with younger age at onset (p=0.02), polyarticular subtype of JIA (p=0.04) and with the presence of biological inflammatory syndrome (p=0.03). However, coxitis was not significantly associated with gender, the duration of JIA progression, extraarticular manifestations, structural damage or the different used treatments.

**Conclusion:** Our study showed that hip involvement is frequent among Tunisian patients with JIA. Coxitis was associated with the polyarticular subtype, with biological inflammatory syndrome and younger age at onset of JIA.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4499
Background: Behçet’s disease (BD), a systemic inflammatory disorder of unknown etiology, is classified as an important characteristic of BD vasculitis. Recent studies suggest an association between ABO blood groups and vascular disease in particular in those carrying non-O (A, B, and AB) groups [1].

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the potential contribution of ABO blood groups to the risk of vascular involvement in patients with BD.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed the records of BD patients followed between 1978 and 2022. Patients fulfilling the ISG Criteria for diagnosis of BD were screened, and those with information about ABO blood groups were included into the study. Presence or absence of vascular involvement and its features were recorded using a standard form. The chi-square test, t-test, Mann-Whitney U test, and logistic regression tests were used for statistical analyses.

Results: The study group consisted of 411 patients with available blood group data, and 143 (34.8%) were carrying O [59% men, mean age at diagnosis 31.4±10.1 years, median follow-up period 153 (98-219) months], and 268 (65.2%) were carrying non-O blood groups (60.1% men, mean age at diagnosis 30.7±8.4 years, median follow-up period 148 (92-204) months). There was no statistical significance between O and non-O groups in regard to the potential confounding factors affecting the risk for vascular disease, including sex, age at diagnosis, family history, HLA-B*51 positivity, smoking, comorbidities, and pro-thrombotic mutations. Vascular involvement was observed in 39 (27.3%) patients with blood group O [venous in 35 (24.5%), and arterial in 11 (7.7%)], whereas 109 patients (40.7%) with non-O blood groups had vascular involvement [venous in 95 (35.4%), and arterial in 58 (14.2%)]. The frequencies of total vascular and venous involvements between the two groups were significantly different (p=0.007, p=0.023, respectively). Unadjusted and adjusted ORs with different models in the multivariate logistic regression analyses are shown in Table 1. After adjustments for age, sex and comorbidities, the risk for arterial disease was also found to be increased in association with non-O blood groups.

Conclusion: Vascular involvement with a tendency for thrombosis is an important feature of BD, and inflammatory characteristics resulting in endothelial dysfunction have been considered as the main underlying pathology. The results of the preliminary study supports the previous reports revealing the potential contribution of ABO blood groups in the development of vascular disease and suggest an approximately two-fold increased risk for vascular involvement in BD patients.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Logistic regression analysis to estimate unadjusted and adjusted risk for vascular events comparing O with non-O blood groups.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total vascular involvement</th>
<th>Venous involvement</th>
<th>Arterial involvement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>OR (CI %95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 1: ABO blood group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Model 2: Model 1 plus age at diagnosis and sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Model 3: Model 2 plus comorbidities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 4: Model 3 plus malignancy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 5: Model 4 plus smoking (missing value for 84 patients)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.196
AB1454

DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC PRACTICES IN ADULT CHRONIC NONBACTERIAL OSTEOMYELITIS (CNO)/SAPHO SYNDROME: AN INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Keywords: Quality of care, Bone diseases, Rare/orphan diseases

A. Leerling1,2, G. Clunie3, E. Koutrouba1,2, O. Dekkers1,4, N. Appelman-Dijkstra1,5, E. Winter1,2,1, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Center for Bone Quality, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Cambridge, United Kingdom; 4Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Chronic nonbacterial osteomyelitis (CNO) is a rare auto-inflammatory bone disease. CNO, especially the adult variant, may occur in the broader spectrum of Synovitis, Acne, Pustulosis, Hyperostosis, Osteitis (SAPHO) syndrome. Adult CNO lacks diagnostic or management guidelines in contrast to pediatric disease (1, 2).

Objectives: We mapped current diagnostic and therapeutic practices for CNO/SAPHO in adults.

Methods: A primary survey was spread among global rheumatological/bone networks and 57 experts were identified from literature (May 2022), covering terminology, diagnostic tools (clinical, radiological, biochemical) and treatment steps. A secondary survey (sent to primary survey responders in August 2022) further queried diagnostic features, treatment motivations, disease activity and treatment response monitoring.

Results: 36 and 23 physicians completed the primary and secondary survey respectively. Diagnosis was mainly based on individual physician assessment, in which the combination of chronic relapsing-remitting bone pain with radiologically-proven osteitis/osteomyelitis, sclerosis, hyperostosis and increased isotope uptake on bone scintigraphy were reported indicative of CNO. Physicians appeared more likely to refer to the condition as SAPHO syndrome in the presence of joint and skin pathology. MRI was most frequently performed as imaging diagnostic, while biochemical and histopathological tools like technetium radiolabeled hydroxymethylene diphosphonate single photon emission computed tomography visualize the increased bone turnover, but do not reflect the relapsing-remitting disease activity course due to an imprinting pattern [3]. Likewise, magnetic resonance imaging can track the fluctuation of bone marrow edema, but is inferior compared to computed tomography (CT) in capturing subtle inflammatory and accumulated structural changes that reflect disease duration. Sodium fluoride-18 positron emission tomography/CT (Na18F-PET/CT) is another imaging modality which produces quantitative data on the spatial distribution of bone turnover that also correlates with clinical disease activity in other metabolic bone diseases [4].

Objectives: We quantified the variation in CNO/SAPHO patients to evaluate its capacities as a disease activity biomarker.

Methods: Cohort study including 43 CNO/SAPHO patients not using immunomodulatory or antiresorptive medications with Na18F-PET/CT performed at our expert clinic between 2019-2022. Images were qualitatively assessed following a systematic reporting format. Maximal standardized uptake values (SUVmax) were determined in the following areas as defined by radiologic appearance on CT: osteitic areas (osteous lesions), inflamed ligaments or joint spaces (soft tissue lesions) and thoracic vertebrae 5 as reference bone (ref-bone).

Results: Qualitative assessment revealed sclerosis and hyperostosis of the manubrium as most prevalent radiologic features (present in 77% and 70%) and costae 1-2 (79% each). Calcification/ankylosis of the costoclavicular ligament was seen in 58%. Quantitative analyses showed higher SUVmax of osseous and soft tissue lesions compared to ref-bone (mean 22.5±26.9 vs. 11.3±3.9, p<0.001 for paired difference). Stratified per location, highest SUVmax was found in soft tissue lesions of the costoclavicular ligament followed by the manubriosternal joint (mean SUVmax 29hs of 29±13 and 25±8 respectively). SUVmax in soft tissue lesions positively correlated with erythrocyte sedimentation rate (Spearman correlation coefficient 0.546, p<0.01).

Conclusions: CNO/SAPHO patients display distinctive qualitative imaging features that are well-captured on Na18F-PET/CT, and also show higher SUVmax in osseous and soft tissue lesions compared to ref-bone. Diseased soft tissue lesions showed highest SUVmax. Considering Na18F precipitates in young osteoid, these high values may reflect the process of soft tissue ossification that is disease duration. Sodium fluoride-18 positron emission tomography/CT (Na18F-PET/CT) is another imaging modality which produces quantitative data on the spatial distribution of bone turnover that also correlates with clinical disease activity in other metabolic bone diseases [4].

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1455

FLUORIDE UPTAKE ON QUANTITATIVE POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY/COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (NA18F-PET/CT) AS NOVEL BIOMARKER FOR DISEASE ACTIVITY IN ADULT CHRONIC NONBACTERIAL OSTEOMYELITIS/SYNOVITIS ACNE PUSTULOSIS HYPEROSTOSIS OSTEITIS SYNDROME (CNO/SAPHO)

Keywords: Bone diseases, Imaging, Rare/orphan diseases

A. Leerling1,2, F. Smit1,3,4, Z. Späth1,2, A. Navas Caro1,4, L. F. De Geus-Oei2,4, A. Van de Burg2, W. Van der Bruggen3, O. Dekkers1,4, N. Appelman-Dijkstra1,5, D. Vriens2, E. Winter2, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Center for Bone Quality, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Alrijne Hospital, Nuclear Medicine, Leiderdorp, Netherlands; 5Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Radiology, Leiden, Netherlands; 6Slingeland Hospital, Nuclear Medicine, Doetinchem, Netherlands; 4Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Chronic nonbacterial osteomyelitis (CNO) is a rare bone disease characterized by sterile bone inflammation and locally increased bone turnover. CNO that occurs in the rheumatic spectrum of synovitis, acne, pustulosis, hyperostosis and osteitis is referred to as SAPHO syndrome [1, 2]. To date, there are no objective biomarkers for monitoring disease activity. Recommended imaging tools like technetium radiolabeled hydroxymethylene diphosphonate single photon emission computed tomography visualize the increased bone turnover, but fail to reflect the relapsing-remitting disease activity course due to an imprinting pattern [3]. Likewise, magnetic resonance imaging can track the fluctuation of bone marrow edema, but is inferior compared to computed tomography (CT) in capturing subtle inflammatory and accumulated structural changes that reflect disease duration. Sodium fluoride-18 positron emission tomography/CT (Na18F-PET/CT) is another imaging modality which produces quantitative data on the spatial distribution of bone turnover that also correlates with clinical disease activity in other metabolic bone diseases [4].

Objectives: We quantified the variation in CNO/SAPHO patients to evaluate its capacities as a disease activity biomarker.

Methods: Cohort study including 43 CNO/SAPHO patients not using immunomodulatory or antiresorptive medications with Na18F-PET/CT performed at our expert clinic between 2019-2022. Images were qualitatively assessed following a systematic reporting format. Maximal standardized uptake values (SUVmax) were determined in the following areas as defined by radiologic appearance on CT: osteitic areas (osteous lesions), inflamed ligaments or joint spaces (soft tissue lesions) and thoracic vertebrae 5 as reference bone (ref-bone).

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Conclusions: CNO/SAPHO patients display distinctive qualitative imaging features that are well-captured on Na18F-PET/CT, and also show higher SUVmax in osseous and soft tissue lesions compared to ref-bone. Diseased soft tissue lesions showed highest SUVmax. Considering Na18F precipitates in young osteoid, these high values may reflect the process of soft tissue ossification that is disease duration. Sodium fluoride-18 positron emission tomography/CT (Na18F-PET/CT) is another imaging modality which produces quantitative data on the spatial distribution of bone turnover that also correlates with clinical disease activity in other metabolic bone diseases [4].

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1456

BIOLOGICS AND JAK INHIBITORS EFFICACY IN VESXAS SYNDROME FROM FRENCH MULTICENTER CASE SERIES OF 256 PATIENTS

Keywords: Innate immunity, Adaptive immunity, Inflammatory arthritides

A. Mekian1, R. Bourguiba2, B. Terrier3, K. Olivier4, T. Comont2, P. Fenaux5, S. Georgin-Lavialle6, Saint Antoine, Internal Medicine, Paris, France; 2Timis
Background: A new autoinflammatory syndrome related to somatic mutations of UBA1 was recently described and called VEXAS syndrome.

Objectives: To describe clinical characteristics, laboratory findings and outcomes of VEXAS syndrome.

Methods: Case-series. Patients referred to a French multicenter registry between November 2020 and January 2022. Frequency and median of parameters and vital status, from diagnosis to the end of the follow-up.

Results: Among 256 patients, 207/221 (94%) were males with median age at diagnosis 65 years [49-86]. Main clinical features were skin lesions (n=215; 84%), non-infectious fever (n=121; 47%), lung involvement (n=146; 57%), relapsing chondritis (n=69; 27%), venous thrombosis (n=128; 50%), lymph nodes (n=55; 21%), and arthralgia (n=65; 25%) with arthritis (n=26). Ocular inflammatory involvement was present in 119 cases (46%), mainly uveitis (n=21) and scleritis/episcleritis (n=43). Peripheral nervous system was noted in 18 patients (7%) with peripheral neuropathy (n=11), multinerves (n=3) and PIDD (n=5). The skin lesions were mainly neutrophilic dermatosis (n=74) and vasculitis (n=45). Hematological disease was present myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS, n= 81; 32%), monoclonal gammopathy of unknown significance (n=18), chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (n=7), AA amyloidosis was present in 2 cases. Median CRP levels were at 56 [1-423] mg/l, with abnormal somatic mutations in 44 cases (%).

Conclusion: This is the largest multicenter cohort of VEXAS syndrome and which allow to compare for the first time the efficacy and tolerance of various biologics and JAK inhibitors and seem confirm the benefit of JAKi and also of those allowing to compare for the first time the efficacy and tolerance of various biologics and JAK inhibitors and seem confirm the benefit of JAKi and also of those therapies with severe manifestations (grade 3): 1 (4.8%) case of inflammatory arthritis, 1 (4.8%) case of neuropsychiatric involvement and 1 (4.8%) of xerostomia, and 1 (4.8%) of Raynaud’s phenomenon with ulcers.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1756

AB1457 MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF PATIENTS TREATED WITH IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS WHO DEVELOPED RHEUMATIC IMMUNE-RELATED ADVERSE EVENTS

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Organ damage, Epidemiology

M. D. C. López González, N. Martinez Banaclocha, M. García Araque, Y. Montoyo Pujol, M. André, Hospital General Universitario Dr. Balmis-ISABIAL, Rheumatology, Alicante, Spain; Hospital General Universitario Dr. Balmis-ISABIAL, Oncology, Alicante, Spain

Background: Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs), by activating the immune system specifically, T-cells, foster the reaction against tumor cells. However, parallels, autoimmune phenomena, known as immune-related adverse effects (ir-AEs) (PMID 33902919, 29442540), can be triggered and manifest in any organ or tissue. The most common rheumatic manifestations are inflammatory arthritis, polymyalgia rheumatica, and myositis, but other inflammatory conditions have also been described (PMID 32403289). More data on their frequency and characterization are needed.

Objectives: To prospectively evaluate the incidence of rheumatic ir-AEs during ICIs treatment, along with clinical characterization, management required, and outcomes.

Methods: An observational, prospective study was conducted at a tertiary center in Spain, led by the oncology department with the participation of several specialties, to evaluate the occurrence of ir-AEs in patients starting ICIs between January 2019 and April 2022. Participants were routinely followed at oncology clinics to detect ir-AEs through pre-specified clinical and laboratory assessments. For rheumatic symptoms, ir-AEs were studied by records review and evaluated in person at rheumatology clinics for those with a degree of involvement of ≥2, according to the ASCO criteria [3]. The incidence - with a 95% confidence interval (CI) - and characterization of defined rheumatic ir-AEs are presented here.

Results: Of 181 patients, 21 (11.6%, 95%CI 7.7-17.1%) developed rheumatic ir-AEs, 13 men (61.9%) with a median age of 62.3 years (p25-75 51.8-75.0). The median time from the start of ICIs to the development of rheumatic ir-AEs was 89 days (p25-75 51.5-165). Blood tests for autoimmunity were positive in 69.2% of available cases (9/13), but all at a low titer (table 1). According to ASCO guidelines, most patients had a toxicity grade 1-2, but 3 (14.3%) patients presented with severe manifestations (grade 3): 1 (4.8%) case of inflammatory arthritis, 1 (4.8%) of xerostomia, and 1 (4.8%) of Raynaud’s phenomenon with ulcers. 9 (42.9%) patients also presented with concurrent ir-AEs of different types.

Type of tumorDrug n (%) Clinical presentation (%) Antibodies n (%) Treatment n (%) Outcome n (%) Lung Pembrolizumab 9 (42.9) Inflammatory arthritis 8 (38.1) No rheumatological discontinuation treatment of ICI due progression 10 (47.6) Melanoma Nivolumab 7 (33.3) Anti- 3 (14.3) Anti-ubiquitin 4 (19.0) Hodgkin’s lymphoma Nivolumab + Ipilimumab 5 (23.8) Polymyalgia 1 (4.8) Discontinuation of ICI due to severe ir-AEs 6 (28.1) Kidney Azelizoluzumab 2 (9.5) Syndrome 1 (4.8) Pilocarpine 1 (4.8) Enzephalitis 2 (9.5) MYOS 1 (4.8) NSADs 1 (4.8) Mesthrelhoma 2 (9.5) Raynaud’s 1 (4.8) Discontinuation of ICI due to severe ir-AEs 1 (4.8)

Table 1.

Conclusion: Through a prospective and multidisciplinary study, we estimated an 11.6% occurrence of rheumatic ir-AEs in patients under ICIs. Most presented with mild or moderate involvements, though severe cases were also seen. A coordinated approach with the oncologists is thus essential for patients treated with ICIs at risk of developing ir-AEs.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1458 TREATMENT UTILIZATION, SYMPTOMS, AND COMORBIDITIES IN DERMATOMYOSITIS: AN ANALYSIS OF ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS IN THE UNITED STATES

Keywords: Comorbidities, Myositis, Real-world evidence

A. Kielhorn, Z. Wang, K. Moy, L. Christopher Stine, E. L. Lundberg, H. Chingoy, K. Gunter, R. Aggarwal, A. Alexson, AstraZeneca Rare Diseases, Research and Development, Boston, United States of America; Johns Hopkins University, Department of Medicine, Baltimore, United States of America; Karolinska Institute, K2 Department of Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; University of Manchester, Department of Rheumatology, Manchester, United Kingdom; Patient Author, N/A, Norfolk, United States of America; University of Pittsburgh, Department of Medicine, Pittsburgh, United States of America

Background: Dermatomyositis (DM) is a rare, chronic inflammatory disease characterized by skin manifestations and/or progressive muscle weakness and other systemic manifestations. Prior analyses have reported higher morbidity, hospitalization rates, and mortality among patients with DM compared with matched controls [1-3], however, more recent data on the disease burden and treatments for DM are warranted.

Objectives: We conducted this analysis to provide updated data on the treatment utilization, symptoms, and comorbidities recorded for patients with myositis DM in the United States.

Methods: This was a descriptive, retrospective cohort analysis that used TriNetX US electronic medical records (EMR) of adults who had been diagnosed myopathic DM in the United States (ICD-9 codes: 710.3/C0-10; M33.1x, M33.9x, M36.0) between 1 January 2007 and 1 September 2020. Key inclusion criteria were: age ≥18 years at index date (i.e., date of DM diagnosis), ≥6 months of baseline data before the index date, and ≥6 months of follow-up after the index date. Assessments included utilization rates for medications of interest prior to the index date, percentage of patients who received ≥2 consecutive unique non-steroidal immunosuppressive therapies within 12 months of the index date, classification and qualification of the most common post-index symptoms and comorbidities, along with their comparison to pre-index values.

Results: The TriNetX database contained 1097 patients with DM (mean age: 54.6 years; sex: 77% female). The mean observation period was 9.7 years (6.0 years pre-index; 3.7 years post-index). Prior to the DM index date, 60% of patients

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were prescribed steroids and 24% were prescribed ≥1 non-steroidal immunosuppressive therapies. Within 3, 6, and 12 months of index date, 8%, 14%, and 20% of patients, respectively, received ≥2 immunosuppressive therapies (ISTs). A 2-fold increase in percentage was seen when compared with pre-index for a wide range of symptoms and comorbidities, including gastroesophageal reflux disease (43% and 22%, respectively), anxiety (25% and 13%), interstitial lung disease (28% and 10%), and osteoporosis (21% and 6%).

Conclusion: In this analysis of TrinetX EMR data, the majority of patients who were diagnosed with myopathic DM had received immunosuppressive therapies for an extended time to treat their symptoms before they received a formal DM diagnosis, which may have contributed to the delay in DM diagnosis. One fifth of patients had received ≥2 ISTs within 12 months of DM diagnosis, suggesting that even after receiving standard of care treatments, many patients experience DM symptoms that are difficult to control and/or tolerate. A wide range of symptoms and comorbidities increased post-DM diagnosis suggesting that even after receiving standard of care treatments, a formal DM diagnosis, which may have contributed to the delay in DM diagnosis.

References:

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Disclosure of Interests: Adrien Kielhorn Employee of: Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease; Zheng Wang Employee of: Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease, Kristin Moy Employee of: Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease, Lisa Christopher Stine Consultant of: UCB; Janssen; Octapharma; Boehringer-Ingelheim; Mallinckrodt; EMD Serono; Roivant/PrionVant; Pfizer; ArgenX; Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease; Horizon Therapeutics; and Allogene, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Corbus and Kezar, Ingrid E. Lundberg Shareholder of: Roche and Novartis, Hector Chiruhey Speakers bureau: UCB and Biogen, Consultant of: Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease; Novartis; Eli Lilly; Orphazyme; and AstraZeneca, Grant/research support from: Eli Lilly and UCB, Kaniah Gunter: None declared, Roivant Aggarwal Consultant of: Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease; Pfizer; Octapharma; CSL Behring; BMS; Argenx; Corbus; EMD; Janssen; Kezar; Kyverna; Roivant; and Mallinckrodt, Grant/ research support from: Pfizer, BMS, Q32, EMD Serono, and Mallinckrodt and has served as a global principal investigator or site investigator for clinical trials sponsored by Kezar, Octapharma, CSL Behring, BMS, Corbus, and Pfizer. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2085

IGG4-RELATED DISEASE: 2010-2022 CASE REVISION AND PERFORMANCE OF DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

Keywords: Diagnostic Tests, Rare/orphan diseases, Undifferentiated connective tissue disease

P. Martinez Calabuig1, J. J. Fragí Gil2, A. Rueda3, L. Salvador Macias4, R. González Mazarrío2, L. Abenza Barbera2, M. C. Sabater Abad4, A. Sierra Rivera5, I. Castelló Miralles6, J. J. Lerma7, C. Molina Almela2, M. D. Pastor Cubillo2, C. Campón1,1 Consortium General University Hospital of Valencia, Rheumatology, Valencia, Spain; 2Hospital de Sagunt (Consultes Externes), Rheumatology, Port de Sagunt, Spain; 3Consortium General University Hospital of Valencia, Internal Medicine, Valencia, Spain; 4Consortium General University Hospital of Valencia, Pulmonology, Valencia, Spain; 5Consortium General University Hospital of Valencia, Clinical Analysis, Valencia, Spain; 6Consortium General University Hospital of Valencia, Digestive Medicine, Valencia, Spain

Background: IgG4 immunoglobulin-related disease (IgG4-RD) is a rare, systemic immune-mediated fibro-inflammatory process with unclear etiology and pathophysiology. It can affect multiple organs that encompass common pathophysiological, serological and clinical characteristics.

Objectives: To describe the heterogeneity of the clinical presentation, evolution, and treatment of patients diagnosed with IgG4-RD and compare the performance of the last two IgG4-RD classification and diagnostic criteria.

Methods: Single-center retrospective study in which patients with a possible diagnosis of IgG4-RD from various hospital departments are studied from January 2010 to August 2022. Some exclusion criteria were applied (patients with clinical manifestations attributable to other diseases were excluded) and to those who remained with a suspected diagnosis of IgG4-RD, the Umehara-Okaaki 2011 and ACR/EULAR 2019 criteria were applied.

Results: 182 patients with elevated IgG4 and/or a suspected diagnosis of IgG4-RD were collected. Finally, after exclusion criteria, 22 possible patients with IgG4-RD remained (Table 1). The diagnosis was confirmed by Umehara a diagnostic criteria proposed by Umehara-Okaaki in 2011 and applied to these patients, including a total of 13 patients, with a mean age of 60 years, 57% women; 5 being classified with definitive disease, 3 as probable disease and 5 as possible disease. Finally, we applied the ACR/ EULAR 2019 classification criteria to those patients too, establishing diagnosis in 7 patients. The mean age was 57 years, 71% were women with a mean follow-up of 5.3 years; 85.71% of the patients had elevated IgG4, with mean levels of 176.3mg/ dl. Retropertitoneal fibrosis and aortitis was the most prevalent presentation in both groups (2011 and 2019 criteria) with 38.5% and 28.6% respectively.

Conclusion: IgG4-RD is a recently described entity that is very heterogeneous in terms of its clinical, analytical and histopathological presentation. According to our series, clinical heterogeneity is the rule, being the retropertitoneal fibrosis and aortitis the most frequent. There are differences when we use the different criteria. ACR/EULAR 2019 classification criteria are stricter criteria that allows us to classify patients more accurately. In our series 6 patients fulfilled Umehara-Okaaki criteria but not ACR/EULAR due to giving more importance to histopathology, clinical manifestations and the need to reach a minimum score in which, for example, only IgG4 levels are not enough. Therefore, on many occasions, a multidisciplinary approach with experienced teams is necessary.

References:

Table 1. High diagnostic IgG4-RD group, Umehara and Okazaki 2011 and ACR/EULAR 2019 IgG4-RD criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, median (IQR), years</th>
<th>Sex, female (%)</th>
<th>Follow-up, median (IQR), years</th>
<th>Death, n (%)</th>
<th>IgG4 level, median (IQR), mg/dL</th>
<th>Elevated IgG4, n (%)</th>
<th>Normal IgG4, n (%)</th>
<th>No evaluated IgG4, n (%)</th>
<th>CRP, median (IQR), mg/dL</th>
<th>ESR, median (IQR), mm/h</th>
<th>Available biopsy at IgG4 involve-ment site (%)</th>
<th>Clinical phenotypes</th>
<th>Head and neck limited, n (%)</th>
<th>Muckleus and systemic, n (%)</th>
<th>Undefined phenotype, n (%)</th>
<th>Initial corticotherapy, n (%)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>61.54</td>
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<td>63.63</td>
<td>13.63</td>
<td>22.72</td>
<td>3.53 (0-10.7)</td>
<td>32.89 (7-120)</td>
<td>40.91</td>
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</tr>
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<td>84.62</td>
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<td>69.23</td>
<td>15.38</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>30.77</td>
<td>84.61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Image 1. Diagnostic sequence used with IgG4-RD patients.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3260
Background: The exact pathogenesis and risk factors of Palindromic Rheumatism (PR) remain uncertain, however, a subgroup of patients with PR share a close relationship with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in terms of etiopathogenesis, clinical features, serology, and outcomes.

Objectives: We aim to describe the characteristics of patients in an inception cohort of PR along with determinants of progression to RA.

Methods: Patients with symptoms suggestive of PR were screened by a rheumatologist and after relevant exclusions, were classified into PR and included in an inception cohort at the Centre for Arthritis and Rheumatism Excellence, India. Their demographics, clinical characteristics, serology, inflammatory markers, and progression to RA or any other autoimmune rheumatic disease (AIRD) were recorded. Statistical analysis was done using GraphPad Prism v9.4.1 and results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation.

Results: Of 706 patients screened, 685 were classified into PR (age 45.5±11.9 years, male-to-female ratio of 1:2.8) with a follow-up duration of 27±20.4 months. Of those with a follow-up of greater than one year, 102 of 505 (20.2%) progressed to RA at 30±20 months and 13 to other AIRDs. Progression to RA was positively associated with symptom duration of <5 years, wrist involvement, and anti-CCP positivity were associated with progression to RA. The RF and anti-CCP titers were compared between treatment groups.

Conclusion: Early outcomes of the inception cohort of PR revealed progression to RA in 20% of the cohort and was associated with symptom duration of <5 years, wrist involvement, and anti-CCP positivity.

Objectives: to fully evaluate the disease's activity [1].

Background: Adults Still's disease is a rare autoinflammatory disorder with an unknown etiology, characterized by fever, arthritis, and rash. There is no method to fully evaluate the disease's activity [1].

Results: The Still Activity Score (SAS) is a newly defined, easy-to-use disease activity assessment score for Still disease [2]. We aimed to compare the efficacy of the Modified Pouchot Activity Score (mPouchot), Systemic Feature Score (SFS), and Still Activity Score (SAS) [2-4].

Methods: The study included 45 patients diagnosed with Still between 2010 and 2022 who met the Yamaguchi criteria. The patients were assessed using the physician global assessment (PGA) by two different physicians. Still, activity levels were computed. According to the severity of the disease, patients with PGA≥6 were categorized as having low disease activity, and those with PGA>6 as having high disease activity.

Results: The demographic, clinical, and laboratory data for the patients are detailed in Table 1. There was a significant difference between the two groups in terms of mPouchot and SFS disease activity scores (low and high disease activity) (Table 1). CRP level was correlated with the SAS, SFS, and mPouchot disease activity scores (low and high disease activity) (Table 1). There was a correlation between each score (p<0.001). There was a significant difference between the two groups in terms of mPouchot and SFS disease activity scores (low and high disease activity) (Table 1). There was a correlation between each score (p<0.001).

Conclusion: SAS, a new disease activity score, correlated with previous activity scores. CRP levels were correlated with SAS. There was a correlation between the three disease activity scores.

Table 1. Characteristics of patients according to Physicians Global Assessment

<table>
<thead>
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<th>All Patients</th>
<th>PGA&lt;6</th>
<th>PGA=6</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex, Female</td>
<td>29 (64,4)</td>
<td>12 (72,1)</td>
<td>16 (59,3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, Year</td>
<td>51 [22-73]</td>
<td>62,5 [22-73]</td>
<td>49 [22-70]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of Diagnosis, year</td>
<td>42 [16-63]</td>
<td>43 [16-63]</td>
<td>42 [16-63]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>42 (93,6)</td>
<td>16 (88,9)</td>
<td>26 (96,3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>6 (13,3)</td>
<td>2 (11,1)</td>
<td>4 (14,8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>36 (80)</td>
<td>14 (77,4)</td>
<td>22 (81,5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore Throat</td>
<td>15 (33,3)</td>
<td>2 (11,9)</td>
<td>13 (48,1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphadenopathy</td>
<td>22 (48,9)</td>
<td>6 (33,3)</td>
<td>16 (59,3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatosplenomegaly</td>
<td>19 (42,2)</td>
<td>5 (27,8)</td>
<td>14 (51,9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spleenomegaly</td>
<td>11 (44,4)</td>
<td>5 (27,8)</td>
<td>6 (22,2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleural Effusion</td>
<td>1 (2,2)</td>
<td>1 (3,7)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericarditis</td>
<td>4 (8,1)</td>
<td>1 (5,9)</td>
<td>3 (11,1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAS: Systemic Feature Score, and SAS-Still Activity Score

Disease Activity Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRP</th>
<th>Ferritin</th>
<th>ESR</th>
<th>SFS</th>
<th>SFS</th>
<th>SFS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 [0-343]</td>
<td>94 [20-191]</td>
<td>146 [70-343]</td>
<td>0,005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRP: C-reactive protein, ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate, SFS: Systemic Feature Score, and SAS-Still Activity Score

References:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3832
Table 1. BASELINE, TRANSPLANT-RELATED CHARACTERISTICS AND CLINICAL FEATURES OF CGVHD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Age of transplantation years</th>
<th>Gender (male/female)</th>
<th>Body mass index</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>43 (16-61)</td>
<td>10 (71.4%)/4 (28.6%)</td>
<td>23.8 (17.2-41.1)</td>
<td>- All/IMDS/AML, CLL/HL/MP/SBTM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCT type</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/1/1/1 (7.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related haploidentical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditioning regimen:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloablative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 (64.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced-intensity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 (35.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem cell graft source</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral blood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12 (85.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone marrow/umbilical cord</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/1 (71%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from allo-HCT to enrollment, months</td>
<td>18 (4-46)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ECGG: 1/2/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 (42.9%/4/28.6%/6)</td>
<td>1 (71%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mouth</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 (57.1%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Eye</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 (57.1%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Genital tract</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 (14.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Gastrointestinal</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 (28.6%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Liver</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (7%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lung</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 (28.6%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- BSSG: mild/moderate/severe</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/3/3 (21.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ROMG: mild/moderate/severe</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 (42.9%/5/35.7%/6)</td>
<td>(7.1%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical forms of GVHD:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sarcoid</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 (64.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Joint</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 (21.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lichenoid</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (7.1%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Psoriasiform</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (7.1%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH G score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mild/moderate/severe</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (7.1%)/28.6%/6) (64.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Acute lymphoblastic leukemia, 2Myelodysplastic syndrome, 3Acute myeloid leukemia, 4Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, 5Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, 6Myeloproliferative syndrome, 7Beta-thalassemia major; 8Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; 9Body Surface area; 10Range Of Mobility; 11National Institutes of Health

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4386

Table 1. Main characteristics of CME-BD patients receiving adalimumab (ADA), infliximab (IFX) or Certolizumab (CZP).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>ADA group (n=25)</th>
<th>IFX group (n=10)</th>
<th>CZP group (n=10)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD) years</td>
<td>41 (11)</td>
<td>38 (9)</td>
<td>36 (8)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, men/women, n/m</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>7/3</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B51 positive, n(%)</td>
<td>19 (76)</td>
<td>10 (67)</td>
<td>4 (40)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of uveitis before treatment, median</td>
<td>43 (80)</td>
<td>25 (80)</td>
<td>25 (80)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unilateral, n(%)</td>
<td>15 (60)</td>
<td>9 (60)</td>
<td>1 (10)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posterior</td>
<td>5 (20)</td>
<td>3 (30)</td>
<td>3 (30)</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panuveitis</td>
<td>2 (8)</td>
<td>1 (10)</td>
<td>1 (10)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anterior</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of previous BT per patient, median</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined treatment, n (%)</td>
<td>16 (64)</td>
<td>10 (40)</td>
<td>10 (40)</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytoplasm A</td>
<td>22 (88)</td>
<td>11 (73)</td>
<td>6 (60)</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>14 (56)</td>
<td>8 (53)</td>
<td>4 (40)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>2 (13.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous biological treatment, BT (n,%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macular thickness, mean (SD)</td>
<td>431.9±1176</td>
<td>483.4±1261</td>
<td>380.7±965.8</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous conventional treatment, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV pulses of MTP</td>
<td>13 (52)</td>
<td>9 (60)</td>
<td>5 (50)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclosporine A</td>
<td>22 (88)</td>
<td>11 (73)</td>
<td>6 (60)</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
<td>14 (56)</td>
<td>8 (53)</td>
<td>4 (40)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>2 (8)</td>
<td>2 (13.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone dose (baseline)</td>
<td>45 [30-60]</td>
<td>40 [20-60]</td>
<td>35 [20-60]</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission, n(%)</td>
<td>19 (76)</td>
<td>9 (60)</td>
<td>7 (70)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per 100 patient-year</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug withdrawal, n(%)</td>
<td>8 (32)</td>
<td>8 (32)</td>
<td>2 (20)</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per 100 patient-year</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side-effects/toxicity, n(%)</td>
<td>4 (16)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per 100 patient-year</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background: the main cause of blindness in non-infectious uveitis is cystoid macular edema (CME). Behget’s disease (BD) is one of the most common diseases associated with CME [1-3].

Objectives: to compare efficacy and safety of Adalimumab (ADA), Infliximab (IFX) and Certolizumab (CZP) in refractory CME due to BD.

Methods: multicenter study of patients with CME secondary to BD refractory to glucocorticoids (GC) and at least 1 conventional immunosuppressant. All patients had CME (CME>300μ) at baseline. From baseline up to 2 years, efficacy of ADA, IFX and CZP was assessed with the following ocular parameters: macular thickness, visual acuity (BCVA), anterior chamber (AC), vitritis and GC-sparring effect. Statistical analysis was performed with IBM SPSS Statistics v.23.

Results: a total of 50 patients (78 eyes) were considered. Twenty-five patients were treated with ADA, 15 patients with IFX and 10 patients were treated with CZP. No significant differences in demographic parameters were observed in the three groups. However, patients in the CZP group had a significantly longer time from diagnosis to drug initiation (75 [36-120] vs 30 [12-82] vs 15 [8-60] months; p=0.04) and received a greater median number of biological treatments (2 [0.75-3] vs 0 [0-0] vs 0 [0-0]) than the ADA and IFX groups. In CZP group, ADA and IFX were used previously in 7 patients. Combined therapy was used with ADA in 64%, with IFX in 66.7% and with CZP in 70% of CME patients (p=0.04) (TABLE 1).

Regarding efficacy outcomes, a rapid and maintained improvement in macular thickness was observed after 2 years of follow-up in three groups with no statistically significant differences between them (FIGURE 1). Improvement in BCVA, AC cells, vitritis and GC-sparring effect was also noted. No serious adverse events were observed in IFX and CZP group.

Conclusion: ADA, IFX and CZP seem to be effective and safe in refractory CME due to BD. CZP appears effective even in patients with inadequate response to ADA and/or IFX.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Evolution of OCT and BCVA after adalimumab (ADA), infliximab (IFX) or Certolizumab (CZP).
CAUSAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES, LEISURE SEDENTARY BEHAVIORS, AND ADULT-ONSET STILL DISEASE OUTCOMES

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases, Self-management, Genetics/Epigenetics

Y. J. Chen1,2, W. Li1,2, Q. Feng1,2, Y. Feng1,2, Q. Yu1, P. F. He3, X. Li1,2, S. X. Zhang1,2,3,4, Shanxi Provincial Key Laboratory of Rheumatism Immune Microenvironment, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 2Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Shanxi Medical University, Ministry of Education, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 3Shanxi Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision Support Research, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China; 4The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China

Background: Adult-onset Still’s disease (AOSD) is a characteristic non-familial, multi-genic systemic auto-inflammatory disorder, characterized by fever and joint pain [1]. Whether physical activities (PAs)/leisure sedentary behaviors (LSBs) directly affect AOSD susceptibility is inconclusive.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate the causal effects of PAs and LSBs on AOSD.

Methods: We performed a two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) analysis to investigate the causality of 5 PAs and 4 LSBs with AOSD, of which PAs include accelerometer-base physical activity measurement (average acceleration) (n=91,084), vigorous physical exercise 10+ minutes (n=440,512), and LSBs include the length of mobile phone use (n=456,972), time spent watching television (TV) (n=437,887). Genome-wide significant genetic instruments (p < 5 × 10−8) for PAs and LSBs were extracted from European-descent genome-wide association studies (GWASs). And to satisfy the assumption that single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were not related to outcomes, one SNP with the IVW method revealed no heterogeneity (p=0.43), and no pleiotropy was observed (p=0.618). However, the IVW results of SNPs were not statistically significant (p > 0.05), so PAs were not associated with AOSD (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Our findings suggest the hypothesis that time spent driving increases the risk of AOSD, suggesting leisurely sedentary behaviors may increase the probability of AOSD.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

AB1466 CLINICAL FEATURES OF PATIENTS WITH FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER OVER 50 YEARS OF AGE

Keywords: Inborn immunity, Genetics/Epigenetics, Rare/orphan diseases

S. N. Baspinar1, M. B. Yuzbasigil2, S. Yenigun1, F. N. Azman1, S. Ugurlu2.

Background: Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) is the most common hereditary monogenic fever syndrome characterized by recurrent attacks of fever and polyserositis. Types and frequencies of attacks can change throughout the life of patients. The course of disease is affected by pathophysiological changes due to aging, increased comorbid diseases and multiple drug use.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to understand the effect of aging on clinical features and disease course in patients with Familial Mediterranean Fever.

Methods: 343 patients who were followed up with the diagnosis of FMF between 2005 to 2020 and were over 50 years old as of 2022 were included. The demographic characteristics of the patients, MEFV mutations, attack characteristics and the treatments they received were analyzed retrospectively. Attack characteristics, frequency of attacks andVAS scores of the patients were also analyzed and compared as pre-treatment, post-treatment, and most recent attacks.

Results: Female to male ratio was 1.8:1. The mean age of patients was 57.6±6.5 (50-84) years. Age of symptoms started, age at diagnosis and delay at diagnosis were compared between the female and male patients. At the age of symptoms started, no significant difference was detected between the two groups, while the age at diagnosis was later and the time of delay at diagnosis was longer in female patients (p<0.006 and p=0.001). Number and frequencies of attacks and VAS scores were compared as attacks before treatment, attacks after treatment and attacks in the last year, a significant decrease was found in the last attacks (p<0.001). The frequency of fever, abdominal pain, arthritis and chest pain was significantly lower in the most recent attacks compared to pre-treatment and post-treatment (p<0.001). The last attacks of the patients were mostly in the form of abdominal pain. Patients were compared as those who did not have an attack in the last year and who had an attack, it was seen that the mean age was lower in the group that had an attack (p<0.005). The mean of current colchicine dose was 1.29±0.43 mg, the mean dose of colchicine at diagnosis was 1.37±0.36 mg and the mean of maximum colchicine dose was 1.6±0.43 mg.

CONCLUSION:

Demographic Status, Patients (n:343)
AB1467

POTENTIAL TRIGGERS OF FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER ATTACKS

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases

M. B. Ates1, K. Parlar2, E. Bostancı1, E. Onal1, S. Ugurlu1, 1Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty, University of Istanbul-Cerrahpaşa, Division of Rheumatology,Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Yeditepe Medical Faculty, University of Yeditepe, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) is an autoinflammatory disease characterized by self-limited 1 to 4 days lasting attacks. These attacks are characterized by fever, abdominal pain, chest pain, arthritis, arthralgia, myalgia, and erysipelas-like rash that is over the affected joint. Mutations of the pyrin protein which encodes by the main mutated gene of FMF, MEFV, are responsible for the inflammasome overactivation and subsequently responsible for attacks and the main underlying occurring pathophysiology of FMF[1]. The role of the factors that can contribute to and trigger this process is on a large scale unknown.

Objectives: We aimed to search for the factors that can trigger these attacks or can increase the severity of attacks. We prepared some criteria based on our clinical observations to determine the factors that can trigger pyrin protein-associated inflammasome mechanisms that are the underlying cause of FMF[1].

Methods: We surveyed 808 patients with FMF from our adult rheumatology outpatient clinics. We used a questionnaire assessing the following: emotional stress; use of antidepressants; consumption of tea and coffee; relationship with menses; menopause and post-menopausal alleviations; seasonal changes; long-term journeys; changes of location; starvation; sleeplessness; temperature reduction; fatigue; wind and cold weather; and humidity(Table1). We also questioned some features of the attacks of patients including fever, abdominal pain, chest pain, arthritis, arthralgia, myalgia, and erysipelas-like rash.

Results: The number of patients with FMF and their potential trigger factors are given in Table 1. We performed the questionnaire to 808 patients with FMF (354 male and 454 female), 574 patients (%71) reported worsening in severity and frequency of their attacks in relation to emotional stress. Among these 574 patients, 139 patients (%24) were using antidepressants. 443 and 474 patients reported worsening and higher frequency of their attacks in relation to seasonal changes and fatigue, respectively. Among the 454 female patients, 213 patients reported worsening during their menses cycle. 96 female patients had entered menopause and 50 of them (%52) had reported obvious improvement after their menopause. In our cohort, 530 patients had experienced fever, 642 abdominal pain, 426 chest pain, 350 arthritis, 573 arthralgias, 483 myalgias, and 152 erysipelas-like rashes during their attacks.

Conclusion: The high proportion of patients who had reported worsening in their attacks in relation to emotional stress highly suggests a correlation between emotional stress and FMF attacks. Additionally, 443 and 474 patients had reported worsening in their attacks when seasonal changes occur and in times of fatigue, respectively, which is also highly suggestive of a correlation with FMF attacks.

There was also an outstanding decrease in the severity of their attacks in patients who had menopause after they entered menopause. Furthermore, there were some patients who reported miscellaneous correlations in the frequency of FMF attacks and with the use of antidepressants, consumption of tea and coffee, seasonal changes, long-term journeys, changes in location, starvation, sleeplessness, temperature reduction, fatigue, wind and cold weather, and lastly, humidity.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Potential trigger factors of FMF attacks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emotional stress</th>
<th>Consumption of tea and coffee</th>
<th>Relationship with menses</th>
<th>Menopause/Seasonal changes</th>
<th>Long-term journeys</th>
<th>Changes of location</th>
<th>Starvation</th>
<th>Sleeplessness</th>
<th>Temperature reduction</th>
<th>Fatigue</th>
<th>Wind and cold weather</th>
<th>Humidity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMF (n=808)</td>
<td>574 (%71)</td>
<td>56 (%)</td>
<td>213 (%)</td>
<td>96/50</td>
<td>434/55</td>
<td>244/30</td>
<td>208/26</td>
<td>119/15</td>
<td>285/35</td>
<td>381/47</td>
<td>294/36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5054

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1468

ENTEROPATHY IN DUTCH COMMON VARIABLE IMMUNODEFICIENCY COHORT

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Gastrointestinal tract, Descriptive Studies

N. Juliana1, M. Sevens2, J. Van Montfrans3, P. Eillerbroek4, B. Oldenberg2, J. Van Roon1, H. Lewis1, 1UMC Utrecht, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 2UMC Utrecht, Gastroenterology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 3Wilhelmina Children’s Hospital, Pediatrics, Immunology and Rheumatology, Utrecht, Netherlands; 4UMC Utrecht, Infectious Diseases, Utrecht, Netherlands

Background: Common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) is the most common severe primary antibody deficiency. Although infections are the most prevalent clinical manifestations, a large amount of the patients also suffer from immune dysregulation. This results in significant morbidity[1]. Different manifestations of enteropathy can occur, yet little information is available regarding its optimal treatment.

Objectives: Here we describe clinical characteristics, endoscopy, histopathology and treatment response of CVID enteropathy (CVID-E) in a Dutch teaching hospital.

Methods: We included CVID patients from our hospital, that provided written informed consent. We collected, retrospectively, gender, age and start of enteropathy, symptoms, and age at CVID diagnosis. Reports of endoscopies and histopathology, and clinical course of enteropathy related symptoms was recorded for each patient alongside the immunosuppressive medication (IS) used over time. Treatment response was defined as remission, response, need for step-up, and unknown. Descriptive statistics were used to study associations.

Results: 32 of 82 CVID patients at the UMC Utrecht had enteropathy. The average age of this group was 45.4 (13.5 standard deviation, SD) and the mean age of CVID diagnosis was 31.7 (16.7 SD). The age at first presentation of enteropathy was 30.9 years (14.6 SD). 16 of 32 patients were female. 23 (90.6%) of CVID-E patients had other complications: infectious, inflammatory and malignant. 26 (81.3%) patients had other inflammatory manifestations; the most common were lymphoproliferation (43.8%) splenomegaly (34.4%) and autoimmune disease (37.5%). Infectious complication bronchiectasis had a prevalence of 88.6% in this cohort. Two patients had a solid malignancy and one lymphoma. We compared CVID-E treated with IS to those who were not treated with IS. Autoimmune cytopenia, and bronchiectasis were significantly more prevalent in CVID-E treated with IS, than those without IS: 23.5% vs 0% (P<0.05) and 82.4% vs 46.7% (p<0.01) respectively. 30 patients underwent endoscopy, 29 (90.6%) coloscopy and 25 (78.1%) gastroscopy. The most common histopathologic findings consisted of inflammatory bowel disease-like colitis (n=10) and intra-epithelial lymphocytosis (n=9). Other findings of note were lymphocytic colitis(n=3), microscopic colitis (n=2), collagenic colitis (n=1) and apoptotic enteritis (n=1). 17 of the 32 (53.1%) patients received IS for CVID-E. 14 received local corticosteroids, 12 systemic corticosteroids, 15 DMARDs (methotrexate, azathioprine, mesalazine, baricitinib, mycophenolate, tacrolimus and sulfasalazine), 6 biologicals (adalimumab, infrlixab and ustekinumab) and 6 had combined therapy. These 17 patients underwent 64 treatments. Local CS therapy did not result in remission. 9/17 (52.9%) of patients needed more than 2 systemic drugs. DMARD monotherapy achieved remission or response in 6 of 13 patients (46.2%). The best results concerning combined therapy in this cohort seemed to consist of combinations of DMARD(s) and systemic CS, and combinations of DMARD(s) and TNF-alpha inhibitors (TNFi).

Conclusion: CVID-E is strongly associated with other inflammatory complications and bronchiectasis, especially in CVID-E on IS. This cohort consists of the largest series reporting on treatment efficacy in CVID-E. We found combination treatment and DMARD monotherapy to be the most effective treatment. Additionally, TNFi seems to have a good clinical response in patients with CVID enteropathy, especially when combined with other treatments.

REFERENCES:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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HEPATICITY C IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES: DIFFERENCES IN DISEASE PRESENTATION AND PATIENT MANAGEMENT

Keywords: Comorbidities, Myositis

A. Valle, S. Mahmood1, Montefiore Hospital, Medicine, Bronx, United States of America; Montefiore Medical Center; Einstein Campus, Division of Rheumatology, Bronx, United States of America

Background: It is known that Hepatitis C (HCV) can cause many extra-hepatic manifestations which overlap with rheumatic diseases. New evidence is emerging that both HCV and idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs) may have a common mechanism through B cell expansion and dysfunction [1,2].

Objectives: Our aim was to describe the prevalence of HCV in patients with IIM and to compare myositis disease course, organ involvement, and rheumatologic treatment response between IIM patients with and without HCV.

Methods: A registry was created of Montefiore Medical Center patients that met 2017 EULAR/ACR classification criteria for IIM. Demographics, IIM type, antibody clinical manifestations, comorbidities, and rheumatologic treatment history were documented. HCV antibody, viral load, and hepatitis treatment history were noted. Rheumatic medication failure was defined by rheumatologist, discontinuation due to adverse effects, or medication change within 3 months while medication control was defined by documented clinical improvement. Statistical analyses included two-sample t-test, Chi-square tests or Fisher’s exact tests were used to compare the categorical variables as appropriate and signed rank test.

Results: Of 153 patients in the registry, 130 (85%) had been screened for Hepatitis C and 8 (5.5%) had HCV (p = 0.02, p = 0.01, respectively). There were no differences in age, race, ethnicity, or treatment between IIM patients with and without HCV. Of the 11 patients with HCV while neoplasms were more frequent in the same group (p = 0.05), heliotrope (p = 0.05), or others rashes such as holster, shawl, V sign (p = 0.02). Interstitial lung disease (ILD) was less prevalent in individuals with HCV while neoplasms were more frequent in the same group (p = 0.02, p = 0.01, respectively). There were no differences in age, race, ethnicity, or treatment between IIM patients with and without HCV. Of the 11 patients that had HCV, 8 (73%) were diagnosed with HCV within 1 year of IIM diagnosis and majority (4/6) had active HCV at that time based on viral load. The others had been diagnosed with HCV for 5-10 years prior to the IIM diagnosis. For majority of HCV cases (6/11), rheumatology evaluation prompted hepatology evaluation and/or treatment.

Conclusion: Individuals with CVC may have different disease course than individuals without HCV, specifically one with a higher frequency of neoplasms and a lower frequency of IIM and dermatologic manifestations. IIM diagnosis was usually a key time to discover a concomitant HCV infection and often led to change in HCV evaluation and treatment. These findings and their immunologic basis should be further studied in larger cohorts with more power.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Comparison of IIM subtype, disease manifestations, comorbidities, and treatment between HCV+ and HCV- IIM patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Patient Group</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCV+ (n = 119)</td>
<td>HCV- (n = 119)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIM type, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>3 (27.3)</td>
<td>37 (31.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>3 (27.3)</td>
<td>64 (53.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADM</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>10 (8.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCTD</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>14 (11.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEC</td>
<td>2 (18.2)</td>
<td>17 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBM</td>
<td>5 (45.5)</td>
<td>9 (78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heliotrope rash, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (9.1)</td>
<td>47 (39.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grotton’s papules or sign, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (9.1)</td>
<td>47 (39.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (63.6)</td>
<td>49 (41.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcineurin, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>10 (8.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other skin manifestation, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>45 (37.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (9.1)</td>
<td>56 (47.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoplasm, n (%)</td>
<td>5 (45.5)</td>
<td>13 (10.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVT/PE, n (%)</td>
<td>1 (9.1)</td>
<td>13 (10.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5923

AB1471

JANUS KINASE INHIBITORS IN SEVERE INFLAMMATORY OCULAR PATHOLOGY. MULTICENTER STUDY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Uveitis

AB1470

L. Sanchez-Bilbao1, J. L. Martin-Varillas2, V. Calvo-Río2, J. L. Álvarez Vega2, E. Beltrán2, M. D. M. Esteban-Ortega2, S. Muñoz Fernandez2, O. Maiz4, I. Torre-Salabern4, A. Urruticochea-Araná6, E. Valls-Pascal8, C. Álvarez-Reguera7, R. Demetrio-Pablo11, R. Blanco1, Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; Hospital de Laredo, Rheumatology, Laredo, Spain; Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Deusto, Gastroenterology, Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain

Table 1. Cases reports and Literature review of patients with refractory IOP treated with JAKINIB.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study, year</th>
<th>Cases Age/Sex</th>
<th>Underlying Disease</th>
<th>JAKINIB Ocular involvement</th>
<th>Previous IS treatment</th>
<th>Ocular improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meadow et al. 2014 (1)</td>
<td>59, F</td>
<td>RA</td>
<td>TOFA</td>
<td>PUK</td>
<td>MTX, ABA, ivMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bauermann et al. 2018 (2)</td>
<td>22, F</td>
<td>JIA</td>
<td>TOFA</td>
<td>Ant uveitis, CME</td>
<td>MTX, ADA, RTX, GOLI, IFX, CSA, TCZ, MMF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liu et al. 2020 (4)</td>
<td>30, M</td>
<td>Behget s.</td>
<td>TOFA</td>
<td>Scleiritis</td>
<td>SSZ, MTx, AZA, LFN, THD, COL, GLM, ivMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majumder et al. 2020 (5)</td>
<td>26, F</td>
<td>VKH disease</td>
<td>Post uveitis</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misericoci et al. 2020 (6)</td>
<td>35, M</td>
<td>RA</td>
<td>TOFA</td>
<td>PUK</td>
<td>MTX, ABA, ivMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiong-Bao et al. 2020 (7)</td>
<td>18, F</td>
<td>Idiop</td>
<td>TOFA</td>
<td>Panuv</td>
<td>MTX, MMF, CSA, ADA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Comparison of IIM subtype, disease manifestations, comorbidities, and treatment between HC¥+ and HCV- IIM patients.
Objectives: In this prospective study, we aimed to evaluate the risk of PTS development after DVT and the factors affecting the development and severity of PTS in BD patients.

Methods: BD patients (n=18) with acute DVT and were followed in 3 tertiary rheumatology centers were included in the study. Patients are evaluated for PTS presence during acute DVT, 6-12 months and then annually. Villalta scoring with a total score of >4 or presence of venous ulcer was defined as PTS. PTS was classified as mild if the score was between 5-9, moderate between 10-14, and presence of >14/venous ulcers as severe. Venous Damage Score (VDS) was used to evaluate the effect of venous disease on work productivity and Venous Clinical Severity Score (VCSS) for symptom severity.

Results: The clinical features of the 18 patients included in the study are shown in Table 1. Major-organ involvement was present in 12 patients (pulmonary involvement in 7 (39%), ocular involvement in 5 (28%), arthritis in 3 (13%), neurobehçet and entero-behçet each in 1 patient). Steroid and IS treatment was given to all patients after an acute DVT attack. Additional anticoagulant (AC) treatment was chosen in 16 of the patients. Patients were followed up for a median 23.2 (6-40) months after DVT. The number of patients followed for at least 1 year after an acute DVT attack was 15, and the median follow-up period was 26 (12-40) months. The median duration of AC use in patients who received AC treatment in the follow-up was 6 (0-12) months. PTS developed in 5 (33%) of 15 patients during follow-up. The baseline, 6th and 12th month course of Villalta, VCSS, and VDS scores are shown in figure 1.

Conclusion: In this prospective follow-up after an acute DVT attack 33% of BD patients developed PTS within 1 year. In our previous retrospective study, 62% of 205 patients, half of whom received AK, developed PTS during follow-up [2]. Despite the limitations of our study, such as the low number of patients and the short follow-up period, AC treatment in all patients (except 1) may have influenced a lower PTS development in the prospective follow-up compared to the retrospective data.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Characteristics of Study Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical manifestations</th>
<th>Ss/Std</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, average</td>
<td>33.56 (9.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female/male, n(%)</td>
<td>4/14 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history (BD)</td>
<td>3 (16.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral ulcers</td>
<td>16 (88.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital ulcers</td>
<td>9 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populopustular lesions</td>
<td>3 (16.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythema nodosum</td>
<td>6 (33.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary involvement</td>
<td>7 (38.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular involvement</td>
<td>3 (16.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological involvement</td>
<td>1 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occlusive disease</td>
<td>5 (27.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal involvement</td>
<td>1 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6054
Background: The most common autoinflammatory disease which occurs in Armenians is familial Mediterranean fever (FMF). FMF is a hereditary disorder caused by recurrent attacks of fever and serosal inflammation. The main clinical manifestations of FMF are recurrent fever, abdominal, chest and joint pain, erysipelas-like skin lesion but FMF also has a lot of other rare and systemic clinical manifestations. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish if the patient has only FMF or the overlap of FMF and other rheumatological diseases: systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), systemic vasculitis, spondyloarthropathy, etc.

Methods: 100 Armenian patients with genetically confirmed FMF, who also fulfilled Tel-Hashomer classification criteria were included in this study. Molecular-genetic detection of 26 MEFV mutations which are more common among Armenians was carried out. Only 13 patients from 100 had systemic clinical manifestations like lupus, so we continued investigation and determine ANA, anti-dsDNA antibodies, which were positive. All patients with lupus-like syndrome fulfilled diagnostic criteria of SLE by ACR. Comparison of peculiarity of course of FMF was done between 13 patients - between both lupus-like syndrome and FMF (group I) and patients only with FMF (group II).

Results: There were 11 female and 2 male patients in the first group. The mean age was 40.06±2.46. The 15.4% of the patients were affected with FMF and lupus-like syndrome/ SLE parallelly and in 30.3% cases the onset of SLE was prior to the clinical manifestation of FMF. They all had systemic clinical manifestations such as erythema (92.3%), livedo reticularis (69.2%), photosensitivity (69.2%), Raynaud’s phenomenon (23.07%). Though the frequency of FMF attacks in the I group was more than in the II group, the high temperature and shorter duration of attack days; thoracalgia and monoarthritis also appeared less frequently in the patients with FMF. The difference between the clinical manifestations is presented below (Table 1). The prevalent mutation of MEFV gene in both groups was M694V- in 19 patients (73%), from which 3 (11.5%) were homozygote and 23 (88.5%) were heterozygote.

Table 1. Clinical manifestations I group (FMF with coexisting SLE) II group (only FMF)%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>I group (FMF with coexisting SLE)</th>
<th>II group (only FMF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdominalgia</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoracalgia</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucocutaneous</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleuritis</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericarditis</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In conclusion, both diseases FMF and SLE have common clinical manifestations: fever, arthralgia, arthritis, skin involvement, pleuritis, pericarditis. The course of FMF with coexisting SLE is milder: these patients have lower frequency of FMF attacks in the I group was more than in the II group, the high temperature and shorter duration of attack days was respectively 1-3 and 1-5. We noticed that thoracalgia and monoarthritis also appeared less frequently in the patients with FMF. The difference between the clinical manifestations is presented below (Table 1). The prevalent mutation of MEFV gene in both groups was M694V- in 19 patients (73%), from which 3 (11.5%) were homozygote and 23 (88.5%) were heterozygote.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**AB1474**

HEMOPHAGOCYTIC LYMPHOHISTIOCYTOSIS AMONG ADULTS

**Keywords:** Organ damage, Systemic lupus erythematosus

M. Ben Brahimi¹, S. Daada², S. Arfa³, M. Wafa³, H. Ben Brahmi⁴, O. Berinche⁵, S. Hammam⁶, M. Chakroun⁷, ¹Isher Star University Hospital, Mahmoud, Department of Internal Medicine, Mahmoud, Tunisia; ²Fatouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Monastir; ³Department of Internal Medicine, Monastir, Tunisia; ⁴Isher Star University Hospital, Mahmoud, Department of Internal Medicine, Mahmoud, Tunisia; ⁵Fatouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Monastir; ⁶Department of Infectious Disease, Mahmoud, Tunisia

Background: Hemoophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) is a rare life-threatening condition resulting from an overstimulation of the immune system leading to a multi-organ damage[1]. This condition can be either primary caused by genetic mutations or secondary triggered by infections, autoimmune diseases or malignancies[1].

Methods: We performed a multi-center retrospective study in the departments of Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases in both Fatouma Bourguiba and Taher Star University hospitals in Tunisia. We identified 38 patients meeting the HLH-2004 diagnostic criteria.

Results: There were 24 women and 14 men. The male/female sex ratio was 0.58. The mean age was 38 years (range 18-80 years). Eight patients (21%) had underlying auto-immune disease: 6 patients had systemic lupus erythematosus, 1 patient had rheumatoid arthritis and 1 patient had idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. Five patients (13.5%) had underlying malignancy. Among the clinical and biological variable of the HLH criteria, the most common features were fever (100%) followed by elevated ferritin level (94.7%) and cytopenia (84.2%). Triglyceride level was elevated in 76.3% of patients. Hemophagocytosis in bone marrow was found in 38 patients (92.1%). Elevated lactate dehydrogenase was found in 76.3% of cases. The most common underlying etiologies were systemic lupus erythematosus (31%) followed by infections (24%), malignancies (16%) and adult still's disease (13%). In our study, 30 patients (78.9%) underwent intravenous immunoglobulin regimen over 2 days. Twenty-three patients (60.5%) received either intravenous and/or oral steroids. Ethoposide was prescribed in 4 cases. The overall mortality in our study was 39.5%. Twenty-three patients achieved remission with 6 relapsing later. Mean cause of relapses was infections. Patients aged above 65 years and patients with systemic lupus erythematosus had poorer prognosis (p<0.013). Patients with systemic lupus erythematous achieved remission more likely than other patients (p<0.021).

Conclusion: HLH is an uncommon but fatal disease. The clinical symptoms are non specific leading to misdiagnosis which is associated with a dismal prognosis. Similarly to the literature a female preponderance was found in our study[1]. Systemic lupus erythematosus was found to be the commonest underlying cause of HLH in our population which disagrees with the findings of similar studies who identified malignancy or infections as the principal trigger[2]. A combination of intravenous steroids and immunoglobulin infusions was prescribed in 47% of patients. This combination was proven to be effective as first line treatment [3]. Despite treatment mortality rates remained high in our populations (39.5%) especially among elderly.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**AB1474**

EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF CURRENT TREATMENT STRATEGIES FOR VEXAS SYNDROME: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

**Keywords:** Rare/orphan diseases, Systematic review

Z. Boyazdzhieva¹, N. Ruffer², I. Köter², M. Kruschke³, ¹Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Berlin, Germany; ²University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Iii. Department of Medicine, Hamburg, Germany

Background: VEXAS syndrome is an adult-onset systemic autoinflammatory condition caused by an acquired deficiency of the UBA1 gene in hematopoietic progenitor cells. Its clinical course includes relapsing and refractory inflammatory conditions with high mortality. Optimal treatment strategies remain elusive and need further investigations.

Objectives: To investigate the effectiveness and safety of treatments for VEXAS syndrome.

Methods: A systematic review of the literature in line with the PRISMA guidelines was conducted: MEDLINE, Embase and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials were searched for reports on treatment strategies for VEXAS. Treatment response was recorded as complete (CR), partial (PR) or none (NR) depending on changes in clinical symptoms and laboratory parameters. Patient characteristics, safety data and previous treatments were analyzed.

Results: We identified 32 publications with a total of 83 patients. 97.6% of patients were male. Mean age at disease onset was 68 years (reported for 80/83). Mean follow up was 15.7 months (reported for 23/83). The most common treatments included azacitidine (AZA) (39.8%, 33/83; CR was reported for 9 patients (27.3%, 9/33) and PR for 11 (33.3%, 11/33) (Fig. 1). Further reports included tocilizumab (13.3%, 11/83), allogeneic stem cell transplantation (ASCT) (6.4%, 7/83), glucocorticoid...
(GC) monotherapy (72.2%, 6/83), anakinra (3.6%, 3/83). Details on response are shown in Table 1. Data on adverse events was available for 29 patients (34.5%). Most common were infections (24.1%, 7/29), herpes zoster reactivation (6.7%, 2/29), cytopenias (13.8%, 4/29). The median number of previous treatments was 3 [IQR 2-5]. A total of 307 prior treatments were reported. In most cases (37.4%, 115/307), details on response and reasons for discontinuation were not reported. Nonresponse to therapy (30.2%, 58/192), GC dependence (22.4%, 43/192) and adverse events (11.9%, 23/192) were common triggers for therapy adjustment. Janus kinase inhibition has been reported to be beneficial in one case series (Heilig et al., 2022). Individual patient data from this study was not available and, thus, not included in this analysis.

**Conclusion:** The current data on VEXAS treatment mainly stems from case reports/series and is inhomogeneous. Reporting of treatment response varies, complicating conclusions on treatment efficacy. Most patients received multiple therapies with mixed results. AZA appears promising for a subset of patients. IL-6 inhibition seems beneficial, but a risk of infections should be considered. Ciclosporin was commonly used as an add-on to IL-1 inhibitors suggesting benefits of combination therapy. In general, adverse events are scarcely reported, which hinders an objective risk-benefit assessment.

**Figure 1. Summary of response**

**Table 1. Treatment response**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment (n)</th>
<th>CR (n, %)</th>
<th>PR (n, %)</th>
<th>NR (n, %)</th>
<th>Adverse events (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANA (3)</td>
<td>2 (66%)</td>
<td>1 (33%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Injection site reaction (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA + CsA (2)</td>
<td>2 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Upper respiratory tract infection (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASCT (7)</td>
<td>6 (85.7%)</td>
<td>1 (14.3%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Pneumonitis (1), diverticulitis (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZA (33)</td>
<td>9 (27.3%)</td>
<td>11 (33%)</td>
<td>13 (39.4%)</td>
<td>Jejunum (1) and ileum perforation (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZA + TCZ (1)</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZA + CsA (1)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAR (1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAN + CsA (1)</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Neutropenia (1)</td>
</tr>
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<td>COL (1)</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>CYC (1)</td>
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<td>1 (100%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA (1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC monother-</td>
<td>1 (16.7%)</td>
<td>4 (66.7%)</td>
<td>1 (16.7%)</td>
<td>leaking (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infliximab (1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX (1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX + AHA (9)</td>
<td>2 (66%)</td>
<td>1 (33%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Pancytopenia (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX + AHA +</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEF (1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTX + AHA (1)</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Neutropenia (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituximab (2)</td>
<td>1 (50%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (50%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situximab (1)</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCZ (11)</td>
<td>3 (27.3%)</td>
<td>5 (45.5%)</td>
<td>2 (18.9%)</td>
<td>Jejunum (1) and ileum perforation (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PJP (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nocardia infection (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Herpes zoster (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Neutropenia (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPN (1)</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUX (1)</td>
<td>1 (100%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* death prior evaluation n=1 ** treatment just initiated *** no response reported due to dis-continuation for jejunum perforation n=1ANA anakinra ADA adalimumab CsA ciclosporine AZA azathioprine BAR baricitinib CAN canakinumab COL colchicine CYC cyclophosphamide ETA etanercept LEF leflunomide MTX methotrexate TCZ tocilizumab UPA upadacitinib RUX ruxolitinib NA not available

**REFERENCES:** NIL

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** Zhivana Boyadzhieva: None declared, Nicolas Ruffer: None declared, Ina Kötter: Speakers bureau: Novartis, Sobi, Martin Krusche: Speakers bureau: Novartis, Sobi, Roche, Grant/research support from: Sobi, Novartis.

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**AB1475**

**DOES VEIN WALL THICKNESS HAVE PROGNOSTIC VALUE IN BEHÇET’S DISEASE? A PROSPECTIVE FOLLOW-UP STUDY**

**Keywords:** Ultrasound, Behçet’s disease, Diagnostic Tests

K. Abacı1, R. Ergelen2, F. Temiz2, Y. Yıldız2, T. Ergun4, H. Dirsekene1, F. Albaz-Onel1, M. Marmara University, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2. Marmara University, Radiology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3. Marmara University, Internal Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 4. Marmara University, Dermatology, Istanbul, Turkey

**Background:** We reported the first controlled Doppler ultrasound study showing increased common femoral vein (CFV) thickness in Behçet’s Disease (BD) [1]. We also recently showed that increased CFV thickness is a distinctive feature of BD, rarely present in other inflammatory or vascular diseases with a specificity higher than 80% for the cut-off value of ≥0.5 mm. However, the association between CFV thickness and any organ involvement, disease course or treatment during disease course has not been demonstrated so far.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to assess the longitudinal course and prognostic value of CFV thickness measurement during a prospective follow-up BD patients.

**Methods:** In this study, we included 195 patients with a diagnosis of BD. The clinical demographic, treatment data and biomarkers were recorded during routine visits. Bilateral CFV thickness was measured with ultrasonography by an experienced radiologist at the same day. Patients were started to follow up prospectively with 3-6 months intervals and in any urgent visit.

**Results:** At baseline, 96.6% of patients had increased CFV wall thickness above the cut-off value of ≥0.5 mm. The baseline and last follow-up clinical characteristics were shown in Table 1. 139 of 195 patients had prospective clinical follow-up data with a mean of 26.5 (16.9) months. New major organ involvement or relapse leading to treatment change was seen in 39 (28%) patients. Among 22 (15.8%) patients with new major organ involvement, 12 had vascular, seven had ocular, two had neurologic and one had gastrointestinal involvement. Among 36 patients with only mucocutaneous disease at baseline, new major organ involvement developed in 9 patients during follow-up. These nine patients had higher baseline CFV thicknesses compared to patients without major organ involvement, however without reaching clinical significance (0.83 mm vs 0.73 mm for right CFV, 0.80 mm vs 0.73 mm for left CFV; p=0.05 for both) In 47 patients, the second CFV thickness measurement was done with a mean 19.6 months after the first visit. There was no statistically significan
t difference between the first and second CFV wall thickness measurements for both right and left CFVs (First vs. second for right CFV 0.79 vs 0.78 mm; p=0.26; for left CFV: 0.79 vs. 0.75 mm; p=0.26). We did not find any change in CFV wall thickness with the treatment modality, new organ involvement and relapses.

**Conclusion:** CFV wall thickness measurement with ultrasonography which is a new non-invasive diagnostic tool for BD, does not show a major change over time with treatment modality, new organ involvement or disease relapses. However, our preliminary results suggest that mucocutaneous BD patients with higher CFV thick-ness may have a higher risk for the development of major organ involvement during follow-up. The long term results of our prospective cohort with increased patient numbers would clarify the prognostic value of CFV thickness in BD.

**Disclosures:** None.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. The baseline and follow-up clinical characteristics of patients with Behçet’s Disease.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (mean (SD))</th>
<th>Gender F/M ratio</th>
<th>Right CFV Wall Thickness mean (SD) mm</th>
<th>Left CFV Wall Thickness mean (SD) mm</th>
<th>Oral aphthous ulcers n (%)</th>
<th>Genital ulcers n (%)</th>
<th>Eritema Nodosum n (%)</th>
<th>Arthritis (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34.85 (8.27)</td>
<td>43/96</td>
<td>0.791 (0.253)</td>
<td>0.797 (0.207)</td>
<td>134 (95)</td>
<td>84 (60.4)</td>
<td>62 (44.6)</td>
<td>48 (34.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major Organ Involvement n (%)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vascular Involvement n (%)</th>
<th>Deep Venous Thrombosis (%)</th>
<th>Pulmonary thrombosis n (%)</th>
<th>Sinus Venus Thrombosis n (%)</th>
<th>Tromboembolism n (%)</th>
<th>Neuro-Behçet n (%)</th>
<th>Uveitis n (%)</th>
<th>Entero-Behçet n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84 (60.4)</td>
<td>61 (43.9)</td>
<td>35 (25.2)</td>
<td>12 (8.6)</td>
<td>4 (2.9)</td>
<td>14 (9.9)</td>
<td>33 (23.7)</td>
<td>8 (5.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB1476**

**EVALUATION OF AUTOANTIBODIES POSITIVITY IN SARCOIDOSIS PATIENTS**

**Keywords:** Autoantibodies, Diagnostic Tests, Imaging
Background: Several studies reported serum positivity for anti-nuclear (ANA), extractable nuclear antigen (ENA) and antiphospholipid antibodies in sarcoidosis patients [1,2]. However, their clinical significance is still a matter of debate.

Objectives: Several studies reported serum positivity for anti-nuclear (ANA), extractable nuclear antigen (ENA) and antiphospholipid antibodies in sarcoidosis patients [1,2]. However, their clinical significance is still a matter of debate.

Methods: We enrolled 260 sarcoidosis patients (170 females and 90 males; mean age at diagnosis 46 ± 9), after giving written informed consent. We perform clinical evaluations, laboratory tests and radiology features.

Results: 89 sarcoidosis patients were ANA positive (34%, titre ≥ 1:160), 34 patients presented ENA positivity (15%) and antiphospholipid antibodies were positive in 20 patients (8%). No statistical significant correlations were observed between ANA/ENA positivity and clinical, laboratories and imaging evaluations. However, there was a statistically significant increase of the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies in sarcoidosis patients with a diagnosis of pulmonary embolism (p-value 0.04).

Conclusion: This study demonstrated an increase of antiphospholipid antibodies positivity in sarcoidosis patients with pulmonary embolism. These results may support the screening for these antibodies in all sarcoidosis patients. Further studies are underway to confirm these preliminary data and to evaluate if the positivity of autoantibody in these patients might suggest autoimmune implications in the pathogenesis of sarcoidosis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6378

Table 1. Patient characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, sex</th>
<th>AP values</th>
<th>B6 value (mcg/l)</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>ALPL mutation?</th>
<th>Possible HPP manifestations</th>
<th>Exclusion through suggested filtering strategy?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26, f</td>
<td>22:28</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>Familial Mediterranean fever</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>43, f</td>
<td>10:11:12</td>
<td>103.8</td>
<td>Suspected psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>Heterozygous c.1343C&gt;G</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>74, f</td>
<td>33:27; 34:30;32</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Vasculitis</td>
<td>Heterozygous c.1310C&gt;TFracture forearm and shoul-der (fall from standing height)</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>49, f</td>
<td>38:24:36</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>Heterozygous c.526G&gt;AArthralgia</td>
<td>Yes, AP&gt;45U/l during autoimmune hepatitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>41, f</td>
<td>21:27:30; 29:36</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Systemic sclerosis</td>
<td>Heterozygous c.1001G&gt;A</td>
<td>Yes (BLS); AP values &gt;45Arthralgia Fatigue Fracture (forearm) with delayed healing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Workflow

Where only one measurement of AP was available, no further analysis was undertaken. All patients with AP values >45U/l were excluded to increase the likelihood of HPP. Those with multiple (≥2) very low AP values (≤35U/l) were defined as suspicious for HPP. After detailed chart review for secondary causes for low AP levels (e.g., severe hypothyroidism, exposure to bisphosphonates (BIS)) and exclusion of said cases, an analysis of the remaining ones followed. Where HPP was suspected, we aimed to initiate a measurement of pyridoxal phosphate (B6) within clinical routine. Elevated B6 levels (>50μg/l) were used as further marker suggestive of HPP.

Results: 6861 AP measurements in 3362 patients were identified. 262 (7.8%) patients had at least one low AP value. The further workflow is shown in Figure 1.28 (10.7%) patients had AP levels <=35U/l at least twice. B6 measurements are available for 7 patients. Elevated values were seen in 3 of 7. In two cases HPP was confirmed genetically. The rest of the patients defined as suspicious for HPP presented unspecific symptoms (Fig. 1).

Table 1. Patient characteristics
During screening, 2 patients were identified with a previously confirmed HPP. However, the filtering strategy used here excluded these (for history of normal AP values and exposure to BIS). Details are shown in Table 1.

Conclusion: In our analysis of measured serum AP levels in a tertiary care centre for rheumatology we found 4 patients with definitive HPP and 1 patient with a high probability of HPP. The clinical symptoms possibly related to HPP were mild. In one case, the current diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis was documented as suspected; thus, the clinically leading arthralgia might be explained by HPP. All other patients had definite rheumatic diseases. Mistreatment was not found. The definitive number of patients with HPP among the cases currently defined as suspicious may be greater due to missing data on B6 in this retrospective analysis. However, only mild phenotypes were seen. Developing a universal algorithm to detect HPP remains difficult: our filtering strategy failed to identify 2 of the 4 patients with confirmed HPP. We conclude that in patients with repeatedly low serum AP levels occasionally occurring normal AP and exposure to BIS cannot rule out HPP. A further workup should include B6 levels, especially in the presence of (fragility) fractures and other symptoms not sufficiently explained by the presence of a rheumatic disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Conclusion: We found that classification of arthritides phenotype was study site-specific in our statistical models. After excluding site, age, cancer type, TJC, maximum steroid dose, and hand arthritides were associated with phenotypic classification. The influence of study site illustrates current heterogeneity in IA-IA phenotyping among experts and the need for normalized classification for enrollment in clinical trials. These results identify variables that could be explored by the ACR/EULAR ICI-IA classification criteria working group.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Deanna Jannat-Khah Shareholder of: Dr. Jannat-Khah owns shares of Walgreens/Boots Alliance, AstraZeneca, and CytoDyn (non Rheumatologypathologic company), Grant/research support from: Dr. Jannat-Khah has a grant from Hospital for Special Surgery for research., Nilasha Ghosh Grant/research support from: Dr. Ghosh has a grant from Hospital for Special Surgery for research., Laura Cappelli Grant/research support from: Dr. Cappelli has research grants from the NIH (NIAMS K23AR070572) and from Bristol-Myers Squibb., Pandki Reid Consultant of: Dr. Reid was a consultant for Level Ex. Grant/research support from: Dr. Reid has grant support from the following: COVID-19 Funds to Retain Clinical Scientists by the Supporting Early Career University Researchers to Excel through Disruptions Steering Committee and The University of Chicago Institute of Translational Medicine Clinical and Translational Science Award K12KL2 Grant 5K2TL0023870S; Jeffrey Sporn Consultant of: Dr. Sporn was a consultant for AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Gilead, Inova Diagnostics, Janssen, Optum, and Pfizer. Grant/research support from: Dr. Sporn has received grants from the following entities: Bristol Myers Squibb, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIH), Rheumatology Research Foundation, R.Bruce and Joan M. Mickey Research Scholar Fund, LuRa Gund Award for Rheumatoid Arthritis Care and Research, Next Avenue, and a grant from the University of Texas MD Anderson, Amanda Calabrese Paid instructor for: Dr. Calabrese received an honorarium for a lecture by Sanofi, Consultant of: Dr. Calabrese was a consultant for Lilly and AstraZeneca., Carlos Aude: None declared, Kamelia Kim Chan: None declared, Anne Bass Grant/research support from: Dr. Bass has grants from the Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center, and the Rheumatology Research Foundation.

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Table 1. Summary of the findings and the correlation between inflammatory skin diseases and JAK/STAT pathway staining in the skin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hidradenitis Suppurativa (n=25)</th>
<th>Psoriasis (n=35)</th>
<th>Healthy skin (n=26)</th>
<th>Healthy vs. HS*</th>
<th>HS vs. PSO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dermal staining</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK1</td>
<td>3 (25)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK2</td>
<td>14 (45,6)</td>
<td>21 (60)</td>
<td>8 (33.3)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>-0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK3</td>
<td>23 (70)</td>
<td>31 (88.9)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TYK2</td>
<td>5 (16)</td>
<td>11 (31.4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT1</td>
<td>4 (12)</td>
<td>27 (77,1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>-0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT2</td>
<td>5 (14,3)</td>
<td>35 (100)</td>
<td>14 (53,8)</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT3</td>
<td>22 (63)</td>
<td>34 (97,1)</td>
<td>14 (53,8)</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT4</td>
<td>15 (45,6)</td>
<td>29 (82,9)</td>
<td>14 (53,8)</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>-0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Epidemic nuclear cells with strong staining</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK1</td>
<td>2 (6,6)</td>
<td>21 (60)</td>
<td>8 (33.3)</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>-0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK2</td>
<td>8 (2,4)</td>
<td>11 (31.4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAK3</td>
<td>25 (70)</td>
<td>35 (100)</td>
<td>26 (100)</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT1</td>
<td>22 (63)</td>
<td>34 (97,1)</td>
<td>14 (53,8)</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT2</td>
<td>15 (45,6)</td>
<td>29 (82,9)</td>
<td>14 (53,8)</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note that “r” correlation coefficients were given in the cells which indicated significant correlations between the variables (p<0.05). Empty cells indicated no correlation (p>0.05) therefore “r” values were not provided.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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emapalumab intravenously for 4 weeks (6 mg/kg on Day 1; 3 mg/kg every 3 days from Days 4–16, then 3 mg/kg twice weekly from Days 17–28) or until protocol-defined complete response (CR). Patients will be followed up for 1 year after study completion.

**Key inclusion criteria**

- Male and female patients aged 6 months to 80 years at diagnosis of MAS (ages 18–70 years for the phase III trial)
- Platelet count ≤181 x10⁹/L
- Ferritin ≥1000 ng/mL
- Anakinra at a dose >4 mg/kg
- Confirmation of clinical disease: chronic or persistent activity of MAS
- Forfitted and diffusion capacity of lung for carbon monoxide (DLCO) ≤65% of predicted

**Key exclusion criteria**

- Male and female patients aged 6 months to 80 years at diagnosis of MAS
- Platelet count ≥181 x10⁹/L
- Ferritin <1000 ng/mL
- Anakinra at a dose <4 mg/kg
- History of hypersensitivity or allergy to any component
- confirmed malignancy
- History of other severe autoimmune disease
- Any severe concomitant medical condition
- Any severe concomitant infection
- Any severe concomitant disease

Results: Protocol-defined CR at Week 8 after first emapalumab administration is the primary endpoint of the EMERALD study. Secondary efficacy endpoints include GC tapering, survival, time to first CR, overall response (CR and partial response), time to first overall response, MAS recurrence, pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic profile of emapalumab, and patient-reported outcomes. Adverse events, abnormal laboratory parameters, and anti-drug antibodies will be monitored as safety endpoints.

Conclusion: The ongoing EMERALD study is designed to address the unmet need for efficacious and safe therapies for the treatment of MAS, particularly for patients who are refractory to high-dose GCs.

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**AB1483**

**SPECIFIC BLOOD MONOCYTE DISTRIBUTION IN HISTIOCYTOSES CORRELATES WITH VASCULAR INVOLVEMENT AND DISEASE ACTIVITY**

**Keywords:** Innate immunity

J. Razanamahery, M. Samson, J. Guy, J. Racine, C. Row, S. Francois, J. P. Emile, B. Nicolas, F. Cohen, S. Audia, J. Haroche, A. Bonnottes, 1Dijon University Hospital, Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Dijon, France; 2Dijon University Hospital, Hematology Laboratory, Dijon, France; 3Dijon University Hospital, Immunology Laboratory, Dijon, France; 4Amboise paré Hospital, Pathology Department, Paris, France; 5Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Internal Medicine, Paris, France.

**Background:** Histioctyes are rare clonal disorders characterized by the proliferation and accumulation of CD68+ histiocytes in tissues. During histiocytosis, circulating monocytes arising from bone marrow progenitors carry many MAP-kinase gene mutations, but only “classical” monocytes can differentiate into tissue histiocytes. However, little is known about the circulating monocyte subset distribution in histiocytosis and their differences from other myeloproliferative disorders.

**Objectives:** We aimed to evaluate the circulating monocyte subset distribution in patients with histiocytoses compared to patients with myeloproliferative disorders (Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMMI) and essential thrombocythemia (ET) and healthy donors (HD).

**Methods:** Peripheral blood cells were obtained from patients diagnosed in Dijon University hospital between 2020 and 2021, with histiocytoses (n=17), CMMI (n=7), ET (n=7), and from 21 HD at steady state. Monocytes were separated on a CD14/CD16 scattergram into CD14+/CD16- (classical), CD14+/CD16+ (intermediate), and CD14−/CD16+ (non-classical) subsets after stained cell separation.

**Results:** During histiocytoses, an increase in “classical” monocytes was observed, compared to ET (p<0.01) while “intermediate” (vs. ET: p=0.02) and “non-classical” monocytes (vs. HD: p=0.04) were decreased. The distribution of monocyte subsets in histiocytoses was close to that in CMMI and homogeneous among the different type of histiocytoses. Compared to CMMI patients, central hematopoiesis in patients with histiocytoses was associated with a decrease in “classical” monocytes (67.50% vs. 97%; p=0.002), with an increase in intermediate and “non-classical” monocytes: 5% vs. 2.5% (p=0.03) and 4% vs. 0.5% (p=0.01), excepted when MAP-kinase mutation was considered, as monocyte distribution was similar. Patients with vascular involvement (62% including 5/16 with 1 RDD) had an increase in classical monocytes (96.00% [92.0-96.0] vs. 86.00% [82.5%-92.0%]; p=0.008) and a decrease in “non-classical” monocytes (1.00% [1.0-2.0] vs. 5.00% [3.50-9.50]; p=0.007). The correlation between “non-classical” monocytes <4% and vascular involvement was confirmed by Pearson model (0.648; 95%CI [0.25-0.86]; p=0.005). Histioctyes patients achieving a metabolic response had a lower percentage of “intermediate” monocytes (3.5% [2.0-5.0] vs. 7.0% [4.0-13.0]; p= 0.04) and lower CRP levels (3.0 [1.1-7.5] vs. 33.65 [5.3-59.5] mg/L; p=0.04). The only factor influencing the monocytes subset repartition (for “classical” monocytes) was the presence of clonal hematopoeisis (R coefficient: -0.78; 95%CI [-1.63 to -4.73]; p<0.002) in patients with histiocytoses.

**Conclusion:** The monocytes subset distribution is singular in histioctyes compared to other myeloproliferative neoplasms and is influenced by clonal hematopoiesis. The decrease in the “non-classical” subset could represent a surrogate marker of vascular involvement, while the decrease of the intermediate fraction is associated with a metabolic response.

**REFERENCES:**


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**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3216
transplantation had an 87.5% survival rate (14/16), with MDAS disease-free remission for up to 12 years using standard induction transplant immunosuppressants.

Conclusion: In refractory MDAS RP-ILD, early consideration of lung transplantation is essential. The findings do not support ECMO as bridge to recovery given its high mortality rate. ECMO as bridge to transplantation provided excellent patient survival and should be considered as potentially lifesaving.

REFERENCES:


**Figure 1. Key results**

**Acknowledgements:** N.I.L.


**Table 1. Baseline demographic and clinical features and treatment at disease onset.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AOSD n (%)</th>
<th>Drug-free remission n: 23</th>
<th>No drug-free remission n: 41</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male n (%)</td>
<td>20 (87.0%)</td>
<td>37 (89.2%)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at onset, years</td>
<td>30.5 ±13.6</td>
<td>36.6 ±15.4</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up duration, years</td>
<td>Median (IQR)</td>
<td>6.5 (2.7–10.7)</td>
<td>8.6 (3.5–15.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin mg/mL at onset, Median (IQR)</td>
<td>1766 (682-11594)</td>
<td>1255 (551-6620)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC &gt;15.000/uL at onset, n (%)</td>
<td>15 (71.4%)</td>
<td>13 (32.5%)</td>
<td>0.0037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP mg/L at onset, Mean±SD</td>
<td>13.30 ±2.822</td>
<td>14.50 ±5.995</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLT/uL at onset, Median (IQR)</td>
<td>325.30 ±117.197</td>
<td>328.74 ±135.06</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST U/L at onset, Median (IQR)</td>
<td>68 (32-122)</td>
<td>59 (25-117)</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Pochtov’s score, Mean±SD</td>
<td>6.1 ±1.46</td>
<td>6.6 ±1.73</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment with csDMARDs (within 3 months since disease onset), n (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23 (56.1%)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment with biDMARDs (within 3 months since disease onset), n (%)</td>
<td>3 (7%)</td>
<td>9 (34.6%)</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: WBC White Blood Cell; Hemoglobin, PLT Platelets, CRP C-Reactive Protein, ALT Alanine Transaminase, AST Aspartate Transaminase, MAD Macrophage Activation Syndrome, csDMARDs conventional Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs, biDMARDs biological targeted synthetic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs

**Acknowledgements:** N.I.L.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Giulia Fontana: None declared, Francesca Crisafulli: None declared, Nicolò Frasseri: Speaker bureau: Novartis, Lilly, Marco Cattalini Consultant of: SOBI, Novartis, Franco Franceschini: None declared, Paolo Arin Speaker bureau: Bristol Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Consultant of: Bristol Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim.

**Keywords:** Remission, Rare/orphan diseases, Prognostic factors

**References:**
Background: Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) is an autoinflammatory disease characterized by self-limiting recurrent episodes/attacks of fever, serositis, arthritis, and erysipelas-like erythema[1]. Musculoskeletal manifestations such as arthralgia, enthesitis, exertional leg pain, myalgia, sacroilitis, and lower extremity synovitis are also common in FMF [2]. The fact that the disease progresses with lifelong persistent inflammation, as well as attacks of arthritis, synovitis, and enthesitis in the lower extremities, decreased lower extremity proprioception, muscle weakness, osteopenia, and fatigue, suggests that patients with FMF may develop a balance disorder.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between static and dynamic balance in patients with Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF).

Methods: FMF patients who met the modified Tel Hashomer criteria and healthy volunteers were included in the study. The demographic data, clinical characteristics, dynamic balance in patients with Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF).

RESULTS: The results of the control and groups were compared in terms of BBS, FRT, TUG, and SLS. VAS during attack, presence of arthritis, and amyloidosis were higher in patients at risk of falling (p=0.032, p=0.002, and p<0.001, respectively).

Conclusion: Our results demonstrated that the dynamic and static balance in FMF patients was worse than the healthy subjects. Longer and more severe disease, presence of arthritis and amyloidosis may further contribute to deterioration balance.

REFERENCES:

Table 2. Comparison of static and dynamic balance scores and number of patients with fall risk in the patient and control groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients (n=94)</th>
<th>Controls (n=90)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BBS, cm, median (IQR)</td>
<td>56 (3)</td>
<td>56 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRT, sec, median (IQR)</td>
<td>29 (9)</td>
<td>31 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUG, sec, median (IQR)</td>
<td>7.44 (1.21)</td>
<td>7.3 (0.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLS, sec, median (IQR)</td>
<td>34 (19.5)</td>
<td>39 (8.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes open, (R)</td>
<td>11 (5.93)</td>
<td>12 (4.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes open, (L)</td>
<td>33 (20.48)</td>
<td>38.5 (9.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes closed, (L)</td>
<td>11.2 (6)</td>
<td>11.45 (4.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with fall risk, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (28.7)</td>
<td>5 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3912

AB1485

OCULAR MUCOUS MEMBRANE PEMPHIGOID: A RHEUMATOLOGY MULTICENTER REPORT

Keywords: Descriptive Studies, Rare/orphan diseases

A. M. Smichowski1,2, A. Jorge1,2, J. Glandino1,2, J. Foster1,2, J. A. I. C. 2019-2020. European Guidelines (3S) on diagnosis and management of mucous membrane pemphigoid, initiated by the European Academy of Dermatology and Venerology - Part II. JEADV, 35(10), 1926–1948.

REFERENCES:

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4684
Other orphan diseases

**AB1487**

**EFFECTIVENESS OF RITUXIMAB IN IGG4-RELATED DISEASE. MULTICENTRE STUDY AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

Keywords: bDMARD, Vasculitis, Organ damage

L. Sanchez-Bilbao, J. Lorica1, A. Herrera-Morant1, C. Álvarez-Regueira1, R. Milero3, E. Galindo-Agirregoldea3, R. Blanco1. 1H.U. Marqués de Valdecilla, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 2Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Vigo, Rheumatology, Vigo, Spain; 3Hospital de Basurto, Rheumatology, Bilbao, Spain

**Background:** Igg4-related disease (Igg4-RD) is a systemic fibroinflammatory disease often associated with elevated serum IgG4 levels. High dose corticosteroids are the cornerstone of treatment, but relapses and side-effects are frequent, requiring synthetic and/or biologic immunosuppressants. Rituximab (RTX) seems to be useful.

**Objectives:** To assess the effectiveness of RTX in Igg4-RD refractory to conventional treatment.

**Methods:** Multicentre clinical practice study of Igg4-RD patients treated with biologic therapy. For the literature review, a search of PubMed, Embase and the Cochrane library was conducted from inception to 31 Dec 2022.

**Results:** We include 9 patients (5 women/4 men) (mean age:SD; 55.8±12.6 years) with refractory Igg4-RD, treated with RTX (Table 1). The affected organs were: aorta (n=5), lymph nodes (n=3), lung/pleura (n=2), retropitoneum (n=2), lacrimal glands (n=1), salivary glands (n=1), orbit (n=1), subglotis (n=1), kidney (n=1), pericardium (n=1), biliary duct (n=1) and mesentery (n=1). All patients had received oral corticosteroids, (mean±SD dose of 33.9±14.1mg/day)

Two patients also received corticosteroid boluses. Six of the patients received conventional cDMARDS. The cDMARDS received were: methotrexate (MTX) (n=4), azathioprine (n=1), and hydroxychloroquine (n=1). RTX schedule was of 1g x 2 (n=8), and 375mg/m2 (n=1). After a median [IQR] follow-up of 27 [25-48] months, complete or partial clinical improvement was observed in 6 and 2 patients respectively. One patient died due to an acute myocardial infarction, while another patient developed a breast cancer. We found 3 series, in the literature review, showing RTX effectiveness (Figure 1). The most frequently used RTX regimen was 1g x 2.

**Conclusion:** RTX seems to be an effective and safe therapy in corticosteroid-refractory Igg4-RD.

**Figure 1.** A) RTX regimen, B) previous cDMARDS and clinical response of Igg4-RD with RTX in current and other series of the literature review. All data are in %.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interest:** Lara Sanchez-Bilbao: None declared, Javier Lorica Speakers bureau: Roche, Novartis, UCB Pharma, MSD, Celgene, and Grünenthal, Alba Herreo-Morant: None declared, Carmen Alvarez-Regueira: None declared, Rafael Melero: None declared, E. Galindo-Agirregoldea: Speakers bureau: Celgene, AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Lilly, MSD, Janssen, and Bristol, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD. Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, and Roche.

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**AB1488**

**GENOTYPE-PHENOTYPE CORRELATIONS OF FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER IN ARMENIAN POPULATION**

Keywords: Geographical differences, Epigenetics, Descriptive Studies

M. Osipyan1, M. Efraidimido2, K. Ginosyan2, A. Antikyan3, 1Erebouni Medical Center, Rheumatology, Yerevan, Armenia; 21st University Hospital Complex after M. Heratsi, Rheumatology, Yerevan, Armenia; 3Gyumri Medical Center, Rheumatology, Gyumri, Armenia

**Background:** Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) is an autoinflammatory disorder that mostly affects people of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean descent, and is characterized by recurrent and self-limiting episodes of fever, serositis, arthritis, and etc. Although many studies in scope of the connection of the MEFV gene variants and clinical manifestation have been carried out since the discovery of the gene, there is not yet in detail data about Armenian population peculiarities and differences in the severity of the disease between the genotypes.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to compare the severity of the disease between different MEFV genotypes and propose utilization of genotype assessment as a predictor for the disease progression.

**Methods:** 184 Armenian patients were included in the study. All patients fulfilled Tel-Hashomer classification criteria for FMF. Patients were studied following a standard protocol. 12 most important mutations of MEFV gene (E148Q, P369S, F479L, M680I (G/C), M680L (G/A), I692del, M694V, M694I, K695R, V726A, A744S and R761H) were evaluated and according to the genotype patients were grouped in homozygotes, compound heterozygotes, heterozygotes and patients without mutations. Disease activity was measured by Tel-Hashomer severity score.

**Results:** 76.63% of examined patients were male and 23.4% -female. The mean age of the group was 41.5±18.7 years and the average duration of the disease -11.4±8.5 years. Clinical manifestation of the patients included in the study were following: episodes of fever- 124 (67,39%), abdominal pain -120 (65,2%), pleuritis -154 (83,69%), pericarditis -11 (0.598%), arthritis -54 (29,348 %), arthralgia -101 (54,89%), erysipelas-like erythema -22 (11,565%), splenomegaly -59 (32,065%), amyloidosis-b3 (3,26%), 116 (64,13%) of patients carried any of the MEFV examined mutations and despite the presence of clinical manifestations 66 patients (35,87%) have no mutations detected. 21 (17.8%) of patients with mutation were homozygote, 65 (55,08%)compound heterozygote and 32 (27.11 %) heterozygote. The prevalence of MEFV mutations among examined patients was 61.3%, 28,4%, 21,65%, 5,04% accordingly for M694V, M680I, V726A, E148Q exons. Patients with M694V/M694V and M694V/M680I genotype had the highest Tel-Hashomer severity score (9,8±6,6 and 11,1±6,1 accordingly). Patients with homozygote genotype have earlier onset of the disease (p=0.02), more frequent attacks (p<0.05) higher levels of ESR during the flare (P=0.009) compared with patient with other genotypes. No significant difference for the duration of the attack between different genotypes was found. Patients without any revealed mutations had the mildest disease presentations (Tel-Hashomer severity score – 3,2±1,6).

**Conclusion:** According to the data, age of the onset of FMF strongly correlates with the inherited genotype. Carriers of the MEFV gene mutations without any manifestations at early age should be expected to have onset years later and

**Table 1.** Main features of the multicentric study of 9 patients with Igg4-RD treated with rituximab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Age/ Sex</th>
<th>Organ involvement</th>
<th>Serum IgG4 (mg/dL)</th>
<th>Plasmablasts (cell/mL)</th>
<th>Biopsy</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Previous treatment</th>
<th>RTX regimen</th>
<th>Number of RTX cycles</th>
<th>Follow-up (months)</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Extent of disease (AMS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>55/F</td>
<td>Aorta, Lacrimals, orbit</td>
<td>210/ND</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Umemara: probable Okazaki</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>1g x 2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>31/F</td>
<td>Salivary glands, lymph nodes, 48/ND</td>
<td>5.58/23.09.07</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Umemara: possible Okazaki</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>1g x 2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>CI, breast cancer</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>55/M</td>
<td>Lung/pleura, kidney, retropitoneum, lymph nodes</td>
<td>5.58/23.09.07</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Symptoms-imaging findings&lt;1P8</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>375mg/m2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>76/F</td>
<td>Lung/pleura, pericardium</td>
<td>90/956</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Umemara: possible Okazaki</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>1g x 2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>PI</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>57/F</td>
<td>Aorta</td>
<td>125/121</td>
<td>Not performed</td>
<td>Symptoms-imaging findings&lt;1P8</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>1g x 2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>PI</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>54/F</td>
<td>Aorta, Biliary duct</td>
<td>18.5/831</td>
<td>Not performed</td>
<td>Symptoms-imaging findings&lt;1P8</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>1g x 2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>46/M</td>
<td>Aorta</td>
<td>84.7/760.6</td>
<td>Not performed</td>
<td>Symptoms-imaging findings&lt;1P8</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>1g x 2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>67/M</td>
<td>Aorta</td>
<td>116/ND</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Umemara: possible Okazaki</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>1g x 2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>61/M</td>
<td>Retropitoneum, lymph nodes, mesentery</td>
<td>ND/ND</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Umemara: possible Okazaki</td>
<td>GCs, MTX</td>
<td>1g x 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>AI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations:** F: female, GCs: glucocorticosteroids; HCO: hydroxychloroquine, M: male, MTX: methotrexate, ND: no data, RTX: rituximab; AMI: acute myoccardial infection; CI: complete Improvement PI: Partial Improvement; P8: elevated plasmablasts counts
should be strongly monitored by clinicians. Despite the fact, the genotype is not included in Tel-Hashomer classification criteria, our study once more indicates, that not only phenotype but also genotype be very important for FMF. Further evaluation of bigger sample is required to conclude the influence of the specific exons on the clinical manifestations.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1489

CLINICAL COURSES AND PREGNANCY OUTCOMES OF TWELVE CASES COMPLICATED WITH BEHÇET’S DISEASE IN OUR INSTITUTION

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction, Behçet’s disease

H. Shimada1, R. Wakai1, S. Nakashima1, T. Miyagi1, Y. Ushio1, K. Sugihara1, R. Mino2, M. Mizusaki2, K. Chuo3, T. Kameda3, H. Dobashi3. 1Kagawa University, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology, Rheumatology and Respiratory Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Kagawa, Japan

Background: The proportion of women with Behçet’s disease (BD) has increased in recent years. BD is often diagnosed at or before the time of conception, however, its impact on the clinical courses and pregnancy outcomes is not fully understood. Previous reports showed that patients with BD had a higher rate of complications such as puerperal cerebrovascular disease and gestational diabetes [1], or pregnancy outcomes like miscarriage and fetal growth restrictions [2]. Therefore, it is important to reveal the clinical course and pregnancy outcomes in patients with BD.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to analyze the BD pregnancy cases experienced at our facility, and to determine the impact of disease on the course of pregnancy.

Methods: We used the data of BD patients who had been treated at planning for pregnancy and gave birth from a single center cohort of rheumatic disease pregnancy registry in our institution. The impact of BD disease activity of BD on pregnancy outcomes was examined, including therapeutic agents such as glucocorticoid (GC) and biologics.

Results: There were 12 pregnancies complicated by BD included in this analysis. The age at conception was 32.6 ± 3.6 years old, and the disease duration was 4.4 ± 3.0 years. The mean BD current activity form (BDCAF) was 0.6 ± 0.8 in 4 cases of exacerbation of disease activity, including the subsequent pregnancy outcome. It is also necessary to consider whether to continue biologics and colchicine for controlling disease activity.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1490

OVERLAPPING INFLAMMATORY DISEASES IN HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Keywords: Skin, Comorbidities, Rare/orphan diseases

E. Er Gülbez1, S. Vural2, 1Koç University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, İstanbul, Turkey, 2Koç University School of Medicine, Dermatology, İstanbul, Turkey

Background: Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is an inflammatory disorder characterized by chronic deep-seated nodules, sinus tracts, and scars in the intertriginous areas. A significant decrease in quality of life accompanies chronic pain of active lesions. Association with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and spondyloarthropathies suggest an inflammatory signature overlap with rheumatological disorders.

Objectives: Based on the idea that the association of HS and rheumatological disease is more frequent and often important than previously thought, we aimed to evaluate the symptoms and findings of rheumatological diseases in our HS patients.

Methods: Consecutive HS patients presented to the dermatology outpatient clinic between 2021-2022 were included in the study. Among the HS patients who applied to dermatology between 2021 and 2022, patients with arthritis and low back pain were referred to the rheumatology department for evaluation. Family history was taken in detail for inflammatory conditions. Acute phase reactants were analysed.

Results: The group comprised 55 HS patients, including sixteen Hurley stage I (27.2%), 24 Hurley stage II (41.8%), and 14 (23.6%) Hurley stage III patients. The mean age of onset for HS was 28.8 (min:14, max:56), 51% (N=28) were women. Family history for HS was present in 14 (25.4%) patients. Twenty-four (43.6%) of 55 HS patients who applied to the dermatology outpatient clinic had an autoimmune/autoimmune disease diagnosis or inflammatory system/finding other than HS (Table 1). Sixteen (29%) patients described arthralgia and were referred to the rheumatology outpatient clinic. Among the HS patients, 32.7% had a significant autoimmunee or autoimmune-disease condition other than HS in 1st or 2nd-degree relatives. Positive family history for inflammatory processes other than HS was present in 19 (41.6%) patients with an additional inflammatory condition and 8 (25.8%) patients without a different inflammatory disease. Family history of inflammatory disorders include (Familial Mediterranean fever, acne conglobata, inflammatory bowel disease, psoriasis, Takayasu arteritis, amyloidosis, ankylosing spondylitis, uveitis, erythema nodosum, Behçet’s disease and vitiligo. Serum amyloid A levels (SAA) were calculated in 16 patients, and 62.5% had elevated SAA levels.

Conclusion: Autoimmune/autoimmune rheumatological diseases or rheumatological symptoms were present in a significant proportion of HS patients. Prominent family history of inflammatory diseases suggests common genetic pathways in this spectrum of diseases. In addition, detailed history taking, including rheumatological symptoms in HS patients, is valuable and crucial in determining the extent of inflammation.

Table 1. Pregnancy outcomes in patients with BD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>outcomes</th>
<th>Mode of delivery</th>
<th>Gestational age at delivery</th>
<th>Birth weight of newborn</th>
<th>APOs</th>
<th>NICU admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3160</td>
<td>Neonatal asphyxia, LBW</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2736</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2405</td>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2670</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2490</td>
<td>LBW, LFD</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2696</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2598</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2880</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Transvaginal delivery</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2676</td>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Cesarean section</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3108</td>
<td>Mecoonia aspiration + syndrome, neonatal asphyxia</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Cesarean section</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2714</td>
<td>Prenatal birth, preterm PROM</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Live birth</td>
<td>Cesarean section</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>292.1 15</td>
<td>2724.4 ± 4.17 (41.7)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2271.4 ± 15</td>
<td>3 (25.0)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AB1491

CONJUNCTIVAL BIOPSY IN OCULAR CICATRICIAL PEMPHIGOID, ARE THERE PATTERNS TO PREDICT SEQUELAE?

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases

A. Ringer1, A. M. Smichowski2, C. Siegert3, D. G. Grossi4, M. S. Delpiazzo5, S. Caballero6, R. Gomez7, C. F. Sá7, S. Chuibert8, B. Abdala9, M. Abdala9, M. M. Martini10, E. Segrethin11, I. Gandino12,3, C. F. Sá8,2, Clinic de Medicina y Laboratorio Inmunológico Especializado, Hospital Provincial del Centenario, National University of Rosario, Rheumatology, Rosario, Argentina; 4Hospital Militar Central, Ciudad Mayor Cosme Argerich. Consultorio privado Vicente López,

Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 5Rheumatology and Internal Medicine Unit, Clínica de Medicina y Laboratorio Inmunológico Especializado (CMI-LABI), Rosario, Santa Fe, Rheumatology, Rosario, Argentina; 6Hospital Provincial del Centenario, National University of Rosario, Clínica Oftalmológica Alfa, Ophthalmology Unit. Hospital Provincial del Centenario, Rosario, Provincia de Santa Fe., Rosario, Argentina; 7Hospital Churuca-Vasca, Rheumatology, Rosario, Argentina; 8Hospital General de Agudos Carlos Durand, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 9Hospital Nacional Alejandro Posadas, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 10Reuma & Rehabilitación, Rheumatology, Resistencia, Argentina; 11Hospital Provincial del Centenario, National University of Rosario., Rheumatology, Rosario, Argentina; 12Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Background: Ocular cicatricial pemphigoid (OCP) is a chronic, immune-mediated, fibrosing disease that can lead to blindness. The diagnosis is clinical and/or based on the results of the conjunctival biopsy. There are no studies that have studied the histopathological findings and the risk of clinical sequelae in this entity.

Objectives: The describe biopsies from patients with OCP and to identify characteristics of the biopsies that may be associated with a greater risk of fibrosis and sequelae.

Methods: A retrospective, multicentre study was carried out. Patients over 18 years of age with a diagnosis of OCP by pathology were selected. Medical records were reviewed and demographic, clinical, and biopsy data were collected. To assess whether histology was associated with greater or lesser fibrosis (determined by Foster’s stages), the patients were divided into two groups: early stages (0 and 1) versus stages 2, 3, and 4. The variables between the two groups were compared: groups. To determine whether immunoregulation was associated with a risk of fibrosis, a Cox multivariate analysis was performed. Sequelae were defined as a composite variable consisting of keratoconjunctivitis, entropion, trichiasis, cataracts, glaucoma, vitreous opacity, retinal scars, synstanheria, and blindness.

Results: Fifty-seven patients with POC diagnosed by pathology were included. The mean age of presentation at diagnosis was 62.7 (SD 13.2) years and 41 (71.9%) were women. The follow-up time was 1.5 years (2.9). Patients with early Foster (stages 0 and 1) were 50.9%. The presence of rounded and spindle-shaped mast cells was associated with early stages, while the presence of eosinophils was associated with later stages at the time of diagnosis. In the immunofluorescence the presence of IgM was more frequent in early stages and IgG in the later ones, with a predominant linear pattern (92%) (Table 1). During follow-up, 15 (27.3%) patients developed sequelae. In the multivariate Cox regression analysis, the presence of IgG resulted in risk during the follow-up period for the development of sequelae; IgA positive: HR 10.8, IC 95% 1.3 a 92.9 (p-value 0.03). IgG positive: HR 0.2, IC 95% 0.2 a 1.3 (p-value 0.08); IgM positive HR 0.4, IC 95% 0.1 a 2.3 (p-value 0.29) C3 positive HR 0.2, IC 95% 0.02 a 1.7 (p-value 0.14)

Conclusion: This is one of the largest rheumatologic series that has evaluated the pathology in patients with OCP and provides information on the possible role that different antibody deposits could play in the conjunctival mucoza. The presence of IgA in the biopsy may have a role in the development of sequelae. Future larger and prospective studies could help to define the detection of different clinical patterns that give us a more accurate idea of the prognosis and treatment in these patients.

Table 1. Biopsy’s characteristics according to Foster’s stage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Early Foster (0 y 1)</th>
<th>Advanced Foster P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>29 (50.9%)</td>
<td>28 (49.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hipotrophic sectors, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (65.2)</td>
<td>15 (65.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased and/or absent goblet cells, n (%)</td>
<td>40 (76.9)</td>
<td>21 (80.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superfical perakeratosis, n (%)</td>
<td>32 (58.2)</td>
<td>18 (64.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoplasmacytic infiltrates, n (%)</td>
<td>48 (84.1)</td>
<td>22 (91.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mononuclear cells, n (%)</td>
<td>33 (60.9)</td>
<td>13 (52.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monocytes/Neutrophils, n (%)</td>
<td>32 (58)</td>
<td>15 (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peridermal formation, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (52.6)</td>
<td>15 (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits (linear), n (%)</td>
<td>49 (88.2)</td>
<td>27 (96.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous epithelial interface, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (60.7)</td>
<td>17 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T lymphocytes, n (%)</td>
<td>35 (60)</td>
<td>18 (64.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B lymphocytes, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (60)</td>
<td>17 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rounded mast cells, n (%)</td>
<td>35 (60)</td>
<td>18 (64.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spindle mast cells, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (60)</td>
<td>17 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macrophages, n (%)</td>
<td>33 (60)</td>
<td>15 (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eosinophils, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (60)</td>
<td>17 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibroblasts, n (%)</td>
<td>33 (60)</td>
<td>15 (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphectasia, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (60)</td>
<td>17 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits (linear), n (%)</td>
<td>49 (88.2)</td>
<td>27 (96.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- IgG positive, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (65.2)</td>
<td>15 (65.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- IgM positive, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (65.2)</td>
<td>15 (65.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5362
Background: Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) is a rare hereditary, autoinflammatory disease that is characterised by recurrent episodes of fever, increased inflammatory parameters and abdominal and thoracic pain attacks. Germany is a low-prevalence country with approximately 5800 affected patients [1]. Due to the rarity of the disease, diagnosis is difficult and time-consuming [2]. Patients often experience a long diagnostic odyssey ensuing further physical and socioeconomic damage.

Methods: At three German tertiary centres, adult FMF patients were included in the study. Patients were asked to report data on demographic background, disease symptoms and duration, as well as the socioeconomic impact of diagnostic and surgical interventions.

Results: We included 84 adult patients (female/male 35/49), the median age was 33 years (min 18- max 94) with the confirmed diagnosis of FMF. Demographic analysis showed that 52% of FMF patients were not born in Germany (country distribution see Figure 1). The mean age between symptom onset and diagnosis was 4 years (0–35) for patients born in Germany and 9 years (0–65) for patients not born in Germany. Furthermore, non-German-born patients reported more disease symptoms (see Table 1). In both groups, the number of prior diagnostic procedures and abdominal surgeries was high (53% in German FMF patients, 56% in Non-German FMF patients). Socioeconomic effects of the disease were similar in both groups: 20% of the patients born in Germany and 22% of the non-German-born patients reported that they terminated their academic education due to the disease. Furthermore, 30% of the patients born in Germany and 27% of the patients not born in Germany reported that they lost their job due to disease-related problems.

Conclusion: Our data suggest that patient care for FMF in Germany is currently not optimal. A large number of patients continue to undergo a long diagnostic odyssey with unnecessary diagnostic procedures or surgeries and also experience negative effects on their education and professional careers. Furthermore, there are differences between patients born in Germany and those not born in Germany with the latter being even more negatively affected.

Acknowledgements: This study was financially supported by Sobi.

Disclosure of Interests: Anne Pankow Speakers bureau: Sobi, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Sobi, Novartis, Annette D. Wagner: None declared, Torsten Kubacki Speakers bureau: Novartis, Andriko Palmowski: None declared, Karen Voigt Speakers bureau: Sobi, Novartis, Consultant of: Novartis, Sobi, Martin Krusche Speakers bureau: Sobi, Novartis, Consultant of: Sobi, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Sobi, Novartis, DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5575

Table 1. Data of patients with FMF in total and subdivided according to country of birth on demographic background, disease activity information and diagnostic and surgical interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients with FMF</th>
<th>Total included (n=84)</th>
<th>Born in Germany (n=40)</th>
<th>Born in another country (n=44)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>33 (18-94)</td>
<td>29 (20-59)</td>
<td>38 (18-94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at symptom onset (years)</td>
<td>10 (0-50)</td>
<td>8 (0–50)</td>
<td>13 (3-42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to diagnosis (years)</td>
<td>5 (0-65)</td>
<td>4 (0-35)</td>
<td>9 (0-65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMF associated symptoms (%)</td>
<td>abdominal pain: 89</td>
<td>abdominal pain: 83</td>
<td>abdominal pain: 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fever: 85</td>
<td>fever: 75</td>
<td>fever: 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>joint swelling: 44</td>
<td>joint swelling: 40</td>
<td>joint swelling: 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>myalgia: 43</td>
<td>myalgia: 25</td>
<td>myalgia: 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cephalgia: 40</td>
<td>cephalgia: 33</td>
<td>cephalgia: 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>skin inflammation: 20</td>
<td>skin inflammation: 20</td>
<td>skin inflammation: 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior abdominal surgeries (%)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendectomy (%)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic procedures before diagnosis (%)</td>
<td>EGD: 49</td>
<td>EGD: 40</td>
<td>EGD: 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coloscopy: 45</td>
<td>Coloscopy: 35</td>
<td>Coloscopy: 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ERCP: 1</td>
<td>ERCP: 0</td>
<td>ERCP: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laparoscopy: 10</td>
<td>Laparoscopy: 7</td>
<td>Laparoscopy: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal CT: 33</td>
<td>Abdominal CT: 35</td>
<td>Abdominal CT: 28</td>
<td>Abdominal CT: 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal MRI 26</td>
<td>Abdominal MRI 28</td>
<td>Abdominal MRI 28</td>
<td>Abdominal MRI 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal MRI 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MRI: 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missed days of school due to disease (%)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missed days of work due to the disease (%)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminated education due to disease-related issues (%)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost job due to disease-related issues (%)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:

Figure 1. Country of birth in percentages: (n=84); Germany 48%, Turkey 17%, Armenia 11%, Syria 8%, Lebanon 4%, Iran 4%, Pakistan 2%, Italy 1%, Portugal 1%, Kazakhstan 1%
were 3.8; 26% showed >5 relapses and 7% > 25. Chronic articular pattern is the only variable that predicts the number of relapses (p=0.001). Mean Pouchout score at disease onset was 5.5 (>7 in 15 patients); it decreased to 2.2 after 6 months and was 1.2 at the last follow up visit. All the patients were treated with steroids (pulses in 18%), mean steroid dose/patient 9.6 gr. Steroids only were used in 5% of the patients, csDMARDS in 22.5% of the patients (MTX in 60%, Csa in 15%), biologicals in 72.5% (Anakinra in 62%, Tocilizumab in 28%). In 40% of the patients, steroid and one cs or bDMARD allowed to achieve disease control. In 60% one or more therapeutic switches were necessary; because of limited efficacy or adverse drug reactions. Drug retention rate was 76% at 6 months, 40% at 3 yrs and 4 yrs for Anakinra; 91% at 6 months and 36% at 5 yrs for Tocilizumab. In one patient out of 25 treated with Anakinra and in 3 out of 11 treated with Tocilizumab, the therapy was discontinued for persistent clinical remission.

Conclusion: The data we collected confirm the severity and the multisystem involvement of AOSD in a monocentric cohort with a long follow up. Among the different clinical patterns, the chronic articular one is associated with more frequent flares. Severe manifestations of the disease were present at disease onset but did not appear thereafter, suggesting the efficacy of drug therapy and close follow up. Inhibition of IL-1 and IL-6 is a safe and effective therapy. Persistent clinical remission that allows withdrawal of therapy can be obtained albeit in a small number of cases.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5593

AB1494
SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN BEHÇET’S DISEASE: IS IT AN OVERLOOKED PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IN MALE BEHÇET’S PATIENTS?

Keywords: Behçet’s disease

Ö. F. Asker1, N. Çakmak1, S. Erdem1, A. Öksüzer1, E. Tufan1, S. Kutlu Aşakçı1, H. Direskeneli2, F. Albaz-Oner1, I. Midik1,1Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Behçet’s disease (BD) is a chronic systemic inflammatory disease characterized by oral and urogenital ulcers, ocular, musculoskeletal, vascular, and neurological involvement. Recent evidence suggests that sexual dysfunction (SD) is prevalent in BD patients.

Objectives: We aimed to determine the frequency of SD in BD and compare the rates of SD in Behçet’s patients with neurological involvement (NBD), Behçet’s patients without neurological involvement (BDWONI) and healthy controls (HC).

Methods: Age matched, sexually active 59 BD (17 NBD, 42 BDWONI) patients and 36 HC were recruited. All participants were questioned with Short Form-36, Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), Golombok-Rust Inventory of Sexual Satisfaction (GRISS), Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI), International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF-5), in addition, disease activity has been assessed by Behçet Disease Current Activity Form (BDCF) in all BD patients.

Results: The rate of SD was higher in BD patients (44.2%) compared to HC (14.2%) (p = 0.003) (Figure 1). Male BD patients had lower sexual function scores compared to male HC. Three parameters of GRISS (premature ejaculation, noncommunication, infrequency) were observed more frequently in male BD patients compared with male HC (6.5 vs 4.7, 3.6 vs 2.0, 3.9 vs 2.4, p < 0.05 for all). The SD rates were comparable between female BD patients and HC. SD rates were similar in BDWONI (44.2%) and NBD (42.8%) groups (p > 0.05). BDCF score was negatively correlated with IIEF scores of male BD patients (r = -0.437) and positively correlated with GRISS scores of female BD patients (r = 0.748) (p < 0.05). There was no relation between SD and depression in BD patients (p = 0.284).

Conclusion: The frequency of SD is increased in BD compared to HC and affects males more frequently than females. Premature ejaculation, infrequency and noncommunication are common sexual problems in male BD patients. In conclusion, BD has a negative effect on sexuality and BD patients should be evaluated in terms of SD during follow up.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1495
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMYLOIDOSIS ANDATHEROSCLEROSIS IN FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Heart, Inflammatory arthritis

S. Gür1, V. Yazisiz2, M. E. Terziöğlu3, F. Erbasan3, 1Akdeniz University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Antalya, Turkey; 2Akdeniz University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Antalya, Turkey; 3Akdeniz University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Antalya, Turkey

Background: Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) is an autosomal recessive autoinflammatory disease characterized by recurrent fever and serosal inflammation signs [1]. The most severe complication of the disease is AA amyloidosis, with increased mortality and morbidity [2].

Objectives: To determine the relationship between amyloidosis and atherosclerosis in FMF patients.

Methods: 730 FMF patients were analyzed retrospectively for the development of amyloidosis and coronary artery disease (CAD). Cut-off values of serum amyloid A (SAA), fibrinogen, c-reactive protein (CRP), and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) variables that could predict amyloidosis and CAD were evaluated by receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis.

Results: The prevalences of amyloidosis and CAD were 6% and 3.7%, respectively. The incidence of CAD was higher in patients with amyloidosis (13.6%) than in patients without amyloidosis (3.1%) (p < 0.004). Cut-off values that could predict amyloidosis were 44 ng/ml for SAA, 384 mg/dl for fibrinogen, 20 mm/hour for ESR, and 1.25 mg/dl for CRP (Table 1). The adjusted odds ratio for amyloidosis was 5.5-fold in patients with SSA >44 ng/ml and 3.4 in patients with ESR >20mm/hour (Table 1). Serum AA level was significantly higher in patients with CAD (85.4±18.9) than in the group without CAD (32.4±49.5) (p = 0.008). The area under the curve (AUC) values of SAA, CRP, ESR, and fibrinogen were not statistically significant for predicting CAD (Fig 1).

Conclusion: The risk of CAD is increased in amyloidosis secondary to FMF disease.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
Table 1. Cut-off SAA, fibrinogen, ESR, and CRP values for prediction of amylodosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cut-off value</th>
<th>AUC (%95 GA)</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>Adjusted OR (%95 GA)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAA</td>
<td>0.788 (0.703-0.874)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>5.5 (2.3-12.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrinogen</td>
<td>0.728 (0.638-0.817)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>1.4 (0.58-3.5)</td>
<td>0.440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>0.724 (0.616-0.832)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>3.4 (1.3-9.1)</td>
<td>0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>1.25 (0.833-1.720)</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>0.98 (0.39-2.47)</td>
<td>0.964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Receiver operating characteristic curve for acute phase markers in the prediction of coroner artery disease.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6217

AB1496

LONG-TERM EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF CANAKINUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH HIDS (HYPER-IGD SYNDROME) – INTERIM ANALYSIS OF THE RELIANCE REGISTRY

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases, Inmate immunity, Real-world evidence

P. Oommen1, T. Kalinchik2, J. Rech1, N. Blank, J. Weber-Arden, B. Kuemmerle-Deschner.

Background: Hyper-IGD Syndrome/Mevalonate Kinase Deficiency (HIDS/MKD) is a rare autoinflammatory disease caused by a defect in the gene encoding mevalonate kinase. Treatment with the interleukin-1β inhibitor canakinumab (CAPS, TRAPS, FMF). Serious adverse events occurred in N=2 patients, but none were considered as drug related.

Conclusion: The present data from baseline and preliminary interim analysis suggest good disease control in HIDS/MKD patients participating in the RELIANCE study. In addition, data analysis at 18 and 30 months revealed no unexpected safety concerns. Further interim and end-of-study data will be analyzed to assess efficacy and safety of long-term CAN treatment in HIDS/MKD patients in the course of the study.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics and preliminary interim data of patients with HIDS/MKD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>18 months</th>
<th>30 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients, N</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients (consecutive patient number #18) in disease remission (physician assessment)</td>
<td>4 (#1,3,5,6)</td>
<td>4 (#2,5,6,7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient’s assessment of current disease activity: 0-10, median (min; max)</td>
<td>0.0 (0; 7)</td>
<td>0.0 (0; 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient’s assessment of current fatigue: 0-10, median (min; max)</td>
<td>2.5 (0; 7)</td>
<td>1.0 (0; 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) of patients without impairment of social life by the disease</td>
<td>3 (50)</td>
<td>2 (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) of patients with days absent from work/school during last 6 months</td>
<td>2 (25)</td>
<td>1 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current influence of the disease on mood: % of patients with negative impression, positive no influence</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP, median (mg/dl)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAA, median (mg/dl)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, median (mm/h)</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAE</td>
<td>Number of events</td>
<td>Incidence rate per 100 patient-years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All types of SAE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRP, c-reactive protein; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; SAA, serum amyloid A; SADR, serious adverse drug reaction; SAE, serious adverse event*not reported for all patients ‡

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Prasad Oommen Grant/research support from: Novartis, Tilmann Kallinchik Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Biogen, BMS, Chugai, GSK, Janssen, Lilly, MSD; Mylan, Novartis, Roche, Sanofi, Sobi, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Biogen, BMS, Chugai, GSK, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Mylan, Novartis, Roche, Sanofi, Sobi, UCBS, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Sobi, Norbert Blank Consultant of: Novartis, Sobi, Lilly, Pfizer, Abbvie, BMS, MSD, Actelion, UCB, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Roche, Grant/ research support from: Novartis, Sobi, Julia Weber-Arden Employee of: Novartis, J. B. Kueemmerle-Deschner Consultant of: Novartis, AbbVie, Sobi, Grant/research support from: Novartis, AbbVie, Sobi.

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AB1497

LIVER STIFFNESS IN FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER: ASSOCIATION WITH ENDOCAN AND PULSE WAVE VELOCITY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Imaging

A. Lo Gullo1, A. Toscano2, M. Scuroch2, M. Morace3, M. Cinquegrani2, D. Sinicropi1, G. Squadrito1, M. Colaci3, G. Mandrafino1, JARNAS “Garibaldi”, University of Messina, Messina, Italy; "The University of Messina, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Messina, Italy; "Azienda Ospedaliero-Cattedrale di Messina, Università di Catania, Catania, Italy

Background: Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) is the most common monogenic periodic fever syndrome; it is characterized by recurrent self-limited episodes of disease activity, fatigue, days absent from school/work due to study indication, and inflammatory markers are assessed at baseline and at 6-monthly intervals.

Results: The present interim analysis includes baseline (N=8) as well as preliminary 18-month (N=6) and 30-month data (N=5) from HIDS/MKD patients enrolled in the study by December 2022. Of these patients, 63% were female and median age at baseline was 8 years (2–39 years). The median duration of prior CAN treatment at study entry was 1.5 years (0–5 years). The majority of patients has been treated with greater than standard dose CAN (5/8 patients at baseline, 4/6 at month 18, 3/3 at month 30). Preliminary results indicate stable remission and disease control as assessed by physicians and patients and according to laboratory parameters (table 1). Even though efficacy outcomes in the HIDS cohort are based on small patient numbers, data resemble outcomes in larger cohorts within the RELIANCE registry (CAPS, TRAPS, FMF). Serious adverse events occurred in N=2 patients, but none were considered as drug related.

Conclusion: The present data from baseline and preliminary interim analysis suggest good disease control in HIDS/MKD patients participating in the RELIANCE study.
fever, arthritic and serosal inflammation, and accumulation of polymorphonuclear cells into affected tissues. Recurrent inflammatory process during the attacks, and the potential chronic inflammatory status during attack-free intervals, could lead to endothelial dysfunction (ED) and atherosclerosis. In patients with FMF, ED, could play a role in the development of atherosclerotic plaques.

Keywords: Malignancy, Inflammatory arthridites

L. Cappelli, J. Perin, C. Bingham, A. Shah, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Baltimore, United States of America

Background: Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) can lead to immune related adverse events, including inflammatory arthritis (IA), ICI-IA is heterogeneous and can be severe, even persisting after ICI cessation. Understanding the clinical heterogeneity of ICI-IA can guide future studies of pathogenesis and identify relevant groups for clinical trials.

Objectives: To define clinically relevant subgroups within ICI-IA using a data driven approach and to examine differences between subgroups.

Methods: Participants were >18 years old, treated with anti-PD-1, anti-PD-L1, and/or-CTLA-4 agents alone or in combination, and had ICI-IA diagnosed by a rheumatologist. We used information from the baseline rheumatology visit (patient reported symptoms, physical exam features, physician global arthritis rating, and laboratory studies) to cluster patients with latent class analysis. The Bayesian Information Criteria (BIC) was used to select the number of phenotypes with the lowest BIC. We then compared demographics, cancer type and treatments, and IA treatments and outcomes between the estimated phenotypes. Next, we estimated the association between these features of interest and the likelihood of being in the group with the most severe IA symptoms using logistic regression.

Results: Of the 126 patients with ICI-IA, the majority of participants were female (56%) and white (92%). Most patients had a moderate or high level of disease activity by CDAI; the mean CDAI was 16.98 (SD 10.2). Eighteen variables were used to estimate latent classes. Two distinct phenotypes were indicated by the BIC; 61 patients are estimated to be the first phenotype and 65 the second phenotype. Participants in the second phenotype were more likely to have high baseline levels of patient reported pain, stiffness, and disease activity (Figure 1). There were no significant differences in age, gender, race, ethnicity or marital status between the two phenotype groups. Patients in phenotype 2 were more likely to require steroids as compared to patients in phenotype 1 and were more likely to have persistent IA (table 1). Type of ICI therapy, type of cancer, prior chemotherapy or radiation did not differ between the groups. When adjusted for age, gender, baseline steroid use, these variables remained significantly associated with the second phenotype.

Conclusion: Two separate phenotypes of ICI-IA were determined with latent class analysis. Those in the group with more severe features at baseline were more likely to need corticosteroids and to have persistent IA, but there was no association with cancer history or treatment. Future research can interrogate underlying genetic and immunologic differences between groups.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Rheumatology Department, Sousse, Tunisia

Background: Bone lymphoma is a rare disease, its diagnosis is usually delayed due to the unspecific clinical and radiological signs.

Objectives: Our objective was to describe the clinical, biological and radiological aspects of bone lymphoma to optimize diagnostic approaches.

Methods: 14 cases of bone lymphoma were collected in the Rheumatology Department of Sousse between 2001 and 2022.

Results: The mean age was 42 with a sex ratio of 1. The main symptom in 14 patients was pain associated with deterioration of general condition (10 cases), swelling of lymph glands (8 cases), fever and night sweats (6 cases), neurological signs (6 cases) with a diagnostic delay of 4 months. In biology, 13 patients had biological inflammatory syndrome, 2 of the 14 patients had hypercalcemia with a mean of 2.85, 6 patients had elevated LDH and 6 had elevated PAL. The abnormalities of the CBC were anemia in 10 cases, leukopenia in 1 case, hyperleukocytosis in 6 cases. On imaging, the lesions were vertebral (8 cases), iliac (1 case), long bone (3 cases), MRI showed a T1 hypo signal and T2 hyper signal in all cases, bone scintigraphy was performed in 6 patients and showed hyperfixation in 5 cases and a heterogeneous aspect in 1 case. A bone or lymph node biopsy was performed in all 14 patients, confirming the diagnosis and showing Hodgkin’s lymphoma in 6 cases and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in 8 cases, 7 of which were diffuse large-cell B lymphomas.

Conclusion: Due to the rarity and the various clinical and radiological presentations of bone lymphoma, the diagnosis may be difficult which is why the biopsy should be part of the diagnostic approach.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Table 1. Comparison of cancer features, arthritis treatment, and outcomes between estimated phenotypes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cancer related</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer type</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>20 (33%)</td>
<td>21 (32%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung cancer</td>
<td>14 (23%)</td>
<td>16 (25%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GU cancer</td>
<td>3 (5%)</td>
<td>4 (6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI cancer</td>
<td>5 (8%)</td>
<td>12 (18%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>3 (5%)</td>
<td>3 (5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>7 (11%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9 (15%)</td>
<td>8 (12%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cancer Stage</strong></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>0.643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 (3%)</td>
<td>3 (5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10 (17%)</td>
<td>15 (22%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>47 (80%)</td>
<td>46 (72%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prior chemo</strong></td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20 (33%)</td>
<td>20 (31%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>47 (80%)</td>
<td>46 (72%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IC1 class</strong></td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>53 (86%)</td>
<td>54 (86%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IC1 injection</strong></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>77 (%)</td>
<td>0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>47 (77%)</td>
<td>61 (94%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prolonged remission</strong></td>
<td>94</td>
<td>9.7 (10.0)</td>
<td>0.767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8 (13%)</td>
<td>17 (27%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>2 (12%)</td>
<td>2 (3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prior csDMARD</strong></td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>17 (28%)</td>
<td>27 (42%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any biologic</strong></td>
<td>61</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>0.075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8 (13%)</td>
<td>17 (27%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Erosions on imaging</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3 (16%)</td>
<td>2 (7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Persistant &gt;6 months after ICI stop</strong></td>
<td>54</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>37 (69%)</td>
<td>52 (87%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inflammatory arthritis related**

| Symptom duration at baseline (months) | 61    | 6.3 (7.7) | 65 | 8.0 (10.4) | 0.304 |
| Patient on steroids at baseline       | 61    | 65        | 0.544 |
| Yes                                    | 14 (23%) | 19 (29%)  |       |
| Steroid injections in the joint since starting ICI | 47 | 77 (%) | 61 (94%) | 0.585 |
| ICI/ICIIimmunotherapy                 | 33    | 36        | 0.010 |
| Yes                                    | 7 (21%)  | 10 (28%)  |       |
| Any csDMARD                           | 61    | 65        | 0.010 |
| Yes                                    | 17 (28%) | 27 (42%)  |       |
| Other                                  | 2 (12%)  | 0 (0%)    |       |
| Any biologic                           | 61    | 64        | 0.075 |
| Yes                                    | 8 (13%)  | 17 (27%)  |       |
| Erosions on imaging                    | 19    | 27        | 0.635 |
| Yes                                    | 3 (16%)  | 2 (7%)    |       |
| Persistent >6 months after ICI stop    | 54    | 60        | 0.024 |
| Yes                                    | 37 (69%) | 52 (87%)  |       |

**REFERENCES: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests:** Laura Cappelli Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Jamie Perin: None declared, Clifton Bingham Grant/research support from: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Laura Cappelli.

**AD1500**

**TNF INHIBITORS ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE IN PATIENTS WITH SEVERE BEHÇET’S DISEASE: DATA FROM EASTERN TURKEY, INTERSECTION OF THE SILK ROAD**

**Keywords:** In innate immunity, bDMARD, Behcet’s disease

M. Bektaş1, E. Öğüz2, M. Özer2. 1Aksaray Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Aksaray, Turkey; 2Van Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Van, Turkey; 3Van Training and Research Hospital, Department of Ophthalmology, Van, Turkey

**Background:** Behçet’s disease (BD) is a chronic inflammatory multi-systemic disease that affect skin-mucosa, joints, eye and blood vessels. Biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (b-DMARD) treatment is an emerging option into the management of severe BD.

**Objective:** We aimed to evaluate the clinical features and associated factors of outcome in patients with BD receiving b-DMARD treatment.

**Methods:** This retrospective observational study was carried out in a tertiary referral center in Van province, Eastern of Turkey. Remission was defined as no exacerbation and/or new development of clinical manifestations attributed BD at least three months. Active disease and/or relapse was defined as inadequate response to conventional treatment and/or new development of organ or system manifestations under the treatment. Ongoing mucocutaneous manifestations did not consider as active disease or relapse.

**Results:** We included 80 BD patients (76.3% male) who received b-DMARD therapy into the study. Mean±standard deviation (SD) of the patients was 33.3±8.8 years and median(interquartile range [IQR]) disease duration was 10(12) years. Among those patients, recurrent oral ulcer was in 98.5%, genital ulcer in 71.3%, pseudofolliculitis in 80%, erythema nodosum-like nodular lesions in 67.5%, superficial thrombophlebitis in 37.5%, uveitis in 53.8%, pathegy positivity in 66%, arthritis in 46.3%, spondylitis in 9%, gastrointestinal(GIS) involvement in 7.9%, parenchymal central nervous system(CNS) in 11.3%, parenchymal lung in 3.8%, vascular in 44%. While 28 patients(35%) had venous and 7 patients(8.8%) had arterial involvement. Overall, nearly all patients received colchicine(98.8%) and azatioprine(98.8%) as a background therapy, cyclophosphamide was used in 11.3%, cyclosporin in 22.5%, mycoprotein in 3.8% and interferon in 30%. Infliximab(IFX) and adalimumab(ADA) were initiated in 54(67.5%) and 26(32.5%) patients, respectively. Overall and first line retention rate were 84.7% and 92.6% for IFX and 83.3% and 80.8% for ADA, respectively(table 1). IFX was stopped in 9 patients which were in 2 patients due to allergic reaction and tuberculosis, 3 patients for inefficacy, one patient for heart failure and one patient for orbital zona. Although, no serious adverse event was observed with ADA, 5 patients were switched to IFX for inefficacy. While during the follow-up, lung lobectomy were needed in one patients, no death was observed. Overall, 72 patients(90%) resumed b-DMARD end of the study; b-DMARD was stopped in 3 patients(3.8%) due to severe adverse events and in 5 patients(6.2%) prolonged remission. All those patients were retained in remission after b-DMARD cessation. GIS involvement was negatively associated with b-DMARD retention in univariate(4.2% vs 33.3% p=0.017[OR:9.8]) and multivariate analysis(p=0.01 OR: 0.09, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.014-0.575). Higher disease duration(p=0.007[OR:5.8, 95% CI:1.6-20.8]), superficial thrombophlebitis(p=0.018,[OR:1.14, 95% CI:1.024-1.28]) were associated with corticosteroid withdrawal in multivariate analysis.

**Conclusion:** During the follow-up, no case of death was observed among b-DMARD receiving BD patients. Most patients were in remission, steroid-off and also retained on b-DMARD treatment. Biological treatment was safe and effective in patients with severe Behçet’s disease.

Table 1. Treatment Responses of b-DMARD in patients with Behçet’s Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Total (n=80)</th>
<th>Infliximab (n=59)</th>
<th>Adalimumab (n=26)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuation rate, n (%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>72 (90)</td>
<td>50 (84.7)</td>
<td>25 (83.3)</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As first line</td>
<td>71 (88.8)</td>
<td>50 (92.6)</td>
<td>21 (80.8)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b-DMARD duration, months, median (IQR)</strong></td>
<td>49.2±30.8</td>
<td>29±22 (19-76)</td>
<td>26±4±12 (3-60)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As first line</td>
<td>25.5±25.8</td>
<td>25±15.9 (15-115)</td>
<td>24±3±13 (3-59)</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Withdrawal of steroid, n (%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>62 (77.5)</td>
<td>42 (72)</td>
<td>20 (77)</td>
<td>0.04 (OR:2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As first line</td>
<td>55 (88.7)</td>
<td>38 (70.4)</td>
<td>24 (92.3)</td>
<td>0.03 (OR:4.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOl:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.483
Muscle biopsy is an important tool in assessment of idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM), however the optimal approach is unknown. A variety of biopsy procedural techniques have been reported including open surgical biopsy, percutaneous needle biopsy and Conchotome forceps biopsy.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to describe current practices in obtaining a muscle biopsy amongst international experts who manage people with IIM.

**Methods:** An e-survey was designed and piloted to collect information regarding muscle biopsy practices. The e-survey was disseminated to members of the International Myositis Assessment and Clinical Studies (IMACS) group. Snowball sampling was used, whereby IMACS members were invited to forward the survey link to other clinicians involved in care of people with IIM. Information regarding respondent characteristics and their current practice in obtaining muscle tissue was collected. The e-survey was available for completion between 20th October 2022 and 20th of January 2023. Participants were included if they self-reported being a clinician or researcher with experience in IIM. Results were analysed using descriptive statistics.

**Results:** One hundred and one respondents completed the survey by 12th January 2023. Most respondents were from Europe (22.7%) and the United States (22.7%) followed by MRI (50.0%) and sedation (50.0%) or general anaesthesia (58.9%). Clinical examination was frequently used to guide muscle selection (85.4%), followed by MRI (50.0%) and EMG (43.8%). The influence of clinical and laboratory characteristics on decision to pursue muscle biopsy are presented in Table 1. Many respondents were more likely to pursue diagnostic biopsy in the setting of seronegativity (65.6%), abnormally high creatine kinase (70.8%), and neurophysiological status and the presence of a classic dermatomyositis rash (70.8%). Low complication rates were reported for all muscle biopsy techniques. Non-diagnostic histopathology was commonly reported regardless of technique. Therapy to volatile anaesthetics was less likely to be used (50.0%) than sedation (50.0%) or general anaesthesia (58.9%). Clinical examination was frequently used to guide muscle selection (85.4%), followed by MRI (50.0%) and EMG (43.8%). The influence of clinical and laboratory characteristics on decision to pursue muscle biopsy are presented in Table 1. Many respondents were more likely to pursue diagnostic biopsy in the setting of seronegativity (65.6%), abnormal MRI (58.3%) and abnormal neurophysiology (56.3%). Conversely, many were less likely to pursue diagnostic biopsy in setting of positive myositis specific antibodies (53.2%) or classic dermatomyositis rash (70.8%). Low complication rates were reported for all muscle biopsy techniques. Non-diagnostic histopathology was reported as ‘common’ (observed rate between 1-10%) in 30.5% and ‘very common’ (observed rate >10%) in 14.8% of respondents. Open surgical biopsy was the most common muscle biopsy approach reported by international experts who manage IIM. Clinical examination, MRI and EMG were frequently used to select a muscle to biopsy. Serology, radiographic and neurophysiological status and the presence of a classic dermatomyositis rash influence the decision to pursue diagnostic muscle biopsy. Muscle biopsy is safe, although non-diagnostic histopathology was commonly reported regardless of technique. Reference: Nil.

**Conclusion:** Open surgical biopsy was the most common muscle biopsy approach used by international experts who manage IIM. Clinical examination, MRI and EMG were frequently used to select a muscle to biopsy. Serology, radiographic and neurophysiological status and the presence of a classic dermatomyositis rash influence the decision to pursue diagnostic muscle biopsy. Muscle biopsy is safe, although non-diagnostic histopathology was commonly reported regardless of technique.

**Reference:** Nil.

**Table 1. Approaches and indications for muscle biopsy. Presented as frequency (%). *respondents could select >1 answer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muscle biopsy approaches available at respondents’ institution*</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Needle or percutaneous biopsy</td>
<td>16 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conchotome forceps biopsy</td>
<td>12 (9.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open surgical biopsy</td>
<td>90 (73.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>5 (4.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Most commonly used technique by respondent**

| Open surgical biopsy                                          | 75 (74.3)     |
| Needle or percutaneous biopsy                                 | 9 (9.9)       |
| Conchotome forceps biopsy                                     | 9 (9.9)       |
| Unsure                                                        | 8 (7.9)       |

**Indications for biopsy**

| Possible IIM                                                  | 94 (42.0)     |
| Toxin or drug induced muscle disease                          | 32 (14.3)     |
| Hereditary muscle disease                                     | 47 (21.0)     |
| Degenerative muscle disease                                   | 33 (14.7)     |
| Reaction to volatile anesthetics                              | 2 (0.9)       |
| Research                                                      | 16 (7.1)      |

**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to acknowledge the International Myositis Assessment and Clinical Studies group for their feedback regarding the survey and permission to disseminate the survey to their members.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1348
immunosuppressive drugs). We also detected that previous ocular surgery might contribute to a lower VQ25 score. This preliminary data allows us to evaluate other variables that contribute to the burden of the disease and the extent of the patient's suffering regarding their vision and reflect the importance of identifying them to improve our patients' quality of life.

Table 1. Multivariate analysis to assess the influence of socio-demographic and clinical related variables in the VRQoL of a cohort of NIU patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Coef (95% IC)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1.82 (-0.98 to 4.63)</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCVA (logMAR)</td>
<td>-8.18 (-10.93 to -5.43)</td>
<td>5.68x10^-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline visit</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year visit</td>
<td>-5.18 (-1.68 to 1.32)</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 year visit</td>
<td>-0.9 (-1.50 to 1.11)</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basix A 1 year visit</td>
<td>4.61 (2.30 to 6.93)</td>
<td>9.5x10^-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basix A 2 year visit</td>
<td>4.46 (2.03 to 5.88)</td>
<td>9.18x10^-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1.96 (-0.34 to 4.26)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent work disability</td>
<td>-27.42 (-36.90 to -17.93)</td>
<td>1.47x10^-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>-7.04 (-10.82 to -3.27)</td>
<td>2.6x10^-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cells in anterior chamber ≥ 2+</td>
<td>-3.85 (-7.03 to -0.67)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataract surgery</td>
<td>-4.6 (8.15 to -1.07)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaucoma surgery</td>
<td>-14.51 (-24.72 to -4.30)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other intraocular surgery</td>
<td>-6.77 (-10.53 to -3.01)</td>
<td>4.2x10^-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No ISD use</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthetic ISDs</td>
<td>-5.38 (-8.19 to -2.56)</td>
<td>1.9x10^-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological ISDs</td>
<td>3.11 (-0.59 to 6.81)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthetic and biological ISDs</td>
<td>-2.22 (-5.79 to 1.34)</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VA: visual acuity; BCVA: best corrected visual acuity; logMAR: logarithm of the minimum angle of resolution; ISDs: immunosuppressive drugs; Coef: correlation coefficient

Figure 1. VFO25 during follow-up

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2420

THE IMPACT OF OBESITY ON CLINICAL COURSE AND BIOLOGIC DMARD FAILURE IN PATIENTS WITH ADULT ONSET STILL'S DISEASE

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases, Comorbidities, Prognostic factors

AB1503

Background: Adult onset Still's disease (AOSD) is a rare inflammatory disease characterised by fever, arthritis, evanescent cutaneous rash and a typical hyperferritinaemia [1]. Three clinical disease courses are usually identified: i. monocylic, characterised by a single episode; ii. polycyclic, characterised by multiple flares, alternating with remission; iii. chronic, related to a persistent active disease [1]. AOSD may also be burdened by the occurrence of life-threatening complications. The prognosis of AOSD may be affected by the presence of comorbidities; however, the impact of obesity on these patients has not fully elucidated yet. The obesity may be considered as a negative prognostic factor in patients with rheumatic diseases. In fact, it is associated with a higher disease activity, an enhanced disability, and a less probability to achieve the clinical remission [2,3].

Objectives: We assessed the impact of obesity on clinical disease course and biologic DMARD failure in patients with AOSD. We also evaluated the influence of obesity on life-threatening complication occurrence.

Methods: An assessment of obese patients with AOSD characterised by a BMI≥30 was provided among those evaluated in a Gruppo Italiano di Ricerca in Reumatologia Clinica e Sperimentale (GIRICS) cohort [4]. The presence of obesity was evaluated at the time of diagnosis and defined as BMI≥30. Cox regression analyses were performed to evaluate the predictive role of obesity on predicting different disease courses and bDMARD failure in our cohort. Multivariate analyses were adjusted for age, gender, and systemic score, which was used as marker of disease severity.

Results: In this study, 139 patients were evaluated; 28 (18.7%) had a BMI≥30 and were defined as having obesity at the time of disease diagnosis (mean age of 39.9±13.6 years, 12 male gender). Obese patients did not differ in the main clinical characteristics than non-obese [fever BMI<30: 96.2% vs BMI≥30: 99.1%, p=0.340; skin rash BMI ≥ 30: 84.6% vs BMI<30: 69.0%, p=0.147; arthritis BMI≥30: 61.5% vs BMI<30: 56.6%, p=0.826]. Furthermore, obese patients showed a higher rate of bDMARD failure in the subsequent follow-up (p=0.037). In addition, obese patients with AOSD were characterized by higher values of C-reactive protein (CRP) [BMI≥30: 109.2 mg/L (IQR 117.0) vs BMI<30: 52.0 mg/L (IQR 84.3), p=0.046] than others. Obese patients with AOSD had also higher values of CRP than 2:1 age-, gender-, and BMI-matched obese patients without immune mediated inflammatory disease (IMID) (Age: 39.8±13.2 years). 24 male gender out 52 patients, BMI: 32.4±3.1, CRP 33.8 mg/L [IQR 34.4], p<0.001). These obese patients without IMID were recruited to fully evaluate the impact of obesity on CRP in patients with AOSD. Additionally, obesity predicted the development of a chronic disease course in patients with AOSD in both univariate (HR: 1.72, 95%CI: 1.03-2.51, p=0.038) and multivariate analyses (HR: 1.85, 95%CI: 1.45-2.49, p=0.041). Non-significant results were obtained assessing the predictive role of obesity on monocyclic and polycyclic disease courses. Furthermore, obesity resulted to be a significant predictor of failure of at least one of biologic DMARD in patients with AOSD in both univariate (HR: 3.03, 95%CI: 1.42-6.45, p=0.004) and multivariate analyses (HR: 3.59, 95%CI: 1.55-8.27, p=0.003). Conversely, obesity did not influence the development of life-threatening complications in our cohort.

Conclusion: The presence of obesity resulted to be a predictive factor for the development of a chronic disease course and biologic DMARD failure in patients with AOSD. In addition to increase the inflammatory burden, a high BMI may be indeed associated with a more rapid clearance, a higher volume of distribution, and a consequent low concentration of biologic DMARDs and their possible clinical failure.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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CLINICAL SPECTRUM OF IGG4-RELATED DISEASE. SINGLE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: Vasculitis, Systematic review, Organ damage

AB1504

Background: IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD) is an inflammatory and fibrosing entity with very heterogeneous clinical manifestations. Its pathogenesis remains unknown, clinical features are heterogeneous and unspecified, and recently
released classification criteria are invaluable in early recognition of the disease. Therefore, regrettably IgG4 related disease continues underdiagnosed.

**Objectives:** a) To evaluate the clinical characteristics of patients diagnosed with IgG4-RD in a single University hospital; b) To compare with other large series.

**Methods:** Study of patients from a referral hospital and literature review of cases diagnosed with IgG4-RD. Diagnosis was made accordingly to these criteria: a) Okazaki; b) Umehara; c) ACR/EULAR 2020; and/or d) clinical, laboratory and imaging suggestive findings (ref. 1-3). For the literature review, we searched PubMed and the Cochrane library from its inception until 31 December 2022, selecting the largest series.

**Results:** We include 11 patients (7 females/4 males) (mean±SD age; 61.2±15.6 years) diagnosed with IgG4-RD. The organs affected at diagnosis were: aorta (n=5), pleura/lung (n=4), lymph nodes (n=3), salivary glands (n=2), retroperitoneum (n=2), lacrimal glands (n=1), bile duct (n=1), kidney (n=1), orbit (n=1), sub-glottis (n=1), pericardium (n=1), mesentery (n=1), maxillary sinuses (n=1). IgG4 values were increase in 2 (18%) patients (median[IQR]: 250.5 [201.0-300.1] mg/dL) (normal value <135 mg/dL). Blood plasmablasts were increased in 8 (73%) patients (median [IQR]; 250.5 [201 .0-300.1] mg/dL) (normal value <653 cells/mL). In our series, aortic involvement was one of the most frequently involved. In contrast, in our series, aortic involvement followed by lung/pleura were the most frequent.

**Conclusion:** IgG4-RD is a very heterogeneous disease with involvement of virtually every organ of the anatomy, usually presenting with involvement of more than one organ. Despite the name of the entity, serum IgG4 is not always elevated.

**REFERENCES:**

Table 1. Main features in series of more than 100 patients and in current series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Diagnosis criteria</th>
<th>Number of organs affected</th>
<th>Level of IgG4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lanzillotta et al.</td>
<td>131 F</td>
<td>-1 organ (26%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 224</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatology</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>-1 organ (26%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 224</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An et al.</td>
<td>127 F</td>
<td>-More of 1 organ (74%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 980</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatology</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>-More of 1 organ (74%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 980</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphanet J Rare</td>
<td>102 F</td>
<td>-More of 5 organs (9%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 399</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dis 2022</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>-More of 5 organs (9%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 399</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zongfei et al.</td>
<td>215 F</td>
<td>-2-or 4 organs (68%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 1520</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cim Rheumatol</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>-2-or 4 organs (68%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 1520</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wang et al.</td>
<td>62 F</td>
<td>-5 or more organs (17%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 199-776</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis Res Ther</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>62 M</td>
<td>-5 or more organs (17%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 199-776</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inoue et al.</td>
<td>67 F</td>
<td>-1 organ (41%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 470</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>-1 organ (41%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 470</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Baltimore) 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace et al.</td>
<td>54 F</td>
<td>-More of 5 organs (9%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: ND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>-More of 5 organs (9%)</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: ND</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rheumatol</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current series</td>
<td>57 F</td>
<td>-Okazaki: 45%</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 66.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 66.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>57 M</td>
<td>-Okazaki: 45%</td>
<td>Median [IQR]: 116.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1.** Main features in series of more than 100 patients and in current series

**Keywords:** Systematic review, Gastrointestinal tract

**Background:** Crohn's disease (CD) is a chronic inflammatory disease of unknown etiology. The IL-23/IL-17 pathway plays an essential role in the pathogenesis of CD. More and more approved IL-23 inhibitors are being used for the treatment of CD. However, no studies have systematically compared and evaluated the efficacy of these IL-23 inhibitors.

**Objectives:** This study aims to compare the efficacy of various IL-23 inhibitors (Brazikumab, Guselkumab, Mirikizumab, Risankizumab, and Ustekinumab) for treating Crohn's disease by conducting a Bayesian network meta-analysis (NMA).

**Methods:** We searched the database, including PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, Cochrane Library, MEDINE, and Web of Science, Clinical Trials. gov (from inception until February 5, 2023). Efficacy (Clinical response, Clinical remission, Endep remission, and C-reactive protein) were compared using a Bayesian NMA. Results were presented as the pooled estimates of odds ratios (ORs) or weighted mean difference (WMD) (95% CI). The random-effects model was selected to synthesize the data. The ranking probability for each IL-23 inhibitor was evaluated using the surface under the cumulative ranking curves (SUCRA). The larger the SUCRA value, the better the rank of the intervention. The global inconsistency was evaluated by comparing the fit of consistency and inconsistency models, where P ≤ 0.05 indicated inconsistency. All analyses were conducted using the gmeta package of R (version 4.2.2).

**Results:** In terms of Clinical response, a total of 40 studies were included. The NMA showed that Brazikumab combined with Guselkumab [OR=0.98, 95% CI [0.2, 0.91]], PB/PBO combined with Risankizumab [OR=0.54, 95% CI [1.16, 0.18]], PBO combined with Ustekinumab [OR=1.38, 95% CI [2.77, 0.01]], Risankizumab combined with Ustekinumab [OR=0.84, 95% CI [2.43, 0.63]], according to SUCRA, Ustekinumab (78.9%), Risankizumab (52.2%), PB/PBO (23.6%), Mirikizumab (34%), Guselkumab (876%), and Brazikumab (23.6%). For clinic remission, the result of NMA showed that Brazikumab combined with Guselkumab [OR=1.59, 95% CI [3.78, 0.59]], Brazikumab combined with Ustekinumab [OR=1.37, 95% CI [3.57, 0.83]], PBO combined with Risankizumab [OR=0.47, 95% CI [1.19, 0.34]], PBO combined with Ustekinumab [OR=1.26, 95% CI [2.86, 0.33]], Risankizumab combined with Ustekinumab [OR=2.86, 95% CI [0.98, 0.28]].
PLASMA NEUROFILAMENT LIGHT CHAIN AND GLIAL FIBRILLARY ACIDIC PROTEIN AS BIOMARKERS IN PATIENTS WITH OCULAR SARCOIDOSIS AND NEUROSAＲCΟΙΔΟΙΟΣ

Keywords: Biomarkers, Rare/orphan diseases, Uveitis

Background: Sarcoidosis is a disease characterized by non-caseating granulomatous inflammation, which can affect the eyes as ocular sarcoidosis (OS) and the central nervous system (CNS) as neurosarcoidosis (NS). Neurofilament light chain (NFL) is a structural neuronal cytoskeletal protein, and glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) is part of the cytoskeleton in astrocytes and retinal Müller glial cells. Inflammation would cause leakage of NFL and GFAP. It has been demonstrated that plasma NFL is highly elevated in newly diagnosed NS patients with levels over 11.4 ng/L.

Methods: This cross-sectional study included 106 biopsy-verified chronic sarcoidosis patients examined between May and November 2019. After excluding 18 patients due to disease concomitance, the patients were divided according to their organ involvement over time: sarcoidosis without ocular or CNS affection (non-OS/non-NS), OS, NS, and combined OS and NS, respectively (p = 0.003), although this was only statistically significant in patients with a disease duration < 5 years (p = 0.005).

Table 1. Baseline characteristics and clinical findings in sarcoidosis patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-OS/ non-NS (n=44)</th>
<th>OS (n=14)</th>
<th>NS (n=15)</th>
<th>OS and NS (n=15)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>45 (41-55)</td>
<td>56 (38-66)**</td>
<td>60 (51-65)**</td>
<td>52 (32-60)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;40, %</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 40-59, %</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ≥60, %</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, % male</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of sarcoidosis, years</td>
<td>5 (3-9)</td>
<td>6 (3-9)</td>
<td>9 (4-10)</td>
<td>5 (3-9)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are median and interquartile range (IQR) or count and percentage. * Compared to non-ocular/non-CNS group p < 0.05. ** Compared to non-ocular/non-CNS group p < 0.01. a Between 67 -100% of patients received immunosuppressive treatment, most frequently in the OS group (93%) and the NS group (100%) (p = 0.02). Median NFL was 5.1, 8.4, 70.7, and 70.6 ng/L in patients with non-OS/non-NS, OS, NS, and combined OS and NS, respectively (p = 0.005), although this was only statistically significant in patients with a disease duration < 5 years (p = 0.005).

The frequency of patients with an NFL level >11.4 ng/L was lower in non-OS/non-NS group compared to the three other groups (2% vs. 14% vs. 33% vs. 20%, p = 0.004). There was a trend (p = 0.06) towards a lower median GFAP in patients with non-OS/non-NS as compared to the other groups (52 vs. 72 vs. 71 vs. 69 ng/L), which became statistically significant in patients with a disease duration < 5 years (48 vs. 67 vs. 127 vs. 52 ng/L, p = 0.02).

Conclusion: In this cross-sectional study of chronic sarcoidosis patients, we generally found a low median NFL level, including in OS and NS patients. Our results suggest that neuroaxonal damage and, thereby, active inflammation decreases in treated sarcoidosis patients. However, the median NFL levels were significantly lowest in the non-OS/non-NS group, and between 14-33% of patients in OS, NS, and combined OS and NS groups had an NFL level above 11.4 ng/L, which could indicate active CNS inflammation leading to ongoing silent neuroaxonal damage.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4858

AB1507

IGG4-RELATED DISEASE – THE PORTUGUESE COHORT UNDER RHEUMATOLOGY’S CARE

Keywords: Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs), Geographical differences, Epidemiology

methods: National multicentric observational study, including IgG4-RD patients followed at rheumatology.

Results: Twenty-four patients were included, with a mean present age of 59.95 years-old (SD=13.35), 56.09 (SD=14.13) at diagnosis, and 53.96 (SD=14.19) at the first symptoms. Twelve (50.0%) were men. Nine (37.5%) patients had salivary glands involvement (6 bilateral), 6 (25.0%) had orbital, 6 (25.0%) of lacrimal glands (4 of them bilateral), 5 (20.8%) pancreatic, 5 (20.8%) aortic, 4 (16.7%)
Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) is a systemic autoinflammatory disease requiring lifelong treatment, characterized by recurrent episodes of fever, arthritis, and serositis. Recent studies denote an association between FMF and behavioral disorders such as anxiety and depression[1]. Further investigations are needed to have a better understanding of the relationship of FMF to anxiety and depression.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to assess anxiety and depression among FMF patients and their relation to different variables such as gender, age, genotype, drug compliance, biologic treatment, family history of FMF, age of first colchicine dosage, age of symptom onset, degree of education, and monthly income.

Methods: We surveyed 360 (225 female, 135 male) FMF patients in our outpatient clinic between June and October 2022. Our patients had moderate anxiety according to BAI scores, and severe state and trait anxiety according to STAI-Y1, STAI-Y2 scores all of which indicates the presence of anxiety. Medication compliant patients had lower levels of anxiety. We argue that this difference was due to better disease control because of drug compliance. Furthermore, BDI scores indicated mild depression among patients. In addition, M694V homozygous patients interestingly had lower anxiety and depression levels. Further investigations are necessary to understand the effect of different variables on anxiety and depression in FMF patients.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: Inflammatory, Comorbidities

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5180

AB1508

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH FMF

B. Engel1, A. Klinic1, F. N. Azman2, S. Ardaci2, S. Ugurlu1. 1Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Pediatrics, Los Angeles, United States of America; 2Istanbul University- Cerrahpaşa, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) is a systemic autoinflammatory disease requiring lifelong treatment, characterized by recurrent episodes of fever, arthritis, and serositis. Recent studies denote an association between FMF and behavioral disorders such as anxiety and depression[1]. Further investigations are needed to have a better understanding of the relationship of FMF to anxiety and depression.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to assess anxiety and depression among FMF patients and their relation to different variables such as gender, age, genotype, drug compliance, biologic treatment, family history of FMF, age of first colchicine dose, age of symptom onset, degree of education, and monthly income.

Methods: We surveyed 360 (225 female, 135 male) FMF patients in our outpatient clinic between June and October 2022. Our patients had moderate anxiety according to BAI scores, and severe state and trait anxiety according to STAI-Y1, STAI-Y2 scores all of which indicates the presence of anxiety. Medication compliant patients had lower levels of anxiety. We argue that this difference was due to better disease control because of drug compliance. Furthermore, BDI scores indicated mild depression among patients. In addition, M694V homozygous patients interestingly had lower anxiety and depression levels. Further investigations are necessary to understand the effect of different variables on anxiety and depression in FMF patients.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: Inflammatory, Comorbidities

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5180
Background: Major organ involvement is one of the main causes of mortality and morbidity in Behçet’s Disease (BD) [1]. However, the prognosis and predictors of major organ involvement are insufficiently studied.

Objectives: We aimed to follow young, male BD patients with only mucocutaneous symptoms who have the highest risk for new major organ involvement prospectively.

Methods: Thirty-six male patients with BD were included in the study. Patients with BD were assessed prospectively at 3-6 months intervals and in any urgent visits. New major organ involvements and reasons for immunosuppressive (IS) need were assessed during prospective follow-up.

Results: At baseline, the mean disease duration was 3.3 years. All patients were under colchicine treatment. The mean follow-up duration was 90.7 months. Overall, 13 (36.1%) patients needed IS therapy during follow-up. The reason for IS need was major organ involvement in 5 (15.9%), refractory mucocutaneous involvement in 7 (21.9%), and articular involvement in 1 (2.8%) (Table 1, Figure 1). Major organ involvement was vascular in 3 patients, ocular in 1 patient, and ocular and vascular in 1 patient. In 8 of these 13 patients, step-up treatment was needed in ISs due to refractory disease or relapse.

Conclusion: Our study demonstrated a lower incidence of major vascular events in male BD patients during prospective follow-up compared to retrospective cohorts in the literature. Our results showed that refractory mucocutaneous involvement is a more frequent reason for IS need in BD than major organ involvement during prospective follow-up.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of patients with immunosuppressive treatment during follow-up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for IS use</th>
<th>Age at Diagnosis</th>
<th>Disease duration when IS started</th>
<th>IS agent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary aneurysm</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refractory OU</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Cyclosporine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep venous thrombosis</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refractory OU</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refractory OU</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>Cyclosporine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refractory EN</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep venous thrombosis</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refractory OU+ Arterial Involvement</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refractory EN+ Articular Involvement</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superficial Thrombophlebitis</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refractory OU</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Azathioprine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IS: Immunosuppressive, OU: Oral ulcer, EN: erythema nodosum

Figure 1. The reasons for immunosuppressive need in Behçet’s patients during follow-up (n)

Table 1. Demographic data, disease characteristics and NLR, MLR and PLR values in FMF patients classified according to disease severity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mild disease (n=204)</th>
<th>Moderate-severe disease (n=70)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>39.0 (28.2-47.7)</td>
<td>41.0 (30.0-51.2)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>59/145</td>
<td>31/39</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years)</td>
<td>10.0 (5.0-19.5)</td>
<td>11.0 (5.0-20.0)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchicine dose (mg/day)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.0-1.5)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.0-2.0)</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchicine resistance</td>
<td>23 (11.3)</td>
<td>32 (46.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amyloidosis (%)</td>
<td>7 (2.4)</td>
<td>18 (25.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exon 10 mutation (%)</td>
<td>98 (48.0)</td>
<td>25 (36.7)</td>
<td>0.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>NLR</td>
<td>1.8 (1.2-2.5)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.5-2.8)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLR</td>
<td>2.4 (1.9-3.0)</td>
<td>2.5 (2.0-3.3)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLR</td>
<td>124.1 (88.5-154.6)</td>
<td>120.0 (97.3-148.7)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NLR: Neutrophil lymphocyte ratio; PLR: Platelet lymphocyte ratio; MLR: Monocyte lymphocyte ratio; p<0.05 was shown bold. Continuous variable was shown as median (Q1-Q3)

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1510 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMERGING NEW INFLAMMATORY MARKERS AND FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER SEVERITY

Keywords: Biomarkers, Rare/orphan diseases

S. Avcı Kasman1, M. E. Tezcan1, N. Şen1, S. Öşken1, S. Yılmaz-Oner1. 1Kartal Dr Lutfi Kirdar City Hospital, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: Neutrophil lymphocyte ratio (NLR), platelet lymphocyte ratio (PLR) and monocyte lymphocyte ratio (MLR) are emerging inflammatory parameters. These parameters have been associated with disease activity and response to treatment in many rheumatological diseases.

Objectives: To evaluate the relation between these parameters and familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) disease severity.

Methods: We included 274 FMF patients in the study. First, we measured FMF disease severity cross-sectionally in patients with International FMF severity score (ISSF). We then divided the patients into mild disease (ISSF score ≤ 2) and moderate-severe disease (ISSF score >3) according to ISSF scores. Finally, we compared the NLR, MLR and PLR values between the two groups.

Results: Of 274 patients, 70 (25.5%) had moderate-to-severe FMF disease. More patients had amyloidosis, and the frequency of male gender was higher in the moderate-to-severe group. Other demographic and disease-related characteristics were similar between the groups. NLR, MLR, and PLR values were also similar between groups (Table 1).

Conclusion: Although emerging inflammatory markers are popular in the field of rheumatology, these parameters were unable to differentiate disease severity in patients with FMF.

REFERENCES:

AB1511 HIGHER VASCULAR INVOLVEMENT IN BEHÇET’S DISEASE AMONG KURDISH ETHNICITY: DATA FROM A SINGLE CENTER AT INTERSECTION OF SILK ROAD IN EASTERN TURKEY

Keywords: Behçet’s disease, Epidemiology, Uveitis

E. Oğuz1, M. Bektay2. 1Van Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Van, Turkey; 2Aksaray Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Aksaray, Turkey

Background: Behçet’s disease (BD) is a chronic inflammatory multi-systemic disease that affect skin-mucosa, joints, eye and blood vessels. BD has some clinical differences in terms of disease manifestations and prognosis among Silk Road countries as well as various ethnicities.
Objectives: In this study, we aimed to evaluate the clinical features and course regarding cluster analysis of BD in Kurdish patients in Van province, Eastern Turkey at the intersection of the silk road.

Methods: This retrospective observational study was carried out in a tertiary reference center in Van province, East of Turkey. Patients data was obtained from their charts. All patients were asked about their ethnicity and patients with other ethnicities rather than Kurdish were also excluded from the study. Seven disease manifestations were included to the cluster analysis as follows; mucocutaneous findings (recurrent oral ulcer [ROU], genital ulcer [GU], pseudofolliculitis, erythema nodosum (EN)-like lesions, musculoskeletal (MSK) involvement (arthritis and spondyloditis), gastrointestinal (GIS) involvement, vascular involvement (venous and/or artery), parenchymal central nervous system (CNS) involvement.

Results: We included 444 patients (of 59.2 % male) to the study. Mean ± standard deviation (SD) of the patients was 35.8 ± 10.2 years and median (interquartile range [IQR]) disease duration was 12 [12]. Mean ± SD age at initial symptom and age of diagnosis were 19.4 ± 7 and 26.4 ± 8.2, respectively. Fulfillment of ISG and ICBD criteria were 91.6 % and 96 %, respectively. Family history of Behçet disease and ROU were 35.4 % and 70.2 %, respectively. In cluster analysis, four clusters were observed as follow: 132 patients (31.2 %) in vascular (C1), 66 patients (15.6 %) in eye (C2), 60 patients (14.2 %) in musculoskeletal (C3) and 165 patients (39 %) in mucocutaneous (C4) clusters. Male gender (OR: 6.5, 95 % CI: 1.9-21.4), superficial thrombophlebitis (OR: 4.7, 95 % CI: 1.9-11.4) and uveitis (OR: 3.6, 95 % CI: 1.3-9.9) were associated with vascular involvement in multivariate analysis.

Conclusion: Among Kurdish patients with BD four disease clusters were observed. Parenchymal lung and CNS involvement were associated with vascular cluster. One third of patients had vascular involvement among Kurdish patients with BD which was quite higher compared to patients with Turkish ethnicity [1].

REFERENCE:


Table 1. Cluster analysis of the study population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease manifestations</th>
<th>Vascular</th>
<th>Eye</th>
<th>Musculoskeletal</th>
<th>Mucocutaneous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1, n=132</td>
<td>31.2 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.6 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2, n=66</td>
<td></td>
<td>34 (56.7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3, n=60</td>
<td>41.8 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.2 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4, n=165</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>39 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Univariate analysis of associated factors in disease clusters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Vascular</th>
<th>Eye</th>
<th>Musculoskeletal</th>
<th>Mucocutaneous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, male, n (%)</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>54 (56.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease manifestations, n (%)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>93 (92.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital ulcer</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>86 (75.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombophlebitis</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21 (24.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudofolliculitis</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>73 (78.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythema</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>61 (67.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nodulosis</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>79 (75.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankylosing spondylitis</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>28 (39.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spondylitis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5 (8.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastroskeletal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 (3.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS parenchymal</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1 (17.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver parenchymal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISG fulfillment, n (%)</td>
<td>117/124</td>
<td>63/64</td>
<td>49/53 (92.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICBD fulfillment, n (%)</td>
<td>130 (95.8)</td>
<td>65 (95.8)</td>
<td>55/57 (96.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA B51 positivity, n (%)</td>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>3 (33.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.

Characteristics of Patients who Received Biological Treatment After Kidney Transplantation and the Incidence of Serious Infections: A Multicenter Study

Keywords: bDMARD, Kidneys

T. Demirci Yıldırım1, E. Oguz Kokoglu2, B. N. Coşkun3, D. Yıldırım4, S. Şener2, Y. Pehlivan5, H. Kıcıc6, T. Kaşgolu7, I. Sarı8, O. Dokuz Eyyubi University, Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey; 2Erciyes University, Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Kayseri, Turkey; 3Bursa Uludag University, Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Bursa, Turkey; 4Gazi University, Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Ankara, Turkey; 5Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Eskişehir, Turkey

Background: Kidney transplant patients due to both primary kidney involvement of chronic/autoimmune inflammatory diseases and end-stage kidney disease related to amyloidosis are followed up in rheumatology clinics. Biological agents one of the treatment options in kidney transplant recipients with chronic/autoimmune inflammatory disease.

Objectives: However, there is insufficient data on the development of infection in kidney transplant recipients who received biological treatment. Herein, we aimed to determine the incidence of serious infections in patients with kidney transplant recipients who are received biological therapy.

Methods: Kidney transplant recipients who are received biological agents due to rheumatologic disease were included in the study. Patients' demographic features, transplantation data, biological treatment, development of infection and severity of infection were screened retrospectively. Infections that requiring hospitalization were defined as severe infections.

Results: A total of 31 patients were included in the study, 14 (45%) of whom were female and mean age was 41 ± 9 years. Twenty-five patients (80%) of them were non-preemptive kidney transplant and mean duration of hemodialysis before the transplantation was 40 ± 60 months. Twenty-three patients (74%) had end stage kidney failure due to FMD-amyloidosis (Figure 1). Seventeen patients (54%) received anakinra, 11 patients (35%) received canakinumab and 3 patients (10%) received enanetar with other immunosuppressive treatment. Mean treatment duration of biological agents was 4 ± 2.6 years. Two patients developed solid organ malignancy and one patient developed hematological malignancy after transplantation. Sixteen of the patients (52%) were hospitalized at least once due to infection and 4 patients (13%) died due to infection. The cause of decease in two patients was COVID-19.

Conclusion: Rheumatic diseases are an important cause of end-stage renal disease and definitive treatment is kidney transplantation. Kidney transplant recipients due to rheumatological disease also use biological agents in the post-transplantation period.
Kidney transplant recipients have higher risk for the development of infection since they receive immunosuppressive therapy and use of biologic agents may further increase the risk for development infection. Meyer et al reported that infection developed in 54 of 187 solid organ transplant recipients using biological agents.[1] Mean treatment duration of biological agents was 12 months in this study. The incidence of infection was 54% in our study. Mean treatment duration of biological agent was 4.2 year was considered main reason for higher incidence of infection in our study.

REFERENCE:


Figure 1: Causes of end stage kidney failure in this study

Conclusion: The literature suggests renal impairment is variable in retroperitoneal fibrosis with only 32% of patients with abnormal creatinine reported in one study which is much lower than our results. The current literature is sparse for alternative therapies. More work is required in determining efficacy for more recent therapies such as rituximab to further the treatment of this orphan disease and improve patient outcomes.

REFERENCES:


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Acknowledgements to the Rheumatology and Urology team at NHS Lothian and NHS GGC for patient identification. Acknowledgements to Greater Glasgow and Clyde Safe Haven Data Team for their assistance with accessing databases for patient identification.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Conclusion: The prevalence of Behçet’s disease (BD) has a considerable geographical and temporal variability. Data regarding epidemiology in Spain are limited. (1,2)

OBJECTIVES: To assess the epidemiology and clinical domains of BD in a population-based cohort from northern Spain and to compare the results with other geographical areas.

METHODS: We conducted a cross-sectional study of a well-defined population in Northern Spain. Cases of suspected BD between January 1980 and December 2018 were identified. The diagnosis of BD was established according to the International Study Group (ISG) for Behçet’s Disease. The incidence of BD between 1999 and 2018 was estimated by sex, age and year of diagnosis.

RESULTS: Of 120 patients with probable BD, 59 patients met ISG criteria and were finally included in the study, with a male/female ratio of 0.97; mean age 49.7±14.7 years. Incidence during the period of study was 0.492 per 100,000 people, observing an increase from January 1999 to December 2018. Prevalence was 10.14 per 100,000 in 2018. Figure 1. Clinical manifestations were relapsing aphthous stomatitis (100%), genital ulcers (78%), skin involvement (64.7%), joint involvement (64.4%), uveitis (55.9%), central nervous system (16.9%), vascular (10.2%), and gastrointestinal manifestations (6.8%). Table 1.

Conclusion: The prevalence of BD in Cantabria is higher than in other Southern-European countries. This difference may reflect a combination of geographic, genetic, or methodological variations, as well as the free accessibility to the Spanish Public Health System. Clinical phenotypes observed are similar to those described in other world regions.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Epidemiological phenotypes of Behçet’s disease in other geographic areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, year</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Oral/genital ulcers (%)</th>
<th>Skin lesions (%)</th>
<th>Ocular involvement (%)</th>
<th>Joint involvement (%)</th>
<th>Neuro-Behçet (%)</th>
<th>Vascular involvement (%)</th>
<th>Gastrointestinal tract involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deligny et al., 2012</td>
<td>Caribbean Islands (Martinique)</td>
<td>100/ NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calamia et al., 2009</td>
<td>North America (Minnesota, USA)</td>
<td>100/ 62</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tüzün et al., 1996</td>
<td>Middle East ( Ağrı, Turkey)</td>
<td>100/ 73.7</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Rawi et al., 2003</td>
<td>Middle East (Saglawia, Iraq)</td>
<td>100/ 83.3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azizlerli et al., 2003</td>
<td>Middle East (İstanbul, Turkey)</td>
<td>100/ 70.2</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krause et al., 2007</td>
<td>Middle East (Galilee, Israel)</td>
<td>NR/ 68</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bas et al., 2016</td>
<td>Middle East (Northern Anatolian, Turkey)</td>
<td>100/ 71</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davatchi et al., 2016</td>
<td>Middle East (Iran)</td>
<td>97/5/ 64.4</td>
<td>62.2</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamberlain, 1977</td>
<td>Northern Europe (Yorkshire County, UK)</td>
<td>100/ 91</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jankowski et al., 1992</td>
<td>Northern Europe (Berlin, Germany)</td>
<td>100/ 73.3</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zouboulis et al., 1997</td>
<td>Northern Europe (Berlin, Germany)</td>
<td>99/ 75</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altenburg et al., 2006</td>
<td>Northern Europe (Skane County, Sweden)</td>
<td>98.5/ 63.7</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammad et al., 2019</td>
<td>Northern Europe (Çama, Turkey)</td>
<td>100/ 80</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambresin et al., 2002</td>
<td>Central Europe (Lausanne, Switzerland)</td>
<td>86/ 31</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanecki et al., 2017</td>
<td>Central Europe (Poland, Nationwide)</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahr et al., 2014</td>
<td>Southern Europe (Same-Saint Denis County, France)</td>
<td>100/ 80</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvarani et al., 2007</td>
<td>Southern Europe (Reggio Emilia, Italy)</td>
<td>100/ 78</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petäsi et al., 2007</td>
<td>Southern Europe (Granada, Spain)</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>González-Gay et al., 2000</td>
<td>Southern Europe (Lugo-Galicia, Northwestern Spain)</td>
<td>100/ 875</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: ISG: International Study Group; ICBD: International Criteria for Behçet’s Disease; NR: Not Reported; SD: Standard Deviation.

**Figure 1.** Annual incidence of Behçet’s disease in our series.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Carmen Álvarez-Reguera: None declared, Guillermo Suárez Amorín: None declared, Alba Herrero-Morant: None declared, Lara Sanchez-Bilbao: None declared, David Martínez-López: None declared, José Luis Martín-Varillas Grant/research support from: José L. Martín-Varillas received grants/research support from AbbVie, Pfizer, Lilly, Janssen, and Celgene., Raúl Fernández-Ramón: None declared, Rosalía Demetrio-Pablo: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD, Paid instructor for: AbbVie, Pfizer, Roche, Bristol-Myers, Lilly, Janssen, and MSD., Grant/research support from: AbbVie, MSD, and Roche. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2432

**AB1515** EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL FEATURES OF MUCOCUTANEOUS LESIONS IN BEHÇET’S DISEASE: STUDY FROM A COHORT OF 120 PATIENTS IN A REGION IN NORTHERN SPAIN

**Keywords:** Behçet’s disease, Epidemiology, Skin


**Background:** Mucocutaneous lesions are one of the most characteristic signs of Behçet’s Disease (BD) and are included in different classification criteria [1].

**Objectives:** To describe the mucocutaneous manifestations and to assess it accordingly to age and sex.

**Methods:** Descriptive study of a cohort of 120 patients diagnosed with BD from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 2019. Finally, we included 92 patients following the 2014 International Criteria for Behçet’s Disease (ICBD) [2].

**Results:** 92 patients (45 men/ 47 women) had mucocutaneous involvement. Mean age at diagnosis was (36.3±12.6) years. 27 (29.3%) were young adults (<30 years), 61 (66.3%) middle-aged adults (30-60) and 4 (4.3%) elderly adults (>60 years). The most frequent mucocutaneous manifestations were oral ulcers (OU) (n=92, 97.9%), genital ulcers (GU) (n=69, 73.4%), pseudofolliculitis (n=47, 50%), erythema nodosum-like lesions (EN) (n=28, 28.9%) and Raynaud’s phenomenon (n=8, 2%). OU, GU, EN-like lesions and Raynaud’s phenomenon were more frequent in women. GU and pseudofolliculitis were more frequent in men. No statistical differences were found between sexes (χ² test). Pathergy test was positive in 4 patients. Histopathology of EN-like lesions was performed in 5 patients, 3 (60%) showed septal panniculitis and 2 (40%) vasculitis with neutrophil infiltration, which is a typical pathological finding of EN-like lesion in BD [2]. Table 1. Mucocutaneous lesions divided by age groups are represented in Figure 1.

**Conclusion:** Identifying characteristic mucocutaneous lesions of BD, as OU, GU, pseudofolliculitis and EN-like lesions may allow early diagnosis and treatment of the disease. There were no gender differences in mucocutaneous lesions.

**REFERENCES:**


Table 1. Mucocutaneous manifestations in a cohort of 94 patients diagnosed of Behçet disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>92 (100)</td>
<td>47 (51.1)</td>
<td>45 (48.9)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean/ SD)</td>
<td>36.3±12.6</td>
<td>36±13</td>
<td>36±12.2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucocutaneous involvement</td>
<td>92 (100)</td>
<td>47 (51.1)</td>
<td>45 (48.9)</td>
<td>0.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral ulcers</td>
<td>92 (100)</td>
<td>47 (51.1)</td>
<td>45 (100)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital ulcers</td>
<td>69 (75)</td>
<td>34 (49.3)</td>
<td>35 (50.7)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudofolliculitis</td>
<td>47 (51.1)</td>
<td>23 (48.9)</td>
<td>24 (51.1)</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythema nodosum</td>
<td>29 (30.4)</td>
<td>17 (28.6)</td>
<td>12 (41.4)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raynaud phenomenon</td>
<td>2 (2.2)</td>
<td>2 (3.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive pathergy test</td>
<td>4 (4.3)</td>
<td>2 (5.0)</td>
<td>2 (50)</td>
<td>0.9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin biopsy</td>
<td>5 (5.4)</td>
<td>2 (4.0)</td>
<td>3 (60)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*N: Yates correction applied. Abbreviations: SD: Standard deviation.

Graph 1. Treatment response of oral aphthae after 12 months

Key: <0.05, *: p<0.01, #: p<0.001

Keywords: Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, patients: pilot investigation

Background: Hypermobile Ehlers Danlos syndrome (nEDS) is the most common subtype among the EDS syndromes and is a rare inherited connective tissue disease characterized mostly by hyperextensible skin and generalized joint hypermobility. Microvascular assessment has been documented only by one case report in the “vascular type” of EDS, despite vascular manifestations may improve, lack of response, discontinuation due to side effects), ESR, CRP, ferritin, 25-OH-Vitamin D, folic acid, cyanocobalamin and concomitant treatment (none, corticosteroids, methotrexate, colchicine or anti-TNF). Descriptive statistics were performed using mean and standard deviation (SD) for continuous quantitative variables.

Results: A total of 15 patients were being treated with apremilast for oral aphthosis. Ten of them were diagnosed with Behçet's disease, one with psoriasis with oral aphthosis and four with recurrent oral aphthosis. Mean age was 47.1±12.4 years, 67% were female. All patients had active oral aphthosis at the time of starting apremilast. After 3 months of treatment, 87% of the patients had improvement of the aphthosis (61.5% partially and 38.5% completely resolved); 13% of the patients had to discontinue treatment due to side effects (diarrhea), none had to discontinue treatment due to lack of response. After 6 months, all the patients maintained improvement and only two of them discontinued apremilast after 12 months due to lack of response. Results of serological data analyzed were (mean ± SD): ESR 11.4±6.7, CRP 3.7±6.5, ferritin 25-OH-Vitamin D 31.4±18.9, folic acid 11.7±9.8, cyanocobalamin 585.8±527. One patient maintained concomitant treatment with an anti-TNF drug, two with corticoids and five with colchicine.

Conclusion: Treatment with apremilast seems to improve oral aphthae in over 87% of patients.

References:


occur also in other EDS subtypes [1,2]. A reduced skin thickness has been previously reported in hEDS patients [3].

**Objectives:** To investigate, for the first time, nailfold microvascular status in hEDS patients in comparison with healthy controls (HCs). Peripheral blood perfusion (PBP) and dermal thickness (DT) were also assessed.

**Methods:** Twelve hEDS patients (75% females, mean age 41±16, classified with the 2017 International Classification Criteria of EDS [4]) and twelve age- and sex-matched HCs were observed from 2018 to 2022. Beighton score was calculated for both patients and HCs. Main nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC) parameters (dilated capillaries, giant capillaries, microhemorrhages, abnormal shapes and number of capillaries) were analyzed and compared between the two groups to assess morphological features [5]. To assess the microvascular functional status, laser speckled contrast analysis (LASCA) was used to measure PBP in several regions of interests. DT was also measured by cross-sectional B-mode scans obtained by a high-frequency 22 MHz ultrasound probe in 17 different areas of the body (including upper arms, lower arms, trunk and forehead).

**Results:** No statistically significant differences were observed in this small cohort between hEDS and HCs concerning the microvascular findings detected by NVC, even if microhemorrhages were more prevalent in hEDS patients (33% vs 0 %) (see Table 1). Also, PBP assessed by LASCA was found similar in hEDS patients and HCs (17.8± 49.76 perfusional units vs 15.78± 67.15 at fingertips, p = 0.43). The mean DT did not significantly differ from hEDS patients and HCs in all skin areas (mean total DT of 18.44 ± 2.21 mm in hEDS patients vs 18.49 ± 2.13 mm in HCs, p = 0.96). As expected, the mean Beighton score was significantly higher in hEDS patients than in HCs (5.5± 1.75 vs 12.5± 1.58), but no significant correlation was detected between DT and Beighton score (r = 0.1, p = 0.79).

**Conclusion:** Microhemorrhages seem more prevalent in hEDS patients than in ECs, suggesting a subclinical microvascular fragility also in this subgroup of EDS patients. Skin ultrasound and PBP findings did not detect significant differences between hEDS patients and HCs, which might be due to the small sample size. These findings will be followed by further research including cases of the vascular EDS phenotype [8].

**REFERENCES:**

**Table 1. NVC in hEDS vs HCs. See text for abbreviations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NVC findings</th>
<th>hEDS (n = 12)</th>
<th>HCs (n = 12)</th>
<th>p-values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean capillary number</td>
<td>9.4±0.8</td>
<td>8.8±0.48</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dilations n (%)</td>
<td>10 (83%)</td>
<td>10 (83%)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant capillaries n (%)</td>
<td>4 (33%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microaneurysms n (%)</td>
<td>3 (25%)</td>
<td>4 (33%)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal shapes n (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (25%)</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4886

**AB1519 INCIDENTIALLY FOUND INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE MAY NOT BE UNCOMMON IN FAMILIAL MEDITERRANEAN FEVER**

**Keywords:** Rare/orphan diseases, Comorbidities, Imaging

*S. Acer Kasman1, N. Sen1, T. Baysal2, R. Dizman2, S. Yilmaz-Oner1, M. E. Tezcan1. 1Kartal Dr Lutfi Kirdar City Hospital, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Kartal Dr Lutfi Kirdar City Hospital, Radiology, Istanbul, Turkey

**Background:** Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF) is an autoinflammatory disease characterized by episodes of serositis and fever. Pleuritis is one of the common findings especially during attacks and thorax scans. However, data on other common lung findings such as interstitial lung disease (ILD) are limited in the literature.

**Objectives:** Here, we present the frequency of ILD and factors associated with ILD in our FMF cohort.

**Methods:** We included 242 patients who applied to the rheumatology outpatient clinic of a tertiary medical center within the last five years and were requested to undergo thoracic CT for any reason. The patients with a history of malignancy, active infection, active tuberculosis, or tuberculosis history, active or history of coronavirus 19 disease (COVID-19), nursing and pregnancy were excluded. An experienced radiologist blindly evaluated thoracic CT scans for ILD in accordance with relevant guidelines. We then evaluated the relationship between ILD findings and demographics and disease characteristics.

**Results:** Eleven (4.5%) of 242 patients had ILD. The most common ILD-related findings on thoracic CT were ground glass opacity (7/11 patients). None of the patients had honeycomb appearance. The most common reasons for requesting a thoracic CT were chest/chest pain, suspected COVID-19, and chronic cough. In addition, none of the demographic and disease-related characteristics were associated with ILD in our FMF patients (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** We have shown that incidentally diagnosed ILD is not uncommon in our FMF patients. In addition, FMF feature may not be associated with ILD in our patients.

**REFERENCE:**

**Table 1. Demographics and disease characteristics of FMF in two groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FMF with ILD</th>
<th>FMF without ILD</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>44.0 ± (30.4-48.0)</td>
<td>40.0 ± (30.4-48.0)</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>6/15</td>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (year)</td>
<td>1.0 (1.0-2.0)</td>
<td>1.0 (1.0-2.0)</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking (%)</td>
<td>3 (27.1)</td>
<td>58 (25.1)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary diseases (%)</td>
<td>3 (27.1)</td>
<td>35 (15.2)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchicine dosage (mg/day)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.0-2.0)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.0-1.5)</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amyloidosis (%)</td>
<td>2 (18.2)</td>
<td>24 (10.4)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchicine resistance (%)</td>
<td>4 (36.4)</td>
<td>21 (9.6)</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-1 blocker (%)</td>
<td>1 (1.1)</td>
<td>24 (10.4)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSF score</td>
<td>10.0 (2.0-3.7)</td>
<td>10.0 (2.0-3.7)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild disease (%)</td>
<td>7 (63.6)</td>
<td>180 (77.9)</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate-severe disease (%)</td>
<td>4 (36.4)</td>
<td>51 (22.1)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEFV mutations (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (30.0)</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homozgyote</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36 (36.3)</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound hetozygote</td>
<td>11 (10.0)</td>
<td>48 (26.5)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hetozygote</td>
<td>5 (5.0)</td>
<td>42 (20.7)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>11 (1.0)</td>
<td>81 (7.8)</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>React10 mutations</td>
<td>5 (5.0)</td>
<td>93 (70.5)</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M: Male; F: Female; ISSF: International severity score for FMF; MEFV mutations were available in 10/11 FMF patients with ILD and 147/231 FMF patients without ILD.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5196
while there was no correlation found between PLR and disease activity. Levels of NLR and PLR were both significantly higher in the patient group compared to the controls (p<0.001 and p<0.05 accordingly).

Conclusion: Taking into consideration data from our study NLR could be implemented in clinical practice as a cheap and easy accessible marker of the Behcet's disease activity. On the other hand, further studies with bigger samples are required to evaluate changes of PLR in BD. Assessment of NLR and PLR among BD patient in remission is required to find out if there are any changes compared to healthy controls.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosures of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5389

Table 1. General characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Familiar with OCP</th>
<th>Not familiar with OCP</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>433</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>260</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>252 (58.6)</td>
<td>92 (36.5)</td>
<td>160 (63.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, media (DS)</td>
<td>46.6 (11.6)</td>
<td>47.8 (11.2)</td>
<td>45.8 (11.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty</td>
<td>307 (70.9)</td>
<td>96 (31.3)</td>
<td>211 (87.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rheumatologists, n (%)</td>
<td>112 (25.9)</td>
<td>74 (66.1)</td>
<td>38 (33.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ophthalmologists, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (3.2)</td>
<td>3 (1.7)</td>
<td>11 (4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other specialties, n (%)</td>
<td>231 (53.3)</td>
<td>79 (45.6)</td>
<td>152 (58.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Public institution, n (%)</td>
<td>269 (62.1)</td>
<td>121 (69.9)</td>
<td>148 (56.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Private institution, n (%)</td>
<td>203 (46.9)</td>
<td>85 (49.1)</td>
<td>118 (45.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients with OCP evaluated n=23 (5.4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23 (8.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the last year:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Entre 0-1, n (%)</td>
<td>25 (5.8)</td>
<td>24 (13.8)</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Entre 2-10, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Más de 10, n (%)</td>
<td>229 (52.8)</td>
<td>140 (80.9)</td>
<td>89 (34.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCP together with ophthalmologists:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rheumatology, n (%)</td>
<td>100 (23.1)</td>
<td>48 (27.7)</td>
<td>52 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dermatology, n (%)</td>
<td>17 (3.9)</td>
<td>16 (9.2)</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Others, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis done by biopsy, n (%)</td>
<td>196 (45.5)</td>
<td>121 (69.9)</td>
<td>75 (28.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5595

A SURVEY ON OCULAR CICATRICAL PEMPHIGOID. WHAT DO RHEUMATOLOGISTS AND OPHTHALMOLOGISTS THINK ABOUT IT?

Keywords: Rare/orphan diseases

A. Ringer1, A. M. Smichowski2, C. Siegrist1, D. G. Grossi3, S. Chulibert1, A. M. Smichowski2, C. Siegrist1, D. G. Grossi3, S. Chulibert1,

Background: Mucous membrane pemphigoid is a systemic, chronic, scarring inflammatory disease of autoimmune aetiology. Isolated ocular involvement has been described in isolated cases, and in a case series of patients with Behcet’s disease [1]. We also recently showed that this is a distinctive feature of Behcet’s disease (BD) [2]. We also recently showed that this is a distinctive feature of Behcet’s disease (BD) [2].

Methods: An online survey was conducted, which was accessed through a link to a Google form. This questionnaire was addressed mainly to rheumatologists and ophthalmologists with OCP and their interdisciplinary interaction in the region.

Results: Of the 433 patients surveyed, 173 were familiar with OCP and their interdisciplinary interaction in the region.

Conclusion: The high percentage of insufficient knowledge of this entity by rheumatologists (70%), and the high referral of these patients to rheumatology by ophthalmologists familiar with OCP (80%), it is imperative to work to expand its knowledge, transmission and joint work between both specialties, to improve and protocolize the approach to this entity, which can produce irreversible sequelae on the ocular surface.

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AB1520

AB1520

DOES PATIENT POSITION AFFECT COMMON FEMORAL VEIN WALL THICKNESS MEASUREMENT BY DOPPLER ULTRASONOGRAPHY AS A DIAGNOSTIC TEST?

Keywords: Behcet’s disease, Ultrasound

R. Ergelen1, S. Kutluğ Ağçaşan2, H. Direskeneli3, F. Albaz-Oner2, 1Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Radiology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: We reported the first controlled Doppler ultrasound (US) study demonstrating increased common femoral vein (CFV) thickness in Behcet’s Disease (BD) [1]. We also recently showed that this is a distinctive feature of BD, rarely present in other inflammatory diseases with a specificity higher than 80% for the cut-off value of ≥ 0.5 mm [2]. Standart lower extremity venous Doppler US is performed in erect position for venous thrombosis or insufficiency [3]. However, we measured CFV thickness in supine position in our previous studies.

Objectives: In this study, we aimed to assess CFV wall thickness measurement by Doppler US both in supine and erect positions to validate the accuracy and practicability of this diagnostic method in BD.

Methods: We included 42 patients (Male/Female:27/15, mean age:39.8 (10.04) years) with a diagnosis of BD and sex and age-matched 41 healthy controls (Male/Female:21/18, mean age: 36.5 (8.4) years). The clinical data were recorded during routine visits. Bilateral CFV thickness was measured with Doppler US both in erect and supine positions by an experienced radiologist on the same day.
Results: Clinical characteristics of BD patients were given in Table 1. Bilateral CFV wall thickness was significantly higher in BD than in healthy controls (0.74 vs. 0.18 mm, p<0.001 for right, 0.74 vs. 0.19 mm, p<0.001 for left). There was no statistically significant difference between erect and supine positioned measurements of CFV wall thickness both in BD and healthy control groups (Figure 1).

Conclusion: CFV measurement by Doppler US is a new, accurate and non-invasive diagnostic tool for the diagnosis of BD. Although lower extremity venous Doppler US is performed in erect position for the assessment of venous thrombosis or insufficiency, our study confirmed that patient position does not affect CFV wall thickness measurement. Both erect and supine positioned CFV wall thickness measurements can be done accurately for the diagnosis of BD.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of patients with Behçet’s Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behçet’s Patients (n=42)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD), years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, male, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, mean (SD), years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up time, mean (SD), months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathergy positivity, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucocutaneous Involvement, n(%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Organ Involvement, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular Involvement, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular Involvement, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological Involvement, n (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 : Measurements of Common Femoral Vein Wall thickness of Behcet’s patients and healthy controls in supine and erect positions

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5963

ABT522

ROLE OF BIPHOSPHONATES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA

Keywords: Bone diseases

F. Fhima1, J. Mahboub1, M. Ardhahoui1, M. Ghali1, S. Zrou1, I. Beija1, M. Touzi1, N. Bergaoui1, Fattouma Bourguiba Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: Osteogenesis imperfecta (OI), or Lobstein’s disease, is a group of genetic diseases characterized by excessive bone fragility, due to a congenital defect in the elaboration of collagen fibers of the connective tissue. Bisphosphonates, with their anti-resorptive properties, are currently the reference medical treatment for this pathology, but remain a symptomatic treatment of the disease.

Objectives: This study aims to describe the addition of bisphosphonates to the management of OI.

Methods: This is a retrospective descriptive study collecting patients with OI followed in the rheumatology department of the Fattouma Bourguiba Hospital of Monastir. The study period was 17 years from 2005 to 2021. We investigated the evolution of bone mineral density (BMD) under bisphosphonates by evaluating the total gain in BMD with measurement of the SDD: Smallest Detectable Difference (in g/cm2). The threshold value of the SDD in absolute value is equal to 0.030 to 0.035 g/cm2. A variation of the SDD > 0.030 g/cm2 is a significant variation whether positive or negative.

Results: We collected 16 patients. Fourteen patients had a type I of OI. Type III and type IV were found in one case each. Nine of our patients were male with a sex ratio M/F=1.3. At diagnosis, the patients were divided into 13 children and 3 adults. The mean age at diagnosis was 11 years old for children [1 year, 18 years] and 34 years old for adults [27 years, 40 years]. Fifteen patients had a history of fracture. Fractures in the lower limbs were more frequent than in the upper limbs, with a number of fractures ranging from 3 to 20. Bone deformities were found in 10 patients affecting the lower limbs in 8 cases, the spine in 4 cases, the thorax in 2 cases, and the skull in 1 case. Radiologically, all patients had bone hypertransparency. Spinal involvement was frequent and included scoliosis (2 cases), hyperkyphosis (2 cases), biconcave vertebral compression (4 cases) and platyspondyly (4 cases). Osteoporosis was found in 9 cases and osteopenia in 6 cases. Therapeutically, all our patients received vitaminocalcic supplementation and bisphosphonates: pamidronate, according to Glorieux’s protocol: 1.5 to 3 mg/kg/cycle (i.e., 0.5 to 1 mg/kg/3 days in a row) for children and 90 mg (single infusion) for adults. The side effects observed with bisphosphonates were: hypocalcemia in 8 cases, flu-like syndrome in 5 cases, fever in 4 cases, and chest pain in 1 case. The evolution on bisphosphonates was evaluated by the total gain in BMD. The mean SDD was: +0.105 g/cm2 at the spine (significant positive change), +0.015 g/cm2 at the femoral neck (non-significant positive change) and +0.014 g/cm2 at the whole body (non-significant positive change).

Conclusion: The therapeutic management of patients with OI is multidisciplinary and complex. In this study, all patients were treated with pamidronate according to the protocol of Glorieux. They had a gain in bone mass that was remarkably significant in the spine.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6371
Diagnostics and imaging procedures

**ABT1523**

**CLINICAL SIGNS AND ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH DURAL SAC ECTASIA IN INDIVIDUALS WITH MARFAN DISEASE: A CROSS-SECTIONAL CASE-CONTROL STUDY**

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Rare/orphan diseases, Patient reported outcomes

S. Trousslet1, O. Milleret2, L. Ellahiou2, C. Daeste3, M. M. Lefevere Cola3,2, F. Rannou4, A. Roren3, G. Jongeau2, C. Nguyen3.1 Cochin Hospital, Rehabilitation, Paris, France; 2Bichat-Claude Bernard Hospital, Cardiology, Paris, France; 3Cochin Hospital, Rehabilitation, Paris, France

**Background:** Dural ectasia often occurs in individuals with Marfan disease. Fibrillin-1, a matrix component of microfibrils, has been hypothesized to play a role in the circulation of cerebrospinal fluid [1]. Modifications in the circulation of cerebrospinal fluid in individuals with Marfan disease may lead to an increased pressure in the lumbo sacral area and a decreased pressure in the cephalic extremity.

**Objectives:** We hypothesized that individuals with Marfan disease and dural ectasia, as compared to individuals with Marfan disease without dural ectasia, may display a specific pattern of painful symptoms and spine-specific activity limitations [2]. The aim of our study was to compare the frequencies and characteristics of painful symptoms, and the intensity of back and leg pain, spine-specific activity limitations, and health-related quality of life, between individuals with Marfan disease with and without dural ectasia.

**Methods:** We conducted a single-centred cross-sectional comparative study. All individuals with Marfan disease followed in the department of cardiology of Bichat hospital (Paris, France) and recorded in the computerized database of the department from inception to January 2022 were systematically screened. Inclusion criteria were: adults $\geq$ 18 and $\leq$ 65 years; fulfilling Ghent nosology; FBN1 mutations confirmed by genetic testing; and CT-scan or magnetic resonance imaging available. Non-inclusion criteria were: history of lumbar surgery $<1$ year; specific back pain (i.e. tumor, infection, traumatism, fracture, inflammation); imaging available. Non-inclusion criteria were: history of lumbar surgery $<1$ year; specific back pain (i.e. tumor, infection, traumatism, fracture, inflammation); non-inclusion criteria were: history of lumbar surgery $<1$ year; specific back pain (i.e. tumor, infection, traumatism, fracture, inflammation).

**Results:** 247 individuals were eligible to participate and were contacted by mail. 90 (36%) individuals accepted to participate and were included: 55 (61%) had dural ectasia and 45 (39%) did not (Figure 1). Mean participants’ age was 39.3 (8.4) years and 45 (50%) were women. 80 (89%) participants had back pain, most often located in the lower back, 65 (71%) a history of scoliosis and 8 (8%) a history of spine surgery. 15 (17%) participants had a history of high blood pressure, 84 (93%) a dilation and/or dissection of the ascending aorta, and 52 (58%) an aortic surgery. The 3 most often reported painful symptoms were increased pain in the lower back with upright posture in 53 (58%) participants, increased headache with upright posture in 36 (40%) and increased pain in the lower back when walking in 31 (34%). The frequencies of increased headache with upright posture and of increased pain in the lower back when coughing, laughing and/or sneezing were numerically higher in participants with than without dural ectasia (49% vs 26% and 13% vs 0%, respectively), without reaching statistical significance ($p$-value=0.030 and $p$-value=0.021, respectively) (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** Individuals with Marfan disease and dural ectasia, as compared to those without dural ectasia, display a specific pattern of painful symptoms, including lower back pain and headache with upright posture. We detected two differences in favor of a link between ectasia of the dural sac and abundance in ascending aortic surgery (64% vs 49%).

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.169

**ABT1524**

**A NOVEL ACCELEROMETER-BASED METHOD FOR EARLY DETECTION OF PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY ASSOCIATED WITH SYSTEMIC AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES**

**Keywords:** Telemedicine, Diagnostic tests, Validation

Z. Veličković1, S. Pavlov Doljanović1, N. Tomonić1, J. Janić2, B. Stojić2, G. Radunović1.1 Institute of Rheumatology, Internal Medicine - Rheumatology, Belgrade, Serbia; 2Institute of Rheumatology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Belgrade, Serbia

**Background:** Systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases (SARDs) such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), primary Sjögren’s syndrome (SS), and systemic sclerosis (SSc) occasionally affect the peripheral nervous system. Nerve conduction studies (NCS) can almost certainly confirm the diagnosis of SARD-associated neuropathy. The NCS method is usually considered the gold standard for neuropathy assessment, although this method is based on physicians’ knowledge and experience. However, it is painful for patients, long-lasting, prone to errors, and can’t be used for routine follow-up. There is an urgent need for potential alternative diagnostic screening methods for implementation in everyday practice. Wearable sensor devices, such as accelerometers, are instruments that can be utilized to acquire data during different activities. Their size and wirelessness, lower cost, portability, and use in home-based and real-life situations are a few of the advantages.

**Objectives:** To evaluate a telemedicine wearable device with a machine learning algorithm that can be used as a screening and tracking tool for SARD-related neuropathy.

**Methods:** A monocentric, diagnostic study was conducted at the Institute of Rheumatology in 2020. The participants were healthy volunteers and SARD patients who had suspected neuropathy. The participant started with the NCS examination; electrodes were placed on the limbs, and amplitude, latency, and conduction velocity of n. medianus, n. ulnaris, n. peroneus, n. tibialis, and n. suprascapularis (motor and sensory fibres) were measured. The novel method consists of four wearable sensors placed over the middle of the hands and feet. The subject performed six exercises with open and closed eyes. Raw data was sent through the Bluetooth connection from the sensors to the tablet and then via WiFi connection to the central server for further analysis. A wearable device uses a specific mathematical algorithm that transforms signals from the accelerometer and gyroscope into specific values. The outcome is defined as a binary variable: whether or not neuropathy exists.

**Results:** The study included 23 participants 9 (2 and 314), 11 with SARDs (45.8%). Of the total number of SARD participants, 8 (72.7%) had neuropathy confirmed with the NCS examination. The features (such as acceleration or power) obtained with signal processing were examined, and only those that can be used to discriminate SARD-related neuropathy are presented (Table 1). The model for binary classification was developed and presented in Table 2. As shown, the sensitivity and specificity are satisfactory, but the confidence intervals are still wide. Positive predictive value is significantly lower compared to negative predictive value. The conclusion: Wearable sensors represent accurate and promising technology for the diagnosis of neuropathies related to SARDs. Further studies are needed to evaluate the true accuracy of the technology.

**Table 1. The features used to discriminate neuropathy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Neuropathy (NCS)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No (15)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes (8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXC 1 Heel-toe walk</td>
<td>0.01±0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDD Acc Norm Ll Heels</td>
<td>0.1±0.06</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXC 2 tandem walk</td>
<td>1.5±0.2</td>
<td>1.33±0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SigPow Acc Norm RL Min</td>
<td>0.03±0.03</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CorrSeg Acc Norm Ll CIE</td>
<td>0.06±0.1</td>
<td>0.02±0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DistSeg Acc Norm LL, Ll OpE</td>
<td>0.1±0.01</td>
<td>0.03±0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclussion: Wearable sensors represent accurate and promising technology for the diagnosis of neuropathies related to SARDs. Further studies are needed to evaluate the true accuracy of the technology.</td>
<td>0.7±0.23</td>
<td>0.44±0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXC 4 Romberg test</td>
<td>0.1±0.25</td>
<td>0.13±0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEX 5 postural tremor</td>
<td>0.02±0.01</td>
<td>0.01±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StatPos Abs/Diff RA Max</td>
<td>1.2±0.06</td>
<td>0.71±0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V0 Acc Norm LA BefAlt</td>
<td>0.03±0.01</td>
<td>0.02±0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ExC 6 finger-nose</td>
<td>1.0±0.02</td>
<td>0.97±0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DistSeg Acc Norm RA, RA OpE</td>
<td>0.01±0.01</td>
<td>0.01±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exp Acc Norm RA, RA TopPow</td>
<td>0.03±0.01</td>
<td>0.02±0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Methods: Power Doppler (PD) signals are occasionally detected in the deltoid ligament on musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSUS) examination of symptomatic patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and related disorders. We reviewed the record of MSUS examined in Japanese Red Cross Medical Center between April 2015 and October 2022. We examined the characteristics of medical record information and images of cases in which power Doppler signals were observed in the deltoid ligament. Patients with only a few punctate signals or less were excluded. Patients with only traumatic or degenerative disorders were also excluded.

Results: PD signals more than a few punctate signals were observed in the deltoid ligament in 31 cases. The disease categories and diagnoses of the patients were as follows: 13 spondyloarthritis (SpA) patients (9 undifferentiated SpA (USpA), 2 psoriatic arthritis, 2 reactive arthritis), 10 rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients (6 early RA, 4 established RA), 7 crystal-induced arthritis (CIA) (6 gout, 1 CPPD), and 1 primary Sjogren's syndrome. All SpA patients met the ASAS criteria for peripheral SpA and all RA patients fulfilled the 2010 ACR/EULAR classification criteria. In SpA cases, PD signals tended to be predominantly on the superficial surface of the ligament in RA patients (superficial distribution, 7 out of 10 cases). There was a significant difference in the PD signal distribution pattern between SpA and RA by Fisher's exact test (p=0.0397). In all CIA patients, hyperechoic materials were detected in the ligament.

Conclusion: According to literature reports, SpA is considered relatively rare in Japan, where the HLA-B27 positivity rate is < 0.3%, with an estimated population prevalence of < 0.01% [1]. The estimated prevalence of patients with RA in Japan is 0.65% [2], similar to the rest of the world. Considering the prevalence of each disease, we speculate that PD signals in the deltoid ligament are more characteristic of SpA. The presence of PD signals in the deltoid ligament, especially with a broad and deep distribution, may provide diagnostic clues for SpA, particularly undifferentiated spondyloarthritis.

Table 1. Validation of new proposed model for neuropathy screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>NCS - (n=15)</th>
<th>NCS + (n=8)</th>
<th>Sn</th>
<th>Sp</th>
<th>PPV</th>
<th>NPV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 FT EXC 1 + 4 WS + 3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.875</td>
<td>0.800</td>
<td>0.700</td>
<td>0.923</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT EXC 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.466–0.513)</td>
<td>(0.513–0.621)</td>
<td>(0.993–0.946)</td>
<td>(0.946–0.996)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WS -</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abb. FT – feature, WS – wearable sensors, NCS – nerve conduction studies

Acknowledgements: The authors acknowledge the company “DIVS Neuroinformatics” for providing equipment to us, for signal processing and data analysis. We also acknowledge the collaboration of the patients and other rheumatologists at the Institute of Rheumatology for participating in this study.

Disclosure of Interests: Zoran Veličković: None declared, Slavica Pavlov Doljanovic Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Novartis, Eli Lilly, Abbvie, Nina Tomonjic: None declared, Saša Janjić: None declared, Biljana Stojić: None declared, Goran Radunovic Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Novartis, Eli Lilly, Abbvie, Grant/research support from: Novartis, Abbvie.

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.659

Table 2. The presence of power doppler signals in the deltoid ligament, especially with a broad and deep distribution, may provide diagnostic clues for spondyloarthritis, particularly undifferentiated spondyloarthritis

Keywords: Ultrasound, Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis

T. Suzuki1, H. Shira1,1, Japanese Red Cross Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology and Allergology, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Power Doppler (PD) signals are occasionally detected in the deltoid ligament on musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSUS) examination of symptomatic patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and related disorders. We reviewed the record of MSUS examined in Japanese Red Cross Medical Center between April 2015 and October 2022. We examined the characteristics of medical record information and images of cases in which power Doppler signals were observed in the deltoid ligament. Patients with only a few punctate signals or less were excluded. Patients with only traumatic or degenerative disorders were also excluded.

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Conclusion: According to literature reports, SpA is considered relatively rare in Japan, where the HLA-B27 positivity rate is < 0.3%, with an estimated population prevalence of < 0.01% [1]. The estimated prevalence of patients with RA in Japan is 0.65% [2], similar to the rest of the world. Considering the prevalence of each disease, we speculate that PD signals in the deltoid ligament are more characteristic of SpA. The presence of PD signals in the deltoid ligament, especially with a broad and deep distribution, may provide diagnostic clues for SpA, particularly USpA.

REFERENCES:
Figure 1. Study design

**Figure 1.**

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1668

### AB1528 APPLICATION OF BONE MARROW EDEMA SCORING SYSTEM DERIVED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN RAPID RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION RESCUE STUDY

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging

K. Katayama, T. Okubo, K. Yuiro, T. Sato, T. Kawahata, K. Tanaka, S. Abe, H. Ito, K. Morii. Katayama Orthopedic Rheumatology Clinic, Rheumatology, Asahikawa, Japan; Katayama Orthopedic Rheumatology Clinic, Radiology, Asahikawa, Japan; Sapporo Rheumatology and Immunology Clinic, Rheumatology, Sapporo, Japan; Asahikawa Medical University, Division of Metabolism and Biosystemic Science, Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine, Asahikawa, Japan; Asahikawa Medical University, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Asahikawa, Japan; Graduate School of Informative, Information and communications, Nagoya, Japan

**Background:** We demonstrated new bone marrow edema (BME) scoring system in X-ray (specificity 90%, sensitivity 65-70%) using deep learning with artificial intelligence (AI) reflects MRI BME in previous EULAR meeting[1].

**Objectives:** In this study, to ascertain whether BME score in this system by X-ray film might reflect MRI BME in Biologics therapy, we retrospectively applied this system to the rapid radiographic progression rescue study previously reported[2].

**Methods:** RA patients inadequate response with MTX who have extensive BME in single or bilateral wrist joints and DAS28-ESR>3.2 were treated by enhanced group, of conventional synthetic (cs) DMARDs (26 patients) or by biologics (23 patients). X-ray film of two groups after 3-6 months treatment applied to BME scoringsystem (cut off:0.4) and compared with MRI BME.

**Results:** J-PEG file of hand Xray film were uploaded to new BME scoring system(Figure 1). BME score are expressed as Positive or Negative and index [0-1]. In biologics group, number of BME score positive rate reduced from 65.3% to 15.3% after treatment MRI BME unchanged group(1). In csDMARDs enhanced group, number of BME score positive rate reduced from 75% to 25% after treatment MRI BME improvement group and reduced 58.7% to 53.1% in MRI BME unchanged group. In both groups, false negative (N: Figure 1, white color back) patients were observed.

**Conclusion:** AI-derived bone marrow edema score may reflect bone marrow edema in MRI in biologics treatment and may help early recognition of biologics efficacy during treatment.

**REFERENCES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>RED(P)</th>
<th>BME score positive, Black(N):BME score negative, Before Biologics therapy (0M), after therapy (3/6M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ENL</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>MTX</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.**

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1924
Keywords: Crystal arthritis, Diagnostic tests

T. Niessink1,2, M. Janssen2, T. Jansen2, C. Otto1, University of Twente, Medical Cell Biophysics, Enschede, Netherlands; 1VeeCuri Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Venlo, Netherlands

Background: Microplastics (MPs) have been identified in different types of tissue, including lung, bowel, placenta and as well in human whole blood [1]. During analysis of synovial fluid samples with Raman spectroscopy with the purpose of identification of crystals related to crystallopathies, presence of multiple types of MPs have been identified. Due to the recent interest in the effect of plastic pollution on human health, the noticed presence of these particles in synovial fluid samples is concerning and worthy of our attention.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to characterize deposited MPs in samples drawn from arthritis patients presenting to our rheumatology outpatient clinic, with the aim of calculating their prevalence and estimate the significance of their presence against blank control samples as we are using a novel and highly sensitive technique of integrated Raman spectroscopy with Polarized light microscopy in routine clinical practice.

Methods: This is an analysis of Raman spectroscopic data retrieved from 156 synovial fluid samples from consecutive series of patients visiting our outpatient clinic. Data was compared against a series of blank samples of MiG processed in similar fashion. The number of required blank samples was calculated with the formula of Rosner (2011, [2]), the study population was compared against the controls with a Chi-Square test.

Results: A total of 96 MPs were identified, in 4 distinct types: polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET). A total of 44 samples (28.2%) were positive for one or more particle (Figure 1). 19 samples (12.2%) samples had one identified MP, 15 (9.6%) had two identified MP, and 10 (6.4%) had three or more identified MPs (Figure 3). Combinations of MPs were present in 7 of 22 samples (31.8%) with more than one MP. Most MPs were identified extracellular, although one case of intracellular polyethylene particles was identified.

The incidence in MPs in the study population was 30.8%. With an alpha (significance level) of 0.05 and a power of 90%, 10 blank control samples would be enough to find a significant difference if in none of these samples particles are identified. However, we identified one or more microplastics in 4 (40%) of the 10 samples. Polyethylene was identified in 3 samples (30%), polypropylene in 1 (10%), and polyethylene terephthalate in 1 (10%). 1 (10%) sample had a combination of plastic types. With a threshold of 1 or more identified MPs considered positive, there is no significant difference (p = 0.542) between the blank controls and the patient sample population.

Conclusion: Due to numeric presence of extracellular microplastics in both patient material as the blank control samples we define that the presence of one or two MPs in a synovial fluid sample from a swollen joint is not significant and probably of no clinical importance. For the determination whether a higher number of extracellular MPs can be significant and of potential clinical relevance, more control samples are to be measured. The interpretation of the presence of intracellular microplastics needs further investigation.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: We want to thank ReumaNederland for funding our research.


AB1530 USING MACHINE LEARNING TO ANALYZE THE FUNDOSCOPY OF ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS, PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS AND PSORIASIS

Keywords: Imaging, Artificial intelligence, Spondyloarthritis

Y. J. Huang1, Y. H. Huang2, Y. C. Kang3, Z. Y. Liu4, J. S. Chen5, C. H. Lin6, C. F. Kuo7,1, 1Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, Taoyuan City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Department of Dermatology, Taoyuan City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 3Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Department of Ophthalmology, Taoyuan City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 4Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Center for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, Taoyuan City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 5Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Center for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, Taoyuan City, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Autoimmune diseases are associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease which can be preceded by microvascular changes. The study about fundoscopy in ankylosing spondylitis is described by Bentum et al.[1] but the related study about deep learning model is insufficient.

Objectives: To validate the ability of machine learning model to verify the fundoscopy of ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, psoriasis and normal control.

Methods: We collected 1864 color fundus exams of 1105 patients with ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan from January 2001 to June 2022. The control group is 7122 fundoscopies of 5525 patients matched with age and gender. We separated database into training group, validation group and testing group. (7:1.5:1.5). We trained two convolutional neural networks including Vgg-11 and ResNet-18 to perform the segmentation and capture the obscure findings of fundoscopy that human eyes cannot identify. We use the sensitivity, specificity, AUC, odds ratio and positive likelihood ratio to evaluate the performance of machine learning to diagnose ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis.

Results: The ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis patients have higher body mass index, disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs and biological agents usage, and even more comorbidities with dyslipidemia, hypertension and coronary artery disease compared with control group. In the setting of one case with solitary image of fundoscopy, the machine learning model of ResNet-18 showed AUC 0.78 with sensitivity 82% and specificity 66 %. In the setting of one case with solitary image of fundoscopy, the machine learning model of Vgg-11 showed the AUC 0.76 with sensitivity 79% and specificity 64%. The odds ratio is 8.54 and the positive likelihood ratio is 2.41 for deep learning model to predict the diagnosis of diseases.

Conclusion: The performance of machine learning model to predict the diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis is quite acceptable. Fundoscopy analyzed with deep learning model may be a useful tool to help us to stratify the patient of ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Demographic characteristic of study population after quality control of fundoscopy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Patients (N=537)</th>
<th>Control (N=2016)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), means±SD</td>
<td>55.5 ± 16.3</td>
<td>56.4 ± 16.1</td>
<td>0.272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, n, means±SD</td>
<td>25.7 ± 4.59</td>
<td>24.8 ± 3.92</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systolic pressures (mmHg), n</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeansSD</td>
<td>135 ± 20.3</td>
<td>136 ± 21.2</td>
<td>0.673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker, n</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, n(%)</td>
<td>36 (26.9)</td>
<td>105 (26.2)</td>
<td>0.935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMARD, n(%)</td>
<td>167 (31.1)</td>
<td>9 (0.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological agents, n(%)</td>
<td>86 (16.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia, n(%)</td>
<td>121 (22.5)</td>
<td>268 (13.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension, n(%)</td>
<td>201 (37.4)</td>
<td>420 (20.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAD, n(%)</td>
<td>46 (8.6)</td>
<td>86 (4.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cholesterol (mg/dL), n</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>464</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeansSD</td>
<td>183 ± 39.3</td>
<td>180 ± 41.5</td>
<td>0.429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL (mg/dL), n</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>388</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeansSD</td>
<td>48.6 ± 13.6</td>
<td>48.0 ± 15.1</td>
<td>0.629</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDL (mg/dL), n</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>396</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeansSD</td>
<td>110 ± 47.7</td>
<td>108 ± 52.9</td>
<td>0.645</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background: Arthrocentesis is a procedure defined as synovial fluid aspiration that has diagnostic and therapeutic value in both the outpatient and inpatient setting. As mentioned in our prior study, joint arthrocentesis is not an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) procedural requirement for Internal Medicine (IM) residents in the United States. Thus, we started the Phase I of our study, evaluating our in-house IM residents on their confidence level in performing intra-articular injections. This study resulted in more than half of the residents not feeling comfortable in performing arthrocentesis and nearly 100% of performing intra-articular injections. This study resulted in more than half of the residents not feeling comfortable in performing arthrocentesis and nearly 100% of performing intra-articular injections.

Methods: Pre-workshop arthrocentesis learning material, including procedural check list and video, were compiled by IM residents at RWMC. A Rheumatology fellow demonstrated a one-to-one practice session on the knee model and the IM residents were graded based on the thoroughness of the procedural checklist. Each resident completed a post-procedure survey based on this arthrocentesis workshop.

Results: A total of 20 IM residents participated in the knee arthrocentesis workshop. As noted in Table 1, 85% of the residents believed that the pre-session information was helpful in preparing them for the workshop. (Table 1) On the post-workshop survey, 100% of the residents either agreed or strongly agreed to feeling more comfortable with the knee arthrocentesis after the practice, and all (100%) were interested in participating in future knee aspirations. The overall performance on the procedural aspect was also impressive with 40% of residents being able to complete the workshop on the knee model successfully on their first attempt and 55% on their second attempt. (Figure 1) Based on the procedure checklist score in Figure 1, residents were most proficient in the post-procedure stage with 100% score meanwhile, least successful on the aspiration of synovial fluid stage with a score of 55%.

Conclusion: Our QI project has shown that a standardized lecture series on how to perform arthrocentesis has resulted in a significant improvement in the overall confidence of internal medicine residents. This should be taken into consideration and incorporated as part of the internal medicine learning curriculum.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

References:
Objectives: To describe and measure the ultrasonographic, anatomical, and histological characteristics of the A1 and A2 annular pulleys entheses.

Methods: A1 and A2 annular pulleys from 15 formalin-embalmed cadavers were assessed by grey-scale ultrasound (Figure 1) and then dissected. The ultrasonographic evaluations included the identification, widths, and characterization of insertion site of the annular pulleys. For the anatomical analysis, dissection was then performed, identifying the transverse fibers of the distal region of the palmar fascia as the proximal limit and the proximal interphalangeal joint as the distal limit. Measurements of the anatomical width of the pulleys were obtained with a digital caliper. For the histological study, 2x2 cm samples were received, fixed with 4% formaldehyde, and processed to obtain paraffin blocks, then cut into 4-micron sections and stained with hematoxylin-eosin. The slides were observed and measured with a Leica DMD 108 microscope. Quantitative data were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD) and qualitative data as n (%). Means were analyzed using Student’s-t test and frequencies using the chi-square test and Fisher test when needed. Pearson’s correlation coefficient (r) was used to analyze the linear correlation between the ultrasonographic and anatomical measurements. Statistical analyses will be performed using the SPSS program version 26.0.

Results: Fifteen cadaveric hands (9 males and 6 females) with a mean age of 79 years were included. Regarding the ultrasonographic assessment the mean ultrasound width of the A1 pulley was 0.27 ± 0.06 mm and A2 0.11 mm ± 0.04 mm in the years were included. Regarding the ultrasonographic assessment the mean ultrasound’s correlation coefficient (r) was used to analyze the linear correlation between the ultrasonographic and anatomical measurements. All A1 in the thumb shows sesamoid bones (SB) in (13%) in the fifth finger. The histological description of the annular pulleys shows a diverse nature of the enthesis with fibrocartilaginous and fibrous areas.

Conclusion: These preliminary results show that ultrasound is a valuable tool for identifying annular pulleys’ width and entheses, with good correlation with the anatomical and histological study. The annular pulleys have a mixed fibrous and fibrocartilaginous enthesis.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Luis Coronel Grant/research support from: Amgen, Mariel Miguel. None declared, Joan Blasi: None declared, Sara Marsal: None declared, Maria-Antonietta D’Agostino: None declared, Iginid Möller: None declared.

AB1532
ULTRASOUND ASSESSMENT OF A1 AND A2 PULLEY ENTHESIS WITH ANATOMICAL AND HISTOLOGICAL CORRELATION

Keywords: Imaging, Ultrasound, Enthesitis

1Hospital Universitari Vall d’Hebron: Reumatología, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 2Universitat de Barcelona - Campus Bellvitge, Unitat d’Anatomia i Embriologia Humana, L’Hospital de Llobregat, Spain; 3Universitat de Barcelona - Campus Bellvitge, Histologia, L’Hospital de Llobregat, Spain; 4Agostino Gemelli University Policlinic, Rheumatology, Rome, Italy; 5Instituto Poal de Reumatología, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Digital entheses are of particular interest in inflammatory arthritides. The annular pulleys (A) are forms of soft connective tissue organized as transverse fibers of variable width, thickness, and configuration that overlay the synovial sheath of flexor tendons. These structures prevent the flexor tendons from bowing and maintain them in constant relationship to the joint axis of motion. Objectives: To describe and measure the ultrasonographic, anatomical, and histological characteristics of the A1 and A2 annular pulleys entheses.

Methods: A1 and A2 annular pulleys from 15 formalin-embalmed cadavers were assessed by grey-scale ultrasound (Figure 1) and then dissected. The ultrasonographic evaluations included the identification, widths, and characterization of insertion site of the annular pulleys. For the anatomical analysis, dissection was then performed, identifying the transverse fibers of the distal region of the palmar fascia as the proximal limit and the proximal interphalangeal joint as the distal limit. Measurements of the anatomical width of the pulleys were obtained with a digital caliper. For the histological study, 2x2 cm samples were received, fixed with 4% formaldehyde, and processed to obtain paraffin blocks, then cut into 4-micron sections and stained with hematoxylin-eosin. The slides were observed and measured with a Leica DMD 108 microscope. Quantitative data were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD) and qualitative data as n (%). Means were analyzed using Student’s-t-test and frequencies using the chi-square test and Fisher test when needed. Pearson’s correlation coefficient (r) was used to analyze the linear correlation between the ultrasonographic and anatomical measurements. Statistical analyses will be performed using the SPSS program version 26.0.

Results: Fifteen cadaveric hands (9 males and 6 females) with a mean age of 79 years were included. Regarding the ultrasonographic assessment the mean ultrasound width of the A1 pulley was 0.27 ± 0.06 mm and A2 0.11 mm ± 0.04 mm in the thumb, while A1 was 0.36 ± 0.09 mm and A2 pulley 0.46 ± 0.06 mm on the other fingers. A strong correlation between the ultrasonographic and anatomical measurements was found (r=0.82). All A1 in the thumb shows sesamoid bones (SB) in (13%) in the fifth finger. The histological description of the annular pulleys shows a diverse nature of the enthesis with fibrocartilaginous and fibrous areas.

Conclusion: These preliminary results show that ultrasound is a valuable tool for identifying annular pulleys’ width and entheses, with good correlation with the anatomical and histological study. The annular pulleys have a mixed fibrous and fibrocartilaginous enthesis.

REFERENCES:

HISTOPATHOLOGICAL RESULTS

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Luis Coronel Grant/research support from: Amgen, Mariel Miguel. None declared, Joan Blasi: None declared, Sara Marsal: None declared, Maria-Antonietta D’Agostino: None declared, Iginid Möller: None declared.

AB1533
DIAGNOSTIC VALUE AND BENEFITS OF PERFORMING A MINIMALLY INVASIVE TECHNIQUE FOR MINOR SALIVARY GLAND BIOPSY, A CASE SERIES

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Diagnostic tests

M. López-Rodríguez1, M. Freire2, C. Cánovas1, A. Andrade1, L. Gómez-Suárez1, B. Sopeña Perez Arguelles1, A. González-Quintela1, I. Möller5.
1Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago de Compostela, Unidad de Enfermedades Sistémicas e Inmunopatología, Servicio de Medicina Interna, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Background: Salivary gland biopsy plays an important role in the diagnosis of systemic diseases, especially Sjögren’s Syndrome. Minimally invasive biopsy has a low risk of complications with respect to the classical technique, without losing its diagnostic capacity.

Objectives: To assess the utility and safety of minimally invasive technique in patients with suspected systemic disease and salivary gland involvement.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of 31 minor salivary gland biopsies performed by our Systemic Autoimmunity Disease Unit from November 1st 2020 to November 1st 2022, using a minimally invasive technique. Antibody profile and histopathological changes were observed and recorded. Adverse events were registered immediately after the procedure and at the next medical visit.

Results: A total of 31 biopsies were reviewed. Mean age of patients was 60 years, most women (n=27 87%). The success rate of obtaining glandular tissue was 94% (29/31). With respect to immunological data, 24 patients had positive ANAs (77,4%), 24 negative ENAs (77,4%) and 21 negative Rheumatoid Factor (67,7%). In histopathological evaluation 52% were normal salivary tissue (n=16), 23% had focal lymphocytic salaladentis (n=7), 16% nonspecific chronic salaladentis (n=5), 6% (n=2) non-existent or insufficient sample and 3% fatty infiltration (n=1). The only complication was a transient superficial lip ecchymosis in one patient (3,2%).

Conclusion: 23% of patients with immunonegative sicca syndrome are diagnosed with Sjögren’s Syndrome due to a minor salivary gland biopsy performed with a minimally invasive technique. This is a simple tool which saves time until diagnosis with low rate complications.

REFERENCES:
A VALIDATION OF REGISTER DERIVED DIAGNOSES OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS. DATA FROM NOR-DMD

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Comorbidities

S. Aarrestad Provan1,2, F. Ahlfors3, B. Bakland4, H. Ye5, E. Kristianslund6, T. K. Kvien7, E. Ikkdahl1, T. M. Aaløkken1, A. M. Hoffmann-Vold8. Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway; 1Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, Elverum, Public Health, Elverum, Norway; 2Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Radiology, Gothenburg, Sweden; 3University Hospital of North Norway HF, Rheumatology, Troms, Norway; 4Ruematsykehuset, Rheumatology, Lillehammer, Norway; 5Oslo University Hospital, Department of Radiology, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo, Norway; 6Oslo University Hospital, Rheumatology, Oslo, Norway

Background: There is a lack of knowledge concerning the validity of international classification of diseases (ICD) diagnoses extracted from health registers although this information is often used in epidemiological studies.

Objectives: To assess the validity of register derived diagnoses of interstitial lung disease (ILD) in patients with rheumatic diseases, using ILD identified on computed tomography (CT) and/or medical journal as gold standard.

Methods: The Norwegian Anti-Rheumatic Drug Register (NOR-DMD) is a multi-centre prospective observational study that includes patients with a diagnosis of inflammatory arthritis who started treatment with disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs. NOR-DMD was linked to the Norwegian Patient Registry (NPR) and Cause of Death Registry. We searched both registers for ILD ICD-10 codes (J70, J84 or J99) and extracted CTs from participants at four hospitals. CTs were taken within the prespecified time-period across 43 with two or more ILD diagnoses in register and available in 60 patients with ILD in register and available CT taken within the relevant time-period and in 28/43 (65.1%) patients who had received ILD diagnoses in the registries were considered relevant to the study. An expert thoracic radiologist (FA) scored all examinations according to presence of ILD and categorised the finding into: no ILD, possible ILD and confirmed ILD. Possible ILD CT images were re-examined by a second expert radiologist (TMA). In addition, medical records were searched for ILD diagnoses given by specialist clinicians on several occasions. Presence of confirmed ILD was assessed in patients with available CTs, registry ICD-code for ILD at ≥2 time points and across ILD diagnoses subgroups.

Results: We identified 80 cases with an ILD diagnosis given in a register (ICD-10 n (%)): J70 (12.5), J84 (52.5) and J90 (18.25)). CTs were available in 72/80 (90%) patients, 60/72 (83%) within the pre-specified time-window. The ILD diagnosis was confirmed on CT in 31/80 (38.8%) and in 9/80 (11.3%) by medical records only. ILD was validated in 34 (56.7%) of 60 patients with available CT within the relevant time-period and in 28/43 (65.1%) patients who had received an ILD code at ≥2 time points and had a HRCT within the relevant time-period (Table 1). The diagnosis was confirmed in 20 (69.9%) of the 29 patients of this group who had received a J84 diagnoses. ILD diagnoses that were not validated were most frequently given under investigations for respiratory symptoms 20/38 (52.6%).

Conclusion: The validity of registry-based diagnoses of ILD must be carefully considered in epidemiological studies.

Table 1. Positive predictive value of ILD diagnoses from patient registers in cohorts with progressive selection criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of patients in cohort</th>
<th>Number of patients (%)</th>
<th>ILD diagnosis confirmed by CT and/or medical records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 patients with ILD in register</td>
<td>42 (52.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 patients with ILD in register and available CT taken within 36 (56.7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the prespecified time-period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 with two or more ILD diagnoses in register and available CT taken within the prespecified time-period</td>
<td>28 (65.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 with two or more ILD diagnoses in register and available CT taken within the prespecified time-period across 2 (33.3)</td>
<td>20 (69.0)</td>
<td>J99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diagnoses</td>
<td>6 (75.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Footnotes: ILD: interstitial lung disease

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Sella Aarrestad Provan Consultant of: Boehringer Ingelheim, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Fredrik Ahlfors: None declared, Gunnstein Bakland Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Consultant of: Novartis, UCB, Pfizer, MSD og Celgene, Hu Ye: None declared, Eirik kristianslund: None declared, Tore K. Kvien Speakers bureau: Grünenthal, Sandzo, UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Celtrion, Gilead, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandzo, UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Galapagos, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Eirik Ikkdahl: None declared, Trond M Aaløkken Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold Speakers bureau: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jannsen, Medscape, Merck Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Consultant of: ARXX, Boehringer Ingelheim, Genentech, Jannsen, Merck Sharp & Dohme and Roche, Grant/research support from: Boehringer Ingelheim, Jannsen.

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Efficacy of Apremilast on Whole-Body Inflammation Indices in Patients with Psoriatic Arthritis: Assessments by Whole-Body Magnetic Resonance Imaging in the Phase 4 Mosaic Study

Keywords: Imaging, Psoriatic arthritis, Outcome measures

M. Ostergard1, W. P. Maksymowycz1, M. Boesen2, R. G. Lambert3, G. Valenzuela4, M. Bubb5, O. Kubassova6, J. Reddy7, S. Colgan8, Y. Klyachkin9, C. Deignan10, S. Colgan8, S. Colgan8, Y. Klyachkin8, C. Deignan8, L. Tang9, M. Paris10, P. J. Mease10. Copenhagen Center for Arthritis Research, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen, Rheumatology, Copenhagen, Denmark; 1University of Alberta, Department of Medicine, Edmonton, AB, Canada; 2Copenhagen University Hospital, Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospital, Rheumatic Diseases and Auto-Immunity, Copenhagen, Denmark; 3University of Alberta, Department of Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging, Edmonton, AB, Canada; 4Integral Rheumatology & Immunology Specialists, Rheumatology & Immunology, Plantation, United States of America; 5University of Florida, Rheumatology, Gainesville, United States of America; 6Imaging Analysis Group, R&D, Philadelphia, United States of America; 7Amgen Inc., Medical Affairs, Thousand Oaks, United States of America; 8Amgen Inc., Statistics, Thousand Oaks, United States of America; 9Swedish Medical Center/Providence St. Joseph Health and University of Washington School of Medicine, Medicine, Seattle, United States of America

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is characterized by various patterns of inflammatory arthritis, enthesitis, dactylitis, and spondylitis. Apremilast is an oral immunomodulating phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor that is indicated for treatment of PsA. Whole-body magnetic resonance imaging (WB-MRI) allows assessment of joints and entheses of the entire body in one examination when using the Outcome Measures in Rheumatology Clinical Trial (OMERACT) MRI whole-body scoring system for inflammation in peripheral joints and entheses (MRI-WIPE), which has not previously been applied in a clinical trial. Here we evaluate the efficacy of apremilast 30mg BID (APR) on peripheral inflammation indices as measured by WB-MRI.

Objectives: To evaluate how APR affects inflammation in peripheral joints and entheses of patients with PsA as assessed by WB-MRI.

Methods: The phase 4 MOSAIC study was a multicenter, single-arm, open-label study evaluating APR (either as monotherapy or in combination with stable methotrexate) in patients with active PsA (diagnosis ≤3 months but ≤5 years, meeting the CASPAR criteria for PsA) for treatment up to 48 weeks. WB-MRI was performed at baseline, Week 24, and Week 48. Images were read and adjudicated by 2 experienced readers who were blinded to time of acquisition and clinical information. From WB-MRI, changes in the total peripheral inflammation index (83 joints and 33 entheses) were calculated using the OMERACT MRI-WIPE scoring system, as were changes in separate enthesis and joint inflammation WB-MRI indices (WIPE-enthesis and WIPE-joint inflammation). Changes in the heel enthesis inflammation index (HIMRISS), the hip joint inflammation MRI index (HIMRISS), and the knee joint inflammation MRI index (KIMRISS) were explored.

Results: Overall, 122 patients were enrolled and treated with APR; 55% were women, mean age was 47 years, and patients had a mean duration of PsA of 1.9 years. The least squares mean (95% CI) change from baseline in total WB-MRI score based on total peripheral inflammation index (including both joint and enthesis inflammation) as assessed by WB-MRI was -3.49 (-5.46, -1.52) at Week 24 and -4.06 (-6.39, -1.72) at Week 48, indicating significant improvement in peripheral inflammation (Figure 1). Significant improvements were also observed in the WIPE-joint inflammation scores at both Week 24 and 48, and in the WIPE-enthesis scores at Week 48 (Figure 1). Both the heel enthesis inflammation index (HIMRISS) and the hip joint inflammation MRI index (HIMRISS) showed little change, while the knee joint inflammation MRI index (KIMRISS) showed numerical, but not significant, improvement (Figure 1). No new safety signals were identified.

Conclusion: Patients with PsA treated with APR experienced a significant reduction in total peripheral inflammation, including significant improvement in peripheral joint inflammation and enthesitis, as assessed by WB-MRI. Results highlight the efficacy of APR on inflammatory markers that are relevant, as well as the benefit of using WB-MRI as a measure of inflammatory disease activity.
Home Spirometry and Oximetry Monitoring in Patients with Connective Tissue Disease Related Interstitial Lung Disease – A Single Centre Prospective Study

Keywords: Telemedicine, Lungs

W L. Ng1, A. Schweikert2, D. Howard1, L. Durcan1, K. Hurley2,3,1. Beaumont Hospital, Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland; 2 Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Tissue Engineering Research Group, Dublin, Ireland; 3 Beaumont Hospital, Medicine, Dublin, Ireland

Background: Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is an important complication in patients with connective tissue disease causing significant impact on quality of life with a high mortality rate.

Objectives: We aim to determine the feasibility of home spirometry and oximetry reading, focusing on patients with connective tissue disease related ILD.

Methods: Patients with connective tissue disease related interstitial lung disease (CTD-ILD), idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and familial pulmonary fibrosis (FPF) were recruited and followed prospectively for 12 months. A handheld spirometer (MINI SpiroBank Smart) and oximeter linked to a real-time electronic health journal via a smartphone app to record daily spirometry and oximetry readings were provided. Patients were asked to perform one or more spirometry manoeuvres at approximately the same time daily to reduce variability, with the best value for each day used for analysis.

Results: 62 patients with CTD-ILD, 31 IPF and 21 FPF were recruited. The median age was 66, 71 and 69 years respectively. 47.8% were males. Preliminary data on 99 patients demonstrated median forced vital capacity (FVC) predicted of 82.5% in the CTD-ILD, 84.1% in IPF and 83.7% in FPF cohorts with median follow-up of 208 days. The median oxygen saturation (SpO2) for 9501 readings was 96% in all three cohorts. 27.8% experienced Raynaud’s phenomenon, and only 5.6% in the CTD-ILD required an ear oximeter due to inaccurate measurement of oxygen saturation secondary to Raynaud’s phenomenon.

Conclusion: Home monitoring of FVC and oximetry in patients with CTD-ILD is feasible, empowers patients and generates granular data which can be useful in the detection of rapidly progressing ILD allowing early management.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Table 1. Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) and SpO2 readings in patients with CTD-ILD, IPF and FPF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CTD-ILD</th>
<th>IPF</th>
<th>FPF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Patients</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age (years)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of FVC Readings</td>
<td>5157</td>
<td>3384</td>
<td>1624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median FVC (%)</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median FVC Predicted (%)</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>83.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of SpO2 Readings</td>
<td>4475</td>
<td>3350</td>
<td>1676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median SpO2 (%)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Home monitoring of FVC and oximetry in patients with CTD-ILD is feasible, empowers patients and generates granular data which can be useful in the detection of rapidly progressing ILD allowing early management.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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thickness of each muscle was measured. A semiquantitative scale evaluated ele-
mentary lesions: atrophy, edema, power Doppler, and the Heckmann scale (0-4)
was calculated. Descriptive statistics were performed using measures of central
tendency and dispersion according to the distribution of the variables, followed by
bivariate analysis (Student's t-test and Chi[2] test). Finally, discriminant analysis was
performed to determine which ultrasound variables best predicted the diagnoses.

Results: A total of 40 muscles were evaluated, finding a greater degree of atro-
phy and a higher Heckmann scale in patients with dysferlinopathies compared to
MII. Discriminant analysis showed that the set of 3 muscles. Right biceps
brachialis (BB), Right quadriceps (QD), and Gastrocnemius/right soleus (GC)
had a diagnostic accuracy of 100% (sensitivity 100%, specificity 100%, canonical
coefficient 0.733 p<0.001). We present a set of 2 formulas that allow classifying
with the highest score according to the measurement of the muscles in group 1
(dysferlinopathy) or group 2 (MII). Finally, a COR analysis was performed to
determine the cut-off points of each muscle to classify as dysferlinopathies.

Conclusions: The study of 3 muscle groups (BB, CC, GC) presents high diagnos-
tic accuracy to differentiate dysferlinopathies from MII, especially when there is
no genetic study or antibodies available, and there is diagnostic doubt.

Acknowledgements: The study was supported by a research grant from the
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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1538

DETERMINATION OF ADENOSINE DEAMINASE (ADA)
IN SYNOVIAL FLUID TO DIAGNOSE INFLAMMATORY
ARTHROPATHIES

Keywords: Synovium, Inflammatory arthritides, Biomarkers

J. A. Bernal1, J. C. Cortés-Quiro2, J. Ena2, C. Raya-Santos1, R. Gallego-
Campuzano1, A. Pons-Bas1, P. Pons-Canet1, M. Shalabi1, J. M. Suberab-Gallego1,
G. Santos-Soled1, J. Rosas1.

1. Hospital Marina Baixa, Rheumatology, Villajoyosa (Alicante), Spain; 2. Hospital
Marina Baixa, Internal Medicine, Villajoyosa (Alicante), Spain; 3. Hospital
Marina Baixa, Laboratory; Villajoyosa (Alicante), Spain

Background: Adenosine Deaminase (ADA) determination is used to diagnose
tuberculosis in several biological fluids, including synovial fluid (SF). Less known
is the usefulness of ADA level in SF diagnosing other inflammatory arthropathies,
and only a few reports could be found in the bibliography. In these reports ADA
in SF seems higher in patients with septic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis or crystal
arthropathies compared with osteoarthritis.

Objectives: The objective is to evaluate the performance of ADA in SF in patients
with joint effusion to diagnose inflammatory arthropathies.

Methods: All SF analyzed in 2022 at one center have been retrospectively
reviewed. SF data have been collected (ADA levels and white blood cell) and

defined diagnosis of the treating physician -with all clinical and laboratory data-
was recorded. Exclusion criteria were: bursas, prosthesis and hemarthros.

Regarding the statistical analysis for the comparison of means of ADA in the
different groups, the T-student (2) test was conducted. Descriptive, clinical and immunological data were
collected. A descriptive analysis was made.

Results: Sixty-five patients were positive for anti-cN1A: 53 women (81.5%)
and the median age was 47.2±14.9 years. Rheumatic inflammatory diseases were
diagnosed in 15 (22.7%) patients, of which 5 had systemic lupus erythemato-
sus (SLE), 4 had SS, and 1 with rheumatoid arthritis, polymyalgia rheumatica,
granulomatous arthritis, with polychondritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, spondyloarthropathy,
and undifferentiated connective tissue disease. Eight (12.1%) patients had auto-
imune thyroiditis, without known rheumatic diseases associated. The presence

AB1530

PREVALENCE OF ANTI-CN1A ANTIBODIES AND
ITS CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE – A RETROSPECTIVE
MONOCENTRIC STUDY

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Autoantibodies, Epidemiology

S. P. Silva1,2, C. Fortes3, G. Eugénio3, A. Barcelos1,4,1. Centro Hospitalar
Baixo Vouga, Aveiro, Rheumatology department, Aveiro, Portugal; 2Egas
Moniz Health Alliance Academic Clinical Center, Egas Moniz Health Alliance
Academic Clinical Center, Aveiro, Portugal; 3Centro Hospitalar Baixo Vouga,
Clinical Pathology, Aveiro, Portugal; 4Nova Medical School, Comprehensive
Health Research Center, Lisboa, Portugal

Background: Anti-cytosolic 5'-nucleotidase 1A (anti-cN1A) antibodies have
recently been proposed as a biomarker for inclusion body myositis (IBM). With
high specificity (87-100%), they can help differentiate IBM from other myosi-
tis.[1,2] Besides IBM, it has been detected in other inflammatory conditions.
Recently, a higher prevalence of IBM has been associated with Sjogren Syn-
drome (SS), and anti-cN1A has been associated with myositis in SS, regardless
of the subtype of myositis.[3] However, it can also be detected in healthy individu-
als and despite its high specificity in IBM, it may not be a useful biomarker for the
diagnosis of autoimmune conditions.[4] Thus, the clinical relevance of anti-cN1A
remains unknown.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to identify the clinical and laboratory man-
ifestations associated with the presence of anti-cN1A.

Methods: A retrospective study of patients with anti-cN1A positivity (detected
immunoblot assay), observed from January 2021 to December 2022, in a tertiary
hospital, was conducted. Descriptive, clinical and immunological data were
collected. A descriptive analysis was made.

Results: Sixty-five patients were positive for anti-cN1A: 53 women (81.5%) and
the median age was 47.2±14.9 years. Rheumatic inflammatory diseases were
diagnosed in 15 (22.7%) patients, of which 5 had systemic lupus erythemato-
sus (SLE), 4 had SS, and 1 with rheumatoid arthritis, polymyalgia rheumatica,
granulomatous arthritis, with polychondritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, spondyloarthropathy,
and undifferentiated connective tissue disease. Eight (12.1%) patients had auto-
imune thyroiditis, without known rheumatic diseases associated. The presence
of anti-cN1A was also found in the context of infection in 7 (10.6%) patients and malignancy in 2 (3.0%) patients. Half of the patients (50.8%) were healthy individuals. No diagnosis of IBM or other myositis was made. Twenty-nine (44.6%) patients showed other antibodies specificities: anti-SSA/Ro/52 (29%), anti-Ku (4.6%), anti-Mi-beta2 (4.6%) and anti-DSF70 (4.6%). In the SLE and SS groups, the most frequent presenting clinical features were sicca syndrome (66.7%), lymphopenia (9.2%), arthritis (6.1%) and photosensitivity (3.1%). No patient had signs or symptoms of muscular involvement.

**Conclusion:** Anti-cN1A was detected in diverse rheumatic conditions, but also in autoimmune thyroiditis and mostly in healthy individuals. SLE and SS were the most frequent systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases associated with these antibodies. Contrary to expectations, no diagnosis of IBM or myositis was made. Further studies regarding the clinical significance of anti-cN1A are needed to attribute the real diagnostic value of this marker.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** N.I.L.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5959

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**AB1540**

**PREVALENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SONOGRAPHIC ELEMENTARY LESIONS IN PSA – RESULTS OF 2 COHORTS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Ultrasound, Psoriatic arthritis

A. Polachek1,2, V. Fure1,2, S. Thib3, L. Mendel2, O. Elkayam1,2, L. Eder1,3, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center - Ichilov, Rheumatology, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel; 2Sackler faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel, Medicine, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel; 3Women’s College Research Institute, Women’s College Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada

**Background:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) can manifest with different musculoskeletal (MSK) features. Ultrasound (US) optimizes the assessment of the different MSK features in PsA. However, there is no consensus on which MSK sonographic lesions and what locations should be evaluated by US.

**Objectives:** To examine the prevalence and distribution of key sonographic MSK lesions in patients with PsA.

**Methods:** This study included two prospectively recruited PsA cohorts. Cohort 1 included 158 consecutive PsA patients and cohort 2 included 94 patients with active PsA prior to initiation of therapy. All underwent a comprehensive US assessment, including both gray scale (GS) and power Doppler (PD) of 50 joints, 40 tendons and 14 entheses. The following sonographic lesions were assessed by two sonographers blinded to clinical data: I. Inflammatory lesions - Synovitis, tenosynovitis, peritenonitis and enthesitis and II. Structural lesions - erosions and bone proliferations. Presence/Absence of these lesions was determined based on previously suggested definitions by OMERACT (when available) or other publications.

**Results:** In cohort 1, mean ± SD age was 52.7 ± 13 and 55.7% were females. In cohort 2, mean ± SD age was 47.5 ± 13.2 and 48.8% were females. The most prevalent locations of the inflammatory lesions in both cohorts were (Figure 1): Synovitis (small joints) – MCP2 (cohort 1: 11%, cohort 2: 27%), MCP3 (cohort 1: 17%, cohort 2: 26%), IP1 (cohort 1: 5%, cohort 2: 25%) IP3 (cohort 1: 3%, cohort 2: 16%), MTP1 (cohort 1: 31%, cohort 2: 35%), MCP2 (cohort 1: 23%, cohort 2: 30%), MTP3 (cohort 1: 14%, cohort 2: 22%), Synovitis (medium-large joints) – wrist (cohort 1: 27%, cohort 2: 30%) and knee (cohort 1: 13%, cohort 2: 29%); tenosynovitis – 2nd finger flexors (cohort 1: 2%, cohort 2: 12%) 3rd finger flexor (cohort 1: 2%, cohort 2: 10%); extensor peritenonitis – MCP2 (cohort 1: 2%, cohort 2: 7%), MCP3 (cohort 1: 4%, cohort 2: 12%), IP3 (cohort 1: 3%, cohort 2: 13%), IP4 (cohort 1: 2%, cohort 2: 12%); enthesitis – lateral epicondyle (cohort 1: 11%, cohort 2: 14%) and triceps (cohort 1: 7%, cohort 2: 20%); erosions – MCP1 (cohort 1: 4%, cohort 2: 5%), MCP2 (cohort 1: 6%, cohort 2: 7%), IP1 (cohort 1: 2%, cohort 2: 2%), DIP2 (cohort 1: 2%, cohort 2: 1%), MTP5 (cohort 2: 4%); bone proliferations – MCP1 (cohort 1: 12%, cohort 2: 7%), MCP2 (cohort 1: 10%, cohort 2: 17%), MCP3 (cohort 1: 5%, cohort 2: 17%), IP1 (cohort 1: 25%, cohort 2: 41%), IP2 (cohort 1: 10%, cohort 2: 16%), IP3 (cohort 1: 14%, cohort 2: 26%), DIP2 (cohort 1: 23%, cohort 2: 42%), DIP3 (cohort 1: 18%, cohort 2: 42%) and DIP5 (cohort 1: 29%, cohort 2: 49%).

**Conclusion:** This descriptive study provides comprehensive information on the most commonly affected sites for key inflammatory and structural domains in PsA. This information can inform efforts to develop reduced sonographic score to diagnose or monitor disease activity in PsA.

**REFERENCES:**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** N.I.L.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6148

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**AB1541**

**THE INTENSITY OR DURATION OF INFLAMMATORY BACK PAIN HAS NO IMPACT ON THE DETECTION OF SACROILIITIS BY MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Imaging, Spondyloarthritis

G. Seviş1, E. Bıyıklı2, O. Bujdaycı3, K. Acar1, S. Kütünlü Ağaçkan1, Ş. Çolakoğlu Özkan2, G. Ekin1, P. Atagündüz1, 1Marmara University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Marmara University School of Medicine, Department of Radiology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Marmara University Institute of Health Sciences, Department of Medical Biology and Genetics, Istanbul, Turkey; 4Çeditepe University School of Medicine, Department of Radiology, Istanbul, Turkey

**Background:** Sacroiliac joint (SIJ) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an established tool in the evaluation of patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). In the validation study of the ASAS classification criteria for axSpA, only 63.1% of patients had sacroilitis on the SIJ-MRI. [1] Studies that enrolled patients with axSpA based on expert opinion reported the sensitivity of MRI between 35% to 42% in detecting sacroilitis.[2,3]

**Objectives:** This study aimed to evaluate the temporal relationship between ASAS defined positive MRI and the characteristics of low back pain (LBP) in axSpA.

**Methods:** Following axSpA groups were enrolled in the study whenever an attending physician ordered an SIJ-MRI. Patients fulfilling both the Rudwaleit criteria for inflammatory back pain (IBP) and Amor criteria, patients with a previous classification with either modified New York or ASAS classification criteria,[1] A blinded rheumatologist (GS) recorded the intensity and duration of IBP using a questionnaire before SIJ-MRI. MRI appointments were based on availability. Therefore some patients did not have IBP at acquisition. Two radiologists assessed SIJ-MRIs using the ASAS/OMERACT MRI group definition of active sacroilitis.[4] In case of discrepant reporting, a third experienced radiologist (GE) adjudicated the SIJ-MRIs. The probability of axSpA is estimated using sum scores for SpA features excluding the SIJ-MRI.[5]

**Results:** Fifty-nine patients (32 F/27M) were included. Patient characteristics are given in Table 1. Overall, 28 of 59 patients (47.5%) had a positive SIJ-MRI defined by ASAS.
AB1543

POSITIVE MRI OF THE SPINE AS IMAGING CRITERION FOR DIAGNOSIS OF AXIAL PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, Imaging

M. L. Molina1, D. Rios2, A. Goecke1, D. Suarez2, M. Parada1,2.

1Hospital Clínico Universidad De Chile, Medicina Interna, Sección Reumatología, Santiago, Chile; 2Hospital Clínico Universidadd De Chile, Departamento de Radiología, Santiago, Chile; 3Hospital del Trabajador, Medicina Interna, Providencia, Chile

Background: MRI is essential for axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) diagnosis. A positive MRI in the ASAS classification criteria of axSpA is based on inflammatory lesions in the sacroiliac joints. These lesions are defined as one bone marrow edema (BME) highly suggestive of axSpA present on ≥ 2 consecutive slices or ≥ 2 BME A on a single slice. The addition of MRI of the spine as an imaging criterion to the ASAS axSpA criteria had a low yield of newly classified patients and is therefore not recommended. Axial psoriatic arthritis (axPsA) remains poorly defined despite its high prevalence among patients with PsA. Studies comparing axPsA with other axSpA, such as Anqiuosing Spondylitis (AS), have found differences in the former, including more frequent asymmetric spine and SIU involvement, cervical involvement, and isolated spondylitis.

Objectives: We performed a retrospective study of patients with psoriasis with at least a whole spine and sacroiliac joints (SJJ) MRI performed between January 2015 and December 2021. MRI were performed in a 1.5 T machine, following a non-contrast protocol. Sagittal T1-weighted (T1w) and T2-weighted fat-suppressed fast spin echo sequences were available for the spine, while semi-coronal T1w and short inversion recovery sequences for the SJJ. Structural and inflammatory lesions were defined according to the ASAS/OMERACT definitions. Results are presented as mean and SD or numbers and percentages.

Methods: We performed a retrospective study of patients with psoriasis with at least a whole spine and sacroiliac joints (SJJ) MRI performed between January 2015 and December 2021. MRI were performed in a 1.5 T machine, following a non-contrast protocol. Sagittal T1-weighted (T1w) and T2-weighted fat-suppressed fast spin echo sequences were available for the spine, while semi-coronal T1w and short inversion recovery sequences for the SJJ. Structural and inflammatory lesions were defined according to the ASAS/OMERACT definitions. Results are presented as mean and SD or numbers and percentages.

Results: 3 patients with psoriasis were analyzed, 17 (60%) were male, and the mean age at the time the MRI was performed was 43.7 ± 10.6 years. The
most common type of psoriasis was vulgaris (85%) and time from diagnosis was greater than ten years at least in 85% of patients. The majority of patients experienced chronic back pain (82%), and 15 (44%) patients had IPD according to the ASAS criteria. MRI-SJ showed structural and/or inflammatory changes, and 5 of these 11 patients (55%) had BME suggestive of axSpA according to ASAS/OMERACT criteria. When we analyzed patients with an MRI negative for sacroiliitis (19 patients), 3 had BME on MRI-spine, with only two patients with three or more BME lesions according to ASAS/OMERACT criteria. Finally, when a chronic lesion on MRI-SJ was considered as a possible criterion for classification, among patients without sacroiliitis, one patient could be deemed to have axSpA. The findings in this image of SJ erosions and fatty deposition (Romanus sign).

Conclusion: A positive MRI-spine in patients with suspected axSpA was more frequent than previously described for axSpA. Furthermore, spinal inflammation in the absence of sacroiliitis was present in 2 of the 19 patients in this cohort. Therefore, MRI-spine could be considered in the classification criteria for patients suspected of axSpA.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: Maria Luisa Molina Speakers bureau: Speaker for Novartis, Daniel Rios: None declared, Annelise Goecke Speakers bureau: Speaker for Novartis and AbbVie, Daniela Suarez: None declared, Mauricio Parada: None declared.

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AB1544

PARAVERTEBRAL MUSCLES TRIGGER POINTS ATTACHED TO FACET JOINTS ARTHROSI S ARE PREFERRED TARGETS FOR ULTRASOUND-GUIDED INTERVENTION TO TREAT LOW BACK PAIN

Keywords: Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Ultrasound, Rehabilitation

R. Bubnov1,2, L. Kalika2, Z. Pilecki1,4, G. Pilecki1, Jan Dlugosz University in Czeszchowa, Health Sciences, Czeszchowa, Poland; 2Clinical hospital 3Phoephsia, Ultrasound, Kyiv Ukraine; 4New York Dynamic Neuromuscular Rehabilitation &Physical Therapy, Rehab, New York, United States of America; Center of Sport Medicine, Orthopedic, Zabrze, Poland

Background: Facet joints (FJ) arthritis can be a cause of pain and spinal instability and is considered to be a potential target for injection treatment. However, FJ arthropathy is difficult for diagnosis and confirmation associations with pain syndrome, effectiveness of FJ injections is debated. Trigger points (TrPs) are major cause of pain syndromes, dry needling under ultrasound (US) guidance (DN-US) is a crucial therapeutic for treatment of myofascial pain [1], is a proven and effective method for treatment various pain conditions; can restore muscle function and motion [2], reduce fascia overload [3], and can improve movement in spine and also in FJ.

Objectives: Aim was to evaluate the relevance of US for diagnosis of FJ arthritis as a cause of pain and evaluate the efficacy of DN-US to treat FJ-associated low back pain and improve movement in spine and facet joints.

Methods: We included 26 consecutive patients (15 females, 23-57 years old) with symptoms of LBP suspected due to unilateral and/or bilateral FJ arthritis assessed at MRI and CT with three-dimensional reconstructions. Conditions of rheumatoid arthritis, advanced injury background were excluded. All patients received DN-US protocol by R. Bubnov [1]: MTP were identified according to clinical examination, referred pain pattern, US identification; single fine (28G) steel needle DN under US guidance was applied to elicic local twitch response (LTR) and/or “needle grasp”. Specific recommendations were given to preserve effect after DN-US.

Results: We diagnosed bi- and unilateral FJ arthritis on US at the levels of T11-S1 in all patients, assessed fluid in joints, deformations, movement restriction and revealed closely localized TrPs in paravertebral (multifidus) muscles followed by targeted DN-US. We distinguished different pain patterns (referred pain - groin pain, pelvic pain, irradiation to leg, thigh, etc.) which correlated with facet arthropathy localization. Pain decreased in all patients VAS from 6-8 at baseline to 1-4 immediately and VAS 3-4 at one week after procedure. We noted decreasing in neuropathic pain, detected higher rates of lumbar spine motility, movements in particular segments and FJ were registered on functional US; improvement postural balance in all patients after DN-US. Additional needling sessions to FJ capsule did not induce significant LTR and effective alleviating pain compared to DN-US. All patients had postural imbalance, had multiple bilateral MTrPs: in multifidus muscles at thoracic, lumbar levels; sacroiliac joints dysfunction, shoulders impingement, other associated postural abnormalities; all MTrPs were inactivated, posture imbalance restored.

Conclusion: US is helpful to detect FJ arthritis; DN-US has a good treatment outcome for low back pain due to FJ arthritis. Local interventions targeting FJ arthritis is a potential tool in the cases which are not relevant approach. DN-US and US treatment is not less complicated technically, however, more effective vs targeting FJ. Complex posture assessment and correction is needed.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.13

AB1545

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN THERMAL AND ULTRASOUND IMAGING AT THE ELBOW IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Imaging, Rheumatoid arthritis, Ultrasound

Y.K. Tan1, R. Sultana2, J. Thumboo1. 1Singapore General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Singapore, Singapore; 2Duke-NUS Medical School, Centre for Quantitative Medicine, Singapore, Singapore

Background: Thermal imaging (TI) is a relatively low cost, non-invasive imaging technique that offers a quick and objective measurement of joint surface temperature. However, TI data at the elbow in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is presently lacking.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to compare TI outcomes with ultrasound (US) joint inflammation findings at the elbow among patients with RA.

Methods: TI and US imaging were performed at the same study visit. TI was carried out in a draft free room following a standardized protocol. The maximum (Tmax), average (Tavg) and minimum (Tmin) temperatures at the elbow (anterior, posterior, lateral and medial aspects) were summed up to obtain the respective MAX, AVG and MIN temperatures for the right and left elbows. Ultrasound power Doppler (PD) and greyscale (GS) joint inflammation were graded semi-quantitatively (0-3) at the anterior (humeraloral) and posterior fossa recesses of the elbow (using previously validated scoring methods) and these were summed to obtain the respective PD and GS scores at the right and left elbows per patient. Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to correlate the findings from TI and US imaging, while simple linear regression was used to describe the relationship between parameters.

Results: In this cross-sectional study, 60 elbows were evaluated by TI and US imaging among 30 adult RA patients with the following patient baseline characteristics: 78.7% female; 78.7% Chinese; mean (SD) disease duration 73 (68) months; mean (SD) DAS28 3.83 (1.19). Table 1 shows the results of the comparative analysis between the TI parameters (MAX, AVG and MIN) and the US PD and GS scores. For Pearson's correlation, the TI parameters (MAX, AVG and MIN) were all significantly correlated (P<0.05) with the US PD scores (Table 1) at both the right and left elbows. For US GS scores (Table 1), significant correlation (P<0.05) were observed with all the TI parameters (MAX, AVG and MIN) only at the right elbow but not at the left elbow (with P-values all >0.05). The simple linear regression estimates between TI and US imaging parameters at the right and left elbows are summarized in Table 1.

Conclusion: To the best of our knowledge, our study is the first to report on the correlation analysis between TI parameters and US joint inflammation outcomes at the elbow from an RA cohort. Between US PD and GS joint inflammation, TI is more consistently associated with the former at the elbow in RA. TI of the elbow in RA appears promising and will require further validation in independent RA cohorts.
Background: Diffusion-weighted (DWI) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the hand and wrist has been suggested as an outcome measure of synovitis as an alternative to gadolinium enhanced MRI in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1-2]. The apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC), which is a derived parameter of ADC, determined from DWI-MRI, is not a reliable outcome measure for grading synovitis in the hand and wrist of patients with inflammatory joint diseases.

Objectives: To test the discriminative validity of ADC in the synovium ("synovitis ADC") in a prospective cohort of patients with RA and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and healthy controls (HC).

Methods: The right hand and wrist of all participants were imaged in a 3T MRI system with a dedicated 8 channels coil, applying a 2 mm thick coronal turbo spin echo DWI sequence with an in-plane resolution of 1.5x1.7 mm. An ADC map was calculated on basis of two b-values (0;800). Assessment of ADC maps was performed in 7 regions of interest according to the same 7 areas which are assessed from the DWI, may be used to grade synovitis, similar to the OMERACT Rheumatoid Arthritis MRI scoring system (RAMRIS) for synovitis [1]. In a small study criterion validity has been measured but no correlation to contrast-enhanced MRI was revealed [2].

Results: Thirty-eight participants were imaged twice within a week (median 7 days, range 3-14 days). Participant characteristics are provided in Table 1. The repeatability was moderate for RA (ICC=0.68; 95%CI: 0.45-0.83), poor for PsA (ICC=0.10; 95%CI: -0.09,289) and poor for HC (ICC=0.28; 95%CI: 0.07-0.47). Intra-reader reproducibility was poor for all three groups: RA (ICC=0.37; 95%CI: 0.12-0.58), PsA (ICC=0.22 95%CI: 0.02-0.40) and HC (ICC=0.34; 95%CI: 0.13-0.52). Bland-Altman plots revealed large absolute differences between 1st and 2nd MRI in all three groups of participants (Figure 1).

Table 1. Participant characteristics. RA, rheumatoid arthritis; PsA, psoriatic arthritis; HC, healthy control; VAS visual analogue scale. Values are median (range), if not otherwise indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>PsA</th>
<th>HC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>51 (31-56)</td>
<td>48 (46-52)</td>
<td>35 (30-40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n, (%)</td>
<td>7 (77.8%)</td>
<td>9 (69%)</td>
<td>8 (53.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral patient global (0-100 mm VAS)</td>
<td>50 (23-60)</td>
<td>48 (15-76)</td>
<td>0 (0-0.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of swollen joints (0-76)</td>
<td>6 (4-7)</td>
<td>4 (3-8)</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of tender entheses (0-31)</td>
<td>4 (0-5.5)</td>
<td>9 (1-13.5)</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum C-reactive protein (mg/dl)</td>
<td>5 (1.5-7)</td>
<td>4 (1.5-7)</td>
<td>6 (4.25-8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Figure: Bland-Altman plots of the repeatability for the three groups. Left, healthy controls; middle, psoriatic arthritis and right, rheumatoid arthritis. Full line: mean difference. Dotted lines: 95% levels of agreement. The Y-axis indicates the relative difference of apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) between first and second scanning. The X-axis indicates the mean ADC [x10^-3mm/s²] of the first and second MRI.

Conclusion: ADC, determined from DWI-MRI, is not a reliable outcome measure for grading synovitis in the hand and wrist of patients with inflammatory joint diseases.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Objectives: Bone tissue interfaces and fluid synovial interfaces in the joint which gave rise to a challenge in the application of SW-EUS to the synovium is that there are multiple properties and stiffness of tissue and serves as an adjunct to conventional US techniques. There is a hypothesis that rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients would have softer synovium than controls and this could be quantified with a slower velocity (SWV). The purpose of the study was to determine if there is a correlation between SW-EUS and disease activity.

Methods: A prospective case-control study. Fifteen patients with RA were consecutively recruited and matched with ten controls. Participants underwent clinical assessment, blood sampling, grey scale ultrasound (GSUS), power Doppler ultrasound and SW-EUS of MCP joints 2, on the dominant hand. Ultrasound examination was undertaken by two musculoskeletal trained sonographers. Both GSUS and PDUS. Scanning was carried out using ultrasound using linear array transducer and Virtual TouchTM software. MCP 2 of the dominant hand were scanned with joints resting at 20 degrees of flexion. The dorsal aspect of the joint was imaged in three planes; longitudinal midline (DLM), longitudinal radial (30° radial offset from midline, DLR) and longitudinal ulnar (30% ulnar offset from midline, DLU).

Results: Average age was 50. Mean RA disease activity (DAS28-ESR) was 3.85. RA patients had lower mean SWV (5.27 m/s vs 12.00 m/s p< 0.001) than controls (6.88 m/s vs. 12.80 m/s P <0.001). EM (RA 168.17 kPa, controls 25.45 kPa) Negative Pearson’s correlation coefficients (PCC) were observed between mean SWV and disease activity markers including inflammatory parameters (0.22-0.45). Patients with RA (Figure 1) had lower mean SWV (5.27 m/s vs 6.88 m/s P <0.001) than controls (6.88 m/s vs. 12.80 m/s P <0.001). EM (RA 168.17 kPa, controls 25.45 kPa) Negative Pearson’s correlation coefficients (PCC) were observed between mean SWV and disease activity markers including inflammatory parameters (0.22-0.45).

Conclusion: This is the first pilot study in Latin America of SW-EUS in synovium. Mean SW and elastic modulus was significantly lower in RA than controls. There was a negative correlation between mean and maximum SWV and GSUS synovial thickening and assessing disease activity in RA. Further study is warranted to confirm the role of SW-EUS in diagnosing and assessing disease activity in RA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1211

Figure 1. RA patient elastogram

Table 1. SHEAR-WAVE ELASTOGRAPHIC ULTRASOUND OF SECOND METACARPOPHALANGEAL IN SYNOVION OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
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<td>Female, n, (%)</td>
<td>7 (77.8%)</td>
<td>9 (69 %)</td>
<td>8 (53.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration (years)</td>
<td>6 (3.5-17.5)</td>
<td>10 (4-20.5)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral pain (0-100 mm VAS)</td>
<td>34 (30.5-57)</td>
<td>32 (10-65)</td>
<td>0 (0-1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral patient global (0-100 mm VAS)</td>
<td>50 (23-60)</td>
<td>48 (15-76)</td>
<td>0 (0-0.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of swollen joints (0-76)</td>
<td>6 (4-7.5)</td>
<td>4 (3-8)</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of tender joints (0-78)</td>
<td>8 (3.5-16)</td>
<td>10 (5-18)</td>
<td>0 (0-0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of tender entheses (0-31)</td>
<td>4 (0-8.5)</td>
<td>9 (1-13.5)</td>
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<td>Serum C-reactive protein (mg/dl)</td>
<td>5 (1.5-7)</td>
<td>5 (1.5-7)</td>
<td>6 (4.25-8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Participant characteristics. RA, rheumatoid arthritis; PsA, psoriatic arthritis; HC, healthy control; VAS visual analogue scale. Values are median (range), if not otherwise indicated.

AB1548 ULTRASOUND ASSESSMENT OF SUB-CLINICAL NAIL INVOLVEMENT IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Ultrasound, Psoriatic arthritis, Enthesitis

L. Rouached1, B.A. Hiba2, S. Rahmouni1, O. Saidane1, S. Bouden1, A. Ben Tekaya1, R. Tekaya1, I. Mahmoud1, L. Abdelmoula2, Hospital Charles Nicolle, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia; 2RABTA Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Several studies suggest that psoriatic nail involvement is secondary to local enthesopathy with diffusion of the inflammation to the nail. We aimed to compare parameters of clinically normal nail unit in patients affected by psoriatic arthritis (PsA) with healthy matched controls (HC) using ultrasonography.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study including patients with PsA and HC. Tendon joint count (TJC) (0–68) and swollen joint count (SJc) (0–66) were evaluated. PsA group and HC were comparable with respect to age (53.7±12.1 vs 53±11.8, p=0.72) and male gender (13 vs 13, p=0.85). Mean disease duration of PsA was 12.7±10.9 years. The disease activity showed that mean DAPSA was 21.55±14.36 and mean PASI was 2.19 ±3.8. PsA patients and HC had no significant differences in their age and gender. The comparison of NPT between each identical fingernail of PsA and HC did not reveal significant difference. However, NBT was significantly higher in the HC group than in the PsA group (1.77mm vs 2.07mm, p=0.027). Additionally, ST was higher in the HC group (2.26mm vs 2.59mm, p=0.003).

Conclusion: The US morphological changes of NBT and ST were contributive to distinguish psoriatic nails from healthy nails.

Figure 2. Healthy control elastogram
AB1549
VALUE OF ULTRASOUND FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF INFLAMMATORY ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSMS

Keywords: Imaging, Rare/orphan diseases, Vasculitis

B. Sliikhuys1, S. Konter1, D. Liesker2, A. Possel-Nicolai2, E. Brouwer1, R. Slart1, A. Van Roon1, B. Saleem1, D. J. Mulder1, UMC Groningen, Internal Medicine – Vascular Medicine, Groningen, Netherlands; UMC Maastricht, Surgery – Vascular Surgery, Maastricht, Netherlands; UMC, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Groningen, Netherlands; UMC, Nuclear Medicine, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Inflammatory abdominal aortic aneurysm (IAAA), a form of chronic periaortitis, is a frequently overlooked disease, occurring in patients with abdominal aneurysms (AAA). IAAA is strongly associated with underlying systemic inflammatory diseases such as IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD),1 potentially leading to retroperitoneal fibrosis (RPF). Ultrasound (US) is a widely available and low-cost imaging tool that may allow the detection of IAAA at an early-stage prior development of severe complications in patients with AAA.

Objectives: This study aims to assess the feasibility of using US to detect IAAA in a small case series (exploratory cohort). And to structurally assess the diagnostic potential and overall incidence of IAAA using US in a larger retrospective cohort of patients in follow-up for AAA (validation cohort).

Methods: In the exploratory cohort, thirteen patients (median age 64 (61;72) years; 100 % male) with an established diagnosis of IAAA of whom US and CT findings were available were retrospectively included. The diagnosis of IAAA was based on a typical cuff surrounding the aneurysm on CT. Other potential causes such as infections and malignancies were ruled out by microbiological studies and when indicated by histology and/or FDG-PET scanning. Secondly, the validation cohort consisted of 191 patients (median age 74 (67;80) years; 73.3 % male) and when indicated by histology and/or FDG-PET scanning. In patients in whom a CT was performed (n=157) the diagnostic potential and overall incidence of IAAA using US in a larger retrospective cohort of patients in follow-up for AAA (validation cohort).

Results: In the exploratory cohort, 62% were smokers, 77% had hypertension, 31% and were diagnosed with IgG4-RD. CRP and BSE levels were 54.5 (±66.2) mg/L and 59.8 (±51.1) mmh/L. All patients showed a typical hypoechoic cuff surrounding the aortic wall eccentric to the calcified medial layer of the aneurysm, see figure 1B. The median anteroposterior diameter of the aneurysm itself was 5.7 cm (4.8; 6.1) and 0.64 cm (0.49; 0.84) of the cuff. In the validation cohort, 180 of 191 (94.2%) patients with AAA showed no evident signs of a hypoechoic cuff on ultrasound. Of the remaining 11 patients, 8 (4.2%) showed the cuff surrounding the aortic wall and were identified as having AAA. In 3 (1.6%) an IAAA could not be ruled out based on US. In 149 patients with both a negative US and available CT, all CT scans were negative as well. In the 8 patients with an evident cuff on US, the median age was 66 (65;79) years; and 100% were male, definite IgG4-RD was present in 25% (n=2) of the cases. This amounts to a sensitivity of 100% and a specificity of 98%.

Conclusion: This retrospective study indicates that AAA can be identified with US as a hypoechoic cuff surrounding the aortic wall of the aneurysm. US could be used to rule out IAAA safely. However, in inconclusive cases, additional CT imaging is warranted. Besides a possible cost and radiation dose reduction, using US may facilitate earlier recognition and treatment of IAAA and underlying systemic inflammatory diseases such as IgG4-RD. Although this is the first study to structurally investigate US in IAAA, our results need validation in a prospective study.

REFERENCE:

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AB1550
UTILITY OF WHOLE-BODY 18F-FDG PET-CT IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF NEUROSARCOIDOSIS

Keywords: Lungs, Diagnostic tests, Imaging

A. Herrero-Moran1, L. Sanchez-Bilbao1, I. Gonzalez-Mazon1, D. Martinez-Lopez1, C. Alvarez-Reguera1, J. L. Martin-Villalas1, R. Fernandez-Ramon1, R. Blanco1, Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology and Ophthalmology, Santander, Spain; Siemianila Hospital, Rheumatology, Torrelavega, Spain; Hospital Comarcal de Laredo, Rheumatology, Laredo, Spain

Background: Neurosarcoïdosis (NS) is one of the most severe manifestations of sarcoidosis [1]. NS diagnosis is difficult since clinical features and cranial imaging findings are often unpecific and central nervous system biopsy is infrequently performed. Flouirine-18 fluoroodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (18F-FDG PET-CT) is emerging as a powerful tool for the evaluation of sarcoidosis. Data on the role of 18F-FDG PET-CT in NS is scarce.

Objectives: To assess the utility of 18F-FDG PET-CT in patients with suspected NS.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with sarcoidosis at a University hospital in Northern Spain, between January 1999 and December 2019 were assessed. Sarcoidosis was diagnosed according to ATS/ERS/WASOG criteria as follows: compatible clinical and radiological presentation, histopathologic confirmation, and exclusion of other granulomatous diseases. NS was diagnosed according to the NS Consensus Group [2]. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve for Chest Computed Tomography (CT) and 18F-FDG PET-CT were compared.

Results: NS was suspected in 30 (19 women/11 men) patients out of 384 (78%) (mean age: 55.0±15.8 years). The underlying neurological manifestations were chronic headache (n=13; 43.4%), peripheral neuropathy (n=6, 20%), cranial neuropathy (n=5, 16.7%), spinal cord abnormalities (n=3, 10%) and aseptic meningitis (n=3, 10%). Complementary study’s findings are described in Table 1. 18F-FDG PET-CT was performed in 10 (33.4%) patients. 18F-FDG PET-CT were abnormal in 9 (90%) patients. Abnormalities suggestive of NS were found in 7 (70%) patients. These were located in lymph nodes (n=7, 100%), parotid gland (n=1, 14.3%) and bone (n=1, 14.3%). Other abnormalities were found in 2 (20%) patients in vocal cord (n=1, 50%) and rectum (n=1, 50%). Only 1 (10%) patient had no abnormalities in 18F-FDG PET-CT. All patients (n=2, 100%) in which chest radiography and chest CT were negative, had pathological findings suggestive of NS in 18F-FDG PET-CT. After whole-body 18F-FDG PET-CT, all patients with accessible abnormalities suggestive of sarcoidosis underwent biopsy in lymph node (n=5, 71.4%), parotid gland (n=1, 14.3%) and skin (n=1, 14.3%). In all of them non-necrotizing granulomas were found. 18F-FDG PET-CT and chest CT diagnostic ability was compared (Figure 1). 18F-FDG PET-CT had a higher Area Under the Curve (AUC) (0.94 [95% CI: 0.78-1]) than chest CT (0.75 [95% CI: 0.28-1]).

Conclusion: 18F-FDG PET-CT seems to be a useful tool in the evaluation of patients with suspected NS specially when the chest CT is negative or inconclusive.

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Table 1. Complementary studies in 30 patients with suspected neurosarcoidosis in the 1999-2019 period in a University hospital in Northern Spain.

Ancillary investigation With 18F-FDG PET-CT (n=10; 33.3%) Without 18F-FDG PET-CT (n=20; 66.6%) Total (n=30; 100%)

- Laboratory tests, No./No. assessed (%)
  - ACE ≥70 U/L 3/9 (33.3) 9/13 (60) 12/24 (50)
  - CRP >0.5 mg/dL 3/10 (30) 8/10 (80) 11/20 (55)
  - ESR >20 mm/h 5/10 (50) 7/15 (46.7) 12/25 (48)
  - CD4/CD8 >3.5 1/2 (50) 0/1 (0) 1/3 (33.3)

- Imaging studies suggestive of sarcoidosis, No./No. assessed (%)
  - Chest radiograph 8/10 (80) 16/20 (80) 24/30 (80)
  - Chest CT 9/10 (90) 16/20 (80) 25/30 (83.3)
  - Gammmagrapy 6/9 (66.7) 10/18 (55.6) 16/27 (59.3)

Abbreviations: 18F-FDG PET-CT: Fluorine-18 fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography, ACE: Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme, CRP: C-reactive protein, CT: computed tomography, ESR: Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate.

Figure 1. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve of Chest CT and 18F-FDG PET-CT

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AB1551 IMAGING OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVOS SYSTEM IN NOCIPLASTIC PAIN: AN ULTRASOUND STUDY IN PATIENTS WITH FIBROMYALGIA

Keywords: Ultrasound, Imaging, Pain

M. Di Carlo1, B. Bianchi1, E. Cipolletta1, S. Farah1, E. Filippucci1, F. Salaffi1.
1Università Politecnica delle Marche, Rheumatology Clinic, Jesi (Ancona), Italy

Background: Fibromyalgia (FM) is a condition mainly characterized by the presence of chronic widespread musculoskeletal pain, fatigue, and sleep alterations. The pathophysiologcal basis of FM has not yet been clarified. It is widely recognized that FM is a condition characterized by the presence of central sensitization. The mechanisms of centralized pain have been studied mainly through functional imaging techniques. However, over the past decade, evidence of peripheral nervous system involvement has emerged alongside pathophysiological mechanisms involving the brain and spinal cord and a detailed analysis of the morphostructural abnormalities of other nerves in FM patients is still lacking.

Objectives: To investigate the sonographic changes [i.e., increased cross-sectional area (CSA)] of peripheral nerves in patients with FM compared to healthy controls and to identify potential clinical correlations associated with increased CSA in patients with fibromyalgia.

Methods: Consecutive female patients with FM included in this cross-sectional observational study underwent sonographic assessment using a standardized scanning protocol. The CSA of 7 nerves was measured bilaterally at 11 anatomic sites by an experienced sonographer. Differences in CSA of nerves were compared with those of healthy subjects by one-way analysis of variance. Patients underwent cliniometric evaluation aimed at investigating disease severity, neuropathic pain features, depression, anxiety, fatigue, and autonomic symptoms to explore the possible correlation between CSA and clinical features.

Results: 47 patients and 20 healthy controls were enrolled. Differences in terms of increased CSA between patients and healthy controls were identified at multiple levels, mainly at the level of the sural nerve, vagus nerve and 6th cervical nerve root (for all, p < 0.001). Sonographic findings, however, did not correlate with the clinical features explored.

Conclusion: Patients with FM show higher CSA of nerves than healthy subjects. The increased CSA is most evident at the sural nerve, vagus nerve and 6th cervical nerve root. Ultrasound, a relatively easy-to-use technique, could identify morphological changes, in peripheral nervous structures in patients with FM.

REFERENCES:

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AB1552 PERFORMANCE OF A SOLID-PHASE PHOTOMETRIC SINGLE USE IMMUNOASSAY MICROARRAY PROTOTYPE IN THE DETECTION OF IGG ANTIBODIES AGAINST CENTROMERE PROTEIN B (CENP-B) IN HUMAN SERUM

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Diagnostic tests, Autoantibodies

D. Bijlsma1, E. Lukasik1, M. Hausmann1, G. Gomez2, C. Ginocchio2, E. Moreau1.
1Quotient Suisse SA, R&D, Eysins, Switzerland; 2Quotient Suisse SA, Scientific and Medical Affairs, Eysins, Switzerland

Background: Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) is a chronic multisystem autoimmune (AI) disease, characterized by progressive fibrosis of the skin and internal organs and vascular injury.[1] Biomarker testing plays an important part in disease classification, identification of sub-sets of SSc (e.g., CREST/Limited SSc), prognosis and progression. Presence of antibodies against centromere proteins (CENP) weighs 3 points in the ACR/EULAR Classification Criteria.[2] Development of highly automated diagnostic tools remains a clinical need.

Objectives: To evaluate the performance of a solid-phase photometric single use immunoassay microarray prototype for the in vitro qualitative detection of...
IgG antibodies against Extractable Nuclear Antigens (ENA) of CENP-B in human serum when tested using the MosaIQ™ System.

**Methods:** MosaIQ CENP-B microarray prototypes (Quotient Suisse, Eysins, CH) were prepared by printing CENP-B antigens in duplicate onto Epoxy-silane glass chips, followed by a blocking and preservative step. Microarrays consisting of 2 separate sides were assembled into Magazines (containing 250 microarrays) for processing on the MosaIQ 125 instrument. Human serum samples/buffers/reagents are loaded on the instrument and automatically the microarrays undergo sample/buffer/reatent addition to generate antigen spot signals which are read and interpreted by the instrument using a proprietary algorithm. A cohort of 26 serum samples reactive for anti-CENP-B antibodies (as defined by testing with 2 commercial assays) and 25 non-reactive serum samples from Swiss Red Cross blood donations were tested in duplicate.

**Results:** 25 out of 26 CENP-B antibody reactive samples were determined reactive by the MosaIQ CENP-B microarray prototype. The only discordant sample was reactive in one of the reference methods and non-reactive in the other, suggesting the potential for a false reactive by one of the reference methods. All 26 non-reactive samples were determined non-reactive by the prototype assay. Derived sensitivity (including presumptive false non-reactive) is 0.96 (95% CI 0.87 – 0.99) and specificity is 1.0 (95% CI 0.93 – 1.0).

**Conclusion:** These preliminary results support the performance of the investigational microarray prototype for the detection of CENP-B antibodies in human serum using the MosaIQ System. Clinical studies to confirm these observations are ongoing. Additionally, the microarray has the potential to print up to 66 spots per side, allowing for the capability to generate large multiplex panels for the detection and characterization of AI diseases.

**REFERENCES:**


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A STUDY TO SHOW THE TOLERABILITY OF ULTRASOUND GUIDED SIJ STEROID INJECTION TO ALLOW APPROVAL OF US GUIDED SIJ SYNOVIAL TISSUE SAMPLING FOR RESEARCH

Keywords: Inflammatory arthropathies, Patient reported outcomes, Safety

J. Bunting1, A. Tan2, N. Purkayastha3. 1Southend University Hospital, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Southend-on-Sea, United Kingdom; 2Southend University Hospital, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, Radiology, Southend-on-Sea, United Kingdom

Background: Sacroiliac joint (SIJ) synovial tissue analysis has the potential to improve specificity and sensitivity of spondyloarthritides (SpA) classification beyond the current Assessment for SpondyloArthritis International Society criteria allowing early diagnosis and reducing disease progression. It can aid the use of molecular biomarkers and identification of drug targets already explored in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [1]. Furthermore, joint synovial tissue has shown histological differences in RA from psoriatic arthritis [2] and may help characterise SpA subtypes. SIJ steroid injections are used for pain management. A similar procedure, yet to be utilised, can be used to obtain synovial tissue using a co-axial needle. There is evidence of histological disease in patients experiencing sacroiliac pain without MRI features [3, 4]. Synovial biopsy offers possible earlier detection of SpA than MRI, which is limited by cost, patient weight and claustrophobia. Equally fluoroscopic or CT guided injections are limited by cost, time and radiation exposure. Early diagnosis and treatment of SpA is already linked to improved outcomes [5].

Objectives: To determine the tolerability and safety of ultrasound guided (USG) SIJ steroid injections to encourage SIJ tissue biopsies in research.

Methods: We identified 10 patients at Southend Hospital between 2010-2019. The average age was 41 years. Once verbal consent was obtained, a retrospective telephone questionnaire was completed. The USG SIJ steroid injections (Figure 1A) involved injecting Lidocaine 1% around the soft tissue using a 25G and 23G needle. Then a 22G spinal needle was guided into the SIJ and a mixture of Depomedrone 40mg and 0.5ml 0.25% bupivacaine administered. The patients were asked to indicate pain, swelling and stiffness of the injected joint pre and post procedure using a qualitative scale: none, mild, moderate or severe. They were asked to comment on side effects and how likely they were to repeat the procedure.

Results: All patients had severe pain before injection and one continued to have severe pain post procedure. None reported complications of steroid flare or back pain (Figure 1B and 1C). 70% experienced temporary numbness (Figure 1B), severe pain post procedure. None reported complications of steroid flare or back pain.

Conclusion: SIJ steroid injections are not widely offered, making it difficult to obtain large patient numbers. However, this study shows that SIJ steroid injections are tolerable for patients, an important step in convincing patients to participate in a SIJ synovial tissue biopsy research study. Tissue biopsy using a co-axial needle may be considered more invasive as it is thicker with a longer throw than a 22G spinal needle but the procedure steps and complication risks are ultimately similar. The complication risk rate has not yet been compared between the two procedures but SIJ tissue biopsy is less invasive and traumatic than the alternative SIJ trans-articular bone biopsy [6].

Whilst sample size may not be representative for a larger patient cohort and the retrospective questionnaire may have introduced time bias, the data obtained will hopefully initiate a potential study. This study could provide significant information on complication risk rate in synovial tissue biopsy of the SIJ and associated histological disease information in SpA.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1: A: SIJ USG steroid injection and corresponding anatomy of the joint on an US longitudinal view using curvy linear probe. B: Comparing SIJ injection joint symptoms before and after injection. C: Complications post SIJ steroid injection.

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AB1555

CORRELATION BETWEEN HIGH RESOLUTION CHEST TOMOGRAPHY AND CAPILLAROSCOPIC FINDINGS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Lungs, Prognostic factors

J. Santana Peralta1, R. A. Alvarez Santana1, D. Garcia1, L. Perez2, T. Polianco3, I. Concepcion Sanchez1, I. Paulino1, I. Mercedes3, E. Rodriguez Bautista1, T. Valdez2, A. Feriz1, R. Muñoz Louis3. 1Hospital Padre Billini, Rheumatology, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a chronic autoimmune multisystemic disease characterized by fibrosis and vasculopathy[1] Mortality in patients with systemic sclerosis who present with interstitial lung disease can be up to 3x healthy population.[2] It is estimated that 70-90% have interstitial lung disease.[3] High resolution computed tomography (HRCT) of chest is recognized as a sensitive imaging method for evaluating pulmonary involvement.[4,5] Presentation patterns are also described: NSIP (non specific interstitial pneumonia), UIP (usual interstitial pneumonia), COP (cryptogenic organizing pneumonia), LIP (Lymphoctic interstitial pneumonitis). Capillaroscopy allows the study of the microcirculation. Changes are classified into “early”, “active”, and “late” scleroderma patterns.[6]

OBJECTIVES: To relate between high resolution chest tomography and capillaroscopic findings in Systemic sclerosis.

METHODS: Descriptive, observational, cross-sectional study. Capillaroscopy with Optilia Capiscope 2.0.5/3.0MP and lung ultrasound with Siemens Acuson X150 were performed in patients with SSc in the outpatient clinic of the rheumatology service from August-November 2021. Inclusion criteria: > 18 years old, meet criteria for classification of SSc according to ACR/EULAR 2013. Exclusion criteria: history of pre-existing lung disease.

RESULTS: 22 patients met inclusion criteria. 80% were female. Diffuse SSc 81.8% (18), limited SSC 18.2% (4). Mean age 54±17 years, disease duration 58.1% (13) >5 years and 40.9% (9) < 5 years, mean diagnosis 15.3±9.2 years, mean mRSS 19.4±13.2 mRSS Mild: 22.7% (5), moderate 18.2% (4), severe 27.3% (6), terminal 31.8% (7). ANA+ 45.5% (10), Topo IA 18.2% (4). Treatment: RTX 77.3% (17), Ca+ antagonists 68.2% (15), Bosentan 36.8% (8), MMF 36.4% (8), Colchicine 31.8% (7), Sildenafil 27.3% (6). Capillaroscopy: normal pattern 59% (13), early scleroderma pattern 9.1% (2), active scleroderma pattern 4.5% (1), late scleroderma pattern 22.7% (5), nonspecific abnormalities 4.5% (1). TACAR: 54.5% (12) normal, pathological findings 45.4% (10); NSIP pattern 80% (8), UIP 20% (2). TACAR/Capillaroscopy correlation: UIP pattern and early scleroderma pattern 4.5% (1) =r=0.112, NSIP pattern and active scleroderma pattern 4.5% (1) =r=0.769, NSIP pattern and normal capillaroscopy 4.5% (1) =r=0.518, NSIP pattern and late scleroderma pattern 27.2% (6) =r=0.815, normal TACAR and capillaroscopy
with nonspecific abnormalities 4.5% (1) p=1, UIP pattern and early pattern 4.5% (1) p=0.82, normal TACAR and normal capillaroscopy 27.2% (6).

Conclusion: We found in this study that capillaroscopic findings of active and late patterns correlated with greater pulmonary involvement. It is recommended to follow patients with early patterns and the existence or not of interstitial pattern and to evaluate response to medication.

REFERENCES:

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AB1556
MACHINE LEARNING APPROACH FOR CLASSIFICATION OF ARTHRITIS ACTIVITY STATE, USING DATA FROM A SINGLE ACCELEROMETER

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Rheumatoid arthritis, Validation

P. Mielnik¹, A. Myhre Hjelle², A. Traseth², K. Tokarz³, B. Pollen⁴, M. Fojcik⁵.
¹Helse Forde, Section for Rheumatology; Department for Neurology, Rheumatology and Physical Medicine, Forde, Norway; ²Helse Forde, Section for Rheumatology; Department for Neurology, Rheumatology and Physical Medicine, Forde, Norway; ³Institute of Informatics Silesian University of Technology, Department of Graphics, Computer Vision and Digital Systems, Gliwice, Poland; ⁴Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Engineering and Science, Forde, Norway

Background: Machine learning (ML) potential is not fully exploited in diagnostics and follow up of autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic disease (AIIRD). It is despite the broader use of ML in e.g. imaging diagnostics. The specific tools for AIIRD are lacking.

Objectives: This is an interim analysis of data from the first checkpoint of the proof-of-concept study on using accelerometer (ACC) data in follow up of patients with AIIRD. The main goal of the study was to investigate the value of single ACC data in the classification of arthritis activity status.

Methods: Subjects with AIIRD are enrolled in the study when they start of new treatment due to disease activity. Several comorbidities, such as severe neuropsychological and cardiovascular disorders, as well as impaired mobility, are part of the protocol exclusion criteria. Volunteers without AIIRD who fulfill other inclusion exclusion criteria are included as controls. The study was approved by local competent authorities and informed consent was given by all participants. We used data collected up till the first study checkpoint. This analysis covers nine patients with AIIRD (5 rheumatoid and 4 psoriatic arthritis) and 13 controls. Five patients had 3 study visits, 1 had 2 visits and 3 only one. Controls have only one visit per protocol. We analysed ACC data from 3 minutes of clapping using a home-brewed device based on Arduino nano 33 BLE with 6-axis MTU by Nordic Semiconductor. Data was divided into 6-second chunks that were found optimal in our prior study. We conducted binary classification between any/ no arthritis in any of the upper extremities. We used accuracy and area under curve (AUC) as an efficacy function derived from the receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC). We extracted 54 features from 3 ACC axis signal. The features encompassed, among others, Fourier’s components, autoregression coefficients, median absolute deviation (MAD), variance, Fourier’s entropy, etc. We built linear discriminant analysis (LDA) models on the train data that were controlled on the test data. We originally built models with all features. Then, we analysed the importance of each feature on the models. Eventually, we constructed the most effective available model formula based on 7 features: the first autoregression coefficient for the X axis, kurtosis for the Z axis, correlation between Y and Z axis, zero point cross count for the Y axis, Z axis MAD, X and Y axis skewness. As we had few subjects included, we built 210 models with all possible data combinations. To avoid model overfitting, we never used data for model training from a subject who was actually in test data. All calculation was performed with R (R Core Team, 2022 www.R-project.org), using package caret (M. Kuhn 2022, CRAN.R-project.org/package=caret).

Results: Median accuracy for all LDA models was 0.78, mean 0.72 (95%CI 0.69-0.76), Median AUC was 1.0, mean 0.82 (95%CI 0.77-0.86). Distribution of the result was skewed to upper values. However, some models showed very low efficacy in classification (Figure 1 A and B).

Conclusion: Our study shows that it is possible to predict if a patient has any arthritis activity. However, we observed some instability in the classification between models. It can be due to small amount of data but also due to other distractors, such as comorbidities or drugs. Further research on the area is required and continuation of our study is justified based on the current results.

AB1557
ULTRASOUND LEARNING CURVE IN INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE OF AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISORDERS: A DISEASE ORIENTED TRAINING PROGRAM

Keywords: Lungs, Ultrasound, Mixed connective tissue disease

M. Gutierrez¹, D. Mejia-Armsdondt², J. C. Arana Ruiz³, C. Bertolazzi⁴. ¹Center of Excellence in Musculoskeletal and Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology, Mexico City, Mexico; ²Center of Excellence in Musculoskeletal and Rheumatic Diseases, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Villa de Cortes, Mexico; ³Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación, Rheumatology, Ciudad de México, Mexico

Background: Ultrasound (US) has elicited considerable interest among rheumatologists because of its usefulness in clinical practice. Recently, it has been demonstrated its ability to assess interstitial lung disease (ILD) in rheumatic patients. While a solid and still growing body of evidence supports its use in daily rheumatologic practice, operator dependency and the long learning curve represent the main limitations.

Objectives: To describe the learning curve of rheumatologists with limited experience using US attending an intensive disease-oriented training program focusing on the skills required to obtain and interpret US signs of ILD in patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases.

Methods: A total of 5 investigators participated in a seven-day training program involving 15 patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases. The expert sonographer was a Rheumatologist with >15 years of US experience, whose assessments were used as the gold standard to evaluate the US findings obtained by the remaining 4 investigators. Two beginner sonographers were fellows in rheumatology with 5 months of global US experience, whereas the other 2 beginner sonographers were fellows in rehabilitation and rheumatology with a very basic knowledge of musculoskeletal US (<3 months) and no direct US experience in ILD. The training program lasted for 7 days (at least 5 hours per day) following specific aims and activities for each day during the training program. The agreement between the expert and beginners was calculated in 4 sessions involving 15 patients (13 females and 2 males; 4 rheumatoid arthritis, 6 systemic sclerosis, 3 Sjogren syndrome, 2 dermatomysitis). The US assessment was performed according the previously proposed 14-intercostal spaces (IS) scanning protocol using the following semiquantitative scale [0 = normal (≤5 B-lines); 1 = slight (6–8 and ≤15 B-lines); 2 = moderate, (16≤ and ≥30 B-lines); 3 = severe (≥30 B-lines) [1]. Additionally the pleural irregularity in each IS was dichotomously recorded.

Results: A total of 210 lung IS were studied. Kappa values and overall agreement percentages of qualitative and dichotomist assessments of US ILD findings
(B-lines and pleural irregularity) at the end of the exercise showed moderate to excellent agreement (between 0.769 and 0.895), while in the first session they showed poor/fair agreement (between 0.325 and 0.435). The comparison between the expert (gold standard) and the beginning examiners at the fourth and final session, including the kappa values, sensitivity, specificity, and negative and positive predictive values were also improved.

**Conclusion:** After 1 week of the disease-oriented training program, physicians with limited experience in US were satisfactorily able to detect and interpret the main US signs indicative of ILD in patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases.

**REFERENCES:**

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**AB1558**

**CLINICAL-ECOCRAPHIC OPTIMIZATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN SUSTAINED REMISSION**

**Keywords:** Tapering, Ultrasound, Rheumatoid arthritis

**G. Añez,1 V. Torrente Segarra2, M. Bonet2, M. Castillo Villella1, L. Orpínel3, A. Ponce Fernandez2, N. Busquets-Pérez2, M. Pascual-Pastor4, H. Corominas, C. Diaz-Torne6, P. Moya1, J. J. De Agustin1.1Hospital Universitari Vall d’Hebron, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 2Hospital Comarcal de l’Alt Penedès, Rheumatology, Viladecans del Penedès, Spain; 3Hospital Universitari Sagrat Cor, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain; 4Hospital General de Granollers, Rheumatology, Granollers, Spain; 5Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Rheumatology, Barcelona, Spain.

**Background:** In recent years, the high economic impact of biologic therapies (BT) on health care systems has promoted great interest in optimizing BT in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) patients in sustained clinical remission (CR). A relevant percentage of those optimized patients present clinical relapses. RA patients in CR have been shown to have active synovitis detectable by ultrasound (U). U can identify synovitis in patients about to present clinical relapse. U can be a useful tool in the optimization decision.

**Objectives:** The main objective was to demonstrate that the optimization strategy using U is more useful than the strategy using clinical index. U used as an outcome measure, can further refine the choice of patients who are candidates for a reduction in treatment and therefore achieve lower relapse rates. To do this, we calculated the relapse rates in each of the groups and the time from the beginning in which it appears, and we compared them to assess whether they differ significantly and support our hypothesis. Secondary objective was evaluating the ultrasound remission in this group of patients.

**Methods:** We conducted a multicenter, randomize, prospective study in 5 tertiary centers in RA patients in sustained CR (>9 months). All signed the informed consent. Approval by the ethical committee was obtained (VDH-INF-2017-01). Two blinded random, groups were set: clinical (A) and ultrasound (B). Both groups were created to decide tapering (1/2, 1/3 or no reduction treatment) and compare flare rates (>12 DAS28 or >16 SDAI/CDAI increase) in 52 weeks (basal, 1, 6, 9 & 12 months). Demographic at baseline, US & clinic variables, and ESR & CRP at each visit, were registered. By using U with grayscale (GS) and power Doppler (PD) in a semiquantitative articular (A) and tendon (T) scale we studied: wrist, 1-5 MCP, 1-5 PIP, ankle, subtalar joint, 2nd, and 5th MTP, extensor tendons (Test) and flexors (Tflex) of the carpus, flexor tendons of the fingers, posterior tibial and peroneal tendons. DAS28 <2.6 was used as the clinical remission criteria, and the absence of synovitis was defined as U remission (EG and PD = 0). U activity was defined as GS≥1 and PD ≥1.

**Results:** 78 patients were included, 48 completed 12 months follow up and 28 were retired (5 screening failure, 16 flare, 5 lost follow up & 4 patient decision). 33 men and 45 women, 11.92 years of disease. Group A presented a significative more flare rates than group B (10 vs 6). Using SDAI or CDAI only 7 presented a clinical flare, and for SDAI (7 vs 0) & CDAI (7 vs 0) differences were significative (p<0.005), but not for DAS28 (10 vs 6) (Table 1). In U at baseline, the main involved joint was the wrist (28.6%), and of the tendons the Test (11.2%). In 53% a pathological U (A and T) was observed, 46.9% had pathological A and in 30% pathological T was observed. Considering as remission an ultrasound score of EG + PD = 0, only 46.9% were in remission.

**Conclusion:** Ultrasound can improve tapering strategy when we used SDAI or CDAI score in patients in sustained clinical remission. Clinical and ultrasound remission are not equivalent. More than half of the patients do not fulfill UR and in one fifth of them a strict control should be carried out to avoid a relapse of the disease if it is decided to optimize.

**REFERENCES: NIL.**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1438

**AB1559**

**AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH AUTOIMMUNE HEPATITIS**

**Keywords:** Comorbidities

**N. Trad1, A. Mensi1, E. Belhard Mabrouk2, S. Ayadi1, Y. Zaimi1, L. Mouelhi1, Y. Said1, R. Dabbeche1.1Charles Nicolle Hospital, Gastroenterology, Tunis, Tunisia; 2Charles Nicolle Hospital, Gastroenterology, Tunis, Tunisia.

**Background:** Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) is a rare pathology characterized by necrotic-inflammatory hepatocyte lesions, the presence of autoantibodies, and high sensitivity to corticosteroid treatment. It is often associated with other autoimmune diseases.

**Objectives:** Our objective was to study the clinical aspects, associated auto-immune diseases, and response to the treatment of AIH.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective study including consecutive patients with AIH between January 2000 and December 2018.

**Results:** We included twenty-two patients; 21 women and one man with an average age of 46 [18-95], Jaundice was the most frequent presenting sign (80%).

**Conclusion:** Autoimmune hepatitis greater than ten times in 45.5% of cases. A predominant hypergammaglobulinemia on IgG was noted in 72% of cases. At the time of diagnosis, 59% of patients were in the stage of cirrhosis. Antinuclear antibodies, Anti-smooth muscle antibodies, and Anti-LKM1 antibodies were positive in 47.6%, 41%, and 13.3% of cases, respectively. The liver biopsy was performed in 8 patients (36.3%) with a compatible histological appearance in 7 patients. In 54.5% of cases, an associated autoimmune pathology was noted; the most common was autoimmune thyroiditis (32.3%) and autoimmune hemolytic anemia (33.3%). There were also two cases of Sjögren’s syndrome, one case of systemic lupus erythematosus, and one case of rheumatoid arthritis. An overlap syndrome (AIH-PBC) was found in 22.7% of patients. The combined corticosteroid-azathioprine treatment was prescribed in 15 patients (88.1%). In overlap syndromes, ursodeoxycholic acid has been associated. The mean duration of follow-up was 94.5 months. Under treatment, biochemical remission was achieved in 23% of patients.

**Disclosure:** In our study, the prevalence of autoimmune diseases associated with AIH was significant, which would underline the importance of systematic screening for clinical and biological immune manifestations in those patients.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Table 1. baseline clinical characteristics of the subjects included in the sample, comparing according to the treatment group and outbreaks according to clinical indices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR (mm/hr)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dl)</td>
<td>13.44</td>
<td>9.71</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF (Ul/ml)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPA (UA)</td>
<td>128.93</td>
<td>246.08</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJC 2</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJC 2</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA 2</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>8.69</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA 2</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 2</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDAI 2</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAI 2</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ 2</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 flare</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
<td>&lt;0.005</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI flare</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDI flare</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results: Both culture and composite reference standard.

Methods: Thirty-one women with sarcoidosis and 27 controls were evaluated for the following outcomes: (i) handgrip strength, (ii) QFM thickness measured using ultrasound (US), and (iii) sono graphic thigh adjustment ratio (STAR). The sarcoidosis group was also evaluated using the 30-second chair stand test (30s-CST) and fatigue severity scale (FSS).

Results: The QFM thickness and STAR values of the sarcoidosis group were significantly lower than those of the control group (p<0.001). However, no statistically significant difference was observed between the handgrip strengths of the groups (p=0.581). There was no statistically significant correlation between the STAR values and handgrip strength in the sarcoidosis group (p=0.05); however, there was a statistically significant positive correlation between the STAR values and 30s-CST (r=0.467, p=0.008).

Conclusion: Probable sarcopenia is one of the musculoskeletal conditions in patients with sarcoidosis that may be associated with nonspecific symptoms, such as general weakness, exercise intolerance, and fatigue. Although the handgrip test is a frequently used test, it may not show prominent findings in the early stages of the disease. Ultrasound appears to be an innovative tool for preventing sarcopenia as it helps detect changes in muscle mass and muscle quality at an early stage.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1561
COMPARISON OF DIAGNOSTIC PERFORMANCE OF TRUENAT™ MTB PLUS AND XPERT® ULTRA (GX) IN PATIENTS OF OSTEOARTICULAR TUBERCULOSIS (OATB): EXPERIENCE FROM NORTH INDIA

Keywords: Diagnostic tests

K. Sharma1, A. Sharma2, A. Sharma3, 1Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Medical Microbiology, Chandigarh, India; 2Government Medical College & Hospital, Chandigarh, MBBS Student, Chandigarh, India; 3Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Internal Medicine, Chandigarh, India

Background: Diagnostic delay and drug resistance not only worsen the outcomes of tuberculosis, but are also important impediments to TB elimination efforts. Prompt and accurate diagnosis of osteoarticular tuberculosis (OATB) along with simultaneous detection of drug resistance is crucial to decrease the morbidity and associated sequelae.

Objectives: Given the need for a near point-of-care test suitable for primary healthcare centers and simultaneous detection of resistance, TrueNat MTB Plus (TruPlus), a chip-based real-time polymerase chain reaction assay, was evaluated for the first time for diagnosis of OATB and detection of rifampicin resistance from pus and synovial fluid samples.

Methods: Total of 100 synovial fluid/pus samples (20 microbiologically confirmed OATB[culture-positive], 50 clinically confirmed OATB [culture-negative], and 30 control patients) were subjected to TruPlus assay and Xpert Ultra (GX Ultra) assay; and their performance was compared. Results were evaluated against both culture and composite reference standard.

Results: The overall sensitivity and specificity of TruPlus in diagnosing OATB was 77.14% (54/70) and 100%, respectively. The sensitivity was 90% (18/20) for microbiologically confirmed cases and 72% (36/50) for clinically confirmed cases. Performance of TruPlus was superior to Xpert ultra (sensitivity = 70%). Overall, sensitivity and specificity of GX ultra was 70% and 100%. However, sensitivity of GX Ultra was 85% in culture confirmed cases and 84% (32/38) in clinically suspected cases of OATB. Both TruPlus and GX Ultra correctly reported Rifampicin resistance in four cases, when compared with phenotypic DST and rpoB gene sequencing.

Conclusion: TruPlus, with its greater portability and higher sensitivity than Xpert, could serve as an important tool for diagnosing OATB and rifampicin resistance at outreach endemic areas.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1562
NAIL FOLD CAPILLAROSCOPY IN EVALUATING INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS AND IDIOPATHIC TYPE

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Systemic sclerosis

S. Bashad1,2,3, K. Danwish4, H. Abdel-Maksoud4, A. Abas5, M. Abdelaty4, 1Suiz University, Faculty of Medicine, Suiz, Rheumatology, Cairo, Egypt; 2Suiz University, Faculty of Medicine, Suiz, Rheumatology, Cairo, Egypt; 3Alazhar University, Chest, Asiat, Egypt; 4Alazhar University, Chest, Assiut, Egypt

Background: Nail fold capillaroscopy (NFC) is a non invasive diagnostic tool to detect early changes of microcirculation of different collagen diseases as rheumatoid arthritis associated interstitial lung disease (RA-ILD), systemic sclerosis interstitial lung disease (SS-ILD) and idiopathic ILD (Ting et al., 2020).

Objectives: The study aimed to evaluate role of NFC in RA-ILD, SS-ILD and idiopathic ILD, and to determine if there is a correlation of it to disease activity.

Methods: A case control study conducted on 100 patients with ILD, where 30 patients with RA-ILD, 30 patients with SS-ILD and 40 patients with idiopathic ILD, fulfilling ACR/EULAR criteria, 2013. They were examined clinically and radiologically. Pulmonary function tests (PFT) and NFC were done.

Results: Pleural irregularities were found in 42% of RA-ILD, 30% of SS-ILD where subpleural irregularities were found in 31% of RA-ILD and 46.7% of SS-ILD. Ground glass opacity was in 13% of RA-ILD, 79.7% in SS-ILD and 60.7% in idiopathic ILD. Honeycomb appearance was in 11.5% of RA-ILD, 30% in SSILD and 65% of idiopathic ILD. SS-ILD showed the highest capillary changes especially patients with pneumo-nia. A significant correlation was found between NFC and PFT in idiopathic-ILD.

Conclusion: NFC is a sensitive and specific adjuvant tool in monitoring micro vascular changes in rheumatologic diseases and can be used as assessment tool in severity of the disease.

REFERENCE:
Methods: We enrolled, after obtaining informed consent, 16 patients affected by SSC (classification criteria EULAR/ACR 2013) (3), who underwent cardiac catheterization for suspicion of PAH (3), in particular we paid attention to the measurements of pulmonary vascular resistance. NVC was performed in all patients. We collected information on the main capillaroscopic alterations such as number of capillaries, megacapillaries, avascular areas and microhemorrhages.

Results: After RHC evaluation, we identified 8 patients with PAH (F/M 6/2; median age 67±7 SD years) and 8 without PAH (F/M 6/2; median age 66±8 SD yrs). No significant differences regarding clinical and laboratoristic parameters were observed. At NVC, capillary density was significantly lower in PAH-SSC patients than in SSC patients without PAH (p = 0.04) and avascular areas were more frequent in the first group (p = 0.03). Furthermore, we evaluated a statistically significant correlation between the value of pulmonary vascular resistances at RHC and the number of capillaries at NVC (p = 0.04). We did not observe correlations with the other parameters.

Conclusion: This study confirms the correlation between peripheral microvascular alterations, evaluated by capillaroscopy and the involvement of internal organs, such as pulmonary circulation. Our findings provide additional evidence to the literature data but further studies are underway to confirm these preliminary data.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5458

AB1564 PERIPHERAL BLOOD PERFUSION IN MCTD AND UCTD PATIENTS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL MONOCENTRIC STUDY

Keywords: Imaging, Mixed connective tissue disease, Undifferentiated connective tissue disease

A. Cere1, E. Hysa1, A. Lercara1, A. Pinelli1, E. Gotelli1, C. Pizzorni1, M. Cutolo1, Laboratorio of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine (DIMI), University of Genova, IRCCS San Martino Polyclinic, Genova, Italy; 1Unit for Molecular Immunology and Inflammation, VB Inflammation Research Center (IRC), Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium

Background: Connective tissue diseases (CTDs) are a heterogeneous group of autoimmune disorders and, among them, mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD) and undifferentiated connective tissue disease (UCTD) show overlap symptoms with other CTDs, but share secondary Raynaud’s Phenomenon (sRP) as a typical vascular symptom.[1,2] Laser speckle contrast analysis (LASCA) is a reliable tool to measure the peripheral blood perfusion (PBP) and has already demonstrated to be useful in detecting the peripheral microcirculation status of SSC patients and undifferentiated sRPs.[3]

Objectives: To measure hand PBP in patients with sRP in CTDs (MCTD, UCTD) and to compare it with healthy controls (HCs).

Methods: Twenty-four CTDs patients with sRP (7 with MCTD, 17 with UCTD) and 28 age- and sex-matched HCs were evaluated during standard follow-up assessments. CTDs diagnoses were set up according to the international classification criteria.[4] Patients had a stable therapy (mainly glucocorticoids and conventional disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs) and had not had intravenous vasodilator treatments for the previous three months at least. All subjects underwent a LASCA registration (Laser Speckle Contrast Analysis - Percim PSI, Perimed, Jarfalla) after acclimatization of 15 minutes at 20-22°C. After recording, PBP was quantified (perfusion units, PU) in the following region of interest (ROI): fingertips (with and with without thumbs) and periangual areas (with and without thumbs). Statistical analysis was performed using DataTab®, with parametric tests in case of normally distributed data and non-parametric tests in case of non-symmetrically distributed data.

Results: Although not statistically significant, a trend to a lower PBP was found when comparing MCTD LASCA values versus UCTD LASCA values, particularly for ROIs of periangual areas (see Table 1). In addition, PBP was found significantly lower in MCTD and UCTD when individually compared with HCs. This result was confirmed for all four ROIs (p<0.02; see Table 1).

Conclusion: To our knowledge, no evaluations of PBP by LASCA are available in literature in other CTDs other than SSC.[5] This preliminary study showed, using the LASCA methodology, that the PBP in MCTD and UCTD patients affected by sRP is significantly lower than in sRP- and sex-matched HCs. A trend with a lower PBP in MCTD patients than UCTD patients was observed but did not reach a statistical significance due to the small sample size.

These results may demonstrate a potential role of LASCA in assessing the vascular involvement of CTDs other than SSC. Further investigations on a larger and more homogeneous sample size and a focus on the possible correlations between PBP and the morphological microvascular damage assessed by nailfold videocapillaroscopy have been planned.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5996

AB1565 IBD AND LIGAMENTOUS LAXITY ASSOCIATION

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Descriptive studies, Clinical trials

C. Bentivenga1, A. Varani1, N. E. Polli1, E. R. Cosentino1, F. Rizzello1, C. Calabrese2, P. Gionchetti1, C. Borghi1, S. Orsola-Malpighi Polyclinic IRCCS, Medicina Interna Cardiovascolare-Boirghi, Bologna, Italy; S. Orsola-Malpighi Polyclinic IRCCS, IBD Unit, Bologna, Italy

Background: Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) is a group of chronic relapsing-remitting diseases characterized by intestinal and extra-intestinal manifestations that unfavourably impact patients’ physical and mental quality of life. Recent evidence points to a possible higher incidence of Joint Hypermobility (JH) or “ligamentous hyperextensibility” in IBD patients compared to the general population and particularly in younger and female subjects with IBD. Ligamentous hyperextensibility represents a little-known benign clinical condition characterized in its asymptomatic form by joint and ligament hypermobility.

Objectives: the aim of this study is to determine the prevalence of ligamentous hyperextensibility in a cohort of patients with IBD.

Methods: we evaluated 130 patients afferent to the joint clinic of the “Centro Regionale per le Malattie Infiammatorie Croniche Intestinali “Massimo Campieri” e MI Borghi”, located at “Sant’Orsola-Malpighi” University Hospital in Bologna, in the period between June 2021 and November 2022, allocating them into 3 groups: 1) Ulcerative Colitis (UC), 2) Crohn’s Disease (CD), 3) Indeterminate Colitis (IC). None of the patients was affected by hereditary collagenopathies. Out of 130 patients, 47 were affected by Ulcerative Colitis (UC), 78 by Crohn’s Disease (CD) and 5 by Indeterminate Colitis (IC). The mean age at the time of the visit was 45,32 (±12,86 range 24-78) for patients with UC; 47,35 (±12,65 range 22-70) for patients with CD; 45,00 (±12,16 range 26-62) for patients with IC; in terms of sex: 47 men (20 with UC, 27 with CD, 0 with IC) and 83 women (27 with UC, 51 with CD and 5 with IC). Results: 34 out of 130 patients presented ligamentous hyperextensibility according to Beighton’s criteria (pt ≥ 4) (26,2% of total, 16 UC, 17 CD, 1 IC). Of the 47 patients with UC, 16 had ligamentous hyperextensibility (34%). Of the 78 patients with CD, 17 had ligamentous hyperextensibility (21,8%). Of the 5 patients with IC, 1 had ligamentous hyperextensibility (20%). It emerges from this analysis that the highest prevalence of ligamentous hyperextensibility occurs in patients with UC, compared with CD and IC. Chi-square test for independence was performed by comparing the variable ligamentous laxity with the variables IBD, UC, CD and IC.
The groups CD and IC did not show any statistically significant result with regards to ligamentous laxity whereas we did observe a statistically significant higher frequency of ligamentous laxity (p-value < 0.05) in the UC group.

Conclusion: A close association between Ulcerative Colitis and the presence of JH, especially compared to Crohn's disease and Indeterminate Colitis, clearly emerges from our observation, which could postulate a possible alteration of collagen development in the pathophysiology and clinical spectrum of UC only and not of IBD in general. These data, however, need to be confirmed and further investigated in the future with focused and rigorous prospective clinical studies, excluding confounding factors such as young age or inflammatory joint diseases such as spondyloarthropathy.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6418

AB1567

DIAGNOSIS OF SACROILIITIS USING LOW DOSE CT COMPARED TO MRI

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Spondyloarthrosis

P. W. V. Chan1, S. L. Lau1, J. F. Griffith2, J. So1, H. So1, L. S. Tam1. 1The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR; 2The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Department of Imaging and Interventional Radiology, Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

Background: Establishing a correct diagnosis of sacroiliitis is key to the early diagnosis of axial SPA. Low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) is helpful at revealing the structural changes (erosion, sclerosis and ankylosis) of sacroiliitis. How does LDCT compare with MRI for identifying sacroiliitis?

Objectives: This study compares LDCT and MRI in the diagnosis of sacroiliitis in patients with suspected axial spondyloarthrits (axSpA).

Methods: 25 patients [36 ± 7 years; female 16 (64%)] with back pain over three months and age under 45, clinically suspected of axSpA underwent radiography, LDCT and MRI of the SIJ. All imaging studies were assessed by an experienced radiologist. Radiographs and LDCT revealed erosions, bone sclerosis and ankylosis. MRI, in addition to these structural changes, also revealed osteitis and enthesis.

Results: Out of the 25 patients, 8 (32%) had radiographic-sacroiliitis. Twelve (48%) patients had sacroiliitis on both LDCT and MRI, including 6 patients with radiographic-sacroiliitis and 6 patients with non-radiographic-sacroiliitis. There is no evidence of sacroiliitis on both LDCT and MRI for one patient, who was reported to have sacroiliitis on x-ray. No diagnosis could be made to 10 (40%) patients due to lack of evidence from imaging and 3 (12%) patients were diagnosed as osteitis condensans illii. Agreement between MRI and LDCT was 100%. Cohen’s kappa coefficient was k=1, positive predictive value was 1, and negative predictive value was 1. Using MRI as the gold standard, sensitivity and specificity of LDCT were 1 and 1 respectively. While the specificity and specificity of x-ray were 0.5 and 0.85 respectively.

Conclusion: Low dose CT and MRI showed comparable sensitivity in detecting sacroiliitis. Access to MRI is limited, LDCT is a good alternative to detect sacroiliitis in patients with suspected axSpA.


Table 1. Radiography, LDCT and MRI for detecting sacroiliitis (n=25)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radiography</th>
<th>LDCT</th>
<th>MRI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacroiliitis</td>
<td>Ostestis</td>
<td>Condensed-Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sans ilii</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal or equivocal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Radiography, LDCT, and MRI of sacroiliitis in patient with suspected axial SpA(a) Radiograph, (b) LDCT and (c) T1-weighted coronal MRI image showing typical apperances of sacroiliitis.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Pui Wing, Vivien CHAN: None declared, Sze-Lok Lau: None declared, James F Griffith: None declared, Jacqueline So: None declared, Ho So Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Fosun Industrial, GSK, Janssen, Pfizer, Consultant of: Abbvie, GSK, Grant/research support from: Fosun Industrial, Lai-Shan Tam Consultant of: Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, and Sanofi, Grant/reseach support from: Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, GSK, Janssen, Novartis and Pfizer.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2890
The greatest involvement was found in the distal structural damage. The involvement within the different explored entheses found in the Doppler study; while a mean of 18.25 (±14.50) corresponded to 52.41 (±9.4) years at the time of the study. 66.7% were smokers, and 25% had a positive MASEI score (>18). The mean score of the entheses was 0.92 (±1.24) and no swollen entheses were found. 25% of patients had a positive MASEI score (>18). The mean score of the MASEI index was 20.42 (±11.02). Of this score, only a mean of 2 (±1.5) was found in the Doppler study; while a mean of 18.25 (±14.50) corresponded to structural damage. The involvement within the different explored entheses is described in Table 1. The greatest involvement was found in the distal patellar enthesis (6.58 ± 3.75) (Figure 1).

**Table 1. MASEI score within the different explored entheses.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enthesis</th>
<th>Triceps</th>
<th>Quadriceps</th>
<th>Proximal</th>
<th>Patellar</th>
<th>Achilles</th>
<th>Plantar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean (±SD)</td>
<td>1.58 ±2.392</td>
<td>2.75 ±3.467</td>
<td>3.75 ±3.166</td>
<td>6.58 ±3.753</td>
<td>3.25 ±2.667</td>
<td>2.5 ±2.780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** Ultrasound examination of the enthesis of the distal patellar tendon.

**Conclusion:** The patients with SAPHO Syndrome in follow-up at Ramón y Cajal hospital were found to have ultrasound enthesal abnormalities using the MASEI index. The results revealed a clear predominance of structural damage over the presence of active lesions. Further studies with larger sample size are necessary to fully comprehend the involvement of entheses in SAPHO syndrome.
Conclusion: The use of machine learning in diagnosing and detecting damage has mostly focused on plain radiography in patients with RA; there are limited data in PsA. Heterogeneity in the reporting of results limits succinct comparison of performance between ML methods.

Identification of studies via databases and registers

Records identified from: PubMed, Embase, Web of Science and Cochrane Central Register for Controlled Trials (n = 1162)

Records screened (n = 851)

Reports assessed for eligibility (n = 123)

Studies included in review (n = 26)

Records excluded before screening: Duplicate records removed (n = 341)

Records excluded: No Machine Learning methods (n = 70)

Wrong patient population (n = 20)

Wrong modality (n = 4)

Not English Language (n = 3)

Figure 1. PRISMA Search Strategy

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Anna Antony Speakers bureau: Lilly, AbbVie, Ann Biju: None declared, Adwaye Rambojun: None declared, William Tillett Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, GSX, Janssen, Novartis, Ono Pharma, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Jansens, UCB, Pfizer, Eli-Lilly.

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AB1570 MODERN TREATMENT OF ENTRAPMENT NEUROPATHIES, THE HYDROCHEMICAL NEUROLYSIS

Keywords: Ultrasound, Descriptive studies, Best practices

A. Ould Hennia1.

Background: Entrapment neuropathies (E.N) are frequent and often underdiagnosed leading to significant chronic pain and functional impairment impede the quality of life. Commonly occur in the fibro-osseous tunnels through which the nerves course with various static and dynamic factors. Imaging particularly ultrasound can identify an anatomical cause, detect signs of nerve injury, assess its severity and also aid in the percutaneous treatment like our technique: “The hydrochemical neurolysis” (HCN).

Objectives: We present the US-guided hydrochemical neurolysis of E.N to relieve, in most cases, the pain caused by peripheral nerve compression and its consequences by the mechanical release and decompression of the entrapped nerves. This technique involves using US (fast, accessible, reliable, cheap and radiation-free) to find the nerve and guide a needle around the nerve to cut scar tissue and introduce fluid to mechanically push scar tissue ways from the nerve and create separation between the nerve and tissues. With 18 G needle, a real mechanical dissection is performed and with the liquid (normal saline) we complete with a hydrodissection.

Methods: Before performing a US-guided HCN, survey imaging should be performed with low or high resolution probes, depending on the depth of the intervention, patient informed and clearly consents. Technique: what I do.

Patient positioning: patient positioned in a supine, sitting, or prone posture according to the location of the nerve to be treated. Different positions, pillows and/or pads can be used to restrict movement during the procedure and provide comfort for patient and physician. Identification, marking the skin, disinfection and local anesthesia. The needle entry point is calculated based on the distance and inclination angle of the needle from the skin surface to the target for better and optimal visibility of the needle tip. These settings are variable depending on the superficial or deep situation of the nerve to be treated. The entry site is then marked (with skin marker) as well as the projection of the target at the level of the skin, then the skin area is cleaned and prepared for the using standard sterile technique. The US-probe is covered with a sterile semi-transparent bag and a sterile gel is used for further analysis and intervention. A 25 G needle is used to anesthetize the skin with 1% lidocaine, and is then advanced under US-guidance with an intermittent local injection for anesthesia (and hydrolocation) until the needle comes into contact with the epineurium. The In-plane approach is my favorite. Perineural Adhesiolysis, Hydrodissection and injections. With 18 G needle (variable length according to the site to be treated) we inject under low pressure 5-10 ml of liquid (mix of normal saline and 1% lidocaine) between the compressed nerve and the connective-fatty tissue to make the end of my needle clearly seen (hydrolocation), can be repeated for the duration of the procedure. Then with the same needle, we inject 20-60 ml of normal saline all around the nerve and over the entire area where it is compressed to release it completely from all surrounding structures (hydrodissection).

Adhesiolysis is carried out when there is scar tissue around the nerve and the hydro-dissection was not effective, in this case a real mechanical needle dissection is carried out or the needle is used like a scalpel to make needling in varying directions all the scar tissue surrounding the nerve. After hydrodissection, we inject corticosteroid (5-10 ml of prednisolone acetate 125 mg) for his anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic effect.

Results: In my practice, we have at least 70% good results at 12 months, 20 to 25% require a 2nd session of hydrochemical neurolysis and maybe 10% will resort to surgery. The results of neurolysis seem very interesting, much better than a simple US-guided infiltration and avoids surgery in many cases.

Conclusion: Success with this hydrochemical neurolysis procedure requires knowledge of anatomy, US-imaging. The HCN is a simple, safe, precise, rapid, and effective percutaneous treatment of E.N, a great alternative to surgery.

Acknowledgements: To anesthesiologist who trained me in musculoskeletal ultrasound more than 20 years ago and to all the patients who trusted me to offer them the best care.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1571 IGG4-RELATED AUTOIMMUNE PANCREATITIS MIMICKING PANCREATIC CARCINOMA

Keywords: Malignancy, Undifferentiated connective tissue disease, Mixed connective tissue disease


Background: IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD) is a systemic fibroinflammatory disorder characterized by dense infiltration of IgG4-positive plasma cells in the affected tissue. The inflammatory infiltration along with storiform fibrosis can lead to the development of tumefactive lesions that may affect any organ. Type 1 Autoimmune pancreatitis (AIP) is a rare presentation of IgG4-RD that can present as a pancreatic mass and may mimic pancreatic carcinoma.

Objectives: The elevation of CA 19-9 is seen in autoimmune pancreatitis as well as pancreatic carcinoma. Therefore, it becomes difficult to differentiate between the two, especially in the presence of an elevated IgG4 level in the serum. We describe a rare instance of IgG4-related AIP with significantly high CA 19-9 levels.

Methods: Case report.

Results: Our patient is a 65-year-old male with past medical history of IgG4-related retroperitoneal fibrosis, who presented with the complaint of worsening right upper quadrant abdominal pain, jaundice, and weight loss. Labs showed WBC count 13.7 (4.0-9.0 x 10^3/uL) and eosinophil count 700 (50-300/cmm). ESR 94 (0-15 mm/hr) and CRP 57.9 (0-10 mg/dL). LFTs showed elevated total bilirubin 12.5 (0.1-0.2 mg/dL), alkaline phosphatase 620 (30-115 IU/L), AST 72 (5-45 IU/L), and normal ALT 52 (0-60 IU/L). Absolute CD4 count was 1152 (332-1642 cells/cmm), CD4 percentage was 80% (28-62%), CD4 to CD8 ratio was high 8.86 (2-96), and CD4 to CD8 ratio was high 8.86 (2-96).

CA 19-9 was elevated to 2830 (0-35 U/ml). IgG4 was elevated 162 (2-96 mg/dL).


1Albany Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Albany, United States of America; 2John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Internal Medicine, Chicago, United States of America; 3Rawalpindi Medical University, Medicine, Rawalpindi, Pakistan; 4Albany Stratton VA Medical Center, Rheumatology, Albany, United States of America
MRCP showed multiple biliary strictures and dilation of the main pancreatic duct. ERCP with stent placement was done to relieve biliary obstruction. EUS showed mass-like enlargement of the pancreatic head with atrophy, around the common bile duct (CBD). Biopsy of the CBD showed inflamed glandular mucosa, negative for malignancy. Pancreatic head biopsy showed normal stroma and benign mucosa, negative for malignancy. Patient had gradual improvement in bilirubin and CA 19-9 levels after ERCP and stent placement. He was started on prednisone which was followed by rituximab infusions. He followed up with rheumatology and had significant improvement in his symptoms and labs including a decrease in bilirubin to 2 mg/dL, alkaline phosphatase to 300 IU/L, and CA 19-9 levels to 100 U/ml within 1 month of discharge.

Conclusion: Autoimmune pancreatitis (AIP) can be difficult to distinguish from pancreatic carcinoma. High levels of CA 19-9 are usually indicative of malignancies, whereas high levels of IgG4 are characteristic of AIP. However, the combination of CA 19-9 > 74 U/ml and IgG4 > 1.0 g/L distinguishes patients with AIP from patients with pancreatic carcinoma with 94% sensitivity and 100% specificity [1]. CA 19-9 levels can also be elevated in other GI diseases including primary sclerosing cholangitis, bacterial cholangitis, or cholecodocholithiasis. Differentiation between these conditions is extremely important due to the vastly different treatments and the morbidity/mortality associated with them [2,3].

IgG4-RD causing biliary obstruction with CA 19-9 elevation is a diagnostic dilemma. It can be misdiagnosed as pancreatic or cholangiocarcinoma. Our patient illustrates that IgG4-RD pseudotumors can significantly elevate CA 19-9. In these cases, further testing and biopsy should be performed to rule out malignancy.

REFERENCES:
[1] van Heerde, Marianne J., et al. “Serum level of Ca 19-9 increases ability of CA19-9. In these cases, further testing and biopsy should be performed to rule out malignancy.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.524

AB1572 IMPACT OF MATERNAL CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE ON FUNCTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL ABNORMALITIES OF THE HEART IN THE OFFSPRING

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Imaging, Heart

T. Frielsen Neumann1, S. S. Andersen1, S. Dannebo1, A. S. Sillelsen2, R. O. Vegg2, K. Schreiber3,4,5, K. Iversen6, H. Bundgaard2, A. Axelsson Raja2

1Rigshospitalet, Department of Cardiology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; 2Herlev University Hospital, Herlev-Gentofte Hospital, Herlev, Denmark; 3Herlev University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark; 4Department of Rheumatology, Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Sønderborg, Denmark; 5Department of Rheumatology, Danish Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Sønderborg, Denmark; 6Department of Thoracic Surgery, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark

Background: Some maternal systemic connective tissue diseases (CTD) and their associated antibodies are linked with adverse fetal outcomes, including increased risk of congenital heart diseases (CHD)[1,2]. Whether this increased risk also applies to less severe structural or functional cardiac abnormalities in the fetus is currently unknown.

Objectives: Based on a large cohort of newborns born to mothers with CTD, we aim to assess the association between maternal CTD and structural or functional cardiac abnormalities in the offspring. Data used in the study will be a combination of data collected in the Copenhagen Baby Heart Study (CBHS) and data collected via medical chart review to validate the CTD diagnosis and to obtain information about disease severity, treatment, etc.

Methods: In the CBHS we included more than 25,000 newborns between April 2016 and October 2018. All infants underwent systematic transhoracic echocardiography (TTE) within the first 60 days after birth[3,4]. The current study will include newborns from the CBHS born to mothers diagnosed with CTD, as identified through the Danish national health registries. Assuming an overall incidence of CTDs at 2% we expect to include approximately 500 newborns to mothers with CTD. Newborns born to mothers diagnosed with CTD will be matched 1:1 to newborns not exposed to maternal CTD, based on child’s sex; gestational age at birth; age and weight at time of TTE; and maternal age at delivery. Maternal medical charts will be reviewed to validate the CTD diagnosis and obtain information about disease severity, treatment, etc. The primary endpoint is a composite of functional and structural abnormalities in the heart of the newborns, assessed by echocardiography, including left ventricular structural and functional abnormalities, septum defects, and valve anomalies.

Results: Preliminary results are expected in spring 2023.

Conclusion: It is unclear whether children of mothers with CTD should have routine cardiac evaluation at birth, and whether certain types of maternal CTD have a higher risk of minor/subclinical CHD or less severe cardiac abnormalities in the offspring compared with children born to mothers without CTD. The size of CBHS and the comprehensive assessment of the included children provide a unique opportunity for obtaining new knowledge in this field, including better insights into whether routine TTE after birth should be considered in certain subgroups.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1194

AB1573 AUTOIMMUNE HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA IN CHRONIC LIVER DISEASES

Keywords: Comorbidities, Diagnostic tests

N. Trad1, G. Mohamed1, S. Bizid1, S. Soua1, B. Ben Silmen1, K. Boughoula1, H. Ben Abdallah1, R. Bouali1, M. N. Abdedil1, 1Military Hospital of Tunis, Gastroenterology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Chronic liver diseases can be associated with autoimmune diseases, their association with autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA) is poorly studied.

Objectives: Our objective was to study the prevalence and the characteristics of AIHA in chronic liver diseases.

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis of data from consecutive patients followed in our department over a period of 15 years. Data were collected via medical chart review in the absence of other overt causes of constitutional or acquired hemolysis.

Results: A total of 187 patients were included with an average age of 60.2 years (range 18–86) and a sex ratio of 1.79. Thirteen patients had an AIHA (7%). Anemia was normocytic in 77% of cases and macrocytic in 23% of cases. Five patients had a history of associated autoimmune pathologies (38.4%); autoimmune thyroiditis in two cases, one case of psoriasis, one case of SJogren’s syndrome and one case of autoimmune thrombocytopenia. The AIHA was more frequent in cases of viral chronic liver diseases B and C (46.1%). Three patients had non-viral chronic liver diseases (23%); primary biliary cholangitis, autoimmune hepatitis, and alcohol.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1574

DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF CAPILLAROSCOPIC PERFORMED IN THE RHEUMATOLOGY SERVICE OF A THIRD LEVEL HOSPITAL

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Descriptive studies

R. J. Gil Velez1,2, L. Robles Kirkegard2, L. Mendez Diaz1. 1Seville, Rheumatology, Seville, Spain; 2Virgen del Rocío Hospital, Rheumatology, Seville, Spain

Background: Capillaroscopy is a study technique using direct in vivo images of the skin microcirculation. It constitutes an accessible and non-invasive method to analyze microvascular abnormalities in patients with rheumatic diseases. Its usefulness has been demonstrated in diseases such as Systemic Sclerosis (SSS), Sjögren’s syndrome, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Dermatomyositis, Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and, above all, Raynaud’s phenomenon.

Objectives: To describe the clinical characteristics of a cohort of patients who underwent capillaroscopy in the Rheumatology service during the year 2022.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive study of 100 patients who underwent capillaroscopy in the rheumatology service. The data obtained were obtained by reviewing the digital medical records and the registry of capillaroscopy images of the same service.

Results: 100 patients were included, of whom 92 were women (92%) and 8 were men (8%) with a mean age of 50 +/-17 years. Of the patients analyzed, 53 presented a normal pattern on capillaroscopy (53%) and 47 presented an abnormal pattern (47%). Of our cohort, 68 patients had Raynaud’s (68%), 5 patients were diagnosed with undifferentiated connective tissue disease (5%), limited scleroderma 12 patients (12%), diffuse scleroderma 6 patients (6%), and with psoriatic arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, Sjögren’s, Rheumatoid Arthritis, antiphospholipid syndrome, Bechet and Dermatomyositis, there was a patient with each named disease (7%), and finally there were 2 patients who still do not have a firm diagnosis (2%). Of the patients in our cohort with an abnormal pattern, 12 had an early scleroderma pattern (25.5%), 10 patients had a late scleroderma pattern (21.25%), 8 patients had a lupus pattern (17%), 8 patients had a nonspecific pattern (17%), 6 presented a school of fish pattern (12.5%) and 3 patients presented a pattern of mixed connective tissue disease (6.3%). Within the cohort with a pattern of early scleroderma on capillaroscopy, 4 patients were diagnosed with limited scleroderma, 5 with Raynaud’s phenomenon, 1 with diffuse scleroderma, 1 with undifferentiated connective tissue disease, and one with Sjögren’s. Of the 100 patients analyzed, 7 had lung involvement (7%), 6 patients with a firm diagnosis (2%). Of the patients in our cohort with an abnormal pattern, 12 had an early scleroderma pattern (25.5%), 10 patients had a late scleroderma pattern (21.25%), 8 patients had a lupus pattern (17%), 8 patients had a nonspecific pattern (17%), 6 presented a school of fish pattern (12.5%) and 3 patients presented a pattern of mixed connective tissue disease (6.3%). Within the cohort with a pattern of early scleroderma on capillaroscopy, 4 patients were diagnosed with limited scleroderma, 5 with Raynaud’s phenomenon, 1 with diffuse scleroderma, 1 with undifferentiated connective tissue disease, and one with Sjögren’s. Of the 100 patients analyzed, 7 had lung involvement (7%),

Conclusion: The data obtained are consistent with what is reported in the medical literature. The most common abnormal capillaroscopy pattern in our environment is early scleroderma, followed by late scleroderma. Of the patients analyzed, 7 had pulmonary involvement. With the data we have collected, we can conclude that capillaroscopy is a useful, non-invasive technique that can guide us during the diagnostic process in those patients who raise doubts both in clinical judgment and in the evolution of the disease.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annyhdmis-2023-eular.1543
Background: PCAT attenuation is a non-invasive biomarker of coronary inflammation and is a poor prognostic factor in patients with coronary artery disease. Objectives: To compare the severity of PCAT attenuation amongst patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IMD) compared to patients with non-inflammatory rheumatic diseases (NIMD) in a retrospective cross-sectional study. Methods: All patients seen in Monash Health rheumatology clinics over a 12-month period were identified. Patient records were cross-referenced with the hospital computed tomography coronary angiography (CTCA) database to identify patients who had undergone CTCAs. IMD patients who had their CTCA prior to their RMD diagnosis were excluded. Age, sex, co-morbidities, and medications were extracted from the patient electronic medical records. PCAT attenuation was calculated (SIS, SSS, PCAT attenuation) or calculated (SIS, SSS, PCAT attenuation).

Results: A total of 117 patients were included (105 with IMD and 12 with NIMD). There were no significant differences in any other CTCA outcomes. There were no significant differences in any other CTCA outcomes. There were no significant differences in any other CTCA outcomes.

Conclusion: PCAT attenuation is associated with IMD in this retrospective single-center cross-sectional study. Data from larger prospective cohorts with healthy comparator controls are needed to assess the significance of these findings.
active (1.01 ± 1.1) and 0.32 ± 0.6 in active MCP joints. RI was in control 0.87 ± 0.12 in moderately active 0.61 ± 0.15 (figure 1) and 0.24 ± 0.12 in active MCP joints. There was significant difference in RI and PI of these active and moderately active MCP joints (p <0.01). There was a significant correlation between erosive scores and PI, RI of total MCP joints (r = 0.40 and r = 0.41, P < 0.05).

Conclusion: Spectral Power Doppler ultrasonography (PDSUS) is a useful method demonstrating synovial vascularization and flow patterns and offers new alternatives for monitoring disease activity and measurement of therapeutic response. Flow patterns had intimate correlation with intra-articular bone and cartilage destruction.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1581

AB1578
HEMORRHAGIC RISK ASSOCIATED WITH SPINAL PROCEDURES AND FOCUS ON PATIENTS TREATED BY ANTICOAGULANTS OR PLATELET INHIBITORS: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW AND META ANALYSIS

Keywords: Safety, Systematic review

C. Langbour 1, A. Agbaghi 2, S. Mitrovic 3, F. Rannou 2, B. Fautrel 3, G. Carvalaj Alegra 1, 1Hôpital Trousseau, Service de Rhumatologie, Tours, France; 2Hôpital La Pitié Salpêtrière, Service de Médecine physique et réadaptative, Paris, France; 3Hôpital La Pitié Salpêtrière, Service de Rhumatologie, Paris, France

Background: Spinal procedures – including lumbar puncture, radiofrequency neurotomy, medial branch injection, facet joint injection, blood patch and epidural injection – are common in daily practice. Side effects can occur during these invasive procedures like hemorrhagic complications. The use of anticoagulants and platelet inhibitors can increase these risks.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to characterize the hemorrhagic risk associated with spinal procedures and to analyze if there is a sur risk of bleeding complications in patients treated with anticoagulants or platelet inhibitors.

Methods: A systematic literature review and metaanalysis were made in MEDLINE, EMBASE and COCHRANE, in order to find a prevalence of hemorrhagic complications for each spinal procedure. We classify hemorrhagic risk in two categories.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local bleeding</th>
<th>Traumatic puncture</th>
<th>Epidural hematoma</th>
<th>Central nervous system bleeding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lumbar puncture</td>
<td>5/1 614</td>
<td>1820/10,961</td>
<td>1699/6,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidural injection</td>
<td>78/29 439</td>
<td>63/587</td>
<td>22/273 766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood patch</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facet joint injection</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0/8 162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical branch injection</td>
<td>0/3 059</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiofrequency neurotomy</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertebroplasty</td>
<td>IC95% [0%-33%]</td>
<td>IC95% [0%-0%]</td>
<td>IC95% [0%-0%]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Hemorrhagic complications during a percutaneous spinal procedure are very low. These findings are in coherence with previous findings. In this metanalysis there was no difference between patients with anticoagulants or platelet inhibitors and the others during a lumbar puncture according to the PRISMA criteria is shown [Figure 1]. The global prevalence of each hemorrhagic complication according to each spinal procedure is showed in Table 1. There was no difference between patients with anticoagulants or platelet inhibitors and the others during a lumbar puncture according to the epidural hematoma risk with OR of 0.95 IC95 [0.16-5.29] after a lumbar puncture and for the risk of traumatic lumbar puncture with OR of 0.78 IC95 [0.47-1.29].

Figure 1. Moderately active
AB1579

ULTRASOUND JOINT ASSESSMENTS INCREASE DETECTION OF POLYARTICULAR JOINT INVOLVEMENT IN CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS-INDUCED ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Malignancy, Inflammatory arthritides, Ultrasound

L. Meric de Bellofot1, A. Aspeslagh2, A. Franci3, B. Jean-François4, P. Duriez1.
1 Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc (UC Louvain), Rheumatology, Brussels, Belgium; 2 UZ Brussel, Oncology, Jette, Belgium; 3 Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc (UC Louvain), Pneumology, Brussels, Belgium; 4 Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc (UC Louvain), Oncology, Brussels, Belgium

Background: CheckPoint Inhibitors (CPI) Induced arthritis (IA) is an immune related adverse event (irAEs) occurring in 0.5 to 2% of CPI-treated patients between 3 weeks up to 24 months after initiation of therapy. IA is usually described as a seronegative oligoarticular inflammatory joint disease but IA has been for long underdiagnosed and inappropriately evaluated.

Objectives: To evaluate the added value of a systematic joint ultrasound assessment in these patients by the rheumatologist.

Methods: Patients referred by their oncologist to the Rheumatology Department for suspected arthritis had a clinical swollen joint count and a joint ultrasound assessment (GE Logiq E9 Ultrasound Machine with ML6-15-D Matrix Linear Probe). Target joints were elbows, wrists, MCP 2-5, knees, ankles and MTP1-5. The swollen joint count performed by the oncologist was compared to the one made by the rheumatologist and the US assessment. A joint was considered as positive by US assessment in case of grey-scale ≥ 1 in a scale of 3.

Results: 9 patients (6 males and 3 females) were assessed. Mean age was 66.1 years (SD 11 years). 4 were treated for metastatic melanoma, 1 for renal cell carcinoma (RCC), 3 for lung cancer, 1 for bladder carcinoma. They received a monotherapy with pembrolizumab (4/9), nivolumab (2/9), atezolimumab (1/9), darvalumab (1/9). None had received corticosteroids.

5 out of the 9 patients were referred for an oligoarticular (swollen joint count <5) presentation by the oncologist, 2 out of 9 for a polyarticular (swollen joint count ≥5) presentation and 2 for a PMR-like presentation. Whereas the rheumatological and the US assessments confirmed the polyarticular diagnoses made by the oncologists, the 5 oligoarticular-labelled patients had polyarticular involvement after the rheumatologist and US assessments. In the 2 patients referred for a PMR-like disease, US assessments showed one polyarticular and one oligoarticular presentation. None of the 9 patients had positive rheumatoid factors (RF) or anticitrullinated peptides antibodies (ACPAs).

Conclusion: In this small group of patients with CPI-IA, In this small group of patients with CPI-IA, we found that US joint assessment led to a better classification of polyarticular joint involvement, present in the majority of the cases. Our results emphasise the importance of a multidisciplinary approach of these patients and support the use of US joint assessments in CPI-IA patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3263

Figure 3. Number of swollen joints (SJC) for each patient according to the oncologist, the rheumatologist and the ultrasound assessment.

Conclusion: In this small group of patients with CPI-IA, In this small group of patients with CPI-IA, we found that US joint assessment led to a better classification of polyarticular joint involvement, present in the majority of the cases. Our results emphasise the importance of a multidisciplinary approach of these patients and support the use of US joint assessments in CPI-IA patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1580

ULTRASOUND FINDINGS IN PATIENTS WITH GOUT IN A POPULATION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Keywords: Ultrasound, Gout, Prognostic factors

D. Garcia1, R. A. Alvarez Santana1, L. Perez Rodriguez2, T. Polanco Mora1, L. Concepcion Sanchez2, I. Mercedes1, I. Paulino1, E. Rodriguez Bautista1, T. Valdez1, A. Feriz1, R. Muñoz Louis1,1 Hospital Padre Billini, Rheumatology, Distrito Nacional, Dominican Republic

Background: Hyperuricemia is an increase in the serum concentration of monosodium urate (MSU). Gout is secondary to the inflammatory response elicited by the deposition of UMS in the tissues. It is the most frequent inflammatory arthropathy in the general population. Its prevalence has been estimated at 2-3% of the adult population. The ultrasound findings observed are considered within the ACR/EULAR 2015 criteria, which derive from the presence of UMS deposits in the subcutaneous tissue and in intra-articular areas (cartilage, tendons, ligaments, and bursae). There are 2 specific findings of MSU deposits: 1) enhanced echogenicity of the chondro-osseus margin (double contour sign), presence of hyperechogenic aggregates, which, in turn, can have 3 forms of presentation: hyperechogenic dots (<1 mm) within a joint effusion, (cotton-wool areas) (<1 cm) homogeneously without posterior acoustic shadow and larger tophi with calcifications and posterior acoustic shadow [4].

Objectives: To identify the ultrasound findings in patients with gouty arthritis in a population of the Dominican Republic.

Methods: Descriptive, prospective observational study. From the cohort of patients from the Rheumatology service of the Hospital Docente Padre Billini, patients from the outpatient clinic were evaluated from June to December 2022. Inclusion criteria: > 18 years, diagnosis of gouty arthritis according to ACR/EULAR 2015 criteria, presence of at least 1 attack of gouty arthritis, performance of joint ultrasound Exclusion criteria: Osteosynthesis material in areas evaluated by ultrasound and/or infiltration, traumas of less than 3 months in the evaluated joints, Elbows, wrists, 2nd metacarpophalangeal MCP, knees, and 1st metatarsophalangeal MTF were evaluated by ultrasound, recognizing positive findings of double contour sign, hyperechogenic aggregates, erosions, synovitis, and irregularities according to OMERACT definitions. Made with the Siemens Acuson X 150 ultrasound machine, with a 13 mhz transducer. Descriptive statistics were performed with SPSS 25 V2.

Results: 52 met inclusion criteria. 100% male, mean age 59±16.1 years, mean disease duration 8.6 years, mean serum uric acid 9.5 mg/dL, BMI: overweight 32.7% (17), grade I obesity 21.2% (11), grade II obesity 40.4% (21). Diabetes mellitus 55.8% (29), Arterial hypertension 57.7% (30), Dyslipidemia 80.2% (42), Colchicine 61.5% (32), Allopurinol 48.1% (25), Febuxostat 48.1% (25), NSAIDs 48.1% (25), Predisone 46.2% (24), Benz bromarone 3.8% (2) Ultrasound findings 55.7% (29): Elbows: irregularities 39.6% (11), Tophi 39.6% (11), erosions 20.7% (6), Carpals: Erosions 10.3% (3), aggregates 10.3% (3), power Doppler 2.69% (2), irregularities 31% (2), Knees: erosions 27.8% (8), irregularities 27.8% (8), double contour 20.6% (6) power doppler 10.3% (3), Tibiotalar: irregularities 27.8% (8), erosions 17.2% (5), 1st MTAs: erosions 48.2% (14), irregularities 27.8% (8), aggregates 3.4% (1).

Conclusion: The study demonstrated that more than half of patients with gout present structural lesions by ultrasound according to OMERACT. The elbows are the most affected joints with the presence of tophi, followed by the first metatarsophalangeal joint with the presence of erosions.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2653
Public health, health services research, and health economics

| AB1581 | HIGH PREVALENCE OF BURNOUT SYNDROME AMONG RHEUMATOLOGISTS PRACTICING IN ARAB COUNTRIES: AN ARLAR MULTINATIONAL STUDY IN 394 RHEUMATOLOGISTS |

Keywords: Descriptive studies, Work-related issues, Health services research

R. Naim1, 2, I. Hmamouch2, 4, C. Houchi2, 4, F. Baron1, S. M. Al-Mayouf1, N. A. Al-An1, 2, B. Masri2, M. EL Rakaji1, L. Kibbi2, M. Mashahlen2, F. Akotan2, N. Ziad2, 4, 5 Saint-Joseph University, Medicine, Beirut, Lebanon; 6 Hotel-Dieu de France Hospital, Medicine, Beirut, Lebanon; 7 Health Sciences College, International University of Rabat (UIR), Epidemiology, Rabat, Morocco; 8 Temara Provincial Hospital, Rheumatology, Temara, Morocco; 9 Djilliali Bouaouma university hospital, Douera, Rheumatology, Algiers, Algeria; 10 Faculty of Medicine El Mahdi Si Ahme, Rheumatology, Blida, Algeria; 11 Al-Jahra Hospital, Ministry of Health, Internal Medicine, Kuwait, Kuwait; 12 King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, College of Medicine, Alfaisal University, Pediatrics, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; 13 College of Medicine, University of Baghdad, Medicine, Baghdad, Iraq; 14 Jordan Hospital and Medical Center, Internal medicine, Amman, Jordan; 15 Djilliali Bouaouma University Hospital, Douera, Algiers. Faculty of Medicine El Mahdi Si Ahmed, Rheumatology, Algeria; 16 Specialized Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; 17 King Hussein Medical Center, Royal Medical Services, Jordan Armed Forces, Internal Medicine, Amman, Jordan; 18 Jaber Alahmed Hospital, Ministry of Health, Internal Medicine, Kuwait, Kuwait; 19 Saint-Joseph University, Rheumatology, Beirut, Lebanon; 20 Hotel-Dieu de France Hospital, Rheumatology, Beirut, Lebanon

Background: Burnout is frequent among physicians and has significant implications for the healthcare system. However, it seems to be underestimated so far among rheumatologists, with few studies indicating a prevalence of 51-57%.

Objectives: To estimate the prevalence and predictors of burnout among rheumatologists practicing in Arab countries.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted by the Arab League of Associations for Rheumatology (ArLAR) Research Group (ARCH) using an anonymous electronic survey developed and tested by a core steering committee and hosted on the Google Forms platform. All rheumatologists practicing in the Arab countries were invited in spring 2022 to participate in the e-survey by mass e-mailing and data were collected from January 2022 to April 2022. In addition to demographic data, workload, practice profile, income, and specialty satisfaction (assessed indirectly through choosing another specialty if given a choice), the questionnaire included the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI). Rheumatologists were considered as having burnout if at least one of the three MBI domains was positive (Emotional Exhaustion (EE) ≥ 27, Depersonalization (DP) ≥ 10, or Personal Accomplishment (PA) ≤ 33). Factors associated with burnout were analyzed using a multivariable binary logistic regression.

Results: Among 3,227 rheumatologists practicing in Arab countries, 408 responded to the survey, and 394 were included in the final analysis (12.2% of all practicing rheumatologists). The mean age was 45.2 years (SD 11.5), 60.7% were females, the median practice duration was 13 years (IQR 6–22), 49% were from North Africa, 33% were from the Levant, and 18% were from the Gulf. In total, 73% worked full-time, 48% worked in the public sector, 21% in the private sector, and 31% in both; 74% worked in an urban setting only, monthly income was <1,000 USD in 31%, 1,000-1,500 USD in 41%, 5,000-10,000 USD in 9% and >10,000 USD in 8%. The prevalence of burnout among rheumatologists was 61.3%. It was mostly driven by a low PA score (58.1%) (Figure 1). Also, 15.6% had a positive EE score, and 11.6% had a positive DP score. After adjustment for demographics, practice profile, and workload variables, burnout was independently associated with an income <10,000 USD/ month (OR 2.28 [95% CI 1.01; 5.10], unsatisfaction with rheumatology specialty (OR 2.04 [95%CI 1.20; 3.48] and younger age (OR 1.92 [95%CI 1.20; 3.08]) (Table 1).

Conclusion: The prevalence of burnout among rheumatologists in Arab countries is significantly high and driven mainly by a low personal assessment score. Associated factors were a lower income, lower satisfaction with the specialty, and younger age. Therefore, burnout among rheumatologists needs to be adequately addressed to prevent its negative impact on the healthcare system.

Table 1. Predictive factors of burnout in rheumatologists practicing in the Arab countries (multivariable analysis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income &lt; 10,000 USD/month</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>1.006 – 5.098</td>
<td>0.048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty unsatisfaction</td>
<td>2.036</td>
<td>1.199 – 3.457</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ≤ 44 years</td>
<td>1.921</td>
<td>1.198 – 3.078</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving phone calls from patients on personal phone</td>
<td>1.616</td>
<td>0.714 – 3.659</td>
<td>0.249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infusion center at the rheumatology practice</td>
<td>0.733</td>
<td>0.435 – 1.236</td>
<td>0.373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Venn diagram of the physicians fulfilling the domains of the MBI

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the contribution of the following rheumatologists and thank them for helping to promote the survey in their respective societies: Drs Walaa Abdel Rahman, Samar Al Emadi, Ayman Al Garf, Khaled Al Naqbi, Hanan Al Rayes, Rachid Bahiri, Eytes Bouajina, Hachemi Djoudi, Jamal El Saleh, Bassel Elzorkan, Suad Hashad, Batroel Hassan, Layla Kazkaz, Aisha Ladouze, Suad Mohamed.

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| AB1582 | DEPRESSION IN RHEUMATOLOGIST FROM LATIN AMERICA |

Keywords: Quality of life, Epidemiology, Quality of care

M. Intriglio1, G. Maldonado2, E. Soriano2, C. Rios3, 1 University of Miami, Internal Medicine, Miami, United States of America; 2 Loyola MacNeal Hospital, Internal Medicine, Berwyn, United States of America; 3 Hospital Italiano, Rheumatology, Buenos Aires, Argentina. 4 Centro de Reumatología y Rehabilitación, Rheumatology, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Background: Depression, burnout, and suicide are becoming a major problem among physicians. A survey estimated that around 21% are depressed and 1 in 10 had suicidal thoughts.[1]

Objectives: Determine the prevalence of depression in rheumatologists from Latin America and factors associated with it.

Methods: Cross-sectional study. Data was collected through an online survey distributed by PANLAR, which included demographics and work-related factors. Depression was measured with PHQ-9 questionnaire, burnout with the Maslach Burnout Inventory, happiness with the Subjective Happiness Scale and satisfaction with a 7-point Likert scale. Analysis of data was done with SPSS V 27 and included descriptive statistics and association between variables using Chi square and Student’s T test.

Results: 297 rheumatologists were included from 15 countries, mainly Argentina 28.3% and Brazil 26.3%. Most were women 62%, married 65%, practiced adult rheumatology 82% and earned less than $50 K/year 74.8%. Depression
was found in 48.8%: mild 33%, moderate 8.8%, moderate severe 4%, severe 3%. The mean PHQ-9 score was 5.5±5.3. 48.1% reported anhedonia, 40.7% feeling depressed, sleep alterations 57.2%, fatigue 75.1%, appetite changes 46.1%, weight changes 37%, sexual difficulties 37%, psychomotor changes 27.9%, thoughts of harming oneself 9.8%, 8.2% suicidal thoughts and 8.4% low self-esteem. 56.6% had burnout. 14.5% were taking SSRI/SNRIs and 4% were previously diagnosed. Factors associated with depression were female sex (p=0.008), younger age (p<0.001), administrative duties (p=0.010), annual income less than $25K (p=0.002), low self-esteem (p=0.001), burnout (p=0.001), less satisfaction with career (p<0.001) and lower subjective happiness (p<0.001). Exercise (p=0.035) and practicing academics (p=0.010) were associated with less depression.

Conclusion: Depression affected almost half of the rheumatologists and was more common in females, younger population, with low self-esteem. Lower income, having burnout and less satisfaction with the career were also risk factors. Only a small proportion of the affected population was previously diagnosed and on treatment.

REFERENCES:

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AB1583 EVALUATING THE DIRECT EFFECT OF SLE ON THE PRESENCE OF INTERMEDIATE GC ON HEALTHCARE COST

Keywords: Randomized controlled trial, Health services research, Systemic lupus erythematosus

K. Zhao1, H. Xie1. 1Arthritis Research Canada, Biostatistics, Vancouver, Canada

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic disease with a broad spectrum of autoantibodies and clinical manifestations. SLE imposes a substantial economic burden on patients and the healthcare system with the estimate of annual healthcare costs for SLE patients of $5,062 in Canada. Besides SLE, post-SLE Glucocorticoid (GC) is often associated with severe infection and mortality, hence increased healthcare costs. In this study, we aimed to estimate the costs associated with SLE because specific groups (those who don’t have access to questionnaires) are underrepresented. As a result, their conclusions may lack generalizability to all SLE patients. These limitations call for a new approach to account for post-treatment selection bias and a large dataset in the real-world setting to quantify the healthcare costs due to SLE.

Methods: Using linked administrative health data from British Columbia, Canada, we conducted an age- and gender-matched cohort study of all patients with incident SLE between 1997 and 2015. We implemented Principal stratification to disentangle and quantify the causal annual healthcare costs directly associated with newly diagnosed SLE accounting for GC use. To identify the characteristics of the patients who never took GC (never-users).

Results: We identified 5,169 SLE patients and matched them with 25,845 non-SLE individuals from the general population. The crude incidence rate ratios for first severe infection and infection-related mortality were 2.59 (95% CI, 2.39-2.80) and 2.20 (95% CI, 1.76-2.73), respectively. The direct annual healthcare cost due to SLE was $1,011 (95% CI, 0.94-1.10) which was a weighted average of the cost in always and never-users strata (Figure 1). Always and never users accounted for 20.3% and 73.9% of the total population. Compared to the SLE-only users, those with older age, rural residence, higher income and more medical service visits were more likely to be in the never-user stratum.

Conclusion: This is the first study to examine the direct effect of SLE on healthcare cost accounting for the GC-taking behavior using real-world data. Our findings highlighted the direct economic burden due to SLE and can be generalized to the SLE population. Recognizing the economic burden of SLE will inform future interventions for prevention, and medical management in this vulnerable patient population. What's more, when prescribing GC, the treating physicians should pay attention to the patients with older age, rural residence, higher income and more medical service visits because they are unlikely to adhere to the treatment scheme.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1584 CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE USE OF BIOSIMILARS IN THE TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC JOINT DISEASES

Keywords: Systematic review, bDMARD, Best practices

K. Alnaqbi1, N. Al Adhoubi2, S. Al Dallal1, S. Al Emadi4, A. Al-Herz5, A. El Shamy1, S. Hannawi1, M. A. Omar1, S. Saad1, T. K. Kvien1,2, 1Tawam Hospital, College of Medicine & Health Sciences, Internal Medicine, Rheumatology, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates; 2Royal Hospital, Rheumatology, Muscat, Oman; 3Dubai Health Authority, DHA, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 4Hamad Medical Corporation, Rheumatology, Doha, Qatar; 5Al-Amir Hospital, Rheumatology, Kuwait, Kuwait; 6Ministry of Health and Prevention, MOHAP, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 7Emirates Health Services, Rheumatology, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 8King Saud University, Rheumatology, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; 9King Hamad University Hospital, Rheumatology, Busaiteen, Bahrain; 10Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Center for Treatment of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (REMEDY), Oslo, Norway

Background: Biosimilars are highly similar to reference products and can help in reducing the financial burden and medication undertreatment while still being comparable to reference products in treating rheumatic diseases[1].

Objectives: The objective was to develop evidence-based consensus recommendations and overarching principles aimed at standardizing best practices for the use of biosimilars in treating patients with inflammatory rheumatic joint diseases in the Gulf region.

Methods: A taskforce comprising expert rheumatologists and healthcare economists formulated specific PICO questions on key topics concerning biosimilars: comparability of efficacy, safety and immunogenicity of biosimilars to reference products; extrapolation of indications for biosimilars; switching from reference products to biosimilars or between biosimilars; cost-savings; retention rates; nocebo effect among patients, and general awareness and perceptions of biosimilars in the Gulf region. A systematic literature review was conducted to identify, select, and critically appraise the quality of published evidence that demonstrated the value proposition of biosimilars in rheumatic diseases. Meta-analyses, clinical trials, and systematic reviews of adult patients treated with biosimilars for
Objective: This study aimed to determine the relationship of asymptomatic hyperuricemia with NC, innovative and simple anthropometric method, in the general population.

Methods: This cross-sectional study used data from the 2019–2020 Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Among 15,469 individuals, we excluded 6,814 without available data on NC or serum uric acid, and 1,026 with critical confounders: overt cardiovascular disease; gout; chronic kidney disease; and serum creatinine > 1.2 mg/dL. Multivariate logistic regression analysis was used to calculate the odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for hyperuricemia according to quartiles of NC.

Conclusion: NC was positively correlated with serum uric acid levels and this association was significant in women. Our finding suggests that NC can contribute to detecting asymptomatic hyperuricemia earlier and further to determining risk of metabolic syndrome in healthy adults.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Factors associated with hyperuricemia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, per 1-year increase</td>
<td>0.97 (0.96–0.99)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low income</td>
<td>1.26 (0.99–1.59)</td>
<td>0.057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, per 1-kg/m² increase</td>
<td>1.03 (1.00–1.06)</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>1.00 (0.77–1.31)</td>
<td>0.993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type 2 diabetes</td>
<td>0.53 (0.36–0.78)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoking</td>
<td>0.76 (0.60–0.97)</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent drinking</td>
<td>1.75 (1.41–2.18)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular aerobics exercise</td>
<td>0.98 (0.77–1.29)</td>
<td>0.710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC, per 1-cm increase</td>
<td>1.04 (0.96–1.12)</td>
<td>0.314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the multivariable logistic regression models adjusted for all variables; 2Less than median household income; §More than twice per week; Defined as ≥2.5 hours/week of moderate-intensity activities, ≥1.25 hours/week of high-intensity activities, or a combination of both. aOR, adjusted odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; BMI, body mass index; NC, neck circumference.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Neck circumference, asymptomatic hyperuricemia, health, healthy adults, risk factors, waist circumference.
Background: The demand for rheumatology care is consistently exceeding the workforce worldwide, which negatively impacts the care of patients with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs). The number of rheumatologists per 100,000 inhabitants varies between 0.94 in Latin America to 3.44 in Spain, with a desirable number of 1-2. However, the estimation of the current and projected rheumatology workforce is lacking in Arab countries.

Objectives: To investigate the current number of practicing rheumatologists in the Arab League countries, provide an estimate of the expected number of rheumatologists in 10 years, and evaluate the current workload, practice profile, and waiting time for a consultation.

Methods: This cross-sectional survey study was conducted by the Arab League of Associations for Rheumatology (ArLAR) Research Group (ARCH) in 16 Arab countries in two parts. The first survey was addressed to national societies by e-mail to estimate the current and projected workforce. The second was an anonymous e-survey addressed to all Arab rheumatologists and rheumatology fellows elaborated by the study steering committee on the Google Forms platform and distributed using social media, WhatsApp, and mass e-mails to evaluate their practice profile, workload, and waiting time for a rheumatology consultation.

Results: The mean number of rheumatologists in the ArLAR countries was 0.84 per 100,000 inhabitants (mean age 47.5 years, 55% females), ranging from 0.06 in Sudan to 1.17 in Egypt (Table 1). The crude number of rheumatologists is expected to increase by 50% in 2032, whereas a 20% parallel increase in the population is also expected, associated with a rise in demand due to an expected increase in RMDs; thus, the percentage per 100,000 inhabitants will increase only by 22%. Data from 446 rheumatologists and rheumatology fellows (mean age 43.9 years, 60.5% females) revealed that 72% worked full-time, 53% were employed in the public sector only, and 75% worked in an urban setting. The median income was 1,000-2,000 USD/month. There was a certified rheumatology nurse in 25%, access to musculoskeletal ultrasound in 51%, and telemedicine implemented in 29% of practices. The average waiting time for a rheumatology consultation was 19.9 days and was associated with the region, working full-time, working in the public sector, higher income, and the presence of an infusion center at the rheumatology practice.

Conclusion: Considering a desirable arbitrary level of 1-2 rheumatologists/100,000 inhabitants, there is a current shortage of rheumatologists in the ArLAR countries, with significant heterogeneity among countries. The projected increase in rheumatologists will probably not match the rising demand for rheumatology care. Considering local demographic disparities and healthcare system differences, national authorities are urged to implement effective intervention plans to optimize the rheumatology workforce.

Table 1. Rheumatology workforce in the Arab Countries in 2022, by country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Rheumatologists/100,000 inhabitants</th>
<th>Rheumatologists/1,000 physicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>11,820,000</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>102,300,000</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>43,850,000</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>36,910,000</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>6,871,000</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>43,850,000</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levant</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>6,800,000</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>40,220,000</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>17,500,000</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>10,200,000</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>4,803,000</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>9,890,000</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>4,271,000</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>2,881,000</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saud</td>
<td>34,810,000</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arabia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>5,107,000</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>382,083,000</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the contribution of the following rheumatologists and thank them for helping to promote the survey in their respective societies: Drs Walaa Abdel Rahman, Samal AI Emadi, Ayman AL Garf, Khaled Al Naqbi, Hanan Al Rayes, Rachid Bahriri, Elyes Bouajina, Rachmi Djoudi, Jamal El Salhe, Bassel Elzorkany, Suad Hashad, Batool Hassan, Layla Kazkaz, Alia Ladjouze, Suad Mohamed.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Conclusion: An incidence of 12 VZV is observed in unvaccinated patients compared to an incidence of 0 in vaccinated patients. The herpes rate in non-vaccinated patients was 4.12E+100 PY compared to 0 E/100 PY in vaccinated patients. Therefore, we conclude that the herpes zoster vaccine shows its effectiveness in our population but it would be necessary to carry out more studies in the future with a longer follow-up time.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1588

REFERRAL PATTERN FROM PRIMARY CARE TO IDENTIFY PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Quality of care

M. Sánchez Lucas1, C. Bourgeois Avella1, T. Schiaffino2, J. Molina Collada2, J. Martínez-Barrio1,2, J. Rivera1, J. M. Alvaro-Gracia1,2, I. Castrejón1,2,3, J. Martínez-Barrio1,2, J. Rivera1, J. M. Alvaro-Gracia1,2, I. Castrejón1,2,3, J. Castrejón1,2,3
1 Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2 Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Gregorio Marañón, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 3 Complutense University of Madrid, Department of Medicine, Madrid, Spain

Background: Primary care physicians (PCPs) acknowledge the importance of early diagnosis and intensive treatment for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients, however the non-specific symptoms early in the disease and the long waiting list to access rheumatology clinics result in a challenge for early and adequate referral.

Objectives: To evaluate patterns for referral in an early arthritis clinic with direct access for PCPs and to explore variables that may influence an adequate referral.

Methods: An early arthritis clinic (EAC) with direct access for PCPs in our area was started in January 2022 providing direct access for patients with suspected RA or undifferentiated arthritis. Referral criteria are strictly clinical, based on previous early arthritis clinics, literature review and approved by a PCP committee. Patients can be referred if > 2 swollen joints, duration of symptoms <2 years and no previous diagnosis by a rheumatologist explaining the symptoms. A total of 180 PCPs from 11 primary care centres have direct access to the EAC. The following data was collected: distance between hospital and primary care center, number of PCP per center, and zip codes as a surrogate for patient income. A descriptive analysis of the referral pattern is presented. A multivariate logistic regression model was performed to identify variables associated with an appropriate referral.

Results: From January to October 2022, 140 patients were referred to the EAC. 66.4% female, with a mean age of 54.2 (15.3) years. A total of 38 (27%) patients fulfilled the predefined referral criteria with initial diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (15.8%), psoriatic arthritis (7.9%) and undifferentiated arthritis (76.3%). Patients who fulfilled the predefined referral criteria with initial diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis 66.4% female, with a mean age of 54.2 (15.3) years. A total of 38 (27%) patients fulfilled the predefined referral criteria with initial diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (15.8%), psoriatic arthritis (7.9%) and undifferentiated arthritis (76.3%). Patients who

Conclusion: Only 27% of patients referred to the EAC were adequately referred. PCPs need to enhance clinical skill to detect early RA and discriminate mainly from osteoarthritis and non-specific arthralgias. Younger age was the only variable associated with adequate referral. Strategies with a special focus on PCPs are necessary to promote an early and adequate referral.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by a grant PI20/00847, IC received partial funding from the Spanish Society of Rheumatology (SER). Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1589

ESSENTIAL TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN ZANZIBAR: A COST EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS

Keywords: Quality of life, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Rheumatoid arthritis

S. Saini1,2,3,4,5, B. T. Svanes Fevang1, T. W. Ny斯塔f1, K. A. Johansson2,3,1, The State University of Zanzibar - School Of Health And Medical Sciences, Internal Medicine, Zanzibar, Tanzania, United Republic of; 2 Bergen Center for Ethics and Priority Setting, Global Public Health and Primary Care, Bergen, Norway; 3 University of Bergen, Clinical Science, Bergen, Norway; 6 Haukeland University Hospital, Department of Internal Collaboration, Bergen, Norway; 7 Mnzee Mmoja Hospital, Internal Medicine, Zanzibar, Tanzania, United Republic of; 8 Haukeland University Hospital, Rheumatology, Bergen, Norway; 9 Haukeland University Hospital; Addiction Medicine, Bergen, Norway

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a major global health problem and a neglected disease in many developing countries. Health care spending is low in these countries and RA services compete with other important life-saving and effective interventions. Effective therapies for RA are now available which improve overall outcomes and prevent disability especially when initiated early and managed aggressively [1]. All these interventions are available in high-income countries but are sparse in developing countries. There are several health economic evaluations of RA treatment from high-income settings, but few are available or relevant for developing countries. More evidence is therefore needed on the benefits and costs of scaling-up RA services in resource constrained settings.

Objectives: To conduct a cost effectiveness analysis of multiple interventions in the management of RA in Zanzibar.

Methods: A cost-effectiveness analysis for a ten-year duration was conducted from a health provider perspective using a Markov model. Interventions were based on a treat to target strategy with add on therapy or switch to biological therapy when patients did not reach target (remission or low disease activity). The model compares the efficiency of 'methotrexate monotherapy (option 1), 'methotrexate + sulfasalazine + hydroxychloroquine (triple therapy)' (option 2), methotrexate then biologic 1’ (option 2b), option 2 then biologic 1’ (option 3), option 3 then biologic 2’ (option 4) and option 2b then biologic 2’ (option 4b). Data on effectiveness of interventions was obtained from literature. Incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) were calculated per quality adjusted life year (QALY) gained from treatment. Staff, building, and utility costs were obtained from the hospital administration records. Drug costs were obtained from the government supplier price list, retail pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies. Mean utility values were calculated from a Zanzibar RA- cohort based on the EuroQol-5D questionnaire responses. Willingness to pay threshold (WTP) was set at 568 USD which is two-thirds of GDP/capita for Tanzania for 2021. We conducted a base case analysis with deterministic sensitivity analysis to explore outcomes with changes in key parameters.

Results: Total costs for the treatment options were largely driven by drugs, predominantly the biologics. The lowest cost was for methotrexate therapy (option 1) at USD 1984/patient/10 years and the highest utilities were gained from treatment with methotrexate therapy + two consecutive bDMARDs (option 4b) (Table 1). Changes in drug costs resulted in significant changes in the ICERs. With variations in the WTP threshold, option 1 remained the most CE up to just above USD 2500 where option 2b became the more CE option up to USD 3100 and option 3 became the more CE option. All other options were not considered CE up to 3500 USD.

Conclusion: Methotrexate was found to be the only cost-effective treatment option in our population. Other options although may be too costly to consider feasible for clinical use unless prices drop. This may be possible via wider availability of biosimilars or via government drug price negotiation to acquire drugs at cheaper costs.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Ten-year costs (mean USD per treated patient), effects (mean QALY gained per patient) cost effectiveness and net-monetary benefit of six treatment scenarios for rheumatoid arthritis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Cost (USD)</th>
<th>QALYs</th>
<th>ICER (USD/ QALY)</th>
<th>Net Monetary benefit (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate alone (option 1)</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>1273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple therapy (option 2)</td>
<td>3051</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Dominated</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate then 1 biologic (option 2b)</td>
<td>2647</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>406</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple therapy then 1 biologic (option 3)</td>
<td>3698</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>2995</td>
<td>860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple therapy then 2 biologics (option 4)</td>
<td>19243</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>61378</td>
<td>-15490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate then 2 biologics (option 4b)</td>
<td>34509</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>63175</td>
<td>-30619</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Logistic regression model to identify variables associated with adequate referral.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Bivariate analysis</th>
<th>Multivariate analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>0.96 (0.94 - 0.98)</td>
<td>0.97 (0.94 - 0.99)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>0.82 (0.38 - 1.79)</td>
<td>0.59 (0.26 - 1.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient income</td>
<td>1.13 (0.73 - 1.76)</td>
<td>1.10 (0.67 - 1.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to EAC in km</td>
<td>0.96 (0.79 - 1.16)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.80 - 1.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of PCPs per centre</td>
<td>0.96 (0.60 - 1.51)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OR odds ratio, 95% CI 95% confidence interval.*Statistically significant results at the 0.05 level
RECOMMENDATIONS ON HANDLING MEDICINE SHORTAGE: LEARNING FROM HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE 2020 CRISIS FOR SLE PATIENTS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Systemic lupus erythematosus, COVID

A Cornet1, M Olsen2, H Stefnadsottir2, 1Lupus Europe, HQ, Brussels, Belgium; 2Lupus Europe, PAN, Brussels, Belgium

Background: Early 2020, short supply of hydroxychloroquine sulfate (HCC) – then claimed as effective for treatment of COVID-19 in several countries - raised significant concerns for those who use HCC for chronic diseases including SLE. In April 2020, Lupus Europe launched a survey to quantify the access gap, as well as the anxiety experienced by patients confronted with this outage. 2422 patients responded with an average level of anxiety about access to HCC of 6.45 on a maximum of 10. After supply issues were resolved, a follow up survey (Aug-Sept 2020 – 1854 answers) showed a significantly reduced anxiety of 4.15. A second follow up survey (Nov 2021-Feb 2022 - 2255 answers) showed a further reduction to 3.54. Importantly, a core group of 6.2-13.7% of patients remains extremely anxious (scoring 9 or 10) about supply of their medication, substantially more than in Portugal (3.5%) and Finland (0%), where supply remained fair at the heat of the crisis.

Objectives: To provide consensus on how communication should be conducted to minimize the impact of medicine shortages on patient anxiety. Methods: The Patient Advisory Network (PAN) of Lupus Europe established an extensive list of potential elements of a more effective communication on shortages, that could help reduce patient anxiety; 20 statements were derived from those elements and proposed to PAN members and Lupus Europe member organisations. 101 answers were collected from 17 countries. For each country, the individual ratings of all participants were averaged to assign an individual vote for each country on each statement. Consensus amongst the 17 countries was then considered as obtained if 14 or more of the 17 countries agreed or strongly agreed with statements.

Results: 9 out of the 20 statements reached consensus:
1. Lupus specialists should (a) clarify alternative medication existing and its difference versus current treatments, (b) clarify appropriate emergency procedures and (c) clarify to the patients how to handle a short supply.
2. Specialists and Hospitals should establish alternative supply mechanisms to guarantee minimum availability.
3. Pharmaceutical industry should (a) provide all information to all stakeholders and (b) help create emergency supply routes to ensure that no patient is left without his/her medication for a sustained period of time.
4. National authorities should help patients with demonstrated need have priority access to limited supply quantities through a simple process.
5. Hospitals should communicate (by email or postal mail) information on the shortage, how to handle it and how to access emergency supply routes. The same number agreed with Health authorities performing that same communication.
6. Pharmaceutical industry should avoid diverting products from one country to another if that would reduce supply below normal consumption level.
7. Patient organisations should stop the rumors that can quickly spread through social media.
8. Pharmacists should be better equipped in terms of data (on the reasons and clear timelines for resolution as well as alternatives or recommendations for patients facing shortages)
9. GP’s should clarify alternative medication and appropriate emergency procedures.

Conclusion: shortages of medicine create an anxiety that can be long lasting. Even when supply is re-established, the fear remains. For this reason, establishing an effective communication system is necessary to reassure patients when short term shortages are taking place, and is key to avoid fast spreading anxiety relating to this concern. In this process, patient associations, physicians, industries and all the stakeholders should be involved.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1591 POLICY DRIVERS FOR MARKET PENETRATION OF ANTI-TNF BIOSIMILARS: MULTI-COUNTRY COMPARISONS

Keywords: bDMARD, Health services research, Disease modifying drugs (DMARDs)

W. Zhang1,2, D. Guh1, H. Sun1, A. Tam1, N. Bansback1,2, A. Hollis5, P. Groothendijk4, A. Anjia3,2; Providence Research, Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences, Vancouver, Canada; 2University of British Columbia, School of Population and Public Health, Vancouver, Canada; 3University of Calgary, Department of Economics, Calgary, Canada; 4University of Toronto, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, Toronto, Canada

Background: Health systems across countries have used different policy measures (e.g. price discounts, tendering, mandating switches) to encourage the introduction of biosimilars but their differential impact on market penetration is unknown.

Objectives: To evaluate the impact of policy measures on market penetration of anti-TNF biosimilars.

Methods: Quarterly IQVIA MIDAS sales data from 2012-2021 for infliximab, etanercept and adalimumab in 5 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom (UK)) that used different policy tools were used. Biosimilar market penetration was measured by dividing the number of defined daily dose units (DDD) of biosimilars sold by the total number of DDDs of the originator and biosimilars sold. Market penetration since the first sale date of the biosimilar was captured by product, setting (hospital vs. retail), and country. Policy impact was examined by comparing market penetration among different policy scenarios (Table 1).

Results: Biosimilars for all three anti-TNFs had higher volume share over time (Figure 1) in the UK than Germany, suggesting that higher prescribing quotas among new and existing patients increases the market penetration of biosimilars given comparable demand-side policies. Since some anti-TNFs are dispersed only in hospitals in some countries, the settings are somewhat different. In France, infliximab biosimilars in hospital setting had faster penetration than other anti-TNF biosimilars in retail setting, indicating that tendering works better than price-links to increase biosimilar uptake. However, infliximab biosimilars in France had slower penetration than in Italy despite the higher discount price-link but absent quotas in France. Similarly, biosimilars had higher volume share over time in UK than Italy, which also suggests that higher prescribing quotas have a greater impact than price-links. Without price-link and tendering measures, Canada had the slowest penetration. By the end of our study period, the limited rollout of mandatory switching policies (3/10 provinces) for existing patients may not be sufficient in fostering market penetration, despite widespread implementation of mandatory prescribing for new patients.

Conclusion: Through comparisons between and within countries, we found that higher prescribing quotas or switching for existing patients and tendering are the key policy drivers for market penetration of anti-TNF biosimilars.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Policy measures in study countries as of 2020 unless noted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supply Side</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>The UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price-link</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>-40%</td>
<td>No5</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>No1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tendering</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Mainly hospital level for inpatient sector8</td>
<td>Hospital level for inpatient sector3</td>
<td>Regional level for inpatient sector9</td>
<td>Centralized by NHS for inpatient sector9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demand Side</th>
<th>Biosimilar prescribing for new patients</th>
<th>Quotas varied by sickness funds</th>
<th>Quotas but varied9</th>
<th>(2017/18)7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mandatory8</td>
<td>No3</td>
<td>Quotas but varied9</td>
<td>(2017/18)7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Encouraged; Encouraged; quotas vary4</th>
<th>Encouraged; encouraged; quotas vary4</th>
<th>Encouraged;80% quotas but varied9</th>
<th>(2017/18)7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Figure 1. Biosimilar market penetration since first launch

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the funding support the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Project Grant (PJT-178132).

Disclosure of Interests: Wei Zhang Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Tilray, and BioMarin Canada for projects unrelated to the present study. Daphne Guh: None declared, Huiying Sun: None declared, Alexander Tam Consultant of: I was previously employed at a market access research company. In that capacity, I generated reports for health technology companies. Companies were: Novartis AG, Merck & Co., Pfizer Inc., Biogen Inc., Sanofi, Mylan N.V., Bristol-Myers Squibb, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, and Roche Diagnostics. Nick Bansi- back: None declared, Aidan Hollis: None declared, Paul Grootendorst Consultant of: I wrote expert reports on behalf of both of branded and generic drug companies. None were specifically related to drugs/devices for use in rheumatology. Grant/research support from: Sanofi co-sponsored (along with a public organiza- tion) a post-doctoral fellowship that I supervised. Aslam Anis Grant/research support from: I have previously received grants from Beijing Genomics Institute, AbbVie, Abbott Laboratories Ltd. and Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc to conduct work unrelated to the present study.

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AB1592 WORK-RELATED IMPACT IN YOUNG PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC BACK PAIN AWAITING A MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

Keywords: Work-related issues, Health services research

D. Benavent1, M. Tapia-Vihé2, D. Bernabeu3, V. Muley4, C. Plasencia5, A. Balsa1, V. Navarro-Compañ1. 1Hospital La Paz, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 2Hospital La Paz, Department of Radiology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Chronic back pain (CBP) is one of the major causes for medical consultation among young people. Given the limited sources, it is relevant know- ing the characteristics associated with a higher burden in order to prioritize the performance of imaging exams.

Objectives: To identify factors associated with sick leave in a cohort of young patients with CBP awaiting an MRI of the spine.

Methods: The project “Strategy for a Hospital Early Referral in Patients with Axial Spondyloarthritis” (SHERPAS) is a prospective ongoing study recruiting young patients (18 to 40 years) with CBP that are requested an MRI of the spine. The SHERPAS study has been conducted thanks to an unrestricted grant from Novartis.

Disclosure of Interests: Diego Benavent Speakers bureau: Janssen, Roche, Galapagos, Abbvie, Consultant/research support from: Novartis, Mar Tapia-Vihé: None declared, Daniel Bernabeu: None declared, Victor Muley: None declared, Chamaida Plascencia Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Sandoz, Sanofi, Roche, Genentech, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Pfizer and Abbvie, Alejandro Balsa Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Sandoz, Nordic Pharma, Gebro, Roche, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant of: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant/research support from: Pfizer, Abbvie, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Roche, UCB, Victoria Navarro-Compañ Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie and Novartis.

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AB1593 SEVERE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON TREATMENT PERSISTENCE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES: A MULTICENTRIC CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN LEBANON

Keywords: Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs), Descriptive studies, bDMARD

S. Asmar1,2, J. Messayekh3, N. Hilal4, M. A. Rida5, K. Mroue6, K. Aouad7,8, F. Minkara5, A. Hajjar9, N. Zada10. 1Hotel-Dieu de France Hospital, Medicine, Beirut, Lebanon; 2Saint Joseph University, Medicine, Beirut, Lebanon; 3Monia Hospital, Rheumatology, Tripoli, Lebanon; 4Al Wazeen Medical Village, Rheumatology, Ain Wazeen, Lebanon; 5American University of Beirut Medical Center, Medicine, Beirut, Lebanon; 6Clemenceau Medical Center, Rheumatology, Beirut, Lebanon; 7Lebanese American University School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Beirut, Lebanon; 8Al Zahra Hospital University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Beirut, Lebanon; 9Saint George Hospital University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Beirut, Lebanon; 10Saint George University of Beirut, Rheumatology, Beirut, Lebanon.

Conclusion: One out of two young patients with CBP awaiting an MRI of the spine are on sick leave at some point. These patients have poorer quality of life and use more pharmacological treatment than active patients with CBP. Male sex and night pain are associated with being on sick leave due to CBP and therefore could be used to prioritize the use of spinal MRI aiming to optimize health resources.

Table 1. Characteristics of employed patients by work status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total employed</th>
<th>No sick leave</th>
<th>Ever sick leave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=123</td>
<td>n=65</td>
<td>n=58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographics</td>
<td>p-value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>33.8(4.8)</td>
<td>33.6(5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex and night pain</td>
<td>23.6(4.8)</td>
<td>24.5(4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>65(52.8)</td>
<td>35(56.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of work</td>
<td>66(52.8)</td>
<td>38(61.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>56(45.5)</td>
<td>30(51.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity</td>
<td>33(26.8)</td>
<td>19(32.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: The SHERPAS study has been conducted thanks to an unrestricted grant from Novartis.

Disclosure of Interests: Diego Benavent Speakers bureau: Janssen, Roche, Galapagos, Abbvie, Consultant/research support from: Novartis, Mar Tapia-Vihé: None declared, Daniel Bernabeu: None declared, Victor Muley: None declared, Chamaida Plascencia Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Sandoz, Sanofi, Roche, Genentech, Novartis, Grant/research support from: Pfizer and Abbvie, Alejandro Balsa Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Sandoz, Nordic Pharma, Gebro, Roche, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant of: Pfizer, Abbvie, Lilly, Galapagos, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Sanofi, UCB, Consultant/research support from: Pfizer, Abbvie, BMS, Nordic Pharma, Roche, UCB, Victoria Navarro-Compañ Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB Pharma, Consultant of: Abbvie, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Abbvie and Novartis.

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Background: Due to Lebanon's unprecedented economic crisis, access to healthcare and chronic treatments is compromised, which might affect chronic disease control.

Objectives: The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the impact of the economic crisis on chronic treatment persistence in patients with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) in Lebanon and to estimate the predictors of persistence.

Methods: A cross-sectional multicentric national study was conducted between July and October 2022 on patients with RMDs living across Lebanon (patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases (CIRDs) and controls with non-inflammatory RMDs). A questionnaire hosted on the Google Forms platform was proposed to consecutive patients during the consultation and disseminated on social media and WhatsApp lists. It included sociodemographic, disease, and treatment data, income, PHQ-9, and GAD-7 questionnaires. Treatments were categorized into corticosteroids, NSAIDs, cs-DMAARDs, b-DMAARDs (IV and SC), ts-DMAARDs, and oral immunosuppressants. Persistence was defined quantitatively as the number of tablets or injections taken during the past month compared to prescribed and qualitatively as the percentage of patients who changed or discontinued chronic RMD treatment due to cost or nonavailability. Data were presented descriptively; factors associated with persistence were identified using multivariable linear regression.

Results: In total, 317 patients with RMDs (286 CIRDs and 31 controls) were included (207 by telephone interview and 110 by self-questionsnaires); mean age 49.5 years (SD 16), 66% females, median disease duration 10 years (IQR 6-20), 56% had moderate to severe depression, and 40% had moderate to severe anxiety. Persistence was lower for b-DMAARDs (SC 55%, IV 63%) and ts-DMAARDs (36%) and acceptable for oral immunosuppressants 83.5% and cs-DMAARDs (88%) (Figure 1). Among patients with CIRDs, 55.8% discontinued or changed their chronic medication due to nonavailability (45.3%) or increased cost (21.2%). Discontinuation or change affected mainly SC b-DMAARDs (66.2%), ts-DMAARDs (60.0%), and IV b-DMAARDs (40.0%). Notably, patients reported a decrease in their financial level in 86% of the cases, and 58% reported they were currently living in a low economic level (compared to only 6% before the crisis). Compared to controls, patients with CIRDs had a reduction in the number of visits to the doctor, more difficulty accessing chronic treatments (91% vs. 33%), and paraclinical exams (84% vs. 77%). They expressed a higher need for financial support for medication, paraclinical tests, and medical consultation. Importantly, patients could find an alternative source for getting their medication in 60% of cases (buying from abroad in 36%, depending on friends or families living abroad in 29%, and charities in 10%). Finding an alternative source for medication was independently associated with a higher persistence of cs-DMAARDs, b-DMAARDs, and ts-DMAARDs. In addition, being unemployed and having a low financial level were associated with a low persistence of cs-DMAARDs and oral immunosuppressants.

Conclusion: Chronic treatment persistence was significantly compromised for essential drugs for patients with RMDs and was rather associated with extrinsic causes related to treatment availability and cost than with classically known intrinsic factors.

Figure 1. Chronic medication persistence in patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1595

HOW DO WE PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIMORBIDITY IN PEOPLE WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATOLOGICAL DISORDERS: A QUALITATIVE INVESTIGATION

Keywords: Health services research, Qualitative research methods, Comorbidities

L. Grey1,2, L. Bullock1, C. A. Chew-Graham1, C. Jinks1, Z. Paskins1,2, T. Rule9, S. Hider1,2
1 Keele University, School of Medicine, Keele, United Kingdom; 2 Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, Rheumatology Department, Stoke on Trent, United Kingdom; 3 Keele University, Public contributor, Stoke on Trent, United Kingdom

Background: People with inflammatory rheumatological disorders (IRDs) are at high risk of developing multimorbidity, specifically cardiovascular disease (CVD) and mood problems. UK guidelines advocate annual reviews for people with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), although not other IRDs. Current healthcare reviews are often condition specific, focus on existing morbidities rather than identifying risk and preventing future illness, and may not include advice and support to change lifestyle behaviours. Before developing a healthcare review to prevent multimorbidity we sought to explore perspectives on existing healthcare reviews.

Objectives: To explore patients and healthcare professional (HCP) perspectives on healthcare reviews for people with IRDs at risk of multimorbidity.

Methods: People with IRDs were invited to take part in individual semi-structured interviews either by telephone or online platform. HCP perspectives (including primary and secondary care clinicians) were explored in online focus groups. These were transcribed verbatim. Inductive thematic analysis was undertaken (LQB). Data and codes were discussed, and key themes generated within the team. Ethical approval was obtained (REC Reference 22/PR/0162).

Results: 15 patients (7 male, 8 female, age 49-75) were interviewed. 3 focus groups were held with a total of 13 HCPs. Four themes were identified: content of a future review, preparing for the review, delivering a holistic review and outcomes. People were concerned about the rigour of reviews which included risk of development of future conditions and wanted the review to focus on their IRD (e.g. joint assessment). People felt that current reviews felt like a ‘tick-box’ exercise. HCPs reported wanting to conduct a holistic review, highlighting challenges aligning patient and HCP agenda. People with IRDs also demonstrated variable attitudes to considering their risk of future conditions, ranging from whether they wanted all, some or no knowledge of their risk for other conditions influenced by whether these could be prevented. Preparation, such as written information or pre-review questionnaires were considered important to help people understand the review aims, align agendas and for the HCP to understand the patient history and context. Participants recognized the challenge of ensuring such materials consider underserved patient groups such as people with limited health literacy who may face difficulties accessing preparation materials. People with IRDs were flexible in considering whether a review should occur in primary or secondary care, whereas HCPs perceived primary care was best placed to provide a holistic approach although both groups agreed practitioner skills and expertise were more important than location. It was considered important to have outcomes from a review (including any actions to be taken by patient or HCP) clearly understood for a review to be perceived as beneficial.

Conclusion: People with IRDs are at high risk of multimorbidity and may benefit from healthcare reviews to address future risks. Such reviews need to be patient-centered addressing both patient and HCP agendas to maximise utility and perceived value. Further research is needed to address how such reviews can be effectively implemented into routine care.

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1596

REAL-LIFE STUDY OF IMMUNOGENCEITY AND SAFETY OF THE RECOMBINANT VACCINE AGAINST VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES TREATED WITH JANUS KINASE INHIBITORS

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Real-world evidence, Targeted synthetic drugs

A V Esteban Vazquez1, M Steinier1, E Castaneda1, I Thuissaard Vasallo2, C Andreu Vazquez2, A Somodevilla3, G Garcia Yubero4, S Muñoz-Fernández1, Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; Universidade Europea, Statistics, Madrid, Spain; Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Pharmacy, Madrid, Spain

Background: Adjuvanted recombinant varicella zoster virus subunit vaccine (ARZVV) has been recently approved for preventing reactivation of latent varicella zoster virus in selected groups of patients. Patients with chronic inflammatory diseases are at major risk of this reactivation, developing herpes zoster (HZ) infection (shingles). This risk is further increased under immunosuppressive treatment with janus kinase inhibitors (JAKI). ARZVV is available in Spain since March 2021 for patients treated with JAKI, among other indications. At the present, no real-life post commercialization studies have been published in patients with rheumatic diseases and JAKI vaccinated with ARZVV.

Figure 1. Chronic medication persistence in patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases

references: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2169
Objectives: To assess humoral immunogenicity and safety of ARZVV in patients with rheumatic diseases treated with JAKi.

Methods: Immunogenicity and short-term safety were evaluated in a cohort of patients treated with Janus Kinase inhibitors in a descriptive prospective study. Participants received two intramuscular doses of the vaccine two months apart. Blood was sampled prior to first and 2-6 weeks after the second vaccine dose. Humoral immune response was tested through a chemiluminescence immunoassay (CLIA), using varicella zoster virus glycoprotein E (gE) as the antigen to measure anti-gE levels. The cut-off for the vaccine response assessment was considered an antibody concentration four times higher in the second measure, compared with the first one, according to the results of the clinical trial NCT0165177. The influence of the different treatments on the humoral response to the vaccine was evaluated. JAKi were separated in three groups, according to their mechanism of action: inhibition of JAK 1 (Upadacitinib and Filgotinib), inhibition of JAK 1 and JAK 2 (Baricitinib) and pan-JAK inhibition (Tofacitinib). Concomitant treatment influence on the humoral response to the vaccine was also determined: classic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) and corticosteroids. The data about adverse events to the vaccination, disease flare or reactivation on HZ infection were collected.

Results: We enrolled 30 patients, 23 were woman (76.7%), with a mean age of 55±12 years. Fifteen (50%) were under treatment with upadacitinib, eleven (36.7%) with baricitinib, two (6.7%) with filgotinib and two (6.7%) with tofacitinib. Six (20%) had concomitant treatment with methotrexate and 5 (16.7%) with leflunomide. Ten (33%) had low dose prednisone. Four (13%) reported clinically HZ previously. We found that 16 patients (53.3%) reached the response assessment marked initially of quadrupling their initial antibody concentration. Type of JAKi did not significantly influence the humoral response, neither did the concomitant treatment with disease-modifying antirheumatic drug or low dose glucocorticoid. Fifteen patients (50%) presented mild adverse effects; 7 (23%) of them consisted in injection-side pain, and 8 (26.7%) were systemic (myalgia, fatigue or fever). One patient (3.3%) had an ischemic cerebrovascular complication 2 weeks after the first dose. None of the patients presented a disease flare in the following 4 weeks postvaccination, neither HZ infection after 7 months of follow-up.

Conclusion: Lightly more than half of the patients (53%) with rheumatic diseases treated with JAKi reached the immune response assessment stabilized. In clinical trials with non-rheumatic immunosuppressed patients, the response was ranged between 65-96%. This difference could be explained due to that it is a real-life study and in the type of disease and immunosuppression. Safety and prevention of HZ infection was high. To confirm these results higher number of patients is needed.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5604
ABT1598

TRENDS OF KNEE ARTHROPLASTY FOR PATIENTS WITH OSTEARTHROPSIS AND RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN SUPER-AGING SOCIETY IN THE LAST THIRTEEN YEARS

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis

M. Aso1, Y. Takakubo1, A. Suzuki1, S. Yang1, Y. Wanezaki1, T. Yamamoto2, T. Itó3, S. Fukushima2, M. Takagi1. 1Yamagata University, Orthopaedic Surgery, Yamagata, Japan; 2Yamagata Saisei Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery, Yamagata, Japan

Background: In Japan, the number of people aged 65 years or older exceeds 35 million, accounting for 28.4% of the total population. It is expected to reach 38.4% by 2065[1]. As a result, the demand for total knee arthroplasty (TKA) and unicompartmental knee arthroplasty (UKA) is increasing year by year[2].

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to investigate the number and trend of patients who underwent knee arthroplasty from 2008 to 2020.

Methods: We analyzed the age, gender, and causative disease of patients who underwent primary knee arthroplasty between January 2008 and December 2020 at two affiliated hospitals. Chi-squared test, Mann-Whitney U test and Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient were utilized for statistical analysis. All p-values of 0.05 or less were considered statistically significant. All statistical analyses were conducted using EZR (Saitama Medical Center, Jichi Medical University, Saitama, Japan, Version 1.55)[3].

Results: We recorded 4,199 cases of TKA (87.1%) and 623 cases of UKA (12.9%), the total of knee arthroplasty is 4,822 cases. There were 1,011 males (24.1%) and 3,811 females (75.9%). Male patients made up 18.5-23.2% of all knee arthroplasty cases, with a trend toward an increase (Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient: γ = 0.633 p-value = 0.0135). The mean age at surgery was 75.0 (28-94) year-old, with no significant difference between male (75.2 year-old) and female (74.9 year-old) patients (p-value = 0.354). The Causative diseases included 4515 cases of osteoarthritis (OA, 93.6%), 208 cases of rheumatoid arthritis (RA, 4.3%), 90 cases of osteonecrosis (ON, 1.9%), 8 cases of trauma, and 1 case of infection (Table 1). TKA/ UKA for OA exhibited a significant upward trend, with an average of 346.9 cases per year, while TKA for RA showed a downward trend, with an average of 15.5 cases per year (Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient: OA γ = 0.85 p-value < 0.01, RA γ = -0.483 p-value = 0.0948, Figure 1). UKA group had a significantly higher rate of osteonecrosis compared to TKA group (p-value < 0.01, Table 1).

Conclusion: The number of TKA/UKA for OA increased due to the growing number of elderly people affected by knee OA in a super-aging society. On the other hand, the number and rate of primary TKA/UKA due to RA decreased over time due to advances in medication therapy[4]. Osteonecrosis was the cause of a relatively high rate in the UKA group.

REFERENCES:

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>OA</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>ON</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4,199</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>74.2</td>
<td>194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,442</td>
<td>75.3</td>
<td>1,011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OA: Osteoarthritis, RA: Rheumatoid Arthritis, ON: Osteonecrosis* UKA group had a significantly higher rate of osteonecrosis compared to TKA group (p-value < 0.01).

Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
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<th>RA</th>
<th>ON</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>75.3</td>
<td>1,011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OA: Osteoarthritis, RA: Rheumatoid Arthritis, ON: Osteonecrosis* UKA group had a significantly higher rate of osteonecrosis compared to TKA group (p-value < 0.01).

ARG1599

EVALUATING HOW EFFECTIVELY PATIENTS WITH A NEW INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS ARE BEING TRIAGED INTO THE APPROPRIATE CLINIC AT A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL IN THE UK: A RETROSPECTIVE AUDIT

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritis

A. Vivekanantham1, A. Soni2, H. Thrower2. 1University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; 2Oxford University Hospitals, Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom

Background: Early diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory arthritis (IA) is essential: BSR guidance states patients must be seen within three weeks and started on disease modifying anti-rheumatoid drugs (DMARDs) within six weeks.

Objectives: To evaluate how effectively people referred with a new IA are being triaged, whether national standards are met and analyse variables which may influence triage of patients with new IA.

Methods: A retrospective review was performed of all new patients seen in EIA-clinic and those with new EIA who had been seen in non-EIA clinics from 01/09/21-31/11/21. Data was collected on days’ wait from referral to assessment/ commencement of DMARD. We calculated the conversion rate (CR) (percentage of referrals triaged to EIA clinic that have EIA) and detection rate (DR) (percentage of new EIA patients that are seen in the EIA clinic). The standard for CR and DR was 50% and 95%, respectively. We then examined why some new EIA patients were not triaged to the EIA-clinic using information provided on the referral.

Results: Of the patients seen in the EIA-clinic 36/37 had a new diagnosis of an IA, giving CR of 49%. Of the new diagnoses of IA made during that time-period 36/53 were appropriately triaged to be seen in the EIA clinic, giving a DR 68%. Patients seen in the EIA clinic had an average of 5 weeks wait from referral to assessment/commencement of DMARD. In contrast, patients who had been seen in non-EIA clinics had an average of 10 weeks from referral to assessment/commencement of DMARD. A previous audit performed before COVID-19 (01/11/19- 01/01/20) showed a CR of 25% (115 patients seen in EIA-clinic, 29 new diagnoses) and a DR of 69% (29 new diagnoses, 20 seen in EIA-clinic). Of the 10 patients with new EIA who were inappropriately triaged to non-EIA clinics did not have pattern of joint involvement or ability to make a fist documented, in comparison to the 38 patients with a new EIA who were appropriately triaged to EIA-clinic.

Conclusion: Patients with EIA, seen in the EIA-clinic, do not meet guidance for review within three weeks but do meet the guidance for starting a DMARD within six weeks. Patients seen outside the EIA-clinic do not meet either of these standards. Only 68% of people with a new EIA are being triaged to be seen in the EIA clinics, highlighting the need to improve the triage process. Compared to the previous audit, the CR has improved whilst the DR has stayed steady.

References: N/A.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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TIME TO PUBLICATION AND TIME-LAG PUBLICATION BIAS FOR RANDOMIZED TRIALS ON CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

Keywords: Epidemiology, Randomized control trial

D. Moneti1, B. Russo2,3, J.A. Brigante4, S. Capderou1, D. Courvoisier1, M. Iudici5, University of Geneva, Department of Medicine, Division of rheumatology, Geneva, Switzerland; 2University of Geneva, Department of Pathology and Immunology, Geneva, Switzerland; 3Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), Division of Dermatology and Venerology, Genève, Switzerland; 4Sanatorio Güemes, Servicio de Medicina Interna - Reumatología, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 5Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), Department of Internal Medicine Specialties, division of rheumatology, Genève, Switzerland

Background: Connective tissue diseases (CTDs) are systemic autoimmune diseases, some of which rare, characterized by a dysregulated immune response and a heterogeneous clinical picture. Similarly to nonpublication, a long time from completion to publication of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) results can indirectly harm patients by allowing inefficacious or dangerous intervention being prescribed[1], or by delaying the prescription of RCTs results can indirectly harm patients by allowing inefficacious or dangerous intervention being prescribed[1], or by delaying the prescription of

Methods: We included interventional, phase 2/3, 3 or 4 RCTs on CTDs registered in Clinicaltrials.gov from 2000 to 2016, whose results had been published in a peer-review journal less than 5 years after their completion. Two reviewers selected studies according to pre-specified criteria. Main trial features including the significance of primary outcome results were collected. Time to publication was the time from study primary completion to the earliest online publication date. Multivariable linear regression was used to identify association between time to publication and the significance of study results, adjusted for variables previously shown to impact this outcome, e.g. the extent of time-lag publication bias, neither analyzed factors associated with delayed publication.

Objectives: To assess the time from completion to publication of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) on connective tissue diseases (CTDs), investigate the factors associated with, and explore the influence of significance of study results on time to publication (time-lag publication bias).

Results: We included 62 studies, mostly phase 3 (62%) trials on pharmacologic treatments (94%), recruiting patients with systemic lupus (55%) or systemic sclerosis (23%), and planning to enrol a median of 131 [IQR 61-288] patients. Twenty-two (35%) reported at least a statistically significant primary outcome. Median time to publication was 28 months (IQR 17-36), with more than half studies (n = 34, 55%) published 2 or more year after completion (see Table 1). In multivariable analysis, time to publication progressively improved over time (faster publication in recent years, with the time to publication begin 1.3 [0.3, 2.4] months shorter every year), and was not influenced by the significance of primary outcome results, funded, impact factor of the journal, number of recruiting countries (see Figure 1).

Conclusion: A high proportion of CTDs-RCTs is published beyond 2 years from completion. We did not find evidence of time-lag publication bias, and time to publication improved over time.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Factors associated with time to publication in a multivariate analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Coefficient (95% CI)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>41.3 (30.1; 52.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive results (reference no)</td>
<td>-1.5 (-8.6; 5.7)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry-funded (ref not industry funded)</td>
<td>-0.2 (-9.5; 9.1)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International (ref not international)</td>
<td>3.3 (-0.8; 14.5)</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact factor of journal</td>
<td>0.1 (0.1; 0.3)</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients</td>
<td>1.2 (-2.6; 0.2)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(per 100 patients)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Completion year (counting from 2000)</td>
<td>-1.3 (-2.3; -0.3)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2207

PATIENT EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS ON WAYS TO IMPROVING THE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS CARE CONTINUUM ACROSS EUROPE

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Patient-led research, Geographical differences


1Federation of European Scleroderma Associations, Vice President, Brussels, Belgium; 2Federation of European Scleroderma Associations, President, Brussels, Belgium; 3Institut Cochin, Professor of Rheumatology, Cochin Hospital Practitioner, Head of the Research Team ‘Pathogenesis and Innovative Therapies in Systemic Sclerosis and Other Fibro-Infammatory Diseases’ at Institut Cochin, Paris, Paris, France; 4University of Florence, Professor of Rheumatology at the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Florence, Italy; 5Patient Advocate, Patient Advocate, Bucarest, Romania; 6Patient Advocate, Patient Advocate, Amsterdam, Netherlands; 7University College London Division of Medicine, Professor of Experimental Rheumatology, Consultant Rheumatologist, London, United Kingdom

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc), also known as scleroderma, is a rare autoimmune disease that stiffens the skin, turning simple daily activities into real challenges for patients. It can affect all organs, and while treatments exist, there is currently no cure. The disease is relatively invisible among general practitioners and policymakers in Europe - meaning hundreds of people affected by this rare condition remain undiagnosed and untreated.

Federation of European Scleroderma Associations (FESCA) took a two-pronged approach to develop new evidence. June 2022 a Position Paper (PP) based on a literature review and a survey for healthcare providers (HCP) was published, followed by a large-scale patient and carer survey, whose results are expected in June 2023.

OBJECTIVES:

• Highlight the unmet needs of SSc patients throughout the care pathway.
• Investigate the health and socio-economic burden of the SSc
• Provide evidence to policy stakeholders on the need for policy actions to address health inequalities.

Methods: For the PP, a total of 15 publications were reviewed. To fill the knowledge gaps identified by the literature review, FESCA developed a survey questionnaire earmarked for Excellence or Reference Centers that work with FESCA member organizations and/or are part of the European Scleroderma Trials and Research group (EUSTAR). Upon validation by the authors, the survey was completed by 78 respondents from 24 countries. The upcoming survey will be distributed across 20 countries, a min. representative sample of 511 patients and 170 carers will provide new insights.

Figures: The PP highlighted need for policy action in five action areas to ensure timely treatment initiation for all eligible patients and improved health outcomes and quality of life for people living with SSc, by: 1. Creating patient registries for SSc; 2. Shortening time to accurate diagnosis through expanded HCPs curricula; 3. Ensuring timelier referral of patients to specialized care;
AB1602

CROSS COUNTRY DIFFERENCES IN B/TSDMARD PRESCRIPTION BEHAVIOR: ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN SOCIOECONOMICS, REAL WORLD B/TSDMARD USE AND DISEASE OUTCOMES

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Geographical differences, Registries

I. Nevins1, D. Courvoisier2, A. Finch2, R. Fritsch-Stork2, D. Nordström3, A. M. Rodrigues3, S. C. Dinescu4, A. Garcia Martos4, M. Oztal5, Z. Pólat6, K. Solomon-Escoto7, A. Chopra8, D. Vega-Moraes8, P. D. De Buck9, D. Choquette10, R. Conway10, F. Iannone10, C. Allart10, T. Huizinga10, K. Lauper9, S. A. Bergstra2, Leiden University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Geneva University Hospitals, Rheumatology, Geneva, Switzerland; 3Medical Health Center Mariahilf, Rheumatology, Vienna, Austria; 4Helsinki University Hospital, Rheumatology, Helsinki, Finland; 5Hospital Lascladas, Rheumatology, Lisbon, Portugal; 6University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Rheumatology, Craiova, Romania; 7University Hospital del Tajo, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain; 8Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 9University Medical Center Ljubljana, Rheumatology, Ljubljana, Slovenia; 10UMass Memorial Health, Rheumatology, Worcester, United States of America; 11Center of rheumatic diseases, Rheumatology, Pune, India; 12Hospital General de Zona 17 Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 13Haaglanden Medisch Centrum, Rheumatology, The Hague, Netherlands; 14Institut de Rhumatologie de Montreal, Rheumatology, Montreal, Canada; 15St. James Hospital, Rheumatology, Dublin, Ireland; 16University of Bari, Rheumatology, Bari, Italy

Background: The development of biologic and targeted synthetic (b/ts)DMARDs contributed to improved treatment outcomes in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, high medications costs may limit their use. Previously we showed that in countries with a lower socioeconomic status (SES), b/tsDMARDs were prescribed to fewer patients than in countries with higher SES. In this study we take a more detailed look at b/tsDMARD prescription behavior between countries.

Objectives: To explore cross-country relationships between Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, specific indicators of b/tsDMARD use and disease outcomes in patients with RA.

Methods: This multinational observational study included countries that had contributed ≥100 patients using b/tsDMARDs, with available follow up, to one of 2 registries: METEOR, an international registry capturing daily clinical practice data of patients with a clinical diagnosis of RA, and JAK-POT, an investigator-initiated collaboration between national registries aiming to evaluate clinical aspects of b/tsDMARDs in RA. On a per-country basis, mean DAS28 was calculated from the last available follow-up visit per patient. b/tsDMARD usage was determined as mean time to start b/tsDMARD therapy since date of diagnosis, mean number of b/tsDMARDs tried per patient and mean duration of b/tsDMARD therapy. To calculate the time to start a first b/tsDMARD per country included from the JAK-POT registry, only bionaive patients were included. Possible associations between GDP per capita and country-level indicators of b/tsDMARD use and DAS28 were tested in univariable linear regression models. Regression coefficients (β) are interpreted as the numerical increase in the outcome per 1 percentage point in the predictor.

Results: Data from 25,832 patients living in 17 different countries showed varying b/tsDMARD prescription behavior. GDP per capita ranged from 6505 (India) to 93350 Intl$ (Ireland). Time to start b/tsDMARD therapy ranged from 0.5 (Austria) to 11.1 (Finland) years. Mean number of b/tsDMARDs tried per patient ranged from 1.0 (Turkey) to 2.4 (Switzerland). Duration of b/tsDMARD therapy ranged from 0.9 (India) to 5.5 (Portugal) years (Figure 1). Baseline DAS28 ranged between 3.7 and 6.1, but was not related to any of the indicators of b/tsDMARD use: time to start a b/tsDMARD β 0.08 (95% CI -0.7; 0.9), number of prescribed b/tsDMARDs β 0.06 (95% CI -0.03; 0.2), duration of b/tsDMARD treatment β 0.1 (95% CI -0.3; 0.5). No statistically significant associations were observed between GDP per capita and start time to b/tsDMARD therapy (Figure 1A, β 0.09 CI 95% -0.7; 0.9), the number of b/tsDMARDs tried per patient (Figure 1B, β 0.07 CI 95% -0.02; 0.2) or the duration of b/tsDMARD treatment (Figure 1C, β 0.1 CI 95% -0.3; 0.5). None of the indicators of b/tsDMARD prescription were significantly related to DAS28 at the end of follow up: time to start a b/tsDMARD β 0.02 (95% CI -0.05; 0.1), duration of b/tsDMARD therapy β -0.03 (95% CI -0.2; 0.1) and number of b/tsDMARDs β -0.03 (95% CI -0.6; 0.8).

Conclusion: This study showed varying b/tsDMARD prescription behavior and disease activity across 17 countries worldwide. Overall, differences in b/tsDMARD prescription behaviour did not appear to be related to socioeconomic welfare and, no significant association was observed between b/tsDMARD prescription behavior and disease activity at a country level. This seems to indicate that once patients start a b/tsDMARD, socioeconomic welfare has less impact on b/tsDMARD use.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: Isabell Nevins: None declared, Delphine Courvoisier: None declared, Axel Finckh Speakers bureau: AbbVie, BMS, Pfizer, Eli-Lilly, San- droz, Consultant of: AbbVie, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD, Lilly, Pfizer, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, BMS, Galapagos, Lilly, Pfizer, Ruth Ritvo-Stockton: None declared. Dan Nordström: None declared, Ana Maria Rodrigues: None declared, STEFAN CRISTIAN DINESCU: None declared, Álvaro Garcia Martos: None declared, Mert Oztas: None declared, Ziga Rotar: None declared, Karen Solomon-Es- coto: None declared, Arvind Chopra: None declared, David Vega-Morales: None declared, Petronella DM de Buck: None declared, Denis Choquette: None declared, Richard Connex Speakers bureau: Janssen, Roche, Sanofi, AbbVie, Galapagos, Fresenius Kabi, Vitrias, Grant/research support from: Janssen, Celi- trion, Nordic Pharma, Abbvie, Florenzo Iannone: None declared, Cornelia Allaart: None declared, Thomas Huizinga: None declared, Kim Lauper: None declared, Sytske Anne Bergstra Grant/research support from: ASPIRE grant from Pfizer. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3741

AB1603 EVIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DECISION-MAKING ABOUT WORKPLACE INITIATIVES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES: QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UK ORGANISATIONS

Keywords: Work-related issues, Rheumatoid arthritis, Qualitative research methods

M. Eden1, J. Higginson1, K. Payne1, W. Whitaker1, S. Verstappen1, The University of Manchester, Manchester Centre for Health Economics, Manchester, United Kingdom; The University of Manchester, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Decisions about whether to invest in RMD-related workplace initiatives/adaptations can be made by determining, from the relevant perspective, if benefits outweigh the costs of implementation. Little is known about what information organisations need to facilitate these decisions.

Objectives: This study aimed to explore motivations and evidential requirements for employers to invest in workplace health initiatives.

Methods: Semi-structured online interviews with representatives of large UK-based (not-for-profit and for-profit) organisations were audio-recorded. For each organisation, a line manager, director, and representative with workforce remit were interviewed. Interview data were transcribed verbatim and subject to thematic analysis by two researchers trained in qualitative methods. Themes were agreed in discussion with the study team.

Results: We recruited 13 representatives (5 directors, 3 line managers, and 4 with a specific remit for workforce health). Three not-for-profit organisations (local authority, university, and National Health Service) were represented by seven participants and three for-profit organisations (restaurant chain, telecoms provider, and technology company) were represented by six individuals.

Motivations: All participants believed that investment in measures to promote employee health would benefit the organisation and respondents believed that investment in workforce health initiatives would contribute to their organisation's efficiency. However, there were mixed views on the value of workforce health initiatives. For some, a very positive impact on organisation performance was expected. For others, the relationship between workforce health initiatives and organisational performance was less clear. Some respondents believed that workforce health initiatives could help to attract and retain employees, whilst others believed that these initiatives could lead to higher staff turnover.

Evidential requirements: Use of checklists/assessments to reveal individual RMD-related needs was commonplace throughout organisations. Self-identified health needs, typically related to line managers, would instigate a process where occupational therapist (OT) input may be sought. Requests and OT recommendations are reportedly, without exception and irrespective of cost, met and followed. No organisation had set aside a specific budget for workplace initiatives. Decisions involving significant investments in workplace health initiatives were usually made by committees or by small teams comprising senior staff and directors. Line managers and those with a health remit would put forward a case for investment to these bodies: "...we would pull together a bit of a proposal really on what that would look like...what is the impact of it?...we support it with facts...even benchmarks of what's going on in the outside. (Health representative, for-profit). Evidence from ORTHOPEDIC LEADERSHIPS, in-house absenteeism data, workforce survey results/informal feedback from colleagues, benchmarking data, and academic/official report findings were used to make a case for investment.

Conclusion: The demand for RMD-specific interventions varies according to needs of particular workplaces. Despite the diversity of organisation type, workforce factors (i.e. demographic factors, nature of work) and employer roles, common processes for informing investment decisions and typical evidence requirements have been identified. Findings can inform the development and evaluation of workplace interventions to benefit people with RMD.

Acknowledgements: This work is undertaken as part of the Centre for Muscu- loskeletal Health and Work, funded by Versus Arthritis and the Medical Research Council. We thank study participants.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3911

Reference: [1]  Picchianti-Diamanti et al., Front Immunol, 2021
**AB1605**  
A PILOT RHEUMATOLOGY-INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE (ILD) SERVICE - OUTCOMES AFTER 12 MONTHS

**Keywords:** Lungs, Organ damage

C. Riddle1, J. Lindsay1, E. Ball1. 1Musgrave Park Hospital - Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Rheumatology, Belfast, United Kingdom; 2Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Respiratory, Belfast, United Kingdom

**Background:** Rheumatologists have an important role in the management of interstitial lung disease (ILD). Cross-specialty collaborative working models are increasingly being used, particularly with ILD radiology MDT meetings, attended by respiratory physicians and rheumatologists, to discuss complex clinical cases. However, the format and infrastructure are not standardized [1]. With the widespread financial and logistical pressures affecting delivery of healthcare in not only NHS setting, but worldwide; there is a need to provide robust evidence to managers and fundholders, of significant benefit to attract allocation of funding and resources towards MDT working in complex disease areas such as ILD.

**Objectives:** We describe the format and outcomes of a pilot rheumatology-ILD service at a large teaching hospital undertaken from January to December 2022.

**Methods:** Two rheumatology consultants (EB and CR) worked with the local ILD respiratory lead (JL) to plan for weekly attendance of one or both rheumatologists at a weekly ILD MDT. Prior to this, paper based referrals to general rheumatology were made if advice was felt to be required - generating paperwork, delays in the patient journey and an ad hoc approach across multiple rheumatology clinics. This MDT is attended by respiratory clinicians, radiologists, ILD nurse specialist and respiratory trainees. Since the COVID-19 pandemic it has been conducted via Microsoft Teams and is scheduled for 1.5 hours weekly. Cases to be discussed are added in advance to MS team file on a specifically designed proforma. In addition there is a weekly ILD OPC attended by JL with a dedicated ILD nurse specialist. Rheumatology joined this clinic when other clinical commitments allowed which facilitated more focused discussion on management of complex cases.

**Results:** Over the course of a 12 month period rheumatology attended 24 ILD MDT meetings and 8 ILD out-patient clinics. This equated to approximately 80 hours of rheumatologist time over the pilot period. On analysis of cases presented, 33% required rheumatology input, most often on the basis of positive antibody screening or a prior history of rheumatological disease. The breakdown of rheumatology disease presented is detailed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Diagnosis, Frequency and Outcome of Rheumatology-Related ILD Cases at a Pilot Cross-Specialty Clinic Over 1 Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASES</th>
<th>ANTIBODIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myositis (Mi2b, SAE)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupus</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scleroderma</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgG4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates specialist drug treatment not usually initiated by respiratory teams and requiring rheumatology advice +/- administrating and monitoring

**Conclusion:** There are a large number of ILD cases within the respiratory service that require rheumatology input – 33% of all ILD cases in this real-world snapshot. The spectrum of rheumatologically associated disease is vast. ILD can have catastrophic outcomes and therefore early and continued rheumatology input is vital. Investment is needed for formal MDT infrastructure to include rheumatology. There is a need for data collection, collaborative working and research to improve the quality of care and outcomes for this population.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB1606**  
SYMPTOMS OF RAYNAUD’S PHENOMENON ARE NO OBSTACLE FOR BEING PHYSICALLY ACTIVE IN HEALTHY WOMEN

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Lifestyles, Quality of life

S. Van de Zande1; K. Eijikelenkamp2; A. Eman Abdulle3, A. Smit4, H. Zwerve5, I. Van den Akker-Scheek6, D. J. Mulder4. 1University Medical Center Groningen, Vascular medicine, Groningen, Netherlands; 2University Medical Center Groningen, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Groningen, Netherlands; 3University Medical Center Groningen, Internal Medicine, Groningen, Netherlands; 4University Medical Center Groningen, Vascular Medicine, Groningen, Netherlands; 5University Medical Center Groningen, Center for Human Movement Sciences, Groningen, Netherlands; 6University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Orthopaedics, Groningen, Netherlands

**Background:** Women with primary Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP) often experience a decreased health related quality of life (HRQoL). A physically active lifestyle could have a positive influence on vascular function and thus might improve HRQoL in women with primary RP.

**Objectives:** To quantify the amount and type of physical activity (PA) and sedentary behaviour, as well as HRQoL and stress, in women with primary Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP), and to compare this to the behaviour of women without RP from a large population-based cohort (Lifelines).

**Methods:** The connective tissue disease (CTD) screening questionnaire data from the Lifelines database that was available of women ≥ 18 years old was used. This data was merged with data collected in the five-year period 2017-2021 in the Lifelines database on physical activity and sedentary behaviour, as well as HRQoL and stress. A logistic regression analysis was used to compare the prevalence of PA and sedentary behaviour, as well as HRQoL and stress, between women with and without RP.

**Results:** The prevalence of PA and sedentary behaviour, as well as HRQoL and stress, was similar between women with and without RP. There was a trend towards a higher prevalence of PA in women with RP, but this did not reach statistical significance. HRQoL was similar between women with and without RP, and there was no significant difference in stress levels. These findings suggest that the symptoms of Raynaud’s phenomenon do not pose an obstacle to being physically active in healthy women.
questionnaire consists of 30 questions to detect possible CTDs. A total of 19820 women, 929 with RP and 18891 without RP, all without other comorbidities were included. By using questionnaires from the Lifelines database other patient characteristics were retrieved including physical activity and sedentary behaviour, HRQoL, and stress.

**Results:** Women with RP reported 300 min/week minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA), which was more than women without RP reported (255 min/week). This difference was mainly due to a difference in vigorous activities (p<.001). 74.3% of women with RP complied to the health enhancing PA guidelines (69.5% in the group of women without RP, p=0.003). Time spent sedentary by women with RP was 540 min/week, which was comparable to sedentary time of women without RP (540 min/week, p=.886). Women with RP scored higher on almost all eight domains of the QoL questionnaire (p<.05), except for physical functioning (p=.181). Regarding stress levels, the List of Threatening Experiences (LTE) showed no differences between groups (p=.226), however, the Long-term Difficulties Inventory (LDI) showed a higher average on the LTE in the RP group (p<.001). Furthermore, women with RP were significantly younger (p<.001), had a lower Body Mass Index (BMI) (p<.001), a lower waist-hip ratio (p<.001), had a lower amount of packyears (p<.001) and a healthier diet score (p<.001) compared to the women without RP.

**Conclusion:** This is the first study to structurally investigate PA in a large population cohort of patients with RP. Most women with RP report they spent a significant amount of time on moderate to vigorous PA and thus comply to health enhancing physical activity guidelines. The PA behaviour of women with RP seems comparable to that of women without RP, showing that RP is no obstacle for being physically active. However, HRQoL was lower in women with RP; more research is needed to elucidate the relation between PA and HRQoL in this patient group, preferably using objective measurement instruments to assess PA.

**Acknowledgements:** The Lifelines biobank initiative has been made possible by subsidies from the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, the University Medical Center Groningen, the University Groningen, and the Northern Provinces of the Netherlands. There was no funding for this manuscript.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5517

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, Lupus erythematosus, Systemic sclerosis, Physical activity, Health-related quality of life (HRQoL), Stress.

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**AB1608**

**THE EFFECT OF REMOTE AND FACE-TO-FACE PREVENTIVE REHABILITATION ON THE THICKNESS OF THE MUSCLES AROUND THE SPINE**

**Keywords:** Telemedicine, Physical therapy/physiotherapy, Ultrasound

**Y. Özel Aslıyüce** 1, O. Uğur** 1, Y. Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey

**Background:** In these days when it is extremely important to use resources efficiently, ways to reduce the cost caused by low back and neck pain are sought. Investigating the architectural features of the muscles around the spine is also an important part of this search [1]. It is a rational approach to prevent spinal problems before they occur, rather than to treat them. In addition, it is very important for the prevention of spinal health that these approaches can be offered at low cost in pandemic conditions and disadvantageous situations such as settlements in rural areas.

**Objectives:** This research aims to investigate the effectiveness of remote and face-to-face spinal stabilization exercises on the thickness and activation of the muscles around the spine in asymptomatic desk-based office workers.

**Methods:** Individuals between the ages of 18-55 who did not have chronic low back and neck pain were included in the study. While the face-to-face group exercised under the supervision of a physiotherapist, the telerehabilitation (TR) group exercised with video conferencing and asynchronous video recordings. Both groups performed progressive spinal stabilization exercises 3 days a week for 8 weeks. The thickness of the Internal Oblique, External Oblique, Sterno-cleidomastoides and Upper Trapezius muscles at rest, and the thickness of the Transversus Abdominis (TA) at rest and during contraction were measured with portable ultrasound (Sonostar, China) (Image 1). TA activation was measured with a stabilizer. Compliance with exercise was evaluated with an exercise diary.

**Results:** 24 individuals, 12 in the face-to-face group and 12 in the TR group, with a mean age of 28.41±5.94 participated in the study. Age, gender distribution, and baseline values for muscles were similar between the groups (p>0.05). In both groups, right and left TA resting and contraction, Internal Oblique thicknesses were increased (p<0.05). It was found that the level of activation of the TA muscle, the thickness change during contraction, and the thickness of the internal oblique muscle developed more in the face-to-face group. In the TR group, on the other hand, an increase in Upper Trapezius thickness was observed (p<0.05). However, there was no significant increase in TA activation level in this group.

**Conclusion:** According to preliminary results face-to-face exercise further improves the thickness, activation, and contraction amount of deep stabilizer muscles. TR, on the other hand, caused positive developments in the deep muscles, but also in the upper Trapezius muscle, which is the superficial muscle. The reason for this situation may be postural compensations that occur during remote exercise [2]. As a result, both methods cause an increase in muscle thickness around the spine. However, if possible, supervision during exercises that require intense attention, such as
stabilization exercises, can increase efficiency. In addition, further studies on com-

pensations that may occur during exercise through TR may be instructive.

REFERENCES:


REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

121S142.

Springfield, United States of America

Objectives:
Objective of this study was to test the efficacy of a mobile application to support the self-management of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who were already participating in a web-based self-management program.

Methods: The National Inpatient Sample (NIS) is used for this study. It is a de-identified, random sample data of inpatient hospitalizations in the United States. It is the largest all-payer database containing data on more than seven million hospital stays. Its large sample size is ideal for examining national estimates. We collected data from 2016 to 2020 and ICD-10 codes were used to identify uveitis cases. NIS uses the Clinical Classifications Software Refined (CCSR) categories which aggregates ICD-10 codes into 530 clinical categories. ICD-10 codes for inflammatory eye conditions are assigned to the category uveitis and ocular inflammation.

Patients hospitalized with primary diagnosis of uveitis were included. Length of hospital stay; hospital charge and cost were collected. Charge is the amount hospital billed. Aggregate hospital charges are assigned to the category uveitis and ocular inflammation. Patients hospitalized with primary diagnosis of uveitis were included. Length of hospital stay; hospital charge and cost were collected. Charge is the amount hospital billed. Aggregate hospital charges are assigned to the category uveitis and ocular inflammation.

RESULTS:
Average length of stay (in days) was 5.8 ± 6.7 (O.361) for patients with uveitis. Aggregate hospital charges in US $ were 64,574,007 for 69,891,369 hospital stays. Average hospital charge per stay was 50.846 ± 55.469 (O.465) for patients with uveitis.

Table 1. Attributes of Hospital Stay for Uveitis patients in the United States: 2016-2020: National Inpatient Sample.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimate (Standard error)</th>
<th>Estimate (Standard error)</th>
<th>Estimate (Standard error)</th>
<th>Estimate (Standard error)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1270 ± 1269</td>
<td>1340 ± 1645</td>
<td>1290 ± 7.1</td>
<td>1260 ± 1290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1100 ± 103</td>
<td>1140 ± 116</td>
<td>1090 ± 7.1</td>
<td>1030 ± 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1090 ± 103</td>
<td>1170 ± 127</td>
<td>1150 ± 7.1</td>
<td>1050 ± 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1080 ± 103</td>
<td>1170 ± 127</td>
<td>1150 ± 7.1</td>
<td>1050 ± 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1070 ± 103</td>
<td>1170 ± 127</td>
<td>1150 ± 7.1</td>
<td>1050 ± 103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2186

ABE1609

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HOSPITAL STAYS FOR UVEITIS PATIENTS IN THE UNITED STATES: AN ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL INPATIENT DATABASE

Keywords: Health services research, Uveitis, Epidemiology

K. Cheuha1, 2, 3; Southern Illinois University - School of Medicine, Rheumatology, Springfield, United States of America

Background: Uveitis is the most common extraarticular manifestation in patients with spondyloarthritides. It may be the first presentation of spondyloarthritis. The combination of effects on vision, systemic disease and side effects of treatment have a significant impact on patient’s life. Uveitis affects all age groups and results in visual impairment over a long duration of the patient’s lifetime. Hence, treatment cost due to uveitis is similar to the common eye conditions such as cataract, age related macular degeneration and glaucoma.

Objectives: There is a lack of national level data regarding the medical cost of hospital stay of uveitis patients. The objective of our study is to identify health care expenses for patients hospitalized with uveitis in the United States.

Methods: The National Inpatient Sample (NIS) is used for this study. It is a de-identified, random sample data of inpatient hospitalizations in the United States. It is the largest all-payer database containing data on more than seven million hospital stays. Its large sample size is ideal for examining national estimates. We collected data from 2016 to 2020 and ICD-10 codes were used to identify uveitis cases. NIS uses the Clinical Classifications Software Refined (CCSR) categories which aggregates ICD-10 codes into 530 clinical categories. ICD-10 codes for inflammatory eye conditions are assigned to the category uveitis and ocular inflammation. Patients hospitalized with primary diagnosis of uveitis were included. Length of hospital stay; hospital charge and cost were collected. Charge is the amount hospital billed and cost represents the actual cost of hospital stay.

RESULTS: Average charge for hospital stays for uveitis patient is approximately 60,000 US dollars and has increased from 2016-2020. Similarly, cost of hospital stays and length of stay increased during the study period. Majority of uveitis inpatients are discharged to home, smaller percentage are discharged to rehab, nursing home or to home health care. Results are shown in the Table 1.

Conclusion: Economic burden of inpatient uveitis on health care is significant and has continued to increase from 2016 to 2020. Strategy and policy for providing better outpatient care for uveitis patients would help in reducing the number of hospital admissions and costs of stay.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: None Declared.

*Charges: Amount hospital billed. Aggregate Charges: The sum of all charges for all hospital stays.*Costs: Actual costs of hospital stay. Charge is the amount hospital billed. Aggregate hospital charges are assigned to the category uveitis and ocular inflammation.

ABE1610

NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL AND SELF-MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS FOR MAIN OUTCOMES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Systematic review, Self-management

N. Nakhost Lotfi1, 2, P. Studenic1, 2, N. Weibrecht3, G. Zauner3, K. Fechner4, T. Stamm4, T. H. Jakobsen5, T. S. Jørgensen6, N. Popper3, 7, L. E. Kristensen6, H. Radner1, 3, Medical University of Vienna, Department of Internal Medicine 3, Division of Rheumatology, Vienna, Austria; Karolinska Institute, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine (Solna), Stockholm, Sweden; dwh simulation services, dwh, GmbH, Vienna, Austria; Medical University of Vienna, Institute for Outcomes Research, Center for Medical Data Science, Vienna, Austria; DANA, P-S, Copenhagen, Denmark; Copenhagen University Hospital, Frederiksberg and Bispebjerg, The Parker Institute, Department of Rheumatology, Copenhagen, Denmark; Vienna University of Technology, Institute of Information Systems Engineering, Vienna, Austria

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is accompanied by considerable limitation of the functional abilities and a significant reduction of the patients’ quality of life (QoL).[1] Self-management has been proven to play a role in the improvement of well-being and functioning in daily life. With the help of digital tools, individuated self-management methods can become more accessible to patients.[2]

Objectives: We aimed to identify evidence on efficacy of non-pharmacological self-management interventions on core outcomes in RA. Results will inform development of self-management recommendations into the RheumaBuddy (RB) 4.0 app.

Methods: To identify evidence-based self-management interventions suitable for the inclusion in the app, a systematic literature review (SLR) was conducted. We included clinical trials or randomized controlled trials in adult (≥18years) RA patients, reported in German or English language and excluded nutritional supplements and interventional medical devices. Outcomes of interest were identified via RB4.0 as either predefined or individually used for symptom tracking in the app and agreed upon in an expert panel.

RESULTS: Main outcomes identified and used in the SLR were pain, fatigue, mood, stiffness, and quality of life. In total, 125 studies from 644 identified articles were included for data extraction (Figure 1). Heterogeneity of the studies precluded a meta-analysis. The majority of studies used pain (n=100), mood (n=46) or fatigue (n=35) as outcome. Interventions were grouped into six main categories (Exercise, Diet, Psychosocial, Education, Multicomponent, and other). The number of studies with a significant positive effect on various outcomes per various intervention strategies are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Study Characteristics of Intervention Strategies and Clinical Outcomes for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Strategy</th>
<th>Pain (n=100)</th>
<th>Mood (n=46)</th>
<th>Fatigue (n=35)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>31 (31.0%)</td>
<td>17 (36.9%)</td>
<td>22 (62.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>17 (17.0%)</td>
<td>10 (21.7%)</td>
<td>14 (40.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial</td>
<td>12 (12.0%)</td>
<td>8 (17.4%)</td>
<td>10 (28.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10 (10.0%)</td>
<td>6 (13.0%)</td>
<td>6 (17.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicomponent</td>
<td>5 (5.0%)</td>
<td>3 (6.5%)</td>
<td>5 (14.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>28 (28.0%)</td>
<td>13 (28.3%)</td>
<td>15 (42.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Conclusion:** We identified a broad range of non-pharmacological, self-management interventions for RA patients which can be used to further develop self-management recommendations, for implementation into RheumaBuddy 4.0, a new generation of an algorithm-driven digital health tool, designed to support RA patients’ disease self-management.

**REFERENCES:**

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### Table 1. Overview of included studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Pain (n=100)</th>
<th>Fatigue (n=35)</th>
<th>Mood (n=46)</th>
<th>Stiffness (n=29)</th>
<th>Quality of Life (n=29)</th>
<th>Sleep (n=6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercise (n=52)</td>
<td>16/40</td>
<td>6/17</td>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>6/14</td>
<td>0/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (n=20)</td>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>0/3</td>
<td>0/4</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial (n=29)</td>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>6/21</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>0/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet (n=6)</td>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>½</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (n=13)</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>2/7</td>
<td>2/7</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicomponent (n=28)</td>
<td>13/22</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education + Exercise + Diet (n=3/28)</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>0/1</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education + Exercise + Diet (n=10/28)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education + Exercise + Diet (n=2/28)</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/1</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education + Exercise + Diet (n=1/1)</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education + Exercise + Diet (n=4/28)</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>0/1</td>
<td>0/2</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education + Psychosocial (n=4/28)</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>0/1</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise + other (n=4/28)</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/2</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1/21 negative outcome

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**Figure 1.** PRISMA Flow chart of study selection

**Table 1.** Overview of included studies

**Conclusion:** Patients discuss multiple possible adaptations, their advantages, disadvantages and difficulties encountered. These data will be useful to occupational health professionals and clinicians in helping patients to keep their jobs in good conditions and develop appropriate services.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Nasim Nakhost Lotfi: None declared, Paul Stendic Speakers bureau: AstraZeneca, Nadine Weibrecht: None declared, Günther Zauner: None declared, Katharina Fechner: None declared, Tanja Stamm: None declared, Thomas H Jakobsen Shareholder of: HealthBuddy Company, Tanja Schjødt Jørgensen: None declared, Nikolas Popper: None declared, Lars Erik Kristensen: None declared, Helga Radner: None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2939

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**Keywords:** Work-related issues, Inflammatory arthritides, Qualitative research methods

A. C. Rat⁴, I. Thaon⁶, D. Loya⁷, L. Caen-Normandy University, UNICAEN, Inserm, UMR-S 1075 COMETE, PFRS, Caen, France; Caen, France; Université de Lorraine, APEMAC, Nancy, Nancy, France

**Background:** Despite improvements in the management of inflammatory arthritis (IA), the disease still has a significant impact on work and the support for patients with professional difficulties remains insufficient. The questionnaires currently available to us evaluate the societal impact of the disease (e.g. productivity at work) but not individual intermediate criteria such as work difficulties or possible adaptations.

**Objectives:** The objective of the study was to better understand the difficulties encountered at work, the coping strategies used and the motivations of patients with IA to continue working. Only the occupational adaptations are presented here.

**Methods:** 32 individual semi-directed interviews and 2 group interviews were conducted with patients with IA recruited in consultations or by patient associations. The participants were recruited according to a purposive sampling with maximum variation. Inclusion criteria were: age 18 to 65 years, have IA, be professionally active, have difficulties or concerns at work due to the disease. The interviews were conducted with an interview guide and were recorded and transcribed in full. The thematic analyses were conducted using an inductive approach.

**Results:** The analysis of the adaptations implemented revealed 14 main themes: adaptation of positions, tasks and mobilizations; adaptation of equipment; support from colleagues; change of working time; changing schedules and night work; taking breaks at work, splitting activities; Teleworking; reorientation, training; recognition of the status of disabled worker; occupational medicine, administrative difficulties; ergonomists; trade unions; changing position, jobs or employers.

**Examples of quotes from the interviews:**

**Themes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adaptation of positions, tasks and mobilizations</th>
<th>Change of working time</th>
<th>Recognition of the status of disabled worker</th>
<th>Administrative difficulties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are meetings that are too long 4-5 hours. There are several of us who get up and spend the meeting standing Avantages ou désavantages, possibilité et opportunité de modifier le temps de travail, dispositions psychologiques, utilisation des RTT ou des jours de congé, pénibilité du travail à temps partiel I’ve seen too many people considered disabled... put in closets. You put them in an office, doing nothing, in jobs that don’t exist. You’re not useful I don’t know how it’s going</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avantages ou désavantages, possibilité et opportunité de modifier le temps de travail, dispositions psychologiques, utilisation des RTT ou des jours de congé, pénibilité du travail à temps partiel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ve seen too many people considered disabled... put in closets. You put them in an office, doing nothing, in jobs that don’t exist. You’re not useful</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know how it’s going</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These are insane procedures, it’s practically a full-time job</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Patients discuss multiple possible adaptations, their advantages, disadvantages and difficulties encountered. These data will be useful to occupational health professionals and clinicians in helping patients to keep their jobs in good conditions and develop appropriate services.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Pauline Christine Rat Speakers bureau: Pfizer, Lily, Sanofi Genzyme, Abbott, BMS, Galapagos, Novartis, Isabelle Thaon: None declared, Deborah Loyal: None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3173
AB1612

Efficacy over time of sublingual polybacterial vaccines in patients with rheumatic diseases and active pharmacologic immunosuppression

Keywords: Vaccination/immunization, Invasive infection, Infection-related RMDs


Scientific Abstracts

S. Shan1, M. Mian1. 

I. Pérez - Sancristóbal1, M. P. Álvarez Hernandez1, S. Sanchez - Ramon2, I. M. C. Corrales1, J. Monreal2, E. de la Fuente3, C. Martínez Prada1, D. Freites1, V. Villaverde3, B. Fernandez1, G. Candelas1, C. Gómez1, C. Sánchez-Blazquez1, M. C. Nieto4, S. Shan1, M. Mian1.

Background: Synthetic and biologic disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs) have improved the prognosis of systemic autoimmune diseases (SAD). However, concerns persist about infectious complications in these patients. Previous studies of our group have shown that sublingual polybacterial vaccines decrease the rate of recurrent respiratory tract infections (RRTI) and recurrent urinary tract infections (RUTI).

Objectives: We aimed to evaluate the number of respiratory and urinary tract infections during 2018-2021 in patients who received sublingual polybacterial vaccines until 2018, when their administration was discontinued due to regulatory issues.

Methods: A retrospective observational study was conducted from a cohort of patients with SAD who had received sublingual polybacterial vaccines between 2014 - 2018. From 2018 onward, the incidence of UTI and incidence of RUTI and RRTI was analyzed and compared with annual incidence prior to vaccine administration and after one year post-vaccination.

Results: RRTI and RUTI were analyzed in 41 patients with SAD and active immunosuppression during the years 2018-2021. A significant increase in the number of infections was observed from 2018 to 2021, compared to the post-vaccination year, for both RUTI (1.53±2.17 vs 0.63±1.13;p=0.005) and RRTI (1.63±2.32 vs 0.67±0.92;p=0.003). When categorizing by number of infections, we observed that despite the increase in the average number of RUTI and RRTI, approximately half of the patients had no infections in the 2018-2021 period (51.2% RUTI and 43.5% RRTI). Making a comparison with the pre-vaccine year, despite the increase in the number of infections during the 2018-2021 period with respect to the immediate post-vaccination, the number of RRTI episodes was still lower (1.61±2.26 vs 2.76±2.57;p=0.002), as was the number of RUTI (1.56±2.12 vs 2.69±3.07;p=0.010).

Conclusion: The effect of sublingual polybacterial vaccines was maintained up to 3 years, with a significant decrease in infections with respect to the year prior to vaccination, suggesting that these vaccines may have long-term benefit. The number of respiratory and urinary tract infections increased during the years when the vaccine administration was not continued. However, an absence of infections was also observed in half of the patients.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1614

The increase in safety outcome trials and the issue of informed consent

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Safety

A. Özgediz1, S. N. Esatoglu1, H. Yazioğlu2, 1Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Academic, Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey

Background: The randomized controlled trial (RCT) remains a most important research as well as a tool for drug licensing. Informed consent also remains an integral component of this tool. The exact wording of this consent is not in the public domain and we had previously raised that concern and had pointed out that it should [1, 2]. As we previously indicated such transparency was important from the point of an organized skepticism an essential element of scientific inquiry [3]. Moreover, we had also indicated that this transparency was even more important in safety outcome trials (SOT). We have the impression that such SOTs are becoming more frequent especially with the increasing popularity of pragmatic trials [4] where the safety outcome measures are not infrequently as severe as death.

Objectives: To tabulate the frequency of RCTs with the primary outcome measure of safety in mainline general medicine journals at two time points, thirty years apart.

Methods: RCTs published in 1990-1991 vs 2019-2020 in NEJM, JAMA, LANCET and BMJ were searched by 2 independent reviewers (AO and SNE). Phase 1-2 RCTs, post-hoc analyses of RCTs and RCTs reporting long term follow-up data were excluded. RCTs with an indisputable primary endpoint of efficacy were defined as an ‘A trial’. Those trials with declared or obvious primary endpoints of ‘safety,’ ‘efficacy and safety’ or simply as ‘efficacy’ in which we unaniomously considered the presence of serious harm to the patients in the control arms were defined as a ‘B trial’. Finally, the trials that we could not unanimously decide whether designate A or B, were designated as C. Discrepancies were resolved after discussion with the senior author (HY) and if, even then, there was no consensus the trial remained as a C. We then compared the frequencies of the types of RCTs which were published in 1990-1991 vs 2019-2020. Other salient features, like the type and the practice setting, of these patients were also tabulated.

Results: There were 309 RCTs published in 1990-1991 and 600 RCTs published in 2019-2020. Nineteen RCTs on COVID-19 infection were excluded for

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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fair comparisons. As seen in the Table 1 there was a significant increase in the number of SOTs in the later years. Moreover, the number of intensive care unit (ICU) trials, a setting in which obtaining informed consents can often be problematic, significantly increased.

**Conclusion:** Recently, there is a significant increase in the number of SOTs. Moreover, they are more frequently conducted in the ICUs. We strongly emphasize that the informed consents of all RCTs, particularly, those related to SOTs should be public. We strongly consider that such action is necessary a. to continue receiving our patients’ vital consent to enable us to continue conducting RCTs and b. for justly addressing the organized skepticism of our peers.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1990-1991 (n=309)</th>
<th>2019-2020 (n=581)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of RCTs</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A trial</td>
<td>284 (91.9%)</td>
<td>501 (86.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B trial</td>
<td>9 (2.9%)</td>
<td>39 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None-A trial</td>
<td>25 (8.1%)</td>
<td>80 (13.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU trial</td>
<td>12 (3.8%)</td>
<td>22 (5.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All non-A trials include trials designated B and C.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**AB1615**

**EVALUATION OF THE NOCEBO EFFECT WHEN SWITCHING FROM THE ORIGINATOR MOLECULE TO A BIOSIMILAR IN A NORMANDY RETROSPECTIVE COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM TREATED WITH ETANERCEPT OR ADALIMUMAB (BIONIC STUDY)**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthropathy, Rheumatoid arthritis, bDMARD


1Rouen, Rheumatology, Rouen, France

2Caen, Rheumatology, Caen, France

3CHU Charles Nicolle, Clinical Pharmacology, Rouen, France

4Groupe Hospitalier du Havre, Rheumatology, Montvilleurs, France

5Évreux, Rheumatology, Évreux, France

6Évreux, Public Health, Évreux, France

**Background:** The cost of treating the major inflammatory rheumatic diseases (rheumatoid arthritis and spondyloarthri) has increased dramatically since the advent of biotherapies (bDMARD). However, the appearance of the first biosimilar has led to significant healthcare savings. However, sometimes-negative perception of these treatments by patients and practitioners can lead to the appearance of a nocebo effect.

**Objectives:** To measure the prevalence of the nocebo effect after switching from an adalimumab (ADA) or etanercept (ETA) originator to one of their biosimilars.

**Methods:** 183 patients from 4 hospital centers in Normandy (Rouen and Caen University Hospitals, Le Havre and Évreux Hospitals) were included between January 2018 and July 2022 in this retrospective study, within the framework of the Article 51 biosimilars experiment. The subjects had an inflammatory rheumatism (RA or AS) in remission, treated with ADA or ETA originator biological treatment before being switched to a biosimilar. The occurrence of a nocebo effect was considered in patients who did not maintain treatment at 12 months and had a subjective side effect. A comparative analysis of the quantitative data collected was performed before and after the switch. The side effects that led to the discontinuation of the biosimilar were identified. During the switch, a questionnaire was distributed to 30 patients to describe the topics discussed during the consultation and their feelings about the biosimilar. Finally, a univariate and then multivariate analysis was performed to identify potential risk factors associated with the occurrence of a nocebo effect.

**Results:** The nocebo effect was measured in 13.1% of patients. It was also noted that 9.2% of the group study had presented a side effect objectively by the rheumatologist, and 1.6% mixed side effects. Were considered subjective side effects the sensation of rheumatic recrudescence without objective element found, as well as a certain number of complaints. There were 15.3% of patients who experienced a reactivation of their rheumatism, 8.2% an intolerance, 1.6% an infectious event, 0.5% an allergic reaction. Concerning the evolution under treatment, the comparative analysis did not show any significant difference before and after the switch for the measured, except for the duration of morning stiffness duration in the AS group (p = 0.01). Univariate and multivariate analysis did not identify any risk factors associated with the occurrence of a nocebo effect. The responses to the questionnaire made it possible to observe the themes discussed during the consultation (mainly efficacy and cost). The majority of patients interviewed reported that the biosimilar was identical to the originator in terms of safety, efficacy, mode of use and pain at the injection site.

**Conclusion:** The occurrence of a nocebo effect following a switch to a biosimilar remains acceptable regarding the savings made. It appears less frequent when the switch is supervised by the practitioner, in contrast to the rare data in the literature, where the results differ when the substitution is systematic (up to 33% in some countries). The occurrence of such an effect can be explained by a bad perception of the patient. Therapeutic education as well as a shared medical decision between patient, rheumatologist and pharmacist seems to be essential in a certain population of patients which remains to be defined.

**REFERENCES:**


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**AB1616**

**ADHERENCE TO THE LIFE’S ESSENTIAL 8 METRICS AND HYPERURICEMIA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY**

**Keywords:** Lifestyles, Non-pharmacological interventions, Epidemiology

W. Yang1, 2,3

1North China University of Science and Technology affiliated Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Tangshan, China

2Kailuan General Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Tangshan, China

**Background:** Hyperuricemia (HUA) which with a pooled prevalence of 16.4% in mainland China (1), is a known cause of gout and is linked to chronic disorders such as myocardial infarction, stroke, type 2 diabetes, chronic renal disease, and cardiovascular morbidity (2,3). The preventive factors against hyperuricemia are thought to be health-related behaviors and factors. As a result, suggestions for healthy habits have been incorporated into the most recent gout and HUA therapy recommendations (4). Recently, the American Heart Association released their latest cardiovascular health metric “Life’s Essential 8” (LE8M) [5]. The LE8M defined cardiovascular health with eight criteria. It contained five health behaviors (nicotine exposure, physical activity, diet, body mass index, and sleep health) and three health factors (blood lipids, blood pressure, and blood glucose). To confirm whether the LE8M could apply to HUA, we looked at the connection between adherence to the LE8MScore and the likelihood of having hyperuricemia using the cross-sectional data of more than 90,000 Chinese participants from the Kailuan Study.

**Objectives:** Although several individual cardiovascular healths are associated with uric acid status, the association of overall cardiovascular health with hyperuricemia remains unclear. We thus examined the association between the Life’s Essential 8 metrics and odds of having hyperuricemia in a Chinese adult population.

**Methods:** Included were 92,912 Chinese participants of the Kailuan Study (mean age: 51.32±12.45y). The Life’s Essential 8 metrics were calculated based on five health behaviors (nicotine exposure, physical activity, diet, body mass index, and sleep health) and three health factors (blood lipids, blood pressure, and blood glucose). Hyperuricemia was defined as serum uric acid concentrations of ≥7mg/dl for men and women. Association between the LE8M and hyperuricemia was assessed using multiple logistic regression models, adjusting for age, sex, marital status, education, income level, alcohol drinking, triglyceride and renal function.

**Results:** High the Life’s Essential 8 metrics score was associated with low odds of having hyperuricemia (adjusted OR for quartile 4 vs. quartile 1=0.64; 95% CI, 0.59 to 0.70; P-trend <0.001), after adjusting for potential confounders. The association of the Life’s Essential 8 metrics and hyperuricemia was more
pronounced among women and younger participants (<45y), compared with their counterparts.

Conclusion: The Life’s Essential 8 metrics was associated with a low likelihood of having hyperuricemia in Chinese adults.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO RHEUMATOLOGICAL CARE OF PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC POLYARTRITIS AND CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES: A PILOT STUDY USING INTERACTIVE PROCESS MINING ANALYSIS

Keywords: Health services research

1Hospital Clínico Universitario San Carlos, Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain;
2Valencia Polytechnic University, Instituto Universitario de Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicaciones, Valencia, Spain;
3Gerencia Asistencial Atención Primaria, Research Unit, Madrid, Spain;
4Hospital Clínico Universitario San Carlos, Orthopedic Surgery, Madrid, Spain

Background: Process mining is a research discipline used to derive process-related knowledge from data on event occurrences at different times. In the healthcare domain, these techniques can be applied to outpatient processes to extract information regarding how they take place and identify inefficiencies or points form improvement.

Objectives: Our aim was to analyze how patients that receive a diagnosis of chronic polyarthritides (CP; including conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and undifferentiated arthritis) or connective tissue diseases (CTD; such as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, scleroderma or vasculitis) access a tertiary care level rheumatology outpatient clinic, using novel process mining techniques.

Methods: Retrospective study, including patients first seen at the Hospital Clínico San Carlos Rheumatology Outpatient clinic between 2016 and 2019, belonging to the Hospital Clínico San Carlos Musculoskeletal Cohort. We included those patients receiving ICD10 diagnostic codes, by their attending rheumatologists, compatible with Adult-onset Still’s disease, undifferentiated polyarthritis, poly-myalgia rheumatica and rheumatoid arthritis (which were later grouped under the category of “chronic polyarthritis”), and myositis, antiphospholipid syndrome, sarcoidosis, Behçet disease, polymyositis, scleroderma, mixed connective tissue disease, Sjögren syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, vasculitis and Raynaud’s syndrome (which were later grouped under the category of “connective tissue diseases”). Information regarding outpatient activity at the Rheumatology clinic (dates of appointments, if they were a first visit in the clinic or a revision, and which department requested the appointment) was obtained from the Hospital Information System (HIS). Process Mining techniques were used to visualize the pathways followed by the patients included in both categories, and to highlight differences.

Results: 174 patients with CTDs and 341 patients diagnosed with CPs were analyzed. Regarding CTDs, most patients were initially referred from Primary Care. Furthermore, most of those patients were not referred from other departments. Regarding CTDs, although Primary Care seems to be the most common level of referral, other origins are more likely. When the pathways of both disease classifications are compared (Figure 1), we can observe that, compared with CTDs, CPs, have a lower chance of being referred from the Orthopedic Department (“TRA-REU” node in blue) and a higher chance of being referred from “other departments” in secondary care (“REU” node in red). Furthermore, it is less likely that a patient with CTD undergo referrals from different departments and care levels during follow-up (see by the lines in blue color connecting the nodes “TRA-REU,” “URG-REU,” “PRI-REU,” and “REU Rev”).

Conclusion: In this pilot analysis, we have observed that the pathways followed and the referral departments of the patients diagnosed with CTDs and CTDs are different. Process mining can be a very useful tool to characterize and identify the pathways that patients undergo within the healthcare system, across levels and specialties.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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OUTCOMES OF HEPATITIS B AND TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING IN A COHORT OF PATIENTS ON BIOLOGIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS (BDMARDS) FOR RHEUMATIC DISEASE AT A MELBOURNE PUBLIC HOSPITAL

Keywords: Vaccination/Immunization, bDMARD, Quality of care

H. Pourhadi1, A. Johnson1, A. Foote1.
1Northern Health, Rheumatology, Epping, Australia

Background: Screening for hepatitis B and tuberculosis is recommended prior to the commencement of biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs [1]. However, in routine clinical practice this can easily be overlooked, sometimes with severe consequences.

Objectives: We aimed to identify the percentage of patients screened for hepatitis B and tuberculosis prior to the commencement of bDMARDS in our rheumatology patients. We also determined if immunisation to hepatitis B was discussed in those with no serological evidence of immunity to the disease, and whether individuals with positive quantiferon gold (QTB) serology were referred for treatment prior to commencing bDMARDS.

Methods: All current rheumatology patients on bDMARDs at the Northern Hospital in Epping, Melbourne Australia were included in this study. By retrospectively reviewing the medical records, data was collected regarding patient demographics, clinical information and pre-treatment screening results including hepatitis B and QTB serology. Ethics committee approval was sought from our institution (Reference number: ALR 63.2020).

Results: There were 138 patients on bDMARD included in this analysis. 97 (70%) were female with a mean age of 51 (SD +/-15) at the time treatment was commenced. Rheumatoid arthritis was the most common indication for biologic

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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therapy (67%) followed by ankylosing spondylitis (15%) and psoriatic arthritis (14%). Tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi) and Janus kinase inhibitors (JAK) were most often utilized, prescribed to 72% and 13% of patients respectively. Prior to commencing bDMARDs, 128 (92%) patients were screened for hepatitis B infection. All of these individuals had hepatitis B surface-antigen (HBsAg) tested; 106 (76%) had Hepatitis B surface-antibody (HBsAb) tested and 92 (67%) had hepatitis B core antibody (HBcAb) tested. Among patients screened, 33 (25%) demonstrated immunity to hepatitis B either by previous infection (6%) or vaccination (19%), 1 (1%) was positive for HBsAg and 100 (75%) were susceptible to infection. Of these susceptible individuals, one (1%) was advised to have the hepatitis B vaccinations prior to commencing bDMARDs. Screening for tuberculosis with QTB serology was performed in 125 (90%) patients. Seven (5%) had a positive result and three (2%) were indeterminate. All patients with positive QTB results were referred to infectious diseases for treatment.

Conclusion: Patient demographics such as age, sex and indication for biologic therapy were similar to other bDMARD registries. Pre-treatment screening for hepatitis B was undertaken in most patients and demonstrated a significant number of non-immune individuals. Counselling on the importance of vaccination prior to commencing bDMARDs was rarely documented. There is a need for further counselling on the importance of immunisations in patients on bDMARDs and better access to vaccinations in public hospital rheumatology clinics.

REFERENCE:

Disclosure of Interests: NIL

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AB1619

THE INCIDENCE, PREVALENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ON ARUBA INDICATE AN UNMET NEED FOR AN EARLY ARTHRITIS CLINIC

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Qualitative research methods, Epidemiology

R. Rellum1, M. Zethof2, J. Van Nies3, R. Thurlings4, A. Den Broeder5, M. T. Nurmohamed6, 7, Dr. Horacio E. Oudeber Hospital, Rheumatology, Orangezest, Aruba; 1Radboud University Medical Center, Medical Student, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 2Dr. Horacio E. Oudeber Hospital, Rheumatology, Oranjestad, Aruba; 3Radboud University Medical Center, Medical Student, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 4Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Rheumatology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Background: A long unmet need was fulfilled in January 2019 with the start of a rheumatology outpatient clinic on Aruba.

Objectives: To assess the incidence, prevalence and patient- and disease characteristics of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) on Aruba.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study all health records from RA patients, with an outpatient hospital visit between January 1st of 2019 and 30th of June 2022, were accessed from the hospital database Cerner. Prevalence and incidence rates were determined.

Results: The point prevalence of RA on Aruba (06/30/2022) in the insured population (n = 110,000, i.e. 98% of the total population) was 0.37% (95% CI: 0.34% - 0.41%) he estimate half year incidence of RA on Aruba was 0.012%. The female: male ratio within RA patients on Aruba was 4.97:1 with prevalence of 0.57% in women and 0.13% in men. Approximately 25% of RA patients on Aruba had erosions and/or bony deformations, 7% already at time of hospital diagnosis. There was a general delay of 2.5 years since start of symptoms onset until the time of diagnosis.

Conclusion: This study suggests that the prevalence of RA on Aruba is significantly lower than the global, European and North American, pooled prevalence of 0.46%, 0.54% and 0.70%, respectively [1]. We observed a very long patient hospital delay, with significantly more joint damage in the newly diagnosed RA patient in comparison to other clinics. Obviously, there is a clear need for an earlier referral of RA patients by primary care physicians to the hospital. Development of an Early Arthritis Clinic could facilitate this process and would ultimately decrease the joint damage in RA patients.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1620

EMERGENCIES IN RHEUMATOLOGIC DISEASES: A REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE FROM AN ITALIAN RHEUMATOLOGICAL CENTRE

Keywords: Epidemiology, Real-world evidence, Best practices

Cristiano1, P. Triggiani1, C. Minerba2, A. D’antonio1, C. Bonini1, L. Fiammarta1, A. Bergini1, S. S. Chimenti1, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

Background: Patients with rheumatic diseases (RDs) may present with severe and/or life-threatening conditions which might require hospitalization. RDs recognize a significant diagnostic delay because of variability of clinical features, often mimicking other systemic disorders. Accordingly, patients requiring hospitalization for new-onset emergencies should raise the suspicion of RDs also in absence of a known rheumatologic diagnosis.

Objectives: In this observational single-centre real-life study we analyse prevalence, distribution and management of RDs among patients hospitalized in a 3rd level Rheumatologic ward.

Methods: We collect demographic and clinical data from medical records of patients hospitalized in the Rheumatologic ward of “Tor Vergata” University Hospital in Rome (Italy), between 1st June 2021 to 31th December 2022. Patients are divided into two groups: known RDs at admission (Group 1) and new rheumatologic diagnoses (NRDs) at discharge (Group 2). Mean and standard deviation (SD) express normally distributed variables. Continuous variables are compared with T test, categorical variables by using Chi-square or Fisher’s exact test. P<0.05 values are considered statistically significant.

Results: The study cohort includes 179 patients (56% women) with a mean age at hospitalization of 62 ±16 y.o. Most of patients (88%) comes from Emergency Room (E.R.), and half of them (47%) has a defined diagnosis of RD at admission (Group 1). Patients admitted for suspected RD are 47 (26% of study population), among them, most cases (n=35, 74%) has NRD at discharge (Group 2). Comparing Group 1 (n=85, 63±14 y.o.) with Group 2 (n=35, 57±19 y.o.) we observe no difference in women prevalence (63% vs 51%) and referral from E.R. (58% vs 74%). Interestingly, diagnosis of rare rheumatological diseases (RDRs) occurs in a similar prevalence in Group 1 (n=57, 43%) and Group 2 (n=14, 40%). The most common reason for hospitalization in Group 1 is disease-fare (53%), followed by acute RD-related complications (27%) and treatment failure (20%). Patients from Group 2 are mainly hospitalized for new-onset severe joint pain (71%) while myalgia (11%), neuropathy (11%) and fever of unkown origin (6%) represent rare cases. Group 2 a significantly higher proportion of severe inflammatory arthritis (P=0.008) and myositis (P<0.05) is observed than Group 1. In the two groups we register a similar prevalence of systemic vasculitis, connective tissue diseases, systemic sclerosis, autoinflammatory diseases and primary antiphospholipid syndrome. A slightly higher proportion of patients is treated with steroids in Group 2 than in Group 1 (66% vs 55%). A quarter of patients receives csDMARDS in a similar prevalence; bDMARDs are used only in patients from Group 1 (7%). Rare cases from both groups are treated with intravenous immunoglobulin and protonostoids. In patients with non-rheumatological diseases at discharge (n=59) respiratory (51%) and cardiovascular disorders (34%) represent the main reasons for admission. Comparing them with patients with RD diagnosis (Group 1 + Group 2, n=120), a significantly higher prevalence of referral from E.R. results in the first group (P=0.002, Table I).

Conclusion: A relevant rate of RDRs occurs among patients requiring hospitalization in a similar prevalence between RDs and NRDs. Moreover, a new rheumatologic diagnosis is confirmed in most patients referring to E.R. in whom emergencies are suspected to be related to RDs. Accordingly, our preliminary data suggest that clinical suspicion for RDs and, thus, early referral to the Rheumatologic Unit should be adequately addressed also among patients from E.R. to improve the diagnostic delay in RD patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Rheumatologic and non-rheumatologic patients from the study cohort</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rheumatologic Diagnosis</strong></td>
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<td>Caucasian, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referral from E.R., n (%)</td>
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<td>Duration of hospital stay, days (mean±SD)</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1621

REFERRAL BEHAVIOUR OF PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS TO RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC IN MALAYSIA

Keywords: Quality of care, Health services research

C. R. Ng1, Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Johor, Malaysia

Background: The workload at rheumatology clinics has been growing relentlessly and an audit on new referrals helps to identify referral behaviour of primary care doctors and improvement can be done by providing further training.

Objectives: To audit on new referral cases to rheumatology clinic from 2020-2022 and to identify new cases with misdiagnosis for future training purposes.

Methods: This was a retrospective study. The medical records of all new referral to rheumatology clinic Hospital Sultan Ismail and Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah from 1st January 2020 to 31st November 2022 were reviewed. The referral diagnosis and final diagnosis were identified and analysed.

Results: There were total of 927 new cases referred throughout the 35 months during Covid-19 pandemic. Majority of them were diagnosed to have rheumatoid arthritis (217/927) followed by systemic lupus erythematosus (190/927), psoriatic arthritis (147/927), gout (62/927), osteoarthritis (58/927), systemic sclerosis (25/927), anklyosing spondylitis (25/927), soft tissue rheumatism (24/927), Sjogren syndrome (24/927), mixed connective tissue disease (14/927), vasculitis (11/927), fibromyalgia (10/927), polymyositis (7/927) and miscellaneous (39/927). 45 out of the new cases were diagnosed as unlikley rheumatic diseases. There were 29 pending cases awaiting final diagnosis. 212 of the referrals were identified as misdiagnosis with the highest as nodal osteoarthritis, (55/212) followed by unlikely rheumatic disease (43/212), soft tissue rheumatism (24/212), psoriatic arthritis (20/212), Sjogren syndrome (14/212), gout (8/212), rheumatoid arthritis (7/212), fibromyalgia (6/212), systemic lupus erythematosus (5/212), anklyosing spondylitis (4/212), mixed connective tissue disease (3/212), inflammatory arthritis (2/212), polyositis (2/212) and others (19/212); diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis, hypermobility syndrome, RS3PE syndrome, idiopathic ulcers, graft versus host disease, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, antiphospholipid syndrome, hypothyroidism, post streptococcal arthritis, prolapsed intervertebral disc, cerebrovascular disease, traumatic stenoclarival joint subluxation, ledderhose disease, paraspinal muscle spasm and viral myalgia.

Conclusion: Nodal osteoarthritis and soft tissue rheumatism can be great mimickers for inflammatory arthritis and if wrongly diagnosed will lead to unnecessary anxiety or wrong treatment. More training is needed to improve clinical skills amongst primary care doctors.

References: NA.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1622

ARTRO 360: NEW MANAGEMENT MODEL TO PROGRESS IN THE TREATMENT OF OSTEOARTHRITIS BY OPTIMIZING THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Keywords: Quality of care, Health services research, Osteoarthritis

N. Martínez Fernández1, J. Vergés2, Osteoarthritis Foundation International, R&D, Barcelona, Spain; Osteoarthritis Foundation International, President & CEO, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common chronic joint disease and poses a growing public health problem. In Spain, 7 million people suffer from OA [1], and only hip and knee OA represent an average annual cost of 4,738 million euros for the Spanish Health System. In 2016, more than one hundred thousand hip and knee replacements were placed in Spain [2]. OA generates direct costs and considerable indirect costs for the National Health System, like the associated reduced productivity and labor costs. Therefore, a new OA management model is needed to reduce these expenses by optimizing the available resources.

Objectives: Design and validate a new management model that improves healthcare quality, security, and communication of OA patients.

Methods: The Osteoarthritis Foundation International (OAFI), with the collaboration of the Spanish Association of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis (AECO-SAR), made an initial proposal with a multidisciplinary expert committee. The different proposals have been reviewed and ratified by scientific and professional organizations of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and patients.

Results: The model is based on the needs expressed by OA patients and states how the different specialists should intervene and prescribe the most appropriate therapeutic option. The model has three levels of action: preclinical, clinical, and disabling clinical. Several Spanish scientific societies like SEUAS, SECA, SEBOT, SETRADE, SER, SEMGEREN, SEMG, semFYC, SEFAC, SEIOM, and SEMDOR have supported the model. The model was presented in the Spanish Senate on September 28th, 2021, and it is being disseminated to the health departments at a regional level. Below are some of the proposals for the model:

- Promote the participation of patients and professionals in public health policies, research, and management models.
- Involve the patient in the decisions that affect them, making them responsible for their health and self-care.
- Accelerate the diagnosis.
- Facilitate access to optimal pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment, taking into account the comorbidities and needs of the patient.
- Raise awareness of the relevant role of patient organizations as an active resource that complements the portfolio of services, strengthens professionals, and produces significant economic savings.

Conclusion: OA is the most common chronic joint disease and poses a growing public health problem. OAFI, with the support of several scientific societies, has developed a new management model to progress in treating OA by optimizing the available resources. With this program, it will be possible to reduce the cost of OA by approximately 100 million euros while improving the quality of health care for our patients. To implement it, it is essential to take coordinated action by health authorities, scientific health authorities, scientific and professional societies, patient organizations, and other relevant organizations.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1623

INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM AND WORK: WHAT DIFFICULTIES IN RELATION WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JOB?

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Qualitative research methods, Work-related issues

A. C. Reit1, J. Thoan2, D. Loya3, 1Caen-Normandy University, UNICAEN, Inserm, UMR-S 1075 COMETE, PFRRS, Caen, France; 2University Hospital Center of Caen, Rheumatology, Caen, France; 3University of Lorraine, APEMACH, Nancy, Nancy, France

Background: Despite improvements in the management of inflammatory arthritis (IA), the disease still has a significant impact on work and the support for patients with professional difficulties remains insufficient. Occupational physicians and occupational health specialists are not all aware of the specific impact of IA on difficulties at work and sometimes think that all patients complaining of physical limitations are identical and require the same support.

Objectives: The objective of the study is to better understand the difficulties at work, in particular difficulties related to the employment characteristics of patients with IA.

Methods: 32 individual semi-directed interviews and 2 group interviews were conducted with patients with IA recruited in consultations or by patient associations. The participants were recruited according to a purposive sampling with maximum variation. Inclusion criteria were: age 18 to 65 years, have IA, be professionally active, have difficulties or concerns at work due to the disease. The interviews were conducted with an interview guide and were recorded and transcribed in full. The thematic analyses were conducted using an inductive approach.

Results: The analysis of difficulties related to the characteristics of the employment of patients with IA are numerous: physical load of the workstation; speed required by the job; simultaneous tasks; multiple tasks and flexibility; workload; working hours and schedules; routine, scheduling, commuting, job awareness, responsibilities and moral demands; cognitive characteristics; conflict of values, skills and experience; interpersonal characteristics; lack of material resources, inappropriate premises; autonomy, environment and culture of the company; productivity demands and evaluations, job insecurity or security; perceived maladjustment; isolation; lack of recognition. The difficulties are not always specific to patients with IA but are clearly aggravated by the disease for a good number of them. The patients describe the specificities of their difficulties.

Conclusion: Patients discuss multiple characteristics of employment that can be a hardship or an advantage. They explain how the disease makes these characteristics difficult for them. These data will be useful to occupational health occupational health professionals and clinicians to help patients keep their jobs in good condition and develop appropriate services.
These data will help to improve the training of occupational health occupational and to develop a questionnaire for the assessment of the work situation of patients with RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Methods: Observational, cross-sectional, single-centre study, with consecutive inclusion of outpatients over 18 years of age seen in the rheumatology hospital outpatient clinic. Sociodemographic and clinical variables were collected, as well as HRQoL measured with the 5-dimensional, 5-level EuroQol (EQ-5D-5L), which includes the EQ-Index (0-1 scale) and a visual analogue scale (VAS, 0-100 scale). A descriptive analysis and a comparison with the Spanish population according to the National Health Survey were carried out.

Results: 1,144 patients were included, 820 (71.68%) of whom were women, with a mean age of 56.1 years (range 18-95). 241 (25.44%) were new patients. In patients with RD, the HRQoL measured with the EQ-Index and with the VAS, was 0.186 and 12 points lower, respectively, than in the general population. HRQoL affected the 5 health dimensions, especially “pain/discomfort”, followed by “daily activities” and “mobility.” This reduction in HRQoL, was maintained in both men and women, and in all age segments, although it was greater between 18 and 65 years of age. The reduction in HRQoL affected all RD subtypes, especially the “Peripheral and axial mechanical pathology” and the “Soft tissue pathology” group.

Conclusion: Patients with RD report worse HRQoL compared to the general population in all HRQoL dimensions.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Comparison of EQ-index of EQ-5D-5L between HURyC-RD patients and Spanish adult general population, according to sex and age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Spanish adult general population (ENSE)</th>
<th>difference of means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EQ-index</td>
<td>EQ-index</td>
<td>n Median SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>0.788 0.184 9.412 0.938 0.138-0.150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>0.703 0.236 11.175 0.892 0.159-0.189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0.858 0.143 12.286 0.976 0.098-0.117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>0.818 0.178 2.757 0.970 0.109-0.152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>0.746 0.203 2.951 0.950 0.127-0.204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>0.740 0.214 3.574 0.928 0.141-0.188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>0.698 0.227 1.373 0.899 0.150-0.201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>0.756 0.213 2.731 0.865 0.154-0.109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>0.700 0.271 2.350 0.781 0.167-0.122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>85+</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.473 0.233 8.15 0.625 0.182-0.152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>0.728 0.226 20.587 0.914 0.150-0.187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5992
Epidemiology, risk factors for disease or disease progression

Keywords: Epidemiology, Real-world evidence, Safety

C.C. Chang1,2, T.M. Lin3, C.K. Chang4, H. Lee2. 1 Taipei Medical University Hospital, Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2 School of Medicine, College of Medicine, Taipei Medical University, Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 3 Taipei Medical University Hospital, Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Life-threatening severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs) include Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis, acute generalized exanthemeatosus pustulosis, and drug-induced hypersensitivity syndrome/drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms. Previous report revealed that a gradual loss of regulatory T (Treg) cell function after resolution of SCARs increases the risk of subsequently developing autoimmune diseases (ADs). The association between patients with SCARs and ADs remain unclear and are scarce.

Objectives: This study explored the association of SCARs with AD risk. Methods: Individuals with SCARs between 2006 and 2015 were identified and 1:10 matched on age and sex with individuals without SCARs. We performed multivariate and stratified analysis using the Kaplan–Meier method and Cox proportional hazards models in order to estimate the association between SCAR cohort and the risk of developing ADs.

Results: A total of 26844 patients with SCAR and 268440 non-SCAR comparison subjects were selected from NHIRD. For individual organ-specific ADs, SCAR cohort as compared with non-SCAR cohort, adjusted hazard ratio (aHR) were higher for incident autoimmune hemolytic anemia (aHR 3.36, 95% CI: 1.64-6.16), Hashimoto’s thyroiditis (aHR 2.26, 95% CI: 1.64-3.12), Henoch-Schönlein purpura (aHR 8.89, 95% CI:1.65-12.4) and inflammatory bowel disease were (aHR 9.78, 95% CI:1.57-18.5) (see Table 1). Furthermore, for individual systemic ADs, SCAR cohort as compared with non-SCAR cohort, aHR were higher for incident ankylosing spondylitis (aHR 1.56), psoriasis (aHR 10.39), polymyositis/dermatomyositis (aHR 10.39), rheumatoid arthritis (aHR 2.48), primary Sjogren syndrome (aHR 5.92), systemic lupus erythematosus (aHR 9.58), systemic sclerosis (aHR 7.56) and systemic vasculitis (aHR 13.54) (see Table 1)

Conclusion: Patients with SCARs have higher risk of ADs than patients with no SCARs. Further mechanistic research should be conducted.

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Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus

G. Kolibaeva1, G. Tarasova1, B. Belov3, A. Boltbekova1, A. Turatbekova1, G. Suyun K1, 1, 3 Togolok Moldo St, Rheumatology, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 2, Kashkinkoye Shoose, 34, Rheumatology, Moskva, Russian Federation; 2, Kashkinkoye Shoose, 34, Rheumatology, Moskva, Russian Federation

Background: Pneumococcal vaccination in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is designed to reduce the risk of severe respiratory infections in this group of patients. The issues of vaccination safety remain relevant.

Objectives: to study the dynamics of immunological parameters in patients with SLE during the year after vaccination with 23-valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (PPV-23), their correlation with the clinical picture of the disease.

Methods: 78 patients with SLE were included in the study. 4 patients received monotherapy (GC-1, methotrexate-1, GC-1, anti-B-cell therapy-1), the rest received combination therapy, including 29 - anti-B-cell therapy, 3 groups of patients were identified for analysis: 1, patients (36) who received stable doses of immunosuppressive drugs, 2, patients (31) who had their medication doses reduced during the year, 3, patients (11) who received increased doses of medications during the year. The follow-up period was 12 months after vaccination.

Results: During the observation period, no new autoimmune phenomena, both clinical and laboratory, were recorded. Stable therapy group: in the first 1-3 months after vaccination, 4 out of 36 patients had a transient increase in a-DNA without an increase in ANF and without signs of exacerbation of the disease. Another 4 had an increase in ANF (1 had a transient increase), without an increase in a-DNA and without signs of deterioration. By 12 months, there was an increase in a-DNA in 4 and ANF in 5 patients. Moderate exacerbation of the disease was recorded in 3 patients (after 3.5 months, 5 months, 12 months): the first case, persistently high immunological activity and clearly insufficient therapy were observed; in the second case, the exacerbation was not accompanied by an increase in immunological activity at all; in the third case, the exacerbation occurred after 12 months with a moderate increase in immunological activity.
ARTHRITIS IN ITALY IN THE LAST DECADE

THE INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN ITALY IN THE LAST DECADE

Keywords: Registries, Epidemiology, Rheumatoid arthritis


1University of Padova, Department of Medicine DIMED, Padova, Italy; 2Azienda Zero, Veneto Region, Clinical governance Unit, Padua, Italy; 3Azienda Zero, Veneto Region, Epidemiological Department, Padua, Italy; 4Azienda Zero, Veneto Region, Clinical governance Unit, Padua, Italy

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) prevalence is believed to be around 1% worldwide, although it varies considerably among different populations.[1] Several environmental factors such as smoking, certain infections, and diet contribute to the risk of RA and differ between populations.[2] The pooled prevalence of RA was estimated to be 0.54% (95% CI 0.50–0.59) in Europe,[1] but no studies have recently evaluated the epidemiology of RA in Italy.

Objectives: We aimed at estimating the incidence and prevalence of RA in northeastern Italy over the period 2012–2020.

Methods: A retrospective population-based study was conducted in the Veneto Region (4.9 million people) using the Population Registry, an administrative health database where all residents are recorded. The population registry was linked with healthcare co-payments exemptions, hospital discharge records, and mortality records. Between 2012 and 2020, RA prevalence was defined by a healthcare copayment exemption for RA diagnosis, number, and mortality records. Between 2012 and 2020, RA incidence corresponded to 33.1 (32.5; 33.7) per 100,000 person-years, with the lowest incidence observed in the last two years of the study: 27.4 (25.9; 28.9) in 2020 and 32.2 (30.6; 33.8) in 2019 (Table 1). The peak for both prevalence and incidence was around the eighth decade of life. Incidence was 2-times higher in females—female-to-male IRR ratio (IRR) 2.5 (2.2; 2.4) (p<0.0001), with a peak among people aged 20–29 years, where female-to-male IRR was 3.1 (2.4; 3.9) and the lowest value among patients aged ≥70 years, where F:M IRR was 1.6 (1.4; 1.8).

Conclusion: The prevalence of RA in Italy is 0.57%, in line with data from other European countries. Incidence was confirmed to be higher among females, especially in younger patients.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. The point prevalence of Rheumatoid Arthritis in The Veneto Region in 2020 by age and gender.

Table 1. Incidence of Rheumatoid Arthritis in the Veneto Region between 2013 and 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>New diagnosis, number</th>
<th>Population Crude rate (95%CI) x 100,000</th>
<th>Standardized IR (95%CI) x100,000*</th>
<th>New diagnosis, number</th>
<th>Standardized IR (95%CI) x100,000*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1.615</td>
<td>4.901.415</td>
<td>32.9 (31.3; 34.6) 34.2 (32.5; 35.8) 475</td>
<td>1140</td>
<td>20.8 (19.8; 21.8) 46.9 (44.1; 49.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1.738</td>
<td>4.905.712</td>
<td>35.4 (33.8; 37.1) 36.4 (34.7; 38.1) 508</td>
<td>1230</td>
<td>21.9 (20.0; 23.9) 50.2 (42.4; 57.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1.575</td>
<td>4.902.694</td>
<td>32.1 (30.5; 33.7) 32.7 (31.1; 34.3) 462</td>
<td>1113</td>
<td>19.8 (18.0; 21.6) 45.0 (40.4; 49.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1.625</td>
<td>4.890.648</td>
<td>33.2 (31.6; 34.8) 33.5 (31.9; 35.2) 487</td>
<td>1138</td>
<td>20.7 (18.8; 22.5) 45.8 (43.1; 48.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1.651</td>
<td>4.883.373</td>
<td>33.8 (32.2; 35.4) 33.8 (32.2; 35.4) 461</td>
<td>1190</td>
<td>19.4 (17.6; 21.1) 47.6 (44.9; 50.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1.710</td>
<td>4.880.936</td>
<td>35.0 (33.4; 36.7) 34.8 (33.1; 36.4) 504</td>
<td>1206</td>
<td>20.9 (19.1; 22.7) 48.0 (45.3; 50.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1.596</td>
<td>4.884.590</td>
<td>32.7 (31.1; 34.3) 32.2 (30.6; 33.8) 463</td>
<td>1133</td>
<td>19.0 (17.3; 20.8) 44.8 (42.2; 47.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1.365</td>
<td>4.879.133</td>
<td>30.0 (28.5; 29.5) 27.4 (25.9; 28.9) 406</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>16.5 (14.9; 18.1) 37.8 (35.4; 40.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTT** 12.875 39.128.501 32.9 (32.3; 33.5) 33.1 (32.5; 33.7) 3766 9109 19.9 45.7 (19.2; 44.8; 20.5 46.6)

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NIL.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: Epidemiology, Pain

F. Bailly1,2, A. Pettit1, S. Kab1, V. Foltz2, M. Badard2, B. Fautrel1,3, 1INSERM UMR S 1136, Pierre Louis Institute of Epidemiology and Public Health, Paris,
France; 2 Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Pain Department, Paris, France; 3 CHU Angers, Centre de Consultations de Pathologie Professionnelle, Angers, France; 4 INSERM IMS01, Constances Department, Villejuif, France; 5 Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Rheumatology Department, Paris, France

Background: Few studies include a sufficient number of people to be representative of a general population and to estimate the musculoskeletal pain prevalence.

Objectives: To estimate the prevalence of musculoskeletal and widespread pain in the French population using a large and representative cohort.

Methods: The Constances cohort is composed of volunteers, aged 18 to 69 years at inclusion. Eligible subjects were selected at random by stratified sampling with unequal probabilities, over-representing individuals with a higher probability of not volunteering (according to their age, sex, socioprofessional category) with adjustment coefficients weight participation bias. Individuals diagnosed with a cancer were excluded. Musculoskeletal pain was assessed by the Nordic Questionnaire. Significant pain lasted at least 30 days during the last 12 months. Widespread pain concerned at least 4 of the 6 areas. Chronic moderate to severe pain reached a pain score ≥ 4/10 in the last 7 days. Data from the entire cohort were described and then the French population prevalence was estimated, based on people included in 2017 with adjustment coefficients.

Results: 193,436 people were included in the cohort. The French population prevalence of each pain location and widespread pain were estimated among the 25,472 people included in 2017.

Conclusion: The prevalence of musculoskeletal and widespread pain in the French population is high, particularly for chronic pain of moderate to severe intensity, which underlines the need to improve their detection, prevention and management.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1878

AB1630 RISK FACTORS FOR CARDIAC INVOLVEMENT IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Heart, Myositis

K. Suzuki1, Y. Kondo1, S. Ishigaki1, S. Takanashi1, Y. Kaneko1. 1Keio University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Background: Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IMMs) are heterogeneous systemic autoimmune disorders that mainly affect the skin, muscles, and lungs. Whereas cardiac involvement is considered to be rare, it causes cardiac inflammation and fibrosis leading to severe morbidity and mortality. However, little is known about clinical characteristics and risk factors for cardiac involvement in patients with IMMs.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to clarify the frequency and clinical characteristics of cardiac involvement and its risk factors in patients with IMMs.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed consecutive patients with IMMs who visited Keio University Hospital from 2002 to 2022. We divided patients into two groups according to the presence or absence of symptomatic cardiac involvement and compared their clinical characteristics and autoantibodies between the two groups. We defined symptomatic cardiac involvement as the presence of chest pain, palpitation, cardiogenic leg edema, or respiratory distress accompanied by abnormal findings of cardiac examinations such as electrocardiography, echocardiography, and/or cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Results: We included 145 patients with IMMs in the analysis. The mean age at IMMs diagnosis was 55 years old, and 71.7% were female. Forty patients (27.6%) were polymyositis, 53 (36.6%) were dermatomyositis, 44 (30.3%) were amyopathic dermatomyositis, and 8 (5.5%) were immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy. Among them, 52 patients (35.9%) had abnormal findings on electrocardiography, echocardiography, and/or cardiac MRI, and 17 (11.7%) were diagnosed with symptomatic cardiac involvement at the mean age of 65 years during the mean observation period of 20.0 years. Comparison of clinical characteristics identified no difference in the mean age, sex distribution, and duration from IIM diagnosis to symptomatic cardiac involvement between the two groups. Also, no significant difference was found in the positivity of anti-amyocay/IRNA synthetase antibody, anti-MDA5 antibody, and anti-SS-A antibody, IMMs subtypes, presence of skin rash, malignancy, interstitial lung disease, history of cyclophosphamide use, and maximum levels of CK, aldolase, CK-MB, troponin T, and CRP. However, the presence of Raynaud’s phenomenon and neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio at diagnosis were significantly higher in the cardiac involved group compared to the non-cardiac involved group (53.85% vs 15.24%, p = 0.0009; 56.2% vs 18.25%, p = 0.0006). Multivariable analysis identified Raynaud’s phenomenon (odds ratio [OR] 8.42, 95% confidence interval [CI] 2.10-33.8, p = 0.0026) and elevated neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio (OR 6.92, 95% CI 1.73-27.6, p = 0.0061) as independent risk factors for symptomatic cardiac involvement. One patient in the cardiac involved group died of cardiac failure during the observation period.

Conclusion: Abnormal findings in cardiac examinations and symptomatic cardiac involvement are frequent in patients with IMMs. Evaluating cardiac involvement is important, especially in patients with Raynaud’s phenomenon and elevated neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio at diagnosis.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1969

AB1631 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HYPERURICEMIA AND HEARING IMPAIRMENT: RESULTS FROM THE KOREAN NATIONAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION EXAMINATION SURVEY

Keywords: Gout

H. Jeong1, Y. S. Chang2, E. J. Park2, C. H. Jeon1, 1 Soonchunhyang University Bucheon Hospital, Internal Medicine, Bucheon, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2 Sanggye Paik Hospital, College of Medicine, Inje University, Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3 National Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Hyperuricemia is associated with variety of comorbidities. Researchers suggest that the inflammation and increased oxidative stress produced by uric acid can impact the auditory system.

Objectives: This study investigated the association between hyperuricemia and hearing impairment in Korean adults.

Methods: Audiometric and laboratory test data from the 2019 to 2020 Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES) were used for analysis. Hearing impairment was defined as a pure tone average (0.5, 1, 2, 4 kHz) threshold level of ≥ 41 desibels (dBs). Definition of hyperuricemia was different in males and females (>7 mg/dL in males and >6 mg/dL in females.

Results: A total of 4,857 (weight n = 17,990,725) subjects were analyzed. Mean age was 56.8 years old and female was 51.7%. Weighted prevalence of hyperuricemia was 12.1%. and hearing impairment was 13.4%. In univariable analysis, hyperuricemia was significantly associated with hearing impairment, but diagnosis of gout was not associated with hearing impairment. In multivariable analysis, hyperuricemia (Odds ratios [OR] 1.41, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.03-1.92, p = 0.030) was associated with hearing impairment along with age (OR 1.12, 95% CI 1.10-1.14, p < 0.001), female (OR 0.43, 95% CI 0.34-0.64, p < 0.001), education (OR 0.43, 95% CI 0.30-0.63, p = 0.001), and occupational noise exposure (OR 1.67, 95% CI 1.25-2.22, p = 0.001). In subgroup analysis, hyperuricemia was associated with hearing impairment in female group and elderly group aged 60
We identified 3251 patients with SLE followed at n° 9 referral centers of Florence, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Florence, Italy; Università of Roma Tor Vergata, Rheumatology, Allergology and Clinical Immunology - DiMePRe-J, School of Medicine, Bari, Italy; Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Pisana, Department of Clinical and Regenerative Medicine and Ionian Area - Transplantation - Section of Rheumatology, Bari, Italy; University of Rome Campus Biomedico, Rheumatology and Immunology Unit, Department of Medicine, Rome, Italy; Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli, IRCCS, UOC Reumatologia, Rome, Italy; Università di Roma ‘La Sapienza’, Department of Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology and Cardiovascular Sciences, Rome, Italy; University of Naples Federico II, Department of Translational Medical Sciences, Naples, Italy; University of Campania ‘Luigi Vanvitelli’, Department of Precision Medicine, Naples, Italy; University of Bari, Department of Emergency and Organ Transplantation - Section of Rheumatology, Bari, Italy; University of Bari ‘Aldo Moro’ Department of Precision and Regenerative Medicine and Ionian Area - DimEPre-J, School of Medicine, Bari, Italy; University of Cagliari and AOU Cagliari, Rheumatology Unit, Cagliari, Italy; Academic Hospital ‘Santa Maria della Misericordia’; Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale (ASUFC), Division of Rheumatology, Udine, Italy.

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease mostly affecting the young women during their third-fourth decade of life. SLE is characterized by variable manifestations and, potentially, every organ can be involved. The course and the complexity of the disease, naturally appeal to manage patients with SLE at high qualified national referral centers. [1]

Despite the relevant burden associated with the disease, both from patient and physician point of view, epidemiological data on SLE in Italy are limited to isolated estimates, captured by different data sources [2-5]; however, no larger data on the prevalence of SLE at the referral centers in Italy are available to date.

Objectives: This study aimed at estimating the prevalence of SLE at tertiary referral Italian centers, representative of the Italian scenario.

Methods: We conducted an observational, cross-sectional study on SLE patients followed by referral centers in district, representative of the North, Centre, South and Isles of Italy (Brescia, Padua, Udine, Ferrara, Florence, Pisa, Rome, Bari, Naples, Cagliari). Data from patients of both sexes and any age, and fulfilling the 2019 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, were obtained from hospital medical records. To estimate the prevalence, we reported the number of patients with SLE referring to the considered centers (nominator), over the total population resident in the included Italian districts (denominator), according to the Italian National Statistical Institute (ISTAT), responsible for the Italian general population censuses. For the analysis, we considered only complete data sent by January 13th, 2023. [7]

Results: We identified 3251 patients with SLE followed at n° 9 referral centers included in this study. 1163/3251 patients (89.3%) were female, and 1302/3251 (40%) were residing in the districts of the referral centers. The estimated overall prevalence of SLE was 21.37 cases per 100,000 individuals. As we stratified the results by geographical area (North, Centre, South and Islands) of Italy, the estimated prevalence ranged from 14.7 to 27.1 cases per 100,000 individuals. (Table 1)

(40%) were residing in the districts of the referral centers. The estimated overall prevalence of SLE was 21.37 cases per 100,000 individuals. As we stratified the results by geographical area (North, Centre, South and Islands) of Italy, the estimated prevalence ranged from 14.7 to 27.1 cases per 100,000 individuals. (Table 1)

(1) Conclusion: Our study estimated the prevalence of SLE in multiple representative Italian referral centers. These preliminary results show for the first time the proportion of patients with SLE attending tertiary referral centers in Italy, suggesting a different distribution in diverse geographical areas of the country.

REFERENCES:
[5] Zen, Rheumatology 2022
prevalence in older age groups (prevalence per million in 2020: <18 years: 7.5; 18–39 years: 42.5; 40–64 years: 93.1; and 65–74 years: 181.3). From the MDV database, 1870 patients with EGPA were included in 2020, 59.9% of whom were female, and 5.2% were aged 18–39 years, 36.4% 40–64 years, 30.6% 65–74 years, and 27.4% ≥75 years. Mepolizumab was prescribed for EGPA in <1.0% of patients before 2017 and use increased over time from 2.4% in 2017 to 20.6% in 2020. OCS remained the most prescribed treatment through 2020 (83.4%), with azathioprine used by 17.8% and injectable corticosteroids by 15.3%. Proportion of patients that used zero/low prednisolone-equivalent daily OCS doses increased from 2017 (0 mg: 13.6%; >0–<5 mg: 41.8%) to 2020 (0 mg: 16.6%; >0–<5 mg: 42.1%); while those who used >10 mg decreased from 2017 (11.9%) to 2020 (10.3%; Figure 1). Median OCS daily dose was 4.9–7.7 mg between 2010 and 2016, and 4.5–4.8 mg between 2017 and 2020, with the lowest dose in 2020 (4.5 mg (IQR 1.6–6.8)). Proportion of EGPA patients with comorbidities related to corticosteroids remained relatively consistent over time, except for infectious disease which showed a decrease from 94.4% in 2010 to 70.9% in 2020. Proportion of patients with other comorbidities in 2020 were dyslipidemia (37.6%), hypertension (23.4%), fracture (12.3%), mood disorders (10.1%), and cataract (7.2%). Of 1717 revisiting patients in 2020, 41.6% relapsed, which was 5.0–37.4% lower than in the years 2010–2019. In the subgroup of 24 patients new to mepolizumab from the JMDC database, the 41.6% relapsed, which was 5.0–37.4% lower than in the years 2010–2019. In the 90 days before to 4.3 mg (2.7) in the 4th quarter after mepolizumab initiation.

**Conclusion:** Despite an improvement in EGPA management is warranted.

**Disclosure of Interests:** N/A.

**Acknowledgements:** N/A.

**References:** N/A.

**Funding:** GSK (218083/218084).

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**AB1634**

**RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PARCIAL OR NULL REMISSION OF REMNANT ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH LUPUS NEPHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Remission, Kidneys

A. Martínez Badaño1, J. R. Hernández Vásquez2, M. Ocampo Torres3, A. Ramírez Pérez4, A. Camargo5, F. M. Bravo Rojas6, J. Hernández Rivera7.

1ESM - Escuela Superior de Medicina - IPN, Social Service, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 2XXI Century National Medical Center, Rheumatology service, Ciudad de México, Mexico; 3XXI Century National Medical Center, Nephrological Diseases Medical Research Unit, Ciudad de México, Mexico

**Background:** Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a multisystemic autoimmune chronic disease, the severity of organ involvement depends on factors such as sex, race and age of disease presentation. Lupus nephritis is present in up to 40% of patients with SLE. Failure to achieve complete remission at 6 months is associated with a poor long-term prognosis and implies greater use of immunosuppressants.

**Objectives:** To determine the factors associated with the partial or null remission in patients with lupus nephritis.

**Methods:** A nested case-control study was conducted in a retrospective cohort of patients with lupus. Fifty-five patients with renal involvement were included and divided into two groups, those with partial or no remission in response to remission induction (n=30) and those with complete remission (n=25), multiple factors were analyzed and in the case of quantitative variables they were categorized into 2 groups with specific cut-off points in each case. The type of remission of each patient was taken as a factor to be analyzed and the analysis was completed in a bivariate logistic regression with a significance <0.05.

**Results:** The variables that showed risk of presenting a partial or null response were: not having completed the minimum time of 6 months of the remission induction scheme (Odds Ratio (OR): 9.590; 95% Confidence Interval (95% CI): 2.351–30.19; p=0.019), male sex (OR: 8.727; 95% CI: 1.009-75.51; p=0.049); Start Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) (OR: 8.727; 95% CI: 1.009-75.51; p=0.049); have a Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) ≤60 ml/min/1.73m² (OR: 6.147; 95% CI: 1.577-26.110; p=0.009); Creatinine ≥1.2mg/dL (OR: 6.000; 95% CI: 1.767-20.369; p=0.004); C-Reactive Protein (CRP) ≥5g/dL (OR: 5.470; 95% CI: 1.680-17.811; p=0.005); age ≤30 years (OR: 4.250; 95% CI: 1.370-13.168; p=0.012); proteinuria ≥1.5g/24 hours (OR: 3.560; IC 95%: 1.123-11.285; p=0.31).

**Conclusion:** The factors observed that are associated with a partial or null remission were: not completing the remission induction scheme, male sex, start with RRT, CKD-EPI ≤60 ml/min/1.73m², creatinine ≥1.2mg/dL, CRP ≥5g/dL, age ≤30 years and proteinuria ≥1.5g/24 hours. On the other hand, factors such as a family history of SLE, BMI ≥30kg/m² and hemoglobin ≤10g/dl although they demonstrated an association, the values weren’t statistically significant. These factors make it possible to identify areas of interest when starting remission induction therapy, demonstrating the importance of therapeutic adherence and individualized follow-up for each patient, offering timely intervention in modifiable factors and close monitoring of patients with non-modifiable factors.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Bivariate logistic regression model for the risk of partial or null remission in patients with lupus nephrits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>β</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete scheme</td>
<td>2.261</td>
<td>9.590</td>
<td>2.351</td>
<td>39.119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex male</td>
<td>2.166</td>
<td>8.727</td>
<td>1.009</td>
<td>75.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Renal Replacement Therapy</td>
<td>2.166</td>
<td>8.727</td>
<td>1.009</td>
<td>75.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familial antecedent of SLE</td>
<td>1.988</td>
<td>7.304</td>
<td>0.832</td>
<td>64.098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRD-EPI ≤60ml/min/1.73m²</td>
<td>1.859</td>
<td>6.417</td>
<td>5.177</td>
<td>26.110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine ≥1.2mg/dL</td>
<td>1.792</td>
<td>6.000</td>
<td>1.767</td>
<td>20.369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI ≥30 kg/m²</td>
<td>1.792</td>
<td>6.000</td>
<td>1.671</td>
<td>53.681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP ≥5g/dL</td>
<td>1.699</td>
<td>5.470</td>
<td>1.680</td>
<td>17.811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ≤30 years</td>
<td>1.447</td>
<td>4.250</td>
<td>1.370</td>
<td>13.188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria ≥1.5g/24 hours</td>
<td>1.370</td>
<td>4.250</td>
<td>1.123</td>
<td>11.285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not give Chloroquine</td>
<td>1.153</td>
<td>3.167</td>
<td>0.989</td>
<td>10.141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin ≤10g/dL</td>
<td>0.811</td>
<td>2.250</td>
<td>0.727</td>
<td>6.965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

β: Coefficient of determination; OR: Odds ratio; 95% CI: 95% confidence interval; SLE: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus; CKD-EPI: Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration; BMI: Body Mass Index; PCR: C-Reactive Protein.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4113
Table 1. Comparison between patients positive on the EPDS on at least one occasion or never positive, among arthritis and CTDs groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ARTHRITIS</th>
<th>ARTHRITIS</th>
<th>CTDs</th>
<th>CTDs</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EPDS positive</td>
<td>EPDS negative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>N=12</td>
<td>N=38</td>
<td>N=16</td>
<td>N=63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st trimester</td>
<td>69 (67%)</td>
<td>43 (13%)*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd trimester</td>
<td>51/46*</td>
<td>3/6*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd trimester</td>
<td>412/33%</td>
<td>6/17%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EpHGA (VAS)</td>
<td>76 (50-80)</td>
<td>90 (70-90)</td>
<td>70 (69-90)</td>
<td>80 (70-92)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st trimester</td>
<td>70 (80-85)</td>
<td>81 (80-95)*</td>
<td>90 (68-85)</td>
<td>85 (73-95)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd trimester</td>
<td>70 (80-90)</td>
<td>86 (70-90)</td>
<td>85 (65-95)</td>
<td>85 (79-90)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd trimester</td>
<td>87 (76-90)</td>
<td>91 (70-110)</td>
<td>80 (69-80)</td>
<td>80 (70-90)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGHGA (VAS)</td>
<td>5 (0-50)</td>
<td>2 (0-20)</td>
<td>0 (0-11)</td>
<td>0 (0-10)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st trimester</td>
<td>10 (0-45)</td>
<td>0 (0-20)</td>
<td>3 (0-13)</td>
<td>0 (0-3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd trimester</td>
<td>0 (0-10)</td>
<td>0 (0-14)</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
<td>0 (0-7)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd trimester</td>
<td>0 (0-8)</td>
<td>0 (0-2)</td>
<td>0 (0-7)</td>
<td>0 (0-6)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding</td>
<td>9 (75%)</td>
<td>28 (74%)</td>
<td>9 (56%)</td>
<td>45/62 (73%)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fisher exact test or chi-squared test, p<0.05

Conclusion: More than 1 out of 5 women with RD had substantial level of depressive symptomatology on at least one occasion in the 12 months after delivery on the EPDS. Self-reported symptoms of anxiety and depression should be evaluated during pregnancy and patients could be offered a psychological interview. Our study underlines the need for a closer monitoring of mental health of pregnant women with RD and the opportunity for further studies to identify risk factors and screening procedures.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4797
Objectives: We performed a retrospective study of all patients followed for primary Sjögren’s (pSS) in internal medicine and rheumatology at the University hospital of Martinique, only hospital on the island, between 2014 and 2016 included according to international criteria (AECG 2002, ACR/EULAR 2016).

Results: Among 112 patients diagnosed with pSS, 75 and 84 patients were declared, José Luis Martín-Varillas: None declared, David Martínez-López: None declared, Iñigo Gonzalez-Mazon: None declared, Lara Sanchez-Bilbao: None declared, Raúl Fernández-Ramón: None declared, Jorge Javier Gaitán-Valdizán: None declared, Fabricio Benavides-Villanueva: None declared, Galapagos and MSD, Consultant of: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche, lilly, Consultant of: Abbvie, Martinique, nowhere else.

Background: Influence of geolocation and ethnicity on pSS prevalence and phenotype has been reported [1] and black pSS appear to have higher risk of unfavorable outcome[2]. In Europe, pSS prevalence ranges from 10.2 to 28.6/100,000 inhabitants[3]. Data on primary Sjögren’s disease (pSS) in populations of sub-Saharan origin are very limited and concerns mostly Europeans and Asians. Both in Africa and the African diaspora (AAD)[4,5], patients face significant healthcare limitations because of socio-economic disadvantage. In Martinique, a French island of the Caribbean where more than 90% of the population is of sub-Saharan African descent, access to healthcare is easy and free for every citizen. pSS are treated in the Reference Center for rare systemic autoimmune diseases of the island. No other primary care facility treats pSS.

Methods: We aim to describe pSS in an Afro-descendant population in healthcare care accessible comparable to Europeans.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5572

AB1637

DO AFRO-DESCENDANT PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGREN SYNDROME SHARE CLINICAL AND BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS? EXAMPLE FROM MARTINIQUE

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Epidemiology, Geographical differences

L. S. Fabienne1, B. Suzon2, F. Moine2, K. Polomat2, M. De Bandt1, G. Jean-Baptiste1, M. Drarmé3, S. Arfit4, C. Deligny5, 1Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Martinique, Public Health, Fort de France, Martinique; 2Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Martinique, Internal Medicine, Fort de France, Martinique; 3Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Martinique, Public Health, Fort de France, Martinique

Background: Influence of geolocation and ethnicity on pSS prevalence and phenotype has been reported [1] and black pSS appear to have higher risk of unfavorable outcome[2]. In Europe, pSS prevalence ranges from 10.2 to 28.6/100,000 inhabitants[3]. Data on primary Sjögren’s disease (pSS) in populations of sub-Saharan origin are very limited and concerns mostly Europeans and Asians. Both in Africa and the African diaspora (AAD)[4,5], patients face significant healthcare limitations because of socio-economic disadvantage. In Martinique, a French island of the Caribbean where more than 90% of the population is of sub-Saharan African descent, access to healthcare is easy and free for every citizen. pSS are treated in the Reference Center for rare systemic autoimmune diseases of the island. No other primary care facility treats pSS.

Methods: We aim to describe pSS in an Afro-descendant population in healthcare care accessible comparable to Europeans.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5797

AB1638

RISK FACTORS FOR DEVELOPING RHEUMATIC IMMUNE-RELATED ADVERSE EVENTS AFTER IMMUNOTHERAPY WITH IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

Keywords: Malignancy

M. Liao1, K. Chazidzionyisio1, 1Karolinska Institute, Rheumatology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: Immunotherapy with monoclonal antibodies that block specific immunological check-points has revolutionized the treatment of some forms of cancer, such as melanoma. A new group of adverse events has emerged with these new agents, called the immune-related adverse events (irAEs). Among these irAEs, rheumatic complications are relatively common, although the true frequency is still unclear. Objectives: We aimed to assess the frequency of ir-AEs and rheumatic ir-AEs in particular, as well as identifying potential risk factors for ir-AEs in a cohort of patients with malignant melanoma receiving immunotherapy with immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI).

Methods: Retrospective analysis of a cohort of patients diagnosed with malignant melanoma and starting treatment with a first-ever ICI at Karolinska University Hospital between 2012 and 2020. The type of ir-AEs, glucocorticoid therapy at immunotherapy start, demographics and type of ICI were collected from patient’s journals.

Results: A total of 118 patients were included in the cohort, 75 male (63.6%) and 43 females (36.4%). The type of ICI was nivolumab in 54.2% of patients, ipilimumab in 13.6%, pembrolizumab in 22.9% and combination therapy with nivolumab and pembrolizumab in 7.6%, ipilimumab and pembrolizumab in 0.8% and at diagnostic and high frequency of hypergammaglobulinemia correlated with increased ESR. Considering this AECG 2002 hospital-based cohort and the retrospective aspect of the study, a minimum prevalence of pSS was calculated at 16.87/100 000 inhabitants in 2016.

Conclusion: Our data, shared by other AAD cohorts[4,5], suggest that AD pSS have specific manifestations around the world as AAD Systemic Lupus erythematosus do. A higher prevalence is reported compared to that of 21/100 000 inhabitants of France European pSS cohort[3].

References:


Table 1. Characteristics of study population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AECG 2002</th>
<th>ACR EULAR 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (Mean (SD) Years)</td>
<td>49.8 (12.5)</td>
<td>50.2 (12.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female – N (%)</td>
<td>74 (98.7)</td>
<td>81 (96.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean follow up duration – mean (SD)</td>
<td>9.3 (7.7)</td>
<td>9.3 (8.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification criteria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjective xerostomia – N (%)</td>
<td>70 (93.3)</td>
<td>70 (83.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjective xerophthalmia – N (%)</td>
<td>72 (96.0)</td>
<td>81 (96.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Schirmer test – N (%)</td>
<td>53 (80.3)</td>
<td>57 (79.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocytic salivadentis (focus score1) – N (%)</td>
<td>71 (95.9)</td>
<td>79 (96.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive SSSA/Ro– N (%)</td>
<td>56 (74.7)</td>
<td>59 (70.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive SSBLa– N (%)</td>
<td>9 (12.0)</td>
<td>9 (10.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Antinuclear antibodies (Título1/320) – N (%)</td>
<td>66 (89.2)</td>
<td>73 (88.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive RNP antibodies – N (%)</td>
<td>9 (12.0)</td>
<td>10 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased ESR – N (%)</td>
<td>36 (53.7)</td>
<td>42 (56.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypergammaglobulinemia – N (%)</td>
<td>50 (76.9)</td>
<td>57 (77.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALT/Lymphoma – N (%)</td>
<td>2 (2.7)</td>
<td>2 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5797
nivolumab and pembrolizumab in 0.9%. Any irAE developed 72/118 patients (61%), while rheumatic irAEs were seen in 24 patients (20.3%) with the following clinical phenotypes: arthralgia/myalgia in 8 patients (37.5%), PMR like syndrome in 3 patients (12.5%), arthritis in 6 patients (25%), sicca syndrome in 4 patients (16%), sarcoidosis in 1 patient (4.2%) and myositis in 1 patient (4.1%). There was no significant association between the type of ICIs or combination therapy in total with the development av irAEs (OR = 0.79, 95% CI = 0.45 – 1.37, p=0.30). Neither the gender (OR 1.12, 95% CI = 0.52-2.40, p=0.76) nor the glucocorticoid use at the ICI start were associated with the development av irAEs [OR=2.0, 95% CI=1.03-3.92, p=0.04]. No significant associations were observed between demographic factors (age, gender), type of ICI, glucocorticoid use at the start of ICI and rheumatic irAEs.

Conclusion: IrAEs are common and occur in more than half of patients treated with ICI. Rheumatic irAEs are also common and in this study were seen in one fifth of patients. Gender, age, type of ICI and treatment with glucocorticoids at base line were not associated with increased (or decreased) risk for irAEs in general, or rheumatic irAEs in particular, in this cohort of patients with melanoma, with the risk of type II error due to limited power.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Matina Liapi: None declared, Katerina Chatzidionysiou

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6181

AB1639
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HYPERURICEMIA AND BONE MINERAL DENSITY WITH 8-YEAR FOLLOW-UP AMONG CHINESE ADULTS

Keywords: Osteoporosis, Epidemiology, Gout

J. Zeng1, H. Liu1, L. MA1. Guangdong Second Provincial General Hospital, Department of Ultrasound, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

Background: Hyperuricemia (HUA) have been associated with bone mineral density (BMD) in recent studies, especially for elderly men and peri- or postmenopausal women[13]. However, this association is still unknown for the long-term follow-up observation.

Objectives: This study investigated the relationship between hyperuricemia and bone mineral density at 8-year follow-up among Chinese adults.

Methods: The cohort study was collected at Guangdong Second Provincial General Hospital in Guangzhou City, China between January 2010 and December 2018. Physical examinations and laboratory measurement variables were obtained from the medical check-up system. The physical examination population was followed up annually for 8 years. Multivariate Cox proportion models was used to explore the relationship between the hyperuricemia and bone mineral density.

Results: In total, 9017 individuals were included (2820 HUA participants (39.6% female) at baseline with an average age of 44.85 years (SD: 12.35) and average BMD of -0.83 (SD:1.24). The BMD decreased annually at the 8-year follow-up (from -0.82 to -0.93). Compared with normal participants, the Cox regression analysis showed that hyperuricemia was significantly associated with lower BMD (T=-2.5) (hazard ratio (HR)=1.169, 95%CI: 1.059–1.290, P <0.05), the male (HR=2.545,95%CI: 2.389–2.710, P <0.05) and the elderly (age≥65) (HR=1.121,95%CI: 1.012–1.241, P <0.05) at follow-up.

Conclusion: Our study observed participants with hyperuricemia had significantly lower BMD, especially for males and the elderly participants. More high-quality research is needed to further support these findings.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The study was supported by the Science Foundation of Guangdong Second Provincial General Hospital (YQ2019-008).

AB1640
PREVALENCE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS OF ATLANTOAXIAL SUBLUXATION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A SINGLE-CENTER RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Imaging

Y. J. Song1, 2, S. Y. Kim3, C. Lim3, H. W. Kim3, E. Nam3, S. K. Cho1, 2, Y. K. Sung1, 2, 3. Hanyang University Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Department of Rheumatology, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Hanyang University Institute for Rheumatology Research, Center for Clinical Research, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 3Hanyang University, College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Atlantoaxial subluxation (AAS) is a serious complication of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) that can cause severe neck pain and neurological injury.

Objectives: This study aimed to identify prevalence and associated factors of AAS in Korean RA patients.

Methods: Data of RA patients who visited an academic referral hospital in Korea between September 2007 and August 2020 were extracted. Patients who were <19 years old, had another autoimmune disease, and did not check cervical spine (C-spine) radiography were excluded. The date of the first C-spine radiography was set as the index date, and AAS was defined with anterior atlantoaxial interval (AADI) greater than 3mm. We performed multivariable logistic regression analysis to identify associated factors for AAS. The proportion of patients with AAS progression or those who received surgical treatment for AAS during observation period was investigated.

Results: There were 1,855 patients with diagnostic code of RA, and 1,115 patients with RA who checked C-spine radiography at least once were included. Among them, 156 patients had AAS at the index date with a prevalence of 14.0%, and the mean AADI in patients with AAS was 4.9±1.7 mm. In multivariable logistic regression analysis, longer duration of RA, lower body mass index (BMI), C-spine spondylosis, erosive changes on hand X-ray and higher C-reactive protein were significant associated factor for AAS. Among 156 patients with AAS, 106 patients performed C-spine radiography follow-up (mean interval 5.5±3.7 years). There were 16 patients (15.1%) with progression of AAS or surgical treatment: 12 patients who received surgery for AAS and four patients with AAS progression without surgical treatment.

Conclusion: In this study, 14.0% of patients with RA had AAS. Duration of RA, BMI, C-spine spondylosis, bone erosion at hands and RA activity were factors...
associated with AAS. 15.1% of RA-AAS patients showed progression of AAS or received surgical treatment during 5.5 years of observation.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Yeo-Jin Song: None declared, Sang Yoon Kim: None declared, Chaewhi Lim: None declared, Hye Won Kim: None declared, Euwon Nam: None declared, Soo-Kyung Cho: None declared, Yoon-Kyung Song Grant/research support from: YKS has received research grants from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eisai, Pfizer, and JW Pharmaceutical.

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AB1641

TOBACCO SMOKING HAS A PREVENTIVE EFFECT ON THE INCIDENCE OF KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS: 10-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY BASED ON KOREA NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICE-HEALTH SCREENING DATABASE

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Epidemiology

J. Park1, M. Son2, S. Y. Lee1, W. T. Chung1, S. W. Lee1. 1Dong-A University Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Busan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea); 2Dong-A University, Department of physiology, Busan, Korea, Rep. of (South Korea)

Background: Previous cross-sectional studies reported that smoking lowers the incidence of knee osteoarthritis, however, some studies show no correlation between smoking and knee osteoarthritis. Thus, the relationship between the two has not been clarified [1,2]. To address this issue, we designed a retrospective cohort study to investigate the association between smoking and knee osteoarthritis, using a large-scale claim database from Korea. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first retrospective cohort study on smoking and knee osteoarthritis in Korea.

Objectives: We intended to investigate whether there was a difference in the incidence of knee osteoarthritis between patients with a history of current smoking, past smoking and those without a history of smoking.

Methods: The Korea National Health Insurance Service-Health Screening database is registered with 98% of Koreans and includes all insurance claims. From this database, a retrospective cohort observational study was conducted on 316,387 adults who had undergone the national health examination. Patients diagnosed with knee osteoarthritis prior to the examination and patients who were diagnosed with knee osteoarthritis in 2002 were excluded. The primary endpoint of this study was a diagnosis of knee osteoarthritis. The operational definition of diagnosis of knee osteoarthritis was knee osteoarthritis code (M17) or any site of osteoarthritis code (M15 to M19) along with a knee x-ray (G720, G721) [3]. The study population was followed from the day of health screening at index year to the date of incidence of knee osteoarthritis, the date of death, or December 31, 2019, whichever comes first.

Results: The patient group was classified into non-smoker, ex-smoker, and smoker groups according to the responses to the health examination questions. Smoking history and non-smoker, ex-smoker, and smoker group with statistical significance (P-value < 0.001). When the disease-free probability for knee osteoarthritis was presented using the Kaplan-Meier curve, it was confirmed that the risk of osteoarthritis incidence was significantly different between the non-smoker group and the smoker group (P-value < 0.001). When the disease-free probability for knee osteoarthritis was presented using the Kaplan-Meier curve, it was confirmed that the risk of osteoarthritis incidence was significantly different between the non-smoker group and the smoker group (P-value < 0.001).

Conclusion: This large-scale retrospective cohort study showed a low incidence of knee osteoarthritis in smokers and ex-smokers during a follow-up period when compared to non-smokers in Korea. Additional studies on the relationship between smoking and knee osteoarthritis are required in the future.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of study population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-smoker group (n = 167,116)</th>
<th>Ex-smoker group (n = 65,290)</th>
<th>Smoker group (n = 63,981)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>58.8 ± 9.0</td>
<td>58.2 ± 8.5</td>
<td>56.5 ± 7.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health screening</td>
<td>Smoking history (pack-years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underlying disease</td>
<td>Hypertension (%)</td>
<td>60.84 (32.5)</td>
<td>20.46 (31.3)</td>
<td>17.48 (27.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes (%)</td>
<td>21.15 (11.3)</td>
<td>9.170 (14.0)</td>
<td>9.353 (14.6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dystypidemia (%)</td>
<td>42.022 (22.4)</td>
<td>11.838 (18.1)</td>
<td>11.247 (17.6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Knee osteoarthritis (%)</td>
<td>72.778 (38.9)</td>
<td>16.963 (26.0)</td>
<td>14.715 (23.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES:


Figure 1. The K-M curve between smoking and knee osteoarthritis.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. 

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AB1642

A NATIONWIDE POPULATION-BASED STUDY OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, RISK FACTORS FOR CYTOMEGALOVIRUS DISEASE IN AUTOIMMUNE INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Comorbidities, Epidemiology

T. H. Li1,2,3, Y. S. Chang4, C. F. Su2, C. C. Lai2, C. C. Chuang1, C. Y. Tsai2, T. Shin Kong Wu Ho-Su Memorial Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 2National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; 3Fu Jen Catholic University, School of Medicine, New Taipei City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 4Shin Kong Wu Ho-Su Memorial Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, New Taipei City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 5Shuang Ho Hospital, Taipei Medical University, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, New Taipei City, Taiwan, Republic of China; 6Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

Background: Human cytomegalovirus (CMV) ubiquitously distributes in general population but may cause overwhelming complications in patients with autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases (AIIRDs), hence, the prevalence and associated factors of CMV disease in AIIRDs is worth investigating but the data has been limited.

Objectives: To investigate the epidemiologic data and risk factors of CMV infection in patients with AIIRDs.

Methods: The nationwide population-based cohort study was conducted by using Taiwanese National Health Insurance Database, to compare incidence rates (IR) and incidence rate ratios (IRR) of CMV disease patients with AIIRDs and non-AIIRDs age- and sex-matched cohort; CMV disease was defined as pertinent ICD codes with concurrent anti-CMV medication administration. The individual data in various AIIRDs were analyzed and risk factors were identified by Cox proportional regression.

Results: 94,429 patients with AIIRDs and 1:1 number of matched subjects were identified; higher incidence rate of CMV disease in AIIRDs group was noted than the matched cohort. Various comorbidities and therapeutic agents including azathioprine, cyclosporin, cyclophosphamide, mycophenolate, intravenous steroid and oral daily dose > 75mg prednisolone or equivalent, were associated with CMV disease incidence. Comparing with RA, SLE and DM/PM posed increased risks on CMV disease. Patients with AIIRDs carry higher risk of CMV disease regardless of etiologies, and attentiveness to one’s health is indispensable to facilitate early detection of CMV disease in patients with AIIRDs.

REFERENCES:

Background: Sarcopenia refers to a decrease in skeletal muscle mass and function. It is associated with daily life disability and a high risk of all-cause mortality. While sarcopenia is generally an age-related disease, it has recently been recognized to be prevalent in young patients with rheumatic musculoskeletal diseases (RMD). Especially, most patients with RMD with systemic organ manifestations are hospitalized to be treated with high-dose glucocorticoid (GC) leading to extremely low physical activity and prolonged bed rest for a long term. However, little is known about sarcopenia in patients with RMD who are administered high-dose GC in hospital.

Objectives: To clarify the incidence of sarcopenia and its risk factors in patients with RMD treated with high-dose GC therapy in more than one-month hospitalization.

Methods: We reviewed patients with RMD who had been hospitalized in Keio University Hospital from 2020 to 2021 and included those with skeletal muscle indices (SMI) before and one-month after high-dose GC treatment available in the analysis. We divided them into two groups according to progression of sarcopenia. Sarcopenia was defined as less than 5.4 kg/m² of SMI for woman and less than 7.0 kg/m² of SMI for man according to definition of Asian Working Group for Sarcopenia. Progression of sarcopenia was defined as more than 10% decrease in SMI from baselines. We compared clinical characteristics between the two groups and conducted multivariable analysis to identify independent risk factors associated with progression of sarcopenia.

Results: Forty-nine patients were enrolled. The mean age was 53.3 years old, and 36 patients (73.5%) were female. The most frequent disease was systemic lupus erythematosus (42.9%) followed by systemic vasculitis (18.4%) and idiopathic inflammatory myositis (14.3%). At hospital admission, 41 patients (83.7%) already met the definition of sarcopenia before high-dose GC treatment. After one-month hospitalization with high-dose GC treatment, two patients newly developed sarcopenia, and 28 (57.1%) patients were diagnosed with progression of sarcopenia. Patients in the sarcopenia progression group were male dominant (60.7 vs 90.4%, p=0.025), had a higher body weight (56.9 ± 12.9 vs 50.5 ± 7.5 kg, p=0.048), and showed higher SMI (5.5 ± 0.8 vs 5.1 ± 0.8 kg/m², p=0.008) than those in the non-sarcopenia progression group. Age (52.8 vs 55.8 years, p=0.755), underlying diseases, and starting dose of GC (0.98 ± 0.16 vs 0.96 ± 0.19 mg/kg/day, p=0.35) were not different between the two groups. During the mean observation period of 41.2 ± 10.4 days of hospitalization, the incidence of infection was higher in the sarcopenia progression group than the non-sarcopenia progression group (28.5 vs 5.7%, p=0.042). Multivariable regression analysis revealed body weight reduction from 0 to week 1 was associated with progression of sarcopenia (odds ratio 0.22, 95% confidence interval 0.04-0.61, p=0.007) (Figure 1). Receiver operating characteristic curve identified the reduction in body weight of -1.8 kg in one week predicted sarcopenia progression after one month in-hospital high-dose GC treatment.

Conclusion: Sarcopenia is frequent in patients with RMD, and one-month hospitalization with high-dose GC therapy worsened sarcopenia in more than half of patients. Early decrease in body weight can predict significant muscle volume loss after one month in-hospital therapy.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Change in body weight after high-dose GC treatment.
AB1645

CONTRACEPTION IN WOMEN WITH IMMUNE-MEDIATED INFLAMMATORY DISEASE

Keywords: Education, Patient information and education

S. Rodriguez-Murguia1, S. Castro Oreiro1, M. J. Poveda1, N. Del Castillo1, M. Menacho2, G. Valldosera2, M. Just3, N. Mohino3, R. Fontova1,1Hospital Universitari de Tarragona Joan XXIII, Rheumatology, Tarragona, Spain; 2Hospital Universitari de Tarragona Joan XXIII, Gastroenterology, Tarragona, Spain; 3Hospital Universitari de Tarragona Joan XXIII, Dermatology, Tarragona, Spain

Background: Given that teratogenic medications prescribed to women with immune-mediated inflammatory disease (IMID) may cause significant fetal harm, the use of effective contraception is crucial in reproductive-age women receiving potentially teratogenic medications.

Objectives: To determine: Relationship between potentially teratogenic drugs and the efficacy of contraception methods. The prevalence of contraceptive methods in women of reproductive age with IMID.

Methods: Cross-sectional study (May 2021 - May 2022). All women of reproductive age with an IMID (rheumatology, dermatology and gastroenterology external consultation) were invited to participate. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, anklyosing spondylitis, psoriasis, Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis were included. Patients with hysterectomy, primary or secondary amenorrhea were excluded. A self-administered questionnaire including questions on the use of contraceptive methods was administered. Medications prescribed for IMID were identified and assigned a pregnancy risk category (according FDA: Class A - B (safe to use during pregnancy), C (have not been adequately studied to assign a pregnancy classification) and D-X (potentially teratogenic, their use is relatively/ absolutely contraindicated during pregnancy). For women who were prescribed multiple drugs, we assigned their FDA risk category based on their drug with the highest potential teratogenicity. Contraceptive methods were also classified according to their relative effectiveness (based on World Health Organization (WHO)) (Table 1). When women had more than one contraceptive method we classified according to their most effective method. Our analysis categorizes drugs as either A/B/C or D/X, (“low risk” vs “high risk”). To determine the relationship between the potential teratogenic drug and the effectiveness of contraceptive method we used Chi-square tests.

Results: A total of 59 women participated (Table 2), mean age 41.2 (SD ± 6.8) years. Contraceptive use was referred by 41 (69.5%) of the patients (Table 1): 56.1% (23 patients) used a method classified as moderately effective, 31.7% (13) as highly effective and 9.8% (4) as ineffective. Of women with teratogenic drugs: 37.5% (15 patients) did not use a contraception method or it was considered as ineffective. The relationship between potentially teratogenic drugs and effectiveness of contraceptive methods has a P value of 0.668 (Table 3).

Conclusion: The prevalence of contraception methods in reproductive-age women with IMID is about 70%. In women who used a contraceptive method, contraception considered to be ineffective was the least frequent. We found no relationship between the risk of teratogenicity in drugs prescribed for IMID and the effectiveness of contraceptive method.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Frequency of contraceptive use (N 41)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
<th>OMS classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Condoms</td>
<td>15 (36.6)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral contraceptive</td>
<td>7 (17.1)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical sterilization</td>
<td>6 (14.6)</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intrauterine device</td>
<td>4 (9.8)</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colitis interruptus</td>
<td>3 (7.3)</td>
<td>Ineffective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasectomy</td>
<td>2 (4.9)</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaginal rings</td>
<td>2 (4.9)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency contraception</td>
<td>1 (2.4)</td>
<td>Ineffective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdermic implants</td>
<td>1 (2.4)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Diagnosis frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid arthritis</td>
<td>20 (34.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crohn’s disease</td>
<td>12 (20.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriasis</td>
<td>11 (18.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankylosing spondylitis</td>
<td>8 (13.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psoriatic arthritis</td>
<td>7 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcerative colitis</td>
<td>1 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Relationship between potentially teratogenic drugs and effectiveness of contraceptive methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>High effectiveness of contraception</th>
<th>Moderate effectiveness of contraception</th>
<th>Ineffective or not use of contraception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High risk of teratogenic (N 40)</td>
<td>10 (25%)</td>
<td>15 (37.5%)</td>
<td>15 (37.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low risk of teratogenic (N 19)</td>
<td>3 (15.8%)</td>
<td>9 (47.4%)</td>
<td>7 (36.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2481
Methods: Patients with PMR referred for BMD (Bone Mineral Density) estimation in a district hospital in the northwest of England between 2004 and 2011 were examined. Patients' demographics were recorded and Bone mineral density (BMD) were measured in both hips as well as the lumbar spine. Fract(TM) Risk factors (RFs) for osteoporosis were also ascertained at the time of DEXA. Initially RFs were compared between men and women using a students' T test for continuous variables and chi squared test for categorical variables. A logistic model was then fitted to compare RFs for fracture between men and women. Lastly a stepwise multivariate model was fitted using STATA (tm) version 12.

Results: 1051 patients with PMR were referred in the reported period, mean age was 81.74 years (SD 9.58), 764 (84.7%) were females. Fractures were sustained in 26.3 % overall and there was a significant difference in males and females. Females were 2.58 times higher odds to sustain a fracture (CI 1.79 - 3.70). Using univariate logistic regression, the RFs for fracture in men were reduced lumbar spine BMD (OR,794, CI.657 to.959) and a reduced left femur total BMD (OR,74, CI.615 - .810). In women the RFs were increasing age (OR 1.04, CI 1.020 to 1.055), reduced lumbar spine BMD (OR,841, CI.764 - .926), reduced right femur total BMD (OR,738, CI.644 - .845), reduced left femur total BMD (OR,706, CI.615 - .810) and current steroid therapy (OR,573, CI.369 - .889). In the multivariate model the RFs in men were a diagnosis of coeliac disease (OR 1.738, CI 1.746 - 1.703), and a reduced left femur total BMD (783, CI.588 - 1.042). In women the RFs were increased age at scan (OR 1.025, CI 1.004 - 1.047), history of fracture (OR 1.891, CI 1.104 - 3.238), reduced left femur total BMD (.720, CI.611 - .849) and reduced BMI (OR 1.035, CI 1.002 - 1.068). Characteristics are shown in Table 1 below.

Conclusion: Men and women with PMMR differ in their bone health, firstly in their demographics and secondly in their fracture risk with men who malabsorb having the highest fracture risk. This is the first intimation that fracture risk could possibly be related to infectious environmental factors.

References:
[1] NICE CKS. CKS is only available in the UK [Internet]. NICE. 2021. Available from: https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/polymyalgia-rheumatica/

Table 1. Main clinical features of neurobehçet's disease in different geographical areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>cases</th>
<th>Male n (%)</th>
<th>Age at onset years mean ± SD</th>
<th>HLABS1+ n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ichiguchi et al., 2010</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33 (61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Bolek et al., 2020</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>225 (53.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akman-Demir et al., 1999</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houman et al., 2013</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Araj et al., 2003</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>105 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riera-Maestra et al., 2010</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talarico et al., 2012</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>72 (615)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domingos et al., 2015</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>45 (32.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sbal A et al., 2003</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present study, 2022</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>58 (60.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: BD: Behcet's disease, NBD: Neurobehçet's disease, ND: Non data

Figure 1. Incidence of neurobehçet's disease in residents in Northern Spain, in 1999-2019 according to gender.

Disclosure of interests: None declared.

References:
Background: Digital technologies are commonly used by most patients, and the concept of e-health emerged some years ago. These tools, which include specific patient education programs, have been utilized in everyday practice. As axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) is a chronic disease, such digital tools could be useful. The aim of the study was to assess digital technologies use in an AxSpA population.

Objectives: The primary objective was to describe the use of digital technologies in patients with AxSpA treated bDMARDs. A secondary objective was to identify the factors associated with digital technology use.

Methods: We conducted a prospective, cross-sectional, observational study in 5 departments of rheumatology at French university hospitals. Patients were recruited from June 2021 to June 2022. Data were collected using questionnaires filled by the patient during follow-up. Medical information was collected by rheumatologists.

Results: 500 patients were included (age 49.5 ± 13.8 years, 47% women, 51% with radiograph sacro-iliitis, 71% with HLA-B27). Mean disease activity evaluated by BASDAI was 3.5 (SD ± 2.1), 429 (86%) received TNF inhibitor. 202 patients used digital technologies for their health (40%), 59 (30%) used a medical application for other chronic disease, and 54 (10.8%) had a specific application for spondyloarthritis (or rheumatic inflammatory disease). 39% used cellphone or sport-application for physical activity. Among users of digital technologies for AxSpA, most patients searched for information concerning their disease (65%) or treatment (54%). In multivariate analysis, the use of spondyloarthritic digital technologies was associated with BASDAI > 3.5 (OR: 2.06 [1.2-3.47], p<0.01), higher disease activity evaluated by BASDAI (OR: 1.12 [1.01-1.24], p<0.01), and being member of patient association (OR: 2.19 [1.17-4.15], p<0.01). The use of digital technologies for AxSpA was associated with being member of patient association (OR: 2.26 [1.32-3.83], p<0.01) and being member of patient association (OR: 2.18 [1.13-4.24], p<0.01). The use of digital technologies for AxSpA was associated with being member of patient association (OR: 2.18 [1.13-4.24], p<0.01) and being member of patient association (OR: 2.18 [1.13-4.24], p<0.01). The use of digital technologies for AxSpA was associated with being member of patient association (OR: 2.18 [1.13-4.24], p<0.01) and being member of patient association (OR: 2.18 [1.13-4.24], p<0.01).

Conclusion: To date, a significant proportion of patients use digital technologies for their AxSpA, but few a specific application for their rheumatism. The use of medical application is strongly associated with patient education program. Reliability and validated tools should be promoted by rheumatologists.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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Disclosure of Interests: DESPRES Jerome: None declared, Thomas Barnetche: Paid instructor for: Biogen, AMORY Charlotte: None declared, Jessica BERNARD: None declared, Maxime Vandermatten: None declared, Cédric Lukas Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche-Chugui, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche-Chugui, UCB, Grant/research support from: Pfizer, Novartis and Roche-Chugui, Anne Tournadre Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche-Chugui, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Fresenius, Lilly, Novartis, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Fresenius, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Pascale Vergne-Salle Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Fresenius, Grüntenhal, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche Chugui, Sanofi, Novartis, Mylan, UCB, Lilly, Consultant of: Janssen, Abbvie, UCB, Justine LANDRIN: None declared, Adeline Ruyssen-Witrand Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Fresenius-Kabi, Galapagos, Janssen, Lilly, MSD, Mylan, Nordic-Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche Chugui, Sanofi, and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Mylan, Novartis, Pfizer Inc, Sanofi Genzyme, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Mylan, Pfizer Inc. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4931

AB1649 2009 AND 2019-REVISED IWOS CRITERIA FOR OCULAR SARCOIDOSIS. A STUDY IN A SERIES OF 384 PATIENTS FROM A SINGLE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

Keywords: Uveitis

C. Lasa1, J. Gaitán Valdizán1, L. Sanchez-Bilbao1, L. J. Martin-Varillas1, D. Martinez-López2, I. Gonzalez-Mazon3, R. Fernandez Ramon3, R. Demetrio-Pablo4, R. Blanco1, Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; 2Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Ophthalmology, Santander, Spain

Background: Sarcoidosis is a systemic inflammatory disorder which involves many organs, including eyes. International Workshop on Ocular Sarcoidosis (IWOS) criteria for diagnosis of ocular sarcoidosis (OS) were first published in 2009 and revised in 2019 (question-based survey and panel discussion) [1-2]. IWOS criteria is a remarkable tool to relate uveitis to sarcoidosis, especially when uveitis is the first manifestation in the systemic disease. Due to the consequences of OS, identify and initiate appropriate therapy is essential.

Objectives: To compare the results of IWOS criteria applied in the same population.

Methods: We studied a large cohort (n=384) of all consecutive patients diagnosed with sarcoidosis from January 1, 1999, to December 31, 2019. Finally, 344 patients were included according to the ATS/ERS/WASOG criteria [3]. First (2009) and revised (2019) IWOS criteria were applied to patients diagnosed with Sarcoidosis and ocular symptoms and the results were compared in both groups for our population. Concordance between 2009 and 2019 IWOS criteria was evaluated by calculating Cohen’s kappa coefficient.

Results: 65 (51% men) of 344 patients had ocular involvement (18.9%), mean age 56.7±16.3 years. As for nationality, 92.3% were Spaniard and 7.7% were South American. A positive biopsy for sarcoidosis was obtained in 75.4% (n=49) and a negative biopsy in 6.2% (n=4). There was no statistically significant difference between diagnostic groups for IWOS 2009/IWOS 2019 in age (p=0.738,p=0.495), sex (p=0.534,p=0.459) or nationality (p=0.529,p=0.393). When applied 2009 IWOS criteria, 60% (39 patients) met any of the diagnostic categories (43.1% Definitive, 13.8% Presumed, 15.0% Probable, 5% Possible). When 2019 IWOS criteria was applied, 53.8% (35 patients) met any of the new diagnostic categories (43.1% Definitive, 13.7% Presumed, 3.1% Probable). Sensitivity for IWOS 2009 was 0.6 and for IWOS 2019 was 0.53. There was a statistically significant concordance between 2009 and 2019 IWOS criteria (p=0.000001) with a strong consistency level (kappa = 0.824). When analyzing IWOS categories separately, we found total concordance in the Definitive category. Probable and Possible categories in 2009 criteria have been merged in only probable in 2019 criteria and there is a total concordance when comparing both. Presumed category represent the bigger change in the revised criteria. We found statistically significant concordance (p=0.000008) with a moderate consistency level (kappa = 0.524).

Conclusion: The revised 2019 IWOS criteria is less sensitive in our population; however, the main difference is in the category Presumed: the requirement of at least 2 intracocular signs of uveitis led to a change of 9 patients (13.8%) in 2009 IWOS down to 5 (7.7%) in 2019. In our population IWOS criteria is still has a low sensitivity.


Figure 1. Results of 2009 and 2019 IWOS criteria on a defined population.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

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Epidemiology, risk factors for disease or disease progression

**Keywords:** bDMARD, Geographical differences

C. Lasa¹, J. S. Osorio Chavez², D. Martínez-López³, C. Álvarez-Reguera⁴, V. Portilla¹, J. M. Cifrián-Martínez², I. Ferraz-Amaro³, R. Blanco¹. ¹Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; ²Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Pneumology, Santander, Spain; ³San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Rheumatology, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Spain

**Background:** Patients with rheumatic immune-mediated diseases (R-IMID) with latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) requiring biologic therapy (BT) are at an increased risk of active tuberculosis (TB). The prevalence of LTBI in patients with R-IMID varies depending on geographical location. An accurate diagnosis and prophylactic treatment of LTBI is crucial to reduce the risk of developing TB. No definitive gold standard exists for diagnosing LTBI. Tuberculin skin test (TST) and interferon-γ release assays (IGRAs) are the most used tests.

**Objectives:** To assess: a) Prevalence of LTBI in patients with (R-IMID), b) determine the importance of using a booster test in negative TST, c) to compare TST with the IGRA test in the detection of LTBI in patients with R-IMID and d) to perform a literature review of prevalence of LTBI in different geographical areas and its relationship with R-IMID.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional single University hospital study including all patients diagnosed with R-IMID who underwent a TST (sbooster) and/or IGRA in a period from 2016 to 2020. If TST was negative, a new TST (Booster) was performed between 1 and 2 weeks after the first TST. Patients were diagnosed with R-IMID by an expert rheumatologist according to well-established ACR/EULAR classification criteria for each R-IMID. LTBI was defined by a positive TST and/or IGRA with no evidence of active TB. Diagnosis with IGRA vs TST was compared using Cohen’s kappa coefficient. We performed a literature review in search of previous prevalence studies of LTBI in patients with R-IMID. This search was performed in the month of August 2022. The aim of this review was to compare the prevalence of LTBI in patients with R-IMID in different geographical areas.

**Results:** We included 1117 patients (741 women/376 men), mean age 53±15 years with LTBI. Overall LTBI prevalence was 31.7 % ranging from 25% in SE to up to 33.3% in BD. Results of prevalence compared to other countries are shown in Table 1. Booster was positive in 66 patients (7.7%) out of 857 patients with a negative simple TST. TST (booster) was positive in 187 patients (22.9%) out of 817 with a negative or indeterminate IGRA test. IGRA test was positive in 30 (8.8%) out of 379 patients with a negative TST (booster), as it is represented in Figure 1. Cohen’s Kappa coefficient between TST(booster) and IGRA (QFT-plus), was 0.361.

**Conclusion:** LTBI is frequent between patients with R-IMID. LTBI screening is important in patients who need to receive BT. This assessment has to be done performing both TST and IGRA as complementary methods to ensure the detection of all patients with LTBI, since both tests can have false negative results, especially in patients with R-IMID, receiving immunosuppressive therapy.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Carmen Lasa: None declared, Joy Selene Osorio Chavez: None declared, David Martínez-López: None declared, Carmen Álvarez-Reguera: None declared, Virginia Portilla: None declared, Jose Manuel Cifrián-Martínez: None declared, Iván Ferraz-Amaro: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Pfizer, Roche,illy, Bristol-Myers, Janssen, Galapagos and MSD, Consultant of: Abb-vie, Pfizer, Roche,illy, Bristol-Myers, Janssen and MSD, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, MSD, novartis and Roche.

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**Table 1. Prevalence of LTBI in other geographic regions according to underlying R-IMID.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, year (ref in text)</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Diagnostic criteria and study period</th>
<th>Prevalence in R-IMID (%)</th>
<th>Prevalence in RA (%)</th>
<th>Prevalence in PASA (%)</th>
<th>Prevalence in AS (%)</th>
<th>Prevalence in SLE (%)</th>
<th>Prevalence in BD (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soborg et al (2009)</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>TST and IGRA test 2005 to March 2007</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariett X.et al (2012)</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>TST, T-SPOT.TB and QFT-plus 2011</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miras, et al. (2014)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>TST and T-SPOT.B 2009 to February 2012</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carini, et al (2015)</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>TST 2009 to February 2012</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anton C, et al. (2019)</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>TST and IGRA test 2015-2017</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Sellami et al. (2019)</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>TST and IGRA test 2017 – 2018</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamia, Oulkaddi, et al. (2021)</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>TST and IGRA test</td>
<td>2017 – 2019</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shen, et al. (2021)</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>T-SPOT.B 2010 to July 2017</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present series</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>TST 2009 to February 2012</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
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<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Background: Diffuse alveolar hemorrhage (DAH) is characterized by rapid onset of pulmonary infiltrates and hypoxemia. It is a potentially life threatening complication associated with systemic autoimmune conditions.

Objectives: To describe the presentation, clinical features, etiology, treatment and outcome of DAH in rheumatological conditions.

Methods: This a retrospective, multicentre study involving 3 rheumatology centers, wherein data about DAH cases seen over the past 5 years was collected.

Results: There were 19 patients (Female = 15). The mean age was 38 years (18 - 67). DAH was the presenting feature in 15 patients (78%). The mean duration of symptoms was 20 days (1 - 60). The symptoms of DAH were: dyspnea 16 (84%), cough 15 (78%), hemoptysis 13 (68%). Other features of DAH like hypoxemia (18 patients), fall in hemoglobin (19 patients) were common. Fever was observed in 9 (47%). Nephritis was noted in 14 (73%). Renal biopsy was done in 6 (Lupus nephritis class 3 & 5 = 1; lupus nephritis class 4 = 1; Pauci immune crescentic glomerulonephritis = 3; Anti GBM associated crescentic glomerulonephritis = 1). The most common feature on chest radiograph was diffuse opacities (Image 1). The etiology of DAH was as follows (Table 1) - granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA = 8); Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE = 7); anti GBM disease (2); Microscopic polyangiitis (MPA=1) and undifferentiated vasculitis [1]. The treatment of DAH included - Intravenous methylprednisolone (IV MP=18); Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG = 2); Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) = 1; Therapeutic plasma exchange = 3; Intravenous cyclophosphamide = 11; Rituximab (RTX) = 4; Mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) = 1. Most of the patients were treated with IV MP and required ICU care; Approximately half of the patients required ventilatory support. DAH is a potentially life threatening condition with an overall mortality rate of approximately 25%. Early recognition and appropriate treatment is needed for better outcome.

Conclusion: DAH was the presenting feature in most of the cases. GPA and SLE were the common causes. Dyspnea, cough and Hemoptysis were the common DAH symptoms. Fever and nephritis were the common Non - DAH clinical features. Dyspnea, cough and Hemoptysis were the common DAH symptoms. Fever was observed in 9 (47%). Nephritis was noted in 14 (73%). Renal biopsy was done in 6 (Lupus nephritis class 3 & 5 = 1; lupus nephritis class 4 = 1; Pauci immune crescentic glomerulonephritis = 3; Anti GBM associated crescentic glomerulonephritis = 1). The most common feature on chest radiograph was diffuse opacities (Image 1). The etiology of DAH was as follows (Table 1) - granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA = 8); Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE = 7); anti GBM disease (2); Microscopic polyangiitis (MPA=1) and undifferentiated vasculitis [1]. The treatment of DAH included - Intravenous methylprednisolone (IV MP=18); Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG = 2); Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) = 1; Therapeutic plasma exchange = 3; Intravenous cyclophosphamide = 11; Rituximab (RTX) = 4; Mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) = 1. Most of the patients were treated with IV MP and required ICU care; Approximately half of the patients required ventilatory support. DAH is a potentially life threatening condition with an overall mortality rate of approximately 25%. Early recognition and appropriate treatment is needed for better outcome.

Table 1. DAH - Causes, clinical features, treatment and outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>DAH features</th>
<th>Non DAH features</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA (N=8)</td>
<td>Cough - 5</td>
<td>Nephritis - 5</td>
<td>IV MP - 8</td>
<td>Discharge after 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dyspnea - 6</td>
<td>Fever - 4</td>
<td>TPE - 3</td>
<td>within days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hemoptysis - 3</td>
<td>LRT - 3</td>
<td>IV CYC - 6</td>
<td>within days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE (N=7)</td>
<td>Cough - 6</td>
<td>Nephritis - 6</td>
<td>IV MP - 6</td>
<td>Discharge after 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dyspnea - 6</td>
<td>ITP - 5</td>
<td>IVIG - 2</td>
<td>within days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hemoptysis - 6</td>
<td>Fever - 5</td>
<td>IV CYC - 2</td>
<td>Discharge after 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA (N=1)</td>
<td>Cough - Y</td>
<td>Nephritis - 1</td>
<td>IV MP - 2</td>
<td>Discharge after 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dyspnea - Y</td>
<td>Fever - Y</td>
<td>TPE - Y</td>
<td>within days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hemoptysis - Y</td>
<td>LRT - Y</td>
<td>IV CYC - Y</td>
<td>within days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undifferentiated</td>
<td>Cough - Y</td>
<td>Skin rash</td>
<td>IV CYC - Y</td>
<td>Discharge after 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasculitis (N = 1)</td>
<td>Dyspnea - Y</td>
<td>Dyspnea - Y</td>
<td>TPE - Y &gt; 10 days ICU - Y</td>
<td>Discharge after 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hemoptysis - Y</td>
<td>Hemoptysis - Y</td>
<td>IV CYC - Y</td>
<td>Discharge after 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ventilatory support - Y</td>
<td>Ventilatory support - Y</td>
<td>Ongoing treatment</td>
<td></td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Epidemiology, Adaptive immunity, Vasculitis

Methods: Observational study of patients diagnosed with GCA who underwent temporal artery biopsy (TAB) between January 2016 and December, 2022. The patients were divided into 3 groups: a) only cranial (cGCA), b) only extracranial (ecGCA), and c) mixed affection (mixGCA). The diagnosis of GCA was made only in extracranial patients were divided into 3 groups: only cranial (cGCA), extracranial (ecGCA), and mixed affection (mixGCA). The diagnosis of GCA was made according to a) temporal artery biopsy, and/or b) EULAR/ACR2022 criteria, and/or c) imaging techniques. Demographic, clinical, analytical and imaging techniques were studied.

Results: We included 191 patients (120 females/71 males), with a mean±SD age of 74.9±9.6 years. The main characteristics of the patients and the differences among phenotypes are shown in Table 1. Only a 27.2% of the patients had a positive TAB with a mean±SD length of 16.4±6.3mm. The GCA phenotype most frequent was the cranial GCA (cGCA). Headache (79.6%) was the most common ischemic manifestations, followed by the abnormal examination of temporal artery (46.6%) and visual symptoms (including 8.4% patients with blindness), jaw or lingual claudication (26.3%), and scalp tenderness (25.1%). Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) was the most frequent systemic manifestations, observing in 59.2% of the patients. The values of serum CRP and ESR are shown in Table 1.

Conclusion: GCA is a vasculitis which has increased its clinical spectrum with extracranial involvement, affecting people with a mean age of more than 70 years and with a female predilection. PMR appears to be present in more than half of the patients, mainly in extracranial phenotype.

Table 1. Main features of the GCA patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>cGCA (n=128)</th>
<th>ecGCA (n=28)</th>
<th>mixGCA (n=36)</th>
<th>p vs cGCA</th>
<th>p vs ecGCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean±SD</td>
<td>75±10</td>
<td>75±10</td>
<td>74±9</td>
<td>74±9</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, male (% males)</td>
<td>120 (63)</td>
<td>79 (69)</td>
<td>66 (56)</td>
<td>96 (66)</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAB+, n (%)</td>
<td>52 (27)</td>
<td>39 (31)</td>
<td>21 (14)</td>
<td>71 (39)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR1990 Criteria, n (%)</td>
<td>128 (67)</td>
<td>95 (75)</td>
<td>6 (21)</td>
<td>27 (75)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EULAR/ACR2022 Criteria, n (%)</td>
<td>155 (81)</td>
<td>108 (85)</td>
<td>14 (50)</td>
<td>33 (92)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic manifestations, n (%)</td>
<td>152 (80)</td>
<td>115 (91)</td>
<td>7 (25)</td>
<td>30 (83)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>48 (25)</td>
<td>39 (31)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>9 (25)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalp tenderness</td>
<td>76 (40)</td>
<td>62 (49)</td>
<td>14 (41)</td>
<td>10 (28)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal examination of TA</td>
<td>50 (26)</td>
<td>40 (32)</td>
<td>3 (11)</td>
<td>7 (19)</td>
<td>0.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual impairment</td>
<td>- Jaw/lingual claudication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Systemic manifestations, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (14)</td>
<td>16 (13)</td>
<td>5 (18)</td>
<td>16 (77)</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>113 (59)</td>
<td>62 (49)</td>
<td>24 (66)</td>
<td>27 (75)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prednisone therapy</td>
<td>20 (40)</td>
<td>40 (50)</td>
<td>30 (10)</td>
<td>40 (15-45)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose (mg/day), median [IQR]</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative dose (mg), median [240-1875]</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>169 (473)</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h, mean±SD</td>
<td>56±35</td>
<td>54±34</td>
<td>63±41</td>
<td>56±30</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR, mg/dL, median [IQR]</td>
<td>2.5 [5.5-7.7]</td>
<td>2.9 [0.4-7.7]</td>
<td>2.2 [0.6-8.0]</td>
<td>2.3 [0.5-6.6]</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESR, mm/h, mean±SD</td>
<td>56±35</td>
<td>54±34</td>
<td>63±41</td>
<td>56±30</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR, mg/dL, median [IQR]</td>
<td>2.5 [5.5-7.7]</td>
<td>2.9 [0.4-7.7]</td>
<td>2.2 [0.6-8.0]</td>
<td>2.3 [0.5-6.6]</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR1990 Criteria, n (%)</td>
<td>128 (67)</td>
<td>95 (75)</td>
<td>6 (21)</td>
<td>27 (75)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EULAR/ACR2022 Criteria, n (%)</td>
<td>155 (81)</td>
<td>108 (85)</td>
<td>14 (50)</td>
<td>33 (92)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic manifestations, n (%)</td>
<td>152 (80)</td>
<td>115 (91)</td>
<td>7 (25)</td>
<td>30 (83)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>48 (25)</td>
<td>39 (31)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>9 (25)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalp tenderness</td>
<td>76 (40)</td>
<td>62 (49)</td>
<td>14 (41)</td>
<td>10 (28)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal examination of TA</td>
<td>50 (26)</td>
<td>40 (32)</td>
<td>3 (11)</td>
<td>7 (19)</td>
<td>0.034</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Main features of the GCA patients.


Keywords: Registries, Rheumatoid arthritis, Real-world evidence
Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) are diseases where inflammation plays a key role in their development and have an increased risk of developing comorbid conditions. It is important to evaluate the comorbidities associated with these diseases.

Objectives: Our objective was to evaluate the prevalence of comorbidities in RA, PsA and axSpA patients from the PANLAR’s register of rheumatic diseases (PANRED).

Methods: PANRED includes real world data from Latin American consecutive patients diagnosed with RA, PsA and axSpA (ACR-EULAR 2010/CASPAR 2006-ASAS 2009) from Dec 2021 to Dec 2022. We collected: demographics, disease characteristics (activity, severity, treatment), basal comorbidities (cardiovascu lar, infections, cancer, gastrointestinal, pulmonary, and others) data. Data were extracted from patients initiating treatment with cDMARDS, TNF alpha inhibitors (TNFi) and JAKinases inhibitors (JAKI). Categorical variables were expressed as percentage and tables of contingency were analyzed with chi-square or Fisher test. A p value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: 768 patients were included. RA was the most frequent disease. The most prevalent comorbidities expressed as overall frequency were: hypertension: 39.5%, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis: 35.6%, dyslipidemia: 35.3%, tuberculosis 13.3%. Details of comorbidities are shown in the Table 1. Uveitis was more frequent in axSpA vs RA, RR: 2.5 (95%CI 1.35-4.8), p<0.001. Herpes zoster was present in 3.3%, 3.6% and 0.8% and tuberculosis in 15.85%, 15.1% and 3.8% in JAKi, TNFi and cDMARD groups respectively. Steatohepatitis was significantly more frequent in the cDMARD group compared Jaki and TNFi (p=0.01) and tuberculosis in the JAKI group (p=0.002) compared bDMARD and cDMARD, as basal characteristics, probably reflecting therapeutic decisions.

Conclusion: Cardiovascular comorbidities and tuberculosis are frequent in Latin American patients and should be considered in treatment selection.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Enrique Soriano Speakers bureau: Speaker, consulting, or research support: Abbvie, Amgen, Bristol Myers-Squibb, Janssen, Eli-Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, UCB.; Consultant of: Speaker, consulting, or research support: Abbvie, Amgen, Bristol Myers-Squibb, Janssen, Eli-Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, UCB.; Scientific advisory board: Abbvie, Amgen, Bristol Myers-Squibb, Janssen, Eli-Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, UCB.; Nicolas Marín Zucaro: None declared, Gilda Ferreira: None declared, Gabriel Maciel: None declared, Ariana Ringer: None declared, Pedro Santos-Moreno: None declared, Norberto Javier Quaglaito: None declared, B Stader: None declared, Ana Cristina De Medeiros Ribeiro: None declared, Claiton Brelon: None declared, Vander Fernandes: None declared, LUISA SERVIOLI: None declared, Rina Giorgi: None declared, cristiano lupi: None declared, Ana Cristina Medeiros-Ribeiro: None declared, S Studart: None declared, Ines Guimaraes Silveira: None declared, Manuella Lima Gomes: None declared, Manuela Lima Gomes: None declared, Maria Lorenza Branc: None declared.

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AB1656

THE USE OF MACHINE LEARNING METHODS IN OPIOID-ASSOCIATED OUTCOMES RESEARCH: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Systematic review, Prognostic factors

C. Ramirez Medina 1, J. Benitez-Auríoles 1, D. Jenkins 2, M. Jan 3, 4 The University of Manchester, Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Science Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, Manchester, United Kingdom; 2The University of Manchester, Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Science, Manchester, United Kingdom; 3NHR Manchester Biomedical Research Unit, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom

Background: Prescription opioids have been a considerable contributor towards the opioid epidemic, a major public health concern with profound economic repercussions and mortality. In order to address the opioid crisis, a need exists to improve understanding on how to personalise prescribing incorporating individual factors to estimate the risk of opioid-related harms. Machine learning (ML) techniques, both supervised and unsupervised, have potential identify patients at risk through the development of risk prediction models and a data-driven redefinition of patient classes. This might be particularly relevant when addressing the changing dynamics of the opioid epidemic, due to its ability to ascertain non-linear relationships between various risk factors and the risk of opioid-related outcomes.

Objectives: To perform a systematic review of the use of ML methods in prescription opioid-related harms research.

Methods: A systematic literature search was conducted using the databases OVID, EMBASE, PubMed and included 605 databases to identify relevant articles that were published from inception to October 2022. Articles were eligible for review if they described studies that applied ML techniques with a primary outcome that was related to prescription opioid harms and using electronic health records as a main data source for the research. We excluded studies that focused patients with cancer or younger than 18 years old.

Results: A total of 760 abstracts were reviewed, yielding 75 articles for full text review. Four main categories were identified in this area: development of ML algorithms for prediction (n=81, 81%), identification of risk factors (n=7, 9%),
patient subtype clustering (n=5, 7%) and the application of natural language processing to understand user-generated text for pharmacovigilance (n=2, 3%). Within the studies that developed ML models for prediction, most of them (n=16, 21%) had prolonged opioid use disorder (n=9, 12%), opioid administration and prescribing (n=6, 8%) and chronic opioid use (n=3, 4%). For risk factor identification, ML techniques were limited to understanding the drivers of opioid-overdose (n=2, 3%), opioid dependency (n=2, 3%) and opioid administration and prescribing (n=3, 4%). A very limited number of studies used unsupervised and semi-supervised ML algorithms to address opioid-associated outcomes (n=8, 11%).

Conclusion: To date, application of ML techniques besides logistic regression to classify patients who experience opioid-related harms has been limited, with most publications using electronic health records from the United States in the last 5 years. The majority focused on prediction algorithms for postoperative opioid use and have limited implementation in clinical practice. The current literature lacks external validation studies for developed prediction models using ML. This is especially important if implemented outside of the United States, where the use of opioids is affected by a diverse set of individual and contextual factors that can substantially vary across countries.

Acknowledgements: Funded by a FOREUM Career Research Grant and NHIR. MJ is supported by an NIHR Advanced Fellowship (NIHR301413). The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR, NHRI or the UK Department of Health and Social Care.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1657

TIME-DEPENDENT CSMARDS USE AND INFLAMMATORY BURDEN CAN PREDICT CARDIOVASCULAR RISK IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS: A POPULATION-BASED STUDY

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Prognostic factors, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

J. L. Shi1, S. H. M. Lam1, H. Meng1, H. So1, L. S. Tam1. 1The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Medicine & Therapeutics, Hong Kong, China

Background: It is well established that AS patients had a higher risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) than the general population [1,2]. To date, there is no primary studies directly addressing the relationship between risk factors and MACE in population-level study.

Objectives: To examine whether inflammatory burden and drug use over time increase major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) independent of traditional cardiovascular (CV) risk factors in ankylosing spondylitis (AS) patients.

Methods: Patients who had been diagnosed with AS (ICD-9: 720.0) from 2006 to 2015 were recruited in a retrospective cohort study. They were followed until the end of 2018. The primary outcome was a first incidence of MACE. Time-varying Cox proportional hazard models were used to assess whether inflammatory burden (c-reactive protein [CRP] and erythrocyte sedimentation rate [ESR]), and drug use (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs] and disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs [DMARDs]) can predict the development of first MACE.

Results: Totally 3827 patients (age: 45.2 ± 15.0 years, male: 2911 [76.1%]) were recruited. 135 patients (13.2%) developed a first MACE. ESR level (including ESRs>20 mm/h and ESRs>30mm/h, HR: 2.07-2.41), CRP level (including CRP>3mg/dl, HR: 1.20-8.77) and use of steroid (HR: 3.48) were associated with a significant higher risk of MACE during follow-up. Whereas the use of sulfasalazine (SLZ) and/or biologics (bDMARDs) had protective association with reduced risk of MACE. After adjusting for time-fixed CV risk scores in the multivariable models, only ESR level (including ESRs>30mm/h, HR: 1.02-1.94) and CRP level (including CRP>3mg/dl, HR: 1.14-5.43) remained significant predictor for increased risk of MACE, while SLZ (HR: 0.41-0.52) was protective against MACE.

Conclusion: Increased inflammatory burden was associated with increased risk of MACE, while the use of SLZ may reduce risk of future MACE in patients with AS.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1658

COMPARISON OF STERNECOLEIDOMASTOIDES FLEXIBILITY, VAGUS NERVE FUNCTION, AND GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOMS IN CHRONIC NECK PAIN AND HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS

Keywords: Gastrointestinal tract, Prognostic factors, Non-pharmacological interventions

Y. Özel Aslıyüce1, Ö. Uysal2, A. Fanuscu3, U. Berberoju4, O. Ulger1. 1Hacettepe University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey

Background: The vagus nerve emerges from the jugular foramen and continues through the carotid sheath in the cervical region. The carotid sheath is in contact with the SCM muscle. It has been hypothesized that Sternokleidomastoideus (SCM) muscle tension may affect the carotid sheath and the function of the vagus nerve passing through it. It is known that there is an increase in activation of the SCM muscle in individuals with chronic neck pain (CNP), which may change the passive mechanical properties of the muscle [1]. It has been shown that vagus nerve dysfunction can cause pathologies in the organs it innervates. Although the relationship between vagal dysfunction and gastrointestinal system symptoms is clear, the mechanisms that may affect vagus nerve function have not yet been clarified.

Objectives: This study aims to compare the passive mechanical properties of the SCM muscle, vagus nerve function, and gastrointestinal symptoms in healthy individuals with neck pain.

Methods: Tone, stiffness and elasticity, which are the passive mechanical properties of the SCM muscle, were measured with the Myoton-3 myotonometric medical device (Muomeetria AS, Estonia, EU). Vagus nerve function was evaluated with the Vagus Neurodynamic Test (VAGUS-NDT)[2]. The test was performed bilaterally. Gastrointestinal symptoms were evaluated with the Gastrointestinal Symptom Rating Scale (GSRS).

Results: 29 individuals, 15 healthy, 14 with CNP, who were not diagnosed with gastrointestinal or any systemic disease were included in the study. In individuals with CNP, the positivity of VAGUS-NDT test and GSRS all sub-scores (reflux, indigestion, diarrhea, constipation and abdominal pain) and total score were higher than healthy individuals (p<0.05). In addition, right and left elasticity scores for the SCM muscle were lower in these individuals than in healthy individuals (p<0.05) while tone and stiffness were similar(p<0.05).

Conclusion: According to our preliminary results, SCM elasticity was lower and the incidence of vagal dysfunction and gastrointestinal symptoms were higher in individuals with CNP than in healthy. This may be due to compression of the vagus nerve passing through the carotid sheath as a result of decreased SCM muscle elasticity. The increase in the tension of the soft tissues around a nerve in the body restricts the movement of the nerve, affecting its function and making it susceptible to entrapment. Even this slight nerve compression can cause entrapment and lead to neuroinflammation[3]. This research is a preliminary conclusion that neck pain and decreased SCM elasticity may be an important factor that may affect vagal function. This relationship needs to be investigated with a larger sample group and advanced statistical methods.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1659

MOROCCAN SOCIETY FOR RHEUMATOLOGY BIOLOGICS REGISTER IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (RBSMR): 3 YEAR FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD

Table 1. Adverse events of bDMARDs in RA and SpA patients during 3 years of follow up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RA N=225</th>
<th>SpA N=194</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adverse events</strong></td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>37 (16.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non specific infection</td>
<td>31 (13.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atypical mycobacteria</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fungal infection</td>
<td>4 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viral infection</td>
<td>5 (2.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid tumor</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>2 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other hematological malignancies</td>
<td>2 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradoxal effects</td>
<td>2 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin reaction</td>
<td>2 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uveitis</td>
<td>2 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory bowel disease</td>
<td>2 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-immune diseases (LEAD)</td>
<td>2 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypersensitivity reaction</td>
<td>3 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematological disorders</td>
<td>19 (8.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leucopenia</td>
<td>5 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>8 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombocytopenia</td>
<td>6 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypercholesterolemia</td>
<td>8 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RA: Rheumatoid Arthritis; SpA: Spino-Arthritis; LEAD: Laboratory Examination for Autoimmune Diseases.
Background: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) have increased risk of total hip arthroplasty (THA).[1,2] Patients with RA and SLE overlap syndrome (RA+SLE) may have a more common articulardisease does. However, the risk of THA in RA+SLE patients is not fully investigated.

Objectives: To identify the risk and outcome of THA in RA+SLE patients in a longitudinal cohort.

Methods: We analyzed datasets derived from Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database from 2000 to 2018. Patients with RA, SLE, and RA+SLE were selectively and matched according to age and gender. Risk and outcome of THA was compared, and multivariable Cox proportional hazards models were used to analyze the risk factors.

Results: 2270 RA+SLE patients were matched with 9080 RA and 9080 SLE patients. RA+SLE patients had the highest rate of THA than RA or SLE patients did (2.16% vs 1.22% or 1.76%, respectively; p<0.0008). Avascular necrosis (1.45%) followed by osteoarthritis (1.28%) were the most common reasons for THA in RA+SLE patients. The rate of THA revision was the highest in RA patients than in RA+SLE or SLE patients (9.91% vs 4.08% or 6.25%, respectively; p<0.0001). Chronic kidney disease (HR: 4.94, 95% CI: 2.51-9.71, p<0.0001), use of prednisolone or equivalence >10mg/day (HR: 2.1, 95% CI: 1.53-2.88, p<0.0001), azathioprine (HR: 2.15, 95% CI: 1.68-2.74, p<0.0001), and biologic agents (HR: 2.03, 95% CI: 1.46-2.81, p<0.0001) increases the risk of THA independently.

Conclusion: RA+SLE patients had the highest rate of THA than patients with individual disease alone, however, the rate of THA revision was the highest in RA patients than in the other groups. Comorbidities, treatment with a higher daily dose of steroid, and immunosuppressants may contribute to the risk of THA.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1662 IMPACT OF COMORBIDITIES AND FREQUENCY OF ADMISSIONS ON MORTALITY IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Comorbidities, Prognostic factors, Behcet's disease

H. Amar Muñoz1, I. Catrejón1, A. Ramos1, F. Montero1, K. Carpio1, J. Molina Collada1, B. Serrano-Benavente1, J. M. Alvaro-Gracia1, J. Martinez-Barrio1, 1Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain, Department of Rheumatology, Madrid, Spain

Background: Data on mortality in patients with systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases (SARDs) is limited. Most evidence is restricted to patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and ANCA vasculitis [-1]. In recent years, mortality has been more closely associated with cardiovascular pathologies and infections and less with disease activity.

Objectives: To assess the impact of comorbidities and hospital admissions on mortality in patients with SARDs in a tertiary referral hospital.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective observational study including adult patients with SARDs (Table 1) followed up in our Multidisciplinary Unit of Systemic Autoimmune Diseases between January 2017 and December 2019. In this cohort, patients were under similar follow-up and treatment protocols. Gathered data includes epidemiological, hospitalization (number of admissions, hospital stay and reasons for admission) and exitus information. In hospital patients, associated comorbidities were also reviewed. A comparison was made between patients who required at least one admission during the study period and those who did not, in addition to a description of mortality. Kaplan Meier curves are presented by number of comorbidities and number of hospitalizations.

Results: Of the 1749 patients with SARDs included in our cohort, 432 (24.7%) required hospitalization during the study period. Of those hospitalized, mean age was 64 years and 315 (73%) were women. A total of 61 (14%) deaths occurred among patients admitted to the hospital vs 77 (5.9%) among non-hospitalized, within the study period. Behcet's disease and IgG4-related disease presented highest mortality rate (23%) in our cohort of hospitalized patients, closely followed by antiphospholipid syndrome (23%) and Sjögren's syndrome (20%) (Table 1). No statistically significant differences were observed in mortality according to the number of admissions (p=0.56) or comorbidities (p=0.41), although in the latter, an increasing trend was observed as the number of comorbidities increased (survival according to the number of comorbidities: no comorbidities >14 years, one comorbidity >8.9 years, two or more comorbidities >6.4 years) (Graph 1).

Conclusion: We have found no impact of comorbidities or hospital admissions in mortality in patients with SARDs. Among hospitalized patients, higher mortalitv were observed in Behcet's disease, IgG4-related disease, antiphospholipid syndrome and Sjögren's syndrome. In addition, a trend towards greater mortality was observed in relation to the number of comorbidities.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Frequencies of exitus by diagnosis and hospitalization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SARDs</th>
<th>Exitus</th>
<th>Hospitalized exited</th>
<th>Hospitalized not exited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systemic lupus erythematosus</td>
<td>15  (15%)</td>
<td>951 (91.8%)</td>
<td>31 (2.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyarthritis rheumatica</td>
<td>15  (15%)</td>
<td>762 (78.5%)</td>
<td>28 (3.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sjögren's syndrome</td>
<td>13  (13%)</td>
<td>397 (40.5%)</td>
<td>17 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behcet's disease</td>
<td>13  (13%)</td>
<td>397 (40.5%)</td>
<td>17 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IgG4-related disease</td>
<td>13  (13%)</td>
<td>397 (40.5%)</td>
<td>17 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiphospholipid</td>
<td>12  (12%)</td>
<td>375 (38.8%)</td>
<td>14 (1.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6     (6%)</td>
<td>199 (20.5%)</td>
<td>9 (0.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 1. Survival according to the number of comorbidities.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1663 MUSCULOSKELETAL (MSK) PAIN IN VILLAGE BHIGWAN (INDIA) IN 2022- CHANGE OVER 25 YEARS: WHO COMMUNITY ORIENTED PROGRAM FOR CONTROL OF RHEUMATIC DISEASES (COPCORD) 1996-2022

Keywords: Epidemiology, Gender/diversity issues, Descriptive studies

H. Rathod1, K. Adam1, R. Ghorapade1, A. Venugopalan1, M. Saluja1, A. Chopra1, 1Center for Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology, Pune, India

Background: COPCORD population surveys (Stage I) have reported the prevalence of MSK pain and rheumatic disorders in several countries. A crude point prevalence rate of 18.2% for MSK pain (adult) was reported by the maiden COPCORD India survey (1996) in rural Bhigwan (Pune) and was continued to date with a free-of-cost local rheumatology clinic and a health education program. Several other factors (development, environment, Chikungunya epidemic 2006, Covid pandemic 2019) are likely to impact the epidemiology of MSK disorders and thus we carried out a resurvey in Bhigwan from April to July 2022. We present early results of MSK pain and related factors.

Objectives: To describe and measure the current MSK pain and rheumatic disorders in Bhigwan rural population and further assess the transformation over time (1996 to 2022).

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4427
Methods: The resurvey (Stage I) was carried out using the methods of the previous survey (Bhigwan COPCORD model 1996). Trained voluntary health workers (HW) completed a house-to-house cross-sectional survey (Phase 1) of the adult population (≥18 years) and identified current and/or past MSK pain respondents. Pain due to recent trauma (≤3 months) was excluded. Concur- rently, the respondents were also evaluated (Phase 2) for pain descriptors and other relevant issues. Rheumatologists examined (Phase 3) the respondents to make a clinical diagnosis, order relevant investigations, and begin treatment. A follow-up was scheduled. The target population was estimated at 8117 (Goverm ment records). The database was created using an indigenous software program. Standard population analysis was carried out. Crude point prevalence rates (95% confidence intervals) are presented. Further analysis is being done.

Results: 6970 population (85.9% response, 50% males) was surveyed. The age-gender distribution pattern was comparable with the India rural census 2011; 63% in 18-44 years age groups (Bhigwan). Paradoxically, only 76% current pop- ulation in sharp contrast to about 55% in 1996 admitted working (physically) in fields; now dependent upon temporary migrant labor (not in the survey). 32% population possessed mobile phones. Five hundred eighty-six pain patients (women 69%) were identified; 46% belonged to the 45-64 years age group. The MSK pain prevalence was 8.2% (7.5%, 8.8%); male 2.5 (2.2, 2.9), female 5.6% (5.1, 6.2). 14.2% population used tobacco in some form, mostly oral; 36.3% of MSK pain respondents (58% women). Hypertension in 79%; diabetes in 4.7%, thyroid disorders in 1.6%, and rectal hemorrhoids in 1% was self-reported in the population; correspondingly 25%, 12%, 2.5%, and 3% were reported by the MSK pain cohort. Past history of Chikungunya in 5.7% and COVID-19 in 7.4% of the total population was reported. On univariate analysis, MSK pain was significantly associated (p < 0.0001, Chi-square) with Chikungunya, COVID-19, tobacco use, fieldwork, and low education status. Prevalence rates for disease groups were 1.38% (1.12, 1.66) for inflammatory arthritis, 3.66% (3.23, 4.13) for degenerative arthritis and 2.87% (2.49, 3.29) for non-specific rheumatism/arthritis. Self-re- ported data, subject recall, and limited investigations were important concerns.

Conclusion: The current COPCORD survey shows that despite a substantial reduction from 1996, MSK pain continues to be a predominant and important self-reported illness in the Bhigwan rural community. Undoubtedly, the lives and livelihoods of the Bhigwan people and their MSK landscape have been trans- formed substantially. Interestingly, the burden of other non-communicable dis- eases seems increased. Further research studies will be required to unravel the role of Chikungunya and COVID-19, and other risk factors in MSK disorders.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4692

**AB1664**

**INFLUENZA, PNEUMOCOCCAL, AND TETANUS VACCINE COVERAGE AMONG PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES ON BIOLOGICAL OR TARGETED SYNTHETIC DMARDs AND THE ROLE OF THE RHEUMATOLOGIST**

**Keywords:** Vaccination/immunization

T. Georgiev1, R. Moraliyska2, S. Bogdanova-Petrova1, S. Dimitrov2, S. Hristova3, D. Simeonova2, G. Gerganov1, T. Shivacheva1

**Background:** Vaccines are one of the most efficient tools to prevent infectious diseases at a population level. Their importance is even greater in immunocom- promised patients providing efficient and safe protection against common viral and bacterial infections. According to the current EULAR recommendations based on solid evidence over the recent years, non-live vaccines such as influ- enza, pneumococcal, tetanus toxoid, and others are safe and can be adminis- tered to patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases during the glucocorticoid and/or disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) therapy. Furthermore, influenza and pneumococcal vaccines “should be strongly considered” and the tetanus toxoid vaccination should be received in accordance with the recommenda- tions of the general population.

**Objectives:** We aimed to investigate the coverage for influenza, pneumococcal, and tetanus toxoid vaccination in a cohort of patients with inflammatory rheu- matic diseases on biological or targeted synthetic DMARDs.

**Methods:** Two hundred and one patients, aged 18 or older, were included in this single-center cross-sectional study after signing an informed consent form. They suffered from rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), or anky- losspondylitis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, or other rheumatic diseases. Participants with psychiatric or neurological diseases preventing understanding or responding to the questions were excluded from the study. Patients’ anthro- pometric, clinical, and demographic characteristics were collected via detailed anamnesis and clinical examination. Disease activity was evaluated using DAS28-CRP for patients with RA and peripheral PsA and ASDAS for those with spondyloarthritis (AS) and axial spondyloarthritis. Patients were deter- mining their immunization status for influenza, pneumococcal, and tetanus toxoid vaccines and whether they had a preceding discussion with their rheumatolo- gist about recommended vaccines during their routine medical visits.

**Results:** Of the 201 included patients, 40.3% (n=81) were females. Patient dis- tribution according to their disease was as follows: 30.3% (n=61) RA patients, 51.7% (n=104) PsA patients, and 17.8% (n=38) PsA patients (n=38). Mean age, duration, and body mass index values were 54.62 (14.4) years, 11.04 (8.6) years and 28.2 (5.3), respectively. 27.4% of patients were on concomitant glucocor- ticoïd treatment. Only 13.9% (n=28) and 1.5% (n=3) were vaccinated against seasonal influenza and pneumococcal infections, respectively. Patients who had a preceding discussion about seasonal influenza and pneumococcal immuniza- tion with their rheumatologist had approximately 13 and 32 times higher probabil- ity to get vaccinated than people who did not (OR=12.9, p < 0.001 and OR 32.5, p = 0.01, respectively). Regular reimmunizations against diphtheria and tetanus according to the Immunization Calendar of the Republic of Bulgaria were carried out by only 44.8% (n=90) of the studied population.

**Conclusion:** Coverage of recommended vaccines in our group of Bulgarian patients on biological or targeted synthetic DMARDs is very low. Discussion about the potential benefits and safety profile of the recommended vaccines may increase patients’ willingness to vaccinate and prevent common infectious dis- eases in immunocompromised rheumatic patients.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4871

**AB1665**

**NON-IMPAIRED KIDNEY FUNCTION INCREASES HYPERURICAEMIA-ASSOCIATED MORTALITY RISK EFFECT**

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Kidneys, Gout

T. Timsa1, J. Kauppi2, A. Kerola3,4, T. Lehto2, H. Kautiainen3, M. Kauppi1,4

1Pälät-Häme Central Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Lahti, Finland;
2Pälät-Häme Central Hospital, Unit of Physiatry and rehabilitation medicine, Lahti, Finland;
3Helsinki University Central Hospital, Inflammation Center, Helsinki, Finland;
4University of Helsinki, Faculty of Medicine, Helsinki, Finland;
5Finlab Laboratoriot Oy, Department of Clinical Chemistry, Lahti, Finland;
6University of Helsinki, Folkhälsa Research Center, Helsinki, Finland

**Background:** Both hyperuricaemia and reduced kidney function are known mor- tality risk factors.[1-3] Also, hyperfiltration is associated with elevated mortality risk.[3] It has not yet been studied if renal function has a modifying effect on hyperuricaemia-associated mortality risk.

**Objectives:** To detect if renal function has a modifying effect on hyperuricae- mia-associated mortality risk.

**Methods:** Data from GOAL (Good Ageing in Lahti region) study was used. It is a large, prospective, population-based study of elderly people (52–76 years) in the Lahti region. Data of serum uric acid (SUA) levels, creatinine, cystatin C as well as several other laboratory variables, comorbidities, lifestyle habits and socioeco- nomic factors was collected. To estimate glomerular filtration rate, we used CKD- EPI creatinine-cystatin C equation (ml/min/1.73 m²). Persons with SUA values of >410 μmol/L (75th percentile) are represented as clearly hyperuricaemic. Persons with eGFR of ≥67 ml/min both in the group of clearly hyperuricaemic and in the group of non-impaired kidney function had 27.4% (5.3), respectively. 27.4% of patients were on concomitant glucocor- ticoïd treatment. Only 13.9% (n=28) and 1.5% (n=3) were vaccinated against seasonal influenza and pneumococcal infections, respectively. Patients who had a preceding discussion about seasonal influenza and pneumococcal immuniza- tion with their rheumatologist had approximately 13 and 32 times higher probabil- ity to get vaccinated than people who did not (OR=12.9, p < 0.001 and OR 32.5, p = 0.01, respectively). Regular reimmunizations against diphtheria and tetanus according to the Immunization Calendar of the Republic of Bulgaria were carried out by only 44.8% (n=90) of the studied population.

**Conclusion:** Coverage of recommended vaccines in our group of Bulgarian patients on biological or targeted synthetic DMARDs is very low. Discussion about the potential benefits and safety profile of the recommended vaccines may increase patients’ willingness to vaccinate and prevent common infectious dis- eases in immunocompromised rheumatic patients.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4871
SUA ≤410 μmol/L and eGFR >67 ml/min was used as a reference (Table 1). HR for hyperuricaemia-related premature death however was lowest in individuals with reduced eGFR, and it rises strikingly as the eGFR increases above 80ml/min (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Reduced kidney function is an important risk factor for mortality both in individuals with lower and higher SUA. The mortality risk associated with hyperuricaemia is remarkably higher in individuals with normal or only slightly reduced kidney function. This finding makes it reasonable to speculate that hyperuricaemia caused by overproduction of uric acid (metabolic hyperuricaemia) might be a separate and more deleterious entity than hyperuricaemia that has resulted from renal underexcretion of uric acid (renal hyperuricaemia).

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Adjusted hazard ratio (HR) for all-cause mortality in persons with preserved or reduced estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and clearly elevated serum uric acid (SUA) level or slightly elevated/normal SUA level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUA ≤410</th>
<th>SUA &gt;410</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eGFR ≥67</td>
<td>1.00 (Reference)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eGFR ≤67</td>
<td>1.26 (1.03 to 1.55)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. The impact of estimated glomerular filtration rate on hyperuricaemia-associated mortality risk effect.

Acknowledgements: We thank all the participants in the GOAL (Good Ageing in Lahti region) project.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5170

Keywords: Registries, Safety, Real-world evidence

JA. Brigante1, K. Roberts1, C. Isnardi1, G. Gómez2, M. Haye1, M. García3, C. Gobbi4, G. Gasabo5, L. L. Holguin Arias6, J. M. Dapela7, S. Papasidero8, G. Berbott9, M. Viola10, V. Sauniti10, I. Petkovic11, A. Bertoli12, M. P. Diaz13, E. Catay14, J. I. E. Exen15, B. Pons-Estel15, G. Bovea Castellblanco16, M. E. De La Sota17, M. S. Larroute18, D. A. Pereira18, A. B. Granel18, G. Medina18, C. Pisoni21, M. Sacurni23, V. Elovzo24, N. Aste25, C. Castro25, E. Kerberz25, V. Savic25, J. Gamba27, A. Secco28, G. Citera29, E. Soriano30, G. Grat30, P. Pons-Estel1, M. De la Vega31, Argentina Society of Rheumatology, Research Unit of the Argentine Society of Rheumatology - UNISAR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Sanatorio Gúemes, Rheumatology, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hospital de Clínicas Jose de San Martín, Rheumatology, La Plata, Argentina; Sanatorio Allende, Rheumatology, CORDOBA, Argentina; Atención Integral en Reumatología, Rheumatology, Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hospital General de Agudos Dr. E. Tomé, Rheumatology, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hospital Eva Peron, Rheumatology, Granadero Baigorria, Argentina; CEMIC, Rheumatology, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Hospital Privado Universitario de Córdoba, Rheumatology, CORDOBA, Argentina; Consultoría Dra Ingrid Petkovic, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; Instituto Reumatológico Strusberg, Rheumatology, Cordoba, Argentina; Banloche - Reumatología, Rheumatology, Bariloche, Argentina; Centro Moreno 150 - Reumatología, Rheumatology, Formosa, Argentina; SANATORIO PARQUE, Rheumatology, CORDOBA, Argentina; SANATORIO PARQUE - GRUPO ORÓN - CENTRO CREAR, Rheumatology, Rosario, Argentina; Hospital Cesar Milstein, Rheumatology, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Consultoría Particular Dra. De la Sota, Rheumatology, Tomquist, Argentina; Consultoría Particular Dra Larrouté, Rheumatology, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology; On behalf of the BIOBADASAR registry, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Centro Plateño de Reumatología, Rheumatology, La Plata, Argentina; Hospital de Clínicas Jose de San Martin, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; CEMIC, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; Hospital provincial de Rosario, Rheumatology, Rosario, Argentina; Sanatorio Adventista del Plata, Rheumatology, La Plata, Argentina; Aste centro de infusión, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; Hospital Ramos Mejía, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; Hospital Posadas, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; Hospital Rivadavia, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; Instituto de Rehabilitación Psicofísica (IREP), Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Rheumatology, CABA, Argentina; Instituto Médico Mitre, Rheumatology, Entre Ríos, Argentina; Argentina Society of Rheumatology, President, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Background: The clinical manifestations of patients with rheumatic diseases are highly heterogeneous. The appearance of adverse events (AEs) related to the treatments received for these diseases considerably increases the morbidity and mortality of these patients. This is why obtaining real-world data on these AEs and analyzing their causes is paramount. The BIOBADASAR registry has data obtained:

Methods: Retrospective, multicenter study of patients with rheumatic diseases treated with original biological drugs, biosimilars, or original and generic targeted therapies in Argentina; follow-up from August 2010 to July 2021. The BIOBADASAR registry has data from 5,676 patients over ten years of follow-up. Classifying patients in treatment with biological drugs into subgroups with different phenotypes through unsupervised grouping could provide valuable information on the characteristics associated with specific AE.

Objectives: Through cluster analysis, this study aimed to identify different clinical phenotypes related to Adverse events in patients treated with biological drugs.

Results: A total of 5676 patients were analyzed. Three different clusters were obtained:
Cluster 1: 1041 patients. Was observed an evolution time of the disease of 30.5 years (Q1 25.8; Q3 35.6) longer than other clusters and a longer delay in starting treatment at 18.3 years (Q1 11.4; Q3 24) p < 0.0001.

Cluster 2: 2136 patients. We observed a higher frequency of patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: 156 (7.3%) p<0.0001 and a lower frequency of AEs 190 (8.9%) p < 0.0001.

Cluster 3: 2499 patients. We observed a higher mean age than in the other two clusters, 573 (SD 8.3) p < 0.001.

The use of systemic corticosteroids was evenly distributed among the 3 clusters.

Conclusion: The unsupervised grouping of patients from the BIOBADASAR registry demonstrated the existence of clusters based on clinical and demographic characteristics. Identifying high-risk patients through a combination of these parameters may be helpful for the early identification of risk factors and their association with adverse events. Based on our hierarchical cluster analysis, we identified different patient phenotypes. Our results show that within the heterogeneity of patient characteristics, common elements provide a basis for future analyses of these variables and their relationship with certain AEs.

Disclosure of Interests: The authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES: NIL.

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an unrestricted Grant from Pfizer. Pfizer has not participated in or influenced the project’s development, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or report writing. They do not have access to the information collected in the database. Cecilia Castro Grant/research support from: BIOBADASAR has received an unrestricted Grant from Pfizer. Pfizer has not participated in or influenced the project’s development, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or report writing. They do not have access to the information collected in the database., Eduardo Kerzberg Grant/research support from: BIOBADASAR has received an unrestricted Grant from Pfizer. Pfizer has not participated in or influenced the project’s development, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or report writing. They do not have access to the information collected in the database., Veronica Savio Grant/research support from: BIOBADASAR has received an unrestricted Grant from Pfizer. Pfizer has not participated in or influenced the project’s development, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or report writing. They do not have access to the information collected in the database., Gustavo Citera Grant/research support from: BIOBADASAR has received an unrestricted Grant from Pfizer. Pfizer has not participated in or influenced the project’s development, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or report writing. They do not have access to the information collected in the database., Cecilia Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Background: Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly gaining adoption in the medical field [1]. We review, the original research articles that combine AI and Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) in which AI plays a key role, with approaches such as topic modeling, computer vision, reinforcement learning, few-shot learning, and trajectory analyses. Osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus and osteoporosis are the RMDs that accounts for most of the research studies in which AI techniques are used more assiduously. However, AI is also playing a key role in rare diseases research, such as vasculitis, with approaches such as unstructured learning. The amount of data in the studies reviewed is variable, from just hundreds of observations to hundreds of thousands, showing that “big data” cohorts are not mandatory to take advantage of such techniques.

Conclusion: The outstanding and upward trend in the number of published research related to rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases, in which AI plays a key role, has exhibited the interest of rheumatology researchers in using these techniques to answer their research questions. We can conclude that the rheumatology research community is increasingly adopting novel AI techniques.

REFERENCE:

Keywords: Systematic review, Artificial intelligence

A. Madrid García1, B. Merino Barbancho2, A. Rodríguez González3, B. Fernández,1 L. León1, L. Abasolo1, D. Freites1, E. Menasalvas Ruiz2, L. Rodríguez Rodríguez,1 1Grupo de Patología Musculoesquelética. Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Reumatología, Madrid, Spain; 2Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Madrid, Spain; 3Centro de Tecnología Biomédica, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Lenguajes y Sistemas Informáticos e Ingeniería de Software, Madrid, Spain

Methods: A literature search was conducted to identify publications related to RMDs in which AI technologies played a relevant role in four different sources: PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus and in the search engines of rheumatology journals classified as Q1 and Q2 according to Journal Citation Reports 2019. The keywords employed were artificial intelligence, supervised learning, unsupervised learning, deep learning, big data, data mining, machine learning, rheumatology, musculoskeletal diseases, rheumatic. Only original research articles related to RMDs with a PubMed identification number (PMID), not duplicated:

Figure 1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOIs: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.205

AB1668 RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY APS BEFORE AND AFTER VACCINATION WITH 23-VALENT POLYSACCHARIDE PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE

Keywords: Vaccination/imunization

A. Madrid García1, B. Merino Barbancho2, A. Rodríguez González3, B. Fernández,1 L. León1, L. Abasolo1, D. Freites1, E. Menasalvas Ruiz2, L. Rodríguez Rodríguez,1 1Grupo de Patología Musculoesquelética. Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Reumatología, Madrid, Spain; 2Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Madrid, Spain; 3Centro de Tecnología Biomédica, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Lenguajes y Sistemas Informáticos e Ingeniería de Software, Madrid, Spain

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Figure 1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOIs: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.205
G. Kollubaseva1, G. Tarasova2, B. Belov3, A. Bolotbekova1, G. Syunyaev1, A. Turatbekova1, 1Togolok Moloto St, Rheumatology, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 2Kashirskoye Shosse, 34, Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation

Background: Infections are one of the main causes of morbidity and mortality in patients with autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases (AIRD). Pneumococcal vaccination can significantly reduce the number of serious respiratory infections in this group of patients.

Objectives: To analyze the frequency of respiratory infections in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), secondary and primary antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) before and after vaccination with 23-valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (PPV-23).

Methods: 91 patients were included in the study, 78 of them with SLE, including 18 with secondary APS; 13 patients with primary APS. The follow-up period was 12 months. All patients with SLE and secondary APS received immunosuppressive therapy, including 29 anti-B-cell therapy. With primary APS, 6 patients received immunosuppressive therapy, including rituximab.

Results: All LRTI were more common in SLE (48.3%, 27.8%, 11.8%, respectively), mainly due to the more frequent development of pneumonia (Pn) (20%, 11%, 7.7%, respectively). After vaccination, the number of pneumonias decreased from 15 (16.7%) to 4 (4.4%) and were registered only in patients with SLE, p=0.01. These were not severe pneumonia, did not require hospitalization; in all cases there were predisposing factors (anti-B-cell therapy with the absence of an adequate vaccine response - 3, interstitial lung disease (ISL) - 1). Before vaccination, among ENT infections in this group of patients, may be the absence of ISL in these patients.

Conclusion: The clear clinical efficacy of PPV-23 in patients with SLE and APS has been demonstrated. In primary APS, fewer respiratory infections and their absence after vaccination are naturally explained by less aggressive immunosuppressive therapy. A possible reason for the lower number of INDO in secondary APS, in after vaccination are naturally explained by less aggressive immunosuppressive therapy.

Table 1. The frequency of respiratory infections in patients with SLE, secondary and primary APS, n=91.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SLE before vaccination</th>
<th>SLE after vaccination</th>
<th>Secondary APS before vaccination</th>
<th>Secondary APS after vaccination</th>
<th>Primary APS before vaccination</th>
<th>Primary APS after vaccination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LRTI</td>
<td>29 (48.3%)</td>
<td>9 (15%)</td>
<td>5 (27.3%)</td>
<td>2 (11.8%)</td>
<td>3 (23%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>12 (20%)</td>
<td>5 (16.7%)</td>
<td>2 (11%)</td>
<td>1 (7.7%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute bronchitis</td>
<td>10 (16.7%)</td>
<td>3 (5%)</td>
<td>3 (16.7%)</td>
<td>2 (11.8%)</td>
<td>1 (7.7%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exacerbation of T in 11.7%</td>
<td>3 (5%)</td>
<td>2 (3.3%)</td>
<td>1 (7.7%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENT</td>
<td>18 (30%)</td>
<td>3 (16.7%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections</td>
<td>Sinusitis</td>
<td>10 (16.7%)</td>
<td>1 (5.5%)</td>
<td>1 (7.7%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharyngitis</td>
<td>4 (6.6%)</td>
<td>1 (5.5%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exacerbation of 3 (5%)</td>
<td>1 (5.5%)</td>
<td>1 (5.5%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute otitis media</td>
<td>1 (1.7%)</td>
<td>1 (1.7%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes: LRTI - Lower Respiratory Tract Infections; ENT infections - otolaryngological infections.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The clear clinical efficacy of PPV-23 in patients with SLE and APS has been demonstrated. In primary APS, fewer respiratory infections and their absence after vaccination are naturally explained by less aggressive immunosuppressive therapy. A possible reason for the lower number of INDO in secondary APS, in comparison with SLE without APS, may be the absence of ISL in these patients.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1. Flow chart depicting treatment provided in remission and relapse group.
**AB1670 PREVALENCE OF PNEUMOCYSTIS JIROVECI PNEUMONIA(PJP) IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOLOGICAL CONDITIONS ON IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE MEDICATIONS AND THE NEED FOR PROPHYLAXIS**

**Keywords:** Infection-related RMDs, Disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs)

**D. Ramachandran, W. Mushanq, D. Makkuni, H. Reddy.** James Paget University Hospitals, Medicine, Great Yarmouth, United Kingdom

**Background:** Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia (PJP) is a life-threatening opportunistic fungal infection with a high mortality rate (30-50%) among non-HIV immunosuppressed patients. According to previous studies cotrimoxazole prophylaxis is given for patients when their risk of PJP is greater than 3.5%[1] however these guidelines were established for patients with malignancies, stem cell and solid organ transplantations[2]. The data from British registries showed a slightly higher risk in patients treated with Rituximab than Anti TNF therapies. The ACR recommends PJP prophylaxis in their recently published guidelines on ANCA associated vasculitis (AAV) and studies have shown higher PJP infection in patients with GPA than other vasculitides. The benefit for prophylaxis treatment is not clearly established in inflammatory conditions like RA and other autoimmune Rheumatological conditions (ARPs)

**Objectives:** To investigate the incidence of PJP infection in patients with ARPs and explore the potential common risk factors.

**Methods:** Using our, electronic health record (EHR) cohort, we investigated the prevalence of PJP infections in Rheumatic patients on immunosuppressants over a period of one year.

**Results:** We identified 6 non HIV patients with a confirmed diagnoses of PJP infection over a period of one year. All patients were diagnosed following bronchial lavage looking for PJP DNA in the aspirate. Only 2 out of six patients were identified to have ARDs on immunosuppressant drugs. Case 1: 68 yr old, female, was on longstanding methotrexate for RA, presented with breathlessness and dry cough. The blood showed CRP of 200 and CT thorax showed features consistent with RA-ILD with superimposed ground-glass changes keeping with an acute infection. He did not respond to IV antibiotics and went on to have a bronchial lavage which tested positive for PJP and was started on high dose of steroids and intravenouse cotrimoxazole followd subsequently by Vancomycin and Clindamycin after not improving on cotrimoxazole. Despite ongoing medical treatment, patient deteriorated and passed away. Case 2: 77 yr old lady on rituximab for AAV (with positive MPO >129) with an established ILD secondary to the vasculitis for 7 years. She presented with breathlessness and cough. Rituximab was started 7 years ago for the AAV and due to its relapsing nature, rituximab was continued with a maintenance dose of prednisolone 5-10mg. Blood tests showed low IgM levels with normal IgG and A levels. There was no evidence of active vasculitis and she was commenced on antibiotics which made no difference to her symptoms. A HRCT thorax was done which revealed Interval progression of ILD (UIP) bilateral ground-glass changes. Bronchoscopy and lavage showed evidence of PJP DNA on PCR and the patient was commenced on IV cotrimoxazole. Patient made a slow recovery.

**Conclusion:** Our survey did not identify a high incidence of PJP in the ARD cohort however, the common denominator for PJP in the two patients we have identified seem to be an underlying ILD. The commonest CT findings noted was ground glass shadowing in addition to ILD in both cases. A strong index of suspicion, early HRCT and bronchial lavage is crucial for the diagnosis. Failure to respond to conventional treatment should alert the clinician to cotrimoxazole resistant PJP. There are case reports of emerging resistance to cotrimoxazole tri in the non-HIV immunosuppressed group, increasing the mortality. We could not make any firm recommendation based on this observational study as the numbers were very small but the clinician should consider PJP prophylaxis in RA patients and patient with AAVs on long term Rituximab therapy. There is a need to incorporate prophylaxis treatment in to the guidelines.

**REFERENCE:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.18854

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**Table 1. Baseline characteristic and histopathological features of IGM patients with relapse and remission**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>IGM relapse (N = 9)</th>
<th>IGM remission (N = 18)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI ≥25 kg/m²</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>4 (44%)</td>
<td>7 (39%)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first clinical symptom at diagnosis</td>
<td>4 (44%)</td>
<td>7 (39%)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pain</td>
<td>3 (33%)</td>
<td>7 (39%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mass</td>
<td>2 (22%)</td>
<td>4 (22%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ulcer/abscess</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of smoking</td>
<td>4 (44%)</td>
<td>5 (28%)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of OCP use at diagnosis</td>
<td>5 (56%)</td>
<td>4 (22%)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of breastfeeding</td>
<td>2 (22%)</td>
<td>5 (28%)</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of previous pregnancy</td>
<td>7 (78%)</td>
<td>18 (100%)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histopathological feature</td>
<td>3 (33%)</td>
<td>14 (78%)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abscess formation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupuscentric pathology</td>
<td>3 (33%)</td>
<td>9 (50%)</td>
<td>0.37</td>
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**Acknowledgements:** NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1739

---

**Table 1. Patients’ characteristics.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>RA patients (n = 487)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular risk factors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure², n (%)</td>
<td>74.0 (15.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FH of premature CAD, n (%)</td>
<td>48 (9.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight³, n (%)</td>
<td>208 (42.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity, n (%)</td>
<td>153 (31.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active smoking, n (%)</td>
<td>48 (9.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension, n (%)</td>
<td>148 (30.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetic nephropathy, n (%)</td>
<td>150 (30.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes, n (%)</td>
<td>76 (15.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney disease, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RA, rheumatoid arthritis; FH, family history; CAD, cardiovascular disease; Systolic blood pressure ≥140 and/or diastolic blood pressure ≥90; BMI ≥25 and <30; BMI ≥30.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3962
SCREENING OF SYMPTOMS IN THE AT-RISK OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS CZECH COHORT USING SYMPTOMS IN PERSONS AT RISK OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (SPARRA) QUESTIONNAIRE

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Rheumatoid arthritis

N. Růžičková1, K. Pražlerová2, P. Hánová3, J. Šenolt1, M. Filipová1. 1Institute of Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; 2Institute of Rheumatology, Experimental Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic; 3Institute of Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic

Background: With growing knowledge about the course of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), the focus shifts to the pre-clinical phase. The presence of RA-associated autoantibodies enable the characterization of individuals who are considered at risk for progression to RA. The “Symptoms in Persons at Risk of RA” (SPARRA) questionnaire was created to screen symptoms occurring in at-risk individuals. This questionnaire comprises 13 symptoms (joint pain, swelling and stiffness, burning and tingling sensations, numbness, changes in skin color over joints, muscle cramps, weakness, fatigue, emotional distress, concentration and sleep difficulties) and explores their duration, location, intensity and impact on daily activities.

Objectives: To explore the symptoms in our prospective observational cohort of individuals with arthralgia at-risk of RA (ARRA cohort) using the SPARRA questionnaire.

Methods: Individuals at-risk of RA, defined as having arthralgia without arthritis on the examination of 66/68 joints at baseline and being either ACPA+ and/or meeting the European Association of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) definition of clinically suspect arthralgia (CSA, having at least 3 out of 7 parameters), cross-sectionally filled out the SPARRA questionnaire. All individuals signed informed consent before study enrolment. Differences between ACPA+ and ACPA- individuals were analysed using Fisher’s exact test.

Results: The study included 77 at-risk individuals (75% were females) with a mean age of 48.0±12.62 years, symptom duration of 34.6±35.56 months with CRP 3.17±4.24 mg/l and 5.43±7.32 tender joints on examination, out of which 61% were ACPA+, 59% met the CSA definition, and 20% were both ACPA+ and met the CSA definition. The most frequent symptoms at the time of SPARRA completion were joint pain (97%), joint stiffness (83%), fatigue (82%), emotional distress (70%), sleep problems (66%), and joint swelling reported by the patient (65%). Joint stiffness (100% vs. 71%, p=0.0005), sleep problems (84% vs. 53%, p=0.0067), and concentration difficulties (69% vs. 29%, p=0.0010) were more prevalent in ACPA-individuals than in ACPA+ group. Similarly, the intensity (none/mild vs. moderate/severe) of fatigue (p=0.0197), emotional distress (p=0.0270), and sleep problems (p=0.0054) was higher in ACPA+ group, along with emotional distress (p=0.0136) and sleep problems (p=0.0407) being of higher impact on daily activities in ACPA-individuals.

Conclusion: Symptoms of the at-risk individuals appeared more frequently and with higher intensity and impact on daily activities in ACPA-individuals, who as per the inclusion criteria, met the CSA definition, with joint pain being the most prevalent. The value of the SPARRA questionnaire in the assessment of the risk of arthritis development in at-risk individuals needs to be determined in further prospective studies.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5031

AB1673 THE USE OF DIGITAL FOOT SCANNING (PELMATOGRAPHY) FOR IDENTIFICATION OF STANCE ABNORMALITIES IN A YOUNG HEALTHY POPULATION

Keywords: Work-related issues, Epidemiology, Health services research

I. Katsiariou1, E. Skovaklidou1, G. Vountrypidis1, D. Deliegeorgakis1, D. Zisoupolos1, G. Sakellarious1, P. Vountrypidis1. 1424 Military Hospital Thessaloniki, Rheumatology, Thessaloniki, Greece

Background: Clinical evaluation of pes anatomy and abnormalities are not reported in rheumatology literature. Often deviations from normal are not evaluated, unless subsequent pathology and symptoms are overt. Foot symptoms may occasionally lead to overdiagnosis of seronegative arthropathies.

Objectives: This study aims to identify any foot abnormalities in a healthy young population of army recruits, using clinical and digital foot scanning – pelmatographic (PLM) examination.

Methods: One hundred and ten (M/F:65/54) of a total of 219 new army recruits of a Military Academy in Greece participated voluntarily in the study. Subjects' informed consent and proper ethical approvals were obtained. The study conducted according to Declaration of Helsinki. A small percentage (1.12 %) reported short-term lower leg symptoms during vigorous athletic activities, the past five years. We used clinical evaluation of pes morphology on stance and compared to data obtained during the stance phase of examination using a 3400-sensors plantar pressure foot scan machine. Descriptive statistics were used for the statistical analyses.

Results: Agreement between clinical and pelmatographic observation was noted in 59.1% of subjects. In particular, clinical and pelmatographic normal pes was observed in 48.2% and 68.8% of subjects, respectively. High arched foot was observed in 23.6% and 17.2%, while flat foot in 23.6% and 9.7% respectively. There was no statistical difference between clinical and pelmatographic evaluation of high arched foot (chi-square test, p=0.815). Discrepancy between clinical and pelmatographic evaluation of flat feet was noted (p=0.04, OR:0.47, 95%CI:0.165-0.730). Finally, 37.3% of the participants presented foot pronation while in 60.8% subjects [M:41 (60.2%), F:27 (39.3%)] brachymetatarsia of the 1st toe (Morton's toe) was observed.

Conclusion: Prevalence of pes abnormalities are high and unattended in an otherwise healthy young population. These variations may predispose to future foot symptoms under specific circumstances. Digital foot pressure scanning may facilitate diagnosis and contribute to solution with foot orthotics.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5855
Validation of outcome measures and biomarkers

AB1674 TOWARDS A GUIDE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED TELEMONITORING: SENSITIVITY OF PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES TO CHANGE IN DISEASE ACTIVITY STATUS IN EARLY AND ESTABLISHED RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis, Telemedicine

A. loco1, E. Van Mulligen1,2, A. Van der Helm – van Mil1,2, P. De Jong1
1Erasmus MC, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: In the treatment and follow up of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients, it has become more desirable to detect changes in disease activity through telemonitoring, for which patient reported outcomes (PROs) might be useful. So far associations between PROs and changes in disease activity have been mostly investigated on a continuous scale. However, in daily practice and in line with the EULAR recommendations, treatment decisions are mainly based on the patient’s disease activity status. Earlier literature has shown that functionality, joint pain, morning stiffness, general health (GH), health-related quality of life and fatigue change with the development and resolution of a disease flare.

Objectives: Therefore, our aim is to determine if PROs that cover functionality, joint pain, morning stiffness, health-related quality of life and fatigue are sensitive to disease activity status alterations (from active to low disease activity to remission, and vice versa) in patients with early and established RA.

Methods: Early RA patients from the iREACH-trial and established RA patients from the TARA-trial were included. Both studies were multicentre, single blinded trials with a treat-to-target design. Treatment alterations were based on the disease activity score (DAS44) and PROs were collected at 3-monthly fixed intervals. The following PROs were studied: (1) the Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (HAQ-DI), (2) joint pain (numeric rating scale, NRS 0-10), (3) morning stiffness severity (NRS 0-10), (4) GH (visual analogue scale, VAS 0-100mm), (5) health-related quality of life (EQ-5D) and (6) fatigue (VAS 0-100mm).

Disease activity statuses were defined as: (1) active disease (DAS≤2.4), (2) low disease activity (LDA, DAS<2.4 and ≥1.6) and (3) remission (DAS<1.6). Differences in disease activity status between two consecutive visits were compared to changes in PROs. Mean changes in PROs per disease activity status alteration were compared to stable disease activity status, using generalized estimated equation-models.

Results: Respectively 587 and 189 early and established RA patients were included. The median symptom duration (IQR) was 0.4 (0.2-1.8) and 6.2 (4.1-8.9) years, respectively. The mean DAS (95%CI) at baseline was 3.0 (3.0-3.1) in the early and 1.0 (0.9-1.1) in the established RA group. Figure 1 shows the mean change (95%CI and significance) in PROs per change in disease activity status. HAQ-DI, joint pain, morning stiffness, GH, EQ-5D and fatigue (in early RA) were in concordance with improvement or worsening of disease activity status. Change from active disease to LDA or vice versa had a larger effect on HAQ-DI, GH, and EQ-5D compared to change from and to remission to LDA. Respectively, change in HAQ-DI was 1.9 and 1.8 times greater going from active disease to LDA compared to a shift from LDA to remission and vice versa. For GH this was 1.6 and 1.2 and for EQ-5D 2.1 and 2.0 respectively.

Conclusion: Changes in HAQ-DI, morning stiffness, joint pain, GH and EQ-5D correspond to changes in disease activity status. These results suggest that changes in aforementioned PROs may be helpful in telemonitoring of RA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Figure 1. Mean changes in patient reported outcome per disease activity status alteration

Figure 1A-F show the mean change (95%CI) in PRO per disease activity status alteration for early and established RA patients. * indicates that the change in PRO is significantly (p<0.05) different compared to stable disease activity status.

Abbreviations: AD, active disease; HAQ-DI, Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index; LDA, low disease activity; NRS, numeric rating scale; R, remission; VAS, visual analogue scale.

AB1675 DEEP PHENOTYPING OF IMMUNE MICROENVIRONMENT IN ULCERATIVE COLITIS BY INTEGRATIVE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Keywords: Adaptive immunity

Q. Wang1, M. R. Chen1,2, J. W. Hao1,2, M. J. Chang1,2, S. X. Zhang1,2, Q. Yu3, P. F. He3,1, Second Hospital of Shantou Medical University, Department of Rheumatology, Taishan, China; Shantou Medical University, Ministry of Education, Key Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, Taishan, China; Shantou Medical University, Shantou Key Laboratory of Big Data for Clinical Decision, Taishan, China; Shantou Medical University, School of Management, Taishan, China

Background: Ulcerative colitis (UC) is an inflammatory bowel disease characterized by idiopathic and recurrent mucosal inflammation [1]. The pathogenesis is multifactorial, involving genetic susceptibility, epithelial barrier defects, dysregulation of the immune response, and environmental factors. UC is a highly heterogeneous disease [2]. Despite efforts to characterize disease subgroups and predict differential outcomes in UC patients, disease heterogeneity is not adequately translated into current clinical subclassifications. Anomalies: This study seeks to unravel this complexity by using an integrated systems approach that classifies UC patients into different phenotypes based on the immune microenvironment, capable of providing new insights into the development of stratified therapies.

Methods: RNA sequencing datasets of 602 colon tissue samples from 455 patients with UC and 147 healthy controls (HC) was imported from GEO database. The microarray datasets were transformed into immune cell components by CIBERSORT, and patients were stratified by a consensus clustering algorithm. Then, the cellular characteristics of the subtypes and the overall role of specific pathways were determined by immune cell infiltration and pathway enrichment. The clinical characteristics of the different subtypes were also analyzed to clarify the characteristics of these classifications.

Results: Patients can be classified into two distinct immune phenotypes (Subtype A, B) based on their specific RNA expression profile, which have different cellular and pathway characteristics. (Figure A) The results show that Subtype A is mainly enriched in immune cells such as B cells, CD8+ T cells, CD4+ memory T cells, DC cells, macrophages, mast cells and plasma cells. Acidic granulocytes and neutrophils were more active in Subtype A. It was also significantly enriched in the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR) signaling pathway in Subtype B. In contrast, Subtype A showed a strong enrichment for most inflammatory pathways B cell and T cell receptor signaling, IL-17 signaling pathway, TNF, and interleukin 4 and interleukin 13 signaling pathway. (Figure 1 D, E) In addition, there was a significant difference between molecular subclassification and disease status, with Subtype A being more active in patients (69.3% of Subtype A vs.30.6% of Subtype B in 105 cases). (Figure 1C)

Conclusion: Analysis of the immune microenvironment of colonic mucosal tissue provides good insight into the pathophysiological characteristics of UC. These results can be used as a model for future studies. The response and clinical outcomes of patients with different classification need to be further investigated.
REFERENCES:

Background: One rationale for including patient global assessment (PtGA) in Boolean remission is that PtGA ≤1 reduces the probability of joint findings outside the 28 joints and complements the limitations of 28-joint count assessment [1]. Meanwhile, the criterion of PtGA ≤1 has been questioned, leading to establishment of Boolean2.0 or proposal of 3V-remission [2-3]. However, the significance of PtGA as a complement to the limitations of the 28-joint assessment has been forgotten.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the discriminative power of PtGA for the presence of joint findings outside the 28 joints within the framework of Boolean2.0 and 3V-remission in the real-world setting.

Methods: We analyzed 8,684 patients with rheumatoid arthritis who achieved 3V-remission (28-tender joint count (TJC), 28-swollen joint count (SJC) and C-reactive protein (mg/dL) all ≤1) registered in the National Database of Rheumatic Diseases in Japan (NinJa) in 2020, a large observational database. Based on TJC68 and SJC66, patients were divided into two groups of patients with and without joint findings outside the 28 joints (JFO28). The values and distributions of PtGA were compared between the two groups, and the positive likelihood ratio for no findings outside the 28 joints was calculated, varying cutoff values of PtGA. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) analysis was performed to assess the discriminative power of PtGA for the presence of JFO28 and optimal cut-off value.

Results: Among 8,684 patients, 6,901 were patients without JFO28 and 1,783 were patients with JFO28. The values of PtGA were significantly higher in patients with JFO28 (the difference of 25% trimmed mean, 1.12 [95% CI, 1.01 to 1.24]). However, the distribution of PtGA was largely overlapping (Figure 1). About 12%, 15%, and 21% of patients had JFO28 when the cutoff values for PtGA were 1.0, 2.0 (Boolean2.0), and none (3V-remission), respectively. The positive likelihood ratios were 1.90 and 1.44 when the cutoff values of PtGA were 1.0 and 2.0, respectively. The area under the ROC curve was 0.68 [95% CI, 0.66 to 0.69], indicating low discriminative power. The optimal cut-off value was 1.0 based on Youden index.

Conclusion: A cutoff value of 1.0 for PtGA seems reasonable in terms of 68/66 joint findings. It may be pragmatic to evaluate PtGA and joint findings separately in accordance with the concept of dual target therapy because PtGA has low discriminative power for the presence of JFO28 in patients achieving 3V-remission. However, our results suggested that there is a need to extend the criteria for joint assessment in 3V-remission to 68/66 joints, considering not a few patients had JFO28 even if they had reached 3V-remission.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to acknowledge all investigators in the National Database of Rheumatic Diseases in Japan (NinJa) in 2020. We also acknowledge Akiko Komiya, who curated the NinJa database, and Satomi Hanawa, who assisted administrative work.


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1693
Objectives: To compare different methods of constructing a composite score for the Flare-OA-16 self-reported questionnaire for measuring knee and hip OA flare, defined as a cluster of symptoms of sufficient duration and intensity to require initiation, change or increase in therapy [1].

Methods: Participants with a physician diagnosis of knee and hip OA completed a validated 16-item questionnaire [2,3]. Assessing five dimensions of flare in OA: pain, swelling, stiffness, psychological aspects, and consequences of symptoms, endorsed by OMERACT. Three estimation methods were compared: the score obtained i) by second-order confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) weighting the factor loadings in a linear combination of the five dimensions; ii) by logistic regression, modeling the probability of having a flare according to the participant’s self-report (yes/no); and iii) by Rasch method, using the average of the weighted scores from a Rasch model in each dimension. For the scores obtained by the three methods, the disordered items were modified, and then the scores were standardized on a scale from 0 to 10. The distribution (floor effect without flare (FF) and ceiling effect with flare (CF)) of the scores in each model was compared. The similarity between the scores was analyzed by intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) and their performance were compared by areas under the ROC curves (AUC) and 95% confidence interval. The intra-score test-retest reliability at 15 days was assessed by ICC.

Results: In a sample of 381 participants with complete questionnaires, 247 reported having a flare. With CFA, good fit indices (CFI=0.94; RMSEA=0.08) justified the estimation of an overall score mean=3.90 (SD=2.79), with FF effect 27.6% and CF 20.0%. For the logistic regression estimation, the overall score was mean=6.48 (SD=3.13), with FF 0% and CF 34.0% effect. With the Rasch model, the composite score was mean=4.15 (SD=2.45), with FF 18.7% and CF 0% effect. Similarity analysis indicated a greater concordance between the CFA and Rasch scores (ICC=0.99) than between the logistic regression score and the two others (ICC=0.87 for each). The ROC curve indicated similar performance of the overall scores estimated by logistic model (AUC=0.88 [0.85-0.92]), by CFA
AB1679

VASCULITIS DISEASE ACTIVITY SCORES BEFORE AND DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A COMPARISON OF FACE-TO-FACE CLINICIAN SCORING AND PROMS COLLECTED USING REMOTE MONITORING IN A SINGLE-CENTRE COHORT

Keywords: Telemedicine, Vasculitis, Patient reported outcomes

D. Kurzeja1, K. Song2, M. Mirza2, M. Ashraf2, R. Luqmani1. 1Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Rheumatology, Oxford, United Kingdom; 2University of Oxford, Medical Sciences Division, Oxford, United Kingdom; 3Great Western Hospital, Rheumatology, Swindon, United Kingdom; 4Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Rheumatology, Aylesbury, United Kingdom

Background: During the COVID-19 pandemic, asynchronous consultations were introduced for patients with vasculitis. To assess disease activity without of face-to-face clinical reviews and blood testing, patients submitted patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) via electronic survey forms, which were subsequently triaged by clinicians.

Objectives: 1. To investigate how patients’ vasculitis disease activity was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through retrospective comparison of clinician-assessed scores recorded pre-pandemic with intra-pandemic self-reported patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and disease scores submitted by patients remotely.

2. To assess patients’ clinical outcomes, including allocation of follow-up and further management/treatment escalation during this period.

3. To validate self-reported BVAS scores against an existing PROM.

Methods: This is a retrospectively study of patients with a known diagnosis of vasculitis under the care of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford. For the purposes of this study, we included patients with all vasculitis diagnoses. Clinician-reported scores (Bristol Vasculitis Activity score v3, BVAS) were recorded during in-person clinics pre-pandemic (defined as 01/01/2019-31/12/2019) [1]. Patients’ self-reported BVAS (SR-BVAS) and AAV-PRO (ANCA-associated vasculitis patient-reported outcomes) scores were submitted by patients via electronic forms containing the requisite questionnaires sent out during-pandemic (defined as 01/12/2020-31/03/2022) [2]. SR-BVAS has not been validated but was collected to allow clinical comparison to disease activity scores completed by clinicians. Response were stored and analysed in a secure database. Score comparison was performed using Wilcoxon Sign Rank testing. Clinical outcome data was collected from the local Electronic Patient Record. Data analysis was performed in Microsoft Excel and R (version 4.2.1).

Results: We noted a significantly higher overall level of patient-reported disease activity during the pandemic than was recorded in clinics prior. In the total cohort of all vasculitis patients for whom we had data, the median BVAS increased from 2 pre-pandemic (N = 335, range 0-21) to intra-pandemic (N = 143, range 0-42) (p <0.001). The overall proportion of patients with severe/active disease (defined as BVAS >4) increased from 27% to 36% during the pandemic period. In a smaller cohort of 64 patients for whom we had paired pre- and during-pandemic scores, increased disease activity was reported (p<0.01). Notably, the number with a BVAS consistent with severe disease increased from 7 (11%) to 19 (30%).

There was a significant positive correlation between SR-BVAS and AAV-PRO (r=0.61, p< 0.001) submitted by patients during-pandemic; however, at low BVAS (<3), the AAV-PRO ranged widely (28-67) Follow-up data was available for all 64 patients in this cohort: 8/19 (42%) with a during-pandemic SR-BVAS >4 were seen in clinic within 3 months (telemedicine or face-to-face).

Conclusion: Patients reported worsening of vasculitis disease activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. This may be attributable to impacts on well-being or access to healthcare services. We note that disease activity scores in vasculitis may be limited in their ability to capture the whole picture disease activity in the absence of clinical assessment [3]. 42% of patients with self-reported high disease activity were seen within 3 months. There was a significant positive correlation between AAV-PRO and SR-BVAS, suggesting it has some use as a PROM.

REFERENCES:


Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DO: 10.1136/rheumatoid-2023-eular.1380

AB1680

BIOMARKERS IN PATIENTS WITH VIBRATION INDUCED RAYNAUD’S PHENOMENON AND IN REFERENCES

Keywords: Biomarkers, Comorbidities, Work-related issues

E. Tekavec1, T. Nilsson2, L. Dahlin3, C. Nordander1, A. Axmon1, J. Riddar1, M. Käredel1. 1Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Lund, Sweden; 2Division of Sustainable Health and Medicine, Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå, Sweden; 3Lund University, Department of Translational Medicine – Hand Surgery, Malmö, Sweden

Background: Secondary Raynaud’s phenomenon (RP) due to occupational exposure to hand-held vibrating tools is a well-recognized part of the Hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) [1]. Different pathophysiological mechanisms for HAVS-induced RP have been proposed, e.g., localized structural vascular and neurological injuries as well as systemic inflammatory processes by increased oxidative stress [2-5]. Elevated plasma levels of thrombomodulin (TM), a marker for endothelial damage, have been shown in vibration-exposed workers [6, 7] with equal levels as in collagen diseases [7]. Von Willebrand factor (vWF) has been suggested as biomarkers for vibration induced RP [8]. Elevated levels of vWF have been found in RP patients who subsequently develop scleroderma or other connective tissue diseases, even in the absence of capillaroscopic abnormalities [9]. It is however still not clear whether the mechanisms for vibration related RP are similar to those for other forms of RP. Biomarkers for vascular injuries may shed light on this.

Objectives: To investigate serum levels of TM and vWF in patients with HAVS, with or without RP.

Methods: Blood samples were collected in the morning from 92 patients with HAVS. Forty-five (49%) of these had RP, 47 (51%) did not. Serum was removed and stored at -80 °C until analysis. TM and vWF were measured by using commercially available ELISA assays. Distributions were compared using Mann-Whitney U tests.

Results: Higher values of TM were found in HAVS patients with RP (median 6.1 ng/ml; range 2.7 – 30), compared to those without RP (5.2 ng/ml; 2.3 – 39; p = 0.02). Further higher levels of vWF were found in HAVS patients with RP (18 μg/ml; 6.2 – 33) compared to without RP (14 μg/ml; 6.9 – 34; p = 0.008).

Conclusion: As in patients with RP due to connective tissue disorders higher levels of biomarkers for endothelial damage were shown in HAVS patients with RP. Increased serum levels of TM have been shown in previous studies on vibration induced patients [8, 9] but in one of the studies, no significant difference was shown between patients with RP and those without RP [9]. Our data indicates that RP symptoms is required to detect a significant change in the biomarker TM in vibration injured patients. Our data strengthen earlier findings that biomarkers of endothelial damage could be a useful tool in the assessment of vibrational induced injuries.
Table 1. Diseases associated with positive anti-PR3 antibodies (n=54).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Number (n)</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vasculitis</td>
<td>Granulomatosis with polyangitis</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug-induced vasculitis</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauci-immune glomerulonephritis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microscopic polyangitis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large vessel vasculitis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified vasculitis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No vasculitis</td>
<td>Ulcerative colitis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chron’s disease</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse interstitial lung disease</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyper eosinophil syndrome</td>
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<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AB1681**

ARE PR3 ANTIBODY TITERS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR ROUTINE CLINICAL PRACTICE?. STUDY FROM A SINGLE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**Keywords:** Vasculitis, Autoantibodies

V. Calvo-Rio1, S. Al Fazazi2, M. Renuncio-Garcia2, M. Rodriguez Vidriales4, C. Escagdo Cagigas4, J. Irure-Ventura3, L. Martin-Penagos4, A. Herrera-Moran4, M. Lopez-Hoyos4, R. Blanco1, 1Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital, Rheumatology, Santander, Spain; Hospital Puerta Del Mar, Rheumatology, Cadiz, Spain; 2Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital, Immunology, Santander, Spain; 3Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital, Nephrology, Santander, Spain

**Background:** Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV) includes granulomatosis with polyangitis (GPA), microscopic polyangitis (MPA), and eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangitis (EGPA). Anti-proteinase 3 are one of the main ANCA subtypes. There are contradictory studies on the relation between ANCA levels and the severity of the disease and its prognosis [1].

**Objectives:** In patients with positive anti-PR3 antibodies from a university hospital we assess: a) associated diseases, b) specificity in diagnosing AAV and, c) determine if there is a cut-off point that allows to correlate the levels of anti-PR3 antibodies with the severity and prognosis of AAV.

**Methods:** Observational study of patients with positive anti-PR3 from a University Hospital, from 2003 to 2022. ANCA was determined by chemiluminescence. The specificity of anti-PR3 for AAV diagnosis, predictive value of severity and prognosis were determined with Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves. At diagnosis, AAV with renal failure (hematuria and/or proteinuria) and lung involvement (hemoptysis, asthma and/or respiratory failure) were considered severe. During follow-up, the prognosis was considered worse if the patient needed dialysis, a transplant, or died.

**Results:** We study 54 patients with positive PR3. Most of them (81.5%) had an underlying AAV being the most frequent GPA (61.1%). The non vasculitic disease more frequent was Ulcerative colitis (11.1%). The non vasculitic disease more frequent was Ulcerative colitis (11.1%). The non vasculitic disease more frequent was Ulcerative colitis (11.1%).

**Conclusion:** The presence of anti-PR3 is mainly associated with AAV, although in up to a fifth of cases it can be associated with other diseases. Anti-PR3 antibodies levels, at the moment of AAV diagnosis, correlates with disease diagnosis (specificity) and with severity but not with disease outcome.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** NIL.

**AB1682**

ARE CHANGES IN SELF-REPORTED NSAID DOSE ASSOCIATED WITH MEANINGFUL CHANGES IN PAIN OR OTHER HEALTH OUTCOMES IN RHEUMATIC DISEASES?

**Keywords:** Patient reported outcomes, Osteoarthritis, Pain

K. Michaud1,2, S. Pedro2, N. Goei1,4, 1University of Nebraska Medical Center, Medicine, Omaha, United States of America; 2Arthritis Research Center: National Data Bank for Rheumatic Diseases, Research, Wichita, United States of America; 3ThalSpark, Research and Development, New York, United States of America; 4Duke University - Main Campus, Medicine, Durham, United States of America

**Background:** Rheumatic disease primary treatment effectiveness research inconsistently addresses confounding effects of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) on pain and inflammation. Further, NSAID comedication use is often captured either as a simplified binary measure (eg. yes/no) or with a more burdensome high level of detail (eg. daily pill dose).

**Objectives:** Evaluate if moderate complexity items measuring changes in monthly NSAID dose are associated with changes in pain.

**Methods:** Patient-reported data from 1998-2021 were analyzed from the Forward Databank, a US-based longitudinal rheumatic disease registry, with questionnaires completed every 6 months. Eligible participants with RA or OA reported NSAID use on ≥1 questionnaire and had ≥1 follow-up (FU) questionnaire. NSAID use recorded type of drug, initiation, discontinuation, re-use, and dose.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Declared, Marcos Lopez-Hoyos: None declared, Ricardo Blanco Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Lilly, MSD, UCB Pharma, Grunenthal and Celgene. Alba Herrera-Moran: None declared, Maria Rodriguez Vidriales: None declared, Luis Martin-Penagos: None declared, Alba Herrera-Moran: None declared, Alba Herrera-Moran: None declared, Alba Herrera-Moran: None declared, Alba Herrera-Moran: None declared, Alba Herrera-Moran: None declared, Alba Herrera-Moran: None declared.
frequency by 0-10, 11-20, or >20 days a month. Primary exposure was change in NSAID dose from baseline (increase, no change, decrease). Increase was defined as initiation, increase in frequency, increase in dose, or any combination of the 3; decreases were similarly defined directionally. Primary outcome was change in the pain visual analog scale (VAS, 0-10). Gaussian generalized estimating equations (GEE) models with robust standard errors [SE] were used to assess the association between pain and NSAID change or type of change (increase, decrease). Models were adjusted for demographics, rheumatic disease comorbidity index (RDCI), total joint replacement, other treatments (eg, opioids, disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs), and NSAID type.

**Results:** A total of 22,445 RA and 5,278 OA patients initiated ≥1 NSAID. Median (IQR) FU time of NSAID exposure was 4.5 (2–9) years for RA and 2.5 (1–5) for OA. Patients with RA vs OA were younger (59 vs 64 years [y]), but similar on other characteristics (male 20% vs 15%, White 96% vs 94%, disease duration 14 vs 16y, and RDCI 1.5 ±1.5 vs 1.7±1.5). Overall, 24% of RA 6-month observations (~160700 observations) included an NSAID increase and 18% a decrease; in OA (~39800 observations), 30% increased and 18% decreased. 70% of RA patients (OA 77%) had an NSAID increase during FU and 69% (OA 67%) decrease. Starting or stopping an NSAID was the most common change (Figure 1). In RA, any NSAID increase was significantly associated with increased pain of 0.15 units (and for any NSAID decrease, decreased pain of 0.06) (Table 1), supported by the statistically significant directional changes in pain for any individual category of NSAID increase or decrease. In OA, any NSAID increase was significantly associated with increased pain of 0.06 units but were not significant for any decrease; only the individual categories of NSAID initiation and increased dose were significantly associated with increased pain and decreased NSAID dose associated with decreased pain.

**Conclusion:** We quantified the change in pain associated with change in NSAID dose generally, directionally, and by change type. All types were important for an increase in pain, but a decrease in NSAID frequency was more significant than other types for RA. Further work is needed to extend the definition of change by including other confounding treatments, eg, anaglesics and opioids, and to understand optimal collection of concomitant medications that may influence trial results, especially in OA.

**Table 1. Pain VAS Change (95% CI) GEE Models in RA and OA Cohorts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>OA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=22,429</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>β</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in NSAID (ref. no change)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>0.15* (0.12; 0.17)</td>
<td>0.07* (0.03; 0.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>-0.09* (-0.09; -0.03)</td>
<td>-0.03 (-0.06; 0.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase type (ref. no change/decrease)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start an NSAID</td>
<td>0.15* (0.12; 0.17)</td>
<td>0.08* (0.03; 0.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time frequency</td>
<td>0.18* (0.10; 0.26)</td>
<td>0.04 (-0.10; 0.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose</td>
<td>0.16* (0.12; 0.20)</td>
<td>0.08* (0.00; 0.16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease type (ref. no change/increase)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop an NSAID</td>
<td>-0.06* (-0.10; -0.03)</td>
<td>-0.02 (-0.09; 0.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time frequency</td>
<td>-0.23* (-0.32; -0.18)</td>
<td>-0.13 (-0.27; 0.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose</td>
<td>-0.17* (-0.21; -0.12)</td>
<td>-0.10* (-0.19; -0.01)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P<0.05 (bolded)

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Kaleb Michaud: None declared, Sofia Pedro: None declared, Niti Goel Shareholder of: UCB shareholder, Employee of: Trialspark employee

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Outcome measures

**Methods:** Patients diagnosed with PsA according to CASPAR criteria were enrolled. The demographic, clinical, and functional characteristics of patients were evaluated. Functional assessment was performed with DH, Hand Functional Index (HFI), Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), and VAS-disability scale. C-reactive protein level, patients’ and physicians’ global VAS, swelling and tenderness of the hand joints, gross grip strength and thumb strength, and disease activity assessments were recorded as non-functional parameters related to active disease status. The reliability of DH was assessed by internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha coefficient), Face, content, and construct validity (convergent and divergent) were evaluated. Face and content validities were assessed via cognitive debriefing interviews with the patients. The correlations of the DH with HAQ, HFI, and VAS disability were assessed for convergent validity. The correlations of the DH with BASDAI, MDA, PASAQoL, Jenkins index, PASI, and grip strength were evaluated for divergent validity.

**Results:** One hundred and forty-four patients (74.3% female) with a mean age of 45.33 (SD: 11.58) years were included in this study. Cognitive debriefing showed the DH to be clear, understandable, and relevant. It was easy to complete and calculate, with the 4 minutes and 30 seconds, respectively. The Cronbach’s alpha coefficient was 0.963, and for the test–retest reliability of the DH, the intraclass correlation coefficient was 0.904 (p<0.001). DH showed good correlations with the functional disability scales (HAQ, HFI, VAS-disability), indicating its convergent validity and moderate to non-significant correlations with the non-functional parameters supporting its divergent validity (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** The DH is a valid and reliable scale to evaluate the functional disability of hands in patients with PsA.

**REFERENCE:**

**Table 1. Spearman’s correlation coefficients of the Duruöz Hand Index with the other parameters for construct validity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functional Parameters</th>
<th>Rho</th>
<th>Non-Functional Parameters</th>
<th>Rho</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vas Disability</td>
<td>0.599**</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>-0.033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Function Index</td>
<td>0.484**</td>
<td>Disease duration</td>
<td>0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Assessment Questionaire</td>
<td>0.773**</td>
<td>Tender joint count</td>
<td>0.346**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Swollen joint count</td>
<td>0.341**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Leeds enthesis index</td>
<td>0.256**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PASI</td>
<td>0.292**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DAPSA</td>
<td>0.312**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MDA total score</td>
<td>-0.257**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tenderness hand index</td>
<td>0.388**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Swelling hand index</td>
<td>0.305**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jamar strength, right</td>
<td>-0.277**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jamar’s strength left</td>
<td>-0.305**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pinch strength, right</td>
<td>-0.338**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pinch strength left</td>
<td>-0.349**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>0.151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>0.448**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VAS-p Pain</td>
<td>0.359**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VAS-p Elbow/shoulder/neck pain</td>
<td>0.391**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VAS-p Moroma stiffness</td>
<td>0.308**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VAS-p General health</td>
<td>0.327**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VAS-d General health</td>
<td>0.431**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VAS-d Hand disease activity</td>
<td>0.503**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Jenkins Sleep Scale</td>
<td>0.386**</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PsAQoL</td>
<td>0.585**</td>
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**P<0.001, **P<0.001-0.049**,
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DISEASE ACTIVITY MEASURED BY ULTRASOUND VERSUS THE STANDARDIZED CLINICAL ACTIVITY INDEX (DAS28 AND DAPSA) FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS BEFORE STARTING BIOLOGICAL THERAPY: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

**Keywords:** Psoriatic arthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Ultrasound

**Background:** Numerous studies have been written about the role of ultrasound as an objective tool for measuring damage and to predict subsequent progression of inflammatory joint diseases, as well as to detect low-grade synovitis, even in patients with low disease activity.[1] It has been suggested that some patients with subclinical inflammation may experience radiological progression and joint damage despite being in clinical remission.[2]

**Objectives:** The main objective of this study is to analyze the differences between the disease activity measured by ultrasound versus the standardized clinical activity index (DAS28 and DAPSA) for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Psoriatic Arthritis (APS) before the start date treatment with biological therapies.

**Methods:** A retrospective, non-interventional study was performed by reviewing the databases of RA and APS patients from the Hospital Universitari Víctor Macarena's Rheumatology department as well as an inferential study comparing the disease activity measure by ultrasound to the standardized clinical activity index.

**Results:** Sensitivity of ultrasound for detecting disease activity in both RA (N=54) and APS (N=31) has been included and correlated with the baseline ultrasound activity before the start date of treatment with biological therapies. The contrast of the baseline DAS28 and DAPSA means for the different ultrasound findings did not show significant differences (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** In our daily clinical practice, an adequate correlation is found between ultrasound findings and DAS28 and DAPSA activity. Several factors could be responsible for this, such as the sample size and variability of the population. Further studies are needed to make recommendations about the role of ultrasound (in conjunction with the standardized activity index) to ensure the proper therapeutic strategies in inflammatory joint diseases.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5634

AB1684

ANTI-DFS70: ARE THEY HELPFUL WHEN ASSESSING FOR SYSTEMIC AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES?

**Keywords:** Descriptive studies, Autoantibodies, Diagnostic tests

**Background:** Autoantibodies against DFS70 (dense fine speckles 70) antigen (anti-DFS70) are purported to rule out systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases (SARD) when detected in the absence of other SARD-related antibodies. They are recognized using indirect immunofluorescence (IFF) and are a common finding among antinuclear antibodies (ANA)-positive healthy individuals. Data published so far highlight the negative association between anti-DFS70 and SARD.

**Objectives:** Describe the characteristics of a cohort of anti-DFS70+ patients and its relationship with the presence of SARD and analyze the existence of other variables that could be related to SARD and might be used as clinical prediction tools.

**Methods:** Retrospective study of anti-DFS70+ patients at Hospital del Mar (Bcn, Spain) in 2021 and 2022. Demographic, clinical and biological data were collected. Presence of anti-DFS70 was determined by immunoblot using EUROLINE®EUROMUN kit, which allows qualitative in vitro determination of human autoantibodies of IgG isotype. Simultaneously, presence of autoantibodies against double-stranded DNA (anti-dsDNA) and extractable nuclear antigen antibodies (ENA) was also tested to exclude other autoantibodies that could produce similar staining patterns (i.e., AC-1 or AC-1 with AC-4,5). A descriptive and correlatives statistical analysis was performed using SPSS®.

**Results:** Sera from 85 ANA+ patients with a DFS IIF pattern were tested for anti-DFS70. 52 patients tested positive and were included: 10 males and 42 females. Mean age to first anti-DFS70+ determination was 40.67 ± 16.99 years. Table 1 depicts data comparison between anti-DFS70+ patients with/without SARD. No SARD was found in 44 patients (84.6%). From 8 patients with SARD, 2 tested positive for other autoantibodies. A correlation was found between higher ANA titers and presence of SARD. No other significant correlation was found.

**Conclusion:** Our data suggest that in a population of ANA-positive patients being studied for SARD, the presence of anti-DFS70, even at moderate to high titer, may be considered a reassuring result regarding the negative association with SARD. In our cohort, the only characteristic that might act as a predictor of SARD was higher ANA titer, which could warrant stricter assessment in these patients. To state the possible protective role of anti-DFS70, we should not settle exclusively with the typical ANA staining pattern, but confirm the autoreactivity as being directed specifically against DFS70. Finally, it is plausible that the clinical use of this test may result in considerable cost-saving potential.

**REFERENCES:**


Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS</th>
<th>PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>N (%) (M.D.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>N (%) (M.D.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS28 (M)</td>
<td>DAPSA (M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission</td>
<td>Remission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low disease activity</td>
<td>Low disease activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate disease activity</td>
<td>Moderate disease activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High disease activity</td>
<td>High disease activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULTRASOUND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>15 (28%) (4.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. PD.</td>
<td>14 (28%) (4.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS. PD.</td>
<td>25 (46%) (4.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.ATS. PD. (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remission</td>
<td>1 (6.7%) (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 (21.4%) (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 (13%) (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 (40%) (4.66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 (50%) (4.28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 (47.8%) (7.03%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 (42%) (21.83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 (26%) (29.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 (32%) (23.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (9.1%) (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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<td>1 (9.1%) (0)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 (54.5%) (3.23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 (71.4%) (2.89%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 (66.7%) (3.33%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.A.: Non activity; S.: Synovitis; TS.: Tenosynovitis; PD.: Power Doppler signal; N.: Number of patients; M.D: Missing data; M: Mean.
Table 1. Groups of diagnosis and different positive tested antibodies in the cohort of 209 patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Tested Antibodies</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>Anti-PL-7</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-OJ</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-PL-12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-TiF-1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-SAe</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-Nxp2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-SRp</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-Ku</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-SRAd</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-Other IRD</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of patients with a pathological CTtx in the individual diagnosis groups is shown in Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Figure 1. Number of patients with a pathological CTtx in the individual diagnosis groups (n=40).

Table 1. Groups of diagnosis and different positive tested antibodies in the cohort of 209 patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Anti-DFS70+ with SARD</th>
<th>Anti-DFS70+ without SARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OJ</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL-12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TiF-1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRAd</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other IRD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of patients in the respective diagnosis groups (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Different positive tested antibodies in the diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatomyositis (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OJ (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL-12 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi-2 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TiF-1 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDAS (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAE (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nxp2 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRP (10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ku (41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scl-100 (44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scl-75 (45)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other IRD: giant cell arteritis, cryoglobulinemic vasculitis, behçet’s disease, microscopic polyangiitis, primary sjögren syndrome, mixed connective tissue disease.
Table 1. Articles reporting an association between disease activity and HRQoL in axSpA, ordered by publication date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>N patients</th>
<th>HRQoL measurement</th>
<th>Disease activity measurement</th>
<th>Strength of association between disease activity and HRQoL: nil/weak/moderate/strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Machado et al, 2011</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>SF36</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>MCS: p=0.051, PCS: R=0.40, R2=0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yilmaz et al, 2013</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>AxQoL</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=-0.054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Di Carlo et al, 2016</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baustia-Molano et al, 2018</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernandez-Caballero et al, 2017</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>AsQoL</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=0.603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lopez-Medina et al, 2018</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>SF36</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>MCS: p=0.54, PCS: R=0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Lunteren et al, 2018</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=-0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiltz et al, 2018</td>
<td>1548</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imkamp et al, 2018</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>ASQoL</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>β: -2.39 to -0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrumaind-Zemmour et al, 2019</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>SF36</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>MCS: β=-0.016, PCS: R=0.039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min et al, 2019</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chen et al, 2020</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alonso-Castro et al, 2020</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puche Lumbia, et al 2021</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>ASDAS</td>
<td>R=0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carvalho et al 2022</td>
<td>2884</td>
<td>EQ5D3L</td>
<td>ASAS-HI</td>
<td>α=-0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodur et al, 2011</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>ASQoL</td>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>R from -0.27 to -0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huang et al, 2017</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>SF36</td>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>β=-0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean et al, 2018</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>ASQoL</td>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>R from -0.27 to -0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rohde et al, 2020</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>SF36</td>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>β=-0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eiolomy et al, 2020</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>AsQoL</td>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>MCS: R=-0.398, PCS: R=-0.521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song and Chen, 2021</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>SF36</td>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>R=0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He et al, 2022</td>
<td>3085</td>
<td>AxQoL</td>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background: Health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is the ultimate objective of treatment in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) [1]. However, current treatments are mainly focused on improving disease activity. Therefore, it is of interest to better understand the link between disease activity and HRQoL in axSpA. **Objectives:** To explore through a systematic literature review the link between disease activity and HRQoL in axSpA. **Methods:** Systematic literature review in December 2022 of articles reporting an association between disease activity and HRQoL in patients with axSpA. PubMed was searched using keywords related to disease activity scores and HRQoL, for articles published in English after 2010. Disease activity was assessed by ASDAS or BASDAI. For HRQoL, we analysed the ASAS Health Index (ASAS-HI) as key outcome. All statistical measures of a potential link between ASDAS and HRQoL were collected; correlations were prioritised for homogeneity. The strength of the association was qualified as nil (no statistical association), weak, moderate or strong with cutoffs of 0.50 and 0.70 for correlations. No meta-analysis was performed. **Results:** Of 122 papers, 23 were relevant, ie, 14375 patients: weighted mean age 42.5 years, weighted mean disease duration 14.3 years, 67.4% were men; when reported, 37% patients were receiving a targeted treatment (biologic or synthetic targeted treatment). The link between disease activity and HRQoL was nil in 3 cases, weak in 9 cases, moderate in 11 articles, and strong in 5 articles (Table 1). The 4 largest studies (with more than 1000 patients) showed a weak link (one paper), a moderate link (2 papers) and a strong link (one paper). We did not evidence an association between year of publication or gender balance, and the link between disease activity and HRQoL (data not shown). **Conclusion:** HRQoL is a complex concept which is not only linked to disease activity in axSpA. When aiming for improved HRQoL for our patients, the shared decision-making process should take these elements into account. **REFERENCE:** [1] Ramiro S, et al. ASAS-EULAR recommendations for the management of axial spondyloarthritis: 2022 update. Ann Rheum Dis 2022. https://doi.org/10.1136/ard-2022-223296. **Acknowledgements:** NIL. **Disclosure of Interests:** Juliette Drouet Grant/research support from: Societe Francaise de Rhumatologie Master Grant, Bruno Fautrel: None declared, Laure Gossec: None declared.

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Background: The Flare-OA questionnaire is an instrument with five domains (painful, swelling, stiffness, consequences of symptoms, and psychological aspects) that was recently developed to measure the occurrence and severity of flares in patients with knee or hip OA. The Flare-OA scale consists of 33 items and has been validated and translated into Turkish following an established forward-backward translation procedure. After an expert committee reviewed the Turkish version, the final version was checked for the translation's understandability, interpretability, and cultural relevance with ten patients. Patients who were ≥45 years of age with clinical and radiological OA of the knee or hip, according to American College of Rheumatology criteria and confirmed by the recruiting physician, were included in the study. The Flare-OA scale consists of 33 items and has been reduced to 19 items by factor analysis and content approach (RMSEA = 0.06; CFI = 0.96; TLI = 0.94) [1]. The reliability of Flare-OA was assessed by internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha coefficient). Face, content, and construct validity (convergent) were evaluated. The correlations of the Flare-OA with the Hip Disability and Osteoarthritis Outcome score (HOOS), Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS), and the Mini Osteoarthritis Knee and Hip Quality of Life Questionnaire (Mini-OAKHQOL) were assessed for convergent validity.

Results: A total of 185 (71.9% females) patients with knee or hip OA were included in the study. The Flare-OA scale consists of 33 items and has been reduced to 19 items by factor analysis and content approach (RMSEA = 0.06; CFI = 0.96; TLI = 0.94) [1]. The reliability of Flare-OA was assessed by internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha coefficient). Face, content, and construct validity (convergent) were evaluated. The correlations of the Flare-OA with the Hip Disability and Osteoarthritis Outcome score (HOOS), Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS), and the Mini Osteoarthritis Knee and Hip Quality of Life Questionnaire (Mini-OAKHQOL) were assessed for convergent validity.

Table 1. Pearson’s correlation coefficients of Flare-OA questionnaire with other parameters for construct validity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>r</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>r</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KOOS (n=25)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.565</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOS (n=25)</td>
<td>-0.83</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td>-0.83</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other symptoms</td>
<td>-0.79</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain KOOS</td>
<td>-0.83</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td>-0.83</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of life</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport and recreation</td>
<td>-0.69</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td>-0.69</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-OAKHQOL (n=185)</td>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>-0.82</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td>-0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity</td>
<td>-0.86</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
<td>-0.87</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social functioning</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social support</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| HOOS: Hip Disability and Osteoarthritis Outcome score, KOOS: Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score, Mini-OAKHQOL: Mini Osteoarthritis Knee and Hip Quality of Life Questionnaire

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4236

AB1689 CROSS-CULTURAL ADAPTATION AND VALIDATION OF THE TURKISH VERSION OF THE FLARE OA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HIP AND KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Osteoarthritis

M. T. Duruğüz1, H. H. Gezer2, E. Jonathan3, M. Soudant4, F. Guillermín5
1Marmara University School of Medicine, PMR Department, Rheumatology Division, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Ümraniye Training and Research Hospital, Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey; 3Université de Lorraine, Epidémiologie clinique, Nancy, Turkey; 4Université de Lorraine, Epidémiologie clinique, Nancy, France; 5Université de Lorraine, EA 4360 Apemac, Nancy, Turkey

Conclusion: This study demonstrated that both the 33 and 19-items Turkish versions of the Flare OA questionnaire are reliable and valid tools for assessing flaring in patients with knee and hip OA.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4802

AB1690 SERUM PEPTIDES AS CANDIDATE BIOMARKERS FOR RELAPSING POLYCHONDRIITIS

Keywords: Biomarkers

1St. Marianna University Graduate School of Medicine, Disease Biomarker Analysis and Molecular Regulation, Kawasaki, Japan; 2St. Marianna University Graduate School of Medicine, Clinical Proteomics and Molecular Medicine, Kawasaki, Japan; 3Kindai University, Department of Genetic Engineering, Faculty of Biology-Oriented Science and Technology, Kinokawa, Japan; 4St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Department of Otolaryngology, Kawasaki, Japan; 5St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Allergology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kawasaki, Japan; 6St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Division of Neurology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kawasaki, Japan; 7Institute of Medical Science, St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Department of Rare Diseases Research, Kawasaki, Japan

Background: For relapsing polychondritis (RP), no useful biomarkers have yet been identified.

Objectives: We analyzed serum peptide profiles to identify candidate biomarkers.

Methods: Patients with RP or rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and healthy control (HC) subjects were divided into training (RP, n=19; RA, n=21; HC, n=17) and testing (RP, n=24; RA, n=21; HC, n=18) sets. Seven patients demonstrating granulomatosis with polyangitis (GPA) were used for validation. The ion intensity of peptides was comprehensively measured by MALDI-TOF/MS.

Results: 160 serum peptides were detected. In the RP group of the training set, 24, 8, and 7 peptides showed a ≥1.2-fold difference in ion intensity in comparison to the HC, RA, and HC+RA (non-RP) groups, respectively (p<0.05). Based on a supervised multivariate analysis of the ion intensity of 160 peptides, we generated 3 models that completely discriminated the RP group from the HC, RA, and non-RP groups (AUROC, 1.000). By selecting 11, 9, and 14 peptides, the RP group was also completely discriminated from the 3 groups (RP/HC-11P, RP/RA-9P model, and RP/nonRP-14P model; AUROC, 1.000). We attempted to identify the peptides with a ≥1.2-fold difference in ion intensity between the RP group and one of the 3 groups and the peptides comprising the RP/HC+11P, RP/RA-9P or RP/nonRP-14P models. Nineteen peptides were identified. Most were fragments of proteins associated with coagulation. As biomarker models for RP which consists of a few peptides, we found that 4 models consisting of 4 peptides difference (36.2 and 36.6; 33 and 19 items, respectively) between patients with and without flare. Pearson’s correlation coefficients of the Flare-OA questionnaire with the other parameters for construct validity are represented in Table 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1067

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Graphical representation of the global origin of the publication rate of the analyzed studies per country, coloured by BD study rate. The graphical representation was computed by log-transforming the number of research papers published by each country. It is possible to recognize the silk-road pattern. The map was created using the package Ggplot2 (Wickham, 2009) of R studio (R Core Team, 2014).
AB1691 BURDEN OF AFFECTED FACE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A TRANSLATION AND VALIDATION STUDY IN TURKISH

Keywords: Quality of life, Validation, Patient reported outcomes

Research background: Facial involvement is crucial for patients’ quality of life in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc). The face is one of the main aspects that can be affected in SSc patients. The Burden of Face Affected (BoFA) scale is a useful tool for assessing skin-related quality of life in SSc patients.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the reliability and validity of an adapted Turkish version of the BoFA.

Methods: The translation and cross-cultural adaptation of the French version of the BoFA was conducted. All steps of the cross-cultural adaptation process were performed by the Beaton guidelines. The Turkish version of the BoFA, the Mouth Handicap in Systemic Sclerosis (MHiSS), the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSE), and Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) were performed to the 49 patients with SSc patients. Reliability was assessed using the test-retest method; internal consistency was analyzed using Cronbach’s alpha. Construct validity was assessed by correlating the BoFA with the MHiSS, RSE, and PSS questionnaires.

Results: The BoFA showed excellent test/retest reliability with an intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.96 for total score. Internal consistency of the BoFA was found to be excellent (Cronbach’s alpha 0.96). The BoFA demonstrated good construct validity with the MHiSS (r = 0.55, p < 0.001), the RSE (r = 0.53, p < 0.001), and the PSS (r = 0.50, p < 0.001). Also, the factor analysis showed the BoFA has four-factor subgroup by score plot graph. There were no BFA founds to be related to the floor and ceiling effects.

Conclusion: The Turkish version of the BoFA to assess the skin-related quality of life in SSc patients was found to have good validity, excellent reliability, and high internal consistency. The BoFA could be used in research and clinical studies on Turkish SSc patients.


Table 1. BoFA-T descriptive statistics, internal consistency and test–retest reliability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>Score median (IQR)</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Internal consistency (Cronbach’s)</th>
<th>Test–retest reliability (ICC 95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total score</td>
<td>11.0 (4.0-25.0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.96 (0.93-0.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-esteem</td>
<td>70.2 (29.2-170.0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.93 (0.90-0.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future anxiety &amp; medication</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.92 (0.85-0.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexuality</td>
<td>0 (0.0-2.0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.90 (0.80-0.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure time activity</td>
<td>0 (1.50)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.21 (-0.63-0.61)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICC: Intraclass correlation coefficient; CI: Confidence interval; IQR: Interquartile range

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5553
Results: The fusion protein was purified as a calprotectin dimer mimic. Calcium addition could successfully transform calprotectin dimer into a calprotectin tetramer. Affinities to monoclonal and polyclonal calprotectin antibodies were comparable to native calprotectin. Spiking of different concentrations of recombinant calprotectin showed linear correlations in ELISA and turbidimetric assays. A perfect correlation (slope=1.009; R²=0.999) was shown when measuring 23 human serum samples based on native and recombinant calprotectin calibrators with a turbidimetric assay.

Conclusion: The recombinant protein can be purified in large quantities in defined oligomeric forms and it shows immunological properties comparable to native calprotectin. Recombinant calprotectin presents as a promising tool to overcome the prevalent fecal calprotectin standardization problem and prevent future standardization discrepancies for serum calprotectin.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Alexander Ohmann Employee of: Author is employee of BÜHLMANN Laboratories AG, Dmitrii Guschin Employee of: Author is employee of BÜHLMANN Laboratories AG, Joana Alonso Employee of: Author is employee of BÜHLMANN Laboratories AG, Peter Spies Shareholder of: Novartis, Employee of: Novartis until 1999, Daniela Tobler Officer of: I was employed in the past by Novartis. However, I am currently only employed by FHNW., Thomas Villiger Shareholder of: Yes, but only a few shares (I worked once for Novartis and Biogen...), Speakers bureau: Yes, but not for this project, Paid instructor for: Yes, but not for this project, Consultant of: Yes, but not for this project, Grant/research support from: Yes, but not for this project, Employee of: I was employed in the past by Merck, Novartis and Biogen. However, I am currently only employed by FHNW., Dominik Meinel Shareholder of: Roche, Employee of: Roche 2017-2020, Christian Benedikt Gerhold Employee of: Author is employee of BÜHLMANN Laboratories AG.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2948

AB1694

IN VIVO MEASUREMENT OF POTENT AND DURABLE HUMAN ADIPOSE 11β-HYDROXYSTEROID DEHYDROGENASE TYPE 1 INHIBITION BY SPI-62

Keywords: Clinical Trials, Vasculitis, Targeted synthetic drugs

D. Katz1, G. An2, G. Schmicker2, B. Engeli3, T. Magers4, R. Basu5, J. Gutierrez6,7.

1Sparrow Pharmaceuticals, n/a, Portland OR, United States of America; 2University of Iowa, College of Pharmacy, Iowa City, United States of America; 3Q2 Biosolutions MD, Project Management, Indianapolis IN, United States of America; 4Q2 Biosolutions MD, Method Development and Validation, Indianapolis IN, United States of America; 5ProSciiento, n/a, Chula Vista CA, United States of America; 6ProSciento, n/a, Chula Vista CA, United States of America; 7Scripps Clinic, Medicine, La Jolla CA, United States of America

Background: 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 1 (HSD-1), an intracellular enzyme that converts glucocorticoids (GC) from inactive (e.g., prednisone, cortisone) to active (e.g., prednisolone, cortisol) form is a main source of intracellular GC that can bind to intracellular GC, mineralocorticoid, and non-genomic receptors. Prior clinical and non-clinical results support the hypothesis that HSD-1 inhibitors have potential to mitigate GC toxicity without eliminating GC efficacy. Results from tissue-specific HSD-1 knockout mouse studies indicate that adipose is a key target tissue for GC cardiometabolic toxicity prevention or reversal. However, several HSD-1 inhibitors have shown tachyphylaxis on adipose inhibition in human within 14 days of dosing.

Objectives: Learn whether SPI-62 achieves full and durable adipose HSD-1 inhibition in human.

Methods: Participants with type 2 diabetes and BMI 30-45 kg/m² received SPI-62 daily for up to 14 days in an open label Phase 1 clinical trial. Microdialysis catheters (Type 63, µ dialysis, Stockholm Sweden) inserted in subcutaneous adipose were infused continuously with [2,2,4,6,6,9,12,12-2H8]cortisone. D8E results below the limit of quantification during Day 14. Data from all 12 participants was used to model dose-exposure-response relationships to refine dose selection for future clinical trials.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.


DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3303

Rehabilitation

AB1695

THE EFFECTS OF TELE-REHABILITATION-BASED STABILIZATION EXERCISES ON BALANCE, GAIT, FUNCTIONALITY, PAIN AND DEPRESSION IN INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC IDIOPATHIC NECK PAIN

Keywords: Rehabilitation, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Non-pharmacological interventions

H. Ayar1,2, B. Kara2, R. Erbayraktar3, Izmir Katip Çelebi University Vocational School of Health Services, Department of Medical Services and Techniques, Izmir, Turkey; Dokuz Eylül University, Institute of Health Sciences, Izmir, Turkey; Dokuz Eylül University, Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; Dokuz Eylül University, Department of Neurosurgery, Faculty of Medicine, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Chronic neck pain is associated with balance and gait disturbances [1,2]. The effects of tele-rehabilitation-based stabilization training on balance and gait in chronic idiopathic neck pain (CINP) are still unknown.

Objectives: This study aimed to compare the effects of tele-rehabilitation-based scapular and core stabilization training on balance, gait, functionality, pain and depression in CINP.

Methods: Forty-one individuals with CINP (36 females, 5 males) were participated in the study. Participants were randomized into two groups as scapular (SS) group (n=21, 19 females, 2 males, age 20.00 [19.0-21.0] years, VAS score 4.00 [3.0-5.0]) and core stabilization (CS) group (n=20, 17 females, 3 males, age 20.00 [19.0-21.0] years, VAS score 4.00 [3.0-5.0]). Tele-rehabilitation-based exercise sessions were conducted with mutual videoconferencing synchronously in groups of 2-3 participants, 45-60 minutes duration, once a-week for 8 weeks. Postural stability (PS) and limits of stability (LOS) were measured by a computerized balance platform. Spatiotemporal gait parameters (speed (m/sec), cadence (steps/min), stride length (m), step length (% stride length)) and right and left side pelvic tilt (°), pelvic obliquity (°) and pelvic rotation (°) symmetry (%) were assessed with a wearable sensor device. The gait was assessed during two different walking conditions.
Firstly, the participants walked at usual (normal) walking speed on the 10-meter walking path. Secondly, they walked this distance at the maximum speed they could walk safely. Neck Disability Index (NDI) for functionality, VAS for pain intensity, Depression and Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) for depression, FDI for flexion deficit index, WRVAS and posture parameters at the beginning of the study. The comparison of the results of the WRVAS and PostureZone scores of the cases within and between groups, while the sub-parameters of WRVAS and PostureZone of the patients increased significantly in both groups within the post-treatment group, a significant improvement was observed in the sub-parameters of WRVAS and PostureZone in Group I.

Conclusion: At the end of this study, PSE and CT applied to children with rheumatism had a corrective effect on flexibility, ATR, Cobb, WRVAS, posture. PSE were more successful than CT in improving these parameters. The results of our study, which we planned to investigate the effectiveness of PSE, showed that this method has superior aspects in many parameters compared to CT in children with rheumatism, and it may be beneficial to be included in the treatment plan.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

Acknowledgements: I have no acknowledgments to declare. Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5042

AB1697 COMPARISON OF DISEASE ACTIVITY, INFLAMMATORY BIOMARKER, FUNCTIONALITY, PARTICIPATION AND BIOPSychosocial status OF INDIVIDUALS WITH JIA ACCORDING TO THE PRESENCE OF UPPER EXTREMITY INVOLVEMENT

Keywords: Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Pain, Inflammatory arthritides

B. Duran1, N. B. Karaca2, M. Ö. Tüfekçi2, E. N. Atabay Gerlegiz3, E. Aliyev4, Y. Bayındır5, V. Yıldız Kabak6, S. Atasavun Uysal7, Y. Bilginer8, E. Ünal9, S. Özen1, 1Hacettepe University Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Department of Heart and Respiratory Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Hacettepe University Institute of Health Sciences, Department of Basic Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 3Hacettepe University Faculty of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Department of Basic Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 4Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Child Health and Diseases, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Musculoskeletal involvements due to synovitis and tenosynovitis in the upper extremity joints of individuals with JIA negatively affect their daily living activities with the progression of the process [1-2].

Objectives: The aim of this study is to compare the disease activity, inflammatory biomarker, functionality, participation and biopsychosocial status of individuals with JIA according to the presence of upper extremity involvement.

Methods: Forty individuals (21 girls, 19 boys) who were followed up with the diagnosis of JIA between March and December 2022 were included in our study. Individuals whose demographic information was obtained were divided into two groups as those with isolated upper extremity involvement (JIA+UE, n=11) and those without active and/or sequela joint involvement in the upper or lower extremities (JIA-UE, n=29). Disease activity (JADAS-71 and BASDAI), inflammatory biomarker (ESR and CRP), functionality (Childhood Health Assessment Questionnaire (CHAQ)), participation (The Child and Adolescent Scale of Participation (CASPI)) and biopsychosocial status (Juvenile Arthritis Biopsychosocial and Clinical Questionnaire (JAB-Q)) were evaluated.

Results: While there was no difference between the two groups in terms of age, gender and BMI(p>0.05), in the JIA+UE+ group, JADAS-71 (p=0.012), CRP (p=0.041), CHAQ-Pain (p=0.048), CRP-Overall Impact (p=0.003), JADAS-71 and BASDAI, inflammatory biomarker (ESR and CRP), functionality (Childhood Health Assessment Questionnaire (CHAQ)), participation (The Child and Adolescent Scale of Participation (CASPI)) and biopsychosocial status (Juvenile Arthritis Biopsychosocial and Clinical Questionnaire (JAB-Q)) were significantly different.

Conclusion: Disease activity and inflammatory biomarker levels of JIA+UE+ individuals were higher than those of JIA-UE+ individuals in addition, pain, functionality, participation and biopsychosocial status of JIA+UE+ individuals were worse than those of JIA-UE+ individuals. Our results were consistent with the literature, which
revealed that functionality, school performance, and general quality of life were negatively affected in JIAUE+ individuals [6]. The data obtained from the study revealed that the upper extremity joint involvement of individuals with JIA showed more negative effects than those without involvement. With these results, the need for a rheumatologist-physiotherapist-occupational therapist interdisciplinary team understanding was emphasized in order to include individuals with JIA with upper extremity involvement in the exercise-physical activity and participation processes in daily life at the earliest stage, taking into account the disease activity.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1698
HIGH-VELOCITY LOW-AMPLITUDE SPINAL MANIPULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LUMBAR RADICULAR SYNDROME: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW WITH META-ANALYSIS

Keywords: Systematic review, Rehabilitation, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy
G. Bertoni1, R. Serio1, F. Andreolletti1, F. Masellif, M. Testa1, S. Battista1.
1University of Genova, Department of Neurosciences, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetics, Maternal and Child Health, Savona, Italy

Background: Lumbosacral Radiculopathy (LSRS) is a condition characterised by pain radiating in one or more dermatomes (Radiculopathy) and/or the presence of neurological impairments (Radiculopathy) [1]. Physiotherapy plays a crucial role in LSRS management [2]. So far, different reviews have investigated the effect of HVLA (high-velocity low-amplitude) spinal manipulations in LSRS [3–7]. However, these studies included mixed population samples (LBP patients with or without LSRS) and treatments other than HVLA spinal manipulations (e.g., mobilisation, soft tissue treatment, etc.). Hence, the efficacy of HVLAT in LSRS is yet to be fully understood.

Objectives: This review investigated the effect and safety of HVLATs on pain, levels of disability, and health-related quality of life in LSRS, as well as with any possible adverse events.

Methods: A systematic review with meta-analysis. We searched Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT) published in English in the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), MEDLINE (PubMed), EMBASE, PEDro and Web of Science up to June 2022. We considered eligible RCTs on an adult population (18-65 years) with LSRS that compared HVLATs with other non-surgical treatments, sham spinal manipulation, or no intervention. Two authors selected the studies, extracted the data, and assessed the methodological quality through the ‘Risk of Bias (RoB) Tool 2.0’ and the certainty of the evidence through the ‘GRADE tool’. A meta-analysis was performed to quantify the effect of HVLA on pain levels.

Results: A total of 308 records were retrieved from the search strings. Only two studies met the inclusion criteria. Both studies were at high RoB. Two meta-analyses were performed for low back and leg pain levels. HVLA seemed to reduce the levels of low back (MD = -1.48; 95% CI = -2.45, -0.50) and lower limb (MD = -2.36; 95% CI = -3.28, -1.44) pain compared to other conservative treatments, at three months after treatment. However, high heterogeneity was found (I² = 0.0%, p = 0.735). Besides, their certainty of the evidence was 'very low'. No adverse events were reported.

Conclusion: In line with our results, we cannot conclude whether HVLA spinal manipulations can be helpful for the treatment of LSRS or not. Future high-quality RCTs are needed to establish the actual effect of HVLA manipulation in this disease with adequate sample size and LSRS definition.

REFERENCES:

Effect of HVLA on Low Back Pain

Effect of HVLA on Lower Limb Pain

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.935
**Education**

**AB1699**  COVID-19 IMPACT ON SECOND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS EXPERIENCE WITH INTERACTIVE PATIENT ENCOUNTERS AS A SUPPLEMENT TO TEACHING THE SKIN AND RHEUMATOLOGY COURSE

**Keywords:** Education, COVID

E. Littman1, S. Rea1. 1. UCF College of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Orlando, United States of America

**Background:** The use of interactive patient scenarios has long been a valuable component of medical school curricula, as this type of learning facilitates empathy, comprehensive understanding, and cultural sensitivity.[1] The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has precipitated a shift to more virtual strategies to keep students, faculty, and patients safe.[2]

**Objectives:** To evaluate second year medical students’ (MS2s) perceptions on the use of live patient encounters during the teaching of the skin and rheumatology course (BMS 6635) using different teaching formats due to changes from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Methods:** Four to five patients with dermatologic, autoimmune, and musculoskeletal diseases volunteered to participate in an interactive teaching session with MS2s at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. MS2s enrolled in BMS 6635 were asked to voluntarily complete a survey about their learning experiences using these patient cases. Students who did not respond to the survey were excluded. Data analysis using Chi Square testing was performed on survey responses obtained pre-pandemic as compared to those collected in academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Results:** 700 surveys were obtained after patient cases given in different formats. When the interactive patient cases were given in person before COVID-19, 93% of students enjoyed the cases and 95% of students believed that the cases were an appropriate learning experience in their education. When these cases were delivered virtually beginning in the academic year 2020-2021, however, students’ enjoyment of these cases decreased to 86%, with 92% of students believing that the cases were an appropriate learning experience. This is a 7% and 9% decrease, respectively, from pre-pandemic years. During the academic year 2021-2022, use of a hybrid model, with students and faculty in-person and patients participating virtually, resulted in 81% of students enjoying the interactive patient cases and 83% of students believing that the cases were an appropriate learning experience. This was a 12% decrease from before the COVID-19 pandemic (p < .001) and a 5% and 9% decrease, respectively, from the previous year (p < .001) (Figure 1). 37% of students who had their cases in a completely virtual format preferred the interactive patient sessions to stay completely virtual, while 51% of students who participated in hybrid sessions during COVID-19 preferred the sessions to be completely virtual (p < .019) (Table 1).

**Table 1. Medical student survey responses comparing live patient encounters given in person, completely virtually, and a hybrid format**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In person pre-Covid</th>
<th>Completely virtual-Covid</th>
<th>Hybrid Format</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I enjoyed the Live Patient cases</td>
<td>439 (93%)</td>
<td>91 (86%)</td>
<td>98 (81%)</td>
<td>628 (68%)</td>
<td>&lt; .001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Live Patient cases were an appropriate</td>
<td>448 (95%)</td>
<td>97 (92%)</td>
<td>101 (83%)</td>
<td>646 (66%)</td>
<td>&lt; .001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>learning experience at this stage in my education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Live Patient cases helped me remember the diseases well for the exam</td>
<td>95 (83%)</td>
<td>80 (75%)</td>
<td>86 (71%)</td>
<td>261 (61)</td>
<td>.111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you prefer the Live Patient sessions to be on Zoom?</td>
<td>39 (37%)</td>
<td>62 (51%)</td>
<td>49 (41%)</td>
<td>.029</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = Statistical significance defined as p<0.05

**Conclusion:** The use of interactive patient cases in medical education has been met with positive feedback over the years and should continue to be used in medical education. This study showed that MS2s enjoyed the patient encounters more when delivered in-person vs a virtual or hybrid format. Careful consideration should be given to delivery format to optimize student learning and enjoyment.


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.934

**Figure 1. Medical students’ feedback on live patient cases given in different platforms before COVID-19 and during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**AB1700**  RHEUMATOLOGIST’S ASSESSMENT OF ACUTE SARCOIDOSIS

**Keywords:** Systematic review

G. Koolibaeva1, O. Egorova2, A. Bolotbekova1, A. Turatbekova1, G. Synbai K1, Togulok Moldo St, Rheumatology, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Kashirskoye Shosse, 34, Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation; Togulok Moldo St, Rheumatology, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

**Background:** Lofgren syndrome (LS) is the acute form of sarcoidosis, characterized by erythema nodosum (EN), joint involvement, fever and intrathoracic lymphadenopathy. LS clinical polymorphism leads to diagnostic errors.

**Objectives:** To study the clinical, laboratory and radiological features of early stages of sarcoidosis in a cohort of patients referred to rheumatology center.

**Methods:** The study included 135 patients (107 females and 28 males, mean age 37 ± 9.4 y) with clinical and radiological features of LS. All patients were referred to rheumatology center with EN diagnosis. The median duration of disease was 1 [0.5–2.0] months. All patients were subjected to comprehensive clinical and laboratory-instrumental examination, including biochemical panel and immunological parameters, chest X-ray or CT, as well as (20 cases) histopathology examination of nodular biopsy specimens of the skin and subcutaneous fat.

**Results:** In 97 % pts EN involved the lower legs, mostly the anterior surface, in 35 % - the hips, in 25 % - the upper limbs and in 3% - the trunk. Symmetric lesions were documented in 50% of patients. Confluence of nodules forming conglomerates was registered in 48% pts. The involvement of more than 50 % of lower leg surface (68 %) was directly associated with the number of nodules (p = 0.002; r = 0.54) and C-reactive protein level (p = 0.005; r = 0.34). There was a direct correlation between the number of nodules and EN duration (p = 0.03; r = 0.20), and also the tendency to nodules confluence (p = 0.001; r = 0.37). Joint involvement was documented in 115 (85 %) patients, with predominantly ankle (67.4%) and knee (40%) joints affected. Asymmetry of joint involvement was documented in 9% pts. Articular manifestations preceded the emergence of EN in 51 (36 %) patients by mean 9 ± 4 days. There was a significant direct correlation between the duration of articular syndrome and appearance of nodules and their number (p = 0.01; r = 0.42). Joint involvement after EN manifestation – in an average 4 ± 3 days – was documented in 20% of cases. Male gender (odds ratio (OR) 6.5; confidence interval (CI) 1.2–35; p = 0.024) and presence of nodular conglomerates (OR 4.8; CI 1.4 – 16.1; p = 0.01) were the key predictors of ground glass opacity CT phenomenon. In 87 % of patients EN did not relapse, and articular syndrome almost completely regressed during 1 year follow-up.

**Conclusion:** Patients with an acute form of sarcoidosis require coordinated action of different medical specialties, including rheumatologists, to determine the scope of further examination and adequate therapeutic regimen.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.934

**AB1701**  HOW TO MAKE A VIRTUAL PRESENTATION USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Best practices, COVID

A. C. Genç1,2, F. Turkoğlu Genç1, Z. N. Kayaba, E. Gönlüboğ1. 1. Hacettepe University Graduate School of Education, Artificial Intelligence, Istanbul, Turkey; 2. Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine, Rheumatology, Sakarya, Turkey

**Abstract:** This study aims to provide guidance on how to create and deliver effective virtual presentations for medical students and professionals using artificial intelligence. The study highlights the importance of incorporating AI tools to enhance engagement, simplify content delivery, and facilitate better understanding. Methods: A literature review was conducted to identify best practices in creating engaging virtual presentations using AI. Results: The analysis revealed several strategies that can be applied to create visually appealing presentations, such as using interactive quizzes and games, virtual simulations, and chatbots for real-time engagement. Conclusion: AI can play a crucial role in improving the quality of virtual presentations. However, it is essential to use these tools thoughtfully to avoid overwhelming the audience. Future research should focus on developing AI-driven tools that can automatically analyze the audience's understanding and adapt the presentation content accordingly. **References:** [1] Greenfeld D, Gonen I, et al. Artificial Intelligence in Medical Education: A Systematic Review. J Med Educ Curric Dev. 2019; 6:8. [2] Patil J, Reddy S, et al. The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Medical Education: A Review of Current Literature. J Emerg Med. 2019; 56(2):227-236. **Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by the Sakarya University Research Fund (2021-103). **Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.
Background: Virtual presentations have become increasingly common due to the COVID-19 pandemic and advancements in technology. However, it is not yet clear how to effectively use artificial intelligence (AI) in virtual presentations to enhance their effectiveness.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to investigate the current state of AI in virtual presentations and to develop practical guidelines for using AI to enhance the effectiveness of virtual presentations.

Methods: ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot [1]. The final version contains information up to years of 2021. We wrote to ChatGPT: “I want to submit a study for the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) 2023. Title: “How to make a virtual presentation using artificial intelligence?” Prepare a summary consisting of background and objectives sections for me.” The texts generated by ChatGPT were transferred to another virtual platform to be converted to audio and video. The text in the background and objectives sections in this abstract was voiced by the speaking avatar [2].

Results: ChatGPT wrote the background and objectives part of this abstract. As the authors, we have not made any changes in order to be objective. Thanks to another artificial intelligence, the content in this text was voiced by an avatar and turned into a video (Figure 1).

Conclusion: In the near future, artificial intelligence will be used more effectively in the preparation and presentation of scientific articles. In this way, artificial intelligence will help scientists to use their time more efficiently. Developing technology also offers equal opportunities for scientists with social phobia and visual or speech disabilities.

REFERENCES:

Figure 1.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annheim-rheumdis-2023-eular.6257

AB1702 SECOND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT FEEDBACK ON LIVE PATIENT ENCOUNTERS AS A SUPPLEMENT TO TEACHING THE SKIN AND RHEUMATOLOGY COURSE

Keywords: Education
E. Litman1, S. Beq2. "UCF College of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Orlando, United States of America; 2UCF College of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Orlando, United States of America

Background: Live, interactive patient cases have shown to be a valuable resource in medical education. Although a few studies have shown that using patients as teachers helps students develop clinical reasoning, motivates students to learn, and has important educational benefits, there is little research understanding medical student feedback during these interactive patient cases.[1,2]

Objectives: To evaluate second year medical students’ perceptions on interactive patient encounters during the teaching of the skin and rheumatology course (BMS 6635) based on surveys collected from 2016-2022.

Methods: Second year medical students completed a survey on their experience from four to five interactive patient cases at University of Central Florida College of Medicine. The interactive cases, involving patients with diagnoses of systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriatic arthritis, dermatomyositis, scleroderma, and pyoderma gangrenosum. Second year medical students enrolled in BMS 6635 from 2016-2022 were included. Students who did not respond to the survey questions were excluded. Chi Square test was performed on survey responses. Regression analysis was performed on significantly different survey responses.

Results: A total of 700 surveys were completed after the interactive patient encounters. 90% of participants answered that they enjoyed the interactive patient cases with 92% of students agreeing that the interactive patient cases were an appropriate learning experience for their education. 76% of students agreed that the patient encounters helped them retain knowledge of the disease processes. However, only 36% agreed that the number of patients in the interactive patient cases should be increased (Table 1). From 2016 to 2022 there has been a slight decrease in enjoyment in the interactive patient cases over time (97%, 88%, 93%, 94%, 86%, 81%, p<.001, respectively per year). From 2016 to 2022, there was a slight decrease in students agreeing that the interactive patient cases were an appropriate learning experience in their education (98%, 92%, 94%, 95%, 93%, 84%, p=.001, respectively per year) (Figure 1).

Table 1. Medical student survey responses of agreement to live patient cases comparing those who agree to those who disagree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Responses</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I enjoyed the live patient cases</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The live patient cases were an appropriate learning experience at this stage in my education</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We should increase the number of patients in the live patient cases</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The live patient cases helped me remember the diseases well for the exam</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Agreement trend in medical student’s response to survey questions from 2016 to 2022.

Conclusion: Interactive patient cases are a valuable resource in medical education and should be integrated in medical curricula. Overall, students enjoyed the interactive patient cases, believed they were an appropriate learning addition to their medical education even with a minimal number of cases, and aided in retention of material. However, from 2016 to 2022 a slight decrease in positive feedback regarding this approach was noted, which could be attributed to technological advancements and the increasing use of third-party resources among students. The decrease, while minimal, is an important consideration for academic institutions.


Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1703 EVALUATION OF A TRAINING COURSE ON BREAKING BAD NEWS IN RHEUMATOLOGY

Keywords: Patient information and education, Education
G. Khaldi1, S. Miladi1, W. Abdelghaffar2, A. Fazaa3, H. Boussa3, M. Yasmine1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, R. Rafati2, M. A. Laatar3. 1Hôpital Mongi Slim, Rheumatology, Marsa, Tunisia; 2Hôpital Mongi Slim, Psychiatry, Marsa, Tunisia

Background: Although communication skills towards breaking bad news are an important aspect of medical care [1], future Tunisian rheumatologists have no formal training in this area. The gaps in communication skills are significant to date in the field of rheumatology.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of a training workshop on the disclosure of bad news in rheumatology.

Methods: We conducted a prospective, multicenter, interventional study over a six-month period during the academic year 2021-2022. 31 residents were
recruited on a voluntary basis. Two groups were individualized: the training group A (N=16) and the control group B (N=15). The training session included interactive lectures, video-case studies, role-playing and peer-to-peer discussions. A self-administered survey was used to assess residents’ abilities to deliver bad news before and three months after the training.

Results: Following training (T3), group A residents showed a significant improvement in their ability to plan the announcement consultation (p=0.004), prepare the patient for the announcement of bad news (p=0.009), deliver the bad news itself (p=0.003), as well as in their self-assigned skill level (p=0.003). The post-training ratings were significantly better than those of control group B. However, the training group’s progress in handling patients’ emotions was not statistically significant (p=0.488), and there was no distinction between the two groups after the training. Although both groups of residents were quite adept at managing their stress, their reactions to the announcement were primarily negative (sorrow and sadness). The inclusion of this training in the rheumatology curriculum received “extremely important” or “important” ratings from all residents (100%), when looking at the determinants of a successful announcement, the year of residency was the only factor that showed a statistically significant association with enhanced theoretical knowledge (p = 0.049).

Conclusion: This study highlighted the improvement of the residents’ competencies as well as their self-assigned skill level related to the use of role-play in the acquisition of competencies related to a particular situation such as the announcement of bad news. The training seminar on breaking bad news was beneficial and had a positive impact on the residents’ performance. It enabled them to pick up several new abilities.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3543
Results: A total of 88 patients were included, 54 women and 34 men. The mean age was 43.1 ± 10.1 years. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) was found in 39%, Spondyloarthritis (SpA) in 19%, gonarthrosis in 20%, chronic mechanical low back pain in 9%, cervicobrachial neuralgia in 7%, gout in 3%, degenerative shoulder pathology in 5% and mechanical talalgia in 2%. The average duration of the disease was 6 ± 3 years. Self-medication was reported in 63% of patients. Concerning the type of self-medication, 88% of the patients used a treatment not prescribed in the initial prescription, 9% increased the doses of treatments already prescribed and 3% prolonged the duration. The most frequently used self-medication drugs were level 1 analgesics (66.7%), level 2 analgesics (8.1%), general non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (39.4%), topical NSAIDs (30.3%), proton pump inhibitors (PPI) (12.1%) and corticosteroids (36%). Risk attitudes were detected in 32% of patients, of whom 6% exceeded 4 g per day of paracetamol, 15% combined 2 systemic NSAIDs, 2% took long-term NSAIDs, and 9% used PPIs for a long time without indication. The use of self-medication was not associated with sex (p = 0.5), level of education (p = 0.6) or professional activity (p = 0.58). Only one significant association was found with the duration of the disease (p = 0.025).

Conclusion: Self-medication is practiced by the majority of our patients, motivated by various reasons and concerns the various analgesics drugs. The objective would be to rationalize the easy access to medication, to include therapeutic education in our medical practice in order to avoid the potential risks incurred.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5938

AB1707 FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SEDENTARY BEHAVIOR IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASE

Keywords: Non-pharmacological interventions, Education

S. Bahajil1,2, H. Rkain1, S. E. Zaat1, F. J. Ei Joumani1, F. Kronbl1, R. Honsali1, S. Farih1, I. Bensaghir1, C. Nouri1, T. Latifa1, H. H. Najia3, F. Allali1.

1Hospital Al Ayachi, Rheumatology B, Salé, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat, Laboratory of Physiology, Rabat, Morocco; 3International University of Rabat, Health Sciences College, Rabat, Morocco

Background: The sedentary behavior is a priority for women and people with reduced mobility.

Objectives: To determine factors related to sedentary behavior in patients with a chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease (CIRD).

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study of 140 patients (mean age of 47.1 years, 66% females) affected by CIRD (Rheumatoid arthritis 56.4%, ankylosing spondylarthritis 32.1%, psoriatic arthritis 8.6% and juvenile idiopathic arthritis 2.9%), information on patients and disease characteristics were collected. Physical activity was measured objectively using the short version of the IPAQ questionnaire (International Physical Activity Questionnaire) for 7 consecutive days. Activity levels were subdivided into low physical activity and moderate to vigorous physical activity. We analyzed factors associated with sedentary behaviors.

Results: IPAQ Average was 413 (0.760) MET-min/week. The sedentary behavior was noted in 75.2% of patients. Table 1 summarizes factors associated with sedentary behavior in patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease.

Conclusion: Sedentary behavior is very prevalent among CIRD patients. Awareness-raising actions on the importance of physical activity in CIRDs should be a priority for women and people with reduced mobility.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.8314

AB1708 SOCIAL MEDIA AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION AMONG MOROCCAN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Education, Inflammatory arthritides

N. El Mansouri1, F. Z. Taik1, R. Bensaid1, H. Fouzia1, N. Soba2, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Abourazzak1,2, Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Rheumatology, Tangier, Morocco; 2Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco.

Background: Little research has been conducted on the use of different type of social media as a source information by Moroccan patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases and on the evaluation of the quality of this information that give an impact on the quality of life which that still poorly known in our context.

Objectives: The objective of our study is to evaluate the use of different type of social media by our patients and to identify the factors that may be associated with them.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study including all patients followed in our rheumatology department for chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases. Sociodemographic data, comorbidities, chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases related findings (type, pain assessment, disease activity and treatment) were collected. Patient’s beliefs and attitudes regarding the various social media were assessed by a questionnaire. A list of 7 type of social media was provided, for which patients were asked to indicate the type of social media used and their confidence in them, followed by their experience with the usefulness of the sources used. Catastrophizing, trust in physician, and concerns about medicines were assessed by the validated Moroccan versions of the pain catastrophizing scale (PCS), trust in physician scale (TPS), and beliefs about medicines questionnaire (BMQ specific concerns).

Results: We included 189 patients. The average age was 47.49 ± 12.7, 75.7% of patients were women, 52.4% had comorbidities, and 49.2% were illiterate. The median duration of the disease was 8 [3-16.75]. Mean pain VAS was 4.77 ± 2.76. 37.6% of patients were in remission. 56.1% of the patients declared to look for information related to their chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases on social media as a source of information. The 3 main sources were: YouTube (30.7%), Google (25.9%) and Facebook (16.9%). 19% have already applied some of this information. Only 20.1% discussed the information they found with their treating physicians and 67.2% would like to have health professionals in their virtual spaces to answer their questions. In univariate and multivariate analysis (Table 1), age, level of education, level of concern, and belief about medication were statistically significantly associated with the use of social media.

Table 1. Univariate and multivariate analysis of social media use in patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Univariate analysis</th>
<th>Multivariate analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>0.86 (0.44-1.77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.93 (0.91-0.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of education</td>
<td>4.04 (2.75-5.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>0.21 (0.05-0.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidity</td>
<td>0.50 (0.39-0.66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration in years</td>
<td>1.01 (0.97-1.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain VAS</td>
<td>0.09 (0.01-0.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity</td>
<td>0.76 (0.54-1.76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS</td>
<td>0.98 (0.54-1.76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPS</td>
<td>0.98 (0.54-1.76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMQ-Concerns</td>
<td>1.05 (1.1-1.11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Our study showed that Moroccan patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases especially are actively seeking information about their disease in social media. Moroccan rheumatologists need to be more involved, especially in virtual spaces, to meet these demands.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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needs and promote the research interests of aspiring young academics. A considerable number of young physician work or train in rheumatology in Turkey.

Objectives: To assess the awareness of the educational and research offerings of EULAR and EMEUNET among young rheumatologists working in Turkey.

Methods: We sent an e-mail to rheumatology trainees and consultant rheumatologists below the age of 40 years. We surveyed the general information about the offerings of the EULAR School of Rheumatology and EMEUNET. Data were analyzed descriptively.

Results: The response rate of 61% (116/190) was obtained. A slightly over half of the respondents were female (n=82, 53.5%). Most of the respondents (n=75, 65%) were rheumatology fellows in training, and the remaining respondents were consultant rheumatologists. EULAR School of Rheumatology courses and EULAR research webinar series were well known (74% and 59%, respectively) among the participants (Table 1). However, less than half of the respondents who were aware of these events attended to a course or a research webinar previously (37.5% and 43%, respectively). The major obstacles to participation in these events were lack of enough time due to the clinical duties (50%) and language barrier (35%). Only 14% and 25% of the respondents were aware of the EULAR research consultation service and the EULAR scientific grant. 76 (85%) participants were aware of EMEUNET while only 13 (17%) of them were attended an EMEUNET event previously.

Conclusion: Educational offerings of EULAR and EMEUNET were well known by the young rheumatologists in Turkey. However, participation rate was not satisfactory. Majority of the respondents were unaware of the EULAR research offerings. Conducting a survey across Europe could show the main obstacles in a larger scale, thereby it helps to disseminate further offerings among young rheumatologists.

Table 1. Participants’ responses to each question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever heard about EULAR School of rheumatology courses?</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>86 (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>30 (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever attended a EULAR School of rheumatology course?</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>30 (37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>50 (62.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever heard about the EULAR research webinar series?</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>48 (59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>48 (41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever attended a EULAR research webinar?</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>29 (43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>39 (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever heard about the EULAR research consultation service?</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>100 (86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever heard the EULAR scientific grant for young fellows?</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>29 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>87 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever heard the EMEUNET organization?</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>78 (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>40 (35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever attended an EMEUNET event before?</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>63 (83)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2957

AB1710 LEARNING TO CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES: A NATIONAL SURVEY TO ASSESS CANADIAN RHEUMATOLOGY RESIDENTS’ KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST IN GERIATRIC-RHEUMATOLOGY

Keywords: Comorbidities, Education, Qualitative research methods

S. M. Cho1, H. Mcdonald-Blumer2,3, L. Romanovsky4,5, A. Bookman2,8, A. Omai2,8. 1University of Toronto, Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 2University of Toronto, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; 3Mount Sinai Hospital, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada; 4University of Toronto, Geriatric Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 5Mount Sinai Hospital, Geriatric Medicine, Toronto, Canada; 6University Health Network, Rheumatology, Toronto, Canada

Background: As the global population ages, the number of older adults with musculoskeletal and rheumatologic disorders is expected to rise.[1] This presents a challenge for rheumatologists, as the evaluation and management of older adults often requires understanding the unique considerations of multi-morbidity, polypharmacy, and geriatric syndromes.[2] Despite this growing need, it is currently unknown if rheumatology trainees receive sufficient education in geriatric-rheumatology during their training.

Objectives: To understand the perspectives and needs of rheumatology residents regarding geriatric-rheumatology education during their training in Canada.

Methods: The study conducted a cross-sectional needs assessment of rheumatology trainees in Canada who were enrolled in a residency or advanced fellowship training program within rheumatology. The survey underwent a pilot phase to ensure user-friendliness prior to its distribution. The survey was distributed to program directors of rheumatology training programs across Canada from December 2022 to January 2023, which was then forwarded to the residents within the respective rheumatology programs. The survey included multiple choice and open-ended questions exploring the residents’ demographic data, exposure to geriatric-rheumatology education, knowledge gaps in managing older adults with rheumatic diseases and attitudes towards learning about geriatric-rheumatology. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results: Fourteen rheumatology residents participated in the study, with an estimated response rate of 31.1%. Most residents (79%) had not received formal geriatric-rheumatology training during their rheumatology training. Residents (85%) were also unaware of any clinical tools or educational resources to help assess and manage older adults with rheumatic diseases. Most residents (71%) reported that geriatric-rheumatology training would be useful for their future practice and for taking care of older adults. Additionally, 65% of residents felt that formal rheumatology training curriculum should include geriatric-rheumatology contents. Areas where residents reported least confidence were applying the geriatric 5M framework, managing frailty, and providing end-of-life care to older adults with rheumatic diseases. They were most interested in learning how presentations and management of vasculitis, systemic lupus erythematosus and inflammatory arthritis differ in older adults and recognizing the indications of anticoagulants and pain medications associated with the use of DMARs and biologics in this age group.

Conclusion: Our research revealed that rheumatology residents do not receive sufficient training in geriatric-rheumatology, indicating the need for a specialized curriculum in this field. Additionally, we discovered specific areas of interest among residents that can inform the development of future training initiatives. Overall, our study emphasizes the significance of incorporating geriatric-rheumatology education into rheumatology training programs.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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knowledge score and male gender (p=0.001). The compliance score was negatively correlated with age (0.01; rs -0.65) and number of prescription drugs (0.01 rs -0.65) (p 0.014; rs -0.57), and positively correlated with the duration of disease progression (p 0.001; rs 0.87). No relationship was found between knowledge and compliance (p = 0.15).

Conclusion: The utilization of a score could be a method to evaluate knowledge and to adapt the content of educational actions to increase adherence to treatments.


Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1712

THE BELIEFS OF MOROCCAN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES REGARDING MEDICATION AND THEIR IMPACT ON THERAPEUTIC ADHERENCE

Keywords: Self-management, Education, Inflammatory arthritides

N. El Mansouri1, F.Z. Taik2, R. Bensaid1, F.Z. Ahrane1, N. Soba2, M. Fourtassi3, F.E. Abouarazzak1, 1Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Rheumatology, Tangier, Morocco; 2Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco

Background: Adherence is one of the key elements of management in patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases, and it is likely to be influenced by beliefs about medications, which will influence the management and quality of life of patients.

Objectives: Objective is to assess chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases patient’s beliefs about medications, the factors associated with them, and their impact on therapeutic adherence.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study that included any patient followed for chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases. Sociodemographic data, comorbidities, information on inflammatory rheumatism ds (type, pain and activity assessment and and treatments) were collected. Beliefs about medication were assessed by the validated Moroccan version of the Belief on Medicine Questionnaire (BMQ). Catastrophizing, trust in physician and adherence to therapy were assessed by the validated Arabic versions of the pain catastrophizing scale (PCS), trust in physician scale (TPS) and Compliance Questionnaire Rheumatology (CQR)

Results: 189 patients were included. The average age was 47.49 ±13.75. 75.7% of the patients were women, 52.4% had comorbidities, 49.2% were illiterate, 56.6% were followed for rheumatoid arthritis, 35.4% for spondyloarthritis and 79% for undifferentiated chronic inflammatory rheumatic. The median duration of evolution of chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases was 8 [3-16.75]. 41.3% of patients were on synthetic DMARDs and 4.2% on biotherapy. The mean VAS pain was 4.77 ± 2.76. 37.6% of patients were in remission. The average CQR was 55.16±8.1 P

The mean BMQ specific necessity was 20.75±4.77. 67.4% of the patients strongly believed that medication is essential to maintain their health. The mean of the BMQ concerns was 23.77±4.9. 74.1% of the patients thought that not taking their medication carries a risk. In multivariate analysis (Table 1), there was a statistically significant association between education level, catastrophizing, trust in the physician, and the necessity-concern differential. There was also a significant correlation between the therapeutic compliance score and the BMQ necessity score and the BMQ differential necessity-concerns.

Conclusion: Moroccan patients followed for chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases have a rather positive perception of their medication. This perception seems to influence their adherence to treatment.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2405

AB1713

EVALUATION OF A TRAINING COURSE ON EMOTIONAL MANAGEMENT WHEN BREAKING BAD NEWS IN RHEUMATOLOGY

Keywords: Education, Patient information and education

G. Khald1, S. Milali1, W. Abdelghaffar2, A. Fazaia1, H. Boussaa1, M. Yasmine2, K. Ben Abdelghani2, R. Rafariti2, M. A. Laatari2, 1Hôpital Mongi Slim, Rheumatology, Marsa, Tunisia; 2Hôpital Mongi Slim, Psychiatry, Marsa, Tunisia

Background: In recent years, attitudes towards breaking bad news have changed dramatically to emphasize patient autonomy and avoid psychological harm [1]. As a result, learning how to deliver bad news efficiently became a fundamental clinical skill in professional practice. [2]. In the field of rheumatology, with learning focused on technical skills, gaps in communication skills are to date significant.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of a training workshop on the disclosure of bad news in rheumatology.

Methods: We conducted a prospective, multicenter, interventional study over a six-month period during the academic year 2021-2022. We recruited 31 residents on a voluntary basis. Two groups were individualized: The training group (N=16) and the control group (N=15). The training session included interactive lectures, video-case studies, role-playing and peer-to-peer discussions. A self-administered survey was used to assess residents’ abilities to deliver bad news before and three months after the training.

Results: The comparison of the patient emotion management scores between the two groups in the post-training period showed no significant difference (p=0.115). And although there was a slight improvement in the scores in post-training, no significance was found either in the training group (p=0.488) or in the control group (p=0.523).

In terms of managing residents’ emotions, most residents in both groups experienced neutral feelings during the periods of silence during the announcement consultation, and there was no discernible difference between the two groups at either time. The percentage of residents in group A who felt negatively during the times of silence significantly decreased by 38% after the training (T3) (p=0.013), while the percentage of residents who felt positively increased by 25% (p=0.033). In Group B, no significant difference was found between the two time periods in terms of feelings during quiet time. Although the basic skills of the residents in dealing with stressful moments were quite good as more than 50% of the residents in both groups were able to maintain their neutrality during these difficult moments, it was shown that the training had a positive impact on the residents’ feelings during stressful moments such as the silent moments. At the end of the announcement, most residents in both groups unanimously had negative feelings (desolation and sadness) with no significant difference between the two groups at either time.

Conclusion: Emotional skills training requires a lot of practice and review, which was not possible during our one-day training intervention. However, our training workshop, although short in duration, had partially improved residents’ ability to respond to emotional cues.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3584

Table 1. Uni- and multivariate analysis for patient’s beliefs about medications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Univariate analysis</th>
<th>OR (IC 95%)</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>Multivariate analysis</th>
<th>OR (IC 95%)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>0.74 (-1.55 -3.41)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>3 (0.04 -0.19)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>0.89 (0.05 - 0.13)</td>
<td>0.373</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of education</td>
<td>-2.83 (-3.2 - -0.39)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>-2.40(-0.51 - -0.28)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidity</td>
<td>0.05 (1.3 - 1.4)</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration in years</td>
<td>0.35 (0.09 -0.15)</td>
<td>0.725</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS pain</td>
<td>0.62 (0.26-0.51)</td>
<td>0.535</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease activity</td>
<td>2.22 (0.11 - 1.86)</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.8 (-0.16-1.4)</td>
<td>0.423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticotherapy</td>
<td>0.14 (0.06-0.41)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>0.22 (1.8-5.38)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bDMARDs</td>
<td>0.11 (0.08-0.75)</td>
<td>0.117</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS</td>
<td>-2.39 (-4.83 - -0.46)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>-1.4 (-4.82- -0.14)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPS</td>
<td>3.78 (0.13 - 0.439)</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.9 (0.005 -0.33)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6010

AB1713

GOUT TREATMENT: ARE TUNISIAN INTERNS FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS?

Keywords: Gout

F. Ali1, O. Hamdi2, S. Milali1, W. Abdelghaffar2, A. Fazaia1, H. Boussaa1, M. Yasmine2, L. Soueibni1, K. Cueninche2, S. Chekiel2, S. Kassabi1, K. Ben Abdelghani2, A. Laatari2, 1Mongi Slim Hospital, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

Follow-up
Background: Gout is a common metabolic disease affecting at least 1% of the population. Its therapeutic management was recently redefined by the recommendations of the French society of rheumatology (SFR) 2020 [1,2].

Objectives: We aimed to determine the level of adherence of Tunisian rheumatology interns to these recommendations.

Methods: We conducted a 26-item online questionnaire via Google Drive Forms destined to rheumatology interns. The questionnaire intended to assess the degree of application of the French recommendations for the treatment of gout.

Results: The online questionnaire was sent to 50 rheumatology interns, 19 of whom (38%) responded. Thirty-one percent of participants were in first year, 15.7% in second year, 16% in third year and 31.5% in fourth year. The mean age was 28.3 ± 8.7 years [26-33]. All participants were female. The average number of rheumatology internships performed was 3.9 ± 0.2 [1-6]. All of the participants declared informing their patients of their pathology. The information given concerned the disease (94.7%), the aim of treatment (78.9%), the need for long-term adherence to treatment (94.7%), the risk of onset of gout symptoms at initiation of treatment (84.7%) and necessary adaptations to lifestyle (94.7%).

Eighteen interns (94.7%) advised their patients to avoid certain foods: soda (84.2%), beer (89.4%), wine (36.8%), red meat (84.2%), fish (63.1%), chicken (26.3%) and seafood (73.6%). Almost all physicians screened for comorbidities (94.7%): hypertension (73.6%), dyslipidemia (78.9%), obesity (63.1%) and renal failure (78.9%). The therapeutic means that can be used in gout flares according to the doctors questioned were the following: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (94.7%), colchicine (100%), corticosteroid therapy (94.7%) and anti- interleukin 1 (36.8%). Faced with a gout flare, 17 interns (89.4%) prescribed colchicine within 12 hours after the symptoms onset. Eleven interns (57.8%) followed the therapeutic regimen recommended by the SFR for flare treatment with colchicine. In the event of the onset of diarhoea under colchicine, 8 interns (42.1%) stopped the treatment. Regarding corticosteroid therapy, the recommended dose of 30 to 35 mg/day was prescribed in 42.1% of cases. In case of kidney failure, doctors avoided prescribing NSAIDs in 89.4% of cases and colchicine in 63.1% of cases. Eighteen physicians (94.7%) prescribed allopurinol from the first gout flare. Colchicine was prescribed simultaneously with allopurinol in 47.3% of cases. Sixteen interns prescribed colchicine for six months in combination with urate-lowering treatment. Interns were aiming for a therapeutic uricemia target of 50mg/L in 15.7% of cases and 60mg/L in 73.6% of cases. The urate-lowering treatment was maintained for life by 57.8% of the interns, while it was stopped as soon as the therapeutic target was reached in 26.3% with retreatment if recurrence in 21% of the cases. Faced with a decrease in renal clearance, no intern stopped allopurinol and 78.9% of doctors prescribed it with retreatment if recurrence in 21% of the cases. Faced with a decrease in renal clearance, no intern stopped allopurinol and 78.9% of doctors prescribed it with retreatment if recurrence in 21% of the cases. Faced with a decrease in renal clearance, no intern stopped allopurinol and 78.9% of doctors prescribed it with retreatment if recurrence in 21% of the cases.

Conclusion: Tunisian rheumatology interns do not fully follow the new French recommendations for the treatment of gout. Thus, medical training on the subject seems necessary in order to optimize the treatment of this pathology in Tunisian hospitals.


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Acknowledgements: NIL.

REFERENCES: None Declared.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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NEW TOPIC: Clinical cases

AB1716 TREATMENT MODALITIES IN ANTI-MDAS DERMATOMYOSITIS: A CASE SERIES FROM SOUTH INDIA

Keywords: Myositis

D. R. Puligari1, S. C. Veeravalli1, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Rheumatology, Hyderabad, India

Background: Anti-MDA 5 antibody – associated DM presents with rapidly progressive intestinal lung disease (RP-ILD), and is known to have poor prognosis. Early detection of ILD, given the risk of rapid deterioration and best treatment guidelines are of extreme importance due to high disease burden and mortality. As we encountered different cases of DM in our OPD at a renowned tertiary care centre in Hyderabad, India, we too had tailor-made diverse treatment regime based on patients’ condition and their circumstances, and henceforth we present 10 of such cases wherein the customized treatment plan brought about significant relief in their condition.

Objectives: To study and report 10 cases of Anti-MDAS ILD and treatment outcomes.

Methods: Among 10 patients newly diagnosed with Anti-MDAS ILD at our hospital, 5 patients had RP-ILD, out of which 3 suffered with refractory ILD. Among the varied treatments given 2 patients required IVIG and Plasma Exchange was used as an adjunct to standard treatment in 1 refractory ILD patient as salvage therapy. All patients were followed at least for six months post management and 7 patients reported significant improvement with maximum reversal of HRCT findings.
RESULTS:

Table 1: Characteristics of Patients with Dermatomyositis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>20-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male: 50%, Female: 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of Disease</td>
<td>1-20 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion:

Dermatomyositis is a rare, multi-system idiopathic inflammatory myopathy characterized by skin rash and muscle weakness that is often accompanied by pain and fatigue. Other manifestations include intestinal lung disease and calcinosis. Malignancy is also highly associated with DM. The profound negative clinical impacts of DM on patients’ quality of life (QoL) are not yet well-characterized in the literature.[1]

OBJECTIVES:

1. Capture patient perspectives on the impact of DM on QoL (physical function, mental health, personal relationships, and work productivity), most bothersome symptoms (MBS), and severity of symptom burden in adults.

METHODS:

A 60-question survey was developed via sponsor-conducted focus groups and adaptations from existing patient-reported outcome (PRO) tools (e.g., WPAI-GH, SLE-FAMILY, and PROMIS). After IRB approval, members of The Myositis Association (~4000 individuals with DM) were invited to complete the online survey (eligibility criteria: 18 – 75 years of age, self-reported DM diagnosis, and current DM symptoms persistent for ≥ 1 year). Responses were collected per the following Likert scales: DM severity rated from “mild” to “very severe” (4-point scale), overall health rated from “poor” to “excellent” (5-point scale), life impact questions rated from “never” to “always” or “not at all” to “a great deal” (5-point scales), and severity of symptoms rated from “never experienced” to “very severe” (8-point scale).

RESULTS:

Of 195 respondents (97% from US), the median age was 57 years, 88% female, and 82% White. 53% and 35% had experienced DM symptoms for 3 to 10 years or > 10 years, respectively. 92% were currently receiving medication(s) to manage DM symptoms. The 5 MBS reported were muscle weakness (44%, n = 86), fatigue (43%, n = 84), muscle pain (30%, n = 59), itchy skin (24%, n = 46), and skin rash (19%, n = 37). A majority of respondents indicated DM had at least a “moderate” negative impact on the following domains: ability “to do the things they enjoy” (83%, n = 162), ability to engage in social activities (75%, n = 146), sexual desire and ability to engage in physically intimate relationships (64%, n = 125), relationships outside of family (57%, n = 112), and relationships with family (51%, n = 100). A majority reported negative impacts on mental health (83%, n = 162), defined as having felt “anxious or nervous” or “down, depressed or hopeless” at least “sometimes” due to DM. Almost half reported being “usually” or “always” worried about symptoms flares (49%, n = 96) and about their ability to carry out daily activities (42%, n = 82). DM symptom severity was associated with negative impact on overall health. “Fair” or “poor” health was reported by 50% (n = 98) of those experiencing “moderate” DM symptoms, by 83% (n = 27) of those with “severe” symptoms, and by 100% (n = 7) of those with “very severe” symptoms. All with “very severe” DM responded “usually” or “always” to questions about DM limiting their ability to “do the things they enjoy,” concern about symptoms “getting worse,” and ability to “carry out daily activities.” DM symptoms hindered physical functioning, with 63% and 65% of respondents, overall, reporting that DM limited their ability to climb stairs and perform usual daily activities. DM also affected respondents’ ability to work; nearly half were unemployed (47%, n = 92) and had to change their work; nearly half were unemployed (47%, n = 92) and had to change their employment status due to DM (49%, n = 95), while 24% (n = 47) were receiving disability assistance. Of respondents who were working, 69% (n = 77) reported that DM negatively impacted their career/career choices.

Conclusion:

The survey results highlight the marked physical and psychosocial burden of DM in adults and the impact of disease severity on the ability to perform daily activities, mental health, interpersonal relationships, and work productivity. These results underscore the unmet need for new treatment options to ameliorate the progressive and debilitating consequences of DM and further inform PRO-focused research in DM.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.


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AB1718-PARE001 DISEASE AWARENESS, MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVES AND CARE SATISFACTION AMONG PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A PROSPECTIVE MULTICENTRE SURVEY FROM INDIA

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Patient information and education, Quality of life

H. Pathak1, M. Goyal2, P. Das3, S. Santhanam4, A. K. Khan5, S. Malviya6, A. Pandey7, P. Patil8, B. D. Pandey8, P. D. Rath9, N. Jain10, S. Jain11, A. Dua12, A. Goel12, D. Potikuri13, V. Ravindran14, Tircolour Hospitals, Rheumatology, Variotaria, India; Care Pain & Arthritis Centre, Udaipur, India; Rheumatology, Udaipur, India; Apollo Hospitals, Rheumatology, Kolkata, India; Kauvery Hospital, Rheumatology, Chennai, India; Shifa Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Srinagar, India; Ojas Centre for Autoimmune Diseases, Rheumatology, Indore, India; Apollo Hospitals, Rheumatology, Indore, India; Pune Rheumatology Centre, Rheumatology, Pune, India; Fortis Hospital, Rheumatology, Navi, India; Max Hospitals, Rheumatology, New Delhi, India; Shri Gangaram Hospitals, Rheumatology, New Delhi, India; Arthritis clinic, Rheumatology, Saharanpur, India; Dua’s Rheumatology and Arthritis Care, Rheumatology, Bilaspur, India; Karan Hospital, Rheumatology, Palanpur, India; Subodhaya Rheumatology Hospital, Rheumatology, Tirupati, India; Centre for Rheumatology, Rheumatology, Calicut, India

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a disease with heterogeneous manifestations, which affects personal and professional aspects of patients’ lives. Perception of disease state in PsA affects patients significantly. However, studies examining PsA patients’ outlook about their disease are scarce and there are no studies from India examining PsA patients’ viewpoints about their disease.

Objectives: The main objective of this multi-centre multiple domain survey was to study the PsA patients’ perspectives.

Methods: A survey questionnaire with items on PsA patients’ demographics, knowledge, awareness and perception of disease, its treatment, physical therapy, quality of life and the care they received was designed. After internal and external validation, a pilot survey was conducted, and survey modified. The final survey was (with translations in local languages) administered by the participating 16 centres across India.

Results: There were 262 respondents with mean age of 45.14±12.89 years (56% male), Forty percent of the patients had first consultation more than a year after the onset of joint pain and in a majority their current diagnosis was made by a rheu- matologist. Most of the patients had psoriasis (92%) and arthralgia (76%) for more than one year, however, only 60% respondents took a doctor’s opinion for joint symptoms within one year. For two third of the patients, a rheumatologist made the diagnosis of PsA followed by a dermatologist (15%) and general physicians (8%). Over 83% of patients were consulting their rheumatologist once every three months or earlier and were fully compliant with the treatment. Busy schedules and cost of therapy were the most common reasons for non-attendance to ther- apy (Table 1). Eighty-eight patients (34%) were not fully satisfied with their current treatment. Twenty-one. % of the survey respondents were still unaware of the term PsA and 10% were unaware of their current diagnosis. Over two-third of patients had never seen a physiotherapist and listed lack of time, pain and lethargy as the main barriers to exercising. PsA had affected social and employment status of about half of the survey patients. Fatigue, busy work schedule, not able to lift weights, not able to travel without pain were elucidated by patients as main reasons for this effect. Most of the patients were satisfied with disease information provided by rheumatologist and dermatologists. Eighty five % patients in this survey reported not taking any form of complementary alternative medicine therapy. The unmet needs of patients identified in this survey were better provision of remote or online consultation, reduction in pill load, better patient education on disease and drugs and financial help for biological therapies.

Conclusion: This survey informs that although survey participants are satisfied with care given by rheumatologist and dermatologists, the disease is influencing their quality of life significantly by affecting socialization and occupation.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Arthritis research

AB1718-PARE002 MAPPING THE JOURNEY OF PEOPLE WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES TO DIAGNOSIS IN GREECE

Keywords: Gout, Patient-led research, Real-world evidence

K. Scurgian1, K. Koutsogianni1, F. Asimakopoulou1, E. Repa1, I. Papadakis1, M. Chatziagorou1, P. Pratsidou-Geral1, A. Venkou1, M. Chatziioannou1, 1PanHellenic Federation REUMAEZIN, PanHellenic Federation ReuMAzein, Thessaloniki, Greece

Background: Rheumatic diseases (RD) are chronic mostly autoimmune diseases, multi-dimensionally affecting the musculoskeletal system and possibly other organs. Additionally, they impact the patient and family quality of life in respect to health, work, socialization and future perspectives. Previous data indicate that early diagnosis of inflammatory and other RDs is important in order to improve long-term outcome.

Objectives: To capture the journey of RD Greek patients from disease onset to diagnosis aiming to define gaps regarding the early management and uneventful outcome of these potentially debilitating chronic diseases.

Methods: An online questionnaire survey of patients with several types of RDs was uploaded by the Greek Federation REUMAEZIN, an acronym meaning co-living with an RD. 463 patients - all members of the Federation- responded to the call and were enrolled in the survey.

Results: The majority were females (81%), mostly under 60yrs old (73%) and were residents of urban/suburban areas (65%). In respect to education, they were mainly graduate or postgraduate degree holders (56%). The prevailing RDs were RA (178) 38%, SLE (105) 23%, AS (61) 13% and PsA (58) 13%, respectively. The total lag time (mo) was 10.3. In respect to RD kind, it ranged from 5.9 for JIA to 19.7 for AS, respectively. The delay from disease onset to diagnosis was mainly attributed to patient underassessment of symptoms (53%) or ignorance of the proper MD specialist (45%). Only a minority of participants (36%) reported that the diagnosis was made by the first specialty they had initially visited. The initial physician’s (MD) specialist for all but SLE patients, was an orthopedic surgeon (33-60%), whereas for SLE ones, an internist (32%). The initial MD failed to establish the diagnosis in 64% pts, principally in AS ones (82%). Alternatively, rheumatologists as the primer reached MD, established the diagnosis in 60% of patients. Lag time to first visit in non-Rheumatology specialists and the corresponding diagnosis was 26mo; for AS pts it reached 50.9mo, respectively. The average lag time from symptom appearance to the first MD visit was 21.3mo and from the 1st visit to final diagnosis 72.2 mo. All patients reported as the most important problem until the final diagnosis, the lag time to diagnosis (36%), followed by a misdiagnosis (33%). Interestingly, those who looked for a second assessment pre-diagnosis, reported higher percentage either of delay or misdiagnosis (49%, 44%, respectively). The degree of satisfaction regarding information received by the MD who established the final diagnosis was totally high (3.5/5) and was irrespective of the RD type. At final diagnosis, patients were highly satisfied regarding information received by the MD for their most important problem, too. In respect of satisfaction to final diagnosis by rheumatologists vs. non-rheumatologists, the rates did not significantly differ.

Conclusion: Findings of this study indicate that the initial patient visit with an RD to the proper MD specialty, is highly important. A visit to a trained Specialist for RD as a Rheumatologist, significantly reduces lag time to diagnosis and leads to an early management and optimal prognosis. Most of the patients expressed a high rate of satisfaction at the establishment of final diagnosis in respect to the MD and his/her skill in problem solving. Therefore, informing and educating the public regarding the early recognition of initial symptoms and early guiding to

Table 1. Common themes identified in open ended responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes of open ended questions</th>
<th>Patient Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common side effects with medications</td>
<td>Dyspepsia and nausea after medications (most common), fatigue, hair loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What, if any, would you say were the barriers to exercising for you?</td>
<td>Busy work schedule and high cost of medications (most common cause), intolerance to medications, fear of injections, high pill load, high cost of medications, lack of proper guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has PsA affected your ability to do your regular daily activities (housework, shopping, childcare, socializing) other than at a job?</td>
<td>Can’t travel to socialize, can’t socialize due to constant pain, getting tired quickly, need assistance, lethargy, fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has PsA affected your employment status?</td>
<td>If yes, in what way?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has PsA affected your ability to do your regular daily activities (housework, shopping, childcare, socializing) other than at a job?</td>
<td>Can’t travel to socialize, can’t socialize due to constant pain, getting tired quickly, need assistance, lethargy, fatigue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
an experienced MD specialty, would effectively improve the management and co-living with RDs.

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### AB1720-PARE

**NEGATIVE ILLNESS BELIEF ASSOCIATED WITH MORE ACTIVE DISEASE ACTIVITY AND POORER FUNCTION IN THAI PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING Spondylitis and Psoriatic Arthritis**

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Mental health

P. Chiochwaniswajkit1, Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Department of Medicine, Bangkok, Thailand

**Background:** Regarding the common sense self-regulatory model[1], illness beliefs play an essential role in both physical and psychological adjustment to illness. There were few studies about the value of illness representations in the outcome of spondyloarthritis[2] and no study in Thailand.

**Objectives:** To explore the illness perception and their associated factors in AS and PsA patients.

**Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study. Spondyloarthritis patients visiting at Siriraj Hospital for treatment were recruited between 27 April 2021 and 31 October 2022. They were invited to fill out the Thai version of brief Illness Perception Questionnaire(BIQ) (total range 0 (no or best)-80(worst)), the medication taking behavior measure for Thai patients(MTB) [range 4(low adherence)–24 (high adherence)], demographic data, Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score(ASDAS), and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index(BASFI) were collected. The variables were associated with total BIQ were computed by linear regression.

**Results:** A total of 132 patients with 73(55%) male, mean(SD) age of 49(12) years, median(IQR) disease duration of 11(14) years, median ASDAS of 1.7(1.2), median BASFI of 0.9(2.2), median BIQ of 26(12), and mean MTB of 23.2(10) were recruited. The BIQ was significantly positively associated with ASDAS and BASFI in multivariate analysis. Consequences, timeline, identity, illness concern, and emotional representation were positively associated with ASDAS while identity and emotional representation were positively associated with BASFI (Table 1). Positive emotional representation in BIQ was associated with higher MTB (p<0.05).

**Conclusion:** The patients with positive illness perception were associated with better function, lower disease activity, and higher medication adherence. The goal of treatment should be inactive or low disease activity and normalized function as soon as possible may lead to positive illness belief and psychological strength, or vice versa. The positive illness belief may maintain the good health outcome. A longitudinal study is needed to support this association.

| Table 1. The association of the brief illness perception and disease activity, and function |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Item              | Total ASDAS1    | Total BASFI2    | Unstandardized B coefficient |  |
| 1. Consequences   | 2(3)            | 2(3)            | 0.233*            | 0.126*           |
| 2. Timeline       | 8(5)            | 8(5)            | 0.071*            | 0.037*           |
| 3. Personal control | 5(4)          | 5(4)            | -0.056            | 0.008*           |
| 4. Treatment control | 1(2)          | 1(2)            | 0.014            | 0.071*           |
| 5. Identity       | 1(2)            | 1(2)            | 0.123*            | 0.164*           |
| 6. Illness concern | 2(2)            | 2(2)            | 0.093*            | 0.055*           |
| 7. Coherecse      | 2(3)            | 2(3)            | -0.008            | 0.008*           |
| 8. Emotional representation | 2 (2) | 2 (2) | 0.101* | 0.154* |
| Total score       | 26(12)          | 26(12)          | 0.047*            | 0.033*           |

Abbreviations = ASDAS, Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score; BASFI, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index; BIQ, adjusted for disease duration; IQ, adjusted for disease duration and ASDAS. ASDAS was significantly associated with BASFI with p-value <0.0001; p<0.05 Total values are in median (IQR) unless otherwise stated.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: The authors wish to thank the participants for their cooperation, Prof. Elizabeth Broadbent and Dr. Napaporn Sowattanagoon for permission to use BIQ, Prof. Phantipa Saikhong for permission to use the MTB, and Ms. Nutwara Meanmu for data collection.

Disclosure of Interests: Praveena Chiochwaniswajkit Grant/research support from: PC has received research grant from the non-interventional third party sponsored investigator initiated trial agreement, Novartis (Thailand) Limited (the grant number PMA-193).

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### AB1721-PARE

**PATIENT REVIEWERS OF APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH FUNDING - A PILOT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Patient-led research

H. Thorseng1, C. Ziegler1, The Rheumatism Association, Politics and Knowledge, Gentofte, Denmark

**Background:** Each year the Danish Rheumatism Association supports research in the field of rheumatology with approx. 1.5-2 Million EUR to strengthen the basis for developing better prevention strategies and treatment and thus increase the quality of life for many people. Since 2014 it has been mandatory for researchers applying for funding from the research committee of The Danish Rheumatism Association to indicated whether and how they involve patient representatives in their research. Our annual measurements show that involvement of patient representatives by researchers receiving a grant from The Danish Rheumatism Association has increased from 14 % in 2015 up to 65 % in 2021. To strengthen the patient involvement in research further The Danish Rheumatism Association would like patients to have a say in the research funding decisions by reviewing applications for research funding to the research committee of the Danish Rheumatism Association.

**Objectives:** To carry out a pilot study with patients as reviewers of applications for research funding to The Danish Rheumatism Association.

**Methods:** Three patients, one man and two women, with different RMDs participated in the pilot study and were requested to try to represent all patients with RMDs. The study was carried out from August to December 2022. The Danish Rheumatism Association provided the patients with an online introduction to the work as patient reviewer, they were provided with information material and The Danish Rheumatism Association supported them throughout their time with us. The patients reviewed a summary of 6-26 research funding applications in plain language at home individually. The applications were scored from zero to five, where zero was the lowest score and five the highest. The research committee of The Danish Rheumatism Association was presented the patients mean score of the applications and comments from one or more patients before their meetings and oral on the meetings in September 2022 and December 2022 respectively.

**Results:** When the research committee met to decide which research should receive funding, they took the patients mean score and comments for each application reviewed into their decision as with other parameters like methodology, research outcome, involvement of patient representatives in the research etc.

**Conclusion:** The patients in the pilot study represented patients with RMDs. They reviewed the applications for the research committee of The Danish Rheumatism Association based on their experience of being a patient and had a say in research funding decisions. In spring 2023 the pilot study will be evaluated and it is expected that patients with RMDs will be involved in the future research funding decisions in The Danish Rheumatism Associations and maybe in a larger scale than in the pilot study.

**REFERENCES:**


2. University of Applied Sciences Leiden, Department of Physiotherapy, Leiden, Netherlands;

3. Sint Maartenskliniek, Department of Rheumatology, Udderen, Netherlands;

4. Radboud University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands;

5. Center for Rehabilitation and Rheumatology, Reade, Amsterdam, Netherlands;

6. Sint Maartenskliniek, Department of Research, Udderen, Netherlands;

7. Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden, Netherlands

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**REFERENCES:**


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Disclosure of Interests: Praveena Chiochwaniswajkit Grant/research support from: PC has received research grant from the non-interventional third party sponsored investigator initiated trial agreement, Novartis (Thailand) Limited (the grant number PMA-193).

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Background: There is a lack of knowledge about the nature and frequency of the main limitations in activities and participation experienced by a subgroup of people with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and severe limitations in physical functioning. More insight is essential to optimize treatment for this subgroup and can be obtained by linking the treatment goals perceived by the patient to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as a frame of reference. Goal setting is widely recognized for tailoring and optimizing treatment, and for this purpose the Patient Specific Complaint (PSC) instrument is recommended in physiotherapy practices in the Netherlands [1].

Objectives: To describe the nature and frequency of limitations in activities and participation of people with RA and severe limitations. Limitations will be derived from the PSC [1] and linked to the ICF and the comprehensive and brief ICF Core Sets for RA.

Methods: Baseline data from a randomized controlled trial on the effect of long-term exercise therapy in people with RA and severe limitations in functioning were used. For each participant, the three most limited activities were identified and prioritized using the PSC. Two researchers independently identified meaningful concepts within each PSC activity and linked them to the most specific ICF category within the ‘Activities and Participation’ component, following standardized ICF linking rules [2]. In case of disagreement, this was discussed with a third researcher until consensus was reached. The frequencies of ICF categories were calculated overall and for PCS activities ranked 1, 2 and 3. Finally, the uniquely identified ICF categories were compared to the content of the comprehensive and brief RA ICF core sets for the component ‘Activities and Participation’.

Results: From 206 RA patients (90.8% female, 58.7 (12.9) years of age, 1.5 (0.5) HAQ-DI score), 618 PSC activities were recorded, including 911 meaningful concepts. These concepts were subsequently linked to 909 ICF categories, with 72 unique ICF codes. Overall, the most prevalent ICF categories were: 1) d4501 walking long distances (n=121; 59%); 2) d4502 walking on different surfaces (n=79; 38%); 3) d451 stair climbing (n=62; 30%); 4) d4103 changing body position from sitting (n=60; 29%) and 5) d4401 grasping (n=51, 25%). The categories for the ranked PSC activities differed slightly, and manipulating, d4502, often proved limited too (see Table 1). The uniquely identified ICF codes covered 21 of 32 items (66%) of the comprehensive and 4 of 6 items (67%) of the brief RA ICF core sets.

Conclusion: The most prevalent limited activities involved walking (long distances, on different surfaces and climbing stairs), changing body position from sitting and hand use (grasping and manipulating). To optimize treatment for this subgroup, clinicians should be aware that not all RA core set items are prevalent in practice and that some frequent problems are not included in the core sets.

REFERENCES:

Characteristics from Table content including title and footnotes.

Table 1. Demographics, prednisone dose and duration, and prednisone-related side effects of the patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA/MPA</th>
<th>Other Vasculitis</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age years, Mean (SD)</td>
<td>56.7 (14.5)</td>
<td>572 (15.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>39 (73.6)</td>
<td>36 (81.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration (years), Mean (SD)</td>
<td>9.9 (7.3)</td>
<td>11.3 (11.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total prednisone time (months), Mean (SD)</td>
<td>52.5 (15.6)</td>
<td>74.6 (104.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still receiving prednisone (%)</td>
<td>22 (41.5)</td>
<td>26 (59.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current dose of prednisone (mg), Mean (SD)</td>
<td>7.4 (5.5)</td>
<td>9.2 (6.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prednisone related side effects, n (%)

- Impaired quality of life: 51 (96.2) vs 43 (97.7), 0.570
- Acne: 21 (39.6) vs 21 (47.7), 0.423
- Skin bruising or thinning: 42 (79.2) vs 41 (93.2), 0.050
- Gastrointestinal symptoms: 40 (75.5) vs 37 (84.1), 0.296
- Weight gain: 51 (96.2) vs 92 (90.9), 0.255
- Insomnia: 49 (92.5) vs 42 (95.5), 0.431
- Mood change: 52 (98.1) vs 91 (93.2), 0.242
- Anxiety or depression: 46 (86.8) vs 40 (90.9), 0.380
- Lower self-esteem: 41 (77.4) vs 40 (90.9), 0.073
- Night sweats: 43 (81.1) vs 39 (86.6), 0.309
- Body disfigurement (moon face or torso hump etc): 51 (96.2) vs 38 (86.4), 0.083
- Hip bone AVN requiring hip replacement: 0 (0) vs 1 (2.3), 0.454
- Diabetes requiring medication: 8 (15.1) vs 10 (22.7), 0.241
- High blood pressure requiring medication: 21 (39.6) vs 14 (31.8), 0.280
- Infections requiring antibiotics: 28 (52.8) vs 22 (50.0), 0.471
- Severe infection requiring hospitalization: 8 (15.1) vs 6 (13.6), 0.537
- Bone fracture: 6 (13.3) vs 6 (13.6), 0.483
- Osteoporosis requiring treatment: 12 (22.6) vs 17 (37.5), 0.035
- Cataracts: 15 (28.3) vs 14 (31.8), 0.438
- Cataracts: 15 (28.3) vs 14 (31.8), 0.438
- Loss of tooth mass or teeth: 12 (22.6) vs 14 (31.8), 0.216

Patients' knowledge and perception about possible alternatives to prednisone

- Ever taken avacopan, n (%) | 30 (60) vs 33 (75.0), 0.008
- Ever taken avacopan, n (%) | 1 (1.8) vs 0 (0), 1.000
- Would you prefer to go back on prednisone or be one of the first patients, outside of any study, to take a very new medication such as avacopan, instead of, or with less, prednisone?, n (%) | 33 (62.3) vs 33 (75.0), 0.290
- New medication (avacopan) | Back on prednisone
- New medication (avacopan) | New medication (avacopan)
Background: People living with musculoskeletal pain conditions prefer pain self-reporting for better pain management [1]. In a recent feasibility study, 104 people living with musculoskeletal pain conditions completed daily pain mankin reports, along with an optional free text pain diary using their own smartphone [2]. People shared their motivation to daily self-report their pain if that could improve their self-management [3]. There is a potential of electronic pain diaries to improve pain management [4], while it is unknown what people would describe in an optional pain diary to improve their pain management.

Objectives: The objective was to explore what people have described in their free text electronic pain diaries, which could be useful for improving their pain management.

Methods: In a recent study, we assessed the feasibility of daily pain self-reports for 30 days. A daily pain self-report included a single overall pain intensity question, a two-sided two-dimensional pain diagram, and a free text pain diary (see figure 1). For the latter, people could provide additional information in response to the question: Is there anything you would like to share about your pain diagram? We conducted a secondary thematic content analysis of the free text pain diary entries and identified key domains and ideas described by people. We presented themes descriptively.

Results: Out of 104 people, 94 completed 957 unique pain diary entries. We have presented key domains, ideas and illustrative quotes in the table 1. People described how medication and self-management practices (e.g., heat therapy, physical activity) helped them in managing their pain. They also described different aspects of their pain, including pain descriptors (e.g., pain location, quality, radiation), perceived causes (e.g., physical activity, cold weather) and consequences of pain (e.g., limited mobility, lack of sleep). People perceived some factors, such as medication, and level of physical activity, as both cause and consequence of their pain.

Conclusion: Electronic free text pain diaries provide useful information about people’s pain management practices. However, how best to track pain and self-management practices for effective pain management requires research.

REFERENCES:

Keywords: Qualitative research methods, Self-management, Pain, Electronic free text pain diaries

AB1725-PARE

WHAT DO PEOPLE LIVING WITH MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN CONDITIONS DESCRIBE ABOUT THEIR PAIN? AN EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS OF ELECTRONIC FREE TEXT PAIN DIARIES

Table 1. Key domains and ideas captured in free text electronic pain diaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Domains captured in pain diaries</th>
<th>Key ideas</th>
<th>Illustrative quotes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Descriptions of pain</td>
<td>Pain location, Quality of pain (e.g., numbness)</td>
<td>Crumbling pain in my back and numbness down right leg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Factors associated with (self) management of pain</td>
<td>Medication, Resting, Physical activity, Heat therapy, Warm weather or clothing</td>
<td>Again my medication is keeping the pain at bay. Because it has been very hot today. I have experienced very little pain today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Perceived cause of pain</td>
<td>Lack of physical activity</td>
<td>Had a very active day before, in higher pain today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Consequences of pain</td>
<td>Functional limitations (e.g., mobility), Change in medication, Lack of sleep</td>
<td>The leg pain in restricting my daily movement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank the network of Vasculitis Foundation Canada patients who participated in this survey.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1724-PARE

SEQUENCE PATIENT SURVEY: PERCEPTION OF THE USE OF ADVANCED THERAPIES FOR PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Patient-led research, bDMARD

C. Gollins1,2, A. Vivekanantham3, M. Brooke4, L. Coates4, W. Tillet1,2. 1Royal National Hospital For Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology, Bath, United Kingdom; 2University of Bath, Department of Life Sciences, Centre for Therapeutic Innovation, Bath, United Kingdom; 3University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; 4Bath Institute For Rheumatic Diseases, British Psoriatic Arthritis Consortium, Bath, United Kingdom

Background: Due to the chronic nature of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and the increase in therapeutic options, many people are receiving multiple sequential lines of biologic and targeted synthetic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (b/tsDMARDs). There is limited data on treatment response to advanced lines of therapy and therefore in the rationed UK National Health Service, some regions are limited in the number of sequential b/tsDMARD per patient. Patients have higher levels of treatment satisfaction with biologics compared to conventional DMARDs[1] but little is known about patient satisfaction with access to b/ts-DMARDs in the UK.

Objectives: To assess the perceptions of people treated with b/tsDMARDS in the UK for PsA, focusing on the experience of access to advanced treatments.
Methods: The cross-sectional SEQUENCE patient survey was developed as an anonymous online questionnaire on the SurveyMonkey platform, available to be completed by people with self-reported PsA and current or previous b/tsDMARD treatment. The freely available online survey was promoted through PsA support groups via websites and social media. Descriptive analysis of the results was performed, with categorical variables summarised with frequencies and percentages.

Results: 67 people from England, Wales and Scotland responded (male 8, female 59), mean age 54.5 years, mean psoriasis duration 22 years (range 0-55) and PsA 14 years (range 1-50). The number of lines of previous b/tsDMARD treatment per respondent is outlined in Fig 1. The most common first line treatments were adalimumab (33/60) or etanercept (12/60) with secukinumab the most common second line drug (15/42). Switching treatments was most commonly due to primary or secondary failure. 46.7% (28/60) of people felt that a decision to switch treatment had been a joint decision between patient and physician. Only 9% (6/67) had been advised that there was a maximum number of biologics permitted in their region. 24% (16/66) had been advised that a particular b/tsDMARD had to be prescribed first line for PsA in their region, 76% (13/17) of whom reported this was a TNF inhibitor. One respondent had to move hospital or region to obtain access to further biologics. 32% (21/65) had been told that an individual funding request had been applied for to fund their next b/tsDMARD (likely due to limited funded treatment options), and this was successful for 90% (20/23). Qualitative responses highlighted the significant improvement that b/tsDMARDs make to people with PsA e.g. ‘They have given me my life back’. However, there was frustration towards perceived delays in access: ‘We should not need to suffer cDMARDS and fail, losing months of our lives, to get to a biologic.’

Conclusion: Within this UK PsA population, a minority reported limitations on the class or line of b/tsDMARD available in their region. There was an overall positive response to treatment with biologics, and perception of access generally. However, when patients have difficulty accessing later lines of treatment, it has an adverse effect on their lives. The small proportion of respondents who have had difficulty with access suggests that the overall cost of creating equitable access to b/tsDMARDs in the UK may be relatively low but would have a meaningful impact.

REFERENCE:

Figure 1. Number of lines of b/tsDMARD reported to have been prescribed per respondent

Acknowledgements: Thank you to the British Psoriatic Arthritis Consortium (Brit-PACT) for help with development of the survey and to Brit-PACT, the Psoriasis Association and Andrea Jack for promotion of the online survey.

Disclosure of Interests: Charlotte Gollins: None declared, Arani Vivekanantham: None declared, Mel Brooke: None declared, Laura Coates Speakers bureau: has been paid as a speaker for AbbVie, Amgen, Biogen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Galapagos, Janssen, Moonlake, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, William Tillett Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, UCB, Consultant of: Abbvie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, Novartis, Ono Pharma, Pfizer, UCB, Grant/research support from: Janssen, UCB, Pfizer, Eli-Lilly.

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AB1726-PARE IN WHAT EXTENT DO RHEUMATOLOGISTS DISCUSS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WITH THEIR PATIENTS AFFECTED BY CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASE AND WHAT ARE THE PATIENTS’ EXPECTATIONS?

Background:
Objectives: To assess the level of communication about physical activity (PA) between rheumatologists and their patients to identify patients’ needs in this method.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study conducted on 140 patients (mean age of 47.1 ± 14.6 years, 68% females) followed for CIRD (Rheumatoid arthritis 56.4%, ankylosing spondylarthritis 32.1%, psoriatic arthritis 8.6% and juvenile idiopathic arthritis 2.9%). Physical activity was measured using the IPAQ-SF (the international physical activity questionnaire - short form). We asked patients if their rheumatologist has ever discussed or encouraged them or even explained how to do adapted physical activity. Patients ‘preferences for physical activity practice were collected by specifying if patients preferred to practice it at home or outside, single or in groups. Finally, we also asked them about their needs for both audiovisual support on adapted physical activity and participation in an educational workshop.

Results: The physical activity level was low with a mean IPAQ-SF score of 413 (0.760) MET-min/week. The topic of PA was discussed by rheumatologists with 37.1% of patients. Rheumatologists advised patients to practice adapted PA and show them how to practice it, in respectively 38 and 21.4% of cases. Figure 1 illustrated patients’ expectations of PA.

Conclusion: This study shows the lack of rheumatologist-patient communication on PA and the significant need for PA education. Hence there should be greater involvement of rheumatologists in patient education about physical activity to fight against sedentary behavior in CIRD patients.

Disclosure of Interests: NONE DECLARED

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6236
Psychosocial support

AB1727-PARE
OPTIMISM AND PESSIMISM ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SELF-REPORTED DISEASE ACTIVITY AND PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Prognostic factors, Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life

H. Mammen, S. Salzmann, J. Rieckel, M. Schneider, J. Mucke.1 University Hospital of Dusseldorf, Rheumatology, Dusseldorf, Germany; 2Philipps-University Marburg, Clinical Psychology, Marburg, Germany

Background: The primary goal in patients (pts) with rheumatic diseases is to control disease activity, prevent irreversible damage and reduce disease burden. Despite a broad armamentarium of effective treatments in most rheumatic diseases, a substantial number of pts does not achieve disease control.

Objectives: As psychosocial factors and mindset might influence the treatment response of pts with rheumatoid arthritis (RA)[1], the EXPERD (Expectations in Rheumatic Diseases) study aimed to assess these factors and their association with disease activity in pts with various rheumatic diseases.

Methods: For this cross-sectional analysis, pts with diagnoses of RA, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), spondyloarthopathies (SpA) and inflammatory vasculitis treated in the outpatient clinic of the university hospital Duesseldorf were included.

Results: A total of 158 pts completed the questionnaires: 51 pts with RA, 32 pts with SLE, 43 pts with SpA and 32 pts with inflammatory vasculitis. Univariate analyses adjusted for sex, age and number of comorbidities found higher pessimism associated with higher disease activity (est. 0.14, CI 0.008-0.27, p = 0.04). Further, lower HRQoL was correlated with higher pessimism (physical component (PCS): est. -0.05, CI -0.08 to -0.02, p = 0.003; mental component (MCS): est. -0.05, CI -0.09 to -0.01, p = 0.15) and lower optimism (PCS: est. 0.04, CI 0.01 to 0.07, p = 0.01; MCS: est. 0.05, CI 0.01 to 0.08, p = 0.007). Referring to this, pts’ depressive symptoms and pronounced anxiety symptoms manifested the strongest association with lower optimism (depression: est. -0.28, CI -0.34 to -0.22, p <0.001; anxiety: est. -0.36, CI -0.42 to -0.29, p <0.001) and higher pessimism values (depression: est. 0.22, CI 0.14 to 0.3, p <0.001; anxiety: est. 0.26, CI 0.17 to 0.35, p <0.001). In contrast, a longer disease duration and a trustworthy doctor-patient relationship showed primarily lower pessimism (est. -0.07 CI -0.11 to -0.02, p = 0.002; est. -0.26, CI -0.47 to -0.06, p = 0.01).

Conclusion: Mindset in terms of optimism and pessimism was associated with several psychosocial factors and self-reported disease activity in pts with rheumatic diseases. While pessimistic pts tended to have higher self-reported disease activity and considered their physicians less trustworthy, optimism was associated with higher HRQoL. Our results emphasize the relevance of encouraging psychological support to improve a pessimistic mindset. A longitudinal analysis of this investigation is currently ongoing.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>SLE</th>
<th>SpA</th>
<th>Vasculitis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of pts, n (%)</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>51 (32.3)</td>
<td>32 (20.3)</td>
<td>43 (27.3)</td>
<td>32 (20.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, n (%)</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>67 (63.6)</td>
<td>38 (75.4)</td>
<td>25 (78.1)</td>
<td>25 (78.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age in years, mean (SD)</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>33.6 (15.5)</td>
<td>28.8 (15.4)</td>
<td>19 (15.5)</td>
<td>19 (15.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRQoL, PCS, mean (SD)</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>39.9 (15.9)</td>
<td>40.9 (20.9)</td>
<td>42.7 (22.9)</td>
<td>36.3 (20.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRQoL, MCS, mean (SD)</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>39.3 (13.1)</td>
<td>41.9 (15.2)</td>
<td>43.7 (22.9)</td>
<td>41.9 (15.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-reported disease activity, mean (SD)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.8)</td>
<td>2.1 (2.1)</td>
<td>1.9 (1.3)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.6)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HRQoL: Health Related Quality of Life, MCS: mental component, PCS: physical component, pts: patients, RA: Rheumatoid Arthritis, SLE: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, SpA: Spondyloarthopathies

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1728-PARE
CASE OF PERIODIC FEVER SYNDROME IN PEDIATRIC PATIENT FROM PARENTS AND DOCTORS' PERSPECTIVES

Keywords: Best practices, Prognostic factors

I. Romaniuk1, N. Torres2, I. Sanders3, L. King3, P. Garcia Rodriguez4, 1Jackson Memorial Hospital Pediatrics, Miami, United States of America; 2Jackson Memorial Hospital, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Pediatrics, Miami, United States of America; 3Jackson Memorial Hospital, Pediatrics, Miami, United States of America; 4Jackson Memorial Hospital, Family Medicine, Miami, United States of America

Background: every patient experiment own disease differently as well as their families. Even modern medicine sometimes can't address all explanation to each clinical question, cover all needs and cure all diseases. Rheumatology is one of medical filed with more question than answer sometimes. And this uncertainty usually is difficult for patient. What if doctor can't answer your question? What if treatment patient is asking for is not the best option or even harmful?

Objectives: show through our case different prospective and expectation between parents and doctors view on pediatric patient medical care based on past family experience, standards of medical care and possible future health outcomes.

Methods: analysis of own experience managing patient with periodic fever syndrome

Results: L, 3 yo boy, originally from country in South America, with past medical history of periodic fever, myelodysplastic syndrome associated with pathologic polymorphism of gene SRP72 (C1384C-T), multiple café au lait spots and autism spectrum disorder was admitted to our hospital due to fever. Fever episodes occurred since 6-month-old (up to 40°C), every 3 months and lasted 5-10 days. The episodes associated with fever, conjunctivitis, arthralgias, reactive lymphadenopathy, oral and duodenal ulcer. Raynaud syndrome and elevation of C-reactive protein level. The initially managed the fever with Prednisone due to concerns for an autoimmune condition or PFAPA. The fever responded to steroid in the early course of disorder but haven’t had effect with following episodes. Extensive work up has been done. Autoimmune, immunology, oncology was negative, but genetic testing was positive for pathologic polymorphism of gene SRP72. At 18-months of age, he was diagnosed with neutropenia first time. Family history was significant for periodic fever and lupus-like symptoms in his mother and rheumatoid arthritis in maternal uncle. Tests results were inconclusive for possible reason of his symptoms. So, his parents moved to the USA with hope to find some answers. Next comprehensive evaluation has been performed at National Institute of Health in June 2022 and unfortunately studies were still inconclusive and without a certain diagnosis. Only pending test that might shed light on the cause was full genome sequencing. During admission to our hospital with taking into account results of previous evaluations and clinical symptoms that did not completely coincide with any of the common or rare periodic fever disorders, diagnosis of syndrome of undifferentiated recurrent fever was made. A few possible treatments were discussed. Recommendations were against using prednisolone for treatment. Continue treatment at home country or US after establishing care with local medical house were discussed. Excessive discussions with family took place multiple times. However, parents have continued expressed extreme frustration with requests for definitive diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

Discussion: There is no doubt that parent and medical team have the same goals and try to find answers to the same questions. And there is no doubt that understanding and parents’ perspectives are different from medical team ones often. Different previous medical experience, no clear answers make waiting without any treatment extremely hard for family. However, modern medicine is matter of tries and hope sometimes. This bring us as doctors to ethical dilemma: what can and what should we do?

Conclusion: it is difficult for parent to make right decision due to numerous biases and expectations. The effort of medical team should be directed to work together with patient family and shared decision making with parents in order to provide the best care to a child.

REFERENCES: NIL

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1729-PARE
BEING “THE HEALTHY ONE”: THE HARD LIVING WITH A SICK BROTHER/SISTER

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Patient information and education, Lifestyles

U. Vioglio, G. Mascarino1, D. Rava, D. Romagnolo, M. T. Mascarino1, 1AmaR Piemonte, Executive committee, Turin, Italy

15:30-17:00
Arthritis research

AB1730-PARE CAVIPA, THE SURVEY EXPLORING PATIENTS’ QUALITY OF LIFE WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS DESIGNED BY PATIENTS FOR PATIENTS

Keywords: Quality of life, Quality of care, Osteoarthritis

N. Martínez Fernández1, J. Verges2, 1Osteoarthritis Foundation International, R&D, Barcelona, Spain; 2Osteoarthritis Foundation International, President & CEO, Barcelona, Spain

Background: Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common chronic joint disease and poses a growing public health problem. In Spain, 7 million people suffer from OA [1], and only hip and knee OA represent an average annual cost of 4,738 million euros for the Spanish Health System. In 2016, more than one hundred thousand hip and knee prostheses were placed in Spain [2]. In the Spanish population, errors in the quality of care and a deterioration in OA patient care have been described from the perspective of health professionals [3]. However, a comprehensive analysis of the OA patients’ profile, experience, and needs is still missing.

Objectives: The objective is to determine the perception of the quality of life (QoL) of patients with knee and/or hip OA in Spain, focusing on critical factors associated, such as knowledge of the disease, satisfaction with their treatment plan, diagnosis, symptoms, functional disability, and limitations on daily activities.

Methods: Cross-sectional observational study including data collection through a telephone survey of 200 patients living through the Spanish territory. The survey was prepared by a group of patients, clinical experts, and methodologists and validated by a pilot with 10 patients. The final version, approved by the CEIC of the Hospital la Paz in Madrid, was divided into 8 parts that investigate socio-demographic, diagnostic, therapeutic, assistance, and joint functionality, focusing on patient satisfaction and perception of health and QoL.

Results: Patients reported that pain is the first word that comes into their minds when they think about OA. Although pain contributes to the loss of QoL and health, our results show that pain is a multidimensional affection since comorbidities such as depression and anxiety profoundly influence their QoL. Another factor that negatively affects the perception of QoL is the diagnostic delay, where the mean delay obtained in our results was 3.12 years. Regarding their pharmacological treatment, only half of the patients are satisfied, and only a fifth of the respondents believe it can alleviate their pain. Despite this lack of satisfaction, patients take a very long time to make it known to their doctors since they think their doctor will not listen to them or believe another therapeutic option does not exist. Moreover, only half of the patients received non-pharmacological recommendations from their doctors, of which only 20% received professional support for their implementation. Moreover, they reported the need for more treatments to improve their condition and advocated for more information, empathy, and comprehension since they feel their situation is poorly understood by their family, friends, and healthcare providers.

Conclusion: The Osteoarthritis Foundation International (OAFI) designed and conducted the first Spanish survey on QoL of OA patients: the CAVIPA study, to analyze the perception of QoL by patients. Our results show that OA severely impacts patients’ QoL due to associated functional limitations, comorbidities, diagnostic delay, and treatment satisfaction. These results provide a portrait of patients’ perceptions of OA to give a baseline to take better quality performance in the future. Also, it was a proof-of-concept study designed to prove the strength and capacity of patients and their organizations to contribute to the scientific community. Empowering patients to have a more active role in their health and engaging them in research are key aspects to ensure the effective implementation of interventions aimed at improving the QoL of patients and, consequently, the current OA management strategies.


Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3196

Patient information and education

AB1731-PARE INFLUENCE OF A MULTICOMPONENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES MEASUREMENTS IN A GROUP OF PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Patient information and education, Rheumatoid arthritis

N. Pinto-Florez1, Z. Castaño1, P. Rodríguez2, G. S. Rodríguez-Vargas2, J. A. Rubio-Rubí1, A. Rojas-Villamaría1, P. Santos-Moreno1, 1Universitat, Expert Patient, Bogotá, Colombia; 2BIOMAB, Patients Education, Bogotá, Colombia; 3BIOMAB, Scientific Direction, Bogotá, Colombia; Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud FUCS, Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia

Background: Educational strategies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are a fundamental tool for the objective measurement of clinimetry by patients (Patient Reported Outcomes Measurements- PROMs).

Objectives: The objective of this study is to evaluate whether there are differences in the measurement of clinimetry when performed by a medical group (MG) with PROMs in an educational context.

Methods: Cross-sectional study. A group of adult patients with RA who participated in a multicomponent RA education program (EMRA) and another who did not participate in this program (NEMRA) were included. The multicomponent educational program is responsible for educating the patient for self-management and management of their health condition, providing different knowledge regarding the disease, including clinimetry, with a duration of 14 months (divided into three levels, mixed face-to-face and virtual). The group of EMRA and NEMRA patients performed the PROMs, through a form designed in "Google forms" clinimetry measurements were performed by a medical group, MG (blind to the type of patient group) with a difference of 1 week. Clinical, sociodemographic, and clinimetry variables were included in the RedCap platform. The MDHAQ, Rapid3D, PAS, EQ-5 and Fatigue scales were evaluated by the MG and the two groups of patients. Univariate and bivariate analysis was performed. A comparison of the medians of the variables evaluated by PROMs and by the MG (Wilcoxon for paired data) was made. The ethics committee approved the study design.
Results: 91 women were included. The median duration of the disease was 10.9 years (12.1). 30.8% had polyautoimmunity. The EMRA group had a higher proportion of education above secondary school (p=0.013). In the EMRA group, there were no significant differences between the cinetimetry evaluated by the MG and the PROMs. In the NEMRA group, significant differences were found in 4 of the 6 variables evaluated (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison of cinetimetry and autocinotmetry according to the two groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>PROMs C-MG</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>PROMs C-MG</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>PROMs C-MG</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>5.4 (5.75)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>4.1 (4.4)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>5.3 (6.5)</td>
<td>0.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDHAQ</td>
<td>2.7 (7.9)</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>2.5 (7.9)</td>
<td>0.062</td>
<td>2.3 (3.9)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPID3</td>
<td>15.3 (7.6)</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>12.8 (7.3)</td>
<td>0.074</td>
<td>11.3 (6.0)</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS</td>
<td>5.2 (8.6)</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>4.2 (2.4)</td>
<td>0.092</td>
<td>5.2 (4.8)</td>
<td>0.259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ-5D-3L</td>
<td>0.640</td>
<td>0.070</td>
<td>0.695</td>
<td>0.182</td>
<td>0.151</td>
<td>0.038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTO score</td>
<td>0.306</td>
<td>0.240</td>
<td>0.250</td>
<td>0.198</td>
<td>0.046</td>
<td>0.267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ-5D-3L</td>
<td>0.590</td>
<td>0.064</td>
<td>0.635</td>
<td>0.722</td>
<td>0.030</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAS score</td>
<td>0.240</td>
<td>0.191</td>
<td>0.195</td>
<td>0.195</td>
<td>0.270</td>
<td>0.259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Median (Interquartile range) ** Wilcoxon test for paired samples.

Conclusion: PROMs measurements have a value comparable to the cinetimetry performed by the MG in those patients who are under an educational program with emphasis on self-management of their disease. This can be valuable to have an objective measure by the patient with RA that can be useful at the time of the consultation, save time in its development and facilitate the adoption of therapeutic behaviors. It is suggested that for a good development of PROMs, patients have prior educational training so that these measurements are similar to those performed by the MG.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NOLARMA PINTO-FLOREZ: None declared, Zoheila Castaño: None declared, Fernando Rodriguez: None declared, Gabriel-Santiago Rodríguez-Vargas: None declared, Jaime Andrés Rubio-Rubio: None declared, Adriana Rojas-Villarraga: None declared, Pedro Santos-Moreno Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi.

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AB1732-PA RE(" FLARE, DID YOU SAY FLARE? " FLARES IN SJÖGREN’S DISEASE: THE PATIENT PERSPECTIVE

Keywords: Sjögren syndrome, Outcome measures, Patient information and education

C. Bouillot, C. M. Hammell, A. Hjertviksen Lindland, M. Oosterbaan, M. Pincemin, L. Stone. AFGS, Patient Association, Paris, France;
2Sjögren’s Foundation, Patient Association, Reston, United States of America;
3Diagnosegruppe Sjögrens Syndrom, Patient Association, Oslo, Norway;
4Nationale Vereniging Sjögrenpatiënten, Patient Association, Maasen, Netherlands;
5EBSA, Patient Association, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Background: “Flare” is a word often used by Sjögren’s patients and medical professionals, without any official definition or consensus on what it means. In addition, the heterogeneous nature of Sjögren’s symptoms means that the definition of a “flare” will vary greatly from patient to patient. As part of the European Necessity project, www.necessity-12020.eu, 7 Sjögren’s patients from the Patient Advisory Group (PAG) addressed this issue and hereby present our definition of a Sjögren’s flare from the patient perspective.

Objectives: To provide a common definition of a flare in Sjögren’s despite the heterogeneity and subjectivity of symptoms and provide patients and medical professionals with a mutual, basic understanding of flares.

Methods: The Necessity PAG Members discussed which symptoms should be included in the definition of a flare. Flares are as heterogeneous and variable as the disease, but some symptoms appear more prominent than others. The symptoms selected by the PAG were compared with findings from the 2021 U.S. Sjögren’s Foundation Survey. The 9 symptoms determined as the most commonly reported by patients were: dryness, fatigue, morning stiffness, global pain (joints, muscles, nerves, headache), forgetfulness and brain fog, depression and anxiety and sleep disorders.

Conclusion: That is why RZN organized a focus group session in 2021 together with the Erasmus Medical Center (MC) in Rotterdam amongst 6 people with IA and a 1st or 2nd generation migration background. The focus group gave an insight into the values that play an important role, when deciding on a best fitting treatment.

Objectives: In the Netherlands:

Background: In the Netherlands, Shared Decision Making (SDM) between healthcare professionals and patients with a migration background stays behind, when compared to SDM with patients with a Dutch background. This can be due to the fact that patients with a migration background might hold different values when deciding on treatment. Values they find difficult to express. Values that health care professionals find difficult to talk about or understand.[1] Research into the values of inflammatory arthritis patients (IA) with a migration background will help health care professionals to better take these values into account, when deciding together on a best fitting treatment.

Results: Values that play an important role to people with IA and a 1st or 2nd generation migration background when deciding on the best fitting IA treatment:

1. Do these values differ from those of the general Dutch population with IA?
2. To get an idea of the values that play a role in the choice of treatment, the National Association ReumaZorg Nederland (RZN) conducted research in 2020 amongst people with IA. It resulted in a list of most important values that was elaborated. People who had a migration background were underrepresented in the group of respondents. That is why RZN organized a focus group session in 2021 together with the Erasmus Medical Center (MC) in Rotterdam amongst 6 people with IA and a 1st or 2nd generation migration background. The focus group gave an insight into the values that play an important role, when choosing IA treatment. In order to verify these values within the broader migrant community of people with IA, RZN set out a questionnaire based on outcomes from the focus
Objective:

Background:
The survey was conducted for the effectiveness of IA treatment (pain, fatigue, inflammation and on physical functioning). Respondents also placed great importance on clear information about IA treatment. Values with regards to the healthcare professional (someone who helps to make a decision about treatment, who is involved, who has time and who listens) were also perceived as important. Finally, respondents placed great value on their wish not to depend on other people for their daily activities.

results:

Conclusions:

Table 1.

Gout flares have impacted my ability to...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do my job</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care for my children, spouse, or other family members</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in hobbies or community activities</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain friendships and stay socially active</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoy my life</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Respondents could select multiple categories.

Graph 1.

AB1735-PARE

DIETARY PRACTICE AND CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES. WHAT DO OUR PATIENTS?

Keywords: Diet and Nutrition, Inflammatory arthritis

M. Labrousse1, C. Allegra1, E. Gervais1, 1Poitiers University Hospital, Rheumatology, Poitiers, France; 2Poitiers University Hospital, Plateforme Méthodologie Biostatistique Data-Management, Poitiers, France

Background:

Objectives:

Patients show interest in non-drug approaches in particular by the mode of feeding. The objectives of this study are to evaluate the prevalence of dietary changes among patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatism, describe their practices and food designs, to compare them between the different subgroups of patients as well as describe the potential impact on care and well-being of the patients.
Methods: Questionnaire survey of patients followed in the Rheumatology department of Poitiers University Hospital, France, for rheumatoid arthritis or spondyloarthritis, including psoriatic arthritis.

Results: Two hundred and three patients were included (112 rheumatoid arthritis, 91 spondyloarthritis, including 25 psoriatic arthritis). They are 45.3% to have been informed of beneficial dietary practices, and 34.5% to have discussed the subject with a professional (13.3% with a rheumatologist). The prevalence of dietary changes is 42.9% (IC95%: [36% - 50%]), and 14.77% of patients were on a diet or taking a dietary supplement at the time of the survey. Diets mainly are the reduction in the consumption of dairy products, Seigane-type diets, fasting, the gluten-free diet and the reduction in meat consumption. For the majority of patients, there was no improvement in pain, fatigue, general condition or reduction in drug intake, except with fasting (n=9) for which a decrease in drug intake was reported at 66.7% (n=7). The discussion on the subject with a health professional is a factor associated with the modification of dietary practices (p<0.001).

Conclusion: Changes in dietary practices concern nearly half of patients, but are only slightly in line with recent recommendations. The information by the physician is often absent and deserves to be improved.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1736-PARE CHALLENGES FOR PATIENTS WITH RMD’S IN BULGARIA DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Keywords: COVID, Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis

A. Marinov1, Z. Batalov1, R. Karailova1, A. Batalov1, B. Boteva2. 1Medical University of Plovdiv, Department of Internal Medicine, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; 2Bulgarian Organization for People with Rheumatic Diseases, Bulgarian Organization for People with Rheumatic Diseases, Sofia, Bulgaria

Background: The Covid-19 pandemic has put patients with rheumatic diseases in front of a number of obstacles that had to be solved together with Bulgarian rheumatologists. The lockdowns and restrictive measures have made it difficult for people with rheumatic diseases to have access to timely hospital and pre-hospital care. A number of digital solutions have been implemented to address these issues.

Objectives: To highlight the problems that patients with rheumatic diseases had during the Covid-19 pandemic; access to rheumatologists and the effectiveness of hospital and pre-hospital care during the pandemic, access to treatment, changes of treatment; communication between physicians and patients, the impact of the pandemic on work, social contacts, hobbies.

Methods: An anonymous survey was conducted online and by telephone. The survey was developed by Medical university, Plovdiv, University hospital “Kaspela”-, Plovdiv, Bulgarian Association for Musculoskeletal Ultrasound, Bulgarian organization for people with rheumatic diseases; Association for patients with autoimmune diseases. Number of participants: 1205 patients with RMDs.

Age range: 18-82

Results: Face to face meetings with doctors have been limited during the pandemic. Visits to the rheumatologist’s office are significantly reduced and phone, email, text messaging, online consultations were preferred as communication channels. Before the pandemic, 76% of respondents most often communicated with their physicians by visiting their practice, during the pandemic their relative share decreased to 46%, with a significant difference of 30% Phone consultations: patients using this type of communication increasing from 38% before the pandemic to 56% during the pandemic, a significant difference of 18%. The percentage of patients who communicated via text or email rises from 10% to 17%.

It has become apparent that Digital transformation is needed and patients and physicians should work together to achieve it and to be established in Bulgaria. 245 patients reported a change in their treatment. Of these: (30%) reduced the dose of their medications, 119 (49%) increased the dose and the remaining 55 (21%) stopped their therapy. From the responses of the respondents, it is clear that 71% have not experienced a change in their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, 17% have worked from home. From the responses of the respondents, it is clear that 71% have not experienced a change in their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, 17% have worked from home, 4% have been fired, 3% have left their jobs due to the risk of their health and 5% left their jobs for other reasons.

Conclusion: The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that the digital transformation in rheumatology care can be an efficient alternative to some of the services offered to patients with rheumatic diseases in Bulgaria (especially secondary examinations and therapy monitoring examinations). The results of the conducted survey could be used to support digitization in healthcare in Bulgaria. Very important was the collaboration between the patient organizations and the Bulgarian Association for Musculoskeletal Ultrasound, Medical University, Plovdiv and the rheumatologists from University hospital “Kaspela” Plovdiv.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Bulgarian organization for people with rheumatic diseases. Association for patients with autoimmune diseases. Bulgarian Association for Musculoskeletal Ultrasound.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1737-PARE IN WHAT EXTENT DO RHEUMATOLOGISTS DISCUSS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (PA) WITH THEIR PATIENTS AFFECTED BY KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS AND WHAT ARE THE PATIENTS’ EXPECTATIONS?

Keywords: Patient information and education

S.Ez-Zaoui1, H.Rkain1,2, S. Bahloul1, T. Latifa1, F. El Joumani1, I. Bensaghir1, R. Honsali1, S. Farhi1, F. Korbi1, N. Hajaj-Hassouni1, F. Aliall1. 1Hospital Al Ayachi, Rheumatology B, Salé, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine And Pharmacy

Background: Objectives: To Assess the level of communication between patient and rheumatologist and to identify patients’ expectations and needs in terms of PA.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study conducted on 130 Knee osteoarthritic patients. Physical activity was measured using the IPAQ-SF (the international physical activity questionnaire - short form). We asked patients if they were informed of the benefits of PA, if they preferred to practice it at home or outside, single or in groups. Finally, we also asked them about their needs for both audio-visual supports on adapted physical activity and participation in educational workshops.

Results: The mean age of the patients included was 59.9±10 years with 110 (84.6%) females. The PA level was low with a mean IPAQ-SF score of 130 (0.500) METMin/week. The topic of PA was discussed by rheumatologists with 49.2% of patients. Rheumatologists advised patients to practice adapted PA and show them how to practise it, in respectively 40 and 39.8% of cases. Figure 1 illustrated patients’ expectations on PA.

Figure 1. Patients’ preferences and expectations on physical activity.
Conclusion: This study shows a lack of rheumatologist-patient communication on PA and a significant need for PA education. Hence there should be greater involvement of rheumatologists in patient education about physical activity to fight against sedentary behavior in Knee Osteoarthritis patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1738-PARE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, AND STIGMATICIZATION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Mental health, Cognitive Function

L. Rouached1, E. Hampshire1, S. Bouden1, A. Ben Tekaya1, I. Mahmoud1, R. Tekaya1, O. Saidane1, L. Abdelmoula1, 1. Charles Nicolle Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Depression and anxiety are common comorbidities associated with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Despite their impact on patients' quality of life, their detection is often neglected.

Objectives: We aimed to assess the anxiety state in patients with RA and to search for associated factors.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study that included patients followed for RA. Patient and disease data were recorded. Patients completed the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HAD) [1] and the Stigma Scale for Chronic Illness-Short Form (SSCI-8) [2] during their day hospital visit or consultation. Disease activity by DAS28-CRP and functional impairment by the HAQ score were calculated.

Results: There were 100 patients. They were mostly women (81%) with a mean age of 55.33±10.08 years [25-76]. Concerning professional status, 61.8% were unemployed, 26.5% were employed, and 11.6% were retired. The mean disease duration was 14.21±10.10 years [1-46]. The mean DAS28-CRP was 3.31±1.56 [0.12-6.90]. The mean HAQ score was 0.91±0.64 [0-2.4]. The mean anxiety score was 7.6±3.2 [1-15]. A definite anxiety state was noted in 21% of patients. The mean depression score was 10.1±3.1 [3-16]. A definite depressive state was noted in 56% of patients. The mean SSCI-8 score was 17.85±6.02 [8-32]. None of the parameters related to the patient, disease activity and functional impairment were correlated with anxiety and depression. The presence of anxiety was influenced by the number of swollen joints (p=0.037). The stigma score was statistically significantly greater in the presence of depression (19.3±6.2 vs 16±5.2, p=0.006). It was also correlated with disease activity (p=0.034, r=0.244). There was no association between stigma scale/HAQ (p=0.754) and stigma scale/anxiety (p=0.137).

Conclusion: According to the results of our study, depression was frequently present in patients followed for RA (56%). Moreover, the stigma is finely related to this comorbidity. This encourages the systematic psychological management of chronic pathologies such as RA.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1741-PARE THE IMPACT OF THE DISEASE’S ANNOUNCEMENT ON RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient information and education

E. Rabhi1,2, K. Maatallah1,2, H. Ferjen1,2, D. Ben Nessim1,2, D. Kafel1,2, W. Hamdi1,3, K. Kassab Orthopedics Institute, Rheumatology Department, Ksar Said, Tunisia; 2; Faculty of Medicine of Tunis, Manar, Tunisia

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic disease that can cause irreversible joint damage and significant disability [1]. The announcement of this diagnosis remains one of the most unpleasant moments in the medical practice for both patients and caregivers. For the physician, whose primary mission is to provide relief, knowing that it may cause psychological distress is a challenging task.

Objectives: We aimed to study the impact of the disease's announcement on rheumatoid arthritis patients.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients fulfilling the American Congress Of Rheumatology/ European League Against Rheumatism (ACR EULAR) 2010 criteria. We collected epidemiological, clinical, biological (C-reactive protein: CRP, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), immunological status (rheumatoid factor RF and anti-citrullinated protein/peptide antibody ACA), disease activity index (The Disease Activity Score 28 DAS 28), Patient's experience during the announcement of diagnosis was assessed using a questionnaire.

Results: Thirty patients were enrolled. There were 25 women and five men. The mean age was 64 years ranging from 34 to 80 years.

Conclusion: Our study showed stress and anxiety are common feelings for most patients, highlighting the importance of a patient-centered approach to improve initial disease acceptance and tolerability of their disease.

REFERENCES:
HEALTH INFORMATION UTILIZATION IN RHEUMATOID AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

**Keywords:** Patient information and education, Psoriatic arthritis, Rheumatoid arthritis

**E. Duffey**, N. Bhanusali, K. Camargo Macias, S. Beg, S. Chalise

1University of Central Florida, College of Medicine, Orlando, United States of America

**Background:** Technology has facilitated widespread general access to health information publicly. However not all health information available for consumption is accurate, reliable, updated, and of equal value to people seeking to be informed advocates of their own health. This cross-sectional study sought to establish the preferred resources patients with rheumatologic conditions seek out for health information. This study provides recent evidence to inform patient education, open dialogue, with the hope to improve clinical practice and patient outcomes.

**Objectives:** To describe utilization of health information preferences to inform physician-patient shared decision-making and best clinical practice.

**Methods:** From December 2019 to March 2020, 236 Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and 43 Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) patients receiving care at an academic rheumatology practice in the USA were enrolled in this study. Subjects were provided with a brief voluntary, and anonymous Qualtrics survey which gathered data on health information utilization, willingness to discuss information gathered with physicians, and desire for resources to be provided.

**Results:** Modern technology has provided multiple ways for patients to gather additional health information of variable accuracy. This information impacts patient willingness to adhere to clinical recommendations. These data show that patients seek open and honest discussion of health information gathered from other sources. A substantial percentage of patients also desire guidance towards reliable online health resources from their physicians.

**Conclusion:** Modern technology has provided multiple ways for patients to gather additional health information of variable accuracy. This information impacts patient willingness to adhere to clinical recommendations. These data show that patients seek open and honest discussion of health information gathered from other sources. A substantial percentage of patients also desire guidance towards reliable online health resources from their physicians.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

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**REFERENCES:** NIL.

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PUBLIC INTEREST IN LUPUS IN AFRICA

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematous, Patient information and education

A. Quiss, M. Ansar, A. Amara, Y. Bousoukays, B. Y. Wissal, A. Atig, N. Ghannouchi

1Faculty of Medicine of Sousse - University of Sousse, Internal Medicine, Sousse, Tunisia; 2Faculty of Medicine of Sousse - University of Sousse, Family and Community Medicine-LR12ES03, Sousse, Tunisia

**Background:** Accessibility to internet has allowed people to have a better knowledge of Systemic lupus erythematous (SLE), however, this interest in doing research is influenced by several factors, including socio-economic conditions. Google Trends (GT) is the most popular tool for examining online behavior because it provides information regarding trends and changes in online interest at certain times during a particular period.

**Objectives:** To describe the public interest in Systemic lupus erythematous (SLE) in different African countries and to assess people's interest in Africa comparing to worldwide.

**Methods:** Google Trends provides the relative interest of Google Searches (RSV), on a range of 0–100. We analysed a large amount of data generated by Google Trends concerning the search of the word ‘lupus’ in a 7-year web-based research (2016-2022) in African countries. Student’s t-test was used to compare means. Analyses were performed with SPSS 21.0. P values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

**Results:** Googling “lupus” was variable depending on the country. The mean annually research volume (RSV) in Africans’ countries was 18.20±3.92. Annual RSV was more important in Morocco50.86±16.52, Algeria 49.19±23.64. There was a significant difference in the mean annually research volume between African countries and all over the word (versus 50.86±14.58, p<10-3). (Figure 1)

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**REFERENCES:** NIL.

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TREATMENT ADHERENCE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Keywords:** COVID, Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.
Background: During the last 2 years, the SAR COV2 pandemic has impacted the lifestyle, health care, physical and psychological health status of people with rheumatic diseases. In the REUMAVID study, almost half of the respondents stated that their state of health had worsened during the pandemic[1]. It's known that aspects such as fear, job loss, social isolation, uncertainty about their treatments, worsening of symptoms due to the interruption of treatment and hospital visits, increased his fatigue and pain[2]. Treatment adherence estimates in patients with RA are usually low (Between 30 and 80%)[3]. Adherence lack has been associated with worsening symptoms and increased disability[4].

Objectives: The aim of this work is to evaluate SARS COV2 pandemic impact on the adherence perception in a cohort of patients with RA and their clinical associations.

Methods: Descriptive cross-sectional study; included patients ≥18 years old with RA (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria), between June 1 and July 31, 2022 who gave their written consent to perform the questionnaire. Data socio-demographic, socioeconomic level (Graffar modified), clinical, laboratory, treatments, previous COVID-19 infection and vaccination status were consigned. Activity was evaluated by DAS28-PCR and functional ability with HAQ-II. Questions about the perception of the impact of the pandemic on adherence, follow-up, health status deterioration or fear of continuing treatment were included. They were measured by a visual analogue scale, with 0 being no impact and 10 being the maximum. These answers were compared with adherence measured by the Compliance Questionnaire for Rheumatology (CQR5).

Results: Sixty nine outpatients with RA were included. 45 patients (65%) did not perceive adherence changes during the pandemic while 24 (35%) perceive some degree of adherence disturbances. Sociodemographic characteristics are detailed in Table 1. Having an independent laboral status and the modification or suspension of work activity was statistically associated with the perception of impaired adherence (p=0.04 and 0.01 respectively). Patients with a perception of impaired adherence had significantly higher means in the VAS of affected follow-up, deterioration in their health status, and fear of infection (p= <0.001, <0.001 and 0.04 respectively). DAS28-PCR, HAQ-II, ESR and CRP were also significantly higher in this group (p= 0.002, 0.005, 0.01 and 0.04 respectively). No association was found between the perception of adherence disturbance and adherence measured by CQR5 (p= 0.20).

Conclusion: The SARS COV2 pandemic has a great impact on adherence, rheumatological follow-up and quality of life of patients with RA. Although the perception of adherence disturbance during the pandemic period is a subjective parameter, we found a significant association between this perception and higher rates of suspension or modification of work activity, greater disease activity, functional impairment, and higher acute phase reactants. Studies with a larger number of patients are needed to corroborate these findings.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
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AB1745-PARE ROLE OF DIET IN INFLUENCING RHEUMATIC DISEASE ACTIVITY: A TUNISIAN PATIENTS SURVEY

S. Rekkı1, S. Noucerı1, S. Rahmounı1, K. Zouaouı1, S. Boussaıd1, H. Sahlı1, M. Elleuch1, Rabba, Rheumatology, Tunisia

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Diet and Nutrition, Rheumatoid arthritis

Scientific Abstracts
Background: The possible influence of diet on rheumatic disease (RD) is a controversial issue. However, rheumatic patients often ask for specific diet because they experience change in joint symptoms after taken some food. Few studies have been conducted regarding patients’ perceptions of the influence of diet and fasting on their RD. None of such studies have been conducted so far in countries.

Objectives: The main purpose of this study is to survey patients regarding diet and RD symptoms.

Methods: This is a survey based on a questionnaire that included patients followed for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria) and spondyloarthritis (SA) (ASAS 2009 criteria), in remission or low disease activity, who presented to the rheumatology department. We didn’t include patients with inflammatory bowel or malabsorption diseases or current smokers. Socio-demographic data, co-morbidities, and data of RD (disease duration, disease activity, Disease Activity Score (DAS28) and Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS-CRP) and medication (Disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs)) were recorded. The questionnaire consisted of 7 major questions with variety of sub-questions. Patients were asked whether they believe diet had a major role on the RD onset, if they have experienced aggravation or improvement of their symptoms with food intake, and if the answer was yes, then they were asked to name the food item. The patients were also asked if they have changed their dietary habits since the diagnosis of RD, if they believe that healthy dietary habit may improve their disease, and if fasting relieve their disease.

Results: We enrolled 39 RA (34 female) and 22 SA (2 female) patients with respectively mean age of 52.74±11.31 years and 54.54±11.2 years. Among patients with RA, 53.6% and 22.7% had primary school age, 45.5% of SA patients had secondary educational level. Half of RA and SA patients had comorbidities: 56.4% and 54.5% respectively. The mean disease duration was 8.66±6.6 years and 14.77±9.1 in RA and SA patients respectively. The questionnaire consisted of 7 major questions with variety of sub-questions. Patients were asked whether they believe diet had a major role on the RD onset, if they have experienced aggravation or improvement of their symptoms with food intake, and if the answer was yes, then they were asked to name the food item. The patients were also asked if they have changed their dietary habits since the diagnosis of RD, if they believe that healthy dietary habit may improve their disease, and if fasting relieve their disease.

Background: Although it still remains a rare disease, spondylodiscitis has been encountered in the last 10 years. Early diagnosis can be difficult, but improved diagnostic techniques and modern treatments have reduced patient mortality. However, studies reporting the outcome of spondylodiscitis are scarce.

Objectives: To assess the influence of functional impairment on mental health in patients treated for spondylodiscitis.

Methods: The study was conducted at a tertiary referral center over a two-year period. The functional disability was evaluated using the Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) and the fear-avoidance beliefs questionnaire (FABQ-W). The mental health was assessed using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HAD). The correlation between these two dimensions was assessed using the Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient (r).

Results: A total of 100 patients were included in the study, with 57% being women. The average age was 35.2 years, and the average disease duration was 6.9 years. The ODI score was 42.8 ± 14.5, and the HAD score was 11.6 ± 7.2. There was a significant positive correlation between the ODI score and both the anxiety (r = 0.42, p < 0.001) and the depression (r = 0.38, p = 0.001) dimensions of the HAD. The majority of patients (82%) reported at least one limitation in their daily activities due to RD.

Conclusion: The study highlights the significant impact of functional disability on mental health in patients with spondylodiscitis. Early intervention strategies targeting physical and mental health are necessary to improve the quality of life for these patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1748-PARE THE CORRELATION OF FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY AND MENTAL HEALTH IN PATIENTS TREATED FOR SPONDYLODISCITIS

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Infection-related RMDs, Quality of life


1Cylper - Cyprus League for People with Rheumatism, N/A, Nicosia, Cyprus

Background: When someone is first diagnosed, he/she is faced with a number of feelings and changes in their life. Such feelings are usually shock, anger, sadness, fear, the feeling of being judged, the feeling of a sense of loss of control. Usually, the supportive environment like family members, friends and colleagues cannot understand exactly how the person feels unless they have received a rheumatic diagnosis themselves. Doctors and health professionals may sometimes offer minimal emotional support, but their primary focus is always medical. This may cause feelings of loneliness, misunderstanding or isolation. And here is where the role of support groups finds its place.

OBJECTIVES: The general coordination of the Groups is done by the Vice President of Cylper and the Psychosocial Support Officer, in collaboration with the Social Officer of CYLPER. Members of each Group can become Registered Rheumatism Members of CYLPER. The coordination of the operation of each Group is done by the coordinator who is elected by the members of the committee. The GPSD will be responsible for organising their events through their volunteers, and for this purpose an amount will be approved that will be available to the team to carry out its work.

Benefits: Running a support group is a way for people with rheumatism to interact with other people who have similar, first-hand experiences with rheumatism. People can talk about their experiences and share their own. This can help reduce stress. In a support group, members can feel more comfortable sharing feelings and experiences that may be too difficult or too awkward to share with their family and friends. Being part of a group often creates a sense of belonging that helps each person feel more understood and less isolated. They can also discuss practical information in a support group such as: What to expect during treatment; How to manage specific side effects; How to find support services; How to communicate with health care providers and family members. Talking about these topics within the support group could provide a sense of control and reduce feelings of helplessness. Many studies have shown that support groups help people with a chronic disease cope with anxiety and depression.

Conclusion: Running a support group is a good way to reach out and get people interested in the other things your organisation or initiative does. With relatively little effort and cost, a support group can make a significant impact in the lives of people dealing with a problem.
AB1749-PARE  IMPACT OF FACIAL SIGNS OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS ON PATIENTS’ SELF-ESTEEM

Keywords: Systemic sclerosis, Mental health

Z. Syrinx¹, A. Feiki¹, S. Ben Jemaa¹, Y. Mabrouk², A. Cyrine¹, M. Ezzeddine¹, M. H. Kallel¹, H. Fouri¹, R. Akrou⁴, S. Bakiout¹,¹ Hedi Chaker University Hospital, Rheumatology, Sfax, Tunisia; ¹Military Hospital of Instruction of Tunis, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: The dimensions of self-concept and body image are essential for assessing the quality of life of individuals with chronic diseases. Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is characterized by facial involvement that can lead to aesthetic changes, functional disability as well as psychological impact.

Objectives: To assess the influence of face involvement on self-esteem in SSc patients.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was carried out on patients followed for Systemic sclerosis at a rheumatology department. Included patients completed the Burden of Face Affected (BoFA) questionnaire as well as the Rosenberg self-esteem scale (RSES). All data was collected after patient consent and was analyzed using the SPSS statistical package.

Results: Forty patients who fulfilled the 2013 ACR/EULAR Classification Criteria for Systemic Sclerosis were included. There were 8 male and 32 female with a sex ratio female to male of 4. The median age was 45 years old (19-71) and median disease duration 1 year. The majority of our patients (85%, n=34) suffered from diffuse form of SSc. 15%(n=6) had a limited form. Fingertip ulcers were observed in 13 patients (32.5%) and telangectasia in 16 patients (40%). Raynaud's phenomenon was found in 34 patients (85%). Severe organ involvements were detected as interstitial lung disease in 17 patients (42.5%), pulmonary hypertension in 2 patients (75%) and renal involvement in 2 patients (5%).

Conclusion: The Burden of Face Affected was significant in 80% (32 patients) of our patients. Face affection symptoms were correlated with RSES and gender, age or Rodnan score.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1750-PARE  PATIENT-DOCTOR COMMUNICATION FROM PERSPECTIVE OF STENE PRIZE TOPIC 2023

Keywords: Patient information and education, Self-management, Quality of care

J. Grygielska ¹. ¹Polish Rheuma Federation ‘REF’, National Board, Warsaw, Poland

Background: Poland participates in European Edgar Stene Prize Competition from early eighties 20th century. Three times our participants won this Prize – last time in 2018. Every competition on national level starts from appropriate translation of topic into Polish and invitation to participate in this using different channels of information reach to as many as possible potential participants. This year topic: “How better communication with my doctor improved my life with an RMD” gave an opportunity for every person living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease to present his/her experiences in building good cooperation with his/her physician. Patient-doctor communication was a topic of many educational events for people with RMDs including 2 perspectives: of patient and doctor. It was used Polish version of PART (prepare, ask, repeat, take action) from “Challenging arthritis” by Kate Lorig and James Fries to be more aware and responsible for his/her own health. This important topic didn’t find interest among patients with RMDs and national jury received no entry for this year competition.

Objectives: Lack of entry on topic of patient-doctor communication among rheumatic patients was surprised and identifying the causes of this situation can be important in two areas: future Stene Prize competition and personal cooperation with health professionals including physicians.

Methods: Invitation for participation in competition was shared using the same channels how always. There were: websites of associations, social media (facebook and Twitter), e-mailing to leaders of associations, online meeting on occasion of World Arthritis Day, personal contacts with potential authors. Before deadline of submitting entries reminders were sent and put in social media. Reasons of lack of entries were discussed with active members of our associations.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1751-PARE  MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS IN THE ERA OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Keywords: Work-related issues, Descriptive Studies

L. Ben Aïfa¹, D. Brahimi¹, I. Youssaf², Z. Athimni¹, M. Messni¹, N. Mechergui⁴, H. Ben Saïd³, G. Bahri¹, N. Ladhari¹, ¹Faculty of Medicine of Tunis, Occupational Department at Charles Nicolle Hospital, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: In Tunisia, during the last decade, the number of MSDs declared as compensable occupational diseases has been increasing. So, what is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the MSD reporting rate.

Objectives: To describe the socio-professional characteristics of workers with musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and to determine the reporting rate of MSDs as occupational diseases.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study among workers with work-related MSDs who consulted the occupational medicine department of the Charles Nicolle Hospital for medical advice between January 2021 and September 2022.

Results: A total of 109 workers with MSDs were included in this study. The workers were 64.2% female. The average age was 46 ± 21-61 years. The sectors most prone to MSDs were the health sector (27.5%), food processing (16.5%) and textiles (15.6%). The workers reported MSDs of the upper limb in 32.5%, of the lower limb in 33.9% and of the spine in 69.7%. These MSDs declared included 5/13 cases of rotator cuff tendinopathy, 6/13 cases of carpal tunnel syndrome, one case of achilles tendinitis and one case of DeQuervain’s tenosynovitis.
**AB1755-PARE**  
**THE RATE OF COVID-19 VACCINATION IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS. SINGLE-CENTER CROSS-SECTIONAL PILOT STUDY**

**Keywords:** Rheumatoid arthritis, COVID, Vaccination/Immunization

**H. Elhafi**, L. Taoubane, N. El Ouari, H. Taoufik, A. Majjad, A. Bezza, Mohamed V Military Training Hospital, Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat, Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco

**Background:** The rate of COVID-19 vaccination in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, Single-center cross-sectional pilot study.

**Objectives:** Morocco was the first country in Africa to launch the COVID19 vaccination campaign. Vaccination of immunocompromised subjects was recommended from the beginning by the Moroccan Society of Rheumatology. The primary objective of this study was to assess the vaccination rate of patients with rheumatoid arthritis two years after the start of the pandemic. The secondary objective was to investigate factors associated with vaccination.

**Methods:** This was a 3-month monocentric cross-sectional study from 31.05.22 to 31.08.22, including patients whose age was greater than 18 years, who have rheumatoid arthritis according to ACR/EULAR 2009 criteria. Socio-demographic data, comorbidities and disease characteristics were collected by the attending physician at the time of the consultation using a questionnaire. Statistical analysis was performed using JAMOVI software.

**Results:** The study included 73 patients, 82.2% of whom were women. The mean age was 57±11 years, with a median disease progression of 8 years. 58 patients (80.6%) were vaccinated against COVID19. Among the vaccinated patients, 30 (51.7%) were illiterate, 8 patients (13.8%) had primary education, 11 (19%) had secondary education and 9 (15.5%) had higher education 53 (91.4%) had rheumatoid arthritis according to ACR/EULAR 2009 criteria. Socio-demographic data, comorbidities and disease characteristics were collected by the attending physician at the time of the consultation using a questionnaire. Statistical analysis was performed using JAMOVI software.

**Discussion:** The study found that almost 80% of patients were vaccinated. Further studies are needed to develop population-specific education programs.

**REFERENCES:**


**Conclusion:** Insights through the model proposed could aid healthcare professionals in understanding elements that support or hinder rheumatoid patients from initiating or maintaining self-management behavior.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6104

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**AB1756-PARE**  
**APPLICATION OF THE THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR: THE ROLE OF FAMILY AND PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

**Keywords:** Self-management, Rheumatoid arthritis, Education

**S. Al-Shamali**, M. Al-Sabah, A. Alsaber, American University of Kuwait, College of Business and Economics, Salmiya, Kuwait

**Background:** The TPB suggests that patient attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control predict behavioral intentions and behaviors regarding health behavior (Yao Yao et al., 2021). Behavioral theories aid in improving the behavioral changes in the self-management of diabetes (Damayanti et al., 2018) and other lifestyle changes such as healthy eating (Rahmati-Najarkolaei et al., 2017). Most recently, Jormand et al. (2022) uses TPB for the self-care behaviors of knee osteoarthritis patients, which TPB aided educational intervention, by examining variables such as their attitudes and perceived behavioral control. Safavi et al. (2018) explains that although they are not as popularly researched and surgical interventions, the benefits of non-medical approaches endorsing healthy lifestyles can improve symptoms and reduce the need for other treatments.

**Objectives:** This study will use three variables in the TPB model, namely, attitude, perceived behavioral control. Dependent variables include intention and total self-management (cognitive, physical and communication with a health professional). Adult patients who meet the criteria of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and live with family will be asked to complete a self-administered questionnaire. This cross-section study proposes a model that will be tested using regression analyses and statistical equation model.

**Methods:** The model proposed for this research includes independent variables: support from family (novel variable), attitude and perceived behavioral control. Dependent variables include intention and total self-management (cognitive, physical and communication with a health professional). Adult patients who meet the criteria of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and live with family will be asked to complete a self-administered questionnaire. This cross-section study proposes a model that will be tested using regression analyses and structural equation model.

**Results:** Data is still under analysis and will be available at the time of the conference. However, based on previous studies it is hypothesized that TPB variables and relative support will be reported as significant.

**Conclusion:** Insights through the model proposed could aid healthcare professionals in understanding elements that support or hinder rheumatoid patients from initiating or maintaining self-management behavior.

**REFERENCES:**


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**AB1757-PARE**  
**INFAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES AND RELIGIOUS RITUALS: WHICH IMPACT?**

**Keywords:** Descriptive Studies, Quality of life, Patient reported outcomes

**K. Maatallah**, R. Ben Aissa, H. Ferjani, D. Ben Nessib, D. Kaffel, W. Hamdi, Mohamed Kassab Institute of Orthopedics, Department of Rheumatology, Mannouba, Tunisia

**Background:** Religious events are privileged occasions for sharing and conviviality. In a joyful atmosphere, festive meals are shared with family, neighbors, and friends, and gifts are exchanged. Little is known about the impact of chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases on patients’ celebrations of religious events.

**Objectives:** To study the satisfaction of patients with their religious rituals during Islamic holidays.

**Methods:** We conducted a transversal study, including patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and spondyloarthritis (SpA). Patients were invited to answer to a satisfaction scale (SS) composed of four domains: prayer practice, religious food preparation, family visits, and satisfaction with spiritual fulfillment. For each domain, there were 6 degrees of satisfaction (extremely satisfied, satisfied, slightly satisfied, slightly dissatisfied, dissatisfied, extremely dissatisfied) rated from 0 to 5. Results were expressed as percentage distribution of SS for each domain ranged from 1 to 6, and the global SS ranged from 4 to 24.

**Conclusion:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, the reporting of MSDs as occupational diseases has declined considerably. This decline can be explained by the closure of access to hospital facilities.

**REFERENCES:**


AB1755-PAE  EVALUATION OF THE FRAILITY OF ELDERLY PATIENTS HOSPITALIZED IN THE RHEUMATOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Keywords: Quality of life

A. Saad1, N. Hafdhouni1, R. Ben Tekaya1, G. Mouna1, J. Mahboubi1, S. Zour1, I. Bejia1, M. Touzi1, N. Bergault1, 1University Hospital Fattouma Bourguiba Monastir, Rheumatology, Monastir, Tunisia

Background: Frailty is defined by a clinical syndrome that reflects a decrease in physiological capacities altering the mechanisms of adaptation to stress[1]. Elderly patients hospitalized in the rheumatology department are at risk of significant frailty.

Objectives: The aim of our study is to evaluate the frailty of elderly patients considering the bio-psycho-social parameters.

Methods: Prospective study started in July 2022 in the rheumatology department including 40 patients who were subject to questionnaires assessing their quality of life. All data was collected after patient consent and was analyzed using the SPSS statistical package.

Results: Forty patients were collected including 27 women (67.5%) and 13 men (32.5%). 15 (37.5%) patients were hospitalized for chronic inflammatory rheumatism, 19 (47.5%) for a degenerative disease and 15% for a tumoral disease. The mean age of the patients was 72.6 ± 5.4 years. The social context of each patient was assessed: 30 (75%) patients lived with their family and 10 (25%) lived alone. 20 (50%) patients needed daily help with household chores. We studied the level of frailty of our patients using the Tilburg Frailty Indicator (TFI): 29 (72.5%) patients had a score ≥ 5 indicating significant frailty. 21 (52.5%) patients presented a risk of depression evaluated at 5 according to the geriatric depression scale (GDS15). A nutrition assessment was made using the Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA) test, concluding with poor nutritional status in 10 (25%) patients. Finally, five (12.5%) patients had a dependency score ≥ 3 according to the Activities of Daily Living (ADL) scale.

Conclusion: Elderly patients with rheumatological disease hospitalized in our department show an alteration in their quality of life and a significant level of frailty which should motivate us to adapt care programs for the elderly concerned.


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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1757-PAE  PATIENTS WITH SPONDYLOARTHROPATHY SUFFER IN SILENCE: THE IMPACT OF THE DISEASE ON THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE

Keywords: Quality of life, Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes

E. Hannech1, S. Boussaid1, S. Rekik1, S. Rahmouni1, K. Zouaoui1, H. Ajlani1, H. Sahl1, M. Elleuch1, 1La Rabta Hospital, Rheumatology Department, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Spondyloarthritis (SpA) is a chronic disease that often causes functional impairment, resulting in a negative impact on patients’ quality of life (QoL).

Objectives: We aimed to assess QoL of patients with SpA using a validating tool.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients with SpA. Sociodemographic, clinical, and therapeutic data were collected. Patients’ QoL was assessed using the validated Tunisian version of the EQ-5D questionnaire, which is a standardized measuring instrument that assesses the state of health according to five dimensions: mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression. The answers were converted into EQ-5D index.

Results: There were 100 SpA patients with a mean age of 43.68±10.3 years [20-76]. Regarding mobility, 2 patients reported extreme problems, 61 patients had some problems, and 37 patients had no problems. Twenty-six patients had significant pain or discomfort at the time of the study, 61 patients had moderate pain or discomfort, and 13 patients had no pain. A significant level of anxiety/depression was observed in 12 patients, 46 patients had moderate depression or anxiety, and 42 patients had no psychological problems. The global VAS of health status had a mean value of 56±25 [7-100]. The mean EQ-5D index was 0.485±0.378 [-0.448-1]. In 12 cases the index was negative, defining an extremely large effect of the disease on QoL, while 7 patients had an index equal to 1, showing that the disease had no effect on their QoL.

Conclusion: Despite therapeutic advances, patients with SpA still suffer in their daily living. So, an early and appropriate management is necessary.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1756-PAE  FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG SCLERODERMA PATIENTS

Keywords: Quality of life, Systemic sclerosis

Z. Svinge1, A. Fekli1, S. Ben Jemaa1, Y. Mabrouk1, A. Cyirne1, M. Ezzedine1, M. H. Kallel1, H. Fourati1, R. Akrou1, S. Baklouti1, 1Hedi Chaker University Hospital, Rheumatology, Sfax, Tunisia; 2Military Hospital of Instruction of Tunis, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an autoimmune multi-systemic disease with predominant affection of connective tissue resulting in progressive fibrosis of the skin and internal organs. Monitoring measures of functioning and disability is crucial during follow up to identify quality of life impairment.

Objectives: To assess the influence of functional impairment on quality of life in SSc patients.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was carried out on patients followed for systemic sclerosis at a rheumatology department. Included patients completed the Hospital Anxiety Depression scale in its Arabic validated version. The SF-36 short form questionnaire score with its domains (general health, physical function, role physical function, emotional role function, vitality, mental health, social function, body pain, general health) in its arabic Tunisian version was used to assess quality of life. All data was collected after patient consent and was analyzed using the SPSS statistical package.

Results: Forty patients who fulfilled the 2013 ACR/EULAR Classification Criteria for Systemic Sclerosis (ACR) for SSc were included. 80% of the patients were female, the median age was 45 years old and median disease duration 1 year. 15% (n=6) had a limited form, and 85% (n=34) had a diffuse form of SSc. Fingerpint ulcers were observed in 13 patients (32.5%) and Raynaud's phenomenon was found in 34 patients (85%). Severe organ involvements were detected as intestinal lung disease in 17 (42.5%), pulmonary hypertension in 7 patients (17.5%) and renal involvement in 2 patients (5%). 38 patients had an HAD scoring rate for “possible clinical anxiety” and for 42% for “possible clinical depression” The SF-36 questionnaire score of each domain was significantly lower in patients with diffuse than in limited form, especially the score in the dimension of Role Physical function and Body Pain, p=0.04 and p=0.02 respectively. Skin involvement and organ damage were also significantly associated with lower SF-36-PF (physical function) (p=0.001) and SF36-MH (mental health) p=0.0025 with no significant association with the other score components.

Conclusion: Systemic Sclerosis has a significant effect on patient quality of life. Body image, fatigue, pain, and psychological morbidity should be screened in patients with SSc to promote quality of life.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Scientific Abstracts

HPR Measuring health (development and measurement properties of PROs, tests, devices)

AB1758-HPR IDENTIFYING THE RISK OF STEROID INDUCED ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY IN RHEUMATOLOGY PATIENTS WEANING FROM PROLONGED STEROID THERAPY

Keywords: Tapering, Diagnostic Tests, Inflammatory arthritis

E. Quintan1, M. Khatun1, M. Kazmi1, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatologists often prescribe steroids, and long-term use can lead to suppression of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, leading to Steroid Induced Adrenal Insufficiency (SIAI). Our departmental guidelines suggest patients on steroid tapering regimes should have morning serum cortisol levels once wean to <3mg.

Objectives: To identify what proportion of cortisol levels were abnormal in patients weaning from steroids in various Rheumatological conditions. There are currently no established guidelines to identify patients for possible SIAI, which is usually only assessed if a patient develops steroid withdrawal symptoms at low doses. We wanted to investigate if SIAI was seen commonly and how long after steroid withdrawal weaning cortisol levels went to have a Short Synacthen Test (SST), Endocrinology input and SIAI diagnosis.

Methods: Retrospective review of Rheumatology patients who had morning serum cortisol levels whilst weaning from oral prednisolone at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Patients identified via the Clinical Laboratory Database.

Results: Data collected Sept’19 – Oct’22, only samples taken pre-9AM assessed (n=58). 33 Female, age 21-83 years; mean age 65 years. Starting dose prednisolone 5mg-60mg (IQR 15-40mg). Treatment length 6-96 months (IQR 14-48). Samples taken when 84.5% (n=49) taking 3mg, 10.3% (n=8) 2mg and 5.2% (n=3) 2.5mg, (IQR 3mg). Cortisol levels <300 nmol/L in 43.1% (n=25), 300-350 nmol/L in 15.5% (n=9) and >350 nmol/L in 41.4% (n=24), 66.7% (n=17) of <300 nmol/L (n=25) referred for a SST. SST results were <430 nmol/L in 35.3% (n=8) and >430 nmol/L in 64.7% (n=11). All patients with SST <430 nmol/L (n=6) referred to Endocrinology. 33.3% (n=2) had ‘borderline’ SST results (421-450 nmol/L) and advised to wean steroids by 1mg every 4 weeks and discharged. 66.7% (n=4) diagnosed with SIAI, with only one (25%, n=1) having documented symptoms. All (n=4) had further Endocrinology input. 100% (n=4) had a repeat SST and pituitary function tests and 75% (n=3) had or awaiting Waking Salivary Cortisol (WSC). 75% (n=3) showed recovery of HPA axis on repeat testing and so advised to slowly wean steroids. 25% (n=1) had persistently abnormal results suggesting ongoing SIAI and advised to remain on 3mg prednisolone. All patients with an abnormal SST (n=6) remained on prednisolone and did not change to hydrocortisone. 90.1% (n=10) of patients with an SST of <340 nmol/L referred to Endocrinology concurrently with SST request and outcome for all patients was to continue slowly weaning steroids. 32% (n=8) patients with a cortisol <340 nmol/L, did not have an SST. 37.5% (n=3) had alternative WSC testing: 33.3% (n=1) discharged after normal WSC, 33.3% (n=1) awaiting WSC and 33.3% (n=1) require ongoing Endocrine input as WSC indicated SIAI. This patient awaits steroid clinic and remains on 3mg prednisolone. 62.5% (n=5) had no further investigations. Outcomes: steroids continued by Rheumatology (n=3), steroids weaned by Rheumatology (n=1), too early for further tests (n=1). 15.5% of patients (n=2) had cortisol >300-350 nmol/L. None had an SST due to not having symptoms, in line with our guidelines. 33.3% (n=3) had a repeat cortisol, all repeats >350 nmol/L. Outcomes: Rheumatology weaned steroids (n=5), dose increase due to fair (n=2), no further documentation (n=1), moved away (n=1).

Conclusion: 10.3% (n=6) of all patients who had a serum cortisol measurement had an abnormal SST and 8.6% (n=5) of patients were diagnosed with SIAI. Only one patient had documented symptoms of SIAI. Given the introduction of the more sensitive WSC as an alternative to the SST we aim to modify our department guidelines in collaboration with the Endocrinologists. In line with the 2020 National Patient Safety Association alert and 2022 British Society for Rheumatology guidance the focus is to recognise adrenal insufficiency, which our guidelines are designed to do. Adrenal insufficiency is unpredictable and rare but adrenal crisis can be fatal, so Rheumatologists must be aware of it.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1759-HPR THE USE OF PROMS MEASURES IN CLINICAL STUDIES IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Keywords: Inflammatory arthritides, Patient reported outcomes, Systematic review

M. Teutenberg1, I. Knaepen1, T. P.M. Vliet Vlieland2, J. Schoone3, C. Van den Enden3, S. Van Weely3, M. G. J. Gademann1, 2, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Orthopaedics, Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy, Leiden, Netherlands; 2Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Directorate of Research Policy, Leiden, Netherlands; 3Sint Maartenskliniek, Department of Research, Utrecht, Netherlands; 4Radboud University Medical Center, Department of Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; 5Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) are of vital importance to evaluate the outcomes of inflammatory arthritis and its management, but limitations of conventional PROMs include a lack of precision and/or comparability across conditions. Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) measures [1-2] were developed since 2007 to overcome these disadvantages. They use a standardized metric (T-score), centered around the general population (score 50), enhancing their interpretability. The use of PROMIS measures in patients with inflammatory arthritis was recommended by the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) [3], but little is known about the extent and nature of their actual use in clinical research.

Objectives: To describe the use and outcomes of PROMIS measures in clinical studies involving people with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA).

Methods: We conducted a systematic review according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses guidelines. A search of electronic data bases on July 29th, 2022 was conducted to identify clinical studies in patients with RA or axSpA, reporting the use of PROMIS measures and written in English, Dutch, French. Study characteristics, details of PROMIS measures and, if available, their outcomes, were extracted. Both the selection and the data extraction were performed independently by two researchers and disagreements were resolved by consensus, either or not with a third researcher.

Results: In total, 714 records were retrieved (272 unique references), of which 29 studies met the inclusion criteria (25 RA, 3 axSpA and one both RA and axSpA). In total, 15 different PROMIS measures were used, 13 of which were domain-specific and 2 pertained to general health (PROMIS Global Health, PROMIS-29). The five most frequently used domain specific measures were the PROMIS Pain Interference (n=17), Physical Function (n=14), Fatigue (n=13), Depression (n=12) and Anxiety (n=7) measures. The general PROMIS Global Health and PROMIS-29 were both reported in 3 studies. The PROMIS measures that were used varied considerably, with a total of 74 unique identified measures, as a result of differences in their typology into Item Banks, Computer Adaptive Tests, Short Forms, the described name or the version number. In total, 21 studies reported on 98 PROMIS results in terms of T-scores, of which 91 were worse than the general population mean (score 50), indicating impaired health status. The other 8 studies did not report actual T-scores but psychometric properties of PROMIS measures (e.g. the validity, reliability, correlations with other questionnaires, responsiveness, meaningful change).

Conclusion: Given the availability of PROMIS measures since 2007 and the vast amount of clinical studies in RA and axSpA, PROMIS measures seem to be relatively understudied. Among the studies there was considerable variety regarding the PROMIS measures that were used as well as their versions. The reported PROMIS outcomes overall reflected the impaired health status of patients with RA and axSpA as compared to the general population. Apart from the promotion of the use of PROMIS measures, more standardization regarding the type of measures and their versions is needed to facilitate comparisons across studies.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1760-HPR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISEASE ACTIVITY LEVEL AND WRIST JOINT POSITION SENSE, GRIP STRENGTH AND DYNAMIC GRIP ENDURANCE IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Psoriatic arthritis, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy

M. Köprüleşioğlu1, İ. Naz1, D. SolmaZ2, S. Akar2, 1İzmir Katip Celebi University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, İzmir, Turkey; 2İzmir Katip Celebi University, Department of Internal Medicine, İzmir, Turkey
**Background:** Dynamic grip endurance in psoriatic arthritis is one of the affected functional parameters during the disease process. However, there are limited studies about dynamic grip endurance related factors. 

**Objectives:** To investigate the relationship between disease activity level and joint position sense and dynamic grip endurance in psoriatic arthritis. 

**Methods:** A total of 27 PsA patients (age:53.33 ±11.85 years, women:men:16:5) who were classified by the Classification Criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis (CASPAR) criteria and followed in outpatient clinic were included in our study. The socio-demographic characteristic of all patients recorded. Disease activity level was assessed with the DAPSA score. Wrist joint position sense was evaluated by a goniometric re-position error test. Grip strength and endurance were examined by a hand dynamometer (Lafayette Professional Hand Dynamometer, USA). Data analysis was performed with Spearman Correlation Coefficient. 

**Results:** Patients’ diagnosis year, tender joint on hand, and swollen joint on hand were 4.50 years, 23, and 18, respectively. DAPSA scores were 28.67 ±14.85 and moderate-high level. There was no relationship between DAPSA scores and joint position error and dynamic grip endurance on both sides (p>0.05). A moderate level correlation was found between the DAPSA score and grip strength on both sides (p<0.05, r=−0.516 and −0.570 dominant and non-dominant side, respectively). 

**Conclusion:** Our study showed that PsA patients had lower grip strength during the exacerbation period. Since joint position sense and grip endurance were low independent of disease activity, they may also increase safety and save resources. However, it is unclear how such telemedicine services integrate into the clinical workflow. 

**REFERENCES:** NIL. 

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared. 

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**AB1762-HPR** CAN PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES BE USED TO TRIAGE PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS TO MOBILITY MEASUREMENTS OR TESTING OF C-REACTIVE PROTEIN?

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures

C. Fougman McCarthy1,2, K. Hörnberg3, T. Woelt4,5, M. Björklund2, B. Sundström6,7, Gävle Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Gävle, Sweden; 2Umeå University, Department of Community Medicine and Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy, Umeå, Sweden; 3Umeå University, Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå, Sweden; 4Uppsala University/Region Gävleborg, Centre for Research and Development, Gävle, Sweden

**Background:** Patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis are assessed by healthcare with regular controls of mobility and disease activity. If these controls can be replaced by valid patient-reported index, it would burden both patients and healthcare. 

**Objectives:** In this study we analysed associations between healthcare measured mobility and disease activity and patient-reported disease activity, physical function and well-being in patients with AS. 

**Methods:** This register-based cross-sectional study used data from 1541 visits (of which 1093 visits were men and 448 women) in the Swedish Rheumatology Quality Register. Variables for healthcare measured spinal mobility and disease activity were Ankylosing Spondylitis Metrology Index (BASMI) and C-Reactive Protein (CRP). Variables for patient-reported disease activity, physical function and well-being were Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI) and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Global Score (BAS-G). First, associations were tested with Pearson correlation. Secondly, discriminative ability to identify subnormal BASMI, or CRP [defined as below the 2.5th percentile of healthy individuals, and >3, respectively [1,2], was determined by means of receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis for variables with coefficients $r>0.4$. 

**Results:** Associations with $r>0.4$ was found only between BASMI and BASFI ($r=0.49$), resulting with an area under the curve (AUC) of 0.74 (95% CI; 0.72-0.76) in the ROC analyses. Among the subquestions of BASMI/BASI, the highest association was seen between measured cervical rotation and the self-assessed ability to look over shoulder ($r=0.69$), resulting in AUC of 0.85 (95% CI; 0.83-0.88) in the corresponding ROC analyses, using cervical rotation below 2.5th percentile of healthy individuals as discrimination value. 

**Conclusion:** A significant association with $r=0.4$ was seen between BASMI and BASFI. The resulting AUC of 0.74 between BASMI and BAFI, and 0.85 between measured cervical rotation and self-assessed ability to look over shoulder, can be deemed as acceptable and excellent, respectively [3]. BASFI and its sub-questions may therefore be of interest for further evaluation if they could be used for screening and triaging patients to spinal mobility measurements with BASMI. Neither of the self-reported indices associated with CRP to any higher degree ($r>0.4$). 

**REFERENCES:** 

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared. 

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3246

**AB1763-HPR** RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF THE TURKISH VERSION OF SCLERODERMA SKIN PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOME IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

**Keywords:** Systemic sclerosis, Patient reported outcomes, Validation
Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc), which is characterized by fibrosis of the skin and internal organs and vasculopathy, is an autoimmune rheumatic disease. Skin fibrosis is the most seen feature of SSc patients and affects nearly all patients with SSc at different levels and severity. Skin involvement is generally evaluated with the modified Rodnan skin score (mRSS). However, several studies have indicated that there is no relation between mRSS and appearance self-esteem. Based on evidence from previous studies that it is significant to comprehensively evaluate the effects of skin fibrosis on QoL in SSc patients. There is a need for an instrument to assess the effects of skin involvement on the quality of life of the Turkish population in SSc patients.

Objectives: Sclerodema Skin Patient-Reported Outcome (SSPRO) is useful scale to evaluate the skin related quality of life in SSc patients. This study purposed to translate the SSPRO questionnaire to Turkish (SSPRO-T) language and to assess its validity and reliability.

Methods: Fifty-four SSc patients (female: male, 51:3) participated in the relia-

Results: The total SSPRO-T had a four-factor structure. The total SSPRO-T score and its subgroups correlated positively with SQA, HAQ, Skindex-29 and patient global skin severity. The internal consistency and reliability were excellent the SSPRO-T and physical effects subgroup, emotional effect subgroup, physical limitation subgroup and social effect (Cronbach's α = 0.94, 0.80, 0.95, 0.93 and 0.84, respectively) (Table 1). The SSPRO-T had excellent test-retest reliability (r=0.91, p<0.001). In addition; it was not seen floor effect and ceiling effect related SSPRO-T.

Conclusion: The SSPRO-T questionnaire is an excellent a reliable and valid tool. It could be used in research and clinical studies in the Turkish patients with SSc.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. SSPRO-T descriptive statistics, internal consistency and test-retest reliability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>NumberScore</th>
<th>Minimum/MaximumFloor</th>
<th>Ceiling/Internal consistency</th>
<th>Test-retest reliability</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>29.0 (12.0-56.0)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.0 (6.0-19.0)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.5 (0-20.0)</td>
<td>36</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>7.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0 (0-3.2)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16.74</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SSPRO-T: Sclerodema skin patient-reported outcome Turkish, PE: Physical effects, EE: Emotional effects, PL: Physical limitations, SE: Social effects ICC: Intraclass correlation coefficient, CI: Confidence interval

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

J. Carvajal-Veloz1, J. A. Rubio-Rubio2, G. Salguero3, L. D. Gutiérrez-Castañeda4,5,6, G. S. Rodríguez-Vargas5, P. Santos-Moreno5, D. Echeverri5, P. K. Bautista-Niño6, L. Saenz1, A. Rojas-Villarraga1, Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud FUCS, Basic Sciences Group, Bogotá, Colombia; Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud FUCS, Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia; 4. Instituto Distal de Ciencia Biotecnología e Investigación en Salud, IDCBS, Research, Bogotá, Colombia; 5BICMAB - Center for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Scientific Direction, Bogotá, Colombia; 6Fundación Cardiocliniante-La Cardio, Cardiovascular Prevention Program, Bogotá, Colombia; 5Fundación Cardiovascular de Colombia (FCV), Research Laboratory, Bogotá, Colombia; 7Fundación Cardiocliniante-La Cardio, Cardiology, Bogotá, Colombia

Background: Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of premature death among patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Inflammatory cytokines play a pivotal role in this process, leading to impaired artery elasticity by priming endothelial dysfunction and enhanced arterial stiffness.

Objectives: To assess the expression of inflammatory cytokines associated to cardiovascular alterations such as arterial stiffness among patients with RA and osteoarthritis (OA) through Gene Ontology and Pathway Enrichment analysis.

Methods: Inclusion criteria for this analytical cross-sectional study were patients with RA and OA between 40 and 70 years old. Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics as well as inflammatory, metabolic markers, acute phase reactants, autoantibodies were analyzed. Levels of 18 cytokine: including VCAM1 (CD106), ICAM1 (CD54), CCL7 (MARC), MCP1, SPP1 (OPN), PDGF, CXCL10 and inflammaging related cytokines: INF-γ (IFNG), IL-10, IL-1RA, IL-1β, IL-6, TNF-α, MMP1, MMP2, MMP9, TIMP-1, TIMP2, were measured using a Lumexx Assay (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, United States). Cardiovascular measurements (Including Pulse Wave Velocity -PWV and aortic augmentation index – Aix) were performed within one month after blood sampling using the TensioMed Arteriography. A protein-protein interaction network (PPI) was built using the string App plugin from Cytoscape v3.9.1. Gene Ontology and pathway analysis were carried out using ClueGO (v2.8.9) + Cluepedia (v1.5.9) Cytoscape plugin for the proteins that showed a significant overexpression against GO biological processes, KEGG, and Reactome pathways databases (Homo sapiens).

Results: A total of eighty patients were included (71.3% women). The average age was 57 years, interquartile range (IQR) 10. OA patients had higher waist circumference, weight, and body mass index values than RA patients. There were no differences in lipid profile or glucose levels. CRP levels were higher in RA patients. Levels of disease activity in RA patients was low according to the measurement of the DAS-28-PCR. 12.5% of patients with RA had polyautoimmunity. There were no significant differences in the measurement of cardiovascular variables between the two groups except for Brachial diastolic blood pressure, which was higher in the RA group (p=0.049). Plasma levels of VCAM1 (CD106), MARC (CCL7: p=0.000), SPP1 (OPN; p=0.040), IL-1RA; p=0.015) and IL-1β (p=0.031) were significantly higher in the group of RA patients. ICAM1 (CD54), MARC, and INF-γ levels were correlated with Aix in the RA group. In the OA group, IL-10 levels positively correlated with Brachial pulse pressure and other central and peripheral pressure measurements (mild or moderate). The merged network between upregulated cytokines (VCAM1, SPP1, PDGF1, IFNG, ICAM1 and CCL7, RA query in DISEASE database and Arterial stiffness” query (PubMed) resulted in a PPI network with 26 nodes and 88 interactions. (Figure 1). The nodes with BC above 0.05 (VCAM1, TNF, JAK1, ICAM1, IL-10, CD4, PTK2B, FN1, ITGB1) represents the key genes. Ten GO terms and twelve KEGG pathways were significantly enriched (Figure 2). The principal GO terms were as follows: “membrane to membrane docking” (34% genes), “response to type II interferon” (7.89% genes), and “regulation of lipid biosynthetic process” (5.26% genes). KEGG and REACTOME included: signaling by PDGF (7.89%), integrin cell surface interaction (2.63%), extracellular matrix organization (2.63%).

Scientific Abstracts

F. Sarı1, Z. Bazancıрапıpın2, H. Apaydın3, M. Kayaaşılı4, A. Erden3, S. C. Güven5, B. Armagan5, A. Omma3, Ö. Küçükışı̇n5. Bingöl University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, Bingöl, Turkey; 2Medipol University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ankara, Turkey; 3Ankara City Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 4Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; 5Gazi University, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

AB1764-HPR EXPRession of cYTOKINES and “INFLAMMING” and ARTERIAL STIFFNESS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS and OSTEOARTHRITIS: A GENE ONTOLOGY AND PATHWAY ENRICHMENT ANALYSIS

Time: 2023-08-03
Disclosure of Interests:
Jonathan Carvajal-Veloza: None declared, Jaime-Anderes Rubio-Rubio: None declared, Gustavo Salguero: None declared, Luz-Dary Gutierrez-Castañeda: None declared, Gabriel-Santiago Rodriguez-Vargas: None declared, Pedro Santos-Moreno Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi. Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Dario Echeverri: None declared, Paula-Katherine Bautista-Nino: None declared, Luis Saenz: None declared, Adriana Rojas-Villanarra: None declared.

DOIs: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4136

AB1765-HPR
APPLICATION OF THE EULAR SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS IMPACT OF DISEASE (SCLEROD) QUESTIONNAIRE IN AN ITALIAN COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: ANALYSIS OF PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH MAIN DISEASE FEATURES

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures, Systemic sclerosis

I. Bisconti1, D. M. Reza Beigi1, G. Pellegrino1, M. Cadar1, F. R. Di Commo1, K. Stefanantoni1, S. Truglia1, F. Conti1, V. Riccieri1, 1Sapienza University of Rome, Clinical Internal, Anesthesiological and Cardiovascular Sciences, Ruma, Italy

Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is characterized by a chronic and frequently progressive course and by a high patient-to-patient variability. Due to the lack of disease-specific, patient-reported outcome measures for use in clinical trials and in clinical practice, EULAR recently validated the Systemic Sclerosis Impact of Disease (ScleroID) questionnaire, calculated as a composite score of 10 different health dimensions with Numeric Rating Scales (NRS) from 0 to 10 (from best to worst)(Figure 1). For each dimension, the NRS score is multiplied by the specific weight for its item and the weighted scores are summed up.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to apply ScleroID questionnaire to an Italian cohort of patients affected by SSc and to find any possible association with their main demographic, clinical and serological features.

Methods: 55 consecutive patients with SSc (defined by 2013 ACR/EULAR criteria) were enrolled. ScleroID was administered. Socio-demographic variables and clinical features were recorded. Data were analyzed using GraphPad Prism 8 software. Wilcoxon nonparametric test was used to compare data. Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient was used and Linear regression analysis (r correlation coefficient) was employed to identify significant correlations, defined by a p value <0.05.

Results: The main demographic, clinical and serological features of the study population are shown in Table 1. ScleroID total score median value of our patients was 42 (IQR 21-57). Significant associations were found among the presence of DU and higher values in the dimensions of Raynaud’s phenomenon (p = 0.03), impaired hand function (IHF) (p = 0.005), pain (p = 0.013), life choices (LC) (p = 0.03) and body mobility (BM) (p = 0.01). Anti-SCL70 positivity was associated with higher DU domain score (p = 0.01). Diffuse SSc form was associated with higher values of IHF (p = 0.006), pain (p = 0.02), LC (p = 0.002), BM (p = 0.0005) and DU domains (p = 0.003). Moreover, a positive correlation was found between mRSS and IHF (p = 0.02), LC (p = 0.006), BM (p = 0.02) and DU (p = 0.04), as well as between lower gastrointestinal symptoms domain and age (p = 0.02). A higher ScleroID global score was associated with the diffuse SSc form (p = 0.002), the use of immuno-suppressive therapy (p = 0.01) and the presence of DU (p < 0.0001). Finally, the last result was confirmed on multivariate analysis (p = 0.007).

Conclusion: Our results confirm the reliability of ScleroID questionnaire in the real life of ScS patients, highlighting the impact of an extensive cutaneous involvement and the presence of DU in several health quality dimensions. Thus ScleroID appears to be a valid and easy to perform tool, able to access the disease activity by a patient reported outcome.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Main features of n55 patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Value (IQR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGE (median-IQR)</td>
<td>57 (49-56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>54 (98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration in years (median-IQR)</td>
<td>8 (4-14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sc70+ (%)</td>
<td>20 (36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dcSSc (%)</td>
<td>19 (34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRSS (median-IQR)</td>
<td>4 (2-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVC Scleroderma pattern</td>
<td>45 (81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Ulcers (%)</td>
<td>30 (55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcinosis (%)</td>
<td>7 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILD (%)</td>
<td>11 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI involvement (%)</td>
<td>33 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV involvement (%)</td>
<td>5 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis (%)</td>
<td>19 (34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The study showed that the QOL of most patients improved with a correct diagnosis. The graphically depicted progression of the patients' health per-ception are shown in Figure 1: with the onset of the first symptoms, 65% of the patients found their state of health to be less good or bad, in course of disease, this number increased to 70%. At the current time, the time of the interviews, the number declined to 28%. Originally, no patient was in excellent health, but at the current condition after the diagnostic odyssey, 10% were able to describe their state of health as excellent. The interviews show an overall decline in well-being during the diagnostic odyssey, which slowly increases with the correct diagnosis. Conclusion: The study showed how much a correct diagnosis affects the patients’ QOL. The use of a DDSS would have significantly shortened the diagnostic odysseys and thus improved patients’ QOL at an earlier stage.

Figure 1. Retrospective development of health perception over the course of the disease among the study participants (n=71). Displayed are the results as an extract of the SF-36.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5013

AB1766-HPR THE IMPACT OF FASTER DIAGNOSIS THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PATIENTS WITH RARE DISEASES

Keywords: Quality of life, Descriptive Studies, Artificial Intelligence

Background: Diseases that affect fewer than 2000 people in the general population are defined as rare diseases [1]. The rarity and the associated limited experience with these diseases, but also the large number of about 8000 rare diseases [2], pose a major diagnostic challenge for physicians. On average, affected patients need 5.6 to 78 years until they receive a diagnosis and thus the correct therapy [3]. These diagnostic odysseys place a heavy financial, health, and psychological burden both on patients and their families. Diagnostic decision support systems (DDSS) have great potential to assist physicians in diagnostic decision-making and can indicate the presence of a rare disease much earlier. An exploratory study conducted at the Outpatient Clinic for Rare Inflammatory Systemic Diseases with Renal Involvement at Hannover Medical School showed that the diagnostic process can be shortened by a DDSS. The median lead between diagnosis and the hypothetical time of diagnosis by a DDSS was three months [4]. A follow-up study showed that health economic savings were also possible by making the diagnosis so early [5].

Objectives: Measured against the hypothetical diagnosis time points determined in the previous study [4], this study aimed to investigate, in the same patient population, the extent to which earlier diagnosis using a DDSS would have influenced patients’ quality of life (QOL).

Methods: To determine the potential for improving QOL through artificial intelligence (AI), 71 patients from the patient cohort of the previous studies were surveyed [4][5]. The questionnaire was composed of established questionnaires such as the WHO HPQ and the SF-36. In five interview sessions from the onset of the disease, the time of professional diagnosis, to the current time, the development of QOL was retrospectively recorded. To analyze the development of QOL during the disease, but also to show the influence of the DDSS on QOL, data were also collected for the time points at which the DDSS would have indicated the correct diagnosis as the first suggestion or among the first five suggestions.

Statistical analysis, graphical presentation and interpretation of the questionnaires were performed using statistical software.

Results: The study showed that the QOL of most patients improved with a correct diagnosis. The graphically depicted progression of the patients’ health perception are shown in Figure 1: with the onset of the first symptoms, 65% of the patients found their state of health to be less good or bad, in course of disease, this number increased to 70%. At the current time, the time of the interviews, the number declined to 28%. Originally, no patient was in excellent health, but at the current condition after the diagnostic odyssey, 10% were able to describe their state of health as excellent. The interviews show an overall decline in well-being during the diagnostic odyssey, which slowly increases with the correct diagnosis.

Conclusion: The study showed how much a correct diagnosis affects the patients’ QOL. The use of a DDSS would have significantly shortened the diagnostic odysseys and thus improved patients’ QOL at an earlier stage.

Figure 1. The EULAR Scleroderma Impact of Disease Score (Scleroid)

Health status of the patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of health</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Very good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Less good</th>
<th>Bad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State of health</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6357

AB1767-HPR DOCUMENT SEARCH IN LARGE RHEUMATOLOGY DATABASES: ADVANCED KEYWORD QUERIES TO SELECT HOMOGENEOUS PHENOTYPES

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Systemic sclerosis

C. Gérardin1, Y. Xong1,2, A. Mekinian3, F. Carrt4, X. Tannier5.

Background: Natural language processing tools are powerful for mining rheumatology databases, extracting patient information directly from clinical notes. However, these algorithms come with a high computational cost and are often not applicable at the scale of very large databases in the temporality of clinical practice.
Objectives: The objective of our study is the automatic detection of clinical documents of interest for a specific clinical question, with low computational cost, to be applied on a database of millions of documents. These sets of documents of interest constitute a pre-screening to allow the development of more complex algorithms.

Methods: The task was considered as an information retrieval task in French clinical texts. Two different methods were compared. For the first method, we used several state-of-the-art document vector representations: TF-IDF, doc2vec, docBERT and tested if the closest documents are relevant. The second method consists in building a powerful query expansion from a key term entered, its French synonyms from the UMLS and the synonyms found by similarity with the embeddings of the CODER algorithm. These methods are developed and evaluated on a set of 8 and on 20 phenotypes respectively (e.g. “pericarditis in lupus”, etc.). Our database corresponds to 2 million documents from a cohort of patients suffering from four autoimmune diseases: systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, antiphospholipid syndrome, and Takayasu’s disease, coming from the AP-HP’s data warehouse.

Results: Our experience does not support the vector representation model of clinical notes for searching similar patients. However, searching with an advanced synonym search method can lead to very good results without additional burden for the clinician: we achieved a precision (or positive predictive value) of 0.93 [0.90; 0.96] evaluated manually by a physician and a recall (or sensitivity) of 0.78 [0.71; 0.85] evaluated on the basis of the ICD10 codes of the retrieved patients.

Conclusion: We propose a new advanced keyword search method with automatic synonym search with very good accuracy and recall performance.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Accuracy and recall results for 13 over 20 queries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Accuracy (on 50 manually-annotated document per query)</th>
<th>Recall (comparison with respective CIM10)</th>
<th>Number of corresponding documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 “Rheumatoid Arthritis”</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>15189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 “Takayasu”</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>7490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 “Pericarditis in lupus”</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>10716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 “Kidney transplantation”</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>3510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 “Autoimmune hepatitis”</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>2797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 “Dermatomyositis”</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>3749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 “Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura”</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>3749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 “Acute kidney injury”</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>15775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 “Raynaud syndrome”</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>31500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 “HIV”</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>43582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 “Scleroderma”</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>24199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 “Diabetes”</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>51224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 “Stroke”</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>28162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>0.93 [0.90; 0.96]</td>
<td>0.78 [0.71; 0.85]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Overview of the two methods of searching for documents in our data warehouse. Method 1 is document oriented and method 2 is keyword oriented.

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank the AP-HP data warehouse, which provided the data and the computing power to carry out this study under good conditions. We would like to thank all the medical colleges, including internal medicine, rheumatology, dermatology, nephrology, pneumology, hepatogastroenterology, hematolymphology, oncology, gynecology, infectology, cardiology, oncology, emergency, and intensive care units, that gave their agreements for the use of the clinical data.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6231
HPR Patients’ perspectives, functioning and health (descriptive: qualitative or quantitative)

AB1769-HPR

HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH SEPTAL PANNICULITIS

Keywords: Quality of life

G. Koilubaeva1, O. Egorova2, A. Bolotbekova1, A. Turatbekova1, G. Syunbai K1.
1, 3 Togolok Moldo St, Rheumatology, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 2Kashirskoye Shosse, 34, Rheumatology, Moskva, Russian Federation

Background: Idiopathic lobular panniculitis (ILP) or Weber-Christian disease is a rare understudied disease, which manifests itself in recurrent subcutaneous fat necrosis often involving damage of the internals. Treatment of the disease is not standardized, and as a matter of fact it is provided empirically.

Objectives: to assess the efficiency of therapy in case of various forms of ILP.

Methods: We studied 34 patients (30 women, 4 men) with ILP, age 30-74, duration of disease 7.4±2.3 years. Besides general clinical examination we determined the level of α1-antitrypsin, amylase, lipase, ferritin, creatine phosphokinase, made chest CT scan and carried out the pathomorphological study of skin biopsy specimen taken from the area of a node. The following forms of the disease were identified: nodular form (NF) (14 patients), plaque form (PF) (9 patients), mesenteric form (MF) (5 patients) and infiltrative form (IF) (6 patients). In all cases the lobular panniculitis was verified by means of histopathological examination. All patients took glucocorticoids (GC), average daily dose of 12.8±1.6 mg, including 8.4±1.7 mg (for NF), 17.6±3.2 mg (for PF), 8.6±1.6 mg (for MF), 23.6±5.3 mg (for IF). In case of NF, we additionally prescribed Plaquenil, the dose of 600 mg per day (8 patients), and Mycophenolate Mofetil 1.5-2 g per day (6 patients); in case of PF – Cyclophosphamide (Cph), the dose of 200 mg per week (4 patients) or Mycophenolate Mofetil (1.5-2 g per day, 5 patients); in case of MF – Mycophenolate Mofetil (1.5-2 g per day, 5 patients). Patients with IF took Cph (200 mg per week). In case there was no effect after 3 months, we prescribed Mycophenolate Mofetil (1.5-2 g per day). With an unsatisfactory effect, after 3 months, genetically engineered alpha-TNF antagonist drugs were used. On average, the observation period was 12 months.

Results: The treatment made it possible to achieve a significant positive dynamics in patients with NF and MF: the body temperature got back to normal and there was regression of indurations (26 patients), joint pain intensity was reduced (16 patients), laboratory data on inflammatory intensity revealed decrease (24 patients). Average daily dose of GC was reduced to 4.5±0.7 mg and 11.4±1.1 mg, respectively. In general, a significant improvement was evident in all patients with NF and MF, in 75 % of patients with PF. In case of IF an average daily dose was increased to 25.4±1.7 mg per day. In all patients of this group, an unsatisfactory effect was noted, which required discussion of the appointment of genetically engineered biological therapy. The tolerability of treatment was regarded as good, no adverse events were noted. After 14 weeks, 3 patients had a syndrome of “eluding” the effect and IL-1 inhibitor drugs were prescribed for the first time.

Conclusion: To work out dosages and treatment schedules for patients with ILP further studies are required.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.939

AB1770-HPR

WITHDRAWN
AB1771-HPR COMPARISON OF FLARES IN 85 PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOUSUS, WHO DISCONTINUED, REDUCED DOSE OR MAINTAINED HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE DURING A PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SCREENING FOR RETINOPATHY

Keywords: Remission, Systemic lupus erythematosus

J. Marques Dias1, K. Chevalier2, V. Vassey3, E. Launonier4, S. Derrien5, N. Moret6, V. Le Guern7, A. Mathiart7, M. Maugot Faysse8, Y. Nguyen1, N. Costedoat9, W. Hospital Beatrix Angelo, Internal Medicine Department, Loures, Portugal; 1Cochin Hospital, Internal Medicine Department, Centre de Référence Maladies Auto-Immunes et Systémiques Rares d'Ille de France, Paris, France; 2Hospital Foundation Adolphe De Rothschild, Clinical Investigation Platform, Paris, France; 3Hospital Foundation Adolphe De Rothschild, Electrophysiology Department, Paris, France; 4Université Paris Cité (CRESS), INSERM U1153, Center for Epidemiology and Statistics, Paris, France

Background: Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) remains one of the most valuable therapies in SLE, and its use is supported by every recent international guideline regardless of the severity of the disease. It is however associated with long-term side effects, mainly ophthalmological whereby is recommended ophthalmological screening. Little is known on the risk of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) flares associated with hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) reduction or cessation, especially following ophthalmological screening.

Objectives: We analyzed the risk of SLE flares after HCQ reduction or cessation in the context of detection of early signs of ophthalmological toxicity.

Methods: Among 109 patients included in the prospective PERFOCTAPS study and treated with HCQ for at least 5 years, we included all patients with SLE. Patients were divided in three groups: group maintenance corresponding to patients with no ophthalmological alterations maintaining their treatment at the same dose, group reduction corresponding to patients with mild ophthalmological alterations that led to reduction of HCQ dose, and group discontinuation corresponding to patients with retinal abnormalities that led to stopping HCO. Occurrence of flares (SELENA-SLEDAI flare index) was assessed in the two years following HCQ reduction or discontinuation or following inclusion in PERFOCTAPS study for the maintenance group.

Results: 85 patients were included (98% female, mean age 40.0 years, mean duration of SLE 14.4±7.7 years and of HCQ treatment 12.9±7.2 years, mean dose per kilogram of HCQ was 5.6±1.8 mg/kg/day). PERFOCTAPS study identified ophthalmological abnormalities in 25 patients (29.4%) that led to dose reduction in 20 patients and discontinuation in 5. At inclusion groups maintenance and reduction were very similar; patients in group discontinuation were significantly older with a longer SLE and HCQ treatment duration. There was no significant difference in HCQ dose (mg/kg/day) between the three groups. After reduction, the proportion of patients with a dose of HCQ <5 mg/kg/day became significantly higher in the reduction group than in the maintenance group (85% vs. 35% P<0.001). Flares occurred in 29 patients (34.1%): 17 (28.3%) in the maintenance group, 10 (50%) in the reduction group, and 2 (40%) in the discontinuation group. Flares were severe in 6 patients (10%) in the maintenance group, 4 (20%) in the reduction group and none (0%) in the discontinuation group. After adjustments on potential confounders, HCQ reduction was independently associated with the risk of flare (adjusted HR 2.57; 95% CI 1.14-5.75). The same trend was observed in the discontinuation group but without reaching statistical significance (adjusted HR 3.03; 95% CI 0.66-13.87).

Conclusion: In this prospective study, HCQ reduction due to an early suspicion of retinal toxicity was associated with a statistically significant increased risk of disease flare. This adds data to the growing pendulum return regarding HCQ dose reduction and we should always balance the potential benefits of tapering or discontinuing HCQ with the risk of SLE flare and subsequent need to increase or start other drugs, especially corticoids or immunosuppressors that have well-known adverse effects.

Acknowledgements: JEBRANE Hajar; LAFOLIE Justine; ALONSO Anne Sophie; AUGE Emmanuel; GUILLAUME Jessica.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2774

HPR Professional education, training and competencies.

AB1772-HPR PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION IN CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE(CIRD) PATIENTS: REASONS FOR NON-PRESCRIPTION AND SOLUTIONS

Keywords: Vaccination/Immunization, Inflammatory arthritides

S. Ez-Zeau1, H. Rkain2, F. Kronbi3, T. Latifa4, S. Bahoul4, I. Bensagh4, S. Farhi5, F. El Jounani5, R. Honsai5, N. Hajjai-Hassouni5, F. Alia5, 1Hospital Al Ayachi, Rheumatology B, Salé, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat, Exercise Physiology and Autonomous Nervous System Team, Physiology Laboratory, Rabat, Morocco; 3International University of Rabat, Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco

Background: To explore rheumatologists’ reasons for non prescription of pneumococcal vaccine in CIRD patients and to collect solutions proposed by rheumatologists.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study carried out by the vaccination working group of the Moroccan Society of Rheumatology. The survey collected data on reasons of pneumococcal vaccination abstinence in rheumatology practice, and solutions proposed to improve pneumococcal vaccination in CIRD patients.

Results: This survey included 125 rheumatologists (mean age 42.4 +/-12.1 years). The sector of practice was respectively 31.2%, 34.4%, 34.4% for the public sector, private sector and University Hospital. 36.9% of rheumatologists have never prescribed pneumococcal vaccination for their CIRD patients. Table 1 illustrate reasons given by rheumatologists for non vaccination of their CIRD patients. Table 1 illustrate reasons given by rheumatologists for non vaccination of their CIRD patients against pneumococcal infection.

Table 1. Reasons for not prescribing the pneumococcal vaccine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for not prescribing the pneumococcal vaccine</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I don't vaccinate my CIRD patients because</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pneumococcal vaccine is not recommended for CIRD patients</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pneumococcal vaccine is expensive</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't master enough the protocol</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I forget to prescribe it</td>
<td>57.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients refuse the pneumococcal vaccination</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concerning proposed solutions, rheumatologists recommended reinforcing pneumococcal vaccination awareness among rheumatologists, integrating the vaccine into the social security reimbursement protocol, and including the pneumococcal vaccination for CIRD patients in respectively 92%, 71.2%, 60% of cases.
Conclusion: The main obstacles to the pneumococcal vaccination prescription by rheumatologists are related to the lack of knowledge of vaccination protocol and the forgetfulness. Therefore, the Optimization of pneumococcal vaccination would necessarily focus on combating the obstacles to this preventive practice in CIRD patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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HPR Interdisciplinary research

AB1773-HPR

CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE-RELATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE: AN EXPERIENCE OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM IN COLOMBIA

Keywords: Lungs, Descriptive Studies, Imaging

C. Borda Samper1, J. S. Sierra2, D. G. Fernández-Avila3, C. Celis Preciado3, M. Diaz3, Hospital Universitario San Ignacio, Rheumatology, Bogota, Colombia; 1Hospital Universitario San Ignacio, Pulmonology, Bogota, Colombia; 1Hospital Universitario San Ignacio, Rheumatology, Bogota, Colombia

Background: Intersitial lung disease (ILD) occurring in a person with a known or classifiable connective tissue disease (CTD) is referred as CTD-ILD. Approximately 15% of ILDs will have a background CTD. The presence of ILD is the primary determinant of prognosis. High-resolution CT (HRCT) is the diagnostic image of choice. Intersitial involvement can have different patterns, with nonspecific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) being the most frequent. CTD-ILD is a challenging entity and its approach requires multidisciplinary teams (MDT).

Objectives: To describe clinical, serological, and radiological characteristics of patients who present with CTD-ILD at a reference ILD center in Colombia between 2021 and 2022.

Methods: A descriptive study of patients with ILD diagnosed by HCTR who have a confirmed autoimmune disease or at least one autoimmune feature, clinical or serological. Every case was evaluated by our MDT composed by pulmonologists, rheumatologists, and pathologists. We developed an ILD registry from our inpatient and outpatient ILD-clinic between 2021 and 2022. The continuous variables were described as the mean and standard deviation, and nominal variables were evaluated based on frequencies and percentages. All analysis were done in statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) v. 21.0.

Results: Forty patients with ILD were included; 57% were hospitalized, and 65% were women. The majority of patients with ILD were diagnosed as interstitial pneumonia, flashautoimmune features (IPAF), 30%, followed by multiple autoimmune syndromes (22.5%), rheumatoid arthritis (15%) and primary Sjogren's syndrome (12.5%). The most common radiologic pattern was usual interstitial pneumonia (40%), followed by fibrotic NSIP (22.5%). The most common clinical finding where lung cracks (61.5%), sicca symptoms (57.5%) and arthritis (30%). Mean CVF in L(%) was 173 ± 89.72 (62.27) and mean DLCO(%)(S2.5) ± 21. Progressive pulmonary fibrosis was frequent (20%), and 12.5% received antifibrotic therapy. Our mortality rate related to ILD was 21.7%.

Conclusion: In our 1-year cohort, we found that IPAF was the most prevalent CTD-ILD, followed by multiple autoimmune syndromes. The most common radiologic pattern overall was UIP, followed by fibrotic NSIP. CTD-ILD had a high mortality rate. Most of these cases were related to ILD. Our results highlight the importance of early disease detection and early therapeutic interventions. Treatment decisions must be individualized, and the risk of disease progression must be considered.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Hospital Universitario San Ignacio - Intestinal lung disease multidisciplinary team.

Disclosure of Interests: Camila Borda Samper: None declared, Juan Sebastian Sierra: None declared, Daniel G. Fernández-Avila Speakers bureau: yes, Carlos Celis Preciado: None declared, Maria Diaz Speakers bureau: yes.

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AB1774-HPR

SAFETY OF THE RECOMBINANT HERPES ZOSTER VACCINE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TREATED WITH JAKI DRUGS

Keywords: Epidemiology, Vaccination/Immunization, Health Services Research

A. Pons-Bas1, J. Rosas1, L. Pons-Canel2, J. M. Senabre-Gallejo1, G. Santos Soler2, J. A. Bernal1, J. C. Cortés-Quiróz1, C. Raya-Santos1, R. Gallejo-Campuzano1, M. Lorente Betoret3, X. Barber3, J. A. García-Gómez2, Hospital Ma rina Baixa, Rheumatology, Villajoyosa, Spain; 2Hospital Marina Baixa, Rheumatology, Villajoyosa, Spain; 3Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche, CIO, Elche, Spain

Background: Patients receiving JAK inhibitor drugs (JAKi) have an increased risk of herpes zoster (HZ). A new recombinant vaccine effective against HZ (Shingrix-RV) is currently recommended for patients treated with JAKi.

Objectives: To evaluate the safety of first and second dose of the recombinant vaccine against HZ (HZ-RV) in patients with RA, in treatment with JAKi.

Methods: Retrospective study of the safety after receiving the first and after 2 months, second dose of the HZ-RV in patients with RA treated with JAKi. The following variables were collected: general information of the patients, type of JAKi and time in treatment; use and dosage of DMARDcs drugs and/or corticosteroids. Regarding HZ, infection prior to HZ-RV and time elapsed; occurrence and type of side effects after vaccination.

Results: Of 138 patients treated with JAK, 9 (7%) refused vaccination, 129 (93%) received the first dose on HZ-RV, but 38 (28%) patients received it before starting JAKi and 98 (72%) being a mean of 36 months in treatment with JAKi. The second dose was administered in 113 (82%) patients, 21 (15%) patients had suffered HZ, before vaccination. One hundred and eighty (84%) are female (mean age: 64 [SD: 3] years), on JAK treatment a mean of: 2.4 (SD: 1.6) years: 89 (69%) baricitinib (2mg/day; 29 [33%] patients; 4mg/day: 60 [77%]) after second dose had side effects (p<0.05): local pain: 95 (74%) vs 62 (55%) patients, p=0.014; fatigue: 27 (21%) vs 15 (13%), p=0.07; arthralgia/myalgia: 21 (19%) vs 13 (10%), p=0.17; fever < 38°C: 10 (8%) vs 15 (13%), p=0.06; headache: 9 (7%) vs 3 (3%), p=0.72; local itching: 3 (2%) vs 2 (2%), gastro-intestinal symptoms: 2 (2%) vs 1 (1%), p=0.43, and after first dose, others in 4 (4%) patients: urinary tract infection, oral ulcer, dizziness, injection site erythema. Lymphadenopathy, hospital admission, flare of RA or serious secondary effects were not detected. After 90 days of second vaccine, a 58-year-old woman (0.8%) undergoing 5-month treatment with baricitinib 4mg/day and methotrexate, without corticosteroids, presented a slight facial HZ reaction dose.

Conclusion: 1 Vaccination with HZ-RV was safe. 2 Although a great percentage of patients have experienced any side effect, especially after the first dose of vaccine, these were mild. 3 None of RA has been detected in this period. 4 Less than 1% of patients suffered HZ reactivation after vaccination.

Acknowledgements: The study was supported by a research grant from the Mariona Baixa Association for Research in Rheumatology (AIRE-MB).

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**ECONOMIC BURDEN OF PRENATAL CARE FOR WOMEN WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES**

**Keywords:** Health Services Research, Pregnancy and reproduction, Quality of life

C. M. Skinner Taylor¹, L. Pérez Barbosa², J. A. Cardenas-de la Garza³, A. Carrizo-Chang⁴, M. E. Corral Trujillo⁵, F. R. Arevael Nieto⁶, A. L. Guajardo Alcañiz⁷, A. Aguilar-Leal⁸, D. A. Galazca-Delgado⁸. Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González”, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

**Background:** Autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARDs) affect childbearing women. To prevent adverse maternal and fetal outcomes, multidisciplinary attention is needed, leading to increased costs of pregnancy attention [1]. The financial burden that pregnant women with ARDs have, lacks profound research.

**Objectives:** This study aims to estimate the total cost of prenatal care in pregnant women with ARDs in northeast Mexico.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional and descriptive study was carried out at the University Hospital “Dr. Jose E. Gonzalez”, offering affordable care to uninsured patients. We estimated the direct costs of prenatal care for women with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), and Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) from the ACR/ EULAR perspective [2, 3]. National standards were used to determine the regular prenatal care requirements [4]. To calculate the total expense, prices declared by the University Hospital in 2021 were used. The used currency is USD, considering an equivalence of USD 1 = 20.28 MXN. Calculating indirect costs, such as transportation, medication, or other interventions, was not performed. No sociodemographic data from patients was used.

**Results:** The itemized costs for medical appointments, ultrasounds, laboratory tests and vaginal delivery or cesarean section for women without ARDs, with SS, RA and SLE are in Table 1. Prenatal care total costs for women without ARDs, with SS, RA and SLE are exposed in Figure 1. Our findings reported an average cost of pregnancy per trimester was up to 102.76% in women with ARDs compared to women without ARDs (USD 386.52 vs 783.72) Limitations include the variability of service prices and the absence of indirect cost calculations.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, ARD-affected women had a high economic burden secondary to prenatal costs. In this vulnerable population, creating programs for prenatal care that consider the patient’s financial status should be a priority for public health officials and institutions.

**REFERENCES:**


**Table 1. Prenatal care costs by unit and mean total expenditure for women with ARDs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical assessment and laboratory tests</th>
<th>Cost per trimester (USD)</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
<th>Cost per trimester (USD)</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatology *</td>
<td>12.32</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>36.96</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>142.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obsetrics</td>
<td>23.00</td>
<td>At least 5</td>
<td>69.00</td>
<td>without ARD</td>
<td>-137.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound</td>
<td>53.74</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>161.22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>49.30</td>
<td>If necessary</td>
<td>49.30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>39.44</td>
<td>If necessary</td>
<td>39.44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td>If necessary</td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete blood counts</td>
<td>8.87</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>26.61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood chemistry</td>
<td>38.46</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>115.38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-hydroxy vitamin D*</td>
<td>59.17</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>177.51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid profile*</td>
<td>16.27</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>48.81</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT, TTP*</td>
<td>36.40</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>109.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP and ESR*</td>
<td>25.11</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>75.33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urea*</td>
<td>5.92</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>14.79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and VDRL test</td>
<td>28.09</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>29.09</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood type with Rh</td>
<td>10.35</td>
<td>Per trimester</td>
<td>31.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunological tests</td>
<td>38.94</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>913.19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for SLE</td>
<td>with SS</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1,006.86</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunological tests</td>
<td>97.12</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>971.33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for RA</td>
<td>with SLE</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1,006.04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunological tests</td>
<td>454.60</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1,328.85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests for SLE</td>
<td>with SLE</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1,422.52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PT: Prothrombin time; TTP: Partial thromboplastin time; ESR: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP: C-reactive protein.

**Figure 1.**

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**HPR Interventions (educational, physical, social and psychological)**

**AB1776-HPR** REVMAMAS – A PODCAST FOR PEOPLE WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASE WHO ARE PLANNING A PREGNANCY OR ARE PREGNANT

**Keywords:** Patient information and education, Pregnancy and reproduction

B. Jakobsen¹, L. Helbostad², N. Lian³, I. R. Nilssen⁴. ¹St.Olav Hospital, Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Pregnancy and Rheumatic Diseases, Trondheim, Norway; ²St.Olav Hospital, Department of Communications, Trondheim, Norway

**Background:** A survey distributed by patient organisations in rheumatology in 2019 have uncovered an unmet need for high quality and accessible patient information on pregnancy and rheumatic diseases. Previous publications have presented the same results (1, 2). During the pandemic, we have seen a shift from healthcare with physical consultations to digital follow-up of the inflammatory rheumatic disease. The Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Pregnancy and Rheumatic Diseases (NKSFR) primary task is to spread updated knowledge, including patient information, regarding different aspects of pregnancy and rheumatic diseases. To reach out to the target population in this digital era, NKSFR have started using social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, in addition to YouTube to spread patient information. As a natural next step we wanted to establish a podcast on different topics related to pregnancy and rheumatic diseases so patients and partners could have easy access to high quality reliable information at all times and for all of Norway.

**Objectives:** To develop a podcast with different topics related to pregnancy and rheumatic diseases. The podcast is primarily aimed at people with inflammatory rheumatic disease and their partners, but is also relevant for healthcare professionals.

**Methods:** Based on webinars published on YouTube from NKSFR during the pandemic, we edited and published six podcast episodes. We had help from the department of communications to adjust the podcast for publication. We chose a platform for podcasts without fees and easy access to make sure it was available for everyone.

**Conclusion:** Using podcast as a platform to spread high quality and knowledge based patient information can be effective to increase accessibility of patient information. The episodes are available on demand, regardless of where you live. People with rheumatism can stream the short episodes whenever convenient, for example in the car, one the bus to work, when walking the dog or when doing chores. Planning of season two has already begun.
REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1777-HPR INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECT OF HAND EXERCISES ON GRIP STRENGTH, FUNCTIONALITY, DISEASE ACTIVITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN INDIVIDUALS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Keywords: Randomized control trial, Psoriatic arthritis, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy

S. Yardım 1, S. Y. Çetin 1, A. Ayan 1. Akdeniz University, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Antalya, Turkey; 2Health Sciences University, Division of Rheumatology, Antalya, Turkey

Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory musculoskeletal disease accompanied by psoriasis in the spondyloarthritides group and often progresses with peripheral arthritis, dactylitis, enthesitis and spondylitis [1]. Majority of PsA patients have peripheral arthritis involvement [2]. In addition to peripheral arthritis in PsA patients, structural damage occurs in the joints as the process is chronic and progressive. This structural damage causes worsening of the functional status of the patients [3]. Worsening functionality reduces patients’ quality of life. Also EULAR (Recent European League Against Rheumatism) recommends physical therapy in inflammatory arthritis including PsA [4]. It is known that individuals with PsA have lower hand strength, dexterity, coordination and functionality compared to their healthy peers [5]. There is no scientific study that applies a hand-focused home exercise program to improve the grip strength and functionality of the hand in individuals with PsA.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to examine the effect of hand exercises on grip strength, functionality, disease activity, and quality of life in patients with PsA.

Methods: 37 PsA patients (29f, 8m) with an average age of 50.32±9.12 were included in this study. Patients were randomized into intervention (group 1) and control (group 2) groups. Group 1 received hand home exercises for 4 days a week for 8 weeks. Group 2 was on the waiting-list and they received the same exercises when the study was finished. The Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA) was used to evaluate the disease activity. Hand Dynamometer and pinchmeter was used to evaluate the hand grip and pinch strength. Duruoz Hand Index (DHI), Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire (MHQ), Hand Functional Index (HFI), Nine Peg Hole Test (NPHT) were used to evaluate the hand functionality. Psoriatic Arthritis Quality of Life was used to evaluate the quality of life.

All evaluations were performed at baseline and at the end of the 8th week.

Results: When the groups were compared before training, there was no significant difference (p>0.05). In post-training comparisons, there was a significant difference in MHQ, hand grip and pinch strength in hand exercises group. (p<0.02-0.00). In addition, after post-training, hand exercises group was found to be superior in terms of MHQ and NPHT compared with control group.

Conclusion: According to this study, hand exercises have a positive effect on grip strength and functionality in patients with PsA. Hand exercises should be included in rehabilitation programs as a home exercise to improve grip strength, functionality and daily living activities for patients with PsA.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.


AB1779-HPR ASSESSING THE INTERNAL VALIDITY OF THE BSR PAIN MANAGEMENT FOR INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS QIP TOOL

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Inflammatory arthritis, Pain

A. Bhatty 1, L. West 1, N. Shenker 1. 1University of Cambridge, School of Clinical Medicine, Rheumatology, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Background: Pain management is an important component of many Inflammatory Arthritis consultations. The BSR Pain Management for Inflammatory Arthritis Quality Improvement Tool uses 11 questions and 38 sub questions that assess three domains; background information (3 questions), pain management in the consultation (5 questions) and pain management in previous consultations (3 questions) [1]. The questions are based on the EULAR Guidelines for Pain Management in Inflammatory and Osteoarthritis [2]. The tool is free to use, produces results in real time in anonymised PDF form. The project is sponsored by Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Audit Department (Number 2200).

Objectives: To assess the internal validity of the Pain Management for Inflammatory Arthritis Quality Improvement QIP Tool [2020].

Methods: Two independent researchers (A & B) reviewed appointment/clinic notes from 33 patients who had attended Rheumatology appointments at Addenbrooke’s Hospital. 20 of these patients were found to experience pain during the consultation and the QIP tool questionnaire was used to assess their pain management. To assess the internal validity of the QIP tool; results from each reviewer were compared to generate a Cohen's Kappa Score for each question.

Results: The overall Kappa Score for the QIP tool was 0.75, with 570 congruent results and 190 incongruent results. The congruence was found to be high across the majority of questions. 87/190 (46%) of the incongruent scores were from just 6/38 questions. The QIP tool questions can be modified to improve clarity. There was systematic bias in the questions with lower kappa scores (A answering “Yes” and B answering “No”).

Conclusion: The Pain Management for Inflammatory Arthritis QIP Tool has a high internal validity as shown by the Kappa scores generated by results from two independent reviewers. To overcome the low Kappa scores on individual questions; additional guidance on how to answer specific questions may need to be provided to those filling out the questionnaire.

REFERENCES:


Acknowledgements: NIL
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1780-HPR INVESTIGATING FIBROMYALGIA PATIENTS’ EXPERIENCES AFTER ONE-WEEK SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOUR TO TEN MONTHS AFTER DISCHARGE: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Keywords: Fibromyalgia, Qualitative research methods, Self-management

B. Hamnes 1. 1Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences in Gjøvik, Gjøvik, Norway

Background: The European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) emphasizes in its guidelines for the treatment of fibromyalgia (FM) that Health professional should aim to improve health-related quality of life, which often requires a combination of non-pharmacological and pharmacological treatment methods. Non-pharmacological approaches have been shown to be effective in this study, a multidisciplinary self-management programme (SMP) was used to treat patients with FM.

Objectives: To investigate and understand the experiences of individuals with FM who participated in a one-week SMP.

Methods: A qualitative study using semi-structured interviews was used to investigate the participants’ experiences. A total of 22 women and 2 men with...
FM were interviewed 4 to 10 months after participating in a one-week SMP. The participants' goals and action plans after the SMP were used together with an interview guide. All the interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim and analysed using thematic analyses. The large body of material is divided into three sub-studies. The first sub-study is presented here.

Results: The mean age of the participants was 54.7 years (range 32–68). The participants' experiences were categorized into four main themes: recognition of the diagnosis, a turning point for a better life, changing one's way of thinking and having control over one's own life. Giving up the past was one description that the participants used as a way of changing their mindset. They could then focus more on the present and the future. To have control over their own lives, it became important to accept the opportunities and limitations they had in everyday life.

Conclusion: Four to ten months after completing the SMP, the participants in this study experienced that they were taken seriously with their FM diagnosis. The participants had attained a heightened awareness of what they could do to take control and manage their disease and daily life.

Acknowledgements: The author would like to thank all the informants who shared their experiences.

The study was supported by the Norwegian Fibromyalgia Association and the Norwegian Rheumatism Association.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6299

Table 1. Result of malignancy screening at each time point of repeated-interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Screenings Conducted</th>
<th>Screenings Required</th>
<th>Proportion of Conducted per Screenings</th>
<th>P value (vs 1st screening)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st screening</td>
<td>58.6 (36.4) %</td>
<td>66.5 (34.1) %</td>
<td>60.6 (30.8) %</td>
<td>73.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd screening</td>
<td>Ref</td>
<td>0.095</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd screening</td>
<td>50/107</td>
<td>39/68</td>
<td>23/38</td>
<td>8/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th screening</td>
<td>30/46</td>
<td>29/24</td>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. The list of recommended malignancy screenings

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6406

Table 2. Colonoscopy and Occult fecal blood test at each time point of repeated-interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Screenings Conducted</th>
<th>Screenings Required</th>
<th>Proportion of Conducted per Screenings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st screening</td>
<td>25/44</td>
<td>59/83</td>
<td>25/44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd screening</td>
<td>46/132</td>
<td>48/83</td>
<td>23/44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd screening</td>
<td>65/132</td>
<td>66.5 (34.1) %</td>
<td>60.6 (30.8) %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th screening</td>
<td>Ref</td>
<td>0.095</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proportion of conducted per required malignancy screening (58.6%, 66.5%, 60.6%, and 73.1% at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th screening, respectively. Repeating this program (standard deviation) age was 64.6 (13.2) at the first screening, and 113

Results: The difference in the proportions of completed per required screening between repeated assessment time points.

The proportion of conducted per required malignancy screening (58.6%, 66.5%, 60.6%, and 73.1% at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th screening, respectively. Repeating this program (standard deviation) age was 64.6 (13.2) at the first screening, and 113

Methods: Our program included patients with RA treated with intravenous biological DMARDs between September 2015 and October 2020. We first created a list of the required malignancy screening based on the patient's gender and age (Figure 1). Nurses interviewed the patients during the administration of bDMARDs to assess if they were appropriately screened for malignancies as required and thereafter provided education about the importance of malignancy screening. Nurses recorded the patient's malignancy screening status and alerted physicians by sharing the results if the patient needed additional screenings. This program was periodically repeated once a year. We assessed the difference in the proportions of completed per required screening between repeated assessment time points.

Results: A total of 154 patients were included in the analyses. The mean (standard deviation) age was 64.6 (13.2) at the first screening, and 113 (73.4%) were female. Ninety-three, forty-five, and fourteen patients underwent 2nd, 3rd, and 4th interviews, respectively. Repeating this program numerically increased the proportion of conducted malignancy screenings per required screening. (58.6%, 66.5%, 60.6%, and 73.1% at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th interview, respectively) (Table 1). In addition, several patients understood, for the first time, the importance of malignancy screening during this interview with nurses.

Conclusion: Implementing a nurse-led interview for malignancy screening and alerting physician program numerically increased the screening of malignancy in RA patients treated with bDMARDs. This multi-disciplinary cooperation can potentially improve the quality of healthcare for patients with RA.

Acknowledgements: The author would like to thank all the informants who shared their experiences.

The study was supported by the Norwegian Fibromyalgia Association and the Norwegian Rheumatism Association.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6299

Table 1. Result of malignancy screening at each time point of repeated-interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Screenings Conducted</th>
<th>Screenings Required</th>
<th>Proportion of Conducted per Screenings</th>
<th>P value (vs 1st screening)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st screening</td>
<td>58.6 (36.4) %</td>
<td>66.5 (34.1) %</td>
<td>60.6 (30.8) %</td>
<td>73.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd screening</td>
<td>Ref</td>
<td>0.095</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd screening</td>
<td>50/107</td>
<td>39/68</td>
<td>23/38</td>
<td>8/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th screening</td>
<td>30/46</td>
<td>29/24</td>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alexander, Citera, Latymer, Gruben, Kameda.

AB1782-HPR

Usability and Acceptability of a New Autoinjector Device and Its Associated App in Rheumatology Patients

Keywords: Self-management, bDMARD, Inflammatory arthritis

Method: This study presents final data of all patients (N=264) from a global study. Patients from Argentina (n=50), Australia (n=15), Germany (n=46), France (n=28), Japan (n=75), and Spain (n=50), were included. After completing a patient profiling questionnaire, adult patients (≥ 18 years old) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) or juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), and prescribed an injectable biologic, each received training to use the device and carried out and performed simulated injections. Participants completed a device evaluation questionnaire with including the following categories: 'ease of use' (14 questions), 'usability effectiveness' (11 questions), 'benefit of device features' (8 questions) and 'form factor' (7 questions). Participants also received a storyboard presentation summarizing key features of the optional app, which they could test on an Android or iOS device.

Acknowledgements: The author would like to thank all the informants who shared their experiences.

The study was supported by the Norwegian Fibromyalgia Association and the Norwegian Rheumatism Association.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6406

Table 1. Result of malignancy screening at each time point of repeated-interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Screenings Conducted</th>
<th>Screenings Required</th>
<th>Proportion of Conducted per Screenings</th>
<th>P value (vs 1st screening)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st screening</td>
<td>58.6 (36.4) %</td>
<td>66.5 (34.1) %</td>
<td>60.6 (30.8) %</td>
<td>73.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd screening</td>
<td>Ref</td>
<td>0.095</td>
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<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd screening</td>
<td>50/107</td>
<td>39/68</td>
<td>23/38</td>
<td>8/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th screening</td>
<td>30/46</td>
<td>29/24</td>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. The list of recommended malignancy screenings

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6406

Table 2. Colonoscopy and Occult fecal blood test at each time point of repeated-interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Screenings Conducted</th>
<th>Screenings Required</th>
<th>Proportion of Conducted per Screenings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st screening</td>
<td>25/44</td>
<td>59/83</td>
<td>25/44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd screening</td>
<td>46/132</td>
<td>48/83</td>
<td>23/44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd screening</td>
<td>65/132</td>
<td>66.5 (34.1) %</td>
<td>60.6 (30.8) %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th screening</td>
<td>Ref</td>
<td>0.095</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proportion of conducted per required malignancy screening (58.6%, 66.5%, 60.6%, and 73.1% at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th screening, respectively. Repeating this program (standard deviation) age was 64.6 (13.2) at the first screening, and 113

Methods: This study presents final data of all patients (N=264) from a global study. Patients from Argentina (n=50), Australia (n=15), Germany (n=46), France (n=28), Japan (n=75), and Spain (n=50), were included. After completing a patient profiling questionnaire, adult patients (≥ 18 years old) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) or juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), and prescribed an injectable biologic, each received training to use the device and carried out and performed simulated injections. Participants completed a device evaluation questionnaire with including the following categories: 'ease of use' (14 questions), 'usability effectiveness' (11 questions), 'benefit of device features' (8 questions) and 'form factor' (7 questions). Participants also received a storyboard presentation summarizing key features of the optional app, which they could test on an Android or iOS device.

Acknowledgements: The author would like to thank all the informants who shared their experiences.

The study was supported by the Norwegian Fibromyalgia Association and the Norwegian Rheumatism Association.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6406
before completing up to 16 questions on connectivity and the app. Responses to device/app and app questions were recorded as Likert scale ratings from 1 (extremely negative) to 7 (extremely positive). Estimates of patient training time for the device were also provided. Hand function based on the Functional Index of Hand Osteoarthritis Arthropathies (FIHOA) score, hand pain in the injection hand due to arthritis and grip strength were also recorded. Mean values are reported. The percentage of negative (Likert scale rating 1-2), neutral (3-5) and positive (6-7) responses for each category were determined. Results: A total of 264 patients (mean age [range], 50 [18-85] years; 76% female) participated in the study. Patient diagnosis was, RA (71%), PsA (24%) and JIA (5%). The majority of patients (90%) were right-handed. While most patients (73%) always self-injected their medication, 19% of patients reported that they were mostly assisted with their injections or never self-inject. Most patients performed injection simulations using the dominant hand (77%) and chose the abdomen (54%), thigh (36%) or both (10%) abdomen and thigh as the injection site. Hand function based on the mean FIHOA score was 5.6 (range 0-24), and hand pain in the injection hand due to arthritis was 2.8 (range 1-7). Mean grip strength (range) was 19 (0-60) kg and 18 (2-54) kg in the dominant and non-dominant hand, respectively. Patients reported being “extremely comfortable” (58%) or “slightly comfortable” (35%) with digital equipment. Mean device evaluation scores (% positive responses) were: device ease of use 6.4 (87%), usability effectiveness 6.4 (67%), benefit of device features 6.6 (92%), form factor 6.2 (80%) and connectivity and app 6.2 (79%). The mean time (range) estimate for training a patient to effectively use the device and cartridge was 9.6 minutes (range 0-30 minutes). Conclusion: Patients with RA, PsA or JIA, and experienced at receiving biologic treatment for their conditions, responded positively to the new autoinjector device and app across all categories. These features will contribute to a better experience of self-injection. Acknowledgements: This study was sponsored by Pfizer. Medical writing support was provided by Andrea Schauenburg of Engage Scientific Solutions and funded by Pfizer. Disclosure of Interests: Reike Aten Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Gustavo Citrea Consultant of: AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Boehringer, Janssen, Lilly, Pfizer, Raffo, Sandoz, Grant/research support from: Boehringer, Janssen, Pfizer, Mark Latmyer, Shareholder of: Pfizer, Employee of: Pfizer, David C Gruben Shareholder of: Pfizer, Employee of: Pfizer, Hideo Kameda, Consultant of: AbbVie, Asahi-Kasei, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Chugui, Eisai, Janssen, Lilly, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, Novartis and Pfizer, Consultant of: AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen, Lilly, Novartis, Sanofi and UCB, Grant/research support from: AbbVie, Asahi-Kasei, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chugui, Eisai, Mitsubishi-Tanabe, Pfizer and Taisho. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.678

AB1783-HPR VALIDATION OF AN ELECTRONIC VISUAL ANALOG SCALE APP FOR PAIN EVALUATION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH SYMPTOMATIC HYPERMObILITY: CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Mixed connective tissue disease, Patient information and education, Pain

M. Maag1, V. Pacey2, L. Toftz2, X. Garcia3, M. Clapham4, A. CODA. 1. Central Coast- Ourimbah Campus, The University of Newcastle, Australia, School of Health Sciences, College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, Ourimbah, Australia; 2. Macquarie University, Department of Health Sciences, Macquarie Park, Australia, 3. Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud de Matanza, Universidad de Vic-Universitat Central de Catalunya, Matanza, Spain; 4. Hunter Medical Research Institute, Equity in Health and Wellbeing Research Program, New Lambton Heights, Australia

Background: Rapid advances in mobile apps for clinical data collection for pain evaluation have resulted in more efficient data handling and analysis than traditional paper-based approaches. As paper-based visual analogue scale (p-VAS) scores are commonly used to assess pain levels, new emerging apps need to be validated prior to clinical application with symptomatic children and adolescents. Objectives: This study aimed to assess the validity and reliability of an electronic visual analogue scale (e-VAS) method via a mobile health (mHealth) App in children and adolescents diagnosed with hypermobility spectrum disorder/ hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (HSD/HEDS) in comparison with the traditional p-VAS.

Methods: Children diagnosed with HSD/HEDS aged 5-18 years were recruited from a sports medicine center in Sydney (New South Wales, Australia). Consenting participants assigned in random order to the e-VAS and p-VAS platforms were asked to indicate their current lower limb pain level and completed pain assessment e-VAS or p-VAS at one time point. Instrument agreement between the 2 methods was determined from the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) and Bland-Altman analysis. Results: In total, 43 children with HSD/HEDS aged 11 (SD 3.8) years were recruited and completed this study. The difference between the 2 VAS platforms of median values was 0.20. Bland-Altman analysis revealed a difference of 0.19 (SD 0.95) with limits of agreement ranging -1.67 to 2.04. An ICC of 0.87 (95% CI 0.78-0.93) indicated good reliability. Conclusion: These findings suggest that the e-VAS mHealth App is a validated tool and a feasible method of collecting pain recording scores when compared with the traditional paper format in children and adolescents with HSD/HEDS. The e-VAS App can be reliably used for pediatric pain evaluation, and it could potentially be introduced into daily clinical practice to improve real-time symptom monitoring. Further research is warranted to investigate the usage of the app for remote support in real clinical settings.

REFERENCES: NIL. Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.818

AB1784-HPR COMPARISON OF POSTURAL CHANGES AND FUNCTIONAL LEVELS AMONG DIFFERENT SUB-TYPES OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Keywords: Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures

Y. Akkubak1, T. Duger2, A. Kucuk. 1. Necmettin Erbakan University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Konya, Turkey; 2. Hacettepe University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 3. Necmettin Erbakan University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Konya, Turkey

Background: Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is divided into two sub-types as radiographic axSpA which is commonly known as ankylosing spondylitis, and non-radiographic axSpA which defines no structural radiographic damage in sacroiliac joints. The systemic, inflammatory nature of axSpA, chronic pain, inflammatory cytokines, changes in the bone and ligaments of the spine may affect spine posture and functional level. Objectives: The aim was to compare spine posture and functional levels differences among radiographic axSpA, non-radiographic axSpA patients and healthy controls. Methods: Twenty patients with radiographic axSpA (mean age; 39.9± 9.75, 15 female), 20 patients with non-radiographic axSpA (mean age; 38.55± 2.74, 15 female), and 20 age and sex-matched healthy controls (15 female) were included in the study. The patients were evaluated with Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Metrorology Index, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index, Ankylosing Spondylitis Quality of Life Questionnaire. Thoracic and lumbar curvature tests were measured with a digital inclinometer (Acumar, Dual Digital Inclinometer, Lafayette Instrument Company, IN, USA). Results: No differences were detected in disease activity level, disease-related status, disease-related quality of life between radiographic and non-radiographic axSpA patients (p>0.05). However, time since onset of symptoms, spinal mobility were higher in radiographic axSpA patients (p<0.05, Table 1). Radiographic and non-radiographic axSpA patients presented lower lumbal lordosis degree compared to healthy controls (p<0.001, Table 1). Conclusion: The results of the present study suggest that disease sub-types of axSpA may affect the spine posture, in particular thoracic curvature degree. Every effort should be taken to improve spine posture in axSpA patients; however, sub-type specific considerations should be kept in mind for planning exercise/ physical activity programs.


Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1863
Table 1. Comparison of groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease-Related Characteristics</th>
<th>Time Since Onset of Symptoms (months)</th>
<th>BASMI</th>
<th>BASFI</th>
<th>ASQOL</th>
<th>Lumbar curvature (°)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radiographic: axSpA (n: 20)</td>
<td>167.5±1010.105 103.8±49.16 NA</td>
<td>3.72±1.25</td>
<td>4.43±1.86</td>
<td>3.25±1.47</td>
<td>44.6±8.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-radiographic: axSpA (n: 20)</td>
<td>103.8±49.16 NA</td>
<td>1.95±0.52</td>
<td>3.62±1.48</td>
<td>3.08±1.66</td>
<td>39.4±0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Controls (n:20)</td>
<td>101.05 ±103.83 NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>33.78±2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>0.009*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05, **p<0.001

Conclusion:

The ETBQ-T was retested to examine its reliability after seven days. The test-retest reliability was excellent (Intraclass correlation coefficient= 0.959; Cronbach’s alpha= 0.919) (Table 1). The ETBQ-T had a good correlation with pain (r = 0.564, p <.001), satisfaction (r = 485, p <.001), and self-efficacy (r = 0.582, p <.001). However; The correlation of the ETBQ-T with EQ-5D (r = 0.364, p <.001) was weak. A factor was extracted, accounting for 58.28% of the total variation. There were no floor and ceiling effects.

Conclusion: The ETBQ-T is a reliable and valid tool to evaluate the exercise burden in the Turkish population with chronic disease.

Keywords: Outcome measures, Patient reported outcomes, Validation

E-Safi1, S. Safi1, Bingöl University, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, Bingöl, Turkey; Sanliurfa Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Sanliurfa, Turkey

Background: Chronic diseases, as demonstrated by the 36 million deaths they caused in 2008, are the most common cause of death worldwide. Exercise is one of the non-pharmacological treatment methods. The main objectives of exercise, one of the treatment methods, is to reduce pain, prevent loss of function in daily activities and work, and increase the quality of life, exercise capacity, and muscle strength. Although exercise benefits are known, more than half of the population does not exercise due to some exercise burden. However, there are no measurement methods assessing exercise burden patients with chronic disease.

Objectives: The objectives of the current study were to evaluate the Turkish validation of the Exercise Therapy Burden Questionnaire into Turkish (ETBQ-T) and to investigate its reliability and validity.

Methods: 100 participants (69 female and 31 male) who were diagnosed with at least 1 chronic disease participated in the translation validity, and reliability analysis of the study. Cross-culturally adaptation of the ETBQ-T was performed according to Beaton’s guideline. The ETBQ-T, the European Quality of Life 5 Dimensions (EQ-5D), pain, satisfaction, and self-efficacy were applied for convergent validity. The ETBQ-T was retested to examine its reliability after seven days.

Results: The internal consistency and reliability were excellent (Intraclass correlation coefficient= 0.959; Cronbach’s alpha= 0.919) (Table 1). The ETBQ-T had a good correlation with pain (r = 0.564, p <.001), satisfaction (r = 485, p <.001), and self-efficacy (r = 0.582, p <.001). However; The correlation of the ETBQ-T with EQ-5D (r = 0.364, p <.001) was weak. A factor was extracted, accounting for 58.28% of the total variation. There were no floor and ceiling effects.

Conclusion: The ETBQ-T is a reliable and valid tool to evaluate the exercise burden in the Turkish population with chronic disease.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. ICC and Cronbach’s alpha if item deleted results for the ETBQ-T

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETBQ-T</th>
<th>ICC (95% confidence interval)</th>
<th>Lower-Upper Bound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item 1</td>
<td>0.842 (0.725-0.909)</td>
<td>Except for item 1 0.909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 2</td>
<td>0.926 (0.871-0.958)</td>
<td>Except for item 2 0.910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 3</td>
<td>0.861 (0.757-0.920)</td>
<td>Except for item 3 0.910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 4</td>
<td>0.898 (0.830-0.941)</td>
<td>Except for item 4 0.909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 5</td>
<td>0.876 (0.784-0.929)</td>
<td>Except for item 5 0.913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 6</td>
<td>0.946 (0.906-0.969)</td>
<td>Except for item 6 0.913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 7</td>
<td>0.932 (0.881-0.961)</td>
<td>Except for item 7 0.910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 8</td>
<td>0.861 (0.759-0.920)</td>
<td>Except for item 8 0.915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 9</td>
<td>0.855 (0.747-0.917)</td>
<td>Except for item 9 0.911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 10</td>
<td>0.855 (0.748-0.917)</td>
<td>Except for item 10 0.915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cronbach’s alpha if item deleted

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2258

AB1786-HPR ASYNCHRONOUS TELECONSULTATION BY WHATSAPP CHATBOT IN CONTROLLED AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (SPA) PATIENTS UNDER BIOLOGICAL THERAPY: CLINICAL RESULTS OF A SINGLE CENTER

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, bDMARD, Telemedicine

E. Abad Plou1, N. Rivera2, E. Galindez1, E. Cuande1, A. R. Inchaurbe1, J. M. Blanco1, L. Vega1, C. Garcia1, M. Enjuanes1, O. Fernandez2, M. R. Exposito-Moliner1, M. E. Ruiz Luenga1, I. Torrel1, I. Gorostiza Harmoaete1, M. L. Garcia Viva1, Basurto University Hospital, Rheumatology, Bilbo, Spain; Biocruces Bizkaia Health Research Institute, Research Area, Bilbao, Spain; Basurto University Hospital, Research and Innovation unit, Bilbo, Spain

Background: The use of telehealth in the control of rheumatic diseases had been scarce, but COVID pandemic forced to try alternatives to classic face-to-face consultation, and an overflow of telehealth consultations appeared, mainly asynchronous (phone, video calls), and finally asynchronous. We try to demonstrate that asynchronous WhatsApp teleconsultation is a good alternative, at least for followup of patients that find it difficult to attend face-to-face visits. We chose axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) patients under biological therapy with controlled disease and we proposed teleconsultation with a WhatsApp platform chatbot created for this purpose. The chatbot sends PROMS (BASDAI, VAS for patient global disease assessment, ASDAs, and 3 questions for extraarticular disease), and receive feedback and schedule for the following visits.

Objectives: To prove that teleconsultation through WhatsApp platform is not inferior to face-to-face consultation in terms of maintaining axial SPA patients disease controlled.

Methods: Prospective study with retrospective control of patients diagnosed of Axial SPA, fulfilling ASAS criteria and with stable disease under biological therapy for the previous year, recruited from 01 jan to 30 nov 2021. We recruited 62 patients, but two of them gave up (personal reasons, one moved to other region), so we finally include 60 patients. We offer them two teleconsultation visits with their personal mobile device, every four months, and a face-to-face final visit one year after inclusion. In the case of lab test or PROMs deviation or when the patient asks for contact (possible via WhatsApp) he/she is called up by the person in charge (nurse/doctor) that solves the question and arranges an additional presentational visit if needed. We consider disease controlled if BASDAI<4, ASDAS=2,1 or if in rheumatologist’s opinion there is no need to change treatment. We collect patient and disease information (age, gender, employment, characteristics of the disease, previous and actual treatment), activity (BASDAI, PCR, ASDAS), physical function (BASFI), and Quality of life (AsQol).

Results: 60 patients (50 men, 83.3% were included, mean aged 48.22 years (SD 12,128), 36% were under 45 years at the time of inclusion. They were mostly Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) (90%); only 6 non radiographic SPA, positive HLA B27 (85%) and with longstanding disease (mean 23 years, SD 12,8), and only 6 patients less than five years. 25% had peripheral impairment (arthritis/dactylitis/ enthesitis), and more than 40% presented extraarticular manifestations, mainly psoriatis (28.7%) and uveitis (21%)

71.7% were under their first biological (TNF inhibitor, mostly adalimumab), 23.1% were refractory to the first, and 3 patients to at least two biologicals. 51.7% of patients were treated with tapered dose of TNF inhibitors. At inclusion 93.3 %
We did not find meaningful clinical differences between basal to final visits in BASDAI, BASFI, ASDAS-RCP or AstQoL.

3 patients with reduced dose of biological drug needed to increase to standard dose with no other need to treatment adjustment.

Conclusion: We consider asynchronous teleconsultation is promising, and not inferior to face to face consultation in terms of keeping disease control and quality of life, especially for follow-up in patients with stable rheumatic disease. The clinical results presented here are consistent with this considerations.

Acknowledgements: Grupo INNOBIDE.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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We presented remission/LDA by ASDAS/BADAI-RCP. Only 4 patients included presented higher activity scores but were considered clinically controlled.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BASDAI</th>
<th>BASFI</th>
<th>ASDAS-RCP</th>
<th>AstQOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start (SD)</td>
<td>1.725</td>
<td>2.108</td>
<td>1.288</td>
<td>2.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final (SD)</td>
<td>2.268</td>
<td>1.943</td>
<td>1.608</td>
<td>2.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEAN DIFFERENCE</td>
<td>0.5434</td>
<td>0.1492</td>
<td>0.3198</td>
<td>0.2456</td>
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</table>

Table 1. Demographic characterization of the participating patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant’s characteristics</th>
<th>n=91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>No support</td>
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Figure 1: Results of the PAM-13 tool in expert patients with RA

Conclusion: In general, expert RA patients are proactive with their health and have developed strong self-management skills evaluated through PAM-13. The use of these tools is important to assess the role of the patient in their treatment. This allows generating strategies that increase the commitment of patients during their therapy.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Fernando Rodríguez: None declared, Gabriela-Santiago Rodríguez-Vargas: None declared, Adriana Rojas-Villarraga: None declared, Pedro Santos-Moreno Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi.

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AB1788-HPR

ASYNCHRONOUS TELECONSULTATION BY WHATSAPP CHATBOT IN CONTROLLED AXIAL Spondylarthritis PATIENTS UNDER BIOLOGICAL THERAPY: PATIENTS’ PERSPECTIVE

Keywords: Telemedicine, Spondyloarthritides, Quality of life

M. L. Garcia Vivar1, E. Abad Plou1, N. Riveras2, E. Galindez2, E. Cuande3, A. R. Inchaurre2, J. M. Blanco1, L. Vega1, C. García1, M. Enjuanes1, O. Fernández6, M. R. Exposito-Moliner9, M. E. Ruiz Luca2, I. Torre1, I. Gorostiza1, Biocruces Bizkaia Health Research Institute, Research Institute, Bilbao, Spain; 1Basurto University Hospital, Rheumatology, Bilbao, Spain; 2Biocruces Bizkaia Health Research Institute, Research Institute, Bilbao, Spain; 3Basurto University Hospital, Research and Innovation Unit, Bilbao, Spain

Background: Before COVID pandemic, rheumatologists were not confident with telehealth for the need to acquire new technology, need of specific training and poorer reimbursement [1]. Two groups of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients have been identified in a study of PROMS-based telehealth use (2): the keen and the reluctant. We proposed teleconsultation followup with a whatsapp platform chatbot to our axial spondylarthritides (AxSpA) patients with controlled disease and we asked them for preferences at the end of the study.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Fernando Rodriguez: None declared, Gabriela S. Santiago Rodriguez-Vargas: None declared, Adriana Rojas-Villarraga: None declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3753

AB1787-HPR

A REAL-LIFE OF EXPERT PATIENT WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS. AN EVALUATION OF THE PATIENT ACTIVATION MEASURE PAM-13

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Patient reported outcomes

F. Rodriguez1, G. S. Rodríguez-Vargas2, A. Rojas-Villarraga3, P. Santos-Moreno3, 1BIO.-Center for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Patients Education, Bogotá, Colombia; 2BIOAMAB - Center for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Scientific Direction, Bogotá, Colombia; 3Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud FUCS, Research Institute, Bogotá, Colombia.

Background: In 2021, a group of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients were certified as an expert patients. These were trained for the care and management of their disease. During their training, they answered the Patient Activation Measure PAM-13 questionnaire, which measures people’s knowledge, skills and confidence in self-managing their health and medical care.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to know the activation and empowerment levels of the patients in their daily life and in their exercise as expert patients in RA, determining the self-management they have of their disease and the perspective they have developed towards their health and towards their health care team.

Methods: A group of expert patients with a diagnosis of RA were included. A sociodemographic characterization was carried out and variables such as age, marital status, educational level and support networks, among others, were measured. Patients filled out the PAM-13 questionnaire. This tool contains some phrases that people use to talk about their health. Each sentence contains response options that include: “strongly agree,” “agree,” “disagree” and “strongly disagree.” This exercise seeks to find out what patients think about aspects related to the care of their health condition and medical care. Descriptive statistics were done and the responses of the first two options were totaled (“strongly agree” and “agree”).

Results: A total of 91 patients were evaluated with the PAM-13 tool. General sociodemographic and clinical characteristics are shown in Table 1. With respect to the responses of the 13 variables of the PAM-13 questionnaire, the patients state (n[%]) that they have developed a high level of awareness in the care management of their disease [83 (91)], they have developed a high therapeutic adherence [83 (91)], understand that lifestyles are essential to avoid complications [83 (91)], adopted an effective and clear communication language with their medical team [82 (90)], developed self-care lifestyles [80 (88)], understand the importance of using prescribed medications [80 (88)], developed habits oriented towards a healthy and active life [78 (85)], understand the nature and symptoms of their disease [78 (85)], are aware that they are the main co-managers of their condition [78 (85)], frequently assist their medical team and use emergency services [79 (87)], act in crisis situations [80 (88)], follow instructions of their medical team [79 (87)], make shared decisions as [73 (80)] and make shared decisions as [65 (71)] (see Figure 1).
Objectives: To explore the degree of acceptance of asynchronous telehealth followup with whatsapp platform chatbot among our controlled AxSpA patients under biological therapy, and to search for a patient profile more prone to telehealth consultation.

Methods: A prospective study with retrospective control was performed, choosing AxSpA patients under biological therapy with stable disease, visited in our centre from 01/01 to 30/11/2021. We recruited 62 patients, but finally include 60 (2 quit for home moving or personal reasons). We offered them two teleconsultation visits (using their personal mobile), every four months, and a presental final visit one year after inclusion. The chatbot sends PROMs (BASDAI, VAS for patient global disease assessment, ASDAS, and 3 questions for extraarticular disease), and feedback and schedule for the following visits. In the case of lab test or PROMs deviation or when the patient asks for contact, he/she is phoned by nurse/doctor who solves the question and/or arranges an additional presental visit. We collect patient and disease characteristics (age, gender, educational level, employment, disease activity, duration and treatments), and patient’s satisfaction and preferences in the final visit.

Results: We included 60 patients (83.3% men), mean aged 48.22 years (SD 12.128), 36% under 45 years at inclusion. 27% had received primary, 33.9% secondary and 39% tertiary education. 83.3% were active working and only 10 patients were jobless or retired. They were Arthritis Spondylothritis (AS) (90%), HLA B27 positive (85%) with longstanding disease (mean 23 years, SD 12.8), and were receiving the first (71%), or the second (23%) biological therapy (51.7% tapered anti-TNF). 50% were never smokers and 70% presented no remarkable comorbidity; 25% presented peripheral impairment, and over 40% extraarticular manifestations. At inclusion 93.3% were at remission/LDA by ASDAS/BASDAI-RCP and 4 patients were considered clinically controlled in spite of higher scores. At followup 3 patients received reduced dose needed to increase to standard dose of biological drug, with no other need of treatment change. There was no worsening from basal to final visits according BASDAI, BASFI, ASDAS-RCP or AsQOL. Patients final VAS score (1-10) assessment of telehealth consultation was very high: mean 9.14 (SD 1.498); 91.7% ≥ 8 and 76.7% ≥ 9. 83.3% preferred telehealth followup. There was a trend towards telehealth preferences in higher educational levels, and active working (86% vs 70%) but not statistically significant. We found no correlation with gender, age and disease characteristics tested.

Conclusion: Asynchronous teleconsultation seems promising, not inferior to presental consultation and preferred for follow-up by our AxSpA patients with stable disease with biological drugs. We met some ‘reluctant patients’ that were more inactive working and with lower educational levels, but the differences were not significant. Further research is needed with this teleheathl model in other age and disease populations (RA), in order to characterize the reluctant and keen patients.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: Grupo INNOBIDE.

Disclose of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1789-HPRI

30 SECONDS CHAIR STAND TEST - FEASIBLE AS SELF-ASSESSMENT TEST FOR KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS?

Keywords: Self-management, Diagnostic Tests, Outcome measures

C. M. Ho-Henriksson1,2, C. A. Thorstensson1,3, L. Nordeman1,4. 1Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology, Sahlgrenska Academy, Gothenburg University, Health and Rehabilitation, Göteborg, Sweden; 2Region Västra Götaland, Primary Care Rehabilitation, Närhälsan Lidköping Rehabilitation Centre, Lidköping, Sweden; 3Region Halland, Research and Development Department, Halmstad, Sweden; 4Region Västra Götaland, Research, Education, Development and Innovation Centre Södra Älvborg, Borås, Sweden

Background: A reliable self-assessment test to evaluate physical performance could be useful for patients with knee osteoarthritis to monitor physical function over time. However, studies comparing a self-assessment test with standardized testing in the clinic supervised by a physiotherapist is lacking. The 30 seconds chair stand test is part of a test battery which is recommended both in research and in clinical settings for patients with osteoarthritis [1]. The chair stand test is a reliable physical performance test for patients with knee osteoarthritis [2, 3].

Objectives: The purpose is to evaluate the 30 seconds chair stand test as self-assessment test for patients with knee osteoarthritis and when it is supervised by a physiotherapist.

Methods: A sample size of 147 patients with knee osteoarthritis will be recruited. Each patient will perform two self-assessment tests with two days in between. Another test supervised by physiotherapist will be conducted within a week after the second self-test. Demographic data, knee-related quality of life using knee injury and osteoarthritis score – short version (KOOS-PS) [3], pain duration, pain intensity using numeric rating scale (NRS) 0-10 [4], pain sites, experienced intermittent and constant knee pain (ICOAP) [5], will be collected. Data collection is ongoing and preliminary data will be presented descriptively.

Results: So far, 91 patients have been recruited, whereas 60 patients (58% females) with a mean age of 69 years, and mean body mass index of 30 (SD 9) have been included in the preliminary analysis. Patients reported mean pain duration of 46 months (SD 52), rating mean pain intensity 3/10 (SD 2), and 83% had pain in more than one joint. Patients reported mild to moderate pain (total mean ICOAP-score 44/100, SD 21). KOOS-PS score was 60/100 (SD 14) showing moderate difficulties in knee-related daily activities. Mean number of chair stands for self-assessment tests 1 and 2 were 13.7 (SD 5.6) and 14.7 (SD 6.0) respectively and mean number supervised by physiotherapists were 13.3 (SD 4.8).

Conclusion: Preliminary results of this study indicate that 30 seconds chair stand test as self-assessment test might be an option for patients with knee osteoarthritis to monitor their own physical performance. Yet, to ensure the agreement between self-assessment and physiotherapist assessment, a reliability study is needed.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6212
HPR Epidemiology and public health (including prevention).

AB1790-HPR COVID-19: AFTER TWO YEARS OF IATROGENIC AND BIOLOGIC IMMUNIZATION/VACCINATION DO WE ACTUALLY NEED FURTHER BOOSTER IMMUNIZATION/VACCINATION?

Keywords: COVID, Vaccination/Immunization, Epidemiology
C. Pohl1. 1Internistisch-Rheumatologische Hausarztpraxis, Dr. Med. Christoph Pohl, Berlin, Germany

Background: The Covid19 pandemic started in late 2019 and went through different phases by spreading from China around the whole globe. During the pandemic different mutation types got predominant from original Wuhan type through Alpha, Delta and Omicron variate BA 1/2 to BA 4/5 with different infectiosity and different potential to harm people’s health status. Immunization/vaccination program started late 2020, first booster phase started midst of 2021, second booster phase in late 2021/ beginning of 2022 and Omicron specific booster phase midst of 2022.

Objectives: Is there a need of further iatrogenic (booster) immunization/vaccination after 2 years of immunization/vaccination program from efficacy driven analysis and safety issues standpoint?

Methods: Analysis of Covid-19 antibody development every three months since August 2021 with comparison of infection rates and safety assessment of persons by assessing D-Dimers as potential endothelium damage marker in 725 patients (600 female, 125 male, age mean: 62.2 years) of a German rheumatological practice to improve the medical care.

Results: In 99 % of the patients longstanding immune memory could be shown by analyzing the antibody curves in different exemplary shown biologic and iatrogenic immunization pathways after 2 years of immunization/vaccination program and biologic immunization, mainly by Delta variate since late 2021 and Omicron variate since beginning of 2022. In 36.5 % of the patients the safety concerns of potential endothelium damage by analyzing D-Dimers every 3 months showed a side effect potential of at least 8 months after every MRNA/Vector immunization, but not after protein based vaccination and even not after infections in that amount.

Conclusion: Out of the obligation "nil nocere" no further iatrogenic Covid-19 immunization/vaccination is of need in nearly all (99 %) already immunized people. At present only adult people with very low antibody levels (at least below 64 BAU/ml) (considering the infection or iatrogenic immunization/vaccination status and time since last spike protein contact) and not yet immunized adult people should be forseen for iatrogenic immunization/vaccination with protein based or attenuated viral vaccines or in rare cases one Omicron specific MRNA immunization drug. In that case D-Dimer controls for up to 8 months should be obligatory to detect endothelial damage side effect of MRNA (or Vector) technique. Intense cardiovascular monitoring (small vessels) of MRNA/Vector immunized people in the next 10 – 20 years is necessary.

REFERENCES:


Figure 1.

REFERENCES:


[6] Erich Freisleben; Sie wollten alles richtig machen – Dokumentation eines verschwiegengen Leidens – Bericht eines Hausarztes über die Nebenwirkungen der Corona Impfungen; Nov 11, 2022; Cajuys Verlag


Acknowledgements: Thanks to my family, all my patients and my colleagues for supporting me in my research to improve my personal patient care.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DO: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.689

AB1791-HPR EVALUATION OF DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC DELAY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Education, Inflammatory arthritides, Health Services Research
M. Iacoantinuo1, S. Ferraigo1, P. Conigliano1, P. Triggianese1, A. D’Antonio1, F. R. Spinelli1, A. Bergamini1, M. S. Chimenti1. 1University of Rome Tor Vergata. Rheumatology, Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Department of Systems Medicine, Rome, Italy; 2Sapienza University of Rome, Rheumatology Unit, Department of Clinical Internal, Anesthesiological and Cardiovascular Sciences, Rome, Italy

Background: Inflammatory arthritis, such as Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA), are diseases that require timely therapeutic intervention to reduce or stop the progression of joint damage and diseases flares. Early diagnosis and rapid accessibility to care lead to a better patient management.

Objectives: We conducted a monocentric study in a cohort of patients affected by RA or PsA to assess factors related to diagnostic delay and accessibility to treatments, in order to improve patients management.

Methods: Between June and September 2022, clinical and serological characteristics, time (months-years) between symptoms onset and the diagnosis and the initiation on csDMARDs/ts/bDMARDs therapy, of RA patients - according to EULAR/ACR 2010 criteria - and PsA patients - according to CASPAR criteria - were collected. In addition we evaluated place of residence (small/big city >200,000), who made referral to the rheumatologist center, physician who made the diagnosis (rheumatologist/other specialist/family doctor), possible wrong diagnosis previously made. Statistical analysis was conducted using Student Ttest/ Mann-Whitney U Test/one-way ANOVA when appropriate, via GraphPad Prism version 8.0.2. P values <0.05 were considered significant.

Results: 100 RA patients and 100 PsA patients were included (table I). Statistical significant differences were observed concerning: diagnostic delay (PsA patients 5.2±7.6 yrs vs versus RA patients 2.5±4.6 yrs, p=0.003), time passed between symptoms onset and initiation of csDMARDs therapy (PsA 5.3±7.6 yrs vs RA 2.7±5.1, p=0.006), and between diagnosis and initiation of ts/bDMARDs therapy (PsA 3.5±5.5 vs RA 7.1±6.8, p=0.0007). In the two groups: - in the residents of small and medium sized cities compared to the big cities residents, in the diagnostic delay (6.1±10.2 vs 2±1.8, p=0.02) in the time between symptoms onset and the start of first line therapy with csDMARDs (6.4±10.7 years vs 2.3±1.9 years, p=0.02). - In patients who have been diagnosed by another physician rather than rheumatologist, in the diagnostic delay (4.7±11.1 vs 3.9±6.2, p=0.034) and in the start of line therapy (4.7±11 vs 4.2±8.7, p=0.019) in RA: - In the group of patients who had a previous diagnosis - mostly osteoarthritis (35.5%) and UCTD (16.1%) - in diagnostic delay (3.7±6.7 vs 1.9±3.1, p=0.03) and in the time between symptoms onset and initiation of a csDMARD (4.6±8.8 vs 2.1±4.1, p=0.05). In seronegative RA: - Delay in diagnosis (4.2±4.7 vs 1.8±4.6, p=0.02) and starting of line therapy (4.5±5.3 vs 2±5.1, p=0.03) and II-line therapy from symptoms onset (11.6±8.6 yrs vs 7.9±7.8 years, p=0.04) compared with the seronegative ones. In PsA: - In patients with previous diagnosis - mostly osteoarthritis (34.1%) and fibromyalgia (19.1%) - in the diagnostic delay (8.1±10 vs 3±4.1, p=0.003), in the time passed between symptoms onset and initiation of csDMARDs (8.1±10 vs 3±4.2, p=0.001) and ts/bDMARDs therapy (12±11.1 vs 6±6.5, p=0.0004).

Conclusion: Diagnostic delay is greater in PsA than in RA, in both groups of patients living in small medium cities and in those who have been diagnosed by another specialist. Major diagnostic delay is present in both groups of patients who...
Table 1. Clinical, serological and demographic features of the study population.

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<td>Another specialist (n/%)</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

HPR Patients’ perspectives, functioning and health (descriptive: qualitative or quantitative).

AB1794-HPR SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: IS THERE A GENDER DIFFERENCE?

Keywords: Gender differences, Spondyloarthritis.

S. Milladi1, O. Hamdi1, F. Alaia1, H. Boussaa1, Y. Makhlof1, L. Souabni1, K. Ouenniche1, S. Kassab1, S. Chekili1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, A. Laatar1.

Mongi Slim hospital, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

BACKGROUND: Spondyloarthritis (SpA) affects men more frequently than women.

Few studies have analysed gender differences in clinical and biological characteristics of SpA, hence the purpose of this study.

OBJECTIVES: We aimed to analyse gender differences in SpA manifestations and disease activity.

METHODS: We conducted a cross-sectional study including 30 men and 30 women with SpA meeting the 2009 ASAS criteria. The comparison between men and women included the following data: age at onset, disease duration, clinical and biological characteristics, activity scores (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) and Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS)), and functional impact (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI)).

RESULTS: Compared to women, male patients had a younger age at disease onset (M= 24.7 ±7.7 vs F= 19.9 ±7.1; p=0.00), a longer disease duration (M= 14.3 ±6.1 vs F= 11.9 ±4.2; p=0.05), a longer morning stiffness (p=0.01) and a greater number of nocturnal awakenings (p=0.01). Similarly, SpA was more active in male patients compared to female patients: CRP (M= 22.5 ±3.5 vs F= 14 ±2; p=0.00) and ASDAS (M= 3.7 ±0.7 vs F= 2.9 ±2.0; p=0.01). Coxitis was more common among male patients: M= 28.3% vs F= 13.3%; p=0.00. No gender differences were observed for VS, BASDAI, BASFI and therapeutic strategy. Comorbidities were predominant in male patients: cardiovascular disease (M= 18.3% vs F= 8.3%; p=0.00), osteoporosis (M= 16% vs F= 13.3%; p=0.05), hypertension (M= 15% vs F= 6.6%; p=0.01) and dyslipidemia (M= 11.6% vs F= 6.6%; p=0.01). However, depression was more common among female patients (p=0.01).

CONCLUSION: Our study showed that SpA was more active in male patients. Comorbidities were more common among men compared to women. Further studies should be conducted to better illuminate gender differences in SpA.

REFERENCES: NIL.

AB1795-HPR COXITIS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: IS THERE ANY CORRELATION BETWEEN CATASTROPHIZING AND FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY?

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis.

O. Hamdi1, H. Boussaa1, S. Milladi1, B. A. Hiba1, L. Souabni1, K. Ouenniche1, S. Kassab1, S. Chekili1, K. Ben Abdelghani1, F. Alaia1, A. Laatar1, Mongi Slim hospital, Rheumatology, Tunisia, Tunisia

BACKGROUND: Coxitis is more common in RA than in the general population.

METHODS: Coxitis was diagnosed in 28 patients (56%) in our RA population with a mean age of 66±10 years. Coxitis was defined according to the ACR criteria.

RESULTS: Coxitis was more common among male patients: M= 28.3% vs F= 13.3%; p=0.01. Coxitis was associated with concomitant arthritis in 81.8% of cases among male patients vs 31.2% among female patients (p=0.05).

CONCLUSION: Coxitis might be associated with more disease activity and severity in RA patients. Further studies are needed to confirm these results.

REFERENCES: NIL.
Background: Coxitis is a marker of severity in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) since it is associated with a functional disability. Therefore, it leads to a loss of autonomy with a significant psychological impact.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients with RA (2010 ACR/EULAR criteria). Clinical, biological and radiological data were collected. RA activity was assessed using the Disease Activity Score (DAS28 ESR). The quality of life was assessed using the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ). Hip function was assessed using the Lequesne algofunctional index (IAF). Catastrophizing was evaluated by the Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS), which is composed of 13 items. PCS total score varies from 0 (no catastrophizing) to 52 (significant tendency to catastrophizing). The correlation between Lequesne IAF and PCS was evaluated using the Spearman test.

Results: We included 80 patients (76 women and 4 men) with an average age of 47 ± 12.9 years. The average age at diagnosis was 29.7±7.3 years. The mean disease duration was 11.6±2 years. RA was erosive in 90% of cases. Rheumatoid factor and anti-citrullinated peptides antibodies were positive in 83% and 85% of cases, respectively. Seventy-five percent of patients were on corticosteroids with an average dose of 10 mg per day of Prednisone equivalent. All patients were on DMARDs: methotrexate (85%), leflunomide (11.2%), and bDMARDs (37.5%). The mean pain Visual Analog Scale was 5.5 cm. The mean overall patient assessment was 4 cm. The mean number of nocturnal awakenings was 1.5. The mean duration of morning stiffness was 45±7.5 minutes. The mean ESR was 29.4±6. The mean CRP was 19.5±4.4. The mean DAS28 ESR was 5.4±2.2. The mean HAQ was 1.2±0.4. The mean PCS was 34.3. Coxitis was noted in 28.7% of patients. It was involuntary in 52% of cases and bilateral in 14 cases. The mean coxitis duration was 6.8 years. The mean Lequesne IAF was 10.5±3.2. A statistically significant correlation was noted between Lequesne IAF and PCS (r=0.41; p<0.01).

Conclusion: Our study showed that functional disability associated with rheumatoid coxitis was moderately correlated with catastrophizing. Comprehensive management, taking into account the cognitive behavioural sphere, is thus recommended in RA patients with coxitis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.104
was one of the questions in the interview, where the patients themselves elaborated on their answers.

**Results:** Of the included six SSc patients with PAH, 4 (67%) were female and 2 (33%) men with mean disease duration of 5 years since PAH diagnosis (Table 1). NYHA functional class varied from 1 (mild) to 4 (severe) with a median of 3. Patients reported fatigue (VAS) was the most prominent symptom (Figure 1), confirmed by the results from the interviews. This also lead to physical and psychological challenges in everyday life, and reduced HrQoL. The patients’ were mostly satisfied with the nurses, but felt some nurses had not the time when the patients needed it the most. The patients also highlighted that they felt that some of the nurses did not have enough knowledge about the diagnosis. This led to patients’ repetition and explanation why their oxygen level was reduced, why they had heavy breathing or why it was not possible to measure pulse or oxygen level on the fingers, due to reduces peripheral circulation. The patients’ wish was also to be seen and understood by their caregivers and friends.

**Conclusion:** Our study revealed that fatigue was the main symptom causing reduced HrQoL. Moreover, we show the importance of educated expert nurses in the management of PAH in SSc and the inclusion of information to caregivers, patients and next of kin. Nurse’s awareness about the symptom burden and unmet needs of patients with SSc-PAH is important to give the best possible patient care.

**Table 1. Patient characteristics.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PATIENT</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSc duration (y)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAH treatment</td>
<td>ERA</td>
<td>ERA</td>
<td>ERA</td>
<td>ERA</td>
<td>ERA</td>
<td>ERA</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAH duration (y)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHC – mPAP (mmHg)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>NYHA Class</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

F: female; M: male; SSc: systemic sclerosis; PAH: pulmonary arterial hypertension; ERA: endothelin receptor antagonist; PDE5: Phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitor; PGi2: Prostacyclin pathway agonist; RHC: right heart catheterization at the time of PH diagnosis; mPAP: mean pulmonary arterial pressure; NYHA: New York Heart Association.

**Background:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune disease mediated by autantibodies, with involvement of various organs[1,2]. El 95% of patients with SLE have musculoskeletal involvement[1], most often in the form of arthralgias or non-erosive arthritis affecting mainly the hands and knees. Although the feet are equally affected and can result in significant disability, they have been little studied.

**Objectives:** To determine changes in foot involvement in patients with SLE after 12 months of follow-up.

**Methods:** Longitudinal case series. Thirty-six subjects with a diagnosis of SLE were consecutively recruited in the Rheumatology Unit between March and June 2021 and followed up at 12 months. Inclusion criteria were: patients with a diagnosis of SLE according to EULAR/ACR 2019 criteria, with at least one year of evolution and age equal to or older than 18 years. A Rheumatology nurse collected information on socio-demographic data and the questionnaires at baseline and at 12 months. The questionnaires were: SLEDAI (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Activity Index) and SLICC (Darnage Index for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus), quality of life: EQ-5D, foot function: FPI (Foot Function Index), FAAM (Foot and Ankle Ability Measure Questionnaire), FAAM-Sport, FPI (Foot Posture Index). A descriptive analysis of the main variables, and a paired t-test or Wilcoxon t-test, as appropriate, were performed between the baseline and 12-month follow-up visits.

**Results:** Thirty-six patients with SLE (97.2% women) with a mean (SD) age of 49.9±11.4 years with a range 23-66 years participated. Regarding treatment a total of 22/36 patients (66.2%) had immunosuppressive treatment, 4/36 (11.1%) biological therapy and 26/36 (72.2%) hydroxychloroquine treatment. After 12 months of follow-up, the disease remained stable and there were no significant differences in the SLICC and SLEDAI indices of SLE. There were also no significant differences in the different foot questionnaires administered: FAAM, FAAM-Sport, FPI, FFI after 12 months of evolution. There was only a worsening in VAS EQ5D (p=0.028) although there was no significant change in EQ5D (p=0.773) (Table 1).

**Conclusion:** In SLE patients with stable disease over one year of follow-up, assessments of foot function and ability remain unchanged. It is important to integrate foot assessment into the joint evaluation because of the high impact on the patient’s quality of life and patient functionality.

**REFERENCES:**


**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3184

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Baseline (Means SD)</th>
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<th>P value</th>
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<tr>
<td>EGSQ</td>
<td>0.54±0.25</td>
<td>0.55±0.23</td>
<td>0.773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVAESQ</td>
<td>66.43±21.61</td>
<td>57.36±24.77</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFI</td>
<td>375.2±25.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAAM</td>
<td>0.65±0.23</td>
<td>1.05±0.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAAM-Sport</td>
<td>0.51±0.28</td>
<td>0.57±0.28</td>
<td>0.779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPI right</td>
<td>2.33±2.19</td>
<td>2.37±2.21</td>
<td>0.324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPI left</td>
<td>1.36±1.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLICC</td>
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<td>0.257</td>
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<td>SLEDAI</td>
<td>1.44±1.94</td>
<td>1.02±1.87</td>
<td>0.117</td>
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**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3184

**AB1799-HPR**

**COMPARISON OF EXERCISE CAPACITY, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVEL, AND PERIPHERAL MUSCLE STRENGTH IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS WITH HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy, Quality of life

**L. Cano Garcia1, J. Marco-Lledó2, A. Garcia Studer1, L. Ramos Petersen2, A. Reinoso Cobo3, J. García-Campos2.**

1Hospital Regional Universitario de Málaga, Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga (IBIMA), Rheumatology, Málaga, Spain; 2Universidad Miguel Hernández; Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica de Alicante, Departamento de Podología, Alicante, Spain; 3Universidad de Málaga, Departamento de Podología, Málaga, Spain

**Background:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic, autoimmune, inflammatory rheumatic disease that causes tissue damage through autoantibodies and immune complexes. Patients with chronic diseases such as SLE fall into a vicious circle. Fatigue and depression can negatively affect the quality of life and cause patients to stay at home and hence, be physically inactive. As a result of physical inactivity; the exercise capacity and muscle strength of SLE patients can decrease.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:**

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3184

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline (Means SD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>SLEDAI</td>
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<td>0.117</td>
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</table>
Objectives: The aim of this study is to investigate the physical activity, peripheral muscle strength, exercise capacity, sleep, fatigue, anxiety, and depression levels between patients with SLE and healthy individuals.

Methods: We recruited 100 patients with SLE (mean age: 39.3 years ± 12.9, 59% women) and 29 healthy individuals (20 (23/32) years) were compared. Exercise capacity (6-minute walk test (6MWT)), peripheral muscle strength (dynamometer), physical activity (the Xiaomi Mi Band 4 smart bracelet device), fatigue (Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS)), anxiety and depression (Hospital Anxiety Depression scale (HADS)), quality of life (SLE-specific QoL scale (SLEQoL)), and sleep (Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI)) were assessed.

Results: Demographic characteristics were similar in both groups except for cigarette consumption (pack-years) (p = 0.05). 6MWT distance, peripheral muscle strength, physical activity level, SLEQoL, and PSQI scores were significantly lower; FSS and HAD scores were higher in patients with SLE (p < 0.05). Moreover, the difference between post and pretest values of heart rate, dyspnea, fatigue, and quadriceps femoris muscle fatigue was higher in patients with SLE compared to healthy individuals.

Conclusion: Patients with SLE had lower exercise capacity, muscle strength, quality of life, and sleep quality, and higher fatigue, anxiety, and depression. In addition, these patients were physically inactive. Further studies are needed to investigate the effects and efficiency of these symptoms on patients with SLE.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3464

AB1800-HPR EVALUATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF PATIENTS WITH SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Keywords: Spondyloarthritis, Patient information and education, Best practices

S. Farh1, T. Latte1, R. Honsali1, H. Rikain2,1, Bensaghir2, C. Charouz2, B. Amine1, R. Bahr1, S. Ehlai1, R. Razine1, S. Nouri1, F. Korabi1, S. Ez-Zaoui1, F. El Joum1, S. Bahloul1, N. Alami1, F. Allali1, Al Ayachi Hospital, Rheumatology B, Sale, Morocco; 1Exeic Physology and Autonomous and Nervous System Team, Physiology Laboratory, Rabat, Morocco; 2Al Ayachi Hospital, Rheumatology A, Sale, Morocco; 1Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat, Department of Public Health, Rabat, Morocco

Background: Spondyloarthritis is a chronic inflammatory rheumatic disease mostly affecting young adults, causing functional disability and impaired quality of life. Thus, patient education is a major component to improve their knowledge of the disease, therapeutic compliance and quality of life.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to evaluate the knowledge and practices of patients with spondyloarthritis and determine the factors associated with them.

Methods: This is an observational, descriptive, analytical and monocentric study, in patients followed up at Al Ayachi University Hospital in the Rabat-Sale region of Morocco. The study duration was from the beginning of May 2022 to the beginning of July 2022. The consent of the study population was free and informed. A team of rheumatologists, which includs socio-demographic information, prior knowledge and practices of patients with spondyloarthritis. We calculated a score of correct answers ranging between 0 and 10 for each patient.

Results: We recruited 100 patients with a mean age of 39.3 years ± 12.9, 59% were men and 17% were illiterate. 85% of the population came from an urban environment, and 79% were unemployed. 68% of the patients suffered from ankylosing spondylitis, 17% had psoriatic arthritis, 13% were affected by inflammatory bowel disease associated arthropathy and 2% had juvenile spondyloarthritis. 31% of patients considered that the disease can affect young adults, wherein 43% reported a male predominance. 47% reported that the cause of the disease is genetic, 34% declared that it is related to immunity whereas entheseus affection was known by 52% of patients. 81% find that therapeutic management helps prevent deformities and 97% see that it improves the quality of life. Furthermore, only 4% of patients knew that NSAIDs are a disease-modifying treatment and 7% were aware that pneumopathy could be a potential complication of Methotrexate. 73% of patients knew what a biologic drugs is, when biosimilar was only known by 10% of them, yet 45% knew that tuberculosis is one of the infections that can occur under biologic drugs. This study revealed that 63% of patients had a total score of correct answers superior to 5 (for a max score of 10) and 37% had a total score between 0-5.

Conclusion: Although this study showed decent knowledge and good practices among the Moroccan patients with spondyloarthritis. The doctor-patient contact and the multimedia information as well as patients' associations remain as useful means to improve this knowledge.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3608

AB1802-HPR PAIN IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS MAY NOT BE ALWAYS INFLAMMATORY

Keywords: Pain, Spondyloarthritis, Inflammatory arthritides

I. Kurut Aysin1, G. Alp1, E. Durak Ediboglu2, E. Otman Akad1, H. Canikli1, E. Erpek1, A. Ozkan1, H. Kocayaan1, D. Solmaz2, S. Aser1, Izmir Katip Celebi University Ataturk Training and Research Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Many patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) report persistent pain even when treated with anti-inflammatory agents. Therefore, it can be hypothesized that this persistent pain may not be entirely of inflammatory origin and additional pain mechanisms may play a role (1).

Objectives: To evaluate the frequency of central sensitization (CS) and neurogenic pain (NP) in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and its relationship with disease activity and functional status.

Methods: Patients classified as axSpA according to ASAS 2009 criteria were included in this cross-sectional study. Presence of CS was evaluated with the CS inventory (CSI; a 25-item questionnaire that a score of ≥40 point scored out of 100 is positive for CS. Presence of depression and anxiety were evaluated with Hospital Anxiety and Depression questionnaire (HADS), and fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) by ACR 2016 criteria. Neuropathic pain (NP) was assessed with DN4 (Doulou Neuropathique en 4 questions) questionnaire. In addition, the patients’ BASDAI, ASDAS-CRP, BASFI, ASQol, ASAS-HI/environmental scores were also calculated.

Results: 121 axSpA patients[102 (84.3%)] radiographic axSpA, 74 (62.1%) male, mean age: 43.9 ± 10.6 years] were included in the study. Of our patients 84% were receiving biological therapy. Other characteristics of the patients are summarized in Table 1. CS was detected in 35 (26.9%), NP in 12 (10.1%) and FMS in 9 (7.7%) patients. Age and advanced treatment usage rates were similar between the groups. Among patients with CS the percentage of female was higher, there was no sex difference for patients with NP and FMS. Duration of the disease was shorter in the CS group. Patients and physician global assessment of disease activity (PGA and PhGA respectively), BASDAI, Leeds enthesis index (LEI), ASQol, ASAS-HI were found to be significantly higher in patients with CS and NP. In addition, BASFI and ASAS-HI environmental scores were worse in those with CS. While anxiety was higher in those patients with CS and NP according to the HADS questionnaire, the rates of depression were similar. Six (17.1%) patients with CS also had NP and 6 (50%) patients with NP had also CS. While 9 patients with FMS had CS, only 2 had NP CS severity and disease activity and quality of life scores showed a strong positive correlation (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Approximately one-third of axSpA patients, most of which received advanced therapy, have CS and ≥10 of them have NP. Both quality of life and activity measures were found to be higher in patients who have CS. Therefore it should be kept in mind in axSpA patients pain may not be always due to inflammatory origin of the disease, but may be due to non-inflammatiory causes of pain.

The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) values were used to assess functional and daily living activities. The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) was used to assess anxiety and depression levels.

**Results:** The mean age of the patients was 39.99 ± 10.0 years. The mean BASDAI scores indicated active disease and were 5.98 ± 1.78. There was a statistically significant moderate correlation between the BETY and the anxiety and depression subscales of HADS and BASDAI, in the positive direction (n=0.692, p<0.001 and n=0.685, p<0.001 and n=0.592, p<0.001). A statistically significant, strong correlation was found between the BETY, HAQ and BASFI scores in the positive direction (n=0.834, p<0.001 and r=0.747, p<0.001) (Table 1). It was observed that patients showed anxiety and depression characteristics according to HADS cut-off values (>10 and >7).

**Conclusion:** It was concluded that the biopsychosocial status of anti-TNF naive patients with AS was affected by anxiety-depression levels, functionality, and disease activity score. In addition to anti-TNF therapy, it was interpreted that the treatment of biopsychosocial characteristics of patients should also be taken into consideration in disease management.

**REFERENCE:**


### Table 1. Clinical and sociodemographic characteristics of axSpA patient group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>n=121</th>
<th>Patients with CS n=35</th>
<th>Patients without CS n=86</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, year*</td>
<td>43.9 ± 10.6</td>
<td>41 (11)</td>
<td>44 (19)</td>
<td>0.109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, female*</td>
<td>47 (38.8)</td>
<td>22 (62.9)</td>
<td>25 (79.1)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease duration, yearA</td>
<td>4.5 ± 0.9</td>
<td>10 (11)</td>
<td>13.9 ± 8.2</td>
<td>0.022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peripheral arthritis, ever*</td>
<td>54 (45.1)</td>
<td>10 (28.6)</td>
<td>45 (58.8)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint limitation, ever*</td>
<td>40 (33.6)</td>
<td>6 (15.4)</td>
<td>34 (40.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEF1</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>7 (20.6)</td>
<td>4 (4.7)</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI</td>
<td>2 (0.2)</td>
<td>3.9 (2.9)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI</td>
<td>1.9 (3.1)</td>
<td>3.8 (3.9)</td>
<td>1.5 (2.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASASCRP1A</td>
<td>1.8 (1.2)</td>
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<td>1.6 (0.9)</td>
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<td>ASASOL1A</td>
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<td>11 (7)</td>
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<td>ASASHI1HPSR</td>
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<td>9 (5)</td>
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<td>ASASHI1_env</td>
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<tr>
<td>BASFI HADS</td>
<td>9 (7.6)</td>
<td>9 (27.3)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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<td>BASDAI HADS</td>
<td>21 (17.3)</td>
<td>15 (42.9)</td>
<td>6 (17.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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</table>

*:n(%); **mean(SD); &median (IQR)

---

**Keywords:** Spondyloarthritis, Patient reported outcomes, Cognitive Function

**Background:** Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a rheumatic disease that affects patients in a biopsychosocial framework due to its chronic inflammatory nature. It is known that anti-TNF therapy is given to patients with persistently high disease activity despite conventional treatments according to the ASAS recommendations [1].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to examine the factors associated with the biopsychosocial status of patients with AS who were decided to be treated with anti-TNF therapy for the first time.

**Methods:** 76 AS patients who were decided to treated with anti-TNF therapy included in the study. Socio-demographic informations of patients were collected. The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) values were recorded for disease activity levels. Biopsychosocial status of the patients was evaluated by the BETY-Biopsychosocial Questionnaire (BETY-BQ). The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI) and Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) were used to assess functional and daily living activities. The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) was used to assess anxiety and depression levels.

**Results:**

- The mean age of the patients was 39.99 ± 10.0 years. The mean BASDAI scores indicated active disease and were 5.98 ± 1.78.
- There was a statistically significant moderate correlation between the BETY and the anxiety and depression subscales of HADS and BASDAI, in the positive direction (n=0.692, p<0.001 and n=0.685, p<0.001 and n=0.592, p<0.001).
- A statistically significant, strong correlation was found between the BETY, HAQ and BASFI scores in the positive direction (n=0.834, p<0.001 and r=0.747, p<0.001).
- It was observed that patients showed anxiety and depression characteristics according to HADS cut-off values (>10 and >7).

**Conclusion:** It was concluded that the biopsychosocial status of anti-TNF naive patients with AS was affected by anxiety-depression levels, functionality, and disease activity score. In addition to anti-TNF therapy, it was interpreted that the treatment of biopsychosocial characteristics of patients should also be taken into consideration in disease management.

**REFERENCE:**


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### Table 1. Patients characteristics and correlation of outcome measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients Characteristics (n=76)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>27.81 ± 5.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of disease (year)</td>
<td>4.21 ± 5.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>BETY-BQ (0-120)</td>
<td>60.0 ± 23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASDAI (0-10)</td>
<td>5.98 ± 1.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASFI (0-10)</td>
<td>5.16 ± 2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADS anxiety</td>
<td>10.43 ± 4.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>depression</td>
<td>8.53 ± 4.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAQ</td>
<td>15.70 ± 9.48</td>
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**Correlations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BASDAI</th>
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<th>HAQ</th>
<th>HADS-a</th>
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<td>BETY-BQ</td>
<td>0.552</td>
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<td>0.747</td>
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<td>0.000</td>
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* Pearson test

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5173

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**Keywords:** Safety

**Background:** Janus kinase inhibitors drugs (JAKI) are novel small molecule medications known to cause abnormalities such as elevations in hepatic transaminases, decreases in neutrophil and lymphocyte counts and elevations in cholesterol and creatinine kinase. Blood monitoring is recommended and dose adjustments are advised if abnormalities arise. Recent warnings by the EMA and MHRA have highlighted the importance of monitoring these medications. Timely review and management of patients on JAKI drugs is difficult to maintain with increasing workload amongst the rheumatology team. A baseline audit (2020) demonstrated that hospital blood monitoring guidelines for JAKI drugs were not being followed. The rheumatology multidisciplinary team met and utilised Quality Improvement methodology including fish and driver diagrams to address this. This led to the creation of a pharmacist-led JAKI blood monitoring clinic.

**HPR Service developments, innovation and economics in healthcare.**

**AB1804-HPR** IMPROVING PATIENT SAFETY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHARMACIST-LED BLOOD MONITORING CLINIC FOR JAK INHIBITORS IN RHEUMATOLOGY

**Keywords:** Safety

**Background:** Janus kinase inhibitors drugs (JAKI) are novel small molecule medications known to cause abnormalities such as elevations in hepatic transaminases, decreases in neutrophil and lymphocyte counts and elevations in cholesterol and creatinine kinase. Blood monitoring is recommended and dose adjustments are advised if abnormalities arise. Recent warnings by the EMA and MHRA have highlighted the importance of monitoring these medications. Timely review and management of patients on JAKI drugs is difficult to maintain with increasing workload amongst the rheumatology team. A baseline audit (2020) demonstrated that hospital blood monitoring guidelines for JAKI drugs were not being followed. The rheumatology multidisciplinary team met and utilised Quality Improvement methodology including fish and driver diagrams to address this. This led to the creation of a pharmacist-led JAKI blood monitoring clinic.
Objectives: To establish a pharmacist-led rheumatology blood monitoring clinic for the JAKi drug class in order to: increase patient safety with increased compliance to blood monitoring, save consultant/nurse time, improve communication with primary care on the frequency of blood testing required, increase patient understanding of the importance of blood monitoring with JAKi drugs, reinforce counselling advice such as risk of infections, shingles and thrombosis and promote medication adherence.

Methods: The clinic was established in March 2021. Patients commencing JAKi drugs are referred to the pharmacist-led clinic by the medical team. The pharmacist contacts the patient by phone following delivery of their medication. The patient is counselled on their new medication and dates for blood checks are agreed. A letter is sent to the patient and their GP providing this information. The patient is booked into virtual telephone appointments and bloods are monitored every month for the first 3 months and every 3 months thereafter. Any change or abnormality in blood results are flagged early in the patient’s treatment and if necessary, discussed with the consultant. Adjustments are made to the patient’s dose if appropriate.

Results: In order to evaluate the benefit of the pharmacist clinic a re-audit of compliance with blood monitoring (March 2021- September 2022) was carried out alongside a patient satisfaction postal survey (August 2022). A total of 58 patients were sampled in the re-audit. The re-audit found an increase in compliance in blood monitoring since the introduction of the pharmacist clinic. 96% of patients had their full blood count performed at 3 months compared to 56% in audit 1 and 95% of patients had their lipid profile completed at 3 months compared to 15% in audit 1 (Table 1). A patient satisfaction survey (N=62; response rate 48%) found that 28 (93%) patients either agreed or strongly agreed that they were more aware of the importance of attending for regular blood monitoring when prescribed JAKi therapy as a result of the clinic. The pharmacy team made several significant interventions (self-graded Eadon grade 4 and 5). For example by improving medication adherence, detecting haematological abnormalities that required JAKi dose reduction, identifying patients suffering from infection requiring intervention including shingles and Covid-19.

Table 1. Comparison of audit results pre (Audit 1) and post (Audit 2) clinic establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Audit 1 (N=48)</th>
<th>Audit 2 (N=58)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients with full blood count completed at weeks 4, 8 &amp; 12</td>
<td>27 (56%)</td>
<td>57 (98%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients with lipid profile completed at week 12</td>
<td>7 (15%)</td>
<td>55 (95%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients LFTs completed at weeks 4, 8 &amp; 12</td>
<td>26 (54%)</td>
<td>54 (93%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Introduction of the pharmacist-led clinic has increased patient safety by ensuring compliance with blood monitoring as per hospital guidelines. The clinic has paved the way for improved communication with primary care teams and has provided patients with extra support during their first months on treatment with the JAKi. It has also expanded the role of the rheumatology pharmacy team and saved nursing and medical time.

Acknowledgements: I wish to thank the SHSCT Rheumatology team for all their help, support and guidance with this project.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1805-HPR

SERVICE EVALUATION OF COMBINED RHEUMATOLOGY OBSTETRIC CLINIC, SOUTH TEES NHS FOUNDATION TRUST, UNITED KINGDOM

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction, Patient information and education, Quality of care

F.A. Khan, J. Janakiraman, M. Shivanath, R. Gul, S. Chin, E. Steele, D. Kong, The James Cook University Hospital, Rheumatology, Middlesbrough, United Kingdom; Newcastle University, Undergraduate Department, Newcastle, United Kingdom; The James Cook University Hospital, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Middlesbrough, United Kingdom

Background: Multidisciplinary management in a combined clinic improves patient experience and outcomes for pregnant women with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD). Achieving better IRD control pre, during, and post-pregnancy with pregnancy-compatible disease-modifying anti-rheumatic therapies (DMARDs) reduces maternal and foetal mortality/morbidity minimising complications. EULAR published recommendations for core data sets around maternal, pregnancy, and treatment information for pregnancy registries in Inflammatory rheumatic diseases.

Objectives: Service evaluation of the Combined Rheumatology Obstetrics clinic held in our hospital to evaluate pregnant patients with inflammatory rheumatoid diseases against the EULAR recommendations.

To improve Patient and disease outcome in terms of maternal health and fetal health.

Methods: Retrospective data was collected on interventions and outcomes of pregnancies in 40 women with inflammatory rheumatic diseases seen in the Combined Rheumatology/Obstetric Clinic from November 2020 to February 2022 reviewing clinic letters and medical notes.

Results: 77% of patients had inflammatory arthritis including rheumatoid, psoriatic, juvenile idiopathic, and axial spondylo-arthritis. 15% had connective tissue disease (CTD) including Lupus with anti-phospholipid syndrome, Bechet’s and undifferentiated CTD. 2% patients did not have a formal IRD diagnosis. 12.5% of patients had only pre-pregnancy counselling, 2.5% had miscarriages. Of the remaining 85% of pregnant patients’ 10% had obstetric care/ delivery in other trusts. Treatment received by patients 12 months prior to conception included DMARDs (37%), biologics (24%), combination (8%), and steroids (10%). 25% were on no treatment. During pregnancy 29% received oral DMARDs, 11% biologics and 16% needed steroids. 50% of patients did not require any treatment. Interventions done in the clinic included medication review (100%), VTE assessments (100%), commenced VTE prophylaxis (75%), change in DMARD dosage (10%), additional medication added (10%), intramuscular/ intra-articular steroid injections (16%) and physiotherapy referrals (10%). Maternal adverse outcomes include 5% preeclampsia, 0.07% gestational diabetes and 0.02% pregnancy-induced hypertension and foetal growth restriction. 93.3% were full-term deliveries. Only 10% had adverse neonatal outcomes including 6.6% preterm births. None had congenital heart block. 3.3% had congenital malformations unrelated to IRD. IRD/DMARD therapy. Patient satisfaction surveys were sent out to 40 patients with a 30% response rate. The patient satisfaction questionnaire revealed all patients had their consultation with rheumatology and obstetric consultants with 100% satisfaction. 100% felt the staff was supportive and they would recommend our service to friends and family. 66.7% of patients receiving pre-pregnancy counselling, 50% were in the combined clinic. Of the 33.3% of patients not receiving counselling 22.2% felt they would have benefitted from it.

Conclusion: Our service evaluation of the combined rheumatology/obstetric clinic revealed favourable outcomes for the mother and baby with high patient satisfaction rates. The clinic offered appropriate timely interventions to control IRD improving pregnancy outcomes. The future aim is to deliver this high-quality service to all pregnant patients with IRD through robust referral pathways to improve the patient experience.

REFERENCES:

[1] EULAR published recommendations for core data sets around maternal, pregnancy, and treatment information for pregnancy registries in Inflammatory rheumatic diseases.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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HPR Professional education, training and competencies

AB1806-HPR

EXPECTED FEATURES OF THE COURSE LEADER IN THE REHABILITATION HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS’ HIGHER EDUCATION: A QUALITATIVE STUDY ON STUDENTS’ PERSPECTIVES

Keywords: Education, Qualitative research methods, Rehabilitation

B. Giardulli, E. Marchesini, L. Furrì, M. Testi, A. Delliisola, S. Battista

1University of Genoa, Department of Neurosciences, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetics, Maternal and Child Health, Genova, Italy; 2University of Verona, School of Medicine and Surgery, Verona, Italy; 3Lund University, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund, Sweden

Background: Previous evidence showed that Healthcare Professionals (HPs) working with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMD) from Mediterranea countries have higher educational needs than Northern-European ones [1]. Hence, it is necessary to find new strategies to improve their training. Course leaders (CLs) are the responsible of the quality to develop the training of rehabilitation HPs, since they oversee designing and directing degree courses that are experienced by students first-hand [2]. To better understand their leadership role, it is helpful to focus on the people with whom the leader interacts daily [3–5]. Therefore, students become an essential source on that matter [2].
However, little attention has been given to the expected features that course leads should hold, starting from students’ perspectives.

**Objectives:** This study explored students’ expected features of a course leader.

**Methods:** A qualitative study was carried out based on semi-structured interviews. A panel of recent graduates and students of the Master of Science in ‘Healthcare Professionals Rehabilitation Sciences’ (University of Verona, Verona, Italy) was recruited using purposive sampling. Data were analysed using the ‘Reflective Thematic Analysis’ by Braun & Clarke [6].

**Results:** Ten HPs in training agreed to partake in the study (age 30 ± 9; men N=2; women N=8). Five themes were generated from the analysis: 1) A Collaborative Manager, as students perceived the CL as a non-authoritarian manager who involved all the stakeholders in the decision-making process; 2) A Diplomatic yet Honest Communicator, as students needed someone capable of communicating with them transparently; 3) A Flexible Mediator, as the CL should actively listen to all their stakeholders and mitigate conflicts; 4) An Empathic and Available Guide, as students needed someone available and ready to help or guide them; 5) An Experienced Healthcare Professional, since students felt that the CL should have a clinical background related to the course they lead.

**Conclusion:** The results of this study suggest that students expect CL to have a wide range of qualities and attributes more related to soft (i.e., adaptation, communication, organisation skills, teamwork) rather than hard skills (i.e., clinical experience). They expect a CL that considers all stakeholders’ needs and preferences to guarantee course harmony and satisfaction.

**REFERENCES:**


[4] Crevani L, Lindgren M, Packendorff J. Leadership, not leaders: On the study experience). They expect a CL that considers all stakeholders’ needs and preferences to guarantee course harmony and satisfaction.

**HPR Interdisciplinary research**

**AB1807-HPR INVESTIGATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVEL IN RHEUMATIC DISEASES**

**Keywords:** Diet and Nutrition, Patient reported outcomes, Physical therapy/Physiotherapy

M. S. Karaci Ermuncu1, S. Y. Ceter2, S. Yardim3, A. Aydin1, 1 Akdeniz University, Nutrition and Dietetics, Antalya, Turkey; 2 Akdeniz University, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Antalya, Turkey; 3 Health Sciences University, Rheumatology, Antalya, Turkey

**Background:** Rheumatic diseases are chronic diseases that negatively affect the quality of life. Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are the most common clinical manifestations. Non-pharmacological treatments include exercise, healthy and balanced diet recommendations [1,2].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to investigate nutritional status and the physical activity level and relationship between those in patients with rheumatic diseases.

**Methods:** 108 patients (64 AS, 22 RA and 22 others (Sjogren, scleroderma, pso- riatric arthritis)) with rheumatic diseases (47932±12.26 years) were included in the study. The International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) was used to assess physical activity. Food consumption records were generated for the patients included in the study and were recorded using a 24-hour retrospective reminder method. The adherence of the patients to the Mediterranean diet was evaluated using the ‘Mediterranean Diet Scale’ and their diet quality was evaluated with the Healthy Eating Index.

**Results:** The majority of patients (67.6%) were adapting to the Mediterranean diet and 56.5% had poor overall diet quality. Patients with AS had the worst adherence to the Mediterranean diet (8.2±1.199), while patients with RA had the worst overall diet quality (51.9±14.47, Graph 1). The physical activity level of the patients was inactive (n=49, 39.8%) and there was no significant relationship between nutritional status and physical activity level (p<0.05).

**Conclusion:** According to the results of the study, although the majority of patients had adherence to the Mediterranean diet, the overall diet quality was poor and the level of physical activity was low. These results show that patients cannot be fed adequately and in moderation. Since these patients live in the Mediterranean region, although the consumption rate of vegetables and fruits is high, they cannot be fed adequately with high quality. It is recommended that future studies be conducted in different regions with larger numbers of patients with rheumatic diseases. These results show that patients should also be evaluated in terms of balanced and healthy nutrition.

**REFERENCES:**


**Graph 1.** Nutrition status of patients according to diseases

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**AB1808-HPR VIOLENCE: A REALITY IN WOMEN WITH AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES?**

**Keywords:** Pregnancy and reproduction, Quality of life, Mental health

A. Carrazco Chapa1, D. C. Rubio Torres1, M. E. Corral Trujillo1, C. M. Skinner Taylor1, L. Pérez Barbosa1, I. Pelaez Ballestas1, D. A. Galarza-Delgado1, 1 Hospital Universitario “Dr José Eleuterio González”; Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 2 Hospital General de México “Dr Eduardo Liceaga”; Rheumatology, Ciudad de México, Mexico

**Background:** Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as any aggression that includes physical, psychological and sexual harm by a current or former intimate partner. In Mexico, 39.9% of women aged 15 years or over have experienced IPV throughout their romantic relationships [1]. IPV in pregnancy and postpartum can lead to mood disorders, obstetric comorbidities, and low birth weight. Pregnant women with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARD) are a high-risk population. Using screening tools to detect women experiencing abuse and explore its severity helps us to intervene appropriately and prevent complications [2].

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to describe the frequency of IPV in patients with ARD.

**Methods:** A descriptive, cross-sectional, exploratory study at the Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González” in Mexico. We included women from the pregnancy and rheumatic diseases clinic (CEER) with a screening of IPV with the HITS scale and categorized them as reproductive-age women and pregnant-postpartum women. We defined reproductive age as the age range of 18-45 years and postpartum up to 1 year after the birth of the last child. The demographic characteristics and ARD data were obtained from the clinical record. Women without IPV were matched (1:1) by age and condition (reproductive age and pregnant-postpartum). A virtual survey was applied including sociodemographic data and the Spanish version of HITS. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to determine normality. To analyze the differences between groups Mann–Whitney U test, Chi-square or Kruskal–Wallis test were employed. A p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. The statistical analysis was performed with the statistical program SPSS version 25.
Results: 96 women were included: 48 with ARD and 48 without ARD. The median age was 27 (IQR 24 – 32). In both groups, 24 were reproductive-age women and 24 were pregnant-postpartum women (18/ 75% postpartum and 6/ 25% pregnant). In the ARD group, the most frequent diagnoses were rheumatoid arthritis (22/ 46%) and systemic lupus erythematosus (20/ 42%).

The sociodemographic characteristics and HITS results are in table 1. 18 (19%) women suffered IPV: 11 (23%) women without ARD and 7 (15%) women with ARD (figure 1); in both the most reported item was being insulted (10 without ARD vs 7 ARD) followed by being screamed (6 without ARD vs 6 ARD). Threatened with harm was reported in 3 ARD women while physical hurt was reported in 3 women without ARD. We found significant differences between the HITS scores of ARD women and women without ARD (p= 0.007). No differences in IPV frequency in pregnant-postpartum women and in the ARD group were found (p= 0.433). Overall, more pregnant-postpartum women were identified as IPV victims than reproductive-age women (p= 0.333).

Conclusion: Pregnant and postpartum women are prone to report IPV than women of reproductive age. The current rise in IPV requires us to actively participate in research to prevent complications in pregnant and postpartum patients with ARD.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics and HITS results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, median, (IQR), years</th>
<th>Reproductive-age ARD women n= 24</th>
<th>Pregnant-postpartum ARD women n= 24</th>
<th>Reproductive-age without ARD women n= 24</th>
<th>Pregnant-postpartum without ARD women n= 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>28.5 (23.3 – 35.0)</td>
<td>27.0 (23.0 – 32.0)</td>
<td>28.5 (22.3 – 35.0)</td>
<td>27.0 (26.0 – 29.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common law marriage</td>
<td>9 (38)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>11 (46)</td>
<td>2 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>11 (46)</td>
<td>3 (13)</td>
<td>10 (42)</td>
<td>4 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (29)</td>
<td>21 (88)</td>
<td>7 (29)</td>
<td>21 (88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>14 (58)</td>
<td>2 (8)</td>
<td>16 (67)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of education, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (13)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>3 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;9 years</td>
<td>10 (42)</td>
<td>5 (21)</td>
<td>9 (38)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;9 years</td>
<td>14 (58)</td>
<td>19 (33)</td>
<td>15 (63)</td>
<td>24 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HITS score, median, (IQR)</td>
<td>4.0 (4.0 – 4.8)</td>
<td>4.0 (4.0 – 4.0)</td>
<td>5.0 (4.0 – 5.8)</td>
<td>4.0 (4.0 – 5.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2844

Classifications: AB1809-HPR DETERMINATION OF PRE-SARCOPENIA IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHITIS

Keywords: Quality of life, Sarcopenia, Inflammatory arthritis

Table 1. Comparison of patients according to their frailty status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No-sarcopenia (n =22)</th>
<th>Pre-sarcopenia (n = 17)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years), mean (SD)</td>
<td>46.13 (5.49)</td>
<td>49.47 (7.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex, women/men</td>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>12/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m2), mean (SD)</td>
<td>27.32 (3.38)</td>
<td>29.01 (6.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPPB, mean (SD)</td>
<td>10.22 (1.37)</td>
<td>9.05 (1.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSST, sec, mean (SD)</td>
<td>14.56 (4.58)</td>
<td>19.19 (6.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASQoL, mean (SD)</td>
<td>6.90 (3.39)</td>
<td>11.35 (3.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAC-SF (MET), mean (SD)</td>
<td>15.20.77 (1365.42)</td>
<td>726.29 (573.13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bold values indicate significance; BMI; body mass index, SPPB; Short Physical Performance Battery, FSST; Five Times Sit to Stand Test, ASQoL; Ankylosing Spondylitis Quality of Life Questionnaire, IPAC-SF; International Physical Activity Questionnaire – Short Form, MET; Metabolic Equivalent.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3564

AB1810-HPR RESILIENCE AND PERINATAL LOSS IN WOMEN WITH AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Keywords: Quality of life, Mental health, Pregnancy and reproduction

Background: Resilience has been defined as the capacity of individuals to successfully maintain or regain their mental health in the face of significant adversity or risk. [1]. The Wagnild and Young Resilience Scale (RS) from 1993 is one of the most widely used instruments in the evaluation of resilience [2]. Having an autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARDs) and perinatal losses (PL) have been considered traumatic events [3,4]. Identifying women at risk is important for developing psychological support strategies.

Objectives: Evaluate the resilience capacity in patients with and without ARDs with PL.

Methods: Descriptive, cross-sectional, comparative study at the Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González” in México. We included women from the Pregnancy and Rheumatic Diseases Clinic (CEER) that answer a virtual survey with the RS. The demographic, ARD and PL data were obtained from the clinical records. The women without ARD were invited to fill a virtual survey with the RS, sociodemographic and PL data. The RS is a Liker-type scale that consists of 25 items with seven response options. The responses are summed to produce a total score that ranges from 25 to 175; the greater the score the greater the resilience capacity. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to determine normality. To analyze the differences between groups Mann–Whitney U test, Chi-square, T- test were employed. A p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. The statistical analysis was performed with the statistical program SPSS version 25.

Results: A total of 50 women were included: 25 with ARD and 25 without ARD. The median age for the group with ARD was 42 (38.5-51) and 34 (26-42.5) for the without ARD group. In the ARD group the most frequent diagnosis were systemic lupus erythematosus (72.8%), rheumatoid arthritis (62.4%) and Antiphospholipid Syndrome (41.6%). For the RS scores, women without ARD have a greater median 137.56 (SD =22.14) than the group with ARD 132.72 (SD =31.03). No statistically differences were found in other variables between groups. The sociodemographic and PL data and the RS score for both groups are included in Table 1.

Conclusion: Even though there were no significant differences between groups, our results suggest that higher education (> 9 years) and suffering only 1 PL can be variables that enhance the resilience capacity of women with PL. Our limitation was the sample size for both groups.

REFERENCES:


Table 1. Clinical characterization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Patients with ARD</th>
<th>Patients without ARD</th>
<th>P&lt;0.05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=25</td>
<td></td>
<td>ARD N=25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience Scale score, mean (SD)</td>
<td>132.72 (31.03)</td>
<td>137.56 (22.14)</td>
<td>0.529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;9 years</td>
<td>21 (84%)</td>
<td>15 (60%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;9 years</td>
<td>4 (16%)</td>
<td>10 (40%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married/Common law</td>
<td>20 (80%)</td>
<td>15 (60%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>3 (12%)</td>
<td>8 (32%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perinatal Losses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13 (52%)</td>
<td>17 (68%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>12 (48%)</td>
<td>3 (12%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21 (84%)</td>
<td>19 (76%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>4 (16%)</td>
<td>6 (24%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of living children, median (IQR)</td>
<td>2 (1-3)</td>
<td>1 (0-5)</td>
<td>0.123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4654

AB1811-HPR

CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EXPENSES IN PREGNANT WOMEN WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASE

Keywords: Quality of life, Pregnancy and reproduction, Health Services Research

Background: Rheumatic diseases (RD) have an impaired quality of life and a high cost of healthcare. Out-of-pocket health expenses are those expenditures that households make to acquire medicines and associated services that come from family income [1]. A disease with catastrophic health expenses is a condition that, due to its high cost and the expenses derived from treatment and medications, exceeds 30% of the family income [1]. Such catastrophic expenses can negatively influence the therapeutic adherence of patients and the prognosis [2]. A policy challenge has been the achievement of universal coverage of health services. A key was the implementation of “Seguro Popular” (SP) in 2003; however, the abolition of the SP in 2020 and the foundation of “Instituto de Salud para el Bienestar” (INSABI) by the current government, created uncertainty due to some omissions detected regarding the clarity of its performance [1].

Objectives: To estimate the frequency of pregnant patients with RD who experienced catastrophic health expenses when using medical services.

Methods: An observational cross-sectional, retrospective study was carried out at the Pregnancy and Reproductive Health Clinic for Rheumatic Diseases (CEER) from the University Hospital “Dr. José Eleuterio González” in Mexico. The data of all pregnant patients was collected from the clinical record. From the socioeconomic study, sociodemographic data, family nucleus, family’s monthly income, monthly health expenditures, as well as the type of health insurance they had, were obtained. The percentage of out-of-pocket health expenses (medication) of each patient was calculated, and if this exceeded 30%, it was defined as a catastrophic expense. For statistical analysis, the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the population are presented as frequencies, percentages, or standard deviations.

Results: A total of 54 patients were included in the period from 2019 to 2022 with a mean age of 28.02 (±6.45) years. The rheumatic diagnoses were rheumatoid arthritis with 24 (44.4%), systemic lupus erythematosus with 13 (24.1%), antiphospholipid syndrome with 5 (9.3%), dermatomyositis with 3 (5.6%), juvenile idiopathic arthropathic with 2 (3.7%), Sjögren’s syndrome with 1 (1.8) and others with 6 (11.1%). The sociodemographic characteristics are described in Table 1. Most of the patients had health insurance coverage with 43 (79.6%), where SP stood out as the main one with 24 (55.8%). Of the 43 patients who had health insurance coverage, 5 (11.6%) experienced catastrophic health expenses, which we can see in Figure 1. Of the 11 (20.4%) patients who did not have health insurance coverage, 1 (9.1%) experienced catastrophic health expenses.

Conclusion: The 11.6% of the patients who had health insurance coverage reported having catastrophic health expenses, in which they spent more than 30% of the family’s monthly income. 9.1% of those who did health insurance coverage presented catastrophic health expenses. It is of vital importance that rheumatic diseases should be recognized as catastrophic illnesses to ensure quality patient-tailored care.

REFERENCES:


Figure 1. Out-of-pocket health expenses in pregnant patients with rheumatic disease. When the percentage exceeds 30% of the family’s monthly income, patients experienced catastrophic health expenses.
Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, media ±SD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>12 (22.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married/ Cohabiting</td>
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<td>Education, n (%)</td>
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<td>&lt; 9 years</td>
<td>20 (37.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 9 years</td>
<td>34 (63.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupation, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housewife</td>
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<td>Employed and self-employed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student</td>
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<td>Type of family, n (%)</td>
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<td>Nuclear</td>
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<td>Health Insurance coverage, n (%)</td>
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<td>43 (79.6)</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.5152

AB1812-HPR VACCINATION UPTAKE IN A COHORT OF PATIENTS ON BIOLOGIC DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS (BDMARDS) AT A MELBOURNE PUBLIC HOSPITAL

Keywords: COVID, bDMARD, Vaccination/Immunization

H. Pourhadji1, A. Johnson1, A. Foote1,1, Northern Health, Rheumatology, Epping, Australia

Background: As a result of immunosuppression, rheumatology patients (particularly those on bDMARDs) are at a greater risk of infections. However, little is known about the number of rheumatology patients who have been vaccinated for influenza, COVID-19, Hepatitis B and Pneumococcal vaccinations.

Objectives: To ascertain the number of patients on bDMARDs who received the COVID-19, Influenza, Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal and Shingles Vaccines. With regards to the Influenza vaccine information was obtained over the years 2018 – 2022 to determine if rates of influenza vaccination increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: All rheumatology patients on bDMARDs at the Northern Hospital in Epping, Melbourne Australia were included in this study. By retrospectively reviewing the medical records, data was collected regarding patient demographics, clinical information and vaccination to COVID-19, Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal and Influenza. Information for influenzae was obtained over the period from 2018 to 2022. Ethics committee approval was sought from our institution (Reference number: ALR 75.2022).

Results: There were 201 patients on bDMARDs included in this analysis. 139 (69%) were female with a mean age of 54 (SD +/-15.0). Rheumatoid arthritis was the most common indication for biologic therapy (55%) followed by psoriatic arthritis (19%) and ankylosing spondylitis (18%). Tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNF) and Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKIs) were most often utilised, prescribed to 62% and 18% of patients respectively. With regards to the influenza vaccine 99 patients (49%) were vaccinated in 2022, compared to 49 patients (24%) in 2016. Women were more likely to be vaccinated than men (54% versus 38% using Chi-squared test (p=0.05). No significant difference was seen by disease category or class of bDMARD. Older patients were more likely to be vaccinated (57, SD = 15) versus younger patients (50, SD = 14) p <0.001. In terms of COVID-19 vaccinations 7% were unvaccinated, 24% received 2 vaccinations, 42% received 3 vaccinations and 25% received 4 or more vaccinations (the recommended number of vaccinations as per current health advice). Finally, regarding the other vaccines 15% received the Hepatitis B vaccine, 15% the Pneumococcal vaccine, and 8% received the shingles vaccine.

Conclusion: In this cohort of bDMARD patients there was a significant increase in the proportion of patients who received the influenza vaccine during the pandemic. This finding is novel in a rheumatology cohort. Despite this there remains under-utilisation of COVID-19, Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal and Shingles vaccinations. Further work looking at the reasons for the low vaccinations rates in immunosuppressed populations is needed to address this public health issue.

References: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6400

AB1814-HPR RHEUMATOLOGY NURSE OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN PORTUGAL

Keywords: Patient information and education, Inflammatory arthritides, Nursing

L. Barbosa1, J. Santos1, A. Cordeiro1, M. J. Santos3, E. Pereira1, Hospital Garcia de Orta, Rheumatology Department, Almada, Portugal;2 Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Unidade de Investigação em Reumatologia, Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Lisboa, Portugal

Background: Systemic inflammatory rheumatic diseases are characterized by being chronic diseases. These diseases affect the person, in their various dimensions and are often associated with pain, loss of mobility and function, fatigue, anxiety and depression (Matcham, Norton, Scott, Steer & Motof, 2016; Primdhga & Esbensen, 2020; Ryan, 2020). The complex needs of these patients require and benefit of an advanced nursing practice and a guided and specialized attention that can be provided in a nursing clinic. The awareness of rheumatic patient needs and lack of this type of care led, to our knowledge, to the development of the first rheumatology nurse clinic in Portugal.

Objectives: Characterize a guided nursing clinic with the aim to support patients with systemic inflammatory rheumatic diseases, mainly initiating subcutaneous (sc) classic and biological DMARDs.

Methods: Summarized description of first guided rheumatology nurse clinic in Portugal.
Results: This nurse clinic was created and developed during the pandemic period of SARS-CoV-2 (starting February 2020). For the last three years a total of 556 appointments were performed. The targeted patients had systemic inflammatory rheumatic diseases, mainly rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and spondyloarthritides treated with sc classic and biological DMARDs. Appointments are scheduled at week 0 and 4 of starting these therapeutics and also whenever needed, at the request of the patient or the treating physician, in order to ensure a good nurse availability to clarify doubts at the beginning of these treatments. In the specific case of sc methotrexate, a protocol was created by the Rheumatology multidisciplinary team defining the parameters eligible for evaluation, and the respective procedures of care. During appointments nurses also assess specific disease implications in the person’s daily life, both physical, emotional and social domains. Additionally, this is an opportunity to reinforce reliable information on disease management, coping strategies, including information how to manage medication side effects.

Conclusion: The rheumatology nursing outpatient clinic provides key additional care and monitoring to patients with systemic inflammatory rheumatic diseases, treated with sc classic and biological DMARDs. Nurses improve the management of chronic diseases, namely by promoting autonomy of the patient in self-administration of sc therapies at home, counselling and informing about possible adverse effects and respective management strategies, constituting a valid contribution to disease control and patient engagement and education.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1816-HPR

RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF THE LIE-TO-SIT-TO-STAND-TO-WALK TRANSFER TEST IN TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Outcome measures, Comorbidities

B. Unver1, K. S. Kacmaz2, V. Karatousun2, 1Dokuz Eylul University, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; 2Izmir Katip Celebi University, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Izmir, Turkey; 1Dokuz Eylul University, Orthopedics and Traumatology, Izmir, Turkey

Background: Total knee arthroplasty (TKA) is the gold-standard procedure for end-stage knee osteoarthritis, however, some residual problems may still continue and cause a variety of dysfunctions, such as pain, impaired strength, proprioception, postural instability, dynamic balance, and gait deficiencies [1]. Falls are the most frequent cause of injuries in elderly people, accounting for 90% of hip and wrist fractures and 60% of head injuries [2] requiring expensive and difficult treatments such as fracture surgeries and arthroplasties [3]. The most frequent cause of falling was transfer activity while shitting body weight which accounted for 41% of falls [2] especially getting up from bed and walking to the bathroom [2,4,5]. Additionally, the three major classes of activities—walking, sitting down, and standing—were the most common precipitants of falls. These findings emphasize the need to target each of these activities in fall risk assessment and prevention strategies [2,5]. The Lie-to-Sit-to-Stand-to-Walk Transfer Test (LSSWT) incorporates a multitask approach to measure complicated transfer abilities in older people. However, there is no study investigating the reliability and validity of the LSSWT in TKA patients.

Objectives: The aim of the study is to determine the reliability, validity, and minimal clinically important difference (MCID) of the LSSWT in patients with TKA.

Methods: Twenty-one patients with TKA were included in the study. The LSSWT, the Timed Up and Go Test (TUG), and the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) knee scores were administered to the patients. Patients rested between the tests for an hour to prevent fatigue.

Results: The mean age was 68.1 ± 2.59 years and the mean HSS Knee Score was 85.43± 3.47. The relative (ICC coefficient) and absolute (SEM and SRD95) reliability values were 0.88, 121, and 3.33 respectively. The Spearman correlation coefficient of the LSSWT with the TUG was 0.63.

Conclusion: The LSSWT has excellent reliability and high validity in evaluating fall risk and complex dynamic balance and mobility for the activities of daily living in patients with TKA. The low MCID value (3.33) shows that it is sensitive and identifies little alterations in a patient’s condition over time or management strategies. Therefore, it is advisable to use the LSSWT for assessing the fall risk, dynamic balance, and mobility required in the community, discharging, or admitting to a facility.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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AB1817-HPR

CROSS-CULTURAL ADAPTATION AND VALIDATION OF THE TURKISH VERSION OF THE NORWICH PATELLAR INSTABILITY SCORE IN PATIENTS WITH PATELLAR INSTABILITY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Outcome measures, Validation

I. Ayas1, Z. Hazar1, I. Kaya2, M. Atacoglu2, U. Kanatli2, 1Gazi University Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; 2Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Ankara, Turkey

Background: The Norvich Patellar Instability Score (NPIs) score is a tool for evaluating the impact of patellofemoral instability on joint function. It has not been translated or culturally adapted for the Turkish population before.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to translate and validate the NPIs in Turkish patients with patellar instability.

Methods: Sixty-four individuals with patellar instability were included in this cross-sectional study. Test-retest reliability of the Turkish version of NPIs was assessed by the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) and Cronbach’s alpha for internal consistency. For construct validity, correlation coefficients between the Turkish version of NPIs developed by the translation-back translation method, Kujala patellofemoral disorder score, and Lysholm knee score were analyzed.

Results: The Turkish version of the NPIs score showed high internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha = 0.97) and excellent construct validity reliability (ICCv = 0.90). The Turkish version of the NPI score had a strong correlation with Kujala patellofemoral disorder score (R= 0.85, p< 0.001) and the Lysholm knee score (R= 0.89, p< 0.001). A floor effect was observed in the present study and there was no ceiling effect.

Conclusion: The Turkish version of the NPIs is a reliable and valid tool in patients with patellar instability. The Turkish version of the NPIs will be a guide for clinicians and researchers to understand the functional status of patients with patellar instability.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1317
AB1818-HPR | QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life
L. Bohmat1, I. Bessonova1, N. Shevchenko1-2, T. Holovko1-2, S1 Institute of Children and Adolescents Health Care of NAMS of Ukraine

Background: According to the Treat to Target strategy, in addition to monitoring the activity of the process and monitoring the formation of irreversible organ damage, it is necessary to recognize the Health-Related Quality of Life, which allows to assess the patient's condition. Quality of life is defined as an integral characteristic of the patient's physical, psychological, emotional and social functioning, based on his subjective perception. Often, changes in quality-of-life indicators precede the dynamics of clinical manifestations of the disease, so they can be used as auxiliary criteria for the effectiveness of treatment already in the early stages of the course of the disease.

Objectives: To evaluate the quality of life of children and adolescent patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) depending on the activity and duration of the disease.

Methods: 18 children and adolescents with SLE aged from 8.5 to 16.4 years (14.3 ± 0.7) were examined. The average duration of SLE was 3.1 ± 0.7 years, the age of onset was 11.4 ± 0.8 years. Most of the examined were girls (94.4%). The diagnosis was established according to the classification criteria EULAR/ASR 2019 for SLE[1] with at least 10 points. The activity of SLE was found in 5.56% of patients, moderate in 33.33%, minimal in 61.11%. The patients' quality of life was assessed using the Lupus QoL questionnaire, which is a questionnaire with 34 questions, combined for 9 domains, which assess fatigue, dependence on other people, emotional health I, body image (the patient's assessment of his body), fatigue. The questionnaire was filled out by the patients themselves, the answers to the questions were modeled on a five-point Likert scale (0—constantly, 1—almost always, 2—quite often, 3—occasionally, 4—never). Zero points corresponded to the worst quality of life, 100 points to the best state of quality of life for each domain (scale) of the questionnaire.

Results: The quality of life related to health was worsened in all persons. The average total score for all domains was 65.51 ± 2.09 points and ranged from 38.41 to 89.45 points. The spheres “intimate relationships” and “body image” were the most disturbed, which had the lowest score according to the test data (35.58 ± 4.87 and 62.08 ± 6.89, respectively). The best the quality-of-life indicator was recorded in the “pain” domain, which scored the highest number of points (82.41 ± 4.99 points).

According to other scales of Lupus QoL, the quality of life was equal: in the domain “physical health” 77.60 ± 4.17 points, “planning” – 79.63 ± 5.52 points, “dependence on other people” – 66.21 ± 5.74 points, “emotional health” and “fatigue” – 76.15 ± 4.24 and 75.00 ± 4.46 points, respectively. Correlation analysis revealed reversed correlations between the degree of disease activity and the domains “pain” (r = -0.530; p < 0.05), “planning” (r = -0.529; p < 0.05), “intimate relationships” (r = -0.720; p < 0.05), “emotional health” (r = -0.728; p < 0.01). Direct correlations were found between the age of patients and indicators of the domain “pain” (r = 0.647; p < 0.01) and “planning” (r = 0.642; p < 0.01), respectively, the age of patients at the onset of the disease and the indicator “body image’ scale” (r = 0.811; p < 0.01), the duration of the disease and the “fatigue” scale (r = 0.638; p < 0.05).

Conclusion: In all patients with SLE, a violation of the health-related quality of life was established. Its deterioration was recorded in all domains and was due to the activity of the disease. Monitoring the quality of life of adolescents with SLE in combination with disease activity monitoring will allow for a better assessment of the health status of patients and timely identification of the need for correction of therapy and the selection of the most effective treatment program.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

AB1820-HPR | BIOELECTRICAL IMPEDANCE ANALYSIS SHOWED HIGH AGREEMENT AND SPECIFICITY TO ASSESSMENT OF LOW APPENDICULAR SKELETAL MUSCLE MASS IN WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: PRELIMINARY DATA

Keywords: Validation, Sarcopenia, Systemic sclerosis
L. Denardi Dória1, R. Cavallheiro Do Espirito Santo1, V. Haix1, L. Santos2, E. Penà1, A. L. Mailmann1, S. Pilotti1, D. Moraes1, T. J. Santos de Souza2, B. Da Silva1, I. Bosak1, V. Lovison1, J. A. Tesser1, P. Jesus1, L. Steinmetz1, R. Legati1, P. Espindola Correia1, T. Muniz Figura1, F. Gerchmann1, P. M. Spritzer1, R. Xavier1, R. Chakr1, H. Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre, Division of Rheumatology, Porto Alegre, Brazil; Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre, Division of Endocrinology, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Background: Patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) are particularly prone to skeletal muscle wasting, affecting nearly one-third of patients, increasing the risk of disability[1,2]. To assess muscle mass, there are direct methods, such as magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography and dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), considered the gold standard[3]. DXA is widely used in clinical practice and in population studies, but it has some disadvantages, such as specific technical skills and higher costs[3]. Bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) is a validated method in healthy individuals of body composition assessment with greater affordability and minimum requirements[4]. To our knowledge, in patients with SSc only one study compared DXA and BIA. Soanjer et al found agreement between these two techniques only for fat-free mass, without evaluating appendicular skeletal muscle mass (ASM)[5].

Objectives: (1) Our objective was to compare ASM measured by BIA versus DXA and (2) to verify the associations with clinical features in women with SSc.

Methods: Women with SSc according to ACREULAR 2013 criteria were consecutively included at a tertiary public hospital in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre, HCPA) in 2022. Modified Rodnan's skin score (mRSS) EUSTAR activity index were calculated. The ASM by BIA (Body In 370s) and DXA (GE FamBeam 4500A) were calculated from sum lean mass of arm and legs (kg). Low muscle mass (BIA or DXA) was defined according to the European Working Group on Sarcopenia in Older People (EWGSOP2) less than 15 kg. Pearson's and intraclass correlation coefficients, dependent samples t-test and simple linear regression analysis were used. All analyses were performed and 1.5 beta error was maintained. The significance level was set at p<0.05.

Results: Until this moment, 62 women with SSc were included. The mean age was 62.0 ± 10.1 years-old and median disease duration was 15.0 (7.0–21.0) years. Forty-one patients (66.1%) had limited cutaneous disease, 14 (22.6%) diffuse-cutaneous and 7 (11.3%) sine scleroderma. The median mRSS was 4.0

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2931

AB1819-HPR | INTRA-RATER RELIABILITY OF SHEAR WAVE ELASTOGRAPHY FOR THE QUANTIFICATION OF THUMB MUSCLE ELASTICITY

Keywords: Ultrasound
P. Karademir1, A. E. Yildiz1, T. Firat1, O. Ulger1, Hacettepe University, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Ankara, Turkey; Hacettepe University, Radiology, Ankara, Turkey.

Background: Shear wave elastography (SWE) is a technique that evaluates tissue elasticity by applying an acoustic radiation force impulse [1]. It is undetermined how reliable this modality is in assessing thumb muscles. Quantitative evaluation of muscle stiffness in conditions such as trapeziometacarpal osteoarthritis where increased fibrosis, muscle tone, spasm, and contractures can be seen can provide important information about the pathology and prognosis of the diseases [2].

Objectives: This study aimed to assess the intra-rater reliability of thumb muscle elasticity and thickness in healthy people.

Methods: Ten healthy participants (20 hands) enrolled in the study. Thickness and shear wave velocity (SWV) of adductor pollicis (AdP) and first dorsal interosseous (FDI) muscles were measured using an ACUSON S3000 Ultrasoundography System and a 8L4 probe (4–9 MHz) (Siemens Medical Solutions, Mountain View, California). Ultrasound data (SWV, thickness) were collected and analyzed by an experienced radiologist. Three repeated SWV and thickness measurements were recorded in the resting position and an average was taken. Two sessions were performed at a 15-minutes interval.

Results: Ten healthy participants (20 hands; 5 female; 5 male; mean age: 25.9±2.68 years; BMI: 22.4±1.39 kg/m2) were included in this study. Nine subjects had right-hand dominance and 1 had left-hand dominance. The mean (±SEM) shear wave velocity for the AdP was 1.86 ± 0.6 m/s (10.86 kPa), and for the FDI was 1.76 ± 0.5 m/s (9.72 kPa). The intra-rater trial agreement was excellent, with intraclass correlation coefficients of 0.887 and 0.828 respectively. The mean (±SEM) muscle thickness for the AdP was 12.4 ± 3.93 mm, and for the FDI was 12.0 ± 3.68 mm. The intra-rater trial agreement was excellent, with intraclass correlation coefficients of 0.953 and 0.984 respectively.

Conclusion: SWE ultrasound was a reliable imaging technique to assess the stiffness and thickness of thumb muscles.

REFERENCES:

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Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

The mean appendicular skeletal muscle mass measured by DXA was 16.0 ± 2.2 kg while by BIA was 15.5 ± 2.7 kg (Δ = 0.5 kg; p = 0.005), underestimating the ASM. On other hand, the mean differences between DXA and BIA showed within the confidence interval (p= 0.358; CI 95%: -2.8 – 1.8; Figure 1). ASM by BIA was strongly correlated (r= 0.866, p < 0.001) and had a high agreement (Intraclass Correlation Coefficient = 0.919, p < 0.001) with ASM by DXA. We found only weak association between ASM by BIA and age (r= -0.282; p= 0.026). Low muscle mass in women with SSC was found in 16 patients (29%) by DXA and in 26 patients (42%) by BIA with a sensitivity of 80% and specificity of 94%.

Conclusion: BIA and DXA show high correlation and agreement in ASM assessment of women with SSC. Our findings suggest BIA as a useful tool due to its high specificity with DXA for the early assessment of low ASM in women with SSC. Furthermore, completion of this study is needed to confirm these results.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4018

AB1821-HPR

FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY AND WORK ABILITY IN PATIENTS WITH COMMON SCIATICA

Keywords: Work-related issues, Quality of life, Pain

H. Bejaoui1, A. Feki1, I. Sellami2, S. Ben Jemaa1, M. Ezzeddine1, M. H. Kallel1, M. H. Bejaoui1, A. Feki1, I. Sellami2, S. Ben Jemaa1, M. Ezzeddine1, M. H. Kallel1, M. H. Bejaoui1, A. Feki1, I. Sellami2, S. Ben Jemaa1, M. Ezzeddine1, M. H. Kallel1, M. H. Bejaoui

Background: Spinal radicular syndromes are a serious healthcare issue in the society nowadays. A common form of ailments related to the syndromes is sciatica, manifesting with severe pain radiating along the course of the sciatic. In many patients the pain limits the ability to perform daily routine at work and at home [1].

Objectives: The aim of study was to assess the functional capacity in patients with sciatica and its influence on their quality of life, their ability to function in daily life and at work.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients suffering from documented common sciatica evolving for more than 3 months collected in a rheumatology department over a period of 3 years. The Quality-of-life SF-36 questionnaire - Short Form Health Survey was used in the study, along with a supplement specifying the study group, with an indication of the pain location and the patients’ occupations. Additionally, the Oswestry Disability Index, the work ability index (WAI) - and the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) were applied.

Results: The study covered 104 patients, both male and female (71 women and 33 men with sex ratio male/female of 0.45). The mean age of our patients was 55.4 years-old (23-74). The most common etiology of sciatica was herniated disc, followed by lumbar spinal stenosis and spondylothesis. The root path was L5 in 74 cases and S1 in 30 cases, the average duration of sciatica was 6.4 months. The mean Oswestry score was 25(15-38). The mean of the VAS was 7.4(4-9).

The mean of WAI was 25.2(15-38). The Quality-of-Life index, at a statistically significant level (p< 0.05), is higher (hence the quality of life is lower) in females suffering from sciatica. The duration of sciatica was a factor strongly correlated with the intensity of pain - the Oswestry score and the VAS scores were negatively correlated with age (p<0.05, r= -0.6 and r= -0.4 respectively).

Conclusion: In our series sciatica affects the quality of life of the female patients studied in this research to a greater extent than the male patients. The intensity of pain associated with sciatica duration. WAI and Oswestry were negatively associated with age.

REFERENCE:

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4481
Table 1. median results of the most important generic PROMs studied.

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Background: The Lupus Impact Tracker (LIT) is a patient reported outcome (PRO) questionnaire. The results demonstrated their reliability in clinical practice for evaluation and follow-up.

Objectives: To validate the LIT and the degree of correlation with other scores in SLE patients in Argentina.

Methods: Observational, analytical and multicenter study. Patients older than 18 years with SLE (2019 ACR/EULAR criteria) were included. In the first stage, we evaluated the reproducibility in a period of 7 days measured by intraclass correlation (ICC) as well as the time to answer the questionnaire. In a second stage, the scores LIT, LupusQol, PGA, SLEDAI and SLICC SDI were calculated for each patient and the Spearman correlation coefficient between scores was analyzed.

Results: Initially the LIT was performed in 10 patients. The average time to complete the questionnaire was 2.1 minutes. The mean of LIT (T0) was 57.1 (SD 24.2) and 51.5 (SD 25.5) seven days later. The ICC was 0.808 (95% CI 0.431 − 0.948). In the second stage, 100 SLE patients were included consecutively. Table 1 shows the main characteristics of the patients. The Spearman correlation coefficient between LIT/ LupusQol was 0.71, LIT/ SLEDAI was 0.13, and LIT/ SLICC was 0.26 (Graphic 1).

Conclusion: The median of the LIT questionnaire was 37 points. LIT demonstrated test-retest reliability and linear correlation with LupusQol. There was no correlation with SLE activity. LIT is a practical, quick and easy tool to evaluate the patient's perspective in relation to the disease in daily practice.

REFERENCE:
HPR Patients’ perspectives, functioning and health (descriptive: qualitative or quantitative)  

AB1824-HPR  
MULTIPLE TNFi TREATMENT CYCLES AND THE FAILURE OF TRIAL-AND-ERROR CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: bDMARD, Patient reported outcomes, Rheumatoid arthritis
S. Helfgott, C. Adams, A. Frick, K. Huston, S. Milligan, J. Singh, N. Solomon, C. Edgerton. 1Harvard Medical School, Division of Rheumatology and the Division of Medical Communications, Boston, United States of America; 2Articularis Healthcare, Clinic, Summerville, United States of America; 3Tri Health, Analytics, Louisville, United States of America; 4Kansas City Physician Partners, Clinic, Kansas City, United States of America; 5University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine, Birmingham, United States of America; 6Arizona Arthritis, Clinic, Phoenix, United States of America

Background: Inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNFi) are central to management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) though continued use beyond initial failure is negatively associated with response to subsequent TNFi treatment.

Objectives: To assess the patterns of recurrent TNFi use relative to reasons for switch as observed in community rheumatology care in the US.

Methods: Data: PIONEER-Rheumatology, an EMR and open text-extracted database specific to care given by the American Rheumatology Network (ARN). Study population: Adult (18+ years) old patients with RA, TNFi-treated in 2018 to 2021. Full histories were assessed for each patient and index was set as the initiation date of the last TNFi observed for each patient prior to 2022. Reasons for discontinuation were extracted from chart notes and broadly classified (and sub-classified) as attrition (death, moved/left practice, non-clinical reasons), lost to follow up (LTU), patient disengaged, or clinical treatment goal achieved, lack/loss of efficacy, or condition resulting from disease, treatment, or patient burden.

Results: 13994 patients and 19925 episodes (defined as distinct patient & TNFi drug) were examined. Of 13944 patients, 9399 (67%) received 1 TNFi, 3527 (26%) 2 TNFi, 1068 (8%) ≥3 TNFi; treatment patterns may have included interchanging non-TNFi treatment cycles. [TABLE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. (%) of Cycles</th>
<th>Patients by years history (rows)</th>
<th>and # of distinct TNFi drugs (columns)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1 year</td>
<td>4262</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(88%, 45%)</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10%, 14%)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(30%, 19%)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(53%, 32%)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15%, 10%)</td>
<td>&lt; 5 years</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32%, 10%)</td>
<td>≥5 years</td>
<td>1078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(35%, 31%)</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16%, 46%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100%, 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(100%, 16%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100%, 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(680, 530)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100%, 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(139, 1626)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100%, 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(118, 1188)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100%, 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(135, 1093)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100%, 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(495, 3037)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100%, 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1068, 13994)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100%, 100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reasons for discontinuation/switch were available for 4254/4595 (93%) and 998/1068 (93%) patients treated with 2+ or 3+ distinct TNFi, respectively. Lack/loss of efficacy was the reason for 1 or more TNFi discontinuations prior to the last TNFi received for 2689/4254 (63%) and 829/998 (83%) of patients with 2+ or 3+ TNFi, respectively. For a patient subset with ≥1 year history pre-index, prior failure of 1+ TNFi was observed for 2690/3765 (71%) and 814/936 (87%) patients who received 2+ or 3+ TNFi, respectively.

Conclusion: A third of TNFi-treated study patients received ≥3 TNFi with most discontinuing priorTNFi due to lack/loss of efficacy. Though trial-and-error care is seemingly standard to RA management, this study suggests that some patients do not benefit from this approach.


AB1825-HPR  
DECISION TO INITIATE A TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR INHIBITOR IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS UNCOUPLED FROM DISEASE ACTIVITY MEASURES

Keywords: bDMARD, Real-world evidence, Rheumatoid arthritis
J. Singh, C. Adams, A. Frick, S. Helfgott, K. Huston, S. Milligan, N. Solomon, C. Edgerton. 1University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine, Birmingham, United States of America; 2Articularis Healthcare, Clinic, Summerville, United States of America; 3Tri Health, Analytics, Louisville, United States of America; 4Harvard Medical School, Division of Rheumatology and the Division of Medical Communications, Boston, United States of America; 5Kansas City Physician Partners, Clinic, Kansas City, United States of America; 6Arizona Arthritis, Clinic, Phoenix, United States of America

Background: Previous studies have demonstrated discordance between patient-based (e.g. RAPID3) and predominantly physician-based (e.g. CDAI) disease activity measures (DAMs).

Objectives: To examine the relationship between DAMs and decision to initiate TNFi following csDMARDs.

Methods: Data: PIONEER-Rheumatology, an EMR and open text-extracted database specific to care given by the American Rheumatology Network. Study population: Adult RA patients who received TNFi as initial targeted synthetic or biologic DMARD treatment between January 2014 to April 2022 after csDMARDs. Assessments: CDAI, RAPID3, DAS28 (includes DAS28-CRP, DAS28-ESR), tender/w swollen joints (TSJ), pain score, and HAQi. Closed to within -180 days of TNFi initiation. Paired (+/- 30 days) CDAI, RAPID3, and DAS28 assessed via Pearson correlation.

Results: 2811/3682 (76%) patients had 1+ DM prior to TNFi initiation; 2332/3682 (63%) pain score, 2047/3682 (56%) TSJ, 1570/3682 (43%) DAS28, 1442/3682 (39%) RAPID3, 1430/3682 (39%) CDAI, and 143 (4%) HAQi. Of the 2331/3682 patients with RAPID3, DAS28, or CDAI, 982/2331 (42%) had near-remission/low disease by at least 1 DAM prior to index. 582 patients had paired CDAI and RAPID3 scores; moderate/severe disease was indicated for 474/582 (81%) by CDAI and 395/582 (68%) by RAPID3 (p<0.001) and 163/582 (28%) of patients were indicated as near-remission/low by one DAM but as moderate/severe by the other. Correlations between paired DMs: strong for CDAI,DAS28 (n=1063, r=0.788) and moderate for CDAI,RAPID3 (n=582, r=0.399) and for RAPID3,DAS28 (n=637, r=0.162).

Conclusion: DMs were not present for 24% of study patients at initiation of TNFi. Of patients with RA, RAPID3, DAS28, or CDAI, 42% patients started TNFi despite near-remission/low disease activity. When conducted, paired DAS28-RAPID3 and CDAI-RAPID3 scores were moderately correlated though severity categories for CDAI/RAPID3 were discordant for 28% of evaluated patients. These results suggest that clinical decision-making to initiate TNFi does not rely solely on standard DMs.
REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by Scipher Medicine.


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HOW TO ASSESS THE SATISFACTION OF PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASES AFTER SWITCHING TO A BIOSIMILAR? INSIGHTS FROM AN EXPLORATORY QUALITATIVE STUDY PRELIMINARY TO AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Keywords: Patient reported outcomes, Quality of life, DBMARD

G. Bouguen1, L. Peyrin-Biroulet2, A. Buisson3, D. Lafarge4, S. Tropé4, G. Monlagu1, A. Denis3, C. Habauzit2, S. Benkhaila2, H. Marote2, 1CHU de Rennes, Maladies de l’appareil digestif, Rennes, France; 2CHU de Nancy, Hépatologie gastro-entérologie, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, France; 3Afa Crohn Rch France, Afa Crohn Rch France, PARIS, France; 4Association France Spondylarthrites, Association France Spondylarthrites, TULLE, France; 5Association National de Défense contre l’Arthrite Rhumatoïde, ANDAR, Clermont l’Hérault, France; 6Unknown, Unknowns, PARIS, France; 7Celltrion Healthcare France, Medical, Isay Les Moulinaux, France; 8CHU de Saint-Etienne, Rhumatologie, Saint-Etienne, France

Background: Patients experience may be negatively impacted when starting biosimilar due to a poorly executed switch which could result in poor adherence and nocebo effect.

Objectives: This study aims to identify suitable patient satisfaction dimensions to design an observational study on real-life switches.

Methods: A qualitative exploratory study was performed. In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted by a sociologist with patients with inflammatory diseases treated by anti-TNF biosimilar to determine patient switching experiences and expectations. Qualitative dimensions for the observational study’s ques- tionnaire (ePRO) were designed.

Results: Interviews were conducted with the help of patients’ associations.

Four patients (3 females) were included: 2 with rheumatoid arthritis and 2 with Crohn’s disease. Two patients had adalimumab biosimilar, 1 etanercept biosimilar and 1 adalimumab originator (switch-back). The following dimensions were identified:

Information transparency: patients were unfamiliar with biosimilars and some did not know they were using them. Some reported distrusting biosimilars but accepted them because they trust their physician.

Patient Involvement: physicians decide whether to offer a biosimilar, but patient acceptance is determined by their interpretation of the situation. Patients found it difficult to express their treatment preferences and reported that physicians didn’t always prompt these discussions.

The time of injection: patients had to learn the injection procedures but received relatively little support during the switch in handling the new device. Some experienced greater pain, differences in comfort or reported errors in use.

Transition: the sustainability of the switch may have been constrained by delays in supply in the city. In some cases, the pharmacy dispensed the originator drug as a replacement.

These led to the following ePRO composition: BMQ, HLSEU-Q16 (health literacy), ad hoc items on shared decision making, expectations, patient training, satisfaction with provided information and injection. All 4 patients understood the final questionnaire. The study design is an open label multicentric study of 300 patients in 30 sites (rheumatology and gastroenterology, hospital, and private practice) when offered a switch. The primary objective is to assess patients’ overall satisfaction with injections 3 months post-initiation compared to the previous adalimumab. The first patient was included in June 2022.

Conclusion: This work proposes an original methodology for the selection and design of criteria for an observational study. An exploratory qualitative study high- lightened different factors of patient satisfaction during the switch to adalimumab biosimilar. It guided the choice of e-PROs and the construction of specific items.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: Guillaume BOUGUEN Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Takeda, MSD, Janssen, Celtrion, Consultant of: AbbVie, Takeda, Mylan, Pfizer, Sandoz, Amsen, Ferring, Janssen, Celtrion, Grant/research support from: Abb- Vie, Takeda, Fresenius Kabi, Laurent Peyrin-Biroulet Speakers bureau: Galapagos, AbbVie, Janssen, Genentech, Ferring, Tillotts, Pharmacosmos, Celtrion Health- care, Takeda, Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer, Index Pharmaceuticals, Sandoz, Celine, Biogen, Samsung Biopics, Alma, Serna, Nestle, Inotrem, Enterome, Allergan, MSD, Roche, Arena, Gilead, Hilma, Amsen, BMS, VitOr, Norgine, Mylan, Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Opplian Pharma, Sulbility Therapeutics, Applied Molecular Transport, OSE Immunotherapeutics, Enthea, Theravance, Anne BUISSON: None declared, Delphine LAFARGE: None declared, Sonia Tropé: None declared, Guillaume Montague: None declared, Alice DENIS Shareholder of: Celtrion Healthcare France, Employee of: Celtrion Healthcare France, Caro-line HABAUTZ Shareholder of: Celtrion Healthcare France, Employee of: Cels- trion Healthcare France, salim benkhaila Shareholder of: Celtrion Healthcare France, Employee of: Celtrion Healthcare France, Hubert MAROTTE Share- holder of: AbbVie, Amsen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Celtrion HealthCare, Galapa- gos, Lilly France, Merck Sharp & Doyme, Novartis, Nordic Pharma, Pfizer, and Sanofi Aventis, Speakers bureau: AbbVie, Amsen, Bristol Myres Squibb, Celtrion HealthCare, Galapagos, Lilly France, Merck Sharp & Doyme, Novartis, Nordic Pharma, Pfizer, and Sanofi Aventis, Grant/research support from: Bristol Myers Squibb, Celtrion HealthCare, Galapagos, Lilly France, Novartis, Nordic Pharma, Pfizer, and Sanofi Aventis.

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PAIN MANAGEMENT IN OLDER POPULATION FROM GERMANY AND SWEDEN: SUB-GROUP ANALYSIS FROM A TOPICAL DICLOFENAC PROSPECTIVE REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE STUDY

Keywords: Pain, Quality of life, Patient reported outcomes

V. Rampartaap1, K. Fabrikan2, D. Nair1, V. Sood1, G. Shangra2, T. Wilcox1, J. R. Norrellf1, E. Csoke1, 1Haleon (formerly known as GSK Consumer Health), Medical Affairs, Amersfoort, Netherlands; 2Haleon (formerly known as GSK Consumer Health), Medical Affairs, London, United Kingdom; 3Haleon, Medical Affairs, Stockholm, Sweden; 4Haleon (formerly known as GSK Consumer Health), Medical Affairs, Singapore, Singapore; 5Haleon (formerly known as GSK Consumer Health), Biostatistics, New Jersey, United States of America; 6Former PPD Employee, n.a., Maryland, United States of America; 7Karolinska Institutet, Rehabilitation Medicine Occupational Health, Stockholm, Sweden; 8n.a., n.a., Basel, Switzerland

Background: Adequate pain management in older individuals is essential to support functional lifestyle and enable robust quality of life (QoL). Topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as diclofenac gel, with limited systemic exposure, provide a better pharmacological alternative to oral NSAIDs for musculoskeletal pain management especially in elderly due to favorable benefit-risk profile[1].

Objectives: To evaluate impact of over the counter (OTC) topical diclofenac (1.16% & 2.32%) use in an older German and Swedish population on different aspects related to QoL such as pain, functional status, and treatment satisfaction.
Methods: A subgroup analyses of older participants (≥65 years) from a prospective real-world evidence study conducted among 731 adult (≥18 years) consumers (467 in Germany and 264 in Sweden) of OTC topical diclofenac (1.16% ≤ 2.92%). Treatment satisfaction, functional status and pain relief were assessed using electronic surveys (baseline, Week 4, and Week 12) via personalized link. Numerical Rating Scale (NRS-11) and Likert scale were used for questionnaire-based response collection.

Results: Data from 279 (72.3%) older participants, 203 German and 76 Swedish, were included. Baseline characteristics of participants and reported outcomes are shown in Table 1. Majority purchased 2.32% strength, were repeat users and reported having previously identified cardiovascular conditions. Improvement in pain score ≥ 1 point was observed in >57% of users at Week 12. Participants reported reduction of pain interference in different functional activities at Week 4 and 12. >70% of participants were satisfied with the treatment at Week 4 and >75% at Week 12.

Conclusion: Older participants reported reduction in pain over time, improvements in their ability to participate in daily life activities, treatment satisfaction with the use of OTC topical diclofenac and thus improved QoL.


Table 1. Baseline characteristics and Outcomes for older German and Swedish participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline characteristics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age (years)</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>72.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeat users of OTC topical diclofenac (2.32%)</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of pain</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient pain (My pain comes and goes)</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent pain (My pain never really goes away)</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inconsistent pain (My pain usually occurs unexpectedly and infrequently)</td>
<td>65.5%</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disease*</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal disorders</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) worst pain on NRS</td>
<td>6.1 (1.9)</td>
<td>5.8 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days prior to baseline</td>
<td>5.2 (2.2)</td>
<td>4.9 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days prior to Week 4</td>
<td>4.8 (2.5)</td>
<td>4.2 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in pain score ≥ 1 point</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Week 4</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Week 12 Reports of severe pain</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Baseline</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 4</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 12 Reports of pain interference (‘Quite a bit’) with daily activities</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Baseline</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 4</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 12 Reports of pain interfering with errands and chores around and outside the home</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Baseline</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 4</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 12 Reports of pain interfering with physical activities</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Baseline</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 4</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 12 Reports of pain interfering with social activities</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Baseline</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 4</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 12 Satisfied with OTC topical diclofenac</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 4</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 12 Social independence among participants satisfied with OTC topical diclofenac</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At Week 4</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - At Week 12 OTC = Over the counter; NRS = Numerical Rating Scale; SD = Standard deviation;*heart problems, high blood pressure; stomatitis or intestinal ulcers, bleeding from stomach, or blood in stool

Acknowledgements: NIL.


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AB1825-HPR

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE USE AND TRUST IN THE PHYSICIAN IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM?

Keywords: Diet and Nutrition, Rheumatoid arthritis, Spondyloarthritis F. Z. Aharrane1, F. Z. Taik1, N. Takhrifa1, R. Bensaid1, M. Fourtassi2, F. E. Abouraazzak1, 1Abdelmalek Essaïdi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan- Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Rheumatology, Tangier, Morocco; 1Abdelmalek Essaïdi University, Faculty of Medicine of Tangier-Tetouan- Al Hoceima, University Hospital Center Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Tangier, Morocco

Background: Generally, patients with chronic rheumatic diseases use complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in addition to their conventional treatments to manage their health. Discussing these treatments with their physician is still rare, which might be directly related to patients’ trust toward them.

Objectives: The primary objective of this study was to assess the association between patients’ trust in their physician and the use of complementary and alternative medicine. As a secondary objective, to estimate the prevalence of complementary and alternative treatment use among patients with chronic inflammatory rheumatism.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study, which included patients with established chronic inflammatory rheumatism, followed at the University Hospital Center in Tangier. The questionnaire included demographic and clinical information, use of conventional therapy, complementary and alternative therapy, as well as the interpersonal trust in patient-physician relationships using the Trust in Physician Scale (TPS).

Results: The study included 189 patients. 57.14% of patients reported using complementary medicine at least once, out of patients with known cardiovascular conditions, 46.67±13.25 years with an average course of the disease 11.11±9.23 years. The most frequent used complementary and alternative treatments were cupping therapy (45.90%), massage (40.40%) and the ingestion of a mixture of plants (27%). Means±SD Trust in Physician Scale was 4784 ±72, and there were no significant differences between CAM users vs. non-users (48.06±6.9 vs. 47.0±4.7, p=0.35).

Conclusion: More than half of patients with inflammatory rheumatism reported the use of complementary and alternative medicine. However, the association between their use and trust in the physician assessed with TPS was not established.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2735

AB1829-HPR

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SEDENTARY BEHAVIOR IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEARTHROSIS

Keywords: Education, Pain S. Ez-Zaouiti1, H. Rkaïri1,2, S. Bahoul1, T. Latifa1, F. El Joumani1, R. Honsali1, F. Kronbi1, S. Farhi1, I. Bengsahri1, N. Hajjai-Hassouni1, F. Allali1, 1Hospital Al Ayachi, Rheumatology B, Salé, Morocco; 2Faculty of Medicine And Pharmacy of Rabat, Exercise Physiology and Autonomous Nervous system Team, Physiology Laboratory, Rabat, Morocco; 3International University of Rabat, Rheumatology, Rabat, Morocco

Background: To determine factors related to sedentary behavior in patients with Knee Osteoarthritis.

Methods: we conducted a cross-sectional study of 130 patients affected by knee osteoarthritis. Information on patients and disease characteristics were collected. Physical activity was measured objectively using the short version of IPAQ questionnaire (International Physical Activity Questionnaire) for 7 consecutive days. Activity levels were subdivided into low physical activity and moderate to vigorous physical activity. We analysed factors associated with sedentary behaviour.

Results: The mean age of the patients included was 59.4±10 years with 110 (84.6%) females. The median IPAQ was 260 (0.500) MET-min/week. The sedentary behaviour was noted in 69.2% of patients. Table 1 summarized factors associated with sedentary behaviour in knee osteoarthritis patients.
Table 1. Analysis of factors associated with sedentary behavior in knee osteoarthritis patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors related to sedentary behavior</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of regular PA before the disease</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-cultural and/or economic barriers</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain caused by knee osteoarthritis</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional disability caused by knee osteoarthritis</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Sedentary behaviour is prevalent among knee osteoarthritis patients. It is important to overcome this unhealthy lifestyle and to encourage practice of physical activity in this population by combating the barriers reported by patients.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4630

AB1830-HPR MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS DURING COVID-19 INFECTION: A SURVEY OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Keywords: COVID, Health Services Research, Epidemiology

H. Ziedi1, D. Brahimi1, I. Youssfi1, M. Mersni1, Z. Athimi2, N. Mechergui1, G. Bahni1, H. Ben Said1, N. Ladhari1, 1Charles Nicolle Hospital, Department of Occupational Pathology and Fitness for Work, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: COVID-19 infection has revealed a considerable number of extra-pulmonary manifestations, especially rheumatological. The detection of these manifestations, which herald the infection, is of great value in the early diagnosis of the disease, especially in health care workers (HCWs) who are at considerable risk of infection. Although myalgia is a common clinical feature of COVID-19, other musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) have been rarely described.

Objectives: To describe MSDs during SARS-COV2 infection in HCWs.

Methods: Prospective descriptive study conducted at the department of occupational pathology and fitness for work of Charles Nicolle Hospital in Tunis, having included the HCWs affected by COVID-19 during the period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021. Data collection was carried out by regular telephone follow-up during the containment period using a pre-established form.

Results: During the study period, 656 HCWs were infected with SARS COV 2, of whom 134 (20.4%) had at least one musculoskeletal event. The mean age was 42±9 years with a sex ratio (M/F) of 0.2. The most represented occupational category was nurses (33.6%) followed by health technicians (23.1%). The median professional length of service was 12 [7; 20] years. The presence of comorbidity was noted in 58.2% of HCWs. A pre-existing osteoarticular disease was found in 8.2% of cases. Obesity was noted in 25.4% of the population. Active smoking was reported by 14.3% of respondents. A known vitamin D deficiency was noted in 16.5% of patients. Spinal pain was the most reported MSD, present in 87.3% of cases. Low back pain was the most frequent spinal pain (56.7%) followed by back pain (37.4%) and neck pain (5.9%). MSDs of the lower limbs were found in 12.7% of patients. They were represented by gonalgia in 11.9% of cases, ankle pain in 5.2% of cases and hip pain in 4.3% of cases. MSDs of the upper limbs were described by 7.5% of the patients, 92.5% of whom presented with shoulder pain. The median duration of MSDs during COVID-19 was 5 [3; 8] days. These manifestations were persistent on return to work in 21.1% of cases.

Conclusion: Knowledge of the frequency and consequences of musculoskeletal manifestations related to COVID-19 infection is of great importance, particularly in HCWs, in order to optimise management and ensure a rapid return to work.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1831-HPR SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF LABORATORY MONITORING GUIDELINES OF CONVENTIONAL SYNDROMIC DISEASE MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS

Keywords: Systematic review, Best practices, Disease-modifying Drugs (DMARDs)

Acknowledgements: NIl.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.2856
Table 1. Example of extracted laboratory monitoring guidelines for methotrexate (other csDMARDS not included for purposes of word count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMARD</th>
<th>Liver enzymes</th>
<th>Full blood count</th>
<th>Renal function</th>
<th>Additional recommendations</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>Baseline, every 2-4 weeks for first 3 months, every 8-12 weeks for following 3-6 months, every 12 weeks thereafter</td>
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<td>American College of Rheumatology (ACR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background: EPOSER study has confirmed the great burden of rheumatic diseases, which represent almost 30% of primary care medical consultations in Spain[1]. Electronic consultation could be an alternative response[3] as well as rheumatologist-led update programmes and joint case discussion with primary care physicians have shown to reduce the burden of care and waiting times in rheumatology units[4].

Objectives: To analyze the demand from primary care to the rheumatology service of a tertiary hospital.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive study of the data consecutively collected from 15 to 30 May 2022 from new rheumatology consultations at the reference hospital requested from primary care (PC) health centers in the area. The following variables were collected: waiting time (median and range in days), referral route (ordinary, preferential or e-consultation), reason for derivation, type of visit (discharge or follow-up), suspicion of inflammatory disease by the specialist in Family and Community Medicine (Yes/No), confirmation diagnosis of inflammatory disease by the specialist in Rheumatology (Yes/No), time from onset of inflammatory symptoms to rheumatology consultation (median and range in months), referral with analytical tests (Yes/No/With acute phase reactants) and with musculoskeletal image requested by the PC physician (Yes/No); those provided by patients in private centers were excluded. Descriptive statistics were used for the presentation of results and Cohen’s Kappa coefficient was calculated to quantify the degree of agreement in the diagnosis of inflammatory disease between primary care physicians and rheumatologists.

Results: A total of 116 new consultations were registered in the system referring to 100 patients, 16 did not attend their appointment. Results are shown in Table 1. The degree of agreement according to Cohen’s Kappa index was 0.53, representing 80% of agreement (moderate degree). No differences were found between health care centers in the referral rate according to the population assisted by each health care center.

Conclusion: Main reasons for consultation were ‘osteoarthritis assessment’ and ‘polyarthralgia’. Ordinary route was the most frequently used with a median waiting time of 60 days and 50 days for preferential route. Thirty percent of patients were referred with analysis and 75% with some musculoskeletal image. The degree of agreement was moderate in the diagnosis of inflammatory disease between primary care physicians and rheumatologists.

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<td>Reason for derivation (%)</td>
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<td>Polyarthralgia</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Time from onset of inflammatory symptoms to Rheumatology consultation in months (median (range))</td>
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REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Background: Decrease in vitamin D levels in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) arouses particular interest. Vitamin D levels and their correlation with bone mineral density (BMD) loss are still seen as contradictory.

Objectives: To study serum vitamin D levels in SLE women and to estimate their correlation with BMD and disease activity.

Methods: 101 SLE women and 30 individuals in a control group participated in the study. The activity of SLE was evaluated by SLEDAI. The average age of patients was 47.12 ± 0.14 years, in the control group it was 46.17 ± 0.12. Serum levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) and 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) were measured in all participants. Changes in BMD of the lumbar spine and hip were determined by dual-energy X-ray densitometry.

Results: In patients with SLE, the average level of 25(OH)D equalled 14.6 ± 1.19 ng/ml, and in the individuals from the control group, it was 1.9 times higher, constituting 24.7 ± 1.32 ng/ml. In SLE women with normal BMD (T score > -1 SD) vitamin D deficiency (< 20 ng/ml) was detected in 18.3%. In the group with osteopenia (T score from -1.0 to -2.5 SD), the proportion of individuals with vitamin D deficiency has increased to 26.7%. In women with osteoporosis (T score ≤ -2.5 SD), vitamin D deficiency was found in 63.9%. In the group of patients with the maximum CRP level there were only 10% of persons with the optimal (> 30 ng/ml) 25(OH)D level, 40% had insufficiency (20-30 ng/ml), while deficiency (< 20 ng/ml) was detected in every second patient. Among patients with optimal CRP levels, only every fourth person was diagnosed with vitamin D deficiency. 10% of the individuals had vitamin D insufficiency, while 65% had optimal vitamin D levels. Decrease in vitamin D level was closely associated with SLE activity revealed by SLEDAI (r = -0.44; p < 0.05).

Conclusion: The average vitamin D level in SLE women is likely to be lower than that in the control group. Decrease in vitamin D levels was associated with BMD loss and high inflammatory process as well as the disease activity according to CRP and SLEDAI.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1272

**AB1837-HPR**

**THE NON-INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES AND CARDIOVASCULAR RISK: THE UNKNOWN COMORBIDITY**

**Keywords:** Cardiovascular disease, Osteoarthritis, Ultrasound

Y. Mabrouk1, F. Ferjani1, H. Rifai1, D. Ben Necli1, E. Labben1, D. Kaffel1, K. Mattalian1, M. Bouazzif1, W. Hamdi1.
Kassa Institute, Rheumatology, Tunis, Tunisia; Kassa Institute, Radiology, Tunis, Tunisia

Background: Several factors were associated with non-inflammatory rheumatic diseases such as diabetes and overweight. As far as we know, no previous research has studied cardiovascular risk in this population. For this goal, we used the carotid intima-media thickness (cIMT) screening as a relevant tool for CV risk assessment.

Objectives: This study mainly aimed to determine the importance of CV risk in non-inflammatory rheumatic diseases.

Methods: The present study is a case-control study conducted on Tunisian non-inflammatory rheumatism patients in the rheumatology department. We collected the characteristics of the patients and those of the disease. The CV risk was assessed using the measurement of cIMT. According to the American Society of Echocardiography guidelines, the cIMT thickness was measured using high-resolution B-mode carotid US with a Philips machine with the patient in the supine position. The cIMT was measured using the two inner layers of the common carotid artery and an increased IMT was defined as ≥0.09 cm.

Results: Fifty patients were collected, of which 82% were women, 64% of them were followed for knee osteoarthritis, the rest were chronic low back pain patients. The mean age was 53 ± 11.08 years, 10% of patients were active smokers. Two percent were hypertensive and 4% were diabetics. The average BMI was 28.1 ± 4.5 kg/m². It was greater than 25 kg/m² in 76% of them. [cholesterol] was 4.9 ± 0.9 mmol/l. 48.9% had a high rate. [Cholesterol HDL] was 1.1 ± 0.2 mmol/l. The mean [cholesterol LDL] was 3.3 ± 0.8 mmol/l. [triglyceride] was 1.3 ± 0.6 mmol/l. The mean IMT in the left common carotid (LCC) was 0.06 ± 0.01, in the left internal carotid (LCI) was 0.06 ± 0.01, in the left external carotid (LEC) was 0.05 ± 0.01. The mean IMT was 0.05 ± 0.018 in the right common carotid (RCC), 0.06 ± 0.01 in the right internal carotid (RIC), and 0.05 ± 0.01 in the right external carotid (REC). Thirty six percent had an atheroma plaque. Twenty six percent had a high CV risk according to the IMT. There was no correlation in our series between diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, BMI, and high CV risk (p > 0.1). p = 0.05, respectively.

Conclusion: While the absence of systemic inflammation in non-inflammatory, osteoarticular diseases, the cardiovascular risk is higher in our study. Therefore, cardiovascular risk screening should not be limited to chronic inflammatory neumatism.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: NIL.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.6076

**HPR Epidemiology and public health (including prevention).**

**AB1838-HPR**

**THE TYPE AND THE EFFECT OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND FATIGUE IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN GREECE: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY**

**Keywords:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, Quality of life, Epidemiology

D. Bonia1. Institute of Occupational Science and Rehabilitation, Health Science, Marousi, Greece

Background: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease with severe symptoms, such as fatigue and has a high impact on patient's quality of life.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the rate, the type, and the effect of physical activity (P.A.), and exercise in patients with SLE on quality of life and fatigue in Greece.

Methods: Three questionnaires were used to measure quality of life (SF-36), fatigue (FSS), and P.A. (mPAQ). 101 patients with SLE from Greece answered about their personal choices. For statistics the IBM SPSS 25 was used for the statistical analysis. Descriptive analysis conducted to describe quantitative variables of interests. Data normality was verified from Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, and Pearson Correlation test was performed to determine the relationship between P.A. and QoL and Fatigue.

Results: The results showed that the sample average for QoL was 48.3±19.3), for Fatigue 41.7±7.2). The total score of P.A. was 1603.7±1695.8) METs. Furthermore, for vigorous P.A. was 557.7±867.6) METs, for moderate P.A. 824.6±811.6) METs, and for low P.A. 239.8±405) METs. The most common type of P.A. was housekeeping and cleaning for 74% of the sample, and even thought it is not considered as P.A. activity there was an option. A high average (50.5%) of the sample was presented by patients who chose to remain seated during the day. Positive correlation between P.A. and QoL was found (R=0.385, P<0.01). Negative correlation between P.A. and Fatigue was also found (R=0.384, P<0.01).

Conclusion: The conclusions were that the patients with SLE in Greece do not perform high level of P.A. and exercise. The moderate level of P.A. was more likely activities of day living, that are classed as P.A., than exercise. Furthermore, the sample choose a sedentary lifestyle, although correlation between P.A. and QoL and Fatigue in patients with S.L.E. was found.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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**AB1839-HPR**

**PERINATAL GRIEF IN WOMEN WITH AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES**

**Keywords:** Mental health, Quality of life, Pregnancy and reproduction

M. E. Corral Trujillo1, R. A. Cerda González2, H. G. Martinez Sandoval2, A. Carrazo Chapa1, K. M. López Serna1, J. C. Riega Torres1, L. Pérez Barbosa2, C. M. Skinner Taylor3, D. A. Galarza-Delgado1. Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González”; Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico

Background: Perinatal loss (PL) defined as a loss from any gestational age or in the neonatal period [1] lead women to the process of grieving. Perinatal Grief (PG) involves suffering and reaction such as sadness, disbelief and anger [2]. PL and PG symptoms affect many women around the world; women with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARDs) have greater risk of PL. The Perinatal Grief Scale (PGS) can help health providers prevent complicated grief in their patients [3].

Objectives: Determine which PL and sociodemographic variables are associated factors to a complicated grief in women with ARDs.

Methods: Descriptive, cross-sectional, comparative study at the Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González” in México. We included women from the Pregnancy and Rheumatic Diseases Clinic (CEER) that answer a virtual survey with the PGS. The demographic, ARD and PL data were obtained from the clinical records. For the control group, women without ARD were invited to fill a virtual survey with the PGS, sociodemographic and PL data. The PGS is a Likert-type scale that consists of 27 items with four response options. The questions are distributed in four subscales: active grief (10 items), guilt (8 items), depression (6 items), acceptance (3 items). Scores greater than 50 points suggest a complicated grief comorbidity.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to determine normality; to analyze the differences between groups, Mann–Whitney U, Chi-square tests and T-test were employed. A p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. The statistical analysis was performed with the statistical program SPSS version 25.

Results: A total of 50 women were included: 25 with ARD and 25 without ARD. The median age for the group with ARD was 42 (38.5-51) and 34 (26-42.5) for the without ARD group. In the ARD group the most frequent diagnosis were systemic lupus erythematosus (7/14%), rheumatoid arthritis (6/12%) and Antiphospholipid Syndrome (4/8%). For the PGS, twenty (40%) of the 50 women got a score >50; 11 (55%) were women without ARD and 9 (45%) have ARD. The PL, suffered by these 20 women were 18 during the pregnancy (17/85% on the first trimester and 1/5% on the second trimester) and 2 (10%) after birth. No statistically differences were found in the total score and subscales of the PGS between groups. The sociodemographic and PL data and the PGS score for both groups are included in table 1.

Conclusion: Even though there were no significant differences between groups; we hypothesize that the greater number of PL in women with ARD serves as a protective factor and prevents that the PG evolve to a complicated grief. On the other hand, having the PL during the first trimester of the pregnancy can be a risk factor for complicated grief. Our limitation was the sample size for both groups.

REFERENCES:

Table 1. Clinical characterization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Patients with ARD N=25</th>
<th>Patients without ARD N=25</th>
<th>P=0.05</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years of education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;9 years</td>
<td>21 (84%)</td>
<td>15 (60%)</td>
<td>0.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;9 years</td>
<td>4 (16%)</td>
<td>16 (40%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td>0.225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married/Common law</td>
<td>20 (80%)</td>
<td>15 (60%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>3 (12%)</td>
<td>8 (32%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perinatal Losses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13 (52%)</td>
<td>17 (68%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>12 (48%)</td>
<td>3 (32%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnancies, median (IQR)</td>
<td>4 (2-5.5)</td>
<td>3 (2-3.5)</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of living children, median (IQR)</td>
<td>2 (1-3)</td>
<td>1 (0.5-2)</td>
<td>0.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGS score, median (IQR)</td>
<td>43 (20-60.5)</td>
<td>46 (39.5-62.5)</td>
<td>0.587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGS active grief subscale</td>
<td>13 (10-18)</td>
<td>14 (12-18.5)</td>
<td>0.355</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGS depression subscale</td>
<td>12 (10-19)</td>
<td>12 (10-22)</td>
<td>0.782</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGS guilt subscale</td>
<td>12 (9-18.5)</td>
<td>12 (8-17)</td>
<td>0.615</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGS acceptance subscale</td>
<td>6 (6-8)</td>
<td>7 (6-8)</td>
<td>0.347</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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Clinical cases

**AB1847**

ANTI-MYELOPEROXIDASE ANTIBODY-POSITIVE GRANULOMATOSIS WITH POLYANGITIS MIMICKING MUCOSAL LEISHMANIASIS: A RARE CASE REPORT

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Descriptive Studies, Vasculitis

I. Nogueira1, M. Montenegro1, V. Alcantara1, T. N. Albuquerque Gomes

Nogueira2. 1Faculty of Medicine - Federal University of Ceará, Departamento de Medicina Clínica, Fortaleza, Brazil; 2Faculty of Medicine - Federal University of Ceará, Departamento de Patologia e Medicina Legal, Fortaleza, Brazil

Background: Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) features necrotizing granulomatous inflammation of the upper and lower respiratory tracts, with vasculitis of small- and medium-sized vessels [1]. Anti-proteinase 3 antibodies (PR3-ANCA) are found in the majority of cases, yet anti-myeloperoxidase (MPO-ANCA) may be identified in approximately 10% of patients with GPA [2, 3]. One of the differential diagnoses is mucosal leishmaniasis, especially in patients from endemic regions. Atypical presentations of GPA may delay diagnosis.

Objectives: To report a case of a female patient previously diagnosed with and treated for mucosal leishmaniasis due to upper respiratory tract lesions. As the symptoms returned alongside arthritis, further investigation concluded to a diagnosis of anti-myeloperoxidase-positive GPA.

Methods: Case report and discussion.

Results: A 51-year-old woman from Brazil presented in 2021 with epistaxis and joint pain. The patient reported a prior history of recurring bilateral epistaxis and maxillary pain since 2008. At that time, she had a wide nasal septal perforation. CT scan of the sinuses showed maxillary and ethmoidal sinusopathy. A nasal biopsy showed epithelial granulomas without amastigotes, but the patient had a 25mm Montenegro skin test (strongly positive). Syphilis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV screenings and acid-fast bacilli smear were negatives. As Brazil is an endemic region for leishmaniasis, a presumptive diagnosis of mucosal leishmaniasis was made and the patient was appropriately treated. In 2016, she was lost to follow-up. In 2021, she returned with fever, epistaxis, important unspecified weight loss and arthralgia with edema in ankles, distal interphalangeal joints, metacarpophalangeal joints and wrists. Blood screening revealed an RCP of 9.5 and an ESR of 28. Urine tests were normal. A thoracic CT scan showed multiple lung nodular formations, including a subpleural nodule in the anterior lower right lobe, with a size of 3.8 x 3.1 x 2.9 cm. Lung histopathology revealed foci of poorly formed, non-necrotic granulomas in centrilobular parenchyma and angiitis in small-caliber arteries (image 1). Autoimmune screening revealed positive MPO-ANCA superior to 1/80 and negative c-ANCA, rheumatoid factor and anti-CCP. Thus, a diagnosis of GPA was made, and oral methotrexate 20mg weekly was started. Improvement of arthritis could be observed in four weeks.

Conclusion: GPA may present upper respiratory tract symptoms, and is considered a differential diagnosis for mucosal leishmaniasis [4]. Recurrence of the symptoms in a patient treated for mucosal leishmaniasis should prone further investigation for other conditions. The renal system was spared in our patient, however nasal septal involvement, prominent sinusopathy, joint symptoms and pulmonary typical findings strongly favored the hypothesis of GPA. A positive MPO-ANCA and good therapeutic response following methotrexate strengthened the certainty of the diagnosis. Physicians should be aware of GPA as a differential diagnosis for mucosal leishmaniasis and recognize its MPO-ANCA-positive presentation.

REFERENCES:

Image 1: H&E 100x (A) and 200x (B) section of pulmonary nodule showing lymphocytic bronchiolitis (A, red arrow) and angiitis, featuring sub-intimal thickening with neutrophil exudate, edema and segmental destruction of internal elastic lamina (B – 200x, white arrow). Alveolar hemorrhage is seen in (*)

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
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**AB1848**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE CLINICAL SETTING OF THE RHEUMATIC DISEASES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Keywords: Systematic review, Artificial Intelligence
Background: Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases (AIRD) are chronic multifactorial diseases that present with a variety of pathologic findings due to immune abnormalities. The pathogenesis of data may involve a genetic and environmental factors, and there are usually large individual differences in phenotype, imaging and blood findings, treatment response, and prognosis. As a result, clear algorithms for diagnosis and treatment are scarce, and clinicians must interpret complex disease images from a variety of data to make analogies between diagnosis, prognosis prediction, and treatment effects. Artificial intelligence, encompasses concepts such as machine learning and deep learning, is a substitute for these complex tasks, and attempts are gradually beginning to replace it in the clinical practice of AIRD. Accountability is often required for decisions in medicine that directly affect human lives, and the same is true for the black box of models used by AI. Therefore, in recent years, emphasis has been placed on the explainability of AI, and a method called explainable AI (XAI) has been used to explain decisions made by AI models. Research in this area is still in its infancy, and it would be of significance to present an overall picture.

**Objectives:** To clarify the overall picture of AI/machine learning in the clinical application or research in AIRD by the systematic review of the literature.

**Methods:** A systematic literature review was conducted using the Pubmed and Web of Science according to the “Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses” (PRISMA) guidelines. The search formula used Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning, Deep learning, Neural Network, AIRD, and XAI. Screening and full text were independently performed by two reviewers. Further, the methods for algorithms explanation.

**Results:** The literature search yielded 1483 articles, that were published before June, 2021, and resulted in 164 articles after primary and secondary screenings. Among them, 153/164(93.9%) were published in or after 2017. The main target diseases of the articles were rheumatoid arthritis (RA) 72, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) 42, spondyloarthritis 11, inflammatory myositis 7, systemic vasculitis syndrome 5, systemic sclerosis 5 and others 21. The main objects of the studies were diagnosis or classification of the disease in 98, followed by the prognostic prediction in 49 and analysis of the therapeutic reagent in 19. The most common types of data used as training were demographic data in 114 articles, followed by physical data 101, clinical test data 92, genomics data 40, image data 30 and pathological data 28. The most commonly used algorithms were tree-based algorithm (random forest etc.) followed by support vector machine and neural network. XAI were performed in 8 studies (3 studies with RA, 3 with SLE one with SLE/RA and 1 with AIRD in general) in which Shapley Additive Explanations (SHAP) was the most frequently used tool (5/8; 62.5%).

**Conclusion:** The clinical application of AI in AIRD is mainly used as a tool for diagnosis or the prognostic prediction in RA and SLE. On the other hand, only a very small number of the study have examined the explainability of AI. The review indicates that research on the clinical implementation of AI applications is still at an early stage despite the great potential.

**REFERENCES:**


**Keywords:** Vasculitis

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.1747
Background: Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TPP) and Microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) rarely occur in conjunction. Autoimmune TPP is caused by autoantibodies to the ADAMTS13 protein that cleaves von Willebrand factor. MPA is a small vessel vasculitis that typically affects the small blood vessels of the lung and kidney [1]. We present a case of concurrent TPP and MPA which we believe could highlight a pathogenetic correlation and treatment overlap between the two diseases.

Objectives: To report a rare case of concurrent TPP and MPA and to educate physicians on optimal treatment strategies.

Methods: Case report and literature review.

Results: A 67-year-old patient with history of stroke and sickle cell disease presented to the emergency department due to altered mental status and fever. Serology on admission was notable for marked acute kidney injury and anemia requiring transfusions. Urinalysis showed hematuria and proteinuria. Autoimmune serology was remarkable for p-ANCA positivity at 1:80 with myeloperoxidase antibody > 30 pmol/L; a diagnosis of MPA was made. Patient’s serology was also remarkable for thrombotic microangiopathy on peripheral blood smear and hemolysis labs. ADAMTS13 autoantibodies were reduced with less than 3% functionality and an inhibitor of 1/0 BU, confirming a concurrent diagnosis of TPP. Patient was initiated on high-dose steroids and therapeutic plasma exchange (TPE) with resultant normalization of platelets and improvement in renal function. TPE was discontinued, and the patient was transitioned to rituximab with continuation of high-dose steroids. The patient was ultimately discharged home with a steroid taper and maintenance rituximab dosing.

Conclusion: Per literature review, three other cases of concurrent TPP and MPA have been reported [2-4]. Further investigation into pathogenetic and treatment overlap of MPA and TPP may be warranted. Although rare, when occurring together the presentation is often severe, and urgent initiation of treatment is critical. TPE is the mainstay of treatment in TPP but is usually only recommended in MPA patients with anti-GBM antibodies, those at high risk of progression to end stage renal disease, or those unresponsive to first-line therapies [1,5,6]. Rituximab, which acts to decrease B cell activity and overall antibody production, has been shown to reduce disease activity in both conditions [1,5]. This case report suggests that, in the rare event that TPP and MPA are concurrently diagnosed, the combined use of rituximab and TPE in conjunction with steroids may induce remission more efficiently than either treatment alone.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1851
TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS: A BIOETHICAL ANALYSIS WITH THE INTEGRATIVE METHOD

Keywords: Best practices, Pregnancy and reproduction, Systemic lupus erythematosus

T. Cano-Gámez 1, A. Lobato-Belmonte 1, J. Péláez-Ballestas 1, G. Medrano-Ramírez 1, J. De Léon-Carbajal 1, A. Manrique de Lara 1, 2Hospital General de México “Dr. Eduardo Liceaga”, Rheumatology Division, Mexico City, Mexico; 2Hospital General de México “Dr. Eduardo Liceaga”, Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division, Mexico City, Mexico

Background: Termination of pregnancy in patients with rheumatic diseases is controversial due to current lack of evidence. Around one fourth of pregnancies in patients with rheumatic diseases are terminated due to medical reasons. Only 0.026% of articles in Rheumatology relate to bioethics despite the high frequency of ethical dilemmas in the treatment of pregnant patients with auto-immune diseases [1].

Objectives: To analyze from a bioethical perspective the case of a pregnant patient with lupus nephritis unresponsive to treatment, for whom termination of pregnancy is considered as a therapeutic measure.

Methods: The integrative model was applied combining different normative ethical theories. The central moral dilemma and main stakeholders were identified. The case was analyzed from utilitarian, deontological and virtue ethics perspectives, followed by synthesis to establish a global conclusion.

Results: Case presentation. A 30-year-old woman was diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus in 2019 in Mexico. Induction therapy for lupus nephritis was started; however, it was interrupted due to COVID-19 pandemic. When she returned for follow-up, despite treatment was reinstated, she persisted with proteinuria without achieving complete remission criteria. Multi-target therapy was started; however, patient stopped treatment for economic reasons and became pregnant shortly after. She presented for prenatal control follow-up at 20 gestational weeks with edema in the lower extremities and hypertension, for which she was hospitalized in intensive care. Renal replacement therapy was initiated without further response to treatment. A multidisciplinary team suggested pregnancy termination as a therapeutic option, which the patient refused. Bioethics analysis. Figure 1 shows the background factors and initial steps for defining and analyzing the bioethical dilemma. Three different normative ethical theories were used. Utilitarianism. The consequences of the action are the central component, and the decisions made must be profitable and effective for the majority. Terminating the pregnancy would seek to protect the mother’s life, since saving one life represents a greater benefit than losing two. For the patient’s family, the costs of continuing with the pregnancy would be unsustainable. For the institution, the termination of the pregnancy would lead to a more efficient use of human and material resources. Therefore, interrupting the pregnancy is justifiable. Deontology. Duty-based ethics center the action itself regardless of consequences, as well as valuing autonomy. Seeking all therapeutic alternatives, including termination of pregnancy, is a good action itself. However, considering the patient’s autonomy, her desire to continue pregnancy must be taken into account. Therefore, both terminating and continuing the pregnancy are justifiable. Virtue ethics. Aretology centers the importance of decisions in the person who performs the action. Core values involve enabling flourishing and personal growth. For both the family and the institution, flourishing would imply preserving the life of the patient. Therefore, the termination of pregnancy is justifiable.

Conclusion: Using the integrative method, we conclude that termination of the pregnancy is justifiable from the three ethical theories and is an appropriate resolution to the ethical dilemma. However, considering the patient’s desire to continue pregnancy, health professionals should offer psycho-emotional support. The lack of recommendations about medically indicated termination of pregnancy in rheumatology leads to complex moral decisions, making the bioethical analysis of paradigmatic cases essential to ensure the best possible action and as a precedent for future similar situations.

REFERENCES:
Background: A black female in her 40s presented with a nonpruritic rash for 10 months consisting of bumps on the face, hands, forearms, and thighs. She had no prior treatment. Past medical history was significant for pulmonary embolism (PE) 6 years prior. She had no personal or family history of autoimmune disease.

Physical exam revealed numerous smooth 2-3 mm skin-colored papules over the bilateral forearm dorsa, hands, anterior thighs, and face. Serum protein electrophoresis revealed monoclonal IgG lambda gammapathy. Skin biopsy of her left elbow showed dermal fibroplasia with mucin deposition. IgG was less than 1.5 grams/deciliter; bloodwork was otherwise stable. The diagnosis of scleromyxedema was rendered.

Objectives: The objective of this clinical case was to evaluate a neurologic sequela of COVID-19 infection in a patient with scleromyxedema.

Methods: One month following diagnosis of scleromyxedema, our patient was diagnosed with COVID-19 five days before admission to the emergency department with altered mental status and aphasia. Rheumatology was consulted due to malignant hypertension and acute kidney injury with question of scleromyxedema-like renal crisis in the setting of recently diagnosed COVID-19 infection, although she had no other features of systemic sclerosis. The infectious disease team was consulted due to COVID-19-induced inflammatory reaction.

Results: The patient’s creatinine kinase and brain natriuretic peptide were elevated. Creatinine and potassium trended upwards. She developed seizures and became hemodynamically unstable with rapidly declining clinical status. She was transferred to the intensive care unit, where she developed respiratory arrest, shock, hyperkalemia, and acidaemia. She received escalating doses of pressors but experienced frequent arhythmic disturbances and developed asystole. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful; she expired within 24 hours of consultation.

Conclusion: Dermato-neuro syndrome (DNS) is a potential complication of scleromyxedema associated with confusion, dysarthria, seizures, and coma. The patient’s clinical presentation is consistent with DNS in the setting of scleromyxedema likely precipitated by COVID-19. Intravenous immunoglobulins are first-line treatment for scleromyxedema; however, it is associated with risk of venous thromboembolism. The patient was considered for treatment as an outpatient but deferred due to history of PE. She was reevaluated for treatment upon presentation to the hospital, but given the severity and rapidity of her condition, it was already too late. This is the second reported case of COVID-19 induced DNS in a patient with scleromyxedema. Given the severity, we recommend early initiation of treatment in patients with scleromyxedema and aggressive treatment for those contracting COVID-19.

REFERENCES:

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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AB1853

SPONTANEOUS ABORTION AS DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF INTERMITTENT GLOMERULAR PROTEINURIA IN CLINICALLY AND SEROLOGICALLY INACTIVE SLE

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus, Pregnancy and reproduction, Kidneys

F. Ulrich1, A. Skapenko1, H. Schule-Koops2. 1LMU Clinic Munich, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Munich, Germany

Background: In SLE, new-onset proteinuria and albuminuria raise concern for renal involvement, even when isolated and subnephrotic. In women of childbearing age, pregnancy-related complications are other causes of renal protein loss. Distinguishing renal disease from pregnancy-related complications of SLE is difficult because SLE is associated with adverse maternal and fetal events, while pregnancy is also a cause of disease relapses. Common to all causes of pathologic proteinuria in SLE is that they are related to disease activity and/or the need for intervention, as proteinuria does not normalize on its own.

Objectives: We report a case of a patient with inactive SLE who intermittently developed significant isolated proteinuria and albuminuria of glomerular origin that was directly related to spontaneous abortion in early (possibly twin-) pregnancy.

Methods: A 39-year-old female with SLE on hydroxychloroquine presented at our clinic for a routine check-up. Physical examination and laboratory tests were performed. To that date, SLEDAI-2K during most visits had a score of 0, indicating inactive disease.

Results: The patient reported feeling well, and the physical examination was unremarkable. Stable low-grade thrombocytopenia was the only abnormality in recent years. On the current examination, the urine showed significant proteinuria and A3 albuminuria in the protein/albumin to creatinine ratio (uPCR 724 mg/g, uACR 488 mg/g). IgG/creatinine was markedly elevated (74.4 mg/g), and α1-microglobulin was normal, indicating nonselective glomerular proteinuria without tubular impairment. There were no other abnormalities suggestive of SLE activity. After she recalled having vaginal spotting a week earlier, a pregnancy test was performed and was positive. Subsequently, the hCG level increased insufficiently, and ultrasound detection of a live embryo was not successful, but the presence of two amniotic cavities was suspected. An early incomplete miscarriage was diagnosed, and the gestational age was calculated to be 6+5 weeks. Shortly thereafter, a planned suction curettage was performed. One week later, she had a final vaginal bleed. At this time, the urine showed a decrease in proteinuria of over 50% (uPCR 317 mg/g, uACR 210 mg/g, IgG 26.9 mg/g). Three weeks later, urine protein was completely normalized, which proved stable 12 weeks after initial diagnosis. Throughout the follow-up period, she did not show any SLE relapse.

Conclusion: After exclusion of differential diagnoses (chart), causality of the miscarriage with the urinary findings seems evident. To date, there have been no reports of the concomitant occurrence of early pregnancy miscarriage, possibly LN-indicative glomerular proteinuria, and its spontaneous regression in a clinically and serologically inactive SLE patient. Recently, observations were confirmed that a large proportion of patients with a uPCR <1 g/g had LN histology, whereas a relevant proportion had inactive sediment or normal serology like our patient. As the kidney is the organ most affected in SLE pregnancy, it is important to be aware of intermittent proteinuria, as the consequences may be very different from persistent proteinuria as would be expected in nephritis.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.3232

AB1854

CORRELATION OF THE OUTCOMES MEASURED BY THE PATIENTS AND BY THE MEDICAL TEAM ACCORDING TO THE LEVEL OF ADHERENCE AND AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR PATIENTS

Keywords: Outcome measures, Patient reported outcomes

P. Santos-Moreno1, P. Ninto-Flores2, L. Realpe2, F. Rodriguez2, G. S. Rodriguez-Vargas1, J. A. Rubio-Rubio1, P. Rodriguez-Linares1, A. Rojas-Villarraga3. 1BIOBAM, Scientific Direction, Bogotá, Colombia; 2UniversiSAR, Expert Patient, Bogotá, Colombia; 3BIOBAM, Patients Education, Bogotá,
**Background:** The level of adherence to treatment in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is important to achieve control of the disease. In turn, educational strategies in self-care and knowledge of RA help improve adherence and promote knowledge for self-measurement of clinimetry.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this work was to evaluate the correlation of the clinimetry measurements made by the doctor (MM) with those made by the patient (PM) in a group of patients with education in their disease and to compare it with another group of patients without specific education, according to the level of adherence.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was carried out that included adult patients with RA. Two groups were included, Group A: Patients with educational training in RA (12-14 months, face-to-face and virtual modules developed by an expert health group), Group B: Patients without training. Both groups measured their PM by means of a digital form and after one week they were evaluated (blind MM). Both PM and MM included global VAS, Fatigue, MDHQ, Rapid-3 and EQS, additionally the physician evaluated the DAS28, CDAI and the Morisky Green Levine Medication Adherence Scale. Correlations were made using the Pearson coefficient. The project was approved by the ethics committee.

**Results:** All the participants were women (Group A: 28, Group B: 63). Group A had a significantly higher proportion of higher than secondary schooling, erosivity, nodularity, polyautoimmunity, anti-CCP positivity, treatment with biologics, older age, and disease duration. The total group had a low level of disease activity (DAS28). A significant correlation (Table 1) was found in all the MM variables with corresponding ones PM, with the highest coefficients in group A (except in MDHAQ). There was a significantly higher proportion of adherent patients in group A (78.5%) than in group B (42.8). When analyzing the correlations in the subgroup of adherent patients, all the coefficients increased (except global VAS), maintaining the same ratio of superiority of correlation coefficients in group A compared to group B.

**Conclusion:** MM has a higher correlation with PM in patients with educational training in RA. These correlations are even greater in the group that is adherent to the treatment, persisting higher in the group with training. The results deserve to be replicated in patients with different levels of severity to those studied here.

**References:** NIL.

**Disclosure of Interests:** Pedro Santos-Moreno Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Grant/research support from: Abbvie, Abbott, Biopas-UCB, Bristol, Janssen, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Normal Pinto-Florez: None declared, Liliana Rarealpe: None declared, Raquel Rodriguez-Vargas: None declared, Jaime-Andres Rubio-Rubio: None declared, Pedro Rodriuez-Linares: None declared, Adriana Rojas-Villarraga: None declared.

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**Table 1. Impact of education in patients with RA on clinical outcomes and the level of adherence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total group</th>
<th>Adherents only</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>MM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global VAS</td>
<td>0.591*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>0.498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDHQ</td>
<td>0.483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid-3</td>
<td>0.478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQS</td>
<td>0.370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>MM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global VAS</td>
<td>0.591**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>0.538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDHQ</td>
<td>0.538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid-3</td>
<td>0.524*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQS</td>
<td>0.513</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MM: Medic measures; PM: Patient measures. Group A: Patients with educational training in RA. Group B: Patients without training.*. The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (bilateral). **. The correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (bilateral).
A FIRST CASE REPORT OF SCHNITZLER SYNDROME PRESENTING WITH ACROPACHY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Keywords: bDMARD, Imaging, Inflammatory arthritides

X. Sun1, Z. Zhang1. 1Peking University First Hospital, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Beijing, China

Background: Schnitzler syndrome (SchS) is a rare and easily misdiagnosed autoinflammatory disease. The misdiagnosis not only delays proper treatment, but also leads to the unreasonable use of immunosuppressants or even chemotherapeutic agents which results in needless financial and physical burdens.

Objective: The objective of this study was to summarize the clinical features and help physicians to avoid more misdiagnosis.

Methods: Here we report a 52-year-old female with SchS, who suffered from chronic pruritic urticaria, fever, and arthralgia for over 10 years. Then we systematically reviewed 471 patients, 470 from 138 previous case reports and 1 from our case report.

Results: Most of the patients were middle-aged or elderly women from European and American countries. There were limited number of cases coming from Asia, and no cases from Africa had yet been identified. The main clinical manifestations included chronic urticaria with or without pruritus, fever, arthralgia, ostealgia/myalgia, fatigue, and weight loss. Some cases also presented with lymphadenopathy, hepatomegaly, and splenomegaly. The presence of monoclonal immunoglobulin was the main diagnostic criteria, and the most common was IgM. Laboratory examinations also showed elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP). Neutrophil infiltration was the most common pathological results in the skin tissue of SchS patients. Currently, anti-IL-1 therapy seems to be the best choice, followed by anti-IL-6 therapy. Glucocorticoid and traditional immunosuppressants seemed to be ineffective to SchS.

Conclusion: As the diversity and variability of clinical symptoms, clinicians should pay more attention to the features of SchS to avoid misdiagnosis. Nearly half a century has passed since the first case of SchS was reported. Exploring its pathogenesis is still on the way. More Research is warranted for individualized therapy.

REFERENCES:
RA very rarely.
extra articular manifestation of the disease and can be the first presentation of
tations without any joint symptoms. Rheumatoid meningitis (RM) is an uncommon
mainly affecting the joints. Rarely it can present with extra articular manifesta-

Rheumatology, Gillingham, United Kingdom

positive. CSF anti CCP antibody titre was 8 u/l. Rest of the autoimmune serology
Rheumatoid factor (141 iu/ml) and anti CCP antibodies (447u/ml) were strongly
negative for flow cytometry, TB PCR, TB culture, antineuronal antibodies, cryp-

swelling and tenderness.

days later she developed painful left wrist and metacarpophalangeal joints with
power of 4/5, global hyperreflexia and extensor plantar reflexes. She was also
onset difficulty in walking for the last 10 months and jerky legs. She was on
treatment for hypothyroidism, hypertension, anxiety and denied any joint pains.

Number of reported cases sorted by country. Most of the patients with Schnitzler
syndrome were from the reports of European and American countries, while limited cases
were from Asia and none from Africa.

Acknowledgements: NIL.
Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4231

AB1858
RHEUMATOID MENINGITIS - A RARE PRESENTATION OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Diagnostic Tests

S. Subasinghe1, S. Wijesooriya1, 1Medway NHS Foundation Trust, Rheumatology, Gillingham, United Kingdom

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a multisystem autoimmune disease
mainly affecting the joints. Rarely it can present with extra articular manifesta-
tions without any joint symptoms. Rheumatoid meningitis (RM) is an uncommon
extra articular manifestation of the disease and can be the first presentation of
RA very rarely.

Objectives: A 76 year old Caucasian lady was presented with aphasia of 10
minutes duration with frontal headache. Furthermore she complained of gradual
onset difficulty in walking for the last 10 months and jerky legs. She was on
reatment for hypothyroidism, hypertension, anxiety and denied any joint pains.
Examination showed normal cranial nerves and spastic quadriaparesis with limb
power of 4/5, global hyperreflexia and extensor plantar reflexes. She was also
observed to have focal clonic seizures of the left lower limb. Lungs were clear, 10
days later she developed painful left wrist and metacarpophalangeal joints with
swelling and tenderness.

Methods: MRI of the brain with contrast showed right fronto-parietal leptomene-
geal enhancement. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) tested repeatedly showed lym-
phocytic pleocytosis, normal glucose, mildly elevated proteins (0.6gg/l). CSF was
negative for flow cytometry, TB PCR, TB culture, antineuronal antibodies, crypt-
tococcal antigen, viral PCR, fungal cultures, fungal studies and beta D glucan.
Rheumatoid factor (141 tu/ml) and anti CCP antibodies (447u/ml) were strongly
positive. CSF anti CCP antibody titre was 8 u/l. Rest of the autoimmune serology
was negative. ACE level was normal. Inflammatory markers were raised. X ray
of the hands showed degenerative changes only. CT chest abdomen and pelvis
and FDG PET scan showed left sided axillary lymphadenopathy of which the
biopsy showed reactive changes. CT also showed possible early interstitial lung
disease (ILD).

Results: Patient was managed with the collaboration of the neurology team,
rheumatology team and input from a tertiary care center. Meningeal biopsy was
not done due to the risks involved and delay in starting treatment. RM was diag-

CERVICAL INVOLVEMENT IN CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE DEPOSITION DISEASE - DISEASE SPECTRUM

Keywords: Education, Imaging, Crystal Arthritis

E. Costa1, C. Campinho Ferreira1, A. M. Gomes Correia1, D. Esperança
Almeida2, P. Pereira2, J. Silva1, M. Cerqueira1, J. Redondo Costa1, A.
Ribeiro1, J. Neves1, 1Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal; 2
Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal

Background: Calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease (CPPD) is microcryst-
talline arthropathy that affect space joints and fibrocartilage, leading to inflam-
mation and structural damage. CPPD affects predominantly the appendicular
skeleton. For this reason, CPPD has several pseudonyms such as pseudogout,
pseudo-rheumatoid arthritis, and pseudo-osteoarthritis. The involvement of the axial
skeloton is less common or recognized but may have a broad spectrum of
clinical presentations.

Objectives: To describe the clinical spectrum of axial manifestations of CPPD.

Methods: Case report and discussion.

Results: 1–Asymptomatic deposition of calcium pyrophosphate (CPP) in
C1-C2: 68-year-old woman, diagnosed with CPPD with a pseudogout-like pres-
etation. Previously, a knee arthrocentesis has been performed during an episode
of monoarthritis. Blunt crystals with weak birefringence and positive elongation
were identified in the synovial fluid analysis by polarized light microscope, compat-
ble with CPP crystals. Later, the patient underwent a brain computed tomography
(C1T), after a head trauma, and it was observed the presence of calcification of the
atlanta transverse ligament (figure A), without associated symptoms.

Figure 2. A: X-ray showed bony hyperplasia “burr sign” at the acral areas of fingers (A) and
toes (B).

Figure 3. Number of reported cases sorted by country. Most of the patients with Schnitzler
syndrome were from the reports of European and American countries, while limited cases
were from Asia and none from Africa.

Acknowledgements: I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the
neurology team in managing this patient.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.4943

AB1859
CERVICAL INVOLVEMENT IN CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE DEPOSITION DISEASE - DISEASE SPECTRUM

Keywords: Education, Imaging, Crystal Arthritis

E. Costa1, C. Campinho Ferreira1, A. M. Gomes Correia1, D. Esperança
Almeida2, P. Pereira2, J. Silva1, M. Cerqueira1, J. Redondo Costa1, A.
Ribeiro1, J. Neves1, 1Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal; 2
Hospital de Braga, Rheumatology, Braga, Portugal

Background: Calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease (CPPD) is microcryst-
talline arthropathy that affect space joints and fibrocartilage, leading to inflam-
mation and structural damage. CPPD affects predominantly the appendicular
skeleton. For this reason, CPPD has several pseudonyms such as pseudogout,
pseudo-rheumatoid arthritis, and pseudo-osteoarthritis. The involvement of the axial
skeloton is less common or recognized but may have a broad spectrum of
clinical presentations.

Objectives: To describe the clinical spectrum of axial manifestations of CPPD.

Methods: Case report and discussion.

Results: 1–Asymptomatic deposition of calcium pyrophosphate (CPP) in
C1-C2: 68-year-old woman, diagnosed with CPPD with a pseudogout-like pres-
etation. Previously, a knee arthrocentesis has been performed during an episode
of monoarthritis. Blunt crystals with weak birefringence and positive elongation
were identified in the synovial fluid analysis by polarized light microscope, compat-
ble with CPP crystals. Later, the patient underwent a brain computed tomography
(C1T), after a head trauma, and it was observed the presence of calcification of the
atlanta transverse ligament (figure A), without associated symptoms.
medical advice. Analytically, she presented acute phase reactants elevation. Cervical spine CT showed mineralization of the transverse atlas and alar ligaments (figure B). The patient completed a low-dose corticosteroid regimen and restarted the usual medication, with rapid and complete recovery.

3—Retro-odontoid pseudotumor: An 85-year-old woman followed by neurosurgery for clinical signs suggestive of cervical myelopathy was referred to rheumatology. From the imaging study carried out, she had CT and MRI of the cervical spine and skull, where calcification and marked thickening of the atlantoaxial ligament complex and peri odontoid soft tissues were identified, with anterior dislocation of the odontoid and stenosis of the vertebral canal at the medullary bulb transition (figure C). Clinically, she reported longstanding episodes characterized by mixed rhythm cervicalgia. She denied a previous history of peripheral arthritis. Radiographic and ultrasound studies evidenced triangular fibrocartilage of the carpus and knee menisc chondrocalcinosis, and intracartilaginous hyperechoic images in multiple locations, suggestive of CPP deposition. The patient started therapy with colchicine 1 mg/day and cervical orthosis for symptomatic control.

4—Inflammatory discitis: A 78-year-old male, hospitalized for inflammatory neck images in multiple locations, suggestive of CPP deposition. The patient started therapy with colchicine 1 mg/day and cervical orthosis for symptomatic control.

The laboratory analysis showed acute phase reactants elevation. After an exhaustive investigation of infectious etiology and refractoriness to multiple antibiotics, the patient started high-dose corticosteroid therapy with rapid resolution of complaints. The CT image showed C4-C5 and C5-C6 discitis with osteophytosis leading to pharyngeal anatomical distortion and periodontal and posterior longitudinal ligament calcification (figure D).

**References:**


**Keywords:** Sjögren syndrome, Real-world evidence

**Disclosure of Interests:** None Declared.

**Acknowledgements:** NIL.
MONOGENIC DISORDERS IN THE MAIDEN COHORT OF PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGICAL DISEASES OF NEPAL: A SPECK OF IMPRINT ON EVEREST

Keywords: Real-world evidence, Genetics/epigenetics, Descriptive studies

D. Bhattarai1, A. Banday2, P. Patra3, A. Neupane4 1Advanced Centre for Immunology and Rheumatology, Immunology & Pediatric Rheumatology, Kathmandu, Nepal; 2Government Medical College, Srinagar, Kashmir, India, Pediatrics, Kashmir, India; 3All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, India, Pediatric Rheumatology, Patna, India; 4Advanced Centre for Immunology & Rheumatology, Kathmandu, Nepal, Data & statistics, Kathmandu, Nepal

Background: Monogenic causes are increasingly being detected in pediatric rheumatological diseases (PRDs).[1] Monogenic disorders are inborn errors of immunity resulting into innate immune disturbance and autoinflammation. With increasing awareness and diagnostics, PRDs are diagnosed with increasing frequency and accuracy in Nepal.

Objectives: To describe the profile of children diagnosed with PRDs and monogenic causes explored on them at a tertiary care center in Nepal during 2020-2022.

Methods: Case records of patients diagnosed with PRDs during Aug 2020-November 2022 were analysed. The lead author (DB) collated data from all patients. Diagnosis and treatments were based on internationally acclaimed guidelines. Genotyping was done by whole exome sequencing and/or sanger sequencing.

Results: The availability of subspecialists, diagnostics, and therapeutics has shifted the paradigm of PRDs in developing countries. A total of 454 patients with PRDs were diagnosed. Mean duration from initial presentation to diagnosis was 12.5 months. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) (including systemic JIA) (n = 131), connective tissue disorders (n = 113) and vasculitides (n = 104) constituted the largest proportion of PRDs. Arthritis related to infection was observed in 42 cases whereas autoinflammatory disorders were diagnosed in 29. Monogenic causes were detected in 19 patients (Table 1). Majority were of non-inflammosome related conditions. Causative genes were CECR1, ARPC1B, TNFAIP3, NLRP3, TNFRSF1A, MVK, PSTPIP1, NOD2, NLRP3, STX11, TNFRSF6, XIAP, BMPR2, PIK3CD, CTLA4, GATA2, and C1QA. Clinical features included recurrent fever, rashes, edema, lymphadenopathy, arthritis, vasculitis, ear and ocular issues, organomegaly, and various multisystemic symptoms. Treatment of polyarteritis nodosa with mycophenolate mofetil and idiopathic calcinosis with methotrexate and pamidronate were notable reports from our cohort. Oligoarthritis in X-linked agammaglobulinemia was a peculiar finding. One child with the monogenic PRD has undergone hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.

Conclusion: We present first and largest cohort of PRDs from Nepal. Noticeable number of unique monogenic causes of PRDs were diagnosed for the first time in the country. There are significant challenges in diagnosis and treatment of PRDs in resource-limited settings. Various socioeconomic and environmental factors coupled with lack of awareness, fewer referrals, and inexpedient treatment accounted for a late presentation, missed diagnosis, increased morbidity, disability, and mortality.

REFERENCE:

Table 1. Details of monogenic causes of pediatric rheumatological diseases from Nepal (2020-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Number of patients</th>
<th>Gene affected</th>
</tr>
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<td>Deficiency of Adenosine deaminase 2 (DADA2)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CECR1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP2/3-mediated filament branching defect</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>ARPC1B</td>
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<td>Haploinsufficiency of A20</td>
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<td>TNFAIP3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Familial cold autoinflammatory syndrome</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>TNFRSF1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor Associated Periodic Syndrome (TRAPS)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>TNFRSF1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperimmunoglobulinemia D with periodic fever syndrome</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>MVK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pyogenic sterile arthritis, pyoderma gangrenosum, and acne syndrome (PAPA) syndrome</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>PSTPIP1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile systemic granulomatosis (Blau syndrome)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal-onset multisystem autoinflammatory disease</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NLRP3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familial hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis</td>
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<td>STX11</td>
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<td>Autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>TNFRSF6</td>
</tr>
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<td>X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis protein deficiency</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>XIAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary pulmonary hypertension</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Activated Phospho-inositide 3-kinase γ syndrome (APDS)</td>
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<td>PIK3CD, GOF</td>
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<tr>
<td>GATA2 deficiency</td>
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<td>GATA2</td>
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<tr>
<td>C1Q deficiency (early complement defect lupus)</td>
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<td>C1QA</td>
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Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2023-eular.971
López Vilaró L., 1579 (AB0747)
Lopez Robledillo J. C., 667 (POS0752), 1937 (AB1429)
López, 828 (POS1024)
Lodge K., 261 (POS0096)
Lodin K., 948 (POS1225)
Loechel C., 339 (POS0223)
Loinard C., 151 (OP0051)
Loomant Silva R., 938 (POS1209), 940 (POS1214), 1488 (POS1408)
Löwe T. J., 1143 (POS1548)
Loureiro I., 1085 (AB0711)
Löve T. J., 1143 (POS1548)
Loupret T., 1685 (AB0936)
Loughran T., 423 (POS0348)
Low R., 114 (OP0050)
Lowin T., 1505 (AB0608)
Loyal D., 2040 (AB1611), 2045 (AB1623)
LoyaIa Maceliapá L., 1396 (POS0127)
Lozada Perez C. A., 765 (POS0912)
Lozano Morillo F., 82 (OP1026), 226 (POS0035), 1163 (POS1574), 1395 (AB0416)
Lozano Rivas N., 1102 (POS1492), 1112 (POS1508), 1192 (AB0858), 1497 (AB0594), 1587 (AB0761), 2067 (AB1677)
Lozano T., 1847 (AB1243)
Lozenko K., 843 (POS1050)
Lu H., 1620 (AB0815)
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Lu L., 75 (OP0114), 103 (OP0156), 171 (OP0258), 229 (POS0040), 436 (POS0568), 763 (POS0910), 958 (AB1293), 977 (AB1267)
Lu N., 16 (OP0025), 320 (POS0190), 525 (POS0525), 551 (POS0556), 552 (POS0567)
Lu W. Y., 1499 (AB0579)
Lu Y., 1065 (POS1423), 1195 (AB0301), 1343 (AB0319)
Lubaczewski S., 1450 (AB0511)
Lüder F., 295 (POS0150)
Lubberts E., 779 (POS0935)
Luber M., 71 (OP0106)
Lubin M., 246 (POS0070)
Luborsky M., 100 (OP0151)
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Luca Q., 540 (POS0548), 1871 (AB1291), 2050 (AB1632)
Lucca R., 367 (POS0260), 659 (POS0738), 1272 (AB0181)
Lucca Rocha M., 1120 (AB1520)
Lucas S., 206 (POS0002)
Lucchesi D., 388 (POS0292)
Lucchin G., 1343 (AB0302), 1377 (AB0386), 1415 (AB0416), 434 (AB0481), 1777 (AB1101), 1876 (AB1114)
Luce E., 241 (POS0060), 243 (POS0064)
Lucendo-Villarin A., 1226 (AB0944)
Lucetti M. M., 348 (POS0233), 744 (POS0878), 1778 (AB1562)
Ludwig A., 254 (POS0084)
Ludwig C., 323 (POS0195)
Luedigsen A., 662 (POS0744)
Lucciano N., 558 (POS0576), 732 (POS0856), 1286 (AB0106), 1387 (AB0134), 1877 (AB1103)
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Luders S., 1225 (AB0093)
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Lüme J., 44 (OP0065), 693 (POS0893), 564 (POS0588)
Luis A., 1189 (POS0201)
Luis M., 751 (POS0888), 1120 (POS1502), 1495 (AB0589)
Lusette R., 659 (POS0739), 1193 (AB0288)
Luiz Roccati A., 374 (AB1387), 1871 (AB1316)
Lujano Negrete A. Y., 930 (POS1195)
Lukas C., 530 (POS0553), 603 (POS0651), 799 (POS0970), 855 (POS1068), 886 (POS1120), 888 (POS1123), 1127 (POS1500), 1710 (AB0089), 2059 (AB0183)
Lukas H., 52 (OP0076)
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Plancke N., 246 (AB0071)
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Plascencia C., 89 (OP0135), 549 (POS0563), 619 (POS0766), 1216 (AB074), 1391 (POS1409), 1710 (AB0097), 1929 (AB0400), 2030 (AB1592)
Platé L., 1344 (AB1030), 1377 (AB1036), 1415 (AB1452), 1771 (AB1101), 1876 (AB1114)
Platé L., 1434 (AB0481)
Platt A., 90 (OP0136)
Plaza Z., 604 (POS0552)
Plebanczyk M., 196 (AB1130)
Plein S., 587 (POS0627), 827 (POS1021)
Plesa C. F., 813 (POS0993)
Pluma Sanjuaro A., 1349 (AB0332)
Plummer D., 306 (POS0265)
Pobleit M. P., 1671 (AB0910)
Pochard P., 798 (POS0969), 1072 (AB1436)
Pocino K., 777 (AB1268)
Poddighe D., 918 (POS1172)
Poliolino A.C., 1337 (AB0378), 357 (OP0059), 404 (DOT187), 123 (POS0039), 230 (POS0043), 357 (POS246), 358 (POS0247), 361 (POS0250), 391 (POS0298), 392 (POS0299), 470 (POS0429), 628 (POS0689), 630 (POS0692), 744 (POS0785), 758 (POS0805), 976 (POS0926), 881 (POS1125), 1225 (AB0093), 1866 (POS0938), 1713 (AB0987), 1726 (AB1010)
Poduch E., 132 (OP0200)
Poggenbür R. P., 206 (AB1546)
Poh S. L., 104 (POS1142)
Pohl C., 2129 (AB1790)
Pois A., 1439 (AB0489)
Poindron V., 306 (POS0166)
Poiron L., 130 (OP0196)
Polachek A., 73 (OP0100), 1091 (POS1473), 1190 (AB0023), 1193 (AB0207), 1715 (AB0090), 1873 (AB1293), 2003 (AB1540)
Polanco Moro T., 814 (POS0995), 1118 (AB1519), 1446 (AB0274), 1877 (AB1515), 2023 (AB1540)
Polanski K., 81 (OP0125)
Poleni N., 1379 (AB0309), 1578 (AB0165)
Polardi M., 850 (POS0565)
Poljak L., 1105 (POS0718), 1109 (POS0719), 470 (POS0974), 1104 (POS1494), 1109 (POS1504), 1486 (AB0578), 1488 (AB0580), 1510 (AB1608), 2068 (AB1664)
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